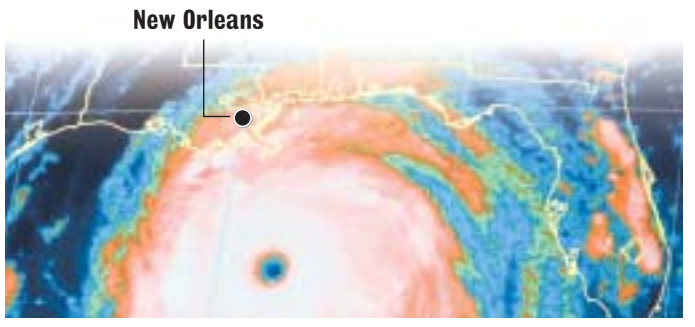
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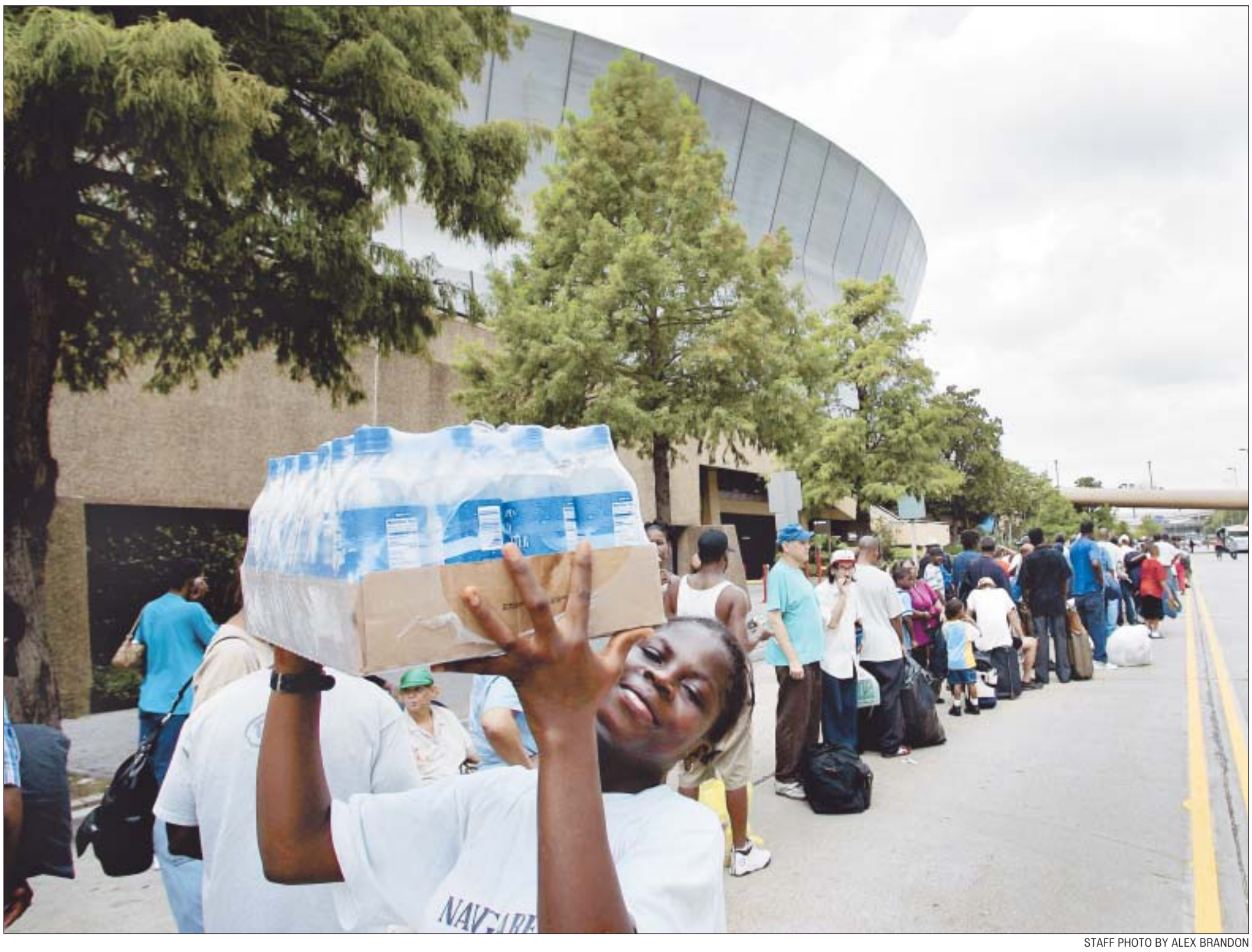
HURRICANE KATRINA

# GROUND ZERO




## SUPERDOME BECOMES LAST RESORT FOR THOUSANDS UNABLE TO LEAVE

### NEW ORLEANS BRACES FOR NIGHTMARE OF THE BIG ONE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Gina Sannoh, 12, carries a case of water as she gets in line to take refuge at the Louisiana Superdome Sunday. Thousands of people with special medical needs or those who simply could not get out of the city came to the Dome to escape the storm, which was forecast to make a direct hit on the New Orleans area today.

## At least 10,000 find refuge at the Superdome

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

A 2-year-old girl, clutching a bottle and ignoring her knock-off Barbie doll, running in circles around her mother. Homeless men trying to doze on the sidewalk, using backpacks as pillows. People without cars. People with cars but nowhere to go.

More than 10,000 of them.

These are the people without enough money or luck to leave town as Hurricane Katrina was poised to have its way with New Orleans.

With a mandatory evacuation hanging over the city Sunday morning, they were left with no

*See* **DOME,** *A-5*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

On Sunday at 11:10 a.m., traffic is sparse in both directions looking toward downtown from the Broad Street overpass the day after contraflow was put into effect.

nola.com **COMPLETE COVERAGE** A3–5

**For full text of The Times-Picayune and the latest coverage, visit nola.com**

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

As a ferocious Hurricane Katrina drew a bead on their precariously sited city and suburbs, metropolitan New Orleans residents prayed for salvation and scrambled to prepare their homes for a storm with the power to level the city and flood whole neighborhoods, struggling to get themselves, their loved ones and their neighbors to safety.

Some residents might have been predicting a close call, along the lines of last year's Hurricane Ivan, which threatened the city but then spared it serious damage. Katrina, by contrast, stubbornly hewed to the track predicted by hurricane forecasters Friday, one that aimed it straight at the Crescent City.

On Sunday at 4 p.m., National Hurricane Center Meteorologist Chris Lauer said Katrina was still on track to hit the New Orleans area as a devastating Category 5 hurricane as its eye comes ashore this morning. A computer model estimate of storm surge conducted by the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center Sunday afternoon indicates that even without

*See* **KATRINA,** *A-5*

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# Utilities prepare for the worst

## *Thousands of workers, trucks assembling*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Some parts of the New Orleans area could be without electricity and telephone service for weeks, or even months, if flooding and damage from Hurricane Katrina hamper repair crews, utility officials said Sunday afternoon.

"This is going to be really bad," said Dan Packer, chief executive officer of Entergy New Orleans, the city's electricity supplier.

Packer said the company was bracing for a level of destruction never seen in its four-state territory of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas.

"I believe damage is going to be fairly extensive. It's going to cover the whole gamut, everything from transmission lines to poles snapping to wires being down," Packer said.

"We think this could be the worst storm in history to affect (Entergy's) electricity distribution system," he added.

Interruptions to power and phone services were expected later Sunday evening, as the outer edge of Katrina moved through the area and wind speeds built to tropical storm and hurricane force.

Entergy repair crews will work on damaged lines until winds in the area reach 35 miles per hour and pose a threat to the workers, Packer said. Workers will not head out again until the storm moves through the area and wind speeds fall below 35 mph, he said.

Once the storm subsides, Entergy will deploy workers to assess damage to the company's power grid before sending out repair crews, Packer said.

The assessment process could take as long as two days to complete, depending on flooding and road damage, he said.

By Sunday afternoon, Entergy and other utilities had positioned thousands of workers, hundreds of trucks, dozens of portable generators, and extra supplies of fuel in Baton Rouge, Jackson, Miss., and other locations on the edge of the metropolitan area.

Entergy had gathered about 2,000 power-line repair workers and tree trimmers, Packer said. Another 5,500 workers were expected to join Entergy during the next two days. Many of those workers, from utilities as far away as New Mexico, have been in southern Florida since late last week, helping restore power to the more than 1 million customers who lost electricity when Katrina crossed the state.

In Orleans and Jefferson parishes, Entergy and BellSouth Corp. moved repair trucks to higher ground, such as elevated roadways, to protect them from flood waters.

Though local interruptions to phone service were expected, much of the region's phone network is likely to remain in tact, BellSouth spokesman Merlin Villar said.

Even if remote phone substations lose power from electricity lines, backup generators and batteries should keep them running for as long as two days after a power failure, he said.

Even before the winds and rain arrived, wireless phone service providers struggled much of Sunday to handle the huge volume of calls on their networks, as tens of thousands of people dialed family and friends while evacuating.

Wireless customers can help minimize the strain on local networks by limiting their use to emergency calls and other high-priority uses, Cingular Wireless spokeswoman Dawn Benton said.

Sending text messages instead of making voice calls also reduces network demands, she said.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3491.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Shelly Byers, 26, of Covington hugs her son Victor at the Red Cross shelter at William Pitcher Jr. High School in Covington. The family found safety from the storm after St. Tammany Parish had called for a mandatory evacuation.

# Surge likely to top N.O. levee system

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

waves, a Category 5 storm would flood most of eastern New Orleans, the 9th Ward, Mid-City, much of downtown and areas in St. Tammany close to Lake Pontchartrain. Kenner also will see severe flooding entering from St. Charles Parish. Areas outside the levee protection system are particularly vulnerable.

Given those factors, levees in the New Orleans area likely will be topped.

### Direct hit

New Orleans has not been directly hit by a major hurricane since Hurricane Betsy, a Category 3 storm, in 1965. Although levees have been improved since then, Louisiana has lost hundreds of square miles of wetlands and barrier islands, making New Orleans, most of which lies below sea level, far more vulnerable to a devastating storm.

High-rise office and apartment buildings were likely to sway dangerously, "a few to the point of total collapse," the service said.

The National Weather Service also warned that "blown debris will create additional destruction. Persons, pets and livestock exposed to the winds will face certain death if struck."

It was impossible to get a clear sense of how many people decided to ride out the storm. City streets were eerily quiet in most areas as businesses shut down and residents cleared out. While neutral grounds around the city were full of parked cars by early afternoon, most streets were nearly devoid of traffic, though the occasional pedestrian or bicyclist could be seen.

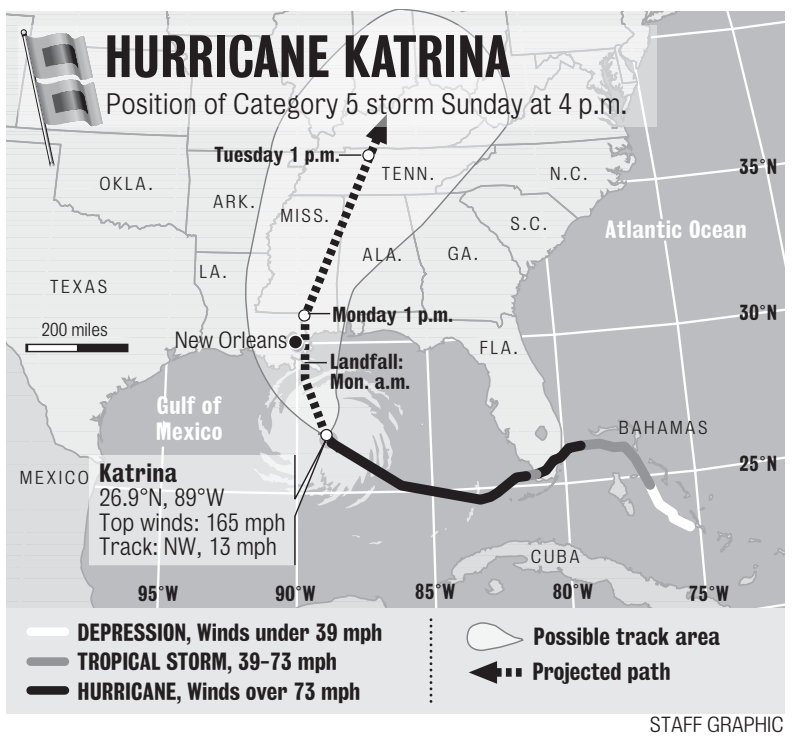
In a somewhat surreal morning news conference, Mayor Ray Nagin issued an emergency order giving state and local authorities the right to commandeer private buildings and vehicles — including boats — as they see fit. The mayor did not say which buildings might be seized for public use, but said that if the Superdome became too full, additional buildings might be needed for shelter.

Nagin also said the city has 30 boats at its disposal, but could need far more, depending on the water level in the city after the storm.

### After the storm

While officials were mostly concerned about preparing for the storm's impact, there already was discussion of its aftermath.

Dan Packer, CEO of Entergy New Orleans, said extra crews from other areas Entergy serves already




STAFF GRAPHIC

are in the area, ready to begin repairs to what the company expects will be devastating storm damage.

The storm "may destroy the electrical distribution system in New Orleans and a good part of southeast Louisiana," he said. Packer said it may take weeks or months to rebuild the system.

Like Packer, the weather service warned of likely devastating power outages that could last for weeks, with power poles down and transformers destroyed. Most trees, the service predicted, would be snapped or uprooted; the heartiest, if they survive, would be stripped of all leaves.

The service also warned of devastation to buildings.

"At least one-half of well-constructed homes will have roof and wall failure," the service warned. "All gabled roofs will fail, leaving those homes severely damaged or destroyed."

As the city prepared to go into the bunker Sunday, airlines shut down their operations at Louis Armstrong International Airport and a Carnival cruise ship scheduled to end a one-

week voyage in New Orleans was diverted to Galveston, Texas.

Officials in Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes called for mandatory evacuations of all or portions of these parishes.

Even Jefferson Parish, considered a more affluent and mobile community than New Orleans, opened three shelters of last resort Sunday afternoon at Bonnabel High School in Kenner, Stella Worley Middle School in Westwego and Truman Middle School in Marrero.

Jefferson also used public transportation to pick up residents and take them to the shelters.

"Let's hope and pray," said parish President Aaron Broussard at an afternoon news conference from the West Bank Emergency Operations Center.

Although the newly developed contraflow plan was executed much more smoothly than in last year's debut, motorists still complained of slow going.

### A Dome divided

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of less fortunate Orleanians, many of whom lack access to cars, hustled to the Superdome, the "shelter of last resort" that was opened to the public by city officials Sunday at noon. Nagin, who imposed a 6 p.m. curfew, warned residents not to expect comfortable conditions inside the Dome, saying power outages could last for days.

The Dome was set up as a divided safe haven, with one side of the facility for the disabled and medically ill, where food and water and emergency personnel were plentiful, officials said. For the masses of residents, however, there was the other side, where all that was provided was a concrete stadium built for athletes and spectators.

While conditions in the Dome were far from ideal, many locals waiting in the long line that circled Poydras Street were not complaining that their city had no more to offer them.

"It's a safe haven," said Lee Andrews, 47, who accompanied his wife, Stephanie, and her sister and her sister's five children. "You can't expect to have everything."

Elsewhere around the city, for a few foolhardy souls — the number was hard to gauge, but it appeared relatively small — getting safe meant locking the doors and hoping that the vicious winds and high waters Katrina was expected to bring wouldn't prove fatal.

Among them was Dan Fuller, a74-year-old artist that lives in his studio in Mid-City. Sunday afternoon, Fuller was rolling a suitcase down Canal Street, returning from an unsuccessful stint of hitchhiking at the intersection of Interstate 10 and City Park Avenue.

"I thought I would hitchhike and just count on people's generosity, but I can't say if they were generous or not — all their cars were full," he said.

Nagin warned Sunday morning in issuing his evacuation order that seawater pushed by the storm's winds was expected to top the city's complex levee system, pouring water into the city's many low-lying areas — something that hasn't happened since Betsy. Gov. Kathleen Blanco said models predicted water could be as deep as 20 feet in places, totally inundating some neighborhoods.

Such a doomsday scenario could result in thousands of deaths, depending on factors ranging from the storm's intensity when it hits the city and the number of people who evacuated.

At Memorial Hospital, employees streamed into the facility with cats and dogs and pillow in tow, taking advantage of the stout Napoleon Avenue institution's long-standing practice of providing a hurricane refuge to its workers and their pets.

Even as the window for evacuation began to slam shut, some Orleanians were making the decision to get out.

As an RTA bus prepared to take another load of residents to the Dome, a family of nine pulled up in a faded blue Ford pickup, with Eddie Mason driving. The back was packed with children along with clothes, blankets and other essentials.

"I think we'll be there three or four days," Mason said. "But then again, I think we might be spared. I really do. I just keep thinking it can't be as bad as they been saying it's going to be."

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Staff writers Mark Schleifstein, Gwen Filosa, Coleman Warner and Brian Thevenot contributed to this report.

# Field flooding, loss of power expected at Superdome



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

The stress of evacuation takes hold as a family that had expected to join a relative closer to the front of the line at the Superdome is directed to the end of the line by a National Guardsman.

**DOME,** *from A-1*

other choice but to assemble outside the Louisiana Superdome, waiting in an unorganized line to take refuge in a sprawling building meant more for touchdowns than for emergencies.

Mayor Ray Nagin called the Superdome's opening as a shelter a "last resort." He didn't have to explain that to the hundreds of New Orleanians gathered about Poydras Street's sidewalks Sunday before noon.

In a city famed for its come-what-may attitude, the scene at the Superdome was somber, as the lines snaked inside.

"No funds," a 41-year-old woman surrounded by four children, ages 2 to 14, said when asked what brought her to the shelter. The woman didn't want to give her name as she waited with stacks of bedding and a few children's toys resting on the sidewalk.

She stood beside her modest Chevy Nova, which she drove Sunday from their Marrero home to the Dome.

"I can't have them in all this water," the mother said of her children, explaining why she didn't choose to evacuate from the coming hurricane. If only things were different, she said, she would have reserved seats on a Trailways bus, or perhaps bought plane tickets. But she wasn't placing her children in a car for hours on end, she said.

"If I hadn't had to work last night, you wouldn't be seeing me here," said Arthur Simpson, 46, an Uptown resident who left his job as a printer in Harahan on Sunday at 6:30 a.m. and headed north.

But his run washed out in Hammond, while sitting in slow traffic. Instead of making it to Jackson, Miss., or Memphis, he said, he made the biggest decision of his weekend: He turned around and sought shelter at the Dome.

By 3 p.m., more than 10,000 people were either outside the Dome in long, deep lines or had made their way inside. Those with medical illnesses or disabilities were funneled to one side of the makeshift shelter, equipped with supplies and medical personnel. The other side was a place to ride out the storm.

"The people arriving on this side of the building are expected to fend for themselves," said Terry Ebbert, the city's homeland security director. "We have some water."

About 150 National Guard soldiers, New Orleans police and civil sheriff's deputies were patrolling the facility. Some weapons were confiscated.

Officials were settling in for what they predicted would be an incredibly hot and uncomfortable night. They expected flooding on the field and loss of power early today.

But officials were confident they could care for those with special needs.

"I'm not worried about what is tolerable or intolerable," he said. "I'm worried about, whether you are alive on Tuesday."

Kenneth Roby, 41, a bearded man in a black baseball cap, also worked Saturday night, as a dishwasher at Antoine's Restaurant in the French Quarter. Roby smiled gently as he surveyed the crowd about to enter the Superdome, which was tightly guarded by young men and women in Army fatigues. A guardsman shooed away reporters and those seeking shelter until noon time.

"Everything else is closed up," Roby said, sitting on his black duffel bag that he said held dirty clothes and little else. "You can't buy anything or get around like you usually do. Everybody is panicking. I'm not. I need some food. It wouldn't make sense to shelter us" without providing water and food.

Roby, who grew up Uptown and lives in the 7th Ward, has spent time in homeless shelters before. He said the city could do more in times like Katrina. "This is the time they really need to help," he said of city leaders.

Geraldine Johnson, 67, has no car. So she and her 41-year-old daughter and three grandchildren, ages 8, 10 and 12, caught the bus from Algiers early Sunday and landed at the Dome after 11 a.m.

"This is my last resort," Johnson said, seated and surrounded by her family.

The children had their suitcases and snacks. "They may provide food," Johnson said. "But it would take so long to wait in that line. You can't depend on people to give you everything."

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# Cruise diverted out of Katrina's path

## *Travelers bound for N.O. stuck in Galveston*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Tourists wait for taxis on Canal Street on Sunday. Some airlines had already begun canceling flights, leaving visitors stranded in a city under evacuation.

Hurricane Katrina's approach Sunday forced Carnival Cruise Lines to divert a cruise scheduled to end in New Orleans to Galveston, Texas, while an undetermined number of travelers were stranded at Louis Armstrong International Airport as operations came to a virtual halt.

The redirected cruise left thousands of Carnival travelers scrambling to make other airline connections in Houston.

After a seven-day Caribbean trip, the New Orleans-based Carnival Conquest, carrying more than 3,000 people, was scheduled to arrive at a downtown wharf at 7 a.m., but the storm threat and the closure of the port forced the cruise ship to Galveston, arriving about 7:30 a.m., spokeswoman Jennifer ve la Cruz said.

"We're going to keep the ship docked in Galveston overnight, and people have the option of getting off today (Sunday) or getting off tomorrow," she said. "We are running buses to the Houston airport."

Carnival gave each passenger a $200 credit to help offset additional costs they might face in changing flight plans, and said anyone who booked flights through the Miami-based cruise line would not be charged fees for changes.

"In these storm situations the airlines tend to be quite flexible," ve la Cruz said.

Carnival also offered the passengers a 25 percent discount on a future cruise.

Passengers who left cars in New Orleans couldn't return immediately because they can't fly in, the spokeswoman said.

"They have to figure out what they want to do and where they're going to head to," she said.

Carnival's temporary port switch didn't jeopardize any other planned cruise by the Conquest because the ship is scheduled for maintenance work.

The ship's diversion offered a measure of good news on a bad-news day at the New Orleans airport. The missing Carnival passengers opened up at least 1,000 seats for desperate passengers whose flights were disrupted or suspended, said airport spokeswoman Michelle Duffourc.

Among airlines serving New Orleans, Delta, United, US Airways, Northwest, American, AirTran, Southwest and Continental suspended flights at various times Sunday.

When regular flights resume will depend on how much hurricane damage the airport sustains and how long it takes for airlines and a federal agency in charge of security screening to get crews in place again, Duffourc said. Flight schedules aren't expected to resume until Tuesday at the earliest, she said.

"We don't know. We've never sustained one of these this strong," Duffourc said. "We're just trying to batten down the hatches and hope for the best."

Lakefront Airport, run by the Orleans Levee Board, also closed because of the storm threat.

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

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# CATASTROPHIC

## STORM SURGE SWAMPS 9TH WARD, ST. BERNARD

## LAKEVIEW LEVEE BREACH THREATENS TO INUNDATE CITY



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NINTH WARD:** An elderly resident is rescued from chest-high floodwaters by two New Orleans police officers.

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Hurricane Katrina struck metropolitan New Orleans on Monday with a staggering blow, far surpassing Hurricane Betsy, the landmark disaster of an earlier generation. The storm flooded huge swaths of the city, as well as Slidell on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, in a process that appeared to be spreading even as night fell.

A powerful storm surge pushed huge waves ahead of the hurricane, flooding much of St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, just as Betsy 40 years ago. But this time the flooding was more extensive, spreading upriver as well to cover parts of the Bywater, Marigny and Treme neighborhoods.

As with Betsy, people scrambled into their attics or atop their roofs, pleading for help from the few passers-by.

The powerful Category 4 storm crossed the coast near the mouth of the Pearl River shortly after daybreak with winds of 135 mph. Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse reported an early morning gust of 105 mph.

With the power out throughout the area and fierce winds raging throughout the day, officials barely began Monday to assess the full damage of the monstrous storm, which was expected to leave thousands homeless and many more coping with damage from the wind and water.

Meantime, 5 miles to the west, engineers worked to close a breach along the New Orleans side of the 17th Street Canal.

Huge drainage pumps ordinarily can drive millions of gallons of rainwater uphill through

*See* **KATRINA,** *A-4*

## Flooding wipes out two communities

**By Brian Thevenot and Manuel Torres**
Staff writers

As Jerry Rayes piloted his boat down St. Claude Avenue, just past the Industrial Canal, the eerie screams that could barely be heard from the roadway grew louder as, one by one, faces of desperate families appeared on rooftops, on balconies and in windows, some of them waving white flags.

The scene wouldn't change for the next three hours, as Rayes and his son and nephew boated down St. Claude Avenue and deep into St. Bernard Parish, where water smothered two-story houses, people and animals. The men had to duck to miss streetlights that towered over Judge Perez Drive, the parish's main thoroughfare.

The people Rayes rescued all told the same story, already written on their stunned and shivering

*See* **FLOOD,** *A-6*

**INSIDE**

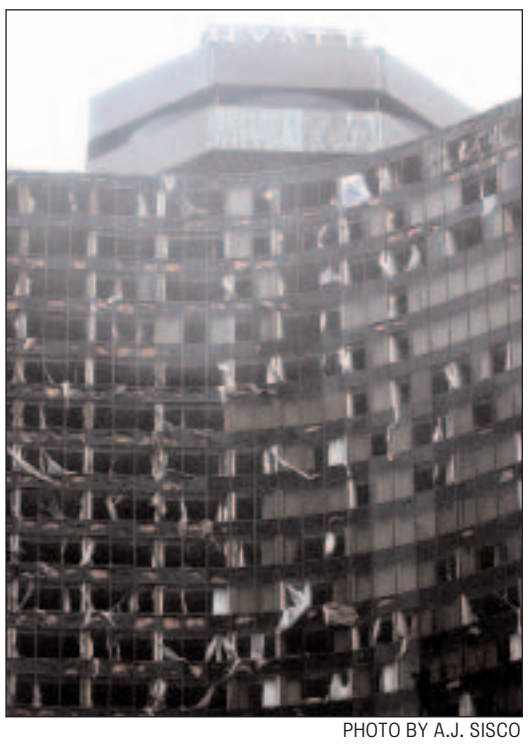


PHOTO BY A.J. SISCO

**DOWNTOWN:** The damage to the Hyatt Regency on Poydras Street shows that vertical evacuation is no solution to the dangers of a Category 4 hurricane. **See story, A-15**

## After the mighty storm came the rising water

**By Doug MacCash and James O'Byrne**
Staff writers

A large section of the vital 17th Street Canal levee, where it connects to the brand new 'hurricane proof' Old Hammond Highway bridge, gave way late Monday morning in Bucktown after Katrina's fiercest winds were well north. The breach sent a churning sea of water from Lake Pontchartrain coursing across Lakeview and into Mid-City, Carrollton, Gentilly, City Park and neighborhoods farther south and east.

As night fell on a devastated region, the water was still rising in the city, and nobody was willing to predict when it would stop. After the destruction already apparent in the wake of Katrina, the American Red Cross was mobilizing for what regional officials were calling the largest recovery operation in the organization's history.

Police officers, firefighters and private citizens, hampered by a lack of even rudimentary communication capabilities, continued a desperate and impromptu boat-borne rescue operation across Lakeview well after dark. Coast Guard helicopters with searchlights criss-crossed the skies.

Officers working on the scene said virtually every home and business between the 17th Street Canal and the Marconi Canal, and between Robert E. Lee Boulevard and City Park Avenue, had water in it. Nobody had confirmed any fatalities as a result of the levee breach, but they conceded that hundreds of homes had not been checked.

As the sun set over a still-roiling Lake Pontchartrain, the smoldering ruins of the Southern Yacht Club were still burning, and smoke streamed out over

*See* **BREACH,** *A-2*

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# 'We lost everything: cars, art, furniture, everything'



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MACCASH

**LAKEVIEW:** Firefighters deliver residents they had rescued to the levee near the corner of Orleans and Filmore avenues.

**BREACH,** *from A-1*

the lake. Nobody knew the cause of the fire because nobody could get anywhere near it to find out what happened.

Dozens of residents evacuated to the dry land of the Filmore Street bridge over the Marconi Canal were stranded between the flooded neighborhood on their right, and the flooded City Park on their left, hours after they had been plucked from rooftops or second-story windows.

Firefighters who saved them tried to request an RTA bus to come for the refugees, but realized was no working communications to do so.

Ed Gruber, who lives in the 6300 block of Canal Boulevard, said he became desperate when the rising water chased him, his wife, Helen, and their neighbor Mildred K. Harrison to the second floor of their home. When Gruber saw a boat pass by, he flagged it down with a light, and the three of them escaped from a second-story window.

On the lakefront, pleasure boats were stacked on top of each other like cordwood in the municipal marina and yacht harbor. The Robert E. Lee shopping center was under 7 feet of water. Plantation Coffeehouse on Canal Boulevard was the same. Hynes Elementary School had 8 feet of water inside.

Indeed, the entire business district along Harrison Avenue had water to the rooflines in many places.

Joshua Bruce, 19, was watching the tide rise from his home on Pontalba Street when he heard a woman crying for help. The woman had apparently tried to wade the surging waters on Canal Boulevard when she was swept beneath the railroad trestle just south of Interstate 610. Bruce said he plunged into the water to pull her to safety. He and friends Gregory Sontag and Joey LaFrance found dry clothes for the woman and she went on her way in search of a second-story refuge downtown.

The effect of the breach was instantly devastating to residents who had survived the fiercest of Katrina's winds and storm surge intact, only to be taken by surprise by the sudden deluge. And it added a vast swath of central New Orleans to those already flooded in eastern New Orleans, the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.



STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES O'BYRNE

**LAKEVIEW:** At sunset Monday, the listing old Coast Guard station was silhouetted against the smoldering remains of the Southern Yacht Club.

Beginning at midday, Lakeview residents watched in horror as the water began to rise, pushed through the levee breach by still-strong residual winds from Katrina.

They struggled to elevate furniture and eventually found themselves forced to the refuge of second floors just when most in the neighborhood thought they had been spared.

"It would have been fine," refugee Pat O'Brien said. "The eye passed over."

But his relief was short-lived.

"It's like what you see on TV and never thought would happen to us. We lost everything: cars, art, furniture, everything."

Scott Radish, his wife Kyle and neighbor Brandon Gioe stood forlornly on their Mound Street porch, where they had ridden out Katrina, only to face a second, more insidious threat.

"The hurricane was scary," Scott said. "All the tree branches fell, but the building stood. I thought I was doing good. Then I noticed my Jeep was under water."

The water had risen knee-deep during the storm, but despite the clearing skies, it had continued to rise one brick every 20 minutes, according to Kyle Scott, continuing its ascent well into the night.

"We were good until the canal busted," Sontag said. "First there was water on the street, then the sidewalk, then water in the house."

Officials of the Army Corps of Engineers have contingencies for levee breaches such as the one that happened Monday, but it will take time and effort to get the heavy equipment into place to make the repair. Breach repair is part of the corps' planning for recovery from catastrophic storms, but nobody Monday was able to say how long it would take to plug the hole, or how much water would get through it before that happened.

In Lakeview, the scene was surreal. A woman yelled to reporters from a rooftop, asking them to call her father and tell him she was OK – although fleeing to the roof of a two-story home hardly seemed to qualify.

About 5 p.m., almost as if on cue, the battery power of all the house alarms in the neighborhood seemed to reach a critical level, and they all went off, making it sound as if the area was under an air-raid warning.

Two men surviving on generator power in the Lake Terrace neighborhood near the Lake Pontchartrain levee still had a dry house, but they were watching the rising water in the yard nervously. They were planning to head out to retrieve a vast stash of beer, champagne and hard liquor they found washed onto the levee.

As night fell, the sirens of house alarms finally fell silent, and the air filled with a different, deafening and unfamiliar sound: the extraordinary din of thousands of croaking frogs.

Still wondering if he would spend the night on the Filmore Street bridge over the Marconi Canal, Gruber tried to be philosophical.

"I never thought I would see any devastation like this, and I've lived here more than 30 years," Gruber said. "But at least we have our lives. And that's something."

Staff writer Mark Schleifstein contributed to this report.

# STATE FARM

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STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**CHALMETTE:** A woman emerges from a space chopped in the attic to await rescue.

# 'The largest recovery operation the Red Cross has ever attempted'

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

the canal, as it takes water from the low-lying city into Lake Pontchartrain. But the breach turned the canal into a major threat. Lake water flowed back through the breach, hemorrhaging into Lakeview and beyond.

Across Lake Pontchartrain and closer to the site of Katrina's landfall, thousands of homes in Slidell flooded.

From the Interstate 10 overpass at Slidell's Old Spanish Trail, the only visible structure from the dense commercial intersection was a boat bobbing on the waves.

"This is Lake Pontchartrain," said St. Tammany Sheriff Deputy Kenny Kreeger.

Sections of the I-10 twin bridges linking St. Tammany and Orleans parishes over Lake Pontchartrain have been "severely damaged" in both directions, Louisiana's transportation chief said. Some are probably knocked out, he said.

There were no confirmed reports of fatalities in New Orleans, although officials, including Gov. Kathleen Blanco, said they expected to find bodies in rescue efforts today.

St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis said there was one storm-related fatality on I-10, although he declined to give details. Earlier, three elderly residents of a nursing home died during their evacuation to Baton Rouge on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Margaret O'Brien-Molina, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross' southwest service area office in Houston, said national Red Cross executives earlier today described Katrina as "the largest recovery operation the Red Cross has ever attempted."

"The Red Cross response to this event is the equivalent Hurricane Andrew, Sept. 11 and more," said American Red Cross Executive Rick Scofield.

The huge storm also flooded cities along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts.

Katrina pushed Mobile Bay into the city's downtown district. A 22-foot storm surge devastated parts of Gulfport and Pascagoula, officials said.

Mayor Ray Nagin called the storm "pretty awesome."

He noted the city's strategic importance as a port and a domestic oil refiner as reasons the federal government should assist in the rebuilding. "I think this is a wake-up call for the city and country," he said.

President Bush promised swift federal relief for New Orleans and other devastated communities.

"FEMA said give us a list of your needs," said Nagin, referring to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "And let me tell you, we're giving them a helluva list."

As night gathered over a city without lights, it appeared that at least 150 people – perhaps many more – were marooned on rooftops, sometimes with their children.

State Wildlife Secretary Dwight Landreneau said that by dawn he would have more than 200 boats in the water, about 120 more than he had on Monday. He said he also has a commitment from Texas for another 50 boats.

City officials said they might open the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center as a temporary refuge to shelter an estimated 50,000 people made homeless by the storm.

Police Chief Eddie Compass said officials were desperately trying to make conditions a little more comfortable for the more than 25,000 refugees housed in the sweltering Superdome. Saying that the Dome was filthy and smelled bad, Compass said he was going to allow people to go outside.

Travel about the city on the east bank of the Mississippi River to assess damage was limited, but certain reference points emerged:

Floodwaters blocked entry to the Lower 9th Ward along St. Claude Avenue.

"Look, look man, it's gone. It's gone," said City Council President Oliver Thomas, who grew up in the 9th Ward and teared up while discussing the devastation. "This is crazy. Nothing like this ever happened before."

Jackson Barracks near Arabi was beneath 12 feet of water. Chalmette High School and the St. Bernard Civic Center, both on St. Bernard's main commercial artery, were both under an estimated 12 feet of water.

**9th WARD:** Two men wait for transport after they were plucked from their flooded homes.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**9th WARD:** A family bobs with their belongings in the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina.

Along I-10 between Treme and Gentilly, only housetops were visible in a sea of floodwater. People waiting for rescue shined lights or called out to the rare motorist on the interstate.

At 3:30 p.m., National Guard trucks started bringing dozens of people trapped in their houses to the Superdome. Many were barefoot and wrapped in sheets.

In many neighborhoods, people waded through more than water waist, sometimes carrying food. Late Monday, a party of five adults waded along Tulane Avenue between Canal and Broad Streets, towing five toddlers in a large plastic tub.

In Kenner, Williams Boulevard flooded from I-10 to a point near Lake Pontchartain. Officials said it appeared worse than a memorable flood on May 8, 1995.

The Southern Yacht Club burned to the ground.

Meanwhile, Katrina's winds split homes, collapsed buildings and uprooted trees across a vast area.

The famous oaks along St. Charles Avenue and its Uptown side streets were shattered. The avenue was made impassable by thickets of downed trees, many entangled with downed utility poles and criss-crossing power lines. Parked cars were smashed; many trees fell onto houses they once shaded.

Winds of more than 100 mph tore open a large part of the Superdome's distinctive white roof. Rain poured in, forcing officials to move some refugees, who were using the building as a refuge of last resort.

Windows blew out of high-rise hotels in downtown New Orleans. Thousands of curtains waved like tattered handkerchiefs out the empty windows of the Hyatt Regency Hotel next to the Superdome.

Charity Hospital lost windows on five floors. Nagin said doctors and nurses there were ventilating patients manually.

Glass shards and other lethal debris whipped down deserted streets. In some hotels, elderly or infirm guests were carried down flights of stairs to the safety of windowless ballrooms.

In Marrero, nurses at West Jefferson General Hospital moved sick patients from their rooms into hallways to protect them as windows shattered, said Jennifer Steel, hospital spokeswoman.

Remarkably, the French Quarter seemed largely untouched.

The neighborhood was among the last to lose power as the storm strengthened shortly after dawn. After its passage, pedestrians bought beer through walk-up windows and guests loitered on second-floor balconies.

Among the only obvious signs of damaged: a portion of a wall collapsed exposing part of the third floor interior of Antoine's Restaurant, and the U.S. Mint appeared to suffer heavy roof damage.

Jefferson Parish's Chief Administrative Assistant Tim Whitmer said the damage from Katrina was almost equally split between the east bank and the West Bank. "We have widespread devastation in the parish," he said.

Whitmer said officials were not able to assess all areas of the parish because of flooding and downed trees and power lines, which were scattered everywhere, as well as a shortage of workers, who had evacuated to escape the storm.

Based on reports officials had received, Whitmer said Westwego was particularly hard hit, with about 90 percent of the homes on the south side of the West Bank Expressway sustaining some kind of damage. Avondale also was hard hit.

Widespread flooding also was reported in Kenner in East Jefferson, particularly north of the interstate. Power remained out and water pressure was lost, but not because pumping stations were not working, he said.

"We had trees that came down and pulled up our (water) distribution lines, which caused breaks and we lost pressure," he said.

By nightfall, the storm left behind a cluster of soaked, blacked-out coastal communities. Power failed. Telephone service was spotty or nonexistent.

Jefferson Parish authorities told residents to boil their drinking water.

Sporadic looting broke out in some locations in New Orleans.

Katrina cut power service to an estimated 770,000 people, including 700,000 who form Entergy's entire customer base, said utility spokeswoman Amy Stallings.

Stallings warned 700,000 electrical customers to be prepared to go without power for a month or more.

The storm damaged every element of the power grid, from big generating plants to transmission lines to smaller feeder lines connecting to homes and businesses, she said.

She called the damage the worst ever seen in Entergy's four-state territory.

Terry Ebbert, director of homeland security for New Orleans, said it could be two months – twice Entergy's estimate – before electricity is restored to all of the city.

He said Entergy will send 4,500 workers to the region and house them on barges on the Mississippi River.

Katrina struck a nearly empty city. Given the gift of a full weekend to evacuate, hundreds of thousands fled as far as Dallas, Little Rock and Memphis.

Officials urged them to stay away until further notice.

Blanco said people who attempt to return to the city will be stopped.

"You will be turned back. Only official emergency personnel will be allowed in," Blanco said at an early afternoon news conference at the state Office of Emergency Preparedness.

State Adj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau said that it is too early to say when people will be allowed to return to the city. He said civil authorities haven't even begun to make initial assessments of the damage.

O'Brien-Molina, the Red Cross spokeswoman, said state officials shut off interstate highways re-entering Louisiana to keep people from returning to flooded areas.

"I-10 is completely closed down," she said. "No one can go back in and we have to find a place for them to stay."

Officials are telling the public to expect no one will be allowed to go home for at least two days, O'Brien-Molina said.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MACCASH AND JAMES O'BYRNE

**LAKEVIEW:** Firefighters lift I.C. Redd Satterlee from a rescue boat.

# "Then, next thing you know, it's just gushing, gushing, gushing ..."

JOAN HANSON
St. Bernard Parish resident




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**9th WARD:** A car sinks, or floats, in the floodwaters. Insurance industry officials said they have teams of more than 1,000 insurance adjusters ready to handle claims in Louisiana, as soon as conditions improve.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MacCASH AND JAMES O'BYRNE

**LAKEVIEW:** A cooler and toys are among the debris floating on floodwater near the intersection of Fillmore and Orleans avenues.

# Hundreds believed to be trapped in their attics

**FLOODING,** *from A-1*

faces: The water, it just came up so fast. Waist-deep in five minutes and neck-deep in 10.

"I was talking to my mother on the phone at 8 in the morning, telling her everything was fine," said Joan Hanson, 52, minutes after Rayes pulled her from a boat sitting at rooftop-level at a relative's house, where she and her son had to swim to survive. "Then, next thing you know, it's just gushing, gushing, gushing, and we can't open the door, and then the water was up to my neck."

As Rayes surveyed the area hardest hit by one of the most destructive hurricanes in the nation's history, he could only guess what rescuers would find when the water receded. The devastation of property appeared total, all the way from the Industrial Canel to well past Paris Road in Chalmette. The storm surge appeared to have wiped out the entire parish, given that most areas east of Chalmette are lower and closer to the Gulf of Mexico.

The cause of the flooding remained unclear, and city officials could not immediately be reached. But American Red Cross officials said water from the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, or MR-GO, topped the levees.

As he passed second-story windows that had been boarded up before the storm, Rayes wondered aloud if the boards had served to trap people inside rather than keep the storm out.

"There are going to be tons of dead people," Rayes said as he passed through the 9th Ward, where officials estimated that hundreds of people remained trapped late Monday. "They're going to start finding them in their attics tomorrow. I would have never thought of anything like this. This is the worst thing I've ever seen in my life."

Other areas were nearly as hard hit. The storm surge approached the rooflines of homes across Treme and Gentilly Ridge. Eastern New Orleans also endured heavy flooding, though the extent was not immediately clear.

In the Bywater neighborhood, more than 90 percent of homes flooded and waters rose above 4 feet, particularly north of St. Claude Avenue, the main thoroughfare. Only a small area between the Mississippi River levee and Burgundy Street was spared the flooding.

Dozens of residents sought refuge at Bywater Hospital, said a New Orleans police officer who, along with National Guard personnel, were trying to siphon gasoline from a nearby vehicle for the hospital's generators, which ran respirators and other medical equipment for critically ill and elderly patients.

"We're getting gas so they can keep on ticking, you know," said the officer, who did not give his name.

Many stores along St. Claude were flooded, their windows shattered. Signs littered the road, and power and telephone lines fell or dangled. At a neighborhood grocery store near the intersection of St. Claude and Elysian Fields avenues, a man could be seen through the store's front windows sleeping on top of the counter.

Rayes, who rode out the storm uneventfully in the La Quinta Inn on Camp Street, started his day by putting his boat in the high water along Elysian Fields Avenue. "We were the first boat out; the police wouldn't even go out," said the 48-year-old locksmith. "We went down Elysian Fields and picked up about 50 people on their roofs."

Then he brought his boat to the Industrial Canal, where a small SWAT team had put two boats in the water, not nearly enough to retrieve what some estimated as hundreds of stranded people in the neighborhood.

Rayes had a mission: to pick up a friend on top of a roof in Chalmette. He passed 20 or 30 screaming people in the 9th Ward along the way.

A woman screamed as Rayes boated by: "Hey! Damn! Hey!"

"You can't save everybody," he said, as he passed street signs barely visible above the water along with scores of felled trees and downed power lines. "That's all we heard for hours this morning."

As he motored toward St. Claude Avenue, which looked like a bayou rather than a thoroughfare, his boat passed Fats Domino's pink-and-yellow-trimmed house on Caffin Avenue. About a half a dozen men screamed from the balcony, flailing their hands for help. He passed them by.

"What am I going to do? I got to go to the parish," he said. "There's way too many people out there and to few boats."

A boat pulled alongside Rayes, driven by Wayne Landry, also of St. Bernard Parish and also on a private rescue mission. "I just dropped some off at the sugar mill, and I'm going to get more," he yelled from his boat. "The guy cut himself out with an ax. It's sad."

Some people used cruder methods. Hanson's 20-year-old son, Chris, had cuts all over his shaking hands when Rayes picked him up, from breaking the window so he and his mother could swim to safety. On their way to climb into a nearby relative's boat, they swam during the peak of the hurricane, dodging felled branches and pieces of their destroyed fence.

In the Lower 9th Ward, Felton Bercy and his wife, Marie, stood in the darkness of their attic for hours only to have the water rise to their one-story ceiling in less than an hour – then threaten to take over the attic. Bercy had no ax, only an 18-inch hunting knife. It took him an hour and a half to claw through his roof.

"I had to have some daylight," Bercy said hours later, shivering after rescuers carried him and his wife to safety.

Back at the Industrial Canal, where St. Claude Avenue served as a boat launch, SWAT teams offloaded several boatloads of people with similar woeful tales: They hadn't had money to leave; they had no car; they didn't think it could possibly be as bad as they said on TV. Others said they had been abandoned by friends or family members.

"It's not like we disregarded the warning," Darlene Wilson said. "We had people we depended on, and they abandoned us. I can't believe they left us behind. The neighbors tried to help us out. We went to the attic. I thought I was going to die with my kids."

Timothy Jones emerged from the water after a long stay at St. Paul's Church of God in Christ. He helped carry a beaten and soaked elderly couple from the boat, their feet dragging, their bodies limp.

Sitting in the bed of a National Guard truck, peeking over the rails, Jones' wife Isabella Vinnett was thankful her many prayers that day were answered, but also angry at a relative.

"I was abandoned by my family," she said, resisting her husband's attempts to quiet her. "I got hold of my auntie, but she still abandoned me."

Another family the police boats pulled from the water emerged without its matriarch. Allison Berryhill, 30, said she had been talking to her mother on the phone right before a tree fell on their house and the water started rising fast.

"She said water was above their house and getting into their attic," Berryhill said. "I wasn't able to reach her after that."

Rayes had gone to St. Bernard to pick up a friend, but discovered he had already found another boat out by the time Rayes arrived. But he would come back with a full boat anyway, picking up several stranded strangers.

Some waved him on, saying others needed his help more.

"You all right?" asked Ian Reyes, 20, to one man in a yellow two-story house nearly filled with water. "Yeah," the man said. "I'm just here with the dogs. The family's out."

A while later, the men passed a brick two-story house. A man waved a white flag on a stick out the window. "I got my old lady here and a chow, that all right?" asked James Waringen, 48.

Rayes had been trying to avoid pets to make room for people, but he allowed it. After all, he's got a dog, too.

Inside the second-story apartment, Waringen's companion, Ann Griffin, starting shoving her cats into a duffel bag, as if to hide them. "Get your little whiskers in there," she said, zipping up the bag. She didn't tell Rayes what was in the bag as she loaded it onto the boat.

Asked why she hadn't evacuated, Griffin said, "I wasn't going to leave my babies," motioning to the squirming duffel bag. "Plus, I'm just more comfortable staying at home than going somewhere where I don't know anybody."

Even as she was surrounded by submerged buildings along Judge Perez Drive, Griffin predicted that, ultimately, little would change in the parish because of the storm.

"Same thing that happened after Betsy: nothing," she said. "We'll just rebuild. But I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to buy a new car because his car doesn't run. Hopefully, we won't be in Louisiana."

Then she reconsidered.

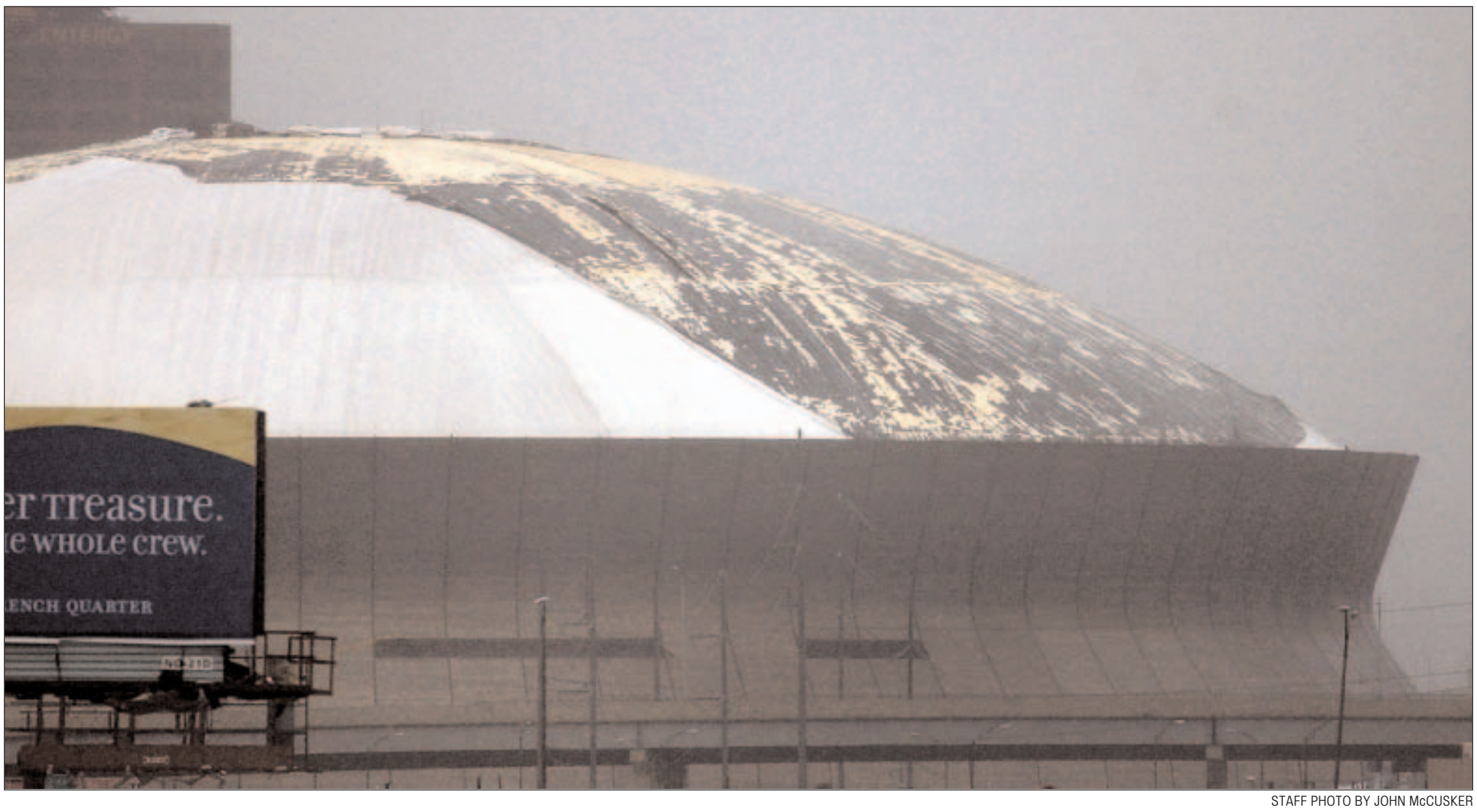
"But everybody always comes back. I had three brothers and a sister get out, and they all came back."

Rayes dropped off Griffin, along with several other passengers, at the Regions Bank building, where an ad hoc shelter operated out of a broken mirrored window.

At first, the shelter turned her away because of her pets, but Rayes plied the men at the window with food and drinks, of which they had little.

They willingly took the Chow. They unknowingly took the bag full of cats, which Griffin handed up gingerly to the window. "Be careful," she said.

# CBD landmarks in tatters; Poydras littered with debris




STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

DOWNTOWN: The Superdome looks skinned Monday after Hurricane Katrina ripped part of the roof off.

## *Bank left open to the elements; Hyatt shredded*

**By Greg Thomas**
Business writer

Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Central Business District on Monday and left its main artery, Poydras Street, looking little better than a war zone.

Windows were shattered, facades were destroyed, and a portion of the roof on the LL&E building, 909 Poydras, was ripped off. Metal, insulation and shards of glass littered the street.

Perhaps the most striking damage was at the former Amoco building, 1340 Poydras, where ground-floor glass windows and entrances were shattered, leaving the Chase Manhattan Bank branch open to the elements. Windows on nearly every floor of the 21-story building were missing.

The glass ground-floor entrance and retail locations in the 1555 and 1515 Poydras office towers also were shattered and exposed.

At the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel, the curved façade on Poydras was destroyed, and hundreds of windows in the 1,200-room, 48-story hotel were blown out.

And at the Louisiana Superdome, with its iconic curved roof, nearly half of the building's exterior white coating was stripped away.

The Dominion Tower, Entergy Corp. building and Energy building also all suffered exterior damage and had numerous windows blown out.

•••••••

Greg Thomas can be reached at (504) 826-3399 or at gthomas@timespicayune.com.

# Mangled twin spans need repair

## *Residents face weeks of wait*

**By Ed Anderson and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

Sections of the Interstate 10 twin bridges linking St. Tammany and Orleans parishes over Lake Pontchartrain have been "severely damaged" in both directions, some probably knocked out, Louisiana's highway chief said.

"It is just like in Florida," Johnny Bradberry, secretary of transportation and development, said, referring to damage caused by Hurricane Ivan last year to the I-10 bridge across Escambia Bay in the Florida Panhandle.

Bradberry said he will send crews to fly over the site today to assess damages.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Brown called Hurricane Katrina one of the worst disasters he has seen, exceeded only by California wildfires.

"This is a catastrophic storm," he said. "People will not get back to their homes for several weeks – if not longer."

Lt. Kevin Cowan, a spokesman for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said the only confirmed deaths have been three New Orleans area nursing home residents who died while being transported to or after arriving at shelters in Baton Rouge.

Cowan said communication with St. Tammany Parish has been spotty and little is known of the number of persons rescued from that area.

He said said at least 31,000 evacuees were still hunkered down in shelters in south Louisiana, and 917,000 households were without power in 23 south Louisiana parishes.




STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** In the Old Spanish Trail subdivision, Bob Smith, left, and Keith James went from house to house rescuing people who had fled to their attics. The Superdome looks skinned Monday after Hurricane Katrina ripped part of the roof off.



**SLIDELL:** Cars sit flooded at Academy Sports after Hurricane Katrina blew through Monday.



**SLIDELL:** Floodwaters rose as high as six feet near Old Spanish Trail, where this flooded and wind-damaged Shell station was photographed Monday.

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Tue, Aug 30, 2005 2:14 AM 30.a12,a13



# Katrina's wind and rains hit Mississippi coast just as hard

## *At least 3 dead as many must escape to rooftops*

**By Holbrook Mohr**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. - Rescuers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast pulled residents from rooftops Monday as a storm surge swirled around buildings, and Gov. Haley Barbour said Hurricane Katrina left death and terrible destruction on the coast and inland.

Three deaths were confirmed Monday in central Mississippi as the storm pushed northward with blinding rain and winds topping 100 mph, said Robert Latham, director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Several roads and highways in south Mississippi were engulfed by water, and trees snapped as far north as Jackson. More than half of Entergy Mississippi's 410,000 customers lost power in the wake of the storm and boil water notices were issued in several counties.

By Monday evening, the storm had been downgraded to a tropical storm as it passed through eastern Mississippi, moving north at 21 mph with wind still dangerous at 65 mph.

MEMA officials recorded deaths in Hinds, Warren, and Leake counties more than 150 miles inland, although details of those deaths remained sketchy Monday afternoon.

"The state today has suffered a grievous blow," Barbour said in Jackson. "We know some people got trapped and we pray they are OK."

Emergency officials on the Gulf Coast said rescue teams braved strong winds and high water to reach people stranded on roofs and in attics _ people who apparently ignored repeated orders to evacuate on Sunday.

Barbour said officials know there has been tremendous damage in the state, although it wasn't immediately possible to quantify either property damage or casualties.

"The most immediate priority for us is going to be search and rescue, in the same way that up until this morning our main priority was trying to get people out of harm's way and get them to evacuate," he said.

In Gulfport's Forest Heights subdivision, which is several miles from the beach but south of Interstate 10, young children clung to one another in a small blue boat Monday evening as neighbors shuffled children and elderly residents out of the neighborhood, which was flooded with at least four to six feet of water.

People gently helped a 64-year-old woman with an oxygen tank get into a boat to leave.

"Everything is flooded. Roofs are off and everything," said Shun Howell, 25, who was trying to leave with her 5-year-old son.

She said cars in the neighborhood were flooded or flipped over.

"We're going to need some serious help to start over," Howell said. "Everything is ruined."

Barbour said people who evacuated from south Mississippi and Louisiana should not travel home until officials give the all-clear _ possibly in several days. He also strongly warned against looting in storm-ravaged areas.

"To me looting is about the equivalent of grave-robbing," Barbour said. "We're not going to stand for it."

Katrina signaled its advance on Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties with stinging squalls, destructive winds and a rash of tornadoes. Then came the storm surge, a wall of water estimated at more than 20 feet that spread out around homes and businesses. Storm winds ripped at roofs, shattered windows and sent debris and overturned trees onto streets.

In some cases, debris was stacked 4 to 5 feet, covering cars. Houses were washed from their foundations.

Tim Cross, 48, of Gulfport said a door and other debris floated up and lodged on his front porch.

"We got scared when the water came up," Cross said. "It came up quick. I mean real quick. It came onto the porch and then into the house."

Interstate 10 was closed because of flooding from the Biloxi River, officials said.

Emergency officials said it would take hours for the high water to recede into the Mississippi Sound to allow search teams into hardest-hit areas for rescues and, if necessary, to recover bodies.

Katrina's winds slowed but still packed a damaging punch as the storm moved through south Mississippi. In the Hattiesburg area, winds about 95 mph were reported at mid-afternoon. In advance of its arrival in central Mississippi, the storm toppled trees and sent branches from mighty oaks at the Governor's Mansion sailing onto downtown Jackson streets.

Meridian, located along the Alabama border in east-central Mississippi, also took a pounding. The storm was expected to dump more torrential rain as it plowed northward Monday night.

The storm surge, the most severe since Hurricane Camille devastated Mississippi's coast in 1969, rolled over beaches and coastal U.S. 90, then into dwellings. In Harrison County, boats were propelled from the Mississippi Sound onto the beachside U.S. 90 and into nearby structures.

"Let me tell you something, folks. I've been out there. It's complete devastation," Gulfport Fire Chief Pat Sullivan said Monday afternoon. "I'm going to go out on a limb here: 75 percent of the buildings in Gulfport have major roof damage if they have a roof left at all."

Similar damage was reported

*See* **COAST,** *A-13*



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

**GULFPORT, MISS.:** Debris, including a boat, made eastbound I-10 east of Gulfport impassable Monday afternoon.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

**GULFPORT, MISS.:** A pickup truck is submerged in front of a business destroyed by Hurricane Katrina on Monday afternoon.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

**GULFPORT, MISS.:** Hurricane Katrina utterly gutted First Baptist Church in Gulfport.

Tue, Aug 30, 2005 2:14 AM 30.a12,a13



# It's a different story now for coastal restoration effort

## *President's tour would show wetlands needs*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

It could be the biggest irony of the Hurricane Katrina experience.

Late last week, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's staff received a note from President George W. Bush's schedulers responding to Blanco's request that she be allowed to accompany him on an aerial tour of Louisiana's fragile coastal wetlands.

White House officials sent a letter at the end of the week saying the president wasn't going to be able to make the trip at this time, said Sidney Coffee, coastal activities adviser to Blanco.

On Sunday, Louisiana Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter sent another invitation, this time urging Bush to tour Katrina's devastation.

Such a tour would take Bush over the controversial Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, which St. Bernard Parish President Henry J. "Junior" Rodriguez has for years said would funnel storm surge water over levees into Chalmette, eastern New Orleans and the Ninth Ward.

One version of the restoration plan calls for a one-year study by the Army Corps of Engineers leading to a decision on whether to build a lock or other structure to block surge, to just allow it to fill over time or to continue to allow it to be used as a ship channel.

The aerial tour also would require flights over threatened wetlands in St. Charles Parish, where storm surge waters pushed all the way south to the Mississippi River.

And it would require an aerial view of what remains of the bridal-lace pattern of wetlands on the West Bank surrounding Barataria Bay, which once provided at least some protection from hurricane and tropical storm surge events.

"After this many letters, let's hope he actually comes, now that we've had a major hurricane," Coffee said.

Coffee said she also hopes Katrina's object lesson isn't lost on members of Congress who have been hesitant to support the $1.2 billion Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration plan included in the pending Water Resources Development Act.

"If this doesn't paint the picture of the value of restoring our coastal wetlands, then I'm not sure they're reachable," Coffee said.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**NEAR TREME:** Much of the flooding in New Orleans can be blamed on a lack of barrier islands and swamps near the coast of Louisiana, which would tone down the storm.

Coffee and wetland scientists will be making their own aerial tour of the coastal devastation caused by Katrina later this week, looking for shredded areas of marsh and whether wind and surge may have damaged existing federal, state and local restoration projects.

U.S. Geological Survey biologist Tommy Michot also will be in the air to check on how much of the Chandeleur and Breton island chains survived Katrina's destructive power.

The Chandeleur chain to the east of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish has been a frequent target of tropical storms and hurricanes, Michot said.

In 1998, Hurricane Georges, with only 110 mph winds, chopped the narrow sand crescent into a thousand slices that slowly healed until 2002, when the one-two punch of Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili again diced the spit.

Last year, Hurricane Ivan again pushed much of the sand on the crescent inland towards the Louisiana coast.

The Breton islands also were cut asunder by those hurricanes, resulting in a loss of habitat for a variety of nesting birds, including pelicans, terns and skimmers.

Katrina also poses a threat to sea grasses that grow adjacent to barrier islands and provide habitat for fisheries, Michot said.

Tom McKenzie, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which administers the two island chains and several other refuges in southeastern Louisiana, said it's too soon to know what effects Katrina had on the refuges.

"It's a little preliminary for us for damage estimates," he said. "We usually wait until after the disaster has hit, and we have a number of facilities in that neck of the woods that are in the impact area.

Meanwhile, Louisiana State University biologist Gene Turner said not all Katrina's effects on wetlands can be considered bad.

"Most of the inorganic material supplied to coastal wetlands is not deposited by rivers' overland flow," such as in spring flooding, Turner said. "One way for sediment to raise the height of a marsh is to come in during a storm. It turns out most of the sediment supply comes from the very largest storm, not over-bank flooding or biannual floods."

# Gulf rig damage worries energy traders

## *Oil companies will assess situation today*

**By Michael J. Montalbano and Kimberly Quillen**
Staff writers

Hurricane Katrina tore through the Gulf of Mexico's oil patch early Monday, threatening the nation's energy supply and raising the possibility that gasoline prices -- already at record highs -- will climb further.

The storm will probably do little to calm anxiety among consumers and energy traders about high oil and gas prices. "We already are seeing the effect, and in this case, it's fear," said Mindy West of Murphy Oil.

The extent of the damage sustained by oil rigs in the Gulf and refineries throughout the region was unclear Monday, but oil companies were vowing to assess the situation today and return to normal operations as soon as possible.

"It's important for us to get back to business as much as usual. It's important to the country," said Tony Lentini, vice president of public and international affairs for Apache Corp.

"The real interesting thing will be what sort of structural damage was done to refineries," said Fred Schuster, manager of the commodities trading desk at DRW Investments LLC in Chicago. "That's the rub. We can't just use oil, we have to refine it."

Fifty percent of the U.S. refining capacity is located along the Gulf of Mexico, and a number of refineries – including Chevron's oil refinery in Pascagoula, Miss., and Exxon Mobil's Chalmette refinery – shut down as the storm approached. Refiners said late Monday that initial reports showed minimal damage.

Many of the oil rigs operating in the Gulf were also evacuated in advance of the storm. According to the Minerals Management Service, the federal agency that oversees drilling activity in the Gulf, 92 percent of the region's oil output – and 83 percent of its natural gas – was shut down Monday.

Lentini said Apache shut down 336 of its 386 structures in the Gulf of Mexico in advance of the storm and will reopen the units as soon as it is safe to do so.

"We have to balance safety and production in the Gulf," Lentini said. "We have no timetable, but it is important for us to get back online."

West, of Murphy Oil, echoed Lentini's sentiments.

"We will be assessing our situation Tuesday," she said. "I honestly don't know if there was any structural integrity compromised with any of our platforms in the Gulf."

Schuster said there is also a possibility that underwater pipelines were damaged in the storm, just as they were when Hurricane Ivan ripped through the Gulf last year.

"It's these pipelines that connect the (oil) rigs to land," Schuster said.

It could take weeks to determine the extent of pipeline damage. "It really seems like we just won't know for a while," Schuster said.

But at least one analyst said damage in the Gulf may not be extreme. "It's a lot less than we originally thought," said Fadel Gheit, senior energy analyst with Oppenheimer & Co. in New York. "All in all it turned out to be a lot bigger noise than actual damage. This could be a pleasant surprise."

The Gulf of Mexico region is responsible for 35 percent of the nation's production of oil and gas.

The price of light sweet crude jumped to $70.80 a barrel early Monday before retreating to close at $67.25 a barrel, up $1.12 from its close on Friday.

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STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

**GULFPORT, MISS.:** Downtown Gulfport just north of U.S. 90 after being struck by Hurricane Katrina on Monday.

**COAST,** *from A-12*

elsewhere.

Casinos, a major economic contributor to the state's tax base, were closed and secured before the storm. However, Barbour said he understood there could have been flooding up to the second floor of some gambling houses.

Sullivan said Beau Rivage, a casino and hotel in Biloxi, had been flooded up the third floor. Visual checks of the casinos from nearby U.S. 90 were impossible because of water and debris on the highway.

During the briefing in Gulfport, Harrison County coroner Gary Hargrove was asked what rescuers in flood areas should to if they come across bodies.

"If they're dead, they're dead," Hargrove said. "We've got the living to take care of."

Wind collapsed walls at Harrison Central High School, which was closed. Even emergency officials had problems: A foot of water spilled into the Hancock County emergency management offices.

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# No power for a month is possible, Packer says

*Lines, plants suffer extensive damage*




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**CARROLLTON:** The numbers of downed power lines and poles pose a sustantial challenge to the thousands of workers who will repair them over the next weeks.

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Most of metropolitan New Orleans could be without electricity for at least a month because of catastrophic damage to the region's electricity system from Hurricane Katrina, Entergy New Orleans Chief Executive Officer Dan Packer said Monday afternoon.

The storm's powerful winds appear to have caused severe damage to all elements of the power grid, including power lines and the plants that generate electricity.

"This is the worst we've ever seen," Packer said.

With every utility customer in the dark by the peak of the storm – about midmorning Monday - Katrina produced the largest power outage ever in Louisiana and the most devastating blackout to hit Entergy's four-state territory, utility managers said.

But the degree of damage didn't surprise Packer. "We were expecting the worst, and I think it's meeting those expectations," he said.

Power service was lost to all of Entergy's 700,000 customers in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Charles parishes, Entergy spokeswoman Amy Stallings said.

Another 80,000 customers of Cleco Corp. in St. Tammany and Washington parishes also lost power, said Kathleen Nolen, the Pineville utility's senior vice president and chief financial officer.

"This will be a very long and difficult period for our customers and our employees," Stallings said.

Telephone companies, both wired and wireless, also suffered outages - but they were more sporadic, and many people continued to make calls into and out of the area throughout the day. At times, callers were met with busy signals or recordings indicating that networks were congested by heavy call volumes.

Most of those problems were because of the huge volume of calls being made over

the local network, said Joe Chandler, spokesman for BellSouth, the region's biggest phone service provider.

Only 10,000 of the area's 790,000 phone lines were without a dial tone Monday at 5 p.m., said Joe Chandler, spokesman for BellSouth, the region's largest phone service provider.

But the number of phone outages will rise in the coming days.

Many neighborhood phone switches were operating Monday night on backup batteries after losing normal electricity service, Chandler said. More phone customers will lose their connections as the batteries run dry in the coming days.

"The potential exists for the outage numbers to rise," Chandler said.

Wireless phone networks also operated sporadically after Katrina hit.

As Katrina's winds and rain subsided Monday afternoon, Entergy and Cleco continued gathering nearly 10,000 line repair workers and tree trimmers on the edges of southeastern Louisiana. The workers will begin moving into the disaster area today, first to assess damage to the power system and then to begin repairing the damage and restoring electricity to customers.

Managers with both companies decided to hold back workers and their bucket trucks until today, so winds could fall to safer levels and flood waters could begin to subside.

BellSouth repair crews will follow behind the utility crews as normal power is restored to communications switches, Chandler said.

Entergy and Cleco both planned to use helicopters this morning to fly over the region and evaluate damage to power plants and large transmission lines. They also will look for flooding, torn up roads and other obstacles that might prevent line crews from reaching damaged equipment.

"We will have helicopters in the air at day break," Nolen said.

The flights will give utility workers a "big picture" of the damage, essential to drawing up systematic plan for attacking failures and breaks in the power grid, Packer said.

"The first thing I want to know about is geography: What does New Orleans look like? The only way to do that is by air," he said.

One of the biggest obstacles facing repair crews is flooding. High water could block road access to power lines and substations or pose a danger to crews trying to reach remote areas, utility managers said.

For that reason, Cleco customers on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain could get their lights back on faster if floodwaters subside more quickly there, Nolen said.

Packer and other Entergy employees rode out the storm at the company's command center in the Hyatt Regency Hotel next to the Superdome. During the peak of Katrina's furry, Packer and other hotel guests were bunkered down in the hotel's lower floors.

In Packer's assigned room on the 25th floor, the storm's winds blew out a floor-to-ceiling window, overturning furniture and spewing debris everywhere.

A book left by Packer on a desk near the window tumbled out of the high-rise. He said the "Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell topped his current reading list.

"It's about how small things make big things happen," he said.

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# Predicted damages could reach $16 billion

*FEMA to survey from air today*

**By Bill Walsh**
**Bruce Alpert**
**and Laura Maggi**
Staff writers

As the final gusts of Hurricane Katrina lashed southeastern Louisiana on Monday, rescue crews fanned out across the flood-soaked region to assess the damage to lives and property caused by one of the worst storms in memory.

Casualty figures weren't available late Monday as emergency officials responded to a deluge of calls for help in floodwaters 12 feet deep in some areas and power cut off to some 800,000 people.

Early assessments by insurance industry officials concluded Katrina could be the second-most expensive hurricane in the nation's history. A risk-management firm, Eqecat Inc., predicted property damage between $9 billion and $16 billion, behind only Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which caused more than $20 billion in damage.

As soon as conditions improve, insurance industry officials said thousands of adjusters would begin handling claims in Louisiana. Homeowners were urged to cover damaged openings with plastic or other heavy covering and make detailed lists of costs – such as motel bills – resulting from the storm. They also were reminded not to touch any downed power lines or attempt to remove trees that had fallen on their property.

Twelve boats were deployed from Jackson Barracks to search for people stranded on the roofs and upper stories of their homes in eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish, which sustained the worst flooding. Federal search and rescue teams, which had begun taking up stations around the region since Saturday, also were dispatched.

"First and foremost, we need to save lives and protect property," said Mike Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, at an afternoon briefing in Baton Rouge.

Brown is expected to conduct his own aerial survey of the region today as one of the first steps to figuring out the needs of the area.

An immediate problem in the aftermath of Katrina was access to drinkable water. Blanco said that a water main had "sheared" in New Orleans, and she issued an alert to boil water. But with electricity out in almost all areas of the city, that could prove difficult.

FEMA stockpiled water, food, medical supplies, blankets and cots at Camp Beauregard near Alexandria in anticipation of the storm, and was preparing to distribute them once it is clear where the greatest needs are. By Monday evening, FEMA had not identified distribution points in the metropolitan area.

Brown said that because of the early emergency declaration issued by President Bush, trucks full of supplies were ready to be shipped into the state.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**KENNER:** A group of youths walks past the Backyard BBQ on Veterans Memorial Boulevard near Loyola Drive. While devastation in the New Orleans area was substantial, it was well short of what had been feared, according to Robert Klein, director of the risk management and insurance department at Georgia State University.

"We have supply lines backed up all the way to Fort Worth," Brown said.

Bush's disaster declaration makes federal financial assistance available in 31 south Louisiana parishes stretching from Mississippi to the Texas line. The assistance includes grants for temporary housing and low-interest loans for home and business repairs from storm damage not covered by insurance. Local governments also are eligible for financial assistance to aid in debris removal and emergency protective measures.

Individuals may begin applying for aid as early as today at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site, http://www.fema.gov, or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (ext. 3362).

"I want the folks there on the Gulf Coast to know that the federal government is prepared to help you when the storm passes," Bush said at an appearance in Arizona where he was promoting his Social Security plans. "When the storm passes, the federal government has got assets and resources that we'll be deploying to help you. In the meantime, America will pray – pray for the health and safety of all our citizens," Bush said.

The amount of standing water could cause special problems for buildings as well as for underground storage tanks, according to one expert.

Brick and mortar foundations that didn't crumble under the force of the wind could be severely damaged by the weight of the water left behind, said Don Chase, a former U.S. Army engineer who now lectures at the University of Dayton. He said standing water could seep into underground gas and chemical storage tanks, rendering their contents useless.

"From an engineering standpoint, this may be worse than Hurricane Andrew," Chase said.

Even as the winds began to dissipate, Blanco reiterated her warning for residents not to attempt to return to their homes. Teams from the state Department of Transportation had been dispatched to clear major arteries, but roads leading back to the metropolitan New Orleans area remained blocked late Monday, Blanco said.

"If you try to get in now, it will make it hard for us to do the work we need to do," Blanco said. "Wherever you live, it is still too dangerous to go home."

Looking tired at an afternoon press briefing at the Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge, Blanco also sounded a weary message of hope to those worried about loved ones and damaged property.

"Our work has just begun," she said. "We will recover. We are a strong people."

Tue, Aug 30, 2005 1.46 AM a15.8.30.05.HURRI



# Evacuations to hotels come with own set of hazards

## *Hyatt loses at least 175 of its windows*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Nearly 3,000 guests at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans had a frightening evening Sunday as Hurricane Katrina blew out more than 175 windows in the high-rise hotel.

"The glass was crashing everywhere. It sounded like a hailstorm," said Leslie, an Algiers resident wearing a blue New Orleans Athletic Club T-shirt who declined to give her last name. "Now it looks like the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma."

"There were beds flying out the windows," added Juli, another hurricane refugee from Algiers who wouldn't give her last name. Juli said she sneaked back to her room after the hotel had safely relocated guests to a windowless ballroom on a lower floor Sunday night. She awoke to find the curtains from the neighboring room whacking the outside of her window. On Monday, those curtains were flapping against tufts of pink insulation left exposed by cracks in the modern building's once sleek black exterior.

While the Hyatt was probably in the worst shape of any downtown hotel, locals who sought refuge from Hurricane Katrina in downtown hotels discovered that the practice of so-called "vertical evacuation" is not without its hazards - or discomforts.

On Monday afternoon, Hyatt guests camped out on blue and gold hotel bedspreads in the ballroom. Many sat dazed in the oppressive heat, unable to go back to their rooms to retrieve toothbrushes, books or snacks because of safety concerns while hotel engineers surveyed damage in the rooms.

Hyatt spokeswoman Susan Oakland said the hotel began evacuating guests to the ballroom Sunday at about 10:30 p.m. as a precaution against Katrina's strong Category 4 winds. No one was hurt in the relocation, which Oakland said went as planned. "We do not anticipate guests returning to their rooms this evening," she said Monday.

Evacuating to hotels has become a controversial practice this hurricane season, as many hotel operators began to question whether they really wanted to be responsible for hundreds of guests without power and water for an extended period of time if the city flooded. Public safety officials decry the practice, but many locals love to avoid the traffic jams and spend the storm throwing back cocktails. And hotels long have viewed housing locals in a storm as a valiant community service.

Although they were bored sitting in the beige ballroom, many guests said they were grateful that the hotel had kept everyone safe in what could have been a dangerous situation.

New Orleans resident Gordon W. Martine sat on a folded hotel bedspread and closed his eyes Monday afternoon. He had nothing but compliments for the hotel and its guests.

Martine and his wife, Marie, checked into the hotel because Marie had just had surgery to remove three discs a few days earlier. When Marie had to go back up to her room for medical reasons Sunday night and got stuck, three firefighters carried her down 14 flights of stairs before the room's two windows blew out. "I've been very impressed with the service," Martine said.

Lakeview nurse Lisa Buchanan, also sitting on the ubiquitous blue Hyatt bedspread, was tired from trying to sleep on the floor with a herniated disk and annoyed that she hadn't been told when she would be able to return to her room, which lost its window. But no matter how grouchy, Buchanan said vertical evacuation was still worth it to avoid the stress on the highways.

"I'd rather evacuate to a hotel than be bumper-to-bumper in traffic," she said. And however primitive the conditions, she appreciated that the Hyatt took guests for the storm. "At least they didn't put people on the streets."

At other hotels, the mood was similar. Steve Daney, former chef at Rendon Inn who now lives in Fayetteville, Ark., had come back to New Orleans to try to sell his house when he got caught by Katrina and checked into the Astor Crowne Plaza.

Daney, who rode out Hurricane Betsy in New Orleans, was philosophical about the past 24 hours.

"At 5 years old, it's fun to sit through a hurricane. But when you're an adult, you start thinking about other things: your life, your house, your family," Daney said.

Daney tried to pass the time by watching television, but he had to turn it off when the national news kept talking about whether high-rise buildings would be able to withstand the storm.

"I'm not the strongest religious person you'll ever meet, but I'll tell you, I prayed. I prayed for that sucker to go to Gulfport," Daney said.

Outside the Inn on Bourbon, Kirk Hayes Sr. took his first break late Monday afternoon, sitting across the street at a closed bar smoking a cigarette and drinking a 7-Up. Hayes, the Ramada hotel's engineer, had stayed up all night checking elevators and generators.

"We took a hit, but she stood her ground," Hayes said of the 150-year-old building. "Everything worked out, and everyone came out alive. That's what I'm happy about."

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Reporters Frank Donze and Mary Judice contributed to this report. Rebecca Mowbray can be reached at 504-826-3417 or at rmowbray@timespicayune.com.



PHOTO BY A.J. SISCO

**CBD:** The facade of the New Orleans Centre is pock-marked with blown-out windows Monday after Hurricane Katrina — a fate shared with the Hyatt Regency New Orleans and many other tall buildings and hotels downtown. Nearly 3,000 people evacuated to hotels, but found their stays pretty harrowing.

Tue, Aug 30, 2005 1:50 AM 30.a16,17





# 5 feet of water covers Slidell;




STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** A houseboat sits on Interstate 10 near the Old Spanish Trail. St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis confirmed one person died on Interstate 10.

## *All interstate entrances to parish are closed*

**By Meghan Gordon and Chris Kirkham**
St. Tammany bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** The Sun Vallley Apartments are flooded after Hurricane Katrina blew through Monday.

The brunt of Hurricane Katrina's force passed through eastern St. Tammany Parish Monday morning, appearing to leave much of southern Slidell beneath almost 5 feet of water.

The storm left much of the southern portion of Slidell submerged in the waters of Lake Pontchartrain.

Vehicles on Interstate 10 could make it only as far as the Old Spanish Trail exit before water blocked the route.

Strong winds downed trees throughout the rest of the parish, making most roads impassable.

In neighborhoods near Old Spanish Trail and I-10 in Slidell, homes and businesses had water as high as 6 feet lapping at the sides.

From the overpass at Old Spanish Trail, the only visible structure was a boat that had drifted in and was bobbing up and down in the storm surge.

"This is Lake Pontchartrain," said St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's deputy Kenny Kreeger as he surveyed the flooding from atop the I-10 overpass at Old Spanish Trail.

"I wanted to get a good idea of where my house was."

Parish officials declined to describe the extent of the storm's damage, possible injuries or their emergency response efforts Monday evening.

Parish President Kevin Davis confirmed one person had died on Interstate 10, but declined to issue further details.

"There's no message going out right now, except, 'Don't come back,'" said Dana LaFonta, spokeswoman for Kevin Davis.

Sheriff's spokesman James Hartman said all entrances into the parish from Interstates 10, 12 and 59 would be closed until further notice.

"Even if they come back, they can't stop," Hartman said. "The blockages of roadways from debris is extensive and catastrophic."

At Robert Levis Chevrolet on the I-10 Service Road in Slidell, only the tops of cars and trucks in the lot could be spotted beneath the water.

Residents in the neighborhoods near Old Spanish Trail were forced to seek shelter on second floors, in attics or at neighbors' houses as floodwaters cascaded through the streets after the strongest winds pummeled Slidell.

Keith James, 20, of Slidell and Bob Smith, 22, of Waveland, Miss., braved the winds and choppy waters that continued into Monday afternoon in a small fishing boat.

Just before James' home was submerged, he had time to unhook the boat from the trailer and secure it to the side of the house.

The two went from house to house in the Old Spanish Trail subdivision rescuing people who had fled to their attics.

They said they transported at least 12 people from the subdivision to the second floor of the Comfort Inn on Old Spanish Trail, just above the water level.

In the Old Spanish Trail subdivision, Richard Saavedra's two-story home served as a safe haven for five displaced families who managed to wade over after water inundated their homes.

"People used to look at my two-story home and say, 'Why do you have that, you're not on the water,'" Saavedra said as he peered out of his screened-in second-floor porch.

"He's got waterfront property now," one of his guests said.

Information about damage in Eden Isles and other subdivisions south of Old Spanish Trail was unavailable Monday evening, as Slidell Police could not be reached because of downed phone lines and cell towers. Hartman declined to comment Monday afternoon about conditions in Slidell.

Subdivisions further north in Slidell suffered street flooding and tree damage. Gause Boulevard had several downed power lines and trees, and many portions of the main Slidell artery were unreachable because of flooding.

Several paramedics with Lifeguard Ambulance Service spent a harrowing night at the Days Inn on Gause Boulevard west.

Approximately 15 workers were staying on the second floor of the motel when winds ripped off the roof.

"We managed to stay one step ahead of it, barely one step," said James Durk, a cook at the motel's restaurant.

Although Mandeville escaped major flooding, the streets were impassable hours after the storm left a dangerous tangle of power lines and pine trees across roadways.

"We've got damage everywhere," Sgt. Ron Ruple said. "Almost every street in the city is blocked."

Thick pine trees toppled almost in an east-west line near Montgomery Street, cutting off access to the lake-

*See* **TAMMANY,** *A-17*

Tue, Aug 30, 2005 1:50 AM 30.a16,17



# Spanish Trail exit submerged




STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** A tree hangs on power lines on Gause Boulevard, many portions of which were unreachable due to flooding.

**TAMMANY,** *from A-16*

front. Police Chief Tom Buell said he expected some flooding in Old Mandeville, but by 4 p.m. officers had yet to carve a path through the debris to survey Lakeshore Drive.

Mayor Eddie Price estimated that 30 homes were either destroyed or suffered at least 40 percent losses.

He reiterated parish officials' pleas for evacuees to stay away from the parish. "Old Mandeville is going to be out of commission for a week, at least," Price said.

In downtown Covington, several buildings' roofs were partially ripped off, including those on the Greater Covington Center and the Back Porch restaurant.

Hefty trees crashed into many downtown streets.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**COVINGTON:** The remains of Backyard Oasis on Rutland Street burns during the storm.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** Richard Saavedra looks out at flood waters surrounding his Short Street home, which served as a safe haven for five displaced families.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** Two people are helped into a boat after riding out the storm on Short Street.

**"I've lived here for 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this. I know there's going to be at least some damage to my house, especially if that big old oak tree I got in my yard falls... . I'm almost afraid to go home."**

BERT AVERY

# Family who fled gets trapped on return

## *They planned to spend night under Jeff Davis overpass*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

Bert Avery; his 82-year-old mother-in-law, Myrtle Albert; and two family pets — Fe Fe the ferret and Max the Dalmatian — packed up Saturday about 6 p.m. and evacuated New Orleans north on Interstate 10 to Baton Rouge. They spent Saturday and Sunday nights in a shelter.

They spent Monday night trapped in their gold SUV, just off flooded Howard Avenue under the Jefferson Davis Parkway overpass.

The family, weary of the crowded shelter, decided to head back to New Orleans after they thought the worst of Katrina had passed. They arrived to find floodwater, still rising by the minute, choking every available route. The city was swampy and strewn with debris. Any hope of Avery getting into his Mid-City neighborhood, and Myrtle into her two-story home, were dashed.

The closest they got was Causeway Boulevard near West Esplanade Avenue, where downed power lines danced across the street. "We're happy we're back and happy we're alive," said Avery, a 63-year-old retiree. "But we're definitely not happy with what we're seeing."

On the way to New Orleans, Myrtle said they'd seen the results of Katrina's tirade: apartment buildings and homes scalped of their roofs, their walls crumpled; clothing and personal belongings tossed across back yards and nearby roads.

Pieces of green highway signs from the interstate littered Howard Avenue. Trees were snapped like pretzel sticks. All the roads from Howard Avenue to Earhart Boulevard were flooded, and most of the businesses on the street were missing windows and walls.

"I've lived here for 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this," Avery said, eating from a can of tuna he'd packed for the evacuation. "I know there's going to be at least some damage to my house, especially if that big old oak tree I got in my yard falls... . I'm almost afraid to go home."

They had left home with hopes of a hotel room. Hotels and motels along the highway, which was saturated with New Orleans refugees, had long stopped handing out keys, he said, and instead were handing out lists of nearby shelters. "After nearly four hours on the road, we made it to Baton Rouge with about 10,000 other people," Avery said. "But it was OK. We didn't have much of a choice. We wanted to stay alive so we left."

Four hours later, they had made it to Baton Rouge and were holed up in a shelter with 15, then 100, then 300 others fleeing Katrina. Two nights, they decided, were enough.

Max seemed to be taking the stressful journey in stride, Avery said. "And Fe Fe's been sleeping a whole lot," Myrtle said with a chuckle.



STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

**JACKSON SQUARE:** A homeless man walks through pelting rain in front of St. Louis Cathedral as Hurricane Katrina blows through southeast Louisiana.



**FRENCH QUARTER:** Parked cars are crushed under bricks that have fallen from a building on Camp Street near Canal.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**CENTRAL CITY:** People walk away with bags of clothing from Coleman's Retail Store and furniture from Universal Furniture on Earhart Boulevard during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

# Widespread looting hits abandoned businesses

*Lack of police after storm leaves stores vulnerable*

**By Walt Philbin**
Staff writer

High waters from Hurricane Katrina made law enforcement difficult but provided loads – truckloads in some cases – of opportunity for looters.

At midafternoon Monday, a parade of looters streamed from Coleman's Retail Store at 4001 Earhart Blvd. The looters, men and women who appeared to be in their early teens to mid-40s, braved a steady rain and infrequent tropical-storm-force winds to tote away boxes of clothing and shoes from the store. Some had garbage bags stuffed with goods. Others lugged wardrobe-sized boxes or carried them on their heads.

The line going to and from the store along Earhart numbered into the dozens and appeared to be growing. Some looters were seen smiling and greeting each other with pleasantries as they passed. Another group was seen riding in the back of a pickup truck, honking the horn and cheering.

The scene also attracted a handful of curious bystanders, who left the safety of their homes to watch the heist. But no police were present in the area, which was flooded with water two to four feet deep on all sides of Earhart.

Looting also was reported at the Winn-Dixie just outside the French Quarter, near the Iberville public housing complex.

In Mid-City, people waded through waist-deep water on the way to loot the Shell station at South Jefferson Davis Parkway and Tulane Avenue.

Three people even trudged through the water pulling a blue and white boat down Tulane, apparently to make it easier to haul goods away from the station's convenience store. And they weren't the first to get there.

Minutes before, a pair of teenagers floated two rubber trashcans full of beer, hard liquor and other plunder toward the South Jefferson Davis Parkway overpass over I-10. When they reached dry roadway on the span, they abandoned the garbage cans and carried the contents away in blue plastic bags.

One of the young men even shucked a pair of wet jeans when they fell to his ankles and walked away in a red bathing suit.




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**CENTRAL CITY:** People abscond with bags of unpurchased merchandise.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**CENTRAL CITY:** Items are removed from the from Coleman's Retail Store at 4001 Earhart Blvd. People braved a steady rain and infrequent tropical storm wind gusts to tote boxes of clothing and shoes from the store.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**CENTRAL CITY:** Coleman's merchandise goes out the door Monday. Another group was seen riding in the back of a pickup truck, honking the horn and cheering.

# IN RUINS



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

**FRENCH QUARTER:** The roof of the Old U.S. Mint, blown off by Hurricane Katrina, lies crumpled near the French Market on Monday.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**9TH WARD:** Only parts of some homes remain standing after Hurricane Katrina came through. The governor warned that people who attempt to return to the city will be stopped. 'You will be turned back,' Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. 'Only official emergency personnel will be allowed in.'

Many wonder whether the city will ever recover from Katrina's devastation. The power of wind and water came too fast, was too harsh, proved too much.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**KENNER:** Hurricane Katrina caused extensive flooding at the intersection of Veterans Memorial Boulevard and Loyola Drive.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

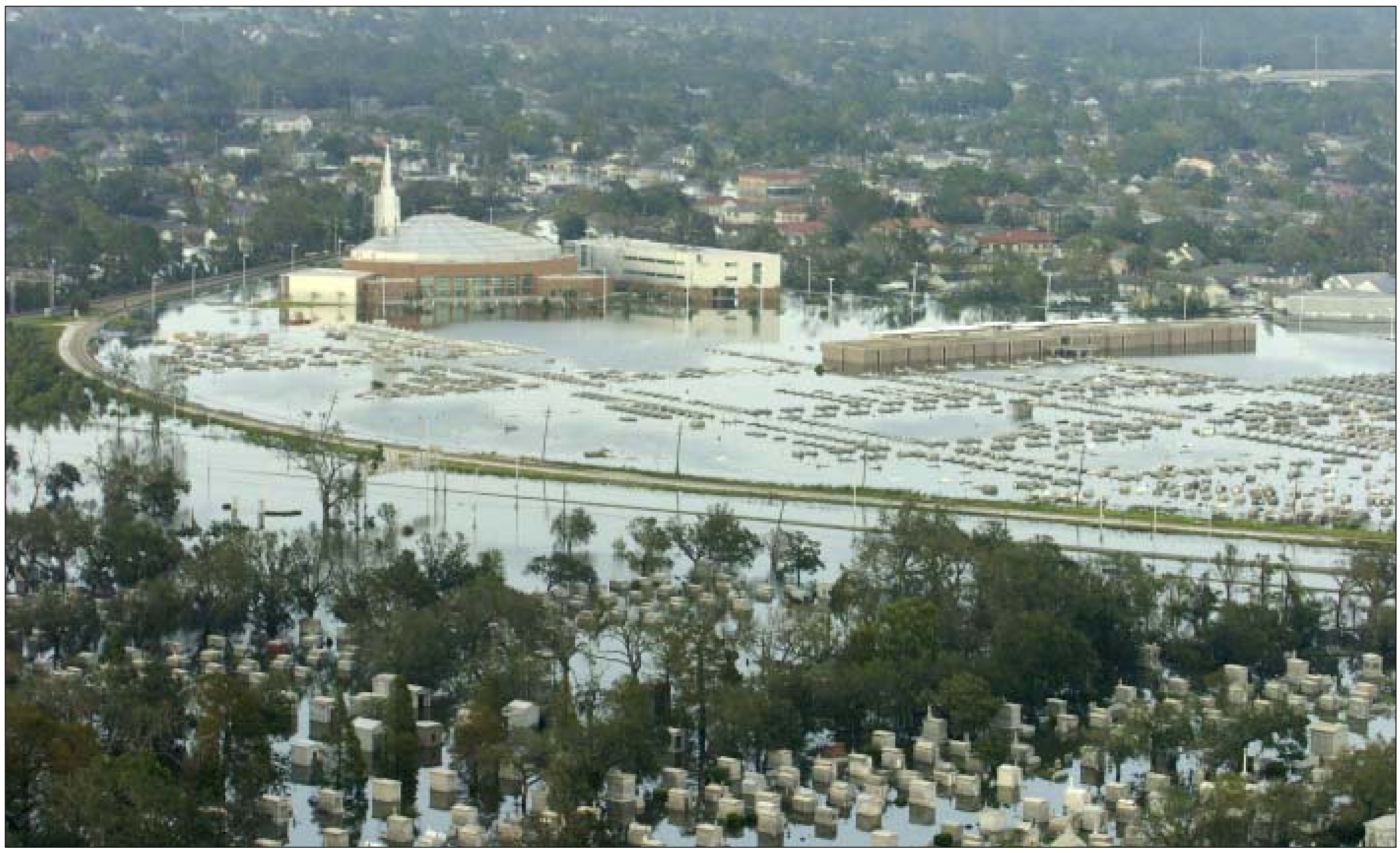
The Times-Picayune

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# UNDER WATER

## LEVEE BREACH SWAMPS CITY FROM LAKE TO RIVER

## Population urged to leave; years of cleanup ahead



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Gravess at Greenwood and Metairie cemetariesmark the waterlineof the sheet of water that covered the city from Lake Pontchartrain to nearly the French Quarter on Tuesday.

# Daylong efforts to repair levee fail

**By Dan Shea**
Staff writer

New Orleans became an unimaginable scene of water, fear and suffering Tuesday after a levee breach in the 17th Street Canal sent billions of gallons of Lake Pontchartrain coursing through the city.

As the day wore on, the only dry land was a narrow band from the French Quarter and parts of Uptown, the same small strip that was settled by Bienville amid the swamps.

On Tuesday night, it appeared the city was returning to swamp when a daylong effort to shore the levee near the Hammond Highway failed. Mayor Ray Nagin said pumps were being overwhelmed and warned that a new deluge would bury the city in up to 15 feet of water.

With solid water from the lake to the French Quarter, the inundation and depopulation of an entire American city was at hand.

"Truth to tell, we're not to far from filling in the bowl," said Terry Ebbert, the city's director of homeland security. The waters were still rising at 3 inches per hour, and eventually could move close to the French Quarter levee.

Although the breach occurred on the Orleans side of the canal, it did not spare the Jefferson side. Water found its way into much of the east bank, meeting the flow that came in from the west from Hurricane Katrina's storm surge Monday.

An accurate tally of death was hard to determine. Five deaths related to Katrina have been confirmed in Jefferson Parish, officials said. There also are seven people missing who decided to ride out Katrina on Grand Isle.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco spoke of "many deaths," but there were only rumors and anecdotes of firefighters tying floating bodies to trees.

"We have some bodies floating," Ebbert said. "Not like thousands, but we have seen some."

As to the living, with the absence of cars and electric motors in the powerless city, a sad tableau played itself out in an eerie quiet.

All day, a weary army of storm victims trudged through waist-deep muddy water toward the Superdome, where more than 20,000 people took refuge. The next problem is what to do with them. Late Tuesday Gov. Blanco ordered them out, saying the facility was too damaged to house

people and the atmosphere too dangerous. Officials said the National Guard soon would begin driving them out to dry ground, then airlift them out of southeast Louisiana.

In other areas, lawlessness took hold.

*See* **KATRINA**, *A-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**MID-CITY:** A New Orleans Police officer ferries refugees out of the danger zone as floodwaters rose Tuesday.

## *Flooding will only get worse*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

The catastrophic flooding that filled the bowl that is New Orleans on

Monday and Tuesday will only get worse over the next few days because

rainfall from Hurricane Katrina continues to flow into Lake Pontchartrain from north shore rivers and streams, and east winds and a 17.5-foot storm crest on the Pearl River block the outflow water through the Rigolets and Chef Menteur Pass.

The lake is normally 1 foot above sea level, while the city of New Orleans is an average of 6 feet below sea level. But a combination of storm surge and rainfall from Katrina have raised the lake's surface to 6 feet above sea level, or more.

All of that water moving from the lake has found several holes in the lake's banks - all pouring into New Orleans. Water that crossed St. Charles Parish in an area where the lakefront levee has not yet been completed, and that backed up from the lake in Jefferson Parish canals, is funneling into Kenner and Metairie.

A 500-yard and growing breach in the eastern wall of the 17th Street Canal separating New Orleans from Metairie is pouring hundreds of thousands of gallons of lake water per second into the New Orleans

*See* **WATER**, *A-4*

"We're going to try and get who we can get and take them to higher ground. We may have to come back for some."



STAFF PHOTOS BYTED JACKSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Acadian Ambulance workers rush two small children from a Louisiana National Guard helicopter as they were evacuated from the Superdome.

# Weariness, danger, death take hold in drowned city

**KATRINA**, *from A-1*

The giant new Wal-Mart in the Lower Garden District was looted, after a limited distribution of supplies broke down in chaos. The entire gun collection was taken.

"There are gangs of armed men in the city moving around the city," Ebbert said.

One looter shot a New Orleans police officer, who was in critical condition with a head wound.

Although local police focused solely on rescue, a call for help was answered by swarms of deputies from western Louisiana parishes.

But cops on the street, cut off from their superiors by a failure of the communications system, complained of chaos.

"Put this in your paper," one officer on Canal Street said. "They told us nothing. We were unprepared. We are completely on our own."

If it wasn't coordinated, the rescue was heroic.

Firefighters, police and Coast Guardsmen waded through water and climbed to roofs.

"We've got boats everywhere," said Capt. Tim Bayard of the New Orleans Police Department. "We're going to try and get who we can get and take them to higher ground. We may have to come back for some."

There were joined by an armada of Louisiana sportsmen in flat-bottomed boats, who responded to an appeal for help.

Ferdinand Emory rescued about 100 people, ten at a time in his boat.

Ebbert estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people were saved in Lakeview and Mid-City.

But rescue from the water didn't mean an end to misery. They were simply dropped off at the few stretches of dry ground, overpasses and parking lots along Metairie Ridge.



**NEW ORLEANS:** Members of a Texas Task Force One and FEMA search and resuce team call for a man they were told had been calling for help from his attic all night. When they arrived they found that he was dead.

Aleck Scallan, 63, a parapelgic, was ferried in a boat from his Lakeview home. But he had been sitting for more than six hours on an overpass, with no clear indication when he and scores of others would be picked up.

Along the Metairie Road railroad embankment, the only passage through two parishes, people wandered aimlessly, along with dogs and cats that headed for high ground.

After the rescue effort, the next priority is trying to heal the breach. Ebbert said plans called for giant panels to be dropped in place in place by helicopter, accompanied by 50, 3,000-pound sandbags. Next the Interstate 10 underpass under the railroad trestle would have to be drained, after the giant new pumping station uttlerly failed its first test. That would give disaster recovery teams open access to the city from the west.

The failure of the Industrial Canal levee created massive flooding in St. Bernard and the 9th Ward on Monday.

Estimates on when the city would become habitable again ranged from two weeks to months.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 800 tons of concrete on route to block breach

**WATER**, *from A-1*

area. Water also is flowing through two more levee breaches along the Industrial Canal, which created a Hurricane Betsy-on-steroids flood in the Lower 9th Ward on Monday that is now spreading south into the French Quarter and other parts of the city.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin warned Tuesday evening that an attempt to plug the holes in the 17th Street Canal had failed, and the floodwaters were expected to continue to rise rapidly throughout the night. Eventually, Nagin said, the water could reach as high as 3 feet above sea level, meaning it could rise to 12 to 15 feet high in some parts of the city.

Louisiana State University Hurricane Center researcher Ivor van Heerden warned that Nagin's estimates could be too low because the lake water won't fall quickly during the next few days.

"We don't have the weather conditions to drive the water out of Lake Pontchartrain, and at the same time, all the rivers on the north shore are in flood," he said. "That water is just going to keep rising in the city until it's equal to the level of the lake.

"Unless they can use sandbags to compartmentalize the flooded areas, the water in the city will rise everywhere to the same level as the lake."

This isn't the first time that the 17th Street Canal has proved to be a hurricane-flooding Achilles heel.

Following a 1947 hurricane that made a direct hit on New Orleans and Metairie, officials were unable to clear floodwaters from Metairie through the canal for two weeks.

Sewage from a treatment plant that stagnated in the canal created enough sulfuric acid fumes that nearby homes in Lakeview painted with lead-based paint turned black.

The slow-motion flooding of the south shore mirrors a similar flooding event during Tropical Storm Isidore, when weather conditions blocked water from leaving the lake as heavy rainfall pushed its surface higher and higher, causing extensive flooding in low-lying areas of Slidell a day after the storm had passed by.

Van Heerden said water flowing through New Orleans' back door used a weakness that he and many others have been concerned about for years: a V-shaped funnel formed by the joining of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and the Inner Harbor Navigation Channel. Storm surge as high as 18 feet pushed through the funnel, into the

Industrial Canal and on to the lake. It's that surge water that is thought to have caused breaks in the Industrial Canal levees breaks that lake water is now flowing through into the 9th Ward.

Water entering that funnel also is thought to have topped levees surrounding Chalmette and eastern New Orleans, causing extensive flooding in both places.

Van Heerden said that if there's a silver lining to this disastrous event, it's that the eye of Katrina didn't go directly over or to the west of the city. If that had happened, the storm surge could have been much higher and would have directly topped levees all along the lake and much more rapidly filled the bowl, which would have meant an even higher death toll than is anticipated from this slow-moving event, he said.

This flood event contains many of the features used by federal, state and local planners early this year to begin shaping what was supposed to be a catastrophe recovery plan for New Orleans: failed pumping stations, breached levees, rooftop rescues, makeshift medical triage zones.

In drawing the plan, officials assumed that it would take several days to a week before enough manpower and equipment could be staged to deal with many of the problems they're facing now, such as how to close the breach in the 17th Street Canal.

There, the problem is how to close the hole quickly. Strategies suggested during tabletop exercises indicated it could take several days to position barges and cranes in place to more permanently fill such a gap, assuming it was part of the worst-case, storm-surge-driven flooding scenario.

The slow-motion reality of the collapsing canal wall has the state Department of Transportation and Development and the Army Corps of Engineers working into the night to plug the breach and try to stem the flooding in Lakeview, West End, Bucktown and large swaths of East Jefferson.

A convoy of trucks carrying 108 15,000-pound concrete barriers - like those used as highway construction dividers - was en route to the site Tuesday night, said Mark Lambert, chief spokesman for the agency.

Helicopters will lift the barriers above the hole and drop them in place, even as another 50 sandbags, each weighing 3,000 pounds, are also being maneuvered into place.

"That's 800 tons of concrete," Lambert said. "What we are trying to do is just stop the water from going into the city."

More difficult will be the overtopping of levees along the Industrial Canal caused by the high lake water flowing in. Lambert didn't say how the state would address that problem.

The problems caused by floodwaters will only get worse, according to van Heerden and the earlier tabletop exercises.

For one, if the water in the city does rise to the height of levees along the lakefront, it may be difficult to open floodgates designed to keep the lake out that would now be needed to allow the lake to leave.

Van Heerden said the rising floodwaters also would cause major pollution

problems in coming days, as they float dozens of fuel and chemical storage tanks off their fittings, severing pipelines and allowing the material to seep into the floodwaters.

"In our surveys of the parish, a lot of the storage tanks we looked at weren't bolted down with big bolts," he said. "They rely on gravity to hold them down. If an industrial property is 5 feet below sea level and the water gets to 5 feet above sea level, that's 10 feet of water, and I'm certain many we looked at will float free

"You'll see a lot of highly volatile stuff on the surface, and one spark and we'll have a major fire," he said.



AP PHOTO

**FLORIDA AVENUE CANAL:** Two breeches flooded St. Bernard Parish on Monday as a massive storm surge from Hurricane Katrina roared up the MR-GO waterway.

# "Truth to tell, we're not to far from filling in the bowl."

TERRY EBBERT, New Orleans director of Homeland Security



AP PHOTO

**17TH STREET CANAL: Attempts to plug the 200-yard breech along the New Orleans side of the canal failed late Tuesday. Mayor Ray Nagin warned a new deluge would completely flood the city.**

# Looters leave nothing behind in storm's wake

*Police officers seen joining in on free-for-all*

**By Mike Perlstein and Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Law enforcement efforts to contain the emergency left by Katrina slipped into chaos in parts of New Orleans Tuesday -- with some police officers and firefighters even joining looters in picking stores clean.

At the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street, an initial effort to hand out provisions to stranded citizens quickly disintegrated into mass looting. Authorities at the scene said bedlam erupted after the giveaway was announced over the radio.

While many people carried out food and essential supplies, others cleared out jewelry racks and carted out computers, TVs and appliances on handtrucks.

Some officers joined in taking whatever they could, including one New Orleans cop who loaded a shopping cart with a compact computer and a 27-inch flat screen television.

Officers claimed there was nothing they could do to contain the anarchy, saying their radio communications had broken down and they had no direction from commanders.

"We don't have enough cops to stop it," an officer said. "A mass riot would break out if you tried."

Inside the store, the scene alternated between celebration and frightening bedlam. A shirtless man straddled a broken jewelry case, yelling, "Free samples, free samples over here."

Another man rolled a mechanized pallet, stacked six feet high with cases of vodka and whiskey. Perched atop the stack was a bewildered toddler.

Throughout the store and parking lot, looters pushed carts and loaded trucks and vans alongside officers. One man said police directed him to Wal-Mart from Robert's Grocery, where a similar scene was taking place.

A crowd in the electronics section said one officer broke the glass DVD case so people wouldn't cut themselves.

"The police got all the best stuff. They're crookeder than us," one man said.

Most officers, though, simply stood by powerless against the tide of law breakers.

One veteran officer said, "It's like this everywhere in the city. This tiny number of cops can't do anything about this. It's wide open."

At least one officer tried futilely to control a looter through shame.

"When they say take what you need, that doesn't mean an f-ing TV," the officer shouted to a looter. "This is a hurricane, not a free-for-all."

Sandra Smith of Baton Rouge walked through the parking lot with a 12-pack of beer under each arm.

"I came down here to get my daughters," she said, "but I can't find them."



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**GARDEN DISTRICT:** A New Orleans police officer is seen carrying DVDs at the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Tuesday. Many police officers said they felt helpless in enforcing the looters, which were found all over the city.

The scene turned so chaotic at times that entrances were blocked by the press of people, shopping carts and traffic jams that sprouted on surrounding streets.

Some groups organized themselves into assembly lines to more efficiently cart off goods.

Toni Williams, 25, packed her trunk with essential supplies, such as food and water, but said mass looting disgusted and frightened her.

"I didn't feel safe. Some people are going overboard," she said.

Inside the store, one woman was stocking up on make-up. She said she took comfort in watching police load up their own carts.

"It must be legal," she said. "The police are here taking stuff, too."

(Staff writers Doug MacCash and Keith Spera assisted in this story.)

# Looter shoots N.O. officer in the head

*Relatives chose to stay behind in New Orleans*

**By Matt Brown**
West Bank bureau

A New Orleans police officer was shot in the head Tuesday after confronting looters on the West Bank, officials said.

Details were scarce, but officials said the officer and another officer confronted several looters stealing merchandise from the Chevron station at the corner of Shirley and Gen. DeGaulle drives. One of the officers went inside the store, while the other remained outside and confronted a man he saw looting the store.

When he did, another looter came from behind and shot the officer in the head, a police officer told a reporter for The Times-Picayune.

The officer who was shot was rushed to West Jefferson Medical Center, where he underwent surgery. Other officers told a reporter that reports from the hospital said the wounded officer was expected to survive. Jefferson Parish deputies arrested four people on the scene, and police said one of those arrested was wounded in the arm after exchanging gunfire with another officer.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Residents fled their homes any way they could on Tuesday, faced with the threat of rising waters.

# Unscathed parishes ready for evacuees

*Areas that stayed dry become staging areas*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes Bureua

Thanks to already operating parish utilities and aggressive roadblocks, St. John the Baptist Parish has morphed into a staging point for evacuees trying to return to New Orleans and Jefferson Parishes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

A steady stream of southeast Louisiana residents have attempted to use Airline Highway and the River Road to return to their homes on Monday and Tuesday. But, many of them have found themselves stranded in parking lots in LaPlace, thanks to State Police roadblocks preventing them from advancing past the Bonnet Carre Spillway in St. Charles Parish.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard both have declared martial law in their respective areas and residents will not be able to return to their homes until next week at the earliest. The roadblocks are supposed to prevent residents from entering unsafe areas and limit looting.

St. John Chief Administrative Officer Natalie Robottom said the parish has notified the Louisiana Department of Emergency Preparedness that it is willing to help house individuals evacuating New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. However, Robottom said the parish will need state assistance to operate the facilities because it does not have the manpower or resources to operate shelters on its own.

"We can't do it by ourselves, we're not equipped for that," Robottom said. "We don't want to get people in and not have basic services."

Robottom said St. John Parish schools Superintendent Mike Coburn has agreed to open Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School in LaPlace as the parish's first shelter, possibly as early as today, once power is restored there. Robottom said Entergy has told the parish that electricity should be returned gradually over the next two to four weeks, with U.S. 51 and Airline Highway receiving service first. She said Entergy officials have told her it takes six workers four to six hours to install one pole.

The minimal damage to St. John Parish has meant that traffic into the parish was brisk once Katrina's winds subsided on Monday night. But, as more and more travelers became trapped in the parish, and camped out in the parking lots of local businesses, the parish decided to limit access to individuals essential to repairing infrastructure and parish residents who can prove their residency with identification, Robottom said.

Marty Stevenson was one those evacuees trapped in St. John Parish. Stevenson said he evacuated from New Orleans' 6th Ward on Sunday afternoon, but he and his family couldn't afford to stay in a hotel for more than one night. Stevenson was camping in his car in the parking lot of the LaPlace Home Depot, and said he stopped there because he saw lights after he was turned around on Airline Highway.

"A lot of people just started stopping right around here," said Stevenson, who added that he hopes a shelter opens up soon in St. John. "It just seemed like the safest place."

Reba Tullier, 40, and her three children also were camping in the Home Depot parking lot in their truck and a tent they brought with them.

Tullier said she was waiting in the parking lot because she couldn't stand to stay away from her Kenner home any longer, especially since she hasn't spoken to her husband since she left him to ride out the storm on Sunday.

Tullier, who was also turned around at roadblocks on Airline Highway, said she can't afford a hotel because her family must save money for gas, and eventually, repairs to their home. She and her children were using a makeshift shower they had constructed from water faucets and hoses outside of Home Depot.

"I just want to be here when they say we can go in. I don't want to have to wait," Tullier said. "I have to hear from my husband. I want to know if he's alive or if he's dead."

St. John Parish crews were clearing roads Tuesday. Although much of the parish is still without electricity, there are a few grocery stores offering limited service in Reserve and LaPlace.

Thousands of customers came to Gregg's Neighborhood Market on Central Avenue in Reserve in the roughly seven hours it was open. Most were Reserve residents stuck in their hot homes without power. While there was a minor riot when the store first opened as residents attempted to push inside at the same time, by early afternoon, owner Gregg Simon had things running smoothly with the assistance St. John sheriff's deputies. Simon said he plans to be open today starting at 8 a.m.

"I'm just trying to help the community the best I can," Simon said.

# Refugees in Houma wait for word

*Relatives chose to stay behind in New Orleans*

**By Bob Ussery**
Staff writer

HOUMA - Some of the numerous New Orleans area residents who took refuge in the Terrebonne Parish Civic Center here Tuesday were worried about the safety of relatives they left behind in the path of Hurricane Katrina.

Julius Jones, 68, and his wife, Geneva, 63, got a call from their grandson, Gerald Williams, 21, early Monday as the storm approached him in the Lower 9th Ward. Gerald Jones and about 15 friends and neighbors were stranded on the second floor of the home where he and his grandparents live at 1400-02 Tupelo St. Water was halfway up the second floor and the group, including two neighbors' babies, needed help.

Julius Jones said he finally got through to New Orleans police but does not know if help arrived in time. The phones stopped working, and as of Tuesday evening, the Joneses had no idea of the safety of Williams and the others.

Tragedy already has struck at the same house. Julius Jones said his son, Joseph, 23, and daughter, Geraldine, 34, were murdered there in 1997.

The Joneses wound up at the shelter at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center after their first refuge, the Best Western Hotel, in Gray, lost electricity and had sewage problems.

Ester Dumas, who also was forced out of the Best Western along with her family, had her own worries. Her husband, Ernest Dumas, 63, wanted to stay at their home at 5411 Marais St. Her parents, Emelda and Chester Jenkins of Roffignac Street, joined Ernest Dumas on Marais Street and could not be persuaded to evacuate the city.

"They probably didn't think it was going to be as bad as it was," Ester Dumas said. "I called them Sunday night when we got to the hotel. Poor darlings, they thought they could go home. I explained to them they could not go home. I hope and pray they're OK."

Tuesday evening, Dumas was worried because she had not been able to get in touch with anyone.

Will Torres, human resources director for Terrebonne Parish, said the shelter has a capacity of 2,200 people. As of Tuesday, there were only about 250 people. But that was likely to change later Tuesday because more refugees from flooded New Orleans were expected to arrive. Some would come on two buses sent by Terrebonne Parish.

# Old West has nothing on Katrina aftermath

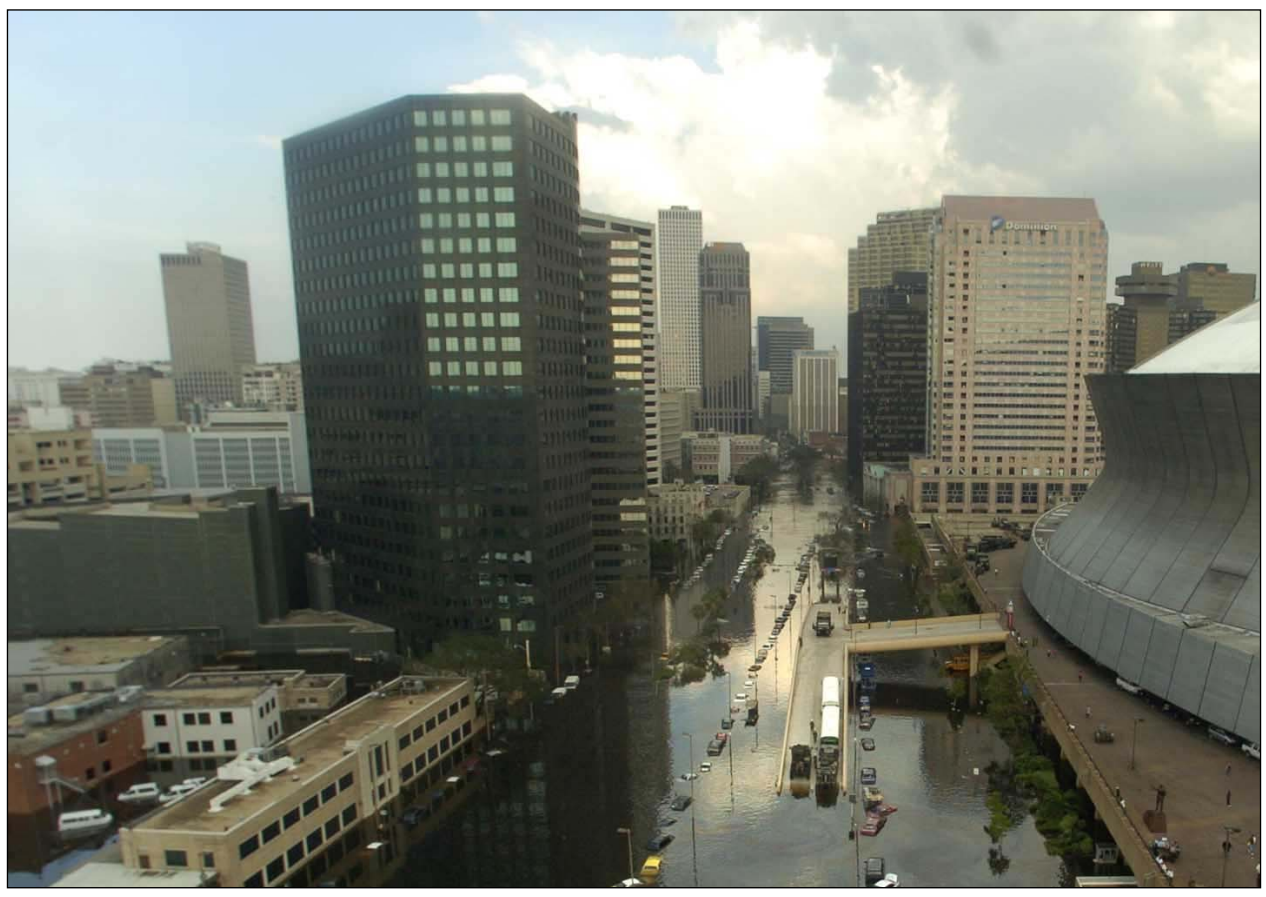
## *Death, violence, lawlessness put cities under martial law*

**By Brian Thevenot, Keith Spera, Gorden Russell, and Doug MacCash**
Staff writers



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**LAKEVIEW:** Members of Texas Task Force1, a FEMA Search and Rescue Team,call out for a man they were told was calling for help from his attic all night. When they finally found him, he was pronounced dead.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**DOWNTOWN:** Rising water that began to cover the streets of New Orleans forced many residents to flee the city, as well as take the law into their own hands.

Sitting on a black barrel amid the muck and stench near the St. Claude Avenue bridge, 52-year-old Daniel Weber broke into a sob, his voice cracking as he recounted how he had watched his wife drown and spent the next 14 hours floating in the polluted flood waters, his only life line a piece of driftwood.

"My hands were all cut up from breaking through the window, and I was standing on the fence. I said, 'I'll get on the roof and pull you up,'" he said. "And then we just went under."

Weber sat among hundreds of refugees rescued Tuesday from rooftops, attics and floating debris in the 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish by an armada of more than 100 boats. Officials from the Coast Guard estimated they pulled thousands of people off of rooftops and attics, many with stories as grim as Weber's. Officials believed hundreds and maybe thousands more remained in peril. They declined to estimate the number of dead. That will come later.

"We've got cadaver dogs, but we're only looking for the live people at this point," said Rachel Zechnelli of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, which deployed all available boats to the Industrial Canal Monday night. "We're dealing only with live voices and heartbeats."

While the 9th Ward remained the focus of the search and rescue effort, refugees from other neighborhoods flooded by the massive breach of Lake Pontchartrain streamed to the Superdome and CBD, trudging through deep waters to get there.

Then, in an evening press conference, Mayor Ray Nagin announced that the already crippled city would take yet another blow: Another surge of water from the failed 17th Street Canal levee could push an additional 10 feet of water into already waterlogged neighborhoods, flooding the remaining dry sections of Uptown.

The expected surge stems from a failure to execute a plan to dump sandbags via helicopter into the 200-meter wide breach. Nagin offered up no culprit but promised to investigate the matter.

"I thought everyone understood this morning that that was the highest priority," the mayor said. "It didn't get done. Now there's nothing to slow down the pace of the water."

That was enough to prompt some of the city's few remaining residents to start packing.

Uptown resident Margeaux Gonzalez rode out Katrina at the Queen and Crescent Hotel, then returned to find her Laurel Street home dry. As she and her neighbors watched Nagin on Tuesday night on a TV rigged to a car battery, they reluctantly made plans to evacuate to Baton Rouge.

"We were feeling really positive three hours ago," Gonzales said. "The storm is long gone, we suffered through the wind and the rain and survived the flood. It's ridiculous that we can't get the help we need from the government to keep the city intact. That's sad."

Earlier in the day, as floodwaters rose to knee-deep levels along Poydras Street, the city's top brass evacuated to Baton Rouge via the Crescent City Connection, the only clear route out of town. They recommended others follow.

"Get out," said City Attorney Sherry Landry from the window of the SUV she would use to evacuate. "I'm serious."

For many, that wasn't an option. In the impoverished 9th Ward, many didn't flee the storm in the first place because of lack of money and transportation, as well as a belief the storm wouldn't be nearly as bad. On Tuesday, they remained the focus of efforts to evacuate the homeless to the already crowded Superdome.

That left thousands of people in other neighborhoods close to the lake, whose homes had not flooded until late Monday when the canal gave way, with no option other than to walk to the few dry areas of the city. Interstate 10 remained largely devoid of cars, but a steady stream of pedestrians seeking food, water and shelter walked along the highway.

More than 100 New Orleans police officers riding out the storm in the LSU Medical Center were still trapped by high water on Tuesday. Assumption Parish deputies in boats rescued them.

Some who left their flooded homes faced heart-rending dilemmas. Bethaney Waith of Mid-City, who walked in chest high water with a neighbor to the Superdome, had to leave her disabled housemate behind. The woman suffered from epidemia and can't walk.

Those trapped in the city faced an increasingly lawless environment, as law enforcement agencies found themselves overwhelmed with widespread looting. Looters swarmed the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street, often bypassing the food and drink section to steal wide-screen TVs, jewelry, bicycles and computers. Watching the sordid display and shaking his head in disgust, one firefighter said of the scene: "It's a hurricane, what are you do with a basketball goal?"

Police regained control at about 3 p.m., after clearing the store with armed patrol.

One shotgun-toting Third District detective described the looting as "ferocious."

"And it's going to get worse as the days progress," he said.

In Uptown, one the few areas that remained dry, a bearded man patrolled Oak Street near the boarded-up Maple Leaf Bar, a sawed-off shotgun slung over his shoulder. The owners of a hardware store sat in folding chairs, pistols at the ready.

Uptown resident Keith Williams started his own security patrol, driving around in his Ford pickup with his newly purchased handgun. Earlier in the day, Williams said he had seen the body of a gunshot victim near the corner of Leonidas and Hickory streets.

"What I want to know is why we don't have paratroopers with machine guns on every street," Williams said.

Like-minded Art Depodesta sat on the edge of a picnic table outside Cooter Brown's Bar, a chrome shotgun at his side loaded with red shells.

"They broke into the Shell station across the street," he said. "I walked over with my 12-gauge and shot a couple into the air."

The looters scattered, but soon after, another man appeared outside the bar in a pickup truck armed with a pistol and threatened Depodesta.

"I told him, 'Listen, I was in the Army and I will blow your ass off,'" Depodesta said. "We've got enough trouble with the flood."

The man sped away.

"You know what sucks," Depodesta said. "The whole U.S. is looking at this city right now, and this is what they see."

In the Bywater, a supply store sported spray-painted signs reading "You Loot, I Shoot" and "You Bein Watched." A man seated nearby with a rifle in his lap suggested it was no idle threat. At the Bywater studio of Dr. Bob, the artist known for hand-painted "Be Nice or Leave" signs, a less fanciful sentiment was painted on the wall: "Looters Will Be Shot. Dr. Bob."

As the afternoon faded, aggression filled the air on the neutral ground of Poland Avenue as well, as people grew increasingly frustrated with the rescue effort. Having already survived one nightmare, a woman with five children feared going to go to the Dome, saying that some of the men preparing to board transport vehicles had smuggled razor blades with them.

On the other side of the bridge, rescue boats continued to offload as many as 15 people at a time late into the afternoon, with no end in sight. Some said they had seen dead bodies floating by their boats.

Many stumbled from dehydration as they made their way onto dry land. Several rescue workers said some of the people trapped were so shell-shocked or stubborn they refused to leave their houses. "If you can figure that one out, let me know," said Oscar Dupree, a volunteer who had been trapped on a roof himself and returned to help save others.

The scene called to mind a refugee camp in a Third World nation.

Liquor flowed freely and tempers flared amid complaints about the pace of the relief effort, which seemed to overwhelm the agencies involved and the city's inability to contain floodwaters.

As they emerged from rescue boats, at times wobbling and speaking incoherently, many of the rescued seem stunned they had not died. Johnell Johnson of Marais street said she had been trapped on her roof " with a handicapped man with one damn leg."

Gerald Wimberly wept as he recounted his unsuccessful effort to help a young girl, who rescuers ultimately saved.

Dupree said he had seen a young man he knew drown. "I just couldn't get to him," he said. "I had to tell his people."

Weber, the man who lost his wife, seemed at the breaking point as he waited, surrounded by anger and filth, for a National Guard truck to ferry him to the Dome. After 14 hours of floating on a piece of wood, volunteers who knew him had fished him out.

"Another hour, I would have just let myself drown," he said.

A moment later, staring ahead to a bleak future without his wife, he said he almost wished he had.

"I'm not going to make it. I know I'm not."



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**SLIDELL:** Storm surge in Slidell reached 16 feet in some areas and did severe damage to the Eden Isles, Oak Harbor and Clipper Estates neighborhoods. All three of those neighborhoods, which are boarded by canals, were built 12 feet above sea level.

# Slidell rescue operations continue, mostly by boat

*Many must wait until water*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

St. Tammany Parish officials and volunteers continued Tuesday pulling trapped

Slidell residents out of submerged homes in the city's low-lying neighborhoods. Where waters had receded, homeowners emerged to find a sludge-covered mess of fallen trees and other debris.

Police had rescued more than 100 people as of Tuesday afternoon, said Rob Callahan, a Slidell policeman. It may take until Thursday to complete boat rescue operations, he said.

"The hardest part is going to be going back later on and finding the casualties, although I hope there are none," Callahan said. "Until the water recedes, we can't get to those bodies."

"The hardest part is going to be going back later on and finding the casualties, although I hope there are none," Callahan said. "Until the water recedes, we can't get to those bodies."
ROB CALLAHAN, Slidell policeman

James E. Collins, 67, discovered in his yard proof that not even occupants of the cemetery down his street experienced rest during the storm.

A concrete vault, with its coffin inside, floated a block to his house and tumbled open beside his Square Road house. The corpse lay crumpled on its side.

Collins said the flooding that carried the gruesome debris to his yard stunned him and his wife, Joycelyn. When the screaming winds ceased, they thought they had made it through the worst of the storm. That's when the lake water - usually six to seven miles away – whipped up to their doorstep and wouldn't stop.

"The water just kept rising, and the only way we could go was up," said

Joycelyn Collins said. "It still kept rising."

They trudged through chest-deep water and climbed into the attic of their shed. From 1 p.m. Monday to 6 a.m. Tuesday, they huddled in the crude structure fearing they would drown. After most of the water had subsided, Collins pointed to his Ford F-150's antennae, about 5 inches from the top to mark how far the waters rose.

"My husband, I love him with all of my heart, but he better not ever tell me to sit here again," Joycelyn Collins said. "I'm never, ever going to sit through something like this. I am so petrified."

Up and down Fremaux Road near Slidell – at one point the lake's farthest reach - dazed people walked for miles either away from the flooded homes where they spent a fearful day or toward the houses they left behind to evacuate.

Along the way, the flooding left a perplexing collection of debris. A grounded boat was tethered to an "End school zone" sign outside of Northshore High School, and a mullet lay several feet away.

Pat McMannis, 57, and his daughter, Jessica Miller, walked north on

Voters Road toward Shortcut Road in search of the car Miller had to abandon the night before.

At about 7 p.m. Monday, she drove from Picayune, Miss., in search of her parents. When her car flooded, Miller and her 10-year-old daughter walked for an hour through the darkness and debris. They hitched a ride with a sheriff's deputy, then walked another three miles. When she reached the house on Miller Road, she found her parents in 4 feet of water.

"We started getting everything ready to climb in the attic," McMannis said. "I thought we were going to have to knock a hole in the roof."

The survival stories poured out all afternoon, as people slowly decided where to go next. None of the residents expected the flooding that swamped half of the city.

Meanwhile, Slidell neighborhoods that escaped serious flooding were scattered with downed trees. Returning evacuees used chainsaws to carve narrow paths through the wreckage across the city, including in neighborhoods French Branch Estates, Old River Road and the Village Acadian.

Parts of the Crossgates neighborhood on Military Road experienced up to 2 feet of flooding in homes.

In Mandeville, police made headway assessing damage on the Lakefront.

When they cleared a route through Lafitte Street, they discovered several demolished buildings, including Rips restaurant and a few homes. Lt. Thomas Breazeale said the storm surge reached one or two blocks past Lakeshore Drive.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**SLIDELL:** Boats were blown out of Lake Ponchartrain by the Hurricane Katrina storm surge that reached as high as 16 feet in some areas of Slidell.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**SLIDELL:** The devestation in some neighborhoods was overwhelming. “Oh, man, oh, man, I just don't know, I had no idea it would be as bad as this," said Slidell resident Mike Parks.

"We really thought we could make it; we were told the water had never gotten much higher than the docks, even in big storms."

ODETTE NASH

# Couple uses their skiff to aid stranded people

*‘I had no idea it would be this bad’*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

As he pushed his skiff past the big boats aground on the interstate, Mike Parks feared the worst.

On the horizon, Parks could just make out the catamaran perched atop the twin-span bridge over Lake Pontchartrain. To his left, car antennas poked above the surface of the white caps splashing against a dealership's display windows, and to his right was the vast, watery plain of Oak Harbor and Eden Isles, the upscale neighborhood that at daybreak had contained more than 1,000 houses, a marina and a sprawling three-story apartment complex with scores of units.

The north shore of Lake Pontchartrain – the one that existed before Hurricane Katrina – was some three miles to the south. The home Parks and his wife, Melinda, had moved into less than a year ago was about 2 3/4 miles south. It was Monday about 3 p.m., roughly four hours after Katrina's ferocious eye wall had shaved Slidell and roared off northeastward toward the Mississippi coast.

"Oh, man, oh, man, I just don't know, I had no idea it would be as bad as this," Parks said as he navigated what had once been a golf course fairway. In every direction, Parks saw houses without roofs, with boats smashed through garages and walls, with possessions mean and exquisite spilling into the dirty water that lapped into their foyers and bedrooms.

The tops of street signs provided some landmarks, but what was once an intricate web of streets and canals was now simply a marine wasteland.

"Even if insurance covers it, do we want to rebuild?" Melinda asked.

Parks, jumping out of the skiff now and then to push it across the shallow water over a driveway, shook his head.

"Let's see if there is anybody we can help first," he said.

And so, like a Titanic lifeboat crew, they puttered amid the wreckage of Slidell, where authorities said Katrina had killed at least two people and left untold hundreds, perhaps thousands, of residents homeless.

In knots creeping along the water's edge, or in motorboats that criss-crossed the flooded landscape, people scavenged for scraps of their former lives. Communications were out everywhere; even fire and rescue crews were having trouble staying in touch with each other. News from New Orleans or Mississippi was non-existent and the blackout over St. Tammany Parish meant that radio broadcasts carried no information about what was happening across the north shore.

Throughout Oak Harbor and Eden Isles, a creepy calm seemed to have settled over the flotsam of forever-shattered lives. In canal network cul de sacs, swaths of boards and shingles and bobbing coolers and appliances formed what appeared to be a solid mass, as if one could walk across the wreckage to the flooded homes just beyond. Boats, some of them whacking big yachts, were aground at weird angles, the air filled with the high-pitched thwack and ping of lines whipping across their booms and masts. Cars had been tossed into homes. Insulation foam bubbled around the fringes of ragged, ripped edges of houses.

And then a screaming came across the water. To his right, Parks saw a woman gesticulating wildly from a second-floor balcony at her home. Parks, a captain of sport fishing boats and offshore supply vessels who works out of Gulfport, Miss., navigated closer.

The woman, Ann Nash, told Parks her in-laws were trapped in their house nearby. She had spoken to them that morning, as they crawled into their attic to escape the rising storm surge. Parks agreed to check on them.

But the exact address proved difficult to find. So the Parkses pushed on further south toward their own house, figuring they could stop by Nash's in-laws on the return. By now, they were certain they would find little, if anything, worth salvaging.

And then, incredibly, when they motored into the canal behind Cutty Sark Cove, there was their home, largely intact, and sitting atop one of the few mounds of grass still visible. Inside, a slippery layer of mud coated the stone floors and had ruined the carpets, but the water had not reached that high, and the meticulous cutout and crayoned tigers and balloon vendors on one wall – the artwork of Aaron and Brady Parks, identical 2-year-old twins currently residing with grandparents in Baton Rouge – was intact.

Melinda Parks opened and closed her mouth like a fish out of water.

"I do not believe it," she said, shaking her head. "I am pleasantly surprised beyond belief."

The Parkses quickly surveyed their astonishing good fortune, stuffed Hershey bars and crackers into a Ziploc baggie, and returned to their skiff. This time, rather than leave the search for the Nashes to chance, he picked up Ann Nash at her home and set off once again.

With Ann Nash guiding, Parks returned to a pocket of a canal he'd searched before, but this time the cries from the boat were returned from shore. Jim Nash, 77, and his wife, Odette, 65, had heard the yells before but could not get out of their attic in time to respond.

Parks cut the motor and the skiff drifted on to the back porch, and the grateful, stunned Nash family was reunited. They were surprisingly upbeat given what they'd endured.

"We really thought we could make it; we were told the water had never gotten much higher than the docks, even in big storms," Odette Nash said.

Indeed, she had just ended a cell phone conversation with an evacuated neighbor about 8 a.m. when she looked out her back window and saw the water coming over the edge and charging her house like a train in a tunnel.

"We just scrambled to the attic and prayed, and we've been up there ever since," Odette said.

As the now-crowded skiff returned to Ann Nash's house, Parks encountered two St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's deputies in another boat.

"Are you OK?" one deputy shouted across the canal. "What are you doing out here?"

"We're fine," Parks sang back. "We're rescuing people."

"That's just fine. Thank you," the deputy replied. "We're the first boat that could get out here."

"Second boat," Melinda Parks said softly, a smile creasing her face.

The Nashes deposited on higher ground, Parks turned his skiff toward the Oak Harbor marina and, across the horizon, the oddly lumpy line of the twin-span bridges that carry Interstate 10 across Lake Pontchartrain. Even from a distance, it was clear the marooned catamaran was the least of the bridges' concerns. Katrina had left both the eastbound and westbound elevated stretches structurally unsound.

The same was true of the marina, where boats had been tossed about recklessly. One giant vessel had pierced a three-story apartment building, parked their half inside and half outside the wrecked building. Now, hours into his odyssey, Parks faced less light and more wind, and he needed to return to the interstate where he could pull his skiff ashore before dark.

And then another voice wafted across the increasingly unruly water.

On a strip of land still left along what had been the lake's north shore, standing among the demolished camps and houses and restaurants that had once faced the water, a man was waving his arms above his head.

Parks crossed over, his skiff slapping on the waves, and found Jim Elorriaga, a New Orleans blues musician who goes by the simpler name of E.L.

"Do you want a lift?" Melinda Parks yelled. "Oh, God, do I," E.L. said.

As the skiff pulled up in some reeds, E.L. began to relate his tale.

Trapped in his apartment along the lake's edge, he had gone first to the second floor and then the roof as Katrina built in fury and the water rose.

Finally, with the water closing over the top of his roof, Elorriaga saw the Sundance sailboat adrift and passing nearby. He said he jumped to a floating refrigerator and from there to the boat, which began to lurch about crazily in the tempest.

Eventually, the Sundance rammed an even bigger boat, and the two of them ran aground in a T. With his belongings and home gone, Elorriaga sat down to wait for help.

"I even lost my dog, Woody," he said in despair.

But, as it happened, the Parkses had seen Woody earlier. He was nearby, jumping among the wreckage floating around a gas storage tank. Elorriaga splashed off and soon was carrying Woody in his arms.

It was nearing 7 p.m. when Parks finally turned north and headed back to the interstate. By the time he returned, the water had receded enough so that Slidell Fire Department units had been able to set up a command post near where the interstate meets Lake Pontchartrain.

Firefighters scrambled into the shallows and helped pull up Parks' boat, and then got a heavy jacket around Elorriaga. The rescue crews were still desperate for information, asking about survivors and the extent of the destruction in Eden Isles, and possessing little news about New Orleans or Mississippi.

"It's like St. Tammany is a black hole," one firefighter muttered. "They don't know anything at all has happened here."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Feds' disaster planning shifts away from preparedness

By Bill Walsh,
Bruce Alpert
and John McQuaid
Staff writers



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**SLIDELL:** With the big one talked about for years, the focus now is on why federal and state officials did so little in creating an adequate plans for the aftermath.

WASHINGTON -- No one can say they didn't see it coming.

For years before Hurricane Katrina roared ashore Monday morning, devastating the Gulf Coast, officials from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have been warning about their vulnerability to the storms that swirl menacingly in the Gulf of Mexico every hurricane season.

Now, in the wake of one of the worst storms ever, serious questions are being asked about the lack of preparation.

On Tuesday, looters could be seen carrying away whole shelves of merchandise from stores in New Orleans with no police in sight. A shortage of boats left people stranded on their roofs a day after the storm passed. State, local and federal rescue workers, all supplied with different radio equipment, were having trouble communicating with one another.

Meanwhile, local officials said that had Washington heeded their warnings about the dire need for hurricane protection, including fortifying homes, building up levees and repairing barrier islands, the damage might not have been nearly as bad as it was.

"If we had been investing resources in restoring our coast, it wouldn't have prevented the storm, but the barrier islands would have absorbed some of the tidal surge," said Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-La. "People's lives are at stake. We need to take this more seriously."

Jindal and other elected officials credited the Federal Emergency Management Agency for positioning stockpiles of food, water and medical supplies throughout Louisiana and Mississippi more than a day before Katrina made landfall. The quick response was triggered by an unusually early emergency declaration from President Bush.

Still, the level of devastation from a storm that everyone agreed was not a "worst-case scenario" has focused attention on whether policymakers took the much-heralded threat seriously and whether adequate plans are in place for future natural disasters.

### 'Wake-up call'

Warning signs have been everywhere. More people than ever are living near hurricane-prone coastlines, earthquake fault lines, forest fire-prone areas and flood plains, a trend that has created a landscape of expanding risk, with more people, homes and communities in the path of danger.

Not surprisingly, disaster costs are rising to levels unimagined by generation ago. This poses a growing problem for insurers, governments and the people in harm's way. The number of federal emergency disaster declarations doubled from an average of 23 a year during 1980-84 to 53 a year from 2000 to 2004.

Hurricane Andrew set a record of more than $30 billion in losses in 1992, followed quickly by California's Northridge earthquake the next year, which cost more than $40 billion. Early estimates have put the cost of Hurricane Katrina at upwards of $19 billion.

"We've been on this trajectory for about 15 years. We're seeing increasingly bigger disasters and increasingly higher losses," said Kathleen Tierney, director of the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center at the University of Colorado. "Now just about any place a hurricane is going to come in, it's going to hit a developed area. This is the way it's going to be from now on."

Disaster and emergency experts have warned for years that governments, especially the federal government, have put so much stress on disaster response that they have neglected policies to minimize a disaster's impact in advance.

"In the same way that Hurricane Andrew was a wake-up call to Florida, this storm will be a wake-up call to Louisiana and Mississippi," said Robert Hartwig, chief economist for the Insurance Information Institute. "It's going to be very evident that there were an enormous number of vulnerabilities that weren't addressed. There's going to be a lot of finger-pointing."

### Focus on coast

Louisiana's elected officials were quick to seize on the disaster to press for long-requested federal financial assistance in shoring up Louisiana's coastline. The coastal wetlands erode at a rate of 24 square miles a year and expose south Louisiana to increasing danger.

Until recently, efforts to squeeze coastal protection money out of Washington have met with resistance. The Louisiana congressional delegation urged Congress earlier this year to dedicate a stream of federal money to Louisiana's coast, only to be opposed by the White House.

Ultimately a deal was struck to steer $540 million to the state over four years. The total coast of coastal repair work is estimated to be $14 billion.

In its budget, the Bush administration also had proposed a significant reduction in funding for southeast Louisiana's chief hurricane protection project. Bush proposed $10.4 million, a sixth of what local officials say they need.

Some critics said that in a post-Sept. 11 world, when the Department of Homeland Security is focused on preventing another terrorist attack, not enough emphasis is being placed on preparing for natural disasters.

A case in point, they say, is the decision to take away from FEMA its historic responsibility for disaster preparedness. Now the agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, will focus on post-disaster search and rescue.

The Homeland Security agency plans to create a new directorate of preparedness, covering planning for both terrorism and natural disasters. But it is still on the drawing board.

Russ Knocke, a Homeland Security spokesman, said the reorganization will lead to better disaster preparation.

"It will let the experts on planning and preparation focus on that and the experts on search and rescue focus on that," Knocke said.

But experts in disaster planning say that it has already sown confusion among those on the front lines of preparing for disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

"It's very confusing to the state and local governments," said James Lee Witt, the FEMA director in the Clinton administration. "Who do they go to and how is it going to be coordinated now? It's really going to be fragmented. I've talked to a lot of the states, and I don't think they're very happy about this."

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# Broussard pleas with Jefferson residents to stay away

By Mark Schleifstein
Staff writer

In a bleak plea to Jefferson Parish residents, President Aaron Broussard urged evacuated residents to stay away from their homes until Monday, and insisted that most areas of the parish won't be habitable for at least a month.

In an interview on WWL-AM radio, broadcasting from an emergency shelter on Ames Boulevard on Jefferson Parish's West Bank, Broussard said he was awaiting the helicopter arrival of Gov. Kathleen Blanco to give her a handwritten note containing the parish's most pressing needs.

At the top of the list is a request for the American Red Cross to immediately staff four evacuation shelters for which parish officials already have identified buildings. Broussard also wants an immediate armed National Guard presence throughout the parish to arrest and detain looters, who he said were emptying stores.

He said he would ask Blanco to authorize the establishment of a military prison for looters at Fort Polk in northwest Louisiana, and that the National Guard transport all looters there as quickly as possible.

Broussard also wants State Police and military police to set up five checkpoints at major entrances to the parish to stop people from re-entering. Jefferson Parish sheriff's officers were blocking exit ramps on the elevated West Bank Expressway on Tuesday.

Jefferson Parish residents with proper identification will be allowed to return Monday, Broussard said, but only to gather whatever belongings they can and check damage to their homes.

"I will tell you that you that when you get to local streets, you're on your own," he said. "You may have to walk for blocks to get to your homes. "Then get what you can, go back to your car and find a safe place to live for the next month," he said.

Broussard said he's asked that National Guard and other military units bring in street-clearing equipment that will clear an east-west and north-south route of major streets to the parish, a job he dubbed Operation Snowplow.

Operation Information will be an attempt by the parish to re-establish its Web site, which eventually will contain block-by-block status reports on damage for the public.

Operation Water Back will be aimed at restoring water and sewerage service on the east bank and West Bank, Broussard said. He said firefighters could only stand by and watch Monday when a home and a business burned to the ground because of a lack of water pressure in fire hydrants.

He said people should be hesitant to use toilets until the water is restored, adding that he's carrying a plastic bag around for his own waste.

Operation Feed and Care is a plan to have American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other charity organizations set up food kitchens in the parish.

Broussard said returning to the New Orleans area could be difficult for some time, as the Interstate 10 twin span from Slidell are severely damaged and only emergency traffic is being allowed on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway until engineers can assure that high water hasn't knocked any bridge segments out of kilter.

Special checkpoints eventually will be established to provide credentials to medical personnel and to owners and operators of stores and gas stations who might be able to reopen and supply those remaining in the devastated area, Broussard said. But he said business owners will not be able to tell whether their stores are in any shape to open until they return to inspect them.

Broussard warned parish residents that living in the community will be difficult for some time, as it could take as long as a month to restore electricity and water.

"Every thing we do in Jefferson Parish for now will be Flintstones and not the Jetsons," he said, and reminded listeners that a curfew will be enforced and martial law will be in effect for the foreseeable future.

Broussard also reported that in addition to sewage and chemicals that might be in floodwaters in parts of the parish, parish officials already have spotted at least one three-foot shark.

"The other sharks spotted are the ones that are looting our stores, and they will be dealt with," Broussard said.

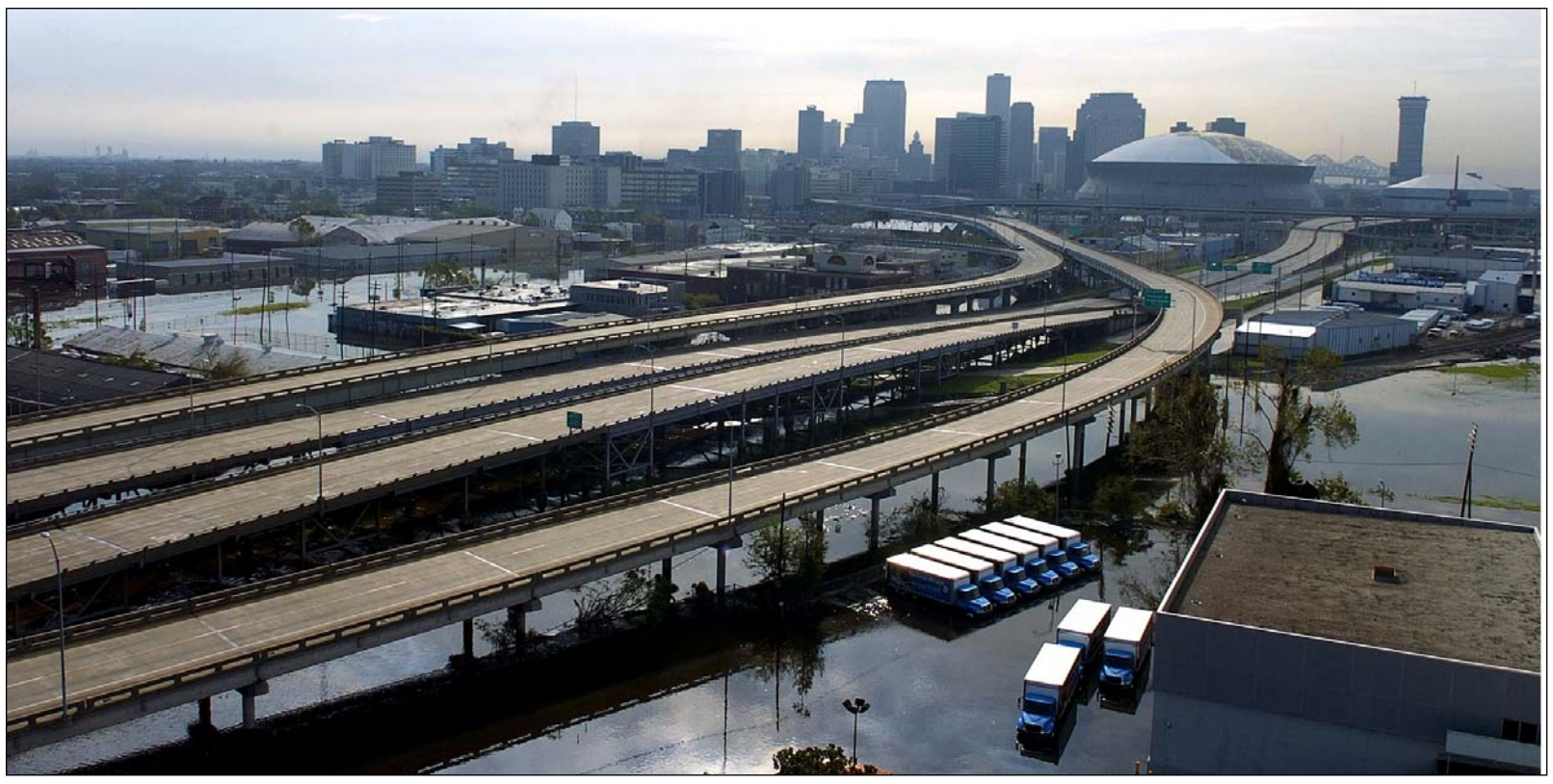
He said Sheriff Harry Lee was continuing to rescue people from flooded homes Tuesday, and 200 of his own deputies and their families from the Landmark Hotel in Metairie, where they were stranded by floodwaters.

Lee requested that residents with flatboats to bring them to the Sam's Wholesale Club parking lot on at Airline Boulevard and Cleary Avenue, where they would be used to assist in rescue operations.

Councilman Elton LaGasse said it was too early to determine how much damage had been done to Jefferson Parish schools, but estimated that repairing damage and finding enough teachers to hold classes could delay the opening of school for two months after Labor Day.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# In search of higher ground



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**WATER RISING:** An aerial view of the city of New Orleans from The Times-Picayune tower on Howard Avenue on Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**IN UNCHARTED WATERS:** A man hands a child over a fence Tuesday as a group of residents moved to get to Interstate 10, which was one of the places where people could reach high ground in New Orleans on Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**BOAT PEOPLE:** An Orleans Parish boat carries victims to higher ground along North Broad Street in New Orleans on Tuesday.




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**UNQUENCHED FLAMES:** A fire burns out of control Tuesday in the city after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans.

# On-air images anchor force of hurricane

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

New Orleans TV newscasters have mostly covered Hurricane Katrina as evacuees, abandoning their local studios to team with corporate cousins or work on impromptu news sets around the region.

With power dead in New Orleans, their viewers were primarily evacuees as well. It's a service that will grow more valuable in the coming days, as departed citizens hang on every word about their damaged city. Until power is restored to New Orleans, Web site simulcasts - at www.wdsu.com and www.wwltv.com - will likely have more (relocated)local viewers than will be able to watch over-the-air signals. I've watched so far from just outside of Baton Rouge, to where I evacuated with my family.

Monday and Tuesday, Meteorologist Bruce Katz and anchor Michael Hill of WGNO-Channel 26 covered the powerful storm's landfall and aftermath from the studios of Baton Rouge ABC affiliate WBRZ-TV. It was there that I, and no doubt many heartsick evacuees, saw the stunning helicopter footage of New Orleans flooding on Monday night.

Also Monday, a team from WWL-Channel 4 set up in a studio in LSU's Manship journalism school. From there, anchor Jennifer Huntley, sportscaster Lee Zurik was acting as news anchor and reporter Bill Capo reported Katrina's swath through southeast Louisiana. Capo filled in as weather guy during Katrina for WWL, which was shorthanded because of David Bernard's recent departure and the arrival of a son to John Gumm, whose wife gave birth during Katrina's approach.

WWL veteran Brad Panovich, now a staff member at WCNC-TV in Charlotte, N.C., was also brought in to pinch-hit. WWL appeared to shift back to its French Quarter studio Monday night. Starting Tuesday night, WWL's signa was to be carried statewide by Louisiana Public Broadcasting affiliates.

Also visible in Baton Rouge on Monday morning was a dim New Orleans signal from WDSU-Channel 6. Staffers from that station, including Norman Robinson, Dan Milham and Rich Lenz among others, reported Katrina's landfall from WAPT-TV in Jackson, Miss. WDSU's broadcast signal apparently went dark late Monday afternoon, but not before some stellar work by reporters still in New Orleans, starting with a live audio report at about 7 a.m. Monday from WDSU reporter/anchor Roop Raj, who delivered the first account of blown-out windows in downtown New Orleans structures.

A "Today" show videophone report shortly thereafter had the first pictures of the same scene. Later footage of the Hyatt's upper-level glass damage would play repeatedly on cable news outlets and became the first hint to national audiences of Katrina's force. Lenz and WAPT carried the first reports of possible water pump failure in New Orleans. A few minutes later, Ed Reams, stationed inside the Superdome, filed a live audio report about the structure's failing roof. Positioned beneath the breach, he felt - then reported - the first raindrops inside the dome. A ghostly camera-phone still photo of the roof holes, seemingly shot from the dome's floor, became another iconic image in national coverage. The pictures were used in a mid-afternoon MSNBC report by NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams, who'd spent Monday in the dome. "We found out today (that) they have some roof issues," said Williams.

> "You guys are doing a great job of keeping the public up to speed."
> RAY NAGIN, concluding his interview with Bruce Katz

There was no apparent signal from WVUE-Channel 8, at least in Baton Rouge, though the station's Web site - www.wvue.com - was still being updated with text news stories on Tuesday.

Working from WBRZ's Baton Rouge studio, Katz and Hill fed evacuees timely information about the state of the storm. Monday night, that's where we watched the first stunning helicopter pictures of the flooded city.

Earlier that day, Katz conducted a telephone interview with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who confirmed several news items that had been tentatively reported there and elsewhere.

Nagin's first words: "The city is under siege by Katrina." Nagin then handed his phone to Entergy's Dan Packer, who, hours before the worst weather subsided, described the earliest stages of the city's electricity woes.

Packer then handed the phone back to Nagin, who concluded the interview by saying to Katz, "You guys are doing a great job of keeping the public up to speed."

No argument here.

# Water endangered city's public records

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Floodwater from Hurricane Katrina is seeping into the basement of the Civil District Court in downtown New Orleans, endangering 150 years of real estate and other records, Civil District Sheriff Paul Valteau said.

The city's vital notary, mortgage and real estate records are locked away in rooms in the building's darkened basement, where water is beginning to puddle.

Some of the records go back to 1850, Valteau said.

Valteau has charge of securty for no public buildings but offices supervised by other city officials who may have evacuated, he said.

Valteau said if the situation becomes much worse, he may force the doors open and haul the records upstairs into the lobby of the court building to save them from immediate damage.

# What's a bar's best defense? To stay open

**By Dante Ramos**
Staff writer

Ms. Mae's Bar has been open around the clock at Napoleon and Magazine streets for 11 years. The bar stayed open during Hurricane Katrina, but owner Mae Brigham decided to shut down Tuesday at 1 a.m.

"Everybody was just worn out," she said.

But Brigham reopened about 9 a.m. later that morning, partly as a defense against looters. The bar is located across from a police station, and Brigham figured looters would be unlikely to attack a busy bar, especially since some of the patrons might be police officers.

By early Tuesday evening, the bar had become the meeting place for residents of surrounding neighborhoods. Patrons sitting outside on the sidewalk watched a National Guard truck pass by with a load of rescuees.

# Pay phones pick up when cellular service fails

**By Dante Ramos**
Staff writer

Cellular telephone service was one of the first casualties of Hurricane Katrina. So pedestrians and bicyclists resorted to a neglected technology: pay phones.

The BellSouth pay phone at Prytania Street and Louisiana Avenue became a busy stop for people trying to catch up on storm news.

At one point, a woman in medical scrubs stood at the phone, arguing with a person on the other end.

Scott Kroehle, 23, originally from Cleveland, has only lived in town a month. He had been coming and going from the location, using the phone to check in with family. That's how he learned about the levee breach. After ending one call, he immediately got another.




## Our Opininons

# Katrina's reign and chaos not welcome

In the hellish aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it is imperative to restore some semblance of order to our wounded hometown.

But on the second day after the storm slammed into Southeast Louisiana, chaos flourished in parts of New Orleans.

Unfathomably, some New Orleans police officers and fire fighters, as well as harbor police joined a crazed mob in looting the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street.

As some police officers were carting off flat screen TVs, their co-workers stood by and watched the crowd plunder the store.

Some fire department employees loaded a utility truck with fishing gear, and one harbor police officer pointed another toward the sporting goods department.

The level of shamelessness and lawlessness was almost incomprehensible.

Tens of thousands of New Orleans area residents have lost their homes, their cars and virtually every other possession. Countless others have lost their lives and scores of desperately frightened people still clung to rooftops Tuesday awaiting rescue as waters continued to rise.

In the face of such heartache and despair, it is a despicable act for law enforcement officers to turn into common hoodlums. It is bad enough that the officers originally on the scene refused to keep order. It is unforgivable that some of them joined in the looting.

It took shotgun-toting police brought in to reinforce order to the store.

Police superintendent must shed his force of the obviously renegade element in its midst. The fire department and harbor police must do the same.

This community has months of back-breaking work ahead to clean up and rebuild. Residents must be able to trust that they can return to their mangled homes in safety, and they must be able to trust the officers who were sworn to protect them.

# Getting out was the easy part

**By Chris Rose**
Columnist

I got out.

I'm mystified by the notion that so many people didn't even try, but that's another story for another time.

We left Saturday, my wife, kids and me. We went first to Picayune, Miss., thinking that a Category 3 storm would flood New Orleans and knock out power, but that we'd be dry and relatively comfortable in the piney woods while the city dried out.

Sunday morning, of course, Katrina was massive red blob on our TV screens - now a Cat 5 - so we packed up and left again.

We left my in-laws behind in Picayune. They wouldn't come with us. Self-sufficient country folk; sometimes you can't tell 'em nothing.

We don't know what happened to them. My wife's dad and her brother and their families: No word. Only hope.

Like so many people around the country wondering what happened to those still unaccounted for; we just don't know. That's the hardest part.

If you take the images you've seen on TV and picked up off the radio and Internet, and you try to apply what you know to the people and places you don't know about, well, the mind starts racing, assumptions are made and well … it consumes you.

The kids ask you questions. You don't have answers. Sometimes they look at me and though they don't say it, I can see they're wondering: Daddy, where are you?

My 6-year-old daughter, she's onto this thing. What is she thinking?

We spent Sunday night in a no-tell motel in a forgotten part of downtown Vicksburg; a neighborhood teetering between a familiar antiquated charm and hopeless decay. Truth is, it called to mind my beloved New Orleans.

Most of the folks in the hotel seem to live there permanently and it had a hard-luck feel to it. It was the kind of place where your legs start itching in the bed, and you think the worst. You don't want your kids to touch the carpet or the tub, and we huddled together, and I read them to sleep.

Monday morning, my wife's aunt told us they had a generator in Baton Rouge. As Katrina marched north and east, we bailed on our sullen little hotel and drove down along he western ridge of the storm, mostly alone on the road.

Gas was no problem. We had catfish and pulled pork in a barbeque joint in Natchez, Miss., and the folks there - everyone we have met along our three-day journey - has said the same thing: Good luck, folks. We love your city. Take care of it for us.

Oh, my city. We have spent hours and hours listening to the radio. Image upon image piling up in your head.

What about school? What about everyone's jobs? Did all our friends get out? Are there still trees on the streetcar line? What will our economy be like with no visitors? How many are dead? Do I have a roof? Have the looters found me yet? When can we go home?

Like I said, it consumes you as you sit helplessly miles from home, unable to help anyone, unable to do anything.

If I could, what I'd do first is hurt the looters. I'd hurt them bad.

But you have to forget all that. You have to focus on what is at hand, what you can reach and when you have three little kids lost at sea, they are what's at hand and what you can reach.

I brought them to a playground in Baton Rouge Tuesday afternoon. They'd been bottled up for days.

Finally unleashed, they ran, they climbed, they fell down, they fought, they cried, they made me laugh, they drove me crazy; they did the things that makes them kids.

It grounds you. You take a breath. You count to ten. Maybe - under the circumstances - you go to twenty or thirty this time.

And tonight, we'll just read them to sleep again.

We have several books with us because - and this is rich - we brought on our evacuation all the clothes and things we planned to bring on a long-weekend trip that we were going to take over Labor Day weekend.

To the beach. To Fort Morgan, right at the mouth of Mobile Bay. Man.

Instead of that, I put on my sun tan lotion and went out in the yard of the house where we're staying in Baton Rouge and I raked a massive pile of leaves and limbs from the yard and swept the driveway.

Doing yard work and hitting the jungle gym on the Day After. Pretending life goes on. Just trying to stay busy. Just trying not to think. Just trying not to fail, really.

Gotta keep moving.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**SUPERDOME:** WIth local hospitals in shambles, medical personnel made life-or-death decisions all day Tuesday. Those they judged seriously ill, were airlifted to hospitals all over the state.

# Empty I-10 a triage area

**By Jim Varney**
Staff writer

They came from eastern New Orleans, Lakeview, Gentilly and Hollygrove on helicopters that arrived one after another and landed on Interstate 10 where it intersects with Causeway Boulevard.

On a normal day, the point where the two thoroughfares cross - often referred to as the busiest intersection in the state - would be choked with vehicles. But heavy chopper traffic was one of many signs that Tuesday was anything but normal.

The 500 or so people who emerged from the helicopters on I-10 were tired, wet and bedraggled after being rescued from rooftops, attics and other places of refuge that proved no match for the flooding spawned by Hurricane Katrina. And Tuesday afternoon, with nowhere else to go, they ended up at a makeshift triage center staffed by paramedics and volunteers.

Some victims landing at the center of the interstate who were in dire need of medical attention were packed into ambulances and transported to hospitals to the north. Others who were just weak or spent from the emotional ordeal of escaping the storm with nothing more than the clothes on their backs were taken to a temporary holding place on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Their blank and expressionless faces told the story of the catastrophe that was Katrina.

Kim Lewis, a paramedic from Lafayette who worked in rescue efforts during California wildfires, was one of those trying to help the victims.

"I've never seen anything like this," she said, taking a break from her duties to snack on crackers. "It seems the whole city has been triaged."

Alex and Edna Burkley, who were rescued from their home in the 3900 block of Paris Avenue, were among those waiting at the center and wondering what will happen next.

"We've got no food, no water," said Alex Burkley, 73. "We have to take our medicine and we can't even find water to take a sip."

Dorothy Spears, 55, was pulled from the second story window of her home on Dwyer Road in eastern New Orleans by a man who was dropped down on a line from a helicopter hovering above the floodwaters. The chopper took 11 people from her home.

Deciding to ride out the storm, Barbara Carroll hunkered down in her home on Milne Drive in Lakeview. But at about 2 p.m. Monday, water began to come through the floor of her single-story home. By the time she looked outside, the street had become a roaring current.

Carroll and members of her family used an inner tube to take them across the street to a neighbor's two-story home. Not long after, a fire truck took them to the Jefferson Parish side of the 17th Street Canal. They walked from there to the triage center.Some at the center were restless, wondering what would happen to them. National Guard troops were on hand to control the crowd.

Len Martin, 55, of New Orleans, said he had been living on noodles and pickles for two days and was getting a bit anxious.

"I don't think they have a clue of what they're going to do with us," he said.

While their stories of rescue varied, all of those at the triage center seemed to have the same feeling of surreal disbelief.

"I lived through Betsy," Martin said, referring to the 1965 hurricane that devastated the New Orleans area, "but I never imagined anything like this."

# Schools postpone games

## *Status on Saints home opener still unclear*

**From staff reports**

Because of the continuing effects of Hurricane Katrina and need for LSU campus resources in the relief effort, the Tigers' Sept. 3 home football opener against North Texas has been postponed, school officials announced Tuesday.

"I don't have any doubt, whatsoever, that all Louisiana (residents) who are looking at the front pages of the papers and are looking at what's been broadcast on TV recognize that this is of epic proportions in terms of the tragedy," LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe said. "So, as a consequence, (fans) are going to be extremely understandable.

"We're a part of this community -- and we recognize it first and foremost -- and we worry about each other."

Police barricaded parts of North Stadium Drive, the road that runs between Tiger Stadium and the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, to clear a path for medical vehicles and supply trucks.

The Carl Maddox Fieldhouse is being used as a special needs shelter, while the adjacent PMAC has been designated as a triage unit for medical emergencies. Also, orange cones lined in the shaped of "X" on the infield of the Bernie Moore Track Stadium served as a landing area for helicopters.

Originally, O'Keefe intended to play the game as scheduled, and for it to be a source of civic pride, but reconsidered because the logistical complexities of hosting games in Tiger Stadium could create traffic problems for medical vehicles and take away resources better used in the relief effort.

LSU and North Texas will determine the rescheduled date, which might require some creative maneuvering since the two schools do not share a common bye week. An announcement is expected by Thursday.

"The football team feels just like you do, just like we all do," Athletic Director Skip Bertman said. "They want to help. And hopefully, against Arizona State (on Sept. 10), that will be a time -- after some recovery and some mourning -- when the athletics can once again act as a bonding agent to get everybody back together on a positive note."

Damage around campus was minimal, including some to the partially constructed West Upper Deck of Tiger Stadium. The hurricane should not alter the athletic department's plan for all seats to be habitable by Sept. 24, when Tennessee comes to town.

**TULANE**

If Tulane has trouble opening its doors in the near future, that could lead to a football team playing without a university. That may be a first, and brings to mind all sorts of issues regarding not only rescheduling, but academic progress.

"That's the type of situation that doesn't come up very often, thankfully," NCAA spokesman Erik Christianson said Tuesday. "We'd certainly work with one of our members to be as flexible as possible. It will really depend on what transpires at Tulane."

In the meantime, Conference-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky said his office has received many calls asking how they can help Tulane and Southern Mississippi. The game between the two, scheduled for Sunday at Hattiesburg, Miss., has been postponed until Nov. 26.

On Tuesday, the Green Wave traveled to Dallas, where it will practice at either SMU's Pettus Practice Fields or at Ford Stadium.

Tulane, Southern Miss and Conference USA officials made the decision to postpone the game Tuesday in light of the dislocation of the Green Wave because of damage to USM's M.M. Roberts Stadium and other parts of the Hattiesburg, Miss., campus.

Tulane's next scheduled football game is Sept. 17 in the Superdome against Mississippi State. The Dome was damaged in the storm and its status has yet to be determined.

Conference-USA commissioner Britton Banowsky said he was aware of damage to the Dome plus the prospect of a continuing evacuation of New Orleans, but added it would be premature to speculate whether the Green Wave's entire season is in jeopardy or at the least the team might play all of its games on the road.

**SAINTS**

The Saints will fly to San Antonio following Thursday's 8 p.m. game at Oakland, making that their home base for the immediate future, said director of media and public relations Greg Bensel.

Several teams and cities offered assistance. But Saints owner Tom Benson has long-standing ties to San Antonio, and that is where the team evacuated to before Hurricane Ivan last year. The Saints are planning to stay in San Antonio until their season opener Sept. 11 at Carolina.

Where they will play the home opener, Sept. 18, against the New York Giants, is uncertain. General Manager Mickey Loomis and the NFL are looking for a site, including college stadiums.

**PREPS**

Nothing official has been released yet, but the high school football season could be in jeopardy. Several areas of the city are under water, meaning school could be out for several months.

# LSU sports centers now medical centers

## *Hundreds already have been treated*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE -- In the shadow of Tiger Stadium, where the LSU Tigers were scheduled to launch their football season Saturday, two field hospitals have been set up in other sports centers to treat thousands of medical refugees from Hurricane Katrina.

On the floor of Pete Maravich Assembly Center, the home of LSU's basketball team, doctors and nurses bustled from patient to patient as they were wheeled in from ambulances.

Occasionally, helicopters landed on a brightly lit athletic field.

"We're trying to set up a 200-bed hospital," said Dr. Chris Trevino, medical director of Ascension Parish.

"It's for critically ill patients only, and we're moving them through as quickly as possible."

Since the hospital opened Monday, the staff, made up mostly of volunteers, has treated 300 to 400 patients, nearly all from the New Orleans area, he said.

"They're pretty sick; they need to get special care," Trevino said.

So far, most of the people brought to the LSU campus had been in hospitals and nursing homes, he said.

They were suffering from exposure and chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure that were worsened by the storm, Trevino said.

"We expect injuries afterward" as more people are rescued and brought here, he said.

In the Carl Maddox Fieldhouse nearby, the track lanes and sports courts are covered by chairs and stretchers in what has become a clinic for patients with special medical needs, such as chronic ailments.

Some arrive on their own, and some have been sent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Dr. Pat Cain of Earl K. Long Medical Center.

After triage, patients may be discharged to go home, they may be sent to a general shelter if they seem healthy, or they may be treated there, he said.

The patient list includes people who have been brought over from the Assembly Center after being sized up there.

When asked how many patients he expected to treat for hurricane-related problems, Cain replied, "Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds."

FEMA and the state Department of Health and Hospitals are running the clinics.

Although Katrina sprang up quickly late last week, many of the medical personnel at the two centers started training for such a calamity last summer when they carried out an exercise here based on a disastrous, yet fictitious, hurricane in New Orleans.

"You can plan for something like this," Trevino said, "but it's difficult to plan for this scope."

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

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# HITTING BOTTOM

## THE WATER HAS FINALLY STOPPED POURING IN BUT IT COULD BE OCTOBER BEFORE THE CITY DRIES OUT



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**SUPERDOME:** A man carries his belongings toward the Superdome on Wednesday. The water later reached a turning point and began moving back into Lake Pontchartrain.

# Engineers punching holes in levee to speed draining

**From staff reports**

New Orleans glimpsed a possible turning point Wednesday as floodwaters that had risen harrowingly for two days reached equilibrium and began spilling back into Lake Pontchartrain through breaches in the levee system, officials said.

At midday, Maj. Gen. Dan Riley, chief of engineers for the Army Corps of Engineers, estimated the floodwaters had receded by as much as 2 feet overnight and would continue to flow out of the city at a rate of about a half-inch per hour - a process that could be slowed, if not temporarily reversed, by the next high tides.

The continuing magnitude of the flooding, with some neighborhoods buried under as much as 20 feet of water, was made clear in Riley's added estimate that it would be at least 30 days before the saucer-shaped city would be pumped out.

To accelerate the draining process, engineers were making plans to punch holes in the lakeside levee, at strategic points starting in eastern New Orleans and working west to the Jefferson Parish line. The levees along the Intracoastal Waterway would also be breached to help dry St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward.

The good news about receding floodwaters coincided with a massive ramp-up in federal relief efforts. President Bush, cutting short his Texas vacation, flew low over New Orleans en route to Washington to witness the devastation,

*See* **ENGINEERS,** *page A-2*

# Nightmare in the 9th Ward all too real for one woman

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
*Staff writer*

Lucrece Phillips' sleepless nights are filled with the images of dead babies and women, and young and old men with tattered T-shirts or graying temples, all of whom she saw floating along the streets of the Lower 9th Ward.

The deaths of many of her neighbors who chose to brave the hurricane from behind the walls of their Painter Street homes shook tears from Phillips' bloodshot eyes Tuesday, as a harrowing tale of death and survival tumbled from her lips.

"The rescuers in the boats that picked us up had to push the bodies back with sticks," Phillips said sobbing. "And there was this little baby. She looked so perfect and so beautiful. I just wanted to scoop her up and breathe life back into her little lungs. She wasn't bloated or anything, just perfect."

A few hours after Phillips, 42, and five members of her family and a friend had been rescued from the attic of her second-story home in the 2700 block of Painter Street, she broke down with a range of emotions. Joy, for surviving the killer floods; pain, for the loss of so many lives; and uncertainty, about the well-being of her family missing in the city's most ravaged quarters.

In a darkened lobby of the downtown Hyatt hotel turned refuge, she hugged an emergency worker closely; a handful of his sweaty blue T-

*See* **NIGHTMARE,** *page A-3*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Rescues continue as city hospitals lose generator power

**ENGINEERS,** *from page A-1*

and he ordered regular Army, Navy and Air Force troops into action on the search-and-rescue front, freeing hard-pressed National Guard units to concentrate on restoring public order and to confront the looting that continued unabated Wednesday.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt declared a federal health emergency throughout the region, a designation that will allow for expedited action on his plan to set up 40 emergency medical centers for evacuees and victims.

Efforts resumed to plug the giant breach in the swollen 17th Street Canal by using Chinook helicopters and barges to drop more than a thousand, 10-ton sandbags and about 250 concrete highway construction barriers into the chasm.

As New Orleans breathed a cautious sigh of relief, less devastated Jefferson Parish grew anxious about water that began sluicing across Interstate 10 at the parish line and into Metairie neighborhoods, according to Jefferson Parish Emergency Management Director Walter Maestri.

The West Bank, far less afflicted by flooding than parts of Orleans and Jefferson parishes across the Mississippi River, found itself a magnet for exhausted refugees, some of whom were seen wandering along highway embankments in search of dry ground, sustenance and a place to stay.

In St. Tammany Parish, Slidell Mayor Ben Morris said half of Slidell's homes were under water and that 2,168 residents had been evacuated to emergency shelters. Upriver in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, the first wave of evacuees began trickling back to check out what one radio-station caller described as generally intact and dry homes.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour flew over his state's ravaged coastline and likened it to Hiroshima in 1945. Bush ordered four Navy ships to deploy off the state's shore.



**CANAL UNDER WATER:** Residents walk in waist-deep water on Canal Street Wednesday morning, making their way around submerged cars and other debris. At midday, after floodwaters reached equilibrium and began to spill back into Lake Pontchartrain through breaks in the levees, an official with the Army Corps of Engineers estimated the floodwaters had receded by as much as 2 feet overnight.

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Civilian armadas also massed Wednesday in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. Capt. Timothy Bayard, in charge of maritime operations for the New Orleans Police Department, said as many as 200 volunteers had showed up with skiffs and flatboats, some from as far away as Texas and Kentucky.

## Assistance from afar

Working alongside watercraft operated by the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the NOPD and the Coast Guard, the volunteers targeted inundated communities from Lakeview to the Lower 9th Ward, and they plucked survivors off rooftops and out of attics.

As soon as the survivors had been offloaded onto bridges or other elevated surfaces, the rescue teams were rushing back through the flooded city. At times, the influx of the rescued residents threatened to overwhelm the ability of city and military officials to cart away the survivors to more permanent safety.

"We are relying on the military to run the trucks," Bayard said as troop transport vehicles rumbled to and from gathering points, such as interstate on-ramps and the drawbridge that carries St. Claude Avenue across the Industrial Canal and into the Lower 9th Ward.

Bayard stopped short of concurring with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's contention on "Good Morning America" that Katrina's death toll in New Orleans would be "most likely thousands" - figures that would make it the deadliest U.S. natural disaster since the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

But Bayard acknowledged many elderly or otherwise fragile residents trapped in their homes had made it into attics as floodwaters rose, and later drowned or were killed by scorching temperatures before they could climb onto rooftops and wave to rescue teams.

Bayard declined to estimate a death toll but said, "Absolutely, the worst is yet to come."

## Massive evacuations

Meanwhile, 475 buses were dispatched to the Superdome to begin evacuating thousands of refugees who sought shelter there. The evacuees were destined for another temporary shelter, Houston's Astrodome, in what could be "one of the largest, if not the largest, evacuation in this country," said Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Alternate plans, possibly involving the use of cruise ships and troop transport vessels in the Mississippi River, were being developed for those not well enough to endure the seven-hour bus ride.

At the city's major hospitals, diesel-powered generators critical to sustaining the lives of people on ventilators or other electric-powered medical devices began to run out of fuel Wednesday. Plans were made to relocate the 350 patients and 1,000 doctors and nurses at Charity and University hospitals to facilities in Alexandria, Lafayette, Shreveport, Lake Charles and Monroe. Methodist Hospital evacuated its 1,000 patients.

Louis Armstrong International Airport reopened Wednesday, solely for humanitarian aid. But seven of the region's eight major oil refineries remained shut down, contributing to a gas shortage that sent spot oil prices spiking above $70 per barrel again Wednesday. The crisis was felt sharply by motorists who found bags over gas pump nozzles at drained service stations in Baton Rouge and other cities to the north and west that had a heavy flow of evacuees. Some of the evacuees began returning Wednesday to the brim of the devastation to await the first opportunity to venture back into the city and find out what was left of their homes.

Reversing his earlier refusal to tap the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, about 700 million barrels of crude oil stored in salt domes near the Louisiana and Texas border, Bush authorized a draw-down from the reserves to ease the pressure on refineries. Within minutes of the announcement, crude futures fell back below $70.

## Anarchy and menace

The massive recovery effort contrasted starkly with the widespread looting that continued to shame the city. It had moved well beyond theft of water, food and other necessities to include electronic gear, liquor, cigarettes. One woman was seen hauling a Baskin-Robbins ice cream cooler down a Bywater street.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter on Tchoupitoulas Street was stripped of huge amounts of goods, including its ample supply of guns and ammunition. The Winn Dixie at Basin Street across from the French Quarter was all but stripped of inventory.

A late afternoon fire at one of the Footlocker outlets on Canal Street contributed to the sense of anarchy and menace. Another plume of smoke at the foot of Canal Street suggested the Aquarium of the Americas also was on fire. But an attendant, roused from a catnap, said the rooftop smoke was from a failing generator used to keep the aquarium's huge fish tanks aerated.

# Preliminary body count expected today

*Nagin says death toll could hit thousands*

**By Ed Anderson**
*Capital bureau*

BATON ROUGE - Federal Emergency Management Administration officials will release some preliminary numbers today on the number of bodies FEMA mortuary teams have accounted for, FEMA Director Mike Brown said.

On Wednesday, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin estimated that the death toll in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina could range into the thousands. But Smith said authorities are concentrating more on rescuing living people than accounting for the dead.

"We are still in life rescue mode,'' he said. "We must continue to do what we can to save lives. We don't want to feed you incorrect numbers. We just don't know until we get rescue people into the areas that are flooded.''

Brown said the agency and other rescue workers are more concerned with "pulling people off of roofs'' and saving lives than counting bodies.

"Most operations take second place to saving lives,'' Brown said. "This is an incredibly fluid situation.''

Several New Orleans area officials said they saw bodies floating in floodwaters as they plucked survivors from trees and rooftops, but State Police and National Guard officials said they do not have numbers to release, and deferred all inquiries to FEMA officials, as did aides to Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

State officials would not even say if preparations are being made to set up temporary morgues, or whether body bags have been ordered.

Brown said the number of dead was more easily obtained in Mississippi because Katrina mainly affected the less-populated Gulf Coast, which did not experience the deep standing water problems of south Louisiana.

National Guard spokesman Lt. Kevin Cowan would not say if Nagin's numbers were even in the ballpark.

"We have a limited number of resources down there,'' he said. "There is an unknown number of evacuees. It has been several days. You have heard the reports of (weather and water) conditions. You can do the math.''

# Delivered from storm, mother gives birth in attic

*Family in good shape*

**By Matthew Brown**
*Staff writer*

From a crowded, dark attic surrounded by floodwater in a city pushed to the brink by Hurricane Katrina, 5 pounds, 4 ounces of hope has arrived.

James Kenneth Brundy Jr. was born just after midnight Tuesday to Waldrica Nathan, 19, as she was stranded with family members in her fiance's 9th Ward attic.

More than 36 hours after they were rescued by boat, Nathan and the baby were in excellent shape Wednesday at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, doctors said. The child had been delivered by his father, James Brundy Sr. and his two grandparents, who had picked up a few obstetric skills from watching the Birth Channel.

"The doctors said they were amazed that the family did all the right things," hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Steel said.

As she lay in a maternity gown in the hospital's delivery unit, Nathan said her family's saga began Monday about 6:30 a.m. Nine months' pregnant, she and the others were forced to climb into the attic as waters rose rapidly on Metropolitan Street. By about 8 a.m. at the height of the storm, she started having contractions. While she gritted her teeth through the pain, family members dialed 911 but were told no one could help.

"Boats and helicopters were passing by all day but none stopped," Nathan said. At exactly midnight, her water broke, and James Brundy Jr. was born 22 minutes later.

The grandfather "knew just where to cut the cord and how to tie a shoestring around it," she said.

"We cleaned him off with some alcohol pads, wrapped him in a clean sheet, and I breast-fed. That's all he wanted to do, was eat," she said.

By morning, as the rising sun quickly heated up the house, the newborn's father and grandfather broke through the roof to try to wave down rescuers. To keep the baby cool, they took him down from the attic to the still-flooded first floor.

In a cradle fashioned from a laundry basket, the baby floated on top of waist-deep water in the living room. Help arrived Tuesday afternoon: a rescue boat manned by agents of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

"The man was crying in the boat. He couldn't believe it," Nathan said. "He was like, 'A baby, look at this baby!'"

After being dropped off on a highway overpass, mother and baby were driven to the hospital and arrived about 4 p.m. But Nathan said the joy she feels for her new son is tempered by the fact that her own mother, who is 9 months' pregnant and thought to be trapped in her own attic in another part of town, has not been heard from since the storm.

"We don't know if that baby is born. We don't know nothing. We still can't get in touch with her," Nathan said. "I'm happy I got through that and survived the storm."

# Temporary levee blocks flooding near Ochsner

*West Jeff hospital reaches critical point*

**By Matthew Brown**
*Staff writer*

A storm-smashed West Bank teetered on the edge of chaos Wednesday as officials struggled to rein in looting. Thousands of hurricane refugees streamed across the Mississippi River from New Orleans and supplies of food and water ran dangerously low.

On the east bank, an early scare caused by rising floodwaters in Metairie had been put in check by midday. A hastily constructed temporary levee was erected near Ochsner Foundation Hospital to block water flowing out of an inundated New Orleans.

Neighborhoods along Airline Drive near the 17th Street Canal had some flooding but officials said the threat of more damage appeared to have passed.

But as lingering high water in New Orleans forced many in the city to escape, officials in Jefferson Parish scrambled to deal with the additional strain on emergency operations.

Throughout the day, thousands of evacuees fled across the Crescent City Connection to the West Bank by foot, car and bicycle, even via two stolen mail trucks that were stopped on the West Bank Expressway.

While many who passed through the parish headed to points west, others joined the growing crowds at three West Bank emergency shelters, swelling them to way past their capacity, officials said.

Jefferson Parish Director of Emergency Management Walter Maestri warned an already dire situation at those facilities soon could get far worse.

"We don't have the food, we don't have the water for these people," he said. "People are starving."

At one shelter, Stella Worley Middle School in Westwego, occupants said they had received only one bottle of water since Tuesday and had awakened to a breakfast of candy bars and fruit cups.

Toilets at the shelter were overflowing and anyone who tried to leave on foot was stopped by armed police who said they were guarding against looters.

"They don't want us here but they're going to have to help us," said Artemise Pittman, 33, who fled New Orleans late Tuesday with her 11 children. "There's no life on the other side of the river. We can't go back."

Maestri said at least 30 people had been detained for looting by Jefferson Parish.

Along Manhattan Boulevard in Harvey, people could be seen ransacking convenience stores, gas stations and electronic stores. When police arrived, the looters would scatter, only to return as soon as the police left.

Along Lapalco Boulevard in Harvey, a gun store reportedly was broken into and emptied of its weapons, officials said.

In the city of Gretna, Police Chief Arthur Lawson said he put the city on "lockdown" after 50 looting arrests the past two days.

"I gave our officers instructions to use whatever force is necessary," he said. "We've had no major injuries or deaths. Just some dog bites with our canine officers with looters."

Maestri estimated that half the looting was out of greed, the other half desperation of people searching for food and water.

To try to end the latter, he issued an urgent call to federal officials and the Red Cross to bring in truckloads of supplies.

Entergy Regional Manager Gary Silbert said power could be restored soon at vital facilities, including hospitals, the emergency operations center and the Sheriff's Office. But for everyone else, he said prior projections still stood - 30 to 45 more days with no electricity.

Necessities were running low at West Jefferson Medical Center.

Chief Medical Officer Alfred Abaunza said a lack of air-conditioning was compromising heat-sensitive equipment, including X-rays and blood analysis machines.

"We need food, we need water, we need medication, we need medical supplies, we need another generator," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**CBD:** As the water continues to rise in the Central Business District, a homeless man settles into a corner of a building.

# Boat propellers are sound of salvation

**NIGHTMARE,** *from page A-1*

shirt rippling from each of her fists.

She had barely gotten out a fifth thank you when the emergency worker whispered into her ear that "it was going to be OK," and that "it was our job to save lives."

Phillips' downstairs neighbor, Terrilyn Foy, 41, and her 5-year-old son, Trevor, were unable to escape, Phillips said. By late Monday the surging waters of Lake Pontchartrain had swallowed the neighborhood. The water crept, then rushed, under the front door, Phillips said, then knocked it from its hinges. In less than 30 minutes, Phillips said, the water had topped her neighbors' 12-foot ceiling and was gulping at hers.

"I can still hear them banging on the ceiling for help," Phillips said, shaking. "I heard them banging and banging, but the water kept rising." Then the pleas for help were silenced by the sway of the current, she said.

Phillips and her family -- her daughter and niece, 20 and 18; an uncle, 40, and his wife, 35, along with their 2-year-old daughter and a friend, 45 -- rushed to the attic for safety. The water was rising and death seemed near, she said. Her back was hurting from the two bones she'd recently had fused during surgery for a car wreck she had in 2003. The group had been up there for hours, and they were growing more frantic as each moment passed. The water kept rising. They saw it inching up.

Phillips said they didn't want to die like little Trevor or his mother or the others who couldn't or wouldn't leave the neighborhood in the face of Katrina. So they pounded, kicked and pulled at the wooden boards in the roof till something gave way. The boards around a vent near a trestle gave way. When the din of boat propellers seemed near, they screamed and waved shirts from the roof. Finally the din got closer and they could see from the broken-out vent men in a boat. A few got in, and then another boat arrived and picked up the others.

Officials early Tuesday said 1,200 stranded residents had been rescued in the city. Later in the day that estimate rose to more than 3,000.

## Parents, siblings missing

The seven of them were safe, but Phillips had still not heard from her mother or father out in east New Orleans. Both were 62 years old and both refused to evacuate. Her mother and father's 13 siblings from across the city also chose the four walls of home over evacuating out of town or trekking to the Superdome. For Phillips, evacuation seemed too costly. She and her family evacuated for Hurricane Dennis earlier in the summer. The few days in Houston cost her $1,200.

Phillips had not heard from any of them by late Tuesday, as nearly 90 percent of the city was underwater. Several other family members, most from outside Louisiana and in town since Aug. 21 for a family reunion, had also not been accounted for. After spending money for weeks, eating out, buying gifts and enjoying the Crescent City, "they figured they would stay until after Labor Day."

"I know this storm killed so many people," Phillips said. "There is no 9th Ward no more. No 8th or 7th ward or east New Orleans. All those people, all them black people, drowned."

She hadn't slept for days. The faces of the dead haunted her waking moments, badgering her not to forget them.

## 'No respect'

Like so many other survivors, Phillips and family were picked from the flood and dropped off downtown, which was slogged with thigh-high waters, but had the Superdome and some hotels giving solace to refugees.

By early Tuesday evening, officials estimated that about 20,000 people were packed inside the Superdome. Most were hopeless, hungry and increasingly desperate, witnesses and officials agreed. Rumors of murder, rape and deplorable conditions were circulating.

"After all we had been through, those damn guards at the Dome treated us like criminals," Phillips said. "We went to that zoo and they gave us no respect."

The family slogged down Poydras Street to the Hyatt. The hotel didn't have electricity or water, and nearly every glass window on the Poydras side had been blown out by the hurricane, but it was secure. Ranking officials from City Hall across the street had been evacuated there, including Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Chief Eddie Compass..

But there was no real solace for the weary woman or her family. Phillips said she had to contend with not knowing whether her mother or father or extended family had survived. And she's still haunted by the deaths she saw with her own eyes.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH



AP PHOTO

Flooded streets throughout New Orleans are evident in this DigitalGlobe satellite image taken Wednesday. The breaches occurred at the 17th Street Canal at the upper left of the photo, and the Industrial Canal levee at the lower right.

# Corps aggressively attacks drainage

## *We have a plan, officials explain*

**By Jan Moller and Mark Schleifstein**
*Staff writers*

The Army Corps of Engineers will begin aggressively attacking the process of draining New Orleans today by beginning to build a dam that will block the entrance of the 17th Street Canal at the Old Hammond Highway Bridge and moving sheet piling into the area to begin plugging the large breach on the canal's eastern side that has flooded much of the city.

Officials said they expect the process to take about two months.

A civilian engineer with the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, based in Vicksburg, Miss., who Federal Emergency Management Agency officials allowed to speak on the condition his name was not used, said he was still "very concerned" that additional reinforced concrete panels that make up the top of the canal levee could fail, widening the breach.

He described the emergency dam, which would be placed where debris from the lake has built up in front of the bridge, as "the only way we know to stop the water from coming into the canal."

The Corps abandoned plans Wednesday to use Army Chinook helicopters to drop 15,000-ton bags filled with sand and gravel in the levee hole, citing problems with the slings that would hold the bags and the potential for running into power lines or other obstructions.

We have a plan, he said. That plan is changing as we speak.

In addition to power lines, there is a tall cell tower near the breach.

Officials did not address whether they will attempt to plug a 300- to 400-foot gap in the London Avenue Canal levee.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Robert Gough with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries listens for sounds from a vent of a house in Lakeview, the neighborhood closest to the 17th Street Canal breach. State and federal experts assessed the flooding damage in Lakeview on Wednesday.

We are working very hard on removing the water from the city, Maj. Gen. Don Riley, director of civil works for the Corps, said in a news briefing. The levels have equalized with the lake. Now we are working with contractors to get the pumps working and fix the breaches in the levee to allow the water to flow out.

### Officials confident

And despite the behemoth job of removing water from the city, Corps officials said they are up to the task.

Have we ever experienced a situation like this before? Yes, we have, said Don Basham, chief of the Corps' engineering construction division in Washington, D.C.

Maybe not the same exact situation. We've had breaches in the levee system across the United

States over the past 50 years. We've solved each of them, and each is a unique situation that is addressed by the circumstances of the time.

The Corps will contract with Boh Bros. Construction Co. of New Orleans to install the metal sheet piling in the break. The engineer said the material was chosen because it's already at a nearby job site.

If those two steps work, pumping stations in Orleans and Jefferson parishes can begin what he said will be a 60-day effort to pump water out.

New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board officials are working on getting pumping stations in the city activated. Once that happens, they said, they can begin pumping our water, a process that could take 30 days.

At the same time, the engineer said, contractors will begin making notches in the Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection levee at locations in eastern New Orleans, working their way along the levee as needed to the Jefferson Parish line.

### Levee notches

The notches are only a first step, as they must be dug to a level above that of the lake's surface at high tide. Because much of the city is an average 6 feet below sea level, the rest of the water will have to be pumped out through existing pumping stations, which will be a slow process.

Where we can notch and drain, we will notch and drain, the engineer said.

While the New Orleans pumps are some of the largest and most efficient in the world, they were designed to remove rainwater and are capable of removing the equivalent of an inch of rain an hour or less over long periods of time.

Even so, the two-month prediction by the Corps is shorter than the minimum six months estimate given by New Orleans District engineers in 2002, when asked how long it would take if the city were completely flooded. The difference is that under their worst-case scenario, the Corps assumed the pumps and electric power supply might have to undergo extensive repairs or replacement.

The Corps official said the agency doesn't need to cut the lakefront levee in Jefferson Parish.

Levee notching also will take place along the south side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in St. Bernard Parish, which should assist in removing water from Chalmette, the engineer said. Water from the Holy Cross neighborhood now is flowing west into the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal through a break in the levee that was instrumental in flooding that neighborhood.

In a news briefing, Riley said his agency is setting up a command force at Camp Shelby, Miss., which is 125 miles northeast of New Orleans that will assist residents with debris removal in all three states hammered by Hurricane Katrina.

The Corps also will help FEMA establish temporary housing, everything from clearing land to assisting in placement of manufactured housing and trailers and the provision of utilities and roads.

Staff writer John McQuaid contributed to this report. Staff writer Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 'WE WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER'

## *Forces called in to curb widespread looting*

**By Ed Anderson, Michael Perlstein and Robert Travis Scott**
*Capital bureau*

Hoping to curb widespread looting, New Orleans law enforcement is getting an infusion of 200 State Police troopers and 350 Louisiana National Guard troops, Another 500 Guard troops may be deployed to the area in the coming weeks.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco also sent a strong message to scofflaws who loot guns, merchandise and food from New Orleans area stores in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: You will be arrested and prosecuted.

We will do what it takes to restore law and order, Blanco said during a news conference Wednesday afternoon. We will not put up with petty criminals doing their business. We want to take these people off the streets.

State Police spokeswoman Sgt. Cathy Flinchum said 200 state troopers assigned to riot control and SWAT units will be working with the New Orleans Police Department to reduce looting, which New Orleans City Council President Oliver Thomas called widespread and major looting.

They are looting houses and businesses, he said. Gangs are sticking people up in their homes. They are looting gun stores; they are stealing guns out of Wal-Marts.

Besides State Police, 350 Louisiana National Guard troops will be deployed to New Orleans to help patrol the streets, said Guard spokesman Lt. Kevin Cowan.

Another 500 troops may be deployed to New Orleans in the next two days to work with police in the area, Cowan said.

He said some consideration is also being given to deploying some of the Guard soldiers returning from Iraq to work hurricane disaster duty in New Orleans.

Looting in New Orleans was so widespread Wednesday that police were forced to prioritize their overwhelmed enforcement effort.

For instance, Winn-Dixie s Riverside Market Place on Tchoupitoulas Street was breached in the morning by foragers who broke through a metal security door. Eight police officers in marked cruisers made it to the parking lot by noon, but they had a more pressing problem than people walking off with food and liquor.

The officers were rushing to a break-in next door at the Sports Authority, desperate to secure the store s stockpile of guns and ammunition.

I think we ran them off before they got any of it, said the commanding officer at the scene. The police secured the store with heavy plywood before moving on to other emergencies.

At about 2 p.m., the officers rushed back to disrupt a second break-in at the sporting goods store. An officer in a squad car tried to chase a Bell South utility truck that fled the scene, but he lost the truck amid fallen trees.

Upon surveying the thefts, the officer said the most conspicuous missing items were all the weapons from the store s knife case.

Similar scenes were reported across the storm-ravaged region. In Gretna, 50 people have been arrested; in unincorporated Jefferson, 30 have been arrested.

State Rep. Arthur Morrell, D-New Orleans, said he has seen some people looting for survival by taking food from stores. He said one store even invited neighborhood residents to take food before it spoiled.

But others, he said, are stealing items such as electronic appliances, tennis shoes and furniture. They don t need that for survival, he said. They can t take home the appliances and plug them in; there is no electricity.

The atmosphere of near anarchy in New Orleans is another major concern, said Arthur Wiese Jr., vice president of corporate communications for Entergy.

We can t send workers out and put their lives in jeopardy, he said late Wednesday afternoon from the one of the company s storm command centers in Jackson, Miss. Once we have facilities back operating, we have to know that our workers can get to work safely.

We are as alarmed as anyone over the chaos in the city. It is a very serious question, Wiese said.

Attorney General Charles Foti, a former criminal sheriff in New Orleans, said his office and New Orleans officials are trying to set up a temporary detention center in New Orleans to house and process those arrested for looting and other crimes.

Until that is built, State Police officials said those arrested will be sent to Fort Polk.

Officials could not estimate the number of looters.

Meanwhile, Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Richard Stalder said that because of high water, lack of air conditioning, food shortage and lack of potable water, his office and local police have moved all 1,112 inmates from the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center to state prisons or parish jails with available beds in other parts of the state.

Department spokeswoman Pam Laborde said the convoy of buses made the trip to St. Gabriel s Hunt Correctional Center for processing on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Stalder said more than 2,100 of the 5,100 inmates were moved from the Orleans Parish Prison by late Wednesday and another 3,000 would be moved to other state and parish jails in the next 36 to 48 hours.

It is being measured in hours, not days, Stalder said.

# REFUGEES FIND DOME AN INTOLERABLE REFUGE

## *I s worse than being in prison in there*

**By Gordon Russell**
*Staff writer*

The Superdome resembled a scene from the Apocalypse on Wednesday morning, with thousands of refugees trapped in a hellish environment of short tempers, unbearable heat and the overwhelming stench of human waste.

Evacuees told horror stories of assaults and the apparent suicide of a man who leapt from a balcony. Although none of the accounts could be confirmed by authorities, many refugees offered remarkably similar accounts.

A sense of desperation overtook those stuck at the Dome as they waited in vain to hear where they might be taken next. Later in the day, authorities announced a plan to begin bringing ill evacuees to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, from which they would be taken by bus to shelters and hospitals elsewhere.

The Houston Astrodome was preparing to take in thousands more, who were expected to start arriving by busloads this morning.

Throughout the day, frustration boiled over into anger and fear. Occasional skirmishes broke out outside the building, where people sought shade from a brutally hot sun under the Dome s narrow eave.

They re treating us like crap, said Tina Wilson of Mid-City as others chimed in with amens. They have us living like not even pigs.

Cleo Fisher of the Bywater sat atop a concrete cylinder in waist-deep water on Poydras just outside the Dome. Fisher, 86, said he left because he didn t have heart medications he wouldn t survive without.

Medical technicians were unsympathetic, he said, leaving him no choice but to try to get out and get help. He wasn t faring well outside either in fact, he was rescued from drowning by two passers-by after falling off the pier he sat on, he said.

I s worse than being in prison in there, he said. They don t have nothing for me.

### Safety concerns

Others were leaving because of concerns about their safety. The Dome situation had deteriorated noticeably from earlier days, as new swarms of refugees and rescuees arrived. On Wednesday morning, running water to the building was lost as it was throughout the city making the already overwhelming bathrooms downright noxious.

As people stood in long lines to receive rations of water and pre-made military meals, they put their shirts over their noses to block out the odor. Once word got around that some areas of the city near the Mississippi River remained dry, some refugees decided to leave.

I s chaotic, and it smells, said barbershop owner Ted Mitchell, who after three nights in the Dome was leaving and contemplating walking back to his flooded home near Canal and Broad streets. It s worse than the Depression. That place is not fit for people to be living in.

They re treating people like prisoners in there, said Shelton Alexander as he left the Dome for the thigh-high waters of Poydras Street. It s so hot in there, and people are s ting on the floors.

Tensions ran high between the Louisiana National Guardsmen assigned to secure the building and those they were protecting, with some people upset over what they felt was an inability to keep order and others saying they felt soldiers were too brusque.

Those crowded outside the Dome along a security line jeered and yelled at a guardsman after he shoved a man to the pavement who had ignored his order not to go back in without clearing a checkpoint accessible only by the deep water on Poydras Street.

### Call for leadership

Evacuees also vented their anger at city officials, in particular Mayor Ray Nagin, who many said they felt should have put in an appearance at the Dome in a show of sympathy.

Ray Nagin should come speak to these people, said Julie Joseph, who huddled in a bleacher seat with friends who nodded in agreement. To be the mayor he should have come in here. We got people who lost family members.

Even some of the police officers and military members assigned to the Dome none of whom wanted to speak on the record said they felt the situation was being poorly managed, if it was being managed at all.

This plan was no plan, said one cop, shaking his head.

The hellish confines stood in stark contrast to those of people nearby in the restricted-access New Orleans Centre and Hyatt Hotel, where those who could get in lounged in relative comfort.

A few blocks farther away, guests were being fed foie gras and rack of lamb for dinner, according to a photographer who stayed there, while the masses, most of them poor, huddled in the Dome.

While many were angry at what they perceived as third-class treatment, others were simply glad to be alive or perhaps too numbed by tragedy to feel anything like anger.

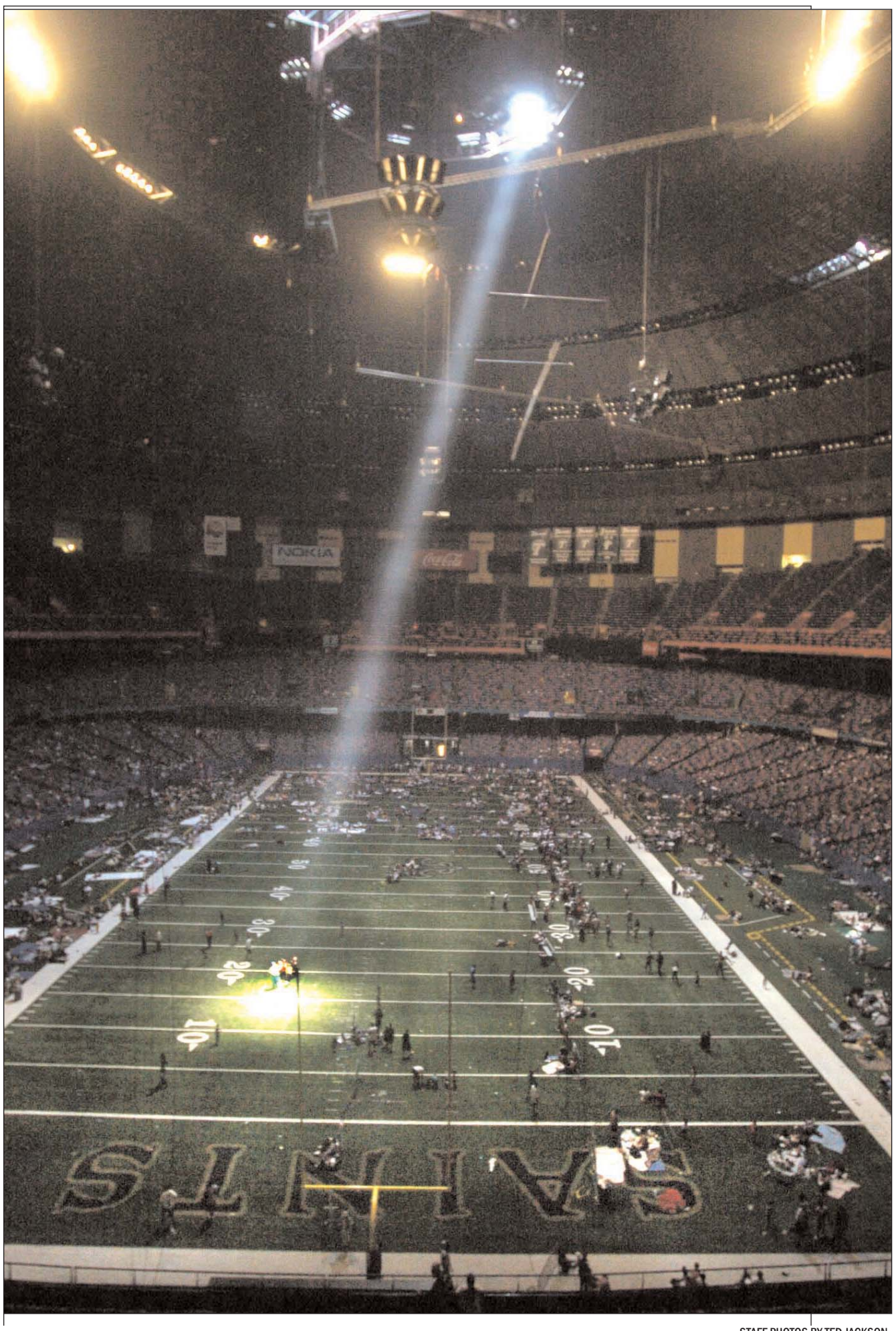
I m sorry for the ones not here today, said Byron Price of Bywater, who came to the Dome just before the storm hit. But thank God for the soldiers and police protecting us. I t s going to be all right.

Delia Crumby, crouched by a wall outside the Dome, said was rescued by a Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries boat after her Lower 9th Ward home flooded. She and her brother, who had recently had a stroke, holed up in the attic after the levee breach.

Her brother didn t make it.

I don t really know what he died from, she said. He just died up in the attic with me.

She pleaded with an outsider to call her sister in New Jersey to tell her that she was all right. The news about her brother would have to wait.




STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

**SUPERDOME:** At first glance, it might be a Saints game being played by spotlight. Unfortunately, the scene is of Hurricane Katrina evacuees trying to get by in the Superdome, which has a large hole in its roof.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# AS EVIDENCE FLOODS, CRIMINAL CASES LIKELY COLLAPSE

## *Court basement also housed thousands of appeals*

**By Michael Perlstein and Trymaine D. Lee**
*Staff writers*

New Orleans criminal justice officials cringed Wednesday at another disaster evolving in the wake of Hurricane Katrina: the possible long-term collapse of the city's criminal justice system.

With the flooding of the police department's evidence and property room in the basement of police headquarters, evidence and records in hundreds of criminal cases appeared to be irretrievably lost, police spokesman Marlon Defillo said.

Evidence in the most serious, pending cases, from murder to rape to robbery, was housed in the basement, Defillo said.

"We lost thousands of documents and untold evidence," Defillo said. "We lost everything."

The floodwaters in the basement of criminal court at Tulane Avenue and Broad Street also inundated old evidence in thousands of old cases under appeal. The lost evidence could reopen cases that otherwise had little chance of getting back into trial court.

"We're in serious trouble," Defillo said.

Officials averted a separate crisis by transporting about 3,000 inmates out of Orleans Parish Prison. Under heavy armed guard, inmates who lined Interstate 10 above the flooded surface streets were loaded onto buses from the Dixon Correctional Center and other state lockups.

While the inmates were successfully evacuated, the ongoing shutdown of criminal court could lead to the unavoidable release of dozens of suspects awaiting charges. By law, suspects must be tried within 30 days of a misdemeanor arrest and within 45 days of a felony arrest or they are automatically released from any bond obligation.

Even with the potential long-range problems facing the court system, officials were more concerned Wednesday with citywide crimes and looting sprouting amid the storm's chaotic aftermath.

Terry Ebbert, the city's homeland security director, said police received numerous reports of armed groups of marauders robbing scores of people throughout the hard-hit parts of the city. Authorities were unable to patrol the most lawless areas of the city, and it appeared police had little chance of investigating much of the unchecked crime.

# Storm-displaced students urged to keep learning, where they are

## *Administrators to cut red tape of transfers*

**By COLEMAN WARNER**
*Staff writer*

BATON ROUGE Louisiana Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard on Wednesday urged school systems across the state and elsewhere to quickly find a place for roughly 150,000 public school students displaced by Hurricane Katrina s devastation in the New Orleans area as officials said recovery efforts will consume months.

Administrators of various private schools around New Orleans, meanwhile, began mapping plans for alternate placements for their students, making Web site appeals for information about where families are temporarily living. Archdiocese of New Orleans school officials are discussing options for displaced families but haven t yet released details, a spokesman for the Diocese of Baton Rouge said.

It was not immediately clear how many parochial and private school students will need to seek new school placements. Picard said 23 percent of the region s public school students were severely affected by Katrina, noting that once flood waters recede it may be found that some schools no longer exist.

During an afternoon news conference called by Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other emergency-response officials, Picard said there is interest among families that evacuated to Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Monroe and Shreveport, among other places, in enrolling their children in those area s public schools, and urged them to take that step.

I implore you to get your children enrolled in a school district closest to you, as soon as possible, Picard said.

He said state education officials would try to try to ease paperwork, facility and transportation problems caused by the changes. He also urged other school systems to quickly hire teachers displaced by the storm damage, and said the state will let up in its demand for enforcement of certification standards.

We re going to work all these little details out, said Picard.

In an interview, Picard said he isn t calling for any lengthy delay in the school year. He said he would embrace plans by individual families to home-school their children if they are capable of doing so and registered properly with school officials.

Picard s remarks came as Texas education officials prepared to find places, as needed, for thousands of New Orleans students who are part of a large contingent of refugees to be relocated from a storm-damaged, sweltering Superdome to the Astrodome in Houston. Among other comments Wednesday on the school issue, East Baton Rouge Parish schools Superintendent Charlotte Placide urged families taking shelter in the area to furnish preliminary details to neighborhood public schools that they are interested in attending, so that a census of the demand can be prepared.

Federal education officials on Wednesday echoed Picard s position, saying they are worried that students in New Orleans and other hurricane-ravaged won t have access to their regular schools for months.

The important thing is to stabilize educational process for these children, said Deputy Secretary of Education Raymond Simon.

He said that districts should work cooperatively to help students displaced by the hurricane even if records must be sent to another state. That means districts should be flexible in applying teaching licensing requirements so, for instance, a teacher in New Orleans or in another Louisiana district can bet a school position in Texas or in another state accepting displaced students.

### Federal role

The unprecedented tragedy brought by Katrina will prompt federal officials to be flexible in granting waivers from federal regulations, Simon said.

You can be assured that the red tape will be put in the drawer, he said.

Federal education officials said they expect Congress, as part of an emergency supplemental spending bill covering hurricane relief costs, will tackle funding issues resulting from the disaster. For example, they must decide whether districts taking extra students will get extra per-capita financing that is generated based on enrollment, and whether districts losing students because of the hurricane should lose money.

Louisiana and Mississippi education officials already have told the U.S. Education Department they face unprecedented costs in repairing or replacing damaged buildings, and Picard said he hopes that the federal government will provide a major infusion of money for building needs.

The superintendent said federal emergency management money is available for 75 percent of the cost of adding portable buildings to serve displaced students, and that federal officials may be persuaded to waive the 25 percent local match.

Picard said state education officials can answer questions from families or teachers through his office s hot line, 1 (877) 453-2721. The hotline is answered between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays.

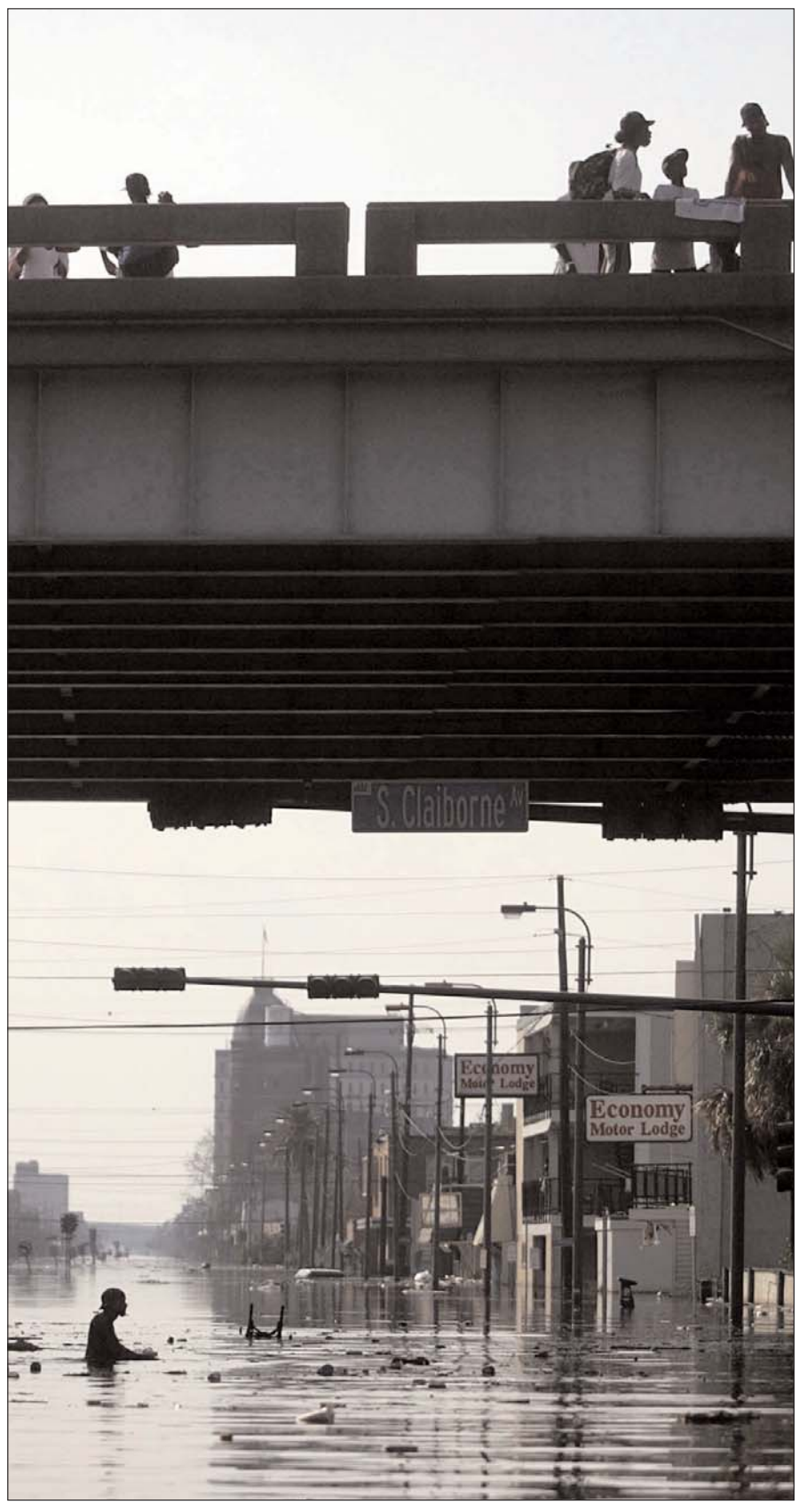
A message posted Wednesday on the Web site of Metairie Park Country Day School said local members of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest are gathering details through e-mail responses on temporary addresses and phone numbers of families that evacuated. We are exploring with other ISAS schools alternate placements for students We will have an update in 24 hours, but it will probably be early next week before plans are well developed, the Web site reported.

ISAS schools include Metairie Park Country Day, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Christ Episcopal, Louise S. McGehee, Isidore Newman, St. Andrew s Episcopal, St. George s Episcopal, St. Martin s Episcopal, St. Paul s Episcopal, Stuart Hall School for Boys and Trinity Episcopal.

Archbishop Alfred Hughes said that as he and fellow administrators of the New Orleans archdiocese, who are setting up a remote headquarters in Baton Rouge, are discussing storm impacts but don t yet have solid information about damage to schools. Decisions haven t been made about what to do about displaced students, he said.

Staff writers Bruce Alpert and Susan Finch contributed to this report.

## WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** A man wades across Tulane Avenue at South Claiborne Avenue, as refugees gather on the overpass overhead.

# Rumors of divine intervention swirl around statue

**By James Varney**
*Staff Writer*

In the garden behind St. Louis Cathedral on Royal Street lies an incredible tangle of zig-zagging broken tree trunks and branches, mixed with smashed wrought iron fences.

But right in the middle, a statue of Jesus is still standing, unscathed by the storm, save for the left thumb and index finger, which are missing.

The missing digits immediately set off speculation of divine intervention.

New Orleans has a long history praying to saints for guidance and protection in times of great peril. In fact it was Our Lady of Prompt Succor who was said to be responsible for saving the Ursulines Convent in the French Quarter from a raging fire that consumed the rest of the city centuries ago.

Since then, New Orleanians have prayed to the saint for protection from natural disasters. On Saturday, Archbishop Alfred Hughes read a prayer over the radio asking for Our Lady's intervention to spare the city a direct hit by Hurricane Katrina.

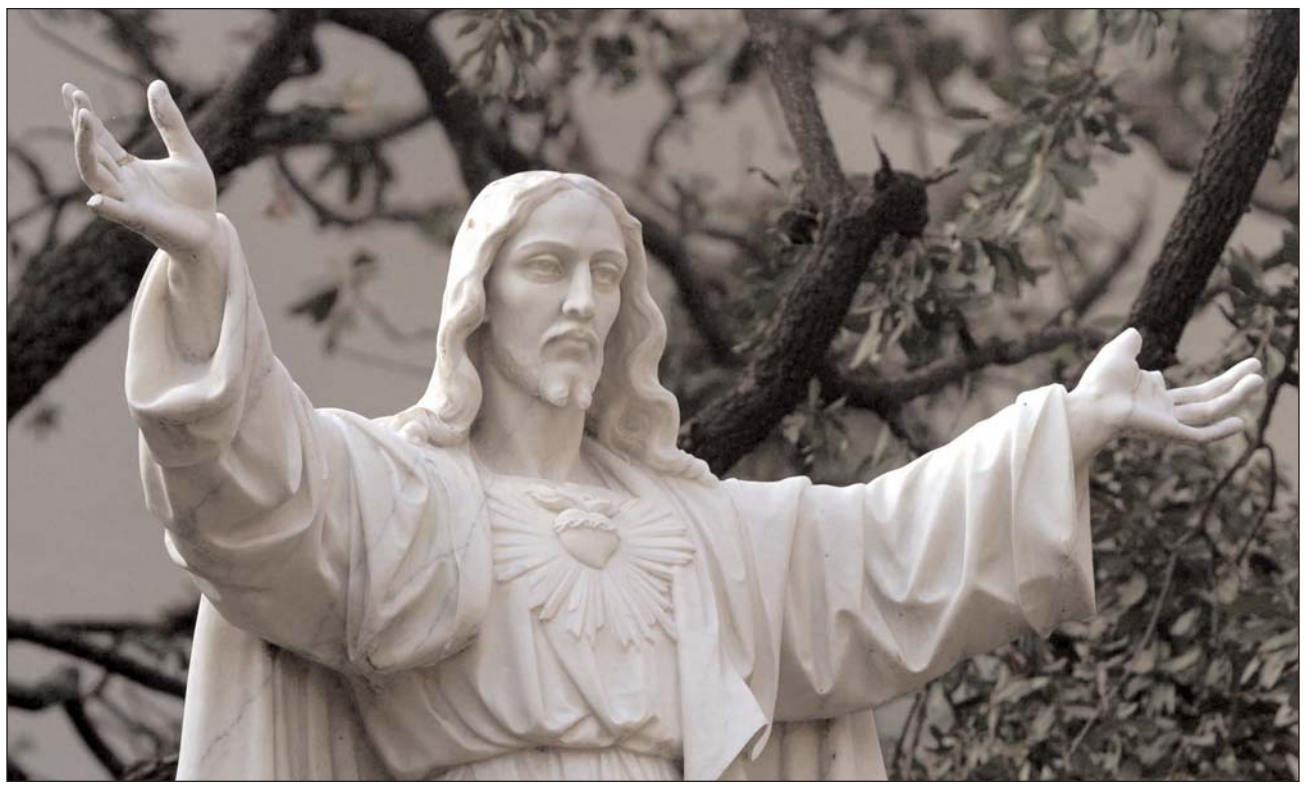
Many in the Quarter are now saying it was the hand of Jesus, the missing digits to be precise, that flicked the hurricane east just a little to keep the city from suffering a direct blow.

And the search is one for those missing fingers.

Shortly after Katrina passed, several men went to Robert Buras, who owns the Royal Street Grocery and told him they know who has the finger. Buras said he'd give them all the water and beer they need if they bring him the finger.

They told him they'd find it and asked to be paid upfront. But Buras told them he wouldn't take it on credit

"I'm going to find Jesus' finger,'' Buras said. "I've got a lead on it."



**FRENCH QUARTER:** The thumb and index finger of the statue of Jesus behind St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter were sheared off by the storm, but it remained a largely intact symbol of hope to residents of a battered city.
STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 'WILL NEW ORLEANS EVER BE THE SAME?'

## *Colossal reconstruction effort to cost tens of billions*

**By Bill Walsh**
**Katherine Lewis**
**and John McQuaid**
*Washington bureau*

WASHINGTON The floodwaters swamping New Orleans ultimately will recede, but Hurricane Katrina's destructive legacy is certain to be felt for years to come as the city contemplates rebuilding after one of the worst natural disasters in the nation's history.

Not only does the city face a massive reconstruction estimated to be in the tens of billions of dollars, but it must rebuild a tourist industry that is New Orleans' life blood and an economy that was stagnant even before the storm plunged 80 percent of the city under water.

"Will New Orleans ever be the same?" asked Bernard Weinstein, a professor of applied economics at the University of North Texas in Denton. "You're talking about a major city that has been made uninhabitable and large parts of it have been destroyed. What do you compare it to? Dresden? Berlin? Those cities came back but it took a long time. It took years and that was with a lot of American aid."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has left no doubt that the 287-year-old city beloved for its quirkiness and old-world charm plans a comeback. She vowed: "We will recover. We are a strong people."

That fortitude will be put to the test as soon as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers figures out how to get the water out.

One expert on rebuilding after disasters estimated it likely would take five years before the region attains a semblance of normalcy.

"All the past (major U.S.) disasters, they have hit suburban areas, not the central urban areas of major cities," said Mary Comerio, author of "Disaster Hits Home," a book on post-disaster reconstruction. "Here we have a significant hit on the entire urban area - not just the core, but everything. It is going to be an incredibly complex staging operation."

Comerio compared it to the 1995 earthquake that struck Kobe, Japan, killing 6,000 people and running up more than $150 billion reconstruction costs. More than 100,000 buildings were destroyed and 300,000 people were left homeless. Kobe took up to 10 years to rebuild, she said.

Although it's smaller than Kobe, New Orleans has a different set of problems. It is isolated, meaning that it will be hard to house people near their homes and jobs. That will lead to people leaving permanently, she said.

Housing will be a long-term problem - especially for New Orleans' sizable low-income population, which will find it harder to secure resources to rebuild. Apartments are always the last to be rebuilt, Comerio said, and low-income housing lags behind that. The result could be an explosion in the homeless population.

"In Japan people lived in temporary housing for eight years. They finally closed the last of the temporary housing sites before the 10th anniversary," she said.

In New Orleans, neighborhoods submerged to the rooftops may have to be rebuilt from the ground up. If floodwaters prove to be a polluted "toxic stew" that some fear, those areas could be rendered uninhabitable.

"The thing about water is, even if the frame of your house looks OK, corrosion and the smell could make it a total loss," said Larry Griffis, president of structural engineering at Walter P. Moore & Assoc., in Houston. "Sometimes, you just have to start all over again."

Fortunately, New Orleans has learned from its flood-prone past. Many homes are built on pilings sunk deep into the ground, protecting foundations from lasting water damage. Most of the office buildings in the city's financial center were built to withstand severe flooding.

An immediate challenge will be a shortage of contractors, some of who fled the city along with the rest of the population. If the experience in Florida is any judge, some residents may simply throw up their hands.

"It's amazing how many buildings we still have abandoned. Some of the strip malls are vacant," said Tony Palermo, a planner in Fort Myers, Fla., which was hit with four hurricanes last year. "Some people decided they didn't want the stress and moved back up north."

Once the city is dried out and infrastructure rebuilding begins, officials will have a better idea of the magnitude of the job ahead. Louisiana's importance as a national energy supplier and commercial hub will put pressure on a quick recovery for certain sectors.

Oil refineries could be up in a week, industry experts said, followed by the resumption of oil and gas drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, notwithstanding floating platforms swept away in Katrina's fury.

There will be similar pressure to restore New Orleans as a critical junction for the nation's commerce. The Port of South Louisiana is the busiest port in the nation and New Orleans' port ranks fifth. Commodities such as crude oil, rubber, metals, coffee and lumber come travel up the Mississippi River, while grains and petroleum products go out to the world.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**WALKING TO THE DOME:** Refugees wade through knee-deep water on Poydras Street on Wednesday as they make their way toward the Superdome, hoping to find shelter in the aftermath of Katrina.

The ports will be out of commission longer than oil and gas production, but eventually should return to pre-hurricane levels of economic activity, Weinstein said.

"Because of the railroads and the pipelines that converge in and around New Orleans, I can't believe they're going to suffer any long-term business loss," he said.

Tourism is another matter. Conventions often are arranged years in advance so many planners may decide in the coming years to skip New Orleans, which is among the top four U.S. convention destinations. A plunge in visitors would send a shudder through the local economy, hurting business such as restaurants, bars and the city's many tourist attractions.

One potentially bright spot is that the aesthetic heart of New Orleans, the French Quarter, may have escaped the severe damage seen in other parts of the city because of its elevation, a whole 3 feet above sea level. St. Charles Avenue, where in better times streetcars rumble beneath ancient oaks past stately mansions, also appears to have avoided the heaviest damage.

Still, the possibility of lasting damage to the city's historic buildings has preservationists, not to mention business leaders, worried.

When Kobe, Japan's reconstruction was finished, the city looked a lot different.

"The commercial stuff is rebuilt, but usually it's somebody else - it's not the same businesses that were there before," Comerio said. "And a lot of the housing in areas where it was rebuilt, it's a lot more gentrified, upscale than what was there previously. The low income population was pushed out."

For now, businesses are vowing to reopen even as they wait to see how bad the damage is. According to a statement, Pinnacle Entertainment intends to rebuild its Boomtown casino in suburban New Orleans and Casino Magic Biloxi. The Hyatt Regency New Orleans, whose blown-out windows and fluttering curtains became a lasting image of the hurricane's ferocity, is still sheltering guests, said Katie Meyer, spokeswoman for Global Hyatt Corp. in Chicago.

"We're absolutely committed to New Orleans, and our owners are too, but we have to assess the damage," Meyer said. "A lot of what happens looking in the future will depend on what happens with the infrastructure of the city."

A critical question for any rebuilding is whether business, bank and municipal records are salvageable, said Colleen Woodell, a managing director at the Standard & Poor's rating firm in New York. After the Sept. 11 attacks, firms housed in the World Trade Center struggled with the loss of payroll and other business records, if they didn't have backups at another location.

"Were the city's records lost?'' Woodell asked. ''It would make what's already a really horrible situation that much more horrible."

# Years of rebuilding expected to create national shortages

## *Historical character of N.O. to be altered*

**By Greg Thomas**
*Business writer*

Rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina will be a years-long process that will create nationwide shortages of building materials, keep builders across the country busy for years, and ultimately result in a wave of new construction that will change the face of New Orleans.

The massive effort - coming in the wake of what is being billed as the nation's largest natural disaster ever - will probably "change the historical architectural style" of many areas of the city, said G. Robert Fuller of the National Association of Home Builders Research Council. The 9th Ward, which includes some of the oldest homes in the nation, may have to be replaced almost entirely by new construction, Fuller said.

"We're talking many, many years after months to cleaning up," said Ken Ford, a program specialist for the National Association of Home Builders' disaster assistance program.

Some major projects currently under way in the metro area will probably be put on hold in the process, like the long-awaited fourth phase of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

That's because the top priority going forward, local authorities say, will be rebuilding New Orleans.

"My personal opinion is that we'll have to restore the city's infrastructure before Phase 4 work starts," said Derryl Cohoon, chief executive officer of the Louisiana Associated General Contractors.

But the reconstruction process will not be easy.

Ford said shortages of building materials will certainly occur. Major manufacturing operations of lumber companies such as Georgia Pacific were in Katrina's path along the Gulf Coast.

"It depends on any damage to those facilities," Ford said.

Compounding the problem will be the fact that the nation has been in the midst of a housing boom that has resulted in concrete shortages and rising steel prices, he said.

One thing that won't be a problem will be labor.

Most of the area's biggest contractors - including Barriere Construction Co., Boh Bros. Construction Co., Gootee Construction Inc. and Broadmoor Construction Inc. - are relocating operations to Baton Rouge in the wake of the storm.

"You name them, the big New Orleans companies are here, and we're being told it will be three weeks before we can get back into the New Orleans metro area," Cohoon said.

But he said those companies - as well as the association's 700 member companies across the state - will play a role in the rebuilding process.

Employees of these companies will be eager for work. Many of the construction workers, Cohoon said, lived in St. Bernard Parish and were out of work overnight.

"And we have sister associations from across the nation who are calling and telling us, 'When it's time to come, we can,' " he said.

But the building effort can't begin until the city is drained, security is restored, and a host of other issues are addressed.

"So much has to take place to stabilize the city before, my gut tells me, reconstruction can take place," Ford said.

One of the biggest issues will be to clearing and disposing of the debris Hurricane Katrina created.

"The quantity of the debris itself will be of such a magnitude that disposing of it becomes a major problem inhibiting rebuilding," Ford said.

For example, after Hurricane Andrew slammed into south Florida in 1992, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had to issue special permit waivers to allow the debris to be burned, with no landfills capable of handling the tons of material from destroyed homes, commercial buildings, utility pools, trees and foliage.

Another option may be loading railroad cars to haul the debris out of New Orleans to much larger and numerous out-of-state landfills.

And after the debris is removed, the area will have to be inspected for chemical and sewage contamination.

Local governments may be facing more permitting and inspections than they are prepared to handle. "I'm sure those departments aren't staffed to handle the magnitude of work they're going to face," Ford said.

And for damage involving commercial structures, legal issues may crop up.

In many cases, controversy may arise as to who is responsible for disaster coverage. In retail, for example, the issue may be whether the mall owner or the retail tenant is responsible, said Sean Milano, a Boston lawyer and member of the International Council of Shopping Centers.

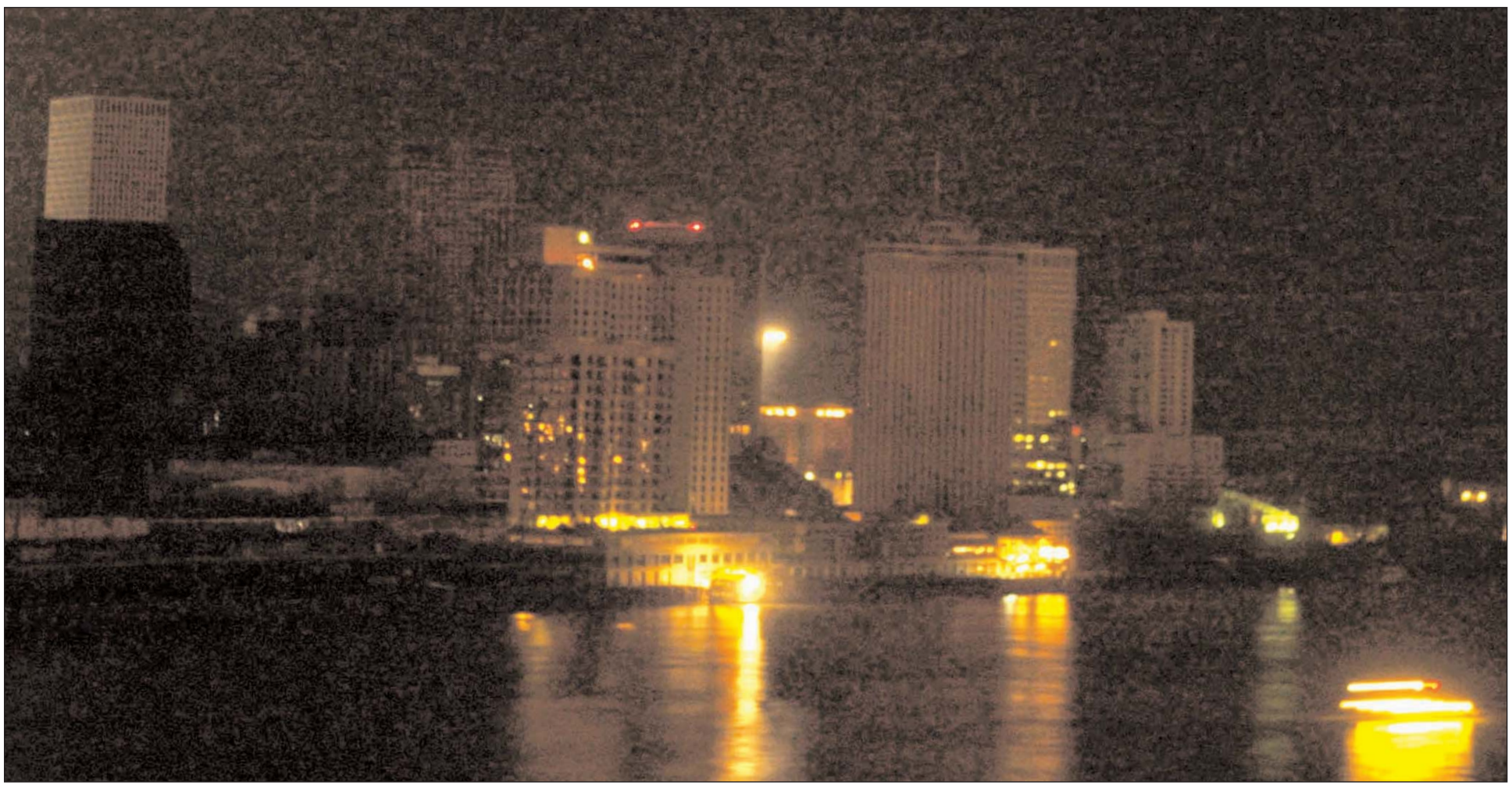
"Take sewage problems, per se. The sewage backs up into the tenant's space and destroys the tenant's goods," Marino said. "Is that the landlord's or insurer's responsibility or the tenants?"

In many instances, insurers for major retailers foot the bill for the repairs and then work out the problems through litigation.

All in all, the rebuilding effort will be a lengthy process, Fuller said. Following Hurricane Andrew, residents lived in temporary housing erected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for several years. That type of housing may become a common site in New Orleans.

# NOT ENOUGH POWER WORKERS TO FIX PROBLEMS

## *Utility crews still working on Florida*



**BLACKOUT IN THE CBD:** The Central Business District is bathed in darkness Wednesday night as New Orleans remains without power and immersed in water days after Hurricane Katrina swept through the metropolitan area and along the Gulf Coast in Mississippi and Alabama. In the New Orleans area, 990,000 utility customers remain without power.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**By KEITH DARCÉ**
*Business writer*

The 6,000 power line workers currently assembled in southeastern

Louisiana won't be nearly enough to restore power to the 990,000 utility customers who are still without electricity in metropolitan New

Orleans, the region's electricity suppliers said Wednesday.

But getting more workers to the area might be impossible until late this week because many utility crews from neighboring states are still restoring power to southern Florida, which was hit surprisingly hard by Katrina, said Chanel Lagarde, spokesman for Entergy Corp., the state's largest power supplier.

"There are severe limits on resources at this point," he said. "We are told that the utilities in Florida are expected to wrap up later this week. Many of those (workers) will come directly here or to the east" in coastal Mississippi and Alabama.

The atmosphere of near-anarchy in New Orleans is another major concern, said Arthur Wiese Jr., vice president of corporate communications for Entergy.

"We can't send workers out and put their lives in jeopardy," he said late Wednesday afternoon from one of the company's storm command centers in Jackson, Miss. "Once we have facilities back operating, we have to know that our workers can get to work safely.

"We are as alarmed as anyone over the chaos in the city. It is a very serious question," Wiese said.

### A month or more

Those problems further validated earlier predictions by Entergy managers that many people in the hardest-hit parts of the state could be without electricity for a month or more.

Flooding and road blockage from debris remained the most immediate barriers to repair crews moving into the most damaged parts of the region.

A main transmission line running 25 miles between Madisonville and Bogalusa suffered catastrophic damage, with at least 18 miles requiring repairs, said Mark Segura, vice president of transmission and distribution services for Pineville-based Cleco Corp.

Transmission lines connect power plants to community substations and supply electricity to large numbers of customers.

Even so, by Wednesday night Entergy had restored power to 181,829 customers in Louisiana and Mississippi, mostly in areas not affected by flooding, Wiese said. "We are making good progress where we can get access."

All of the region's power and telephone companies were struggling to restore services in the wake of KatrNearly every customer of New Orleans-based Entergy and Pineville-based Cleco in metropolitan New Orleans remained without power Wednesday night, for the second day since the storm ripped through the region.

Communication was another problem, for utility workers as well as everyone else in southeastern Louisiana. Telephone services, over both wired and wireless networks, remained sporadic and, in some cases in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes, completely dead.

Nearly 81,000 wired phone lines were dead in southeastern Louisiana, said BellSouth Corp., the state's largest phone service provider. And more phone lines were expected to fail as backup generators at communications terminals that survived the storm ran out of fuel.

### Doing all they can

BellSouth reported several key breaks in the company's fiber-optic line system, the backbone of its communications network.

Work crews focused on repairing major cables, firming backup power to switching centers and restoring phone service to emergency personnel, local officials and hospitals, the Atlanta-based company said in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

"We are doing everything possible to assess the extensive damage this destructive storm has caused," said Bill Oliver, president of BellSouth's Louisiana operations.

Call volume created its own problems in the parts of the network that were working. Many people trying to make calls to and from the region were met with busy signals or messages saying that circuits were busy.

Wireless phone networks experienced similar troubles.

Cingular Wireless lost at least 700 antennas, or cell sites, throughout the region, according to a company operator.

Verizon Wireless also lost portions of its network, but spokesman Patrick Kimball couldn't say how many towers were down in the region. "Strangely enough, some cell sites are still operating on rooftops," he said.

Wireless services were improving in Baton Rouge, Mobile, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla., where crews had easier access to damaged facilities, Kimball said. But damaged equipment in much of metropolitan New Orleans remained unreachable, he said.

"The situation could improve in certain cases and it could worsen in others. It's such a fluid situation, it's hard to tell," he said.

Most of the electricity and phone companies had storm operations centers outside the metropolitan area.

Managers with Entergy, which supplies electricity to 1.2 million customers in Louisiana, are orchestrating the historic power grid restoration effort from command centers in Baton Rouge and Jackson, Miss.

Nearly all of the company's employees who rode out the storm in the Hyatt Regency Hotel next to the Superdome in downtown New Orleans evacuated the city Tuesday when floodwaters continued rising in the Central Business District and other conditions in the city deteriorated. The hotel, which also served as the command center for city officials, suffered major damage during the storm.

### Historic proportions

Dan Packer, chief executive officer of Entergy's utility in New Orleans, remained at the hotel with Mayor Ray Nagin and a handful of city officials. At 5 p.m., 693,156 Entergy customers in southeastern Louisiana, or more than half of its customer base in the state, were in the dark. Some 21,636 more were without powWith 1.1 million Entergy customers losing electricity at the peak of the storm, the outage more than quadrupled the severity of the previous high outage event for the company, which came in June with Tropical Storm Cindy, Lagarde said.

All 88,000 Cleco customers in the parishes of St. Tammany and

Washington remained without power, Cleco spokeswoman Fran Phoenix said.

Contact Keith DarcØ at nolapaperboy@cox.net.

# Gulf Coast refineries lack electricity; some production restored

## *Storm cripples supply, pumps up gas prices*

**By BRAD FOSS**
*AP Business Writer*

Gasoline prices leaped nationwide Wednesday as key refineries and pipelines remained crippled by Hurricane Katrina, crimping supplies and leading to caps on the amount of fuel delivered to retailers.

To boost supplies, the U.S. government said it would loan oil to refiners facing shortfalls and relax environmental restrictions on the type of gasoline sold during summer. Crude futures prices fell but remained close to $69 a barrel.

Just how bad the situation becomes for motorists, who are facing pump prices in excess of $3 a gallon in a growing number of markets, depends on how quickly electricity can be restored to Gulf Coast pipelines and refineries, analysts said. Flooding may have left some important refinery equipment submerged and it will be days before a full damage assessment is completed, industry officials and analysts said.

Some rays of hope emerged Wednesday. The Colonial Pipeline Co. said it would restore partial service with help from diesel generators that will allow it to begin shipping gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel from Houston to markets up and down the East Coast. A Transportation Department spokesman said Wednesday the Plantation Pipe Line Co. would restore partial service on its East Coast lines Wednesday night as well and that both companies expected to be fully operational by late Thursday.

Similarly, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, through which 10 percent of all U.S. oil imports flow, said generators would enable it to gradually resume partial service.

"Every little bit is going to help," said oil analyst John Kilduff at Fimat USA in New York.

A significant amount of oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico remains shut and reports of banged-up platforms and missing rigs continued to trickle in as companies conducted aerial inspections of offshore facilities.

Onshore, wholesale gasoline suppliers have begun capping the amount of fuel they sell to retailers in certain markets to make sure retailers do not take delivery of more fuel than they actually need. Analysts said that while shortages have been reported in a small number of markets, they do not believe the problem is widespread and they cautioned motorists not to top off tanks out of fear.

With retail gasoline prices surging, BP PLC said in an e-mail to clients that it is making "pricing decisions with prudence and restraint in the wake of this natural disaster."

Light sweet crude for October delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 87 cents to settle at $68.94 a barrel, down from an overnight high of $70.65. On Tuesday, oil futures settled at $69.81, the highest closing price on Nymex since trading began in 1983, although still below the inflation-adjusted high of about $90 a barrel that was set in 1980.

October gasoline futures surged as high as $2.92 a gallon on Nymex and settled at $2.6145 per gallon, an increase of 14 cents. That is 35 percent higher than they were on Friday.

"There's too much uncertainty," said Kilduff said.

While the details were being worked out about how much oil would be loaned from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve _ and which refiners would receive it _ European nations began considering the release of their own government-controlled stockpiles of gasoline and heating oil, according to officials at the Paris-based International Energy Agency. The officials demanded anonymity because the consultations were confidential.

"We're the highest (wholesale) price market in the world right now," said Lawrence J. Goldstein, president of the New York-based nonprofit Petroleum Industry Research Foundation. "We're going to attract a lot of supply here."

In another attempt to ease the crunch on motor fuel supplies, the Environmental Protection Agency said it would temporarily allow retailers nationwide to sell gasoline and diesel that does not meet stringent summer air-quality standards.

Even before Katrina plowed through the Gulf Coast, oil producers and refiners had been struggling to meet rising demand around the globe, particularly in the U.S. and China. Energy markets have been on edge for about two years because the amount of excess oil production capacity worldwide is only about 1.5 million barrels a day, or less than 2 percent of demand.

"The hurricane has made a bad situation worse," said oil analyst Fadel Gheit at Oppenheimer & Co. in New York.

Eight Gulf refineries remain out of service, and will be for days if not weeks, according to analysts, though most of their owners have not yet publicly announced the extent of any damage.

It could take a week to 10 days before refineries and pipelines will be able to draw power from the grid, John Zamanek, vice president of Entergy Corp. told CNBC.

The hobbling of a pipeline that carries crude oil from the Gulf of Mexico to the Midwest has increased the need for Canadian imports, industry officials said. And the shutdown of pipelines that carry various fuels to markets on the East Coast means that more gasoline and diesel will have to be shipped by barge and by truck, according to John Eichberger, director of motor fuels at the National Association of Convenience Stores.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service said Wednesday that 91 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's oil output was out of service, with more than 6 million barrels of production lost since Friday. The agency said 83 percent of natural gas output was shut down, resulting in a loss of 34.2 billion cubic feet of lost production since Friday.

While the loss of oil is significant, Energyintel analyst Tom Wallin said Katrina would likely have a more serious impact on the nation's supply of natural gas.

"Crude oil production could be replaced by a release of barrels from the U.S. strategic reserve," he said. "There is no such safety valve for natural gas."

Natural gas futures fell 35.9 cents to $11.30 per 1,000 cubic feet on Nymex. That is almost double the price from a year ago.

Heating oil futures slipped 2.29 cents to $2.053 per gallon.




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**BATON ROUGE:** Trauma teams tend to patients at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on Louisiana State University's campus. The injured and sick continued to file into Baton Rouge from New Orleans on Wednesday.

# Ailing refugees find care at LSU arena

*Path to Baton Rouge harrowing for many*

**By Ron Thibodeaux**
*Staff writer*

BATON ROUGE Diabetic Darrell Johnson hadn t had an insulin injection in three days. Gail Holmes was staggered by her high blood pressure, and her infant grandson was badly dehydrated. Sheila Morris battled collapsed veins.

They had been rescued in dramatic fashion from different parts of New Orleans, and they were in a bad way.

For hundreds like them, the dangers and discomforts inflicted by Hurricane Katrina s rampage began to subside Wednesday at Louisiana State University, as volunteer doctors and nurses converged to treat refugees with acute medical needs at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

Throughout the day, helicopters and ambulances ferried ailing, storm-weary evacuees onto the campus. Medical teams scurried to triage them there before dispatching them yet again to hospitals or shelters, depending on the severity of their conditions.

Johnson, 55, and his wife Pearl, 53, reclined side-by-side on makeshift beds on the arena floor at midday, sharing small talk and a plate lunch of sausage jambalaya and corn in air-conditioned comfort. After a harrowing escape from the ravages of hurricane floodwaters, followed by two days of isolation and exposure before a helicopter finally plucked them off an elevated highway, a hot meal in air-conditioned comfort was just one more surreal experience in a week of surreal experiences.

After three days without his insulin, Johnson s blood sugar was three times as high as normal, and medical personnel were quick to attend to him. He and his wife were just as quick to recount the ordeal that preceded their rescue.

### 'So miserable'

They abandoned their house on St. Denis Street when the water got waist-deep inside, then gathered with others from the neighborhood on the third floor of the St. Bernard housing project. As the water continued rising to dangerous levels, they flagged down someone in a boat to take them to Interstate 610. Although high and dry, they were stuck there for two days before a helicopter picked them up and took them to Metairie. From there, an ambulance brought them to Baton Rouge.

It was miserable, miserable, so miserable out there, Pearl Johnson said, recounting the ordeal that preceded their rescue. It took so long for them to come see about you.

But, we re here, her husband was quick to add. At least we made it here.

Holmes was bused to LSU after waiting out the storm on I-10 near the Superdome, with her 6-month-old grandson, Jahim Harris. He lay listless on a hospital bed Wednesday as she sat stoically at his side, utterly exhausted, thinking about the husband, son, daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren from whom they had gotten separated during the emergency.

I can t sleep until I find the rest of my family, she said softly.

### 36 hours on 1-10

Outside, Morris sat with two daughters and five grandchildren as she awaited processing into the PMAC. They had spent 1 ‰ days on the elevated I-10 near Claiborne Avenue, in the midst of hundreds, maybe a thousand other storm victims. When they could sleep, they slept on the concrete roadway. There were no bathroom facilities. Their water ran out long before they were rescued.

Morris summed up the experience: It s sad out there.

Patients entered through the northeast corridor in wheelchairs, on gurneys or on foot, passing under the purple-and-gold sign proclaiming the Assembly Center s longtime nickname, DEAF DOME, a tribute to the rowdy, noisy crowds there that have cheered the exploits of Shaquille O Neal, Chris Jackson, Simone Augustus and other LSU basketball greats over the years.

But Wednesday, the Deaf Dome was oasis of care in soothing, hushed tones, the calm after the storm.

Doctors and nurses were joined in the triage center by social workers, mental health professionals and clergymen.

The Rev. Keith Crider of Ascension Baptist Church in Gonzales was struck by the suffering he found as he made his rounds.

It s shattering, he said. These are sick people.

But most of all, he added, They re thankful to be here.

# Hotels offer refuge amid turmoil

*Good food, carpools provided*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
*Business writer*

After Gov. Kathleen Blanco ordered all remaining inhabitants of New Orleans to leave Tuesday, tourists stranded at downtown hotels hastily arranged carpools and taxis or even hitchhiked across the Crescent City Connection to escape the floodwater spreading down Canal Street.

After coming to town for exceedingly normal things such as a wedding, a business meeting, a museum opening or a rendezvous with friends, these tourists found themselves in Hurricane Katrina s path, and spent days in hotels with dim emergency lighting and no air conditioning.

But all those questioned said that workers at their hotels knocked themselves out to make sure everyone got out safely

Hotel security drove us out in their own cars, said Gerald Reagan, who had been celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife at the New Orleans Marriott and was trying to fly home to Columbus, Ohio, from Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. There was a small caravan of tourists.

On Monday, during the storm, the Reagans stayed in their hotel room until about 6 a.m., when the hotel staff asked them to move to a ballroom so they would be away from the windows.

Florida resident Tom O Brien got stuck at the Sheraton New Orleans while he was in town for the opening of the Odyssey s Shipwreck and Treasure Adventure, an exhibit about the S.S. Republic, a Civil War-era ship that sank in a hurricane while sailing to New Orleans.

At the Sheraton, O Brien gave a man with a car a couple hundred bucks to take him and his son to the Baton Rouge airport. Another group at the Sheraton with O Brien for the Odyssey opening paid a taxi $500 to take all seven of them to the Baton Rouge airport.

We saw people walking over the bridge, O Brien said, speaking of the Crescent City Connection. When the O Briens left Wednesday morning, they said the water was still about 200 yards up Canal Street from the Sheraton.

At the Sheraton, the roof above the eighth-floor administrative offices was peeled off. We could look down at all the computers, said O Brien, who stayed on the 19th floor.

Debbie and Raymond Zeringue had been visiting New Orleans from Tampa, Fla., for a wedding on Saturday, and got stuck at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside when their flight home on Sunday was canceled.

While some guests in the hotel chose to stay in ballrooms during the hurricane, the Zeringues stayed in their room until the wind blew out a bridge between two of the hotel s towers. They had to walk down to the base of the tower they were staying in and through six inches of water in the kitchen to get to the main section of the hotel.

Despite the inconveniences, the Zeringues had nothing but raves for the city s largest hotel, which often houses as many as 5,000 people during hurricanes to spare them from having to evacuate.

They got three meals a day even though the hotel was short-staffed, and ate food purchased for a convention that canceled.

At the Hilton, on a scale of one to 100, they re 1,000, Debbie Zeringue said.

When Blanco ordered everyone out of the city, hotel staff went door to door and asked them to leave. The Zeringues still had their rental car from the wedding, but others weren t so lucky. They re hitching rides, Debbie Zeringue said.

Carol and Robert Allred of High Point, N.C., flew into New Orleans on Friday to meet friends from Italy at the Windsor Court. The friends never made it because of the storm, but the Allreds said the Windsor Court staff kept them comfortable at the hotel. The staff was incredible, Robert Allred said.

They were losing their homes and they had smiles on their faces, Carol Allred added.

During the storm, the Windsor Court was hit by windows that were flying off of the nearby Doubletree and W hotels, but the Allreds window didn t break.

When it became clear that everyone needed to leave, the hotel began making lists of people with cars and where they were going and tried to coordinate rides for those without. The Allreds left Wednesday morning in a caravan of cars that dropped them off at the Baton Rouge airport.

We would see people walking down Canal Street pulling their luggage, Carol Allred said.

# They beg, plead, put their names on lists

*But there're still no rooms to be had in Baton Rouge*

**By William Kalec and Jim Kleinpeter**
*Staff writers*

Some begged knees resting on cold tile, fingers interlocked for rooms with no lights, no air conditioning, nothing but a roof and a stained concrete floor.

When they finally reached the front desk at Southgate Towers, evacuees of Hurricane Katrina shared stories of loss and destruction, hoping that the severity of their own accounts would somehow create a vacancy. But the four-building complex already had a waiting list of more than 200 people, each scribbled name with an equally distressing tale.

There are just so many people that we can t help, said Melissa Breland, regional property director of Southgate Towers said. There are people who need permanent housing, and I don t know where they are going to find it. But you still see faces. And you have to tell them: We just don t have room.

Wednesday at 2 p.m., the newly opened apartment-condominium complex on Nicholson Drive, about 500 yards from LSU s athletic facilities that were transformed into relief shelters and medical work areas this week, had no occupancies after deciding to house several FEMA agents and a few refugees.

Typically, we re not set up to do nightly rentals, credit card payments; in many cases we have contracts that tenants need to sign, said Sandra Avery, director of real estate at Southgate. The government wanted a nightly contract that doesn t require a notice to vacate, and that type of thing.

We said, You know, it s a national emergency. Forget about the contracts. Forget about everything. Ya ll come. Stay the number of nights you need to stay, and we ll settle up with you when it is all done.

With the influx of FEMA, medical specialists and evacuees to Baton Rouge, most hotels and apartments in the area are booked, forcing those seeking shelter to venture farther west.

There are no hotel rooms available, or apartments, said Paul Arrigo, director of the Baton Rouge Visitors and Convention Bureau. Best bet is www.visitdallas.com.

That s Dallas, as in Dallas, Texas.

Best Western employees are telling everyone trying to find rooms or shelter to call the American Red Cross hotline, 1 (866) GET-INFO.

Southgate officials organized ration kits for its temporary residents, which included buying 120 air mattresses, several hundred sheets, shower curtains, towels and other toiletries. Avery and Breland said other R.W. Day properties, the company that owns Southgate Towers, are providing similar services but not on such a grand scale because those buildings were older and had higher occupancy rates.

Whatever we had left in the portfolio, we ve now secured for FEMA, Avery said. In some cases, they are bunking up six or seven people in a room, just to get everybody in.

Some of the rooms in Southgate have full or partial electricity thanks to the complex s generator system that has kept hallway and parking garage lights on when the power went out.

Breland occupies one of those fully functioning rooms. To provide minimal electricity to her floor, several wires were running from her propped-open front door last night.

Oh, if you go back to your room and see a bunch of towels in your washer, Avery said to her co-worker, that s us. You re one of the few with a washer.

Both women laughed, midway through a seemingly never-ending day.

There have been many tears, Breland said. I don t have a house or know anybody in New Orleans, but it s been a physical and emotion drain. Hearing the stories and seeing the desperation is just heart-wrenching.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Houston readies Astrodome for evacuees

## *Mental, physical health a concern*

**By Josh Peter and Tara Young**
*Staff writers*

HOUSTON A crew of about 1,000 people worked Wednesday to prepare the Astrodome for thousands of evacuees scheduled to start arriving today from New Orleans.

Food, cots and medical services will be ready, said Artee Jones, a spokeswoman for Houston TranStar, an agency serving as a command center. The indoor stadium is being transformed into a temporary shelter for up to 23,000 people.

The evacuees, many of whom have endured sweltering conditions in the Superdome since the building lost power Monday, were expected to begin arriving by bus early today, Jones said.

The relocation effort, being led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross, represents one of the largest emergency responses in history. With no historical points of reference, officials will learn through trial and error, said Margaret O Brien-Molina, Red Cross spokeswoman for the Southwest service area.

I guess what I keep trying to get people to understand is the enormity of the situation, said O Brien-Molina, adding more trained volunteers are needed. This is a global event.

Law enforcement officials also will be involved to ensure the safety of the evacuees.

The goal, O Brien-Molina said, is to make life as normal for the evacuees as possible over the next several weeks. Many of them have never been to Houston, and many will be unaware of the level of devastation, she said.

They don t know what s going on right now, O Brien-Molina said. We are trying to create for them basically a big, safe space. A lot of it is going to be simply reassuring people that things are going to be OK. We are going to try to cushion the blow as they come in.

Along with showers, beds and food, a day care center and counseling services will be available. Local officials are worried about the mental and physical health of thousands who endured sweltering conditions in the Superdome and spent the past few days with no air conditioning and little food and water.

There is a concern about the condition of the people coming from the Superdome, understanding they have been in the same clothes for days now, said Gloria Roemer, a spokesman for Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, who runs the county that owns the Astrodome. We are concerned that they are going to be in emotional and mental anguish because they don t know where their families are.

Religious leaders also have offered their services as part of an outpouring of support from Houston residents. Phone calls from those wanting to volunteer and contribute to the effort have flooded the Harris County office, Roemer said.

Officials are even discussing the idea of holding free concerts in the parking lot outside the Astrodome and providing free admission to college football games scheduled to be played over the next two weeks at Reliant Park Stadium that sits adjacent to the Astrodome.

So that emotional, human level is very present in all of these operations, Roemer said. But then again, you re talking about talking about people who have been enclosed and mentally distraught, so you don t know. You don t know until they get here what their state of mind will be. But the response from the community has been overwhelming.

The Astrodome will serve only as a temporary shelter, Jones said. Local officials say they re hearing the Louisiana evacuees could need places for up to 16 weeks, and eventually they will be dispersed to smaller facilities better suited for long-term shelter.

Shea Guinn, president and general manager for SMG/Reliant Park, who has cleared the Astrodome s schedule through December, said he was confident the facility would be able to accommodate the needs of the evacuees. But the facility would open only to those coming from the Superdome.

Throughout the day Wednesday, weary New Orleans area residents who fled before the storm were turned away at the gate leading to the Astrodome.

Warren Gabriel, 27, of eastern New Orleans, was among them. He came to the Astrodome Wednesday hoping officials would make anexception for him and his family.

Gabriel, who was in tears, said he and eight others had been driving around looking for shelter for days, living out of a Nissan Maxima, he said. The Astrodome was his last resort, Gabriel said.

I don t have no money, said Gabriel, in tears, after five shelters turned him away. Our homes are destroyed. We know we don t have anything to go back to. You can t relax right now. New Orleans is a lake.

This city is lost, said Gabriel, whose mother escaped to the Superdome before the storm. We lost. Everybody s lost. All we have is each other, but we can t get together at the Astrodome.

The Astrodome, built in 1965, was known as the world s Eighth Wonder when it opened because it was the first ball park with a roof. It served as home to the now-defunct Houston Oilers of the National Football League through the 1996 season and home to the Houston Astros of Major League Baseball until 1999.

Both of the city s professional football and baseball team have moved to new facilities, and the Astrodome has been used for events such as the annual, six-week rodeo.

The Astrodome is very much a stable facility, Roemer said. It has working (air conditioning), running water, locker rooms with showers and, needless to say, hundreds of toilets that work.

Jones said many people who call Houston home have some sort of link to Louisiana. We are looking at this in many ways as family helping family, she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**AIRLINE DRIVE:** Michael Dow of Metairie is all smiles after getting water and MREs at the Sam's Club on Airline Drive in Metairie. The essentials were brought from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, trucked in by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe Wild Land Firefighters from El Rono, Okla.

# U.S., private groups embark on massive relief effort

## *Bush says recovery will take years*

**By Bruce Alpert**
*Washington bureau*

WASHINGTON The federal government and private relief organizations are promising an unprecedented effort to help victims of Hurricane Katrina recover from what the White House says could well be the worst natural disaster in our nation s history.

The Navy is sending five ships, including a hospital boat, along with eight maritime rescue teams. The Department of Homeland Security said 1,700 trucks have been dispatched to the affected communities with tons of water, ice, food, medical supplies, generators, tents and tarpaulins.

This is our tsunami, said Paul Maniscalco, a disaster response expert at George Washington University. We re in uncharted territory. We ve never had to deal with something encompassing so much destruction over such a large area with such large population centers. He said the effort would require just about every agency in the federal government, tens of thousands of private volunteers and trillions of dollars.

Red Cross spokeswoman Devorah Goldburg said the agency has opened 230 shelters in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, serving about 46,000 evacuees, and was preparing to provide food, drinks and counseling to the thousands of people being relocated from the Superdome to the Houston Astrodome.

The response for contributions has been overwhelming, with 100,000 calls to the organization s toll-free donation number, 1 (800) HELP-NOW, the most ever for a single day, Goldburg said.

President Bush, who got a firsthand look Wednesday at the destruction as Air Force One flew over New Orleans and other hurricane-ravaged communities in Louisiana and Mississippi, said the recovery effort will take years.

He offered some words of hope for hurricane victims, who in many instances lost their homes, possessions and jobs simultaneously.

I m confident that with time you ll get your life back in order, new communities will flourish, the great city of New Orleans will get back on its feet and America will be a stronger place for it, he said.

Mike McClellan, Bush s spokesman, said it was very sobering for the president and his staff to look down at the widespread destruction in New Orleans. I think it s becoming clear to everyone that this could well be the worst natural disaster in our nation s history, McClellan said.

The disaster may have produced more than 1 million newly homeless Americans.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said he s satisfied with the federal response to the hurricane, although it might not be as fast as some hard-pressed hurricane victims would like.

We just have horrible conditions to deal with, Vitter said. For instance, every land route into (New Orleans) except one is flooded and obviously we are using air assets, but it is tough. They are moving things into the city diesel fuel, water, ice, food, etc. as fast as they can.

The disaster marked the first time that the White House has declared such an event to be an incident of national significance. That designation enables the Department of Homeland Security to pull together usually independent federal agencies for a unified response to the disaster.

Michael Chertoff, the Homeland Security secretary who appeared at a news conference that brought together top officials with seven federal agencies, said residents in New Orleans and other affected communities can expect a full range of federal resources. Among them, he said, are generators to help restore power to key facilities, supplies like food, ice and water, help repairing roadways and bridges, along with help caring for those injured or made sick by the storm. The help includes a Navy medical ship now sailing from Baltimore to the Gulf Coast and mental health professionals ready to offer counseling to displaced hurricane victims.

He promised the recovery effort won t last for just a few days, or even a few months, but for years. Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La, and Vitter, said they expected a generous supplemental spending bill to be ready when Congress returns from a summer recess next week.

But there are all sorts of challenges, federal officials said.

Michael Leavitt, secretary of Health and Human Services, said he had declared a public health emergency in communities stretching from Louisiana to Florida.

We are gravely concerned about the potential for cholera, typhoid and dehydrating diseases that could come as a result of the stagnant water and the conditions, he said.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, which provides volunteers for water safety and rescue efforts, said its members have had a hard time responding to the calls for help.

There is no gasoline, communications are limited at best, no place to bed and feed our members and a lack of sanitation, said Jim Vass of the Eighth Coast Guard Auxiliary District, which covers southern coastal states. Auxiliarists will need to be patient until the federal agencies at the scene are able to provide the necessary logistics to the rescuers before more people arrive on the scene.

Myles Fish, president and CEO of International Aid, a Christian relief organization, said he traveled through the most ravaged sections of Indonesia after last year s tsunami and the devastation in New Orleans is comparable. He said that in many ways the relief efforts will be similar, because while many of the rural sections devastated by the tsunami lacked infrastructure, like well equipped hospitals, now unfortunately, because of all the destruction, you can say the same thing about New Orleans.

We got to start all over to rebuild that city, Fish said.

# Refugees tell of harrowing escapes

## *Fleeing to shelters is tricky business*

**By Laura Maggi**
*Capital Bureau*

GONZALES Like many refugees who ended up in this shelter an hour outside of New Orleans, Alonza Moore got out of the city a day after Hurricane Katrina using his ingenuity and more than a little luck.

Trapped alone in the attic of his eastern New Orleans home since early Monday morning, Moore decided the next dawn to brave the waters at that point up above his waist and try to escape on foot. His goal: Get to the Superdome.

But as he tramped toward downtown, the Superdome seemed impossibly far away. Water was everywhere, Moore said, tearing up as he recalled walking by what appeared to be a family that died trapped in their car. Seeing looters breaking into stores along Chef Menteur Highway, Moore said he tried to keep his head down and just kept walking.

Ididn t think I was going to make it, said Moore, who goes by the nickname Sweet. But after hours of walking he caught a remarkable break in Gentilly: A former co-worker who also was embarking on a last-minute exit from the city drove by in a van. I heard somebody holler, Sweet, said Moore, hugging Norman Gallo Sr., who had also decided on Tuesday morning to try to drive out of the city with his wife and son as floodwaters began to engulf his Gentilly home.

With Gallo s 17-year-old son walking through flooded areas to test the water s depth, they eventually made it onto the Crescent City Connection and headed out, eventually finding refuge in this town outside of Baton Rouge.

**Federal officials could not say how long they will have to stay in the shelters, which have air-conditioning, food, bedding and other basic amenities, but lack any extras.**

Many of the last-minute escapees from the drenched city recounted similar if less harrowing journeys, getting out as more of New Orleans became deluged with water and looting made the city seem less safe. They ended up at a last-minute shelter established at the Lamar Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, which volunteers said filled up just a couple hours after opening Tuesday afternoon.

About 40,000 refugees from the metropolitan New Orleans area have ended up at 120 shelters, officials reported Wednesday. Federal officials could not say how long they will have to stay in the shelters, which have air-conditioning, food, bedding and other basic amenities, but lack any extras.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency remains focused on trying to find people who remain trapped by the floods in their attics or rooftops, said Nicole Andrews, a spokeswoman for the agency. The next stage will be ensuring that basic necessities, such as water, ice and military meals-ready-to-eat, are available to those who need them.

After these things are taken care, of the agency will begin to figure out how to set people up in temporary housing, Everything is on the table in terms of what length we will go to get the people out of the immediate-need shelters and into temporary housing, Andrews said.

At the Lamar Dixon center, which one volunteer said has a maximum capacity of 1,200 people, evacuees were camped out on blankets and air mattresses, chatting or trying to sleep amid the low-level buzz, children bouncing balls and playing with toy cars, as well as sporadic loudspeaker announcements.

Those interviewed described the shelter as a welcome haven, with helpful volunteers and a pleasant vibe among the refugees. But at one point Wednesday afternoon volunteer coordinator Dhana Johnson took the microphone to tell people that reports of stolen clothes and personal items would be taken seriously, with the authorities brought in to investigate. Johnson later said the thefts were so far only a mild problem, but she wanted to make sure people understood they would not be tolerated.

Laney Moses, who waited out the storm with friends at the Hilton Hotel, said she tries to be optimistic, despite the anxious feelings she can t shake. As with many people who fled the storm, she hasn t been able to get in touch with any of her family members, including her husband. Moses said that although her husband might have tried to stay at their Read Boulevard apartment in eastern New Orleans, one of the areas with extensive flooding, she said he was very safety-conscious.

I ve prayed. I have a lot of faith, said Moses, who wiped away tears as she talked about the lives that would need to be rebuilt and the difficulties of finding loved ones.

Several evacuees said they are just beginning to think of the coming struggles: picking up the pieces of destroyed homes, finding other places to stay and trying to get back to work.

What is there to go back to? asked Moore, who was heading up to Shreveport with his wife, who had decamped over the weekend and drove back from north Louisiana to fetch her husband. Moore had been able to get a text message to his wife on his drive out of New Orleans.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**METAIRIE:** Sister Silvia Gurrusquieta, left, uses a prayer card to fan Sister Margarita Rivera while they wait on Interstate 10 near Causeway Boulevard. They were two of several nuns with the Sisters of Mary who were rescued by boat from their Perlita Street convent. They were accompanied by five people who they took in during the storm.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**NEW ORLEANS:** A Louisiana National Guard truck full of refugees comes off the Crescent City Connection and heads toward drier ground on the West Bank.

# Without work, money runs out for evacuees

## *New Orleanians gather at Port Arthur hotel*

**By Jaquetta White**
*Business writer*

Some New Orleanians who evacuated to Port Arthur, Texas, are already feeling the financial strain of living in a hotel.

Carmen Miranda of Metairie packed up her extended family of nearly 15 people and checked out of the Southwinds Motel on Wednesday. The family headed to a church shelter because they could no longer afford hotel rooms; especially after not working since Hurricane Katrina struck the metro New Orleans area early Monday.

We didn t even get paid at our jobs, said Miranda, who works at a day-care center. My aunt and my sister, they re ready to look for jobs here.

Miranda is just one of a number of New Orleans refugees at the motel who have resigned themselves to the fact that they may be living there for some time. Many are considering finding jobs in the Texas community so that they can replenish dwindling food supplies and pay their hotel bills.

Everybody is trying to get a plan at this point, said Jennifer Lucineo, a resident of eastern New Orleans who is staying at the hotel. Right now, we re trying to find out what options are available.

Lucineo has petitioned restaurants in Port Arthur to provide complimentary meals to the evacuees. KFC has responded by bringing food to area hotels.

Lucineo s sister, Solome Lucineo-Boyd, plans to apply for a job at a nearby Wal-Mart.

We need the help, Lucieno-Boyd said. If that message can get out we d be happy.

Chad Leblanc said he plans to stay in Port Arthur with his wife and children for a few more days before they make their way to Baton Rouge, where he has lined up temporary work.

The unknown is the worst of all, said Leblanc s wife, Courtney, who is worried about a relative who refused to evacuate. It s hard to say what you re going to do from here because you don t know where you re going to have to start from. You don t know if you re going to have to start from scratch.

Most evacuees were worried about their homes and their friends and family who fled the city as the storm approached.

All we hear about is New Orleans and Slidell, but nothing at all about the West Bank, said Tyrone Boudreaux of Harvey. Our biggest problem is we hear people saying stay away, stay away but we want to know what happened to our home.

Although adult evacuees are in a somewhat panicked state, children, for the most part, seem to consider their displacement an extended vacation. The pool at Southwinds Motel is always filled with children splashing around, but that s not to say they don t know what s going on.

In between yells of Daddy, watch me dive, Caitlyn, Leblanc s 10-year-old daughter, said that besides her more serious worries about the safety of her family and friends, she was concerned about the likelihood that her school year will be extended.

I don t want that to happen, she said. I don t want to go to school in the summer.

# Swollen feet impede diabetic s evacuation

## *As city drowns in chaos,death gets little notice*

**By Keith Spera**
*Staff writer*

At 91, Booker Harris ended his days propped on a lawn chair, covered by a yellow quilt and abandoned, dead, in front of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Mr. Harris died in the back of a Ryder panel truck Wednesday afternoon, as he and his 93-year-old wife, Allie, were evacuated from eastern New

Orleans. The truck's driver deposited Mrs. Harris and her husband's body on the Convention Center Boulevard neutral ground.

And there it remained.

With 3,000 or more evacuees stranded at the Convention Center - and with no apparent plan to deal with them - collecting a body was no one's priority. It was just another casualty in Hurricane Katrina's wake.

A steady stream of often angry or despondent people, many from the flooded Central City neighborhood, trickled first toward Lee Circle and then to the Convention Center, hoping to be saved from increasingly desperate straits.

Food, water and options had dwindled across Uptown and Central City, where looters seemed to rage almost at will, clearing out boutique clothing shops and drugstores alike. Hospitals no longer would accept emergencies, as staffers prepared to evacuate with patients.

**"I lived in Los Angeles during the Rodney King riots. That was a piece of cake compared to this."**
KEN ELDER, custodian at Christ Cathedral, St. Charles Avenue

"If you get shot," said a security guard at Touro Infirmary, "you've got to go somewhere else."

As a blazing sun and stifling humidity took their toll, 65-year-old

Faye Taplin rested alone on the steps of the Christ Cathedral in the 2900 block of St. Charles Avenue. Rising water had finally chased her from her Central City home. She clutched two plastic bags containing bedding, a little food and water and insulin to treat her diabetes.

She needed help but was unsure where to find it. She wanted to walk more than 15 blocks to a rumored evacuation pickup point beneath the

Pontchartrain Expressway, but she doubted that was possible.

"I'm tired," she said. "My feet have swollen up on me. I can't walk that far."

The church custodian, Ken Elder, hoped to free his car from the parking lot behind the church as soon as the water went down.

He rode out Katrina on the Episcopal church's altar steps and was well stocked with food. But he feared the marauding looters who roamed St. Charles Avenue after dark.

"I lived in Los Angeles during the Rodney King riots," Elder said.

"That was a piece of cake compared to this."

Clara Wallace pushed her brother in a wheelchair down St. Charles from Fourth Street to the Pontchartrain Expressway. Suffering from diabetes and the aftereffects of a stroke, he wore only a hospital robe and endured part of the journey through standing water.

"Nobody has a bathroom he can use," Wallace, 59, said of her brother.

"Nobody would even stop to tell us if we were at the right place. What are we supposed to do?"

A man in a passing pickup truck from the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries finally directed Wallace and the 50 other evacuees under the overpass to the convention center.

But they would find little relief there.

New evacuees were being dropped off after being pulled from inundated eastern New Orleans and Carrollton, pooling with those who arrived on foot. Some had been at the convention center since Tuesday morning but had received no food, water or instructions. They waited both inside and outside the cavernous building.

The influx overwhelmed the few staffers and Louisiana National

With so much need and so few resources, the weakest and frailest were bound to suffer the most. Seated next to her husband's body on the neutral ground beneath the St. Joseph Street sign, Allie Harris munched on crackers, seemingly unaware of the tragedy unfolding around her.

Eventually, guardsmen loaded her into a truck and hauled her off with other elderly evacuees.

Mr. Harris' body was left behind.

Such a breakdown did not bode well for other evacuees. As the afternoon wore on, hope faded, replaced by anger.

"This is 2005," John Murray shouted, standing in the street near Mr. Harris' body. "It should not be like this for no catastrophe. This is pathetic."

# AWAITING RESCUE



AP PHOTO

New Orleans residents huddle on the path next to Bayou St. John as they wait to be rescued from the floodwaters all around them.

# Michoud plant's equipment undamaged

**By Keith Darce**
*Business writer*

The condition of the eastern New Orleans plant that makes external fuel tanks for the space shuttle was uncertain Wednesday in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but space equipment inside the buildings appeared undamaged, according to a statement from NASA headquarters.

Some windows and roofs at the Michoud Assembly Facility were damaged and debris is blocking some of the roads on the 58-acre plant, but the 36 workers and 28 firefighters who rode out the storm at the plant escaped without any injuries.

The agency's Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Miss., just across Louisiana's state line, sustained similar window and roof damage, NASA said.

However, the space shuttle rocket engine test structures at Stennis didn't appear damaged.

Normal electricity services to both facilities were down, but generators were providing limited power to parts of Stennis. The only access to Michoud was by helicopter, NASA said. And like other buildings in metropolitan New Orleans, Michoud had no electricity and limited communications services.

NASA managers said in a written statement Wednesday afternoon that they were trying to help workers and others at Michoud and Stennis.

A helicopter from NASA's Marshal Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., delivered several satellite phones and supplies to Michoud on Tuesday, NASA spokeswoman Katherine Trinidad said.

That helicopter and another one from Marshal were scheduled to make more deliveries to Michoud and Stennis on Wednesday.

The Michoud plant, which employs about 2,100 workers, is operated by Lockheed Martin Space Systems.

The facility is critical to NASA's effort to fix the external tank and start flying shuttles again. The fleet of orbiters was grounded in July after several large pieces of tank insulation foam broke free after liftoff.

At Stennis, 4,000 NASA employees, contractors and family members sought shelter as the most ferocious part of Katrina passed over Hancock County.

About 1,000 people remained at the center Wednesday afternoon, but more workers whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm were expected to seek shelter there in the coming days.

Employees at both Michoud and Stennis are excused from work through the duration of the recovery, NASA managers said.

"My heart goes out to all the people affected by the hurricane," said NASA Administrator Mike Griffin.

He promised to visit Michoud and Stennis "as soon as possible."

An agency assistance fund will provide a grant of up to $400 and an interest-free loan of up to $600 to NASA and contractor employees living in declared disaster areas, the agency said.

*Contact Keith Darcé at nolapaperboy@cox.net.*

# Baton Rouge airport takes over for N.O.

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
*Business writer*

Airlines are adding flights to Baton Rouge and bringing larger planes to the city, which will become the state's primary aviation hub for the foreseeable future.

"We're told that some of the airlines that serve New Orleans are trying to come here," said Bill Profita, spokesman for the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. "We've got enough concrete and ramp space to do it. Our airfield is undamaged and everything is operating."

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport in Kenner closed late Sunday in advance of Hurricane Katrina.

American Airlines began adding additional flights during the weekend before the storm hit, Profita said. Delta Air Lines, the second-largest carrier at the New Orleans airport, has begun to put larger planes on its Baton Rouge routes. And JetBlue Airways, which operates two daily flights between New Orleans and New York's JFK International Airport, is considering moving its route to Baton Rouge, Profita said.

Airport officials in Baton Rouge have been told by their counterparts in New Orleans that Louis Armstrong's two runways are dry, but the terminals sustained wind damage, there are electrical problems, and all of the entrance roads to the airport are flooded. Until the water is drained, the airport can't reopen because fuel and supplies cannot be delivered.

The Baton Rouge airport has two 7,000-foot runways and a 3,800-foot runway. It is served by American, Delta, Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines.

Airport officials in New Orleans couldn't be reached, but a telephone recording said the airport remains closed for the foreseeable future.

Southwest Airlines, the largest carrier at the New Orleans airport, said that it has been told that the airport hopes to reopen Sept. 12.

Many airlines have waived rebooking fees and penalties. Details are available on airline Web sites.

On Wednesday, the Baton Rouge airport was buzzing with tourists ordered to leave from New Orleans hotels, workers with disaster relief organizations and military personnel in camouflage.

The airport's new air cargo building has been turned into a staging area for rescue and relief supplies, and a growing number of military helicopters sat on the tarmac.

"I have been told that by nightfall, we will be staging 70 helicopters for the rescue efforts," Profita said.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# It s a mess, but we have our life.

**Wilhelmina Batiste, 70, Lacombe resident**



STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** A makeshift tent becomes the new home of Edith Nata, left, and her husband Anthony Nata, whose home was blown away by Hurricane Katrina.

# HOMEOWNERS GET FIRST GLIMPSE OF DEVASTATION ON NORTH SHORE

**By Meghan Gordon, Richard Boyd, Charlie Chapple and Paul Bartels**
*St. Tammany bureau*

With major roadways in St. Tammany Parish dramatically clearer Wednesday, returning evacuees got their first awful look at the devastation caused by Katrinia s high winds and flooding.

As homeowners walked and biked into their lakefront neighborhoods from the cleared roads, they saw much of the same wreckage whether they were in Lacombe, Mandeville, Madisonville or Slidell. Enormous trees rested on crushed roofs and cars, and putrid sludge covered the once-flooded ground. And except for those people with generators, no one had power.

Central Louisiana Electric Co. officials said they had no firm estimate of when they would restore electricity to parts of St. Tammany and Washington parishes. They said they found serious damage to the equipment that connects power plants with distribution lines.

Every circuit that we have has damage, said spokeswoman Robbyn Cooper. It s going to take us weeks, an extended period of time.

Taking a short break at the parish emergency preparedness center in downtown Covington, Parish President Kevin Davis said the parish is now in recovery mode.

Even though we we re still rescuing people and searching for people, our focus now is trying to bet things back to normal, Davis said. But it s going to take a long time. I d say it ll be at least two to three months before all parish infrastructure is restored.

He estimated that that some 15,000 to 20,000 homes in St. Tammany were destroyed or damaged by Katrina s storm surge and high winds that toppled trees through houses. Davis said he envisioned many of those homeowners will live in temporary homes set up in the parish while their houses are repaired or rebuilt.

But the initial goal is to take care of residents still in the parish and restore essential services so evacuees can return and the parish s reconstruction can begin, Davis said.

One of the hardest hit areas in the parish was the Slidell, where many homes were swamped by Katrina s tidal surge.

In Palm Lake, water at Gaye and Henry Sollberger s home rose to the roof at one point.

Gaye Sollberger grew up in New Orleans and was a child when the devastating Hurricane Betsy blew through in 1965.

This was worse, she said, echoing the words of many city officials and private residents. We knew we were going to have water. We just didn t know it would be that high. I was not prepared for this.

It s 2 feet now. It s receded, she said.

And the areas that didn t flood, sustained heavy wind damage.

The hurricane, which apparently spun off a handful of tornadoes in some areas, also was quirky and arbitrary in inflicting its pain. Huge trees and power lines were toppled up and down the affluent Military Road area, especially the southern half, but had been removed or pulled to the side by Wednesday afternoon.

Hundreds of homes suffered damage from falling trees. Many interior streets remained impassable. Many neighborhoods appeared to be almost deserted.

The Lakewood subdivision was typical of the tree damage that inflicted so much of southeastern St. Tammany. Roughly every fourth house suffered mashed shingles or holes in the roof from wind-snapped trees.



**SLIDELL:** His guitar and trademark black Cadillac are all that remain of the home of blues legend Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown on U.S. 11 near Slidell.

In Lacombe, meanwhile, most streets off Lake Road showed the remains of Katrina s flooding. Evacuees trudged through inches of muck or rode four-wheelers through standing water to confirm what they expected: flooded homes and wind-damaged roofs.

It s a mess, but thank God we still have our life, said Wilhelmina Batiste, 70, who lives on Napoleon Avenue. Katrina was a terrible girl.

Lacombe s most vulnerable houses on Elenore Drive weathered the storm fairly well, because most are raised on piers. But Jimmy Impastato learned different news when he drove through the neighborhood and found his wooden A-frame house relocated to the middle of the road.

Although Jeffrey Fontenette s Elenore Drive house fared well, the storm left him with bad memories of the screaming winds and rising waters. But he said the toughest part of the storm s aftermath has been the virtual absence of communication between those who stayed and their families across the country.

It s nauseating, Fontenette said. I ve got a mama. My son s got a mama. That s all we want to do: Call our mommies and tell them we re living.

Though Madisonville s flood damage was more limited than Lacombe s, the signs of Katrina s high winds were just as apparent in the riverfront town. The tin roofs of Salty s Marina were peeled back like soup cans. The banks of Bayou DeZare were a mess of sludge. Perhaps most dramatically, enormous trees, which just days ago added to the town s charm, now lay across houses, beside roads and at odd angles. A 5-foot-wide tree on Main Street was tilted to a 45-degree angle.

Just about every old tree in town is down, Madisonville police spokesman Dave Smith said. The town just will never look the same in our lifetime. It breaks my heart. I m so disgusted. Just about every ancient pecan and a lot of the oaks are gone.

Police cruising through Madisonville could help clear trees and patch up homes, but they didn t have many answers for those left homeless by the storm. Plans for distributing food, water and building supplies had yet to circulate across the parish. There s no ice, no food, no fuel, Smith said. People are asking everywhere, Where can I find it?

Smith said at least one person was apparently desperate enough for fresh meat that he shot a deer.

The damage to historic buildings along Mandeville s lakefront became clearer Wednesday, a day after police cleared one route to Lakeshore Drive. Mayor Eddie Price raised his estimate of seriously damaged homes to more than 100 in Mandeville. On the lakefront, six homes were leveled and most of the others had serious structural damage. Mandeville building inspector Bill Wohler said every home not raised in Old Mandeville was seriously damaged.

Many landmark buildings were all but shells, including the Pontchartrain Yacht Club, Rips on the Lake, Java Grotto, Juniper Restaurant, Rest-A-While church summer camp and the Down on the Lake bar. Le Petit Fleur, one of the city s most historic homes, was gutted but still stood.

In Abita Springs, some water remained on the ground in low areas. Large pine and oak trees spliced roofs and made driving through most streets impossible.

Winds ripped the face off a yellow house on Level Street, and fallen trees left a white house nearby demolished. The Tammany Trace was covered with debris, and the Abita Springs Cafe s roof was torn off.

Cleco s Cooper said crews were working simultaneously on the transmission system and the distribution lines that power 78,940 homes in St. Tammany and 709 in Washington Parish. The distribution system has about 65 percent overhead lines, with the rest buried underground. In every corner of the parish, the lines and poles hang precariously over roads and tangled with fallen trees.

Like parish officials, Cleco officials are urging residents not to return to St. Tammany. Cooper said darkened street lamps and traffic lights make driving incredibly dangerous, especially as more evacuees return.

# SCENES FROM A CITY IN CRISIS

## People got by as best they could Wednesday despite the water, the heat and the growing sense of despair.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**CENTRAL CITY:** Evacuees walk, and ride, toward the Crescent City Connection. The underpass beneath the elevated West Bank Expressway became a refuge from the heat Wednesday for frustrated New Orleans evacuees.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**NEW ORLEANS:** A family with nowhere to go wanders in the floodwaters, aimless but together.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**METAIRIE:** Dozens of evacuees crowd a bus while waiting to be taken out of the area on Interstate 10 at Causeway Boulevard.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**SUPERDOME:** Elmore Gibson, 83, is helped out of a boat at the Dome on Wednesday. Maj. Gen. Don Reily of the Army Corps of Engineers said flood levels are now receding at a rate of 1 inch per hour, but it's likely to take at least 30 days before all the water is gone from New Orleans.

# LEFT BEHIND

## Unbelievable debris, unbearable sadness and the unrelenting need for water are among the things Hurricane Katrina deposited in Gulfport, Miss.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



Beverly Ikerd, 85, sits in a chair she found in a driveway a block inland from the beach after she and her family went to check on her home in Gulfport. It had been destroyed.




Near a downed sign on Route 49 in Gulfport, people fill up jugs, bottles and tubs with water from a broken spigot by the side of the road.



A stuffed bunny and a large appliance are just some of the trash near the beach in Gulfport, near Long Beach.

## OUR OPINIONS

### AN EDITORIAL

# WHERE IS THE CAVALRY?

New Orleans needs a show of force. Now.

Until the city is inundated with law enforcement officers from every level of government, the anarchy of the past three days will only worsen. More stores will be ransacked. More cars and bicycles will be stolen. More fights will break out over water, the most precious commodity in the aftermath of Katrina.

Only Wednesday did police officers from across the state start to appear on city streets, and then only sporadically. National Guard troops were working in parts of the city, but the beleaguered residents left in this drenched city need the troops on every corner. That is the only way to curb looting, robberies and worse. The lawlessness was intensifying to horrific levels Wednesday. Some residents said armed gangs were terrorizing people up and down Chef Menteur Highway in eastern New Orleans. There were reports of rapes and murders. In other parts of the city, looters became more and more brazen. One looter used a forklift to rip the metal security doors off a drugstore near Carrollton Avenue. At the Sports Authority in Riverside Marketplace, police had removed guns and ammunition and boarded up the place at noon. But looters broke through the plywood at 2 p.m. and stole every knife.

Not all the looting was so mercenary. Some people were taking only essentials: food, water, dry clothes.

The lack of a law enforcement presence is stunning. It is apparent




that no one -- neither New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass nor state and federal officials -- were prepared for what would come after Katrina had passed through.

Not only did they not have basic communication plans in place locally, there seems to have been no strategy to get the hundreds of military and law enforcement officers on the ground who were needed to establish order immediately.

The city police officers who are on the streets don't know what the overarching strategy is and have had little or no communication with top brass.

Of course, this sort of horrific event is far beyond the ability of any single law enforcement agency. But that should have been obvious from the time Katrina entered the Gulf.

Virtually everyone involved in public safety has failed the people left in New Orleans who are trying desperately to survive.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 225 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# 'HELP US, PLEASE'

## AFTER THE DISASTER, CHAOS AND LAWLESSNESS RULE THE STREETS



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** A distraught Angela Perkins screams "Help us, please!" outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Thursday. A cloud of desperation settled over the hundreds of hungry, homeless people at the Convention Center, creating an atmosphere of fear and hopelessness.

## Local leaders call relief efforts too little, too late

**By Jed Horne**
*Staff writer*

New Orleans on Thursday pulled back from an almost complete collapse of public order, a near anarchy that had supplanted receding floodwaters as the gravest threat to the city's still tenuous recovery.

Evidence that authorities were beginning to get a grip on gargantuan problems varied from the successful and orderly evacuation of Baptist Mercy Hospital to a sharp reduction in the menacing bands of idle refugees, many of them intent on looting that had haunted Uptown neighborhoods in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

With thousands of National Guard troops being mustered to join the Louisiana guardsmen already deployed to the hurricane-stricken city, one of the early signs of the beefed-up military presence was a Blackhawk helicopter touching down near the Riverwalk to deliver water to some 1,000 refugees still sheltered in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The mounting relief effort did not allay concerns from local officials that it remained too little and mighty late. And Thursday offered continuing evidence that the city's flirtation with sheer chaos was not yet over: a medivac helicopter scared off by gunfire as it attempted to airlift patients from a downtown hospital; the Oakwood Mall reduced to charred rubble after looters broke in and set fires throughout the sprawling complex; corpses floating in flooded streets; scores of police officers simply abandoning their posts to flee a city gone at least temporarily mad.

State Police Cmdr. Henry Whitehorn said some troopers had resigned rather than accept an assignment to go into New Orleans.

He was uncertain how many, but I

*See* **EFFORTS,** *page 4*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Renowned singer Charmaine Neville weeps Thursday after telling New Orleans police Capt. Jeff Winn how she and others were attacked in her home after the hurricane.

## Blanco demands thousands of troops

**By Paul Purpura and Ed Anderson**
*Staff writers*

BATON ROUGE - Thousands of National Guard troops are converging on southeastern Louisiana, and Gov. Kathleen Blanco on Thursday called for no less than 40,000 troops to be on the ground. But it remained unclear how many soldiers will be assigned to quell the violence that is sweeping the New Orleans area.

If we need more, I will ask for it, Blanco said Thursday in Baton Rouge. Looting and lawlessness will not be tolerated.

*See* **BLANCO,** *page 5*

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Bush seeks $10.5 billion in relief

## *Quick OK expected; more to be sought*

**By Bill Walsh**
*Washington bureau*

WASHINGTON - President Bush asked Congress on Thursday for $10.5 billion in emergency assistance for the Gulf Coast communities battered by Hurricane Katrina, and it is expected to be approved quickly.

The money will finance ongoing rescue and recovery efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that are costing the federal government $500 million per day, according to Josh Bolton, director of the Office Management and Budget.

Bolton said the aid package is "a stop-gap measure" and that the administration will soon ask for more.

"This is an initial measure to ensure that there is no disruption in funding for the relief efforts," Bolton said. "We do anticipate going forward to the Congress again within the next few weeks to make an additional request that will be better informed about the likely scope and cost of the disaster."

Members of the House and Senate raced back early from their summer vacation to consider the bill, which leaders in both parties said would be approved.

The ultimate cost of the devastation wrought by Katrina has been estimated to be as high as $30 billion, but with search and rescue teams still pulling people from the water in New Orleans' flooded streets, any estimate falls into the realm of speculation.

The aid package, which will fund the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense, was welcomed by members of both parties in Louisiana, the last stop on Bush's expected visit today to the Gulf Coast to survey the damage.

"It's a reasonable start," said Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans. "The administration seems tuned into making this work. We all know that the ultimate amount will be much higher than that."

The lightning pace of the financial-aid package and the bipartisan goodwill came on a day when one prominent Republican seemed to question the wisdom of rebuilding New Orleans.

The Daily Herald in suburban Chicago published a story quoting House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., suggesting that rebuilding the 297-year-old city, which is below sea level and will always be susceptible to hurricanes, isn't sensible.

"It doesn't make sense to me," Hastert was quoted as saying.

Assailed by criticism, Hastert quickly issued a statement saying his comments had been taken out of context.

Spokesman Ron Bonjean said Hastert believes the city should be reconstructed and refortified to stave off hurricanes. But, Bonjean said, Hastert also thinks the current hurricane-protection system is inadequate and needed to be upgraded to prevent the kind of widespread devastation Katrina caused.

"He thinks it doesn't make sense to rebuild New Orleans in the way it was built," Bonjean said. "It clearly doesn't protect its citizens He doesn't want to move or abandon the city."

A transcript of the interview recounts a disjointed conversation in which Hastert is asked point-blank whether he thinks "it makes sense to spend billions and billions of dollars rebuilding"; he answers, "It doesn't make sense to me." However, he later states, "We are going to rebuild this city."

Nonetheless, others directly questioned whether New Orleans should continue to exist on the Mississippi River bank where French explorers settled in 1718.

The Waterbury (Conn.) Republican-American newspaper published an editorial Wednesday titled, "Is New Orleans worth reclaiming?"

"Americans hearts go out to the people in Katrina's path," it said. "But if the people of New Orleans and other low-lying areas insist on living in harm's way, they ought to accept responsibility for what happens to them and their property."

Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said the United States has always pitched in to rebuild after disasters.

"That's like saying we ought to shut down Los Angeles because it's in an earthquake zone," Breaux said. "When Chicago burned down (in 1871), should the government have turned its back on the city?"

President Bush left no doubt about his own views on the future of New Orleans.

"I want the people of New Orleans to know that after rescuing them and stabilizing the situation, there will be plans in place to help this great city get back on its feet," Bush said in an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America".

"There is no doubt in my mind that New Orleans is going to rise up again as a great city."

As he did after the tsunami devastation late last year in Indonesia, Bush asked his father, former President Bush, and former President Clinton, to join forces to raise money for Katrina's victims.

The two raised more than $1 billion for tsunami victims.

Bush also announced his administration would shoulder the full cost of debris removal and rescue operations for the next two months.

The decision came in response to requests from officials in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who said their state budgets would be overwhelmed if they had to pitch in for the cost.

Under federal rules, state and local governments are required to pick up 25 percent of the cost. Bush's action waives those rules for 60 days.

# Storm surge dug gouge in canal

## *High water too much for levee's design*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
*Staff writer*

The initial wave of storm surge that poured over the concrete wall of the 17th Street Canal as Hurricane Katrina passed New Orleans dug a 26-foot-deep gouge on the other side, resulting in the failure of several wall panels and the flooding of much of the city, an Army Corps of Engineers official said Thursday.

Al Naomi, project manager for the east bank Lake Pontchartrain

hurricane levee system, said the high water that the strong Category 4 storm pushed into the lake overwhelmed the levee's design when the lake backed up into the canal.

"They were designed to withstand a surge for a Category 3 or less storm," Naomi said. "You might have had one or two feet of water pouring away over the top of the wall, cutting away at the earth below it, and as that happened, the walls began to collapse.

"When that occurred, there was no way to get water out of the city. Those walls are basically there, or they're not."

Naomi said corps engineers think the same thing happened along the London Avenue canal in Gentilly and along segments of the Inner Harbor Navigation Channel that gave way and flooded Chalmette.

"They're pretty similar walls at that area, in the pictures we looked at," he said. "The floodwalls were collapsed."

Naomi said there was no way officials could have done anything about the collapses during the storm, even if they had become immediately aware of them.

"You can't go out there in the middle of a hurricane and put your finger in the dike," he said.

"Now the task is to close the gap so you can start pumping the city out. You can't pump until they're closed."

Boh Bros. Construction Co. has begun installing metal sheet piling along the Old Hammond Highway bridge over the 17th Street Canal to keep lake water from backing up into the canal. State Transportation and Development Secretary Johnny Bradberry said the job will be complete by this afternoon.

A similar dam might be installed at the lake end of the London Avenue Canal, Naomi said.

Workers also are putting huge sandbags into the 17th Street Canal breach in an effort to fill the scour hole. They hope to complete the plugging of the gap by Saturday.

The corps and the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board are evaluating each of the city's drainage pumping stations and fixing those that aren't working properly.

"We're working very closely with the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board and have identified pump stations they have prioritized to get in service quickly," said Walter Baumy, chief of the engineering division of the corps in New Orleans. "We're working with them to get those stations dry" so they can get stations ready to pump.

Metairie resident Thomas Jackson, vice president of the engineering consulting firm DMJM Harris-AECOM, which works closely with the New Orleans branch of the corps, said another major obstacle will be reactivating the S&WB power station near Claiborne Avenue at the Jefferson Parish line. It provides juice to about 60 percent of all New Orleans drainage pumping stations.

"Unless and until they get the power generation station going there, they won't run, period," he said.

But before the huge pumps at the southern end of the 17th Street or other canals can be turned on full blast, Naomi said, engineers must inspect the canal levees and walls.

"We want to make sure that when we turn them on, that the force of the water being pumped out doesn't do something to weaken the walls and collapse them," he said.

Water is normally in the canal at a height of 1 to 2 feet above sea level, the same height as the top of Lake Pontchartrain, as they're designed to drain water into the lake. And pumping the floodwater out of neighborhoods into canals will add two more feet to the canal height, he said.

But the streets below average 5 feet below sea level. If another levee wall breaks, even with the lake back to a normal level, water will again pour into the city, Naomi said.

Naomi said that in addition to the plans announced on Wednesday to cut levees surrounding the city, the corps is considering bringing in additional pumps and other equipment to suck water out.

Naomi said the deepest water in the area flooded by the 17th Street and London Avenue canals was in the Lakeview, Pontchartrain Shores and Pontchartrain Gardens neighborhoods. In the lowest spots, the water reached 20 feet deep, or five feet above sea level.

He said additional rainfall in coming days is a relatively minor threat, considering the amount of water already in the city. The water level is steadily falling in the city, he said, and will continue until it reaches the level of the breaks being made in the levees.

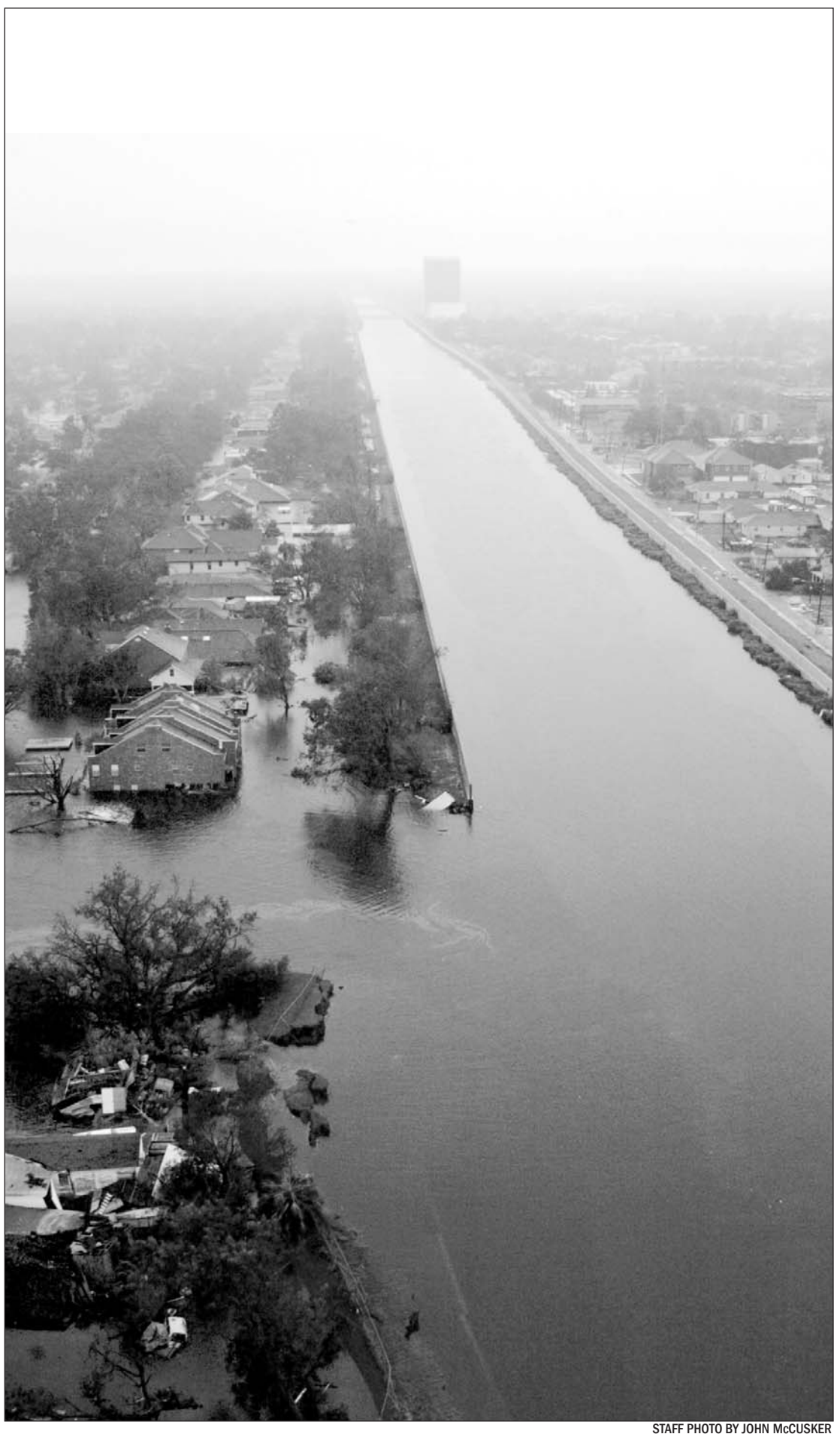
"Today, the lake is at 2.1 feet, almost normal stage, and water is flowing out through the gaps," he said Thursday at 8 a.m. "It is going down. "There's no way it can go up again."

Naomi said the levees failed because they weren't designed for a hurricane as strong as Katrina.

"This is an extreme event that the system could not handle," he said. "It was designed for a Category 3 hurricane or less, and it has protected us from those for a while.

"But there's no way we could have this type of event without some type of failure," he said. "It's going to stress the system tremendously and you should not be surprised with failures. When you put the physical properties of the concrete and steel walls built on the canal under this kind of stress, there's going to be a catastrophe."

*Washington correspondent John McQuaid contributed to this report.*



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**New Orleans/Metairie:** Water rushes into New Orleans through the break in the 17th Street Canal on Thursday.

# BACK FROM THE BRINK, TP RETURNS TO PAPER AND INK

## *3 electronic editions followed evacuation*

The Times-Picayune resumed printing a newspaper today with this edition printed in Houma. Since Hurricane Katrina struck Monday, the paper has published three electronic-only editions on its affiliated Web site, Nola.com.

"We appreciate the dedication of employees, and the patience of advertisers and subscribers," said Ashton Phelps Jr., the newspaper's publisher.

Company executives said they planned to print roughly 50,000 copies Thursday night, using the press of The Houma Courier, for distribution today in parts of the New Orleans metro area that are now inhabited and accessible, including western St. Tammany Parish, and the east and west River Parishes.

Copies also are being distributed to Baton Rouge, Hammond, Houma and Thibodaux, they said.

The newspaper will continue publishing an expanded electronic edition on www.nola.com. The Times-Picayune reporters also will deliver breaking news to the Web site through the newspaper's "Breaking News" weblog.

Nola.com will maintain a missing persons forum, launched Wednesday morning, that had more than 7,400 postings by late Thursday. The site also has started forums for people who want to volunteer in the rescue and rebuilding efforts and to offer homes to displaced New Orleans residents.

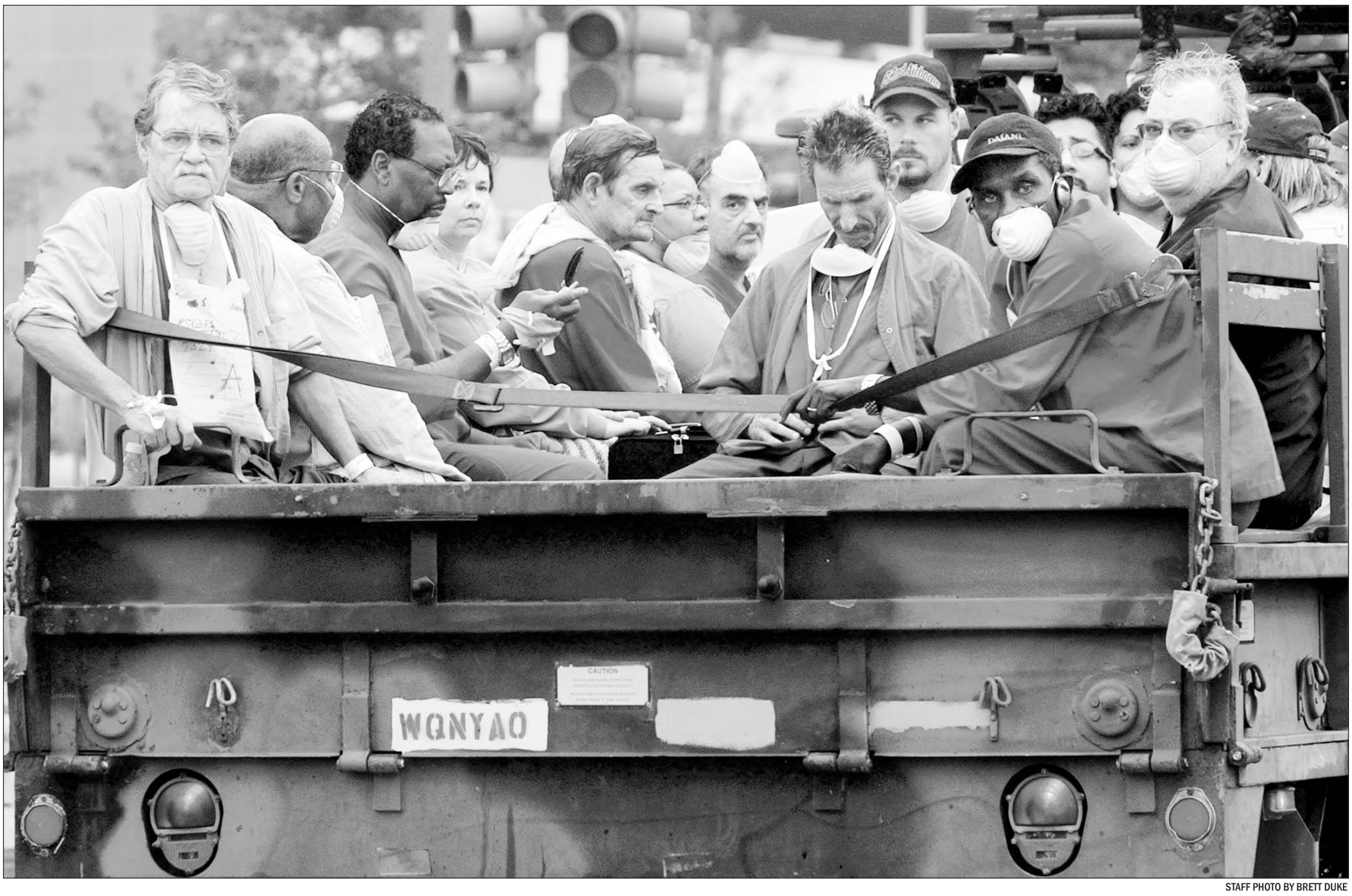
Newspaper employees, forced to evacuate the paper's main facility in downtown New Orleans on Tuesday, have been working on the streets of the city, at the Houma Courier, in temporary offices at Louisiana State University's Manship School for Mass Communications and The Baton Rouge Technology Center, as well as in other sites across the devastated region.

Our sympathies to all of those who have suffered so much in this great catastrophe. The City of New Orleans and all affected areas will recover. We will be there to assist all of our clients and friends.

**Correro Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley and Casteix LLP**

NOTE: We have temporarily relocated our offices to Baton Rouge. We can be reached at our normal e-mail addresses or through our website, www.cfhlaw.com, or by telephone at (225) 214-7162. Our temporary office is located at Suite 200C, 7389 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

# KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** Medical workers and patients ride in the back of a military vehicle on Thursday as they are evacuated through the Central Business District. State and federal authorities began evacuating hundreds of patients, including those from Charity and University hospitals, that morning. Shortages of fuel and medicine had put strains on the hospitals' ability to provide the most basic of care.

# Violence, looting reported in East, West Jeff

**EFFORTS,** *from page 1*

have heard that and I know that's a fact, Whitehorn said, noting that the officers also were coping with the impact of the storm. They lost everything and don't feel it's worth going back and taking fire from looters.

And everywhere: the homeless, some wandering aimlessly, others massed at bridges and ferry landings waiting for boats and buses no longer in service, many of them drunk on looted liquor in a city without drinking water.

Some of the violence and lawlessness appeared to be born as much of desperation as of the more jubilant greed that marked looting shortly after the storm had passed. When the first dozen buses finally arrived Thursday at the Superdome to start transporting about 23,000 refugees to Houston, shoving and fights broke out and trash cans were set ablaze as people jockeyed to get out of the fetid, stinking stadium in which they had been captive since entering the city's shelter of last resort four days earlier.

The violence was not limited to New Orleans.

I'm supposed to be cleaning up after a storm and I have to have sheriff's deputies walking around on the roof with AK-47s and machine guns, said Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations Director Walter Maestri. Basic cleanup operations, such as clearing downed trees, were on hold, and relief agencies, including FEMA and some private groups, had either pulled out or threatened to do so because of the dangers to their workers, Maestri said.

Ignoring pundits and politicians who question the wisdom of rebuilding a city below sea level surrounded by water, President Bush has vowed a massive relief effort after a storm that inflicted a record $20 billion-plus in damages across the Gulf south. Bush, who dipped below the clouds for a look at New Orleans on Wednesday en route to Washington, is scheduled to be on the ground in the area today.

But comments from officialdom and commoners alike, seethed with the sense that New Orleans had yet to be accorded a response adequate to the crisis at hand.

Terry Ebbert, head of the city's emergency operations, contrasted what he deemed a lackluster response by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the massive outpouring of humanitarian and military aid after this past winter's tsunami in southeast Asia.

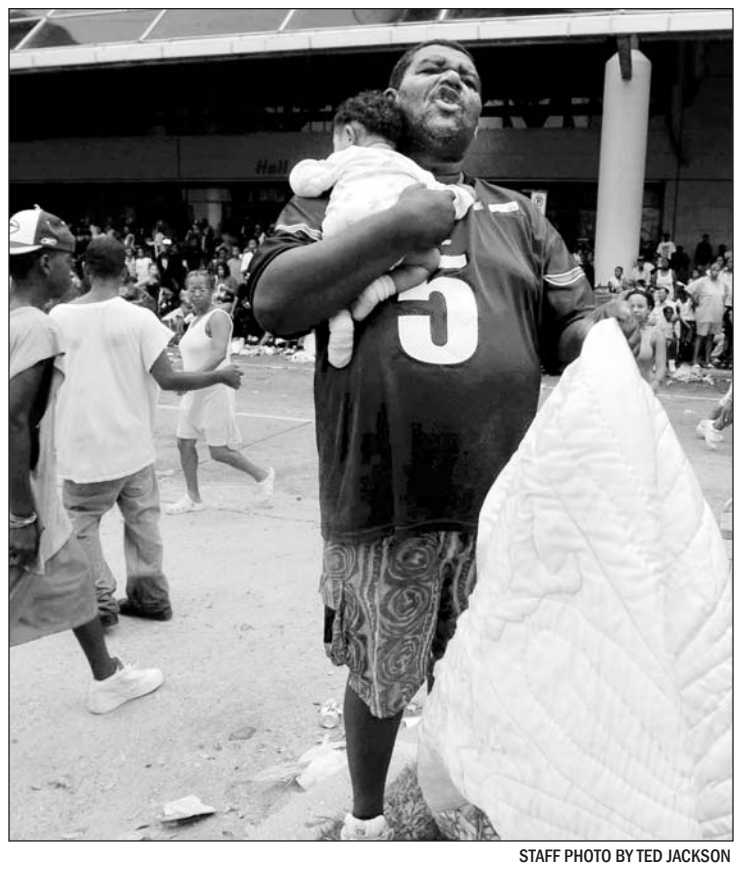
Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard called the lack of federal response a disgrace.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was equally blunt. Federal and state officials need to stop having goddamn press conferences and get the relief effort rolling, he said in a late-afternoon radio interview, an angry flare-up out of character for the popular, generally easy-going former cable TV executive.

Appearing in a New York studio on NBC's Today show, former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, now national president of the Urban League, called for an effort of 9-11 proportions.

A great American city is fighting for its life, he said. We must rebuild New Orleans, the city that gave us jazz and music and multiculturalism.

That effort was being waged against long odds Thursday. National Guard spokesman Jack Harrison, in Arlington, Va., said the number of active-duty guard troops in Louisiana would rise to 20,000 overnight, about a quarter of them Louisiana guardsmen, but Gov. Kathleen Blanco estimated it would take at least 40,000 troops to quell the violence.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**SEEKING SHELTER:** A man holds his baby on Thursday as refugees crowd into the Earnest N. Morial Convention Center, hoping for buses to come and evacuate them in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. More than 20,000 people were evacuated by bus to the Houston Astrodome.

As troop transport vehicles rumbled through downtown streets, some soldiers appeared visibly unnerved by the chaos they witnessed around them. Scores of New Orleans police had simply gone AWOL and fled, according to a ranking NOPD officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Though flood waters continued to recede, the functional remains of New Orleans had been largely reduced to the narrow strip of neighborhoods up against the Mississippi River levee from the Uptown area to the Industrial Canal, high ground in a low-lying city.

We have three main concerns: Orleans Parish Prison, the Superdome and the Convention Center, said Police Capt. Kevin Anderson, commander of the Eighth District, which includes the French Quarter, the city's oldest neighborhood and most valued tourism draw.

To maintain those assets and whatever else can be restored to order, police command operations had been concentrated at the sprawling Harrah's Casino port-cochere and in the Royal Orleans Hotel. On Thursday, the block between the tony hotel and the alabaster Beaux Arts courthouse across from it was under guard by rooftop sharpshooters and a phalanx of officers brandishing pump-action shotguns, their grim presence offset by smoky barbecue grills and socializing among officers taking a break in the street below.

The focused police work had not been enough to shield all French Quarter shops from the looters who ranged more widely and aggressively in other parts of town. Early Thursday police were briefly caught up in a gun battle in front of the Convention Center and a male civilian was left dead in a puddle of blood.

Across the line in Jefferson Parish, deputies and relief workers were drawn into four shootouts with lawless elements, according to Sheriff Harry Lee. No one was killed, Lee said. Earlier in the week, a New Orleans police officer was shot to death by a looter.

National Guard casualties were limited to a soldier shot in the leg, authorities reported.

As a greater presence of Chinook and Huey military helicopters became apparent in the skies over New Orleans, the near-term tactical goal was a simple one: to rescue survivors and complete an evacuation that, while massive in the days just before the hurricane struck, still left behind somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000 of the city's 480,000 residents, many of them infirm, elderly and low-income people without the means to escape.

By day's end, the massive bus-lift to Houston had reduced the Superdome's population to a few thousand refugees, authorities said. But many now homeless people continue to wait on bridges and highway ramps. And while officials remained adamant about the need to get out of a flooded city without power, water, or much prospect of these services being restored for months to come, efforts to comply were frequently mired in miscommunication.

Beside himself after failing to get through to city and state officials, the chief of trauma surgery at Charity Hospital called a news conference on Thursday to beg for help. Charity was nearly out of food and power for its generators and had been forced to move patients to higher floors to escape looters prowling the hospital, Dr. Norman McSwain said.

Texas officials said they were concerned by unconfirmed reports that a group of prisoners under guard had somehow been mixed in with refugees in the bus convoy to Houston's Astrodome.

A cluster of refugees attempted to leave the city by way of the Crescent City Connection, only to be blocked on grounds that the crossing was unsafe for pedestrians. At the suggestion of officials, they retreated to the Superdome, where they learned that the bus convoy to Texas was closed to new arrivals.

Continuing evacuation of the refugee population and the less visible presence of looters had begun to make media crews the last civilian presence on downtown streets.

It's like Iraq, one veteran war correspondent remarked. But the difference is that we don't have the army to embed with.

Staff reporters Matt Brown, David Meeks, Mike Perlstein, Gordon Russell and Jim Varney contributed to this report.

# Teams to sweep stricken area to find those killed

**By Ed Anderson**
*Capital bureau*

BATON ROUGE - Federal officials said Thursday that they are assembling mortuary teams downriver from Baton Rouge to start locating and identifying bodies from Hurricane Katrina. Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the death toll could swell into the thousands.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Brown said that six teams will be using St. Gabriel as a staging area and will fan out from there to the metropolitan New Orleans area to begin the tedious process of recovering bodies and identifying them.

Despite assurances Wednesday from aides to Brown that early death toll numbers would be available, Brown said the data was not available, but instructed aides to provide numbers today.

You have to deal with these bodies with respect and get them properly secured, identified and notify surviving relatives.

The mortuary teams will also pick out sites for temporary morgues, Brown said.

## *With focus on the living, the dead lie waiting*

He reiterated that the first priority of National Guard, police and other rescue workers is to rescue survivors from trees, rooftops, houses and other sites where they have been clinging to hope for four days. Another top priority, he said, has been to care for the 50,000 evacuees crowded into 131 shelters in the state.

State lawmakers and local officials, who have made tours of the flooded areas, have reported that bodies are floating in the streets but are being ignored in favor of having a fleet of more than 300 boats rescue survivors.

We had to push bodies out of the way to get our boat through the streets (of New Orleans) to pick up survivors, one official said, asking that he remain anonymous.

Others said there were bodies stacked up near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center near the foot of Canal Street in New Orleans, but that was not confirmed late Thursday.

It is not a pretty sight, said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, who has toured the stricken area participated in some rescue missions.

Blanco estimated as many as 200,000 to 300,000 area residents may have remained at their homes and refused to evacuate, heightening the death toll.

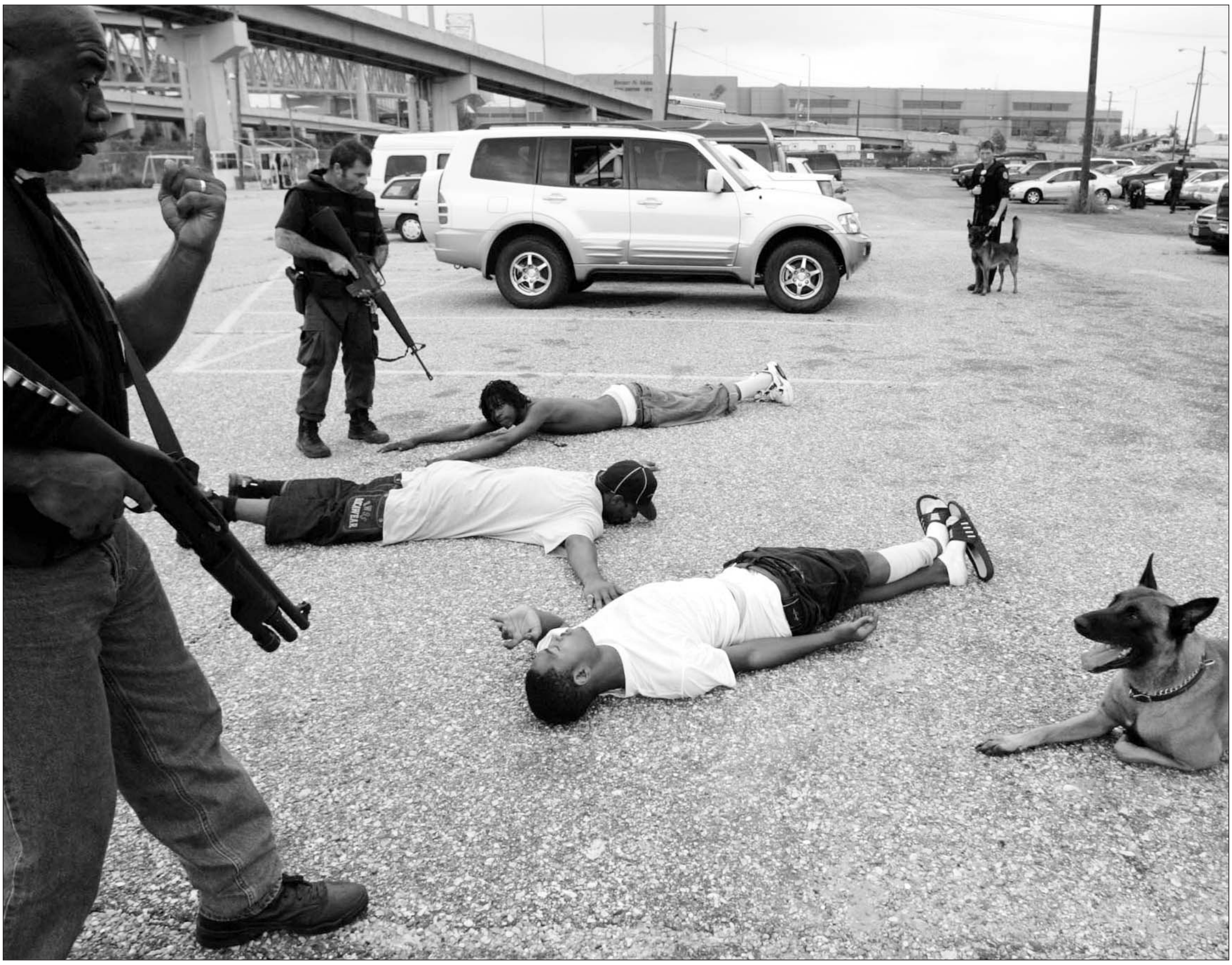
I know there are dead bodies, Blanco said, declining to estimate how many may be lost. It could well be thousands. It is a difficult thing for people.

Blanco said that as each day goes by, the chances of finding fewer survivors and more victims grow.

This is a great Louisiana tragedy, she said. Some (survivors) are very sturdy. Some are on a very short timeline.

Blanco said that is why the first priority remains helping those who need help, and not picking up the dead or counting bodies.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Police K-9 officers hold a group of looting suspects at gunpoint after arresting them near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Thursday.

# Police volunteers from other states to help out

**BLANCO,** *from page 1*

The National Guard expects about 30,000 soldiers and airmen from states across the nation to be in the region soon. Their mission is basically the gamut, whatever the guardsmen need to do to support the local authorities and local emergency management authorities, said Jack Harrison, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

However, officials could not pinpoint Thursday how many armed National Guard troops will be assigned specifically to help local civilian law enforcement agencies in their attempts to control the streets that, by some accounts, teetered on anarchy.

**"These individuals will not take control of the city of New Orleans. We will secure them. It may be in the form of handcuffs and shackles, but we will secure them."**

STATE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT COL. HENRY WHITEHORN

As of midday Thursday, 13,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen were on active duty in Louisiana, including anywhere from 4,800 to 5,700 from the Louisiana National Guard, officials said. That number was expected to increase to 20,000 overnight, Harrison said.

We think it will get up to somewhere around 30,000 in the next few days, Harrison said.

Blanco said some of the troops will be sent to other Louisiana cities, such as Baton Rouge, and in particular shelters like the RiverCenter, where 5,000 evacuees are housed.

In New Orleans, where thousands of evacuees sheltered in the Superdome were being transported to Houston, the scene is secure and under control, Blanco said, adding that her primary concern there is transportation to get the people out of the stricken areas.

Crimes reported in the area near the Superdome include rape, armed robberies and assaults, but numbers were not available, according to the Louisiana State Police.

The lawlessness has spilled into the West Bank of Orleans and Jefferson parishes, where looters Thursday ransacked the Oakwood Mall in Terrytown and set it afire.

It is anarchy, said state Rep. Jim Tucker, R-Algiers, whose district was largely spared the brunt of Katrina and is overrun now by lawlessness. We are going to have more problems from the looting than the storm.

In addition to about 4,700 National Guard troops already in New Orleans, 200 Louisiana State Police are there, including troops who work in riot control as well as SWAT teams, said State Police spokesman Lt. Lawrence McLeary.

State Police Superintendent Col. Henry Whitehorn said a group of Louisiana sheriff's deputies and local police departments have assembled a task force to help control New Orleans. Police volunteers from places such as Michigan, Arkansas, Kentucky and other states are streaming in to help out, Whitehorn said.

He said a minute number of individuals are causing the problems.

These individuals will not take control of the city of New Orleans, Whitehorn said. We will secure them. It may be in the form of handcuffs and shackles, but we will secure them.

Under a state of emergency, the National Guard troops are designated as peace officers assigned to help civilian police and sheriffs' offices, Harrison said, adding that it is not martial law.

On a separate front, the Defense Department is assembling a force of about 7,000 active-duty soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors at military bases across the South and off the coast in the Gulf of Mexico to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency deal with Katrina's wrath.

However, the group, known as Joint Task Force Katrina and headed by Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, is barred by federal act from providing security for the civilian population.

That is totally being done on the National Guard side of the house, said Michael Kucharek, a spokesman for the Colorado-based U.S. Northern Command, the Defense Department organization responsible for homeland defense.

The task force, which is separate from the National Guard troops, will work with FEMA and is based at Camp Shelby, Miss., near Hattiesburg.

Supplies and relief personnel headed into the region will be staged at Fort Polk in west-central Louisiana, Barksdale Air Force Base near Bossier City and military bases in neighboring states.

We are building a force to address the civil unrest and other missions, Honore said in Baton Rouge Thursday.

The USS Bataan, based in Texas, already is off the Gulf Coast and is launching Navy helicopters into the region to evacuate people, officials said.

The task force personnel also include a Marine Corps expeditionary strike group led by the USS Iwo Jima that is expected to be anchored off the Gulf Coast by Sunday, according to the Northern Command. The USNS Comfort, one of two Navy hospital ships, is scheduled to arrive by Sept. 8.

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## KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NEW ORLEANS: Fats Domino arrives at the St. Claude Avenue bridge in the Lower 9th Ward, where a rescue boat brought him late Monday. Assisting the legendary musician were a New Orleans Harbor Patrol officer, left, and New Orleans Police Department SWAT officer Trevor Reeves.

# Receding flood waters reveal devastation of St. Bernard

## *Bodies found as rescue continues*

**By Paul Rioux and Manuel Torres**
*Staff writers*

As the bodies of Hurricane Katrina's victims in St. Bernard Parish continued surfacing Thursday, local and state officials said thousands of residents had yet to be rescued and at least 2,000 others risked dehydration in a crammed makeshift shelter at the parish port.

Meanwhile. about 100 people have died at the Chalmette Slip after being pulled off their rooftops, waiting to be ferried up the river to the West Bank and bused out of the flood ravaged area, U.S. Rep. Charles Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said Thursday.

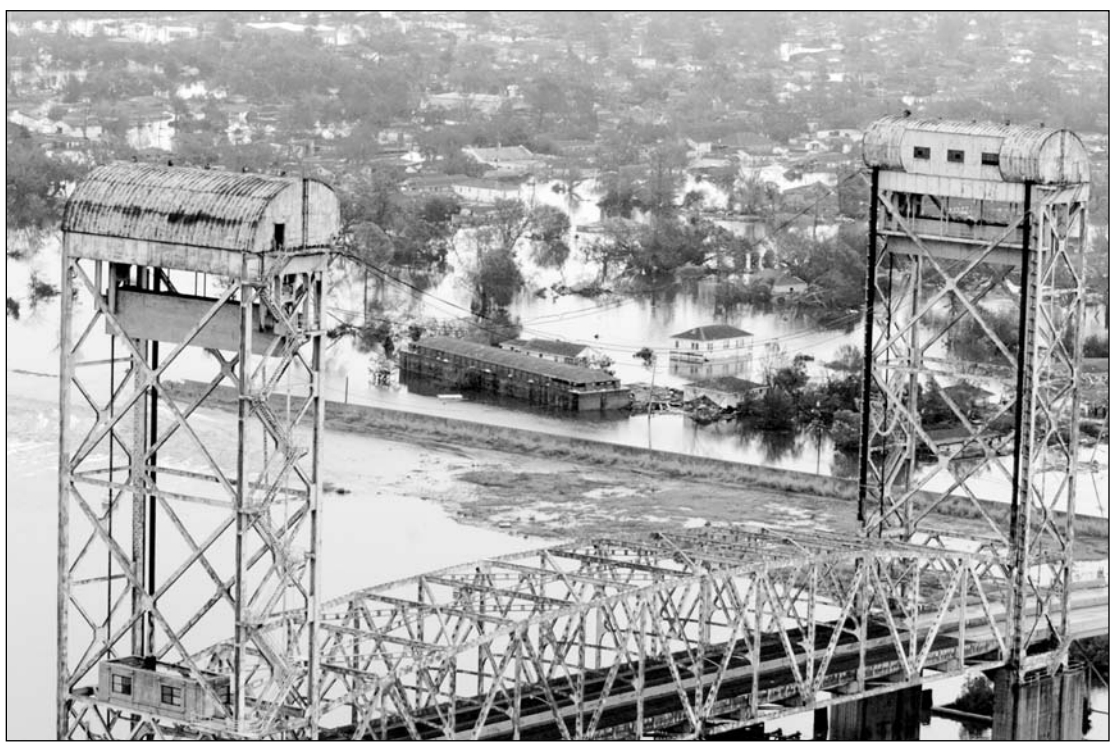
"It's an absolutely horrific sight," State Rep. Nita Hutter, R-Chalmette, said of bodies found floating in areas across the parish.

Officials don't have an estimate on how high the death toll may reach. But the hellish scenario prompted Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez to send an SOS into cyberspace, imploring President Bush in an e-mail message to contact him and send help.

"I am in danger of having many citizens die if they are not rescued now," Rodriguez wrote in an e-mail sent late Wednesday to the White House and confirmed Thursday by parish officials.

"On behalf of the citizens of St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, I am begging for your help," it read.

Rodriguez's plea came as a flotilla of St. Bernard residents using their private boats, joined by federal and state agencies, rushed to retrieve residents stranded in their roofs and attics since Katrina submerged the parish under up to 20 feet of water on Monday.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

NINTH WARD: A barge runs aground in the 9th Ward after washing through a break in the Industrial Canal near the Claiborne Avenue bridge.

The storm flooded practically every one of St. Bernard's 26,700 homes.

"We are talking about the complete destruction of St. Bernard Parish as we know it," said Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta. "Every neighborhood, every street, every home, every building has water - lots of it."

DiFatta called Rodriguez's e-mail message an "act of desperation" after several futile attempts to reach federal authorities. He said Rodriguez has yet to receive a response to the message.

The White House press office could not be reached for comment Thursday.

DiFatta said Rodriguez and a handful of parish officials are guiding some rescue efforts from an office at Chalmette Refining LLC.

"It's the only dry spot left," DiFatta said.

But illustrating the difficult conditions officials face to manage rescue efforts, DiFatta said a reporter's call Thursday afternoon was the first to get through on his cell phone in nearly two days.

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, one of the few state officials who have entered the parish, said personnel with FEMA and the state Wildlife and Fisheries Department are working to collect stranded residents.

In a parish where many people make their living on the water or own recreational boats, dozens of residents have also been using their vessels to help, DiFatta said.

Landrieu said the parish jail at the intersection of Parish Road and St. Bernard Highway has been transformed into a makeshift hospital.

Patients are being airlifted out of the area.

He also said the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office has staged a collection point for refugees at the parish courthouse in Chalmette. People are then being moved to a makeshift shelter at St. Bernard Port, from where they are being ferried across the Mississippi River to Algiers, Landrieu said.

"We are now starting to go house to house to find the ones we can't see or hear," he said. "Our biggest fear is how high the death toll will be."

With 2,000 people crammed into the port's slip, DiFatta said officials were concerned about the wellbeing of the evacuees.

He said who are being treated for dehydration after spending up to three days in the searing heat of their attics or exposed to the blazing sun on rooftops.

Parish officials said they need food, water and medicine. They also are trying to arrange for a large vessel to begin evacuating people from the port shelter.

The magnitude of the disaster in St. Bernard has surpassed Hurricane Betsy in 1965, which flooded thousands of homes, mostly in Arabi; killed dozens of residents; and forced many to escape the waters by climbing into their attics and then hacking holes in the roofs.

Like Betsy, Katrina has produced examples of extreme survival measures in the parish. Rescuers saved a man who lashed himself to a tree to avoid being swept out to sea as floodwaters surged beyond 20 feet.

Another resident, Ernie Geraci of Poydras, swam to a boat moored at a nearby house to rescue his wife and two adult children after 7 feet of water rushed into their home.

"In two minutes the water rose 2 feet. In 30 minutes it was up to 4 feet," said Geraci, who jumped from a second story window to get the boat.

DiFatta said he has tried for two days to reach the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss blowing up parts of the Lake Borgne Basin levee to drain water trapped inside the parish.

"The levees that used to protect us are now threatening people's lives," he said.

In the western half of the parish, water levels have dropped to 10 feet or below in most spots. In the eastern half outside the levee protection system, roads are beginning to emerge from the floodwaters, said Geraci, who is staying on a boat owned by his company, Shallow Draft Elevating Boats.

But Geraci said the good news is bittersweet as the receding floodwaters in eastern St. Bernard have revealed the near total devastation wrought by the storm. He said just a handful of structures remain standing in the communities of Hopedale, Yscloskey and Shell Beach.

The devastation throughout the New Orleans area has raised questions about how many displaced residents will return. The extreme flooding will even test the resilience of St. Bernard, where many families have lived with severe storms for generations.

*Staff writer Robert Scott contributed to this report.*

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Going home after storm can be a harrowing trip



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

METAIRIE: Airline Drive is underwater at the Orleans Parish line. On Thursday, officials at the State Emergency Operations Center said Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard's plan to allow citizens back into the parish Monday is not a good idea.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

SLIDELL: Electric company workers move new wire into place near U.S. 190 and Northshore Boulevard. 'Electricity is six to eight weeks away,' Slidell Mayor Ben Morris said in a CNN report Thursday morning.

## Jeff reconsiders letting residents return Monday

### *Violence, cleanup may keep parish closed*

**By Matt Brown**
*Staff writer*

Amid continuing violence and looting on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, punctuated by the torching of the Oakwood Center mall on Thursday, Jefferson Parish officials are reconsidering plans to let residents back to their homes Monday.

They promised a harsh crackdown on looting and loitering and imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew that went into effect Thursday evening.

Basic cleanup operations, such as clearing downed trees off streets, were on hold and relief agencies, including FEMA and some private groups, had either pulled out or threatened to do so in light of a situation described by one official as "close to anarchy."

"I'm supposed to be cleaning up after a storm and I have to have sheriff's deputies walking around on the roof with AK-47s and machine guns," said Parish Emergency Operations Director Walter Maestri, speaking from a heavily fortified operations center in Marrero.

Parish President Aaron Broussard pinned blame for the situation on the lack of federal support and said the government's response to Katrina's aftermath was "a disgrace." He said pleas for more security personnel had so far gone unanswered.

Maestri said the looting is not as rampant in East Jefferson as in New Orleans.

Speaking at a news conference Thursday afternoon in Baton Rouge, FEMA Director Mike Brown said federal officials were moving as fast as they could and planned to bring in thousands of additional National Guard troops as soon as possible.

Broussard said law enforcement officers would continue to keep out anyone who is not a parish resident.

"People with guns are going to be guarding our borders from this moment on. We're taking control of this parish back. Whatever leniency, whatever cooperation we've shown, it ends right now."

Meanwhile, military police units already in place were stretched thin. Sheriff Harry Lee said there had been at least four shootouts on Thursday involving law enforcement or hurricane relief workers. No one was killed, he said.

Lee promised to put that to an end by arresting nighttime curfew violators and all looters. Previously, some looters were released with only a warning.

"They will stay in our jail with no air-conditioning and no toilets until they can be transferred to another parish," he said.

n Terrytown, a blaze apparently sparked by looters was reported at the Oakwood Center Mall at about 1 p.m. Fire companies from across the West Bank responded, but with no water services available, only a single hose tapping water from a nearby canal could be used to battle the flames.

But after about 90 minutes, firefighters conceded defeat, pulled back, and watched as the shopping center continued to burn. Thick black smoke climbed high into the sky as flames quickly spread.

"There's just no water and the fire is out of hand. There's no sense putting people in harm's way," said a visibly shaken Chief Bryan Adams with the Terrytown Company 5 Volunteer Fire Department. "I've been in this community all of my life, 45 years. This is tough."

The desperation that officials blamed for at least some looting could be seen just across the street from the burning mall, where about 200 storm refugees from New Orleans were lined up beneath the elevated West Bank Expressway.

Dozens of police officers armed with assault rifles surrounded weary-looking men, women and children, carrying duffel bags and plastic sacks with the few belongings they managed to escape with.

With the parish attempting to shut at least three of its four emergency shelters Thursday, the crowd massed beneath the expressway was expected to be bused out of the region later in the day.

They would join a steady exodus heading west along the expressway, the last open route out of the metropolitan area.

People from across the parish with medical issues and other special needs were going to be taken to the shelter at Bonnabel High School in Kenner, and the parish is taking in people who come into Jefferson from New Orleans at a staging area at Interstate 10 and Causeway Boulevard until they can be transported to shelters out of the region.

Meanwhile, the flooding caused by waters that came in around the 17th Street Canal stabilized on Thursday and only a limited number of homes were inundated, officials said.

## *St. Tammany neighbors brave muck, rotting fish*

**By Meghan Gordon**
*St. Tammany bureau*

They made it 350 miles from a deer camp in Darling, Miss., scouting out scarce fuel along the way and navigating debris-covered roads as they neared St. Tammany Parish.

By the time next-door neighbors Fred Liebkemann and A.J. Escheter reached the end of Thompson Road in Slidell on Thursday, the returning Katrina evacuees had hardly begun their treacherous journey home.

They launched Liebkemann's fishing boat at the Bayou Liberty marina and held out hope that something from their lives on Legendre Drive remained intact and dry.

So they set out past rows of shaken-up sailboats and a frayed purple and gold rope where swimmers once swung from docks on . Liebkemann steered through the canal past swaths of ripped-up marsh grasses, south toward the lake and then east again toward their Coin du Lestin neighborhood.

"All that marsh wasn't there before," Liebkemann said, pointing a mound of floating soil and tall grass.

They passed huge two-story homes on Peninsula Drive with minor roof damage but no apparent lines marking where floodwaters had risen.

"Y'all doing all right?" Escheter yelled to a man on shore who had just removed the plywood on his back door. He shook his hand, "so-so."

As they drove further into the canal, the devastation of Monday's flooding and high winds became more obvious. A boat rested on a house's back door. A line of grass clung to the top of a window, proof the storm's tidal surge. An upside-down "No Wake Zone" sign peeked out from the water.

"The smell of rotten fish is just starting to get good," Escheter said, as the boat passed the countless dead catfish and perch.

Then a mass of marsh debris stopped them in their path. Liebkemann tied up the boat on a nearby bridge, then carefully stepped onto the mucky banks of Coin du Lestin Drive. Thick sludge was everywhere in sight, lining the subdivision's roads and filling its ditches.

The pair walked two slippery blocks, climbing over fallen trees and soaking their feet as the muck grew deeper and deeper.

"Oh, I see my roof!" Escheter said.

"Do you see mine yet?" Liebkemann asked, falling behind in sandals that the sludge tried to suck under with every step. Where the muck ended, water glistening with gasoline and dead fish filled the gaps. The mess and the smell stretched for blocks.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

SLIDELL: Fred Liebkemann, left, and A.J. Escheter return to their boat Thursday with bags of dry clothes after checking on their homes on Legendre Drive in the Coin du Lestin subdivision near Slidell. Both homes, which are on raised pilings, sustained wind and water damage but no flooding - unlike others in the subdivision.

Both men worked their way through their backyards, then around their first-floor garages where they opened the few doors that weren't swollen shut. Grass debris clung to the walls six inches from the ceiling. A hole gaped from Liebkemann's roof.

"My house is still here," Escheter said. "Thank God for that."

But the havoc around them wasn't pretty. Escheter's wife's favorite oak, the one the couple planted two decades ago, was gone. His five beehives had floated away. A pop-up camper was nowhere in sight.

On Liebkemann's patio, a patch of transplanted marsh grass stood up straight, as if growing from the planks of his deck.

The men climbed stairs to the backdoors of their houses' second stories. First Escheter peaked in. The colorful rug in his kitchen was dry, as were the rest of his belongings.

Soon, Liebkemann called out from a screened patio, "Yeah, none in mine."

"No kidding?" Liebkemann yelled back. "Thank the Lord for that."

Grime and tons of debris surrounded them, but at least their homes were standing.

Escheter broke out a Styrofoam tray of fried pork skins, crunching on them as he sloshed through the mud on his patio and all around his yard.

Before retracing their steps in the slimy streets, they reflected on the storm that dropped a long clean-up project in their backyards.

"You might never see another one like this, I hope to God we won't. I hope to God," Escheter said. "If it gets any bigger than this, I don't want to see it."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# LEVEES' WEAKNESS WELL-KNOWN BEFORE BREACHES

## Lack of political will, funds cited in failure

**By John McQuaid, Bill Walsh, Jim Barnett and Mark Schleifstein**
*Staff writers*

Officials at the Army Corps of Engineers knew it for years, and emergency managers and hurricane experts issued dire warnings: The hurricane levees surrounding the New Orleans area were built to withstand only a relatively weak Category 3 hurricane - not anything like Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 megastorm.

So it should not have been a surprise that the system failed when the waves pushed ahead by Katrina topped levees in the 17th Street and London Avenue drainage canals, broke through them and poured into the city. Water also spilled over levees in St. Bernard and in eastern New Orleans and inundated those areas. The result is one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

Now that the nightmare scenario has become a reality, devastated New Orleans residents, emergency managers and political leaders are asking why one of the nation's most vulnerable cities wasn't better protected. And when the city is rebuilt, how to protect it in the future?

"There were a lot of people in emergency management who were very frustrated," said Joseph Suhayda, a professor emeritus at Louisiana State University's Coastal Studies Institute who studies catastrophic hurricane risks. "They said this was just ridiculous. They couldn't stand the fact that they had this situation known as an unsolvable problem that had lasted for years, and they were faced with little staff and little resources. It should have been prevented."

The problem was, in fact, solvable. It's possible to engineer protections for the New Orleans area against Category 4 and 5 storm surges, which can top 20 feet. It would mean raising and fortifying levees, and building gates to control water flow into the lake. But that would cost billions of dollars, according to Corps estimates.

It never happened because of two main problems, Suhayda said: A lack of political will to tackle an enormous and costly problem when competition for federal resources is intense; and what he called a "bureaucratic mentality" at the Corps of Engineers that focused on incremental upgrades of existing structures.

### Outdated design

The current levee system was designed in the 1960s in response to 1915 and 1947 hurricanes, whose storm surges inundated parts of the region. Corps engineers were limited by 1960s-era knowledge; they used pencils and slide rules and suppositions about hurricane storm tracks and surges that engineers today say are no longer valid. Only later, using computer modeling, did they estimate the system would protect against a fast-moving Category 3 storm.

Designing levee systems is a complex task. Storm surges crossing South Louisiana's unusual landscape of lakes, wetlands and artificial barriers rise up to variable heights, making it impossible to design a simple solution.

It also is a political process based largely on experience. For example, Mississippi River levees - raised to 20-plus feet after disastrous flooding in 1927 - are much higher than hurricane levees and offer much more protection, according to Corps statistics.

Since the 1960s the Corps has dedicated itself to building, then maintaining and upgrading existing river levees. That alone is a major job. Levees are sinking in many spots because the whole area is sinking and eroding under the weight of natural and man-made forces. That means proposing projects, passing them through channels in successive presidential administrations and getting money from Congress.

It also means applying what are bureaucratic standards for weighing costs against risks. "To identify a level of risk a given area faces, we do engineering and an economic analysis and come to an optimum solution for a level of protection," Corps of Engineers chief Carl Strock said Thursday. "In its early design stages it was meant to provide protection from a 200- to 300-year event striking the city. It is a very low probability."

> **"We certainly do need to put more attention on our levee network."**
> Gov. Kathleen Blanco

But Suhayda said that approach - which measures mainly property damage as the cost of disaster - does not take into account the sheer scale and human toll of the disaster unfolding now.

"The Corps says, 'we did a benefit-to-cost analysis, and that's how it came out,' he said. "If you give an insurance adjuster an assignment to do a job like this, this is what you'll get. Well, what happens to your benefit-to-cost ratio now that the costs are astronomical?"

### Urgent priorities, major obstacles

Louisiana's members of Congress, who pride themselves on securing federal spending for the state, said they had asked in general terms for more money for Corps projects, but not singled out catastrophic hurricane protection for the New Orleans area.

"In speech after speech that I made, that the governor has made, we have said we need to fully fund the Corps of Engineers or we would have monumental problems," said former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., who retired in January after 32 years in Congress and was a leader in getting coastal restoration money for the state. "Because there is a limited amount of money, Congress hasn't been able to find funding for what the Corps' needs are."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco acknowledged Thursday that the state's priorities have not always focused on improving the levee system around New Orleans. "We certainly do need to put more attention on our levee network," Blanco said in Baton Rouge.

There were many competing and seemingly more urgent priorities and significant political obstacles. In recent years the Bush administration, struggling with budget deficits and the war in Iraq, has tried to cut financing for the Corps while agency officials and members of Congress have struggled to restore it - succeeding only sometimes.

At the behest of officials in low-lying areas in suburban New Orleans, for example, the Corps has pressed most strenuously for financing of flood protection measures outside the city, notably the Southeast Louisiana urban flood control project, known as SELA, an intricate drainage system designed to quickly divert water in flood-prone areas.

Securing adequate financing for SELA year after year has been the major spending battle for the Louisiana delegation in Washington. The Bush administration annually budgets far less than officials say they need, and Louisiana lawmakers lobby their colleagues in Congress to boost it.

"Whenever the Corps has come and talked to me, it has always been oriented around SELA," said Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, who was elected in January.

The state's other principal focus has been on coastal restoration.

The bipartisan delegation united this year like never before and secured a steady, $570 million stream of federal financing over four years to repair Louisiana's coastline, which erodes at a rate of 24 square miles per year and leaves the southeastern part of the state increasingly vulnerable to storms raging northward from the Gulf of Mexico. It was far short of the $14 billion the state says it needs.

### Protection and prevention

The Corps did begin a decade-long study of the issue of expanded hurricane protection after Hurricane Georges sideswiped the city in 1998 and devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"Because that storm scared a lot of people, we were asked to start looking at how to protect the city from a Category 4 or 5 storm," Corps project manager Al Naomi said.

An initial report concluded that "there is a federal interest in Category 5 protection for this area," he said.

Naomi estimates it would cost $2.5 billion to build higher levees stretching from south of Chalmette to north of Slidell and around West Bank communities, combined with floodgates that would barricade the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet at the Paris Road bridge and the Rigolets and Chef Menteur passes. All would be designed to withstand the impact of a 30-foot or higher storm surge, Naomi said.

The next step would be a $12 million feasibility study, which would include a detailed estimate of the project's cost, determinations of levee height, width, strength, its economic impact, and an environmental impact statement, all of which has yet to be financed by Congress, Naomi said. But that faced obstacles.

"There have been funding issues in getting the project management plan together, and issues about getting permission to get the study totally funded," he said.

Naomi said even if officials had embarked on the study years earlier, such projects can take decades from inception to completion, so it's doubtful the city would have been completely protected against Katrina.

Now that political leaders are saying New Orleans will be rebuilt, Naomi and other officials are saying the huge infusion of federal cash likely to follow the disaster must include enhanced protection so it never happens again.

If history is any guide, Congress may pass legislation ordering the Corps to prevent a similar tragedy from happening, said retired Gen. Robert B. Flowers, the Corps' former chief of engineers, who pointed to the Mississippi's high river levees built in the wake of flooding.

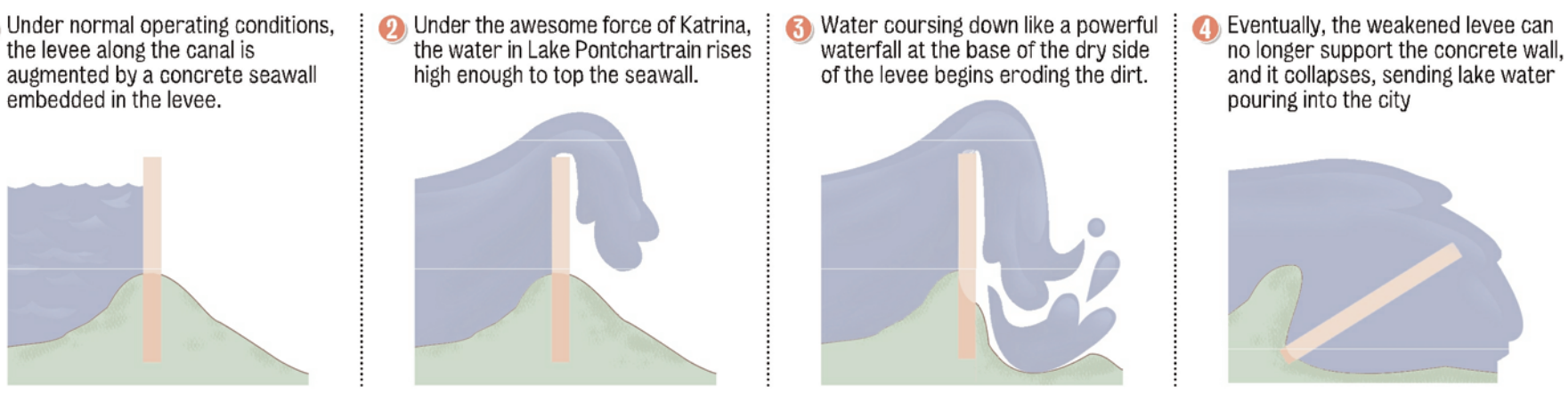
"You are like to see something akin to that come out of this disaster," Flowers said. "Sometimes, unfortunately, it takes the worst to happen before things get done."

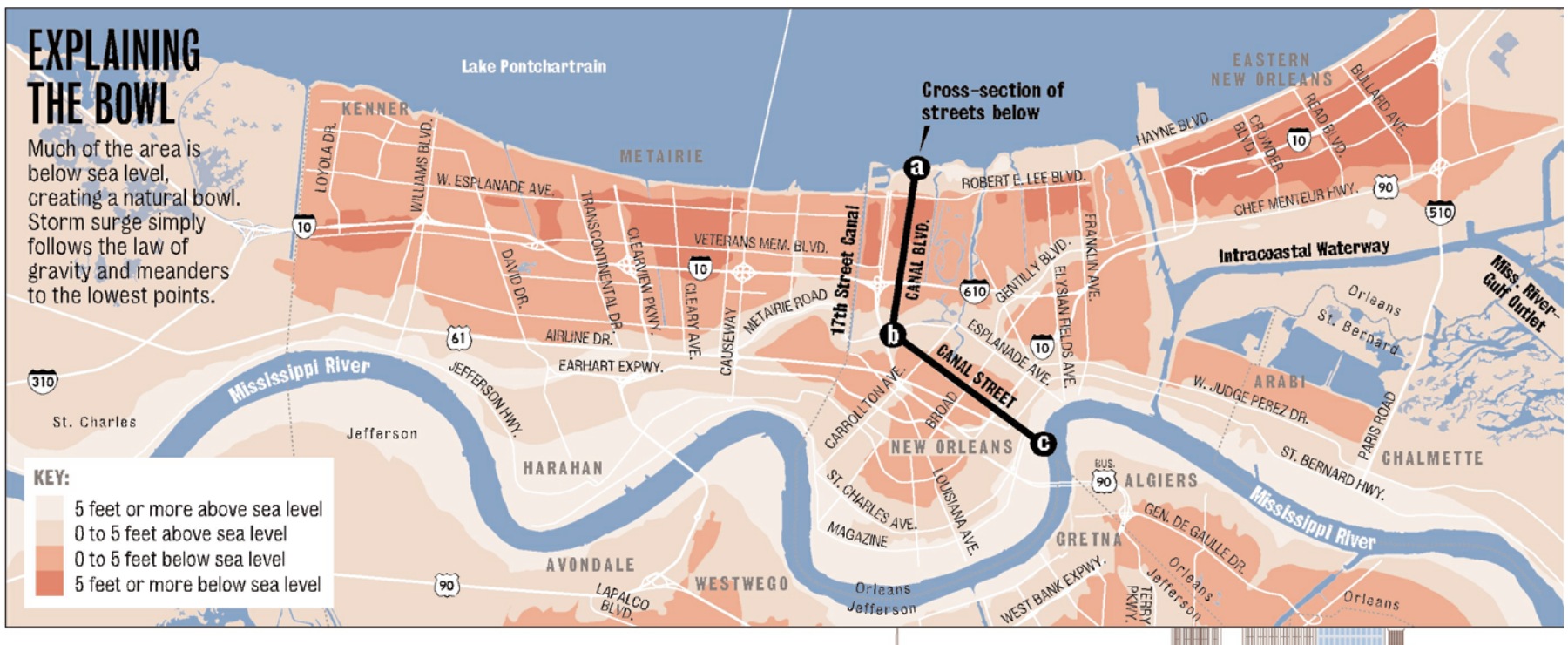
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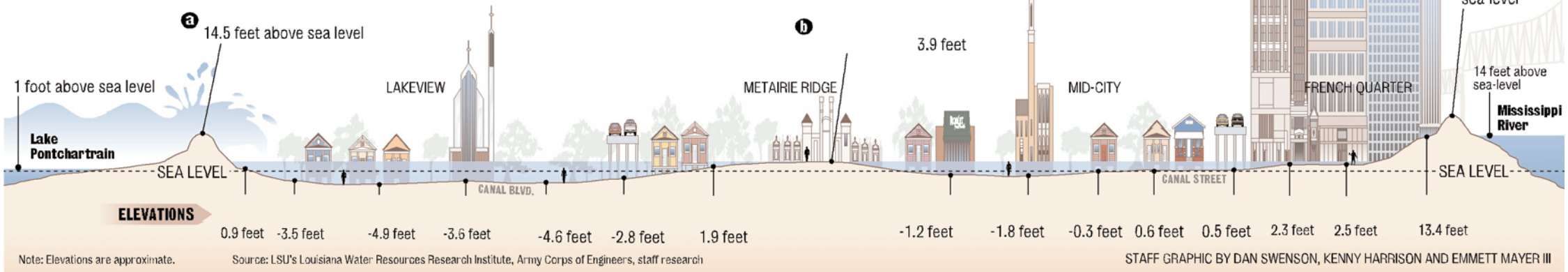
Experts have long warned of the precarious nature of living below sea level. Katrina brought that danger home in a horrific way. Once the edges of the bowl failed, there was no stopping the catastrophe.

## A WALL, AND A CITY, TUMBLE DOWN

Here's what Army Corps of Engineers officials believe happened at the 17th Street Canal that caused the cataclysm




Note: Elevations are approximate.
Source: LSU's Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute, Army Corps of Engineers, staff research
STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON, KENNY HARRISON AND EMMETT MAYER III

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Astrodome full of survival stories

*Those who tried to stay join rabbis, single moms, others in Houston*

**By Josh Peter**
*Staff writer*




AP PHOTO

**HOUSTON:** Emergency personnel prepare to transport 29 patients from New Orleans' Veterans Administration Hospital after they arrived on a Tennessee Air National Guard transport plane at Ellington Field in Houston. Conditions at the hospital had deteriorated to intolerable levels.

HOUSTON - A married couple and their 16-month-old son escaped the rising waters of New Orleans in a pirogue.

Two Orthodox rabbis shared their last supplies of kosher food with out-of-town Jews before evacuating the city.

A single mother of four young children saw two dead bodies float by as she moved three of her children to safety and worried about the fourth left behind with his grandfather.

A young father was separated from his fiancØe and 3-day-old child before boarding a bus headed out of New Orleans.

And a 28-year-old man who stayed to test his inner strength despite a mandatory evacuation order waded through hip-deep water and found a charter bus after food and hope started running low.

They were among the thousands of evacuees at the Astrodome - the indoor stadium converted into a temporary shelter in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that left about 80 percent of New Orleans flooded - and they arrived with meager belongings and tales of survival.

Damon Evans sat on a shaded picnic bench outside the Astrodome waiting to reunite with 15 family members who piled into three cars and a truck Sunday and, taking heed from the mandatory evacuations orders, drove to Houston. They left only after pleading with Evans to join them.

Even as his family prepared to leave, Evans, 28, said he never even started to pack.

"My family got upset," he said. "They kept asking, 'Why do you want to stay?' "

He still wondered about the answer Thursday as he sat under the shade of a tree in his blue adidas jersey, blue jeans, shower sandals and a black do-rag.

An arrest for marijuana possession in 2004 cost Evans his job as a cook at a restaurant in the French Quarter, said Evans, who added that after serving four months in jail he's gotten work through a temporary agency for everything from construction to loading frozen chicken with a forklift. Mostly, he said, the jobs pay $5.15 per hour - and his financial struggles may have contributed to his desire to ride out the hurricane that left about 80 percent of New Orleans under water.

"It was like something was drawing me to stay," he said. "And I was like, 'If something's drawing me to stay, it's for a reason."

"When you struggle for money every day but you're dealing and making ends meet, you want to test your inner being. You know, I watch 'Survivor' and those kinds of thing on TV.

"The ones that stayed, we go through so much, you want to test your strength during something that's out of your hands .When it's out of your hands, you don't know how far you can go. But I made it through the hurricane. I did. I got that experience."

Braving gale-force winds, Evans said he spent much of the time outside and watched the water creep up to the top step of the porch at his aunt's house. He eventually moved across the street to a two-story apartment that was housing about two dozen others who's stayed behind.

He and the others in the apartment began to run out of food Tuesday and held their last barbecue that night. Evans said he stood in ankle-deep water and barbecued dozens of chicken wings.

"I couldn't live on peanut butter and jelly for three months, and my people kept telling me, 'Come on, D. Come on.' "

By the following afternoon, hearing that buses were picking up evacuees near Lee Circle, Evans and four others waded through waist-deep water for eight blocks and climbed aboard a bus that took them and about 40 other evacuees to Houston.

They arrived at the Astrodome on Thursday at about 7 a.m., and Evans said he was looking forward to seeing his family members, who were supposed to meet him on the north side of the Astrodome. He also was thinking about the 10 people who stayed behind at the two-floor apartment complex in New Orleans.

While Evans waited for his relatives, he contemplated his future - one that might not include a return trip to his hometown. He needs to find a job soon, he said as he smoked a Camel, jingled the loose change in his pocket -- $1.46 that included 101 pennies - and sifted through a backpack duffel bag whose contents held a disposable camera and undeveloped photos he took of the disaster, two pair of shoes and a few other items.

f"I always heard any other place besides New Orleans, there's more to offer," he said. "In New Orleans, it seemed like their main attraction was partying and Mardi Gras and events. When it comes down to jobs, you're lucky, you're blessed. And if you lose a job at a certain time of year, especially summertime, it's hard.

"I'm going to use this for an advantage to break away and really see what the rest of the world's got to offer. It's a beginning.

"The worst part was over when I stepped off that bus," he said, referring to his ride to Houston. "Now everything else is in my hands."

The three men clad in black fedoras, black suit pans and bushy beards were unmistakable: Orthodox rabbis. As they searched inside the Astrodome and circled the outdoor perimeter of the building, they were on a mission.

"Are you from New Orleans?'' one of the asked.

They were looking for evacuees - Jews and non-Jews alike in need of help.

Zelig Rivkin and his son, Mendel, serve as rabbis at the Chabad House, the synagogue on Freret Street that during Hanukah lights the oversized Menorah.

Zelig Rivkin, who 30 years ago started the synagogue with a congregation up to 150 Tulane students and 35 local families, said he and his son remained in New Orleans as long as possible to help others who stayed behind.

"We didn't' take it seriously enough," Zelig Rivkin said. "And we figured there may be a lot of people staying behind and they may need some help along the way."

One of the requests came via phone Sunday night, when a Jewish couple visiting New Orleans called the Rivkins in search of kosher food.

"We just emptied out our fridge and split half for us and half for them," Mendel Rivkin said.

But by Tuesday, when their land lines and cell phones went out, they realized it was time to leave. The Rivkins loaded their 13 family members into three cars and local firefighters helped them navigate around the downed power lines and fallen trees on Broadway Avenue as the rabbis and their family made their way to Houston. Instead of seeking shelter at the Superdome, they called Chaim Lazaroff, the rabbi who oversees the Chabad community in Houston, and moved into his house.

"We always preach, 'Love your fellow as yourself,' " Mendel Rivkin said. "But here we see it in practice. These people have opened up there homes and given up an office."

While reaching out to the Jewish community, the Rivkins said they were reaching out to evacuees regardless of faith. In fact, they spent a couple of hours inside and outside the Superdome speaking mostly to non-Jews.

"I mean these people are glad to see somebody else," adding that a Palestinian woman approached him and struck up a friendly conversation.

Lazaroff said a special service was planned for Thursday night during which Zelig Rivkin would give a talk.

"A plea for help," Zelig corrected with a grin.

Lazaroff said New Orleans Jews would be welcome at Shabbat services at 8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday at the Chabad synagogue 10900 Fondren Road. And that offer came with a promise.

"We've got great kosher food," he said.

With a stuffed hefty bag over her left shoulder, Robin Ventris used her right arm to push the stroller and her 1-year-old daughter, her hair in short braids and ears pierced with small gold earrings. Ventris, 19, was returning from a site across the street from the Astrodome, where she loaded up on free supplies such as diapers, clothes and hygiene products.

A film of sweat covered Ventris' face as the mother of four between 2 months and 4 years old trudged back to the Astrodome. But her look of fatigue stemmed only in part from the physical burden of simultaneously pushing a stroller and hauling an overstuffed Hefty bag. She wore a bright yellow short-sleeve shirt, blue jeans and open-toe sandals - the same clothes she'd been wearing for two days.

She said her mother, Janice, rescued her and three of her children from their house in Harvey in the nick of time as flooding water rapidly rose. When Janice's car failed to start, Robin Ventris, her mother, the three children and several others waded through waste-deep water to get to busses on the Causeway.

With the power out, it wasn't long before the pot of beans and rice Ventris' mother had made for the family ran out. They also had no milk for the babies.

"Everybody was drinking hot sodas, hot juices, eating potato chips,'' she said of the days preceding the family's evacuation. "Don't got no grill to fix no meat on. Everybody was eating potato chips and candy trying to make it That's all we had.''

Along with Ventris and her family, hundreds of others trudged through the floodwaters to the busses that would take them to Houston - and that's what bothered Ventris most about a fight that broke out between two men in the Astrodome on Wednesday night.

"Everybody lost their home and everybody's going through the same thing," she said. "But people have like nasty attitudes.

"I feel like all of us should stick together because all of us struggled together. They weren't walking through water by themselves. Everybody's babies were in dirty water.

"Not that you wanted to have you children in dirty water, but there was no other way."

During that walk through foul water, Ventris said, the vandalism and destruction she saw reinforced the idea that New Orleans residents must band together if they hope to rebuild the city.

"Everybody had broken into stores and tore up and vandalized. Every store we saw, the windows were broken. It's going to take them a long time to fix the city up and get it back in order."

But her biggest concern was the whereabouts of her 4-year-old. When Ventris and other family members left, her 4-year-old son was with his grandfather. She had spoken to him by cell phone every day until Thursday.

"I'm worried about him,'' she said, her eyes welling up with tears.

# Refugees seek loved ones in Houston

**By Jeffrey Kuhn**
*Staff writer*

HOUSTON -- Even before the first busload of Katrina refugees arrived early Thursday morning, New Orleanians were already at the Astrodome hoping to catch sight of loved ones. There were mothers and fathers searching for small children, sons and daughters looking for ailing parents, and toddlers holding signs in an effort to find relatives.

All looked desperate. Some were distraught. Sandra Williams of eastern New Orleans was looking for a brother, Lavelle Payton, who had called them from a rooftop in Hollygrove, waiting for rescue. Belva Carter was looking for her son, Ter-Ron Miles, 12, who had been with her godmother. Andrea Brown, who lived in the St. Bernard housing development, was tearfully searching for her children, who had gone to the Superdome. Kenta Summera, also of the St. Bernard housing development, was looking for her daughter, Killia, 9, last known to be with a godmother at the Fairmont Hotel, and a son, Larry Rudolph, 14, who was with her sister. Damien Gaines was looking for his girlfriend, Kemalushanda Jones, and 7-month-old son, Dimen Gaines. He had last seen them under Interstate 10. Bryan Washington, band director at Eleanor McMain school, was waiting outside the Astrodome for his father, a resident of the Lower 9th Ward who needs chemotherapy.

Katelyn White, 5, held a hand-painted cardboard sign in front of news cameras. She was hoping to find her father. The sign said: "Looking for the Newman family and Robinson family, please (832) 335-0440." Nicole Florent from the West Bank had been in the Superdome but found a place to stay at a motel in Houston. She was looking for the Woolridge family. She wrote a message for them: "Love always, keep safe."

A message board in the Astrodome was filled with notes. The Red Cross was allowing family members who went to the Astrodome's west gate to go inside and look for relatives, but asked them not to call the Red Cross, fearing that calls would tie up phone lines. Phone banks would be established at the Astrodome and other shelters to allow refugees inside to call loved ones. The Red Cross was also making a master list of all evacuees in shelters.

Some Katrina refugees had more mundane but still pressing concerns. Ashana Bigard of Uptown said she and her daughter, Brandon Bigard, 12, had remained in her Uptown home through the storm, but fled as waters began to rise. She was staying, at least for the night, at a LaQuinta Inn on Buffalo Speedway and was trying to contact her boss, Judith Watts, chief executive officer of Agenda for Children. "It's ironic in a way," Bigard said, that she worked as an advocate for the poor and was "now totally impoverished herself."

Florence Exnicious, a longtime employee of the New Orleans public school system, had heard that the system would be making paychecks available to employees who had gone to the Houston area. Exnicious had not a penny to her name.

At least one rumor proved to be true. Dozens of Good Samaritans in Houston had established an impromptu "free market" in a parking lot on Kirby Drive near the Astrodome, handing out bottles of water, food, clothing and toiletries from card tables and the trunks of cars. Houstonian Joe Gustav, handing out cookies and bottles of cold water, said he was "just doing what I can." Lisa Alexander, who was giving away sandwiches, cold drinks and water, said she was there "by the will of God. He sent us this way."

Pam Oswald, of the Montrose neighborhood in Houston, had adopted a family. She drove to the Astrodome, spotted a young couple with an infant and offered them the downstairs portion of her home. The couple went back to find grandparents in the Astrodome, begging Oswald, "please don't leave us."

People from the Astrodome, many of whom had nothing but the clothes they were wearing, flocked to the parking lot, grateful for the generosity of strangers. By 3:30, the Good Samaritans had been forced to leave the parking lot.

# Texas scrambles to aid survivors

**By Tara Young**
*Staff Writer*

HOUSTON - As the first wave of buses began dropping off storm-weary evacuees from the Superdome at the Astrodome on Thursday, Texas officials were working frantically with federal, state and local officials to provide services that Hurricane Katrina swept away.

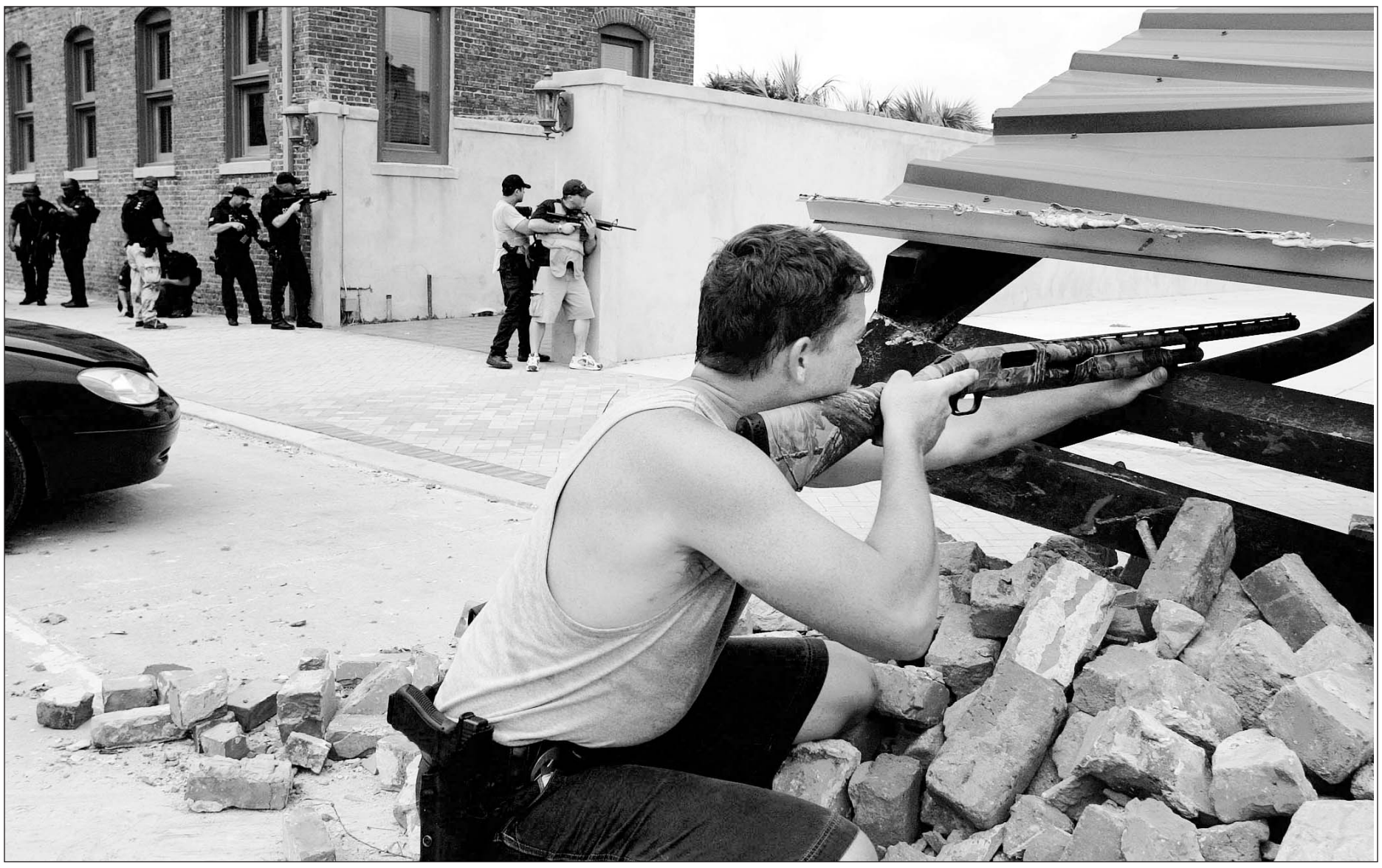
The bottom floor of the tidy, 9,000-square-foot facility was lined with thousands of cots, and a health-care clinic was up and running. Hot showers, clean clothes, bedding and phones to contact loved ones were waiting. The Social Security Administration was on site to help the retired and disabled collect their checks. And more services were still to come.

he biggest problem, Houston officials said, was coordinating with New Orleans officials to get the 23,000 evacuees to the Astrodome.

"Louisiana is very much overwhelmed," said Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, who runs the county responsible for overseeing operations at the Astrodome. "We really don't know all the things that are going on in Louisiana."

By late afternoon, more than 5,000 refugees had arrived. Scores more, who did not evacuate from the Superdome but made their way to the Astrodome for assistance, were sent to other shelters in the Houston area. Anticipating an overflow, the Red Cross opened shelters in San Antonio and Dallas. Each city will be able to house an additional 25,000 evacuees.

"We have had several thousand folks come into the Dome so far," Eckels said. "We have had a number of folks (come from) outside the Superdome. We've been working with the Red Cross. No one has been turned away."



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

**CBD:** New Orleans police officer Fred Fath, right, covers the perimeter as a SWAT team searches for looting suspects who shot at police earlier Thursday.

# CRACKDOWN ON CHAOS

New Orleans police fought to take the city back on Thursday as officers and SWAT teams focused on looters while continuing the crucial work of rescuing the thousands still trapped in their homes, surrounded by floodwaters.



**FRENCH QUARTER:** New Orleans police SWAT officer Steven Rodrigue surveys a deserted corner in the French Quarter on Thursday.



**New Orleans:** Police Lt. Dwayne Schuermann tells a looting suspect that he's lucky to be alive after apprehending the man on Thursday.



**New Orleans:** NOPD officers look over a lineup of rifles outside Harrah's Casino before distributing them to various police districts in the city on Thursday.

# DESPAIR IN THE STREETS

Katrina's aftermath led thousands to pin their hopes on the belief that buses would come to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and take them away from the heat, the smells and the looters. The buses never came.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**Convention Center:** Katrina refugees doze in the Convention Center after thousands gathered inside and outside the building on Thursday.



**Convention Center:** After anxious storm victims rushed the evacuation buses outside the Superdome earlier in the week, one warns those outside the Convention Center not to do the same.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE



Staff photo by David Grunfeld

**New Orleans:** As anguished family and friends cry out, an ailing Dorothy Divic, 89, slumps in her wheelchair outside the Convention Center on Thursday. Those with her said Divic was dying.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**Convention Center:** Holding whatever belongings they could carry, New Orleanians wait outside the Convention Center Thursday, their eyes peeled for the buses they hope will come.

# KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

**New Orleans/Metairie:** Water rushes into New Orleans through the break in the 17th Street Canal on Thursday.

# DESTRUCTION BELOW

As grim as they are from ground level, the scenes of destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina are even more staggering when viewed from above.



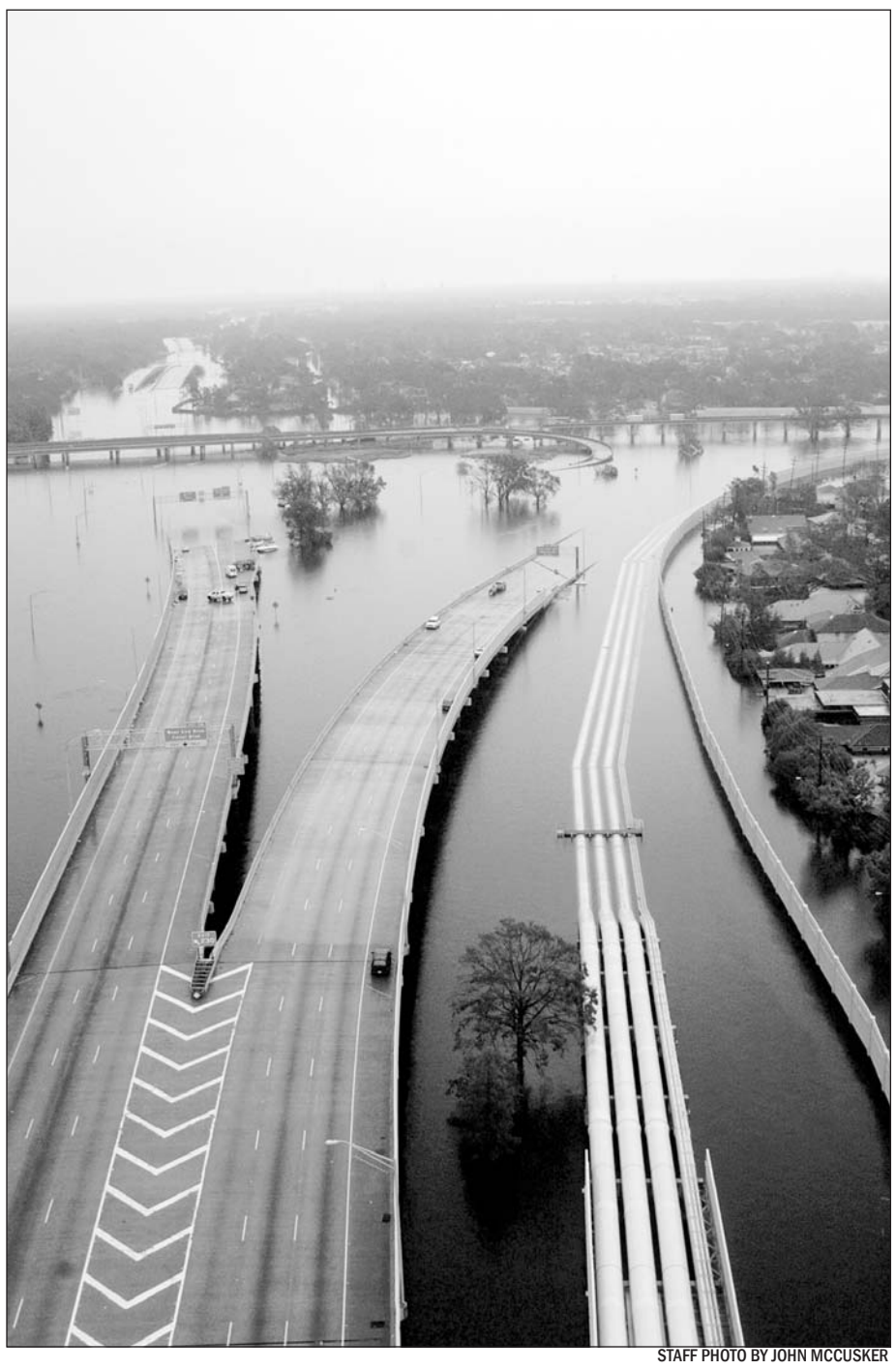
STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**New Orleans/Metairie:** A helicopter moves into position as it prepares to drop a huge sandbag to try to stem to rush of floodwaters from the 17th Street Canal on Thursday.



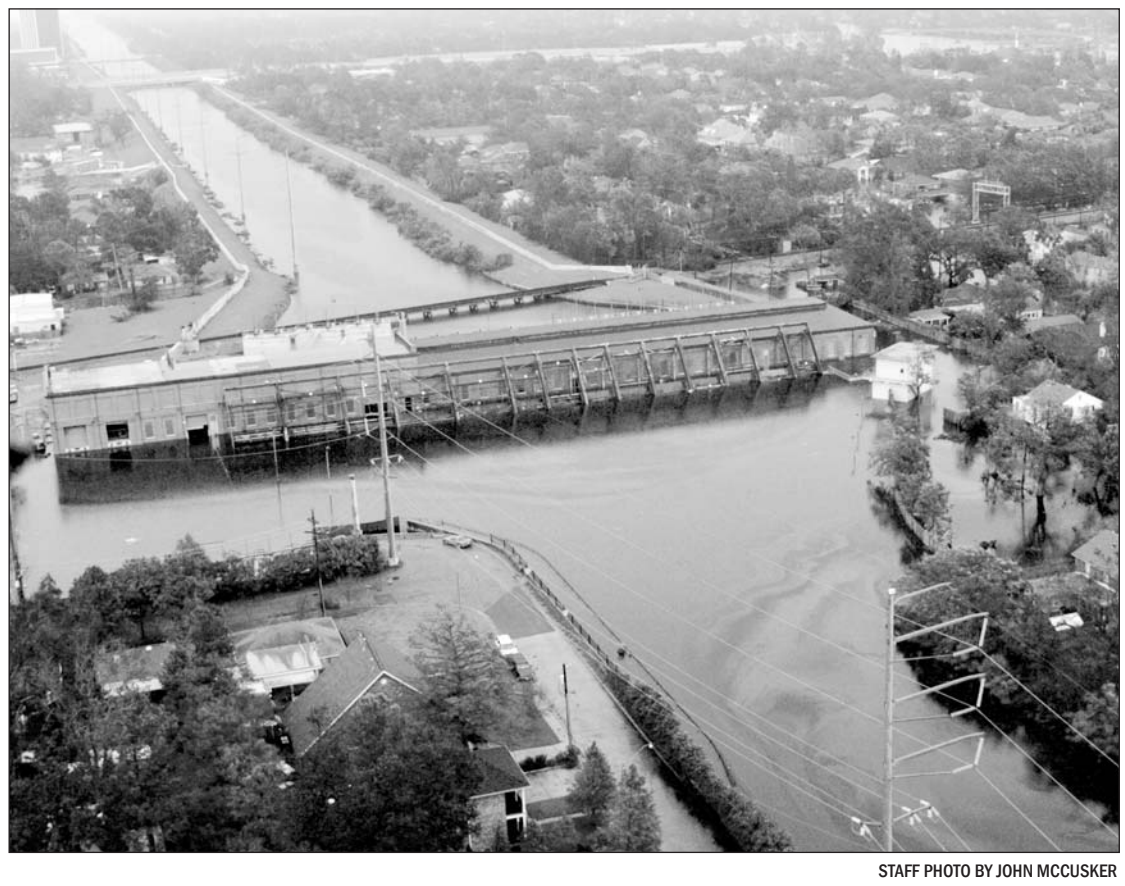
STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

**New Orleans:** A rising Bayou St. John surrounds the homes along Moss Street on Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

**New Orleans:** The split of Interstates 10 and 610 are roads to nowhere on Thursday, thanks to Katrina's floodwaters.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

**Metairie/New Orleans:** The 17th Street Canal pumping station is surrounded by floodwaters on Thursday.

# SPORTS

# LSU to offer Saints use of stadium

*Dome damage means teams won t play in N.O. this season*

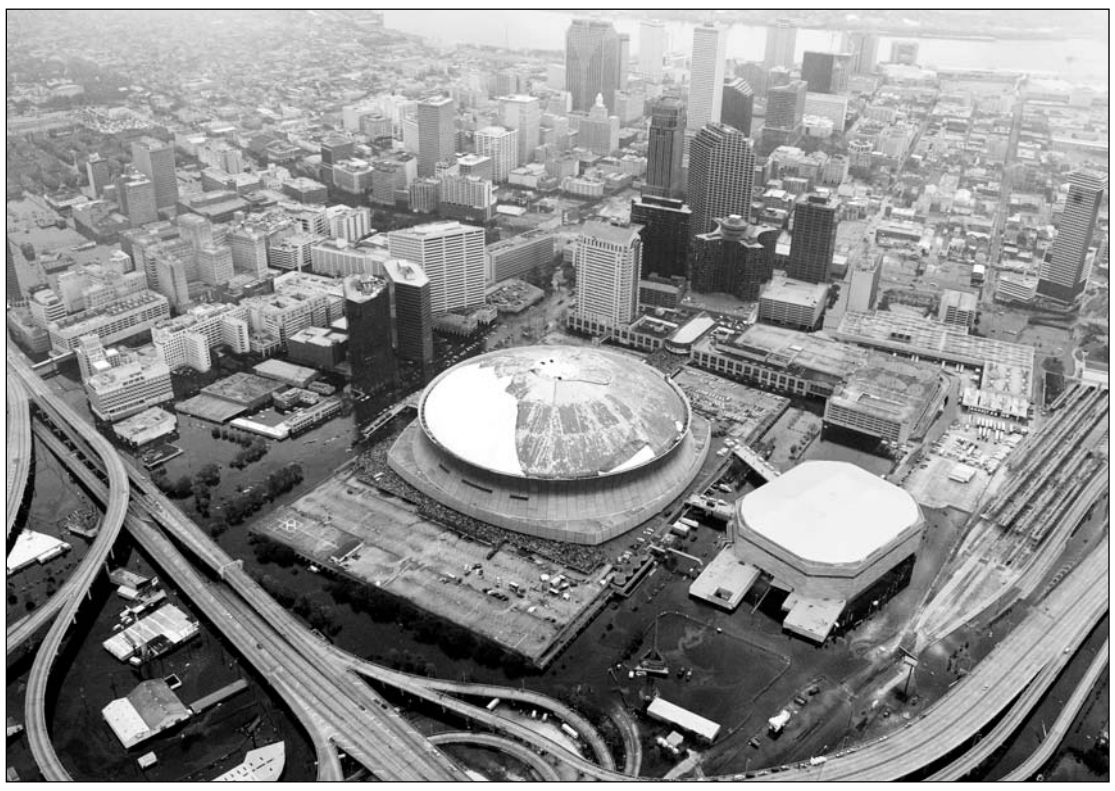
**By Jeff Duncan and Mike Triplett**
*Staff writers*

LSU athletic director Skip Bertman pledged to assist the Saints in their attempts to recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, including making Tiger Stadium available for home games.

Bertman said he has not spoken with Saints officials but acknowledged that university officials have been made aware of the team's interest in playing at least some of its home games at Tiger Stadium this season after Hurricane Katrina damaged parts of the Superdome roof and rendered the city uninhabitable indefinitely.

"We'd certainly look at that," Bertman said of hosting the Saints' games. "If that was in the best interest of the state that is what LSU does. If it's good for the state, it's good for LSU."

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said Thursday it's unlikely the Saints will play any games in New Orleans this season and said the team probably will be forced to play home games at multiple sites because of the devastation from Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**SUPER DAMAGE: Hurricane Katrina blew most of the roof off of the Superdome, meaning the Saints will have to find another place to play home games, possibly at Tiger Stadium.**

"At this point you have to proceed on the assumption ... that they may be unable to play in New Orleans at all for the entire season," Tagliabue said in an interview with CNBC. "If things evolve in a positive way, then that would be something that we could adjust to. But our assumption is that for planning purposes, we should assume it will be difficult, if not impossible, to play in New Orleans at all this year."

The NFL's first priority is to determine where the Saints will play their first home game against the New York Giants on Sept. 18.

The New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, which runs Giants Stadium, has offered to play host to the game. It would likely be played Monday, Sept. 19, because the New York Jets are scheduled to play Miami that Sunday at Giants Stadium.

Tagliabue said moving the game to New Jersey was one possibility. Future games, he said, could be played at another NFL stadium or at a non-NFL stadium.

The Saints reportedly are considering several options, including Baton Rouge, Shreveport, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Tuscaloosa, Ala. Team officials said this week they prefer to play games as close to New Orleans as possible, with Baton Rouge the presumed front-runner.

Tiger Stadium seated 91,600 for games last season. A renovation of the west side of the stadium is expected to add around 1,000 seats when it is completed in the next month or so.

It's unclear if the natural grass field at Tiger Stadium could endure the extra wear and tear.

The teams' schedules feature two weekends where both teams are slated to play at home: Sept. 15-16 and Nov. 5-6. The Saints play the Falcons Oct. 16, one day after LSU is scheduled to host Florida. The Saints play the Bears Nov. 6, the day after LSU will host Appalachian State.

The only NFL team with a natural grass surface that shares its stadium with a college team is the Tennessee Titans, which shares with Tennessee State. The Minnesota Vikings and the University of Minnesota share the Metrodome, which features a FieldTurf playing surface.

"We'll look into that," Bertman said. "I don't think there is anything we can't do."

The Saints will move into a hotel in San Antonio this weekend and practice in San Antonio in preparation for their regular-season opener at Carolina on Sept. 11.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said there are no plans to alter the NFL schedule as the league did in 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. That year, the NFL canceled all games scheduled for Week 2 and moved them to the end of the season.

The Saints' entire football operation unit has spent the week in San Jose, Calif., since evacuating New Orleans on Sunday afternoon ahead of the storm which ravaged the city Monday morning.

The Saints played their final preseason game Thursday night in Oakland.

Tagliabue, who announced that the NFL was donating $1 million to the recovery effort, said the disaster's impact reaches beyond the Saints, noting that dozens of players on other teams are from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region.

"It's a tragic situation, obviously," Tagliabue said. "Like everyone else, we are stunned by the dimensions of this natural disaster."

Tagliabue said he expects football fans to welcome the Saints in similar fashion to the way the Giants and Jets were supported after 9/11.

"I'm sure the fans around our league are going to recognize them and help the people in the region by being responsive to what they see and hear in the NFL through the Saints," he said.

Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the NFL Players Association, issued a statement Thursday saying NFL players plan to pledge "unprecedented support" to the relief efforts. He did not immediately give details about the amount of the donation or where it would be directed.

"We have heard from many players who are personally affected by this disaster," Upshaw said. "We will continue to monitor and discuss ways in which we can support the relief effort."

*Staff writer William Kalec contributed to this report.*

# Hornets will train in Colorado Springs

*Team could play season in Baton Rouge*

**By Jimmy Smith**
*Staff writer*

The Hornets will hold at least the first two weeks of this year's training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., general manager Allan Bristow said Thursday.

The team opens its preseason schedule Oct. 13 at Denver's Pepsi Center against the Denver Nuggets.

"As of right now, that's our only option," Bristow said from his vacation home in Marco Island, Fla. "We'll look for others. But right now that seems to be the best.

"We've divided training camp into two phases, the first being until Oct. 18 which is the conclusion of our third preseason game in Little Rock against Atlanta. After the 18th, we're waiting to see where we'll play our home games. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

The Hornets were originally scheduled to begin training camp Oct. 4 at the team's practice facility, the Alario Center in Westwego.

Bristow said all of the team's players and employees have been accounted for and are safe, but that family members of several team employees are still unaccounted for.

"There's just no communication," Bristow said. "It's very tough."

Optimally, the Hornets would like to play regular-season games as close to the New Orleans market as they can, possibly in Baton Rouge, either at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus or downtown at the Rivercenter, team officials said.

That arena is also managed by SMG, the same group that manages New Orleans Arena and the Superdome.

Team president Paul Mott, who evacuated to San Antonio, said from there Thursday that the situation in the storm-ravaged areas remains too fluid to firm up plans where the team will play during the early part of the regular season, which begins Nov. 2 when the Hornets are scheduled to travel to Cleveland.

"Two days before the levees broke," Mott said, "I felt that the clean up would just take a couple months and I was still entertaining the hope that we might have opening night (Nov. 5) in the (New Orleans Arena).

"But we're running a business. We've got to be able to make it work, and we're working hard to do that. The first priority is for us to be able to play in Louisiana. Right now, Baton Rouge is the most logical place. But there's a lot of work to be done."

Mott said he might travel to Baton Rouge in the next few days, along with several other Hornets' front office executives including business manager Sam Russo, to view the PMAC and the Rivercenter.

"No matter what happens," Mott said, "whether we're playing in New Orleans or Baton Rouge, or we're compelled to play elsewhere, we're committed to rebuilding the city. My hope is that if we can play in Baton Rouge, obviously it would be a whole lot easier. Who knows? The situation may stabilize and the clean up may go a lot quicker than everyone expects. There's so much work.

"But if we could get back in before the season is over that would be an emotional experience I'd love to have. It would speak to the spirit of New Orleanians helping New Orleanians."

Bristow said he has experienced hurricane devastation in the past and knows what the area's displaced citizens are feeling.

"Our hearts bleed," he said. "We're all watching this and bleeding as we see New Orleans suffer. Our hearts and prayers go out to those people that not only lost homes, but those people who are losing their lives.

"It's a very sad and grim situation. Certainly being involved in pro sports, that is usually the way to get people's minds off tragedies. We're not at that time yet. We're at a point in the process that that's the last thing we're thinking about or should be."

Elsewhere, the NBA and Major League Baseball have pledged to contribute $2 million for hurricane relief, while the Southeastern Conference has pledged to donate $1 million.

Also, the NBA will give $1 million to the American Red Cross and the NBA Players Association had said it will raise $1 million to aid the relief effort, according to The Associated Press, as will Major League Baseball and its players group.

"Major League Baseball wants to do its share to help those who are suffering from the devastating wreckage caused by Hurricane Katrina," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. "I thank the players' association for joining us in making this initial contribution and I thank in advance our clubs, players, employees, business partners and fans who offer assistance in the days ahead."

# Tulane season in jeopardy

*School might not have a fall semester*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
*Staff writer*

DALLAS - Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said "it is a possibility" that Tulane won't play football this season.

With about 130 members of the Tulane football family evacuated to Dallas, school administrators are discussing contingency plans for the football team.

Hurricane Katrina damaged some of Tulane's campus and the Superdome, so Tulane football - and Tulane University - is without a home base. Dickson said there will be a decision "in the next three to four days" about where the team will play this year - and if the team will play this year.

"We realize the steps we have to go through - first and foremost, we need to be able to determine if our university is going to be operating this semester," Dickson said. "Right now, there is no way to determine that. I would anticipate that in the next 72 to 96 hours, they'll have to make a decision on that.

"The one thing we're cautious about doing is presuming anything at this point - because of the uncertainty. We're taking the position that all bets are off. Everything we thought was intact is not intact any longer. We have to rebuild every aspect, from scheduling to all that stuff."

Tulane's football team originally evacuated to Jackson, Miss., on Sunday but the weather forced a power outage at its base at Jackson State University, and ultimately sent Tulane out of town. A bus ride brought Tulane to Dallas late Tuesday night, where the Green Wave has practiced at Southern Methodist.

While the members of the Tulane family have dealt with the tragedies back home, they have also looked at football, said linebacker Antonio Mason, "as therapy."

But where would Tulane play? Dickson said Rice and the Houston, both fellow Conference USA members, have offered their facilities to the Green Wave. So has the Independence Bowl in Shreveport.

But Dickson will need to meet with Tulane president Scott Cowen to discuss whether Tulane will have a fall semester, and if the university will relocate to another city. Cowen, Dickson said, stayed on campus during the hurricane, and planned to evacuate on Thursday. Cowen is expected to fly to Houston, where Dickson and C-USA commissioner Britton Banowsky will meet with him today.

"We will try to mirror what our university does," Dickson said from the lobby of the DoubleTree Hotel, where the team is staying. "If our university sets up in Dallas or Houston, then we would integrate our student-athletes into that.

"The basic premise - they're students first, and we're trying to get them back into the status of being students. Their first day of classes was supposed to be today. Getting them back, if we can do that, then we'll figure out the rest, the athletic part."

Tulane's opener at Southern Mississippi, originally scheduled for Sunday, was rescheduled for Nov. 26. The Golden Eagles, whose home of Hattiesburg, Miss., was also damaged by the hurricane, have evacuated to the University of Memphis.

The next game scheduled for Tulane is Sept. against Mississippi State at the Superdome.

"There's a lot of unknown," Dickson said.

With the exception of women's soccer, all of the other Tulane fall athletes have evacuated to their parents' homes or homes of friends. The soccer team is participating in a tournament at Alabama-Birmingham, and the Wave expects to remain in Birmingham through next Wednesday.

The team is then expected to fly to San Diego, for a tournament beginning Sept. 9.

# N.O. schools may be left out of fall sports

*Rules say school has to be open to play*

**By Bryan Lazare**
*Staff writer*

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana High School Athletic Association commissioner Tommy Henry, formulating a plan in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, said Thursday that he doesn't expect New Orleans school to participate in fall sports.

"I see us playing football with 32 teams in the playoffs, and I see the New Orleans schools left out," Henry said. "It's pretty strong when schools like Jesuit are knocked out.

"Schools like Bonnabel, Warren Easton and Brother Martin, that have been such a part of our association since I've been here, are not open. I hate to see a (state) volleyball tournament without Mount Carmel, Dominican, Ben Franklin, Sacred Heart."

Schools will determine whether or not their teams will be able to participate. Henry said that a school "must be operable for its athletic teams to play."

The LHSAA listed schools in 17 parishes, including all in the Metro New Orleans area, as storm-parish schools. In football, there are three situations that can occur.

First, two non-storm parish schools will play as normal.

Second, if a non-storm parish school is scheduled to play a storm-parish school, the home team will determine if the game will be played. If the storm-parish school is unable to play, it will be considered to have broken the contract, but there will be no penalty.

The game will be considered no contest, not a forfeit. Third, two storm-parish schools could play if able.

The 32 berths in each classification for the football playoffs will be determined by the power rankings. A team will not be awarded a forfeit victory if a storm-parish school is unable to play the game.

On Thursday, the LHSAA Executive Committee passed an amendment concerning the eligibility of misplaced students. According to the new rule, these students will be considered "homeless" students. Those students will be immediately eligible at another school in their home parish or in an adjacent parish.

The LHSAA championships for volleyball, swimming and football will be affected.

"The volleyball championships may still be able to be played in the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner," Henry said.

"After that, I don't know. Swimming can be held at LSU."

The 25th anniversary of the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic football championships will be not held in the Superdome.

"There's no way the Superdome will be ready," Henry said. "We'll look at LSU's Tiger Stadium. There will be a move to move it to Shreveport."

However, he said, playing games is not important considering what has occurred and is occurring in the New Orleans area.

"I realize that, when we experience a natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina, things that used to matter such as high school contests seem so trivial," Henry said. "It's very sad.

## MONEY

"Baton Rouge is about to become the fastest-growing city in America in about an hour."

**Arthur Sterbcow,** president of Latter & Blum Inc. Realtors in New Orleans,

# Evacuees swamp B.R. real estate market

*Area sees housing boom in the hurricane's wake*

**By Keith Darce**
*Business writer*

Baton Rouge has seen a flurry of real estate activity this week with thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees descending on the city.

Local realtors said Thursday that many families are buying homes in the Baton Rouge area because they realize that a return to the Big Easy is a big time away. And businesses displaced by the storm are snapping up office and warehouse space in the state's capital city because it may be years before they return home.

Some consumers with solid credit scores and large down payments are getting virtually paperless mortgages within days instead of the weeks.

Lynda Schlif of Realty Executives Integrity First Real Estate said that her office has been "swamped, swamped, swamped."

Schiff said her small company posted sales volume of about $15 million last year and she expects that volume to rise 50 percent this year because of Hurricane Katrina.

"Hollywood couldn't write a worst script,'' said Arthur Sterbcow, president of Latter & Blum Inc. Realtors in New Orleans, part of a conglomerate that includes C.J. Brown Realtors, Baton Rouge's largest real estate company. The Baton Rouge market -- just a fraction of New Orleans -- will be hard pressed to accommodate the surge of evacuees.

"Baton Rouge is about to become the fastest-growing city in America in about an hour," Sterbcow said from his temporary headquarters on Perkins Avenue in Baton Rouge. "This is the largest (relocation) operation in our company's history."

A week ago, Baton Rouge's population was 450,000. "I bet you it is 650,000 today,'' he said.

Algiers residents Jim and Donna Vance are among the evacuees coming to the city. On Thursday, they headed out to look at a house and Catholic high schools in Baton Rouge. They even made an offer on a home, but the property had already been sold.

"People are just going to have to act quick," said CJ Brown agent Dave Caraccioli.

Latter & Blum manages between 7,000 and 8,000 apartments in the metro Baton Rouge area, and Sterbcow, who watched on CNN Wednesday night as a "thug'' with a crowbar broke into Latter & Blum's downtown New Orleans with a crowbar, said that all of his rental units are leased.

Sterbcow has set up a relocation phone bank to handle the demand. His brokers and agents are helping New Orleans residents move to Houston, Atlanta and everywhere in-between.

He is convinced that New Orleans will return to its glory days, but that it may take residents and the nation 20 years to erase the psychological and economical impact Hurricane Katrina has created.

He also predicts, with other local Realtors agreeing, that Baton Rouge will become the fastest-growing city in the United States in the next year or two, surpassing the explosion of population and single-family home construction seen in Las Vegas.

But Sterbcow is determined to return to New Orleans.

"When the power is back on, I'll be sitting in my office at 800 Common St.,'' he said, downplaying any thought that the city will not be rebuilt, as some television talking heads have suggested.

One thing Baton Rouge has that New Orleans has always lacked is land, and Sterbcow expects a surge in single-family home construction and a real estate boom unimaginable to the area just five days ago.

Latter & Blum/C.J. Brown is not alone in being flooded with requests for space.

David McKey of Coldwell Banker Phelps & McKey Realtors Inc. of Baton Rouge said clients are buying both commercial and residential buildings.

"They don't have a choice, that's really the only alternative," McKey said.

McKey's staff fielded more than 300 to 350 calls in two days from New Orleanians seeking commercial and residential space.

"We've just had two in a row looking to buy, and they have no intention of ever returning to New Orleans," McKey said.

McKey said that he expects the Baton Rouge real estate market to bounce dramatically. "I think this is going to go on not for months but for years,'' he said.

# Downtown N.O. hotels grow desperate to move guests

*Coaches commandeered for other rescue efforts*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
*Business writer*

As the security situation in New Orleans deteriorates, downtown hotels are desperately trying to remove any remaining guests, but they are having trouble getting buses.

The Ritz-Carlton New Orleans has been trying to evacuate guests by motor coach, but the buses keep getting commandeered for other rescue efforts.

"What transportation is coming into the city is sometimes being diverted to other emergency situations," said Vivian Deuschl, vice president of public relations for the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co. LLC. "All the people in the hotel are a priority. There's just so many situations there."

About 300 of the 1,200 employees and guests who weathered Hurricane Katrina at the Canal Street hotel remained there Thursday. The hotel is surrounded by about 4 feet of water, and supplies at the hotel are beginning to run low. "We have as much security as we possibly can," Deuschl said.

Inside the hotel, five doctors who were in town for a convention on HIV have turned the French Quarter Bar into an infirmary to assist guests with medical issues that have arisen during their stay. Earlier in the week, the doctors broke into a Walgreens drug store across the street, with Walgreen Co.'s permission, Deuschl said, to get medical supplies.

"We hope to get them out tonight. We have been trying to get them out sooner, but it's been challenging," he said. "It's an extremely difficult situation."

At the J.W. Marriott across the street, which like the Ritz is owned by Marriott International Inc., about 50 guests remained. Marriott hopes all guests can get out in the same convoy.

Another luxury hotel, the Windsor Court, is working with Louisiana State Police to bring buses and a freight truck of diesel fuel, medical supplies and food to the hotel today.

The truck also will be used to get guests out of the hotel so it can be used by emergency officials.

At other hotels, evacuation efforts have gotten desperate. At the Wyndham Canal Place, which housed 1,500 guests, employees and their families during the storm, guests were turned loose if they couldn't get out on their own.

"The hotel was completely evacuated at midday (Wednesday)," said Darcie Brossart, vice president of communications at Wyndham International. "For those who could drive out, they did. Everyone else went to shelters."

"There are probably a lot of the guests who are at the Superdome or other shelter areas," she said.

Other hotels were successful at getting guests out on buses.

At the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, which housed 1,000 guests during the storm, all guests who hadn't been able to get out on their own were evacuated to the Sheraton Park Central hotel in Dallas, according to a telephone recording at the New Orleans property. Hotel officials could not be reached at the hotel in Dallas.

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the city's largest hotel, also was successful in getting people out on Wednesday.

"Yesterday evening we did a planned evacuation of 1,600 team members and guests from our four downtown New Orleans properties," said Kendra Walker, vice president of brand communications at Hilton Hotels Corp.

They were taken to Baton Rouge, where they could catch a plane or be picked up by friends or family.

Those who weren't able to do that were transferred to Hilton hotels in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin, Texas.

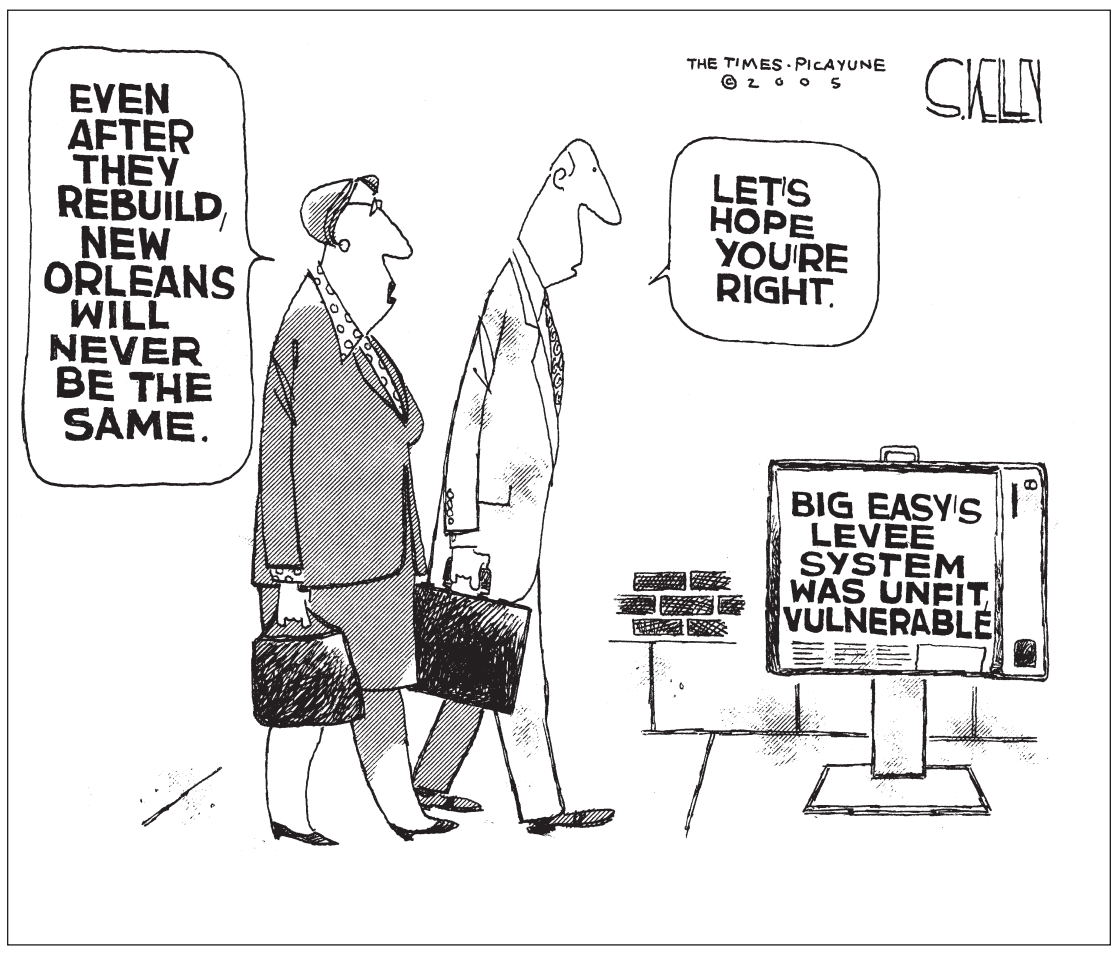
Hilton has set up a hotline to help friends and family figure out to which Texas hotel guests were transferred. That number is 888-240-6152.

The 1,700-room Hilton Riverside was known to shelter as many as 5,000 guests during hurricanes, but Walker said many guests were able to get out on their own before the situation in New Orleans became desperate.

Walker said Hilton Hotels has donated $250,000 to the Red Cross, and the Conrad Hilton Foundation has donated $1 million to the Red Cross.

*Business writer Becky Mowbray can be reached at beckymowbray@yahoo.com.*

## OUR OPINIONS




## AN EDITORIAL

# Yes, we are worth it.

Even as people from New Orleans desperately search for their family members and rescue workers patrol the region in boats, hack through roofs and try to pluck survivors out, some people in other parts of the country have begun to blame us, the victims. Our crime? Choosing to live in New Orleans.

Especially heartless were U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert and the writers of an editorial that appeared Wednesday in the Republican-American, a newspaper in Waterbury, Conn. Mr. Hastert was quoted by the Daily Herald of Arlington Heights, Ill., saying it makes no sense to rebuild New Orleans where it is. "It looks like a lot of that place could be bulldozed," he said.

The Republican-American's headline asks, "Is New Orleans worth reclaiming?"

The editorial depicts our city and our people as a drain on federal coffers, and if you read it you might get the impression that New Orleans has never contributed to the economic vitality of this country.

It maligns the city and our people as if we're nothing more than outstretched palms waiting for FEMA grants that only they fund.

How dare they?

After Mr. Hastert made his insensitive comments, his press secretary tried to spin them. The speaker didn't mean that there shouldn't be a New Orleans, the spokesperson said. He was just suggesting that as they rebuild, officials give serious thought to how future destruction could be prevented. That goes without saying. We're much more sophisticated now than we were when the city was founded in the 18th century. Of course our officials are going to rebuild in such a way that reduces the threat of future devastation.

At least President Bush realizes how valuable we are. He flew over the storm-ravaged areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama on Wednesday afternoon and seems sincerely sorrowful for all the people whose lives have been irreversibly changed by this storm.

His promise to send aid, and lots of it, was encouraging. It's going to take a huge amount of money to rebuild New Orleans and a similarly large amount of assistance to sustain the hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced.

Joe Riley knows it, too. As the mayor of Charleston, S.C., a coastal city that was torn apart by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Mr. Riley not only is sympathetic to our plight, he defends our right, our need, to exist. When an interviewer for National Public Radio asked him, "Should there be a city where New Orleans is?" he said, "Of course, of course. Venice should always be Venice. And New Orleans always New Orleans. They'll make the levees bigger, and they'll make them stronger so this never happens again. But this city, so important to our country, of course it should always be there."

Surely the folks in Waterbury would want their city rebuilt if a natural disaster destroyed it, just as Rep. Hastert would demand that Chicago be given the same consideration. They ought to show compassion and respect for those of us down here who will be struggling for quite some time to piece together our lives.

President Bush is promising aid. The sooner we get it, the better. One thing is certain: We will rebuild. New Orleans is worth it. So are the people who call it home.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# DESPERATION AND DESTRUCTION




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

CONVENTION CENTER: A mother holds her baby close as she begs for the outside world to bring her food and milk for her child. Thousands of people gathered in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Thursday, with no authorities or officials supervising them or providing food, water or any essentials.

## Three days after Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans area, the victims of the storm and those striving to help them are still reeling from the effects of the aftermath.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

NEW ORLEANS: A fire rages in a building off Earhart Expressway while vehicles sit idle in floodwaters along the street Thursday.



NEW ORLEANS: A police officer holds a looting suspect at gunpoint after making an arrest Thursday.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

METAIRIE: Residents of Jefferson and Orleans parishes crowd the staging area along Interstate 10 near the Causeway Boulevard exit to wait for relief from local authorities.

# Health aides to flood area

## *Biggest threat is stress, officials say*

**By John Pope**
*Staff writer*

Nearly 500 federal public health specialists will be deployed throughout the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast region in an attempt to ward off a variety of food- and water-borne diseases, but the most serious health threat these areas face will be psychological problems brought on by stress, the head of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

Calling Hurricane Katrina "our own tsunami," CDC Director Julie Gerberding said the 24 20-member teams headed for the area will include experts in infectious diseases and environmental health.

They will join about 30 CDC workers already in Louisiana who are helping assess the situation, determine the care patients need and deliver basic materials such as antibiotics, tetanus vaccine and cots for field hospitals, agency spokesman Tom Skinner said.

The state Department of Health and Hospitals has asked CDC to send experts in environmental health, infectious diseases and immunizations, but they will not be needed for a few weeks because the top priority now is finding and rescuing people and getting them to medical care, spokeswoman Kristen Meyer said.

"We haven't seen a lot of diseases because the things that put people at risk are being in floodwater and cleaning up after floodwater," she said. "Most evacuees haven't had a chance to go back home."

To head off a possible outbreak of tetanus in Mississippi, the CDC has sent 8,000 doses of tetanus vaccine to Mississippi, Gerberding said.

Although federal health specialists will work with local personnel in treating a variety of food- and water-borne diseases such as hepatitis A, diarrhea and intestinal infections, the biggest -- and longest-lasting -- health-care concern probably will be psychological problems brought on by stress, Gerberding said in a telephone news conference.

"When you have no home, you have no money, and you have no job, . . . the long-term consequences are overwhelming," she said. "We will have mental-health experts at every location."

These specialists will treat not only patients but also caregivers "because they are affected by the damages and the families" they see, Gerberding said.

Among the CDC contingent will be people who have worked in refugee camps around the world, she said.

More information about hurricane-related health concerns is available at dhh.emergencynews.com.

One particular area of concern, she said, will be the possibility of a rise in West Nile virus infections as a result of the high amount of water that Katrina dumped on Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama -- water that could be breeding grounds for virus-carrying mosquitoes.

Although CDC arguably is the world's foremost public-health organization, Gerberding stressed that its team will be cooperating with state and local health-care personnel to "augment, not replace" them.

"We've got to coordinate surveillance of infections," she said.

Because Katrina was "more like a tsunami than a hurricane," Gerberding said the need for medical help in the devastated region will be vast -- so vast that qualified civilian doctors are being asked to join the CDC teams for what could be a protracted period.

"We're in a marathon, not a sprint," she said.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**NEW ORLEANS:** Toting plastic bags filled with their belongings, New Orleans residents head for the Superdome despite the floodwaters surrounding it Thursday.

# Compelling coverage has human touch

## *Meterorlogist shocked by footage*

**By Dave Walker**
*TV columnist*

For displaced New Orleans residents scanning for landmarks and wondering when the water would stop rising, WBRZ's around-the-clock broadcast, bolstered by the familiar face of Bruce Katz, has been as essential as bottled water.

Katz, the chief meteorologist at ABC affiliate WGNO-TV, has been broadcasting at WBRZ since Sunday when he evacuated to Baton Rouge to contribute to WGNO-WBRZ co-coverage that would be based from there.

The work of the combined news staffs had been carried by WGNO until Katrina flooded the blockhouse at the base of its nearly-new $7 million tower and transmitter.

It has been carried nonstop ever since, with WGNO anchors and reporters Michael Hill, Liz Reyes, Susan Roesgen, Meredith Mendez and others working side-by-side with WBRZ's staff.

WBRZ actually was an early career stop for Katz, a New Orleans native. For the past 11 years, he has worked for a station in his hometown that struggles to compete for viewers.

In fact, he's likely had many more viewers this week than he gets at home.

Katz's presentation intensity in times of crisis occasionally has been off the charts. Working shifts that total up to a dozen hours a day, Katz hasn't come up for air yet this storm, and for once it seems appropriate.

Katz was unapologetically apoplectic as the station played the first footage of looting in the city, which evidently began before Katrina's winds died down.

He vowed on the air to personally deliver the footage to New Orleans police. His narration of later plundering was even more heated.

Some of Katz's ire - not to mention his promise to hand over news footage to cops - would be met with disapproval in the corridors of manybroadcast journalism schools.

This time, Katz gets a hall pass.

His genuine anger and disappointment with the looting was so human and heartfelt, it surely reflected the gut reactions of every utterly helpless viewer who knows that TV footage of the post-Katrina plundering of New Orleans, already set on continuous loop by cable news networks, will do more long-term damage to the city than the wind and the water.

Katz reacted as anyone would. As I did.

"I don't know what I'm going home to," he said.

Monday at dusk, when still it appeared as though the city might've missed most of Katrina's worst, Katz was narrating the video feed as a helicopter shot captured a personal tragedy live in real time.

Interviewed in the WBRZ newsroom on Thursday, Katz said he immediately started looking for landmarks, but saw only canals.

Flooded streets, actually.

He then saw the old Celebration Station at Interstate 10 and Veterans Memorial Boulevard and got his bearings.

"Kirschman's to the right, Best Buy to the left," he said.

Talking and spotting, Katz realized that his house was just a few blocks from the intersection he'd identified.

That these were streets he travels every day.

In real time and on the air, he discovered that his house was probably beneath "six, eight, 10 feet of water," Katz said.

How many westward evacuees clinging to WBRZ's coverage came to the same stomach-hollowing realization at exactly the same time?

I know of at least one.

The tour continued. The camera closed in on uncontrolled fires, Superdome damage, the Fair Grounds' torn roof, blown-out skyscrapers, swamped malls, a ruined city.

It wasn't all terrible. Dispatched to New Orleans by both stations' corporate parent, Tribune Co., the chopper captured the first of many rooftop rescues.

The sequence ended, and after an anchor-desk shift change, Katz joined other staffers in a meeting.

Larry Delia, WGNO's general manager, said he could tell then that Katz was reeling.

"After the meeting, I lost it," Katz said. "Cried my eyes out.

"Those images hit me. I just crashed."

Wednesday night, Katz and Hill and a few other WGNO staffers visited a Baton Rouge grocery store to load up on survival sundries.

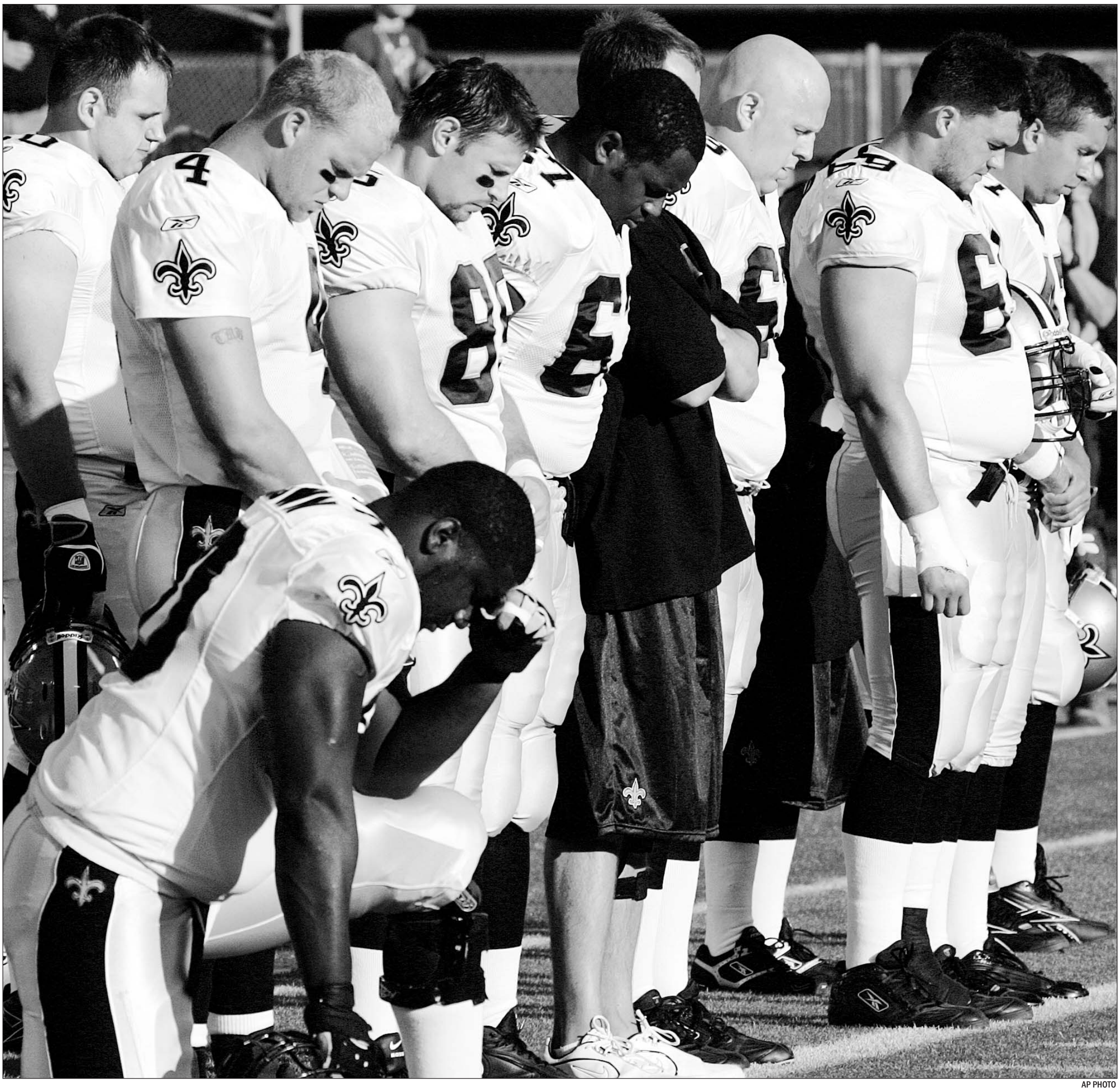
The expressions of sympathy and appreciation they heard there - not to mention 1,000 questions asked from beyond the brink of desperation about specific New Orleans neighborhoods - was unlike anything Katz has ever experienced.

It was a 90-minute trip to the store to buy toothpaste.

"Every aisle, every two or three people, they were charging me," Katz said. "These people realize we're victims, too."

*TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH



AP PHOTO

**HOME THOUGHTS:** Before the Saints game at the Oakland Raiders, the Saints bow their heads in a moment of silence for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

# Saints play game with fans on their minds

## *Horn says game should not have gone on*

**By Mike Triplett**
*Staff Writer*

OAKLAND, Calif. - Saints receiver Joe Horn said he wishes his team had not played this final preseason game, a 13-6 loss to the Raiders.

He said he would have rather been closer to home, trying to help out in any way he could. And in fact, early this morning, he said he plans to stop by the bank in San Antonio, rent a van, drive to Houston and help out in any way he can.

But as far as Thursday's game serving as the final tune-up for the Saints' regular season, Horn said he does see the value in that.

Don't get me wrong, Horn said. The games will mean something to me, because I know that they (the fans) need something to grab on to. There's still Saints fans out there. So playing against the Carolina Panthers next week will mean something to me.

It's going to feel like a real game. But when it's over, the aftermath, that's when it hurts. When you're riding on the bus to go on the plane, to fly back. But during the game, I'm going to play my heart out.

It might not have mattered much, but Thursday's game was shown on the jumbo screen at the Houston Astrodome, in front of some 11,000 New Orleans refugees.

Horn was one of several Saints starters that did not play on Thursday night, along with quarterback Aaron Brooks and tailback Deuce McAllister, among others - a fairly routine occurrence at this stage of the preseason.

But the Saints veteran spoke to them during a sideline interview, saying, I let them know that our hearts go out to them (the fans).

He said he hoped that it helped keep their minds off their suffering for an hour or two, but he wasn't so sure.

Several players said they enjoyed hearing about those misplaced fans after the game when Coach Jim Haslett told them about it.

They've got no place to live, no water, no food, and they are watching us in a football game, Haslett said. I think that says a lot to our football team. And maybe we can give them something the next couple months to cheer about.

Everybody is heartbroken, but we've got to fight through it. It's going to be a hard year. We're going to be like gypsies. We don't know where we're going to be living, where we're going to be playing. But you know what, we will deal with everything and we will be fine.

Haslett briefly reviewed Thursday's performance: Offensively, the Saints needed to score more points; penalties on the offensive line were a problem; the Saints ran the ball well and stopped the run better than they have all preseason (with the starting front seven in the game on defense); but the passing defense allowed a few big plays.

The Raiders took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter with a 27-yard touchdown pass from Kerry Collins to Randy Moss before their own starters called it a night. The Raiders threw for 308 yards total.

The Saints had to settle for two made field goals and one missed field goal by John Carney.

Quarterback Todd Bouman played the first half, completing 13 of 20 passes for 120 yards. Rookie Adrian McPherson took over in the second half, completing 7 of 21 passes for 83 yards. The Saints did not turn the ball over.

Saints receiver Michael Lewis, a New Orleans native with family still living in the city, admitted being distracted during Thursday's game. But he said the players were able to turn it on when they had to - perhaps the most valuable lesson learned in this game.

I think we can do it, Lewis said. But it's going to be a challenge.

# LSU players having hard time thinking of football

**By William Kalec**
*Staff writer*

BATON ROUGE - Spell your name, the man behind the camera asks.

S-K-Y-L-E-R G-R-E-E-N, the LSU senior receiver said, eyes adjusting to the annoying fluorescent light.

This is for ESPN Gameday, Green is told. Tripping over this sensitive subject and the right way to ask someone whose family is stuck in their son's apartment for at least a week, the camera crew's questions are somewhat generic, but Green still provides some of the horrific details he has seen on the news or heard about. His tone is respectfully soft.

Suddenly, a crewmember says, let's forget about all that and asks about the season, perhaps not fully aware how winds in excess of 100 mph reduced Louisiana's Saturday passion to trivial games.

As this awkward exchange evolved in the foreground, the most revealing sound bite capturing how Hurricane Katrina figuratively washed away the painted barriers separating players from fans went unrecorded when someone asked Shyrone Carey, How everyone was?

I'm still trying to find out about my brother, the senior from New Orleans said, rushing out of LSU's indoor facility.

Stripped of their weekend armor, members of the LSU football team shared many of the same emotions after Katrina tore through New Orleans and the surrounding area. Green, like many with 504-area-code cell phones, learned about the limits of technology and was unable to contact friends from his Washington Place neighborhood in Avondale until Wednesday.

As soon as you get the phone ringing, you're excited because you're like, Oh, I'm going to get them. Green said. And then that lady picks up and says 'The Sprint PCS customer you are trying to reach is unavailable at this time.' It was pretty hectic for everyb ody trying to get to a loved one.

The water is slowly going down. His family is safe. But looters have left many of the shops Green and his family frequented unrecognizable. Landmarks poking through the flooded streets during news aerial shots led several evacuees from Kyle Williams wife's side of the family to realize their house - near the UNO Lakefront campus - was under water.

I don't think you can tell those guys anything, Williams said. I don't think you can say, 'Hey, I know how you feel.' Because you don't.

It's hard to imagine that that's happening and it's only 50 or 60 miles from us, Williams said, earlier. It's definitely surreal. I can't begin to imagine what it's like for those people that have been coming out by rescue on top of their homes because the rest of their home isn't there, anymore.

Tired of feeling helpless, Williams borrowed a trailer from trainer Jack Marucci and within a day filled it with juice, sports drinks, clothing and pillows as players emptied their apartments and made several good-will visits to shelters in Baton Rouge.

A lot of people just want to talk to you, Williams said. Share their story.

Someone told Williams he waited on his roof for three days before being rescued. Strength trainer Tommy Moffitt was introduced to a man who made shoes out of roof shingles. Others just stared with tired, blank faces - their lives spread out on blankets and air mattresses.

Football is obsolete, right now, in this state, Williams said.

Probably for the next couple of weeks, we don't need to talk about football. We need to take care of those people.

**NOTES:** LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich said the school is in the final stages of rescheduling the postponed home game against North Texas, and that announcement should be made today. Athletic director Skip Bertman said LSU and North Texas are working with five to six other programs, hoping to flip-flop dates since the Tigers and Mean Green do not share a common bye week.

Bertman said LSU intends to host Arizona State on Sept. 10, but that relocating the game to Tempe, Ariz., is a possibility depending on campus relief efforts because of Hurricane Katrina.

"Today, we're playing Arizona State. But everyday, something could happen," Bertman said. "We are going to do what is in the best interest of the state and if recovery processes are not complete or there are other issues for which the campus is needed for help, obviously that will take precedent over a football game."

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 226 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# FIRST WATER, NOW FIRE

## *Blazes turn parts of besieged city into an inferno*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** A chemical plant in the 3400 block of Chartres Street burns after exploding Friday. Given the lack of firefighting resources in a city without water, a potentially greater threat was the fire that erupted in a low-rise sandwich shop nestled among hotels and office towers in the heart of the Central Business District, just yards from the sprawling Harrah's New Orleans Casino.

## Bush stunned by condition of New Orleans

**From staff and wire reports**

President Bush, who rarely admits failure, made no bones Friday about his disappointment with the federal relief effort along the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.

With an entourage that had swelled with Mississippi officials picked up during an earlier visit to Biloxi, Bush rode by helicopter to New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport at 2 p.m., where the two presidential choppers were met by a delegation of state officials that included U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, Gov. Kathleen Blanco, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Kenner Congressman Bobby Jindal.

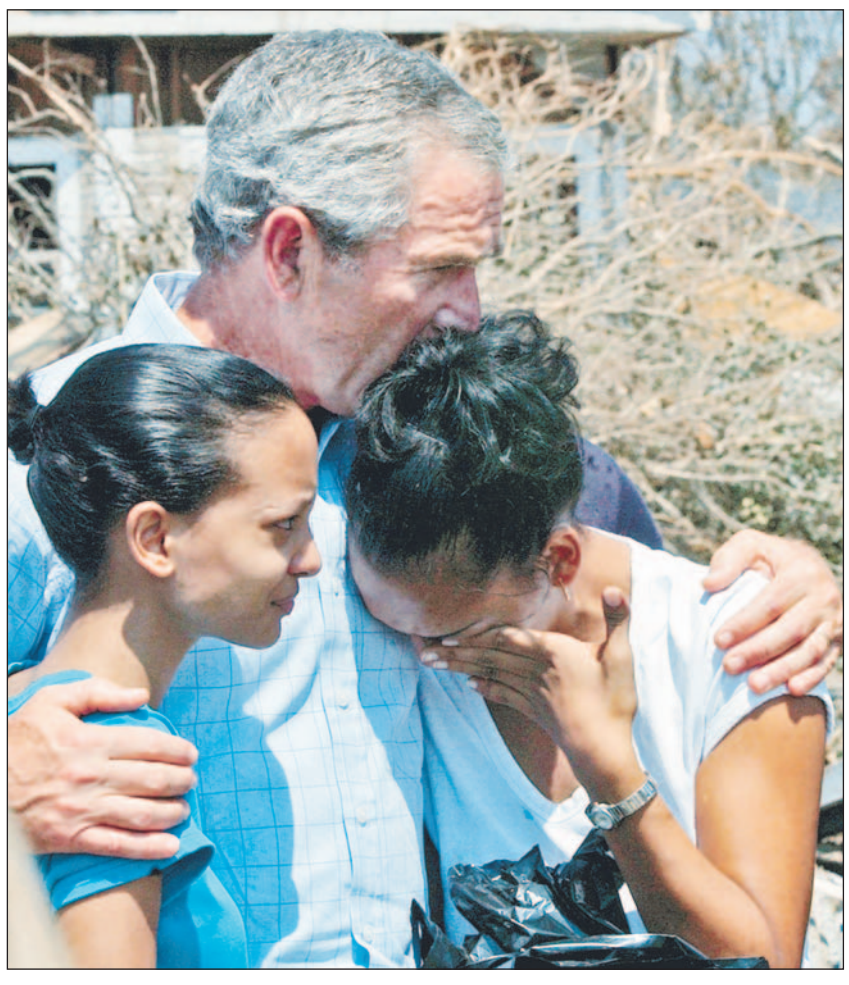
The meeting, scheduled for 15 minutes, lasted an hour and was declared "productive" by Blanco.

"The president is starting to grasp the magnitude of the situation," said Landrieu, D-La. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said, "The president obviously was just stunned" by what he saw.

Nagin, Blanco and Bush then boarded the helicopter and flew over New Orleans.

In a Biloxi stop prior to the New Orleans visit, Bush said the damage was "worse than imaginable," and described the $10.5 billion aid package just approved by Congress as a small down payment for disaster relief.

*See* **BUSH,** *page 3*



AP PHOTO

**MISSISSIPPI COAST:** President Bush comforts Kim Bassier, left, and Bronwynne Bassier while touring storm-ravaged Biloxi on Friday. Bush flew over Louisiana but did not leave the Louis Armstrong International Airport out of security concerns.

## More guns, buses, relief roll into city

**By Jed Horne**
Staff writer

New Orleans, or what's left of it, awoke Friday to discover that fire had been added to the array of pestilences - floodwaters, hunger, looting and mass death - that have beset the city since Hurricane Katrina's winds ripped it apart five days ago.

The plumes of smoke rising from locations on both sides of the river were offset by the belated arrival of long-promised National Guard units in a bid to further the evacuation and reverse the virtual anarchy that descended over the city as beleaguered and increasingly angry local officials begged for federal assistance.

On a daylong tour of New Orleans and the stricken Gulf Coast, President Bush conceded that the nation's disaster response had been a disappointment and vowed a redoubled relief effort.

"What is not working, we're going to make it right," he said after an initial landing in Mobile, Ala. His wife, Laura Bush, echoed the same theme in remarks during a visit to Lafayette.

There were continued signs of the efforts to restore order.

Guns pointed skyward in the back of troop transport vehicles, Friday's initial deployment of about 7,000

*See* **KATRINA,** *page 2*

# Rise in West Nile infections feared

## *Health workers to flood Gulf Coast, N.O. area*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Nearly 500 federal public health specialists will be deployed throughout the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast region in an attempt to ward off a variety of food- and water-borne diseases, but the most serious health threat these areas face will be psychological problems brought on by stress, the head of the Centers of Disease Control and

Prevention said Thursday.

Calling Hurricane Katrina "our own tsunami," CDC Director Julie Gerberding said the 24 20-member teams headed for the area will include experts in infectious diseases and environmental health.

They will join about 30 CDC workers already in Louisiana who are helping assess the situation, determine the care patients need and deliver basic materials such as antibiotics, tetanus vaccine and cots for field hospitals, agency spokesman Tom Skinner said.

The state Department of Health and Hospitals has asked CDC to send experts in environmental health, infectious diseases and immunizations, but they will not be needed for a few weeks because the top priority now is finding and rescuing people and getting them to medical care, spokeswoman Kristen Meyer said.

"We haven't seen a lot of diseases because the things that put people at risk are being in floodwater and cleaning up after floodwater," she said. "Most evacuees haven't had a chance to go back home."

To head off a possible outbreak of tetanus in Mississippi, the CDC has sent 8,000 doses of tetanus vaccine to Mississippi, Gerberding said.

Although federal health specialists will work with local personnel in treating a variety of food- and water-borne diseases such as hepatitis A, diarrhea and intestinal infections, the biggest -- and longest-lasting -- health-care concern probably will be psychological problems brought on by stress, Gerberding said in a telephone news conference.

"When you have no home, you have no money, and you have no job, . . . the long-term consequences are overwhelming," she said. "We will have mental-health experts at every location."

These specialists will treat not only patients but also caregivers "because they are affected by the damages and the families" they see, Gerberding said.

Among the CDC contingent will be people who have worked in refugee camps around the world, she said.

More information about hurricane-related health concerns is available at dhh.emergencynews.com.

One particular area of concern, she said, will be the possibility of a rise in West Nile virus infections as a result of the high amount of water that Katrina dumped on Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama -- water that could be breeding grounds for virus-carrying mosquitoes.

Although CDC arguably is the world's foremost public-health organization, Gerberding stressed that its team will be cooperating with state and local health-care personnel to "augment, not replace" them.

"We've got to coordinate surveillance of infections," she said.

Because Katrina was "more like a tsunami than a hurricane," Gerberding said the need for medical help in the devastated region will be vast -- so vast that qualified civilian doctors are being asked to join the CDC teams for what could be a protracted period.

"We're in a marathon, not a sprint," she said.

# Floodwater stops short of museum

## *NOMA's contents emerge safe from storm*

**By Dante Ramos and Doug MacCash**
Staff Writers

The New Orleans Museum of Art survived Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath without significant damage.

But when Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives arrived in the area Wednesday, NOMA employees holed up inside the museum were left in a quandary:

FEMA wanted those evacuees to move to a safer location, but there was no way to secure the artwork inside.

Six security and maintenance employees remained on duty during the hurricane and were joined by 30 evacuees, including the families of some employees.

Harold Lyons, a security console operator who stayed on at the museum, said FEMA representatives were the first outsiders to show up at the museum in days.

They immediately tried to persuade staffers to leave the building. That would have left no one to protect the museum's contents, and no one inside the museum had the authority to give that order, Lyons said as he inspected the grounds.

Museum Director John Bullard was on vacation and assistant Director Jacquie Sullivan had taken a disabled brother to Gonzales.

"We can't just leave and turn out the lights on the say-so of someone we don't know," Lyons said.

The phones inside the museum had failed. Lyons asked a reporter to pass a message to Sullivan as soon as possible.

Interviewed by telephone, Sullivan said she had been in close contact with emergency management officials all day Wednesday. State Police had promised to take her back to the museum at 7 a.m. Thursday, she said.

City Park was littered with fallen trees, but evacuees' cars, clustered around the museum's walls, were mostly unscathed. The museum itself was spared any wind damage, and floodwater had not reached the building. Inside, the museum's generators whirred away, providing air conditioning to preserve the priceless artworks.

Sullivan said museum workers had taken down some pieces in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden before the storm.

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# Local banks stepping up to assist Katrina victims

## *ATM fees waived; credit rules changed*

**By Mary Judice**
*Business writer*

BATON ROUGE -- New Orleans area banks worked Wednesday to bring branches outside New Orleans back into operation and announced financial packages to help customers in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Chase Bank reopened branches in Baton Rouge and Houma as power was restored and rerouted to other centers its auto financing transactions that had been processed in the New Orleans area.

"We stopped collection efforts in the ZIP codes affected and set up financial relief packages,'' said Chris Spencer, Chase spokesman in Baton Rouge.

The bank will waive automated teller machine fees and offer free check processing as part of the package, he said. Also, Chase will work with customers to post transactions that were made in the days immediately before the storm.

On Wednesday, Chase had 28 of its 34 branches in Baton Rouge open for business, as well as its main branch in Houma, Spencer said.

He said the bank's safe deposit banks in the New Orleans area are on the first floor of branches, and the bank does not know the extent of damages of contents.

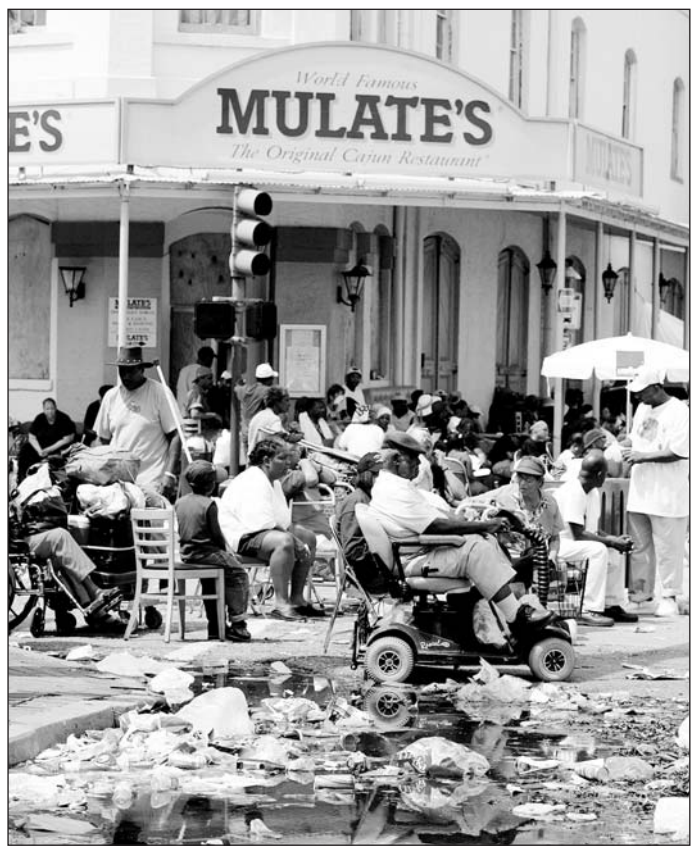
"The safe deposit boxes are water-resistant, not waterproof,'' he said.

Hibernia National Bank said Tuesday that its operations centers in Houston and Shreveport were being used as data back-up sites and for contingency planning for the New Orleans headquarters.

Regions Bank had 25 of its 29 branches in Baton Rouge in operation Wednesday but not all of the branches had functioning ATMs.

Michael Bannister, Regions spokesman in Baton Rouge, said the branches, which had been operated by Union Planters before Regions acquired it, were connected to a communications line that runs through New Orleans and processes transactions in Jackson, Miss. He said ATMs at 14 branches were not in operation but that the bank is rerouting the affected network lines.

Regions will waive its ATM fees for customers who use machines outside the bank's network, will defer some loan and credit card payments and increase credit limits. He said special rates will be offered on home equity loans and lines of credit.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**New Orleans:** A hot, hungry crowd of storm victims gathers outside Mulate's restaurant, waiting for a fresh batch of food and water to be distributed by military troops from the nearby Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Friday.

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## HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**BELLE CHASSE:** National Guard troops arrive at the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station. Soldiers went first to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, where they offloaded pallets of food and water, in some cases tossing the supplies at more than 15,000 seething refugees.

# Bush: 'What is not working, we're going to make it right'

**KATRINA,** *from page 1*

soldiers from all over the country first moved in on the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, where they encountered a small city of angry and desperate refugees along a boulevard littered with now putrefying corpses.

Soldiers offloaded pallets of food and water, in some cases tossing the supplies at upwards of 15,000 refugees seething from their exposure to subhuman conditions brought on by lack of sustenance and sewerage.

A motorcade of 95 air-conditioned buses broke away from the troop transport vehicles they had been following and made for the Superdome, the city's shelter of last resort, to complete an evacuation that on Thursday had pared back a refugee population that peaked at about 25,000.

The show of force began to yield results, but not without incident. One unit in a five-bus caravan had reached Opelousas when it flipped on its side, killing one passenger and injuring 17 others.

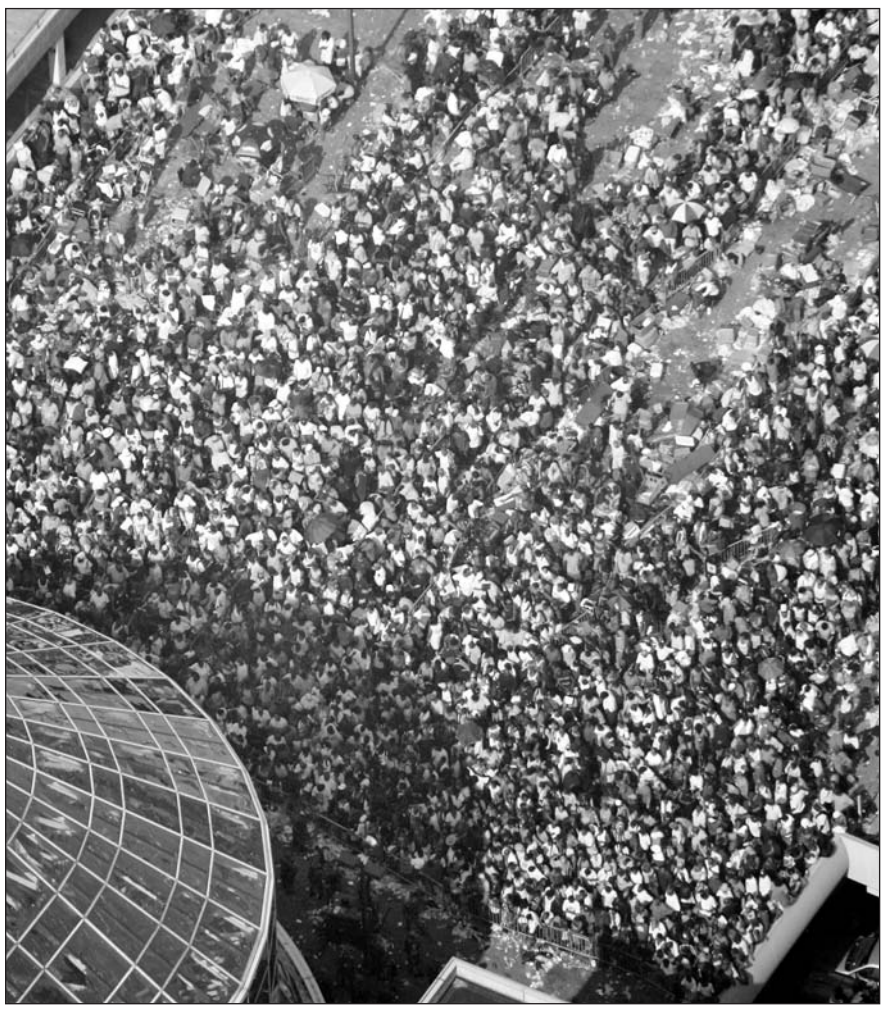
Other convoys carried 4,200 people to airstrips for further evacuation out of the region, and by early evening the Superdome was expected to be empty, Brig. Maj. Gen. Mark Graham, deputy commander of the National Guard's Katrina Task Force, said late Friday afternoon. The Convention Center throng was reduced by 1,000, he said. In addition, a fleet of six small planes - soon to be expanded to a dozen - airlifted 438 patients from city hospitals.

The Coast Guard continued to ply flooded neighborhoods working alongside a private flotilla of several hundred boats to pluck survivors from rooftops, attics and highway ramps and bridges. By Friday, the tally of those rescued by the Coast Guard had topped 4,000, Capt. Sharon Richey said.

If New Orleans was the epicenter of misery and chaos, reports from more remote suburbs revealed that the death and looting was not limited to the region's big city.

With unofficial death toll estimates rising into the thousands, State Sen. Walter Boasso said at least 100 corpses had been collected in St. Bernard Parish, 25 having been tethered together to keep them from floating away.

"We've had people lying in water in the attic for days," Boasso said of the continuing rescue effort.



AP PHOTO

**SUPERDOME:** Thousands wait to be evacuated Friday outside the Superdome. A motorcade of 95 air-conditioned buses headed for the Superdome, the city's shelter of last resort, to complete an evacuation that on Thursday had pared back a refugee population that peaked at about 25,000.

Amos Cormier, chairman of the governing council in Plaquemines Parish, the finger of land that stretches downriver to the mouth of the Mississippi , arrived Friday in Baton Rouge seeking a long list of supplies, his top request a satellite phone. Other items urgently needed: 50 military police, 50 assault rifles, 50 sharpshooters, dynamite and at least 200 body bags.

Cormier said the lower half of the parish was entirely underwater and that virtual piracy had broken out as looters arrived by boat and began grabbing maritime supplies and even yachts and trawlers - "whatever they can take," Cormier said.

The dynamite would be used to blow holes in the marsh-side levees below Myrtle Grove, hastening drainage of floodwaters, said Cormier, who acknowledged that, as options go, dynamite is less than ideal. The Army Corps would prefer that the levees be breached by excavation to make their rebuilding more manageable. Cormier said that was fine with him -- "if they can get in" with the heavy equipment needed for the job.

Back in Orleans Parish, floodwaters continued to drain from the city into Lake Pontchartrain through breaches punched in the levee system, but the process, even after the now-defunct city pumps begin working, will take 36 to 80 days, authorities said, fine-tuning an initial estimate that the process would take up to two months. Johnny Bradberry, secretary of the state Department of Transportation Development, said the pumps may be working as early as Monday.

To keep high tides - or another hurricane -- from pushing the lake back into the city, Boh Brothers construction company raced Friday to complete installation of sheet metal piling below the Old Hammond Highway bridge over the 17th Street Canal. The waterway between Orleans and Jefferson parishes was the scene of the most spectacular and devastating failure of the city's flood protection system. The breach was attacked by dropping 3,000 pound sacks of sand - 200 of them - into the chasm eaten into the side of the canal by roiling water. Officials said the hole should be plugged by late Sunday or Monday.

Mayor Ray Nagin, meanwhile, predicted that electrical power in the city would not be restored for two to three months. Jefferson Parish also abandoned rosier projections and said residents should not plan to visit the parish Monday, even for the temporary check-up on their homes that had been announced in the immediate aftermath of Katrina's landfall.

Some of the fires that had sent smoke into the morning skies were still burning by late afternoon, and another appeared to have erupted and spread to several houses in the area of Notre Dame Seminary on Carrollton Avenue.

The first of the day's fires, announced by an explosion that rocked a wide area of the city, consumed a warehouse along the levee in the city's downriver Bywater area and spread to a second. State officials with the Department of Environmental Quality flew a helicopter over the building, formerly a storage depot for oil products, and determined that its emissions were not toxic, and fireboats appeared to have brought that conflagration under control by late afternoon.

Given the lack of firefighting resources in a city without water, the potentially greater threat was the fire that erupted in a low-rise sandwich shop nestled among hotels and office towers in the heart of the Central Business District, just yards from the sprawling Harrah's casino. Another fire of undetermined origin sent smoke rising into cloudless morning skies across the Mississippi River on the West Bank of suburban Jefferson Parish, which already has seen an entire shopping mall torched by looters.

The Mississippi River on Friday was opened to closely restricted navigation up to mile 235, the Coast Guard announced, good news for some 90 vessels that have been idled at its mouth. Some of them would be tankers bearing crude oil to refineries and a possible respite in gas prices that soared above $6 a gallon at some stations Friday.

Another statistic on the oil front suggested that the shortages, even with resumed tanker traffic, could be long-lasting. Katrina knocked 28 offshore oil platforms from their moorings; 30 more were lost altogether, industry officials said.

Other economic indicators were comparably grim. The loss attributable to the storm was set at $100 million by Risk Management Solutions and state officials with the Department of Labor were bracing for the worst as unemployment claims, usually at about 4,000 a week, soar to a projected 750,000 all told.

As they have all week, survivors of the holocaust on Friday continued to stagger into cities and towns all around the rim of Hurricane Katrina's arc of destruction, gazing back at their former lives in anger, sorrow and disbelief.

One among the thousands was Mark Perillat, a 49-year-old Bywater resident. After sending his wife and children to Lake Charles, he had stayed on in their home for three days, venturing out repeatedly into flooded neighborhoods by canoe to rescue trapped people and deliver them to overpasses, bridges - anywhere he could drop them. One canoe load, a couple in their 50s, had stood for three days in neck-deep water, he said.

As a cable television station rebroadcast the tearful and bitter Thursday night tirade in which Nagin lambasted federal officials for their lack of effective response and then burst into tears, Perillat cheered the mayor -- "that's my guy" - and then broke down himself.

"Weathering storms, getting people out of the water, that's okay," Perillat said after regaining his composure. "The worst thing is not being able to deal with this on a national level. The government let us down, the whole f----- city."

**"If we can't respond faster than this to an event we saw coming across the Gulf for days, then why do we think we're prepared to respond to a nuclear or biological attack?"**

NEWT GINGRICH, former House speaker

# Even Republicans decrying president's response to crisis




AP PHOTO

**LOUISIANA COAST:** Marine One, carrying President Bush, flies over parts of Louisiana to tour Hurricane Katrina damage.

**BUSH,** *from page 1*

"It's as if the entire Gulf Coast were obliterated by the worst kind of weapon you can imagine," he said.

Bush began the day at the White House where he expressed unhappiness with the efforts so far to provide food and water to hurricane victims and to stop looting and lawlessness in New Orleans.

"The results are not acceptable," Bush said of the breakdown in security that had led to looting and of the failure to make timely delivery of food and medicine to tens of thousands of residents trapped in flooding after the storm.

The president's comments came after Nagin lashed out at federal officials, telling a local radio station "they don't have a clue what's going on down here."

Even Republicans were criticizing Bush and his administration for the sluggish relief effort. "I think it puts into question all of the Homeland Security and Northern Command planning for the last four years, because if we can't respond faster than this to an event we saw coming across the Gulf for days, then why do we think we're prepared to respond to a nuclear or biological attack?" said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

He urged Bush to name former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as the White House point person for relief efforts. U.S. Rep. John Sweeney, a New York Republican, also suggested Giuliani, former Secretary of State Colin Powell or retired Gen. Tommy Franks to take charge of the relief efforts.

In Biloxi, Bush encountered two weeping women on a street where a house had collapsed and towering trees were stripped of their branches. "My son needs clothes," said Bronwynne Bassier, 23, clutching several trash bags. "I don't have anything."

"I understand that," Bush said. He kissed both women on their heads and walked with his arms around them, telling them they could get help from the Salvation Army. "Hang in there," he said.

Asked later how the richest country on earth could not meet the needs of its people, Bush said, "I am satisfied with the response. I am not satisfied with all the results."

Amid the lowest approval ratings of his presidency, Bush has other problems besides the hurricane: Gasoline prices have soared past $3 a gallon in some places, and support is ebbing for the war in Iraq.

The White House announced Bush had approved federal disaster aid for Texas and Arkansas, which also suffered hurricane damage. Bush urged people to donate money to the Red Cross and said he would sign the $10.5 billion in federal disaster relief later Friday.

"What is not working right, we're going to make it right," Bush said. Referring to rampant looting and crime in New Orleans, Bush said, "We are going to restore order in the city of New Orleans."

"The people of this country expect there to be law and order, and we're going to work hard to get it," the president said. "In order to make sure there's less violence, we've got to get food to people."

"We'll get on top of this situation," Bush said, "and we're going to help the people that need help."

Bush was accompanied by Homeland Security Department secretary Michael Chertoff. The department, which oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been accused of responding sluggishly to the deadly hurricane. On the plane ride to Alabama, Bush was briefed on plans for housing the tens of thousands of people displaced by the hurricane.

"There's a lot of aid surging toward those who've been affected. Millions of gallons of water. Millions of tons of food. We're making progress about pulling people out of the Superdome," the president said.

# 'They just can't ... keep on keepin' on'

## *Hospitals sick babies sent to Baton Rouge*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE Twenty-eight critically ill infants have been evacuated to hospitals in Baton Rouge after four perilous days at flood-ravaged Charity and University hospitals, the head of Louisiana State University's public hospital system said Friday.

Shortly thereafter, however, an emergency evacuation of an estimated 350 patients that began Thursday morning was halted for the second time in about 24 hours because of what Donald Smithburg, head of LSU's Health Care Services Division, described as a problem with "civil disobedience."

He provided no further description of the problem.

University Hospital had been completely evacuated as of early Friday afternoon. But an estimated 100 patients remained at Charity Hospital, where they've survived without water or sewerage and with dwindling supplies of food, medicine and generator fuel since Hurricane Katrina struck, Smithburg said.

Smithburg, who has had intermittent radio contact with hospital officials since the storm hit, described a situation that grows more desperate with each hour.

"(The evacuation) has to happen today," Smithburg said.

In what Smithburg called one of "the most perverse decisions you can imagine in life," some doctors have been giving intravenous fluids to each other so that they can maintain enough energy to do their jobs.

Several patients have already died. An LSU spokesman said the hospital's 12-body morgue is overflowing and submerged in water. At least five bodies have been stacked in a stairwell outside the morgue.

Hospital officials have been calling for a full evacuation since early Tuesday, when floodwaters began to rise, but only a few ventilator patients had been taken to safety until a helicopter airlift was launched Thursday morning. And the exodus from the eighth floor helipad of Tulane University Medical Center was quickly halted because of security concerns, Smithburg said.

"We had to pull back because they (the helicopters) were taking shots," he said.

Smithburg said the evacuation restarted around 9:30 Friday morning with a mix of private choppers and "heavily armed" Chinook helicopters operated by the National Guard. But hours later, the evacuation again had to be halted because of security concerns. He did not know the exact nature of the threat, but said LSU has asked the State Police for more armed security.

Smithburg said LSU is in the process of setting up a 600-bed hospital in Baton Rouge to treat transferred patients and the flood of evacuees who are expected to need medical treatment. Until then, evacuees are being triaged in New Orleans and sent to existing hospitals in Louisiana and other states.

Smithburg said he hopes that once the evacuation is complete that the physicians and other staff at Charity and University hospitals will agree to help staff the new facility.

"I'm praying that those staff, after they get well-deserved rest, can be deployed to the needy institutions," he said.

He said that with every passing moment that patients don't get evacuated, "people will continue to die. Our heroic staff, they just can't be expected to keep on keeping on."

• • • • • •

Jan Moller can be reached at tpicbr@aol.com

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 1,000 National Guard troops arrive




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NEW ORLEANS: National Guard troops patrol Poydras Street on Friday. Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, who is coordinating federal relief efforts on behalf of the National Guard, said 7,000 troops will be in place by tonight to help restore order.

*'We're getting the troops in as fast as we can'*

**By Paul Purpura**
Staff writer

About 1,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen arrived Friday at the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, which has become the staging area for National Guard troops assisting with recovery efforts in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

About 1,000 troops had gone through the processing center between 4 a.m. and midafternoon at the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing hangar, officials said.

"We're getting the troops in as fast as we can,'' said Col. Mike Lopinto.

After the troops were processed, they were trucked or flown in by helicopter to "the zone,'' military jargon for dangerous areas, said Lt. Col. Pete Schneider of the Louisiana National Guard.

The 1,000 troops come from 15 states, including Arkansas, Texas, Ohio and South Carolina, and were dispersed to various areas around the city, said Army National Guard Col. Ron Stuckey.

"You name it, they're coming,'' he said.

Brig. Gen. Hunt Downer, an assistant adjutant for Louisiana National Guard, said their purpose is to do whatever is needed. "You name it and we'll do it.''

A lot of troops who have been streaming through the air station have been to Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

Downer said the joint effort involves Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Navy and Coast Guard. "It's an amazing experience for everyone,'' he said. "We're making history."

Lt. Col Ronald Turk, commanding officer of the Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Security Forces Squadron based at McGwire Air Force Base in New Jersey, said most of his troops specialize in law enforcement, serving as police officer in civilian life. Turk is second-in-command ATF's Nashville office.

He and his people said they were eager to help. "There's a lot of folks hurting right now and we're hoping to help,'' Turk said.

Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Morton of New Jersey said troops are prepared for whatever they might see.

Despite the images of violence and looting, he said, "the majority of folks here are good people. We're here to do a mission.''

The goal is to have 7,000 soldiers and airmen involved in law enforcement in the metro area.

"You will see a massive presence of troops on the ground here,'' Schneider said. "They're coming in, and we're kicking them out and it's not going to stop until we don't need anymore (personnel).''

If there is a unit we need we are going to go out and get civil engineers transportation and security.

# Causeway to remain closed until evacuation lifted

*Bridge will be good as new within days*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

Despite reports by local radio and the national press, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway sustained no major damage from Katrina's storm surge, the bridge's general manager said in the first official report of its condition.

An extensive inspection of the 24-mile bridge between Metairie and Mandeville found two areas of erosion that are expected to be refurbished within days. With the Interstate 10 twin spans in shambles, the news of the Causeway's integrity provides a bright spot to the north shore, where much of the population depends on the sole remaining link to Jefferson and Orleans parishes.

"It's critical in so many ways long-term, but short-term, we are the only lifeline to bring in supplies to keep people on the south shore alive," Causeway General Manager Robert Lambert said.

The bridge's northbound lanes have been used since Tuesday for emergency vehicles shuttling rescuers and critical supplies to the south shore. The southbound lanes remain closed while Boh Bros. contractors repair two small segments of limestone and concrete that connect the ends of the bridge to the shoreline. Lambert said the contractors had the materials available immediately after inspections, and that work should be completed by Tuesday if not before.

Lambert said teams of engineers, including federal and state

Officials, inspected the bridge from boats and from the roadway. They found that several of the huge concrete slabs had shifted up to an inch on the crossbeams that connect to underwater pilings. Lambert said the spans' slight movement pose no threat to the bridge's structural integrity.

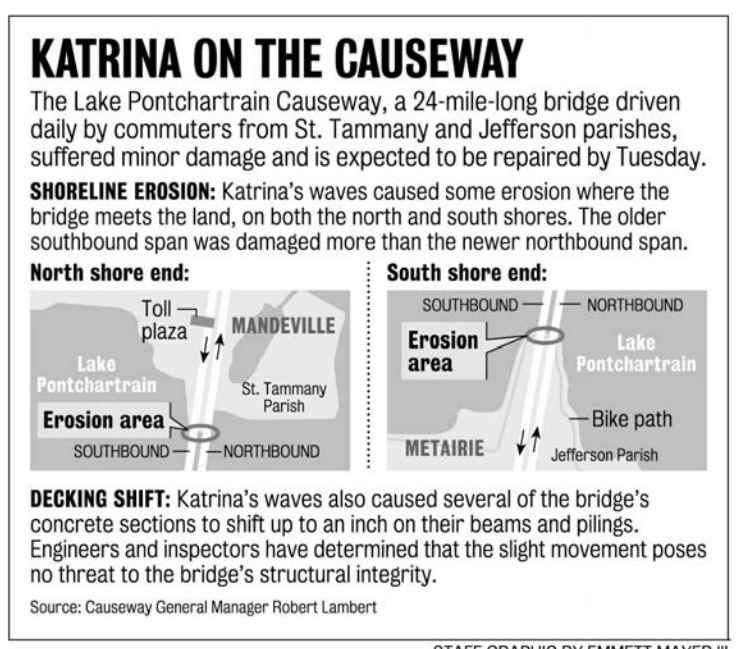
"They stopped and checked every inch of this bridge," he said. "There's no questions about the safety, the integrity of the Causeway." Divers also began inspecting the hundreds of underwater pilings Thursday to confirm engineers' conclusion that no large objects slammed into them during the storm.

Lambert said that even though both directions of the bridge would be passable in days, he will not open them to the public until officials in St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes allow evacuees back in.

"For people to come here right now just would be insane," he said after patrolling many flooded and wind-battered neighborhoods in Metairie and Kenner.

Lambert's announcement will buoy out-of-state evacuees from the north shore, who have been starved for information since most telephone communication came to a halt Monday. It also contradicts loosely attributed statements on local radio and national newspapers, such as The New York Times, that reported that parts of the 24-mile bridge were missing.

"Supposedly this one was the big one," Lambert said. "This bridge took it."




STAFF GRAPHIC BY EMMETT MAYER III

## 'This is the Red Sea - that's what we're trying to cross'

# Trek seems endless for exhausted survivors

*Waits, worry only add to the horror*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Eighty-one-year-old Vivian Rillieux hobbled down Interstate 10 in a flower-print dress, a cane in her hand to steady her swollen ankles and a rag on her balding head to block the punishing sun.

All around her marched a sea of Hurricane Katrina refugees, some so dehydrated they could no longer sweat. The lucky ones pushed shopping carts with food and drinks. Others lacked shirts, or even shoes.

Below the elevated expressway lay a scene of devastation much like the one that nearly killed Rillieux in her eastern New Orleans home.

Rescue boats motored down Canal Street, where the water was nearly to the tops of the thoroughfare's iconic palms and streetlights. Ahead in the distance, people trudged through polluted waters on Poydras Street to get to the Superdome, while helicopters, including at one point Air Force One, circled overhead.

When Rillieux learned that almost no neighborhood in the city had escaped unscathed - even St. Charles Avenue had taken on water - she buried her head in her hands.

"The city is gone," she said.

"Betsy was nothing - nothing - compared to this," said Rillieux's husband, Ernest, 82.

The couple walked amid thousands of refugees who streamed to the elevated expressway, one of the only safe places in a drowning city.

Rillieux made her trek Wednesday, and the interstate has continued to fill up with increasingly desperate refugees, far outnumbering the amount of buses and supply trucks to feed and house them.

On Thursday and Friday, rescue workers had some success bringing food and water to the stranded masses lining the busy highway - now transformed, for thousands, into a lifeline of escape from rising waters.

Further west Friday, on I-10 at Causeway, a similarly horrifying scene unfolded, according to broadcast reports, with just a few helicopters plucking mere handfuls of people from the huge crowds standing behind metal barriers. The aim was to bring buses to get them, but none had arrived, even five days after Katrina drowned their homes.

As Rillieux trudged down the highway, even the few rescue workers and volunteers on the elevated roadway had little or no food or water to offer.

What bothered the crowds more was the utter lack of basic information: No one could tell them where to go for help. Some considered the Superdome, which they had heard was a shelter, but abandoned that plan upon hearing the rumors of suicides, killings and piles of excrement overflowing in inoperable toilets, and a mass evacuation from that building.

The miles-long trail of suffering on the interstate underscored the biblical proportions of Hurricane Katrina.

"This is the Red Sea - that's what we're trying to cross," said Earl Miller, 57. "This is a mass exodus, like the Israelites fleeing Egypt."

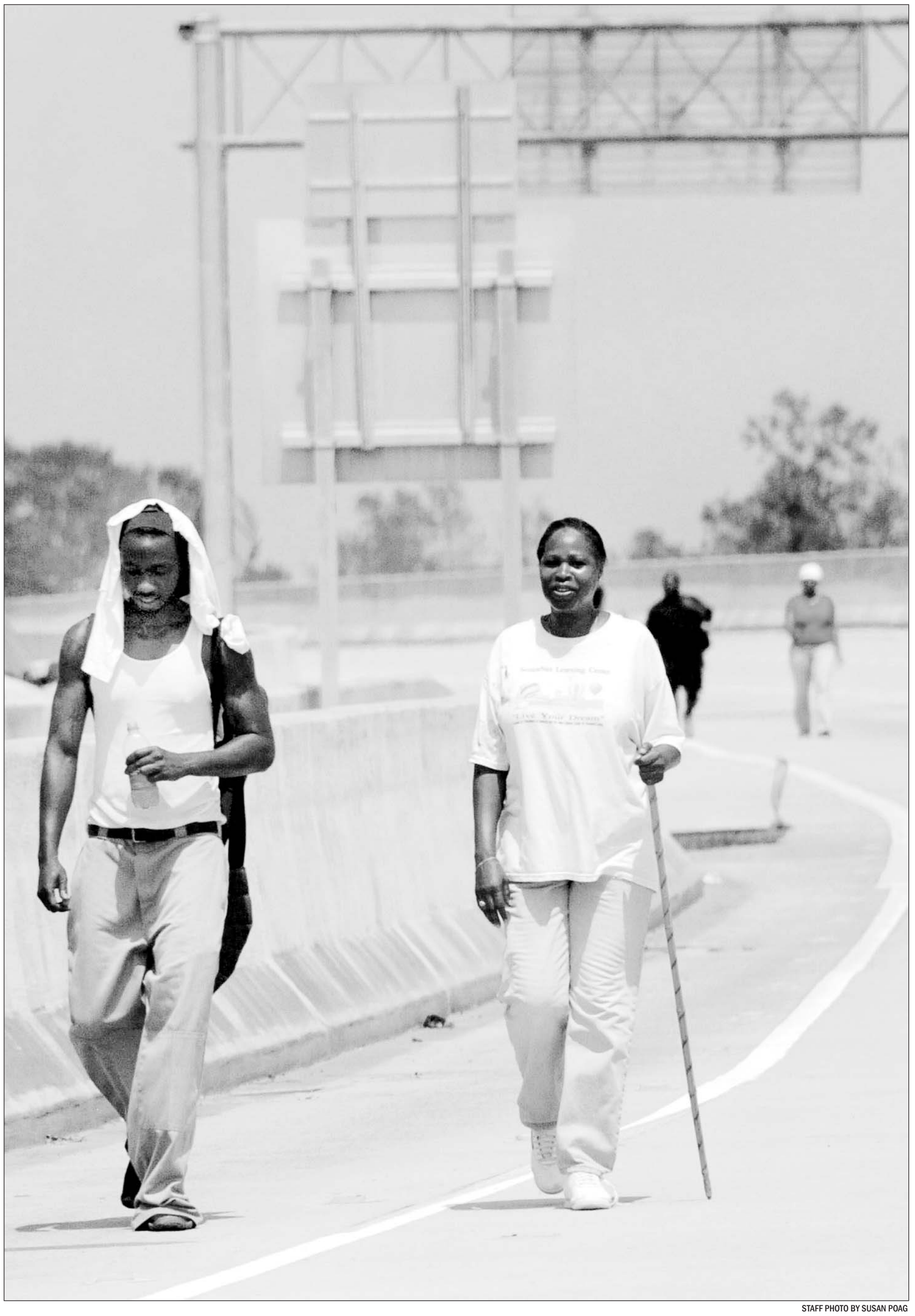
One key difference: The flood victims could see no promised land. They wandered, dazed, toward the Dome, or the West Bank of Jefferson, or toward Metairie, desperately seeking someone to tell them where to seek help.

After being trapped for days in their homes by water, the thousands of survivors faced a second horror of uncertainly and unbearable toil, scraping for minute-to-minute survival. Still consumed with rescue efforts and quelling looting and violence, disorganized police, fire and rescue teams from all over the state offered little food or water and no plan for evacuating the flood victims.

A few yards in front of Miller, a family of 16, all wearing donated red T-shirts, marched west, asking periodically where they could find safe passage. They lived out of one shopping cart.

Grandmother Margie Houston, 57, walked alongside toddlers and teen-agers while nursing a knee that had endured three operations. Two days before the storm, she had been released from the hospital after a bout of pneumonia and heart palpitations. The family had walked for a day after spending two nights trapped by high water in the attic of their eastern New Orleans home.

"We slept on the interstate," said Errol Houston, 25. "We're just trying to make it. But we don't know what to do or where to go."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**NEW ORLEANS/ALGIERS:** Shelton Bruno walks with his mother, Janice Pierre, across the Crescent City Connection spanning the Mississippi River on Wednesday, The pair lives in the B.W. Cooper housing development in New Orleans and evacuated because of rising water. They were finding their way to a relative's house in Algiers.

Further east, a group of fire trucks parked on the highway under heavy guard from out-of-town police. They waited there for boats to return from a rescue mission that had pulled 130 people out of a building near Delgado Community College. The heard shots fired under the bridge, and officers in black flak jackets carrying M-16s and shotguns began crawling and ducking around vehicles, peeking up to scan the buildings below for a shooter. No one could tell if the officers had been targeted, or if the shots had hit anyone in the flooded area under the highway.

At the easternmost passable point on the highway, just before the I-10 high-rise, a large group of adults and children cooled themselves in the tainted waters covering the interstate.

Barbara Eurings, 34, had been at her sister's apartment in the St. Bernard public housing development when water rose to the second floor.

Standing on a fire escape waiting to be rescued, she saw a National Guard boat pick up seven people. One man in the middle of the boat seemed nervous, she said; he panicked and starting shaking the boat.

"He flipped over the boat," she said. "Four people drowned."

Back closer to the Dome, Kenneth Fuller, 42, pressed his body against a concrete barrier, seeking the tiny bit of shade it provided. Below him in the water on Claiborne Avenue, a woman screamed frantically at friends across the flooded street, telling them not to try to come join her.

"It's too deep! Don't try it! Too deep! Too deep!"

Despite the chaos around him, Fuller smiled and pronounced himself "blessed" - surprised at being alive after two days trapped in high waters in St. Bernard Parish. He had walked from the St. Claude Avenue bridge after being rescued by boat.

"I spent two days trapped in 20 feet of water," he said. "I feel like I want to cry, but I'm going to be strong. ... I'm blessed, truly blessed. God saved me."

Rillieux, like Fuller, maintained an astonishingly sunny - and thankful - disposition. Sitting on the curb, she gazed up at her neighbor, Mary Sterling, a member of the family that had floated the Rilleuxs in a plastic kiddie pool to relative safety in the second story of their home.

"If it wasn't for them, we would have drowned in that house," she said.

"They're a wonderful family. ... They kept saying, 'You need help? You want something to eat?' They're strangers, but it's like they're friends."

# Mom, newborn are forced to leave husband behind

## *Two families escape ravages of Katrina*

**By JOSH PETER**
Staff writer

HOUSTON -- One of the oddest sights of the week: The irrepressible look on the faces of Monika Renee Sheppard and her husband, Christopher.

Even in their floodwater-soaked clothes, the Orleans Parish couple expressed gratitude for surviving their dicey escape. Especially as Christopher carried their 16-month-old son, Jackson, apparently in perfect health despite the family's ordeal.

"We had a generator running until (Wednesday) morning,'' said Monika, 31, a classical singer at Loyola University and a cantor at St. Louis Cathedral.

That's when they broke out the family pirogue and, with Christopher pushing the wooden boat, the Sheppards traveled through the floodwaters for about a mile. That's when the U.S. Coast Guard spotted the family, picked them up and dropped them off at the Causeway, where buses were taking evacuees to the Astrodome.

"We were one of the first 200 people there and all of a sudden it's just like people just showed up from everywhere,'' Monika Sheppard said. "You would be in line to get on the bus and they would swarm around you like sharks, kicking and pushing everybody from the middle back. So the babies were getting crushed.''

Worried about their son, the Sheppards moved to the back of the line and waited 24 hours before finally getting onto a bus. The only reason they finally got on board was their son got sick and a medical official escorted them through the throng and onto a bus.

But the chaotic scene wasn't the most disturbing thing the Sheppards witnessed.

"Vandalism beyond your wildest dreams,'' Monika Sheppard said. "I mean, carts from the Quality Inn filled with alcohol and cigarettes, clothes, food, candy. It was just desperation.''

Bypassing offers from looters, Monika Sheppard said she bartered and scavenged for food as the family's supply ran low. She said she found a bottle of Hennessy cognac on the street and traded it for six bottles of water and a bag of chips.

"Then I scavenged,'' she said. "A lot of people who got rations opened it up and ate the candy but they didn't know how to prepare the meal, or couldn't read, or couldn't figure it.''

Shortly after arriving at the Astrodome, they were about to get a hot meal. But the Sheppards attributed their huge smiles to something else.

"We've still got him,'' Monika said, patting baby Jackson on the back.

On his way out of the Astrodome, Joshua Gleason bent over and picked up a wooden cross.

Worried about his fiancØe and their 3-day-old daughter, Gleason, 21, stuffed the wooden cross into the front right pocket of his shorts. He already had a gold crucifix around his neck and was counting on divine intervention. But at the moment, he headed out of the Astrodome in need of a cigarette.

Three-day old stubble covered a sunburned face framed with short blond hair; his blue eyes looked weary. A pack of beef jerky poked out of his left pocket.

Four days from his 21st birthday, Gleason described the horror of Hurricane Katrina as reports suggests his St. Bernard home, like most of the others in the parish, is under water - and possibly destroyed beyond repair.

Yet his home was of little concern as he searched in vain to find out where his newborn daughter was three days after his fiancØe, Tammy Stephens, had given birth at the St. Bernard Parish Prison, where the family had taken shelter.

Their exodus from New Orleans started Monday when the couple awoke to find about 18 inches of water outside their home. Within 24 hours, with the home submerged under about five feet of water, Gleason said he broke into a nearby house and took food and water before the family moved to an occupied house down the street.

Rescued by a boat, Gleason said, the family's odyssey continued when they were moved from shelters at Chalmette High School, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse and, as water continued to rise, the prison.

It was inside a holding cell Tuesday night that Stephens gave birth to the couple's first child, a daughter. The memory made Gleason swell with anger.

"The conditions the baby was born in were disgusting,'' he said, describing blood that soaked several sheets and backed up the toilet after a doctor delivered he baby. "I was holding the IV, wiping my fiancØe's head down with a wet rag. I held her down when the doctor broke her water bag and put the baby in position (for delivery).

"She didn't have no epidural, they didn't have no pain medicine, nothing.''

Gleason said he was worried about the birth because Stephens suffers from epileptic seizures. But a day later, medical officials arrived and said they had to take Stephens and the newborn by helicopter to a hospital. Authorities said they had no room for Gleason because they also were transporting a man injured in a crane accident. And when Stephens objected to leaving without her fiancØ, Gleason said things got ugly.

"They told her if she didn't go that they were going to take the baby away,'' Gleason said. "They threatened her as much as they could to get her in there.''

Eventually, Stephens gave in and was taken to an undisclosed hospital.

Gleason ended up on a bus that took him to the Astrodome. There, his frustration only grew.

"I'm definitely aggravated that they can't tell me where my fiancØe is, or my baby," he said, adding that he's posted notes inside the Astrodome and asked friends and officials for information to no avail. "Nobody ain't seen her. Nobody's telling us really nothing because they don't know nothing.''

But when asked what he and his fiancØe had named their first child, a grin crept across Gleason's face.

The original plan was to name her Haley. But that changed after the hurricane hit New Orleans.

"My fiancØe wanted to name her Katrina because her water broke on the day of the hurricane and the day after the hurricane she had her," Gleason said. "I don't know if she's got it on the birth certificate yet, but that's what she told the doctor."



AP PHOTO

The floor of the Astrodome in Houston is covered Friday with cots and people who escaped from Hurricane Katrina. Texas opened two more giant centers for victims of Hurricane Katrina after refugees filled the Astrodome to capacity.

# Texas is new home to many from N.O.

## *Reliant Center To handle overflow from Astrodome*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON - As the second day of what will most likely be the largest emergency relocation effort in U.S. history came to an end Friday, Texas Gov. Rick Perry asked Texans and evacuees alike for their patience and understanding.

"Nobody said it's going to be easy," Perry said at the Reliant Center. "Nobody said it was going to be done overnight."

Friday afternoon Perry had joined forces with national, state and local officials to revamp the state's emergency relocation plan that will essentially make Houston a transfer hub for New Orleans refugees.

Changes were made after officials said they determined late Thursday that the Astrodome would only be able to house 15,000 residents, as opposed to the 25,000 it was expecting.

As a last resort measure, officials decided to open the Reliant Center, a convention facility, which is adjacent to the Astrodome, to shelter an additional 8,000 evacuees. Another 8,000 evacuees will be housed at the George R. Brown convention center downtown, officials said.

The Astrodome will now serve as dispatch site for future buses. On Friday, some buses already were being re-routed to shelters throughout Texas and other neighboring states as officials worked to prepare and open the two new sites in Houston.

At noon, there were more than 20 buses waiting to be processed into the site. So far, 22,000 evacuees have arrived at the Astrodome. Of that number, 15,000 have remained on site, another 4,000 have been sent to local shelters, while the remainder were waiting Friday at the site to be processed, officials said.

Late Friday afternoon, Perry said Corpus Christi and Austin had agreed to take 5,000 residents each. Smaller cities in the area also were gearing up to accept evacuees.

Michigan has agreed to take 10,000 New Orleans residents.

Other states including West Virginia, Arkansas and Oklahoma were preparing to accept the overflow, Perry said.

Officials reached out to other states after officials became saturated late Thursday and were forced to close the gates leading to the Astrodome to more than 30 buses after the fire marshal determined the building had reached capacity.

It was a move that prompted Houston Mayor Bill White to overrule the fire marshal and work harder to find more space for the Louisiana residents.

"You do what you have to do for people when they are in trouble," White said. "There was no emergency plan for the destruction of one of the largest cities immediately to our east."

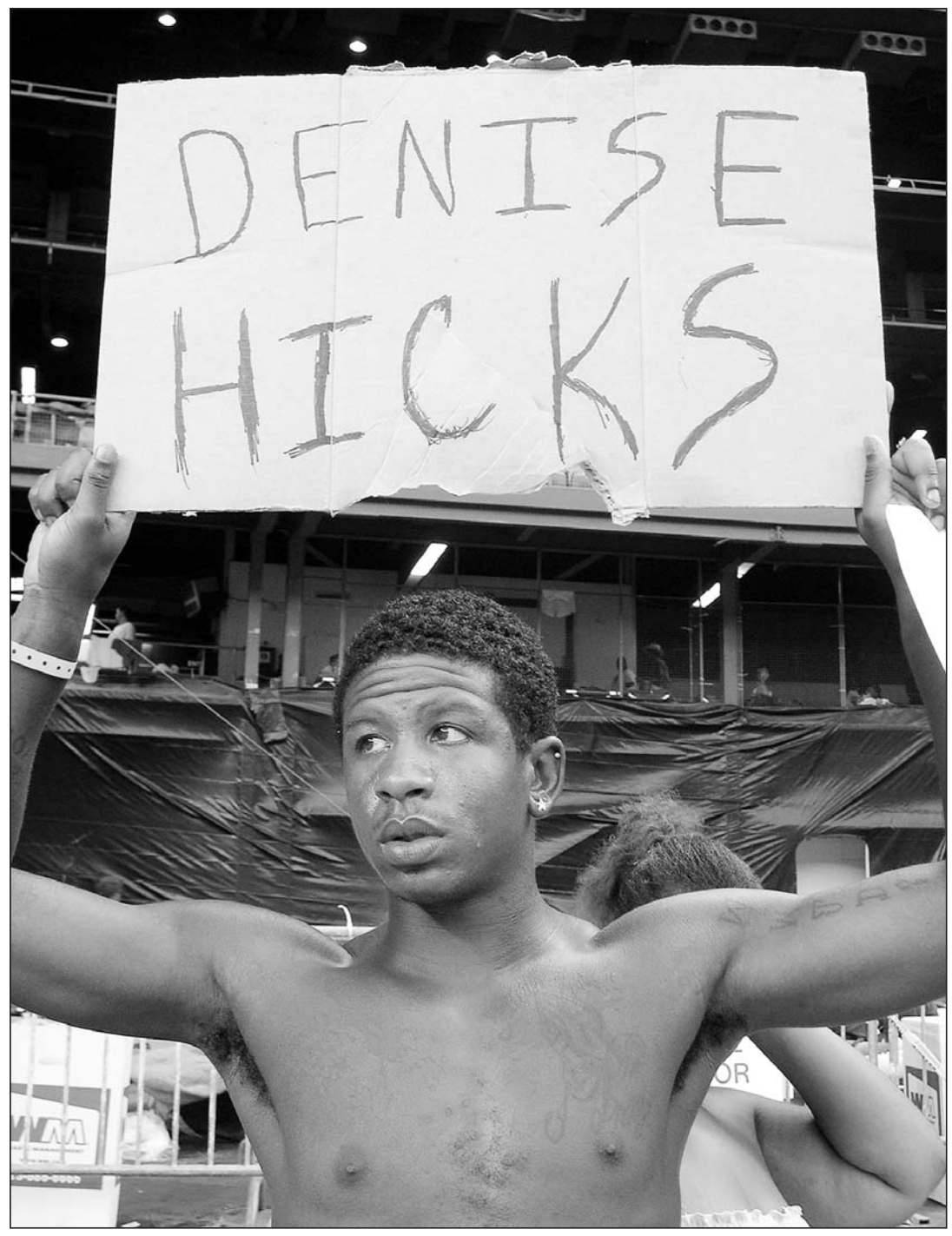
Of the thousands of people who have been processed into the site, there have been two deaths, said Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox, of Baylor University, who is helping to run the emergency clinic.

The two people who died were older with pre-existing medical conditions, Mattox said.

Friday afternoon there were only 30 doctors on the site. Each physician was seeing about 100 to 150 patients an hour. "We are working this out as we go," Mattox said.

Harris County Judge Robert Eckels who is charged with running operations within the county said the problems being experienced are expected given the size of the operation.

"We talked before about hiccups along the way," Eckels said. "That (Thursday night's saturation) hiccup occurred for a couple of hours and those people are now in a shelter."




AP PHOTO

John Barber of New Orleans holds up a sign with his cousin's name on it as he walks around the Houston Astrodome on Friday. Barber was evacuated from the Superdome.

# 1 killed when last bus of Dome evacuees overturns

**From staff reports**

The last bus in a caravan of five buses evacuating people from hurricane-ravaged New Orleans overturned Friday afternoon on Interstate 49 in St. Landry Parish just outside Opelousas, killing one passenger and injuring 17 others, some critically, Louisiana State Police said.

The bus, with 50 people on board, was traveling north from Lafayette when it suddenly veered across the median and the southbound lanes, turning onto its right side of the Creswell Lane exit ramp, according to a state trooper following the procession.

# What's left to hang onto? Each other



AP PHOTO

Troops help an injured woman near the Convention Center. An increased military presence has restored a measure of order and brought survivors a modicum of food and water.

## *Survivors band together as families forged by unforgettable event*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

Amid a city torn asunder by hunger and violence, and reports of exuberant desperados exploiting the tragedies heaped on their neighbors, some of the city's new homeless have kept each other alive the way New Orleanians often have: as family.

Without much assistance from city, state or federal governments, flood victims in some of the most dire circumstances have depended on each other for rescue, food, water and medicine.

Jerrolyn Robertson, 33; her father, Jack, 53; and 5-year-old daughter, Kayla, were rescued from the B.W. Cooper housing complex by a civilian in a fishing boat Tuesday. Now, like so many others, Jack Robertson said all they have left to hold onto is the hope of better days and a sense of tragic unity.

"We were in the projects for days, and no one else came to help us," he said. "We owe that man our life. We are in this together, all of us."

While heavily armed military men and women stood guard along a short stretch of the interstate, shirtless young men pulled case after case of bottled water from the back of a Kentwood Springs delivery truck left on a closed exit ramp leading to nothing but dark flood waters.

"Sometimes people will give you some of what they have," said Jerrolyn Robertson. "All my daughter has had to eat for two days is crackers. But at least she has eaten."

The three of them took refuge from a light afternoon rain Thursday in a white Chrysler abandoned on Interstate 10, joining hundreds of others who had trudged to the highway in hopes of getting picked up.

In other parts of town, knots of neighbors huddled together for safety and mutual comfort, hoping authorities would get control of the city soon and that relief of some form would arrive.

On the porch of Mary Castillo's two-story Uptown double, a group of New Orleanians ranging in age from 9 to 79 did their best to buoy one another's spirits. Most of the group were neighbors, sticking to their still-dry neighborhood. But two were evacuees. Castillo had found Roscoe Shaw, 79, and his wife, Marilyn, 76, awaiting a rescue bus at the Loyola Street post office.

Castillo was drawn to the pair because of their age and the angry red sunburn blooming on Marilyn's shoulders, arms and toes.

"When I saw her, I saw my deceased mother," she said. "I had to help."

Fearing that the elements would claim them before the bus did, Castillo gathered the couple into her car and brought them to her home.

Unfortunately, they were not yet out of danger. Marilyn, a diabetic, was out of insulin, and Roscoe relied on a blood thinner, which also had run out.

The group had foraged a bunch of ripe wild bananas from the yard across the street, and they collected the light rain in a clean trash can. In time, they planned to search the neighborhood for medication, but that was the extent of their plan. They seemed adamant that they were neither evacuating nor splitting up.

# Parts of Old Metairie, Airline still under water

## *Jefferson getting better grip on security*

**By Matthew Brown and Michelle Krupa**
Staff writers

Authorities appeared to gain the upper hand Friday on the rampant disorder that had plagued parts of Jefferson Parish since Hurricane Katrina after a sharp security crackdown coupled with dwindling numbers of people still in the parish.

Checkpoints manned by police armed with assault rifles and shotguns were widespread. Hundreds of New Orleans residents who sought refuge in the parish -- and were blamed by officials for much of the chaos -- were transferred to a staging area on Interstate 10 in Metairie until they could be transported out of the area.

The increasing stability, particularly on the West Bank, allowed stalled recovery efforts to finally begin moving forward. Entergy crews who had threatened to pull out were given added police protection, officials said. Emergency management officials set up their first food distribution centers four days after the storm.

The clearing of debris from clogged streets also began in earnest, prompting Parish President Aaron Broussard to say he would stay with plans to open the parish Monday at 6 a.m. In some areas of East Jefferson, however, that scenario remained in doubt as Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella said Monday was it was too soon for people to return.

Parish and state workers were constructing a mud and riprap levee on Airline Drive east of Causeway Boulevard and were laying sheet pilings north of the Hammond Highway bridge Friday to hold back floodwaters that poured out of Lake Pontchartrain through a levee breach at the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans, officials said.

That break flooded parts of Old Metairie and areas around Airline Drive, which rely on still-inoperable pumps at the 17th Street Canal to remove water from neighborhoods.

"I did a tour on Monday afternoon, and those areas were dry," Capella said. "Now parts of Old Metairie and Airline Highway look like a river."

Floodwaters up to 7 feet deep remained in areas of Old Metairie near the Orleans Parish line. And parish officials said even if residents can return they shouldn't cancel their out-of-town hotel rooms.

"Please extend them at least until the next weekend,'' Broussard said. "The horror story of this devastating hurricane is just beginning; when people return they will have no food, no water, no air conditioning and no place to buy things,'' he said.

Meanwhile, parish leaders worked from a makeshift headquarters in Baton Rouge, declaring that the patchwork force of police from Gretna, Harahan, Kenner, Westwego and the Sheriff's Office, along with sheriff's deputies from Georgia, had staved off the terrifying street violence that had taken hold of New Orleans.

"They've split this parish up and locked this parish down," Capella said. "We're doing everything we can to protect the homes of the people who have evacuated. Your home will not be looted."

But Councilman-at-large John Young, who rode out Katrina at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, said a top Red Cross administrator told him Friday afternoon that the relief agency, on advice from the Department of Homeland Security, planned to hold off at least 24 hours on delivering aid to East Jefferson and to West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero so that 30,000 National Guard troops could secure the storm-ravaged New Orleans area.

"We need to get them water and food," Young said, adding that hospital employees and their families were sharing resources with refugees and the infirm and that a number of dialysis patients died at Kenner Regional Medical Center in Katrina's aftermath.

Provisions also were needed at shelters at Bonnabel High School in Kenner, Worley Middle School in Westwego and C.T. Janet Elementary School in Marrero, he said, although it was unknown how many people had taken refuge at those sites. Both hospitals, despite low provisions, were operating Friday with electric power. Water service also had been restored to West Jefferson.

But some residents are working on moving out of the New Orleans region altogether. Keith Hill of Waggaman said his cousin and about 30 family members were preparing to resettle in Houston after evacuating there before the storm. His cousin's sister-in-law has already found a job as a nurse and another family member is looking for construction work.

"They have about eight kids they already enrolled in school because they don't know the duration of this," Hill said. "It could be six months."

"If they've got new jobs and their kids are going to school they've already got roots. What are they going to return to? They've already lost everything."

In Terrytown, the fire that threatened to destroy Oakwood Mall was brought under control Friday at 1:30 a.m.. Firefighters who had abandoned the blaze Thursday afternoon returned that evening after increased water pressure and renewed hope that the structure could be saved, said chief Bryan Adams of the Terrytown 5th District Volunteer Fire Department. About 10 stores inside the sprawling shopping center were completely lost.

Adams said the fire appeared to have been set by looters. Firefighters entering the building were "bumping into looters."

On Friday, as firefighters boxed up a jewelry store's merchandise, Councilman Chris Roberts predicted it would be many months before Oakwood can reopen - a sharp blow for the local economy. He estimated that 500 to 700 jobs could be temporarily lost and said it would drain millions of sales tax revenues from the parish.

For Adams, who had broken out in tears after calling his men back from the fire Thursday, it was a victory.

He said "my guys busted their tails. We decided we were not going to give up the shopping center to nobody."


**Important Hurricane Katrina Insurance Claims Information for Liberty Mutual Customers**

**Liberty Mutual claims professionals are on duty 24 hours a day. If you sustain damage to home or auto, call 1-800-2-CLAIMS (1-800-225-2467) or visit www.libertymutualinsurance.com to report your claim.**

**To assist policyholders and help facilitate prompt claims service, our catastrophe teams also will be on-hand in the areas hardest hit by the storm.**

Remember – if you lose power, keep circuit breakers turned off and electrical appliances, equipment, and computers unplugged until all power is restored to prevent further damage from a surge.

Liberty Mutual

**"It is vitally important we get these students into a safe environment where learning can go on."**

Meg Casper
State Department of Education spokeswoman

# Schools swamped by displaced students

*Properties across state have been sold, rented*

**By Steve Ritea and Coleman Warner**
Staff writers

Many of the more than 135,000 school students displaced by Hurricane Katrina are swelling enrollments in other districts across the state and thenation as families rush to relocate from the ravaged New Orleans area.

Louisiana education officials said they couldn't begin to speculate on what will remain of public school districts in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

"It is vitally important we get these students into a safe environment where learning can go on," said state Department of Education spokeswoman Meg Casper. "These kids need some stability."

Archdiocese of New Orleans officials said they are looking into opening satellite campuses to serve far-flung Catholic school students from New Orleans, as refugee families swamped Baton Rouge and Gonzales parochial schools with applications.

In communities across the state, real estate agents report selling and renting every property they've had listed. One Baton Rouge agent, asked about rental openings, said the closest available property she had is in Little Rock, Ark.

A spokeswoman for Lafayette public schools said 1,469 displaced students had enrolled in public schools there by Thursday evening after school staff visited several shelters, including a Red Cross shelter at the Cajun Dome.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, 300 students registered for classes in just four hours Thursday morning at one shelter, an official said.

Casper said the department has been fielding hundreds of calls from districts in other states as far away as Ohio and Wisconsin as they begin enrolling New Orleans-area students.

Meanwhile, state officials are struggling to quickly channel funding for those students into the myriad places where they'll soon be attending schools. Casper said some refugee students have already started classes in other districts.

Tai St. Julien, a spokeswoman for East Baton Rouge Parish Schools, said officials there are contacting churches, businesses and charities seeking donations of money or classroom space to handle the massive influx of students expected there.

Districts taking in refugee students reported calls from individuals or entire school systems across the nation pledging donations of school supplies, money and other types of support.

East Baton Rouge School Board President Patricia Haynes Smith said there are a variety of options for accommodating so many new students in a district that had 46,000 prior to Katrina. Evacuated students could attend school in the afternoon while others go to school in the morning, she said, or students could attend school on alternating days.

Smith also said a federal court agreed earlier this week to lift enrollment caps instituted several years ago by court order in the system's long-standing desegregation case.

Lafayette Schools spokeswoman Justine Sutley said simply notifying evacuated parents about where their children will be attending school could be an equally large challenge since "not everybody has a cell phone and not everybody has a stable location."

In Ascension Parish, assistant school superintendent Donald Songy said getting children to schools is of substantial concern since 42 of the district's school buses are being used in the evacuation effort in New Orleans.

Teachers from the New Orleans area are also relocating, with Lafayette taking in applications from 80 teachers and an assistant superintendent in Ascension Parish reporting a "stack" of applications from evacuated teachers. Cynthia Costello, a sixth-grade math teacher at New Orleans Charter Middle School, said she has been more focused on volunteer teaching assignments than locating another job. She traveled to the Astrodome in Houston, where she was unable to provide makeshift classes for evacuees because of "chaos" there.

At the same time, three officials from the turnaround firm tasked with righting Orleans Parish public schools' troubled finances managed to get inside district offices in Algiers on Thursday, aided by a police escort, to get backup tapes from the district's computerized payroll system.

Steve Alschuler, a spokesman for Alvarez & Marsal, said that information will be uploaded to a working computer so Orleans Parish schools can process payroll checks.

It is still unclear how that money will get to system workers, he said, since checks cannot be mailed and some banks are unable to process direct deposits.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, covering eight civil parishes, were scrambling Friday to process registrations from storm refugees. The schools, some of whom were still facing power outages caused by Katrina, were trying to give the families a warm welcome, though cautioning it will be difficult to absorb all of the Catholic school students who arrive.

"We're trying to not turn down anyone," said Sister Mary Michaeline, superintendent of the 32-school Catholic district, which served 16,000 students before the hurricane. How many it may ultimately serve is unknown.

The displaced students can begin attending Baton Rouge Catholic schools when they reopen Tuesday if their registration papers are complete, she said. The Baton Rouge parochial schools may employ some displaced teachers but "we want to find out how they're handling their salaries and contracts" in the New Orleans archdiocese system, Michaeline said.

Before the storm, the Archdiocese of New Orleans served more than 50,000 students in seven civil parishes, but some of the archdiocese's 108 schools in suburban areas where there was less destruction may be able to reopen quickly, said the Rev. William Maestri, schools superintendent.

Maestri said he hopes many of the New Orleans archdiocese's schools can reopen in January, and he stressed: "We are not giving up on Orleans Parish."

New Orleans and Baton Rouge Catholic school officials said they will work to ease the financial burden of school changes by families that have already paid tuition for the year, but it wasn't yet clear whether tuition already paid will be credited toward charges at the new schools.

Maestri said that, in addition to temporarily relying on Catholic schools in Baton Rouge and other cities to educate New Orleans students, the archdiocese may open "satellite campuses" of its own across Louisiana, as well as in other states. Details of the initiative had not been ironed out Friday, but Maestri will hold a meeting with principals and teachers from the New Orleans parochial schools at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge.

Ingrid Franc, 41, evacuated to Baton Rouge with her 11-year-old daughter. Franc, a resident of the Faubourg St. John neighborhood in New Orleans, said two different Catholic schools accepted the application. One of the schools was relieved when Franc informed them that her daughter would not attend, saying its sixth-grade openings had evaporated as new families streamed in.

Franc said her daughter had "a lot of trepidation" in attending a school where there are no familiar people, but the staff and other students at St. Thomas More Catholic School quickly put her at ease.

"They were terrific, very welcoming, smiling, organized," the mother said. "When she left, she had a smile on her face and said, 'I like it there.'"

Among other private schools in New Orleans, efforts are being made by members of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest to collect details through e-mails on the whereabouts of displaced families, so that they can consider enrolling in other private schools with similar missions.

An effort by St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie to arrange for night-school classes at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge was under way, although details haven't been announced.

"We recommend that, until St. Martin's is up and running again, our families enroll their children in an Episcopal school where you are currently residing," the St. Martin's Web site said. It reported that the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools, including schools in Shreveport, Monroe, Lake Charles, Lafayette and Baton Rouge, has urged its members to "make themselves available to all Episcopal school students from the New Orleans area, and has asked that they absorb as much of the cost of tuition as they possibly can."

Anyone interested in employment, registration or donations in East Baton Rouge Parish can call (225) 226-3764 or (225) 226-3406.

Volunteer Ascension, a group providing aide in that parish can be contacted at (225) 644-7655.

New Orleans school system employees can get more information about their jobs at (877) 771-5800.

## SMOKE ON THE WATER

**NEW ORLEANS:** A ship lists to the port side against the levee in Algiers as smoke rises from a 9th Ward fire.



PHOTO BY TODD MELANCON

# Victims can get relief from bills

*Evacuees must decide which ones to pay*

**By Mary Judice and Gwen Filosa**
Staff writers

Banks and financial institutions this week began announcing packages that allow customers in storm-affected areas to delay a variety of payments without penalty.

Lenders are offering moratoriums on house notes. Credit card companies are pledging to allow customers to postpone payments for two months or more without penalty, and the country's Big Three automakers said they will allow consumers to postpone car payments.

Fannie Mae, the federally chartered company that has helped millions of first-time home buyers acquire loans, is giving "mortgage relief" to borrowers in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and other states facing hardship as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The agency will suspend mortgage payments for up to three months, reduce payments for up to 18 months or - in the most severe cases - create longer loan payback plans.

"What matters most to hurricane victims in those first few days after a storm hits is basic safety and survival, not concerns about making their next mortgage payment," said Pam Johnson, senior vice president at Fannie Mae.

The help comes as thousands of New Orleans area customers displaced by Hurricane Katrina struggle with questions about which bills to pay - and how to pay them - in a city where all financial institutions are shut down for the foreseeable future.

For some, the question is whether to continue making rent or mortgage payments on an uninhabitable dwelling. For others the issue is how to send payments when there is no postal service.

Freddie Mac also offered mortgage relief in locations declared "major disaster areas" by President Bush. "Our goal is to help families affected by Hurricane Katrina to keep their homes," the company's chairman, Richard Syron, said.

The state Attorney General's office is helping insure that storm victims are protected as well.

The office will contact the three credit reporting bureaus - Experian, Equifax and TransUnion - to inform them that state law prohibits them from reporting nonpayment of rent on the credit report of a storm victim. Nonpayment reports can lower an individual's credit score.

Other state agencies are also working to protect consumers.

The state Office of Financial Institutions has urged financial institutions to extend repayment terms on loans, restructure debt and reduce late fees on past due loan payments.

The banking department's web site, www.ofi.state.la.us will provide links to federal regulatory sites which will provide contact information for the affected financial institutions.

Sidney Seymour, chief examiner of the state Office of Financial Institutions, said there is no law providing forebearance on mortgage payments and it will be up to individual institutions to provide relief. There is no law providing protection from the fees and penalties imposed by credit card companies, either.

"There is no immunity for not paying your credit cards," said Alys

Cohen, a staff attorney for the National Consumer Law Center in Washington, D.C. "The rules have always been, if you don't pay you get in trouble."

Consumers should contact their credit card companies to see what relief will be offered.

Chris Spencer, spokesperson for Chase Bank, said consumers who have questions about credit card, mortgage or loan payments should contact a branch bank in the area where they have evacuated to.

"The branches are crowded around Baton Rouge,'' he said. Chase also has

a branch bank across from the Astrodome in Houston, where busloands of evacuees have been taken.

He said the bank will soon announce a disaster loan program.

For those financing automobiles, the major automakers are beginning to announce relief programs.

General Motors said it will "work closely on a case-by-case basis with all its impacted customers in auto finance, insurance and mortgage units."

Car insurance company Geico announced it had "catastrophe teams" ready to help victims file claims. Like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Geico and other companies offer online claim forms or toll-free numbers for customers to use.

# More power to them: 6,000 utility workers are here

*Airport, refineries are first to be restored*

**By Keith Darce**
Business writer

The mammoth job of relighting metropolitan New Orleans was being accomplished one utility pole at a time Friday afternoon.

A crew of about 30 power utility workers from Kentucky spent the day restoring power to parts of Norco. They were among the more than 6,000 local and out-of-state utility workers spreading out across southeastern Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Electricity was flowing again to some Jefferson Parish emergency facilities, Louis Armstrong International Airport in Kenner and to five oil refineries in the region, an important step toward restoring gasoline production at the plants that supply nearly 16 percent of the national fuel supply.

Most homes and businesses in New Orleans and surrounding suburbs don't

have electricity services and won't for weeks, utility managers said.

Public officials and utility managers continued to urge evacuees to stay away from the area.

"People who left don't need to come here now," said Cleco Corp. spokeswoman Francesca Phoenix.

The Kentucky crew, on contract with Entergy Corp., began repairing a string of five utility poles along Apple Street holding a main power distribution line that feeds about 600 homes and businesses in Norco.

Several Entergy line workers assisted the crew.

Norco resident Lionel Perret served the workers a lunch of shrimp

pasta and jambalaya in Styrofoam bowls from his home on Apple. Inside, his wife and daughter cooked more food taken from their powerless freezer before it spoiled.

The Kentucky workers said they were glad to be working in St. Charles and afraid of going into New Orleans without assurances that the lawless atmosphere that has reigned there for days has been stemmed.

With most telephone service still out in the area, the workers were isolated from their families back home who have been watching news reports about violence in the city.

"Our families want us to come home," said Shannon Gilbert of Corbin, Ken. But the workers said they will stay until the restoration effort is completed.

Crew members are working 16 to 17 hours a day and spending nights without electricity at an Airline Highway motel. They couldn't say when power would be restored to their motel.

"We go day by day," said Cody Mason, of Poplar Grove, Ken. "Hopefully we will have power today, at least for a hot shower."

A few blocks down Apple Street, Bobby Lodge was running a toaster, refrigerator and fan off an extension cord connected his neighbor's generator across the street.

"We're getting by," he said.

Lodge said he rode out the storm in his home after evacuating his family to Baton Rouge. He had stayed home for several other hurricanes, but next time he will evacuate. "I stayed for Andrew and some little ones. (Katrina) will be the last one," he said.

Katrina's power was frightening, Lodge said. "I could stand on my back porch and scream at the top of my lungs, and not hear myself."

Living without electricity is uncomfortable, Lodge said, but he was more bothered by soaring gasoline prices that had hit some gas stations in the area.

Lodge said he paid $4 a gallon for gas at a Shell gas station on Airline Highway between LaPlace and Reserve to fill his neighbor's generator.

His complaints to the store clerk about the high price were shrugged off, he said.

"I asked her how she felt about stealing from people, and she said she had no problem because they were only accepting cash," Lodge said.

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Contact Keith Darcé at nolapaperboy@cox.net.

# St. Bernard rescue efforts continue

## *Plaquemines request to blow levee denied*

**By Susan Langenhenning and Ed Anderson**
Staff writers

More than 10,000 people in St. Bernard Parish have been rescued since Tuesday, and the race is on to reach thousands more there and in neighboring Plaquemines parishes, home to some of Hurricane Katrina's worst flooding.

In Plaquemines Parish, Parish Council Chairman Amos Cormier sought permission Friday from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dynamite the Mississippi River levee at Myrtle Grove to relieve flooding in the lower half the parish, a proposal quickly shot down by the Corps.

Cormier declined to estimate the number of people killed by the hurricane, but he requested the state provide the parish with 200 body bags.

"It seems like a good number to ask for,'' he said.

Rescuers also snagged more than 500 people off rooftops and levees, officials said. Three people were confirmed dead, and more deaths are expected. And at least more people need to be rescued as soon as possible, said Jesse St. Amant, director of the parish's emergency operations center.

Cormier also requested that 50 military police officers, 50 assault weapons and 50 sharpshooters be sent to the parish, where reports of looting of marine vessels are rampant.

The parish, from Buras south, is wiped out, officials said.

Cormier said marine vessels in the area that survived the storm are being looted, while others are being taken.

"We have looters coming in by boat,'' he said.

Cormier's request to dynamite the levee to relieve flooding was met with disapproval by the corps, which is responsible for levee maintenance and construction.

"We will have a crater over which we would have no control,'' said Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, of the corps. "Absolutely not.''

Meanwhile, in St. Bernard Parish, officials said the race was on to rescue many people still trapped in flooded homes and shelters.

"We have had people laying in water in their attics for days,'' said Sen. Walter Boasso, who represents the parish. "I need land transportation. I need to get a deuce and half.''

Since Tuesday, some 200 boats operated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and private volunteers have been plucking stranded St. Bernard residents from their homes and bringing them to the Chalmette boat slip, where they wait in a warehouse until they can catch ferries to Algiers, Boasso said. From there, they have been transported to Algiers and then bused to shelters in DeRidder and Dallas, he said.

"We're constantly rescuing people," said Boasso, who visited St.

Bernard Thursday night. "People on the West Bank also are hearing about the buses, so we're helping them, too.''

He estimated that more than 10,000 people have been resued from St. Bernard, which has a population of about 66,000.

Chalmette Refining and the Creole Queen, which is docked on the river, are serving as bases for parish emergency operations, he said, adding that one floor of the refinery even had air conditioning.

"Our whole parish is on lock down. All entrances and exits are

guarded," Boasso said, adding that residents who evacuated should not try to return. The state Department of Transportation and Development is trying to set up portable boat ramps so additional boats can assist in the recovery.

The senator, who owns Boasso America Corp., a liquid bulk shipping business, said privately owned barges and tug boats have been lined up to bring in additional supplies to St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish, which he described as "completely devastated from Buras on down."

"We're getting ready to fly over to see where we can get the barges into (Plaquemines)."

Boasso said almost all businesses and homes in St. Bernard have been destroyed, including his own house. His company's 200 employees are "spread out all over the country," but he has set up essential personnel in Houston.

# Geologist says Katrina ripped up La. coastline

## *Talks surface on how to save La. coast*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Louisiana coastal restoration officials began brainstorming with

officials from the Army Corps of Engineers on Friday about how to protect the New Orleans area and other communities in southeastern Louisiana from another catastrophic hurricane and restore its coastal wetlands at the same time.

They're trying to quickly hammer together a plan that could be thrown into an expected supplemental congressional appropriation that's needed to pay the cost of Katrina rescue and recovery efforts, said Randy Hanchey, deputy secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Sidney Coffee, coastal adviser to Gov. Kathleen Blanco, confirmed that the talks began Friday.

Late Friday, corps officials announced they are beginning to breach levees to drain water from Chalmette, flooded because of failures of levees along the Industrial Canal.

Backhoes mounted on marsh buggies and draglines mounted on barges will cut breaches in the levees, including one along the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet between the Bayou Bienville and Bayou Dupree floodgates and another near the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Canal.

Breaches of two ring levees in Plaquemines Parish, one on each bank of the river, will soon follow, the corps announcement said.

Corps officials already have said that protecting New Orleans from a Category 5 storm would cost at least $2.5 billion. The proposed

Morganza-to-Gulf hurricane protection levee being considered for authorization during this term of Congress, is estimated to cost $670 million, but would only

protect parts of Terrebonne, Lafourche and Jefferson parishes from a Category 3 storm, just like the existing levees around the New Orleans area.

Congress also is considering a $1.2 billion proposal to begin

restoring the coastline, a process estimated to eventually cost $15 billion.

"We're trying to put together a package recommending a comprehensive hurricane protection and costal restoration program that will provide a much

higher level of protection, with the restoration of critical land features in the coastal zone that provide surge protection," Hanchey said.

"How this will be received, we just don't know," he said. "But you can't look at hurricane protection any more from the microeconomic,

one-city point of view any more. If one is concerned about economic

justification about a project like this, that question has been answered."

Hanchey said

the preliminary plan is to ask Congress to allow the corps to skip the preliminary cost-justification steps of these projects that often take as long as five to 10 years.

"We need to accelerate the way the funds are provided and move directly to design and construction," he said. "We need to be starting today."

State and federal officials have been delayed in determining how much damage the Category 4 Katrina has done to coastal areas because manpower, boats, planes and helicopters all have been pressed into service to rescue people in New Orleans.

A flight by Coffee and other coastal officials at dusk Thursday, however, indicated that as much as half of Plaquemines Parish was still underwater.

While it's still unclear whether the wetlands there have been destroyed, Coffee said the view was similar to maps drawn by the state to show what the coastline would look like in 2050 without a restoration program.

Asbury Sallenger, a coastal geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's St. Petersburg, Fla., laboratory, has been able to fly photographic missions over the eastern Louisiana coastline and the coasts of Mississippi and Alabama during the past few days to measure Katrina's damage.

He said the Chandeleur Islands have been ripped asunder, and look worse than they did after Hurricane Georges in 1998 and Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Ivan in 2002.

Meanwhile, state Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office are trying to determine the extent of a major oil spill at mile marker 22 on the Mississippi River near Venice.

DEQ spokesman Darren Mann said it's still unclear whether the oil is leaking from a pair of holding tanks that have been described as holding either 800,000 barrels of oil each or 2 million barrels of oil each, he said.

Coffee said there were a number of smaller oil spills near platforms all along southern Plaquemines Parish.

How much oil is in the water, and exactly where it comes from will have to wait until officials can get to the area by boat, he said.

Meanwhile, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals officials say floodwaters inside levees in St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes and New Orleans are a toxic mix of bacteria contamination and hazardous chemicals.

Exactly what chemicals might be in the water is not yet known, said Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson in a phone interview from Washington.

"It's too early to speculate," Johnson said. "We haven't even gotten to the point where we're able to assess what's there or not there."

Emergency preparedness experts have long warned that floodwaters in New Orleans could be contaminated with everything from the household chemicals beneath kitchen and bathroom sinks to hazardous chemicals in businesses and factories to gasoline and diesel fuel leaking from underground storage tanks. Above-ground tanks also were expected to add to the mix as they floated free from their supports, breaking piping as floodwaters rose.

Contaminated water already is being pumped into Lake Pontchartrain, where it will make its way along the south shore, out the Chef Menteur and Rigolets passes and into the Gulf of Mexico. Equally contaminated floodwaters from St. Bernard Parish also will end up in coastal wetlands, all of which are home to the state's lucrative oyster industry and other fisheries.

Johnson said the Federal Drug Administration and Department of Health and Human Services will assist in making sure no contaminated seafood reaches the public in the months to come. The state Health Department also will assist in that effort.

Health Department spokesman Bob Johannessen said triage units treating evacuees haven't seen telltale rashes on legs or other bare skin that would result from exposure to toxic chemicals. He said bacteria in the water could have gotten into wounds, and the problems that might cause could take some time to show up.

Federal and state officials continue to search from the air for

chemical and oil leaks, but a detailed inspection also has been delayed by the diversion of personnel to rescue efforts.

"Our first priority is to assist and make sure people are safe and we are actually saving lives," Johnson said.

"We have 69 watercraft on the scene and thus far, emergency response personnel have rescued 500 people," he said. The EPA also is providing 50 workers to conduct environmental assessments of construction sites for temporary housing that will be built during the next few weeks for displaced residents, he said.

An EPA plane equipped with sensing instruments flew over a warehouse fire on a Mississippi River wharf in New Orleans Friday and found no evidence of toxic materials, Mann said.

The agency also is working with the corps in preparing a plan to deal with the vast quantity of storm debris left in Katrina's wake.

"We will be assessing the debris material to see if it is indeed hazardous," Johnson said.

Johnson said he was unaware of the unique problems that debris would present if it is infested with Formosan termites, but said that would be added to the list.

When South Carolina officials stored debris from Charleston's older neighborhoods in empty lots on the outskirt of town after Hurricane Hugo hit the Formosan termite-infested area, the termites were spread to new areas, officials there said.

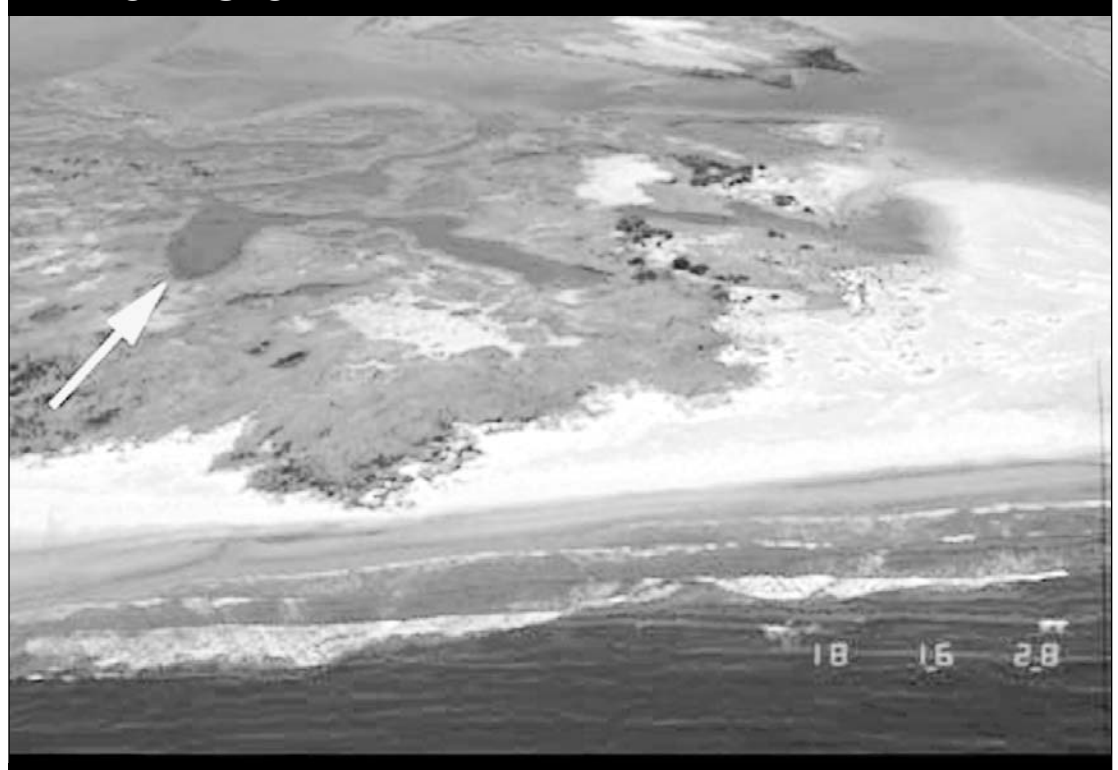
Entomologist Kenneth Grace of the University of Hawaii said it's likely that floodwater may result in a reduction of termite nests in the New Orleans area, but that even long-standing stormwater won't kill all of the damaging insects. That's because their underground nests are likely to contain pockets of air, and they also have nests in the upper trunks of trees above the floodwaters.

And he warned that moving building debris around was likely to spread the insects to areas not yet infested, just like in Charleston.

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**BEFORE STORM**



**AFTER STORM**



NOAA PHOTO

**CHANDELEUR ISLANDS:** In this before-and-after view, the devastating erosion caused by Katrina can be seen 40 miles offshore.

# Mortgage records may be drowned

**By Greg Thomas**
Real Estate writer

Thousands of lawyers in the metropolitan area have lost their files, their clients and their offices, but one of the biggest legal ramifications of Hurricane Katrina's flooding waters is the probable loss of real estate records dating back to the early 1800s.

The records, which include titles, mortgages, conveyances and liens, were stored in the now-flooded basement of City Hall on Poydras Street.

In 2002, employees of Register of Conveyances Gasper Schiro began the tedious process of entering the records into computers, a $700,000 process that could have been contracted out and accomplished quickly but was instead done slowly by his staff to save money.

It's unclear how much of the information has been digitized or whether the computerized information is stored safely. If either the original records or the digitalization is lost, it will be a major mess, said Southern University Law Center Professor Winston Riddick, who teaches real estate law.

While it will be a tedious process to fix, and it can be fixed, it will be a major headache that could take years. The records involved date back to 1827, with the earliest recorded by hand in Spanish and French.

According to the American Center of Real Estate Lawyers, or ACREL, the loss of the records could be devastating to the local real estate industry.

The process of restoring the information could be incredibly tedious and create havoc for homeowners who will be filing insurance claims, said Professor Riddick. While he expects insurance companies to honor claims by owners who have copies of their insurance policies, the potential for delays and other hassles is very real.

New Orleans real estate attorney Marx Sterbcow of Marx Sterbcow Law Group said Friday that the loss of the records, stored in the musty, moldy basement of City Hall, may be just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to storm-related problems for Louisiana attorneys, citing a memo e-mailed to Louisiana lawyers by Southern University Law Professor Michelle Ghetti.

"Many ACREL members have been in touch with us to express concerns for colleagues in the region. Members have been generous with offers of office space housing and other support," Ghetti said.

Real estate records aren't the only ones affected. Ghetti estimates that as many as 6,000, or two-thirds of the state's attorneys, have lost offices, files and other documents critical to civil and criminal legal cases. Several court buildings were flooded by Hurricane Katrina, including the basement in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Louisiana Supreme Court building.

For City Hall records, Sterbcow said, "it's the mortgages that's going to be ugly. To put it mildly, how are you going to be able to prove if you own a piece of property if your records are gone? How are you going to be able to prove you have a mortgage, or one is paid off?"

Records for the 24th Judicial District in Jefferson Parish are probably in much better shape than the records in Orleans Parish, Sterbcow said.

"Jefferson Parish sounds like they're going to be ok for mortgages and conveyances,'' he said.

# SPORTS

# Saints home opener at New York

*Team, league still working to set rest of schedule*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - The Saints will play their "home" opener at Giants Stadium in New Jersey on the weekend of Sept. 18, the NFL announced Friday.

The exact date and time of the game will be determined later, according to a statement by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

The location of the Saints' final seven home games also will be determined, according to Saints general manager Mickey Loomis and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello.

That first home game - a Sept. 18 date with the New York Giants - was the most pressing need. The Saints were not scheduled to play at home again until Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills.

Perhaps by then, Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge will be more prepared to accommodate the Saints. LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said Friday he had not heard from the team or the league on that front. But he reiterated that the school is willing to do whatever it can.

Saints owner Tom Benson was not available for comment Friday, but he released a statement for the first time since Hurricane Katrina.

"Our main concern is with the people of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region who have experienced the recent tragedy," said Benson, a native New Orleanian. "We are attempting to carry on in these difficult times and are looking out for the best interest of our coaches, staff, players and their families. My prayers are with each of those who have been adversely impacted."

Loomis said he would like to find a home base for the team, preferably as close to New Orleans as possible, rather than playing every game on the road this season.

The team is in the process of setting up a home base of operations in San Antonio and will resume practicing Monday in preparation for the season opener at Carolina on Sept. 11.

Loomis, Benson, Coach Jim Haslett and the league had been in discussions Friday before agreeing to the New Jersey site. They will continue to talk about future games, although no decision is expected imminently

Tagliabue said in his statement that "there are many reasons for this decision, including recognizing that the overwhelming priority for public and private resources in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region in the weeks ahead must be the essential needs of the public and the restoration of the area's infrastructure

Tagliabue began his statement by saying, "Our nation has experienced an unprecedented natural disaster, and we join everyone now in focusing our attention on the massive relief and recovery needs of the Gulf Coast region."

The Saints and Giants might wind up playing on Monday, Sept. 19, because the New York Jets will play host to the Miami Dolphins in Giants Stadium on Sept. 18. The two New York teams share use of the stadium.

"We are in the process of working out the specific arrangements, including the day and kickoff time of the game and plans for television coverage," Tagliabue said. "Information on tickets will be announced by the Giants within a few days."

The commissioner's statement continued:

"We deeply appreciate the strong cooperation and leadership of Saints owner Tom Benson and the entire Saints organization in addressing the current extraordinary situation. We also appreciate the support of the

**SAINTS,** *from page 15*

# Tulane gets OK to play

*Plan for students saves semester, football season*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - Tulane will play football this season.

Tulane University announced Friday it won't have a fall semester at its Uptown campus, but its students will be able to enroll for a semester in "nine of the leading higher education associations," according to a statement from Tulane president Scott Cowen, including the University of Houston and Rice.

Because of the announcement, Tulane athletic teams will be able to play sports this fall, including the football team, which is currently in Dallas.

"We're playing ball," said Scott Sidwell, Tulane's associate athletic director. "Now it's up to us to make it happen."

**"We're playing ball. Now it's up to us to make it happen."**
Scott Sidwell

Beginning late Thursday night, Athletic Director Rick Dickson and Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky began discussing contingency plans for Tulane, whose team was forced to leave New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina. The Green Wave flew to Houston on Friday and met with Cowen.

"Until 4 p.m. on Friday," Dickson said, "we didn't know the answer if we could compete in our sports programs."

But a decision was made to get Tulane students in classrooms, and that meant football players, too.

"Our student-athletes are an integral part of this plan," Cowen said in the statement. "We want our athletes to carry the torch, face and name of Tulane University during this difficult time, and we have worked out an arrangement within the context of the plan described above. This is made possible once again with assistance and generosity from colleges and universities - those in Conference USA and those outside of the conference - who have generously offered to help keep our teams together by providing not only academic opportunities but also practice facilities, playing facilities and general support."

Dickson, who will remain in Houston for weekend, meetings, said "logistics have not even been tackled.

"The first priority between now and next week is to make a decision of where to place the team and to get them in class," he said.

The Wave's first game will be Sept. 17 against Mississippi State. It is to be determined whether the game, scheduled for New Orleans, will be played in Starkville, Miss., or in Tulane's future "home."

But the players just want to play.

*See* **TULANE,** *page 15*

# Russell thrills Fats



AP PHOTO

LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell, left, shakes hands with New Orleans music legend Fats Domino on Friday, days after Domino was rescued from his home. Domino checked in at the triage unit at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center and later was reunited with family members at Russell's apartment. Domino, 77, had been reported missing earlier in the week.

# Churchill cancels Fair Grounds meet

*Company vows to rebuild track*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Churchill Downs Inc. has canceled the upcoming scheduled Fair Grounds season, and the company plans to shift some New Orleans racing dates to Louisiana Downs for a short "unique meet,'' Churchill president and chief executive officer Tom Meeker said Friday.

"It is clear that we will not be operating a race meet in November at the Fair Grounds,'' Meeker said. The track was scheduled to open Thanksgiving Day.

But Meeker also said that Churchill isn't wavering from its long-term commitment to the Fair Grounds and New Orleans.

"I can tell you we are firmly committed to invest in that community, to do whatever it takes to get that community back on its feet,'' Meeker said.

Churchill is considering running 19 or 20 days in December at Louisiana Downs, Don Richardson, Churchill's senior vice president in charge of racing at all the company's tracks, told horsemen at Churchill Downs in a meeting Thursday morning. Many of those horsemen race at the Fair Grounds.

"If you run any longer than that, then you run head-and-head with Oaklawn (Park),'' Richardson told the horsemen. "We need to contact them (Oaklawn) and let them know what we're thinking about, and see if we can get from help from there, and I'm sure we'll be able to do that.''

Churchill's first priority is to locate its metro-area employees, he said. About 500 people work at the track and its 10 off-track betting outlets. The company has located about 30 percent of its employees. Meeker said employees can contact the company via a toll-free number (877) 244-5536 or the Internet (www.fairgroundsracecourse.com).

"We continue to be very concerned about our people,'' Meeker said.

Seven security employees and 12 firemen rode out Hurricane Katrina at the track. "They have done some extraordinary things protecting our property," Meeker said.

The employees, fearing violence in the area, asked to be evacuated and were taken out by helicopter Thursday, he said.

Water damage inside the grandstand was caused by rain, not flooding.

"The facility itself is above water," Meeker said. "It has been above water since the events occurred.''

The barn area and track were covered by four feet of water, he said, and the level has been dropping since Thursday. Damage to the OTBs isn't known, he said.

Before Hurricane Katrina hit, Churchill was anticipating a pre-tax loss for its Fair Grounds operation of $1.3 million for the last four months of the year - typically a slow period for the business, said Mike Miller, the company's chief financial officer. Miller didn't estimate the financial impact on the business from the hurricane, but said that he expects the Fair Grounds' insurance policy to cover the losses. It's a $200 million policy with a $500,000 deductible, Miller said.

Moving racing dates to Louisiana Downs and running a shorter season would have to be approved by the Louisiana State Racing Commission. By law, the Fair Grounds must run at least 80 dates to keep its racing license. But Meeker said that he expects no difficulty in getting waivers from the commission and the Legislature to deal with these special circumstances.

Churchill chief operating officer Andy Skehan told the horsemen: "Our objective in running a race meet there (Louisiana Downs) is not to make a penny. Any money left over at the end of the day we're going to contribute to whatever relief effort we can. We still have a lot of details to work out.

"The idea right now is run an abbreviated meet - and again, this is an objective, we still have a lot of work to do - but hopefully on the line of averaging daily purses of around $300,000."

"I'd go for that,'' said trainer Dallas Stewart, a New Orleans resident who has raced at the Fair Grounds for years. "I'd be there for that.''

The Breeders' Cup might contribute money for purses at the meeting, Skehan said.

Meeker said that the race meeting also would provide a chance for Fair Grounds employees to work. Details about the race meeting might be announced early next week, he said. He also said that the meeting might extend beyond December.

Meeker confirmed that purses during the last Fair Grounds season were underpaid - weren't as high as they should have been given the amount of the betting. Racing officials try to anticipate how much will be bet before scheduling races and determining their purses. The Fair Grounds would have had to do something this season to make up for last season's underpayment.

Meeker said that the underpayment had nothing to do with plans to race in December. Some horsemen have suggested that Churchill wants to pay out the excess purse money before the end of the year.

"There are all sorts of facts that we're working through right now,'' Meeker said. "But what we're trying to do is get the meet up and running. We're obviously not interested in shorting the horsemen. Quite

*See* **FAIR GROUNDS,** *page 15*

# Shinn says Hornets won't leave in storm's wake

*Some home games likely to be played in other cities*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

Amid speculation that the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina will force the Hornets to relocate most of their home games this season - or perhaps even move out of town - owner George Shinn said Friday he remains committed to ravaged New Orleans.

"I can assure you we don't have any plans to use this as an excuse to leave or escape," Shinn said from his vacation home in Telford, Tenn. "That's not in the tea leaves. I promise you."

The NBA has apparently notified teams throughout the league that the Hornets likely will be displaced from flood-damaged New Orleans Arena for part or all of this season.

However it is hoped that a nearby city, such as Baton Rouge, could accommodate the team's home schedule, perhaps in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on LSU's campus or downtown at the Rivercenter, a building managed by SMG, the same firm that manages New Orleans Arena.

NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said via e-mail Friday that the league's main concern is helping the city and its basketball franchise get back on its feet.

"Our primary focus right now is to assist in the relief efforts for the city," Granik wrote. "Secondly, we need to assist the Hornets in getting their organizational structure back together.

"They have staff all over the country, and we need to

*See* **HORNETS,** *page 15*

# After decades of warnings, worst nightmare realized

**By Bob Marshall**
Staff writer

WATERTON, CANADA - They say the line between sublime and surreal, between ecstasy and horror can be sharp and sudden. Tuesday afternoon, I discovered how.

I had just emerged from a backpacking trip deep into the heart of Glacier National Park, a wilderness that leaves poets mute and photographers frustrated. I stood on the deck of a hotel in adjacent Waterton National Park, a place where the golden Canadian prairies sweep up to caress the shoulders of mountains that soar to snowy peaks glowing in the afternoon sun. The sun was a clear, robin's egg blue. The temperature was in the 70s. The air was dry. The vacationers around me were recounting wonders they saw on the surrounding lakes and trails. My eyes simply could not have settled on a more beautiful, peaceful scene.

Then I looked at the newspaper resting in my hands. The front page of the Calgary Herald was covered with a photograph of a city as familiar to me as my mother. It was covered in water. The headline said, "Hard Times in the Big Easy." It was unimaginably ugly.

*See* **NIGHTMARE,** *page 15*

# Churchill pursues December 'unique meet'

**FAIR GROUNDS,** *from page14*

to the contrary, we're trying to do things to help the horsemen."

Meeker also expressed outrage at comments by U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who said of New Orleans, "It looks like a lot of that place could be bulldozed.''

Said Meeker: "I don't know the context, but I can tell you we are firmly committed with (business and government) to re-establish New Orleans to get that city back on their feet. If you look at the faces of the individuals that we've seen . I can't believe anybody at this point in time would have made a statement like that.

"We're going to stand side by side with members of the community, shoulder to shoulder with members of the business community, members of political community, to re-establish that community as an integral part of the economic fortunes of this country. The Fair Grounds will be there, and New Orleans will be there, but we've got a huge challenge facing us, not only as members of that community but members of the larger community of the country.

# READY TO GIVE




AP PHOTO

Raiders fan James Thomas, left, wearing a Tim Brown Oakland jersey, and his wife, Heidi, prepare to donate blood at a drive sponsored by the Raiders and the Red Cross before Thursday's preseason game against the Saints.

# We saw tragedy coming

**NIGHTMARE,** *from page 14*

There were seconds when my brain stopped. I lifted my eyes to the surrounding scene again. Beauty. Peace. I looked back at the newspaper. Obscenity. Horror. The paradox was too striking. The synapses misfired.

I looked again. Slowly, like a diver rising back to the surface, I reemerged into reality. The murmur of voices, of laughter. The cool breeze off the mountains. The golden sun on the prairies. That picture. How could hell intrude into paradise?

Certainly, we had heard there was a hurricane entering the Gulf of Mexico several days earlier. But they always enter the Gulf in August and September. They always rumble ashore somewhere in other states, or even in other parts of Louisiana. We always see the TV reports of people in turmoil, of lives wrecked. We feel terrible for them and guilty about feeling relieved they caught the bullet we dodged, again.

But the picture, the headlines, said the story was different now.

The newspaper was full of stories and pictures that showed the trauma caused by the hit. My city, the town famed across the world as The Big Easy, the city with the motto "laissez le bon temps rouler" - let the good times roll - was coming apart. A big city with a small-town feel, with a people proud of their unique laid-back culture, was yielding to chaos. The 300-year-old city that existed when I stepped into the wilderness a week earlier was disintegrating.

But could that be on such a gorgeous day, as I stood in such a stunningly beautiful place?

A tourist saw me shaking my head in disbelief. "Unbelievable, huh?"

No, I told him. No, it was all too believable. We knew this could happen. Alerting people to this possibility had been part of my job for 20 years. We knew well how we had steadily destroyed the continent's greatest wetlands ecosystem, how we had separated the rivers from its deltas with levees, how the nation had allowed 30,000 miles of oil, gas and shipping canals to be dredged across our natural defenses. We knew about the 100,000 poor people without means to evacuate, and we explained the catastrophic human and economic costs to the nation as well as the state if we didn't repair the decades of abuse. We spent years seeking help from a country that had other priorities.

Another tourist walked up. He tapped the picture. "Mother Nature can be ugly!" he said grimly.

I looked around again. Mother Nature looked beautiful. I remembered the recent days spent snug and secure in the heart of that wilderness, the sense of order that permeated the ecosystem I traveled through.

I looked back at the pictures. Mother Nature did, indeed, look like a cruel master. But I began to think again of the decades of abuse and neglect. It was all beginning to seem real, to make sense, and I wished I could still be surprised and shocked. I wished I could cross back over that thin line.

# NBA looking at contingency plan

**HORNETS,** *from page 14*

assist them in getting the group organized. And finally, we will work with them to figure out a contingency plan of where to play their home games."

Hornets marketing director Tim McDougal and several staff members are working out of Houston's Toyota Center (McDougal is a former Rockets employee), and team president Paul Mott and a few front-office executives are ensconced in San Antonio, to where they had evacuated before the hurricane.

Mott plans to travel soon to Baton Rouge to scout possible venues for regular-season games.

On Thursday, Hornets general manager Allan Bristow said the team will hold the first three weeks of training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The (Portland) Oregonian speculated Friday that the Hornets could play some games in Las Vegas, which will play host to the 2007 All-Star Game.

Shinn conceded that the possibility of playing many games in New Orleans this year seems to be shrinking daily but said he believes the city will rebuild and be able to sustain his franchise.

"I'm an optimist," Shinn said. "I can see things turning around. But this craziness there right now is out of control. Right now, things have got to get straight."

Shinn said he has attempted to contact Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Chief Eddie Compass for first-hand information on the devastation but has been unsuccessful.

"We're in the process of evaluating everything we can," Shinn said. "We're going to work closely with the league and do what's best for it and our team. But we've got employees who've lost everything they have."

# Ricard: We need this season

**TULANE,** *from page14*

"We need this season," Wave quarterback Lester Ricard said. "I think that will be the ultimate joy, to see us do well this season."

Said Wave linebacker Antonio Mason: "It's something that we want to do for New Orleans. A lot of people look at us as not only reps of Tulane, but of New Orleans. People can look at us and say, wow, look at that team - they're going on the road, going through all that adversity, and still getting the job done."

# LSU still offering Tiger Stadium

*See* **SAINTS,** *page 15*

Giants and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority in these efforts.

"With the support of Giants fans and others in the New Jersey/New York area, this Saints-Giants game will be presented with elements that will highlight and contribute to the national relief effort. The Saints and Giants will donate a portion of the gate proceeds from the game to Hurricane Katrina relief.

"The Saints represent Louisiana and New Orleans, and we will work closely with public officials there to maintain a focus on the region's needs and the role of the NFL and Saints in the recovery."

Although Baton Rouge is the presumed front-runner for the Saints' home games if the logistics can be worked out, San Antonio has made efforts to make the Alamodome available for Saints home games this season.

However, San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger issued a statement Friday that put those efforts in perspective.

"I understand that there are a lot of people who are interested in whether or not the New Orleans Saints will be playing football in San Antonio. I am too," Hardberger said. "Right now, however, our primary focus is on making our city ready to welcome evacuees from Louisiana.

"For a lot of people, Hurricane Katrina has taken everything. It is one of the worst natural disasters we've ever faced, and the human toll is now only just beginning to be known. Our first responsibility must be to those who need our help.

"I think we all need to be focused on what's really important right now, and that is being ready to welcome into our city those who have lost so much."

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The San Antonio Express-News contributed to this report.

## OUR OPINIONS




## AN EDITORIAL

# Not Acceptable

A day after a normally easy-going Mayor Ray Nagin blasted federal officials' seeming indifference to the plight of New Orleanians who are stranded and dying, President Bush stood on the lawn of the White House and conceded the point: The federal government did not move quickly enough or forcefully enough to help those people hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina. "The results are not acceptable," the president said before boarding a helicopter to go survey the storm's damage.

It's good to hear the president admit his administration's shortcomings, and it's even better to hear his promise to help all of us who are in need. But the sad truth remains that the federal government's slow start has already proved fatal to some of the most vulnerable people in the New Orleans area. Water has killed hundreds, if not thousands, of people. A lack of water to drink is exacting its toll on others.

"I don't want to see anybody do anymore goddamn press conferences," the mayor said during a WWL radio interview Thursday. "Put a moratorium on press conferences. Don't do another press conference until the resources are in this city."

The mayor had obviously become fed up with federal bureaucrats' use of future tense verbs. "Don't tell me 40,000 people are coming here," he said. "They're not here. It's too doggone late. Now get off your asses and do something, and let's fix the biggest goddamn crisis in the history of this country."

We applaud the mayor for giving voice to an entire city's frustration. How could the most powerful and technologically advanced nation in the history of the world have responded so feebly to this crisis?

The president's admission of his administration's mistakes will mean nothing unless the promised help is deployed immediately. Each life is precious, and there isn't a second chance to save a single one of them. No more talk of what's going to happen. We only want to hear what is being done. The lives of our people depend on it.

## YOUR OPINIONS

### Don't forget St. Bernard

St. Bernard Parish has been largely ignored by the media and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. St. Bernard, one of the hardest hit parishes in Louisiana, has been left to save itself. For days, my husband, who is with the Sheriff's Office, has been working under difficult conditions with no other help in sight.

They are living in a building where mud and human waste are on the floor. There are dead bodies floating across the parish; no one has time to collect them due to continuing rescue efforts. Food and water are running so low that they are being rationed. No one knows how much longer they can hold out.

The men and women who are serving this community by putting their

lives on the line do not deserve this. These people are desperate. Those of us who have family in St. Bernard are getting desperate.

*Judy Toups-Corley*
*St. Bernard*

### Feds should have responded faster

The U.S. government has taken twice the time it should have to respond to the needs of the people of the Gulf Coast. If President Bush lived on the Gulf, the area would have been swarming with troops by Wednesday morning. I am mad as hell. I cannot imagine what the folks in your area are feeling.

Good luck with the rebuild. Right, where you are now?

*John R. Whatley*
*Santa Fe, N.M.*

### Less complaining, more leadership

It is amazing and shocking to see what is happening in that beautiful city there. My prayers are with you. However when this emergency is over I suggest that people ask some hard questions of their elected officials.

Everyone who didn't have their head in the sand knew that New Orleans was dangerously susceptible to a big storm. So where were the preparations and stockpiles that should have been present to aid the people in the immediate aftermath of a disaster?

In any other disaster that our cities have suffered there has always been a leader who would stand up and say this is what we are going to do, then do it. All Mayor Nagin can do is point the finger at the federal government for not doing enough. He needs to do more, in my opinion. Crying isn't going to save those who desperately need help.

*John Robnett*
*Louisville, Ky.*

### Nation is on your side

The rest of us, the citizens of this country, love you all and are praying and sending in funds. Please know that all of you are beautiful, and the lack of federal response infuriates us. Please know that we love you.

*Jeanne Weiss*
*Asuza, Calif.*

### We needed better planning

Re: "Yes, we are worth it," Our Opinions, Sept. 1

Your editorial is right on target.

As a native of Louisiana with some relatives that my family has not been able to locate, I think the lateness of support from city and state officials as well as the federal government is because the majority of these people are our poorest of the poor -- black and white.

New Orleans was already being labeled as the murder capital. Witnessing firsthand as people loot for food and other necessities did not help. The National Guard and FEMA should have been prepared and on the ground from day one.

There should have been better planning. The mayor and governor already knew these people had no way of getting out of New Orleans and should have provided those buses days earlier. They could have identified those areas, particularly the 9th Ward and all the public housing projects, and bused those people out.

*Mary Thomas*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**New Orleans:** A large crowd of storm victims gathers at a distribution point to pick up MREs Friday in a parking lot outside the Convention Center.

# SWEET RELIEF

*Four days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, relief for the city's thousands of stranded storm victims finally arrived in the form of military troops, transport vehicles and fresh supplies of food and water.*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**New Orleans:** Velma Brosa gets a mouthful of food from Carla Weisshahn after troops distributed thousands of military meals ready to eat to the storm refugees gathered inside and outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Friday. Weisshahn, who hails from Neenah, Wis., was on vacation in New Orleans when Katrina struck.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**Convention Center:** After getting some food and water Friday, Selma Valenti, 80, is comforted by Dr. Cris Mandry, a member of a New Orleans Police Department SWAT team. Valenti's brother, Robert Fisher Jr., has a heart condition and was examined by Mandry after the pair had to walk several blocks in the midday heat to get to the food distribution area.



AP PHOTO

**Atlanta:** Storm refugee Ruby Holmes, 81, of New Orleans clutches what's left of her belongings, including a Bible, while waiting to be carried off a C-17 military aircraft in Georgia on Friday.

SUNDAY

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

$1.50 169TH YEAR NO. 227 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

## After five days, thousands of anguished storm victims finally have a reason for hope

# HELP AT LAST




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

**METAIRIE:** Helicopters evacuate people in need of medical help as crowds of others displaced by Hurricane Katrina pile into buses near the intersection of Veterans Memorial and Causeway boulevards.

## Amid chaos, a rare voice of strength

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

In front of the Convention Center on Saturday, amid a crowd of refugees weeping and trading stories of raped children and dead babies in freezers, an elderly woman in a yellow shirt lay near death, tremors coursing through her limbs.

A few minutes later, she stopped shaking.

And yet, in that hell, Anita Roach raised her voice to the heavens, belting out the gospel standards that had comforted her since childhood: through homelessness, through friendlessness, through the death of her son and through the flood that nearly killed her and her husband in their Lower 9th Ward home.

*"When the storm*
*Of life is raging,*
*Stand by me, stand by me..."*

Five days after Hurricane Katrina, as National Guardsmen and evacuation buses finally pulled onto Tchoupitoulas Street a block away, Roach stood out as a beacon of beauty and strength against a backdrop of death and despair. As she began to sing, a group of over-stressed National Guardsmen carted away the nearby woman's newly dead body to put it with many others. First they placed her body on the street corner, then carried it through an employee entrance guarded by machine guns and laid her to rest in a freezer.




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**NEW ORLEANS:** Anita Roach, who used to live in the Lower 9th Ward, leads those around her in gospel songs. Hundreds of people were waiting for a bus to take them from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Roach never stopped singing, never stopped smiling, never stopped comforting a crowd of some of the last of Hurricane Katrina's victims to receive even a shred of assistance. She sang from her belly with a voice that could be heard down the block, drowning out cries for help and the rumble of National Guard trucks. One by one, family, friends and complete strangers joined her, clapping and singing as she led them as she had as choir director at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Bridge City.

*"When this world*
*Is tossing me*
*Like a ship on the raging sea*
*Thou who rulest the winds and water*
*Stand by me, stand by me "*

*See* **GOSPEL,** *page 8*

## Authorities regaining grip on city

**From staff reports**

Federal troops and relief convoys continued to pour into New Orleans on Saturday, even as buses evacuated additional thousands of debilitated refugees who endured the most horrific five days in the 287-year history of this once-elegant city.

But if relief was in sight, it was not yet at hand.

Thousands of men, women and children who fled impoverished neighborhoods flooded by Hurricane Katrina waited listlessly for relief at the threshold of death and despair at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

They said they had been without food and water until Friday.

Corpses lay under blankets among them. One man in the shelter said he counted seven bodies as he waited over three days, and there were reports of violence.

Still, the evacuees asserted their dignity. Many made clear they resented the general characterization that those left behind in New Orleans were thugs and looters.

As another among them died Saturday, they eulogized the departed by singing the gospel music that

*See* **KATRINA,** *page 4*

**INSIDE:** Seeking help, finding death at Convention Center, page 5 ▪ Talk resurfaces of possible Saints move to San Antonio, page 6 ▪ St. Bernard rescuers find horrific sites, page 12

# As calm settles over N.O., outrage grows in Washington

## *FEMA says storm overwhelmed agency*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

National Guardsmen tend to an ailing woman Saturday who was waiting for a bus to take her out of New Orleans. She is believed to have later died. As the military arrived to try to restore order to the storm-ravaged city, politicians from both parties blasted FEMA for its response to the disaster.

WASHINGTON - A semblance of post-storm order has returned to ravaged New Orleans, but the political storm over the disaster is just beginning.

Political leaders, Republican and Democrat alike, have blasted the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, for allowing New Orleans to descend into a cauldron of suffering and anarchy for three days and nights last week after Hurricane Katrina passed.

President Bush, himself the target of criticism for the sluggish response, has pronounced the results "unacceptable."

Dozens of others have chimed in with criticisms and proposals. "If we can't respond faster than this to an event we saw coming across the Gulf for days, then why do we think we're prepared to respond to a nuclear or biological attack?" said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican.

The Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs announced that they would launch an investigation into the disaster response. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., called on Bush to go over the heads of those directing the emergency response and appoint a Cabinet-level official to take over. Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., called for splitting FEMA from Homeland Security.

FEMA officials pleaded no contest.

Bill Lokey, chief coordinator for FEMA, said agencies were simply overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge. "It's the nature of the disaster," he said. "This is far beyond anything we've ever done in this country. It's beyond our immediate capabilities for sure."

Lokey said rescue workers have been hampered by floodwaters and by the fact that many of the resources they needed were not available nearby and had to be brought in. And because the storm damage was spread across three states, FEMA's resources also have been spread out, he said.

Solid answers to the question of what went wrong may take years of study by blue-ribbon commissions and Congress to sort out. Emergency managers will be studying what happened for decades to come. But emergency managers and people who study disasters said several key problems allowed the situation to slip out of officials' hands and deteriorate.

Part of the problem is that the quick mobilization of massive human and material resources takes expert management from the top, as well as the coordination of dozens of different federal agencies. That would have enabled a quicker entry into the city by National Guardsmen to establish order, distribute food and get people out.

Emergency management plans are for the most part based on the assumption that the people involved will be relatively cooperative.

The eruption of violence, disorder and confusion in and around New Orleans caught many people by surprise. A simulation that emergency management officials ran last year of a catastrophic flood and hurricane hitting New Orleans did not address the possibility of widespread violence and disorder, said Madhu Beriwal, the president of EIM, the company based in Baton Rouge that ran the exercise, which brought together emergency managers from local, state and federal agencies. Beriwal said the violence issue was to be addressed at a later meeting.

"There is a truism among sociologists who study disasters that panic is not a problem," said Rutherford Platt, a disaster expert at the University of Massachusetts. "People are too well-informed about what to do and expect; even low-income people get a lot of information. There are Red Cross shelters, all these things we expect to take up the slack."

There was also no master plan specific to the New Orleans disaster. Officials attending last year's simulation - which included tabletop exercises on the response to a fictional Hurricane Pam that flooded the city - produced a document with many contingency plans, Beriwal said.

But the simulation was just an early stage of a multiyear effort to develop a comprehensive plan - one that had been delayed by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and competing priorities.

Homeland Security Secretary Donald Chertoff for the first time activated a more generic national response plan developed in the wake of the terrorist attacks that gives him authority over all agencies involved. But it clearly didn't work as it was supposed to.

"Certainly what happened was some degree of a lack of coordination between federal, state and local folks prior to the arrival of the hurricane and immediately afterward," said Suzanne Mencer, a former Department of Homeland Security official who worked with state and local agencies. "It's that coordination piece that is always the most difficult."

# 'I told them that the worst is yet to come'

## *Most officers working on adrenaline, little else*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

When gunshots panicked an already desperate crowd of evacuees inside the nearly pitch-black Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, several New Orleans police officers instinctively pulled their guns and ran toward the pops. Just as quickly, they realized their weapons were useless amid the clusters of bedraggled families.

But they weaved their way toward the muzzle flash anyway, Superintendent Eddie Compass said, shining flashlights, groping with their hands, guided toward the shooter by evacuees pulling on their pants legs. When they got a bead on the gunman, they rushed to disarm him, despite the chance of facing more deadly fire.

Throughout the inundated city, what remained of the New Orleans Police Department was transformed into a virtual militia operation, Compass and other commanders said, forcing officers to freelance without radios, supplies or clear orders. Dozens of officers turned in their badges or fled without a word. Some joined in with looters and marauders, plunging an already jittery situation into moments of complete societal breakdown.

"These events do two things: they show your strengths and they expose your weaknesses. We had both," Compass said.

But according to Compass, the majority of the 1,700-person force held its ground, figuring out ways to save lives and restore order, working to save the city despite, in many cases, becoming victims themselves.

"The bulk of this police department stood intact," Compass said in an interview, tears streaming down his face. "We fought the most unbelievable war imaginable and we survived . . . Some officers lost their houses and they're still out there. Some officers lost family members and they're still out there."

Like every other city, state and federal agency, the police department was almost instantly overwhelmed by Hurricane Katrina, Compass said. With the city plunged into a near-total communications blackout, the police radio system was reduced to walkie-talkies among small squads.

As much as possible, the squads began organizing themselves at key points around the city, Compass said. The SWAT team tried to quell looting, track down armed gangs and restore order. The vice squad took over the search-and-rescue boat patrols. District patrol officers set up satellite evacuation points as refugees began streaming out of flooded neighborhoods. Compass bounced between the City Hall emergency command post, the law enforcement staging area at Harrah's Casino and the field.

At one point, there was a rumor that Compass had fled to Baton Rouge. He said the bad information circulated because his car was seen heading to the Capitol, carrying his eight-months-pregnant wife when she went into distress.

"I've been rolling on calls, backing people up on the ground, fighting off people with my bare hands," he said.

Police protocol was tossed out the window. The force's usual show of crisp white and blue uniforms was largely supplanted by t-shirts, jeans, bandanas, hip-waders, shirts with the sleeves torn off. The department's polished and immaculately groomed spokesman, Capt. Marlon Defillo, armed himself with a pistol in one hand and an semi-automatic shotgun in the other.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass briefs Capts. Jeff Winn, left, and Tony Canatella from the 6th District on Thursday. 'These events do two things: They show your strengths, and they expose your weaknesses. We had both,' Compass said.

More than a dozen 2nd District officers worked shifts at Napoleon and St. Charles avenues, where droves of people were funneled toward them in canoes, rescue boats and, in many cases, after wading through neck-high water, Lt. Eddie Selby said.

Other than a caravan of National Guard trucks that arrived for the mass evacuation of Memorial Medical Center on Wednesday, Selby said, his officers had no transportation for evacuees. To solve the budding crisis, officers commandeered any vehicles they could find to get people to the Superdome and Convention Center refuge points. A yellow De La Salle High school bus. An Audubon Zoo van. A flatbed truck donated by a volunteer.

On Friday, two lines formed at the pickup point: one for people in medical distress, another for evacuees heading to larger evacuation points. In a line of people headed for the convention center, a woman with a Wal-Mart cart pushed her way to the De La Salle bus. Through a bus window, she handed up a bag of tampons, boxes of crayons and pencils for her kids, and a brand-new looted 17-inch flat screen television.

The scene was orderly, the officers professional, but Selby said his people were "operating on pure adrenaline."

"We try to break them into 12-hour shifts, but then something happens and we have to call them back," Selby said. "A lot of us are working on three, four hours sleep. We moved about 1,000 people a day the first three days."

Officer Darryl Albert said a handful of volunteers have remained at the intersection throughout the crisis, setting up a cluster of chairs and couches in the street so they could catch moments of rest.

"You see those volunteers loading people up over there?" Albert asked. "Those people are there when we leave at night and here when we get here in the morning. That man doesn't have to be here. If people like that are going to be out here, there is no way I can leave."

Compass and other commanders said the officers grew increasingly frustrated as the days passed without any substantial backup. Officers were running around-the-clock on wide-eyed adrenaline, he said, but the lack of basic items like food, water and clean clothes began to take a toll.

"We were running low on everything," he said. "We fought a battle in knee-deep water with no radios. My people were getting shot at, walking into firefighters in the dark. I don't know what the feds were doing, what the military was doing, but every one of my deputy chiefs stayed. Every one of my commanders stayed."

Compass said he almost reached a personal breaking point when he couldn't find the right channels to secure two Blackhawk helicopters parked for several days at the Superdome heliport.

"I called (Jefferson Parish) Harry Lee and he had a Blackhawk on its way from Knoxville, Tennessee, within an hour."

As the city plunged deeper into crisis with each day, officers used common sense to alter their boundaries of legal behavior. What passed for looting on the day after the storm hit was accepted as lifesaving foraging by week's end. Some officers joined in grabbing supplies from breached stores, carrying off socks, T-shirts, food and other essentials.

With National Guard and other military troops now rolling into the city, the beleaguered NOPD is anticipating an infusion of food, water and generator power, along with badly needed reinforcements so officers can take a break.

But Capt. Timothy Bayard, the narcotics and vice commander now heading the boat rescue operation, said he has warned his officers that the work could be harder before it gets easier. Once rescuers pluck everyone from rooftops and attics, Bayard said, his mission will shift to coordinating the recovery of bodies.

"I have a lot of young officers and I told them that the worst is yet to come. Bodies are going to pop up out of nowhere. The stench will be overwhelming. Bloated bodies are going to pop like balloons. The skin's going to tear off as soon as you grab it. You're going to have nothing but bones in your hand. We'll have to kill dogs and cats because of rabies. Hell, they might find people they know. But you've got to keep going back in."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH




STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Corine Pursley expresses her gratitude to Sgt. 1st Class Mark Martin of the Arkansas National Guard as an evacuation bus pulls away from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Saturday.

# Nagin critical of Jeff Parish for turning away refugees

**KATRINA,** *from page 1*

sustained them in the midst of a living nightmare.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Graham said he hopes his troops and other relief workers can move the remaining evacuees out of the convention center by today or Monday.

Authorities said they continue to gain control of a city gripped since Tuesday by rising lawlessness.

President Bush ordered 7,200 more paratroopers, Marines and other forces to the storm-ravaged area and made plans for a second visit Monday to Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which was demolished by Katrina on Aug. 29.

"We will complete the evacuation as quickly and safely as possible," Bush said in his regular Saturday morning radio address to the nation. "We will not let criminals prey on the vulnerable, and we will not allow bureaucracy to get in the way of saving lives."

He also signed a $10.5 billion aid package for the region.

As they closed in on the end of the evacuation, authorities said the death toll will likely be in the thousands, first from the floodwaters unleashed by Katrina, and later from the ordeal of heat, thirst and exhaustion that claimed the old and the weak. But they said developing an accurate number was still a lower priority than assisting survivors.

The count in Mississippi was at 147 and would probably increase, officials there said.

At any event, with evacuation gaining traction it was clear that a historic diaspora of New Orleans residents is under way.

The last three days have seen a forced, perhaps permanent, scattering of tens of thousands of New Orleanians - first among evacuees who fled the city before the storm and later those who survived it. The loss of so many will affect the character of the city in ways yet to be determined.



These refugees of Hurricane Katrina were so happy to see buses loaded and people leaving the city that they waved goodbye to everyone, whether they knew them or not, before boarding the bus themselves.

Authorities were loading evacuees on commercial airlines, buses and AMTRAK trains bound for destinations as far away as Michigan and Indiana.

But there were complaints that some refugees, hauled out of the city in desperate condition, were being refused safe haven in some places, including some that said they already were filled beyond capacity with storm victims. New Orleans City Council President Oliver Thomas blasted the city of Baton Rouge and other Louisiana communities for what he called a callous refusal to take in refugees from his devastated city.

"They don't want them," Thomas said, after bursting into the press room at the Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge. "They have put out the word all over the state: 'Those bad New Orleans people. You don't want them.' "

State Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, said the state's Legislative Black Caucus would charter buses to pick up 5,000 residents stranded along Interstate 10. He said they would deliver them to the closed England Air Force Base in Shreveport and demand that they be sheltered.

Mayor Ray Nagin criticized Jefferson Parish for closing the door to exhausted refugees who trudged over the Crescent City Connection to escape the ruined city and reach high ground on the West Bank.

"We were taking in people from St. Bernard Parish. If we had a bottle of water, we shared it. Then when we were going to let people cross the bridge, they were met with frigging dogs and guns at the parish line," said Nagin during an aerial tour of the city.

"They said, 'We're going to protect Jefferson Parish assets.' Some people value homes, cars and jewelry more than human life. The only escape route was cut off. They turned them back at the parish line."

Meanwhile criminal justice officials said they had invented a temporary system for handling criminal suspects arrested in the post-Katrina chaos.

Officials transformed Union Passenger Terminal into a booking and detention center for those accused of terrorizing evacuees over the last four days.

State Attorney General Charles Foti said the state would open a temporary court system, although it surely faced daunting problems on matters like assembling juries and witnesses.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten promised that federal authorities would bring charges, where possible, against suspects.

"Make no mistake about this: The federal criminal justice system is alive and well," he said. "The entire criminal justice system is alive and well."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Seeking help in New Orleans, people instead find death, unrest

## *Rape, gunfire are reported at Convention Center*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**Arkansas National Guard soldiers help a woman with heat stroke Saturday. Witnesses reported several deaths outside the Convention Center.**

By Friday afternoon the old man's body was beginning to decompose, sitting in the lawn chair where he died four days earlier outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The pungent stench of death wafted from under the dingy blanket that draped his corpse. He had become all but invisible to a sea of the living that staggered from the curbs and into the streets not far from his body.

The small children - many suffering from heat rash and hunger -- who huddled with family on the sidewalk outside the Convention Center sat quietly and tearless by the sides or on the laps of helpless adults.

This is where flood survivors hoped they would find food, where they hoped to find water and the rumored evacuation buses that many people talked about but no one had ever seen until Saturday. All they'd found there was despair and more death. They'd survived killer winds and floods, but now many of the old and the sick were dying from what many believed was a lack of medicine and water.

Officials said the crowd outside the Convention Center had swelled to 25,000 people.

For four days there was no sign of law enforcement or city, state or federal officials, several of the displaced said. There was no updated evacuation schedule. And there was no food.

The young men were getting restless and angry. Evacuees said some of them were armed and most were willing to take extreme measures if somebody didn't do something to save them.

Many said they'd braved chin-high floodwaters to get to the Convention Center from neighborhoods such as Carrolton and Treme. They said they came from places where their neighbors had drowned and where entire families had vanished.

"We're being treated like animals," Donyell Porter, 25, said Friday. "Look around. Man, look at the bodies. And there's no way for us to leave. Brothers been stealing cars, but they can't make it over the bridge. ... It's not right. We're humans, too."

The old man was said to be the first of many to die at the center. By Wednesday an elderly woman was found dead, slumped in her wheelchair near a curb 20 feet from the Convention Center doors, said Bob Payne, 57, a retired journalist turned refugee. Payne said a teenage girl was the next to die, rumored to have been raped and her throat sliced open.

"They took her body and put it on the third floor in a walk-in freezer," Payne said. Payne said he had seen at least seven dead during the three days he spent sleeping on the ground outside the center.

"It was absolutely horrendous," Payne said, after being rescued by a reporter friend who he'd seen through the crowd. "I'd never seen anything like it. I couldn't believe that this was America I was seeing."

"Don't think the Army out here is the only ones with guns," said Mark Course, 29. "These young dudes got guns too, and if something don't change soon, something's going to happen."

He pointed toward a group of military police officers holding rifles and bottles of water. "Look at them. They got water so cold it'll freeze your tongue, but look at what we got: nothing or it's boiling hot."

Witnesses said a small riot broke out Wednesday when refugees saw rescuers in big trucks carting off white tourists by the dozens, leaving many black people to fend for themselves.

"You should have seen them gathering up white folks," said Kim Jackson, 39. "They had a big 18-wheeler with the National Guard walking alongside them. ... But they got us here like dogs."

Other acts of violence were reported.

New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass said someone opened fire inside the Convention Center early Thursday morning. Officers responded and were fired upon, but they couldn't return fire. It was dark, he said, and his men didn't want to risk shooting innocent people. Praising officers who he said "fought like dogs" in a war for the streets, Compass said cops followed the flash erupting from the gunmen's weapons and disarmed them without firing a shot.

Food rations and water arrived at Convention Center Boulevard on Friday after the National Guard and the media came. Until then there was none, so as early as Wednesday people started breaking into the Convention Center searching for food, Payne said. Through a side door, stepping over six bodies covered with sheets, Payne said, Samaritans pilfered canned beans and fruit, bottled water and cans of soup.

"All we got is us out here," Course said. "We know the looting is hurting us, but we're stranded out here. So we were taking everything we could and handing it out to people."

Families pooled their resources, sharing diapers and formula or food for the children if they had any.

"I had some things, but people out here really helped out a lot. We got together, and that's all that has gotten us by," said Kelly Billy, 22, of eastern New Orleans. Billy said she escaped her third-story home with her three small children -- ages 6 months to 3 years-- on an inflatable mattress using a broom as a paddle.

Payne said from what he witnessed, the initial wave of looting was purely for survival. But later small groups began making their way to the Gap and Saks Fifth Avenue, emerging with clothing and high-end handbags.

Compass said he realized that many of those breaking into local businesses were doing so for food and water, and that "the same knuckleheads they go to war with every day are the ones causing trouble for everybody else."

With extensive news coverage of looting and lawlessness in the city, many people stranded outside the Convention Center said they resent being criminalized under the most horrible of conditions.

"They think we're a bunch of crazed beasts just acting crazy," said Ray Bryant, 46. "But this is inhumane. How do they expect people to act?"

On Friday, Compass addressed the crowd with a megaphone, promising that buses out of town were on their way.

Payne and others said the promise was one of many that had trickled through the crowd throughout the week.

By Saturday, a fleet of buses finally rolled up to the Convention Center.

Thousands began pushing and dragging their belongings up the street to more than a dozen buses. The mood was more numb than jubilant.

Yolanda Sanders stood at a barricade clutching her cocker spaniel, Toto. She had been at the Convention Center for five days.

"I had faith that they'd come. I feel good that I know I can get to my family,'' she said. Sanders didn't know where they were taking her, but "anyplace is better than here," she said. "People are dying over there.''

Evacuees from the Superdome were shipped to the Astrodome in Houston, which by Saturday had been filled with 15,000 refugees. The doors to two additional centers in Houston were opened, accepting 10,000 additional survivors. Dallas and San Antonio also agreed to take in those in need. And refugee shelters were being established in other states.

Feelings of hope quickly returned to frustration as people continued to wait, throwing their arms in the air and cursing. A dead man lay on the sidewalk under a blanket with a stream of blood running down the pavement toward the gutter.

"We're hurting out here, man. We got to get help. All we want is someone to feel our pain, that's all,'' said Tasheka Johnson, 24.

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The Associated Press contributed to this report

# City must overcome disaster, mayor says

## *Nagin: Response still isn't enough*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin got a firsthand look at the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina from a helicopter Saturday. He said the response to the disaster remains inadequate. 'A bunch of people are the boss,' he said.**

Viewed from the windows of a low-flying Blackhawk helicopter, the scope of Hurricane Katrina's destruction becomes clearer.

The Causeway is like a broken spine, large sections of roadway listing disconcertingly into the brown water of Lake Pontchartrain. The modest homes in the Lower 9th Ward have been uprooted and are crushed together in clots like bumper cars. Pyramid-shaped rooftops are all that can be seen of many suburban-style houses in the Lakeview neighborhood. And the expanses of small trees that line the coastal wetlands of eastern New Orleans have been bent to the ground and combed precisely in one direction that marks the path of last week's ferocious wind. Nothing is right.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin knew that's what he would find when he conducted a helicopter survey Saturday of the city, a grim tour that graphically exposed members the national and local press to the destruction he's come to know well. The copter turned slow circles over the sky like a buzzard over the still-breached 17th St. Canal levee and twice paused in flight over New Orleanians who were still stranded. Nagin dropped water and a ready-to-eat meal to one of them.

Preparing for the flight, Nagin was in a more sedate mood than he was during an expletive-ridden television interview Thursday, when he railed against the plodding federal and state relief efforts, accused President Bush and Gov. Kathleen Blanco of posturing for political advantage at a time of acute need, and burst into tears -- not that the situation in the drowning, crippled city had much improved.

"When I woke up this morning," Nagin said, "I turned my radio off. I just couldn't digest any more bad news."

Bush was forgiving of Nagin's tirade when they met Friday, Nagin said. "He said, 'Look, I know you said lots of things. We could have done better. I can't argue. Let's deal with the future.' ... Mr. Bush was really, really concerned."

Blanco, too, understood his anger, Nagin said. "I told the president and her, 'I kind of lost it. But put yourselves in my shoes. If I said anything offensive, I apologize.' ... But then I immediately went on to tell them what I need."

Nagin may have mended his fences politically, but he said he still believes the situation is being poorly handled. "We're still fighting over authority," he said. "A bunch of people are the boss. The state and the federal government are doing a two-step dance. "I told the president, 'I'm into solutions. If the state government can't take responsibility, then you take it.' ... I think it's getting better, but the pace is still not sufficient.'"

Some observers have said that because the majority of storm evacuees are black, the lethargic disaster response has a racist component. But Nagin cast the color issue in another light. "I think it's more a class issue than race," he said. "The Superdome had mostly poor people in distress. The rich have resources the poor don't. The Convention Center was different. There the poor were mixed with people from hotels and predators. You had blacks, Hispanics, Asians. The predators in there didn't care. When those stories come out, like children raped, with their throats cut, then somebody's got to answer."

Nagin's ire began to rise anew as he recalled a foiled strategy to send able-bodied refugees over the Crescent City Connection to the high ground of the West Bank.

"We were taking in people from St. Bernard Parish," he said. "If we had a bottle of water, we shared it. Then when we were going to let people cross the bridge, they were met with frigging dogs and guns at the Gretna parish line. They said, 'We're going to protect Jefferson Parish assets.'

"Some people value homes, cars and jewelry more than human life. The only escape route was cut off. They turned them back at the parish line."

Nagin said that in order to cope with the always frustrating, sometimes overwhelming situation he has tried to "stay in the moment," dealing as best he can with each individual issue as it arises: a police officer's report that a large number of elderly people were stranded near Lee Circle; the sight of refugees continuing to gather on the city's raised highways. Nagin recalled with special dismay having recently been told that a New Orleans police officer committed suicide during the storm's aftermath.

"I asked my people to get in touch with the LSU department of psychiatry," he said. "The police are holding the situation together with Band-Aids. We have to let them get three to five days off."

As the Blackhawk coursed over the city, Nagin and the other passengers pointed out familiar landmarks made unfamiliar by the storm. The city was largely ruined. It would be as difficult to restart as the thousands of automobiles submerged in the murky water below. But Nagin insisted it must be restarted, no matter what.

"I think I'm here for a reason: to rebuild," he said. "New Orleans is the soul of the country. It's the place jazz comes from. It has Mardi Gras Indians that nobody else has. It's a place where a chef can take a piece of fish and make it into a masterpiece. We don't even think about not rebuilding Miami. We don't think about rebuilding Los Angeles, and they're on a fault line. We just do it. We don't talk about it. I don't want to talk about that foolishness."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Saints may move to San Antonio

## *Senator urges Benson to delay his decision*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson is leaning strongly toward moving the Saints permanently to San Antonio following the devastation to the city and the Superdome by Hurricane Katrina, a state senator who has spoken with a top team official said Saturday.

Sen. Mike Michot, R-Lafayette, said he spoke with Saints' chief of administration Arnold Fielkow by phone Friday morning about Benson's potential plans.

Team officials could not be reached Saturday. The team had previously announced it was looking for a new home for the current season, and San Antonio was one of the options.

Michot said he was told that Benson has not made a final decision, but the owner is serious about moving once and for all to San Antonio. "We may lose them permanently," Michot said.

A possible move by the team is a "huge concern" among a few state officials who have become aware of it, but every significant political figure in the state is preoccupied with reacting to the storm aftermath.

State officials want to convince Benson to delay a decision so that the state can focus on the rescue and rehabilitation effort and later find a way to keep the Saints at home in New Orleans.

"This is like pouring salt into the wound," Michot said.

Michot said decency dictates that Benson should postpone any decision on a permanent move until state officials have had a chance to talk with him.

"Give us time," Michot said.

Another state official confirmed a similar conversation with Fielkow.

Michot is the vice chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, a key committee for legislation related to state agreement with the Saints.

He said that in the long run the Saints might be better off staying in New Orleans because a revived city with national support could provide a better stadium.


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# Some see opportunity in wake of tragedy

## *American Venice, super-levee among ideas to fix N.O.*

**By Bill Walsh and Jim Barnett**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - House Speaker Dennis Hastert ignited a fury in Louisiana last week when he said much of flood-drenched New Orleans could be bulldozed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Although he quickly backpedaled in the face of criticism, the powerful Illinois Republican gave voice to a growing sentiment that rebuilding a devastated New Orleans must involve more than raising levees and constructing new homes.

Even as survivors were being plucked from the waters coursing through the city's streets, policymakers, planners and engineers began floating ideas sure to give pause to proud New Orleanians, especially those with homes in low-lying areas. Among the suggestions: massive land-filling, government seizing private property and, yes, bulldozing of flood-prone neighborhoods.

"I don't think the rest of the country will get behind something that doesn't fundamentally change the design," said Joseph Suhayda, of Baton Rouge, the former southeast regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is leading the recovery effort in the city.

"If you are going to get the financing for this and if you are going to encourage people to go back in, you have to have a guarantee that this will never happen again," he said.

What Suhayda imagines is a radical facelift of a quirky and sometimes haphazard urban landscape that many find endearing, but that also has left the city perilously vulnerable to flooding. Katrina showed that a single breach in the miles of levees surrounding New Orleans could swamp this city, which is 9 feet below sea level at places.

Suhayda envisions 25-foot high partitions compartmentalizing sections of the city the way boat hulls are divided to isolate leaks. If there is a breach in one, the others would stay dry.

His most novel idea is a towering new super-levee stretching 12 miles across New Orleans connecting levees at each end of the crescent-like bend in the Mississippi River. The area, capable of withstanding the strongest hurricanes on record, would provide a "community haven" for all residents, he said.

Suhayda's ideas are more radical than most. But for better or worse, Katrina's devastation has awakened a steely sense of realism that New Orleans, as it is, isn't viable.

"We must recognize that we can't sustain residential populations in certain areas," said former U.S. Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-Chackbay.

Not everyone is convinced that New Orleans needs a fundamental geographic overhaul. Former Louisiana Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said attention should focus instead on raising the levees. He pointed out that the strongest, highest barriers along the river held.

"You can't just fill in (with dirt) 20 feet high and then rebuild," Breaux said. "What is more practical is to strengthen the levee structure."

But others see a historic opportunity in the gruesome ravages of disaster, a clean slate on which smarter planning could bring about changes that have been long contemplated, if not always spoken aloud.

Levees built in the 1960s to withstand a storm surge 9 to 12 feet high could be reinforced to keep out a wall of water nearly twice that high. New levees could be added where neighborhoods now lie submerged. Stronger pumping stations could be strategically relocated and raised to higher ground so they don't flood when the rest of the city does.

Neighborhoods such as eastern New Orleans and Lakeview, which are well below sea level, could be raised to 10 feet above the water line, making them less susceptible to flooding. Homes submerged for days or weeks could be leveled and rebuilt to tougher building codes.

"Out of nostalgia, do you want to put a shotgun shack back there where it floods all the time or say, 'Is there a better way?'" said David Schulz, director of the Infrastructure Technology Institute at Northwestern University. "In a very perverse way, this represents a significant opportunity for New Orleans."

Schulz sees wide-scale redevelopment as a chance to raise New Orleans out of poverty and attract new business to the region. He suggested a new local communications system based on broadband wireless, rather than traditional phone and cable lines. He envisions running fiber-optic cables to support new "knowledge-based" businesses as an alternative to the tourism, port and petrochemical industries that have long sustained the local economy.

"Imagine a city 287 years old transformed using 21st century technology," he said.

Still others see an opportunity to get the private sector to shoulder some of the burden of redeveloping the city, a job that would otherwise fall to the taxpayers.

Because of New Orleans' proximity to the oil and gas wells in the Gulf of Mexico, Flowers said the industry may be willing to pay a tax if it meant the region would have a reliable metropolitan anchor.

"The oil and gas companies have a big stake in this because it's their infrastructure that gets exposed by the loss of the wetlands and when you don't have hurricane protection," said retired Gen. Robert Flowers, former chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The last large-scale urban redevelopment project in the United States was in New York after the World Trade Center bombings. While lower Manhattan bears little resemblance to New Orleans, some see an object lesson in New York City's experience. Residents could offer up their ideas for designs in public "listening sessions." Tauzin suggested an international competition for a new city design.

The flamboyant former lawmaker even had an idea of his own: "Why not an American Venice where we no longer fear water, but channel it in a way that isn't a threat," Tauzin said.

Any radical redevelopment carries an enormous price tag whose multi-billion-dollar dimensions can only be guessed at. It also begs gut-wrenching personal and political questions: Which neighborhoods should be flattened? What happens to the people whose homes are taken to make way for new levees or flood walls? Will the old-world charm of New Orleans be trampled in the name of progress?

There are practical questions, too. The widespread taking of property and significant land-filling are certain to trigger protests from homeowners intent on remaining where they are and environmentalists worried about the effects of disturbing wetlands.

The government's hand in seizing private property was strengthened in June by the U.S. Supreme Court when a narrow majority gave city officials in New London, Conn., power to take homes to make way for a waterfront redevelopment. Federal flood insurance rules may leave many homeowners in seriously flooded areas little choice but to walk away. FEMA won't rebuild a house if, in its judgment, it is more than 50 percent ruined.

The difficulty could come, experts say, in areas of the city that sustained manageable flooding but that stand in the path of a proposed new levee, pumping station or canal.

"Clearly there will be some contentious decisions to be made," Schulz said.

Already, some potential clashes can be seen forming the horizon between preservationists interested in New Orleans' historical structures, however flawed, and engineers intent on constructing a hurricane-proof city.

A day after levees breached and water from Lake Pontchartrain began pouring into the city, Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, issued a press release imploring donations to restore New Orleans' many historic gems.

Moe said that the stabilization and restoration of the city's "world famed historic landmarks and neighborhoods should be a global concern." Significantly, Moe made no mention of landfills or flood walls.

Fortunately, the best known of New Orleans' landmarks, the French Quarter, was among the regions of the city least hurt by the flooding. Its survival is being held up as Exhibit A among those who say that filling in low-lying areas of New Orleans is the only surefire way of guaranteeing the survival of New Orleans in the face of future, inevitable storms.

As the oldest section of New Orleans, the French Quarter has weathered innumerable fires and floods over the past three centuries. It stayed relatively dry in Katrina because, at three feet above sea level, it is among the highest points in the city.


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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Louisiana death toll: 'A lot'

## *Numbers suspected to be in thousands, but nothing official*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Federal and state officials acknowledged Saturday that the Louisiana death toll from Hurricane Katrina could be in the "thousands," but repeatedly said they had no official number insisting that the dead were not their priority as long as so many survivors remained trapped in the devastated region.

The count in Mississippi was at 147 and likely to rise, officials there said, while those in Louisiana remained grimly silent about any numbers.

"I know there are bodies up there," said U.S. Army Col. John Smart, when asked about how many estimated dead were at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in downtown New Orleans.

Smart, the chief of operations for the military effort in Louisiana, added, "That is not our mission."

Since Monday, when Katrina struck, officials from federal agencies and the governor's office have said it was not their job to count the dead. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials referred the question to the state and local officials including parish coroners. Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration turned the question back to FEMA.

On Saturday, the bureaucratic vision changed: The federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team will collect and count those whose lives were lost in the catastrophe, said Rear Adm. Craig Vanderwagen of the U.S. Public Health Unit. It is the same federal unit that dealt with the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

Vanderwagen said a starting figure of the dead could come today or Monday at the latest.

Asked for an estimate of the dead, Blanco said, "A lot."

It could be in the thousands, she quickly added, but "we don't know."

FEMA Director Mike Brown was visibly displeased with repeated requests for an estimated death toll. Brown not only bristled at the question, but told reporters it was "amazing" that the question was being pressed.

FEMA has established a makeshift morgue in St. Gabriel, where a dozen refrigerated trucks were on site Saturday and 16 were en route.

The disaster mortuary unit began work in the early 1980s, prompted by the National Funeral Directors Association as a solution to dealing with mass casualty crises. A "disaster portable morgue unit" includes the technology and equipment to provide victim identification and mortuary services.

The teams are made up of private citizens from various fields of expertise, who work with local authorities to recover, identify and process the dead. Teams include funeral directors, medical examiners, coroners, pathologists and dental assistants, among other specialists.


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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Lines of people wind through the streets of the Warehouse District as they wait for a bus to take them out of the city. More than 50,000 people had been waiting for rescue for nearly a week at the Superdome and New Orleans Convention Center. Most were finally taken out by bus and helicopter on Saturday.

# Black caucus wants England base to be shelter

*Members plan to bus 5,000 to Alexandria*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff Writer

Outraged by the lack of available shelter space in the state, members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus called upon officials to open the former England Air Force Base in the Alexandria area to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

State Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, said members of the caucus planned to use private donated buses and other vehicles to pick up about 5,000 people left along Interstate 10 in New Orleans and transport them to the base Saturday afternoon and evening.

Asked what they would do with the people they picked up if the base is not opened, Fields responded: "We need to open it."

Fields estimated the base has about 800 empty rooms that could house all 5,000 people.

Some displaced residents would also be taken to a shelter in Monroe by about 25 church vans manned by Rep. Willie Hunter and Sen. Charles Jones, both D-Monroe, among others.

Residents need shelter in their own state of Louisiana, caucus members said, not far-flung states such as Utah and Minnesota.

Caucus Chairman Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, also called on the American Red Cross to provide further aid in Algiers, where he and New Orleans City Councilman Oliver Thomas delivered bottled water to residents Friday.

"They were shedding tears when we gave them their supplies . . .we didn't encounter one incident of hostility," Richmond said, rebuffing reports that many left behind in the city are dangerous and hostile. "I don't think members of the military need guns as much as they need tents."

U.S Army Col. John Smart said multiple available military bases are being considered for shelters, including England, but he had no immediate knowledge of that base being available today.

Several military bases in Arkansas are receiving citizens displaced by the storm, he said.

More than 100 children and infants separated from their parents during evacuations from Hurricane Katrina or while moving between shelters need help being reconnected with their parents, officials said.

Mike Keller, who works for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said about 100 children were being transported to a shelter in Corpus Christi, Texas, where their pictures will be taken and posted on the Internet; connections will be made with parents who have reported losing their children.

Anyone trying to get information or report a missing child or parent can access the Internet at www.missingkids.com or call 1-800-THE-LOST.

Marketa Garner Gautreau, assistant secretary of the state Department of Social Services, said another 26 children separated from their parents are still in Louisiana.

Visiting one shelter housing those children this week, Gautreau said she "went in expecting the worst" but "they were laughing, they were playing with toys, people were holding them."

# Bystander says song prevented possible rioting

**GOSPEL,** *from page A-1*

## Song for broken souls

Roach had arrived at the Convention Center to find a chaotic scene, where the only food or water or booze came from looters and people desperate to survive. Each day brought several new promises of buses for evacuation, each prompting a futile migration to a pickup spot where buses didn't arrive.

Each night brought the terror of darkness, thuggery and mob rule. Several times a day, witnesses said, gunshots rang out, prompting stampedes that they said had killed at least one child. Others said a girl - age estimates ranged from 10 to 14 - had been raped in a bathroom, her throat cut. Untreated medical emergencies caused far more deaths, witnesses said. As in the rest of the flooded city, no one had started counting the dead while the living remain in imminent danger of adding to their ranks.

"New Orleans of all places," said Jesse Jones, 57, sitting a few feet from Roach. People's eyes light up when you say, 'New Orleans.' Everybody wants to come here and play, and now they forget about us. They just sent us food and water last night. I just can't believe this is happening in America."

Roach's husband, Salvatore Hall, said the infirm had no medical attention for days. "We've got people out here with oxygen tanks that have run out, and they are lying to them saying they haven't, so they won't panic," he said.

Still Roach sang. She prayed and laid her hands on the afflicted. She thanked God to be alive. She shared food, water, hope and comfort, and repeated the same line to the broken souls who sought her shoulder to cry on.

"He saved us from the water, sweetie," she told a weeping woman, a stranger who had come to her to bum a light for her cigarette. "He won't abandon us in the aftermath."

"Just please pray for my daughter," the woman sobbed. "I ain't seen her since Sunday."

Miraculous event

Roach had turned to singing and praying when she herself panicked in her attic at 2510 Tupelo St. in the Lower 9th Ward. When the flood first came, Roach and her husband had been sleeping.

"Then the Lord woke me up, and I stepped into the water. When I went into the kitchen, the refrigerator was already floating. We wanted to get into it and float on it, like a boat, but it didn't work."

The water had risen past the first story in a matter of minutes, then the second. When the couple got into the attic, it rose again to the height of their chests, forcing them onto the roof, where the wind drove the rain into their skin so hard it felt like a thousand tiny knives.

She cried out: "Lord! Wake up, Jesus! Wake up! Stop the wind and the rain, Jesus. You said in your word that you would give us what we need."

Then her husband cracked, weeping, hysterical. He could see no way out: He knew he could swim, but his wife couldn't, and the current might swallow him up even if he had a mind to abandon her, which he didn't.

The sight of her husband weeping brought strength back to Roach - someone had to be strong. Then he drew on her strength, and they concentrated on trying to help a neighbor.

They saw their neighbor Brenda Carter on her roof two houses away. Again, the situation seemed hopeless. What happened next Roach attributed to divine intervention, as it was entirely too incredible for simple luck.

The house between their two houses collapsed and floated across the street. Then Roach and Hall felt their house shift, as if headed for the same grim fate. It began listing and revolving, but it suddenly stopped.

When they looked up, their house was touching Carter's, and they could walk from roof to roof. They huddled together on Roach's roof, at last together in their fight for survival.

"It had to be God," Roach said. "Who else but a God could do something like that?"

The rescue boat arrived Tuesday night, when a whole new struggle for survival began.

Roach and Hall walked to the Poland Avenue side of the St. Claude Avenue bridge, a collection point for the thousands of people rescued from the flooded Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish. They found no help there, only empty promises of a National Guard truck to pick them up. They spent another whole day there before a civilian volunteer took them to the Convention Center. "Once they put us on the bridge, we had nothing. They were finished with us," she said.

## 'We still got hope'

Once at the Convention Center they heard more empty promises. No help materialized until Saturday morning when Arkansas Guardsmen brought meals and water and coordinated the mass evacuation on school buses from across the state.

Before that, the only respite had been a helicopter drop of food, which for Roach was a depressing sight. "They dropped food on us like we're animals or we have some kind of disease, not like they're serving it to us now," she said.

Roach's family and that of her husband had suffered their own medical perils. Hall's aunt, Geraldine Valera, 71, stood weeping at the street corner near Roach. On top of myriad health problems, she had fallen in the back of a National Guard truck. She winced in pain. "You can't even wash off your face in this place," she stammered. "There's fights every night, you're laying on the floor sleeping, not knowing when you're going to get trampled."

Her husband Calvin Brown, Hall's uncle, had none of the medicine he needed. "I've seen people die. I've been in World War II and Korea, and I've never suffered like this," he said. "I've got a son who's a captain in the Fire Department, and I'm sure he'd come get me if he knew I was here. But I don't know where he is."

The singing from Roach, her husband and the crowd that often joined in didn't magically cure such ills, but it did go a long way toward keeping up their spirits.

Jones sat a few feet away, with bleary, red eyes and a mind tortured by the death of a close friend who had collapsed in front of him. But the singing soothed him. And more: He said it had headed off a near riot. "We had some rioting going on the other night, but when she broke out in a spiritual song it just sent a wave of calm through the whole crowd," he said. "None of our preachers, none of our evangelists -

Paul Morton and all of them - have even come here to see this. And they've got buses, jets and everything. But we still got hope."

It made Roach feel better, too. "It makes me feel so good that I can do that for people," she said. "Like when God calmed the sea, that I can give somebody peace," she said.

# Trial by fire, water

*Although elementally at odds, fire and water have become unlikely partners in the destruction of New Orleans, with the stagnant floodwaters and lack of water pressure making it nearly impossible to do anything about the sporadic blazes that have cropped up in the city in Katrina's aftermath.*



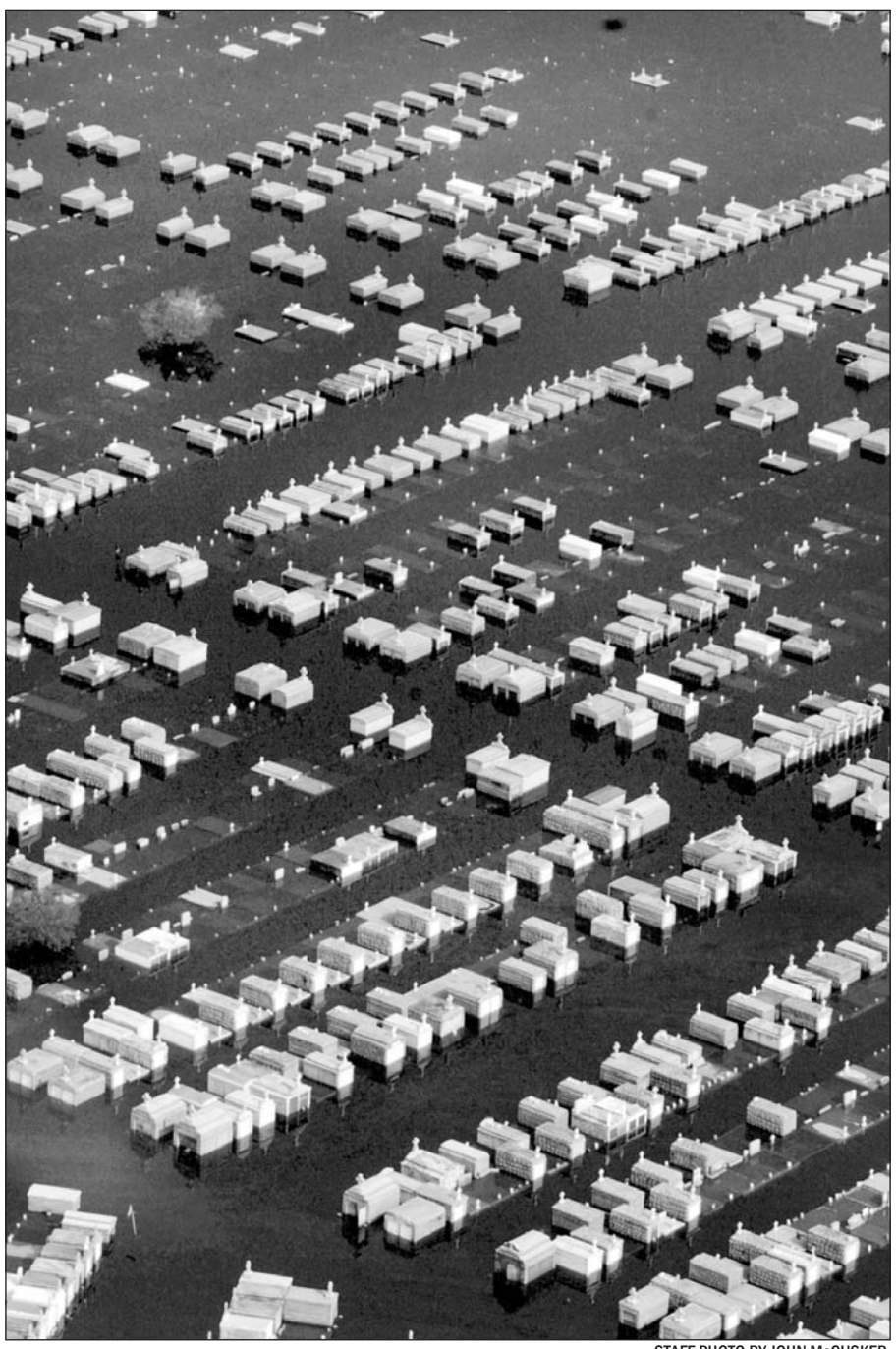
STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**New Orleans:** The smoke from several fires raging along the docks in the Faubourg Marigny obscures the bend in the Mississippi River on Saturday. The building to the right of the railroad tracks is the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts/Riverfront campus.



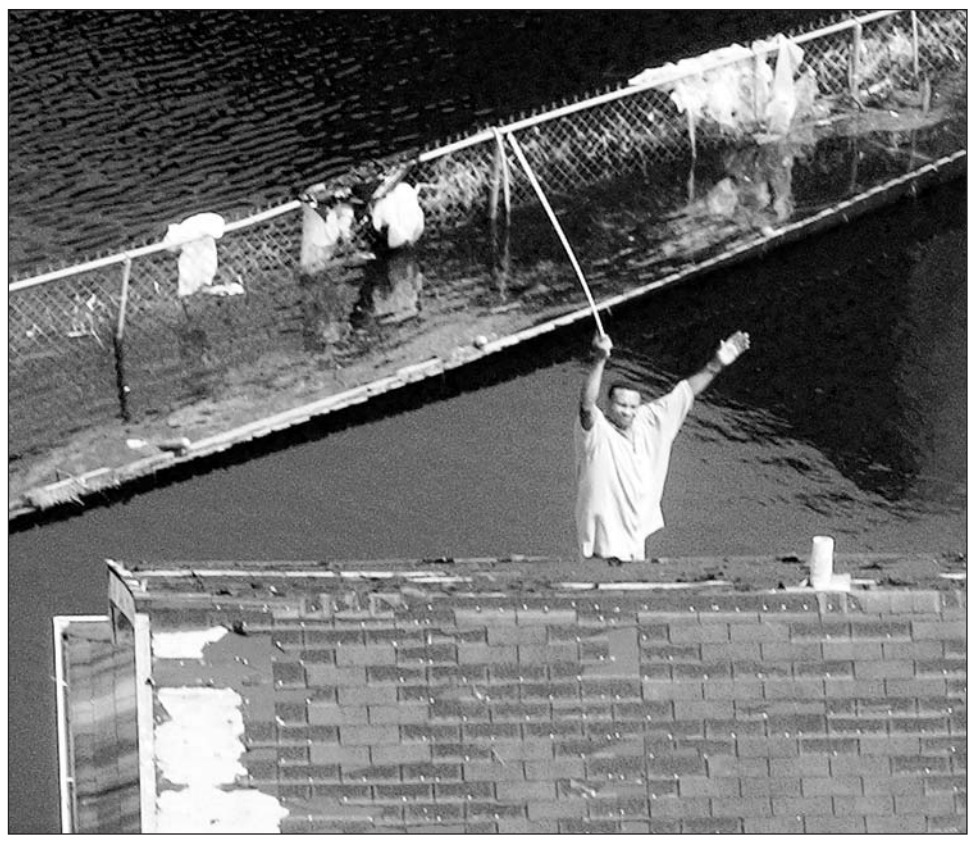
STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**West End:** Sailboats, tossed around by Katrina's winds and waves, lie in a heap at the New Orleans Yacht Club along the lakefront on Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**New Orleans:** Mausoleums jut from the floodwaters in Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**New Orleans:** After floodwaters forced him to a rooftop, an unidentified man waves for help on Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

**Metairie:** Vehicles park in the center of Airline Highway, the only dry spot on this stretch of the highway viewed Saturday from atop the Causeway Boulevard overpass.

**"It was hard, but we made it. I just keep saying, 'Come on, we can do it. We can do it.' "**

CELESTE HARRISON, eastern New Orleans resident

# Refugees camp out on interstate

## *Women forever bonded after fleeing storm*

**By Meghan Gordon and Sheila Grissett**
Staff writers

They slouched on both ends of a cot in the shoulder of Interstate 10, two women whose bodies were worn down and whose memories were etched with dozens of individual tragedies that they witnessed together in the days after swimming out of their flooded eastern New Orleans neighborhoods.

While helicopters dropped in and buses stacked up in the eastbound lanes behind them, Celeste Harrison, 44, and Charlene Williams, 42, sat still during the relatively orderly operation around them. Strangers before Katrina, the women said that they couldn't live another day without the other beside them.

Harrison and Williams were among the thousands who gathered on I-10, turning it into a refugee camp of anxious evacuees awaiting transport out of a flooded city.

Kidding each other about their unkempt hair and dreams of pedicures, the pair tried to push back the images of the unending journey out of their crumbling city. Just one of the memories could send someone spiraling down, but these women - like the near-hopeless refugees all around them near the Causeway Boulevard underpass at I-10 - carried with them countless troubling visions.

For Harrison and Williams, those included a paraplegic woman they couldn't drag from a roof, a father with a dead baby under each arm and a 2-week-old infant crushed when her mother lost grip of her during a stampede at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The women held each other up and prayed that they would board one of the buses Saturday.

Instead of dwelling on the psychologically scarring scenes of the previous six days, they hatched a plan to rebuild their lives together. Williams said she had no means to start over, but Harrison said she would take care of her new friend somehow - just like Williams said she had done to keep Harrison and other refugees moving when they wanted to give up.

"It was hard, but we made it," Harrison said, at times showing a hopeful smile. "I just keep saying, 'Come on, we can do it. We can do it.'"

By "made it," Harrison meant that they had survived long enough for the deliveries of food, water and dry clothes. They made it to the side of a highway where litter, mud and human waste surrounded them. They made it to the day that buses arrived frequently and refugees filed on without stampeding.

Ernest Smith, 10, made it to that moment, too. Speaking in a calm but urgent voice like that of someone many times his age, Smith said he had been watching out for his elderly grandparents, with whom he lived on Camp Street. He finally had food and water, but he wasn't sure he would make it out to hug his mother in Atlanta.

"I would tell her, 'I love you. Please come get me, and I don't want to be out here no more,'" Smith said.

About 50 yards away, Jerome Wise didn't know whether he would see his wife and six of his seven children again. Wise stayed behind at his house near Hayne Boulevard and Sheephead Street, near the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, because his 19-year-old son had to work a shift at McDonald's last weekend.

All Wise carried in his single bag was a portrait of his large family.

It showed Wise with a much fuller face and a broad smile. On Saturday morning, he paced with a grimace, telling in reverse the chronology of the past six days: two days along the highway, another at University of New Orleans and four days on the roof of his house.

"I can't go no more," he said, holding his palms up and out in a gesture many of the refugees used to express their dwindling hope. "Nobody wants us. Nobody wants to help New Orleans."

But by 1:15 p.m. Saturday, the final two helicopters whipped up the debris as medics in scrubs carried the last injured refugees inside, including an old man who appeared limp on a stretcher. The line to board buses had disappeared. Most passengers had no idea which of the many refugee camps across southeast Louisiana would be their new home.

All that remained was a layer of disposed items where commuters once sipped their lattes in traffic. Random pieces of refuse covered the pavement: a right yellow slipper, an upside-down baby carriage, an unopened can of Blue Runner navy beans.

## ZERO TOLERANCE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NEW ORLEANS: A man bleeds from his wounds after he was shot Saturday by a New Orleans SWAT team member when he ran from them with a gun on the Interstate 10 overpass near the Superdome. Police were patrolling because they had heard reports of looters using stolen Kentwood water trucks. Afterwards police escorted him to a medical bus to be treated.


Our sympathies to all of those who have suffered so much in this great catastrophe. The City of New Orleans and all affected areas will recover. We will be there to assist all of our clients and friends.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# St. Bernard rescuers find horrific scenes



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:** Six days after Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, Chalmette is still under water.

## 'Stephen King couldn't write a script like this'

*31 dead in nursing home; man found with dead family*

**By Paul Rioux and Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard bureau

As the last of the stranded St. Bernard Parish residents were rescued and evacuated, parish officials on Saturday turned their attention to recovering bodies, draining water and contaminated muck from the area, and dealing with looters and other criminals who Sheriff Jack Stephens said would be shot if encountered by police.

Finally reaching areas that had been rendered inaccessible by as much as 12 feet of water, rescuers found horrific sites, including a nursing home where 31 residents were dead and a man who spent days in the attic with members of his family, all of whom were dead.

Parish officials estimated that more than 6,000 people had been evacuated from St. Bernard since rescue efforts began Tuesday. Several hundred remain in the parish, not all of them law-abiding, officials said.

Stephens said he has ordered his officers to use deadly force to deal with the looters.

"We are in an absolute shoot-to-kill mode," Stephens said Saturday to his team gathered aboard the commandeered Cajun Queen. "Anybody who presents a clear danger is to be shot."

By Saturday evening no shots had been fired.

Stephens estimated the death toll to be in the hundreds. Twenty-two bodies were found tied together in Violet, which along with the rest of St. Bernard was one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. Officials said the 22 victims apparently had tied themselves together in a desperate attempt to survive the storm.

While the sheriff fears the death toll will be high, he said the actual number of deaths may never be known because some bodies might have washed into canals and other bodies of water. Stephens said he personally had watched two bodies float away.

For every few people rescued, another one or two have been found dead, officials said. Rescuers reached St. Rita s nursing home in Poydras to find 31 dead in their beds. Another 50 were rescued alive from the home but were in poor condition. One rescue team found a man sticking out of an attic, hollering for help. Volunteer rescuer, Patrick Lannes of Arabi, said the man yelled to them, "You have got to get me out here; my whole family is dead in here with me. "

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff s Office was handling the mayhem with little federal aid, though international aid arrived in the form of 47 Canadian search and rescue specialists Thursday, officials said.

Some state Wildlife and Fisheries officers also were helping with the rescue effort, and dozens of volunteers came to the parish in boats to do anything, from clearing off the river levees to delivering water and other supplies. But there were few National Guardsmen in the parish.

"We didn t have any goddamn help," Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said. "You would think if those assholes didn t get any communications from us that they could figure out that we needed help."

Despite being recently released from the hospital after a three-month

Stay following gallbladder surgery, Rodriguez has remained in the parish, as well as many other parish officials - most of them staying in the courthouse.

As the rescue effort wrapped up, other problems mounted.

An oil leak at the Murphy Oil refinery in Meraux was several inches deep on top of the floodwaters. Fumes from the leak were overwhelming, officials said. Refinery officials were attempting to find the source of the leak and fix it.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:** Antoinette Campo of Ysclosky is evacuated to a ferry that would take her across the river to Algiers with her husband.

The smell of the oil mingled with the stench of the sewage-laden waters, which were receding about six inches to a foot a day. Sections of Judge Perez and St. Bernard highways were dry, but litter, debris and boats surrounded the businesses along them.

In back of the Lexington Place subdivision in Meraux, raging flood waters had lifted homes, foundation and all, and thrown them against neighboring homes.

And where the land was dry, insurgents took hold. In the sheriff s Verret substation, a group of what he called "known criminals" took hold until a helicopter flyby scared them off.

"This is a catastrophe of biblical proportions," Stephens said. "Stephen King couldn t write a script like this."



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:** Dominique Jones, 12, cradles her brother Thomas, 2 months, at Algiers Point. They walked 2.5 miles from their house.

# Horn's presence felt by evacuees

*Saints receiver lifts spirits of displaced in Astrodome visit*

**By Josh Peter**
Staff writer

HOUSTON - He arrived at the Astrodome without a shred of clothing or paraphernalia identifying himself as a member of the New Orleans Saints. Instead, he wore an orange-and-white basketball jersey with matching shorts and sneakers.

No matter.

Joe Horn, Pro Bowl receiver for the Saints, drew a crowd of fans as soon as he stepped into the indoor stadium serving as a shelter for 15,000 evacuees who fled Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina left 80 percent of the city under water.

"Mr. Horn. Mr. Horn,'' one man shouted as he ran down the concrete stairs from the floor where Horn stood signing autographs for children, their parents and the elderly. "That's my man!''

Armed with a Sharpie pen, Horn circulated up and down the rows of green canvas cots on metal frames. He cradled babies, tussled young children on the head, clasped hands and bumped fists with the adults. He autographed scraps of paper, T-shirts and the inside cover of pocket-sized bibles. And all the while, Horn offered words of encouragement.

"Thanks, Joe,'' said Brittany Lombard, 18, when Horn approached her and four of her family members sitting in the padded but worn-out seats of the 40-year-old Astrodome. "You're the only one.''

Although other celebrities and athletes have pledged money toward the relief effort, Horn was one of the first prominent athletes or celebrities to visit the thousands of displaced evacuees - many of them longtime Saints fans. Lombard watched as Horn walked away and greeted another cluster of people wearing the pink wristbands they're issued when they enter the temporary shelter.

"There have been other people sending money and stuff, but we haven't seen their faces,'' she said. "He's the only one that came in to see us.

"He's talking to us like another person, like he knows what we're going through. So he's making a difference right there. These kids need that. They wander around here like nobody cares about that. When they see him, it gives them something to believe in.''

During his three-hour tour of the Astrodome - former home of Houston's professional football and baseball teams - children shadowed Horn, parents approached, and the elderly waved from their cots. Horn, never short on words, kept up a steady chatter with countless people as he walked across the indoor floor covered with cots and evacuees.

An older woman approached and told Horn she'd been rooting for the Saints since they played in Tulane Stadium.

"Baby, I watch you. Saw when they made you pay $30,000,'' she said, frowning as she recalled the fine Horn had to pay the NFL after he celebrated a touchdown by pulling a cell phone out of the goalpost pylon and pretended to make a call. "That was stupid.''

"I ain't hurt nobody,'' Horn said.

"Hell, no.''

"But I hurt him when I got in the end zone four times.''

The woman cackled.

Later, Horn reconsidered the promise he'd made not to pull the same cell-phone stunt again.

"If I can make it to the end zone against the Panthers,'' he said, referring to the Saints' regular-season opening game Sept. 11 against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C., "I might pull out another one. Just to call you all back here.''

With that, he left behind a wake of chuckles and moved on and greeted more smiling admirers - including those who knew Hurricane Katrina had ripped two holes in the Superdome roof and, coupled with devastation across the city that would require several months to clean up, would force the Saints to find another place to play home games.

For instance, the Saints will play their "home" opener in New Jersey against the New York Giants.

"Maybe you all will get a new stadium,'' one man said.

"That don't even matter,'' Horn replied. "Man, I'd play on dirt, and that's for real. I'm not just talking to talk.

"That stadium stuff don't matter to me. If all the fans can get where we're at, we can represent.''

Instead of heading back to Tupelo, Miss., to visit his family after Saints coach Jim Haslett gave play-

*See* **HORN,** *page 14*

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# Bush orders 7,200 troops to join area effort

*That would bring number in Gulf region to 30,000*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

President Bush ordered more than 7,200 additional active duty troops to the region Saturday, joining the swelling ranks of National Guard soldiers and airmen who are streaming in with supplies and guns.

"Many of our citizens simply are not getting the help they need, especially in New Orleans, and that is unacceptable," Bush said Saturday in his weekly address, a day after he visited New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. "In America, we do not abandon our fellow citizens in their hour of need."

As of Saturday morning, almost 4,600 active duty troops were in the region, according to the U.S. Northern Command, which is overseeing the active duty military contribution to the disaster.

Members of the 82nd Airborne division, the 1st Cavalry Division and the First and Second Marine Expeditionary Forces were en route to join Joint Task Force Katrina, the active duty military group commanded by Louisiana native Lt. Gen. Russell Honore.

The active duty troops will join a growing number of National Guard soldiers and airmen already in the region, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said.

By law, active duty troops cannot conduct law enforcement operations in civilian populations. The security role - troops on the street helping police restore order -- is handled by the National Guard acting under orders from state governors, officials said.

Blanco said that in light of Bush's order, she has asked Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, Louisiana's adjutant, to focus the state's National Guard on security.

Of Bush's order to send more active duty forces to the area, Blanco said, "this is welcome news."

"A secure environment is critical to continuing search and rescue operations and restoration of critical infrastructure," Blanco said. "These men and women are doing heroic work saving people and restoring order."

Forty states have sent National Guard soldiers and airmen to Louisiana as of Saturday, said Jack Harrison of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

About 22,000 National Guard troops have been sent to Louisiana,

Mississippi and Alabama, and the number is expected to grow to 30,000 today, he said.

"It's an unprecedented response in our history," Harrison said.

Blanco said 12,000 National Guard troops are in Louisiana, including 5,000 from the state. Another 4,000 are expected by Monday, Blanco said.

"These men and women are doing heroic work saving people and restoring order," Blanco said.

Air National Guard aircraft had flown more than 720 missions into the region, delivering more than 3,600 tons of "life-saving supplies and equipment to the region" and then evacuating more than 11,000 people, Harrison said.

In a radio interview Friday, Kenner police Chief Nick Congemi likened the military airlift operation taking place at Louis Armstrong

International Airport to what he saw as a soldier in Vietnam.

The Coast Guard, meanwhile, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, has sent 23 helicopters and five airplanes to the region. Coast Guard aircrews rescued more than 3,660 people between Monday and Saturday morning, the agency said.

In New Orleans, National Guard personnel moved 20,000 people out of the Superdome and secured the convention center. "They did provide and are providing to those who are still there sufficient food and water to everyone," Harrison said.

• • • • • •

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Mannings arrive, provide relief

*Quarterbacks receive harrowing tales of misfortune, survival*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Peyton Manning stood stoically, arms folded, in a corner of the arena floor at Southern's F.G. Clark Activity Center on Saturday afternoon and listened intently.

Daniel Weber, a 53-year-old New Orleans evacuee from the Lower 9th Ward and a resident of the Red Cross shelter at F.G. Clark since Tuesday, was relaying his heart-wrenching tale. And Manning, the Indianapolis Colts quarterback who along with his brother, Eli, of the New York Giants accompanied an Air Tran 737 jet loaded with 31,000 pounds of supplies for the relief effort, drank in every syllable of the horror.

"I thought it was an explosion, but it was the water blowing the doors off the hinges," said Weber, who lived on Reyne Street, between Tennessee and Forstall, almost directly behind the Industrial Canal levee breach that inundated his neighborhood Monday morning as Hurricane Katrina battered the city.

Weber's wife of 23 years, Rosetta Marrero, 44, wheelchair-bound because of several strokes, was in the couple's bedroom, and Weber said he struggled to get to her for a move into the home's attic.

When that failed, he said, he broke out a window so that he could attempt to push his wife through the water onto the roof.

"I was pushing her up," Weber told Manning, "and it got real quiet. I said, 'What's wrong, baby?' She said, 'I'm saying my prayers.' I got real scared.

"That's when I grabbed her by her shirt. But the water took her away I jumped in after her but couldn't find her. I know she's probably dead. I wanted to die right then. I wanted to see God, stand there and tell him, 'Look what you did to me?' If I could die tomorrow, I'd get right in his face and ask him 'What did you do?'

"She wanted to go to the Superdome. I thought I'd be the one to go first. I thought I'd never be without her. I never thought about life without her. I was supposed to take care of her. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I really am. I'm sorry."

Manning placed his hand on Weber's shoulder. Weber had survived 14 hours floating in the water, clinging to debris, before a rescue boat ferried him to dry ground. He was transported to the Red Cross shelter, where he met up with about 10 other family members.

"We're praying for you," Peyton told him. "Hang in there."

"Thank you," Weber told Manning, adding, "How's your Dad doing?"

"There's nothing I can say," Manning said. "He said he laid in the water for 14 hours and said he was ready to give up. I'm glad he didn't give up. He obviously needs to talk. He says all that, and then he sits down and says, 'How's your Dad doing?' I didn't know what to say to that."

Manning shook his head.

"That's an unbelievable story," he said. "That's the kind of thing nobody is hearing about. Just unbelievable."

Wearing gray and white Red Cross disaster relief vests, Peyton and Eli spent nearly an hour walking the gymnasium. Ordinarily it is the home to the Southern basketball team, but it is housing about 400 evacuees, most of them from the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

The quarterbacks patiently listened to evacuees' stories, signed autographs, posed for pictures, and told each one with whom they came in contact that their thoughts and prayers were with them.

"This makes me feel I'm a special person," said Donald Wells, 54, who lived on Caffin Avenue between Tonti and Miro near St. Claude Avenue in the Lower 9th Ward. "If they're coming to see me, there's hope. (Rapper) Master P, he claims he's from New Orleans. He ain't been here, and he ain't spent one dime."

At mid-week, Peyton said, he and Eli decided to put together some sort of relief effort, wanting initially to head to their native New Orleans until Red Cross officials told them that many New Orleanians had been moved here into shelters.

Working with companies with which they had business relationships, such as Gatorade, the Mannings collected 300 cases of the sports drink and 300 cases of bottled water. The Mannings purchased baby formula, diapers, blankets and pillows that will be distributed to shelters throughout the Baton Rouge area.

"We talked to the Red Cross and asked where was the best place we could make an impact," Peyton said. "They said Baton Rouge was the most feasible place to come because that's where the people from New Orleans were coming to.

"They're calling them refugees. But that's not the right word. They're New Orleans citizens. They said morale was low right now. Basically, we said 'Eli and I are coming. How can we help?' "

"Obviously," Eli said, "we don't know what they've gone through and how it has impacted their life. They don't know how their life is going to be and their future and how their life will be from there. If we can just go out there and talk to them, give them supplies and see what they need and talk to them and help them feel better about their situation right now, that's all we can do."


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# 'They need people, they need love'

**HORN,** *from page 13*

ers the weekend off, Horn made the two-hour drive from San Antonio - temporary home to the Saints - and arrived in Houston on Friday.

Initially, Horn talked about handing out $100 bills and bringing food, cots and other necessities for the evacuees. But by Saturday morning, he opted for what he decided was a more practical and meaningful plan.

"You can't bring something for every family member,'' he said. "At the time my heart was pouring out, so I wanted to give something. I wanted to go to a bank, come back and pass out $100 bills. But that's not what's happening right now.

"They need people, they need love. Whatever we're called - celebrities or role models - they need to see that. They need to see that. They need to feel me. They need to tell me stories that no one's heard about. Kids needed me to be around.''

Those kids formed a cluster around Horn as he walked across the floor of the indoor stadium and person after person approached.

"It's great to see you,'' one man said as he extended his hand.

"I had to do this,'' Horn said, shaking the man's hand. "I had to do this.''

"I appreciate that there, man. So how you've been?''

"I've been blessed.''

"That's good. That's good, man.''

"You all right?

"Oh, man.''

Horn heard the desperation in the man's voice.

"Try to make sure everybody stays together and take care of yourself,'' he said. "That's the most important part right now."

"You got that right. All right, Joe, you take care.''

After about three hours in the Astrodome, Horn made his exit - slowly. Outside the stadium, on the way to his car, he talked to Sidney Madison, who wore a gold-and-black Saints cap with the distinctive Fleur-de-lis. Madison, 59, said he was a season-ticket holder since 1988 and earlier in the week spent two days on his roof in New Orleans before being rescued.

"If I could've brought big boilers, I could have had a little crawfish boil out here on the grass,'' Horn said. "That would've been cool, wouldn't it?

"I'm going to call out to the city services and say, 'Why don't you all go and drop some of them and have a crawfish boil.' Mudbugs, baby."

"Mudbugs,'' Madison said. And as Horn walked off, the man added, "It's nice to see him. It lifts your spirits a little bit.''

Next Horn spotted six young men who looked to be in their late teens or early 20s. They were sitting on a concrete ramp, holding bananas and eating lunch that had been distributed to the evacuees.

Horn approached the young men.

"What's up fellas?''

"What's up?''

"You all right?'

"Yeah.''

"Good job, man. Much love. You all taking care of your brothers?''

"Yeah.''

"That's what it's all about. Man, all that other stuff is for the birds. You know what I'm saying. All these kids walking around here need somebody. Brothers left. Daddies left. You know what I'm saying.''

"Yeah.''

"That's what I'm going to be thinking about when I get back. Man, all you brothers take care of them little ones. You know what I'm saying?''

"Yeah.''

"Straight up. Straight up. We're going to rise again, man. Louisiana's going to be there. The water's going to go. We're going to get back up in there and do our thing. That's why you all got to be positive, man."

"Man, I'm just very happy,'' he said. "I'm very upbeat now. I feel better. Believe me, I feel a lot better."

But he also left vowing to make good on his pledge: to represent New Orleans no matter where the Saints were playing and to do everything he could to give the spirit of a distraught and displaced community a much-needed lift.

## OUR OPINIONS

# An open letter to the President

Dear Mr. President:

We heard you loud and clear Friday when you visited our devastated city and the Gulf Coast and said, "What is not working, we're going to make it right."

Please forgive us if we wait to see proof of your promise before believing you. But we have good reason for our skepticism.

Bienville built New Orleans where he built it for one main reason: It's accessible. The city between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain was easy to reach in 1718. How much easier it is to access in 2005 now that there are interstates and bridges, airports and helipads, cruise ships, barges, buses and diesel-powered trucks.

Despite the city's multiple points of entry, our nation's bureaucrats spent days after last week's hurricane wringing their hands, lamenting the fact that they could neither rescue the city's stranded victims nor bring them food, water and medical supplies.

Meanwhile there were journalists, including some who work for The Times-Picayune, going in and out of the city via the Crescent City Connection. On Thursday morning, that crew saw a caravan of 13 Wal-Mart tractor trailers headed into town to bring food, water and supplies to a dying city. Television reporters were doing live reports from downtown New Orleans streets. Harry Connick Jr. brought in some aid Thursday, and his efforts were the focus of a "Today" show story Friday morning.

Yet, the people trained to protect our nation, the people whose job it is to quickly bring in aid were absent. Those who should have been deploying troops were singing a sad song about how our city was impossible to reach.

We're angry, Mr. President, and we'll be angry long after our beloved city and surrounding parishes have been pumped dry. Our people deserved rescuing. Many who could have been were not. That's to the government's shame.

Mayor Ray Nagin did the right thing Sunday when he allowed those with no other alternative to seek shelter from the storm inside the Louisiana Superdome. We still don't know what the death toll is, but one thing is certain: Had the Superdome not been opened, the city's death toll would have been higher. The toll may even have been exponentially higher.

It was clear to us by late morning Monday that many people inside the Superdome would not be returning home. It should have been clear to our government, Mr. President. So why weren't they evacuated out of the city immediately? We learned seven years ago, when Hurricane Georges threatened, that the Dome isn't suitable as a long-term shelter. So what did state and national officials think would happen to tens of thousands of people trapped inside with no air conditioning, overflowing toilets and dwindling amounts of food, water and other essentials?

State Rep. Karen Carter was right Friday when she said the city didn't have but two urgent needs: "Buses! And gas!"

Every official at the Federal Emergency Management Agency should be fired, Director Michael Brown especially. In a nationally televised interview Thursday night, he said his agency hadn't known until that day that thousands of storm victims were stranded at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. He gave another nationally televised interview the next morning and said, "We've provided food to the people at the Convention Center so that they've gotten at least one, if not two meals, every single day."

Lies don't get more bald-faced than that, Mr. President. Yet, when you met with Mr. Brown Friday morning, you told him, "You're doing a heck of a job."

That's unbelievable.

There were thousands of people at the Convention Center because the riverfront is high ground. The fact that so many people had reached there on foot is proof that rescue vehicles could have gotten there, too.

We, who are from New Orleans, are no less American than those who live on the Great Plains or along the Atlantic Seaboard. We're no less important than those from the Pacific Northwest or Appalachia. Our people deserved to be rescued. No expense should have been spared. No excuses should have been voiced. Especially not one as preposterous as the claim that New Orleans couldn't be reached.

Mr. President, we sincerely hope you fulfill your promise to make our beloved communities work right once again. When you do, we will be the first to applaud.

## MONEY

# Restoring electricity will be daunting task

*506,000 Entergy customers still without power*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Restoring electricity to the hardest-hit areas of southeastern Louisiana likely will take more than a month, the state s largest power utility said Saturday.

The slow draining of floodwater from Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes will keep much of those areas in the dark for weeks longer than other parts of metropolitan New Orleans, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

Public security also must be restored in New Orleans before utility crews can move in and begin work, he said.

About 506,000 Entergy customers in southeastern Louisiana remained without power late Saturday afternoon, down from 800,000 at the height of the historically massive storm outage, Lagarde said. But most of the restoration work thus far has occurred in the Baton Rouge area.

On the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, about 77,000 Cleco Corp. customers remained without power Saturday, down from 80,000, Cleco spokeswoman Susan Broussard said. Electricity was back on at most hospitals, city halls, police stations and fire stations.

Power also was flowing along the major retail business corridor of Louisiana 190 from downtown Covington to Interstate 12, she said.

Most of the utility s transmission system had been re-energized in St. Tammany, but a major transmission line between Madisonville and

Bogalusa feeding Washington Parish remained down, Broussard said.

More than 10,000 utility line workers were in southeastern Louisiana on Saturday, up from 6,000 just a day earlier. And more help from out-of-state utilities was on the way, Lagarde said.

Work repairing the catastrophic damage inflicted on the local grid continued to gain traction, but the job remained daunting. Entergy crews restored power to 29,000 homes and businesses in Algiers on Friday, only to lose the services Friday night, said Public Service Commissioner James Field of Baton Rouge.

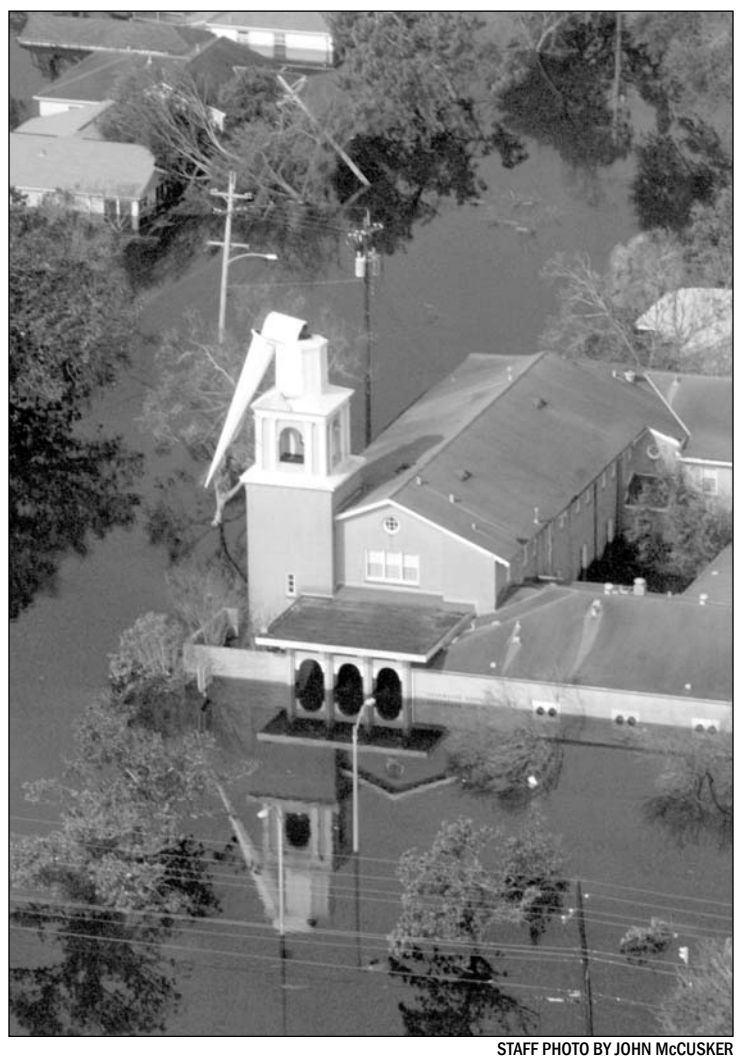
Meanwhile, some evacuees settling into temporary homes and apartments in Baton Rouge were told Friday by Entergy that it would take at least three weeks to turn on electricity in their new residences.

"That s unacceptable," Field said. "(Entergy) will have to have a very, very good explanation to explain that. A seven-day period would be reasonable."

Lagarde said late Saturday afternoon that new customers in Baton Rouge would be connected within five days.

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Contact Keith Darcé at nolapaperboy@cox.net.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**Massive winds from Hurricane Katrina snapped power lines and ripped the steeple of this church in New Orleans, disrupting electricity to the city. Most homes and businesses in New Orleans and surrounding suburbs don't have electricity services and won't for weeks, utility managers said.**

# Gas stations either on empty or full

*La. fuel prices hit record high*

**By Allen Powell and Mary Judice**
Staff writers

Swathed in orange mesh vests with clip-on ties dangling from their shirt pockets, Angneak Cannon and Kimberly Converse were doing a fairly good impression of traffic cops at the Exxon gas station on the corner of Bluebonnet Road and Airline Highway Saturday morning.

Cannon, 24, had he standard police hand gestures down pat as she barked out orders to drivers waiting for gas in a line that started snaking around the station's main building at 7 a.m. Ruling the parking lot with an iron fist, Cannon disdainfully thwarted drivers attempting to circumvent the line, but still managed a humorous outlook on the whole situation.

"They coming with barrels and cans, anything. These people are crazy," Cannon said.

Cannon said there is no limit on how much gas drivers may purchase, but added, "Ain't no skipping and no fighting. Not today."

Hurricane Katrina has turned the process of finding gas in Baton Rouge into a demented scavenger hunt with signs along the streets dolefully proclaiming "NO GAS," and many station managers clueless about when the next shipment will arrive. Drivers searched for blocks to find pumps that were not draped in plastic bags, and some stations would only allow drivers five minutes to fill tanks.

On Perkins Road, a few miles away from Cannon's swamped station, drivers at Shell and Chevron stations were able to get their gas in roughly five to 10 minutes. Jan Soule, of Baton Rouge, said this was her first time having to fill up since Katrina hit, and she was surprised at the ease of the experience. Soule said she was only filling up her vehicle and didn't feel the need to hoard gas in gas cans.

On a quick ride through Baton Rouge along Perkins Road, Highland Drive, College Drive, Airline Highway and several other streets, more than 10 gas stations were without gasoline.

As spot shortages hit Baton Rouge area service stations and gasoline prices in Louisiana hit all time highs Friday, prices for gas for future delivery fell 23 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile.

The loss of Gulf of Mexico oil production and much of the Gulf Coast refinery production in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina exacerbated already tight supplies nationwide, causing gasoline shortages.

Mike Right, spokesman for the American Automobile Association in St. Louis, said shortages were being experienced in Baton Rogue, Jackson, Miss.; and some parts of Tennessee -- areas which received New Orleans evacuees.

In Baton Rouge, regular gasoline hit an all time high of $2.59 a gallon Friday, according to AAA, up more than 42 cents a gallon higher from a month ago. A year ago, motorists paid $1.79 a gallon for regular unleaded in the Baton Rouge market and an average $1.84 a gallon for diesel. As motorists elsewhere in the nation filled tanks for Labor Day travel, they paid more than $3 a gallon in some markets.

Right said he did not know if any stations had shut down in the Baton Rouge area Saturday because the organization could not get in touch with its survey team in the Louisiana market.

"Hopefully it is a temporary situation where they are out of product for a couple of hours,'' he said. "The oil companies are making a significant effort to keep the area supplied because of demand for fuel for emergency vehicles.''

One problem in the Baton Rouge market is the population explosion, Right said.

"Demand is up significantly from Friday of last week,'' he said. "It will be difficult to keep up.''

In areas directly affected by the storm, he said shortages were more widespread and of longer duration.

As of midday Saturday 79 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut down and almost one-third of the manned platforms in the Gulf evacuated.

Yet gasoline supplies are expected to increase shortly.

Exxon Mobil has received approval from the Department of Energy for a loan of up to six million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to increase gasoline production at its second largest refinery in Baton Rouge.

The refinery also expects oil from the nation's only deep water oil port, Louisiana Offshore Oil Port which is located in the Gulf of Mexico below Grand Isle.

"The issue has been getting crude into the refinery,'' Mark Boudreaux, Exxon Mobil's media relations manager said Saturday from Dallas.

Boudreaux said the refinery had operated at reduced capacity during the storm but had never been shut down. "We are ramping up gasoline production now,'' he said. "This will help ease customer demands in regions hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina."

Boudreaux said Exxon is working to restore power to the pipeline and marine transportation system to get oil into the refinery and gasoline to consumers in the affected area and elsewhere.

There may be some price relief in sight. Oil futures fell for the second consecutive day Friday to close down 23 cents at $68.71 a barrel in New York Mercantile Exchange trading. Futures had soared to a high of $70 a barrel in trading Thursday.

The price drop for crude futures may have resulted from news that oil companies would bring additional supplies of gasoline from Europe. Bloomberg News reported that oil companies were importing 130 million gallons of gasoline.

Cannon said she and Converse typically work at an Exxon station on Essen Lane and Perkins Road, but said they were told Saturday that their store was one of six Exxon stations in Baton Rouge that will be closed because there is not enough gas to supply it.

# Port may lose some cargo business

*Long-diverted ships may stick to routes*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

The Port of New Orleans, already losing several million dollars daily because it remains unable to operate after Hurricane Katrina, probably will lose permanently some of the cargo business it once handled.

Vessels bound for New Orleans are being diverted to competing ports in Houston, Tampa, Fla., and Mobile, Ala. And the longer ships use those alternative routes, the less likely they are to return to New Orleans.

"Some of them will remain over there," said Anatoly Hochstein, director of the Ports and Waterways Institute in Arlington, Va. When the port is fully operational again, "at best it would be the same as before, more probably it will be worse."

A rule of thumb when dealing with cargo movement is that business tends to stay put unless there's a reason it has to move. That could be troubling for local ports as they try to regain their footing. Traffic they lose now to other Gulf Coast competitors might not come back.

The Coast Guard has opened some stretches of the Mississippi River to vessels with a draft, or depth, of no more than 35 feet, and priority is given to military ships and those carrying oil. But deeper-draft vessels will have to wait until the Coast Guard can conduct soundings to check for sunken barges or other impediments.

The port itself escaped major structural damage. Port President and CEO Gary LaGrange said in an assessment report that the roofs, outside walls and doors of several buildings and sheds were damaged. Included in those, he said, are the Julia Street Cruise Terminal, which has sections of its roof missing. The port's heavily used sheds at Governor Nichols Street and Esplanade Avenue also were damaged.

"Our wharves appear to be, for the most part, intact and able to conduct cargo operations," LaGrange wrote in the report.

Power, people needed

The gantry cranes at the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal also were not damaged, said David Wagner, the port's chief operating officer, but they can't be operated without electricity.

However, with the situation in the city still uncertain, it's possible port facilities could be damaged in the wake of the storm. For example, fires were still raging Saturday along a stretch of old secondary wharves in the Bywater.

Another major issue for the port is trying to locate its employees, Wagner said.

"Physically, we're ready to operate. But getting electricity and people are the biggest issues," Wagner said. "It doesn't make sense to have a bunch of cargo in the wharf if you can't do anything with it."

The port has not said how much money is lost each day it doesn't operate. But a 2002 shipping accident that shut the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River to maritime traffic for about a week cost the local economy about $3 million per day.

If the port can become operational within a couple of weeks, much of the cargo lost to other reports will return, Wagner said. But if service is suspended for months, "that's a different story," he said.

Some cargo will return to Louisiana no matter how long the suspension of services lasts, said Hochstein of the Ports and Waterways Institute.

"Petroleum and grain will immediately come back to New Orleans for obvious reasons," he said.

It would be difficult and costly to duplicate the massive grain elevators and petroleum terminals around the state, he said. But the container traffic is much more easily shifted and could be lost, Hochstein said.

The Port of New Orleans last year opened its Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal with the hope of gaining a larger share of the container market. Most containers enter and leave the country through the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif.

# East Jeff emerges mostly intact

**By Sheila Grissett and Meghan Gordon**
Staff writers

East Jefferson has escaped the unfathomable destruction that Katrina delivered to much of the New Orleans region, but the damage done to its pockets of urban forest and its utility infrastructure has changed the face of Lake Pontchartrain's south shore suburb.

It was impossible to tell Saturday just how much water had entered homes in the lowest-lying sections of Metairie and Kenner, because fallen power lines and thousands of toppled trees and utility polls blocked streets in dozens of neighborhoods.

The only significant east bank flooding that remained standing five days after the hurricane was in and around Old Metairie. It was blamed on water flowing into New Orleans from the 17th Street Canal breach, then entering Metairie along Airline Drive east of Labarre Road and at Northline.

Northline, a picture-postcard lovely street known for the canopy of giant oaks that shades its mansions, still held eight feet of water and wasn't accessible, said Robert Lambert, general manager of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Commission. He said that water was expected to recede when repairs to the canal breech are finished and Jefferson Parish is able to turn on its drainage pumps.

To the south and west, a stretch of heavily commercial Airline Drive was covered by estimated 20 feet of foul, black water at its lowest point beneath the railroad underpass at Airline Drive. Buildings on both sides were flooded, including Delta Petroleum.

But if instances of standing water were isolated, the results of hurricane winds and tree-related destruction were visible throughout Metairie and Kenner. The degree of damage varied block by block, house by house -- a few shingles here, part of a roof -- while wooden fences were lost everywhere. In the worst cases, trees had bashed homes, but that seemed to be the exception rather than the rule.

There was little evidence of cleanup by residents; in fact, few residents were sighted during a tour of East Jefferson. And there was no obvious evidence of looting. Perhaps would-be thieves were scared off by promises of retribution displayed by homeowners, one of which read, "You loot. We shoot." Or perhaps it was the major police presence, especially in Kenner, where officers in marked cruisers ran up and down the streets.

In Kenner, the storm blasted away the entire front of Nina's Hallmark Shop at Chateau Boulevard and West Esplanade Avenue, leaving rows of cuddly Beanie Babies sitting tidy and untouched on their front shelves just inches from the destruction.

It looked to Lambert and other observers as though some of the worst damage might have been caused by a tornado or two skipping about East Jefferson. A house on Teton Drive in the Woodlake subdivision in Kenner was heavily damaged, large portions of its roof and exterior walls ripped away. But houses on either side sat relatively undisturbed.

One resident of the subdivision said some homes on the lower-lying streets took enough water to destroy spas and hot tubs.

There were no large areas of obliteration spotted in any of the accessible areas toured Saturday, but there were pockets of major damage. The north end of Causeway Boulevard, for example, had been littered with trucks from a U-haul rental center. They had been picked up by the storm and dropped onto the road.

"After the storm passed, those trucks were completely blocking Causeway Boulevard," Lambert said. "The storm threw them like toys."

By Saturday, only a lone truck remained on its side in a Causeway turn lane, unusable anyway because of the numerous downed power lines and poles on nearby West Esplanade. West Esplanade, in fact, was blocked at several different spots throughout Kenner and Metairie.

Katrina's winds toppled a billboard into West Esplanade's drainage canal at Causeway, and further west, had so damaged the storefront of Robert's Fresh Market at Transcontinental that an old Winn-Dixie sign was the only thing legible on the front of the store.

"The cleanup will be massive, but the parish and Kenner have done a good job of clearing a lot of these major streets," Lambert said. "But I think people are going to have a hard time believing what they see when they get back."

Susan Laporte, who spent the day Katrina hit in a friend's Old Metairie home, may or may not return to Jefferson Parish during hurricane season if she ever gets away from this one. She stayed during the hurricane to be near her parents, but says she won't stay again.

"If we get Jefferson Parish up and running again and I stay here, I think I'd leave even for a (Category) 1 storm," she said, wiling away Saturday morning on a front porch swing. "There was a new scare every day, and I was really scared of looters."

She said she kept her boyfriend's pistol handy. But it wasn't necessary.

There's a shoe store on the corner with the window broken out (from the storm), and there's not a shoe missing," Laporte said. "And that's been pretty hard for my sister and me," she added with a laugh.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Army medical personnel help provide cover for two elderly women as they wash themselves as they wait to be evacuated near the intersection of Veterans Memorial Boulevard and Causeway Boulevard



Celeste Harrison uses a box for shade as she waits with her new friend, Charlene Williams, to be evacuated by bus. They said they met while walking from Bullard Avenue in eastern New Orleans to Jefferson Parish.

# Return plan set to go forward

## *Influx expected to clog traffic*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Even though streets are strewn with storm debris, some neighborhoods remain flooded and almost all homes lack electricity and drinking water, Jefferson Parish residents will be allowed to return Monday at 6 a.m., Parish President Aaron Broussard reiterated Saturday, despite widespread skepticism from state and other parish officials.

Parish officials will begin allowing residents entry, providing the driver of the car has identification showing a Jefferson address. Residents will be able to access their homes only via Airline Drive or Jefferson Highway in East Jefferson and U.S. 90 on the West Bank, Emergency Management Director Walter Maestri said.

Anyone not in the car queue at the parish line by 6 p.m. will be denied entry that day but may return the next day. The 12-hour window of entry applies Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

All residents are urged to leave the parish after taking care of their homes, parish officials said.

Residents are advised to bring a full tank of gasoline, food and drinking water, as well as a claw hammer and pliers to pull out carpet, disinfectant to prevent mold and materials to secure damaged windows and doors.

An estimated 350,000 of Jefferson's almost 500,000 residents fled before or immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck Monday, and thousands more are thought to have left as the week wore on.

With a massive influx of return traffic expected Monday, parish officials recommended residents carpool and be prepared to walk several blocks to their homes, as only major streets are being cleared of debris. Many side streets remain choked with downed tree limbs and power lines. Emergency management officials also warned women not to come alone for safety reasons.

On Thursday, the parish will reopen to anyone, regardless of residency, Broussard said.

Despite the open doors, Jefferson remains a site of destruction. Floodwater stands in the southwest portion of the University City subdivision of Kenner, at Transcontinental Drive and Kawanee Avenue in Metairie and in two parts of Old Metairie. Broussard said he has received criticism of his plan from other parish officials, law enforcement agencies and the state, but he has not wavered.

"We're under martial law. And there's only one marshal: Me," Broussard said. He said the Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993 gives him full authority to override any objections from the Parish Council, and he said state officials have reluctantly agreed to the plan.

Asked about that Saturday, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said she wants "to work with Parish President Broussard. We want to make sure it doesn't hurt recovery efforts."

She strongly urged residents to have patience. "I know everyone wants to go clean their yards, check on their homes and get back to their normal lives."

Although the state may comply with Broussard's plan, some parish officials have openly disagreed with him. They contend Jefferson is not ready for its residents. Few businesses are open to sell such basics as food, water, ice and gasoline, and the only two aid distribution centers in operation have had hours-long lines. And with hospitals full to capacity or shut down all together, those who are sick or injured have few options.

"I realize people's houses are important to them, but personal safety comes first," Parish Councilman Chris Roberts said. "Yes, the parish president has made a decision to let people back, (but) I am recommending folks to reconsider coming back."

Roberts said that even if residents come back with full tanks of gasoline, they could use up much of that fuel during a 10- to 15-hour wait in traffic.

Broussard said he is working with the Sheriff's Office to set up traffic control at key intersections. But he acknowledged that many intersections would remain unstaffed, and he urged drivers to be cautious. With electricity service down in most of the parish, few traffic lights will be operating.

Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi said he is concentrating on how to manage Monday's traffic. "We have major concerns, but it's his (Broussard's) decision to make," he said.

The Kenner Police Department already is stretched thin. "EMS and fire-EMS have refused to come out after dark. Police officers are the catch-all for everything," Congemi said.

On the West Bank, though, Westwego Mayor Robert Billiot said he is ready for residents to return.

Mark Smith, a spokesman for the Louisiana Department of Homeland Security, said he doesn't think it is safe for residents to go back, as "the floodwaters haven't subsided yet in parts of Jefferson."

Asked whether he thought it might slow the recovery effort, Smith said he thought it could hamper routes needed by emergency workers. "It's not a decision I agree with, but Broussard has the right to make that decision."

Charles Parker, 61, who rode out the storm at his Marrero home, agreed that people need to be allowed to return to check on their houses. With afternoon thunderstorms that "you could set your clock by" in south Louisiana, he said houses with holes in their roofs must be patched quickly so any rain damage doesn't get worse.

Yet after spending an hour in line waiting to get water from a relief center Saturday, Parker said having tens of thousands of additional people in a parish with limited municipal services will make the waiting far worse.

"It's going to be murder," Parker said.

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 228 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# 7th DAY OF HELL

## A week of horror ends with more evacuations and uncertainty




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Agents with the U.S. Marshal's Service examine a makeshift grave Sunday at Jackson Avenue and Magazine Street in New Orleans. The inscription says, 'Here lies Vera. God help us.'

**By Ron Thibodeaux and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

In a city in dire need of some divine intervention from the most catastrophic week in its history, the first post-Katrina Sunday in New Orleans was infused with the sounds of military helicopters and sporadic gunfire instead of lilting hymns and Gospel readings.

On the seventh day of this disaster of biblical proportions, the last evacuees from the fetid conditions of the Superdome and the Convention Center rested with New Orleans in the rearview mirror of the buses taking them to clean, safe havens far away.

In the city they finally left behind, churches were empty, bells did not peal, Sunday services were not held and the Saints, the football version, were said to be pondering their own evacuation, possibly a permanent one, to San Antonio, Texas.

Entergy workers made their first foray into New Orleans to begin the gargantuan task of assessing the damage to the city's electrical system. Their arrival was a glimmer of encouragement in the vista of despair that confronts those charged with rebuilding the city.

Meanwhile, in adjacent Jefferson Parish, authorities braced for a Labor Day invasion of evacuees expected to return for a first look at their homes.

Search and rescue operations continued and during the late afternoon, helicopters using Interstate 10 as a landing pad were pulling people from rooftops in Mid-City and other parts of town.

Law enforcement agencies fielded about 1,000 distress 911 calls Saturday from people still trapped in attics of buildings surrounded by water, State Police said Sunday.

For the city's police officers in particular, Sunday was the first day to get something like a breather after working around the clock for the past eight days.

"Today is the first day you will see a smile on some of the officers' faces," said NOPD Capt. Marlon Defillo, who was taking a break on the neutral ground of Loyola Avenue with Detective William Charbonnet. "This has been a tremendous challenge for members of the police department, but they've held their ground. They've given their hearts and souls."

New Orleans Police officers sent up a cheer at one point Sunday at a report that their colleagues had engaged in a shootout with an armed group on the Danziger Bridge in eastern New Orleans, with several of the suspected marauders - but none of the police officers - being hit. Deputy Police Chief W.J. Riley said police shot eight people, killing five or six of them.

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-4*

# *'God sent us to get you'*

## *Rescuers pluck residents from foul waters*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

Five Blackhawk helicopters flew in formation overhead. A Chinook plucked a trapped resident from a balcony. But 74-year-old Gloria Galway wasn't budging from her second-floor apartment in the B.W. Cooper public housing complex, despite six feet of water lapping at her building and a rescue boat ready to take her in.

"I got food, water, my two dogs and my Bible," Galway told the rescue team. "God will take care of me."

After pleading with Galway for five minutes, Hamilton "Ham" Peterson said, "I'm going in."

He trudged through the water, climbed to Galway's apartment and told her, "God sent us to get you."

Galway emerged with her dogs, purse and cane, joining hundreds of other New Orleans residents who were ferried from the homes and apartments Sunday, hemmed in for six days by disease infested water. The unprecedented search-and-rescue operation took on an increased urgency as police, soldiers, game wardens, and other volunteers met with occasional resistance and even gunfire. But most of the time, they found grateful victims.

An Army soldier said it looked and felt like war, except it is being fought from a flotilla of boats with drivers and volunteers from around the country.

Thrown together in the back of an Army Humvee at the operation's Poydras Street staging area, Peterson, a federal railroad inspector from Washington, D.C., Jenny Krall, a Charlotte, N.C. firefighter, and Texas game warden Luett McMahen, were jolted just before the Claiborne Avenue boat launch by a powerful front-end collision. Army driver Jerry Lance had just plowed into a car that was blocking traffic, pushing it 100 feet toward the water.

A group of cops and soldiers cleared the obstruction once and for all by flipping it to the side of the road.

From there, teams were divided into airboats, flat boats, Army pontoons and skiffs to fan out across the Uptown neighborhood. Each boat had a game warden and a driver, a police sharpshooter and one or two rescuers.

*See* **RESCUE,** *page A-5*




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Multiple feet of floodwater remained in the 9th Ward in New Orleans on Sunday, making it particularly burdensome for Roosevelt Kyles to retrieve medicine he needs for his diabetes. It was the only thing he took from his home.

# Body count in state morgue provides initial death toll

## *Forensic team faces challenge of identifying victims*

**By Laura Maggi**
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE - In the first announcement of what will undoubtedly be a growing tally of the people killed by Hurricane Katrina and its devastating aftermath, officials said Sunday that 59 bodies were in a state morgue and had been confirmed to have died from storm-related causes.

Health officials would not say how high they expected the death toll to go, but Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin have both said repeatedly that they expect it to be in the thousands.

Local officials have said there are about 100 bodies at a wharf in St. Bernard Parish, but the state has not confirmed those deaths, said Louis Cataldie, medical director for emergency operations for the state Department of Health and Hospitals.

Cataldie said any death that investigators determine would not have occurred if not for Hurricane Katrina will be attributed to the storm. "If you are on a respirator at home and the electricity goes out, you are a hurricane death," he said.

But people whose deaths are classified as murder - even if it occurred during the storm or the chaotic following days - will not be identified as hurricane deaths. Local coroners will be brought in to investigate those deaths, said Cataldie.

People who had identification on them when they died - such as most hospitable patients - will be easy for state officials to identify and notify family members, he said. But others, such as bodies that have been fished out of the floodwaters, could prove to be more of a challenge.

Because dental records and other key medical information may also have been lost during the storm, the process could rely heavily on the more technologically sophisticated methods used by the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, an agency brought in by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For example, the mortuary team, which is often known by its acronym DMORT, can take a hairbrush brought in by a family member to see if the DNA matches any of the unidentified bodies at the morgue.

The morgue, which will be run by the federal team, has been set up at St. Gabriel, a town near Baton Rouge. Three DMORT teams were brought in to deal with the aftermath of the hurricane, including various forensic experts, funeral directors, death investigators and coroners, said Todd Ellis, the leader of the local regional unit.

Local emergency workers will be charged with collecting dead bodies and bringing them to a collection point, where team members will collect preliminary information, such as any identification records, and gather personal effects.

"From that point, we as DMORT teams will treat each of these individuals with the highest level of dignity and respect that they all deserve," Ellis said.

The teams will begin collecting forensic information as soon as the bodies arrive at the morgue site, including fingerprinting and DNA sampling, he said.

Once the facility is up and running, it can identify - or at least attempt to identify - 144 bodies a day, Cataldie said.

Cataldie said 10 bodies being held by the state were those of people who died while at the Superdome, most from respiratory failure. Nine more died at a temporary hospital set up at Louis Armstrong International Airport. "There were a lot of sick folks who couldn't make a journey," he said.

Twenty-six bodies were in refrigeration trucks at the morgue facility in St. Gabriel on Sunday, while another 22 were at a collection point at the split of Interstate 10 and the I-610. Another 11 bodies were identified by the Jefferson Parish coroner as being caused by the storm, Cataldie said.

Laura Maggi can be reached at laura_maggi@yahoo.com or (225) 342-5590.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

The body of Lower 9th Ward man lies near the chainlink fence as a rescue helicopter flies overhead.

# Ministers of Houston offer words of hope



AP PHOTO

Doris Jackson of New Orleans sits outside the processing center at Reliant Arena, next to Houston's Astrodome. Jackson came from the Superdome on Thursday.

## *Religious leaders visit evacuees at shelters*

**Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON - As she listened to the minister speak Sunday, Sharon Craig thought about six of her grandchildren, a daughter and a daughter-in law, all still missing since floodwaters engulfed the St. Bernard housing complex after Hurricane Katrina.

Craig, who is being sheltered at the Reliant Center, said a part of her family may be missing but she hasn't lost faith that they will be together again.

"God is good, and God is going to take care of it for me," Craig said.

Craig was one of many thousands of Louisiana evacuees at the Astrodome, the Reliant Center and the George R. Brown Convention Center who were visited Sunday by an ecumenical group of religious leaders seeking to encourage and minister to those displaced by the storm.

Other evacuees opted to walk or were transported to other locations by area churches to worship.

The Rev. William Lawson of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church compared the hardships of the refugees to the trials of Job, the Bible figure who suffers much for seemingly no reason at all, but eventually is blessed many times over for keeping his faith in God.

"You didn't do anything to cause the suffering you're going through right now," Lawson said. "We want you to know that God hasn't forgotten you no more than he had forgotten Job."

Evacuees also heard from leaders within Houston's Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities Sunday. Each repeated similar messages of hope.

At the Astrodome, the Rev. Michael Amesse, who evacuated from St. Jude Catholic Church on Rampart Street in New Orleans, looked out into the crowd of thousands and said the presence of local religious leaders has been a comfort to many.

Amesse, who was with Roman Catholic Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, who represents the Houston area, said he's encountered several of his parishioners. Many ask for prayer, he said.

Rabbi David B. Rosen of the Beth Yeshurun Synagogue told the evacuees that although they may have lost everything in the storm, their worth didn't decrease.

Rosen illustrated his message by telling the story of how a crisp, clean $20 bill came to be crumpled and stomped in the dirt. People still wanted the cash, he said, because the value was still there.

"You will never lose your value. You are all worthy of love and respect," Rosen said. "God loves us and he's surrounded us this day with angels."

On Sunday, many of the residents were still sleeping or eating with their families when the leaders came to speak at the Astrodome. Others walked up to the stands to hear the ministers.

At the Reliant Center, Dorothy Lewis said she welcomed the impromptu service. Although she's lost everything, she said, God saved her family.

"I can't go to sleep for thanking him," said Lewis, a Carrollton resident. "I wake up in the morning thanking him."

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On behalf of the entire Pinnacle Properties family - from Casino Magic Biloxi to Boomtown New Orleans - we'd like to offer our sincere sympathy to our employees and their families, as well as the entire community.

Our prayers go out to all of you during this difficult time. It is more important now than ever to stick together as a community and support one another as best we can. Listed below are emergency numbers you can call for help.

---

**Pinnacle Employee Communication**

**1.800.665.8738**

**Employee Assistance Hotline**

**1.800.865.1044**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**1.800.621.FEMA**

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# New Orleans staggers to its feet for next step on long road



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NOPD narcotics officer Jayson Germann, left, with Hamilton Peterson from the Office of Inspector General, look through the B.W. Cooper housing development for people to evacuate Sunday with the help of game wardens from Texas Parks and Wildlife officials in airboats.




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Refugees in the River Center get a prominent reminder of the date Sunday. In the confusion of the hurricane's aftermath, losing touch with the passage of time happened all to easily.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A man trudges through waist-deep water Sunday near Tulane and Claiborne avenues.

**KATRINA,** *from page A-1*

Defillo said police morale had hit a low point around Wednesday or Thursday in terms of the stress on officers, who had to try to keep the city safe without a working communications system amid increasing anarchy . While it was harrowing, reports that hundreds of police officers abandoned ship are false, he said.

"There was a report that 60 percent of our officers bugged out and hadn't been seen since Monday night. It is totally untrue," Defillo said.

What happened, according to Defillo, was that the NOPD's communications system crashed in the wake of the storm, making it impossible for officers to contact one another.

"We had to work on the buddy system, two guys staying together," he said. Defillo acknowledged that "there were some people who bugged out" but he didn't have an estimate of their numbers.

Defillo himself was feeling better after shaving for the first time in a week and taking an impromptu bath in the green, leafy water of a backyard swimming pool. He was wearing a clean pair of acid-washed jeans and a polo shirt that he "found."

The scene was more intense in flood-ravaged St. Bernard Parish, where rescue efforts still lag behind those of New Orleans. Sheriff Jack Stephens authorized his haggard deputies to shoot to kill looters or anyone else who poses a threat.

Small gangs of heavily armed career criminals are roaming the parish's isolated eastern half and looting buildings, Stephens said.

"These are the same a------- who have been testing us for 20 years," Stephens told his SWAT team at a security briefing. "Today is the day they are going to listen to us or we're gonna take 'em out."

As National Guard troops and utility workers launched their patrols through the abandoned neighborhoods of New Orleans on Sunday morning, federal, state and local authorities intensified their finger-pointing at one another over the breakdowns in last week's rescue efforts.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff struggled on NBC's "Meet the Press" to explain why federal agencies were so slow to react to the crisis and sought to deflect at least part of the blame toward the evacuation plan confected by city and state officials.

Later in the same program, a ragged Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard broke down as he told the national audience how a colleague's elderly mother died in her home Friday after waiting four days for rescuers that never arrived.

With thousands of federal troops finally assisting in what had been an ineffective, disorganized operation, 19,000 people were removed from the Convention Center in less than 24 hours and the final evacuees from the Superdome boarded a bus for somewhere, anywhere.

Hundreds of people continued to mill around the outside of both facilities, arriving on foot in hopes of getting a ride out of town.

Col. Henry Whitehorn, superintendent of Louisiana State Police, estimated that 2,000 people, many of them with serious medical problems, were still housed inside the terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

A busload of 160 people that the state Legislative Black Caucus arranged to deliver to Alexandria ended up at a shelter there, not in facilities at the former England Air Force Base as the lawmakers had intended.

Angry that thousands of Louisianians are being bused out of state because of an apparent lack of shelter space, the black caucus members had called on the federal government Saturday to make Louisiana's military installations available.

Jefferson Parish officials prepared Sunday for a huge influx of residents expected to return today to see what Katrina did to their homes. Hours after the storm hit, Broussard had decreed that evacuated Jefferson residents stay away only for a week to give parish authorities a fighting chance to get control of the destruction and bedlam there.

Many parish officials are skeptical about the decision to let residents return even this soon, but Broussard stood by his decision, saying residents need to see for themselves how bad things are so they can move on with their lives.

"I am the only elected official who is in favor of doing this, but people need to understand that they're not coming back to Wally Cleaver's neighborhood," he said Sunday. "I am doing this to jumpstart the economy, not the economy of Jefferson Parish. That is destroyed. I want to jumpstart the economies of the residents of Jefferson Parish, who need to find new jobs, new places to live."

Long lines are expected today at checkpoints where parish authorities will verify that returnees live in Jefferson Parish before letting them in.

The 1 million-plus number of homes and businesses that lost power in the area was down to 643,000, Public Service Commissioner Jimmy Field said. LSU researchers testing the floodwaters for contamination levels also reported that they had taken the first water samples from canals draining into Lake Pontchartrain and expect to have the results in about two days.

Entergy was able to send a 12-member assessment team, flanked by National Guardsmen, into the city to inspect storm damage.

"The main thing we were trying to find out is what needs to be done to restore power to the Central Business District," utility spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

In St. Tammany Parish, Cleco reported it has restored power to 5,000 of its 80,000 customers, beginning with hospitals, other essential locations and sites along the parish's main traffic arteries.

In San Antonio, where New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson had been conspicuously silent about the impact of Katrina on his football team's hometown and its residents, reports surfaced that the team's management is considering pulling out of the city and relocating, perhaps permanently, to San Antonio, where Benson has a business interests and a ranch outside of the city.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

NEW ORLEANS: Residents of the B.W. Cooper housing complex leave by airboat. Escorting them Sunday were game wardens from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. From left are Ashanti Solomon, 3; Kiane Lang, 2; Sherwood Shannon, 1, held by his aunt Cierra Solomon; and Georgette Shannon.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

NEW ORLEANS; His belongings in a plastic bag, a resident is evacuated Sunday.

# Family rescued at B.W. Cooper

**RESCUE,** *from page A-1*

The New Orleans police officers who worked the operation  most of them from the narcotics unit  had all shaved their head the night before, including two female detectives.

Of the shaved heads, Det. Darren Hartman said, "We figured we d do this to be comfortable and to boost our morale. This is our family now."

On the way to the Cooper development, better known as The Calliope, a few residents waved off the rescuers. Capt. Timothy Bayard, who is commanding the operation, said the orders were to pick up only those willing to go.

"If they want to die, there is nothing I can do,  Bayard said. "I can t fight them, they may tip the boat. But if I get an order later to pull them out by force, I ll do it."

**"I told mama the police were gonna save us. But I wasn't gonna get in no helicopter."**

7-YEAR-OLD ARTENIASHA GIBSON

A flatboat with Peterson, McMahen and a reporter met no resistance at 3508 Thalia St.

"How many do you have?" Peterson yelled to the woman leaning out of the second-story window.

"We have the two of us, four kids and grandma," 35-year-old Michelle Gibson yelled back.

One by one, Gibson and her husband walked the children downstairs, through the knee-deep water and into the boat.

"I told mama the police were gonna save us," 7-year-old Arteniasha said. "But I wasn t gonna get in no helicopter."

The group was ferried to waiting ambulances and military vehicles parked on the Claiborne overpass, ready to evacuate. A second boat followed with the girl s father and older sister.

Peterson, who once lived in New Orleans and now lives in Washington, said as soon as he saw the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina unfold on television, he knew he had to be part of the rescue effort.

Once he arrived, he slipped away from the paper and desk job they assigned him because he wanted to be on the front-lines. Part of his motivation, he said, was the loss of his father and mother-in-law on Flight 93 in the terrorist attacks of 9-11.

"It is all about family and the absence of family and the preciousness of family,  he said. "Whether it is the World Trade Center or this neighborhood, when I saw the mamas and babies suffering on TV, I knew I had to come and I knew I had to be on the ground helping people."

Peterson, who once served a stint as a Washington, D.C., cop, carried a revolver. But Calliope rescuers met no armed resistance Sunday. Just confounding pockets of resistance to being saved.

Bayard vowed the operation will continue until everybody is out. "Because the next operation will be pulling out bodies,  he said.

When Peterson helped deposit Galway next to the bus that will take her to a shelter, he helped her with her meager belongings. Then he handed her one last item he grabbed from a table as he rushed from her apartment: Galway s deteriorating paperback Bible.

"Bless you,  she said.

**"No one's ever seen anything that could ever compare to this. I was command superintendent in Afghanistan two months after 9/11 and this is worse."**

CHIEF MASTER SGT. RODNEY CHRISTA

# At airport, life still uncertain as ever

## *They've escaped N.O., but still have long road ahead*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

With the tattered American flag that helped save her life hanging off her frail shoulders, 78-year-old Shirley Williamson sat in a wheelchair outside gate D1 at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Sunday with no idea where her plane was headed.

As other victims of Hurricane Katrina lay on stretchers nearby, some screaming in pain, military medics rushed to attend to Williamson and others, grasping for syringes and gauze pads piled up on the countertop typically used by airline staff to assist travelers.

Outside the window, trams that usually deliver checked bags to airline cargo holds on Sunday carried patients on stretchers and families - many of whom have never been able to afford an airline ticket - to military transport planes headed for safer and more stable parts of the nation.

"I'm never flying through this airport again," said Air Force Capt.Terri Leitch, a nurse who has helped care for some of the thousands who have come through Armstrong since early last week and stood helplessly nearby as some have died.

As the medics attended to their patients, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and Centers for Disease Control Director Julie L. Gerberding toured the terminal, getting a glimpse of the makeshift emergency room set up at the airport. The health officials are in New Orleans to begin determining the massive public health risks that lay ahead during the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

"When you put standing water with insects and unsanitary conditions, it's a breeding ground for disease, and you have to stay ahead of that," Leavitt said.

Twenty-four CDC teams are in the region surveying health conditions at every shelter. Little if any disease prevention exists in the area because "the entire public health staff in New Orleans is gone," Gerberding said.

Once search and rescue operations are complete, the mental health of residents in the region must be addressed, especially among children, she said.

Gerberding acknowledged that there has been difficulty getting supplies to outlying areas, but said they are working to fix the problem. Two planes loaded with antibiotics and 37 pallets of other medical supplies are on their way to the region, she said.

Meanwhile, commercial and military planes and helicopters dropped off the recently rescued and took those suitable for longer flights to Dallas, Nashville, Shreveport and other cities with hospital and shelter space.

"No one's ever seen anything that could ever compare to this," said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa, who is overseeing the massive operation. "I was command superintendent in Afghanistan two months after 9/11 and this is worse."

As he stood in a section of the terminal filled with military cots where his troops finally managed to get some rest, he described how rescuers were beginning to fan out into more remote areas of the region, where he feared there may be many more people in need of medical attention and evacuation.

"We don't know if this is a lull or not yet," Christa said.

Nonetheless, things had improved dramatically by Sunday at the airport with considerably fewer patients and evacuees in the terminal.

The stories the patients had to tell were heartbreaking.

Williamson, who lived alone in her North Rampart Street home for the past 35 years, described how she spent the past six days rationing herself to a single slice of raisin bread and one or two cookies as looters broke into every business nearby. She feared they would begin eyeing the homes on her street left vacant by those who fled the storm.

Although a few neighbors came to check on her before they evacuated, none offered to take her. "If they wanted me, they would have said it," she said.

During daylight hours, she avoided her front yard, fearing she would be attacked or draw attention to the fact that she was alone and vulnerable.

Shortly after Katrina hit, however, she had grabbed an American flag that had blown off its perch near a neighbor's door and onto her porch.

Each day, as the helicopters passed overheard, she waved the flag, hoping rescuers would spot it and save her. All week she waited, until Sunday, when they finally came. As she sat in her wheelchair with a warm meal in her lap, Williamson said she didn't know where she was headed but anywhere was better than where she had been.

Nearby, Larry Hampton described how six feet of water in his Central Business District home nearly drowned his fiancØe, Doreen Patton, who clung to a beach ball to stay afloat. Fearing that opening the door would let in more water, they stayed inside. Finally they realized that remaining in the house would mean certain death, and they got out.

The couple ended up outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, where Hampton and Patton watched more than a dozen people die in the street until a helicopter took them to Armstrong.

Just as they were boarding a military transport plane that stacked

patients three stretchers high and had seats for those who could walk, Hampton, Patton and Williamson learned their flight was headed for Shreveport, where they'd be assessed at a local shelter.

Watching as they were helped from the baggage tram to the back of the plane, American Airlines flight attendant Patty Sinclair recalled purchasing candy and food for evacuees she helped to board flights her airline and others were providing to Corpus Christi, Texas, and other locations.

Even as many moved in and out of the terminal quickly, others like Jessica Bingham, 21, were left waiting with her two-month-old son, Leonard, as her husband tried to make it to the airport from Marrero.

She recalled being rescued from her foster parents' flooded home in Metairie, only to be taken to a much worse place: a shelter in the gymnasium at Bonnabel High School.

There were no cots, she said, and after evacuees began urinating and defecating on the gym floor, she and her baby joined others lying outside on the pavement for two days as they tried to wave off mosquitoes. Her baby began to lose consciousness until emergency workers finally came by and took her to Armstrong, where fluids brought her baby back to consciousness.

"There's a million horrifying and heartbreaking stories here," said Air Force Col. Jerry Owen, as he shepherded one wave of evacuees onto the tarmac and watched the next batch start to arrive.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE




**ARMSTRONG AIRPORT:** Refugees lie on the floor, ABOVE, of the Louis Armstrong International Airport on Sunday.

LEFT, Carts that usually carry baggage were put to work transporting refugees to an aircraft on Sunday.

# Army Corps of Engineers shifts focus to dam canal at lake

## *17th Street levee work postponed*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

The Army Corps of Engineers has shifted its efforts to damming the London Avenue canal's entrance to Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, after completing a dam across the 17th Street canal.

In a news release issued Sunday morning, the Corps said it discovered several intact "but potentially weakened sections" in the 17th Street canal levee, and that it has delayed completing the filling of the levee breach into Lakeview to move on to other work. The Corps didn't complete placement of the last piece of sheet piling because officials were not yet sure that water on the Lakeview side of the breach had dropped to the same level as the lake.

With the dam closure, the Corps said, the canal will be drained and the levee will be repaired permanently.

Five pumps ordered Saturday are to be delivered in pieces to a staging area in St. Rose, where they will be partially assembled and moved to the 17th Street and London Avenue canals for final assembly and startup.

Four more pumps loaned to the Corps by St. Charles Parish were deployed to the 17th Street canal, where they are being assembled.

The Corps is acquiring two large mobile generators to power pumps at pump station 6 on the 17th Street canal and at pump station 7 on the Orleans Avenue canal.

The Corps also is arranging the salvage of "two objects" found in the bar channel at the mouth of Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River, the main shipping entrance to the river.

The news release said the objects haven't been identified but are more than 40 feet beneath the surface. River traffic is being restricted to vessels with drafts of 35 feet or less.

The obstructions were found by a survey vessel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, about a half-mile from the end of the Southwest Pass jetty.

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Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net

# Jeff residents allowed in today

## *Returnees can expect to wait for hours*

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Jefferson Parish officials geared up Sunday for a massive influx of returning residents who can expect to sit in long lines of cars at police checkpoints to ensure that nonresidents don't enter the parish.

Parish President Aaron Broussard announced his plan on Tuesday, the day after Hurricane Katrina laid waste to the New Orleans area, to let residents back in briefly and only to inspect their property beginning today at 6 a.m. And he has insisted on carrying out the plan, despite mounting opposition from law enforcement and utility companies.

Broussard said that residents must be allowed to see the devastation up close so they can move on with their lives somewhere else.

"I am the only elected official who is in favor of doing this, but people need to understand that they're not coming back to Wally Cleaver's neighborhood," he said Sunday.

"I am doing this to jump start the economy. Not the economy of Jefferson Parish; that is destroyed. I want to jump start the economies of the residents of Jefferson Parish, who need to find new jobs, new places to live" outside Jefferson.

Many residents who tried to get in Jefferson early were turned away at checkpoints on Airline Drive and on U.S. 90.

Meanwhile, utility companies are concerned that the flood of people returning today will block access routes for their fuel and supplies.

"Someone needs to rethink this," one utility company manager was heard saying to a parish official.

Sheriff Harry Lee was resigned to cooperating with the effort, but he told WDSU-TV that he doesn't think it's a good idea.

"There's no good law enforcement reason for doing this," he said.

Parish Councilman John Young said he has put aside his concerns about the matter.

"The decision has been made, and we're going to do everything in our power to make it work," he said.

Parish officials are urging residents who don't have to come back to stay where they are.

The rules of entry are such that those who try to return might face a hellish experience. Parish spokeswoman Angela Williams said residents must have enough fuel not only to drive in but to sit in line for hours and to drive out of the area to where fuel is available in outlying parishes.

All businesses are closed. Electric, gas, water and sewer service is unavailable in many areas of the parish.

"It's not going to be a pleasant place to stay," Williams said.

Under the Broussard plan, residents will be allowed to enter on Airline Drive and U.S. 90 today, Tuesday and Wednesday beginning at 6 a.m. At the parish line, they must show identification bearing a Jefferson Parish address. Anyone not in line by 6 p.m. will be denied entry on that day. A dawn-to-dusk curfew will be in effect. Parish officials said they were eliminating Jefferson Highway as an entry point. Business owners will be allowed in on Thursday.

In an emotional news conference Sunday, Broussard reflected on the efforts to stabilize Jefferson Parish after Katrina passed the area on Monday.

"The bureaucracy committed murder" by failing to mobilize quickly enough to the crisis, he said, adding that the mother of one of his department heads died in a St. Bernard Parish nursing home after residents there were promised aid for days.

"There was a plan in place for this disaster, but when it happened all we got was promises," he said.

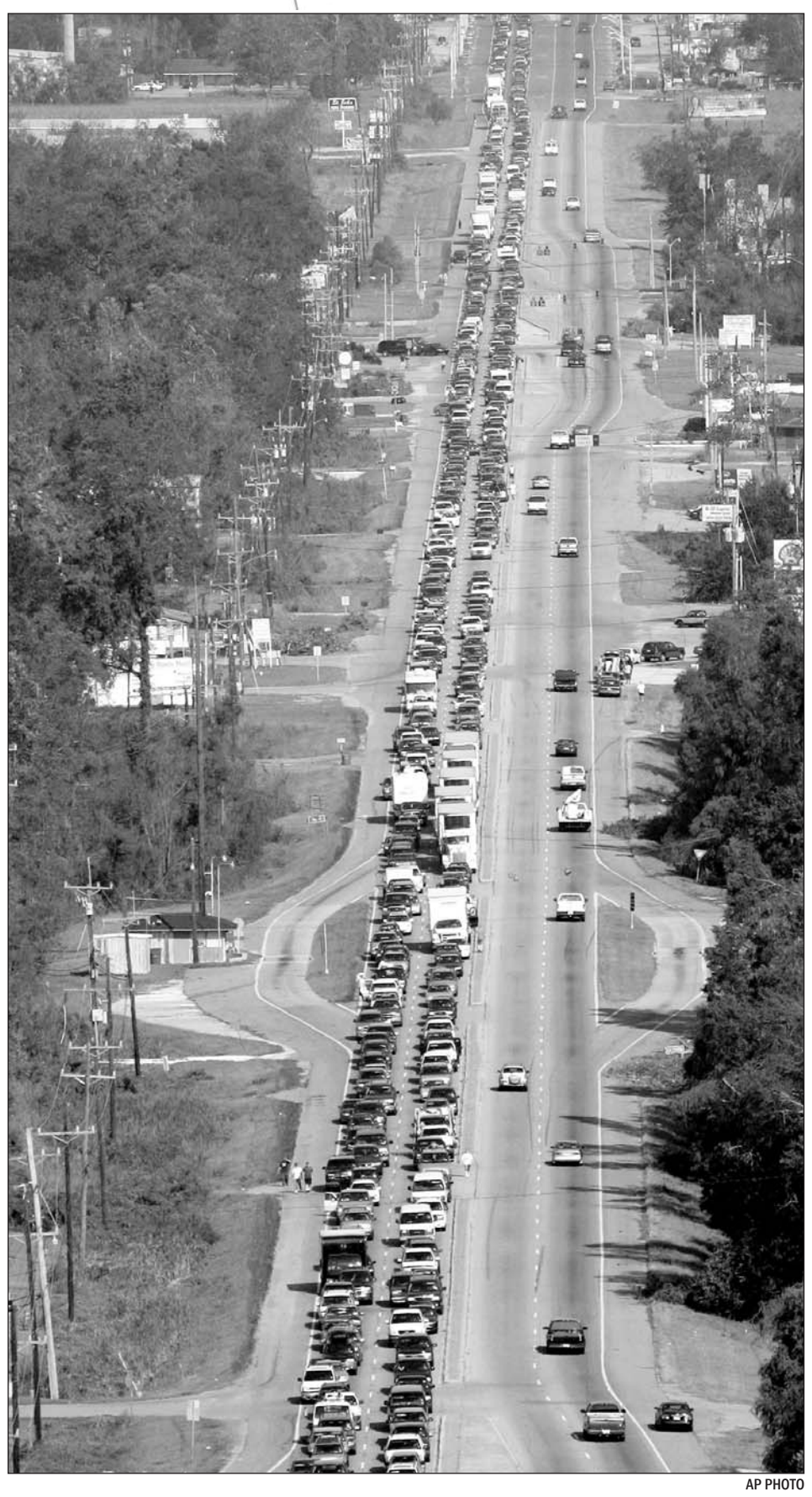
### GETTING BACK INTO JEFF PARISH

**Points of entry:** Airline Drive and U.S. 90

**When:** Today, Tuesday and Wednesday beginning at 6 a.m.

Anyone not in line by 6 p.m. will be denied entry on that day. A dawn-to-dusk curfew will be in effect.

**Requirements:** At the parish line, residents must show identification bearing a Jefferson Parish address.



AP PHOTO

Traffic headed toward New Orleans was backed up Sunday. Parish President Aaron Broussard plans to let anxious residents in to inspect the damage today.


TENET notice

**ATTENTION TENET EMPLOYEES AND PATIENTS**

In response to Hurricane Katrina, **TENET HEALTHCARE CORPORATION** in Dallas has launched

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NorthShore Regional Medical Center in Slidell, La. | Gulf Coast Medical Center in Biloxi, Miss.

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STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**FRENCH QUARTER:** At Orleans Avenue and Bourbon Street, the Southern Decadence Parade rolls Sunday with fewer than 12 determined French Quarter residents. Foreground from left, Matt Menold, John Lambert, Robin Cates and an unidentified man lead the way.

# MARCHING ON

*Nearly a week after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on New Orleans, remaining and evacuated residents continued to regroup Sunday, turning from the despair and losses they have suffered to the joi de vivre for which their city is well-known. They smiled, sang, cooked out, played games and even staged a somewhat less-populated parade.*



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

**BATON ROUGE:** Derrineisham Farly, 9, hugs Janet Thorne, a kindergarten teacher from the Zachary area who came to the River Center to read children books and spend some one-on-one time with them.

**NEW ORLEANS:** A woman from the neighborhood brought a homemade proclamation to the 6th District police station, thanking officers for their efforts in the aftermath of the hurricane.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT:** From left, Tom Martin of Connecticut's South Windsor Police Department, and Doug Mycko of Aberta, Ala., grill burgers for rescue workers under the driveway of Harrah's New Orleans Casino on Sunday. Cabal Industries of New Orleans brought the grills and food to feed workers at the makeshift command post. To donate money or food for the workers, call (985) 828-0468.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

**BATON ROUGE:** Refugees try out the hoops at the River Center. Refugees began to cope with their surroundings Sunday at the River Center, which is housing thousands of families who evacuated before and after Katrina struck.

**"At this point, it's unclear how long we'll be working in New Orleans because of accessibility, security and flooding."**

CHANEL LAGARDE, Entergy spokesman

# Some St. Tammany hospitals get power

## *Entergy workers tackling city lines*

**By Charlie Chapple**
Staff writer

A team of Entergy workers assembled near the West Bank toll booths of the Crescent City Connection and flanked by National Guardsmen entered New Orleans on Sunday morning for the first time since Katrina left the city powerless.

The 12-person assessment team went to several locations in the city to inspect storm damage and determine actions needed to restore service, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

"The main thing we were trying to find out is what needs to be done to restore power to the Central Business District," Lagarde said.

He would not disclose the specific work locations to ensure the safety of the work teams.

Entergy officials had been leery of sending any workers into New Orleans because of the recent violence in the city. With conditions apparently improving, together with protection from Guardsmen, the company felt secure enough to send the small assessment team into the city, Lagarde said.

But he added, "at this point, it's unclear how long we'll be working in New Orleans because of accessibility, security and flooding." There are still many areas of the city where crews need to work that are not accessible, Lagarde said, including areas that remain flooded. Security for the dozens of crews needed to work in the city remains a concern, he said.

Katrina knocked out power to 800,000 Entergy customers in southeastern Louisiana. As of Sunday, power had been restored to 320,000 customers. "Most of those were in the Baton Rouge area," Lagarde said. "But we've restored services to customers in all the parishes we're working."

The company has no estimates of when power can be restored to the remaining 380,000 customers, including 200,000 in New Orleans. It will take more time to return services in areas like St. Bernard Parish, where there is extensive flooding. "We can't start working in those places until the water recedes,'' he said.

In St. Tammany Parish, Cleco has restored power to 5,000 of its 80,000 customers across the southern half of the parish, spokeswoman Susan Broussard said. The company is concentrating on restoring power to hospitals and other essential locations, she said.

Places that have electricity include St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington, Lakeview Regional Medical Center near Mandeville, Louisiana Heart Hospital near Lacombe, the parish courthouse and jail in Covington and city halls and police stations in Covington, Mandeville and Madisonville, Broussard said. The parish government complex north of Mandeville will soon have power, she said.

The company has no estimate of when power will be completely restored in St. Tammany. But Broussard said the company expects power to return to North Shore Square mall, a staging site for Cleco crews, in seven to 10 day



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Michael Stalbert of the 3rd District Task Force lifts wires and blows a whistle as Howart Johnston, right, steers his boat near Flood Street as they search for residents who might be remaining in their homes. The group had to stop several times and disentangle the boat from power lines.

# Difficult decision separates family

## *Teen doesn't know if parents are alive*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE - The last time Branden Rockwood saw his parents, they were arguing with a helicopter pilot about whether they could take with them their three dogs from the flooded house where they were staying in New Orleans.

It was an argument his parents lost. After the pilot refused to let the dogs on board, Rockwood's parents told their 16-year-old son that they were staying behind. He hasn't heard from them since. He has no idea whether they are alive.

"I didn't even get a chance to tell them goodbye," Rockwood said.

Rockwood was one of 14 children at a Baton Rouge shelter Sunday who were separated from their parents during the evacuation of New Orleans. The number had been higher, but on Sunday afternoon, a van full of seven children - all younger than six - headed for the airport in Lafayette for the short flight to San Antonio, where they were expected to be reunited with their families.

It was a tearful departure. The volunteers who had cared for the children for the past five days cried and blew kisses through the window as the van pulled out of the shelter's parking lot.

"That one's mine," said Jodi McKenzie, 23, a student at Louisiana State University who took care of Zaria Love, 3.

"I love you," McKenzie told Zaria, who cried as she waved goodbye to her temporary sitter. "It's going to be okay."

The seven children and their families were rescued by helicopter Wednesday from the roof of an apartment building in the 3200 block of Third Street in New Orleans. The children were taken first, and their parents followed within and an hour or two, officials said.

But in the chaos that surrounded their evacuation, the families were inadvertently split apart. The children were taken by ambulance to a shelter in Baton Rouge, while their parents and caretakers were flown to Kelly USA, an industrial park in San Antonio that is being used as a shelter for hurricane victims.

With the help of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - which posted the children's names and other information on its Web site - officials were able to reunite the families Sunday. They flew out of Lafayette because officials couldn't book a flight out of Baton Rouge.

The volunteers who cared for the children said they formed a bond with their charges.

"It's sad for me, but it's wonderful for them," McKenzie said with tears in her eyes.

State officials said they hope to reunite the remaining 14 children with their parents.

Rockwood said he knows where his parents are, and he fears the worst. On Tuesday or Wednesday night, Rockwood said, most of his 13 family members were evacuated from the roof of a two-story house in New Orleans.

Rockwood said the group - which includes his cousins and other relatives - moved to the house when waters engulfed their one-story homes on the same block. The families all lived near Bienville and North Rocheblave in Mid-City.

All but three of the family members were evacuated. Rockwood said his parents and his uncle decided to stay behind with their three dogs.

Rockwood said he tried to talk his parents into leaving, but they wouldn't budge. "They said they weren't taking dogs, so they were staying,'' Rockwood said.

Rockwood said he and his relatives spent four frightening days living on Interstate 10 with thousands of other evacuees until he was taken to the Baton Rouge shelter.

"We slept on cots, but if you got up to use the bathroom, someone would steal it," he said.

Rockwood and his 13-year-old sister, Ashley, were living at the Baton Rouge shelter with their 17-year-old cousin, Justin Lamare. They said they hope to be reunited with their surviving family members as soon as possible.

Until then, they have been sleeping on couches and playing with a dozen other children who can't find their parents. They also have been spending a lot of time watching the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on television, hoping for a glimpse of their parents or one of their other family members.

These are the names and ages of the seven children who were reunited with their families Sunday:

- Zaria Love, 3.
- Tyreek Love, 14 months
- Darynael Williams, 5 months.
- Deamonte Love, 6.
- Degahney Carter, 2.
- Leewood Moore Jr., 2.
- Gabriella Janae Alexander, 2.

To see a list of the other children who are missing, visit the Web site operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to see if they recognize the children or have information on the whereabouts of their families. The Web site is missingkids.com, and the organization's toll free number is 1-800-THE-LOST.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

**"You save the people you can, and then you move on. But at the end of the day, you are haunted by visions of the people you couldn't help."**

SHERIFF JACK STEPHENS



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**CHALMETTE:** Patricia Bateman was stranded beside St. Bernard Highway on Sunday with her husband, daughter and 27 animals, including several belonging to relatives. Ferry evacuation was available for the people, but not for the pets.

# Harrowing tales emerge from St. Bernard

## *Search teams still find people who remained*

**By Jan Moller and Paul Rioux**
Staff writers

CHALMETTE - Terry Hendrix's family evacuated before Hurricane Katrina struck this close-knit community with a devastating blow, but Hendrix himself decided to try weathering the storm at his three-story house on Riverland Drive.

On Saturday afternoon, five days after the winds died down, Hendrix found himself at the parking lot of what used to be a BellSouth building, but which now has been taken over by firefighters giving decontamination showers to people rescued from their homes.

Although floodwaters have receded more than 15 feet and the pace of the evacuation has slowed considerably in St. Bernard Parish, search teams were still finding people who had remained in their homes.

"I've got 122,000 people in my district, and everybody's been affected (by Hurricane Katrina)," said state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, who has been helping coordinate rescue efforts.

Horrific stories continued to pour in from survivors,who were being rescued at a rate of about 20 per hour Sunday.

Arabi resident Patrick Lannes, who helped evacuate 17 people from the second floor of Arabi Elementary School, said he found them eating a raw turkey that had been sitting out for four days.

"One woman told her husband, 'Oh, honey, give him a Coke,'" he said. "They're eating rotting meat, and they offered me their last Coke like I was a guest just stopping by for dinner."

Fire Chief Thomas Stone said there have been 70 confirmed deaths in St. Bernard Parish so far. He said the final toll will be much higher, but he declined to give an estimate.

He said a military unit that specializes in handling mass casualties will recover the bodies.

"I don't want my people pulling out their own family and friends," he said.

Among the dead are 31 senior citizens who died at St. Rita's Nursing Home due to flooding, and another 22 people were discovered dead in a Violet subdivision, their bodies bound together., Sheriff Jack Stephens said.

But it is too soon to start an official count, Stephens said, while rescue efforts continue. "We are not in a body recovery mode yet," he said.

Search teams from as far away as Canada - the Vancouver province sent 47 rescuers who arrived Thursday - ride air boats through receding waters in a parish that's become a virtual ghost town except for the rescue workers. They conduct house-to-house searches for anyone who might still be alive. When they have finished searching a building, they leave a spray-painted marker to indicate whether anyone was found.

An "X" means the house was empty. A number indicates how many bodies were discovered. On one house, just a block from the Bell South building where evacuees are being taken for decontamination before being transported to the slip, a blue-painted "6" tells the gruesome tale of what became of those inside.

Those plucked from their homes emerged with harrowing tales. Hendrix, 55, said he retreated to a third-floor bathroom in his home during Katrina when the floodwaters rose to his second-story balcony. But shortly thereafter, winds from the storm began lifting the roof from his house. That forced him back to the second floor, where he spent several days in three feet of water.

Although he rode out the storm by himself, eventually the house became a gathering point for neighbors - 18 of whom shared the cramped quarters at one point, Hendrix said. "I was the highest point in the neighborhood," he said.

As several days passed with little or no federal assistance, state and local officials set up their own improvised search-and-rescue operations, with the Mississippi River serving as a lifeline to safety for residents who rode out Katrina.

People found wading through the floodwaters, which by Saturday had become nearly black in color and smelled like a mixture of sewage and rotten fish, are first taken to the BellSouth parking lot to shower under a blue tarp. After that school buses take them to "Camp Katrina" as the Chalmette slip has been dubbed by rescue workers. From there they are taken by ferry about five miles upriver to Algiers Point, where the U.S. Coast Guard shuttles them onto shelter-bound buses.

St. Bernard officials said that at some points last week the slip was home to as many as 3,000 evacuees at one time, but by Saturday afternoon the traffic had slowed to a trickle. Only a few local police and volunteers were there, surrounded by pallets of water and other basic necessities.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH:** At the east bank landing for the Belle Chasse ferry, Plaquemines Parish deputies go to pick up some supplies for delivery to St. Bernard Parish. Plaquemines Parish had a surplus of donations Sunday.

The unprecedented mobilization of resources has forced local authorities to improvise.

Firefighters work from the BellSouth building, the parish council set up temporary quarters at the Exxon-Mobil Chalmette Refining, and the sheriff's office is operating from the Cajun Queen riverboat that's moored next to the Domino's sugar refinery in Arabi. The courthouse, where some parish officials are staying overnight, is littered with boats that were being used for rescue and transportation while the flooding was at its worst.

State Rep. Nita Hutter, R-Chalmette, said she was at the parish government building when the storm struck, but was forced to evacuate by boat Tuesday when conditions there became "intolerable."

And the local prison was turned into a makeshift medical center until the wounded and sick could be flown to safety, according to Boasso.

Stephens said the rescue operation at the slip likely saved many lives. "Had we not had this area to stage this, there would have been literally hundreds more people dead from exposure," he said.

Stephens said he faces more life-or-death decisionseach day than he did in his previous 20-plus years as sheriff.

"You save the people you can, and then you move on," he said. "But at the end of the day, you are haunted by visions of the people you couldn't help - the lady who grabbed my ankles and said, 'Sheriff, can you give me a bottle of water?' All I could tell her was, 'I'm sorry.'"

Illness and mental fatigue have prompted Sheriff Jack Stephens to grant leaves to 30 deputies, leaving him with a force of about 75, who have been working up to 20 hours a day. Three dozen firefighters were sent to Baton Rouge to rest Saturday, replaced by 30 East Baton Rouge firefighters.

Although the parish is desperate for reinforcements, Stephens has been turning away citizen volunteers, saying he doesn't want to risk a friendly fire incident as deputies begin removing the remaining residents by force if necessary.

Although Navy helicopters were shuttling medical evacuees from the Chalmette slip, local officials were angry Saturday at the slow pace of the federal government's relief efforts. "We never had any communication from anybody," said Parish President Henry P. Rodriguez. "Anything that has been done in St. Bernard has been done by local people.We never had any goddamned help."

At Algiers Point, the ferry landing was home to about a hundred people Saturday morning. They came from as far away as Caernarvon in lower St. Bernard, where the floods engulfed just about every home and those who stayed behind relied on neighbors for support - which sometimes brought surprising levels of comfort.

JoAnn Robin said she spent four days after Katrina camped out with 25 of her family members in the Mandeville Canal at Elevating Boats Inc., the company founded by former state Sen. Lynn Dean, R-Caernarvon.

Robin said she stayed at home in Caernarvon, where her block as Katrina blew through, but decided to evacuate a few miles west to Poydras, where they found shelter on the second floor of the Green Store. When the floodwaters there began to rise, the family got in boats and navigated their way to the elevated boats.

While her home and those of her neighbors sat in water up to their rooftops nearby, Elevated Boats had air-conditioning, a working television and radio and plenty to eat and drink courtesy of Dean and his family. "They treated us like royalty," Robin said.

Like many others, Robin said she planned to go back once the water is gone. "There's four generations that live on the same street together," on Deogracas Street. "We've never lived anywhere else."

It's that type of closeness that officialssay may hold the best hope for St. Bernard's rebirth.

Once floodwaters recede, the parish likely will hire a contractor to oversee clean-up efforts, Stephens said. After giving residents time to remove any salvageable possessions, crews would bulldoze condemned homes and rip drywall and carpeting from those that can be repaired. Storm debris would be hauled to temporary landfills along with ruined cars, which would be crushed after gasoline, oil and other engine fluids were removed, Stephens said.

"The key will be to get people from St. Bernard in as subcontractors and put them to work," he said. "It's the only way to start getting the economy going again."

*Staff writer Marr Brown contributed to this report.*

# Crisis needs attention, not fly-bys

**By Lolis Eric Elie**
Staff columnist

Why are we still standing on ceremony?

President Bush finally arrived Friday on the ravaged Gulf Coast as a belated acknowledgement that his previous fly-by in an airplane on the way back to Washington was but the sickest of jokes.

Where did he go?

He went to Biloxi, a city hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, but certainly not the epicenter of the devastation.

What did he do first? The president of the United States of America stood in front of the television cameras and wasted time receiving a briefing, a recitation of facts that the rest of the country has known for days.

What did the governors of Mississippi and Alabama do before they briefed the president on the facts that everyone but Bush already knew?

They thanked him as if he has demonstrated something other than utter and callous incompetence.

Did Bush go to the Superdome or the Convention Center or any other places where the teeming masses were yearning to eat food and drink water and breathe fresh air?

No!

Where did he go in the days after the World Trade Center bombing?

To Ground Zero.

The Bush tour of Gulf Coast devastation seemed to possess little more gravitas than a ribbon cutting.

What is Congress doing in the midst of this crisis?

Well, to its credit, and at Bush's urging, it approved $10.5 billion as a down payment on disaster relief for the Gulf Coast.

What is on the congressional agenda next week? Hurricane

Relief?

No.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has pledged

to move forward with a vote to permanently repeal the estate tax.

Where is the Louisiana Legislature?

Have lawmakers called a special session to redirect any nonessential expenditures to hurricane relief and recovery efforts?

If they have met, they have done so very secretly and very quietly.

How is the nation to understand the gravity of our crisis

if the state of Louisiana doesn't?

I have had dozens of e-mails from friends around the world

asking what they can do. I didn't have a good answer. Several dozen fingers in the dike of our misery would do little to stem the tide.

But I have an answer now.

If you live in Louisiana, call your state representative.

Call your state senator. If you're an American living outside the

state, call your congressman. Call your senators.

Tell them Americans are dying by the dozens.

Tell them Americans are being raped and robbed by the score.

Tell them it is time to act as if the nation is in crisis!

Tell them to get to ground zero on the Gulf Coast immediately because some crazy columnist claims to have absolute proof that Osama bin Laden blew up the levees!

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# Evacuee bus reaches shelter in Alexandria

*Thousands being taken out of state*

**By Laura Maggi**
Staff writer

A busload of people that the state Legislative Black Caucus wanted to deliver to the former England Air Force Base in Alexandria ended up at a shelter in that central Louisiana city, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said Sunday.

Angry that thousands of people are being taken out of state because of an apparent lack of shelter space in Louisiana, the black caucus members Saturday said the federal government should make available military installations that come equipped with amenities not available at places like Houston's Astrodome.

But Jackson said that when a busload of 160 people arrived in Alexandria it was already late at night and they decided to take them to a shelter instead. Caucus leaders later went to the air force base to talk with officials there about eventually moving people to the facility.

"The governor needs to make that broad-based appeal," to get people moved, Jackson said.

A U.S. Army representative said Saturday that military bases are being considered for use as shelters, including England.

# 16,000 National Guard troops come to N.O. area

**By Kadee Krieger**
Staff writer

By today, 16,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen will be conducting operations in Louisiana in response to Hurricane Katrina, including parishes surrounding New Orleans.

Brig. Gen. Michael P. Fleming of the Florida National Guard said the guardsmen, known as Task Force Pelican, are under orders to rescue and save the lives of those still in the city, and to secure law and order.

Task Force Pelican has distributed more than 620,000 bottles of water and 320,000 meals, and it evacuated 19,000 people from the Ernest Morial Convention Center on Saturday, he said.

Buses will continue to load evacuees at the center, but those who were stuck there have left, Fleming said. People are hearing there are buses there, but "those you see are new folks; everyone who was there before was evacuated," he said.

In the past 24 hours, the task force has worked with all other rescue operations including the U.S. Coast Guard and state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evacuate 3,000 people by air, he said. Of that total, the National Guard used helicopters to rescue 1,825, and 95 were critical medical patients.

In addition to the task force members in New Orleans, units will be assigned to 12 other parishes. "These units will meet with parish leaders, and those authorities will know that they have their own military leadership team working with them," Fleming said.

Under the leadership of Maj. Gen. James Mason of the Kansas National Guard, units will be assigned to Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Lafourche, Lafayette, Terrebonne, Washington and East Baton Rouge parishes.

Under federal law, active duty military personnel are prohibited from providing law enforcement. Fleming said the National Guard is reporting directly to Gov. Blanco for hurricane-response operations.

Leading Task Force Pelican is Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau.

OUR HEART GOES OUT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA.

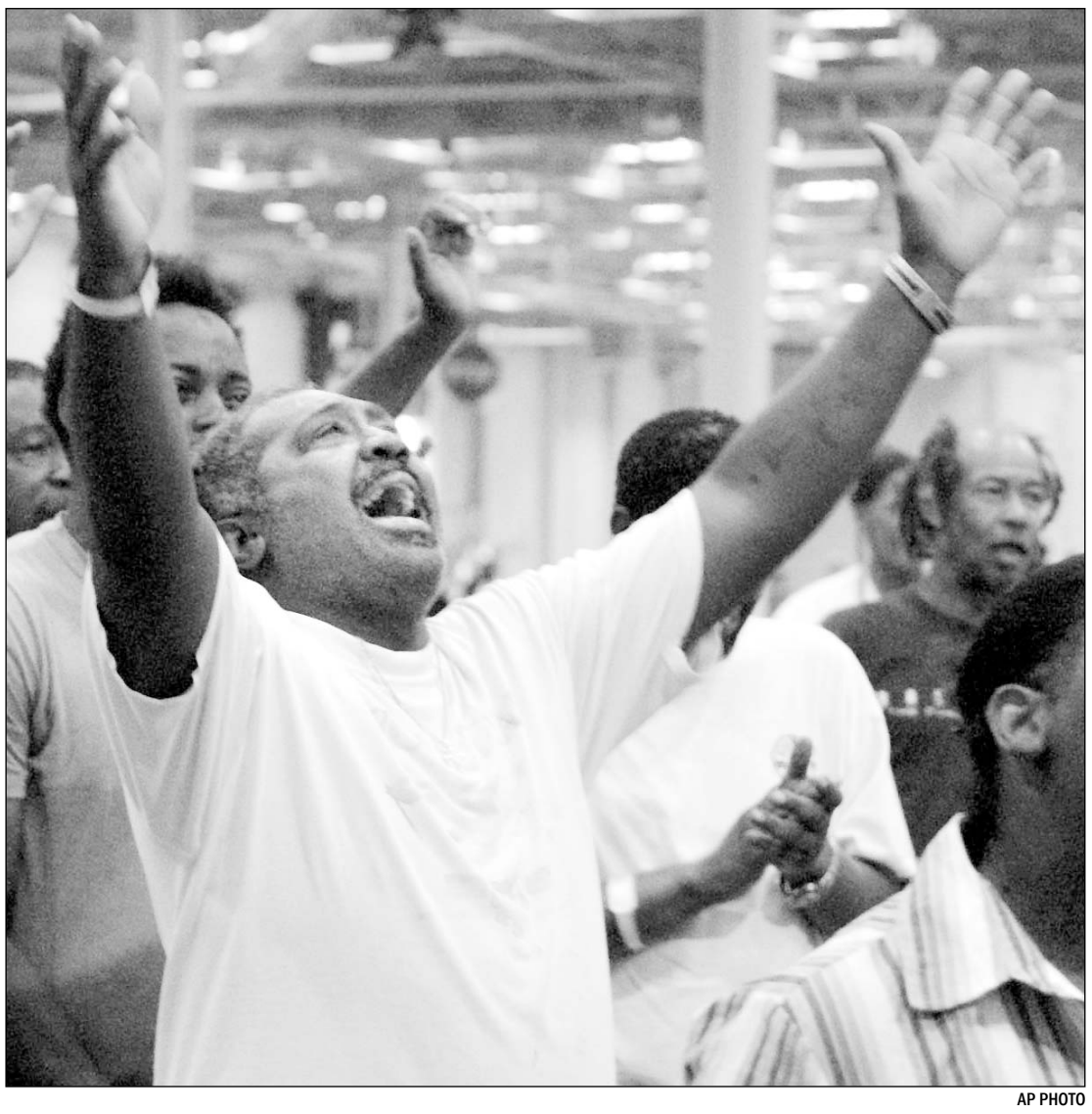
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AP PHOTO

**SAN ANTONIO:** New Orleans evacuees pray during a worship service at a shelter set up at KellyUSA, a former Air Force base near San Antonio.

# San Antonio 'doing a tremendous job'

*13,000 expected in shelters by Sunday*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO – The scene is both heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time.

Nearly 10,000 refugees have come through here at KellyUSA, a former Air Force base in San Antonio, and the city expected 13,000 visitors at various shelters throughout the area by dawn Sunday.

They have traveled some 500 miles by bus or by plane, and endured God knows what over the past seven days.

But a city has reached out to them, striving to "make them feel like they're at home," according to the man running the show here at Building 1171, Peter Vrolyk, the local Mass Care coordinator for the Red Cross.

"They're doing a tremendous job out here. Tell everybody," said Velma Broomfield, who escaped the Calliope apartments on Wednesday, spent one night on an overpass, made it to the Superdome and eventually was flown here. "The people are so nice and they treat you so well."

Broomfield is with her sister, her sister's son and her granddaughter. She was separated from her daughter and her daughter's mother-in-law but hopes they wound up in Houston.

There are several areas set up here for information on missing persons. There are also several sets of phone banks that provide free local and long distance calls. There are a number of televisions, so people can keep contact with the outside world. And they can come and go as they please once they have been checked in and given a designated area and a wristband.

There are thousands of cots and sleeping areas in the air-conditioned facilities. There is a remarkable amount of medical treatment areas and workers on hand. There is a wealth of food and fresh clothing that has been donated. The refugees get three meals a day – sandwiches and spaghetti and chips and granola bars were on hand Saturday afternoon, along with plenty of water and sports drinks.

"This is like a high class hotel to me. You get this kind of treatment at a Hampton Inn. I don't have this at home. Poor people don't get this treatment," said Karen Winkler, who lived at the Noble Arms Independent Living Program for the mentally ill in Terrytown , before being helped to the Superdome last Sunday.

The conditions in the Superdome, she said, were frightening and disorganized, though she appreciated having a shelter for the storm.

# Authorities told Katrina posed serious danger, official says

*Washington knew that levees could break*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Dr. Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center, said Sunday that officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, including FEMA Director Mike Brown and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, listened in on electronic briefings given by his staff in advance of Hurricane Katrina slamming Louisiana and Mississippi and were advised of the storm's potential deadly effects.

Mayfield said the strength of the storm and the potential disaster it could bring were made clear during both the briefings and in formal advisories, which warned of a storm surge capable of overtopping levees in New Orleans and winds strong enough to blow out windows of high-rise buildings. He said the briefings included information on expected wind speed, storm surge, rainfall and the potential for tornadoes to accompany the storm as it came ashore.

"We were briefing them way before landfall," Mayfield said. "It's not like this was a surprise. We had in the advisories that the levee could be topped.

"I keep looking back to see if there was anything else we could have done, and I just don't know what it would be," he said.

Chertoff told reporters Saturday that government officials had not expected the damaging combination of a powerful hurricane levee breaches that flooded New Orleans.

Brown, Mayfield said, is a dedicated public servant.

"The question is why he couldn't shake loose the resources that were needed," he said.

Brown and Chertoff could not be reached for comment on Sunday afternoon.

In the days before Katrina hit, Mayfield said, his staff also briefed FEMA, which under the Department of Homeland Security, at FEMA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., its Region 6 office in Dallas and the Region 4 office in Atlanta about the potential effects of the storm.

He said all of those briefings were logged in the hurricane center's records. And Mayfield said his staff also participated in the five-day "Hurricane Pam" exercise sponsored by FEMA and the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in July 2004 that assumed a similar storm would hit the city.

FEMA's own July 23, 2004, news release announcing the end of that exercise summed up the assumptions they used, which were eerily close to what Katrina delivered:

"Hurricane Pam brought sustained winds of 120 mph, up to 20 inches of rain in parts of southeast Louisiana and storm surge that topped levees in the New Orleans area. More than one million residents evacuated and Hurricane Pam destroyed 500,000-600,000 buildings. Emergency officials from 50 parish, state, federal and volunteer organizations faced this scenario during a five-day exercise held this week at the State Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge.

"The exercise used realistic weather and damage information developed by the National Weather Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the LSU Hurricane Center and other state and federal agencies to help officials develop joint response plans for a catastrophic hurricane in Louisiana."

That plan assumed such a hurricane would result in the opening of 1,000 evacuee shelters that would have to be staffed for 100 days, and a search and rescue operation using 800 people. The storm would create 30 million tons of debris, including 237,000 cubic yards of household hazardous waste.

Mayfield said his concern now is that another named storm could hit either New Orleans or the Mississippi Gulf coast, as September is the most active month of the annual hurricane season.

"This is like the fourth inning in a nine-inning ballgame," he said. "We know that another one would cause extreme stress on the people who have been hurt by Katrina."

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Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.

## OUR OPINIONS

# Please don't go, Mr. Benson

The people of the New Orleans area "battered, grieving and homeless" are in desperate need of something to hold onto. Something to ease their broken hearts and nourish their spirits.

Saints owner Tom Benson can give them that something. He can choose, and we fervently hope he will, to play this fall's home games at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

Saints fans are among the most loyal in the NFL. For 38 years, they have embraced this team whether it won or lost, and the losses almost always outnumbered the wins. Mr. Benson owns this team, and it is his business. But this is our team, too, at least in spirit.

What other fans would pack the Superdome year after year despite lackluster win/loss records? Don't these devoted people deserve that sort of dedication in return?

This metro area has suffered the worst natural catastrophe in the nation's history. People who were helpless to get out of the way of the storm died in our beloved Superdome. The Dome is wrecked, and it is a place known for misery right now. But it can be refurbished. Its rebuilding can be a hopeful sign to the hundreds of thousands of residents who have been scattered across the region by Hurricane Katrina - people who have lost not only loved ones and homes, but their entire community.

The Saints have been a source of that sense of community since the day they first walked on the field. They bring us together in a way nothing else does.

The NFL doesn't want the Saints to leave. As after the Sept. 11 attacks, when the New York Giants chose to stay in their ravaged city, the league sees the Saints as a balm for wounded souls.

Surely the players don't want to leave. Receiver Joe Horn spent three hours touring the Astrodome on Saturday, signing autographs for children and giving the 15,000 displaced storm survivors something to smile about.

And it is difficult to believe Mr. Benson would want to leave, despite reports to the contrary. He has talked in recent months about how much he loves New Orleans, about his desire to stay here, and we take him at his word.

Before Katrina, Saints fans wanted their team to stay. Now they need it to stay.

# With much thanks

"Neighbor" is a casual kind of word. Most of the time we use it just to refer to someone who lives on our street or block, someone we greet in passing most of the time but also someone we'd call upon if there were an emergency, knowing full well that they would help.

We have an emergency. And thank God, we also have neighbors. They are in places like Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. They've never laid eyes on the men, women and children streaming out of the devastated New Orleans area. But they are opening their doors and their hearts to us.

"Thank you" can be a casual kind of phrase, too. We say it when someone hands us our receipt or allows us to merge into a lane of traffic. This week, though, it seems like those two little words can hardly carry the freight of gratitude that we feel. Our lives have been broken, and so have our hearts. But the kindness and generosity of people in our neighboring states still moves us deeply, even in our pain.

The many, many humanitarian acts can hardly be tallied. They are happening everywhere, from the insurance company that tracked down a Louisiana man to tell him that a Fort Worth attorney had found his lost wallet at a gas station line in Mississippi to a Dallas pharmacist with a house full of evacuees who spent her first day back from maternity leave trying to get prescriptions and insurance information for an elderly Slidell couple. Churches are organizing drives to gather water and food. The students of Bishop Lynch Catholic High School in Dallas began a school-wide drive on Friday before the administration had even decided how to respond. Their decisiveness speaks volumes. It's also exactly what's needed to address this national catastrophe.

The same spirit that moved Americans to stand in line for hours to donate blood after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack is alive and well and is moving people to tremendous deeds. We may be a little too tired and traumatized to fully express how much we appreciate every kind word, every helping hand, every donation, but we feel it nonetheless.

Some of us will truly become the neighbors of the people who are opening their arms to us. Some of us have nothing to go back to, no homes, no jobs, no places of worship, no schools. Our neighborhoods, such a keystone for New Orleanians, are under Lake Pontchartrain. But the fact that many people in the rest of the country are welcoming us is balm to aching souls.

The influx of new residents will change communities everywhere, and change is challenging for human beings. But Judy Porter, a religion teacher at Bishop Lynch, sees only the good in that. "It could make us better, kinder, nicer, a city of love and great food and jazz music," she said.

What can we say to such love but "thank you."

# Many animals in foster care around the state

## *Pets may get rescued from homes*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer

Humane groups and parish animal control agencies are hoping to stem the tide of what could become another heart-breaking aftereffect of Hurricane Katrina: the deaths of hundreds or thousands of pets left behind in houses and yards by owners expecting to be able to return to their homes in just a few days.

"We've received thousands of requests from all over the area, asking us to go in and look for their pets," said Paul Berry, an official with the Utah-based Best Friends Animal Society.

Berry, a former New Orleanian, and the society have been in the area assisting the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter in housing some of the parish's stray dogs and cats.

The society has built an emergency shelter at the St. Francis Animal Sanctuary in Tylertown, Miss.

"We're at about 600 (animals) right now," Berry said. The society has taken in strays and rescued animals, but rescuing animals from homes will require a more coordinated effort, Berry said.

Public agencies' first priority is rescuing survivors, and "they need to search houses. Why not pull the pets out at the same time? If they make us wait until the water goes down, they're (pets are) all going to die and we have one more tragedy," he said.

In some cases that has been done, officials said.

Louisiana SPCA director Laura Maloney said New Orleans shelter workers follow other agencies and crews through neighborhoods and rescue pets, some locked in houses. At the owners' request, "we break in," she said.

The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter has not received many calls about rescuing pets from homes, shelter director Bert Smith said. Whether they do "will depend on the kind of calls we get. We'll try to deal with any situation as best we can."

The shelter has been operating with a short staff and poor communications for several days, he said.

It evacuated 215 animals last Sunday to the Washington Parish Fairgrounds. The hurricane knocked out the area's water and electricity Monday. "We were sleeping in our cars," Smith said.

Shelter workers emptied the fairgrounds with the help of Best Friends, which took 130 of the animals, and individuals who volunteered to temporarily keep the rest, he said.

"We got back here Friday and were called to pick up pets at the I-10 and Causeway," where evacuees were waiting for buses to take them out of New Orleans, he said. "There were thousands and thousands of people and hundreds and hundreds of pets . . . They weren't letting them (evacuees) take their animals with them."

Smith said the human and animal misery and suffering overwhelmed shelter workers, who picked up 55 cats and dogs and a ferret. "It was back-breaking," he said. The animals were taken to Jefferson Parish's west bank animal shelter, which had water and electricity.

On Saturday, evacuees were moved to Louis Armstrong International Airport in Kenner, and could bring their pets. "They were allowing people to take pets. Thank God for that, or else who knows how many animals we would have running around and loose," Smith said.

However, officials would not let evacuees take aggressive dogs or dogs big enough to displace a human on the evacuation buses. "Those were apparently abandoned," Smith said. By Saturday afternoon, very few were still on the interstate, he said.

Smith said members of the American Veterinary Medical Association's disaster team helped treat evacuees' pets at the airport.

Also Saturday, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies reported animals stranded at the Petco store on Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Metairie.

Workers rescued birds, "pocket pets" such as hamsters and gerbils, and snakes and tarantulas. The store doesn't sell dogs or cats, he said.

With Jefferson residents being allowed to return to their homes today, Smith said, he expects many calls about strays and dog bites as homeowners are out trying to clean up. Best Friends will assist by taking about 100 more pets to the Mississippi facility.

Each will be photographed and their pictures posted at the group's Web site, www.bestfriends.org, along with an electronic form owners can fill out if they see their pet, Berry said. The organization will hold animals for up to three months, using a network among its 250,000 members nationwide to provide foster homes.

"Fifteen thousand of those have stepped up," to offer temporary homes, he said. The three months could be extended for up to three more months. If an animal is not claimed, it will be offered for adoption. The photo gallery should be available around Wednesday, Berry said.

# French Quarter forges on with stubborn hearts

## *'We're not helpless,' says cleanup crowd*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

About 1 p.m. Sunday, the sixth day after the apocalypse of wind, fire and flood visited New Orleans, Nancy Hirst stepped out of Johnny White's Sports Bar and Grill in the French Quarter and trilled, "There's buses leaving from Harrah's in a little while, if anybody's interested."

None among the small crowd gathered outside in the empty street stirred.

Not bare-chested John Lambert, carrying a sign that read "Life goes on?"

Not a woman in black fishnet stockings who called herself Jelly Sandwich ("'cause Jam don't shake like that"). And not Diana Straydog, an Apache Indian in flip-flops smoking an 8-inch Monte Cristo cigar.

Overhead, the whine and thump of heavy military helicopters reverberated through the nearly empty streets of the French Quarter. They circled on distant missions or streamed low overhead. Once a fleet of seven streamed over the triple spires of St. Louis Cathedral in a deafening roar.

Armed police and sheriff's deputies from distant states patrolled Canal Street and walked through the French Quarter with sidearms and M-16 rifles.

But the Quarter remained a determined flicker of its old self.

Although largely depopulated, it was not empty. And what filled it up was what people have always filled it with, which is what is in their hearts.

At noon, the great bells of St. Louis Cathedral remained silent instead of tolling the hour as usual. The only sound filling the empty Place John Paul was the swish of Ty Watford's broom.

Watford, his companion, Ashley McCoy, and a few friends swept leaves and branches accumulated from Hurricane Katrina and dumped them in city trash barrels. The place looked parade-ground perfect.

"It's our neighborhood. We're not helpless," Watford said. "We can fix it ourselves. We don't have to wait for anybody."

Watford and McCoy rode out the hurricane two blocks away on Dumaine Street, and three days ago they began sweeping there, out of pride and a desire to kill the boredom.

"You should see where we live," Watford said. "Our street looks like nothing ever happened."

On Saturday, they swept St. Anne and St. Peters streets flanking Jackson Square; Sunday was for the Place John Paul.

While reports abounded of anarchy outside the Quarter, Watford said he and McCoy never felt unsafe. "Every time somebody passes by, they ask if we need something. The French Quarter is as safe now as it's ever been."

It was safe - even convivial - outside Johnny White's on the corner of Bourbon and Orleans, perhaps the only place in the Quarter serving, even if it was warm.

Ordinarily, during the Southern Decadence weekend, the Quarter would be packed with gay men and lesbians socializing in their annual celebration of gay culture.

But after Katrina, this would have to do: Lambert, with his son; Straydog with her cigar; and Jelly Sandwich, who said her "Central Business District name" is Jill Sandars.

In time, they would head a few blocks away and start the traditional Sunday decadence parade. As usual, the rules were bent.

Lambert, for one, spoke of having a girlfriend. "I guess you could say it's an excuse for people to come out and be whoever they are or whoever they want to be," he said. "There are so many dedicated people here, and they're not going to give up. You hear so many people outside saying they're not coming back.

"There's got to be at least as many who will."

**ATTENTION**

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NEW ORLEANS
EMPLOYEES

Please contact Macy*s offices by calling 1-800-444-8477 or by email at Neworleans.emergency@macys.com

We are anxious to hear that you are safe and how we can stay in contact with you.

**"The military are not police officers generally; their job is to fight a war. That's totally different from a police function unless people want to turn this country into other countries where you have the military running the police force, which you did in Central America."**

JOHN BAKER
Constitutional law professor at Louisiana State University.

# Military presence isn't martial law

## *True martial law little used in country*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

Martial law isn't a law at all.

But the term has been invoked over and over in the week since Hurricane Katrina struck to describe the enhanced authority assumed by public officials, restrictions on access to some public streets and the presence of armed federal soldiers roaming parts of the New Orleans area.

Some public officials do invoke extraordinary authority during emergencies, under a 12-year-old Louisiana law. But the presence of active-duty military personnel does not mean martial law has been declared.

The role of the active military thus far has been to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency with humanitarian work, search and rescue efforts, medical assistance and supply distribution  not to enforce civil law, a military spokesman said.

The National Guard is trying to enforce civil law in the hurricane zone. It was pressed into service by Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

A true state of martial law would also put the active military in a law enforcement role. That rarely happens. Martial law was declared during labor strikes in the early 20th century and during the Watts riots of 1965 in Los Angeles, said John Baker, constitutional law professor at Louisiana State University.

At all other times, the U.S. system of government is set up to give the states and their own police the primary responsibility to protect residents, with the federal government being called on only as a backup when a state is overwhelmed.

"If a governor will call and say, I no longer have the ability to secure my state, I need help, the president could invoke the Insurrection Act and the military could assist in law enforcement activities," said a U.S. Northern Command lawyer who spoke on the condition that he not be identified. "That is not what we are doing."

Baker said martial law is not a written law but has been recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court as a legal concept.

"It's a suspension of law, and the term goes way back and it's linked to what is called the law of necessity," doing what is necessary in extreme situations, Baker said. "The question is whether, quite apart from law, there is inherent power to those charged with order in the community to keep it from descending into chaos and insurrection."

What is written is the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993. Under the law, the governor and some top parish officials, including Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, have the right to commandeer private property if necessary to cope with an emergency. Specific officials may also suspend any law related to the conducting of official business or any rule previously issued by a state agency if complying would "prevent, hinder or delay necessary action" to mitigate the emergency, the state attorney general's office said last week.

The law also gives certain officials the right to compel evacuations, suspend alcohol and weapon sales and make provisions for emergency housing, the office said.

Mayors assume similar authority, although not the right to commandeer private property or arrange emergency housing, the office said.

Blanco invoked the 1993 law when she declared a state of emergency last week. Broussard himself has described Jefferson as being "under martial law, and there's only one marshal: Me."

Broussard has announced that Jefferson Parish is closed to all residents and visitors. Police have been staffing roadblocks on highways entering the parish. Despite widespread criticism from other public officials and utility companies, Broussard plans to let residents return Monday for a brief time but will order them out again until streets are clear, power is restored and the water supply made safe for drinking.

Baker said Louisiana must take care not to "fall into the notion that you look first and primarily to the military to run things.

"The military are not police officers generally; their job is to fight a war. That's totally different from a police function unless people want to turn this country into other countries where you have the military running the police force, which you did in Central America."

**Important Hurricane Katrina Insurance Claims Information for Liberty Mutual Customers**

**Liberty Mutual claims professionals are on duty 24 hours a day. If you sustain damage to home or auto, call 1-800-2-CLAIMS (1-800-225-2467) or visit www.libertymutualinsurance.com to report your claim.**

**To assist policyholders and help facilitate prompt claims service, our catastrophe teams also will be on-hand in the areas hardest hit by the storm.**

Remember – if you lose power, keep circuit breakers turned off and electrical appliances, equipment, and computers unplugged until all power is restored to prevent further damage from a surge.

Liberty Mutual.

## HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

They've tried to describe it, using words such as "disaster" and "tragedy" and "calamity." But it seems like there are no words that can come close to adequately describing the devastation the past week has wrought on New Orleans. This time, you had to see it - etched on the faces of the trapped and the dying, or reflected in the seemingly unending floodwaters - to begin grasping the depths of what Hurricane Katrina has done to our city.

**AUGUST 29**


The Times-Picayune

GROUND ZERO

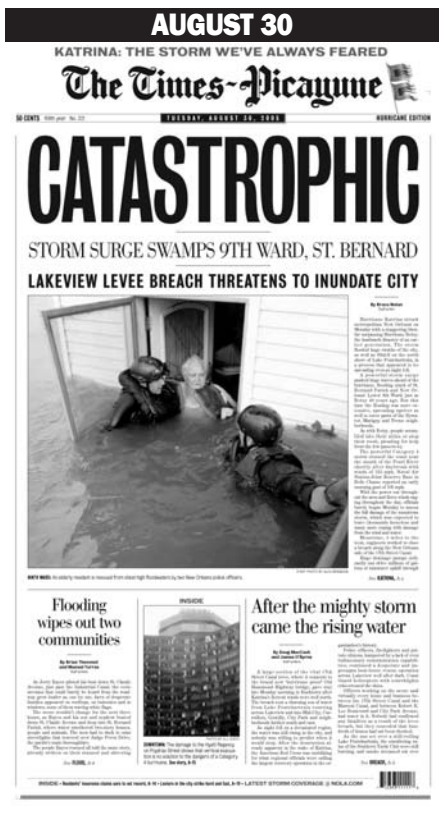
SUPERDOME BECOMES LAST RESORT FOR THOUSANDS UNABLE TO LEAVE

NEW ORLEANS BRACES FOR NIGHTMARE OF THE BIG ONE

At least 10,000 find refuge at the Superdome

COMPLETE COVERAGE

**AUGUST 30**


KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

CATASTROPHIC

STORM SURGE SWAMPS 9TH WARD, ST. BERNARD

LAKEVIEW LEVEE BREACH THREATENS TO INUNDATE CITY

Flooding wipes out two communities

After the mighty storm came the rising water

**AUGUST 31**


KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

UNDER WATER

LEVEE BREACH SWAMPS CITY FROM LAKE TO RIVER

Population urged to leave; years of cleanup ahead

Daylong efforts to repair levee fail

Flooding will only get worse

# A WEEK OF HORROR

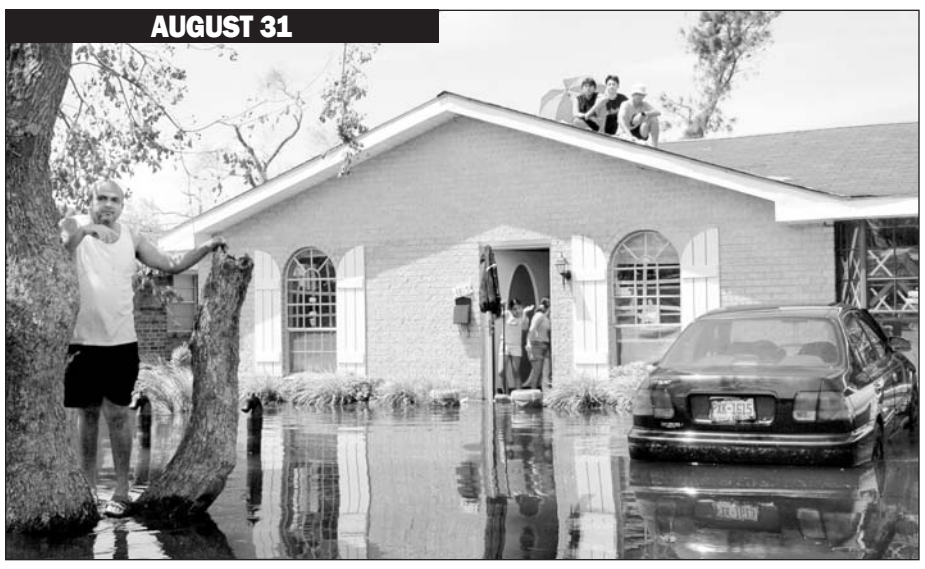
**AUGUST 29**



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

**MONDAY:** As it became apparent that Katrina was determined to hit New Orleans, there was a palpable tension in much of the metro area. But in a city that has endured more than its share of hurricanes, many got ready to ride it out - including Verma Levy of the Bywater neighborhood, above - despite predictions that this one might be The Big One. And then the rains came.

**AUGUST 31**



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZE

**WEDNESDAY:** It wasn't going to stop. The water rose, and rose and rose, as a swollen Lake Pontchartrain poured into the city and surrounding parishes, including in Kenner in Jefferson Parish, above. In the worst-hit places, including St. Bernard Parish and parts of New Orleans, those who had boats began to flee. Those who didn't, sought higher ground, with the sober realization that the advice that had been repeated over and over since 1965's Hurricane Betsy - put a hatchet in the attic in case you have to hack your way out - was not an old wives' tale after all.

**AUGUST 30**



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**TUESDAY:** It looked at first like New Orleans, though battered, had dodged a bullet. That was before everyone realized the levee system had bowed to Katrina. As the water rose - from the 9th Ward, above, to Lakeview to eastern New Orleans - it became obvious that locals' worst fears were coming true: New Orleans was going under.

**SEPTEMBER 1**

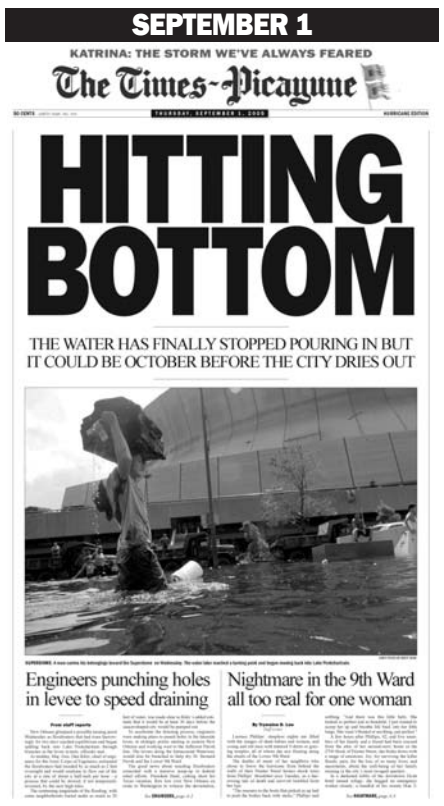


STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**THURSDAY:** After days of panic and disbelief, and as those fleeing the high waters sought refuge in an already full Superdome, an exhausted New Orleans made a mistake: It began to hope. The water had stopped rising, because the water in the lake had leveled out with that in the city, and the worst appears to be over. But it wasn't. Not by a long shot.

# HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

## SEPTEMBER 1


KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

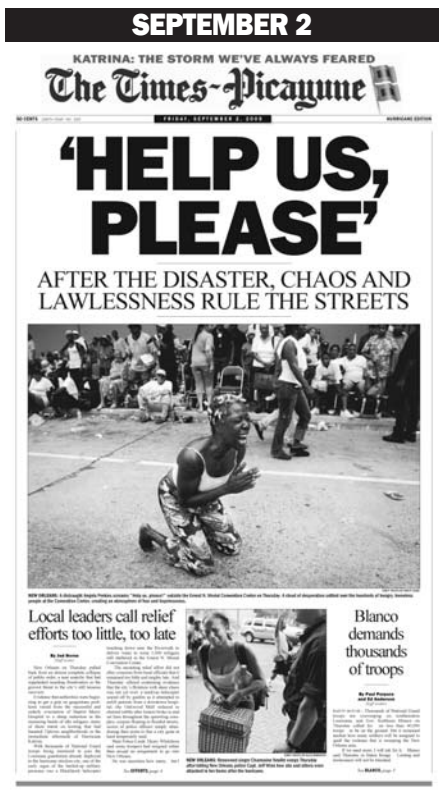
HITTING BOTTOM

THE WATER HAS FINALLY STOPPED POURING IN BUT IT COULD BE OCTOBER BEFORE THE CITY DRIES OUT

Engineers punching holes in levee to speed draining

Nightmare in the 9th Ward all too real for one woman

## SEPTEMBER 2


KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

'HELP US, PLEASE'

AFTER THE DISASTER, CHAOS AND LAWLESSNESS RULE THE STREETS

Local leaders call relief efforts too little, too late

Blanco demands thousands of troops

## SEPTEMBER 3


KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

FIRST WATER, NOW FIRE

*Blazes turn parts of besieged city into an inferno*

Bush stunned by condition of New Orleans

More guns, buses, relief roll into city

## SEPTEMBER 4


SUNDAY KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

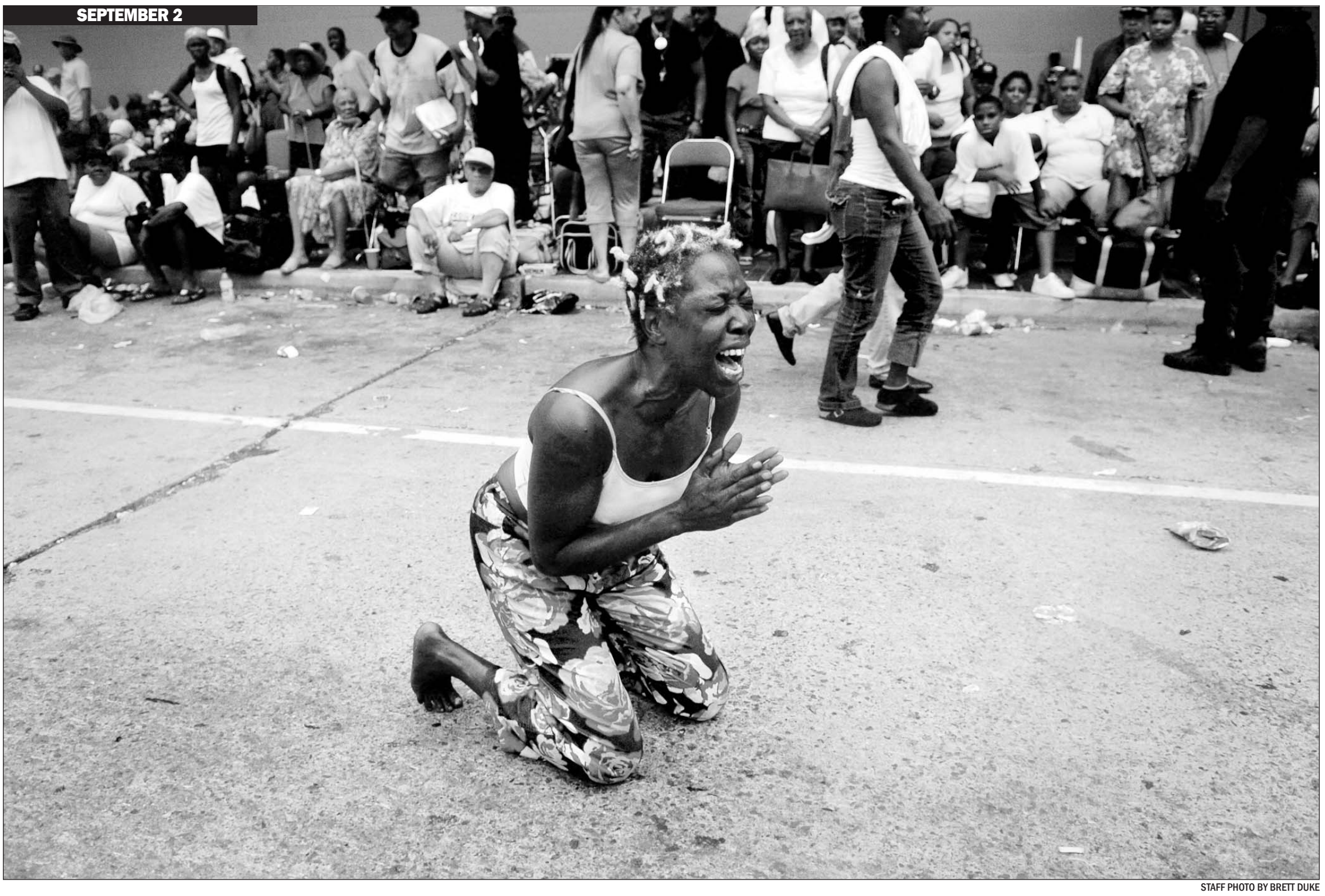
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

After five days, thousands of anguished storm victims finally have a reason for hope

HELP AT LAST

Amid chaos, a rare voice of strength

Authorities regaining grip on city



**FRIDAY:** They were supposed to be taken to safety. They were supposed to be taken care of. But for those stranded at the Superdome, which had been declared the city's "shelter of last resort," and at the Ernest N. Morial Convention, nervousness gave way to fear that help might not come after all. With food and water running out, and living conditions unspeakable, Convention Center refugee Angela Jenkins spoke for everyone in the city: "Help us, please!"

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

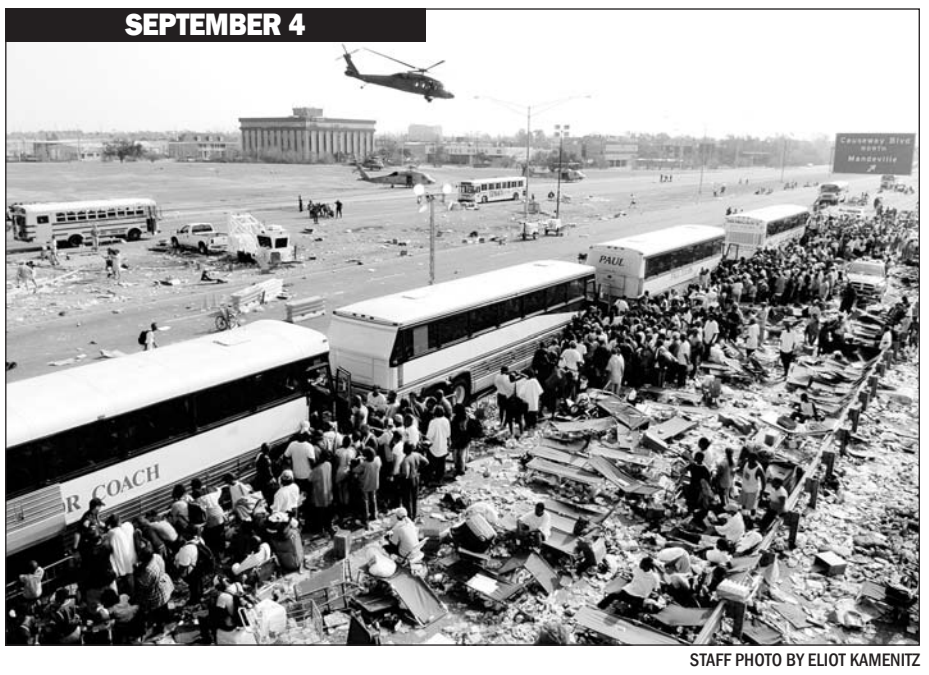
## SEPTEMBER 3




**SATURDAY:** The rampant looting, and reports of violence that followed, was bad enough. Now local buildings were burning, including a chemical plant in the 3400 block of Chartes Street. But there were signs of progress: National Guard troops began rolling into town, and President Bush toured the region, acknowledging that the federal response to the storm had been inadequate and vowing to do what needed to be done to regain control of the city.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

## SEPTEMBER 4




**SUNDAY:** Finally, a week after it all began, it seemed New Orleans had turned a corner. Help had arrived. A growing number of National Guard troops were making their presence known and making a difference. And with the squalid Convention Center and Superdome mostly emptied, buses arrived to remove people stranded on Interstate 10 at Veterans Memorial and Causeway boulevards. At last, a smoldering and sodden city finally had reason to believe that the recovery process, and the grieving process, would soon be able to begin.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

# SPORTS

**"We have many goals to accomplish, and one of them is to become a leader in the revitalization of New Orleans."**

MICKEY LOOMIS, Saints general manager



STAFF PHOTO BY

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# Saints set up shop in San Antonio

## *Site of home games remains undertermined*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - The Saints announced Sunday night that they plan to set up their base of operations in San Antonio for the remainder of this season, regardless of where they ultimately decide to play their home games.

But both General Manager Mickey Loomis and Coach Jim Haslett said their preference is to play those home games in Baton Rouge, if possible, and that the team's commitment remains to New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

"The first thing, and I believe the most important thing, is that although we are practicing here in San Antonio and we're trying to locate a place for our home games, we are still the New Orleans Saints, and our commitment to our city is stronger than ever," Loomis said.

Loomis and Haslett addressed the media during the team's first official press conference since arriving early Friday morning in San Antonio, where the team will begin practicing this afternoon for next Sunday's season opener at Carolina.

"We have many goals to accomplish, and one of them is to become a leader in the revitalization of New Orleans," Loomis said. "We want to be on the forefront of making our city stronger. Our team is representing the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans, and we'll take that responsibility seriously.

"We'll play this season with the same toughness, determination and resiliency of the people of New Orleans and we'll make them proud."

Loomis also announced that the team is forming the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, and that team owner Tom Benson and his wife, Gayle, will make the first donation.

The statement came in the wake of reports that Benson was strongly leaning toward moving the Saints' home games to San Antonio this season - and perhaps moving the team permanently to the town where he has longstanding business and personal ties.

There also were indications of dissent in the ranks of the organization about where the team should play its games.

When asked directly about those reports, Loomis reiterated his opening statement, saying, "That's the farthest thing from any of our minds."

"Again," Loomis said, "our commitment to New Orleans is stronger than ever. We recognize that we're representing Louisiana and we're representing the city of New Orleans. And I don't know how important a football game is, probably not very, but if we can uplift anyone, if we can make any of our fans feel good about themselves or about the state or about the city, with just the fact that we're out there, much less playing as hard as we're going to play, that's what's worthwhile to us."

San Antonio made sense as a base of operations because the city had hosted the Saints before - last season, when the team evacuated before Hurricane Ivan. Loomis said the team's first consideration was to move its operations to Houston, but that city was so heavily involved in relief efforts that the team did not want to be a burden.

Loomis said while the team's practice facility in Metairie was not damaged too badly, several of the players and members of the organization cannot return to their homes anytime soon. And they needed to address such issues as where to send their children to school.

Loomis estimated that maybe 400 or 500 people would relocate to San Antonio for the next few months.

But Loomis and Haslett said they would still prefer to play their home games in Baton Rouge - mostly because it is closer to the team's fan base.

The team and the NFL continue to consider several options for those home games, including Baton Rouge, San Antonio and the option of playing all of its road games at the site of the visiting teams' - like the Saints will do in Giants Stadium on the weekend of Sept. 18.

Haslett expressed disappointment with that decision, saying NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, "put us behind the 8-ball," but he said that concern pales in comparison to the larger issues of the day.

Haslett also said it might be easier to play the team's home games in San Antonio this year since the Saints would not have to travel every week. "But I don't know if you've ever seen our home record vs. our road record," he joked. "So if they think we're playing on the road every weekend, well probably win a lot more games."

Loomis said hopefully a decision on those home games will be made in the coming days, but there are many logistical issues that need to be worked out in any potential site.

Ultimately, the decision will be made by Tagliabue.

"No decisions have been made on where the Saints will play their remaining 2005 scheduled home games following their Week 2 game at Giants Stadium," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Sunday. "As Commissioner Tagliabue stated on Friday, the Saints represent Louisiana and New Orleans and we are going to work with public officials there and with Tom Benson to maintain a focus on the region's needs and the role of the Saints and NFL in the recovery."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco would like the Saints to play at least part of their season in Louisiana, said Bob Mann, communications director for the governor. He

*See* **SAINTS,** *page 19*

# Benson, have FAITH in N.O.

**By Peter Finney**
Sports Columnist

Have "FAITH."

In the days before Hurricane Katrina, that was the message the Saints sent to the most loyal following in the NFL.

In our post-Katrina world, as I see it, FAITH is a message that should be embraced by Tom Benson, immediately. Not next week, not next month and definitely not next year.

So what should the owner of a franchise that has called New Orleans home for 38 years be telling us, at a time a devastated Big Easy floats in some sort of primeval ooze?

Tom Benson should tell us he will lead the charge to make our Superdome football-friendly again.

He should tell us it's his intention to keep the team there indefinitely.

He should tell us, as a resident of a city that gave him life, and prosperity, he has FAITH in the future of that city, FAITH that New Orleans will recover and become a living symbol of what FAITH can accomplish.

He should tell his season-ticket holders who already may have lost everything but FAITH, that the Saints will play as many, if not all, of their home games in LSU's Tiger Stadium, not in San Antonio's Alamodome.

When it comes to FAITH, Tom Benson finds himself in a unique position, keeping in mind NFL owners carry different levels of clout.

And, right now, as the owner of a team in a city drawing international focus, Tom Benson can become a Big Easy immortal by doing the right thing.

Which is?

Well, for someone who did business in San Antonio, it would be easy for Tom Benson to use Katrina as a kind of escape hatch to set up shop - permanently - in the home of the Alamo.

That would be a horrendous decision in this change-of-life time. In the wake of 9/11, Commissioner Paul Tagliabue made sure the NFL did everything possible to heal the wounds of terror. Now Tom Benson, with the commissioner's backing, should be finding a way for the New Orleans Saints, not the San Antonio Saints, to begin waving "We Have FAITH" banners.

Obviously, in this case, it's a one-man bottom line.

It's Tom Benson's team, Tom Benson's money, and Tom Benson's call.

In the pre-Katrina days, when he was beating the drums for a new stadium, Tom Benson did his best to trash the Superdome as obsolete, light years behind the state-of-the-art facilities springing up around the NFL.

Of course, he was trashing a facility good enough to hold six Super Bowls, one as recently as three years ago.

He was trashing a facility he inherited, debt free, one that allowed his franchise to keep its bottom line among the top half of a 32-team league.

As we speak, the Superdome, as a hurricane shelter, is experiencing its darkest days through no fault of its own.

In a way, it became the No. 1 whipping boy of the national media through no fault of its own.

I listened to one media idiot say, when evacuees were bused from the Superdome to Houston's Astrodome, "they were able to shower, something not available in the Superdome."

He forgot to mention a simple fact. New Orleans was without power. Without power and without water. If the Superdome had 50,000 showers, they would have been useless.

So, yes, the Superdome took a hit. That's exactly what would make this Tom Benson's finest hour.

Standing up, making a "restored Superdome" his top priority in the fight back from a force-of-nature catastrophe, he would have carved out a fitting tombstone.

"Here Lies Tom Benson. He Kept The Faith."

**'This is our city. These are people that have supported us. We want to do whatever we can for them.**

KEVIN HOUSER, long snapper




AP PHOTO

**LET'S DO LUNCH:** New Orleans Saints linebacker T.J. Slaughter, left, and Tiffany Cardenas, 18, of San Antonio, serve lunch to Hurricane Katrina evacuees at a shelter at KellyUSA, a former Air Force base.

# Saints boost evacuees' spirits

*McAllister, McAfee, Gleason, Houser visit shelters*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - After a week of watching their city's devastation on television from afar, several Saints players finally were able to do something for the people of their town Sunday.

Seven players, along with General Manager Mickey Loomis and other team employees, spent Sunday morning at an evacuee shelter in San Antonio, mingling with people, serving lunches and signing autographs.

Safety Steve Gleason and his girlfriend, and long snapper Kevin Houser and his wife went shopping at Target with a list of items requested by six families they approached. The most popular items were clean underwear and hair brushes.

"You watch on TV and you see information about where to send a check and make a donation. And we did that, too. But coming here and being with them and being a part of it is just as important, if not more important," Houser said. "This is our city. These are people that have supported us. We want to do whatever we can for them. If coming out here, playing football with the kids, and talking to them is what it takes, we want to do that."

Wayne Gandy, Jamar Nesbit, Brian Young, Zach Hilton and T.J. Slaughter also spent a few hours at the Hurricane Relief Warehouse on the site of KellyUSA, a former Air Force base housing approximately 10,000 evacuees from New Orleans. Media relations staffers Greg Bensel, Nick Karl and Justin Macione and his wife also visited.

Most of the Saints players left to see their families over the three-day weekend - the team will not report to San Antonio until 6 p.m. today. Other players visited shelters in other areas, such as Deuce McAllister and Fred McAfee in Mississippi and Joe Horn in Houston.

Most of the players who stayed in San Antonio had been asking what they could do to help, so a trip to the shelter was hastily arranged.

There was some early frustration as the players were kept waiting outside while organizers tried to work out the logistics of their visit, for security reasons among others. First, some of the players' wives went in on their own. Then Gleason and Houser "snuck in," as well, figuring they didn't look like football players anyway, so they wouldn't cause much of a ruckus.

"It feels pretty good to finally be able to actually do something to help," said Gleason, who said some of the players wondered if there might be some angst against them because they are so well taken care of. But he said that wasn't the case. "They were excited to see us, glad we were just here talking to them."

Some evacuees hardly took notice of the Saints' arrival. Others were tremendously excited, like a woman who ran around with all seven autographs on her khaki shorts.

Teenagers Pernell Marshall and Selus Turner wanted to talk football with the players at length. They were glad to hear rookie quarterback Adrian McPherson made the final roster and think Aaron Brooks should play the first half of games with McPherson playing the second half.

They also wanted to hear the full list of roster cuts.

"That's my team, the Saints," Turner said. "Sometimes they mess up □"

"But then they rebound," Marshall added.

James Barnett, a native of Algiers who spent six days in the Superdome before being evacuated to San Antonio, was one of the first to rush up to the players and shake their hands.

"I love to see that," Barnett said. "It's unity, man. It lets us know we're all together here."

Barnett, who was separated from his wife and daughter a month before Hurricane Katrina hit, was one of many evacuees who praised the efforts of the San Antonio community and organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way and FEMA.

"They're like angels from God," Barnett said. "It's like a brand new life."

One of the Saints' family members experienced that fresh start Sunday as well. Former ground superintendent Lester Vallet Sr., a longtime employee, was evacuated to San Antonio, and he was taken to the team hotel to be reunited with his son, Lester Vallet Jr., a grounds supervisor with the team.

Vallet Sr., 82, had been wearing a Saints T-shirt and a big Saints belt buckle given to him by former coach Bum Phillips, which were conversation starters. And once he let police know that he used to work for the team, they informed him the Saints were on their way and put them together.

Vallet Sr. is still apart from his wife, who was evacuated from their home on North Broad before he was. But he was looking forward to being reunited with his son.

# Hornets' Brown 'blown away' by Slidell devastation

*Relief effort will be announced soon, he says*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

Hornets forward P.J. Brown made it back to Slidell, the community he has called home for much of his professional life.

And he's still having difficulty describing exactly what he saw.

"It looks like someone dropped a bomb; it's unbelievable," Brown said Saturday night from Houston, where he traveled after riding out the storm in Lafayette with friends and family. "What the water did, the wind. In a lot of places it's like somebody built a house out of toothpicks and just blew it down.

"It's crazy."

Brown's wife, Dee, grew up in Slidell and played high school basketball at Salmen. The couple met while playing together at Louisiana Tech in Ruston.

So Brown is quite familiar with the area, its inhabitants and their unyielding spirit in the face of disaster.

But he wasn't prepared for the utter destruction he witnessed in parts of the community as he returned to check on his home in the Turtle Creek subdivision, and a new home that he was scheduled to move into in two weeks in Lakeshore Estates on the banks of Lake Pontchartrain.

The Turtle Creek dwelling practically was unscathed, just minor wind damage. The lake house was flooded by more than a foot of water on the first level.

"Oh man, I was just blown away," Brown said. "People who have lived there all of their lives are basically homeless. It was just unbelievable. That's all I can say. It was an unbelievable sight.

"But the one thing about those people: They haven't given up. They still have good spirits. They're upbeat. That was the most amazing thing. You could see despair on their faces. But they were still upbeat and positive. They're going through a tough time. But you couldn't tell it by the way they were talking. Those people haven't given up. And everybody else shouldn't, either."

It appeared by Brown's estimation those most affected by Hurricane Katrina's deadly path lived closest to the lake.

"There are still some neighborhoods that are OK," he said. "But by the lake, everything took a tremendous hit. All the neighborhoods there got water. If you were inland, you had a chance. There were a few areas there that survived (flood waters).

"But there's still a lot of wind damage and trees down. If you were by the water, though, you went under."

As he toured the area, friends and acquaintances that had stayed behind instead of fleeing told stories of rapid deterioration of conditions that nearly took their lives and tales of good fortune that saved others.

"People were barely escaping," Brown said. "The water came up so quick in some areas. One lady told me she was with a group of 50 people who gathered to take shelter in their church. They thought that was the best place for them to go.

"Then the water started rising. They all went up to the pulpit and the water level stopped right there. If it wasn't for that, 50 people would have passed.

"Another young lady I know, she and her young child were fighting for their lives when their neighbor came by in a boat and rescued them. She'd have been gone if it hadn't been for that."

Yet while Brown sees hope for his hometown, he is concerned for other nearby communities equally overwhelmed in Katrina's aftermath.

"All the people in rural areas, places like Chalmette, Folsom, Bogalusa, Waveland, Pass Christian ... those people got hit hard, too."

Brown, the Hornets' player representative, said the NBA Players Association soon will announce a major relief effort, one for which they wanted him to fly to New York for a press conference.

"I can't make it to New York," Brown said. "I've got too much going on to get to New York. But we're putting something together to raise money, try to get the 'Feed the Children' group to start canvassing down here, and I'll do whatever I can to personally reach out.

"Right now, I've got to get to work and clean up. It's just unbelievable. In your wildest nightmare, you couldn't dream up something like this."

# Sports provide another means of relief

*Games provide needed distraction*

**By John DeShazier**
Sports Columnist

Now more than ever, the games should be played.

Not because there's any scientific evidence to support a claim that athletic events provide healing. But if people believe they're medicinal, then they are, even if they're more of a placebo than a prescription. Because, now more than ever, we are desperate for their ability to turn our attention away, if only temporarily, from what really hurts.

So play them because New Orleans and its surrounding areas need the distraction from reality. They need relief from a ringside view of death and destruction that has been so voluminous it has become numbing. Play them because somewhere, for someone, they may induce a smile even under these circumstances, a memory to reflect upon at some point in the future, when lives that have been turned inside out have had some semblance of order restored.

This isn't a plea to ignore what has happened along the Gulf Coast, the loss of life and property that citizens have experienced and witnessed, the looting and violence and lawlessness some have had to endure from others who somehow deduced firing guns and burning buildings were preferable to seeking food, water, shelter and a way out.

Everyone who lives in New Orleans and its surrounding areas has been scarred to varying degrees, some to levels that are unimaginable, depths from which they may never recover. And while the belief may be that those who were fortunate enough to be able to evacuate are the lucky ones, watching the destruction from a distance provides no comfort for those who have yet to contact family and friends, who really have no idea when they can return home, who don't yet know if there even is a home to return to.

There will be no forgetting this, now or ever, not with pictures burned into memory banks as if with a branding iron.

Not when the race to affix blame almost has overshadowed the tragedy that a city was 80 percent underwater, has begun to dwarf the fact that thousands of its citizens were trapped in inhumane conditions, has trumped the fact that there will be a time and place of reckoning for whatever errors were committed but now, while people are trying to make heads or tails of devastated lives, isn't that time or place.

But we need the games now, more than ever.

As distracted as Saints and Hornets players will be, and disjointed as their seasons will be as their governing bodies attempt to carve something resembling "normal" back into their routines, we need the relief that their effort will provide.

It's not food, water, clothes and lodging, though some players, their leagues and unions generously have contributed or pledged their time and money to the relief fund.

What it is, is a chance to draw their attention away from the pain. Temporarily, sure, because once the game ends everyone will have to return to whatever his or her life currently is comprised of, and few in the metro area have lives that ever will be the same. But a shot of adrenaline here and there, into an existence that has been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, can be mighty potent.

So whenever and wherever possible, the games have to be played.

Lace 'em up, strap 'em, tie 'em up and start the timer.

The clock is ticking on the healing, and the games can play a vital part of it for people who might not have much else to cheer for today.

# Loomis, Haslett say team's commited to N.O.

**SAINTS,** *from page 17*

said that Tim Coulon, the head of the Superdome Commission, is scheduled to meet Monday with officials from the Saints and the NFL to discuss how to make that happen, Mann said.

LSU officials are also behind the idea, although such an endeavor could be difficult. For starters, there is still a wealth of relief efforts taking place in Baton Rouge. And there are two weekends on the schedule this year when the Tigers would play at home Saturday, followed by a Sunday afternoon Saints game.

The Saints play the Falcons on Oct. 16, one day after LSU is scheduled to host Florida. The Saints play the Bears on Nov. 6, the day after LSU will host Appalachian State.

The Alamodome in San Antonio also has a few conflicting dates this year, though only one of them (the Dec. 15, 16 and 17 NCAA Volleyball Championships) seems to be an immovable event.

Still, city officials seem to be conflicting as to whether they want to bring the Saints games to town. Some have been working behind the scenes in that direction, including one city council member.

But recently elected mayor Phil Hardberger issued a statement earlier this week saying, "I understand that there are a lot of people who are interested in whether or not the New Orleans Saints will be playing football in San Antonio. I am too. Right now, however, our primary focus is on making our city ready to welcome evacuees from Louisiana."

When asked about the latest developments in a press conference Sunday afternoon, Hardberger reiterated, "I like football, but we've got more important things to address right now."

The Alamodome has not been used as a relief shelter, while other events continue to take place in the arena, which could seat 65,000 people for football games, though it is not an ideal NFL stadium.

San Antonio also has not made public efforts to lure the Saints permanently to their town, though that rumor swirled in May when Benson's attorney Stanley Rosenberg, a member of the team's board of directors, told the San Antonio Express-News that Benson was interested in moving the team after the 2005 season, possibly to San Antonio.

A week later, Benson dismissed the notion, saying, "Lawyers sometimes talk too much. I'm not looking at any markets."

Similar reports surfaced Saturday after Louisiana state Sen. Mike Michot, R-Lafayette, told The Times-Picayune that the Saints' executive vice president of administration, Arnold Fielkow, told him Benson was strongly leaning toward moving the Saints permanently to San Antonio.

Fielkow, reached by phone after arriving in San Antonio on Sunday, said the team's official word would come at the evening press conference.

Benson, a native New Orleanian, has not been available for comment this past week, but he issued the following statement Friday:

"Our main concern is with the people of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region who have experienced the recent tragedy. We are attempting to carry on in these difficult times and are looking out for the best interest of our coaches, staff, players and their families. My prayers are with each of those who have been adversely impacted."

### SAINTS SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sept. 11 | at Carolina | Noon |
| Sept. 18* | N.Y. Giants | Noon |
| Sept. 25 | at Minnesota | Noon |
| Oct. 2 | Buffalo | Noon |
| Oct. 9 | at Green Bay | Noon |
| Oct. 16 | Atlanta | Noon |
| Oct. 23 | at St. Louis | Noon |
| Oct. 30 | Miami | Noon |
| Nov. 6 | Chicago | Noon |
| Nov. 13 | BYE | |
| Nov. 20 | at New Eng. | Noon |
| Nov. 27 | at N.Y. Jets | 7:30 pm |
| Dec. 4 | Tampa Bay | Noon |
| Dec. 12 | at Atlanta | 8 pm |
| Dec. 18 | Carolina | Noon |
| Dec. 24 | Detroit | Noon |
| Jan. 1 | at Tampa Bay | Noon |

*Game will be rescheduled for either Sept. 19 or 20 and will be at Giants Stadium

# Spadoni uses game as escape

*Running back turned linebacker looks forward to first start*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Fortune was smiling on LSU linebacker Jason Spadoni, if only for a little while.

Last spring he was deep on the running back depth chart and was moved to linebacker. Two weeks ago the only player in front of him, E.J. Kuale, injured an ankle and Spadoni, with no real background on defense, found himself as the probable starter for the LSU season opener.

Any excitement Spadoni had was washed away when Hurricane Katrina struck. Spadoni is expected to start at weakside linebacker when, or if, LSU lines up, against Arizona State on Saturday. School officials are preparing as if there will be a game, but a final decision will come sometime this week, perhaps Tuesday.

All Spadoni could do was push those feelings into the background.

"It's all an Act of God. I can't control that," said the junior from Kenner who played at John Curtis. "Everyone is safe. That's all that matters to me.

"I was scheduled to start. We've got a whole bunch of other games I can play in. Hopefully, I'll start this week. I was excited about the opportunity to start and play, show everybody I have the ability to play. I'll use the extra week to prepare myself mentally, and sort everything out with my family."

Spadoni said he spends a lot of time thinking about his family, which is safe in Houston, and his home in Kenner near the Esplanade Mall. "I heard we got four feet of water," he said. He enjoys the opportunity to practice and forget for a couple of hours.

LSU coaches like the way he's progressed. Defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said Spadoni's athletic ability made him a natural fit, but that he has some intangibles that have furthered his development. Spadoni didn't play defense in high school and isn't sure if the last time was in elementary or middle school.

"He's coming along," Pelini said. "He's got good toughness and instincts. We feel he's just going to get better and better."

Spadoni has shown he can play more than just running back. He played in 11 games as a freshman, mostly on special teams. He sat out the 2003 season because of academic difficulties but returned to special teams play last season. He made the switch to linebacker during spring practice because Joseph Addai, Alley Broussard, Justin Vincent and Shyrone Carey figured to get more playing time at running back.

"He had a rocky transition at first, some ups and downs," middle linebacker Cameron Vaughn said. "Lately he's been up making huge strides. He's definitely learning, stepping up and doing a great job."

Spadoni said having played running back has helped him as a linebacker, especially on running plays. When the play starts, he knows where the back is going, because it's where he used to try to be.

"It's exactly the same but flip-flopped," he said. "I can anticipate where the back is going and try to get there first. The toughest part is picking up things like a backside pass route. It's tough to see the whole picture."

## LSU NOTES

**ASU OFFICIALS IN TOWN**: LSU associate athletic director Herb Vincent said officials from Arizona State's athletic department were expected to be in Baton Rouge on Sunday, specifically to examine the team's hotel accommodations. Arizona State sports information director Mark Brand said that those who made the trip would examine the "whole picture."

"I don't know because I'm not with them," Brand said. "But I would think it would be looking at the overall security and welfare of the group that we would bring in there."

Arizona State officials would not issue a statement on their findings, Brand said.

**TICKET INFO**: Beginning today, the LSU Athletics Ticket Office will begin assisting season-ticket holders who have lost or misplaced LSU football tickets or parking passes because of Hurricane Katrina.

For tickets or parking passes to be replaced, the season-ticket holder of record must go in person to the LSU Athletics Ticket Office and present a valid photo ID. Fans are asked to understand that an ID is necessary to ensure the secure issuance of tickets and passes. Relatives or friends of the season-ticket holder of record may not serve as a representative of the ticket holder of record.

The LSU Athletics Ticket Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, and the remaining weekdays this week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staff writer William Kalec contributed to this report.

# Sanders visits Green Wave

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - Football players born in Atlanta in the mid-1980s were predestined to worship Deion Sanders.

Growing up, Izzy Route played cornerback. He wore No. 21 Falcons jerseys. And now Route is a college football player for Tulane, returning kicks, too, like "Prime Time."

So when Sanders spoke to Tulane's football team Sunday, Route soaked in every syllable The Man said. And when Sanders left the DoubleTree Hotel, Route walked alongside the NFL cornerback, throwing questions his way like easy interceptions.

But the discussions weren't only about nickel packages and pass pursuit. Tulane's football players are dealing with the realities of Hurricane Katrina - and having to play ball knowing their homes could be ruined - so Sanders gave them more than just chalk talk. He gave them inspiration.

"He said, 'How are you going to respond when your time is called?'" Route said. "What are you going to do? How are you going to step up in the big situation when things really matter? How are you going to make an impact?"

"I just really wanted to motivate them to hang on, because they're going to come through this," said the Baltimore Ravens' Sanders, who was joined Sunday by former Dallas Cowboy Nate Newton. "It's truly touching because they're somebody I can identify with. I can identify with football players, I can identify with trials and tribulations. And I can identify with dilemmas - sometimes you don't see an end there, but you definitely can see your way through it."

Last week, Sanders challenged all professional athletes to donate at least $1,000 apiece - through payroll deductions - to benefit the hurricane victims. His goal is to raise $1.5 million to $3 million.

On Sunday, his goal was to raise hopes.

One goal down.

# Tulane seeks temporary homes

**By Benjamin Hochman and Fred Robinson**
Staff writers

DALLAS - Tulane officials are considering the University of Houston and the University of Texas-Austin as temporary homes for its athletic program, according to Cynthia Cherrey, Tulane's vice president of student affairs.

While Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said he would like to have all of the sports teams on one campus, administrators might have to split up the athletes. Tulane is hoping to have its football team in Houston, Cherrey said.

Dickson hopes to have a plan set by today. Cherrey said, "Nothing is certain right now, but we should know a bit more by Tuesday or Wednesday."

"The first goal is for us to get all the student-athletes into the academic arena. And second, we're trying to keep them together."

Dickson spent much of Sunday in Houston, where Tulane president Scott Cowen and his staff have set up offices at the Four Seasons Hotel. The football team is currently based in Dallas, where it has practiced at Southern Methodist University. The women's soccer team completed play in an Alabama-Birmingham tournament Sunday, and is expected to fly to San Diego for a tournament next weekend. Tulane's other sports teams are not intact.

# Green Wave players left on the sidelines

*Watching SMU-Baylor game tough for athletes*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - The football team stood as one, hands on their weathered hearts. The stadium fell silent. The marching band played.

"When I hear the national anthem, you think - it's game time," Tulane safety Darren Sapp said. "It almost brings me to tears when you hear it and you can't be out there."

On Saturday night, Tulane's transplanted football team watched a football game. They sat in Section 211 of Southern Methodist's Ford Stadium, where SMU hosted Baylor. This weekend, Tulane was supposed to play its season opener at Southern Mississippi. Forced out of town by Hurricane Katrina, the team spent the weekend in Dallas, dealing with tussling emotions.

"You work so hard," said Sapp, a senior. "And now you're watching other people play."

The team tried to enjoy the game. Earlier, the football players infiltrated SMU's tailgating, bumping shoulders with Paris Hilton look-alikes with sunglasses as big as science goggles and Southern gentlemen with undone ties and cheap beer. There have been a lot of moments the past couple of days where Tulane players hid from CNN.

But practicing, shopping at Dillard's, playing pool and eating greasy burgers at Dave & Busters, and watching this game can only temporarily coat reality. Furthermore, they're all reminders of what they could be doing, if catastrophe hadn't altered their lives.

"I'm watching guys making plays and interceptions, breaking up passes and making tackles," said Sean Lucas, a senior safety, during the second quarter. "I would like to be out there. You really do. I kind of do want to leave the game.

"Watching SMU, they have home-field advantage. It looks like this season, we won't have home-field advantage - wherever we go. Our fans are just trying to make it now and live day-to-day."

It's not just the Tulane fans. The players have lost their homes, too.

Tight end Jerome Landry got a text message telling him his home in Chalmette was gone.

"We're going to go home to what? Where is home?" he said from the lobby of the DoubleTree Hotel, where Tulane is staying in Dallas. "This hotel is home. It hit me right there. That was the worst. But the more I thought about it, everything can be replaced. I was just ecstatic my family was safe."

By the weekend, every Tulane player had his family members accounted for, including receiver Kenneth Guidroz, who had not heard from his father.

But these are new emotions. One player griped that people tell them, "'We know what you're going through.' But they don't."

"What do we do now?" said Matt Forte', a running back from Slidell. "I don't know where the house is - if it's knocked down or flooded."

The team has bonded. Linebacker Anthony Cannon said he is spending time with players he never talked to before. At practice, Coach Chris Scelfo gives rousing speeches, telling the players they're representing a post-Katrina New Orleans.

"It's bringing everyone together," Cannon said. "There are teams across the nation where players may have quarrels with one another. But those things don't matter once you lose everything. Everyone is in the same situation."

Many Tulane players have lost their homes. And they don't know where their new homes will be. They have a football game in two weeks. Saturday afternoon therapy is a long ways away.

On Sunday afternoon, the same time Tulane was supposed to be playing Southern Miss, some of the team gathered for a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Lloyd Arnsmeyer, the executive director of the Dallas branch, looked the players in the eyes.

"You do have life," he pleaded. "And you do have each other."

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 229 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

## Thousands return to Jefferson; more rescued in St. Bernard

# COMING HOME



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**KENNER:** Jennifer Duplain, left, and Teresa Flannigan pause on Monday while cleaning floodwaters from the home of Lloyd and Lauren Landry in Kenner. Monday was the first day Jefferson Parish authorities let people back into the parish to view their homes.



**METAIRIE:** Mike Hollinger of Metairie on Monday sweeps water from the home he shares with his brother, Charlie. Their house had about a foot of water in it.

## Return to Jefferson Parish brings surprises

*Some areas spared; others devastated*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Maneuvering through streets clogged with splintered trees, soggy trash and pieces of wrecked houses, thousands of Jefferson Parish residents returned Monday to communities rendered almost unrecognizable by Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster to hit the region in modern history.

What they found -- and what the remainder of the parish's half million residents will soon discover -- was damage that varied dramatically from one neighborhood to the next.

Entire blocks in Metairie were ravaged completely by floodwaters, while others remained high and dry. The storm's furious winds peeled roofs off homes in Marrero and flipped large trucks onto their sides in Gretna and Terrytown, but some residents in those communities were left with nothing more than a few broken branches littering the yard.

At one end of the spectrum, in the economically depressed Lincolnshire neighborhood of Marrero, was Martha Grinstead, who said Katrina had thrust her and her son into "a living hell." Floodwaters three feet deep ruined most of the family's belongings in their Rue St. Phillippe house. Wind ripped all the shingles off the roof, leaving it pocked with holes. Rainwater soaked the ceiling tiles and attic insulation until they grew heavy and collapsed, leaving the living room, kitchen and den covered in a grey-black soggy muck.

"It's a lost cause," Grinstead said. "I brought home a new generator, but I'm not opening it up for this. ... My family is looking for a home for me in Lake Charles."

*See* **JEFFERSON,** *page A-5*

## FEMA logs homes where dead lie

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Tens of thousands of residents of Jefferson Parish crept through miles-long traffic lines Monday for their first look at the homes they had not seen in a week. At the same time, rescuers pulled the last few survivors of Hurricane Katrina out of flooded St. Bernard Parish and marked the homes that entombed the dead.

The return to Jefferson Parish, even to retrieve a few personal items, was the region's first taste of normalcy after a week of historic privation and horror.

In St. Bernard, however, officials said they were still pulling people out of flooded homes.

Incredibly, many resisted rescue efforts and wanted to remain. Sheriff Jack Stephens said he ordered deputies to handcuff and "forcefully remove" holdouts.

Stephens said water was receding somewhat. Authorities said some pumping was under way, and some flood water drained away as surrounding waterways fell to normal levels.

As that work continued, teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency used global positioning devices to log the homes they would have to revisit to collect bodies already spotted.

As the effort to alleviate human misery continued, state officials reported they had repaired the lethal breach in the 17th Street Canal that destroyed much of the city. They said they expected to turn next to two similar breaches several miles east in the London Avenue Canal.

Entergy officials said they had repaired damaged electrical substations serving the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and much of the Central Business District. Their work bore the imminent promise of the return of lights and power to the heart of the city.

But they could not energize the system until buildings in the area were checked to be sure they could receive power safely, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

But as the engineering rescue inched forward, all around lay waste and devastation, and the certainty that the stagnant waters

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-4*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Father gets word out as residents come in



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Courtney Marshall checks on Arthur Dumaine, 69, who was rescued from his Lakeview home Tuesday and taken to a nearby hospital. With nothing but his bathing suit, he then made his way to his son's house in Terrytown, where neighbors have been caring for him. Dumaine finally spoke to his family by cell phone Monday after days with no means to contact them.

## *69-year-old cut off after fleeing home*

**By Mark Waller**
Staff writer

Arthur Dumaine sat shirtless on the front porch of his son's empty, powerless house in Terrytown Monday, still in shock after narrowly escaping the hurricane-spawned flood in New Orleans and unable to call family or friends to report that he was alive a week after the storm.

Meanwhile, in an evacuation shelter in El Campo, Texas, Dumaine's son Guy agonized over the fate of his father. Guy Dumaine, who has no history of blood pressure problems, experienced such profound stress that his pressure escalated, his nose bled, he coughed blood and he had to go to a hospital.

When officials allowed Jefferson Parish residents to return on Monday to check on their properties, the influx finally provided a chance for the father and son to connect.

Lynn Smith, who lives across Ridgefield Street in Terrytown, found her home mostly undamaged when she returned to clear out the rancid food in her refrigerator and gather documents, clothes and medicine. She also found the stranded 69-year-old man.

Arthur Dumaine had hung a sign from his son's mailbox that said, "Help, please, alone, 69 years, sick, need cell phone." Land lines and cell phones hadn't been working in the neighborhood.

Smith handed her cell phone to Dumaine, who was still wearing the swim shorts and sandals he had on when he made a harrowing escape from deep waters in his New Orleans house.

Dumaine finally could call out. And his family finally learned what happened to their father.

Dumaine tried to ride out the hurricane alone at his house in Lakeview, about a block from the 17th Street Canal levee that broke open and submerged much of New Orleans.

Dumaine said he didn't evacuate his house on Old Hammond Highway because he recently was treated for heart problems and felt too fragile to travel. But his ultimate exodus from the city was more taxing, physically and emotionally, than the evacuation traffic jams and desperate search for accommodations could ever have been.

"I said, 'I'm just going to take my chances,' like a damned fool," the retired lawyer said.

On the morning that Katrina raged, he said, he heard a tremendous cracking that he thinks was the canal floodwall succumbing to the storm surge. The first floor of his home filled up in minutes, forcing him upstairs with no food, water, supplies or openings to the outside, he said.

He was trapped there for 36 hours, until he decided he had to reach the roof so that rescuers could see him.

"I said, 'I can't last another day here, or I'll die,'" he said.

So he held his breath, dived into his flooded first floor, swam to a plate glass window, smashed it with an onyx ashtray and escaped his house, cutting his leg on the glass as he floated out.

Once outside, he climbed onto his roof, and rescuers in a private boat quickly spotted him, he said. They took him to the Coast Guard station on the Bucktown side of the ruptured canal. From there, he rode in a helicopter to Meadowcrest Hospital in Terrytown, not far from his son's home.

Dumaine stayed at the hospital until he had to leave Thursday because the hospital was evacuating, he said. With help from police, he reached his son's house. He found a key and went in, living on the food, water and companionship of neighbors who stayed for the storm.

But they could not offer phone service.

"My son evacuated," he said Monday. "I don't know where he's at. I just wanted to use the phone. I wanted to let my sons know I'm alive."

So Smith, part of the daytime-only infusion of Jefferson residents, handed him her cell phone, and Dumaine heard his son's voice for the first time in a week.

"God bless America, and God bless you," he said.

"I've got to come get you," Guy Dumaine told his father. "You can't stay there. Do you have food and water?"

Guy Dumaine, 37, said Monday that he was trying to figure out how to retrieve his father and bring him to Texas. Either he would drive back or see whether a relief agency would transfer his father to a shelter in Houston where the family can get him.

"I've been worried, so worried about him," Guy Dumaine said. "I thought he was dead, really. We begged him to leave" before the storm.

"To hear his voice," Guy said, "I thought it was a ghost."

**"My son evacuated. I don't know where he's at. I just wanted to use the phone. I wanted to let my sons know I'm alive."**

ARTHUR DUMAINE
Lakeview resident

**"I've been worried, so worried about him. I thought he was dead, really. We begged him to leave. To hear his voice, I thought it was a ghost."**

GUY DUMAINE
Arthur Dumaine's son




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies, Harvey firefighters and officials from the parish coroner's office investigate the death of a man from carbon monoxide poisoning in Harvey on Monday. Officials said people staying at 2316 Alex Korman Blvd. had been using four generators inside the home. Six other people who were at the home were taken to West Jefferson Medical Center.

# Carbon monoxide poisoning kills man

## *6 others in home in Harvey survive*

**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

One man died and six people were severely poisoned with carbon monoxide from operating an electric generator inside a Harvey home, Jefferson Parish officials said Monday.

The identities of the victims were not available. The survivors were taken to West Jefferson Medical Center.

Robert Wilson, assistant chief of the Marrero-Ragusa Volunteer Fire Department, said he saw four generators in the home at 2316 Alex Korman Blvd., in the Woodmere subdivision.

Wilson said the dead man was in his 50s and, judging from the condition of the body, might have died as early as Friday.

Because carbon monoxide poisoning impairs mental functions, he said, the other occupants of the house might not have realized the man was dead.

Deano Bonano, deputy chief administrative assistant to Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, said sheriff's deputies originally thought that all seven people in the home were dead. But emergency medical technicians found signs of life and sent the survivors to the hospital.

Parish officials said there have been several other deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. Portable generators should never be placed inside a home or any other enclosed area, they said.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 'We just got to pray for one another'

KATRINA, *from A-1*

of Lake Pontchartain that captured parts of Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson, St. Tammany and Plaquemines parishes a week ago now embraced unnumbered thousands of rotting corpses bobbing in flooded attics, decomposing on rooftops or sunk in the darkness of their homes.

The retrieval, identification and burial of those thousands loomed as the next challenge facing authorities.

No one would attempt a reliable estimate of the dead. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's estimate there may be 10,000 fatalities has gone unchallenged.

Army Lt. Gen. Russell Honore told ABC News aerial reconnaissance indicated fewer than 10,000 people remained in the city.

As engineers and relief workers labored at their tasks, President Bush made his second visit to Louisiana and Mississippi since Friday.

He toured a Baton Rouge refugee shelter with Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who seemed to keep her distance from Bush. She and other officials, like Nagin and Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, have blistered the slow federal response to the Katrina disaster.

In an appearance at Bethany World Prayer Center, Bush promised state and local officials he would fix anything not going right. "This is just the beginning of a huge effort."

Bush ordered that flags at all U.S. facilities around the world be flown at half-mast until sunset today in mourning for Katrina's victims in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Not counting the tens of thousands who evacuated by car before the storm, the state Department of Social Services said 113,000 refugees were being cared for by Louisiana and eight other states.

Texas housed 53,000 people, more than any other state, including Louisiana, which was caring for about 50,000, the department said. The remainder were scattered as far as Utah and Arizona, the department said.

And Katrina kept killing.

Authorities found that carbon monoxide from a generator inside a home in Harvey's Woodmere subdivision killed a man and critically poisoned six others, who were rushed to a hospital.

Broussard's decision to allow residents to return to their homes Monday through Wednesday, if only for a quick assessment, remained controversial among relief officials.

Honore, the soldier in charge of Joint Task Force Katrina, the massive military relief effort for the metropolitan region, said the Jefferson visitation stressed the area's few working highways and complicated relief efforts, but not to the point that he would demand a stop to it.

The tens of thousands of homeowners threaded carefully past armed soldiers and local law enforcement officers at blacked-out intersections.

They re-entered dank and fetid homes smothered in the stench of mildew and rotting food. Store owners surveyed looted shelves and assessed the chance of re-opening.

In many places a sense of community was palpable.

As two friends greeted one another in a Metairie street, sharing an embrace and tears, a car approached them, slowed, and a stranger lowered his window to offer encouragement. "We just got to pray for one another."

Damage varied wildly in Jefferson. In Metairie and on the West Bank, thousands of homes were ruined by flood, while others remained high and dry.

"It's a lost cause," said Martha Grinstead, whose West Bank home in the Lincolnshire subdivision was soaked, its floors covered in soggy muck. She said her family was looking for a new home for her in Lake Charles.

Yet nearby in Harvey, Lisa Coller mowed and raked her yard.

Each family surveyed its personal wreckage and made its own plans.

Wendy and Chris Clouatre pushed open the door of their Marrero home and gathered documents, toys, dolls, pictures and warm clothing for winter. They said they expected to be gone a long time.

"We'll move back here, fix it up and sell it," said Chris Clouatre. "It's heartbreaking, man."

No such chance to visit was available to New Orleans homeowners, except those in relatively unaffected Algiers.

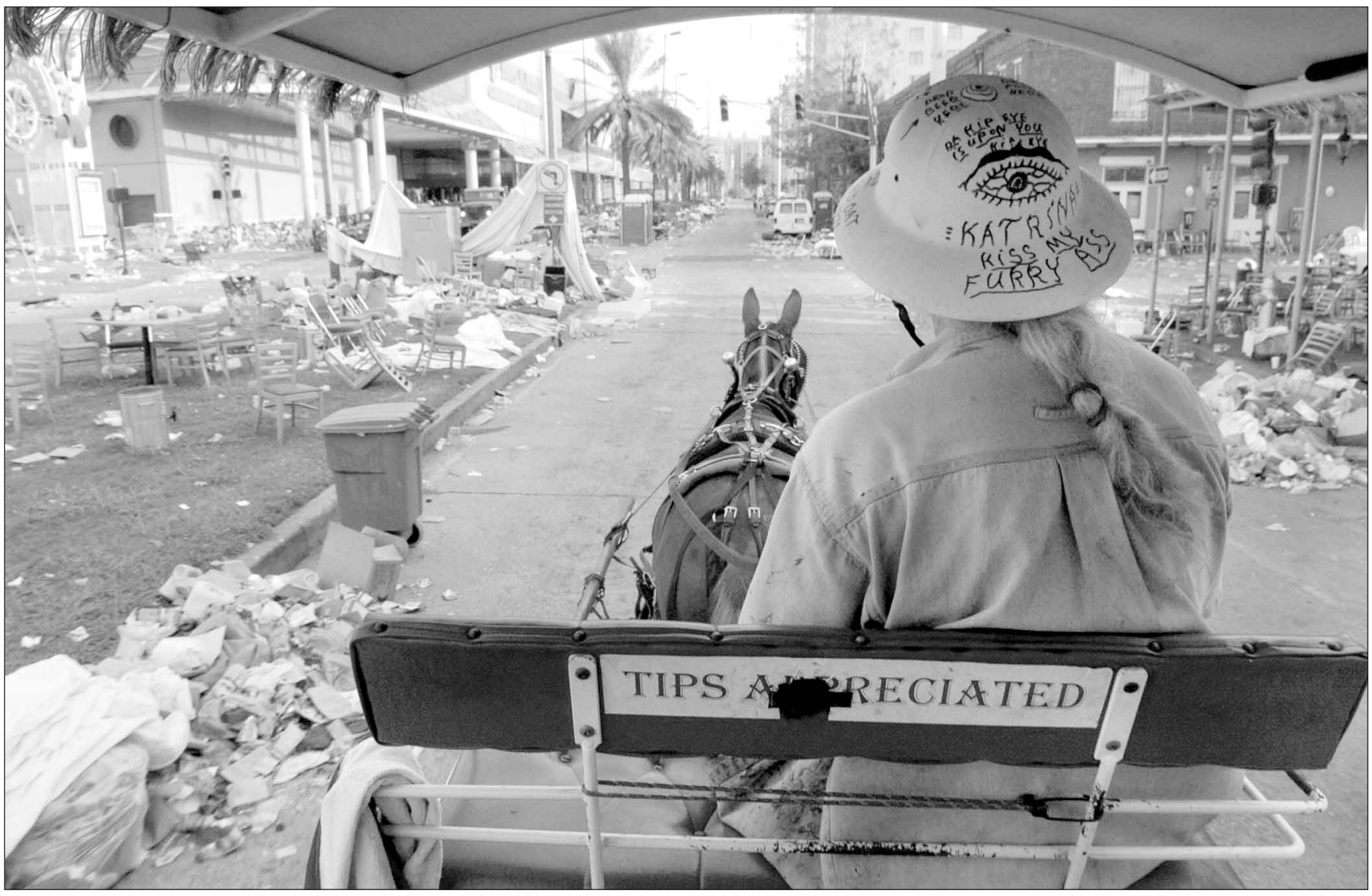
And while homeowners in hard-hit Slidell were not officially barred, St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis begged residents to stay out to give repair crews more time to clear streets and relieve pressure on sewerage systems and medical facilities.

His warning also acknowledged another elemental dimension of this natural disaster: Many homes, he warned, might harbor poisonous water moccasins.

Even so, power reappeared along the U.S. 190 commercial corridor in Covington and major retailers such as Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Home Depot began to reopen.

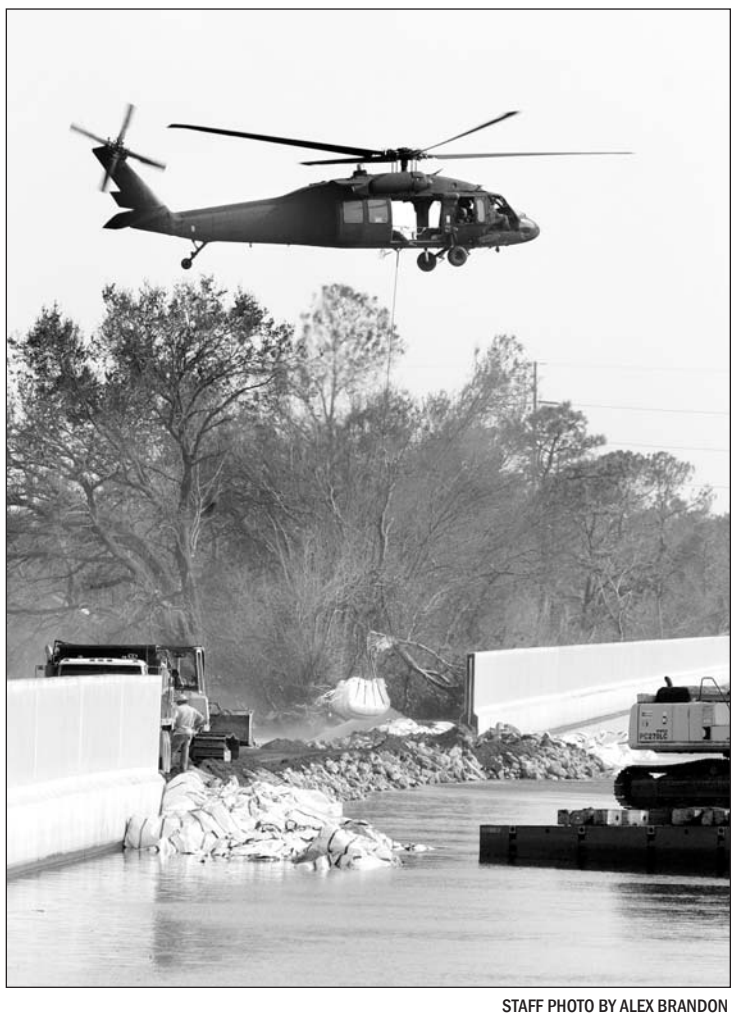
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With reporting by Ed Anderson, Matt Brown, Gwen Filosa, Meghan Gordon, Sheila Grissett, Jeff Meitrodt, Matt Scallan and Mark Waller.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**CONVENTION BOULEVARD:** David Richardson leads his mule, Satchmo, down Convention Boulevard in New Orleans looking for three mules that escaped during the storm a week ago.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**17TH STREET CANAL:** A Blackhawk helicopter drops a sandbag at the breach in the 17th Street Canal levee on Monday. The break in the levee occurred after Hurricane Katrina hit.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**MARRERO:** Martha Grinstead, 60, returned to her home in Lincolnshire subdivision on Monday. The roof had leaked in many areas and wet insulation had fallen through, making the home uninhabitable. Grinstead's son, Carl Moten, 26, right, had stayed through the storm.

# Urban survivalists create a community amid chaos

## *Life revolves around generators, ingenuity*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

The heroin junkie writhing in pain from his hurricane-forced withdrawal would have to wait. Ride Hamilton had a more pressing emergency: stitching up a guy's ear with fishing line and a sewing needle. Earlier, he was forced to evacuate another patient when her puncture wound became infected with gangrene.

Hamilton, whose Cheyenne Indian name is Two Fires, isn't a doctor, a medic or nurse. His credentials, for the past week anyway, consist of the Sioux Falls Fire Department shirt he got from a thrift store and the red cross he drew with a magic marker and taped to his car window.

"I thought I was just going to run supplies, but with my uniform, a lot of people have been asking for medical help," he said. "I'm just using common sense and what I've seen in the movies."

Hamilton, a French Quarter artist, is one of a small army of urban survivalists, citizen aid workers and self-made inventors spawned by Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans. They can be seen all over the dry parts of the city, creating makeshift living compounds, trolling for supplies and propping up the dazed, wet and wounded.

Determined to stick it out in a city without electricity and running water, they have commandeered backyard swimming pools for bathing, made trips to looted supermarkets to feed neighbors and siphoned gasoline to run generators. A few without generators have strung together stolen car batteries to provide a little light. Others, like Hamilton, have learned how to do a little of everything. Even practice medicine.

The site of Hamilton's aid and triage center is Johnny White's bar on Bourbon Street. The business has stayed open since the storm hit, and when Hamilton began dropping off supplies in his battered Ford Escort, word spread that it had become a community help center.

"The uniform gets me through all the checkpoints, so I'm usually able to get people what they need," he said. "Plus, I'm the only sober one here. That helps."

Another French Quarter bar, Molly's at the Market, also has become a big gathering spot. The booze is plentiful and happy hour is full of regulars. Other than the lack of air-conditioning, the only noticeable difference from normal times is owner Jim Monaghan doling out precious ice cubes one at a time.

"But the biggest thing we've done is open the doors every day," Monaghan said. "Just the fact that we're here has helped soothe some wounded souls."

Officials have discouraged staying in the drenched and battered city. Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley said Monday, "Anyone here, we'd like them to leave. We don't know who's the good-quality citizen and who's the criminal. It certainly would make it easier on us if they would leave."

But thousands of people are determined to stick it out by any means necessary.

Philip Melancon isn't just surviving, he's trying to keep up as much of his normal routine as possible. Yes, he's been forced to hand-wash his clothes in an ice chest of Purex and soap. And he's been using downed power lines in place of rope to patch the roof of the Walnut Street condominium complex he owns.

But on Monday morning, the professional musician was playing a rollicking boogie-woogie on his baby grand piano, delighting the Oklahoma National Guard troops stationed near his street. Earlier, he made one of his periodic grocery runs, giving most of the food to elderly neighbors who stayed behind.

"We shop at Whole Foods, and the prices are finally where they should be," he said. "We just walk in and take what we need. Everybody taking food there has been very polite, very orderly."

Similar scenes of New Orleanians banding together can be seen everywhere.

On Philip Street in the Lower Garden District, Earl Bass, 51, hit the jackpot when he was able to borrow a generator for half a day. He hooked it up to his freezer to make a supply of ice. But he also found time to sublet it to a neighbor, who needed to run an air compressor to fix the flat tires on his truck.

"This is a time of crisis. Everybody's got to help each other out," Bass said.

In the especially heart-crushing situation of 59-year-old C.N. Keene, an entire neighborhood came together to ease the loss of his wife. Vera, 65, was killed in a hit-and-run accident as she set off to forage at Jewel Food store. Keene went and covered her with a blanket at Magazine Street and Jackson Avenue, vowing never to return to the intersection.

And he didn't. Three days later, with Vera still shrouded where she had died, a man from the neighborhood assembled a burial team, Keene said. Vera was laid to rest, at least temporarily, in a nearby vacant lot. Most of those who attended the funeral service were strangers.

"All I know is that some guy named John did the ceremony," Keene said. "He told me everybody walking up and down the street stopped to pay their respects."

The death of his wife has enlisted Keene, against his will, in the city's community of hangers-on. He said he can't leave Vera's body until her daughter is able to retrieve it at the end of September.

"She gets released from prison on Sept. 25," he said. "She's somewhere in Texas. That means I'll have to stick it out until then."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

**METAIRIE:** Armed with a broom and a pistol, Tony Maurin cleans up at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, which hopes to hold a service on Sunday.

# Residents can visit through Wednesday

**JEFFERSON,** *from A-1*

While Grinstead and others pondered if rebuilding was worth it, Lisa Coller of Harvey raked the yard, powered up her lawn mower, and cut the grass.

Coller had returned to the middle-class Woodmere subdivision to find nothing worse than a damaged shed and some debris on the lawn.

"I have to do something," she said, adding that she wanted to make her house "presentable."

Yet even Coller and others with little property damage found the parish they call home profoundly transformed.

Almost nowhere on Monday could parish residents turn for conveniences they once took as a matter of course: Few restaurants were open for lunch. There were no hardware stores for equipment needed for repairs. Few streetlights operated to control traffic on avenues once again busy with vehicles.

Scores of convenience stores had windows shattered and shelves stripped bare by looters desperate for food and water. Many home appliance sellers and other businesses were plundered by a greedier brand of thieves.

Also, most of the parish still did not have electrical power, and an order to boil water remained in effect after lines were heavily damaged.

Underscoring the changed human environment was a Harvey family's tragedy after they left a gas-powered generator running in their house overnight. Officials said a man in his 50s died of carbon monoxide poisoning, and six more were critically injured in the incident -- the third in the past week.

If you return, "do not run generators in your house," said Deano Bonano, deputy chief administrative officer for the parish.

Monday was the first day the public was allowed through security checkpoints at the parish line, and long lines of vehicles driven by evacuees had lined up Sunday night, anxious to see what fate awaited them. But earlier plans to limit entry to parish residents were suspended by the State Police. A widely predicted traffic backup of 12 to 15 hours never materialized, and traffic moved relatively smoothly.

"People actually got to see their homes, damaged or not, to the point where they could digest what their challenges were at the home site, so they could go on and make an intelligible decision about what to do next," said Parish President Aaron Broussard, who stuck with his Labor Day re-entry plan despite stinging criticism from other parish officials and state and federal relief coordinators.

The rebukes continued Monday, as Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, Joint Task Force Katrina commander, said that allowing Jefferson residents to return was complicating the ongoing search and rescue missions in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes.

"We're still trying to find them (storm victims),'' he said. "If it (traffic) does escalate to the point where we can't continue doing search and rescue, we will bring that to the appropriate level of government to make a decision.''

Broussard has asked people to make their return visits through Wednesday, but then to leave as quickly as possible.

"I would urge people to assess the damage, pick up what they need and get out for three weeks, when Jefferson Parish becomes a place that you would want to stay," he said.

Traffic began backing up along Airline Highway on the East Bank and U.S. 90 on the West Bank Sunday morning, with many families opting to sleep in their cars in hopes of getting in the parish early.

Kevin LaVie of Metairie left Baton Rouge with his mother, Carol LaVie, and two sons Sunday at 12:30 a.m. and came to a stop in traffic at 2 a.m. on Airline Highway, where the family tried to get a few hours sleep until their vehicle started moving steadily by 7 a.m.

The family arrived at Carol LaVie's house on Fairfield Street in Metairie an hour later.

Inside, the stench of standing water was countered only by the intense humidity. The foot or two of water that had entered her home managed to open the refrigerator door, floating the vegetable crisper across her living room.

Out in the back yard, Carol LaVie surveyed the dark brown water and frogs in her swimming pool, noting that just before the storm it had been a perfect crystal blue.

Finally, the emotion of returning home caught up with her.

"It's OK, I got y'all," she said, her voice cracking and tears flowing as her son threw his arm over her shoulders. "My other son was killed in a plane crash when he was 34, so this is not the worst that can happen."

As the returning crowds leaned into the massive cleanup that will continue in coming days and weeks, the odor of bleach and other disinfectants mixed with the stench of mold and rotten food that had permeated the air in recent days.

Wendy and Chris Clouatre opened the door of their Marrero home to squishy rugs, a mildew smell and water lines a couple inches off the floor on their walls and furniture.

"It was really nice when we moved here," said Wendy Clouatre as she surveyed her now bubbled floors, which had been covered by a few inches of water before it receded from the neighborhood on Louis 1 Avenue. "It's all ruined. I don't even want to go through this anymore. I just wish I could just leave it like it is and go."

On Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Kenner, workers at Rouse's Supermarket began the undesirable task of disposing of the store's mass of spoiled food.

They wore surgical masks to try to filter out the overwhelming stench of rotting chicken and curdled milk, which was scooped up by an earth-moving machine and onto the back of a waiting dump truck bound for a landfill in Sorrento. General Manager Dave Daroca girded himself for a nasty cleanup -- not from the hurricane, but from local residents who had looted the store.

Shelves were bare beneath an aisle that said, "Baby Food, Diapers, Feminine Needs," and on the liquor shelves all that remained were a few types of booze no one apparently wanted: rye whiskey, vanilla vodka and vermouth.

"Tell me you need food or some necessities, and I can deal with the pain," Daroca said. "But you see people coming out with cases of beer."

Perhaps the luckiest business owners were the Radas, whose snowball stand, Big Will's Snowballs, survived not only Katrina's winds and waters, but also managed to keep its electricity.

Inside the Williams Boulevard stand, Tim Rada described how he's been filling coolers and bottles with tap water from St. Charles Parish that he says is safe and then freezing it to help make about 1,000 snowballs the business sold since reopening four days earlier.

"People come to the window, and they're so amazed to find us open, they can't even speak at first," said his wife, LaDean. "Then they're like, 'Give us anything.' "

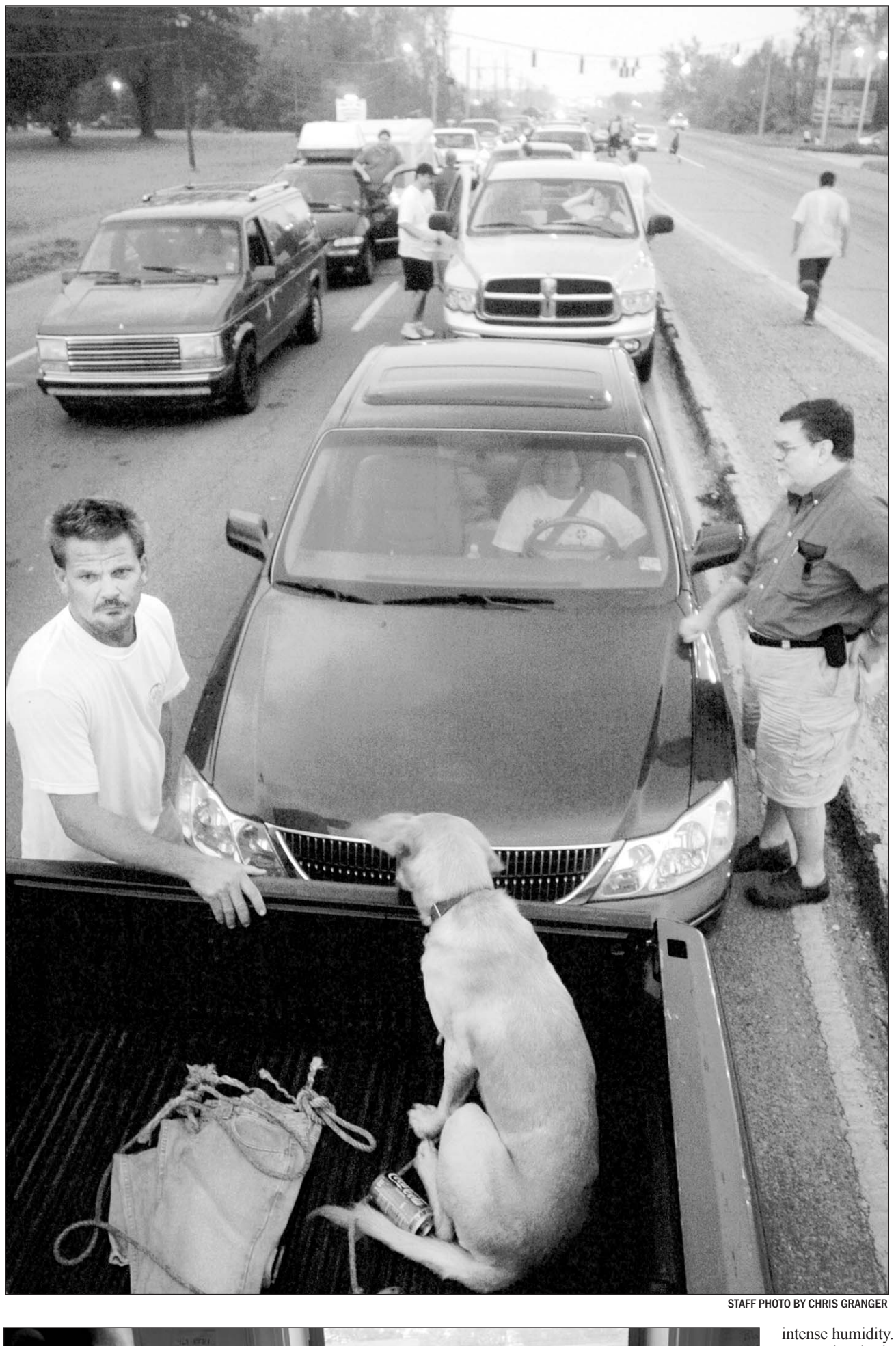
Laurel Landry didn't have to reenter with the masses Monday. An ICU nurse, Landry had been tending to patients at East Jefferson General Hospital since the Saturday before Katrina hit. And when Landry was finally released from duty Monday, she returned to find the storm had battered her once lovely Woodlake Drive home.

The house flooded, the chimney was cracked, and mold was already creeping along walls and ceilings. Landry's face said it all -- shock, disbelief, sadness, exhaustion -- feelings seemingly shared by many.

"My house was so nice,'' Landry said in a hollow voice, her hands shaking so uncontrollably that it was hard for her to keep a grip on her cell phone.

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Mark Waller, Steve Ritea, Matt Scallan and Sheila Grissett contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER



STAFF PHOTO BY

**ABOVE**
**METAIRIE:** Gay Hanlon, right, carries some of her belongings as her sister, Adriann Wolfe, helps her during a visit to their father's home on Monday.

**LEFT**
**LaPLACE:** As the sun rises on Monday on Airline Highway in LaPlace, Donnie Ray Wigstrom, left, and his dog, Pretty Boy, are among those waiting, in a line that stretches on for miles, for a chance to go to their Jefferson Parish homes and gather a few belongings. People spent all night Sunday in their cars, waiting to get back.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**KENNER:** Children from New Orleans who are living in a refugee camp in Kenner on Monday visit a snowball stand that stayed open all week to serve emergency officials and to give some hope to uprooted New Orleanians.

# Jeff President Broussard says 'hell doesn't look so bad'

*Tragedy not the first for parish president*

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Bleary-eyed and stubble-faced, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard nonetheless talked a mile a minute to returning residents Monday, urging them to drive slowly and painting a grim picture of what life would be like if they stayed at their homes.

"Please don't lose your patience," he said to motorists waiting in line to enter the parish for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck a week earlier. "There are so many bad things that can happen if you lose your patience."

Broussard, a career politician and normally one of the smoothest elected officials in the New Orleans area, had been up since 4 a.m. honing the points he wanted to make to the heavy traffic that would begin two hours later. There are places worse than hell, he told reporters in the basement of Jefferson's emergency operations center: Orleans and St. Bernard parishes first, then Jefferson.

"From here, hell doesn't look so bad," he said.

Unlike many people in parish government, Broussard has been in the lower depths of hell before. He was mayor of Kenner when a catastrophic flood washed over southeast Louisiana on May 8, 1995. On July 9, 1982, just eight days after Broussard was sworn in as mayor, Pan American World Airways Flight 759 stumbled on takeoff from New Orleans International Airport and smashed into an east Kenner neighborhood, killing 154 people, including eight on the ground.

"We were picking up bodies out of the trees, and it was very kind to call them bodies," he said. "I've been to this rodeo before."

It's not a place he wants to be. Seven straight days of hurricane stress left him weary to the bone, frustrated by what he said is resistance from people who tell him he can't do the things he needs to do.

"I feel like a salmon swimming upstream, but I'm going to get there," he said.

He said he asks himself the same questions he asked himself in 1982, when he was first thrust into the role of rebuilder in chief for his community: "How can I do this without killing myself?"

Later in the day, he pushed aside the question.

"Ten days after the Pan Am crash, we had cleaned up the site and buried the bodies," he said. "I want to return this parish into a place that people will recognize in three weeks. I know that's ambitious, but I'm going to do everything I can to make that happen."

To make it happen, Broussard has railed against what he calls the Federal Emergency Management Agency's slow mobilization in the post-Katrina wasteland of Jefferson Parish. On national television, he broke down in tears Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" and later said "the bureaucracy has murdered people."

For now, he said, he sees the world as made up of either ducks or eagles.

"A duck doesn't do anything but paddle around and quack. An eagle soars. I've got a lot of eagles around me, but there are an awful lot of ducks, too," he said.

He bucked the advice of virtually all of his advisers and other lawmakers when he allowed residents to return to Jefferson beginning Monday, although only long enough to see the damage to their homes and leave again.

Critics said the plan inconvenienced and slowed emergency workers who were still searching for hurricane victims and trying to restore power to Jefferson. But Broussard insisted that residents see for themselves the devastation, to convince them to find new jobs and register their children for school elsewhere.

The experience has been so wrenching for Broussard, who has held one office or another for the past 31 years, that he ponders whether he should run for re-election in 2007, he said. What if another disaster strikes and he has to do this again?

Then, however, he dismissed thoughts of retirement, saying he was just wondering aloud in a time of enormous stress.

"I'm not going to talk about what's going to happen in 2‰ years," he said. "Wait 'til this is over. It's only the first quarter.

"No one interviews (New Orleans Saints quarterback) Aaron Brooks in the first quarter and asks what he's going to do."

# Energy companies begin powering up

## *Some parts of Jeff already have electricity*

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

Electricity has been restored to some areas of Jefferson Parish, but Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes remained in the dark Monday.

Portions of Orleans Parish, including the Central Business District and the Crescent City Connection, have "energized'' substations prepared to distribute power as soon as buildings in the area are ready to accept it, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said Monday.

That could soon mean the lighting of the Crescent City Classic, a rainbow of hope for New Orleans, which was plunged into darkness more than a week ago when Hurricane Katrina brought the city to its knees.

As for areas north of Lake Pontchartrain, Cleco said Monday that about 8,600 St. Tammany Parish customers and Washington Parish were on their way to having their power restored, with Franklinton already online.

Parts of East Jefferson and Kenner have had their power restored, and the entire parish should be up and running in two to four weeks, Lagarde said.

No one in New Orleans had power Monday, but "we are making good progress," said Entergy's manager of engineering, Danny Taylor, surveying the city from the back seat of a helicopter - one of many hovering like mosquito hawks over flood-soaked neighborhoods.

Entergy's first priority is answering the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board's goal of restoring pumping capacity in the Lakeview area, where floodwaters were still licking rooftops Monday, Taylor said. With that accomplished, water will begin to flow into the 17th Street Canal and then into Lake Pontchartrain, he said.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said water was being pumped out of Lakeview on Monday through a 36-inch pipe at the 17th Street Canal.

Bucktown and nearby neighborhoods should have power "some time next week," Lagarde said. "They can expect to see crews working and power being restored."

Power starts at the generating plants, Lagarde said. And "there's enough electricity being generated in southeastern Louisiana to meet the needs of customers" in that area, he said.

Once Entergy's transmission grids are up and connected to the plants and distribution lines are clear of vegetation, substations will begin to distribute power to homes and businesses, Taylor said.

Hospitals, police and fire departments are priorities, Lagarde said.

It will take several months to restore power to all of Orleans, St. Bernard and lower Plaquemines parishes "because those areas are inaccessible at this time," Lagarde said.

Entergy has restored power to 340,000 of its 800,000 customers, he said.




Staff photo by Eliot Kamenitz

**A traffic light destroyed by the winds from Hurricane Katrina rests on the corner of Causeway Boulevard and West Esplanade Avenue as workers from WYE Electric, a Monroe company, install a new light.**

In the next two weeks, Cleco plans to restore power to 80 percent of about 80,000 customers it serves in sections of St. Tammany and Washington parishes, Cleco spokesman Robbyn Cooper said Monday.

Lawrence St. Blanc, a staff member of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, said power might be restored as soon as today to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

"If we have any luck, we may have that baby up tomorrow,'' he said.

# The ice trucks cometh to the relief of many

## *For those in their homes, the cubes are 'like gold'*

**By Matthew Brown**
Staff writer

"Y'all have ice? We want ice!"

The call came from the second-floor landing of a Marrero apartment building, its brick facade crumbled into the parking lot, where truck driver Wayne "Slim" Christen and four others had taken up residence after Hurricane Katrina.

A week after the storm turned their neighborhood into a ghost town, a week in which the temperature topped 90 degrees day after brutal day, Christen and his friends ranked ice right up there with food and water: an essential, a necessity.

"You've got to have it," Christen said.

The body can last only a few days without water, slightly longer with no food. Theoretically, it could function in perpetuity without ice.

But storm victims - suffering under the hot Louisiana sun, the sweltering nights with no air conditioning and only the hope of a breeze - know better.

In the words of Algiers resident Nicholas Beninate, "Ice is like gold."

Water keeps you alive, Beninate explained, but ice keeps you sane.

"Ice by itself, ice in water - anything cold," he said. "It gives you a burst of energy. Inside the houses at night, it's 105 degrees. Ice is the thing."

In Katrina's immediate aftermath, ice was almost impossible to find across much of the metropolitan area. Before the storm even hit, most bags of ice had been snatched up by people hoping to keep their perishable food cold until the power came back. The little that was left was plundered by looters or by authorities who requisitioned supplies from grocery stores and other outlets.

Recently, it has rolled in by the truckload, to the point where some areas now are overflowing with ice.

Ice-filled tractor trailers lined up in a Belle Chasse parking lot - far in excess of what Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle said is needed for the small numbers of residents still in his parish. He said a single ice machine delivered by state Sen. Craig Romero, R-New Iberia, probably would have been sufficient to meet his needs.

But in neighboring St. Bernard Parish, largely cut off from the world for most of the last week, Maj. Jimmy Pohlmann of the Sheriff's Office said there was no ice at all for the past week. The first ice arrived Sunday, when a relief contingent crossed the Mississippi River on a ferry and forded 3-foot deep floodwaters to deliver two trailers of ice. The contingent delivered only one trailer each of food and water.

Even in parishes where ice is suddenly plentiful, however, getting to it can be a problem. In Jefferson Parish, the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up a single distribution center for ice on each side of the river, at the Transit Facility at Saints and David drives in Metairie and at the Alario Center in Westwego. For those without vehicles - or the fuel to power them - those distribution sites might as well be on the moon. Some people hitch-hike to the sites. Others carpool or try to convince those with cars to pick them up some ice for them.

Beninate, a short-order cook at an Italian restaurant before Katrina struck, said he got his first 10-pound bag of ice six days after the storm hit. As he rode his bike home with the bag sitting in his basket, people began running after him shouting, "Where'd you get the ice?"

For Christen and his four friends at the Marrero apartment building, the mood appears to swing according to the contents of the coolers on which they prop their feet. When they've got ice - and their beers, sodas and waters are cold - the friends are all smiles and laughs. When the ice runs out, they are glum and depressed.

In the first few days after the storm, police largely turned a blind eye or even supervised looting for basics such as food and water. Christen and his friend Bryan Bowden, at the Timberlane Apartments in Marrero, said they got their supplies from the nearby Breaux's Market on LaPalco Boulevard.

Christen said he was grabbing a bag of ice at a Walgreens when his supply was cut short, as police started cracking down.

"We were getting food and water and ice," he said. "Things we needed. The cop came in and said he was going to arrest us. I said to the cop, 'Are you going to arrest us for taking a bag of ice?'"

Their supply cut off, the Timberlane crowd had to wait several more days until a friend drove to Vacherie, in St. James Parish, to get more ice.

The friend bought them two bags. But by the time he arrived, it had melted to one, Christen said, and that was gone by the end of the night.

Over the weekend, they hit the jackpot: six bags, 10 pounds each. It was from a relief group that set up shop at a decrepit shopping center on Ames Boulevard for a few hours.

They filled up two coolers with ice to spare, cranked up some country music on a portable stereo, chilled some drinks and acted like they were on top of the world.

"You sure you don't want something? Beer? Coke? Kentwood water?" Christen asked a visitor. "I've finally got ice and I'm not jealous with it. I'll share with anybody."

# Bush, Blanco spar over military, visit

## *Blanco says Army brought attitude, but not resources*

**By Bill Walsh**
**Robert Travis Scott**
**and Jan Moller**
Staff writers

BATON ROUGE - Even as teams of engineers worked to patch ruptured levees in New Orleans, a political breach opened between Gov. Kathleen Blanco and President Bush over who is in charge of the post-Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.

One flashpoint came over the weekend, when Blanco said she rebuffed an attempt by the White House to seize control of the mounting military presence in Louisiana, including thousands of state National Guard forces under her authority. Then Bush made an unusual return visit to the state Monday, just days after surveying the damage - a trip that members of Blanco's staff said caught them by surprise and caused a certain level of consternation.

"We had no idea the president was coming," said Blanco's communications director, Robert Mann, adding that the governor was forced to cancel a trip to visit evacuees in Houston so she could meet with Bush.

The high-level tug-of-war came as recriminations mounted over the pace of the response to the devastation, particularly in the New Orleans area, where survivors were still being rescued Monday from floodwaters a week after the storm hit land.

In the face of fierce criticism, the White House launched a public relations counteroffensive over the weekend to deflect blame, some of which bounced to state and local officials. The effort, The New York Times reported, was being orchestrated by Bush's political director, Karl Rove, and communications director, Dan Bartlett.

In an interview Monday, Bartlett said there was no coordinated strategy to shift blame to Louisiana officials.

"Quite the contrary," he said. "There was a spirit of cooperation in the room today" when Bush and Blanco met.

In the game of political maneuvering for control between Blanco, a Democrat, and Bush, a Republican, the biggest chess pieces are the 13,268 National Guard troops from 29 states under the governor's command - with another 7,845 on the way - and the 7,000 active-duty troops who began arriving Monday under command of the regular Army and the president.

On Monday, two parallel command structures were in place. Major Gen. Bennett Landreneau, head of the Louisiana National Guard, had control of all of the guard forces massed in the state. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore was in charge of the active-duty forces, including soldiers from the 82nd Airborne division and the 1st Calvary.

Blanco said that when the plain-spoken, cigar-chomping Honore showed up in New Orleans late last week, she thought that her worries about a lack of federal troops and resource were over. Honore quickly became a media darling and the take-charge face of the federal government in New Orleans, barking out orders to surprised National Guards members who aren't even under his control. Blanco said she liked Honore's style, but was surprised that he arrived with only a few aides in tow.

"He didn't bring any resources," Blanco said. "I just kind of expected, based on my conversations with the White House, that we could be getting a surge of equipment, and we did not."

Friday night, the White House moved to take charge of all the troops in Louisiana. At home, Blanco received a memorandum of understanding from the White House asking her to cede control of the National Guard. According to her staff, Blanco was asked to sign and return the document right away. Blanco consulted with her legal counsel, Terry Ryder, and then refused the request.

"They wanted to take over my National Guard," Blanco said in an interview. "A governor has to have the final say on what's going to happen."

Bartlett said the request was made for efficiency's sake to streamline the chain of command and improve the efficiency of the recovery. He dismissed suggestions that it was done because Blanco is a Democrat.

"We were in the same discussions with (Republican Mississippi Gov.) Haley Barbour," Bartlett said. "This was not about politics."

In what some saw as a not-so-subtle snub, Blanco over the weekend hired a former Clinton administration disaster response chief, James Lee Witt, as an adviser.

The parallel command structure in Louisiana isn't without precedent. After Hurricane Andrew in 1992, federal troops dispatched to Florida to help in the relief and recovery effort were kept under federal control. The governor, meanwhile, retained authority over the National Guard forces. The only major glitch, according to an official from the Florida National Guard, was when the 82nd Airborne Division from Ft. Bragg, N.C., showed up with weapons. Under federal law, only state forces have policing authority, so the weapons were sent back to the base and the soldiers were given humanitarian and relief duties.

When it comes to domestic security, state forces generally take the lead. At a G-8 summit last year in Georgia, state authorities were given control over federal forces, according to John Goheen, a spokesman for the National Guard.

"The reason is that Guard commanders generally have a better working relationship with local authorities," Goheen said. "Guard forces can also perform law enforcement functions. That mission was seen as a harbinger of the future."

Despite the dust-up between Blanco and Bush over command of the boots on the ground, top military commanders at both the state and federal level said they were satisfied with the separate forces.

Landreneau called the military command "very integrated" and said there was no advantage to putting all troops under his control. Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of active-duty forces in North America, agreed. "From our perspective," he said Monday, "it would not have provided an advantage over the current situation."

Brig. Gen. Mike Fleming of the Florida National Guard, who oversaw rescue and recovery efforts through four hurricanes last year, has been called into Louisiana as an adviser. Fleming said the twin command is workable if adequately coordinated. He said some important personal ties bind the separate state and federal military commands: Honore, known as the Ragin' Cajun, is a Louisiana native and has known Landreneau for years. Honore's son serves in Iraq for the Louisiana National Guard, which is under Landreneau's command.

While the military chiefs may have been in step, the political leaders clearly weren't.

Early Monday morning, Blanco was in Baton Rouge preparing to fly to Houston to meet with thousands of Louisiana refugees when she received news that Bush was on his way. Blanco Chief of Staff Andy Kopplin called the White House and got word from Bush Chief of Staff Andrew Card that the president was planning to return to Louisiana in a few hours to follow up on his Friday visit.

The White House notified the media Sunday about the trip. But Blanco aide Bob Mann said Blanco was assured Sunday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Bush was not coming. FEMA spokeswoman Nicol Andrews said agency Director Michael Brown knew about the Bush visit but that many lower-level officials didn't, and that was probably why the Blanco administration wasn't notified.

Bartlett said "there was outreach" to the governor's office, "e-mails sent, messages left."

"We apologize if there was any confusion," he said.

A Bush visit to Louisiana at a time when Blanco was out of the state would have been a major embarrassment for the governor. It could also have sent the message that Bush, who has been criticized for not moving quickly enough to help Louisiana, was in charge on the ground.

Blanco abruptly canceled the trip to Houston. Bush downplayed suggestions of a state-federal spat.

During a visit to the Bethany World Church in Baton Rouge, which was doubling a shelter for evacuees, Bush said, "Laura and I have come back down to Louisiana ... to let the good people of this region know there's a lot of work to be done, and we're going to continue working with the local and state people to get it done."

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On behalf of the entire Pinnacle Properties family - from Casino Magic Biloxi to Boomtown New Orleans - we'd like to offer our sincere sympathy to our employees and their families, as well as the entire community.

Our prayers go out to all of you during this difficult time. It is more important now than ever to stick together as a community and support one another as best we can. Listed below are emergency numbers you can call for help.

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**Pinnacle Employee Communication**

**1.800.665.8738**

**Employee Assistance Hotline**

**1.800.865.1044**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**1.800.621.FEMA**

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Katrina's body count could reach 10,000

## *Bodies found piled in freezer at Convention Center*

**Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Arkansas National Guardsman Mikel Brooks stepped through the food service entrance of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Monday, flipped on the light at the end of his machine gun, and started pointing out bodies.

"Don't step in that blood - it's contaminated," he said. "That one with his arm sticking up in the air, he's an old man."

Then he shined the light on the smaller human figure under the white sheet next to the elderly man.

"That's a kid," he said. "There's another one in the freezer, a 7-year-old with her throat cut."

He moved on, walking quickly through the darkness, pulling his camouflage shirt to his face to screen out the overwhelming odor.

"There's an old woman," he said, pointing to a wheelchair covered by a sheet. "I escorted her in myself. And that old man got bludgeoned to death," he said of the body lying on the floor next to the wheelchair.

Brooks and several other Guardsmen said they had seen between 30 and 40 more bodies in the Convention Center's freezer. "It's not on, but at least you can shut the door," said fellow Guardsman Phillip Thompson.

The scene of rotting bodies inside the Convention Center reflected those in thousands of businesses, schools, homes and shelters across the metropolitan area. The official death count from Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana was 71 as of Monday evening, but that included only those bodies that had been brought to a make-shift morgue in St. Gabriel.

Nearly a full week after Hurricane Katrina, a rescue force the size of an invading army had not yet begun the task of retrieving the bodies Sunday. What's more, officials appeared to have no plan.

Daniel Martinez, a spokesman for FEMA working on Interstate 10 in eastern New Orleans, said plans for body recovery "are not being released yet."

Dozens of rescue workers questioned Monday said they knew of no protocol or collection points for bodies; none said they had retrieved even one of the many corpses seen floating in neighborhoods around the city as they searched for survivors.

Scores of rescue workers this week repeated the same mantra, over and over: We can't worry about the dead; we're still trying to save the living.

But as rescue teams across the city said they had checked nearly every house for survivors, the enormity of the death that lay in Hurricane Katrina's wake came into sharp focus even as the plans for taking care of the dead remained murky.

Mayor Ray Nagin, addressing the potential body count for the storm for the first time, said the storm may have claimed more than 10,000 lives.

In a news conference Monday morning, Deputy Chief Warren Riley said his department was "not responsible for recovery."

"We don't have a body count, but I can tell you it's growing. It's growing," he said.

As the rescue missions covered more and more ground but yielded fewer survivors, New Orleans Police Deputy Chief Steve Nicholas said that the time has come to start dealing with the dead.

"I know we're still rescuing people, but I think it's time we start pulling out the bodies," he said.

The highest concentration of casualties from Hurricane Katrina likely will come in the Lower 9th Ward, St. Bernard Parish, areas first inundated on Aug. 29 with floodwaters that engulfed second story homes in minutes. New Orleans also will likely see mass casualties, New Orleans Police Capt. Timothy Bayard said.

"We're going see a lot more bodies out of New Orleans East than we anticipated," he said.

In just one subdivision, Sherwood Forest, survivors who showed up to the Convention Center on Monday said police told them roughly 90 people in the subdivision had died.

In St. Bernard, 22 bodies were found lashed together. Officials surmised the drowning victims had tried to stay together to keep themselves from being washed away in the storm.

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu said "more than a thousand" people had died in St. Bernard. "When the death toll comes out, it's going to be a jolt for everybody," he said. "I'll be surprised if the casualties in St. Bernard are less than a thousand."

Even Uptown near the river, one of the few spots of dry land, a body lay in front of a white wooden shotgun double at 4732 Laurel St. The body of an older woman lay under a gray blanket, pinned down at the corners by brick and slate, adorned with a plastic-wrapped flower bouquet. Above her, a yellow cardboard sign quoting John 3:16 had been taped to the window.

Alcede Jackson
Rest in Peace
In the loving arms of Jesus

Given the length of time many had been dead, and in the water, some of the bodies already might be unrecognizable, and some may never be recovered.

Many trapped by flood waters in shelters found their own ways of dealing with those who died in their midst.

Near an elementary school at Poland and St. Claude avenues, Dwight and Wilber Rhodes, two brothers, said they had tried to save a middle-aged man and woman at the Convention Center who appeared to have drowned.

"We performed CPR on them, but they were already dead," Dwight Rhodes said. "So we took the food out of the freezer and put the bodies in."

Of the four bodies that lay just inside the food service entrance of the Convention Center, the woman in the wheelchair rattled Brooks the most. When he found her two days before among the sea of suffering in front of the Convention Center where one of the last refugee camps evacuated, her husband sat next to her. He had only one concern when Brooks and some of his comrades carted her away.

"Bring me back my wheelchair," he recalled the man telling him.

One of the bodies, they said, was a girl they estimated to be 5 years old. Though they could not confirm it, they had heard she was gang-raped.

"There was an old lady that said the little girl had been raped by two or three guys, and that she had told another unit. But they said they couldn't do anything about it with all the people there," Brooks said. "I would have put him in cuffs, stuck him in the freezer and left him there."

Brooks and his unit came to New Orleans not long after serving a year of combat duty in Iraq, taking on gunfire and bombs, while losing comrades with regularity. Still, the scene at the Convention Center, where they conducted an evacuation this week, left him shell-shocked.

"I ain't got the stomach for it, even after what I saw in Iraq," said Brooks, referring to the freezer where the bulk of the bodies sat decomposing. "In Iraq, it's one-on-one. It's war. It's fair. Here, it's just crazy. It's anarchy. When you get down to killing and raping people in the streets for food and water □ And this is America. This is just 300 miles south of where I live."




Staff photo by Alex Brandon

**CONVENTION CENTER:** ATF Senior Special Agent Dave Millen of the Special Response Team walks past one of many bodies found inside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Monday. Millen, along with the New Orleans Police Department SWAT team, searched the building for anyone left following the mass evacuation of refugees.

# Barge may have caused breach in floodwall

## *Corps trying to find reasons for collapse*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - A loose barge may have caused a large breach in the east side of the Industrial Canal floodwall that accelerated Hurricane Katrina's rising floodwaters in the Lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish, Army Corps of Engineers project manager Al Naomi said Monday.

Naomi said the barge was found on the land side of the floodwall, leading corps officials to believe it could have crashed through the wall and sent a huge amount of water - which was already pouring over the top of the wall - into the neighborhoods immediately downriver.

"We have some pictures that show this very large barge inside the protected area. It had to go through the breach," Naomi said. "The opening is a little bit wider than the barge itself. One would think it's the barge that did it."

If it did strike the floodwall, Naomi said, the barge would have "precipitated a tremendous collapse" that would have quickly flooded the Lower Ninth Ward and then St. Bernard Parish. The breach is "ultimately in my opinion what got (St. Bernard) Parish flooded," Naomi said.

There are two large breaks in the floodwall, said Ivor Van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, who did an aerial survey of flood damage Sunday. The larger of the two, possibly caused by the barge, is about 800 feet long. The second is 500 feet.

The areas adjacent to the Industrial Canal were among the first to flood Monday morning. Katrina's storm surge pumped water from the east into a V-shaped area between St. Bernard and eastern New Orleans hurricane protection levees, then funneled it up the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the Industrial Canal.

There the water spilled over the levee, flooding eastern New Orleans, and overtopping the Industrial Canal walls before the floodwall was breached, Naomi said. The Corps got a report from the Industrial Canal's lock master before dawn that water was pouring over both sides of the waterway. Reports from people in the area at the time indicate that the flood waters rose very quickly starting around 8 a.m.

Naomi also said it's too soon to tell how the 17th Street Canal and London Avenue Canal levees were breached, causing the catastrophic flooding in New Orleans.

Corps officials have said the levees - concrete walls rising out of a low concrete and earthen base - probably collapsed after water flowed over them and scoured the interior side, weakening the structure.

But some data indicate Katrina's storm surge may have been too low in that part of Lake Pontchartrain to overtop the levees, researchers say.

Van Heerden said that preliminary data indicated the storm surge along the west side of Lake Pontchartrain and along the causeway reached about 8.5 feet. The levee heights in the canals are about 14 feet.

Joannes Westerink, a hydrologic engineer at the University of Notre Dame who is working on a computer model of Katrina's flooding of New Orleans, agreed the storm surge in the lake was weaker than expected and may not have been high enough to top the levees.

"I would doubt it too," Westerink said of the overtopping scenario. He said that typically a storm surge has wave action on top of it that accounts for 2 feet, then wave crests can reach higher, although waves tend to be small in a canal.

"A very wild guess, I'd say you've got a couple of feet over the surge, so that's 11 feet. That would not be enough to top it," he said.

Westerink cautioned that he didn't know enough about the specifics of the storm surge in that area, wind velocities or other factors to be definitive.

Naomi said Corps officials believe Katrina's winds, coming from the north as the eye moved east of New Orleans, probably caused a buildup of surge along the lakefront and in the canals not recorded at gauges in the center or west of the lake. Then as the hurricane moved north and the winds shifted to the west, they put pressure on the levee walls and led to the collapse. The breaches occurred on the eastern sides of both the 17th Street and London Avenue canals.

There was some evidence of scouring on the eastern side of the 17th Street canal breach, he said, one factor in the Corps theory that the levees were topped.

But Naomi said no one knows what caused the levees to fail and that it might have been a structural flaw.

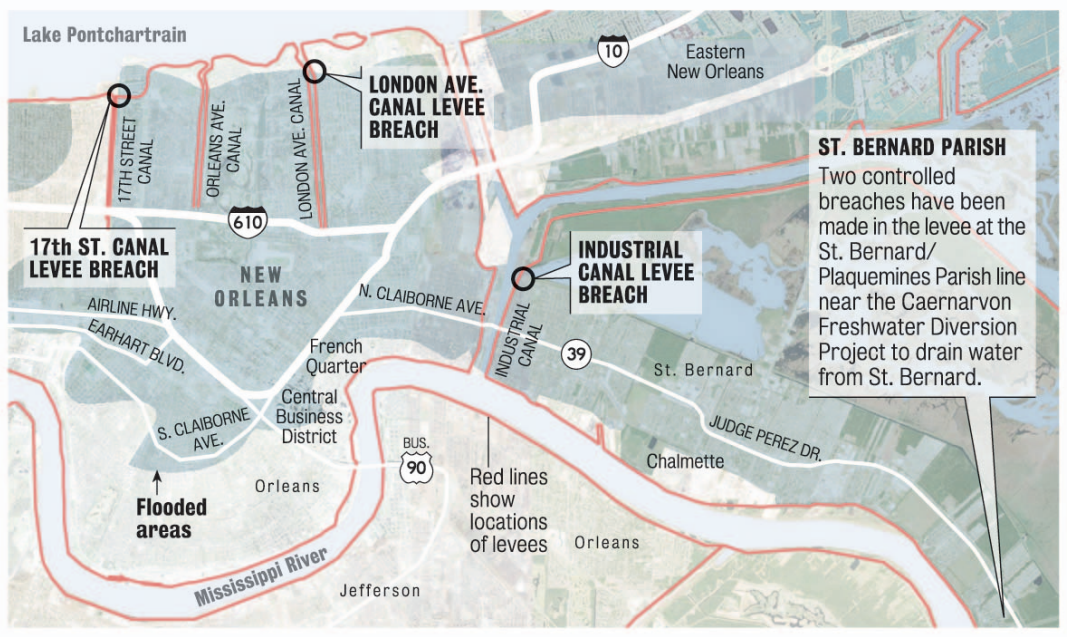
"I don't think it is necessarily a design issue. There's miles and miles of other floodwall that did not collapse," he said. "There may be some localized issue maybe in a foundation that caused the problem, (something) that we were not aware of. There will be an autopsy. We may find one reason for one canal, another reason for another canal. Just because they both broke doesn't mean it was the same reason. It could be three or four different reasons that all produced the same result."

Naomi said that there were small pontoon barges in the 17th Street canal to the north of the Hammond Highway Bridge. They are still unaccounted for. There were no barges in the London Avenue canal. He discounted the possibility that one or more of them could have caused the 17th Street canal breach.

"The barges were used mainly as a platform for workers to stand on," he said. "Some of them are not much bigger than a couple of desks put together. It would depend on the velocity . . . But it would be very difficult for those barges to get to that location. It's possible, but I don't think so."

Leonardo Ramirez, a construction worker and Metairie resident who lives on the Jefferson Parish side of the levee near the breached area, said that he thought he heard a barge hitting the levee early Monday, although he did not see it happen. "At quarter to six in the morning, we heard a huge bang, and then we heard another," he said. "It was so loud. It scared us."

## NEW ORLEANS LEVEE REPAIRS CONTINUE




**17th STREET CANAL**

**Monday:** Workers removed part of a makeshift dam and activated drainage pumps for the first time, pumping a small flow of water – about 100 cubic feet per second – out of the canal. Contractors have filled in the breach to about 2 feet above sea level and will build it up 2 feet more.

**Next on the list:** The Army Corps of Engineers will inspect the rest of the canal for other weakened levees. Then it can remove the dam between the canal and Lake Pontchartrain.

**In the next week:** After the dam is gone, officials can pump the water from the city back out through the canal. But first, they need to fix any damage to the pumps the water might have caused. To help with water removal, engineers are bringing in additional pumps and generators.

**INDUSTRIAL CANAL**

The corps said that a large breach in the canal floodwall probably was caused by a loose barge that was found in the Lower 9th Ward. Engineers are moving equipment in and plan to begin filling that and other gaps soon.

**LONDON AVENUE CANAL**

Workers are still dropping rocks and sandbags to dam the end of the canal. Once sealed, repair work can begin on two breaches along the canal's walls.

Sources: New York Times, google.com, globalsecurity.org, staff research

NEW YORK TIMES AND STAFF GRAPHIC



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**RELIANT CENTER:** Former President Clinton talks with Lyshettia Reed of New Orleans at the Reliant Center, a shelter for thousands of New Orleans evacuees. Clinton and former President Bush met with the evacuees.

# The stars are out at the Astrodome

*Celebrities visit with evacuees at sports complex*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON - A star-struck Phyllicia Winchester stood behind the barricades with her family as talk show host Oprah Winfrey and her entourage left the Reliant Astrodome on Monday afternoon.

A few minutes before, the 16-year-old spied Jada Pinkett Smith. The Rev. Jesse Jackson had just left the building. And at one point Monday, she was close enough to touch U.S. Sen. Hilary Rodham Clinton, D-New York, who was in town visiting storm survivors with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

She hadn't seen Macy Gray but heard the singer was on the grounds volunteering, and Dr. Phil McGraw held an impromptu talk show at the dome Sunday, she said.

The visits have been a welcome diversion for Winchester, a high school junior, who is afraid of what she'll find when she and her family returns to her home in Harvey this week to survey storm damage.

On Monday, a virtual who's who of political, social and pop culture idols flooded the Reliant Park Complex, which houses the Astrodome, the Reliant Center and the Reliant Arena, where more than 20,000 New Orleans area residents are being sheltered.

The day started with a security sweep and a bomb-sniffing dog at the Reliant Center, where Clinton and another former president, George Bush, announced the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund to assist hurricane victims. The two compared the fund to the tsunami relief effort they spearheaded earlier this year.

Their entourage included Hilary Clinton, Barbara Bush, U.S. Sen. Barak Obama, D-Illinois, and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League.

It was sensory overload for Karen Wilson of Treme on Monday morning when Morial entered the cavernous hall where she and thousands more residents were staying. She clung to Morial like a long-lost friend.

When President Clinton entered the room, Wilson said she was moved to tears.

"They hugged me! Both of them," said Wilson, smiling. "I was just amazed. It made me feel happy. It made me feel good."

Some, like Wilson, a hug or a simple touch from the celebrities was enough. Others, like 7th Ward resident Linda Jeffers, forced visiting celebrities and politicians to listen to stories about missing relatives, slow emergency response and their fears of never being able to return home.

Jeffers, who is known in the dome by the straw hat she wears, made it a point Monday to get Jackson's attention as he stepped on the ground floor with state Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge.

Before touring the facility, Jackson and Fields said they were concerned about Louisiana residents being shipped away to states outside of the South. The two spoke about establishing "tent cities," opening up cabins and lands at Louisiana state parks for evacuees and, lastly, creating temporary residential areas at closed military installations, such as England Air Force Base in Alexandria.

Jeffers, who heard relocation offers to Michigan, Minnesota, Kansas and West Virginia on Monday, said she wanted to make sure that Jackson would fight to bring Louisiana residents home.

"They are sending us to places that we know not of," said Jeffers, who cornered Fields until he provided his contact information. "Who do we know in Kansas?"

Jackson, however, was all but forgotten when Oprah Winfrey arrived at the dome.

By far, Winfrey received the day's warmest reception by evacuees, who were kept at bay by the Houston police officers who escorted her around the dome. But the security officers did not keep Winfrey from reaching out and touching several evacuees during her visit.

"She said my daughter was the prettiest storm survivor there is," said Karen Matthews, hugging her daughter, Kaytrell.

Matthews said Winfrey also asked about Kaytrell's father, who hasn't been seen since the storm.

Matthews said that seeing people like Winfrey gives her hope. "It makes me feel overjoyed to know that people care," she said.

Winchester agreed, adding that she was thrilled to meet Jada Pinkett Smith on Monday at the Astrodome.

"She didn't come down here with her nose up in the air," Winchester said of her favorite actress, who is married to actor Wil Smith. "She was hugging and touching. She was signing autographs. It was breathtaking."



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**RELIANT CENTER:** Karmen Blanco, daughter of Gov. Kathleen Blanco, hugs Chelone Jones, 7, who just got a new set of clothes. 'It's amazing what local communities can do once they are given the resources to help,' Blanco said of the Texas hosts.

# Makeshift morgue has grim task

*Workers set to handle 140 bodies a day*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

ST. GABRIEL - Down a shell road in this town near Baton Rouge, the left side of a nondescript warehouse has become the headquarters for one of the most solemn tasks related to Hurricane Katrina: identifying the dead.

Standing on easy-to-clean, black plastic sheeting designed to reduce the risk of contamination, dozens of federal and state experts expect to spend months using such tools as fingerprints, DNA technology and dental X-rays to examine about 140 bodies a day in an around-the-clock process.

"It'll be a dignified, respectful process. It goes A to Z; we don't leave anything out," said Stephen E. Allen Sr., emergency operations officer with the federal Department of Homeland Security. He spoke Monday at a news conference at the morgue while workers, wearing polo shirts and khakis, lined up outside.

Because so many bodies are being pulled from polluted water, each will have to be decontaminated before being examined by epidemiologists, pathologists, dental experts and FBI fingerprint specialists, who will work under a succession of white canopies that look as if they could have come from funeral homes. After the bodies are identified, each victim will be made available for burial.

"The function of this facility is to care for the victims and provide solace to their families," said Dr. Louis Cataldie, medical director of emergency operations for the state Department of Health and Hospitals.

But families will not be allowed at the site. It will be closed to outsiders once the first bodies start arriving, possibly as early as Monday night. A separate plan is being devised for contacting relatives.

Although officials said the work probably will take months, Cataldie, the commander of the operation, declined to speculate how many bodies will be brought to the center. The only count so far, released Sunday, was 59.

"I don't speculate and will not speculate," he said. "I don't want people to be alarmed. I don't want inflated numbers. My gosh, it's horrible enough."

Earlier Monday, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin estimated that the death toll could reach 10,000.

Identifying recovered bodies will be made somewhat easier because the storm did not destroy records from the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, Cataldie said.

Morgue personnel will deal only with hurricane-related deaths, which he described as deaths that "would not have occurred had there not been a hurricane."

In addition to drowning victims, he said that category could include hospital patients on ventilators that stopped when the electricity failed.

Among those working with the morgue here will be Orleans Parish coroner Frank Minyard, who said he has set up a temporary office at the Interstate 10/Interstate 610 split that will be a collection point for bodies recovered south of New Orleans.

Autopsies will be performed only in cases in which a crime is suspected, he said.

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# La. ambassadors say hello, y'all

Dear America,

I suppose we should introduce ourselves: We're South Louisiana.

We have arrived on your doorstep on short notice and we apologize for that, but we never were much for waiting around for invitations. We're not much on formalities like that.

And we might be staying around your town for a while, enrolling in your schools and looking for jobs, so we wanted to tell you a few things about us. We know you didn't ask for this and neither did we, so we're just going to have to make the best of it.

First of all, we thank you. For your money, your water, your food, your prayers, your boats and buses and the men and women of your National Guards, fire departments, hospitals and everyone else who has come to our rescue.

We're a fiercely proud and independent people, and we don't cotton much to outside interference, but we're not ashamed to accept help when we need it. And right now, we need it.

**By Chris Rose**
Columnist

Just don't get carried away. For instance, once we get around to fishing again, don't try to tell us what kind of lures work best in your waters.

We're not going to listen. We're stubborn that way.

You probably already know that we talk funny and listen to strange music and eat things you'd probably hire an exterminator to get out of your yard.

We dance even if there's no radio. We drink at funerals. We talk too much and laugh too loud and live too large and, frankly, we're suspicious of others who don't.

But we'll try not to judge you while we're in your town.

Everybody loves their home, we know that. But we love South Louisiana with a ferocity that borders on the pathological. Sometimes we bury our dead in LSU sweatshirts.

Often we don't make sense. You may wonder why, for instance - if we could only carry one small bag of belongings with us on our journey to your state - why in God's name did we bring a pair of shrimp boots?

We can't really explain that. It is what it is.

You've probably heard that many of us stayed behind. As bad as it is, many of us cannot fathom a life outside of our border, out in that place we call Elsewhere.

The only way you could understand that is if you have been there, and so many of you have. So you realize that when you strip away all the craziness and bars and parades and music and architecture and all that hooey, really, the best thing about where we come from is us.

We are what made this place a national treasure. We're good people. And don't be afraid to ask us how to pronounce our names. It happens all the time.

When you meet us now and you look into our eyes, you will see the saddest story ever told. Our hearts are broken into a thousand pieces.

But don't pity us. We're gonna make it. We're resilient. After all, we've been rooting for the Saints for 35 years. That's got to count for something.

OK, maybe something else you should know is that we make jokes at inappropriate times.

But what the hell.

And one more thing: In our part of the country, we're used to having visitors. It's our way of life.

So when all this is over and we move back home, we will repay to you the hospitality and generosity of spirit you offer to us in this season of our despair.

That is our promise. That is our faith.

Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.



AP PHOTO

Slidell was one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina a week ago. Slidell resident Tim Beck makes his way across debris from his home while looking for his motorcycle on Monday. Other portions of St. Tammany Parish, less devastated, are expected to make a quicker recovery.

# Tammany stores, restaurants reopen

## *Residents team up to speed recovery on north shore*

**By Meghan Gordon and Chris Kirkham**
St. Tammany bureau

Despite whole neighborhoods covered in debris and mud caked where receding waters dropped it, small reminders of life before Hurricane Katrina have emerged in St. Tammany Parish, to the appreciation of people who lost nothing more than electricity and people trying to save the few belongings they have left.

Big-box stores such as Lowe's, Home Depot and Wal-Mart opened several locations in the parish and pledged to extend store hours. Traffic in some main corridors flowed with ease as streetlights returned. And a few gas stations and restaurants reopened their doors a week after the storm.

"They're polite, courteous. I can't say enough about Slidell."

At the Waffle House near Covington, don't count on ordering hash browns "smothered" and "chunked" with a half-dozen toppings. Just being able to order the basics - waffles, eggs, grits and burgers - has given residents a short break from "meals ready to eat" in shelters and the camp food they cook up in their carports and back yards.

Mandeville resident Joey Drouant, who had just finished a meal with some friends, joked that "it was nice eating something that wasn't my wife's cooking."

With timelines for restoring electricity and phone service still uncertain Monday, citizens have pitched in to help their neighborhoods start to return to normal. The new garbage hauler in some neighborhoods has become the good Samaritan who uses his own truck to haul away the putrid remains of returning evacuees' fridges. Instead of calling the tree-cutting services swamped with power company work, residents have pooled their chain saws and gasoline to clear entire blocks.

**"It's a surreal experience. In the beginning we just thought, 'Oh my God, this might just do us in,'" Law said. "We're hoping that we can light the phoenix, rise from the ashes and create a greater community."**

JAMIE LAW
Sunshine Garden Health
Food store owner

Most of the businesses have been coming back to life along the U.S. 190 corridor in Covington, which was one of the first areas where CLECO crews restored power. As more and more gas stations open, the six-hour lines residents saw Thursday and Friday have dwindled to waits of 15 to 20 minutes.

Supplies have flooded into the parish, including chain stores with renewed supplies, charities and people looking to make a buck who have backed up their stuffed panel trucks to passing traffic. Some of their homemade signs bear the proof of price gouging, as several prices are crossed out, each one replaced by a higher number.

Lines at Lowe's south of Covington are now short or nonexistent, as Wal-Mart and Home Depot have taken in more customers. The most popular items at Lowe's and Wal-Mart on Monday were box fans, gasoline containers and shop vacuums, which all appeared to cost the same as they did before the storm.

The day after the storm hit, Herb Williams and his family waited for three hours at Lowe's before giving up and heading to Lafayette for supplies. But on Monday, their trip lasted only 20 minutes as they stocked up on window air conditioners for the house.

"The customers have been wonderful - good attitudes and some of them have lost everything," said Linda Wilder of Jacksonville, Fla., who allowed a few people at a time into the Lowe's on Gause Boulevard in Slidell.

The Papa John's franchise near the Rouses Supermarket off U.S. 190 opened its doors Monday morning to a bustling crowd of customers. The store was operating with a shoestring crew, but one manager said he hoped to have delivery service available soon.

Jamie Law, owner of Sunshine Garden Health Food store in downtown Covington, kept the organic grocery open to anyone who didn't mind her doing a bit of cleaning on the side. When she returned to her store, which had roof damage from a fallen tree, she remembered feeling despair.

"It's a surreal experience. In the beginning we just thought, 'Oh my God, this might just do us in,'" Law said. "We're hoping that we can light the phoenix, rise from the ashes and create a greater community."

Many Covington and Mandeville residents have found that the greatest solace throughout the week of cleanup has been meeting neighbors they hardly said hello to before the storm.

"I think the people of St. Tammany Parish are taking the cleanup into their own hands," said Diane Hudson, who lives in the Meadowbrook subdivision in Mandeville. "We think we'll get moving again pretty quickly."

And yet despite all the progress in the battered parish, nothing could console some residents who continued trying to comprehend the magnitude of their losses.

"I don't think it will ever get normal," said Terry Norvell, 52, who stood crying outside her flooded Palm Lake home in Slidell. "I've never seen anything this bad before in 28 years here."

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Violet family tells harrowing tale of survival

## *'Stench of death' filled St. Bernard Parish*

**By Chris Kirkham**
St. Tammany bureau

As Merlin Ruiz gathered the last of his family's belongings from their muddied 14-foot flat boat at the edge of Salt Bayou south of Slidell, the look of resignation on his face could only hint at the harrowing four-day escape he and others had been forced to make from flood-torn St. Bernard Parish.

A few packs of tuna fish and cases of bottled water crammed into a plastic bag were the only remnants of a Violet home inundated by floodwaters and a waterside camp devastated by powerful winds. Arriving in St. Tammany Parish Saturday morning was a welcome conclusion to a journey from a place filled with what Ruiz called "the stench of death."

His family's odyssey, which he recounted from a shelter in Slidell, began Aug. 28, hours before Katrina's strongest winds ripped through St. Bernard Parish. Realizing they would not be safe in their one-story home and lacking the money to evacuate, Ruiz, his wife,

Sharon, and their daughter, Triniti, made their way in a pickup truck to meet a friend at a food processing warehouse near the old Kaiser aluminum plant at the Chalmette slip. Inside the warehouse, about 50 people endured the heart of the storm the next morning, which ripped apart the roof and gutted the walls of the building.

"Buildings all around us were being peeled like there was a can opener," Sharon Ruiz said.

As flood waters began racing into the warehouse, the family scrambled to safety on a piece of heavy-duty foam from a massive freezer at the complex. Gathering what they could of generators and frozen meals from the warehouse, the family floated for more than five hours on the makeshift raft until the water rose high enough for them to float to a stash of flat boats near the warehouse.

From there, Merlin Ruiz and others drove, paddled and swam to secure a series of boats that would provide the only pipeline for getting out of the submerged parish. Ruiz drove his truck, which was on higher ground, a few miles down the Mississippi River levee to get a larger boat from his friend Wayne Landry. Because fences still blocked travel along the levee, Ruiz used bolt cutters to break through.

With the armada of flat boats and larger boats with more deck space, Ruiz and at least 15 others completed a daring series of rescues in Chalmette as the winds still raged into the night. Thedevastating sights throughout the city - a dead woman floating in a ditch, babies left dead on rooftops - only heightened the urgency of their task.

"It's heart-wrenching that we couldn't get everybody," Merlin Ruiz said. "You do it for a day and you swear you don't want to go back out. It's terrible, and I know they're still out there."

After bringing more than 200 people to the relative safety of bigger boats or the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, the Ruiz family on Tuesday took the larger boat, filled with meals from the food warehouse, to investigate their hometown of Violet.

Flooding was just as severe, with water even inching up to second-story rooftops. The caravan of boats from Chalmette continued rescuing people from rooftops and attics in Violet, taking them to a friend's house on the river levee.

But despite delivering food and water, pandemonium soon set in and the friend's house became overrun by citizens-turned-looters and other desperate people. The smell of dead fish, animals and presumably, people, turned the air foul, the family said, and the word from the few St. Bernard Sheriff's deputies they saw was to get out as fast as possible.

"They said you were going to die from the disease in the water if you stayed," Triniti Ruiz said. "It smelled so bad you couldn't walk out of the cabins of your boat or you'd suffocate."

Conditions on the canals in Violet devolved quickly.

"If you went somewhere without a gun, there was a possibility you weren't coming back,'' Triniti Ruiz said.

The boat caravan, now numbering five vessels, some with as many as 10 families aboard, decided to leave Violet and head to Bayou Lacombe on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Rumors had spread that no help was coming, but that a preacher from Jackson, Miss., was going to be in Lacombe to take people to safety.

Having eaten only meager portions of tuna fish and bottled water, not knowing how long they would be trapped in St. Bernard Parish, the Ruiz family and others decided to brave the trip by going through the canals of Violet to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to the Intracoastal Waterway, into the Rigolets and, finally, into Lake Pontchartrain. Because of the extensive flooding, everything looked like one body of water, making it difficult to navigate the series of bayous and inlets.

Even Merlin Ruiz's years of experience in the bayous was put to a stern test. "If you didn't know where the bayou was, you would really tear your boat up," he said.

The family had to ditch the larger boat near the entrance to the Rigolets channel as shallow waters and low bridges obstructed the path.

After the two-day trip from Violet, the convoy arrived at Bayou Lacombe, where sheriff's deputies said they had never heard about a Mississippi man helping flood victims. The caravan relocated to

Salt Bayou off Rigolets Avenue south of Slidell, where some of families met up with relatives and others were sent to different shelters.

The Ruiz family had to leave their three dogs, Beauregard, Chico and Angel, inside the boat. When the family returned Sunday to check on the boat, the dogs were gone.

Ruiz's son is serving in the Marines in Iraq, but they were able to contact his fiancØe, who was rescued from St. Bernard and taken to Houston. They hoped to leave Louisiana by early Monday morning - possibly to never return.

"I'm going to salvage what I can of my house, sell it off and I think I'm going back to Texas for good," Merlin said. "With these hurricanes, there's too much loss, too many people you can lose."

# Living rescued, dead retrieved in St. Bernard

## *Clearing away muck may take months*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard bureau

With Hurricane Katrina's pestilent waters still covering large parts of St. Bernard Parish, emergency crews on Monday continued the grueling work of searching for the living -- all the while marking the corners where the dead lay.

Rescuers were still finding survivors inside their homes, where they had been trapped --many with little or no water and food -- since up to 20 feet of water gushed in Aug. 29.

"Some of them did not want to leave," said Col. Richard Baumy of the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Jack Stephens has ordered deputies to "forcefully remove" anybody resisting the parish's mandatory evacuation order, handcuffing hardy survivors if needed. Officials have said the soup of stale water, chemicals and decomposing bodies flowing in the parish poses a serious health risk and no residents will be allowed back in until further notice.

Meanwhile, Federal Emergency Management Agency crews continued the somber task of identifying the location of bodies to be recovered once the waters recede.

"Once the water goes down, we'll know how many bodies we have,"

Baumy said.

The FEMA crews are marking the sites of corpses using global positioning system technology. There's no official count of the dead, which officials estimate may reach into the hundreds. So far officials have reported 31 people found dead at St. Rita's Nursing Home in Poydras and 22 other bodies found tied together in Violet. Officials believe they bound themselves by rope in a desperate effort to survive the storm.

But the main task remains finding survivors.

Estimates of the total number of people evacuated from St. Bernard since the storm range from 5,000 to more than 7,000, about a tenth of the parish's population. But officials said most survivors have already been found and taken out of the parish.

With the flow of St. Bernard refugees slowing to a trickle, the parish stopped using large gas-guzzling ferry boats and turned to smaller U.S. Coast Guard patrol vessels to carry the rescued from "Camp Katrina," a makeshift shelter at the St. Bernard Port slip, to the Algiers Point ferry landing.

The water continued to recede, much of it draining through natural channels and some of it being pumped out. But officials said it will take weeks and possibly months, to clear the layer of muck - in some places several inches thick - left behind.

It was unclear Monday whether waters have receded enough to allow cleanup crews to reach an oil leak at the Murphy Oil refinery in Meraux that has spread into parts of east Chalmette. The Department of Environmental Quality identified the source of the leak at a tank inside Murphy Oil's 125,000-barrel-a-day refinery. State officials said the company is aware of the leak and will be responsible for cleanup.

State Rep. Nita Hutter, R-Chalmette, said the oil must be cleaned up before the parish can turn on the pumps to drain that area of Chalmette. Otherwise, he said, the pumps could be ruined.

Hutter and other parish representatives met with U.S. Corps of Engineers officials Monday to press for "other actions" to drain water still trapped by St. Bernard's levees at levels surpassing 5 feet in the northern parts of the parish.

Hutter said she could not discuss details on the options being discussed. Parish officials last week said they were asking the Corps to open a gap in the Lake Borgne Basin levee to help drain the water. Hutter said that remains among several options being debated, and that Corps officials plan to visit St. Bernard on Wednesday as they evaluate the parish's proposals.

"Everything is on the table," said Hutter, whose one-story home in Chalmette took enough water to reach the rain gutters.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

**"I've never even thought about the alternative of rebuilding. I've seen places like Pensacola and Destin devastated by hurricanes, and a few years later they were back. A lot of people go through adversity, and they put it away and move forward. New Orleans is a great town, and it needs to survive."**

PATRICK QUINN, Astor Crown Plaza Hotel hotel manager

# Hotels look forward to rebuilding process

## *But tourists not likely to return soon*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

From a second-story balcony overlooking a wrecked Canal Street, Patrick Quinn and the last of his senior hotel managers laid out their plan for reopening the Astor Crown Plaza Hotel.

First, they will bring in a bigger generator to get lights and air conditioning working in the 512-room, four-star property at 739 Canal St.

Then they will bring a crew into the city to clean the hotel, and they will line up vendors to deliver supplies.

Finally, and perhaps most critical, they must get fresh water flowing through the hotel's plumbing. But there is no way of knowing when the city will restore water service.

"One of the toughest things for us will be that there will be some things beyond our control," Quinn said.

If everything works as planned, the Astor could be housing soldiers and federal emergency workers within weeks, he said.

"It's going to be hell, but we'll just take it one step at a time," said Bruce Perone, the hotel's food and beverage director.

It was perhaps surreal to have discussions late Saturday night about revitalizing a hotel when the mere survival of people still trapped in New Orleans was in question nearly a week after Hurricane Katrina.

But Quinn's optimism offered evidence that at least some of the city's leading business people are determined to return and lead an economic resurrection.

Every half hour or so, a truck passed along the neutral ground of Canal Street below the balcony carrying four heavily armed soldiers. Just before midnight, gunfire erupted a block and a half up the street from the hotel when a security truck focused a spotlight on a building. Overhead, helicopters buzzed over the French Quarter, illuminating the deserted streets below. The only other sound came from humming generators feeding electricity to the handful of downtown hotels still occupied.

Even insects seemed to have abandoned the city.

The night sky was filled with a canopy of stars normally made invisible by the city's glare.

But amid the grim reality gripping New Orleans, Quinn and his managers could see the seeds of rebirth.

Quinn, one of the most successful hoteliers in the city, opened a string of high-end properties over the last 16 years that fed off a booming tourism and convention business.

But tourists and conventioneers likely won't be returning anytime soon.

"One of the biggest issues six months and a year from now will be getting the customers to come back," Quinn said.

"Conventions are going to be terrified of booking here during hurricane season," Astor General Manager Peter Ambrose said.

So Quinn is turning his entrepreneurial sights on what likely will be the city's biggest industry for the coming years: reconstruction.

Despite the massive challenges, he held out hope his businesses and his hometown.

"I've never even thought about the alternative of rebuilding," he said. "I've seen places like Pensacola and Destin devastated by hurricanes, and a few years later they were back.

"A lot of people go through adversity, and they put it away and move forward," he said. "New Orleans is a great town, and it needs to survive."

Quinn might be focused on the future, but the remnants of his staff at the Astor won't soon forget the last seven harrowing days.

Ambrose and Perone saw the forecasts promising a menacing storm aiming for New Orleans, and they heeded the warnings.

The managers started preparing Friday. They filled dozens of garbage cans with 2,000 gallons of water. They made 8,000 pounds of ice and stuffed it into kitchen freezers. They increased their stockpiles of food. And they collected medical supplies.

They didn't want any guests, but they knew they would come.

By Sunday night, nearly 2,000 were hunkered down at the Astor. Many simply showed up at the front door, desperate for safe lodging.

The guests included 20 people in wheelchairs, an elderly man with a feeding tube, a woman who gave birth by Caesarian section the night before the storm hit, and a 400-pound man with a bad heart who was confined to his room.

As conditions in the hotel deteriorated last week, the staff recruited guests to help cook and clean. A minister in the group organized daily prayer services.

Once the storm moved through, managers started moving guests out, an evacuation that took days.

"We saved a lot of people's lives, I swear to God," Perone said.

He and Ambrose said they won't leave the Astor unless authorities force them out.

"This is our livelihood. This is what we do," Perone said. "We came here to protect our futures."

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Staff writer Keith Darcé can be reached at nolapaperboy@cox.net.

# Area churches ready to provide shelter, food

**By Kadee Krieger**
Staff writer

Churches surrounding the New Orleans area for 250 miles are standing by to provide beds and warm meals to the thousands displaced by Hurricane Katrina, NAACP President Bruce Gordon said.

The NAACP is working with Federal Emergency Management Agency to transport evacuees from shelters to church facilities from Shreveport to North Carolina, Gordon said Sunday at the state Office of Emergency Preparedness.

He said the churches are prepared to provide shelter for as long as 60 days. "We asked the churches how many they could take, how many beds do they have? We will work with FEMA to move that number," Gordon said. "We are prepared to move."

The NAACP, working initially through the National Baptist Convention, has lined up churches in Shreveport and Houston and smaller cities throughout the Southeast region to North Carolina, he said.

The churches are not offering permanent placement, but a respite from the cramped and crowded quarters in massive shelters, including the Astrodome in Houston. The housing that the churches will provide will at least offer more comfortable conditions, Gordon said.

"It seems now that while the transportation puzzle is not completely solved, the housing resources situation is more challenging," Gordon said.

He said although the NAACP began its efforts by working with the Baptist delegation, it is hoping all denominations will help provide housing for evacuees.

**"The benchmark for recovery should be 9/11. This disaster is no less significant, no less dramatic than that event."**

BRUCE GORDON
NAACP President

Any church that has available shelter or facilities should contact the NAACP's 24-hour hotline at 1-866-997-2227 or visit www.naacp.org on the Internet, he said.

Gordon also called for a separate victims' relief fund to be set up by the federal government, similar to what was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"The benchmark for recovery should be 9/11. This disaster is no less significant, no less dramatic than that event," he said. "This may not have been an act of terrorism, but it was a natural disaster's form of terrorist. We must put all our resources into rebuilding these communities."

"The citizens of New York did not have to carry the burden" of rebuilding, and nor should New Orleans and Gulf Coast communities, Gordon said.

"This is our worst nightmare for a community," he said. "But the people from New Orleans love where they live and they will rebuild. From New Orleans to Biloxi, the people born and raised in this region will have the opportunity to contribute to that effort."

## CONVENTION CENTER SEARCH



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Members of the New Orleans Police Department SWAT team, left, and two teams from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms descend an escalator during a search of the Convention Center on Monday. They were looking for anyone who was still in the building after Hurricane Katrina.


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# Algiers has apparently avoided water damage

**By Richard Meek**
Staff Writer

Algiers was largely spared from Hurricane Katrina and subsequent floodwaters, but

New Orleans City Councilman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said other parts of her district did not fare so well, noting that water was still standing in parts of Faubourg Marigny, St John, Treme and the Bywater.

Clarkson, in Baton Rouge on Sunday, said many city workers died after the storm, unwilling to leave their jobs. "We lost a lot of city workers. The workers would not leave and we had to save some from a 25-foot wall of water," she said.

She lauded Mayor Ray Nagin's efforts over the past week.

He is "the greatest hero in all of this," she said. "He and his team of city workers -- police, firefighters, Sewerage and Water Board -- are all heroes. He organized his team and kept them focused on target. They saved most of our city's people."

For five days, Clarkson rotated between City Hall and a makeshift command center she and Nagin manned at the Hyatt Regency. Her adventures included sprinting up 23 flights of stairs to escape a band of gun-toting individuals who were trying to enter the Hyatt.

"It was most heartbreaking to see this beautiful city, a major port of the American economy with strategic oil reserves for the entire Northeast, and wonder where the hell was the world," Jackson said, as she fought back tears. "They showed up for 9/11 but where were they (for New Orleans)?"

Clarkson said she spent much of the first few days following the storm trying to save lives.

"I didn't leave because I was trying to put people who were desperate with people who had resources to help," Clarkson said.

In Algiers, she said, the sewerage system is operational and police and National Guard patrols have established security. Clarkson said that Algiers did not take on water, and that she did not see any homes that were completely destroyed, although many suffered wind damage. She added that the community has running water and safe drinking water.

But she fell short of encouraging people to return.

"We cannot afford to divert resources from people who are still being saved from rooftops," Clarkson said. "But I want the people to know that the people of Algiers are fortunate."

Clarkson said the scariest moment came when individuals began storming the doors of the Hyatt, believing there was food and water inside; Clarkson said there was little of either.

"The mayor grabbed my arm and had me run up 23 flights of steps (from the fourth floor)," she said. "Of course, he got there 10 minutes before me."

Clarkson said she will continue rescue operations from her Algiers headquarters and begin to plan what promises to be a long recovery. She said anyone needing emergency and rescue help only should call her at 392-2092.

"I never imagined this would happen," Clarkson said.

## MONEY

# Oil production inches up as Gulf rig damage assessed

*Platforms battered south of Grand Isle*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Energy companies on Monday continued to inspect and repair almost 900 oil and gas platforms that were in the path of Hurricane Katrina when it roared through the Gulf of Mexico a week before, shutting down oil and gas operations and leaving platforms toppled or listing.

Regulators on Monday reported a slight increase in the amount of oil and gas being pumped in the country's largest oil- and gas-producing region. Some companies that reported little or no damage said they could not resume pumping because power had not been restored to pipelines that transport oil and gas ashore.

Some areas of the Gulf off southwest Louisiana and Texas were relatively untouched, while companies reported platforms listing in areas south of Grand Isle.

The Minerals Management Service, which regulates oil and gas operations offshore, estimates almost 350,000 barrels of oil per day is flowing from Gulf platforms, which normally produce 1.5 million barrels daily.

Natural gas production is also cut back. The Minerals Management Service estimates only 42 percent of the gas that normally flows is being produced.

But production is rebounding. The agency said that since Sunday, oil production has increased 5 percent and gas production 2 percent.

The estimates are based on reports by 67 companies, which represent about 63 percent of the companies operating in the Gulf.

ExxonMobil's operations south of Grand Isle suffered damage, said Mark Boudreaux, media manager in Dallas, and the company is evaluating a temporary move of its Gulf support base from Grand Isle to Port Fourchon. He said the majority of the equipment is stable.

The company shut in wells eastward along the Louisiana coast, Boudreaux said, and is bringing wells in Mobile Bay, which produce primarily gas, back into operation.

On Monday, Exxon was producing two-thirds of its normal oil and gas yield.

Shell Oil did not release figures but said some of its deepwater platforms, which produce significant amounts oil and gas, are running in the western Gulf.

In the eastern Gulf, where the storm ripped through, progress is slower. The company is still evaluating damage at its deepwater Mars, Ursa and Cognac platforms and at its west Delta field. At other platforms, the company is inspecting and repairing damage to platforms and onshore processing facilities.

Boudreaux said Exxon's Baton Rouge refinery is running at maximum capacity, refining 500,000 barrels of oil per day into gasoline and other products. Exxon's Chalmette refinery remains shut because of flooding, he said.

BP said most of its damage was in the shallow waters of the Gulf. The company's signature Holstein Spar was back in production Monday, said spokeswoman Annie Smith, but 10 platforms in shallow waters offshore southeast Louisiana were toppled or listing.

The only place the company was affected was south of Grand Isle where the storm went over, she said. "All of the deepwater came through fine."

However, the company still has a significant amount of production shut in, she said, because power has not been restored to the pipeline system.

# Hotel is a microcosm of evacuee experience

*It shows difference between the haves and the have-nots*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Alfanao Tony of Meraux stood at the counter of the Baton Rouge Hampton Inn wearing a starched white shirt. His eyes filled with tears as he explained that anonymous donors from Baton Rouge had paid his hotel room bill for five nights now.

The financial help has been critical for an 86-year-old man who has no home, nowhere else to go and wants to avoid shelters.

"I'll sleep in my car before I go to a shelter," Tony said. "At my age, I couldn't take that."

The scene at Baton Rouge area hotels illustrates the socio-economic gap among Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Some are being put up in hotels by the companies they work for. Their jobs are secure, and they will eventually operate out of temporary offices in Baton Rouge.

Others, like Tony, have limited means and are struggling on their own to find shelter in a market where housing is increasingly scarce. They don't know when they can go home, when the money will run out or where they will go when it does.

Tony spent two nights on the fourth floor of his apartment building awaiting rescue after the storm.

He had $1,000 in his pocket when he headed toward Mystic, Texas, but he found no rooms and eventually made his way to the Hampton Inn, where "the staff have been just wonderful."

He's down to less than $200 and doesn't know what will happen after that.

Anna Dennis of Kenner had nine family members crammed into two rooms at the Hampton Inn. They, too, were running out of money, but were given a break on room charges.

Her husband, Warren, was at the local Hilton Garden Inn with his adoptive father, Wilbert Denies, 83. Denies has been a foster parent for decades and three of Warren's adopted brothers were staying with them: two teenagers and a 41-year-old man with an emotional disorder. "He just doesn't talk, and hasn't since he was a child," Anna Dennis said.

Warren Dennis has been hitting the road early every morning to find an apartment, but to no avail.

The one lead they had on an apartment got them excited, but when they went to meet the leasing agent they found a man with a truck unloading his furniture, saying the apartment was his.

"I've been trying to keep my breakdowns to every other day,'" Anna Dennis said.

The Dennis family has been to FEMA and the Red Cross and is trying every avenue they can think of to find housing. Meanwhile, Anna Dennis sent her two daughters, Alyssia, 6, and Alexandria, 5, to live with an aunt in Texas. The daily phone calls always are emotional, with the daughters crying to be back with their mother and father.

But Anna Dennis doesn't know when that will happen.

"I've got to have my daughters back, but I just didn't want them to see all of us going through this," she said.

Many Realtors in the Baton Rouge area were inundated with calls for apartments or rental space of any kind, but most families found that large businesses had already snapped up most of the inventory.

URS, an engineering firm, did just that. The company lined up 28 apartments for its critical employees. One of those units is going to information technology manager David Scripter, his wife Cheryl and their three young children.

The Scripter's Lakeview home is under water and feared totally destroyed. Cheryl Scripter said she felt bad - and a little guilty - for the people who are still in New Orleans and the hundreds more who can't find a place to stay in the Baton Rouge area.

Celeste Nillen-Cade, a teacher St. Robert Bellarmine School, is among those hunting for housing in Baton Rouge. Nillen-Cade was driving around town with the ashes of her husband in the trunk of her car. He died of a heart attack last month.

Along with her stepdaughter, she was crammed into a one-bedroom apartment with an expanded step-family, eleven altogether, many sleeping on the kitchen floor.

She headed to the Embassy Suites, where her brother works, to use the hotel computer to find housing.

"I'm thinking about Oklahoma City. I have my teacher's certificate, and if things can't work out here, I don't think I'll come back," Nillen-Cade said.

Kathie Jacobs, vice president of sales and marketing for Hampton Inn Hotels & Suites of New Orleans, which operates five hotels in metro New Orleans, was walking the lobby of the Baton Rouge hotel Sunday, checking on the customers she has grown to know by first name. She said the company is working hard to get the Elmwood Hampton Inn up and running, with hopes of moving back in as soon as power and water is restored. They were feeding Baton Rouge guests free hot dogs and other easy-to-prepare foods.

Jacobs was upset that many Baton Rouge residents were expressing their anger at "the New Orleans invasion."

But she also pointed out the generosity of the community. Some area residents have been coming to the front desk anonymously and offering to pay at least one room night for a New Orleans family. Others have been dropping off diapers, formula and other necessities

And employees of Hilton Corp. were calling and putting room nights for New Orleans evacuees on their credit cards.

"They just call up and say, 'I want to sponsor a family,'" Jacobs said.

Christoper Perry, a concierge at the Hampton Inn on Convention Center Boulevard, went through the survival ordeal of other city folks, including spending two nights on his roof before being rescued. He's helping out at the Hampton Inn and eager to get back to clean up the city and get things up and running.

"I just want to get home and help out," Perry said.

## TOXIC GROCERIES



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**Employees with Bryon E. Talbot Contractors of Thibodaux dump spoiled food, estimated to be worth thousands of dollars, into a trash bin on Monday. The food was from Rouses Supermarket in Metairie, which was also looted after Hurricane Katrina hit.**

# City's historical documents in peril

*Salvage specialists were turned away*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Specialists working for the New Orleans Notorial Archives have been stymied in trying to enter the city and rescue some of the most historic documents in the city's history, from original land grants to slave sale records and title records.

Federal troops have refused to let them through checkpoints into the city.

The Notorial Archives hired Munters Corp., a Swedish document-salvage firm that freezes and then freeze-dries records to slowly remove moisture from them. But Munters' refrigerated trucks were turned away by uniformed troops as they tried to enter the city, said Stephen Bruno, custodian of the archives.

The trucks were headed to the Civil District Courthouse on Poydras Street, where many of the city's real estate documents are housed, and to the Amoco building at 1340 Poydras St., which houses historic documents such as a letter from Jean Lafitte to Washington demanding for his expenditures during the Battle of New Orleans.

Eddy Pokluda, head of national sales for Munters in Dallas, said the company tried to get one person in to make an assessment of the damage but was turned away, even though days earlier they had arranged with New Orleans Police Department to have an escort into the city.

"I don't think people realize the importance of these records. It's imperative we get in there and see if these can be saved,'' Pokluda said.

"These records are a historic treasure trove (that) would go to the Vatican or Smithsonian and be under armed guards and in vaults," Bruno said. "This is extremely frustrating.''

"Of course, the most important thing is the people and the bodies, but now we're really considered about the records,'' he said.

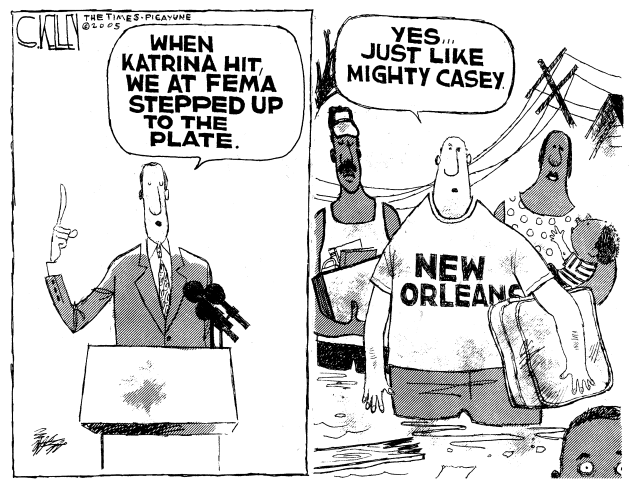
Most governments have digitized their real estate records, and Bruno was just about to hire a firm to transfer many of the documents in the archive to the computer.

But at the Notorial Archives, most abstractors still do hand searches of the 12 million stored documents.

"We're still in the horse-and-buggy days," Bruno said.

Bruno was quick to point out that homeowners shouldn't worry about others making claim to their properties. Further, "there won't be any (real estate) transactions until this problem is solved. Sure, a lot of people are going to want to sell and a lot of speculators are going to want to buy." But without access to the records by abstractors, "It isn't going to happen,'' Bruno said.

## OUR OPINIONS




# Chief Justice Rehnquist

Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist's death adds more confusion to an already unsettled political scene. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the court's key swing vote, announced her retirement earlier this summer. Hearings on John Roberts, President Bush's nominee to replace her, were at hand when Hurricane Katrina roared onto the Gulf Coast and caused death and havoc in New Orleans.

However unusual the circumstances, Justice Rehnquist's legacy is not in question. While his colleagues respected his sense of humor and his orderly management of the court's affairs, most Americans will remember him for pushing the nation's highest court in a more conservative direction -- and particularly for his efforts to limit federal power.

The authority of the federal government relative to that of the states and the private sector grew immensely during the New Deal and the civil rights movement, and Mr. Rehnquist sought in his legal work to reverse that trend. Early in his career, he criticized efforts to forbid racial discrimination, particularly in situations in which the federal government enforced such measures over the objections of states. His arguments back then, critics have long contended, provided legal cover for attempts to curtail African-Americans' fundamental liberties.

Despite its sketchy heritage, the concept of states' rights has come to look more and more attractive as a way toward a compromise solution to some of the most contentious social issues that now divide the country. Justice Rehnquist himself seems to have endorsed this use of his views. The conservative son of straitlaced Wisconsinites sided against federal law enforcement in a recent case involving a California law allowing the use of marijuana for medical use. (However, Justice Rehnquist was in the minority.)

The revival of federalism as a legal concept has also been incorporated into public discourse. The view that as much power and responsibility as possible should be devolved from Washington to state and local governments is now political boilerplate.

But Hurricane Katrina is a graphic depiction of the limits of this idea. Federalism surely doesn't mean that a poor community should be left to its own devices when stricken by a calamity, and it doesn't excuse the lousy, lamentable response of the federal government to New Orleans' crisis over the past week.

The existence of two simultaneous Supreme Court vacancies is a rare event, one that could well divert attention from the catastrophe that is still unfolding on the Gulf Coast. For a number of news organizations, the chief justice's death turned news about Katrina's aftermath into a secondary story. This is a worrisome sign. Gov. Kathleen Blanco, Mayor Ray Nagin and other elected leaders -- along with anyone else who cares about the fate of New Orleans and the rest of the state -- must keep pressing for relief, no matter how contentious the battle over Chief Justice Rehnquist's replacement.

## OTHER OPINIONS

*Excerpts from the national discussion on Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath*

After days of withering criticism from white and black Americans, from conservatives as well as liberals, from Republicans and Democrats, the president finally felt compelled to act, however feebly. (The chorus of criticism from nearly all quarters demanding that the president do something tells me that the nation as a whole is so much better than this administration.)

Mr. Bush flew south on Friday and proved (as if more proof were needed) that he didn't get it. Instead of urgently focusing on the people who were stranded, hungry, sick and dying, he engaged in small talk, reminiscing at one point about the days when he used to party in New Orleans, and mentioning that Trent Lott had lost one of his houses but that it would be replaced with "a fantastic house -- and I'm looking forward to sitting on the porch."

Mr. Bush's performance last week will rank as one of the worst ever by a president during a dire national emergency. What we witnessed, as clearly as the overwhelming agony of the city of New Orleans, was the dangerous incompetence and the staggering indifference to human suffering of the president and his administration.

**-- Bob Herbert, in The New York Times**

# SPORTS

# Saints hold first practice in San Antonio

## *Team officials still determining 'home' sites*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - The Saints officially began their San Antonio residency Monday with an afternoon practice under a blazing sun at the city school district's Spring Sports Complex.

This is home for the next four months, now that the team has decided to set up its base of operations here for the season, allowing players and members of the organization to move their families and put their kids in school if they so choose.

Practice was a little sloppy, players and Coach Jim Haslett admitted, but they said the effort was good after a three-day weekend. The Saints said they were eager to get back into a routine, even if this will be a season like no other.

The Saints still do not know where they will play their final seven home games. But they do know the season-opener is at Carolina on Sunday.

"We're pretty excited to get the season started," quarterback Aaron Brooks said. "We know it was a tragic thing happening, but at the same time, we know that this week is the week that we have to prepare to get ready for the game.

"I think the fans want to see us go out and get prepared for this game against Carolina more than anything."

Players learned Sunday night and Monday morning that they would be spending the season in San Antonio. It didn't come as much of a surprise since there were few other realistic options.

A few players expressed a desire to play their home games here, too, so they wouldn't have to travel every weekend. Most said they wanted to play as close to their fan base as possible.

And they all said they didn't want to feel sorry for themselves after seeing up close for the first time this past weekend what the residents of their city and the Gulf Coast have endured.

"Other than us staying here for a while, I don't see myself as a victim," said receiver Donte Stallworth, one of several Saints who planned to visit area evacuee shelters Monday night and Tuesday morning. "Other people lost everything, they don't know where they're going to get that next meal, their next drink of water. That's what's going to keep me focused. I'm not going to worry about my situation as much.

"I was talking to my brother and I told him that's motivation for me. The people of New Orleans are looking at us."

San Antonio and Baton Rouge still seem like the most likely candidates for the Saints' final seven home games - they will play their first scheduled home game against the New York Giants at Giants Stadium on Monday night, Sept. 19.

Haslett and General Manager Mickey Loomis said they would prefer to play in Baton Rouge during a Sunday night press conference.

But sentiment appears to be mixed at the upper levels of the organization.

After reports surfaced and a source inside the organization indicated that team owner Tom Benson was pushing hard for San Antonio - possibly beyond this season - the team announced its firm commitment to New Orleans in the press conference.

"Although we are practicing here in San Antonio and we're trying to locate a place for our home games, we are still the New Orleans Saints, and our commitment to our city is stronger than ever," Loomis said, also announcing the formation of the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. "We have many goals to accomplish, and one of them is to become a leader in the revitalization of New Orleans. We want to be on the forefront of making our city stronger. Our team is representing the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans, and we'll take that responsibility seriously."

Benson walked past reporters during Monday's practice and declined comment, but he said that he was "about up to here right now," raising his hand to his neck.

Benson, a New Orleans native with longstanding business and personal ties to San Antonio, has not commented about the team's future in the past week. He said he might be ready to comment within a few days.

Benson's brother Larry, who lives in San Antonio, where he is involved with the family's auto dealership business, said Benson's spirits have been "pretty good, surprisingly." But he said he had no indication of Benson's plans for the teams.

Benson has been in touch with NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, and also plans to meet with him in the near future. Tagliabue will ultimately make the decision.

LSU chancellor Sean O'Keefe said the Saints made preliminary contact with a member of the university's Board of Supervisors on Sunday. But he said he was not sure if the school would be able to accommodate the Saints.

"It depends on the terms and conditions," O'Keefe said. "We still don't know what the parameters are. I can't tell you whether I approve or object to anything. Preliminary discussions just started, first contact has been made. What we'll agree to do is share a cup of coffee, start talking and we'll see where the discussion goes."

Publicly, San Antonio is not campaigning for the Saints games, but some officials are working behind the scenes to try and make it happen.

### Family stories

Reunited father and son, Lester Vallet Sr. and Jr., were at Monday's practice and happily announced that they located Lester Sr.'s wife in Lafayette. The current and former members of the Saints' facilities staff were reunited when members of the team visited the KellyUSA shelter in San Antonio on Sunday, where Lester Sr. had been evacuated. Lester Sr. has been staying at the team hotel but will leave to pick up his wife in Lafayette today.

Saints receiver Michael Lewis, a native New Orleanian, visited his family members this past weekend but could not convince his grandparents to leave their home in River Ridge, where they have no power. But he did give them the keys to his home in LaPlace, and they agreed to spend their nights there.

Mississippi native Fred McAfee was thrilled and stunned to see his 5-year-old niece, Jaihana, being rescued from her New Orleans home on ABC's Nightline, along with her mother and grandparents. McAfee said he immediately called his brother, who was in Philadelphia, Miss., as did another family member. McAfee said his brother had been worried sick about his family, with whom he has been reunited.

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# Saints part of MNF doubleheader

## *N.O. to kick off 'home' opener at New York at 6 p.m.*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - The Saints will lead off an unprecedented "Monday Night Football" doubleheader against the New York Giants on Sept. 19, the NFL announced Monday.

The game was originally scheduled to be played in New Orleans on Sept. 18 but was moved to Giants Stadium in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's destruction. The game also was moved to Monday night because the New York Jets are hosting the Miami Dolphins in Giants Stadium on that Sunday.

The NFL plans to use the Monday night showcase to highlight the national hurricane relief effort, Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said in a statement.

The Saints' game will kick off at 6:30 p.m and be televised nationally on ABC until 8 p.m.

At that time, the regularly scheduled Monday night game between the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins will be shown on ABC, while the remainder of the Saints-Giants game will be switched to ESPN - except in New York, Louisiana and selected hurricane-affected areas, where the Saints game will continue on ABC.

Fund-raising efforts will be intertwined with the broadcasts of both games.

"We appreciate the leadership of ABC and ESPN in helping us turn this particular Monday night into far more than a prime-time football doubleheader, making it part of the overall Gulf Coast relief effort," Tagliabue said in the statement. "The New Orleans Saints know the importance of rising to help meet the Gulf Coast's extraordinary challenges, and we salute them, too."

The Saints were neither excited nor openly critical about the league's decision to play their "home game" in New York's home stadium. Coach Jim Haslett offhandedly remarked that the commissioner "put us behind the 8-ball." By the end of this month, the team will have traveled to Oakland, Carolina, New York and Minnesota in consecutive weeks, while also moving its entire operation to San Antonio.

"But everything that's gone on with the city and with this football team the last two weeks, that's probably one of the least of our concerns is playing on the road an extra game," Haslett said. "We actually play pretty good on the road."

Information on ticket sales is expected to be announced by the Giants in the near future.

The Saints will still get the home team's share of the revenue from the game, though some exact details will still be worked out in the financial department. Both teams plan to donate a share of the revenue to relief efforts.

Our sympathies to all of those who have suffered so much in this great catastrophe. The City of New Orleans and all affected areas will recover. We will be there to assist all of our clients and friends.

Correro Fishman Haygood
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NOTE: We have temporarily relocated our offices to Baton Rouge. We can be reached at our normal e-mail addresses or through our website, www.cfhlaw.com, or by telephone at (225) 214-7162. Our temporary office is located at Suite 200C, 7389 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.

# Benson has responsibility to N.O.

**By John DeShazier**
Sports Columnist

Timing is everything.

Apparently Tom Benson is lousy at it. And NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue should tell him so, and strongly suggest to the owner of the Saints that he has a responsibility in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Tell him his job is to lift the spirits of New Orleanians the best way he can. Tell him he'll get the new stadium he covets and a Super Bowl, but the only words that should originate from his mouth are ones lamenting the loss of life and property. Tell him his franchise will support the only city it ever has called home, that it's the least he can do for a ravaged region which, during times of feast and famine, faithfully has supported his team.

Instead, you hear that Benson might be interested in making the Saints a Texas team.

If true, under ordinary conditions that would be a slight. If true, under current conditions, it's about as callous an idea that ever has been thought, let alone mouthed.

If true, what it means is this: At a time when New Orleans needs each one of its able-bodied and deep-pocketed citizens to stand and show the world they believe in the city, and will do their part in resuscitating the economy that helped make them prosperous, Benson might be more interested in walking away.

Benson never has been bashful about using San Antonio as a relocation prospect, which gives the rumor credence. And, most rumors have some foundation in fact. They might morph a little during the retelling, but there is truth lying somewhere amid the shifting.

The best thing Benson could have done was to say early on that he had New Orleans' back. Instead, he left the door open to rumors.

Yes, Benson is a businessman. He's not running a charity. He is, and should be, concerned about whether the people will return, whether an economy that wasn't rosy to begin with just grew a lot more thorns than petals.

But to suggest he owes nothing to a region that has shown its commitment hundreds of times over through its willingness to buy tickets and attend games even during times the only reason to attend was to commiserate with fellow gluttons for bad football, would be ludicrous.

New Orleans and the Gulf Coast have been too good to him to have this kind of news rear its head while they tread water for survival, literally and figuratively.

Instead, he publicly should be expressing compassion for all that has been destroyed, and looking to a brighter future, one that'll include the new facility he has lobbied so

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *page A-x*

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# Tigers set to play 'home' opener at Arizona State

*Logistical concerns cause game to be moved to Tempe*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Les Miles will make his technical "home" opener, two times zones and a different kind of heat away from Tiger Stadium.

After insisting all week that LSU would do whatever it could to keep this Saturday's contest against No. 20 Arizona State in the familiar muggy confines of Tiger Stadium, logistical concerns created by Hurricane Katrina forced the game to be moved to Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

For the past week, several LSU athletic facilities have been transformed into medical centers and shelters for evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. That coupled with the lack of hotel space for Arizona State players, game and conference official, plus the ESPN crew, were factors in the switch.

Original tickets issued for the Arizona State-LSU game at Tiger Stadium are valid for exchange and admittance at Sun Devil Stadium on Saturday, but those wishing to do so must contact the LSU ticket office -- (225) 578-2184 or (800) 960-8587 -- by 2 p.m. Wednesday.

After Arizona State covers the cost of hosting the event, proceeds will be donated to relief effort funds. Both schools signed a home-and-home agreement for 2005 and 2008. Though this year's game is being moved, the Sun Devils will keep their 2008 home game but are committed to make a return trip to Baton Rouge in the future, LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said.

"No athletic director would want his football coach to open up on the road with a top 20 team and lose home-field advantage," Bertman said. "Chancellor (Sean O'Keefe) and a group of athletic department people worked for a long time trying to solve every problem. But in the end there were some concerns that we just couldn't control."



AP PHOTO

LSU linebacker Ali Highsmith, right, signs an LSU schedule poster for Rikki Bell, 11, of New Orleans, left, at the River Center in Baton Rouge on Wednesday. LSU has moved Saturday's game against Arizona State from Tiger Stadium to Tempe, Ariz.

LSU is scheduled to begin its actual home campaign Sept. 24 against No. 3 Tennessee -- the latest Tiger Stadium opener since 1977 -- but that is contingent on a steady, positive progression of events across North Stadium Drive.

"It's hard to tell," O'Keefe said, about the Tennessee game. "At this juncture though, all the signs, all the trends are moving in the right direction."

Alternative regional sites were considered for this Saturday's contest.

"We thought of everything," Bertman said. "From going to the University of Mississippi, which is vacant this Saturday, to Shreveport. But there were reasons why we decided on this trip and they are pretty solid. I don't think anything would have been better than this trip."

Moving the game, however, takes away a major payday from LSU, which like most Division I-A athletic programs relies on football profits to support its non-revenue sports. LSU is still in discussions with several Sun Belt Conference schools to maneuver dates so that it may host North Texas on Oct. 29 after last week's postponement.

"There is no question the budget works out to seven games," Bertman said. "There is no question about it."

Bertman said it's possible the athletic department could make up some of that difference should Tiger Stadium host some or all of the New Orleans Saints' seven home games, but O'Keefe earlier stated that the franchise only made contact with the university Sunday and that talks are preliminary.

After a week of uncertainty, several LSU players expressed relief in final knowing the site of their opener.

"Every time I watched -- at least an SEC game -- I'm like, 'WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING THIS WEEKEND!" LSU wide receiver Skyler Green said. "So it's going to be an exciting game. I think if we go and have a lot of our fan base, it will be a good game."

# Tiger Stadium's renovation to be ready for Vols

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - LSU officials are confident that all seats in Tiger Stadium's renovated west upper deck will be available for the Sept. 24 game with Tennessee despite construction delays caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The $60 million project suffered only "minimal damage" during the hurricane but the aftermath has drawn away workers from that project and the football operations center. But Herb Vincent, LSU's associate athletic director for internal affairs, said every ticket holder should have a seat when the No. 3 Vols come to town, unless the game is moved.

"The impact affected us not physically but more from a work force standpoint," Vincent said. "We have all the confidence in the world that by Sept. 24 we'll have a full house."

That was the date originally targeted during preseason for the new capacity in the 81-year-old stadium, somewhere between 92,300 and 92,400. About 1,500-2,000 seats were not going to be ready for the first two scheduled games against North Texas and Arizona State. But the North Texas game is in the process of being rescheduled and the Arizona State game has been moved to the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., because LSU is being used as an evacuation site for medical refugees from New Orleans. The possibility exists that the Tennessee game could be moved but that game is still more than two weeks away.

Gen. Ron Richard, CEO of Tiger Athletic Foundation, which is financing the project, said he was pleased that the stadium came through the hurricane with only some minor water damage. The day after Katrina struck, the massive cranes working on the project were back up and some of the Yates Construction workers and subcontractor crews returned to work, but many of the workers were from areas hit hardest by the storm.

"Worked slowed down and it was justifiable," Richard said. "A lot of the subcontractors and people who work for Yates live in Mississippi, Slidell, New Orleans, Houma and Thibodaux.

"There's been a general slowdown because some of these companies are no longer in existence and some of these people are still searching for loved ones. Some have returned and some have not. The good news is we've seen an increase in the work force."

Richard said the pace has picked up and that more than half of the work force is back on the job. The final section of treads and risers has been fitted into place so from the outside the deck looks complete. Work is continuing on the club level and press box. Large sheets of visqueen seal the back of the club section where next season large glass windows will provide club members with a panoramic view to the west and the Mississippi River.

"The upper deck looks good," Richard said. "The upper concourse has some work to be done in the restroom and concession area, and that's all done by subcontractors. The plumbing, the electrical, the sprinkler system. . . The complexity of this is huge and to shut it down and build it up again is difficult."

Richard said one of the restrooms in the upper concourse still needs some work.

School officials have said all along that work would continue through the season and that the project probably would not be complete until after the season. The club section will be without carpet and other finishing touches.

"We're setting up a time schedule and relooking at it from tomorrow all the way up to the Tennessee game," he said.

Work on the football operations center has also been delayed by the loss of workers, but the first floor is functional.

The team has moved into the locker room and the training room and weight room are up and running. Before the hurricane, coaches were scheduled to move into their second floor offices Friday, but Vincent said he wasn't sure if that was still scheduled to happen.

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# River schools try to fix schedules

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

Just west of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, life slowly is returning to normal.

Electricity is back on, phones are starting to ring, displaced people are returning to their homes. But the surest sign that life goes on is the fact that high school football will be played in the River Parishes on Friday.

St. James will host Terrebonne at 7 p.m. Friday, and Lutcher will play at St. Amant at the same time.

"We know it's not the most important thing," St. James coach Rick Gaille said. "But it does give some sign that normalcy for everybody could be right around the corner."

As of Monday, no other River Parish school had scheduled games for Friday night. Riverside coach Mickey Roussel was trying. Lutcher, East St. John and Riverside practiced. "We tried," Lutcher coach Tim Detillier said.

Throughout the River Parishes, officials were trying to get life back to normal and school administrators were working to reopen schools.

Meanwhile, coaches were trying to salvage their seasons. Most were busy working the phones, trying to find opponents for dates that once were set aside for schools from Jefferson and Orleans parishes, which likely will not have seasons.

"I know what we've got this week," Detillier said. "We'll talk about next week next week."

St. James Parish schools were to reopen today. St. Charles parish teachers are to report Monday and plans are to reopen schools sometime next week. St. John the Baptist Parish also has set a tentative start date of Sept. 12.

Detillier held a brief practice Monday with approximately 80 percent of his players in attendance. Roussel said he was missing six players.

"Some kids still don't have power," Detillier said. "Some just didn't know. We're just trying to return to some normalcy."

At East St. John, a telephone chain was put together Sunday night and a team meeting was held Monday morning.

"We had a couple missing," Coach Larry Dauterive said. Among them was 6-foot-6, 315-pound offensive lineman Jamarr Thompson, who played Friday night for Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport.

"They evacuated and were told that a church in Shreveport was taking in people," Dauterive said. "It happened to be Evangel's church. But he came to my house last night. He's back."

As of Monday, Dauterive had five games on his schedule, including one against St. James next week. He also plans to play East Ascension in Gonzales and Assumption. He also can play West Monroe in Monroe if Assumption will agree to move its game back a week. But Dauterive has no idea about the status of West Jefferson and Ehret, both located on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish.

"We just want to get on the field," Dauterive said. "We're going to have practice every day at 9 a.m. We need to get our stamina back."

West St. John coach Laury Dupont also wants to get his team back to work. But the facility is still without power after the school's transformer blew during the storm. Dupont was planning to make a trip from his home in Thibodaux to Edgard today to assess damage to his facilities, and he was meeting with his coaching staff today following a meeting of parish principals and supervisors.

"We're going to try to play," Dupont said. "I would like to try to play. I can't say we will. But if there is any way possible, we will."

The good news for the Rams is that their schedule remains largely intact. All of their district opponents are located to the northwest and escaped Katrina's wrath.

Hahnville coach Lou Valdin was scrambling Monday morning, his first day back in the office since the storm. He scheduled a meeting for 4 p.m. Thursday and, in the meantime, attempted to fill his schedule.

"I know I've got three games - East St. John, Destrehan and Assumption," Valdin said. "I don't know what the deal is with West Jefferson or Ehret. I'm scrambling for games. But a lot of teams have already rescheduled."

"The Hahnville Tigers will have a season," Valdin said. "We may be road warriors, but we'll be playing. Right now, it's not about winning and losing. It's about playing."

SPORTS

# Saints VP: team should stay

## *Fielkow source of off-the-record comments*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

**"I was further concerned during our meeting that a question existed as to whether refunds would be provided to season ticket holders unable to attend games this season. This matter has since been clarified and we will announce shortly our club's refund policy which will unequivocally provide our fans the ability to receive refunds if unable to attend games."**

ARNOLD FIELKOW, the Saints' executive vice president

SAN ANTONIO - Arnold Fielkow, the Saints' executive vice president of administration, issued a statement to the Times-Picayune on Monday to explain the intent of off-the-record statements he made to the newspaper, as well as a handful of other media outlets on Saturday.

Fielkow's statements, which he said were made with "much personal frustration" following a meeting with the team's top executives earlier that day, expressed concern that team owner Tom Benson was leaning toward playing all of the Saints' home games in San Antonio this year.

Fielkow, who feels strongly that the team should play as many games as logistically possible in Baton Rouge, said that he now believes the organization will indeed attempt to play several games at LSU's Tiger Stadium, if possible.

He also said that it is the "collective hope of our organization that Saints will return to New Orleans as soon as possible."

Fielkow said it was personally important to him to explain his position and hopefully put this issue behind him and the team, so they can move forward.

"I personally have just a great passion for our community and would like Saints football to be there for a long time," said Fielkow, who is in charge of the team's business operations, a consuming task that could be spread between Louisiana and San Antonio, which the Saints have made their base of operations for the rest of the season.

Most of Fielkow's statements Saturday were either attributed to a "source inside the organization" or used as background information. He was specifically identified by Sen. Mike Michot, R-Lafayette, as having told the senator that Benson was leaning strongly toward moving the Saints permanently toward San Antonio.

Fielkow was also identified by name Monday on the website profootballtalk.com as having made similar statements to WDSU-TV's Fletcher Mackel.

Fielkow was cited as the source who told the TV station that the Saints did not intend to offer refunds to season-ticket holders this year. However, Fielkow said Monday that the ticket matter has "since been clarified" and that fans will in fact "unequivocally" be able to receive refunds if unable to attend games.

After reports about Fielkow's statements surfaced on Saturday, Saints general manager Mickey Loomis stated a strong commitment to New Orleans and Louisiana during a Sunday evening press conference, saying a potential permanent move is "the farthest thing from any of our minds."

"We are still the New Orleans Saints," Loomis said, "and our commitment to our city is stronger than ever."

Following is Fielkow's statement, in its entirety:

"There have been several published reports regarding some statements attributed to me last week involving the Saints' move of its training base to San Antonio. I would like to clarify these statements and provide some background to them.

"These statements were made last Friday with much personal frustration following an organizational meeting held earlier that day. I participated in this meeting via conference call and left the meeting concerned that some wrong decisions may be made. The last week has been a trying time for our community, including everyone within the Saints organization, as we watched the terrible catastrophe which had befallen a city which my family and I love very much. I know how much the New Orleans Saints mean to our great city, state and region and it was important that right decisions be made in this time of crisis.

"During our meeting, I expressed a strong opinion that Saints home games, following the Giants game, should if logistically possible be played in Baton Rouge. This position was based upon the fact that it would be an uplifting item for our fan base, similar in many ways to how the New York Yankees became a sense of pride for our whole country after 9/11. We are working with the league and hope to announce shortly the location of our 2005 home games beginning in October. We are reviewing all options in conjunction with the league and are hopeful of playing several games in Baton Rouge this season. Further announcements on this subject will be forthcoming.

"It is the collective hope of our organization that Saints football will return to New Orleans as soon as possible and, as expressed by GM Mickey Loomis yesterday, that the Saints, both this year and in the future, can play a leading role in the rebuilding and revitalization of our community. This hope is shared by everyone within the Saints organization, including ownership, players, coaches and staff.

"I was further concerned during our meeting that a question existed as to whether refunds would be provided to season ticket holders unable to attend games this season. This matter has since been clarified and we will announce shortly our club's refund policy which will unequivocally provide our fans the ability to receive refunds if unable to attend games.

"The Saints will be playing this season for our great fans in New Orleans, the state of Louisiana and the entire Gulf South region. We hope the club's success will spread some joy to a fan base which has been devastated over the past week.

"These were the reference points for my statements last week. We all look forward to the start of a successful season this Sunday as we have much work to do over the next several months. We look forward to making 2005 a special season for all of our great fans."

# Benson wrong for considering move

**DESHAZIER,** *from page 14*

hard for and, from Tagliabue, the promise of a Super Bowl to aid in the recovery.

New stadium? Yes, because while there may be restoration in store for the Superdome, there simply is a stench and stigma attached to her now that cannot be washed away.

The horror stories emanating from citizens that were housed inside the grand facility during Katrina, when it was used as a shelter, are the kind that will waft around inside the building forever. A patched roof and paint job won't do when, according to reports, rape and murder and mistreatment was a common, toxic mix.

But it reeks that in the shadow of catastrophe and atrocity, the possibility that one of the few pleasantries that still can be grasped might pack and go even if it is being discussed.

This isn't at all the time for that.

But for Benson, timing rarely seems to be a strong point.

# Hornets in search of place to play their 'home' games

## *President: Team committed to N.O. long term*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

**"We have a community to help rebuild, an identity there, and a city that appreciates us. The feeling is mutual. We're fortunate to have a hometown that cares about us. "**

PAUL MOTT, Hornets president

BATON ROUGE - Two members of the Hornets' front office will make their way to Baton Rouge from Houston today to begin scouting possible locations for the team to play "home" games this season.

Team president Paul Mott said Sam Russo and Steve Martin will begin discussions with LSU and local officials about the availability of the Pete Maravich Assembly Center or the River Center. The River Center is managed by SMG, the group that also runs New Orleans Arena, the club's permanent home.

In the face of uncertainty regarding the future of the city's other professional franchise, the Saints, Mott reassured citizens Monday that Hornets owner George Shinn's primary objective is to stay and play in New Orleans for the long term.

"George has made that very clear," Mott said. "We have a community to help rebuild, an identity there, and a city that appreciates us. The feeling is mutual. We're fortunate to have a hometown that cares about us.

"If we can stay in the state this season, and help the community get back on its feet, it works all the way around."

There have been rumors of a potential Hornets relocation to Las Vegas, perhaps permanently, though that doesn't make financial sense for the NBA. The league eventually could place an expansion franchise there with a conservative price tag of a half-billion dollars, which would be split equally among the 30 NBA owners.

Las Vegas will host the 2007 NBA All-Star Game.

Officials in Oklahoma City and San Diego also have offered arenas to the Hornets, displaced for at least the beginning of the regular season by damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Mott said the Hornets also will look into the possibilities of playing games in Bossier City, where the team has an exhibition game scheduled Oct. 25 against the Miami Heat, or the Cajundome in Lafayette, where the team played an exhibition game last year.

Monroe or Hammond are other in-state possibilities.

"I can't speak for the league," Mott said Monday from Houston, where he has joined marketing director Tim McDougal and others working out of temporary quarters at the Houston Rockets' Toyota Center. "But my guess is the league wants us to find a suitable, temporary solution that allows us to properly conduct the NBA season and do it in a way that doesn't kill our business. They, as we, would like to re-establish business in New Orleans when we get back on our feet."

Mott said no direct contact has been made with LSU officials, but expects Russo, the team's business manager, and Martin will do that after they arrive.

"We're hoping that in a relatively short time, the picture will become clearer," Mott said. "Perhaps by next week."

# Tulane, La. Tech work on logistics

## *Green Wave will practice in Ruston*

**By Benjamin Hochman and Fred Robinson**
Staff writers

DALLAS - The Tulane football team will practice and attend classes at Louisiana Tech this semester, a source close to the situation has confirmed.

The rest of Tulane's athletic teams will be split onto four other campuses - Rice, Southern Methodist, Texas Tech and Texas A&M, where the men's basketball team will call home.

The Tulane athletic headquarters - including the office of Athletic Director Rick Dickson - will be in Dallas, where the football team is currently practicing at SMU.

Tulane will not hold classes this semester, because of damage done by Hurricane Katrina.

On Monday afternoon, Tulane coach Chris Scelfo, Associate Athletic Director Scott Sidwell and Director of Football Operations Dennis Polian visited the Louisiana Tech.

The football team will play its home games, however, down the road in Shreveport at the Independence Bowl.

"That would be logical," Dickson said on Monday.

"We're offering (Tulane) the stadium free of charge," said Ken Antee, the chief administration officer for the city of Shreveport. "We'll put the games on for them from an operating standpoint - ticketing, security, EMS. We can seat 50,000, and have the capability to add another 2,000 seats. The good thing is you can get 25,000 in there and it looks full."

Louisiana Tech's Joe Aillet Stadum is only available for three of Tulane's six scheduled "home" games. The Independence Bowl does not have any college games scheduled during this season.

Antee is confident in the facility, saying, "We spent $35 million renovating Independence Bowl Stadium that was completed four years ago. Everything from the ground up; everything except the seats is brand new."

Antee said to "put on" a game in the past cost the city $15,000 to $20,000.

"But we'll get it back through the concessions contract," he said. "We're not looking at making money off of this, we want to help in any way we can."

Louisiana Tech has not begun classes. The school is on the quarter system and classes begin Sept. 12.

And, the school has an approximately 600-bed dormitory available.

The Green Wave's first game was postponed, so the next game on its schedule in Sept. 17, when it hosts Mississippi State. Dickson said playing the game in Starkville, Miss., is "a last consideration."

# LSU's Miles to announce Starting QB Thursday

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Apparently, Les Miles is a Thursday kinda guy.

With most state media outlets and a sprinkling of national correspondents present at the coach's inaugural weekly Monday press conference, Miles deferred another three days on announcing whether JaMarcus Russell or Matt Flynn will be LSU's starting quarterback. When asked whether he already knew which player would line up under center Saturday night in Tempe, Ariz., Miles let out a coy smile but refused to reveal his hand.

Other position battles seem to be temporarily solved. Redshirt freshman Brett Helms beat out incumbent Will Arnold at left guard, according to an updated depth chart. Sophomore Chevis Jackson held off competition from senior Mario Stevenson and will start at right cornerback.

FOND MEMORIES: While disappointed not to be in Tiger Stadium this weekend, senior receiver Skyler Green wasn't too upset over the switch out to Arizona. Back in 2003, Green recorded his first collegiate punt return for a touchdown in Tucson during a blowout of Arizona. After the return, Green high-fived a couple of Tiger fans leaning over the rail of their end zone seats and was penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"I won't be high-fiving anybody," Green joked.

HEALTH UPDATE: Miles said linebacker E.J. Kuale, who injured his ankle in mid-August, probably will not be available against the Sun Devils. Curtis product Jason Spadoni will start in his place.

# Game on: SLU to host Alcorn State

## *All games but Tulane on as planned*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

**"About 15 of my players lost homes. They've been through so much in the last week."**

DENNIS ROLAND, Southeastern Louisiana coach

Though many parts of the north shore are projected to be without electricity Saturday night, there will be a tower of lights shining down on Strawberry Stadium at Southeastern Louisiana University. The Lions' football game against Alcorn State will be played as scheduled at 6:30 p.m., according to Coach Dennis Roland.

There are details to be worked out, such as lining up security and gate officials, but Roland said Monday that the university is ready to host the game and should proceed with the remainder of its schedule as planned, with the exception of the Tulane game. The Tulane game was scheduled for Oct. 1 at Tad Gormley Stadium, but the location likely will change, Roland said.

But for now, the season is on, whether the team is ready or not. The Lions missed a week of practice and its season opener Sept. 1 against Jacksonville. The team still is reeling from the emotional fallout from Hurricane Katrina.

"About 15 of my players lost homes," Roland said. "They've been through so much in the last week."

It has been a harrowing week. Roland, who is undergoing chemotherapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, tried to get treatment, but he and the full waiting room of patients were turned away from their chemo because of a lack of medication. He will try again Wednesday.

"I feel bad for the people who were scheduled to get their treatment last week," Roland said.

Keithshone Dantzler, a freshman linebacker from Brother Martin, almost didn't make it back to campus. Dantzler traveled to New Orleans before the storm hit to check on relatives and lost contact with his ride back to Hammond - so he was left behind. Later in the week, he had to be pulled from a rooftop by a rescue helicopter and waded through waist-deep flood waters to reach a hospital.

"I was just amazed he made it back," teammate Hutch Gonzales said.

Gonzales, a senior receiver, huddled in a church an eighth of a mile down the road from his house in Covington as Katrina battered his home -within viewing distance from the church's front doors. His house faired OK, but teammate Craig Louque returned to his home to find a bare frame.

Still, about 95 percent of the team returned for Sunday's 4 p.m. meeting. The school regained electricity Thursday and began preparations for hosting Alcorn State.

"If there was something our team could go out and do and help people, we'd do it, but there's nothing else we can do. We know there are a lot of people hurting," Roland said. "But maybe if we can play, we can give people a chance to have a distraction and maybe give them some pride."

Gonzales said missing another game would have severely set back the new faces in the program.

"I think a lot of people (on our team) were thinking about the Alcorn State game," Gonzales said. "Being able to have it is really important because we have some players who have very little experience, especially Trey (Willie, the new quarterback). He's been in games before, but he hasn't been able to really pick up four quarters of the speed of the (game)."

Then there is a deeper benefit to playing Saturday, Gonzales said. Football has become an escape.

"I'm ecstatic," Gonzales said. "I was miserable not being able to play last week. □ (But Sunday) we heard those pads popping and it was like normal football again."

# PGA's Gibson dishes relief

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

Local PGA Tour golfer Kelly Gibson is trying to help out in the relief effort.

He joined the Coast Guard at relief kitchens in Metairie and visited the site of the breach in the 17th Street Canal that spilled water from Lake Pontchartrain into Orleans Parish.

Unable to use a cell phone, Gibson conveyed this message via text message.

"I am at a Coast Guard area where the canal broke □ It just rained all over my stuff □ I slept in a car where it was 90 degrees at 2 a.m. □ I met the commander of the Coast Guard □ We are being guarded by (soldiers) carrying M-16 rifles □ We're trying to feed 300 workers and military personnel by the end of the day □ Please help me raise awareness for the relief fund. It is beyond belief the destruction over here.''

Gibson's last text message arrived at 5:56 a.m. Monday.

SPORTS

**"This week has been hell for me. I tried to stay focused on football, but outside of practice, my head was everywhere."**

JOHN DOUCETTE, University of Memphis senior tight end



AP PHOTO

Memphis' DeAngel Williams fumbles the ball Monday as he is tackled by Mississippi's Kelvin Robinson, right, in Memphis.

# Doucette a winner in Memphis

*Tight end's family arrives in town escaping catastrophe*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, TENN. - University of Memphis senior tight end John Doucette didn't cry at the end of the Tigers' tough 10-6 season-opening loss to Ole Miss in Memphis on Monday.

He'd already shed his tears Saturday. Tears of joy.

That was when Doucette's 5-year-old nephew, Hasharon Lindzey, called out, "Hey, Big John," letting him know that his family had completed a harrowing journey from the rooftop of their home in New Orleans, to two days of horror in the Superdome, to a late-night escape, and finally to Memphis where they arrived with no money and only some donated clothes.

"That's when I finally broke down," the St. Augustine graduate said. "It lifted my heart right out of my body."

Doucette's parents and five others, including his pregnant sister Yoshe Mitchell, rode out Hurricane Katrina on Monday night in their home near Elysian Fields, but when the water started rising Tuesday, they had to be rescued, only to be taken to the Superdome.

"My mama said all they could do was get in a corner and try to protect the women and children," Doucette said. "It was like living in the cave days."

Somehow, Doucette's father got his family out Thursday night, found a car and made it to Crowley, where other family members had taken shelter.

They decided to join Doucette in Memphis the next day.

"This week has been hell for me," said Doucette, who had one catch for 11 yards Monday. "I tried to stay focused on football, but outside of practice, my head was everywhere.

"People were calling me telling me everything was going to be OK. But they weren't the ones I wanted to hear from."

Doucette's family, now living with him, was at the game Monday.

Today, they try to sort out what to do with their lives - relocate to Memphis or wait until they can return to New Orleans.

"We don't know what the house is like or anything," Doucette said. "I think they're going to stay here with me."

Doucette, along with two other New Orleanians, noseguard LaVale Washington from St. Augustine and linebacker Mike Snyder from John Curtis, served as Memphis' captains Monday.

"That meant a lot to us," Doucette said. "This was a special day for me.

"The only thing that would have made it better would have been winning."

## Wilson's World

Across the field Monday, Ole Miss running backs coach Frank Wilson was celebrating, and not just the fact that he had been on the winning side his first game as a college coach.

Fifty-six members of Wilson's family made their way last week to Oxford, Miss., where they are settling in until they can return to New Orleans.

Some of them were in attendance Monday,

"There's light at the end of the tunnel," said Wilson, the former O. Perry Walker coach and athletic director for Orleans Parish public schools before he joined first-year coach Ed Oregeron's staff in January. "After all we had been through this week, it was great to lose myself in the moment."

Wilson credited the Ole Miss family for taking in many of his family members, some in houses, some in apartments. About half of them are children who will begin school next week.

"It was a lot of work getting them settled and then getting ready for the game," said Wilson, who lost his home in Slidell in the hurricane. "But when I was at work, I just concentrated on that and tried to forget everything else.

"It was so disheartening to see things at home. But I just prayed and went on working."

Wilson wasn't the only Ole Miss coach whose family evacuated to Oxford. Seven members of Orgeron's family spent the week in Oxford before purchasing generators Saturday and returning to Lafourche Parish.

## Driving to the Heisman

For much of the summer Jennifer Rodrigues has been the toast of the sports information directors' world.

Her NASCAR-themed promotional campaign for Memphis running back DeAngelo Williams has gained favorable attention from many major media outlets.

But this week, Rodrigues, a Slidell native, had to split her concentration between getting things ready for the ESPN-televised game and worrying about the whereabouts of her grandparents, Milton and Ruth Chauffe. They were last heard from Tuesday from their home in Jefferson near Ochsner Hospital.

"It's been a hard week," Rodrigues said. "Until Wednesday we didn't know about my other grandfather and my uncle and aunt.

"Finding out about them took a load off."

Rodrigues' parents, Milton and Laura Chauffe, evacuated to Memphis before Katrina hit. They returned to Slidell on Friday to find their home in Kingspoint, the one in which Rodrigues grew up, had taken at least five feet of water.

"Everything has been so stressful," Rodrigues said. "I focused on my job, but sometimes it hit me that this was just a football game and there were people I loved that I couldn't find."

After the game, Rodrigues said she was as drained as she had been in her life.

"I'm done for today though," she said. "Now I can concentrate on my family."

## Cheering to keep from crying

For the first time in six years, Ronnie and Barbara Wimprine of River Ridge weren't planning on attending a Memphis home game, son Danny having graduated after last season with a host of school passing records.

But Hurricane Katrina has had a way of changing things for just about everyone.

The Wimprines have spent the past week there after being diverted from Calgary, Alberta, where Danny, who prepped at John Curtis is now in the Canadian Football League.

So Monday, they were tailgating with hordes of other Tigers fans, both sporting booster shirts given to them because they wanted to be appropriately dressed.

"If we couldn't go home, there's no better place to go to than here," Ronnie Wimprine said. "We've made so many friends here over the years because of Danny.

"Coming out here today helps us forget things for a while, although you do get tired telling your story over and over again."

For Barbara Wimprine, it has been an emotionally wrenching week, even though they know their home is relatively unscathed.

"I've had my moments," she said. "I start thinking about friends we know who have lost so much, and it's all boo-boo.

"The other day I ran into some people from Slidell in the grocery store, and we all just started crying together."

Making the time more bearable for Barbara Wimprine is that Memphis is a second home. Daughter Joanne lives here.

"I can't count the people we've heard from this week," she said. "You can't walk five feet out here today without somebody wanting to hug you.

"It's wonderful to know you have friends."

The Wimprines won't stay in Memphis for long.

Ronnie is the owner of Elmwood Construction, which specializes in insurance repair, and he has spent the past week gathering generators, building supplies, extra gas and a truck to take to take back to Jefferson Parish on Thursday so that he can get his crew of 16 to work as soon as possible. Barbara Wimprine is his bookkeeper.

"First we've got to help everyone get their homes squared away," he said. "And then as soon as the power is up, we'll start on jobs.

"This is what I do for a living. The policemen, firemen, medical people and so forth have their jobs to do and this is mine."

## Home away from home

Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky spent much of last week helping Tulane and Southern Miss make living arrangements in Dallas and Memphis.

"It was wonderful to be able to make a difference by lending a helping hand," he said. "We were able to rally support for Tulane and Southern Miss and we felt like it was really appreciated.



AP PHOTO

Memphis' Maurice Avery, right, and Mississippi defenders Trumanine McBride, bottom, and Jamarca Snaford fight for a pass during the second quarter Monday at Liberty Bowl Stadium in Memphis.

"It was really phenomenal to see it happen. Everybody offered to do whatever they could do."

Banowsky admitted there were times when it seemed like keeping the Tulane football season alive, plus the Green Wave's other fall sports, seemed almost impossible.

"There were moments when it didn't look like we could go forward," he said. "But the deeper we got into it, it became clearer that it was more important to go forward because it represented so many of the things we need right now.

"The Tulane student-athletes are remarkable."

## Moving on

Other than the three New Orleanians serving as captains and a moment of silence before the game, there was no recognition of Katrina's effects on the teams and in Ole Miss' case the affected state.

That was quite a contrast from the scene in Starkville, Miss., on Saturday, where Mississippi State and Murray State teams walked onto the field before the game and lined up on sidelines before Bulldogs athletic director Larry Templeton and Coach Sylvester Croom addressed the crowd via a taped message on the scoreboard video screen.

Also, while the Tulane players attended last Saturday's SMU-Baylor game in Dallas, the Southern Miss players and staff, who are staying in Memphis through this week, opted to watch the game from a hotel ballroom.

"They've been going though two-a-days again," Banowsky said.

"Their coaches decided they didn't need to be out baking in the sun any more than necessary."



# MUDDY MISSISSIPPI



Anna Smith looks behind at what's left of her family's Vista Drive home in Pass Christian on Monday while sitting near a marking that shows the rubble has been searched for bodies. Smith said she plans to go back to school at Milsaps College in Jackson, which, she said, will be filled with many transfer students from Tulane University. TOP, A mud-caked flag dries in the sun Monday outside the remains of a Pass Christian, Miss., school that was leveled by the storm.

*Katrina dealt some of its most vicious blows along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, leaving those who survived the storm to marvel at its terrible power while trying to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.* **Photos by Michael DeMocker,** Staff photographer



An overturned car, a tattered flag and a wheelchair from a nearby nursing home are scattered along Second Street in Pass Christian on Monday.



Tiffany Jones, 8, a native of Morocco who was adopted as an infant, allows herself a small smile after finding an angel figurine among the ruins of her family's West Beach Boulevard in Pass Christian on Monday. The house, the only real home she has ever known, was obliterated.



A boat sits wedged in tree outside a Biloxi, Miss., home on Pearl Street on Monday.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 230 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# DISEASE, FIRE THREATEN CITY

## Toxic floodwaters latest danger; remaining residents told to leave



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Clinging to his puppy, this resident of a burning home on Columbia Street in New Orleans walks away as smoke and water fill the air on Tuesday. **See story, A-9.**

## St. Bernard, N.O. schools to close for rest of year

### *La. schools chief offers grim outlook*

**Laura Maggi**
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE -- Students likely will not be able to attend public school in Orleans or St. Bernard parishes for the rest of the school year, state schools Superintendent Cecil Picard said Tuesday.

Other school districts, such as those in Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Charles and St. Tammany parishes and the city of Bogalusa, can be up and running in either weeks or months, he said at a briefing at the state Office of Emergency Preparedness.

About 135,000 public school students in four parishes - Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines - were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, along with 52,000 private and parochial school students, according to the state Department of Education. These students will be required to attend school, for at

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *page A-5*

## Nagin says water receding



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**17TH STREET CANAL:** Water is pumped into the 17th Street Canal from neighborhoods on the Orleans Parish side of the levee breach on Tuesday. Officials closed the break in the levee on Monday.

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Mayor Ray Nagin on Tuesday ordered all remaining New Orleans residents out of the city to escape sporadic fires and the growing threat of disease from standing water contaminated by toxic chemicals and rotting corpses.

Meanwhile, an Army Corps of Engineers official said it could take 80 days to pump out the billions of gallons of water that Hurricane Katrina poured into the New Orleans area Aug. 29.

Low-lying Chalmette might be the last to emerge, while eastern New Orleans will take about 24 days to dry out, said the corps' Dan Kitchens at the Louisiana emergency operations center in Baton Rouge.

The water level in most parts of Orleans Parish has receded 6 inches to a foot, Nagin said after a helicopter fly-over Tuesday morning. That means that some submerged areas, such as the lakefront campus of the University of New Orleans, have drained substantially, he said.

The corps said two or three of the city's 148 drainage pumps were online, supplemented by dozens of smaller pumps brought into the city.

According to CNN.com, Nagin issued a statement in which he told all law enforcement officers "to compel the evacuation of all persons ... regardless of whether such persons are on private property or do not desire to leave." The report said the order did not apply to Algiers.

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-4*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

**"By the time people come back, we'll have Belle Chasse cleaned up so they won't even know we had a storm. Rotten food in refrigerators will be their biggest problem."**

BENNY ROUSSELLE, parish president

# Holes blown in levees to let water flow out



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Floodwaters caused by Hurricane Katrina left a coffin on the Mississippi River levee near Port Sulphur.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Mary Bourgeois hugs her friend Mike Kramer in the sanctuary of St. Patrick's Church in Port Sulphur. Eleven people rode out the storm in the choir loft of the 19th century building.

## *Plaquemines death toll hasn't grown*

**By Paul Rioux and Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Dozens of National Guard soldiers wearing hip-waders slogged through oily floodwaters Tuesday in villages along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish searching for Hurricane Katrina's dead.

Battling the heat and pervasive stench from the sewage-contaminated waters, the soldiers spray-painted a green zero on house after house to indicate no bodies were found inside.

As rescue efforts shifted to recovery, parish officials were encouraged that the number of dead had not budged since three bodies were found Monday.

Parish President Benny Rousselle said he expects the death toll in Plaquemines will be much lower than the hundreds or even thousands of fatalities feared in neighboring Orleans and St. Bernard parishes.

"We were the first parish to call for a mandatory evacuation, and the people took it seriously,'' said Rousselle, who ordered residents to pack up and leave 48 hours before the Category 4 hurricane churned ashore. "That translates directly to fewer fatalities.''

Property damage was another matter, though, as officials said more than 70 percent of the parish was inundated by 10 to 20 feet of water. Most of the devastation is in the southern portion of the parish, where officials said they have to wait until the waters recede to discover what land the Gulf of Mexico may have reclaimed.

Belle Chasse sustained relatively minor wind damage, with shingles or pieces of siding missing from some homes and an occasional downed tree or utility pole.

But the damage gets progressively worse as Louisiana 23 winds down toward the Gulf of Mexico.

A drive south along the four-lane highway Tuesday, a lovely road trip on any other sunny day, resembled a gradual descent into deeper levels of hell.

At orchards and nurseries around Naomi and Myrtle Grove, many structures covering the plants were blown away and spoiled fruit lined the road. Some homes were missing roofs.

A few miles down, more than a dozen barges were beached atop the Mississippi River levee. Nearby, the storm washed away a section of the highway's southbound lanes. But Katrina's full rage was not evident until Port Sulphur, where all but a handful of structures suffered severe damage. The storm pounded through a portion of the parish's western levee there, and the surge deposited about six homes on the highway, one straddled on top of a vehicle.

Trees were covered with clothes, plastic bags and children's toys. A kitchen stove reached 15 feet, marking how high the water got. The sight was a macabre reminder of the littered trees along parade routes during Carnival. Several cars were overturned or on their side.

Spilled oil floated on the water everywhere, soiling everything.

Only St. Patrick's Catholic Church seemed to have escaped the storm practically untouched, with not even its windows broken. But the rectory and other nearby buildings were severely damaged.

In the southern portion of town, a bulldozer pushed debris to the side of the road. A few hundred yards farther, the highway disappeared under a dark soup of dirty water, muck and oil.

Parish employee Angelo Laimia, standing on the airboat that ferried him to restore drainage pumps, said the picture was much the same downriver in Empire, Boothville and all the way to Venice, the parish's southernmost community.

"All the buildings are flattened out,'' Laimia said. "Boats everywhere.''

Photos taken by parish officials who flew over the area, and posted at the parish's Web site (www.plaqueminesparish.com), showed several large structures flooded but still standing in the fishing villages. Most homes appeared to be either destroyed or displaced.

The images showed the Buras water tower collapsed over a government office. Two large boats rested on the road at the foot of the Empire high-rise bridge.

But amid the despair, signs of a more ordinary time remained. Along a farm south of Myrtle Grove, a hand-painted sign pleaded to the emergency response vehicles passing by: "Slow please. Elk will spook.''

Around Cedar Grove, a Plaquemines sheriff's deputy used his patrol car to corral an emu off the road. The birds are known for their quick temper, and asked whether he was trying to fetch it, the officer was unequivocal. "Hell no. That thing could cut my a-- off,'' he said.

It remains unclear when parish residents will be able to re-enter the parish to resume their lives. Rousselle said he wants to wait until the sewer system is repaired and grocery stores are restocked, possibly sometime next week.

"By the time people come back, we'll have Belle Chasse cleaned up so they won't even know we had a storm,'' he said. "Rotten food in refrigerators will be their biggest problem.''

But it may be several months or longer before residents can return to the east bank or areas on the west bank south of west Pointe a la Hache, he said.

Parish officials are encouraging residents in those areas to look for jobs where they are living now.

Parish crews have been working their way downriver, blowing holes in the levees to let floodwaters drain and repairing the damage before high tide to prevent water from flowing back into the parish.

Rousselle said authorities evacuated 200 to 300 residents who tried to ride out the storm in the parish, which has a population of 27,000.

"We believe we have evacuated everyone who stayed,'' Rouselle said. "Now we're looking for the ones who didn't make it.''

Two of the three bodies recovered so far were found at Pointe a la Hache; the other was in Empire, said Maj. John Marie of the Sheriff's Office. He said the dead were loaded onto a refrigerated truck and taken to the Jefferson Parish morgue.

Plaquemines Parish School Board member Paul Lemaire feared a friend who had never evacuated during previous storms would be found among the dead. And so he was overjoyed when he saw the man fixing a flat tire punctured by debris on Louisiana 23.

"He said he decided to leave at the last minute because he had a bad feeling about this one,'' he said.

Lemaire, 42, said his house in Port Sulphur had been swept away and replaced by a neighbor's home resting on his foundation.

An employee at the parish's wastewater plant, Lemaire didn't hesitate when asked whether he planned to rebuild his home.

"I was born here, I was raised here, and I'm going to die here,'' he said. "This is home.''

# Indiana businessman brings 50 to new home

## *Slidell, Pearl River residents offered jobs*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

Almost 50 Slidell and Pearl River area residents made homeless by Hurricane Katrina's devastation were evacuated during the weekend on two big tour buses with the promise of a new start in the Midwest.

The promise - guaranteed jobs and free apartments for up to six months - was made by Ed Blinn, a Marion, Ind., businessman who owns three used car lots and almost 100 apartments.

Some 47 people who had been staying in five crowded, squalid school gymnasiums took him up on the offer and boarded the buses Blinn hired to journey down the nation's midsection and back.

They arrived at their new home, temporary or otherwise, late Monday afternoon, and Blinn put them all up at a local hotel, he said in a telephone interview.

With his help and that of Red Cross volunteers and social service agencies, the displaced people are settling into some of his vacant apartments and others - and into their new lives.

So why did Blinn, 39, safe and sound with his family 900 miles away, take it upon himself to embark upon this mission of mercy?

Blinn was aware from the numerous televised news accounts of the devastation and the plight of many thousands of men, women and children driven from their homes in the New Orleans area.

But he also has a friend in Slidell, Roper Construction Co. owner Jimmy Roper. He's the uncle of Dr. Mike Roper, a close friend of Blinn's. For each of the past few years, the Blinns and Ropers have gone hunting together in South Dakota.

"I have a friend in Slidell, so that's why I decided to go," he said. "Hell, we're like family."

Blinn also was impatient with the slow pace of a hurricane relief effort that city officials and others in the Marion area were talking about to help the stricken area far to the south.

That group met late Friday and spent a lot of time talking without coming to a firm decision on what to do, he said.

"I just felt that with the bureaucracy, it wasn't going to get done," he said. "They said their next meeting was Tuesday and I knew I could make it happen, or thought I could and so I did."

Accompanied by his 14-year-old son, Evan, Blinn hired a driver for each of the two buses capable of holding 30 to 35 passengers. The buses left Marion on Saturday at about 8 p.m. and arrived in Slidell at midafternoon Sunday.

They then went shelter by shelter to John Slidell Park, three schools the names of which he couldn't remember and ultimately to Creekside Junior High School near Pearl River.

At each stop, he told those stranded at the sweltering facilities about his proposal and his six-month "guarantee" of jobs and a place to live rent-free, and gave them 20 minutes or so to make up their minds.

Not surprisingly, despite their desperate situations, many didn't want to leave behind what had been their home for many years.

However, travelers ultimately included a family of three who initially wanted to stay, then changed their minds and chased down one of the buses after it began driving off and jumped on, Blinn said.

"I would have liked to stay a little longer and get a few more people," he said. "I could've spent another day."

But time was running out, the rescue group was informed of an 8 p.m. curfew, "and these people were weary enough" and faced a long drive back to Indiana.

Blinn said he didn't know how many of his temporary charges eventually would decide to return to Louisiana or to stay in their new homes.

"I don't know if any of them will (want to return)," he said. "But if they do, I'll help them get back. We're friends now."

# KATRINA HAS TAKEN A TOLL.
# SHE HASN'T TAKEN OUR SPIRIT.



In 1788, a fire burned the Saint Louis Cathedral to the ground. But it was built again. In 1834, the Cathedral collapsed from overuse. But it was built again. What a wonderful testament for the people of New Orleans today. Hurricane Katrina may have damaged a significant portion of our city. But she will never destroy the spirit of our people.

And that same spirit is alive with the employees of Entergy. As we assess the damage to our electric and gas distribution systems in the New Orleans area, we are saddened by this catastrophe. We are citizens of New Orleans, too. And, just like you, our spirit isn't broken. We will get through this. It will be a long and difficult process. But with the help of every employee, every business partner, and every neighbor, we can rebuild this great city. And we'll do it together.

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THE POWER OF PEOPLE™

# Power restored to parts of CBD, Warehouse District

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

Nagin's evacuation order apparently could sweep several hundred hardy residents out of the French Quarter.

Although nearly empty, the Quarter remained high and dry - and home to pockets of insouciant die-hards who have supported each other in a defiant celebration of the city's determined, carefree spirit.

But in a short meeting with reporters on the steps of City Hall, Nagin said the city is increasingly unsafe, its crumpled public safety systems unable to protect its residents.

Another major fire broke out Tuesday, gutting a mansion in the Lower Garden District. Authorities fought it the only way possible: Helicopters ferried huge buckets of water overhead and doused it from above.

## Oil spills

More than fire threatened the city, however. Foul water presented a growing danger.

Mike McDaniel, the state secretary of environmental quality, told CNN floodwaters had swirled through wrecked sewerage plants and were fouled by natural gas and petrochemical leaks all over south Louisiana.

**"I think one of the things people want us to do is play the blame game."**

President Bush

He said crews found an oil spill of 68,000 barrels at a Bass Enterprise storage depot in Venice, and another of 10,000 barrels from the Murphy Oil facility in Chalmette.

"Everywhere we look there's a spill. It all adds up," he said. "There's almost a solid sheen over the area right now."

Besides the petrochemicals and human waste, officials said, the water was surely polluted by a variety of other pollutants, including pesticides and a catalogue of industrial solvents.

And there was another dreadful component: the bodies of uncounted dead humans and animals that rescuers have seen in a week of frantic life-saving efforts, but pushed aside to do higher priority work.

Officials said they did not know whether ejecting billions of gallons of foul pollutants would trigger a massive environmental disaster in the state's wetlands.

## City Council may meet

Against that deteriorating backdrop, New Orleans City Council President Oliver Thomas said he hoped to call the first post-Katrina council meeting, perhaps Thursday at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

And as the water levels began to fall, utility crews continued repairs to the area's damaged electrical grid.

Stores and gas stations in Covington and other parts of St. Tammany opened one by one, either powered by generators or as repairs reached them.

## Power returning

Parts of the Central Business District and the Warehouse District had power Tuesday, said Dan Packer, president and chief executive officer of Entergy New Orleans.

He said he hoped to have the entire CBD up in a few days. Authorities worked to get hotels up and running to house hundreds of workers who will be faced with the daunting task of helping rebuild the city.

Algiers could have power by Thursday, Packer said.

Bell South said it had restored telephone service to about half of 1.7 million customers knocked out by Katrina, but that it will be most of the month - longer in New Orleans - before service is fully restored to most areas.

Joe Chandler, a BellSouth spokesman, said he was "not going to guess."

"It depends on when the flood waters leave and crews can get back in."

Work crews will begin repairing the Interstate 10 bridges between New Orleans and Slidell as soon as next week, said Gordon Nelson, assistant secretary of operations for the state Department of Transportation and Development.

Eastbound lanes of the twin spans might be open for two-way traffic in four to six weeks, he said.

## Schools scrambling

Educators struggled to restore their systems as well.

The state Department of Education said public schools in St. Bernard Parish, which was completely flooded, will be closed for the remainder of the year. The same is feared for most of New Orleans.

In St. Tammany, educators were hoping to open for classes Oct. 3, said Superintendent Gayle Sloan.

Six of nine schools in Plaquemines Parish may open this year.

Jefferson Parish officials were still checking their 84 schools Tuesday. Twenty-four were determined to be useable or had sustained "isolated" damage, the system said. Six were badly damaged ,and 54 remained to be checked.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans said it hoped to have its schools open by January, using existing schools and temporary or satellite campuses out of the city, the Rev. William Maestri said.

## Bush to seek aid package

In Washington, President Bush said he intends to seek $40 billion for the next phase of hurricane relief, not only for New Orleans, but also for the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coasts, where Katrina demolished cities including Gulfport, Biloxi and Pascagoula.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the total bill may surpass $150 billion.

Bush resisted demands for an inquiry into what went wrong in federal relief in first few days after Katrina hit. He said it was more important to focus on human rescue for now.

"I think one of the things people want us to do is play the blame game," he said.

He said it is important to understand what went wrong to improve federal, state and local coordination in the event of a terrorist attack.

Bush said Vice President Dick Cheney would visit the disaster area Thursday to assess relief efforts and cut any red tape keeping rescuers from survivors.

With the worst of last week's horrifying days of despair and looting apparently behind New Orleans' police officers, officials began withdrawing them from the city for rest. Many are psychologically traumatized by stress and exhaustion, Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said. Many will be sent to Atlanta and Las Vegas for city-paid "rest and relaxation."

•••••

Staff writers Paul Bartels, Jeff Duncan, Gwen Filosa and Jan Moller and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

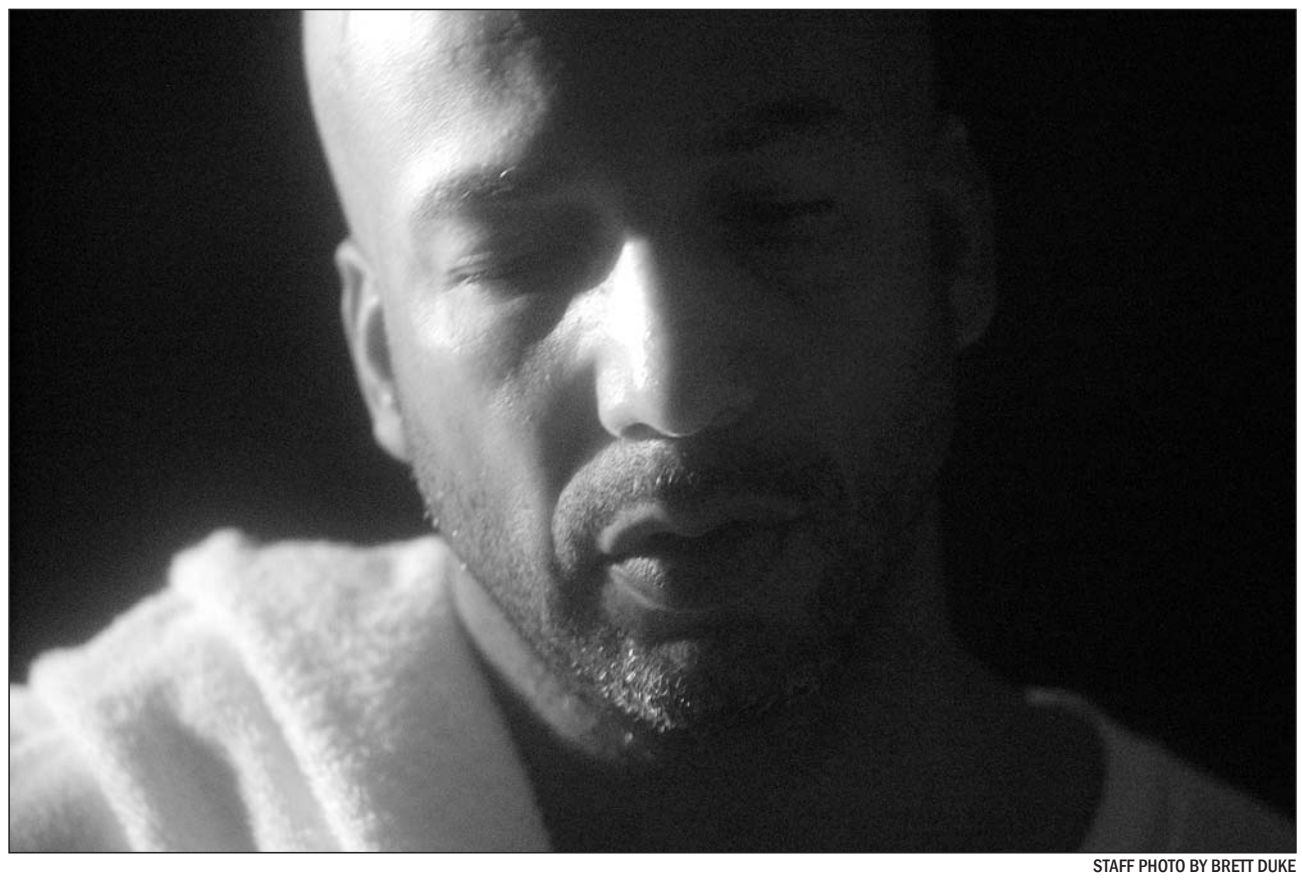


STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

A barge bearing sandbags moves down the 17th Street Canal on Tuesday as the effort to shore up the newly constructed containment wall continues.

*"I welcome the criticism. My question to them is, 'Where were you? Where the hell were you?' "*

NEW ORLEANS MAYOR RAY NAGIN



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

# MAYOR NAGIN STAYS OPTIMISTIC & DEFIANT

*N.O. mayor begs remaining residents to leave the city*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

Every day seems to bring another catastrophe for New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

Eight days after Hurricane Katrina and ensuing floods devastated the city, Nagin said he doesn't recognize the town he's called home for 49 years.

Its streets are flooded. Its buildings are burning. Almost all of its 480,000 residents are evacuated or dead.

"I remember when the sounds of New Orleans were jazz and people laughing and having a good time," the mayor said while addressing reporters during a press briefing Tuesday at City Hall. "Now the sounds of New Orleans are helicopters and Army vehicles. It's almost surreal."

But even while ordering a mandatory evacuation of all "nonessential" residents because of health and safety concerns, the mayor saw reason for hope. With helicopters whirring overhead and floodwaters lapping at the steps only a few feet away, Nagin said he's more optimistic than ever that New Orleans will recover.

"We will build a better New Orleans," Nagin said. "My message to the people of New Orleans is, 'Hang in there. This is something that has happened for a temporary period of time. We've secured the city, and you're in a better place while we start to build the new New Orleans.' "

Still, Nagin said, the recovery will have to wait. Widespread gas leaks and fires, contaminated floodwater and disease-bearing mosquitoes have rendered the city unsafe.

He begged the city's remaining residents to leave, estimating that 5,000 to 10,000 people are still trying to hold on and make ends meet in the city.

"I understand people want to stay in their homes," Nagin said. "But it's a very volatile situation in the city. □ It's not the food and the water; it's the conditions."

Wearing a golf shirt commemorating the USS Iwo Jima aircraft carrier given to him by Army Lt. General Russel Honore, the Army commander overseeing the military rescue and recovery operations, Nagin addressed reporters shortly after making a helicopter flyover to survey the flooded and hurricane-ravaged city.

He and city officials detailed a list of positive news.

Pumps No. 1 and No. 5 have resumed operation, and breaches in the levees at the 17th Street and Florida Avenue canals have been fully repaired. Water in the city is starting to recede, he said. Parts of the city are now dry that previously were underwater. He mentioned the Lakefront Campus at the University of New Orleans as an example.

Crime has declined dramatically since thousands of National Guard and active-duty federal troops arrived in the city late last week. Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley said there were 20 arrests in New Orleans last night and 150 arrests this week for various offenses.

Parts of the Central Business District and Warehouse District have power, said Dan Packer, president and CEO of Entergy New Orleans. He said he hoped to have the entire CBD lit up in the next couple of days. Algiers could have power in the next 36 hours, Packer said.

Search and rescue missions will continue indefinitely. Capt. Timothy Bayard of the New Orleans Police Department said all 60 of his boats were on missions Tuesday morning in the parish's flooded areas of Lakeview, Gentilly, eastern New Orleans, the Ninth Ward and Mid-City.

Even though rescue boats have covered more than 75 percent of the city's flooded areas, according to Riley, Bayard estimated thousands are still residing in their homes despite the high waters. Still, city officials said the boat trips will continue as long as there are residents in need.

"There are some New Orleanians out there holding onto life with their last breath," Nagin said. "I'm not going to allow, as best I can, another person to die in the city."

Nagin also remained defiant, rebuffing recent criticism from federal authorities and media representatives who have tried to shift the blame for the slow response for support to the local and state levels.

"I welcome that," he said. "I welcome the criticism. My question to them is, 'Where were you? Where the hell were you?' "

Nagin said he witnessed the storm's devastation firsthand and toured the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Superdome, where people were living in what he called "subhuman" conditions.

"I saw babies dying and old people so bad off they screamed, 'Just let me lay down and die.'

"(The critics) can talk that. Bring it on. I'm ready for it."

The final death count could rise to 10,000 before the final bodies are recovered, Nagin said. He said the disaster claimed lives in three phases: the initial impact of Hurricane Katrina and its destructive winds, the massive flooding after the levees broke, and the deplorable conditions that followed.

"The Convention Center was a totally different animal," Nagin said.

Officials have confirmed that 59 people died in the hurricane and its aftermath. Many of the bodies were recovered in the Convention Center, where thousands of evacuees fought starvation and dehydration, and were victims of violent crimes while waiting days for transport. Nagin said many of the victims were tourists or out-of-town workers.

"They (somehow) got caught up in that madness," he said. "When the final story is written, it will be the worst national disaster in the history of this country."

•••••

Jeff Duncan can be reached at jduncan@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3405.

# Stressed N.O. police get time off

*They get paid trips to Atlanta, Vegas*

**By Brett Anderson**
Staff writer

Attempting to ease the stress that led to the suicides of two New Orleans police officers last week, city officials have been making a concerted effort to tend to the mental health of rescue and law enforcement workers who struggled to save lives and establish order in the city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

As many as 150 city workers who battled not only the storm's wrath, but intense heat, no electricity, contaminated flood water, spotty phone service and no running water for more than a week since the storm's landfall will receive expenses-paid trips to Las Vegas or Atlanta.

Boosting morale is particularly urgent for the Police Department, which also has been hit by a number of officer resignations over the past several days, city officials said.

"One of our roles is trying to be of help to officers and their families," said Howard Osofsky, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at LSU Health Sciences Center, who is leading an effort to address the mental needs of the department. "From what I've seen in general, the Police Department has held together pretty well. But they've been through a lot."

**"From what I've seen in general, the Police Department has held together pretty well. But they've been through a lot."**

HOWARD OSOFSKY
chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at LSU Health Sciences Center

Deputy Police Chief Warren J. Riley said Katrina wreaked just as much havoc on the personal lives of his officers as it did on residents. The minds of many are clouded with the knowledge that their homes have been badly damaged or ruined, he said. Some have lost loved ones or don't know their whereabouts. And that was before the suicides of Paul Accardo, a department spokesman, and patrol officer Lawrence Celestine.

Suffice it to say that everyone could use some time off, Riley said.

Charles Parent, superintendent of the increasingly busy New Orleans Fire Department, said he is requiring his units to return to headquarters between fires for rest and reinforcements.

At a press conference in front of City Hall on Tuesday, Mayor Ray Nagin thanked Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin for mobilizing quickly to roll out the red carpets in their cities for New Orleans emergency workers in need of rest.

"We called them, and within 24 hours we had a network in place," said Nagin, who added that Southwest Airlines provided planes to fly personnel on all-expenses-paid trips.

Nagin said workers visiting Las Vegas are being offered free restaurant meals, tickets to shows and hotel rooms, along with $200.

Atlanta evacuees are getting similar treatment, including a $100 daily stipend.

Riley said that 150 New Orleans police officers are now taking time off in one form or another. All personnel are given full medical and physical examinations before they're cleared for vacation, Nagin said.

The mayor added that doctors even "gave me a physical and checked my crazy butt out."

Riley said his department, though reduced in numbers, is stronger than before.

"We have control of our city," he said. "Morale is beginning to build."

# Picard: Other districts may be back in weeks

**SCHOOLS,** *from A-1*

least part of the year, outside of their home districts.

"We're going to have to really take a hard look at complete reconstruction of the Orleans Parish school system," Picard said.

But Interim Superintendent Ora Watson said earlier in the day that she hopes that at least a few schools in Algiers could be opened this school year to accommodate families that might return to the area,

which has not been flooded.

"When they bring children back to the West Bank, they will need schools," she said at a meeting with other Orleans Parish officials. Watson noted that some parts of Uptown also are dry and that families returning there will need schools for their children.

Picard said that there are about eight schools in Algiers that were not substantially damaged by the storm, but added that he did not expect even those schools would be ready by year's end. If

people return to the West Bank, a small school district of maybe 7,000 or 8,000 students could be set up to accommodate those children sometime after January, he said.

Even getting to that point will depend on how quickly the area can be made habitable, Picard said. He noted that the state must deem the area safe - including ensuring that there is no environmental contamination from the floodwaters - and basic amenities like electricity and water must be available.

While Picard's department can funnel state education dollars for students in Orleans, without residents to pay property taxes there will not be enough local money to cover the cost of the children's education, he said.

Districts in Louisiana that will be taking in storm-displaced students and those outside the state are being asked to enroll them as quickly as possible, Picard said.

In some places, that will mean setting up special schools specifically for children who have been evacuated, such as at the Lamar Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, Picard said.

In the town of Zachary in East Baton Rouge Parish, which has a separate school district, Picard said he has authorized the superintendent to rent a former retail building that can be used to accommodate the relocated children.

The state still is pondering whether displaced students will have to comply with the state's standardized tests requirements, such as passing the LEAP exam, or other requirements imposed by federal law. Picard said that he expects to get waivers of certain federal requirements for students who are not being educated in their home parishes.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

**BATON ROUGE:** Alexis Keppel, 6, of Chalmette raises her hand in her first-grade classroom at Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge. At right is her cousin, Emily Gloe. About 200 children from New Orleans started school at Our Lady of Mercy on Tuesday.





ABOVE: Caroline St. Paul, 8, of Pass Christian walks with her assigned buddy, Shelby Toups, during recess Tuesday at Our Lady of Mercy School. Both girls are in the third grade.

LEFT: Courtney Palermo, right, hugs St. Dominic School teacher Kristin Coster in front of Our Lady of Mercy School in Baton Rouge. Coster taught second grade in New Orleans and one of her pupils was Palermo's son. Both women were trying to enroll their children at Our Lady of Mercy on Tuesday.

# B.R. schools bracing for surge of students

## *Throngs of evacuees seeking to enroll kids*

**Lynne Jensen and Steve Ritea**
Staff writers

It was the first day of school all over again for Alexis Keppel of Chalmette, 6, who three weeks ago started school close to home and on Monday joined a class of first-graders at Our Lady of Mercy in Baton Rouge.

"She already cried once; now she's crying a second time," said her father, Dr. Frederick "Rick" Keppel, as he watched his child walk away sporting yet another new Catholic school uniform this school year.

Keppel and his wife are among scores of parents seeking school placements for their children after evacuating the New Orleans area. Like so many other families, they are staying with relatives in Baton Rouge and wondering when they can return home.

Alexis, one of about 200 students from the New Orleans metro area who have been accepted at the Marquette Avenue elementary school, was smiling by the time 10 o'clock recess rolled around.

But frustrated parents of other displaced students lined up outside Principal Carolyn Guidry's office wondering whether their children will remain on a waiting list or be allowed entry at the school, which now has an enrollment of about 1,030 students.

"We're behind the 8-ball," said Courtney Palermo, who arrived at the school Tuesday morning hoping to enroll her sons Peyton, a fifth-grader, and Cal, a second-grader.

The Palermos evacuated to Little Rock, Ark., to stay with family, and they are getting a late start with school enrollment after arriving recently in Baton Rouge.

They had tried to call friends and relatives close to home "but we couldn't communicate with anybody," Palermo said.

### Satellites planned

It was a day of hugs, kisses and reunion outside the school Tuesday.

Palermo ran into Kristin Coster, who had been Cal's second-grade teacher at St. Dominic School in Lakeview. Coster was hoping to enroll daughters Hannah, 9, and Brooke, 6, in Our Lady of Mercy.

Another St. Dominic school parent, Kelly O'Connor, arrived at the school in borrowed clothes to see whether her fourth-grader, Seamus, had moved up on the waiting list.

"I get to a point where I think I'm going to break down, and then I just say: Go forward," O'Connor said.

O'Connor said she is eager to hear results of a meeting scheduled by the Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, with principals, administrators, faculty and support staff today at 10 a.m. at the Catholic Life Center auditorium, 1800 S. Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge.

Maestri said his office is considering establishing satellite, transitional and alternative Catholic campuses in the Baton Rouge area while hoping to return students to their regular school sites in January 2006.

Administrators and teachers are being asked to contact the archdiocese hotline at 1(888)366-5024.

But some New Orleans schools are not waiting on the results of the meeting.

Brother Martin High School announced plans Monday to open a night school at Catholic High School's Baton Rouge campus beginning Sept. 19. It will remain open until students can return to the Gentilly campus.

The Brother Martin staff in Baton Rouge can be reached at (225)383-0397.

To accommodate the large number of Jesuit High school students who have settled in the Houston area, Strake Jesuit High, the Jesuit high school closest to New Orleans, is creating an afternoon session to begin Sept. 13.

### Enrollments surging

Displaced public school students faced the same stressful search for schools this week, although the crush of displaced students may be delayed somewhat while area school districts process applications.

At Dutchtown Primary School in Geismar, parents flowed in to the central office to register their children in the Ascension Parish public school, where the district already was bursting at the seams before Katrina.

One of the fastest-growing districts in the state, Ascension already had increased enrollment by 1,000 students this year. By the end of this week, assistant Superintendent Donald Songy said, he expects another 1,000 students - most of them evacuees - to have enrolled, bringing the district's total to 17,000.

Officials anticipate at least 150 of the displaced students will be

taught at a local church.

At Dutchtown, Principal Elizabeth Stafford said the student-to-teacher ratio increased from 20:1 before Katrina to 26:1 after. Before long, she added, it probably will go higher.

Asked when the district might cut off enrollment, she replied: "I don't see our parish doing that, even if we have to wall off sections of the hallway; we're going to educate these children."

Once the district gets a solid headcount, more teachers will be hired.

State officials have pledged more money to the districts taking in new students.

### Facing uncertainty

One of the displaced children, Nelson Tran of Harvey, who was originally enrolled at Woodland West Elementary there, sat on the floor of guidance counselor Kerry Songy's office playing with a toy dump truck as his father, Khanh, enrolled him in kindergarten at Dutchtown.

Songy said she already has begun counseling displaced students, talking to them about their feelings in small groups and letting them know that it's OK to cry and be angry - the emotional releases necessary to heal people large and small in times of tragedy.

"Surprisingly, most of the parents we've been meeting are coming in with a sense of humor, and they're very cooperative, wonderful people," she said. "They, of course, are worried about what to do next and are still a little in shock, coming in with an idea of taking it one day at a time, and they're very appreciative of anything we can do for them."

A few, she said, have been too overcome by emotion to fill out the necessary forms and have needed help.

As soon as her younger sister, Temika, finished enrolling at Dutchtown Elementary, Kimberly Isidore and her mother were headed down the street to Dutchtown High School to enroll her.

A member of the ROTC and dance team at L.W. Higgins High in Marrero, the junior had been in school there for about two weeks before the storm.

The Trans and the Isidores said they're still uncertain what they will do once the New Orleans region becomes inhabitable again.

"I've talked to some people who are true New Orleans people who just want to get back and want to rebuild," Songy said. "Others are not so sure."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Wealthy Old Metairie awash in filthy water

## *Pricey neighborhood was left unprotected*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

Water lapped at the front doors of million-dollar mansions and rippled across the hoods of BMWs and Mercedes sedans in Old Metairie on Tuesday as a handful of homeowners in one of Jefferson Parish's toniest areas returned to gauge damage from Hurricane Katrina and from a levee breach that turned their neighborhood into a putrid swamp.

"Usually you just get the low-lying areas," that flood, Councilman-at-large John Young said, as he paddled a flat-bottomed boat down Northline. "These people, this might be the highest-priced street in the state.'

That price tag, which often pays for a few inches of elevation to protect against flooding, however, did not save dozens of homes from destruction as limbs from oaks, crape myrtles and cypresses lay across the watery road and gashed through many roofs along Northline and Stella and Iona streets.

Most residents evacuated this hamlet before the storm hit or got out soon after. Dotting the landscape were orange Xs sprayed-painted on doors and windows by National Guard troops in recent days to indicate that no dead had been found inside. And most residents had not returned Tuesday, possibly because of the difficulty navigating the 4-foot-deep oil slicked water, strewn with downed power lines, floating trash cans and upended trees.

At the end of Northline, a scruffy man leaned over a second-floor balcony watching dragonflies zip across the still water.

"I came here from Jackson, Miss., to help my mother and father. They're 80-something years old," said Henry Handelman, 55. "They got out on a helicopter (last) Tuesday, but I'm going to walk out of here."

Handelman said he stopped in Old Metairie to check on his parents as he headed to Tallahassee, Fla., to volunteer for the Red Cross's Katrina volunteer relief effort. He stayed with them until a medevac team whisked them out of the house, then on to Austin, Texas, last week. But Handleman said he intended to remain in his childhood home until the waters receded.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**OLD METAIRIE:** Ray Rathle paddles a flatboat away from Henry Handelman's parents' Old Metairie house, where Handelman refused the chance to leave Tuesday. "I'm doing some soul-searching here," said Handelman, of Jackson, Miss. "When I rebuild this house, I'm going to put it on stilts just like Grand Isle. It's going to be the silliest looking thing out here."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**OLD METAIRIE:** In the 300 block of Arlington in Old Metairie, homeowners move ruined carpet and rug onto a boat. Old Metairie, known for its towering oaks and million-dollar mansions, was devastated by a 5-foot-deep flood from a breach at the 17th Street Canal.

"I'm doing some soul-searching here," he said. "When I rebuild this house, I'm going to put it on stilts just like Grand Isle. It's going to be the silliest looking thing out here."

"We will rebuild," Handleman said.

Just down the road, the makeshift levee of sand and riprap erected in four days last week by Jefferson workers and contractors stood strong across Airline Highway, dividing the roughly 5-foot-deep flood that extended into Jefferson and Orleans parishes as far as the eye could see.

The levee was build swiftly to protect East Jefferson from Lake Pontchartrain waters that spilled through a breach at the 17th Street Canal last Tuesday, though it could not keep the flood out of Old Metairie or neighborhoods, near Airline Highway east of Causeway.

The Army Corps of Engineers continued its work Tuesday, dropping 3,000- pound sandbags and laying tons of dirt on the Orleans Parish side. A small pump pulled lime-green water from the neighborhoods swamped by the levee breach and spewed it back into the canal near the lake. But Corps and New Orleans officials did not give the go-ahead Tuesday to switch on the enormous 17th Street Canal pumps that would drain water from the flooded parts of Jefferson, according to Walter Maestri, the parish's emergency management director.

Maestri said he did not know when federal or city leaders would allow pumping to start. "We tried to get a hold of the city, and the city's basically in exile right now,'' he said.

Meanwhile Jefferson imported small pumps to move the floodwater through the West Metairie Canal, but Maestri said they were inadequate to provide relief to submerged parts of the parish.

As workers continued to fill the breach, Kenny Rodriguez, 67, of Metairie ventured to his home near Hammond Highway after waiting in his car for 4‰ hours to re-enter the parish, the second day Jefferson officials allowed residents to return briefly to survey the damage. Rodriguez said the scene, minus the lakefront restaurants of Sid-Mar's and Brunings that were reduced to rubble by Katrina's winds, "brings me goose bumps.''

Asked whether he intended to rebuild his house and his family's nearby seafood market, Rodriguez replied, "Oh yeah, they got to.''

Already back in business Tuesday was Drago's, the Fat City oyster house. Though none of the 140 sacks of oysters that were in the restaurant's refrigerator before the storm survived the recent electricity loss, its owners used propane to heat 1,300 meals of pasta, chicken and sausage since Monday for relief workers and returning neighbors.

Tommy Cvitanovich, who runs a restaurant with his parents, said the donation was the least his family could do after a storm that ravaged so many restaurants, especially in New Orleans, but left his with only temporary loss of power and water.

Back in the nearly dark kitchen, Joe Shine said whipping up grilled chicken and pasta with alfredo sauce was his therapy after weathering such a dangerous storm at his Metairie home.

"I feel great to be back at work,'' he said. "It occupies my time so I don't have to worry about everything else.''

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# Poorest nations among the first to offer help

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - Offers of help for Hurricane Katrina victims are coming from all over the world, including some of the poorest nations, governments that strongly oppose the United States and even Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Among the 94 nations offering to help are poverty-stricken Bangladesh, war-ravaged Afghanistan, communist Cuba and Saudi Arabia, a strategic military ally often opposed to U.S. policies in the Middle East.

In the Saudi newspaper Al-Riyad, Dr. Muhammad al-Quwayz writes that "no one denies the United States killed thousands and destroyed countries in our Islamic world, Africa and Asia, it has oppressed and carried out unjust deeds in a provocative manner." But he said, "Its injustice should not prevent us from adopting a fair stand on the Katrina tragedy for it is a catastrophe in every sense of the word and calls for cooperation not gloating," according to a translation provided by the BBC.

The State Department said that Saudi officials made what it described as a generous contribution to the American Red Cross.

Other pledges through Tuesday include four ships from Canada with 1,000 soldiers to aid evacuations; 45 tons of military meals from Germany's air force; $1 million from Bangladesh; $100,000 from Afghanistan; and even $25,000 from Sri Lanka, which said through a spokesman it is trying to reciprocate for American assistance after December's tsunami.

The Germans also are offering high-speed pumps to help remove water from New Orleans and other flooded communities. The Netherlands, which, like New Orleans, lies mostly below sea level, promises the help of its top experts to draw up plans to safeguard the city from future large-scale flooding.

"The American people can take great heart from the fact that when we need help, when we need assistance, the world is answering the call," said Sean McCormack, assistant secretary of state for public affairs.

Castro, the Cuban dictator, has upgraded his offer of 1,000 doctors to at least 1,500 and expressed impatience that he hasn't gotten a response from the U.S. government, according to Cuban press reports.

McCormack said the United States is evaluating all offers and would decide its response based on identified needs and not on whether the United States has good relations with the would-be donors..

The outpouring of support is reminiscent of offers of assistance after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Canada's ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna, said his country is ready to do whatever is requested, in addition to the four planes and military personnel already provided.

Thailand Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkon said his country is sending 60 doctors and nurses, along with rice. He called it a "gesture of the heart," recalling the help his country received after the deadly tsunami last December.

The largest donation so far appears to be the $28 million from oil-rich Qatar, but U.S. officials seem most moved by the $25,000 from Sri Lanka, given that country's struggles to recover from the deadly tsunami.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pledged Tuesday to do "everything we can" to help find foreigners who were on the Gulf Coast during Katrina.

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**"Seventy percent of the roof is leaking. Evacuees broke into the suites, commissary areas and into offices looking for food."**

DOUG THORNTON, regional vice president for SMG



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

A man carries belongings through rising waters to the Superdome on Aug. 30. A primary shelter in the days after Hurricane Katrina, the Dome may have suffered $400 million in damage, the chairman of the Superdome Commission said Tuesday.

# Dome closed for year, could be scrapped

*Damage study to help decide facility's fate*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE - With electrical problems and some floodwaters still standing in the Superdome, state officials Tuesday said the future of the building has not been determined.

But they did say this: Damage to the structure could hit $400 million, and it's unlikely the facility could be used for at least a year.

Superdome Commission Chairman Tim Coulon said the Dome will hire engineers and other consultants to assess the structural stability of the stadium. That will be done in the next few weeks, Coulon said.

Besides flooding, the Dome lost part of its roof as more than 20,000 evacuees huddled there in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"We have to do a damage assessment first,'' Coulon said. "It is premature to write the Dome off. But there has been substantial damage.''

Although a precise figure will not be available for weeks, damage may total $400 million, Coulon said.

"There is still some standing water in some areas in the Dome,'' he said. "Some water has gotten into the new scoreboards. . . . I don't see the Dome being used at all for at least a year."

Coulon refused to say whether he or state officials prefer to demolish the Dome or try to renovate it. The engineering study and assessment will help determine the course, he said.

Doug Thornton, a regional vice president for SMG, the company that manages the Dome and the nearby New Orleans Arena for the state, said the Dome's interior was trashed during the evacuation and must be decontaminated before engineers look at the structure.

"It may take us two to three weeks to get it cleaned up,'' Thornton said. He said it may take another 45 days to determine how sound the structure is.

"Seventy percent of the roof is leaking,'' Thornton said. "Evacuees broke into the suites, commissary areas and into offices looking for food,'' he said.

Thornton said the arena fared better.

Water has soaked some of the facility's carpeting, tiles and other areas, but he said it is possible the arena, which plays host to the New Orleans Hornets and several concerts each year, could be back in operation "in the first quarter of 2006."

Coulon said the Dome - new or renovated - will be part of a redeveloped and revitalized New Orleans.

"It will be part of an entertainment-sports complex which will be a major component'' of a rebuilt New Orleans, he said.

But, he added, compared to flooded streets and homes, homeless residents and possibly thousands of deaths, the stadium is "a second- or third-tier item.''

In a related matter, New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson said Tuesday that to "the extent circumstances allow,'' he would like to keep the team in Louisiana this season and play its home games at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.

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# Federal agents start post-storm arrests

*Algiers man accused of shooting at copter*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Federal agents arrested a young Algiers man early Tuesday after agents said he shot at a military rescue helicopter, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said.

The arrest marked the first federal action against the lawlessness that preyed upon New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Wendell L. Bailey, 20, was arrested outside the building from which, federal prosecutors said, he had fired a .22-caliber handgun at the helicopter, which was flying in darkness.

A criminal complaint filed against Bailey on Tuesday accuses him of the federal crimes of trying to damage an aircraft and being a felon in possession of a handgun. If convicted on both charges, Bailey could be sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Letten held Bailey's case up as the first federal arrest and promised more would come.

"He will be prosecuted very aggressively, federally," Letten said at the Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge, flanked by U.S. Attorney David Dugas of Baton Rouge and by officials of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives.

**Special ATF agents patrolling Algiers saw gunfire coming from an apartment window.**

U.S. District Judge Sarah Vance, of the Eastern District, signed the arrest warrant. Bailey was booked at the temporary detention center set up by state officials in the storm-torn downtown of New Orleans, and is due in federal court in Baton Rouge today.

Special ATF agents patrolling Algiers saw gunfire coming from an apartment window.

Two young men then walked out of the building and were heard chatting about shooting at a helicopter. "They won't be back now," one of them said, according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court on Tuesday.

Inside the apartment, ATF special agents found a .22-caliber Rohm revolver and a .32-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver hidden beneath a mattress -- along with a box of 9 mm ammunition.

Letten said that under federal law, Bailey's home address cannot be released. He said he did not have the specific address at which ATF nabbed Bailey. The second young man who was with Bailey was interviewed by ATF agents but was not arrested.

Bailey has prior convictions for dealing marijuana and cocaine, Letten said. Bailey admitted to ATF agents that he was a felon on probation and he told them where the firearms were, Letten's office said.

At the time of the shooting, Letten said, a number of civil and military aircraft were in the air helping with evacuation, search and rescue, and delivering supplies.

State Attorney General Charles Foti Jr., the former criminal sheriff in Orleans Parish, plans to open up a second detention center in New Orleans, likely using an existing facility that was built to be a jail, Letten said.

# Fires, smoke envelop parts of New Orleans



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Rubble is all that's left of several structures on Tuesday after a large fire cut a path through St. Andrew Street.

## Finding a glimmer of hope

**By Chris Rose**
Columnist

The first time you see it . . . I don't know. Where are the words?

I got to town Monday afternoon. I braced myself, not knowing how it would make me feel, not knowing how much it would make me hurt.

I found out that I am one of the lucky ones. High ground. With that comes gratitude and wonder and guilt. The Higher Powers have handed me my house and all my stuff and now what? What is there?

I live Uptown, where all the fancy-pants houses are and they're all still here. Amid the devastation, they never looked so beautiful. They never looked more like hope. This swath of land is where this city will begin its recovery.

There are still homes and schools, playgrounds, stores, bars and restaurants. Not so many trees, I'm afraid. We'll have to do something about that.

The Circle K near my house was looted, but there are still ample supplies of cigarettes and booze. They just took what they needed. The hardware store and Perlis - the preppy clothing store - same thing.

Someone kicked in the window at Shoefty, a high-end shoe boutique, and what good a pair of Manolo Blahnik stilettos is going to do you right now, I don't know.

Idiots.

I myself was escorted out of the local Winn-Dixie by narcotics officers from Rusk County, Texas.

I told them I thought it was OK to take what we need. "And what do you need?" the supervisor asked me. I reached into my bag and held up a bottle of mouthwash.

I told him I will come back to this Winn-Dixie one day and pay for this bottle, and I will. I swear it.

Right by the entrance to the store, there is a huge pile of unsold newspapers stacked up from the last day they were delivered, Sunday, Aug. 28.

The Times-Picayune headline screams: KATRINA TAKES AIM.

Ain't that the truth? Funny, though: The people you see here - and there are many who stayed behind - they never speak her name. She is the woman who done us wrong.

I had the strangest dream last night, and this is true: I dreamt I was reading an ad in the paper for a hurricane-relief benefit concert at Zephyr Stadium and the headliner act was Katrina and the Waves.

They had that peppy monster hit back in the '80s, "Walking on Sunshine," the one they play on Claritin ads on TV and that almost seems funny in light of what happened.

Almost.

Riding my bike, I searched out my favorite places, my comfort zones. I found that Tipitina's is still there and that counts for something. Miss Mae's and Dick & Jenny's, ditto.

Domilise's po-boy shop is intact, although the sign fell and shattered, but the truth is, that sign needed to be replaced a long time ago.

I saw a dead guy on the front porch of a shotgun double on a working-class street and the only sound was wind chimes.

Everybody here has a dead guy story now. Everybody here will always be different.

I passed by the Valence Street Baptist Church and the fa□ade was ripped away and I walked in and stared at the altar amid broken stained glass and strewn Bibles and I got down on my knees and said thank you but why? why? why? and I'm not even anything close to Baptist. It just seemed like a place to take shelter from the storm in my head.

The rockers on my neighbor's front porch are undisturbed, like nothing ever happened. At my other neighbor's house - the ones who never take out their trash - a million kitchen bags are still piled in the mound that's always there and I never thought I'd be happy to see garbage, but I am.

Because it reminds me of my home. I haven't been down in the kill zone yet. I haven't seen the waters. I haven't been where all hope, life and property are lost.

I have only seen what I have seen and we took the hit and it is still here. This is where we'll make our start. This is where we'll make our stand.

And when everything gets back to normal - whenever that may be - I'm going to do what I've been putting off for a very long time and I'm going to walk next door and tell my neighbors that they really do need to start taking out their trash.

• • • • • •

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

## *Helicopters being used to fight blazes*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

Fires erupted Tuesday around New Orleans, casting a smoky pall over a city with a security situation clearly improved but still clotted with corpses and pockets of residents scavenging in a ruined landscape.

Embattled firefighters, shorthanded and dealing with low- or non-existent water pressure, relied on helicopters to battle fires burning at times simultaneously in various parts of the city. In the early morning, crews struggled to contain blazes in the 7th Ward near McDonogh No. 35 Senior High School, and another farther uptown in a neighborhood behind Trinity Church.

As the day progressed, a third broke out in Gentilly and a fourth in Bywater.

Police said a fifth fire burned in eastern New Orleans. No injuries were reported.

The copters made endless trips over the flaming landscape to the Mississippi River, where they dipped giant 2,000-gallon bags into the river and then carried them to the fire.

Each trip took about two minutes, but, handicapped by bad visibility and wind, it was difficult to pinpoint the long, white streams of water.

Consequently, firefighters said they were unable to extinguish fires quickly, and could only hope to contain them.

In addition, firefighters drove tankers that had been filled on the West Bank. Crews were reluctant to draft the filthy, standing water in the city for fear of spreading contaminants, authorities said. With each new fire, one or two vehicles are either stranded in water or knocked out of commission, their engines befouled by the bad water, New Orleans Fire Superintendent Charles Parent said.

The helicopters have been used in fighting wildfires, but on the urban level combining them with tankers was a novel tactic.

"We're writing the book as we go along," Parent said. He believes some of the fires may be attributable to arson, but that the more likely culprit is "human error."

Meanwhile, in staging areas throughout the city where the floodwaters showed signs of receding, crews from throughout the country began the grisly task of recovering bloated bodies.

"The bodies are floating in the East," New Orleans Police Department Deputy Superintendent Lonnie Swain said after a boat trip to that still isolated section of the city. "I didn't see that many personally, but the units I've talked to that have been working out there today tell me there's been quite a few of them."

NOPD Capt. Timothy Bayard, commander of the force's ad hoc marine units, declined to give specific numbers but reiterated his prediction that the body count would be, "in the thousands."

Immediately after Hurricane Katrina blew through, police scuba divers took to the waters in the search for survivors and the dead but became so violently ill that the tactic has been abandoned.

"We're facing some serious decon issues," said Jack Wise, a battalion chief with the Los Angeles City Fire Department, who has joined in the relief effort.

"Let me tell you how good it is first," Wise went on, stressing that the rescue of the living continued. Indeed, late Tuesday afternoon, on the downriver side of the canal, an airboat brought out a family of seven, including three children, one in diapers.

But Wise conceded the task is increasingly grim and that New Orleans is rapidly approaching a tipping point between rescuing the living, and merely recovering the dead.

"They're not floating everywhere, but, yes, they're there and we've gotten about 50 today," he said, noting his 14 boats had surveyed only small grids so far.

With New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin insisting on a total evacuation of the city, some residents reported increased pressure from soldiers to pack up and get out, and security checkpoints began to proliferate as military teams asserted themselves in the face of lingering pockets of resistance.

"Why leave?" a bicyclist asked as he poked through refuse along Convention Center Boulevard looking for unopened bottles of water. A Drug Enforcement Agency team on Elysian Fields Avenue encountered two young men who explained their continuing presence in the city very simply: They "live here."

"No one lives in this city anymore," one of the heavily armed agents shot back.

Some of those who do, continue to prey upon survivors, police said. Although incidents of looting and lawlessness decline each day, there are still pockets of criminals spreading terror.

NOPD officers said they were concentrating operations in eastern New Orleans late Tuesday, where the 7th District has set up shop at the Crystal Palace banquet hall and is relying on aerial intelligence from federal teams and interviews with evacuees to identify trouble spots.

NOPD Superintendent Eddie Compass, a CNN camera team in tow, appeared Tuesday at the force's fluid staging area at the Harrah's Casino and said the situation in the city was unquestionably better.

"It's been heartbreaking, this tore us up," he said when asked about New Orleans' ordeal since Katrina. "We need more but we're getting more and it feels good to have help, thank God. Now I've got to get a hepatitis shot."



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Two days after flames razed six homes at the corner of Upperline and Camp streets, a fire still burns on Tuesday.



**NEW ORLEANS:** A helicopter drops water on a large fire on St. Andrew Street that consumed several structures on Tuesday. Using 2,000-gallon bags, helicopters dipped water from the Mississippi River to fight the fires because there still is no water pressure in the city.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

# Bush pledges probe in wake of Katrina response

*He works on aid, schooling, shelter*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - President Bush and congressional leaders promised Tuesday to investigate why the initial federal response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina was, by wide agreement, slow and inadequate.

Bush, who is readying a $40 billion aid package to supplement the $10.5 billion approved by Congress last week, also met with Education Secretary Margaret Spellings to discuss ways to help school districts around the country that are taking in thousands of students displaced from their own schools by the hurricane.

"We must try to restore some sense of structure and normalcy to their lives as quickly as possible," Spellings said. "And that includes helping schools accommodate these new students, who will need books, clothes and other supplies."

Bush said now is not the time "for the blame game," but at some future date, he would personally oversee an investigation into how Katrina rescue efforts were handled by federal, state and local officials.

Bush said he is working with his Cabinet to develop a comprehensive plan for both immediate and long-term housing for the estimated 1 million people displaced by Katrina and to ensure that people can collect their Social Security checks and other benefits no matter where they are living.

He is sending Vice President Dick Cheney to the Gulf Coast region Thursday to evaluate recovery efforts.

Brian Richardson, spokesman for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said the nine-member Louisiana delegation is working together on legislation to spell out that people can collect Medicare, or Medicaid benefits, even if they don't have the normal paperwork required to qualify, and that schools can accept children even if they don't have a permanent address.

Richardson also said the Louisiana delegation wants to make sure more stringent requirements to gain bankruptcy protection don't go into effect in October, as scheduled, for those affected by the hurricane.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said Louisiana lawmakers also are looking for ways to ensure that Louisiana gets the financial aid it needs for upgrading New Orleans levees, for providing more financing for flood control and hurricane protection and for efforts to ease the loss of coastline and wetlands that make southern Louisiana so vulnerable to serious flooding from storms.

Congressional leaders vowed to work across party lines to help hurricane victims, and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., suggested the cost easily could reach $150 billion.

He called on the Senate to cancel plans to take up legislation to repeal the estate tax, and Republican leaders pulled it from the agenda.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who angered Louisiana officials by suggesting last week that it didn't make sense to rebuild New Orleans before pulling back from the statement, said he is committed to a "bipartisan, bicameral" approach to the serious challenges facing New Orleans and other devastated communities.

But there was still plenty of partisan wrangling.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she asked Bush, during his meeting with congressional leaders, to fire Michael Brown, the embattled chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "The president thanked me for my suggestion," Pelosi said afterwards.

Asked by a reporter whether Brown is still doing a "heck of a job," as the president said last week, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said: "There are people working round-the-clock with FEMA - the secretary, the FEMA director, and many others. And we've got to do everything we can in support of their efforts to make sure people are getting what they need."

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, a Democrat, said he wants wholesale changes.

"Take whatever idiot they have at the top of whatever agency and give me a better idiot. Give me a caring idiot. Give me a sensitive idiot. Just don't give me the same idiot," Broussard said on CBS Tuesday.

On a separate issue, President Bush said he agreed with the Rev. Jesse Jackson that those displaced by the hurricane should not be called refugees.

"The people we're talking about are not refugees," Bush said Tuesday to a group of representatives for community and faith-based organizations. "They are Americans, and they need the help and love and compassion of our fellow citizens."

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# Threat of disease grows by the day

*N.O. lucky so far, health official says*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

Predictions of medical doom have already descended on New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but so far the dreaded diseases commonly associated with primitive sanitary conditions have yet to make themselves known, experts said.

"I haven't seen any evidence that anyone is infected at this time," said Dr. Jullette Saussy, the director of EMS operations for the city.

Indeed, fears that outbreaks of cholera, chigella or salmonella will decimate the surviving population are common with natural disasters. They ran rampant after Hurricane Mitch in Central America in 1998 and after the tsunami that swamped the Indian Ocean rim last year. In both those cases, thankfully, widespread deaths did not result from post-disaster illnesses.

That said, Saussy said it would be foolish for New Orleans to ignore the danger.

"It is going to be a growing and ongoing concern," she said.

With bloated corpses drifting through the mulch-colored water that still stands in vast swaths of the city, the likelihood that residents who need to wade through the vile stew will get sick skyrockets. In addition, the city's usually hardy mosquito population is anticipated to boom with uncountable new breeding grounds forming in the water.

And as if those factors weren't enough, the city reeks, an aroma of excrement, trash and decomposition that assaults the nostrils even when flying above the devastation in a helicopter. The city's best hope, Saussy said, was to remove potential victims.

"First of all, we need to get the people out of here, then we can remove the water and the bodies," she said.

That process continued Monday, with military helicopters and state assets like school buses taking evacuees to points north and west beyond the floodwaters or Louis Armstrong International Airport.

At times it seemed as if New Orleans had disturbed a swarm of choppers, as Blackhawks, Chinooks and other military machines hovered over precise points in the city, suspended against the skyline as if on wires.

Down by the Convention Center, flights rolled one after the other, taking the last strands of evacuees to safety. Those helicopters also carried sick patients, with Saussy and her crews sometimes carrying elderly residents with oxygen bottles and other medical apparatus into the bellies of the helicopters.

That operation is a federal one, and while Saussy and her colleagues had nothing but high praise for the current military effort, she struggled to control her rage when asked about the timing and scope of the federal effort since the storm.

"I am beyond frustrated. I simply can't talk about it."

Similarly, she said she had not met with any Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other federal health officials, although they are reported setting up shop in New Orleans. That coordination, as well as public knowledge of what must be done, will have to improve if the city hopes to dodge health problems. Residents who fear they are sick have few options.

"Currently the city has no medical facilities open," she said, adding there were no temporary tents or other sites where residents could get tested.

"What people have to do is get out."

**FOCUSING ON DISEASE PREVENTION**

Volunteer doctors are moving into the Gulf Coast region to care for the sick and try to prevent some of the predictable diseases that occur days after flooding.

**Risks monitored by medical professionals after a flood:**

- Contamination of drinking water can cause diarrhea and lead to dehydration
- Contact with polluted water may include wound infections, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, ear, nose and throat infections
- Standing water increases the risk of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP GRAPHIC

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# SPORTS

# SPLIT DECISION?

## *Saints face logistical obstacles in both Baton Rouge and San Antonio*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - With the tides shifting between Baton Rouge and San Antonio every day, the best bet is that the Saints probably will play some of their home games at both places this season.

There are hurdles that need to be overcome in both cities - particularly in an overcrowded Baton Rouge, which already is stretched with its hurricane relief efforts. But Baton Rouge also appears to be the favored destination of the NFL, of certain members of the Saints' organization and of public opinion.

On Tuesday, Saints owner Tom Benson pledged his support of playing games in Baton Rouge as well - in the wake of several reports that he was pushing hard for all the games to be played in San Antonio.

"The entire New Orleans Saints organization would like to extend its prayers and best wishes to all of our fans throughout Louisiana and the Gulf South region," Benson said in a statement issued after a conference call between Saints and NFL officials. "We are currently working with the NFL and expect to be in a position shortly to announce the sites for our remaining 2005 home schedule.

"I have expressed my desire to the NFL to play games in Baton Rouge, La., to the extent circumstances allow."

That last part is the key, however, as logistics may prove difficult in Baton Rouge. For one thing, hotel rooms are in short supply, in addition to the kind of security and emergency forces necessary for an NFL game.

And although LSU and Louisiana government officials have supported the idea of the Saints playing in their home state, there are still financial concerns that need to be met.

LSU does not need to profit from the games, but the budget is an issue.

"We'll do everything we can to be good Louisiana citizens, extend a great invitation," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said. "But we can't ask LSU fans, who subsidize the athletic department, to subsidize any Saints activity. I'm talking about maintenance, expenses that kind of thing. Some amount of money has to be paid.

"We think it would be good if the Saints stayed here. □ We'll do whatever it takes, except spend money."

Bertman said most of the details will need to be worked out by politicians and that so far nobody from the LSU athletic department has spoken with anyone from the Saints. But a source familiar with the discussions said LSU is working out some "deal points," such as financial feasibility, who would provide security and who would be in charge of ticketing. The discussions were characterized as preliminary.

Speaking of ticket sales, Benson put to rest some concerns about season-ticket refunds in his statement.

"Saints ticket holders unable to attend games, wherever played, should also be assured that they will be permitted to request refunds. Specifics of the refund policy will be publicized in the upcoming days," Benson said.

He concluded his statement by saying, "The New Orleans Saints look forward to the start of the NFL regular season this Sunday and to having the club be a source of pride and joy in these difficult days. As we move forward together, the Saints look forward to serving as a leader in the rebuilding and revitalization of our great community. Towards this effort, the Saints have established the 'New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.' Further information for those individuals/companies interested in contributing will be announced shortly."

### State's concerns

Some state and team officials have been openly concerned in recent days about Benson's plans for the Saints, both short term and long term. But those fears have seemingly been eased somewhat.

Sen. David Vitter said in a statement Tuesday that he "had a very good, reassuring conversation with Tom Benson about the need for all of us to join together in rebuilding Greater New Orleans, including its jobs and business base. In that conversation, Mr. Benson assured me of two things:

"1. He is eager to maximize the number of Saints home games that could be played in Tiger Stadium consistent with first meeting the medical, housing, and other needs of evacuees in the region.

"2. He is eager for the Saints to return to New Orleans as soon as possible and for his organization to be part of our rebuilding effort and long-term future."

The Saints' executive vice president of administration, Arnold Fielkow, also told The Times-Picayune on Monday night that he believes the team is making a commitment to Louisiana.

Fielkow, who had expressed concerns to several media outlets that Benson was leaning strongly toward playing games in San Antonio, said the team is "hopeful of playing several games in Baton Rouge this season" and that "it is the collective hope of our organization that Saints football will return to New Orleans as soon as possible."

NFL spokesman Joe Browne also expressed the league's support for playing games in Baton Rouge, saying he hopes the Saints eventually will be able to play home games there, according to The Associated Press.

Where the Saints will play their home games ultimately is the decision of NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

The Saints were not thrilled with the commissioner's decision to move their first home game to the home site of the visiting team, the New York Giants, on Monday, Sept. 19 - though the team understands it will be used as a primetime showcase for the league's hurricane relief efforts.

The Saints have not been given any assurances that they will avoid playing games at the site of other visiting teams this year.

That leaves San Antonio as the most feasible site, at least early on - and the favorite choice of the Saints, for reasons that have nothing to do with the owner's desire to move his franchise to the Alamo City.

The Saints are headquartered here, and many players, coaches and staff members will move their families here for the next four months. Playing home games in San Antonio's Alamodome would mean less travel and perhaps even a larger available ticket sales base than in Baton Rouge.

Several players and Coach Jim Haslett admitted this week that they would like to play at least some of their home games in San Antonio.

Said Haslett: "I would like to have them here because we are practicing here, but I think we owe it to the fans of New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, all the people in Baton Rouge, all the way up to Lafayette and Shreveport □ to play a couple games back in Baton Rouge, if we can."

### Mum on move

The city of San Antonio is not officially campaigning for the Saints' home games, in an effort to not appear opportunistic in the wake of a tragedy. Mayor Phil Hardberger has said more than once that the city's concentration is on helping the more than 10,000 evacuees now sheltered here.

But behind the scenes, San Antonio officials reportedly have been seeking corporate sponsors and trying to put together an incentives package for the Saints, including guaranteed sellouts in the 65,000-seat Alamodome, which hosted the Saints and Vikings in a 2001 preseason game.

Alamodome director Mike Abington said there have been official and unofficial contacts with the Saints over the past week and that he is preparing to make the stadium available if the Saints and the NFL make the request.

"It's hard to say (what will happen). They have not given us any firm commitment. We have made a commitment to them that we will accommodate them should they need us in any way they can," Abington said. "It's quite an operation to put on an NFL game, especially on short notice, but we're working on all the details right now in anticipation of knowing something. Kind of like waiting for a baby to be born."

Abington, a Louisiana native from the Shreveport area, said while the town would love to host NFL games, he is not making a sales pitch and he "won't allow myself to lose sight of why all this is happening."

Benson's interest in moving his team permanently to San Antonio - where he has longstanding personal and professional ties and keeps a second home - has long been rumored. Those rumors have heated up in recent days, with reports of sources saying he wants to move the team there for good next season.

But sources have been saying both on and off the record in recent days that they don't believe Benson has made such a decision - especially with so much uncertainty surrounding his native New Orleans.

The fear that New Orleans may not be ready to host the Saints or financially able to afford them is legitimate. And the Superdome may never again host an NFL game.

But then again, perhaps federal relief could aid in rebuilding the city and the Dome, which also served - albeit tragically - as a relief shelter.

Any discussions of Benson moving the team would be too preliminary at this point. Even if he wanted to move his team to San Antonio, it would take approval of 24 of the 32 league owners, and the proximity to the Houston and Dallas markets would become an issue.

# Tulane exploring several options

**By Benjamin Hochman and Fred Robinson**
Staff writers

DALLAS - Chris Scelfo calls it "Tulane Tech."

Beginning Monday, that's where the coach's football players will attend class and practice. After a whirlwind of conference calls, 11th-hour maneuvers and numerous Advils, Tulane administrators pieced together an unprecedented arrangement for the football team - sending it to Louisiana Tech - and the other athletic teams - dividing the teams onto four Texas campuses for at least the fall semester.

The football players, currently in Dallas, are expected to travel to Ruston on Thursday to register for classes, and then return to Dallas that night for practices Friday morning. The Wave will remain at the DoubleTree Hotel through the weekend and travel to Ruston on Monday - the same day classes start at Louisiana Tech - and will begin classes one day later.

As to where Tulane will play, Scelfo said Tuesday afternoon, "We've got it done," in reference to nearby Shreveport's Independence Bowl Stadium, which the city has offered free of charge. Scelfo said the team might try to play one game at Louisiana Tech's Aillet Stadium to show gratitude to the school.

But Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said he won't know for sure until today. Dickson said Tuesday's goal was to coordinate all other Tulane athletes into hubs of Dallas and Houston before sending them to four other schools - Texas Tech, Rice, Southern Methodist and Texas A&M. On Tuesday afternoon, Dickson began addressing the home stadium issues. Tulane's first game is Sept. 17, when it will host Mississippi State.

Dickson said the city of Mobile has offered Ladd-Peebles Stadium. And Dickson said Florida State athletic director Dave Hart called him and pointed out possible arrangements for Tulane to play some of its games on the Seminoles' campus.

Dickson said it is possible all of the team's games won't be played in the same stadium.

# MONEY

# Convention industry out of work

## *Center won't reopen until March 31 at best*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

New Orleans will not hold any citywide conventions until the end of March at the earliest because of damage to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the building that is considered the engine of the New Orleans tourism industry.

"We have canceled all conventions utilizing the Convention Center through the end of this year, and we expect in the next day or so to cancel those through March 31," said Stephen Perry, president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. "The Convention Center has severe damage."

Hurricane Katrina damaged the facility's roof, allowing water to leak into the building. And after so many people gathered there last week looking for refuge in the aftermath of the storm, the inside of the building is "not inhabitable" for meetings and all the surfaces need to be replaced, Perry said. Electricity has been restored to the building, but there is no air conditioning or water.

Center officials estimate it will cost in the "high tens of millions" to repair the building. Perry said he is working with Louisiana's congressional delegation to get federal funding to repair the building because it is such a key economic driver and will help restore employment in the region.

"We expect to have it back online next year, better than ever, if we get federal assistance," Perry said. Earlier this year, officials had hired a consultant to consider ways to freshen up the center.

There is no word on whether the Phase IV expansion of the Convention Center will go forward. The addition is supposed to expand the facility by nearly 50 percent, to 1.6 million square feet, making it the fourth largest in the country. After being mired in litigation for 20 months, the contract to build Phase IV was signed in August.

"There has been literally zero discussion on that. Until we get through this week, that's on the back burner," Perry said.

Meanwhile, the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association is trying to survey damage at New Orleans hotels and is hoping to have power restored at hotels before other buildings. The idea is that the hotels can house emergency management crews, construction workers and electricity technicians and keep hospitality workers employed, Perry said.

For now, New Orleans will be out of service during the prime convention months of the year. Some of the largest conventions scheduled to be held in New Orleans in the coming months are being rescheduled.

"We have received about 40 inquiries from meetings that were scheduled to take place in New Orleans," said Erika Yowell, spokeswoman for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The LVCVA is sharing leads with other private convention centers and hotels with large amounts of meeting space in Las Vegas to try to nail down the business. In the meantime, Las Vegas has confirmed bookings for meetings of the National Association of Convenience Stores, the Distribution Business Management Association and the Association for Career and Technical Education, Yowell said.

Other large groups that had been scheduled to meet in New Orleans will go to other cities.

The American Society for Microbiology, which was scheduled to meet in New Orleans in September, will instead meet in Washington, D.C., in December, according to the group's Web site.

The National Business Aviation Association, whose 2001 convention in New Orleans had to be rescheduled because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, will meet in Orlando, Fla., instead of New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina.

"We are planning to go back whenever the city is able to accommodate our event," Vice President Dan Hubbard said.

The Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau is working with "about a dozen major conventions" that had been scheduled to come to New Orleans. To create more openings in its convention calendar, Dallas is trying to move conventions on its calendar up a few days or back a few days.

But the Dallas CVB, led by Phillip Jones, former secretary of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for Louisiana, has offered to swap years with New Orleans for groups that meet in both cities. For example, if a group was scheduled to meet in December 2005 in New Orleans and December 2007 in Dallas, Dallas would take this year's meeting to give New Orleans time to rebuild.

Perry said the convention business will be painfully slow in coming months because New Orleans doesn't want to bring convention customers back until the city is able to receive them. But he is optimistic the convention business will rebound stronger than ever because the Convention Center and downtown hotels will be updated as part of the rebuilding process, and he is encouraged because convention groups have indicated they want to return, despite the risk of hurricanes and the violent images they saw on television in the wake of the storm.

"They are telling us, 'When you are back up, we cannot wait to come back to New Orleans and put our meeting there and help you,' " Perry said.

Jones said he believes that groups will respond in different ways to what they've seen on television. "I think it will have a negative impact on some groups, and others will want to support New Orleans in the same way that many groups wanted to meet in New York after 9/11," he said.

Jones said he thinks New Orleans can bounce back but that it will be important for the convention and visitors bureau to send out signals that the city is safe and will re-open.

"The core of the historic district of New Orleans, which serves as the cornerstone to the tourism industry, is intact, so you can rebuild around that. The question is, how soon?" Jones said. "People need to be reassured that the tourism industry will rebuild in New Orleans and in Louisiana, and when the rebuilding is complete, New Orleans will remain one of the top tourism destinations in the country."

For now, that may be tough. The convention bureau's building in New Orleans was damaged by the storm and is now occupied by the Colorado National Guard. Convention staffers are spread between Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu's office in Baton Rouge and in cities around the country. Fortunately, the convention bureau was able to retrieve its computer database Tuesday to begin reaching out to convention customers.

### NO MEETINGS FOR A WHILE

With the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center shuttered, New Orleans, the fifth-largest convention city in the United States, will be without much of that business for at least a few months.

**MAJOR NEW ORLEANS CONVENTIONS FORCED TO CANCEL OR RELOCATE:**

| Name | Planned dates | Planned attendance |
|---|---|---|
| American Society for Microbiology | Sept. 19-23 | 16,000 |
| Specialty Graphic Imaging Association | Sept. 26-Oct. 1 | 11,250 |
| AARP | Sept. 28-Oct. 1 | 20,000 |
| Sweet Adelines International | Oct. 4-8 | 10,000 |
| American Society of Anesthesiologists | Oct. 22-26 | 16,000 |
| Natl. Association of Convenience Stores | Oct. 29-31 | 23,000 |

Source: Tradeshow Week, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

NEW YORK TIMES GRAPHIC

# Hibernia likely won't be acquired today

## *Capital One already put off deal once*

**Mary Judice**
Business writer

The delayed acquisition by Capital One Financial Corp. of Hibernia Corp. is scheduled to close today, but on Tuesday speculation remained whether the new deadline will be met.

Capital One, which had planned to buy Hibernia on Sept. 1 for $5.35 billion, delayed the closing for a week after Hurricane Katrina took out the bank company's operations center in New Orleans and flooded branches in the metropolitan area. Many branches have been shuttered for more than a week.

In a joint announcement the day before the deal was scheduled to close last week, the two parties said they "had mutually agreed" to reschedule the planned closing to today "as a result of the devastation and disruption caused by Hurricane Katrina."

The announcement sparked heavy trading in both stocks as traders reported that they began to have doubts about the deal. Hibernia shares fell much of the week but Capital One shares gyrated.

Capital One did not return a call Tuesday and a Hibernia spokesperson said no announcement was planned.

Hibernia president Herb Boydstun said Monday he could not comment on the delay announced a week ago.

"There is a contract that both sides are called on to do certain things," he said. "I don't think it is appropriate for me to talk about this transaction."

He said the two banks would issue a press release laying out what they would do to rebuild the bank.

On Monday, Boydstun said the bank had reopened 47 branches and was reopening four to five branches every day or two.

Hibernia is one of the largest businesses in New Orleans. It owns the Hibernia National Bank, which has branches in Louisiana and Texas that hold more than $22 billion worth of loans and other assets.

Analysts said Capital One faces more risk in buying Hibernia as a result of the storm. Hibernia likely will suffer significant short-term damage, including loss of deposits, the inability of customers to pay small business loans and mortgages and actual damage to bank property.

Ed Groshans, banking analyst at Fox Pitt Kelton in New York, said he thinks there is a 50-50 chance the deal will close today.

"They will close the deal but not tomorrow," he said Tuesday. Groshans said the signing will take place in a week or two because of the logistics of getting the parties together at this time.

He said he thinks shareholders will not be affected, so long as the deal takes place today or soon at the previously announced terms.

For each share of Hibernia stock, shareholders are to receive an amount equal to $15.35 in cash plus 0.2261 of a share of Capital One stock based on an average of the stock price for the 5 days prior to the closing. That means each Hibernia share would be worth about $33.72, based on the math, if the deal closes today.

Hibernia stock has been trading below that level. On Tuesday it closed at $31.40.

Normally, before such a merger, the two prices would be very close. Because the prices have not been close, that has created speculation that the deal will be postponed again or renegotiated.

However, some have pointed out that the gap has narrowed, which implies the professional traders started to think the deal would be done today. Hibernia stock was up 84 cents Tuesday while Capital One's was down $1.54 to $80.50.

"I don't think the long-term finances have changed so they could renegotiate," Groshans said.

While he said "there will be pain getting the infrastructure of the bank in New Orleans up and running," Hibernia will benefit from the revitalization of the community and the rebuilding by its customers and it will recoup losses with insurance settlements and payments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Capital One of McLean, Va., has said that 54 percent of Hibernia shareholders had chosen to receive Capital One common stock, 33 percent had asked for cash and 13 percent did not make a valid election. The maximum amount of cash Capital One will pay is $2.38 billion.

# To BP Employees Impacted by Hurricane Katrina

Thankfully, we have been in contact with all of you. Please stay in touch with us so that we may provide you with details about BP's Humanitarian Assistance Program.

A variety of help is available to you including the following:

- Supplies such as food, water and generators
- Interest-free loans for expenses
- Temporary lodging
- Daily per diem while in temporary living quarters
- Car rental or rental reimbursement
- Cash for basic family needs
- Expenses for child, elder or pet care

BP Employees, please call BP's toll-free 24-hour assistance hotline

**1-866-850-7768**

to access this network of available resources.

bp

## OUR OPINIONS




# No time for turf wars

People at all levels of government will have to answer for what they did and didn't do in the days before and after Hurricane Katrina. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has earned scorching criticism for its day-late-and-billions-short response to the ghastly crisis in New Orleans. And maybe it was only a matter of time before officials at FEMA and its parent organization, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, began looking for others to blame.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff recently maintained that the hurricane destroyed state and local governments' ability to respond to emergencies, and he blamed that breakdown for the calamity that has overtaken New Orleans. Other federal officials say Gov. Kathleen Blanco's reluctance to share command of the state's National Guard troops with Washington has hampered the rescue effort by sowing confusion about who is in charge.

But accusing other government agencies of protecting turf is an awfully convenient dodge, a way of running from the stink of death that enveloped parts of the city over the past week. And if Blanco is gun-shy about giving more power over New Orleans' recovery to the likes of FEMA Director Michael Brown, whose previous employer was the International Arabian Horse Association, can anyone fault her?

Let's be clear: Officials in New Orleans and elsewhere in Louisiana are hardly blameless in this tragedy. Official preparations for the storm centered on an evacuation plan designed to hasten the flow of private vehicles out of the city. This system worked well, and many more lives would have been lost without it. But as is now obvious, the plan did not take sufficient account of those who would not or could not evacuate on their own.

No federal presence was evident as the storm in the Gulf gathered strength and chugged toward us. If Blanco and Mayor Ray Nagin thought in the days before landfall that the federal government wasn't pulling its weight, they should have said so loudly and frankly.

In Louisiana, public officials constantly tiptoe around one another's fragile egos and delicate sensibilities. Once New Orleans was in ruins, of course, Nagin called upon the Bush administration to stop holding press conferences and start saving lives. On national television Sunday, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard accused FEMA of turning back Wal-Mart trucks containing drinking water and nixing the Coast Guard's plans to provide diesel fuel. Broussard went so far as to accuse the federal bureaucracy of murder.

None of this means Louisiana can handle the post-hurricane crisis alone. Quite the contrary; the tragedy of Katrina would be too much for any one state to bear, much less a state as poor and vulnerable as ours. FEMA and other federal agencies responded quickly and effectively to past catastrophes, and this one should have been no different.

For that reason, it was a relief when Blanco hired James Lee Witt, who enhanced FEMA's reputation when he headed the agency during the Clinton administration, to advise her on the reconstruction process. No one will benefit if the local, state and federal agencies responsible for responding to disasters end up tripping over each other. Clear lines of command might well speed up the recovery, and putting someone of Witt's expertise in charge of the process ought to help.

Inevitably, there already have been calls in Congress for an independent commission to examine the relief effort. Such a study might help emergency-management agencies in the future figure out how not to respond to a catastrophic hurricane.

But an independent commission won't address what ought to be everyone's immediate priority: getting New Orleanians to safety and getting the reconstruction under way. New Orleans needs the unified, able, dynamic leadership that FEMA officials so far have been unable to offer. The need for a cooperative spirit among leaders of the metro area has been talked about for years. That has happened in fits and starts in the past. Now, though, everyone has to come together to work for the good of the entire community.

**"Anybody who would just sit there and hid like that has to be a little off."**

HOWARD JOHNSTON, boat driver



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

While Deputy Paul Chavez, left, and others from the Sheriff's Department in Albuquerque, N.M., patrol her neighborhood Tuesday, Uptown resident Sheila Mossop contemplates whether she should leave her home at the corner of Upperline and Camp streets. The home is next door to six homes that burned two days ago. 'I can't say how it burned because I fear for my life,' said Mossop, who didn't want to leave her two puppies.

# Rescuers finding it hard to bring residents to safety

*Many prefer to stay in flooded homes*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Roosevelt Kyles came out of the front door of his flooded lower 9th Ward home, a Ziplock back full of medicine in his mouth and a dingy shirt in his hand, trying to keep both out of the chest-high water.

Kyles already had turned down two offers to take him to safety, the first time ignoring the teary pleas of his wife, who left without him. Across the street from his home, a bloated body floated near three homes that had gas leaks bubbling up through the floodwaters.

Kyles tried to turn down yet another offer Sunday, negotiating with volunteer rescue workers to give him water instead of a ride to safety. He had run out of water and couldn't take the many medicines he needed to survive.

Volunteer worker Paul Washburn, 23, who had come in Saturday from Colorado, gave him an ultimatum: No water, unless you get in this boat.

"This is your final opportunity," Washburn said from the bow of one of the two boats on a rescue mission.

"OK. Let me get my pants,'' Kyles finally relented, before disappearing back into the house.

After heaving him onto the boat, Washburn grilled him about his many health conditions and recent surgeries and handed him bottles of warm Gatorade and water to drink. Kyles at one point seemed annoyed at the questions.

"Don't preach at me, man. I took my medicines a while ago,'' Kyles said.

The rescue operations that continued in the lower 9th Ward took a grim and bizarre turn this week as volunteer boats slowly navigated polluted waters listening intently for screams over the roar of passing helicopters. Some victims, like Kyles, didn't want to be saved at all, apparently in the belief that they could survive until the floodwaters receded.

"It's not going to be a week - that water won't go down for a month,'' Washburn had shouted to Kyles through his screened porch.

Just before picking up Kyles, the team of two rescue boats had seen another man in a wrecked tan apartment complex.

"We're coming to get you! Wait there!" yelled New Orleans Police Officer Mike Stalbert of the 3rd District Taskforce.

"I don't want to go," the man yelled back, before disappearing behind the graffiti-covered second-story walls, refusing to listen to any more of the rescuers' pleas.

The scene baffled one of the boat's drivers, Howard Johnston of Baton Rouge.

"Anybody who would just sit there and hid like that has to be a little off," he said.

Yet refusals of rescue efforts have not been at all uncommon.

Whether out of shell shock, mental disease or a desire to protect what's left of their property, many trapped flood victims have refused help, rescue workers have reported.

Cut off from the flood of worldwide media reports about Hurricane Katrina, many also seem to believe the waters would recede and their lives go back to normal.

# State not facing bankruptcy, officials say

*But bond rating firms cast wary eye on government debt*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana's government faces enormous financial challenges as a result of Hurricane Katrina, but the state will be able to pay its bills and is not facing bankruptcy, top state officials say.

Parishes and other local governments in the storm-damaged areas are under even greater financial stress, but the state is prepared to help where necessary, state Treasurer John Kennedy said.

With estimated damages that could top $22 billion, Katrina is the worst storm ever to hit the United States, according to the New York bond rating firm Standard & Poor's, which has placed the state, local governments and several agencies in the area on CreditWatch, indicating they may have problems in making future debt payments.

Katrina ravaged several wealthy parishes previously populated by more than a million people and thousands of businesses that paid sales and income taxes and fees contributing to the annual state budget. No state official has predicted how much of the economy can be restored or how soon that could happen, drawing into question how the state budget might have to be altered to keep it balanced, as required by law.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc said Tuesday that the statewide financial impact of Hurricane Katrina - and its ensuing flooding and fires, such as the one at Gov. Nichols Wharf that left part of it a smoldering heap - is largely unknown, making it impossible to predict what measures will have to be taken to keep the Louisiana's accounts in order.

"The state is going to meet its obligations," said Jerry Luke LeBlanc, who as commissioner of administration acts as the governor's budget chief. As for bankruptcy, "we're not even close," he said.

Still, LeBlanc said, the impact on the state's tax and revenue base is unknown, making it impossible to predict what measures will have to be taken to keep the state's accounts in order.

"The breadth and scope of this is larger than anything that anyone has ever dealt with," LeBlanc said. "The costs are going to be staggering."

State officials already have spoken with Wall Street bond rating agencies to discuss the state's ability to pay debts, and economists are trying to get a sense of what the impact might be, he said.

Greg Albrecht, an economist with the state's Legislative Fiscal Office, is attempting to estimate that impact. He is trying to figure how many people are now unemployed, not all of whom will get jobless benefits.

"It's not just how many people, but for how long," Albrecht said.

Once Jefferson Parish has its lights back on and people begin to repopulate, it will become a staging area for Orleans businesses and citizens to remake the city, he said.

"I don't think the state's just going to fall over the edge," Albrecht said. "I think the bounce-back will be quicker than we might think at first."

When devastating hurricanes have struck other states, those economies eventually were boosted by money and jobs generated by federal aid, insurance compensation and the process of rebuilding, both LeBlanc and Kennedy said.

"In all those cases, the economic and revenue picture exceeded the levels prior to the incident," LeBlanc said.

# STATE OF SHOCK




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**ORLEANS-JEFFERSON LINE:** More than a week after Hurricane Katrina hammered the region, standing water covers a deserted Airline Drive at the Jefferson-Orleans parish line.

*Everywhere you looked in southeast Louisiana, from Orleans to Jefferson to St. Tammany to Plaquemines, the scene was largely the same Tuesday: devastation. Amid it all, however, were scattered signs of progress, signs that the worst might be behind us, even if the pain of it all is still unbearably fresh.*



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH:** Slidell resident Linda Noggerath scans what little remains of her Lakeview Drive home. She and her husband, Richard, had owned the home since 1970.

**JEFFERSON PARISH:** The shattered façade of the Galleria in Metairie looms over Interstate 10.

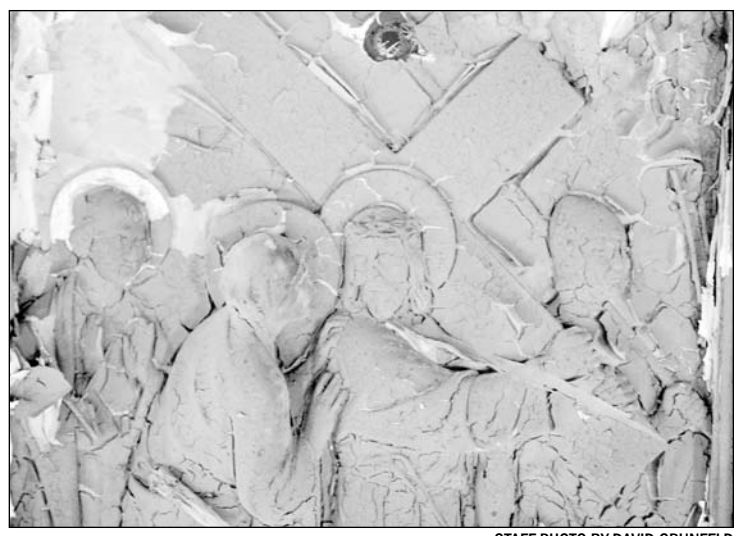


STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

**ORLEANS PARISH:** Rescue operations continued Tuesday for man and beast alike. Members of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been scouring New Orleans for pets left behind in the mass evacuation. Among them are Allison Cardona, above, shown carrying a pair of cats at an Uptown New Orleans boat launch area near Napoleon and St. Charles avenues.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH:** A Station of the Cross, in which Christ carries his cross on the way to his crucifixion - and eventual resurrection - strains to be seen through a layer of caked-on mud at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Port Sulphur.

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK
HOUMA COURIER EXXON SPOT COLOR 09/07/05 PAGE 16



# Notice to ExxonMobil and Chalmette Refining employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to our employees and to all those from the communities along the Gulf Coast who lost family and friends and whose lives have been severely disrupted as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

In the aftermath of the storm, we know that many of our employees in the affected areas have lost their homes and property. We are anxious to make contact to ensure that you and your families are safe and to discuss any Company assistance you may need.

We therefore request that all of our employees affected by Hurricane Katrina contact the Company as soon as they are able to do so. If you have not already done so, you should contact your supervisor or the Employee Assistance Line at 1-877-294-8617.

For more information please go to *exxonmobil.com*.

ExxonMobil

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 2,500 still sleeping in airport

## *Takeoffs balloon to 3,800 a day*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

More than 500 people rode out Hurricane Katrina at Louis Armstrong International Airport, but the number quickly rose to 5,000 in the storm's aftermath as evacuees showed up at a shelter where food and water were scarce, airport officials said Tuesday.

Eight days after the storm, more than 2,500 people are still sleeping at the airport, although most of them now are not evacuees but uniformed military or law enforcement personnel.

The number of takeoffs and landings has jumped from the pre-storm average of 700 per day to as many as 3,800. Most of those are helicopters. Planes and buses filled with refugees also are moving out.

Now a relief and staging center, the terminal a week ago was jammed with tired, hungry and frustrated refugees - and only 11 Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies to keep order.

Many of the refugees were injured, and more than 20 died, despite the efforts of a Federal Emergency Management Agency medical team that set up an emergency room in the Delta Air Lines terminal lobby and sent the sickest patients out the door first to hospitals elsewhere. The rest were frustrated, thirsty and hungry, according to airport employees who rode out the storm.

"The rescue helicopters were bringing people in, but the buses were dropping off people, too, and a lot of folks just showed up because we were high and dry," airport spokeswoman Michelle Duffourc said.

The result was bedlam. The cream-colored terminal floors were caked with black mud, and the evacuees were stressed and angry as they awaited transport out of the New Orleans area by plane or bus.

Aviation Director Roy Williams said FEMA failed when it prematurely halted "mercy flights" by airlines that flew donated supplies into Armstrong and flew refugees out. Williams said FEMA stopped flights by American, Southwest, Northwest and United airlines on Thursday, four days after the storm, when it was ramping up its own evacuation effort.

"I think their response was far short of adequate," Williams said, adding that some refugees were forced to stay in the fetid conditions longer than necessary.

FEMA spokesman David Passey said he had not heard the allegation before and would have to investigate before he could respond.

Williams said FEMA still is not telling him how many flights will be coming to the airport.

"I've heard that there is a conference call every day to talk about this, but I'm not on it and no one I talk to is on it. You would think they would ask someone for an estimate of how many more aircraft we can get on the field, or how many people are in the terminal, but it's like they're managing this by remote control."

Williams said the airport's heroes include Joseph Taylor, manager of CA One/Pampy's, Armstrong's food and beverage concessionaire. With a dozen employees and relatives, Taylor cooked up food and served it during the harrowing days after Katrina struck Aug. 29.

"It's part of his job description, but when things got bad no one would have blamed him if he had pulled his people out," Williams said.

Other heroes among the 50 or so airport-related staffers who rode out the storm were the sheriff's deputies who managed to keep order despite long hours under chaotic conditions, Williams said.

The airport's future is in flux. Passenger traffic from commercial flights pays Armstrong's bills, but those flights are out of the question for the time being. The airport has outstanding loans of $200 million, which are paid by airline landing fees and rents, and passenger-derived revenue from parking and concessions.

Williams said the airport is eligible for federal grants that could help it pay its operating costs of about $50 million a year.

Before Katrina, airport officials had hoped to break the 10 million passenger mark during 2005. It did so for the 12-month period ending in August.

The last time that happened was in August 2001, a few days before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

# Utility workers look for gas leaks

## *Service could be cut for repairs*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

About 130 Entergy Corp. utility workers spent Tuesday scouring dry parts of New Orleans for potentially dangerous natural gas leaks in homes and businesses, using high-tech devices to sniff out the fuel.

The company warned that parts of the city with gas might lose service as crews repair damaged lines.

That could be a burden to people who have stayed in New Orleans. For many, gas was the only utility service still working more than a week after Hurricane Katrina, and the fuel may be their only means for cooking food and boiling water.

Though various people have attributed fires in the city to gas leaks, Entergy regional gas operations manager Rusty Burroughs said there's no evidence so far that gas leaks caused any of the major blazes.

"They appear to be mostly arsons," he said.

While workers looked for gas leaks, thousands of power line workers continued to fix toppled utility poles, restring wires and restore electricity to more homes and businesses in the region.

About 475,000 utility customers remained in the dark in southeastern Louisiana late Tuesday afternoon, according to Entergy and Cleco Corp. Entergy supplies electricity to parishes south of Lake Pontchartrain, and Cleco supplies power parts of St. Tammany and Washington parishes north of the lake.

After working in Algiers, the gas utility crews began moving Tuesday into the French Quarter, the Central Business District and parts of Uptown between St. Charles Avenue and the Mississippi River, Burroughs said.

The crews carried flame ionization units to detect trace amounts of methane, the main component of natural gas, and combustible gas indicators to measure whether gas leaks are large enough to explode.

The crews worked during daylight in areas being patrolled by security forces, Burroughs said. "They are in areas where they generally feel safe," he said.

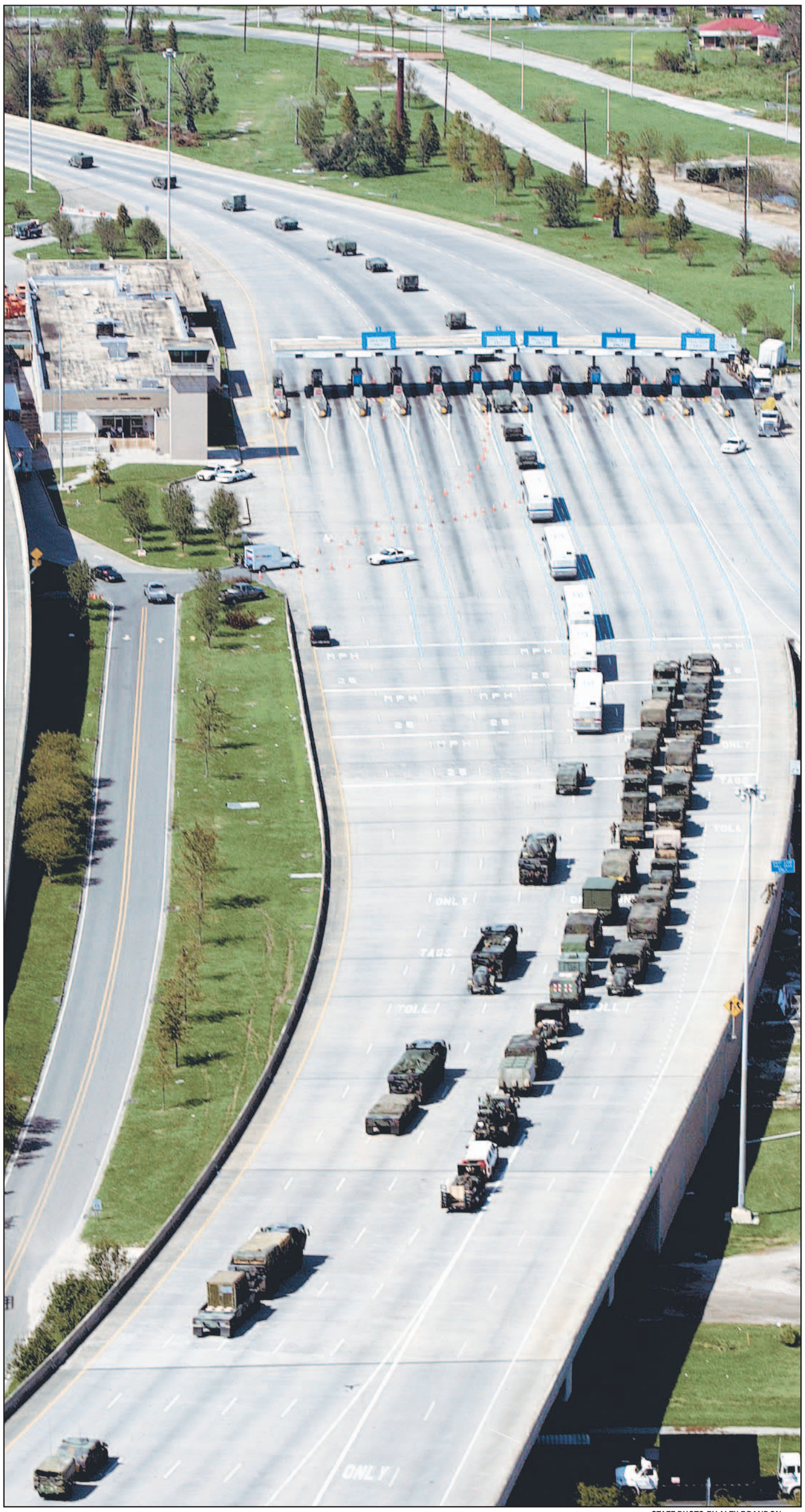
Entergy cut off gas service to all of the Lower 9th Ward and eastern New Orleans on Sunday because of the likelihood of widespread leaks in the areas due to serious storm damage and flooding.

Entergy workers also planned to cut gas service to smaller areas of the city, in part to maintain the flow of gas to pumps moving floodwaters out of New Orleans, Burroughs said. Generators that produce electricity for the pumps are fueled by gas.

In the coming days, workers will begin moving toward Mid-City and the lakefront, using military Humvees and boats to explore flooded neighborhoods, Burroughs said.

*Anyone discovering a gas leak in the city should report it to Entergy by calling 1 (800) 368-3749.*

## PAYING KATRINA'S TOLL



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Army trucks line up at the toll plaza of the Crescent City Connection on Tuesday.

# *Residents find strength, loves ones*

**By Lolis Eric Elie**

Although we hadn't heard from Clothilde Martha Crowley Nichols for several days, we should not conclude that she was ever lost.

When I wrote about her a few days ago, what I knew was this: Nichols had abruptly ended her phone call with her granddaughter, JoNell Kennedy. It was during the early stages of Hurricane Katrina, and the storm had broken a window in Nichols' home. She couldn't talk because she had to bandage the hand her son had injured in his efforts to repair that window.

The indomitable spirit of that woman was responsible for her decision to remain in her Gentilly home, even while her relatives begged her to evacuate with them. That spirit has yet to be vanquished.

Monday, I had a brief conversation with Kennedy, who assured me that her grandmother was safe. "She actually told us she was never lost," Kennedy said.

Though Nichols might object to the term, she was rescued and is now alive and well in Orange, Texas.

In that same column I wrote about my cousin, George Thompson III, who felt that the Riverbend area was flood-proof.

Whether the neighborhood is flood-proof or not, his house on Hillary Street protected him. It neither shook nor took on water, he told me Saturday.

Late last week, he started walking toward downtown, hitched a ride, and ultimately was bused from the Convention Center to Monroe.

When we talked, he was more interested in telling me about the disrespectful treatment he and other evacuees suffered at the hands of state troopers than he was in telling me the story of his escape from hell. I took that as a good sign.

The stories of both Nichols and Thompson deserve a more expansive telling.

Their tales deserve a place alongside that of Lula Elzy, who at this time last week was looking for more than half a dozen relatives, almost all of whom have since been found.

"In the last two days, we went on to (a Web site) and put my nephew's name on it and told them we were looking for him," Elzy said. "Then he called me from Dallas. Then my niece called and told me she and my mother were in Houston, and two of my nephews were with them. My sister Sherry was in San Antonio, although they all left the Superdome at the same time."

Elzy is still missing one sister, Lynette Elzy, 42, who was last heard from right before the storm.

I am still in search of Lee Oliver Bates, a carpenter and friend who, when last I saw him, was supposed to be on his way to one of the hotels in the city. When last I talked to him, it was Monday afternoon, and he was crammed into the Superdome with everyone else.

I worry about him. His health is not the best. But I gain strength from the fact that even at this late date, loved ones are still being found. Families are still being reunited.

*Columnist Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com*

# STORM SCENES




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson announced on Tuesday that season ticket holders would be given a refund if desired. Still, some may remain faithful.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

With a landscape transformed by Katrina as the backdrop, the untouched "Port Sulphur" sign may be the only way to be sure of the location.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Long lines form as claimants wait to see Allstate Insurance representatives on Tuesday.

An insurance office in a field. A boat speeding down Morrison Avenue. A helicopter fighting a fire. Until last week, each of these scenes would have seemed improbable. But by now the apocalypse wrought by Katrina has made these sad sights seem almost expected.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

A Chinook helicopter drops water on a burning house on Kelerec Street.

# SPORTS

# SPLIT DECISION?

## *Saints face logistical obstacles in both Baton Rouge and San Antonio*



AP PHOTOS

Saints wide receiver Michael Lewis, right, signs the T-shirt of 2-year-old Cyrus Reaux, center, as he is held by his older brother Brian Reaux at a shelter in San Antonio on Tuesday.

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - With the tides shifting between Baton Rouge and San Antonio every day, the best bet is that the Saints probably will play some of their home games at both places this season.

There are hurdles that need to be overcome in both cities - particularly in an overcrowded Baton Rouge, which already is stretched with its hurricane relief efforts. But Baton Rouge also appears to be the favored destination of the NFL, of certain members of the Saints' organization and of public opinion.

On Tuesday, Saints owner Tom Benson pledged his support of playing games in Baton Rouge as well - in the wake of several reports that he was pushing hard for all the games to be played in San Antonio.

"The entire New Orleans Saints organization would like to extend its prayers and best wishes to all of our fans throughout Louisiana and the Gulf South region," Benson said in a statement issued after a conference call between Saints and NFL officials. "We are currently working with the NFL and expect to be in a position shortly to announce the sites for our remaining 2005 home schedule.

"I have expressed my desire to the NFL to play games in Baton Rouge, La., to the extent circumstances allow."

That last part is the key, however, as logistics may prove difficult in Baton Rouge. For one thing, hotel rooms are in short supply, in addition to the kind of security and emergency forces necessary for an NFL game.

And although LSU and Louisiana government officials have supported the idea of the Saints playing in their home state, there are still financial concerns that need to be met.

LSU does not need to profit from the games, but the budget is an issue.

"We'll do everything we can to be good Louisiana citizens, extend a great invitation," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said. "But we can't ask LSU fans, who subsidize the athletic department, to subsidize any Saints activity. I'm talking about maintenance, expenses that kind of thing. Some amount of money has to be paid.

"We think it would be good if the Saints stayed here. □ We'll do whatever it takes, except spend money."

Bertman said most of the details will need to be worked out by politicians and that so far nobody from the LSU athletic department has spoken with anyone from the Saints. But a source familiar with the discussions said LSU is working out some "deal points," such as financial feasibility, who would provide security and who would be in charge of ticketing. The discussions were characterized as preliminary.

Speaking of ticket sales, Benson put to rest some concerns about season-ticket refunds in his statement.

"Saints ticket holders unable to attend games, wherever played, should also be assured that they will be permitted to request refunds. Specifics of the refund policy will be publicized in the upcoming days," Benson said.

He concluded his statement by saying, "The New Orleans Saints look forward to the start of the NFL regular season this Sunday and to having the club be a source of pride and joy in these difficult days. As we move forward together, the Saints look forward to serving as a leader in the rebuilding and revitalization of our great community. Towards this effort, the Saints have established the 'New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.' Further information for those individuals/companies interested in contributing will be announced shortly."

### State's concerns

Some state and team officials have been openly concerned in recent days about Benson's plans for the Saints, both short term and long term. But those fears have seemingly been eased somewhat.

Sen. David Vitter said in a statement Tuesday that he "had a very good, reassuring conversation with Tom Benson about the need for all of us to join together in rebuilding Greater New Orleans, including its jobs and business base. In that conversation, Mr. Benson assured me of two things:

"1. He is eager to maximize the number of Saints home games that could be played in Tiger Stadium consistent with first meeting the medical, housing, and other needs of evacuees in the region.

"2. He is eager for the Saints to return to New Orleans as soon as possible and for his organization to be part of our rebuilding effort and long-term future."

The Saints' executive vice president of administration, Arnold Fielkow, also told The Times-Picayune on Monday night that he believes the team is making a commitment to Louisiana.

Fielkow, who had expressed concerns to several media outlets that Benson was leaning strongly toward playing games in San Antonio, said the team is "hopeful of playing several games in Baton Rouge this season" and that "it is the collective hope of our organization that Saints football will return to New Orleans as soon as possible."

NFL spokesman Joe Browne also expressed the league's support for playing games in Baton Rouge, saying he hopes the Saints eventually will be able to play home games there, according to The Associated Press.

Where the Saints will play their home games ultimately is the decision of NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

The Saints were not thrilled with the commissioner's decision to move their first home game to the home site of the visiting team, the New York Giants, on Monday, Sept. 19 - though the team understands it will be used as a prime-time showcase for the league's hurricane relief efforts.

The Saints have not been given any assurances that they will avoid playing games at the site of other visiting teams this year.

That leaves San Antonio as the most feasible site, at least early on - and the favorite choice of the Saints, for reasons that have nothing to do with the owner's desire to move his franchise to the Alamo City.

The Saints are headquartered here, and many players, coaches and staff members will move their families here for the next four months. Playing home games in San Antonio's Alamodome would mean less travel and perhaps even a larger available ticket sales base than in Baton Rouge.

Several players and Coach Jim Haslett admitted this week that they would like to play at least some of their home games in San Antonio.

Said Haslett: "I would like to have them here because we are practicing here, but I think we owe it to the fans of New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, all the people in Baton Rouge, all the way up to Lafayette and Shreveport □ to play a couple games back in Baton Rouge, if we can."

### Mum on move

The city of San Antonio is not officially campaigning for the Saints' home games, in an effort to not appear opportunistic in the wake of a tragedy. Mayor Phil Hardberger has said more than once that the city's concentration is on helping the more than 10,000 evacuees now sheltered here.



Saints owner Tom Benson, left, greets Lester Vallet Sr., right, a former employee, and Lester Vallet Jr., a current employee, at the Saints' temporary headquarters in San Antonio on Tuesday.

But behind the scenes, San Antonio officials reportedly have been seeking corporate sponsors and trying to put together an incentives package for the Saints, including guaranteed sellouts in the 65,000-seat Alamodome, which hosted the Saints and Vikings in a 2001 preseason game.

Alamodome director Mike Abington said there have been official and unofficial contacts with the Saints over the past week and that he is preparing to make the stadium available if the Saints and the NFL make the request.

"It's hard to say (what will happen). They have not given us any firm commitment. We have made a commitment to them that we will accommodate them should they need us in any way they can," Abington said. "It's quite an operation to put on an NFL game, especially on short notice, but we're working on all the details right now in anticipation of knowing something. Kind of like waiting for a baby to be born."

Abington, a Louisiana native from the Shreveport area, said while the town would love to host NFL games, he is not making a sales pitch and he "won't allow myself to lose sight of why all this is happening."

Benson's interest in moving his team permanently to San Antonio - where he has longstanding personal and professional ties and keeps a second home - has long been rumored. Those rumors have heated up in recent days, with reports of sources saying he wants to move the team there for good next season.

But sources have been saying both on and off the record in recent days that they don't believe Benson has made such a decision - especially with so much uncertainty surrounding his native New Orleans.

The fear that New Orleans may not be ready to host the Saints or financially able to afford them is legitimate. And the Superdome may never again host an NFL game.

But then again, perhaps federal relief could aid in rebuilding the city and the Dome, which also served - albeit tragically - as a relief shelter.

Any discussions of Benson moving the team would be too preliminary at this point. Even if he wanted to move his team to San Antonio, it would take approval of 24 of the 32 league owners, and the proximity to the Houston and Dallas markets would become an issue.

# Hornets could play home games at PMAC

*Team officials looking to meet with those at LSU concerning deal*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - There seems to be very few scheduling conflicts that would prevent the Hornets from playing home games in LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center this season.

LSU has yet to release its 2005-06 men's and women's basketball schedules, but in comparing the Tigers' nearly finalized schedules with the Hornets' schedule, there are just 10 dates, of 41 home games, in which the Hornets would be unable to use the PMAC, either because of LSU men's or women's basketball games or gymnastics meets.

The Hornets are seeking other "home" venues in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which has left their home facility, New Orleans Arena, damaged, in addition to the vast destruction of the city's infrastructure.

"We pretty much have our schedule set," said Herb Vincent, LSU's associate athletic director for internal affairs. "I don't know if it's finalized."

The Tigers are scheduled to open their season in mid-November.

According to LSU's tentative team schedules, there would be just one possible date conflict in November, when the Hornets are scheduled to play six home games.

There's just one conflict in December (out of six Hornets' home dates), two in January, when the Hornets play eight home games; four in February (seven home games), one in March (nine home games) and one in April (five home games).

Hornets officials Sam Russo and Steve Martin traveled to Baton Rouge on Tuesday from the team's temporary headquarters in Houston to meet with officials of the downtown Rivercenter arena, a building managed by SMG, the same company that runs New Orleans Arena.

Russo and Martin, who could not be reached for comment Tuesday, are also planning to schedule a meeting with LSU officials to discuss the possibility of playing in the PMAC.

The NBA informed teams last week that it's likely the Hornets could play some, or all, of their regular-season home schedule away from New Orleans this season.

Vincent said Tuesday he was unaware whether a meeting between the Hornets and the university had been scheduled.

"We'll try to accommodate them," Vincent said. "I guess the position we're taking is we're willing to listen to whatever terms any of these teams or entities have.

"If LSU can serve a role by solving these problems, we'll certainly do it. We certainly want to be cooperative. But it would be speculative right now to guess at what any organization wants. We have some issues here ourselves. We're not seeking out anybody. We're just waiting to hear from them."



AP PHOTO

Tulane's Christian Okoye, left, Taurean Brown, center, and Chris Bordelon, right, arrive at the team's hotel in Dallas after practice Tuesday. The Green Wave will move to Louisiana Tech's campus.

# Wave football team to be based at Louisiana Tech

*Home games set for Independence Stadium; other options abound*

**By Benjamin Hochman and Fred Robinson**
Staff writers

DALLAS - Chris Scelfo calls it "Tulane Tech."

Beginning Monday, that's where the coach's football players will attend class and practice. After a whirlwind of conference calls, 11th-hour maneuvers and numerous Advils, Tulane administrators pieced together an unprecedented arrangement for the football team - sending it to Louisiana Tech - and the other athletic teams - dividing the teams onto four Texas campuses for at least the fall semester.

The football players, currently in Dallas, are expected to travel to Ruston on Thursday to register for classes, and then return to Dallas that night for practices Friday morning. The Wave will remain at the DoubleTree Hotel through the weekend and travel to Ruston on Monday - the same day classes start at Louisiana Tech - and will begin classes one day later.

As to where Tulane will play, Scelfo said Tuesday afternoon, "We've got it done," in reference to nearby Shreveport's Independence Bowl Stadium, which the city has offered free of charge. Scelfo said the team might try to play one game at Louisiana Tech's Aillet Stadium to show gratitude to the school.

But Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said he won't know for sure until today. Dickson said Tuesday's goal was to coordinate all other Tulane athletes into hubs of Dallas and Houston before sending them to four other schools - Texas Tech, Rice, Southern Methodist and Texas A&M. On Tuesday afternoon, Dickson began addressing the home stadium issues. Tulane's first game is Sept. 17, when it will host Mississippi State.

Dickson said the city of Mobile has offered Ladd-Peebles Stadium. And Dickson said Florida State athletic director Dave Hart called him and pointed out possible arrangements for Tulane to play some of its games on the Seminoles' campus.

"(Hart) said, 'Tallahassee would love to have you, and we'd rally around you,' " Dickson said. "Any of those kinds of things we'll at least consider.

"Convenience-wise, finding one home venue would be great. But this isn't just about convenience. We've got to make it work. I've got to give consideration to places that are going to advantage us as much as possible."

Dickson said it is possible all of the team's games won't be played in the same stadium.

"If we're able to create some kind of a venue for our own fans, that's a priority. For all of our programs to operate, now that our traditional ways of generating revenue and support are stripped away, I've got to come up with the next best ways to generate revenue and support."

Tulane volleyball and soccer will be at Texas A&M and will play their fall home games on the College Station campus. The men's basketball and women's swimming and diving teams will also attend classes on that campus, 78 Tulane student-athletes in all.

Bill Byrne, the Texas A&M athletic director, said his school can accommodate the men's basketball team to play its home games on campus.

Tulane's women's basketball team, along with Tulane baseball, will be at Texas Tech. Athletic Director Gerald Myers said, "The baseball team could play here at the same facility. I think the same thing could be done with women's basketball. We're willing to do that. We would work to accommodate the women's team to play games here in December. I don't know the conflicts. But we'll work that out. For example, on a Saturday game, we could play a doubleheader. We could play on a Sunday. We can work it out."

Tulane's men's and women's tennis teams will compete and attend classes at Rice in Houston, and the men's and women's golf teams will do the same at Southern Methodist in Dallas.

But the move of the football team and its 88 student athletes has been the most trying and complex for Dickson and his staff.

"We're happy to help out. All of us in Louisiana have to work together to get through this disaster," Louisiana Tech athletic director Jim Oakes said. "This is just a small part. I think a bigger deal is being made of (what Tech is doing) than what it really is. I think it's going to be very interesting with the two football teams."

Tulane's football team will be housed at Caruthers Dormitory, which has about 300 rooms. The former student dorm had been closed down and was scheduled for demolition - the bulldozers were ready, Oakes said. The school repaired the building's air conditioning system and took in evacuees from the hurricane.

"It's not plush, but it's livable," Oakes said. The athletic director said Scelfo was happy with the accommodations on his visit to the campus Monday.

The Thomas Assembly Center, the school's basketball arena, which houses all of Louisiana Tech's athletic department's personnel (except for football), has two big banquet rooms and the Hall of Fame room. One side of the Waggoner Room will be used as the locker room for Tulane's football team, and the other side will be used for equipment and storage. Dressing rooms in the arena will be used as shower facilities for the players.

The Hall of Fame room will be used for the coaches' offices.

Tulane will use the two weight rooms, the one inside the Thomas Assembly Center and the Karl Malone weight room at the football fieldhouse. The training room inside the Thomas Assembly Center also will be turned over to Tulane.

Tulane will use two practice facilities. The main practice field at the Jim Mize Track and Field Complex has two fields. Across the street, a field that is used for soccer also will be available for Tulane when Tech is using the main practice field.

"What Louisiana Tech's doing for us," Scelfo said, "is unbelievable."

# LSU's Whitworth ready to give people a show

*Tackle hasn't missed a start, and he won't stop now*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - When it comes to handling pain, LSU's Andrew Whitworth has few equals.

The 6-foot-7, 325-pound senior offensive tackle is right in the mix when several other 300-pound plus bodies collide, then collapse in a heap, with him often on the bottom. There are blindside hits, players rolling up the back of his legs and a constant steady pounding of bodies. Still, he hasn't missed a starting assignment or a practice in four years, and once the Tigers' season starts, he will be on a quest to become the first Tiger to play in 50 games.

But Whitworth, like all Louisianans, is suffering a different type of pain these days, one shared by people throughout the state, the region and the nation. Dislocated fingers and turf burns the size of bumper stickers are nothing compared to the pain in his gut right now from watching Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. He will be carrying that pain Saturday when the No. 5-ranked Tigers play Arizona State (1-0) in what has become LSU's season opener.

"(It's) definitely (a pain like no other), it affects you so closely," Whitworth said. "All the guys on the team, to hear a guy say he hasn't been able to talk to his mom in two days or he can't get a hold of his brothers or sisters, it affects you everywhere.

"It's a completely different feeling. It's your homeland that was torn up, something you represent day in day out. Your first reaction is sadness and anger and a lot of guys were worried. It's hard to watch the TV."

Just as he pulls on his uniform for every practice and game -- 39 consecutively -- Whitworth has faced his pain head on. Like many Tigers, he volunteered last week, visiting with evacuees, playing with their children and packing an 18-wheeler full of supplies. With a game looming this week, he feels extremely partial to carrying the banner for the state and its people.

"We've got to go out there and put this on our backs and give these people something to be proud of," he said. "I think there's no doubt that a lot of people from this area, a lot of people from this state, follow college football and follow LSU most importantly, and I think there's no way we can say that we're not going out there with this on our minds, and this being an inspiration for us to have a chance to make this state proud of something. From all of the people I've talked to that have been through this, they can't wait for some sense of normalcy."

There's been nothing normal about Whitworth's durability, but maybe there is something in the water at West Monroe. That's where Whitworth and former Tiger teammate Rodney Reed both starred. Reed finished his career with a school record 48 straight starts. Between the competition for playing time, injuries and early entry into the NFL, that's a stratospheric number, one Whitworth will break if he starts every game this season.

The closest he came to missing a start was at Ole Miss in 2003 in one of the mot important games that national championship season. With the SEC West Division title at stake, Whitworth got food poisoning the night before the game and needed intravenous fluids right before the game and at halftime. But he played every snap of LSU's 17-14 victory.

Whitworth said he's not sure what the secret is.

"That's always been me," he said. "I want to practice and play and be out there. I'm stubborn, whether it's good or bad I don't like to ever admit being defeated. That's my style. I've been blessed with good luck."

Said defensive tackle Kyle Williams: "I hate to say luck because the guy has been so durable. He's so tough, he's been able to play through pain and a lot of things guys wouldn't be able to. Food poisoning, dislocated fingers, it all mounts up. Everybody gets those over the course of four years. The guys who are able to start 39 games in a row are the guys able to turn away from that and say, 'Hey, we've got a football game to play and we're not as good when I'm not in there.' Andrew has done that. His toughness has been unbelievable."

# Sun Devils in dark preparing for Tigers

*New staff, postponed opener has ASU searching*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - It's hard to study what you can't see.

Despite playing in front what is sure to be the most cordial "home crowd" in the history of LSU football, Arizona State's coaching staff hasn't been completely void of hardships in preparation for Saturday. Because the LSU-North Texas opener was postponed due to Hurricane Katrina, Sun Devils coach Dirk Koetter is without a template from which to game plan.

"That's where the Internet comes in handy," Koetter said. "We kind of have to go on what we get. You are never quite sure. We have to weigh all the factors out and study the film that best resembles what they are going to do."

Finding defensive tape of Bo Pelini's schemes from Oklahoma and Nebraska shouldn't be a problem, but deciding whether to dissect offensive film from Coach Les Miles' Oklahoma State teams or previous LSU teams directed under rehired offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher isn't as clear cut.

Back in the end of June, Miles was asked describe the level of autonomy given to each assistant coach.

"All the freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States," he said, maintaining a poker face fit for cable television.

"You can do a lot of scouting," Koetter said. "We have a lot of film from Oklahoma State last year. The problem is, LSU's coach doesn't have either one of his coordinators from last year. I don't think studying LSU film or Oklahoma State film is the best thing to do."

LATER KICKOFF: The start of the LSU-Arizona State game has been moved up 30 minutes from 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ESPN is still broadcasting the game nationally.

FULL OF FATS: LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell has been bombarded with interview requests from local, national and international media about housing Fats Domino after the famous singer/musician escaped his 9th Ward residence and evacuated to Baton Rouge.

"I've had guys as far as London, England, get in touch with our people to get in touch with Fats Domino," Russell said.

Russell went on to say that the interviewer from England was difficult to understand because of his accent, comparing him to Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter.

TAKE TWO: After shutting down production for a week because of power outages and other factors related to Hurricane Katrina, The Les Miles Show returns to Walk-On's Bar and Bistreaux this Wednesday at 7 p.m.

TICKET SITUATION: Within the next 48 hours, LSU athletic officials plan to make an announcement about purchased, unused tickets for this Saturday's game against Arizona State that was moved from Tiger Stadium to Sun Devil Stadium.

For those able to travel, original game tickets can be exchanged for seats in Tempe, Ariz., although ticket-holders must first contact the LSU athletic ticket office by 2 p.m. today to register.




AP PHOTO

Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson, a Heisman Trophy candidate as a freshman last season, came out of the Sooners' surprising loss to TCU last week with an ankle injury.

# First games provided good glimpse

**By Peter Finney**
Sports Columnist

Because of Katrina, in the world of college football, there are some things we don't know.

We don't know if Tulane would have upset Southern Miss.

And we don't know if Les Miles would have launched his career as the football boss of the LSU Tigers with a victory over North Texas.

Despite Katrina, here's what we do know.

Oklahoma will not win the national championship.

If Tennessee does, the Vols will have to play a lot better than they did against Alabama-Birmingham.

The Louisville Cardinals, blessed with the kind of regular-season schedule to run the table and play for No. 1, learned the perils of having a target on their backs.

Boise State, coming off a perfect season with visions of a BCS bowl down the line, learned a little about life in the SEC from the Georgia Bulldogs.

Notre Dame fans learned life may be better than expected under rookie coach Charlie Weis.

Florida fans, still trying to put Steve Spurrier in their rear-view mirror, learned the new man in town, Urban Meyer, may be just the guy to make them forget with the second coming of Fun-n-Gun.

Meanwhile, at such big-time addresses as Southern Cal, Texas and Ohio State, the Trojans, Longhorns and Buckeyes came out of the gate firing impressive salvos against an outmanned enemy.

First question: What happened to the Sooners?

It wasn't that the Okies, carrying a No. 7 preseason rating, lost to TCU, 17-10. It was that they lost at home for the first time in four years. Four Sooners turnovers paved the way for the Horned Frogs' biggest upset in 44 years, going back to a 1961 win over No. 1 Texas.

To make matters worse, running back Adrian Peterson, Heisman Trophy runner-up last season as a freshman, came out of the loss with an ankle injury.

Tennessee?

Unlucky for Oklahoma, a 17-10 final was fortunate at home for the Vols, rated as high as No. 2 and a double-digit favorite to spank visiting UAB.

It wasn't until an incomplete pass into the end zone in the final minutes that the home crowd could exhale. Think about it. This was pretty much the UAB club Tulane upset, 59-55, last season in Tad Gormley Stadium behind QB Lester Ricard's 417 passing yards and a school-record six TDs.

Louisville?

Here was another double-digit favorite that went into Lexington and was left to sweat out a 31-24 win. For a half, Kentucky Wildcats faithful suffered through what they expected. The Cardinals had taken a 28-7 lead and seemed to be on their way to a runaway. That's when the Wildcats' defense, in the hands of former LSU coach Mike Archer, turned tiger and held Louisville without a second-half TD for only the second time since Bobby Petrino arrived three years ago.

UK quarterback Andre Woodson coughed up the football on his way to a tying score, and the Cards ran out the final minutes. This is a Louisville team that averaged nearly 50 points a game last year in its final season as a member of Conference USA. It is a Louisville team in its first year as a member of the Big East that will be favored in its final 10 games.

At season's end, it could be an 11-0 Louisville team demanding a spot in the BCS championship game.

Notre Dame?

Let's say this: Weis, offensive coordinator on three New England Super Bowl champions, did nothing to tarnish his reputation being part of Bill Belichick's brain. In his Golden Dome debut, Weis' Fighting Irish went into Pittsburgh and ran up 502 yards in a 42-21 upset over a club ranked No. 23. Can it last? We'll soon find out. The Irish play Michigan on Saturday.

Ordinarily, you might say Notre Dame-Michigan in Ann Arbor would be the game of the week, but not in this case. Not when two candidates for No. 1, Texas and Ohio State, are playing Saturday in Columbus, Ohio.

If Mack Brown's Longhorns prevail in Columbus, they'd become a warm choice to return to the Rose Bowl, this time to play for the BCS title.

# UNO basketball teams to attend, play at Texas-Tyler

## *Site of 'home' games yet to be determined*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

UNO may be closed for the semester, but the Privateers will still play basketball this season.

The school's men's and women's teams will be housed and attend classes at the University of Texas-Tyler. The Privateers will play a full schedule beginning in November, although the site of home games is yet to be determined.

"The fact that there will be basketball teams playing with 'New Orleans,' on their shirts is very important," UNO men's coach Monte Towe said Tuesday. "We are proud to represent a great city that may be destroyed, but is going to bounce back. Showing that spirit is what UNO and the people of New Orleans are all about."

Towe and women's coach Amy Champion have been bringing in their players from scattered locations this week. Some will begin classes at UT-Tyler today.

"It's progress," Towe said. "We've gotten our teams together and also they will be able to go to school. That's the best situation we could hope for right now. We had to get some sense of normalcy back."

UT-Tyler is a school of 6,000 located about 90 miles east of Dallas, which competes in Division III.

The connection with UNO comes from assistant athletic director Kathy Keene, whose brother, Chris Bizot, is the school's tennis coach.

"We are extremely gratified by the kindness shown us by UT-Tyler in our time of need," UNO athletic director Jim Miller was quoted in a release from UT-Tyler. "This unfortunate event should convince all college athletics administrators of the truth in the passage, 'except by the grace of God go I.'

"It could happen to any of us."

Towe said all of his players had committed to coming to Tyler, but the process had not been easy.

"It was like recruiting them all over again," he said. "There were some long, serious discussions. These young men are hurting and they're worried about the possessions they had to leave behind in Privateer Place. These are young kids and something of this magnitude has been really tough on them because I can't answer all of their questions."

Two of UNO's men's players, Bo McCalebb and James Parlow, are from New Orleans. Towe said both players' families were safe, but he was sure they had lost their homes and that his own home, near the Lakefront, probably was still underwater.

"That's the least of my worries," said Towe, who with his wife, P.D., was in St. Augustine, Fla., attending a fund-raising event when Katrina stuck. "That will take care of itself in time. We've got players who don't have homes anymore."

What disturbed Towe was the reported contacting of some of his players, most prominently McCalebb, by "intermediaries" from other schools inquiring if they were interested in transferring.

McCalebb, a junior guard, was sixth in the country in scoring last year with 22.6 points per game.

"I'm not going to get into the specifics," Towe said. "But it did happen and that's something we don't need happening right now. No. 1, he was already enrolled in school. If we weren't going to have a season, that would different. But this was wrong."

Towe said he understood that Lakefront Arena did not suffer major damage despite its location, but he did not know if any home games could be played there this year.

"We might stay here, we might use the Pontchartrain Center or we might use a combination of places," Towe said. "This is something you take one day at a time. Right now the important thing is we're here together right now."

The UNO men are scheduled to open their season Nov. 19 at home against Belhaven College. The women open that same day at Centenary.

"It's going to be a challenge," Towe said. "But I am a believer that the cup is always half full. It's a unique opportunity to showcase the ability of our team under adverse conditions. If we can hold up, we can still accomplish our goals for the year."

NOTE:

The UNO volleyball season has been canceled. The Privateers were 4-0 under first-year coach Dana Launey. The status of other Privateer sports has yet to be determined.

# GNOSF has daunting task ahead

## *Cicero: It will take 'major commitment' to bring back Dome*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Sports should be a major part of the rebuilding of New Orleans, but it will be a daunting task, Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation president Jay Cicero said Tuesday.

"There is so much of the infrastructure that made New Orleans a first-rate sports venue that will have to be rebuilt," Cicero said. "And we're not just talking about the Superdome.

"The hotels, restaurants and other amenities that will have to be there as well, not to mention the financial support. It's a little overwhelming to think about."

Cicero's group has served as the host committee for the Super Bowls and Final Fours that used to make regular appearances on the New Orleans sports calendar.

The Sports Foundation also has lured several major events to the area such as the 1992 Olympic Track & Field Trials, which were held at Tad Gormley Stadium and the recently completed AAU Junior Olympics that brought more than 10,000 competitors to the area.

New Orleans Arena already has been picked as the site of an NCAA men's basketball sub-regional in 2007 and a women's basketball regional in 2008.

The Sports Foundation is not associated with the Sugar Bowl, but it also would have a difficult time maintaining its place in the national championship rotation if only because of the financial obligations involved. The future of the Bayou Classic between Grambling and Southern also is up in the air.

Already the Sugar Bowl was faced with the task of increasing its payout to $18 million per team, a 36 percent increase, under the new contract that begins with the 2006 season while losing some revenue sources to Fox, which takes over the TV rights for the Sugar Bowl plus the Orange Bowl and Fiesta Bowl starting next year.

Efforts to reach Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan and other bowl officials have been unsuccessful.

Cicero said the first task would be determining how much of a priority rebuilding the Superdome would be. State officials are saying the facility is unusable for at least a year and could take $400 million to refurbish.

"We've got to restore housing and jobs," Cicero said. "Certainly the Superdome is an icon. But it's going to take a major commitment to bring it back."

As for the Sugar Bowl's immediate future, both the Peach Bowl and Alamo Bowl have made offers to host the game this season.

"We just want to do whatever we can to help," said Alamo Bowl executive director Derrick Fox. "College football will not let the Sugar Bowl die."

However, Fox said that after this season several bowls could be eyeing the Sugar Bowl's place in the BCS rotation.

One likely strong suitor is the Cotton Bowl, which already has a relationship with Fox TV and could move from its aging facility to the new Dallas Cowboys Stadium in 2009.

"That's part of the world we live in," said Fiesta Bowl executive director John Junker. "It's far too early and the circumstances are far too tragic to even talk about it at this stage."

However, the commissioners from 11 BCS conferences are sure to discuss the issue when they meet Sept. 18 in Chicago.

SEC commissioner Mike Slive also said it was premature to discuss the future of the Sugar Bowl.

"Right now our concern has to be helping the people of New Orleans and surrounding states put their lives back together," he said. "There will be time later to talk about the Sugar Bowl."

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 231 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# CLEAR OUT OR ELSE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A Black Hawk helicopter rescues people in the B.W. Cooper housing development Wednesday in New Orleans as one man returns to his apartment. Police and soldiers dispersed across the city, coaxing remaining residents to evacuate, and officers suggested they soon would force them out. 'We have thousands of people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time,' NOPD Superintendent Eddie Compass said. 'Once they're all out, then we'll concentrate our forces on mandatory evacuation.'

## Flow of crises ebbs for police

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

With fewer fires and fewer arrests, New Orleans seemed surprisingly calm Wednesday, about as normal as a city overwhelmed by dead bodies, filthy floodwater, smashed glass and heavily armed military patrols could be.

"Right now New Orleans may be the single safest city in the United States," New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass declared, expressing a view not necessarily embraced by many of the estimated 10,000 people still living in the shattered city. "Right now, we're getting back to normalcy."

As evidence, Compass noted that there had been only three arrests overnight, a light crime-fighting evening by any standard and one that barely swelled the population of 171 inmates at New Orleans' makeshift jail in the Amtrak station.

The NOPD and the thousands of out-of-town soldiers and law enforcement officials may face a sterner test today when officials are expected to shift Mayor Ray Nagin's mandatory evacuation order into a higher gear.

Compass promised to use the "minimum force necessary" to remove residents, and privately many top

*See* **CRISES,** *page 4*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Gareth Stubbs naps next to a cache of weapons he and two neighbors collected to help them defend Algiers Point from looters.

## MAKESHIFT MILITIA GUARDS ALGIERS POINT

### *They're armed to the teeth but haven't fired a shot*

**By Susan Langenhennig**
West Bank bureau

Just after dusk on Tuesday night, with the rumble of helicopters and airplanes still overhead, Gareth Stubbs took his spot in a rocking chair on the balcony of an Algiers Point house, a shotgun, bottle of bug spray and a can of Pringles at his feet.

It was night No. 9 of his vigil, the balcony turned into a makeshift watch tower, with five borrowed shotguns, a pistol, a flare gun, an old AK-47 and loads of ammunition strategically placed next to the blankets and pillows where Stubbs, Vinnie Pervel and Gregg Harris have slept every night since Hurricane Katrina slammed into Southeast Louisiana.

In the bedroom off the balcony, its lace curtains blowing through the open windows,

*See* **MILITIA,** *page 2*

## Evacuations mandatory in New Orleans

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Police and soldiers armed with M-16 rifles fanned out across the remaining high ground of a wrecked and flooded city Wednesday, ordering the last holdouts to evacuate in no-nonsense terms that promised consequences if they didn't.

The orders, delivered through screen doors and on stoops, flowed from Mayor Ray Nagin's Tuesday decision to clear the devastated city because of its multiple threats to safety -- from fire, polluted water and natural gas leaks.

Many holdouts told officers they were reluctant to leave, either because they feared refugee shelters, they did not want to leave their belongings or they believed they were safe where they were.

Officers indicated the time was nearly at hand when they would force citizens out, Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said.

He indicated officers and troopers were making one easy pass through the city, then would return meaning business.

"We have thousands of people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time," Compass said. "Once they're all out, then we'll concentrate our forces on

*See* **KATRINA,** *page 5*

**INSIDE:** Hurricane disbands city's musicians, page 6 ▪ Five dead from polluted waters, page 6 ▪ Anatomy of a disaster, page 10 ▪ Dome, arena repairs could cost at least $400 million, page 12

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Civic-minded gunmen patrol Algiers neighborhood



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Gareth Stubbs, who has been helping to keep watch over his Algiers Point neighborhood since Hurricane Katrina hammered the area last week, gets some company on his vigil as Cody, a miniature schnauzer, checks things out on the second-story balcony.

**MILITIA,** *from page 1*

Pervel's 74-year-old mother pulled her rosary from her pocket, a shotgun resting near the antique cherry wood bed and the .38-caliber pistol her son gave her nearby. "Oh dear, what would Father John think," Jennie Pervel laughed as she fingered the beads.

Vinnie Pervel and Harris, who own the 1871 Victorian house on Pelican Street, rigged a car battery to two floodlights and aimed them into the deserted road below. With the floodlights off, the home's gas lanterns formed golden hallows on the porch, the only illumination other than the periodic sweep of searchlights from the military helicopters buzzing overhead.

It's been a terrifying nine days for the four, scrambling for food, water and gasoline for their generator and an arsenal of weapons they feared they would need if complete lawlessness broke out in the historic neighborhood of renovated 19th century homes. The neighborhood having survived the storm without flood damage, Pervel and Harris, both former presidents of the Algiers Point Association, worried that looters and others seeking high ground would invade the community.

Yet they have not had to fire a shot.

And that's a good thing for them. They were not sure if any of the borrowed weapons even worked.

But their fears were based on actual experiences. The day after the hurricane, Pervel was carjacked as he tried to check on his other properties in the neighborhood. Two guys clubbed him on the head with a sledgehammer, grabbed his keys and stole his van, which he had filled with hurricane supplies, a full tank of fuel and his credit cards.

The next afternoon, as Pervel and his mother, Harris and Stubbs stood on their porch, a gunfight between armed neighbors and "looters" erupted on the corner of Pelican and Valette streets, half a block away. The neighbors, whom Pervel would not identify, shot two of the men. "We screamed to Mrs. P., 'Hit the deck,' and she did," Harris said.



As night approaches on Tuesday, the neighborhood remains dark and powerless, but the city lights in the background show parts of downtown New Orleans are coming back to life. The timed-exposure photo shows military helicopters as they leave streaks of light across the sky.

"We just couldn't comprehend it, a gun battle in front of your house," said Stubbs, a native of Wales, who lives across the street from Pervel and Harris but has stayed since the storm with them at their "Fort Pelican." "You would walk outside, and your knees were wobbly and your lips would go dry."

After the violence, the men decided they needed protection. Other residents who had stayed during the storm were armed and taking turns checking on neighbors, some of them elderly, who remained in their houses. It was decided that everyone would keep an eye on his block, sharing essential supplies. Pervel, Harris and Stubbs joined them, keeping watch on Pelican and nearby streets.

"There's about 20 or 30 guys in addition to us. We know all of them and where they are," Harris said. "People armed themselves so quickly, rallying together. I think it's why the neighborhood survived."

But Pervel, Harris and Stubbs had a problem. They were without weapons other than a 40-year-old shotgun with no shells. Pervel, who had stayed in contact with many evacuated neighbors through the NOLA.com Web site and by his still-working telephone, got permission from residents to retrieve their guns and supplies from nearby houses.

"I never thought I'd be going into my neighbor's house and taking their guns. We wrote down what gun came from what house so we can return them when they get back," he said.

One neighbor used his dog, T-Bone, as a lookout, chaining him at night to a fire hydrant on a corner. The dog barked if anyone approached, Stubbs said.

The first few nights after the hurricane, Stubbs said they heard gunfire popping all around and saw people walking with flashlights through the streets. A tree had fallen at their corner, spilling a recycling bin full of cans. At the sound of a can rustling, the balcony watch group would flip the switch to the car battery, flooding the street in light, blinding whoever was below.

"We angled the lights so they wouldn't see us on the balcony," said Stubbs, rocking in the chair, smoking a cigarette.

With the area dry and mostly evacuated, they saw only one New Orleans police officer in the first four days after the storm. "We kept hearing on the radio, 'The military is coming, the military is coming, troops on the ground,' and we kept thinking, 'Where are they?'" Stubbs said. "We really felt alone."

During the day, Pervel's phone rang constantly, with residents calling from Texas, Mississippi, Florida, asking him to check on their homes, feed their pets. The men also made daily visits to deliver food and water to elderly neighbors. "I asked this one 84-year-old lady if she'd eaten, and she told me all she had was a can of Vienna sausages," Harris said. "I wanted to cry when I heard that."

By Tuesday, they'd checked on human beings as well scores of cats and dogs, a parrot, pet rats, two mice and a guinea pig.

"There are several guys in the neighborhood. They had this little task force. They knew everyone who stayed and where we were," said a resident who would only give her first name, Betty. "If it hadn't been to all those guys, making a statement to the looters, I don't know what would have happened.

"Our great fear was fire. If one started, it would have spread so quickly throughout the neighborhood," she said. On Tuesday, she made rounds through the neighborhood, feeding cats and dogs left stranded on the streets.

By Sunday night, tension in the neighborhood had started to release, Harris and Stubbs said, as more and more military vehicles were spotted patrolling the streets. "We really all breathed for the first time when we saw an armored personnel carrier come through," Harris said.

On Tuesday night, two Humvees crept down the road, flashing their lights at the balcony as Pervel lay down on his blanket, removed his glasses and rubbed his eyes. With the military on patrol, maybe the balcony watch group could finally get some sleep.

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Susan Langenhennig can be reached at suzgranger@hotmail.com

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Mandatory evacuations will be the next challenge

**CRISES,** *from page 1*

officers predicted the process would be achieved without violence. The possibility that those who remain behind could wind up padding the frightening death toll from the storm means remaining in the city is not an option, the superintendent said.

But those residents who want to remain -- and officials acknowledge there are many -- are apprehensive about the evacuation even as they prepare for it.

"My house survived the storm and then this morning these Blackhawk helicopters came down and blew out all my windows," said Elisa Miller, 32, of the city's Faubourg Marigny section. "All I can assume is they want to scare us into leaving, because they sure weren't coming to rescue me."

Miller said she would leave today now that police have told her she can get out on a bus with her dog.

Here and there the holdouts who had hoped to ride out the hurricane and the recovery were packing crates and getting ready to leave. So far, they said, officials moving through their neighborhoods have been kind and professional, while hinting that a later block-to-block search would have a harsher tone.

Search and rescue teams combing the city are leaving behind a new kind of graffiti, a giant, spray-painted "X" with the open sections showing the unit that made the search, the date, and the number of people believed to be living in the marked building. The overwhelming majority of houses show "0" in the bottom open section, but here and there are notations such as "8 in place" or "3 in place," indicating another visit will be necessary.

What was not necessary Wednesday was a return to the firefighting headaches that came earlier this week. While scattered fires did break out, and helicopters hovered above some neighborhoods dangling balloons laden with river water, officials said the count was far below what they have seen.

Since Hurricane Katrina, firefighters have battled 57 major fires in the city, New Orleans Fire Superintendent Charles Parent said. With the addition of 300 firefighters from New York City and 500 more from Illinois, Parent said the city is adequately staffed and using a New Orleans driver so the out-of-town units don't get lost.

Firefighters are not the only infusion to city services. Scores of police units, representing forces from Connecticut to California and from Michigan to Texas, are rolling on the city streets. The influx grew so great that the NOPD had to call a halt to the process, Deputy Superintendent Warren Riley said. Now, by assigning the newcomers to specific districts, the city has a handle on who is working where, he said.

That marks an enormous improvement from the two biggest handicaps the NOPD faced after Katrina: communications and mobility.

"The 7th District lost every vehicle it had; the 3rd and the 5th districts lost half their vehicles," Riley said.

On the communications front, a small piece of glass -- one of the billions of particles Katrina sent spinning around the city -- punctured the radiator in the department's main communications machinery atop the Entergy Tower. For most of last week, with death and destruction spreading, all law enforcement officials were forced to use the same channel run through Jefferson Parish equipment, creating a walkie-talkie cacophony. Finally, on Friday evening, an emergency repair team from Florida climbed the stairway to the top of the Entergy Tower, identified the problem and fixed it.

Officers are now able to hit trouble spots quickly and with overwhelming firepower. Indeed, when reports came out early Wednesday that cell phone equipment repairers in Algiers were being shot at, NOPD SWAT teams and National Guardsmen raced across the bridge, swarmed over four buildings near the old Fisher public housing development, and quickly arrested two men.

But for all that capability -- Riley estimated police can now handle 25 to 30 simultaneous emergencies when on a normal day the NOPD would be stretched by four -- officers warned that New Orleans remains a dangerous, deeply wounded place.

"It might look good -- well, better -- visually, but underneath it's not," NOPD spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Louisiana State Police officer Danny Flynn tries to persuade Rita Moragne to leave the Upperline Street home in which she was born 87 years ago. Moragne decided Wednesday to remain at least one more day, but agreed to pack her bag.

# Rescuers face fight from those who won't leave

## *Nagin authorizes the use of force*

**By Brett Anderson and Jeff Duncan**
Staff writers

Rescue personnel of all stripes fanned across New Orleans today to continue rescuing trapped citizens and try to persuade stubborn holdouts to vacate the flood-ravaged city. The mandatory evacuation order issued by Mayor Ray Nagin on Tuesday emboldens personnel to use force if necessary to clear the city of its remaining population.

"We're getting to the point where this environment is not safe. We're getting to the point where there are bodies floating on the water," said Captain Marlon Defillo, the New Orleans Police Department's chief spokesman. "If we need to use force to get people out, we will."

That action could come as early as today, when officials are expected ratchet up the pressure.

"I'm not going to wrestle with someone for 15 minutes trying to force them to get in the boat," said Eddie Compass, superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department. "I could be rescuing someone else in that 15 minutes. But there will come a time when we will have to use force."

Search-and-rescue missions will continue indefinitely. Capt. Timothy Bayard of the New Orleans Police Department, the officer coordinating the massive evacuation effort, said all 60 of his boats were on missions Tuesday and Wednesday in the parish's flooded areas of Lakeview, Gentilly, New Orleans East, the Ninth Ward and Mid-City. That didn't include the scores of volunteers who have arrived in the city in recent days with personal watercraft.

Rescue workers also are using commando trucks and military transport vehicles to evacuate residents from neighborhoods where water is waste deep or lower. Other teams are canvassing dry parts of the city on foot.

Though rescue boats have covered more than 60 percent of the city's flooded areas, Warren Riley, NOPD's deputy superintendent, estimated thousands are still in their homes in the high-water neighborhoods.

Many residents are refusing to abandon their pets. Others simply do not want to desert their homes.

"This is a poor city," Bayard said. "For many of these people, their home is all they've got. They don't want to turn that loose."

Soldiers in Humvees and military transport vehicles, boat-towing wildlife officers and law enforcement from across the country joined state and local police in convoys heading east on Interstate 10 toward the region's most severely flood-damaged areas.

By mid-afternoon, a line of parked Texas Parks & Wildlife trucks, each hitched to an empty boat trailer, lined the ramp connecting Interstates 610 and 10 east. Just below, rescue personnel and media representatives ignored or appeared unaware of the corpse wrapped in a garbage bag lying at the top of the Franklin Avenue on-ramp, which served as a boat launch for evacuation missions throughout the day.

"I'm a New Orleans clichØ," said Don Vavasseur, who was boat-rescued from the second floor of his mother-in-law's house at 4775 Franklin Ave. in Gentilly. "I stayed for Camille, I stayed for Betsy. You live in New Orleans, it's something you deal with."

The first dry land Vavasseur set foot on in over a week was littered with empty water bottles and gas cans and at least two filled body bags. Yet he seemed buoyant to have survived so well for so long on a large supply of food, water and Sterno in a partially submerged house. "The water on my street got to 12 feet," he said. Yet he considered turning his rescuers away when they arrived.

"I was making grits in the morning," said Vavasseur, 48. "I cooked red beans and rice last night."

Rita Maragne has lived at 526 Upperline St. for 87 years and she's not about to leave now. She told the California Highway Patrol officers that stopped by her house Wednesday that she has nowhere to go and doesn't want to abandon her dog, Pip, a Pomeranian.

"To hell with the mayor," Maragne said as tears welled in her eyes. "I'm not going to drink the damn water. Why do I gotta leave? I don't have nowhere to go."

The officers did their best to convince Maragne but she refused to budge.

"We're going to come check on your tomorrow, but after that you're kinda on your own," Capt. Jeffrey Lynn said. "We're not going to be back with food and water after that."

Maragne said she prefers it that way. She's the only person on her block still around. She has no phone and no electricity.

"I'm fine," Maragne said. "I've got plenty of food and water. I've got gas for the stove. I just want to be left alone."

Hurricane Katrina blew part of the roof and gutters off her double shotgun house. Otherwise, the house was unscathed. The floodwaters never reached her block, which sits on high ground a block or two from the Mississippi River levee.

"The house is the least of my worries now," Maragne said, turning one last time to a reporter to ask, "Do you really think they'll make me go?"

Rescue workers are using various means to coax the holdouts to leave. They basically pestered Mitch Stinnett and his wife, Candace, to evacuate.

The couple was prepared to weather the storm and its aftermath at their Mid-City home, at 3920 Banks St.

The day before the storm hit, they bought two months supply of water and food. They also had healthy supplies of kerosene, propane and charcoal for their grill, Mitch Stinnett said.

With 4 feet of water surrounding their home, they needed the extra supplies and rations. They used a canoe to make daily trips to the Sav-A-Center on Carrollton Avenue to pick up supplies and visit their neighbors.

"We were fine," Stinnett said. "People live in swamps all the time. This is no different."

Like so many others, the Stinnetts felt obligated to care for their two dogs, Wu, a black pure-bred German shepherd, and Lafitte, a black lab. They also were watching two more dogs and seven cats that neighbors had left behind.

But once rescue workers discovered them holed up in their home two days ago, they constantly hounded them with visits. Stinnett said a helicopter hovered over their house as many as eight times a day.

The worst part of the hurricane has been the helicopters," Stinnett said. "Our dogs were scared to death. We finally just decided we'd had enough and got out of there."

The Stinnetts were picked up by a convoy of rescue workers at the end of their block. The group consisted of a hodgepodge of armed officers from various agencies in California, New Jersey, Arkansas, Louisiana and Kentucky. In all, the convoy included three armored vehicles and 32 men and women, including 12 National Guardsmen from the 179th infantry division, based in Oklahoma.

For some of the men, this was their fifth trip into the swamped neighborhoods. One worker estimated that 50 percent to 75 percent of the people refuse to leave.

"One guy said, "I've got five gallons of water. I'm straight,'" said the worker. "These are just die-hard New Orleans folks. They don't know how serious this is."

Back on dry land, Florence McCarthy chose to ride out the storm to protect her possessions and those of her boyfriend, Albert Dale Donaldson. McCarthy was in the backyard of her Lower Garden District home when a squad of California Highway Patrol officers, accompanied by Louisiana State Trooper Ronald Sander, asked her and Donaldson to evacuate.

Neither felt they had a choice in the matter.

"They have the guns," said Donaldson. "I've just got a little pistol. They gave us two minutes to pack our bags."

McCarthy and Donaldson were ordered onto a military transport vehicle already half-full with fellow travelers. Sander said the evacuees would be taken by military transport vehicles to the Convention Center and then airlifted to the Louis Armstrong Airport.

McCarthy would have preferred to stay home.

"I'm most scared of other people," she said upon hearing she'd be going to the Convention Center. "I don't want to be alone with other people without protection."

The scene at Felicity and Prytania streets was subtly surreal, as at least a dozen citizens from the surrounding square block filed past CNN's Christiane Amanpour to board a military truck. California Highway Patrolman Don Oxley said partial power had returned to the area. Some residents were even offering his officers cold drinks.

Daniel Johnson walked right through the scene on his way to his girlfriend's, whom he said lives a few blocks away.

"I could live here a month I've got so much food," Johnson told Oxley.

"The problem is, the mayor of your town has said you have to leave," Oxley said.

Johnson argued that he would only have to wait a few days for the water to drop enough in the Central Business District for him to drive out in his own car, which is parked in a ramp by Charity Hospital. Oxley gently told Johnson to find his girlfriend and pack to leave.

Oxley said he had yet to encounter a citizen who needed to be forcefully evacuated, but he acknowledged the sensitivity of the situation.

"There's no easy way to tell someone that they've got to get out of their house," Oxley said. "This is the land of the free, you know."

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Demos call Bush 'oblivious'

**KATRINA,** *from page 1*

mandatory evacuation."

Meanwhile, scattered fires continued to burn in a city tormented by plagues of flame as well as flood.

Since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, the city has suffered 57 major fires in nine days, Fire Superintendent Charles Parent said. Many burned unchecked or were fought by helicopters dropping buckets of water from the Mississippi River.

The city is now reinforced with firefighters from New York City and Illinois, Parent said.

But the civil disorder of the first few days after the storm has been quelled, Compass said.

Backed by thousands of active duty soldiers and civilian law enforcements from around the country, "New Orleans may be the single safest city in the United States," Compass said.

He reported only three arrests since Tuesday night.

Police and federal forces are moving more swiftly and with greater coordination.

Early Wednesday, National Guardsmen and the police department's SWAT team swarmed the Algiers Fischer Housing Development, where someone fired on nearby technicians trying to restore cell phone service. Two men were arrested.

Efforts to drain the city continued. Army Corps of Engineers officials reported the 17th St. Canal Pumping Station is running at about 20 percent capacity. More portable pumps were arriving to supplement their work.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

New Mexico Army National Guardsmen Saul Velez, left, and Anthony Broussard check a mobile home for hurricane victims Wednesday during a sweep of Plaquemines Parish. Port Sulphur and most of the parish were completely destroyed.

## Infections kill five

Still, nine days after the powerful storm stuck the Gulf Coast, Katrina continued to take a few more lives.

Four people in Mississippi and one person in Texas died of bacterial infections probably picked up in the storm's polluted floodwater, health authorities said.

They died of Vibrio vulnificus infections, produced by a bacterium that can enter through open wounds. The infection is most dangerous to the chronically ill and those with weak immune systems, health authorities said.

"There will be some more deaths associated with Vibrio vulnificus in the affected areas," said Tom Skinner, a spokesman for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Yet overall, authorities seemed to downplay the overall disease potential posed by floods that percolated flooded sewage treatment plants and dumpsters, and which almost certainly contained thousands of corpses.

State epidemiologist Raoult Ratard said the health effect of all the water swirling about New Orleans for more than a week is uncertain.

Ratard said he doubted doctors would see many more digestive diseases related to the hurricane because their incubation periods are no longer than three days. Hepatitis A remains a possibility, although it is too soon to tell because it takes 30 days to develop after initial exposure.

Treatment for Hepatitis A is available, but the state's supply of that vaccine is short, he said.

## Outlying areas struggling

Outside of New Orleans, state Rep. Nita Hutter, R-Chalmette, said St. Bernard Parish, which flooded from border to border, likely will remain closed for at least three weeks even though much water has drained away. She said communication in St. Bernard is "almost nonexistent."

And St. Tammany President Kevin Davis asked residents who have not yet returned to stay away a few more days.

Thousands of people rode out the storm in St. Tammany or have returned since. But an estimated 60,000 residents are still away, he said.

"Please try to hold on and give us just a couple of more days," he said. He feared congestion from returning traffic might slow utility crews that are making repairs.

Cleco said it had restored power to about a quarter of its customers in St. Tammany and Washington parishes.

Residents of Grand Isle are returning to a spit of land without gasoline, power or running water. The low-lying barrier island apparently suffered no major erosion, but homes and businesses were devastated.

Recovery efforts have been stymied almost completely by damage to the single bridge linking the island to the mainland. The bridge is open to cars and light trucks but not to heavy equipment required for repairs, Mayor David Carmadelle said.

A barge carrying 450,000 gallons of water was to arrive at the island Wednesday, he said.

Jefferson Parish officials said they thought Jefferson was just two or three weeks from re-establishing a commercial pulse. They said they envisioned Jefferson becoming the base from which New Orleans will be built, a function currently served by Baton Rouge.

Jefferson Parish educators set Oct. 3 as a target date for opening some schools, perhaps on a "platooning" system in which relatively undamaged buildings host separate waves of early-morning and late-afternoon students.

## Bridges, museums damaged

While educators struggled to recover their systems, transportation authorities began to get a sense of Katrina's damage to scores of bridges carrying highways over South Louisiana's watery landscape.

The U.S. 90 bridge over the East Pearl River is open only to emergency vehicles, said Gordon Nelson, assistant secretary for the state Department of Transportation and Development.

The Rigolets bridge a few miles west is stuck and can't be opened for boats, he said.

In addition, the Bayou Liberty bridge between Thompson Road and Bayou Liberty Road west of Slidell is closed, he said.

Storm damage varied widely at cultural institutions around the area.

"We're learning that the destruction was even greater than we thought," said Ed Able, president of the American Association of Museums in Washington. He said museum officials were to meet in Baton Rouge to discuss museum security.

Most of the animals at the Audubon Zoo survived. But there were losses when a generator that aerated water failed at the Aquarium of the Americas, said John Hewitt IV, director of husbandry and a senior vice president at the Audubon Nature Institute.

Most of the animals in the giant shark tank and the Caribbean reef tank were lost, he said. Sea otters, penguins, a giant anaconda and a white alligator were apparently saved.

A 45-foot metal sculpture, "Virlane Tower," by Kenneth Snelson and valued at $500,000 was reduced to "a twisted mess in the lagoon," Able said.

## Bush assailed

In Washington, two top Democrats assailed President Bush's handling of the post-Katrina response. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., demanded to know whether Bush's Texas vacation impeded relief efforts.

U.S. Rep Nancy Pelosi, D-Cal., the House Minority Leader, said Bush was "oblivious, in denial."

GOP congressional leaders met privately, reportedly to consider an unusual joint House-Senate investigation into why the government's response to Katrina was days late.

The White House is asking lawmakers to approve another $51.8 billion in relief for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Congress is expected to approve the package as early as today to keep the flow of relief uninterrupted.

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With reporting by Ed Anderson, Meghan Gordon, Laura Maggi, John Pope, Manuel Torres, Jim Varney and the Associated Press

# Confusion surrounds case of man accused of shooting at copter

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE -- Jurisdictional questions left in Hurricane Katrina's wake postponed most action Wednesday in the case of a 21-year-old man arrested Tuesday in Algiers for allegedly shooting at a relief helicopter.

Wendell L. Bailey was ordered returned to his cell at the West Baton Rouge Parish Prison after Magistrate Christine Noland of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana read him the charges he faces and declared, after learning he has no money, that he qualifies for free legal help.

Bailey told the magistrate that he was a $10-an-hour liquor store employee from January through March and then worked for Sears before being jailed from April until August, when he was released on parole.

Bailey, currently on probation, has felony convictions for marijuana distribution and possession of cocaine, federal officials said.

At the urging of Virginia Schlueter, federal public defender for the Eastern District of Louisiana court, Noland agreed to delay further proceedings on Bailey's case at least until Monday while officials decide whether the law requires his case be handled by the federal court in New Orleans, which has been temporarily closed because of the storm.

From a procedural standpoint, Bailey's case is unusual. Wednesday's hearing was set to be heard at the Houma annex of the New Orleans-based U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The hearing, however, was moved to Baton Rouge after the U.S. Marshals Service expressed security concerns about the Houma facility, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Magner of New Orleans.

"We did not go to Houma because the Marshals Service did not believe they could provide security for inmates and the court there," Magner said, adding that the Houma facility was designed as a venue for civil cases only.

If the Marshals Service can secure the Houma building to handle criminal cases, Bailey's hearing will resume there Monday, Magner said.

Meanwhile, he added, a bill introduced by U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R- La., that could be acted on soon would allow a quick fix for the jurisdictional problem that delayed the Bailey case.

Vitter's bill would allow federal courts, in the event of an emergency declared by their chief judges, to handle criminal case pretrial proceedings in another jurisdiction, Magner said.

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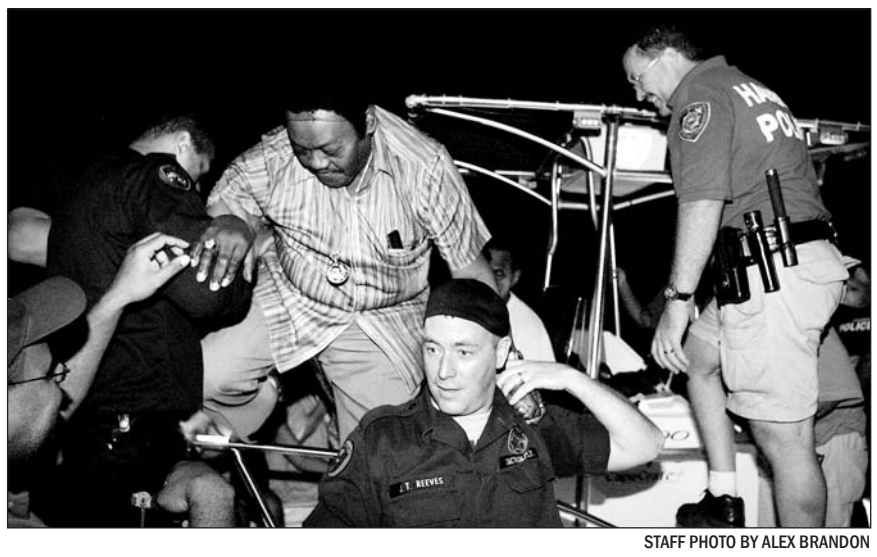
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# Katrina disbands N.O. music community

## *Venues damaged, performers exiled*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Musician Fats Domino, center, gets a hand from Trevor Reeves, an officer with the New Orleans Police Department SWAT team, at the St. Claude Bridge near Domino's Lower 9th Ward home on Aug. 29. As floodwater surged the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee's memorabilia-filled home, he was finally rescued by boat.

It is one of many tragedies within the greater Hurricane Katrina tragedy: The exodus and disruption of New Orleans' fabled music community, possibly for a very long time.

Marquee acts based in New Orleans - such as the Neville Brothers, Better Than Ezra, Cowboy Mouth, the Radiators and Nicholas Payton - will continue to make money on the road, even if their hometown is uninhabitable. Major touring acts can return once the New Orleans Arena and other large venues are repaired.

But the working musicians who populate the neighborhood clubs, second-line parades and jazz brunches are more vulnerable financially; many often live gig to gig. Katrina's floodwater has swept away cheap housing along with club and convention jobs.

And New Orleans will be unplugged for months, not weeks. Preservation Hall's Web site says the venerable jazz club, open since 1961, is closed "indefinitely," even though the French Quarter sustained considerably less damage than other areas of the city.

Musicians must find work, and assistance, elsewhere. For now, the backbone of New Orleans' close-knit music community is shattered and scattered. How it will reassemble in Katrina's aftermath is anyone's guess.

Will brass bands ever march again through the historic Treme community, which was inundated?

Will Vaughan's, the ramshackle little jazz joint in the devastated Bywater neighborhood, ever resume its Thursday night barbecue with Kermit Ruffins?

Will the street musicians that once populated the French Quarter ever return?

And will the Neville Brothers, New Orleans' first family of funk, ever call the city home again?

Aaron Neville, who appeared alongside Harry Connick Jr. and Wynton Marsalis for a hastily organized Sept. 1 storm relief telethon, is resettling in Nashville, Tenn., with his brother Art. Sibling Cyril is in Austin, son Ivan in Los Angeles.

Aaron Neville has heard reports of bodies floating in his eastern New Orleans neighborhood. He can't imagine when he might return.

"Right now, it doesn't even look possible," Neville said Tuesday. "They've got to clean that place with a fine-toothed comb. People walking through that water are getting sick. And I don't know if I want to go back, because it could happen again. If they don't build it back above sea level, it's still vulnerable."

### Wounds and woes

Two days after Katrina passed, Tipitina's, the city's flagship music club, largely was unscathed on its swath of high, dry ground along the Mississippi River. A few blocks away, the only damage to Art Neville's meticulously restored home was to the wooden fence that surrounds it.

But many others weren't so lucky.

Iconic jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain lost homes in New Orleans and Bay St. Louis, Miss., as well as Casino Magic, which had become his primary venue. Fountain rode out the storm in a Mississippi Day's Inn, and he has since sought shelter in Winnsboro.

Singer Charmaine Neville, Aaron Neville's niece and the featured Monday night act at jazz bistro Snug Harbor, survived a brutal attack by marauders. As floodwater surged into Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee Fats Domino's memorabilia-filled home in the lower 9th Ward, he finally was rescued by boat.

Guitar legend Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, 81, already battling emphysema, lung cancer and blocked arteries, now has additional woes: His home on a Slidell bayou was destroyed. A photo depicted his trademark black Cadillac parked in a pile of debris, including a sodden guitar case. Brown escaped to Texas before the storm hit.

In the short term, other regions will reap the rewards of this musical diaspora. Trumpeters Irvin Mayfield and Ruffins, and singer/songwriter Theresa Andersson landed in Baton Rouge. Rhythm and blues pianist Eddie Bo was in Paris when Katrina struck, and he is now staying in Lafayette. Clarinetist Michael White retreated to Houston.

Keyboardist Jon Cleary is in California, preparing for a tour with Bonnie Raitt. Guitarists Eric Lindell and Chris Mule, saxophonist Tim Green and sousaphonist Kirk Joseph joined forces for an impromptu gig recently in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

### Benefits planned

Several individuals and organizations are staging benefits to assist displaced New Orleans musicians.

Proprietors of the Howlin' Wolf club in the Warehouse District are organizing benefits with club owners in Dallas, Houston and Austin, Texas. Preservation Hall also has established the New Orleans Musicians Hurricane Relief fund through its Web site, www.preservationhall.com.

In Houston, a new organization called NOAH, New Orleans and Houston, has set itself up as an "employment and relocation aid" for musicians. Houston pianist Paul English has invited New Orleans musicians to fill in for his standing gig at the Magnolia Hotel.

John "Papa" Gros, leader of the hard-working funk band Papa Grows Funk - the sort of dependable, instantly accessible band that populated New Orleans clubs pre-Katrina - is optimistic that he and his fellow musicians one day will return.

Gros concluded a month-long Japanese tour just before Katrina struck. Instead of orchestrating a triumphant homecoming at the ramshackle Maple Leaf bar, home for his band's weekly Monday night gig, he resettled in Lake Charles, where his kids are now enrolled in school. His band mates are in Dallas, Montgomery, Ala., and Lutcher.

But they will reconvene this week on the West Coast for a tour. He says Papa Grows Funk will tour as much as possible in the coming months and establish weekly residencies in Houston, Lafayette and Baton Rouge.

"We have New Orleans musicians in all these places, and they all need work," Gros said. "If I can put money in their pockets and play some New Orleans music, that's what I can do."

### 'New Orleans is in us'

Gros is only marking time until he can return to New Orleans.

"Hell, yes, the city will come back," Gros said. "It's New Orleans. No matter how bad it is, the pride that New Orleanians take in the city is so strong. As long as politicians don't steal the money for the rehabilitation, the city will come back.

"(The revitalization) will start in the neighborhoods. Neighbors helping neighbors again. The neighborhood bars, the neighborhood groceries, will come back. People who live in Uptown take pride in Uptown. Treme takes pride in Treme. Mid-City takes pride in Mid-City. It's their pride, their life. That's all they know.

"And I can't wait for the songs that will come out of this."

How many musicians eventually return once New Orleans is back on its feet will determine the future character of the city's music.

Harry Connick Jr. has praised his fellow New Orleanians' "freakishly strong" spirit. And even if the Nevilles and hundreds of their peers live in exile, Aaron Neville is confident they will maintain some sense of community and continuity.

"New Orleans is in us," Neville said. "That's all we know. We might be relocated somewhere else, but New Orleans is always in our hearts and souls and minds.

"Especially the music."

• • • • • •

Music writer Keith Spera can be reached at keithspera@yahoo.com.

# Five deaths linked to tainted water

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Five people died from a disease related to Hurricane Katrina, succumbing to a bacterium that can enter the body through open wounds after a slog through polluted water, federal authorities announced Wednesday.

Four of the deaths from complications of Vibrio vulnificus infections were reported in Mississippi, and the fifth occurred in Texas, said Tom Skinner of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He predicted more such deaths are likely in the New Orleans area.

The infection, which also can result from eating contaminated oysters, is one of several possible diseases that can result from spending time in foul water. People with chronic illnesses such as diabetes or weakened immune systems are at greater risk of complications.

State epidemiologist Raoult Ratard discouraged anyone from eating oysters harvested in Louisiana until tainted waters have been cleared from the area.

Although the diseases can be treated easily, people can help ward off problems by drying off, cleaning up and paying attention to open wounds exposed to the water, said Dr. Robert Tauxe, chief of the CDC's food-borne and digestive diseases branch.

"The water is a stinking mess," he said. "You don't want to be around it."

Although the micro-organism that killed the five storm victims comes from the same family as the bacterium that can cause cholera, medical experts were quick to point out Wednesday that it is not cholera.

Tests have shown that the water swirling through the New Orleans area carries the E. coli bacterium because of sewage in the water, but Tauxe said it is the strain that everyone carries, not the one that can cause disease.

Consequently, it shouldn't be a threat to people who have safe drinking water, he said.



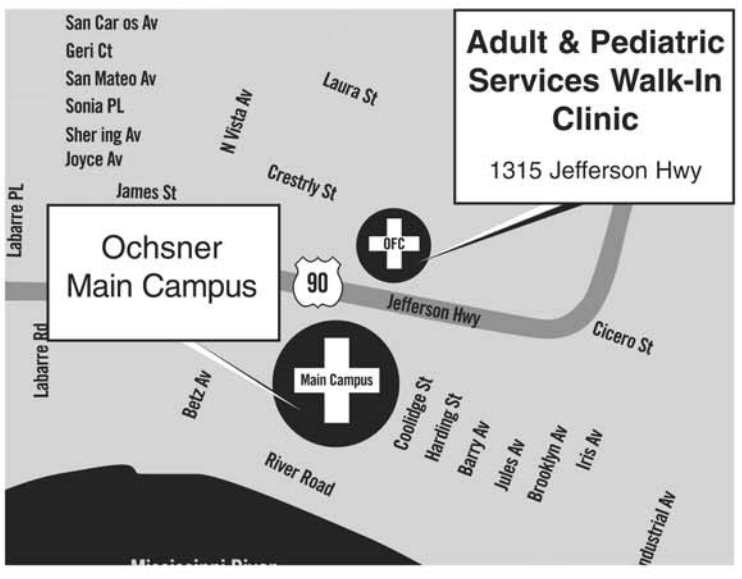

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# Jeff president asks for help rebuilding

## *Tattered U.S. flag is symbol of community*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard handed a tattered American flag to the nation's security czar Wednesday and asked him to devote every possible resource to reestablishing a "sustainable living condition" in the suburban community within a month of Hurricane Katrina's landfall.

Broussard also asked Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to "build radio towers that are fortresses" so storm victims stuck in their homes and refugees stranded outside their neighborhoods can get up-to-the-minute information anywhere in the nation. And he pushed the need for ramped-up federal efforts to combat coastal erosion to low-lying areas to protect greater New Orleans against another catastrophic hurricane.

In recounting the private session of about 25 parish and federal officials, Broussard said he eschewed Chertoff's request to tour wind- and flood-ravaged Jefferson neighborhoods Wednesday. By the time he arrived for a 5 p.m. meeting at the parish's Emergency Operations Center in Marrero, Chertoff would have witnessed the worst of Katrina's massacre during earlier visits to Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, Broussard said.

"Jefferson Parish would have seemed like a cakewalk," he said.

Broussard also related in detail a chronology that started Aug. 26 with a parishwide evacuation order and ending with Jefferson in a tangle of downed trees, smashed buildings and as much as 15 feet of water in some east bank areas after the Aug. 30 breach in the 17th Street Canal, according to the parish president and other local officials who attended the meeting. Broussard said it will take 21 days to remove the water from Old Metairie and neighborhoods around Airline Highway.

Chertoff asked for numbers of residents who may have perished in Katrina, those who evacuated and those who stayed to weather the storm in their homes. Broussard said he did not know such details yet, adding that officials have not begun to search for the dead, those attending the meeting said.

Broussard also said that in the days before the hurricane, he asked for medical personnel from across the country to head to Louisiana to provide support for local doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Finally on Wednesday, 200 medical professionals arrived from Maryland after that state's governor volunteered their services.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**Gary Cohn uses his work van Wednesday to distribute food, water and ice to those who couldn't get the necessities on their own. He has delivered four or five vanloads a day to about 400 residents in Metairie and Bucktown since the storm hit.**

To begin the 40-minute meeting, Broussard handed to Chertoff a ragged flag he found Wednesday during a quick trip to Plaquemines Parish and asked the national security chief to present it to President Bush. "This flag represents the greater New Orleans area," Broussard said he told Chertoff. "We are ripped. We are torn. We are shredded. But we're still Americans. Send us all you can and restore this community like you would restore this flag."

Broussard also announced Wednesday the creation of Operation Life-Line Depot, a parish effort to open neighborhood elementary schools to local residents to get food, water, hygiene products and possibly to distribute textbooks to students who could not evacuate. Jefferson's public schools hope to re-open in early October, the district superintendent has said.

Elsewhere Wednesday in Jefferson, residents returned to their homes to survey damage as armed National Guard soldiers, most from Missouri, patrolled major intersections and about 100 New York City police fanned out to join forces with thousands of local sheriff's deputies and municipal police to maintain order.

Some residents arrived in pickups or with U-Haul trucks to cart out mattresses, chests of drawers, linens and keepsakes that Katrina spared. But others turned their front-door keys to return home for good despite a lack of electricity, water and sewerage services and a request from parish officials for everyone to get out by 6 p.m. today.

Provisions also were in short supply, with most grocery stores and restaurants boarded up or locked. But one gas station near Lapalco and Woodmere boulevards catered to a steady row of about 50 cars at the bargain-basement price of $2.38 per gallon, and many of those idling in line said they wanted to stay in Jefferson to help rebuild as quickly as possible.

In Jean Lafitte, Taddese Tewelde proudly opened the doors to the Piggly Wiggly across from Town Hall on Louisiana 45 as electricity flashed on in the hamlet's northern areas after noon. Though his frozen foods, meats and produce spoiled when Katrina knocked out power last week, Tewelde sold snacks, cleaning supplies, soda, cakes and paper goods at pre-storm prices. His beer and cigarette cache was stolen when he evacuated to Baton Rouge last week.

Over-the-counter medications were shelved behind yellow police tape so they would not be pilfered. Tewelde, who is a pharmacist, said he expected to start selling prescription drugs again today or Friday, though lack of a phone line meant he would not be able to process insurance claims. And because Federal Emergency Management Agency workers had not gotten to Lafitte by Wednesday, Tewelde expected that residents would not have medication vouchers for his pharmacy to submit for reimbursement, he said.

"I will have to charge full price," he said, adding that he would be torn between providing medicine to neighbors in his tiny community and operating his business at a potentially devastating loss.

Further down the bayou, Tracy LaBella said he'd be shopping at the food mart in coming weeks. He didn't care that power and telephone service still was out at his home on the Barataria banks near the Intracoastal Canal, or that officials planned to enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew starting Friday morning.

But LaBella had rigged a generator to run his air conditioner and planned to house three adults and three kids at the property while he rebuilds his home.

Despite the inconveniences, life seemed to be getting back to normal, as 12-year-old Trey Brewer, who lives with his mother and LaBella, showed off a prize that Katrina probably deposited in the coastal waters.

"Hey!" Trey shouted. "I caught a soft-shell turtle!"

"Yeah, he survived the hurricane," LaBella replied. "Let him go."

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- Businesses and contractors will be charged $28 per ton until further notice.

STAFF GRAPHIC


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# Jeff plans to be regional recovery base

## *Some schools may open Oct. 3*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

BATON ROUGE -- Jefferson Parish government and school officials Wednesday began promoting their damaged but hardly devastated parish as the future core of recovery for the entire New Orleans area.

In many respects, Baton Rouge is serving that role for the moment, and the capital is where the Jefferson School Board held an emergency meeting, in the building where the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education normally convenes. But the officials described Jefferson as being as close as two or three weeks away from flickering back to life.

Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella said the government will get the parish running quickly, so Jefferson can help in the rebuilding of its harder-hit neighbors in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

"We are fully committed in Jefferson Parish to rebuilding our community," Parish Council member Chris Roberts said. "I think Jefferson Parish has an opportunity to grow."

Jefferson schools Superintendent Diane Roussel said she thinks the parish soon will be the hub of redevelopment for the New Orleans region.

"The word today is much more encouraging than before," Roussel said of the damage in Jefferson. "Folks, we'll be up and running shortly."

"In every challenge," she said, "there is an opportunity."

### Schools to reopen soon

The School Board approved a resolution setting Oct. 3 as the target date to reopen some schools. That came after members heard a preliminary report of damage to the parish's 84 public schools, which before Katrina served 50,000 students, employed 7,000 people and had a budget of $330 million.

The target puts Jefferson well ahead of some school systems in Katrina's path. State Superintendent Cecil Picard said Tuesday that Orleans and St. Bernard schools may not be able to reopen at all during the 2005-06 academic year.

Some reports had Jefferson schools not opening until January, but board members strongly refuted that scenario.

Jefferson officials said more than 40 schools are in good condition, 11 have minor damage that can be fixed quickly and nine have serious damage that will take more time to fix. Roof damage appeared to be the most common problem.

Because some schools will not be able to reopen soon, and because the student population likely will fluctuate wildly in the coming months, Roussel and some board members suggested the practice of "platooning," under which different sets of students attend a school in different shifts.

Jefferson used that system during its population boom in the 1960s and 1970s, when school construction didn't keep pace with growth. But enrollment has declined considerably in the past 20 years.

### Stemming the losses

In addition to their eagerness to begin serving as the next base of recovery, some Jefferson officials said restarting school soon could stem permanent losses of students and families who evacuated the storm strike zone and now are settling, at least temporarily, into schools in other cities and states.

Board member Etta Licciardi, who evacuated to Arlington, Texas, for a week, said Texas communities see evacuees as potential new residents, so the Louisiana schools must act soon.

"Those people want our kids," Licciardi said. "They want to keep our kids. They want to keep our teachers."

But board member Judy Colgan said open schools in themselves are not enough to get Jefferson back on its feet. She said businesses need to reopen and put employees back to work.

"The economy is what's going to drive the return of residents," Colgan said. She urged businesses to move as fast as possible.

The Jefferson school system has enough money reserved in its $24 million fund balance to continue paying employees at least for the rest of this month, officials said.

"We've always called it a rainy day balance," Chief Financial Officer Raylyn Stevens said. "I believe this is it."

But as long as the parish is mostly closed for business, she said, the school system cannot collect revenue from its most important local source: sales taxes. That's a loss of about $12 million per month.

That realization led board President Ray St. Pierre and Vice President Martin Marino to suggest that state and federal financial help might be promptly needed.

Roussel said she was planning to travel to Washington to give a speech today before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions about the needs facing Southeast Louisiana schools.


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# Alarm sounded too late after storm

## *Slow response left city in lurch*

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans with a double blow when it made landfall Aug. 29. First, storm surge waters from the east rapidly swamped St. Bernard Parish and eastern New Orleans before the eye of the storm had passed the city about 9 a.m. Within hours, surge waters collapsed city canal floodwalls and began to "fill the bowl," while top officials continued to operate for a full day under the mistaken belief that the danger had passed.

A rough reconstruction of the flooding based on anecdotal accounts, interviews and computer modeling shows that the huge scale of the overlapping floods - one fast, one slow - should have been clear to some officials by mid-afternoon Monday, when city representatives confirmed that the 17th Street Canal floodwall had been breached.

At that point areas to the east were submerged from the earlier flooding, trapping thousands, while gradually rising waters stretched from the Lakefront across to Mid-City and almost to the Central Business District.

Federal officials have referred to the levee breaches as a separate and much later event from the flooding to the east, and said that they were unaware of the gravity of the problem until Tuesday, suggesting valuable response time was lost.

"It was midday Tuesday that I became aware of the fact that there was no possibility of plugging the (17th Street Canal) gap and that essentially the lake was going to start to drain into the city. I think that second catastrophe really caught everybody by surprise," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Sunday, adding that he thought the breach had occurred Monday night or Tuesday morning. By that time, flooding from at least one of the two breached canals already had been under way all day Monday, evidence shows.

Even on Tuesday, as still-rising waters covered most of New Orleans, FEMA official Bill Lokey sounded a reassuring note in a Baton Rouge briefing.

"I don't want to alarm everybody that, you know, New Orleans is filling up like a bowl," Lokey said. "That's just not happening."

Once a levee or floodwall is breached by a hurricane storm surge, engineers say, it often widens and cannot quickly be sealed. Storm surge waters in Lake Pontchartrain may take a day or more to subside, so they keep pouring into the city - most of which lies below sea level - until the levels inside and outside the levee are equal.

Experts familiar with the hurricane risks in the New Orleans area said they were stunned that no one had conveyed the information about the breaches or made clear to upper-level officials the grave risk they posed, or made an effort to warn residents about the threat after storm winds subsided Monday afternoon.

"I'm shocked. I don't understand why the response wasn't instantaneous," said Louisiana State University geology professor Greg Stone, who studies coastal storm surge dynamics.

"They should have been monitoring this and informed people all the way to the top, (and) then they should have warned people," said Ivor Van Heerden, who uses computer models at the LSU Hurricane Center to study storm surges and provided officials in the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness headquarters with data indicating the potential for flooding that could result from Katrina.

The storm approached the coast early Monday, the easterly winds from its northern quadrant pumping a rising surge into the marshy Lake Borgne area east of St. Bernard. There, two hurricane levees come together into a large V-shape. Storm surge researchers say that point acts as a giant funnel: Water pouring into the confined area rises up - perhaps as much as 20 feet in this case - and is funneled between the levees all the way into New Orleans.

The water likely topped the levees along the north side adjacent to eastern New Orleans, which average only 14 or 15 feet, according to the Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans project manager Al Naomi.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

A helicopter ferries a sandbag Thursday to fill the breach in the 17th Street Canal. A reconstruction of the flooding of New Orleans suggests that the extent of the problem should have been apparent to officials by mid-afternoon Monday.

The surge reached the Industrial Canal before dawn and quickly overflowed on both sides, the canal lockmaster reported to the Corps. At some point not long afterward, Corps officials believe a barge broke loose and crashed through the floodwall, opening a breach that accelerated flooding into the Lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

The floodwaters moved quickly.

By around 8 a.m., authorities reported rising water on both sides of the Industrial Canal, in St. Bernard and eastern New Orleans. The Coast Guard reported sighting residents on rooftops in the Upper Ninth Ward. "Water is inundating everywhere," in St. Bernard, Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said.

At 9 a.m., there was 6 to 8 feet of water in the Lower 9th Ward, state officials said. Less than two hours later, most of St. Bernard was a lake 10 feet deep. "We know people were up in the attics hollering for help," state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi, said that morning. By 11 a.m., water was covering Interstate 10 at a low point near the high-rise over the Industrial Canal.

Sometime Monday morning, the 17th Street Canal levee burst when storm surge waters pressed against it and possibly topped it, Corps officials said. Col. Richard P. Wagenaar, the corps's site commander at 17th Street, told The Washington Post that a police officer called him Monday morning to tell him about it. He told the Post he couldn't get to the site.

Naomi said he thinks the breach occurred in the mid- or late-morning after the hurricane's eye had passed east of the city. By that time, north winds would have pushed storm surge water in Lake Pontchartrain south against the hurricane levees and into the canals. Then the wind shifted to the west.

"As I remember it the worst of the storm had passed when we got word the floodwall had collapsed," he said. "It could have been when we were experiencing westerly winds in the aftermath of the storm, which would have been pushing water against it."

Naomi and other Corps officials say they think the water in the canal topped the levee on the Orleans Parish side, weakening its structure on the interior side and causing its collapse. However, Van Heerden said he does not believe the water was high enough in the lake to top the 14-foot wall and that the pressure caused a "catastrophic structural failure."

It's unclear when floodwalls in the London Avenue canal were breached, but Naomi said it may have been about the same time.

Once the floodwalls failed, water - then at about 8 feet or higher in the lake - began to pour into New Orleans from the west, beginning the full-scale nightmare emergency managers and other officials most feared. At 10 a.m., reporters from The Times-Picayune saw water rising over I-10 where it dips beneath the railway trestle south and east of the canal.

Naomi said that he thinks Corps officials had communicated the information about the breaches to the Baton Rouge Office of Emergency Preparedness

"It was disseminated. It went to our OEP in Baton Rouge, to the state, FEMA, the Corps," Naomi said. "The people in the field knew it. The people here (in Corps offices) in Louisiana and Mississippi knew it. I don't know how communication worked in those agencies."

Officials at the OEP could not be reached for comment. New Orleans officials were also aware of the 17th Street Canal breach and publicly confirmed it at 2 p.m. Around the same time, The Times-Picayune reported 4 feet of water in one Lakeview neighborhood.

An hour later, Terry Ebbert, head of New Orleans' emergency operations, listed Treme and Lakeview as among the areas hardest hit by the flooding. Ebbert said there would be casualties because many people were calling emergency workers saying they were trapped on rooftops, in trees and attics. In some cases, he said, authorities lost contact with people pleading for help.

As the day wore on, the flood crept east and south and made its way across the city, penetrating neighborhood after neighborhood.

At 3 p.m. Times-Picayune reporters found it was knee-deep under the Jefferson Davis overpass near Xavier University. A Mid-City couple stranded there said their home was surrounded by 5 feet of water. An hour later, the I-10 dip under the railroad overpass was under 15 feet of water.

George Saucier, the CEO of Lindy Boggs Medical Center south of City Park, told The Times-Picayune that water from the 17th Street breach had flowed into Bayou St. John and overflowed its banks, then followed streets like sluices on its way south, where it was starting to flood the hospital's basement.

By late afternoon, people stranded on I-10 near the Industrial Canal could see residents on rooftops stretching across Lower 9th Ward.

As night fell Monday, many outside of New Orleans breathed a sigh of relief believing the city had been largely spared the worse. But thousands were stranded from the Lower Ninth Ward, across St. Bernard and south to the east bank of Plaquemines Parish. And waters continued to rise overnight throughout central New Orleans. By dawn, they stretched all the way from east to west and into Uptown, and were coursing through the Central Business District. As TV helicopters flew over the city and beamed out pictures of the flooding, the extent of the catastrophe was clear.

That flooding would complicate evacuation efforts in New Orleans for days.


# Special Hurricane Katrina update for Humana customers, members, providers, agents and brokers.

The damage sustained by the communities and residents of the Gulf Coast is beyond a disaster - it is a terrible human tragedy. Humana is committed to helping our customers and partners in the affected areas recover as quickly as possible.

Effective August 28, 2005, for all individuals or businesses from the affected areas that have Commercial or Medicare plans, Humana will provide a one-month grace period for the payment of premiums.

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The affected areas include:

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Jefferson
Lafourche
Livingston
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. Helena
St. James
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Terrebonne
Washington

**Mississippi counties:**
Amite
Forrest
George
Greene
Hancock
Harrison
Jackson
Lamar
Marion
Pearl River
Perry
Pike
Stone
Walthall
Wilkinson

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# Hard-core holdouts hunker down in surreal city

**By Chris Rose**
Columnist

They're telling the people they have to go. They're going door to door with rifles now.

They came to our little hovel on Laurel Street Uptown - a dozen heavily-armed members of the California National Guard - they pounded on our door and wanted to know who we were.

We told them we were the newspaper, the Big City Daily. I admit, it doesn't look like the newsrooms you see on TV. I suppose if we wore shirts, we'd look more professional.

The Guard moved on, next door, next block.

They're telling people they have to go.

It won't be easy. The people who stayed here have weathered ten days of unfathomable stench and fear and if they haven't left yet, it seems unlikely that they're going to be willing now.

In a strange way, life just goes on for the remaining. In the dark and fetid Winn-Dixie on Tchoupitoulas, an old woman I passed in the pet food aisle was wearing a house frock and puffy slippers, and she just looked at me as she pushed her cart by and said: "How you doin', baby?"

Like it's just another afternoon making groceries.

I love the way strangers call you baby in this town.

Outside the store, there's an old guy who parks his old groaning car by the front door from sunup to sundown. There are extension cords running from his trunk into the store, which still has power - don't ask me how; I have no idea - and he watches TV in his front seat and drinks juice.

That is what he does, all day, every day.

At this point, I just can't see this guy leaving. I don't imagine he has anyplace else in the world but this.

A young guy walked up and said to him: "I hear you can charge your cell phone here?" and the old guy said "Yes, indeedy," and walked him into the store and showed him a plug that still had juice.

And life goes on. Down on St. Claude Avenue, a tribe of survivors has blossomed at Kajun's Pub where, incredibly, they have cold beer and cigarettes and a stereo playing Elvis and you'd think everything was in standard operating procedure but it is not: The Saturday night karaoke has been indefinitely suspended.

The people here have a touch of Mad Max syndrome; they're using an old blue Cadillac for errands and when parts fall off of it - and many parts have fallen off - they just throw them in the trunk.

Melvin, a bar owner from down the block, had the thing up for sale for $895, but he'll probably take best offer now.

Melvin's Bar and Kajun's Pub have pooled their inventories to stay in business.

"We've blended our fortunes together," said Renee dePnthieux, a bartender at Melvin's. "We carried everything we could down here, and we'll make the accounting later. What else are you gonna do? In case you haven't heard, Budweiser ain't delivering."

A guy with a long goatee and multiple tattoos was covering a couple of aluminum foil pans of lasagna and carrying them up to the roof to cook them in the sun on the hot slate shingles.

Joann Guidos, the proprietor at Kajun's, called out for a game of bourre and they all dumped their money on a table and sat down and let the cards and liquor flow.

A National Guard truck pulled up and asked if they were ready to leave yet. Two guys standing out on the sidewalk in the company of pit bulls said: "Hell no."

DePonthiux said: "We're the last fort on the edge of the wilderness. My family's been in exile for 300 years; this ain't shit."

I just don't see these people leaving.

Uptown, on what was once a shady street, a tribe is living in a beautiful home owned by a guy named Peanut. There is a seaplane in his driveway, a bass boat in the front yard and generators running the power.

Let's just say they were prepared.

All the men wear pistols in visible holsters. They've got the only manicured lawn in the city. What else is there to do all afternoon, really?

Christine Paternostro is a member of this tribe and she is an out-of-work hair stylist from Supercuts in a city where no one shaves or bathes. Not many prospects for her at this point.

"Everyone will need a haircut when this is over," I offered.

While members of this tribe stood talking on their street, a woman came running out of the house, yelling: "Y'all, come quick. We on WWL! We on WWL!"

Everyone ran in the house and watched a segment about how people are surviving in the city. And these guys are doing just that. (Although I think the airplane in the driveway is a little over the top.)

As I was leaving, the WWL woman said to me: "Are you staying for dinner?"

I was not, but I asked what they were having. "Tuna steaks," she said. "Grilled."

If and when they rebuild this city and we all get to come home, I want to live near people like this. I just can't imagine them ever leaving.

They make me wonder if I ever could.

• • • • • •

To contact Chris Rose, e-mail noroses@bellsouth.net, or call (504) 352-2535.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# 80 percent of Dome's roof compromised

## *Superdome, Arena appear repairable*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE - A "preliminary investigation'' of the Superdome and nearby New Orleans Arena indicates that both facilities "can be rehabilitated" from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, but it will cost at least $400 million, state officials told U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., Wednesday.

The damage estimate was included in a letter to Vitter signed by Superdome Commission Chairman Tim Coulon; Dome Counsel Larry Roedel; and Doug Thornton, regional vice president of SMG, the corporation that manages the stadium and arena for the state.

Thornton did not break down the estimate, but said most of the damage was at the Superdome, which served as a shelter of last resort for more than 20,000 residents during the storm while sustaining roof and water damage.

Thornton said he hopes to have a decontamination team in the buildings in two to three weeks so engineers, architects and other experts can make a more intensive inspection of the state-owned structures.

Thornton said he should have an assessment of the Superdome within 45 to 60 days and a recommendation on whether it should be repaired, renovated or rebuilt.

"While our preliminary investigation leads us to believe these facilities can be rehabilitated, there is always the possibility that the Superdome may require full replacement,'' the letter said.

The officials asked Vitter to seek "federal assistance to rehabilitate both facilities.'' Superdome officials told Vitter that the money is needed to remove waste, including medical waste, human waste, trash and debris, from the Dome, which had two inches of water on its playing surface.

"It is premature to make any determination about the outcome of the building," Thornton said in a news conference called to refute national news stories that the state has decided to raze the Superdome.

He called the 30-year-old Superdome "an icon in the New Orleans area,'' the site of the Republican National Convention in 1988, a papal visit in 1987, six Super Bowl games and two NCAA Final Four basketball tournaments.

He said if the Arena can be repaired quickly, it is possible it could be back in use in the first quarter of next year, in time for the New Orleans Voodoo's Arena Football League season and other events.

Thornton said that there is about $600 million worth of insurance on the Dome for wind and flood damage and that, with federal recovery money, those dollars could cover the costs of repairs or reconstruction.

He said the Dome and the Arena could qualify for federal disaster assistance because the two buildings were used to house up to 24,000 evacuees and National Guard troops for almost a week.

The letter to Vitter outlined these damages: 80 percent of the Superdome's roof "has been compromised," causing severe water damage to a very significant portion of the facility.

- A large portion of the electrical distribution, mechanical, lighting, audio, video and other electronic systems suffered water damage.
- A large portion of the heating and air-conditioning system was damaged.
- "Major water damage to the playing surface'' and ground level electrical boxes on the Superdome floor.
- "Contamination and rupture'' of plumbing and sewer systems, including broken and overflowing toilets.
- Significant vandalism and damage to all interior spaces such as luxury suites, administrative office areas, commissaries and kitchens as a result of the evacuee population housed at the facility.
- Damage to exterior lighting systems and the exterior skin of the stadium due to high winds.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Repairing the Superdome and the nearby New Orleans Arena will cost at least $400 million, state officials estimated. Most of the damage was at the Superdome, which sustained roof and water damage while sheltering more than 20,000 residents.

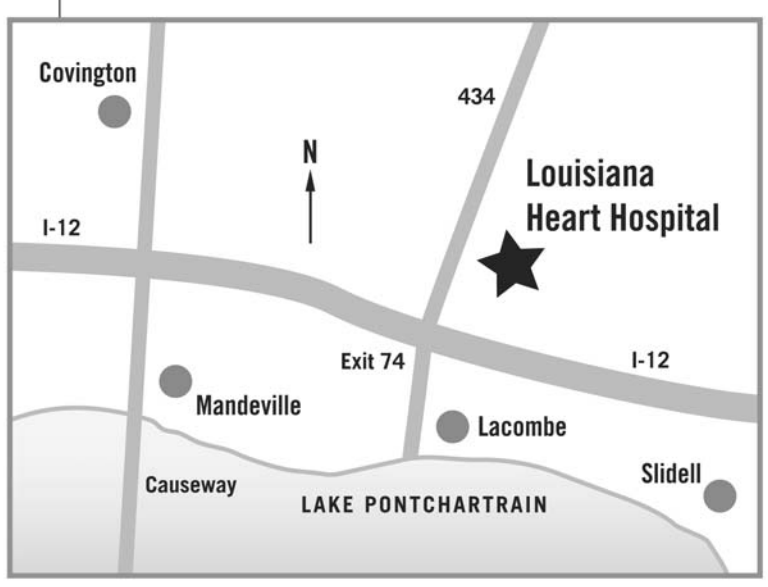
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# Hurricane may force special legislative session

## *Lawmakers expected to meet early next year*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE - A special legislative session will have to be called to deal with mounting legal and fiscal woes caused by Hurricane Katrina, leading Louisiana lawmakers said Wednesday.

House Speaker Joe Salter, D-Florien, and Senate President Don Hines, D-Bunkie, told reporters that the session probably will be held early next year, unless circumstances require an earlier meeting.

Hines said the session will focus on budgetary matters, changes in state laws dealing with legal and court matters, and possibly even changing state election laws to extend absentee voting rights to evacuation centers in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and other cities where thousands of Louisiana citizens are living.

Salter said Gov. Kathleen Blanco has not signaled when such a session might be called, but he said it probably will have to wait until state officials have a better handle on the effect the storm will have on state finances.

"It may be difficult to get good information before then," Salter said.

"It is going to be devastating" on the state treasury, Hines said. "I don't think we have to worry about a surplus."

Hines said it is unclear how much the state and local governments will lose in sales taxes, property taxes and other revenue sources.

"There are no revenues at all" coming from the New Orleans area, he said. "We just know we are taking in a lot less than we are spending."

**"It is going to be devastating. I don't think we have to worry about a surplus."**
DON HINES,
La. Senate President

Many of the expenses the state is incurring can be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, officials said. Blanco has already asked for a 100 percent reimbursement of most costs and losses, aides said.

"We have a rainy day fund" of $255 million that can be tapped for emergencies, Hines said. "And it is raining now."

He said there was talk weeks ago of calling lawmakers into special session in January to tap an expected surplus from increasing gasoline prices to give teachers a pay raise, but that is no longer expected to happen.

"I don't see how we can spend $140 million on a pay raise when we are now dealing with people's lives," he said.

**"I could have had equipment in here the day after the storm, but this bridge is holding us up. We could do a lot. Eighty percent of my work can't get done without this bridge."**

GRAND ISLE MAYOR DAVID J. CAMARDELLE



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Without the use of Grand Isle's key bridge, which was weakened by the hurricane, the debris-strewn town has been unable to begin its recovery in earnest. 'You can't live without water,' Mayor David Camardelle said.

# Grand Isle suffers bottleneck effect

## *Only bridge to town unsafe for recovery vehicles*

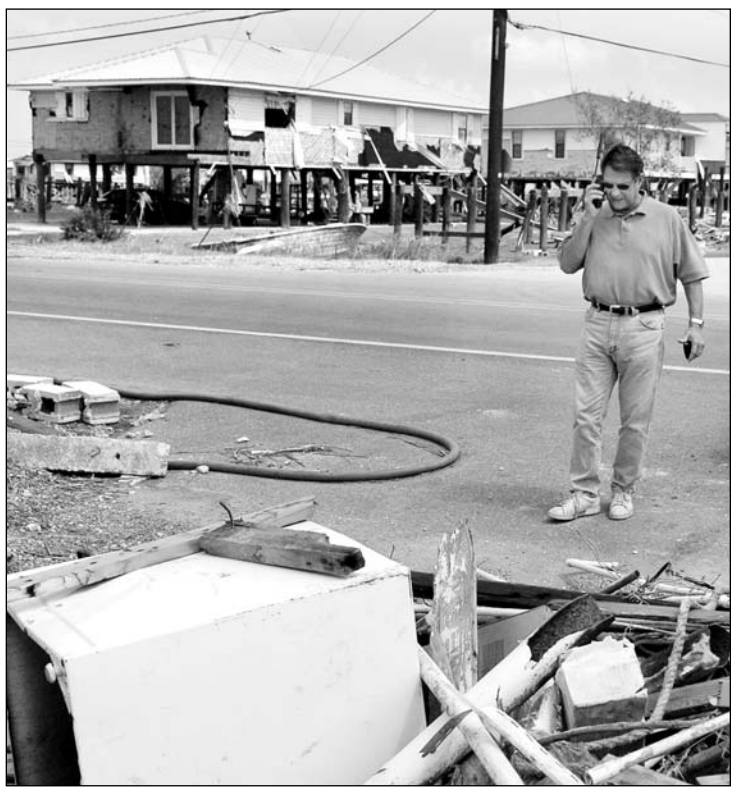
**By Meghan Gordon**
Staff writer

Located at the tip of Louisiana, Grand Isle was among the first places to feel the power of Katrina's tidal surge, which wiped away many structures in the coastal community. Yet more than a week later, it remains virtually untouched by restoration efforts.

The only bridge to the state's only inhabited barrier island was weakened by the storm. Though residents have driven cars and four-wheelers over it to tally their losses, Department of Transportation and Development engineers deemed the span unsafe for vehicles weighing more than 10 to 12 tons.

The delay in getting heavy equipment and supplies to the island has clearly gotten to Mayor David J. Camardelle, who rattled off an account of his weeklong journey through the bureaucracy of transportation departments, power crews and contractors as he gave a tour to U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, and a Federal Emergency Management Agency representative on Tuesday.

"I could have had equipment in here the day after the storm, but this bridge is holding us up," Camardelle said. "We could do a lot. Eighty percent of my work can't get done without this bridge."





ABOVE, Workers try to build a temporary roof in the area where Carmardelle's Seafood stood. The storm snapped the town's pipeline, and many residents who rode out the storm or returned need water. Firetrucks made several trips across the fragile causeway Monday to deliver 30,000 gallons; a barge delivery was expected.

LEFT, U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, uses a satellite phone amid the rubble as he tours Grand Isle on Tuesday. Communication has been difficult on the island, and town officials have been making twice-daily drives 40 miles up the bayou to make calls.

Camardelle said he has worked tirelessly to line up contractors, barges and equipment, but one hitch or another has foiled his plans. He said state Transportation Secretary Ray Bradbury told him to expect a five-week wait for state crews to arrive to help. His remaining hope is that the Louisiana National Guard can provide assistance.

Without securing the bridge, town officials can't haul in water needed by the seven residents who rode out the storm and many of the other 1,200 residents who have returned to live primitively without gas, water or electricity. He also had to turn away tractor-trailers that offered to haul off debris.

The hurricane snapped the town's water pipeline. Fire trucks made several trips across the fragile causeway Monday to deliver 30,000 gallons of water, and town officials ordered 450,000 more gallons to be delivered by barge this morning.

"These people could live. You can burn a Coleman lantern. I seen my mother do that in '65, but you can't live without water," Camardelle said, referring to the year Hurricane Betsy slammed into the island.

Lack of communication is also a problem. Town officials started making twice-daily drives 40 miles up the bayou when their cell phones and satellite phones stopped working.

"It was eating us up on the fuel," he said. "This is killing me."

Also frustrated by the storm's aftermath were Butch and Susan Gaspard, who cleaned what they could around their shattered businesses Tuesday.

Their marina and Sun Dollar Motel, typically packed during the island's tourist season and the annual Tarpon Rodeo, were ripped up and flooded on the first floor. Butch Gaspard estimated his losses at more than $700,000 - far more than what he had insured.

"We didn't know where to start cleaning up," he said, surrounded by shattered wood, metal and other debris. "We've got to get back in business - that's all we know."

Susan Gaspard, 51, said she doesn't want her two grandchildren to see the storm's damage just yet. She enrolled them in Cut Off schools to return them to some sort of normal routine.

"We always got warned that we would have a big storm, but I never actually thought I'd see Grand Isle like this," she said. "As of a week ago, our life that we had has been totally rerouted and we're trying to live a different life right now."

Melancon, who spent the day on the island trying to brainstorm a quick fix for the bridge, put the island's damage in context.

"I was expecting nothing left, considering the strength of the storm," he said. "If that eye had been 5, 10 miles over to the west, I don't think you'd have anything left standing. But even if it was a total wipeout, you're going to find the kind of people that will come right back here. They're just ready to get in. They need the wherewithal and the financial ability to do it."

Melancon's trip to the island came a day after he and the state's congressional delegation met briefly with President Bush in Baton Rouge. Melancon said the group tried to make clear to the president how crucial efforts to restore the disappearing coastline are for southeastern Louisiana. He said one of his colleagues pointed out that Katrina's tidal surge would likely have been far less destructive had the state been protected by a healthier coast.

"He said, 'Do you understand what we've been trying to tell the people in Washington about coastal preservation?'" Melancon said. "Whether we made our point or not, I don't know, but he got a briefing on it."

# After initial frustration, Blanco praises relief effort

## *18,000 federal troops deployed*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who last week criticized the federal government's relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, toured New Orleans on Wednesday with federal and state military commanders and pronounced herself pleased with the state of the relief effort.

"I think we have stability. I think the aid is at an appropriate level," Blanco said. "We see a very strong federal effort."

Blanco repeated her initial frustrations with the federal government and defended the speed at which she requested aid from President Bush.

Primarily, though, the governor focused on the positive aspects of the relief efforts. She met with doctors, volunteers and evacuees outside the New Orleans Convention Center and thanked police and rescue workers who have been operating out of Harrah's New Orleans Casino since last week. At the Convention Center, which became an international symbol of suffering last week, the few remaining evacuees, who were outnumbered by rescue workers and journalists, received hugs and expressions of support from the governor.

More than 18,000 federal troops from all branches of the military are now deployed in areas hit by Katrina, the vast majority in Louisiana, a military spokesman said. They are helping with what remains of the search-and-rescue efforts, setting up medical clinics and delivering food and water. They are joined in Louisiana by nearly 43,000 National Guard troops from around the country as well as state and local authorities.

Federal troops began arriving en masse on Sunday, nearly a week after the storm struck and six days after flooding put 80 percent of New Orleans under water. With floodwaters starting to recede downtown, Blanco said the scene is far better than the one she witnessed last week. "I came when downtown was full of water. It's good to be on dry ground," she said.

The governor repeated her initial frustrations with the pace of federal relief efforts. "We wanted everything yesterday," she said. And she brushed off suggestions that she did not act quickly enough in asking President Bush to send federal troops. Blanco said she first made such a request in a telephone conversation with the president on the morning of Aug. 28, moments before Mayor Ray Nagin ordered a mandatory evacuation of New Orleans.

"I told him we would need all the help we could get," she said. But she said she did not give the president a "checklist" of the resources needed, she said.

Bob Mann, Blanco's communications director, said the governor also tried to contact Bush two days later, to ask for more help. Three days after that, Blanco received a written request from the Bush administration asking that the entire military relief effort be federalized under the command of Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, who heads Joint Task Force Katrina. Blanc rejected that request and opted to keep the current arrangement in which federal troops report to Honore and guard troops are under the command of Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, who leads the Louisiana National Guard.

Blanco and military officials took pains Wednesday to show that the arrangement is working well, and that there is no discord between the two commands. Before touring the city, Blanco, Lanreneau and Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu attended a closed-door briefing by Honore on the USS Iwo-Jima, where federal troops are based.

"We are a unified command" of state, local and federal officials, Blanco said.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, who commands Joint Task Force Katrina, said his troops will not participate in civilian law-enforcement activities, including the forced evacuation ordered by Mayor Ray Nagin, and will continue to provide food and water to anyone who needs it. "We're here to save lives -- if we have to give them food and water that's what we'll do," Honore said.

Blanco said she hopes the federal troops will remain after the search-and-rescue operations are over and the city's rebuilding process begins. The governor said her staff is working on a proposed "relocation package" -- details of which were not revealed -- that would give people incentives to keep their businesses in New Orleans. The package could include tax breaks, low-interest loans or possibly cash assistance for certain small businesses that promise to rebuild in New Orleans.

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Jan Moller can be reached at tpicbr@aol.com

# SPORTS

## Saints home games still up for grabs as San Antonio officials make push

# SITE UNSEEN

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - While the site of seven Saints home games is being discussed, the NFL did provide one certainty Wednesday - the Saints will not play any of their three divisional home games at the site of the visiting team - meaning they won't make two trips to Carolina, Atlanta or Tampa Bay this season.

But the league still has not ruled out the possibility that the Saints might play other games in the home stadium of the visiting team - as is the case with the Sept. 19 game at the New York Giants.

The Saints' next scheduled home game is against the Buffalo Bills on Oct. 2. A trip to Buffalo on that weekend would be particularly undesirable after consecutive trips to Oakland, Carolina, New York and Minnesota. A decision on that Oct. 2 game is expected soon.

The NFL's preference is to play the Saints' home games in Baton Rouge, and the league has been in contact with Louisiana officials to determine if and when the state will be able to accommodate an NFL game.

"It's just a question of, 'At what point is it feasible?'" NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said of playing in Tiger Stadium. "But we are certainly interested."

The truth be told, most of the Saints' players, coaches and management would prefer to play as many home games as possible in San Antonio this year, now that they are living and working in the Alamo City.

Most of them also see the importance of playing at least some games in Baton Rouge, where they could be more available to their displaced fan base and perhaps help boost morale in Southeast Louisiana.

But the most pressing concern for the Saints is that they get to play all of their home games in some combination of those two cities.

"I think this football team needs to play here. This is where we're practicing; we need to be here," Saints coach Jim Haslett said after Wednesday's practice. "Or Baton Rouge, one of the two. Besides that, to me, I think there should be no other decisions to make."

Haslett said he is not upset with the amount of time the league is taking to make the decision.

"I was on a conference call with the commissioner yesterday, and I understand what they're trying to get done," said Haslett, who explained that the main reason he and his players would prefer to play in San Antonio is to have a chance to be closer to their families without traveling every weekend. "They would like to be around their families one day a week, because you don't see them at all. So more than anything, I think that's the most important thing to them."

Saints receiver Joe Horn was one of several players who echoed the same sentiment, also adding that he would like to play at least some games at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

City leaders in San Antonio, meanwhile, have become even more vocal in their desire to host the Saints for as many games as possible.

Mayor Phil Hardberger has not actively or openly pursued the idea - stating that the city is focused on its hurricane relief efforts - but discussions between the Saints and city officials have been ongoing.

Alamodome director Mike Abington said the 65,000-seat stadium will be ready and available if the Saints and the NFL give the word.

Assistant city manager Roland Lozano also told the San Antonio Express-News that discussions are ongoing with the Saints.

San Antonio businessman Red McCombs - the former owner of the Minnesota Vikings - took things one step further, telling the Express-News that, "every effort needs to be made to tie the Saints up for this season - including having people stand in front of the dome singing, 'When the Saints Come Marching In.'"

City councilman Chip Haass has been one of the most vocal proponents for bringing Saints games to San Antonio. He said Wednesday he has gotten some negative feedback for seeming opportunistic, but he said the city council as a whole has made the city's relief efforts the No. 1 concern.

San Antonio is caring for roughly 25,000 evacuees in shelters, and an estimated 250,000 people have evacuated to Texas to stay with friends or relatives or in hotels.

Haass said he would be "all for" the Saints playing their home games in Baton Rouge if that can be worked out. But he said it would be "tough for me to swallow" if the Saints were forced to play all of their games on the road or in New York or Los Angeles because San Antonio couldn't step up.

Fellow councilman Richard Perez has not been active in efforts to lure the Saints. But he agreed, saying, "We are the eighth largest city in the country. We have a stadium that's ready to go and a population that's been clamoring for football for a long time."

Haass said the proposition of bringing Saints games to San Antonio is twofold.

"One, in a greedy way, it puts San Antonio in a primetime position to show the NFL what we can do. And two, it helps us aid in the relief effort," Haass said. "It gets dangerous because there are things for us to gain out of this. It gets tricky."

Haass said he believes that at least one game will be played in San Antonio as a reward for the city accommodating the Saints this season. Saints general manager Mickey Loomis has also said he believes the city deserves to host at least one game.

Haass has been drumming up support in the corporate community, but he said that "hasn't taken much effort on my part." He said one person offered to buy 10,000 tickets but wanted half of the proceeds to go to relief efforts.

Obviously, the underlying theme in all this is that San Antonio might attract the Saints permanently. Saints owner Tom Benson, a New Orleans native, has longstanding personal and professional ties to San Antonio, where he keeps a second home.

And rumors of Benson wanting to move his team here in 2006 were floating long before Hurricane Katrina hit.

Even if Benson wants to move to San Antonio - as some reports have suggested - it would not be a simple procedure.

For one, San Antonio would need to decide it wants an NFL team and can afford one.

Although the Alamo City ranks eighth in the U.S. in population, the total metropolitan area ranks 30th - five spots ahead of New Orleans in the 2000 census. San Antonio is home to four Fortune 500 companies.

"I think it would all depend on what the deal is for the city," Perez said of a potential NFL franchise. "If it's fair and if it's not a detriment to the city, I think they would embrace it.□

# For fans' sake, Tagliabue needs to take control

**By John DeShazier**
Sports Columnist

Make it work.

That's the only plea Saints fans make to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who will determine where the Saints will play their home games this season. He already has fumbled by determining that the regular-season home opener for New Orleans will be played in East Rutherford, N.J., which probably isn't called home by very many Saints fans.

Make it work in Baton Rouge the best that it possibly can be made to work there, because Saints fans need access to their team, and because they need to be able to feel that they can wrap their arms around it. That can't happen with New Orleans playing in San Antonio, East Rutherford or anywhere else right now.

"I have expressed my desire to the NFL to play games in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to the extent circumstances allow," Saints owner Tom Benson said in a statement Tuesday.

Circumstances are sticky, but it can happen if the parties work hard enough.

The terms, on LSU's behalf, are on the table. The university will allow the Saints to play at Tiger Stadium, but can't or won't produce the cash to make it happen, having already asked its base to loosen its purses to pay for several other, much-needed improvements to the school's athletic facilities.

"We'll do everything we can to be good Louisiana citizens, extend a great invitation," Athletic Director Skip Bertman said. "But we can't ask LSU fans □ to subsidize any Saints activity.

"We think it would be good if the Saints stayed here. We'll do whatever it takes, except spend money."

We can argue that in addition to offering use of the facility, LSU should go even further, or deduce that the school already has been more than helpful by simply offering use of its facility, no strings attached, no profit sought.

But that's wasted breath and time.

What isn't, is hoping that the league will find a way to make it work, will find a way to allow the Saints to play the majority of their seven remaining home games in front of people who can drive in and out on game day, who need to shower them with love in person instead of through a television.

There are 31 NFL owners not named Tom Benson, 31 other millionaires who also call Tagliabue their boss whether they mean it or not, which means there are 31 other revenue sources to tap into to help make it work.

Granted, those men didn't become millionaires by giving away money. But the Saints need their help like never before to pull this off, and if they're not sensitive to the needs of a fraternity brother, his franchise, its fans and a region that has been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, then you have to wonder what crisis within their ranks can move them to action.

We hear, and understand, that Saints players want to play at least some games in San Antonio, which graciously has opened its doors to allow the Saints to operate from there, and that playing in Baton Rouge will be a logistical nightmare on Saints weekends. We should not, though, let those be overriding factors.

Yes, we want players to be happy and comfortable so they can better concentrate and play. And we don't want Baton Rouge to become a parking lot, or the lack of hotel space to put the area under too much stress. Its seams are already stretched to the point of tearing because of the New Orleanians who have relocated there, temporarily or permanently.

But the fact is these are extreme circumstances. Few have the luxury of being comfortable. As has been the case with citizens who escaped Katrina and currently are bunking at the homes of friends or relatives, we all have to squeeze together, pack in tighter, work together, learn to function without all the amenities we've grown accustomed to having on demand.

There's more space available in San Antonio, less of a headache trying to get game-day operations on track. But San Antonio and the Alamodome aren't home for the Saints, or as close to it as are Baton Rouge and Tiger Stadium.

Tagliabue is a smart man. He knows that.

Let's hope he also knows it'd be best for the franchise to be the Baton Rouge Saints rather than the San Antonio Saints. He's the man that can pull all the strings to make it work, and he should do it. Now.

# MONEY

# Trump keeps lips sealed on Poydras

## *But he says he is committed to project*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

As the city of New Orleans trembles in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Florida developers said Wednesday that one thing is certain: the $200 million Trump International Hotel & Tower will be built on Poydras Street.

"We're in this with you guys,'' Donald Trump Jr. said Wednesday. "But our sentiment right now is that it's inappropriate to talk business (at a time) with such a great loss of life,'' he said.

But Trump said that The Trump Group is committed to the project and that when the time is ripe - when rescues are complete and when the city is in more of a recovery mode - they will willingly talk about their developing plans.

"Of course we're still interested. We'll talk when it's appropriate, when it's beneficial to work ourselves back into the game," Trump said.

"Yes, it's a go,'' development partner Frederick Levin said. "It's just a question of when.''

Levin's brother Clifford Mowe and partner Robert Rinke, doing business as Poydras LLC, said The Trump Group showed no reservations about moving forward, but stressed that the timetable is now uncertain.

"There's no doubt about'' the one-million-square-foot project, which will include retail, hotel and condominium space, Mowe said.

The development, which will be constructed on an empty parking lot between Camp and Magazine streets, would be one of the largest new high-rise construction projects in the city in more than 25 years.

"It's going to be a delay before the project can be marketed,'' Mowe said. "But the city is going to come back stronger than ever,'' and Mowe's team plans to play a major role in its reconstruction.

Mowe concurred with others that the city's primary tourism areas - the French Quarter, Warehouse District and Central Business District - are still basically intact.

The developers had planned to begin marketing the property within the next few months and start construction before the end of the year.

But Mowe said Wednesday that the marketing effort could be pushed back as much as a year, meaning that construction could be delayed until the fall of 2006.

"The priority is still saving people,'' Mowe said, adding that "until we know better about the infrastructure of the Central Business District, a more accurate timetable can't be established on building Trump International Hotel and Tower.

"Hopefully, the city will come back and come back quickly," he said.

Both Levin brothers and Mowe acknowledged they recognized that their announcement will be an important part of rebuilding the city psychologically and economically.

Frederick Levin's law firm had donated $125,000 to relief efforts for the city.

"We still love New Orleans, and the Trump international Hotel and Tower will become a reality,'' he insisted.

Though being called a hotel, the project will actually be a condominium project, with more than 400 rooms set aside as "condotel" units that buyers own but allow to be operated as hotel rooms when vacant. On the upper floors, 250 more units will be sold as traditional condos governed and eventually owned by a condo association.

The project will include 650,000 to 850,000 square feet of living space and more than 200,000 square feet of parking.

Mowe said the project will also include 60,000 to 80,000 square

feet of retail space, although no tenants have been lined up yet.

More importantly, the project will provide well-paying construction jobs for a city that is virtually empty and where many people have lost their jobs because of the storm.

# Hibernia price cut in renegotiation

## *Shareholders to lose about $350 million*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

With the New Orleans economy roughed up by Hurricane Katrina, Capital One Financial Corp. on Wednesday said it would delay buying Hibernia Corp. for a second time and would pay 9 percent less for it.

The renegotiation means Katrina cost Hibernia shareholders about $350 million; Capital One said it intends to pay about $5 billon for Hibernia, down from the $5.35 billion originally set in March. The new deal means Hibernia shareholders stand to get about $30.49 a share, down from $33.

The transaction had been delayed six days because of Katrina and was scheduled to close Wednesday. But on Wednesday, both parties announced the renegotiation. They said they now expect the deal to close in the fourth quarter.

"What we worked out was very reasonable, and shareholders on both sides are well-served by the merger continuing," said Herb Boydstun, Hibernia president and chief executive.

Speculation about whether the sale would close had sparked heavy trading in Hibernia options and gyration in its share price during the past week.

"While no one can predict the impact of Katrina with certainty, I remain convinced of the strategic value of this transaction and believe that Hibernia is well-positioned to grow and generate significant shareholder value over time," said Richard Fairbank, chairman and chief executive of Capital One.

Capital One is a credit card company based in McLean, Va. Hibernia, based in New Orleans, owns Hibernia National Bank, which has more than $22 billion worth of loans and other assets in Louisiana and Texas.

The new deal calls for Hibernia shareholders to get an amount equal to $13.95 in cash plus the value of 0.2055 of a share of Capital One. That translates to an amount equal to $30.49, based on the closing price of Capital One stock Tuesday of $80.50, the price used in the announcement. The offer is down from the original, which called for $15.35 in cash plus 0.2261 of a share of Capital One.

If the deal had closed Wednesday under the original terms, each share would have been worth about $33.72.

Shareholders can elect to take stock or cash, based on availability.

In their announcement, Capital One and Hibernia said they had assessed damage to Hibernia's facilities, its loan portfolio and its future business prospects. The companies said they had each run a range of scenarios "to account for the considerable uncertainty in the aftermath of Katrina.''

Hibernia initially had 107 branches closed and said Wednesday that 47 have been reopened. Of the 60 branches yet to be reopened, 21 appear to have significant damage. The bank holding company said 5 percent of its deposits are attributable to these branches.

Boydstun said 16 of the closed branches are in areas where severe flooding has occurred. "We will look at each office and how that part of the city redevelops,'' he said, in determining whether to reopen or rebuild those branches.

The renegotiated transaction is subject to shareholder approval.

The companies said "the impact of hurricane-related actions and events will be disregarded in determining whether closing conditions are satisfied."

Stephen Schulz, banking analyst at Keefe Bruyette & Woods Inc. in New York, said the disclaimer "has given assurance or taken out some of the risk the deal will not close."

Schulz said both sides benefit from the renegotiated terms. Capital One shareholders can have the satisfaction that the company has assessed the damage, and Hibernia shareholders get "some confidence of the commitment to making the deal happen."

Analyst Ed Groshans of Fox Pitt Kelton in New York said the delay allows Capital One to assess the loan portfolio, given the uncertainty that the loan customers will face in the next six to 12 months, and to come up with a better valuation of Hibernia.

"This deal is going to close,'' he said. Hibernia shareholders strongly supported the first transaction, and "they will vote for this also."

"Despite the lower price, this still is a good deal for them," he said.

# Defense contractors try to gather their troops

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Major defense contractors in southeastern Louisiana, which employ nearly 10,000 workers, struggled Wednesday to measure the damage to their factories and to track down employees scattered across the country with other evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.

Northrop Grumman Corp., Textron Marine and Land Systems and Bollinger Shipyards Inc. all posted notices with media outlets asking workers to contact the companies.

"The challenge is getting the people there once we get power," said Brian Cullin, spokesman for Northrop, which operates a military shipyard in Avondale and a shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss.

Sporadic telephone outages and congested phone lines only intensified the challenge, said Textron spokeswoman Maureen Collis.

The Navy said it was still too early to know how shipyard shutdowns and repairs would affect delivery schedules.

Textron's plant in eastern New Orleans, which makes armored vehicles and speedy patrol boats, appeared to be facing some of the biggest challenges in terms of restarting operations.

The plant was surrounded by flood waters and was accessible only by helicopter, Collis said.

The company's newly opened plant in Slidell appeared to have weathered the storm better, she said. Managers plan to reopen the Slidell plant as soon as possible and shift armored vehicle production to that facility while repairs are made to the New Orleans site , she said.

The company has temporarily relocated its New Orleans business operations to another Textron plant in Shreveport, Collis said.

The region's big shipbuilders appear to be making quicker progress in their recovery.

Only one of six ships docked at Northrop's Avondale and Pascagoula yards sustained damage in the storm, Cullin said.

More than 3,000 people, mainly maintenance and security personnel, worked at the Pascagoula yard Wednesday, cleaning up after the factory was flooded by as much as 6 feet of water.

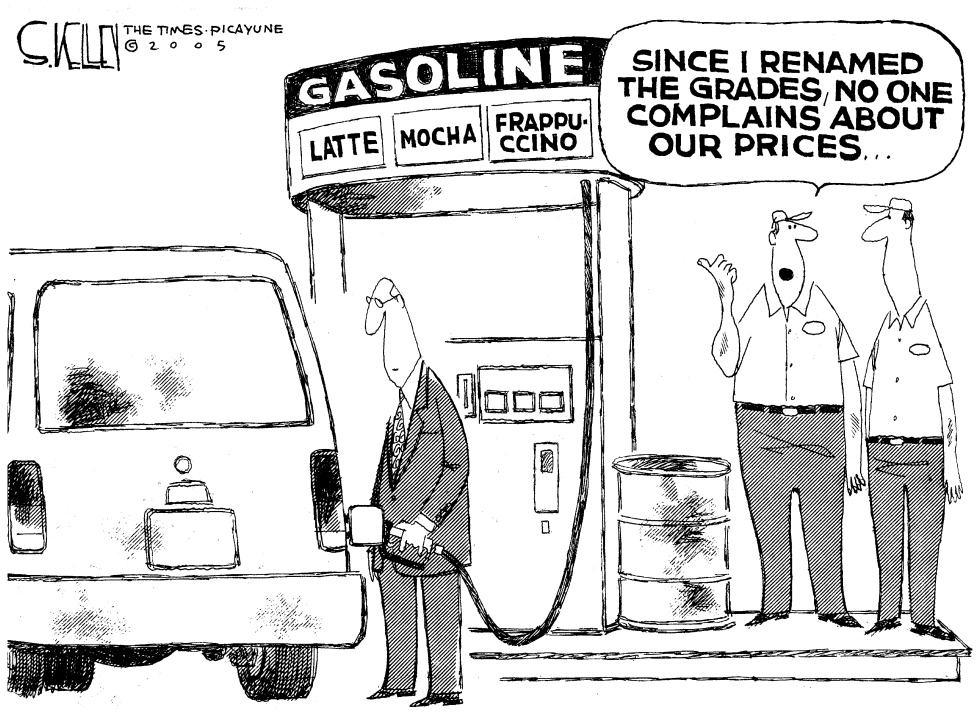
Fewer than 80 people worked at the Avondale yard, which remained isolated by restrictions on re-entry into Jefferson Parish. Even so, the Avondale yard was nearly ready to be reconnected to electricity generators, Cullin said.

Work levels at both factories will be ramped up in stages, he said.

Bollinger Shipyards Inc. said all of its ship-building and repair yards in southeastern New Orleans outside of metropolitan New Orleans were open as of Wednesday. The company's three factories in the metro area will remain closed until power is restored and evacuation orders are lifted, Bollinger said.

# EDITORIALS

## OUR OPINION




# Rebuild our shock absorbers

Louisiana's leaders at home and in Washington, as well as this newspaper, have been sounding the alarm about our coastline for years, begging Congress and the Bush administration to provide the resources needed to address decades of erosion caused by human activity as well as natural forces.

We said the stripping away of our coastal marshland left our area naked to the onslaught of hurricanes. We said communities would be battered, oil and gas networks would be shut down, and lives would be lost.

Today, there is no comfort for us in the phrase, "We told you so.''

The price tag for protecting this region was $14 billion. Does anyone think that price is too high now? Just last month, however, the Bush administration was actively fighting even modest efforts to start the flow of money, $540 million over the next four years, provided in the energy bill. Despite White House opposition, Congress approved that start. Last month, that seemed like progress. This month, it seems like a cruel joke.

The needs of this region after Hurricane Katrina are legion. We have roads, bridges, levees, utilities and public buildings to rebuild, as well as homes, businesses and places of worship. Lives must be rebuilt, too, bit by bit. But we must not forget, in this maelstrom of reconstruction, that our coast needs to be rebuilt, too.

The fact that Gov. Kathleen Blanco's team already is talking about how coastal restoration fits into the larger picture is entirely on target. Our coastal marshes and barrier islands are Louisiana's shock absorbers. The fact that they are in pieces surely was a factor in the degree of damage Katrina did. True, this storm was a brutal monster, a strong Category 4, but scientists have been warning that even lesser events would be punishing, given the increasing vulnerability of our land to the Gulf of Mexico.

We need our bridges and buildings back, our livelihoods and our lives. But we also need our coastal wetlands back; we've been losing them for a long, long time. We shouldn't have to convince anyone of that now.

## OTHER OPINIONS

The key to understanding the fate of cities lies in knowing that the greatest long-term damage comes not from nature or foreign attacks, but often from self-infliction. Cities are more than physical or natural constructs; they are essentially the products of human will, faith and determination.

A city whose residents have given up on their future or who lose interest in it are unlikely to respond to great challenges. Decaying cities throughout history -- Rome in the fifth century, Venice in the 18th -- both suffered from a decayed sense of civic purpose and prime. In this circumstance, even civic leaders tend to seek out their own comfortable perches within the city or choose to leave it entirely to its poorer, less mobile residents. This has been occurring for decades in the American Rust Belt -- think of Detroit, Cleveland and St. Louis -- and the depopulated cores in old industrial regions in the British Midlands, Germany and Russia.

Happily, urban history also contains examples of cities that have rebounded from natural and other devastation, sometimes far worse than that wrought on New Orleans. Carthage, purposely destroyed and planted with salt by its Roman conquerors, later re-emerged as a prominent urban center, becoming the home of St. Augustine, author of "City of God." Modern times, too, offer examples that can inspire New Orleans residents. Tokyo and London rose from near total devastation in 1945. Perhaps even more remarkable, albeit on a smaller scale, has been the successful rebuilding of Hiroshima into an industrial powerhouse and one of Japan's most pleasant seaside cities.

**-- Joel Kotkin, in The Wall Street Journal**

We rely on technology and the government's largess to protect us from our missteps, and usually that is enough. But sometimes nature outwits the best human efforts to contain it. Last week's hurricane was a horrifying case in point. The resulting flooding offered brutal evidence that the efforts we have made over the years to contain nature -- with channels and levees and other great feats of engineering -- can contribute to greater catastrophes.

Hurricanes of all sorts are a regular feature of coastal life, yet you would never know that from the nightly news. Early reports from New Orleans included descriptions of the Superdome's roof being ripped away, and a torrent of unleashed waters that covered 80 percent of the city, forcing the helpless residents to their rooftops and other refuges. All of this is awful, but none of it should come as a surprise. Nothing can stop a hurricane, of course, but humans can do much to worsen the impact of one. And humans have done plenty to set the course for this disaster.

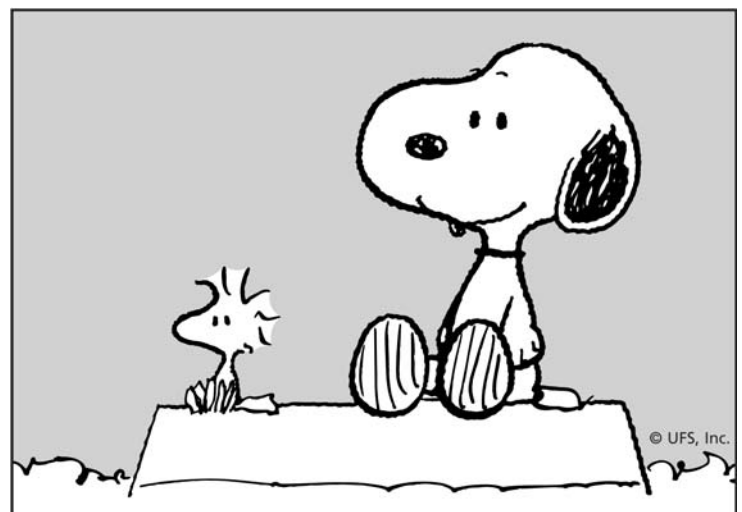
Floods are part of the natural ebb and flow of life in lowland Louisiana, and, left to their own devices, floods can actually do good. They carry silt from the Mississippi River that replenishes the delta and keeps the coastland above the water line, creating a gradual buffer from the sea. But we have short-circuited this natural process by constructing hundreds of miles of levees along the river and channeling the rushing water into the Gulf of Mexico, where essential sediment is dumped. As a result, the lowlands are sinking into the Gulf at a rate of 25 square miles each year. And as illustrated so disastrously last week, levees are not indestructible. Indeed, the higher and more strongly built they are, the greater the dangers when they are breached.

Until now, Mother Nature, even at her angriest, has not managed to dislodge our abiding belief that technology will protect us from our clumsiest acts of hubris.

**--Ellen Ruppel Shell, in The Washington Post**

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## JAZZES AND RAZZES

**JAZZ**

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans needed outside help. The **LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**, which sent in trucks and boats, was on the scene early. It also helped that **VOLUNTEER BOAT OWNERS** from all around Louisiana came in and assisted with efforts to rescue people and transport them to safe places.

**JAZZ**

Officials in Texas say they're reaching the limits of their ability to accommodate Katrina evacuees. But Houston has been crucial to the relief effort. When the Louisiana Superdome became squalid and dangerous, Houston **MAYOR BILL WHITE** offered the Astrodome as a place of refuge. The nation's fourth-largest city has begun canceling conventions to make room for evacuees. Mr. White says the city wants to negotiate with the groups that were planning those meetings, but he thinks keeping human beings alive is the most important priority.

**RAZZ**

Instead of rolling up their sleeves and asking how to help, some groups are using the carnage in New Orleans to promote themselves and their own intolerant agendas. A group called **REPENT AMERICA** has maintained that Hurricane Katrina was God's way of stopping Southern Decadence, a popular gay festival scheduled for Labor Day weekend. "Although the loss of lives is deeply saddening, this act of God destroyed a wicked city," the group said. Similarly, the **REV. BILL SHANKS**, a New Orleans pastor, described the hurricane as an act of mercy that rid the city of "the sodomites, the witchcraft workers, false religion."

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# Notice to ExxonMobil and Chalmette Refining employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to our employees and to all those from the communities along the Gulf Coast who lost family and friends and whose lives have been severely disrupted as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

In the aftermath of the storm, we know that many of our employees in the affected areas have lost their homes and property. We are anxious to make contact to ensure that you and your families are safe and to discuss any Company assistance you may need.

We therefore request that all of our employees affected by Hurricane Katrina contact the Company as soon as they are able to do so. If you have not already done so, you should contact your supervisor or the Employee Assistance Line at 1-877-294-8617. For more information please go to *exxonmobil.com*.

ExxonMobil

*Although the 17th Street Canal levee breach is repaired and some pumps are back on the job in New Orleans, much of the city remains underwater, forcing rescue workers and troops to slog their way through a smelly mix of waste, water and garbage to do their jobs.*

# CANAL STREETS



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Sgt. Jason Smith of New Orleans carries a waterlogged cat to safety during his patrol of the 2800 block of Calhoun Street on Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

A doctor, left, and a social worker, who did not want to be identified, make their way along Napoleon Avenue near St. Charles, a pirogue full of their belongings in tow, as they prepare to leave the city.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Kim Little douses his head with some cool water while taking a break from rescuing pets Uptown on Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Viewed from the Causeway Boulevard overpass, much of Airline Highway remains covered by floodwaters on Wednesday.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# N.O skies are abuzz with swarm of rescue aircraft



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

A Blackhawk helicopter takes off from an aircraft carrier berthed at the Riverwalk in New Orleans, giving the city another base of operations.

## *As hub of recovery, Armstrong kept busy*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

Low-flying aircraft elicited screams of protest in New Orleans area neighborhoods before Hurricane Katrina arrived, but these days the roar of helicopter engines is a welcome sound.

And there is a lot of roaring going on.

The number of aircraft taking off and landing at Louis Armstrong International Airport in Kenner jumped from about 700 per day before Katrina to 3,800 per day during the peak of the Katrina rescue operations, according to U.S. Transportation Department spokeswoman Laura Brown.

In normal times, most aircraft leave the New Orleans area quickly on specified routes designed to minimize noise over neighborhoods. In the past few days, however, squadrons of helicopters have crowded the skies at low altitudes to rescue storm victims and dump water on building fires.

These craft operate below the controlled airspace that commercial airliners fly. The helicopters are flying under visual flight rules, in which pilots watch out for each other, until they get close to the airport, Brown said.

In the control tower at Armstrong, air traffic controllers and technicians worked long shifts just after Katrina, clearing runways and helping to bring in the first "mercy flights" by several airlines, which brought in supplies and took out evacuees.

Within 24 hours of the storm, a Federal Aviation Administration truck loaded with radar and telecommunications gear rolled west from Jacksonville, Fla., stopping at airports along the Gulf Coast to get their radar and communications systems back online. At Armstrong, the technicians placed a radio repeater atop the 220-foot-tall control tower. The repeater replaced many that were lost in the storm.

"Not only did it enable our people to talk with each other, but it helped police and firefighters communicate in a 37-mile radius of the tower," Brown said.

By Sept. 1, three days after Katrina passed, the airport's primary radar site near Slidell was back in operation. With the help of E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System military aircraft, it began steering the fleet of rescue aircraft into Armstrong.

Controllers and technicians have been flocking to Armstrong from other airports, including the flooded Lakefront Airport in New Orleans. Many of them are alumni of the New Orleans tower, or TRACON, which handles flights within an 80-mile radius of New Orleans.

And in a stroke of good fortune, the airport's east-west runway, which had been under reconstruction for months, was completed and certified by the FAA on Aug. 26, three days before Katrina arrived.

"We're just thankful that we were able to finish the runway before the storm hit," Aviation Director Roy Williams said.

The runway wasn't due to be finished until November, but the contractor, Boh Bros. Construction Co., was given incentives to finish early.

"The rescue operation would have been severely hampered had that runway been half-complete," Williams said.

In all, 23,213 people were airlifted from Armstrong between Sept. 1 and Wednesday.

# FEMA giving evacuees $2,000 debit cards

**Staff reports**

BATON ROUGE - For the first time in the history of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the government has decided to dole out debit cards worth $2,000 each to help displaced hurricane evacuees get back on their feet.

"The concept is that this is cash in hand that allows them, empowers them, about what they need to do to start rebuilding their lives," FEMA Director Michael Brown said, announcing the program Wednesday at the state Office of Emergency Preparedness.

The cards were expected to be distributed first to evacuees that are currently staying in shelters. It was not clear whether they would be issued more widely than that.

The cards will allow people who are running low on cash after fleeing their homes and jobs to buy emergency supplies or make minor repairs to their properties, Brown said.

FEMA representatives at the state Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge did not have much more information about exactly who would be receiving the cards.

# Evacuees line up for food stamps

## *100,000 families get state aid*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

From a distance, the aroma of barbecued chicken over the sea of striped beach umbrellas might have signaled that a street party in full swing.

But up close, there was nothing festive going on Wednesday at the asphalt parking lot outside the state Department of Social Services offices on North Boulevard in downtown Baton Rouge.

Beneath an unforgiving sun, hundreds of Louisiana residents forced from their homes by Hurricane Katrina snaked through a maze of police barricades to collect food stamps -- a benefit most had never needed before.

Shirtless men mopped perspiration from their chests with towels, and women and children sought shade beneath newspapers and cardboard boxes discarded by relief workers after handing out bottled water.

"It's slow going," said Lee Turner, 47, a security guard whose eastern New Orleans home is under water.

Like many of those lined up outside the nondescript one-story brick building around 1 p.m., Turner had been waiting hours for a chance to be processed. And like many, he had mixed emotions about the ordeal.

"Look, I appreciate what they're doing," Turner sighed as he slumped against a wall. "But it just doesn't seem to be as organized as it's supposed to be. I guess they're doing the best they can."

Some families declined to talk about the ordeal, saying they were embarrassed to seek aid to buy food. But Blake Turner, 27, a medical billing specialist from Harvey, said there was nothing to be ashamed of.

"This is something that will help me hold on for now,'' said Turner, whose home was badly damaged by wind. "It's one thing to be uprooted temporarily. It's another thing entirely to be forced to move and start all over."

At any given time Wednesday, more than 500 people were waiting to be served by the state agency, which has been handing out food stamps to evacuees from 6 a.m. to midnight at locations in 45 parishes since last Friday. The operation never really shuts down, officials said, because the agency uses the six hours it's closed to electronically process the applications.

Since the emergency effort was launched, state officials said, more than 100,000 families have received benefits, which can provide up to $390 in food stamps for a family of three for one month, with an option to renew for another 30 days. The North Boulevard location alone had seen 11,000 applicants through Tuesday night, said Adren Wilson, DSS assistant secretary for the Office of Family Support.

"This dynamic is going on all across our state,'' Wilson said, fanning himself with an application form. Looking at all the tired, sun-burnt faces around him, he said applicants were being asked to stand in the elements because most of Baton Rouge's indoor government facilities are being used for shelters and other aspects of the recovery effort. "Besides, this is where we're set up,'' Wilson said.

Making sure that the operation runs smoothly are armed members of the Louisiana National Guard's 108th Cavalry, normally based in Natchitoches. But perhaps the most welcome sight for late-afternoon arrivals, who groaned as they spotted the long lines, was the smoking, barrel-shaped pit manned by Clyde Presty, owner of Baton Rouge's Port-A-Pit Barbecue. Presty and his staff showed up shortly after noon and began dishing up the first of 1,000 chicken dinners, featuring baked beans and fruit salad.

"The Red Cross invited me to feed their workers over at Cortana Mall, but for some reason we weren't cleared to do it,'' a visibly agitated Presty said. "So I said if they don't want it, we'll take it direct to the people."

Together with three local church groups, Presty has established a program called "I Am My Brother's Keeper." As long as the need is there, he is willing to spend one or two days a week grilling and serving food donated by others, he said.

"We can handle 1,000 hamburgers in an hour or 5,000 hot dogs in an hour," he said. "You bring it, and we'll cook it."

# Archdiocese of New Orleans presents students with options

*'Operative word for us is "hopeful" '*

**By Walt Philbin**
Staff writer

Students at schools operated by the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be offered options ranging from attending schools in the communities to which they have evacuated to using satellite schools to performing online course work and homeschooling, said the Rev. William Maestri, the superintendent of archdiocesan schools.

Whichever option a student chooses, Maestri said, the archdiocese wants eventually to "bring every single child back to our schools."

Maestri said the goal is to enroll students in a safe and secure environment, regardless of where their new schools are or whether or not they are Catholic.

"The first (option) is enrollment in an existing, safe school. Of course, we'd like it to be a Catholic school, but whether it's a private school or public school, as long as children are being educated in a safe school environment, that's what's important to us. We are keeping track of where our students are, with the hopes of bringing them back to the archdiocese," Maestri said.

Maestri also said the archdiocese is looking into setting up a series of satellite classrooms. Setting up online courses through the state's already accredited online educational program and a system of teleconference classes are also in the works, he said.

"We also want to recognize parents' efforts at home-schooling," he said.

Maestri said he believes such an approach gives parents a "multiple-phase way of meeting their children's educational needs, some short-term and some quite long-term." He said the important thing is that the archdiocese will continue to be involved in "responding to the needs of our parents and children," he said.

"Wherever there are pockets of our students, we want to have an educational presence there for them," he said. "And as the schools come back in the archdiocese, we will be welcoming them back to our schools."

Though there are some schools that will not be available in the immediate future, many schools in the archdiocese "are able to function as schools right now," Maestri said. "And so we are going to be calling on them right now to make their resources available so we can provide a Catholic education available for more and more Catholic children."

He provided no details on how many schools can immediately be opened and how many were damaged by the hurricane.

The archdiocese was in the process Wednesday of opening a high school and an elementary school in the Baton Rouge area, and it has received offers to open satellite schools at other locations in the area, Maestri said.

He thanked people in the Baton Rouge and other areas for "the generosity and good will of so many people who have come forward to help us."

"We think we've made a lot of progress," he said. "Today is better than yesterday, and we hope tomorrow will be better than today."

"We're in uncharted waters, in that none of us has faced this kind of situation before," Maestri said. As if to underline that statement, an administrator of a Metairie Catholic school complained to Maestri during a media briefing that teachers have been guaranteed paychecks only through September. "We didn't want to over-promise," Maestri replied.

Maestri said "the operative word for us is the word 'hopeful' and 'committed.' " "Many people have been talking unfortunately about the demise of New Orleans, the lost city, never to return. We want no part of that message," he said.

"We are committed to Catholic education, and we are extremely hopeful that we will get our teachers and parents and families and students back. I think that is a very, very important thing," he said.

Teachers and administrators are urged to notify the archdiocese of their whereabouts by calling toll-free at 1(888)366-5024.

# Broadcasters bunk in conference room

*Radio rivals unite to serve listeners*

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

Earl and water are mixing on Louisiana airwaves.

Entercom and Clear Channel, two national station groups with New Orleans clusters, normally would becutting figurative throats to compete for every advertising nickel.

But with the market's economy temporarily submerged -- and listeners' lives on the line -- they've combined tokeep an essential stream of news and informationflowing to hurricane survivors.

The joint signal has been carried in New Orleans on Entercom's WWL AM-870, WSMB AM-1350 and WLMG FM-101.9; and on Clear Channel's WYLD FM-98.5, WQUE FM-93.3 and KHEV FM-104.1. Segments have also aired on Clear Channel's Baton Rouge news-talk station WJBO AM-1150.

With power out and cellular and land-line phones largely disabled, imagine all the New Orleans stay-behinds whose only link to the outside world has been a battery-powered radio.

Inside Clear Channel's Baton Rouge headquarters, computer monitors, plywood sheets and unopened boxes crowd hallways. Deliveries of supplies and office furniture stream into and out of the reception area.

Beyond the anteroom, staffers from 18 different radio stations are jammed into the studios and cubicles that serviced just six people pre-Katrina. At night, the conference room becomes a bunkhouse. Off-duty staffers are also housed in RVs parked outside.

In such cramped quarters, no conversation goes uninterrupted for long.

The nonstop conversation in the United Radio Broadcasters of New Orleans studio, however, has made for moments of demographic incongruity among all the data dissemination.

Tuesday afternoon, for instance, WWL's Deke Bellavia, a likeable sports-talk colloquialist who'd never be confused with William F. Buckley, was paired with WYLD's A.J. Appleberry, a smooth-pipes urbanite.

The temporary melding of the assets of the two companies emerged from "a battlefield discussion" that resulted in the agreement that "we make friends and we make history," said Dick Lewis, Clear Channel's Baton Rouge market manager.

"This is why radio will never go away or be replaced by satellite," added Lewis. "It reinforces the value of local radio" informing an audience that might be listening "in an attic with nothing but their radio and a flashlight."

The duocast is costing both companies "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Lewis. "And that doesn't count the lost revenue" from stations knocked off the air or carrying a limited commercial load, he added.

WWL Program Director Diane Newman rode out Katrina in the station group's offices in the New Orleans Centre. With the wind knocking out windows, "It was like we were on the air during 'The Poseidon Adventure,'" she said.

After downtown became unsafe, Newman oversaw WWL's retreat to the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations Center, then to Baton Rouge.

Throughout, lifeline coverage never lagged. No end date for the cooperative broadcast has been set.

"We have to stay connected," Newman said.

Radio has provided some of the most riveting media moments during the Katrina disaster, from host Garland Robinette's live play-by-play of Katrina's attack on New Orleans to Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard's desperate call for succession to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's outrage-packed attack on state and federal relief efforts.

If anybody had suggested a partnership of any kind between Entercom and Clear Channel two weeks ago, said Newman, they would've been laughed out of the studio.

Now, she said, "I think magical things are happening on the air here."

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# St. Tammany evacuees might soon return

*Parish president: 'Just give us a couple of more days'*

**By Charlie Chapple and Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

St. Tammany Parish officials may soon give the official green light for thousands of evacuees to return.

"Please try to hold on, and just give us a couple of more days," Parish President Kevin Davis said Wednesday after meeting with local and federal officials at Louisiana Heart Hospital near Lacombe.

Davis said he wants to give evacuees the OK to return to St. Tammany, but fears that traffic congestion will slow down utility crews working to restore power.

Officials with Cleco and Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, which provide electricity in St. Tammany, both reported that about one-fourth of their customers in the parish have power.

Parish officials apparently want that number to be higher before telling evacuees it's safe to return.

Electricity is necessary for water and sewer services. Without electricity, lift stations that transport sewage to treatment plants cannot work.

Davis, along with other parish and municipal officials, urged residents to be patient and to stay away from their homes if possible until services are restored in most of the parish.

Unlike Jefferson Parish, St. Tammany residents were discouraged but not banned from returning to their homes. Many St. Tammany residents rode out Hurricane Katrina at home, and many who fled already have returned.

Davis estimated that about 60,000 residents have not returned to their homes, including almost 6,000 who are staying at more than a dozen shelters throughout the parish.

Meanwhile, St. Tammany public school classes still are scheduled to resume Oct. 3 for the thousands of students who, along with their parents, were forced to flee to higher ground as Hurricane Katrina approached.

"That's what we're shooting for," Superintendent Gayle Sloan said, adding that parents may want to consider temporarily enrolling their children in schools in unaffected areas of Louisiana or neighboring states.

"But each family has to evaluate their own circumstances," she said. "If they think they can manage to hold on, we will make up" the 20 lost days if parish schools reopen Oct. 3.

In St. Tammany's largest city, Slidell, officials said the situation is better at this point than they had expected, given the grim immediate aftermath of the storm.

With the exception of hard-hit south Slidell, which was swamped by floodwaters and crippled by snapped trees and downed power lines, most city streets were passable.

Still, even though all the water had drained away, city officials urged south Slidell residents either to stay elsewhere if possible or come back for brief periods for cleanup work.

"They can start ripping out carpets and everything," City Engineer Stan Polivick said. "They can get in, but I don't know if they would want to stay."

Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing agreed. "There's too much traffic on the streets now," he said. "It's hampering cleanup and restoration operations."

Power has been restored to about one-third of the city, Dearing estimated, and some of the traffic signals on major streets such as Gause Boulevard and Front Street were working.

The water supply "is in good shape," he said. Only one of 12 water samples taken Tuesday tested positive for contamination, which gave city officials hope that the boil-water order issued by health officials could be lifted by today or Friday.

Thus far, the water supply in only Mandeville and Covington has been certified safe for drinking and cooking.

Sewer service should be fully restored for most of Slidell by week's end, officials said. Fifteen of the 90 stations that lift sewage to the plant for treatment, which is back online, were working Wednesday.

The pumps at three of the four drainage stations were working. The big Schneider Canal station was still down, Polivick said.

Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is bringing in 400 house trailers and similar mobile residences to a trailer park off Interstate 59 north of Slidell to house on-the-job city workers and residents displaced by the hurricane.

"At least 50 percent of our work force is homeless," Dearing said.

Just south of Slidell, closer to Lake Pontchartrain, authorities were requiring identification of residents trying to re-enter the flooded-out Oak Harbor and Eden Isles subdivisions and camps along the U.S. 11 Canal.

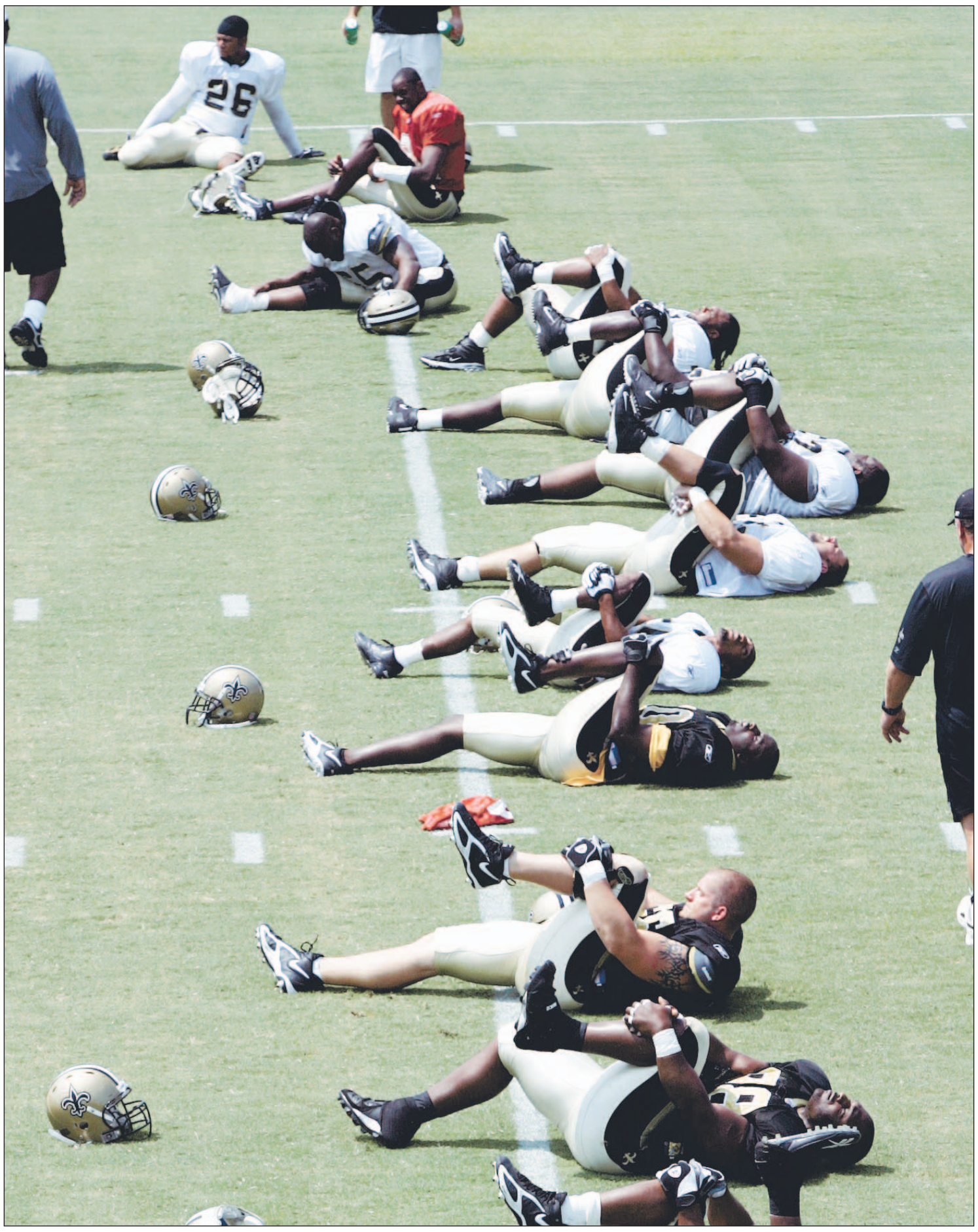
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# SPORTS

## Saints home games still up for grabs as San Antonio officials make push

# SITE UNSEEN

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer



Saints players say they would like to play as many home games as possible in San Antonio this season so they can spend more time near their families.

SAN ANTONIO - While the site of seven Saints home games is being discussed, the NFL did provide one certainty Wednesday - the Saints will not play any of their three divisional home games at the site of the visiting team - meaning they won't make two trips to Carolina, Atlanta or Tampa Bay this season.

But the league still has not ruled out the possibility that the Saints might play other games in the home stadium of the visiting team - as is the case with the Sept. 19 game at the New York Giants.

The Saints' next scheduled home game is against the Buffalo Bills on Oct. 2. A trip to Buffalo on that weekend would be particularly undesirable after consecutive trips to Oakland, Carolina, New York and Minnesota. A decision on that Oct. 2 game is expected soon.

The NFL's preference is to play the Saints' home games in Baton Rouge, and the league has been in contact with Louisiana officials to determine if and when the state will be able to accommodate an NFL game.

"It's just a question of, 'At what point is it feasible?'" NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said of playing in Tiger Stadium. "But we are certainly interested."

The truth be told, most of the Saints' players, coaches and management would prefer to play as many home games as possible in San Antonio this year, now that they are living and working in the Alamo City.

Most of them also see the importance of playing at least some games in Baton Rouge, where they could be more available to their displaced fan base and perhaps help boost morale in Southeast Louisiana.

But the most pressing concern for the Saints is that they get to play all of their home games in some combination of those two cities.

"I think this football team needs to play here. This is where we're practicing; we need to be here," Saints coach Jim Haslett said after Wednesday's practice. "Or Baton Rouge, one of the two. Besides that, to me, I think there should be no other decisions to make."

Haslett said he is not upset with the amount of time the league is taking to make the decision.

"I was on a conference call with the commissioner yesterday, and I understand what they're trying to get done," said Haslett, who explained that the main reason he and his players would prefer to play in San Antonio is to have a chance to be closer to their families without traveling every weekend. "They would like to be around their families one day a week, because you don't see them at all. So more than anything, I think that's the most important thing to them."

Saints receiver Joe Horn was one of several players who echoed the same sentiment, also adding that he would like to play at least some games at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

City leaders in San Antonio, meanwhile, have become even more vocal in their desire to host the Saints for as many games as possible.

Mayor Phil Hardberger has not actively or openly pursued the idea - stating that the city is focused on its hurricane relief efforts - but discussions between the Saints and city officials have been ongoing.

Alamodome director Mike Abington said the 65,000-seat stadium will be ready and available if the Saints and the NFL give the word.

"We have made a commitment to them that we will accommodate them should they need us in any way they can," Abington said.

Assistant city manager Roland Lozano also told the San Antonio Express-News that discussions are ongoing with the Saints.

San Antonio businessman Red McCombs - the former owner of the Minnesota Vikings - took things one step further, telling the Express-News that, "every effort needs to be made to tie the Saints up for this season - including having people stand in front of the dome singing, 'When the Saints Come Marching In.'"

City councilman Chip Haass has been one of the most vocal proponents for bringing Saints games to San Antonio. He said Wednesday he has gotten some negative feedback for seeming opportunistic, but he said the city council as a whole has made the city's relief efforts the No. 1 concern.

San Antonio is caring for roughly 25,000 evacuees in shelters, and an estimated 250,000 people have evacuated to Texas to stay with friends or relatives or in hotels.

Haass said he would be "all for" the Saints playing their home games in Baton Rouge if that can be worked out. But he said it would be "tough for me to swallow" if the Saints were forced to play all of their games on the road or in New York or Los Angeles because San Antonio couldn't step up.

Fellow councilman Richard Perez has not been active in efforts to lure the Saints. But he agreed, saying, "We are the eighth largest city in the country. We have a stadium that's ready to go and a population that's been clamoring for football for a long time."

Haass said the proposition of bringing Saints games to San Antonio is twofold.

"One, in a greedy way, it puts San Antonio in a primetime position to show the NFL what we can do. And two, it helps us aid in the relief effort," Haass said. "It gets dangerous because there are things for us to gain out of this. It gets tricky."

Haass said he believes that at least one game will be played in San Antonio as a reward for the city accommodating the Saints this season. Saints general manager Mickey Loomis has also said he believes the city deserves to host at least one game.

Haass has been drumming up support in the corporate community, but he said that "hasn't taken much effort on my part." He said a number of businesses are interested in attracting the Saints, and some of that support is charity-oriented.

He said one person offered to buy 10,000 tickets but wanted half of the proceeds to go to relief efforts.

Obviously, the underlying theme in all this is that San Antonio might attract the Saints permanently. Saints owner Tom Benson, a New Orleans native, has longstanding personal and professional ties to San Antonio, where he keeps a second home.

And rumors of Benson wanting to move his team here in 2006 were floating long before Hurricane Katrina hit.

But Haass, for one, said he has not had any conversations about a long-term situation with the Saints.

Even if Benson wants to move to San Antonio - as some reports have suggested - it would not be a simple procedure.

For one, San Antonio would need to decide it wants an NFL team and can afford one.

Although the Alamo City ranks eighth in the U.S. in population, the total metropolitan area ranks 30th - five spots ahead of New Orleans in the 2000 census. The town has done a terrific job of supporting the NBA's Spurs, but two professional teams would compete for corporate dollars.

San Antonio is home to four Fortune 500 companies.

"I think it would all depend on what the deal is for the city," Perez said of a potential NFL franchise. "If it's fair and if it's not a detriment to the city, I think they would embrace it. Certainly the corporate community would be very interested."

However, McCombs made an unsuccessful run at an expansion team in the early 1990s. And former mayor Ed Garza said earlier this year that he was told by Tagliabue back in 2003 that the NFL's interest in San Antonio was moderate at best.

The biggest hurdle of all for an NFL team in San Antonio would be that teams exist in Dallas and in Houston, which is just 200 miles away. For a team to move, it requires approval from 24 of the league's 32 owners.

But McCombs told the Express-News that he does not believe Dallas owner Jerry Jones or Houston owner Bob McNair would block Benson from moving to San Antonio.

"If Tom asks them, they will support that," McCombs said. "In fact, I see (the other league owners) making it happen. You have to remember Tom sits on the league's management council and has a lot of clout."

# *For fans' sake, Tagliabue needs to take control*

By John DeShazier
Sports Columnist

Make it work.

That's the only plea Saints fans make to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who will determine where the Saints will play their home games this season. He already has fumbled by determining that the regular-season home opener for New Orleans will be played in East Rutherford, N.J., which probably isn't called home by very many Saints fans.

Make it work in Baton Rouge the best that it possibly can be made to work there, because Saints fans need access to their team, and because they need to be able to feel that they can wrap their arms around it. That can't happen with New Orleans playing in San Antonio, East Rutherford or anywhere else right now.

"I have expressed my desire to the NFL to play games in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to the extent circumstances allow," Saints owner Tom Benson said in a statement Tuesday.

Circumstances are sticky, but it can happen if the parties work hard enough.

The terms, on LSU's behalf, are on the table. The university will allow the Saints to play at Tiger Stadium, but can't or won't produce the cash to make it happen, having already asked its base to loosen its purses to pay for several other, much-needed improvements to the school's athletic facilities.

"We'll do everything we can to be good Louisiana citizens, extend a great invitation," Athletic Director Skip Bertman said. "But we can't ask LSU fans □ to subsidize any Saints activity.

"We think it would be good if the Saints stayed here. We'll do whatever it takes, except spend money."

We can argue that in addition to offering use of the facility, LSU should go even further, or deduce that the school already has been more than helpful by simply offering use of its facility, no strings attached, no profit sought.

But that's wasted breath and time.

What isn't, is hoping that the league will find a way to make it work, will find a way to allow the Saints to play the majority of their seven remaining home games in front of people who can drive in and out on game day, who need to shower them with love in person instead of through a television.

There are 31 NFL owners not named Tom Benson, 31 other millionaires who also call Tagliabue their boss whether they mean it or not, which means there are 31 other revenue sources to tap into to help make it work.

Granted, those men didn't become millionaires by giving away money. But the Saints need their help like never before to pull this off, and if they're not sensitive to the needs of a fraternity brother, his franchise, its fans and a region that has been ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, then you have to wonder what crisis within their ranks can move them to action.

We hear, and understand, that Saints players want to play at least some games in San Antonio, which graciously has opened its doors to allow the Saints to operate from there, and that playing in Baton Rouge will be a logistical nightmare on Saints weekends. We should not, though, let those be overriding factors.

Yes, we want players to be happy and comfortable so they can better concentrate and play. And we don't want Baton Rouge to become a parking lot, or the lack of hotel space to put the area under too much stress. Its seams are already stretched to the point of tearing because of the New Orleanians who have relocated there, temporarily or permanently.

But the fact is these are extreme circumstances. Few have the luxury of being comfortable. As has been the case with citizens who escaped Katrina and currently are bunking at the homes of friends or relatives, we all have to squeeze together, pack in tighter, work together, learn to function without all the amenities we've grown accustomed to having on demand.

There's more space available in San Antonio, less of a headache trying to get game-day operations on track. But San Antonio and the Alamodome aren't home for the Saints, or as close to it as are Baton Rouge and Tiger Stadium.

Tagliabue is a smart man. He knows that.

Let's hope he also knows it'd be best for the franchise to be the Baton Rouge Saints rather than the San Antonio Saints. He's the man that can pull all the strings to make it work, and he should do it. Now.

SPORTS

# Scelfo has team focused during trying time

## *Equal parts humor, prospective keep Wave working hard*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - Tulane coach Chris Scelfo scampers around the Dallas Doubletree Hotel like one of his running backs in a seam, shaking hands with well-wishers so quickly that he doesn't look them in the eye.

He moves quickly to meetings and practice and more meetings, all while maybe sneaking in a snack or a hug from his daughter. Rest is irrelevant.

Since his evacuation from New Orleans, the only things that have slowed down Scelfo were the puppy-dog eyes of his 11-year-old son. Joseph Scelfo wanted to play pool Tuesday afternoon, so the coach bounced into the hotel's poolroom.

He smiled at his son, grabbed a stick and smacked the cue ball - which rolled a good 8 inches to the right of the racked triangle of balls.

"At least you know I'm not hanging out in bars," he deadpanned.

Even before Hurricane Katrina, life as Tulane's football coach was stressful. Scelfo spent numerous nights on his office couch instead of at his home in English Turn. Looming on the schedule were two tough games to start the season - at rival Southern Mississippi and playing host to the SEC's Mississippi State. And the returning Tulane player with the most catches was a running back. And three top defensive linemen came to camp out of shape. And his kicker hadn't kicked in practice, resting a nagging hip flexor.

All that doesn't matter now.

Every member of the Tulane football family had a home in New Orleans. Now, many don't. Even Scelfo doesn't know about his house, although he has heard about fires and looting.

"I have no idea and don't care," Scelfo said.

His team has united here, preparing for a move to Louisiana Tech on Monday, where Tulane will practice and attend classes this semester. The Southern Miss game was postponed; the Mississippi State game is in nine days.

"I'm going on one goal right now," Scelfo said. "As we do in athletics, you ask any coach in America from high school to the NFL, they want to be champions. Any coach - we want to win the Super Bowl, we want to win the conference, we want to win the district. That's not my individual goal. My team's goal is that - they want to be champions. My goal, as the leader of the whole thing, I want to be able to say when that final horn sound s, 'We persevered.'

"When we do it, everybody in the city of New Orleans and everybody that was affected by this, whether they lived there or not, if we affect one person by giving them hope to persevere, I'm the first one on the train to heaven."

In his third attempt, Scelfo finally broke the triangle of pool balls.

Scelfo is like any coach, a workaholic who loves his X's and O's. He worked for about a decade as an assistant, like so many other coaches, and finally got a head coaching job. He signed up to lead Tulane's football team at the end of the 1998 season.

But twice in three years, he has been thrust into unfathomable circumstances. Three years ago, a financial deficit almost forced Tulane football to drop to Division III. Scelfo spent the spring of 2003 keeping his program intact, uncertain if he would be playing Texas Christian or Carnegie Mellon come fall.

"Coach Scelfo never flinched," former Wave assistant Trooper Taylor said on June 10, 2003, the day Tulane announced the athletic program would remain in Division I-A. "He made us understand that family goes through tough times. What you do is you fight it head on, and do things that you can control. Everything was out of our hands. All we could do was believe and think that everything would turn out all right. And it did. He was absolutely right."

"I feel he did handle it perfectly," said Tulane receiver Damarcus Davis, now a junior.

So the coach got his chance to coach again.

But now, he's again in a situation in which no coaching clinic or coaching mentor could prepare him. But he signed up to lead Tulane's football team, so here he is in Dallas, a surrogate father, a therapist, a motivational speaker, a CEO, and, oh yeah, a coach.

"He's got a lot of people coming at him from a lot of different angles," said center Joe Traina, a senior who said his apartment is probably ruined from flooding. "He has to deal with the president of the university, the athletic director, all the media attention we're getting. Plus, they're trying to set up our meals, where we're going to sleep, where we're going to practice, and at the same time he's got to prepare for Mississippi State, put together a game plan and have meetings about football. And logistics.

"He and Dennis (Polian, director of football operations) have had a lot to deal with, and I think they've handled it really well and have tried to make the best of the situation. He's done a real good job of keeping the team together, trying to keep our spirits high and trying to help us use the team to get us through the situation."

Scelfo keeps the guys laughing. The other day, he turned a team meeting into a comedy show, asking players to tell their best jokes. And Scelfo himself is quite the jokester. His routine is always the same - he'll spot a player, put an arm around him, lean in like he's going to steal a kiss, whisper a joke, slap the kid on the back and unleash his signature boisterous chuckle. Laughter is the best medicine, and Chris Scelfo is a pharmacist.

Sometimes, the comedy is inadvertent. Tuesday, he and Joseph started a new pool game, and with his mind somewhere in New Orleans, Scelfo set up a shot, took a deep breath and pocketed the ball. Except, the ball was one of Joseph's. The son laughed uproariously, and the father smiled.

He also keeps the guys motivated. Getting a player's mind off his lost home and getting his mind on a cornerback blitz takes more than motivational lines found on a poster. Scelfo's words have to pierce players' hearts.

Before last Thursday's practice, which Scelfo called the best he's seen in decades, the coach addressed his players.

"He told us that it could be a lot worse. Just turn on the TV," said linebacker Anthony Cannon, who also said his apartment is probably flooded. "That's our motivation. We're not just representing ourselves and the university. We're representing the whole city. □ It got us going, and we had a great practice."

Said Davis: "If there were any skeptical players about Coach Scelfo, I think this situation has surely brought them around to let them see that he does care about them, and it's not all about the X's and O's. It's about your life first. □ I'm sure this is hard for him, but if there's any coach in America who can handle it, it's Coach Scelfo."

Scelfo has no idea how his team will do this season. Although the team probably will play its games at the Independence Bowl - a decision will be made today - even that isn't in stone.

"The only thing in stone right now, is I'm shooting pool right here with my boy," Scelfo said.

One shot later, Joseph sank the 8-ball. Scelfo congratulated his son and scampered back into the lobby, back into the uncertainty.

# Hornets camp no slam dunk

## *Team still checking sites in Colorado as backup*

**By John Reid and Jimmy Smith**
Staff writers

Hornets officials said Wednesday they have not finalized where they will hold next month's training camp, although a site has been reserved at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Hornets president Paul Mott said his preference is for camp to be conducted in the city that will serve as the team's temporary home this season because of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, which damaged New Orleans Arena.

General Manager Allan Bristow announced last week that the team would hold at least the first two weeks of training camp at the Air Force Academy.

"Allan did absolutely the right thing. He sought out to find a place based on his relationship when he was in Denver (as general manager),'' Mott said. "But the reality is we would use it as a fall-back option.''

The Hornets are exploring potential sites in Baton Rouge, Bossier City and Lafayette as their temporary home, but no decision has been made. Mott said Wednesday he wants to have a city selected at least 45 days before the regular season begins Nov. 2.

"If we're in Baton Rouge or some other location, then we'll have a chance to be able to get in the market and sell tickets, but 45 days is a very short time,'' Mott said.

Mott maintains the team's first priority is to select a Louisiana city, but if that's not possible, the Hornets would explore offers from other cities. Officials from Oklahoma City and Las Vegas have expressed an interest in hosting the Hornets temporarily.

"It is our goal to be back in New Orleans as soon as we can, and (owner) George Shinn has spoken very clearly about our desire to be back in New Orleans as soon as the city gets back on its feet and things are right,'' Mott said.

For the past week, chief marketing officer Tim McDougall, Mott and about 11 staff members have been working at the Toyota Center, home of the Houston Rockets.

Most of the Hornets' staff is working from a large conference room equipped with computers and phones. McDougall, who used to work for the Rockets, said he contacted the team last week and asked for use of some office space.

"They are gracious enough to put something together for us as a temporary space, so we can pull people together,'' McDougall said. "We have gathered some of our core personnel so we can establish some kind of base and get our next steps nailed down and kind of pull ourselves back together."

McDougall said they had seven members from the organization who evacuated to Houston before Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast area.

Hornets officials have not been able to check their offices at the Freeport McMoRan Building on Poydras, which is across the street from the Superdome. McDougall said they are working with city and state officials to get inside the building to retrieve some business files.

"Right now, we're trying to establish what are the critical-issue lists that we need to run through and the key tasks we need to address,'' McDougall said.

PMAC OPTION: Hornets officials met with LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich on Wednesday as the team began to explore the possibility of using the Pete Maravich Assembly Center for home games this season.

Radakovich chatted with Hornets executives Sam Russo and Steve Martin in what Radakovich termed "incredibly preliminary discussions."

"They stopped by, and we kind of gave them our schedule and gave them a copy of their schedule, which they didn't have with them," Radakovich said. "Basically, they were in town looking at some other things, and we left it that we would talk some more next week."

Radakovich said he could not give Russo and Martin a tour of the PMAC because it is still in use as a medical center for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

A comparison on Tuesday of the Hornets' 41-game home schedule and the LSU men's and women's schedules and gymnastics meets revealed only 10 date conflicts between the entities.

Radakovich said there were a few other "soft" date conflicts that might be able to be resolved.

"We also went into a couple of issues as far as practices were concerned with our teams, just to see who's who and what's what," Radakovich said. "We'll be working a lot of this through LSED (the Superdome commission) which they have their (New Orleans Arena) contract with. But we just had a chance to say hello. We'll wait and see what the next step is."

Russo did not return telephone calls Wednesday.

Mott said that while he was encouraged by initial indications of few schedule conflicts, more logistical problems needed to be addressed such as travel into the city and lodging for visiting teams.

"No decision is just a matter of available dates," Mott said. "Obviously, that's the most crucial issue. We don't want to displace other games or events they might have scheduled.

"It's a complex decision involving a lot of moving parts. It all starts with knowing what conflicts you might have and whether you can work with those. It's all very complicated."

# Toms an ace at raising relief

**By Peter Finney**
Sports Columnist

If the past 10 days proved anything, it proved world-class golfer David Toms doesn't have to swing a club to make money.

No sooner had Katrina struck, LSU's gift to the PGA Tour came out swinging - for cash, for clothes, for available living space, for jobs, for almost anything - all aimed at lightening the burden of an estimated 20,000 hurricane evacuees in the Shreveport area.

Still in its infancy, you might say the 2-year-old, Shreveport-based David Toms Foundation eagled the first hole, raising close to $400,000 from an initial e-mail response, suggesting it might be only the tip of the iceberg.

"David jumped in right away and has been hands-on from the start,'' said Adam Young, the Foundation's executive director. "He spent Labor Day touring the shelters, passing out Wal-Mart gift cards, asking people what they needed most - jobs, school for the children, contact with loved ones, whatever they had in mind. The feedback he received has been a tribute to the kind of person David is.''

The way Toms looks at it, hope is priority No. 1.

"These folks, young and old, have been uprooted by a catastrophe,'' Toms said. "Some are facing an uncertain future. If some of them are inclined to relocate to the Shreveport area, we're hoping to help in anyway we can - with jobs, with schools, with homes. If they want to relocate elsewhere, the same thing goes. We're here to assist in any way. We've helped some with gas cards. The ultimate aim is to get these folks out of the shelters somewhere down the line and help them start a new life.''

Another focus of the foundation is to make sure the money raised ends up in the right hands.

"We're working closely with charities in the Shreveport-Bossier area,'' Toms said. "We're working with churches. We are working with apartment complexes. We're constantly checking the job market to see what's available. We've had some early success in getting people employment. It's an ongoing step-by-step process.''

The PGA Tour has jumped in big-time. At last week's stop in Norton, Mass., Toms, speaking from his hometown, made a personal appeal that kept the hurricane-relief e-mails buzzing.

At public and private courses around the country, Labor Day events turned into fund-raisers. At Owl Creek Country Club in Louisville, where Toms gave a clinic in 2000, a year before he won the PGA Championship, members came up with $2,074.

Before the David Toms Foundation became a reality, Toms teamed with PGA Tour member and fellow Shreveport resident Hal Sutton in building a children's hospital.

At the foundation's dedication, Toms said, "If we can help get a family off the street, get a child away from an abusive home or help a child learn life skills, then we're creating hope and making a difference in the community."

Fitting words in the post-Katrina world.

Toms' wife, Sonya, is an active member of the Tour Wives Association involved in charities throughout the country.

On Saturday, Toms will take his first break from hurricane relief with a quick trip out west to watch his LSU Tigers open the season at Arizona State, a game he was planning to watch in Tiger Stadium.

But he won't be far from the phone.

He's been trying to locate Herb Tyler, Tigers quarterback from 1995-98.

"Someone told me Herb was in a shelter," Toms said. "If he is, I want to see what I can do.''

As for those wanting to help in the relief effort, David Toms says: "Just dial 318-798-KIDS.''

# Fair Grounds employees dodge a bullet

## *They ride out hurricane, are air-lifted from waist-high water*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Having retired from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Fair Grounds assistant director of security Jimmy Schanbien is familiar with the sounds of gunfire.

Echoes told Schanbien, who rode out Hurricane Katrina at the track with seven other Fair Grounds employees and several firemen, that gunshots were getting closer - and it was time to leave.

"The gunshots started Monday night (Aug. 29, the day the storm hit),'' Schanbien said Wednesday. "They got progressively worse Tuesday night. □ Each night, the gunfire got progressively worse.''

Last Thursday morning, the employees and several firemen left the Fair Grounds by helicopter. The Fair Grounds crew had painted a circle on the valet parking lot, which was dry, for a landing spot.

"We had a group of 15 or 16 of us who were never so happy to see the Marines with the helicopters to get us out,'' Schanbien said. "It looked like a scene from 'M*A*S*H.'''

Schanbien said the Fair Ground employees had stayed to help the firemen.

Before Churchill Downs purchased the track, the Fair Grounds had agreed to let firemen use the track as a staging area in case of emergencies, he said.

"I knew my family was out and would be safe,'' Schanbien said. "I just thought that it would be best that somebody from the Fair Grounds stay with them.''

After the hurricane blew through, Schanbien and some firemen had a chance to observe the damage.

"Most of the roof is gone,'' he said. "On the west side of the building, a lot of the outer stucco is gone. We kind of laughed, because none of the glass that faces the infield was lost. The only glass lost is on the west side.''

The group donned rain gear and went to the backstretch for a brief inspection on the afternoon of the storm, he said. That night, Schanbien and the others hunkered down on the first floor by the security office, where they were able to get power from a generator.

"We weathered the storm fine,'' he said. "We really weren't concerned Monday night. □ The biggest concern was Tuesday, when the water started rising.''

Because of the levee break, water on Gentilly Boulevard had risen to waist-deep, Schanbien said. The grandstand parking lot was covered with water, as was most of the dirt track and turf course, he said. Some people from the streets climbed the back fence and walked on the property in search of dry ground, but didn't cause trouble, he said.

**"The gunshots started Monday night (Aug. 29, the day the storm hit). They got progressively worse Tuesday night. ... Each night, the gunfire got progressively worse."**

JIMMY SCHANBIEN
Fair Grounds assistant director of security

Besides Schanbien, Fair Grounds employees at the track were security officers Nicole Ario, Randy James, Javahnie Jenkins and Lamont Thompson, housekeeping employees Frank Ben and Herbert Reaux and catering employee Ron Adams.

They slept in shifts. Someone would sleep for a while, be awakened, and someone else would get a turn to sleep.

"We actually had food,'' Schanbien said. "We were able to go into the coolers.''

The coolers were opened once a day, and people ate in the afternoon.

The generator was turned on twice a day, powering a telephone line and letting the group hear a radio. Staying in touch with Fair Grounds director of security Dave Martin, who was in Lafayette, and Churchill Downs director of human resources Shaun Collins in Louisville, Schanbien knew what was going on in the outside world.

"At no time did I feel our people were in any danger,'' Schanbien said, but it would have been foolish to delay the evacuation any longer. The firemen arranged it.

The evacuation went smoothly. The Fair Grounds people were flown to Interstate 10 and Causeway. A Kenner policeman, a friend of Schanbien's, arranged a ride to the airport, where two Fair Grounds-owned cars were parked. The firemen were shuttled to Gonzales, and the cars returned to take the Fair Grounds employees to Lafayette. On Wednesday, Schanbien was inspecting his Metairie home and said a nice breeze was blowing on the balcony.

Schanbien praised the dedication of the firemen and his co-workers. On the afternoon of the storm, firemen left the track to get boats - a wise decision in light of the levee break.

"I never saw a harder-working group of firemen,'' Schanbien said. "One guy got the gas out his truck to put in boats. The crew at the Fair Grounds, nothing would have been done if it wasn't for them.''

As of Wednesday, Churchill Downs had located 267 of the approximately 500 people who work at the Fair Grounds and its 10 off-track betting outlets or in the video-poker operation, Churchill spokesperson Julie Koenig said. Employees can contact the company via a toll-free number (877-244-5536) or the Internet (www.fairgroundsracecourse.com).

Also, Koenig said, Churchill is continuing to talk to representatives of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association about plans to shift some New Orleans racing dates to Louisiana Downs for a short meeting, possibly in December. Details about the meet haven't been worked out, Koenig said.

FOOTBALL

# Saints, Panthers bracing for another battle

## *Teams set to pick where last season's finale left off*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO - Despite all the uncertainty about their long-term future, the Saints won't have much trouble focusing on Sunday's opponent - perhaps their biggest NFL rival, the Carolina Panthers.

Six of the past eight games between the NFC South foes have been decided by less than a touchdown - including the Saints' 21-18 victory at Carolina in Week 17 of last season, which knocked the Panthers out of playoff contention.

"I don't expect on Sunday for the Carolina Panthers to feel sorry for us," Saints receiver Joe Horn said. "In their heart, I'm sure they will. But when that whistle blows, when that clock starts, I'm not going to run around and catch a football and not expect for Julius Peppers to knock my helmet off."

Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme, in turn, said he certainly will not underestimate the Saints.

"We all know we play a child's game and this is a lot more than a game, but I know these guys are going to come to play. There's no doubt about that in my mind," Delhomme, a former Saints quarterback, said. "That's just the professionals they have on the team. There is no doubt No. 26 (Deuce McAllister) is going to suit up and be ready to run the football and 87 (Horn) is going to be ready to catch it, and then along that D-line, two guys I have the utmost respect for in Charles Grant and Darren Howard, they are going to be ready to play."

Saints coach Jim Haslett said practice was "excellent" Wednesday after a sloppy start to the week - which was expected, since the team was given a three-day weekend to get their lives in order.

"I think they got it out of their system and they're ready to go," Haslett said. "There was a lot more concentration. They're more focused on what they have to do. I'm proud of these guys."

The Panthers have gotten the best of the Saints in recent years, winning four consecutive games before last season's finale. But the Saints had won five in a row before that.

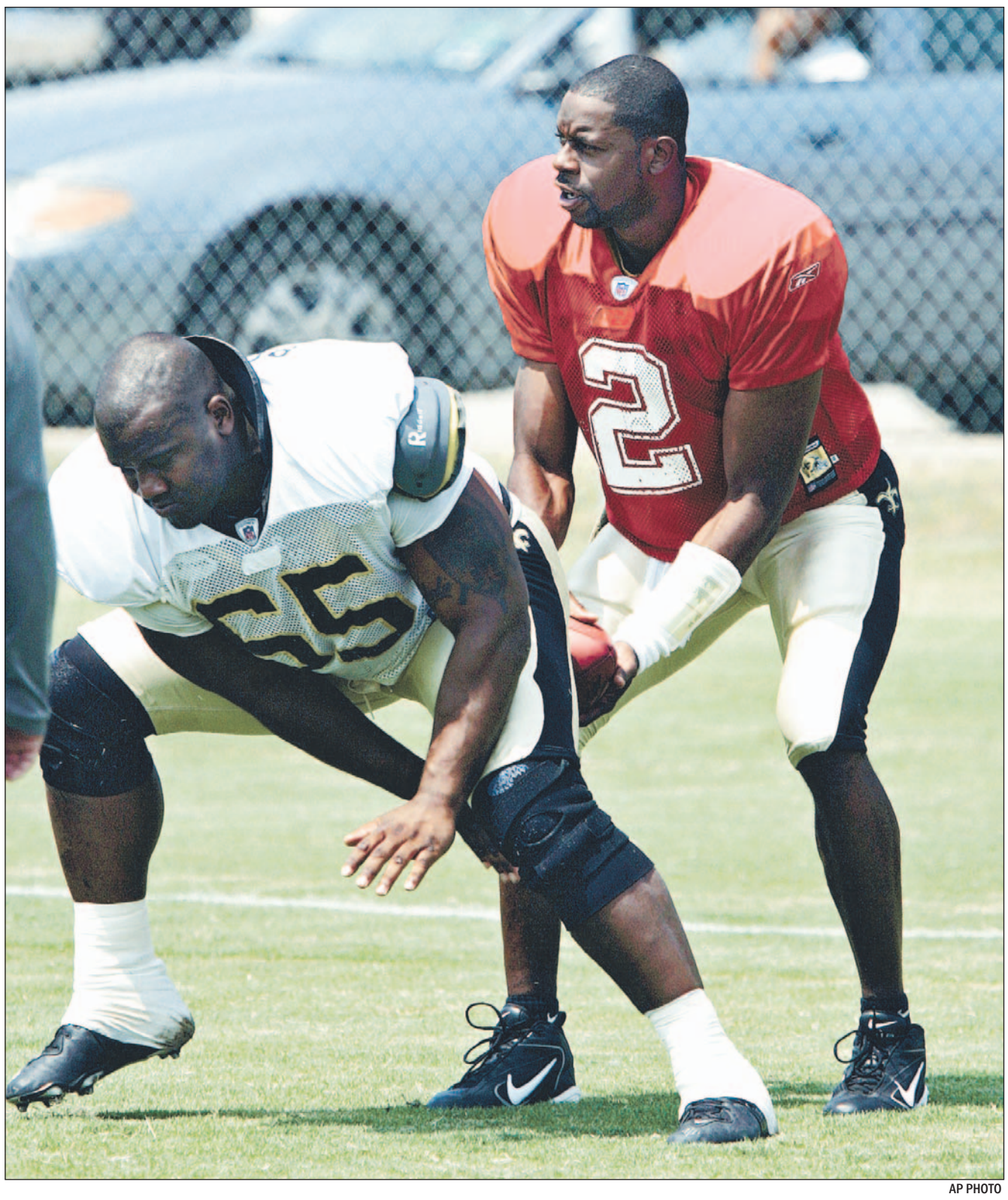
The all-time series between these two teams is 10-10.

Many forecasters are predicting a big season by the Panthers, who made an unexpected Super Bowl run in 2003 before injuries marred their 2004 season. Carolina started 1-7 last season before finishing 7-9.

The Saints are preparing for a physical battle. The Panthers have one of the league's best rushing attacks and defensive fronts.

"I'm going to say this: It's going to be a hell of a football game," Haslett said. "That's a good football team. You watch them on film, they're well-coached, they've got some great players. And even in preseason, I thought they were on fire. They were as good as anyone in the National Football League.

"Every year we play them, it comes down to the wire. I would expect nothing different. It's going to be a heck of a game. If you want to stay tuned, if you want a game of the week, this should be the game of the week. It's going to be a fun game to watch."



AP PHOTO

Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks takes a snap from center LeCharles Bentley at the San Antonio Independent School District's Spring Sports Complex on Wednesday in preparation for the team's season-opener Sunday at Carolina.

**DELHOMME'S REACTION**: Delhomme, who is from Breaux Bridge, said his family came out OK after Hurricane Katrina hit last week. He has an aunt and uncle who live in Metairie, but they were out of town.

Still, the quarterback said he was emotionally affected.

"You just start seeing these pictures over and over, and being down there for so long, you see these places, and it just kind of hits you in the heart," Delhomme said. "I know our preseason game last Thursday night, I was in the hotel room all day. All I watched was CNN all day. It gets you depressed. You just try to do what you can, money-wise or clothes-wise, you just try to help out in any way, because we just play a game. These people, this is their life."

**SAINTS' EFFORTS:** Ten more Saints players visited the KellyUSA shelter on Tuesday after a $7,000 shopping trip to Wal-Mart for things like clothing, diapers and toiletries. Tight end Ernie Conwell replaced a man's engagement ring for his wife.

The players in attendance were Conwell, Horn, Michael Lewis, Kendyl Jacox, Shad Meier, T.J. Slaughter, Mike Karney, John Carney, Willie Whitehead and Andy Akerstrom. Slaughter and Horn previously had visited shelters.

Receiver Donte Stallworth made his own trip to the shelter after Monday's practice after his own shopping spree at Wal-Mart. Offensive lineman Wayne Gandy is organizing a monetary collection in which Saints players will help create lasting "commissaries" for the evacuees.

Saints owner Tom Benson established the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, the details of which will be announced during Thursday's NFL season-opening broadcast on ESPN.

**INJURY REPORT:** Tight end Meier (knee) and linebacker Alfred Fincher (hand) will not play Sunday. Linebacker James Allen (knee), receiver Az-Zahir Hakim (hamstring), tight end Zachary Hilton (shoulder), defensive tackle Brian Young (knee) and linebacker Slaughter (knee) are listed as questionable, but all of them participated during Wednesday's practice.

Panthers defensive end Peppers (foot) and linebacker Brandon Short (foot) are both questionable, but both practiced Wednesday.

**TICKET UPDATE**: Although the Saints' Sept. 18 home game against the New York Giants was moved to Giants Stadium, Saints season-ticket holders and those people who previously purchased tickets to the Giants-Saints game will be allowed to purchase tickets beginning Thursday at 11 a.m. central time.

Those fans should call (201) 372-7928 at that time. Saints season-ticket holders must provide their account number.

Giants season-ticket holders will be allowed to purchase tickets beginning at 2 p.m. central time on Thursday. All tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Next week, tickets will be made available to those on the Giants' season-ticket waiting list. Then on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 9 a.m. central time, all remaining tickets will go on sale to the public.

The Giants will host a donation drive on behalf of the American Red Cross' hurricane relief efforts on the way into the stadium. The team will match all contributions collected at the gates.

As for the Saints' ticket-holders who choose not to purchase tickets to the Giants game, Saints owner Tom Benson announced Tuesday that they will be permitted to request refunds and that specifics of the refund policy will be available in the coming days.

# NFL kickoff is welcome distraction

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
NFL columnist

Another NFL season prepares to kick off tonight.

My first thought is - Who cares? As a city tries to keep its head above water in polluted Lake New Orleans, who truly gives a rat's rump about the New England Patriots and Oakland Raiders taking the first step along a road that ultimately leads to Super Bowl XL in Detroit?

Certainly not the elderly man waiting to be rescued from his rooftop some 10 days after Hurricane Katrina huffed and puffed and blew our region down. Or the countless folks squeezed into temporary shelters. Or the thousands of displaced citizens scattered around the country.

Hey Katrina, kiss my grits.

If we could put our hands on you, we'd ring your Category 4 neck.

You have made us angry and frustrated and scared not knowing what tomorrow will bring. You have forced us to take stock and rebuild our shattered lives, one baby step at a time.

This is where tonight's game at Gillette Stadium - and subsequent NFL games - comes into play.

If only for three hours, New England and Oakland can bring relief from this life-altering experience.

It'll be a pleasure to watch Tom Terrific under center for the Patriots. I'm curious how their offensive and defensive units will perform without former coordinators Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel, who have moved on to become head coaches at Notre Dame and with the Cleveland Browns, respectively.

I wonder how Randy Moss will look in a Silver and Black uniform.

Even Al Davis will be a welcome sight for these sore eyes.

I can hear "Mr. Tunnel Vision,'' Bill Belichick, at his post-game press conference when asked if he had contributed to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund:

"Hurricane? What Hurricane? I've been bunkered in the past few weeks trying to win a football game.''

And win, he will.

Other projected winners in Week 1 (home team in caps):

Saints over CAROLINA - Please, smile kindly on these underdogs. A nation watches and prays.

Denver over MIAMI - Broncos spoil debut of Nick Saban.

WASHINGTON over Chicago - Redskins show no "Lovie'' for Bears.

BUFFALO over Houston - Quarterback J.P. Losman struggles in first NFL start, but Bills prevail.

PITTSBURGH over Tennessee - Super Bowl-bound Steelers get off on right foot.

KANSAS CITY over New York Jets - Chiefs win high-scoring affair.

JACKSONVILLE over Seattle - Jaguars defense rises to the occasion.

Cincinnati over CLEVELAND - Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou team, oh, Romeo.

MINNESOTA over Tampa Bay - Daunte Culpepper slices up the Buccaneers' defense.

DETROIT over Green Bay - Steve Mariucci's team is vastly improved.

SAN DIEGO over Dallas - Chargers "Brees'' past Cowboys.

Arizona over NEW YORK GIANTS - Cardinals could be the sleeper in the NFC.

St. Louis over SAN FRANCISCO - Rams have their way by the bay.

INDIANAPOLIS over Baltimore - Colts and Peyton Manning get by stern test.

ATLANTA over Philadelphia (Monday night) - Falcons win rematch of last year's NFC championship game.

As for tonight's game, before Katrina, I might conclude by saying bet the house on the Patriots. If only I had one to bet.

# QB wait expected to extend to Saturday

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Oh man, here it comes. Finally.

This six-month soap opera - occasionally overblown, but too titillating to completely ignore - appears on the cusp of having its curtain close as JaMarcus Russell politely fields an oft-asked inquiry (and no, it's not about Fats Domino).

Hey, JaMarcus, who is going to start at quarterback this Saturday at Arizona State?

Suspense has snowballed since February, when Ryan Perrilloux, sitting in his high school coach's office twirling a broken strand of Mardi Gras beads, signed a letter-of-intent to play football for the Tigers and made a couple of comments about the team's incumbent QBs. From there, the he-said, he-said, boiled for a couple of weeks. In May, Perrilloux said he and Russell were PlayStation buddies. In August, Miles said they're not exactly suitemates. Like all good soaps, a main character went through amnesia (Perrilloux transformed from gregarious to humble during Media Day). Besides not writing a role for Susan Lucci and adding a torrid love octagon, this saga has primarily stuck to the generic script.

And now the ending (cue suspenseful music).

"One of the three," Russell said, referring to himself, Matt Flynn and Perrilloux.

He swears he doesn't know, and since there's no bailiff around, we'll have to believe him. Ugh, so close to figuring out where this pipeline of media preseason filler ends. But wait, there's still Flynn. Perhaps he knows something Russell doesn't.

"Hadn't heard anything," Flynn said.

So the wait continues, with Miles hinting more than once he'll pick somebody Thursday. He said he likes Thursdays, through a satisfied smile. Of course, Miles is not scheduled to meet with the media Thursday so this extended hand of three-quarterback rummy might not be revealed until 8:15 p.m. Saturday, assuming LSU doesn't kickoff in the first half.

If the Tigers do win the coin toss and elect to defer, add-on about 10 to 20 minutes, depending on commercials.

And here's a quick timer-saver for the impatient: examining body language offers no clues, either. Russell has been rather jovial in recent conversations with the press, while Flynn is sporting some goofy mustache, making him look like Matt Damon with Tom Selleck's signature facial hair.

"It hasn't been difficult at all," Flynn said of the wait. "We've gone out there and known it's been a competition, and the uncertainty has not been a problem. We've been focused every day and just tried to make strides every day."

Inheriting a team loaded with talent, dealing with the quarterback issue is the only instance Miles really has mixed beakers this fall - an experiment so volatile it could have easily blown up in his face. Instead, this situation appears to be soluble. Miles kept his recruiting promise to Perrilloux, letting the hyped blue chip compete for the job while not letting Russell or Flynn get too comfortable.

"You never know," Russell said. "If he would have announced a starter too early, things could've gotten out of hand or a little shaky with that guy as far as him knowing he has the job. Waiting, it kept everybody on a level ground."

Playing the extended waiting game also allowed each quarterback not to overanalyze or lament every poor throw, knowing one exceptional or one terrible practice would not win or lose the prized position.

"You can't think like that," Russell said. "Because if you're worried about not doing wrong, then wrong is going to creep in on you," Russell said. "They say it's stepping on eggshells. You're playing light - you're trying to do good, but at the same time you're trying not to mess up."

The logical argument to Miles' belated announcement is that extending the verdict within days of kickoff prevents players, particularly receivers, from gaining confidence in the guy under center, to which the new coach said is only necessary if, "you pick the wrong guy."

"It made us work every day," Russell said. "Because you never know what (Miles) is going to say? So, it's still on you to do your job, get your work done, and still help the other guys at the same time."

# Vols sweat start time

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - The University of Tennessee has asked the SEC for an early kickoff for its game with LSU at Tiger Stadium on Sept 24, but it appears the decision will be left up to television networks.

Volunteers coach Philip Fulmer acknowledged that the school made the request for the benefit of Tennessee fans that might not be able to find hotel rooms in Baton Rouge because of the massive influx of people having fled Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Many hotels already have said they will not displace evacuees, even for people with reservations. An earlier kickoff would allow Tennessee fans to seek hotel rooms outside Baton Rouge on their way home.

"The issues with the hotels, perhaps an early game would benefit certainly our fans and probably all the fans," Fulmer said.

Kickoff time has not been officially set, but ESPN has first choice of SEC games that weekend and is likely to choose the No. 3-ranked Vols vs. the No. 5 Tigers, which would make the start around 6:45 p.m. That is pleasing for LSU fans who revere their tradition of night football.

"LSU's position is that the kickoff time for the Tennessee game will be determined by television," said LSU associate athletic director Herb Vincent. "LSU wants to play the game Saturday night."

CBS has second choice after ESPN and holds the 2:30 p.m. time slot. Other SEC games that day include Arkansas at Alabama, Florida at Kentucky and Georgia at Mississippi State. ESPN can make its selection as early as Monday, but also has the option of waiting six more days for a decision.

Charles Bloom, the SEC director of media relations, reiterated that the start time would be determined by TV but that the schools were in discussion about any possible adjustments because of the relief effort in Baton Rouge.

"As of now, the Tennessee-LSU game is scheduled to be played in Baton Rouge," Bloom said. "The time and television network of the game is still to be decided."

**TICKET REFUND:** LSU fans with tickets to the Arizona State game who can't attend can receive refunds of $36 per ticket. The game was moved to Tempe, Ariz., because of the ongoing relief efforts in Baton Rouge.

Fans have four refund choices:

- Refunds can be donated to the Hurricane Katrina Student Relief Fun to assist students affected by the storm.
- The money can be donated to the LSU athletic department to offset the loss of the home game.
- It can be applied toward the purchase of 2006 tickets.
- Ticket-holders can receive a check for the refund or credit card adjustment.

Tradition Fund Tiger Athletic Foundation donations and parking passes are not refundable.

# Sports in three parishes likely out for year

*Jefferson, St. Charles schools still clinging to hope, however*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Louisiana High School Athletic Association assistant commissioner B.J. Guzzardo said most public schools in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes are not expected to participate in athletics this school year because of severe flood and wind damage caused by Katrina.

Jefferson public schools are shooting for a January return. St. Charles public schools are tentatively scheduled to re-open next week, and St. Tammany public schools are gearing for an October return.

The playing future of Archdiocese of New Orleans schools also remains in question, Guzzardo said. Schools superintendent the Rev. William Maestri and archdiocese officials were scheduled to meet with all available principals, administrators and teachers Wednesday in Baton Rouge to address school issues.

Maestri appointed Hannan principal John Serio director of schools

transition for the archdiocese.

Guzzardo said John Curtis coach J.T. Curtis told LHSAA officials he

believed his River Ridge school could re-open within two weeks. Curtis could not be reached for comment.

Shaw coach Scott Bairnsfather also offered positive news in regard to Shaw's physical plant. He visited the campus in Marrero on Sunday and found the school dry and with electrical power.

"I went into my office and turned the lights on,'' Bairnsfather said.

"We took some damage now, but nothing that would keep us from

re-opening. I have no idea if we'll play again this season, but it doesn't look

good. Even if we could get up and running, I don't know who we'd

play."

Guzzardo said Maestri and archdiocese officials were considering using Shaw as a site to platoon two Catholic high schools while other area archdiocese schools recover and rebuild.

Brother Martin is scheduled to hold afternoon and evening classes at Baton Rouge-Catholic but will not field teams in any major sports, Guzzardo said.

Season-opening football games in 20 parishes were canceled last weekend due to damage and complications from the hurricane. Many of those game cancellations came in parishes not directly affected by Katrina, Guzzardo said, but resulted from Gov. Kathleen Blanco's order to take school buses from those areas to use in hurricane

relief.

School officials also were told they would have no security for

their games.

# Athletes leaving so they can play

*Recruits trying to make most of senior years*

**By Mike Strom and Tammy Nunez**
Staff writers

While the local high school football season appears to be all but canceled in Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes, many area student-athletes have elected to transfer to schools around the state and South and participate in athletics.

West Jefferson standout defensive lineman Clarence Fultz already has transferred to Lake Charles-Boston and actually played in the Cougars' season-opener last Friday against Washington-Marion, West Jeff coach Hank Tierney said.

Fultz registered for school and competed in a game as a defensive end all in the same day, Tierney said.

Fultz, 6 feet 3, 220 pounds, was being recruited by Ole Miss, LSU and several other SEC schools, Tierney said.

Additionally, West Jeff tight end Anthony Sparks is expected to transfer to Kingswood High School in the Houston area, said Tierney, who has evacuated to Benton, Ark., with his family. Sparks, 6-2, 220, is another Division I-A prospect.

Tierney is uncertain of the plans of two other Buccaneers senior prospects, cornerback Jeremy Ivory (6-1, 180) and tackle Larry Timmons (6-5, 355).

According to recent emergency legislation passed by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association executive committee, students from storm-affected parishes are able to transfer to new schools and begin athletic competition immediately.

"Some of our players are all over Louisiana and Texas and playing already,'' Tierney said. "We are encouraging them to play because they cannot play here. I've told all of our kids to go somewhere and play because, if some miracle happens, they can come back and play for us. I just feel sorry for the ones who had to stay because they have nothing.''

The LHSAA is requiring all schools that accept transfers from storm-affected parishes to contact the association in writing to make sure that those wishing to participate in athletics are registered with the state and eligible, LHSAA assistant commissioner B.J. Guzzardo said.

Ehret coach Billy North, like many area coaches, has had almost no contact with his players since Katrina's Aug. 29 assault. North and his wife evacuated to Lake Charles, where he has relatives and subsequently has rented a house. North said he has visited the Lake Charles-area

evacuation shelters daily in hopes of finding some of his players.

All-Metro safety Tommy Connors from Shaw and his parents are contemplating a transfer to either St. Thomas More in Lafayette or Destrehan, Shaw coach Scott Bairnsfather said. Connors and his family evacuated to the Lafayette area, as did Bairnsfather, who is staying in Opelousas,

where his wife's family resides.

"I don't know what Tommy's going to do,'' Bairnsfather said. "I told him that he should go to Destrehan. This is his senior year, and he needs to get some film of him for the colleges.''

Bairnsfather said he attended the Carencro-St. Thomas More game last Friday and saw that several Jesuit players had transferred to St. Thomas More.

O.Perry Walker coach Terry Wilson said he was in Grambling, where he and his family had evacuated to be with relatives. Wilson said his players are scattered across the south, but he had no definitive word on the whereabouts of any, including prospects Kendrick Lewis, a wide

receiver/defensive back, and Eldric Cambrice, a defensive back.

Higgins coach Wayne Meyers was in Montgomery, which is near Natchitoches, with his family, but had no word on two of his top players, linebacker Arthur Green and defensive back Michael Roussel. Meyers lives in Belle Chasse and said his house was dry with only some possible wind

damage.

At least two public West St. Tammany high school football coaches have found out their top players have transferred and are hoping they return if the parish's public schools re-open the first week of October.

Fontainebleau coach Larry Favre said the foundation of his squad - his two offensive tackles - have enrolled in other schools. Cameron Zipp, a returning All-Metro left tackle, enrolled in Neville High School, Favre said, and right tackle Kyle Plouhar is attending a school in Oregon.

"Those two are the pillars of my football team," Favre said.

Favre also said his returning defensive lineman, Todd Carson is attending a school in Texas, and the coach said he fears several of his other players will follow suit.

LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry said Monday that even if a player in a hurricane-affected zone enrolls in another school, he will be granted a transfer back to his original school if he wants.

"In the first place, we're going to do these kids right," Henry said. "This is not going to put their homes back together or help put their lives back together but I'm not going to make things harder on them."

Mandeville coach Rodney Corkern said he is trying to reach many of his players.

"I have no idea what is going on," Corkern said. "I've tried to call people, and the phones just aren't working. I don't know what's going to happen."

Corkern and Favre said they hope to resume practice as soon as possible, but both are having trouble contacting their players and finding out who plans on remaining with their teams.

The next problem is regaining electricity at the high schools so practice can be safely held.

"The field is playable, but if we don't have ice, how can we keep the kids hydrated at practice?" Corkern asked. "Then if a kid gets hurt, we don't have reliable phones to call for help."

Favre said he has been frustrated by the delay in finalizing a starting date for school. He said he is trying to keep his players from transferring, but up until early this week, couldn't even guarantee there would be a 2005 Fontainebleau football game. Then he said he isn't sure all the teams in District 4-5A will be able to compete because of how hard the Slidell-area schools were hit by the storm.

"Are we going to have football and not Slidell?" he questioned. "Is that fair?"

St. Tammany Parish School Board Superintendent Gayle Sloan said Monday she hopes the school system can re-open the first week of October. Athletics would resume that week, too.

# Houston ready to host Bayou Classic

*Large number of available hotels could prove enticing*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Add the Bayou Classic to the list of events and businesses possibly relocating from New Orleans to Houston.

At least that's the desire of Shea Guinn, vice president and general manager of the city's Reliant Stadium.

"Houston would be an ideal location," Guinn said of the annual Thanksgiving Saturday game between Southern and Grambling State. "We are the nearest large city with all of the amenities and a stadium to play host to the event."

Guinn, who is holding the date open, said he has been in touch with representatives from both schools, who will be forced to move the game now that the Superdome has been deemed unplayable for this season.

"It's a little too early to make a call, but obviously now we have to," Southern athletic director Greg LaFleur said. "The Bayou Classic means so much to so many people, and it especially will this year."

Grambling spokesperson Peter Forrest said Shreveport officials also had expressed interest in hosting the game, but the preference would likely be Houston because of the larger number of available hotel rooms.

That also would make LSU's Tiger Stadium less attractive because of the lack of hotel space in Baton Rouge.

The Bayou Classic has been annually played in New Orleans since 1974, the year before the Superdome opened when it was held at Tulane Stadium.

Besides drawing a sellout crowd in excess of 70,000, the event features several related activities such as the Battle of the Bands on Friday-] night and draws thousands of fans of both teams who don't even attend the game.

Guinn added he thought the fact that almost 25,000 hurricane evacuees are living in Houston facilities managed by SMG, Reliant's parent company, would make Reliant the best venue.

"Our first concern is doing whatever we can to help the people living on our properties," Guinn said. "But we also know there are a lot of events that need to be rescheduled and relocated."

# Nicholls State-Indiana game on for Saturday

*Schools' officials work out travel, prevent cancellation*

**Staff reports**

THIBODAUX - With a charter plane from Baton Rouge secured, Nicholls State's football game at Indiana on Saturday is on. School officials at Indiana helped arrange the flight after the team's original flight from New Orleans was canceled.

"I know our coaches and players are excited about the opportunity to finally play football," said Nicholls State coach Jay Thomas. "The game and trip to Bloomington will offer a nice change from the experiences of the past week."

The Colonels were to have opened the season last Saturday at Utah State, but the game was canceled because so many Nicholls State players are from the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The Nicholls campus, while receiving only light damage from the storm, was without power much of last week, and the football team only partially reassembled Sunday. Classes resumed Wednesday.

"On behalf of Indiana athletics, our thoughts and prayers go out to

everyone who has been impacted by Hurricane Katrina," Indiana athletic director Rick Greenspan said.

"We certainly respect Nicholls' situation. For the last five days, both

schools have been working on the travel logistics, because the safety

and well-being of the Nicholls' student-athletes, coaches, staff and

fans is the top priority. Upon Nicholls' arrival and throughout their stay, we plan to show them the best in Hoosier hospitality."

LOYOLA CANCELS FALL SPORTS

Loyola has canceled its fall sports schedule - wiping out cross country, women's soccer and volleyball seasons - and the men's and women's basketball programs might not pick up until the spring semester, if at all, Athletic Director Mike Giorlando said.

"Even the status of basketball is unclear,'' Giorlando said. "Eighty percent of our kids are now in other schools. Do we pick up where the (basketball) schedule says when we're back in school? What are the eligibility issues? If we can't play a whole conference schedule, we're not going to do it.''

Giorlando said he has heard from several other schools around the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference offering support.

"Everyone from the GCAC, the NAIA, other schools around the country, have been so very compassionate, understanding. But everything is up in the air right now."

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 232 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# After hell, high water holdouts pried loose



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Silas Walker, who left his home on Chef Menteur Highway, rides down Hayne Boulevard to shelter with members of the Oklahoma National Guard. There were no reports of what police and military authorities have promised since midweek: that soon, stern encouragement will shift to evacuation by force.

## Appeals for troops unheeded for days

**By Jan Moller and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE - As it became clear last week that the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina required far more help than state and local authorities could provide, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other state officials began pleading for more help from the federal government.

But substantial active-duty Army deployments didn't arrive until a week after the storm, a fact that might turn out to be one of the enduring controversies about the state and federal response to what likely will be one of the deadliest and most costly events in American history.

This week, Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, who commands Joint Task Force Katrina, said search and rescue is the top priority for the 7,000 active-duty soldiers ordered to Louisiana by

*See* **DEPLOY,** *page A-4*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Military personnel assemble in the Riverwalk parking lot before a whale mural, seemingly one of the few underwater scenes in the city that is fake.

## Few souls remain in shell of a city

### *Water, fire start to abate*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Troops continued to go door to door Thursday in New Orleans, urging the last of the stubborn, the skeptical and the eccentric to get out of a crippled, once magnificent city formerly filled with their kind.

As they did Wednesday, armed military and police pounded on doors and served notice that the last of an estimated 10,000 inhabitants now have to leave the wreckage of a city that two weeks ago contained 480,000 souls.

Some of those they encountered were tired, beaten and ready to come out. Many more apparently were self-selected survivalists: determined not to let go of what little was certain in their lives in exchange for so much uncertainty ahead.

"I got my own place," said a defiant Robert Thomas in the city's historic Treme neighborhood. "I ain't sharing it with no freaking body." If he agreed to leave the city, "where the hell I'm gonna be after that?"

"They are trying to get this neighborhood for the rich people," said a man calling himself Chief Al; he was sitting on a stoop at St. Claude Avenue and St. Philip Street.

Yet there were no reports of what police and military authorities have promised since midweek: that soon, stern encouragement will shift to evacuation by force.

Kansas National Guard Maj. Gen Ron Mason said the National Guard helped bring out more than 650 willing people between Wednesday and Thursday morning from neighborhoods ravaged by flooding from Hurricane Katrina since Aug. 29.

In many ways, Thursday seemed to be a day of small victories: Water continued to drain away. Some downtown hotels struggled toward life. A weak but discernible commercial pulse began to beat in the city's suburbs.

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-5*

**INSIDE** • Nursing home at which 30 died turned away evacuation buses, A-2 • Looting suspects get one-way ticket to 'Camp Greyhound,' A-8 • Dillard University buildings go up in flames, A-10

# Policyholders to help foot insurance tab

## *Premiums to jump 20 percent next year*

**Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Homeowners from Shreveport to Slidell will be hit with a 20 percent increase in insurance premiums next year thanks to new state legislation forcing property owners statewide to reimburse insurance companies for supporting the state's catastrophe insurance fund.

After next year, the special charge to policyholders statewide will continue at 10 percent, probably for several years, state insurance officials said. The increases are in addition to rate hikes that insurers are likely to seek from state regulators as a result of new risk assessments after Hurricane Katrina.

State legislation in 2003 created the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corp., basically a state-sanctioned company providing homeowners insurance to people who cannot get it at reasonable prices on the open market. The corporation is especially geared toward storm-prone areas, but it also helps homeowners who can't get anyone else to write a policy for any number of reasons, such as credit problems.

Citizens Property has 135,000 policies statewide, with a total exposure of about $12 billion, Citizens Secretary Terry Lisotta said. About 60,000 of the policies are likely to result in claims as a result of Katrina, he said. The coverage does not include flood damage, which is handled by a federal insurance program.

Under the new program, started last year, Citizens started building a catastrophe fund to be used for claims following a disaster.

But the fund is so new that is has accumulated only about $100 million, well below the $750 million to $950 million state officials estimate will be needed to pay for claims under the plan.

The state had a similar insurance institution before Citizens, but its rules of operation were significantly different. Previously, in the event of a disaster, the insurance companies had to make payments into a catastrophe fund within 30 days and eat the costs, although they could attempt make it up indirectly in future years with increased premiums.

The new program still requires insurance companies to fill up the fund in 30 days to cover the total claims, but the companies now can borrow the money and charge residential policyholders statewide to pay off the loans.

State Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley and the insurance industry pushed for the legislation, saying companies were reluctant to continue writing polices in the state under the old plan and that homebuyers were facing crisis in trying to find coverage on the commercial market.

At the time, the predecessor to Citizens was bulging with clients, causing industry analysts nationwide to warn about a potentially serious problem looming in Louisiana, which was becoming overly dependent on the state insurer. The sparse availability of household insurance, more than the price, was a major consumer and political issue in Baton Rouge in 2003.

Citizens will now embark on a four-step process that will reverberate for years throughout the state.

First it will draw money from its existing fund. Lisotta said that out of the $100 million in the fund, only about $50 million can legally be paid for claims, because of the fund's requirements to maintain a cash reserve and pay for operations.

Next, Citizens can take advantage of the fact it, too, is protected by insurance. Called re-insurance, it will provide a net of about $260 million to the fund to pay for claims.

In step three, the insurance companies will make a payment equal to 10 percent of the total home premium coverage in the state, which will put about $112 million more into the fund. The companies can pay cash or borrow the money and charge customers to pay it off. As a result, the insurers will begin charging all customers statewide next year a 10 percent increase over their regular premium.

The fourth step is when Citizens borrows money by issuing bonds with the permission of the state Bond Commission. The bonds are supposed to provide enough money for all remaining claims that can't be paid by Citizens. Lisotta said the bonds are likely to amount to several hundred million dollars and that they will be paid off by an emergency assessment on all homeowners policies statewide.

The emergency assessment can be up to 10 percent per year of a customer's premium, which means Citizens can rake in about $112 million a year and pay off the bonds over a multi-year period.

The figures assume that the homeowner policy base in Louisiana will be about the same it has been in the past, Lisotta said, but that could change with people leaving the state.

The end result is that homeowners next year will pay an extra 10 percent on their premiums for the insurance company assessment, plus another 10 percent for the emergency assessment to pay off the bonds. In subsequent years, policyholders will continue paying the emergency assessment until the bonds are paid off.

Jeff Albright, chief executive of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana, said the creation of Citizens was critical to the health of the insurance industry and to encourage companies to keep writing policies in the state.

"We have a systematic way to pay for this cataclysmic loss," Albright said. In the old system, the insurers would have received a bill for the whole loss.

"State Farm would be totally devastated" under the previous system, Albright said of Louisiana's largest insurance carrier.




STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

A federal agency that specializes in handling mass casualties continues the gruesome task of removing about 30 decomposing bodies from St. Rita's Nursing Home on Thursday near Poydras.

# Doomed nursing home had offer of bus transport

## *Coroner says help was snubbed until too late*

**By Paul Rioux**
Staff writer

Less than 24 hours before Hurricane Katrina began ravaging St. Bernard Parish with 140 mph winds and a 20-foot storm surge, Coroner Bryan Bertucci made an urgent call to the owner of St. Rita's Nursing Home near Poydras.

"I told her I had two buses and two drivers who could evacuate all 70 of her residents and take them anywhere she wanted to go," he said.

But Mabel Mangano refused the offer. "She told me, 'I have five nurses and a generator, and we're going to stay here,'" Bertucci said.

It turned out to be a tragic decision.

On Wednesday, nine days after the storm had passed, Bertucci watched as a dozen workers from a federal agency that specializes in handling mass casualties began the gruesome task of removing about 30 decomposing bodies from the still-flooded nursing home.

On Thursday, Attorney General Charles Foti Jr. announced he's launching an investigation into the deaths at the nursing home.

"I want answers. I want to know why those people were trapped and were not evacuated," Foti said.

The storm pounded through the parish's levees, unleashing raging floodwaters that knocked able-bodied men off their feet. At the single-story, privately owned nursing home, residents confined to their beds or wheelchairs were quickly overwhelmed by the rapidly rising water, Bertucci said.

As the storm raged, neighbors and firefighters in boats rescued about 40 nurses and residents, carrying some out on their mattresses. But rescuers could not save everyone.

The body of an elderly woman wearing a housedress was found on a concrete patio near the front door. An elderly man's body was slumped over the back of a chair, a recovery worker said.

Inside the home, a table was nailed over a window, and couches and dressers were shoved against doors in a futile attempt to keep out the rushing water, which rose to within inches of the ceiling.

When the water finally receded a week later, it left behind several inches of muck on the floors and the overwhelming stench of putrified flesh.



A vase of flowers lies along the St. Bernard Highway extension, near a flooded St. Rita's Nursing Home, on Thursday.

The tragedy at St. Rita's is one of the deadliest storm-related incidents reported so far in the New Orleans area as rescue efforts are gradually shifting to recovery. In Meraux, authorities found the bodies of about 20 people who tied themselves together in an apparent attempt to ride out the storm.

Bertucci's voice cracked as he talked about how 40 of the home's residents are his patients from a private practice.

"Out of all the devastation, this is the only time I've cried," said Bertucci, whose house and doctor's office were destroyed by flooding. "These people were like family to me."

He said he urged Mangano to accept the buses and evacuate when he called her about 2 p.m. on Aug. 28, the day before the Category 4 hurricane churned ashore. At the time, parish was under a mandatory evacuation order.

After she declined help, Mangano apparently changed her mind two hours later when she called another parish official to see if the buses were still available, the coroner said. But by then it was too late, he said.

"They all could have been stuck on a highway in buses in the middle of a hurricane," Bertucci said. "It might have been an even worse tragedy than this."

Mangano, who Bertucci said stayed at the nursing home during the hurricane, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Bertucci said he believes she survived the storm, but he has not spoken to her.

Foti said investigators with his office's Medicaid Fraud division are searching for information regarding the location of Mangano and Salvador Mangano.

Bertucci, who described Mangano as a friend, said she made a "terrible misjudgment."

"Is there talk of negligence? Yes," he said. "But I don't want to get into that because I'm a doctor, not a lawyer."

Officials with the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office could not be reached Thursday to comment about the incident. Bertucci said the parish's other three nursing homes evacuated their residents without significant problems.

"All of our nursing homes have evacuation plans to begin getting their residents to safety 72 hours before a hurricane is expected to make landfall," he said. "There may have been some extenuating circumstances that kept St. Rita's from executing their plan."

He said Mangano was having trouble finding transportation for five special needs patients. He also said the storm's late shift toward southeastern Louisiana proved to be a challenge for even the best-laid evacuation plans.

St. Rita's, first certified in 1998, has an average safety record compared to other nursing homes in Louisiana, according to data on safety inspections dating back to 1999 and analyzed by The Times-Picayune.

Since 1999, federal officials have determined that no deaths inside the nursing home were related to substandard care. But the home was cited twice for violations that either caused harm or endangered residents, records show. St. Rita's was also denied federal funding for a total of 42 days for ailing to promptly correct problems discovered by inspectors. That number of days without funding is relatively high compared to other nursing homes,according to the newspaper's analysis.

A Sept. 2004 inspection identified six other "deficiencies" that had either caused "minimal" harm or the potential to cause harm, according to federal records. The problems included a failure to keep adequate medical records, and a failure to have a program to keep infection from spreading. All six deficiencies were corrected by Nov. 2004, the records show.

Workers with the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team used a pickup truck Wednesday to tow a flatboat back and forth through 2 feet of floodwater surrounding the nursing home off Louisiana 46 as they began removing the bodies.

Wearing masks and heavy protective jumpsuits with ice packs strapped inside, it took the workers a few hours to recover the first five bodies. The operation, which resumed Thursday, was slowed by displaced furniture that blocked the doors inside several of the residents' rooms, officials said.

The bodies were loaded onto a refrigerated truck. The ones that can be identified will be taken to the Jefferson Parish morgue. The others will go to a makeshift morgue in a St. Gabriel warehouse, where authorities will try to identify them using DNA and dental records, Bertucci said.

He said the last of the bodies were expected to be recovered from the nursing home by Thursday evening.

As he spoke grimly about the devastation in St.Bernard, where nearly all of the 26,700 homes flooded,Bertucci found some levity in the shipment of 8,000body bags he received from federal authorities.

"They're everywhere," he said. "What am I going to do with them?"

Pressed for an estimate on how many he might actually need, Bertucci grew somber and said, "Maybe 150. Maybe less, if we're lucky."

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Staff writer Jeffrey Meitrodt contributed to this report.

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# Algiers to become foothold for reclaiming the city

## *Dry community offers base for cleanup, restoring services*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

Having escaped the devastating flooding from Hurricane Katrina, Algiers will become the hub of city operations as the rest of New Orleans recovers and rebuilds, City Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said Thursday.

Algiers, mainly a bedroom community of about 60,000 residents, will house several services and city employees from waterlogged New Orleans, Clarkson said. Algiers residents who rode out Hurricane Katrina in their homes will be allowed to stay, despite Mayor Ray Nagin's order that the rest of New Orleans' residents evacuate.

"We're going to run a lot of city government out of Algiers, absolutely," Clarkson said. "That's how we'll be able to restore the rest of the city so fast."

Hundreds of cleanup workers are based at the Behrman Sports Complex in Algiers, which was filled Thursday with bulldozers, trucks and trailers, where the workers sleep. The effort, run by Omni Pinnacle of Slidell, includes removing debris and trash citywide, worker Craig Flucke said, adding that the schedule called for crews to be finished in Algiers by Thursday night.

Floodwaters are hampering cleanup in other parts of the city, Flucke said. "If the water would go down, we'd be rolling," he said. At least one worker carried a gun at the site, and Flucke said a security force began monitoring the complex Thursday night. He said the crews would be in place for months.

Kathy Lynn Honaker, executive director of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, said Algiers can easily accommodate the companies and city services that could be shifted to the area. Businesses might have to relocate to Algiers, and people involved in reconstruction will create a need for housing that could benefit the community, Honaker said in an interview from Pensacola, Fla., where she fled the hurricane.

"Out of this terrible tragedy, we have been given the opportunity to lead the way and help the rest of New Orleans get things going again," she said.

But first, Algiers must get back to the basics. Except for a handful of customers, power remained out in the area, and Clarkson said she hopes the community's electricity is fully restored within two weeks.

One grid in Algiers has power, which was turned on Wednesday night, because it includes the Little Sisters of the Poor's Mary Joseph Residence, which is housing local and out-of-state firefighters, police and emergency officials. That grid might also include some residential homes, Clarkson said.

Downed power lines tangled with trees are still a fire hazard, and water pressure in some neighborhoods might be too low to fight such blazes, she said, advising residents to return to Algiers only when they know electricity is back on at their homes.

"Lights will go on grid by grid, but everybody has to be patient," she said, predicting that thousands of residents remained in Algiers for the storm, including people who evacuated from St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

Algiers also has clean drinking water and working sewer service, Clarkson said.

That won't be enough, though, to keep Jan Butterfield and her daughter, Shana Sanders, in their Algiers Point neighborhood. With a trailer and pickup truck loaded with a mattress perched on their front yard, the pair, Algiers residents for seven years who fled to Alexandria during the storm, said they returned Thursday to retrieve some of their belongings and are now headed for Houston.

They had planned to move to Texas in a few years, but Katrina changed that schedule. "Mother Nature decided for us," said Butterfield, who works for Tulane University, which has transferred its administrative offices to Houston.

Even though their house had little damage, both were certain of their decision to move. But they said they would miss the community. "It is ever so charming," Butterfield said.

Emily Harville and her husband, Chris Andrews, who also evacuated, never had time to enjoy the neighborhood. The storm struck just three weeks after the Chapel Hill, N.C., couple moved to Algiers Point. They came back to gather some of their belongings.

Caught minutes before starting to drive their packed car to Dallas, Harville said they hoped to return to the area. "All of our stuff is here, so we'll definitely be back," she said.

# As confusion over evacuation rises, floodwaters go down

## *Slowly, city's streets emerging from muck*

**By James Varney**
Staff writ er

Amid heightened confusion over whether New Orleans residents would be removed forcibly from their homes Thursday, the city welcomed a noticeable reduction in the increasingly vile floodwaters that have coated neighborhoods for 10 days.

Overnight, the waters receded in the Lower 9th Ward, in Mid City and even along the often-flooded dip where Interstate 10 crosses beneath the Southern Railroad overpass.

About a fifth of the city's 75 major drainage pumps are back in operation, according to officials with the Sewerage & Water Board. As one example of continuing progress, the water board's main purification plant, which was inundated with as much as 3 feet of water and still flooded Wednesday, was dry Thursday.

Over at Pumping Station No. 6, along the Jefferson Parish line on the west side of the 17th Street Canal, the impact of the three reactivated pumps was apparent. Debris ranging from garbage cans to flower pots piled up on the grates as the massive pumps sucked floodwaters toward Lake Pontchartrain. The current was strong, rippling in places.

Although there were still no indications of major disease outbreaks, the slop that has covered the city for days, a witch's brew of bloated corpses, human excrement, chemicals and debris, is leaving its mark.

Along St. Claude Avenue on the eastern side of the Industrial Canal, cars and low-slung homes that had been out of sight since the levees broke reappeared Thursday morning. The vehicles were uniformly brown, caked with layers of mud. On the curbsides and sidewalks of Esplanade Avenue, the recent high water mark could be traced in the film sheathing trash and downed trees, and the snagged flotsam, such as ripped garbage bags, clinging to them.

The mess remains a home to holdouts against evacuation. Army paratrooper teams, which run foot patrols in neighborhoods from the French Quarter to the Industrial Canal, played loudspeakers down still-flooded streets Thursday. The message to residents ended with a promise they would be rescued.

New Orleans Police Department teams pushed into uncharted territory, finding dry ground around Delgado Community College, for example, and in eastern New Orleans, where some pumps were again working. And with those new frontiers came gruesome evidence of Katrina's toll: a body floating face down in the muck against the Esplanade Avenue bridge over Bayou St. John, another covered by a blanket at the base of one of the two columns marking the City Park entrance to the New Orleans Museum of Art.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

After being turned back by high water from a search for evacuees, members of the Oklahoma National Guard try to navigate a still-flooded I-10 near the Chef Menteur exit.

"We just put it out over the air, and they make a list of them and they can get them," said 1st District NOPD Sgt. Danny Scanlan. Scanlan conceded he had no idea who "they" were, but he noted it wasn't on the NOPD's list of responsibilities to retrieve corpses.

At the intersection of City Park and Orleans avenues, in happier times the launch point for the Endymion parade, Scanlan's patrol found two men walking with a sleek new shotgun. The men, Chris Montero and J.T. Lanasa, were trying to get to Montero's house on South Scott Street to rescue two cats.

"I'm not real comfortable with you having that weapon," Scanlan told them. They named two ranking NOPD officers who they said had told them it was advisable to be armed.

Scanlan returned the shotgun to them but told them to "abort their mission for today" and try again later, when it should be drier.

The 1st District team said it had no orders to remove residents forcibly from their homes despite talk from Superintendent Eddie Compass and Mayor Ray Nagin that a mandatory evacuation was in effect for New Orleans and that the city must be cleared.

NOPD spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said such orders would be issued only as a last resort. "We're still rescuing people and helping those who want to evacuate voluntarily," he added.

During an interview early in the day, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu said officials have yet to determine whether "mandatory evacuation really means mandatory evacuation," forcing people to leave their homes and hauling them out if they refuse.

It could also amount to strongly urging reluctant residents to leave, he said, and warning them of the health risks and the lack of assistance if they stay behind.

Terry Ebbert, the city's director of Homeland Security, said the decision ultimately lies with Compass. "The federal government and the 82nd Airborne Division operate in support of the New Orleans Police Department," Ebbert said.

The evacuation, which Compass insisted would be "strictly a law enforcement, not military" operation, may kick start this weekend, but not all NOPD officers are thrilled with the policy. Some of them said they were uncomfortable with the prospect of forcibly removing residents who have enough water and food to remain in their homes.

"I'm going to do what we're told, we will follow the order, but I'd like to have a meeting about it," said Capt. Jeff Winn, commander of the NOPD's tactical SWAT teams. "I must say that right now the concept is not acceptable to me and I'm worried about situations where SWAT teams are called to remove residents and someone could get hurt."

Working the 7th Ward up toward City Park, Scanlan's team yelled at pedestrians and residents gathered by windows, telling them they had to leave. The sentiments of one household were easy to read, printed as they were in big letters on boarded windows along Esplanade Avenue: "F—K BLANCO, F—K FEMA." The window next door declared, "We've gone to Texas," and a smaller sign on the porch said, "Please stop 'helping' us. Thanks."

The officers frisked some of the "zombies" — cop lingo for survivors the officers think are insane to stay in the city — and the residents said they did not mind the inconvenience.

"You know you got to get out, right?" officer Bryan Mulvey said to Robert Cummings, as Cummings climbed out of a tangle of downed trees on Esplanade Avenue. Scanlan was suspicious of the man's bulging pockets, and he ordered Mulvey to search him. When the search came up empty, Scanlan apologized.

"That's all right, I understand you've got a job to do," Cummings said, saying he was walking "for exercise."

One of those picked up Thursday, Johnny Dunn, said he tried to stay in his Uptown home as long as he could, until the city was simply too quiet and eerie to bear. "There wasn't no civilization," he said. "I got tired of walking around my house seeing nothing and nobody."

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Staff writers Jeff Duncan, Steve Ritea and Gordon Russell contributed to this story.

# Blanco, Bush disagreed on authority over forces

**DEPLOY,** *from A-1*

President Bush on Saturday. But the vast majority of the rescue effort was conducted by state and local authorities, volunteers with flat-bottomed boats that could access the narrow streets where flood victims were stranded on roofs and attics, and by the Louisiana National Guard.

"We pulled out 250,000 people before the Army got here,"said Sam Jones, a former mayor of Franklin who serves as a senior adviser to Blanco and helped organize the boat rescue operation. "By Thursday (Sept. 1), we knew we'd turned a corner."

Despite the presence of 5,700 Guard troops and assistance from the Coast Guard, Navy helicopters and other military assets, which were deployed in advance of Katrina and in its immediate aftermath, state and local officials said there was a need throughout the week for more troops to aid in search and rescue operations, provide food and other assistance and restore order as New Orleans was beset by looting and violence.

Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said the situation was so dire that the need for Army support was obvious. New Orleans was like a dying man who needed CPR, she said, and shouldn't have had to ask for help.

State officials of both parties remained frustrated by the delays in getting federal forces. A review of records and interviews with state, White House and military officials revealed contentious negotiations and apparent miscommunication between the two sides as they tried to cope with a disaster that presented unexpected challenges each day.

Blanco administration officials said the governor spoke twice to Bush - once Sunday morning, in the hours before Katrina made landfall, and again Wednesday morning after the storm. In both telephone conversations, according to Blanco and her senior aides, the governor asked Bush for increased federal help.

"I asked him to send me everything he's got," Blanco said of their first conversation,. In their second conversation, Blanco was more specific, saying the state needed 40,000 troops to restore order and complete the search and rescue mission.

But state officials said the governor didn't ask directly for active-duty troops. Bottcher said the governor was prepared to accept any combination of Guards members and regular Army troops, as long as there were enough numbers to calm the city and complete the rescue effort.

The subject of active-duty troops did not come up until a face-to-face meeting on Air Force One on Sept. 2, when Blanco and Bush spent about 45 minutes meeting behind closed doors. But the president's order to deploy was not made until the following day, and in the meantime the White House and the Blanco administration tussled over who ultimately would be in charge of the rescue effort.

A Bush administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the delay in ordering active-duty forces occurred because the regular Army had to wait for Guard units to be in place before they could deploy.

But Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, a spokesman for the Louisiana National Guard, said, "I don't know how that has anything to do with it."

By law, federal troops are not allowed to engage in law enforcement, which makes the Guard the logical first responder in times of crisis.

The White House official said Bush's mobilization order Sept. 3 came at the appropriate time given the sequence of the various military mobilizations. The official said the prolonged dispute over lines of authority "obviously … caused some problems," but said the disagreement in no way affected the speed at which the Army forces were deployed.

A senior official with the U.S. military said that from the Army's point of view, the president's order is the only criteria for deploying soldiers, whether or not Guards members are in place.

Blanco said this week that she fears the conflict over lines of authority wasted valuable time that she and her staff could have better spent addressing other issues, possibly slowing the relief effort. "It's just a paper war, that's all it is," she said. "This is about the silliest argument that I can think of."

After the meeting on Air Force One, the White House sent Blanco a proposed memorandum of understanding late Friday night that she was urged to sign right away, according to the governor. The memo would have taken the rare step of putting Honore in charge of both the Guards and the active-duty military units while answering to both the president and Blanco, known in the military as dual reporting.

But Blanco, after meetings by her staff that consumed much of Friday night and Saturday morning, declined to sign the memo and opted to preserve her authority of the Guard forces, which by then numbered more than 13,000. Blanco said she did not want to undermine the authority of Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, who leads the Louisiana National Guard and oversees the Guard troops who have arrived from other states.

"The problem with the offer (to federalize) was that when the question was asked, 'How does this make things better?' the question was never answered," said a state official who attended meetings about the issue but asked to remain anonymous because he does not have authority to speak for the governor.

Relief efforts have ramped up rapidly, with more than 18,000 Guard troops from 29 states in Louisiana and about 18,000 active-duty military spread across the Gulf Coast by Thursday, but the delay remained mystifying to some of the local rescue workers who struggled against impossible obstacles to keep people alive at makeshift shelters where conditions deteriorated with each passing hour.

Dr. Gregory Henderson, a pathologist at Ochsner Clinic Foundation who helped set up a makeshift medical clinic at the French Quarter Bar last week, said he will never understand why help didn't arrive sooner

In a brief interview outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Wednesday, where he was tending to evacuees, Henderson said, "That's going to be, at the end of the day, the great mystery."

# 25,000 body bags on hand

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

In Baton Rouge, officials closed the makeshift hospital that sprung up on the floor of the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at Louisiana State University. In 10 days, volunteer doctors and nurses treated 6,000 patients rushed by helicopter and ambulance from New Orleans area rooftops and other places.

Water levels continued to recede throughout the metropolitan area. Some drained through gaps deliberately punched in levees, sluicing back into surrounding waterways that have fallen back to pre-storm levels. In addition, the region's pumping system — still a feeble remnant of its original power — continued to suck at stagnant standing water.

St. Bernard Parish officials reported two feet of water remaining in the government center in Chalmette, which once was flooded up to the second floor.

However, fires continued to break out, although in fewer number. Fire Superintendent Charles Parent said three unidentified multistory buildings burned down at Dillard University on Wednesday.

Thursday saw 11 fires, six of which were inaccessible from the ground, Parent said.

Yet in the context of the horrors of the last week, 11 fires was a good day, he said. Firefighters were heartened by the fact that water pressure has begun to return for the first time, he said.

Still, there were intimations that the dreadful next phase, body recovery, is drawing nearer.

Bob Johannessen, a spokesman for the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said officials have 25,000 body bags on hand. "We don't know what to expect," he said.

Teams set up body recovery points in St. Bernard Parish and at the intersection of Interstate 10 and I-610. Bodies would be carefully logged in, personal effects catalogued and the precise global positioning coordinates of their places of recovery carefully recorded.

The bodies will be sent to a special federal emergency mortuary in St. Gabriel, where sophisticated techniques would be deployed to make an identification.

Authorities said the task promised to be daunting: Many bodies have decomposed. Many were too poor to have dental records useful in identification. Many belong to families who will have to be found after scattering across the country.

Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations Director Walter Maestri estimated that Hurricane Katrina may have killed 200 in that parish.

Many bodies may be trapped in the poor, blue-collar subdivisions of Lincolnshire and Westminster in Marrero. Water rose as high as four feet in those areas, where many residents did not have the means to evacuate, he said.

Crews may begin body retrieval today and Saturday in Marrero and in flooded neighborhoods around Airline Drive, he said.

In a nationally televised speech, President Bush promised to cut through red tape to rush relief to New Orleans and the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coasts.

"The government is going to be with you for the long haul," he said.

U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, told WWL-TV that rebuilding the city could cost more than $200 billion. "It's important to talk about the big number up front," he said.

The president asked that Sept. 16 be treated as a national day of prayer and remembrance.

Vice President Dick Cheney visited the area Thursday. He toured the flooded Lakeview neighborhood with Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Sen. David Vitter, R-La. Cheney said he was impressed with the Army Corps of Engineers' repair work at the breeched 17th Street Canal. He said new taxes are not the answer to paying for the billions of dollars in relief the region will require.

In Kenner, the New Orleans City Council granted Mayor Ray Nagin unprecedented emergency spending and borrowing power to deal with the crisis.

Five council members – all but Councilmen Jay Batt and Eddie Sapir – convened their first post-Katrina meeting at Louis Armstrong International Airport, a city-owned outpost in Kenner. Sapir was en route to the city from out of town, and Batt already had scheduled a conflicting caravan back to his partially flooded district.

The council suspended normal waiting periods and slashed at other procedural safeguards to give Nagin more executive power. Three council members disclosed that they had lost their homes. Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis said her brother, Elliot Willard Jr., is missing.

Council members made clear that they expect to see local businesses and residents drafted into the rebuilding effort facing the city – the better to rebuild its middle class.

"Don't pimp us," Council President Oliver Thomas warned. "Help us rebuild."

As he spoke, workers at major downtown hotels such as the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the Windsor Court and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel hustled to bring them back into commerce, perhaps as housing centers for relief crews and construction workers.

"We'll be up in a couple of weeks," said Kevin Ryan, regional vice president of operations for Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc., which owns the Sheraton. "We want to get people back to work and make sure we rebuild the city as fast as we can."

St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis said as many as 60,000 displaced residents are free to return beginning Friday, although many will have to show identification before being admitted to damaged neighborhoods.

Thousands of homes in flood-damaged Slidell are not yet fit for habitation, he said.

Davis said he has asked federal authorities for 20,000 housing units for homeless families.

But in general, conditions are improving rapidly, Davis said. Power has been restored to a third of the parish, and most roads are open. More businesses are coming back every day, he said.

In Jefferson Parish, isolated signs of life began to spread across the West Bank.

A few stores opened for business here and there west of the Harvey Canal. Three-fourths of Gretna reported it had electrical power. The sewerage treatment plant was working and the city had water, although a boil order was still in effect, Police Chief Arthur Lawson said.

Meantime, conditions are improving rapidly in Kenner and Harahan on the east bank, Maestri said.

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard said officials hoped to open the parish by Sept. 30; he and other parish officials urged residents to stay out, if possible.

Jefferson residents were allowed into the parish on a look-see basis earlier in the week. But Broussard said those electing to stay would not be forced out – although they faced hardships with widespread power outages, water that still must be made safe by boiling, shortages of food and gasoline, and a generally shattered economy.

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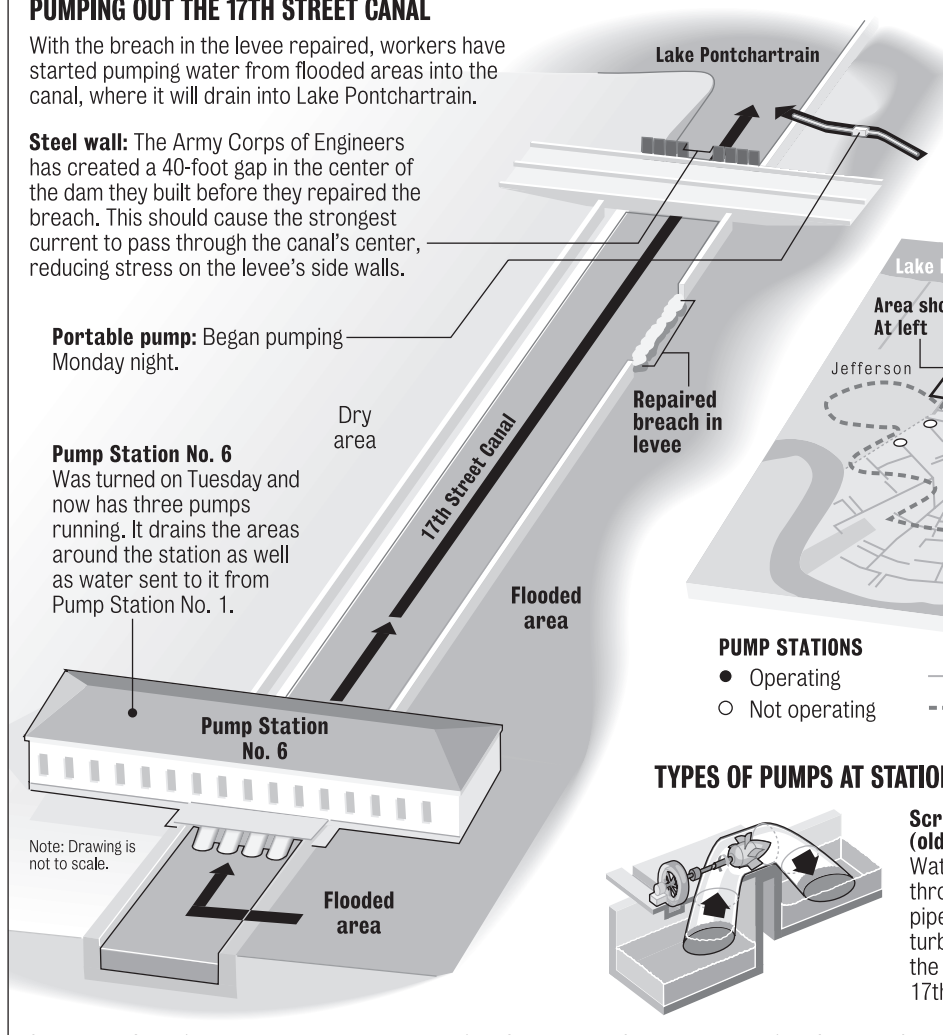
With reporting by Jarvis deBerry, Michele Krupa, Becky Mowbray, John Pope, Manuel Torres and The Associated Press.

## DRAINING THE CITY

By Thursday afternoon, a fifth of the city's major pumps and one portable pump were working to clear the floodwaters.

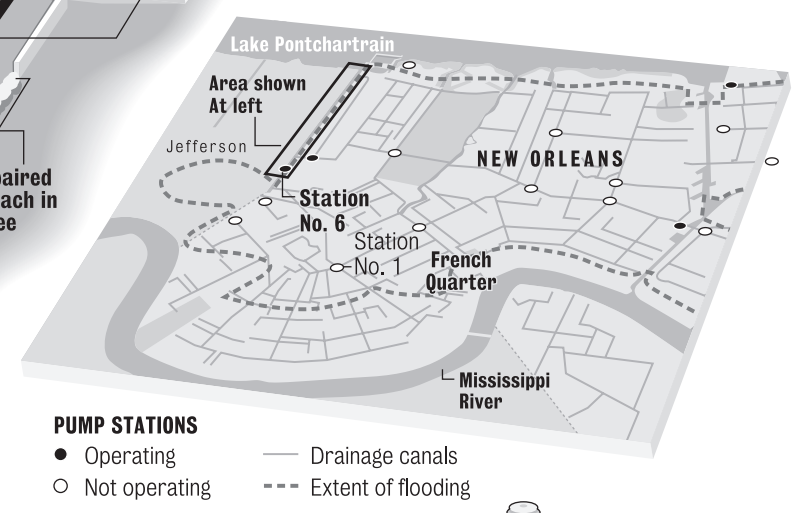
### PUMPING OUT THE 17TH STREET CANAL

With the breach in the levee repaired, workers have started pumping water from flooded areas into the canal, where it will drain into Lake Pontchartrain.




### HOW THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM WORKS

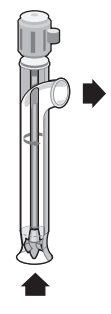
1. Storm runoff collects in drainage canals under the streets.
2. Water is pumped to stations that are next to large canals and the lake.
3. These stations lift both the runoff that is pumped to the station and water from surrounding areas over the levees.




### TYPES OF PUMPS AT STATION NO. 6



**Screw pumps (old design)**
Water is pulled up through large intake pipes, where a rotating turbine pushes it over the levee and into the 17th Street Canal.



**Vertical pumps (new design)**
Water is sucked into the pump by the submerged end of the pipe and propelled.

Sources: Army Corps of Engineers; "National Register Evaluation of New Orleans Drainage System;" "The Pumps of New Orleans," by Sebastian Junger; Patterson Pump, New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board

NEW YORK TIMES GRAPHIC

**Reaching Out to Shell and Motiva Employees**

Our thoughts are with everyone hurt by Hurricane Katrina. Our greatest focus now is to assure the safety and welfare of our employees and their families in the devastated Gulf Coast communities.

If you are a Shell or Motiva employee affected by this natural disaster who has not already contacted your supervisor, we urge you to do so immediately. They can help as you try to manage both your personal and work-related needs.

Contact our emergency response lines at **1-866-745-5489** or **1-877-40-SHELL.** They are open daily from 7 am to 10 pm Central Standard Time, including weekends. Or, if you can access the Web, send an email to **katrinahelp@shell.com** for Human Resources assistance.

These communication lines are dedicated to address your questions related to replacement or redirected payroll, disruptions in banking and mail services, loan assistance, prescription drugs, location-specific information and more. Also, go to **www.shell.com/us** to find other employee assistance information that could provide you some much-needed relief.

**We are here to help.**

**The assistance applies to those who fled as a result of the storm, either renters or home owners, and are still living in a shelter, a hotel or with family. The money is designed to handle disaster needs, including transportation, clothing, housing and food.**

# FEMA offering $2,000 per household

*Whether money is a grant or loan yet to be determined*

**Mary Judice**
Business writer

Many Louisiana and Mississippi residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina and who still need emergency shelter may qualify for a one-time $2,000 payment per household from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The temporary housing program is an attempt to get immediate assistance to those stricken by the storm. However, they may not get their money for 10 days or so.

The assistance applies to those who fled as a result of the storm, either renters or home owners, and are still living in a shelter, a hotel or with family. The money is designed to handle disaster needs, including transportation, clothing, housing and food.

The payment effectively would be an early draw from the benefits that evacuees eventually could get from FEMA. The $2,000 will be deducted from the total package the evacuee would qualify to receive.

To qualify, evacuees must register with FEMA at www.fema.gov or by calling (800) 621-3362. FEMA has not established a center in Baton Rouge to take applications.

A call late Thursday to the hotline could not be completed because of the volume of calls.

So far, more than 400,000 people have registered for assistance by -phone and online. The call centers are open 24 hours a day.

To make an application, an individual needs to provide a social security number, insurance information and a bank account routing number. FEMA said its staff will work around missing information.

The assistance is available to the uninsured as well as to those who have homeowners or renters insurance and may have received a check for emergency expenses from their insurer, said Win Henderson, a spokesperson for FEMA.

He said policy holders with a policy rider for "additional living expenses" do not qualify for the benefit. Typically, such riders are on policies for homes in the $1 million range.

Whether the payment qualifies as a grant or a loan that must be repaid depends on the individual's financial circumstances and the federal package he qualifies for. That can't be determined until the applicant goes through the FEMA process.

Those who receive the money but later discover they don't qualify for it as a grant must repay it.

For those who do qualify for the money, Henderson said the $2,000 is not taxable by the Internal Revenue Service.

Evacuees in the Astrodome in Houston will receive a debit card from which they can withdraw the $2,000, David Passey of FEMA said in Baton Rouge on Thursday.

All other evacuees will receive their money by check, mailed to their current address, or by electronic deposit into their bank account.

Passey said those applying should expect to receive payment in 10 days to two weeks. Approximately 24 hours after applying, evacuees may check to see the status of their request.

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Sandy Barbier contributed to this story



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Louisiana National Guard trucks, along with hundreds of yards of barbed wire, surround the Alario Center in Westwego, site of a FEMA supply station that was giving away water, food and ice to residents of Jefferson Parish. In addition to the supplies, FEMA is offering a one-time, $2,000 payment to qualifying households for those needing immediate assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

# N.O. council grants Nagin free rein on spending

*Somber tales shared at post-storm meeting*

**By Stephanie Grace and Frank Donze**
Staff writers

As usual, the day started with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

But from that point on, New Orleans City Council members threw out the rule book, holding an extraordinary, emotional meeting – their first since the city they govern was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

With a crippled City Hall still off limits, five members of the council, including three who think they lost their homes to floodwaters, gathered in a conference room at Louis Armstrong International Airport to grant emergency spending powers to Mayor Ray Nagin's administration.

They also took the opportunity to bare their souls about the catastrophe that has rendered New Orleans a partially submerged, heavily fortified ghost town. And they began to plot a strategy to get their constituents and the businesses that employ them back home.

That won't happen any time soon. Nagin this week extended his mandatory evacuation order for the city's east bank through the first week of October, citing contaminated standing water and the lack of basic services. Even after the mayor gives the all-clear, residents likely will be able to return only a section at a time, Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield said.

Acutely aware that evacuees are anxious about their homes' security, Council President Oliver Thomas said he has been told that the military will stay for "as long as it takes," although he added that he has not seen that pledge in writing.

Business owners might not have to wait much longer to get a look at the damage. The council asked the administration to let local companies retrieve payroll records and other essentials as soon as possible so they can temporarily operate elsewhere. Council members also hope to let construction firms pick up their equipment so they can help with the massive rebuilding effort.

Driving home the point that quick action is needed, Councilwoman Renee

Gill Pratt said she has heard from funeral home owners who were forced to delay burials as the storm approached.

"The bodies need to come out," she said.

For much of the meeting, council members spoke somberly, recalling images of floating corpses, whole neighborhoods under water and rampant looting.

But there were also moments of gallows humor. Noting that he probably won't salvage much from his flooded Broadmoor home, the 6-foot-6 Thomas said: "It's a good thing I have tall friends. I have on their clothing."

The five members present – Thomas, Pratt, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Cynthia Hedge Morrell and Cynthia Willard-Lewis, unanimously agreed to hand the administration unprecedented borrowing authority to keep the city afloat and to draw upon all cash reserves and accounts, regardless of how the money is earmarked. In a rare departure from normal checks and balances, the action allows Hatfield and finance director Reggie Zeno to choose lenders and set terms without returning to the council for final approval.

**Council members also took the opportunity to bare their souls about the catastrophe that has rendered New Orleans a partially submerged, heavily fortified ghost town. And they began to plot a strategy to get their constituents and the businesses that employ them back home.**

The council also waived the City Charter's requirement that such measures be introduced at one meeting for approval at later one.

Unable to recall the official numbering system for city laws, the deputy city attorney improvised and labeled the first ordinance K-1, for Katrina. With virtually no staff on hand, the council drafted deputy fiscal officer Barbara Avalos to step in as acting clerk, enabling her to sign the documents and forward them to the mayor.

Councilman Eddie Sapir did not attend the meeting because he was en route to the city, and Councilman Jay Batt had a scheduling conflict in the form of a previously arranged caravan back to his partially flooded district.

With official business taken care of, council members used the forum to demand that local businesses play a major role in the city's reconstruction and that contractors hire local people.

The goal, Thomas said, is to bring displaced New Orleanians back from places as far away as Utah and Minnesota and re-create a local middle class. His message to the business community: "Don't pimp us. Help us rebuild."

That's a particularly urgent need, several council members said, because a handful of other states are courting evacuees with the prospect of jobs, housing and schools.

With many families still searching for loved ones, Willard-Lewis called on Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates and his company to set up a comprehensive survivor notification database. She also asked President Bush to formulate an interim relocation strategy for survivors, to bring them closer to home, and asked FEMA to extend its benefits.

Much of the remainder of the meeting was spent recounting the horrors of the storm. Morrell listed the thriving neighborhoods in her district that have been lost, including Pontchartrain Park, the city's first middle class African-American subdivision, as well as Indian Village, Sugar Hill and Gentilly Woods.

Willard-Lewis described a flyover of her district: "The lake blended into the Industrial Canal, and the canal blended into the Mississippi River. New Orleans East was a body of water. There was no land."

Later in the meeting, Willard-Lewis trod even more personal ground. She revealed that one of her brothers, Elliot Willard Jr., namesake and son of the former Orleans Parish School Board member, is among the missing.

Thomas bemoaned the slow response by the federal government immediately after the storm passed and criticized people who blame local and state authorities for not doing enough. Calling New Orleans "this little place," he said "it's crazy to say that we should have taken the lead. Our job is to prepare. We don't have the ability to manage a disaster of this size."

"I call this 'ground below zero,'" Thomas said. "We were so far south that they almost forgot about us."

But the council president also had some harsh words for local thugs who terrorized the city during the first chaotic days after Katrina. Noting the widely broadcast images of looters hauling electronics out of stores, he struck an exasperated pose and asked why anyone would want a TV that they can't plug in.

"Whatever happens to you, you deserve," he said, referring to the looters.

The council also offered the highest possible praise to police and firefighters who left their families to protect the city, without radios and in some cases without ammunition; Sewerage & Water Board workers who struggled to keep the utilities from failing completely; Entergy officials who moved in quickly to begin restoring power, and Zeno, who has managed to keep paying city workers.

Although they supported the Nagin administration's efforts to fully evacuate the city, council members expressed sympathetic respect for people who refuse to leave.

Although she disagrees with the sentiment, Clarkson said, "The spirit of these people who won't leave their homes is the spirit that will rebuild this city."


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# Facing his own storm, Bush reassures evacuees

## *Congress OKs another $51.8 billion in aid*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Under fire for his response to Hurricane Katrina, President Bush took to the airwaves Thursday to assure the tens of thousands of Gulf Coast evacuees that his administration was moving quickly to help them.

In an unusual midday address, a somber Bush also declared Sept. 16 a national day of prayer and remembrance for the dead and those who have been displaced by the storm.

"The people who have been hurt by this storm need to know that the government is going to be with you for the long haul," Bush said in an address from the Old Executive Office Building next to the White House.

Polls show that the American public is less than enthused with the president's response to the Aug. 29 storm and the resulting flooding. When CBS polled 725 adults Tuesday and Wednesday, it found that 38 percent approved of Bush's handling of the storm's aftermath. Nearly half, 49 percent, said they had little or no confidence in the federal government's ability to respond to natural disasters.

As the president was speaking, Congress was moving toward passage of a $51.8 billion aid package targeting relief and recovery efforts. The House passed the measure 410-11. One of those voting against was Rep. Thomas Tancredo, R-Colo., who urged Republican leaders to keep the money away from politicians in Louisiana.

"The question is not whether Congress should provide for those in need, but whether state and local officials who have been derelict in their duty should be trusted with the money," Tancredo wrote in a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and House appropriators. "Their record during Katrina and the long history of public corruption in Louisiana convinces me they should not."

The Senate unanimously approved the bill Thursday.

The assistance is in addition to $10.5 billion OK'd by Congress last week for a disaster whose price tag is still unknown. The administration said it planned to return to Congress in a few weeks with yet another financial assistance request.

Just to make sure the money — the bulk of which is directed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency — isn't misspent, Congress added $15 million for audits.

Despite the bipartisan good will surrounding efforts to help hurricane victims, a sharp divide has opened over investigating the Bush administration's response to it. Democrats said they would boycott a Republican-led committee proposed by Hastert and Senate Republican Leader Bill Frist. Democrats called for an independent probe such as the one that investigated the government's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In his speech, Bush urged people displaced by the storm to sign up for $2,000-per-household in emergency assistance that FMEA unveiled Wednesday. People can register over the phone at 1-800-621-FEMA or on the Internet at www.fema.gov.

Bush also said he was making it easier for displaced people to get public assistance by granting "evacuee status" to those from parishes declared disaster areas, including the entire metropolitan New Orleans area. The special designation will allow people to apply for and collect benefits through a host of public assistance programs without the paperwork normally required.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**TraceSecurity, Inc.,**
recently seen in The New York Times, and on CNN, has openings for the following positions in Baton Rouge HQ:

**Inside Sales**
3-5 years inside business sales

**Security Engineers**
unix/linux & networking exp, travel required

**Project Scheduler**
2-5 years project exp. I.T. exp a +

**Executive Assistant**
3-5 years experience supporting multiple executives

**All require college degree and technology proficient.**

Send resumes to
**jobs@tracesecurity.com**
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# Post-9/11 incentives could work for N.O.

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Four years ago, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., remembers the predictions that businesses and residents wouldn't return to downtown Manhattan after the World Trade Center towers were toppled in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

But they did, along with a lot of new businesses and people, thanks to a series of tax credits and other inducements. Appearing with Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, at a news conference Thursday, Schumer predicted the same could be true for New Orleans, with the right mix of government aid and incentives.

"Everyone forgets there was a real view that downtown could just be hollowed out and nobody would want to be there ever again," Schumer said. "And we decided that we had to move quickly ... to give people hope so they don't get stuck in their head, 'I got to go somewhere else.'"

What worked, Schumer said, was $20 billion in federal aid, grants of as much as $12,000 to cover up to 30 percent of rental or mortgage costs over two years, as much as $1,500 for parents with children who made at least a one-year commitment to live in lower Manhattan, and tax-exempt financing that cost $1.2 billion but leveraged tens of billions of dollars in new construction.

The trick, Schumer said, was to do everything at once: the residential units, the shopping and businesses, and transportation facilities.

"People weren't going to move back unless they knew there were supermarkets and dry cleaners, but dry cleaners and supermarkets wouldn't be open unless they knew there were people," Schumer said.

Jefferson concedes that the obstacles facing New Orleans are greater than New York's after Sept. 11, 2001.

New York had part of its downtown evacuated, but all of New Orleans is under evacuation orders. New Orleans' airport, schools, many government offices and thousands of businesses aren't functioning, and that was never the case in New York.

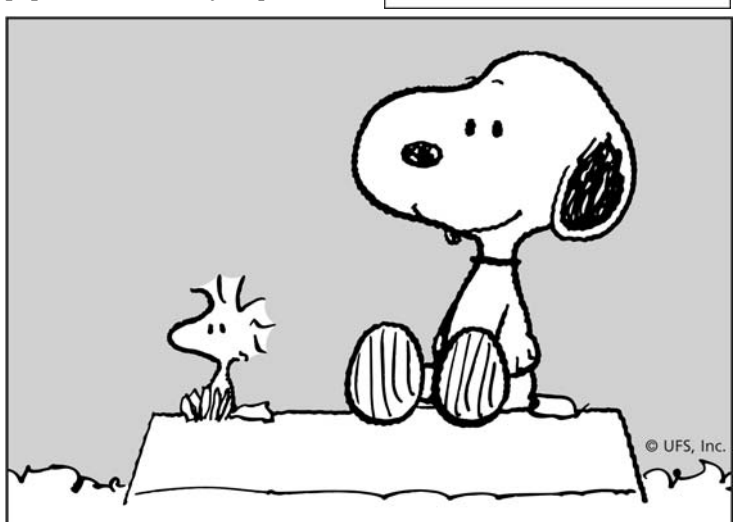
But Jefferson said he thinks the incentives used to lure people and businesses back to lower Manhattan can do the same for those who until Hurricane Katrina called New Orleans home.

"At the end of the day, we want to see our people come back home, reunited with their culture, reunited with their families, reunited in a place they can identify as their home," Jefferson said.

Incentives, including job training and help with rent and mortgage payments, could bring people back to New Orleans, and tax incentives could convince businesses to return, as well, Jefferson said.

"If you know, 25 percent to 50 percent rental assistance worked in New York, you may need 50 percent to 75 percent or even 100 percent at certain times in New Orleans," Schumer added. He also said that incentive programs need to be put in place quickly.

Jefferson and Schumer said that Congress, while divided on party lines over how much blame to place on the Bush administration for the inadequate rescue efforts, generally agrees that New Orleans should be rebuilt. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said last week that it isn't necessarily a good idea to rebuild New Orleans, but since then put out a modified statement that he only meant the city should be rebuilt so it isn't as vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding.




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# Looting suspects held at Greyhound terminal



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Billy Mahuron of the Kentucky Department of Corrections talks to a handcuffed Kenneth Corner at the Union Passenger Terminal in New Orleans. Corner was taken to the terminal Thursday after being arrested on charges of being drunk and disorderly. Of the more than 200 suspects who have passed through the temporary jail, an overwhelming majority, 178 as of Wednesday, were accused of looting.

*After processing, they are moved to cells elsewhere*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

The first suspect locked up at Camp Greyhound, the temporary jail built in the New Orleans bus terminal to house people accused of looting and other crimes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, unwittingly walked smack dab into the hands of the law, police say.

Louisiana prison officials love telling the story.

"He drove up in a stolen Enterprise rental car to buy a bus ticket," Louisiana State Penitentiary Warden Burl Cain said Thursday morning. "He got a ticket, all right."

Claude Mamone was arrested, fingerprinted, photographed and housed briefly in the bus terminal on Loyola Ave. that substitutes for flooded Orleans Parish Prison. On Saturday, he was shipped to the state prison at St. Gabriel, where he was awaiting trial Wednesday.

Mamone is one of 223 suspects who have passed through Union Passenger Terminal since the storm hit.

The overwhelming majority, 178 as of Wednesday, are accused of looting. Twenty were booked with resisting arrest; 26 with having stolen cars; 14 with theft; and nine with attempted murder. One was booked with not having a driver's license, and three people were accused of disturbing the peace, a misdemeanor.

The new lockup isn't far from the original parish prison, from which about 7,000 inmates were evacuated last week and dispersed across the state prison system.

Camp Greyhound has room for 700 suspects. In the past week, 155 came from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office; 39 were nabbed by Kenner police. New Orleans police brought in 17, and the rest were hauled in by the state attorney general's office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Marshals Service. Even the Army brought in one of its own, a deserter.

Take away the federal agents toting assault rifles and 12-gauge shotguns, and the interior of the terminal appeared frozen in time, a time before Katrina struck.

The only newspaper on sale in the coin machines was a USA Today from Aug. 26 to 28, with a giant photograph of Martha Stewart on the front page and a tiny picture of Katrina's first swipe at south Florida.

The suspects were caged outside. The group of about 50 awaiting transportation to prisons elsewhere were generally quiet Thursday. Some lay on the pavement of the station's parking lot; a few were barefoot. Several called out for help when visitors passed by.

Cain allowed reporters to talk to some detainees, but in the blunt language spoken by those who spend their work days dealing with the impoverished and disease-stricken inmate population, he cautioned against trying to communicate with others.

"They might spit on you," Cain cautioned. "They might have AIDS."

"I have rights," a long-haired and bearded wisp of a man called out from cell No. 8. "Please, sir."

Cain pronounced the young man mentally disturbed and said he believed he had been booked with looting. In his temporary cell, the long-haired man behaved strangely.

"He stuck his head in a bucket (of clean water) and then started drinking the filthy water," Cain said.

Another man who had come and gone was booked with looting a Walgreens pharmacy.

"He was in a stupor for eight hours until he came down," Cain said. "We were afraid he was going to overdose."

Cain said he brought a psychiatric nurse from Angola to treat other suspects.

A few of the detainees have been accused of violence: Lance Madison, 48, of New Orleans was booked with eight counts of attempted murder of a police officer after being nabbed by 7th District officers Sept. 4. Madison fired at an officer at the intersection of Chef Menteur Highway and Downman Road, and when reinforcements arrived, he shot at them, too, according to the police report of the incident. Madison finally fled and threw his handgun into the Industrial Canal before the cops caught up with him, police say.

Lance was transferred Sept. 4 to the Hunt Correctional Facility.

"Welcome to New Angola South," said a handwritten sign on the gate leading to the outdoor lockup at Camp Greyhound, a row of 16 cells made of chain-link fencing topped with razor wire.

The facility is the result of work by Louisiana Department of Corrections Secretary Richard Stalder and state Attorney General Charles Foti Jr., who for nearly 30 years was Orleans Parish criminal sheriff. Foti's successor, Marlin Gusman, isn't involved with the bus terminal facility, Cain said. Instead, Gusman is dealing with administrative issues, such as payroll and securing records at the prison.

The temporary jail was constructed by inmates from Angola and Dixon state prisons and was outfitted with everything a stranded law enforcer could want, including top-of-the-line recreational vehicles to live in and electrical power, courtesy of a yellow Amtrak locomotive. There are computers to check suspects' backgrounds and a mug shot station — complete with heights marked in black on the wall that serves as the backdrop.

Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan's office has a designated work space, as does U.S. Attorney Jim Letten's. Two young state prosecutors worked at a table Thursday in the center of the station, casual clothes offsetting their courtroom faces as they screened cases.

On Thursday, one cell included three men from Syria who were said by police to have been carrying $14,000 in cash that no one with a badge believed they earned honestly.

Several of the men locked up Thursday said they did only what they had to do in the wake of the storm.

"My son wanted fruit punch," Melvin Jackson, 35, of Marrero told Cain through the chain-link fence. Jackson, who was arrested Sept. 4 in the 6600 block of the Westbank Expressway, was being held in lieu of $50,000 bond. The fruit punch was supplemented with booze stolen from Mike's Liquor Store, according to police.

In the eyes of its makers, the art deco Greyhound station is the sensible, practical and legally prudent place to house suspects, a place for police to process them swiftly and send them to a holding cell unless they can make their bail.

To the inmates, it's an added twist to the post-Katrina ordeal. Several of the new arrivals loudly insisted they were wrongly arrested Thursday.

Kenneth Corner of Uptown was picked up for public drunkenness. "If I don't leave my house, who is going to feed me?" said Corner, who was slouched in a plastic bus station seat with his wrists handcuffed behind him.

Billy Mahuron, a Kentucky prison guard working in New Orleans, replied, "It's for your own good." If you stay on in New Orleans, he said, "disease is going to get you."

Mahuron, 26, of Shelbyville, who works as a "safety specialist" at a women's prison in Pewee Valley, Ky., said the New Orleans trip was his first, though he had planned on attending Mardi Gras next year.

"I think it's a shame that citizens turned against the city like this," he said. "Where I'm from, this wouldn't have happened."

The fresh arrests are interviewed, photographed, fingerprinted and then tagged with wristbands: Pink for federal cases; red, yellow or blue for various felonies, green for misdemeanors, and blue for women, of which there have been 38, officials said Thursday.

"You hear stores about (police) letting people go," Cain said. "That's bull- - - -. We got a jail."

Cain, 63, a native of Vernon Parish who has run the state's maximum security prison at Angola for 10½ years, said he is proud of the operation.

"A looter to me is no different from a grave robber," he said.

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Rosezana Gould and Richard London, a homeless couple, head for an evacuation bus outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Thursday. London said he and Gould are used to living on the streets of New Orleans and wanted to stay, but in the end they reluctantly left.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

New Orleans police officers gather on a small bridge in Mid-City after discovering a body in Bayou St. John on Thursday.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Nicole Greenwood of Vancouver performs what she called a 'nerve assist' on Miami K-9 officer Brian Thompson in a tent run by Scientologists outside Harrah's on Thursday. The group also offered basic supplies and tetanus shots for relief workers.

# RESCUE AND RECOVERY

While still working tirelessly to rescue and evacuate storm survivors, police and military troops are tackling the grim task of recovering the bodies of those who succumbed to Katrina's initial onslaught and those who perished in its aftermath.




STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

A medical helicopter lowers a soldier and two other people to a rooftop near the Union Passenger Terminal on Thursday.

# Death toll in Jeff could reach 200

## *Parish feverishly works to recover dead, clean up*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

For the first time since Hurricane Katrina, Jefferson Parish authorities estimated Thursday that at least 200 residents perished in the storm, many of their bodies likely trapped in apartment buildings and in the flood-ravaged Lincolnshire and Westminster neighborhoods from which residents didn't have means to evacuate.

The grim task of recovering the dead in those Marrero subdivisions and swamped portions of Old Metairie and around Airline Highway could begin soon, while workers elsewhere continued to restore electricity, water and sewerage services so Jefferson can become a staging area for the recovery of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, Emergency Management Director Walter Maestri said Thursday.

The process, however, has been hampered by communication problems across the region. Cell phone service is spotty, Parish President Aaron Broussard said, and there are too few radios and walkie-talkies to direct information quickly to thousands of police officers and armed military personnel manning the parish streets, and satellite phones don't work.

"We are having a tough time getting in touch with New Orleans," Maestri said. "There are very few officials still there."

Red Cross opened its regional warehouse at a Kmart store at Lapalco and Ames boulevards in Marrero, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up a base at nearby Belle Terre Playground, Maestri and agency officials said. From those sites, rescue workers with food and medical supplies were dispatched to Behrman Stadium in Algiers and to other New Orleans locations.

A FEMA spokeswoman said her agency on Thursday was considering moving its headquarters from Baton Rouge to Belle Terre or to another West Jefferson location.

As residents re-entered the parish Thursday morning, the last of four days they would be allowed to return to visit homes, electricity sparked on major roads. Tastee Donuts, Walgreens, Domino's Pizza and a few gasoline stations opened on the West Bank Expressway, west of the Harvey Canal. Parish leaders said businesses would be allowed to continue operating, despite a dusk-to-dawn curfew that went into effect at 6 p.m. Thursday, when the parish shut down to any more outside entrants until further notice.

But even with citizens mostly locked out, Parish Councilman Chris Roberts said he spoke Thursday with real estate agents who were swamped with requests for homes and offices to rent or buy in West Jefferson, the area of greater New Orleans expected to bounce back fastest from the hurricane.

"He can't even handle the number of phone calls coming from people asking for commercial property," Roberts said of one agent.

Though Broussard has set a goal of Sept. 30 to have critical infrastructure restored in Jefferson Parish, Maestri said allowing residents to return on that date could compromise efforts to relieve areas hardest-hit by Katrina.

"We know people want to come home, but that can interfere with the recovery process" in Orleans and St. Bernard, he said.

Jefferson residents who chose to stay in their homes after Thursday's re-entry deadline would not be forced to leave, officials said, though they warned that lack of critical services such as power, water and sewerage would make life uncomfortable. A boil-water order remained in effect.

For those who stayed, five public elementary schools opened Thursday as medical clinics and food distribution sites under an emergency parish program dubbed Operation Lifeline Depot.

At Ames Elementary School on Marrero's Pine Street, a steady stream of cars stopped in Thursday for ice, water, military-style meals and sometimes a stop into the ambulance for advice about a swollen ankle or itchy rash. Neighbor Milton Veazie, a retired cab driver, volunteered to dispatch provisions.

With sweat beading on his head even in the patch of shade he managed to find, Veazie said the amount of food and quality of medical service available after the storm was unprecedented.

"We didn't have anything like this during Betsy," he said. "People are being treated well this time."

The other locations are :

- St. Ville Elementary Library, 1121 Pailet Ave., Marrero
- Marrero-Estelle Fire Station, 3190 Destrehan Ave, Harvey
- Lincoln Elementary, 1429 Ames Blvd., Marrero
- Herb Wallace Fire Station, 4040 U.S. 90 West, Avondale

Across the parish, residents clearing their property were urged to get immunized against tetanus and Hepatitis A and B. Free shots were available at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, Ochsner Foundation Clinic in Jefferson and West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero.




STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Bob Nolan of Westwego, left, fills out a form to receive a free tetanus shot Thursday afternoon in front of West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero. Free shots for tetanus and hepatitis A and B were offered at West Jefferson, which is fully operational, as well as at East Jefferson General Hospital and the Ochsner Clinic Foundation through Wednesday.

Around noon, dozens lined up at a vaccination tent outside West Jefferson Medical Center. For some, it was just one of many stops they intended to make at a tent hospital set up in the facility's parking lot and lawn to augment the full services available inside. The facility, run in part by a pair of federal agencies that provide medical relief in disasters, had private exam rooms, an air-conditioned administration office and a pharmacy.

Stationed outside was Frank Torres, a Federal Protection Service police officer from the Bronx. He wore a black bulletproof vest, dark sunglasses and a P90 submachine gun. West Jefferson workers had nicknamed him "The Wall."

Torres said he was assigned to a 30-day stint to protect the hospital from looters. By Thursday morning, he had already heard automatic weapon fire in neighborhoods west of the medical center. But Torres said no one had bothered the clinic operation.

"I guess just looking at it is intimidating enough," he said, nodding toward his weapon.

Across town, about 50 cars lined up in Westwego to get ice, water and food at the Alario Center, its parking lot jammed with camouflage-painted military trucks and a temporary fence topped with barbed wire. Sitting at the side of the road inside the open trunk of their car, Sheila Attaway, Amanda Harris and 4-year-old Sky Benitez clocked the fourth hour of their wait for a friend to return with gasoline to refill the empty tank.



Amanda Harris, left, Sheila Attaway and her niece, Sky Benitez, 4, hang out in the trunk of their car Thursday, four hours after it ran out of gas while waiting in line for water, ice and food at the Alario Center in Westwego.

The group survived Katrina in the Westwood neighborhood of Marrero, but on the 10th day after the storm's landfall, even as some residents were starting to rebuild their homes, Attaway was thinking about pulling up stakes forever. She said she had not heard from her boss at Boomtown Casino and feared she might lose her job.

Without air conditioning, she was sleeping in stifling heat, and her son had invited her to move closer to him in North Dakota.

"Our landlord is ready to kick us out because we haven't paid the rent," Attaway said. "We're kind of stuck. We're aggravated, too. We're thinking of moving up North."

# Cash urgently sought to sustain schools

## *Tearful Jeff chief fears mass exodus*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - In an emotional appeal for immediate federal help, the superintendent of Jefferson Parish public schools said Thursday she feared that the longer it takes to reopen schools, the fewer people will come back from their far-flung shelters and temporary housing.

Superintendent Diane Roussel broke into tears as she spoke before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. She said her district is trying to rebuild from Hurricane Katrina with its cash reserves nearly gone and its residents largely out of work and unable to pay the sales and property taxes that finance schools. And the community "more than ever" needs the stability schools provide.

"We must rebuild quickly. The longer it takes to rebuild, people will stay away, our teachers will not come back, our workers will not come back and an important part of the economy of our state and country will be gone, not to mention the culture and human resources," Roussel said before breaking into tears.

A few minutes later, Roussel drew a laugh when she described herself as the type of person who rarely cries, someone who "grew up with three brothers, was once a high school principal" and generally can take care of herself. It was her misfortune, she told Committee Chairman Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., and the panel's ranking Democrat, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., that her tears were captured on national television.

School districts devastated by Hurricane Katrina, she said, are faced with almost unprecedented challenges at a time when their finances are in dire straits.

The normal reimbursement process of "spend, document and then be reimbursed," Roussel said, is no longer viable because of a lack of financial resources and the loss of financial records. She pleaded with the committee for allocations and more flexible financing formulas that would enable her district to repair its schools quickly and replace the broken computers and waterlogged books.

Roussel said one-third of the parish's 84 schools escaped major damage and probably could be operational soon after power and water are restored to the parish. About half the schools are damaged but probably could be partially used for instruction, and the remainder suffered so much damage that they probably won't be available until 2006 or 2007, assuming they can ever be repaired, she said.

It's her hope, Roussel said, that the schools could be a hub, which along with temporary housing, can allow families to return to Jefferson Parish so that they can fill the rebuilding jobs so important to the metro area's recovery.

Since her district's schools are in better shape than those in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, she said, it's likely that the district will have to absorb students from those school districts.

That task is made more difficult, she said, by the state's preliminary decision to reallocate about one-third of the formula assistance provided to districts not accepting students to help districts taking in the estimated 135,000 displaced public school students in the state.

Roussel likened that policy to "robbing one person to pay another." One solution, she said, would be for the federal government to let her use earmarked federal funds, such as Title I aid designed to aid economically disadvantaged students, and special education money for disabled students "to get the district back up and running."

Michael Casserly, head of the Great City Schools Association, said that in New Orleans only eight of the district's 128 schools escaped serious damage, and the district will need significant federal help to rebuild. He recommended that Congress allocate "dedicated funding" to help districts with damaged schools reopen and another account for districts taking in dislocated students.

Kennedy said if he has anything to say about it, the resources provided to Jefferson, Orleans and other communities will be substantial.

He said the hurricane and the damage it caused is of "biblical proportions" but praised the willingness of districts in Baton Rouge, Houston and other areas to pick up the slack.

"It's our turn in Congress to reach out and provide the resources needed for schools to take these students in, while also helping to rebuild educational institutions devastated by Katrina," Kennedy said.

Leonard Merrell, superintendent of Katy Independent Schools, just outside Houston, said his district has taken in 900 students displaced by the hurricane, and he anticipates many more. He asked the senators to help the district meet the demand.

But he assured them that the district's new students would get a quality education, in some cases taught by out-of-work teachers from Louisiana. The students, he added, are being warmly welcomed by their fellow classmates because of all they've been through.

Joseph Savoie, the Louisiana commissioner of higher education, said colleges in southern Louisiana have been seriously disrupted, and the state will need $1 billion in federal aid to finance repairs and reconstruction and to help pay tuition for displaced college students.

# Dillard University scarred by Katrina

**By Jarvis DeBerry**
Staff writer

Though the rash of fires in New Orleans generally has abated, Dillard University got bad news Thursday as New Orleans Fire Superintendent Charles G. Parent announced that three "multi-story" buildings on the campus have burned.

Dillard has several dormitories that have multiple floors, but Parent didn't know which buildings burned, and he wouldn't speculate. Nor would he guess what started the fire. But he said he believed that the damage, inflicted Wednesday, was severe.

"From what I understand they were destroyed," he said. "It doesn't look like they are salvageable."

Speaking at a Thursday morning news conference at City Hall, Parent said the New Orleans Fire Department responded to 11 fires Wednesday. Six were inaccessible to tanker trucks, he said, and had to be contained by helicopters dropping water from above.

Parent declined to say whether he thought the fires were set by arsonists. "I'm not going to assume," he said. "You can't do an investigation by air."

When asked if a fire could conceivably start with nobody around, Parent said, "Anything's conceivable." Reactive chemicals could have gotten sloshed around together in a chemistry lab, he said, before cutting off the guessing game.

Even though the area is too watery to be reached, he expects that his investigators will find clues when they are able to make it to the Gentilly Boulevard campus.

He said the fires at Dillard hadn't been completely extinguished but that they had been contained.

The majority of Parent's comments Thursday revealed real progress in the city. The number of fires had fallen off precipitously, and water was once again flowing through the city's mains. Although the water's not safe to drink, it doesn't have to be clean to put out fires. The average water pressure in the city Thursday morning was 65 pounds per square inch, he said. On a good day, the average pressure in the Central Business District is 95 psi and 75 psi in the city's outlying areas, he said. Nevertheless, the fact that they had even a below-average water pressure boosted the morale of his firefighters, Parent said.

"Before, it was simply alien to us to fight an urban fire without any water," he said.

Third District Chief Gary Haydel said later Thursday that the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina had forced the department to become creative. Haydel has been fighting fires for 28 years, and "I've never been able to call on a water drop before," he said, referring to the helicopters that dangle huge buckets from long wires, scoop water out of the river or the lake and drop it onto burning buildings.

He said firefighters battled some blazes with water sucked up from floodwaters around them.

And reinforcements have been arriving from around the nation, he said. Thursday brought a blissfully slow morning at the Central Fire Station on Decatur Street, but visiting firefighters, many of them veterans of the terrorist attacks in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, were ready to go if needed.

New Yorker Peter Acton was one. He had come down from Engine 79 in the Bronx because he remembered what happened four years ago.

"We all wanted to do something to repay, and more importantly thank, Louisiana for all they did during 9/11," he said. Acton flew to New Orleans Monday and expected to stay two or three more weeks, he said.

He said there was a list of a thousand names of people who wanted to come to New Orleans to help.

Haydel said his department would have a ceremony Sunday – the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks – to remember those firefighters who died when the World Trade Center twin towers collapsed.

He said he expects that New Orleans' current catastrophe will help the New York firefighters "deal with what they had to deal with." But the brotherhood between firefighters is such that he said he could have counted on help from New York even if the city had never been attacked.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY AMANDA MCCOY

'Each one is a victory,' said Jennifer Riisness, salvaging family photos by washing them off in a container of water on the front porch of her Girod Street home in Mandeville. Riisness said she was not sure if she wants to continue to live so close to the lake, but also said she would miss the idea of leaving her old house.

# Mandeville lakefront aims to retain charm

*Katrina destroyed distinguished homes*




The front steps of a home in the 1600 block of Lakeshore Drive in Mandeville lead to nowhere on Thursday, the result of Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge and winds. The area is home to many historic buildings, some more than 100 years old.

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

Amid the wreckage scattered up and down Mandeville's lakefront, small flourishes of the once-charming row of historic homes shine through the debris.

A wrought-iron fence topped with fleur-de-lis medallions frames a yard where very little of the destroyed house remains. Intricate woodwork lines the overhang of a porch, still standing despite its missing columns. Carved wooden finials adorn a front staircase that leads nowhere.

Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge and winds battered Lakeshore Drive, a stretch of Mandeville's most identifiable homes and businesses, some of which date back more than a century. One of the few familiar sights on the lakefront Thursday was a single brown pelican that perched on a pier in Lake Pontchartrain while homeowners picked through the shattered buildings nearby.

"My family's been here for 148 years and we never, ever, ever had something like this happen," said Londi Moore, 47, whose first floor was wiped out.

Though her house, at the east end of the lakefront, was raised, Moore lost the contents of the first-floor bedroom, bathroom and meditation area. Most precious to her were a wedding ring, a watch and other items left behind by her father, who died when she was 18.

Before the storm, Ron Stoessell, Moore's husband, could hardly drive through town without passing a landmark built by his grandfather, Ernest Prieto. Many of them lay shattered Thursday.

Two doors down, a house owned by Stoessell's sister stood in much worse shape than his. It was one of four houses Ernest Prieto built for his children. All Moore could pull out were 14 pieces of heirloom silverware.

Despite the extensive damage, owners of the lakefront homes could see their property values skyrocket, Moore predicted. She said a family whose New Orleans home and two Navarre Beach homes were destroyed offered her $48,000 cash to rent the undamaged second floor of her house for six months. She turned it down, but surmised that many families strapped for cash to repair will sell to newcomers attracted to the serene water views outside their front doors.

"Now what you're going to have is no multigenerational families on the lakefront," Moore said.

Greg Reardon, 47, said he had no doubt he would refurbish the home his parents bought in 1964.

Known as "Time Out," the house painted "Covington blue" was built by candy maker Joe Elmer within the past century, Reardon said. Though most of the original house withstood the storm, its porch columns and master bedroom addition were ripped off. Only a mirror hung on the wall that now faced outward.

"We think a tornado came through," Reardon said, pointing out that there was very little water damage in his house and no flooding in his neighbor's house, whose kitchen opened out to the yard with all of its contents sprayed everywhere.

A tiki head carved from an old stump kept watch on Reardon's front porch and bore the sign: "This building is not safe and its use or occupancy has been prohibited by the building inspector." Next to the smiling statue rested a once-soggy stuffed dog and a water bowl – a scene Reardon jokingly set up after at least three people asked him why he had left what they thought was a dead dog lying on his porch.

Less comical to Reardon on Thursday were the droves of sightseers who paused one after another to gaze at his and neighbors' houses. Reardon rolled down his window as he drove by one of them and tried to make clear why the drive-bys frustrated him.

"I said, 'Oh, you're stopping to help?'" he said. "And the woman's face just went blank. I was like, 'I got you.' "

A few houses down, Carolyn Smith, 55, checked on the pile that last week was her brother's home. A row of azaleas stood alone, where they once had framed the foundation. Behind them was a heap of debris, most of it unrecognizable except for a toppled rocking chair, a printer, a lamp and a filing cabinet.

Smith rushed to evacuate from her own home in Mandeville's Old Golden Shores when her 80-year-old mother started showing signs of congestive heart failure. She made it to a hospital in time, but now most of her family's memories lay in ruins on Lakeshore Drive.

"That's the history of our family, so that's all gone," Smith said. "We just didn't have enough time."

Mandeville Mayor Eddie Price spoke Thursday in more optimistic tones.

He said buildings that were more than 50 percent damaged will be required to be raised, but at least one landmark might escape that fate: Donz bar, a Civil War-era building at Girod and Lakeshore Drive. The tidal surge gutted it, taking out the bar and all the eclectic wind chimes hanging above it.

Price said new structures will have to be built within existing codes, so the lakefront strip has no chance of losing its charm.

"We're never going to look like a Navarre Beach," he said. "This is always a bedroom community. You're never going to see these high-rise condos. The flavor of Old Mandeville is not going to change."

• • • • • •

Meghan Gordon can be reached at meghangordon@hotmail.com.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

## Tagliabue holds fate of Saints in New Orleans

**By Peter Finney**
Sports Columnist

I didn't know a vulture had four legs.

"This is a great opportunity for the city, and we need to seize the moment, jump into it with all four legs," said Red McCombs.

That's Red (The Vulture) McCombs, former owner of the Minnesota Vikings, speaking from his hometown, which happens to be San Antonio.

"Every effort needs to be made to tie up the Saints for this season, including having people stand in front of the Alamodome singing, 'When the Saints Come Marching In.' "

What class.

In a stricken, evacuated, underwater New Orleans, they've only begun to count the dead, and here you have a former NFL owner dancing on the coffin, telling the San Antonio Express-News he believes a permanent move of Tom Benson's franchise would be supported by league owners.

Red The Vulture. What a sleazeball.

There's a time for everything. This is not the time to talk about moving a franchise – permanently - from a city that has served as the host of nine Super Bowls.

This is a time to open your arms to those who have lost homes, lost loved ones, lost everything, which is exactly what the city of San Antonio has done.

It has been open arms to Tom Benson's football team, in the way of practice facilities, also to an estimated 12,000 of the displaced, in the way of shelters, rooms for the elderly, tons and tons of food and runaway charity.

In San Antonio, you have someone like Famous Washington, a pharmacist who grew up in New Orleans, sheltering 16 members of his extended family, from 9 months old to 77 years old.

In San Antonio, you also have Red (The Vulture) McCombs.

Millionaire McCombs, a longtime friend of Benson, bought the Vikings a few years ago and unloaded them after failing to get a new stadium.

Now he's saying, if Benson wants to make a permanent move to Alamo City, he'll get the green light from the owners because, as McCombs puts it, "Tom sits on the management council and has a lot of clout."

What do I think?

In the post-Katrina world, I have little doubt Benson would like to relocate to San Antonio.

Forever.

But what about Paul Tagliabue, commissioner of the NFL?

That's the billion-dollar question.

Because a vote of the owners would stop a move, because the commissioner owns the ultimate clout, Tagliabue sits in an emperor's chair.

A city that has been the crown jewel among Super Bowl hosts has suffered the greatest catastrophe in the history of this country, assuming you place what happened on 8/29 above 9/11.

All of which leaves the commissioner facing several questions:

How crucial, how fair to the future of the NFL, is keeping the Saints in Louisiana over the short term, in New Orleans over the long haul?

If it turns out Katrina KO'd the Superdome as the Saints' home, where can the team play on an interim basis while a new home is being built?

What part – financially – would the league play in a "new" Superdome?

Given the circumstances, what part might the federal government be willing to play in such a revival?

Looking down the road, waiting for a renovated Dome, or a new one, in New New Orleans, all sorts of options would face the gypsy Saints of, let's say, 2006 and 2007.

Perhaps playing all home games in Tiger Stadium?

Perhaps scattering them among Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Mobile, Jackson, Miss.?

And San Antonio?

Keep in mind, while the (North) Carolina Panthers, who the Saints play Sunday, were waiting to move into their new home in Charlotte, their interim home was across the state line, in Clemson, S.C.

Who knows what the future holds.

In a long-term manner of speaking, Katrina has made it a moment of truth.

For Tom Benson.

For Paul Tagliabue.

For the moment, my message to Red (The Vulture) McCombs is simple: Stop doing the boogie on a fleur de lis grave.

It's unbecoming.

Let's see how it all plays out.

New Orleans is down.

But not out.

How do I know?

Well, Paul Prudhomme is planning to show up Friday, leading a caravan of trucks to his offices in Elmwood.

"We've got generators, food and trailers, and we'll be in a parking lot cooking for anyone who needs it," he said. "We're going home, baby."

## Saints, two cities remain on hold concerning home games

*NFL's decision on playing site may come in a week*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO – Saints players have expressed a desire to play all the team's home games in San Antonio this season.

However, like the rest of the Saints organization and the cities of San Antonio and Baton Rouge, the players remain in a wait-and-see mode.

Although Saints players, coaches and management can give their input, the decision on where the team will play its home games is ultimately up to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

The league has expressed its desire to play games in Baton Rouge. But, with so many logistics still to be worked out in the city, which is consumed with relief efforts, a decision on the Saints' games may have to wait into next week, if not longer.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league hopes to make a decision as soon as possible, but he had no updates on the situation by late Thursday.

"I have no idea," Saints coach Jim Haslett said after being asked when he expects to hear a decision. "I know they expressed their concerns to (NFL Players Association executive director) Gene Upshaw, and we expressed our concerns to Commissioner Tagliabue. I don't think you have to be a brain surgeon to figure out that you'd like to play the games where you're practicing."

Asked if he is happy with how the league is handling the issue, he said, "I don't know yet."

Upshaw met with Saints players during their team meetings in San Antonio on Wednesday, and players said they were unified in their stance.

Receiver Donte' Stallworth said the players would like to have some kind of home-field advantage, as well as a place to call home every other weekend. He said playing in Baton Rouge is a nice idea, but he said there are plenty of displaced Saints fans scattered throughout Texas, which is another good reason to play in the Alamo City.

Saints and San Antonio officials also said they have not heard anything new from the league. But just in case, the Alamodome cleared the Oct. 2 date, when the Saints are scheduled to play host to the Buffalo Bills, by moving the city's Builder's Showcase to a later date.

The Alamodome director Mike Abington said not to read anything into that move, however, because he has not heard anything from the NFL or the Saints. He said he was just doing his "due diligence" so the Alamodome is ready and able if the Saints give the word.

"We know the Saints' schedule, and we know there's a possibility – some may say a probability – that the Saints will play games in the Alamodome," Abington said. "We're preparing our schedule just in case.

"If we don't, and they should call and we have not cleared the calendar, then we wouldn't be able to play the games here."

Abington said the last time he spoke with Saints officials was when team owner Tom Benson toured the facility last Thursday or Friday to "get his mind's eye refreshed." The Saints played a preseason game in the Alamodome against Minnesota in 2001.

The city of San Antonio has made every effort to accommodate the Saints, but Mayor Phil Hardberger has not vocally pursued the team while concentrating on the city's relief efforts.

Former mayor Henry Cisneros contacted the NFL on Wednesday to try to assure the league that the Saints would draw significant crowds in San Antonio. Reports have indicated that the NFL was concerned about low attendance in San Antonio, but Aiello said earlier this week that was not the case.

Some have speculated the league might not want the Saints to develop a fan base in San Antonio because of Benson's reported interested in moving his team here permanently. But no one has acknowledged that.

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## LSU/Tennessee: Stay tuned

*Once TV sets time, game won't change*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE – The LSU kickoff time for its scheduled game with Tennessee Sept. 24 in Tiger Stadium won't be changed once it is set by television, SEC commissioner Mike Slive indicated Thursday.

Slive, who visited the LSU campus with Georgia Chancellor Michael Adams to study the relief effort put forth by LSU for the victims of Hurrricane Katrina, acknowledged that Tennessee had asked for an early kickoff to allow fans time to find lodging after the game. The influx of storm refugees into Baton Rouge last week has made hotel accommodations scarce. The hotels have said they would not displace refugees even for people with prior reservations.

Tennessee sold its full visitors allotment of 8,000 tickets.

"The home team can play the game when it wants to play the game," Slive said. "I understand everyone's concerns. LSU needs to get back to a sense of normalcy."

Kickoff time has not been officially scheduled but it is highly-probable that ESPN, which has first choice of SEC games for that date, will choose it for the 6:45 p.m. time slot. CBS has the second choice for its 2:30 p.m. slot.

## Miles hasn't named starter

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

Even with an extra week to ponder the decision, LSU coach Les Miles apparently has no plans to announce which quarterback will start Saturday's game against Arizona State.

Miles was not scheduled to meet with the media on Thursday, and LSU sports information director Michael Bonnette said there would be no statement issued on the choice.

Originally, Miles pegged Thursday Sept. 1 as his announcement date, but that got pushed back a week because of the postponement of the North Texas opener. At his Monday press conference, Miles said more than once that he'd let his decision be known this Thursday.

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# River Parishes schools ready to play

*Lutcher, St. James to kick off weekend of football games*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

For students at Lutcher and St. James, life is as back to normal as it can be, with school resuming two days ago.

But, for the schools' football players, things just won't be the same until Friday night.

Both schools will start their 2005 football seasons at 7 p.m., a week later than scheduled because of Hurricane Katrina.

St. James will play host to Terrebonne, and Lutcher will travel to St. Amant.

Three other River Parish teams will begin their seasons this weekend, too. Riverside Academy will travel to Houma to play H.L. Bourgeois at Terrebonne High School, and West St. John will play at South Terrebonne on Friday at 7. On Sunday, Hahnville will travel to Central Lafourche for a 3 p.m. game.

Lutcher coach Tim Detillier and St. Amant coach David Swacker are planning a pregame ceremony to mark the occasion and acknowledge the suffering of their neighbors.

"No football game is as important as what's going on out there," Detillier said. "I want to emphasize that. But the big accomplishment for us is that we're playing a game. The big news is we're playing."

And it's not so much about football as it is about normalcy.

"It's what we do," St. James coach Rick Gaille said. "In the simplest terms, the players play and it's our profession as coaches to coach. That's normalcy for us. Just as people want to get back to their homes and their businesses to get them back to normal, that's what we want to do as well."

Of course, nearly all of the River Parishes coaches have been scrambling to rework their schedules in the wake of Katrina. Many had opponents from Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes, which were decimated by the storm and probably won't play this season. It appears that Lutcher is the only team remaining in District 10-3A that will have a season.

Of the eight River Parishes schools, five are playing this week. Next week, St. Charles will join in by playing host to H.L. Bourgeois, and Destrehan will travel to Terrebonne. District 5-5A opponents Hahnville and East St. John will play at Hahnville in a non-district game. St. James will travel to South Lafourche, Lutcher will host Thibodaux, and Riverside will play St. Thomas Aquinas.

West St. John is the only school that will be playing its original schedule. Next week, the Rams will play host to Patterson.

Hahnville coach Lou Valdin said he was able to salvage this week's game against former district opponent Central Lafourche by moving it to Sunday.

"We're going to have a skeleton crew," Valdin said. "But (Central Lafourche coach) Ro Pitre was the only coach in the bayou that had the guts to play Hahnville High (this season). And, if I have to hire 11 kids riding their bikes on the street, I'm going to give him a game."

Valdin said there is a more important reason to play the game.

"These kids need to get back to some kind of normalcy,'' Valdin said. "And nothing galvanizes this community more than Hahnville football."

# Curtis aims to kick off September

*School spared major damage, sets tentative opening date of Sept.26*

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer

John Curtis officials have cleared the rooms of the school and anticipate returning to operation as early as Sept. 26. Football will quickly follow behind, football coach J.T. Curtis said Monday.

"God's been good to us," Curtis said. "Our school building took no damage at all. We could open school tomorrow. Our elementary school had one room that was damaged, and we shut it off.

"What we have told our parents is we are waiting for Jefferson Parish officials giving us clearance and as soon as they do, we're going to start school."

Curtis said he is looking at trying to fill the fifth playing date (Sept. 29 or 30). Curtis had open dates on the fifth weekend as well as the sixth.

"If we can practice a week, we will play the next week," Curtis said. "That would get us ready."

Curtis said he spoke with Louisiana High School Athletics Association commissioner Tommy Henry last week and was happy with Henry's ruling that kids would be allowed to play elsewhere.

"He also told me he would be passing a rule that when a student returns to school, they would be eligible if they were eligible when they left," Curtis said. "That's one of the things we had worried about, keeping continuity."

No Patriots players currently are playing at other schools, J.T. Curtis said.

"But we have kids in Houston, Galveston, Texas, and everywhere in the country," he said. "Until they can get direct news, they won't be coming back.

"But it's our feeling that it's important to get as many back in place as quickly as possible."

Curtis' Web site, eteamz.com/jcfootball, is instrumental in keeping the team and the remainder of the school members and officials informed, Curtis said.

"We pulled up to our elementary school. Saw the one building room that was bad; saw the big tree had fallen on the other building," he said.

Curtis said that when Patriots family members arrived at the elementary school to remove a fallen tree off the building, they were amazed at how little damage the structure sustained.

"We got chain saws, and got to work on it and when we got to the bottom of it, my brother (Leon) said, 'I don't' think we got any dents up here (on the roof).' We all said, 'How can that be?' As we got to the bottom, there was an old Crape Myrtle tree my dad (who died earlier this year) had planted," Curtis said. "It held that tree off that building.

"The way we tell it, he was up there saying, 'A little to the left. You can drop it on the Crape Myrtle.' He protected that building."

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# Proximity of finalists to determine football championship game sites

*LHSAA trying to identify title venues for other sports*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

For the first time in 25 years, the high school football state championships will not be played in the Superdome, Louisiana High School Athletic Association commissioner Tommy Henry said.

State championship games will be played at three venues, which could include LSU's Tiger Stadium and Independence Stadium in Shreveport. The state championship games are scheduled Dec. 9-10.

Henry said damage to the Superdome from Hurricane Katrina and the uncertainty as to when the facility can be repaired led to the change of venue.

The sites where certain classifications play will be determined by the proximity of schools in the state championship game to the venue. For example, if the Class 5A finalists are close to the Baton Rouge area, the game could be played at Tiger Stadium.

Henry met with LSU officials Thursday morning to discuss relocating five of the association's state sports championships that New Orleans was slated to host. The swimming state meet, originally scheduled to be held at UNO, will move to the LSU natatorium. The LSU swim team will be out of town Nov. 16-19, opening the door for the high school meet. No decision was made on relocating wrestling, soccer or volleyball, Henry said. State championships in those three sports were scheduled to be played in the New Orleans area.

"This year, we're going to have to do things differently than we've ever done them before," Henry said. "We've got to make some tough decisions."

One of the most difficult, he said, was deciding to keep the original state championship date for football. Many schools in storm-affected parishes will not play a full 10-game regular season.

Henry said the qualification process will be only slightly altered, and it is possible for a team to make the playoffs with a drastically shortened schedule. He said teams would still automatically qualify by winning their district championships and the remaining bracket slots would be filled based on power points divided by games played.

The problems don't end with football. The swim season is in a state of flux, according to New Orleans Metro Area Swim League director Jorge Blasini.

"I don't know what to do," Blasini said. "Really, what I'm trying to do is see when what schools are going back in session."

In addition to most of the south shore schools being closed for the season, many of the area's pools were damaged by the storm. So, even if schools go back into session, it's unclear where they can practice or compete.

UNO's Lakefront Arena pool, site of the state championships and at least half of the metro swim league dual meets, might not be ready for competition until December, pool director Janice Roth said.

"Things were flying off the roof like crazy (during the storm)," Roth said. "Now I don't know when we're going to be able to get back in. It's going to be a long time."

Roth said she expected the state meet to change, but said it might be possible for the metro meet to be contested in December, a month later than originally scheduled.

"We can still do a metro meet. The state (meet) has nothing to do with that," Roth said.

A decision will need to be made soon on the volleyball state tournament, scheduled for the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner Nov. 9-12. The question is where to move it.

"There are conflicts everywhere we look," Henry said.

Baton Rouge is a possible location, but hotel availability could be a problem. Lafayette is another city being looked at, Henry said. It's also undetermined where wrestling and soccer's state championships, scheduled for February, will be held. LSU has offered its venues on non-conflicting dates, but the university has a full athletic schedule and isn't able to accommodate those sports' dates right now.

# OUR OPINIONS

## Suffering and semantics

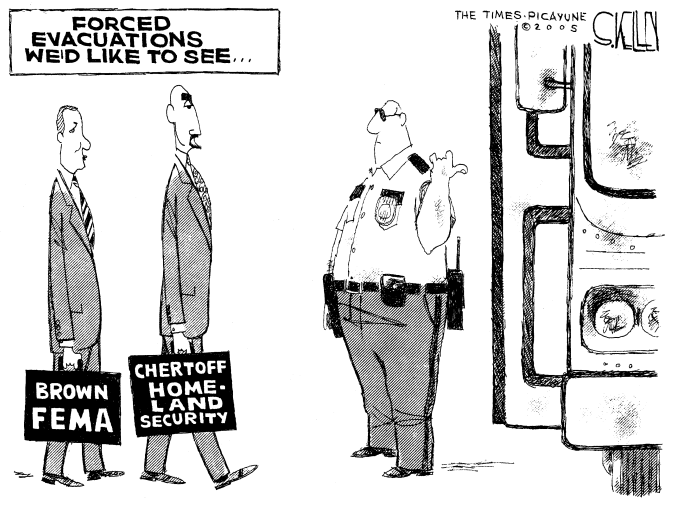
There may be no more ridiculous pairing of words than "voluntary evacuation." Letting people know they can leave if they want to leave does nothing more than remind them that they live in a free country. But looking back at the events leading up to Hurricane Katrina, it's clear that the phrase "mandatory evacuation" doesn't mean anything either. At least not in New Orleans.

The phrase is meaninglessness on two levels: According to a television interview Mayor Ray Nagin gave the Saturday night before the storm, he didn't think he had the legal authority to order a mandatory evacuation or the ability to enforce it. City attorneys were scrambling to find out whether he could order everybody out, he said, and if doing so would make him liable for the many thousands of people who had no means of escape. The next morning he issued New Orleans' first-ever order of evacuation. Next door, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard maintained that despite his desire to do so, he didn't have the legal authority to require his residents to leave.

To Mayor Nagin's credit, he made it clear on that Saturday that everybody needed to get out and that citizens shouldn't wait around to hear the word "mandatory" before deciding to leave. They might never hear it. He urged those who could to check on their neighbors, especially the elderly and infirm, and to use every conveyance possible to escape the wrath of the approaching storm.

The mayor was a voice of calm when others around him were succumbing to hysteria. But when it came time to get pushy, he did that, too. Even so, Mayor Nagin should have had his legal questions answered long before a storm was in the Gulf of Mexico. A mandatory evacuation had never been ordered, but the question of its legality should have been asked and answered years ago. What a mayor can do as a hurricane approaches should have been institutional knowledge, passed like a baton from one administration to the next.

It ought to have been passed down from governor to governor, too. The mayor's powers may have been limited, but as the chief executive of the state, Gov. Kathleen Blanco had more muscle. State law allows her to not only "direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state," but also to utilize "all available resources of the state government and of each political subdivision of the state as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster or emergency."




The Friday before the storm Gov. Blanco declared a state of emergency, and that could have served as a prerequisite for more forceful action. Imagine every school bus in South Louisiana packed with evacuees and heading to higher ground. Imagine the vans, SUVs and cars owned by state and local agencies being devoted to the same purpose. In retrospect, the mayor should have used his bully pulpit to demand more action from the state. But he ultimately didn't have the authority to take control of all those vehicles. The governor did.

Elected officials assumed that when the big one hit New Orleans, it would catch thousands upon thousands of people still in the city. Some wouldn't be able to afford a way out. Others who could afford to do so wouldn't either. Not a whole lot could have been done for that second group. The fact that even now there are people vowing to stay in their flooded homes is proof that some deaths were inevitable.

Louisiana was never going to be able to handle a disaster of Katrina's scale without substantial outside help. If the federal response had not been so woefully inadequate, the storm would not have exacted such a horrific toll on New Orleans.

But that doesn't absolve anyone at any level of government from neglecting the poor. The assumption that poor people would be trapped was met with inaction, when it should have been met with a determination to save as many as possible. The words "mandatory evacuation" mean nothing when state and local officials won't or can't deploy the resources necessary to make the mandate stick. Not only could the mayor not order an evacuation, and not only could he not enforce it, but there were those who couldn't or wouldn't leave. The corpses floating in the water attest to that.

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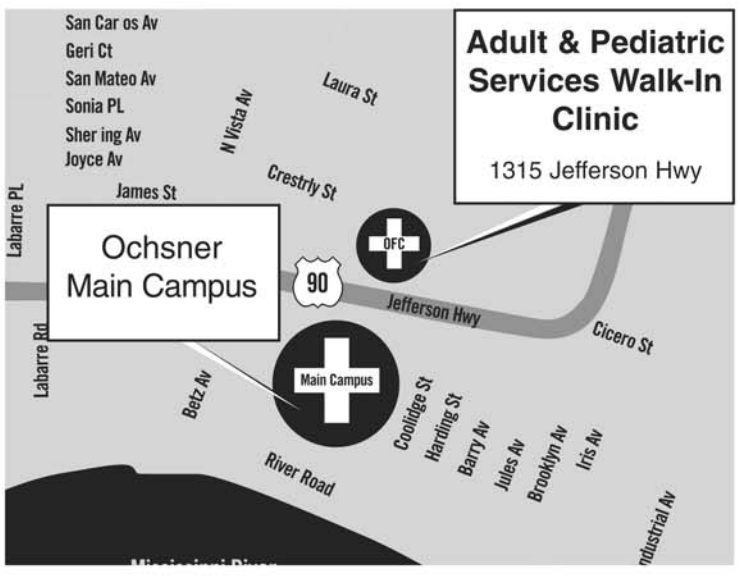


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# Green Wave to open in Shreveport

*Other home-game sites still not determined*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - Tulane's home stadium, at least for one weekend, will be Shreveport's Independence Stadium. The Sept. 17 game against Mississippi State, originally scheduled for the Superdome, will kickoff at 7 p.m.

"We're proud of the facility that we have and that we can mobilize and put on a event such as this in such short notice," said Ken Antee, chief administrative officer for the city of Shreveport. "We'll be ready to accommodate whatever crowds we need to."

Tulane still is looking at possible other locales for its remaining five home games, Athletic Director Rick Dickson said. A former coach, Dickson wasn't using coachspeak when he said, "We're going to take this one game at a time."

By this time next week, he said, he hopes to have a site for the Oct. 1 game against Southeastern Louisiana.

Tulane's football team evacuated to Dallas and will spend the season based at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. After the Mississippi State game, the Green Wave will return to Dallas to play Southern Methodist on Sept. 24.

Dickson said earlier this week the city of Mobile has offered Ladd-Pebbles Stadium. And he said Florida State athletic director Dave Hart called him about the possibility of Tulane playing some of its games on that campus.



Staff photo by Kathy Anderson

The field at Tad Gormley Stadium in City Park remained under several feet of water Thursday. Tulane officials are searching for a site for the Tulane-Southeastern Louisiana game, originally scheduled Oct. 1 at Tad Gormley. It was to be the Green Wave's homecoming game.

"We're wide open," Dickson said on Thursday.

Mississippi State, which has six players from areas hit by Katrina, has been understanding of Tulane's situation. It will waive its guaranteed fee of $200,000 and is encouraging fans who purchased tickets but cannot attend the game to forego a refund and donate the ticket cost to Tulane Athletics.

Tulane was offered Shreveport's stadium free of charge and will receive all proceeds from the game operations.

Also, the game will be televised nationally by College Sports Television, which has announced that all commercial proceeds are being donated to specially created funds focused on restoring the New Orleans area. Monies will be divided between Conference USA's Relief Fund and CSTV's Field & Dreams Rebuilding Fund.

Instead of spending Friday night in Shreveport, Mississippi State's football team will fly into town Saturday afternoon and fly out that night.

"We don't want to displace any person that's evacuated to a hotel," Athletic Director Larry Templeton said. "And the other issue is we will bring our pep band and not our full band. And we will keep the cheerleaders and the band in Vicksburg on Friday night and bus over there Saturday.

"We only send the band to a couple of road games a year, and New Orleans was one of the trips they were going to go on. But we decided it was best not to bring seven busses and take up hotel rooms for 175 kids."

Antee said his city's stadium is available for the other five games. And he is confident Shreveport will promote all the games to its local football fans.

"Our media is committed to put it out in the community that the community needs to step up and support Tulane, because the program's basically devastated," Antee said. "It's a way our community can take them under their wing."

Shreveport Mayor Keith Hightower said the city "is happy to be in a position to assist Tulane during this very trying time."

"We are encouraging our citizens to support the Green Wave by attending the game and are asking our corporate citizens to help offset the loss of home game revenues in New Orleans," Hightower said.

Tickets for the game are $35 for sideline general admission seats and $20 for end zone general admission. They will be sold via Ticketmaster at www.Ticketmaster.com, at Ticketmaster outlets in Louisiana and Mississippi, or can be bought by calling 800-488-5252. Tickets will go on sale Friday at noon.

Tulane season ticket-holders who have not received their tickets and will be attending the game should notify the Green Wave athletic department via e-mail at tulane7@c-usa.org.

# Tigers' task is stopping Keller

*QB's versatility poses threats to LSU's defense*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE – As debuts go, it's hard to beat what Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller did in his first start.

He stepped in for record-setting teammate Andrew Walter and won the Sun Bowl MVP award in leading Arizona State to a 27-23 victory over Purdue.

He picked up where he left off with 14 completions in 24 attempts for 208 yards and four touchdowns last week in a 63-16 victory over Temple in the season opener.

But Keller's thus far seamless transition will get a real test – as will the No. 15-ranked Sun Devils – when Arizona State hosts LSU on Saturday in Tempe.

Walter, who owns every major passing record at Arizona State and holds the Pac-10 touchdown record, was injured in the regular-season finale against Arizona. Keller finished that game completing eight of 13 passes for 94 yards and a touchdown, and then dissected Purdue, hitting 25 of 45 throws for 370 yards and three scores. He was savvy in driving the Sun Devils 80 yards for the winning touchdown late in the game.

He entered the 2005 season with a veteran offensive line and an improved running game, but also an important intangible.

"Those last two games did volumes for my confidence as a quarterback and strengthened the chemistry of our team," Keller said. "Everyone thought Andrew going down was going to be a really big deal and it wasn't because our offense was so well prepared because of the way our coaches put us in position to win. We didn't skip a beat. Those games, the game we just played was good we got the kinks out. Now we're going to be tested on a national level against a national powerhouse."

"Sam was always working hard behind Andrew and it's showing now," said Arizona State preseason All-American wide receiver Derek Hagan. "He's a great quarterback and it's showing now."

Keller knows he can further his development with a strong effort Saturday against a seasoned LSU defense, which has seven starters back from last season. He has the advantage of working at home instead of a raucous, deafening Tiger Stadium. The game was moved from Baton Rouge to Tempe so as not to interfere with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"They're big and fast and probably the most athletic I'm going to see, or right up there, in college," he said. "They bring the blitzes. They'll try to smash us in the mouth early. That's what we're prepared for."

LSU is preparing for Keller, 6 feet 4 and 233 pounds, who is the son of former Michigan Wolverines linebacker Mike Keller. He's not a great threat to run, but is nimble enough to avoid the rush in the pocket, where he can deliver any manner of pass – the lob, the down-and-out, the deep out and the bomb. He has also shown good poise.

"He makes good decisions, he moves the ball around and he knows what he's supposed to do with the ball," LSU coach Les Miles said. "He's a good quarterback."

Said LSU safety Jessie Daniels: "On tape it looks like he can throw every kind of pass there is."

Keller rated himself a six out of 10 on his performance against Temple. Along with his four touchdown passes he threw two interceptions. Keller was also protected by a strong running game.

"Sam was not as sharp as he usually practices," Arizona State coach Dick Koetter said. "Some of the things that didn't look very good to you or to me were not Sam's fault. We had receivers guess on a couple of plays and they guessed wrong, which is disappointing to me. There is no need to guess against a team like Temple. I thought Sam made some great throws. The second touchdown pass to Hagan was a beautiful throw, his best pass of the night."

Said Keller: "I had a couple of forced throws because I was getting greedy out there. That's stuff that can easily be fixed. The running game was an excellent surprise."

Keller's play against LSU may be telling on the remainder of the Sun Devils' season. In their first four seasons under Koetter, the Sun Devils alternated winning and losing records, but are coming off a 9-3 record last year. That earned them a No. 20 preseason ranking.

# Dickerson trying to get team settled in

*Housed at Texas A&M, Tulane, head coach seeks to adjust, win*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS - Every day, his 4-year-old son asks him: "Dad, when are we going home?"

And every day, Dave Dickerson tiptoes around the truth without saying the only thing he knows: "I don't know."

Dickerson, the Tulane men's basketball coach hired April 1, took his family to his native South Carolina to escape Hurricane Katrina. Now, dad is in College Station, Texas, with his surrogate family. His immediate family will soon join him in this foreign city, just like they did five months ago when they moved to New Orleans.

"As far as our house and belongings (in New Orleans), we have no word on that, and there's no time in the perceivable future that we can get back and assess our damages," Dickerson said. "But we do have each other, and that's the most important thing."

Now Dickerson has united his basketball family at Texas A&M. These players, including one from New Orleans, will try to attain normalcy while attending classes, practicing basketball and living their college lives in an unfamiliar setting.

Dickerson has to do the same thing.

"Part of being a basketball coach is being a surrogate father, being a mentor and leader through the good times and the bad times," said Dickerson, previously an assistant at Maryland. "The thing I have to do is be myself and be the person that got me to this point – and don't change. Our players, more than ever, need someone that's going to be consistent, be honest and be there for them. As far as growing up, I think I've grown maybe 50 years the last four or five days, but it's going to be a situation 10 years from now that we can look back on and know that we grew as people.

"The emotions, that's what we're trying to deal with now. Quite frankly, I think everyone needs to take a self-check to take a realistic snapshot of where each other is. And I think I need to do that, also. In order for me to be an effective surrogate father, I have to make sure that I'm emotionally stable."

The women's basketball team is across the state in Lubbock, Texas. Like their male counterparts, they all arrived on campus Wednesday or Thursday, leaping into Texas Tech classrooms the same day they arrived.

"We were a little skeptical and worried at first," Wave junior Jami Montagnino said. "We didn't know what classes we were taking or when we were practicing … but everything has gotten a lot better since we have gotten here."

"They are a week behind in class, so they have a lot of catching up to do," Tulane women's coach Lisa Stockton said. "But I think just being in one spot and knowing where we are going to be is going to be a big relief for us. I think they will be able to relax. I hear there is a football game this weekend, so that sounds good."

The men's team is moving into University Apartments near Texas A&M's campus. The last player to arrive, Kory Castine, got to campus Thursday. Castine is from Marrero, and his mother, Desiree, is a registered nurse. She stayed in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. For 48 frightening hours, Castine didn't hear from his mother. He finally touched base with her – so did Dickerson – and Castine, a power forward, left for Texas.

Tulane men's basketball is expected to set up its offices in the available space at the Aggies' Koldus Building near its athletic complex.

The women's team has eight non-conference home games scheduled, including Nov. 28 against LSU. And the men's team is supposed to open its regular season Nov. 12 by hosting Loyola. It has seven non-conference home games scheduled before Conference USA play – including UNO on Nov. 22 and Texas Christian on Dec. 7 in an ESPN-televised game. Texas Tech and Texas A&M have offered their home facilities to the Green Wave, but a decision has not been made where Tulane will play home games.

"Right now, as a head basketball coach, I'm not worried about the basketball part of it," Dickerson said. "I'm worried about our guys getting into classes, getting into some kind of meal plan and our guys being able to cope with what they just went through – so we can move forward."

Dickerson said counseling is "imperative." He knows its benefits. When he was a freshman, he dealt with the death of Maryland teammate Len Bias, the college star drafted into the NBA who died because of drug use.

"It's important that we carry the torch and be a positive image for the university and the city of New Orleans," Dickerson said. "But it's so more important that we can get through it as people. The humanistic side is the most important part of it."

On Thursday, Dickerson took a deep breath when asked if the goal this season was "to survive." Tulane's basketball team, in its first year in a new system, will be transplanted for, at minimum, a semester, while sharing practice facilities with another team.

"But I don't see myself going into this basketball season just trying to survive," said Dickerson, who has never been on a staff of a losing team in 15 years. "That's just not my nature. There are some things that we have to get accomplished first before we think about the wins and losses, and I understand that.

"What I have to do as a head coach is step back a little bit and embrace my players, embrace my coaching staff, and make sure we're OK as people first. But I don't think I'll ever look at this as a survival thing. I don't think you can go into a game or a season just trying to survive. You got to think you can win every game, and you have got to sell your team on that."

• • • • • • •

Staff writer Fred Robinson contributed to this report.

# UNO swim team training in Atlanta

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

The UNO swim team has relocated to Emory University in Atlanta, Coach Ashley Tappin said Thursday.

The team's home, the Lakefront Arena pool, won't be ready for competition for a "long time," according to pool director Janice Roth. But Tappin said 12 of her 14 swimmers moved to Atlanta temporarily and have resumed training. The swimmers are staying in homes of members of the Atlanta Rotary Club.

"It always takes something horrendous to pull out the resiliency and kindness in people," Tappin said. "We wouldn't survive without them."

Tappin said she was overwhelmed with calls from college programs around the country with offers for training and lodging following Hurricane Katrina. But Tappin said the Atlanta area was the best match for her team, and she is grateful for their help.

"I've had an unbelievable response," Tappin said.

NOTE: New Orleans Metro Area Swim League director Jorge Blasini said he is looking for member coaches to contact him and provide updates on the status of their schools and teams. He can be reached at jblasini@cox.net.

**BASEBALL TEAM AT NMSU:** New Mexico State University will house the UNO baseball program in Las Cruces, N.M., beginning immediately until the campus at UNO and Maestri Field are returned to an acceptable condition, the university announced in a release.

Hurricane Katrina damaged facilities at UNO and has rendered the metropolitan New Orleans area without power and services for an undetermined time.

In securing the partnership with New Mexico State, Privateers coach Tom Walter expressed his sincere gratitude.

"New Mexico State and UNO have been friendly rivals in the Sun Belt Conference for the past several years, and the hand of friendship extended by the Aggies in our hour of need is deeply appreciated," Walter said.

New Orleans athletics director Jim Miller is hopeful the Privateers will be able to play at Maestri Field in 2006.

"We remain adamant in our desire to play baseball at Maestri Field this season," Miller said. "We are thankful to (New Mexico State) Athletics Director McKinley Boston and Coach Rocky Ward for their generosity."

New Mexico State and the UNO were members of the Sun Belt Conference the past several years before the Aggies departed for the Western Athletic Conference following the 2005 baseball season.

**"I pretty much have expressed to (Fair Grounds president) Randy Soth that the HBPA's official position is, we want to go for nothing less than a 40- to 50-day meet at $250,000 per day in purse giveaway. Louisiana Downs is very accommodating. Evangeline Downs is accommodating as well."**

SEAN ALFORTISH, president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

# Horsemen pushing for 40-day meet

*Alfortish calls Churchill's 20-day proposal 'dead issue'*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Louisiana horsemen are seeking at least 40 racing days at either Louisiana Downs or Evangeline Downs to make up for the cancellation of the Fair Grounds racing season, Sean Alfortish, president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, said Thursday.

Last week, Churchill Downs officials told horsemen that a plan is under consideration to shift 19 or 20 New Orleans racing days to Louisiana Downs for an abbreviated season in December. The Fair Grounds was scheduled to run from Nov. 24 through March 26.

Alfortish said that a short December season would be "a total waste." Also, he said, Kentucky horsemen wouldn't bother to come to Louisiana for such a short season.

"As far as I'm concerned, 20 days is a dead issue," he said. "We're not going to back it. We're not going to go for it.

"I pretty much have expressed to (Fair Grounds president) Randy Soth that the HBPA's official position is, we want to go for nothing less than a 40- to 50-day meet at $250,000 per day in purse giveaway. Louisiana Downs is very accommodating. Evangeline Downs is accommodating as well."

Soth couldn't be reached for comment. He was at Churchill Downs on Thursday and met with company officials about the situation, said Churchill spokesperson Julie Koenig.

"I know that we're still working to find some common ground with the Louisiana horsemen," Koenig said. "That's really where we're at."

She also said that Soth, Fair Grounds director of racing Ben Huffman and Donnie Richardson, Churchill's senior vice president in charge of racing at all the company's tracks, "are trying to find a solution that works for both sides."

Alfortish said he's proposing a transferred season that would begin Thanksgiving Day, which is the traditional opening day, and run at least until the end of February. By law, the Fair Grounds must run 80 days in 20 consecutive weeks to keep its racing license, but Alfortish said that the LHBPA would support any waivers needed for the proposed season.

"If they give us what we're asking for, it is a viable solution," Alfortish said. "I will not accept racing at the Fair Grounds anywhere else than in the state of Louisiana."

The Fair Grounds has enough money in its purse account to cover purses for the proposed season, he said. The track has $1.8 million from underpayment of purses from the past Fair Grounds season, he said. Purse money generated from off-track betting and video poker during the offseason swells the available amount for purses to about $8 million, he said. Also, more money for purses would be raised from betting – on-track and from simulcasting.

A Thanksgiving opening is important to show the spirit of the Fair Grounds, Alfortish said.

"Our horsemen want to do it," he said. "They're ready to do it. More importantly, they need to do it."



Staff photo by Kathy Anderson

The Fair Grounds, which on Thursday still had water on the track, has proposed a 20-day meet in December, But Sean Alfortish, president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, opposed the proposal Thursday, calling it a 'dead issue.' The horsemen are calling for at least a 40-day meet.

# TPC officials form team to assess turf damage

*Tree loss estimated at 1,000; 40 percent of course under water*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

The PGA Tour plans to send a team of agronomists to assess the turf damage at TPC of Louisiana, the first step perhaps in rebuilding the golf course in time for the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in April.

That decision was made Thursday at a meeting attended by PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and high-ranking officials from the PGA Tour, Zurich and the Fore!Kids Foundation in Ponte Vedra, Fla.

Approximately 40 percent of the TPC of Louisiana remains underwater from Hurricane Katrina, which struck southeast Louisiana and the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. The Category 4 storm also uprooted an estimated 1,000 trees on the par-72, 7,400-yard layout designed by Pete Dye.

"It's our hope to get in there next week if we can," said Henry Hughes, chief of operations for the PGA Tour. "We assured them that we are working hand-in-glove to do the best we can for the event in New Orleans.

"We did not form any conclusions. We basically put together a path of action to find the information we need to determine what actions we can take."

Mike Rodrigue, chairman of the board for the Fore!Kids Foundation, said he remains hopeful that the TPC of Louisiana can be restored in time to host the tournament April 27-30.

"It's too early to say exactly what they're going to do until they can assess the damage to the golf course," Rodrigue said. "We know we have water on holes 4, 5 and 6. But we don't have any major damage at TPC.

"We're confident that the golf course is going to be there in the long term. If the course is so damaged that they can't do anything with it, they'll start regrowing new grass this year instead of waiting. If we have the tournament there, we'd throw rye on it and replant the Bermuda grass after the golf tournament. The Bermuda down there now has been under water for more than a week, so it's likely going to die."

Rodrigue, who attended the 2 ½-hour meeting along with Fore!Kids Foundation president John Subers and board member Bill Reinhardt, speculated that PGA Tour officials may consider several courses of action once the damage is assessed.

The tournament could be held as scheduled at the TPC of Louisiana. Or, it possibly could be held at a course within a close proximity to New Orleans, perhaps English Turn Golf & Country Club which played host to the PGA Tour event from 1989 through 2004, or the David Toms-designed Carter Plantation in Springfield.

"This is a multiple production between hotels, restaurants and the golf course," Rodrigue said. "One consideration is to house the players on cruise ships. The one thing we can say is we know this is going to be the best field we've ever had. It's just a shame that it takes something like this for us to get the best field.

"The tour is reaching out to their global and title sponsors. One possibility is to take a portion of the purse from every PGA Tour event, including ours, to give to the relief fund."

Rodrigue said the PGA Tour has pledged a minimum of $5 million to the hurricane relief fund.

"I know we're going to blow that number through the roof," Rodrigue said. "None of that money is going to the golf course. We told the PGA people that we need money basically to get this town rebuilt and back on its feet.

"The PGA emphasized to us how fully supportive they are. We were there to show them the energy that we still have. We're ready to do what we have to do to put this event on."

# Bayou Oaks, Eastover suffer significant damage to courses

*Damages at City Park estimated at $25 million; Audubon, ET fare well*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

As expected, Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on several area golf courses, none worse than Bayou Oaks in City Park and the Golf Club of New Orleans at Eastover in eastern New Orleans, which also appeared to sustain substantial property damage.

Three courses at Bayou Oaks and two courses at Eastover remained under flood waters Thursday, 10 days after the Category 4 storm pounded southeast Louisiana and the Gulf Coast.

English Turn Golf & Country Club and Audubon Golf Club apparently fared much better, according to course officials. Each property suffered wind damage but did not flood.

"If we have to rebuild all three courses and the structures on the property, it could be upwards of $25 million in golf-related damages alone," Bayou Oaks general manager Gordon Digby said Thursday when reached in Chicago. "We couldn't have had a worse scenario.

"Then there's the wind damage. We might have a thousand trees down for all we know. I'm sure we'll re-open eventually. Right now, we just don't know. Hopefully, we'll get some help from FEMA."

The longer the courses at Bayou Oaks and Eastover remain under brackish water - a mixture of salt and fresh water - the less chance the turf has of surviving.

Eastover director of golf Jimmy Headrick said the window of opportunity might have closed already on the Teeth of the Gator and Rabbit's Foot courses.

"Eastover took it as bad as any golf course in New Orleans because of its eastern location," Headrick said when reached in St. Louis. "We're still under water; the cart barn, maintenance building, clubhouse, golf course, everything has been impacted. We have 130 golf carts under water.

"The next issue is going to be the Bermuda grass. It can't live under that water for much longer than 10 days and we're right there now. Eastover got it pretty rough."

English Turn, site of the PGA Tour event in New Orleans from 1989 through 2004, and Audubon managed to stay relatively dry and course officials hope to begin the cleanup process soon.

Audubon Park presently is serving as a staging area for the National Guard.

"We had quite a few trees get knocked down," Audubon director of golf Stan Stopa said when reached in Destin, Fla. "Many of them were defective trees - junk trees that had lived their life span - and should have been taken down quite a while ago.

"The golf course looks pretty good except for the fact that they're landing helicopters on greens and tees. At least it will be protected but there's no telling what they're going to do to the course. But we had no water damage whatsoever, and the cart barn and the clubhouse came through OK."

Under ideal conditions, Stopa said Audubon could be back in the golfing business by mid-October.

"That's not my decision," Stopa said. "If it was up to me, and the mayor said it was safe, I'd push to get the golf course back up and running ASAP. The city needs to get it back. People need a break from all this stress."

Rick Miller, director of golf at English Turn, visited the West Bank property for the first time Thursday and assessed the damage, which included 120-130 downed trees.

"There wasn't a whole lot of water damage on the course, mostly trees and stuff," Miller said. "Hopefully in the next 10 days we can start cleaning it up. I think we're going to be able to put it back together. I guess it depends on how fast we can get people in there to begin the cleanup."

# Smitten last season, Panthers expected to rise again

*Receiver Smith tops key injured players who have returned*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO – Two seasons ago, the Carolina Panthers were on top of the NFL world, reaching the Super Bowl before a narrow loss to the New England Patriots.

Then the injury-riddled team hit bottom last year, starting 1-7, before bouncing back up and finishing 7-9. The Panthers were making a playoff run until a crushing 21-18 loss to the Saints in Week 17.

No one knows what is in store for the tumultuous team this year, but for the record, many prognosticators are predicting an NFC South championship and perhaps another Super Bowl run.

The Panthers will get their first test Sunday against that same Saints team in that same Bank of America Stadium.

Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme said last season's finish was a "huge motivation" in the offseason, but added, "You've got to understand, last year after losing in the Super Bowl, that had motivation, too."

"I think last year, too, we certainly had high expectations and people had high expectations for us. We had even higher," said Delhomme, who said this year is no different. "Next thing you know, we have injuries that start to pop up, but there was no doubt that we were going to go into every game and we were going to play well and win. I think that's just what you have to have. That's just one thing that I enjoyed so much about last year. We started 1-7, but guys didn't point fingers, coaches didn't point fingers.

"Nobody on offense looked at defense. Nobody on defense looked at offense. We just weren't getting it done collectively as a team. You just stick together and fight, and they see how you practice and prepare for one another, and it just kind of turns out that makes it rewarding in the end."

Panthers coach John Fox said he is neither pleased nor worried about the high expectations. He said the adage around his team is that "you're never as bad as they say you are, and you're never as good as they say you are."

But there is certainly reason for optimism in Carolina, which boasts one of the strongest rushing attacks and most physical defensive fronts in the NFL.

The Panthers return receiver Steve Smith, whose leg was broken in Week 1 last year, and have back defensive tackle Kris Jenkins and tailbacks Stephen Davis and Deshaun Foster, among others who were hurt last year.

"They've got a lot of things going for them," Saints coach Jim Haslett said of the Panthers. "They're a well-coached football team, first of all. They do a great job running the football; they've got good running backs, a good line. Steve Smith coming back gives them a big-play guy. I love (receiver Keary) Colbert; he's kind of a go-to guy. And their defense is solid. And they don't make a lot of mistakes.

"So I can see why people would pick them. But we feel we'll be in the mix with them, and it's going to be a heck of a game."

**RELIEF EFFORTS:** The Saints are now accepting contributions to their Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, either through www.saintshurricanefund.org or by mail at Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund c/o New Orleans Saints, 9613 Interline, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Checks should be made payable to The New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. An independent Board of Directors will be formed to allocate and administer these funds to the affected people.

Team owner Tom Benson opened the fund by making a $100,000 donation.

"As a native of New Orleans, my heart goes out to everyone in our city, state and region that was victimized by this horrific natural disaster," Benson said in a statement. "Our organization remains committed to being a leader in the rebuilding process and helping the people of the Gulf South. The establishment of this fund is a first step in that rebuilding process."

The NFL also announced that Sept. 18-19 will be designated "Hurricane Relief Weekend," culminating with the Saints-Giants game in New York on Monday night.

Every NFL game that weekend will include elements that will highlight and contribute to the national relief effort, with assistance from the NFL's television network partners. There also will be a fund-raising telethon from ABC's Times Square studio in New York that will be incorporated into the Monday-night broadcasts of the Saints game and the Redskins-Cowboys game.

The NFL announced that the league, its owners, teams and players have contributed nearly $8 million so far to Hurricane Katrina relief. The league also produced a national public service announcement to promote donations to the American Red Cross and the United Way, featuring Peyton Manning, Brett Favre and Steve McNair.

Haslett and players Joe Horn and Wayne Gandy also filmed a television message to promote the Saints' fund.

And this weekend, the Panthers announced they are giving 350 tickets to Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are registered with the Red Cross at the Charlotte Coliseum. The Panthers are also giving out $10 food vouchers for each person to use at the game.

The tickets came out of the players' allotments and the unused portion the Saints returned. About 800 evacuees are in Charlotte, with about 400 staying at the Coliseum.

**NEW AGENT:** Fourth-year receiver Donte' Stallworth recently signed with high-profile agent Drew Rosenhaus, but he isn't asking for a new contract from the Saints just yet. Rosenhaus, who was in San Antonio visiting clients Stallworth, Mike McKenzie and Dwight Smith, said he expects Stallworth to have a breakout season. Stallworth is signed through 2007, with a voidable option on the last year.

**GRANT IS GONE:** The Saints did not sign linebacker Cie Grant to the practice squad, as was originally planned. The former third-round draft choice played in only seven career games with the team because of chronic knee problems. In his place, the Saints added receiver Levon Thomas, an undrafted rookie from Georgia Tech, to the practice squad. Thomas spent training camp with the Indianapolis Colts.

Meanwhile, the Denver Broncos signed former Saints quarterback Kliff Kingsbury to their practice squad. That role was filled last year by former LSU quarterback Matt Mauck, who joined the Tennessee Titans' practice squad this year.

**INJURY UPDATE** – Saints linebacker James Allen (knee) will return to the field Sunday after missing all four preseason games, but he will not start. Defensive tackle Brian Young (knee) is expected to start after missing the last two preseason games. Willie Whitehead will be the other starting defensive tackle.

# GOT IT DOWN PATS



AP photo

Randy Moss was one of the few bright spots for the Oakland Raiders in their 30-20 loss to the New England Patriots Thursday night in the first game of the NFL season. Moss had five catches for 130 yards and one touchown.

## New England off to a good start with 30-20 win against Oakland

**By Dave Goldberg**
AP sports writer

FOXBOROUGH, MASS - New England's quest for an unprecedented three straight Super Bowl victories is in good hands with two stars the Patriots didn't lose: Tom Brady and Richard Seymour.

Brady threw for 306 yards and two touchdowns and Seymour made a game-turning defensive play as the Patriots beat Oakland 30-20 Thursday night, holding Randy Moss, the Raiders' new star, to one big play, a 73-yard touchdown catch.

"It's important, we wanted to get off to a good start," said Brady, who had 212 of his yards and both TD throws in the first half.

New England's 35th win in 39 games since the start of the 2003 season was an odd one - all offense at the start, mostly defense after intermission. One key early adjustment was made by the Patriots, switching from their traditional 3-4 defense to a 4-3 to help fill the gap caused by the loss of inside linebackers Tedy Bruschi and Ted Johnson.

The Patriots, who also lost coordinators Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel to head coaching jobs, led 17-14 at halftime on touchdown passes by Brady of 29 yards to Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch and 5 yards to newcomer Tim Dwight. That offset a 2-yard TD pass by Kerry Collins to tight end Courtney Anderson on the game's first series and the bomb to Moss, who at 6-foot-4 simply went over 5-8 Tyrone Poole.

Anderson also caught a 5-yard touchdown pass with 3:04 left set up by Randal Williams' block of Josh Miller's punt. But Moss was called for offensive pass interference on the 2-point conversion play.

That wasn't Moss' only mistake. He also dropped a short first-down pass that could have gotten the Raiders out a hole early in the third quarter.

That eventually led to the game-turning play with just less than six minutes left in the quarter, the kind of play that has marked the Patriots' run to three titles in four seasons.

Seymour, who as usual made a half-dozen big plays on defense, was the catalyst, pushing Raiders center Jake Grove into Collins. Meanwhile, Jarvis Green, who became the fourth lineman when the Pats switched to the 4-3, came around from the right side and sandwiched Collins as he was throwing. The ball popped into the air and into the hands of 325-pound nose tackle Vince Wilfork at the Raiders 20.

"We know Richard is a pretty good force inside. He has been for four years," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, adding that he'll decide from week to week whether to stay with the 4-3. "We thought we could get some force from the outside with Jarvis and Rosie (Rosevelt Colvin.)"

Three plays later, Corey Dillon ran 8 yards for a score that made it 23-14 after Adam Vinatieri's extra point attempt was blocked by Langston Walker as the Patriots thwarted Oakland's hope for a strong start.

Dillon scored the final touchdown on a 2-yard run in the fourth quarter set up by a 24-yard pass interference penalty on rookie Stanford Routt, as the Patriots won their 21st straight home game. That was one of 14 penalties for 139 yards by Oakland, traditionally one of the NFL's most flagged teams.

The Raiders, 9-23 the last two seasons, showed more improvement on defense than on offense, holding the Patriots to 73 yards on the ground. Dillon started with 11 yards on his first 11 carries before finishing with 69 yards on 23 carries.

Collins, who threw for 159 yards in the first half, finished 18 of 40 for 265 yards. Moss finished with five catches for 130 yards.

## Northlake's varsity debut set Sept. 23

**By Marty Mule**
Staff writer

Northlake Christian, which has yet to kick off its first year of varsity competition because of Hurricane Katrina, may be the first St. Tammany Parish team to play football this season.

The Wolverines are scheduled to make their varsity debut at Gueydan on Sept. 23 - three days before the school is scheduled to resume classes. Northlake will compete in District 7-1A.

Coach Mark Robert has 33 players, nine of whom he has been able to contact directly.

"If I have 11, we're going to play," Robert said. "I owe it to these kids, who have played on a junior varsity level the last three years, kids who have practiced and sweat just as hard as any of the powerhouse teams. They deserve it."

The first practice is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday.

The storm cost Northlake games against Lutheran, Ascension Catholic and Acadiana Prep.

Katrina may have added more problems for Wolverines, which were supposed to play their inaugural season at William Pitcher Junior High in Covington. Robert said he checked the field and it appears the lights may be out because of wind damage to the light poles.

"We could be a team without a home," Robert said Thursday while traveling to pick up his wife in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

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**ST. BERNARD:** A large dog wades into a marshy ditch to get a drink of water Thursday in eastern St. Bernard Parish, where floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina are finally starting to recede.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**ST. BERNARD:** A pig noses through a pile of trash as it searches for some scraps in eastern St. Bernard Parish on Thursday. Animals, both wild and domestic, are wandering the streets throughout the parish.

# PET PROJECT



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**MERAUX:** Shawn Spc. Johnson of the Colorado Army National Guard offers a thirsty kitten a sip from his bottled water cap after finding it in the rubble of a storm-damaged building in Meraux on Thursday. As they patrol neighborhoods, Johnson and his colleagues are helping some furry friends along the way. Fellow Guardsman Chelsey Tucker got so attached to a dog that followed her on her patrols, she's planning to pick it up from the animal shelter when she is finished with her post-storm duties.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**EASTERN NEW ORLEANS:** Spc. Kaleb Wallace of the Oklahoma National Guard is surprised to see a pony in the street during a patrol of Hayne Boulevard on Thursday. Wallace was going through the neighborhood looking for residents to evacuate.

As they move from house to house, looking for residents to evacuate or bodies to recover, National Guardsmen and other rescue workers are finding an endless menagerie of lost, stranded or abandoned animals that need help as well.

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 233 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

# DEATH TOLL MAY NOT BE AS HIGH AS FEARED




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

A woman is rescued by the Georgia National Guard from the roof of a flooded two-story house on Tulane Avenue near the Dixie Brewery on Friday.

## *'0-0' on house: No one inside, no one dead*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Eleven days after Hurricane Katrina plunged New Orleans into agonies of flood, panic and chaotic evacuation, authorities finally began searching house-to-house in once-flooded neighborhoods Friday for those who did not escape.

Early results retrieved far fewer bodies than officials expected.

That led one key official to hope the death toll might be much less than 10,000, Mayor Ray Nagin's early estimate that quickly became an unchallenged benchmark.

That figure was based on the speed with which Hurricane Katrina flooded the Lower 9th Ward and other poor, densely populated neighborhoods as the storm roared past on Aug. 29 with winds of at least 105 mph.

The estimate became more credible as thousands of traumatized refugees slogged into the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center during the next two days, bearing nightmarish tales of pushing bloated bodies out of the way or passing them sprawled on rooftops.

But in the first day of organized searching, there seemed some reason for hope.

"I think there's some encouragement in what we found in the initial sweeps that some of the catastrophic death that some people predicted may not, in fact, have occurred," said Terry Ebbert, chief of homeland security for the city.

"The numbers so far are relatively minor as compared to the dire predictions of 10,000," he said.

At least in the Lower 9th Ward, federal, state and local teams along with officers from all over the country broke open doors and entered homes, calling out for survivors and looking for corpses.

Where they found neither, they scrawled "0-0" on the house and moved on.

As they worked, Katrina claimed a victim of a different sort: Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown was relieved of his onsite command Friday.

Brown was the focus of scorching criticism from state and local officials, as well as evacuees who cursed his relief agency's ineffectiveness.

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-5*

## Before Katrina, there was Pam

### *Simulation intended as emergency training*

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

The document's cover page reads, "Southeast Louisiana Catastrophic Hurricane Functional Plan."

It maps out detailed instructions for emergency managers responding to a deadly hurricane that floods New Orleans and kills more than 60,000, including how to rescue and evacuate hundreds of thousands of people stranded on rooftops or trapped by rising waters; how to quickly mobilize federal, state and local agencies; and how to drain water laced with toxic sludge and clean up a ruined city.

But officials never put the plan into action. It wasn't an official disaster playbook but an experiment, the product of a weeklong simulation conducted last year in which emergency managers confronted a fictional "Hurricane Pam."

The halting emergency response to Hurricane Katrina's aftermath left thousands of people stranded in New Orleans and adjacent areas for days without food and water, with many vulnerable to roaming gangs of outlaws. Flaws in communications and coordination between government agencies at the federal, state and local levels apparently slowed the response, though exactly what went wrong has yet to be determined.

The 109-page report on Pam, dated Sept. 20, 2004, and provided by a participant in the exercise, addresses many of these issues.

The simulation imagined a grim scenario even worse than Katrina: a slow-moving Category 3 hurricane that strikes the New Orleans area, topping levees and causing 10 to 12 feet of flooding in New Orleans and the entire east bank metro area.

Katrina's flood waters spared most of Jefferson Parish and parts of New Orleans.

In the simulation, 61,290 people die, including 24,250 in New Orleans. An additional 384,000 are injured or fall ill.

The exercise grew out of an initiative at the Federal Emergency Management Agency started early in the Bush presidency to develop plans for

*See* **PAM,** *page A-4*

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Compass gives force positive direction

## *Upbeat leadership uplifts department*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer




STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass heads to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in the back of a Texas National Guard truck Friday. Compass' high-profile role in securing the city has made him somewhat of a celebrity, and he said he now receives several job offers a day. But the native New Orleanian says he wants none of it. 'I want to be police chief here as long as I can,' he said.

For his 47th birthday, Aug. 29, New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass got a package of Oreos from his inner circle and the most vicious natural disaster in American history from his Creator.

Almost two weeks later, the chief who begins each morning with a prayer insists good will come to his hometown from Hurricane Katrina.

"There is no doubt about it," he said, when asked about the city's comeback potential.

"We had the worst schools in the United States, and now we can rebuild them. We had one of the highest murder rates in the United States, and now we have an opportunity to remake that culture."

Compass' rosy certitude is reassuring, and his seemingly bottomless energy, particularly in the past week, has buoyed the spirits of a police force rocked by the storm and the war it unleashed between cops and robbers. The chief acknowledges the terrible cost, and he has publicly broken down more than once, but he refuses to dwell on the disaster.

"I can't handle the grief right now," he said.

### Proving police mettle

For a time, it appeared he wouldn't have time for any emotion. Barricaded inside the Hyatt Hotel, his communications system blown, and his top management team deliberately spread out around the city to avoid a catastrophic loss of leadership with one hit, Compass seemed invisible. In the dire three days after Katrina, as officers patrolled the streets with assault rifles and sniper scopes, they would say they didn't know whether they still had a chief.

Since then, however, Compass has become ubiquitous. He's at the NOPD's fluid command center outside the Harrah's Casino at least twice a day, throwing his arms around officers, calling out to captains by name, and telling the knots of reporters that flock around him about stories that must be told.

Compass has proved the department's mettle.

In the process, he has become a celebrity. He tells everyone he was "kidnapped" by Oprah Winfrey, and he has given extensive access to television news stars Ted Koppel and Ed Bradley. He does interviews for Mexican television, chats with European reporters and patiently answers questions from the U.S. media hoard.

Between meetings with his top staff, Compass has become a roving press conference. "Welcome to my world," he said, rolling his eyes as two more reporters chased him inside City Hall. "Pretty hectic, isn't it?"

The elevator works intermittently at City Hall, and when it's not working, Compass climbs the stairs to the ninth floor where he runs an Emergency Operations Center that also houses the New Orleans Fire Department, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials and rotating batches of soldiers. "This ain't nothing," he said, toiling up the stairs Friday afternoon. "At the Hyatt, we walked up twice a day to see the mayor, who was on the twenty-seventh floor."

He is not the only one climbing stairs. His wife, eight months' pregnant with the couple's second child, a boy, is living in the third floor of a house in Denham Springs, a situation the superintendent is none too pleased about. His first wife is in Texas with their two daughters, and their son, Eddie Compass IV, is enrolled at Texas A&M University.

So all are safe, and Katrina spared his Algiers neighborhood. That allows him to focus on the job at hand, Compass said, and for the most part the gregarious face he presents the press and troops is the same one seen by those working in or around the office where, each night, he sleeps on an army cot with air conditioning from a window unit.

### Rejects job offers

An estimated 100 officers left their post in the city's darkest moments last week, when two took their own lives. In public, Compass and his top aides maintain a sympathetic air when talking about the bolted cops, instead steering conversations back to the many, many officers who stayed and performed heroically.

In private, though, the chief shares the department's widespread disgust for those who deserted in a conversation with federal sharpshooters at Harrah's.

Heavily armed teams such as those frequently ask the chief to pose for pictures, and everyone wants a handshake or a hug when Compass makes one of his high-energy appearances. Indeed, the chief said his sky-high profile has led to some unsolicited career opportunities. "Can you believe it? In the middle of this madness, I get two or three job offers a day."

The native New Orleanian, St. Augustine grad, and veteran NOPD cop said he will not leave.

"I'm going to be the last one out of this city," he said. "And you print this: Stop calling me, please, with other offers. I want to be police chief here as long as I can and as long as Mayor Nagin will have me."

# Jefferson Parish lumbers to feet after Katrina

## *Northrop Grumman restarting operations*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau




STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Corey Lerille picks up roofing materials at Home Depot on Friday in Gretna. Lerille says he owns 10 fourplexes in Marrero and Algiers, and he was buying materials to begin repairs. Temporary passes will be given Monday to essential workers and homeowners who want to begin reconstruction.

As Jefferson Parish continued to dig out from Hurricane Katrina's wreckage, the area's largest private employer called back some of its workforce Friday, aiming to jumpstart its shipbuilding enterprise in Avondale as a sister facility in Pascagoula, Miss., recovered from far more severe storm damage, a spokesman said.

Northrop Grumman Corp. asked maintenance, scaffold and security shift personnel to report to the Avondale shipyard, if possible, Monday at 5:30 a.m. as the company worked to reopen its Mississippi shipyard, formerly known as Ingalls, spokesman Bill Glenn said.

"The New Orleans operation did not sustain as much damage as Pascagoula," he said, adding that he did not know whether workers from Mississippi might be shifted to work in suburban New Orleans. "We're still in recovery mode."

Supervisors in the production, QA, PC, industrial engineering and material supervision department are expected to report to a meeting today at 9 a.m. at Ormond Country Club in Destrehan.

New Orleans area employees should visit one of three locations on Sunday and Monday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to check in at: Winn Dixie, 375 North Canal Blvd., Thibodeaux; Winn Dixie Shopping Center, 4560 Highway 1, Raceland; Wal-Mart, 2799 West Thomas St., Hammond.

The announcement came less than a month after Northrop unveiled plans to lay off 400 workers at the Avondale yard and 500 workers in Pascagoula by year's end. A hiring freeze already had slashed about 400 jobs and another 600 were expected to be eliminated but next summer through resignations, retirements and other departures.

Meanwhile, at least 60,000 Jefferson residents still were living in their homes Friday after being asked to leave Thursday evening so work crews could have free reign to restart electricity, water and drainage services, officials said. Many more were expected to return Monday, when temporary passes would be given to essential workers and homeowners who want to begin reconstruction.

Parish President Aaron Broussard said top officials in Kenner and Harahan have begged him to allow all residents back into those towns immediately to reopen businesses that already have regained water and power. A boil-water remained in effect in East Jefferson but was lifted Friday on the West Bank.

Jefferson Parish banks also were expected to open some branches across the parish Monday, he said.

But Emergency Management Director Water Maestri said that until sewerage services are fixed, parish officials will continue to bar "nonessential" workers from Jefferson and enforce a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew. "Sewerage can lead to another disaster, which is disease," he said.

However, Broussard said residents who need to enter Jefferson starting Monday to work for public entities, hospitals or other working businesses can get entry passes at Blue Bayou Waterpark, at Interstate 10 and Highland Road in Baton Rouge, with appropriate identification. Residents who want to get into the parish to work on their houses also will be issued passes, he said.

"We are encouraging businesses to begin the reconstruction right away," he said. "If restaurants want to open up, it might look like Casablanca with troops from everywhere, but they're customers.

"What we don't want is people meandering through the utility trucks, slowing things up," Broussard added. "The curfew is strict. You don't want to spend the night here. You'll be miserable."

Maestri said renovating the sewerage system has been hampered by delayed delivery of 400 generators to operate lift stations. Maestri said he asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the generators Aug. 28, but only half of them arrived Friday, he said.

"Nobody knows" where they are, Maestri said. "Ghosts stole them."

FEMA spokeswoman Lara Uselding said the agency has been delivering generators to parishes across southeast Louisiana based on assessments by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of requests approved by the state.

"We are working around the clock to deploy generators," she said. "Right now, Jefferson Parish has received generators that would help them begin the process of making the environment livable."

Uselding said, however, said she did not know how Jefferson could have received dozens of generators or whether the parish might get more.

"They could not have gotten 200," she said. "I don't where they got that number."

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# Disaster plan went unused by city

**PAM,** *from A-1*

the worst possible disasters that could hit the United States.

The initiative was sidelined for a time after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks but moved forward last year. According to a federal document outlining the Louisiana project released by congressional Democrats Friday, "FEMA and the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness believe that the gravity of the situation calls for an extraordinary level of advance planning to improve government readiness to respond effectively to such an event."

The document says that once complete, the Louisiana plan was to be used as a model for plans for other extreme disasters, including terrorist strikes.

The Pam simulation was meticulously designed and run by a private contractor, Baton Rouge-based Innovative Emergency Management Inc.

"We were still fairly early in the process" of developing a formal response plan for New Orleans, IEM President Madhu Beriwal said. "This was part of FEMA's initiative for doing catastrophic disaster planning. New Orleans was picked as the first place to be studied."

The Pam exercise had more 270 participants from federal, regional and local agencies, Beriwal said. Officials gathered at Louisiana's Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge and were presented with a hurricane scenario designed by Louisiana State University researchers.

"It was a slow-moving Category 3 storm, something that could quite easily happen, and designed so that it totally flooded the city, so that the participants could try to understand the full impacts of a flooded New Orleans," said Ivor Van Heerden, an LSU professor who used computer modeling to help create a realistic hurricane.

"In many affected parishes, a high percentage of the population remained in the parish at landfall, resulting in high numbers of fatalities and nonfatal injuries," the report says. "Transportation will be limited due to flooded roadways and a shortage of resources such as fuel. There is no medical treatment within the affected area. Local resources will be exhausted. … Communications networks are non-functioning."

The Pam scenario envisioned other problems now confronting New Orleans as well.

The report says local health services and schools would be out of commission, more than 600,000 local homes would be destroyed, and it describes a "HazMat gumbo" in the streets that would render the area unlivable for at least a year.

"An estimated 710,808 households in the affected area have released 236,936 cubic yards of household hazardous waste into the still-rising floodwaters. Floating coffins appear sporadically in flooded areas, totaling as many as 500. Some subsurface tanks, possibly containing fuel, have buckled or breached the pavement. Many water surfaces … have a visible sheen due to chemicals," the description reads.

The report was not perfectly on the mark.

The number of dead from Hurricane Katrina, though not yet counted, appears to be significantly lower than Pam's hypothetical death toll, for example. The report also does not contemplate the widespread looting and disorder that erupted in the days after Katrina. Beriwal said that subject was supposed to come up in a later meeting.

During the simulation, participants broke into groups and tried to devise responses as the disaster scenario unfolded. For example, one group of about 25 officials focused on debris removal as Pam's floodwaters dropped, coordinating requests for assistance from local governments the with the Army Corps of Engineers, said Art Jones, the chief of the disaster recovery division for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The final Pam report outlines in minute detail 15 subjects that emergency managers should address during and after a catastrophic storm hitting New Orleans. They range from the mundane, such as where to billet emergency responders, to core issues such as rescue operations, medical treatment, and housing for displaced people.

It assumes a high degree of coordination between federal, state, and local officials, something that has been a thorny issue in Katrina. But Jones said the Pam exercise was valuable simply because it drew everyone involved together to sit down face-to-face, something that is paying off now.

The report recommends a massive mobilization of transportation assets to evacuate the region after the hurricane has passed, another problem that plagued response last week. "A major limiting factor in executing this plan will be a shortage of transportation facilities," it says.

For example, it says 400 buses per day would be needed to transport an estimated half-million storm victims out of the affected area to temporary medical facilities set up some distance away. Katrina victims waited for days for buses or other transport out of the city.

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A MESSAGE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA. WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US.

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**"I think there's some encouragement in what we found in the initial sweeps that some of the catastrophic death that some people predicted may not, in fact, have occurred."**

TERRY EBBERT, chief of homeland security for the city



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Traveling North Claiborne Avenue, military personnel scour the area around the Iberville housing development and St. Louis Cemetery No. 2, looking for people to rescue.

# Much-criticized FEMA chief is sent back to Washington

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

They charged that his agency arrived too late with too little, as tens of thousands suffered on rooftops, highway overpasses and squalid evacuation centers in the first days after Katrina flooded the city.

Brown was replaced by Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, who was overseeing New Orleans relief, recovery and rescue efforts, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced.

Chertoff said Brown will return to Washington and resume his duties as head of FEMA, where he will concentrate on making sure the agency is prepared to deal with other potential disasters.

Asked if he was being made a scapegoat for a federal relief effort that has drawn widespread and sharp criticism, Brown told The Associated Press after a long pause: "By the press, yes. By the president, no."

But a source close to Brown, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the FEMA director had been considering leaving after the hurricane season ended in November and that Friday's action virtually assures his departure.

While Brown prepares to return to Washington, Bush will make his third visit to Louisiana and Mississippi on Sunday, the White House announced.

While some searched for bodies Friday, other soldiers and police continued to urge holdout residents to leave the city. But after two days of warning they would judiciously employ force to move people, if necessary, officials appeared to be delaying that.

"At this time, force is not being used," said City Attorney Sherry Landry. "Rather, our offices and troops continue to strongly encourage those not assisting with the recovery effort to leave."

Landry said crews are working to clear glass from the streets of the Central Business District, where power should be restored by the end of next week.

Entergy New Orleans President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Packer said he hopes to have power restored to the French Quarter and Uptown neighborhoods within two weeks.

Entergy set up a huge tent city in Kenner to house, fuel and equip 1,500 utility workers setting out each day at first light. Company officials said it may soon grow to 4,000. Two smaller communities have sprouted on the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Ebbert said that close to one-third of the city's drainage pumps are working to remove water from the city.

In Kenner, authorities reported that two-thirds of the city remained without power, but the city was pumped dry and roads were open.

Elsewhere in Jefferson, at least 60,000 residents appeared to be in their homes, a condition that did not please authorities.

Parish President Aaron Broussard opened the parish so homeowners could make quick inspection trips Monday through Wednesday. But many have stayed, without power or a functioning sewerage system.

"Sewage can lead to another disaster, which is disease," said Emergency Operations Director Walter Maestri.

He said that until sewerage services are fixed, parish officials will continue to bar "nonessential" workers from Jefferson and enforce a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew. But bowing to pressure, parish officials asked residents wanting to enter the parish Monday to collect entry passes at Blue Bayou Water Park, at Interstate 10 and Highland Road in Baton Rouge.

Meanwhile, St. Tammany reported increasing signs of life.

"The majority of the parish should be back to normal, at some level, in two or three weeks," said Parish President Kevin Davis.

But in some devastated areas like the southern part of Slidell and communities like Oak Harbor and Eden Isles, "it's going to be months," he said.

By late Friday, Cleco, the dominant power supplier in the parish, and Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative had restored electricity to about 40 percent of the parish.

Crews from Boh Brothers Construction Co. will begin making emergency repairs Monday to the I-10 twin spans linking New Orleans and Slidell, said Mark Lambert, communications director for the Department of Transportation and Development.

One of the two bridges should be open to one-lane, two-way traffic in about six weeks, Lambert said. Engineers are still assessing which of the two spans is the least damaged and can be brought into service.

The state probably will solicit bids early next year to rebuild both bridges entirely at a cost of $350 million to $500 million, Lambert said.

Police and fire officials reported a quiet night Thursday evening, with only three fires and no major incidents overnight.

• • • • • • • • •

With reporting by Ed Anderson, Paul Bartels, Gwen Filosa, Michelle Krupa, Jan Moller, Laura Ricks and Steve Ritea



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

An army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter drops sand bags into the breech of the London Avenue Canal.

# FEMA chief removed from Katrina duties

## *La. officials applaud leadership change*

**By Jan Moller and Bruce Alpert**
Staff writers

In a tacit admission that Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts were mishandled, the Bush administration Friday replaced Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown as the point man for the massive federal relief operation.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Brown will return to Washington and resume his duties as head of FEMA, where he will focus on making sure the agency is prepared to deal with other potential disasters.

Brown is being replaced by Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, 46, who had been leading the hurricane recovery effort in New Orleans and brings significant experience in dealing with disasters, including the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York. The replacement of Brown with Allen, who was informed of his promotion Friday at 10 a.m., was welcome news to Louisiana officials.

"Two problems have prevented FEMA from fulfilling its duty: a lack of leadership and a lack of resources," said U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. "The administration has fixed half of that equation today. Now we must find a way to fix the rest."



**Michael Brown**
FEMA director says media made him a scapegoat

Landrieu said Allen brings "serious credentials to the table," including direct experience saving people from hurricanes.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Allen "demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the situation" when he briefed her and Vice President Dick Cheney about the status of the recovery efforts during Cheney's visit to Louisiana on Thursday. "I welcome him and know that we must have a long-term relationship in order to alleviate the suffering and frustration of our people," she said.

Allen, talking to reporters in Baton Rouge, quickly announced that he has two immediate priorities, in addition to the continued rescue of survivors and recovery of bodies. No. 1 is removal of the water from New Orleans, and that will be assisted greatly with the repair of the London Avenue levee, Allen said.

He said his second priority is to "reconstitute the emergency services" in New Orleans, mainly the fire and police departments.

"We need a place for these people to live, to be able to function," he said. "We have contracted with a company to bring two cruise ships into New Orleans to provide berthing and a base of operations to reestablish those basic services in the city."

Allen said he will have lunch today with metro area parish presidents to develop a strategy "to reconstitute communities and community capability to get on with life." That must start, he said, with helping the communities find out where their residents have relocated since the hurricane.

Chertoff portrayed Brown's departure as a necessary move so that he can oversee FEMA from Washington and help it prepare for other emergencies.

"Mike Brown has done everything he possibly could to coordinate the federal response to this unprecedented disaster," he said.

He refused to address questions about Brown's future at the agency or comment on reports in Time and Newsweek magazines that Brown had padded parts of his resume.

But University of Virginia Political analyst Larry Sabato said there is little doubt that Brown was being removed because of widespread dissatisfaction with the rescue effort.

"This is a case where the Bush administration doesn't need to spell out what they did and why they did it," Sabato said. "It's as plain as a wart on the nose of a Miss America. Any attempt by Bush's spokespeople to present this as anything other than an admission of error will be laughed out of the public square."

Brown, who stood alongside Chertoff, Allen and Lt. Gen. Russel Honore at the news conference, did not take questions. Asked later by the Associated Press if he was being made a scapegoat, Brown replied "by the press yes, by the president no."

He denied reports by Time and Newsweek that he had padded his resume, saying that he didn't know why a FEMA news release listed him as an assistant city manager in Edmond, Okla., rather than the correct title, assistant to the city manager. But he said that the job involved emergency planning and the city's mayor confirmed this for the AP.

U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said that the choice of Allen, the No. 3 official at the Coast Guard, is good news because he has a solid military background and hopefully will be able to expedite rescue and recovery efforts with the least amount of bureaucratic delay.

Vitter said the failures with the early rescue efforts were much more than the "fault of any one person," but revealed systematic problems with both FEMA and state agencies.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said he didn't as much fault Brown as he did the funding cuts at FEMA and its reduced clout and authority within the Bush administration.

"Obviously I wasn't the only one asking what you do when your disaster response is a disaster," said Melancon, whose district includes hard-hit St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

But the jury is still out on whether a personnel change at the top will translate into results, he said. "You can cut the head off a chicken, but chances are it'll keep running around the barnyard."

Chertoff said the replacement of Brown with Allen comes as FEMA is entering a new phase in the recovery effort. Although search-and-rescue remains a top priority, Chertoff said the agency now is spearheading an effort to recover the bodies of storm victims.

"I want to have the people who are present here on the ground … able to focus their full attention on what needs to be done," Chertoff said.

He pledged that the body-recovery process will be handled with "dignity" and said it would be one of the agency's top priorities as the search-and-rescue effort winds down.

Lt. Gen. Russell Honore, the Katrina task force commander, said rescuers are finding fewer people to evacuate, but that efforts are still under way to locate residents who want to be brought to shelter.

# State estimates seafood losses to hit $1.1 billion

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Hurricane Katrina's ravaging winds and tidal urges have dealt at least a $1.1 billion blow to the state's seafood industry, based on preliminary reports released Friday by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

And U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez later Friday announced a formal determination of a "fishery failure" in the Gulf of Mexico due to the devastation following Katrina. That declaration covers the Gulf from Pensacola, Fla., to the Texas border, and the Florida Keys, and it opens the way for more federal dollars to assess the impacts, restore the fisheries, and assist fishing communities' recovery efforts.

John Roussel, the department's assistant secretary of fisheries, said the losses would represent about a 40 percent drop in the value of the state's commercial and recreational retail harvest, based on 2003 sales levels of $2.85 billion.

Because it takes oysters two years to rejuvenate, that crop is expected to take a hit of about $300 million this year and next, he said. Most of the oyster production occurs in the waters off St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, which were devastated.

Roussel estimates other seafood crops will suffer the following financial losses for next year: shrimp, $539 million; crab, $81 million; saltwater fish, $79 million; menhaden, $93 million; freshwater fish, $1.2 million.

"These projections are subject to adjustments as air and water surveys are made over the next several months," Roussel said. The estimates are based on seafood production in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and lower Lafourche parishes.

As the nation's second largest producer of seafood – second to Alaska – Louisiana produces 35 percent of the nation's oysters and about 30 percent of its blue crabs.

The loss numbers are based on seafood production from Bayou Lafourche eastward to the Mississippi line. Mississippi and Alabama seafood industries were hit hard, but those numbers were unavailable, he said.

The only seafood being produced, Roussel said, is coming from the area west of Terrebonne Parish, mainly in the Atchafalaya area and off the coasts of Cameron and Vermillion parishes.

Additionally, Roussel said, the state recreational fishing industry took a $200 million hit from Katrina. He said about 63 percent of the licensed charter boats and guide vessels were registered in the areas most affected by the hurricane.

"A lot of the boats and infrastructure have been destroyed," he said, including processing plants, cold storage warehouses, boats, docks, ice plants, roads, marinas and bait-and-tackle shops.

Although the extent of the damage to Gulf fishing industries is not yet known, fishing in the region essentially has been halted. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will work with the states to assess damage to the 15 major fishing ports and the 177 seafood processing facilities in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.


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**Editor:**

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**Shirley Baccarella**
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*Appeared in the Sun newspaper of Charlotte Harbor, FL*

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# Algiers a command center for fire, police officials

## *3 buildings become a makeshift base*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

The weather is steaming, the accommodations are makeshift, and the recovery will take months, but for Capt. James Hay of the New York City Fire Department, the mission remains clear.

"We learned after 9/11 that no one city can do it by themselves," he said Friday.

The 22-year veteran of the NYFD is one of about 1,100 military, fire and medical officials who have set up shop in a corner of Algiers to take the logistical and perhaps some of the emotional weight of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts off New Orleans police and fire departments.

Three buildings in Algiers have been transformed into headquarters for the crews: the Little Sisters of the Poor's Mary Joseph Residence, which is housing fire officials from Maryland and many New Orleans firefighters and their displaced families; Our Lady of Holy Cross College, where military officials and New York firefighters have taken ground; and Our Lady Wisdom Health Care Center, which is serving as a command center for several agencies.

With the rest of New Orleans still devastated, Algiers is bustling with recovery efforts, including Army camps established at the Naval Support Activity as well as the Behrman Sports Complex, now the headquarters for citywide cleanup.

At the Mary Joseph Residence, three flags have been draped over the entrance: Maryland's state flag, the American flag and one featuring the New Orleans fleur de lis. The site is filled with firetrucks and other emergency vehicles packed with supplies, including bottled water, napkins and detergent. One room, called the Sacred Heart Center, has been converted into a bedroom.

A firefighter on Friday napped in a hallway on a thin foam mattress, while others smoked cigarettes or talked on cell phones outside. Some simply sat, perched on what seemed to be large seats removed from minivans.

At Holy Cross College, Army Capt. Dave Maxwell from Fort Hood, Texas, said he and several of his soldiers, many of whom returned from Iraq five months ago, volunteered for duty in New Orleans. "It gives us a chance to use our ability to directly help the American people," he said.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

A soldier from the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas, patrols Newton Street in Algiers, where a handwritten message urged Hurricane Katrina to stay away.

Help has poured in from nearly 20 states, including California, Illinois, Texas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Montana, Idaho, Arkansas and Wyoming. Some of the soldiers are staying in a tent city at Holy Cross College, including Pfc. Richard Martinez, who kept post at the campus entrance, checking incoming traffic. "People here are really nice," said Martinez, a soldier in Maxwell's troop. "They appreciate us being here; we are here to help them."

Martinez, who had never been to New Orleans before, said he didn't mind the conditions inside his tent, which can sleep six to eight soldiers. "I don't care how long we'll be here," he said, feet away from where officials spray painted a large white circle on the college's front lawn for helicopter landings.

Hay said crews are not only repairing fire stations but also have helped firefighters check on their homes. Of the 350 New York firefighters in Algiers, about 30 are part of an emergency management team that has been trained to assist with disasters. Formed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the team is finally getting a chance to put its plans into action, Hay said.

"This is the first time we've had to implement it in a true disaster," he said.

Meanwhile, at the Behrman Sports Complex, work crews continued to fan out to clean streets citywide. Usually swamped with teenagers looking for basketball pickup games and children swimming in the public pool, the complex is stacked with trucks, equipment, portable bathrooms and trailers. Omni Pinnacle, which is based in Slidell, is leading the effort along with dozens of subcontractors.

Ricky Lyne, who lives in Bastrop and works for an Arkansas engineering company, has been on the job since Monday, cleaning streets and cutting trees along with 30 others from his company. Most of the men worked 12-hour days, including lunch and water breaks. A veteran of Hurricane Ivan cleanup efforts in Florida, Lyne said he has seen progress in New Orleans. "It's in bad shape, but it looks better every day."

# La. seeks help compiling evacuee shelter database

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

State officials are trying to develop a database of shelters in Louisiana and are urging churches and other nonprofit groups that are housing evacuees from Hurricane Katrina to register with the Department of Social Services.

Terri Ricks, undersecretary of social services, said any group hosting 25 or more people in a non-private home needs to contact their local emergency preparedness office. The local office then will ensure that the shelter gets registered with the state.

More than 54,000 Louisiana residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina are being housed at about 240 registered shelters around the state, Social Services Secretary Ann Williamson said. But officials think many more are living in other shelters that the state doesn't know about.

Ricks said shelters that register will receive a visit from the state in an attempt to make sure that they have enough resources and that evacuees are receiving proper care. The visits are designed to resolve any specific concerns and make sure they can stay up and running, Ricks said.

The state has set up a hotline for shelter operators to register: 1-866-310-7610.

On a different matter, Williamson announced that the deadline for evacuees to register for emergency food-stamp benefits has been extended by a week. More than 130,000 displaced Louisianians have registered for more than $55 million in food stamps since Sept. 2 under an emergency federal waiver. The registration period had been scheduled to expire Friday at 4:30 p.m., but it has been extended to Sept. 16.

Although there have been reports of long lines at the Office of Family Support centers where applications are being taken, Williamson said the waits are getting shorter. "With each day, the efficiency of our office operations has increased," she said.

People who were already signed up for food stamps before Katrina do not have to visit the offices to get assistance, as their benefits will be automatically credited to their EBT cards.

The emergency benefits are available to residents of the following parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Washington, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. John, West Feliciana, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Tangipahoa, Livingston and St. Helena.

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# WATERY WASTELAND

Even though the floodwaters are receding – 11 days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall — much of New Orleans remains underwater. And most of what is high and dry is littered with trash and debris left behind by the storm and the survivors who were trapped in its aftermath.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** The Lafitte public housing complex is surrounded by the polluted floodwaters left behind by Hurricane Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:** Ray Brandhurst turns away in disgust after looking at his 47-foot trawler, half-submerged in Bayou Bienvenue on Friday. The toll Katrina took on Brandhurst includes the boat, his home and his livelihood. Even if he hadn't lost the boat, he said, there still is no wharf system or distributors to which he could sell his catch.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

**NEW ORLEANS:** Search-and-rescue crews make their way down Orleans Avenue on Friday as they continue to look for storm survivors to be evacuated.

**NEW ORLEANS:** A Mardi Gras mask lies among the debris scattered along St. Claude Avenue on Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Three stray dogs make themselves at home atop the shattered remains of rooftop in the 9th Ward on Friday. The house was destroyed by the storm.

# In city of melted clocks, scribes paint Dali scenes



CHRIS ROSE

You hear the word "surreal" in every report from this city now. There is no better word for it.

If Salvador Dali showed up here, he wouldn't be able to make heads or tails of it. Nobody could paint this.

He did that famous painting of the melting clock, and our clocks melted at 6:45 the morning of Aug. 29. That's what the clocks in the French Quarter still say. That's when time stood still.

The Quarter survived all this; you've probably heard that much. Most of what remains unscathed – and I'm using a very relative term here - is a swath of dry land from the Riverbend through Audubon Park, down St. Charles and Tchoupitoulas to the Quarter and into the Bywater.

It's like a land mass the size of Bermuda, maybe, but with not so many golf courses.

There are other dry outposts in the great beyond – little Key Wests across the city – but I haven't seen them.

The weather is beautiful, I don't mind telling you. But if I wrote you a post card, it wouldn't say, "Wish You Were Here."

There are still hearty rose bushes blooming on front porches, and there are still birds singing in the park. But the park is a huge National Guard encampment.

There are men and women from other towns living there in tents and who have left their families to come help us and they are in the park clearing out the fallen timber. My fellow Americans.

Every damn one of them tells you they're happy to be here (despite what you've heard, it still beats the hell out of Fallujah), and every time I try to thank them, on behalf of all of us, I just lose it. I absolutely melt down.

There is nothing quite as ignominious as weeping in front of a soldier.

This is no environment for a wuss like me. We reporters go to other places to cover wars and disasters and pestilence and famine. There's no manual to tell you how to do this when it's your own city.

And I'm telling you: It's hard.

It's hard not to get crispy around the edges. It's hard not to cry. It's hard not to be very, very afraid.

My colleagues who are down here are warriors. There are a half-dozen of us living in a small house on a side street Uptown. Everyone else has been cleared out.

We have a generator and water and military food rations and Doritos and smokes and booze. After deadline, the call goes out: "Anyone for some warm brown liquor?" And we sit on the porch in the very, very still of the night and we try to laugh.

Some of these guys lost their houses – everything in them. But they're here, telling our city's story.

And they stink. We all stink. We stink together.

We have a bunch of guns, but it's not clear to me if anyone in this "news bureau" knows how to use them.

The California National Guard came by and wanted an accounting of every weapon in the building and they wrote the serial numbers down and apparently our guns are pretty rad because they were all cooing over the .38s.

I guess that's good to know.

The Guard wanted to know exactly what we had so they would be able to identify, apparently by sound, what guns were in whose hands if anything "went down" after dark here at this house.

That's not so good to know.

They took all our information and bid us a good day and then sauntered off to retrieve a dead guy on a front porch down the street.

Then the California Highway Patrol – the CHiPs! – came and demanded we turn over our weapons.

What are you going to do? We were certainly outnumbered, so we turned over the guns. Then, an hour later, they brought them back. With no explanation.

Whatev. So here we are. Just another day at the office.

Maybe you've seen that Times-Picayune advertising slogan before: "News, Sports and More."

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Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

# Lawmakers give D.C. colleagues the scoop

## *Landrieu, Vitter give firsthand accounts*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — When Louisiana members returned to Washington this week, they were almost immediately inundated by colleagues, asking them about what they saw on the front lines of communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

"I feel a little bit like a reporter," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. "I don't know if I'm filing my stories correctly or meeting the deadlines, but I feel like a reporter, trying to give people a sense of the magnitude of what we're facing."

Landrieu said she still gets the sense, despite the nonstop media coverage, that the public isn't really aware of the scope of the disaster — the fact that the communities devastated by the hurricane stretch for more than 90,000 square miles over three states -- larger than all of Great Brittan.

Upon Landrieu's return from Louisiana, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, arranged for almost the entire Democratic caucus to be in the chamber when Landrieu reported on her past two weeks on the ground in Southern Louisiana. Usually, the chamber is mostly empty, but Reid said it was important for senators to learn firsthand what is happening and how the rescue effort continues to fall short of the tremendous needs.

Landrieu told her colleagues that the suffering she has seen firsthand has been immense.

"If my heart is a little heavy today, it's because I've seen more in the last two weeks than I've seen in my entire life," she said.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said he's gotten a lot of questions, via his cell phone and e-mail, from Senate colleagues wanting his perspective on the disaster. Vitter said he was eager to provide his assessment because in some instances, he believes, the national media gave a distorted picture of what was happening on the ground.

**"I feel a little bit like a reporter. I don't know if I'm filing my stories correctly or meeting the deadlines, but I feel like a reporter, trying to give people a sense of the magnitude of what we're facing."**
SEN. MARY LANDRIEU

For example, he said, that some reports about the "toxic soup" of water in some areas in New Orleans implied that the pollution problem was all over Southern Louisiana, when, in fact, "it isn't the case" in downtown New Orleans and much of Jefferson Parish. It's important that this is known, Vitter said, because communities not facing significant pollution problems will be able to begin recovery efforts much sooner.

Vitter also said that reports last week from outside the New Orleans Convention Center and Superdome, which showed "horrible suffering," could have left the impression that only those areas had terrible problems, taking the spotlight off St. Bernard's substantial hurricane damage.

On the House side, Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, said his colleagues want firsthand reports on the damage, and the status of efforts to rescue those trapped by floodwater in his New Orleans district. But he said he doesn't feel like a reporter updating his readers or viewers.

"They treat me a little bit like someone at a funeral who just lost a loved one," Jefferson said. "They reach out and say how sorry they are. And that they want to help."

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said he too has been overwhelmed by the offers of help from his congressional colleagues, some of whom traveled to the state to personally deliver relief supplies like water and ice.

But he's also been able to personally attest to the breakdowns of bureaucracy that delayed the resolution of urgent requests for help, he wrote this week for the Wall Street Journal. Among his examples:

Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said that he too has found that colleagues wanted to hear firsthand about reports of ineptitude with the federal rescue efforts and wanted to know if they were as bad as portrayed in the media. Melancon said he answers that they probably were "worse."

On Friday, he was complaining that a federal contract to provide air ambulance service in Louisiana was given to two out-of-state firms, rather than Acadian Ambulance of Louisiana, which has been providing the service "quite efficiently" in the aftermath of Katrina.

He said his House colleagues are offering to provide staff to help with constituents' requests for aid that already are flowing in and likely will increase as people look for the right federal agency to help with their personal recovery efforts.

# Soldiers return to family, but not to their homes

## *Bittersweet homecoming for troops from Iraq*

**By John-John Williams III and Mary Swercyzk**
Staff writers

ALEXANDRIA — Staff Sgt. Scott Andrus of New Orleans didn't know Friday how brutal Hurricane Katrina had been to his Uptown home.

After more than a year in Iraq, battling insurgents and trying to rebuild and restore order to the war-torn nation, Andrus surmised it couldn't be worse than what he saw overseas.

All he did know was that he wanted to be with his wife, Heather, and the rest of his family.

"For the last 18 months, I've had only pictures to look at. Even in hard times, knowing they're going to be here, it's not going to be as bad as what I went through," Andrus said.

Amid a backdrop of American flags, balloons, welcome-home banners proclaiming "Our Dad Is a Hero" and the family dogs, about 100 members of the Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion 141st Field Artillery returned to the waiting arms of family and friends. About 2,800 members of the group, including 450 soldiers in New Orleans, will return home over the next month.

But what they will find at home may be less than what they had in Iraq.

"He's coming here to no home, no clothes, no car – nothing," said Andrus's mother, Kathy Andrus, whose Boothville business was destroyed. "But he's coming home."

Katrina slammed into the battalion's home base in St. Bernard Parish, submerging Jackson Barracks, at the Orleans-St. Bernard parish line, under several feet of water.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who greeted the troops, described the homecoming as a bittersweet moment and pledged the state's assistance in helping the soldiers and their families rebuild their lives.

"I'd like to tell you that hope is here," she said.

"We're glad our soldiers are home," Blanco said to erupting applause. "They needed to be here. They need to help us to rebuild."

And some soldiers will find hefty rebuilding jobs.

Heather Andrus, for instance, thinks the family's home took on water. She hasn't returned to it since the storm, but a television report showed students paddling down the couple's street, she said.

But the rebuilding will be that much easier to take with loved ones back at home.

Dale Standifer of Gentilly was in Alexandria to greet her son, Staff Sgt. Michael Green of Destrehan. His wife and four kids evacuated to Austin, Texas, and were en route to Alexandria.

Standifer said she believes her home is under water, but added she was in good spirits.

"This is just an answer to a prayer," she said. "Of all the time we needed our family, we need them now. My family has been so blessed. We've got each other."

The troops will receive a four-day pass to be with their loved ones. The soldiers will then return to Fort Polk and have the option to re-enlist or demobilize.



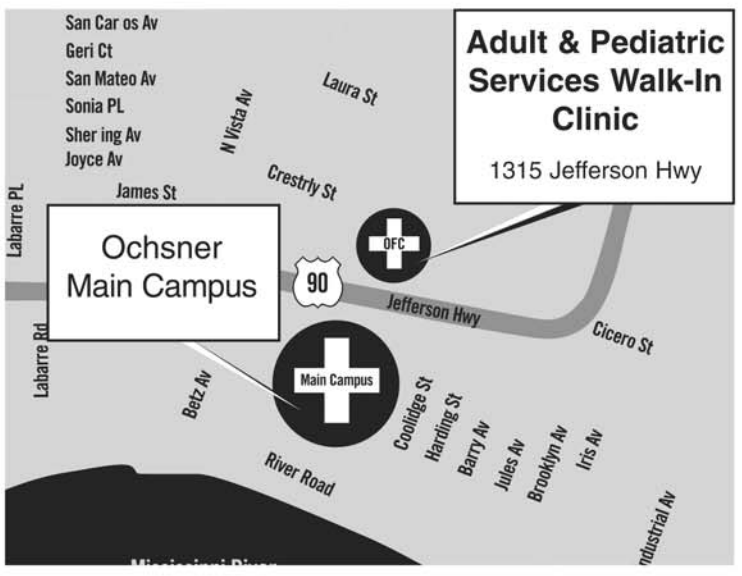

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# Door-to-door searches turning up … not much

*Empty homes hint at fewer deaths in Lower 9th Ward*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Federal and local law enforcement agents were finding signs of neither life nor death Friday in house-by-house searches in one of the most traumatized parts of New Orleans: the Lower 9th Ward.

"There is some evidence from what we have found in initial sweeps that catastrophic death may not have occurred," Terry Ebbert, the city's director of homeland security, said Friday outside City Hall. "The numbers so far are relatively minor compared to the dire predictions."

Federal agents led at least five search parties Friday that started focusing on what the Federal Emergency Management Agency has dodged since Hurricane Katrina left Louisiana in agony: compiling a death toll.

Search parties were on the sludge-topped ground in the Lower 9th Ward, conducting house-by-house searches down Tricou Street, crossed by Burgundy, Congress and North Rampart streets off of St. Claude Avenue, for the first time since the water drained away.

"I want to believe most people made it out of here," said Detective Gregory Hamilton of the New Orleans Police Department as he sat for a moment on the front steps of a shotgun at 401 Tricou St.

With Drug Enforcement Administration agents from Miami, the search team padded over black muck and cautiously kicked the sludge off their boots. Most wore face masks to filter out the smell and possible toxins. People were warned to wash their feet.

Several blocks away, on St. Claude Avenue where New Orleans meets St. Bernard Parish, a fire department unit from Maryland said it was also coming up empty-handed when it came to finding people alive or dead.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Members of the military search a home Friday in the Lower 9th Ward. Officials estimated that as many as 10,000 people have remained in the city, despite most of it being deluged with murky water with a stench so strong that crews smell it 300 feet in the air.

The front of a shotgun double at 1005 and 1006 Tricou was marked with the orange spray paint that only the military or federal agents are allowed to use. The two orange zeros meant no one was found dead or alive Friday by the DEA.

Dozens of homes along Tricou were also marked with orange zeroes on Friday.

The home searches had protocol: After DEA agents broke in, a woman's voice announced: "Police, DEA." Then, a group of seven National Guard soldiers walked single file into the house to conduct a sweep.

In these few blocks, a dozen or so homes were empty. The only survivors found on Tricou over the course of a few hours Friday were pets, mostly dogs. One poodle gazed out the open front door from a couch. A DEA agent gave it some water, but he said all they could do was call the SPCA to remove the pooch.

We've got to get these dogs out, another DEA agent told him. "I'm a dog lover."

The search units were ordered to identify survivors, the dead or their pets. Had survivors been found, the agents were to ask whether they wanted to evacuate, but no one was instructed to use force.

Had a dead body been found, the agents were under orders to call the federal Disaster Mortuary Operation Rescue Teams, a volunteer effort of morticians, dentists, fingerprint experts and pathologists, among other specialists, who answer to the Department of Homeland Security. They will identify casualties, tag them and perform autopsies.

The only cases that will be reported back to the NOPD will be suspected incidents of foul play

"We want the living," said Capt. Marlon Defillo, the department's spokesman. "Even today, people are calling us" for rescues.

Defillo said it wasn't his place to predict a death toll for New Orleans. Days before, Mayor Ray Nagin said the body count could reach 10,000 for the region.

In the Lower 9th Ward, Hamilton marked the first day since the storm that any law enforcement was on the ground in search of people. "This is the first day we've been allowed here," he said on Tricou Street. "The water was very high."

Two days after the storm, 5th District NOPD officers were able to evacuate on boats from their flooded headquarters at 3900 Claiborne Ave., four blocks from the Industrial Canal, Hamilton said. They then helped evacuate about 2,000 people on Poland Avenue, a staging area for rescues. The survivors were taken to the Superdome.

On Friday, DEA-led teams of out-of-town police officers, National Guard troops and, in the Tricou Street group, Hamilton, banded together to go house by house.

Katrina left filthy cars, downed power lines and a coating of what firefighters and paramedics on the ground called toxic muck. Their boots left black footprints in the brown sludge, which the sun had baked into crust along some streets.

No residents were seen walking the neighborhood, Hamilton said.

Instead, DEA agents in vans, police from Dublin, Ohio, and the National Guard went door to door.

This is Hamilton's police district, where he once tracked down witnesses to murders. Hamilton, a 12-year NOPD veteran, has been a homicide detective for nine years. His Algiers house survived the storm. On Friday, his hope was that the neighborhood he once patrolled had done the same.

But at one house he checked, the door was wide open. A faint black water mark, as high as the air-conditioning unit installed in the home's first-floor living room window, was visible behind him.

• • • • • • • • •

Staff writer Brett Anderson contributed to this story.

# Military trucks patrol 9th Ward for holdouts

*Troops still search homes, streets*

**By Jarvis DeBerry**
Staff writer

New Orleans Police Department Capt. Tim Bayard sent a group of military trucks into the lowest-lying parts of New Orleans on Friday, in the hopes that some of the most stubborn holdouts would be would be more likely to climb aboard the ground vehicles than boats.

The appearance of trucks seemed to make no difference to the woman sitting outside on Lizardi Street between Chartres and Royal streets. When the group of 5-ton military trucks rumbled through the Holy Cross neighborhood, she was talking to personnel from the Navy and the Coast Guard. Refusing to sway, she waved her hand to indicate she did not want assistance.

Throughout the city Friday, authorities continued to search homes and streets, trying to flush the last holdouts from hiding.

The Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade 700th Support Battalion provided the trucks and drivers for Friday morning's trip. New Orleans police detective Kevin Imbraguglio sat in the front seat and provided directions.

If there were people to be rescued Friday morning, they weren't showing themselves. The trucks were noisy, and the driver of the lead vehicle honked her horn several times, but the woman on the Lizardi Street sidewalk was the only person to be seen between the Industrial Canal and the parish line.

In neighboring St. Bernard Parish, Lee Phillips was sitting on a brown folding chair outside his Arabi home. He said he had evacuated to Baton Rouge before Hurricane Katrina.

He believed his house had gotten up to 5 feet of water, but there was none there Friday. Phillips had come back to his house on Jannsen Street on Thursday to empty out freezers and refrigerators that were stuffed full with game, he said.

The river side of St. Claude Avenue had been mostly pumped dry Friday, but the opposite was true on the other side. On some streets, water still reached the tops of the big trucks' tires.

North Claiborne Avenue was heavily flooded. Near Martin Luther King Elementary School, a tricycle hung from a tree branch. Farther toward St. Bernard Parish, a propane tank hung from a wire.

Nearby, the rear tires of a sedan rested atop a chain-link fence. The nose of the car was on the ground.

The trucks rolled past, ignoring the wreckage of Hurricane Katrina, searching for people to flush from the city.

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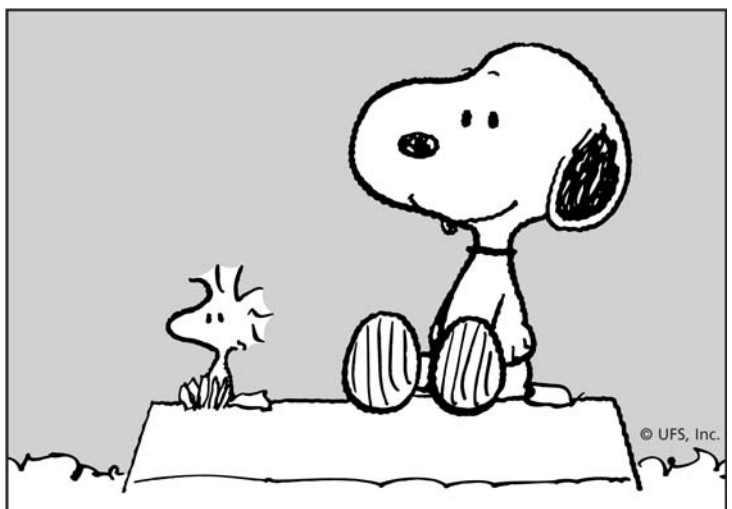
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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Some overworked doctors at airport to head home

## *They faced sleeplessness and terrible conditions*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

For days on end, they handled a never-ending flood of the sick and wounded streaming out of shattered New Orleans and into the terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

Now, some of the small corps of exhausted doctors, nurses and medics - who treated about 10,000 people - are going home.

"Remember the scene in Atlanta in 'Gone With the Wind?' That's what it was like," said paramedic David Spence of Texas City, Texas, a member of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team organized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

D-MAT teams from Washington state, Alabama and Texas were among the first to arrive two days after the storm struck the city Aug. 29.

They set up curtained treatment areas in the ticket lobby near Concourse D, including a triage area in baggage claim nicknamed "the pit."

"When we got here, there were six patients waiting for us," said Dr. Mona Khanna, whose regular job is as a medical correspondent for a Dallas television station. "A day later, there were patients stretching out to the horizon in mud and blood and feces who needed help."

The evacuees came from overloaded staging areas such as the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Many were rescued from rooftops by helicopter and carried to the airport.

Somewhere between 50,000 and 75,000 evacuees have passed through the airport terminal between Aug. 30 and Wednesday, most of them on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after the storm. At least 30,000 were evacuated from the area by military airlift. The rest left by bus.

They were hungry, dehydrated, wounded and chronically ill. Patients in hospices and nursing home residents also were dropped off at the airport. The floors were black with mud and the restroom toilets overflowed because of damage to the Jefferson Parish water system.

"You had day-old babies sitting in all of this," Khanna said.

The 150 members of Air Force and FEMA medical teams in place during those first few days had the daunting task of checking on each who came through and taking care of those who needed medical attention. The medical teams were short on people, supplies and space.

"This is a situation where you couldn't stop working on someone until they got what they needed. If you left them, you would never be able to get back to them," said Spence, who said he operated a manual ventilator bag on one person for three hours because there weren't enough oxygen regulators to go around.

Khanna and nurse Brent Boen of Denton, Texas, both went to New York to work in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Khanna also went to areas in Indonesia damaged by the 2004 tsunami.

"As bad as those were, I've never seen anything like this," she said.

"You had to keep going because of the entreaties for help. I don't think anyone here got more than four hours sleep in that 72-hour period."

Boen said the major difference between Sept. 11 and Katrina is that most of the New York victims died in the attack. "This was more like war," he said.

By Thursday, an 85-member team from the Air Force's 357th Medical Group from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois also had arrived and helped to handle the flood.

"I picked up (stretchers) for 19 hours straight, and when I couldn't do that, I found something else to do," said Col. Larry Riddles, the unit's commander.

The flood of patients was so great that the medical teams had to set up triage areas to prioritize treatment.

"The fact that you had triage means that you didn't have the resources to get to everyone," Riddles said. "If I had to come in here tomorrow, I don't know if we would have done it any differently."

Because many of the patients were chronically ill, or taken from hospices, it was inevitable that some would die. But just how many died at the airport is unclear.

Aviation Director Roy Williams said he thinks the number is between 20 and 50, and that some of the deaths involved people who did not seek medical help.

Khanna's 35-member D-MAT TX4 team went home Friday, and she said she needs a few days to re-adjust to the pace of a normal life.

"It's a syndrome that everyone who has been in these fantastically stressful situations has to deal with," she said. FEMA spokesman Mike Reiger said each team has a choice of whether it goes home or not.

"If one person on the team says they can't stay on, the team goes home," he said. "Other members may be assigned to teams elsewhere, but everyone who stays is sent out of the area to be evaluated to make sure they're psychologically able to continue."

Spence said he wants to delay his return to his job as a British Petroleum oil refinery operator.

"I don't feel like I've done enough," he said.

# Pet reunions lift spirits of humans and animals

## *Families reconnect at Gonzales shelter*

**By Mark Waller and Susan Finch**
Staff writers

The water forced Roland White to live for three days on the roof of his Chalmette home, where he built a shelter from the sun out of boards and a blanket, drank rainwater and ate olives from a jar he found floating by.

He had only one companion and only one way to hold onto his wits during the ordeal. So he talked, all the time, to his daughter's golden retriever, Dusty.

"If you don't talk to Dusty," he told himself, "you'll go crazy."

It tore him up when getting out of heavily flooded St. Bernard Parish meant leaving Dusty behind on the Wednesday after Katrina. The 9-month-old Labrador had to stay in a fenced area at the St. Bernard Parish Prison, because the ferry across the Mississippi River to Algiers and the bus coming for evacuees wouldn't take pets.

But more than a week later, at the Lamar Dixon Expo

Center in Gonzales on Thursday, White caught an improbable, wonderful sight.

White, his wife, Linda, and his daughter, Lisa Faxon, had finished searching the stables for Dusty. They were about to travel back to a state park near Alexandria where they are staying when a new trailer full of panting, wagging, woofing dogs arrived. Right in the middle, standing up with his paws on the bars, was Dusty.

"Now we're complete," White said. "We've got the whole family. That's a miracle, the way that came about."

Working from the Lamar Dixon Expo Center, an army of animal welfare experts and volunteers from around the nation had managed by Friday to rescue more 1,300 dogs and cats, not to mention 100 exotic pets and 400 horses and mules, that New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish residents left at home when they fled from Hurricane Katrina.

But there are "tens of thousands" more animals still waiting to be brought to safety, many of them at the request of their worried owners and many strays, according to Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals executive director Laura Maloney, whose organization is overseeing the huge effort that authorities green-lighted to begin earlier this week.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Lisa Faxon, left, and Linda White find their golden retriever Dusty on a truck carrying more than 50 dogs. Dusty was left behind after a harrowing three days on the roof of the St. Bernard Parish Prison in Chalmette.

Maloney said boat and truck rescue teams are breaking in, if need be, to houses where pet owners have reported their animals are trapped, but some animals are finding the rescuers, swimming to them at times. "They're trying to jump in the boats," she said.

**"When you get done saving people, I think it's time to save these animals. All a dog wants to do is give you love, that's all he wants to do."**
ROLAND WHITE

Some of the animals now at the shelter were rescued from 20 to 30 veterinary hospitals that Maloney said accepted them for boarding before the storm, then made no effort to evacuate them. "It's like my responsibility for my shelter," a frustrated Maloney said. "I have a responsibility to ensure their safety, even if they're not mine."

White said he stayed at his house on Jackson Boulevard in Chalmette while the rest of his family evacuated because he wanted to protect belongings from rising water, never expecting the water to rise so much. Dusty stayed with him because the dog had been sick.

So as water filled the house, White found himself neck-deep, awkwardly pushing the 60-pound puppy up the ladder to the attic.

He later chopped, pried and sawed his way out of the attic, taking care to make the hole big enough for Dusty.

People boated by but no rescuers came, so White eventually swam to an overturned flatboat and bailed it out with a bucket he found. He took Dusty in the boat, but couldn't take him past the jail.

White spent that Wednesday night sleeping on the concrete at the Chalmette ferry landing with a few hundred other people, he said. The ferry gathered them Thursday morning. A bus heading to Texas came Thursday night. But he got off at Lafayette, where he called his wife, who was in Baton Rouge and came to get him.

He said he didn't know how to break it to his three grandchildren that he couldn't save Dusty.

"You know how hard it was for me to tell them I had to leave Dusty back?" White said. "That broke my heart."

The animal shelter in Gonzales was the site of happy reunions for some pet owners on Thursday. Others left disappointed, thinking about dogs and cats left on second floors with extra food and water, wondering if animal rescuers found them.

As more and more rescued animals arrive in Gonzales to be cleaned, fed , exercised and given sleeping quarters, Maloney and scores of officials from the Humane Society of the United States and other groups are making plans to move them to quarters out of state for safekeeping, she said Friday.

Owners don't need to be concerned that they'll lose track of their pets if they're shipped outside Louisiana, she added, because every animals brought here is photographed and equipped with a microchip bearing information about where the animal was found. "If we know we took it from your house, we'll call you," she said.

And pet owners will soon have a place to see all the rescued animals: their pictures are being posted on the Internet at www.petfinder.com, Maloney said.

Jo Anne Roman of the Humane Society of Broward County, Fla., who is spending long days supervising the rescue shelter's operations, said that most of the animals that have come in seem to have been well cared for before Katrina. They're not starving, but they have been "terrorized" by the events that landed them here.

At the Jefferson Highway pet supply store that is the first stop for all the rescued pets, one of the new arrivals Thursday was a female Pekinese mix helicoptered in from the New Orleans Museum of Art by a New York-based organization of retired police officers volunteering to secure the museum and its $250 million worth of assets.

For her trip to Jefferson Feed and Seed, the dog was placed in an ice chest where members of the International Investigative Group had been keeping their drinks, said member Steve Dux. Colorado veterinarian Dr. James Gaynor, part of a federally funded animal rescue assistance corps, took a look at the pooch and gave Dux an upbeat assessment: "I think she actually looks worse than she is; she's covered in greasy muck," he said.

For many, like the White family, who lost everything, the reconciliation with their beloved pets brings hope.

White hugged Dusty and told him his family was back. Dusty excitedly ran in circles.

"When you get done saving people, I think it's time to save these animals," White said. "All a dog wants to do is give you love, that's all he wants to do."

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

# Tigers carrying emotions of state

## *LSU finally to open season, 'host' Sun Devils*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

TEMPE, ARIZ. — Skyler Green makes a right.

Reflected in the shiny rims on his truck are the blurry images of two Military Police officers strolling the sidewalk on Skip Bertman Drive, near Alex Box Stadium. They are holding assault rifles. One is smoking a cigarette. Children are nearby. Tuesday practice is over.

Red light.

Eventually, the LSU senior receiver/spokesman makes a left onto Nicholson Drive. He passes the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, where the main arena is being used as a medical triage area and the auxiliary gym as a morgue, keeps going past the Bernie Moore Track Stadium, where the infield has been converted to a landing pad for Chinook helicopters, and finally the Carl Maddox Fieldhouse, now a shelter for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

"We're always going to have Louisiana on the back of our minds," Green said.

Devastation and hopelessness intermingled with optimism and energy on this oak-lined, football-crazed campus last week as several LSU athletic facilities were rapidly converted to relief areas.

On Monday, school officials announced that the delayed season-opener for the fifth-ranked Tigers (the original season opener against North Texas State has been postponed) would be a "home" game at Arizona State, played three states to the West in triple-digit heat in front of 3,000 of their closest friends (that's how many season-ticket holders exchanged their seats). LSU "hosts" No. 15 Arizona State at 8:15 p.m. today at Sun Devil Stadium.

"There's no way that you get away from here," LSU coach Les Miles said. "We're so attached. It's such a heartfelt environment. Even if you travel, certainly, your waking thoughts move toward Louisiana. But I think our guys will enjoy playing football – whether it is home or away. They'll enjoy those three hours, or so, they are allowed to go out there and play."

Since the storm hit southeast Louisiana, several LSU players have housed family members and friends in their confined living quarters. Quarterback JaMarcus Russell had 23 people crammed into his apartment near Highland Road and spent hours making pharmacy runs for New Orleans legend Fats Domino.

Defensive tackle Kyle Williams welcomed several in-laws and watched with them as aerial shots scanned their flooded home near UNO. He didn't know what to say.

Even this week, as things begin to somewhat resemble pre-Katrina normalcy around Baton Rouge, practice has been the players main escape from the ever-present reminders of what happened less than two weeks ago.

"Visiting the shelters and what-not, everybody knows we're playing ball and every time we go in there they are asking 'When are you going to play' and stuff like that," running back Justin Vincent said. "I think they're looking forward to something like that - something to keep their mind off certain distractions going on in their life right now."

Miles choice at quarterback - big news in August reduced to a distant subplot come September - still hasn't been announced, this after he proclaimed throughout August that he'd gladly tell everyone of

his decision the Thursday prior to opening kickoff.

Smart money is on Russell since he received most first-team reps in practices and scrimmages. Matt Flynn is available if Russell struggles, but it seems unrealistic that offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher would play heralded freshman Ryan Perrilloux this soon, even though all three quarterbacks have several talented safety nets surrounding them.

"It is going to take much more than our front line to contain their run. It is going to take all 11 guys," Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter said. "But you can't totally focus on that. They have three great wide receivers and an excellent tight end as well. They have a talented offensive line. Taking away the run is going to be a challenge for our whole defense. Our linebackers and safeties are going to be very involved."

Forgotten in the recent swirl of events is that the

Les Miles era begins. Gerry DiNardo was the last LSU coach to open outside of Tiger Stadium against a ranked opponent. LSU lost that game 33-17 to Texas A&M in 1995.

"I can tell you there is no excuse," Miles said. "At the end of the year, there will be a ledger. The ledger will read wins and losses. There's no asterisks."

NOTE: LSU got an assist from a couple of Louisiana schools in rescheduling its season opener with North Texas for Oct. 29.

Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette adjusted their schedules so the Tigers and the Mean Green could play their game in Tiger Stadium.

"Our friends in the University of Louisiana System, particularly presidents Ray Authement of UL-Lafayette and Jim Cofer of ULM, as well as North Texas president Norval Pohl, have come to our aid in making this move possible," said LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe. "I am appreciative of the cooperation and the UL system's leadership in making this change possible."

"This game rounds out our schedule for 2005 and allows us to move forward with our season," said LSU athletics director Skip Bertman. "My thanks to everyone involved for their perseverance in making this happen. We now look forward to getting our home schedule underway on September 24 against Tennessee in Tiger Stadium."

ULM was scheduled to play North Texas on Oct. 29, but will play the Mean Green on Nov. 19, the day ULM was scheduled to play ULL. That game has been moved to Nov. 26. LSU has an open date next week (Sept. 17) and then will play 10 consecutive weeks.

• • • • • •

Jim Kleinpeter contributed to this report.

# Shinn: Hornets won't bail on New Orleans

## *Says team committed to staying near home*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

Hornets owner George Shinn conceded Friday it might be difficult to play home games close to New Orleans this season, but he said he remains steadfast in his bond with the city.

"Our objective is not to abandon ship here or to get out of dodge," Shinn said from his summer home in Telford, Tenn. "Our plan is to hope and pray New Orleans rebuilds. And I think it will with everyone's support and the federal money that's coming in there. I think it will be stronger."

The city of Louisville, Ky., has offered Freedom Hall as a site for some of the Hornets' home games this season, according to a report Friday in the Courier-Journal.

Louisville was among the suitors when the Hornets relocated from Charlotte before the 2002-03 season, but there was no NBA-ready arena in place as there was in New Orleans. Louisville now joins Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Nashville and San Diego as cities that have extended invitations to the Hornets to play "home" games this year.

"I haven't heard from Louisville," Shinn said Friday, "Lots of cities have made contact through the league. I know we're taking a look and listening to a few. But we're trying to get something close to Louisiana."

Shinn, however, said hopes are dimming that Baton Rouge could be used as a possible home venue this season.

The Hornets cannot play in New Orleans Arena because of facility damage and hurricane-related infrastructure problems in the city.

Hornets representatives Sam Russo and Steve Martin have informed Shinn that the downtown Rivercenter and the LSU Assembly Center in Baton Rouge might be unavailable because of their current use as evacuation shelters and medical facilities.

Russo, Shinn said, traveled to Shreveport on Friday to scout possible locations there. The Hornets are scheduled to play a preseason game against the Miami Heat in Bossier City on Oct. 25.

"But we've got to remember the economics have to be there to support it," Shinn said. "We've still got a business to operate. We've got to keep that in mind.

"The thing everybody's got to remember is our goal is simple: We want to play in New Orleans. That's our home. But we can't. We can't come back even if the facility was clean because there's nobody else there. The city will come back. We don't know how long it will take, therefore we've got to find a temporary home."

Shinn is scheduled to tour the city Saturday morning, and several front-office personnel will attempt to retrieve the club's computer system and server from the corporate offices on Poydras Street.

He said he hopes to have a decision on where the Hornets could play home games perhaps early next week.

The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

# Flooding poses insurance puzzle

## *Canal breach likely coverage quandary*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Whether the flooding in New Orleans caused by the breach in the 17th Street Canal should be covered by flood or homeowners policies is likely to be the key insurance question emerging from Hurricane Katrina, and it may end up in court, participants in a meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance said Friday.

National Flood Insurance policies by law are capped at $250,000. Some homes in the New Orleans area that were affected by the 17th Street Canal flooding don't have flood insurance because they're not in a flood plain, and many other homes that have flood insurance are worth more than $250,000.

Louisiana lawmakers would like for homeowners insurance policies, which are tied to the value of the house, to cover the damage. If not, some Louisiana lawmakers would like the federal government to create a special appropriation to cover the difference.

"Does the homeowners insurance cover it? That's going to be the big question down the road," Sen. James David Cain, R-Dry Creek, the committee chairman, said in opening remarks. "A lot of issues like the flooding are going to end up in court."

Kristina Simpson, an intergovernmental affairs specialist from the Federal Emergency Management Agency who came to the meeting to answer lawmakers' questions, said that in previous disasters, FEMA did not cover the gap if homeowners were underinsured.

Former state Rep. Chuck McMains Jr., who now represents the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, a trade association for the insurance industry, had no answers on the flood insurance question.

"A lot of that is going to take more investigation of exactly what happened," McMains said. "I don't know the answer to that question."

McMains said that the insurance industry wants to set up a mediation process to handle those disputes individually. In Florida, mediation solved 83 percent of the disputes from the four hurricanes that struck the state last year, said Jim Donelon, chief deputy commissioner from the Louisiana Department of Insurance.

McMains also said he believes mold and mildew damage caused by the flooding would also fall under the flood insurance policy, not a homeowners insurance policy.

But some state lawmakers didn't accept those answers. Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R-New Orleans, said he has constituents whose homes never flooded during Hurricane Betsy or the May 1995 floods that now have water problems. Because the water came from one break in the levee suggests it's an engineering failure, he said, and people who have paid diligently on their homeowners policies for decades shouldn't be abandoned in their time of need.

"If all the water was coming over, why did it give in just one spot?" Bruneau asked. "We find it unusual that it was caused by a brand new levee collapsing."

Other insurance questions are likely to emerge. If areas such as eastern New Orleans are deemed unfit to be rebuilt, will the federal government reimburse homeowners for the value of their lots, which are separate from their homeowners' policies? What happens to tax bills that will be issued on homes that no longer exist? And how will the many people who lost jobs through Hurricane Katrina get health insurance?

The other major concern for New Orleans area lawmakers was how local residents can participate in the millions of dollars of local contracts that will be awarded to rebuild Louisiana. Enabling local residents to get work will help rebuild the economy and increase the chances that people will return to New Orleans.

"I'd like you to let FEMA know that we would like our people to participate in the rebuilding process," said Sen. Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans. "It's a good way to help bring the local economy back."

Rep. Karen Carter, D-New Orleans, chairwoman of the House Insurance Committee, said she has heard that several international engineering and construction firms already have handshake agreements for major contracts, and she is concerned the process is moving too fast for locals to grab on.

Simpson said FEMA recognizes the economic development importance of the rebuilding contracts, and he promised to give information to the Louisiana representatives about how the contract process works and what skills are typically needed for the work.

But Simpson emphasized that FEMA's role is one of helping the state as a last resort. Local and state governments need to try to solve problems first, he said.

"If you want to keep it in Louisiana, you need the state to keep it in Louisiana," Simpson said. "We are always in a support role. We do not have jurisdiction to take over."

# State won't go under, treasurer promises

## *Kennedy reassures Wall Street analysts*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

State Treasurer John Kennedy says rumors that Hurricane Katrina will bankrupt the state are false, and that he has been on conference calls all week trying to reassure Wall Street analysts that Louisiana will remain solvent.

"The state will meet all current and future obligations," Kennedy said. A bankruptcy filing "is not within the realm of possibility."

Two bond rating agencies — Moody's and Standard & Poor's — placed $9.4 billion in Louisiana debt on credit watch this week because of the storm, sparking the bankruptcy rumors.

"The states of Louisiana and Mississippi and their local governments and enterprises have experienced severe physical damage and economic disruption, but the full extent and duration of the disruption is unknown," the Moody's report says. "At this time, we do not anticipate any defaults, but the ultimate extent of credit deterioration, if any, remains unknown."

Kennedy said state tax revenue likely would take a hit from the storm. About $40 billion of the state's $125 billion in total personal income tax revenue comes from the metropolitan New Orleans area, and the state also will lose tax revenue on lost income and spending.

"We will have some cash flow disruption at the state and local level," Kennedy said.

But Kennedy said the state has about $400 million in its rainy day fund, and he has opened lines of credit to give the state flexibility in dealing with the crisis. Meanwhile, all nonessential spending by the state has been frozen.

Kennedy is also working with U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., to set up a pool of money from which local governments can borrow to meet their debt obligations. The idea is to make sure state entities stay credit worthy for when it comes time to start rebuilding Southeastern Louisiana.

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The public will be notified when the Hearings are rescheduled.
If you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at (225) 242-4513. Further info. on the project can be found on Web at http://www.i49south.org

## OUR OPINIONS

# Time to reconnect

New Orleans and the suburbs spreading out through the swampy land around it are populated with people who have an intense devotion to place.

People live around the corner from their mamas, and their mamas live not far from where their parents and grandparents lived. Or at least they did, before Hurricane Katrina smashed into the metro area and water filled up much of Plaquemines, St. Bernard and Orleans parishes and parts of East Jefferson.

Now, hundreds of thousands of South Louisianians are scattered across the region and far beyond. Many left under their own power and chose a place because of family or work ties. But tens of thousands of others were loaded onto buses and taken to shelters in far-flung places where they knew no virtually no one. These are people who have little left of their possessions.

Some of them will want to stay where they've landed. There are a growing number of exiled New Orleanians trying to find jobs and enroll their children in school in Houston, Dallas, Baton Rouge and the myriad other cities that have taken in evacuees.

But there are others who will want to return to the New Orleans metro area. At the moment, that is not possible for many of them. Power is being restored in St. Tammany Parish and parts of Jefferson Parish, and some residents are beginning to return and rebuild their lives. In Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines, however, that is not yet possible. There, the vast majority of homes are still under water. There is no power or water or sewer service.

The kind people who are caring for their needs in the Astrodome in Houston, the Cajundome in Lafayette, the River Center in Baton Rouge and elsewhere deserve great thanks. Many of these displaced residents have been through unimaginable trauma. They were rescued from their rooftops. They were left to fend for themselves on Interstate 10 with no water, food or shelter. They were jammed into the Superdome or the Convention Center with few supplies and little protection.

They needed a lot of TLC by the time they reached safe shelters, and the response in cities across the nation has been a wonder to see. In the days and weeks ahead, though, the focus needs to be on helping people connect with their surviving family members and returning to their communities if they want to do so.

Some of these people surely have family members who would be willing to take them in temporarily if only they could get to them. There is no telling how many people are searching for relatives right now. Every effort should be made to connect those people with each other. The Red Cross and other agencies coordinating relief efforts ought to make that a top priority.

A computer database is being put together on evacuees at major shelters such as the Astrodome. That information ought to be used to help displaced residents connect with family members who lost each other in the chaos of evacuation.

Ours is an age of instant communication, but the devastation wrought by Katrina temporarily severed some of those links. Those who lost little or nothing need to make sure that those who lost everything are able to reconnect with home and family.

## OTHER OPINIONS

Not a single Arabian horse has been reported killed by Katrina, so maybe FEMA Director Michael Brown's work experience came in handy after all.

That humans have been less fortunate is hardly surprising. Neither Brown nor any of his top aides knew beans about disaster relief when they were handed jobs after the 2000 election. Evidently, Brown has not learned much since, and by Friday not even the Bush administration could maintain the pretense that he was up to snuff.

— James Gill, *Times-Picayune columnist. For full text, see www.nola.com/newslogs/opinion*

President Bush still has a chance to improve the now-fading prospects for his second term. The first goal remains helping Katrina's victims; it's important that congressional inquiries not distract from recovery efforts. But soon enough the president will face another test: whether to demand the kind of accountability that has so far been lacking in his administration, including acknowledging his own miscalculations.

Another challenge will be to assess accurately the cost of federal disaster relief. This, too, would require a change in the administration's standard operating procedure, which has been to minimize costs (see, for example, military operations in Iraq) and refuse to acknowledge their consequences.

— *Editorial in The Washington Post*

**"We're making it family-friendly."**

MARY JUSTBIG, retired major with Salvation Army

# Missouri shows its compassionate side

*Vacant jail now home for evacuees*

**By Jeffrey Kuhn**
Staff writer

CHESTERFIELD, MO. — Volunteers and workers from St. Louis County government were working energetically Thursday to prepare a long-vacant county jail for Katrina evacuees. Amid the smell of fresh paint, they were taking down barbed wire; preparing to hang wallboard to hide the bars; decorating walls, fences and furniture; and planting flowers to provide a warm welcome.

"We're making it family-friendly," said Mary Justbig, a retired major with the Salvation Army, which is managing the shelter.

And though the shelter is ready to take 150 evacuees, none had spent a night in it as of Thursday.

Only a few days ago, the jail complex sat empty in the bottomlands along the Missouri River once known as the Gumbo community. Built on truck-farming fields in the 1970s to house prisoners for the St. Louis area's largest suburban county, the jail was partially vacated after the river flooded it in 1993. It was completely emptied about four years later when officials decided it was too inconvenient to transport inmates to the county seat in Clayton.

When the magnitude of the Katrina catastrophe became apparent, St. Louis County offered to rehab the jail for use as a shelter and redubbed it the Regional Assistance Center. Officials in the St. Louis area are preparing to take several thousand evacuees, Justbig said.

County crews got the building's plumbing and wiring in working order, hung wallboard and installed privacy screens in the bathrooms. "Tons of volunteers" assisted with painting, Justbig said. A volunteer artist worked Thursday on a mural of Dr. Seuss and "Peanuts" characters, and teenagers pushed red and white plastic cups into chain-link fencing to spell out "Welcome."

Three large rooms, each with 50 beds, were ready in one building. Each bed had a teddy bear, fresh towels and a greeting penned by children. "We are glad to help," "You are so brave," "God loves you" and "You rock my sox," some said. Privacy screens separated each bed.

Two smaller rooms, one with a 32-inch screen television, are serving as lounges. The building is air-conditioned, showers and washing machines are available, and hot meals will be served. A closet filled with donated books will serve as a library.

"We have an endless supply of clothing," Justbig said, noting that one donor alone had enough to give each evacuee seven outfits.

There also will be phones and Internet connections available for evacuees. A nursing staff has prepared a small room as a clinic, and mental health counselors will be provided. The Humane Society has offered to care for each pet until families are ready to leave the shelter. Churches will be allowed to provide Sunday worship services and perhaps take evacuees to a local zoo or shopping areas.

The first evacuee arrived Wednesday night from New Orleans. After being flown into Lambert airport that day, he received medical care at a Veterans Affairs hospital and was taken to the shelter. But he refused to spend another night in an institutional setting, Justbig said. Staffers helped him find a brother in the St. Louis area, who took him in.

The shelter is waiting for more evacuees. Justbig doesn't know when they will arrive.

How long will they stay at the shelter? "It's anybody's guess," Justbig said. She expects the shelter to be open for months and said she hopes the outpouring of donations and volunteers will not flag.

"Just having their own roof over their heads will make quite a bit of difference," she said.

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The Times-Picayune

SPORTS

PAGE A-17
Saturday
September 10, 2005

Tonight LSU football begins a new chapter when Coach Les Miles leads his Tigers into sun Devil Stadium against Arizona State. His past has prepared him for this moment: carrying the weight of the Tiger Nation on his Ohio shoulders.

# MILES TO GO

By William Kalec
Staff writer




AP PHOTO

LSU coach Les Miles will finally make his Tigers' debut tonight against Arizona State. The Tigers endured an offseason of turmoil and tragedy, culminated by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

To prevent wrinkles, the suit coat is draped on a hanger, looped over a piece of office furniture.

Having it there reminds Les Miles he needs to hit the road by 6 p.m. Hopefully, Baton Rouge rush hour won't have much breath left by then.

Since being introduced as Nick Saban's successor Jan. 3, Miles has been whisked across this state, parts of Texas and Mississippi's Gulf Coast like a traveling art exhibit, eating meals hard to pronounce and meeting a fan base so excited and passionate about LSU football something insignificant like reality doesn't get in the way of their astronomical expectations, although the attention of Tigers' fans has been diverted by the aftermath of Hurricane Katina.

Though Miles doesn't divulge his evening plans, he'll likely shake a few hands before going to bed.

But that's later

## The Miles Story

Willing to embrace and adapt to the uniqueness of Louisiana culture for the past nine months, Miles takes a moment to tell his tale. After a bit of prying, the stories are spilling out his mouth, as he holds two baseball bats slung over his shoulder, framing his square jaw, a spot-on-match to take cuts for the Mudville Nine.

"I love doing this," Miles said, his face brighter than an optometrist's light. "Because I get to remember, again."

He's laughing, midway through, reciting first and last names of people from his hometown, Elyria, Ohio, like the audience has a clue as to who the hell these people are, which the coach finally acknowledges. A gifted storyteller, Miles' tone gets excited near the climax and flat at the punch line, setting up the laugh - going on and on about walking to school in this goofy green winter jacket with a zipper hood that must have looked more like a matador's red cape to bullies. Then, he points the barrel of the baseball bat at the small crowd gathered and says, "OK, one more."

## Act I

The curtain finally drops at 6:27 p.m.

Sifting through these colorful and humorous anecdotes Miles recites with tremendous showmanship, Hope Miles - his late father - is the common link throughout each retelling, the coach's admiration for the man apparent through the sincerity through which he speaks.

Standing 6 feet 5 and a few jumbo shrimp plates more than 300 pounds, Hope spoke with a thunderous, God-like voice. Without question he was literally and figuratively the most dominant presence in Miles' life; the standard Les strived to meet or surpass, the sole approval he ever sought or cared about, and the authority figure he always wanted to please.

Jack Sheldon, Miles' position coach in high school, described Hope as "a man who demanded discipline."

Cliché but true, Woody Hayes and John Wayne (he often called Les "Duke") were Hope Miles' idols. The only character missing from many Hope stories is a blue ox. The guy could crush a softball to the shores of Lake Erie, scare the heck out of you one minute and be your biggest best friend the next. To others, Hope was larger-than-life when you consider the average height and weight of the 1964 World Champion Cleveland Browns starting offensive line was 6-3, 263 pounds.

"When Bubba (Hope) said something," former Michigan quarterback John Wangler said. "Les jumped."

Blocking assignments were hollered from the sideline, hardly nconspicuous. Oh, and never mind that Hope technically wasn't a coach either. Whatever number Hope plucked out of the air was the kid Miles intended to crush on kickoff coverage.

"No. 44, DUKE," Miles said as an example. "If I didn't go and knock that guy over, something was wrong."

Though Miles never really needed ulterior motivation to excel at football or any other sport, Hope was known to reward good performances with perhaps 50 cents or a few dessert items (goodies, he called them). By high school, Hope upped the ante. Behind Curtain No. 1 was a brand-new winter coat that Hope dangled in front of Les like a juicy carrot inches from a horse's mouth in exchange for a stellar performance against Sandusky - a rival of Elyria – so this was a big deal already, without the jacket.

Two holding penalties later, Elyria's offensive drive stalls, to which Hopes groans within an ear shot of Les, "It's going to be a cold winter, Duke."

## Soft-hearted Martha

In stark contrast to Hope's militaristic approach toward childrearing, Martha Miles encouraged Les' curious, almost inventive young mind. He asked a lot of questions. Martha didn't know the answer to all of them, so each week she'd check out a stack of books from the library.

"Why don't we fly like the birds?" Martha recalls Les asking one trip. "Why don't we just fly?"

"Well, what do you think the problem with that would be?" Martha asked, exploring the childish inquiry, not simply dismissing it.

"Our arms probably wouldn't hold, would they Mom?" Les said.

Martha was the arbitrator, the go-between, and the source of alternative solutions to problems Hope fixed with brut force. Try walking home from school using a different path, she told Les after a classmate from "the wrong side of the tracks" kept charging lunch money and a beating as toll to travel down certain roads.

It worked. So for a couple of days Les took the long, but cheaper and less terrifying route to and from school. Martha's plan backfired though when Hope learned of the situation. Oh no, Les wasn't going to loop around bullies. Hope made Les confront them head-on. Always did. Give him a cup, mouth guard, tape his knuckles if that's what it takes (all of which Hope equipped Les with at some point throughout various adolescent run-ins.) Hope watched in the distance but never intervened. When it was over, he'd drive by and tell Les to get in the car.

Though rigid and imposing at times, there was a softer side to Hope. Jack Sito, Miles' high school teammate and friend and current Elyria resident, says the guy was 90 percent teddy bear.

Like, when Michigan won the 1981 Rose Bowl in Les' first year as a graduate assistant under Bo Schembechler, he bought Les and his buddies commemorative jackets. On those football weekends, Miles and Wangler would turn their apartment into a mini-Vegas because they knew how much Hope loved to play cards after a big shrimp dinner topped off with cherry or apple pie served with a fistful of ice cream. They even purchased a felt table and had somebody dress up like a dealer. Man, Hope loved those nights.

"We grew the long hair and Les always had a Butch like his Dad," Sito said. "He didn't give a damn who you were or what you thought. And I remember one day in the lunchroom, we're sitting there, this and that, and Les looked over and his Dad was there - had to give him something or whatever - and Les just ran over in front of the whole lunchroom in high school. Now, my kid won't even come around me at home. But Lester hugged his Dad, gave him a kiss and said 'Hey, Pop, what's going on?' He didn't care. He loved his Dad."

Whenever Les landed a head coaching job, Hope and Martha figured they'd move, too, live in a college town, spoil their grandkids and spend Saturdays in the stadium. Hope Miles died in September 2000, months before Oklahoma State hired Miles as its new head coach.

"My husband cried," Martha said. "He taught his boys to be boys, but he taught them to cry. That hurts a man, if he's not able to cry. Hope taught Les never to hold anything inside. He was rugged, full of himself, but sentimental, too. Les saw him as the image of what a male should be.

"It's a shame he's not around. He'd be proud of Les. He always was."

## Les the businessman

Despite earning two letters at Michigan, Miles received an honest critique from a valued source that his frame just wasn't suitable for professional football (or probably Big Ten football, for that matter, but he did it). No, not from a scout.

From Hope. You had your fun, now it's over, he said after Miles left college with a degree in economics.

"I remember Les saying, 'Coaches don't make money,'" Martha said. "I'm going into business."

Just for reference, LSU pays Miles more than $1.5 million a year to coach football.

"Isn't that something?" Schembechler said. "The lil' devil makes 10 times as much as I ever did. I'll tell ya, isn't that something?"

Miles found post-graduation sanctity in the comfort and familiarity of Elyria's proletarian pace, landing work in the trucking business, distribution mostly.

"I did enjoy the things that I was doing because I was doing some things differently," Miles said. "'This is my idea.' And I wanted to make that work and there was some of that going on and there was the enjoyment of work ethic."

That reminds Miles of a story.

"There was a big snowstorm that was coming in and I knew that we had to run trucks to clear out this warehouse because as soon as this storm hit, everybody was locked in," Miles said. "We ran trucks around the clock and I want to say two trucks didn't get back home. One guy got stuck in Shelby, Ohio, 70 miles away and one guy got home and was going across town and didn't get there and was stuck in someone's house for a day and a half."

"I mean, it was a monster storm," Miles continued. "I remember coming to work and having to go get this driver in Shelby when the roads opened. This was the kind of storm it was - an 18-wheeler, a truck-hauler had slid off the road and got covered by snow. The only way this guy lived - I wanna say he was there for six days - was getting water from melting snow and drinking it and eating whatever little snacks he had.

"He was 20 feet down the road from where I was to get my guy and they didn't know it. It was a low area and the snowdrift just buried it. I'm going by in a four-wheel (drive) truck and I'm looking right and left and I'm seeing snow."

Though not always a thrill-a-minute, the job at least wasn't mindless and paid incredibly well for the time.

Miles made $32,000 with a year-end bonus that boosted his income to more than 25 percent of his base salary.

He traveled in a company car.

"But I became disenchanted, I just felt my life could be used a better way and I always thought about coaching, and helping young men get their degree,"

Miles said. "The hardest thing I ever did was pursue my degree and play championship football. Toughest thing I ever had to do. And I so respected the endeavor that when I got out, I really didn't think anything I was doing was as rewarding."

Miles tapped his only coaching resource – Schembechler - repeatedly, receiving six months worth of polite brush-offs and horror stories about the profession that the legendary figure thought might scare his former guard back to a comfy chair behind a big desk.

Les didn't care, showing up at alumni talks and other functions to validate his sincerity.

"If he gave me a minute," Miles said. "I was in his office."

Finally, Schembechler offered a graduate assistant job that paid approximately $8,000 and relegated Miles to live in an unfinished basement apartment where the ceiling dripped when the upstairs toilet would run.

Miles tied a cloth around the pipe to minimize the water intrusion. He did menial jobs but began soaking up quirks from Schembechler he'd carry with him to stops as an assistant in Colorado, back to Michigan, Oklahoma State and the Dallas Cowboys.

Sometimes he speaks through gritted-teeth, like a second-rate ventriloquist, overemphasizes words like "tackling" and "blocking" and knows where to insert dramatic pauses - all Schembechler trademarks. Now, he doesn't recite years like they'd be spelled (for instance 1969 was "Nineteen hundred and sixty-nine" when Schembechler spoke) but traces of the old coach occasionally exude from his pupil.

"To us, Bo was just this lovable, great, hard-nosed tough coach," Pittsburgh athletic director Jeff Long said, a graduate assistant when Miles returned to Ann Arbor in Nineteen-hundre…err, 1987. "We imitated him.

We emulated him. We would copy his little phrases, copy the inflection in his voice and all of it was done with deep affection. Yeah, I can see Les like that."

Miles sold players on blocking techniques with the enthusiasm of a 12-year-old on a sugar binge, transforming August conditioning on the practice fields into the final drive of the Rose Bowl. Nobody would ever outcoach Miles, as he ran his front five through every possible defensive alignment fathomable.

Do something right, and it's bigger than landing on the moon.

"He'll just be coaching, coaching, coaching and then something will get him so fired up and he becomes animated," Michigan All-American guard Joe Cocozzo said. "I was not what you would call the stellar athlete and he was teaching this lead technique and physically I was having a tough time with it. For whatever reason, it finally clicked. The first time it worked for me he yelled, 'DO IT AGAIN! RIGHT NOW!' And I did, and he'd say it, again, 'DO IT AGAIN! RIGHT NOW!' like this was a miracle."

## Sharing a dream

Thirty years, and the exact mile markers are just blank rectangular signs. Sito can't tell you what car his friend was driving that night, where they were coming from, and what prompted Miles to say what he said. That's all faded. But he remembers Miles squeezing some sort of tennis ball to strengthen his grip, and him saying:

"You know what, Jack? I want to be like Johnny Carson.

I want to have my own damn TV show. I'm gonna do it.

I'm not sure where. But that's what I'm looking for."

"It was a crazy-kid dream," Sito explained. "But I remember him saying that and looking at him as a truthful dream."

On Aug. 23, it finally happened. Live from Burbank, it's the Les Miles Show.

OK, OK, so it was Burbank Avenue (not Burbank, Calif.) at a sports bar (not a studio) and Miles was seated next to Jim Hawthorne (not Ed McMahon) for a radio (not television) show. But the place was packed; parking spots filled an hour before air. Those lucky enough to claim a booth saw the two sides of Miles that evening.

There's the reserved coach - the Hope in him – not known to go against the grain, who kept everything orderly and proper.

"The joke we had was Les was the only guy in Ann Arbor to send his T-shirts to the cleaners," Wangler said.

Then there's the kid in the back of the school bus - the Carson in him - performing his patented triple tripod, doing a handstand by grasping the top of two seats and sticking one leg up toward the ceiling until his foot laid flat against it.

"He was dumb enough to get up and do that, so we'd egged him on," Sito said. "And we'd just roll. When we weren't laughing at him, we'd applaud and cheer him on. He just couldn't be bored."

But now, none of this matters. Forget the Triple Tripod, leaky basement apartment, the scrappiness in which he played guard and later coached. Fans just want one thing from Les Miles – to win.

Like Elyria, Baton Rouge is a different town, too.

Five years of winning football have trumped the Tigers roller coaster past. Miles steps into a situation where the only items the spoiled Tiger Nation care about are December trips to Atlanta and crystal footballs.

"No question, he has a tough act to follow down there and he better do a good job," Schembechler said. "Nick was a heck of a coach. But let me tell you one thing about this guy - Les has a mind. He's a smart guy. I didn't give him anything as a favor. I brought him back knowing he was going to be a good coach and everywhere he's been he's won. That's not something that disappears overnight."

LSU/SAINTS

# Tigers carrying emotions of entire state

*LSU finally to open season, 'hosts' Sun Devils*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

TEMPE, ARIZ. — Skyler Green makes a right.

Reflected in the shiny rims on his truck are the blurry images of two Military Police officers strolling the sidewalk on Skip Bertman Drive, near Alex Box Stadium. They are holding assault rifles. One is smoking a cigarette. Children are nearby. Tuesday practice is over.

Red light.

Eventually, the LSU senior receiver/spokesman makes a left onto Nicholson Drive. He passes the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, where the main arena is being used as a medical triage area and the auxiliary gym as a morgue, keeps going past the Bernie Moore Track Stadium, where the infield has been converted to a landing pad for Chinook helicopters, and finally the Carl Maddox Fieldhouse, now a shelter for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

"We're always going to have Louisiana on the back of our minds," Green said.

Devastation and hopelessness intermingled with optimism and energy on this oak-lined, football-crazed campus last week as several LSU athletic facilities were rapidly converted to relief areas.

On Monday, school officials announced that the delayed season-opener for the fifth-ranked Tigers (the original season opener against North Texas State has been postponed) would be a "home" game at Arizona State, played three states to the West in triple-digit heat in front of 3,000 of their closest friends (that's how many season-ticket holders exchanged their seats). LSU "hosts" No. 15 Arizona State at 8:15 p.m. today at Sun Devil Stadium.

"There's no way that you get away from here," LSU coach Les Miles said. "We're so attached. It's such a heart-felt environment. Even if you travel, certainly, your waking thoughts move toward Louisiana. But I think our guys will enjoy playing football – whether it is home or away. They'll enjoy those three hours, or so, they are allowed to go out there and play."

Since the storm hit southeast Louisiana, several LSU players have housed family members and friends in their confined living quarters. Quarterback JaMarcus Russell had 23 people crammed into his apartment near Highland Road and spent hours making pharmacy runs for New Orleans legend Fats Domino.

Defensive tackle Kyle Williams welcomed several in-laws and watched with them as aerial shots scanned their flooded home near UNO. He didn't know what to say.

Even this week, as things begin to somewhat resemble pre-Katrina normalcy around Baton Rouge, practice has been the players main escape from the ever-present reminders of what happened less than two weeks ago.

"Visiting the shelters and what-not, everybody knows we're playing ball and every time we go in there they are asking 'When are you going to play' and stuff like that," running back Justin Vincent said. "I think they're looking forward to something like that - something to keep their mind off certain distractions going on in their life right now."

Miles choice at quarterback - big news in August reduced to a distant subplot come September - still hasn't been announced, this after he proclaimed throughout August that he'd gladly tell everyone of

his decision the Thursday prior to opening kickoff.

Smart money is on Russell since he received most first-team reps in practices and scrimmages. Matt Flynn is available if Russell struggles, but it seems unrealistic that offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher would play heralded freshman Ryan Perrilloux this soon, even though all three quarterbacks have several talented safety nets surrounding them.

"It is going to take much more than our front line to contain their run. It is going to take all 11 guys,"

Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter said. "But you can't totally focus on that. They have three great wide receivers and an excellent tight end as well. They have a talented offensive line. Taking away the run is going to be a challenge for our whole defense. Our linebackers and safeties are going to be very involved."

Forgotten in the recent swirl of events is that the

Les Miles era begins. Gerry DiNardo was the last LSU coach to open outside of Tiger Stadium against a ranked opponent. LSU lost that game 33-17 to Texas A&M in 1995.

"I can tell you there is no excuse," Miles said. "At the end of the year, there will be a ledger. The ledger will read wins and losses. There's no asterisks."

NOTE: LSU got an assist from a couple of Louisiana schools in rescheduling its season opener with North Texas for Oct. 29.

Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette adjusted their schedules so the Tigers and the Mean Green could play their game in Tiger Stadium.

"Our friends in the University of Louisiana System, particularly presidents Ray Authement of UL-Lafayette and Jim Cofer of ULM, as well as North Texas president Norval Pohl, have come to our aid in making this move possible," said LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe. "I am appreciative of the cooperation and the UL system's leadership in making this change possible."

"This game rounds out our schedule for 2005 and allows us to move forward with our season," said LSU athletics director Skip Bertman. "My thanks to everyone involved for their perseverance in making this happen. We now look forward to getting our home schedule underway on September 24 against Tennessee in Tiger Stadium."

ULM was scheduled to play North Texas on Oct. 29, but will play the Mean Green on Nov. 19, the day ULM was scheduled to play ULL. That game has been moved to Nov. 26. LSU has an open date next week (Sept. 17) and then will play 10 consecutive weeks.

• • • • • •

Jim Kleinpeter contributed to this report.

# THE VITALS

## LSU VS. ARIZONA STATE

**KICKOFF:** 8:15 p.m. at Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz.
**COACHES:** LSU's Les Miles (28-21, fifth season, first at LSU); Arizona State's Dirk Koetter (53-33, eighth year, fifth at Arizona State).
**TV/RADIO**: ESPN, N/A

### KEEP AN EYE ON

**LSU RUNNING BACKS:** With Alley Broussard out for the season, Joseph Addai, Justin Vincent and Shyrone Carey will take turns. All three have shown at times they are capable, but the question is how much will the Tigers miss Broussard's bruising style. Watch Vincent, in particular, to see if he shows signs of recovering from his sophomore jinx. Carey is in the best shape he's ever been and could provide some of the electrifying, change-of-direction runs he excelled at while at Shaw. Addai is Mr. Dependable and the best receiver of the three.

**ARIZONA STATE'S PASSING GAME:** Junior quarterback Sam Keller appears to be confident in the offense, and he has a preseason All-American receiver in Derek Hagan. They combined for two touchdown passes last week, but the story was that 10 different Sun Devils caught passes. Tight end Zach Miller set school freshman receiving records last year with 56 catches and 552 receiving yards and caught three for 26 yards last week. Keller doesn't move well, but he does have a veteran offensive line for protection. The Sun Devils need another strong rushing effort from freshman Keegan Herring to keep the heat off Keller. He had 134 yards last week in his first career start as the Sun Devils rushed for 300 yards.

### GAMEPLAN

Don't look for last year's conservative style. The quarterbacks have matured enough to step in and be comfortable throwing or handing off. JaMarcus Russell is the likely starter, and, though he still has some of the issues that slowed him last season, he has plenty of weapons to prop him up for awhile. Across the line, Russell will be looking at a Sun Devils team with one starter returning in the secondary. Look for the Tigers to attack at all points. Expect the return of the bubble screen, a favorite play in 2001 and 2003, with Skyler Green and Shyrone Carey using their shiftiness in the open field. Defensively, the Tigers will have to defend the entire field. Arizona State showed a surprisingly good running game last week. Herring may not find as much room as he did against Temple, running into the strength of the LSU defense, the front line, led by tackles Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten. The Sun Devils may go after weakside linebacker Jason Spadoni, a converted running back making his first college start after changing positions in spring practice.

### KEY MATCHUP

**ARIZONA STATE WR DEREK HAGAN VS. LSU CORNERBACKS RONNIE PRUDE AND CHEVIS JACKSON:** Hagan is a preseason All-American who caught 83 passes for 1,248 yards and 10 touchdowns last year. Prude and Jackson logged significant minutes last year, but each is starting for the first time. Prude is eager to make amends for his blown coverage on the final play of the Capital One Bowl, which cost LSU the game against Iowa. Jackson, a sophomore, is making his first career start, so he may get tested early and often. The Sun Devils would like nothing better than to get off to a big offensive start and get their crowd into the game. And the Tigers can't over concern themselves with Hagan. Tight end Zach Miller caught 56 passes last season as a freshman.

### BY THE NUMBERS

LSU is 10-3 against Pac-10 teams and is facing one for the third consecutive season, having beaten Arizona (59-13) in 2003 and Oregon State (22-21) last year. ... This is the first meeting between LSU and Arizona State in football. ... Les Miles is the 32nd head coach in LSU history, and he is 1-3 in season openers. ... LSU OT Andrew Whitworth will start his 40th consecutive game, the longest active streak in the SEC. ... LSU has a streak of 37 games with at least one sack. ... LSU missed eight extra-point attempts last season, five by Chris Jackson and three by Ryan Gaudet.

### ODDS AND ENDS

LSU will wear white jerseys and is the designated home team. ... RB Joseph Addai, DT Kyle Williams and deep snapper Gant Petty were chosen as game captains. LSU will choose captains each week and select permanent captains at the end of the season. ... Technically, Arizona State has never played an SEC team before. Arizona State lost to Arkansas in 1951 and 1985 when the Razorbacks were members of the Southwest Conference.

### SOMBER SETTING

The sympathetic eyes of the nation will be on the Tigers. Talk of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing relief effort in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama will be mixed in with X's and O's. LSU players, who have spoken of wanting to give hurricane victims something to be happy about, will wear logos of the state flag, as well as the Fleur de Lis, on their helmets. The Fleur de Lis traditionally has been used to represent French royalty, but also signifies perfection, light and life, and is an often-used symbol in New Orleans. It is also on the Saints helmet. After deciding to move the game from Tiger Stadium to Tempe, the schools agreed that proceeds should be donated to the relief effort. "That's the best deal about this game," said Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller. "First and foremost, there's a tragedy going on down there. The game is secondary to people's lives and homes lost. The game has to be on the backburner."

### FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"I see a team (LSU) that has a pretty solid workman-like approach to football. For them to put on the back burner the things that have happened around them, it speaks to older guys, guys with perspective." LSU coach LES MILES.

# Tagliabue, Benson to meet with LSU

*Tiger Stadium viability for Saints home games to be discussed*

**By Mike Triplett and Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff Writers

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue and Saints owner Tom Benson will visit Baton Rouge on Monday to meet with LSU officials and try to determine how many Saints games can be played in Tiger Stadium.

"They officially want three games and are talking about a fourth and perhaps more, but that hasn't been resolved, yet," said Bernard Boudreaux, the chairman of LSU's Board of Supervisors, who has been one of the university's chief negotiators with the league and with the Saints.

Boudreaux said the three games that have been discussed so far are Oct. 30 against the Miami Dolphins, Dec. 4 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Dec. 18 against the Carolina Panthers.

The Dolphins game in particular would be a marquee attraction in Baton Rouge, with Miami being led by former LSU coach Nick Saban.

Chances are, the Saints also will play at least some home games in San Antonio, as well, which is the desire of players and coaches striving for some sort of home-field advantage and a chance to spend more time with their families.

NFL Players Association president Gene Upshaw told the San Antonio Express-News that Tagliabue assured him the Saints will play at least one game in the Alamodome this year.

But NFL spokesman Greg Aiello did not confirm that Tagliabue had made such a decision. Aiello also chose not to respond to an Express-News report that said the Saints and San Antonio had reached an agreement on a four-game deal in the Alamodome that was pending league approval.

The NFL's stance all along has been that it wants to play as many games as logistically possible in Baton Rouge. And the decision on where the Saints will play is in the hands of Tagliabue, no matter what the Saints and San Antonio agree to.

"The Saints represent Louisiana and New Orleans, and we are continuing to keep a focus on the region's needs and the role of the Saints in the recovery," said Aiello, who said no decisions will be made before Monday's meeting in Baton Rouge.

Saints officials had no comments on the discussions other than that they are waiting to hear a decision from the league.

The Saints' first "home" game will be played Sept. 19 at Giants Stadium in New Jersey. The next scheduled home games after that are Oct. 2 against Buffalo, Oct. 16 against Atlanta and Oct. 30 against Miami.

Presumably, those early-October games would be best suited for the Alamodome, both because the Saints will be plenty road-weary by then and because Baton Rouge might not yet be prepared to host the Saints.

But that is what is expected to be determined during Monday's face-to-face meeting.

"All we knew about was three games. If they are going to expand that, we'll find out about that Monday," said Boudreaux, who said he has been in contact with the NFL's executive vice president and chief operating officer, Roger Goodell, as well as Saints board member and Benson's attorney, Stanley Rosenberg.

The Saints also have been in contact with LSU chancellor Sean O'Keefe, athletic director Skip Bertman, senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich and athletic department attorney Mike Pharis.

Bertman said Friday that LSU wants to cooperate in any way it can, as long as the university does not operate at a financial loss. He pointed out that LSU's athletic department does not use state money.

"Our position is we want to cooperate with the Saints and the state in an effort to keep the Saints in the state, both now and in the future," Boudreaux said. "Particularly in view of this tragedy, we're going to do everything we can to cooperate. We have had no disagreement about how that should be, except logistics."

Boudreaux said he does not anticipate that arranging security would be a problem. He said it would be "very difficult, but manageable" if the Saints played in Tiger Stadium the day after an LSU home game.

But one of the biggest logistical hurdles of hosting the Saints is hotel rooms, Boudreaux said.

He said the NFL indicated to him that it would need around 270 rooms to accommodate teams, supports staff, television crews and other personnel. Baton Rouge didn't have an abundance of hotel rooms even before they became packed with New Orleans evacuees.

"If you drew a circle around Baton Rouge, you'd have to go pretty far out to find any venue that had available hotel rooms to handle an event of this magnitude," Boudreaux said. "There just aren't enough rooms, even as far as Shreveport and Lake Charles, and you can't come in from too far."

Saints players and Coach Jim Haslett continue to hope for as many games in San Antonio as possible and seemed disappointed to hear that three games might be played in Baton Rouge, with four being played in San Antonio, where they have set up their practice operations.

"Four games at home and 12 on the road? That's what it is," offensive lineman Kendyl Jacox said. "I want to sleep in my bed, get to wake up and drive to the stadium."

Said Haslett: "I know our players would like to play them all here. But if we have to play some in Baton Rouge, that's a good alternative because of our fan base and our people there. But we still have to travel."

With reports reaching Miami that Saban might be coaching again in Tiger Stadium again this year, he told the media he "wouldn't really have any feeling one way or the other."

"My only feeling is that the situation and the circumstance that created this whole thing is unfortunate for a lot of people," Saban said. "I think that it is unfortunate for the Saints that they have to go through a lot of changes to do what they have to do, but probably, more importantly, the fans and all of the people affected by this tragedy."

# Saints players, coaches adjusting to San Antonio

*Sacrifices made but team about to get some normalcy*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO – Life in the Alamo City is far from home. And yet, it has a certain familiar feel to it.

"In a nutshell, it feels like training camp hasn't stopped," Saints offensive tackle Wayne Gandy said, with a resounding agreement from Kendyl Jacox at the next locker over. "Some of the guys talk all the time that the strangest thing is there is no point where you actually get away from football. And I'm just hoping that doesn't burn us out.

"From the day we got on that bus about two weeks ago, it's been hotels, buses, media. There's never been that day where you just, you know, go in your kitchen, open your refrigerator, get something to eat, go back to your bed and go to sleep.

"You have no break, no space. You're stuck here with Jacox."

For now, players can laugh about it, especially with the excitement of an actual regular-season game just around the corner Sunday in Carolina.

And things should get a little better next week. Players, coaches and staff have been spending much of their free time this week finding apartments and homes to rent for the next four months or so.

Others haven't had a chance to start home shopping. But that should be an easier process once their vehicles arrive from Metairie this weekend.

Also next week, the team is expected to get its weightlifting equipment here, and possibly the hot and cold tubs.

And soon the team is hoping to move many of its practices, team meetings and weight-room facilities into the Alamodome, where the locker room is.

"They want their automobiles, and they want a place to live," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "Once you get that as a player or a coach, you have a place where you can drive over to work and go home and lay down, that is all you really need in this business."

In fact, Haslett said, some of his coaches don't even need homes. He said four of his assistants are planning to set up beds in their Alamodome offices and just sleep there.

Not a bad idea, he added, and he might be inclined to do it himself if his family weren't moving to San Antonio with him. His three children are enrolling in school here for the semester.

Players, coaches and staff members are split about 50-50 between having their families stay with them and spending the fall alone.

Receiver Joe Horn was heading to close a deal on a house Friday afternoon, where his wife and six children will join him. Veteran kicker John Carney's family is in San Diego – the first time in his 16-year career he's been away from them, he said.

"That'll be tough," Carney said, shrugging.

During this first week here, players have woken up at their team hotel, walked two blocks to meeting rooms, walked back to the hotel for lunch, bused to the Alamodome to change, bused to their high school practice facility, bused back to change, bused to Gold's Gym to lift weights, back to the Alamodome and back to the hotel.

"Our guys are really resilient to things that go on. And they adapt to things very well, and there's not a lot of complaining," Haslett said. "They just kind of do it, and they're on time, and they do everything right. That's all you can ask from a football team."

Players have been told they need to start looking around for a place to live, but they haven't been given a deadline to leave the team hotel just yet.

That massive hotel bill is just one of many financial undertakings the team has to deal with. Neither the team nor the NFL had specifics on what financial assistance would be available for the team.

ETC. – The Saints and Entercom announced that Sunday's game will be carried live on WLMG 101.9-FM radio in New Orleans, as well as on regional affiliates across Louisiana and the Gulf South. ... Before Sunday's game, the Saints administrative staff will visit with Hurricane Katrina evacuees that are being sheltered at the Charlotte Coliseum.

# Local arenas dark, but lights will return

*Cheers of the crowd won't reverberate in N.O. for awhile*

**By John DeShazier**
Sports columnist

In the grand scheme it will amount to a shade above nothing, so trivial it won't even merit mention in most corners.

Tragedy, like one the Gulf Coast has experienced and now is trying to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, has a way of humbling us, of placing exclamation points behind the things that really matter and shrinking to virtually invisibility the things that don't rise to the level of absolute necessity.

Still, though, it will be hard not to notice, at some point during the fall and winter, and perhaps even during spring and summer, the hole we'll have in our local sports world.

New Orleans likely will be in the dark for quite a while, the games that might have been played and the events that might have been hosted canceled or moved.

The single-minded goal of the community simply is to clean up and rebuild, to make the city and Gulf Coast inhabitable again, to make both desirable destinations not for tourists, but for thousands of displaced residents who might need to be convinced to come back home.

So we will forge ahead, with no Saints at the Superdome.

No Hornets at New Orleans Arena.

No races at the Fairgrounds.

No Tulane at Fogelman Arena.

No UNO at Lakefront Arena.

No Xavier, SUNO or Dillard engaging in a cross-townrivalry at Xavier's Barn, Dillard's A.W. Dent Hall or The Castle at SUNO.

No Friday night football - or Thursday night, or Saturday afternoon or night - at Tad Gormley Stadium or Pan American Stadium.

No prep hoops at Carver, Kennedy, St. Augustine or Brother Martin.

No nothing.

Again, that's not a major concern for the family that was left with nothing. When your home has flooded, relatives have been displaced, friends and family have died waiting to be evacuated and you've spent days, weeks or months in a shelter, going from independence to total dependence, a high school football game or pro basketball game isn't a priority.

It can't be, when you don't have a job and don't have an idea how you will provide for your family long-term, and don't know whether your employer who was wiped out in New Orleans plans to rebuild.

But it still feels hollow when a city that has hosted some of the most magnificent sporting events in history might not be fit to host even one over the next 12 months. It seems odd that no visiting football fans will make their way to the French Quarter to partake of the scene, that no television station will show the obligatory, horse-drawn carriage shot as it returns from commercial, that a Dome that can be deafening will be silent.

The Saints, the Dome's primary tenant, have set up shop in San Antonio. The Hornets are looking to play their home games in Baton Rouge. Xavier, Dillard and SUNO students and athletes have dispersed to other schools to, hopefully, continue their educations with minimal interruption.

The prep players who shine on Fridays, some of them standouts with scholarships in hand and others hopeful of earning a free ride to college, are enrolled in other high schools, maybe in Texas or Alabama, perhaps in Georgia or Mississippi.

The city in which they made names, enhanced reputations or tried like heck to do one or both, isn't even inhabitable right now. All of the dead haven't been recovered. All of the water hasn't been pumped out. Power hasn't been restored. The mixture of sewage and chemicals and who knows what else that contaminates the water might linger for years.

But in time, it'll be habitable again. The lights in New Orleans will be turned back on.

So, too, will the games, and the sports hole we have, minuscule as it is, will be patched.

# Colonels set to meet Indiana

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

For Nicholls State senior wide receiver Henry Johnson, football these days is an escape.

"You're out there practicing for a couple of hours and not thinking about anything else," he said. "Then you come back off the field, and you're back in the real world."

Johnson is speaking not just for himself but for a great many peers around the state.

Seven of Louisiana's 11 college football teams saw their season-openers postponed or canceled last weekend.

And all of the teams have several members whose lives have been altered forever by Hurricane Katrina.

"So many of us played with each other or against each other in high school," said Johnson, who prepped at Shaw. "And we keep on competing in college.

"But now that's all out the window. We're all hurting together."

Johnson is among those. He does not know the condition of his family's home in Harvey, but he knows that his immediate family is safe. Many others, especially those who lived in the 9th Ward, have relatives from whom they haven't heard.

"We've got guys who practice and then get away real fast to see what they can do back home," Johnson said. "You deal with the adversity off the field and then concentrate on taking care of business on it."

Doing that Saturday is a major challenge for Johnson and his Nicholls teammates.

The Colonels play at Indiana, which may be the doormat of the Big Ten but is the biggest "name" opponent Nicholls State has ever faced.

"It's a chance to put our talent on the line against a Big Ten team and see where we stand in relationship to them," Johnson said.

The Colonels were to have opened against another Division I-A school, Utah State, but that game was canceled.

That, Johnson said, was just as well.

"We had people who hadn't found their families, yet," he said. "I don't know how we could have gotten on a plane for Utah and played a football game.

"It would have been a tough choice."

Nicholls State's new uniforms were being readied in Gulfport, Miss., and presumably were destroyed.

However, Nike is having a fresh set, minus the names on the back, delivered to Bloomington, Ind., for the Colonels to wear.

"These kids are so resilient," said Nicholls coach Jay Thomas. "They lost a week of practice, but we've kept everything positive because they've been through so much.

"At first, it was just baby steps. But they came out of it more every day, and now we're ready to play a football game."

So is Southern, even if conditions aren't optimal.

The Jaguars' opener at McNeese was canceled, and now they find themselves beginning the season with a SWAC game on the road at Mississippi Valley State. It's the first time Southern has played in Itta Bena, Miss., in 10 years.

The Delta Devils opened their season last week with a 17-13 victory against Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

"None of our kids have ever been to their place, and they've played a game and we haven't," said Southern coach Pete Richardson. "That's a pretty big challenge as it is.

"And we've had a lot of kids trying to keep their focus, with all that's been going on. But we're finally getting back close to what I would call normal."

Richardson said the extra week has had one benefit – giving additional practice time to younger players on the team.

"We're going to need a lot of help on defense," Richardson said. "We lost a lot of guys there, and I'm not comfortable with where we are, yet."

Other games taking place this Saturday are:

Louisiana-Lafayette (0-1) at Eastern Michigan (0-1) at 5 p.m. The Ragin' Cajuns were flattened by Texas in their opener, 60-3. The Longhorns outgained ULL 554 yards to 205. Eastern Michigan fell to Cincinnati in its opener, 28-26. This is the first meeting between the two schools.

Louisiana Tech (0-0) at Florida (1-0), 5 p.m. Matt Kubik, who took over as quarterback for the Bulldogs when starter Donald Allen was injured in the fourth game of last season, continues as the starter. Tenth-ranked Florida opened with a 32-14 victory against Wyoming.

Louisiana-Monroe (0-1) at Wyoming (0-1), 2 p.m. ULM quarterback Steven Jyles became the Indians' career leader in total offense (7,897 yards) and pass completions (611) in his team's 27-23 loss to Northwestern State last week. ULM had 411 yards despite a starting offensive line of three sophomores and two freshmen. Wyoming opened with a 32-14 loss at Florida.

Northwestern State (1-0) vs. North Dakota State (1-0), 7 p.m. The Demons are ranked No. 9 in I-AA this week after their 27-23 victory against Louisiana-Monroe. NSU quarterback Davon Vinson was selected Division I-AA national Player of the Week after accounting for 311 yards total offense and throwing for three second-half touchdowns as the Demons rallied from a 23-0 deficit. Demons defensive tackle Tory Collins, who prepped at Fortier, was chosen Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Week. Collins, a transfer from LSU, had nine tackles, two for losses. He learned earlier in the week that his family home in New Orleans had been severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. North Dakota State is ranked No. 20 this week after its 59-7 victory against Arkansas-Monticello.

Grambling State (0-0) vs. Alabama A&M (1-0), 6:30 p.m. The Tigers' opener against Alcorn State was postponed due to Katrina. Sixth-year senior quarterback Bruce Eugene from Cohen has regained his starting spot with the Tigers. Eugene is another local player whose home has been lost. Alabama A&M opened with a 27-14 victory against Tennessee State. Bulldogs quarterback Harold Dorman was selected SWAC Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in the game.

McNeese State (0-0) at Georgia Southern (1-0), 5p.m. After last week's cancellation of the Southern game, the Cowboys draw a tough opening opponent. The Eagles, winners of six Division I-AA championships, opened with a 41-38 overtime victory against Northeastern.

# Tailgating: Play of Yellow Jackets from N.O. gains Gailey's admiration

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

It was just one of hundreds of missing-persons messages that had been flashed by various networks.

The odds that somebody watching the Georgia Tech-Auburn game on ESPN would have the information Yellow Jackets senior defensive end Eric Henderson desired seemed infinitesimal.

But, thanks to whatever forces guide our destinies, a cousin of Henderson was watching and did know that the Erica Henderson, the younger sister of the former Karr standout, was safe and sound in Hammond.

The message was received in the Auburn press box by Georgia Tech sports information director Allison George, who relayed it to Henderson at halftime.

That the Yellow Jackets went on to upset the Tigers, 23-14, with Henderson getting two sacks and a forced fumble, was just lagniappe.

"I knew in my heart she was probably OK," Henderson said. "But it was just such a relief.

"I've still got cousins missing though, and they've all got kids. To me, this was just fitting in one piece of a puzzle."

Henderson is one of four players from the New Orleans area on the Georgia Tech team. Strong safety Dawan Landry from Hahnville was the Jackets' leading tackler in the Auburn game, with 10, and also had a key interception. Ike Eziemefe, like Henderson a Karr graduate, saw duty as backup fullback. Defensive tackle Darryl Richard from Destrehan is out for the year with a knee injury suffered in spring practice.

All four have spent the time since Hurricane Katrina comparing notes from back home.

Henderson doesn't know if he has a home to return to.

In reality, he didn't have one before Aug. 29.

He said he has never had contact with his father. His mother died when he was 10.

His grandmother, Delicious Henderson, was his legal guardian, but she died when Eric was a senior at Karr.

When Eric does go back to New Orleans, he stays with aunts or cousins.

For all he has experienced in his life, Henderson won the 2004 Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Achievement Award, which recognizes those who overcome great personal odds to achieve academic and athletic success.

That was after Henderson's All-ACC 2003 sophomore season in which he led the league in sacks with 11, three of them against Auburn.

Last year, Henderson missed three games with a knee injury but still earned second-team All-ACC.

All of Henderson's life experiences made him better able to handle the trials of the past two weeks.

But it hasn't been easy.

"It's hard to watch it on TV," he said. "You think about all of those people who are dead and you know that, out of 10,000, there have to be some that you know.

"It's hurtful, especially if you can't do anything about it."

So what Henderson has done is focus his efforts on football, supported by teammates and coaches.

His play, plus that of Landry and Eziemefe in the Auburn game, gained the admiration of Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey.

"I don't know how they did it," Gailey said. "It's hard enough for guys to get ready for a big game with no distractions, especially when it's the first game of their senior years.

"My hat's off to them. It really is."

Beating Auburn earned Georgia Tech a No. 17 ranking this week. It's the first time the Yellow Jackets have been in the Top 25 since the end of the 2001 season.

But Henderson said he and his teammates are not resting on their laurels.

The Jackets play their ACC opener today at North Carolina, a team that beat them last year, 34-13, rolling up 284 rushing yards. That was one of the games that Henderson missed.

"Beating Auburn was great, but it's behind us now," Henderson said. "We're concentrating on winning our division and playing for the ACC championship.

"That's the kind of swagger we're playing with."

But Henderson has other things on his mind as well.

"My cousins - Sedrick Jackson, Katrina Jackson, David Johnson and Cedric Johnson," he said. "They all have kids, too.

"We don't know where they are."

If anybody does, call (404)894-6283.

They'll make sure Eric gets the message, even if he's tackling somebody at the time.

## Quick Picks

• LSU at Arizona State, 7:45 p.m., ESPN

No LSU coach has ever made his debut under more unusual circumstances than Les Miles. Here's thinking the Tigers will adjust to the dry heat of the desert and give the folks in Louisiana something to cheer about.

Spread: Arizona State by 1 ½; Pick: LSU, 27-18

• Texas at Ohio State, 7 p.m., WGNO-26

They don't make non-conference matchups like this anymore. Two of the Top 10 winningest programs meeting for the first time should make for an exciting night in the Horseshoe.

Spread: Ohio State by 1; Pick: Ohio State, 24-22

• Notre Dame at Michigan, 11 a.m., WGNO-26

After foolishly giving Bob Davie a contract extension and then having to fire him, fumbling the hiring of George O'Leary, having to serve as an uncomfortable point man in the firing of Tyrone Willingham, and whiffing on Urban Meyer, Notre Dame athletic director

Kevin White looks to have stumbled onto a the perfect fit in Charlie Weis.

Spread: Michigan by 7; Pick: Michigan, 30-27

• South Carolina at Georgia, 4:30 p.m., ESPN

Steve Spurrier was 11-1 against the Bulldogs while at Florida, including a 52-17 victory in 1995. That was the highest total ever posted by a visiting team in Sanford Stadium. But the Gamecocks aren't the Gators.

Spread: Georgia by 18; Pick: Georgia 35-13

• Southern Miss at Alabama, 6:45 p.m., ESPN2

After spending two weeks training in Memphis, the Golden Eagles probably aren't in the best of shape to face a resurgent Crimson Tide.

Spread: Alabama by 11 ½; Pick: Alabama, 24-3

• Vanderbilt at Arkansas, 6 p.m.

How often do you get to use the phrase "undefeated Vanderbilt?" Just this once.

Spread: Arkansas by 10 ½; Pick: Arkansas, 17-10.

• Clemson at Maryland, ESPN, 11 a.m.

Tommy Bowden got a much-needed victory against Texas A&M last week. Beating the Terps on their turf would get him off the hot seat - for a while at least Spread: Maryland by 2; Pick: Clemson, 35-30

• Iowa at Iowa State, 2:30 p.m.

This one doesn't get much attention outside the state border, but it's as intense as its gets.

Spread: Iowa by 9; Pick: Iowa 31-17

• Mississippi State at Auburn, 11:30 a.m., WUPL-54

Well, at least we won't have to hear Auburn fans complaining about being unfairly denied their shot at the national championship this year.

Spread: Auburn by 15 ½; Pick: Auburn 20-13

• North Texas at Middle Tennessee, 6 p.m.

Mean Green coach Darryl Dickey's teams have been outscored 231-37 in his seven season openers. Not having to start out against LSU as schedule lets him break that streak.

Spread: Middle Tennessee by 4; Pick: North Texas, 28-25

Last week: 8-2, 5-2 vs. spread

## Replay? What replay?

For all of the attention it got leading up to the season, college football's first weekend of using replay to review plays went almost unnoticed.

The SEC, in fact, didn't even keep stats on how many times games were stopped for review.

About the only place where the officials went overboard was the Nebraska-Maine game. There were five stoppages. Apparently the refs were dumbfounded by the Black Bears holding the once-mighty Cornhuskers to a 25-7 victory.

In the Mountain West Conference, the only league to allow coaches' challenges, only one of the five made was successfully.

About the only gripe was from Florida State coach Bobby Bowden on the length it took to review a fumble in his team's victory against Miami.

"They need to change the name from instant to long time," Bowden said. "They took three or four dadgum minutes to get that done.

"Our offense was on the field ready to go, and we were just standing around. This happens with something new, but they need to speed it up or they will be making a lot of people mad."

## Extra Points

The New Orleans-based Sun Belt Conference has relocated its headquarters to Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Commissioner Wright Waters is indicating that the league will take over the New Orleans Bowl from the Sports Foundation for this year at least and that the game likely will be played at the campus of the Sun Belt champion. ... Brandon Harris, Notre Dame's former walk-on from Ben Franklin had one kickoff return for 11 yards in the Fighting Irish's victory against Pittsburgh. Harris, a cornerback, also was credited with two tackles. ... ESPN analyst and BCS basher Trev Alberts has been fired after failing to show up to work last Sunday. Alberts, who teamed with Rece Davis and Mark May on the studio show, was reportedly unhappy with what he considered a "second fiddle" role on the telecasts. ... Because of the TV-imposed 9:30 a.m. start, Kansas State players have been working out at 6 a.m. all week to prepare themselves for today's game at Marshall. ... Former Colorado State quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt, now with the Denver Broncos, has apologized for showing up at last week's game against Colorado with an obscenity scrawled on his shirt and getting into arguments with Buffs' fans. . The Harris

Poll lineup keeps changing. Former Marshall coach Bob Pruett, himself a late replacement for the poll which will debut on Sept. 26, dropped out this week and was replaced by former SMU player Bobby Leach.

## Coach's Corner

"In retrospect, we certainly didn't make the right decision. There was a lot of time left, and we were moving the ball well. We felt there were more points to score and we ended up running just three more plays." - Texas A&M coach Dennis Franchione on his decision to kick an extra point with 9:22 left, giving the Aggies a 24-22 lead over Clemson. Clemson eventually kicked a field goal with two seconds left to win, 25-24.

## Best News of the Week

You know it's an unusual time when you're writing a column while sitting in a Red Cross office in Jackson, Tenn., waiting to sign up for aid.

But on Friday, while I was doing precisely this, Walter Beachem, a man I met at a shelter last week who solicited my help in finding his daughters, walked in.

Turns out, he heard from their mother the next day and they were safe in Atlanta. Apparently, somebody had seen Beachem's plea in The Times-Picayune.

"I was losing faith," said Beachem, who is in Tennessee with eight other family members. "I don't know how much longer I could have kept going."

"Finding them was a miracle from heaven."

Amen.

# Shinn:Hornets won't bail out on New Orleans

By Jimmy Smith
Staff writer

Hornets owner George Shinn conceded Friday it might be difficult to play home games close to New Orleans this season, but he said he remains steadfast in his bond with the city.

"Our objective is not to abandon ship here or to get out of dodge," Shinn said from his summer home in Telford, Tenn. "Our plan is to hope and pray New Orleans rebuilds. And I think it will with everyone's support and the federal money that's coming in there. I think it will be stronger."

The city of Louisville, Ky., has offered Freedom Hall as a site for some of the Hornets' home games this season, according to a report Friday in the Courier-Journal.

Louisville was among the suitors when the Hornets relocated from Charlotte before the 2002-03 season, but there was no NBA-ready arena in place as there was in New Orleans. Louisville now joins Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Nashville and San Diego as cities that have extended invitations to the Hornets to play "home" games this year.

"I haven't heard from Louisville," Shinn said Friday, "Lots of cities have made contact through the league. I know we're taking a look and listening to a few. But we're trying to get something close to Louisiana."

Shinn, however, said hopes are dimming that Baton Rouge could be used as a possible home venue this season.

The Hornets cannot play in New Orleans Arena because of facility damage and hurricane-related infrastructure problems in the city.

Hornets representatives Sam Russo and Steve Martin have informed Shinn that the downtown Rivercenter and the LSU Assembly Center in Baton Rouge might be unavailable because of their current use as evacuation shelters and medical facilities.

Russo, Shinn said, traveled to Shreveport on Friday to scout possible locations there. The Hornets are scheduled to play a preseason game against the Miami Heat in Bossier City on Oct. 25.

"But we've got to remember the economics have to be there to support it," Shinn said. "We've still got a business to operate. We've got to keep that in mind.

"The thing everybody's got to remember is our goal is simple: We want to play in New Orleans. That's our home. But we can't. We can't come back even if the facility was clean because there's nobody else there. The city will come back. We don't know how long it will take, therefore we've got to find a temporary home."

Shinn is scheduled to tour the city Saturday morning, and several front-office personnel will attempt to retrieve the club's computer system and server from the corporate offices on Poydras Street.

He said he hopes to have a decision on where the Hornets could play home games perhaps early next week.

# Privateers' Jeremie Davis might return to the fold

Ted Lewis
Staff writer

**Davis, along with fellow newcomer Wayne Williams, rode out Hurricane Katrina at their Privateer Place apartment, and afterward were rescued by helicopter – only to be placed on an overpass on Interstate 10.**

**It was two days before they were picked up by buses,**

UNO basketball coach Monte Towe considers himselfold-school when it comes to disciplinary matters, but Hurricane Katrina is forcing a change of attitude.

Towe said Friday he is leaving open the door for signee Jeremie Davis to join the team in Tyler, Texas, after Davis' reportedly had said he wanted nothing more to do with New Orleans because of a harrowing experience during the Category 4 storm.

Davis, along with fellow newcomer Wayne Williams, rode out Hurricane Katrina at their Privateer Place apartment, and afterward were rescued by helicopter - only to be placed on an overpass on Interstate 10.

It was two days before they were picked up by buses, Towe said.

"Jeremie told my coaches there's no way he's coming back to New Orleans," Towe said. "I haven't talked to him myself, but I understand how he feels.

"That's why I understand that if he needs a little more time to think over what he's going to do, it's fine.

We'd love to have him with us here."

Williams, a 6-foot-5 forward from Arcadia, averaged 16.5 points-per-game last season at Spoon River (Ill.) Junior College and was considered a contender for a starting role for the Privateers this season.

Towe said all of the other team members, with the exception of senior forward Shawn Malloy, were at the University of Texas-Tyler, where the Privateers will attend school and practice until they can return to New Orleans. Malloy is expected this weekend.

Towe also said he would petition the NCAA to allow him to sign an additional player, Joe Barnett, a transfer from Loyola who sat out last season, because he now is one under the scholarship limit of 13.

As for reports that some of his players, most notably junior guard Bo McCalebb, had been contacted and encouraged to transfer to other schools, Towe said he does plan to report anyone to the NCAA.

"I've never done that," he said. "It's the kind of thing that's best handled between schools.

"I think the message is out there."

As for where the Privateers will play home games this season, Towe said things are very much in doubt.

UNO athletic director Jim Miller said Friday that Lakefront Arena has a hole in the roof, making playing any home games there this season doubtful. The Pontchartrain Center in Kenner is a likely alternative, Miller added.

One additional road game for UNO was scheduled. The Privateers will play at Kansas on Dec. 29, replacing a home game against Norfolk State.

WOMEN'S TEAM UPDATE:

UNO basketball coach Amy Champion has all of her 12 eligible players on campus in Tyler. The only player who chose not to make the move was Caryn Robinson, a transfer from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, who would have had to sit out this season.

"Our kids have been wonderful," Champion said. "It would have been very easy for them to jump ship, but they chose to stick with us and be part of what we're building at UNO."

# Zephyrs hope to play at home in seven months

*Field takes on new purpose these days, but baseball to return*

By Bob Fortus
Staff writer

FEMA is operating out of Zephyr Field, National Guard troops are gathering there and helicopters are taking off and landing in the parking lot.

But rest assured, team officials promise, in seven months, baseball will be back at the park.

"The damage to Zephyr Field was minimal to what other areas received," said Pete Fisch, director of operations for Beaver Sports, the company that manages the holdings of Zephyrs owner Don Beaver. "We honestly feel that area will rebuild.

"Things will never be the same again. But, in the same sense, we can't say our plan is X, Y and Z.

Said Zephyrs general manager Mike Schline: "Our plan is to play baseball in April. A lot of people might need to see a baseball game. That's the way we're looking at it."

Because of Hurricane Katrina, the Zephyrs canceled the last three games of their home schedule.

"Our first concern when everything happened was to our employees and the players," Fisch said.

The Zephyrs left New Orleans on Aug. 27 by bus for Oklahoma City, the site of their second-to-last road series. The team completed its season at Iowa on Labor Day. After the last game, players and coaches dispersed to their homes. The Washington Nationals, the Zephyrs' parent team, made the travel arrangements.

"They've been very supportive," Schline said of the Nationals. "They've been wonderful to work with."

Said Adam Wogan, the Nationals' director of player development: "Since this happened, in our communication with Mike and our staff of the Zephyrs, we just want to support them as much as we can and help them as much as we can. This is an issue bigger than baseball."

Concerning the Zephyrs' intention to play next season in New Orleans, Wogan said: "If that's something that will help the community, we're absolutely for it."

The Zephyrs have 20 to 22 full-time employees in New Orleans, Fisch said. He said that Beaver Sports wants to keep them working. The company also manages a Triple-A team in Charlotte, N.C., a Class A team in Hickory, N.C., and a Champions Tour golf tournament.

Some employees might be placed temporarily in positions with those teams, Fisch said.

Meanwhile, Zephyr Field "is being used for a better

cause than baseball," Schline said.

Said Fisch: "They're utilizing every inch of the property."

The bases won't be needed for a while.

"The game's not very important," Zephyrs manager Tim Foli said. "If having a team there helps the city because they need the entertainment, that's good. If they just need a place to play, that's not good.

"It's the people. It's not a matter of the Nationals' Triple-A team. It's the people."

# Hornets piecing things together

By John Reid
Staff writer

If things were normal, Hornets general manager Allan Bristow would be making final roster additions in preparation for next month's training camp.

Coach Byron Scott would be meeting regularly with his assistants, going over plans for the season. And most of the Hornets players would be working out at the Alario Center, trying to get a jump on things before camp begins.

But these are not normal times in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the New Orleans area.

Bristow said the Alario Center on the West Bank is being used as a command center for the Louisiana National Guard and for Jefferson Parish officials.

Instead of the team making a final push to increase its season-ticket base, Hornets executives are hustling to find a temporary home for the season.

"I don't know if the word normal is going to be used this season," Bristow said by telephone Friday from his offseason home in Marco Island, Fla.

"Right now, we sort of have everybody scattered (from the basketball operations department)."

Director of player personnel Jeff Bower is living in a cabin with his family in upstate New York and was on vacation when Katrina struck.

Vice president of basketball operations Willis Reed evacuated to Ruston and remains there with family members.

Scott has been unavailable for comment this week, but team officials said he is safe with his family.

Bristow said they have been working from their homes, corresponding with each other through e-mails. They have stayed in contact with most of the players by telephone.

The league also is assisting the team with all matters.

"We're trying to help them get back on their feet," league spokesman Tim Frank said Friday. "Obviously, they have staff all over the place, and we're trying to help them select a place for training camp."

Bristow said players contracts are being maintained by the league's legal department until things are more stable.

"Just a lot of things are frozen, but I'm talking with the league, our players," Bristow said.

"But we're not under normal circumstances, and it's very difficult because things are very slow. We're just waiting to see where we are going to play our games."

Team president Paul Mott said this week they are considering Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Bossier City as possible temporary homes.

City officials from Louisville, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City, Nashville and now San Diego have made offers to become the team's temporary home.

But team officials said they would consider those cities only if they can't get anything worked out with a Louisiana city.

"Our first option is always to see if there is a place in Louisiana where we can feasibly pull this off," said Tim McDougall, the Hornets' chief marketing officer. "We've had people on the ground looking in Baton Rouge and looking at other facilities in the state, and we're trying to get a read on that."

Meantime, several Hornets' staff members are trying to cope with the Katrina disaster as best they can, like all residents from the metro area.

"Our chimney was blown off and part of our roof was damaged, and we had some water damage," said Bower, who owns a house in Harvey. "But there have been many more people shaken than we are, of course."

Bower said he has been unable to catch a flight to New Orleans to personally inspect the damage on his home.

P.J. Brown and Chris Andersen were the only two Hornets players directly affected by the storm. Andersen evacuated to Denver, and Brown had some flood damage to one of his homes in Slidell. Brown has enrolled his children in schools in Houston, Bristow said.

"Once training camp starts, we are going to proceed as normal," Bower said. "But there are going to be some challenges."

# Lutcher gets chance to play

*Team grateful despite setback*

ST. AMANT 17 • LUTCHER 7

By Jim Derry
Staff writer

ST. AMANT – For nearly two weeks, life was nothing but a chaotic storm for the entire metro area.

On Friday night at The Pit, one area football team was able to enjoy some sense of what life was supposed to be for a group of teenagers who want nothing more than to play.

The record will show that Lutcher lost to St. Amant 17-7 on a warm, humid night 50 miles from New Orleans. But much more important, it also will be documented that football again was played in southern

Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area.

For Bulldogs coach Tim Detillier, that's a fact that meant the most.

"Tonight's game was not about winning and losing," he said. "The story was that we played, and that a community can find some sense of normalcy. (The past two weeks) have been a learning experience for our young kids. It's been eye-opening.

"Maybe sometimes, you take things for granted like you turn on a light switch sometimes. I think maybe we appreciate things a little bit more."

Once the game began, it was like any other Friday night in September. There were running plays, there were passes and there were punts and penalties.

But before the contest began, there was an unprecedented show of unity.

Instead of a visiting team being announced to jeers and a home team running out of a tunnel through a banner to a host of screaming fans, the teams came out as one and stood together as the national anthem played.

"It's really a little bit unusual. You're fixing to go to war," St. Amant coach David Swacker said. "But this is all part of the learning process for kids. ... I just want to make sure our kids understand what we are doing here and what this thing is all about and how fortunate they are.

"They have a lot of kids who a'int playing no damn football."

But the Bulldogs and Gators did play, and Lutcher showed signs that it had missed more than a week of practice, fumbling twice in the first half and jumping offside five times.

St. Amant took the opening kickoff and scored in eight plays - culminated by a 30-yard run by Brady Miles that gave the Gators a 7-0 lead.

Lutcher looked poised to tie the score at 7 on its ensuing drive, but on the 12th play at the Gators' four, quarterback Cade Fontenot was driven back to the 22 and fumbled.

Two possessions later with the score tied at 7, Lutcher had a chance to take the lead, but it again fumbled inside St. Amant territory to thwart a drive.

Miles then put the Gators in front to stay, running 29 yards, again around the right side.

A positive for the Bulldogs was their rushing attack. Rashad Webster ran 20 times for 125 yards, and Wayne Albert had 18 carries for 106 yards and a touchdown.

Even though the Bulldogs were down because they lost the game, the players and coaches were satisfied to get their minds off of the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, albeit for just a short time.

"We're just so happy, and we thank God that we have a second opportunity to play because a lot of teams don't have that opportunity," Webster said. "We're lucky because we have a brand new schedule and another chance to get after it and show the world what the Dogs are all about."

Lutcher must now go on knowing that it likely will not even play a district schedule, as there is a strong possibility the other seven teams – Hannan, Clark, De La Salle, Karr, Landry, Lawless and St. Bernard – in 10-3A won't have a football season.

The Bulldogs have tried to fill their open weeks as best they can, and they have done it mostly with Class 5A schools.

"Again, the story is that not whether we won or lost, it's that we played the game," Detillier said. "In two weeks, that's going to be my message to the team, because in two weeks we would have started our district schedule.

"We are, rather we were, in the largest district in the state, and in two weeks, that's what we're going to be talking about – that we can represent our district in some kind of way. It changes daily, but I really think we're the only team left in the district. I hope not, but it sure looks that way."

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SPORTS

# Jefferson school officials optimistic for football

*Restoration, return of families seen as keys to season*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Jefferson Parish may have Friday-night football this fall after all.

With the parish public school system scheduled to re-open on Oct. 3, two Jefferson school board members said they would like to see the high-school athletic programs revived at that time as well. School Board president Ray St. Pierre said he and fellow board member Mark Morgan are in favor of resuming athletics, particularly football, as soon as possible.

Jefferson and its schools, St. Pierre said, were not as severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina nor inundated by flooding brought on by the storm as neighboring parishes Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

Jefferson schools thusly could serve as an educational hub for the students of all four parishes as the metro area is rebuilt. Jefferson Public Schools superintendent Dr. Diane Roussel spoke before a Congressional committee Wednesday in Washington, D.C., to seek funding for such a plan, St. Pierre said.

Louisiana High School Athletic Association rules require school systems that employ platooning must retain the separate autonomy of their individual schools in order to compete for district and state championship honors in the LHSAA, LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry said.

Any exception or rule change permiting exceptions would require approval by the LHSAA Executive Committee, Henry said.

If, however, two schools are merged into one by a school system (such as Ehret combining with West Jefferson) the surviving flagship school then could compete for district and state championship honors, Henry said.

"Two (separate) schools can't combine to have one team,'' Henry said.

"But if a school is operating say not as West Jefferson but as Ehret, then that's not two schools."

"It looks like Jefferson Parish is going to be the hub on the rebuilding process,'' St. Pierre said. "We think it's got to come through us."

While the No. 1 priority of Jefferson school officials is to have education available for those returning, restoring athletics is viewed as a positive supplement and point of attraction in that process.

"There is an effort to try to ascertain how many kids that we have out there and when we get back to school to see if we have enough kids to put some programs together,'' said St. Pierre, a long-time coach in Jefferson. "If we have the kids, we will do so. It probably will be a little difficult, but it's not out of the realm of possibility."

The Oct. 3 target date for reopening Jefferson schools announced

Wednesday at a special school board meeting in Baton Rouge was based on assurances from Parish president Aaron Broussard,

St. Pierre said. Broussard and his staff believe the parish infrastructure should be restored sufficiently in two to three weeks to allow residents to return.

"If it's done in two weeks, we'll be in good shape,'' St. Pierre said.

At Wednesday's school board meeting, Morgan said he wanted to see

"Friday-night football being played in Jefferson Parish in the month of October."

The viability of such a scenario depends largely on how many students and teachers return, St. Pierre said. There are other significant logistical hurdles to be cleared that involve what kind of employment and housing will be available for displaced residents and teachers.

"We feel like it's really, really possible," St. Pierre said of the Oct. 3 re-opening of schools. "Aaron says three weeks (maximum). If we can get in in two weeks, then it's definitely feasible."

Details of the Jefferson school plan are being worked on this week, St. \Pierre said, in anticipation of a second board meeting Wednesday in Baton Rouge.

Jefferson campuses and athletic facilities, including Joe Yenni and Hoss Memtsas stadiums, are being examined this week and next to see which are most viable. Jefferson athletic director Manny Barocco is coordinating the inspection of athletic facilities, St. Pierre said.

Ehret and West Jefferson, Jefferson's two largest schools, were scheduled to open District 5-5A football play on Oct. 7, which is the Friday following the targeted re-opening. Ehret plays at Destrehan, and West Jefferson plays at Assumption.

Destrehan, Assumption, East St. John and Hahnville are the other members of 5-5A and have resumed football practice.

"We absolutely want to play, and it would be a great thing for our kids,'' said West Jefferson coach Hank Tierney, who evacuated to Benton, Ark. "There are some big ifs involved in this, but we certainly would want to play."

Teams would need at least one week of practice, but ideally two weeks,

Tierney said, given that players will have missed an entire month of work by the end of September. Physical conditioning is another consideration, given that their district opponents will have been working out and playing during the final three weeks of September.

"If the powers (that) be have schools up and running on Oct. 3, it would seem that there should be every possible attempt to have football back, provided we can get our players and coaches back," Tierney said. "Me,

I'm all for that. Now can it logistically happen? I would have my oubts. But I would like to see our kids get to play."

Ehret coach Billy North traveled from Lake Charles, where he is staying, to Baton Rouge to attend Wednesday's school board meeting,

"When I first heard Mark Morgan say that he would like to see Friday-

night football played in October, I thought he was crazy,'' North said. "But the more

I thought about it, the more I thought what a good idea it was.

"Realistically, I think LHSAA competition is over for our parish for

this year. But when we get back we could have a general call out for

football, like a playground, and then let coaches pick teams and play some

games. Then we'll begin the process of bringing some normalcy back to

our parish."

West Jefferson and Ehret players and coaches are scattered throughout

Louisiana and bordering states as are those at Jefferson's other high schools, Higgins, Bonnabel, King, East Jefferson, Cox and Fisher.

Tierney said families, particularly those whose children had

established themselves with other programs, would need assurances that Jefferson's

re-opening and resumption of athletics is definite.

"We told all of our kids that they needed to go somewhere and play,"

Tierney said. "If they're established and they're doing good, what do

you tell them?"

St. Pierre said coaches must be open-minded and reminded that rosters

likely will be bolstered from displaced student athletes from the

surrounding parishes.

Platooning two schools at one campus is a possibility depending on

enrollment demands and the availability of facilities, St. Pierre

said.

"I think we have to look at what schools are returning and what schools

are going to be open and where those kids that return are going to be

transported to," said North, who said he turned down a teaching

position at Lake Charles-Barbe on Friday. "Nobody knows the answers to those

questions right now. I'm being conservative because I don't have enough

information right now. Let's see what hand we're dealt and then play that

hand."

**NOTE:**

The St. Charles Catholic football team won't be idle this week after all. The Comets will play host to Jackson at 11 a.m. Saturday in their season-opener.

"It was very spur of the moment," St. Charles coach Frank Monica said.

East St. John and Destrehan are the only River Parishes football teams not playing this weekend.

Lutcher's volleyball team returned to action Thursday with a 25-16, 25-17 victory against Family Christian Academy. Katie Duhe led Lutcher with nine kills. Traci Martin had 15 assists, and Nekedra Nicholas had 10 digs. Ricki LeBlanc and Victoria Nassar had three aces apiece.

• • • • • •

Lori Lyons contributed to this report.

# Back on the field, Wildcats turn back Tigers



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

St. James fans are back in the stands after a harrowing week in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## ST.JAMES 28 • TERREBONNE 7

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

There were no trains roaring through the south end zone, and there were no ladies tossing confetti after each touchdown. But there was football in St. James on Friday night, just 11 days after Hurricane Katrina hit the metro area. And after a sluggish first half, probably caused by the week layoff from school in the aftermath of the storm, the Wildcats rallied for a 28-7 victory over Terrebonne.

After spotting the Tigers a 7-0 lead in the second quarter, St. James scored all of its points in the second half. Luther Ambrose caught a 20-yard pass from quarterback Antonio Phillips in the third quarter and ran for a six-yard touchdown in the fourth. Tremaine Dapremont and Javon Keller also ran for scores. In all, St. James rushed for 187 yards and finished with 241 yards on offense. The Wildcats defense also did its part, with Jared Byers and Jerome Lewis each nabbing interceptions.

Just two Fridays ago, the Wildcats were riding high after knocking off Class 5A powerhouse Hahnville in the River Parishes Jamboree. But when they walked off the field that night, they had no idea that it would be two weeks before they played again. The hurricane canceled school and last week's highly anticipated game against River Parishes rival West St. John. But once school resumed on Tuesday, the Wildcats started thinking about this week's opponent – Terrebonne, another Class 5A opponent.

"During the storm, we were thinking about West St. John," said Wildcats senior offensive lineman Demond Jackson. "We really wanted that game. But we were ready to play anybody. We couldn't wait to get back on the field. We need all the experience we can get."

Both teams seemed to show the effects of the disruption to their routines with sputtering drives in the first half. After a scoreless first quarter, Terrebonne took a lead.

After St. James turned the ball over on downs at its 22-yard line, the Tigers started driving. On third-and-five at the 40, Tigers quarterback Mark Hebert connected with Tirin Neville for a 59-yard pass. Neville made a fingertip grab of the ball and ran toward the end zone, but he fumbled out of bounds at the 1. On the next play, Hebert sneaked in for the score, and Michael Crone kicked the extra point.

Hebert and Tirin would connect a total of six times for 107 yards, accounting for the bulk of the Tigers' offense, but those were the only points Terrebonne would score.

St. James dominated the second half. On its first possession following halftime, the Wildcats drove 67 yards on five plays. After a Terrebonne personal foul penalty put St. James at the Terrebonne 20, Phillips connected with Ambrose for the Wildcats' first touchdown. The extra-point kick failed, leaving St. James trailing by one.

But on their next possession the Wildcats got a break. Stalled at the Terrebonne 39-yard line, Terry Isom's punt hit a Tiger player, and Wayne Mitchell recovered at the 16 for the Wildcats. From there, they took three plays to score, with Dapremont running in from the 2. Zenon ran for the two-point conversion to give the Wildcats a 14-7 lead.

In the fourth quarter the Wilcats got another break. Terrebonne was at the St. James 41, when a high snap sailed over Hebert's head and St. James' Juarelle Narcisse recovered. After Phillips passed to Jordan Landry for a 32-yard gain, Javon Keller ran to the 18. A Terrebonne personal foul penalty moved the ball to the 6, and Ambrose ran it in from there. Keller added a 15-yard touchdown run in the final minute of the game.

St. James coach Rick Gaille said his team's first-half play was most certainly a result of the team's unexpected vacation.

"It was a team effort of errors in the first half," Gaille said. "I think the layoff affected us. It didn't affect us any in our conditioning, which I was pleased with. It was our execution. It took a while to get our attention.

"But, in the end, Gaille and his team were just happy to be back on the field at all.

"We're glad to be able to play a game at all," he said. "Everybody is, on both sides. I think everybody in the stadium is happy just to be here. Like I said earlier this week, it's what we do."

SUNDAY SURVIVING KATRINA, REMEMBERING 9/11 EDITORIAL, A-13

The Times-Picayune

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Glimmers of hope emerge as water slowly recedes



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

South Carolina emergency response team members Gene Yates, left, and Matt Sutherland begin the plodding, vile-smelling task of recovering the dead Saturday in a Meraux home, which shows a water line where floodwaters reached the second story. Search-and-rescue missions have shifted from saving the living to recovering the dead. **See story, A-2**



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

The live oaks along Northline Drive in Old Metairie stand in 3 to 4 feet of flood water. Oaks can withstand standing water, but arborists are concerned about the effect of the toxic water on the trees.

## Rooting for recovery: Live oaks largely weathered the storm

*Katrina can teach lessons, arborists say*

**By Sheila Grissett**
Staff writer

Despite the horrific blow dealt to southeast Louisiana's urban forest by Hurricane Katrina and its filthy, watery aftermath, local landscape professionals say many of the area's rugged, beloved live oaks are doing what they do best: soldiering on and surviving.

But, they say, there was massive loss of other types of trees throughout the metro area, and recovery will take years.

Of the 720 live oaks that edge stately St. Charles Avenue in soft shadow and shade, only four fell to Katrina's winds, said arborist John Benton, who regularly surveys trees

*See* **TREES,** *page A-12*

## Drained but not defeated, pump crews offer optimism

*Water is going down faster than expected*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

First the good news: The city is draining faster than expected, and much of it could be largely dry in weeks, not months, the Sewerage & Water Board now dares to hope. The problem is that water service, a precondition for safe resettlement, may be months away, due to the extensive damage to S&WB mains and piping.

The challenge of "dewatering" the city, to use the fashionable term for pumping it dry, is being met by a group of about 300 water board engineers and pump operators who stayed on the job in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath at sometimes harrowing risks.

They briefly abandoned their posts when the waters got so deep that pumps' motors fried and the possibility of drowning was real. But once rescued, most went back to work anywhere they could be useful, and they have continued

*See* **PUMPS,** *page A-9*




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

## *Nagin: Mistakes were made at all levels*

**HIS BIGGEST FRUSTRATION WAS SLOW PACE OF RELIEF**

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

In a stark reminder of how drastically Hurricane Katrina has affected the lives of New Orleanians, Mayor Ray Nagin has purchased a home in Dallas and enrolled his young daughter in school there.

Nagin, who spoke with The Times-Picayune by telephone from Dallas, where he has been since Wednesday, said he plans to return to New Orleans on Saturday. He said he will remain in the Crescent City while his family lives for the next six months in Dallas, making occasional visits to his family when possible.

It's not clear where Nagin will be living: His home on Bayou St. John suffered massive flooding, the mayor said, although

*See* **NAGIN,** *page A-15*

INSIDE • Jefferson allowing some businesses to return, A-2 • Foundations of fishing industry destroyed, A-4 • Resilient city already on rebound, TP's David Meeks says, A-7 • Admiral takes helm of recovery effort, A-8

# Businesses can return to rebuild Jefferson

## *Parish to allow owners back in*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

As the region stumbles to its knees following its crippling bout with Hurricane Katrina, a silver lining has emerged out of Jefferson Parish: as of Monday morning, some businesses will be allowed to return.

"We've been knocked down, but you can't keep us down," said Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard.

At a news conference Saturday – strategically held in a lot across from Lakeside Mall at Veterans Memorial and North Causeway boulevards — parish officials outlined the blueprint of the plan they've dubbed Operation Jumpstart Jefferson.

According to the plan, essential businesses will be allowed to re-enter the parish as early as Monday morning after applying for a Jumpstart Jefferson certificate, which can be filled out on the parish Web site or picked up at one of several satellite locations. The certificate will allow businesses, their owners and employees the chance to return to their shops to make repairs, restock and lay the groundwork for normal business operations. Officials believe the plan will make for a smooth transition to normalcy once Broussard gives the green light for residents to return.

Also, commercial air traffic will resume at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Tuesday, Aviation Director Roy Williams said.

Commercial cargo flights already have begun. "We've had a lot of demand from our carriers to begin service again, and we're ready to do that," Williams said. He said both Jefferson Parish and Kenner have agreed to allow the airport opening in order to serve areas not under closure orders.Passenger service will initially begin on concourses A and B. The airport has been open since Aug. 30, the day after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, and has served as a major hub for rescue efforts.

For Operation Jumpstart Jefferson, the list of parish-approved essential businesses range from accounting and attorney practices to grocers, garbage collectors and veterinarians. Businesses not on the list of essentials can apply anyway, and will be able to petition the council for certification.

Business owners can download an Operation Jumpstart Jefferson application at www.jeffparish.net, or pick up a copy in East Jefferson at the fire station at 3525 Jefferson Highway, on the West Bank at the fire station at 2248 Barataria Blvd., or at two locations in Baton Rouge, the corner of Highland Road and Interstate 10 or 2525 Quail Drive.

The tone of Saturday's news conference was confident.

"Through the annals of history we've always asked, 'What if the big one comes?' " said Thomas Capella, chairman of the Jefferson Parish council. "Well, it did, and now two weeks later we're getting back up."

Pointing toward Lakeside Shopping Center and calling it the "economic engine" and "backbone of commerce" in the parish, 5th District Councilwoman Jennifer Sneed said the resilient people of Jefferson Parish need businesses open so they can return and put their lives back together.

"The revitalization of Jefferson Parish will be great for everyone," said Jefferson Parish Councilman Louis Congemi. Congemi said the growth of Jefferson businesses ultimately will help the entire metropolitan area, including Orleans Parish.

"Through this entire ordeal, we've depended on friendships, not bureaucracy," said Gretna Mayor Ronnie Harris.

In many sections of some of the larger communities within the parish, including Westwego, Gretna, Harahan and Kenner, electricity and running water have been restored. Where water is running, officials said, it is safe to bathe and wash clothes in but should be boiled for consumption. Officials said residents should not flush toilets since the pumping system still is not fully operational.

The court system will remain shut down until further notice. Jefferson Parish schools are on schedule to open Oct. 3. School board officials announced a Sept. 14 school board meeting to be held at noon on the first floor of the state Department of Education building in Baton Rouge.

Garbage pickup in the unincorporated sections of the parish will begin Monday, but it may take a few days for some residential trash pickups, officials said.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Matt Sutherland of the South Carolina emergency response team climbs out a window near Joseph Davies Elementary School in Meraux.

# GUARD'S MISSION: MORBID 'RECOVERY'

## *Search for bodies becomes gruesome, door-to-door slog*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

In the days after Hurricane Katrina, the search for the living unfolded at a frenetic pace, an adrenaline-charged scramble by swarms of boats and helicopters desperately seeking victims imperiled by starvation or high water.

The hunt for the dead, however, is emerging as a more tedious task, a door-to-door slog through hip-deep, foul-smelling muck that is falling on people such as Jerry Apodaca, 42, a prison guard from Las Cruces, N.M.

Apodaca was deployed in Plaquemines Parish as part of a 400-strong contingent from his state's National Guard. He knows the chance to be a hero, to rescue people trapped in their attics or on rooftops, has largely passed. His job now is called "recovery" – the oft-heard euphemism for tracking down and tallying up those killed by the storm or in its chaotic aftermath.

He is among hundreds of people in the New Orleans area who for weeks will wade through practically sub-human conditions to look for bloated bodies, a task for which their civilian jobs gave them little or no preparation.

"Mold, sewage, oil, feces floating around – it's just nasty out there," Apodaca said recently as his squad rummaged through the ruins of Port Sulphur, a fishing community in southern Plaquemines Parish that was virtually flattened by Katrina's 130 mile per hour winds and a storm surge estimated to have topped 20 feet.

"They told us we would be doing security. And now we're doing this," said Staff Sgt. Manuel Almanza, a heavy equipment operator from Deming, N.M.

Their contingent, along with similar teams made up of professional rescuers and civilian volunteers, is charged with inspecting every house in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, two of the area's hardest-hit communities.

It's an ugly assignment. If a home's front door is locked, they must break it down and then go room to room sniffing for the tell-tale stench of the decomposing dead. Where the wreckage from another house blocks the door, they have to climb in a window.

They pry their way into vehicles and boats, sift through the wreckage of businesses.

The task comes with plenty of health hazards. Entire communities in the area remain under 3 feet or more of putrid water, and much of the rest is covered in a toxic slush of mud, oil and raw sewage.

"You can't see to the bottom of the water, so you're taking little baby steps," Apodaca said. "All the debris in the water, it's like an obstacle course."

For his unit, none of those obstacles thus far has been a human body. The place is pervaded by the stench of rotten flesh, but so far they have discovered only the carcasses of about 24 dogs.

Officials hope it stays that way. In Plaquemines, only three people have been found dead. In St. Bernard, 62 bodies have been found but officials estimate the final tally will be less than initially expected.

But though the dead have proved elusive, some expect that to change when neighborhoods still underwater begin to dry up – a process that may take weeks. Scott Polk, an investigator with the Plaquemines Parish Coroner's Office, offered this dire outlook: "Down there in the lower end of the parish" – in fishing communities such as Buras, Empire and Venice, where access remains limited – "a lot of people don't leave … We're going to get them (bodies) all over the place."

William Seither, a Plaquemines Parish pump operator who rode out the storm on the second story of a brick building in Port Sulphur, said it's unclear how many people in those lower areas remained in their homes.

"Damn, if there were some, they've got to be dead," he said.

The scenes of destruction have made their mark on some of the New Mexico National Guard soldiers. Several said they still could not believe the scale of Katrina's fury.

Spc. Juan Alvarado, 24, said he tried to describe the scene to his family back in

Deming, N.M., but knows he could not do the scene justice.

"You just can't explain it over the phone," he said.

The squad's assistant staff sergeant, Patrick Lucero, 34, a retail industrial supplies salesman from Las Cruces, said it does not even compare to his recent one-year tour of Iraq, where he said he was stationed in the bombed-out town of Taji near Baghdad.

"Iraq's a dump. It's a Third-World country," Lucero said. "It looks worse here."

Lucero said he still holds out hope his group will happen upon an improbable survivor, someone who stored up enough food and water to last until help finally arrived in the form of a volunteer military unit tasked with keeping score of deaths caused by Katrina.

But over in St. Bernard Parish, Derek Franks, of South Carolina, had already seen similar hopes dashed. On Thursday, his search and recovery team responded to a 911 call from an out-of-town evacuee who said an elderly family member back in Meraux still might be alive.

They rushed to the house, only to find the woman dead in her living room.

"You could tell she tried to ride the storm out, but it didn't work out," Franks said. "It's a gruesome task, but that's what we're here for."

# WHITNEY BANK ANNOUNCES

# HURRICANE ASSISTANCE LOAN AND PAYMENT RELIEF PROGRAMS

Helping our communities is a Whitney tradition. In order to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in affected areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, The Whitney is offering a special Hurricane Assistance Loan, as well as a Payment Relief Program for victims of the storm:

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* *Payment Relief Program* applies to Whitney Bank consumer borrowers in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi with zip codes beginning with 700, 701, 703, 704, 365, 366, 394, 395, and 396. Individual cases not addressed by this policy will be handled on an individual basis. Clients wishing to make payments may continue to do so.

# Oil spills darken waters

## *St. Bernard, Plaquemines have dozens of leaks*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

At least eight major oil spills and possibly dozens of smaller ones dotted St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes Friday morning, as water pumped from Jefferson, New Orleans and St. Bernard parishes was making ugly black stains in the waters of Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne and the Gulf of Mexico.

An aerial survey by Dwight Bradshaw, a state Department of Environmental Quality surveillance officer, accompanied by two reporters, showed that much of the area within levees in Venice and Empire was stained with a combination of mud and crude oil, the result of breached oil storage tanks at a variety of facilities.

"We're going to work first on the big ones with the most potential for a human impact, and then work on smaller and smaller ones," Bradshaw said.

But he doesn't know how long it will take to clean the spills.

"It's really hard to say because you're looking at so many big ones simultaneously," he said. "It's frustrating, I tell you, it's frustrating. We just can't get the resources to do it." Repair crews were attempting to contain oil that had leaked from a 20-inch Shell Pipeline Co. pipeline near Venice that was ruptured by Hurricane Katrina.

"They estimated 250 barrels at first, but I estimate there's 2,000 barrels that has been released," Bradshaw said.

Among the spills seen from the air were:

▶ Chevron's Empire storage facility: an unknown amount of oil.

▶ Bass Enterprises Production Co. facilities in Cox Bay and Pointe a la Hache: a large amount of oil was visible near both facilities. A tanker barge could be seen trying to offload any remaining oil in one of the tanks.

▶ Sundown Energy's East Potash Field storage facility south of East Pointe a la Hache: between 1,000 and 2,000 barrels of oil have leaked and oil is visible around the facility.

▶ An unidentified facility at the north end of Port Sulphur, where oil was visible on the ground and water.

▶ Tenneco's natural gas compression station near Port Sulphur.

▶ A spill of what could be as much as 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel at a menhaden processing facility in Empire left red stains across nearby wetlands.

▶ A large pool of oil was visible within the fence line of the Murphy Oil Co. facility in Chalmette and in adjacent neighborhoods. Bradshaw said the company's estimate of only 10,000 barrels of oil spilled was "an educated guess that's probably optimistic on their part."

Dark pools of floodwater were seen spreading into Lake Pontchartrain from pumping stations in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. Floodwaters in St. Bernard Parish were being pumped into adjacent wetlands that drain into the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet.

Bradshaw said the individual oil pipeline and production companies are responsible for stopping leaks in their facilities and cleaning the spilled oil. But he said that process is being delayed by an inability to quickly reach the spills. Some roads are still flooded or are blocked by huge menhaden fishing boats.

To get crews and equipment to the scene will take days or weeks, Bradshaw said, because the workers will require living space on barges to be able to overnight in the area. And all locally available portable living quarters already have been rented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be used by emergency workers responding to the storm, he said.

The result is that living quarters will have to be shipped by barge from Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River, he said, a process that could take a week.

To fight the spills, he said, the workers will need a variety of skimmers, pumps, booms, several boats to maneuver around the soiled area and barges to collect the recovered oil.

Bradshaw said the transportation problems also make recovery of oiled birds and other wildlife nearly impossible. It was possible to recognize the odor being produced by the floodwaters from a plane 1,300 feet above the city.

Wetlands south of the city that were overtopped by saltwater and have died and begun to decompose produced a different odor.

Also visible from the air in eastern New Orleans were cargo containers knocked off rail cars and several tank cars on their sides.

Bradshaw said the federal Environmental Protection Agency already has taken air samples above the cars and determined that there were no chemicals present. But he said additional tests will be done in coming days.

Wastes from the Sewerage & Water Board's East Bank Sewage Treatment Plant also stained a large area around that facility in eastern New Orleans. And at the Murphy Oil facility in Chalmette, Bradshaw said, it looked as if something had punctured one of about 10 large storage tanks. "The refinery shut down before the storm, but something hit that tank during the storm," he said. Several barges in the Mississippi River were either atop or shoved on the side of levees, or were sinking. Bradshaw said his role is to keep an eye on known environmental leaks, while other DEQ employees are conducting a grid-like search of the coastline to identify new leaks.

"It's going to take months to clean up and remediate these spills," Bradshaw said.

**"I don't know how you recover from something like this. You can't single out one place to begin, because it's all gone. Gone."**

VINCE GUILLORY,
state fisheries biologist



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Two giant menhaden boats that had been stationed at the processing plant in Empire rest across Louisiana 23, where Hurricane Katrina deposited them. Most of the storied fishing village was destroyed by the storm, which spread boats, camps and houses across Plaquemines Parish.

# Foundations of fishing industry obliterated

## *Southeast La. marinas, wildlife, towns in ruins*

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

From 300 feet in the air the scenes and smells of what had once been one of the world's most prolific and storied fisheries carried one message: Gone.

Legendary fishing villages intricately woven into the unique culture of the region lay in ruins, flattened into mounds of debris, much of it floating in black, fetid water. Places that had provided priceless memories to generations of metro area residents are now graveyards for homes, camps, boats, marinas, fish houses, processing plants, human lives. Shell Beach and Delacroix Island, Buras and Venice, Port Sulphur and Hopedale: Gone.

Every acre of solid land that had served fishers and the fishing businesses before Aug. 29 has felt Katrina's wrath.

State fisheries biologist Vince Guillory winced at the sights. His assessment was grim.

"The infrastructure for the fishing industries — recreational as well as commercial — are just gone," he said. "This is beyond anything I expected.

"Even if you were a fisherman with a boat, where would you launch? Where would you get gas? Where would you bring your catch? Where would you live?

"We're talking about assessments of the damage? It's complete, total. If there's any good news, it may be that the marsh doesn't look too torn up."

Fisheries and environmental officials have long known that a frontal assault by a Category 3 or stronger hurricane could deal a devastating blow to their precious and valuable resource. The marshes that surround New Orleans are the engines that power the most dynamic seafood machine in North America, producing fully 35 percent of the oysters, 46 percent of the shrimp and 28 percent of the blue crabs consumed in the nation. The combined value of the recreational and commercial fisheries is almost $2 billion per year, state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries officials said.




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

The Buras water tower lies amid the ruins of the town. Towns that served the outdoor industries were devastated by the hurricane; many are just islands of debris in black, pungent water.

But the forces of coastal erosion had consumed roughly half of the marshes that existed in the early 1900s, and those that were left in the southeastern corner of the coast were among the most fragile, resting barely above sea level on average tides, disappearing at the rate of 25 square miles per year.

So as Katrina grew in fury, the greatest concern was the future of the foundation on which the entire fishing culture was built. Although fishing infrastructure — from tackle shops to marinas — can be rebuilt, the marsh cannot.

Though first looks revealed the damage to habitat does not appear to be as great as feared, fish and wildlife officials caution the early fly-over assessments may vanish once scientific measurements are made. Although Barataria Bay and southern Plaquemines Parish lost portions of what little marsh was left before Katrina, St. Bernard Parish appeared to suffer much less.

"It almost looks as if the marsh didn't suffer as much damage because it was under so much water," said Scott Durham, wildlife biologist for the DWF. "Maybe it didn't get the pounding it would have gotten from a lesser storm or lower tides."

That doesn't mean fish and wildlife were not affected. The DWF said oyster mortality in the affected areas was expected to be nearly 100 percent due to thick layers of silt that cover the beds after such a storm. Crabs that survived the storm may die as oxygen levels in local waters decline because of the decaying vegetation and other organic matter washed in by the storm.

Wildlife habitat appeared to be most heavily impacted on the delta of the Mississippi River and in the basin of the Pearl River. The vast fresh and brackish wetlands at the mouth of the huge river are normally as lush and green as the Amazon this time of the year. On Friday, they had been made a dull khaki by the influx of salty Gulf water on the storm tide, estimated at up to 30 feet. The giant lagoons normally choked with aquatic plants that attract and hold as many as two million migrating waterfowl each winter were open water bordered by lines of brown roseau cane. Alligators swam freely in some of the passes, but few birds of any species were seen.

In some section of the vast Pearl River basin, many of the hardwood trees lay toppled in the swamp as if brushed by a giant hand.

"We've lost up to 50 percent of our trees in some of these areas," Durham said. "This is unbelievable. It's just opened the swamp in many areas."

But as severe as those losses were, the biologists' most shocking views came over the towns that serve the outdoors industries, where the devastation appeared almost total. The communities of Port Sulphur, Buras, Empire and Venice were little more than islands of debris floating in black, pungent water trapped between the Mississippi River to the east and the hurricane protection levee on the west. Clearly those levees were not up to Katrina's challenge. River barges came into the towns from that side; shrimp and oyster boats came in from the marsh side. Boats and camps sat on the levees, or on what remained of Louisiana 23.

Some marinas and hoists could not be found; others were flattened. Joshua's Marina in Buras and the Buras Boat Harbor showed rows of pilings where docks once were, and scraps of aluminum where the shops and stores had stood. Venice Marina was almost totally destroyed - yachts sat on high ground, most condos were battered to the ground, and the marina store was flattened. Cypress Cove seemed to fare better, but only just. What buildings were still standing had extensive damage. Expensive fishing yachts had been tossed around like toy boats; barges and houseboats were on land.

St. Bernard fishing spots were in even more dire straits. Blackie Campo's Marina, the iconic location for marsh anglers for several generations, doesn't exist. Rising above the mud covered road are the steel beams of the hoist, the marina's only structure. The rest — boat sheds, Campo's house, boats, landmarks — are gone.

"I don't know how you recover from something like this," Guillory said. "You can't single out one place to begin, because it's all gone. Gone."

# FEMA's new shepherd hopes to unite flock

*Coordinated recovery stressed as Allen meets with parish presidents*

**By Ron Thibodeaux**
Staff writer

The federal government's stumbling relief effort for the storm-ravaged New Orleans area finally got legs Saturday as FEMA's new man-in-charge arrived in the city with a can-do attitude and an overdue but meaningful approach to coordinating a regional recovery plan.

Local officials welcomed the involvement of Vice Adm. Thad Allen as the on-site replacement for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's embattled boss, Michael Brown, who was called back to Washington on Friday in the face of widespread criticism of the agency's initial response to Hurricane Katrina.

The feds' more visible role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina rippled across Louisiana and the rest of the country Saturday, as displaced evacuees began finding FEMA disaster relief payments in their bank accounts.

As the area approached the two-week mark since Katrina's deadly landfall, though, it still was not possible to look ahead to recovery without simultaneously looking back to continue assessing the extent of devastation.

A horrifying aerial inspection of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes by a state environmental official revealed at least eight major oil spills, with indications of numerous smaller ones. Meanwhile, a separate float-plane tour of the area by a state fisheries expert uncovered an almost incomprehensible blow to the region's vital fishing habitat and resources.

"The infrastructure for the fishing industries, recreational as well as commercial, are just gone," state fisheries biologist Vince Guillory said glumly from 300 feet above the wreckage. "Even if you were a fisherman with a boat, where would you launch? Where would you get gas? Where would you bring your catch? Where would you live?"

While the official death toll from the hurricane rose Saturday to 154, law enforcement officers in New Orleans continued to make dramatic rescues of homebound storm victims.

Authorities recovered and began reviewing the recordings of 911 phone calls made as Katrina approached the city – and before the police communications system was disabled – and then launched a house-by-house search where each of those emergency calls had originated.

U.S. Customs Service agents rescued more than a dozen such residents Friday, and officers of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took over the effort Saturday.

Allen met with the eight parish presidents in the metro region Saturday, describing it as a "very, very fruitful meeting." Allen also said the recovery process will need unity among everyone to "deliver the goods" to people.

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard also characterized the meeting as productive.

"The right FEMA team is now on the ground in New Orleans," he said.

Allen spent 3½ hours being briefed by state officials on the recovery process and the death toll, but he couldn't say where crews were in that process.

He called for an organizational mechanism "so that we don't have three people working in different parts of the same parish doing things that are not the priority of that parish."

Allen said the presidents told him the biggest need is temporary housing for people who are in shelters, even though it was unclear where that housing would be.

Allen did not have a timetable for the recovery and rebuilding of the city, saying it is "related to the unwatering" of New Orleans, adding that most pumps still are not working.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Oil covers the ground Saturday near the Murphy Oil Co. plant in Chalmette. An aerial inspection of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes has revealed at least eight major oil spills, with signs of many other smaller spills.

The level of the nasty, smelly floodwaters inundating the city for most of the past two weeks continued its gradual but steady decline, leaving behind an equally nasty, smelly sludge. Some employees of the Sewerage & Water Board dared to give voice to a hope that the city will be dry within two or three weeks.

## New address for Nagins

As if to demonstrate the scope of the Katrina disaster – not that anyone needs to do that by now – New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said he bought a house in Dallas last week and relocated his family there, and officials at the American Red Cross said they are seeking 40,000 new volunteers from around the country to help with hurricane relief efforts throughout the country.

About 36,000 Red Cross volunteers are providing food, shelter and other emergency help to about 160,000 people at 675 shelters in 23 states, an agency spokesman said. But many of the volunteers, who typically serve three-week stints in the field, will be going home soon and replacements are needed.

"We're not going away in a few weeks or even a few months," said Red Cross spokesman John Dengan, who described the recruitment drive as the largest ever for the relief agency.

Relief workers of a different sort will be needed to contain the oil spills across St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, but that effort will be hampered by the sites' isolation and the dearth of facilities available to quarter the workers.

"We're going to work first on the big ones with the most potential for a human impact" – estimated in the thousands of gallons in several locations – "and then work on smaller and smaller ones," said Dwight Bradshaw, surveillance officer for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

As for a repair timetable, "it's really hard to say because you're looking at so many big ones simultaneously," Bradshaw said.

State officials confirmed that 154 people died as a result of Hurricane Katrina, according to an update provided Saturday by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

State and local officials had earlier predicted that the loss of life would be catastrophic, as high as 10,000 people. But in New Orleans, officials are now cautiously optimistic that the number was a vast overestimation.

## Flights to begin Tuesday

There were encouraging signs on two transportation fronts Saturday.

Aviation Director Roy Williams announced that passenger flights into and out of Louis Armstrong International Airport in Kenner will resume Tuesday after a 16-day hiatus.

And between St. Tammany Parish and eastern New Orleans, work will begin Monday to repair the extensive damage to the Interstate 10 twin spans.

The state Department of Development and Transportation said Saturday it has awarded Boh Bros. Construction Co. of New Orleans a $30.9 million contract to restore the 5-mile link across the eastern end of Lake Pontchartrain.

"This will have a significant impact on travel as Interstate 10 connects traffic in New Orleans with the rest of the country," said Gordon Nelson, assistant secretary of DOTD.

Plaquemines Parish is allowing residents to return to their homes starting today from Belle Chasse to Port Sulphur, Parish President Benny Rousselle announced.

He warned that services, particularly utilities such as water and sewer, are limited. A boil water order is in effect. In addition, the parish imposed a mandatory curfew from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m., and no vehicle will be allowed south of the Alliance Refinery.

Returning residents must have identification showing that they live in Plaquemines and should enter the parish via U.S. 90 to Lapalco Boulevard to Louisiana 23. Rousselle also said that residents should bring their own supplies, including gas, food and medicine, because stores are not open and 911 emergency services are unavailable.

## Mail resumes in Tammany

In adjacent Jefferson Parish, where residents are still restricted from their homes, some businesses will be allowed to crank up again Monday.

"We've been knocked down, but you can't keep us down," Broussard said.

Parish officials called a press conference near Lakeside Shopping Center on Saturday to outline the plan they have dubbed Operation Jumpstart Jefferson.

Signs of progress continued to emerge from St. Tammany Parish. Six of the parish's eight Catholic schools announced they would resume classes on Sept. 19, two weeks ahead of the Oct. 3 target date set by the public school system.

Mail delivery resumed Saturday in St. Tammany, and the Postal Service reported it had reopened all post offices except in the rural communities of Sun and Talisheek.

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Ron Thibodeaux can be reached at rthibodeaux@charter.net.
Staff writers Michelle Krupa, Bob Marshall, Gordon Russell and Mark Schleifstein contributed to this story.

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# Evacuees receive $670 million in FEMA grants

*Agency issues funds to 335,000 households*

**Mary Judice**
Business writer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has distributed $670 million to evacuees from Hurricane Katrina for emergency living expenses under a new program, a spokesman said Saturday.

In the past three days the federal grant program has provided $2,000 payments to 335,000 households, said Win Henderson, a Hurricane Katrina recovery spokesman in Baton Rouge.

The program marks the first time FEMA has made such expedited grants available. FEMA says the grants can take 7 to 10 days to arrive, but many who have applied report receiving the grants much quicker than that.

To qualify, a consumer must apply to FEMA, be displaced from their primary residence and be living in a shelter, a hotel or motel or with family or friends.

The assistance applies to those who fled as a result of the storm, either renters or homeowners, and can be used for disaster needs, including transportation, clothing, housing and food.

Henderson said the expedited assistance program is a "100 percent federally funded grant," which means no recipient will have to repay the money.

The program is not income-based, and the grants will not be taxed by the Internal Revenue Service. Henderson said even evacuees who have received funds for living expenses from insurance companies are eligible for this program.

The grant is part of an overall package of benefits from FEMA that evacuees and others suffering damages may qualify for.

"This is the first time in FEMA existence an expedited assistance program has been put into place due to the widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and mass displacement of evacuees to points around the country," Henderson said.

Because this is a new program there has been confusion about how it is administered.

Earlier, FEMA officials said the benefit might be considered a loan for some insurance holders and that debit cards would be issued to evacuees in Houston. On Friday, the agency said it had distributed cards to evacuees in shelters in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio and had no plans to issue cards to other evacuees.

Evacuees can register online at www.fema.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. FEMA has not established a center in Baton Rouge to take applications.

Evacuees will receive their money by check, mailed to their current address or by electronic deposit into their bank account.

But applying takes time and patience. On Saturday afternoon, it was difficult to make an application by telephone or to complete online registration because of heavy traffic.

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# FEMA sending cash to bolster local governments

*Money to help pay police overtime*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

**An additional $300 million to $500 million is expected to be paid out next week, as soon as state and parish governments can document their storm-related costs.**

BATON ROUGE — Cash-strapped local governments will receive the first installment of what is expected to be billions of dollars in federal reimbursements for costs they incurred because of Hurricane Katrina, state and federal officials said Saturday.

The governments of Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Lafourche parishes will get about $200 million "in the immediate future" from the federal government to help offset the costs of responding to the storm, said Art Jones, who heads up recovery operations for the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Jones would not divulge how the money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is being split among the parishes except to say that more than half, or at least $100 million, is going to the city of New Orleans to pay overtime costs for police, fire and other emergency workers who worked long hours in the wake of Katrina.

St. Bernard officials last week said FEMA had told them it would make an initial allocation of $31 million. Officials said they planned to spend the money on cleanup contracts and temporary buildings for government services, among other uses.

An additional $300 million to $500 million is expected to be paid out next week, as soon as state and parish governments can document their storm-related costs. "This is a process that will be going on for years," Jones said.

FEMA's public assistance program pays local and state governments, as well as nonprofit groups such as churches and charities that shelter evacuees, for unbudgeted emergency expenses. The money can used for everything from debris removal and road repairs to overtime costs for rescue workers and emergency generators that keep public services running in times of crisis.

The check-writing process was slowed somewhat in the wake of Katrina, Jones said, because the computers that handled such matters were housed at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans and were destroyed by the storm.

Historically, about two-thirds of the money that FEMA spends in responding to emergencies flows through state and local government in the form of public assistance, agency spokesman David Passey said.

The rest of the money goes to individuals and families as emergency cash assistance and to federal agencies and contractors that provide services such as emergency housing.

Passey said the agency has received 403,303 requests for emergency cash and so far has provided more than $537 million to individuals.

As the government begins to move evacuees from emergency shelters into more permanent housing, FEMA has begun issuing hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to build such facilities. A prime beneficiary of that spending has been Baton Rouge-based Shaw Group, which last week received a $100 million contract to build and oversee temporary housing for people displaced by Katrina.

Other companies that have received government contracts for emergency housing are California-based Flour Corp. and Bechtel National Inc., Colorado-based CH2M Hill and Dewberry Technologies of Virginia.

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Jan Moller can be reached at tpicbr@aol.com

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DAVID MEEKS

# Residents will rebuild their city

New Orleans is still beautiful. In the pitch black night of an unlit Magazine Street, it's beautiful. In the eerie, abandoned Uptown neighborhoods, its allure endures. Dominated by floodwaters, its water system unusable and power lines shredded from the river to the lake, the soul of the city is still there, as it has been for almost 300 years.

In the resilient eyes of the people still in the streets, working to get the residents out and the recovery started, there is a look that says New Orleans already is coming back from its greatest disaster.

It's always been that way in this town. New Orleans has seemed perched on the edge of destruction at many points in its history, seemingly vulnerable to a final, catastrophic punch. But through several bouts of yellow fever, the Civil War and the economic collapse of the 1980s, New Orleans has been a symbol for America in its remarkable ability to persevere.

Hurricane Katrina may be unprecedented in its level of destruction, but it will not make any difference to the most steadfast New Orleanians who, with help from around the world, are determined to keep this special place alive.

New Orleans may have been knocked unconscious, but it's not dead. It still has a pulse, and it's waiting for us to come back, get it to its feet and help it take its first steps.

And although most of the people who love New Orleans must now do so at a distance, the perspective I bring is not from Baton Rouge or Houston or Birmingham. It's from being on the ground – from the day the storm hit, through the looting, chaos, violence and massive troop deployment – covering a story we hoped we'd never have to cover.

In one fateful week, we saw a city pushed to the edge and pulled back. We saw terror and we saw teamwork. We saw fellow citizens hit with more desperation than any human being deserves, but they hung in there. For most in our small group of journalists, we were armed for the first time in our lives, but we didn't want to fire a shot and never had to. We were on our own and yet we weren't – there were thousands of good New Orleanians, sticking together, helping each other out, sharing clothes, food and water. Getting the job done.

When we had extra food or water, we gave it away. When a convoy of ambulances got lost and needed to get to the Convention Center, we led them there. When we could help refugees, we helped. There's no doubt about it: We were not only on this story, we were in it, and there was nothing to do but get to work – as journalists, and as residents, too. Get to work for New Orleans. It's what we all have to do.

Reporting in the city the week after the hurricane was like reporting from a hole, sending your stories out to someone and never seeing what happened to them. We saw only snippets of national coverage, with breaking news leading inevitably to the endless expert opinions of people who don't know a damn thing except how to look into a camera and listen to themselves talk.

I remember a blabbering woman going on about how we shouldn't give too much money to New Orleans to rebuild because the city's so corrupt it will just get wasted. I remember a guy weighing the value of the city in economic terms, as if it's only worth saving if it can keep the oil and gas coming so he can drive around in his big fat SUV.

To see fellow Americans so casually disregard our own history saddens me.

Here is historic New Orleans, a truly European city in the United States, a place that was a major urban center under two foreign nations before it became American, a city that was one of the first to donate firetrucks and dispatch volunteers to New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and people talk about throwing it away because a hurricane hit.

Well, I'll give the opposing view: This is a better country than that. We're better people than that. We can do better than that.

Perhaps it is true that people shouldn't live here. But then, they shouldn't live in San Francisco, waiting for the next earthquake. And they shouldn't live on the side of a hill in Southern California, fearing the next wave of wildfires and mudslides. There sure are a lot of tornadoes in Texas. And how many hurricanes have hit Florida? Should we all get out?

Seems to me we can either make a list of all the places we shouldn't live or learn our lessons and try to live as smartly as we can in the places we love. In Lakeview, where my house is under 8 feet of water, should we rebuild the houses higher? Yes, we should. Should we fix design flaws in the levees and make them stronger? Definitely. Should we take this opportunity to redevelop the city in a way that makes it a better place to work and live? We all want that.

We've got issues, and believe me, New Orleanians aren't blind. Anyone who lives here knows what it's like to curse this town in a loving embrace. Sweeping changes need to be made, but now is not the time to talk about that.

We learned a few things in trying to keep a news operation running on streets where, if something goes wrong, all the help you're getting is the help you have with you. You've got to be resourceful, and you've got to focus only on the task right in front of you. We learned the latter from law enforcement personnel and rescue workers, who have an amazing ability to do just that.

I remember a scene that gave us a laugh, just because it's something you can't imagine really happening. A colleague and I were in a canoe on Canal Boulevard, headed to rescue some pets in Lakeview. A boat was coming the other way, passing us just like it was still a highway - except the road was 8 feet underwater.

An officer from out of town looked over and asked simply, "Is this the way to Esplanade?"

"Yep," I said.

Neither of us said anything more. We just kept going.

We got our job done. Whatever job he was going to do, I can tell you by the look in his eyes that it got done.

And that, my friends, is how we're going to get this done.

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# Coast Guard official takes helm in N.O.

## *Allen calls cooperation key to relief effort*

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

The new chief of federal efforts to help victims of Hurricane Katrina spent his first full day on the job in New Orleans on Saturday learning about plans to recover bodies from flooded areas and meeting with local leaders to reassess priorities in light of stinging criticism of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's handling of the catastrophe.



**Thad Allen**
FEMA's new point man talks of communication, distribution problems

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, who has been leading the local recovery effort since Katrina struck Aug. 29, said authorities soon will begin planning to move evacuees from shelters to temporary housing, though he did not say where facilities might be set up. Allen also said a timeline cannot be set for rebuilding New Orleans, parts of which still were mired in as much as 8 feet of filthy water Saturday, until the city dries out.

Speaking to reporters in a parking lot at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Allen tacitly addressed problems with communication and distribution of resources that have outraged local leaders since military personnel and federal workers arrived to help with relief efforts.

"We need an organizational mechanism so we don't have three people working in different parts of the same parish doing things that are not the priorities in that parish," he said, standing against a backdrop of dirty mattresses, broken chairs, crushed plastic bottles and smashed cars that littered Convention Center Boulevard a week after thousands of people fled there to escape damage caused by the storm.

Allen, who was assigned Friday to replace FEMA Director Michael Brown as head of Katrina relief, said regional cooperation and organization will be key to ramping up relief efforts, and he called for a "single coordinating mechanism" to rescue holdouts from their flooded homes, deliver food, house evacuees, rebuild infrastructure and plan for residents' return to storm-ravaged areas.

Allen's luncheon session with officials from eight parishes aboard the USS Iwo Jima, docked at the end of Poydras Street, followed a 3½-hour briefing on the effort to recover bodies from storm-ravaged areas. Allen said he did not know the number of bodies found so far and could not estimate the total number of dead. He said FEMA was working with the Defense Department to locate and document the human remains.

Allen said the Mississippi River is a potential lifeline that the Navy and Coast Guard could use to provide services to strapped governments in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and other hard-hit parishes. Military personnel could use river vessels to fight fires and to suck water out of flooded areas, he said.

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, who was among local leaders at the Saturday meeting, called Allen's promotion to the helm of Katrina relief a "great decision."

"I knew once they put a military man in charge this was going to be instantly better," he said. "Without this, we would be far behind schedule."

A FEMA spokesman said Allen will direct relief activities from the Iwo Jima or from a joint field office in Baton Rouge. He did not respond to inquiries Saturday afternoon about which other local officials attended the noon meeting.

Read the complete Times-Picayune at
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# Pace of drainage is rare bright spot

See **PUMPS,** *page A-1*

nonstop ever since, sleeping on the floors where they work. Despite the ordeal, many were optimistic this week about getting pumps on line and starting the arduous task of removing an inland sea of contaminated water from the city.

Amid visible evidence that the water levels are dropping in various parts of town, some agency employees expressed optimism that much of the city will be dry in two or three weeks, although they cautioned it could be longer.

The Army Corps of Engineers offered more specific predictions Saturday. Current projections are that the "primary flooded areas" of Orleans Parish will be dry by Oct. 2, said Dan Hitchings, a director in the corps' Mississippi Valley division. More heavily flooded eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish are expected to be dry by Oct. 8, and Plaquemines Parish by Oct. 18, or about 40 days sooner than initial projections.

Among the signs of progress: Near City Hall, Poydras Street — which had been under about 3 feet of water — is dry. Uptown, the water along Carrollton Avenue has receded almost to the Interstate 10 overpass, a drop of at least 3 feet. Parts of the Lower 9th Ward near the river, including blocks of Tricou Street, are drained almost completely, with as much as 5 feet of water receded in some places, leaving behind a crusted, brown sludge.

"Pumps are constantly coming on line," said Marcia St. Martin, the water board's executive director.

By early Saturday, more than 16 of the city's 75 major pumps were working. She was unable to say how much of the city was still under water. Eighty percent of the city was under water at the height of the flooding.

The areas near major pumping stations are expected to dry first. Some said the Lower 9th Ward – though the site of the greatest reduction in water depths so far, thanks to drainage through levee breaches – may be the last to be dry because of likely damage to pumps that drain the neighborhood. To a large extent, what dries out first will depend on which pumps are restored fastest.

Even if the city dries out relatively soon, however, agency officials warned that getting the water out will be just the beginning. The storm's floodwaters caused massive pipe breaks in both the sewerage and water systems, they said. That means it could be more than three months before city tap water is safe to drink. Meanwhile, sewerage and foul floodwaters, for the time being, will be pumped directly into the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain.

## Bullet dodged?

The force of Katrina's catastrophic winds was awesome even to water board veterans of numerous hurricanes. At one point, a massive set of ancient wooden doors was ripped off its hinges, nearly flattening a group of employees, said one of the chief operators at the Melpomene Pumping Station No. 1, at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and South Broad Street. It took six men to hoist the doors back up and brace them with scrap lumber, said the operator, who did not want his name published, in deference to civil service policy that forbids employees to talk to the media.

But a few hours after the storm passed, there was cause for optimism. New Orleans seemed to have dodged a bullet. The operator was getting ready to shut off his pumps because the area was dry. "Everyone thought, 'OK, it's over with,'" he said. "Nobody knew about the breach. Then I saw water running down Broad Street. I ain't ever seen that."



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Victor Anderson of Statesboro, Ga., left, and David Fulton of Wilmington, N.C., clean and dry transformers Friday at Trans Pumping Station No. 6, which pumps into the 17th Street Canal.

Within 48 hours, the group had to be rescued and brought to another pumping station that was still dry: Pumping Station No. 6 on Metairie Road, which dumps directly into the 17th Street Canal, the now-repaired waterway that fed the cataclysmic flooding in the western parts of the city.

On Thursday, a week and a half after Katrina's passage, they were restoring more pumps.

"It was traumatic, but God is good," the operator said of his ordeal. "He got us out. And when it was time to pump this water out, he got us back here."

Jason Higginbotham, the water board's emergency director, told similarly frightening stories about other workers trapped by rising waters.

One group of operators at Pumping Station No. 5 had to swim to safety across the roiling water of the Florida Canal in eastern New Orleans. Another group of 12 men got trapped at Pumping Station No. 4 on the London Avenue Canal in Gentilly, where levees were twice breached.

"These guys got flooded, and they made a makeshift boat out of a fence," said Higginbotham, who coordinated the rescue of trapped workers. "They tried to float to UNO, and on the way, they rescued a bunch of people from their rooftops."

Eventually, the group made its way to safety at the Interstate 10 pumping station near the Southern Railroad underpass, close to the Jefferson/Orleans parish line. Higginbotham said one man had a cell phone that worked, and members of the group were able to call their families.

Then it was back to work.

Three hundred of the agency's 1,200 workers were called to work during the storm, while most of the rest — whose jobs do not involve drainage — evacuated. While some workers were stranded for days, St. Martin said she thought that by Saturday all of those who were working during the storm had been accounted for. As far as she knew, there were no deserters, St. Martin said.

The dedication shown by workers is particularly impressive given that many are paid only about $20,000 annually and were coping with emotional trauma.

Some lost their homes, and many more have been unable to contact their families. St. Martin, for one, said she thinks her Gentilly home is gone, but she hasn't had a chance to look.

"These people are clearly dedicated to the citizens of our city, and I personally feel they should be recognized for it," St. Martin said. "These guys risked their lives."

The heroics were supported by stubborn pride among many agency workers. At least one retired employee showed up for work after the storm and pitched in: General Superintendent Joseph Sullivan, who is well past retirement age, worked around the clock until late this week.

A number of employees said that they thought their pumps could have done the job had the levees done theirs.

"We had this hurricane beat, man," said Bob Moeinian, superintendent of pumping, shaking his head in frustration. "If the levee had not broken, we'd be just like the West Bank: street cleanup and power outages.

"And all that $500 million we spent on the sewer system, we don't know where that is," he added, referring to the massive infrastructure replacement the board has been working on for several years under a federal consent decree.

The floodwaters that consumed many pumping stations eventually made their way to the main water purification plant on South Claiborne Avenue in Hollygrove, knocking out the agency's power supply late Aug. 31, two and a half days after the storm.

That was a devastating blow. It meant no more sewerage service for the tens of thousands of people still in the city, including emergency workers and the unfortunate people waiting to be evacuated at the Superdome and the Convention Center. It also crippled ground-level firefighting, although helicopters pulling water from the Mississippi River helped stop the burning that broke out on both sides of the river.

## Drying out

The first sign of major progress for the water board came Tuesday, when water board workers were able to revive the first of four turbines that juice the agency's power plant. The plant, now dry, had been inundated by about 3 feet of water, a first in the annals of New Orleans storm disasters. Since then, a second turbine has been restored.

The return of power meant the water could be turned back on, though at only about half its usual pressure, and not at all in the system's far eastern extremities. Though some of the few residents left on the east bank have been showering and cooking with boiled water, St. Martin said Saturday she still couldn't guarantee water safety.

"We're providing water for fire protection only," she said.

The restoration of power also means some of the agency's massive drainage pumps, once repaired, can be reactivated. About two-thirds of the pumps are powered by the S&WB's plant, and the rest use power from Entergy and are still off line.

Before the plant was re-energized, the only water leaving the swamped city was either flowing back out through levee breaches or being pumped out by small, portable pumps brought in by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Though they say they appreciate the corps' help, water board employees said portable pumps are too small to make an

See **PUMPS,** *page A-10*

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Sincerely,

Dick

Dick Millman
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# 20 percent of major pumps on line

*See* **PUMPS,** *page A-9*

appreciable difference in the water level in flooded neighborhoods.

"They secured the levee, and without them, we wouldn't be playing ball," Higginbotham said. "The corps is using the biggest sump pumps you can get. It's aiding us, and they deserve credit for that. But the Sewerage & Water Board's pumps are the ones that are going to pump the city dry."

Higginbotham said the portable pumps have two problems. One, their capacity is about a tenth of that of an S&WB monster. And two, the small pumps are prone to clogging, whereas the water board's pumps are protected by a huge rakes that collect debris and then periodically dump it onto a shelf above the intake.

Those rakes, which were still inoperable Thursday at Pumping Station No. 6 on Metairie Road by the 17th Street Canal, have scarfed up all manner of flotsam, including tree branches, garbage cans, flowerpots and other household items. For all that, the pumps are strong enough to push a rippling current of water toward the lake — indeed, so strong a current that officials must be careful not to stress the plugged breach in the 17th Street Canal. But for that concern, the Melpomene Pumping Station No. 1 on South Broad Street would be up and running. For the time being it is being held in abeyance because it dumps into the 17th Street Canal and might overwhelm it, St. Martin said.

Once the rakes at the pumping stations begin working, officials expect to find grim evidence of the storm's toll. "After a normal storm, we sometimes pick up bodies here," one employee said. This time, there could be dozens, workers predicted.

## A slow slog

Though about a fifth of the 75 major drainage pumps are back on line, restoring the rest will take time, officials said.

Flooded pumping stations first have to be drained. Then the equipment, which has been fouled with grit, debris and mud from the storm waters, must be pressure-washed and dried with a special heater. Then it can be tested.

In many cases, the equipment will have to be repaired. Workers from General Electric are helping, and the company has promised to rush delivery of necessary parts, which in normal times can take up to a year.

According to John Huerkamp, director of operations for drainage, GE had promised to deliver a new switch gear for one of the broken turbines at the power plant.

Hundreds of workers from other public utilities around the country also are on the way. The hope is to give the water board's employees a break, although many so far have refused to take one.

"They offered us some R and R," Moeinian said. "But folks decided to stay around because there was no one else to operate the equipment."

Along with exhaustion, water board workers are facing technical obstacles, among them the challenge of getting diesel fuel into pumping stations still inaccessible by road. Drums have had to be brought by helicopter and boat. Soon, high-riding trucks will be able to make it to most or all of the stations, officials hope.

There also are other, more practical, considerations. St. Martin said the agency is trying to account for the 900 workers thought to have evacuated and is asking them to call (877)863-9405 to report their whereabouts. An employee Web site is in the works.

Meanwhile, the board is trying to find housing for the workers it will need in the months ahead. Higginbotham said he has requested that a cruise ship be made available. Mobile homes and tents are another option; St. Martin said FEMA has begun procuring them for the agency.

## Water breaks

Water board employees have not been able to assess damage to the agency's water and sewer operations, in part because of lingering high water and in part because the priority is on pumping out the city, but it's clear the system suffered massive damage.

In Algiers, which was relatively unscathed by the storm, pipes usually deliver about 8 million to 10 million gallons of water a day. After the storm, the number was up to 27 million gallons, Huerkamp said.

The reason is that the water is leaking massively underground, probably because uprooted trees have broken water mains.

The damage is expected to be worse on the east bank because of the flooding, which causes the ground to shift, breaking pipes.

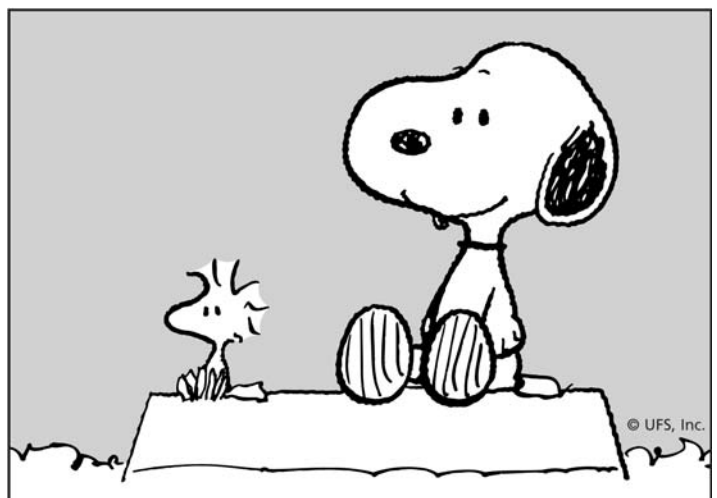
The same pattern of destruction applies to the sewer system. For now, the agency is shooting its wastewater directly into the Mississippi River, as is permitted in emergencies under its permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, St. Martin said.

The situation presents troubling long-term problems: Untreated sewage, even after the plant is fixed, will continue to seep from broken pipes for months, until the agency can find all the leaks with smoke tests and closed-circuit cameras. Once the problems are identified, it will take months or even years to repair all the leaks, work that will likely involve tearing up streets.

The water repairs will be similar in scope. And until most of the water leaks are fixed, tap water may be unsafe to drink, because of infiltration by groundwater.

Huerkamp said officials from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked him this week when he thought the water might again be potable. "I told them maybe 90-days plus," he said. "The problem is, how do you know if the water is clean if it's mixing with groundwater?"

St. Martin was more optimistic. "We got a new shipment of filters, and we're going to start changing them," she said. "I think it will be sooner than that."


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# Bush administration also hard hit by storm

*Effect on agenda unclear for now*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina is still being assessed, but President Bush is already busy trying to repairing the political damage to his administration left in the wake of the storm.

The removal of maligned Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown on Friday as the man in charge of the recovery, the unblinking willingness to spend $62.3 billion on relief and the president's visits to the disaster zone are widely viewed as attempts to reverse the tide of public opinion that turned against Bush almost as soon as the levees broke in New Orleans.

Bush's poll numbers have been on the slide since early summer, largely driven by the public's fatigue with the war in Iraq and rising gasoline prices. The government's perceived foot-dragging as the water rose around metropolitan New Orleans pushed Bush's approval ratings to a new low.

A survey of 1,000 people Sept. 6 and 7 by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center found that only 38 percent approved of the job Bush and the federal government were doing in response to what may be the nation's worst natural disaster.

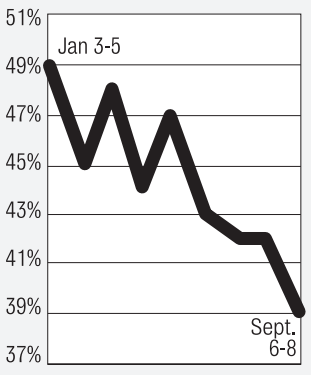
Katrina has turned into a political disaster for the Bush administration that has already upset the president's legislative agenda and may derail portions of it in the future. Still, political experts question the long-term impact of Katrina on the Bush presidency.

"It takes a really horrible summer and extends it into September and October," said Charlie Cook, editor of the Cook Political Report. "But I don't think it is a defining moment."

As the enormity of the damage caused by Katrina became known, Democrats were quick to declare that two core items of Bush's agenda — tax cuts and reversing the growth in Medicaid — were all but dead. Those predictions seemed to be buttressed by fiscally conservative Republicans, who worried that tax cuts could explode the deficit to unmanageable levels under the weight of Katrina-related expenses.

**AP POLL**

"Overall, do you approve about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?"




Source: Associated Press/Ipsos poll conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Margin of error +- 3%

Rep. Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, acknowledged that the pre-Katrina push to eliminate the estate tax probably will have to be shelved. McCrery said the tax cut would do little to stimulate the economy.

But Republican leaders have vowed to press on with the rest of the agenda. In a certain sense, they say, Katrina may give it a boost.

The strategy, according to discussions with Republican members of Congress and Capitol Hill aides, will be to portray the extension of cuts in capital gains taxes and the lowering of marginal income tax rates as economic stimulus — just the shot in the arm the U.S. economy needs following a major disaster. As for the Medicaid reductions, they will be packaged as government belt-tightening in the face of rapid spending related to the storm.

McCrery was also confident that Katrina hadn't decimated Bush's push to create private investment accounts in Social Security. He said legislation would be delayed, but that a bill could to the floor by the end of the year.

But Democrats said Katrina sounded the death knell for Bush's controversial plan. Cook agreed. He said that with so many hurricane-related bills now in the offing, Republicans won't be in the mood to wade into such messy political territory.


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# Replanting part of rebuilding effort

See **TREES,** *page A-1*

on the avenue and tends live oaks on public and private property throughout the metropolitan New Orleans area.

Ditto the live oaks in Audubon Park and the ancient stand along City Park Avenue, areas that escaped the salt-tinged floodwaters that are still submerging the root systems of trees on lower ground to the north and east.

"I haven't been able to do a close inspection yet, but from what I've seen and what I know of those trees, I doubt that there's a single live oak down in Audubon," Benton said.

"Live oaks evolved here on the coastal zone," he said. "They're designed for this geography and this weather. They're tough."

The healthiest among them may even be tough enough to survive the filthy soup that has swamped much of New Orleans and parts of heavily canopied Old Metairie from the breach of the 17th Street Canal, as long as the roots aren't submerged more than a few weeks.

"Live oaks have the ability to recover from a period of standing water, where most other trees don't," said Benton, owner of Bayou Trees, which is removing trees from utility lines for BellSouth and helping clean Jefferson Parish streets for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "But the saltier the water, and the longer they stand in it, the less chance they'll have of recovery," he said.

Benton said salty water will dry out tree roots much like table salt shrivels a garden slug and that standing water kills a tree by cutting off oxygen to the roots.

"There are so many variables at this point that it's impossible to know how this will turn out for the live oaks now under water. What has happened here, as far as I know, is unprecedented," Benton said. "There's no model to compare this to. Only time will tell."

## Survival of the fittest

State Department of Forestry and Agriculture personnel haven't yet begun to examine tree damage or urban reforestation, focusing instead on its continuing role in the search for Katrina's human victims. And the department won't send urban foresters in into the New Orleans area until environmental testing indicates it is safe to return, said Paul Orr, a department spokesman.

But Orr said he has seen enough from satellite imagery to agree with Benton's assessment that the oldest live oaks on high, dry ground along City Park Avenue should be safe, while those growing in more northerly sections of the park, flooded Old Metairie and the New Orleans lakefront are in peril.

"It looks like we could lose the trees from Storyland to Robert E. Lee Boulevard because of standing water, although there are some cypress trees in there that could survive," Orr said.

Orr said he hopes to begin assessing widespread tree damage on the north shore this week.

"There's more tree damage there because there are more trees there," he said. "And we had significant downing, especially pines."

Indeed, north and south of Lake Pontchartrain, trees smashed homes, businesses, vehicles and utility lines, damaging vital infrastructure and complicating the expensive task of restoring electricity and other public services.

Tropical Storm Cindy in July "took out the weakest trees, and Katrina took out the unstable trees that Cindy left, as well as the technically healthy trees that were planted in the wrong environment," Benton said.

Katrina's victims included a behemoth live oak that went down in Old Metairie on Dorrington Avenue just off Metairie Road.

"It's probably 90 years old, but look at this," Benton said, examining the upended tree, which sheared limbs from a neighbor's live oak in its fall. "You can see that years ago, these roots were cut here at the street, meaning the tree wasn't anchored well enough to stand.

"You show me a healthy live oak in a yard that hasn't suffered that kind of mechanical damage, and I'll show you a tree that's not moving," Benton said.

## A stronger future

In the rebuilding to come, Orr and Benton said they hope the communities affected by Katrina learn to redevelop a safer urban tree landscape by planting the right trees in the right spots and properly maintaining them, so that the ghastly lessons of Katrina aren't repeated.

"We'll be watching from the sidelines and looking for opportunities to have input," Orr said. "The way to minimize tree damage in future storms is not to exclude trees from the landscape, but to use wind-resistant varieties to protect structures.

"It's easy to look around now and see tree-related damage, but if you hadn't had those trees, you'd have had direct wind damage because there would have been nothing to deflect the wind," Orr said. "The canopy of a city like Baton Rouge, for example, where you have 50 percent coverage, actually deflects hurricane-force winds and keeps them from getting down to the rooftops. Remove those, and you'd have wholesale wind damage to all the rooftops instead of having tree damage to some of them."

But not all canopies are created equal.

Water birch and Bradford pear trees split. Pine and pecan trees crack. Pines and water oaks also blow over. And even the revered bald cypress, which shares top billing with live oaks as a super wind-resistant tree, can topple if it's not growing in wet soil, which is its natural environment.

"You can't say enough about how important it is to plant the right tree in the right place," said Benton, who said a 20-year-old cypress fell on his mother's Metairie home during Katrina because it was growing at a higher-than-ideal elevation. "It didn't act in its characteristic way because it wasn't well anchored, and it wasn't well anchored because it was growing too fast as a result of not growing in wet soil."

Benton reported "unbelievable" tree loss throughout what he calls "new Metairie" north of West Metairie Avenue.

"The live oaks and palms, which also evolved along the beach and are adapted to the area, did very well," he said. "But those other tall trees, especially the water oaks, which did most of the damage south of the lake, were down everywhere."

## Trees can come back

Professionals say people shouldn't jump to conclusions about the status of their trees. Although many live oaks lost limbs, that's not a fatal blow if the tree is generally healthy, arborists said.

"The live oaks of the Mississippi Gulf Coast were torn down to nubs during Hurricane Camille, but most of them came back," Orr said.

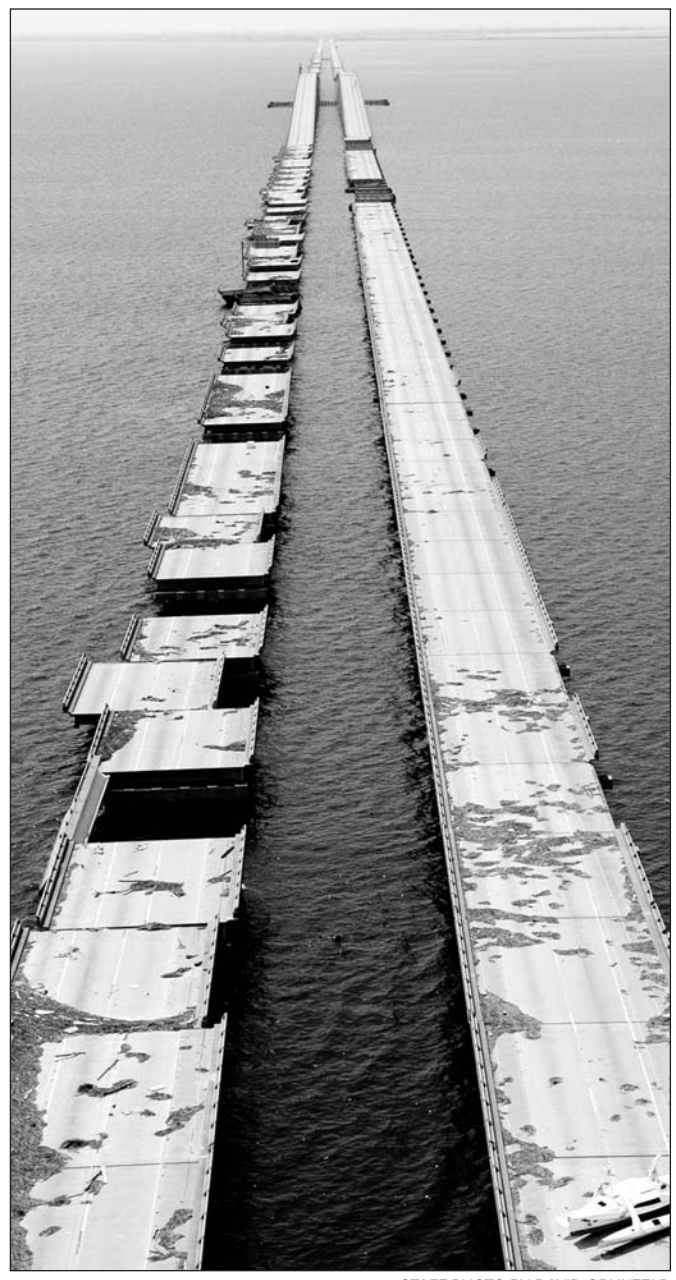
And live oaks that lost their leaves during Katrina did so in order to decrease wind resistance, nature's way of helping them survive. Releafing should begin in a month, Benton said.

On the other hand, brown leaves could simply be the result of salt spray, or they could indicate that the tree is dying. Only time will tell, arborists said.

"Human beings are impatient," Orr said. "The urban forest isn't some sort of 1,000-year-old forest. It's a dynamic and growing thing. It grows back … but not overnight. We're going to be dealing with this damage probably for years."

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Repairs are expected to begin Monday on the 8-mile Interstate 10 twin spans linking Irish Bayou with Slidell. Plans are also in the works to later completely reconstruct the bridge over Lake Pontchartrain. The plan so far:



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Interstate 10 twin spans after Katrina, looking toward N.O.

1. Over the next 45 days, workers will take pieces from the most damaged span — the eastbound span — and use them to repair the westbound span. Two-way traffic will then get under way on the one good span.

2. When the repairs of that span are finished, new grate-like sections will be built to allow the eastbound span to be reopened. That work should be done by late January. Both spans will then be opened to traffic.

3. After the temporary repairs on both spans are finished, a plan for a completely new bridge will be finalized and bid. Cost of the new bridge is expected to be $350 million to $500 million.

**Special Hurricane Katrina update for Humana customers, members, providers, agents and brokers.**

The damage sustained by the communities and residents of the Gulf Coast is beyond a disaster - it is a terrible human tragedy. Humana is committed to helping our customers and partners in the affected areas recover as quickly as possible.

Effective August 28, 2005, for all individuals or businesses from the affected areas that have Commercial or Medicare plans, Humana will provide a one-month grace period for the payment of premiums.

For affected Humana members, we are implementing the following policies:

- To guide you in finding a provider for necessary medical care, you can call 1-866-427-7478 or 920-337-5090 to reach one of our customer service associates, or use our Physician Finder Plus at www.humana.com.
- If your prescription medication was lost or damaged, you can get necessary refills at the nearest pharmacy. If possible, you should continue to use the pharmacy or pharmacy chain you have used in the past. If your normal pharmacy or pharmacy chain is not available near you, we encourage you to use Wal-Mart, CVS, Rite-Aid, H-E-B or Walgreens if such stores are operating in your area.

The affected areas include:

**Louisiana parishes:**
Assumption
Jefferson
Lafourche
Livingston
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. Helena
St. James
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Terrebonne
Washington

**Mississippi counties:**
Amite
Forrest
George
Greene
Hancock
Harrison
Jackson
Lamar
Marion
Pearl River
Perry
Pike
Stone
Walthall
Wilkinson

**Alabama counties:**
Mobile
Washington
Baldwin

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## OUR OPINIONS

# From sorrow to sorrow

Four years ago today, 19 terrorists armed with simple weapons commandeered four passenger jets and turned the world on end. Two of the planes crashed into New York's World Trade Center and brought those iconic towers down. One hit the Pentagon. The last crashed in a Pennsylvania field. In all, 3,000 lives were lost.

The differences between the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina are obvious and too numerous to mention. But in the past two weeks, people across the New Orleans area have come to know the panic that gripped lower Manhattan that awful Tuesday morning. Even those New Orleanians who weren't stuck in attics or on rooftops saw friends, neighbors and fellow citizens in desperate need. We felt a sudden, disorienting rootlessness. We learned that the power, transportation and communication networks that we use to organize our lives had somehow failed us utterly. And we agonized: Where is he? How did I get separated from her? Will I ever see them again?

Not even the wealthiest, most sophisticated society in the world can stop every last catastrophe before it happens. But the government response to Hurricane Katrina — the sluggish federal response in particular — bodes ill for the nation as a whole.

Four years after the terrorist attacks, and billions of dollars in homeland security spending later, the nation's ability to cope with major emergencies on American soil does not appear to have improved.

Congress' efforts to beef up state and local governments' ability to respond to terrorism should also have improved their ability to cope with natural disasters. But homeland security money has been parceled out on a political basis. Cornfields in Nebraska and cattle in Wyoming are now safe from al-Qaida saboteurs, but the federal government has spent far less per capita in areas at much higher risk.

Meanwhile, crucial organizations such as the Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been gobbled up by the unwieldy new Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard, at least, has provided crucial assistance during the Katrina crisis, but FEMA's reputation for effectiveness is no more.

At first, Homeland Security officials didn't seem to realize that disasters that aren't terrorism-related are disasters nonetheless. In airports across the country, thousands of well-compensated Homeland Security employees uselessly tell people to take their shoes off as they walk through metal detectors. Meanwhile, as New Orleanians waded last week through toxic floodwaters that kept rising, we kept our shoes on to avoid cutting ourselves on roofing nails and broken glass.

New Orleans is more vulnerable to hurricanes than any other U.S. city, but most of the nation's major cities are at risk of some kind of disaster — earthquakes, wildfires, tornadoes, droughts, ice storms and so on. If the federal government blunders or bungles when local and state authorities are overwhelmed by a disaster, the direct cost will be counted in human lives.

There are indirect consequences, too. When New Orleanians are wandering half-dead on the interstates, it represents a failure of American power. The entire world saw these images. In places such as Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, people could not fathom that such a situation could develop in America and go on for days.

Now they know.

In the years since the terrorist attacks, the reconstruction process at the World Trade Center site has stalled because of squabbling over money and aesthetics. But Americans' desire to rebuild there has never wavered, and New Orleanians need to see the same resolve.

New Orleans must rise again. And President Bush and Congress need to make sure that no other metropolitan area suffers after a natural disaster as this one did after Hurricane Katrina.




## OTHER OPINIONS

# Will it be enough?

Behind the good-times image lurked a city with staggering problems. The people who made beds and scooped jambalaya for tourists barely eked by.

Some city employees made poverty wages. Thousands upon thousands of children were trapped in failing schools. The police force was stressed by a skyrocketing murder rate, and the very same people who were terrorized at the Superdome and Convention Center in the days after the hurricane have been terrorized for years in their neighborhoods.

So many of New Orleans residents were poor. Can all the money that will be flowing to rebuild New Orleans finally make a dent in the city's entrenched poverty?

*— Stephanie Grace, Times-Picayune columnist*
*For the full version see nola.com/newslogs/opinion*

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Zurich claims reporting information

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# Tiger fans set the tempo in Tempe, Ariz.

## *LSU faithful seek momentary escape through season opener*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

TEMPE, ARIZ. - It took a five-hour drive, a five-hour flight, a lengthy layover in Denver, and a pricey parking spot, but Jacque Courville of Baton Rouge finally found his desert oasis, dang it.

Bulldozers couldn't move him from this spot. Only kickoff.

Twelve-pack of Coors Light on the ground, kept cool under the shade of a sprawling palm tree, plenty of friends nearby, a little girl (cute as can be) yelling, "TIGER BAIT" at the top of her tiny lungs as Arizona State fans stroll past the makeshift LSU ticket will-call. Courville takes a sip.

"The traffic back home has been horrendous," Courville said. "It takes 45 minutes to go 10 miles. Hey, and that's just us. People got it much worse and the whole state is affected. I'm glad we were able to afford to come. We're having a good time. It's worth it to get back to normal."

Tigers fans hardly invaded the Valley of the Sun, but did their best to make a presence. At 10:30 a.m., in Lot 4 - roughly three scoring drives away from the south entrance, a group of locals bet the security guards and set up a tailgate tent - modern day Magellans sticking their flag where they pleased. No one else was around.

Three hours prior to kickoff, the tent was shifted 50 feet to the left. Apparently you can't set up your spread across six parking spaces out here.

"We've met a lot of Tiger fans out here," said Gabe Pray of Amite, who was without power for eight days after Hurricane Katrina. "It's just time to get away. That's one of the reasons we came. You've got to get your football fix."

Given the short notice and two time zone distance between home sites (technically, LSU was the home team Saturday night and wore its traditional white), LSU fans' resourcefulness was tested. After examining the outrageous flight prices out of Baton Rouge, Courville decided to fly out of Houston. Must have been 10 or so passengers dressed in purple and gold on the flight.

When the 11:45 a.m. Continental flight from Houston to Phoenix landed, the flight attendant earned some favor when she thanked passengers for flying and then entered an ad-lib "Geaux Tigers!"

At 2 p.m. LSU set up a will-call ticket location outside the Carson Student-Athlete Center, and received a consistent flow until kickoff. LSU ticket manager Brian Broussard said there were a few exchangers from the New Orleans area, specifically St. Tammany, but that the majority of fans who made the trip were from other areas of the state less directly affected.




AP photo

Fans line up to give money to victims of Hurricane Katrina before the kickoff of LSU's game at Arizona State in Tempe, Ariz. Saturday night.

"Considering the numbers we usually have travel on a road tip and then considering what happened in five days, this is amazing," Broussard said. "We've got about 3,000 but I'm sure we have more than that with the online sale (through Arizona State). It's been crazy, it's been busy, but it's been great."

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A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Let us begin with a fervent wish that everyone within
our Touro family is safe and well.
This has been an extraordinary moment in the history of the Touro Infirmary
and the greater New Orleans region.

Your response was just as extraordinary.

Now we need to assure everyone's safety and security.
So if you haven't already registered,
please let us know where you are and if you need our help.
A special website has been created for patients and their families, employees,
as well as our medical staff, displaced by hurricane Katrina.

**www.tourohurricaneinfo.com**

This website is the first step in bringing us together
to create a new and even better Touro Infirmary...for the next 150 years.

Let's let the healing–and the rebuilding– begin.

Leslie D. Hirsch FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE
for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Members
affected by Hurricane Katrina

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, we know our customers affected by Hurricane Katrina are facing many challenges right now. But getting the health care you need *when* you need it shouldn't be one of them. That's why we're working with doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and providers everywhere to assist you during this difficult time.

Here are some other ways we're trying to help:

- Granting grace periods for premium payments through November 1
- Providing access to ***all*** doctors and hospitals for covered medical services
- Making it easy to get prescriptions filled ***wherever*** you are

**This applies to members from the following parishes:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assumption | Orleans | St. John the Baptist | Terrebonne |
| Jefferson | St. Bernard | St. Mary | Washington |
| Lafourche | St. Charles | St. Tammany | |
| Plaquemines | St. James | Tangipahoa | |

To help find a doctor or hospital, get a new ID card, or ask any other questions about your health coverage,

call us at **1-800-599-BLUE (2583).**

Hurricane Katrina information is also available online at www.bcbsla.com.

If you have questions on prescription coverage, please call **1-866-781-7533** (24 hours a day, seven days a week) or visit www.express-scripts.com.

Providers can call **1-800-392-4076** with any questions. Agents and brokers can contact our Broker Service Center at **1-800-222-0524**.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has deep roots in Louisiana, dating back to 1934 in New Orleans. Many of our own employees have been affected by this tragedy. We want to assure our customers that we're here to help you and your loved ones as you rebuild your lives and as we all rebuild this great state we call home.

**BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana**
An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

01MK2436 9/05 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana incorporated as Louisiana Health Service & Indemnity Company

*The whims of Hurricane Katrina blew buildings, boats and possessions all over, and many objects on Saturday still were lying far from where they belonged. One woman's refrigerator was found a quarter-mile from her house.*

# OUT OF PLACE



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**CHALMETTE:** A cemetery crypt lies shoved against a street sign Saturday on Paris Road in Chalmette.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**BURAS:** Wind-blown boats leave a tangled mess Saturday at a boat harbor in Buras.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL AREA:** Kathy Wood of Lakeview Drive near Slidell discovers family pictures still attached to her refrigerator Saturday. The newly renovated appliance turned up a quarter-mile from her townhome, which was destroyed in the hurricane, and had been on a second floor.

# Rebuilt N.O. will be better, Nagin says

**NAGIN,** *from A-1*

he has not inspected it.

In a brief but wide-ranging interview, the mayor reflected on the tragedies of the past two weeks. Acknowledging that he may have made some mistakes, he said he hopes others in positions of authority – including President Bush and Gov. Kathleen Blanco — are scrutinized as closely as he and his staff have been.

"I'm not pointing any fingers at anyone," Nagin said. "But I was in the fire. I was down there. Where were they? I'm confident the truth is going to come out. But I want everybody's record analyzed just as hard as mine.

"Listen, this was unprecedented. Nothing has ever happened like this. For people to sit back and say, 'You should have done this, you should have done that' it's Monday morning quarterbacking. They can shoot if they want, but I was there, and I will have the facts."

Nagin's biggest frustration, and his biggest source of puzzlement, is the slow pace of the relief efforts. He said state and federal officials made repeated promises that weren't kept.

"This is ridiculous," he said. "I mean, this is America. How can we have a state with an $18 billion budget and a federal government with an I-don't-know-how-many trillion dollar budget, and they can't get a few thousand people onto buses? I don't get that.

"All I saw was a huge two-step, if you will, between the federal government and the state as far as who had the final authority. Promises made that weren't really kept. It was frustrating. We'd analyze things, double-check them, and then, later in the afternoon, we'd find out that someone was changing the plan, moving resources around."

## Where were the resources?

Some officials at the state and federal level have suggested that part of the reason for the slow response was a lack of awareness about the level of devastation the city had suffered. They have faulted city officials for not sending out a stronger SOS.

While Nagin has said he didn't think the slow response was related to the demographic of the overwhelmingly poor, African-American residents that needed rescuing, his thinking has evolved.

"Definitely class and, the more I think about it, definitely race played into this," he said. "How do you treat people that just want to walk across the bridge and get out, and they're turned away, because you can't come to a certain parish? How do resources get stacked up outside the city of New Orleans and they don't make their way in? How do you not bring one piece of ice?

"If it's race, fine, let's call a spade a spade, a diamond a diamond. We can never let this happen again. Even if you hate black people and you are in a leadership position, this did not help anybody."

As hearings on the Katrina response start to crank up in Washington, Nagin said, those questions, among others, need to be asked.

"I think the government ought to be asking itself, 'What happened to the resources?'

"Why were people promised resources and they didn't show up? Where were the military resources? Where was the National Guard? Why were we left with a city on the verge of collapse, fighting for the soul of the city, with 200 National Guardsmen and 1,200 police?

"It was a serious breakdown," the mayor continued. "Make sure that whether it's Ray Nagin or the governor or the president, we take a serious look at this and make the changes that need to be made. I'm afraid some of this was a tug-of-war about who gets to spend the money at the end of the day. And I don't appreciate that.

"I saw too many people die, and a lot of people didn't see any of that. They had a press conference and left. I'm looking up, fighting this incredible battle, and they're doing press conferences and lying to the people. They're telling them 40,000 troops are in New Orleans. It was all bull."

## Communications shut down

"Analyze my ass, analyze everyone's ass, man. Let's put the facts on the table and talk turkey. Why was there a breakdown at the federal and state level only in Louisiana? This didn't happen in Mississippi. That's the question. That's the question of the day."

Nagin said the city's communications essentially shut down, but said that state and federal officials were likewise at a loss. Within a few days, city officials, including Chief Technology Officer Greg Meffert aided by a crew from Unisys and other outside volunteers, were able to patch together a rough network.

"All communications broke down," Nagin said. "I got cell phones from as high up as the White House that didn't work. My Blackberry pin-to-pin was the only thing that worked. I saw the military struggle with this, too. No one had communications worth a damn."

Even if communications were challenging, Nagin noted that FEMA officials were up in helicopters inspecting the damage from the storm within about 24 hours after it passed. So the message should have been clear, he said: Send in the cavalry.

"I think they realized the magnitude of what was happening," he said.

## The best-laid plans

Federal officials have faulted Nagin's administration for not marshaling its Regional Transit Authority buses and those of the School Board to start ferrying the tens of thousands of evacuees stranded at the Superdome and the Convention Center out of town.

Nagin said perhaps some of the criticism is fair. But he said there were various logistical hurdles that made it hard to use that equipment, and the buses would have hardly created a dent in the size of the crowds anyway.

"It's up for analysis," he said. "But we didn't have enough buses. I don't control the school buses, and the RTA buses as far as I know were positioned high and dry. But 80 percent of the city was not high and dry. Where would we have staged them? And who was going to drive them even if we commandeered them? If I'd have marshaled 50 RTA buses, and a few school buses, it still wouldn't have been nearly enough. We didn't get food, water and ice in this place, and that's way above the local level.

"Our plan was always to use the buses to evacuate to the Dome as a shelter of last resort, and from there, rely on state and federal resources."

Those resources took way too long to arrive, Nagin said – in fact, much of the help didn't arrive until after the mass evacuations from the Dome and the Convention Center had occurred. As a result, people suffered and died needlessly, a truth that has been weighing heavily on his mind.

"I saw stuff that I never thought I would see in my lifetime," he said. "People wanting to die. People trying to give me babies and things. It was a helpless, helpless feeling.

"There was a lady waiting in line for bus who had a miscarriage. She was cleaning herself off so she wouldn't lose her place in line. There were old people saying, 'Just let me lie down and die.' It's bulls—-, absolutely bulls—-. It's unbelievable that this would happen in America."

## Answering criticism

While a number of people in the sea of refugees that packed the Dome and Convention Center complained that Nagin had not come to address them, Nagin said he did visit both facilities and speak with people.

"I went there," he said. "I went through the crowds and talked to people, and they were not happy. They were panicked. After the shootings and the looting got out of control, I did not go back in there. My security people advised me not to go back" after Wednesday, he said.

By Thursday, crowds had gotten increasingly restless. At one point, a crowd surged dangerously around Police Superintendent Eddie Compass, and a knot of police officers had to help him to safety.

Part of the discomfort in the Dome and Convention Center was due to the lack of toilet facilities after the city's water system went down late Wednesday. The city's hurricane plan calls for portable toilets at shelters, but none ever arrived. Nagin said his understanding was that the National Guard was in charge of providing them.

Also, he added, "Our plan never assumed people being in the Dome more than two or three days."

Nagin said he saw a few bright spots amid the rubble of the city. He said the New Orleans Police Department – at least, the majority of it, given that there were a number of desertions – should be hailed for fighting an almost impossible fight, handling search-and-rescue missions while trying to keep an increasingly lawless city in check.

"They were absolutely heroic," he said. "The stuff they were dealing with, man. They spent the first two or three days pulling people out of the water. When the looting started to get to the point that it was a real concern, they had to get involved in serious firefights. I mean, we had radio chatter where police were pinned down in firefights and ran out of ammunition. That's never happened."

## 'A better city'

Nagin also expressed cautious optimism about the city's future.

"I think we'll be a better city," he said. "I think we're going to see an unprecedented construction boom, and some better-paying jobs. Small businesses will start thriving, and I think the tourist industry will bounce back stronger than ever."

Many people who were stranded for days at the Dome and Convention Center told reporters they were never coming back to their devastated city. The mayor acknowledged that some of them probably meant it, including some of the displaced New Orleanians he's met since arriving in Dallas.

"I think some people will probably not come back," he said. "You know, Texas is treating people very well, probably much better than we treated people.

"But I think once people start to see the rebuilding, and that the culture of the city will not be materially affected, they'll be back."

How things progress will depend largely on the level of federal aid, the mayor said. And it's still unclear whether entire neighborhoods will have to be razed – and whether some areas should be abandoned because of their propensity to flood.

"The longer those neighborhoods stay under water, the harder it's going to be to rebuild them," he said.

Meanwhile, there are going to have to be serious conversations about changes to the housing codes and improvements to the levee system, whose inadequacies were laid bare by Katrina.

"I've been talking to some people in Texas, and I think maybe some better designs for housing that can handle some of this," Nagin said. "And the levee system is designed only to withstand a Category 3 storm. Obviously, we have to do better than that."

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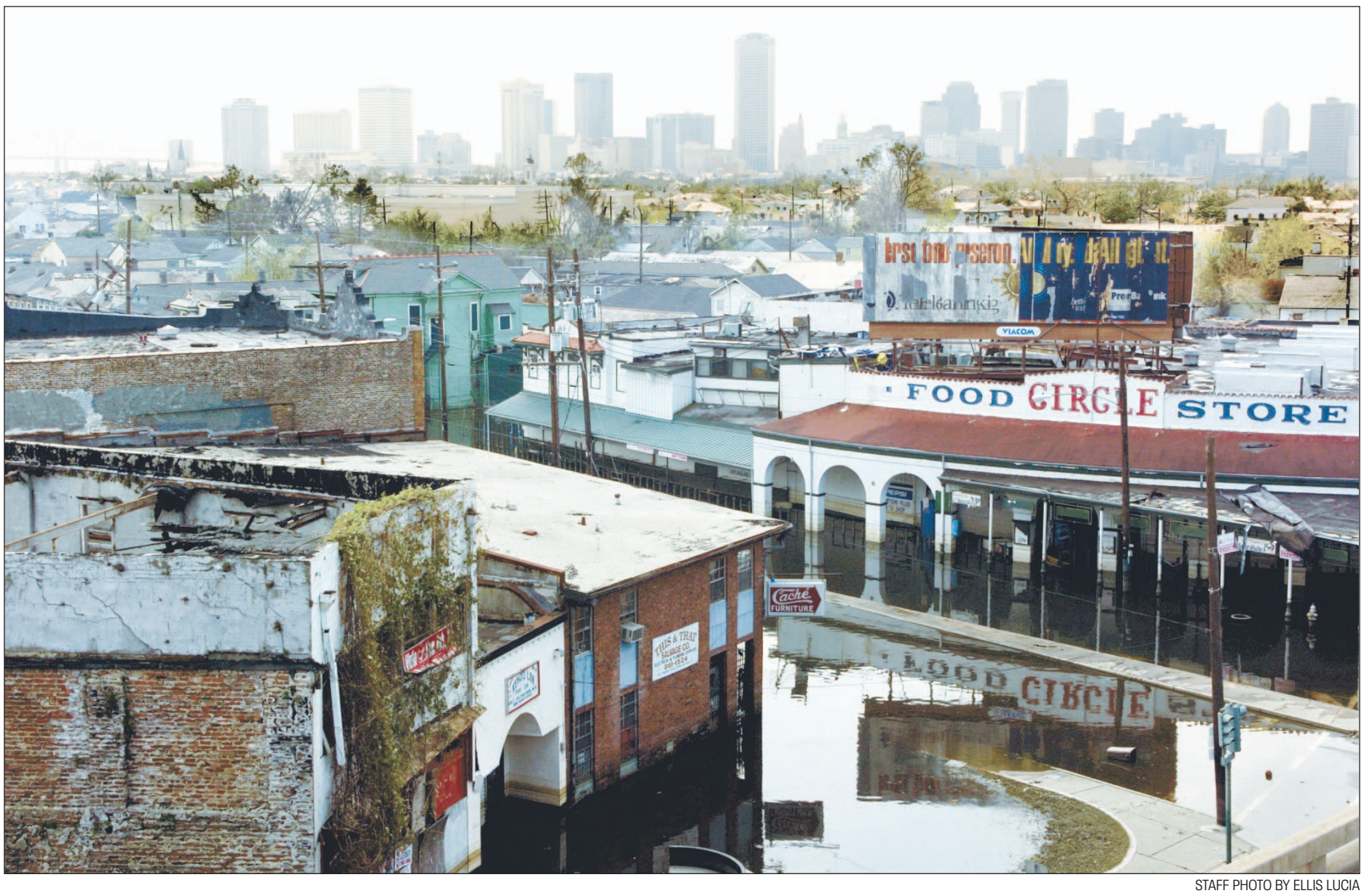
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*Although water levels are slowly receding in the New Orleans area, flooding continues to muddy the road toward recovery. Streets like New Orleans' Tulane Avenue still looked like rivers Saturday, and buildings and cars remain waterlogged. In St. Bernard Parish, spilled oil has created another headache.*

# DRYING TIMES




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**NEW ORLEANS:** Although draining little by little every day, water still clings to the area near St. Bernard and North Claiborne avenues.

**NEW ORLEANS:** Pet carriers are ferried in a boat along South Carrollton Avenue while the neutral ground remains a partially submerged parking lot.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



**NEW ORLEANS:** Police officers make their way through the flooded intersection of Tulane and South Carrollton avenues on Saturday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**NEW ORLEANS:** Traffic lights and utility poles sprout from the sunken street Saturday at Tulane and North Claiborne avenues.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**MERAUX:** A garfish tries to navigate the oil and mud covering a Meraux street Saturday in St. Bernard Parish.



CHRIS ROSE

# Stop, in the name of normalcy

Amid the devastation, you have to look for hope. Forward progress of any kind.

Even the smallest incidents of routine and normalcy become reassuring. For instance, I was driving down Prytania, and at the corner of Felicity, the light turned red.

Out of nowhere, in total desolation, there was a working stoplight. I would have been less surprised to find a Blockbuster Video on Mars.

And the funny thing is, I stopped. I waited for it to turn green, then I drove slowly on my way, even though there were no other cars anywhere and the likelihood of getting a ticket for running the only traffic signal in town seems very unlikely right now.

Considering.

Also on Prytania, there was a gardener watering the plants on the porch of Nicolas Cage's mansion, and I guess that's a good sign. Life goes on. In small ways.

The toilets flush now, and I never thought that would be a sound of reassurance. An even better sound was finding out that WWOZ is broadcasting on the Web - radio in exile - laying out their great New Orleans music.

That's important. I have no idea from where they're operating or which disc jockeys are spinning the discs, but I can tell you this: The first time I hear Billy Dell's "Records from the Crypt" on the radio again, I will kiss the dirty ground beneath my feet.

On Friday, you started to see guys with brooms cleaning Canal Street and Convention Center Boulevard. Up until then, any tidying up required either a backhoe, a crane or a Bobcat.

God only knows where they're going to put all this garbage, all these trees, but they're gathering it up all the same.

The streets of the French Quarter, absent the rubble of the CBD, basically look and smell the same as they do the day after Mardi Gras, except with no broken strands of beads in the gutter.

OK, maybe it was a real windy Mardi Gras, but you get the point.

It just needs a face-lift, a little sweeping up and a good hard rain to wash away … all the bad stuff.

A counterpoint to that scene would be Uptown on Broadway – Fraternity Row – where the street is actually cleaner than usual, and that's because the fine young men and women of our universities had not yet settled into their early-semester routines of dragging living room furniture out onto their front yards and drinking Red Bull and vodka to while away their youth.

I wonder where all of them are? When this is over, who will go there and who will teach there?

What will happen to us?

One thing's for sure, our story is being told.

The satellite trucks stretch for blocks on Canal Street and call to mind an event like the Super Bowl or the Republican Convention.

It's a strange place. Then again, anywhere that more than 10 news reporters gather becomes a strange place by default.

I saw Anderson Cooper interviewing Dr. Phil. And while Cooper's CNN camera crew filmed Dr. Phil, Dr. Phil's camera crew filmed Cooper, and about five or six other camera crews from other shows and networks stood to the side and filmed all of that.

By reporting this scene, I have become the media covering the media covering the media.

It all has the surrealistic air of a Big Event, what with Koppel and Geraldo and all those guys wandering around in their Eddie Bauer hunting vests, and impossibly tall and thin anchorwomen from around the region powdering their faces and teasing their hair so they look good when they file their latest report from hell.

Today in New Orleans, a traffic light worked. Someone watered flowers. And anyone with the means to get online could have heard Dr. John's voice wafting in the dry wind, a sound of grace, comfort and familiarity here in the saddest and loneliest place in the world.

It's a start.

**"There's no model for us to study. There's no one we can call and ask, 'Hey, your city grew 40 percent overnight. How'd you handle it?'"**

SGT. DON KELLY, spokesman for the Baton Rouge Police Department.

# Officials seek to fix B.R. bottlenecks

*Solutions proposed to ease gridlock*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau




STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Siegen Lane near Interstate 10 has a line of vehicles as far as the eye can see on Saturday. Baton Rouge traffic has increased with its population in the past two weeks.

BATON ROUGE — The noon traffic jam at the corner of Brightside and Nicholson drives looks more like evening rush hour: Lines of cars are backed up in all four directions, and motorists are creeping toward the stoplights.

For many Baton Rouge residents coping with the influx of evacuees and emergency workers who have overrun the city since Hurricane Katrina struck, these bottlenecks have become an everyday occurrence.

"You have to completely rethink your life," said Kate Burns, who owns a women's clothing store along Nicholson Drive, near Louisiana State University. "I've never seen so many people at all hours. Rush hour is all day long."

For now, gridlock appears to be the norm in a city where the roads were overtaxed before Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

William Daniel, acting director of the Baton Rouge Department of Public Works, said the latest traffic count from earlier in the week showed a 40 to 50 percent increase in traffic in the Baton Rouge area.

And there's no easy fix. Authorities emphasize it's an unprecedented situation, one they are struggling to contain.

"There's no model for us to study," said Sgt. Don Kelly, spokesman for the Baton Rouge Police Department. "There's no one we can call and ask, 'Hey, your city grew 40 percent overnight. How'd you handle it?'"

Although police have not been tracking number of accidents that have occurred in the past two weeks – because they are primarily tracking crime - Kelly said rates have most likely risen, judging from the number of accidents and near-misses he has seen while driving in the city.

Short-term solutions, which have provided some immediate relief, include restricting traffic in some areas and prohibiting left-hand turns along certain roads, Daniel said.

Other proposed changes include removing signals to improve the traffic flow, installing surveillance cameras along roads so drivers can check the status of their routes via the Internet and implementing a

traffic advisory telephone number. Officials also are considering encouraging businesses to adopt flexible time schedules for their employees to ease the rush-hour crunch, Daniel said.

Lawmakers already are looking ahead to longer-term initiatives, such as building new roads. The mayor of Baton Rouge has said he plans to outline specific requests from the federal government in a formal announcement next week, Daniel said.

Daniel remains optimistic about easing the traffic crunch in the coming days and months.

"Absolutely there's a light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "The mayor and the state are working; this is their top priority. I think they're going to see a gradual improvement every day."

But others aren't quite so sure.

Sgt. Kelly said he hopes that, as parishes such as Jefferson and St. Tammany regain power and running water, some of the evacuees will leave Baton Rouge permanently.

But he worries plenty will stay in the area, particularly those that lost their jobs or homes.

"There's no quick fix. There's nothing we can do," he said. "No matter how much money the federal government hands over to us, we can't just make new bridges and roads appear."

For now, Baton Rouge residents such as Pat Travasos will have to continue coping with the frequent jams and increased travel time indefinitely.

"It takes an extra long time to get across the river," said Travasos, who lives on the West Bank, in Brusly. "But hey, I'm fortunate. We have a house. We have all of our families. We can take the wait."

# Insurers begin storm claim debate

*At issue: Who will pay, and how much*

**By Mary Judice and Jaquetta White**
Business writers

**"It is not a black and white answer because each claim is different."**

BILL MELLANDER, member of Allstate Natural Catastrophe team in Northbrook, Ill.

Was it water or wind that damaged your home, and will it be declared a total loss?

These are the questions on the minds of several hundred thousand policyholders trying to figure out how to pay for property damage from Hurricane Katrina. A key part of the debate is whether claims should be filed under homeowners or flood insurance policies.

"It is not a black and white answer because each claim is different," said Bill Mellander of the Allstate Natural Catastrophe team in Northbrook, Ill.

Homeowners policies provide compensation for damage resulting from high winds, but do not cover flood damage. The only water losses covered under a homeowners policy are those that occur after a windstorm has damaged a building, such as when water pours into the structure because a fallen tree created a hole in the roof.

Flood damage is covered by federal flood insurance, which is a type of coverage held by a fraction of homeowners. Flood insurance, however, only covers damages up to $250,000.

As a result, many homeowners would prefer to see their claims handled through homeowners insurance. And many policyholders are arguing that wind from the storm caused the levee breach that flooded the city and that any water damage should be covered under a traditional storm policy.

Jeff Albright, chief executive of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana, said Katrina was an unusual storm because flooding occurred after the hurricane had passed through the area.

"Any claim from rising waters, whether from rain, a tidal surge or a levee breaking, comes under the flood insurance policy," Albright said.

The issue of which policy to file Katrina claims under was a crucial topic when Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley met with almost 300 insurance company representatives at a hastily called meeting in Atlanta on Wednesday.

"Obviously there are several kinds of potential problems," said Bob Hunter, director of insurance for the Consumer Federation of America. "In this event, the big problem will be: What's wind and what's water?"

Hunter said it will be hard to make a case that wind lead to the flooding. "I think that argument may have a class-action lawsuit to follow it," he said.

Carolyn Gorman, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, said only about half of New Orleans residents have flood insurance, which far exceeds the national average of about 20 percent.

She said the residents without insurance and the circumstances surrounding the rising water in New Orleans will no doubt lead to disputes.

The debate over which policies to make claims under isn't the only issue consumers are debating. Also at issue is when a damaged home is considered a total loss, or beyond repair.

"There is no cut and dry line or blanket that determines what creates a total loss," Mellander said.

Nor are there state rules that dictate when a structure must be declared a total loss, Wooley said.

"There are no rules because every policy, even with the same company, is different," he said. "It takes an adjuster to look at each property and each policy to determine what people are entitled to."

Gorman said the term "total loss" is usually reserved to car insurance settlements. "I have never heard of houses routinely described as totaled," she said.

But there are practical rules that apply.

"If it costs more to repair a home than to replace a home, we would pay

The full amount of the policy,'' said Dick Luedke, spokesman for State Farm Insurance, the largest home insurer in the state. He added that State Farm homeowners do not cover damage from floodwaters.

And consumers have protection from a law that applies to fire and homeowners policies, Albright said.

In short, the "valued policy" law protects consumers when they have a significant loss. The law provides that if an insurer declares a total loss on a property, it must pay out the full value of the policy limit.

"If the building is beyond repair, they can't write a check for less than the policy limit," Albright said.

For lesser damages, the insurance policy will pay the lesser of the repair or replacement cost or the policy limit.

If a property is insured for $200,000 and the repairs total $150,000, the insurer would pay $150,000, Albright said.

If a policyholder carries $100,000 coverage on a property valued at $200,000 and the damages amount to $150,000, the insurer would pay $100,000.

Those without flood insurance will have to rely on the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a loan, grant or other financial assistance to pay for repairs.

# Hotel renovations under way in N.O.

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Just a few days after all remaining guests were evacuated from downtown New Orleans hotels, some of the city's most important lodging properties already have started work on reopening.

At the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the city's largest hotel, a forklift plowed the twisted metal pieces that had fallen from the roof of the port cochere into a big pile Wednesday, while cars marked "Hilton Recovery" moved from hotel to hotel investigating damage.

At the Windsor Court Hotel, another forklift carrying 2-by-4 inch lumber zipped across the luxury hotel's round brick driveway. At the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, a crane parked on Canal Street knocked broken glass out of window frames.

"We'll be up in a couple of weeks," said Kevin Ryan, regional vice president of operations for Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc. "We want to get people back to work and make sure we rebuild the city as fast as we can."

Starwood, which operates the Sheraton and two W hotels in New Orleans, already has about 75 staff members on hand to open its hotels.

While no one expects the tourism business to restart soon, those hotels that reopen soon can assist in the recovery by housing relief workers and construction crews, while employing workers and keeping a small piece of the local economy functioning.

The quick moves also are partly defensive: the longer the hotels sit damp and exposed to the elements, the greater the chances that toxic mold will ruin the buildings.

"The big concern right now is moisture and mildew — the environmental issues," said Bill Langkopp, executive vice president of the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association. "If it sets in behind the vinyl and in the walls, then the walls have to come down."

At a few hotels badly damaged by water, Langkopp said, "it's 'Can we save our building?' "

Toward that end, the hotel association and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau have been working with Entergy Corp. on getting the power turned back on at hotels. Electricity and water service will enable hotels to run their air-conditioning systems and help dry out the buildings.

The hotel association is trying to take an inventory of problems at local hotels to get an idea of how soon they can get rooms up and running. Once that inventory is completed, the hotel association will be able to help Entergy determine which buildings to power up first.

Conditions at downtown hotels vary widely. Some, such as properties in the French Quarter, are in good shape. Others, such as the Hyatt Regency New Orleans and the W New Orleans hotels on Poydras Street, saw a significant number of windows blown out and those hotels may be closed for a while.

Even within hotel companies with large holdings in New Orleans, situations varied significantly.

At Marriott International Inc., for example, which operates about 4,000 hotel rooms in the metropolitan area, the Covington Courtyard is already open. But the Ritz-Carlton New Orleans and Renaissance Pere Marquette hotels suffered significant damage and will be closed for a while.

What happens to employees is another universal concern, Langkopp said.

"Our employees are scattered all over the country," Langkopp said. "We are urging any hotel employee who hasn't already done so, to please contact their employer or their employer hotel chain."

The other major challenge is sanitation. With all the germs floating around New Orleans, hotels need to disinfect from top to bottom before they can reopen.

LSU

# Tigers dedicate win to Louisiana 'family'

*Miles experiences range of emotions in opening game*

**By John Davis**
Contributing writer

TEMPE, ARIZ. — Les Miles expected coaching at LSU to be a challenge, an adventure and a rewarding experience.

He just didn't expect all of it to happen by the time his first game ended.

"Here's what's happened," he said after a 35-31 season-opening victory over Arizona State on Saturday night. "We have been through the longest training camp in the history of training camps, surrounded by a real life trauma, not a movie that was made for TV.

"They are treating people who are injured and disabled in our stadium, and our team has done its part and showed its heart. But when they stepped between the white lines they were able to keep their focus and do what they needed to do."

Miles and his team rode an emotional roller coaster for two weeks, only to find another one - the football variety - ready to sweep them up in Sun Devil Stadium as the teams slugged it out like a pair of heavyweights.

The fifth-ranked Tigers and No. 15 Sun Devils traded leads on five consecutive touchdowns until LSU pulled ahead for good on a 39-yard pass from JaMarcus Russell to Early Doucet on fourth-and-10 with 2:54 remaining.

"The LSU Tigers just would not be denied," Miles said. "They were going to find a way to win. They wanted this game for the people back home."

The Tigers paid tribute to victims of Hurricane Katrina by wearing decals on their helmets of the American flag, the three states that incurred the wrath of the storm and the Fleur-de-Lis, symbolic of the New Orleans city flag.

"We knew we weren't just playing this game for ourselves," Doucet said. "It has been such an emotional time for everyone, but we stayed together as a family.

"That's what we have done as a team, and that's what people the people of Louisiana and the entire region have done. When you stand as a family, you become stronger in all walks of life."

LSU became stronger as the game wore on after trailing 17-7 late in the third quarter. A blocked field-goal attempt and a blocked punt went for touchdowns in the space of one minute, 20 seconds early in the fourth quarter, putting the Tigers ahead - and each time the Sun Devils regained the lead, LSU fought back.

It was the kind of spirit Miles has seen in his team throughout the ordeal that forced the Tigers' first game against North Texas to be cancelled and Saturday's game to be moved to Arizona on short notice.

Hurricane evacuees staying at Veterans Memorial Coliseum were given free tickets, adding to the support for the "home" team from Baton Rouge.

"We had some jitters and made a lot of first-game mistakes," Miles said. "But our team has grown closer through this time and through this game.

"I have a feeling there were a lot of people in Louisiana staying up late to watch this game. We really look forward to coming home and playing in Tiger Stadium again."



AP PHOTO

Arizona State receiver Matt Miller, left, is able to elude LSU cornerback Ronnie Prude and score on a touchdown reception in the second quarter Saturday night.

# Doucet doesn't let big one get away

*Tigers WR grabs 39-yard touchdown pass to win game*

**John Davis**
Correspondent

TEMPE, ARIZ. — Early got going late, but it was just in time for LSU in its season-opening 35-31 victory over Arizona State.

On a night when the Tiger receivers dropped more than their share of passes, Early Doucet let three slip through his fingers, but he was sure-handed when it counted on a 39-yard winning touchdown.

Doucet caught the pass from JaMarcus Russell on fourth down with 2:54 to play in Coach Les Miles' debut.

"My teammates just told me to shake it off and keep your head up," Doucet said. "They stood behind me and stayed confident and that gave me the confidence to keep battling.

"That's why you don't give up. You keep playing hard and good things will happen."

**BRAZELL'S GRAB:** Miles knows the breakaway ability of senior wide receiver and world-class hurdler Bennie Brazell, but getting the ball in his hands has been a challenge.

Brazell had one catch last season for 20 yards and four receptions for his career before Saturday. But he showed his potential on his first catch of the season with a diving grab at Arizona State's one-yard line with four minutes left in the first half. The 28-yard completion set up a touchdown run by Joseph Addai on the next play to tie the score at 7.

**GAME AIDS VICTIMS:** The Bush-Clinton Hurricane Relief Fund is expected to raise more than $1 million as a result of Saturday's game as all proceeds (after the cost of staging the game) were donated.

To help defer those costs and increase the donation, the Phoenix Thunderbirds civic organization donated $100,000 and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl picked up the tab for LSU's meal and hotel expenses.

Also, a group of Arizona State donors underwrote the cost of remaining tickets Friday.

**EVACUEES GET SEATS:** Among the "local" LSU fans at the game were about 200 evacuees of Hurricane Katrina, who are currently housed at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. Arizona State, in conjunction with Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, extended the invitation to the evacuees, who sat in a portion of Sun Devil Stadium known as "Koetter's Corner."

Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter purchased tickets for the game for 55 displaced Tulane students who are enrolled at Arizona State for the fall semester.



AP photo

LSU coach Les Miles won his 'home' debut as the Tigers defeated Arizona State 35-31 on Saturday night in Tempe, Ariz.



AP PHOTOS

LSU wide reciever Craig Davis catches a pass for a first down on a fake punt against Arizona State in the first quarter on Saturday night in Tempe, Ariz.




Arizona State and LSU fans donate to the Hurrican Katrina Relief Fund as they enter Sun Devil stadium prior to their game Saturday night.

# Fourth quarter rally lifts Tigers over Sun Devils

*See* **LSU,** *page A-19*

loose ball and return it 29 yards for LSU's first lead.

"It was crazy," Steltz said. "When Claude came in and blocked the field goal, we were all going crazy. Then, something happened again and changed momentum and it was crazy."

Even more maddening, the two teams then traded the advantage four more times until Arizona State's last gasp fluttered incomplete after moving deep into LSU territory.

"Let me tell you something," Miles said. "Our team has had the longest training camp in the history of training camps. And it's been surrounded by a real-life trauma. Not a made-for-TV. They wanted this game for the people back home. We're thrilled."

In the third quarter, LSU failed to capitalize on help from above. The Pac-10 replay crew wiped out an apparent 19-yard touchdown run by Sun Devils tailback Rudy Burgess. The Tigers pushed Arizona State to the eight-yard line thanks to two stuffed runs and a false start penalty. But on third-and-goal, Keller floated a screen pass over the rush, permitting Burgess to gain back that touchdown and put the Sun Devils ahead 17-7.

One of the more forgotten moments in a game loaded with key plays came in the first quarter.

Ronnie Prude failed to follow his defender as Arizona State lined up 10 at the line, allowing punter Chris Jackson to loft a 12-yard pass for a first down. It was a gutsy move for the new coach, but it eventually gave LSU only extra room to punt, as the drive stalled on the next series of downs.

For every rabbit Miles pulled out of his hat, LSU matched it with typical first-game behavior: Xavier Carter dropped a potential touchdown in the second quarter, two first downs were erased because of penalties early, and most notably Russell squandered a chance for points in the first quarter when the ball slipped out of his hands while in the passing motion.

The turnover, recovered by Sun Devils defensive tackle Jordan Hill, capped a marathon 19-play, 11-minute drive that originated at the LSU 1-inch line. Miles blew the dust off Nick Saban castaway Shyrone Carey, who carried seven times for 31 yards on that drive.

But as school officials yelled for the players to hurry up and get on buses, headed for the airport, those multiple mistakes were excused for the ride home.

"We need to milk this one," Skyler Green pleaded to those in rush. "Let me milk this one."

# SLU ends trying week with victory

By Tammy Nunez
Staff writer

HAMMOND – There were a lot of reasons why Southeastern Louisiana didn't look solid heading into its season opener against Alcorn State.

The team had a new coach, Dennis Roland, who was diagnosed with cancer in May. Then the best passer in school history, Martin Hankins, surprisingly left the team after spring practice. Then, Hurricane Katrina wiped out 15 of the Lions' homes, a week of practice, and the original opening date nearly two weeks ago.

But they overcame those adversities in a 48-21 victory in front of 7,823 in Strawberry Stadium on Saturday. The Lions (1-0) outscored

Alcorn State (0-1) 27-0 in the third quarter, building on their 14-7 halftime lead.

Lions quarterback Trey Willie rushed for 68 yards on 10 carries and completed 16 of 30 passes for 236 yards and three touchdowns in his starting debut.

In his first game starting, Willie surpassed his career high of 173 passing yards. Willie threw one interception in the first half, but played better in the second.

The test came when Willie ran 61 yards on a busted play on a third-and-12 that carried to Alcorn State's 17-yard line.

"(The called play) was a crossing pass, and I kind of saw the guy on (receiver) Felton Huggins," Willie said. "I kind of felt the pressure, and moved up ... and ran.

I was just trying to get the first down."

Two plays later, Willie threw his second touchdown pass of the game to Hutch Gonzales for a seven-yard score. Jim Hall's extra point extended the Lions lead to 21-7.

"(Willie) ran well," Roland said. "He had a lot of composure out there. I never felt like he panicked. That (Willie run) pretty much set the tempo of the game."

Roland said that opening drive of the second half charged up the defense. The Lions defense collected four interceptions and one fumble and forced two changes at quarterback.

"That (drive) allowed our defense to get more aggressive with the turnovers," Roland said.

The improved defense and the presence of the running game marked the biggest differences between former Coach Hal Mumme's program and Roland's.

The Lions, never known in the past two seasons for balance, rushed for 223 yards (5.4 average per carry) and passed for 236. Instead of using the short passing game to set up the long pass, Roland's offense used the run to avert the constant blitz.

Mario Gilbert, who ran for 95 yards on 15 carries, and Jerald Watson, who rushed 10 times for 68 yards and two touchdowns, highlighted the rushing attack.

"I think they really hadn't seen us run the ball much," Willie said. "I got tired of seeing (Gilbert) spinning. I got a little dizzy."

Hall kicked two field goals in the third quarter and by the time the fourth began, Southeastern led 41-7.

"Coach Roland said, 'Play for somebody today,' - I played for my teammates," Gilbert said. "We just wanted to win."

Alcorn State scored on the opening drive - a 10-play, 77-yard effort that Jeremy McCoy capped with a three-yard run. Alcorn State did not score again until the fourth quarter. The Braves, who have won the past two meetings, weren't able to produce at quarterback. Starter Oliver Bozeman was yanked in the third quarter when he failed to get a first down on the team's first drive of the second half. He was replaced by Tony Hobson.

Hobson threw an interception to David Daniels on his first pass. Hall converted the turnover by kicking a 31-yard field goal to give the Lions a 27-7 lead.

"With all these kids have been through this season - all the adversity ... the good thing is getting a game under our belts," Roland said.

Roland had a trying week. He missed a chemotherapy treatment on Monday when the clinic ran out of medication.

But Roland walked out of Strawberry Stadium with a game full of highlights to smile about. The back-breaker for Alcorn State was on the Braves first serious drive of the second half. Jeremy McCoy ran to Southeastern's 42 before Jay Skidmore stripped him of the ball. Rudy Johnson recovered it and ran 40 yards, setting up Sam Savoy's one-yard touchdown run that gave the Lions a 41-7 lead. The game ball went to Roland.

"Coach Roland, he done brought us a long way," Johnson said.

COLLEGE FOOBALL

# Young's late scoring pass lifts Texas past Buckeyes

*Longhorns' QB launches Heisman campaign by throwing for two scores*

By Ralph Russo
AP sports writer

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Vince Young connected in the clutch and won it for Texas with his arm, more than his legs.

Young, best known for his highlight-reel runs, threw a 24-yard go-ahead touchdown to Limas Sweed with 2:37 left and No. 2 Texas defeated No. 4 Ohio State 25-22 Saturday night in the much-anticipated first meeting between two of college football's most storied programs.

Young's pass capped a 72-yard drive during which his biggest plays were through the air, including a third-and-six completion of nine yards to Jamaal Charles. His second scoring pass of the game made the score 23-22 and the defense did the rest.

The Longhorns defense, which time and time again toughened after turnovers and special teams gave Ohio State good field position, had the biggest takeaway of the game when Drew Kelson stripped a scrambling Justin Zwick and Brian Robison recovered and returned it inside the 20.

Ohio State held the Longhorns out of the end zone, but Larry Dibbles sacked Troy Smith for a safety and Texas coach Mack Brown had his second consecutive huge victory over a Big Ten team.

The Longhorns defeated Michigan in the Rose Bowl, when Young launched his 2005 Heisman Trophy campaign with 192 yards rushing.

Young proved against the Buckeyes he can pass it when he needs to as well.

One Ohio State player had said the Buckeyes' goal was to put an end to Young's Heisman campaign. And while Bobby Carpenter and Ohio State's swift linebacking crew hemmed in Young after some good runs early, they couldn't keep him from passing for 270 yards.

Young also had made a couple of those poor decisions and was intercepted.

But he finished 18-for-29 and ran 20 times for 76 yards.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel was true to his promise, playing both Zwick and Troy Smith at quarterback. Neither distinguished himself, and it looks like the quarterback competition will resume for the Buckeyes.

Smith ran for 27 yards, threw a touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes and led Ohio State on five scoring drives.

Zwick was 9-for-15 for 66 yards and led Ohio State to one of John Huston's school-record tying five field goals.

Ohio State came up with three turnovers in Texas territory, but the Buckeyes could only manage three field goals against defensive end Tim Crowder and the Texas defense.

And when Ted Ginn Jr.'s 46-yard kickoff return got the Buckeyes to around midfield in the third quarter, they again drove inside the 20, only to stall when Ryan Hamby let a potential touchdown pass pop off his chest.

Huston knocked his final field goal of the game through to tie a school record last accomplished by Mike Nugent, the All-American he replaced this season, and give Ohio State a 22-16 lead with 5:12 left in the third.

Ginn, Ohio State's big play specialist, was only a factor on special teams. He caught two passes for nine yards.

# Notre Dame upsets No. 3 Michigan

*Iowa State routs No. 8 Iowa 23-3*

From wire reports

A mere two games into his Notre Dame tenure, Charlie Weis has joined Knute Rockne in the record books.

And even though he isn't interested in any comparisons to the famed Fighting Irish coach, if Weis keeps winning games like he did Saturday at No. 3 Michigan he might not have a choice. Brady Quinn threw two touchdown passes in the first half and 20th-ranked Notre Dame held on to beat the Wolverines 17-10, making Weis the first Fighting Irish coach to win his first two games on the road since Rockne in 1918.

"If I answered by dignifying that, (Bill) Parcells and (Bill) Belichick would humiliate me," Weis said about his coaching mentors when asked about his connection to Rockne. "I've just coached two games and they've played two games. Let's come back and revisit that in about 10 years."

Notre Dame (2-0), which won at then-No. 23 Pittsburgh last week, snapped the Wolverines 16-game winning streak at Michigan Stadium and handed them their first loss against a nonconference team at home since 1998. The Irish -- two years removed from losing 38-0 in Ann Arbor -- also won at Michigan for the first time since 1993.

"I'm happy for the team, but I worry about their heads," Weis said. "I told them to enjoy this tonight, but not too much. You don't want to have a big win like this, then lay an egg at home the next week."

Notre Dame hosts Michigan State next Saturday.

The Wolverines (1-1) squandered several chances in the fourth quarter to pull within a touchdown before finally capitalizing on their third opportunity.

"We just made too many mistakes in the red zone," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. "You can't get the football down there and give it away like we did and expect to win a game like this."

NO. 7 VIRGINIA TECH 45 vs. DUKE 0: Marcus Vick threw three touchdown passes and the Hokies turned in a dominating defensive performance.

Roland Minor returned an interception for a touchdown for Virginia Tech (2-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which remained unbeaten on the road in the league since joining last season.

Duke finished with 35 total yards on 53 plays.

**IOWA STATE 23 vs. NO. 8 IOWA 3:** LaMarcus Hicks returned an interception 28 yards for a touchdown and the Cyclones capitalized on turnovers for all its points to stun the Hawkeyes.

The Hawkeyes got 140 yards rushing on 18 carries from Albert Young but had little else going. Their lone score was a 44-yard field goal by Kyle Schlicher in the third quarter.

Iowa also lost quarterback Drew Tate with an apparent concussion midway through the second quarter. His availability for next Saturday's game with Northern Iowa was uncertain.

**NO. 13 PURDUE 49 vs. AKRON 24:** Jerod Void ran for 101 yards and a score, and Dustin Keller caught two touchdown passes to lead the Boilermakers.

New starter Brandon Kirsch completed 22 of 34 passes for 252 yards and two touchdowns for Purdue (1-0), which had 267 yards passing and rushed for 211.

Luke Getsy, getting his first start for the Zips (0-1) after the departure of four-year starter Charlie Frye to the NFL, was 25-for-44 for 283 yards and two touchdowns.

**NO. 16 CALIFORNIA 56 at WASHINGTON 17:** Joe Ayoob overcame a shaky start, picking apart Washington's secondary for four first-half touchdown passes to lead the Bears.

Coming off an 0-for-10 debut against Sacramento State, Ayoob was intercepted by Darin Harris on the opening play and missed on his first three attempts.

Once the junior found Robert Jordan on an 11-yard completion with 9:47 left in the first, Ayoob settled into a rhythm, and finished 17-of-27 for 271 yards. Jordan caught eight passes in the first half, three for touchdowns. He finished with 11 catches for 192 yards.

It was Cal's fourth consecutive win over Washington, the first time that's happened since 1973-76 and only the fourth time since the teams began playing regularly in 1915.

**NO. 17 GEORGIA TECH 27 vs. NORTH CAROLINA 21:** The Yellow Jackets' Reggie Ball threw for two touchdowns and a career-high 320 yards, including eight passes for 131 yards to Damarius Bilbo.

After North Carolina pulled to within six points late in the fourth quarter, the Tar Heels stopped Tech (2-0, 1-0 ACC) on three plays and took possession at its 41 with 2:51 left to play. Tech's Dennis Davis intercepted a long pass from Matt Baker near the goal line to end the threat.

The Tar Heels (0-1, 0-1) got the ball again at their 19 with 44 seconds left, but Baker's third interception ended the comeback hopes.

**No. 18 OKLAHOMA 31 vs. TULSA 15:** Adrian Peterson ran for 220 yards and three touchdowns and made the Sooners' passing game unnecessary as Oklahoma avoided a second stunning loss.

With new starter Rhett Bomar struggling at quarterback, Oklahoma (1-1) didn't attempt a pass in the second half.

After Tulsa (0-2) pulled ahead 9-7 in the third quarter on Brad DeVault's third field goal, Peterson amassed 58 yards as the Sooners marched downfield to regain the lead.

Peterson started Oklahoma's next drive with a 23-yard run. He even rescued Bomar by diving on his fumble to keep the Sooners in position for a 29-yard field goal by Garrett Hartley.

Tulsa pulled within 17-15 on quarterback Paul Smith's one-yard sneak with 9:10 left, but Peterson had an answer for that, too.

On fourth-and-one, ran 41 yards for a score.

Clint Ingram intercepted Smith's pass and returned it for a touchdown with 3 seconds left to clinch the win for Bomar in his debut.

**NO. 19 BOSTON COLLEGE 44 vs. ARMY 7:** Will Blackmon ran across the field and turned the corner for a 41-yard touchdown in the second quarter and Boston College remained unbeaten heading into its Atlantic Coast Conference opener.

BC (2-0) hosts No. 11 Florida State next Saturday in the Eagles' first league game since defecting from the Big East to help make the ACC a 12-team superconference. They'll bring a Top 20 ranking into the game thanks to an easy victory over Army (0-1) that pleased Coach Tom O'Brien, who went to Navy and coached there, too.

Quinton Porter was 15-for-20 for 206 yards and two touchdowns, and backup Matthew Ryan was 7-for-8 for 83 yards after coming off the bench with five minutes left in the third quarter.

Zac Dahman was 17-for-32 for 154 yards and two interceptions, giving Army a 7-0 lead on a 6-yard pass to Jeremy Trimble on the opening drive. BC scored 44 unanswered points.

**No. 25 CLEMSON 28 at MARYLAND 24:** Reggie Merriweather scored his second touchdown on a 38-yard run with 2:58 remaining, capping a furious fourth-quarter rally that carried the Tigers.

Clemson (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) trailed 24-14 before Charlie Whitehurst's second touchdown pass to Curtis Baham cut the deficit to three points with 7:35 remaining.

After a punt by Maryland, Whitehurst directed a 61-yard drive that concluded on Merriweather's winning carry around right end.

### SEC

**NO. 9 GEORGIA 17 vs. SOUTH CAROLINA 15:** Thomas Brown scored on a five-yard run with more than 11 minutes remaining, South Carolina failed to convert a two-point conversion and the Bulldogs held on.

Clinging to a 10-9 lead, Georgia finally wore down the Gamecocks with its running game. Quarterback D.J. Shockley scampered 14 yards, Danny Ware broke off a 16-yard gain and Thomas Brown did the rest. The sophomore carried five times for 33 yards on the drive, capped by his touchdown with 11:24 left.

Brown finished with 144 yards on 20 carries, leading Georgia's 238-yard effort on the ground.

But the Gamecocks weren't done.

On third-and-18, Blake Mitchell spotted a safety blitz and connected with Syvelle Newton over the middle for a 34-yard pass. Going down the middle again, Mitchell threw a 24-yard pass to Sidney Rice. Finally, Mitchell found Rice on a 4-yard touchdown play with 6:52 remaining.

A missed extra point earlier in the game was crucial, forcing the Gamecocks to go for two. Mitchell overthrew Rice, preserving Georgia's narrow lead.

South Carolina got the ball once more with just over a minute to go, but went four-and-out deep in Georgia's territory.

**AUBURN 28 vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE 0:** Brandon Cox passed for 202 yards and two first-half touchdowns and Will Herring recovered a fumble for a touchdown to lead the Tigers.

Auburn (1-1, 1-0) rebounded from a season-opening loss to Georgia Tech with its first league shutout since a 9-0 win over Alabama in 2000.

The Bulldogs (1-1, 0-1) have lost 16 consecutive games against SEC West opponents.

### Conference USA

**KANSAS STATE 21 at MARSHALL 19:** Allen Webb threw two touchdown passes and Thomas Clayton scored twice for Kansas State, which preserved a win with an interception in the closing seconds.

Kansas State (2-0) handed Marshall (1-1) its eighth loss since its stadium opened in 1991.

# Late touchdown lifts Indiana past Nicholls State

From wire reports

Blake Powers threw a seven-yard touchdown pass to tight end James Hardy with 47 seconds remaining to give Indiana a 35-31 victory over Division I-AA Nicholls State on Saturday in Bloomington, Ind.

Powers passed for 307 yards and four touchdowns to help the Hoosiers (2-0), members of the Big Ten Conference, hold off the Colonels (0-1). Nicholls State was playing its first game of the season after their scheduled season-opener against Utah State was canceled because of Hurricane Katrina. The game was in doubt until Wednesday, when the Indiana athletic department arranged a charter flight from Baton Rouge.

A 40-yard touchdown run by Anthony Harris gave Nicholls State its first lead, 31-28 late in the third quarter. The Colonels drove to Indiana's 11 with less than four minutes remaining in the game, but Harris fumbled, and the ball was recovered by the Hoosiers' Tracy Porter.

Powers then started the winning drive with passes of 39 and 14 yards to Hardy, 6-feet-7.

Hardy, a redshirt freshman, had four catches for 64 yards on the drive and finished with eight catches for 122 yards.

The Colonels still had a chance to pull off a dramatic victory, but quarterback Sean Comeaux's pass in the end zone late in the game was knocked away.

Nicholls State rushed for 409 yards, led by Broderick Coles' 99 and 95 each by Harris and Joe Tobias. The Colonels rushed for 219 yards in the first half, when they didn't complete a pass.

Indiana led 21-7 midway of the second quarter when Tobias, a junior-college transfer, ran 50 yards for a touchdown. The Colonels later added a 26-yard field goal, cutting the deficit to 21-17 at halftime.

Trailing 28-17 in the third quarter, Nicholls State came to 28-25 on a two-yard touchdown run by Tobias and a two-point conversion.

WYOMING 38 vs. LOUISIANA-MONROE 0: Wynel Seldon ran for two touchdowns and 121 yards to lead the Cowboys past Louisiana-Monroe (0-2).

Wyoming (1-1) held Indians quarterback Steven Jyles to 13 completions in 32 attempts and 106 yards. Louisiana-Monroe's best drive was to Wyoming's 23 in the third quarter. It ended in a missed 46-yard field-goal attempt.

SAINTS

# IMPROBABLE JOURNEY

## *Saints open against a familiar foe under circumstances that are anything but familiar*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – It has been two weeks since the Saints flew out of New Orleans and began a journey that no other NFL team has experienced.

But today, when the team buses roll into Carolina's Bank of America Stadium, there will be a familiar feeling, a sense of normalcy, a jolt of excitement.

"Any game opener, for any season, your away game opener and your home opener is always something you look forward to regardless," guard Kendyl Jacox said. "But this whole season will have a special meaning to all of us."

The Saints begin their extraordinary season against a familiar opponent today, the division rival Carolina Panthers, in the same stadium where they ended last season with a 21-18 victory.

A lot has happened since then. The Saints - stationed in San Antonio, representing New Orleans and playing on the road in one form or another every week this season - have been labeled as a more literal version of "America's Team."

But most of the players say they know exactly whom they are playing for. And they would like to think that is something that will lift this team.

"Every week, we'll be playing with New Orleans on our back. If that doesn't mean something to you, there's obviously something wrong with you," said Jacox, who knows the whole country could get behind the team if this becomes one of those impossible-to-believe seasons. "For the story writers, it would make a great story. But even bigger than that, it's going to mean a lot to some little boy, some little girl in some shelter right about now, some adult sitting there taking their medicine, on dialysis, or just someone who really just doesn't have anything to their name right now. I think it's bigger to them more than anything."

The Saints' players and coaches have been vocal in their desire to play all of their "home" games in San Antonio this year, rather than in Baton Rouge - a decision that will be made by the NFL sometime after Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and Saints owner Tom Benson visit Baton Rouge on Monday.

But the Saints reason for wanting to play in San Antonio is because they believe it gives them the best chance to win - to be the most refreshed and relaxed, to have some sort of home-field advantage.

The players appear sincere in their desire to perform the best that they can, and possibly inspire a fan base that is looking for anything to lift its spirits.

Players who have visited evacuee shelters this past week said one of the main things they came away with was the realization that their fans are still pulling for them.

"That's something we all took to heart. And we're going to do our damndest this year," said receiver Donte' Stallworth, who said teams would be wrong to underestimate the Saints. "It's going to be nuts, man. I'm sure all 16 teams we're playing are marking us a win for them because of everything that's been happening to us and everything we've been affected by. But it's definitely not going to be that way.

"We're not going to lay down just because of the natural disaster. If anything, it's going to even pull us closer together, and we're going to make things happen."

Added receiver Joe Horn: "I want to play football. And I'm sure our fans want us to play football."

After some initial rustiness early in the week, Saints coach Jim Haslett said his team had terrific practices Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before traveling to Charlotte.

He said things like practices and team meetings have served as a distraction for players and coaches with so much else unsettled in their lives. And he said the team's scouting and preparation have not suffered.

As to how exactly that will translate today, though, Haslett said, "I don't know."

"I know this team will play hard," he said. "Hopefully they'll play smart and take care of what they're supposed to. If we play like we've practiced, we'll be just fine."

Haslett and offensive tackle Wayne Gandy said they are glad the schedule starts off with a familiar opponent - although a game at Carolina might wind up being the most difficult test of the season.

The Saints know exactly what to expect from this team - against whom six of the past eight games have been decided by less than a touchdown.

The Panthers feature a terrific running game, led by tailbacks Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster, a solid passing game with former Saints quarterback Jake Delhomme and receivers Steve Smith and Keary Colbert, and one of the best defensive lines in the NFL, featuring Julius Peppers, Kris Jenkins and Brentson Buckner.

Carolina would like to enact a little revenge after being knocked out of the playoffs by the Saints in Week 17 last year. The Saints' defensive ends combined for six sacks in that game and tailback Deuce McAllister ran for 140 yards.

"It means a lot, because we know they're coming at our heads, and we're going to be coming at their heads. We know we can't play around with this team," Saints defensive end Charles Grant said. "The game's going to be a war in the trenches. They've got a good offensive line, and we've got a good offensive line. They've got a good defensive line, and we've got a good defensive line. It will come down to who's ready to play."

Grant then assured that his team will indeed be ready to play.

"We've got a lot of stuff to play for. We've got to step our game up, show the world we aren't going to fold," Grant said. "The world's going to be expecting us to go out there lopsided due to all that's happened. We have to go out there and get our jobs done.

"This football team needs to rise to the occasion."

# Saints' road to Carolina takes a drastic detour



PETER FINNEY

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – It's such an eerie script.

When Jim Haslett circled his calendar back in the spring - 9/ll - he had no idea it was the fourth anniversary of a terrorist attack, certainly no idea he'd be coaching the Saints in their season opener with another national disaster a mere 13 days old.

"All I was thinking about," said Haslett, "was having to play Carolina on the road, hoping we'd do as well as we did the last time."

That was Jan. 2, when Haslett's football team went into Ericsson Stadium and upset the Panthers 21-18, saving his job by closing the season with four consecutive victories, and, in the process, knocking the fast-closing Panthers, who had won six of their previous seven games, out of the playoffs.

The planet kept spinning.

Then, up popped Hurricane Katrina, a life-changing force of nature.

The Saints did not fly in from New Orleans for this one.

They arrived Saturday from San Antonio, having held team meetings in the city's Convention Center, dressing in the Alamodome, and practicing on a high school field, a daily routine requiring four bus rides.

Oh, for football life in the old days, with everything under one roof out on Airline Drive, with kids nearby in school, with moms at home cooking for the gladiators of the NFL.

This was life before Katrina sent the Saints west and turned the team's headquarters into a home for search-and-rescue teams still battling to keep the death toll from rising as the water did Aug. 29.

When you listened to those involved, mixing tragedy with fun and games triggered the usual reaction.

"I'm glad all the Saints and their families are safe," said Carolina coach John Fox, who once served with Haslett on the staff of the Oakland Raiders. "For the team, it's like going through another training camp."

That was the charitable Coach Fox talking. The business-like Coach Fox added: "This game is a cause for the Saints. In football, you need an edge and you've got to match that edge. I'm sure they're coming in here with the idea they have the whole Gulf region watching them and rooting for them."

Joe Horn, who said he was thinking only of the Panthers throughout an unimpressive preseason, wasn't looking for pity, not after "looking at all those people lying on cots, not knowing where their next meal was coming from."

Return specialist Michael Lewis talked about "playing for the whole state of Louisiana, giving it all we got, week after week."

The Saints did that Jan. 2, coming up with their best effort of the season, when the last-ranked defense in the league got to Jake Delhomme five times, when Aaron Brooks hit some key passes in clutch situations to keep drives alive, to end an 8-8 year, missing the playoffs in a tiebreaker.

A healed Carolina club goes into today's game not only a seven-point Morning Line favorite, but with a team given a chance to do what the Panthers came close to doing two years ago: Win the Super Bowl.

All of the key injury victims are ready and waiting, running backs Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster, receiver Steve Smith, All-Pro defensive tackle Kris Jenkins.

Also in uniform is defensive end Julius Peppers, who has been a force against the Saints since arriving as a No. 1 pick three years ago. Peppers is a 6-foot-6, 285-pounder with 4.5 speed, good enough as a power forward to help North Carolina reach the 2000 Final Four, quick enough in high school to chase down a ball carrier on the 10-yard-line, steal the ball, turn around, and run 90 yards for a touchdown. In four games against the Saints, Peppers has been a nightmare for Deuce McAllister.

A nightmare on the field, but nothing like Katrina.

All Haslett and his vagabond Saints can do is play the hand they've been dealt.

If Haslett has one thing going for him, it's his five-year record as head coach: 18-22 at a Superdome the Saints may not see again, and 24-16 on the road.

Whatever happens, in a very large way, everyone knows come January they'll be putting a large asterisk, with an even larger "K," alongside the 2005 record of the New Orleans Saints.

Let the games begin.

HORNETS

# Shinn's scheduled visit to N.O. postponed

## *Hornets working on plan for home games*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

A planned visit to New Orleans by Hornets owner George Shinn on Saturday was postponed because of logistical problems, a club spokesman said.

Shinn was attempting to fly into either Baton Rouge or New Orleans to survey damage around New Orleans Arena and to attempt to get into the club's corporate headquarters on Poydras Street to retrieve the team's computer server and other equipment.

There's a possibility the visit will take place later this week.

The team also hopes to soon have a plan in place as to where home games will be played this season, as well as where the team will prepare for this season.

Training camp is scheduled to begin for the Hornets on Oct. 4.

The original plan was to hold the first three weeks of training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., but team president Paul Mott said this week it might be preferable if the club trained nearer to the city in which they will play the bulk of its home schedule.

# Saints don't have it so bad

**Tim Dahlberg**
AP sports columnist

SAN ANTONIO - Their own dome is trashed, and so is their city. Their fans are scattered here and there, and so are their families.

They take buses to the gym to lift weights, and buses from the gym to the Alamodome to get dressed. They take buses to a high school to practice, and buses back to the hotel where they now live.

On Sunday they're supposed to try and win a game for a place that in some ways doesn't exist anymore.

Life has never been tougher for the citizens of New Orleans. Football has never been tougher for their Saints.

"Our situation is uncomfortable," Saints tackle Wayne Gandy said. "But for the people in New Orleans it's catastrophic."

Gandy reminded his teammates of that a few days ago when some began grumbling about the vagabond life of a team with no home. He stood before the offense and told them they were lucky men, no matter where they played.

Most still had homes, and they all still had their family. They still had jobs, no matter where they end up working at them.

A lot of the people who used to pay to watch them play don't have any of that.

"I was a little disgusted about people making at least six-figure incomes worrying about anything," Gandy said. "Sometimes you forget to think of the lesser man. Sometimes you forget to put things in perspective."

The Saints go to Carolina on Sunday to begin a season on the road. Their first "home" game will be in front of rabid New York Giants fans at the Meadowlands, courtesy of a bizarre decision by the NFL. It's anyone's guess whether they end up playing most of their home schedule at the Alamodome, in Houston or in Baton Rouge, La.

Their mission this season isn't to win a Super Bowl. It's to give a bit of comfort to the displaced citizens of New Orleans, who desperately need something to hang onto that serves as a link to the city that Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed.

Some of them tried to do just that earlier this week, going to visit some of the displaced people living in shelters in San Antonio.

"You saw the gleam in their eyes that they were happy to see us," wide receiver Donte Stallworth said. "All they talked about was how the Saints would do. They told us, `We need you guys.'"

The players want to do their part. They've visited shelters, and they talk of making donations, doing benefits and helping New Orleans recover.

Their owner, meanwhile, does nothing.

Long before Katrina hit, Tom Benson was looking for a way to move the team he bought in 1985 out of New Orleans, where it's been since 1967. What better chance than use the disaster to move the Saints to either San Antonio or Los Angeles?

That may sound a bit cold-hearted but, hey, business is business. This is a guy whose team is worth up to $1 billion, but still had the gall to make the state of Louisiana pay him some $2 million for each home game to help his profit margins.

Earlier this year, he tried to extort even more from the cash-strapped state to renovate the Superdome. And, when he had a chance to reassure the team's fans that the club was still theirs, Benson waited more than a week to say anything - then issued a tepid statement that said nothing.

One thing is for sure: The team won't be playing in the Superdome this season, and the odds aren't good the Saints will ever return to the building.

I was in the Superdome on Tuesday, along with three police officers who spent five days there with some 25,000 hurricane refugees. The stench of human waste, stagnant water, discarded personal items and moldy carpets is so bad you almost gag, and light shines through the top from large holes opened up by powerful winds.

The field is littered with debris and there is vomit and feces on the darkened escalators. Even Benson's luxury suite above the 50-yard line was trashed, with fine liquor bottles scattered about and a toilet jammed full of waste.

The mess can be cleaned up and, for a price, the dome repaired. But the question remains whether there will be enough of a city left to make it worthwhile.

"People don't really understand that a lot of those people are not going back to New Orleans," Gandy said. "You don't rebuild ghettos."

For the immediate future, the players and coach Jim Haslett would like the team to play its home games in San Antonio, where players have already begun searches for apartments and houses.

There are more than 20,000 evacuees in San Antonio already and they could be given tickets for the game so the team has a local fan base. The Alamodome is available and former Mayor Henry Cisneros assured the NFL earlier this week that San Antonio residents will buy tickets.

"I don't think you have to be a brain surgeon to know you want to play your games where you practice," Haslett said. "We're really not going to play a home game anywhere but this would be the closest thing."

Haslett isn't making excuses for his team. He believes they will band together and play hard no matter where they play.

Besides, in the end it's just a game. The Saints know that better than anyone.

"You look at the people and what they've gone through the last two weeks," Haslett said, "and the last thing you can do is feel sorry for us."

# SAINTS @ PANTHERS

**Kickoff: noon at Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.**
**Coaches: Saints Jim Haslett (42-38 sixth season, all with Saints); Carolina John Fox (25-23, fourth season, all with Panthers).**
**TV: Fox**
**Radio: 101.9-FM**

## KEEP AN EYE ON

**BROOKS AND DELHOMME:** Heading into his fifth full season as the Saints' starting quarterback, Aaron Brooks still is an exceptionally talented quarterback with something to prove. He puts up big numbers every season and occasionally wins games single-handedly, but consistency has been a problem. Critics constantly compare Brooks to the less dynamic but seemingly steadier Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme, a Louisiana native and former Saints backup who couldn't beat out Brooks for the starting job in New Orleans. When these two are playing each other, comparisons are inevitable, and though he doesn't say it, there is a little more personal meaning for Brooks.

**THE ROOKIES:** The Saints, who had the lowest-ranked defense in the NFL last year, moved up three spots in the first round of this year's draft to select ... offensive tackle Jammal Brown. They passed on the linebacker they most coveted, Thomas Davis, who fell to Carolina. Both players are expected to have a significant impact on this game – and they may even clash head-to-head once or twice. Brown will mostly have his hands full with the Panthers' sensational defensive end, Julius Peppers. The Saints worked Brown to the bone this preseason to get him ready for his first NFL season – and for this Week 1 test in particular. So far, Brown has done everything asked of him. Davis is a roving playmaker who will play some linebacker and some safety for s superb Carolina defense.

## GAMEPLAN

The Saints spent the offseason fortifying their offensive line and preparing to feature the power running game. They won't face a much better test all season than a Carolina defense that boasts one of the best defensive tackle duos in the game – Kris Jenkins and Brentson Buckner – as well as standout defenders like Peppers and middle linebacker Dan Morgan. Saints tailback Deuce McAllister is healthy and looked as strong as ever in the offseason. In two games against Carolina last season, McAllister ran for 22 yards on Dec. 5, then 140 yards and a touchdown Jan. 2. Not surprisingly, the Saints lost that first game and won the second.

## KEY MATCHUP

**SAINTS DEFENSIVE ENDS vs. PANTHERS OFFENSE:** The entire Carolina offense will be charged with trying to stop the most dynamic aspect of the Saints' team – New Orleans' quartet of defensive ends Charles Grant, Darren Howard, Will Smith and Tony Bryant. In their last meeting last season, the four ends sacked Delhomme six times. The Saints are excited about using all four of them on the field at the same time in obvious passing situations. But first, they must stop Carolina on first and second downs, which means shutting down talented tailbacks Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster.

## BY THE NUMBERS

McAllister needs 73 yards to become the Saints' all-time leading rusher. George Rogers holds the mark of 4,267 yards from 1981-84. ... Receiver Joe Horn needs three touchdown catches to tie Eric Martin for the all-time Saints record in that category with 48. He needs nine touchdowns this season to pass Dalton Hilliard for the most total touchdowns (53) in team history. And Horn needs 95 more receptions to pass Martin's career record. ... The Saints will play their first three games on the road this year and every game away from the Superdome, but that's not entirely a bad thing. Under Coach Jim Haslett, the Saints are 24-16 on the road in the past five seasons. ... The Saints are 10-10 lifetime against the Panthers – although Carolina won five straight games prior to last season's finale. Four of the last five games between these teams and six of the last eight have been decided by less than a touchdown.

## FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"If you want to stay tuned, if you want a game of the week, this should be the game of the week. It's going to be a fun game to watch." – Haslett.

Compiled by Mike Triplett

## SAINTS ROSTER

| No. | Name | Pos. | Exp. | School |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Aaron Brooks | QB | 7 | Virginia |
| 3 | John Carney | K | 16 | Notre Dame |
| 4 | Todd Bouman | QB | 8 | St. Cloud State |
| 5 | Adrian McPherson | QB | R | Florida State |
| 17 | Mitch Berger | P | 11 | Colorado |
| 19 | Devery Henderson | WR | 2 | LSU |
| 20 | Jay Bellamy | S | 12 | Rutgers |
| 21 | Jason Craft | CB | 7 | Colorado State |
| 22 | Fred Thomas | CB | 10 | Tenn.-Martin |
| 24 | Dwight Smith | S | 5 | Akron |
| 25 | Fred McAfee | RB | 14 | Miss. College |
| 26 | Deuce McAllister | RB | 5 | Ole Miss |
| 27 | Aaron Stecker | RB | 6 | Western Illinois |
| 29 | Josh Bullocks | S | R | Nebraska |
| 32 | Antowain Smith | RB | 9 | Houston |
| 34 | Mike McKenzie | CB | 7 | Memphis |
| 35 | Fakhir Brown | CB | 6 | Grambling |
| 37 | Steve Gleason | S | 5 | Wash. State |
| 40 | Mel Mitchell | S | 4 | W. Kentucky |
| 44 | Mike Karney | FB | 2 | Arizona State |
| 47 | Kevin Houser | LS | 6 | Ohio State |
| 50 | James Allen | LB | 4 | Oregon State |
| 51 | Terrence Melton | LB | 2 | Rice |
| 52 | Sedrick Hodge | LB | 5 | North Carolina |
| 53 | T.J. Slaughter | LB | 6 | Southern Miss |
| 55 | Courtney Watson | LB | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 56 | Alfred Fincher | LB | R | Connecticut |
| 57 | Colby Bockwoldt | LB | 2 | BYU |
| 59 | Ronald McKinnon | LB | 10 | North Alabama |
| 60 | Ben Archibald | T | 1 | BYU |
| 61 | Montrae Holland | G | 3 | Florida State |
| 64 | Kendyl Jacox | C | 8 | Kansas State |
| 65 | LeCharles Bentley | G | 4 | Ohio State |
| 66 | Brian Young | DT | 6 | Texas-El Paso |
| 67 | Jamar Nesbit | G | 7 | South Carolina |
| 70 | Jammal Brown | T | R | Oklahoma |
| 72 | Wayne Gandy | T | 12 | Auburn |
| 75 | Jermaine Mayberry | T | 10 | Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| 77 | Rodney Leisle | DT | 2 | UCLA |
| 80 | Shad Meier | TE | 5 | Kansas State |
| 81 | Az-Zahir Hakim | WR | 8 | San Diego State |
| 83 | Donte Stallworth | WR | 4 | Tennessee |
| 84 | Michael Lewis | WR | 5 | None |
| 85 | Ernie Conwell | TE | 10 | Washington |
| 86 | Jack Hilton | TE | 2 | North Carolina |
| 87 | Joe Horn | WR | 10 | Itawamba (Miss.) JC |
| 89 | Lamont Hall | TE | 6 | Clemson |
| 91 | Will Smith | DE | 2 | Ohio State |
| 92 | Tony Bryant | DE | 6 | Florida State |
| 93 | Darren Howard | DE | 6 | Kansas State |
| 94 | Charles Grant | DE | 4 | Georgia |
| 97 | Johnathan Sullivan | DT | 3 | Georgia |
| 98 | Willie Whitehead | DE | 7 | Auburn |

## PANTHERS ROSTER

| No. | Name | Pos. | Exp. | School |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Stefan LeFors | QB | R | Louisville |
| 4 | John Kasay | K | 15 | Georgia |
| 7 | Jason Baker | P | 5 | Iowa |
| 16 | Chris Weinke | QB | 5 | Florida State |
| 17 | Jake Delhomme | QB | 7 | ULL |
| 18 | Drew Carter | WR | 2 | Ohio State |
| 20 | Chris Gamble | CB | 2 | Ohio State |
| 21 | Dante Wesley | CB | 4 | Ark.-Pine Bluff |
| 22 | Jamal Robertson | RB | 4 | Ohio Northern |
| 23 | Ken Lucas | CB | 5 | Ole Miss |
| 24 | Ricky Manning | CB | 3 | UCLA |
| 26 | DeShaun Foster | RB | 4 | UCLA |
| 27 | Marlon McCree | S | 5 | Kentucky |
| 30 | Mike Minter | S | 9 | Nebraska |
| 32 | Rod Smart | RB | 5 | W. Kentucky |
| 33 | Idrees Bashir | S | 5 | Memphis |
| 37 | Nick Goings | RB | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 45 | Brad Hoover | FB | 6 | W. Carolina |
| 47 | Thomas Davis | S | R | Georgia |
| 48 | Stephen Davis | RB | 10 | Auburn |
| 50 | Vinny Ciurciu | LB | 3 | Boston College |
| 52 | Chris Draft | LB | 7 | Stanford |
| 53 | Brandon Short | LB | 6 | Penn State |
| 54 | Will Witherspoon | LB | 4 | Georgia |
| 55 | Dan Morgan | LB | 5 | Miami |
| 56 | Jason Kyle | LB | 11 | Arizona State |
| 59 | Adam Seward | LB | R | UNLV |
| 60 | Jeff Mitchell | C | 9 | Florida |
| 61 | Dave Kadela | T | 4 | Virginia Tech |
| 63 | Geoff Hangartner | C | R | Texas A&M |
| 67 | Jordan Carstens | DT | 2 | Iowa State |
| 68 | Mike Wahle | G | 8 | Navy |
| 69 | Jordan Gross | T | 3 | Utah |
| 70 | Travelle Wharton | OL | 2 | South Carolina |
| 71 | Evan Mathis | G | R | Alabama |
| 76 | Tutan Reyes | OL | 6 | Ole Miss |
| 77 | Kris Jenkins | DT | 5 | Maryland |
| 78 | Todd Fordham | OL | 9 | Florida State |
| 81 | Ricky Proehl | WR | 16 | Wake Forest |
| 82 | Mike Seidman | TE | 3 | UCLA |
| 83 | Keary Colbert | WR | 2 | Southern Cal |
| 84 | Michael Gaines | TE | 2 | Central Florida |
| 86 | Kris Mangum | TE | 8 | Ole Miss |
| 87 | Rod Gardner | WR | 5 | Clemson |
| 88 | Karl Hankton | WR | 7 | Trinity (Ill.) |
| 89 | Steve Smith | WR | 5 | Utah |
| 90 | Julius Peppers | DE | 4 | North Carolina |
| 92/Jovan Haye | | DE | R | Vanderbilt |
| 93 | Mike Rucker | DE | 7 | Nebraska |
| 94 | Kindal Moorehead | DT | 3 | Alabama |
| 96 | Al Wallace | DE | 6 | Maryland |
| 97 | Kemp Rasmussen | DE | 4 | Indiana |
| 99 | Brentson Buckner | DT | 12 | Clemson |

## GAZING INTO THE FUTURE

# Can the Saints be playoff bound?



BRIAN ALLEE-WALSH

With no crystal ball handy, thanks to Hurricane Katrina, I gazed into an empty box of wine and found the truth about the playoff-bound New Orleans/San Antonio/Baton Rouge Saints. That's right. The 2005 Saints will make the postseason but not before some anxious moments. Read on.

### TODAY AT CAROLINA

NFL schedule makers bring the Saints back to the scene of their season-ending victory in 2004, a 21-18 thriller that evened their record at 8-8. The Saints will make it five consecutive wins dating to last season on the strength of Deuce McAllister's first 100-yard game in '05. Jake Delhomme contributes to the hurricane relief fund with three picks and gets sacked five times. Saints rookie RT Jammal Brown shuts down Panthers DE Julius Peppers.
**Record: 1-0.**

### SEPT. 19 AT N.Y. GIANTS (Monday night)

With Archie, Olivia, Peyton and Cooper Manning splitting time in the suites of Giants officials and Saints owner Tom Benson at Giants Stadium, the Saints' defense makes life miserable for second-year quarterback Eli Manning. Oddly enough, the game starts on ABC and concludes on ESPN for much of the country. First 2-0 start for the Saints since 2002.
**Record: 2-0.**

### SEPT. 25 AT MINNESOTA

The road warriors end the month on a losing note as Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper shreds the defense with 376 yards passing and five touchdowns to Randy Moss' replacement, Nate Burleson. For good measure, Culpepper accounts for a sixth touchdown on a quarterback sneak from midfield. The Saints are 2-6 in regular-season games at the Metrodome, last winning there in 1993. Make that 2-7 after Culpepper's outstanding performance.
**Record: 2-1.**

### OCT. 2 VS. BUFFALO

Unhappy with the play of his linebackers against the Vikings, Saints coach Jim Haslett ends his retirement and opens the game at middle linebacker against his former team. "That's how you do it," Haslett tells his team at halftime after twice sacking former Tulane quarterback J.P. Losman. In the second half, Haslett returns to the sideline and watches as Aaron Brooks and Donte' Stallworth combine on an 83-yard "Hail Mary" with five seconds remaining for a 21-20 win.
**Record: 3-1.**

### OCT. 9 AT GREEN BAY

Days after Packers quarterback Brett Favre announces that this will be his last season; he looks like a spry kid again, combining with wide receiver Jevon Walker on three touchdowns. It marks only the Saints' second trip to storied Lambeau Field and first since 1989. Buoyed by his performance against the Saints, a suddenly rejuvenated Favre tells reporters afterward "I still got it" and signs a three-year contract extension.
**Record: 3-2.**

### OCT. 16 VS. ATLANTA

A sellout crowd comes to watch the "Michael Vick experience" and purchase Benson bobblehead dolls with all the proceeds going to the "Build Me A Stadium Anywhere" fund. But the day belongs to Aaron Brooks who outplays his second cousin with three touchdown passes and a rare 50-yard touchdown run on a quarterback sneak. Stealing a page from his dad's playbook, Falcons coach Jim L. Mora goes off on reporters during his post-game press conference.
**Record: 4-2.**

### OCT. 23 AT ST. LOUIS

This twice-a-year matchup was one of the NFL best rivalries before realignment broke up the old NFC West in 2002. Suffice to say, there is no love lost between the teams, and Haslett and Rams coach Mike Martz do not exchange Christmas cards. Last year, the Saints won 28-25 in dramatic fashion, scoring on a 31-yard field goal by John Carney with 7:56 remaining in overtime. This time, Martz and the Rams exact revenge, scoring late on a Marc Bulger touchdown pass to Torry Holt.
**Record: 4-3.**

### OCT. 30 VS. MIAMI

Former LSU coach Nick Saban returns to Tiger Stadium with his first Dolphins team that features former Saints running back Ricky Williams, who will miss the first four games due to a drug suspension. It will be Williams' first regular-season game against the Saints since being traded in 2002. Inquiring minds want to know? Will Ricky still look like a caveman? McAllister will have the last say the day before Halloween. Saints by two touchdowns.
**Record: 5-3.**

### NOV. 6 VS. CHICAGO

Coach Lovie Smith is in the second year of a rebuilding program in the Windy City. On paper, the Bears are no match for the Saints. But with the bye week coming up and a trip to New England the following week, this game could be an ambush if the Saints aren't focused. The Saints enter the break on a high note and push their home record to 5-0.
**Record: 6-3.**

### NOV. 20 AT NEW ENGLAND

This game should be markedly different than the exhibition season when Haslett stuck with his starters through three quarters. By this point of the season, the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots will have adjusted to life after starting linebackers Tedy Bruschi and Ted Johnson and coordinators Charlie Weis and Romeo Crennel. It's tough to win at Gillette Stadium where the Patriots have won their last 21 games.
**Record: 6-4.**

### NOV. 27 AT NEW YORK JETS

The Saints play their second straight game on the East Coast, this time on ESPN, against an improved Jets team that made the playoffs in 2004 under Herman Edwards. The Saints have blanked the J-E-T-S in their last two meetings at Giants Stadium. The home team will score this time but not enough to beat the Saints.
**Record: 7-4.**

### DEC. 4 VS. TAMPA BAY

The Saints begin a pivotal five-game stretch that features four against NFC South foes, including two against Jon Gruden's Buccaneers. Saints fans will be revved up and raring to go, having last seen their heroes in person Oct. 30. All five games are winnable. But the Bucs post the upset in a close, physical game.
**Record: 7-5.**

### DEC. 12 AT ATLANTA (Monday night)

Playing on "Monday Night Football," the Saints find themselves in a must-win situation against their biggest rival. The Saints are hoping to snap a five-game losing streak on MNF, with their last victory coming in 1992 against the Washington Redskins, 20-3. Doesn't happen. Michael Vick wows the prime-time audience, rushing for 105 yards and one touchdown and throwing for two more scores.
**Record: 7-6.**

### DEC. 18 VS. CAROLINA

In the throes of a two-game losing streak, these are desperate times for Saints fans. They see their playoff chances slipping away. Jake Delhomme buys up the remaining 10,000 seats at the Alamodome for his family, friends and adoring fans from Cajun land and sticks a dagger into the back of his old team. Once 7-4, the Saints seem incapable of handling prosperity.
**Record: 7-7.**

### DEC. 24 VS. DETROIT

On the day before Christmas, the vastly improved Lions catch the Saints at a desperate time. Haslett & company remain mathematically alive in the playoff hunt and need a victory to keep their chances intact. The defense stiffens, and Deuce McAllister, Joe Horn and Aaron Brooks take the offensive and contribute mightily in victory.
**Record: 8-7.**

### JAN. 1 AT TAMPA BAY

The road-weary Saints eclipse the one million mark in skymiles. A win sends them to the playoffs for the first time since 2000. A loss leaves them on the outside looking in and another non-descript 8-8 record. Special teams pave the way, with Michael Lewis returning the opening kickoff 103 yards for a touchdown and kicker John Carney making four field goals. McAllister adds a short touchdown run and the Saints head to the postseason for just the sixth time in franchise history. Happy New Year!
**Record: 9-7.**

# STATUS OF LOCAL TEAMS/EVENTS

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Moved football operations to San Antonio for the season. Moved Sept. 18 home game against the New York Giants to Sept. 19 at Giants Stadium. Alamodome reportedly to ost four games; Saints in negotiations with LSU to host remaining three. Team's long-term future in New Orleans uncertain.

### NEW ORLEANS HORNETS

Team will hold at least first two weeks of training camp at Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Basketball operations have moved to Houston Rockets' facility. Team in discussion with LSU to host home games at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. Oklahoma City and Las Vegas also are interested in hosting the team as a season-long temporary location.

### ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS

PGA officials are mum on returning to hurricane-ravaged TPC of Louisiana. The tournament is scheduled for April 27-30, but don't expect a decision for at least two months. Course officials estimate there are about 1,000 uprooted trees, and holes 4, 5, and 6 are waterlogged.

### NEW ORLEANS ZEPHYRS

Canceled last three home games against Oklahoma City. Team was able to complete regular-season, four-game series at Iowa. Officials say baseball will resume in April. Zephyr Field is being used as a FEMA base.

### NEW ORLEANS VOODOO

Team operations weren't affected by Hurricane Katrina.

### LSU

The football team's season-opener against North Texas was pushed back from Sept. 3 to Oct. 29. The Tigers also moved their second home game, Saturday night against Arizona State, to Tempe, Ariz.

### TULANE

The school will spread its student-athletes across five campuses in Louisiana and Texas. The men's basketball, women's swimming and diving, women's volleyball and women's soccer are at Texas A&M. The Green Wave baseball and women's basketball teams will attend Texas Tech. Conference USA school Rice will admit the Tulane men's and women's tennis teams, and C-USA school SMU will host the men's and women's golf programs.
Tulane's cross country teams will not run this fall. The football team enrolled at Louisiana Tech. The Green Wave will make its season debut Sept. 17 at Independence Stadium in Shreveport against Mississippi State. Tulane's season-opener against Southern Miss was postponed because of the hurricane.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Flooding from Hurricane Katrina has canceled the entire season of horse racing season at the Fair Grounds.

### UNO

The Privateers' men's and women's basketball teams will train at the University of Texas at Tyler. The Pontchartrain Center in Kenner is a likely alternative. One additional road game for UNO was scheduled. The Privateers will play at Kansas on Dec. 29, replacing a home game against Norfolk State. UNO's student-athletes will be enrolled and attend classes at UT Tyler as transient/visiting students. If the UNO teams can't return to Lakefront Arena by November, the Privateers can play home games at Tyler. UNO's baseball team will be housed by New Mexico State.

### LOYOLA

Canceled all fall sports.

### XAVIER

Canceled all fall sports.

### DILLARD

Canceled all fall sports.

### SUPERDOME EVENTS

**BAYOU CLASSIC:** With the Superdome unplayable for the foreseeable future, teams are looking at options. Reliant Stadium in Houston has offered to host the game. Playing at Grambling State or Southern also is being considered.
**NEW ORLEANS BOWL:** Game, scheduled for Dec. 20, will be played at Sun Belt champion's stadium.
**LHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL GAMES:** State championships will be moved to three venues, which could include LSU's Tiger Stadium, UL-Lafayette's Cajun Field and Independence Stadium in Shreveport. The state championship games are scheduled for Dec. 9 and 10.

### PREP

**ORLEANS PARISH:** Louisiana High School Athletic Association commissioner Tommy Henry's estimates schools are unlikely to play football thisseason. An additional 19 schools were listed as questionable by Henry.
**ST. TAMMANY:** School is tentatively scheduled to resume Oct. 3, which could lead to football games being played Oct. 7. Volleyball games could start that week, as well.
**RIVER PARISHES:** Lutcher and St. James resumed football this pastFriday. St. Charles played Saturday. Volleyball returned to action Thursday.
**JEFFERSON PARISH:** John Curtis will play Sept. 29 against a yet-to-be determined opponent.
**ST. BERNARD:** No sports are scheduled for the school year, as this area was the hardest hit by Katrina.
**WEST BANK:** Higgins and Ehret potentially could play football.

### FAIR GROUNDS

Horse racing season canceled.

PREP REPORT

## St. Charles Catholic routs Jackson

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer

St. Charles Catholic running back Chase Fletcher ran for 155 yards and four touchdowns as the Comets defeated Jackson 42-0 Saturday afternoon in LaPlace.

St. Charles was scheduled to play Clark, located in Orleans Parish, this week. The Comets and Jackson agreed late Thursday to play.

St. Charles scored on its first four possessions, all in the first quarter, before giving way to the second and third strings. Fletcher, who rushed for 142 yards and three touchdowns in the first quarter, scored on runs of 17, one and eight yards. Jonathan Cancienne scored on a 12-yard run. In the second quarter St. Charles quarterback Vincent Rollo threw a seven-yard touchdown pass to Matt Eriksen.

The first team returned to open the second half - played with running time - and Fletcher scored his fourth touchdown. Quarterback Philip Sutton completed four of five passes for 109 yards and Casey Robottom caught three passes for 80 yards.

Jackson did not gain a first down and finished with eight yards of offense. Running back Donovan Carter had 20 carries and finished with 10 yards.

**RIVERSIDE 23, H.L. BOURGEOIS 20:** Special-teams play helped the Rebels leave Houma with a victory Friday night. The Rebels blocked a 35-yard field-goal attempt with 20 seconds remaining to preserve their victory. Jarid Caesar helped give the Rebels a short field by amassing 95 kickoff return yards and Jordan Poirrier kicked a 23-yard field goal. Quarterback A.J. Delaneuville completed five of 10 passes for 64 yards with touchdowns to Donny Terrio and Chase Emerson. Caesar rushed for 117 yards and one touchdown.

**SOUTH TERREBONE 31, WEST ST. JOHN 28:** Rams quarterback Olajuwon Hall completed 15 of 19 passes for 267 yards and three touchdowns. But with 2:35 remaining he was intercepted by the Gators' Phillip Livas, thwarting West St. John's comeback try. Livas rushed for 128 yards and two touchdowns, returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and nabbed the game-saving interception.

Two River Parishes teams will play today. Hahnville will travel to Central Lafourche for a 3 p.m. game and Destrehan will play at Thibodaux at 5 p.m.

## Meeting set to address LHSAA issues

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association, like most public and private agencies, has more questions than answers because of the plethora of uncertainty created by the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina.

To address those issues, LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry has scheduled a special meeting of the association's Executive Committee for 10 a.m. Thursday at LHSAA headquarters in Baton Rouge.

"This year is a different year," Henry said. "We have a lot to talk about. It's mainly going to be about the storm situation."

One of the top orders of business is determining which route the association will take in determining venues for the five state football championship games of the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic, originally scheduled for Dec. 9 and 10 at the Superdome. The Superdome is inoperable due to storm damage.

The LHSAA options are to move the games en masse to another site such as Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge or Independence Stadium in Shreveport, or possibly play them at another of the state universities. The games also could be split among multiple college stadium sites.

Also under consideration is the possibility of playing the Class 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A games at regional sites located near the competing schools.

Henry said he is delivering bid forms to all state universities and would like to reach a decision no later than Oct. 15. The Executive Committee's next regularly-scheduled meeting is Oct. 8 for hardship hearings.

"(LSU athletic director) Skip Bertman has been just so helpful to us," Henry said. "He's been so involved and empathetic with what we're trying to do. He has offered us the use of Tiger Stadium. He's used to dealing with (complicated) things. He has helped us look at a lot of things that we might not have."

If the state championships are played at one site, the five games are likely to be spread over three days, Henry said. The first championship game would be played at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, followed by Friday and Saturday doubleheaders. Friday and Saturday games likely would be played at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. with the stadium being cleared between each game, Henry said.

"Certainly, LSU and Independence Stadium need to be strong considerations," Henry said. "No matter where we go, we're only going to have two dressing rooms (for participating teams). I can't see asking fans to sit outside in a stadium for eight hours (for a Saturday triple-header)."

The Louisiana High School Coaches Association has agreed to cancel its clinic normally held in conjunction with the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic if necessary, Henry said.

"It's not going to be vanilla with chocolate fudge poured on it," Henry said of the championships. "No matter where we go, there are not going to be practice sessions. This is going to be like a Friday night football game (where teams travel in and play the game on the same day). The easy thing is to go to one site. I kind of like the idea of returning the games to the fans (via regional sites).

"One thing that's a fact is that we don't have a lot of schools in north Louisiana, so if they're in the championship game, they're probably going to be playing a team from south Louisiana. We would have to decide how we're going to determine who the home team is. That's why it might be easier to go to one site."

Playing five games in three days at LSU or at Independence Stadium should not be a problem even with the possibility of inclement weather, Henry said. LSU's regular season would be concluded, so there would be months to rehabilitate the field. Independence Stadium has artificial turf.

The LHSAA will not consider extending the regular season and delaying the start of the state playoffs, and the power rating system for determining playoff teams will remain as is, Henry said.

The LHSAA has received complaints from some schools noting that some storm-affected schools may advance to the playoffs despite having played three games or less, Henry said. A team's power rating is based strictly on the number of games it plays and is not affected by not playing a full 10-game schedule.

Lutcher, for example, will advance to the state playoffs as the District 10-3A football champion without playing a league game. None of the school's district opponents — Clark, De La Salle, Hannan, Karr, Landry, Lawless and St. Bernard — are expected to field teams, so the Bulldogs will be left with a 7-0 district record via forfeits.

Such a scenario applies to any school whose district is reduced to one participating team, Henry said.

Fisher in District 11-2A is in a similar situation. The Gators are the only school in their district expected to field a team. Buras, Gregory, Newman, Redeemer-Seton and St. Martin's are not expected to field teams this season, Henry said.

"I've gotten some flack about (maintaining the power rating system as is)," Henry said. "But this is a bad situation (with the storm). You can't change rules in the middle of the season. We never counted on something like this happening. We're going to have to be really flexible and empathetic and sensitive. No school would want to be in the position some of them are in."

The Executive Committee also will address whether the association should hire a third assistant commissioner this school year as planned, Henry said. There also have been concerns expressed about the recruiting of evacuated players and the lengths some coaches may have taken to hold onto their players in light of the LHSAA's decision to declare all storm-displaced student athletes immediately eligible at the first school in which they enrolled after relocating.

"I am concerned about the rumors of coaches doing this and doing that," Henry said. "But, again, this is minor, this is a pimple compared to what is going on in south Louisiana. We cannot go into every house. We're not equipped to do that. I know we did the right thing when we ruled those kids eligible."

The LHSAA also is fortunate that this is not a reclassification year, Henry said.

Henry said he declined an offer from ESPN to fly him to the cable sports network's Bristol, Conn., headquarters for a live interview covering Katrina's effects on the state's high school athletic programs.

"They could have flown us up there and I could have told our story," Henry said. "But I don't know enough about everything that happened."

SAINTS RALLY TO BEAT PANTHERS SPORTS, A-16

'GATEMOUTH' BROWN DIES A-11

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169TH YEAR NO. 235 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Some return to Plaquemines; death toll in Louisiana at 197

## KATRINA EVENTS

- ▶ Nearly half of Plaquemines Parish's 27,000 residents allowed to return home.
- ▶ The official death toll climbs to 197.
- ▶ State Homeland Security director says FEMA too slow in finding temporary housing for 500,000 displaced storm victims.
- ▶ President Bush makes his third visit to the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast, sleeping aboard the USS Iwo Jima docked in New Orleans.
- ▶ New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin grilled for failing to order mandatory evacuation before the storm.
- ▶ Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport reopens to cargo flights.
- ▶ New York City firefighters and hundred of others from across the country take a break from hurricane relief to hold 9-11 commemoration.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

New York firefighters Kevin Bourke and Steve Marley, surrounded by their brethren from New York and New Orleans, hug after a Mass at Our Lady of Holy Cross in Algiers. On the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the service honored both cities and the losses they have endured. **See story, A-2**

## Superdome laid waste by those it sheltered

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

The concrete and steel titan on Poydras Street still dominates the New Orleans skyline. But the Superdome, like everything else in the brutalized city, looks much different now.

Hurricane Katrina's 100 mph-plus winds relentlessly strafed the world-renowned stadium's roof, peeled back its white weather-protective shell like a coconut husk. The force was so powerful it stripped off sheets of 2-inch foam and thick rubber and blew them all over the Central Business District. Three huge smoke dampers were blown from the roof. Seven other gaping holes were opened.

Once compared to a sleek futuristic spaceship, the Dome now looks like a

*See* **SUPERDOME,** *page A-5*



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Clad in anti-contamination suits, crews examine the sewage and garbage in a women's restroom in the Superdome.

## Nagin criticized over evacuation

**By Ron Thibodeaux**
Staff writer

For those who gauge the still-unfolding drama of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath in sound bites and photo ops, Sunday did not disappoint as President Bush returned to the region and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin caught flak before a national television audience for the city's performance in the face of the storm.

In Plaquemines Parish, the reality of what Katrina wrought played out far from the spotlight but with no less poignancy. Sunday was the first day that almost half of the parish's 27,000 residents could return to their homes after a two-week evacuation.

While officials in some other hard-hit parishes want their people to stay away until public services are fully restored, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle invited residents to return where they could.

Many got right to work assessing the damage, making repairs and starting to upright their overturned lives, and the sounds of traffic on Belle Chasse Highway and the whine of saws and the pounding of hammers on rooftops in neighbor-

*See* **KATRINA,** *page A-4*

## *Faith, not power, restored to Saints fans*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

The battered portable radio sat on the bar, its antenna resting on a Bud Light tap and Sunday's Saints game crackling over a steady undercurrent of static as the crowd at Johnny White's Sports Bar swatted away flies and beat back beads of sweat forming on their foreheads with cold longnecks.

Steve Bartley refused to get his hopes up, seeking to minimize the pain if New Orleans' NFL team lost its season opener to the rival Carolina Panthers at a time when the suffering city so badly needed a win.

"Typical Saints," he grimaced after a goofed play, nursing his beer as a military helicopter chopped through the skies over the French Quarter.

Whatever it was Sunday — luck, extra determination by the team, or a higher power offering the Big Easy a ray of hope at its darkest hour — the Saints had Bartley on his feet, cheering and high-fiving when the team pulled out a 47-yard field goal in the final seconds to

*See* **FAITH,** *page A-3*

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PLENTY OF SUNSHINE
HIGH 92 | LOW 73

7 12393 11111 8



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

It's hugs all around as New Orleans police officers exchange the sign of peace during a Mass with the Rev. Joseph Benson from Blessed Francis Seelos Parish in the entryway of the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street.

# FIREFIGHTERS UNITE BEHIND LOCAL EFFORT

## *On anniversary of 9/11, tragedy surrounds them*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

New York City firefighter Regina Wilson sang a capella hymns on the lawn of Our Lady of Holy Cross College in Algiers early Sunday, and the mournful sound of a single bagpipe soared into the brilliant morning sky.

Several hundred firefighters from across the country, including 350 from New York City, had taken a short break from their fire-fighting duties to gather for a ceremony commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Fire department officials from New York and New Orleans addressed the hushed crowd, some hoarse with emotion as they spoke.

New Orleans Fire Department chaplain, the Rev. Peter Weiss, a native of Brooklyn, celebrated Mass.

The memorial tribute to the still-vivid previous tragedy took on particular resonance as it echoed in the landscape of the current, in some ways similar, tragedy that surrounded it.

The small, pristine campus, ordinarily an enclave of 1,400 students, faculty and Marianite nuns had become, beginning last week, the bivouac of an army of firefighters from across the country.

Men and women in deep-blue uniform T-shirts printed with insignia from Illinois, Oregon, Arizona, North Carolina and elsewhere, as well as Louisiana and New York were sheltered in the college's classrooms and chapel as well a tent city that mushroomed onto along Gen. DeGaulle Drive.

A fleet of scarlet and hazard-green fire trucks lined the campus roads, and elements of the Texas and Puerto Rico National Guards monitored the entrances.

School staff and alumni, on hand to help with the ceremony, eagerly pointed out the irony that the school's emblem was a hurricane.

The out-of-town firefighters, who'd volunteered to come to New Orleans, arranged themselves in teams, with New Orleans firefighters riding in many vehicles to guide them through the inscrutable city streets.

Despite the gravity of the moment, one New York firefighter comically described the combined efforts as "the same circus, just with different acts."

Another, asked to typify the joint effort, said he was impressed with the "unbelievable professionalism."

Asked how the rescue and recovery efforts after the terrorist attacks and the fury of a Category 4 hurricane compared, New York City firefighter Donald Halikias's comments were typical: "There will be different emotions: one being an act of war, one being Mother Nature.

"Emotions will always be part of every experience," he continued. "It's something that stays with you. Nine-eleven is written in heavy black ink. It's an exclamation point.

"The people are going to feel it more as time goes by. Nine-eleven was a stressful, troubling time. You're going to experience strong emotions.

"People here lost their homes. This is a different ballgame. We lost a lot of firefighters, good friends, but we had our homes to go back to. A lot of these firemen have no homes to go to.

"In this situation there's no one to get angry at. There are no terrorists, so I guess people will direct their anger at the government. In my opinion, the thing to do is to remain focused on the rebuilding, to fight will be counter productive," Halikias said.

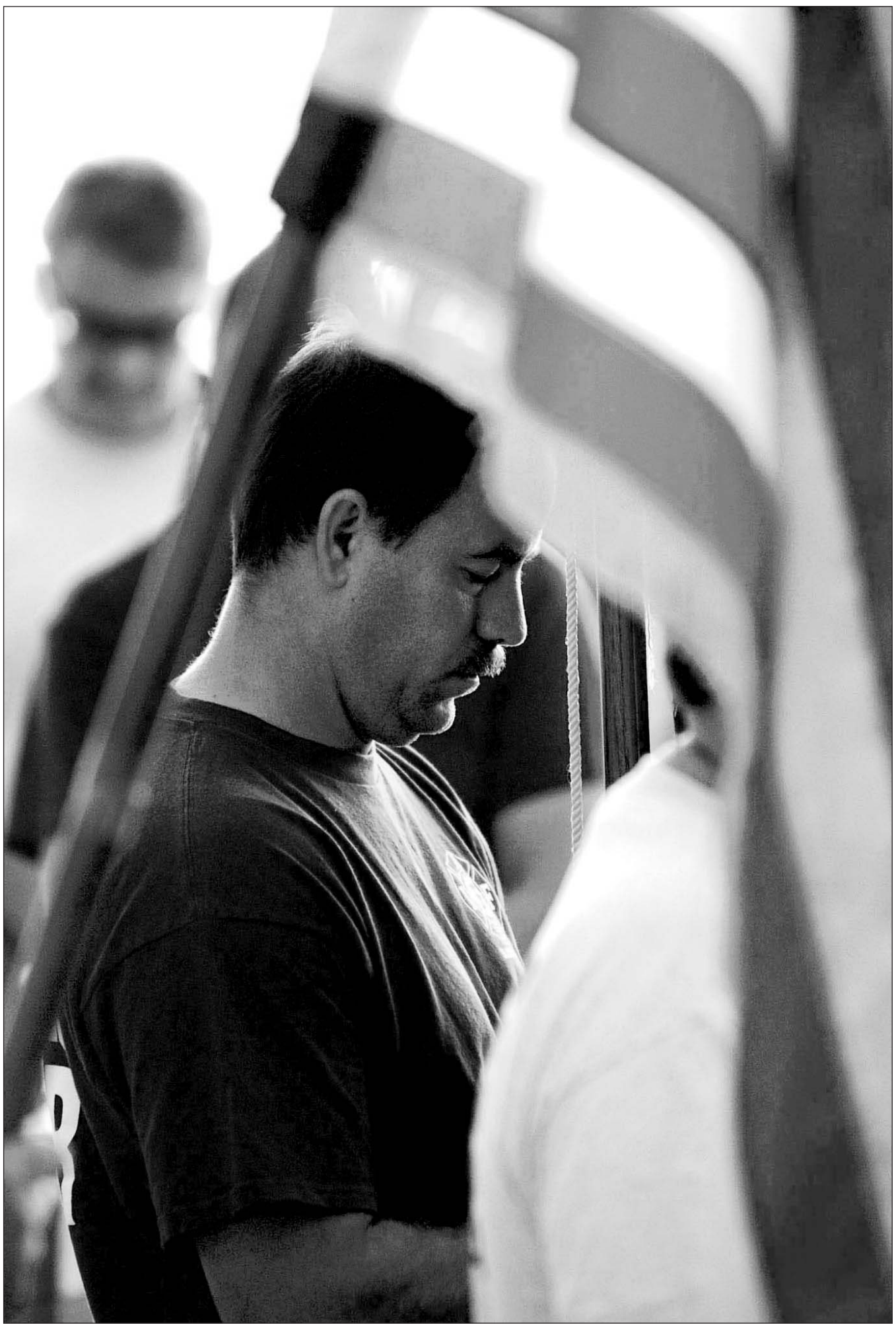
One symbolic gesture followed another on the firefighter-built dais during Sunday's ceremony.

A bell from a toppled church tower stood to one side, a signed flag that one flew over the Pentagon was presented to the New York volunteers and "The Spirit of Louisiana," a fire engine given to New York City by the people of the Bayou State after 9-11, was parked nearby, having been returned to the Crescent City in its time of need.

New Orleans Fire Department superintendent Charles Parent was among the last to speak.

During the 9-11 tragedy, the New York fire department "showed the world what it meant to be the bravest," he said.

"Now they're showing what it means to be the most compassionate. There are no words I can express to show our gratitude. I'd like to tell all my brothers out there that I love you."



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Firefighter Larry Martin of the St. Tammany Fire Department's 1st District prays during a ceremony to honor firefighters who died in the Sept. 11 attacks four years ago. In another symbol of solidarity, 50 firefighters from the Chicago area are in Slidell to help firefighters whose homes were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

# New Orleans to begin spraying insecticide today

## *Six-week program to span 3 states*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Aerial insecticide spraying over New Orleans will begin this afternoon to combat a profusion of mosquitoes and flies liable to carry the West Nile virus and other diseases, federal health officials said Sunday.

A C-130 aircraft, flown by a reserve unit of the U.S. Air Force, will spray naled, also known by the trade name Dibrom, an insecticide that kills adult insects, including mosquitoes, flies and bees, according to officials with the U.S. Public Health Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The federally assisted spraying will cover the three-state Gulf Coast area affected by Hurricane Katrina and will continue for at least six weeks, starting on the east bank of Orleans Parish and moving to other surrounding parishes. Officials will then decide whether the previous state and local spraying programs will take over.

Naled is commonly sprayed by airplanes and trucks to kill mosquitoes in Louisiana. It poses a "small, small potential risk" for humans who come in contact with the chemical, said Rear Adm. Craig Vanderwagen, Emergency Response Team commander for the U.S. Public Health Service, part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

If administered properly, naled "can be used to kill mosquitoes without posing unreasonable risks to human health or the environment," according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

About 1 ounce per acre will kill flies and ½ ounce per acre will kill mosquitoes, Vanderwagen said. Naled degrades rapidly in the environment and is rarely harmful to birds, mammals and fish, according to the EPA.

Flies and mosquitoes are plaguing the area, and officials are monitoring for outbreaks of illness resulting from insects infected with West Nile, dengue and other diseases.

# It isn't normal, but win raises hopes



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

A few bars in the French Quarter were open Sunday, so patrons could enjoy a beer and listen to the New Orleans Saints play their first game of season. Huddled around a radio inside Johnny White's Sports Bar and Grill, Steve Bartley, foreground, and Paul Prino listen to the game.

**FAITH,** *from A-1*

break a tie for a 23-20 victory that won't soon be forgotten.

"That's gotta lift morale," Bartley said.

All across the city, wherever there were batteries and radios, residents plopped down and listened to the game, desperate for some sense of normalcy and hoping a win by the home team would signal better things to come.

In front of Harrah's New Orleans Casino, where police and the military have set up a makeshift command center, the game blared out of a radio inside one of the New Orleans Police Department's mobile command trucks.

Officer Derek Brumfield, who had tuned in the game, should have been on the sidelines Sunday — he typically works security detail for the team — but instead tried to stay as close to the truck as he could.

"To listen to the game and listen to the Saints again, it feels like home, it feels like normalcy," he said.

"It takes our minds off what we're going through," said Joe Bode, an apartment building manager in the French Quarter who sat in an abandoned strip club at Chartres and Iberville streets listening to the game on his own radio. "If they win this game, do you know how important that would be to this city?"

On a folding chair outside, Susie Cagnevert said she believed the spirit of Buddy DiLiberto, the legendary sports radio talk show host who died last year, was cheering the team on from the great beyond Sunday.

"He's seeing it up there," she said. "He's dancing in heaven."

At Johnny White's, troopers delivered bags of ice to keep the beer cold while animal rescue workers brought in cat food so employees of one of the only bars operating in the city could tend to the Quarter's strays.

As patrons dined on Fire Department-delivered burgers topped with salsa because ketchup was nowhere to be found, Marcie Ramsey ran outside to deliver the score to a heavily-inebriated patron. "17-7, Saints," she cried out as the man flipped over in his folding chair. Whether it was by coincidence or out of shock remained unclear.

John Pyles, a retired secret service agent who was assigned to the World Trade Center in New York four years ago Sunday, said things as simple as a hometown team win can help heal suffering cities.

"This is the way you get life back, business back," he said, taking a break from his security work in New Orleans with a cold beer. "It's forced normalcy."



Listening to a small, battery-powered radio, 'Coach' Tony Madison, left, and Johny Davis listen to the Saints game on the stoop of Davis' Harmony Street home. The Saints beat the Carolina Panthers, 23-20.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

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# Temporary housing needed faster, state says

**KATRINA,** *from A-1*

hoods up and down the river were a welcome cacophony.

Farther downriver, though, all remained quiet save the monotonous lapping of water over what used to be home sites, boat launches and grocery stores. South and east of Alliance, residents remain barred – possibly for another month – from the area that suffered near-total destruction of homes and businesses.

Rousselle estimated 6,000 homes were lost in lower Plaquemines, which caught the brunt of Katrina's wrath in the parish.

In Baton Rouge, state authorities upped the hurricane's death toll to 197 and took more shots at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, this time complaining that the federal government is moving too slowly in bringing temporary housing into Louisiana for displaced hurricane victims.

With tens of thousands of Louisiana residents in evacuation centers in the state and more dispersed across the country, FEMA has not moved swiftly enough to bring in trailers and mobile homes or find vacant apartments or homes for the displaced victims, said Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Two weeks after disasters struck in other states, FEMA had temporary housing in place for the displaced, Smith said. The state will need housing in the form of trailers, mobile homes or apartments for roughly 500,000 people, said Mark Smith, public information officer for the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

As of Sunday, there were more than 48,000 evacuees housed in Louisiana shelters, and more than 70,000 in shelters across the nation.

President Bush flew to New Orleans on Sunday, his third trip to the region since Katrina made landfall Aug. 29. He planned to spend the night aboard the USS Iwo Jima, the amphibious assault ship that is docked near the Riverwalk and is being used as a command and control center for relief efforts. He is to get a briefing on relief efforts this morning before touring New Orleans and parts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Nagin appeared on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" Sunday morning and was grilled by moderator Tim Russert over his failure to order a mandatory evacuation of New Orleans on the Friday before Katrina's arrival, coinciding with Bush's advance declaration of an emergency, while public transit and school buses were still available for use to transport evacuees.

"That's one of the things that will be debated," Nagin conceded. "There has never been a catastrophe in the history of New Orleans like this. There has never been any Category 5 storm of this magnitude that has hit New Orleans directly.

"We did the things that we thought were best based upon the information we had. Sure there were lots of buses out there. But, guess what. You can't find drivers that would stay behind with a Category 5 hurricane, you know, bearing down on New Orleans."

About 60 percent of the city has evacuated for prior storms, but about 80 percent got out this time, Nagin said.

"We were in a position of trying to encourage as many people as possible to leave because we weren't comfortable that we had the resources to move them out of the city," he said. "We encouraged people to buddy up, churches to take senior citizens and move them to safety, and a lot of them did. And then we would deal with the remaining people that couldn't or wouldn't leave and try and get them to higher ground until safety came."

The day's most uplifting development might have come from Charlotte, N.C., where the exiled New Orleans Saints won their season opener against the Carolina Panthers in dramatic fashion, 23-20. For the region's dispersed sports fans, it was a gratifying daily double just hours after the LSU Tigers had pulled out some last-minute heroics of their own in their first game of the season.

At Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, commercial cargo traffic was reinstated Sunday. Limited passenger service will resume Tuesday with about 30 flights a day, airport Aviation Director Roy Williams said.

While Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes remain off-limits to residents, other parts of the metro area are seeing people return to their homes and some semblance of their everyday lives, and those will provide a base for restored passenger traffic into and out of New Orleans, Williams said.

The airport averaged 174 daily flights prior to Hurricane Katrina, and the 30 daily departures resuming this week should grow to 60 to 70 by the end of October, he said.

Northwest, Delta, Southwest and Continental airlines are expected to be the first commercial airlines to resume passenger service.

Early Sunday, hundreds of firefighters who have converged on New Orleans from across the country to assist in firefighting and rescue operations gathered for a ceremony commemorating the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

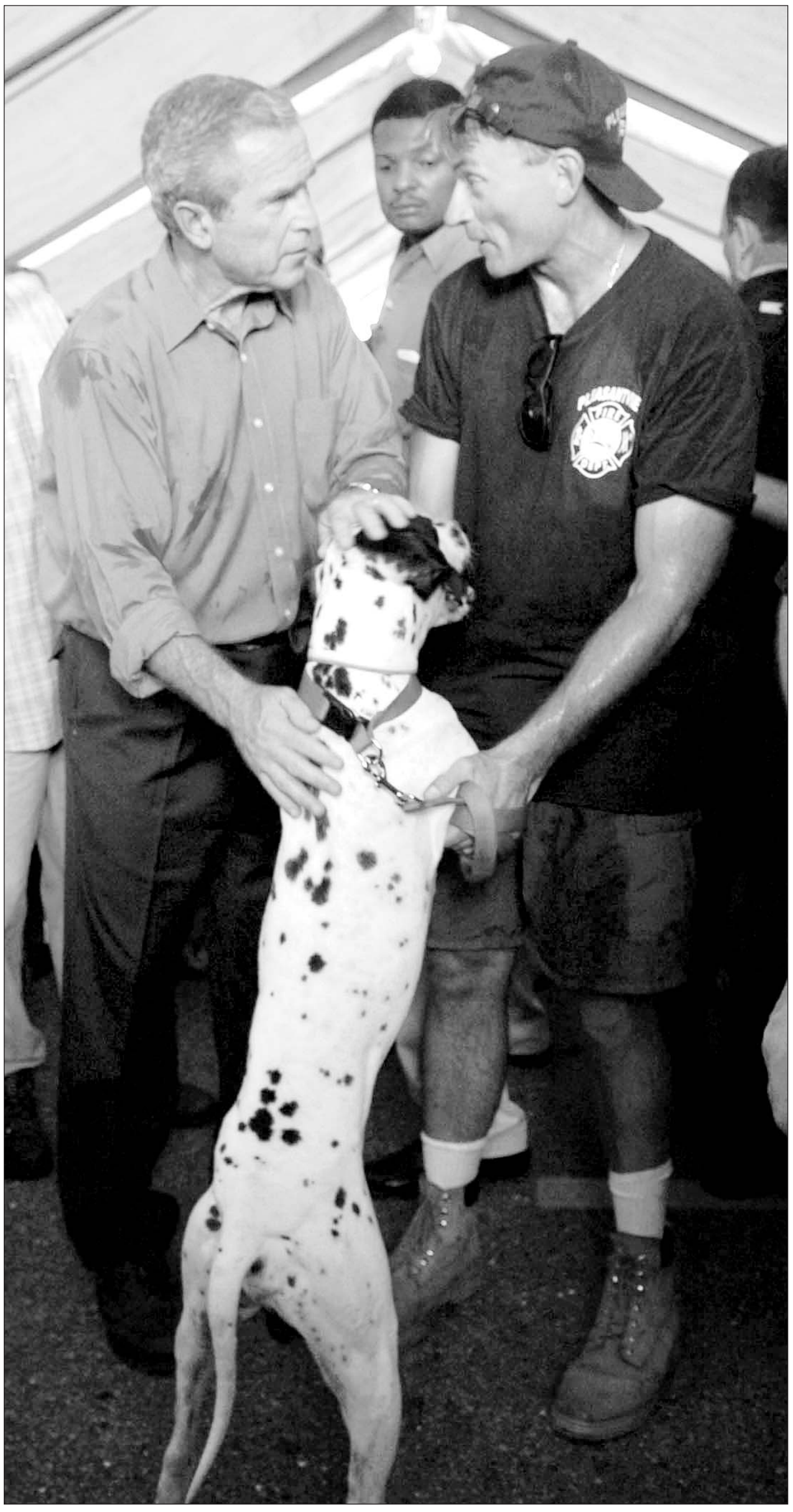
Fire officials from New York and New Orleans addressed the crowd that assembled on the lawn at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in Algiers.

The event prompted many of the visiting firefighters to compare their experience of the past two weeks in the hurricane flood zone with what they remembered from 9/11. Many spoke of the similarity of emotions wrung out by the disaster but noted one striking difference between the terrorist attacks and the wrath of Mother Nature.

"People here lost their homes," one New York firefighter said. "This is a different ballgame. We lost a lot of firefighters (on 9/11), good friends, but we had our homes to go back to. A lot of these firemen have no homes to go to."

Staff writers Matthew Brown, Frank Donze, Ed Anderson and James Varney contributed to this report.

# Bush makes return visit to New Orleans



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Gary Garwood of Illinois and his dog, Louie, whom he found on Magazine Street, meet President Bush on Sunday. The president visited Our Lady of Holy Cross College on the West Bank, a staging area for the entire fire department operation.



President Bush and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin board Marine One at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Sunday. After a meeting at the airport, Bush gave Nagin a ride to the USS Iwo Jima, the amphibious assault ship that is the headquarters for the federal operation assisting New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## *With mayor at his side, president greets firefighters*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

President Bush arrived in storm-ravaged New Orleans for the second time Sunday, flying over the city by helicopter, and then, with Mayor Ray Nagin at his side, shook hands with firefighters from New York and elsewhere who were remembering Sept. 11.

Nagin greeted Bush at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans when Air Force One touched down just before 4:45 p.m. The pair then traveled via Marine One to the USS Iwo Jima, the amphibious assault ship that is the headquarters for the federal operation assisting New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Neither the mayor nor the president spoke to reporters or took questions, and the pair seemed relaxed together. Nagin had been sharply critical of the waddling pace of the federal relief effort in the first days after Katrina, and the White House has clearly tried to put a more aggressive public face on Bush's role in the ongoing operation.

On the Iwo Jima, where eight bells and the announcement "United States arriving" over the ship's loudspeakers indicated the arrival of the commander in chief, the men chatted briefly with Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, head of the post-Katrina operation, and Vice Admiral Thad Allen, the newly appointed FEMA head.

Those four and possibly other officials are scheduled to hold a briefing early today, and then meet with area parish presidents, administration officials said. A tour of New Orleans by foot and helicopter will follow, although the timetable and the specific locations to be visited were not released by the White House.

Bush, Nagin, Honore and Allen then cranked up their caravan and headed over to the West Bank, where they made a surprise visit to the hundreds of out-of-town firefighters based at Our Lady of Holy Cross. In the mess hall and at various spots around the campus, the men shook hands and greeted troops and volunteers, leaving some bemused as they ate dinner among a horde of reporters, Secret Service agents and other officials.

Nagin sat at one table with Allen, Honore and a firefighter, talking about people who want to return to New Orleans and check on their homes, as well as the Saints victory on Sunday. He then walked by a line of about 100 firefighters, shaking hands and thanking them for their help. Several firefighters asked the mayor to pose for pictures with them, asking if he had a second.

"Sure I do," Nagin replied. "I'm not going anywhere."

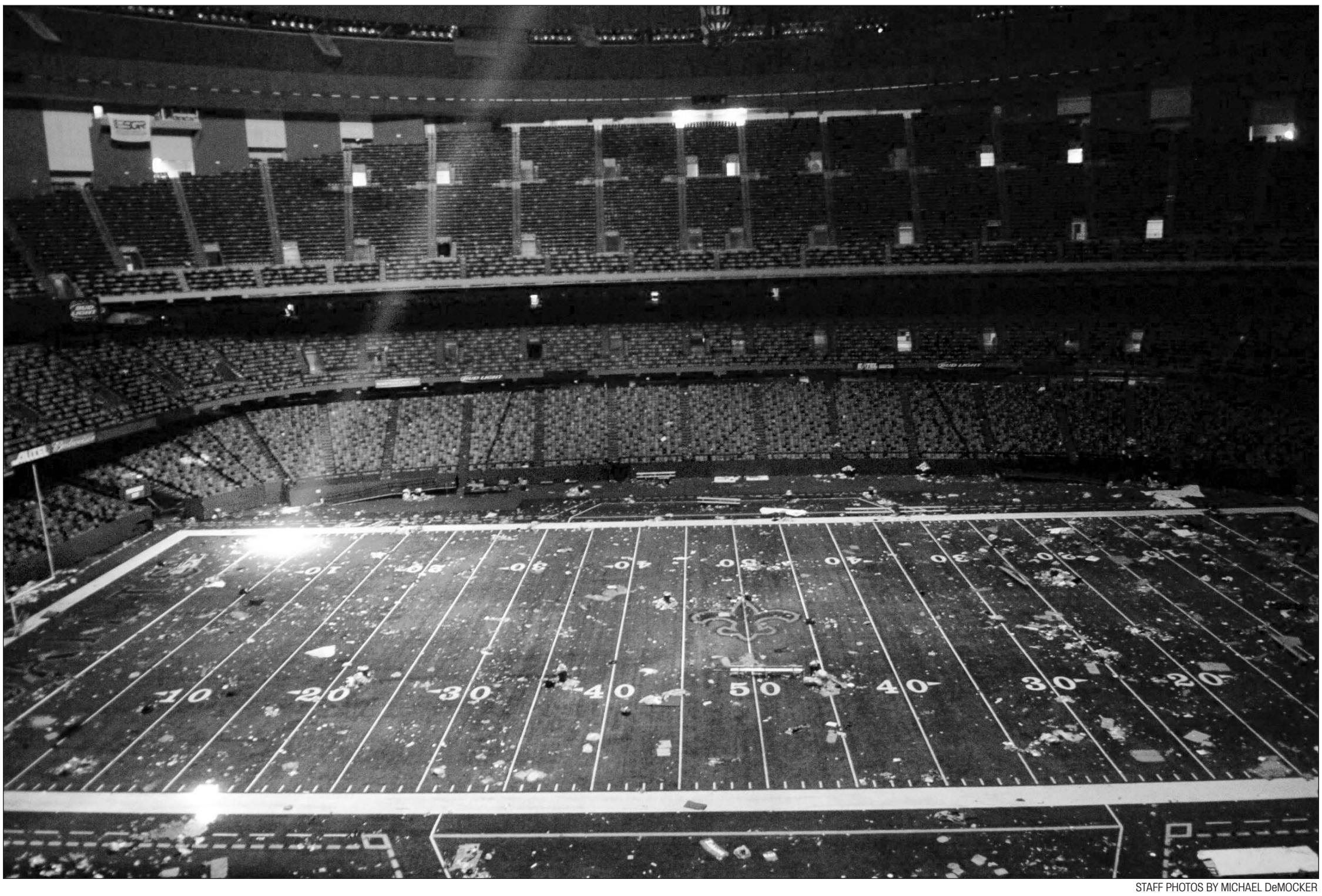
Patty Schick, a firefighter from Lake Zurich, Ill., was elated by the arrival.

"The president's in there," she told her buddies gathered around the mess tents and seemingly confused about the hive of activity. "Go on in, I just shook his hand."

Schick said she was happy to be in New Orleans to help, a city she visited just once before for a conference last year.

"It looks a little different now," she said. "But the people down here are incredible."

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STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

A shaft of sunlight from a hole in the Superdome ceiling shines onto the garbage-covered field as officials on Friday toured the facility that housed evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.

# Tour of Superdome reveals the ravages of city's symbol

**SUPERDOME,** *from A-1*

beat-up car that has lost its primer. Sixty percent of the roof was damaged, said Doug Thornton, regional vice president for SMG, the company that manages the state-owned facility.

Thornton tagged the cost of damage at between $50 million and $100 million, less than some that have been tossed around in recent days, but substantial nonetheless.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the World Trade Center became an icon of their wreckage. After Hurricane Katrina, it's the Superdome. Via helicopter fly-overs, TV networks beamed countless images of the hurricane-ravaged arena around the world in the days after the storm. As before, it symbolizes the city.

The unyielding eye of the cameras, however, never peered inside the 30-year-old landmark, which has been under armed-guard lockdown since the last of the 25,000 storm victims who sought shelter there were evacuated Sept. 4.

## Assessing damage

On Friday, Thornton led a team of 22 contractors and a handful of Superdome employees on a tour of the facility to assess the damage caused by the hurricane and the storm victims who used the building as a refuge. It was the first time anyone other than Thornton or National Guard troops had been inside the building since Sept. 4.

The group included representatives from several national companies that specialize in environmental disaster abatement and demolition services. They donned gas masks, white jumpsuits and rubber hip boots. Some even rubbed Vick's Vaporub under their noses to block the stench.

"You been in yet, Tim?" one of the specialists asked Superdome Commission Chairman Tim Coulon as he slipped on his suit and mask. "It's like asking if you've ridden a big ride before. You want to know how scary it is before you get on."

Inside, the Dome's 1.8 million square feet looks trashed. Its floors, concourses, ramps, meeting rooms, offices and restrooms are littered with debris and refuse from the evacuees who endured hellish living conditions in the building for as many as five days after the storm.

The floor and Momentum Turf playing field have been transformed into a mushy lake of inch-deep black water. The fetid soup coated a sea of trash and spoiled food. The bathrooms on the 200 level overflow with human feces and urine. In one men's room, the human waste spilled out of the entrance and into the concourse. Blood stains several walls. Stagnant for days in the still air, the water, spoiled food and human excrement will require decontamination and will be removed by professionals.



Garbage and sewage fill the hallways of the Superdome, trashed by refugees of Hurricane Katrina. Crews toured the facility Friday to assess the damages.

"You could put a petri dish in here and just see what grows," one technician said. "The flies are telling you there's a biohazard."

The leftovers run the gamut – from mundane items such as clothes and blankets to the more personal, car keys, wallets, photo albums. One collection includes an organ donor card, a personal identification card, and another card with worn edges showing the picture of the Virgin Mary on one side and text on the other that reads, "I Am A Catholic. In case of accident please notify a priest."

On the desk in the Dome's office, ransacked by the people seeking shelter in the building, lay a neatly handwritten note on a small piece of folder notebook paper:

*"Search and Rescue Team*
*Please Get*
*Old woman and legless old man*
*@ 2432 Ursalines Ave. (N.O.)"*

## 'The ultimate test'

Officials said at least 10 to 12 people died in the Dome, including a man who jumped or was pushed 50 feet to his death from one of the pedestrian walkways. A military police officer also was shot in the leg during an assault.

Sgt. Tony Small, a major crimes cold-case investigator for the New Orleans Police Department who was in the unit assigned to the Superdome, said at least four rapes occurred in the Dome, and the victims included a 2-year-old girl.

"That's not rumors," Small said. "It was horrendous."

It's not known whether any arrests were made in those crimes.

Thornton slept on a cot in his office for four days behind the security of armed guards. "There were a lot of bad people in there," he said.

On the suite level, windows were shattered; holes and graffiti marred several walls. Damage to the luxury boxes varied from suite to suite.

In one, the liquor cabinets had been broken into and the chairs were rearranged but everything else was unharmed. Down the hall, one of the New Orleans Saints' suites was ransacked. Leather couches were turned over. Holes were punched in the walls and pictures were shattered. A 10-by-18-inch picture of former Saints running back Ricky Williams lay in tatters on a bed of broken glass and splintered wood.

The Dome's upper levels, which didn't house storm victims, were in relatively good shape. Water, which seeped through the exposed roof's sheet metal and seams during the storm, did most of the damage. Hardwood floors were buckled 6 inches high.

On the Dome's perimeter concourse, knee-high piles of refused ringed the building as workers with shovels and forklifts worked to remove the fly-ridden heaps.

"She's taken a hit," Thornton said after striding into the fresh air and daylight. "She's been given the ultimate test."

Thornton said the damage was far greater than what the Dome endured in 1998 when 14,000 evacuees looted and trashed the building while taking shelter from Hurricane Georges in 1998.

"It's a mess," said Brian Messisco, a vice president for LVI Services Inc., an emergency response specialty company from Salisbury, N.C., that oversaw the remediation of the Pentagon and World Trade Center sites after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "It's going to take a lot of work. But I think it can be done. It's bad but not as bad as I thought."

## Future uncertain

Friday's tour was the first step in a two-month evaluation process to determine whether the Dome should be salvaged, renovated or destroyed.

There is a strong possibility the costs to save the facility will be too high. Thornton has estimated it could cost $50 million to $100 million to repair the Dome and as much as $500 million to $600 million to demolish it and build a new one.

The future of one of country's world's most recognized buildings, one that has hosted some of the biggest events in American history and along the way became one of New Orleans' most enduring symbols, is now uncertain.

Six NFL teams won Super Bowls in it. The LSU Tigers celebrated the 2004 college football national championship in it. Frank Sinatra crooned in it. The Rolling Stones rocked it. And Pope John Paul II prayed in it.

"Who can tell?" Coulon said. "I tried to prepare myself for what I was going to see, but it's in worse shape than I thought. And there's so much you can't see with the molds and spores. We'll just have to wait and find out."

The evaluation will be a laborious process. Thornton hopes to receive bids from the contractors by the end of this week.

"One guy asked me why we wouldn't just want to tear down the Dome because it harbors so many bad memories of the storm, but we had 30 years of good memories here before the hurricane," Thornton said. "It could be a symbol for the rebuilding of New Orleans, something people could rally around."

But, he added, "there is a possibility that they've played the last game in the Superdome as we know it."

• • • • • • • • • • •

Staff writer James Varney contributed to this story.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Passenger flights return to N.O. airport

## *Service limited to 30 trips daily*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport opened to cargo traffic Sunday and will resume limited passenger service Tuesday with about 30 flights a day, airport Aviation Director Roy Williams said Sunday.

"We are not saying Orleans and Jefferson parishes are open for business, but we have customers from St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes" that can be served, as well as other parts of south Louisiana that were not significantly affected by Hurricane Katrina, Williams said.

"There is a lot of customer use'' outside of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, Williams said. "We are the I-10 of the air" for the state, serving about 80 percent of its passenger and cargo needs.

He said he expects 30 daily departures starting Tuesday and that will build to "60 to 70 or more by Halloween."

Under normal conditions, more than 26,000 passengers arrive and depart each day from the airport, which averages 174 daily flights.

Williams said the first airlines expected to resume service should be Northwest, Delta, Southwest and Continental, while international carriers Grupo Taca and Air Canada may "take a longer time to resume service."

The airport has been operational since Aug. 30, the day after Hurricane Katrina struck, but one concourse has been used as a makeshift medical center to treat injuries and the sick who were evacuated.

Williams said that more than 5,000 military and civilian personnel have been based at the airport. In the baggage claim area, conveyor belts that usually carry luggage have been converted into beds for troops stationed at the facility.

With the opening of the airport, he said, the troops will be moved and the baggage claim area will be back in service.

Williams said Concourses A and B will be used for arriving and departing passengers, while Concourse C has sustained damages from Katrina and Concourse D will remain closed to treat the evacuated patients.

Williams said since the airport has been closed to commercial traffic, it has been used for "humanitarian relief flights and civilian and military rescue missions." He said that in the past two weeks, the airport "has seen a flurry of activity with over 30,000 evacuees departing" on military and commercial airliners.

A week ago, he said, the airport was home to 10,000 evacuees, but that number has dwindled. He did not know what the evacuee level at the airport was Sunday.

Each day the airport is closed, Williams said, the airport loses about $250,000 in fees: about $50,000 from concessionaires and $200,000 from the airlines that use the facility. He said the airport's budget is about $70 million a year, which is based upon the airline fees and fees from the restaurants and shops at the airport.

Overall, the economic impact from loss of revenues at the airport could be a $40 million hit on the New Orleans area.

Williams said for the time being, the airport will see a decline in usage, but in the long run he expects "a pretty good recovery" with architects, engineers, contractors and others flying into the area for the reconstruction effort. It will also be a major link when displaced Louisiana residents return home, he said.

"We are extremely pleased to reopen Armstrong International to commercial air service," Williams said. "Scheduled passenger and cargo service enhances the airport's ability to support the city and the region in its recovery."

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# Without clean water, city is called unlivable

## *Inhabitants run risk of disease, experts say*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Too much water drove New Orleanians out of their homes after Hurricane Katrina struck. Now health officials say a water shortage should persuade holdouts to leave and keep evacuees from returning.

Even though water still stands on some city streets, there is no reliable source of clean water for drinking, washing, preparing food, cleaning house or properly disposing of bodily waste, state epidemiologist Raoult Ratard said.

"There is no question that the best place to be is out of the city," New Orleans Health Department Director Kevin Stephens said. "There is no other option. Water is not drinkable, and most people don't have power. There are significant hazards that you'd be exposing you and your family to by staying here. It's better to go out and come back. I see no reason to stay in your home."

When people come into contact with polluted water, they risk not only becoming infected but also making existing infections worse, Ratard said.

"This is not small stuff," he said. "People who stay are going to cause a problem for everybody. They're going to scream for help, and it won't be easy to get to a hospital."

Among people who have stayed in New Orleans since Katrina struck, medical personnel are most concerned about the possibility of digestive and foot infections that come from spending several days in sewage-tainted water, said Dr. Robert Tauxe, chief of the foodborne and diarrheal diseases branch of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Anyone with an open wound who spends time in foul water runs the risk of infection with Vibrio vulnificus, a bacterium also found in unclean oysters, as well as campylobacter, salmonella and norovirus, all of which can cause digestive afflictions, he said.

Skin infections and boils are possible, too, Ratard said.

To get a better idea of what must be done to improve health in New Orleans, Stephens said about 30 representatives of city, state and federal health and environmental agencies are analyzing conditions and are expected to issue an action plan within days.

But at the same time, health officials are downplaying talk of such rare diseases as cholera and typhoid fever, both of which Tauxe dismissed as highly unlikely.

"Talk of 'toxic gumbo' is a wild exaggeration," Ratard said.

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# Hospitals ready for patient influx

*Facilities open in Jefferson, Tammany, River parishes*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Hospitals in Jefferson Parish and Slidell that have reopened since Hurricane Katrina are staffed and equipped sufficiently to deal with the current flow of patients suffering effects in the storm's aftermath, as well as the expected re-entry of thousands of people who might return to their homes in the next few weeks, a federal health official said Sunday.

The hospitals will be healthier the sooner people start moving back into the area, said Rear Adm. Craig Vanderwagen, the emergency response team commander for the U.S. Public Health Service, part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Speaking at a briefing coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Vanderwagen said five hospitals are operating in the New Orleans metro area and have 500 vacant beds.

The five open hospitals within the Louisiana Hospital Association's New Orleans region are East Jefferson General Hospital, West Jefferson Hospital, Ochsner Foundation Hospital, North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell and St. Charles Parish Hospital.

Also, a health care command team and rescue center is operating out of Kindred Hospital New Orleans, 3601 Coliseum St. Meadowcrest Hospital in Gretna is providing immunization and other services but is not admitting patients.

Other local hospitals that are open include River Parishes Hospital in LaPlace and St. Tammany Parish Hospital and Lakeview Regional Medical Center, both in Covington.

Now that the hospitals are back in action, it is "critical" from a human resources standpoint that those services be used, Vanderwagen said. Hospital workers scattered throughout the state and the country during the storm, and the community needs to bring them back for the long term.

The hospitals need more patients to operate efficiently and to keep medical personnel in place, Vanderwagen said. A large influx of people into the area will not strain the resources.

"I think the capacity is there," Vanderwagen said.

The hospitals are keeping track of diseases that are diagnosed, so they can have a coordinated response to possible outbreaks, he said.

Vanderwagen is helping restart medical services in the storm-ravaged city, a job he held in Iraq when the United States was trying to revamp that country's health care system.

Capt. George Havens with the National Disaster Medical System said his agency has deployed 1,200 personnel who have treated more than 16,000 patients. His agency is also treating military personnel.

The disaster medical system is helping operate field hospitals in Covington, at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux and at the Chalmette Refinery. Other operations are at Zephyr Field and Louis Armstrong International Airport.

# We need housing, state tells FEMA

*Agency moving too slowly, La. officials say*

**By Ed Anderson and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – The Federal Emergency Management Agency is moving too slowly to bring temporary housing into Louisiana for displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina, state officials said Sunday.

Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said that with tens of thousands of Louisiana residents in evacuation centers in the state and more dispersed around the country, FEMA has not moved swiftly enough to bring in trailers and mobile homes or find vacant apartments or homes for the displaced victims.

"We have a main concern with temporary housing,'' Smith said. "We don't feel that process is moving fast enough. There needs to be trailers rolling and things happening that just aren't happening . . . This is truly a national issue."

In response, FEMA spokesman David Passey said Sunday that the agency is forming a housing task force and has provided travel trailers for 10 families in Patterson, a small town in St. Mary Parish. He said hundreds of trailers and manufactured homes are on the way.

"The effort is progressing quite well," Passey said.

To set up temporary housing, the agency must locate large sites capable of providing electricity, water and sewerage, Passey said.

Smith said temporary, long-term housing is needed immediately so Louisiana residents can start to return to the state.

Smith said two weeks after disasters struck in other states, FEMA had temporary housing for the displaced.

Last year, Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley hit Florida in mid-August, followed by Hurricanes Frances on Sept. 4, Ivan on Sept 16 and Jeanne on Sept 25. On Sept. 20 last year, FEMA reported that 1,082 manufactured homes were in place as temporary housing for displaced families, of which 447 were occupied at that time.

Mark Smith, public information officer for the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said the state will need housing in the form of trailers, mobile homes or apartments.

"They (FEMA officials) are planning," Smith said. "Our (state) leaders would like to see a little less planning and a little more action.'"

As of Sunday, there were more than 48,000 evacuees housed in Louisiana shelters, and more than 70,000 in shelters around the nation. Others are at churches or other private centers or living with friends and relatives. The state has offered to put trailers or mobile homes in all state parks.

Col. Smith said FEMA wants the state to come up with an estimate of the number of homeless and how many housing units will be needed, but Smith said because of the enormity of the situation, that is not yet possible.

**"There needs to be trailers rolling and things happening that just aren't happening. . . . This is truly a national issue."**

COL. JEFF SMITH
deputy director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

The colonel called on FEMA to "start thinking outside the box" on creative ways to move housing into the state.

FEMA owns hundreds of housing units stationed in Fort Worth, Texas, and at sites east of New Orleans, Passey said. The agency probably will have to procure more units to fill the need, he said. The aim is to set up housing as close as possible to the communities where people normally live, he said.

Passey could not provide specific figures Sunday afternoon on FEMA's temporary housing supply.

Meanwhile, Passey said, a substantial amount of temporary housing has been provided for public officials and emergency personnel dealing with the storm's aftermath. A cruise ship in New Orleans is housing public safety and essential public workers, while 400 housing units in Slidell are available to first responders, those dealing with the storm's immediate effects. And public officials in New Orleans are using 300 housing units provided by the federal government, he said.

People interested in obtaining temporary housing can visit the Web site www.DHRonline.org, Passey said.

# Some streetcars still under water

*Half of buses may be beyond repair*

**"There's a lot that has to be assessed, but we believe it's imperative to get some kind of rail back in service as soon as possible. Our streetcars are icons and it's important that our citizens see them up and running."**

MARK MAJOR
RTA finance director

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Much of New Orleans' public transit infrastructure, including the brand-new Canal Street streetcars that debuted to considerable fanfare in April 2004, the riverfront trolleys and at least half of the 350 buses in the fleet, remain partially submerged in floodwaters and may be beyond repair, Regional Transit Authority officials said.

The 24 apple-red streetcars – assembled largely by hand by RTA artisans as part of a $161 million project that restored rail service to Canal Street after an absence of nearly 40 years - were stored at the A. Philip Randolph Operations Facility in the 2800 block of Canal as Hurricane Katrina approached the Louisiana coast.

The RTA also used the Randolph facility to house about 175 buses and the seven streetcars that have comprised the riverfront line for the past 16 years. When transit workers evacuated the building nearly two weeks ago, water levels in the parking lot had already risen "up to the steering wheels" of most of the vehicles.

"It wasn't a pretty sight,'' said Mark Major, the agency's finance director. "Those new streetcars have a lot of delicate electronics. Even if they were sitting in clear pool water, it would have caused serious problems. The fact that the water is filled with gasoline and other corrosives is not good news."

He said the same holds true for buses.

In the 16 months since they began operating, the Canal streetcars, which cost almost $1 million each, became very popular among locals and visitors, boosting ridership on the line beyond expectations.

Major said the 35 streetcars on the historic St. Charles Avenue line appear to have escaped serious water damage, although the condition of the tracks and the bed beneath them, the overhead electrical system and the power stations is unknown.

"We're hoping the metal bodies (of the streetcars) are OK," he said. "But until we get a look inside, we won't know what can be salvaged. Some may be in good shape, some may have damage and some may need total replacement."

While all streetcars and buses are covered by insurance, it is unclear how much depreciation will play into what the RTA can recover and how soon.

The bottom line, Major said, is that even when New Orleans' transit system gets back in business, rail service probably won't be part of the equation at first.

"Large portions of Canal Street are still sitting in water," he said.

"There's a lot that has to be assessed, but we believe it's imperative to get some kind of rail back in service as soon as possible. Our streetcars are icons and it's important that our citizens see them up and running."

The RTA did not store any of its buses at the agency's headquarters in eastern New Orleans, which suffered some of the worst flooding in the city.

Some 150 buses that were moved to the Poland Avenue Wharf in the Lower Ninth

Ward appear to have fared well, but about 70 of those vehicles were commandeered by the police and fire departments, the National Guard, and in a few cases by individual citizens who used them to evacuate family members, friends and neighbors.

The RTA is in the process of recovering those buses and other unaccounted-for vehicles. The agency has learned that two buses wound up in Lafayette, one in Opelousas and one in Bunkie. Two other buses were found in the Ninth Ward, where residents used them several days for shelter.

In what may be the only bit of good news, RTA spokeswoman Deslie Isidore said it looks like the passengers on the pirated buses "did not lay a finger on the fareboxes."

In the short term, the RTA will offer all functioning buses in its fleet for use in the recovery effort.

FEMA officials have asked that some of the buses be made available as early as next week for transport between Baton Rouge and New Orleans for staffers, clean-up crews, construction workers and other participants in the rebuilding process.

Major also said RTA buses and drivers soon may be rolling through the streets of Baton Rouge to help relieve the pressure that tens of thousands of south Louisiana evacuees have placed on the capital city's traffic.

# Military rebuilding contracts awarded

*Millions in work planned for region*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Environment writer

Kellogg Brown & Root Services of Arlington, Va., has been awarded three contracts worth $29.8 million for work related to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, the Department of Defense announced Friday.

A $10 million contract will be for reconstruction, roofing, debris removal, water and mold mitigation and interior repairs to most buildings; repairs to waste treatment plants; and other work at the Naval Support Activity New Orleans, Joint Reserve Base New Orleans.

A second contract for $7.8 million is for other repairs at the facilities.

Both contracts were awarded as extensions of a 2004 contract for repairs at those facilities.

The company also was awarded a $12 million contract for similar repairs at the Gulfport and Pascagoula naval air stations, Stennis Space Center and other Navy installations.

TJC Engineering Inc., of Louisville, Ky., was awarded a $5 million contract for Katrina repairs at the Meridian, Miss., Naval Air Station. That contract was awarded as a sole source bid under Small Business Administration rules.

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# Moss Bluff park becomes evacuee home

*Donations, new friends keep them afloat*

**By Jaquetta White and Susan Poag**
Staff writers

MOSS BLUFF – Dressed in a blue pinstriped shirt and khaki pants, Joe Gilyot, assistant principal of Marion Abramson Senior High School in New Orleans, looked ready to walk the halls of his school Wednesday.

Instead, he walked purposefully through the towering pines at Sam Houston Jones State Park in Moss Bluff to read the day's news on a message board set up for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.



**"This community has wrapped their arms around us so tightly."**

JOE GILYOT
assistan principal of Marion Abramson Senior High School

Gilyot, his wife, two children and his mother-in-law are among more than 200 New Orleans and Gulf Coast evacuees finding refuge at the park, nestled deep within this small community of about 25,000 nine miles northwest of Lake Charles. The Gilyots arrived Aug. 27, the day before Hurricane Katrina submerged their eastern New Orleans home, and now are living in a 23-foot-long pop-up travel trailer.

For at least the month of September, and probably longer, a moratorium on state park fees will keep dozens of hurricane evacuees at the Moss Bluff park. Although the park is not receiving assistance from the Red Cross, volunteers and donated supplies are overflowing. For many of the displaced, the outpouring of support has made the park feel like home.

"This community has wrapped their arms around us so tightly. They are our Moss Bluff angels; they are saving us," Gilyot said.

"It's been wonderful," said Pamela Huhner of Jefferson, whose camp was set up about 20 yards from where three men played a game of horseshoes and a few paces from a children's play area. "We are like a community here now."

Many families have worked hard to make their campsites resemble home. At campsite T-18, a family of eight has found a way to install air conditioning in each of the four tents donated to them.

John Heath cut square holes in the tents and put air conditioning units through them. The units are connected — along with a donated television, microwave and electric fans – to nearby electric outlets by a tangle of extension cords.

The air conditioner is used only at night, said Heath, who shares the space with his children, his ex-wife Gwen Killen, her husband and sister, and two dogs, two rabbits and a duck.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Greg Killen, with daughter Cassidi Lynn on his lap, sits with John Heath of River Ridge and Killen's wife, Gwen, in their 'living room,' a tarp-covered area near their campsite at Sam Houston Jones State Park in Moss Bluff, a tiny southwest Louisiana community.

During the day, the evacuees busy themselves with plans to rebuild, at least temporarily, in Moss Bluff and nearby Lake Charles.

Heath, a self-employed plumber whose River Ridge home escaped damage, said he can't go back until there's work available. Much of his work comes from the metro New Orleans area, so he has taken a job at a Moss Bluff plumbing company for now.

"This is not going to be anything permanent. But I've got to stay here now. I'm going to do what I can while I'm here to try to make a few dollars," Heath said.

"We're just like everybody else, we live paycheck to paycheck. You miss one paycheck and something is out of sync."

While Heath prepared for work, Killen enrolled three of their four children in school, one each in the local elementary, middle and high school.

"I have heard that the schools are good. Their education is a big factor," she said.

Gilyot, too, enrolled his children, ages 12 and 15, in school in Moss Bluff.

"The city is underwater. I can't wait," Gilyot said. He's also talked with a principal about job openings in the school system for him and his wife Alorea, a teacher at Lake Forest Montessori School.

"I am signing up to be a substitute teacher. Before being an administrator, I was a math teacher. The thought of unemployment is unappetizing. I have never been unemployed," he said.

Already Gilyot is using the park's address as his own. "This is my life for now until I get a job," he said. "I am in combat mode, my administrative mode. I have told my son 'work the problem, don't let the problem work you.'"

Still, Gilyot like others at Sam Houston Jones, longs for the comforts and certainties of home.

"What hurts most are the little things. Not losing the house but hearing my son listen to a song and say 'Daddy has that album at home' and knowing that it doesn't apply anymore," he said. "Thinking of an album or a piece of something I had on the computer. It is the little things that just crush you."

Fighting back tears, Huhner said the hardest thing she has to deal with is not knowing what will happen to her lifelong home.

"New Orleans is not New Orleans anymore," she said. "Even for those folks living on the West Bank or in Jefferson Parish, New Orleans is the heartthrob of everything. It makes everything else work. If they rebuild it it's going to be a slow process."

Whenever the city is ready to receive him, Heath will be there.

"It would be ridiculous not to go back," he said. "New Orleans is my home. I've got to go back."

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STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew Brown, left, and Spc. Cameron Pitts from Oklahoma Guard Camp Voodoo at the Task Force 5 New Orleans Fire Station in the 2900 block of Magazine Street. They set up a basketball court, makeshift barbershop, and sleeping quarters with shade.

# RESCUES AND RELIEF

Navy Lt. Commander Curt Becker of the USS Iwo Jima cooks up some burgers Sunday in front of the World Trade Center in New Orleans. Volunteers from the ship's crew fed hungry police officers and rescue workers at the site.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Those in the New Orleans area kept on with their tasks Sunday, whether it was getting people out of the city, getting mud out of homes or getting on with life as it was BK (before Katrina).



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Firefighters from the Chicago area help St. Tammany Fire District 1 firefighter Ronnie Brennan clean up his flooded home near Slidell on Sunday. Some 50 firefighters from the Chicago area are in Slidell to help answer fire calls and help local firefighters whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Brennan's wife, Jenny, is expecting the couple's second child in February.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Ruth Many, center, is escorted from an armored vehicle to a waiting ambulance Sunday by ATF special agent Sam Cohen, left. Many was persuaded to leave her Mid-City home Sunday.

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Return to Plaquemines begins

## *12,000 allowed to view devastation firsthand; 6,000 homes likely lost in lower areas*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

When he returned to his Belle Chasse house Sunday after being forced out for two weeks by Hurricane Katrina, Alan Bonvillian knew he was one of the lucky.

A few trees were down. A piece of siding was missing from the exterior of his one-story brick house on Alfred Street. And a freezer's worth of steaks and shrimp had gone bad when the electricity went out.

But compared with the awe-inspiring ruins of what were once communities in the south and east sections of Plaquemines Parish, home to 27,000 people, he knew the damage was inconsequential.

"The house is still standing, no water damage, and everything is replaceable," said Bonvillian, 48, a retired welder. "We'll make do."

Sunday was the first day an estimated 12,000 of the parish's residents were allowed to return home to gauge Katrina's toll. Blocking the return of remaining residents – possibly for another month – is the near-total destruction of homes and businesses south and east of the community of Alliance.

Officials in neighboring parishes have tried to persuade residents to stay away from their homes or to visit and then leave until utilities and public services are fully restored. In New Orleans, the city has taken the unprecedented step of saying it will forcibly remove people who refused to evacuate on their own.

Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle is taking a different stance.

"The sooner I can get the population back, the sooner we will recover. These people will take care of their own," he said Sunday.

The human toll of Katrina likely will be highest in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, where densely populated communities swamped by floodwaters are feared to have suffered mass casualties. But the storm wreaked perhaps its greatest physical toll in the area known as Lower Plaquemines, which was buffeted by winds estimated to have topped 150 mph and a storm surge that towered 20 to 25 feet over surrounding marshlands.

Although lingering high waters have impeded a complete assessment of the hardest-hit areas, Rousselle estimates that 6,000 homes were lost in the fishing villages and oil industry communities that dot Lower Plaquemines. This number would include virtually every house, trailer, cottage and camp along a 15-mile stretch of Louisiana 39 on the east bank, from Phoenix to south of Pointe a la Hache, and a 45-mile stretch of Louisiana 23 on the West Bank, from Myrtle Grove to Venice.

Located at the extreme southeast tip of the state, most of Plaquemines is composed of brackish marshland. A thin strip of habitation lines both sides of the Mississippi River, where clusters of houses are tucked between massive levees that shield the land from the river on one side and tidal marshes on the other.

Those defenses came up far short during Katrina. First, the Mississippi River topped both of its banks, sending huge quantities of river water flooding into the parish. Later, when the tidal surge rolled in, the marsh-side levees suffered four massive breaches: three on the West Bank, near Home Place, Sunrise and north of Empire; and one on the east bank, near Pointe a la Hache.

Until the levee breaches are repaired and remaining floodwaters pumped out, a process that could take at least two weeks, Lower Plaquemines will remain largely off-limits, Rousselle said. The clearing of debris revealed by the receding water could take another week or two, Rousselle said, meaning it could be as long as a month before Lower Plaquemines residents can get back to the remains of their homes.

In excess of 90 percent of Plaquemines residents had fled in anticipation of the storm, according to parish officials, who credit the exodus with keeping the casualty count to date at just three confirmed dead.

Port Sulphur resident Keith Delahoussaye has been one of the few Lower Plaquemines homeowners who have managed to get through police and military checkpoints to check on his property. He fared better than most of his neighbors: Floodwaters picked up and moved his house, a former bank building, only three feet, leaving it tilting at an odd angle against a large oak tree. The trailers and houses that belonged to many of his neighbors and extended family were carried as far as 100 yards before smashing into trees or one another.

That scene differed remarkably from those encountered by residents to the north, where an estimated 375 vehicles per hour poured back into the parish beginning at 6 a.m. The rush to return caused a mile-long backup along Belle Chasse Highway and Lapalco Boulevard. By midmorning, the recovery Rousselle had envisioned already was taking shape in Belle Chasse, Jesuit Bend and Cedar Grove, with business owners tackling makeshift roof repairs and homeowners clearing debris and pulling carpets in areas that had moderate flooding.

At Hunter's Seafood Restaurant in Belle Chasse, where the steak and lobster specials on offer when the storm hit still could be seen on the blackboard, owner Karl Hunter already was plotting how much of a loan he would need from the federal Small Business Administration to fix a collapsed ceiling.

"We're going to come back," Hunter promised. Even in his native community of Port Sulphur, where not a single building was unscathed by Katrina, he said people will be determined to return.

"I remember when (hurricanes) Betsy and Camille hit. All they had was trailers down there, and they had nothing after the storms. It was all gone. They came back."



STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

Mark Leonard inspects what remains of his grandmother's Belle Chasse home Sunday; a tree had crashed through it, knocking the entire structure off its foundation. 'She's going to be devastated when she sees this,' Leonard said.



Plaquemines Parish Coroner Lawrence Giambelluca walks through his debris-strewn home Sunday after about 12,000 residents were allowed to re-enter certain areas of the hurricane-ravaged parish. In excess of 90 percent of Plaquemines residents fled before Katrina hit, parish officials said.

# Lack of communication during Katrina proved crippling

## *Rescue, safety, recovery efforts were hindered*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Practically from the moment Hurricane Katrina barreled across the New Orleans area, state officials complained that one of the major problems with rescue, safety and recovery efforts was the sheer inability to communicate.

"Part of the big problem is the communications network is down," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the day after the storm; cell phones, BlackBerries and land lines were useless at the moment when coordination among the various branches of government was the most critical.

Local officials, including emergency personnel, often were unable to contact the state and even had problems communicating with one another within a parish.

Katrina's Category 4 winds certainly packed a powerful punch, but officials had warning that communications could be significantly disrupted during a major disaster.

There was the example of Sept. 11, 2001, in New York, when firefighters and police could not talk to one another. Since then, U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, noted last week, the federal government has doled out about $280 million – $19 million of which went to Louisiana – to make it easier for emergency workers from different agencies to communicate. But in many cases, communications have not improved, he said.

In Louisiana, problems had surfaced in far less serious storms, for example, during Hurricane Lili and Tropical Storm Isidore in the fall of 2002. Leading politicians, including then-Gov. Mike Foster, noted the difficulties in coordinating the activities of various agencies, from the State Police to the National Guard to shelters.

State officials last week said that before Hurricane Katrina they were moving aggressively toward "interoperability," the buzzword that means allowing local and state agencies to communicate with one another. They also wanted to implement greater "redundancy": having the technological backups to guarantee coverage if things go awry.

The problem was money, said Lt. Col. Joey Booth, who is in charge of the crisis response and special operations section of the State Police.

But that is no longer a problem. Since Katrina, Motorola Inc. has received a $16.9 million contract, which FEMA is paying for, to make the radio infrastructure in the New Orleans area interoperable, with sufficient backups. The State Police plan to have the new system up and running in New Orleans in a week's time.

But when Katrina hit, plans to revamp the emergency communications systems were still in the works.

During the aftermath of the storm, the major issue wasn't necessarily interoperability, but just making sure first responders had radios, Booth said.

The New Orleans Police Department had no real communications system. A big tower used for radio communication in Jefferson Parish went down during the storm, while transmitters got soaked in flooded St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, said Kelly Kirwan, a vice president of sales for Motorola, which provides radio services for many of the parishes surrounding New Orleans. Radio capabilities have been restored in Jefferson, but it could take a while to fix the problems in the more water-logged parishes, he said.

As technicians worked to get the system back up, it became overloaded with users as local emergency personnel, as well as those on state and federal levels, started using it, said Rex McDonald, director of the information technology division for the State Police.

Hurricane Katrina also sent many first responders in southeast Louisiana back to a less technologically advanced time. In some of the rural parishes, the major link to the outside world involved the old-fashioned ham radio operators who volunteer their time at local emergency centers and relay messages back to the state Office of Emergency Preparedness.

In Washington Parish, local officials reached the state through a ham operator, who set up at the emergency center after the storm and worked with other radio aficionados to help coordinate the evacuation of a local nursing home. State Sen. Ben Nevers, D-Bogalusa, and Parish President Tory Taylor also resorted to driving to Baton Rouge to ask for food, water and supplies.

After the storm, the federal government also brought in satellite phones, which officials have given mixed reviews.

Even when short-range communication was possible, the fact that different agencies operate on different frequencies – often using incompatible equipment – makes executing rescue missions in St. Bernard Parish even more difficult, state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, said. Firefighters and police officers could not talk to one another, or with the ferry operator who needed to bring evacuees to Algiers Point.

"It seems like we should have one system, so everybody can talk to each other," Boasso said.

As the federal money to rebuild the communications networks comes pouring into the state, several officials said a priority should be making sure it is done right. "If we don't solve this interoperable problem, we will be back here again," said state Sen. Robert Barham, R-Oak Ridge, chairman of a select committee on homeland security.

1924 • CLARENCE 'GATEMOUTH' BROWN • 2005

# Gatemouth Brown dies after evacuating to Texas

*Renowned musician had cancer, heart disease*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, the guitarist, fiddler, vocalist and composer who wove threads of blues, big-band swing, Cajun and country into his own unique, self-described tapestry of "American music," died on Saturday. He was 81.

Mr. Brown had been in declining health for months, as he battled emphysema, heart disease and lung cancer. As Hurricane Katrina approached, he fled from his home on a Slidell bayou to Orange, Texas, the town where he grew up. His Slidell home was subsequently destroyed by the storm.

His fans included Eric Clapton, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons and scores of music lovers who reveled in his effortless command of multiple idioms. He released his first blues 'n' boogie single, "Okie Dokie Stomp," more than 50 years ago. His music clearly drew on the sounds of southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana.

After a stretch of relative obscurity, Mr. Brown relaunched his career in the 1990s with a series of acclaimed albums, including "Gate Swings" and "American Music, Texas Style." He and his band, Gate's Express, toured throughout the world, from South Africa to China. He won a Grammy, numerous Handy Awards and scores of other accolades.

Clapton invited Mr. Brown to sit in during an appearance at the House of Blues in New Orleans in the mid-1990s. Mr. Brown immediately took over the show, calling out songs as he relegated a grinning Clapton to the role of sideman. Clapton subsequently enlisted Mr. Brown as the opening act for arena tours in Europe and America.

Mr. Brown rejected the label of "bluesman," preferring to think of his music as more broad-minded, complex and celebratory. He conjured lean, concise solos that depended more on fleet progressions of precise notes than on showy displays of sustain. He was equally at home arranging songs for his Gate's Express ensemble or the swinging horn-heavy big band he sometimes recorded and performed with.

A colorful, outspoken character, Mr. Brown did not hesitate to offer up less than complimentary assessments of other, better-known musicians. When not on the road, he often piloted his vintage black Cadillac from Slidell to New Orleans for nighttime excursions. Outfitted with an honorary sheriff's badge and a pistol, he'd make the rounds of music clubs, holding court at every stop. The House of Blues restaurant honored him with his own dedicated booth, to which he had exclusive rights.

When he was diagnosed with lung cancer last fall, Mr. Brown opted to forgo treatment; neither did he give up his omnipresent pipe. He resolved to play music as long as possible.

He continued to tour on a limited basis, traveling and performing with a portable oxygen tank at his side. In March, his ailments left him bedridden for weeks; he struggled to autograph an allotment of souvenir New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival posters bearing his likeness.

But as he had so many times before, he rallied to make brief appearances in New Orleans clubs, often sitting in with keyboardist Joe Krown, a longtime member of Gate's Express. Mr. Brown expressed his determination to honor his commitment to the 2005 Jazzfest.

He succeeded in that ambition. Occupying the slot just before B.B. King, Mr. Brown rendered a triumphant set to an enormous crowd at the Fair Grounds. Decked out in his trademark Western shirt, boots and cowboy hat, he led Gate's Express in a spirited show. Seated center stage, he sang, introduced songs and switched off on guitar and fiddle, all without the assistance of oxygen.

Afterward, he appeared exhausted but exultant, posing for a picture with King and signing autographs at the festival's record tent.

Mr. Brown continued to perform locally after Jazzfest, but his stamina waned as summer wore on. The hurried Katrina evacuation to his boyhood home in Texas proved to be his final tour.

He reportedly died at his brother's home in Orange. Survivors include three daughters and a son.



Musician Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown plays the fiddle at the 1996 Newport Folk Festival in Newport, R.I. Brown died Saturday in his hometown of Orange, Texas, where he had gone to escape Hurricane Katrina.

AP FILE PHOTO

# In the battered CBD, some see opportunity

*'It's a chance to arise like a phoenix'*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Judah Hertz has become the owner of more top-end commercial real estate in the Central Business District than anyone else in the past two years, but now he may be the owner of the biggest headaches among landlords.

His Texaco building, LL&E Tower and Dominion Tower all were roughed up by Hurricane Katrina. His Poydras Center lost its roof. And the New Orleans Shopping Centre, which sits across the street from what's left of the stinking and now-notorious Louisiana Superdome, now arguably is a bad location.

Is he ready to throw in the towel? Nope. Not at all.

"This has been terrible tragedy, but it's a chance to arise like a phoenix, to rebuild like never before," said Hertz, whose Hertz Investment group owns 2.5 million square feet of top-end commercial space in the Central Business District, or more than 25 percent of the total.

Like several other top real-estate executives contacted by The Times-Picayune, Hertz laments the loss of life and the destruction of property in Katrina's wake, but he sees opportunity amid the chaos.

He points out that the city's core and its "heart and soul" – the French Quarter, the Central Business District, the area's major hotels, the Garden District – are basically intact and can come back.

"And this is an urban planner's dream: to build a city with great housing, rebuilding schools, entire neighborhoods."

He is not alone. The Trump Group headed by Donald Trump and developers Poydras LLC on Wednesday said they would not let Hurricane Katrina detour their plans to build a 60- to 70-story high-rise condominium – a Trump International Hotel Tower – on Poydras between Magazine and Camp streets.

And Joseph Canizaro, the man responsible for developing much of the New Orleans skyline, said, "I am not negative."

"Done properly, we've got the opportunity to bring the city up to modern urban design," Canizaro said, adding that he thinks the CBD will be up and running much faster than some initial reports that suggested the area could remain a ghost town with armed troops for months.

For other sections of the city, "we have a blank piece of paper." With cooperation between the business community, government and churches, "and a real master plan," areas such as Lakeview, Mid-City, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, devastated by the storm, can be built in a rational, new urban setting.

"We have an opportunity to re-do our schools, a chance to improve those things that have been a problem" in the 300-year-old city. "It's an opportunity to do something stronger, better" and end up with a better New Orleans, though he expects there will be a smaller population.

**"We have to save New Orleans. I don't know of any cities that have the heart and soul of New Orleans."**
JUDAH HERTZ
real estate investor

Not all share that kind of enthusiasm.

John McIlwain, a senior research fellow at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., said the notion of reopening the CBD quickly sounds like "bravado and positioning. A lot of people are smelling a lot of government money. … With the feds talking about $100 billion to $150 billion in (rebuilding aid), you're going to see some quick grabbing at that government money.

"I think there are just too many unknowns."

One unknown: What can be done to protect the city from future storms? Developers will need loans to rebuild, but the lenders are going to want assurances that their collateral won't get blown away or flooded in the next hurricane. The New Orleans levee system was built for a 100-year storm. But with some scientists warning of warming oceans, are these events going to become 50-year storms? Twenty-five-year storms?

"Look at Holland," McIlwain said. Ten years ago it began, and then completed, a levee protection system for a one-in-1,000-year event. Is that what it will take for lenders, tenants and business in general to reinvest or return to New Orleans?

"The reality is, they don't know. No one knows what New Orleans is going to look like 10 years from now, or one year from now."

Still, there are examples of New Orleans developers who say they are willing to rebuild. Malcolm Ehrhardt and his son, Marc, of the Ehrhardt Group public relations firm, said the Giannasca Development Group LLC of Baltimore plans to move forward on its plan to transform the Plaza Tower building on Howard Avenue into condominiums. In fact, Marc Ehrhardt said, Giannasca wants to accelerate plans. And he wanted word to get out that the project would create 700 construction jobs for New Orleans.

As for improving the levees, Hertz said it was short-sighted of government not to invest $10 billion to $14 billion to make the city impervious to hurricanes, instead of facing what may be a $100 billion rebuilding effort.

"Think if we spend that $10 (billion) to $14 billion to prevent anything like this in the future. Where else could you do that?" Hertz asked. "You couldn't do that in a Los Angles or a San Francisco to protect those cities from earthquakes. And (for those cities), you'd never hear talk about not rebuilding. We know we can prevent this from ever happening again" with the federal money that will pour into disaster repair efforts.

"We have to save New Orleans. I don't know of any cities that have the heart and soul of New Orleans."

In fact, Hertz said, he's still looking for buildings to buy in the city. He said Friday that he's gotten a $1 billion line of credit to buy buildings in New Orleans.

Of course, the grander city envisioned by Hertz and Canizaro and others depends on a large amount of businesses coming back. On that score, commercial brokers report generally good news: Most relocating businesses do plan to return, at least based on anecdotal evidence.

For example, Mike Siegel, a broker and top executive of Corporate Realty in New Orleans, who's in Austin, Texas, helping New Orleans office tenants relocate, said those businesses are seeking temporary, not permanent, locations.

"I would say the vast majority of clients are planning on returning to New Orleans," Siegel said. "Only a very small minority is talking about not coming back."

The largest nearby city that is seeing a good deal of office relocations is Houston. "The good news, from a New Orleans standpoint, is that these firms are not looking for long-term leasing," said Mark Preston, a top office broker with the Houston firm of Moody Rambin Interests.

Houston has the fourth-largest office market in the country; Downtown Houston alone has 5 million square feet of vacant Class A space, about half the entire Class A market of 9.5 million square feet in the New Orleans CBD. "Office space isn't the problem" for relocating firms, Preston said. "Human resources are the critical problem."

Preston said landlords are taking short-term leases, some month-to-month, some one-year and some three-year deals with a one-year exit clause.

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# Mere yards separate hope from heartache in Lakeview

*Rescuers in boats find living, dead*

**By Dan Shea**
Staff writer




**NEW ORLEANS:** When the 17th Street Canal failed here, a 12-foot wall of water poured into Lakeview, sweeping away three homes and knocking gaping holes in others.

Nowhere is the difference between those who will recover quickly from Katrina and those who will endure months of uncertainty and dislocation more plain than on Veterans Memorial Boulevard where it crosses the 17th Street Canal.

To the west, Veterans is clear, the traffic lights are on, and businesses wait for customers to return home soon. To the east, heralded by a ghastly smell of sulfur, is dreary heartbreak.

Lakeview is still a lake. The water is lower by a few feet than its peak level last week, but it is halfway up first floors, fermenting the piers and frames of those few houses that could be worth saving.

At the edge of the water line, Capt. Jack Weise, a battalion chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department, leads a group from several California departments that makes forays into the heart of Lakeview in small Coast Guard flatboats. They call their search area "Golf Course west," the City Park course providing a recognizable map reference to those not from the area. The mission is a methodical, door-to-door search to find the living and the dead.

"Numerous people have been killed," Weise said. "We're still finding bodies. As the water goes down, we are finding more and more. Hopefully, we will find more people alive as well."

On Saturday, a man who had been in his attic 13 days was found by firefighters checking his house. On Friday, they had discovered a woman who was too afraid to open her door after 10 days of isolation, even though the water was only a few feet deep, Weise said.

"We're still in a rescue mode," he said, though they are encountering more people dead than alive.

When the dead are found, they are tagged, their GPS coordinates are noted and the bodies are secured. Another group of hired contractors will remove them when the firefighters finish their search.

Between searches, the LAFD members run missions for the many local firefighters and police officers who call Lakeview home. "We help them get whatever we can from their homes," Weise said.

On Friday, the mission of a neighboring search group in Bayou St. John was to rescue the father of a firefighter. "We tried first with a car,

then with a helo," he said. "The man came out of his house with a knife. He said he survived World War II and he'll be damned if anyone is going to take him out."

As some try to rescue people, others try to rescue their belongings.

Jason Davis, his brother Jonathan and his friend Robert beached the flatboat they used on a search for the remains of his home at 144 W.

Harrison Ave.

"I knew it was bad, but I didn't realize how bad," he said. "I can't see the neighborhood going back to the way it was; it is going to have to be bulldozed."

He shook his head. He lived two doors from local landmark, the Basin Bar. "It never closes," he said. "It is closed now."

Davis said his house was 5 feet from the road but had water to the roof. The water had dropped a few feet, but was still 12 feet deep in the western part of Lakeview. The homes of his father-in-law and two sisters-in-law were in worse shape. "The water got to the tops of their roofs."

It's the nature of the water that stays with Davis. "It's horrible," he said. "I saw a couple of dead rats. If it is killing rats, it's got to be bad."

Farther toward Lake Pontchartrain, at ground zero, the intersection of Stafford Place and Bellaire — where a breach became a chasm and a trickle became a wall of water — it is clear the restoration of Lakeview in any form is months away.

At least three houses are gone, scoured away. Across Bellaire, a solid, brick house had a gaping hole. Another had its first floor ripped away, down to the studs. Others still had water to the roof. At least one broken gas line sent bubbles to the surface, and a diver braved the waters from a motor barge to try to shut it off.

Across the canal, residents of Metairie have been drawn to the breach site, setting up a civic memorial of wooden pallets, shopping carts and chairs pushed up to the levee wall. Residents climb to view the breach, shaking their heads and saying thanks that the waters broke through on the other side.

While most of Metairie was spared, Old Metairie was not. With the water backing up in New Orleans, canal water spilled down historic Northline and inundated the area's most expensive homes.

But even here, progress could be seen. The water was within 200 yards on the lake side of the railroad tracks running along the edge of Metairie Playground. Across the tracks, in the heart of Metairie Park Gardens, the water had pulled back from Country Day School and was much lower along Northline. Airline Highway, solid with water Wednesday from the parish line to Labarre Avenue, was dotted with islands and lakes.



**NEW ORLEANS:** Even this brick house was unable to withstand the force of the water pouring over the 17th Street Canal.

# Torah scrolls rescued from local synagogues

*It was part of mission to save people, pets*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

The Jewish community of Baton Rouge topped off a week of rescue missions into New Orleans on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, with a successful collection of more than 25 Torah scrolls from four New Orleans and Metairie congregations, the Hillel Foundation at Tulane University and the New Orleans Jewish Day School.

The Torah is a handwritten scroll containing the first five books of the Bible, written in Hebrew, and is read during Jewish Sabbath services.

"The Torah scroll is the central sacred object of Judaism," said Rabbi Stanton Zamek of Beth Shalom Synagogue in Baton Rouge. "It's almost not a book, but a living teacher.

"Leaving them alone in an empty synagogue is an unbelievable thought," he said.

Several of those used by congregations in New Orleans survived the Holocaust during World War II in Germany or other occupied countries in Europe.

A convoy of seven cars and vans staffed by several Reform rabbis from Beth Shalom and B'nai Israel synagogues in Baton Rouge, Temple Sinai in New Orleans and the Washington, D.C., office of the Union of Reform Judaism and officials of the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Jewish federations was escorted to New Orleans at 7 a.m. Saturday by off-duty deputies of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's office.

They collected Torahs from Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, Congregation Gates of Prayer and the New Orleans Jewish Day School in Metairie, and from Touro Synagogue, Temple Sinai and the Hillel Foundation –- the Tulane University Jewish student center — in New Orleans. The convoy was back in Baton Rouge by 12:30 p.m., said Baton Rouge businessman Richard Lipsey, who helped organize the effort.

He said the rescues were conducted at Jewish institutions for which keys or an individual with access were available.

## THE SCROLLS

The Torah is a handwritten scroll containing the first five books of the Bible, written in Hebrew, and is read during Jewish Sabbath services. Several of those used by congregations in New Orleans survived the Holocaust during World War II in Germany or other occupied countries in Europe.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN

Rabbi Martha Bergadine of the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Baton Rouge gathers the Torah scrolls rescued from the New Orleans area on Saturday.

Torahs at Beth Israel, Congregation Anshe Sfard, and the Chabad House in New Orleans and the Chabad Jewish Center in Metairie, all orthodox Jewish congregations, were not collected on Saturday because officials there did not want to break their rules against working on the Sabbath. Rabbi Martha Bergadine, a congregant of Beth Shalom, said the importance of their mission touched her the most at the day school.

"I was carrying a children's Torah and the wrapper came off and I saw that it had been written by children," Bergadine said, tears running down her face.

Several of the Torahs will be taken to Houston, where members of several New Orleans congregations have taken up temporary residence.

Lipsey said the mission was an unusual end of an unusual week that began when Jewish leaders in Baton Rouge began fielding telephone calls from around the nation with names and addresses of Jews left behind in flooded areas of the New Orleans area. With the assistance of off-duty deputies, members of both congregations traveled by boat to the various addresses, rescuing about 50 people.

And it turned out that many of those rescued weren't Jewish, Lipsey said.

"We had specific addresses where mostly the elderly and infirmed were," Lipsey said. "We found people sheltering in upstairs rooms in water that was 9 or 10 feet high."

In half the rescue attempts, nobody was in the building, he said.

"We brought not only the Jewish people out, but anybody in the house or apartments next to them," he said. "They got in the boat and we brought them back to Baton Rouge, placed all of them in homes, none in shelters.

"People saw our van picking people up, and we got them in the van, too," he said. "We pulled out black, white, Jewish, Catholic, Muslim. In one case, we picked up a paraplegic, in another, a retired salesman, and several people with their animals."

B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge also is helping non-Jewish families relocate, Lipsey said.

"Yesterday, we helped one family of 11, and today a family of 12, to go to San Diego," he said. "We also helped people fly to Harrisburg, Pa., and a dozen more flew to different parts of the country."

## OUR OPINIONS

# Welcome back, Mr. President

Dear Mr. President,

Welcome to our wounded city. This is your third visit since Hurricane Katrina devastated metropolitan New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast two weeks ago. You will see that the obituaries for the Crescent City were premature. You can detect a pulse, albeit a faint one. New Orleanians, who are known for resilience and love of their hometown, are clamoring to return and rebuild. Commerce is stirring in the French Quarter, in the Central Business District, and in Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. Substantial numbers of federal troops finally arrived to restore law and order. Much too late, but they are welcome nonetheless.

But don't kid yourself, Mr. President. This is only the beginning of what must become a gargantuan and sustained effort by you and your administration. A vast stretch of our homeland, your homeland, has been wrecked, submerged, washed away, contaminated, gutted. A huge diaspora of Americans has been scattered across the land. New Orleans, a crown jewel among American cities, is deeply stricken. What you are seeing today, Mr. President, is the aftermath of the worst, the most widespread disaster to befall an American city and its surroundings in the history of our country.

Such a catastrophe, Mr. President, calls for a commensurate response from you. It is not enough to have sent a massive deployment of troops. It is not enough to have visited three times. And, though we appreciate your intention, it is not enough to have removed the ineffectual head of FEMA from the scene.

Now comes the real test of your intention to make New Orleans work once again.

**But don't kid yourself, Mr. President. This is only the beginning of what must become a gargantuan and sustained effort by you and your administration. A vast stretch of our homeland, your homeland, has been wrecked, submerged, washed away, contaminated, gutted. A huge diaspora of Americans has been scattered across the land. New Orleans, a crown jewel among American cities, is deeply stricken.**

Mr. President, we're well aware that we cannot rely on government alone, that we must help ourselves. Already our people have begun to do so: rescuing, sheltering and raising money for the most desperate victims. But faced with a disaster like this hurricane, no community can fend for itself.

Many of us cannot return to our homes because they were flooded, due to inadequate levees and an inadequate effort to restore the coastline of Louisiana. These are problems that successive administrations, including yours, have ignored. All of us deserve a chance to return to decent homes.

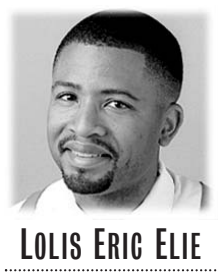
New Orleanians also deserve to know that our federal government has made an all-out effort to ensure that a disaster like Katrina cannot happen again. Such an effort should include concrete and dirt, creative thinking, and a commitment that will last for years.

It also means a promise to do whatever it takes, whatever it costs, to restore Louisiana's coast. New Orleans cannot exist as a coastal city surrounded by levees so high they cast a shadow over our dwellings. It was once an inland river port, and it must be one once again.

The waters will recede, and the death toll may fall below earlier estimates. It will become easy — with no evacuees on roofs, no starving, clamoring people at the Superdome and Convention Center — to decide that you have fulfilled your commitment to New Orleans.

That would be a huge mistake, Mr. President. The New Orleans that we and the nation deserve will be protected by thriving marshlands, walled off for floods, rebuilt even for its poorest citizens. It will be endowed with the schools, roads and new infrastructure that will allow it once again to be a viable urban center, a vital port, a cultural treasure to America and the world.

# We need to stick together and rebuild



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

If you listened to the national news reports, you heard that the Faubourg Treme was one of the areas hard hit by Hurricane Katrina.

You heard that a large percentage of New Orleans has been under water since the levee broke more than a week ago.

You heard that the devastation of New Orleans dwarfs that seen by many veteran war correspondents in areas where actual warfare has taken place.

You heard that many of us have no homes to go back to and those of us who do face a huge cleanup and rebuilding effort.

I was in the city of my birth over the weekend. Although I did not tour those areas hardest hit by the storm — the 9th Ward and eastern New Orleans — I saw much of the city, from the Riverbend to Esplanade Avenue, from the river to Mid-City.

What you have heard about the state of our city is both true and untrue.

Most of the older neighborhoods, Central City, the Garden District, the French Quarter, Carrollton and others, are remarkably intact.

Although the authorities have cleared most of the trees from the streets, there are trees and tree limbs all over the place. Huge, strong trees cracked in half. Large, old ones were uprooted and blown on their sides.

I saw houses with missing weatherboards, missing roofing tiles and, in some cases, missing walls. But, I dare say, most houses showed little visible damage.

A storm of this magnitude probably caused leaks in some of the roofs that look to be intact. There are probably a lot of broken windows and damaged rear walls that I could not see from the street.

There are also inexplicable anomalies in what I saw. The portion of the Faubourg Treme closest to North Rampart Street suffered relatively little damage. But the closer you move to North Claiborne Avenue, the more you see evidence of flooding.

I saw a few houses in various neighborhoods that had simply fallen down. But some old buildings that looked to have been blighted before the storm stood their ground.

The disparate damage created by this hurricane has the potential to tear our city apart.

Those in areas less hard-hit might be willing to settle for a modest effort to rebuild the city since, based on the view from their front porches, there is no need to fight or wait for a more substantial undertaking.

Those whose houses are relatively intact might well be tempted to complain when people from the 9th Ward and eastern New Orleans demand just compensation for their losses.

As for me, I think this is an appropriate time to redefine tout ensemble, the phrase that governs efforts to preserve the historic charm of the French Quarter. Translated from the French, tout ensemble means all together.

In the context of the French Quarter, the phrase reminds us that the look and feel of that area cannot be tied to any specific building or buildings. Rather, the only way to preserve that part of our city is for the entire area to be kept relatively intact.

New Orleans owes its uniqueness not merely to the old buildings in the historic district. We are unique because our people have a different attitude toward life. We have a different style.

The people who exemplify this attitude live all over the city.

Unless most of these people come back, unless much of our lost housing stock is rebuilt and made inviting to those who wish to return, our city runs the real risk of losing a substantial portion of its very soul.

# Relief groups exploring 'uncharted waters'

*In some cases, workers are also victims*

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

As a member of one of the nation's largest disaster response committees following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, knows the effort involved in restoring life after incredible devastation.

Yet faced with the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, "we are having to rewrite the book," Snyder said Thursday. "These are uncharted waters."

Snyder estimated that more than 1 million people have been displaced by the Category 4 storm, including Gordon Wadge, president of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, now working out of the organization's Baton Rouge headquarters.

"It's a very humbling experience," Wadge said. "We are in this for the long haul."

One of many nonprofit organizations offering hurricane relief, Catholic Charities is offering immediate help, such as shelters and air mattresses, and is working toward a five-year effort to help victims find permanent housing and jobs, "especially for low-income folks," Wadge said.

Training programs in demolition and construction, expected to be two high-demand jobs in the wake of the storm, will be offered, he said.

Catholic Charities is "the frontline response for displaced persons and evacuees," Snyder said. The organization is partnering with relief groups such as The American Red Cross and Second Harvest Food Bank, he said.

Monetary donations following Katrina have surpassed the enormous outpouring of help following Sept. 11, American Red Cross spokeswoman Sheila Graham said.

Nine days after the terrorist bombings, the Red Cross had received $141.4 million, Graham said. Nine days after Katrina, donations of $439.5 million had poured in, she said.

As of Thursday, the Red Cross had helped about 160,000 hurricane survivors in 650 shelters in 17 states, Graham said.

About 5.4 million hot meals were served and 5.5 million snacks, she said. More than 95 percent of the people serving victims are volunteers, she said.

The Red Cross also is helping to reunite families through its registry at www.RedCross.org. As of Monday, 105,000 people had registered at the site, Graham said.

But the Red Cross can't handle the relief effort alone.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is among the organizations "trying to fill the gap," said Michael Acaldo, the organization's CEO in Baton Rouge.

The society is distributing donations of clothing collected by the Red Cross, Acaldo said. Still needed are deodorant, backpacks and duffle bags, diapers, and baby food, he said.

The best donation is money in the form of a check "so we can zero in on specific needs," he said.

St. Vincent de Paul also is providing meals to private shelters, Acaldo said. The group had served more than 22,400 meals by Tuesday, he said.

The organization also has a community pharmacy that provided more than $20,000 in prescriptions by Tuesday, Acaldo said.

Salvation Army donations Thursday were about $55 million, spokesman Matt Meenan said. About 1,700 evacuees are being housed in 22 shelters.

The response for help is most likely the largest single emergency response in the United States in the 126-year history of the organization, he said.

To donate to the American Red Cross, call 1(800)HELPNOW. To receive help, call the Red Cross chapter in your area or visit a shelter. See www.redcross.org.

To donate to the Salvation Army, call 1(800)SAL-ARMY or send a check to your local Salvation Army center, earmarked for disaster relief. Donations also accepted at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club outlets.

To donate to or get help from Associated Catholic Charities, call (225) 336-8700.

To donate to St. Vincent DePaul, send checks to St. Vincent de Paul Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or visit the processing center and warehouse at 1010 Nicholson Drive. Those who need items can go to 2655 Plank Road.

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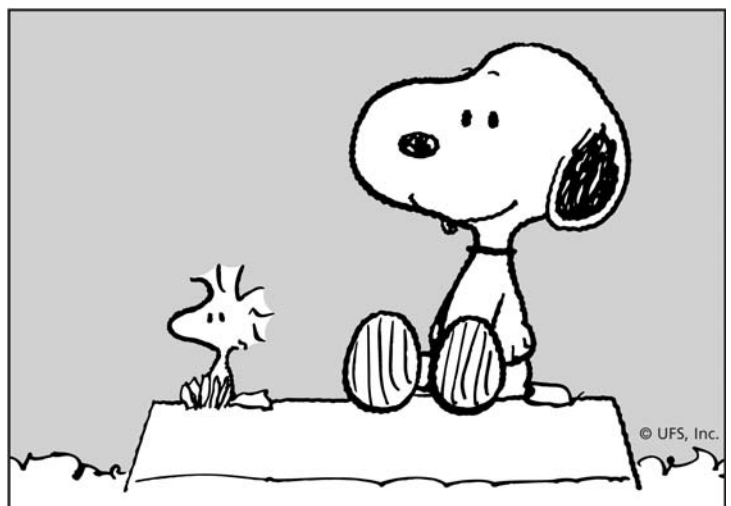
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Federal Aid Project No. HP-9201 (501)
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From Raceland to Davis Pond Diversion
Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 1
Lafourche and St. Charles Parishes

**NOTICE: CANCELLED PUBLIC HEARING**

Due to Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has cancelled two upcoming Public Hearings for above captioned project. The Public Hearings were to be held September 13 and 15, 2005 in St. Charles and LaFourche Parishes respectively.

**The public will be notified when the Hearings are rescheduled.**

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at **(225) 242-4513**. Further info. on the project can be found on Web at **http://www.i49south.org**




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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

PAGE A-14
Monday
September 12, 2005

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# WINNING SPIRIT

## *The Saints give the ravaged Gulf Coast a lift with an inspired opening victory over the Panthers*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — You got the feeling early on that the Saints were meant to win this game, that everything would fall into place for this team on this day – like the storybook already had been written.

You got that sensation during the Saints' first possession, when Aaron Brooks' third-down pass was deflected into the waiting arms of receiver Joe Horn.

You felt that way when the Saints scored a touchdown on that opening drive – something they never did last season.

And something was certainly amiss when two Carolina touchdown passes were called back just before halftime because the receivers ran out of bounds before catching the ball.

But in the end, nothing was handed to the Saints.

They had to fight for a 23-20 victory Sunday that was not sealed until John Carney's 47-yard field goal with three seconds remaining.

"I hate that it had to come down to the wire. Honestly, we should have put it away a lot sooner," said Horn, who lamented his two dropped passes, as well as the entire offense's lull during the third and fourth quarters, which allowed the Panthers to come back from a 17-7 deficit and tie the score at 20 with 1:04 remaining.

But Carolina never took the lead.

And Horn, who said that every time he was on the sideline he was remembering the pleas of the fans he met at a Hurricane Katrina evacuation shelter last week, wasn't about to give up this game.

"Those fans told me, 'Give us something, give us some kind of hope,' " said Horn, who caught five passes for 66 yards – including an 11-yard pass and a 25-yard strike from Brooks on the winning drive. "I had a couple drops, but it was a great feeling when Carolina gave us one more chance to close it out with 50 seconds left on the clock.

"When I got back on that field, everything Aaron Brooks would have thrown, I would have caught."

That kind of emotion and energy consumed this game.

It overflowed and, at least hopefully, the Saints said, spilled out into those shelters throughout Louisiana and Texas where the evacuees were able to watch the game, a brief distraction if not a greater sign of hope.

**"Those fans told me, 'Give us something, give us some kind of hope.' "**
JOE HORN
wide receiver

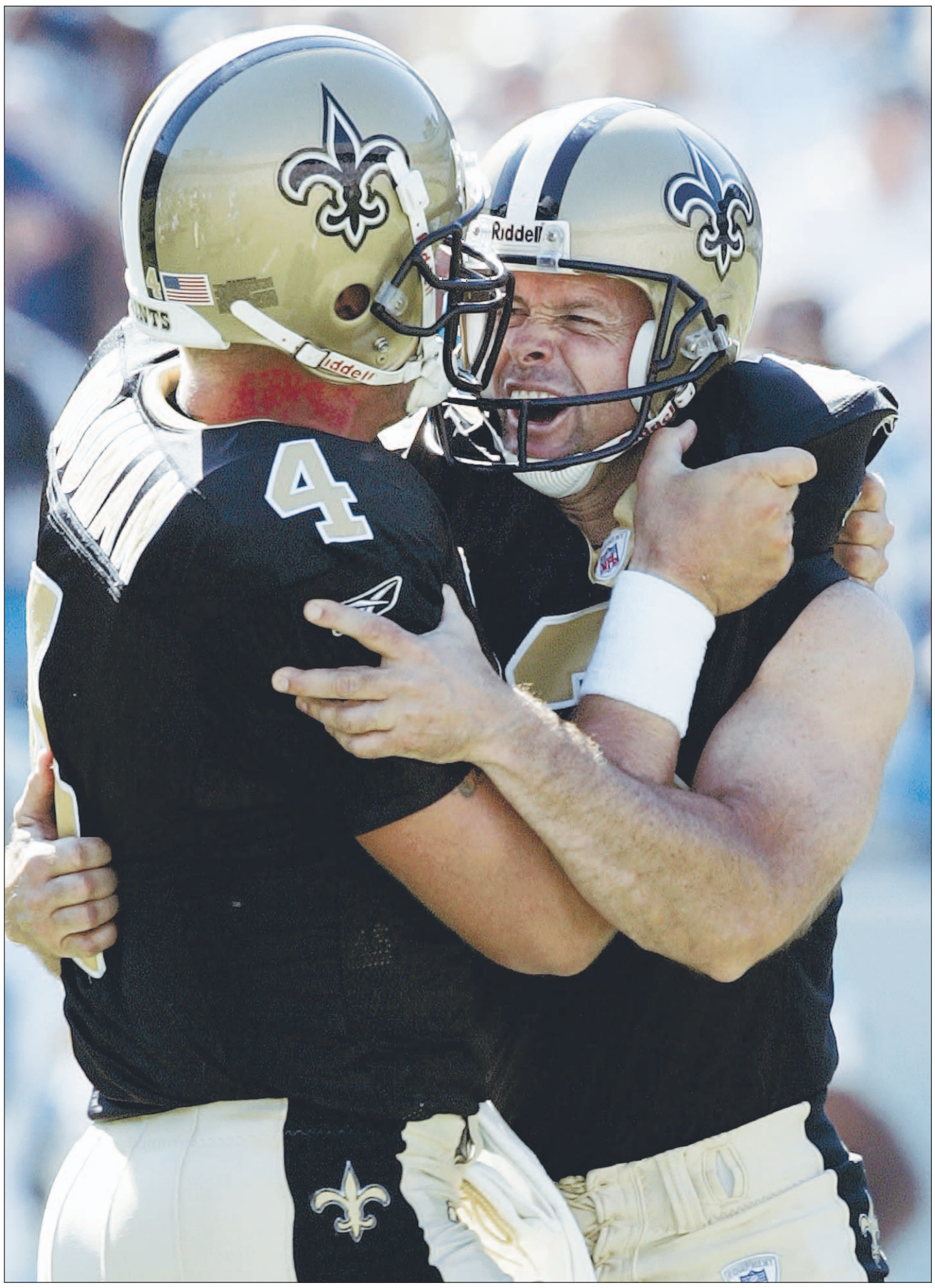
Saints coach Jim Haslett was so overcome with emotion Saturday night while reading a letter to his team from New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin that the team's director of player development, Ricky Porter, had to finish for him.

After the game, Haslett said one game ball would go to Nagin and the city of New Orleans, and one would remain in the Saints' trophy case in recognition of the people of the Gulf South.

"We feel as if we're carrying the weight of the city on our shoulders," center LeCharles Bentley said. "In a way, we're the last true representation of the city right now."

But defensive end Charles Grant added, "This one game can't just be for the people. We're going to dedicate this whole season to the people back in Louisiana. So for us to keep going and make the people proud, as well as ourselves, we've got to play hard like this

*See* **SAINTS,** *page A-14*



AP PHOTOS

Saints kicker John Carney, right, celebrates with holder Todd Bouman after hitting a 47-yard field goal in the closing seconds to lift New Orleans to a 23-20 win against Carolina on Sunday.

# Saints' victory is biggest in history of franchise

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — All around the locker room, the more they talked you could almost hear Hurricane Katrina's winds howl and see the waters rise.

"I could feel it on the bus coming to the stadium," said Jim Haslett of the ride that took him to the most significant victory in the history of the New Orleans Saints.



PETER FINNEY

"I knew we were really into it. I went to sleep Saturday night so excited about LSU winning. It makes you realize, on the field, it's still a kid's game. But, once you get off the field, you're back to reality."

Off the field, reality has been cruel, deadly, historic.

On the field Sunday at Bank of America Stadium, reality was Saints 23, Panthers 20.

Reality was John Carney booting a game-winning 47-yard field goal with three seconds remaining.

Reality was Carney saying before he put his foot into the football, "All I thought about was making contact. There was a little left to right breeze and, when it went through, I realized what it all meant to the city of New Orleans, to the people on the Gulf Coast. Then I thought about my wife and kids, safe and sound, back in San Diego, and that made me realize how lucky I am."

Lucky, indeed, said Joe Horn.

"Put this down," said the loquacious receiver. "This one was for the people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. All game long the words from the people back home kept going through my mind. God bless those people. I'm still crying for them."

Tight end Ernie Conwell wasn't crying, despite making six clutch catches before exiting with a concussion and dislocated jaw.

"I saw a guy at the hotel before we left for the game," he said, "and he told me he lost his house but he still has the Saints. I think he had a few pops but he was speaking from the heart."

It didn't take Conwell, who played his college football at the University of Washington, long to realize what football meant to the South and to the franchise

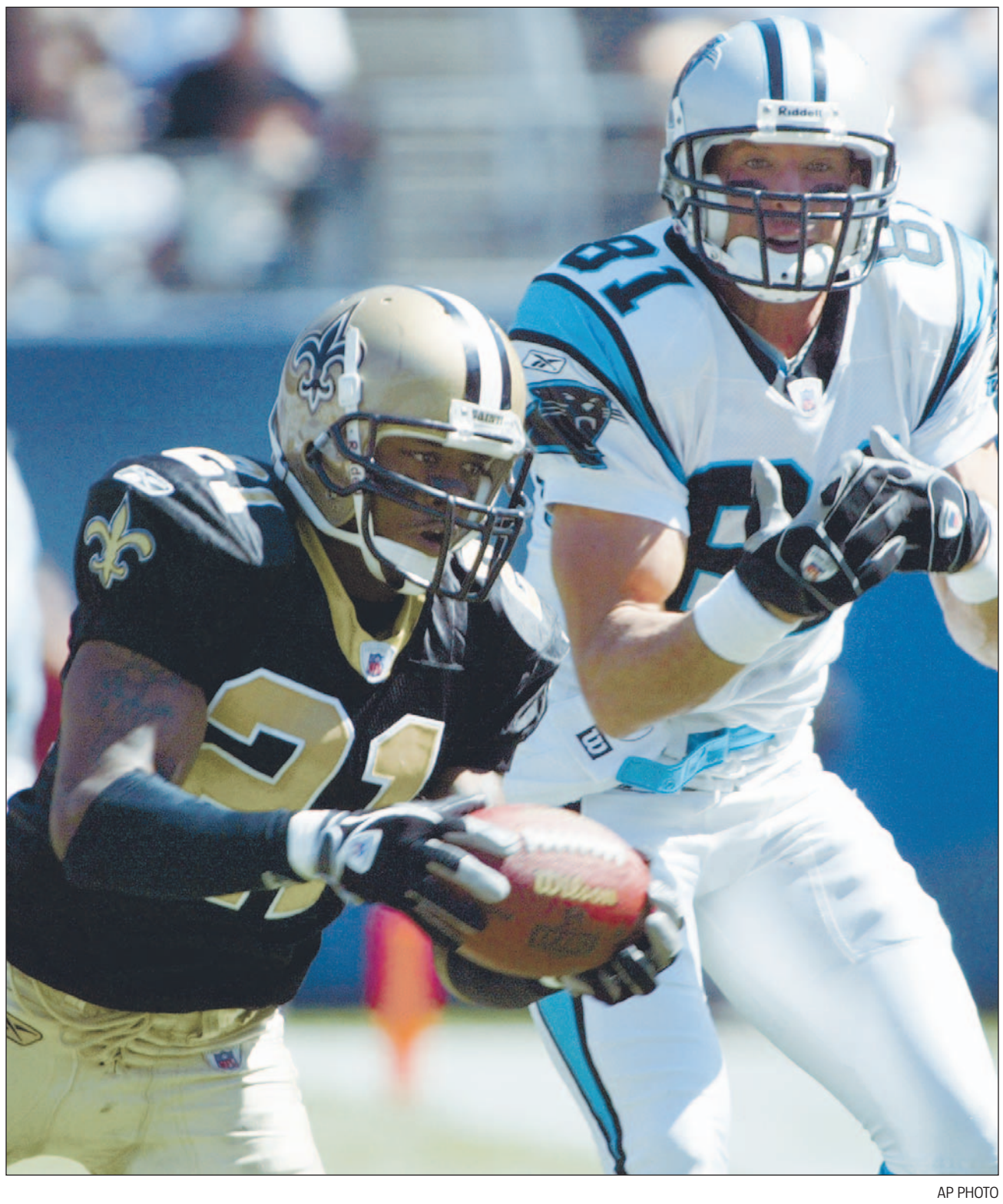
*See* **FINNEY,** *page A-14*



Saints coach Jim Haslett leads cheers on the sideline after kicker John Carney made a 47-yard field goal to beat the Pathers on Sunday.

SPORTS

# Brooks proves best under pressure



Saints cornerback Jason Craft made life tough for Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme, getting one of two interceptions against the Lafayette native on Sunday.

AP PHOTO

*Saints teammates find QB growing confident in clutch*

**By Herb White**
Contributing writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme had the better statistics, but the Saints' Aaron Brooks was more than his equal with the game on the line.

Brooks made clutch plays late in the fourth quarter, leading the Saints on a six-play, 49-yard drive to set up John Carney's 47-yard winning field goal with three seconds remaining Sunday at Bank of America Stadium.

"The key was not turning the ball over," said Brooks, who completed 18 of 24 passes for 192 yards. "We've got a minute left, tie ball game and we've got to travel a significant distance just to get a field goal. (Offensive coordinator Mike) Shepherd did a great job calling the plays. The offensive line did a great job protecting.

"It was up to me to get the ball there, and the guys, particularly the receivers, did a great job catching the ball - and John capped it off."

Brooks went 3-of-4 on the final drive for 41 yards, including two completions to wide receiver Joe Horn, to push the Saints downfield against a Carolina pass rush that seldom managed to produce much pressure. A three-yard run by Deuce McAllister to the Panthers' 30 set up Carney's kick.

"We knew we had to get to the 30 for an attempt," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "John came through like he did all day. I thought Aaron did a good job running when he had to. I thought that was a big play when he took off and ran and made some key throws.

"So I thought we did well in the two-minute drive. We didn't even practice it this week."

Said McAllister, who rushed 26 times for 64 yards and two touchdowns: "We executed the two-minute drive as well as we wanted to. We made plays when we had to."

Delhomme, a former Saints player and standout at Louisiana-Lafayette, completed 19 of 31 passes for 212 yards and a touchdown, but also threw two interceptions. He led Carolina to a tying John Kasay field goal with 1:04 remaining, but Brooks and the Saints went one drive better.

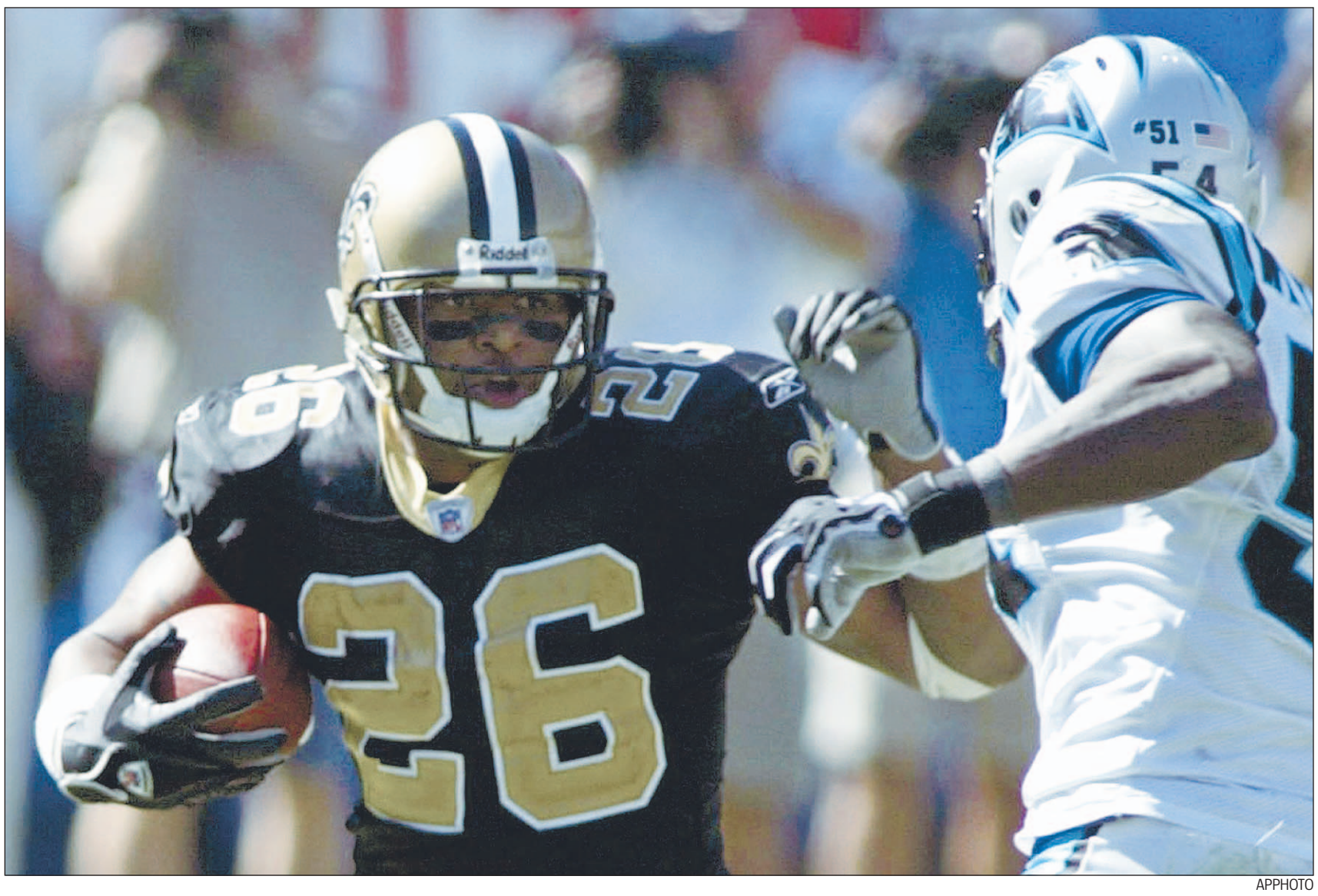
"We didn't make enough plays," Delhomme said. "We knew it would come down to the wire. It came down to the last seconds, and we didn't make enough plays. That is what's frustrating. We were close, but close doesn't get you anything in this league."

Brooks, who led a Saints victory that knocked Carolina out of the playoff picture in last season's finale, is growing in confidence in pressure situations, McAllister said. The opener is a sample of what the Saints expect from their quarterback, he said.

"He came up big, and that's what we expect him to do," McAllister said. "We're going to try to keep him out of those pressure situations as much as possible, but sometimes he's going to have to step up and make plays for us."

Said Brooks: "It was just one of those days when you have to have confidence in your quarterback, a team as a whole. And we had that today."

# McAllister casts his vote for Baton Rouge



Deuce McAllister might not have put up big numbers – he rushed for 64 yards – but he scored two touchdowns in the Saints victory at Carolina.

APPHOTO

*Running back says Saints should play at LSU for fans*

**By Herb White**
Contributing writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Although the Saints players presented a united front to Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the NFL Players Association, stating their desire to play their home games in San Antonio this season, tailback Deuce McAllister said he is in favor of Baton Rouge.

"If it's up to me, I want to make it as easy as possible on the fans," McAllister said. "A lot of them are evacuated, they don't have anything. And the little money they do have, I don't want them to spend it on gas or flights.

"I understand the situation where some guys want to play in San Antonio. But if I had a personal decision, I would play somewhere as close as possible, in Louisiana."

The league should be closer to making a decision on the location of those home games today, when Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and Saints owner Tom Benson are scheduled to visit with LSU officials in Baton Rouge.

LSU officials have said they have been working with the Saints on playing three games in Tiger Stadium this year, but possibly more if it is the NFL's desire.

**CARNEY MONEY UNDER PRESSURE:** John Carney has made his share of pressure-packed kicks in 16 NFL seasons, but Sunday's game-winner at Carolina might be the most satisfying.

His 47-yarder with three seconds left gave the Saints a 23-20 victory in their season opener, but more important delivered an emotional victory over an NFC South rival.

"It ranks up there," he said.

Carney, who converted all three field-goal attempts, had a long of 48 yards that pushed the Saints' lead to 20-14 with 11:56 left. A couple of John Kasay field goals, including a 46-yarder with 1:04 remaining, tied the score but left the Saints enough time to rally.

"Aaron (Brooks) played a great game" moving the offense, Carney said. "I don't know if he made any mistakes. He played a real strong game and moved the ball downfield consistently."

With the ball at Carolina's 30 with seven seconds left, Carney trotted onto the field and drilled the game-winner to close the door on Carolina.

"When I'm out there kicking I'm thinking about place-kicking and doing the best job I can," he said. "But when the buzzer sounds and the game's over, you realize how much it means to a lot of people."

**ROOKIE HOLDS HIS OWN:** The Saints' draft-day investment in right tackle Jammal Brown paid off. The Oklahoma rookie didn't give up a sack against Carolina defensive ends Julius Peppers or Mike Rucker as the Saints negated the Panthers' pass rush. But Brown wasn't perfect.

"Besides the two (false start) penalties, he played pretty damn good," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "He's going to be about as good as you can get. The reason we drafted him is because Carolina has Peppers. We feel that if we wanted to win this division, or have an opportunity to win this division, we've got to negate that defensive line. Jammal and (right guard) Jermane Mayberry, those are the main reasons we signed those guys."

**BENSON, BRIEFLY:** Benson has offered little comment about his team's predicament, except through prepared statements. When approached by reporters after his team's dramatic victory Sunday, he said it was "wonderful," for his team and for the fans back home. But he said, "this is the coaches' and the players' time" and said he might be available for comment after today's meeting.

**CONWELL 'CLUTCH':** Tight end Ernie Conwell had his most productive day as a receiver in a Saints uniform, catching six passes for 71 yards. He left the game in the second half with a concussion and dislocated jaw after a shoulder-to-helmet hit by Panthers safety Marlon McCree.

"They were going to try to take Joe (Horn) out of the game, obviously, and try to contain Deuce and keep him to a minimum number of yards and make the other guys play," Brooks said. "Ernie Conwell came up huge today. He made a lot of clutch catches to help move the chains."

**INJURY REPORT:** Saints receiver Az-Zahir Hakim re-injured the hamstring injury that kept him out of all four preseason games. Haslett did not know the timetable on his or Conwell's returns.

Hakim was activated in place of receiver Devery Henderson. Also inactive for the Saints were safety Steve Gleason, linebackers T.J. Slaughter and Alfred Fincher, defensive tackle Rodney Leisle, offensive tackle Ben Archibald and tight end Shad Meier.

**THIRD DOWN:** New Orleans and Carolina were equally effective on third down, converting 8-of-13 (62 percent), but the Saints did a better job in goal-line situations, completing 2-of-3 compared to the Panthers' 1-of-3.

**BEADS FOR THE BAYOU:** The "Beads for the Bayou" fund-raising drive sponsored by the Panthers at Bank of America Stadium raised $176,000. Proceeds will go to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts along the Gulf Coast.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Mike Triplett contributed to this report.

SPORTS

# Inspired Saints get win at Carolina

SAINTS, *from A-14*

every week."

Haslett said his players were fired up all week.

He said you could feel it Saturday night at the team hotel. You could feel it on the bus on the way to the game.

You could see it on the field, too, during such moments as when Grant picked up a referee's flag and waved it vigorously after he was held on one of those would-be Carolina touchdown passes in the first half (one of two penalties on the play).

"All of it. All of it was emotion," receiver Michael Lewis said.

And for so many reasons.

Because they were playing for their fans, for their city, for the Gulf Coast.

Because they were playing, period, after a weeks-long journey that took them from training camp to Oakland, Calif., to San Antonio and finally to Charlotte.

And because they were playing against the Panthers, a division rival and a team predicted by most to win the NFC South.

It seems like every time these teams play, it comes down to the wire – which it has seven of the past nine games.

"We play Carolina, we always know it's going to be a close game," Bentley said. "Come in and step it up."

The Saints came right in and did just that Sunday, receiving the opening kickoff and beginning a methodical 15-play, 80-yard drive that included eight runs and seven passes and lasted 9:37 by the time Deuce McAllister scored on a four-yard run.

"I think it sent out a statement and set a tempo for us," said McAllister, who ran for another touchdown in the second quarter and finished with 64 yards on 25 carries. "That's what we want to be as an offense."

The Saints had been preaching a power rushing attack all offseason, and it worked exactly as planned in the first and second quarters, as they chewed up 18 minutes.

The second half wasn't as smooth.

The Saints lost the ball once on a fumble by Brooks – the ball slipped from his grasp when he cocked his arm to pass – and they settled for three field goals by Carney, including a 48-yarder and the winning 47-yarder.

But aside from the fumble, Brooks was poised and efficient. He completed 18 of 24 passes for 192 yards. He also scrambled for a 22-yard gain on third down midway through the fourth quarter.

"He was outstanding," Haslett said of Brooks, who completed his first eight passes. "He made key plays, and he made key runs when he had to. He didn't force the ball."

The Saints' run defense was better than advertised. The pass defense allowed a couple of big plays but also made a couple, including interceptions by Mike McKenzie and Jason Craft.

Defensive end Will Smith forced a fumble late in the first half, but Darren Howard made an ill-advised decision to pitch it to McKenzie, who couldn't catch it, giving the ball right back to the Panthers.

The game had more than its share of sloppy moments, including six fumbles (four of them lost) and 20 penalties (nine by the Saints).

But for the most part, the Saints kept their composure and gave the better performance throughout.

"We made some mistakes, but we overcame them. We did some dumb things, but we overcame them," Haslett said. "I thought as a whole, we played pretty darn good."

Haslett and Lewis said they watched a similar performance by the LSU Tigers late Saturday night.

LSU, which also carried the banner of Hurricane Katrina's victims, rebounded from some early mistakes to steal a dramatic 35-31 victory in the final minutes at Arizona State on Saturday night.

"That motivated me more. That was just the start of giving some kind of happiness to Louisiana, then we came out today and continued that," Lewis said. "I didn't think the same thing would happen, coming down to this at the end, but it was cool."



AP PHOTO

Saints tight end Ernie Conwell was the favorite receiver of quarterback Aaron Brooks on Sunday. Conwell caught six passes for 71 yards.

## Saints pull together, give N.O. something to cheer about

FINNEY, *from A-14*

he joined two years ago.

"When you talk football down here," he said, "you're speaking from the heart."

Something Ole Miss' Deuce McAllister learned long ago.

"What the hurricane did was bring a close team a lot closer," Deuce said. "The whole atmosphere, staying in a hotel, apartments, condos, in San Antonio. The hurricane left people fighting for their lives and we want them to know, if they don't give up on us, we're not going to give up on them."

Offensive lineman Wayne Gandy, a 12-year veteran out of Auburn, said the stories he heard from evacuees were "right out of a Steven Spielberg movie."

"Listening to them talk about it, listening to what they went through, seeing dead people up close, was worse than the pictures you saw on TV. Stuff like that you can't get out of your mind."

So, yes, corny and cliché as it might seem, Hurricane Katrina was there with the Saints on Sunday.

This was a Saints offense that set a confident tempo, taking the opening kickoff and marching 80 yards in 15 plays and nine and a half minutes, with Aaron Brooks going 7-for-7, with his gang converting three third-down opportunities.

This was a Saints defense that gave up some big plays, but made more big plays on their own, intercepting Jake Delhomme twice, both times shifting from man-to-man coverage to zone, making the Carolina quarterback a bit tentative down the stretch.

This was a pass rush that sacked Delhomme only once but constantly saw him hurried by Charles Grant, Darren Howard, Will Smith and Brian Young, a rush reflected in Delhomme finishing 19-for-31.

This was a Deuce McAllister who welcomed pounding one of the finest fronts in the NFL, finishing with a mediocre 2.5 yards per carry, but making two move-the-pile carries, one for four yards, one for two yards, worth 12 points.

This was an Aaron Brooks in complete control, going 18-for-24, never forcing a pass, once running his team out of trouble with a 22-yard scramble, beginning the final drive with an 11-yard strike to Horn, then moving the ball into Carney distance with a 25-yard fastball to Horn.

"I don't think I've ever seen Aaron more composed," Deuce said.

Or the Saints more dedicated to a mission.

When you factor in the circumstances, there's not a doubt in my mind this was the biggest Saints victory in history.

For a team with one playoff win in 37 seasons, it might seem like a left-handed accolade. But, on Sunday, the Saints defeated a Super Bowl-caliber opponent, fair and square, in their back yard, after having the lives of the players, and immediate family, turned upside down.

Standing there Sunday, Ernie Conwell, his jaw back in place, put it best when he seemed to be groping for words and offered, "What makes this moment so satisfying is knowing that we brought, if only for a day, some joy into the lives of people who bleed for football."

**SUMMARY**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 7 | 7 | 3 | 6 | – 23 |
| Carolina | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6 | — 20 |

**First quarter**
NO: McAllister 4 run (Carney kick), 5:23.
Car: S.Smith 33 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), :37.
**Second quarter**
NO: McAllister 2 run (Carney kick) 4:37.
**Third quarter**
NO: FG Carney 29, 4:31. Drive: 7 plays, 17 yards, 3:26.
Car: S.Davis 1 run (Kasay kick), :21.
**Fourth quarter**
NO: FG Carney 48, 11:56.
Car: FG Kasay 39, 6:17.
Car: FG Kasay 46, 1:04.
NO: FG Carney 47, :03.

A-72,920.

| | SAINTS | PANTHERS |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 21 | 20 |
| Total net Yards | 291 | 350 |
| Rushes-yards | 33-101 | 25-141 |
| Passing | 190 | 209 |
| Punt returns | 1-00 | 0-00 |
| Kickoff returns | 4-75 | 5-76 |
| Interceptions ret. | 2-16 | 0-00 |
| Comp-att-int | 8-24-0 | 19-31-2 |
| Sacked-yards lost | 1-2 | 1-3 |
| Punts | 2-43.5 | 1-35.0 |
| Fumbles-lost | 3-2 | 3-2 |
| Penalties-yards | 9-74 | 11-84 |
| Time of possession | 32:36 | 27:24 |

**Rushing:** New Orleans, McAllister 26-64, Brooks 3-32, Stecker 1-3, A.Smith 3-2. Carolina, S.Davis 13-81, Foster 9-41, Delhomme 2-17, Goings 1-2.
**Passing:** New Orleans, Brooks 18-24-0-192. Carolina, 19-31-2-212.
**Receiving:** New Orleans, Conwell 6-71, Horn 5-66, Stallworth 4-47, McAllister 2-5, Hilton 1-3. Carolina, S.Smith 8-138, Foster 3-15, Mangum 2-22, Goings 2-15, Colbert 2-11, Hoover 2-11.
**Missed field goals:** None

## MAKING THE GRADE

*Rating the Saints performance against Carolina*

### OFFENSE: B+

Sure there was a lull in the middle, but you can't argue with the way the Saints started or finished. They played exactly according to the plan they made in February - controlling the clock and methodically moving downfield. The two first-half touchdown drives lasted a combined 15:23. They were the only touchdowns for the Saints, but the last-minute, winning field-goal drive was equally impressive. Aaron Brooks completed his first eight passes and finished 18-of-24 with 192 yards. He fumbled once, but threw no interceptions. Deuce McAllister ran 26 times for 64 yards and two touchdowns, and tight end Ernie Conwell had his best performance as a Saint, with six catches for 71 yards, before leaving with a dislocated jaw.

### DEFENSE: B

A couple big plays hurt the Saints – a 33-yard touchdown pass from Jake Delhomme to Steve Smith in the first quarter when cornerback Mike McKenzie seemingly had Smith wrapped up, and a 39-yard run by Stephen Davis in the third quarter that led to a touchdown. But for the most part the Saints run defense was better than usual, and on run and pass plays, the Saints tacklers wrapped up and did not allow extra yardage. The Saints made big plays on defense – interceptions by McKenzie and Jason Craft, and a forced fumble by Will Smith that was recovered by Darren Howard. Too bad Howard fumbled the ball away on a pitch attempt, but it didn't hurt the Saints.

### SPECIAL TEAMS: A

In his 16th season, kicker John Carney had one of his best performances, making all three field-goal attempts - including a 48-yarder and a last-second 47-yarder. Mitch Berger's two punts were both outstanding – a 54-yarder and another placed inside the 10-yard line in the fourth quarter. The Saints' kick coverage was decent. Michael Lewis fumbled a punt return, but the ball went out of bounds.

# Manning gets help in Giants' victory

By Aaron Kuriloff
Contributing writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.Y. — Strong performances by the New York Giants defense and special teams helped Eli Manning endure an inconsistent performance in a showdown with his former mentor as the Giants beat the Arizona Cardinals 42-19 Sunday.

Manning completed 10 of 23 pass attempts for 172 yards and two touchdowns; he also threw two interceptions – one returned for a touchdown. In contrast, Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner, who last year helped guide Manning through his rookie season, finished 27-of-46 for 264 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

But the Giants didn't need their quarterback's best game. Special teams players returned a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns, and two running backs scored.

"The defense bailed us out a couple times," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "Special teams was outstanding."

But of Manning, he said, "There's no question he can play better."

Manning started strong, completing his first pass, an eight-yard strike over the middle to Plaxico Burress, brought in by the Giants this summer to add depth at receiver. Manning then led a 10-play, 81-yard scoring drive, capped by a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Shockey.

But two possessions later, with the Giants backed up against their own end zone, Manning, who prepped at Newman, threw a pass that bounced through the hands of receiver David Tyree and into the arms of Cardinals defender Karlos Dansby, who returned the interception 18 yards for a touchdown to put the Cardinals up 10-7.

The Cardinals added another field goal, and Manning's second interception killed the Giants' final drive of the half, sending New York into the locker room down 13-7.

"At halftime, we realized we were probably putting a little too much on Eli," said New York running back Tiki Barber, who had 62 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries. "We went back to running the ball a little bit."

On the first drive in the second half, Manning connected with Burress for a 44-yard gain that gave the Giants a first down on the Cardinals' 11. Brandon Jacobs ran in the ball to put the Giants up 14-13. Then New York safety Gibril Wilson picked off Warner's next pass, and Barber broke free for a 21-yard touchdown on the next play to give New York a 21-13 lead.

After Warner found receiver Larry Fitzgerald for a one-yard touchdown pass with about seven minutes left in the third, the Cardinals 21-19. But Willie Ponder returned the ensuing Arizona kickoff 95 yards to put the Giants up 28-19. The New York defense held the Cardinals scoreless for two more possessions before Manning led a six-play, 52-yard drive that concluded with a 13-yard touchdown pass to Burress.

Chad Morton returned a Cardinals punt 52-yards with 8:25 remaining to cap the win.

Several Giants players expressed satisfaction with the win, which followed pregame ceremonies marking the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, echoing Coughlin, who said, "There was no way we were going to lose at home, on this date." But Manning said he wasn't satisfied.

"That performance was not OK by me," he said. "I've got to play better."



AP PHOTO

Miami Dolphins coach Nick Saban wasn't disappointed too often Sunday as his team beat the Denver Broncos 34-10 in his first game as coach of the Dolphins.

# Creative Dolphins successful in Saban's debut

*Frerotte throws for two touchdowns; Broncos lose Bailey*

By Steven Wine
AP sports writer

MIAMI — When Randy McMichael strutted into end zone for the first touchdown of the new season, Jason Taylor jumped for joy and Gus Frerotte did a dance.

Nick Saban, in his first game as coach of the Miami Dolphins after leaving LSU earlier this year, kept pacing the sideline with a stoic expression. For the new Dolphins coach, one touchdown - and one victory - is merely a start.

Frerotte led a creative offense by throwing for 275 yards, Taylor returned a fumble 85 yards for a score and Miami successfully kicked off the Saban era by routing the Denver Broncos 34-10 Sunday.

The Broncos lost cornerback Champ Bailey and running back Mike Anderson to injuries, wilted in the 90-degree South Florida heat and dropped an opener for only the third time in 13 years under Coach Mike Shanahan.

Denver's all-time record in Miami fell to 0-7.

Frerotte, starting his first game for his sixth NFL team, went 24-for-36 with touchdown passes of two yards to McMichael and 60 yards to Marty Booker. Receiver Chris Chambers ran 61 yards on a reverse to set up a field goal, and the defense did the rest.

Taylor punctuated the victory on the final play by knocking the ball out of Jake Plummer's grasp, scooping up the fumble and sprinting for a touchdown. It was his fifth fumble return for a score, tying the NFL record set by Jessie Tuggle.

The game was 20 minutes old before Plummer completed a pass on his seventh attempt, and the Broncos' lone touchdown was set up by a fumbled punt. Miami mounted a goal-line stand in the second quarter to protect a 6-0 lead, stopping the Broncos five consecutive times after they had a first down at the 3.

It was a lot to cheer about for Miami fans who endured a 4-12 record in 2004, the Dolphins' first losing year since 1988. The dismal season led to the hiring of Saban, and it took Miami little time to fulfill his pledge for a more imaginative offense.

On Miami's second possession, Chambers took a handoff from Ronnie Brown on a reverse and dashed down the sideline, accompanied by a convoy of blockers including Frerotte. That set up a 29-yard field goal by Olindo Mare to put Miami ahead to stay, 3-0.

The first touchdown came with a new wrinkle: Defensive end Taylor lined up as a tight end and took two defenders with him to clear out the flat for McMichael, who caught the scoring pass.

Rookie Brown gained 57 yards, and the Dolphins occasionally looked as self-destructive as last season. Five false-start penalties in the opening half prompted boos by the crowd, and twice Miami failed to convert a fourth-and-1.

But as often happens in early-season games in Miami, the visitors wilted in the sweltering weather. Denver cornerbacks Darrent Williams and Lenny Walls were both hampered by cramping in the second half, and the Dolphins scored touchdowns on three consecutive possessions in the second half.

Anderson, who missed all of last season with a groin injury, departed in the first quarter with a rib injury. Pro Bowl cornerback Bailey left in the third quarter with a sprained left shoulder.

On the goal-line stand, two carries by Tatum Bell went for no gain, stopped by Zach Thomas. After an offsides penalty on Miami, Plummer again threw incomplete. Bell was stopped for a 1-yard loss by Thomas and Taylor on fourth down.

# Losman shines as Bills prevail

*Ex-Tulane QB in control as Bills roar past Texans*

From wire reports

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. – Who said former Tulane quarterback J.P. Losman needs time to develop?

Making his NFL debut as a starter Sunday, Losman engineered scoring drives on each of Buffalo's first five possessions, leading the Bills to a 22-7 win over the Houston Texans.

Losman, a 2004 first-round draft pick who has taken over for Drew Bledsoe, completed 17 of 28 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown. Rian Lindell hit a career-high five field goals, one short of the franchise record set by Steve Christie in 1996.

Buffalo's defense did the rest, generating five turnovers, five sacks and limiting Houston to 107 yards. The Texans had seven possessions of three plays or less.

The Bills led 12-0 four minutes into the second quarter before Houston gained its initial first down.

Houston quarterback David Carr completed nine of 21 passes for 70 yards and three interceptions. Pro Bowl receiver Andre Johnson had two catches for seven yards.

Buffalo began erasing the frustrating memories of last season's 0-4 start, and it established renewed confidence in Losman, who was coming off a shaky preseason. The Bills also won in style, wearing throwback blue-and-white uniforms and white helmets featuring a standing red buffalo, honoring Buffalo's 1965 AFL championship team.

Losman completed eight of his first 10 attempts and consistently scrambled out of trouble. The only knock was an inability to find the end zone. The Bills settled for field goals, including a 42-yarder, on their first four possessions.

After the Texans cut the lead to 12-7 on Carr's one-yard fourth-down scamper, the Bills responded on their following possession.

Leaning on running back Willis McGahee, who accounted for 50 yards, Losman capped the 61-yard drive with a one-yard pass to tackle-eligible Jason Peters, who was wide open in the end zone. Losman got the Texans leaning the wrong way with a great fake handoff to McGahee.

McGahee finished with 117 yards rushing, the eighth career 100-yard performance for the second-year starter.



AP PHOTO

Former Tulane quarterback J.P. Losman was 17 of 28 for 170 yards, a touchdown and no interceptions as the Buffalo Bills won 22-7 against the Houston Texans in Losman's debut as the starting quarterback.

# Tampa Bay defense stifles Culpepper

*Bledsoe shines, Favre struggles in openers*

From wire reports

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers forced five turnovers, including two interceptions by Brian Kelly, to defeat the Minnesota Vikings 24-13 Sunday.

"That's the type of thing we can do on defense," Simeon Rice said. "We want to do something special."

Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper lost two fumbles and threw three interceptions, the second one glancing off Moe Williams' hands to Kelly at the Tampa Bay six-yard line with 1:45 left and Minnesota trailing by four.

After winning the Super Bowl in the 2002 season, the Bucs went 12-20 the past two years, losing 15 games by one touchdown or less. But finally, the tide turned their way in the fourth quarter.

**COWBOYS 28, CHARGERS 24:** Drew Bledsoe's reunion with Bill Parcells is off to an impressive start.

Bledsoe threw three touchdown passes, two to Keyshawn Johnson, and became the 10th NFL player to throw for 40,000 yards in leading the Cowboys at San Diego.

Bledsoe passed the 40,000-yard mark on a 15-yard completion to Terry Glenn on the first play of the fourth quarter. Bledsoe was 18-of-24 for 226 yards, giving him 40,034 yards in his career.

San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson was held to 72 yards on 19 carries

**LIONS 17, PACKERS 3:** Two of Brett Favre's three turnovers led to 10 points, and Detroit won its opener for the third consecutive year.

Joey Harrington threw two touchdown passes, including one to rookie Mike Williams with 4:13 left. Favre then drove to Detroit's 12 before he was sacked twice and threw his second interception, a heave on fourth down from the 33 that was caught by Terrence Holt in the end zone.

Favre, the three-time MVP, finished 27-of-44 for 201 yards with two interceptions and one fumble.

**STEELERS 34, TITANS 7:** Willie Parker, a college backup at North Carolina, had a dazzling first career start with 161 yards rushing and a long reception, and Ben Roethlisberger threw for two scores in Pittsburgh's home victory.

"He's got the kind of speed you can't coach," tackle Marvel Smith said of Parker. "He's a raw talent, basically, but he's so fast and he's just all over the place. He broke a lot of tackles out there."

Parker set a club record for rushing yards in a season opener.

**JAGUARS 26, SEAHAWKS** 14: Jimmy Smith caught seven passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns and Fred Taylor ran strong in his return from a serious knee injury.

Smith, 36, showed he hasn't lost a step. Taylor broke tackles, took hard hits and gained 76 yards despite a bulky brace on his left knee. And rookie quarterback-turned-receiver Matt Jones emerged as a triple threat in Jacksonville's new offense.

The defense returned to form, too. After giving up consecutive 100-yard rushers to end last season, the Jaguars held Shaun Alexander to 73 yards on 14 carries.

The defense also intercepted three passes and forced a fumble. Special teams forced a fumble on the opening kickoff that led to a field goal.

**49ERS 28, RAMS 25:** Brandon Lloyd and Arnaz Battle caught second-quarter touchdown passes from Tim Rattay, and Michael Adams intercepted Marc Bulger's pass in San Francisco territory with 52 seconds left as the 49ers hung on for a home victory.

"Just getting rid of that stench from last year, taking advantage of this fresh start, that's what this game is," linebacker Jeff Ulbrich said. "To win in a game that's truly meaningful, that's great."

Rattay, a Louisiana Tech product who beat out top draft pick Alex Smith to retain his starting job, went 11-of-16 for 165 yards, but his offense was shut out in the final 25 minutes.

**REDSKINS 9, BEARS 7:** Chicago was driving in Washington territory in the fourth quarter, seemingly poised to make a winner of a rookie quarterback on opening day. Then, in one cruel sequence, the Redskins rattled the drive into oblivion. After three false starts, Kyle Orton was sacked by Demetric Evans. Suddenly, it was third-and-38. The Bears' last good scoring chance was over, and Washington's defense showed it hadn't lost a beat from last season in a home victory.

The Redskins allowed 166 total yards, overcame three turnovers, several untimely penalties and the loss of starter Patrick Ramsey, who was injured in the second quarter by blitzing linebacker Lance Briggs. Ramsey, who played at Tulane, has a mild neck sprain, but Coach Joe Gibbs would not commit to a starter for next week's game at Dallas.

**BENGALS 27, BROWNS 13:** Carson Palmer threw two touchdown passes and the Bengals spoiled Romeo Crennel's coaching debut.

The Bengals haven't had a winning record since 1990. In winning an opener for the first time since 2001 and their first opener on the road since 1995, they're also 1-0 for the first time in three seasons under Coach Marvin Lewis.

Bad starts have doomed Lewis' first two seasons with the Bengals, who began the past two at 1-4 before recovering to go 8-8.

**CHIEFS 27, JETS 7:** Kansas City's revamped defense, ranked 29th or worse the past three seasons, came within 29 seconds of handing New York its first shutout in almost 10 years.

"We really wanted that shutout at the end. I know our fans did, too," said defensive end Eric Hicks, who blocked a field goal attempt. "I'm sorry we couldn't get it for them."

Larry Johnson rushed for 110 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries and Priest Holmes added 85 yards and a touchdown.

SPORTS

# DEVILS MADE 'EM DO IT

## LSU wasn't perfect, but that can be expected when opening on the road against a quality foe like Arizona State

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

TEMPE, ARIZ. — Out here, in the land of grassless lawns and scalding steering wheels, mirages can easily deceive a visitor's perception of reality.

Need proof?

Check out the Internet message boards following LSU's 35-31 come-from-behind victory against Arizona State on Saturday night at Sun Devil Stadium. Notice the progression.

Shortly after Sam Keller's failed fourth-down pass to Terry Richardson with just over a minute remaining deep in LSU territory, Web-lurkers let out a collective cyber sigh of relief. Then, when pulses resumed pumping at a normal rate, the digital venting ensued.

The mirage they've concocted throughout all the preseason fluff hardly resembled the view inside Sun Devil Stadium or living rooms back in Louisiana.

Bo Pelini's defense was exposed! Too many stupid mistakes! What's the deal with Les Miles' Britney Spears' headset?

Let's break this down rant by rant.

OK, so Pelini's debut as the Tigers' defensive coordinator wasn't exactly dazzling - though it wasn't a total dud like his Oklahoma finale in last season's FedEx Orange Bowl when Southern California's Matt Leinart and Co. put 55 on the Sooners' defense.

Yes, Keller completed 35 of 56 passes for 461 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions. And yes, All-American wide receiver Derek Hagen couldn't be covered. And yes, for as much as LSU fans rave about their speed at linebacker, Sun Devils tight ends Jamaal Lewis and Zach Miller were able to get vertical more than once.

Oh, and despite the Sun Devils' aerial ways, they still were able to average four yards per carry — hardly one-dimensional.

Now, here is the good news.

Scan the remainder of LSU's schedule and try to find an opponent with a more prolific offense than Arizona State. Tennessee? Um, Rick Clausen could be the Vols' starting quarterback or it could be sophomore Erik Ainge. Auburn? Not unless Jason Campbell, Ronnie Brown and "Cadillac" Williams have some hidden eligibility left. Florida? Maybe, but let's see what Urban Meyer's system does beyond recent displays against non-conference fillers.

Also, keep in mind that these players are learning a new system from the pin-your-ears-back demeanor under former coach Nick Saban's reign and that when needed, they were able to come up with a big turnover (see Ali Highsmith's third-quarter forced fumble inside LSU's 10-yard line with Arizona State set to take a 24-7 lead). There's no reason not to think this unit should improve.

Next, the mistakes.

LSU would have benefited tremendously if it had been able to host New Orleans Bowl staple North Texas last week. There were a bundle of dropped passes, a nice set of them compiled by scapegoat-turned-savior Early Doucet. Xavier Carter dropped a sure touchdown pass - probably the best ball JaMarcus Russell threw all night - in the second quarter. LSU was without Dwayne Bowe, not to mention Craig Davis was injured early on, but that's no excuse for the contagious slippery fingers.

LSU also racked up 100 yards in penalties.

Hey, it was the Tigers' first game. Get worried if these same problems linger into October and November. Until then, it's a tad quick to electronically denounce this team's focus and discipline.

Next, of course, Miles' futuristic head set.

Talk about nitpicking. Give the guy a break. Sure, it looked a little goofy, especially when he cupped his hand around the microphone. But in the grand scheme of things, who really cares?

Look, Miles is not Saban. It's just not him. That's not to say one approach is wrong and the other is correct. They are just different.

Considering everything placed on Miles' shoulders this past offseason, it's amazing the guy has maintained his posture. Fans dumped national-championship expectations on him as he was consistently reminded of Saban's greatness, and then was given the daunting burden to win his home opener on the road against a ranked foe so that a hurricane-ravaged region could enjoy a temporary diversion. So far, the new guy has done everything asked.

No it wasn't a perfect, dominating performance, but it did keep the distant vision of competing for that crystal football within sight.



AP PHOTO

LSU wide receiver Early Douchet celebrates with teammates after catching a 39-yard pass on fourth-and-10 from JaMarcus Russell with just a little more than a minute remaining to give the Tigers a 35-31 victory against Arizona State on Saturday.

**SATURDAY'S SUMMARY**
**LSU 35, ARIZONA STATE 31**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LSU | 0 | 7 | 0 | 28 | - 35 |
| Arizona St. | 0 | 10 | 7 | 14 | - 31 |

**Scoring**

**Second quarter**

09:50 ASU - Lewis, Jamaal 25 yd pass from Keller, Sam (Ainsworth, J. kick), 8-81 2:13, LSU 0 - ASU 7

06:15 LSU - Joseph Addai 1 yd run (Colt David kick), 12-80 3:35, LSU 7 - ASU 7

03:58 ASU - Ainsworth, J. 26 yd field goal, 8-71 2:17, LSU 7 - ASU 10

**Third quarter**

05:58 ASU - Burgess, Rudy 8 yd pass from Keller, Sam (Ainsworth, J. kick), 14-75 6:13, LSU 7 - ASU 17

**Fourth quarter**

14:47 LSU - Mario Stevenson 45 yd blocked FG return (Colt David kick), , LSU 14 - ASU 17

13:27 LS - Craig Steltz 29 yd blocked punt return (Colt David kick), , LS 21 - ASU 17

11:27 ASU - Lewis, Jamaal 26 yd pass from Keller, Sam (Ainsworth, J. kick), 8-75 2:00, LSU 21 - ASU 24

08:26 LSU - Joseph Addai 5 yd run (Colt David kick), 7-80 3:01, LSU 28 - ASU 24

04:07 ASU - Mutz, Moey 4 yd pass from Keller, Sam (Ainsworth, J. kick), 13-80 4:19, LSU 28 - ASU 31

01:13 LSU - Early Doucet 39 yd pass from JaMarcus Russel (Colt David kick), 10-91 2:54, LSU 35 - ASU 31

| | LSU | ASU |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 24 | 29 |
| Rushes-yards | 47-190 | 25-99 |
| Passing yards | 244 | 461 |
| Passes att-comp-int | 30-17-0 | 56-35-0 |
| Total offense plays-yards | 77-434 | 81-560 |
| Fumble returns-yards | 0-0 | 1-4 |
| Punt returns-yards | 1-40 | 2-14 |
| Kickoff returns-yards | 1-9 | 0-0 |
| Interception | 0-0 | 0-0 |
| Punts | 4-52.0 | 3-33.7 |
| Fumbles-lost | 2-2 | 2-1 |
| Penalties-yards | 11-100 | 6-31 |
| Possession time | 32:21 | 27:39 |
| Third-down conv. | 6-15 | 9-17 |
| Fourth-down conv. | 3-3 | 1-2 |
| Red-zone scores-chances | 2-3 | 3-4 |
| Sacks by: number-yards | 0-0 | 4-39 |

**RUSHING:** LSU-Joseph Addai 16-109; Shryone Carey 11-56; Skyler Green 1-41; Justin Vincent 9-31; TEAM 3-minus 6; JaMarcus Russel 7-minus 41. Arizona State-Burgess, Rudy 17-49; Herring, Keegan 5-36; Richardson, T. 2-18; Keller, Sam 1-minus 4.

**PASSING:** LSU-JaMarcus Russel 16-29-0-232; Chris Jackson 1-1-0-12. Arizona State-Keller, Sam 35-56-0-461.

**RECEIVING:** LSU-Craig Davis 4-49; Early Doucet 3-62; Joseph Addai 3-34; Skyler Green 3-34; Bennie Brazell 1-28; Xavier Carter 1-17; Ronnie Prude 1-12; Jacob Hester 1-8. Arizona State-Hagan, Derek 7-95; Richardson, T. 7-75; Burgess, Rudy 5-45; Miller, Matt 4-65; Mutz, Moey 4-50; Lewis, Jamaal 3-76; Miller, Zach 2-23; Miller, Brent 2-13; Burghgraef, Lee 1-19.

**INTERCEPTIONS:** LSU-None. Arizona State-None.

**FUMBLES:** LSU-Joseph Addai 1-1; JaMarcus Russel 1-1. Arizona State-Miller, Zach 1-0; Herring, Keegan 1-1.

## For LSU, football has a stark look this season

**From wire reports**

"This is not a made-for-TV movie," Coach Les Miles said. "This was a real-life trauma where friends and family had to stay in the dorms, and the town swelled to take in New Orleans evacuees. We are treating people that are injured and disadvantaged 200 yards from our stadium. We have a scrimmage, and Blackhawk helicopters are flying people from New Orleans over our heads."

The Tigers traveled halfway across the country to play their "home" opener Saturday night — a 35-31 victory over No. 15 Arizona State in Miles' debut as LSU's coach in Tempe, Ariz.

The game should have been the second this season in Baton Rouge, but Hurricane Katrina washed out the opener against North Texas on Sept. 3 at Tiger Stadium. A week later, the Tigers were in Tempe, forced off campus by the influx of people who turned the Pete Maravich Assembly Center into what Athletic Director Skip Bertman called the largest triage center in the United States.

"Our team has had the longest camp in the history of camps," Miles said.

With the win, LSU moved up two spots in the Associated Press Top 25 to No. 3. If fifth-ranked Tennessee beats Florida on Saturday, the Sept. 24 game between the two teams in Baton Rouge will be the second game this season pitting two teams ranked in the top 5.

Making the biggest move of the week was Notre Dame, which is a top-10 team for the first time in three years. Charlie Weis' Fighting Irish are No. 10 in the AP media poll released Sunday, jumping 10 spots after upsetting Michigan 17-10 on Saturday to improve to 2-0.

Weis is the first Notre Dame coach since Knute Rockne in 1918 to win his first two games on the road, helping the Fighting Irish to their highest ranking since they were seventh in late November 2002.

In 2002, Tyrone Willingham's first season as coach, Notre Dame started 8-0 and reached as high as No. 4 in the AP poll before finishing 17th in the final poll. The Fighting Irish started the 2003 season ranked 20th, but were out of the poll for good by Sept. 14. They were ranked 24th twice in 2004.

Southern California now has been No. 1 for 21 consecutive polls, a run that dates back to late in the 2003 season and matches the record set by Miami from 2001-2002.

The Trojans were idle this week, and Texas' 25-22 win at Ohio State helped the Longhorns make up some ground on the Trojans.

Southern California received 56 of 64 first-place votes, down from the 61 it had last week. Texas pulled in eight first-place votes, up from four in the first regular-season poll.

"I was just so impressed with Texas coming into Ohio State and playing as well as they did," said Doug Harris of the Dayton Daily News, who moved the Longhorns past the Trojans. "In covering Ohio State for six years, I haven't seen team speed quite like that. The only team that I can compare it to is Miami the year Ohio State played them in the national championship game."

Virginia Tech is No. 4, the Hokies' highest ranking since Oct. 19, 2003. Tennessee will be No. 5 when it plays at No. 6 Florida next Saturday. It'll be the first time since 2002 the Volunteers and Gators will both be in the top 10 when they play.

No. 7 Georgia and No. 8 Florida State are followed by Ohio State and Notre Dame in the top 10.

In the USA Today coaches' poll, Southern California, Texas and LSU are the top three. Tennessee and Virginia Tech are tied for fourth and Georgia is sixth.

In the AP poll, Michigan dropped 11 spots to No. 14 as the upper echelon of the Big Ten took a hit on Saturday. The Big Ten went into the weekend with three teams in the top 10, but now has one.

Ohio State fell five spots to No. 9 after losing to Texas, and Iowa tumbled 14 spots to No. 22 after a 23-3 loss to Iowa State. The Hawkeyes played most of the game without quarterback Drew Tate, who left with a concussion but is expected to be back in the lineup next week.

No. 11 Louisville is followed by Purdue and Miami. Then come Michigan and California, ahead of No. 16 Georgia Tech, Boston College, Arizona State, Texas Tech and Clemson.

Oklahoma dropped three more spots to No. 21 after struggling for three quarters to beat Tulsa. It's the Sooners' lowest ranking since they were No. 24 in October 1999. Iowa is 22nd, followed by Fresno State, Iowa State and Virginia at No. 25.

A week after jumping into the poll at No. 22 by upsetting Oklahoma, TCU is out of the rankings after SMU knocked off the Horned Frogs, 21-10.

Iowa State is the lone new team in the rankings. The Cyclones were last ranked in October 2002.

**LSU MOVES UP**

Top 25 AP college football poll records through Sept. 11:

KEY: Rank, Team (first-place votes), record, points, previous rank

1. USC (56), 1-0 1,592 • 1
2. Texas (8), 2-0 1,538 • 2
**3. LSU, 1-0 1,404 • 5**
4. Virginia Tech, 2-0 1,345 • 7
5. Tennessee, 1-0 1,297 • 6

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. Florida | 2-0 | 1,242 | 10 |
| 7. Georgia | 2-0 | 1,181 | 9 |
| 8. Florida St. | 2-0 | 1,138 | 11 |
| 9. Ohio St. | 1-0 | 1,100 | 4 |
| 10. Notre Dame | 2-0 | 1,036 | 20 |
| 11. Louisville | 1-0 | 941 | 12 |
| 12. Purdue | 1-0 | 837 | 13 |
| 13. Miami | 0-1 | 754 | 14 |
| 14. Michigan | 1-1 | 740 | 3 |
| 15. California | 2-0 | 634 | 16 |
| 16. Georgia Tech | 2-0 | 575 | 17 |
| 17. Boston Col. | 2-0 | 483 | 19 |
| 18. Arizona St. | 1-1 | 373 | 15 |
| 19. Texas Tech | 1-0 | 324 | 21 |
| 20. Clemson | 2-0 | 316 | 25 |
| 21. Oklahoma | 1-1 | 267 | 18 |
| 22. Iowa | 1-1 | 252 | 8 |
| 23. Fresno St. | 1-0 | 225 | 24 |
| 24. Iowa St. | 2-0 | 223 | – |
| 25. Virginia | 1-0 | 205 | 23 |

Others receiving votes: Alabama 137, Oregon 115, Utah 113, Wisconsin 88, Auburn 87, Colorado 62, Minnesota 41, Texas A&M 35, UCLA 24, Michigan St. 16, Penn St. 16, TCU 14, N.C. State 7, UTEP 7, Oregon St. 6, Toledo 5, West Virginia 4, Vanderbilt 1

Source: AP

STAFF GRAPHIC

# Federer ends Agassi's magical ride

## *Champ wins sixth Grand Slam title*

**From wire reports**

NEW YORK — Roger Federer, a man of panache and unparalleled perfection in finals, withstood Andre Agassi's spirited upset bid to capture a second consecutive U.S. Open and sixth Grand Slam title.

Federer responded to his few moments of pressure by reeling off seven consecutive points in the tiebreaker that turned the match around, then blew Agassi away in the fourth set to win 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1 Sunday and run his stunning record in finals to 23-0.

Federer moved into a tie with Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker for Grand Slam titles among Open era players, and one behind John McEnroe and Mats Wilander. Pete Sampras holds the record with 14 Grand Slam titles, but at 24 years old Federer could well have a shot at that.

Federer shrieked and leapt in the air when Agassi's backhand return looped long on the championship point.

Though the 35-year-old Agassi was the oldest U.S. Open men's finalist in 31 years, age had less to do with the difference in this match than Federer's sheer strength, variety of serves, and superior balance of attacks from the baseline and the net that wore down Agassi.

Federer forced the action, going for winners more aggressively, dancing around the court with poise, unrattled even when Agassi had him down a break at 4-2 in the third set. For a while there, Agassi seemed to be on the verge of pulling one of the great upsets in sports history - on the order of Muhammad Ali's shockers over Sonny Liston and George Foreman.

An 8-1 underdog, Agassi was a few months removed from a career-threatening back injury that shot crippling pain down his right leg, led to his loss in the first round of the French Open and caused him to skip Wimbledon. He was playing a man who doesn't lose in finals, is at the peak of his game and health, and is coming off his third consecutive Wimbledon championship.

If this was Agassi's last U.S. Open after 20 straight - he won't decide until the end of the year whether to retire - it was remarkable even in defeat.

"It's been a tough road, but it's been a great road," Agassi told the cheering crowd. "Roger played way too good today. Congratulations Roger, well done.

"This certainly isn't easy to do at any age, especially 35. It's been a privilege to compete against so many great champions over the last couple of decades or so. Without exception, Roger has been one of most enjoyable to compete against. Thank you New York for the last 20 years. It's been a great ride."

Federer became the first man in the Open era, which started in 1968, to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open back-to-back for the second consecutive year. Three players have done it twice, though not in consecutive years: Jimmy Connors, McEnroe and Sampras. The last player to accomplish the feat was Don Budge in 1937-38.

Federer beat Agassi for the eighth consecutive time in the past two years after losing their first three meetings. Three of Federer's victories in that streak have come at Grand Slam events, including the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open last year and the Australian Open this year.

"This is probably the most special Grand Slam final in my career," Federer said. "To play against Andre in New York, it's a dream.

"I had to play my best match of the tournament. It happened I played my best in the finals, as usual. I don't know how I do it, but it definitely feels great every single time."



AP PHOTO

Roger Federer held off a valiant comeback to defeat Andre Agassi in four sets to win the U.S. Open Sunday that earned him his sixth Grand Slam title.

# Agassi's dream crushed by Federer's power

## *Popular star hints at retirement after four-set loss*

**From wire reports**

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi's run sure was fun while it lasted.

The oldest finalist at the U.S. Open in 31 years teased fans Sunday, playing some of his best tennis in years for three sets and looking as if he might finish off his magical run with a title.

But like virtually everyone else the past few years, the 35-year-old couldn't keep up with Roger Federer.

When his backhand return sailed long to end the match 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1, he congratulated Federer and then walked quickly to the sideline. Fans gave Agassi one last salute as he put his racket in his bag, and he smiled and waved. But his brown eyes were somber when he sat down and stared straight ahead for several minutes, a towel to his mouth, perhaps wondering how many more chances like this he'll get.

"Thank you New York for the last 20 years," Agassi told the crowd. "It's been a great ride."

When his picture was shown on the scoreboard afterward, fans cheered again. Agassi smiled and got up to salute the fans with his traditional bows and kisses, and even Federer clapped.

"It's been a great road. Regardless," Agassi said, stopping when a fan yelled out, "I love you, Andre!"

"I love you too, thank you man," Agassi replied.

No one, not even Agassi, would have expected a run like this a few months ago. After a herniated disc in his lower back sent pain shooting down his leg, leading to a first-round loss at the French Open, he wondered if his career was over. He missed Wimbledon, and didn't return to the tour until July.

But he won in Los Angeles and reached another final in Canada, and he was dazzling at the Open: Playing with the spirit of his youth, he played three consecutive five-setters for the first time in his career to reach the final.

And when he broke Federer to go up 4-2 in the third set, the fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium sensed - hoped - he might pull the whole thing off. They gave him a standing ovation, and there were dozens of cheers of "Let's Go Andre!"

But no one can kill momentum like Roger Federer. He broke Agassi back, held serve to even the set at 4 and then forced a tiebreaker. And when Federer sprinted through the tiebreaker, winning seven consecutive points, Agassi was all but finished.

The crowd tried to rally him, but he didn't have anything left. Those shots he'd been hitting with pinpoint precision now landed long or wide. Instead of chasing balls down with ease, he could only watch as they blew by him.

He did manage to fight off two match points in the sixth game of the last set, holding serve with a winner down the line to avoid being shutout. But it was only delaying the inevitable.

# NBA stars in Houston for hurricane relief

**By Kristie Rieken**
AP sports writer

HOUSTON – Chris LaRoche doesn't have any clothes, toys or a place to go home to, but Sunday the 12-year-old's dream came true when he played basketball against LeBron James, Kevin Garnett, Chauncey Billups, Ron Artest and a host of other NBA stars.

LaRoche and about 1,100 other Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center got a morning visit from about a dozen NBA players in town for an evening charity game.

"I can't believe it," LaRoche said, a huge grin on his face. "I was guarding LeBron. It was so crazy."

James and the other players spent about 90 minutes playing with kids, signing autographs and greeting fans.

"Hopefully we can put some smiles on their faces and maybe for just that little moment they cannot think about what happened," James said.

TNT basketball analyst Kenny Smith organized the game, played at the Toyota Center before a packed crowd that included at least 5,000 evacuees who were given free tickets to the game. Smith said each of the almost 30 players participating in the event donated a minimum of $10,000 in money or supplies to the relief effort.

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu thanked the players and the city of Houston for its support before Jerry Stackhouse treated the crowd to a spirited rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

"This is an American tragedy that brought us to our knees," Landrieu said. "And the American people have reached down and lifted us up. We will rebuild."

Kobe Bryant, who spent the day visiting victims, said he was inspired by their positive attitudes.

"I had in my mind that it was just going to be a really sad sight," Bryant said. "But when you walk in you see that everybody was just real spirited. There was a lot of energy in there - a lot of resolve and determination to bounce back."

Charles Barkley, who helped with the TNT broadcast, said he was proud of the outpouring of support the NBA showed Sunday.

"Everybody has got to do a little part," he said. "We're all in this world together, and I appreciate them doing something positive with their time."

Allen Iverson arrived about 10 minutes before the game, causing quite a stir. He didn't play but got perhaps the biggest ovation of the day when introduced. He posed for pictures, signed autographs and encouraged the East team from their bench.

The West won the game 114-95.

# FG, La. horsemen close to agreement

## *Deal could be 35- to 40-day meet*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Fair Grounds and Churchill Downs officials and Louisiana horsemen are hammering out details for what might be a 35- to 40-day meet at Louisiana Downs to make up for the cancellation of the New Orleans racing season, Fair Grounds president Randy Soth said Sunday.

Soth said that progress was made Friday in talks among himself, Fair Grounds director of racing Ben Huffman, Churchill senior vice president of racing Don Richardson, Churchill chief executive officer Tom Meeker, Churchill chief operating officer Andy Skehan, Louisiana State Racing Commission chairman Bob Wright, commission executive director Charlie Gardiner and Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association president Sean Alfortish.

"We tried to come to some basic agreement," Soth said.

Churchill spokesperson Julie Koenig stressed that, as of Sunday, the details were not completed.

"Hopefully, we'll have something to announce tomorrow or Tuesday at the latest," she said Sunday.

Soth, Huffman and Richardson still are talking about the length of the proposed season, Soth said. A ballpark number of days is between 35 and 40, he said.

"The basic beginning and end (of the season) is somewhere in the neighborhood of Thanksgiving and somewhere closing in mid-January,'' he said. "It's moving in that way."

Wright said: "They're supposed to have a proposal solidified by Monday afternoon for everybody to evaluate."

Last week, Alfortish said that Louisiana horsemen are seeking at least 40 racing days in a Fair Grounds season shifted to another Louisiana track. He couldn't be reached for comment Sunday.

If the parties agree on a proposed season, the racing commission must approve it.

By law, the Fair Grounds must run 80 days in 20 consecutive weeks to keep its racing license. Wright said that he didn't expect problems obtaining a waiver to allow for a shorter season. An executive order from the governor might be sufficient to allow the season, he said.

He also said that the commission is investigating whether the Legislature would need to act on the matter. "I wouldn't think that's necessary," Wright said.

# Hahnville proves ready to play

## *Rolls past Central Lafourche 43-7*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

It was Thursday before Hahnville returned to the practice field for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit. But the lack of preparation time didn't show much, as the Tigers defeated Central Lafourche 43-7 on Sunday afternoon in Mathews.

The Tigers amassed 395 yards on offense. With Early-Larry James and B.J. Young platooning at quarterback, the Tigers passed for 156 yards. Running back Terrance Isaac had 113 yards and one touchdown on 16 carries. Six other Tigers scored. James ran for a 1-yard touchdown, Jordan Stephany caught a 15-yard pass from James, Jeremy Barnes scored on a 4-yard run, Ivory Washington scored on a 41-yard run, Kentrell Lockett blocked a punt for another score and kicker Devin Samaha added four extra points and a 23-yard field goal.

Hahnville's defense held the Trojans to 190 yards and a touchdown. Central Lafourche quarterback Neil Adams connected with Ross Blanchard on a 19-yard touchdown with 4:02 remaining.

It gave Hahnville coach Lou Valdin reason to smile. But he was most satisfied that the game was played.

"I couldn't see starting practice Thursday and getting them back and not having something for them to look forward to at the end of the week," Valdin said. "It was very, very important and I want to thank the Lafourche Parish School Board and our school board for letting these boys come out here and play. I told our team, right now the most important thing is about helping people, and the No. 1 thing we can do is, for a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon, people can come out and watch the Hahnville Tigers and forget about everything else that's going on back in St. Charles Parish."

"We wanted to play real bad," Isaac said. "We wanted to come out and get ready for the season. I knew we were going to come out and execute and just play Tiger football."

Valdin said his team was ready to play despite the two-week layoff from school and almost two weeks without practice. Very few Hahnville players had to be treated for cramping during the game despite the 3 p.m. start time.

"I think that's a lot to do with training camp," Valdin said. "And our whole offense and our whole defense and special teams are in, so we didn't have to go back and put all that in."

Although they have returned to the field, the Tigers still do not know when they will return to the classroom. St. Charles Parish teachers are to report Monday, but no definitive start date has been set for students.

Valdin said that might give this week's opponent an edge. The Tigers will play East St. John in a non-district game at 3 p.m. Saturday. The teams will play later in the season in a district game. Next Saturday's game will have to be played during the day because the lights at Hahnville's stadium were damaged. St. John the Baptist parish students return to school today.

"It's going to be tough because we're not in school," Valdin said. "Obviously, I wish we were back in school, back to our routine. I think East St. John is going to school so I think that definitely gives them an advantage."

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SAINTS TO PLAY 4 GAMES IN BATON ROUGE, 3 IN SAN ANTONIO SPORTS, A-17

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 236 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# CITY NEEDS TO CONTROL RECOVERY, BUSH SAYS

## PRESIDENT TOURS NEW ORLEANS WITH GOVERNOR, MAYOR

**DAY 15 DEVELOPMENTS**

President Bush returns to New Orleans, telling residents the federal government is prepared to offer whatever help Louisiana's leaders require.

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**279**



**MICHAEL BROWN**

FEMA chief Michael Brown resigns,
**see A-2**

The displaced St. Bernard Parish Council meets in the chambers of the state House.
**See A-7**

The U.S. Postal Service urges displaced residents to sign up for address changes, no matter how temporary.
**See A-3**

FEMA is preparing temporary housing for as many as 200,000 displaced people for the next three to five years.
**See A-10**

State authorities say they removed the bodies of 45 patients who died at Memorial Medical Center's Baptist campus.
**See A-6.**




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, President Bush and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin duck to avoid a low-hanging wire Monday while touring parts of New Orleans. On his third visit to the region, Bush surveyed damage on the ground in an open-air military vehicle and in the air aboard his helicopter, Marine One.

**By James Varney and Bruce Nolan**
Staff writers

President Bush got his boots on the ground of New Orleans on Monday, touring some still waterlogged areas in the 7th Ward and Mid-City before conducting an ad-hoc press conference under the elevated Interstate 10 at Cleveland and South Claiborne avenues.

Flanked by Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco, Bush said the federal government is prepared to offer whatever assistance Louisiana's leaders require but that the design and implementation of the Hurricane Katrina recovery plan would be led locally.

"This great city has ample talent and ample genius to set the strategy, to set the vision," Bush said at Cleveland and South Claiborne avenues, a spot that until late last week was still under water and where the smell of the septic glop now coating much of New Orleans was noticeable.

"My attitude is this," he said. "The people of New Orleans can design the vision. They can lay out what New Orleans ought to look like in the future, and the federal government can help."

Bush deflected criticism of both the federal government's response to Katrina, which has been widely excoriated for its dawdling pace, and notions that the strain the ongoing war in Iraq has put on the armed forces somehow made them inadequate to handle the nation's worst natural disaster.

*See* **BUSH,** *page A-5*

# Floodwall breaches still a mystery

*Could structural flaw be to blame?*

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

One of the central mysteries emerging in the Hurricane Katrina disaster is why concrete floodwalls in three canals breached during the storm, causing much of the catastrophic flooding, while earthen hurricane levees surrounding the city remained intact.

It probably will take months to investigate and make a conclusive determination about what happened, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. But two Louisiana State University scientists who have examined the breaches suggest that a structural flaw in the floodwalls might be to blame.

"Why did we have no hurricane levee failures but five separate places with floodwall failures?" asked Joseph Suhayda, a retired LSU coastal engineer who examined the breaches last week.

*See* **BREACH,** *page A-8*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A boat loaded with three corpses is towed down Read Boulevard near Abramson High School on Monday, nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said the slow pace of body removal is disrespectful to the deceased.

# Bodies lie for days awaiting retrieval

*FEMA policies limit who can do the job*

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

Traveling by pirogue through the flooded Broadmoor neighborhood Saturday, two men spotted a body floating in a side yard at Rocheblave and Octavia streets. They reported it to National Guardsmen and a civilian airboat operator, who said they were aware of it.

For 13 days in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the body of Alcede Jackson lay on a porch at 4732 Laurel St., wrapped in a plastic bag and covered in a blanket beneath a sign quoting the evangelist John and commending Jackson to "the loving arms of Jesus."

Across town, a left turn at Fern Street in the Carrollton neighborhood provided a clear view of the corpse of a man lying face-down on the sidewalk near a vacant lot. He wore blue jeans. His head was uncovered. Residents who witnessed the scene also informed a pair of National Guardsmen stationed on North Claiborne Avenue. They said they knew.

Nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina tore a deadly path through the New Orleans area, grim sights like these still dotted the vacant urban landscape as the official number of bodies collected and sent to a makeshift morgue at St. Gabriel rose from Sunday's count of 197 by the Department of Health and Hospitals to 279 on Monday.

With the total expected to rise, Kenyon International Emergency Services, the firm brought in last week by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help recover corpses, announced Monday that it would not formally extend its short-term agreement to have about 100 people on the

*See* **BODIES,** *page A-4*

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Expanded edition of The Times-Picayune available at www.nola.com

PARTLY CLOUDY, WARM
HIGH 92 | LOW 74

# AFTER THE STORM

**DEATH TOLL**

**279**

- 242 bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
- 3 bodies in St. Charles Parish
- 25 bodies in Jefferson Parish
- 6 bodies in St. Tammany Parish
- 3 bodies in New Iberia Parish

**IN THE SHELTERS**

**160,000** PEOPLE
**675** SHELTERS
**23** STATES

**POWER**

**ENTERGY CUSTOMERS**
IN ALL OF METRO N.O.
**34%** restored
IN JEFFERSON PARISH
**50%** restored
**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH
**63%** restored
IN WASHINGTON PARISH
**71%** restored

**AIRPORT**

**CARGO TRAFFIC:** Resumed Sunday
**PASSENGER SERVICE:** Resumes today with about 30 flights

**LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN CAUSEWAY**

Remains closed to the public

**SCHOOL OPENINGS**

**ORLEANS PARISH**
- Public: No date set

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- St. Martin's Episcopal School, Oct. 3

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- Catholic: Mary Queen of Peace, St. Scholastica Academy, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Pope John Paul II and St. Margaret Mary, Sept. 19; Our Lady of the Lake, Oct. 3

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Likely closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Public: January target date

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Public: Reopening Thursday
- Catholic: Reopened Monday

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Public: No date set
- Catholic: St. Charles Borromeo opened Monday; Sacred Heart, Wednesday

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Public: No date set

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
- Archdiocese of New Orleans to meet with parents today, 7 p.m., Catholic Life Center auditorium, 1800 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge
- A high school for 1,000 displaced students at St. Michael the Archangel, 17521 Monitor Ave., Baton Rouge. Call (225) 242-0220

**PARISH-BY-PARISH**

**ORLEANS**
- Algiers open; rest of parish closed
- Trash pickup has resumed

**JEFFERSON**
- Water pressure restored to most of parish. To report leaks on the east bank, call 838-4398; West Bank, 349-5081
- A boil-water order still in effect for East Jefferson only

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- 911 phone system back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Parish still closed

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
- Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

**FOR HELP**

- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA www.fema.gov or (800) 621-3362
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Toll-free hotline for people seeking information about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393




# Runways reopen today to passenger flights




STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Air Force personnel haul in passenger benches Monday in Louis Armstrong International Airport, which will welcome two Northwest Airlines flights today from Memphis, Tenn. Only Concourses A and B will receive flights in the coming days; Concourse C has roof damage, and D is still being used as medical facility. TOP, An electronic board is tested Monday in preparation for the about 60 flights a day that are expected by the end of week. Passengers are likely to include relief workers and residents of less-damaged areas such as the River Parishes.7

## *Below-normal traffic expected through 2007*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

With armed military personnel roaming the grounds and one concourse still serving as a hospital, Louis Armstrong International Airport reopens today to passenger traffic, 16 days after the last commercial flight took off.

Only four flights are scheduled, a pair of round trips from Memphis, Tenn., by Northwest Airlines, and Aviation Director Roy Williams predicted 60 flights per day by the end of the week. Before Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, Armstrong averaged 350 flights daily.

Williams doesn't expect normal traffic for 18 months, largely because New Orleans' vital convention business has all but shut down.

"You don't have to lose many of those to lose a significant amount of your traffic," he said. "Nobody knows, even if all the hotels are back in place, people's proclivity to come back."

Many airlines have waived fees and penalties for passengers who want to reschedule flights they planned before Katrina. Some said they have given passengers refunds for canceled flights.

"We are currently working with those customers," said spokeswoman Ginger Hardage of Southwest Airlines, the busiest carrier at Armstrong.

Armstrong last saw a commercial passenger flight leave Aug. 28 at 4:30 p.m. After Katrina passed the next day, the airport morphed into a transit point for inbound relief supplies and outbound evacuees and a way station for emergency medical care. Cargo traffic resumed Sunday.

But the rows of people on stretchers and in wheelchairs no longer vie for attention in the lobby outside Concourse D. Soldiers have replaced the lines of cots with rows of airline passenger chairs in Concourse B, where an estimated 2,000 military personnel were living. They have now moved into tents in an airport employee parking lot.

Williams said he doesn't know how many people will be on today's Northwest flights.

Other airlines are still assessing their resources and demand for New Orleans flights, he said. Among the issues: fuel supplies and security. Southwest, which normally commands 30 percent of the market at Armstrong, flew in 21 employees from Dallas to examine its facilities, Southwest project manager Mark Petteway said.

"Everything looks great here," he said, referring to computers at the ticketing terminals.

Williams said flights in the coming days will attract a combination of people who live in areas with less damage, such as the River Parishes, and people involved in helping southeast Louisiana recover and rebuild.

Passenger service couldn't start earlier because of the emergency work. At one point, Williams said, Armstrong became the busiest airport in the United States.

Altogether, Armstrong evacuated 23,000 people, including 13,000 in one day, said Mike McCormick, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Imagine this filled with stretchers," he said, pointing at a lobby of soldiers and emergency officials outside Concourse D, still somewhat of a medical center.

As Armstrong sputters back into normal operation, all passenger flights will leave out of Concourses A and B. Concourse D is still used as an evacuation and medical facility, although it hosted only one patient Monday. Concourse C suffered roof damage, Williams said.

The shops and stores in the airport will reopen slowly, with at least one food and one or two gift shops opening Thursday, Williams said.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Taxation figure corrected:** A story in Saturday's newspaper incorrectly described the amount of personal income in Louisiana eligible for taxation. About $40 billion of the state's $125 billion in personal income that is eligible for taxation comes from the New Orleans area.

# Brown resigns FEMA post

## *Nagin: Stepping down won't solve problems*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Three days after being relieved of responsibility for managing the federal government's Hurricane Katrina relief effort, Michael Brown stepped down Monday as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

His departure comes after an avalanche of criticism that the federal relief effort, particularly in New Orleans, parts of Jefferson Parish, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes, has been slow, inept and largely ineffective.

"It is important that I leave now to avoid further distraction from the ongoing mission of FEMA," Brown said in a written statement.

Brown's resignation was expected after the Bush administration in effect issued a no-confidence declaration Friday by removing him from day-day-management of the relief operations, replacing him with Vice Adm. Thad Allen of the Coast Guard.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said Brown's resignation will not solve the problems.

"I think it's bigger than any one person," Nagin said. "If you think that's going to fix it, it's not. It might make people feel better. It doesn't make me feel better."

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said that while Bush has "now addressed the leadership issues" with FEMA, he must still deal with "the resource and organizational issues, which hindered our national response to this tragedy."

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said the departure of Brown, whom critics said lacked solid experience handling disaster management, was appropriate.

"On the positive side, I'm very impressed so far with Vice Admiral Allen," said Vitter, who praised him for quickly taking charge and demonstrating complete command of the current rescue operations.

R. David Paulison, head of FEMA's emergency preparedness force, was named to take over the beleaguered agency.

Paulison is a career firefighter from Miami who was among emergency workers responding to Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and the crash of ValuJet Flight 592 in the Florida Everglades in 1996, according to a biography posted on FEMA's Web site. He also has led the U.S. Fire Administration since December 2001, according to the site.

In an interview Monday with The Associated Press, Brown said he last talked to Bush five or six days ago, but decided his resignation would allow the relief effort to move forward with the least controversy.

"I think it's in the best interest of the agency and the best interest of the president to do that and get the media focus on the good things that are going on, instead of me," Brown said.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who asked Bush to replace Brown last week, called his departure "the right thing for the country and for the people of the Gulf Coast states."

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# U.S. Postal Service working to restore deliveries to city

## *Transient evacuees urged to check in*

**By Mark Waller**
Staff writer

As most New Orleans-bound mail gets channeled to Houston in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, U.S. Postal Service officials are urging displaced residents to sign up for address changes, no matter how temporary, so mail carriers can find them.

People can file address changes on the Internet at www.usps.com, by telephone at 1 (800) 275-8777 or by filling out a form at any open post office. Evacuees who move again can register another change, and the mail will go to the latest location on file.

"The sooner we get those change-of-address forms out, the better for us," said Dave Lewin, a spokesman for the Postal Service who is based in Houston but is working in Baton Rouge to help manage the emergency.

Postal Service officials working from Baton Rouge said 60 New Orleans area post offices are back in service, including eight that came online Monday in Belle Chasse, Harvey, Kenner, Lafitte, Marrero, Metairie and Westwego. Home delivery is not yet restored in all of those places, but customers in ZIP codes with working post offices can retrieve mail at the counter.

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

*The suspension of standard mail delivery, including letters and periodicals, remains suspended in ZIP codes that begin with 395, 700, 701 and 704. The suspension has been lifted for ZIP codes that begin with 369, 393, 394 and 396.
*Temporary change of address forms are available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

On Friday, 37 post offices in St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes reopened, some with limited services.

"We're doing everything we possibly can; we're getting all available mail we can out there," said Victor Dubina, a postal service spokesman from Cleveland who is also in Baton Rouge. "It's a question of patience."

Lewin said the service is using more than 30 generators to power some stations where electricity remains out, and it's using 26 mobile buildings in areas where post office buildings suffered hurricane damage.

Late Monday, officials said they were extending the time that people from areas with no mail delivery can pick up Social Security checks. The check pickups at post offices in Baton Rouge, LaPlace and Des Allemands were originally scheduled to end Monday, but will now continue today.

The Baton Rouge Downtown Station at 750 Florida Blvd. serves residents from most New Orleans ZIP codes seeking their Social Security checks. The Des Allemands post office at 17242 U.S. 90 covers Venice, Boothville, Buras, Port Sulphur, Barataria and Algiers. The LaPlace post office at 190 Belle Terre Blvd. serves residents of Pointe a la Hache, St. Bernard, Violet, Meraux, Chalmette, Arabi and Braithwaite. West Slidell Station distributes checks to all Slidell residents.

He said the service is trying to re-establish its presence in communities hit by Katrina as quickly as possible, partly to reassure residents that life is slowly returning to normal.

"I think it's important for the people in the area to see our people out there," he said.

The Postal Service is also still trying to find some of its own employees, who themselves were affected by the storm, asking them to call 1 (877) 477-3273 to report on their well-being, whereabouts and availability for work.

"A lot of them suffered the same damage everyone else did," Lewin said.

At least one employee who evacuated to the shelter at the Astrodome in Houston is working in post office operations there, he said.

# Port prepares to open for business this week

## *Housing a problem for returning workers*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

NEW ORLEANS — As he drove his boss around the Napoleon Container Terminal, Joseph LaBarriere yanked the wheel of his Ford Explorer left and right to avoid hitting dozens of four-ton steel boxes scattered across the yard by Hurricane Katrina.

"Looks like Legos on a child's playroom floor, doesn't it?" said Gary LaGrange, president and chief executive officer of the Port of New Orleans.

But the task of cleaning up the yard is actually one of the less daunting tasks LaGrange said he will face in the coming months.

Not a single ship has been unloaded at the port in two weeks because there's nobody left in New Orleans to unload them, and because the trucks and trains that transport cargo entering the port can't get through.

That could change Wednesday, when the port is scheduled to unload its first ship. Within a month, after rounding up workers and borrowing much-needed equipment from the federal government, LaGrange said, business will bounce back as much as 50 percent. He's betting the port will reach at least 80 percent of capacity in three months.

That will be a tall order, according to transportation leaders, who say there are still many unknowns when it comes to moving cargo in and out of New Orleans. But it's not an impossible goal.

"We were wounded; we weren't totally wiped out," said state Sen. Walter Boasso, D-Chalmette, who owns a liquid bulk shipping business and has been helping coordinate rescue efforts. "We've still got infrastructure here that doesn't exist anywhere else in the country. That gives us some advantages."

One of the most immediate problems is housing. With much of New Orleans under water and facing a mandatory evacuation order, there's no place to put the thousands of people whose jobs are related to the port.

On Thursday afternoon, help started to trickle in when the crane ship Diamond State arrived from Orange, Texas. Port officials said the ship can house about 40 workers, and it will soon be joined by three training ships capable of accommodating as many as 1,000 people, LaGrange said. Typically, when traffic is heavy, there are about 2,000 people involved in loading and unloading ships, he said.

"These cabins will be dedicated to anybody who is working the port in any capacity at all," LaGrange said. "That includes truckers, terminal workers, stevedores, warehousemen, line handlers, tug operators and security personnel."

Also on the list: state-commissioned pilots, who have the job of guiding foreign vessels up and down the Mississippi River. One of the casualties of Katrina was Pilottown, an island community near the mouth of the river that has served as a base of operations for two of the region's three pilot groups for about 100 years.

"Pilottown got wiped out," said Ed Peterson, executive director of the Louisiana River Pilots Association.

Peterson said the storm has complicated a river that was already considered one of the most challenging waterways in the world to navigate.

One of the biggest problems: a lack of navigational aides. Of the 120 lights and buoys that once blinked along the river, helping pilots fix their position and plot their course, just three remain. As a result, ships can only move during daylight, causing delays of 10 to 12 hours.

"The river looks totally different," Peterson said. "It is so much wider, and the levees have disappeared. The pilots are feeling their way to find the deepest part of the channel because it is not marked. It is pretty stressful, but they're doing it. They want to keep this river open."

It took five days to reopen the Mississippi, Peterson said. Initially, traffic on the river, which is popular with shipping companies because its deep channel typically provides 45 feet of draft, was limited to 35 feet, greatly reducing the amount of cargo those ships could carry. The limit has since been increased to 39 feet, Peterson said.

"That is a huge impact," Peterson said. "That is a lot of tons that don't get loaded. But we're going to overcome that in short order."

"We're probably doing 60 percent as many ships as we had been before the storm," Peterson said.

For now, virtually all of those ships are heading to grain terminals north of the city, which are working at about 85 percent of capacity, or to facilities near Baton Rouge, whose port was largely unaffected by the storm.

Glen Guillot, vice president of two trucking companies that do business with the port, said restarting cargo handling operations will be hampered by a shortage of diesel, which is needed to fuel both his trucks and the generators that will be used to provide power to the dock workers. Conventional electricity isn't expected to reach most docks for weeks, if not months.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Overturned cargo containers are strewn at the foot of two damaged loading cranes at the Napoleon Avenue A wharf.

Another obstacle to truck traffic is getting past the checkpoints operated by State Police, but port and parish officials said they are discussing an agreement that would allow commercial traffic in the parishes sometime this week.

Guillot said his biggest challenge is finding his workers. Of the 20 drivers at Southeastern Motor Freight, he's been able to locate only seven – and they're spread from Atlanta to Houston. The rest evacuated without leaving any forwarding information.

"That is going to be a challenge, and one I look at with great apprehension," said Todd Spencer, executive vice president of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, which represents 129,000 truckers around the country. "The primary response we're getting (from members in that area) is no response whatsoever."

Spencer said he knows of several truckers in the area who lost everything, including their trucks. "I suspect that is going to be a pretty common situation for the guys who worked the port," he said.

By contrast, finding stevedores and other dock workers should be fairly easy, according to officials at P&O Ports and Ceres Gulf Inc., two companies that expect to be back in business this week at the port.

"We have 92 managers and employees, and all 92 have been located and are intact – and that's the best news of the whole week," said Dave Morgan, senior vice president of Gulf operations for P&O Ports.

Jim Campbell, president of the local chapter of the International Longshoreman's Association, said he has located virtually all of his 250 or so members.

"If I had to put together 100 men today, I could do it," Campbell said late last week.

Though LaGrange said he sees challenges almost everywhere he looks, he is confident the port, which is the nation's fourth or fifth largest in terms of tonnage, will rebound quickly. His main argument is the river itself, which connects to 15,000 miles of inland waterways crossing 33 states, reaching 62 percent of the nation.

"No other port has that," he said. "The river is still here. The railroads are still here. All the parts that make our port great are still here. All we have to do is get power and get our people back here."

# Flooded property records can be saved, official says

## *And they'll be moved from court basement*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Most of the property records in the basement of Orleans Parish Civil District Court are salvageable from floodwaters and may be ready to use within the next few weeks, Custodian of Notarial Records Stephen Bruno said Monday.

Stored in the courthouse basement, which took on nearly a foot of water during Hurricane Katrina, moisture was the biggest enemy to property records. Abstractors, who conduct title searches before a real estate transaction closes, should have access to them within the next few weeks, Bruno said.

The records include titles, mortgages, conveyances, liens, wills and other documents.

Munters, the Swedish records restoration company hired to preserve the nearly 12 million pages of titles, liens, mortgages and other records, is drying the documents in freeze containers, Bruno said.

Bruno and other city officials are seeking a permanent – and safe – location to keep the records.

"I'll tell you one thing. They'll never be stored in the basement of the courthouse again," he said.

Documents stored in the New Orleans Research Records Center on the third floor of the former Amoco building at 1340 Poydras St. also survived, but broken windows have left the records threatened by exposure to heat and humidity, Bruno said.

Those records, considered more important from a historical perspective, date back several hundred years and include slave records and land grants, handwritten in French and Spanish, from the Colonial period, Bruno said.

Munters is pumping air conditioning into the Research Center through a broken window to dry out the records instead of risking further damage by moving them to a more protected area.

According to Bruno, the building engineer at 1340 Poydras said the structure's heating and air-conditioning system is relatively intact.

Bruno is working with Register of Conveyances Gasper Schiro and Recorder of Mortgages Desiree Charbonnet. Both were unavailable for comment Monday.

Onsite Munters official Bob Harrison said he thought only a few inches of water entered the basement. Bruno had heard that as much as 3 feet of water had flooded the basement.

Bruno said that he has made arrangements to store the conveyance and mortgage records at the old Jefferson Parish Courthouse in Gretna.

Until the records are available, it is virtually impossible to sell or buy a piece of property in Orleans Parish.

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# State still uncertain how many perished

**BODIES,** *from A-1*

ground to aid FEMA and the state in removing the dead from private homes and public areas.

Louisiana officials railed against the overall recovery effort Monday, saying that even with Kenyon on the job, too few people were working to handle the dead. FEMA policy, a spokesman said, prohibited any of the tens of thousands of National Guard troops or municipal police officers on the ground in New Orleans from touching the bodies, except to tag them and report their location to higher authorities.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said the slow pace of body removal was disrespectful to the deceased and said he didn't understand the holdup.

"I can't imagine going into a house, and I've got a bloated dead body of my father," he said. "They need to get them out and try to identify them as quickly as possible."

"How long do we want those bodies to sit out there and rot?" asked U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, adding that when residents return to check their property in the inundated parishes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines, "they'll get in and see all the bodies on the ground because FEMA can't handle its business."

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu said the dead must be honored now because "our federal government failed these individuals in life."

The reaction marked the start of a third week of scathing criticism of FEMA, which has been lambasted for its handling of rescue efforts and distribution of aid to evacuees. Ricardo Zuniga, the agency spokesman, said Monday that the recovery of corpses is being handled in a methodical, prudent manner.

**"I can't imagine going into a house, and I've got a bloated dead body of my father. They need to get them out and try to identify them as quickly as possible."**

Mayor RAY NAGIN

FEMA had 3,700 workers deployed across the region Thursday in search and rescue missions, Zuniga said. On the same day, 60 people – 15 teams, each with four experts in handling bodies in disaster scenarios – were assigned to collect corpses from sites identified by military, police or citizens who called in to report where their neighbors or loved ones might be found dead, he said. He did not have more recent statistics.

"It's not a haphazard approach," Zuniga said. "We're going block to block, house to house, room to room in some cases."

Still unclear Monday was the scope of the recovery job as officials at all levels have suggested than an initial call for 25,000 body bags was overblown. Melissa Walker, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Hospitals, the state agency leading body recovery, said she did not know whether a complete survey of ravaged parishes had been undertaken.

"I have not heard that there is a need for more (recovery) people, but honestly I cannot tell you if there is or not," she said. "I can tell you that they're bringing in bodies every day."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco's spokeswoman, Denise Bottcher, said there currently aren't enough people retrieving bodies, which means the dead aren't being taken care of with appropriate "dignity."

Kenyon, an international firm that aided in body recovery after the 2001 terrorist attacks, is on retainer with FEMA to offer support during and after disasters, Zuniga and a Kenyon spokesman, Bill Berry, said.

Berry said his company would not "desert" southeast Louisiana, but he would not say how long Kenyon intended to continue working here or how many workers it would devote.

"We would continue to work as a courtesy because we would definitely not want our services to FEMA to end," he said. "We're going out of our way to not leave them in any kind of (bad) situation if they have other people that they're wanting to bring in."

Bottcher and Melancon said late Monday that the state was negotiating with the company to continue its work under state contract, which would have to be approved by FEMA for federal reimbursement.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAN SHEA

At 4732 Laurel St., a sign near Alcede Jackson's body quotes the evangelist John and commends her to 'the loving arms of Jesus.' This photo was taken Saturday.


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# Officials: Rebuild should be locally based

*Washington-run design a big worry*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Local residents and civic and political leaders, not Washington policy-makers, should take the lead in charting the future for New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said Monday.

"We know how people like to have their houses built and where they want to stay," Landrieu said after a press conference with Louisiana clergy. "While we appreciate the help in rebuilding and expect attention and support unprecedented in the nation, it will be led by the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama."

Landrieu was reacting to what she said was a "general sense" that members of Congress already are hatching plans to redesign the city of New Orleans.

As the scope of destruction from the Aug. 29 storm has started to become clear, powerful lawmakers have all but insisted that New Orleans be fundamentally redeveloped to ensure it doesn't fall victim to future hurricanes. Unsaid, but implied, is the fact that Congress would resist approving the billions of dollars necessary to rebuild unless the plans meet with lawmakers' approval.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., has said it doesn't "make sense" to rebuild New Orleans the way it was before Katrina struck and that whole neighborhoods should be bulldozed. He also said it is important that as New Orleans is revived "we rebuild smart."

He didn't explain what he meant by "smart," but urban planners, architects and construction firms around the country already have begun to float ideas for mega-levees slicing through the city where submerged neighborhoods now stand, towering flood walls partitioning New Orleans to keep flooding in check and massive landfill operations to raise low-lying areas that frequently flood.

At the same time, lawmakers have discussed legislation to clamp down on the federal flood insurance program, which effectively would deny coverage to homes in frequently flooded areas; such legislation would require a large-scale redevelopment of the areas now under water in New Orleans and surrounding suburbs. One member suggested a large park in New Orleans to replace submerged neighborhoods; it would serve as both a memorial to flood victims and a buffer against future disasters.

This week, the Louisiana delegation hopes to unveil its package of legislation intended to put a local mark on the flurry of Katrina-related legislation in Congress.

Rep. Thomas Tancredo, R-Colo., went furthest in raising fears about who will sketch the plans for a rebuilt New Orleans. He urged Hastert and other Republican leaders last week not to give any rebuilding money to Louisiana officials because of what he called "mind-boggling incompetence" in dealing with the disaster and a "long history of public corruption." He has offered a resolution, so far without much support, to create a 15-member House commission to oversee the disbursal of $62.3 billion in disaster assistance already approved by Congress.

During a visit to New Orleans on Monday, President Bush gave support to the idea that the city should chart its own future.

"My attitude is this: The people of New Orleans can design the vision, the people of New Orleans can lay out what New Orleans ought to look like in the future, and the federal government will help," Bush said. "I think the best policy is one in which the federal government doesn't come down and say, 'Here's what your city will look like.' "

# Feds now responding quickly, N.O. mayor says



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID GRUNFELD

President Bush's helicopter carries him and others over the waterlogged Lakeview and City Park areas on Monday. Bush said that when it comes time to rebuild, local officials 'can lay out what New Orleans ought to look like in the future, and the federal government can help.'

**BUSH,** *from A-1*

In addition, he said the view that race played a role in Katrina's destructive path or its aftermath was faulty.

"The storm didn't discriminate, and neither will the recovery effort," he said.

Bush flashed some irritation at the questions about Iraq and insinuations that grossly inadequate planning and initial action had characterized the federal response. Although Bush has acknowledged that mistakes were made and promised a full investigation, he declined to address the issue Monday.

"There will be plenty of time to play the blame game, and that's what you're trying to do," he told a television reporter.

The day began with a briefing on the USS Iwo Jima, the amphibious assault ship docked behind the Riverwalk mall that serves as the floating headquarters for the federal relief mission. After that, the elected officials, accompanied by military generals and Bush appointees, took a circuitous overland route to Royal Street behind the St. Louis Cathedral, where they boarded light mobile tactical vehicles to continue their odyssey.

After taking St. Ann Street and wrapping around the Municipal Auditorium, the trucks lumbered through a handful of 7th Ward neighborhoods, cut over across Esplanade Avenue, and then turned down Cleveland. Longtime members of the White House press corps said they could not remember the last time they saw the president riding in an open car in an American city, calling the exposed journey nearly unprecedented.

"Well, we don't normally cruise through American cities that have been virtually emptied of people," said one Secret Service agent in the entourage.

Greenish-brown floodwater, leaving behind inches of thick black slime as it recedes, still covered some of the area the president's truck toured, and he, Nagin and Blanco often had to duck to avoid overhead wires.

After that trip, Bush returned to the Iwo Jima, where he and the top Louisiana officials made another tour of the city in Marine One, the presidential helicopter. As the chopper banked over Metairie and flew low over Lakeview and Gentilly, sunlight bounced off whole swaths of the city that remain inundated. City Park, too, is a watery plain dotted with cypress and other trees.

Before heading off to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the final leg of Bush's visit, the helicopters landed at a former ExxonMobil office building at the Chalmette Refinery. There Bush met for more than an hour with leaders of seven parishes. The conversation focused on specific environmental cleanup tasks, such as the oil spill in St. Bernard Parish that now covers 3.3 square miles, mosquito-spraying projects and the like, administration officials said.

Nagin, who seemed upbeat and warm while greeting Bush on Sunday, was considerably more glum Monday. He said his mood was not the product of dismay with the White House, however.

"I think the president is really focused on the job at hand, and they are really starting to move," Nagin said. "On almost anything that I want to do now, I get a nearly instantaneous response."

Nagin said there did not appear to be any fallout from his interview on Sept. 2, four days after Katrina struck, when he lambasted federal officials for dragging their feet.

"Not at all," he said. "In fact, the president told me he appreciated my frankness and bluntness, and I told him I was sorry if anything I said had been treated as disrespectful."

The enormity of the Katrina disaster continued to reveal itself layer by layer in disclosures that at another time would be stunning, but now are routine: The Department of Corrections acknowledged Monday that 14,000 local felons who are supposed to be checking in regularly with parole officers are scattered and unaccounted for.

By Monday the official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans stood at 279, said Melissa Walker, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Hospitals. Officials expect it to go much higher, even as it appeared more clear that the count would be well below Nagin's early estimate of 10,000 deaths.

That number did not include a utility worker from Kansas who was electrocuted Monday while trying to restore power to a neighborhood in Kenner.

At a remarkable event in Baton Rouge, meanwhile, the displaced St. Bernard Parish Council met for the first time in the chambers of the state House of Representatives. A crowd of 3,000 displaced constituents overflowed the room and the Senate chambers and filled nearby committee rooms watching on closed-circuit television.

Nowhere in the New Orleans area was there more concentrated damage than in St. Bernard. The low-lying parish of 67,000 flooded wall to wall. Hundreds of choked-up neighbors encountered one another for the first time since the storm, exchanged embraces and wept together.

The news they received was brutal: "You'll probably be able to return in two to three weeks, but plan not to live in St. Bernard until at least next summer," Councilman Craig Taffaro said.

Bush's visit came as the metropolitan area continued slowly to heal. Little signs continued to accumulate:

▶ Water continued to drain from the city.

▶ New Orleans police said they were prepared to issue passes to business owners permitting entry to the Central Business District.

▶ Entergy officials reported that about a third of their 790,000 customers around metropolitan New Orleans were back on the power grid.

▶ The Associated Press reported a plane carrying equipment to rebuild New Orleans' mobile phone networks took off from Sweden on Monday after waiting more than a week for a go-ahead from the United States. The shipment included network equipment donated by the Swedish cell phone giant LM Ericsson.

▶ The military was to begin widespread spraying for mosquitoes to keep down the threat of mosquito-borne disease, particularly St. Louis and equine encephalitis and the West Nile virus.

▶ The federal government is preparing to provide temporary housing for as many as 200,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina for the next three to five years, FEMA's housing area coordinator, Brad Gair, said Monday.

Stories continued to leak out of ordinary people rising to extraordinary heights of service during the storm. The stories of New Orleans' hospital employees have become one recurring source.

State authorities said Monday they removed the bodies of 45 patients who died at Memorial Medical Center's Baptist campus. Isolated by floodwaters, its generators dead and with looters trying to break in, the hospital's staff struggled to care for desperately ill patients, said Mary Carstens, a New Orleans resident who evacuated to the hospital with her husband.

Staff members ventilated patients manually and fanned them by hand with bits of cardboard, Carstens said.

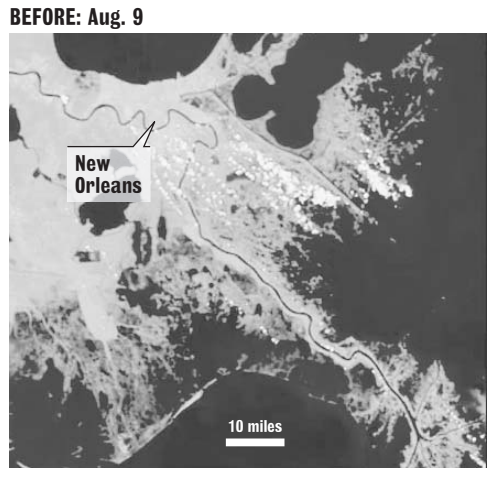
As they died, their patients were set aside with the utmost care, she said.

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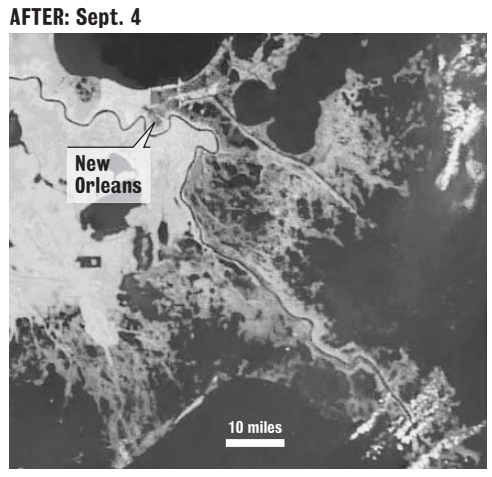
With reporting by Keith Darcé, Michelle Krupa, Allen Powell II, Steve Ritea Robert Travis Scott, Manuel Torres, Jim Varney, Bill Walsh and The Associated Press.

## MORE WATER, LESS LAND

**BEFORE: Aug. 9**




**AFTER: Sept. 4**




These NASA satellite images show the huge bite Hurricane Katrina took out of the Louisiana coastline.

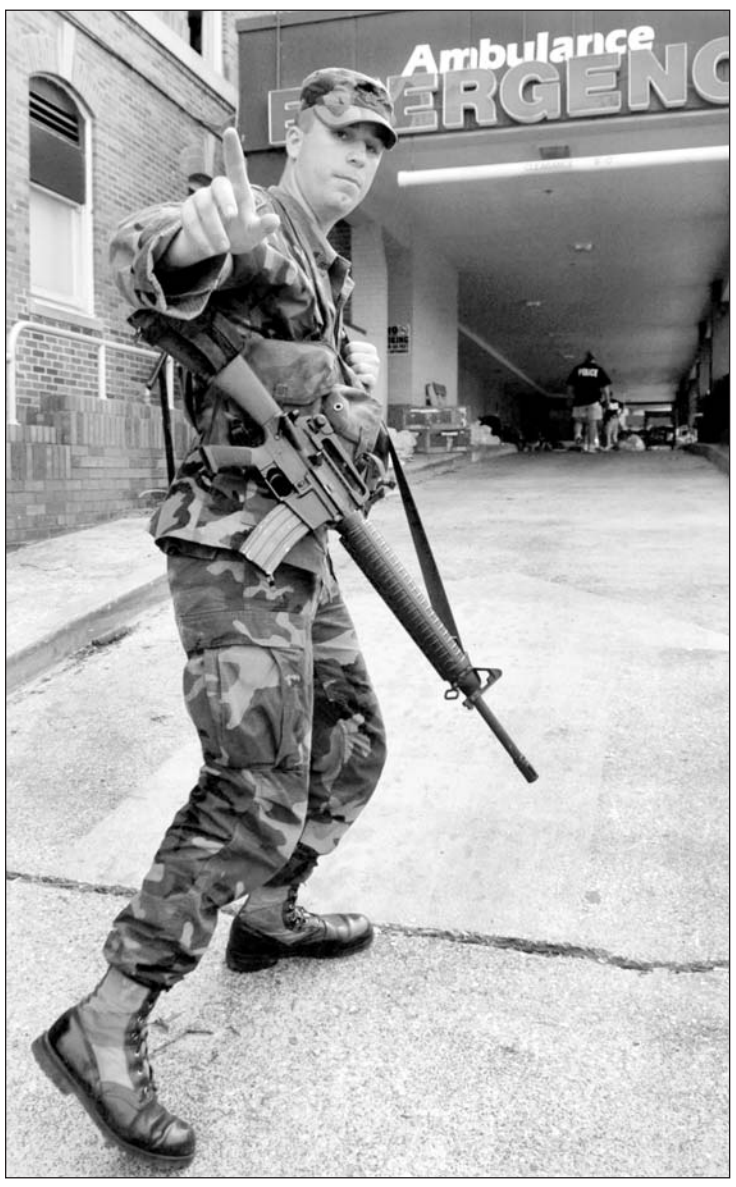
It remains to be seen how Louisiana's wetlands will survive the storm. Much of the water is contaminated by spills from oil and gas installations and from vehicles trapped in the storm.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Louisiana has lost an average of 34 square miles of wetlands a year since the 1930s as efforts to control the Mississippi River kept its muddy waters out of the marshes, depriving them of needed infusions of sediment.

NEW YORK TIMES GRAPHIC



Gov. Kathleen Blanco, right, listens to President Bush during a news conference Monday at Cleveland and South Claiborne avenues. Bush rejected the notion that the war in Iraq left the armed forces ill-equipped to respond to Hurricane Katrina.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

A soldier guards the entrance to the emergency room Monday at Memorial Medical Center's Baptist campus in New Orleans. Despite the staff's efforts, 45 patients died at the hospital near North Claiborne and Napoleon avenues, officials said.

# Hospital staff fought to save dying patients

*45 bodies protected from water, looters*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

Forty-five patients died at Memorial Medical Center's Baptist campus during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, despite the best efforts of staff who struggled in nightmarish conditions to keep the frail and elderly alive as floodwaters rose and looters broke in.

"You could smell death," said Command Sgt. Major Earl Hackney of the Army National Guard. "But it wasn't as bad as the floodwaters."

Despite horrendous conditions, hospital staff struggled to accord dignity to the dead, moving at least a dozen bodies into a chapel and covering each with a blanket or placing them in body bags.

The bodies were not recovered from the hospital until days after the storm passed, officials said.

"Everything was done to protect the remains," Hackney said, adding that security workers remained until Thursday or Friday after the storm to watch over bodies that were scattered all over the hospital, including the top floors where some had been brought in the hope of rescue by helicopter.

The staff managed to evacuate 270 patients, he added.

Outside the abandoned hospital on Monday, pools of dark, fetid water had receded to reveal shards of broken glass. The ramp to the hospital's emergency room was littered with tell-tale signs of the tragedy: abandoned gurneys, surgical masks, latex gloves, bags of intravenous fluid and an oxygen tank inside an inflatable raft.

Department of Health and Hospitals spokesman Bob Johannessen confirmed the recovery of the 45 bodies at the hospital, not counting the ones in the morgue.

Bill Berry, a spokesman for Houston-based Kenyon Co., which is assisting with the recovery of bodies, said the largest numbers are being found in hospitals and nursing homes and that the death toll at Baptist is among the highest he has heard about.

The 317-bed Uptown hospital at South Claiborne and Napoleon avenues is owned by Tenet Healthcare Corp. Tenet spokesman Steven Campanini said that some of those found Sunday had died before the hurricane hit, and that none of the deaths resulted from lack of food, water or electricity to power medical equipment. Many of the patients were seriously ill, he said.

Mary Carstens, a New Orleans resident who evacuated to the hospital with her husband, a computer systems contractor there, described "heroic" efforts by staff to keep patients alive.

"Nurses stayed up all night, literally, fanning patients with paper or pieces of cardboard just to keep them cool. There were older people lying on the floor on mattresses or right on the floor. Others were manually giving them oxygen for hours at a time," she said, describing the resuscitation bags that were used after electrical ventilators stopped working.

Generators failed the day after the storm, leaving the building dark, hot and humid, said Carstens, who had arrived at Baptist with her husband on the eve of Katrina's landfall.

To reach helicopters landing on the roof of an adjacent parking garage, staff moved patients through a hole smashed in the side of the building to avoid floodwaters below, Carstens said.

Inside the garage, some patients were placed in the bed of a pickup truck and driven to the top of the garage to wait for helicopters.

Some of the dead later found on the hospital's upper floors apparently were taken there by staff hoping they would be rescued from the roof, Hackney said.

But the helicopters couldn't take people fast enough. On Wednesday, two brothers from Thibodaux arrived with an airboat to transport their mother, who was a patient in the hospital's hospice unit, Carstens said. The woman died before she reached dry ground.

But the brothers stayed anyway, evacuating several hundred staff, patients and others, four or five at a time, to a dry spot at Napoleon and St. Charles avenues.

By then, water and food were starting to run low, Carstens said.

Looters continued to break in, some to forage in the hospital's pharmacy.

"It was really hot, the bathrooms were overflowing," Carstens said. "People were going to the bathroom in the hallways."

Carstens, her husband and their dogs were rescued by boat on Thursday, three days after Katrina struck.

"As far as I'm concerned, the staff did whatever they could to get the

living and the dead out of there," Hackney said. "They were truly heroic."

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Steve Ritea can be reached at sritea@gmail.com.

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**"I'm not going to sugarcoat it for you. I hope you remember St. Bernard because when you go back, you aren't going to recognize it."**

Parish President HENERY 'JUNIOR' RODRIGUEZ

# Most homes in St. Bernard to be razed, residents told

## *Homeowners can't return for at least six months*

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard bureau

BATON ROUGE — Scattered across the Gulf South by Hurricane Katrina's near total devastation, about 3,000 St. Bernard Parish residents filled the Louisiana Capitol on Monday for a town-hall meeting marked by tearful reunions and a no-punches-pulled assessment of the damage.

Officials said that virtually all of the parish's 27,600 houses will have to be bulldozed and that it will be more than six months before the lucky few whose homes can be repaired are allowed to return.

About 400 people packed the House chamber, while thousands more piled into the Senate chamber and five large meeting rooms equipped with video or audio feeds. Others spilled into the hallways, catching bits and pieces as parish officials painted a bleak picture of what remains of their homes.

"I'm not going to sugarcoat it for you," Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said. "I hope all of you remember St. Bernard because when you go back, you aren't going to recognize it."

Shrieking winds, tornadoes and a 20-foot storm surge swamped St. Bernard on Aug. 29, flooding virtually every house and washing away entire villages in the parish's eastern half.

Parish Council members took turns giving detailed descriptions of the storm damage in their districts. In Arabi, the surge lifted at least 45 homes off their foundations, depositing one on Judge Perez Drive. In Violet and Poydras, the water reached the gutters of one-story homes. It was even higher in the central parts of the parish. And of the hundreds of homes and camps in communities from Reggio to Delacroix, only 16 homes are left standing.

Despite the grim assessment, many residents said the meeting filled them with hope for the parish's rebirth.

"We heard so many rumors about people who didn't make it that it's good to see them in the flesh and blood," said Meraux resident Sheila Carlin, who now lives in a camper in Walker.

While some rumors were put to rest, many questions remained about when residents will be allowed to return to retrieve what little the storm did not destroy.

Officials said some residents might be able to return to assess damage in Arabi and parts of Chalmette in two or three weeks. But Rodriguez warned people about exposure to toxic chemicals and mold, telling residents to bring rubber gloves, protective masks and rubber boots, and to leave children behind.

Residents in other areas of the parish would be allowed later, officials said, as part of a staggered re-entry plan that they expect to announce in a few weeks. Parish officials tried to prepare returning residents for what they will see.

"Some of you are going to find that your home isn't there anymore," Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said. "Others are going to be wondering, 'How did the damn refrigerator get in the bedroom when we could barely get it in the house when we bought it?'"

The event became an emotional reunion for relatives, friends and neighbors who had not seen each other since they evacuated before the Aug. 29 storm. DiFatta's voice cracked as he opened his remarks by asking his son, whom he had not seen since before the storm, to look for him.

As she walked to the Capitol, Carol Licciardi of Chalmette raced through traffic on Third Street to wrap her arms around Gursline Roger, a fellow parishioner from St. Mark Catholic Church in Chalmette.

"I was worried I'd never see my church friends again," Licciardi said after releasing Roger from a 15-second bear hug. "I couldn't stop screaming when I saw her, but I better get my emotions under control. I don't want to survive the hurricane and then get hit by a car."

State Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, urged the crowd to sign a petition calling on the state Legislature to shut down the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, a waterway to the north and east of St. Bernard that topped levees during the storm.

"If we didn't have MR-GO, we would have had some problems, but we wouldn't have had 30,000 homes flooded," he said.

His statement drew loud applause from the crowd, but other officials said there was no way to prevent much of the damage caused by the powerful Category 4 hurricane.

"There are no levees that could have protected us from Hurricane Katrina," Rodriguez said. "That was the perfect storm."

Residents flooded officials with questions ranging from the status of their jobs to how to deal with insurance companies and creditors, including mortgage lenders.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said he is cosponsoring a bill with U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., to suspend mortgage payments on homes destroyed by the storm. Details were unavailable Monday.

Parish officials said they also are meeting daily with FEMA officials to discuss temporary housing and long-range plans for rebuilding the parish. But Parish Councilman Craig Taffaro cautioned that residents should plan on living elsewhere until at least next summer.

That's much longer than most residents expected to be out of St. Bernard. Mary Ann Francingues, a culinary arts teacher at Andrew Jackson Fundamental Magnet School in Chalmette, said when she evacuated before the storm she assumed she would return in a day or two.

"It's hard to think about not going home for months, but there's a camaraderie here. We're crying and laughing together," she said after signing into an e-mail and phone list to keep track of displaced residents.

"I don't have any doubt that the parish will be rebuilt," Francingues said. "My concern is whether it will be in my lifetime."



STAFF PHOTOS BY AMANDA McCOY

St. Bernard Parish residents line up on the Capitol steps before a town-hall meeting with state and parish officials. Although they had scattered in the mass evacuation, about 3,000 people showed up on Monday to learn about the damage to their houses and when a return home is possible.



At a meeting in Baton Rouge, Arabi resident Carol Desselle listens to a grim assessment of the hurricane damage .

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A MESSAGE FROM MERRILL LYNCH

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# Water level dropping, but plenty remains

## *Gentilly, Lakeview still pretty wet*

By James Varney, Gordon Russell and Gwen Filosa
Staff writers

Despite signs the water is receding in New Orleans, much of the city remained flooded Monday afternoon.

The specifics of how high the water is in certain neighborhoods, or which neighborhoods might have dried out since Hurricane Katrina tore into the city on Aug. 29, remain imprecise.

The New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board, faced with the greatest crisis in city history and with tens of thousands of residents desperate for information, has been unable to provide detailed updates.

Nevertheless, a ground survey by The Times-Picayune, coupled with an aerial tour of the city by President Bush, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Mayor Ray Nagin in the Marine One helicopter early in the day, showed a mix of progress and seemingly intractable floodwaters.

On the bright side, both the New Orleans Country Club and Metairie Country Club now have visible golf courses, albeit in a deathly mix of brown and wheat tones that may spell long-term problems. Cars could be seen moving near the lake into eastern New Orleans. And the route to Chalmette along St. Claude Avenue now can be made in a compact car.

Yet much of Gentilly, for example, remains under water, as do swaths of Lakeview, Mid-City, and Uptown neighborhoods on the lake side of St. Charles Avenue. City landmarks like the Criminal Court Building on the corner of Tulane and Broad remain inaccessible by foot.

Along Veterans Memorial Boulevard near the Jefferson Parish line, it is clear that water levels have dropped by as much as 5 feet, although most houses in Lakeview still remain encircled by water. Most of Broadmoor, along with the area around Xavier University and Gert Town, has drained as well, with formerly flooded Napoleon Avenue dry until its terminus at Broad Street.

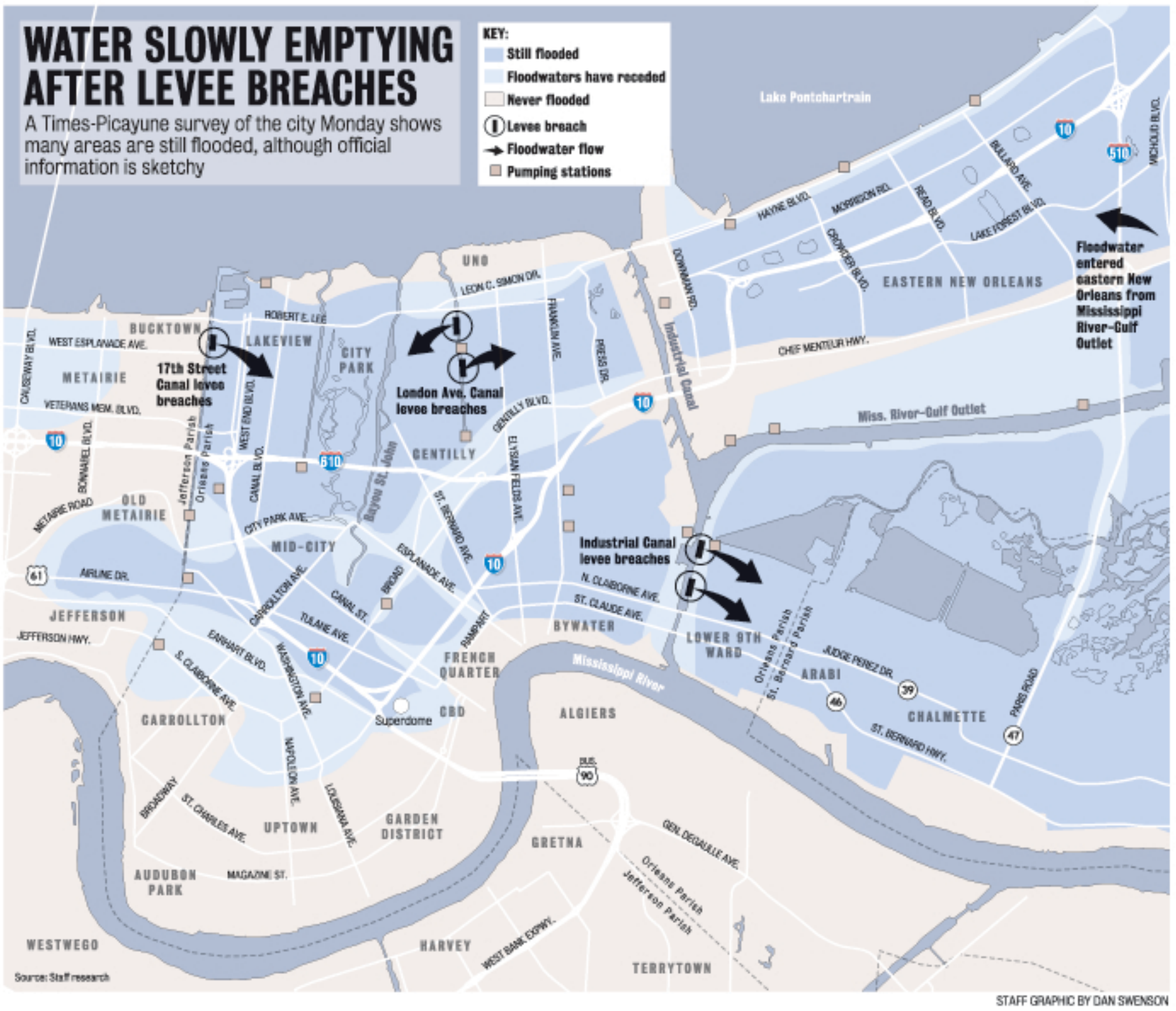
Much of Mid-City and the 7th Ward are now unwatered also. Apart from the portion around the criminal justice center, Broad Street, for the most part, is dry. The drying was aided in part perhaps by the activation late Sunday of one pump at the London Avenue Pumping Station No. 3. The pump was shut down Monday, however, after water sent by the pumps began pouring over sandbags placed in one of the breaches in the London Avenue Canal, according to those at the pumping station.

Patrols run by the military and the New Orleans Police Department push farther out each day. The city's hospital complexes around the Central Business District and the elevated Interstate 10 expressway, for so long provinces explored only by kayakers, are now dry.

Everywhere, however, the odor and the slime left by floodwaters seasoned for weeks with bloated corpses, human waste, debris, and untold quantities of various chemicals hangs over the city like a sword.

Huge parts of eastern New Orleans were still badly flooded Monday, with Read Boulevard at Dwyer Road a virtual lake. Water on Read was at least 4 feet deep in some spots, swallowing up entry to Joe Brown Memorial Park, Marion Abramson Senior High School and the 7th District Police station.

In scores of neighborhoods off Chef Menteur Highway, Downman Road and Hayne Boulevard – suburban enclaves dotted with one-story ranch-style houses – water had receded by four feet, according to dirty watermarks lining the homes, mostly beneath the front windows.




STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

# Initial data: 'catastrophic structural failure' at root

**BREACH,** *from A-1*

"That suggests there may be something about floodwalls that makes them more susceptible to failure. Did (the storm) exceed design conditions? What were the conditions? What about the construction?"

Ivor Van Heerden, who uses computer models to study storm-surge dynamics for the LSU Hurricane Center, has said that fragmentary initial data indicate that Katrina's storm-surge heights in Lake Pontchartrain would not have been high enough to top the canal walls and that a "catastrophic structural failure" occurred in the floodwalls.

Corps project manager Al Naomi said that the Corps' working theory is that the floodwalls were well-constructed, but once topped they gave way after water scoured their interior sides, wearing away their earth-packed bases. But he said some other problem could have caused the breaches.

"They could have been overtopped. There could have been some structural failure. They could have been impacted by some type of debris," Naomi said. "I don't think it's right to make some type of judgment now. It's like presuming the reason for a plane crash without recovering the black box."

Officials long had warned about the danger of levees being topped by high water from a storm surge. Absent topping, floodwalls are supposed to remain intact.

The floodwalls lining New Orleans canals consist of concrete sections attached to steel sheet pile drilled deep into the earth, fortified by a concrete and earthen base. The sections are joined with a flexible, waterproof substance.

Floodwalls were breached in the 17th Street Canal, at two places in the London Avenue Canal, and at two places in the Industrial Canal, Suhayda said. Naomi said last week that one of the Industrial Canal breaches likely was caused by a loose barge that broke through it.

Suhayda said that his inspection of the debris from the 17th Street Canal breach suggests the wall simply gave way. "It looks to have been laterally pushed, not scoured in back with dirt being removed in pieces," he said. "You can see levee material, some distance pushed inside the floodwall area, like a bulldozer pushed it."

He suggested that because the walls failed in a few spots, the flaw may not be in the design but in the construction or materials.

"Those sections in the rest of the wall should have been subjected to the same forces as that section that failed," he said. "Why did one side fail, not the other side?"

Drainage canals typically are lined with floodwalls instead of the wider earthen levees that protect the lakefront because of a lack of space, engineers say.

"It's a right-of-way issue," Naomi said. "Usually, there are homes right up against the canal. You have to relocate five miles of homes (to build a levee), or you can build a floodwall."

Constructing a more expensive earthen levee also would require building farther out into the canal itself, reducing the size of the canal – and the volume of water it could handle.

Naomi said that an earthen levee also could have been breached if the surge had pushed water over the top. "A levee failure might be more gradual than with a floodwall," he said. "It means you may have flooded a little slower."

The central question for engineers investigating the breaches will be whether the floodwalls were topped – and that's still unclear.

The levee system, floodwalls included, is designed to protect against an average storm surge of 11.5 feet above sea level. The Corps adds several more feet of "freeboard" to account for waves and other dynamics.

Naomi said the Industrial Canal floodwalls were topped by water coming in from the east. But scientists don't yet know exactly whether Katrina's Lake Pontchartrain surge was high enough to go over the wall in the two other canals.

Many storm surge gauges stopped functioning during the storm, LSU climatologist Barry Keim, though initial data point to a mid-lake height of eight or nine feet. Heights typically are higher at the Lakefront area because wind pushes water higher against the levees.

Suhayda said the debris line on the lakefront levee adjacent to the canal was "several feet" below the top. The levees are 17 or 18 feet high in that area. The canal levees, however, average only 14 feet. Storm surges have waves and other dynamics that push water still higher than the average height.

"There are big implications for as little as a one-foot change in elevation" of the storm surge, Suhayda said.

If the water did not top the levees, the breaches could prove more mysterious. Typically, the pounding of wave action would be the most likely way to cause a breach, scientists say. But there isn't much wave action in canals.

"Waves constantly breaking on the structure start to erode it and make it become unstable," said LSU coastal geologist Greg Stone, who studies storm-surge dynamics. "But I don't think that was a major factor in the canals. You just don't have the (open area) to allow wave growth to occur."

impr… flood carrying capacity, and tributary improvement, which includes reservoirs, pumping stations and control structures.



New Orleans District flood protection work has played a significant role in transforming southern Louisiana from a hazardous floodplain to a modern, secure home for people and industry.

The district also performs extensive hurricane protection work, with four projects Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Larose to Golden Meadow, Westwego to …and Na…der.

This photograph and caption appeared on the Army Corps of Engineers Web site on Monday.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A Chinook helicopter drops sandbags Monday into a gap in the concrete floodwall of the London Avenue Canal near Mirabeau Street in New Orleans. Floodwalls were breached in two places on the canal during Hurricane Katrina.

URS

To Our Employees, Clients and Friends

We are deeply saddened by the destructive effects of Hurricane Katrina on Gulf Coast residents and their communities. With more than 700 employees in offices directly impacted by this catastrophe, URS has been working vigorously to determine the safety and welfare of our people and their families.

In the storm's aftermath, we activated a response team to reach out to all affected employees and developed a plan that is enabling us to provide temporary assistance to meet their needs.

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URS is committed to helping our community meet the challenges ahead, and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this event.

To URS/EG&G/LSI Employees:

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# FEMA plans temporary housing for 200,000

*Communities could be bigger than most La. towns*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

In an unprecedented undertaking, the federal government is preparing to provide temporary housing for as many as 200,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina for the next three to five years, Federal Emergency Management Agency's Housing Area Coordinator Brad Gair said Monday.

Work on the first of what will be dozens of mobile home communities around Louisiana will begin this week in the Baton Rouge area, he said.

"It may not be quite on the scale of building the pyramids, but it's close," Gair said. "This is big. We've never done anything like this."

He would not say where the new communities would be sited, but said most would be in Louisiana.

In a few cases, the effort will create new towns larger than most towns in the state. The largest evacuee communities could house as many as 25,000 mobile homes and come with their own security force, utilities, government services and even schools.

Smaller clusters of trailers will blend in with surrounding communities.

FEMA is first targeting state parks, recreational vehicle facilities and vacant parcels of all sizes, Gair said. "We're prepared to set up temporary housing anywhere in the state."

Gair couldn't say how much the housing effort will cost taxpayers.

"This is going to be expensive – clearly the most expensive housing situation that we have ever been involved in," he said.

The agency's main goal is to move people into better accommodations than they're in now. "We are not planning any tent cities for victims," he said.

The government housing couldn't come any sooner for Christina Sentmore.

The pregnant mother of three has lived in a shelter in West Baton Rouge Parish since evacuating her home on St. Ferdinand Street in New Orleans two weeks ago. She hasn't been able to find an apartment or house in the Baton Rouge area.

Sentmore, who is due to give birth any day, doesn't want to bring a newborn child into a shelter that could be filled with germs and illness.

"You don't know what other people might have," she said Monday afternoon.

FEMA has gathered more than 6,000 trailers and mobile homes in Louisiana and the agency has contracts with manufacturers to produce up to 500 units each day, Gair said. Some trailers and mobile homes may be purchased from retailers. "We've ordered well over 100,000" units thus far, he said.

The units will be offered first to people still in shelters, he said. But they will be available to those who can't find housing. State officials will play a primary role in distributing the units.

Initially, the temporary communities will be located throughout the state, wherever land and services are available, Gair said. Over time, evacuees will be moved closer to their original homes, which could mean some evacuees moving again before landing in a permanent house.

The water and sewer pipes, roads and electrical wires required for the temporary communities should serve as incentives for cities throughout the state to welcome the new neighborhoods, Gair said. "Many parishes already have plans for future development. This could help get infrastructure that they wanted anyway."

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

# Maravich center's stint as hospital is over

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — After 10 days and 6,000 patients, the 800-bed field hospital at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center has closed.

Even though the basketball arena at LSU was a major destination for ambulances and helicopters delivering critically ill people from areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, it needed to be closed as quickly as possible because the facility wasn't sanitary enough to be a long-term hospital, said Dr. Chris Trevino, the medical director.

"This is not a hospital," he said. "There are lots of federal laws and regulations that were being broken right and left, but that's OK if it's not for a long time. That was why we shut it down as quickly as we could."

The center, which has been described as one of the biggest facilities of its kind ever created, stopped treating patients Wednesday.


An important message for members of
New Orleans area Medicare Advantage plans

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**No referrals or authorizations needed for medical care**

All referral and authorization requirements are waived for the month of September. Your medical provider does not need to obtain an authorization from the plan or obtain a referral from your Primary Care Physician. Simply tell your provider to send claims to:
Tenet Choices/Peoples Health
200 W. Esplanade Avenue • Suite 600 • Kenner, LA 70065

**All member costs waived**

Plan members will have no financial responsibility for covered medical services obtained during the month of September. All member cost sharing – all copays and coinsurance amounts (including prescription drugs) that you would normally be asked to pay will be covered by the plan. Providers should submit their claims to us for the entire amount.

**Refill any prescription drugs you need now**

If you need to refill a prescription drug, do it now. It doesn't matter if the last time you filled the prescription was less than 30 days ago; we recognize you might have left behind some of your medications when you evacuated your home. New prescriptions may be written by any physician you choose. You can fill your prescription at most national chains or any independent pharmacy that participates in the Walgreens Health Initiatives network.

**For additional information**

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**Prescription drugs: 1-800-207-2568**
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# St. John welcomes 956 displaced students

*District is first in area to reopen after storm*

**By John John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Eighth-graders Miriam Martinez and Isheika Riley share a math book at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School in LaPlace, which has taken in many of the 956 students who had registered in St. John the Baptist Parish public schools through Monday.

Diamond Nicholson, a spunky 11-year-old from Gentilly, was set to begin her reign as head cheerleader at Parkview Academy in New Orleans this school year.

But Hurricane Katrina changed those plans Aug. 29.

In one swipe, the storm flooded her family's home, ended the school year in New Orleans and separated Diamond from her friends. On Monday, she found herself as the odd kid out when she entered the unfamiliar halls of Lake Pontchartrain Elementary school in LaPlace.

Surprisingly Diamond, who is living now with her aunt in LaPlace, was upbeat.

"I have a nice teacher and I feel comfortable," she said.

And she plans to try out for the cheerleading squad.

The scene was played out many times Monday at St. John the Baptist Parish schools, as the district became the first in the metro area to reopen after Hurricane Katrina.

With schools in many districts destroyed or still sitting in floodwater, students have had to look elsewhere in metro New Orleans and beyond. Statewide, about 135,000 students were displaced by the storm. St. John, so close to New Orleans, yet suffering much less damage, has become a hot spot.

On Friday, St. John district officials said 901 new students had signed up for classes. Another 55 registered Monday, parish schools superintendent Michael Coburn said.

Lake Pontchartrain received many of those new students. Also seeing substantial growth were LaPlace Elementary, East St. John Elementary and East St. John High School. Private schools in the parish have grown by 1,000 students.

"It's wild over here; we have students all over,'' said Ann LaBorde, the district's executive director of legal services and personnel. "Every home is doubled up."

Diamond's new classmate Todd Ferniz was in the process of running for student council at Belle Chasse Middle School in Plaquemines Parish. But, like Diamond, he now has to start the process all over.

"Yesterday was my best friend's birthday,'' he said. "I guess I'll have to make new friends."

Barely looking at his classmates, Todd walked to an empty chair in the back of the classroom and sat down.

Joshua Euper, Todd's new teacher, said many of the displaced students have been shy.

"It takes time for people who are even native to the area to adjust," Euper explained. "I'm just trying to make them feel welcome."

Twelve of the 20 students in Euper's social studies class were displaced students from other parishes.

"Not all are here,'' Euper said. "There are more to come."

Coburn said if the total number of new students reaches 1,000, the district will need to bring in portable classrooms to accommodate the surge.

Coburn said he has been in contact with state education Superintendent Cecil Picard.

"He said, 'Sign the students up and there will be funding,'" Coburn said. "It's going to all work out."

St. John has also received more than 100 applications from people seeking jobs ranging from principal to maintenance worker.

"For the first time we have bus drivers. We're thrilled,'' LaBorde said.

One of those lucky enough to get hired is Nick Mitchell, who was hired as a special education teacher at Lake Pontchartrain. He had taught at Dwight Eisenhower Elementary in New Orleans and applied to St. John when Orleans Parish announced schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year.

"I wanted to go back to work," said Mitchell, one of seven new teachers at Lake Pontchartrain. "I knew it wouldn't happen in New Orleans. I'm just thankful."

Mitchell said he has spoken to a couple of co-workers who have found jobs in Baton Rouge and Texas.

"They're probably there for good," he said.

# St. Tammany's hardest-hit schools may not reopen

*Local officials waiting on damage estimates*

**By Christine Harvey**
St. Tammany bureau

The Louisiana Department of Education is reporting that a handful of St. Tammany Parish's most badly damaged public schools will be unable to reopen, though school officials said Monday that they are waiting for an assessment of damages to those schools to be completed before they are comfortable making such a determination.

Though most of the parish's 52 schools received some form of damage, including damage to roofs, gutters and windows, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, five in Slidell bore the brunt of the storm's winds and water.

Initial reports indicate that Salmen High and St. Tammany Junior High sustained the most severe damage, including significant flooding and downed trees. In addition, Slidell Pathways had considerable water damage, while Brock and Abney, both elementary schools, had water damage as well as damage to their roofs.

Linda Roan, the system's spokeswoman, could not confirm Monday whether the system plans to shutter the five schools in question, saying that Superintendent Gayle Sloan will make that decision once the damage assessments are complete. Sloan said last week that she hopes to begin classes in St. Tammany on Oct. 3.

In the meantime, six of the parish's Catholic schools are set to reopen Monday. They are Mary, Queen of Peace, in Mandeville; Pope John Paul II, in Slidell; and St. Paul's School, St. Peter School and St. Scholastica Academy, all in Covington. St. Margaret Mary in Slidell also plans to reopen and will work in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes School, which was badly damaged during the storm, to accommodate the needs of those students. Our Lady of the Lake School in Mandeville will reopen by Oct. 3, at the latest.

None of the Catholic schools will have bus service until the public schools reopen.

The hurricane forced the public school system to begin devising contingency plans for student enrollment with the idea in mind that some schools may be unable to reopen early next month.

Sloan said she hopes to know the results of inspections at the schools in the next week or so. If certain schools are unable to reopen, she said, the system could open temporary school sites in the parish, incorporate affected students into other parish schools or institute a system of "platooning," in which some students attend school in the morning and others in the afternoon on the same campus.

"We really think it's important to get the schools up and running as soon as possible,'' Sloan said.

She is also working on a plan to salvage the system's athletic programs, including football, volleyball, cross country and swimming, which take place in the fall.

Sloan said she believes students can make up the 24 or so days that they have missed as a result of the hurricane by attending classes during holiday periods. If so, summer vacation should be unaffected, as would graduation dates.

The system has received a number of calls from evacuees requesting placement in the system when school reopens, Roan said. Officials have yet to assess how many students may need placement, though they expect to begin looking at those inquiries this week.

"We're going to welcome students who have been displaced," Roan said.

"We're going to fold them into the student bodies and give them the best education we can."

System administrators, principals, and members of the maintenance and custodial staff returned to work Friday, meeting with Sloan to discuss the best way to get the system ready for the start of school. Sloan asked each principal to create a checklist of needs at the schools and take photographs of the damage to their schools.

Hundreds of troops from the National Guard and the Marine Corps are assisting the system with its cleanup effort, Roan said. She added that once cleanup is completed at some schools, employees will be asked to help at others.

About half of the system's schools had power restored as of Friday, with assurances from CLECO that returning power to the remaining schools is a priority, Roan said.

"I think we came out pretty well, considering,'' she said. "We've got our work cut out for us."

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Staff writer Karen Baker contributed to this report.

Christine Harvey can be reached at charve1@lsu.edu.

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STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**CHALMETTE:** The Rev. John Tran Nhan of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Avondale holds up a crucifix Monday that he retrieved from a seminary house in Chalmette. It was the only item left hanging on the walls of the house, where Katrina's floodwaters reached the second story.

# broken dreams

**Although the physical damage wrought by Katrina is evident in the waterlogged streets and demolished buildings, the storm's emotional toll is laid bare with each homeowner's return to a ravaged dwelling and each local business or entrepreneur struggling to get back to work.**



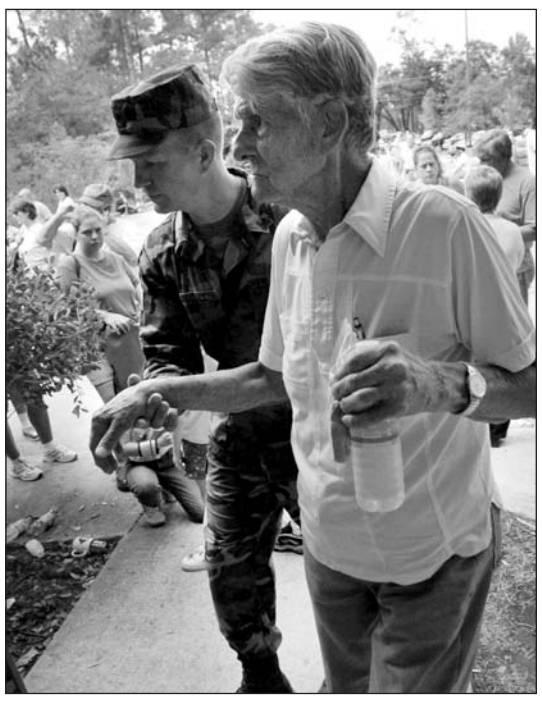
STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**ST. BERNARD:** Brian Taylor sits among the ruins of his home in Fort Beauregard Marina and Estates in Yscloskey as he waits for a boat to pick him up on Monday. Taylor and some friends arrived by boat from Slidell to check on their homes, which were wiped out by Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Stranded vehicles and debris are surrounded by gradually receding floodwaters along Broad Street on Monday.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**COVINGTON:** Sgt. Richard Caudill of the Alabama National Guard helps Clement Lartigue, 84, get out of the heat Monday and into the state Department of Social Services office on Louisiana 21, where hundreds of residents waited in line to receive disaster food stamps.

# Some of eastern N.O. still underwater

## *Water marks, vandalism, sludge tell tale of devastation*

**By Gwen Filosa and Trymaine Lee**
Staff writers

Vast stretches of eastern New Orleans remained flooded and filthy Monday, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina tore through the area.

Read Boulevard at Dwyer Road was under at least four feet of water in some places, marooning the 7th District Police Station, the 4th District Fire Department, Marion Abramson Senior High School and Joe Brown Memorial Park.

Access required a boat – and the will to risk exposure to probably toxic water, and the black-brown sludge beneath it.

At about 4 p.m., a fishing boat carrying contract-workers in blue decontamination suits dragged a second boat holding three corpses. The bodies were bloated and draped in black plastic.

The men on the boats would answer few questions, but one said they came from a nearby hospital. "Get out of there," one boater yelled at a photographer and a cameraman viewing the scene.

"Respect the dead!"

Abramson High, like much of the east, was a swampy mess filled with sludge — and eerie remnants of daily life before the hurricane.

From a blown-out window in Mr. Gibbs 10th-grade civics class, nearly a dozen not-so-long-forgotten essays clung to the walls, the only artifacts not wet or under water.

Bright red A's stood boldly against the mildewing white-lined papers, along with the names of the students who wrote them: Yanna Davis, Demetria Myers, Lesha Bartholomew.

Soaked textbooks littered the classroom, the halls and most corridors.

A toppled metal detector lay in the mess.

The school's gym, cafeteria and auditorium were empty. A water mark on

the first-floor auditorium entrance showed that the building had flooded to a depth of at least six feet. In the front parking lot, about 30 cars were tossed about like Tonka toys, some having bashed into others.

Upstairs, two dead white rats lay in a science lab sink, and soggy pieces of ceiling left a trail through the hallways. The dank smell of decay wafted through the air, despite the sunlight splashing through shattered windows.

Contradicting rumors that hundreds of evacuees poured into the school for shelter, only to meet a watery grave, a stroll through the school on Monday revealed no corpses.

Outside the school's gates, in the lake that once was Read Boulevard, signs tilted like cattails in the still high, but receding, water.

For about 500 yards in each direction, there was nothing but water. Buildings along the near horizon were set in a shadowy haze, their business wrecked and strewn with rubble.

Chef Menteur Highway was dry, but here, too, businesses were ruined, as far as the eye could see, and on residential lots, religious statuary and yard ornaments were cracked or headless.

"It was like a bomb blew it open," moving company manager Billy James, 43, said. "The whole place is shot. I lost cars, seven or eight trucks," he said of the firm, called The Movers. "We're starting from scratch. We'll probably have to expand to the north shore or Baton Rouge."

James conceded that hundreds of customers probably lost their belongings in the trashed warehouse at 8200 Chef Menteur. "They may not want it," James said of the stored goods. Most of his 50 employees were safe and accounted for, he said – except one man, Ray, whose last name temporarily had slipped James' mind.

Ray was believed to have ended up at the Houston Astrodome. "They scooped him up on the street down here," company driver Sidney Byrd, 53, said.

"He wasn't expecting to go to Houston," said James, cracking a smile.

"He wasn't happy about that. He'll be calling for a bus ticket."

James said the owner of the business wants to keep The Movers going, but it's not possible in New Orleans right now.

The company parking lot showed signs of looting. Someone tried to rip off the steering wheel of one big truck, leaving a burst of exposed wires below the dash. The giant padlock on the warehouse was intact, but someone managed to take off the bolts and smaller lock on the other side to get inside.

Though mostly abandoned to U.S. Army soldiers and some random dogs, the east was not entirely without signs of life on Monday.

Orlando Pena Morales, 59, a Cuban immigrant who moved to the region in 1979, rode out the storm in his trailer off Chef Menteur.

Some mobile homes in the trailer park, behind Tokyo Modeling in the 7700 block, were on their sides and Morales' belongings were ruined. He and his neighbor had painted the parking lot with an appeal for food and water.

A carpenter by trade, Morales laughed as he recalled his decision to stay through the storm. "I didn't want to go anywhere. I don't' want to go anywhere. I like New Orleans. I don't know why. You drink the Mississippi River."

Morales said the floodwaters at one point rose up to his neck. "What am I gonna do?" he said.

Next door, at the Sugar Bowl, floors and bowling lanes had buckled and bowling balls littering the sidewalk. Daylight came in through the wall that once backed the pinsetting equipment. A video poker machine looked as if it had been pummeled and pushed onto its side.

At Chef and Downman, as in neighborhoods all across eastern New Orleans, the floods had receded Monday to reveal bleached-brown grass and a coating of scum. Many a ranch-style, one-story home was spray-painted with zeros, signaling that the place had been searched and that no one was inside, dead or alive.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

While the sign at Six Flags announces the amusement park is closed because of Hurricane Katrina, it doesn't begin to tell the story, as parts of New Orleans, including Six Flags and Lake Forest Boulevard, remain underwater.




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Bobby Rideau of eastern New Orleans was desperate on Monday not for food or clothing, but for a flashlight to help him get into his flooded home off Chef Menteur Highway. It has been two weeks since the city was hit by Hurricane Katrina.

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# Jeff works to get back to business

## *Firms allowed in to begin cleanup*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

Tossing ruined ceiling tiles into the trash amid the pungent smell of mildew and mold, Dave Beard had a simple reason for returning to his debris-ridden workplace Monday.

"I've got to make a living," said Beard, who works for Pemco, a Harvey company that builds power plants for the oil and gas industry. "The sooner we get back on our feet, the sooner we can make some money."

Businesses throughout Jefferson Parish made a firm push to resume commerce on Monday, the first day leaders officially allowed company owners and some of their employees back in the parish in an effort dubbed Operation Jumpstart Jefferson.

Beard endured miles of heavy traffic along U.S. 90 to return to Jefferson on Monday morning. Annoyed by officials' efforts to keep him out because he lives in LaPlace and had no proof of his Jefferson work address, Beard said he drove around the barricade and made his way to work. There, he found a large hole in the second-story roof, spilling water, debris and mold throughout the building.

Meanwhile, the smell of spoiled chicken wafted through the World of Wings restaurant in the 1600 block of Manhattan Boulevard in Harvey. Co-owners and brothers Kerry Nichols and Koy Nichols spent the day chucking out the chickens and cleaning the store, eyeing a reopening later this month.

Koy Nichols praised the speed of Jefferson's rebuilding. "The recovery has been faster than we thought," he said. He lamented, however, the financial difficulty for some of his workers.

"The worst part is that the employees take the hardest hit," he said, adding that his staff depends heavily on tips and hourly wages.

Several business managers said they are still searching for their workers, many of whom fled Hurricane Katrina and are now scattered throughout the country.

At the Heritage Plaza office building in Metairie, Roddy Orgeron, owner of a Mandeville computer consulting company, and two of his buddies hauled several computers and boxes of equipment down 16 flights of stairs. Orgeron's client asked him to retrieve computers from the office, which had sustained roof and water damage, Orgeron said.

With sweat pouring through his shirt in the powerless building, Orgeron said the insurance company badly needed their computer files. "When everything is flooded, you do what you have to do," he said. "They needed these as soon as possible."

Down the road, in the 3500 block of Veterans Boulevard in Metairie, Sherry Perkins and her husband, Ed Perkins, spent the day cleaning out one branch of their restaurant, Lee's Original New Orleans Hamburgers.

While their Metairie home remains flooded, the couple, who sent their children out of town for school, will live in an apartment above the restaurant.

Luckily, the business suffered little damage, Sherry Perkins said. "This is home," she said. "This is our life, these two businesses. As soon as (Sheriff) Harry Lee says Jefferson is unlocked for business, we're ready."

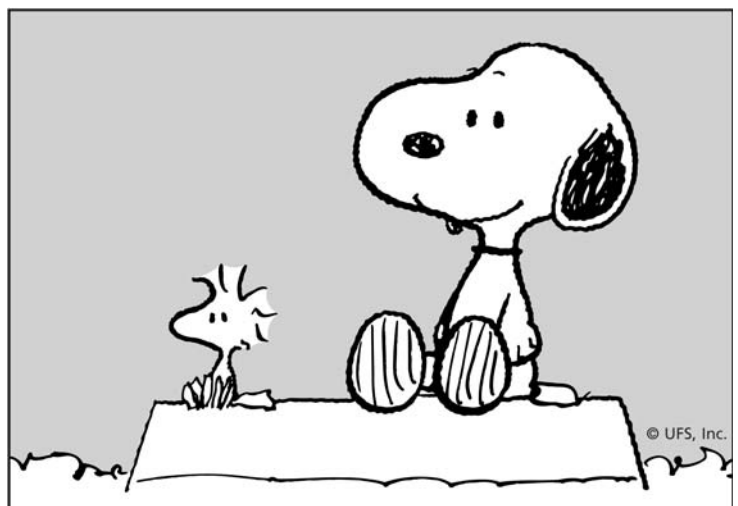
In the meantime, the couple continues to commute from Oakdale, a four-hour haul from Metairie.

At Dorignac's Food Center in Metairie, Scott Miller, director of operations, said rainwater spilled into the store from a roof tear, but several workers returned to aid with cleanup.

The damage "wasn't as bad as we thought, and it wasn't as good as we thought," he said, saying the 40-year-old store could reopen late next week. In red spray paint, Miller wrote on plywood covering the store's front windows: "Opening Soon!!"

While stores planned reopenings, several banks and savings associations swung their doors open Monday. At a Hibernia branch in the Marrero Shopping Center, Mary Meyers, 68, said she was the first in line at the bank at 8:30 a.m., more than two hours before it opened.

With two armed soldiers guarding the door and about 40 people in line about 11 a.m., Meyers said she needed some of her Social Security money to pay bills. Surprisingly upbeat, Meyers said she remains confident in the metro area's upturn. "It'll come back," she said. "It'll bounce back. New Orleans will bounce back, too."




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*Working overtime to get local shops, stores and restaurants back on track, Jefferson Parish officials allowed their owners to return Monday, giving them a chance to assess damage and begin getting back to the business of doing business.*



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**GRETNA:** Koy Nicholls gets busy Monday cleaning up the kitchen at the Wow Café and Wingery, one of several businesses he and his brothers own in Jefferson and Orleans parishes.

# LET THE COMMERCE COMMENCE




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

**KENNER:** A worker pressure washes the tugway behind the makeshift military compound at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Monday. When the airport resumes flight services, the tugway will be used to move luggage.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**METAIRIE:** After carrying several computers down 16 flights of stairs, Dave Kleinatland, left, and Seth James of Network Tactics roll the high-tech hardware through the lobby of Heritage Plaza on Monday. The computers belong to Stone Insurance Co., which has set up shop in Mandeville.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**METAIRIE:** Mike Marchand, co-manager of Dorignac's Food Center, watches as Scott Miller, the grocery store's director of business operations, spray paints an 'open soon' message on the plywood covering the store's windows Monday.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# You've got a year

Next Labor Day, I expect to have dinner at Commander's Palace, drink a hurricane at Pat O'Brien's and then spend the remainder of the evening at Preservation Hall. Stop complaining and get busy!

**Paul M. Morgan**
*Jupiter, Fla*

# Aaron Broussard was right

Thank you, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, for saving Jefferson Parish. You are a hero. The Times-Picayune owes you a Page 1 apology for ridiculing you as an alarmist just three weeks before Hurricane Katrina.

As for New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, he is the goat. Assuming he has no responsibility for the 17th Street Canal, it still takes little forethought to realize that the citizens in the Superdome would need food, water, portable toilets and security. This newspaper has continuously praised Mayor Nagin during his tenure. His only accomplishment thus far is that he is perceived as honest. An honest fool is no match for a hurricane. The truth is he has been learning on the job and failing.

It is not too early to assess responsibility and demand accountability. In fact, it is two weeks too late.

**Bruce Netterville**
*Jefferson*
*Now in Lafayette*

# Nobody's home

A front-page photo in the Washington Post Friday shows agents breaking down the door to a locked house in New Orleans, looking for survivors. Many people locked their doors and evacuated. How do we communicate to the rescue forces that we don't want them to break our doors down and expose our homes to the thugs?

I shared this article with my family, which is spread out all over the United States because of the storm. I am writing for all of them and for others in the same situation. The last thing any of them needs is a broken-down door exposing their home. The Times-Picayune has access to the officials. I am asking for your help to set up a Web page or phone number where safe residents can put their addresses, so that their homes are not broken into. This would also reduce the number of homes officials would have to search.

**Ellis Cooper**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Woodbridge, Va.*

nola.com

**SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:**
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## OUR OPINIONS

# A world of help

The Gulf Coast is in a world of hurt right now, and there's no foreseeable end to the pain that is pouring out of this region as families continue to mourn the loss of loved ones and their homes. But there is a world of help out there, too, and the international community's response to our crisis is something that our region and our nation should never forget.

More than 95 countries have stepped up with offers of money, oil, supplies and people trained in everything from medical care for the living to forensics to help identify the dead.

Canadian warships delivered supplies, and Air Canada planes helped evacuate people. The Vancouver Urban Search and Rescue Team was the first to arrive at inundated St. Bernard Parish. They rescued 119 people before the U.S. military arrived.

But help has come not only from close neighbors and wealthy, developed nations. It is also coming from places that could hardly be expected to look past their own pressing needs. Perhaps the most moving offers came from war-torn Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, which is still struggling to recover from its own catastrophe, last December's tsunami, which claimed far more lives and caused more destruction than Hurricane Katrina.

Sri Lanka wants to send $25,000 to recognize the response of Americans to the tsunami. Indonesia's director of tsunami reconstruction told the Los Angeles Times that his country is also willing to share what lessons it has learned in its recovery.

The help that is pouring in from the rest of the world is borne, many times, of remembered pain. Croatia, for example, has offered forensics experts. That country's war in the early 1990s has given it expertise in identifying the dead that, tragically, the United States might need.

"There should not be an assumption that because America is the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, this isn't a major challenge and a major crisis," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Australian radio.

He's right, of course, and the world has been quick to recognize that, even though there has been criticism from international quarters, too.

For Americans, it's not completely comfortable to be on the receiving end of generosity. We are accustomed to thinking of ourselves as strong and self-reliant. We respond to other people's disasters, and this turning of the tables is disorienting. But this is no time for pride, and it's good that the federal government is not rejecting the world's generosity. "We've turned down no offers," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday. That's the right attitude, and it needs to continue.

European Union nations expressed some frustration late last week that they have not been able to get supplies and personnel to the disaster as quickly as they would like because they are awaiting the U.S. government's go-ahead. That's something that needs to be rectified, but the U.S. government's decision to reach out to NATO for help in delivering food, medicine, bedding and other aid from European nations is a good sign that progress is being made.

Making sure that the right people and things are sent to the right places is important, of course, and managing the flood of help will present its own logistical challenges. But our government needs to make sure that accepting and coordinating international offers are given a sufficiently high priority.

No one should go without something that's waiting in a truck a world away.

DAVID TYREE

# WWL radio host dies of cancer

*'God didn't create a better human being'*

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

New Orleans radio talk host David Tyree died early Monday of prostate cancer.

Originally diagnosed with the disease in 1996, Tyree suffered a relapse last fall and later left his job at news-talk WWL 870 AM to live and seek treatment near family in Alva, Okla.

"They were very close, watched him, tended to him daily," said Jack Savoie, Tyree's producer at WWL. "I talked to David at least twice a week. He always put on a brave face. He was tough to the very end."

A Vietnam veteran and former TV anchorman in Lafayette, Tyree had done an earlier stint as WWL talk host and was working as a reporter at WVUE-Channel 8 and as a talk host at WGSO radio when he first was diagnosed with cancer.

He became a crusader for early detection. After treatment delivered what he described as a "clean bill of health" by his doctors, Tyree eventually returned to the airwaves, first in Baton Rouge in September 1999 and then in December 2000 at WWL.

At WWL, Tyree established himself as a hard-to-categorize talk host. A hawk on the war in Iraq - or, more precisely, a hawk on the overall war on Terror - Tyree leaned less to the right on many social issues.

He was a tireless proponent of New Orleans and its frequently confounding charms.

"Anybody who knows New Orleans has a love-hate relationship with New Orleans," Tyree told The Times-Picayune on the occasion of his 2000 return to WWL. "It can drive you crazy, it can be infuriating, but there's no place like it in the country. It's got that magic, whatever that magic is."

Former WWL-Channel 4 anchorman Garland Robinette, one of several temporary hosts who filled in for Tyree during the early stages of his relapse, became Tyree's permanent time-slot replacement in May.

At the time, WWL managers said they would hold a job for Tyree until he recovered, a promise Robinette made a condition of his own employment at the station.

According to Jay Mitchel, Tyree was glued to television coverage of Katrina and the storm's aftermath, and spoke by phone with several Louisiana leaders.

Several family members watched Sunday's New Orleans Saints victory with Tyree.

"That was the last thing he got to see before he passed," Mitchel said. "He was surprised that they won, but he was happy."

Diane Newman, WWL programming director, said she last spoke with Tyree as Hurricane Katrina approached the Louisiana coast.

"All he cared about was that I was OK and that everybody else here was OK and how sorry he was that he couldn't be here (on the air)," said Newman, whose station was forced from the city by Katrina and has relocated its base of operations in Baton Rouge. "And I know these past two weeks, all David was thinking about was not his cancer and his dying – he was thinking about us.

"God didn't create a better human being."

Tyree's funeral is scheduled for Thursday at 10 a.m. at Marshall Funeral Home in Alva.

Instead of flowers, Tyree's family requests a donation to the American Red Cross relief fund to aid Hurricane Katrina victims.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

PAGE A-17
*Tuesday*
*September 13, 2005*

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# HOMECOMINGS

## *Saints work out deals to play at Tiger Stadium, Alamodome*



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Owner Tom Benson, right, and NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, center, meet in Tiger Stadium on Monday to announce that the Saints will play four of their home games in Baton Rouge and three in San Antonio.

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — The Saints, displaced by the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, will play four home games at LSU's Tiger Stadium and three at the Alamodome in San Antonio, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue announced Monday.

The first Tiger Stadium game could be the most popular: Oct. 30 against the Miami Dolphins, led by former LSU coach Nick Saban, who guided LSU to the 2003 BCS national championship and left for the Dolphins in December 2004.

**AT EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.**
**SAINTS VS. GIANTS**
6:30 p.m.
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The Saints' other games at Tiger Stadium are Nov. 6 against the Chicago Bears, Dec. 4 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and former LSU receiver Michael Clayton, and Dec. 18 against the Carolina Panthers.

The games in San Antonio are Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills, Oct. 16 against the Atlanta Falcons, and Dec. 24 against the Detroit Lions. One other Saints home game against the New York Giants already has been moved to Giants Stadium as part of a Monday night doubleheader Sept. 19.

Tagliabue met with Saints owner Tom Benson, chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors Bernard Boudreaux, LSU chancellor Sean O'Keefe and Superdome Commission chairman Tim Coulon, among others, at the Tiger Den Suites on Monday morning to hash out the agreement.

Tagliabue said the priority for the rescheduling "has to continue to be recovery and rebuilding from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina."

"If you look ahead for the next two weeks, the next month, we should stay out of the way of those priorities being met," Tagliabue said. "The appropriate time for the Saints to start playing games at LSU would be against the Dolphins on Oct. 30."

Benson said the Christmas Eve game was scheduled in San Antonio so players could be with their families, most of which have relocated there.

"I'd like to thank the commissioner of the National Football League for stepping up to the tremendous problem we have, not only the Saints, but the NFL, of getting this behind us so now we know what our schedule (is), where we are going to play the rest of the season," Benson said.

The Saints evacuated New Orleans to the San Francisco Bay Area before their final exhibition game at Oakland, and later moved their operations to San Antonio, where Benson has long-standing business and personal ties. The team has continued to practice there. On Sunday, New Orleans won its season opener at Carolina 23-20.

FEMA is occupying the Saints' Metairie practice facility, and the Superdome was heavily damaged by the hurricane and by its use as an evacuation center of last resort.

Tagliabue and Benson declined to answer

*See* **TAGLIABUE,** *page A-18*

### SAINTS REVISED SCHEDULE

Sept. 11 at Carolina, W 23-20
Monday vs. New York Giants, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Minnesota, noon
Oct. 2 vs. Buffalo at San Antonio, noon
Oct. 9 at Green Bay, noon
Oct. 16 vs. Atlanta at San Antonio, noon
Oct. 23 at St. Louis, noon
Oct. 30 vs. Miami at Baton Rouge, noon
Nov. 6 vs. Chicago at Baton Rouge, noon
Nov. 13 Bye
Nov. 20 at New England, noon
Nov. 27 at New York Jets, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 vs. Tampa Bay at Baton Rouge, noon
Dec. 12 at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Dec. 18 vs. Carolina at Baton Rouge, noon
Dec. 24 vs. Detroit at San Antonio, noon
Jan. 1 at Tampa Bay, noon
Note: Times subject to change

# Benson urges San Antonio fans to rally behind Saints

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints owner Tom Benson urged San Antonio residents Monday to support his team with sellout crowds for three games that have been shifted to the Alamodome.

But he declined to make any long-term commitment to San Antonio, saying the residents of South Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina need something to take their focus off the devastation caused by the storm.

"The only hope they got left is this football team," Benson said. "They need us."

The Saints cannot play at the Superdome this season because of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, so they will play a split home schedule with the three games in San Antonio and four games at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.

The Saints' three games at the Alamodome are Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills, Oct. 16 against the Atlanta Falcons and Dec. 24 against the Detroit Lions.

"A little over two weeks ago we were in California, and we just played the Raiders and we didn't know where we were going," Benson said.

"So it went back and forth to see what could be done. The Alamodome has some restrictions on what games could be here. LSU had restrictions, too. So it was a lot of conversations about different games."

Benson praised San Antonio for welcoming the team with open arms, but reiterated the city has an opportunity now to show if it is serious about supporting an NFL franchise.

"It's most important for everyone involved to make certain capacity crowds attend every game that we have here," Benson said. "This is something brand new, never happened before in the National Football League.

"I expect these games to be televised nationally and it could make me not only proud of our football team, but it would also make the (San Antonio) mayor proud to show what kind of great city you have here in San Antonio. This effort and this schedule will help rebuild Louisiana and the Gulf South."

Several San Antonio elected officials attended Monday's news conference, but former San Antonio mayor Nelson Wolff said they can't worry about trying to land the Saints long-term.

"If we do well and support them right, I think we will be considered for something down the road," said Wolff, who now serves as a county judge. "Right now we just have to do a good job and see where it leads."

Saints coach Jim Haslett said most of his players would have preferred to play most of their home games in San Antonio because their families have relocated there.

"Again, I know what their (NFL) agenda was, they would like for us to play in our home state and our players like that, too, to be honest with you," Haslett said. "It's just more of a travel and family issues. But I'm sure their families and friends will go to Baton Rouge to see the game to be with them."

# Giants next challenge for charged Saints

## *Haslett hopes team's effort carries over to Monday night game*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints coach Jim Haslett saw his players pushing beyond their limits Sunday against the Carolina Panthers.

They successfully controlled the clock with a rushing attack that featured Deuce McAllister, who rushed for 64 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries.

Although a few times defensively they bent, giving up a few long runs by Stephen Davis, they didn't break to the point of not being able to hold their lead.

They were emotionally charged, eager to give their fans, many who are displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, something to feel good about.

It was a good day to be Saints fan after New Orleans pulled out a dramatic 23-20 road victory that wasn't sealed until John Carney made a 47-yard field goal with three seconds left.

But that's over.

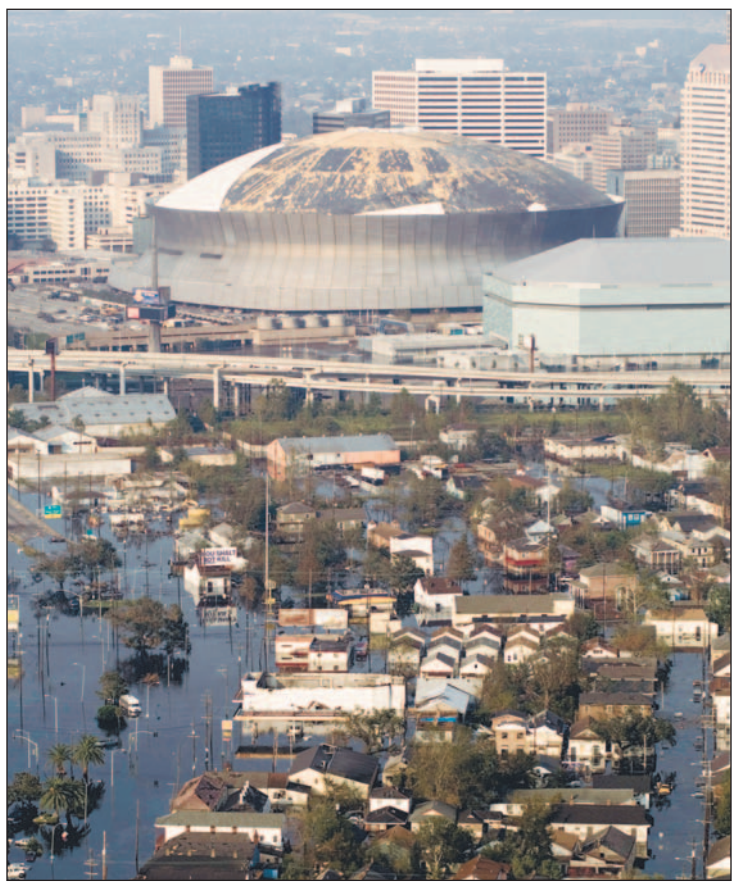
Now comes the real challenge. Can the Saints be as emotionally charged for this upcoming Monday night's game against the New York Giants?

Saints coach Jim Haslett thinks so.

"I don't think it will be problem, they'll be excited about playing on Monday night, they'll be excited about the opportunity to play in New York, and hopefully we can continue playing well," Haslett said.

Haslett said he's confident his players will be emotionally charged because he has seen it

*See* **SAINTS,** *page A-18*



NNS PHOTO BY BOB MAHONEY

New Orleans Arena, top right, did not sustain the damages of its neighboring Superdome as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Hornets officials say the facility could be ready to host games by the NBA All-Star break.

# N.O. Arena not nearly as bad as Superdome

## *Hornets could play home games by All-Star break*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

Damage to New Orleans Arena, home of the Hornets, was relatively minor and the facility could be ready to host NBA games by the midseason All-Star break, a top official of the building's management company said Monday.

Doug Thornton, regional vice president for SMG, toured the Arena on Sunday and reported that with any luck at restoring power in the area soon, the necessary cleanup and repair should only take a couple of months.

"The good news in all this is the Arena is not nearly as bad as the Dome," Thornton said. "If we can get in quickly and get to work, we can fix it quickly.

"The bottom line is we think we can get the Arena in shape and ready for use by the first quarter of 2006, if not sooner. That's our goal."

Unlike the Superdome, which housed tens of thousands of evacuees as a shelter during Hurricane Katrina, the Arena was used only as a special medical needs facility and access in the building was restricted to the concourse areas.

The Arena came through the storm without significant structural damage, Thornton said.

"I think there's minor roof damage that needs to be remedied," Thornton said, "and some water damage on some of the carpet and drywall in the locker room areas. Obviously, there's some damage to the exterior skin; a couple of panels that have come off. And there are a couple of panels on the exterior

*See* **HORNETS,** *page A-18*

# Now Saints look to Eli and Giants

**TAGLIABUE,** *from page A-17*

since last season, when they closed out the season with four consecutive victories to finish 8-8.

"It really was a carryover to this week, they started off that way in practices and it carried over in the game," Haslett said. "Obviously the Hurricane hitting the city played into it. But really the way we practiced, started last year."

Haslett was so emotional the day before the Carolina game that he couldn't finish reading a letter to his team from New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin, which described some of the devastation he saw in the city resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

Haslett still had some emotions carry over from Sunday's game into Monday, wishing he could answer only questions about how his team performed rather than whether San Antonio is a good place to play three games that has been designated for the Alamodome. But Haslett answered every question at length.

Still, it didn't take him long to shift his focus toward the Eli Manning-led New York Giants, who also won Sunday.

"They really got a pretty good offense and they have a heck of a group of linebackers," Haslett said. "I think they're a good team and didn't watch the game yet from (Sunday), but they must have scored a couple on special teams. I think they are much better."

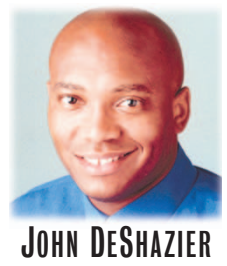


AP PHOTO

Duece McAllister scored two touchdowns in the Saints' 23-20 win against the Carolina Panthers Sunday. The Saints will travel to New York for their 'home' opener to play the Giants Monday night.

**NOTES:** The X-rays on tight end Ernie Conwell's jaw and wrist were negative. He suffered a dislocated jaw in Sunday's game and Haslett said he would be listed as questionable for Monday's game. … Wide receiver Az-Zahir Hakim re-injured his hamstring and is listed as questionable. … Haslett said Monday that he has never been on the LSU campus, where the Saints will play four home games this season.

# Four games in Baton Rouge not enough for N.O. fans



JOHN DESHAZIER

If they can play four Saints home games in Baton Rouge, they could've played six or seven.

End of story.

So, no, it certainly doesn't appear that Saints fans won in Monday's announcement that the team's seven regular-season games will be split 4/3, with four at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge and three at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Definitely, it could've been worse. NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue could have succumbed to the wish of the organization, which was to play most, if not all, of the home games in San Antonio, where the team is headquartered and practicing.

"Wait 'til next year" could have taken on a whole new meaning if they'd have been blanked, or San Antonio would've been given four, five or six Saints games.

But that's little comfort for fans in and close to Louisiana, who, for 12 weekends instead of eight, will have little or no chance of seeing in person the team they've grown up unconditionally loving, loving to hate or hating to love.

Unless, that is, they still retain the kind of disposable income after Hurricane Katrina that will allow them to travel to one of the eight regularly scheduled road games, or one of the other four (please, let's not call next Monday's game in East Rutherford, N.J., a "home" game for the Saints) that have been designated as home games but sure appear to be "away." And that isn't likely.

Maybe the thinking was that San Antonio was owed a debt of gratitude beyond "thank you," and that's understandable. The city has been more than generous to New Orleans' football franchise and any of its displaced citizens who also might have landed there.

But payment shouldn't have been to award the city almost as many games as the Saints will play in Baton Rouge. That's no knock against the wonderful citizens of San Antonio. It's a defense of many in and around Louisiana who have little to take solace in now that they've lost almost everything they have called their own.

Now, they can't even call the Saints all their own, at least for this season.

"I don't want to leave Louisiana," Saints owner Tom Benson said from LSU's campus, after the announcement had been made.

That makes it sound like his arm was twisted. Maybe that actually was the case. But whatever happened that led to the decision, it just doesn't seem that the best interests of Saints fans fully was taken into consideration. Otherwise we'd be talking about six or seven games in Baton Rouge, one or none in San Antonio.

Obviously, the logistical concerns with staging an NFL game at LSU, now that hundreds of thousands of evacuees have settled there and taken up residence in Baton Rouge hotels, sufficiently were alleviated. So the obvious question for Saints fans is this: Why couldn't they be ironed out for six or seven games?

Why is it that the people who need to see the Saints in person the most will be watching them on television, playing in San Antonio almost as many weekends as they'll have access to them?

The best possible scenario for Saints fans would have been for New Orleans' football team completely to take root in Baton Rouge for seven Sundays, 90 minutes from the home it cannot occupy, where its scattered fans have a better chance of convening and watching their team on gameday without having to spend its more-precious-than-ever dollars on a hotel room.

But that's not going to happen.

It could've been worse. We all know that the franchise wanted to play most of its games in San Antonio; Tagliabue easily could have satiated that desire.

But it could've been better, too.

It should've been better.

# Dolphins game could draw most interest

**SAINTS,** *from page A-17*

questions about the future of the Superdome, and Benson declined to talk about the Saints' future in New Orleans. Before the storm, Benson and the state were wrangling over the terms of the Saints' agreement with the state.

"I don't want to leave Louisiana," Benson said.

State officials felt it was important for the Saints to return to Louisiana to play at least some of their home games. That would give fans, most of them storm victims, something positive and it would aid in the recovery.

"It was a Herculean task this morning that we accomplished with the cooperation of Mr. Benson and the commissioner, and I have to commend LSU for their efforts," said Coulon, the state's chief negotiator with the Saints. "As you know, they are dealing with many, many logistical issues here. No doubt every person in that room was sensitive to not having a negative influence on the recovery. But it was also the sentiment that the Saints need to be a part of our rebuilding initiative. We made the best of a difficult situation."

Benson and LSU officials said many of the details of playing at LSU, such as security, ticket sales, media rights and concessions, have yet to be worked out but some of those matters were discussed in preliminary talks last week.

"The people who met today aren't the people who work out the nitty-gritty details to make things happen," LSU associate athletic director Herb Vincent said. "LSU will obviously be reimbursed for expenses and would not suffer financial losses from this arrangement. Beyond that, not a lot of details have been settled. They will emerge in the days to come."

One important issue is the distribution of tickets, which Benson said is a priority. He said he planned to set up a staff in Baton Rouge as soon as possible, and that season-ticket holders' tickets will be good in Baton Rouge and San Antonio.

"That's the first thing we'll be working on," Benson said.

"We'll work together to make the distribution of tickets as fan friendly as can be," Tagliabue said.

Tagliabue said he was confident hotel room availability would not be a problem because the first game in Baton Rouge is 49 days away. Evacuees have taken most available hotel space within a large radius of Baton Rouge, but that situation is expected to ease by Oct. 30. The NFL needs about 260 rooms to accommodate the teams and personnel required to put on a game.

Another hurdle that must be cleared is the turnaround time for the Miami and Chicago games. LSU plays North Texas, the rescheduled game from Sept. 3, on Oct. 29, and its homecoming game against Appalachian State on Nov. 5. That will leave about 14 hours between the end of the LSU games and the noon kickoffs for the Saints. But a source close to the negotiations said the kickoff for the game against the Dolphins might be moved back to 3 p.m., and that the game against the Bears might be moved to Monday night.

# Hornets still committed to N.O.

**HORNETS,** *from page A-17*

LED screens missing, but we don't know the extent of the damage there.

"We don't think there's any significant damage to the electrical distribution system or the mechanical systems such as the elevators or escalators. We've got those issues at the Dome, but not the Arena."

Cleanup crews are clearing the facility of debris around the outer concourses, Thornton said, and SMG soon will put out a bid to do the environmental cleanup inside of the Arena to dispose of refuse and medical waste that was left behind during the evacuation process.

That effort could be slowed somewhat by the lack of electrical power and sewer availability in the area surrounding the Arena.

Thornton said he spoke with Hornets owner George Shinn on Sunday following the inspection tour of the facility and updated Shinn on the damage, the first time Shinn had received first-hand knowledge of the Arena's status.

He said Shinn reiterated to him the team's desire to move back into New Orleans as quickly as possible, though, officials are still in fact-finding missions around the state and the country, touring possible venues to hold some of the team's home schedule.

Several of the facilities at which the Hornets are looking are operated by SMG, including those in Oklahoma City, Bossier City and Baton Rouge.

That, Thornton said, is merely coincidence, though New Orleans Arena's game operations employees would be available to work Hornets games in any SMG-managed arena, which would make any transition much easier.

"I think," Thornton said, "the Hornets are appreciative of that."

LSU officials are awaiting word as to when the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, a possible alternative venue, would be cleaned up so that Hornets officials can tour the building, according to LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich.

The PMAC was used as a medical evacuation facility until last Thursday, preventing members of the Hornets' fact-finding team from visiting the arena.

"We're just waiting to hear from the cleanup people," Radakovich said.

Efforts to reach Hornets president Paul Mott were unsuccessful Monday.

# Panthers' Jenkins out another season

## *Redskins make change, Walker out*

**From wire reports**

Carolina Panthers defensive tackle Kris Jenkins will miss his second consecutive season because of injury.

Jenkins, a 2003 All-Pro, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during Carolina's 23-20 loss to the Saints on Sunday. Although he was injured in the first quarter, he said Monday he didn't realize the severity and briefly returned to the field in the third quarter.

"I didn't think it was that bad ... it felt like I had hyperextended it at first," he said. "I could still run on the thing. I know that's a little odd. When I went back out there, I realized then I had torn something big."

Jenkins, a two-time Pro Bowl player, missed 12 games last season with a shoulder injury.

**RAMSEY WON'T START:** Quarterback Mark Brunell will start for the Washington Redskins Monday night against the Dallas Cowboys, retaking the quarterback job from Tulane alum Patrick Ramsey.

Coach Joe Gibbs had prepared for nearly a year for Ramsey to be the starter, but the coach changed his mind after Ramsey threw an interception and fumbled twice in Sunday's victory over the Chicago Bears before leaving with a mild neck injury. Brunell came in to lead the victory.

Ramsey completed six of 11 passes for 105 yards, and his first drive ended with an overthrow that was picked off by Nathan Vasher. Ramsey fumbled on third down on his second drive, but teammate Jon Jansen recovered to turn a potential turnover into a punting situation. On his third series, Ramsey lost the ball on the play he was injured. Brunell was 8-for-14 for 70 yards.

**BOLLER WILL MISS GAME:** Baltimore Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller will miss Sunday's game against Tennessee with a hyperextended right big toe, so Anthony Wright will start for the first time since facing the Titans in the 2003 playoffs.

Boller was injured this past Sunday night when he was sacked by Larry Tripplett in the third quarter of the Ravens' 24-7 loss to the Indianapolis Colts. He was replaced by Wright, who went 19-for-31 for 214 yards and two interceptions.

The Ravens have a bye following Sunday's game, so Boller would get three weeks rest before Baltimore plays at home against the New York Jets on Oct. 2.

**PACKERS LOSE WALKER:** Green Bay wide receiver Javon Walker suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee Sunday, and will miss the rest of the season.

Walker was hurt in the third quarter of the Packers' 17-3 loss at Detroit.

Walker, who made the Pro Bowl last season after catching 89 passes for 1,382 yards and 12 touchdowns, threatened to hold out this year if the final two years of his contract weren't renegotiated. But he showed up in training camp on time, saying he wanted to prove he was worthy of a blockbuster contract.

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** One Dolphins player says Nick Saban's defense will get even better after forcing three turnovers in a 34-10 opening victory over the Denver Broncos.

"Our defensive playbook is like a phone book, and we didn't get through the A's," rookie linebacker Channing Crowder said. "We have a lot of things we can pull out if we need to, or we can let our great players make plays." … Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey has a dislocated shoulder and running back Mike Anderson has separated cartilage in his ribs, and their status for this week's game against San Diego is unknown … Jaguars offensive line coach Paul Boudreau returned to work Monday, a day after collapsing in the locker room from "heat and dehydration." Boudreau, 55 and a former Saints assistant, fell ill following Sunday's 26-14 victory over Seattle and was transported to a hospital. He was released Monday morning and back in his office that afternoon.

## TREE TIME



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**TAKING A BREAK:** Several members of the National Guard took a break from relief efforts Monday to test the layout at Audubon Golf Club. The course escaped flooding but damaged trees present new obstacles. The National Guard has set up headquarters near the course. There is no word as to when the course may reopen.

# Green Wave finds a home in Ruston

*La. Tech campus, game-week routine lift players' spirits*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — After two weeks of traveling from one city to the next and not knowing what its next move was going to be, Tulane's football team arrived "home" Monday evening.

Louisiana Tech, nearly 300 miles from Tulane's Uptown campus, will be the Green Wave's home for the next three months.

"I wouldn't call it home, but it'll do for now," said Tulane senior offensive lineman Chris McGee.

The Green Wave, displaced by Hurricane Katrina, traveled to Jackson, Miss., the day before the hurricane hit. It then traveled to Dallas before the athletic administration was able to place the football team at Louisiana Tech for the fall semester. In all, the Green Wave has spent more than 36 hours riding buses.

"It's been an adventure," linebacker Anthony Cannon said. "It's all about adjusting."

Once the team arrived in Ruston on Monday, the players went through an orientation, picked up their books at the school's bookstore, got their class schedules and had dinner. Following dinner was a team meeting at the Thomas Assembly Center, Tech's basketball arena.

The team will be housed at Caruthers Hall, also home to more than 100 Katrina evacuees, according to a university security guard. In Dallas, the Doubletree Hotel was the team's home, and at least once the team used Southern Methodist University's practice field. Tulane will meet SMU on Sept. 24.

Settling in new quarters isn't expected to be a problem.

"I think everybody will adjust just fine," McGee said. "We've adjusted just fine wherever we've gone so far."

Cannon said this stop will be better than the team's first two stops - Jackson State University, and then Dallas. Now, Cannon said, the picture is much clearer for the team.

"We're here now. We have a home, and we're finally relieved to know we have a set schedule for now and know what we're going to do next," Cannon said. "We have somewhere to call home and we appreciate Louisiana Tech and Ruston for opening their arms to us."

Next for the Green Wave will be classes today. The team will practice at 1 p.m. today in preparation for Saturday's game against Mississippi State at Independence Stadium in Shreveport.

Game-week, players said, will make a huge difference with the team.

"Now that the season's starting, we have something to get everything else off of our minds," McGee said. "Now we have games to worry about. We'll start focusing on what's important, and all the little things won't matter much - like our sanity and free time."

The Green Wave's Sept. 4 season opener with Southern Miss was pushed back to the weekend following Thanksgiving, meaning Tulane will play 11 consecutive weeks without a break.

"I've been waiting for this for six weeks. Six weeks of camp, it's the longest camp in history," McGee said. "I think this week will make all the difference in the world."

Recovering from a disaster isn't new for safety Sean Lucas. A week before he was to leave his Georgia home to become a freshman at Tulane, a house fire destroyed all of his belongings. Katrina hit one week before Lucas was to begin his senior season.

Getting over a disaster takes the right attitude, said Lucas, whose apartment near South Claiborne and Napoleon likely received flood waters.

"I rebounded (from the fire) and I'll rebound again," Lucas said.

# Call was all bad news for Green Wave's Smith

*Tulane receiver finds house was damaged by hurricane winds*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON - New Orleanians have been getting those calls the past couple of weeks – those calls about their homes, or what's left of their homes.

Fred Smith got one of those calls while evacuated in Houston. A neighbor from St. Rose had stayed in town during Hurricane Katrina.

"They told us the house was messed up," said Smith, a Tulane receiver. "But we didn't expect that much damage."

Smith laughed after saying that. The damage was unfathomable, so all he could do was laugh at the absurdity.

"It's done," Smith said of his mother's home. "You can't prepare yourself for it. We had a lot of wind damage. The roof came off."

Because Smith is injured and wasn't with the team, which spent the past 13 days in Dallas, the junior had the opportunity to visit his house. On Monday, he reunited with his teammates at Louisiana Tech, where he will begin classes today. Smith won't play this season because of a knee injury suffered in the preseason.

"It's good being back," Smith said. "The guys are like my other family right now."

PULLING THE STRINGS: Jim King has been the logistical savior for Tulane football. So who is he?

He is the vice president for student affairs at Louisiana Tech, and in the past week King has been orchestrating the unprecedented move of a Division I-A football team into the home of another Division I-A football team, and about 11,000 other students. King oversaw housing and meal planning, and helped coordinate the academic and athletic facets.

King said the number of transplanted students at Louisiana Tech "is growing every day." On Monday, he said approximately 400 students from other schools were on campus, including Tulane's 88 football players.

"The challenges have been varied," King said. "Such as massaging an eight-story high-rise."

Caruthers Dorm had been closed and was scheduled for demolition before Katrina hit. Louisiana Tech officials decided to repair the building's air conditioning system and take in evacuees. On Monday, the Green Wave moved into the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth floors, sharing a facility with "3-month old babies to 90-year-olds," King said. "Our hearts go out to the people who have been displaced. And when you hear their stories, it's amazing. . . . It's emotional because of all the unknown."

Tulane football also knows about that.

**THE ENVELOPE PLEASE:** Tulane has selected its football captains for the season: all 17 of the seniors. The Green Wave season begins Saturday against Mississippi State, in a 7 p.m. game at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

**TELETHON TO BE HELD DURING MSU GAME:** A telethon will be held during Saturday's to assist youngsters in relief centers and help rebuild Boys & Girls Clubs damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The game will be played at the Independence Bowl Stadium in Shreveport.

The phone number and Web site for donations will be shown during the game.

# ESPN to televise Tigers-Vols game

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

Despite previous requests from Tennessee officials to move the Tigers-Volunteers' Sept. 24th game to a daytime kickoff for fans' travel purposes, ESPN snatched up the possible top five matchup and set a 6:45 p.m. kickoff.

The SEC announced CBS will pick up either Arkansas at Alabama or Florida at Kentucky. Should Tennessee and LSU maintain their current positions in The Associated Press poll after this week, it will mark the first time since Oct. 31, 1959 that two opponents ranked in the top five play a game in Tiger Stadium.

The LSU-Tennessee game is sold out. Prices on eBay already are as high as $125 per seat.

**WROTEN HONORED:** LSU senior defensive tackle Claude Wroten was selected SEC Defensive Lineman of the Week. Wroten blocked a field-goal attempt that sparked a 28-point fourth quarter and lifted the Tigers to a 35-31 victory at Arizona State.

On the block, Wroten was able to penetrate the Sun Devils' line, deflecting the ball backward in the air. Cornerback Mario Stevenson returned the ball 55 yards untouched, reducing the deficit to 17-14.

Wroten had three tackles, two for losses, a pass deflection and a quarterback hurry.

Wroten received the same honor following his performance against Vanderbilt last year.

**AWAY TICKETS:** The LSU Ticket Office is shipping tickets for those who purchased seats to LSU away games Sept. 19, except if the buyer's address is in one of the following parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa, Plaquemines and several counties along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

People in the areas listed above can pick up their tickets at the LSU athletic administration building during business hours.

Fans who wish to update their address prior to ticket delivery must make those updates by 5 p.m. Thursday by using a form available at www.LSUsports.net, under the ticketing link.

# Players learn brothers are alive

*Ex-Auburn player organizing relief effort with Jets*

**From wire reports**

An Auburn football player who spent days believing his two younger brothers were killed in Hurricane Katrina and not knowing his father's whereabouts has discovered that all three are alive and staying in Houston.

Alonzo Horton, a New Orleans native, said he learned Sunday night that his family members were alive after calling a cousin to tell them of the boys' deaths.

"He said, 'Man, that didn't happen because your daddy's right here with me. I was like, 'What?'" Horton said Monday evening.

"I heard their voice and the phone died out, so I knew that they were OK."

Horton said another cousin had told him 6-year-old Delorean and Jerry, who just turned 8, died after taking refuge in the Abramson High School gymnasium in New Orleans. Horton had said Saturday that his father remained unaccounted for.

He said that was the only confirmation he had received of their deaths. Horton's mother and other family members are staying in Atlanta.

His reaction to the good news? "Just a sigh of relief," he said. "I can't really explain how I felt when I heard that. I just can't wait to see them. I can't wait to talk to them again.

"I still kept hope in the back of my mind," Horton said. "I prayed every night that they were all right."

Horton said he didn't know whether the youngsters ever took shelter in the gym.

I don't know and I don't really care about it, as long as they're OK," he said.

In other Katrina developments:

• New York Jets Kevin Mawae, John Abraham, Jerald Sowell and Oliver Celestin will travel to Baton Rouge to visit evacuees, volunteers and workers involved in the relief efforts.

Mawae, an LSU graduate, makes his offseason home in Baton Rouge. Sowell, of Baker, graduated from Tulane. Celestin's family relocated from New Orleans to the New York area with the help of the Jets.

Mawae and his wife, Traci, will organize a food drive Saturday in Garden City, N.Y.

• Carmelo Anthony and Ray Allen are among 15 NBA and WNBA players teaming up with Wheel of Fortune to raise money for Katrina victims.

The players will tape shows Thursday for the game show's NBA week, airing Oct. 31-Nov. 4. Each player will partner with a fan from their team's city, and the fans will play for cash and NBA-themed prizes.

The players will compete for their favorite charities and for the Red Cross, with a minimum of $100,000 of their winnings going to the relief efforts.

Hall of Famer Bill Walton also will play.

• Falcons running back Warrick Dunn, a native of Baton Rouge, La., challenged every player in the National Football League — except the New Orleans Saints — to contribute at least $5,000 to relief efforts early last week. In two days, Falcons players raised $295,000, said Todd Peterson, the team's players' union representative.

Proceeds will be distributed through charities designated by the NFL Players Association. \

# St. Paul's, PJP II teams return to practice field

*Both hope to open season on Sept. 23*

**By Marty Mule**
Staff writer

St. Paul's and Pope John Paul II, St. Tammany Parish's only two Catholic high schools that play football, returned to practice Monday in hopes of beginning their seasons Sept. 23.

Both schools are expected to reopen next Monday.

St. Paul's coach Ken Sears welcomed 72 of his 100 players back to practice Monday, their first since Hurricane Katrina struck two weeks ago.

Pope John Paul II also returned to the practice field with 27 of 65 players participating.

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to host Live Oak in a non-district game Sept. 23.

The game, scheduled for 7 p.m., may have to be moved to an afternoon start because the stadium lights may have been damaged in the storm, school officials said.

"Our scoreboard is blown down, and our lights have to be checked out," Pope John Paul II principal Richard Berkowitz said.

"The important thing is to play at night,"' said Jaguars coach Chris Lachney, who then reversed himself. "No, the important thing is to play."

St. Paul's is scheduled to play Mandeville in the District 4-5A opener for both schools Sept. 23. St. Tammany public schools, however, are not scheduled to resume classes until Oct. 3.

St. Tammany teams cannot compete unless school is in session.

However, a meeting is scheduled today for the parish's coaches and athletic officials.

A decision could be made then to begin play before school resumes.

All eight District 4-5A teams, including five St. Tammany Parish public schools, are scheduled to begin district play on the weekend of Sept. 23.

Northlake Christian School said last week it will begin its season at Gueydan on that date. It will be the school's first varsity game.

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# Wildcats scramble to find normalcy

*Destrehan QB Eugene relieved to play close to home after Katrina*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

For a week, Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene didn't know if he would be playing at home or in Texas.

When Hurricane Katrina was bearing down on the region and St. Charles Parish was evacuated, Eugene and his family went to Houston. And after the storm, when all the news reports began showing the catastrophic destruction to the New Orleans area, Eugene was wondering what would become of his senior season.

"I was so scared," he said. "I must have called Coach (Stephen) Robicheaux 50 times that week, trying to find out what was going on. I was thinking my whole senior year was going down the drain. We were preparing to stay in Texas, and I was going to go to school there."

But the Eugenes soon learned that St. Charles Parish had been spared the worst of Katrina's wrath. There was only minimal flooding in some areas and there was no damage to the high school.

"I was so excited," Eugene said.

The day Eugene returned from Texas, his coach called with news that isn't usually greeted with joy by high school football players. Practice would be held the next day.

"They were excited when I called to tell them there was a meeting," Robicheaux said. "They were ready to get back to the routine."

And the news only got better. On Friday, Robicheaux was able to work out arrangements with Thibodaux coach Lenny Ford to play a game Sunday afternoon in Thibodaux. Then, after three practices — only one with an opponent in mind — the Wildcats defeated Thibodaux 14-0.

"As a coach, it was a logistical nightmare," Robicheaux said. "It's not like you can just pick up the phone and say, 'Hey. Let's play.' And then you've got no film, no nothing. We really weren't prepared. But what was important is that the kids played. They were so excited to be playing. They're all looking for some normalcy."

Robicheaux said he was pleased when his team went 86 yards on its opening drive for a touchdown.

"We pretty much stayed vanilla," Robicheaux said. "Then we were able to adjust to what they were doing."

Eugene completed 11 of 16 passes for 163 yards. He also had one of the Wildcats' three interceptions. Brandon Braxton had two. Raynor Derkins ran for 71 yards on 15 carries.

"We were a little bit out of rhythm as a team," Eugene said. "But when we took that first drive for a touchdown, we settled down."

"There were some mistakes," Robicheaux said. "But you don't know how much of that had to do with the lack of practice time. We don't know how good we are right now. We've got good athletes. I'm optimistic that, with what we have, we're only going to get better."

## SCHEDULE

*This week's area football schedule*

**Friday's games**
St. James at South Lafourche, 7 p.m.
Thibodaux at Lutcher, 7 p.m.
Destrehan at Terrebonne, 7 p.m.
Patterson at West St. John, 7 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas at Riverside, 7 p.m.
H.L. Bouregois at St.Charles, 7 p.m.
(Tentative. Game could be moved to Saturday afternoon as lights at St. Charles have been damaged).

**Saturday's game**
East St. John at Hahnville, 3 p.m.

HORNETS TO SPLIT HOME GAMES BETWEEN B.R., OKLAHOMA CITY SPORTS, A-16

The Times-Picayune

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KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# Some parts of Orleans could open on Monday

*Decision will hinge on air and water toxicity test results*

## DAY 16 DEVELOPMENTS

President Bush accepted responsibility for the federal government's slow response. Bush also will address the nation Thursday at 8 p.m. from Louisiana, **See A-3**

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**423**



**Gen. Honore**

Army Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore likened storm to a well-planned military attack **See A-10**

Westwego, Gretna and Jean Lafitte say conditions are good enough to bring residents home **See A-4**

State seeks $2.4 billion from feds to pay teachers in districts hit by storm **See A-5**

State officials contracted with Kenyon International Emergency Services to recover bodies from southeast, **See A-6**

Flights slowly returning to Louis Armstrong International Airport, **See A-13**



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A Carnival Cruise Lines ship docks at the New Orleans riverfront Tuesday against what has become a rare backdrop: lights in New Orleans. As the water from Hurricane Katrina recedes, city officials are striking a notably optimistic tone. Mayor Ray Nagin said it may be possible for residents of part of the sodden city to return by Monday.

## Owners booked in 34 deaths at St. Bernard nursing home

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard bureau

The owners of a St. Bernard Parish nursing home where 34 residents died during Hurricane Katrina were arrested Tuesday and booked with negligent homicide for allegedly failing to evacuate the home despite grave warnings about the storm's power and an offer by parish officials to send buses, state Attorney General Charles Foti said.

Mable B. Mangano, 62, and her husband, Salvador A. Mangano Sr., 65, turned themselves in Tuesday afternoon and were booked on warrants for 34 counts of negligent homicide,

*See* **NURSING HOME,** *page A-9*

## Computer brings surge to life

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

The first detailed computer model of Hurricane Katrina's storm surge shows a gargantuan, 15-foot dome of water forming in the Gulf of Mexico. Propelled westward by 140-mph winds, the surge slams into levees east of New Orleans and pours over them, flooding eastern New Orleans, the city's Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

The model later shows water flooding the rest of New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain through levee breaches. Meanwhile, Katrina's giant wave continues its relentless northeast course, pushing a 30-foot wave toward Mississippi, over the Biloxi-

*See* **SURGE,** *page A-9*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

A cleanup crew clears trees Tuesday on Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans. Some residents with less official reasons returned to New Orleans. **See story, A-2**

## *Nagin: 'I'm tired of hearing these helicopters. I want to hear some jazz'*

**By Steve Ritea, Gordon Russell and James Varney**
Staff writers

Unflooded portions of New Orleans may be opened to residents, perhaps as early as Monday, Mayor Ray Nagin said in an upbeat and wide-ranging news conference Tuesday afternoon.

The possibility of repopulating areas of the city so quickly marked a stunning turnaround from earlier predictions that New Orleans could remain uninhabitable for months. Nagin said the final decision on the date would hinge on pending results of federal tests measuring the toxicity of the city's air and water, but he said initial reports are turning out much

*See* **RETURN,** *page A-8*

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# Fall elections in Jeff, N.O. postponed

## *Makeup dates still unknown, state says*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Hurricane Katrina has forced an indefinite postponement of the fall elections in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, the Louisiana secretary of state's office said Tuesday.

Oct. 15 was the primary date for special elections for School Board, Kenner City Council and the state's 5th Circuit Court of Appeal in Jefferson Parish, and runoffs were set for Nov. 12 if necessary. Three New Orleans neighborhoods had Nov. 12 referendums planned on fees or taxes to finance security patrols and other local improvements.

"Those are delayed," Jennifer Marusak, spokeswoman for the secretary of state's office, said of the Jefferson and Orleans voting plans. "They may be rescheduled. We just can't reschedule them yet, because we don't know when they'll be able to reschedule."

**Officials do not know whether they have enough voting machines to hold the elections.**

Officials do not know whether they have enough voting machines to hold the elections, Marusak said.

Three candidates had qualified to run for a vacancy in the Jefferson Parish School Board's 4th District: Mary Bartholomew, director of the culinary arts and hospitality program at Delgado Community College; Ellen Shirer Kovach, a lawyer with the New Orleans firm of Frilot, Partridge, Kohnke & Clements; and Ryan Roemershauser, a lawyer with the Blue Williams firm in Metairie.

The Jefferson School Board vacancy was created when Julie Quinn resigned to run for the state Senate. She won in July, and Cameron Henry is filling the School Board seat until an election can be held. The term lasts through 2006.

Three candidates also signed up to run for the 2nd District seat on the Kenner Council seat: David Lavarine, who owns a graphics and imaging company; Bill Schwertz, a real estate investor; and Joe Stagni, a chiropractor. They are seeking to succeed Lavarine's brother, John Lavarine III, who won an at-large council seat in an April election. Michael McMyne is filling the 2nd District seat until an election is held. The term expires in June.

The two candidates for the Circuit Court seat, elected from throughout Jefferson Parish, are judges Rebecca Olivier of 1st Parish Court in Metairie and Fredericka "Ricky" Wicker of the state's 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna. They hope to succeed Sol Gothard, who planned to retire Aug. 31. The term runs through April 2009.

In New Orleans, the City Council had set Nov. 12 for voting in the Kingswood, Touro Bouligny and Twinbrook neighborhoods.

In Kingswood, part of eastern New Orleans, the now-delayed proposal is to assess an annual fee of as much as $240 on each residential lot to pay for "beautification, security and overall betterment" of the neighborhood.

In the Touro Bouligny neighborhood, part of Uptown, the proposal is to levy a property tax of as much as 16.2 mills for security patrols.

In Twinbrook, also Uptown, the postponed referendum is for a fee of as much as $500 per year on each lot with a building to pay for security patrols.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

Staff Sgt. Travis Sigfridson with the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, patrols Lakeview in an airboat on Tuesday. The security patrol was prompted by an overnight flight by Army OH-58 Kiowa reconnaissance helicopters equipped with thermal and infrared sensors that can detect body heat. The flight spotted warm bodies in the neighborhood.

# Soldiers patrolling Lakeview target looters, their boats

## *Rowboats, kayaks towed away, sunk*

**By Paul Purpura**
Staff writer

A small rowboat gently tapping the front door at 6069 Argonne Blvd. caught the attention of National Guardsmen patrolling Lakeview Tuesday, seeking survivors, looters and the dead.

A second-floor balcony door was open, and through it they could see a woman's black purse hung on a door knob. Lt. Col. Todd Plimpton, commander of Oregon's 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, weighed whether to send in his soldiers. He announced his presence instead.

"Hello, we're taking your boat," he said. Getting no response, he ordered the soldiers to it. Staff Sgt. Travis Sigfridson kept a cautious watch for movement in the house as Spec. Joe Gallagher, a Rhode Island Guardsmen, reached out to the boat. Gallagher towed it to the intersection of Argonne and Filmore Avenue and promptly sank it.

"If they were in there, they're pissed off," Plimpton said. "The next group (of passing soldiers) will catch them wading in the water."

Fifteen days after Katrina, soldiers like these National Guardsmen continued to sweep New Orleans streets, seeking looters who are breaking into peoples' homes using small boats.

On Monday, Guardsmen arrested a man who used a kayak to get into Lakeview, claiming he was a veterinarian for the City of New Orleans who was checking on cats, said 1st Lt. Paul Dyer, a platoon leader in 1/186th. The man was allowed to pass. Shortly after, another group questioned the man, and he said he was a veterinarian from Oregon. The soldiers arrested him when they found jewelry stashed in the kayak, Dyer said. They arrested another looter in the area the same day.

Tuesday's security patrol, launched at Canal and Robert E. Lee boulevards, was prompted by an overnight flight by Army OH-58 Kiowa reconnaissance helicopters equipped with thermal and infrared sensors that can detect body heat. The flight spotted warm bodies in the neighborhood.

"It could have been dogs," Plimpton said. "It could have been search and rescue" personnel.

Survivors continue to be found in Lakeview, he said. On Monday, 12 people were rescued from area, Plimpton said. In the past week, his soldiers found five bodies.

The soldiers on this patrol found no bodies. But they did find several small, unattended boats, including a yellow kayak in front of 6069 Argonne Blvd. This time, Plimpton ordered his soldiers into the house.

"Sig, why don't you lead in and take both MPs with you," he said to Sigfridson, a veteran of the Iraq war. Sigfridson stepped onto the porch with his M-4 carbine and went in through the open door.

"Anybody in there?" Sigfridson yelled. When no one responded, Plimpton ordered the soldiers to search. They returned shortly afterward empty handed.

Dyer punctured the kayak, making it unusable. More often the boats are pulled from the houses and tied to trees or street signs, said Darel Bryant of Leeville.

"You see a lot of them tied in the middle in here," said Bryant.

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# N.O. residents find wiggle room in police directive

## *Need to see homes trumps decree*

**By Coleman Warner and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

A boat lies in the road near West End Park on Tuesday in New Orleans, near a man walking with a bicycle. Though some had gone through official channels, some residents with flimsy reasons were able to navigate military checkpoints to return to the city.

Among sections of Uptown New Orleans that suffered a relatively mild blow from Hurricane Katrina, streets and yards saw the beginnings Tuesday of what promises to be a cleanup frenzy, with military and utility convoys blending with a smattering of private vehicles headed to individual houses or businesses, testing the limits of government directives that citizens should be leaving, not returning.

David Ratowitz, a New Orleans real estate developer, returned to the city before dawn, joined by his father and a friend, determined to get to his house on Laurel Street near Jackson Avenue. They drove in from the east, by way of Highway 11, pulling in close behind a cleanup truck bearing credentials. Their strategic position got them through a National Guard checkpoint at the edge of Orleans Parish.

"We just stayed right on their tail, and they (soldiers) just assumed we were together," said Ratowitz, 35, who wanted to "get some clothes and some personal things. I own a business and there's some documents I need."

He also wanted to grab a batch of his home-brew beer, with variations named "Black Beer" and "Gold Beer" in honor of the New Orleans Saints. Ratowitz also gave voice to the increasingly common view among displaced residents that, despite the hazards of being in a storm-ravaged city, they should be allowed to play an immediate role in removing limbs and trash from neighborhoods.

"Those guys from OMNI are great and all, but I don't need them to clean up my front stoop," he said, referring to a cleanup company under contract with the city of New Orleans.

Another Uptowner, Jim Bartkus, a professor of economics at Southeastern Louisiana University, managed to get into town Tuesday by hitching a ride with an out-of-town newspaper reporter. Bartkus said National Guardsmen verified the identity of the reporter, who was driving, but ignored him.

"I saw a lot of other people looking at their houses," said Bartkus, who has been staying in a dorm room at the Hammond college. "I just wanted to get my personal stuff — my photo albums, artwork, my journal — the irreplaceable things."

He said he also collected his fish, which were alive. His home near the intersection of Marengo and Loyola streets was relatively unscathed, although water got into the house, he said.

While there, he met a neighbor who had ridden out the storm and stayed for the duration. The neighbor, who had recently received a delivery of supplies, offered him several cold beers, Bartkus said.

Guardsmen stopped by while Bartkus was inside his house, but they didn't pressure him to leave, he said.

"They just told me to lock the door when I left," he said.

An assortment of private vehicles mixed with official ones on Magazine, including a smattering of rented moving vans. Near the corner of Octavia and Magazine streets, a business owner was hurriedly loading contents of a building into his truck. He said he had a business permit, but was uneasy when asked how he gained access to New Orleans.

"It's actually a permit from Jefferson Parish," he added, declining to give his name. "I guess they didn't notice."

Others had gone through more official channels.

Joe Wink III, market manager for Universal Personnel, a contract staffing company for the oil and gas industry headquartered in the Energy Centre downtown, had secured a New Orleans permit allowing him to come in and take care of the business.

Wink and two other employees were removing "hardware, software, and contract files," he said. The company, which has about 30 employees, will retain a presence in New Orleans but is moving its headquarters to Houston, where it already has offices, he said.

"We're going to have a much greater emphasis on serving Houston," he said.

While in the city, Wink managed to check out his home in Lakeview, which was essentially destroyed by floodwaters.

In Uptown sections that were hard-hit with flooding, on the downtown side of Freret Street, soldiers were much in evidence near Broadway, manning a checkpoint and patrolling some intersections on foot. One man who was assisting a relative on Audubon Boulevard said he was able to enter the parish on business-recovery grounds — he has ties to a local hotel.

In the 1600 block of Broadway, a bedraggled lawyer, Patrick Baker, 43, said that since the hurricane he has been living "all around; now I'm in Baton Rouge," but felt compelled in the past two days to get back to his home. He said he has been "removing crud, taking stuff that was in the basement out, taking pictures." He declined to say how he was able to navigate military checkpoints.

On Tuesday about 3 p.m. on St. Charles Avenue, a personal vehicle was pulled up on a side street beside the Octavia residential complex. On the third floor, someone had opened wide the doors to a balcony and was tossing bags of food items over the rail. The bags spilled rotting food items as they hit the street while the man who launched them gave a look of disgust from above.

# 'I take responsibility,' Bush says of slow response to hurricane

*Katrina exposed lack of readiness, he says*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush accepted responsibility Tuesday "to the extent the federal government didn't fully do its job right" in responding to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and conceded the disaster exposed shortcomings in U.S. preparedness for a future terrorist attack.

At the same time, the White House announced that Bush will address the nation Thursday at 8 p.m. from Louisiana, making it his fourth visit since the hurricane slammed into the Gulf Coast 16 days ago. The White House said he will talk about the recovery efforts and offer new details about his administration's plan for the longer-term rebuilding.

Bush's comments on placing responsibility were a departure from earlier statements in which he declined to play "the blame game," and marked a rare admission of shortcomings by an administration that has been reluctant to concede mistakes.

Asked at a news conference with the president of Iraq whether the slow response to Katrina raised questions about the government's ability to respond to a terrorist attack, the president said:

"Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability at all levels of government," Bush said. "To the extent the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility."

R. David Paulison, who took over as acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency late Monday, said the agency would escalate efforts to help find more permanent housing for the tens of thousands of evacuees now in shelters. He took over the agency after Michael Brown, whose oversight of the initial relief efforts was widely criticized, resigned Monday. He had been stripped of his management role for the Gulf Coast relief effort on Friday.

The new tone from the White House was welcomed by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who along with other congressional Democrats had been critical of the president and the federal relief efforts.

"The president's comments today will do more to move our country forward from this tragedy than anything that has been said by any leader in the past two weeks," Landrieu said. "Accountability at every level is critical and leadership begins at the top."

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who made a major floor speech Tuesday in which he compared devastated sections of his state to a war zone, said FEMA and the state of Louisiana's hurricane preparation and emergency bureaucracy "failed us miserably."

"I've heard many Washington talking heads say that heads must roll," Vitter said. "I'm all for that and have my own personal list. But that alone isn't enough. We need to look at the big picture – not just what people failed but also what institutions and models failed and, just as importantly, what others worked against all odds."

Norm Ornstein, the veteran political analyst for the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank, said the president's pronouncement that he'll take responsibility for shortcomings is significant because Bush and his advisers view admissions of mistakes as "giving aid and comfort to their adversaries."

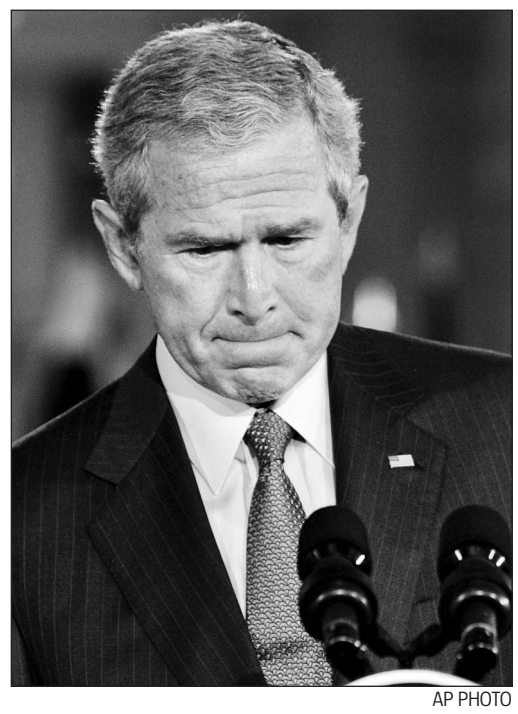
The administration, he said, has tried to rebound from the widespread criticism of initial recovery efforts with a stepped-up federal response and regular visits to the Gulf region. "The president has been all over the map there to help out and commit the government's full resources and the expectation was it would have people talking again about his compassionate conservatism," Ornstein said. "But it just hasn't worked out."

In his comments Tuesday, Bush said he wants to learn why the initial relief efforts fell short.

"I want to know how to better cooperate with state and local government, to be able to answer that very question that you asked: Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack or another severe storm?"

Bush said he was impressed during his three visits to the Gulf region with "how hard people are working."

"I'm not going to defend the process going in, but I am going to defend the people who are on the front line saving lives," Bush said. "Those Coast Guard kids pulling people out of the floods did heroic work. The first responders on the ground, whether they be state folks or local folks, did everything they could. There's a lot of people that have done a lot of hard work to save lives."



AP PHOTO

President Bush, speaking at a news conference with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, said, 'Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability at all levels of government.'

Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said Bush got a new perspective on the hurricane after visiting St. Bernard Parish, among the hardest-hit areas.

"Clearly, he understands now the tremendous challenges we face and how much we are counting on FEMA and the resources of our nation," Melancon said. "The president, by his statements today, is demonstrating the leadership and accountability needed to get the inadequate federal response to this crisis behind us and move forward with rebuilding Louisiana."

# Senate begins work on economic recovery plan

*Eased regulations, tax breaks on table*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate Finance Committee on Monday unveiled the first comprehensive proposal to aid the recovery of individuals and businesses who suffered devastating economic damages from Hurricane Katrina.

The proposals include tax breaks for businesses that hire workers who lost jobs because of the hurricane and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts to help people with their immediate cash-flow problems.

Some of the tax benefits are modeled after relief given to businesses and people who returned or relocated to lower Manhattan after the World Trade Center towers were toppled in the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"With this first initiative from the Finance Committee — and there will be more in other areas where we have jurisdiction — we want the victims through all of the affected areas to know that they can count on us to create a set of measures that will return vitality and vigor to the Gulf region," said the panel's chairman, Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.

Meanwhile, two members of the House's Tax Writing Committee, Republican Peter King and Democrat Charles Rangel, both of New York, announced that they are introducing legislation to create what would be the nation's largest empowerment zone in which businesses would qualify for tax breaks and low-interest loans for redevelopment projects in hurricane-ravaged communities.

"We want to provide very significant tax incentives for businesses to locate there, incentives for housing, and attempt to minimize as much of the red tape as possible by creating one central clearinghouse for government programs," King said.

Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and David Vitter, R-La., said they are working with other members of the Louisiana congressional delegation on a package of tax breaks and incentives to facilitate recovery in Louisiana. One component will be "bridge loans" to enable struggling businesses to get back on their feet quickly.

Daniel Hamermesh, a labor economist at the University of Texas in Austin, said that while Congress is focusing on tax incentives and loans, the real key to getting businesses to come back to metro New Orleans is "restoration of key infrastructure as quickly as possible." He said the city could also draw a lot of interest by redeveloping in a manner that takes advantage of the latest technologies, perhaps becoming the first city almost entirely focused on wireless telecommunications rather than relying on traditional copper wires.

Jack Kemp, a Republican who headed the Housing and Urban Development Department for President George H.W. Bush, said that a large-scale empowerment zone, along with subsidies for businesses that hire displaced workers and fewer regulations on building, would be important inducements for companies deciding whether to return to hurricane-ravaged communities. He said that fewer regulations could speed the recovery, but that there should be strong regulations to limit development in flood-prone communities.

It won't be easy for small businesses displaced by Hurricane Katrina, said Brian Drum, president and CEO of Drum Associates, an executive search agency in lower Manhattan. After the World Trade Center towers collapsed in 2001, about 300 yards from the firm's own office building, the company went overnight from its best economic returns to "zero" sales. "Our office was unusable, and we came pretty close to running out of cash," he said.

He said his company was eventually able to recover, retaining most of its original employees and even lately expanding its staff from 32 to 35 workers.

"I know this is not something any business would want, and the challenges facing those in New Orleans are greater than what we faced because we at least had our homes, but it does provide an opportunity to start over with the benefit of all that you've learned in the years since you started your business," Drum said. "All off us know so much more than when we started."

The Senate package, unveiled Monday by Grassley and the Finance Committee's top Democrat, Max Baucus, D-Montana, includes the following provisions:

▶ No tax liability for debts forgiven by commercial lenders. Currently, a forgiveness of debts is considered income and therefore taxable.

▶ Eliminates penalties for early withdrawal from retirement plans for those in the hurricane-affected communities.

▶ Extension of a tax credit for businesses that hire welfare recipients to include those who lost work because of the hurricane. The credit would apply to businesses that hire displaced workers who have moved into their communities through Aug. 28, 2006, and for businesses within the federally declared disaster area through Aug. 28, 2008.

▶ A 40 percent tax credit for wages paid up to $6,000 if paid after August 28, 2005, and before Dec. 31, 2005, for employers located in the disaster zone.

▶ An additional $500 exemption from federal income taxes for people who take in a hurricane evacuee for a minimum of 60 days in their principal residences.

▶ Provide an enhanced tax deduction for businesses that donate food to relief efforts.

▶ Extend deadlines for up to one year to file tax returns and make payments and deposits for income, estate and gift taxes.

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# Relieved Jeff school officials plan for comeback

## *Damage not as bad as many had feared*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

In a T-shirt, jeans and sneakers, Paul Solis Elementary School Principal Ginny Dufrene spent most of Tuesday with coworkers cleaning up the Terrytown school, where electricity is spotty and the air conditioner is still on the fritz.

The school suffered roof damage, with winds scattering insulation and shingles across the campus. Still, only one of the school's nearly 40 classrooms saw significant flooding.

"It's nothing we can't handle," Dufrene said, applauding National Guard troops who helped clean debris outside. "It looks worse than what it is from the outside. I think we're going to be OK."

Despite lingering uncertainty about the Jefferson Parish public school system's fiscal stability, Superintendent Diane Roussel told principals to return to their schools Tuesday for damage assessment and preparation for students' return. Since the storm, the school system has shifted its administrative operations to Baton Rouge.

At a School Board meeting last week, its first since Hurricane Katrina struck on Aug. 29, the board approved a resolution setting Oct. 3 as the targeted reopening of schools, though officials admit some schools might open later that week.

The board has called for another emergency meeting in Baton Rouge today to begin discussions on system finances and other issues, system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said Tuesday.

Including Solis, Jefferson has classified nine schools as the most severely damaged in the parish, and Nowakowski said the School Board must decide what do with those.

The other schools are East Jefferson High School, Bonnabel High School, L.W. Ruppel Elementary School, Ames Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Shirley Johnson/Gretna Park Elementary, Woodmere Elementary School and the Thomas Jefferson High School, which was slated to open for the 2006-07 school year. An adult education building in Gretna was being converted into the magnet high school.

Overall, about 42 of the system's schools, about half, are expected to be useable by the Oct. 3 reopening target date.

Despite her school's ranking on the "hit list," Dufrene said the damage at Solis is not as bad as feared and that the school could be ready in October.

On Tuesday, principals also tried to get a handle on what work will be needed to open classrooms to students. At Woodmere Elementary in Marrero, twisted metal was strewn across the campus, the school's roof destroyed by Katrina.

At the Marrero-Estelle Fire Station next door, Principal Gretchen Williams, who returned to town Tuesday after fleeing to Noble, said the extensive damage took her breath away but that it is far from insurmountable.

"I know it's going to be an opportunity for us to improve a lot of things parishwide," she said. "We lost some things, but not everything. We didn't lose the will to keep going."

Williams said Woodmere may not be ready for the Oct. 3 reopening date, but she said she is confident her students and the school system will move forward.

She already has a motto, calling Katrina's damage "a minor setback for a major comeback."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Ginny Dufrene, principal at Paul Solis Elementary School in Gretna, sweeps water out of a classroom on Tuesday. Despite being named by the Jefferson Parish School Board as one of the most severely damaged schools in the parish, Dufrene is confident that Solis will be ready for the planned Oct. 3 reopening date for public schools. 'It looks worse than what it is from the outside,' Dufrene said. 'I think we're going to be OK.'



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Much of the roof from one of the buildings at Bonnabel High School lies scattered across the Kenner school's campus on Tuesday. School Board officials said that some of the parish's hardest-hit schools might not be ready for the Oct. 3 reopening date.

# 3 West Bank cities will be reopened to residents

## *Rest of Jefferson being evaluated*

**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

Three West Jefferson cities invited their residents home to stay beginning today at 5 a.m. The mayors of Westwego, Gretna and Jean Lafitte say conditions are good enough to bring residents home.

"These cities have what it takes to have sustainable living," Parish President Aaron Broussard said Tuesday, saying the three cities provide their own water and sewer services and that electricity in those areas has been largely restored.

Jefferson Parish has been closed to residents since Thursday to give utility repair crews more room to work.

Broussard said he will discuss conditions with the mayors of Kenner and Harahan today. Those cities provide their residents sewer service but use the Jefferson Parish water system, which is still under repair.

Broussard said too much work remains in unincorporated Jefferson Parish to open up the parish to all residents.

Mayors Ronnie Harris of Gretna and Robert Billiot of Westwego said stores in their cities are beginning to open but that they need customers. Mayor Tim Kerner of Jean Lafitte said one store is open there and that returning residents should bring provisions.

"We think we're ready for our people to come back," Harris said.

However, returnees should be prepared to show identification to prove they are residents or business owners or employees, eligible to enter under the parish's "Jump Start Jefferson" plan.

Plaquemines Parish residents also will be allowed into the parish because Jefferson Parish is a major access route into the area, Broussard said.

To accommodate the returnees, the parish is altering its curfew to a more lenient 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson said his department would mount checkpoints throughout the city at night to keep people who have no business in the city away.

Gretna has 17,000 residents, Westwego has 11,000 residents and Jean Lafitte has about 2,200 residents. The cities make up only 7 percent of the parish's population, but they will give some businesses the economic traction to reopen.

"There are a lot of Jefferson business owners who are trying to make a decision about whether to stay here or relocate," Broussard said. "This is to show them that we are well ahead of my self-imposed three-week deadline to reopen the parish to everyone."

Broussard predicted that Jefferson will become the staging area for the reconstruction of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish.

"I predict that every house that was on the market before the storm will be sold and that every vacant apartment will be filled."

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# State seeks $2.4 billion from U.S. to pay teachers

## *N.O. schools' plans to be revealed today*

**By Mark Waller, Lynne Jensen and Rob Nelson**
Staff writers

With about 25,700 Louisiana public school employees displaced by Hurricane Katrina and three local systems warning they will soon run out of money to pay their workers, state Education Superintendent Cecil Picard said Tuesday that he is asking Congress for $2.4 billion to help cover salaries and benefits of educators left without open schools.

The money would help Louisiana avoid permanently losing many of its displaced teachers, Picard said.

"Keeping educational staff is critical," Picard said. "We want them to return to Louisiana."

At the same time, however, New Orleans school officials advised their employees to look for new jobs elsewhere, according to officials with the school system and its financial management firm, Alvarez and Marsal, who will gather this morning to announce the fate of the system.

"These people are not being laid off," said Bill Roberti, chief restructuring officer for Alvarez and Marsal. Still, he urged employees to seek unemployment benefits if necessary. "We'd like to have them come back."

Acting Orleans Superintendent Ora Watson said teachers will be paid salaries that the school system already owes them but that, "We are encouraging them to get another job if they can get another job."

Last week, Alvarez and Marsal and Orleans school officials "had to go in with police escort" to retrieve back-up tapes containing payroll information to pay employees, spokesman Steven Alschuler said. At a news conference today, Orleans officials plan to announce the fate of the system and "we'll be able to tell people how they can get paid," he said.

**"We would love to pay everybody what they deserve, but we don't have the money or the students. It's like any other business: If you're out of business, you don't continue to pay ... employees."**

JIMMY FAHRENHOLTZ
Orleans Parish School Board member

"We would love to pay everybody what they deserve, but we don't have the money or the students," said Orleans School Board member Jimmy Fahrenholtz. "It's like any other business: If you're out of business, you don't continue to pay ... employees."

The School Board will meet Thursday to "talk about everything," concerning the fate of public schools, he said.

A telephone hot line for Orleans employee information is (877) 771-5800.

In Jefferson Parish, officials said the school system could be weeks away from bankruptcy without an infusion of federal cash. They might use a second emergency School Board meeting in Baton Rouge today to begin discussing layoffs, system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said.

Jefferson school leaders met with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials Tuesday and learned that FEMA's grant programs can help pay for construction and rebuilding but that no such programs exist for operational expenses, including salaries, Nowakowski said.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Jo Ann Rossell and Jennifer Mehaffie apply for jobs Tuesday with St. Charles Parish public schools. They used to work at W. Smith Jr. Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish, which will continue to pay its teachers through Thursday.

The district's $24 million in reserves can cover only the next two paycheck cycles, one on Thursday and another on Sept. 30, he said. After that, he said, finances remain very much unclear in the system's $330 million annual budget.

"We just don't know," Nowakowski said.

Picard's request for the $2.4 billion aid package could be Jefferson's only remaining hope to keep the system financially afloat, Nowakowski said.

The recovery and solvency of Jefferson schools have become particularly critical as officials expect displaced residents from far more devastated parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard perhaps to send their children to Jefferson schools. Jefferson has set Oct. 3 as the target to reopen at least some schools.

Enrollment among Jefferson residents remains unclear in light of massive evacuations and relocations, but Jefferson officials are encouraging the influx from other areas as another means of financially strengthening the district.

Under the state's school financing formula, local school systems receive money largely based on student enrollment.

"We need dollars, which means we need students," Nowakowski said.

Typically, the state determines a school system's official enrollment based on student attendance on Oct. 1 of each school year, a process thrown into uncertainty since Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

In St. Bernard Parish, officials said the school system will pay employees until Thursday. But Superintendent Doris Voitier said Monday that payments cannot continue in the future without a bailout from state or federal governments.

Not only is St. Bernard facing the threat of losing its per-pupil state financing, but also revenues from sales and property taxes are uncertain in the almost entirely destroyed parish. She urged teachers to find employment in other school systems for the rest of the 2005-06 school year.

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Staff writer Manuel Torres contributed to this report.

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# Louisiana hires firm to help recover bodies

## *Blanco says FEMA moved too slowly*

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

Recovery of bodies from the storm-ravaged streets, homes and medical facilities of southeast Louisiana is expected to ramp up by week's end after state and local officials started howling Monday that corpses still dotted sidewalks and occupied long-drained buildings two weeks after Hurricane Katrina's landfall.

State officials announced Tuesday that they had contracted directly with Kenyon International Emergency Services, which has been in the area under federal authority since Sept. 7 collecting the remains of dead hurricane victims. The state stepped in, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said, because federal emergency managers were not moving quickly enough to extend the short-term contract, which was set to expire Tuesday.

"In death, as in life, our people deserve more respect and dignity," Blanco said Tuesday as the state's official number of those who died as a result of Katrina rose to 423. "The failure to execute a contract for the recovery of our citizens has hurt the speed of recovery efforts."

Meanwhile, a Kenyon spokesman said the company will boost the number of its workers on the ground to handle the increased workload as putrid flood waters recede in the hardest-hit neighborhoods.

"Our numbers will increase," spokesman Bill Berry said. "We are prepared now to grow to meet the need. We would expect to see the roughly 115 people to increase by the tens and twenties at least, if not more."

Kenyon, which worked at the World Trade Center site in 2001 and retrieved bodies of Australian citizens in Thailand after last year's tsunami, arrived in the New Orleans area nine days after Katrina under a short-term agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the state's Department of Health and Hospitals in its recovery of corpses.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Members of the military search a home Friday in the Lower 9th Ward. Officials estimated that as many as 10,000 people have remained in the city, despite most of it being deluged with murky water with a stench so strong that crews smell it 300 feet in the air.

Under that arrangement, Berry said, Kenyon personnel, who are required to wear hazardous-material-proof suits and undergo toxic decontamination daily, were living at a Baton Rouge funeral home and commuting about four hours round-trip to visit work zones. They also traveled in civilian vans that could not access areas that had a few feet of water or downed trees, he said.

"Nothing was made available to us," he said. "We have simply asked for that relief, and it had not yet been found."

A FEMA spokesman could not be reached to respond to those comments.

Berry said the state deal promises his company "proper lodging" somewhere in New Orleans, military vehicles to trudge through severely damaged areas and a central communications truck to dispatch tips about the location of corpses to forensic retrieval teams in the field.

"We will have more commitment from the Louisiana National Guard in their support and escort duties," Berry said. "Things are just moving very effectively. They were already beginning to develop, but this is simply going to give us the might of the state of Louisiana that has the governor saying, 'Bring my people home. It has been long enough.'"

David Passey, a FEMA spokesman, could not say why active-duty and National Guard soldiers have not been participating in body collection even though they constitute the largest relief personnel presence in the New Orleans area.

"I don't know that they can't," Passey said. He speculated that it might be because state and federal authorities want to be sure the process is handled "with dignity" by people with experience in such delicate tasks. Another FEMA spokesman, Ricardo Zuniga, said Monday that the agency's policy bars military and municipal police officers from touching the bodies, except to tag them and report their location to other authorities.

"The general feeling is that if you have people who are trained and experienced, there's less likelihood that there would be a disturbance that would affect the identification of that individual," Passey said.

Berry said Kenyon aims to collect corpses intact or in as "physically compact a group of remains as possible." He said victims have been found in various states: in large groups at nursing homes; floating in flooded basements amid bobbing machinery; and alone on city sidewalks.

"We're finding remains in many different conditions," he said, adding that the recovery process is handled in a dignified manner based on "cultural" norms. No religious services are conducted at the site of retrieval.

Blanco aides did not say how long Kenyon will be retained or how much it will be paid. Passey said the state will be reimbursed under FEMA's public-assistance program for any money it spends on corpse retrieval.

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Staff writers Ed Anderson and Jan Moller contributed to this report.

### RECOVERING THE DEAD

FEMA's Disaster Mortuary Operations and Response Team or DMORT, oversees the grim task of processing the hurricane's dead.

**After a body is located:**

▶ Body is removed from a marked location. Details are noted at the scene, like address or personal belongings.

▶ Refrigeration trucks escorted by police take the dead to a morgue that can handle 144 bodies a day.

**At the morgue:**

▶ Body is numbered and is decontaminated for forensic purposes and to protect specialists.

▶ Personal identifications are catalogued and photos taken.

▶ Identification tests are made. Notes are made of scars that might reveal a specific surgery.

▶ The body is prepared for storage.

**Evidence of a crime:**

▶ A person is assigned to track each body through the process; if there is evidence of a crime, such as a gunshot, the coroner takes over.

**Cause of death:**

▶ Coroner determines cause of death, signs death certificate and releases body to family.

Sources: FEMA; AP research

AP GRAPHIC


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**"People are going to be worrying about fixing their houses rather than serving on juries."**

JUDGE ROBERT PITRE, chief judge of the 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna

# Yenni building repairs could take year

*But offices often frequented by public largely OK*

**By Joe Darby**
Staff writer

The top floors of the Joseph S. Yenni Building, Jefferson Parish's main government facility on the east bank, were severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and repairs could take up to a year.

"The roof opened up right over (deputy chief administrative assistant) Deano Bonano's office" on the top floor, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-large John Young said. "It was a pretty big break. Then all the rainwater came in."

Damage was severe to some offices on the seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th floors, he said, adding that renovation of the 10-story structure could take nine to 12 months. However, the second-floor Parish Council chambers and other offices frequented by the public probably can be accessed much sooner, Young said.

Judge Robert Pitre, chief judge of the 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna, tempered the bad news about the Yenni Building with word that the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court's office will begin to accept legal filings in the new government building in Gretna within a few days.

Speaking after a meeting of judicial, law enforcement and other parish officials Tuesday afternoon, Pitre said the 24th Judicial District Court hopes to begin conducting civil and criminal hearings and non-jury trials by Oct. 10.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has granted Jefferson's district court a suspension of judicial activity from the time of the hurricane to Oct. 1. That means the time prosecutors have to provide a defendant with a speedy trial will be lengthened.

No jury trials are likely until about Jan. 1, Pitre said, because there probably won't be enough Jefferson residents returning to their homes before then to provide a sufficient jury pool. "And people are going to be worrying about fixing their houses rather than serving on juries," he said.

Prisoners won't return to the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center until Nov. 1, he said.

Pitre said the judges will try to make arrangements with West Jefferson Medical Center and East Jefferson General Hospital to provide constitutionally mandated medical care for prisoners because Charity Hospital will not be available.

Judges already are handling bond settings, sometimes by telephone and sometimes in person, for newly arrested Jefferson prisoners being held temporarily at state prison facilities. Prosecutors will screen new cases as soon as sheriff's deputies can get the paperwork to them, Pitre said.

Reporter Michelle Krupa contributed to this story.

**Jim Harrell**

He was employed by John Lulich, Jr. and Lulich Steel Corporation for 52 years. He was a resident of New Orleans and a former resident of Slidell for 35 years. He passed away at the age of 69 on September 12, 2005 at his son's home in Prairieville surrounded by his wife, Kathy Harrell and their three children, Jeanne Harrell Rodriguez, Adele Harrell Hayes, Jimmy and his wife Penny Harrell. He is survived by his grandchildren, Bryce, Ally, Grant and Claburn who lovingly knew him as Poppy. Also survived by two sons-in-law, Vinny Rodriguez and Gary Hayes; three brothers, Donnie, David and Billy Harrell; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Jack and Bobby; mother, Isabel and father John. Visiting will be at Rabenhorst Funeral Home, 825 Government St. on Thursday, September 15, 2005 from 12 noon until religious services at 2 p.m. in the funeral home chapel conducted by Fr. Tony Rigoli of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, The International Shrine of St. Jude 411 N. Rampart St. New Orleans, LA 70112.

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# Nagin says Bush initially got 'bad information' about storm

**RETURN,** *from A-1*

better than expected.

"I'm starting to get into the mode of how do we re-open the city," Nagin said, speaking from the steps of Washington Artillery Park in the French Quarter, one of four areas targeted for early reopening. The others are Algiers, the Central Business District and dry parts of Uptown. "We are out of nuclear crisis mode and are in to day-to-day crisis mode," Nagin said.

Nagin did not deny that the city continues to face daunting challenges. Though he backtracked from earlier comments that New Orleans is "bankrupt," the mayor said the city coffers have been drained. City workers were paid electronically for the most recent payroll cycle, but there's nothing left to pay the contractors busy scraping gargantuan piles of trash and fallen tree limbs out of unflooded areas.

New Orleans is negotiating a line of credit to see it through the end of the year, and it is relying on the charity and faith of thousands, said Nagin, who is setting up a nonprofit agency to receive tax-deductible donations to the relief effort that have been pouring in from around the world. In the meantime, companies are continuing to work based on the assumption the city will get access to money, Nagin said.

Standing water covers many parts of the city, Nagin said, though he acknowledged that it is drying out faster than initially projected as additional pumping stations come back on line, notably Pumping Station No. 6 on the 17th Street Canal, the "big daddy" of pumping stations, as Nagin called it. A drive Tuesday through the Lower 9th Ward revealed mostly dry streets.

Nagin noted that the pumping station that drains Interstate 10 as it dips below the Southern Railroad overpass near the Jefferson Parish line also is working again and that the all-important supply route into the city from the west should be usable in a few days.

## 'They'll come back'

Nagin, wearing a New Orleans Hornets polo shirt and in a generally ebullient mood, predicted a big comeback for the ravaged city.

"I know New Orleanians, and once the beignets are in the oven, once the gumbo is in the pot, and red beans and rice are being served on Mondays, they'll come back," he said.

As he spoke, helicopters occasionally clattered overhead and fire engines wailed in the distance, a soundtrack familiar to the roughly 3,000 people still burrowed in the city's unflooded homes and buildings.

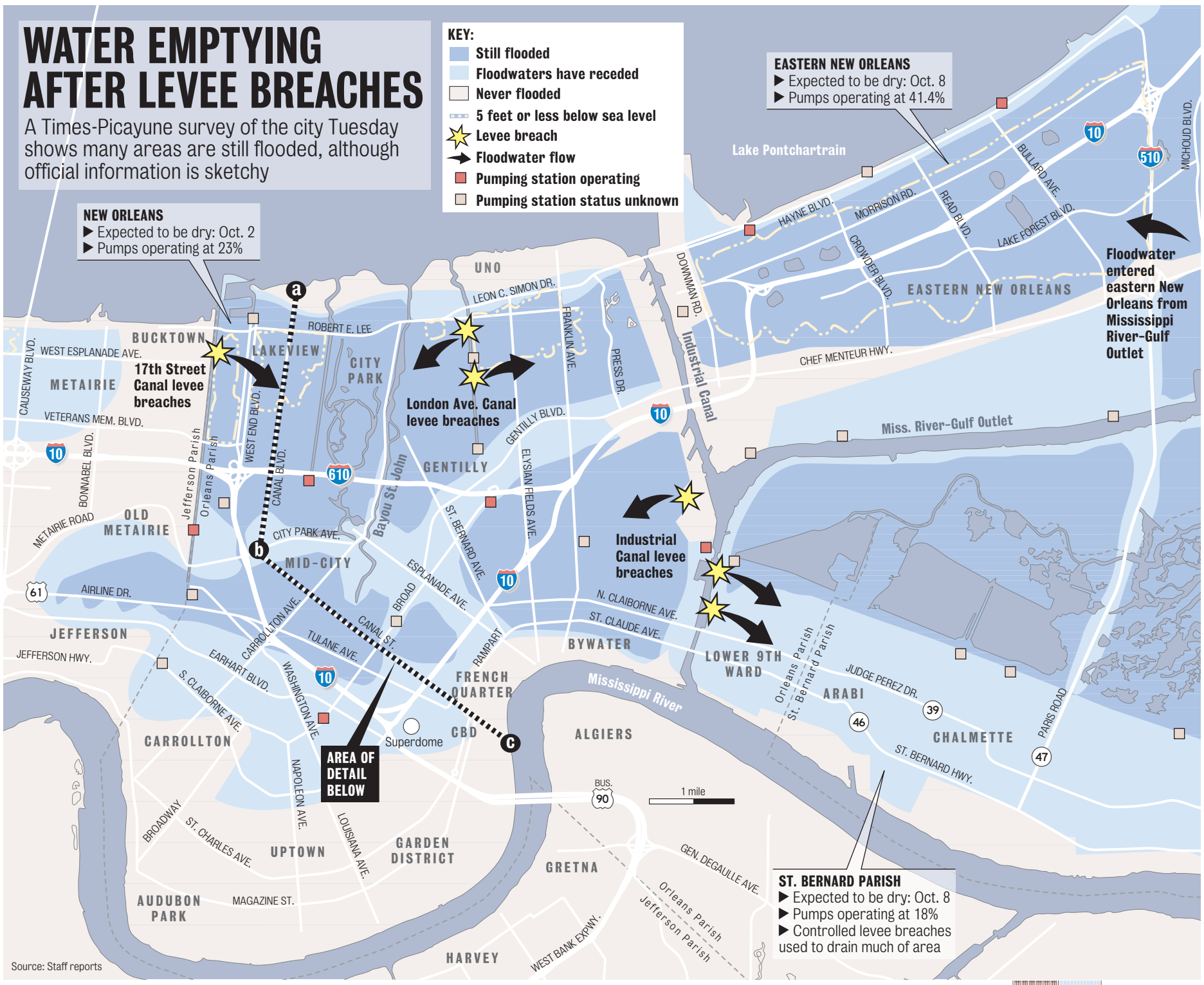
"I'm tired of hearing these helicopters," the mayor said. "I want to hear some jazz."

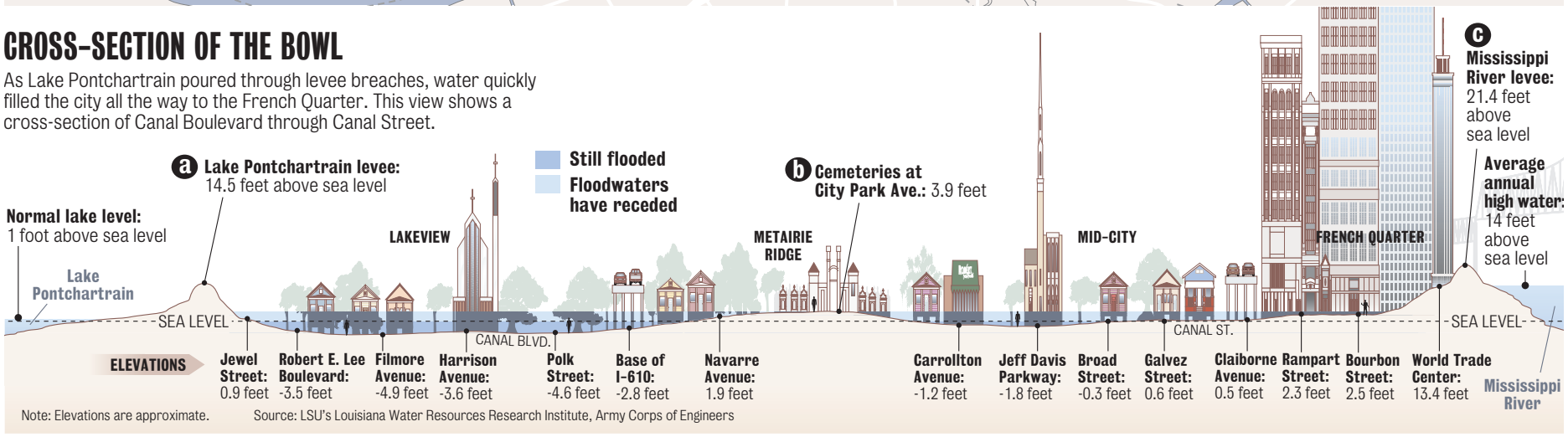
That won't happen, however, before the federal Environmental Protection Agency delivers the report Nagin requested. Preliminary information from the EPA "looks good," Nagin said, adding that he might have the full report later in the day .

Algiers, which was spared the brunt of Katrina's wrath and which was never subject to the ongoing but sporadically enforced evacuation, already has potable water and working sewerage, and power is being restored there quickly.

"My guess would be Monday," Nagin said when asked for a return date to the four designated areas. "Once the dust settles, you're going to have 150,000 people in New Orleans," he said.

Nagin conceded the return of residents could create some confusion and perhaps complicate the sprawling relief effort to restore power and drinkable water to the city's east bank. He plans to enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew. But a return to the normal rhythms of city life is preferable to the current ghost town, he said.




STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

David Smith gives the floors at Bandito's Restaurant and Tequila Bar a good scrubbing Tuesday in the CBD. Despite early predictions that it would be months before the city's businesses would be able to again open their doors, many are hoping it will be much sooner — and they are preparing for that eventuality.

## Change in tone

When questions turned to the broader controversies swirling around the hurricane and the government responses at every level, Nagin abandoned earlier belligerence in favor of a more diplomatic approach. He said he thinks President Bush, with whom he has twice toured the city, got "bad information" in the hours after the storm but since then has offered unequivocal support.

Nagin conceded that officials at every level probably made mistakes.

"In the final analysis, we could have all done things better," he said, adding that, for his part, he would have reacted differently had he known significant federal help was not going to arrive for two or three days. In general, officials said, the problem was not a lack of will or alacrity, but the storm's unsurpassed fury.

"The system didn't break down," said Terry Ebbert, the homeland security chief in New Orleans. "The system just wasn't designed to handle something so catastrophic."

Nagin also began to unveil his plans for a committee that "will define how the city will be rebuilt." It will include 16 business and community leaders, eight of them black and eight of them white, he said.

"The storm was a giant reset button, in my opinion," he said.

Among the committee's charges, he said, would be to "make sure we stay unique."

He pointed to the redevelopment of the former St. Thomas housing development as a model that could be replicated in other parts of town.

## Power to the people

In the more immediate future, Nagin said he is hopeful that safe water and power will quickly be restored.

Entergy CEO Dan Packer said 264,000 customers, the vast majority of whom are in the New Orleans area, remain without power, down from a record 1.1 million immediately after the storm. He estimated power would be fully restored to the CBD within two weeks, and to Uptown and the French Quarter within a month.

Power already has been restored to much of Algiers, a neighborhood where Nagin said anyone who has "a few pennies might want to buy a lot of dirt" across the river, since property values will likely skyrocket as those displaced by the storm and wanting to remain in New Orleans seek high and dry neighborhoods.

Officials expect Algiers to have full power within days.

This week, about 200 temporary permits were issued to businesses in the CBD needing to make emergency repairs or recover essential documents or equipment. Although Nagin said the city "screwed up" that process by giving out incorrect information about how to obtain permits, he promised the permitting process will soon be back on track. Anyone seeking a permit should call (504) 599-5541, according to the New Orleans Police Department.

Once residents return, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center will become a temporary general store, with retailers – likely including Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's – addressing "essential needs" until other businesses begin operating again, Nagin said.

Two hospitals, Touro and Children's, should be ready to reopen "in the next day or two," although getting staff back could take longer, Nagin said.

Noting the heavy local military presence, Nagin said the city is "probably the safest it's been in many, many years."

He said he has been assured the military will remain in the city as long as it's deemed necessary, but he did not venture a guess as to when that might be.

"Once we get people back, we'll do a hard assessment of what our security needs are," Nagin said.

# Simulation to help Louisiana prepare for the next hurricane

**SURGE,** *from A-1*

Gulfport area.

The computer model — done on a Louisiana State University supercomputer — was created with a program called AdCirc that's used by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies to model storm surge dynamics.

Researchers from LSU and the corps will study the computer simulation to help reconstruct what happened during the Aug. 29 storm: which areas were flooded when, how levee and drainage systems performed – or failed to. They will look for clues on how to engineer the landscape for the next hurricane.

AdCirc, developed by researchers at five universities, the corps and the Navy, is considered the state-of-the-art program for storm surge modeling. It creates a virtual landscape, including detailed data on ocean, lake and river depths, and ground and levee heights relative to sea level. Using basic fluid dynamic equations, it shows how a wind-driven storm surge forms and moves across open water, then rises up and changes shape as it hits land.

The Katrina model is still a work in progress, said Joannes Westerink, the University of Notre Dame engineering professor who is overseeing the simulation. For example, the current version shows extensive flooding in East Jefferson Parish that did not occur. The error occurred because of incorrect data on the floodwalls and other features in AdCirc's virtual landscape that are being corrected.

The model dramatically illustrates how over 36 hours Katrina's enormous surge built up against the fragile Mississippi Delta, overwhelming New Orleans from the east and via Lake Pontchartrain, then barreled into the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

It shows water from the huge wave moving against levees and rising as much as 15 feet along the lower Mississippi's east bank a full day before the storm makes landfall. The area of deep water expands and moves northward toward New Orleans.

"That's what is piling up that water," Westerink said. "All of this flow is building up because it's being caught by something – shallow water or the levees."

## COMPUTER MODEL OF KATRINA'S STORM SURGE

A state-of-the-art computer model called AdCirc, done on a Louisiana State University supercomputer, shows how over 36 hours Katrina's enormous surge built up against the fragile Mississippi Delta, overwhelming New Orleans from the east and via Lake Pontchartrain, then barreling into the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**IMAGE ONE:** As the storm approaches, a 15-foot dome of water forms a day before landfall in the Gulf of Mexico, driven by 140-mph winds into the levees east of the city, flooding eastern New Orleans, the city's Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish. The area of deep water expands and moves northward toward New Orleans, piling up as it goes.

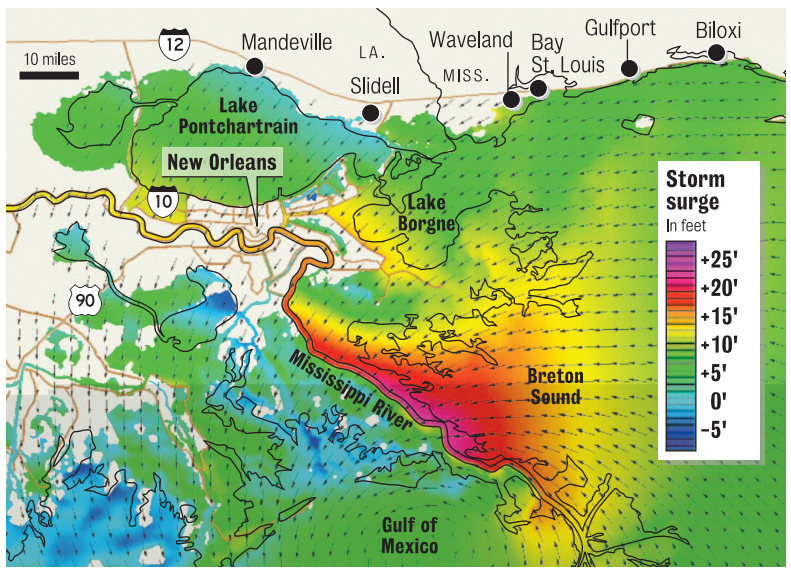



**IMAGE TWO:** As the storm moves closer to New Orleans, the model shows northeasterly winds pushing a wall of water directly against the hurricane levee adjacent to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and over the top, flooding St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward. The model shows Katrina's surge rising above hurricane levees that run toward the center of New Orleans, flooding eastern New Orleans, the Industrial Canal and neighborhoods to the west.

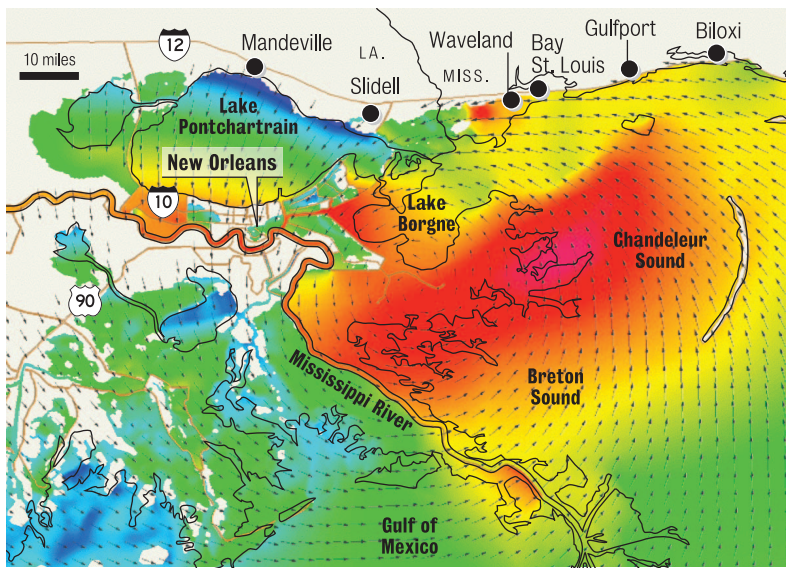
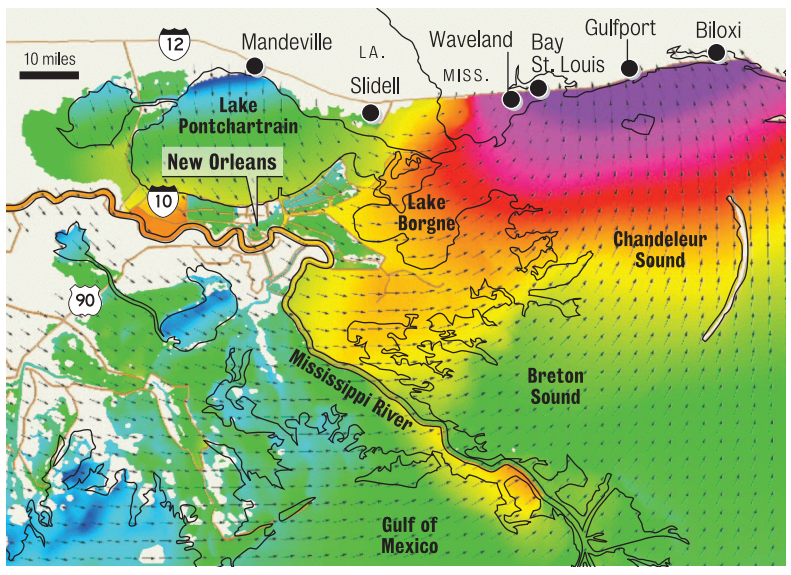



**IMAGE THREE:** Finally, the model shows a north wind pushing water in Lake Pontchartrain against south shore levees and into canals, where breaches flooded the rest of New Orleans. As the wave moves northeast and rises to 30 feet, it batters the Mississippi coast, causing massive destruction.




Source: LSU

STAFF GRAPHIC



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

An array of pumps snakes from a flooded New Orleans neighborhood, sending water back into the Industrial Canal on Monday. A new computer simulation shows how Katrina pushed that water into New Orleans.

As the storm moves closer to New Orleans, the model shows northeasterly winds pushing a wall of water directly against the hurricane levee adjacent to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and over the top, flooding St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward. Photographs and surveys show that levees in the area took heavy damage in the storm.

The model shows Katrina's surge rising above hurricane levees that run toward the center of New Orleans, flooding eastern New Orleans, the Industrial Canal and neighborhoods to the west.

As Katrina moves toward Mississippi, the model shows a north wind pushing water in Lake Pontchartrain against south shore levees and into canals, where the rest of New Orleans flooded via the canal breaches. Finally, the wave rises up 30 feet as it hits the Mississippi coast, where it caused massive destruction.

The model may not resolve a key question facing corps investigators and other researchers: how floodwall breaches formed. Corps officials say the canal floodwalls were probably topped and their structures eroded from the inside, but LSU researchers have cast doubt on that scenario, in part because some data indicate water wasn't high enough.

The model does not show water in canals topping levees. But it does show lakefront surge heights may have reached 12 feet or more, which could have been enough to top levees or floodwalls, which are built to withstand a maximum surge of 11.5 feet.

An animation of the computer model can be found at http://www.nd.edu/~adcirc/katrina.htm.

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John McQuaid can be reached at (202) 383-7889 or at john.mcquaid@newhouse.com

# Attorney general says law required evacuation

**NURSING HOME,** *from A-1*

Foti said.

The couple own St. Rita's Nursing Home near Poydras, where Katrina's massive storm surge flooded the one-story building to the ceiling in 30 minutes, overwhelming bed-ridden patients in one of the deadliest storm-related incidents.

The Manganos' attorney, James A. Cobb of New Orleans, said his clients are innocent.

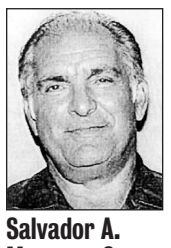
"It's ridiculous to arrest these two people considering the problems with the evacuation at all levels of the government," he said.

As the hurricane raged Aug. 29, neighbors and firefighters rescued about two dozen of the nursing home's residents, many of whom were floated out on their mattresses. But the waters rose too quickly to save the rest, Foti said.

Echoing assertions made last week by parish officials, Foti said Mable Mangano, the home's licensed administrator, refused two evacuation buses



**Mable B. Mangano**
Allegedly refused two evacuation buses the day before storm



**Salvador A. Mangano Sr.**
He and his wife each face 34 counts of negligent homicide

the day before the storm. He said she also failed to call an ambulance company under contract to provide ambulances and helicopters for patients with special needs.

"They had adequate notice that the worst nightmare for the state of Louisiana was about to occur and they did nothing," he said. "Their inaction resulted in the deaths of these people."

Cobb, the Manganos' attorney, said the couple was concerned that the stress of an evacuation would harm more residents than the storm.

"You are presented with a horrible choice," Cobb said, citing reports of patients from other nursing homes in the New Orleans area who died during previous hurricane evacuations.

But Foti said the nursing home owners had no choice at all. He said they were required by law to follow a mandatory evacuation plan filed with the parish government for hurricanes stronger than Category 2. Katrina made landfall as a Category 4.

"Everyone kept saying over and over that this was the storm of the century," the attorney general said. "I don't know why they decided to stay."

Foti said Mable and Salvador Mangano could not be located after they rode out the storm at the nursing home. After learning that authorities had obtained arrest warrants for them, the couple made arrangements to turn themselves in at the East Baton Rouge Parish Jail, where their bonds had not been set late Tuesday, Foti said.

If convicted, they each face up to five years in prison for each count of negligent homicide.

The decomposing bodies of those who drowned at St. Rita's were removed last week from the still-flooded home. They were taken to a makeshift morgue at a St. Gabriel warehouse, where none has been identified, St. Bernard Parish Coroner Bryan Bertucci said on Tuesday.

In a parish where many families have lived for generations and residents take pride in looking out for one another, the tragedy at St. Rita's has left many searching for answers.

"I don't know what went wrong," said Parish Councilman Tony "Ricky" Melerine, whose district includes the nursing home. "I've known Mable and Sal to be nice, friendly people, but they should have gotten those residents out."

News of the arrests provided no comfort to Debra Marshall of Violet, whose 85-year-old mother, Laura Lae, lived at the home. She said authorities have not been able to tell her whether her mother was rescued or whether she drowned at the home.

"My house was destroyed, but I don't even care about that," said Marshall. "I just want to know what happened to my mother."

The residents rescued from the flooded home were taken by helicopters to a triage area on Interstate 10 in Metairie. From there, they were sent to shelters and hospitals throughout the region, Bertucci said.

"We didn't have time to take names," he said. "People's lives were at stake."

Marshall said her mother uses a wheelchair and is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease. She broke down as she began describing what her mother looks like.

"I don't know what she was wearing, but I had just polished her fingernails," she said through tears. "They were bright pink."

Marshall said she made the difficult decision to evacuate without her mother after the home assured her that she would be safer there.

"One of the managers told me, 'If it's any comfort to you, whatever happens to the patients is going to happen to us, too,'" she said.

After Marshall evacuated, her husband, Michael Marshall, stopped by the nursing home on his way out of town the night before the storm hit. The outer bands of Katrina were already pounding the area with rain when he pulled into the parking lot about 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 28.

"They said they had everything under control," he said. "It seemed like any other night, except the owners were there."

He said he visited his mother-in-law briefly in her room.

"She was having one of her good days," he said. "She was in good spirits, and she recognized who I was."

As usual, he gave her a Hershey's chocolate bar, and she insisted that he eat half of it. The TV in the room was blaring urgent reports about the approaching hurricane, but Michael Marshall said his mother-in-law seemed oblivious to the danger.

"She asked where Debra was, and I told her she was visiting relatives," he said. "Then she said she was going to sleep, and I kissed her good-bye."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Laura Maggi contributed to this report.

**U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore said the recovery effort, if it can be compared to a football game, is still in the first quarter.**

# General likens hurricane to a well-planned attack

*He pledges help until state can take over*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Staff writer

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, who is leading the military response to Hurricane Katrina, said that if he had been attacking the Gulf Coast, he would have used the same tactics as the deadly storm.

Honore said Katrina's wrath amounted to a "classic military maneuver," using overwhelming power and the element of surprise to cripple communications and block transportation routes. And the storm covered its flanks by breeching levees and destroying railroads.

The result was "a disaster of biblical proportions," he told a group of editors and writers from The Times-Picayune on Tuesday.

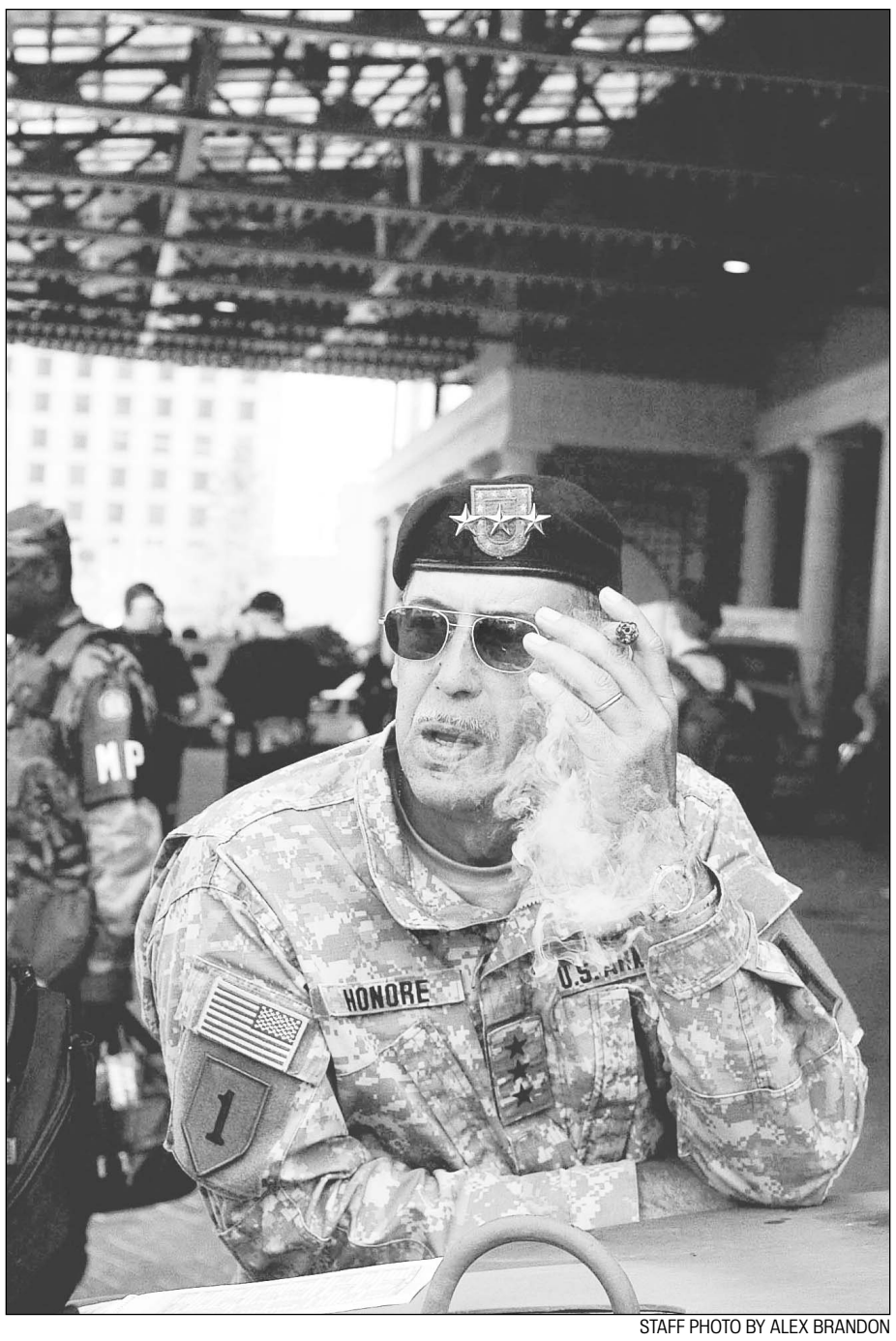
Honore said the recovery effort, if it can be compared to a football game, is still in the first quarter. The second quarter will start, he said, once the water has been drained and people can get in to assess damage to their property, some of them in areas where houses have taken in so much water that they must be condemned.

"Those places have to have the opportunity to come have closure," he said.

Continuing the football analogy, Honore said people should focus on the future rather than placing blame for a response that many have criticized as too slow.

"We've got three quarters left," he said, adding that it's better to map a strategy rather than berate the players. "Would you want to be told how to attack for the next three quarters, or do you want to be reminded" of bad past performances?

He said he and his troops will be in the area helping Gov. Kathleen Blanco and FEMA save lives until the state can operate on its own.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore leans on the hood of a Humvee at a command center outside Harrah's New Orleans Casino on Saturday. Honore said Tuesday that soldiers would continue to work in New Orleans until the state is ready to take over.

The recovery effort is "going to have to have a local face on it with federal support," he said.

Honore disputed a well-publicized report of sniper fire on a rescue helicopter at Charity Hospital, noting that it has not been confirmed.

"The hysteria about the sniper was so crazy," he said.

• • • • • •

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com.

# Stock flies off the shelves of Baton Rouge area stores

*Evacuees buy maps, cell phones, pillows*

**By Ronette King**
Business writer

BATON ROUGE - Corkscrews, diapers and maps are in short supply in Baton Rouge, thanks to the influx of New Orleanians.

Retailers are accustomed to the usual run on storm supplies – including batteries, water and gas cans – before and immediately after a storm. But the extent of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, coupled with the forced relocation of so many New Orleanians to the state's capital city, is causing a crush at some Baton Rouge area stores.

One Sprint store off Perkins Road ran out of cell phones. The mobile telephone company is experiencing a flood of customers in Baton Rouge and Houma, prompting a run on phones, batteries and car chargers, said Kristin Wallace, a Sprint spokeswoman.

To keep its shelves stocked in Baton Rouge, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is pulling merchandise from as far away as Searcy, Ark., 50 miles north of Little Rock, in addition to trucking in goods from the three distribution centers that normally serve the area.

"It's like Christmas every day from a customer-traffic viewpoint" said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Sharon Weber. "It's such an intense time and so many customers are needing things, not just for a few weeks but to set up house and buy things to donate through churches or the Salvation Army."

Stores that normally operate 24 hours are now closing at 10 p.m. to allow workers to concentrate on restocking shelves, Weber said.

Baked lasagna has evidently been on many menus, as the stash of lasagna noodles in town has dwindled. There must be some pralines and yummy desserts out there as well, because brown sugar is in short supply. Coffeemakers and microwave ovens are much needed for new kitchens. Pillows and air mattresses could help soften nights on borrowed floors, if only those comforts can be found.

At some Walgreens pharmacies, customers had to drop off prescriptions by noon and return after 4 pm. And any orders placed after 12 p.m. couldn't be retrieved until the next day. Similar waits were required at Rite Aid pharmacies.

"Some locations in the Baton Rouge area are dispensing two, three or four times as many prescriptions as they normally do," said Walgreens spokesman Michael Polzin.

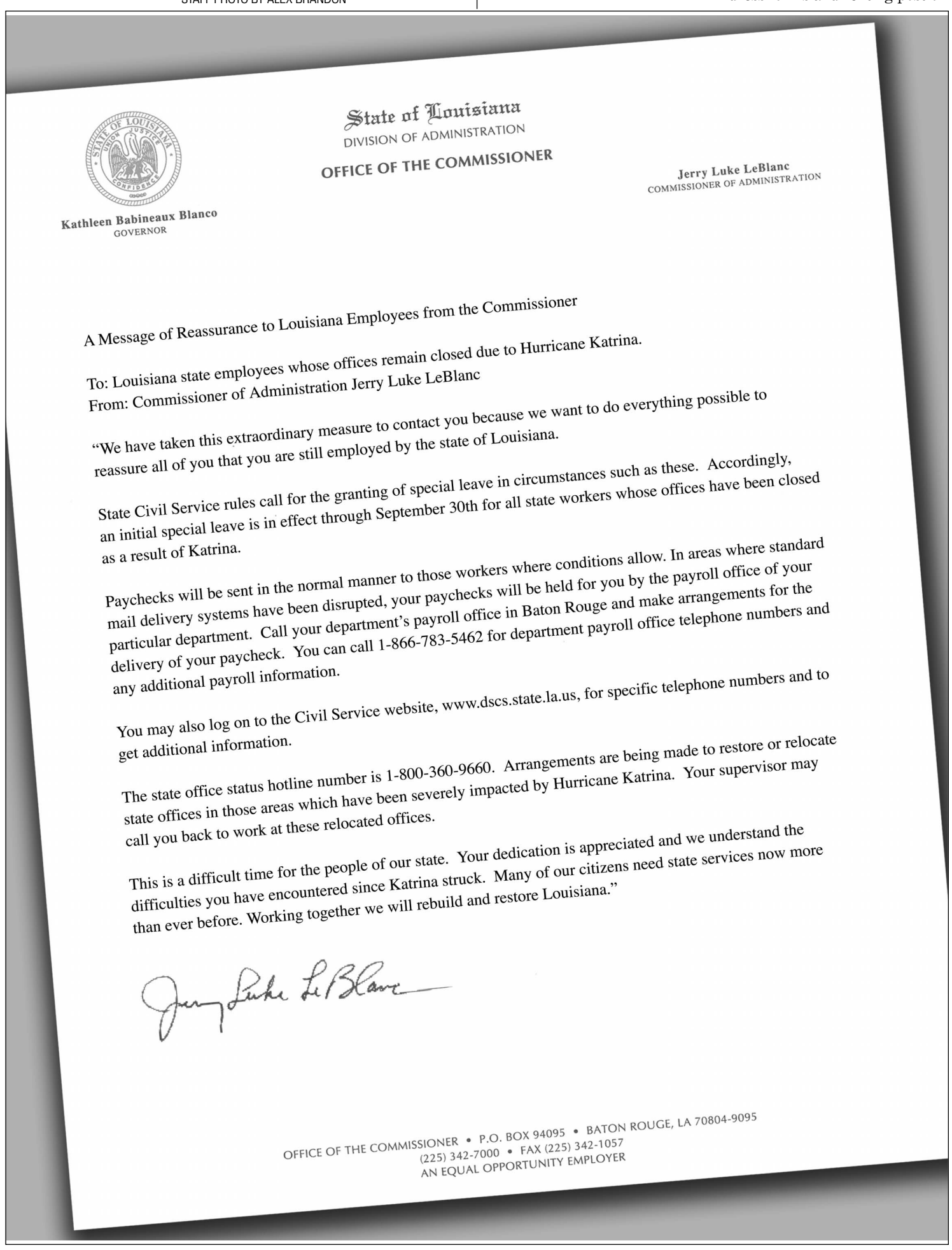
"A lot of evacuees left the area with nothing or have run out of medication," Polzin said. "That's taking a lot of time with the pharmacy staff, trying to contact the doctor and looking up patient history" to figure out what medication is needed, and sometimes dispense an emergency supply, he said.

Walgreens said it needs extra help at its 17 Baton Rouge area stores, especially pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Sometimes patients don't know which medications they need, so the pharmacist has to play sleuth, asking what condition the medication was used to treat and what the pill looked like.

"We're hoping our Baton Rouge area customers are patient and understand because of the influx of patients from the New Orleans area" they're very busy, Polzin said. The company has stepped up the number and content of shipments, especially for drugs used to treat chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and high cholesterol.

To process prescriptions faster, Walgreens rolled out a system that allows prescriptions to be scanned into a computer and sent electronically to a store in a neighboring state that isn't as busy. That store then transfers the approval to the pharmacy that will dispense the medication.

Lines at area post offices, meanwhile, are dominated by people filling out change-of-address forms and renting post of-



State of Louisiana
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

Jerry Luke LeBlanc
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

A Message of Reassurance to Louisiana Employees from the Commissioner

To: Louisiana state employees whose offices remain closed due to Hurricane Katrina.
From: Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc

"We have taken this extraordinary measure to contact you because we want to do everything possible to reassure all of you that you are still employed by the state of Louisiana.

State Civil Service rules call for the granting of special leave in circumstances such as these. Accordingly, an initial special leave is in effect through September 30th for all state workers whose offices have been closed as a result of Katrina.

Paychecks will be sent in the normal manner to those workers where conditions allow. In areas where standard mail delivery systems have been disrupted, your paychecks will be held for you by the payroll office of your particular department. Call your department's payroll office in Baton Rouge and make arrangements for the delivery of your paycheck. You can call 1-866-783-5462 for department payroll office telephone numbers and any additional payroll information.

You may also log on to the Civil Service website, www.dscs.state.la.us, for specific telephone numbers and to get additional information.

The state office status hotline number is 1-800-360-9660. Arrangements are being made to restore or relocate state offices in those areas which have been severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Your supervisor may call you back to work at these relocated offices.

This is a difficult time for the people of our state. Your dedication is appreciated and we understand the difficulties you have encountered since Katrina struck. Many of our citizens need state services now more than ever before. Working together we will rebuild and restore Louisiana."

Jerry Luke LeBlanc

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# Casino damage deals state a difficult hand



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Tom Martin of South Windsor, Conn., left, and Doug Mycko of Alberta, Ala., grill burgers for rescue workers Sunday outside the closed Harrah's New Orleans Casino. Harrah's says it doesn't know when it will reopen, but it has continued to make its minimum daily payments to the state.

## *La. to lose $10 million a month in revenue*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Louisiana will lose nearly $10 million a month in tax revenue from casinos closed by Hurricane Katrina, officials say.

The three New Orleans area riverboats, which have been closed since Aug. 27, usually generate about $5 million a month in state tax revenue, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board said at its monthly meeting in Baton Rouge on Tuesday.

Nearly one-third of the state's video poker machines, or about 5,000 terminals, were shut down by of the storm. Combined, those machines generate about $4.6 million a month in tax revenue.

But there are some bright spots. The Boomtown and Treasure Chest riverboat casinos say they can reopen soon, which will minimize their tax revenue losses. And Harrah's New Orleans Casino has continued to make its minimum daily payments to the state, even though it is not required to because the casino is closed. Harrah's pays the state about $164,384.56 a day in taxes, or about $5 million a month.

The Belle of Orleans riverboat in eastern New Orleans, formerly known as Bally's, was the hardest hit casino in Louisiana. The boat was ripped from its moorings, the marina was destroyed and the terminal building was damaged. Columbia Sussex Corp., the owner of the vessel, said it doesn't know how long it will take to reopen it and is concerned about what will happen to its business if customers don't return. Still, Gonzalo Hernandez, general manager of the vessel, said Columbia Sussex has no plans to ask to move it.

The Boomtown, on the West Bank, plans to reopen Sept. 30. The Treasure Chest, in Kenner, said it is working on its reopening plan. Harrah's said it has no reopening date set and that it needs to assess the timetable for completing its hotel in light of more pressing construction projects around the city.

Plans for a slots casino at the Fair Grounds Race Course are also likely delayed. Churchill Downs Inc., the owner of the casino, had planned to start construction in September and to open the facility next summer. Whenever the Fair Grounds casino does open, it may be with only 500 slots instead of the 700 that it would get if Harrah's generated $350 million in revenue during a 12-month period. Harrah's had been projected to reach that threshold in the spring, but now the 12-month clock will need to be restarted when Harrah's reopens.

Meanwhile, about 3,771 video poker machines remained out of service Tuesday from the storm and will likely need to be replaced because of water damage. The gaming board passed an emergency measure temporarily suspending a rule that video poker operators whose machines are out of service for 30 days will lose their licenses.

# State treasurer wants safeguard for Katrina funds

## *Auditors should review expenditures, he says*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — As state and parish government agencies prepare to recoup billions of federal dollars in costs associated with Hurricane Katrina, state Treasurer John Kennedy said Monday that there are not enough safeguards in place to prevent fraud, waste and abuse.

Kennedy said he has complained to Gov. Kathleen Blanco about a decision to let the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness serve as the main conduit for Federal Emergency Management Agency money expected to begin flowing this week.

Kennedy proposed that each expenditure of federal cash over a certain threshold be reviewed and authorized in advance by his office and by Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot.

He said the need for careful checks and balances is particularly acute in Louisiana, which has a well-earned reputation for political corruption.

Under FEMA's public assistance program, state and local agencies can apply for reimbursement for unbudgeted costs associated with major disasters. The program, which typically constitutes about two-thirds of the federal money that flows to disaster areas, pays for everything from debris removal and generators to overtime pay for rescue workers and other unexpected costs.

But the money comes with strict paperwork requirements, as government agencies must carefully document that the federal money they are seeking is really going to reimburse them for hurricane-related costs. And that means complying with a dizzying array of federal rules.

Theriot said he has already assigned several auditors to help local authorities navigate the paperwork process and let them know what kind of expenses the federal government will reimburse. He said it's especially important to reach out to local governments in the early stages of disaster recovery, when some of them are receiving advance federal payments that they will have to document later.

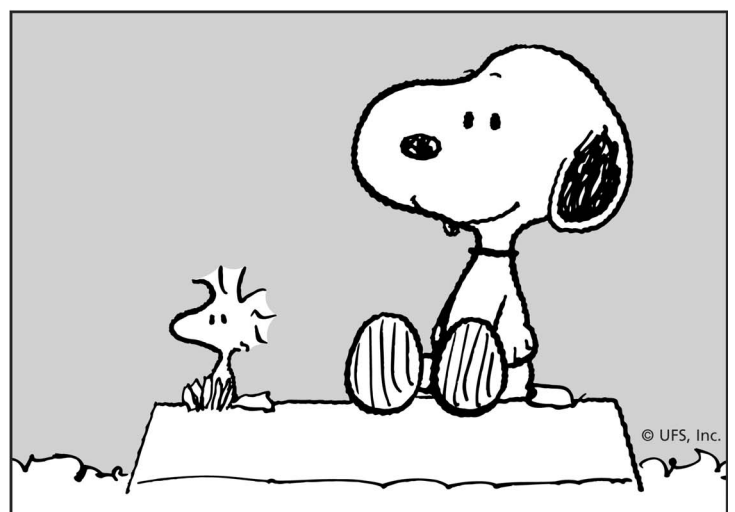
"I don't want local governments to fall into the trap that they get the money and then don't submit the documentation," Theriot said. "Because then the second time (they apply for reimbursement) they won't get the money."

State homeland security could not be reached for comment Monday. But Art Jones, who heads up the agency's hurricane recovery efforts, said Saturday that that the first public assistance payments, totaling about $200 million, are expected to be made this week to the governments of Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Lafourche parishes.

Kennedy said the homeland security office isn't equipped to handle the task of reviewing documentation submitted by local governments, called "project worksheets," and fears that the process will be ripe for abuse.

But Barbara Goodson, assistant Commissioner of Administration for management and finance, said the homeland security office is a natural conduit for the money because of its extensive experience responding to natural disasters and their aftermath.

"They have more experience than anybody else in the state in handling the flow of the FEMA money and the projects," Goodson said.




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# Northrop reopens Avondale shipyard

*Work force, at 12%, provides a lift to local economy*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Northrop Grumman Corp. has reopened its big military shipyard in Avondale with about 12 percent of its usual 6,000 workers, breathing an important burst of life into the New Orleans region's storm-crippled economy.

The Monday opening of the region's biggest manufacturer brings a growing number of workers back to metropolitan New Orleans who will be earning paychecks and spending at least some of their money at local businesses, said George Yount, the shipyard's vice president of operations.

"If we're not open again, in addition to the agony wrought by the storm, you would have 6,000 families without income. That would trickle down to other families" in the region, he said Tuesday from the shipyard's headquarters, known as the Rock House.

More than 700 shipyard workers were on the job Tuesday. That number should increase steadily during the coming weeks as more displaced workers are located and arrangements are made to temporarily house the workers in the area and transport them to the yard, Yount said. Housing provided by the shipyard will not be available to family members of workers, he said.

Within a year, the yard's work force should reach at least half the size it was before the storm, Yount said. "If we can get 3,500 people back, I would be thrilled," he said.

Northrop is transporting workers by bus from Thibodaux, Raceland and Houma daily, he said. More buses will begin daily runs from Baton Rouge and the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain soon.

Shipyard managers are trying to locate crew barges – essentially floating dormitories – that could be moored along the yard's docks for housing workers during the work week.

The yard's relatively quick return to operation was due to the small amount of largely cosmetic damage sustained during Hurricane Katrina. The yard's sister shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., formerly known as Ingalls, wasn't as fortunate.

Katrina's storm surge swept 6 feet of water over the Mississippi yard, flooding the factory's manufacturing shops and putting them out of commission for weeks.

Yount and about 80 other workers rode out the storm at the Rock House, where many of them have remained.

They relied on police and firefighters for news from the outside world. They distributed pistols after a small group of men tried to enter the yard and threatened them. They built a makeshift barricade around the Rock House with cars, concrete barriers and barbed wire. They crafted an outdoor shower out of an emergency eye-washing system. And they bartered part of their 100,000 gallon stockpile of diesel for supplies.

"It was kind of a cross between 'Survivor' and 'Big Brother' here. We think we would be strong contestants," Yount said.

# Filmmakers roost in Shreveport As New Orleans starts recovery

*North Louisiana gets chance to benefit from industry*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

Dozens of companies, hundreds of workers and millions of dollars in film production have moved from New Orleans to Shreveport in the two weeks since Hurricane Katrina tore through the area, taking Hollywood South north, at least for now.

The move is a good sign for the state, which could lose millions in revenue to competing states and countries without the projects slated for production in Louisiana.

"I can't say that we're going to get them all back," said Alex Schott, director of the Governor's Office of Film and TV. "But I haven't gotten any official word that any are pulling out."

Schott's office has been helping film industry businesses set up satellite offices in Shreveport.

"We want to maintain an open-for-business philosophy," he said.

Among the firms making the move is New Orleans production company Lift, which has produced several feature films and television movies. The company is spending $1.5 million to set up an office in Shreveport and assist workers with relocation costs.

Malcolm Petal, the firm's chief executive officer, said about $80 million in production or post-production work scheduled to be done in New Orleans will be relocated to Shreveport, Monroe and Natchitoches.

"There are projects that the original plan was to for them to be shot somewhere in the greater New Orleans area, and that's not an option now," Petal said.

In one case, a television pilot scheduled to film in the Lower Garden District of New Orleans has been moved to a swanky Natchitoches neighborhood.

Of the nine television shows Lift was working on, none was set in New Orleans or Louisiana, making it easy to move them. Also making the move smooth is the fact that the film industry is extremely mobile; crews and equipment often travel between locations.

Schott said the industry chose to relocate to Shreveport in part because Baton Rouge is too crowded and didn't offer enough space for the industry's businesses and workers. Another reason, Petal said, is that unlike Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Shreveport and surrounding cities have not yet reaped the benefits of the growing film industry.

"I think it was important for us to show that you can make movies in north Louisiana," Petal said. He plans to keep Lift's Shreveport office running after New Orleans is operating again.

"Our focus was to keep the business in the state," Schott said. "Shreveport offered the most attractive option."

The move to Shreveport doesn't mean that the industry will never return to metro New Orleans, Schott said.

UNO's Robert E. Nims Center for Entertainment Arts and Multi-Media Technology in Elmwood, which houses a soundstage used in feature films, was left relatively unscathed, Schott said.

"They're on the fast track to getting it up and running," Schott said. "We're looking to getting it back in business in a month or so."

Petal agreed.

"It is purely an expansion," he said.

# 5 students arrested after fight at school

*Soda can thrown at evacuees*

**The Associated Press**

HOUSTON — Three teenagers were hospitalized and five were arrested after a fight Tuesday morning at Jones High School that broke out when a student from Houston threw a soft drink can into a group of evacuee students, a school district spokesman said.

Officials said the fight involved 20 to 25 students.

A student from New Orleans was treated at Memorial Hermann Hospital for facial injuries, and two Houston teenagers were treated for face and rib injuries.

Terry Abbott, a spokesman for the Houston Independent School District, said such dissension would not be tolerated.

"The quickest way to earn a ticket out of Jones High School and into detention is to hurt one of those students from New Orleans," Abbott said in a story in Tuesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle. "They've made it very clear to the Jones High School students that the children from New Orleans are our guests. We must treat them with all the dignity and respect we can."

He also reminded the 200 evacuees attending Jones High School that they are not exempt from school regulations.

The five arrested students, whose ages ranged from 15 to 18, were charged by school district police with disruption of school activities, a Class C misdemeanor. Two were evacuees from New Orleans, and three were Houston residents, officials said.

Abbott said that all of the arrested students would be placed at alternative sites.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Celebration in air as flights return

## *Evacuees come back, others fly for work at reopened airport*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

As Northwest Airlines Flight 947 from Memphis, Tenn., lined up for its approach to Louis Armstrong International Airport on Tuesday, Stephen Kishner of Metairie looked hard out of the window for his neighborhood.

"All we saw was the lake," said Kishner, who hasn't seen his home or his wife, an East Jefferson General Hospital employee, in two weeks.

Kishner was one of 29 people on the first commercial passenger flight into Armstrong since Aug. 28, the day before Hurricane Katrina blasted the Gulf Coast. A Delta flight from Atlanta soon followed, and a second Northwest flight from Memphis landed later in the afternoon.

Sandy Rodriguez of New Orleans, who had evacuated to Memphis on one of the last flights out of Armstrong, also returned on Northwest 947. She said she was anxious to see her lakefront home.

"Maybe we were one of the lucky ones," she said.

Airport officials celebrated the return to commercial passenger service as if it were the long-awaited 10 millionth passenger they had hoped to see pass through the terminal in 2005. In Katrina's wake, having any paying passengers was a reason to rejoice.

"The airport gets 90 percent of its revenue from passenger fees, so we hope to be a going concern as quickly as possible," Aviation Director Roy Williams said.

Before the storm, an average of 174 commercial flights a day landed at Armstrong, paying for the $70 million-a-year operation. Katrina closed it to regular traffic for 16 days.

Williams reiterated hopes that federal grants would help the airport pay its bills, including $20 million in annual debt service.

Airlines say they are working on refunds, credits, rebookings and other relief for passengers who were scheduled to travel through Armstrong for the period it shut down.

For now, the airport will receive flights in the 30-year-old concourses A and B, which weathered the storm with minimal damage. Concourse C suffered more damage, and Concourse D is still being used to house some of the Katrina relief troops.

Though Armstrong has been open to cargo flights since Sunday, the first FedEx flight wasn't scheduled to arrive until Tuesday, with UPS to follow today.

In addition to passengers returning on Tuesday's Northwest and Delta flights, several passengers flew out of Armstrong. Brophy Boudreaux, a pharmaceutical sales executive from Mandeville, was headed for Knoxville, Tenn., and anxious to get back to work.

"I've been trying to get power on at my house all week," he said. "Maybe it will happen while I'm gone."

Larry Numa, an employee of Praxair, which manufactures gases such as acetylene at a plant in Taft, was off to Jacksonville, Fla., with his wife, Mona, to work in the company's offices there.

Williams expects perhaps 60 flights per day by the end of this week, as other airlines assess their facilities, fuel supplies and passenger demand. But a true return to commercial air travel rides on the revival of New Orleans' convention and tourism business.

"We still don't have the hotels, the rent-a-cars or the other services travelers need," Williams said.

The larger question, he said, is how much of Louisiana's New Orleans-based professional class remains in such places as Baton Rouge or Houston — and for how long.

"Those are the people who fly the most," he said. "I think the worst-case scenario is that we're back where we were in five years, but I think it's going to happen much sooner than that," he said.




STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ




Passengers head through a security checkpoint Tuesday en route to a flight leaving Louis Armstrong International Airport, which had been without passenger traffic for 16 days. Aviation Director Roy Williams said 90 percent of the airport's revenue comes from passenger fees. LEFT, A Northwest Airlines jet from Memphis, Tenn., sits at the gate Tuesday as a Delta flight pulls in. The first flight arriving in New Orleans on Tuesday had 29 passengers aboard.

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**To Our Valued Friends and Clients:**

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To contact a specific New Orleans office attorney, contact Julia Blackshear at (318) 934-4024 (jblackshear@lemle.com) or Ann Chatelain at (225) 387-8068 (achatelain@lemle.com). We will route your call to the attorneys with whom you have been dealing, and, if they are not immediately available, we will have one of our attorneys in the same field of practice return the call as soon as possible.

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NEW ORLEANS OFFICE TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

## OUR OPINIONS

# Razed lives

St. Bernard Parish officials could offer nothing but painful news to the 3,000 evacuees who crowded the state Capitol on Monday to hear about the fate of their homes and community.

Virtually all of the 27,600 homes in the parish are flooded, and nearly all of them will have to be razed. Even those who still have homes are looking at a six-month exile. That's a bitter draught for St. Bernard residents who clung to friends and neighbors they found in the throng in Baton Rouge.

Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said he would not sugarcoat the situation, and he certainly didn't. "I hope all of you remember St. Bernard, because when you go back, you aren't going to recognize it," he said.

That's a grim diagnosis, but now that it's been delivered, St. Bernard's leaders need to offer their dispossessed and dislocated constituents more than just brutal honesty and the solace of memory. People want to know, and need to know, the exact condition of their own property.

Parish officials should strive to provide detailed assessments and make the information readily available. But St. Bernard evacuees also need to see for themselves what they have left and what was lost to the wall of water that Katrina sent into St. Bernard. These people don't have homes, neighborhoods, houses of worship, schools or, in many cases, places of employment. They shouldn't be expected to do without solid, specific information, too. In fact, they can't begin to put their lives back together and plan for the future without it.

People from Arabi and some parts of Chalmette might be able to return in two to three weeks to take stock of their damage; the rest will be allowed in on a staggered basis. Obviously, the sooner that can happen, the better. Working out a rapid plan to allow residents back for a survey should be a priority for parish government.

People are going to be shocked and dismayed by what they'll find, but waiting and wondering is its own form of torture. That, at least, is something these Katrina victims shouldn't have to endure a moment longer than necessary.

# N.O. plans nonprofit corporation

## *Donations will help rebuild city*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

New Orleans is moving quickly to set up a nonprofit corporation that can accept cash contributions, large and small, to help finance the mammoth recovery effort from Hurricane Katrina.

Describing the project as a work in progress, aides to Mayor Ray Nagin said Tuesday that it is too early to discuss specifics, including a fund-raising goal, how the nonprofit will function and what the donations will be spent on. But with offers of aid pouring in from around the globe, city officials said, it is imperative to get a mechanism in place to accept the help.

"I can't tell you exactly what the money would be used for," said Nagin spokeswoman Tami Frazier. "But anything we do will be geared toward helping New Orleanians back on their feet, by taking care of whatever their essential needs may be."

City officials said the possibilities include temporary housing assistance, helping small businesses acquire startup inventory and paying for expert advice on urban planning and economic development.

The administration has decided to name the nonprofit America's New Orleans Fund Inc.

Chief Deputy City Attorney Evelyn Pugh, who is coordinating the project, said she hopes to have state approval to establish the fund by today and to set up an account with Chase Bank before the weekend.

Once the nonprofit is authorized by the secretary of state's office, contributions will be accepted at any Chase branch or a post office box the city designates, Pugh said.

The nonprofit, to be headed by the mayor, will have a 501 3-C tax classification that makes donations tax deductible. Besides Nagin, plans call for the fund to be overseen by his top aides, including Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield, Chief Financial Officer Reggie Zeno and City Attorney Sherry Landry.

Before the city begins to solicit contributions, the administration will publish a mission statement that outlines the program's goals and guidelines for how the money will be spent, Frazier said. She added that the city expects millions of dollars to flow in quickly.

"So many are contributing already – movie stars, activists, businesses. We think that by establishing a fund that can be specifically directed to New Orleans assistance, we can help a lot of people," Frazier said.

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# AFTER THE STORM

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**423**
- 342 bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
- 39 bodies in East Baton Rouge Parish
- 27 bodies in Jefferson Parish
- 6 bodies in St. Tammany Parish
- 6 bodies in Iberia Parish
- 3 bodies in St. Charles Parish

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**675** SHELTERS
**23** STATES

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STATEWIDE
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IN JEFFERSON PARISH
**76%** restored
**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
IN ST. TAMMANY AND WASHINGTON PARISHES
**67%** restored

**AIRPORT**
**Passenger service:** Resumed Tuesday with limited service
**Cargo traffic:** Resumed Sunday

**PORT OF NEW ORLEANS**
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**ELECTIONS**
- October, November elections in Orleans and Jefferson parishes postponed indefinitely

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**
- Standard mail delivery, including letters and periodicals, suspended in ZIP codes that begin with 395, 700, 701 and 704

**COURTS**
**FEDERAL COURTS**
- The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals operating in Houston, where it began hearing cases last week
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana preparing to receive filings and hear cases at federal courts in Baton Rouge, Houma and Lafayette

**LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT**
- Closed through Oct. 1. Court is operating in temporary quarters at the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge

**FOR HELP**
- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA: www.fema.gov or (800) 621-3362
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Toll-free hotline about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393

# Nurse recounts rising waters, rapidly deteriorating situation

## *She says no one abandoned by staff*

**By Peter Finney**
Staff writer



AP PHOTO

Nurse Margaret Kane was working at Memorial Medical Center when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. 'If anyone suggests we abandoned a single patient, it's a flat-out lie,' Kane said. Forty-five bodies were recovered from the center Sunday, including 16 at the chapel.

She's called Peg.

Margaret Kane is a nurse. She was part of a pre-hurricane planning team at Memorial Medical Center, a 317-bed hospital on Napoleon Avenue.

She arrived for work at noon on Aug. 28, the day before Katrina arrived. Three days later, Peg was sitting at a piano, a baby grand, on the first floor, doing her best to lift the spirits of patients and their loved ones, trapped and headed into days of marooned uncertainty, chaos, fear.

And death.

"Would you believe," Kane said, "one of the songs I played was 'Michael Row the Boat Ashore?' "

Obviously, Monday's news that 45 bodies were found at Memorial Medical left Margaret Kane saddened.

And angry.

"If anyone suggests we abandoned a single patient, it's a flat-out lie. They don't know what they're talking about. You keep asking yourself why more could not have been done. When I look back, I know all the nurses were putting their lives on the line, doing the best they could. You just hate to see people you're caring for — already near death — go because you don't have the means to keep them alive. It tears you up."

The days before Katrina arrived, there were approximately 2,000 people at Memorial Medical Center, including 260 patients.

By the time Katrina passed Monday, it seemed Memorial Medical might have dodged a bullet.

Kane went for a quick walk Tuesday.

"It was pretty dry outside," she said. "There was some water coming out of the sewers, but it didn't seem threatening. I went to my car, which was in the hospital garage, looking to explore the immediate area. This time, I saw some water, slowly rising. When I got to Ursuline Academy, which was a few blocks away, it was serious. By the time I made it back to the garage, the streets were beginning to flood.

"I parked on the second floor. That's when I learned the hospital was in a locked-down position. Would you believe all this happened in less than 15 minutes?"

Kane was quickly back to work on the fourth floor, at "4 Clara Center," involved in the care of 24 patients.

No one on the hospital staff had any idea the levees had failed. The hospital kitchen was soon under water. By early Wednesday, Memorial Medical was without power — no communication with the outside world.

"We began using cardboard fans to lower the body temperature of some patients," Kane said. "Patients in stable condition became critical. It wasn't long before the chapel on the second floor was turned into a morgue. Bodies were wrapped in sheets and placed there. Some were placed in hallways. One man died sitting straight up in his wheelchair with his son and daughter-in-law at his side. A patient died of a heart attack on one of the stairwells. One man suffered a self-inflicted stab wound to move up on the list of those hoping to be evacuated."

There was evacuation by boat and helicopter.

And there was waiting and waiting and waiting.

The flooded ramp to the emergency room became a launching pad for arriving boats.

On Katrina plus four, a Friday, Kane and five nurses were evacuated by boat.

They were taken to dry ground near St. Charles Avenue, followed by a truck ride to nowhere — that is, to the airport, back to Causeway Boulevard and Interstate 10, and finally a ride to a truck stop in LaPlace in the company of State Police.

Kane would find her way to Raceland and rejoin her anxious husband, James, in Ruston, at the home of relatives.

"I'll never forget a 95-year-old patient telling jokes," Kane said. "He was hilarious. And he made it out, God bless him.

"And I'll never forget how great that portobello mushroom tasted, one I brought with me. And I'll never forget how bright the stars looked at night when everything around you was pitch black."

How does it feel to be a hero?

"I'm no hero," Kane said. "I was just trying to do my job, like all the other dedicated nurses. I would like to say I'd like to see the Saints wear a red fleur de lis on their helmets this season. And I'd like people to look in on a new Web site, www.desirenola.com. It's all about bringing the city back."

How about Memorial Medical Center?

"I'm praying the lights go on and it returns to a new life," Kane said. "I'll always look on it as my second home."

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The Times-Picayune

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# SPORTS

PAGE A-16
Wednesday
September 14, 2005

## Toy stories are just what region needed

The night before John Carney kicked a game-winning, 47-yard field goal for the Saints in Charlotte, N.C., Early Doucet caught a game-winning 39-yard pass for the LSU Tigers in Tempe, Ariz.

Geography tells us Saturday's catch and Sunday's kick were a country apart.



PETER FINNEY

The sporting heart tells us the two moments would have hit somewhere in between, hit New Orleans with a euphoric impact, had the city not been scattered to all points of the compass by Category 4 winds that will be forever known as Katrina.

Carney is 41, the oldest Saints player on Jim Haslett's roster, a trooper who has been around the block enough to appreciate the fact a game like football will always be part of life's toy department.

But Carney wasn't too old to appreciate what his foot had done this time.

"The longer you play games for a living," he was saying in Sunday's winning locker room, "you tend to get jaded. For me, football's a business. You can forget what it means to the people out there, cheering, spending their money to be in the stands, to be part of your life."

**"For me, football's a business. You can forget what it means to the people out there, cheering, spending their money to be in the stands, to be part of your life."**
JOHN CARNEY, Saints placekicker

Probably there have been few, if any, weekends like the past one to illustrate how important, how magical, a toy department can be for the human spirit.

Age-wise, Carney is in a better position than 19-year-old Doucet, who may have no idea what one catch did for a displaced fan base.

Think about it.

Doucet calls New Iberia home.

JaMarcus Russell found his way to Tigertown from Mobile.

Which means, you draw a line from one city to the other, and it was inside those bookends that Katrina left her lethal mark on the Gulf Coast.

Earlier on Saturday evening, Doucet had dropped three on-target strikes thrown by his quarterback. Then, on fourth-and-10, at do-or-die time, he runs away from double coverage and comes up with the catch of his young life in a come-back-alive, 35-31 victory.

"That dude was clutch," Joe Horn was saying the next day about Doucet pulling it in.

It may have fired up Horn as much as it did Haslett, who was in search of any available motivational tool against the Carolina Panthers.

What made these back-to-back victories in life's toy department even more dramatic is that LSU's came in the final minute-and-a-half, the Saints' in the final three seconds.

On Saturday, Katrina's destruction brought a late game to Sunday morning prominence, mixing the Russell-Doucet highlight with cheering fans watching TV inside Tiger Stadium.

On Sunday, the Saints' upset became the No. 1 feel-good story on the NFL menu, moving another upset, this one by Nick Saban's Dolphins over the Denver Broncos, to the back burner.

There's an irony here. On the weekend Saban was making an impressive professional debut, Les Miles, his successor in Baton Rouge, may have won a game on the road against Arizona State that Tiger fans, wiped out by Katrina, may remember more fondly than Saban's Superdome victory over Oklahoma.

Of course, there's another side to the coin.

It wasn't long before LSU fans, caught up in Saturday's drama, were asking if the Tigers were capable of winning any kind of championship with a defense that surrendered 461 passing yards to Arizona State.

We'll get closer to an answer in two weeks when LSU and Tennessee, the SEC team holding the best national championship credentials in the eyes of most pundits, tee it up at Tiger Stadium.

Tiger Stadium, now the official 2005 home of the Saints for four games.

Before the matter was settled, I asked Horn about "home."

"I liked the idea of playing in San Antonio because we practice there," he said. "But, you know me. I can catch passes in Louisiana as well as Texas. Just throw me the ball."

It's a given.

Aaron Brooks plans to do just that.

# COURTS OF APPEAL

### *Hornets consider Baton Rouge, Oklahoma City as sites for some 'home' games*

By Jimmy Smith
Staff writer

The Hornets are considering playing some "home" games this season in Baton Rouge and Oklahoma City, a league source said Tuesday.

The Ford Center in Oklahoma City is one possible venue, while either the Pete Maravich Assembly Center or the downtown River Center in Baton Rouge could be the team's home for anywhere from eight to 12 games, the source said.

The Ford Center, which opened in 2002, seats more than 19,000 for basketball, with 3,300 club seats, seven party suites and 49 private suites. The facility is also managed by SMG, the same group that operates the Hornets' permanent home, New Orleans Arena, and the River Center.

It's unclear what part of the Hornets' schedule this season would be played away from the Arena, which received minor damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Doug Thornton, regional vice president for SMG, said Monday that the Arena could be ready for occupancy by the mid-February All-Star break. Whether the city would be ready to accommodate visiting teams in major hotels by then is much more uncertain, however.

But the fact that the Ford Center is run by SMG affords the Hornets the opportunity to utilize the same SMG game-day staff that is accustomed to the game-day operations at New Orleans Arena, which could make the transition in the temporary venue easier, as it would be in the SMG-managed River Center.

Dan Radakovich, LSU's associate athletic director for internal affairs, said Tuesday that Hornets officials are scheduled to tour the PMAC some time Wednesday.

Hornets president Paul Mott confirmed Tuesday that he would be in Baton Rouge on Wednesday and Thursday, along with an NBA representative whose job it is to "evaluate venues and markets. That's what he does. He's all over the place. He's coming in to finish the fact-finding that (Hornets front-office executives) Sam Russo and Steve Martin started a week ago.

"We also want to see the River Center, look at potential office space, prospective practice facilities, where the players might reside, as well as the two arenas," Mott said.

The PMAC is currently being cleaned and decontaminated after its use as an evacuation hospital in the hurricane's aftermath. That medical facility closed late last week.

Last Friday, Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett, along with SMG employees, gave NBA officials a guided tour of the Ford Center.

There are no apparent scheduling conflicts in Oklahoma City. The minor league hockey team that the Ford Center houses during the fall has agreed to relocate 22 games that could conflict with Hornets' games to a facility across the street.

In Baton Rouge, there are about 10 potential conflicts between Hornets' home games and events scheduled at the PMAC. It's uncertain whether there are date conflicts at the River Center.

Tim Frank, spokesman for the NBA, said the league hoped to make a determination about where the Hornets would play home games in the next week to 10 days.

"We're not going to break it down city by city," Frank said. "Once it's complete, we'll have an announcement."

There also has been talk of the Hornets playing games in Nashville, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Kansas City, Mo.; Las Vegas and Puerto Rico.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Like warped puzzle pieces baked and cracked by the sun, a muddy mosaic marks the streets in the Lower 9th Ward on Tuesday.

# PICKING UP, CLEANING UP

Wherever Katrina left her mark, the cleanup is under way. From businesses picking up debris and shattered signage to law enforcement officers doing a load of laundry, a clean-sweep mindset is taking hold in southeast Louisiana.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**GRETNA:** A worker with America's Best Signs of Baton Rouge carries away a piece of signage outside a storm-damaged Shell service station.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**ALGIERS:** An unidentified federal agent from Colorado transfers a load of clothes to a dryer at the Spin Zone on Tuesday. 'It's the safest Laundromat in the whole United States,' said Jim Ritchie, talking about his wife Beverly's business on Gen. de Gaulle Drive. It's the only business up and running on Gen. de Gaulle and a popular spot for dozens of law enforcement officers.

**NEW ORLEANS:** Steve White, a worker with Pasado's Animal Rescue in Kansas City, holds out a cookie as he tries to lure a stray dog closer on Tuesday. White brought the dog to a nearby collection point.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:** As Katrina's floodwaters finally recede, crews in St. Bernard are left with the monumental task of ridding the streets of miles of mud. Workers along Judge Perez Drive use a giant suction hose to collect the muck on Tuesday.

## SAINTS (1–0) VS. NEW YORK GIANTS (1–0), in East Rutherford, N.J., 6:30 p.m., ABC

First 9-11, now Hurricane Katrina - for the New York Giants and the displaced Saints from New Orleans, misery indeed loves company.

The teams square off Monday night in a game that has been moved from the Superdome to Giants Stadium because of the storm.

Nearly four years ago, the teams played following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington. In mid-September 2001, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue suspended games for two weeks. When play resumed Sept. 30, the Giants defeated the visiting Saints 21-13 in an emotionally charged game that helped restore a bit of normalcy to a grieving and shocked nation.

The roles will be reversed Monday night. This time the Saints, who have been forced to move their base of operations to San Antonio and will split their remaining home games between the Alamodome and Tiger Stadium, will have the emotional edge.

The Saints no longer are playing for themselves. The adage "us against the world" no longer applies to this star-crossed franchise, because the world seemingly is rooting for them. This team in exile is playing for underdogs everywhere, particularly the Gulf Coast region that has been crippled by a natural disaster. The wind beneath their wings is an untold number of supporters, by compassionate folks from all walks of life whose heartstrings have been tugged by a story of widespread devastation.

"Our fans are everywhere," wide receiver Joe Horn announced after the Saints' opening 23-20 road victory Sunday against the Carolina Panthers. Who could argue?

**LAST MEETING:** The Saints won 45-7 on Dec. 14, 2003, at the Superdome, in a nationally televised game highlighted by Joe Horn's infamous end zone "cell-abration." Horn acted like he was calling on a cell phone after scoring a touchdown, following one of his four touchdown catches. His antics resulted in a $25,000 fine from the league office.

**GIANTS ON OFFENSE:** The Giants scored 42 points in their opening victory against the Arizona Cardinals, their highest output in more than two seasons. Second-year quarterback Eli Manning completed 10 of 23 passes for 172 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw two interceptions, one of which was returned 18 yards for a touchdown by linebacker Karlos Dansby. The Giants have a number of options, beginning with the heart of the offense - running back Tiki Barber rushed 13 times for 62 yards and one touchdown against the Cardinals. Manning has several capable receivers, including tight end Jeremy Shockey and wideouts Plaxico Burress and Amani Toomer. Shockey and Burress caught scoring passes against Arizona. Rookie running back Brandon Jacobs, 6 feet 4 and 265 pounds, opened his NFL career by rushing for 39 yards and one touchdown and returning a kickoff 39 yards. The offensive line has been bolstered by the off-season acquisition of right tackle Kareem McKenzie (6-6, 335) from the New York Jets. McKenzie, who signed a six-year, $36 million contract in March, sprained an ankle against the Cardinals and is listed as probable. Veteran Bob Whitfield played in McKenzie's absence. The Saints' defensive plan is simple: contain Barber and force the Giants to rely on inexperienced Manning.

**GIANTS ON DEFENSE:** Although a shade lighter (255 pounds) and longer in the tooth (33), right defensive end Michael Strahan remains the Giants' defensive force. He made seven tackles and 1 ✪ sacks against the Cardinals. "I think it should quiet down those people who say I'm too old and that my weight is down too low," Strahan said. "I'm fine, and I don't think 33 is too old." Underrated defensive end Osi Umenyiora starts opposite Strahan. Middle linebacker Antonio Pierce made his presence felt in his first game since coming over from the Washington Redskins during the offseason. He led the Giants with 11 tackles and half a sack. Curtis Deloatch replaced incumbent Will Peterson at right cornerback against the Cardinals, and contributed seven tackles and defended a pass, but was also beaten by Cardinals' wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who caught a career-best 13 passes for 155 yards and one touchdown. Peterson apparently ended up in Coach Tom Coughlin's doghouse last week. The Saints will want to get running back Deuce McAllister going early and allow quarterback Aaron Brooks to exploit the Giants' soft spot on defense.

**GIANTS ON SPECIAL TEAMS:** For the first time in 50 years, the Giants returned a punt and kickoff for touchdowns in the same game. Willie Ponder returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter, and former Saint Chad Morton returned a punt 52 yards for a score in the fourth quarter. Both were part of 35-point barrage in the second half against the Cardinals. No doubt Saints special teams coach Al Everest will emphasize those plays in his preparations. Jay Feely made all six extra-point attempts.

## THE WORLD OF SPORTS

**FOOTBALL:**

EX-SAINTS KICKER FRITSCH DIES:

Toni Fritsch, a former soccer player for Austria's national team who was discovered by the Dallas Cowboys and became a record-setting NFL place-kicker, died Tuesday. He was 60. The Austria Press Agency reported that Fritsch collapsed and died of heart failure in Vienna. In 1971, with soccer-style kickers becoming popular in the NFL, the Cowboys sent a group of scouts to Europe in search for strong-legged soccer players who could be taught to boot footballs. Fritsch led the NFC with 22 field goals in 1975. After playing for San Diego and Houston, he finished his NFL career kicking for the Saints in 1982. He still holds an NFL record by having kicked a field goal in 13 consecutive playoff games.

AROUND THE NFL: Larry Johnson turned himself in to police Monday night after an altercation with his girlfriend early Saturday at a bar. A police department spokesman said the Kansas City Chiefs running back was cited for domestic abuse assault. Johnson posted bond and was released, with a court date set for Sept. 20. ... Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback Torrie Cox was jailed early Tuesday after being charged with driving under the influence, his second drunken driving arrest in nine months. ... Kicker Nick Novak signed with the Washington Redskins, who cut kick returner Antonio Brown. The Redskins needed a kicker after John Hall strained his quadriceps in Sunday's 9-7 victory over the Chicago Bears. ... The Cincinnati Bengals signed fullback Nick Luchey, filling the spot of injured running back Kenny Watson. ... The Seattle Seahawks signed veteran defensive end Rodney Bailey and released wide receiver Jerheme Urban. ... The Chicago Bears signed former St. Louis Rams offensive tackle John St. Clair and waived tackle Marc Colombo.

**COLLEGES**

UNO-KANSAS ON TV: The UNO men's basketball game at Kansas on Dec. 29 will be broadcast on ESPN2. The Privateers' originally scheduled home game against Norfolk State for that day was rescheduled. The teams likely will play in November of next season in Virginia and then return to New Orleans for the 2007-08 season. UNO officials also announced that its women's basketball tournament Dec. 2-4 at Lakefront Arena also has been moved to Lawrence, Kan. Host Kansas will play Birmingham Southern at 6 p.m. on Dec. 2, and the Jayhawks and Lady Privateers will play Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. UNO and Birmingham Southern finish the three-day event Sunday, Dec. 4, with a noon contest.

BASKETBALL ROUNUP: Connecticut point guard Marcus Williams was given 18 months probation and ordered to perform 400 hours of community service for his role in the theft of four computers from a campus dormitory. Williams was accused of trying to sell four computers worth about $11,000 that were stolen from campus dorm rooms between June 9 and June 14. ... Defending champion Syracuse, Texas Tech, Wake Forest and Florida will all host a four-team regional in the season-opening 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer. The regional rounds will be held Nov. 8-11, with the winners advancing to the semifinals on Nov. 17 at New York's Madison Square Garden. The championship game will be Nov. 18. Syracuse will play Bethune-Cookman on Nov. 8, and St. Francis, Pa. will face Cornell in the other game. Florida will face St. Peter's on Nov. 9, with Albany meeting Oakland, Mich. in the other game. Texas Tech will host San Jose State in the first round, with Portland meeting Georgia Southern in the other game. Wake Forest opens against Mississippi Valley State and George Mason plays Cal-Irvine.

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP: Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said he'll decide later this week whether suspended tailback Adrian Peterson will start Saturday against UCLA. "We'll see. At this point, we anticipate him playing," Stoops said. "Start or not depends on how we feel practice is going, what we feel we need to do. Depending on what further happens from here, we'll see." Peterson, who rushed for 220 yards and three touchdowns in Oklahoma's 31-15 win against Tulsa on Saturday, was suspended from practice Monday and Tuesday after missing classes. ... Troy Smith will start for No. 9 Ohio State on Saturday against San Diego State in place of Justin Zwick, the starter the first two games this season. ... Northwestern State is ranked No. 15 and McNeese State is ranked No. 19 in this week's Division I-AA Top 25. Grambling State and Nicholls State received votes but were not in the Top 25.

**NBA:**

O'NEAL AIDS ARREST: Shaquille O'Neal provided an assist to police over the weekend, trailing a man who allegedly assaulted a gay couple before alerting an arresting officer. The 7-foot-1 Miami Heat center, who is in the process of becoming a Miami Beach reserve officer, was driving on South Beach around 3 a.m. Sunday. He saw a passenger in a car yell slurs at the couple, who were walking, said a spokesman for the Miami Beach Police Department. The man then got out of the car and threw a bottle, hitting one of the pedestrians, who was not seriously hurt. The man got back in the car, which sped off. O'Neal followed, flagging down an officer who made an arrest.

AROUND THE LEAGUE: A judge acquitted Minnesota Timberwolves center Michael Olowokandi of misdemeanor charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct at a downtown nightclub last fall. Olowokandi was arrested about 3 a.m. Nov. 25 after he refused to leave the nightclub and had to be subdued by police with a stun gun. The Timberwolves suspended him for two games for "conduct detrimental to the team." Olowokandi said he was trying to retrieve a sweatshirt from the club. ... The Denver Nuggets re-signed off guard DerMarr Johnson, who started 40 games last season. ... Cleveland Cavaliers first-year coach Mike Brown added assistants Michael Malone and Melvin Hunt to his staff. Malone is the son of Brendan Malone, a former Cavaliers assistant who served as Cleveland's interim coach last season after Paul Silas was fired.

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL:**

AROUND THE LEAGUE: An MRI of Boston Red Sox outfielder Johnny Damon's left shoulder showed no structural damage. Manager Terry Francona said Damon will remain in Boston for treatment. ... Cleveland Indians reliever Arthur Rhodes has left the club because of a family illness and will miss the rest of the season.

**AUTO RACING:**

TRUEX DOCKED: Reigning Busch Series champion Martin Truex Jr. was penalized $10,000 and 25 points by NASCAR for using an obscene gesture during last week's race. The punishment tightens Truex's hold on the Busch points lead; he now holds just a 69-point advantage over Clint Bowyer with seven races remaining. Truex was side-by-side with Mike Wallace late in Friday night's race at Richmond International Raceway when Wallace pinched Truex into the wall. Truex twice flashed an obscene gesture at Wallace that was caught on the television broadcast.

# Agreement reached to shift FG races

*La. Downs to take 37 racing days*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Churchill Downs officials and Louisiana horsemen have reached a preliminary agreement to shift 37 Fair Grounds racing days to Louisiana Downs in Bossier City to make up for the cancellation of the New Orleans racing season, Churchill announced Tuesday.

Under the agreement, a transferred Fair Grounds season would begin Nov. 19 and run through Jan. 22. Racing generally would be held four days a week. Hurricane Katrina wiped out an 83-day Fair Grounds season that was to run from Nov. 24 through March 26.

"We're glad that we're able to come to an amicable resolution," Sean Alfortish, president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, said Tuesday. "It's tough to get by a situation where the whole city is hit by a hurricane. Just to have a meet, to put all the parameters in place, is a feat by itself."

Churchill chief operating officer Andy Skehan said in a press release: "Our ability to work cooperatively and put the industry's best interests above our own will send an important message to our customers – and to countless Gulf Coast residents affected by this terrible storm – that Fair Grounds racing will go on."

Purses during the season would average about $270,000 per day.

The stakes schedule would include two major event days.

Louisiana Champions Day, with 10 stakes for Louisiana-bred thoroughbreds and quarter horses, would be run Dec. 10. Four stakes races — the Grade III Risen Star Stakes, Grade II Silverbulletday Stakes, Grade III Bayou Breeders' Cup Handicap and the Duncan F. Kenner Breeders' Cup — would be run Jan. 14. The Grade II New Orleans Handicap would be run Jan. 7.

But the Louisiana Derby and Fair Grounds Oaks – the track's most prestigious races for 3-year-olds and 3-year-old fillies, respectively – are not part of the tentative stakes schedule. "They'll be back in full force next (season)," Alfortish said.

A consequence of shifting thoroughbred dates to Louisiana Downs would be a shift of that track's quarter-horse dates. A Louisiana Downs quarter-horse meet is scheduled to start Oct. 28 and run through Nov. 27.

"That's an issue that the HBPA is handling," Ray Tromba, Louisiana Downs vice president and general manager, said late Tuesday.

Alfortish said that Evangeline Downs is cooperating with all parties and would add Louisiana Downs' quarter-horse days. As a result, Evangeline, which has its own fall quarter-horse meet, would be running quarter horses into December, he said.

A final agreement must be approved by the horsemen, Churchill, Louisiana Downs, Evangeline Downs and the Louisiana State Racing Commission. The commission must approve all changes to the Louisiana racing schedule.

Also, by law, the Fair Grounds must run 80 days in 20 consecutive weeks to keep its racing license. Racing commission chairman Bob Wright said that he doesn't expect problems obtaining a waiver – possibly through an executive order from Gov. Kathleen Blanco – to allow a shorter season to be run.

"I can't speak for her. But, knowing the attitude in general, I don't think it'll be any problem getting that approved," Wright said.

Tromba said the next step is for Louisiana Downs and Churchill officials to work out operational details for the season.

"We've obviously been participants from the standpoint (that) we've reached out our hands, tried to be facilitators to do something that made sense for the industry," Tromba said.

# Tulane enduring makeshift conditions

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON - On Tuesday, Tulane coach Chris Scelfo was asked if he has seen tape of Mississippi State, his opponent in five days.

"That tape is somewhere floating in New Orleans," he said.

On the campus of Louisiana Tech, Tulane is trying to piece together its program after Hurricane Katrina rushed the team out of town, and then took a knockout swing at the remaining equipment at the team's headquarters. Tulane loaded its buses with enough equipment for a week of practice and one road game. In actuality, it loaded the buses for the 2005 season.

The Division I-A football program now is a skeleton.

"It's something we can use to keep us hungry," safety Tra Boger said. "And I think it's going to add to our mental toughness, not having everything when you want it."

Scelfo has said time after time how Louisiana Tech has been unbelievably accommodating. Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson is similarly appreciative: "Imagine if an athletic program showed up at our doorstep?"

But as Tulane settles in its temporary home, the reality does, too. Boger said it in one word: "Makeshift."

The football offices are really just one big office. It's a workspace at the Thomas Assembly Center, the school's basketball arena, with cubicles and computers. All they need is a water cooler. Scelfo has his own office - in the basketball officials' dressing room.

Down the hall is the room where Tulane holds its positional meetings. The room is divided by patricians, set up like a maze. On Monday afternoon, assistants were taping flat pieces of styrofoam to the partitions to serve as walls. Sheets of paper were slapped to the entrance of each area: "DBs" or "QBs" or "WRs."

Boger sat in a meeting with the Tulane secondary, and a coach began barking at the players. As the players digested the criticism, another coach began yelling. Then another.

"You could hear everyone," Boger said. (Incidentally, offensive coordinator Frank Sceflo and defensive line coach Lorenzo Costantini were the loudest, according to some).

The locker room is a bunch of chairs with equipment bags placed in front of them. But the players are used to this – they spent about two weeks at the Dallas Doubletree, where athletic tape was put on the wall to designate space as imaginary lockers.

Tulane was able to get a bulk of its equipment on those buses. The team does have practice essentials, such as helmets, shoulder pads, soft pads, pants and practice cleats. And Tulane has its road uniforms.

"That's all we need," Chris Scelfo said. "We don't have a home stadium, so we don't need those home jerseys."

But Tulane doesn't even have its game helmets. John Mendow, the assistant equipment manager, said there wasn't enough time to load them. So the team will play in their practice helmets, without decals.

There is a litany of things Tulane left behind.

Mendow and the equipment staff are working the phones like a telethon, getting donations in the forms of "helmet hardware, strings, socks, gloves, backup shoes, footballs - anything and everything."

But the biggest deficiency?

"Manpower," Mendow said.

Tulane normally has six workers at practice dealing with equipment and manager duties, including students, interns and full-time staff members. In Ruston, it's just Mendow and his assistant, Chico Rodriguez. Because Tulane's athletic program is scattered at numerous campuses, so is its staff.

The ordinary medical staff of six is now two - trainer Justin LeDuc and his assistant, Miesty Woodburn.

Before practice Tuesday, the line of players waiting to be taped was "never-ending" Woodburn said.

"I saw that long line today," Boger said. "And I just threw my ankle braces on."

At practice, LeDuc was running around in sandals – he didn't have time to change into his shoes. Scelfo's 11-year-old son, Joseph, was helping distribute water. Some water jugs remained empty, because there weren't people to refill them.

Mendow was unfamiliar with the electrical buzzer he sounds before each practice period, and he pressed the wrong button, shutting off the team's video camera. Kickers and punters worked the chains and down markers during 11-on-11 drills.

"You really see how important everyone is," Boger said.

During practice, a car drove by on a busy street, and a guy yelled out, "Roll Wave!"

Some of the players responded with a cheer.

They know they're playing for others, playing to represent a school and a city. So they endure.

# Despite sloppy play, Tulane has good day

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON – As Tulane assistant equipment manager John Mendow passed through the gate leading from the practice field, he looked to his right and said, "One down."

The Green Wave had just wrapped up its first practice at Louisiana Tech, its home for the 2005 football season. The Tuesday afternoon practice, Tulane's first in five days, was sluggish and filled with mistakes. But, on this day, it was going to take more than a sloppy practice to get Tulane coach Chris Scelfo bent out of shape.

"It was a great day," Scelfo said following the nearly two-hour workout. "I thought the effort was good, but we were a little sluggish after taking five days off. There were a lot of unforced errors, but that was expected. The kids seemed to have a smile on their faces; it was the first time in five days the coaches have had some enthusiasm. It was great."

After being forced to flee New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina, the Green Wave spent the past two weeks moving from one city to another before settling in on Louisiana Tech's campus on Monday. The team began attending classes Tuesday and hit the practice field in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts. It will play Mississippi State on Saturday at the Independence Bowl in Shreveport.

"For the first time in five days, we're just trying to get in the swing of things," said senior linebacker Anthony Cannon, the team's leading tackler last season. "Once that ball is kicked off Saturday, we'll be alright. We need to hit somebody other than white and green."

**A NEW SCELFO:** Well, maybe not new, but certainly a more mellow Chris Scelfo, at least on the surface. Call it the after effects of Katrina.

The concerns Scelfo had about his team and the season going into fall camp have changed.

"I am not worried about anything that happens on the field," Scelfo said. "Everything's in perspective. So, I'm not worried about anything. I'm worried about the safety of my players and us being able to represent hope for a lot more people than I think anyone realizes, including myself. That's my goal for this football team."

When asked earlier about Mississippi State, he said he was worried more about his team than State. As for the tapes on the Bulldogs, "they're floating somewhere in New Orleans," Scelfo said. Tulane's Wilson Center reportedly had five feet of water.

**EXTRA TIME:** While Scelfo says there wasn't anything good to come from Hurricane Katrina, the postponement of its game with Southern Miss has provided the Green Wave time to get a couple of ailing players healthy and more time for the freshmen to catch on to the new system.

Wide receiver Bubba Terranova, who had knee surgery early into fall drills, is healthy and in much better condition.

Meanwhile, placekicker Barrett Pepper, who has been suffering with a hip flexor since mid-August, is progressing slowly. On Tuesday, he was participating in one-step kicking drills.

Pepper said there is a possibility he will be ready to play against Mississippi State on Saturday.

**INSIDE:** THE LIVING SECTION RETURNS, WITH COLUMNIST CHRIS ROSE'S NATIONAL GUARD COOKOUT, C-1 •

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# THE BILL COMES DUE

## FLOOD-DAMAGE INSURANCE LIMITS PROVING PAINFUL

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

Carol Hess hoped she had shed her last tear over the ruins of what used to be her lovely four-bedroom house in Slidell. But an hour after the adjuster from State Farm came to visit her hurricane-ravaged property this week, Hess was crying again.

Though Hurricane Katrina's storm surge dumped the contents of two neighboring townhouses into her back yard, crushing the back of her garage and driving a mountain of debris into her living room, the adjuster told Hess that virtually none of the damage would be covered by her homeowner's policy.

His explanation: The debris came by water, not wind. And that means Hess' claim will be filed through her flood insurance policy.

The debate about whether claims should be filed under homeowners or flood insurance policies is one that several hundred thousand policyholders are coming up against as they try to figure out how to pay for Katrina-related property damage.

"It's not a black-and-white answer because each claim is different," said Bill Mellander of the Allstate Natural Catastrophe team in Northbrook, Ill.

Homeowners policies provide compensation for damage resulting from high winds, but do not cover flood damage. The only water losses covered under a homeowners policy are those that occur after a windstorm has damaged a building, such as when water pours into the structure because a fallen tree created a hole in the roof.

Flood damage is covered by federal flood insurance, which is a type of coverage held by a fraction of homeowners. Flood insurance, however, only covers damages up to $250,000.

As a result, many homeowners would prefer to see their claims handled through homeowners insurance. And some policyholders are arguing that wind from the storm caused the levee breach that flooded the city, and that any water damage should be covered under a traditional storm policy.

"In this event, the big (question) will be: What's wind and what's water?" said Bob Hunter, director of insurance for the Consumer Federation of America.

Hunter said it will be hard to make a case that wind led to the flooding. "I think that argument may have a class-action lawsuit to follow it," he said.

The debate was ad-

*See* **INSURANCE,** *page A-11*

▶ **Your insurance questions answered, A-11**



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Carol Hess mourns her loss anew after meeting with the insurance adjuster. Now, she and her husband don't know how they will pay for the damage and rebuilding their lives.



State Farm insurance adjuster Steve Evans measures the exterior of Bobby and Carol Hess' house on Moonraker Drive in Slidell while assessing the damage there from Hurricane Katrina. The storm surge drove a mountain of debris into the Hesses' living room.

## DAY 17 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **474**



Lafreniere Park in Metairie is the repository for more than 100,000 cubic yards of pine tree trunks, oak limbs, cypress branches and other debris, **See Metro**

Relocated in Baton Rouge, the Archdiocese of New Orleans struggles to dispense healing in wake of the storm's carnage, **See Metro**

St. Bernard Parish officials say they might allow the first parish residents to return as early as Saturday, **See Metro**

FEMA helps hotels get back into shape, **See Money**

New Orleans floodwaters contain extremely high amounts of e.coli and fecal coliform, the EPA says, **See A-3**

Other states and some parishes and cities in Louisiana are trying to attract dislocated New Orleans businesses, **See A-4**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta says he will ask Congress to remove caps on emergency aid, **See A-5**

The attorney for the owners booked in the deaths of 34 residents of a St. Bernard Parish nursing home called their arrest a 'rush to misjudgment,' **See A-9**

# I-10 drained, paving way for relief crews

**By Gordon Russell and David Meeks**
Staff writers

Workers on Wednesday successfully cleared Interstate 10, a vital transportation link from New Orleans to the airport and points west, by opening a drain that sucked massive amounts of toxic floodwater from the beleaguered Lakeview neighborhood it had soaked for more than two weeks.

The highway, covered in mud and debris, is not open to the public but is passable for emergency vehicles and trucks aiding the relief effort. It remains inaccessible from the east, however, due to massive damage to the twin spans that carry it over Lake Pontchartrain.

*See* **DRAIN,** *page A-15*

## TO OUR READERS

The Times-Picayune today is expanding the number of pages and the number of copies it is printing as residents return and businesses reopen in the metro New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina.

Today's paper was printed at The Mobile Register, which like The Times-Picayune is owned by Advance Publications. Since Katrina, the paper has been printed at the The Courier in Houma, a member of the New York Times newspaper group.

"Moving our printing to Mobile allows us to increase the number of pages in the paper to meet advertiser and reader demand, as well as expanding our color capabilities," said Ashton Phelps Jr., Times-Picayune publisher.

"We are forever grateful to The Courier for stepping in without notice to house some of our staff and allow us to print in the early days after the storm," he said.

The Times-Picayune was forced to evacuate its Howard Avenue plant as floodwaters rose on the morning of Aug. 30.

# New Charity may rise in Katrina's wake

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Years before Hurricane Katrina brought floodwaters lapping through Charity and University hospitals, stranding more than 1,200 doctors, patients and hospital staff members for days, LSU officials knew the hospitals would be severely compromised if a big storm hit New Orleans.

Although the state hospitals were supposed to serve as health care facilities of last resort during an emergency, Dr. Dwayne Thomas had studies to prove that Charity Hospital's aging facility on Tulane Avenue

*See* **FEMA,** *page A-14*

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# Governor admits 'failures at every level' on response

By Laura Maggi
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Acknowledging that state errors contributed to the suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gov. Kathleen Blanco told state lawmakers Wednesday night that "there were failures at every level of government" and pledged to examine the missteps that crippled the response to the storm.

Echoing President Bush's acceptance of accountability from a day earlier, Blanco told a rare out-of-session meeting of the Legislature that "the buck stops here, and as your governor, I take full responsibility."

The governor has taken some heat about the speed and depth of her response to Hurricane Katrina, the subsequent flooding and civil unrest. She did not deal directly with that criticism, but used her speech to articulate her commitment to the New Orleans area, which is the primary economic engine of the state of Louisiana, but whose citizens are now scattered throughout the country.

"To anyone who even suggests that this great city should not be rebuilt, hear this and hear it well: We will rebuild," Blanco said, who added that as with the 9-11 tragedy the federal government should foot the bill for 100 percent of the costs from the disaster.

For the state's part, Blanco said she would issue an executive order directing agencies to limit spending, while also saying she would appoint an outside adviser to work with state officials to ensure that all of the federal money that flows into state coffers is properly spent.

Blanco did not give many specifics of the congressional package that would help encourage people and businesses to return to the area, but said that she expected it would include an extension of unemployment benefits, "significant financial help" to rebuild homes, and business tax relief.

Along with the congressional package, which Blanco said will be steered by Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, the governor said that federal authorities need to direct more energy revenue to the state to help rebuild the levees and restore the state's dwindling coastline.

The governor said more than 1 million people have been uprooted from their homes and scattered around the state and country, saying that she wanted to encourage them to come "back home." The state would help put these people back to work, Blanco said, citing recent efforts to create temporary housing at the state's refineries to help the plants get back up and running.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has already let several no-bid contracts to deal with cleaning up the New Orleans area and housing evacuees, should make sure that Louisiana companies are participating in the reconstruction projects, Blanco said.

With hundreds of thousands of people living in shelters, Blanco said that these buildings must be improved to make them more community spaces that can help people get back on their feet. As officials try to move these people into temporary housing, Blanco said that she has asked the American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency to revamp the existing shelters.

Blanco offered only a few specifics to her vision of rebuilding the New Orleans area, saying that they would make a "historic effort" to revamp the city's troubled public education system. She also pledged to restructure the state's instutionalized health care system, offering "primary care" to people in the neighborhoods they live in.

Blanco has continued to spar with FEMA this week, criticizing the pace of providing shelter residents with better housing and saying the department should have stepped up the efforts to recover the corpses of people who died during the storm.

But in her speech, Blanco praised Bush, saying "I want the people of Louisiana to know that we have a friend and partner in President George W. Bush."

About three-fourths of the Legislature was in attendance. Lawmakers punctuated Blanco's 18-minute speech with the occasional standing ovation, including when she recognized the police, firefighters and other first responders at the side of the room.

Blanco said that although it's "impossible to name every group involved" in the rescue effort, she singled out several police officers, doctors, National Guard soldiers Coast Guard members and state Fish and Wildlife agents for praise.

"They were joined by an unprecedented brigade of ordinary citizens who drove a fleet of school buses we commandeered, steered hundreds of private boats down flooded streets and toiled without pause to rescue at least 70,000 people."

Blanco said one of the lessons to be learned from the storm is that all levels of governments must work together.

"To the legislators here tonight, I ask you to join me in this endeavor. We need your courage and your energy to restore and reinvigorate our damaged communities and economies."

Lawmakers are expected to in the next few months to consider legislation to deal with the impact the storm will have on the state's budget and other changes in state law needed to cope with the disaster.

# MANY ALREADY VENTURING BACK TO N.O.

*Getting past checkpoints no problem, they say*

By Steve Ritea
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Donald 'Bucks' Barkemeyer cleans up his yard on Haynes Boulevard on Wednesday. Though he had had 18 inches of water in the yard, none got in his home. Many New Orleans residents were finding it easier than expected to return to their homes.

While much of displaced New Orleans awaits word on whether neighborhoods that didn't flood will reopen early next week, some residents and business owners are making the trip on their own timetable: now.

They were out and about for the first time Wednesday, reporting no problem getting past checkpoints. But it was unclear whether the access was government-sanctioned, a slip in procedure or a look the other way.

"They didn't check anything," said David Bergeron, who made it to his Uptown ice cream shop, Creole Creamery, by taking River Road through Jefferson Parish to Prytania Street. "No questions, no nothing."

A block down, Ben Lazich swept up glass on the sidewalk in front of his Prytania Street business, The Wine Seller.

"I saw troopers, but they didn't stop me," he said, as the stereo in his SUV played in the background. "I was more worried about traffic."

Down on Magazine Street, resident Chris Chocheles reported that guardsmen asked to see his driver's license, but let him in after a quick glance at it.

"I said, 'I live here,' and they just asked for ID and waved me in," Chocheles said.

Residents have whispered about sneaking into the city on back roads or using connections to a friend in law enforcement or some other emergency-related profession to maneuver their way past guards in the weeks since Katrina.

Wednesday's anecdotal activity suggests restrictions may be easing. Mayor Ray Nagin said this week that, pending environmental testing and other reports, he hopes to reopen parts of Orleans Parish that didn't flood — Uptown, Algiers, the French Quarter and the Central Business District — as soon as Monday.

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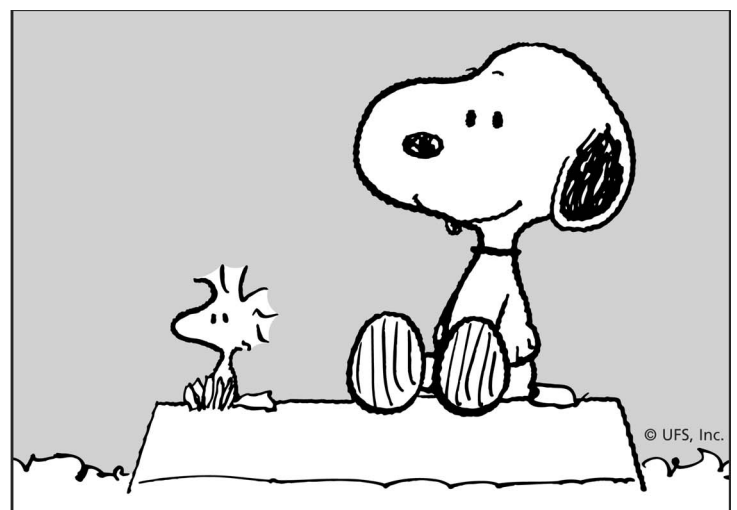
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# Emergency preparedness fails post-9/11 test

## *Communication was the problem*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Hurricane Katrina provided the first major test of the government's emergency preparedness following Sept. 11, 2001 — and it failed.

That's the consensus from the White House to Capitol Hill; despite a huge investment of billions of dollars for communications efforts, the failure of communications systems was a deadly problem.

"At this point, we would have expected a sharp, crisp response to this terrible tragedy," said Senate Homeland Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, who began a hearing on the matter Wednesday. "Instead, we witnessed what appeared to be a sluggish initial response."

President Bush said Tuesday that the bottom-line question is, "Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack or another severe storm?" He said he hopes to learn how the federal government can better cooperate with state and local government in meeting disaster needs.

On Capitol Hill this week, a group of lawmakers said they want to begin by looking at the communication problems that left Federal Emergency Management Agency officials in Baton Rouge and Washington unaware of the chaos and squalor facing tens of thousands of people at the New Orleans Superdome and Convention Center.

Thomas Kean, chairman of the 9/11 Commission, which investigated the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, called the failed communications that slowed rescue efforts a "national scandal," given the four years officials had to fix a problem that left firefighters and police at the World Trade Center unable to communicate with each other or emergency dispatchers.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., joined fellow Democrats this week to propose a $5 billion-a-year program to develop a communications system that would allow police, firefighters and homeland security officials to talk to each other.

"A communications system that is robust and dependable is a vital, necessary cornerstone to homeland security, whether we're trying to save San Francisco, Boston, New Orleans, Mobile or Baltimore," Landrieu said. "And we have known this before 9/11."

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom said that the delays in getting timely help to residents in New Orleans and other nearby communities is further evidence that residents in his city, who face the threat of catastrophic earthquakes, need to be prepared to care for themselves and their families for 72 hours before the government could mobilize a major rescue effort.

The likelihood, he said, is that the two major bridges out of San Francisco would be damaged in a severe earthquake, leaving only one southern route out of the city — making it hard for people to evacuate and for rescue workers to come to the city's aid.

"Hurricane Katrina clearly illustrates the need for both governmental and individual emergency readiness," Newsom said.

At Houston's Methodist Hospital, which treated 194 displaced nursing home patients from New Orleans, officials met Wednesday to evaluate their own emergency-preparedness plan, taking note of the New Orleans hospitals that ran out of medicine and other supplies while generators that were supposed to power lights and air conditioners ran out of fuel.

Michael McCann, president of McCann Protective Services and the United Nations' former director of security, said the slow Katrina response highlights the need for "redundancy": multiple communications systems, multiple sites to assemble supplies and equipment, and extra rescue teams in quick proximity in case resources are overtaxed.

Erik Larsen, associate director of emergency medicine at White Plains (N.Y.) Hospital, treated patients brought to the Louis Armstrong International Airport. He said he wished his fellow volunteers could have done more to help the sick and injured in the Superdome and Convention Center.

"We had teams of emergency medical workers that were deployed to the Superdome, but they had to retreat out of there with their lives because there was just no security presence," he said. "So, in putting together an emergency-preparedness plan, I would think that we'll need to put more of a priority on security, whether with local police or the military."

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, said there are a number of things the government can do to better prepare for a natural disaster, and that includes returning the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Cabinet status, outside the control of the Department of Homeland Security.

"You have to give the director some clout to get things done," he said.

On Wednesday, the Senate rejected a proposal by Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., for an independent, bipartisan commission, patterned after the 9/11 Commission, to determine the causes of the slow rescue effort. She needed a two-thirds vote but could only muster 44 votes, all from Democrats and independent Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont.

# Feds to monitor recovery contracts

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The federal government is sending teams of auditors to monitor whether taxpayers get a good deal from the billions of dollars in contracts being awarded to aid ravaged Gulf Coast communities.

Many of the contracts are exempted from the requirements of competitive bidding.

"The message has gone out very clearly to everybody that we're going to be efficient, we're going to cut through red tape, but we're not going to cut through the laws," said Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as he announced Tuesday that his agency is dispatching 30 auditors to the Gulf Coast. He said the government will have zero tolerance for fraud and misuse of government funds.

As an example of the rush to get things going, the Army Corps of Engineers announced this week that it will quickly award $1.5 billion in hurricane cleanup contracts for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Lt. Col Norbert Doyle, chief of contracting for the corps, said the contracting procedures are being expedited, meaning bidding that would normally takes months should be wrapped up in days.

So far, Congress has authorized $62 billion for relief efforts, with $50 billion directed to FEMA. The agency has spent more than $9 billion so far, spokeswoman Natalie Rule said.

It's not just contracts that have officials and lawmakers concerned about waste.

As part of its emergency assistance legislation, Congress has authorized federal officials to make purchases with government credit cards for up to $250,000. Normally, the maximum purchase is $15,000.

Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said that such a high threshold for purchases leaves room for "abuse and misuse."

The Office of Management and Budget announced this week that it is working on rules that would require employees to get a senior contracting official in his or her agency to sign off on large credit card purchases.

Meanwhile, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, joined by other Democrats, has asked the General Accountability Office, the investigatory arm of Congress, to establish a team of experienced auditors to help avoid the waste, fraud and abuse they say has plagued Iraq reconstruction and Homeland Security allocations.

FEMA officials said the needs are so great that the government has no choice but to issue contracts without the usual bidding procedures and oversight.

"You have 200,000 people who were displaced, possibly more," FEMA spokesman James McIntyre told the Associated Press. "We needed to get families into housing as soon as possible and off the floor of the stadium. We need the contracts to hit the ground running to get that process up and running."

In another development this week, several dozen House members, including Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, proposed legislation that would bar the Bush administration from moving forward with its plan to waive a federal law that requires government contractors to pay workers prevailing wages.

# Floodwaters still a health threat, EPA says

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Floodwaters remaining in the New Orleans area continue to pose a significant health threat, Environmental Protection Agency administrator Stephen Johnson said Wednesday. The agency has found extremely high amounts of e. coli and fecal coliform, both of which indicate the presence of human and animal feces that could contain dangerous bacteria or viruses.

Johnson outlined four major sampling programs EPA is conducting in the city: on floodwater, air, the sediment remaining after floodwaters are drained, and the water in the Lake Pontchartrain drainage basin, the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

The agency's sampling program has just begun, but already it has been criticized by EPA employees, by scientists advising the agency on how to conduct the sampling program and by environmental groups, who say the agency hasn't moved quickly enough to protect the health of emergency personnel and residents who have stayed in or returned to New Orleans.

New water samples released Wednesday were similar to those released by the EPA last week, except the levels of e. coli and coliform, were 10 times higher. Several samples contained as many as 18,000 colonies of bacteria, compared to the 200-colony EPA standard for recreational swimming.

They also contained small amounts of a variety of chemicals and heavy metals that could be expected in wastewater sloshing through urban neighborhoods, including herbicides, arsenic, mercury, zinc and copper.

Several samples also showed significant levels of lead and small amounts of toluene, a volatile organic compound often associated with gasoline or refineries.

Conspicuously absent, however, were any readings of benzene, a chemical used in the manufacture of gasoline to boost octane, or other chemicals found in crude oil or gasoline.

That led longtime EPA internal critic Hugh Kaufman, senior policy analyst for the agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, to call the results "bogus."

"Benzene and compounds like benzene are in the oil products in the water that everyone can see," Kaufman said. "If they come up zero on readings of benzene, the sampling is bogus. Whether it's incompetence or malice, I don't know, but there's no way to have all that oil in the water and have zero benzene."

Kaufman urged the agency to conduct detailed investigations of the water and the sediment left behind before allowing the public back in and urged that emergency workers be provided with protective clothing and respirators until it's clear there are no toxic chemicals in the water.

Meanwhile, Michigan State University professor Joan Rose, a specialist in biological contamination of wastewater that makes it way into the Gulf of Mexico and a member of the EPA's Science Advisory Board, said officials should be looking at more than just e. coli and fecal coliform in its tests of storm water and sediment.

That's because neither of those organisms is a particularly good marker when it comes to predicting the presence of harmful bacteria and viruses in water as brackish as what flooded New Orleans, she said.

She recommended testing for more specific organisms that could be linked to diseases, and also recommended that federal officials begin a long-term program to monitor the health of those exposed to contaminated water or sediment.

Johnson stressed that the agency's sampling effort was just beginning.

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**"There are some sick people out there who don't want to see us come back."**

New Orleans Mayor RAY NAGIN

# Recruiters target dislocated businesses from New Orleans

*Nagin says poachers are 'sick people'*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Other states and even some parishes and cities around Louisiana are trying to attract New Orleans businesses dislocated by Hurricane Katrina by offering inducements for companies to permanently relocate to their communities, a trend that Mayor Ray Nagin says he wants to stop.

As New Orleans businesses cope with the aftermath of the storm and a scattering of employees, many companies large and small have moved temporarily to other cities as they wait for the waters to recede and livable conditions to return.

That leaves those businesses vulnerable to offers from aggressive recruiters elsewhere who want lure the transplanted jobs to their areas, potentially holding back the New Orleans economic recovery.

"There are some sick people out there who don't want to see us come back," Nagin said.

Don Hutchinson, director of economic development for New Orleans, said Tuesday he knows of instances in which officials in other parts of the state have labeled their incentives to New Orleans companies with the prospect of working in areas that are "hurricane-proof." He declined to identify them.

Nagin said he would ask Gov. Kathleen Blanco to declare a moratorium on such offers made in the state.

The state Department of Economic Development, which works closely with local authorities around the state in recruiting jobs, did not respond Tuesday to questions about corporate poaching.

Nagin has announced that parts of the city spared from flooding could be reopened next week, bringing back residents and businesses to those places with power, depending on health and safety issues.

"I'm going to err on the side of protecting lives first," he said.

Nagin said some city officials had erroneously reported that the city was arranging for business owners to obtain permits to visit their sites in the city. Hutchinson said that business people can call (225) 219-0040 and leave information with a phone attendant about their desire to check on their work locations, but no permits are being issued nor appointments made for trips to town.

The city will let the businesses know at the appropriate time, probably through the media, Hutchinson said.

Alden McDonald Jr., chief executive of New Orleans-based Liberty Bank and Trust, told a state legislative panel Monday that Liberty continues to make loans and do business by operating at its Louisiana branches outside the storm-stricken area, but a critical factor in the bank's future is the ability to get employees back on the job in town as soon as possible.

"The longer we stay out of the city, the longer we'll have a more difficult opportunity getting the economy going again," said McDonald, who also is president of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

# Jefferson denies he misused military help

*Vehicles, copter diverted to congressman's home*

**By Ed Anderson and Bruce Alpert**
Staff writers

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, denied Tuesday that he used military resources for his own private use and delayed Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts during a tour of his flooded district Sept. 2.

Jefferson said he was in New Orleans with President Bush that day and had met with evacuees stranded in the Superdome. He said he then wanted to survey his district and was told he couldn't do that without a military escort — which he said had been provided to other members of Congress as well as to visiting officials from the Bush Cabinet.

The eight-term congressman said the National Guard provided a truck and that he got close-up views of the flooded city and the damaged 17th Street Canal levee. When he got near his own neighborhood, Jefferson said, he wanted to take a "quick look" at the damage to his house, which he said "is just human nature." He said he was pleased to see that other than some minor wind damage, his home was in pretty good shape.

Jefferson said reports by some national media outlets that he intentionally diverted resources from rescues and that he took a lot of time inside his house — leaving the National Guard members waiting for as long as an hour — aren't true. He said that when he arrived at the house, an elderly man approached them and said he didn't want to evacuate, but needed some water.

Jefferson said he brought some water out of his home to share with the man, although he pleaded with him to heed the advice of the soldiers to evacuate with them.

Jefferson said he had no intention to do anything but take a quick look at his house, but the truck got stuck in the mud, so he took the opportunity to grab some suitcases that "were already packed" for his daughters and wife, along with a laptop computer.

He said he had never asked for a military escort, and in fact had said he didn't want one. "But I was told it was too dangerous, that I had to have one," Jefferson said.

Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, a spokesman for the National Guard, said the Guard supplied Jefferson with a high-water vehicle to tour his congressional district.

"As part of that tour, he asked to be taken to his residence," Schneider said. "He left the vehicle, went into his house and took some things out."

Schneider said he did not know what Jefferson took, or how long he took to get it.

Schneider said that after the truck got stuck in water and muck near Jefferson's home, a backup vehicle from the Superdome had to be called to transfer Jefferson, his property and the National Guard crew.

He said a Coast Guard helicopter tried to make a rescue at the scene. A person rappelled down to get Jefferson but was waved off and told the "mission was not a search and rescue."

Schneider said the National Guard provides military vehicles when requested to do so for civilian purposes.

"President Bush rode in a Guard vehicle when he was in New Orleans," Schneider said. He said Jefferson's request filtered down from his chain of command.

The tour of the district and Jefferson's visit to his Uptown home to remove items came as Coast Guard, National Guard and other rescue workers were helping people on rooftops, on balconies and in hospitals, as well as providing security at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and the Superdome.

"There had been rescues going on," Schneider said. But he said the Guard was given the job of providing a vehicle to Jefferson, "and we performed a mission that we were tasked with."




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# U.S. transportation chief pledges aid

## *Mineta tours port, I-10 spans, airport*

**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta toured damaged areas of Louis Armstrong International Airport and the broken Interstate 10 twin bridges between Slidell and New Orleans on Wednesday, saying he will ask Congress to remove caps on emergency aid to states stricken by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

"Transportation will not be a chokepoint to the economic revival of this area," he said.

Currently, emergency transportation aid is limited to $100 million per state and must be spent in 180 days.

Mineta committed $15.2 million to airport repairs and $5 million in emergency aid to repair federal highways damaged by the Aug. 29 hurricane.

"This is just a small down payment on the assistance that you need," Mineta said.

His visit represents the Bush administration's latest efforts to demonstrate its response to the Katrina disaster, after it took political flak and suffered a slide in public opinion in the hurricane's immediate aftermath. President Bush has visited the Gulf Coast three times and is scheduled to return today, and Vice President Richard Cheney also paid a visit.

Mineta answered questions about the grants in the airport's Concourse C, under a gaping hole in the roof. Airport officials say it suffered about $50 million damage from the storm, and they expect it to take a $70 million hit in lost revenue over the next five years due to lower traffic. That's equivalent to an entire year's revenue.

Louisiana Transportation and Development Secretary Johnny Bradberry told Mineta that Katrina-related damages to Louisiana roads eligible for federal money total $1.5 billion. He said the current federal funding formula requires the state to spend the money out of its own coffers first, then seek reimbursement. But the state is out of ready cash, he said.

"We're about to go over a cliff on that," he said.

Mineta toured the I-10 twin bridges, where 285-ton segments of roadway were tossed around like a child's toys. He asked project engineer John Horn of David Volkert & Associates how the existing structure could be made more resistant to future problems.

Horn said the best way would be to raise the bridge from its current height of 8 feet above water to 22 or 25 feet.

A temporary repair of the bridge is under way thanks to a $31 million federal grant. The emergency repairs will involve scavenging pieces of the two damaged bridges to make a single, two-lane crossing. Later, the more-damaged western span will be repaired.

Mineta also visited the Port of New Orleans, where he toured two ships from the U.S. Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve fleet. They are providing electrical power and housing to port workers.

The port received its first cargo shipment Tuesday, and Port

Director Gary LaGrange said that could not have happened if the port had not been able to give workers a place to sleep and office space for administrative operations.

About 600 port workers have bunks on the ships. Four more ships are on their way to Katrina-affected areas.

"Get us the cargo, and we'll get you the labor," said James Campbell, president of the International Longshoreman's Association Local 3000.

The Katrina relief effort marks the first time in history that the ready reserve fleet has been sent to a domestic port.

"Usually, they're sent overseas when there is a disaster," Mineta spokesman Robert Johnson Jr. said.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Standing in front of a crane operating at the Nashville Street Wharf, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta talks Wednesday to Gary LaGrange, CEO and president of the Port of New Orleans. The port received its first cargo shipment Tuesday, thanks to support from the U.S. Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve fleet.

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# Residents can't yet cross Lake Pontchartrain bridges

## Recovery chief says corpse retrieval lagged

By Robert Travis Scott
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – "We give thanks that this person was found … We ask that they may be made whole in God's arms …"

That prayer has been read aloud many times in the streets and homes of New Orleans by chaplains standing over the corpses of the unidentified dead left by Hurricane Katrina.

An ecumenical appeal accepted by government authorities, it will be repeated many more times as medical teams, joined with chaplains, continue to pick up bodies more than two weeks after the storm, a process so slow it has drawn the wrath of the governor and public disgust.

On Wednesday, the leader of Katrina relief operations said the gruesome job of collecting the deceased, some lying for two weeks on the street, might have been expedited if Army troops, vehicles and medical equipment had arrived sooner.

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, principal officer of the federal response to the hurricane, said state, local and federal agencies working together with coroners and private contractors to find, collect and identify the dead are doing their job deliberately and respectfully.

Asked what could have been done differently to make the process move faster, Allen said an earlier deployment of Army units and other federal medical assistance would have helped.

National Guard units from Louisiana and other states under the supervision of Gov. Kathleen Blanco were on the ground the first week, but President Bush did not give the order to send in Marines and regular Army troops until the fifth day after the storm, and the divisions did not begin arriving in substantial numbers until one week after Katrina struck.

During the first week, Blanco and Bush disagreed about who would control the Guard and Army units, a debate that reached an impasse by the time Bush called up the Army. In the end the two leaders kept control of their respective forces, coordinated by a joint task force. Both sides have said the dispute did not determine the timing of the federal troop deployments.

About 7,000 regular Army personnel are at work in the New Orleans area, and thousands of those are assisting the operation to search for more living and to collect the dead, said Col. Tony Daskevich, defense coordinating officer for the Department of Defense. The soldiers are not handling the bodies but are providing assistance to the crews that are collecting and searching for them, he said.

Speaking alongside Allen on Wednesday at the FEMA command center in Baton Rouge, Dr. Louis Cataldie, medical incident commander in charge of the body retrieval, admitted the operation had problems.

"Are we doing a good enough job? No," Cataldie said, and he took responsibility for any shortcomings. "I'm kind of surprised they let me up here, to tell the truth," he said at the podium.

Allen said that, once the Department of Defense support was in place, a body retrieval process was negotiated with state and local officials to create a unified command center to receive reports of the dead.

The locations of bodies that were found were noted and reported to the command, which dispatches a retrieval team of four specially trained people and a chaplain. The chaplains read the following prayer before the bodies are removed to a facility in St. Gabriel for DNA, X-ray and fingerprint identification:

"We give thanks for this person's life. We give thanks that this person was found. We give thanks for the persons that found them. We ask that they may be made whole in God's arms and that they know peace."

## *Twin span repair continues; Causeway open to work crews*

By Meghan Gordon
St. Tammany bureau

The two bridges over Lake Pontchartrain that escaped substantial damage from Hurricane Katrina remained closed to the public Wednesday, while emergency crews and business owners continued to flow into the south shore.

Officials who govern the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway and the U.S. 11 bridges have not announced when they will allow all motorists to use the routes over water into Jefferson Parish and eastern New Orleans. But once the bridges reopen, they will provide the only access to the south shore until the battered Interstate 10 twin spans are restored.

Boh Bros. Construction Co. crews worked their third day of a $30.9 million contract to repair the I-10 bridge. The contractor has 45 days to patch missing sections of bridge, after which they will be penalized $75,000 a day. The hurricane's tidal surge affected about 40 percent of the roadway, pushing it either askew on its pilings or into the lake.

In the first phase, Boh Bros. will use sections of the more seriously damaged span to patch the other bridge, allowing two-way traffic between Slidell and eastern New Orleans.

Next, the crews will install portable panels on the more severely damaged span, creating a one-lane bridge by January. The state highway department plans to take bids early next year on a new six-lane bridge to replace the twin spans.

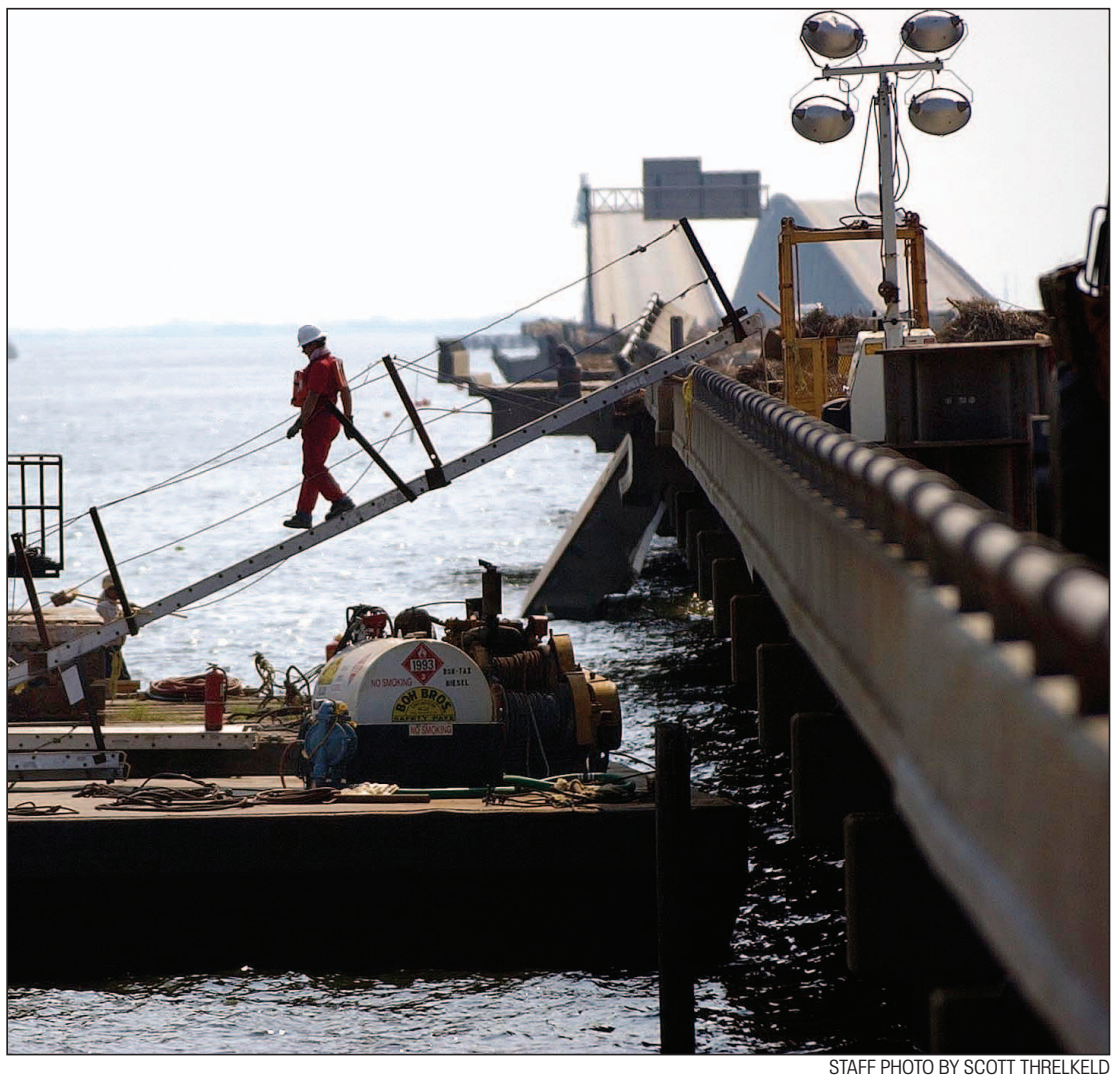
Meanwhile, Causeway traffic has been relatively brisk as police, military, utility trucks and other emergency crews have used the closed bridge. This week, Jefferson Parish business owners who secured entry permits were also given access to the bridge linking Mandeville and Metairie.

Robert Lambert, the bridge's general manager, said he's in daily contact with Jefferson Parish officials to determine when to open the bridge to the public.

"I don't think that's too far down the road, but I don't have any timetable," he said.

Boh Bros. wrapped up work to both ends of the southbound bridge Sept. 5, restoring small sections of limestone and concrete that were eroded by Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge. For several days, Causeway police routed southbound traffic on a crisscross path over sections of both bridges. "We removed the detours last week," Lambert said. "Of course, we're quite proud we got that done in such a short time."

The U.S. 11 bridge remains under the same restrictions, said State Police Sgt. Sgt. Emery Tumulty, who did not know when the public would be allowed to cross.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Workers with Boh Bros. Construction Co. plan to have the eastbound lanes of the Interstate 10 twin spans ready for two-way traffic within 45 days. Sections of the more seriously damaged span will be used as patches.

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## Helicopter regiment carries out new mission

### *Blackhawks pilots fresh from Iraq*

By Paul Purpura
West Bank bureau

Seven months ago, members of Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, returned to New Orleans after a yearlong combat tour in Iraq.

Now they're back on active duty, this time flying missions in their

UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters over southeast Louisiana and the massive damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina. Some of the battalion's soldiers and their families were left homeless by the storm. The battalion itself is displaced, as Katrina caused heavy damage to its hangar at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

The battalion's Blackhawks are part of a military and civilian helicopter force currently larger than that patrolling Iraq.

"This is personal," said Maj. Patrick Bossetta, the 1/244th's commanding officer and an Algiers resident whose childhood home in Lakeview is awash in murky flood water. "It's our community. It's our house, our neighbors. We're the home team."

Before Katrina made landfall on Aug. 29, the battalion's helicopters were flown to safe havens in Alexandria and Texas. The battalion was among the 4,000 Louisiana Army and Air National Guard members positioned to react after Katrina passed.

The idea that the military was slow to react, as some have said, angers Brig. Gen. Gary Jones, superintendent of Rapides Parish public schools who now heads National Guard efforts in Louisiana in an operation the military calls Task Force Pelican.

"That's baloney," Jones said. "We were here. We did it. We responded."

But Katrina caused more damage than anyone expected.

"We knew as soon as (Katrina) quit that this was such a massive disaster that no amount of preparation would work," Jones said. "It obviously overwhelmed us, and in my opinion, FEMA was a little slow to respond."

Katrina's passing started a frantic search-and-rescue operation by air, land and boat. The 1/244th and Coast Guard helicopters were the first to respond, doing so in Katrina's immediate aftermath as 50 mph winds still whipped the aircraft.

"At first, it was just chaos," said 2nd Lt. Luis Sologaistea, a pilot and Mandeville resident whose missions ranged from rescuing people from rooftops to flying stranded hospital patients to Louis Armstrong International Airport.

When the Industrial Canal levee was breeched and spilled water into the 9th Ward, the Jackson Barracks, the Louisiana Guard's headquarters at the Orleans-St. Bernard parish line, began flooding. The 400 soldiers and airmen who rode out Katrina there, like thousands or residents in the area, were trapped.

The Guard members made their way to the Mississippi River levee, where the 1/244th aircrews evacuated them to the Superdome, said Lt. Col. Sherry Brannan, an Abita Springs resident who is executive officer of the 204th Air Traffic Services Group.

At the Superdome, Brannan and others in the unit began planning to manage the helicopter flow. They knocked down light poles at the Superdome's parking areas to create more landing pads, Brannan said.

As floodwaters deepened, pilot Chief Warrant Officer Wayne Griffin of Belle Chasse said he and other pilots spotted people gathering on rooftops or on elevated roadways and bridges.

"Every time you'd leave and come back, there were more people," Griffin said. "We were running 24 hours a day."

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To assist our clients and the impacted communities with the recovery, Jones Walker has formed an interdisciplinary task force to assist clients with their efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The Disaster Recovery Client Team offers assistance with a focus on insurance coverage, tax incentives and abatement, employment law, corporate reorganization and bankruptcy, FEMA and federal disaster assistance, SBA business claims, environmental and clean-up, real estate and construction. Call our Baton Rouge office and ask for a Disaster Recovery Client Team member.

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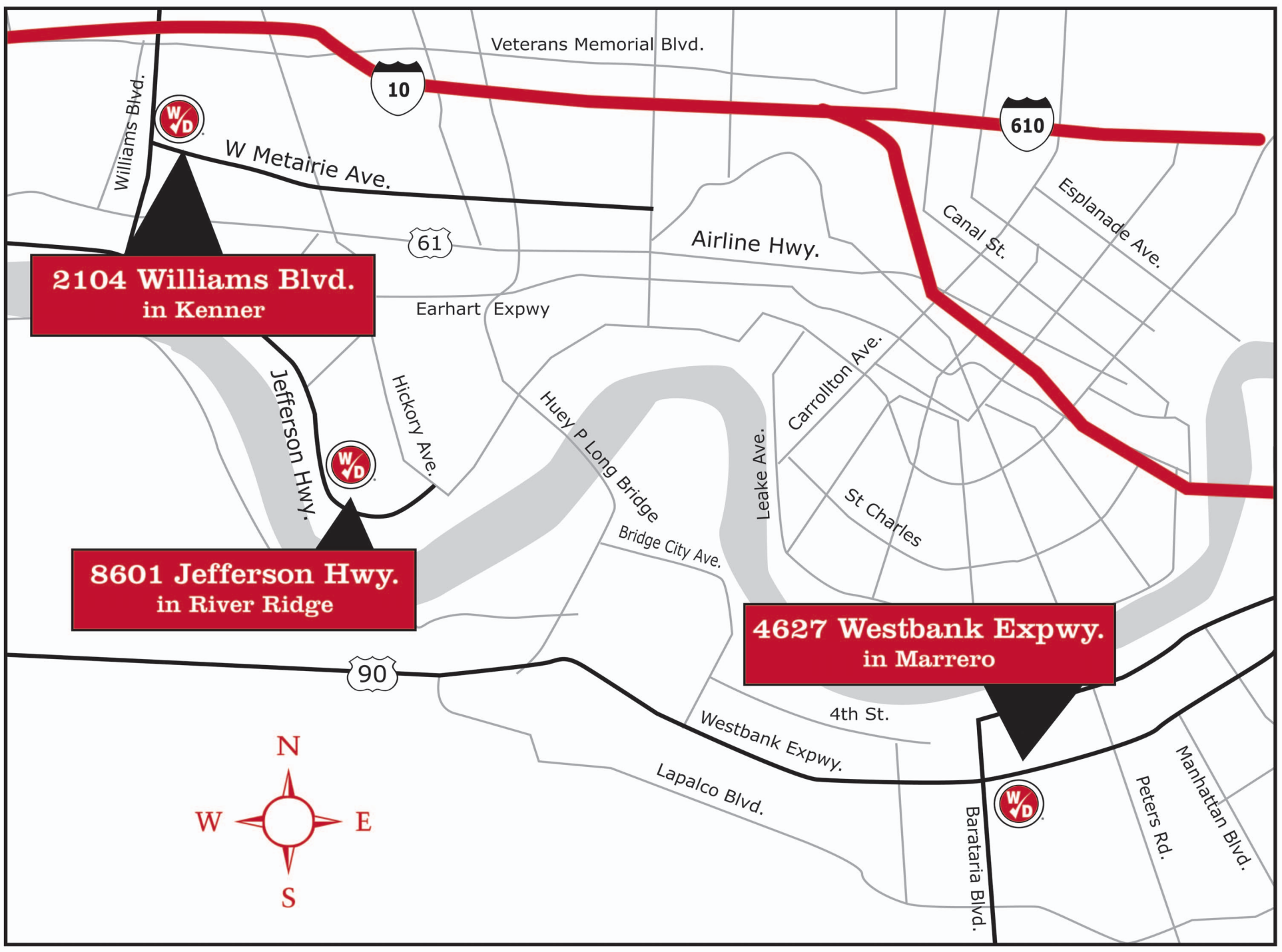
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STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

A pair of wheelchairs and a few pieces of furniture sit in a muddy room at St. Rita's Nursing Home in eastern St. Bernard Parish , where the waterline was more than halfway up the windows.

# Nursing home owners dispute that parish offered to help

*Deaths blamed on levee break, not negligence*

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard bureau

A day after the owners of a St. Bernard Parish nursing home were booked in the deaths of 34 residents who died when the facility flooded during Hurricane Katrina, the couple's attorney painted a scene of desperation where staffers tried valiantly to stave off the storm and frantically began rescuing residents when water raged into the building.

James Cobb, a New Orleans attorney representing Mable B. Mangano, 62, and her husband, Salvador A. Mangano, 65, said the Manganos are "heroes" and called their arrest a "rush to misjudgment."

Parish officials scoffed at the notion.

The Manganos, owners of St. Rita's Nursing Home near Poydras, were booked Tuesday on 34 counts of negligent homicide. Authorities say the nursing home ignored the parish's mandatory evacuation order and refused offers by the parish to send buses to evacuate the facility.

The Manganos, who were released on their own recognizance, were not available for comment Wednesday. But Cobb, speaking on their behalf, said they described to him a hellish scene in which torrents of water consumed the home within 20 minutes. He said the Manganos also dispute that the parish made an offer to help them evacuate as Katrina bore down Aug. 29.

Cobb said the Manganos told him it wasn't even raining after the storm when they went outside, but that they heard some noise and saw water coming toward the home. "The water kept coming and coming to the point they had to bust out the windows and float out patients on their mattresses," he said.

Inside the home Wednesday, muck 6 to 8 inches deep covered the floor. Furniture, wheelchairs and mattresses appeared tossed about as if in an explosion, testament to the flood's power. A water mark smirched the wall above most doorways. Oddly, in room after room along the long main hallway, pictures of residents' loved ones still hung on walls, seemingly undisturbed.



A mud-caked doll lies under a resident's bed at St. Rita's on Wednesday. The home's owners were booked with multiple counts of negligent homicide after 34 residents died when the facility succumbed to Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters.

Cobb said the home had never flooded before, not even during Hurricane Betsy in 1965. He blamed levee breaks – not the lack of an early evacuation – for the deaths.

He said the Manganos and others at the home scrambled to get boats, in some cases shooting locks off nearby gates, to help save 52 people. Of those, 24 were residents; the others were staffers and their families.

"They're heroes, not criminals," Cobb said. "Somebody ought to be giving them medals."

Cobb disputed that St. Bernard coroner Bryan Bertucci offered two buses to evacuate residents before the worst of the storm hit. Cobb said the Manganos said they spoke with Bertucci before the storm, but that it was a routine conversation about removing the body of a woman who had died earlier of natural causes.

But parish and state officials say the home is to blame for the 34 deaths.

State Attorney General Charles Foti, in announcing the arrests Tuesday, said the home is required by law to follow a mandatory evacuation plan filed with parish government for hurricanes stronger that Category 2. Katrina made landfall as a Category 4.

Told of Cobb's reference to the Manganos as heroes, Larry Ingargiola, St. Bernard Parish's director of emergency preparedness, flashed his middle finger and asked a reporter: "Can you quote this in your paper?"

Bertucci, meanwhile, was adamant that he had offered the home two buses with drivers who would take residents to safer ground. "They should have evacuated and people are dead because they didn't," Bertucci said.

A Foti spokeswoman, meanwhile, said there was no rush to judgment in arresting the Manganos.

Kris Wartelle, the spokeswoman, said the attorney general has a responsibility to act immediately when there is evidence of wrongdoing.

"It's pretty glaring that 34 people drowned when they should have been evacuated," she said.




The waterline in one resident's room, its walls covered with cards and letters from loved ones, shows that floodwaters reached the bottom of a wall clock.

**"The old Bruning's house had been there for a hundred years, and now it's gone."**

LOUIS COCHRAN, 72, West End boat owner

# West End still standing, but barely

*Few restaurants and homes left untouched*

**By Michelle Hunter**
Staff writer

The West End — a New Orleans dining and drinking playground for decades —may now be the worst end.

Bruning's, a historic bar where generations of customers downed raw oysters, and the porch at Jaeger's, where crawfish and cold beer accompanied sunsets over Lake Pontchartrain, now exist as rotting wood piled 20 feet high on the opposite side of the 17th Street Canal near the site of Sid-Mar's of Bucktown, also laid to waste by Hurricane Katrina. Pilings that once supported restaurants and bars are nothing more than seagull perches.

"The old Bruning's house had been there for a hundred years, and now it's gone," said Louis Cochran, 72, who bicycled over to Bucktown with friend Mark Adolph, 49, to check on their boats in the nearby marinas.

The only way into West End for civilians these days is by foot or by bike, across the pedestrian bridge over the canal, and that can be precarious, for Katrina's wind and storm surge peeled away some of the bridge's hand railings.

Cochran and Adolph carefully navigated the dinner plates, flatware and broken wine glasses in the West End parking lot that was coated by cracking mud. At nearby Coconut Beach, the once-pristine white sand of the 17-net volleyball complex is now a muddy gray minefield of twisted metal siding, glass and roof material.

The Municipal Marina Yacht Harbor and the boathouses that line its waters fared better, but not by much. Boats and cars are lodged against oak trees along North Roadway. Cinderblocks and red bricks from the public bathroom near the fishing dock are sprinkled across the roadway along with crab traps that washed ashore from the lake, their prisoners still baking in the sun.

Mike and Gloria Branford, both 50, have visited the area several times since the middle of last week, checking on Boathouse No. 84, their home for almost two years.

None of the boathouses escaped damage, but some are worse off than others. Owners who made recent renovations will have less to repair, Mike Branford said.

Many of the structures have collapsed, or their walls are blown away. At the living room of a friend's home, Gloria Branford pointed out where the floor dropped away, creating a pool of insulation and broken boards.

"On the first day, I was emotionally destroyed," she said. "I couldn't talk without crying."

Remarkably the bars inside many of the boathouses seem intact, their liquor bottles unbroken, which could be seen in the houses missing their exterior walls.

"There's something about liquor that doesn't knock over



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

The North Roadway at West End is a scene of desolation on Saturday after Katrina. West End lies outside the protective levee system.

that easy," Mike Branford said.

At the Branfords' boathouse on Breakwater Drive, water swept through the downstairs area, taking with it the wallboards and some personal belongings. But the damage seemed minimal compared to the houses on either side, each seemingly smashed by a wrecking ball.

Mike Branford, a former carpenter turned auto-body mechanic, said he designed his house with storms in mind. Still, the devastation around the marina, the West End and elsewhere in New Orleans is not lost on the couple. They remember the West End when New Orleans residents flocked to restaurants and clubs such as The Bounty, The Port Hole and Augie's Delago. The area stagnated for a while, but it seemed to begun a mini-renaissance in recent years with the arrival of The Dock, a restaurant and bar that used live music to attract a hipper crowd.

Just as the Branfords have gradually become more adamant in the past two weeks about rebuilding, they also have hope that life will return throughout West End. They envision an alternative to the French Quarter, with boardwalks, hotels and other attractions that play up the beauty of the lake.

"This could be a blessing. It has potential," Mike Branford said.

He stood on the front deck of his boathouse, gazing at the lake as if willing the destruction around him to fade away.

"You just can't look sideways or look back," he said.

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# Federal flood policies don't cover loss of use

**INSURANCE,** *from A-1*

dressed on Friday at a meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance. At the meeting, some Louisiana lawmakers said they would like the federal government to create a special appropriation to cover the difference between flood insurance and homeowner's policy payouts.

Carol Hess and her husband, Bobby, have paid $364 a year for their flood policy. And State Farm adjuster Steve Evans said his week that the Hesses will be able to recover a maximum of $155,800 for damage to their Eden Isles home and its contents under the policy. If the adjuster had blamed the damage on the hurricane, the Hesses could have gotten as much as $277,918, according to their homeowners' policy, which cost $1,640 annually.

The news blew them both away.

"My house is demolished and you're telling me it was a flood," complained Bobby Hess, 58, a retired air-conditioning mechanic. "But water didn't pick up this roof and dump it in my back yard. This furniture didn't come by water. It was pushed here by the wind. It makes no sense to me. I am totally disgusted with the whole thing."

Carol Hess couldn't hide her disappointment: "I paid $1,600 a year for nothing."

This scene will likely be replayed countless times in the coming months, as insurance adjusters spread out across southeastern Louisiana, where most of the damage from Katrina was caused by water, not wind.

While representatives of various insurance companies promise that each claim will be handled on an individual basis, they also note that the rules of the insurance business haven't changed in Katrina's wake. That means any damage caused to a home by rising water is covered by flood insurance, not a homeowner's policy.

"A flood is defined as rising water, and it doesn't matter why the water is rising," said Jeff Albright, chief executive of the Independent Agents and Brokers of Louisiana. "If it rains faster than it can be pumped away, that's a flood. If a wind blows the Gulf of Mexico or some other body of water ... into the city, that is a flood and it is covered under flood insurance. Rising waters, by definition, are excluded from a homeowner's policy."

For insurers, the distinction could save them billions of dollars. Any losses from flood insurance are covered by the federal government, and with damage from Katrina now estimated at $200 billion, it's easy to see why adjusters aren't anxious to make exceptions.

In many parts of New Orleans, most of which lies below sea level, flood insurance is required by mortgage companies. But according to the Insurance Information Institute, about half of New Orleans residents still don't have flood insurance, compared with a national average of about 80 percent.

Some homes in the New Orleans area that were affected by the 17th Street Canal flooding don't carry flood insurance because they are not in a flood plain.

Bobby and Carol Hess could have gotten rid of their flood policy last year, when they paid off their 15-year mortgage. But they didn't even consider a change.

"I always took the advice of my insurance agent," said Carol Hess, 57, an administrative worker for the IRS in New Orleans. "I asked several times if I had adequate coverage, and they said yes."

Based on several property sales near their home on Moonraker Drive, Hess figures her house was worth about $350,000 before the storm. She estimates the family's personal property, including two small boats, was worth about $70,000.

Most of that property is now lying in her driveway or the front yard.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

To mitigate the damage to his two-story home, Bobby Hess, right, removed everything that got wet when 3 feet of water inundated the property. He watches as insurance adjuster Steve Evans takes measurements in the living room.

"This is the worst I've seen so far," said Evans, who has visited hundreds of water-logged homes in his six years as a catastrophe specialist for State Farm.

To mitigate the damage to the two-story home, Bobby Hess removed everything that got wet when 3 feet of water inundated the property, including the kitchen cabinets, the first-floor furniture, the carpeting and the appliances. He even ripped out four feet of sheet rock on every wall, figuring it was the only way to stop mold from taking over the entire house.

He also hauled out an eight-foot dresser that belonged to a neighbor across the nearby canal. It was one of many artifacts that washed up in his living room. The fact that so much debris made it into his house still stuns him.

As he does ever time a major storm marches across the Gulf toward New Orleans, Hess covered each door and window of his home with a half-inch of plywood, all of it carefully labeled. Then he and his wife headed to a hotel in Montgomery, Ala.

Despite his precautions, storm surge drove debris right through his sliding glass doors, shattering the glass and bending the frames. The water also dumped about five feet of shattered timber in his back yard, as well as a water heater and two refrigerators. The only thing Carol Hess recognizes in the mess is their riding lawnmower, which is barely visible.

"Who is going to clean up this mess?" she asks Evans, who works as an adjuster on behalf of both the National Flood Insurance Program and State Farm. "The majority of this is not ours. Does the parish pick this up? Does the insurance company?"

Once again, because Evans has determined that the primary cause of the damage was rising water, the answer comes as a blow. Hess is told that her policy will only cover the removal of debris that is in her house or touching it - she and her husband are responsible for everything else.

After studying a copy of her homeowners' policy, Carol Hess walks over to Evans and points to an item marked "loss of use." She asks him what it means.

Evans acknowledges that her home is now "uninhabitable," and says that if the damage had been caused by a hurricane, she would have been entitled to up to two years of additional living expenses. But the government offers no such coverage with flood policies, he notes.

For Carol Hess, the answer is the last straw. She and her husband have been living in their sons' small Madisonville home for the past two weeks, but their daughter-in-law is expecting a baby next month. They will have to move out soon and were hoping to rent a trailer and live in their driveway with air-conditioning supplied with a generator. Now, they don't know how they will pay for it.

"What are we supposed to do?," asks Hess, crying.

Evans suggests contacting FEMA, which is expected to hand out billions of dollars in disaster relief.

"There is a lot of money coming into this state," Evans says. "I'm sure a lot of it is going to help people like you with your uninsured losses."

That doesn't console Hess. "I called FEMA a week ago. I have yet to hear from them."

Six hours after arriving at their home, Evans hands Bobby Hess a check for $10,000 to cover damage to their personal belongings. Ultimately, he says, the couple will get $31,400 for their personal property - he just needs them to finish an inventory first.

Evans said it would take another week to give them a check for the damage to their home. Again, he said it could reach their policy limit of $124,400 - or less than half of what the owners think it is worth.

Evans is apologetic. "I wish there was something different I could tell you," Evans told the Hesses. "But the government wrote this policy; we're just here to administer it."

Carol Hess isn't mollified. "I know the coverage is dictated by the government, but the damage is being determined by State Farm."

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Staff writers Mary Judice, Jaquetta White and Rebecca Mowbray contributed to this report. Jeff Meitrodt can be reached at

## NAVIGATING THE INSURANCE MAZE

Consumers with Hurricane Katrina-related property damage will have to navigate a complex maze of insurance issues that has already been the subject of a debate by the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance.

**Whom do I call to begin the filing hurricane-related insurance claims?**
Contact your insurance agent or insurance company. If you don't know the phone number, look it up by going to the Louisiana Department of Insurance's Web site www.ldi.state.la.us and clicking on "Hurricane Katrina Information." The Web site of the Insurance Information Institute also lists phone numbers: www.disasterinformation.org/findins.htm.

▶ The phone numbers of three of the larger insurance companies operating in Louisiana are:
**Allstate:** (800) 547-8676
**Farm Bureau:** (800) 772-6535
**State Farm:** (800) 732-5246

▶ If you don't remember which company you're insured with and can't reach your agent, contact the Louisiana Department of Insurance at (800) 259-5300 or (225) 342-5900. You can also send e-mail to the department at public@ldi.state.la.us.

▶ If you don't have insurance, contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency to see if you qualify for assistance through that agency. Call FEMA at (800) 621-FEMA or go to www.fema.gov.

**Which insurance policy should I file a claim under?**

▶ Homeowner's insurance usually covers losses caused by wind, storm or broken water pipes, but not surface flooding.

▶ Flood insurance covers most losses caused by surface floodwater. Information on filing your flood insurance claims is available at www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/tips_flood_claim.shtm

Be sure to contact every insurer who may be involved in your losses. This means contacting your auto insurer if your car has been damaged and your flood insurer if your home has flooded.

**I know whom to call. What do I do next?**

▶ Call your insurance agent or company, describe the damage your property has sustained, and find out whether it's covered by your policy. Ask how long you have to file a claim, how long it will take to process the claim, and whether you'll need estimates for repairs.

▶ Take reasonable steps to protect your property from further damage. This could involve pulling a tarp over a damaged roof, boarding up broken windows, or tearing out soaked carpets. Insurance companies are relaxing this requirement for homeowners who have not been allowed to return to their neighborhoods. But keep a record of any repair expenditures you are able to make.

▶ Begin to document your loss. Your insurance company will try to determine the value of your loss by asking you to complete a proof-of-loss form or sending an adjuster - a person professionally trained to assess damage - to your home. Prepare for the adjuster's visit by compiling an inventory of damaged or destroyed items along with the cost of each. Identify structural damage to your home. You may want to take photos of the damages and get written bids from licensed contractors. Keep copies of all of the information you are providing to your insurance company.

**I have been forced to temporarily relocate as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Will my living expenses be reimbursed while I am displaced?**
Homeowner's insurance policies often cover these expenses. And some flood insurance policies, but not all, also cover them. Whether or not an individual lives in an area under mandatory evacuation can also come into play in determining whether or not a policy covers temporary living expenses. It is probably wise to save your receipts in case your expenses are covered.

**I'm waiting on my insurance company(ies) to settle my claim. Is there anything I can do for my home before official repairs begin?**

▶ When it is safe to return to your home, be sure to take the following items with you: flashlight, battery-operated radio, dust mask, drinking water, trash bags and safety clothing such as hard hats and gloves.

▶ Your home will dry out more quickly if you can reduce the humidity inside. To do this, open up the house, and if you have power, run fans and dehumidifiers.

▶ Wash and disinfect the parts of your home that flooded.

**I have both flood and homeowner's insurance policies. Which policy will ultimately cover damages to my property?**
File claims under both policies. The adjusters visiting your property will make the final determination.

**I received a settlement from my insurance company, but it is not enough to cover my losses. What should I do now?**
Read over your settlement documents. If you believe a mistake has been made, contact your insurance agent. If you are still not satisfied, your agent can tell you how to contest the settlement. Next, call FEMA at (800) 621-FEMA. FEMA may be able to help cover losses that are uninsured. To begin the FEMA disaster application process, register online at www.fema.gov. You also need to write a letter to FEMA explaining your situation and include a copy of the settlement or denial letter from your insurance company.

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Near a rusted fence at Marion Abramson High School in eastern New Orleans, forgotten textbooks lie in the muck, sharing space with trash and other debris.



A stack of water-logged files bears the scars of Hurricane Katrina.




A government publication on how to weather a storm lies amid wreckage at the St. Bernard Parish government complex.

# LEFT BEHIND

*Hurricane Katrina's cruelty is on display at every turn throughout the Gulf South, but perhaps it is most evident in the carelessness with which the storm treated the most intimate of people's possessions, now left battered and broken to molder amid heap after heap of wreckage.*



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

An ornate picture frame lies in a St. Bernard Parish street, its shattered glass covering a now-ghostly image.



A crucifix lies against a backdrop of dried mud.



A collection of sheet music is concealed by leaves and other debris on a New Orleans street.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Stanley Dedeaux, 67, talks with Army troops Wednesday in the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans, explaining that he stayed in the city because he didn't want to leave his dog behind. 'All I need,' he said, 'is cigarettes,' a request the soldiers were able to fulfill.

# SIGNS OF LIFE

*For more than two weeks, the New Orleans area has been described in funereal tones – as a drowned city, a dying city, a lost city. But people living in and around the Big Easy aren't ready to sound taps just yet. From the legions of relief workers to the scores of returning locals, a pulse is returning, slowly but surely.*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Tired in more ways than one, Ernest Weems tries to steal a few winks Wednesday on the neutral ground near St. Claude Used Tires. Weems and other employees of the shop have been busy keeping relief workers rolling through debris-littered streets of the Crescent City.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Shrimper Robin Palmisano of Lafitte repairs an ice machine Wednesday at Captain Jonathan's, one of his family's three stalls in the outdoor shrimp and seafood market in Westwego. Though the storm hammered the ice machine, which is vital to any seafood business, it spared another, more important, piece of equipment: Palmisano's shrimp boat.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Walking amid storm debris on the Mandeville lakefront, Java Grotto co-owner Pete Kusiw makes sure everybody knows how thankful he is for their support Wednesday. A 12-foot tidal surge tore the coffee shop apart, the second time it has been claimed by a storm; the first was during Tropical Storm Isidore in 2002. Kusiw says he plans to reopen soon on Lafitte Street.

# Devastation at hospitals predicted in studies

**FEMA,** *from A-1*

would not be able to withstand the effects of high winds and flooding from a hurricane.

Water would take out the main emergency generator and electrical switches in the hospital's basement, leaving only a few smaller generators to power life-sustaining equipment. Windows would shatter once sustained winds climbed above 60 mph, well below hurricane level.

"I knew that before the storm, and I've known that for seven years," said Thomas, the hospital's chief executive, to a state Senate committee Wednesday.

But as the post-Katrina recovery effort got under way, state and federal officials said this week that a side effect of the deadly storm might actually jump-start LSU's efforts to build a 500-bed facility to replace the aging hospitals that made up the Medical Center of Louisiana-New Orleans.

Donald Smithburg, who oversees the statewide charity hospital system as head of LSU's Health Care Services Division, said it's unlikely that Charity Hospital will be reopened as a hospital. "We suspect the building will be deemed unfit," he said, although inspections did not begin work until this week and results won't be known for days or weeks.

And although preliminary plans are in the works to use University Hospital as an outpatient clinic, possibly as soon as April, LSU officials would prefer to use federal reconstruction money to build an entirely new facility.

Planning for a replacement hospital had been progressing, albeit at a snail's pace, before Katrina. But with Charity Hospital rendered virtually inoperable, its structural flaws exposed to the world in the storm's horrifying aftermath, LSU officials say the momentum and money exists for a long-term reconfiguration of Louisiana's unique statewide hospital system.

"This is an opportunity to design a health care delivery system, at least for south Louisiana … and do some true regional planning that's probably unprecedented for this region," Smithburg said.

What such a system might ultimately look like, however, remains to be decided. "We don't really know what New Orleans is going to be conceptualized as," Smithburg said. "(But) we have the advantage of a lot of spadework that has already been done."

The state could be in line for a substantial payment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's public assistance program. The program is designed to pay state and local governments for unforeseen costs associated with natural disasters that insurance won't cover.

David Fukutomi, who leads FEMA's infrastructure branch, said the federal government would normally pay to restore publicly owned health care facilities to their "prestorm" condition. But federal rules also allow states to put that repair money toward new construction, if the new facility is used for the same purpose as the old one.

Similarly, the state would be free to redirect FEMA repair money meant for the Superdome toward construction of a new stadium should it so choose, Fukutomi said. "We try to grant states some flexibility" in how they spend public assistance money, Fukutomi said.

But FEMA funds likely would only cover a fraction of the cost of a new hospital, which Smithburg would like to see built near Charity's present location.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said there is a chance that additional federal money could be made available as part of a Katrina-related spending bill being crafted on Capitol Hill. "I think you will see … an explicit consideration of the health care infrastructure" included as part of the bill, Jindal said, adding that it's too early to know how much, if any, would be included.

Even before the storm, studies had made clear that the 21-story building that most of New Orleans knows as "Big Charity" needed a major face-lift. A detailed 2003 report by Washer-Hill & Lipscomb and Adams Project Management found that the building, built in 1938, was "outdated in both design and building systems and has numerous serious building system issues that must be addressed in the near future."

The study estimated that $158 million in repairs were needed to the Charity campus alone, and that a 600-bed replacement hospital would cost $332 million.

Overall reconstruction costs for state buildings could be steep. Jerry Jones, who directs the Office of State Buildings for the Division of Administration, said damage estimates for state buildings won't be available for weeks. He said the state owns about 19 million square feet of property with an insured value of $1.9 billion in the six parishes most heavily affected by Katrina, only about $125 million of which is covered by insurance.

"We'll burn through that pretty quickly," Jones said.

In the meantime, LSU officials are developing interim plans for getting the charity system up and running in New Orleans while a new facility is planned and built. Smithburg said one option is to convert University Hospital into an outpatient clinic, which could be ready by April once mold and other flood-related damage is cleared out.

Another option is to set up temporary facilities in hospitals that have been abandoned, while setting up a network of neighborhood clinics to serve residents returning to the New Orleans area.

Jindal said it will likely be up to state and local government to decide how and where such money would be spent, but said the expected influx of funding presents an historic opportunity to shake up the state's long-troubled health care delivery system.

"We had health care problems before Katrina," Jindal said. "Now is the time to think about how we'd like to fix that."

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Jan Moller can be reached at tpicbr@aol.com

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# AFTER THE STORM

### LA. DEATH TOLL
**474**
- 393 bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
- 39 bodies in East Baton Rouge Parish
- 27 bodies in Jefferson Parish
- 6 bodies in St. Tammany Parish
- 6 bodies in Iberia Parish
- 3 bodies in St. Charles Parish

### IN THE SHELTERS
**160,000** PEOPLE
**675** SHELTERS
**23** STATES

### POWER
**ENTERGY CUSTOMERS**
STATEWIDE
**68%** restored
**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
IN ST. TAMMANY AND WASHINGTON PARISHES
**67%** restored

### PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
- Unloaded its first ships, containing coffee and cargo Tuesday night. Two of 27 terminals are running

### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
- A total of 98 post offices have reopened within the ZIP code areas 700, 703 and 704.
- All service to ZIP code area 701 is suspended until further notice.
- Temporary change of address forms available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

### SCHOOL OPENINGS
**ORLEANS PARISH**
- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
- Teachers, other school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- St. Martin's Episcopal School, Oct. 3

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- Catholic: Mary Queen of Peace, St. Scholastica Academy, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Pope John Paul II and St. Margaret Mary, Sept. 19; Our Lady of the Lake, Oct. 3

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Likely closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Public: January target date

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Public: Reopening today
- Catholic: Reopened Monday

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Public: Begins today except for those who enrolled after the storm
- Catholic: St. Charles Borromeo opened Monday; Sacred Heart, Wednesday

### PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- Algiers, Central Business District, French Quarter, Uptown set to open Monday.
- Flooded areas closed

**JEFFERSON**
- Water pressure restored to most of parish. To report leaks on the east bank, call 838-4398; West Bank, 349-5081
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted
- Kenner, Harahan opening to residents this morning, joining Westwego, Jean Lafitte and Gretna, which opened Wednesday

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- 911 phone system back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Parish still closed but mostly drained
- Streets expected to be cleared by the weekend

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
- Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

### FOR HELP
- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA: www.fema.gov or (800) 621-3362
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Toll-free hotline about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393

**"It's drained tremendously. Yesterday, I didn't think an 18-wheeler could get through there."**
RALPH LAGRUE, A FOREMAN WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

# Debris clogging drain removed piece by piece

**DRAIN,** *from A-1*

Restoring access from East Jefferson was a victory for relief workers, who stayed on the job as police vehicles and trucks quickly took advantage of another way in and out of the city.

"It's drained tremendously. Yesterday, I didn't think an 18-wheeler could get through there," said Ralph Lagrue, a foreman with the state Department of Transportation and Development who was using a small bulldozer to keep debris from clogging the large drain where the highway dips under the railroad trestle near the Metairie Road exit.

"You can see how high the water was," Lagrue said, pointing to a water line near the top of sound walls along the interstate that average 20 feet in height.

Workers said they had been at the site all day, struggling to keep ahead of the debris build-up with tools that ranged from an excavator to bare hands. It was a tedious task, with items such as garbage cans, trash, tree limbs and even a small boat getting caught in the water's rush out of the adjacent neighborhood.

"Water was already coming through there. We just had to find out where the trash was," said Henry Smith, a heavy equipment operator for the Army Corps of Engineers. "It started to flow real good after we cleared it."

Smith said he was headed with the excavator to clear more debris at Pumping Station No. 19 at 4500 Broad St.

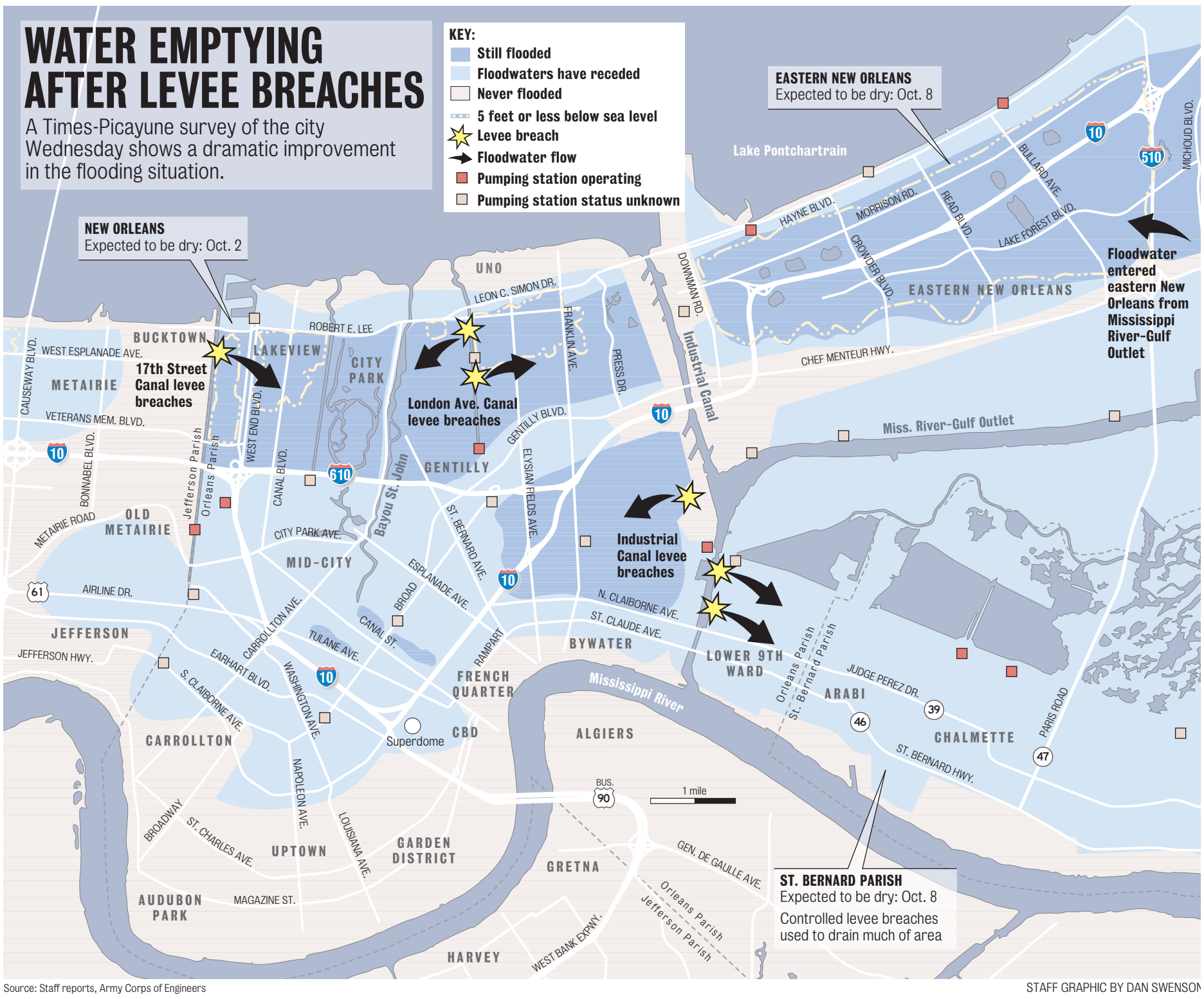


STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

An 18-wheeler makes it through the water under the railroad trestle on I-10 as more water from Lakeview drains under the sound barriers on Wednesday. This is one of the major ways to access New Orleans and it has been blocked because of the water since Hurricane Katrina struck more than two weeks ago.

At its height, the floodwater from Hurricane Katrina reached the bottom of the railroad trestle that crosses the interstate near the Orleans/Jefferson parish line. With a major pumping station along the interstate operational, only a small pool of water remained as a filthy waterfall continued to rush out of Lakeview, under and through grates in the sound walls.

The West End/Florida Boulevard exit, navigable only by boat a few days ago, was drivable at least to the edge of Lakeview, the first neighborhood to flood after Katrina breached the nearby 17th Street Canal. The street was even visible in places, although filled with trees and mud-encased vehicles strewn across yards and the neutral ground. Rooftops surrounded by eight feet of water or more in the days after the storm were beginning to look like homes again, albeit many of them likely damaged beyond repair. "We're trying to get it back," Lagrue said. "If we can get the water out, we can do it."




Source: Staff reports, Army Corps of Engineers

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

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The Times-Picayune

# ST. TAMMANY

AND THE METRO AREA

EDITORIALS • *B-6*
MONEY • *B-8*

SECTION B
*Thursday*
*September 15, 2005*



SHEILA STROUP

## *Away from home, but not reality*

France.

It seems weird that we evacuated to a place 4,000 miles away, but our bike trip to celebrate 40 years of marriage had been planned for months, and already paid for, too.

"What can you do here without power or phones? Just go," our neighbor Bob told us. He said he'd take care of our animals like he always does when we're away.

So Stroup spent that Tuesday clearing trees out of the driveway and along the road, hoping there'd be some way to escape from St. Tammany Parish.

It seemed doubtful at first. Roads in every direction were littered with huge pines and live oaks. Our neighborhood near Abita Springs had suddenly become a giant graveyard of trees, and everywhere we looked, broken-off pine trunks stood stark against the sky, jagged spears aimed toward heaven.

"Our landscape will never be the same," Bob said.

### Pangs of guilt

It was eerie driving toward Covington on Tuesday evening. What had been roads two days earlier were strange woody caves, barely wide enough in some places for my Jeep to pass through. All day, men armed with chain saws had been making a path through the rubble. From one patch of road to the next, neighbors helped neighbors clear a way.

I felt guilty for leaving.

"Part of me doesn't want to make it to the Interstate," I told Stroup, as we tried one blocked road and then another.

But we made it to the Interstate, to Atlanta, and finally to Paris. We didn't see the International Herald Tribune or turn on CNN, though, until we reached Avignon in southern France.

When I found out the extent of the hurricane and its terrible aftermath, I cried. For the people in the Superdome, in the 9th Ward, in Mississippi, everywhere.

The scenes we saw, the stories we read seemed unreal. They were too much to take in.

### Going home

We were gone 12 days.

"I haven't been away from home this long since I went to college," I told Stroup when we were driving back to Louisiana.

I guess I'm not much of a traveler. We had spent the night at our daughter Claire's house near Atlanta, but we both woke up about 2:30 a.m. and decided to get on the road.

On the drive back, we talked about how we had tried to enjoy our vacation, but how our hearts were never really in Provence.

"It's just that after going through the hurricane, everything else seemed sort of anticlimactic," Stroup said.

We pulled into the driveway a few minutes before noon, reeling from the broken landscape we'd been seeing for miles. Our power lines were still braided through the branches of a live oak, and dead catfish, starved for oxygen without the fountain running, floated on our pond.

But our dogs, Rosy and Harry, ran across the yard when they heard my voice, and our donkey Nathanial met us with a boisterous bray. Stroup righted the flagpole that had been lying on the ground for two weeks and went inside to get the flag. It felt right to be home.

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Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

In the first phase of repairs to the Interstate 10 twin span, Boh Bros. Construction Co. will use sections of the more seriously damaged span to patch the other bridge, allowing two-way traffic between Slidell and eastern New Orleans.

# Life in St. Tammany returning to normal

## *Power is restored to much of parish*

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis reflected Wednesday on his first tour of the parish during the waning winds of Katrina on Aug. 29 as the hurricane ripped into Mississippi. What Davis saw, he said, will forever remain etched in his memory.

"It was total devastation everywhere," he said. "That picture will be on my mind forever. And once I saw the picture, I felt sadness for the people and what they would see of their homes and businesses when they returned to the parish."

Little did Davis and others know that St. Tammany would be well on the road to recovery only 16 days after a storm that inflicted unprecedented damage parishwide, especially in the Slidell area, where storm surge reached to Gause Boulevard and flooded more than half the city along with subdivisions south, southeast and southwest of the city.

*See* **TAMMANY,** *page B-2*

# St. Bernard may return sooner, not later

## *First few residents could visit on Saturday*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard bureau

In another sign that their recovery is gaining traction, St. Bernard Parish officials Wednesday announced that they might allow the first parish residents to return to the stricken area as early as Saturday.

Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said officials might unveil a re-entry plan by Friday. He said the first area to reopen will likely be south Arabi, where residents will be allowed to return for a few hours to view their homes.

"We want people to come back to assess damage as soon as possible," Rodriguez said.

The parish government also said business owners can come into the parish now to assess damage to their stores and businesses but must first receive a government permit.

Wednesday's announcements marked a day of visible progress as crews continue cleaning streets and as business owners began streaming into the parish just more than two weeks after Hurricane Katrina ravaged most of the area.

The positive signs included an announcement that all parish streets are expected to be clear of water and debris by the weekend, and that toxicology testing had uncovered no signs of infec-

*See* **BERNARD,** *page B-2*

# West Bank slowly coming back to life

## *Businesses reopen, traffic thickening*

**By Joe Darby**
Staff writer

Signs of normal life were popping up Wednesday on the West Bank: traffic on the West Bank Expressway was increasingly heavy and more businesses were opening their doors to customers.

While Gen. de Gaulle Drive in Algiers remained sparsely traveled, with only emergency and official vehicles in sight, grocery stores, service stations and some specialty shops in West Jefferson were up and running, as were the post offices in Gretna and Westwego.

The West Bank took much less of a blow from Hurricane Katrina than other areas took, and businesses seemed eager to welcome customers back. One of earliest West Bank stores to reopen

*See* **WEST BANK,** *page B-2*

# Jeff debris collection picks up

## *Organic matter is ground into mulch*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

While the stench of garbage and other rotting refuse can be caught in the breeze in Jefferson Parish, the smell of freshly ground mulch wafts throughout Lafreniere Park in Metairie.

That's where the Army Corps of Engineers has set up its storm debris collection headquarters for the entire east bank.

In five days, trucks have hauled in more than 100,000 cubic yards of pine tree trunks, oak limbs, cypress branches and other organic debris, piling it in the southwest corner of the park on the baseball fields.

The crews have created an arboreal wall 800 feet long and 35 feet high in some places. The piles will only get bigger, and nobody knows by how much.

"There's no way to estimate that right now," said Deano Bonano, Jefferson Parish's deputy chief administrative assistant for operations. "We only have about 30 percent of our population back." There are still a lot of trees and other debris on homes and businesses and in yards. When more residents return, additional storm debris will be put out for collection, Bonano said.

About 23,000 cubic yards of debris in roughly 800 truckloads rolls into Lafreniere Park each day. By Wednesday afternoon, crews had already burned through two giant mulchers. And the white smoke pouring out of the latest grinder seemed to signal the need for another replacement. But workers were able to keep the machine

*See* **MULCH,** *page B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

David Montgomery of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fills out a load ticket at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, the East Jefferson dump site for trees destroyed by Katrina. In four days, the site has taken in 100,000 cubic yards of debris.

# Tax relief sought for Katrina victims

## *Assessors will ask lawmakers for help*

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

Tax assessors in hurricane-ravaged areas of the state will ask the Legislature for changes in tax laws to give owners of ruined homes and businesses adjustments on this year's property tax bills, St. Tammany Parish Assessor Patricia Schwarz Core said Tuesday.

In St. Tammany Parish, an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 homes were heavily damaged or destroyed. Tens of thousands more were destroyed or damaged across south Louisiana.

Core said state tax laws do not allow assessors to re-value properties damaged or destroyed by natural disasters after Jan. 1 of the current calendar or property tax year. Those changes have to be made in the following year, she said.

But Core and other area assessors want the Legislature to call a special session and change the laws so home and business owners can be given relief in their 2005 property tax bills scheduled to be mailed in December, she said.

Core, like many residents, returned from Florida Tuesday to find her home in Port Louis, west of Madisonville, destroyed by Katrina.

"If it were left up to me, I would remove all uninhabitable homes from the rolls" and tax only the value of the land or home site, Core said, "because I know what everybody's going through . . . But legally, I can't do it because there's no provisions in the law to account for catastrophes or major disasters."

There also should be changes in the law to allow for adjustments this year in the values of all properties that flooded, Core said.

If the laws are changed and property value adjustments for storm damage are allowed this year, Core said there will be a negative impact on local government agencies which levy property taxes. They will get significantly less property tax revenue for 2005 early next year, she said.

"For example, in the Slidell area, some of the most expensive homes in St. Tammany were completely destroyed by the hurricane," Core said. If those homes are taken off the rolls, there will be a significant dip in tax revenues for agencies which that levy millages in the area, she said.

Because of Katrina and possible changes in the laws to allow assessors to re-value properties destroyed or heavily damaged by the storm, the state Tax Commission has removed the Nov. 15 deadline for certifying this year's tax rolls, Core said.

Core said Katrina hit on Aug. 29, the final day of a two-week period for the public review of this year's St. Tammany property tax rolls. Core said she is keeping the public review period open indefinitely for residents to file appeals of their assessments.

Core said her Slidell office in the Towers Building is out of commission, and residents who filed appeals of their assessment at that office may need to refile their appeals "if they don't hear from us in a couple of weeks."

# Most of water in parish drained

**BERNARD,** *from B-1*

tious diseases in the water still draining from a few areas. But keeping their perspective in check, officials said 70 to 80 percent of the structures in the parish may have to be razed.

Most of Katrina's waters, which two weeks ago reached 20 feet in some areas, have drained from the parish. But a thick layer of muck still makes many streets impassable. Officials, however, say a company hired for the cleanup expects to have the streets clear soon, allowing for the first round of returns.

The first part of Arabi targeted to reopen will be that part from Jackson Barracks to Chalmette Refining and from St. Bernard Highway to the Mississippi River levee.

But officials asked residents to wait for details before making plans to return. Those returning to assess the damage should come with gloves and boots, and no children.

"Please be patient. We don't want anybody to get sick," said state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette.

In the meantime, officials are allowing business owners to come back to the parish and assess damage to their properties. Business owners can do that now, but those returning must have identification and must obtain a pass. Passes can be obtained through the parish Web site, www.stbernardparishgovernment.com. Officials said they will post details of the general entry plan on the Web site.

Also Wednesday, the head of a Federal Emergency Management Agency medical team working in the parish said toxicology tests in the parish found no traces of infectious diseases. Don Decker, however, said people working in the parish and planning to return should get shots for tetanus and hepatitis.

Officials will make the vaccines available for resident in St. Bernard at their makeshift command center at Chalmette Refining.

# Prescriptions being dispensed

**WEST BANK,** *from B-1*

was the Walgreens at the West Bank Expressway and Stumpf Boulevard in Gretna. Manager Ed Mitts said the store opened Sept. 8, staffed at first by only managers, and it has dispensed several thousand prescriptions.

"There were old ladies coming in with bags full of empty prescription vials, needing their medicine, and that made it all worthwhile for us," Mitts said. The drug store also has sold plenty of food staples, such as milk and bread, and visiting National Guard soldiers have been among its most steady customers.

Walgreens spokesman Michael Polzin said the Gretna store is one of 15 in the New Orleans area that are open, including ones in Kenner, Westwego and Marrero, as well as two each in Slidell, Mandeville, Covington and Hammond, and three in Metairie, he said.

All of the open stores have fully operating pharmacies, Polzin said by telephone from Deerfield, Ill. "We put a priority on opening the pharmacies, especially the first week or two after the storm," he said.

Ragusa Supermarket on the West Bank Expressway in Marrero opened Tuesday, and Marrero residents Jerry Weaver and Lisa Bush were happy Wednesday to see signs of civilization returning to their neighborhood.

"We're here to get a few groceries," Weaver said. "This is important because I called some friends of mine who weren't going to come back yet, but when I told them there was a place to get food, they said they will return soon."

Although the Nations Rent store at the West Bank Expressway and Jung Boulevard in Marrero opened the day after the storm to provide generators and light towers to Westwego police and other law enforcement agencies, it now is open to regular customers. District Manager Chris Scott said the store is renting plenty of generators, safety supplies and clearing equipment.

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Staff writer Dennis Persica contributed to this story.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Randi Cortez, 13, left, and her sister, Kym, 17, search through debris for personal belongings at their home south of Slidell on Wednesday. St. Tammany Parish President Ken Davis said 15,000 to 20,000 homes in the parish were severely damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

# Public school students to start classes Oct. 3

**TAMMANY,** *from B-1*

Officials initially thought it could be months before electricity was restored to a majority of the parish. But 70 percent of the 80,000 Cleco customers across southern St. Tammany had power Wednesday, and the remaining 30 percent should have electricity within two weeks, utility spokesman Danny Schaus said.

About 55 percent of Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative's 20,000 customer across northern St. Tammany and areas around Slidell have power, according to the utility.

With the restoration of power and other services to most of the parish, a sense of normalcy has returned to St. Tammany, whose residents realize that although they were hit hard by Katrina, others received knockout punches.

"We were one of the fortunates of the misfortunates," said School Board member Charles Harrell of Bush on Wednesday after a daily briefing on recovery efforts.

After that meeting, Davis acknowledged that the parish made significant and quick strides in recovering from the storm, but he said the road to full recovery will take months as owners of lost homes and businesses rebuild.

Davis said the parish recovery effort is focusing on restoring power to parts of the parish that don't have electricity, providing temporary housing to thousands of displaced residents, and ensuring that all water and sewer systems are operating adequately.

Restoration of power is being handled by the two utilities. Providing temporary homes for displaced residents is being done by FEMA.

Davis said the parish has located 10 to 15 sites throughout the parish where FEMA can put 40 to 1,000 mobile or temporary homes.

"My deal in St. Tammany," Davis said, "is to get residents as close to their homes as possible. I want to keep them close so they can work on their houses."

Davis said 15,000 to 20,000 homes in St. Tammany were destroyed or heavily damaged by Katrina. He said the parish has asked for as many as 20,000 temporary homes for residents, "but initially, we'll get 5,000 to 6,000."

And the parish will be getting those homes "in drips and drabs" in about two weeks.

The parish is also keeping a close eye on private utility companies, which serve most of the unincorporated areas of southern St. Tammany, to make sure they are working diligently to restore services.

Davis said the parish has given Coast Waterworks Inc., which provides sewer and water services in the Eden Isles-Oak Harbor area south of Slidell, 14 days to have systems destroyed by Katrina up and running. If not, the parish will take over the systems, which serve about 5,000 customers, he said.

Davis and the leaders of St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Charles parishes met Monday with President Bush, other top federal officials and Gov. Kathleen Blanco. During that meeting, held at a St. Bernard refinery "that looked like a war zone," Davis said, the president signed a personal note to St. Tammany residents.

The note said, "To the people of St. Tammany Parish, my thoughts and my prayers are with you. We are going to help you."

Davis said he has that note framed in his office and points it out to federal officials when he meets with them. "I've used it a couple of times already," he said.

Other signs of the parish returning to normal include the recent reopening of all local government agencies, the state district court in Covington, the resumption of practice for school system athletic teams planned for Monday and scheduled reopenings of public and private schools.

Clerk of Court Malise Prieto said about 80 percent of her staff has returned and that all services have been available to the public since Monday. She said business hasn't picked up this week as much as she had anticipated.

Prieto and other workers spent Friday clearing out the sixth-floor clerk's office at the Towers Building in Slidell, where windows were broken and a corner of the roof blew off. They rescued some computers and all original filings submitted the Friday before the storm.

Prieto said the annex stored second-copy books, so no records were lost because of the damages.

She asked all lawyers who practice in the 22nd Judicial District Court to provide their new contact information to the clerk's office at (985) 809-8700.

Civil and criminal jury trials will resume at the Covington courthouse Sept. 26.

Public school students are due to resume classes Oct. 3. Christ Episcopal School in Covington has reopened, and most other parochial and private schools are set to reopen next week.

The School Board will hold an emergency session tonight at 7 p.m. in its C.J. Schoen meeting room to discuss the resumption of classes and other matters related to Katrina's aftermath.

The Parish Council will hold a special session at 7 p.m. in the parish government complex on Koop Drive north of Mandeville to get a storm recovery update from Davis and to adopt any emergency measures related to the hurricane.

As the basic needs of residents are restored, the economic effects of the hurricane on St. Tammany and the region will gradually take center stage, Davis said. He said that on Monday, Bush predicted an economic boom in the region.

"I think the president is right," Davis said. The demand for housing in St. Tammany has gobbled up available real estate inventory in the parish, he said.

"Right now, you can't buy a house in the parish," he said.

Davis said he met recently with the St. Tammany Parish Home Builders Association and asked the organization to continue building homes in subdivisions in the midst of the upcoming rebuilding effort.

Davis said he's also had strong feelers from New Orleans companies that want to temporarily relocate to the parish.

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Charlie Chapple can be reached at cchapple@charter.net or (985) 898-4828. Staff writers Meghan Gordon, Paul Bartels and Christine Harvey contributed to this story.

# Archdiocese struggles to pick up the pieces

## *Church is serving its flock from borrowed B.R. space*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Working from a temporary nest of offices 85 miles from its landmark cathedral, its charities, its city schools and its suburban parishes stuffed with Catholic families, a wounded Archdiocese of New Orleans is struggling to dispense healing in the carnage of Hurricane Katrina.

"I've heard the archbishop say it many times in the last few days: Our priority is people. People need to be taken care of first," said Jeanette DeMelo, an archdiocese spokeswoman. "Then it's about parishes and schools."

Katrina scattered most of the area's nearly 500,000 Catholics.

It destroyed or damaged dozens of churches and schools, shattered the archdiocese's network of centers serving the poor – and simultaneously swamped it with tens of thousands of newly hungry, homeless, helpless persons in need of care.

It also drove the archdiocese's headquarters to Baton Rouge.

Squeezed temporarily into the headquarters of the Baton Rouge Diocese, Archbishop Alfred Hughes and his staff are trying to assess the damage to nearly 150 church parishes, locate missing staff, and help the scores of people who arrive at the diocese's Catholic Life Center at 5:30 a.m. daily in search of money, transportation, housing and jobs.

Within days, the archdiocese hopes to relocate into a Baton Rouge office park, then return to New Orleans as quickly as possible, DeMelo said.

Two weeks after the storm, a significant portion of its own staff of up to 9,000 full-time, part-time and seasonal workers is still scattered, she said.

"We know we've got people still in shelters. If they went to the Superdome and got on a plane, they could be anywhere," said Sister Anthony Barczykowski, director of the archdiocese's department of community services.

About 130 of 180 of the archdiocese's active and retired priests are now accounted for, DeMelo said.

Most of the missing are thought to be safe – except for the Rev. Arthur Ginart, who is missing and feared drowned after he refused to evacuate his low-lying St. Nicholas of Myra Parish, near the Rigolets.

In the first days after the storm, displaced priests unable to return to their churches in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish are doing ministry among evacuees in Baton Rouge shelters.

Many of them are homeless, their rectories and belongings flooded and ruined.

Bishop Roger Morin's small church-owned home across South Carrollton Avenue from Notre Dame Seminary burned to the ground.

Some have been able to return to their own parishes to say Mass, if without power.

It's a powerful time to be a priest, some said.

"It's just a very emotional time," said the Rev. Ronald Caulkins of Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Mandeville. "Every encounter is emotional. There are tears and hugs."

Caulkins' church and parish were relatively undamaged. At Mass last week, he looked out over a sea of new faces – strangers blown into his parish by the winds of Katrina.

"The message was simple: You're welcome. Everybody is welcome here," he said.

Like Caulkins' church, many are coming back quickly in areas with the least damage, deMelo said.

Sunday Masses are returning in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes, she said. Jefferson Parish is more problematic. New Orleans is still under lock-down, and St. Bernard was wiped out entirely.

"We had nine churches there. They're gone," she said.

At the same time the archdiocese is struggling to dispense care in the face of unprecedented need, said Jim Kelly, director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The archdiocese's food banks distributed 3 million pounds of food last week and are sending out 400,000 pounds a day this week, said Beth Millbank, a Catholic Charities spokeswoman.

At centers in St. Charles Parish and Baton Rouge, church workers are arranging for housing and transportation, even dispensing emergency checks, said Kelly.

Case managers are working through a growing internal database that matches evacuees' needs with offers of jobs and housing from thousands of families across the country.

Archdiocesan counselors have taken over a respite center, talking traumatized police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers through the emotional and psychological wounds of the past two weeks.

Meantime, archdiocesan workers are trying to manage their own difficulties.

"I'm telling some people, 'I know you just lost your home, but would you please counsel this person who just lost his house?'" said Kelly.

Finally, Kelly and other archdiocesan leaders are trying to locate the remainders of their own missing staffs in the face of hugely ramped-up need.

"If we normally service 125,000 people, the question now becomes: How do you suddenly service maybe quadruple that, overnight?" he said.

Frantic though the pace is, the reality is that "we're maybe in mile three of a 26-mile race," he said.

"But I tell you this. We'll get through this," he said. "We'll get through it with God's grace. It's all about grace."

# Uses for mulch sought

**MULCH,** *from B-1*

purring.

The Corps is handling storm debris collection for all of Jefferson Parish except Kenner, where the city has contracted with a private company. But Kenner Chief of Staff Phil Ramone said the city is in talks with the Corps about possibly taking over debris removal.

Kenner work crews have already made one sweep through the city, collecting more than 11.4 million cubic yards of debris, Ramone said. It has not been mulched yet, only stockpiled at two sites – one at 32nd Street and Arkansas Avenue and the other at Kenner Avenue and 18th Street.

The East Jefferson project outside of Kenner is being coordinated by AshBritt Environmental Inc., a Florida company contracted by the Corps of Engineers to oversee debris pickup in the parish. Through the company, subcontractors were hired and assigned to 28 debris zones in Jefferson, Bonano said, allowing parish officials to track their performance. The vast majority, 95 percent, are local construction companies from Jefferson Parish, Bonano said.

About 250 trucks haul the debris to Lafreniere Park in Metairie in East Jefferson and a site on Peters Road in Harvey on the West Bank, Bonano said. The cost is covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Once storm cleanup has been completed, the mulch will be used around several Jefferson public buildings. "But obviously, there's going to be a lot of it," he said.

Parish officials also are looking other beneficial uses for the mulch, including wetland restoration, selling it to paper mills for use as pulpwood or selling it to garden centers for residential landscaping.

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME




AP PHOTO

Several hundred trailers were at a Baton Rouge staging area Wednesday as preparations were being made to set up temporary communities to house Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

# System's finances called 'dire' but still in black

*7 schools likely won't be useable this year*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

Facing the logistical nightmare of resuming operations of one of the state's largest school systems, Jefferson Parish public school leaders are pushing parish officials to allow school district employees to return to the area as soon as possible.

At a School Board meeting Wednesday in Baton Rouge, Superintendent Diane Roussel said she would ask Parish President Aaron Broussard to allow teachers and administrators back in the parish, an option recently extended to Jefferson business owners and employees in an effort to breathe life back into the area's commerce after Hurricane Katrina.

In a wide-reaching meeting, the School Board also presented a timeline ahead of a planned Oct. 3 reopening of schools that were mostly or completely spared hurricane damage. District administrators will begin returning to the parish this week, with the goal of having all supervisors report by Monday and all employees back by Sept. 21.

Registration for new students is tentatively scheduled to begin Sept. 26 at "registration centers" throughout the parish that have yet to be established. "Reporting (to work) is critical for continued employment and compensation," Roussel said.

After Katrina damaged dozens of schools and ravaged the system's administration building in Harvey, officials shifted all administrative functions to Baton Rouge. The School Board will continue to meet weekly, possibly in Jefferson, until the October reopening.

Wednesday's meeting came amid continuing worries about the system's finances. Its $24 million in reserves is enough to cover two payroll cycles, one today and another on Sept. 30.

Chief Financial Officer Raylyn Stevens called the situation "dire" but downplayed concerns about possible bankruptcy, saying the system is still operating with 2004 property taxes collected earlier this year.

She said additional financing could come from the state if Jefferson sees an influx of students from more devastated parishes. Typically, additional revenue from increased enrollment does not hit system coffers until the following fiscal year, but school leaders plan to lobby the state to see a boost in dollars for this school year, Stevens said.

State Superintendent Cecil Picard has asked for $2.4 billion in federal dollars to sustain metro area school systems.

Roussel is pushing for a timely reopening of Jefferson schools, saying the longer the system waits to resume, the higher the risk that students and their families will not return to the parish.

The state of the school system has become particularly critical in Jefferson, which officials hope will become a recovery hub as the worst-hit parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines slowly recover and lean on their neighboring resources.

In other updates from the meeting:

* Roussel has executed several contracts for restoration of schools and technical support for the system's facilities department. The Louisiana National Guard also is helping clean up several schools, which officials said has been a huge help.

**After Katrina damaged dozens of schools and ravaged the system's administration building in Harvey, officials shifted all administrative functions to Baton Rouge. The School Board will continue to meet weekly, possibly in Jefferson, until the October reopening.**

* Many of the system's administrative offices will shift to an annex building along River Road in Marrero.

* Employees can call (866) 563-6559 for information, and the system will run radio and newspaper ads throughout the Gulf Coast to touch base with evacuees in other cities. Employees also are urged to visit www.louisianaschools.net to inform the system of their whereabouts and employment plans. On the site, residents also can volunteer to help with cleanup efforts.

* Officials will begin revising the school calendar, considering options such as extended school days and weeks as well as elimination of some holidays. Officials are aiming to start high schools at roughly the same time to cluster graduation ceremonies in the summer.

* The East Bank regional office has moved to Hazel Park Elementary, and the West Bank regional office now is housed at Gretna No. 2 Kindergarten Center.

* The board will meet again Wednesday, most likely in the Jefferson Parish government building on the West Bank.

* Any decision about possible layoffs or "platooning" of students, a schedule in which some students attend morning classes while others attend evening ones, will not be made until an official enrollment count can be made. Personnel and student records are safe.

* The system has received a waiver from the state to provide free lunches to all returning students, and the system is exploring ways to establish temporary housing for teachers.

Officials released the latest list of schools classified by extent of damage. The list likely will change and leaders hope a final assessment will be ready next week. As of Wednesday, the groupings are as follows:

* No damage or little damage and can likely open in October: Airline Park, Birney, Bissonet Plaza, Boudreaux, Butler, Cherbonnier, Clancy, Cullier, Deckbar, Dolhonde, Ellender, Ellis, Estelle, Fisher High, Grand Isle, Green Park, Greenlawn Terrace, Gretna Middle, Harris, Haynes, Hazel Park, Hearst, Janet, Jefferson Elementary, Maggiore, Marrero Middle, Matas, Metairie Academy, Middleton, Pittman, Rillieux, Riverdale High, Riverdale Middle, Miller Wall, Washington, West Bank Community, Westwego Elementary, Woodland West, Woods, St. Ville, Strehle, Waggaman, Riviere, Schneckenburger and Patrick Taylor Academy.

* Schools with moderate damage that could open after October: Adams, Ames, Audubon, Bridge City, Bunche, Chateau Estates, George Cox, Helen Cox, Douglass, East Jefferson High, Ehret High, Ford, Gretna No. 2, Harahan, Hart, Harvey Kindergarten Center, Higgins, Homedale, Gretna Park, Solis, Truman, West Jefferson High, Worley, Meisler, Pitre, Roosevelt, Ruppel, Keller, Grace King, Lafitte Elementary, Livaudais, Live Oak Manor and McDonogh 26.

* Schools with significant damage that likely won't be useable this school year: Alexander, Bonnabel, Jefferson Community, Lincoln, Woodmere, Terrytown and a Gretna adult education building that was slated to house a magnet high school in the 2006-07 school year.

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# Banks back in business, under loosened rules

*Feds allow leeway to aid storm victims*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Federal regulators are bending some rules to help Louisiana banks recover from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, an official said Wednesday.

Donald Powell, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which regulates banks and insures deposits, told bankers gathered at Omni Bank in Gretna that most banks are back in business and customers should not be concerned that some branches are not open.

"Money is safe in insured institutions," he said, adding that customers can get access to their deposits by check, debit card, through withdrawals at automated teller machines and at more branches every day.

Powell said the FDIC has relaxed rules governing branch

openings, which has allowed banks in Jefferson Parish to open 13 branches this week in shared locations. Each of those 13 branches has as many as five banks or savings institutions set up at desks in the lobby.

"It is like having competitors such as Bill Gates and Steve Jobs set up a computer company under one roof," he said.

The agency has also allowed banks to open 33 temporary locations in the

three states hardest hit by the hurricane.

"We've gotten very open-minded," he said of the federal agency.

Regulators also are allowing customers some leeway by reducing the amount of identification they need to open accounts. Regulators have encouraged institutions to waive fees and allow customers in the storm area to skip payments.

"I am not worried about any bank," Powell said in answer to a question about the health of local financial institutions. "There will be stresses."

After meeting with a group of about 20 bankers, he said banks are still struggling to get power restored, to restore their infrastructure and automated teller machines, and to locate employees.

Powell said that as of Tuesday, 280 FDIC-insured banks in the hurricane-hit area were operating and have 93 percent of their branches open. A total of 361 branches remain closed.

In the first days after Hurricane Katrina struck, banks experienced heavier withdrawals, and having enough cash on hand was an issue. But that is no longer a concern, he said.

Bankers said that after the wave of withdrawals, customers are again making deposits, with relief checks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from insurance companies.

John Ducrest, Louisiana banking commissioner, said his office has opened a hotline to help customers find their banks and to identify branches that were open for business.

"People were displaced and needed immediate living expenses," he said, adding that some banks helped consumers, who were not their customers, contact their banks and obtain money.

Peter Gwaltney, chief executive of the Louisiana Banking Association, said bankers will ask regulators for more leeway in making loans to customers as they return home. "Banks will make loans they ordinarily wouldn't make," he said. "Under the circumstances, banks need to make loans to get the economy moving."

**Jim Harrell**

He was employed by John Lulich, Jr. and Lulich Steel Corporation for 52 years. He was a resident of New Orleans and a former resident of Slidell for 35 years. He passed away at the age of 69 on September 12, 2005 at his son's home in Prairieville surrounded by his wife, Kathy Harrell and their three children, Jeanne Harrell Rodriguez, Adele Harrell Hayes, Jimmy and his wife Penny Harrell. He is survived by his grandchildren, Bryce, Ally, Grant and Claburn who lovingly knew him as Poppy. Also survived by two sons-in-law, Vinny Rodriguez and Gary Hayes; three brothers, Donnie, David and Billy Harrell; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Jack and Bobby; mother, Isabel and father John. Visiting will be at Rabenhorst Funeral Home, 825 Government St. on Thursday, September 15, 2005 from 12 noon until religious services at 2 p.m. in the funeral home chapel conducted by Fr. Tony Rigoli of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, The International Shrine of St. Jude 411 N. Rampart St. New Orleans, LA 70112.

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# Plans for reopenings vary for Jeff private schools

Arden Cahill Academy, Gretna – Staff has been asked to return Oct. 3, and classes are tentatively set to resume Oct. 10.

Damage report was unavailable, but repairs have begun.

John Curtis Christian School, River Ridge – Had planned to start the year the day Katrina hit. Now eyeing Sept. 23 or 26.

Katrina damaged trees and put a hole in the roof of one third-grade classroom. The hole has since been patched. Electricity, water, telephone and cable television have been restored.

"Our campus was perfect, the way we left it for open house," said Jeff Curtis, teacher, coach and member of school's founding family. "We just had to clean up the debris."

Ecole Classique School, Metairie – Hopes to reopen Oct. 3.

Damage report was unavailable, but cleanup is progressing.

Lutheran High School, Metairie – Will reopen at the largely intact Atonement Lutheran School in Metairie, possibly Oct. 3. The two schools will operate in shifts.

Katrina inflicted major roof damage, weakened some walls and left some trees leaning on buildings at Lutheran High.

"For us, it's looking much better than we thought it might," said the Rev. Don Little, Atonement's senior pastor.

Metairie Park Country Day – January is targeted for a full reopening, though a partial reopening may come earlier. Emphasis will be on restoring programs for high school seniors.

Katrina left as much as 3 feet of water on the ground, as well as water in the lower school, auditorium, and middle and upper school library. Many raised buildings escaped flooding.

"I know from many phone conversations and e-mails that several of you have been through harrowing experiences and that most of us have felt the kind of disruption or loss that painfully forces us to search deep within for strength," Headmaster David Drinkwater wrote to families and employees. "I can assure you that we are determined to see our school community whole and thriving again soon."

Ridgewood Preparatory School, Metairie – Was to start the 2005-06 school year Aug. 29, the day Katrina hit. Plans to reopen soon, but no date has been set.

Storm damage was minimal, and electricity and telephone service has been restored.

"The trees that blew down, they fell in the right place. They didn't hit anything," Headmaster Milton Montgomery said. "So we were extremely lucky."

Salem Lutheran School, Gretna – Reopening uncertain. Principal Joseph Althage is seeking contractors for repairs and holding "re-registration" to determine how many students might return.

Katrina left roof and water damage.

St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie – Reopening set for Oct. 3. Has already re-enrolled 255 students. Mandatory faculty meeting set for Sept 27 and 28 in Hammond, with housing and food provided.

Little storm damage reported other than downed trees.

"Do all you can do to rejoin our community and know that we will always have a spot for your children at St. Martin's, whether we see you in October, January or next year," new Headmaster Chris Proctor wrote to parents.

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Staff research by Mark Waller

# City Hall staff improvise in exile

*Nagin aides go back to basics*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield was tucked away in a tiny basement room at the state Capitol, while other top aides to Mayor Ray Nagin camped out with a spare phone and computer terminal in office space donated by Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu and other state official.

City Attorney Sherry Landry and Finance Director Reggie Zeno established a beachhead in a Gonzales apartment complex just outside Baton Rouge.

Meanwhile, those City Hall officials – including Nagin – who stayed behind to cope with Hurricane Katrina's nightmarish aftermath turned several third-floor meeting rooms inside the battered Hyatt Hotel into a makeshift City Hall annex.

Over the 2½ weeks since the storm turned his city upside down, Nagin has been operating a government in exile. But now that floodwaters are receding and lights are blinking back to life downtown, most of the mayor's team began drifting back home Wednesday. Much of the city is still without power or drinkable water, and Nagin is being forced to take some extraordinary steps.

For the immediate future, administration officials will be housed either at the Hyatt across Poydras Street from City Hall or along the Mississippi River aboard one of the cruise ships commandeered by the U.S. Army.

"Mayor Nagin felt it was time to unify the staff," Hatfield said from inside City Hall where only sections of a few of the nine floors had electricity. "Today is the first time many of us have been really able to communicate with one another in weeks."

Phones across southeast Louisiana were virtually useless in the days after the hurricane came ashore, forcing the Nagin team, at times, to rely exclusively on their Blackberry wireless devices' keyboards.

"It was indescribably frustrating," Hatfield said. "We were wearing out our thumbs sending text messages."

Slowly but surely, members of Nagin's Cabinet are beginning to slip back into the roles they were hired to fill.

In the days after Katrina passed when large sections of the city were thrown into chaos, job titles had little meaning. For example, Landry and Zeno, who unlike their colleagues were able to communicate with the outside world, had little need for their respective legal and accounting expertise. For a time, both became procurement officers.

"Back in the city, they were running out of diesel fuel to run pumps and generators, ammunition for police officers, gas for police cars," Landry said, recalling the frantic, frightening week she spent separated from her colleagues.

"As we struggled to locate supplies, we tried to find the right balance of begging and bossy." Needless to say, Landry had little time to dwell on legal issues such as requests for proposals.

"It was a life and death situation," she said. "We didn't worry about how much things might cost. It was always do you have it, how fast can we get it and we'll pay for it later."

At times, Landry said, she was dealing with tasks better left to an engineer, including locating a portable, 450-gallon tank retrofitted with pumps to fill police cars and other municipal vehicles.

When the crisis began to subside and the National Guard and the military arrived to relieve exhausted police and fire personnel, Landry and Zeno switched from purchasing agents to travel agents, reaching out to the mayors of Atlanta and Las Vegas and airline and hotel officials to coordinate all-expense-paid, rest-and-relaxation getaways for the city's public safety workers and their families.

One of the most important city documents produced during the crisis shows how city officials improvised. With no computers or word processors to call on, the administration was forced to use primitive means to get the job done.

Asked by Nagin to fast-track a mandatory evacuation order, Landry said she prepared the hand-written document during a plane ride to from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

"It wasn't pretty," she said. "But it's legal."

## RECOVERY OPERATION




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Rescue workers make their way into the water Wednesday on Elysian Fields Avenue in New Orleans. Chaplains accompanying medical teams are ministering to the dead with an ecumenical prayer approved by authorities that gives thanks for the person's life. About 7,000 regular Army personnel are at work in the New Orleans area and thousands of those are helping search for more living and to collect the dead.

# Orleans public schools plan gradual reopening

*Employees can collect paychecks for August*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE - Later this year or early next, New Orleans public schools will gradually welcome students and teachers chased out by Hurricane Katrina, according to officials of a company helping restructure the system's chaotic finances.

"We want families to know if they come back to New Orleans, schools will be open for their children," Bill Roberti, managing director of Alvarez & Marsal, said Wednesday at a news briefing Wednesday. Every school reopened, he said, is a "victory against despair, a victory against defeatism."

As a team of architects and engineers began to access the damage to the system's 116 schools, Roberti and his Alvarez & Marsal public sector colleague Sajan George outlined steps the school system is taking retain teachers and other classroom workers they said are anxious to get back to work.

Roberti said that as of Wednesday, a day earlier than predicted, teachers and other classroom workers could go to any Western Union office in the country, present a government-issued picture identification and collect the last paycheck they'll get for a while, unless the federal government comes through with money to help tide over educators in the hurricane-affected areas.

The payments will be an estimate of the amount due to employees. Payments to teachers will cover the payroll that was due Sept. 2 for work from Aug. 11 to Aug. 24 and also will cover work performed from Aug. 25 to Aug. 28, the last day before the hurricane. Non-teachers, who have a different payroll calendar, received a paycheck Aug. 26 for work from Aug. 4 to Aug. 17 and will receive a payment that covers Aug. 18-28.

These payments will be estimated. When a team of Alvarez & Marsal and school system employees returned to Algiers to retrieve the backup computer tapes containing the payroll information, they found that the building was severely damaged by the hurricane and the information technology department was flooded. Since then, the team has been working at an IBM Disaster Recovery Center in Tuxedo, New York, to recover the data.

It is a complex and time-consuming effort, officials said, and rather than have employees endure continued delays while exact payroll data is restored, estimates will be distributed. Adjustments, if needed, will be made once the data-recovery process is complete.

Roberti, who is serving as chief restructuring officer for the New Orleans public schools, said that, given the school system's precarious financial situation, there would not be another payroll until schools begin to reopen.

He urged the federal government to provide financial assistance to help school system employees who may be living on unemployment insurance or lower paying temporary jobs.

Alvarez & Marsal also is working with other school districts to accept displaced New Orleans public school students and their teachers. "With their increased enrollment, they will have opportunities for our employees," he said.

But Wilson Boveland, member's rights director for United Teachers of New Orleans said some school districts have told UTNO members that "to work for us, you have to resign from the Orleans Parish public schools. Louisiana Federation of Teachers executive director Steve Monahan said his group has asked state education superintendent Cecil Picard to intervene.

When New Orleans schools reopen, George said, demand for their services may well exceed supply. Portable classrooms and classes in platoons or shifts could help address that issue, he said.

Federal money is available to pay for repair of school buildings. And if the damage is 50 percent or greater, FEMA will pay to replace the facility, he said.

Katrina's arrival changed his company's mission in New Orleans, Roberti said. "We have gone from turning around a broken school system to creating one from scratch," he said, adding that his firm will donate $300,000 toward the effort.

In a letter to President Bush, Alvarez & Marsal asked the federal government to create a program for payroll assistance to any public school in the affected region to make up the difference between their normal pay and unemployment compensation or temporary jobs.

# Priest feared drowned in storm

## *Church, rectory smashed by surge*

**By Lynne Jensen and Bruce Nolan**
Staff writers

Like a loyal ship's captain, "Father Red" rode out hurricanes for decades at his tiny Catholic church on Highway 90 near the Rigolets. In the wake of Katrina, he is feared dead, a drowning victim of the powerful storm.

The archdiocese has received unofficial word that the Rev. Arthur "Red" Ginart's body has been recovered near St. Nicholas of Myra Church, where he served as pastor for 28 years, but "no one wants to speak the final words," Bishop Roger Morin said Wednesday at the temporary New Orleans archdiocesan headquarters in Baton Rouge.

On a recent routine visit to St. Nicholas, Ginart told Morin that he would never leave his beloved church during a storm. The pastor told his superior "I never want to be moved from here. I want to stay here until I either retire or die," Morin said.

Ginart "used to pride himself on never having evacuated, and he used to tell people he never would," Morin said.

Like most of the waterfront camps along the peninsula known as the Lake Catherine community, between the Chef Menteur Bridge and the Rigolets, the church and rectory were smashed apart by Katrina's storm surge. Also gone is the historic Rigolets lighthouse and the Tally Ho Club, perhaps the oldest established hunting club in the country.

# SLU launches temporary bus service

**St. Tammany bureau**

Students who attend Southeastern Louisiana University can take advantage of a new, short-term bus service being offered between St. Tammany Parish and Hammond. The free service will be available today through Sept. 30.

In addition, the university will resume classes previously offered at the St. Tammany Center on Koop Drive north of Mandeville beginning Monday at Fontainebleau Junior High School. The school, adjacent to Fontainebleau High, is at 100 Hurricane Alley, just off Louisiana 59 south of Interstate 12.

Classroom assignments will be posted outside the main office.

For students traveling to Hammond, the bus will make four stops at locations throughout St. Tammany Parish at the beginning and end of each day, delivering students to SLU at 7:45 and 8:45 a.m., and leaving campus at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. The university's police department, on Virginia Avenue, near Cefalu Coliseum, will be the drop-off and pick-up point.

Buses to the Hammond campus will operate on the following schedule, though times are approximate, depending on traffic conditions:

— Slidell: 6 and 7 a.m., 150 North Shore Blvd., near the Dillards Men's Department.

— Slidell: 6:15 and 7:15 a.m., 39142 Natchez Drive, near Wal-Mart and Lowe's.

— Mandeville: 6:30 and 7:30 a.m., 4100 Louisiana 59, in the Winn-Dixie parking lot.

— Covington: 6:45 and 7:45 a.m., 401 N. U.S. 190, in the Books-a-Million parking lot behind Sicily's restaurant.

For information on the bus service, call (985)549-5250. For classes held in St. Tammany, call (985)893-6251 or visit www.selu.edu/sttammanycenter.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

Jake Staples describes how he crouched down to remain out of sight as looters entered the D-Day Museum in the days after New Orleans was hit by Hurricane Katrina. Staples, the museum's assistant director of facilities, said the exhibits were left largely undisturbed.

# D-Day Museum became sanctuary for official

## *Staples says looters left exhibits alone*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

It was a disorienting journey through the D-Day Museum's unlit upper galleries on Tuesday. The narrow twisting passages, designed to guide visitors through the history of World War II's Pacific theater, took on the tone of a Halloween haunted house as flashlight beams chased across the garishly colored cartoon war posters that paper the walls. When the lights were turned off, the place plunged into an inky, depthless darkness.

Jake Staples, the museum's assistant director of facilities, depended on the darkness and labyrinthlike exhibit spaces to hide him during his harried days alone in the museum, when police protection in the Warehouse District evaporated and looters marauded through the museum's ground floor amid the vintage landing craft and tanks.

Before the flood, Staples spent his days seeing to the maintenance of the museum he loves. He understands the workings of the building and exhibits as well as anyone, down to the sounds the structure makes as it expands and contracts with the heat of the day. The stocky, bearded Army veteran chose to stay inside the museum during Hurricane Katrina, fearing only "the wind or a funnel cloud or a lightning strike on the roof," he said.

Though "slight, slight tremors shook the building" during the worst of the storm, Staples said, he was utterly confident of his safety.

"Those walls are 28 inches thick," he said. "I felt very secure. We could have opened Tuesday morning (after the storm) if we had power and water."

Staples sat tight through Tuesday, eating the provisions the museum had stockpiled before the storm and listening apprehensively to radio reports of the floodwaters that crept across the city following Katrina. He knew his situation was changing for the worse.

"By Wednesday evening this area was completely void of police protection, EMTs, anything," he said.

From the vantage point of a raised staircase inside the museum's huge, glass-faced atrium, he watched as groups of young people, who seemed to be simply wandering the streets, streamed past the museum. One group caught his attention because even behind the glass wall of the museum he could hear a young woman berating a group of five young men, alternately cursing them and begging them not to abandon her.

"Then one of the men stopped and backhanded her," Staples said. Then he witnessed a gang rape.

"Afterwards, she got up, pulled her pants up and kept following them. They were her meal ticket, I guess. ... This area was a jungle."



D-Day Museum Director of Facilities Frankie Harelson walks through the museum store on Tuesday. Looters rummaged through T-shirts and souvenirs at the shop.

Now acutely aware of the violence outside, Staples was careful to remain unseen behind the museum's transparent walls, watching from vantage points behind the front desk, on the stairs and even surveying the reflection of the atrium in a polished door.

Wednesday at 8 p.m., Staples heard glass breaking as looters smashed through the door to PJ's, the museum's coffee shop at the corner of Magazine Street and Andrew Higgins Drive. Around 2 a.m. Staples heard intruders break the plate glass double doors into the museum gift shop, where they rummaged through the T-shirts, hats and other souvenirs. At sunrise they smashed through the doors into the atrium. Nothing else stood between Staples and them.

By his estimate 30 to 40 looters at a time scurried beneath the bomber and fighter planes. Some tried to access the cash inside an ATM, chipping futilely at the strong box.

Staples retreated to the darkened exhibit, often taking refuge in a tiny theater dedicated to the battle of Leyte Gulf, located in what the museum calls the "serpentine wall." Using his flashlight he positioned benches to create stumbling blocks in the deep darkness as a crude early warning system. Occasionally he ventured out to assess the situation. To his horror, he found that looters had begun venturing to the second floor.

"Some went to the second floor, but someone down below yelled in really vulgar language to get back down because they might be seen from outside."

For the next 48 hours, Staples caught 20-minute catnaps as he strained to hear disturbances in the darkness of his hideaway. "I was so intent on hearing that I didn't really think about things, he said. "This museum makes a lot of noises. I had my ears up with such an intensity that there wasn't time to be a philosopher about the situation."

Asked if he was frightened, Staples said: "Yes and no; I had enough sense not to be frightened. I knew the situation was grave, and I tried not to be my own worse enemy. I tried not to be afraid, to stay out of sight and be quiet and call. ... They never saw me. I'm sure they would have sounded the alarm if they had."

As a pilot in the Vietnam War, Staples twice was forced to land in rice paddies where he had to await rescue by helicopter. He said he feels those experiences helped prepare him for his lonely vigil after Katrina.

Even when his wait for rescue was over, the ordeal continued.

"At 2:34 Saturday morning – I looked at my watch – I saw flashlights in the exhibits. I thought, 'Oh my God, these punks have flashlights.' Then I heard voices that sounded military. They said, 'Call down and tell someone there may be someone behind the wall.' ... I was in a well-hidden place; it took observant men to find me.

"So I rattled the door and said 'There is someone.'

They said, 'Put your hands out,' and I did. Then they put me on the floor and checked my ID. They called me a 10-12, whatever that means. Then they took me down to the atrium. I don't know if they were Army or SWAT or what. They had camouflaged uniforms and M-16s. They were very professional. They treated me in a firm dignified manor. I was pleased with the situation."

In the aftermath of his saga, Staples was relieved to discover that the looters took little interest in the antique engines of war that surrounded them. They took two vintage knapsacks from a half track, and they hid behind the landing craft to relieve themselves, but overall the heart of the museum was intact.

Staples said that he would do it all again if the need arose. "I'll stay during any future problems, because I want to. It's in my blood. I'm very proud of this place. This will be my last job. The day I pass on, I plan to spend working here. It's a place I look forward to coming to every day."

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# YOUR OPINIONS

## Bring the Saints home

I realize that this concern is trivial compared with the real suffering of thousands because of Katrina. I pray that they and all of us come out of this whole and better than ever.

Still, for the city to be truly whole, it needsthe Saints. It really annoyed me that the team will be playing three "home" games in San Antonio, Texas. Why can't the Saints play all of their home games in Baton Rouge or another location more centrally located to New Orleans and Gulf Coast evacuees? To me,the situation smells like an attempt by the Saints and the NFL to test-drive San Antonio as an NFL city before actually buying. Given the current circumstances, that stinks!



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Spc. William Lanoux operates a bulldozer in the Lower 9th Ward on Tuesday.

Team owner Tom Benson admitted that for many impacted people, the only hope they have left is this football team. Nice words, how 'bout backing them up? The NFL and Tom Benson should pledge that the Saints will continue to play in New Orleans until at least 2010, period. All kinds of people, with a lot less means than the Saints, are making sacrifices. Mr. Benson and the NFL's country club owners should step up and do the same.

**Alex Pagnutti**
*Mandeville*

## Let the city heal

Does New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin think cliches will fix the city or does he actually have an intelligent plan that would make it possible for homesick citizens to return? Based on comments reported Tuesday, I have my doubts.

"I know New Orleanians, and once the beignets are in the oven, once the gumbo is in the pot, and red beans and rice are being served on Mondays, they'll come back," he said.

First, I'm not sure I want to eat that gumbo or those beans if they're being cooked with tap water from Uptown, the CBD or the French Quarter, the areas Mr. Nagin is talking about resettling. And aside from these cliché foods of the city that forgot to care, what does Mr. Nagin expect me to return to?

A city that still has water in many streets, water that may still pose health hazards of many kinds? A city whose houses in both flooded and non-flooded areas need to be carefully assessed for safety before anyone can live in them again?

A city that has no functioning economic structure for the most essential needs, such as food and hospitals, let alone things that at this point are truly luxuries, such as the "jazz" Mr. Nagin says he longs to hear?

A city which, with no meaningful jobs or functioning schools, can't bring back the familiescrucial to making it vital again?

A city where my safety depends on an armed military presence and my willingness to adhere to a dawn-to-dusk curfew? Guess I'll be eating that gumbo at a jazz brunch if I want to go out for music.

The city is a very sick patient right now. It needs to be left alone so the doctors can figure out the best possible plan for its rehabilitation. Ray Nagin's comments make him sound like a meddling relative who thinks the patient is fine and just needs to eat some rich food, toss back a drink and do a second line. I think he would serve her better by sitting quietly in the waiting room.

**Brad Richard**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Austin, Texas*

## An opportunity for change

Now is the opportunity for great changes to take place in the development of a better urban environment for our city. There is no doubt that New Orleans and the surrounding areas can and should be rebuilt.

But before any reconstruction begins, a comprehensive, sustainable strategy for reconstruction and developments needs to be in place that acknowledges the distinction of our neighborhoods while providing an alternative to the pockets of poverty that have hindered any real changes in our city for decades.

The numerous challenges that we are facing require a coalition of planners, policy-makers, architects, artists, former mayors of progressive cities (Stephen Goldsmith of Indianapolis and Vera Katz of Portland are two that come to mind), developers, environmentalists, engineers and landscape architects to study the social, cultural and physical terrain of one of the most unique cities in our country.

Current federal government initiatives are only set up to provide short-term solutions to housing and basic needs, but New Orleans needs a plan for our future.

First and foremost, the major areas of concern are the environmental controls to prevent a repeat of the type of natural disaster that has taken place from Katrina. These issues include the reconstruction of the surrounding levees to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, the installation of a new surge protection gate between the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Pontchartrain and the recreation of the barrier islands. Also, coastal erosion must be addressed.

Since we are facing the very real possibility that most of the houses between Claiborne Avenue and Lake Pontchartrain, in the Lower 9th Ward, eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish are beyond saving, how will these homes and businesses be replaced? Suburban models or blocks of multifamily housing complex are not the answer. The ideal of an energy-efficient city that encourages walking, provides housing and shopping close to work and an expansion of the successful streetcar system would be ideal.

We do not have to look far for an example; the Vieux Carre pattern of life offers a wonderful and successful alternative. This model allows for a more humane density that encompasses living and working areas in order to decrease the need for automobiles. The school system could be reorganized to create smaller schools within walking distance of students' homes. This would provide more effective educational models where truly no child is left behind.

Most of the city has years of planning and implementation before any reconstruction or new development can take place, but the rehabitation of the 20 percent of the city least affected by Katrina must begin as soon as possible. Those of us in those areas can help to clean up and put things back together, beginning the task of planning for an enhanced community for everyone to come back to.

This is either going to be an amazing opportunity to create a new model for a diverse, modern and socially conscious city ñ or New Orleans will cease to exist.

In order to start a dialogue on this, we are asking Mayor Nagin to create a series of town hall meetings to bring together our citizens and begin a series of discussions that will lead to the planning and the development of our future.

**Wayne Troyer, architect, Tulane University**
*Teresa Cole, chairwoman,*
*Newcomb College Art Department*
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

## A city without children?

The closure of all Orleans Parish schools for up to an entire school year seems bizarre. How can a city exist without children? Isn't it obvious that many of the people we will need to restore our city, the sales people, the shop owners, the bus drivers, the restaurateurs, their staffs, are likely to be parents?

Mayor Ray Nagin should be the first person to demand of the state that we absolutely need some schools to open at the very latest by Jan. 1. We desperately need the parents of these children to return to work to rebuild the city and to operate the businesses we hope will be in place by then.

Secondly, we will almost certainly have temporary housing in place by then: Will the children residing there be denied schools?

Lastly, even the idea of a city without schools for an entire year is damaging to the concept of a rebuilt New Orleans. This idea has got to be publicly scrapped now: New Orleans cannot exist as a city without children.

**Iris Lindberg**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Philadelphia*




# OUR OPINIONS

## Mystery at the floodwall

There are a number of theories on how Hurricane Katrina came to overwhelm the floodwalls in the 17th Street, London Avenue and Industrial canals. So far scientists have not settled on a firm explanation for it, but getting answers swiftly is crucial. Of all the lingering issues that will determine the New Orleans area's prospects, figuring out how to prevent a repeat of the inundation that followed Katrina is the most fundamental.

All of the metro area's earthen levees withstood the hurricane's assault, but that wasn't true of the concrete floodwalls that also form a crucial part of the hurricane protection system. As long as the storm surge caused by a hurricane doesn't top them, the floodwalls are supposed to remain intact.

As Katrina pushed water against the levee system, five gaps opened up along three canals. The working hypothesis at the Army Corps of Engineers, according to project manager Al Naomi, is that the floodwalls were built appropriately, but water flowed over them and scoured away their interior sides. Getting solid numbers to verify or falsify that theory might not be easy, because some of the gauges that measure storm surge stopped working during the storm.

There are other possibilities. Joseph Suhayda, a retired coastal engineer from Louisiana State University, says the breaches could be the result of faulty construction or materials rather than a flawed design.

Regardless, figuring out how to shore up the levee system is imperative. This presents some obvious challenges; raising the earthen levees along drainage canals would require a wider right-of-way and would likely reduce the volume of water that could sit in the canals. Clearly, any solution will draw heavily on the creativity of the Corps and other engineers.

In the future, the Corps also needs a backup plan in place in case any portion of the levee system fails. In the days following the breach, the Corps tried out a number of solutions for days to close off the breach in the canals before meeting with success.

As Katrina showed, a hurricane doesn't need to overwhelm the entire levee system to turn into a catastrophe. A few weak spots were enough to inundate vast areas of the city.

## Football as therapy

At any other time, South Louisiana would still be glowing from this weekend's double victories on the football field. And even though football can't carry us through the trying days ahead, the Saints and Tigers gave our stricken region something to cheer about when we desperately needed it.

Louisiana State University's match up with Arizona State in Tempe and the Saints contest with the Carolina Panthers provided a distraction for Katrina victims scattered across the country. But we needed something more than just a few hours of diversion or a topic of conversation that's not related to Hurricane Katrina. Weneeded something positive to happen.

After losing so much, we needed to win.

Both teams must have felt the weight of fans' expectations. Saints receiver Joe Horn said that storm victims told him to "give us something; give us some kind of hope." That's a lot to ask of a game.

But the players rose to the challenge. Saints officials talked about the charged atmosphere on the team bus and at the team's hotel on Saturday. The intensity showed on Sunday.

Neither of the teams was handed victory. The Tigers came from behind to beat the Sun Devils, 35-31. Saints kicker John Carney put the winning field goal through the uprights with three seconds to go. But a hard-fought victory seems, in a way, more satisfying than a rout would have been. The Saints and Tigers overcame, and we can, too.

The players surely felt the fans pulling for them from their damaged or flooded houses, from evacuation shelters, hotel rooms or new homes in unfamiliar cities. What fans felt as the clock ran down was something even stronger: hope.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Katrina's dead deserve utmost respect




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

The body of Alcede Jackson is laid out on his front porch at 4732 Laurel St.

STEPHANIE GRACE

I'm trying to picture Alcede Jackson in my mind.

Until a couple of weeks ago, he lived on my street, just about three blocks down. I drove by his house every day on my way to work. I'm trying to remember which house. Did he used to sit on the front porch and watch people pass? Did he wave, and did I wave back? I hope so.

I never met Mr. Alcede, as I imagine he must have been called, but I know a few things about him. From public records, it looks like he had a wife named Violet; that he was at least 79; and that, before he moved to the 4700 block of Laurel Street, he lived around the corner on Bordeaux.

And I know for a fact that he had a front porch, because I've seen pictures of his body there, wrapped in a plastic bag and covered in a blue blanket, just as it was for nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina blew through town.

Without the benefit of a computer database, the person who laid him out ó a Baptist chaplain who had stopped by to check in on the elderly couple, according to press reports ó couldn't even say when Mr. Alcede's life had begun. But he knew exactly when it ended.

ìAlcede Jackson,î the hand-written sign in the window said. ìB _____, D Aug. 31, 2005. Rest In Peace In The Loving Arms of Jesus.î

Our street largely ducked Katrina's wrath. But the storm must have been too much for him. Or maybe it was just his time. We'll probably never know.

What we do know is that his horrible, long wait is a scar on our neighborhood, and our city.

Even though they lost a loved one, Mr. Alcede's relatives are luckier than some. Thanks to the efforts of that chaplain, and the happenstance of dying in a dry neighborhood heavily traveled by reporters, his relatives do not have to wonder about his fate, and they will be able to give him a proper burial at some point. Newspaper readers all over the world know at least a sliver of his story, and mourn him.

Of the many images from Katrina, perhaps the most haunting are signs like the one on Alcede Jackson's window, fighting against the chaos for dignity in death. They practically scream out their message: that this is a person, not a body. That the storm's victims matter ó each and every one.

It's the same impulse that led neighbors to construct a makeshift grave for Vera Smith on Magazine and Jackson, with the spray-painted plea: ìHere lies Vera. God Help Us.î It's what prompted people stranded at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to pin notes to relatives who didn't make it and who would be left behind in abandoned wheelchairs, telling anyone who bothered to look that this person had a name, and people who cared enough to write it down.

It's why I jotted down as much information as possible about my friend's father ó where he worked, what his sons do for a living ó after I went to check on him a week after the storm, and a kindly cop who showed up to help found him dead of an apparent heart attack.

Alcede Jackson, Vera Smith and my friend's father died on the city's highest ground along the Mississippi River, not in Lakeview, eastern New Orleans or St. Bernard. There were people around to bear witness. How many others died anonymously, their bodies so disfigured by floodwaters that even their loved ones wouldn't recognize them?

There's been some recent squabbling between the state and federal government over the slow pace of body retrieval, but nobody wants to see more finger-pointing. You just have to think about the signs, the hand-scribbled notes, to know what's at stake.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the painstaking task of identifying the victims was a top priority, and it was handled with the utmost respect.

Like them, the people who died in the New Orleans area had neighbors, friends and loved ones. They deserve more than bureaucracy. They deserve all the closure the government can muster.

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Stephanie Grace is a Times-Picayune staff writer.

# Evacuees find humiliation, not help

"I was in the attic for four days, with no food, water, nothing. Just roaches crawling all over me. And I seen a rat, too. I had to use a board to hold my head above the water, 'cause it was up to my neck. So help me, I thought I was going to die.

**Bernice Jones, 64,**
*who finally managed to pry her way out of the attic and was taken by boat to the Superdome.*

"They wanted to take my grandmother to Iowa. She's 90 years old and has Alzheimer's. What was she gonna do in Iowa?"

**Donald McCray, 52,**
*who is looking after his grandmother, Susie Hudson, in a shelter in Gonzales.*

"A huge percentage of the people who were left behind didn't have a way out. It makes me sick that our plan for them didn't work very well."

**Dr. Erin Brewer**
*of Louisiana's Office of Public Health, Lafayette*

BOB HERBERT

LAFAYETTE — The stories — freakish, tragic and sadly true — continue to come out of New Orleans in an awful, unending rush, like blood from a sudden gaping wound. The stunned survivors have scattered to places like Houston, Dallas, Baton Rouge and here — Lafayette — where the Cajundome (yet another sports palace turned homeless shelter) rises like a giant mushroom from the flat, shimmeringly hot landscape.

JoAnn Kelly, 25, and her sister Nicole, 28, were sitting on a low brick ledge outside the Cajundome when I walked up. Each was holding a nervous Chihuahua. "This is Pebbles," JoAnn said. "That one's Powder. We kept them with us the whole time."

The two women, who lived in the Magnolia projects in New Orleans, were tired but eager to tell their story. Like so many others, they thought the worst was over when the winds from Hurricane Katrina subsided and the weather began to clear.

"The sun was out," Nicole said. "But the water started coming right up the street and it kept rising. Then we heard Gov. Blanco saying on the radio that they couldn't stop the water and everybody should just get out.

"So we started calling 911, but we couldn't get any help."

The sick feeling of panic began to rise up in the residents who had stayed in the projects during the hurricane. "There were helicopters flying by," JoAnn said. "We were up on the fire escape waving white towels, pleading for somebody to help us."

Eventually a few men from the neighborhood began showing up in stolen boats and trucks. The elderly and small children were the first to be evacuated. JoAnn, Nicole and the dogs were bundled into a milk truck crowded with people. Once again they thought the worst of their ordeal was over, and once again they were wrong.

Packed with hot and filthy evacuees (and crates of rapidly souring milk), the truck crossed a bridge from New Orleans to Jefferson Parish, where the desperate occupants were promptly and grotesquely humiliated by several heavily armed plainclothes officers.

There were dozens of men, women and children in the truck when it was stopped. They were hungry, thirsty and frightened. It should have been obvious to any sentient being that they were fleeing the flood. Nevertheless, said Nicole, they were ordered out of the truck at gunpoint, with their hands up. One young man was thrown to the ground. The others were ordered to get on the ground, face down.

The occupants of the milk truck were black, and they were in dire need of assistance. But in the midst of one of the greatest emergencies in the nation's history, the opportunity to gratuitously humiliate them proved irresistible.

"They laid us out on the ground," JoAnn said. Her voice quivered and tears began to leak down her face. "I was pleading. I was saying, 'Sir, pleaseÖ' And then we all went to praying. Crying and praying.' "

"We were all praying," Nicole said, "because we were afraid, the way they were acting, that they would shoot us."

Eventually, the officers let the group go. No one was charged with any crime. "They even helped us start the milk truck," Nicole said. "The last thing they told us was, 'Y'all get on out of here. And don't come back.' "

The milk truck made its way west on Interstate 10, and the homeless, bedraggled occupants ultimately were directed to the Cajundome, where, according to JoAnn and Nicole, the officials and volunteers couldn't have been more gracious and helpful.

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Bob Herbert is a New York Times columnist. His e-mail address is bobherb@nytimes.com.

DAVID BROOKS

# Reality scuttles a great plan

Among the many achievements of the human race — Chartres Cathedral, the Mona Lisa — surely the New Orleans emergency preparedness plan must rank among the greatest, and the fact that this plan turned out to be irrelevant to reality should not detract from its stature as a masterpiece of bureaucratic thinking.

The plan (which is viewable online at www.cityofno.com/portal.aspx?portal=46&tabid=26) begins with the insight: Be prepared. Or as the plan puts it, "Individuals with assigned tasks must receive preparatory training to maximize operations."

The plan lays out a course of action so that all personnel will know exactly what to do in case of a hurricane. The Office of Emergency Preparedness will coordinate with the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness in conjunction with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan by taking full advantage of the courses offered by the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association and other agencies "as well as conferences, seminars and workshops that may from time to time be available, most notably state hurricane conferences and workshops and the National Hurricane Conference."

In addition, the plan continues, the administrative and training officer of the Office of Emergency Preparedness will maintain close communication with the state training officer of the LOEP, making sure workshops are conducted at the Emergency Support Function level, reviewing Emergency Operating Center/ESF standard operating procedures and undertaking more "intensive work sessions with elements of the emergency response organizations in order to enhance unified disaster planning."

One can imagine the PowerPoint presentations! The millions of cascading bullet points! The infinity of hours spent planning a hurricane response that would make a Prussian officer gasp with reverence!

Furthermore, the plan instructs the OEP director to execute Mass Casualty Incidents scenarios; work with the Association of Contingency Planners and other groups to coordinate disaster organization responses; coordinate, facilitate and encourage other agencies to conduct emergency self-assessments; engage in assessment processes in preparation for the Agency Disaster Report; and produce after-action reports with the OEP shelter coordinator in conjunction with the Louisiana Statewide Hurricane Exercise.

The paper flow must have been magnificent! The quality of the facilitating must have been surpassed only by the magnificence of the interfacing!

The New Orleans emergency preparedness plan offers a precise communications strategy, so all city residents will know exactly where to go in times of crisis. It recommends that two traffic control officers be placed at each key intersection. It recommends busing the thousands of residents unable to evacuate themselves to staging areas prestocked with food.

In short, the plan was so beautiful, it's too bad reality destroyed it. The plan's authors were not stupid or venal. They are doubtless good public servants who worked in agencies set up to prepare for this storm. And yet their elaborate plan crumbled under the weight of the actual disaster.

But of course this illustrates the paradox at the heart of the Katrina disaster, which is that we really need government in times like this, but government is extremely limited in what it can effectively do.

Katrina was the most anticipated natural disaster in American history, and still government managed to fail at every level. For the brutal fact is, government tends toward bureaucracy, which means elaborate paper flow but ineffective action. Government depends on planning, but planners can never really anticipate the inevitable complexity of events. And American government is inevitably divided, and power is inevitably devolved.

For example, the Army Corps of Engineers had plenty of money (Louisiana received more than any other state), but that spending was carved up into little pork barrel projects. There were ample troops nearby to maintain order, but they were divided between federal and state authorities and constrained by regulations.

This preparedness plan is government as it really is. It reminds us that canning Michael Brown or appointing some tough response czar will not change the endemic failures at the heart of this institutional collapse.

So of course we need limited but energetic government. But liberals who think this disaster is going to set off a progressive revival need to explain how a comprehensive governmental failure is going to restore America's faith in big government.

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David Brooks is a New York Times columnist.

The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

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# Bankers, HUD offer help for owners

*Mortgage payments can be postponed*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Two housing programs designed to assist residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina were unveiled this week.

The National Mortgage Bankers Association said mortgage holders in areas declared disaster sites by President Bush may miss payments during the next 90 days without penalty.

Cheryl Crispen, spokeswoman for the group, said mortgage holders who fail to make payments will not be reported to credit agencies and will not be charged late fees. Any payments missed during the next 90 days will be tacked on to the end of the mortgage. And mortgage bankers are postponing foreclosure actions against those in the disaster states.

The vast majority of mortgages in the area, about 98 percent, are with lenders participating in the MBA program, Crispen said.

Crispen urged mortgage holders affected by Hurricane Katrina to contact their mortgage service companies and inform them of their situation.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has set up an emergency mortgage program – 203(h), the "h" for hurricane – that offers 100 percent loans for housing repairs, rebuilding or home purchasing, according to Mike Anderson, president of Essential Mortgage LLC and a board member of the Louisiana Mortgage Lenders Association.

Anderson said the HUD 203(h) loan was available for borrowers whether they had an existing mortgage or not, a highly unusual provision. The HUD announcement and other disaster information can be found on its Web site at www.hud.gov.

Borrowers can get help finding their lender or service provider from the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions at www.ofi.louisiana.gov.

Further, the National Mortgage Bankers Association is attempting the set up of a Web service that will help mortgage holders to find their mortgage service company or lender. The service is not yet set up and represents a gigantic task for the agency, she said.

The Federal Insurance Deposit Corporation, or FDIC, is also putting out lender contact information and asking the institutions for their cooperation in assisting victims of Katrina. Information can be obtained at www.fdic.gov.

Sid Seymour, chief examiner of the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions, has operated phone banks to assist borrowers in contacting their lenders. Borrowers who relocated out of state can call (866) 783-5530, and those still in Louisiana can call (888) 525-9414. The phones operate seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Seymour said they have assisted more than 2,500 borrowers.

Most of the local lenders are in the same boat as their clients, dislocated and seeking temporary offices to get back in business, compounding the ability of borrowers trying to contact their lenders to discuss their financial concerns during the crisis.

# Region's phone service improving

*Damages repaired, systems adjusted*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Those irritating busy signals and congested network messages on your telephone soon may be a thing of the past.

After more than two weeks of sporadic service because of Hurricane Katrina, telephone lines in southeastern Louisiana are slowly returning to normal as phone companies not only repair storm-damaged networks but adjust their systems to contend with population shifts.

Meanwhile, the Louisiana Public Service Commission on Wednesday asked wireless phone companies in the state to give customers free service for September and October because wireless phones have become the only means of communication for many evacuees. Whether they will remains an open question.

Despite the overall improvement in phone service, about 150,000 BellSouth Corp. phone lines remained dead Wednesday, mostly in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard, said Merlin Villar, a spokesman for the region's biggest local phone service provider. Much of those parishes remain evacuated.

Outside of the hardest-hit area, most outgoing local and long distance calls Wednesday were connected on the first try, an improvement from a couple of days earlier. But many people calling into Baton Rouge and other southeastern Louisiana cities still had to dial several times to complete their calls.

BellSouth workers have repaired more than 100 breaks in the company's buried fiber-optic cable network that serves as the backbone of the region's local phone system. AT&T technicians had installed a new fiber-optic line between the Mississippi state line and Bay St. Louis, Miss., to bypass a pair of flooded computer switches in eastern New Orleans that are part of the long-distance company's high-capacity network in the region.

**"There has been a lot of progress in bringing back up cell sites."**
PATRICK KIMBALL
Verizon spokesman

Wireless phone companies also have repaired antennas, also known as cell sites, in areas that weren't flooded.

Verizon Wireless has restored cell sites in Armstrong Park on the edge of the French Quarter, on the roof of Royal Sonesta Hotel in the French Quarter and on top of a residence hall at the Uptown campus of Tulane University, Verizon spokesman Patrick Kimball said.

"There has been a lot of progress in bringing back up cell sites," he said.

Cingular's wireless network in southeastern Louisiana was 85 percent restored by Wednesday afternoon, Cingular spokeswoman Dawn Benton said.

Even with the progress, dialing into the region from outside Louisiana remained a problem for many, particularly during peak calling hours. To prevent the high calling volumes from jamming networks, some long-distance companies were limiting incoming calls so outgoing calls from storm victims and relief workers could be completed.

Other companies, such as Sprint, were rerouting many long-distance calls through other Southern cities because regional switches in New Orleans were submerged or otherwise inoperable. The rerouting caused problems for some Sprint customers along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Florida, Sprint spokeswoman Kristen Wallace said.

Call volume on Sprint's network in southeastern Louisiana has doubled since the storm, she said.

Wireless service providers encouraged customers to send more text messages because they use up smaller amounts of network capacities and are easier to complete.

The request for free cell service for customers was made by the public service commissioners, who do not regulate wireless phone networks. They sent their request to the Federal Communications Commission, which has jurisdiction over the companies.

Many wireless service providers already have offered breaks on some services, phones and accessories.

For example, Sprint customers from areas affected by the hurricane will not be charged for long-distance calls, roaming on outside networks, sending text messages or exceeding the number of calling minutes on their service plan.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com

# FEMA offers hotels business, help




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Metairie resident Harriet Cross, a florist, takes on a new volunteer job as a sidewalk cleaner Tuesday outside Bandito's Restaurant and Tequila Bar, which is attached to the Ambassador Hotel in the Central Business District. Hotels in the area are hoping to reopen quickly, since a FEMA program — which needs 10,000 hotel rooms — could bring instant, long-term business.

*Agency wants 10,000 rooms for 200 days*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Hotel operator Michael Valentino, with an entourage of insurance adjusters, Shaw Group Inc. construction experts and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials, tromped through Valentino's three French Quarter properties Wednesday, hoping that his hotels can participate in a program that promises speedy repairs and instant business.

FEMA wants 10,000 hotel rooms for 200 days to house emergency workers, and it has hired the Baton Rouge construction firm the Shaw Group to fix the damage at hotels, according to the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association.

"As an independent hotel, I have a better shot of getting services to my hotel by getting involved with disaster recovery people," said Valentino, managing partner of Valentino New Orleans Hotels. "I get my properties open, and there's a built-in market for some extended period of time."

With the muscle of the federal government and one of Louisiana's biggest companies, the deal is the hotel industry's best shot at making quick, hassle-free repairs, hanging on to workers before they take jobs in other parts of the country, and taking guests at a time when there is no tourism business.

"FEMA and the Shaw Group have the firepower to speed up the opening and reconstruction of the hotels," said Bill Langkopp, executive vice president of the hotel association.

The six-month time frame of the FEMA hotel contract, coupled with the projected April reopening of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, also sets a target date for restarting the New Orleans tourism industry. If reconstruction efforts go smoothly, then the tourism industry needs to be ready to go in April.

Many hotels sustained water damage from flooding or blown-out windows or holes in their roofs, and hotel operators fear that mold will set in if they don't fix the problems and get the air conditioning on soon. In addition, the hotels need electricity, water and sewer service to open.

FEMA declined to talk about its efforts to secure hotel rooms, who would ultimately foot the bill for repairs or how rates are negotiated, saying that details of the contract still are being ironed out.

Hans Wandfluh, general manager of the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street, is contracting with FEMA for 200 rooms for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Wandfluh's 500-room hotel is unusual in that it wasn't damaged, and it's already 60 percent full with television crews, BellSouth telephone technicians, insurance adjusters, the FBI agents and 30 employees who are living and working there.

The hotel is getting electricity from a generator and has enough water pressure to flush toilets and run showers on all floors. On Tuesday, a CNN news crew helped Wandfluh attach a chlorination system to a water pipe entering the hotel to make the shower water cleaner. Wandfluh also has a water engineer and exterminator on site to help keep the hotel clean.

But the Shaw Group aspect of the FEMA deal will help with the Royal Sonesta's sister property, the Chateau Sonesta, which is located in a section of Canal Street that flooded. Wandfluh said prices for fuel, construction materials and labor are going up by the day, and getting involved with the FEMA/Shaw deal enables him to skip the hassle of haggling for goods and services.

Prices are rising and supplies are hard to get, Wandfluh said. "If I would do this work myself, it would take a little longer."

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

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SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

*With the unwitting help of a classic French Quarter restaurant, a grateful Orleanian serves a National Guard unit a dinner to remember*

# Well DONE



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

I was walking around the French Quarter Saturday, surveying the hurricane clean-up efforts 12 days after the storm, when I came upon Finis Shellnut, who possesses one of the best names I've ever known.

"Come here," he told me. "I'm going to show you something you will never believe."

Shellnut is a real estate wheeler-dealer in the Quarter but is perhaps better known as the (now ex-) husband of Gennifer Flowers. They're originally from the Arkansas power network: He takes credit for introducing the Clintons into the Whitewater deal; she conducted more personalized business with the ex-president.



CHRIS ROSE

Together, they opened the Kelsto Club on St. Louis a few years ago and he held court behind the bar while she sang torch songs in the front of the windows that open across the street from the legendary Antoine's restaurant.

But they divorced just weeks before Katrina, which he weathered in the French Quarter. And after the storm passed, he immediately established himself as the go-to guy for goods and services on the street. Lumber, gas, cash, ice, backhoes, clean-up crews, cold champagne: Finis Shellnut can get it all. Within the hour, generally.

*See* **ROSE,** *page C-4*

# OWEN GINN, 25

**HOME:** *A house he shared on Gravier Street in the 9th Ward with his sister and 3-year-old daughter.*

**HAVEN:** *A cot in the bleachers of Stopher Gymnasium on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux.*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

I didn't evacuate because my sister and them wanted to stay home. Everybody was like, 'The storm ain't gonna be that bad.' So we slept there. In the morning, the water was up to our beds.

"The second day, we went up in the attic and we slept in there. We couldn't open the window. It was so scorching hot. My little niece was sick, and I really needed to get her some medical attention. I said, 'It's time for me to get my family out of here.'

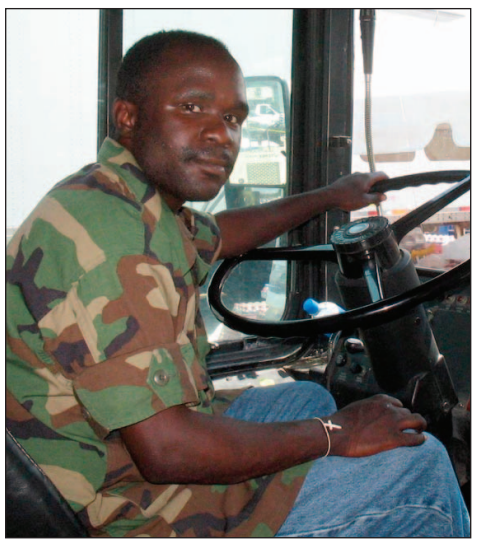
"So I got out, and I saw a bus driver on Canal Street by Foot Locker. He took like a stick and broke the (attic) window, and pulled them through there. And then they were on top the bus. And you know the emergency exit? He pulled them through there.

"The bus driver went to turn towards Canal Street. And we could see guys fighting, violence, a whole lot of bodies floating on top of water. He saw the guys with the guns, he didn't say anything at all. He got off the bus and ran.

"We were about to crash into the Holiday Inn, so I jumped on the floor and grabbed the brakes with my hands and pressed. I (grabbed the steering wheel and) tried to circle around. One (passenger) was kind of panicked, and I was telling her to calm down. As I'm driving the bus I see elderly women and I just started picking them up. Some people were on their roofs as we passed and they were jumping on the bus and we were taking them in from the emergency exit. I was trying to squeeze a lot of people in. This woman and her kid . . . I said, 'I'm sorry ma'am, we don't have enough room.' I didn't want to leave her out there, but I had no other choice. Ever since then, I've been worried about that woman and her kid. I've never seen them again.

"A lot of people were saying, 'Just please don't hit the bodies.' I was trying to drive around them. They were just kind of hitting the bus.

"I hit Highway 90 and I met up with a Thibodaux policeman and he escorted us



over here. Everybody keeps calling me a hero. I'm not a hero. If you were in New Orleans, you would've done the same thing.

"I've been here in Thibodaux for 15 days straight.

"I'll never go back."

*— As told to Stephanie Naylor on Sept. 12*

# RUSTIC REFUGEE

*A city boy takes shelter down on the farm*

BIG BEND, LA. – There is no Community or CDM coffee and chicory at the Wal-Mart in Marksville.

But there's a good supply of attitude-adjustment beverages for later in the evening and, more importantly, an even larger supply of the nicest people you've ever met, catering to all the lost souls like me who have relocated to Avoyelles Parish.



ANGUS LIND

New Orleanians and their neighbors from surrounding parishes are now domiciled from coast to coast, and I'm going to do my best to attempt to describe where I have temporarily put down roots. This I know: I am still in the Pelican State. But exactly where is somewhat confusing, because people up here call it by different names – Big Bend, Bayou des Glaises, Bordelonville.

Whatever you call it, it is on Highway 451 on the Bayou des Glaises Loop. This is not to be confused with an interstate loop around a city, like I-610 or I-310 – far from it. This is the twisting, turning loop of the bayou, a 50-mile long waterway that stretches from Simmesport to Cottonport.

And where I am on the loop is east of Bordelonville, Moreauville and Mansura, and southeast of Marksville, which is south of Alexandria.

Now that we've got that geography all cleared up, all you really need to know is that this is farm country. This is rural.

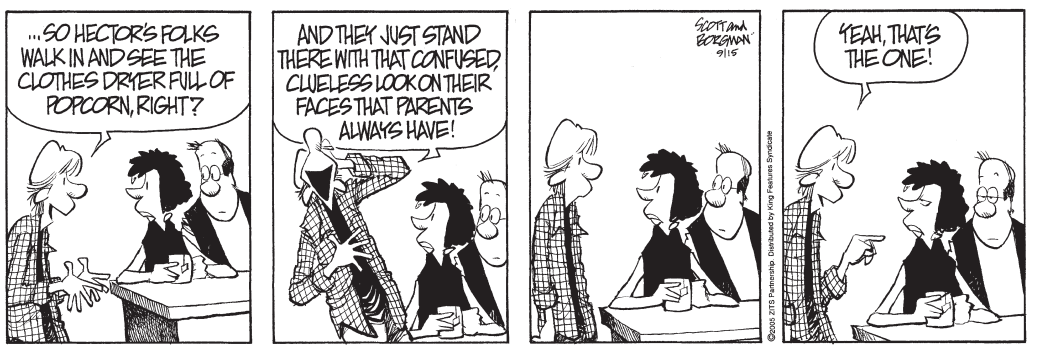
*See* **LIND,** *page C-4*

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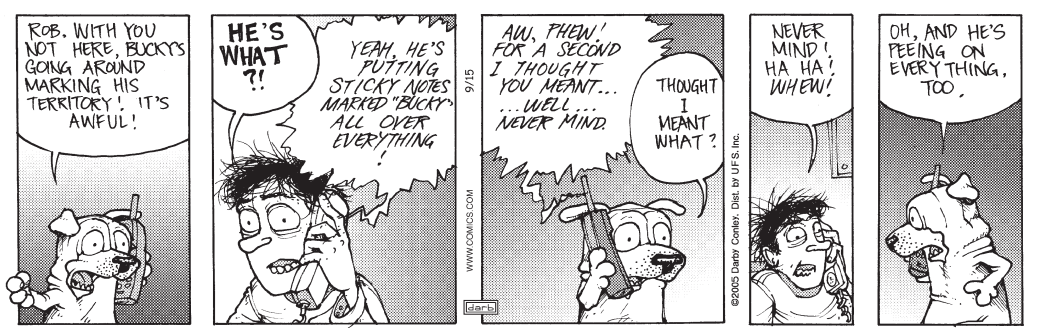


# COMICS

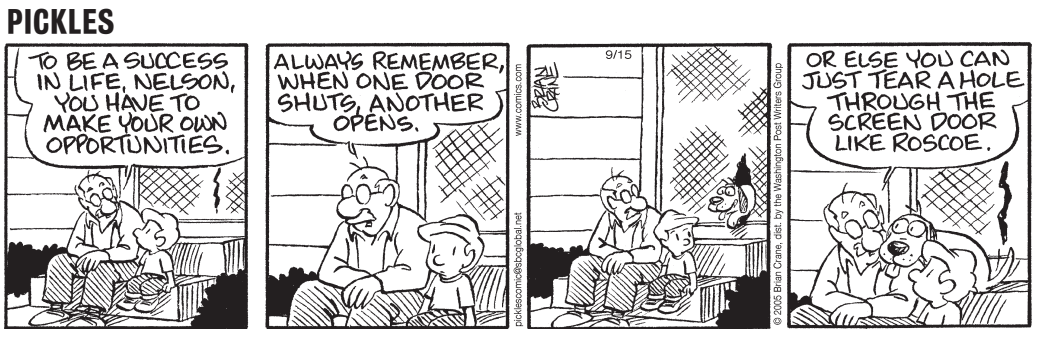
## ZITS



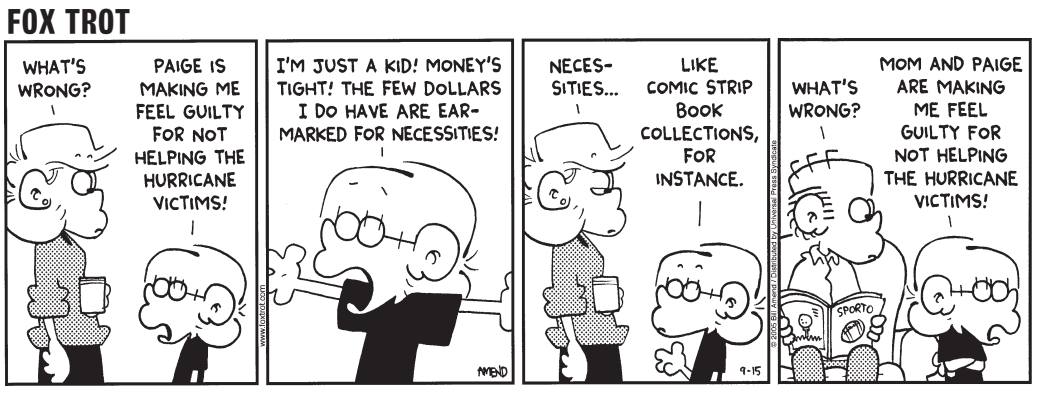

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



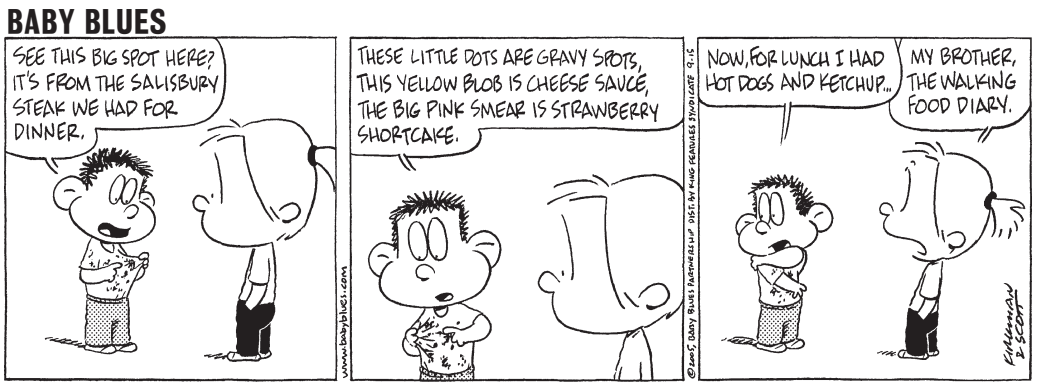

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARCTT

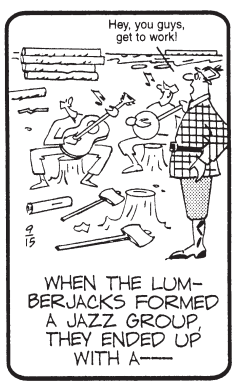
JOMAR

MUBHEL

ROBUGE

www.jumble.com

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Print answer here:** ( ) " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NEWLY MOTIF PUNDIT EMBARK
Answer: The doctor treated the cover girl because she was — A "MODEL" PATIENT

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | O1 | T1 | C3 | N1 | S1 | G2 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| O1 | O1 | U1 | P3 | L1 | R1 | T1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | F4 | T1 | R1 | P3 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| I1 | O1 | E1 | C3 | D2 | N1 | M3 | 1st Letter Double |

**PAR SCORE 140-150**
**BEST SCORE 218**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 140-150

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = 60 | C3 | O1 | N1 | G2 | E1 | S1 | T1 | |
| RACK 2 = 8 | U1 | P3 | R1 | O1 | O1 | T1 | | |
| RACK 3 = 86 | P3 | A1 | R1 | F4 | A1 | I1 | T1 | |
| RACK 4 = 64 | D2 | E1 | M3 | O1 | N1 | I1 | C3 | |

TOTAL 218

## WORD SLEUTH

C W U R P M J E H E C L Z X U

S Q N L J G L E C Z X A V T R

P N L J H A E L C A Y H W V T

R P N N D L K I E G E C C B Z

S S X S O B S W L G U I S R P

N O Y P U R X W L M R R L G L

I R C A M P A N E L L A J I I

D G T H M E F A B H I M T B D

E S K N A B U B B S T A Y S X

R E T R A C O W U U T A S O Q

P O N L K J K M H H G F M N D

Wednesday's unlisted clue: COLD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: RUSTY —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron | Drysdale | Marichal | Snider |
| Banks | Gibson | Mathews | Spahn |
| Campanella | Hubbell | Mays | Stargell |
| Carter | Koufax | Musial | |

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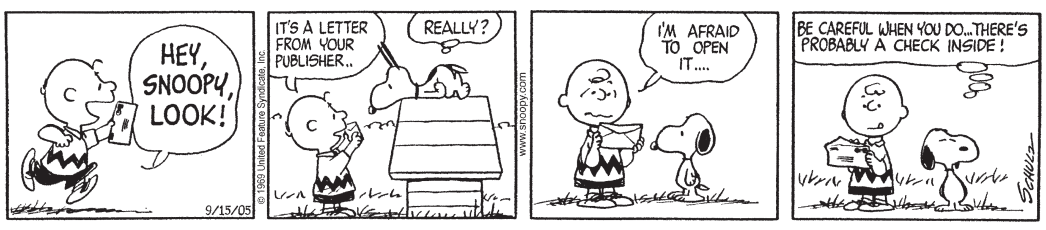
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| B | P | I | R | N | S | T | A | A | B | E | M | E |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| A | E | T | E | L | R | L | T | I | G | R | O | E |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| E | A | R | C | S | A | E | T | L | U | C | A | C |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| C | I | L | S | V | H | H | O | O | I | A | O | G |
| 8 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| E | H | A | W | I | T | S | O | C | G | E | H | O |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| R | N | T | O | K | O | O | E | R | H | R | Y | A |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| S | B | E | F | L | Y | L | E | O | R | V | S | E |

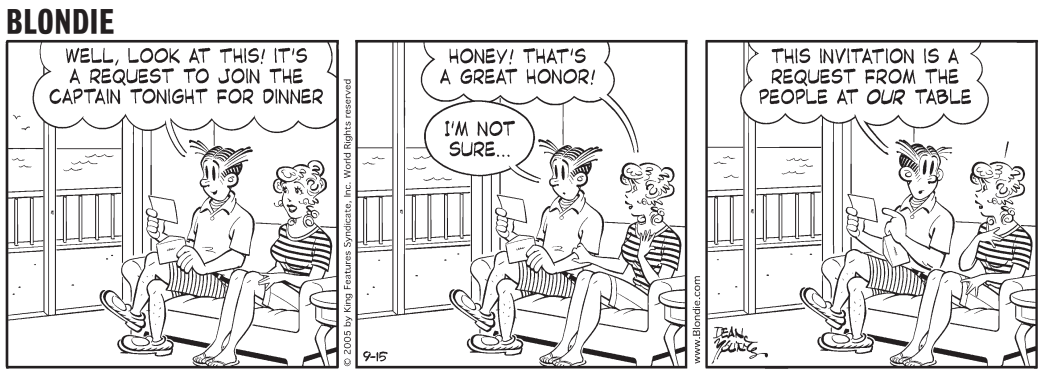
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CLASSIC PEANUTS




## BLONDIE



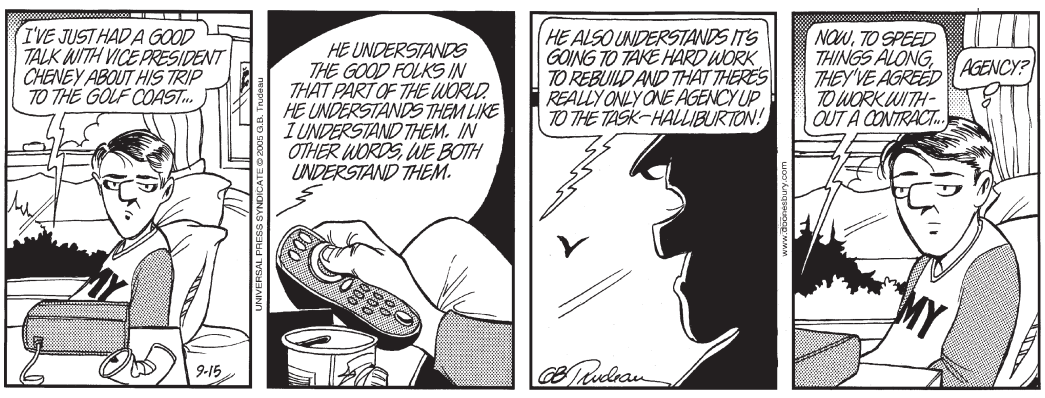

## ROSE IS ROSE



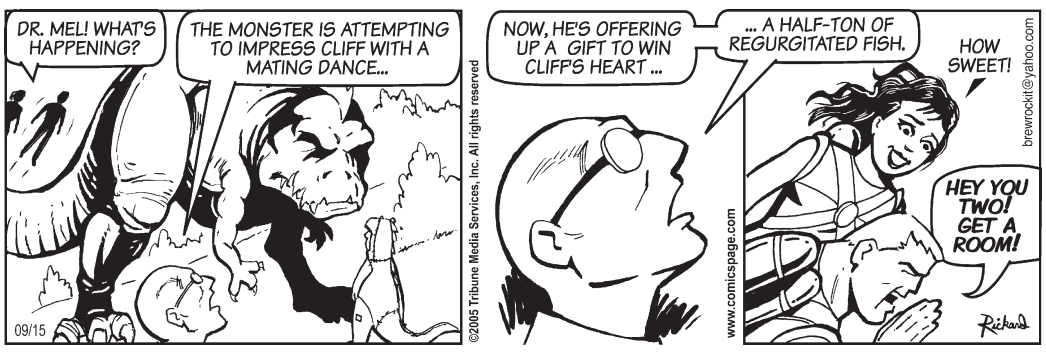

## THE WIZARD OF ID



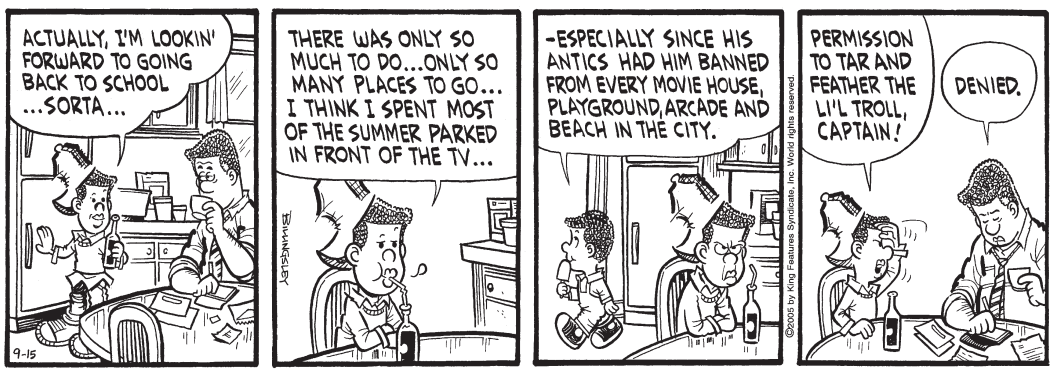

## DOONESBURY



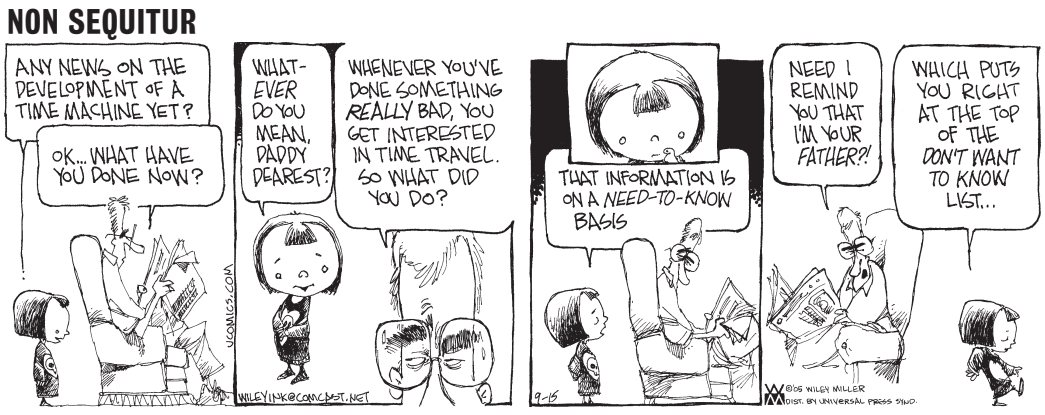

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



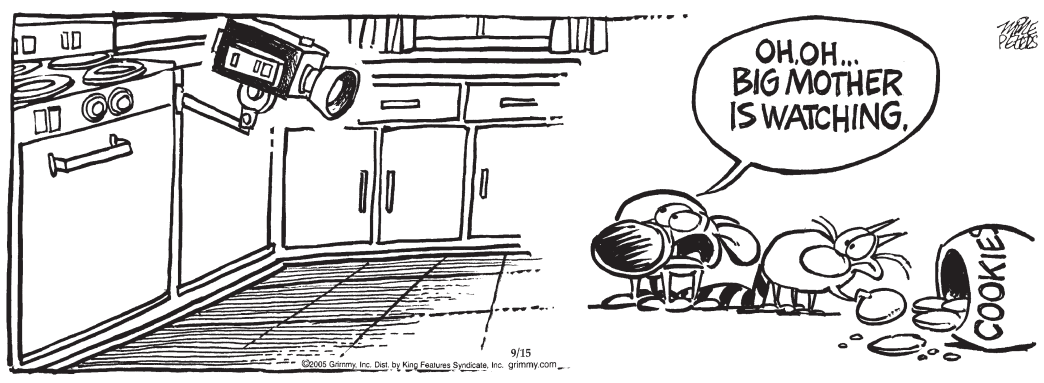

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

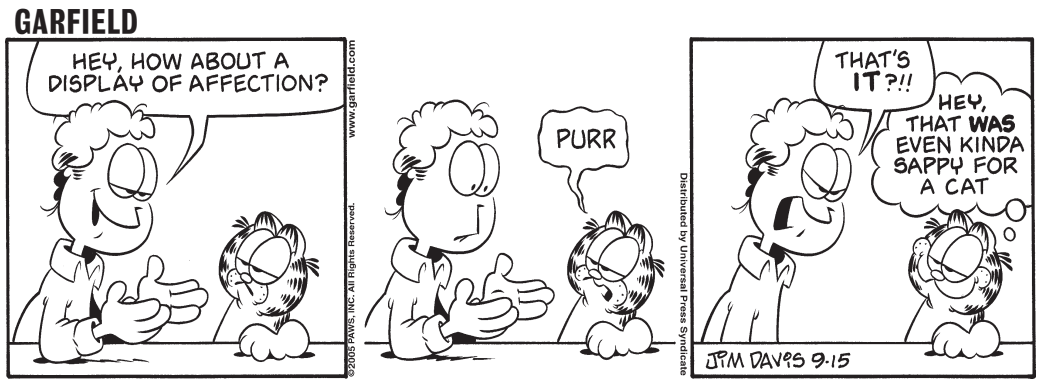



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

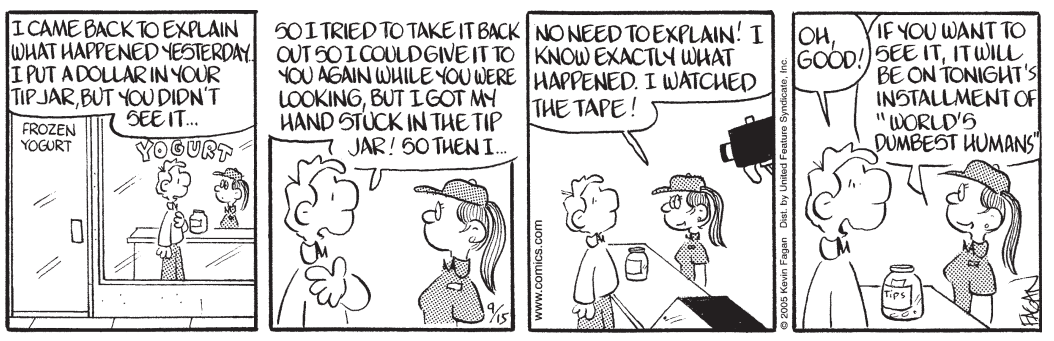


# COMICS

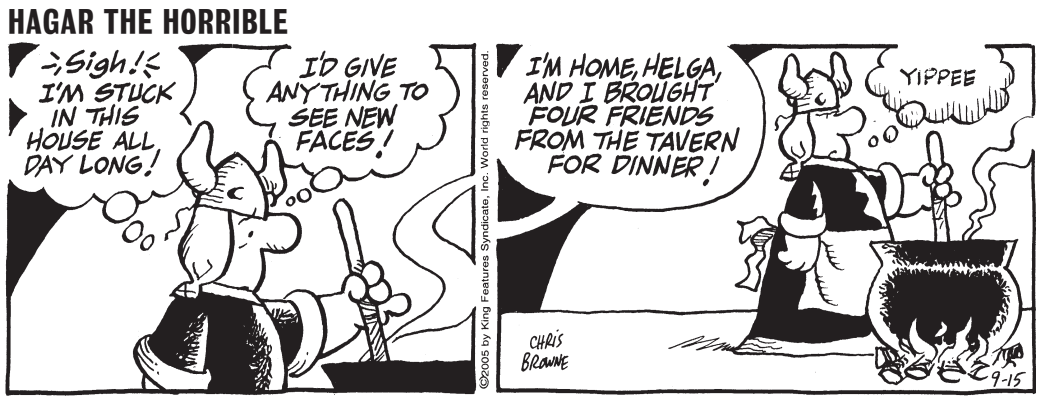
## GARFIELD



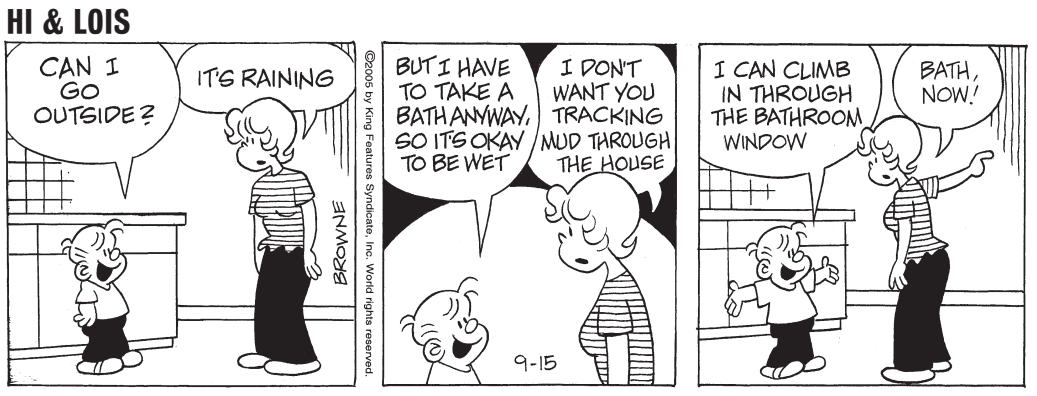

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



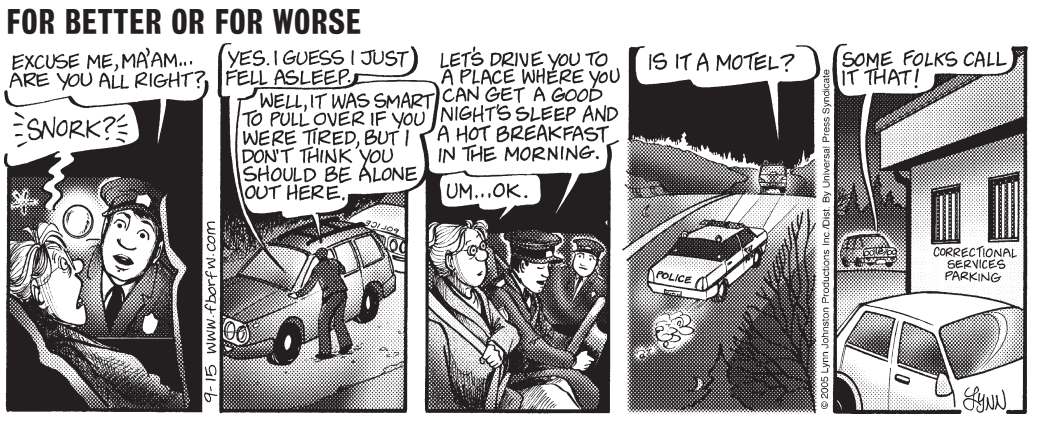

## HI & LOIS



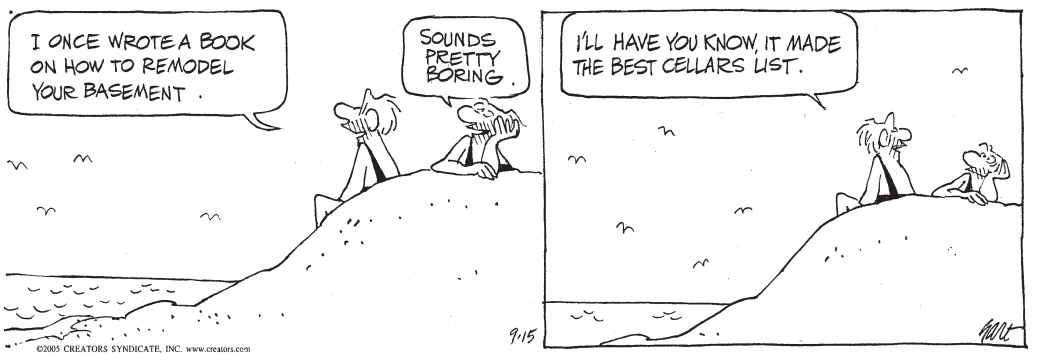

## BEETLE BAILEY



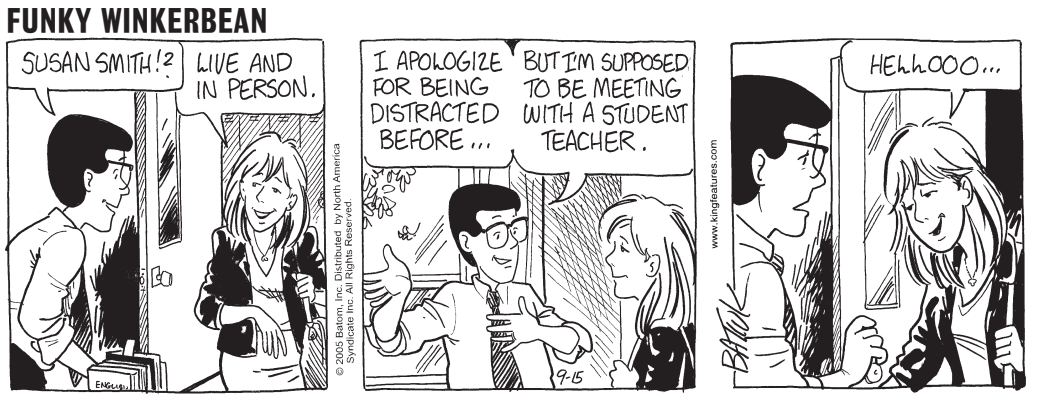

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.



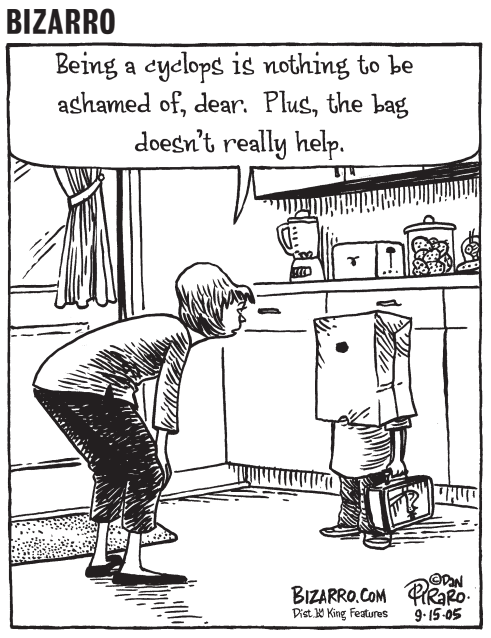

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS




"Hurry it up, boys. There are a lot of kids waiting for the homework excuse we built our reputation on."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Quick! Toss out the box of doughnuts!"

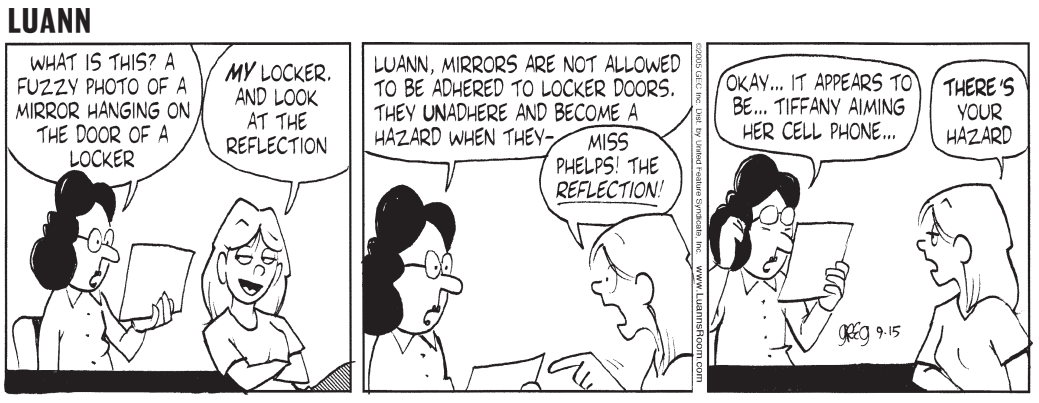
## JUMP START



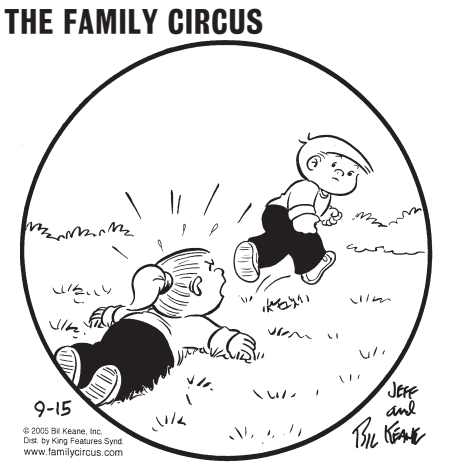

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



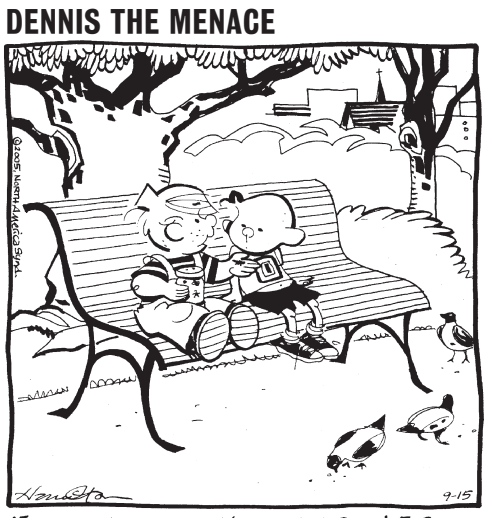

"We're playing LEAPfrog, Billy — not squashfrog!"

## CLOSE TO HOME




Weapons of mass destruction.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"I CALL THIS ONE MY 'SCREAM BUG'. I PUT IT NEXT TO MARGARET AN' BOY, DOES SHE SCREAM!"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ERGONOMIC CONCEPTS** — **Solution: 8 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | L | A | R | T | U | E | N | O | I | T | I | S | O | P |
| E | E | R | G | E | D | S | A | N | G | L | E | A | N | R |
| G | V | N | M | O | T | I | O | N | E | C | I | F | F | O |
| S | I | K | N | R | E | S | I | C | R | E | X | E | O | D |
| E | W | T | A | U | S | T | A | T | I | O | N | H | O | U |
| T | S | I | R | E | T | U | P | M | O | C | K | C | T | C |
| U | N | L | S | I | R | L | R | I | A | H | C | T | R | T |
| P | Y | T | S | Y | N | B | A | W | E | U | A | E | E | I |
| D | R | A | O | B | Y | E | K | P | P | Y | B | R | S | V |
| E | U | T | S | I | R | W | H | A | R | E | E | T | T | E |
| S | J | A | D | A | A | O | T | D | D | A | O | S | (T) | W |
| I | N | D | L | R | N | I | N | R | E | J | C | P | (A) | A |
| G | I | G | D | E | O | E | R | O | A | S | U | L | (L) | T |
| N | M | E | S | N | B | M | U | N | E | C | K | S | (F) | E |
| S | E | L | C | S | U | M | O | V | E | M | E | N | T | R |

Adjust, Awkward, Angle, Back, Bend, Break, Carpal tunnel, Chair, Computer, Data, Degree, Design, Desk, Exercise, Eyes, Flat, Footrest, Glare, Injury, Keyboard, Lean, Legs, Motion, Movement, Muscles, Neck, Neutral, Numb, Occupation, Office, People, Phones, Position, Productive, Setup, Sitting, Station, Strain, Stretch, Swivel, Tilt, Trace, Walk, Water, Wrist

**Yesterday's Answer: Estimate**

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CONTINUED

# A grateful Orleanian serves a National Guard unit a dinner to remember

**ROSE,** *from C-1*

"I'm like Mr. Haney from Green Acres," he said. "I can get anything anybody needs."

And then he proved it.

He led me around the corner, to an unmarked delivery entrance for Antoine's, where a guy named Wilbert has been reporting to work every day, trying to keep on top of the food situation before it all rots and stinks - and then he trudges "back over to the projects," as he says, to sleep in a tenement with no tenants and no power.

So Wilbert deals with rancid butter and tomatoes that have gone to black. But there's one thing he hasn't had to deal with, and that's what Shellnut wanted to show me.

He positioned me in front of a big storage cooler that is probably about 40 years old and then he pulled the door open and a cloud of frost blew out. Inside, it was cold. Real cold. Not only had the ice inside of Antoine's meat and seafood locker not completely melted – it hadn't even started to melt.

Don't ask me how this is possible. I do not know. And I did not take down the name of the ice company nor the refrigerator manufacturer but I should have, because they've got a good bit of P.R. to capitalize on.

Because together they had saved shelves and shelves of lobster tails and soft shell crabs and tubs of lump crab meat and filets and New York strips and tenderloin tips. Thousands of them.

This wasn't just a big pile of food. This was the overabundant but abandoned inventory of the city's glorious tradition of over-consumption. It was like looking at a small piece of New Orleans history.

And 12 days after the storm, when the city's survivors had long acclimated to diets of looted Doritos, Salvation Army cheeseburgers and pre-packaged MREs from the National Guard . . . it made me hungry.

And speaking of the National Guard: We're standing there looking at all this food and Shellnut says to me, "What are we going to do with this?"

He told me he'd been trying to give it to NOPD officers, but they were all too individually stressed out to embrace the concept of fine dining and there was no discernible central command to alert to this situation.

And this was one hell of a situation.

I asked Shellnut if he was sure – IF HE WAS POSITIVE – that this was what it looked like: Fresh food. I mean, how could it be?

**So Sunday morning I went back to visit Shellnut. "Are you sure it's OK to take these?" I asked, and he assured me he had cleared it with the restaurant and I hope that is the case and if it is not: Mr. or Mrs. Guste – or whoever currently runs that classic culinary landmark – we'll clear this up later. Somehow. I give you my word.**

He shrugged. He said this is how they found it, him and Wilbert. So we cut open a filet and we popped a lid on the lump crabmeat and smelled them and they smelled . . . beautiful.

So I proposed this: Uptown, where we have been operating an ad hoc "news bureau" by generator from inside a reporter's house, we are under the protective operations of the California National Guard.

They patrol our area and have given us their MREs (the beef ravioli is to die for) and they have generally treated us with more respect, grace and kindness than one has a right to expect under martial law.

Fact is, every one that we have come in contact with – and there are plenty of them – has been a Good Joe.

Back home in California, these men and women are cops and teachers and businessmen who were given about 12 hours notice to tie up any loose ends in their lives and say goodbye to their families and come to New Orleans to bring some serious heat and restore order on our streets.

And they're doing a helluva job and that big pile of meat looked like a real good way to put into action what we've been putting into words for them for two weeks: Thank you.

But first, I figured we better test it. Despite its alluring physical appearance, if it was, in fact, rotten – as every other steak in this city most certainly was at this point – then I did not want to be personally responsible for wiping out an entire unit of the California National Guard.

With all the bad headlines coming out of this town, that's not one I wanted to add to the pile.

So I tested it on my colleagues. I brought home about a dozen massive beef filets and I seasoned and cooked them and they were excellent. (No one would try the crab meat; despite appearances, the implications seemed daunting.)

In the morning, I polled my group of housemates and found no reports of constitutional distress – at least no more distress than usual, considering our fairly unhealthy living conditions. But enough about that.

So Sunday morning I went back to visit Shellnut. "Are you sure it's OK to take these?" I asked, and he assured me he had cleared it with the restaurant and I hope that is the case and if it is not: Mr. or Mrs. Guste – or whoever currently runs that classic culinary landmark - we'll clear this up later. Somehow. I give you my word.



So we packed up 240 filets and tenderloins and I dropped them off at Sophie B. Wright Middle School, where the California Guard unit is stationed.

Then I hustled a few grills off of some front porches in my neighborhood - which is basically in preserved physical condition, so if the worst thing that happened to you in Katrina was losing your old Weber, then I don't want to hear about it.

It went to a good cause.

Then I called in a delivery of 20 bags of charcoal from a colleague in Baton Rouge and we set up at the corner of Prytania and Napoleon, under the oaks (they're still there!) and we had us a Sunday afternoon barbecue.

And when I was informed that 240 steaks were not going to be nearly enough for the 600 Guardsmen and women based at the site, I dispatched a team of them to go down to the Quarter and find Shellnut – which is not hard to do – and they came back with him and also a few hundred more steaks.

The Guard, they went nuts. Absolutely nuts. As platoons came back from patrols, they were greeted by four grills going full steam, a much better smell than our city streets, in these hard times.

At one point, several company cooks returned and were thrilled to have some real cooking to do so they relieved me of duty. That was their prerogative. It is, after all, martial law.

So then I just watched. Shellnut and I leaned against my car and took in the scene and all these guys, they just fell over us with gratitude, like we were the heroes – an absurd notion. But maybe for one afternoon, we did a little bit of good on behalf of our city, our people, and particularly Antoine's world famous restaurant.

And with my story told, I'd just like to add – gently, so as not to sound like I'm complaining – but if we ever have a storm like Katrina headed this way again, if Wilbert or someone else down at Antoine's could toss a few hundred pounds of potato salad into that cooler before it hits, that would be great.

Because it would have been really nice to have some fresh sides with all that meat. Now that would have been something.

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Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

# In Big Bend, he finds the farm living easy

**LIND,** *from C-1*

This is John Deere's world. The mooing of cows, the crowing of roosters and the singing of birds wake you up in the morning and the calls of crickets, frogs and other critters put you to bed at night. And you can see stars like you never can in the city.

It ain't all bad.

I'm in a rambling old house that basically hasn't been occupied since 1993 and is equipped with the latest 1930s technology, such as a wood-burning stove to keep warm in the winter. The other morning it was 62 degrees, so I took a quick look in the stove, then made some hot coffee.

Some folks call it "the old Blakewood home." The original home was built in the 1870s, but the Great Flood of 1927 washed it away and it was rebuilt in 1930. The missus and I are calling it home for now thanks to a lifelong pal, William Marshall, whose mom lived in the house until she died 12 years ago.

We haven't yet bought overalls and pitchforks, but the thought has crossed our minds. We've seen lots of cotton and soybeans and other growing stuff that city folks like us can't identify. But whatever it is, there's lots of it and it looks healthy. This is a fertile area, no doubt about it.

And despite the depressing images of our city that continue to flicker across the TV screen, we've started to smile and laugh once in a while. You have to – because some of what has happened in our new world is funny.

We recently bought new numbers and letters to put on the mailbox next to the highway, exactly 160 yards from the house. I know that because I stepped it off. You have time to do things like that in Big Bend.

And there it stands, something I thought I'd never see: a highway mailbox that bears the name "A. Lind."

When an electrician drove up to the house, he introduced himself: Brian Bordelon. Well, why not? This is Bordelonville. The next day the TV repair guy came by. He introduced himself also: Stacy Bordelon, some distant cousin of Brian Bordelon.

We're catching on.

We knocked down scores and scores of wasp nests on the porches. We set mouse traps in the house and so far have bagged four. We washed dishes and pots by hand in the sink.

We hooked up a new "old" washing machine on the porch so we could wash the few clothes we evacuated with – in cold water only. When your gas heater has a butane tank small enough to fit in your average backyard barbecue, the hot water is best left for showers.

And hanging clothes on a clothesline is an adventure, especially when the neighbor's playful Labrador hunting puppy is trying to jump up and grab what you've just hung. Clotheslines were once a major part of the American landscape – you could watch a family grow up by watching the changing sizes on the clothesline. They're still around, but are rare sightings. We like to think we're doing our part to keep the past alive.

Our very first night here, as we put our heads down on an old four-poster bed that somehow survived the 1927 flood, my wife and I got a special treat. A skunk crawled under the house and sprayed it.

With all that our fellow Orleanians were enduring that night, falling asleep with a little essence of skunk in the air didn't seem so bad. I said a little prayer for Katrina's victims, for my displaced friends and relatives, for the uncertainty of what lies ahead. And I thanked God for sparing my family and settling me in my new home.

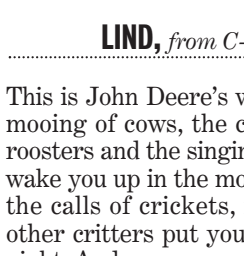
God bless Big Bend.

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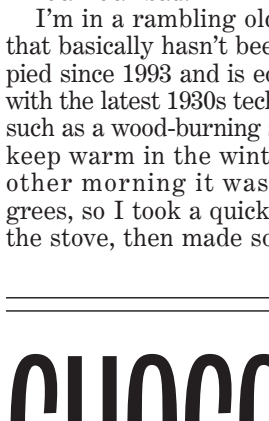
Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com. Or, you can drop a note into that big highway mailbox of his at 7464 Highway 451, Moreauville LA 71355.

# CHOCO-THERAPY

## WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*




**HOT FUDGE SUNDAE BLUES**
*By Bev Marshall*
*Ballantine Books, $12.95*

Gulf Coast residents know all too well about the "Hot Fudge Sundae Blues," a feeling "as rotten and low and as hopeless as can be" that only sweetness can cure. But imagining yourself in Bev Marshall's world is an antidote to despair. The Ponchatoula novelist has already staked her claim to the territory of Southern women's fiction in three novels set in Zebulon, Miss. — "Walking Through Shadows", "Right as Rain," and now "Hot Fudge Sundae Blues," which conjures those lazy summer afternoons and that time in a girl's life when she's praying that God will please — finally! — make her breasts grow, and that all the stories in Nabokov's "Lolita" will make sense, and that the good-looking swim instructor who's bound for Tulane Law School in the fall will take a second look. Marshall returns to the '60s South for this coming-of-age tale of 13-year-old Layla Jay Andrews, a 13-year-old who has messed up her love life almost as much as her mother, an Elizabeth Arden saleswoman with a taste for inappropriate flashy red dresses and the hots for preacher man who turns out to be anything but holy. Readers who have a lot to worry about will be delighted to make a great escape in her sweet, surprising, funny company.

*— By Susan Larson, Book editor*

# His disdain of marriage may hide fears

**DEAR CAROLYN:**
My boyfriend and I have been together for 4 1/2 years and living together for two. We have a wonderful, loving relationship that has progressed at a very natural pace for both of us. Lately, though, I've been wanting to get married, while he doesn't feel any great urgency. He does want to get married someday, but he doesn't feel our relationship is missing anything by not doing it now. Recently we were debating the topic, and he argued that in a relationship like ours, where we live as a married couple and have the same love and commitment, civil marriage is really just a societal construct that has no real significance for us. He does feel religious marriage would have significance, but totally separate from civil marriage, which I agree with.



CAROLYN HAX

The first part I didn't agree with, yet I didn't have any cogent argument for my view besides, ``That's just what two people do when they love each other and want to spend the rest of their lives together.'' So I've been thinking about it since then and come to this conclusion: Nowadays, with marriage not practically essential for two people to share their lives, it's just something that humans need and put significance on because they're human. Logically, he and I don't need to get married except for some legal and monetary reasons, but nobody is completely logical. People in our position get married because it has some sort of sentimental significance that can't logically be explained. What do you think about the significance and purpose of marriage?

*— Anonymous*

**DEAR ANONYMOUS:**
Ask a gay friend.

Those ``legal and monetary reasons'' directly affect things emotional and life-altering. Who raises children, who inherits property, who qualifies as family, who speaks for you when you get hit by a bus and can't speak for yourself. Before you decide what marriage means to you, be sure about the scope of those legal and monetary reasons. Check your employers' policies and local and federal law. Revisit Terri Schiavo.

**If civil marriage really isn't significant to your boyfriend, and if he really believes you're together whether you're married or not, then there's nothing keeping him from marrying you for no other reason than to make you happy.**

Plus, marriage is our society's way of expressing life commitment. If you aren't game to buck society, then you aren't. That's OK.

Something else a gay friend can tell you: The sole fact of being denied something can make it significant.

He's essentially telling you that his rationale carries more weight than your feelings. Ow. Maybe you'll never agree on this, but there are less dismissive ways to disagree.

Not only that — his ``logic'' had the neat (and let's call it unintended, give him the benefit of the doubt) effect of forcing you to put your beliefs under hot lights, while his get to sit there unchallenged.

Challenge them.

If civil marriage really isn't significant to your boyfriend, and if he really believes you're together whether you're married or not, then there's nothing keeping him from marrying you for no other reason than to make you happy.

Either this hasn't occurred to him, in which case he should be happy to marry you — or he wouldn't be happy to marry you because he has a legitimate, as-yet-unspoken reason for saying no. He owes it to you to speak it, even if it isn't a cogent or logical reason, but instead an emotional one. A fear of insignificant social constructs, perhaps.

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E-mail ``Tell Me About It'': tellme(at symbol)washpost.com; fax: 202-334-5669; or write: ``Tell Me About It,'' c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20071. Chat online with Carolyn each Friday at noon Eastern time, at www.washingtonpost.com

The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Thursday
September 15, 2005

# EMPTY FEELING

## *Giants quarterback Eli Manning's dream of playing in the Superdome takes a drastic detour*



AP PHOTO

Giants quarterback and New Orleans native Eli Manning has always wanted to play in the Superdome, but because of the damage to the building he might not ever get the chance.

**By Aaron Kuriloff**
Contributing writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – Eli Manning may never get to play in the Superdome.

This weekend was scheduled to be his homecoming – his first trip back to New Orleans as an NFL quarterback like his father and brother before him. He was supposed to play in front of his friends and family, against the team he worshipped growing up.

Now that dream may never come true. Of course, now it doesn't seem remotely important, either.

"My family all got out," said Manning, the second-year quarterback of the New York Giants. "They left two days before the hurricane. I haven't heard any horror stories about close friends or people we know. From what I've heard, those people have gotten out."

The flood damage and heartbreak from Hurricane Katrina are minor wounds compared to some of those he has seen on television and during a recent trip to the area.

Manning, who visited Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Baton Rouge with Peyton, has a hard-nosed coach demanding perfection, the hopes of America's largest city on his shoulders, and on Monday night faces his father's own New Orleans Saints.

"I grew up a Saints fan," Manning said. "I went to every home game. I remember going to one preseason game with my dad. We went and saw them play Green Bay, it might have been a scrimmage, where I was on the sideline and got the tee after kickoff. ... That was my team growing up."

The Saints also may be sentimental favorites everywhere else in the country and, judging by stories coming out of the Gulf Coast, a rare bright spot for many in the New Orleans area. But Manning is still planning to beat them as badly as he can.

He's already feeling pressure from Giants coach Tom Coughlin, after completing 10 of 23 passes for 172 yards in the Giants' opening 42-19 thrashing of

*See* **MANNING,** *page C-6*

# Hornets weighing Baton Rouge sites

## *Team still looking into viability of two arenas*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Hornets officials continued their reconnaissance missions around Baton Rouge on Wednesday, hoping to determine whether the city will be a viable place in which to play some displaced home games this season.

Team president Paul Mott spent the day dealing with what he called "internal issues" while NBA representatives, along with Hornets front office personnel Sam Russo and Steve Martin, went about gathering information on the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus and the downtown River Center.

**"Based on what I hope, maybe there's a way we could do that (return to the Arena sometime this season). I'd certainly love to do that. The way things are moving right now, that could be a great celebration of renewal for the city."**
PAUL MOTT
Hornets team president

Yet while conceding that, on Wednesday at least, it seemed doubtful the Hornets could play any games at New Orleans Arena during the 2005-06 season, Mott held out hope of a return to the devastated city this season.

Doug Thornton, regional vice president of SMG, the Arena's management firm, said Monday that damage to the Arena from Hurricane Katrina was minor and, with luck, the building could be operational by the February NBA All-Star break.

"I would say based on what I know, the answer is no, but I don't know if we'd rule it out," Mott said. "If there's no (major) structural damage to the building that changes things, so I don't know if we'd rule it out. I haven't talked to Doug personally, but I know he and his crew

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-8*

# Saints' cost to play at LSU $1.2 million

## *Bertman says school unlikely to make a profit*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — The Saints will pay LSU about $1.2 million to play four of their games at Tiger Stadium, LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said Wednesday.

The money — approximately $300,000 per game — will be used to cover game expenses and wear and tear on the field. Bertman said LSU will realize little, if any, profit.

"You can't run a football game in Tiger Stadium without 1,500-1,600 people to help," Bertman said, "and most of them are not volunteers.

"There will be wear and tear on the field, and I don't want to have to pay to make the field right. I'm assuming we're going to expend some effort to keep the field in shape, not that the field is in bad shape."

Bertman said team owner Tom Benson and the Saints "have been real good about everything."

Bertman will go before the LSU Board of Supervisors on Sept. 23 to get formal approval to allow the Saints to play at Tiger Stadium. He added there also will be a request to allow beer to be sold for Saints games only. The NCAA does not allow the sale of alcoholic beverages at member events.

Earlier this week, an agreement was reached for the Saints to play four of their home games at Tiger Stadium, starting with an Oct. 30 meeting against the Miami Dolphins, who are led by former LSU coach Nick Saban. The Saints are scheduled to return the following Sunday (Nov. 6) to play the Chicago Bears, and also are scheduled to play games there against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Dec. 4) and the Carolina Panthers (Dec. 18).

The Saints will play three other home games in San Antonio: Oct. 2 vs. Buffalo, Oct. 16 vs. Atlanta and Dec. 24 vs. Detroit.

Bertman said a typical Saturday night game at Tiger Stadium requires about 450 uniformed police officers from four agencies, all paid to provide such amenities as security and traffic control.

Then there are numerous game marshals, ushers, ticket takers, concession stand workers, doctors, Red Cross workers and ambulance personnel.

"You have to have electricians and plumbers available," he said. "It's like a large city, 100,000 people, on a given Saturday. The chances of nothing going wrong are zero."

Field conditions are a big concern, especially if it rains. The field is sand-based for better drainage and the added use could tear it up because it is designed for seven games per season.

Even more stressful for the field is that the teams are scheduled to play back-to-back days on consecutive weekends. The Tigers play North Texas on Oct. 29 before the Saints play Miami, then Appalachian State for Homecoming on Nov. 5, the day before the Saints and Bears play.

*See* **LSU,** *page C-6*

# Tulane QB Ricard emerges as leader

## *He says adversity last season helped*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Lester Ricard was primed and ready to go.

Since the end of last season, the Tulane quarterback had been preparing to take over as the leader of the Green Wave's offense. He had done his homework and lifted his weights.

Then came Hurricane Katrina, sending Tulane's season into disarray. But Ricard never lost focus. He just did his job – leading.

When Ricard and his teammates were uprooted from their home and their scheduled nationally televised season opener Sept. 4 at Southern Miss postponed, Ricard wasn't about to start asking why.

Instead, he took another route.

"Everything happens for a reason," Ricard said Wednesday as he walked off the practice field at Louisiana Tech, where Tulane's football team now attends school and prepares for the 2005 season.

"The delay was tough, not only for myself but for this team. I was looking forward to getting back out there and playing, but things happen and you

*See* **RICARD,** *page C-7*



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Tulane coaches are hoping the second-half performance by quarterback Lester Ricard is what's on tap for this season.

# Sugar Bowl eyes Baton Rouge, others

## *Hotel space is key to keeping game in La.*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

If enough hotels in the New Orleans area can be in operation by December, this year's Sugar Bowl will be played at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

If not, an alternative site, most likely Atlanta's Georgia Dome, can be host.

That's the message Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan and president Mark Romig plan to give to the commissioners of the 11 Division I-A conferences at a BCS meeting Tuesday in Chicago.

"Obviously this will not be a normal New Orleans Sugar Bowl experience," said Hoolahan, who got his first look since Hurricane Katrina at the bowl offices in the Superdome on Wednesday. "But I think everyone will take a little disruption, maybe more than a little disruption, to get this done.

"Our preference is to play the game in Louisiana, because the Sugar Bowl is a Louisiana event. But we are pursuing a parallel track to insure that there is a Sugar Bowl this year."

In the long term, however, the future of the bowl, which was first played in 1935, will de-

*See* **SUGAR BOWL,** *page C-8*

# NFL trying to make Saints feel at home

*Monday night's game at Giants Stadium to have N.O. flavor*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The NFL is making sure the Saints feel a little bit like the designated home team Monday night against the New York Giants, even though they will be on the road. The game was switched to Giants Stadium after the Superdome was deemed unplayable for the season because of damages caused from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said there will be Saints signage at the stadium, the Saints will wear their home black jerseys and the team's colors will be painted in one of the end zones.

New Orleans native Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis will perform the national anthem on piano and saxophone and New Orleans jazz trumpeter Irvin Mayfield will play "America the Beautiful." The band 3 Doors Down, from Escatawpa, Miss., will perform at halftime.

The NFL has designated this week's games as Hurricane Relief Weekend, which will include a fund-raising telethon that will be part of ABC's "Monday Night Football" coverage to raise funds and bring attention to the massive needs of the New Orleans area and Gulf Coast region devastated by Katrina.

The league announced that every game played this week will include elements that highlight and contribute to the national relief effort.

Giants officials said Wednesday several thousand tickets remain unsold.

**PLAYER OF THE WEEK:** John Carney, who kicked a 47-yard field goal with three seconds remaining to lift the Saints to a 23-20 victory Sunday against division rival Carolina, was chosen Special Teams Player of the Week by the league.

Dating to last season, a Saint has earned the award five consecutive weeks, the first time that has been accomplished since the award was established in 1993. Carney also made field goals of 28 and 48 yards against the Panthers.

**BACK TO WORK:** The Saints will return to practice Thursday for the first time since Sunday's victory. After going through team meetings and film review sessions Monday, the players were given Tuesday and Wednesday off. But the coaching staff began game preparations for the Giants on Wednesday.

"Everybody had Tuesday off to get all of their personal issues out of the way such as their housing, banking, cars and anything else, so they can worry about football the rest of the year," Coach Jim Haslett said.

Earlier this week, the Saints' coaches moved into the Alamodome's offices after spending more than a week working from the San Antonio Convention Center.

**IN DEMAND:** Several hundred fans began lining up outside the Alamodome ticket office shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday to purchase tickets to the three Saints games scheduled to be played in San Antonio. The Saints play the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome on Oct. 2, the Atlanta Falcons on Oct. 16 and the Detroit Lions on Dec. 24.

At a news conference earlier this week, Saints owner Tom Benson urged residents of the city to sell out the 65,000-seat Alamodome. "The initial returns from today's ticket sales effort have been unbelievable," San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger said in a statement.

Team officials did not release the number of tickets sold Wednesday.

**INJURY UPDATE:** TE Ernie Conwell (jaw), WR Az-Zahir Hakim (hamstring), LB James Allen (knee) and TE Shad Meier (knee) are listed as questionable. The Giants have TE Jeremy Shockey listed as questionable with an ankle injury.

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The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# Ticket prices set for San Antonio

*Saints season ticket holders get to apply credits toward games*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints announced home ticket prices and polices Tuesday for the three designated home games that will be played at the Alamodome.

They are still working on plans for the four games that will played at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

Individual game tickets in the club seating areas of the Alamodome range from $75 to $125. A three-game season ticket in the section range from $210 to $360. Individual game tickets in the plaza seating areas range from $55 to $90.

All current Saints Superdome ticket holders have the right to apply their funds to tickets in the Alamodome or Tiger Stadium, or to apply credits toward the 2006 season. The Saints Ticket Policy is included in this release.

The New Orleans Saints will play three games in San Antonio, Texas at the Alamodome, starting with the Buffalo Bills on October 2, the Atlanta Falcons on October 16 and the Detroit Lions on December 24.

The Saints will play four games in LSU's Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, starting with the Miami Dolphins on the weekend of October 30, the Chicago Bears on the weekend of November 6, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on the weekend of December 4 and the Carolina Panthers on the weekend of December 18.

Partial proceeds from all tickets sold will be applied to the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Pricing for Saints games at the Alamodome during the 2005 season is as follows:

Alamodome Saints tickets will go on sale today at 10 a.m. by calling the Saints at 210-208-9520 or Ticketmaster at 800-877-0898. Tickets are also available on-site at the Alamodome box office and online at both www.NewOrleansSaints.com and www.ticketmaster.com.

# Superdome 'home' for Manning

**MANNING,** *from page C-5*

Arizona. He threw two touchdown passes but also two interceptions, including one the Cardinals returned for a touchdown.

That looked familiar to many in New York. Last season, in Manning's first seven games as the team's starter, he threw for six touchdowns and nine interceptions. That stretch included four games in which he threw no touchdown passes, and one horrible afternoon in Baltimore where he completed four of 18 passes, earning a passer rating of zero.

Manning has made undeniable progress since then. He led a flawless 10-play, 81-yard scoring drive to open last Sunday's game, and then came back from his first-half interceptions by opening the third quarter with another touchdown drive.

Maybe expectations are changing. But on Monday, Coughlin emphatically said during a press conference: "We have to have a better passing attack."

Manning's teammates viewed the performance more charitably.

"It's a team game," defensive end Michael Strahan said. "Your quarterback isn't always going to have his best week."

Running back Tiki Barber suggested that the team was "probably putting a little bit too much on Eli," by not running the ball enough during the second quarter.

But Manning's not making excuses. "That performance was not OK by me," he said after the game.

So with all due respect to the memory of his favorite childhood Saints — Ricky Jackson, Pat Swilling, The Dome Patrol. – he hopes to find every weakness in the current team's defense.

"I still got to play the game," he said.

He's also a bit wary.

"That's such a strong motivation to play for, when you have people who've been through such tragedy saying, 'Hey, we're rooting for you. Go out there and do well.'"

He doesn't really want to dash those people's hopes, but it's his job to do so. And the Giants aren't about to turn down an extra home game.

"We need a spot to play the game," Manning said. "We've still got to play a tough team. Obviously, you wish you weren't playing this game at home because of the circumstances."



AP PHOTO

Eli Manning has had some ups and downs as New York Giants quarterback. Even after he led the Giants to a win in Week 1, Coach Tom Coughlin was insisting the passing game needs to get better.

But as a New Orleanian, he can understand what people back home are feeling. He has been getting reports on his parents' house.

"From what I've heard, there wasn't a whole lot of flooding and not too much damage," he said. "But it's still not positive in that respect."

And he really would have liked to play in the Superdome.

"Growing up, my brother played there four times," he said. "Our high school used to play there every year. When I got around they canceled that. So we never played there."

# Playing at Tiger Stadium not cheap

**LSU,** *from page C-5*

LSU associate athletic director Herb Vincent said the field will probably be re-sodded during a 19-day break in November between the Saints-Bears game and the LSU-Arkansas game Nov. 25. It was already scheduled to be completely replaced — drainage system and all — after this season.

Vincent said LSU officials got some tips from their trip to Arizona last Saturday for the LSU-Arizona State game. Sun Devil Stadium is shared by Arizona State and the Arizona Cardinals.

"They re-sod between the hash marks four times a year," Vincent said. "Skip always says when you go on the road, bring back at least one thing."

LSU may not be alone in the task. SMG, which staffs and manages game day operations for the Saints and the New Orleans Hornets, has offered its services in meetings between the Saints and LSU. SMG regional vice president Doug Thornton said that, while LSU knows how to put on a football game, there are some NFL specific areas such as field security and game production in which it might need help.

"We've not had the opportunity to discuss what role SMG will play, but we've offered our assistance to the extent that it is necessary," Thornton said. "LSU and the Saints want our help."

Other issues to resolve include hotels, ticket distribution and the Tiger Den suites and club seating. The Saints are responsible for finding the approximately 260 hotel rooms needed for the teams and NFL personnel. NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said he is confident the crunch on hotel space in the Baton Rouge area will have eased sufficiently by the end of October.

Benson said determining how to distribute tickets and how to handle season ticket holders are priorities and that he would set up a staff in Baton Rouge soon to handle that.

Bertman said Tiger Den suiteholders have the right of first refusal on "the next event" at Tiger Stadium.

"The suiteholder will be offered whatever package the Saints put together first," Bertman said. "That's in the contract. My guess is they probably should do that for the club section as well. I don't know how that is going to work."

# THE WORLD OF SPORTS

### LSU's Johnson is top rookie

Former LSU point guard Temeka Johnson was selected the 2005 WNBA Rookie of the Year, the WNBA announced Wednesday on ESPN.com. Johnson, the sixth overall selection in the draft, received 44 of a possible 50 votes from a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters. She started all 34 games for the Washington Mystics, and ranked second in the WNBA in assists per game (5.2 apg) and first in total assists (177). Among rookies, Johnson ranked first in scoring (9.3 ppg), assists, steals and minutes played (973), second in free throw percentage (78.8) and fourth in field goal percentage.

### NFL

**STEWART SIGNS WITH RAVEN:** The Baltimore Ravens signed New Orleanian Kordell Stewart to back up quarterback Anthony Wright. Stewart, 32, was the Ravens' backup last season while Wright recovered from shoulder surgery. "It's the logical choice," Coach Brian Billick said. "Kordell was great for us last year. A great team member, understands the role. Hopefully there's enough carry-over for him, verbiagewise, that he can adjust quickly. It's a nice comfort zone having him back." Wright is replacing Kyle Boller, who was injured in the opener last week against the Indianapolis Colts.

**MCNABB SAYS HE'LL PLAY:** Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb said he won't let a chest injury keep him on the bench. McNabb didn't practice Wednesday because of a bruised chest, but the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback said he'll play in Philadelphia's home opener against San Francisco on Sunday. "Nothing will stop me from being on that field," said McNabb, who was injured in the first quarter in the Eagles' 14-10 season-opening loss at Atlanta on Monday night. If McNabb can't play - he's listed as questionable – either Koy Detmer, who has started eight games in nine seasons with the Eagles, or Mike McMahon, who started seven games for the Lions in four seasons, would replace him.

**RAM EXEC IN TROUBLE:** Samir Suleiman, an executive with the St. Louis Rams, will be reprimanded for leaving a threatening phone message on the voice mail of a St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist, according to the team.

"It's shocking that he would leave a message like that," Rams president John Shaw told the Post-Dispatch. "It's the type of behavior that we don't condone at any level. He will be reprimanded, and it will be handled internally." On Aug. 28, sports columnist Bernie Miklasz wrote that he was disturbed by "infighting and politics" within the Rams organization, and said executives owe any head coach their support. "Be it (Mike) Martz or another man, I don't care who sits in the head coach's office at Rams Park. The head coach should be backed, not back-stabbed, by associates," Miklasz wrote. Suleiman left a message on Miklasz's voice mail, stating, in part, "tell your source that I'm not a back-stabber, I'm a (expletive) throat slasher, and he'll know the difference before it's all said and done." Suleiman, director of football administration, has worked for the Rams for six years. He assists president of football operations Jay Zygmunt on salary cap issues and contract negotiations.

**AROUND THE NFL:** Seattle Seahawks defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes plans to be at Sunday's game against Atlanta, but will not be calling plays. Rhodes was hospitalized last week after suffering from dizziness. He did not accompany the team to Jacksonville, where Seattle lost 26-14. Linebackers coach John Marshall filled in for Rhodes and will call the defense again against the Falcons. "He's coming back a little at a time. We're going per doctors orders on this," coach Mike Holmgren said. "If they say 'No, he can't be there,' he's not there." . . . Atlanta Falcons cornerback Kevin Mathis, who was kicked out of the season opener against Philadelphia after a scuffle in pregame warmups, won't be playing this week, either. Mathis injured his left knee in practice Wednesday, and the Falcons fear it could be serious. He was on crutches in the locker room and being sent for an MRI exam. . . . The Cleveland Browns will be without linebacker Matt Stewart and kick returner Joshua Cribbs this Sunday, but could have cornerback Gary Baxter back in the lineup. Baxter practiced Wednesday for the first time in more than three weeks after sustaining a concussion in an Aug. 20 exhibition game against Detroit.

### NBA

**NETS CLOSER TO BROOKLYN:** The New Jersey Nets moved closer to making a new home in Brooklyn when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted to sell an 8.3-acre railyard to team owner and real-estate developer Bruce Ratner. Ratner will pay $100 million for the downtown Brooklyn site where urban planner Robert Moses once turned down the Dodgers' push for a domed baseball stadium, prompting the team's move to California in 1957. The vote keeps the Nets on schedule to be playing by November 2008 in a Frank Gehry-designed Flatbush Avenue arena at the heart of a 21-acre office and apartment complex.

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**CLEMENS PITCHES DESPITE MOTHER'S DEATH:** Roger Clemens' mother died early Wednesday, and the Houston Astros pitched later that night in her honor. Bess Clemens died at 4:30 a.m. in Georgetown, Texas, because of complications from emphysema, an Astros official said. She was 75. Roger Clemens was scheduled to start a key game against Florida at home Wednesday night. The Marlins lead the NL wild-card race, with Houston 1 1/2 games behind. The seven-time Cy Young Award winner often shared his affection for his mother, saying her health was an important factor as he weighed retirement the past two offseasons.

ESPN ADDING GAMES: ESPN will start a series of Monday night baseball broadcasts and gain greater flexibility to move games to Sunday nights under a new eight-year contract worth $2.368 billion. The agreement announced Wednesday on the network's web site runs through 2013, and allows the network to have a team appear on its exclusive Sunday night games up to five times per season, up from 11 in a three-season span under the six-year contract that is expiring. Baseball is getting $200 million from ESPN in the final season of its current deal. The sport will average $296 million under the new agreement, a television and a baseball official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of a confidentiality agreement in the deal. "You worry about oversaturation, but this is a sport that its fans follow and live on a day-by-day basis," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "I do not worry that this will produce a glut." The sport's six-year contract with FOX, which runs through 2006 and covers the regular season, All-Star game and postseason, is worth about $2.5 billion. Selig and his staff have been planning to launch baseball's own cable network next year.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**BUCKEYE GETS HATE MAIL:** Ohio State tight end Ryan Hamby has received a couple of hate letters since dropping a potential touchdown pass during the Buckeyes' loss to Texas last week. Cutting over the middle into the end zone, Hamby was open when Justin Zwick's pass bounced off his chest and into the air. He had a second chance to grab it but was slammed by a defender just as the ball touched his hands. A touchdown would have given Ohio State a 10-point lead in the third quarter. The Buckeyes lost 25-22. "I can't think about it too much because we still have a lot of football to play," he said as the ninth-ranked Buckeyes prepared for Saturday's game with San Diego State. "I'm not going to lie. I think about it some times. But you've just got to move on."

**RUSSELL, BENNETT HONORED:** LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell and McNeese State's Trey Bennett were selected players of the week by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association.

**SEC WELL REPRESENTED:** In a survey of NFL opening day rosters conducted by the Associated Press, the SEC has five schools ranked in the top eight for producing pro football players. Florida State ranks first with 42, but Florida (37), Tennessee (37) and Georgia (35) are second through fourth. Auburn is seventh at 31, and LSU is tied for eighth at 30.

### GOLF

**MALLON OUT OF HOSPITAL:** Meg Mallon, who made the clinching putt when the Americans won the Solheim Cup, was released from a hospital Wednesday after being treated for a rapid heart rate. Mallon, 42, was taken by ambulance after closing ceremonies Sunday afternoon when her heart rate increased to as many as 290 beats per minute. Dr. Richard Fogel said she was diagnosed with a cardiac rhythm disturbance that results in a racing heartbeat. Mallon went through a procedure Tuesday in which heat distributed through a catheter destroyed a small piece of tissue where the rhythm arises. She is expected to make a full recovery.

# HISTORY IN THE MAKING

## Given the circumstances surrounding the game, LSU's victory over Arizona State will go down as 'something special'

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Three men, three different perspectives, one shared opinion - it's a game destined for exaggeration.

Political strategist James Carville watched every play on TV, hypnotized until the last play snapped him out of his trance.

Former LSU athletic director Joe Dean succumbed to ESPN's late kickoff, dozing off midway through the third quarter. His inner fan disrupted his sleep seconds before Early Doucet's winning touchdown, a blurry halo framing reality just this once.

And Sam Nader, a sideline staple at LSU for more than 30 years, was tall enough to glance over the barricade of photographers when Doucet stole a page from Peggy Fleming's routine by planting a toe on the green grass, three feet from the white sideline. On the long trip home, Nader developed all the mental snapshots he'll share for years through interviews and random retellings of LSU's 35-31 victory over Arizona State.

"Somebody once said, 'There's no great victories without adversity,' " said Nader, LSU's associate athletic director of football operations. "Taken just as a football game, this has to be one of the best. But when you add the significance of all the other events, it really makes it special."

Sure it was "special," but was it 1959 Ole Miss special, or Bluegrass Miracle special, or even BCS national title game special? It was definitely a great game, but does it compare with 2003's Georgia thriller or the 2001 SEC title upset?

Well, there are days to dissect this thing. With another off week, fans can catch their breath again one game into this slow-motion season and still have plenty of downtime to debate what rung on the LSU football hierarchy the Diversion in the Desert belongs.

"I think it's clearly - in terms of interest and emotion – got to be in the top five," Carville said. "From not knowing where the game would be played, to everything on campus, to having a new coach ... considering the emotional obstacles from a player's perspective, it might be one of the greatest wins in college football.

"It was a big intersectional game, and there are a lot of those. But what happened made it a national headline."

Hurricane Katrina evacuees were dying across the street from the Tigers' practice facility. The city swelled to a soundtrack of sirens and rumbling bus caravans. Fire codes became obsolete as players opened their tiny rented spaces and fit as many loved ones as possible, sacrificing beds for the floor, making supply runs well after 2 a.m.

Shyrone Carey couldn't find his brother. Many of the stores Skyler Green frequented growing up in Avondale were stripped to their structural skeleton from looting.

And then a week later, they played football.

"I was there the night Cannon made his run," Dean said. "I was there the night Doug Moreau caught that pass against Ole Miss. And I was there the night Eddie Fuller caught the touchdown pass to beat Auburn 7-6. I've seen a lot of wonderful experiences. But I thought this has to go down in history for us because of emotional involvement."

Carville received such a massive influx of adrenaline from the win that he couldn't sleep, choosing to yap on the phone with friends back home, unaware that Les Miles was delivering a relatively hidden speech. It had the powerful, vivid characteristics to heighten the lore of this game.

"Our team has had the longest camp in the history of camps," Miles said. "And it's been surrounded by a real-life problem, not a made-for-TV. A real-life trauma where friends and family have to stay in the dorms and the town swelled to take those people who evacuated from New Orleans. And we're treating people that are injured and disadvantaged 200 yards from our stadium. We have a scrimmage and Black Hawk helicopters are flying people in from New Orleans into the PMAC so that they can be triaged and move on to other areas.

"It's a terrible distraction. This team stepped across the white lines for two hours every day and they played football. They played hard. And they wanted this game for the people back home."

Earlier that morning, Carville told ESPN that only those from the region, who have an understanding of the Louisiana culture, could truly understand the significance of a perceived trivial event.



AP PHOTO

LSU receiver Early Ducet was the hero of Saturday's 35-31 win at Arizona State with his touchdown catch in the closing seconds.

"Here, there's not a second sport to football," Carville said. "It's football, football, football. It's just the nature of it. And throughout the state, Tulane just doesn't register. We don't have a North Carolina-North Carolina State or a Michigan-Michigan State. So you've got one school and one sport where people place all there emotions."

Nader said if the game were theoretically played in a vacuum, with no subplots or sidebars, Tiger fans still would remember it. Think about it. There was a 28-point fourth quarter highlighted by two special teams touchdowns and a 39-yard prayer into a wave of hands. That sequence of events alone is too corny for most studio execs.

Now set these theatrics behind a foreign backdrop passed off as a home game, with 18- to 22-year-olds handed the unfair burden to uplift a tattered region.

"Let me say this: We needed it," Dean said. "We all needed something positive to happen. I felt, even watching it, what a wonderful experience for us, because we've had so many bad experiences. It meant a lot to me. It almost brought me to tears."

# Tulane's Spincer gains strength in tough times

## *Senior LB keeps football in perspective*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — They met in the laundry room.

Tulane senior linebacker Brandon Spincer was washing his whites when he started chatting with two fellow New Orleanians. The three wound up in Ruston because Caruthers Hall, on the campus of Louisiana Tech, is housing New Orleans evacuees.

The two, both women, lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina.

Spincer said he knows his apartment and his parents' house were hit. But he doesn't know how hard.

"Now that we're there living with them," Spincer said of the women, "they see that we're no different than them, and in no better situation than they are. They're no different than these guys, except for the fact that they put on pads on Saturday and play a game."

Football is what keeps Spincer going. The two women, Spincer guessed, had never seen a Tulane football game. But they're going to. Some hope these days comes in the form of pigskin.

"They were encouraging us to go out and win," Spincer said. "Living with people who evacuated from different parts of the city, we feel blessed. It feels good to be in there with those people, to be able to talk to them and get a sense of hope."

Spincer, 23, has emerged as a symbol of perseverance – and a symbol of his city and school. Sure, all the Green Wave seniors were selected as captains for this season. But Tulane coach Chris Scelfo defines his weakside linebacker as, "the most productive leader on this football team."

Spincer found out a lot about himself when his phone wouldn't ring. He waited and waited in the days after Katrina, yearning to hear from his 20-year-old brother, Christopher. It took two days of fearing the worst before he found out the best – that his brother had survived and had helped lead people to safety at New Orleans' Fairmont Hotel.

"Everything happens for a reason, and going through a tragedy can only make you stronger," said Spincer, whose team will face Mississippi State at 7 p.m. Saturday at Shreveport's Independence Stadium. "It let me realize that I'm a lot more mentally strong than I thought. I learned that staying mentally strong is a very important thing, because all of this is really mental –- seeing images and visions of your home and your property and peoples lives being destroyed. I've been strong for me, my teammates and my family. That's what I've learned through this whole deal."

Being mentally strong through a natural disaster makes getting through the fourth quarter seem effortless.

Spincer's career at Tulane has featured stints at safety and linebacker. He was academically ineligible in 2002. Now he is on pace to graduate, and has dreams of playing in the NFL.

"I told him a long time ago," Scelfo said, "if he can go to the NFL, and he has a shot, then I wish him luck. But if he doesn't, he's going to be on my staff as long as I'm a head coach."

# Ricard more of a leader every day

**RICHARD,** *from page C-5*

can't hold your head down when you're facing such circumstances. You just have to look at the things you're given and deal with them."

While Ricard awaits his chance to redeem himself following a bittersweet 2004 season, he shows his teammates how calm he can be while facing a different kind of pressure.

"He's just been a positive influence," offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo said of his junior quarterback. "His attitude has been so positive through the three nights in Jackson (Miss.), the week in Dallas and now back to here.

"He's been smiling, and he hasn't been down at all. He's trying to spread it around the team. There are always some people who are unhappy about certain situations, and he's getting guys over it and getting them to the point where they can be productive."

That's just the way Ricard operates. Last season was his first as the Green Wave's starting quarterback after transferring from LSU and sitting out the 2003 season. He spent half of the season being criticized for his failures.

But things quickly turned around in the sixth game when he threw for more than 400 yards and six touchdowns in a 55-50 upset over nationally ranked Alabama-Birmingham.

It was during that game that people began to recognize there was a mountain of talent under an equal amount of rust. Scelfo said he wasn't surprised by Ricard's breakout performance. He said he saw it coming a week earlier in a 49-24 loss at Memphis.

"I think the turning point for him was the Memphis game," Scelfo said. "It was the week before UAB when Memphis blitzed and was relentless. (Memphis defensive coordinator) Joe Lee Dunn was relentless that day with pressure. But, every time Lester got hit, he got back up and set his feet and made the next throw. He overthrew our guys, but his reads and his decision making was right on."

But just as Ricard was beginning to peak, he broke his right wrist on the first series of the second half of a 45-31 victory over Army. He missed the final 2½ games, but a rough start had turned into a future filled with hope.

Healthy again and returning with valuable game experience, Ricard sums up the 2004 season with one word — priceless.

"You can't beat experience," Ricard said. "It doesn't matter how much film you watch, or how much someone tells you what to do. Until you're out there taking reps and getting you head beat in, you won't know what to do. I don't think I would have had the success I had last year had I not gone through that."

During the first half of the season, when he was intercepted seven times in the first five games, Ricard was not swayed by what others said or thought. The support surrounding Ricard, from Tulane's coaches to his teammates to his parents, kept him on track.

"I wasn't worrying about people outside of this football team. This football team still had confidence that I could get it done."

Even though Ricard had the kind of support from the team to keep him on the right path, he admits he lacked the confidence needed to lead the team.

"I was wondering if I was made for this," Ricard said. "Even Coach Frank (Scelfo) would talk to me and tell me I had to get my confidence up. He would say, 'You say you have confidence, but you really don't.' At the time, I didn't. I was doubting myself, even when I was out there playing. I was out there making bad throws and saying, 'This is ridiculous.'"

What now awaits Ricard is a challenge every bit as big as the one he faced last year. This season, he enters with 8½ games of experience as a starter and knows how fast the game is played.

"When he transferred from LSU, he still didn't understand the work ethic needed to be successful on the college level," Scelfo said. "He was always the best in everything that he did, and it was hard for him to understand that everybody was just as good as he was when he got here.

"Sitting and watching J.P. (Losman) work, I really think put it all in perspective. He had to change, and he did. His physical talent and preparation are going to take over because he's done a good job with that. You're going to see a better player back there, a more confident guy."

During the past six months, Scelfo has watched Ricard take charge – in the weight room and on the practice field. And he's watched Ricard show that maturity and leadership in the past two weeks when there was so much uncertainty surrounding the Green Wave.

"I think he's been able to draw from the tough times and last year's experience," Scelfo said. "Tomorrow's going to come. We're going to have another day, and he's going to get another chance to prove himself."

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AP PHOTO

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue and Saints owner Tom Benson met recently to announce the Saints are playing four games at LSU's Tiger Stadium. If there are enough hotel rooms in the Baton Rouge area available after the first of the year, the Sugar Bowl could be played there as well.

# Other cities lining up to steal game

**SUGAR BOWL,** *from page C-5*

pend on how quickly the Superdome is restored to playing status, something that is expected to take at least a year.

The new BCS contract cycle begins in 2006. The Sugar Bowl is scheduled to play host to the national championship game after the 2007 season and the "regular" Sugar Bowl under the double-hosting format that starts next season.

Hoolahan said playing the game anywhere but New Orleans would be difficult beyond 2006.

That could mean the BCS awarding the Sugar Bowl spot in the championship rotation to another bowl.

Last year, before a decision was made to keep the title game among the Sugar, Rose, Orange and Fiesta bowls, several other bowls - including the Gator, Cotton, Peach and Capitol One - had put in bids for what was being called the "fifth BCS bowl."

"I wouldn't be honest if I didn't tell you I'm feeling the pressure," Hoolahan said. "And I'd be foolish not to acknowledge that the commissioners don't have some of those thoughts in their minds right now. So we're already protecting our flanks. The best way to do that is a commitment to rebuild the Superdome bigger and better, and I am fully confident that the state will do that."

Romig added that the Sugar Bowl committee is dedicated to continuing the game at the highest level.

"Our job is to be part of the recovery of the economy," he said. "We realize that there will have to be a reassessment of the Superdome, and issues like rebuilding the levees will take first priority. But it is our hope that major league football remains in New Orleans on both the college and professional level. I don't want to speculate any more beyond this year, except to say that the Sugar Bowl will still be around."

For now, though, the focus is on this season's game, scheduled for Jan. 2. The game would match the SEC champion - provided that team is not playing for the BCS championship in the Rose Bowl - and an at-large team.

"Our priority is this season and doing all we can to help the Sugar Bowl be part of the recovery of New Orleans," said Big 12 commissioner and BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg. "But it's far too early to speculate on anything beyond this season."

Hoolahan has been in discussions with LSU athletic director Skip Bertman about playing this season's game at Tiger Stadium, and neither see a problem with the use of facilities or preparing the stadium for the game.

The problem is hotel space. Sugar Bowl fans normally occupy as many as 30,000 hotel rooms in New Orleans, something the Baton Rouge area couldn't approach.

But, Hoolahan said, many of the major hotels in New Orleans have indicated their desire to return to business as soon as possible.

"If they operating, they're going to need customers," he said. "We can provide that.

"In fact, we would be honoring our original charter, which was to promote tourism in New Orleans during a normally slow time, and it's certainly going to be a heck of a lot slower for a while."

That would leave working out the logistics of transporting fans to the game.

"We might have to spread the party between New Orleans and Baton Rouge," Romig said. "But everybody is dedicating their hearts and minds toward getting this done."

However, if there are insufficient hotel rooms, an alternate site within the SEC would be found.

Atlanta and Jacksonville, Fla., have been those most prominently mentioned, but Jacksonville appears out because Jan. 2 is also the date of the Gator Bowl; hotel space would be unavailable.

The Peach Bowl in Atlanta is scheduled for Dec. 30, largely eliminating the hotel space problem.

Georgia Dome general manager Kahlil Johnson said Wednesday his office has not been contacted by either the Sugar Bowl or SEC, but that his facility would be available.

Birmingham's Legion Field is another possibility, but that stadium lacks amenities such as luxury suites.

SEC commissioner Mike Slive said the league's preferences mirror those of the Sugar Bowl.

"The Sugar Bowl and the SEC share a long, rich tradition," he said. "We want to see the game remain in Louisiana if at all possible."

Slive also said that, although there is no firm date on when a decision would have to be made on the site of the game, a much clearer picture would be available by next week's BCS meeting.

"When we have enough accurate information to develop a business plan, we will make a decision," Hoolahan said. "It basically will be made jointly with the SEC, and we feel that the other commissioners will go along with us."

SEC assistant commissioner Mark Womack is heading a subcommittee acting as liaison to the Sugar Bowl.

Hoolahan, who evacuated to Houston with his family, also said that wherever the game is played, the Sugar Bowl would have no problem meeting its financial obligation to stage the game.

"The Sugar Bowl isn't going anywhere," he said. "The Sugar Bowl is synonymous with New Orleans, and we are totally invested in rebuilding the Superdome.

"This is an opportunity to look at a new beginning for New Orleans. We want to be part of that."

**METRO PREP**

**"It makes you sad when you think of the memories these kids won't make."**

TERRYL CHATHAM
St. Paul's cross country coach

# St. Tammany seniors lament missed games

*Athletes left to make the most of their season that remains*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

The vision was vivid, and perfect.

It was how Daniel Cassisa's first football game of his senior year was to unfold.

"It was going to be against Parkview Baptist, there," the Fontainebleau running back said. "It was going to be 80 degrees, packed, though mostly with Parkview Baptist fans because it was there, and we put a hurting on them, and I rush for 105 yards."

But the game never happened. Hurricane Katrina swiped the first football playing date off the board along with two others. There has been no high school volleyball cross country or swimming in St. Tammany Parish.

The seasons, though, can be salvaged. The St. Tammany Parish School Board cleared the way to resume practice for varsity sports, with the first available date Monday.

For senior student-athletes, however, three weeks of memories are lost. Three weeks of chances to impress college scouts missed. Three weeks of training gone.

"It takes you three weeks to get into shape and one week to get out of shape," St. Paul's cross country coach Terryl Chatham said.

Wolves senior runner Marc Stubbs said he knew this was his year to take command of the team. He ran eight miles a day five days a week with teammates during the summer.

But as Katrina approached, Stubbs was in a cramped car on a six-hour trek to Winnsboro. When he returned home, anything but sports was on his mind.

"It was like two weeks where I couldn't do anything," Stubbs said. "I had to work in the yard, moving trees and stuff."

St. Paul's finished third in the state last year. Without the training and early season meets, the Wolves' high expectations may not be met.

"I don't think we could be as good as we could've been," Stubbs said. "We can still be good. We just have to concentrate on ourselves."

Cassisa's team had high hopes, too. The Bulldogs are coming off a state semifinals appearance, their best season ever. Cassisa finally moved into a starting role after the graduation of running backs Steven Korte (LSU) and Christian Ducre (Tulane) and relished the thought of all the eyes on his team looking to him.

The Bulldogs might recover better from the disruption than others. Several players, including quarterback Ross Goodlett, were nursing minor injuries and have come back healthy. But Cassisa says he feels cheated.

"The first thing we always talk about is football," Cassisa said. "That's all we ever talk about. It's football, working out … Friday night lights and getting the first down and the touchdown — that's what we remember."

Seniors with aspirations of college athletics can't ignore that impact, either. Cassisa said not playing three games could have cost him getting noticed by college coaches and scouting services.

"That's been very frustrating," Cassisa said.

Stubbs said he planned to attend Tulane. "Now, I'll go to LSU," he said. "I'll probably (not run and) get a job."

Mandeville has one of the most heavily recruited volleyball players in Rachel Lindelow. LSU is giving her a look, but Lindelow says she missed her chance to impress additional recruiters in matches against St. Joseph's Academy and Newman, which were canceled because of the hurricane. Lindelow has moved to Texas and is enrolled in school there.

Coach Jody Walker said Lindelow will be back when school resumes in St. Tammany Parish on Oct. 3.

"I don't think it will hurt her," Walker said. "(College coaches) are wrapped up in their seasons now. They have pretty much done their recruiting already."

Nonetheless, with players scattered across the South and their coaches left to pick up the pieces after the havoc wreaked by Katrina, the "senior experience" is unforgettable for all the wrong reasons.

"It makes you sad when you think of the memories these kids won't make," Chatham said.

# Riverside sweeps East St. John in volleyball

*Lady Rebels triumph despite performance of Wildcats' Cooper*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

Both Riverside's and East St. John's volleyball teams managed to get a jamboree match in before Hurricane Katrina struck. But since then, neither team has been able to play or even to practice much.

But on Wednesday afternoon, they got to play each other. And Riverside got a sweep.

The Lady Rebels took a 25-19, 25-21, 25-21 victory in Reserve.

Marci Martin led Riverside with 11 kills, and Erica Oubre had 10 kills and four digs. Oubre and Heidi Garsish also had four digs.

They all had to combine to overcome East St. John's Ashlee Cooper, a 6-foot-5 outside hitter who finished with 13 kills and two blocks.

"It's been two weeks since we've played," Riverside coach Missy Martin said. "And we haven't even practiced much over the past two weeks, to tell the truth. They were intimidated (by East St. John), I know that. They were in the same jamboree as us and we saw them, so they were intimidated. But once we saw we could play with them, we just kind of went with it."

East St. John started strong. The Wildcats built a 16-7 lead before the Lady Rebels found their rhythm. Then Riverside stormed back, outscoring East St. John 18-3 to take the win. Nicole Poirrier had three kills and Ashley Heckathorn had two aces to spark the rally.

Riverside carried the momentum into the second game and built a lead. But East St. John tried to come back. There were six ties, the last at 21, before the Rebels pulled away on a series of Wildcats return errors.

The third game was tighter, with neither team taking more than a four-point lead. The last tie was at 12. Heckathorn had a pair aces and scored the winning kill.

East St. John coach Sandi Stein was philosophical after the loss.

"When you play against yourself all the time, you get kind of sluggish," Stein said. "We found out today that you can't play sluggish and win. They weren't as excited as they needed to be."

Nevertheless, Stein was thrilled that her team was able to play at all.

"It's huge," she said.

**KATRINA ROUNDUP**

# Flowing Wave still homeless for Oct. 1 game

*Tulane's game against SLU still looking for home*

**From staff reports**

RUSTON – The Tulane football team's next home game, scheduled for Oct. 1 against Southeastern Louisiana, will either be played in Shreveport or Hattiesburg, Miss., and a decision will be made by Monday.

The Green Wave scheduled its first home game of the season – this Saturday against Mississippi State – for Shreveport's Independence Stadium. Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said he would plan each home game this season on a game-by-game basis.

While Shreveport has offered its stadium for the season, Southern Mississippi has offered Hattiesburg's M.M. Roberts Stadium for its next game. The Golden Eagles are on the road that weekend at East Carolina.

"They think their community won't travel in mass to East Carolina, and would be respective and supportive of us being there," Dickson said. "Also, the Hammond group we were expecting, the indication was 5,000 to 10,000 were coming to New Orleans. And the drive (to Hattiesburg) is under two hours.

"The only part I'm uncertain about is I'm not sure how convenient it is for displaced New Orleanians. So we're weighing that against whatever we see happen this weekend in Shreveport."

Dickson also said his intent is to play at least one of Tulane's games in Mobile, Ala., at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

"We just have to figure out the appropriate one," Dickson said. "We've always had a good following across the Gulf Coast. And it's still a two-hour drive from New Orleans. … Considering we're not at home, we have got to find the place that's most advantageous in all aspects. Not only for convenience but also at the gates. Those are two pieces that have to keep this account alive.

"(Tulane's players) know they're not going to be home. Rather than saying this one house is the next best thing to home, they're open to kind of being America's team, and going into environments that embrace them."

– Benjamin Hochman

### Hornets to visit shelter

The New Orleans Hornets announced Wednesday that owner George Shinn and six players will arrive in Baton Rouge on Thursday to visit three evacuation shelters.

"This is just the beginning of our commitment to provide relief to our family, friends and fans who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina," Shinn said. "New Orleans is our home, and we are focused on helping to rebuild and revitalize our great city."

Louisiana natives P.J. Brown and Brandon Bass will join J.R. Smith, Chris Paul,

Chris Andersen and David West on the tour of the shelters.

The tour will begin at Destiny Baptist Church, located at 13855 Plank Road, from

11 a.m.-noon. From there, it will continue to Istrouma Baptist Church at 10500 Sam Rushing Road from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. The tour will conclude at the Baton Rouge Rivercenter at 275 South River Road from 3-4 p.m.

Shinn and the players will be delivering two tractor trailers full of goods (supplied by the National Basketball Players Association's Operation Rebound and Feed The Children), meeting with evacuees, signing autographs and posing for pictures at all three locations.

The NBPA will also be spearheading a relief effort tour in Mississippi on Thursday.

### High school volleyball

Covington High volleyball coach Christine Beauvais said her squad will have a meeting at the school at 3 p.m. Monday. Please contact the school at (985) 892-3422 with any questions.

# Hornets hope to be in Arena by spring

**HORNETS,** *from page C-5*

are working hard. Everything is changing daily. We want to stay connected.

"Based on what I hope, maybe there's a way we could do that (return to the Arena sometime this season). I'd certainly love to do that. The way things are moving right now, that could be a great celebration of renewal for the city. It's very encouraging. The sense of optimism we're seeing now is lifting all of our spirits."

Mott said the Hornets have gleaned enough information from Oklahoma City, which is likely to host part of the Hornets' home season this year, along with Baton Rouge.

"I think we've got a good feeling about the opportunities there," Mott said. "We know about Oklahoma City. Now we've got to confirm where we are with Baton Rouge."

Of the two facilities in Baton Rouge, Mott said the priority would be to play at the PMAC, "because it's probably more ready for NBA games."

As part of a two-day visit, Mott and his staff will also be touring potential practice facilities as well as investigating corporate housing for employees and possible office space.

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**OFFICIALS SAY MARDI GRAS WILL GO ON** See Metro


# The Times-Picayune

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## DAY 18 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**558**

Congress passes tax-relief bills aimed at helping Katrina victims, **See A-2**



Blanco disputes criticism by the former FEMA chief that she and her staff ineffectively responded as the disaster unfolded, **See A-3**

Louisiana officials are asking the feds for emergency financing and fast-track permitting for a $34 billion hurricane protection and coastal restoration plan, **See A-4**

Jefferson officials want to start next hurricane season with 'safe houses' for drainage station crews, **See A-5**

St. Bernard Parish evacuees to return beginning Saturday under a plan for a staggered re-entry, **See A-8**

Some in poor neighborhoods stay behind to help clean up storm's mess, **See Metro**

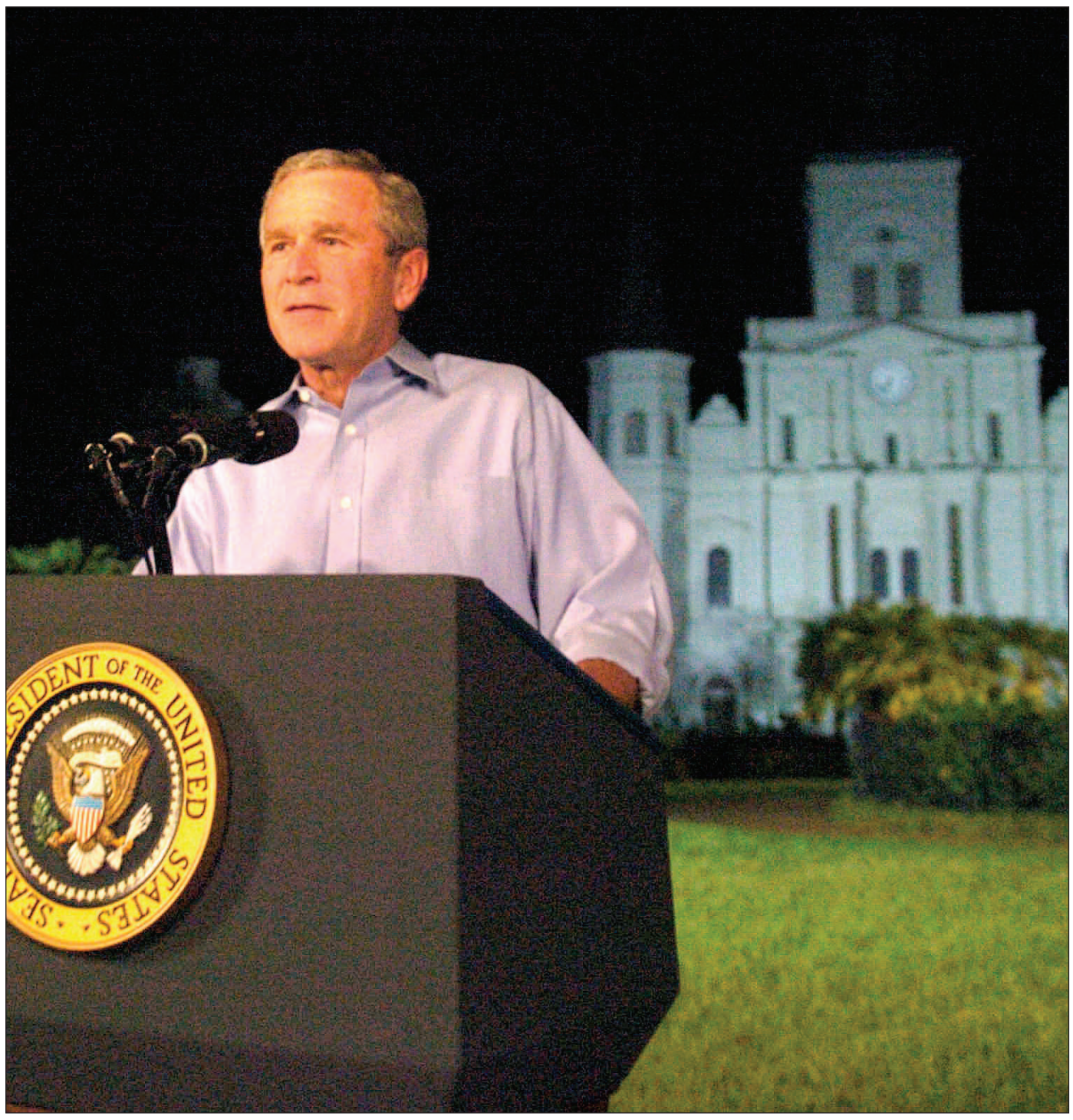
Kenner, Harahan residents return, **See Metro**

The Orleans Parish School Board members pledge to get the city's schools open quickly, **See Metro**

Funeral for teen killed in crash disrupted by storm finally set, **See Metro**

## FROM JACKSON SQUARE, BUSH FOCUSES ON REBUILDING

# 'There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans'



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Standing alone in front of St. Louis Cathedral, President Bush on Thursday vowed to the state and the nation that the federal government would make a massive commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast region.

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

President Bush fixed his gaze on the future of New Orleans Thursday night in a prime-time speech to the nation from the city's high ground in Jackson Square, saying that the federal government would "do what it takes … stay as long as it takes" to rebuild the city and the storm-shattered Gulf region.

"All who question the future of the Crescent City need to know: There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again," Bush said, standing with the St. Louis Cathedral and the statue of Andrew Jackson as a backdrop.

Visiting the city for the third time since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, Bush is seeking to find his voice and political footing in the midst of heavy criticism about the government's post-storm recovery efforts. The confused and halting federal response in the aftermath of the hurricane as anarchy erupted in the flooded city has helped drive his popularity to the lowest levels of his presidency.

Bush acknowledged the disaster response problems, but focused mainly on the enormous tasks ahead: cleaning up, rebuilding and resettling the region and planning better to deal with future catastrophes.

The White House and Congress have loosened the purse strings in the aftermath of Katrina, already approving $62.3 billion in federal funds for the post-disaster cleanup and rebuilding. Before it's done, the figure is expected to exceed $200 billion, far above the federal price tag of any disaster in the nation's history.

Some critics have questioned if the government knows what it is doing dispensing so much money so quickly – and especially whether the small and beleaguered Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will administer much of the aid and reconstruction contracts, has the resources to handle so much cash.

*See* **BUSH,** *page A-14*

# Nagin maps out return to N.O.

*Some businesses can come back Saturday*

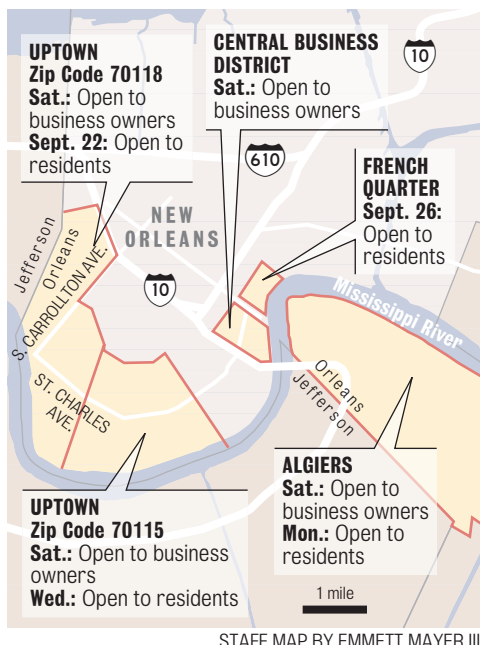
**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

New Orleans businesses and residents can begin returning to four unflooded parts of the city on a staggered schedule that begins this weekend for some, Mayor Ray Nagin announced Thursday.

"It's a good day in New Orleans," Nagin said at a morning news conference. "The sun is shining. We're bringing New Orleans back and this is our first step. This city will start to breathe again."

The announcement followed the release Wednesday of tests by the Environmental Protection Agency that found air quality satisfactory in the city, but high concentrations of pollutants in lingering floodwaters and the mud left behind after they recede.

*See* **NAGIN,** *page A-12*




STAFF MAP BY EMMETT MAYER III

# Floods not included in most policies

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — In an attempt to force insurance companies to cover billions of dollars in hurricane damage instead of foisting it on the federal government, a group of 15 families from the New Orleans area filed suit Thursday asking a state judge to rule that any flooding from Katrina should be covered by homeowners policies.

The class-action lawsuit, which does not seek any monetary damages, came amid a chorus of complaints from state lawmakers

*See* **INSURANCE,** *page A-15*

# HANO relocates to Houston to place La. residents

**By Laura Maggi and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — As the federal government begins moving 200,000 mobile housing units into Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, the Housing Authority of New Orleans has relocated temporarily to Houston and is placing thousands of former city residents who receive public housing assistance into homes throughout Texas.

The events highlight the social and economic challenges of returning families and workers to New Orleans, as local and federal authorities struggle to meet the immediate housing needs of displaced citizens while hoping as many as possible can move back to the city in the long term.

At least 5,000 former Orleans Parish residents who fled to Houston are getting housing assistance, either in public housing developments or from so-called Section 8 vouchers that help people pay for housing in private homes or apartments, said Adonis Expose, director of communications for HANO.

The housing assistance is a federal benefit that people can take with them when they move, and Expose said HANO is having success finding housing for those people in a number of Texas cities.

"The reality is, if they're doing better where they are, they're probably not coming back," Expose said.

That potential outcome chills some local politicians. State Sen.

*See* **HOUSING,** *page A-12*


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**EVENING STORMS**
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# La. treasurer says local governments may default

*Lost tax revenue risky, he warns*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — State Treasurer John Kennedy said Thursday that although he is confident the state can remain fiscally solvent in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he is not as confident that local governments can weather the loss of tax revenue.

"The real challenge in the state of Louisiana is going to be local government," Kennedy said as the state Bond Commission convened for the first time since the storm hit Aug. 29.

Local governments in the areas affected by Katrina owe a combined $8.1 billion in bond debt, Kennedy said, only $4 billion of which is covered by insurance. "I cannot guarantee you that there will not be defaults at the local government level," he said.

Any city or parish that wants to file for bankruptcy must first get permission from the Bond Commission, Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he has proposed to the National Bond Lawyers Association and the state's congressional delegation that a pool of federal money be established for local governments that are in danger of defaulting on debt payments. That proposal could be included as part of a broad relief package the delegation is crafting.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said earlier this week that the city is essentially broke, even though it's expected to receive $102 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency money this week for overtime and equipment costs associated with the storm.

Kennedy also is working with Gov. Kathleen Blanco's office on a proposal that would enable Louisiana banks certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration to be designated as "preferred" lenders, which would speed the flow of government-guaranteed loans to businesses affected by the storm.

Although the state budget is preparing for a big storm-related hit as much of its New Orleans-area tax base receded with the floodwater, Kennedy said the $387 million in the state's rainy-day fund, along with two lines of credit worth $200 million each, will be enough to avert bankruptcy.

Credit-rating agencies on Wall Street are paying close attention to see whether the state can pay its bond obligations, and they put Louisiana on a "watch list" shortly after the storm.

State officials are still weeks away from determining how much tax revenue will be lost due to Katrina. Charles Castille, undersecretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, said the agency won't have a rough estimate until Oct. 1 on how the $5.3 billion Medicaid budget will be affected, and it likely will be several weeks after that before the agency has more definitive projections.

Castille said he expects the state will see higher-than-projected health care costs for the month of September due to storm-related illness and injuries, and a rush of new applicants for public assistance. After that, however, "I think you'll see a decline (in costs) because of the mass migration of Medicaid recipients to other states."

But it's too soon to tell whether that will be enough to offset the loss of tax revenue from the New Orleans area.

"We just don't know," he said.

• • • • • •

Jan Moller can be reached at tpicbr@aol.com

# Katrina tax relief passes House, Senate

*Bills expected to cost $82 billion over 10 years*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House and Senate passed tax-relief bills Thursday in the continuing barrage of legislation aimed at helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. Yet the partisan bickering still rages over how to handle the post-storm investigation.

Estimated to cost $82 billion over 10 years, the tax bills were passed unanimously by the House and Senate, and contain minor differences that will have to be reconciled. Both chambers waived tax penalties on early withdrawal from 401(k) retirement accounts, created tax deductions for those housing evacuees and businesses willing to hire them, and approved tax incentives for charitable giving to relief and recovery efforts.

"This can't come soon enough," Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the tax-writing Finance Committee. "We need to get these tax incentives on the books and help people make a fresh start."

Grassley and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., also are pushing legislation estimated to cost $5 billion to $7 billion to extend health insurance coverage, including mental health care, to storm victims by loosening Medicaid eligibility rules. They are hoping for a vote this week.

The flurry of activity on Capitol Hill coincides with President Bush's fourth visit to the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast since the storm hit Aug. 29. The president addressed the nation Thursday night from Jackson Square in New Orleans. A separate congressional delegation is expected to visit today.

The Senate was expected to pass a House-approved bill to ease the 30-hours-per-week requirement for welfare benefits. And senators approved amendments creating housing vouchers worth $600 a month for six months for displaced storm victims and granted a year-long extension for the repayment of loans to the Small Business Administration.

Passage of the parallel tax packages were cheered by Louisiana lawmakers, who unveiled their own wish list for helping the state recover from the storm, which displaced hundreds of thousands of people. The ambitious seven-page outline includes tax relief, but also looks down the road to rebuilding parts of southeastern Louisiana swamped in Katrina's aftermath.

"Right now, we're transitioning from immediate issues of saving lives to long-term issues of rebuilding, including rebuilding the job base," Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said.

The rebuilding plan, called Project Pelican, seeks an array of assistance from the federal government, including $14 billion to repair the state's eroding coastline, $20 billion to improve levees, money to rebuild 150 schools damaged by the storm, financial assistance for virtually every sector of Louisiana's agricultural economy, $50 billion in community development block grants to construct new housing, and tax incentives to restore local businesses and attract new ones. The delegation already has filed some of the legislation, but the bulk of it will come next week, members said.

One of the bigger-ticket items is a request to have the federal government pick up 100 percent of the relief and recovery costs associated with the storm, which many in Congress are estimating will top $200 billion for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. President Bush granted a waiver in the days after the storm committing the Treasury to paying all storm costs for 60 days. The Louisiana delegation wants to extend it to three years.

Congress already has approved $62.3 billion in emergency relief and recovery assistance to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. An additional emergency appropriation is expected next month, although details have not been hammered out.

"This unprecedented national disaster requires an unprecedented national response," Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said.

Louisiana lawmakers aren't the only ones lobbying for Katrina-related federal financing. The National Trust for Historic Preservation wants Congress to create a $60 million grant program to help owners of historically significant buildings rebuild. As talk increasingly turns to redeveloping New Orleans, preservationists are worried that historic buildings that may have sustained wind or water damage will be bulldozed.

Group President Richard Moe said teams have been dispatched, mainly to New Orleans, to assess the damage.

"We're concerned about any unnecessary demolition of historic buildings," Moe said. "That has been the pattern in the past with disasters."

The bipartisan good will on display over passage of the tax bills does not extend to the investigation into the bungled government response to Hurricane Katrina.

Democrats continued to object to a Republican-backed plan to form a bipartisan committee to look into the failures by local, state and federal governments. The committee would reflect the partisan divide in Congress, which means it would be dominated by Republicans. Democrats say they won't participate in any investigation that isn't evenly balanced between the two parties. They have called instead for an independent commission like the one that looked into the intelligence failures surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

# Jefferson staffer says she was subpoenaed

*Grand jury probing Nigerian telecom deal*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — A staffer for U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, notified the House of Representatives on Thursday that she had been subpoenaed by a northern Virginia grand jury investigating business deals connected to the congressman.

Angelle Kwemo, a legislative assistant to Jefferson, was required to make the disclosure under House rules. She didn't provide any further details.

In a brief phone call, Kwemo declined to comment and quickly hung up.

The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating Jefferson in connection with a telecommunications deal he was trying to arrange in Nigeria, according to those familiar with the case. The probe came to light Aug. 3 when the FBI raided the congressman's homes and, according to published reports, carted off cash from a freezer.

Jefferson has declined to comment.

Kwemo's name first surfaced in August in subpoenas seeking a broad array of documents relating to Jefferson and a Kentucky-based telecommunications firm, iGate Corp. The firm sought the congressman's help in breaking into the fast-expanding high-speed Internet market in Nigeria. The grand jury has been impanelled in Alexandria, Va., a Washington suburb.

Jefferson hired Kwemo, a native of Cameroon, in July. She holds a law degree from a French university and an advanced law degree from American University, and spent five years as a corporate lawyer in Africa, according to a biography provided by Jefferson's office. She also has worked with AIDS activist groups.

On Aug. 3, the FBI also raided the Maryland home of Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar, seeking documents connecting him and his wife, Jennifer, to the congressman and the telecommunications deal. Jennifer Abubakar, a graduate student at American University, founded the Gede Foundation in Washington, D.C., to combat AIDS in African and other developing countries.

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## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Nagin rented Dallas condo:** New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin did not purchase a house in Dallas, as was stated incorrectly in Sunday coverage. Instead, he rented a condo for his family and then returned to New Orleans, according to mayoral spokeswoman Sally Forman.

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**"The simple fact is that we needed something as simple and basic as buses delivered in a timely fashion from FEMA in order to save lives. They didn't do that."**

Gov. Kathleen Blanco

# Blanco rebuts ex-FEMA chief's criticism

## *She defends La. storm response*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco sharply disputed criticism Thursday by the former chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Blanco and her staff were incapable of mounting an effective response when the agency came to help with the unfolding disaster wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

"The simple fact is that we needed something as simple and basic as buses delivered in a timely fashion from FEMA in order to save lives. They didn't do that," Blanco said in a written statement rebutting comments made by former FEMA chief Michael Brown in an interview with The New York Times.

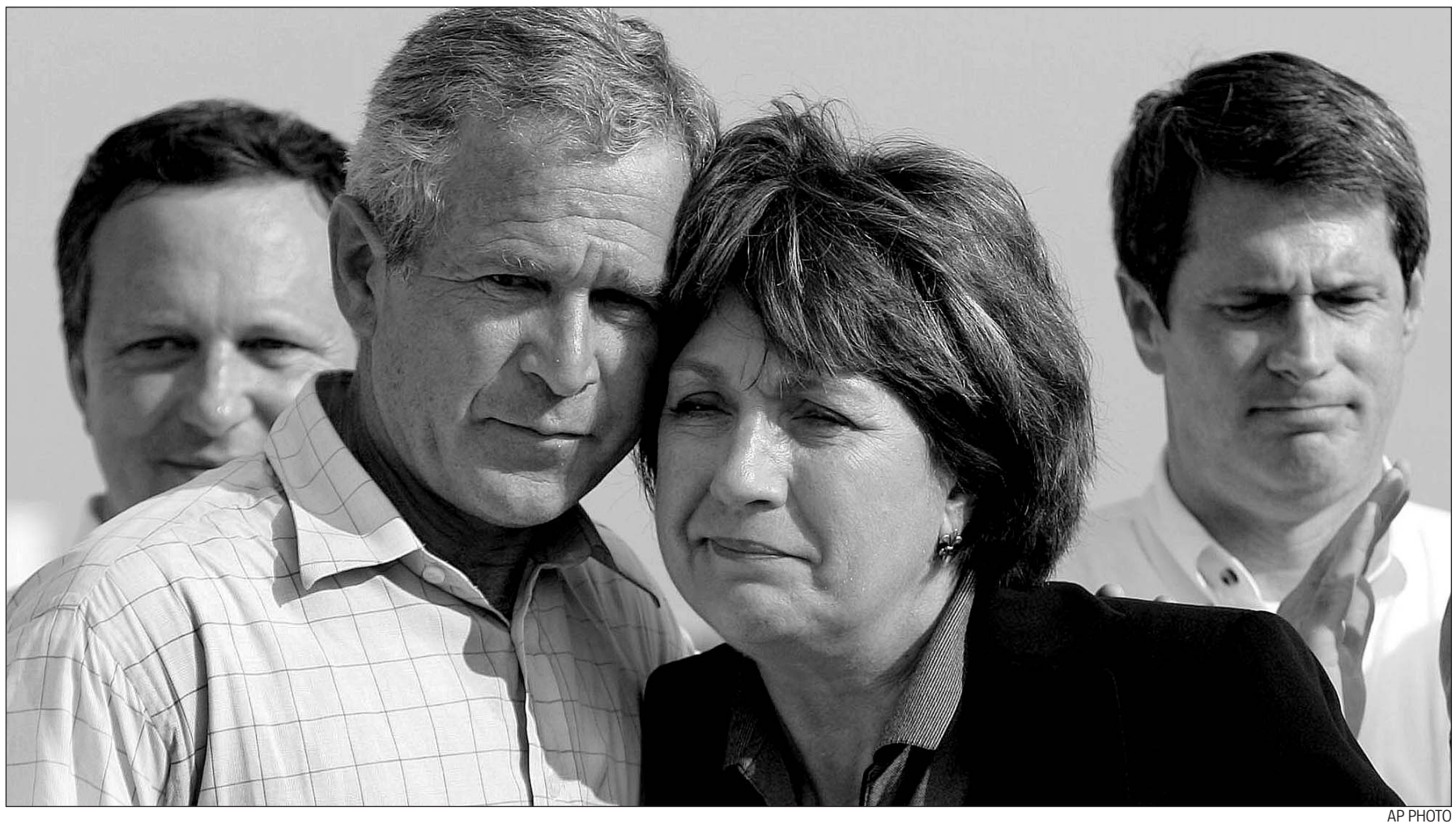
"The president addressed that issue when he removed Mr. Brown, and I thank him for that," Blanco said.

Blanco has repeatedly sparred with FEMA over storm-response issues, even after Brown was removed from overseeing the federal relief effort along the Gulf Coast almost a week ago. Brown later resigned as FEMA chief.

The governor has questioned the pace of certain activities, and she recently said the effort to recover bodies from the disaster area has been too sluggish.

In the newspaper interview, Brown described Louisiana leaders as overwhelmed by the tasks before them, saying they couldn't even tell him what they needed on the ground in New Orleans and the surrounding area. "I never received specific requests for specific things that needed doing," he said.

Blanco's communication director, Bob Mann, said Blanco was frustrated that Brown and his FEMA staff needed to be told exactly what assistance the state required at a time when southeast Louisiana was deluged with flooding and New Orleans was becoming increasingly violent.



AP PHOTO

Flanked by former FEMA chief Mike Brown, left, and Sen. David Vitter, R-La., right, President Bush leans on Gov. Kathleen Blanco during a Sept. 2 press conference at the Louis Armstrong International Airport. Brown, who praised Blanco and her staff in the days following the hurricane as 'professional' and 'tight-knit,' recently told The New York Times that her administration was incapable of responding effectively to the storm.

In an address to the Legislature on Wednesday night, Blanco said mistakes were made on every level of government and that the state would need to examine its own actions. "As your governor, I take full responsibility," she said.

In their reflections on the first few days after the storm, Blanco and her staff have acknowledged they needed federal assistance and couldn't handle the surmounting problems on their own.

Brown's account of a Blanco administration in disarray from the moment that the storm hit the Louisiana coast Aug. 29 does not jibe with a statement that he made at a Baton Rouge press conference the day the storm came ashore. "What I've seen here today is a team that is very tight-knit, working closely together, being very professional, and in my humble opinion making the right calls," Brown said.

Blanco is not the only public official Brown criticized in the interview. The former emergency chief suggested the secretary of Homeland Security and the White House chief of staff did not understand the significance of what was unfolding in Louisiana. Brown recounted numerous frantic phone calls to Michael Chertoff, the Homeland Security chief, and Andrew Card, the White House chief of staff.

A spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security told the Times that the agency did everything it could in the days after the storm.

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Shell Beach can be seen at left and Beauregard Estates at right, with the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet in the foreground. A hurricane protection plan contains an Army Corps of Engineers proposal first made in the 1980s called the 'barrier plan,' because it would use levees and floodgates to keep storm surges out of the region.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

# La. wants to speed up restoration plans

## *Fast track sought for federal permits*

**By Bob Marshall**
Staff writer

Saying Hurricane Katrina has provided all the cost-benefit analysis the nation should require, Louisiana officials are asking the federal government to provide emergency financing and fast-track permitting for a $34 billion hurricane protection and coastal restoration plan that would cover southeast Louisiana from the Pearl River basin to Morgan City.

Officials with the state Department of Natural Resources said the plan includes a system of levees tall enough to withstand the 20-foot storm surges expected with a Category 5 hurricane. It also envisions floodgates at natural passes such as the Rigolets and Chef Menteur, as well as manmade waterways. The project would include integrating some levees and gates already in place but would require construction of miles of new levees as well as rebuilding of many current levees.

That work would incorporate the $14 billion plan for coastal restoration the state already had been pushing in Congress with little success.

"This is a comprehensive plan to accomplish both crucial goals simultaneously: protect New Orleans from future flooding, and reconstruct the coast to help in that job," said Sidney Coffee, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's executive assistant for coastal activities. "They go hand-in-hand. You can't do one and not the other.

"Just as importantly, we have to start now. We're not saying we can get all this done tomorrow, but we are saying we have to start tomorrow. We can't wait the five years it can take for the Corps (of Engineers) to do a cost-benefit analysis. We told them for years what a bargain this would be. Now I think they can see our plans were pretty darn cost-effective compared to what the costs are now."

Randy Hanchey, assistant secretary of DNR, said the state made the proposal to its congressional delegation, the Bush administration and the office of the Secretary of the Army, which commands the corps. He said the emphasis is on the following areas:

- Immediate financing of the $32 billion plan, plus enhanced revenues for the state from offshore oil and gas royalties to maintain the system once the work is completed.
- Putting the project under the oversight of the Mississippi River Commission so that control would include civilian governments, not just the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Congressional waivers for many federal planning regulations to speed implementation, specifically for cost-benefit analysis studies that take as long as five years. The state would not seek waivers from environmental requirements, he said.
- Assurances that the state would be involved in the implementation of the plan.

With Washington already pledging almost $100 billion in aid to the storm-damaged region, financing seemed less of a concern to state officials than the speed with which the plan could be implemented.

"We've been telling people in Washington for years we don't have time to wait; now they can see for themselves why time wasn't on our side," Coffee said. "We're not asking for exemptions from NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act), regulations concerning environmental safeguards. We want all those in place. But we can't wait the average of 10 years it takes to get a single project online."

Hanchey said the state would ask for the same streamlining of regulations that was granted to New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "Washington allowed them to streamline things and get work done quickly, because it was important not just to New York, but to the nation," Hanchey said. "We're in that same situation here."

The hurricane protection portion of the plan contains a corps proposal first made in the 1980s called the "barrier plan," because it would use levees and floodgates in an attempt to keep storm surges out of the region. It originally drew objections from fish and wildlife officials as well as environmental groups who were concerned that the barriers would block the flow of marine life in and out of estuaries. Hanchey said the revived barrier plan would include modifications to accommodate that flow.

Mark Davis, executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, said he did not expect opposition from the environmental community because typically it has supported Louisiana coastal projects even thought they seldom earned a cost-efficient rating on traditional government scales.

"I think they'll be concerned, but ultimately supportive," Davis said. "Look, an accountant might have looked at actuarial tables and said it wasn't cost-efficient to have levees to protect against a Category 5 storm because the odds of that hitting the area were slim, and the odds of it overtopping levees even if it hit were slim as well.

"Now we know even that remote possibility makes protection cost-efficient."

# Two Norco refineries resume operations

## *Flaring at Motiva signals startup*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

Two major St. Charles Parish refineries are up and running at full or nearly full capacities after about two weeks of stalled and limited operations brought on by facility damages and power outages resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

While Norco, where both refineries are located, escaped the catastrophic damage felt in some areas, both plants shut down entirely, due in part to flooding and other damage inflicted by the storm. They have only recently resumed normal operations, according to spokespeople from both plants.

At its height, Hurricane Katrina knocked out 10 refineries representing 25 percent of the nation's refining capacity, said Sharon Dey, director of communications for the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association, based in Washington, D.C.

As of Thursday, four refineries, representing 5 percent of the total U.S. refining capacity, remain shut indefinitely, Dey said.

"We took a very strong blow to that region," she said. "I can't speculate on how long it would be — it could be a couple months before they're back up," she said.

In St. Charles Parish, the Valero Norco Refinery, which has a 260,000 barrel-per-day capacity, was operating at maximum capacity as of Thursday, Valero spokesman Ron Guillory said. And the Motiva St. Charles Refining plant, with a 240,000 barrel-per-day capacity, was nearing capacity Thursday, said Darci Sinclair, senior media relations specialist with Shell.

A third, smaller refinery, Shell Chemical in St. Rose, also was damaged but should be back up soon, although Sinclair was not able to say when. That plant produces 55,000 barrels per day.

The Valero plant sustained flooding in certain areas and minor structural damage to a holding tank, Guillory said.

But the main reasons for stalled operations were a lack of electricity and staffing, he said.

At Motiva St. Charles, frequent flaring – often seen as large flames from smokestacks - has been occurring as part of the start-up procedure, Sinclair said. That flaring, which enables the plant to burn excess fuel, will continue for the duration of the start-up sequence. Sinclair could not say how long it would last.

While the refineries in St. Charles Parish appear to be regrouping, industry analysts say the effects of the storm are continuing to affect consumers at the pump.

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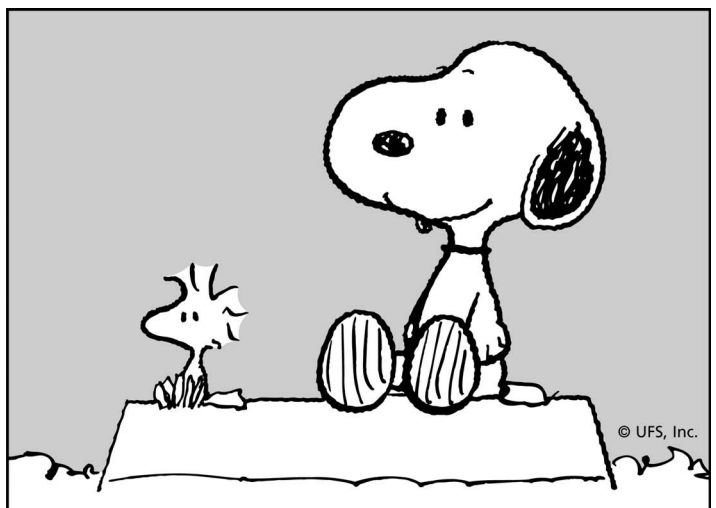
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# Safe houses vital for pump crews, Jeff says

## *Communications also near top of list*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Jefferson Parish officials want to start the 2006 hurricane season with "safe houses" to shelter drainage station crews from deadly winds and storm surges so they can keep the pumps operating during tropical storms and other heavy rains.

Design of the safe houses began this summer. But that was no help during Hurricane Katrina, when the crews at Jefferson's 18 major pump stations were evacuated to the north shore for more than 24 hours as part of the administration's new "doomsday plan" to safeguard critical equipment and essential personnel in the event of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane.

"I think those safe houses, as well as improved communications, will be very high on our agenda," said Parish Councilman Louis

Congemi, who estimated that 50 percent of the homes in his district, which includes much of Kenner and parts of Metairie, flooded.

Parish officials said they don't know how long the drainage pumps were off during and after Katrina. A loss of power knocked out computer telemetry.

But a timeline pieced together during discussions with evacuees and representatives of several government agencies indicates that the pumps might have been down from Aug. 28 at about 7 p.m., when the crews were evacuated, until they returned and began restarting the pumps late on Aug. 29 and early the next morning. The eye of Katrina, a strong Category 4 hurricane, passed over the Gulf Coast the morning of Aug. 29.

Congemi and East Jefferson Levee District personnel, who didn't evacuate, agree that street flooding began Aug. 29 after sunrise and gradually increased. Residents in some Metairie and Kenner neighborhoods began reporting home flooding late that afternoon.

"It's sad to say, but maybe this disaster is what it takes to get the federal government to realize that they can't keep turning a cold shoulder when we tell them we have to have more flood control projects and coastal restoration and our pump-to-the-river project that will put some of this water into the Mississippi River, so that it doesn't have to all flow north to these pump stations on Lake Pontchartrain," Congemi said.

Congemi said he thinks that flooding might have been aggravated by the pumps being off while operators were evacuated. But he said some flooding was inevitable.

"It's just a shame that things were difficult to get our operators back to the pump stations," he said.

"But I understand the need to protect them. The pump houses we have now aren't made to stand up to these storms ... which brings us back to why we need to get these safe houses built."

Pump operators staff and run the giant drainage machinery that moves water out of interior canals, over levees and into larger water bodies such as Lake Pontchartrain. They were among a caravan of some 1,500 people – key parish personnel and their families – who were evacuated to several shelters in Washington Parish, including a school in Mount Vernon.

Parish President Aaron Broussard, Chief Administrative Assistant Tim Whitmer, Emergency Operations Director Walter Maestri and an assortment of other high-level administration staffers were among the 20 or so who stayed behind in the bunker-like Emergency Operations Center in Marrero. Parish Council members hunkered down in a variety of locations on both sides of the Mississippi River, including East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie and West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero.

Sheltering some in Washington Parish may have saved their lives, Broussard said, and it also ensured there were officials available to pick up the reins of government had Katrina shifted westward and obliterated Jefferson Parish.

"A government deliberately placed in exile can come back," Broussard said.

Administration officials said it's too soon to start second-guessing how the lack of pumps might have aggravated flooding north of Interstate 10 between the St. Charles Parish line and Causeway Boulevard area.

"The parish president made the decision that he wouldn't risk the lives of the pump station operators, and we evacuated those people to the shelter closest to us," Maestri said. "You want to know who's responsible for the flooding? Katrina's responsible."

But everyone agrees that the pump operators were unable to return quickly to their stations, because Katrina did widespread damage where they were sheltered in Washington Parish.

"This was such a devastating storm that the north shore was damaged," Broussard said. "Giant trees were down everywhere. Live electrical wires were dangling about the building. Communications went out. I couldn't even get a helicopter to get them back because the winds were too high."



PHOTO BY WILLIAM DUPLAISIR

Jefferson Parish drainage pump operators and levee district employees cut trees and clear debris and power lines from Louisiana 25 on Aug. 29. The crews stayed in Washington Parish when the storm hit, then hacked their way back to the Jefferson pumping stations on the south shore.

Ultimately, it was East and West Jefferson Levee District personnel who helped bulldoze, chop and hack out a path along rural Washington Parish roads blocked by huge trees, fallen utility lines and storm debris.

"We had no communication, and it looked like a tornado had been through where we were," said parish Drainage Director Kazem

Alikhani, who accompanied his pump station workers back to Jefferson.

"We had a bulldozer in front of us. We had a chainsaw, and we had a parish electrician who was dealing with the fallen lines," he said. "And when we finally got to the Causeway bridge, we had to wait until it was inspected ... and then we had to convoy all these operators across because of damage."

On Aug. 29 at around 9:15 p.m., the east bank pump operators were picked up at the Causeway's south toll plaza by East Jefferson Levee District President Pat Bossetta and the district's police chief, Rocky Daigle, driving a 2½-ton truck.

"Rocky and I delivered them to their pump stations, but we were driving through two to seven feet of water to do it," Bossetta said. "The only way we could differentiate between water and road was the telephone poles. The people in the back of the truck were using flashlights to spot for us. It was truly wild."

By Aug. 30 at 3:30 A.M., Bossetta said, they had delivered personnel to four pump stations. He said soldiers carried workers to the last two east bank stations. Alikhani said National Guard personnel weren't able to collect West Jefferson pump operators from the bridge until about midnight.

Despite serious damage to several pump stations, Alikhani said, all east bank pumps are now working. In West Jefferson, he said, 95 percent of the pumps are up and running.

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Mary Swerczek contributed to this report.

Sheila Grissett may be reached at sgrissett@cox.net.

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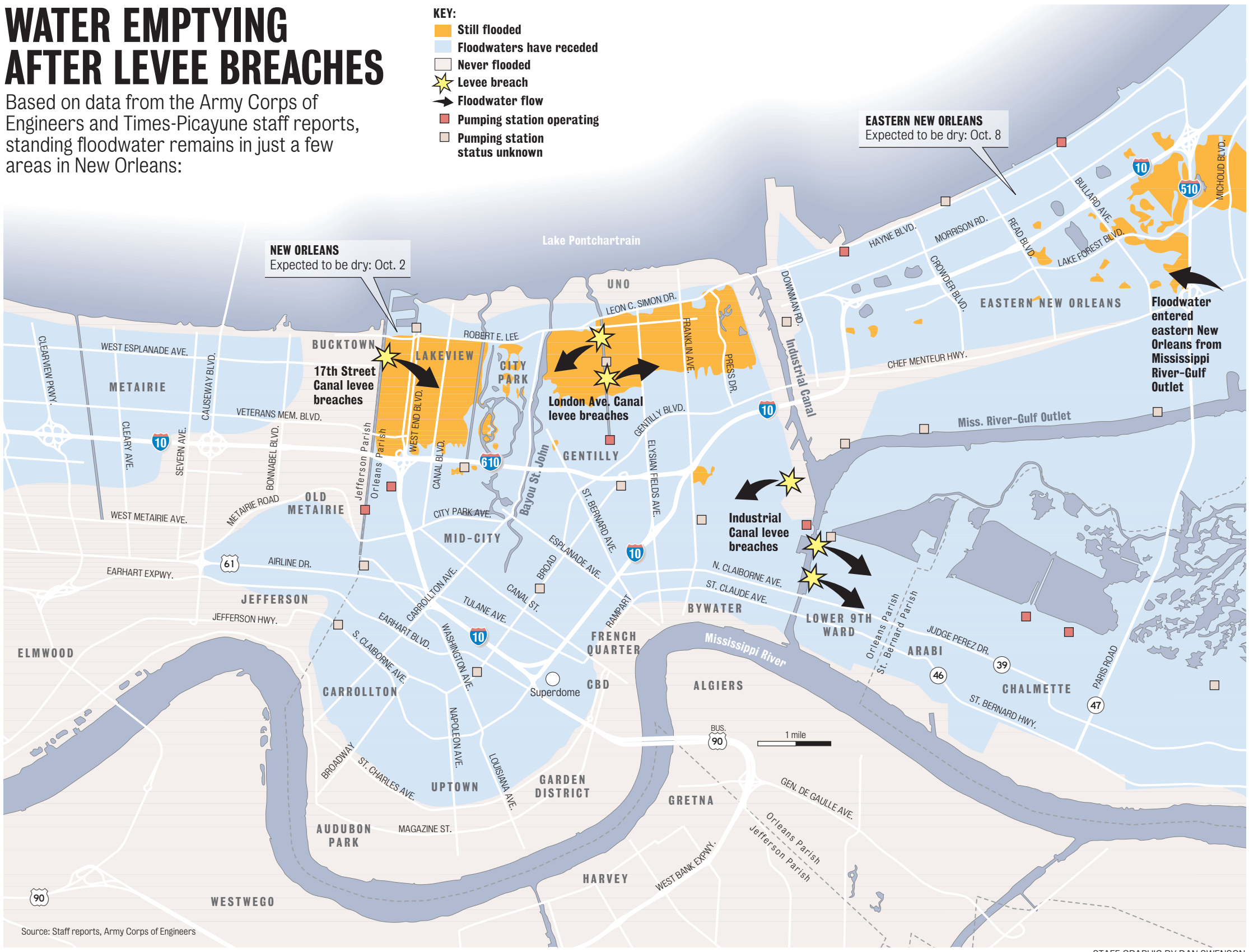
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# WATER EMPTYING AFTER LEVEE BREACHES

Based on data from the Army Corps of Engineers and Times-Picayune staff reports, standing floodwater remains in just a few areas in New Orleans:




STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

## WAITING IT OUT




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division speak Thursday with L.J. Barattini, left, and a man who declined to give his name in front of the Circle Bar at Lee Circle in New Orleans. The soldiers said they would have the next patrol bring water and MREs to the two men.

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# Federal contracting center to move back to city

## *About 2,400 employed at two facilities*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Two federal contracting facilities that employ about 2,400 people in New Orleans plan to move back to the city once their buildings are repaired, spokesmen with the facilities said Thursday.

Neither of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center in eastern New Orleans nor the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center on the lakefront campus of the University of New Orleans appeared to have suffered significant damage from Hurricane Katrina and the flooding that followed the storm, the spokesmen said.

Plans to return the centers to New Orleans are a boost to the fast-growing effort to restore major portions of the region's storm-crippled economy.

But at least one state official wants the assurances in writing.

State Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Metairie, said Congress should insert language into legislation requiring the Agriculture Department and the Navy to restore their centers fully in New Orleans.

"These large federal employers have created a lot of high-paying jobs for the region, and they are a hub to help small businesses grow. There should not be any question about whether they will come back," Scalise said.

"We need to make sure that other states don't cannibalize our businesses. We don't mind if they give help in our time of need, but we want the (centers) to come back," he said.

For the time being, many of the workers at the two centers have relocated temporarily to offices in other cities in Louisiana and other states.

About 400 of the finance center's 1,400 workers have set up shop near Dallas and in Philadelphia, agriculture department spokesman Ed Loyd said.

On Monday, the workers processed paychecks for 564,000 federal employees, he said. "That's a major testament to the employees. Some of them literally only have a suitcase with them, and they still have been working to get this done."

The finance center, located at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility, performs administrative support work under contract to numerous federal agencies, such as the Department of Labor and the Coast Guard.

Many of the 1,000 workers at the Navy center, which operates personnel and pay systems for the military, now are working in Pensacola, Fla.; Fort Worth, Texas; Millington, Tenn.; and Washington, D.C., said Navy spokesman Lt. Ohene Gyapong.

Others workers have remained closer to home.

Apogen Technologies, one of the main contractors at the Navy center, has relocated a portion of its 172 New Orleans workers to temporary offices in Baton Rouge, company spokeswoman Piper Conrad said.

Workers from both centers eventually will return to New Orleans, possibly as soon as the end of the year.

"It's going to be a long process to get (the finance center) back up and running again. We are prepared to operate elsewhere for the first couple of months," Loyd said.

At UNO, a team of contractors already is working on the Navy center's building, Gyapong said. The center's commanding officer, Capt. Fred Mingo, is hoping to be back in the facility before Jan. 1, the spokesman said.

•••••••

Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.


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**"They can stay at their house if they want. But what are they going to stay on? The muck? Anything you can touch is nasty."**

JOEY DIFATTA, parish council chairman

# St. Bernard reveals staged re-entry plan

*Residents to visit starting Saturday*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard bureau

St. Bernard Parish residents aching to see what Hurricane Katrina left of their homes will get their chance beginning Saturday, under a plan for a staggered re-entry that will divide the parish into sections and give every resident a date to return by Sept. 30.

Residents will be allowed to stay during the next two weeks, and possibly longer, Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said Thursday, as officials revealed the plan.

But officials said most people will not want to "rough it" in a parish where Katrina submerged almost all structures under as much as 20 feet of water and everything remains covered in a cake-like layer of foul-smelling muck.

"They can stay at their house if they want. But what are they going to stay on? The muck?" DiFatta said. "Anything you can touch is nasty."

The much-awaited re-entry plan will break St. Bernard into seven areas and give residents in each section a two-day window to return.

Areas of south Arabi and Chalmette along the Mississippi River will be the first to reopen at daylight Saturday, and residents of other areas to the north and eastern parts of the parish will be allowed to return in the following days.

Officials, however, said residents should come prepared to face harsh conditions and a lack of basic public services, which have yet to be restored. Streets will be cleared of muck and other storm debris, including flooded vehicles and leveled homes, by the time residents stream in. But mud and debris will litter curbs and lawns.

The parish has no electricity, no telephone service, and no trash pick up. The water treatment plant is working, but water pressure is low, so many areas won't have water. Officials said residents, who must show a driver's license with a St. Bernard address to enter, need to bring food and enough gasoline to leave the parish.

Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez has asked residents to bring rubber boots, gloves and protective masks. He has also urged them not to bring children.

The days for re-entry into each section of the parish are as follows:

— Saturday and Sunday: Arabi and Chalmette neighborhoods extending from Jackson Barracks to Paris Road, and from St. Bernard Highway to the Mississippi River.

— Sept. 19 and 20: Areas of Arabi and Chalmette from Jackson Barracks to Paris Road, and from Judge Perez Drive to St. Bernard Highway.

— Sept. 21 and 22: Areas of Chalmette and Meraux from Paris Road to the Violet Canal, and from Judge Perez Drive to the Mississippi River.

— Sept. 23 and 24: All areas north of Judge Perez Drive from Jackson Barracks to Paris Road.

— Sept. 25 and 26: All areas north of Judge Perez Drive from Paris Road to Palmisano Boulevard.

— Sept. 27 to 28: All areas north of Judge Perez Drive from Palmisano Boulevard to the Violet Canal.

— Sept. 29 and 30: All remaining areas south and east of the Violet Canal.

Residents who miss the dates specified for their neighborhoods won't be able to enter the parish until Sept. 30. The parish also may ask all residents to leave by Oct. 1, officials said, if repair crews have not made "significant progress" in restoring utilities. Evacuating the parish once again would accelerate that work, the parish said.

The re-entry plan includes areas of Chalmette affected by an oil spill from the Murphy Oil refinery in Meraux. But DiFatta said officials with the Environmental Protection Agency have given preliminary indication that an ongoing cleanup will let residents enter the area by the time those sections are reopened.

Those planning to return may face another obstacle: finding a way to reach the parish. The two access roads from Orleans Parish, St. Claude and Claiborne avenues, remain closed because of flooding and security restrictions in Orleans Parish, DiFatta said. The main re-entry point will be Paris Road, accessible from Interstate 10 and Chef Menteur Highway via I-510.

The I-10 twin span from New Orleans east to Slidell was damaged during the storm and remain closed. But St. Bernard officials said the Louisiana 11 bridge is working.

DiFatta said they also are seeking an alternate route by reopening ferry service from Chalmette to Algiers, though as of Thursday he did not know whether the ferry would be available by Saturday.

Officials said the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office will enforce a nighttime curfew.

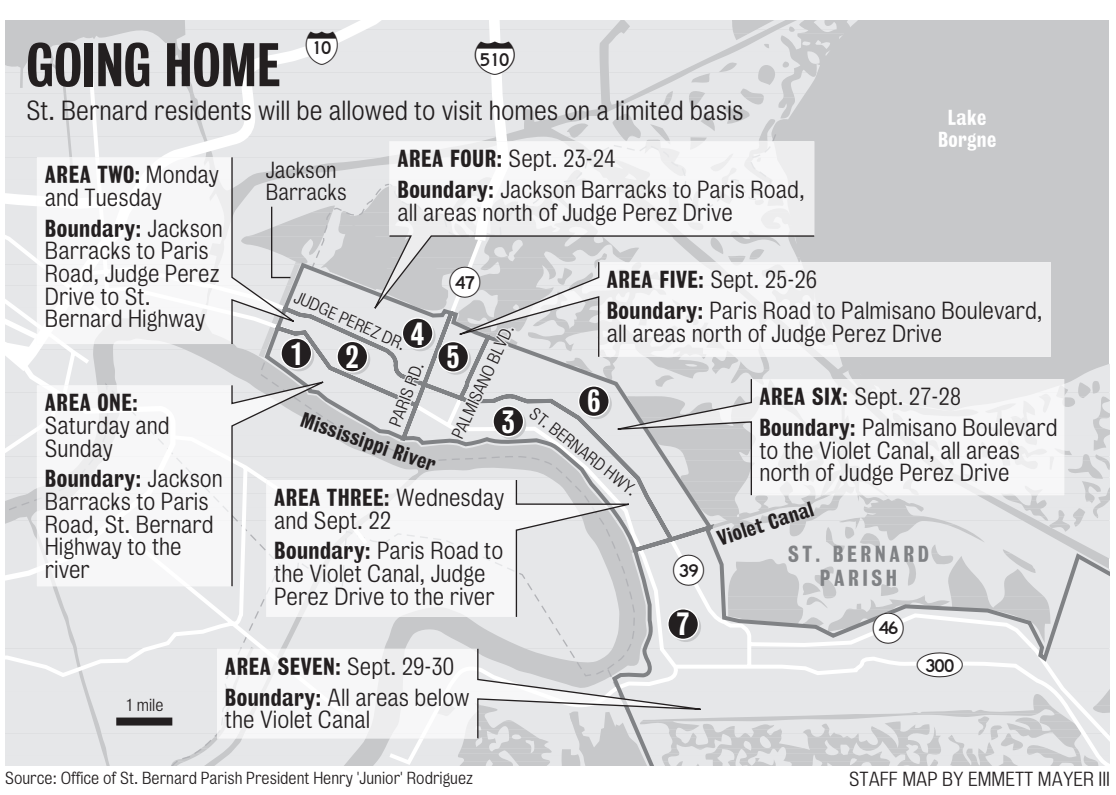


A cormorant covered in oil walks across the top of a levee in St. Bernard Parish. Oil spilled from Murphy Oil in Meraux during the hurricane and inundated blocks of houses. The parish has no electricity, no telephone service, and no trash pick up. The water treatment plant is working, but water pressure is low, so many areas won't have water.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck, crews retrieve oil from a canal near Meraux in St. Bernard Parish, using a device that separates oil from water. Parish officials say residents will soon be able to return, but they said people shouldn't 'rough it' in a devastated place where most structures were submerged.




Source: Office of St. Bernard Parish President Henry 'Junior' Rodriguez

STAFF MAP BY EMMETT MAYER III

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Laborers needed, Orleans, Jefferson and River Parish area. Call 504-884-1418

CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN. Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

RESIDENCES FOR SALE

7550 Metairie Jefferson/Below Causeway

HARAHAN Cute Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

7560 West Bank

Historic Algiers Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

MARRERO House, undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

7570 Mandeville/Covington

CAN VACATE IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

7580 Slidell

NEW COUNTRY CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

BEL AIR Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

7615 Mississippi

PICAYUNE,MS. 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

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7690 Rent/Lease/Comm./Offices

COVINGTON Law Office Space Available. Office Services Available. Call 985-893-9962

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7780 West Bank Lots

Luling, Gorgeous 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

Real Estate For Sale

7780 West Bank Lots

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RENTALS UNFURNISHED

8100 Metairie Jefferson/Below Causeway

METAIRIE 3 Bedroom, 2 bath apartment with appliances, available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

8104 West Bank

WEST BANK 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

8108 Slidell

NO FLOODING! 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, fireplace, 1040 square feet living. James 985-640-1890

8150 Rentals Wanted

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8880 Miscellaneous

05 PUMA PALOMINO 26ft, slide, Sleeps 6. Must Sell Due To Illness. $18,500. 985-764-3602

'95 Rexhall Aerbus MH, 28.5ft, 63K. Very Clean, Great Cond. $16,000. 903-963-8155

'04 Sprinter 27.6' Fifth wheel, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 985-537-5332

8915 Pickup Trucks

'93 CHEVY Silverado, X-cab, LWB, Auto, new motor, good work truck. $3950. 918-277-3564

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers

Backhoes, manlift, telescopic handler with forks, etc. 812-547-0933, 812-547-3321, or email twincities@psci.net.

# AFTER THE STORM

### LA. DEATH TOLL

**558**

**444** bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
**53** bodies in East Baton Rouge Parish
**27** bodies in Jefferson Parish
**6** bodies in St. Tammany Parish
**6** bodies in Iberia Parish
**3** bodies in St. Charles Parish
**3** bodies in Plaquemines Parish
**2** bodies in Assumption Parish

### IN THE SHELTERS

**52,140** PEOPLE IN LA.
**26,840** IN TEXAS
**31,626** ELSEWHERE
**675** SHELTERS
**25** STATES

### POWER

**ENTERGY CUSTOMERS**
STATEWIDE
**71%** restored

ORLEANS PARISH **19%**
JEFFERSON PARISH **86%**
PLAQUEMINES PARISH **19%**
ST. BERNARD PARISH **1%**
ST.CHARLES PARISH **99%**
ST. TAMMANY PARISH **99%**
WASHINGTON PARISH **61%**
TANGIPAHOA PARISH **99%**

**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
IN ST. TAMMANY AND WASHINGTON PARISHES
**73%** restored

ABITA SPRINGS **35%**
COVINGTON **69%**
LACOMBE **41%**
FRANKLINTON **71%**
MADISONVILLE **96%**
MANDEVILLE **82%**
PEARL RIVER **92%**
SLIDELL **71%**

### PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

- Unloaded its first ships, containing coffee and cargo Tuesday night. Two of 27 terminals are running

### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

- Standard mail delivery, including letters and periodicals, suspended in zip codes that begin with 395, 700, 701 and 704
- Suspension lifted for zip codes that begin with 369, 393, 394 and 396
- Temporary change of address forms available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

### PARISH-BY-PARISH

**ORLEANS**

- Algiers set to open Monday
- Uptown will be open in stages next Wedneday and Friday
- French Quarter to open Sept. 26
- Businesses will be allowed in the Central Business District Saturday and Sunday, although it will not be officially open.
- Flooded areas of the parish closed

**JEFFERSON**

- Water pressure restored to most of parish. To report leaks on the east bank, call 838-4398; West Bank, 349-5081
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted
- Kenner, Harahan opened to residents Thursday, joining Westwego, Jean Lafitte and Gretna, which opened Wednesday

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

- 911 phone system back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**

- Streets expected to be cleared by the weekend
- No electricity restored, no telephone, no trash pickup. Low water pressure in some areas. Gas and food not available.
- Officials will begin reopening the parish on Saturday with a plan that will divide the parish in sections and give residents of each area a two-day window to come in, retrieve belongings, and leave. To reenter, residents must present proof of residence, and must come prepared with enough food for their subsistence, and enough gas to leave. **See map on B-5**

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**

- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
- Some parts of parish still with-



Archbishop Philip M. Hannan holds the statue's finger. The statue of Jesus to whom it belongs emerged unscathed by the storm, but its left thumb and index fingers were shorn off. The thumb apparently is still missing.

## HEALING TOUCH



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

Maj. Gen. Bill Caldwell, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, center, and a fellow soldier present one of the statue's missing fingers to Archbishop Philip M. Hannan.

*A statue of Jesus that stands behind St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans lost two of its fingers when Hurricane Katrina struck, and the missing digits set off spiritual speculation in the aftermath of the storm, not to mention a fervent search. One of the fingers was recovered by military personnel and returned Thursday.*

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**Chalmette** 3220 Paris Rd. (504) 277-7395
**Covington** 808 Hwy. 190, Ste. B (985) 893-7313
**Harvey** 1818 Manhattan Blvd., Bldg. B (504) 367-0897
**Houma** 1043 W. Tunnel Blvd. (985) 851-2355
Southland Mall 5953 W. Park Ave. (985) 804-2355
**Kenner** 1000 W. Esplanade Ave., Ste. 106 (504) 468-8334
**Larose** 115 W. 10th St. (985) 798-2323
**Metairie** 2701 N. Causeway Blvd. (504) 835-1105
**New Orleans** 211 Carondelet (504) 524-4194
**Thibodaux** 906 Canal Blvd. (985) 448-2600
**Slidell** 1302 Corporate Sq., Ste. 2016 (985) 847-0891

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Oakwood Mall (504) 366-6272
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# Crews rewiring Uptown, restoring power

## *Myriad trucks join systematic effort*

**By David Meeks**
Staff writer




STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Crews work Thursday to restore power on Chestnut Street at Napoleon Avenue. Dozens of trucks lined neighborhood streets as workers began rewiring and bringing blocks back online, house by house.



Kerry White of Tomball, Texas, left, signals to a colleague. Workers said the area's electricity equipment is outdated, but they will check every house and restore power at each one, where it's possible.

Moving block to block, pole to pole and, finally, house to house, the rewiring of Uptown is under way, and an army of electrical trucks are working streets where for the past two weeks National Guardsmen cleared trees and inventoried the downed lines.

Mayor Ray Nagin has announced a plan to allow residents into Uptown starting Monday, and the crews are working furiously to ensure that those New Orleanians cleared will return to fully powered homes.

CenterPoint Energy of Houston arrived like a brigade Thursday morning, lining up dozens of trucks on neighborhood streets to begin a systematic approach to restoring electricity that is as simple as one might think: Start at the nearest power station and get started, one house at a time.

"The first thing we worry about is safety. Some of these lines are hot, some are not, and we have to tell our folks which precautions to take. We've got to do it house to house," said Butch Barger, a CenterPoint manager in charge of the crews that worked Thursday in the neighborhood bounded by the Mississippi River to St. Charles, and Jefferson to Napoleon avenues.

Surveying the work to be done from the corner of Robert and Laurel streets, Barger said, "As far as hurricane damage, this is about the worst that's ever been – and this isn't even one of the hard-hit areas. We haven't even seen those. But we spent 53 days in Florida last year with all those hurricanes, and it wasn't nearly as bad as this damage."

Teams were working in one direction away from the river and one-way parallel to Tchoupitoulas, and Barger said progress depends on the level of destruction on each block. Getting the lines hooked to each house is a slow process, he said, but his company checks every house, not just the infrastructure.

"You'd be surprised – the smaller the stuff, the longer it takes," he said. "But we're one of the few companies that, when we leave, no one has to come behind us. If the customer's house can take service, it will have service."

Barger said crews will try to reattach meters if they were pulled loose but weren't damaged. Only those homes with severely damaged meters won't have power restored right away, he said.

"Even then, we'll run the lines right up to the meter but fold them back and tape them off so they can be hooked up once it is fixed," he said.

Although many downed lines might seem beyond repair, most can be spliced together and reused, he said. More time consuming is damage to the cross arms on the poles which, in the area where the teams were working, are wooden and more prone to shattering during a storm.

Every broken wooden cross arm has to be removed and replaced with a new one, which must be completely rewired. In other cities, utilities have changed to steel cross arms, which can better withstand wind and, even if they are pulled loose, usually can be reattached with their wiring intact.

"This stuff here is old, really old," said James Kohler, a CenterPoint worker from Sugarland, Texas, who was moving methodically with his crew up Robert Street. "A lot of the stuff that's here, we don't even use anymore. In Sugarland where I'm from, 80 percent of our stuff is underground."

Worker Tony Loivas said, "An upgrade here would help."

The crews work from ZIP code maps, and Barger estimated it takes from a day to three days to restore power in a typical neighborhood bounded by major thoroughfares, depending on the level of damage. The quick work is a product of so many trucks coming in to each neighborhood, he said.

Barger said he has worked in the aftermath of disasters all over the South, but never in New Orleans. "I've been here many times, but never for storm duty," he said.

Asked whether he'd be back once the city recovers, Barger didn't hesitate. "Oh yeah. I'll definitely come back."


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# Return will be determined by location

**NAGIN,** *from A-1*

The waters contain very high levels of coliform bacteria, an indicator of human fecal matter, but Kevin Stephens, the city's health director, said that was "the only significant health care concern" for returning citizens.

The mayor's "repopulation" plan calls for allowing business owners in Algiers, the French Quarter, Uptown and Central Business District areas to begin returning to the city Saturday.

Algiers will be reopened to residents Monday, Nagin said, followed on Wednesday by residents of Uptown's 70115 ZIP code district. On Sept. 22, a week from today, residents of the 70118 ZIP code, also Uptown, will be allowed to return.

Residents of the French Quarter will be allowed back a week from Monday, he said. Nagin cited the area's density and historic value in saying that the return of residents to the Quarter was being delayed so that wiring could be "double- and triple-checked" before the electricity is turned back on. The hope is to ensure that "if a fire breaks out, we won't lose a significant amount of what we cherish in this city," Nagin said.

Environmental experts expressed concern that EPA testing is incomplete and that health hazards may persist. The air sampling to date has been from overflights used for screening purposes that then require follow-up monitoring.

EPA collects data and leaves to local officials any decision on whether to repopulate a given area, said Elizabeth Sweeney, spokeswoman for EPA's Dallas regional office.

Former Xavier University toxicologist Marcus Iszard, who started a new position at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy three weeks before Katrina, said he is concerned that New Orleans residents don't understand the long-term and short-term risks they may face in re-entering the city.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, with Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, right, announced the repopulation plan of the New Orleans area, which begins with businesses in certain areas Saturday.

He stressed that there's not clear evidence that there is a risk of re-entering the city, but that there's also no evidence that there is no risk. Lead, for example, found in high concentrations in floodwater, could become airborne after the water dries up and deposits it as sediment.

The mayor said Treme would be the next section repopulated after Uptown, but did not offer a date when resettlement would be allowed. A strict dusk-to-dawn curfew will be in effect in all the reopened areas, Nagin said.

The areas scheduled to reopen contain about 182,000 residents, or a little more than a third of the city's pre-storm population. Over the next six months, Nagin said he expects the population to "settle in" at about 250,000, and then "ramp up over time."

"The strategy is to repopulate the city in the safest areas for now, to get enough critical mass so that the economics start to flow," Nagin said.

Because it's unclear how long it will take for business owners to get back on their feet, Nagin said he plans to use the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center – a scene of misery just over a week ago when it sheltered homeless storm survivors – as a depot in which major retailers will sell vital supplies ranging from lumber to groceries.

As the city begins to rebuild – a process that the mayor predicted would be "the biggest economic recovery project in the country's history" – Nagin said he expects New Orleans to become as populous or more so than it was before Katrina struck.

"I imagine building a city so original, so unique, that everybody's going to want to come," he said.

It's too early to tell how much of the city will have to be torn down, Nagin said, although he offered a "swag" – slang for a "scientific wild-ass guess" – that about half the city's approximately 160,000 homes might be salvageable.

"If I'm 'swagging,' we'll probably be able to rebuild 80,000 or 90,000 houses," he said. "I take it from talking to the experts that most of the homes that were flooded, that stayed in water for a number of weeks, will have to be destroyed."

Money for initial efforts should begin flowing in soon. Nagin said it is his understanding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has released $500 million to the state. Nagin said he has asked Gov. Kathleen Blanco to turn $102 million over to the city for emergency relief efforts. If that doesn't happen, he said, the city expects soon to receive a line of credit from JPMorgan Chase Bank.

When residents begin to return, most are expected to have power. Entergy New Orleans CEO Dan Packer said that 90 percent of Algiers already has power, and that number will be close to 100 percent by Monday. Power already has been restored in about three-quarters of the areas targeted for resettlement, he said.

Water, however, may be a different story. While the water and sewer systems are fully operational in Algiers – and have been since the storm hit – the water on the east bank of the Mississippi River is still not suitable for cooking, drinking or bathing, Nagin said. It can be used to flush toilets, however.

As for health care, Nagin said plans call for opening Touro Infirmary and Children's Hospital for emergencies in the near term. Officials from Ochsner Medical Center have promised to take in patients on an emergency basis, Nagin said.

In response to questions from reporters, Nagin issued a warning to would-be criminals plotting a possible return to the city. "We've got a drug-free, violence-free city now, and our intent is to keep it that way," he said.

Nagin added that the Police Department "is not taking any crap," and added that military and police units from around the country remain in force. About 1,350 of roughly 1,700 officers from the NOPD have been accounted for, Nagin said.

The various law enforcement personnel have an impressive arsenal, containing everything from M-4s to M-16s to night-vision goggles, Nagin said. "They might even have a couple of bazookas they're saving for special people," he quipped. "So if you're coming back to this city and expecting it to be what it was before, we have a rude awakening for you."

So many cops and soldiers are in town that the city is actually "over-resourced" in that area, Nagin said. He said it might soon be time to allow some of the law enforcement officers to leave, adding that he expects a military presence to remain indefinitely.

Nagin said he likely will ask the City Council to give him the authority to relax the city's controversial domicile rule, which requires all city employees and police officers to reside within the city limits.

Nagin also offered a rebuttal to recent remarks by a Gretna official seeking to justify that city's controversial decision to turn back at gunpoint a group of New Orleans storm survivors who crossed the Crescent City Connection bridge on foot. Gretna acted as it did because there was no plan in place for handling evacuees, the official said.

"My conscience is clear," Nagin said. "We allowed people to cross because people were dying" at the Convention Center and the Superdome. Nagin said those who crossed were met by "attack dogs and armed people with shotguns" and ordered back over the bridge.

"We made our decision based upon people. If they made a decision based on assets, not people ... then they're going to have to live with that," Nagin said.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Mark Schleifstein contributed to this report.

**"The reality is, if they're doing better where they are, they're probably not coming back."**

ADONIS EXPOSE, director of communications for HANO.

# Officials worry many evacuees might not return to N.O. area

**HOUSING,** *from A-1*

Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans, criticized HANO's move to Houston and said the agency should be focused on keeping people in Louisiana.

But Mayor Ray Nagin's administration and City Council President Oliver Thomas said HANO is right to move people expeditiously out of the shelters and find them comfortable accommodations. When those people eventually come back to town to assess their damaged homes and belongings, they will stay, provided the right opportunity and incentives are in place, Thomas predicted.

HANO, originally a city agency that is now under the control of the federal Housing and Urban Development agency because of past financial problems, had to move operations out of the storm-damaged city and accepted an offer to occupy space made available by the housing authority of Houston, where about 25,000 New Orleans area residents sought refuge in the Astrodome, Reliant Center and other facilities.

Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, coordinating an effort with the state, is setting up mobile housing units: trailers and manufactured housing.

FEMA spokesman David Passey said the agency is assuming that 300,000 such units will be needed in the states affected by Katrina, including 200,000 in Louisiana. The agency's goal is to have 100,000 units ready for occupancy by the end of October, he said.

But deployments of the homes are moving at a crawl while FEMA tries to establish sites that can handle the electricity and water needs of the new mobile home parks. Gov. Kathleen Blanco has criticized the pace.

Only 491 mobile units are occupied so far.

Specifically for those working on rebuilding the New Orleans area after the storm and providing relief efforts, the agency has secured housing for 3,366 people on cruise ships docked in New Orleans and 11,000 hotel rooms throughout the state.

The Baton Rouge-based Shaw Group Inc. is one of the companies hired by FEMA to help put together the temporary housing. The company — whose chief executive, Jim Bernhard, is head of the state Democratic Party — will help with all aspects of the housing job, according to a company press release.

The contract, which could be as high as $100 million, calls for Shaw to help with the site assessment, design, and construction of temporary housing, as well as with support services such as managing facilities and hooking up utilities. In addition, Shaw will register Louisiana citizens who currently are living at emergency shelters in Texas and other states.

Separately, private companies, some working in cooperation with the state economic development agency, are setting up their own temporary housing communities to keep workers on the job.

Creating these new communities will be tricky for FEMA, which usually provides temporary trailers for people to park on their own property while repairs are made. This will not be possible in many cases in the New Orleans area, which means that the state and federal governments will need to make available such services as transportation, education and health care.

"None of this has been done before; all of this is new ground," said Kim Hunter Reed, the head of Gov. Kathleen Blanco's policy team.

The state Department of Social Services will have responsibility for helping figure out what kind of services need to be provided for people who move into the new trailer communities.

State Facilities Manager Jerry Jones said Louisiana officials are asking FEMA to prioritize moving people out of shelters in other states into temporary housing in Louisiana. While the state also wants to quickly move the residents of in-state shelters into more hospitable living arrangements, it is important to bring people back from out of state before they begin to settle down and get jobs, he said.

"We don't want to give (other states) our work force," Jones said. "We are going to need those people to help us rebuild New Orleans and southeast Louisiana."

There are 2,000 people in Dallas who are going to be put into HUD-subsidized homes in that city, said Donna White, a spokeswoman for the federal agency. There are another 5,600 units of public housing within a 500-mile radius of New Orleans that also could be used to house Katrina evacuees.

In the Miami area, public housing officials have offered to house 3,000 people, White said. The federal agency is asking public housing authorities to make Katrina victims the priority, she said.

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**NEW ORLEANS:** In the Lake Terrace home of W.A. 'Chip' Forstall Jr., the high-water mark shows that Katrina's floodwaters fell just shy of the door-knob on Thursday.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**As more residents are allowed back home, the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina debris and repairs to the damage she left behind can begin in earnest.**

# PICKING UP THE PIECES




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** As their colleagues watch, a pair of National Guardsmen march double-time on a pile of tree debris as they try to make room for more in the back of a truck in Audubon Park on Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**METAIRIE:** Heading along Causeway Boulevard, Tim Johnson dozes in the back of a pickup after a hard day's work of hurricane cleanup in New Orleans on Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**NEW ORLEANS:** With the remains of a beached boat in the foreground, safety inspectors climb aboard the Bally's Casino at the South Shore Harbor Marina on Lake Pontchartrain on Thursday.

# Bush: Katrina catastrophe bigger than government

**BUSH,** *from A-1*

Bush sought to allay such concerns, sketching the first outlines of a rebuilding effort he called "one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen."

"When that job is done, all Americans will have something to be very proud of," he said, "and all Americans are needed in this common effort."

The federal government will work in "close partnership" with state and city governments in Louisiana and Mississippi to coordinate planning, he said, and that a team of investigators would monitor spending to ensure that the huge stream of money flowing into the rebuilding effort is well spent.

"Federal funds will cover the great majority of the costs of repairing public infrastructure in the disaster zone, from roads and bridges to schools and water systems," he said. "Our goal is to get the work done quickly."

Bush pledged a federal commitment to protect the city from future catastrophic hurricane flooding – an engineering feat, complicated by storm damage, that the Army Corps of Engineers has estimated would cost $2.5 billion and take two decades to complete.

"Protecting a city that sits lower than the water around it is not easy, but it can and has been done," he said. Federal and local officials will work "to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been," he said.

Bush put a special stress on poverty, much on display during the disaster as many members of New Orleans' lower income, predominantly African-American neighborhoods were rescued from rooftops and gathered at the Superdome and the Convention Center. The president traced the poverty to the legacy of racism.

"We have a duty to confront this poverty with bold action," Bush said. "Let us rise above the legacy of inequality."

Bush proposed a range of policy changes to accompany the rebuilding meant to address poverty – among them, stimulating affordable housing construction and home ownership in poor neighborhoods, tax incentives for minority businesses, and $5,000 federal accounts to get displaced residents back on their feet.

He noted, that "In New Orleans and surrounding parishes, more than a quarter million houses are no longer safe to live in. Hundreds of thousands of people from across this region will need to find longer-term housing."



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Gov. Kathleen Blanco met President Bush as he arrived by helicopter on the USS Iwo Jima docked on the Mississippi River. Blanco accompanied Bush to Jackson Square, where he addressed the nation.

Bush, who said on Tuesday he accepted responsibility for the government's slow response to the crisis, reiterated the statement.

"I as president am responsible for the problem - and for the solution," he said.

He conceded that government planners were not prepared for a catastrophe on the order of Katrina.

Bush said that every cabinet department would review emergency plans, and the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for emergency response, would undertake a top-to-bottom review of its performance and planning. He urged more planning at all levels of government for the next disaster.

"I also want to know all the facts about the government response to Hurricane Katrina," Bush said. "It was not a normal hurricane – and the normal disaster relief system was not equal to it."

Bush urged more planning at all levels of government for the next disaster.

"Our cities must have clear and up-to-date plans for responding to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or terrorist attack … for evacuating large numbers of people in an emergency … and for providing the food, water and security they would need," he said.

Emergency planners have said the death and destruction caused by Katrina shows the continuing weakness in the government's ability to respond to a terrorist strike four years after 9/11. "I consider detailed emergency planning to be a national security priority," Bush said.

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, applauded Bush's pledge to combat poverty with a raft of new programs.

"That is critically important to bring the region back," he said.

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John McQuaid can be reached at 202-383-7889 or at john.mcquaid@newhouse.com

BLUEWILLIAMS, L.L.P.

The family that is Blue Williams wishes to express our thanks for the support and concern expressed by our colleagues and clients in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Although several of our family members have suffered profound losses of their homes and possessions, we suffered no serious injuries or loss of life. Our hearts go out to all who have suffered so much as a result of this disaster.

Due to our main office in Metairie sustaining some damage, we have temporarily expanded our office in Mandeville. We are also opening an office in Baton Rouge to provide uninterrupted service to our clients. All of our files and data were preserved. We will be returning to our main office as soon as repairs have been completed.

Blue Williams is prepared to assist our clients and businesses in our community with the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The firm specializes in many areas that will be vital to businesses as they recover from this unprecedented disaster. Some of those include insurance coverage, construction law, employment law, tax incentives and abatement, environmental and clean up, corporate reorganization and bankruptcy. We can also assist with FEMA and federal disaster assistance, SBA business claims, real estate development, leasing and debt restructuring.

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**"Someone has to take some leadership in this state. We can't keep dancing around. It's either going to be the insurance commissioner or the governor or this committee."**

SEN. JAMES DAVID CAIN, R-Dry Creek, chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee

# Lawsuit aims to force coverage for damage

**INSURANCE,** *from A-1*

about the insurance industry's response to Katrina. At a joint legislative hearing Thursday, representatives of the state's three largest insurers were accused of shirking their responsibility to residents whose property was destroyed by the storm.

State Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R-New Orleans, said insurers had taken an "adversarial position" to policyholders by declaring that flood damage caused by Katrina is not covered under homeowners insurance policy. Instead, insurers have told residents that such claims must be submitted through the federal government's flood insurance program. Lawmakers said fewer than half of the residents in metropolitan New Orleans have flood insurance.

Bruneau warned that "World War III" would break out if the companies don't change their position.

"I would hope you all would take a very strong message back to your companies that you are going to have some extremely angry people who are not just going to sit there," said Bruneau, who later added, "I think we can do with a little less of the wringing of the hands and a little more creativity."

While insurance company representatives promised to do whatever they can to pay claims as quickly as possible in Louisiana, they balked at lawmakers' request that they pay claims not covered by homeowners insurance.

"No doubt there are lawsuits that will come out of this," said E.L. "Bubba" Henry, a lobbyist for State Farm Insurance. "But the insurance policies cover what they say they cover. To tell insurance companies that they must pay for damages that aren't covered – and that we didn't collect a premium on – is to bankrupt the industry."

Bruneau wasn't swayed. "I don't want to see the industry go bankrupt, but I don't want to see 50,000 to 100,000 people go bankrupt, either."

Though homeowners policies provide compensation for damage resulting from high wind, they don't cover flood damage. Instead, such claims are covered by federal flood insurance, which limits reimbursement to $250,000 – no matter how costly the actual damages are.

Insurance Commissioner J. Robert Wooley said it's possible that some insurance companies will broaden the types of claims they're covering from Katrina, given the exceptional ferocity of the storm. Damages from Katrina are expected to reach $200 billion, a record for a natural disaster in the United States.

Wooley likened the situation to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when insurance companies opted to pay about $20 billion to cover losses, even though acts of war are specifically exempted from most policies.

"I think you will see that coming into play in some instances" for Katrina victims, Wooley told lawmakers Thursday, though he said he isn't certain how far the companies could afford to go.

Wooley acknowledged there are "huge gaps" in the losses covered by flood insurance and those covered by homeowners policies, but he said he is confident the Federal Emergency Management Agency will ultimately deliver for the state. He said the agency did an "admirable job" in delivering aid to previous disaster victims.

But lawmakers were upset that FEMA was not represented at the hearing; the agency's representative left shortly after it started. Lawmakers said the crisis won't be resolved until state officials can hold a hearing at which all of the major players are present: the insurance industry, state government and FEMA.

"Someone has to take some leadership in this state," said Sen. James David Cain, R-Dry Creek, chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee. "We can't keep dancing around. It's either going to be the insurance commissioner or the governor or this committee. … And if nobody else is going to do it, we're going to do it. Somebody's got to bring this bunch together."

Cain threatened to issue subpoenas for FEMA representatives in Louisiana if the agency misses another committee hearing.

FEMA officials declined to comment.

Cain asked Wooley who he thinks should pay for the flood damage: insurers or the federal government.

"I'm not God," Wooley said. "I'm not able to answer that question."

Wooley cautioned lawmakers not to squeeze the insurance industry too hard. "We have an obligation not to bankrupt an entire industry," he said.

Former Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown, who is acting as an unpaid consultant for the 15 families who filed the class-action suit Thursday, said fears of bankruptcy were being overblown.

He said the companies involved in Katrina have reserves of $500 billion, which are more than enough to offset the estimated $50 billion in losses they face over the hurricane. Furthermore, he said, about 80 percent of those losses will ultimately be covered by huge reinsurance companies in Europe and elsewhere around the world, which took on that risk as an investment.

Brown predicted insurers won't have trouble taking on an additional $20 billion or so in losses to cover the flood damage they are now trying to shift to the federal government.

"I'm sure it's going to hurt, but it's not going to be a bankruptcy situation," Brown said.

The lawsuit says that as many as 160,000 homes were rendered uninhabitable by the hurricane, mostly because of flood damage caused by levee breaks in the 17th Street Canal and the London Street Canal.

The suit, which was filed in East Baton Rouge Parish, asks that a judge declare that any flooding caused by those levee breaks does not fall within the industry's standard "rising water" exception and is thus covered by homeowners policies.

Though the lawsuit does not address flooding caused by storm surge, which inundated homes in St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes, attorney Joseph Bruno said that issue will be addressed soon, either in another lawsuit or within the existing case.

Bruno said his firm does not expect to make any money on the litigation, which is being financed by three big firms that have won billions of dollars in class-action lawsuits in recent years. The firms are Bruno & Bruno, Fayard & Honeycutt, McKernan Law Firm, and Vernon P. Thomas. Bruno predicted expenses will top $100,000.

"Frankly, getting paid is the last thing I'm worried about right now,'' Bruno said. "If someone in the future can get us paid, I'll take it, but that is not my motivation."

Bruno has asked that hearings on the case be expedited, but he said residents should not expect a quick resolution. Even if the dispute moves quickly, he said, it will be at least six months before the matter reaches the Louisiana Supreme Court, which he expects will make the final ruling on the suit.

The case is one of two lawsuits filed against the nation's big insurers Thursday. Mississippi's attorney general also sued the industry in an attempt to force it to pay for flood damage, saying standard insurance policies led homeowners to believe they were covered for all hurricane damage, whether from wind or flooding.

"The residents and/or property owners of Mississippi Gulf Coast purchased these policies from defendants for the primary purpose of insuring against any damage that could possibly result from hurricanes originating from the Gulf of Mexico," Attorney General Jim Hood said in his lawsuit.

In Louisiana, lawmakers chafed at the slow process of the nation's insurance giants, asking why they can't simply write checks for the limits of policies in areas that are likely to be declared a total loss by FEMA, such as the lower 9th Ward in Orleans Parish and most of St. Bernard Parish.

As it stands, adjusters won't be able to visit some of those areas for weeks, if not months, because they can't inspect properties until homeowners return.

Sen. Ann Duplessis, D-New Orleans, whose eastern New Orleans was flooded by the storm, said insurers don't even have to send an adjuster to some areas because it's obvious whole swaths of the city were under eight feet of water or more for two weeks.

"I'd like to know why you can't just pay the face value of the policy so people can get on with their lives," Duplessis said.

Henry said the company can't pay that kind of money without actually visiting the property, but he noted that State Farm has handed out $2,500 checks to about 90,000 homeowners hurt by Katrina. Those payments were considered an advance on their covered losses, and they cost the company about $225 million.

Though it may take a long time to rebuild the region, Henry said, "I don't think it's going to take two to three years to pay those claims."

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The Associated Press contributed to this report. Jeffrey Meitrodt can be reached at Meitrodt@cox.net.

# FROM SWAMP TO DESERT



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Without rain for 2 ½ weeks, sludge from flooding has dried into sun-baked tiles at Deslonde and Marais streets in the Lower 9th Ward, seen on Thursday.

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Perkins W. affectionately known as "Butch", was born to Perkins Warren Broussard, Jr. and the late Miriam Carmouche Broussard on June 27, 1946. Perkins was united in marriage to his beloved Brenda Joyce Eugene Broussard for years and of that union they bore a son, Perkins Warren Broussard IV "Wormy". A lifetime native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Butch was well loved by an endless number of friends and business associates. He cherished the bond of his extended family at Don Bohn Autoplex. Butch is surrounded by his father, Perkins Warren Broussard, Jr. and his eleven siblings; Carol Ann, Gerard, Margaret, Valiant, Michael and Anthony Broussard, Iris Williams, Gail March, Madonna Collard, Michelle McDuffy and India Conde. He is preceded in death by his loving mother, Miriam Carmouche Broussard and sister, Theresa Villavasso. He also leaves behind his loving in-laws, James and Cecilia Estherlee Eugene and a host of sisters and brothers-in-law, Kellie Cass-Broussard and his grandsons, Perkins Warren Broussard V and Harper "K.C." Broussard and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. In general, Butch loved life. He adored his grandsons, Perkins V and Harper. He had a loud "bark" but a heart of gold. In silence, he would help a stranger and anyone in need. There is so much that can be said about Butch that would not fit within this limited space. In a few words, Butch was a priceless gem. He will be greatly missed. We will forever cherish his memory. Family will receive friends at 9:00AM with Recitation of Holy Rosary at 9:30AM at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, 600 S. Jupiter Rd., Richardson, TX. 75081 Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00AM For more information go to www.newhopefh.com.

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WAR IN IRAQ

# Suicide bombers kill 31 more in Baghdad

*Bombings called retaliation for successful army sweep*

**By Slobodan Lekic**
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Suicide bombers inflicted another day of mayhem in the capital Thursday, killing at least 31 people in two attacks about a minute apart that targeted Iraqi police and Interior Ministry commandos. The carnage left nearly 200 people dead in just two days.

A dozen bombings during a nine-hour spate of terror Wednesday killed at least 167 people and wounded nearly 600 — Baghdad's worst day of bloodshed since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

U.S. officials blamed the bombing onslaught on efforts by the Sunni Arab-dominated insurgency to answer the Iraqi army's successful offensive in the northern city of Tal Afar and to undermine the Oct. 15 referendum on Iraq's new constitution.

"These spikes of violence are predictable around certain critical events that highlight the progress of democracy," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, the chief American military spokesman.

"Remember, democracy equals failure for the insurgency. So there has to be heightened awareness now as we work our way toward the referendum. That's power, that's movement toward democracy."

Al-Qaida in Iraq, headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the bombing campaign launched after an Iraqi-U.S. force of 8,500 soldiers stormed Tal Afar, an insurgent bastion, this week.

Al-Zarqawi then purportedly declared "all-out war" on Shiite Muslims, Iraqi troops and the government in what the United States has called a desperate propaganda campaign to derail the political process.

Leaders of the Sunni Arab minority in Iraq have vowed to defeat the constitution, which they claim favors the Shiite majority and the Kurds.

Lynch said the joint force killed 145 insurgents and captured 361 in the second operation in a year to rid Tal Afar of militants, including foreign fighters crossing from Syria.

Now, he said, U.S. forces along with the Iraqis were fighting to regain control of the Syrian border, near the western insurgent stronghold of Qaim, well to the south of Tal Afar.

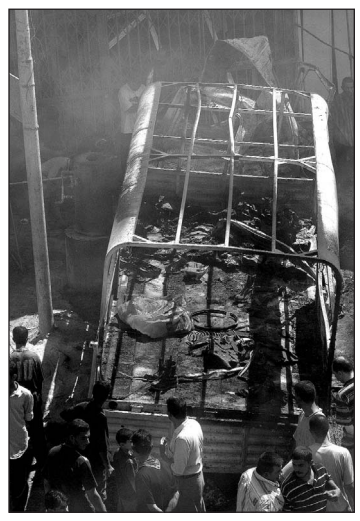
"The focus is ... to restore control of the border and in this particular case the border with Syria," he said. "We believe that the terrorists and foreign fighters are entering Iraq across the Syrian border, down the Euphrates River Valley into Baghdad."

Recent violence only served to deepen the misery in Baghdad, where streets were noticeably quieter Thursday — deserted in the southern Dora district where the latest bombings were concentrated.

U.S. and Iraqi forces using loudspeakers roamed the district warning residents to stay indoors because five more suicide car bombers were believed to be in the area.

Many victims of Wednesday's attacks were killed shortly after dawn when a bomber lured day laborers to his small van with the promise of work, then detonated his explosives in the heavily Shiite Kazimiyah district.

The massive bombings took place with both Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari in the United States.



AP PHOTO

Iraqis gather around a burned-out police truck near the site of a suicide bomber's attack in Baghdad's Dora neighborhood on Thursday. Two suicide bombers struck within about a minute of each other and about a half-mile apart, killing at least 31 people, officials said.

Meanwhile, The Associated Press obtained the text of minor, final changes to Iraq's draft constitution. The United Nations is to print the draft in Baghdad and ensure its distribution before the referendum, but the world body said it was awaiting final approval. There were conflicting reports on when Iraq's parliament would sign off on the document.

Two articles in the draft were changed, one was dropped entirely and one was added. Of those, the main change was a new clause noting that Iraq was a founding member of the Arab League, an addition Sunni Arabs sought to underline the country's links with the Arab world.

The dropped passage gave the constitution precedence over international human rights agreements, which the United States asked to be removed.

NATION & WORLD

# Roberts tells Senate he's no ideologue

*Testimony ends; confirmation likely*

**By David Espo**
AP special correspondent

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice nominee John Roberts said Thursday there is no room for ideologues on the Supreme Court, declaring an "obligation to the Constitution" and to no other cause as he concluded three grueling days of confirmation testimony.

"If the Constitution says that the little guy should win, the little guy's going to win in court before me," Roberts told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "But if the Constitution says that the big guy should win, well, then the big guy's going to win."

Roberts' confirmation as successor to the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist appears secure, the only question the size of his vote total and in particular his Democratic support. The Judiciary Committee is to vote its recommendation next week.

The White House and Republican leaders hope for approval by the full GOP-controlled Senate in time for the 50-year-old appeals court judge and former Reagan administration lawyer to take his seat on the opening day of the court's term Oct. 3.

Conservatives pronounced themselves satisfied as Roberts wrapped up his appearance before the committee.

"His testimony on the right to privacy mirrored that of Clarence Thomas during his Supreme Court confirmation hearing," read a memo circulated by Leonard Leo and Jay Sekulow, two prominent conservatives who lead organizations that are working to clear the way for confirmation.

The right to privacy underpins the right to abortion, and Thomas has voted as a member of the high court to overturn the 1973 ruling that established a constitutional right to abortion.

In his testimony earlier in the week, Roberts said he believed the Constitution provides a right to privacy. But he offered no hint about how he would come down on the abortion issue, which is expected to come before the court in the coming year.

Roberts opened his appearance before the committee Monday by declaring, "I have no agenda." He closed with a reformulation: "My obligation is to the Constitution. That's the oath."

After two largely futile days of trying to learn Roberts' views on controversial issues, Democrats spent much of their final round of questioning trying to determine what Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., called his "core values."

# Egyptians struggle to control border

*Leaders are worried terrorists can sneak in*

**By Maggie Michael**
Associated Press writer

RAFAH, EGYPT — Palestinians blasted holes in an Israeli-built wall and overwhelmed Egyptian troops on the Gaza border to flow by the hundreds into Egypt on Thursday, foiling attempts to impose control after days of unhindered crossings.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders expressed fears that militants and al-Qaida terrorists will infiltrate Gaza and Israel through the border, which has been open since Israeli troops withdrew from the Palestinian territory.

Egypt had promised to reimpose border controls by Thursday evening, and in the morning several hundred police officers were deployed at the main crossing points, more than the few dozen seen in past days. They allowed Palestinians to return to Gaza and managed to slow to a trickle the number entering Egypt for part of the day.

But after hours of pushing and shoving at the Saladin border crossing in Rafah, the police line broke and hundreds of Palestinians crossed the border. Faced with the large crowds, many police officers gave up and the crossing became almost as open as it was in the past days.

The so-called Canada crossing was closed by police but less than a mile away, hundreds of Palestinians passed through an olive grove and crossed freely through a break in the wall at the border.

Egypt has yet to deploy the bulk of the 750 border guards it promised to station on the frontier under a deal with Israel.

A local official said it could be three more days before the guards, who are more heavily armed than the police, are in place.


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# Razor wire secures Mississippi firms, homes

## *Troops, cops use it to keep out looters*

**By Vicki Smith**
Associated Press Writer

GULFPORT, MISS — Concertina wire is being rolled out in hurricane ravaged areas of the Mississippi coast to keep looters and sightseers out of damaged homes and businesses, officials said Thursday.

The razor wire, which already has been placed in some areas in Long Beach and Pass Christian, is a necessary and cost-efficient way to "keep people who don't need to be in that area out of that area," said Joe Spraggins, Harrison County's Civil Defense director.

Soldiers and police have had difficulty securing certain areas because people have managed to avoid checkpoints on roads and streets.

Spraggins said he was not concerned about the negative image the wire could create because he believes people understand it makes more sense than assigning large numbers of soldiers to guard private property.

"It was very quick to put up, and it's very quick to take down, and we'll take it down when we get this problem under control," he said.

Residents of the devastated areas are allowed to pass through checkpoints because they have valid reasons to be there, Spraggins said.

"The people that don't need to be there, the people that just want to go looking, the people that want to pilfer something, they are not getting through," he said.

The fatality count in Mississippi has stood at 218 since Tuesday, and with recovery workers finding fewer bodies, officials can concentrate on other problems that plague the area.

The Mississippi Department of Health said Thursday it had set up a state-of-the-art water treatment system developed by the Office of Naval Research to convert salt water to safe drinking water.

Only two units of its kind exist in the world, health officials said.

The treatment system, which can provide 120,000 gallons of potable water per day, is serving the Biloxi Regional Medical Center.

Other mobile water treatment centers have been set up in Waveland and Biloxi in recent days. Those systems are capable of cleaning up contaminated water in areas that are under a boil water restriction.

About 26,152 homes and businesses that are capable of receiving power were still without it Thursday, down from 800,000 immediately after the hurricane. The outage number does not include the thousands of homes and businesses that were destroyed or are too damaged to receive electricity.

In other late developments, the state College Board announced it was waiving tuition for nonresidents displaced by Katrina.

And military leaders at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg said Thursday they were setting up a program that assists the dependents of soldiers and Department of Defense workers who were displaced by the storm.

# Ophelia soaks North Carolina coast

## *Slow hurricane 'just beating us to death'*

**By Margaret Lillard**
Associated Press writer

SALTER PATH, N.C. — Hurricane Ophelia crawled along the North Carolina coast on Thursday, prolonging its punishment of the Outer Banks with rain and wind as coastal residents elsewhere returned home to damaged homes and businesses.

While the weakening storm's center was expected to stay just off shore, the northern side of Ophelia's eyewall, the ring of high wind surrounding the eye, could remain over the Outer Banks until midday today, the National Hurricane Center said.

Gov. Mike Easley said getting a handle on the scope of damage was difficult because of the storm's slow path, first affecting the state's southeastern coast on Tuesday and then crawling north and east Wednesday and Thursday to its position off the Outer Banks.

"It's almost like working three different storms," Easley said.

More than 81,000 homes and businesses remained without power Thursday in eastern North Carolina, utilities said.

It appeared the mainland had dodged the severe flooding many had feared, but the wind and waves had taken a toll.

Ophelia, an erratic storm that has looped and meandered north since forming off the Florida coast last week, stalled early Thursday afternoon, then drifted east-northeast at about 3 mph, the hurricane center said.

Its top sustained wind speed had eased back to 75 mph, barely strong enough to be classified as a hurricane. Since it was weakening and its direction was toward open ocean, a hurricane warning for the North Carolina coast was reduced to a tropical storm warning.

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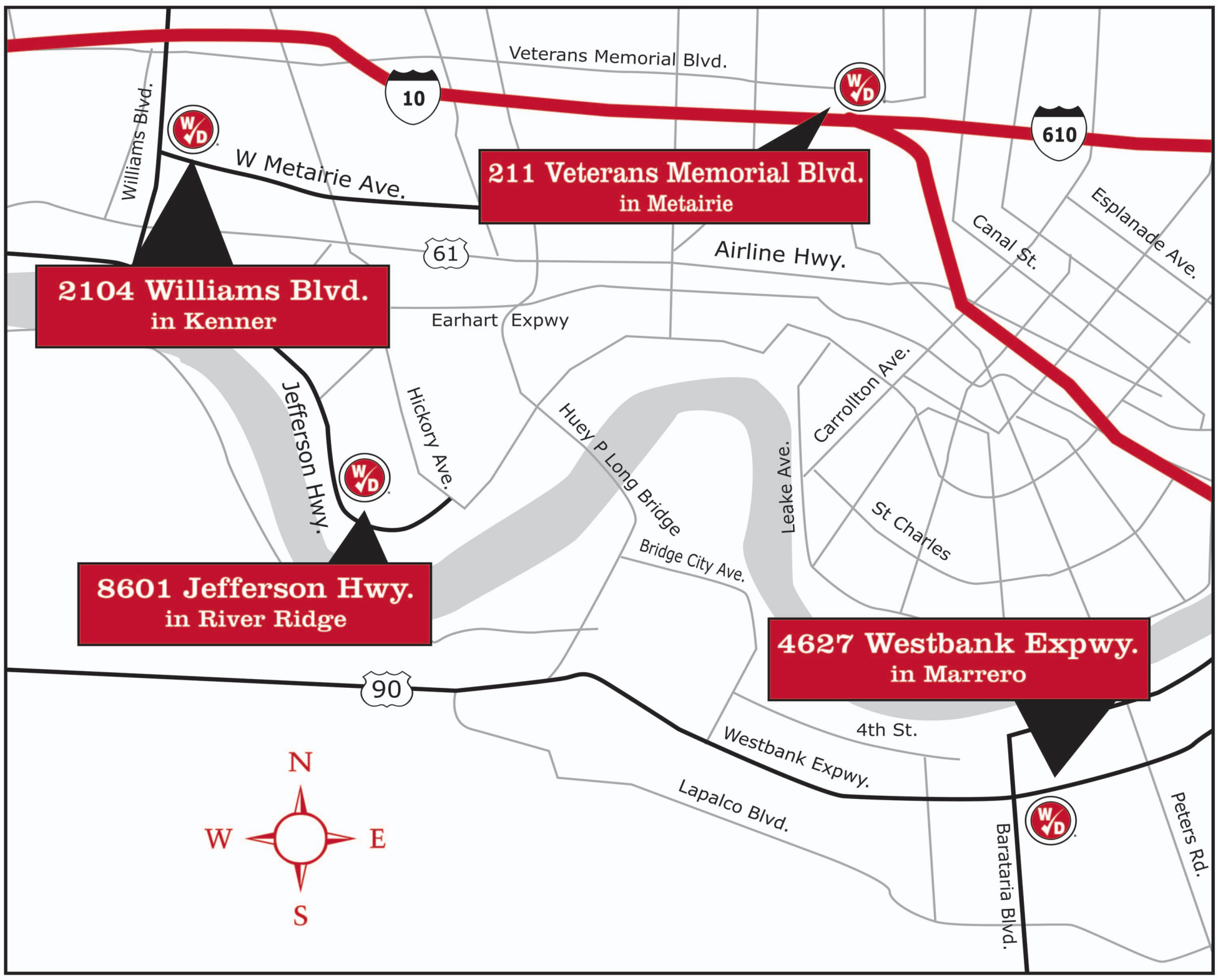
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-8

SECTION B
Friday
September 16, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## City still has creature comforts

We arrived at the Catina Street house by boat. It was the only way.

As late as Sunday afternoon, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina unleashed her wrath, the entire Lakeview area near the West End exit off I-10 was under several feet of dark, dirty water.

Two weeks ago, a cat named Buddy had been left in the house with plenty of food and water.

Was that food still dry? Was the cat still alive?

I dared not ask those questions aloud.

On the boat, there were three of us: Steve Rushing, a Mississippi fisher who owns and captains the small motor craft; Gary Eldredge, a private investigator who lives in the Catina Street house; and me.

Eldredge literally had begged the Humane Society to allow him to help rescue animals. He felt that unlike many of the rescue workers from out of town, he was well-qualified to navigate the city, even areas still under water.

Twice, he went to the animal shelter in Gonzales, only to essentially be told, "Don't call us. We'll call you."

When I told a mutual friend that I was interested in doing a story on pet rescue, she introduced me to Eldredge. He introduced me to Rushing at 5 a.m. on the day we launched our mission.

While I figured the mission was to save pets from specific houses whose owners later could be found, Eldredge was interested in no such compromise. Every dog or cat he saw — even those that were probably strays before the flood, even the two pits bulls who snarled at us from a Mid-City balcony — he wanted to save.

There was no itinerary. We started in Mid-City because we could park on the Jefferson Davis overpass and launch the boat near Tulane Avenue. From there we moved toward Carrollton Avenue on Banks Street.

It wasn't easy traveling. While much of Mid-City was under water, there were places where the water was shallow or where fallen trees and abandoned cars created a formidable obstacle course.

We had keys to some homes. At others, the owner had given us permission to break in. In Mid-City, we rescued several cats and a small white dog. When we couldn't get in, or when we couldn't capture the animals, we left food and water for them in the driest possible spot.

Then we went back to the Jefferson Davis Parkway overpass, hitched the boat back to the car and drove on to the West End exit off I-10. There we put the boat back in the water and made our way toward Catina.

Eldredge, who had given his morning over to saving other's people's pets, finally had a chance to save his own. But when he finally made it to his own front door, he had trouble turning the key. He was nervous, I think. I opened it with relative ease.

He waded into the house with long rubber waders that looked like rubber overalls. I followed him.

What wasn't wet was moldy. What wasn't nailed down was floating, including the refrigerator.

"Buddy?" Eldredge called out. He heard a faint "meow."

That was a hopeful sign, but the response had come from one of the cats in the cages still on the boat. There was no sound

*See* **ELIE,** *page B-2*



# STUCK, BY CHOICE

## Many poor who chose to stay behind are helping clean vacant neighborhood streets



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

'I sit here every day and worry about my sister, who has a nice house on General Taylor,' said John Lacey, TOP, who remains in his Central City apartment. Lacey, shown ABOVE wondering the streets of his neighborhood, is one of just a few residents staying in the area after Hurricane Katrina. 'I'm all by myself, talking by myself, answering myself,' he said.

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Throughout Central City, one of the roughest parts of New Orleans and home to the C.J. Peete public housing development, churches, barber shops, corner stores and hundreds of modest shotguns, John Lacey was a lone figure one day this week.

He was sweeping up the mess from the storm.

Lacey, who remains in his apartment off Jackson Avenue, said the National Guard has been checking on him regularly. "They got a nice attitude," he said. "They dropped by the other day and gave me a cigarette lighter."

That may be all he's getting. The days of dropping off Meals-Ready-to-Eat and bottled water to holdouts in New Orleans are over, said Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, spokesman for the National Guard.

"We can't keep doing a supply mission," Schneider said Wednesday in Baton Rouge. "The policy has shifted a tad. We tell them we can get them out, but we can't keep dropping off provisions."

That won't help the remaining survivors, such as Alvira and Troy Theriot, a mother and son who rode out the storm.

"I could use some food," Alvira said. "I don't want to leave. I wasn't afraid of the storm."

Theriot, 67, on her front stoop Wednesday morning, said she was fine. She had a little food left and had water – tap water. In the 2200 block of Harmony Street, just blocks away from a National Guard headquarters at the Sophie Wright Middle School on Napoleon Avenue, Theriot and her son, Troy, 41, said they had been checked on by a military outfit.

Candles burned inside to light the rental. Theriot, a retired housekeeper, asked a visitor if the Wal-Mart was open. She hasn't heard of the looting that went on directly after the storm and that the big box retailer was now a military compound.

The Theriots didn't want to leave the city, nor did they consider taking shelter at the Superdome, which city and federal officials dubbed the shelter of "last resort."

"No," Alvira Theriot said. "With all those people?"

Now, the mother and son are stuck in New Orleans, their choice — as much of a choice as the working poor have these days.

Also stuck is Lacey, 51, who had a broomstick in his hand as he swept in front of Sadie's Beauty Salon in the 2300 block

*See* **POOR,** *page B-2*

# Storm's force prolongs family's grief

## Teen's funeral to take place on Sunday

**By Karen Baker**
St. Tammany bureau

Chuck Billiot of Chalmette called the office at Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mandeville this week with a simple request: "I just want to bury my daughter."

Billiot's daughter, Charie, 16, was among three St. Bernard Parish teenagers killed Aug. 21 when their car slammed into a tree on Louisiana 16 near Sun on their way home from a Bogue Chitto River tubing trip.

Charie's funeral was scheduled to take place at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Chalmette on Aug. 30. Billiot said the family wanted to wait for their other daughter, Chrissie, 15, to be released from the hospital, who was also injured in the crash.

But then Katrina roared in, and the Billiot family found tragedy heaped upon tragedy.

"It has been a very trying time," said Billiot, who is staying with relatives in Mandeville. Billiot's stepson, Brian LaFontaine, was also killed in the Aug. 21 crash.

Brian's funeral took place before the hurricane, he said.

"We have had a couple of private ceremonies for Charie to have some closure, but we are looking forward to having a service," he said.

Visitation will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace Church, 1501 West Causeway Approach in Mandeville, followed by a Mass at 1 p.m.

"We have had overwhelming support from this community,

*See* **FUNERAL,** *page B-2*

# 'We're going to have Mardi Gras,' Kern pledges

## Many floats unhurt by Katrina

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

Though electric company trucks with telescoping arms and camouflaged Humvees are the attention-grabbing vehicles plying New Orleans streets these days, people involved with planning Mardi Gras predict that beginning in February they will have been replaced by convoys of colorful Carnival floats. They believe there will be a Mardi Gras next year, though the exact state of the celebration remains a question.

The smiling fiberglass alligator that not long ago greeted visitors at the parking lot of Mardi Gras World on the West Bank now looks out over an ad hoc supply depot where armed, camouflaged soldiers distribute donated clothing, cases of bottled water and other necessities to hurricane victims. Like it did at practically every other landmark in The City That Care Forgot, Hurricane Katrina has drastically altered the tenor of activities at the world's largest maker of Mardi Gras floats.

The row of yellow sheet metal warehouses in the shadow of the Crescent City Connection is a tourist draw, giving people from across the world a year-round glimpse at the grandly garish creations. Though two Kern warehouses a few blocks upriver were largely demolished by Katrina's winds, leaving a fleet of the brightly painted floats in various states of damage within the crumpled sheet metal walls and beneath the shattered grid of industrial windows, most of the other floats stored at Mardi Gras World were unscathed.

They remain in neat rows, their sculpted figure heads in the shapes of monsters, mythic heroes and cartoon animals awaiting their midwinter moment to shine. The fear in the minds of many New Orleanians in the days since Katrina is that their moment, the 2006 Mardi Gras, the Crescent City's signature celebration, might be another of the storm's casualties.

Mardi Gras World owner Blaine Kern, 79, who began applying paper-mâché and canvas ornaments to wagon carriages in 1947 and now presides over an international empire,



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Army Sgt. Peter Callies and Sgt. Marcus Bernardez of the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, walk through Mardi Gras World on the West Bank on Wednesday. 'Maybe I'm an eternal optimist, but we're going to have Mardi Gras this year,' said Mardi Gras World owner Blaine Kern.

sculpting floats and theme park attractions in industrial studios from Valencia, Spain, to Galveston, Texas, said he thinks not.

"I'm over here in Destin," he said over a hissing cell phone. "I got four dogs, two cats and a parrot in the car with me. It's like Noah's ark. ... Maybe I'm an eternal optimist, but we're going to have Mardi Gras this year."

Kern is so optimistic that he believes there's a possibility of a sort of welcome home even before Mardi Gras. "We might do a parade when we're all back in the city," he said.

Though Carnival is only a few weeks long, Mardi Gras preparations go on year-round. Kern said he bases his optimism on the fact that the floats for many of the major parades are practically finished, awaiting only last-minute touches before they're ready to roll.

*See* **MARDI GRAS** *page B-2*

**"Ain't nobody stay but me and the dogs. I'm just a lonely person living in a one-man house."**

John Lacey, Central City resident

# 'Can't nothing hurt me but God'

**POOR,** *from B-1*

of Jackson Street. Lacey rode out Hurricane Katrina in his apartment in the back of the building.

"Ain't nobody stay but me and the dogs," he said, wearing black gloves and a black visor sideways. "I'm just a lonely person living in a one-man house."

The water rose, but it didn't get into his house, he said. The neighborhood, a short drive from the tony mansions of St. Charles Ave., was dry last Friday, but in some places the water marks on homes rose to five feet.

Lacey returned to New Orleans four years ago after a 28-year stretch at the maximum state prison at Angola for what he called a "simple robbery."

"Can't nothing hurt me but God," said Lacey, who added that he would take any job cleaning up New Orleans, a city he said he loved and would never leave.

Across the city, in Hollygrove, several New Orleans men already were working such jobs. Daral McNeil, 45, a bricklayer by trade, said his eastern New Orleans home was ruined.

"I lost everything," McNeil said, taking a break from cleaning Monroe Street to watch a line of federal disaster team white vans — the symbol of dead-body recovery in New Orleans these days — and white-jacketed workers retrieve a body from a home. "That's why I'm out here now, trying to regain."



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

John Lacey takes a nap during the middle of the day, when the sun is hot. He is continuing to stay in his cramped, one-bedroom apartment. Lacy, who spent 28 years in Angola, says he was picked up by gun-wielding members of the military after Hurricane Katrina and driven to the airport to be evacuated. 'I don't like being locked up, like I'm in prison. I'm a free man,' he said. 'And as soon as the man looked the other way, I escaped and walked back to New Orleans.'

Raymond Guild, 54, of Algiers, is working too, earning $100 a day for 10 hard hours. He used to work offshore for PSC.

The men said they got the jobs at a federal disaster headquarters set up at an Algiers stadium.

"My job is under water," said another man who identified himself as Big Dog, of his prior job as a cook at the Hyatt hotel on Canal Street.

But clearing tree limbs, trash, and debris from damaged homes was paying these days, they all acknowledged. It would do for now.

The water marks around Hollygrove were at least six feet, but locals said they heard many rooftops were swallowed up during the worst of the flooding. A drive along Olive Street — from Gert Town off of Earhart Boulevard and through Pigeon Town to Hollygrove — was a debris-filled ride through neighborhoods where water marks were up to mailboxes on houses. The house at 3340 Joliet St. appeared to have a six-foot water mark.

Both neighborhoods, along with Central City, were virtual dead zones. Central City close to Louisiana Avenue typically would be filled with children and adults on a hot summer afternoon. The scattered bars — many of which have signs saying "No loitering," or in one case, "No one under 30" — were shuttered by the storm.

Over by C.J. Peete, the area was nearly vacant, occupied by a few dogs who had been left behind. Houses had been spray-painted with zeros or "2 dogs" by law enforcement. Across from 2101 Third St., a white Chevy pickup lay on its side by the street corner.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" asked the sign at the First House of Prayer Baptist Church on Lasalle Street.

# Taking paws for a worthy pet cause

**ELIE,** *from B-1*

from the house itself.

"Buddy?" Eldredge called again as he went into the second room.

Again, there was a response. A squeaking door? An irrelevant noise? Who could tell?

He's probably in the back room, Eldredge said, but I had no faith.

On the boat, Rushing whispered doubts that Buddy could have lived through this. Through the house, I walked several paces behind Eldredge. I didn't want to be the first to spot the corpse of the beloved cat.

"Buddy?" Eldredge called again.

"Meow," came the response. This time there was no mistaking it: There was a cat in the house.

"I'm coming, Buddy!" Eldredge yelled. "I'm coming."

Moving quickly, purposefully, he made his way across a pond of debris. There, in the back room, Eldredge found Buddy, a large black and white cat.

What I remember of those next few moments has less to do with the details of the action than with the meaning of the scene as I watched it unfold.

Eldredge had lost everything. A couple of decades' worth of memories and files were floating in dirty water.

Then I understood that no matter how much Eldredge loved this cat, at that moment Buddy was as much a vestige of an old life and a drowned past as he was a beloved pet.

Buddy is one of the precious few things from Eldredge's life that Hurricane Katrina left high and dry.

# Family wants closure after teen's death

**FUNERAL,** *from B-1*

helping us to get through this," Billiot said.

News of the fatal crash sent shockwaves through the schools and communities of St. Bernard Parish.

"These were all wonderful kids, wonderful students from good families, involved students in their schools," St. Bernard Parish schools Superintendent Doris Voitier

said Aug. 22. "It's just a community tragedy."

Billiot said he just wants Charie's many friends from Chalmette High School who might be in St. Tammany to know that they can come say goodbye to his daughter, the honor student with the "beautiful smile who had an incredible force for life."

Charie is survived by her father, Chuck Billiot; her mother, Tina Tammaseo; her stepmother, Marleen Billiot; a sister, Chrissie Billiot; a stepsister, Tracy Duplantier; and a stepbrother, Neil Duplantier.

# Flooding reported at Rex float site

**MARDI GRAS,** *from B-1*

The floats lost in the storm belong to several different krewes, spreading the damage more or less evenly.

"We lost two dens (float warehouses) in Gretna with 40 to 50 floats," Kern said. "We had some damage in our lumberyard, and some props and some floats were damaged. But the Rex parade is finished, Bacchus is 95 percent, Endymion is 80 percent. We're in good shape. "

What Kern may not have known at the time was that water had risen past the 5-foot mark in the Rex den on South Claiborne Avenue, where horizontal bands of brown sludge marked the water's incremental coming and going on the colorful canvas sides of the assembled floats. Inside the darkened warehouse, fetid with the peculiar industrial/organic odor of floodwaters, an enormous, purple sculpted mosquito, a nude woman bearing a water urn and a portion of a coral reef stood surreally on floats above the muddy, littered floor. The iron wheels of the antique chassis were orange with rust.

"We had water," said former Rex captain John Charbonnet of the flooded den, "but I don't have a report yet."

Like Kern, Charbonnet is confident that the will of New Orleans to celebrate Carnival survived storm and flood.

"I believe that all of the major parading organizations want to parade," he said, "and as we all get back together, we have three or four months to work on it. I think we'll have an enjoyable, perhaps a little subdued Carnival. We've got a lot to overcome, with damage to props and costumes, but right now the push is on. Everyone needs to take inventory. … But if we ever needed a Mardi Gras, this is the year."

Not far from the flooded Rex den, near the corner of Tchoupitoulas and 6th Street, the Hermes den was also significantly damaged. A long section of the warehouse's cement block wall had collapsed near the roofline, exposing props sculpted by Royal Artists, Kern's competition in the float-building trade. Through a storm-created slit in the warehouse's sheet metal wall, the faces of Neptune, Hercules and Pan could be seen, the floats they dominated apparently intact, though rubble from the roof was scattered across the floor around them.

But the availability of floats is only part of the challenge. The availability of the army of police necessary to monitor Mardi Gras, the availability of cleanup crews and other city-provided amenities are all factors in staging Carnival 2006.

Then there's money. All Carnival parades are privately funded by the membership dues of the riders, who spend thousands of dollars a year to stage the elaborate celebration. But Carnival krewe dues may be a very low priority in many New Orleans households this year, and parade budgets will surely drop.

"I certainly think there will be examples where that will be a concern," said Charbonnet. "Only God knows how individuals will react. Anybody could say, 'Hey, this year I've got to step aside.' "

As anachronistic and un-American as it may seem, there is no corporate sponsorship of Mardi Gras parades, no product banners or krewe endorsements. Carnival traditionalists have long held out against the seductions of such a ready source of funding. But now the appeal of sponsorship has become especially acute.

"I'm the last person in the world to want corporate sponsors," said Kern. "It's what keeps us so blessedly unique. But say with some of these smaller krewes, in an emergency, it might be necessary. Kentucky Fried Chicken and Universal Studios, they would like to help if necessary. If it takes that, then at least we have a standby. But I don't think we'll need it."

Members of Orpheus, one of the youngest major krewes, planned to celebrate their 13th year with a parade dedicated to superstitions New Orleans style. Among the theme floats already created for Carnival 2006 are "Lightening Strikes," "The Storm Dragon" and "The Hurricane Bringer."

But co-founder Sonny Borey, riding out the storm's aftermath in Clear Lake Shores, Texas, is confident that despite this year's cataclysmic bad luck, the show will go on.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Mardi Gras World sustained little damage from Hurricane Katrina and has becoming a staging area for relief efforts.

"There's going to be a Mardi Gras this year," he said, "I don't know how large. But we're going to show the world that Mardi Gras will always be here. … I don't think there's a krewe in the city that's not going to make a concerted effort to have Mardi Gras this year. We have an obligation.

"The money issue is something the krewes will have to work out on their own. I've spoken to many of our members, and they're dedicated to having Mardi Gras. … We have a very strong, young business-type membership. You pay as you go. … Listen, there's financial worry every year. It's discretionary money."

Endymion is New Orleans' biggest parade. Held the Saturday before Mardi Gras, Endymion is like a fireworks display on wheels, a 60-vehicle affair, with segmented, multi-chassis floats carrying as many as 200 bead-throwing riders, all lit with skeins of flashing light strands. A spectacle among spectacles, Endymion takes 3 hours to wind through the crowd-choked streets of the city on a route all its own ending on the floor of the now-damaged Superdome. If there's a parade that will tax the resources and logistics of the recovering city, it will be Endymion.

"If Mayor Nagin says we don't have the police or whatever," said founder Ed Muniz, from Destin, Fla., "we'll just put the floats in mothballs and I'll be disappointed. … If it's up to Endymion, then Endymion's going to roll. Mayor Nagin is one of our members. If he tells me I've got the green light, we'll do it.

"This is our 40th year, and this year I was really going to throw the dice. It was going to be the biggest parade in the history of Mardi Gras. The theme is 'The Legends and Lure of Gold.'

"We're all very sad about the tragedies. A lot of our members lost their homes. But in six months, we're going to be looking forward, not back. Mardi Gras is what New Orleans does best. Financially, Mardi Gras is the equivalent of four or five Super Bowls. Cab drivers, beauticians, the hotels — everybody benefits. Just try to get a restaurant reservation in the last five days of Carnival.

"I know for a fact that Las Vegas is right now trying to do a Mardi Gras. We can't let Mardi Gras go to Las Vegas. This is something we do naturally. We should bring back all the press that was here for the hurricane and put them up on balconies for Mardi Gras."

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# Trailers will house workers at area plants

*Workers will clean sites, then return to their jobs*

**By Ed Anderson and Allen Powell II**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – The Shell Oil Terminal in St. James Parish on Thursday moved 161 trailers onto its site to put its Hurricane Katrina-displaced employees back to work, state officals said.

Don Pierson, assistant secretary of the Department of Economic Development, said that by the end of business Thursday about 525 trailer housing units supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be in place for employees of "critical, strategic industries" in south Louisiana. That includes oil refineries and chemical plants. Another 545 units are on order and are expected to be in place "in a week to 10 days'' Pierson said.

The number of plant workers without homes was not available, officials said. The industries put in requests to the state for the housing.

"This is hard-hat housing," Pierson said.

He said as soon as the trailers are in place, workers can return to their jobs, start drawing paychecks and get the local economy "up and running."

"We have to get those (industries) strategically important to America back on line," he said. "The effort to get the refineries back on line is important."

Pierson said the housing will not be for contract workers, but the plants' employees who will first be put to work cleaning up the sites, then return to their regular jobs when the facilities are back in operation. Other plants in line for the temporary housing in the coming days include Dow in Plaquemine and Exxon in Baton Rouge.

Some trailers will be connected to municipal water and electrical hookups, while others are being located at industries that have their own self-contained electrical and water sources.

Department officials said another 20 trailers were en route late Thursday to the Shell complex in Norco.

Pierson said despite Katrina's damages, Louisiana remains "open for business."

**"It's becoming painfully obvious that our cultural assets are critically important to what the city looks like."**
LT. GOV. MITCH LANDRIEU

# Restart sought for 'cultural' economy

*Lt. governor to meet with N.Y. officials*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu will travel to New York today to meet with officials in New York to see how that city's experience managing million of dollars of aid after the 2001 terrorist attacks — and its experience restarting its tourism industry — can help Louisiana, Landrieu said Thursday.

In New York, Landrieu will participate in disaster fund-raising efforts and meet with New York state and city officials on how to make the best use of assistance offers. He also will meet with officials from the Travel Industry Association of America and the Travel Business Roundtable, an industry group headed by Jonathan Tisch, chief executive of Loews Hotels, which has a property in New Orleans.

Landrieu, de facto head of the state's tourism industry in his role as lieutenant governor, said tourism faces a long and difficult road, but can be re-built because the city's cultural assets survived. The French Quarter and other historic areas survived the storm as did the city's unique musical and culinary heritage.

"It's becoming painfully obvious that our cultural assets are critically important to what the city looks like," said Landrieu, who heads an effort to build what he calls Louisiana's 'cultural' economy. "One of the things we learned from this storm is that the things that we took for granted are the most valuable to us."

Landrieu will hold a meeting of tourism leaders on Tuesday in Baton Rouge to announce the state's tourism recovery plan, and said he believes it is possible to get federal money to help promote Louisiana tourism the way New York did after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He said that it will be a challenge to hang onto the city's musicians, artists and chefs while the city is shut down, but by using the opportunity to rebuild New Orleans while solving its problems, the city can lure back its intellectual assets.

Landrieu added that while New Orleanians are away, they will pick up new ideas from other places that they can bring back to the city, but they'll also realize that New Orleans has things that other cities don't.

"This is a competition," Landrieu said. "At the end of the day, we're competing for citizens."

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# Westwego officials restarted old pumps

## *Police kept city together in chaos*

**By Joe Darby**
Staff writer

As Hurricane Katrina took aim at south Louisiana and winds climbed to 60 mph, Westwego Police Chief Dwayne "Poncho" Munch and Councilmen Ted J. Munch and Larry Warino made a final tour of the city on the evening of Aug. 28.

They noticed the water levels in city canals were already rising. "I knew it hadn't rained that much at the time, and the canals shouldn't have been that high," the police chief said.

He soon learned Jefferson Parish had pulled its pump operators out, and the pumps that drain Westwego were not operating. So the chief and the councilmen broke into Westwego Pumping Station No. 1 and turned it on, hoping to save the city from flooding.

Parish officials confirmed that pump operators were among a contingent of essential personnel evacuated just hours ahead of the storm. They said pump stations are not designed to withstand hurricane-force winds and storm surges, and that operators would not be safe.

Ted Munch said that, immediately after the storm passed, he, a city worker and two National Guard soldiers went to a second pumping station, cut the lock on the door and flipped it on as well. The councilman said the storm caused some flooding in parts of the city, but he believed that having the two stations working likely saved the city from more severe flooding.

With the pumping station operating, the police department rode out the storm on the third floor of Worley Middle School, stocked with a good supply of food and water. Anticipating possibly catastrophic flooding on the West Bank, the police tethered boats to the school building. Some of the newer patrol cars were parked on upper floors of the West Jefferson Medical Center parking garage.

"I was hearing that we could get winds of 175 mph, and I told my officers I couldn't be responsible for their safety, and I wasn't going to force them to stay," the police chief said. "But no one left."

During the days following the storm, Westwego police worked long hours with little sleep, performing duties ranging from feeding and protecting about 500 evacuees at Worley to transporting critically ill people to Terrebonne General Hospital in Houma. Poncho Munch estimates about 10 percent of Westwego's 10,500 residents remained in the city during the storm.

The chief's home was damaged by the storm, and he has been living out of his Avenue A office, outfitted with a single bed mattress and a refrigerator next to his desk.

Officers took turns catching a nap in their patrol cars, while another officer parked beside to keep watch. Some police cars suffered "blown engines" because they were used so much, the chief said.

The evacuees were in the school for four days. "We had food and water for them, but they were hot and aggravated," Poncho Munch said.

All telephones in the city were out, and officers had to rely on radios from the department's new mobile command center for communication. Officers put the city on a "lockdown," and only two looting incidents are known to have occurred.

"They had it together and they functioned really well. We all cooperated and worked together with the city," Ted Munch said.

This week, life slowly started returning to normal in Westwego. On Thursday, the city welcomed residents back to cleared streets and open businesses.

"When the people come home and they want to thank somebody, they shouldn't thank the politicians who have been on TV," Munch said. "They should thank the police, the firefighters and the city workers out on the streets for what they did."

• • • • • •

Reporter Sheila Grissett contributed to this story.

# HOME IN RUINS



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

While the water is down in this 9th Ward neighborhood off North Claiborne Avenue, there is little that won't have to be rebuilt from the ground up. As the federal government begins moving 200,000 mobile housing units into Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, the Housing Authority of New Orleans has relocated temporarily to Houston and is placing thousands of former city residents who receive public housing assistance into homes throughout Texas. The events highlight the social and economic challenges of returning families and workers to New Orleans, as local and federal authorities struggle to meet the immediate housing needs of displaced citizens while hoping as many as possible can move back to the city in the long term.


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**"Now is the time because the vast majority of the homes have electricity and we have the basic services that people need to live here."**

PHIL CAPITANO, Kenner mayor

# Kenner, Harahan making slow, steady comeback

*Residents putting lives back together*

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Henry and Verlee Isaac's University City home in Kenner had flooded before, but Katrina pushed about 5 feet of water into the Tulane Drive residence.

"It's never been this bad before," Henry Isaac said Thursday, the day his city and Harahan officially opened to residents. "We'd get a couple of inches once in awhile, but nothing like this."

"I just don't know what we're going to do."

He was among the residents who rolled in to both cities Thursday, in some cases assessing damage to homes and businesses for the first time.

When Cleveland Fontanille arrived Thursday to his home of 29 years on Holy Cross Place in Kenner, the several inches of water was almost too much to handle.

"I'm supposed to be strong for my family, but this is like some kind of beast on my back," said Fontanille, whose home has never before flooded.

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano said residents need a chance to begin putting their lives back together.

"Now is the time because the vast majority of the homes have electricity and we have the basic services that people need to live here," he said.

Several grocery stores, drug stores and gas stations are open in the city and more are coming on line soon.

A crew of workers has already been stocking a Radio Shack store at the intersection of Loyola Drive and West Esplanade Avenue. District

Manager Moe Moghis, wearing a sweat-soaked black tennis shirt, said the store could be open as soon as today.

A major problem: finding employees for the five stores that the company plans to reopen in Jefferson Parish.

"We've contacted a lot of our workers who would love to come back, but have no place to live," said Steve Ramsey, a regional manager who came in from Houston to ramp up the chain's operation. "You can tell people that we're hiring."

While some cities are having trouble meeting payroll, Kenner, which has a population of about 71,000, is not because of a $4.6 million surplus.

"We are able to pay our workers, even though we spent an extra $500,000 on overtime for the last two weeks," Capitano said. "We're going to get reimbursed for that, but when? It's not like we're collecting any tax revenue at the moment," he said.

Capitano said that while garbage collection has resumed, the volume is such that collection is behind schedule, partly because Waste Management, the city's garbage contractor, is having trouble rounding up its workers.

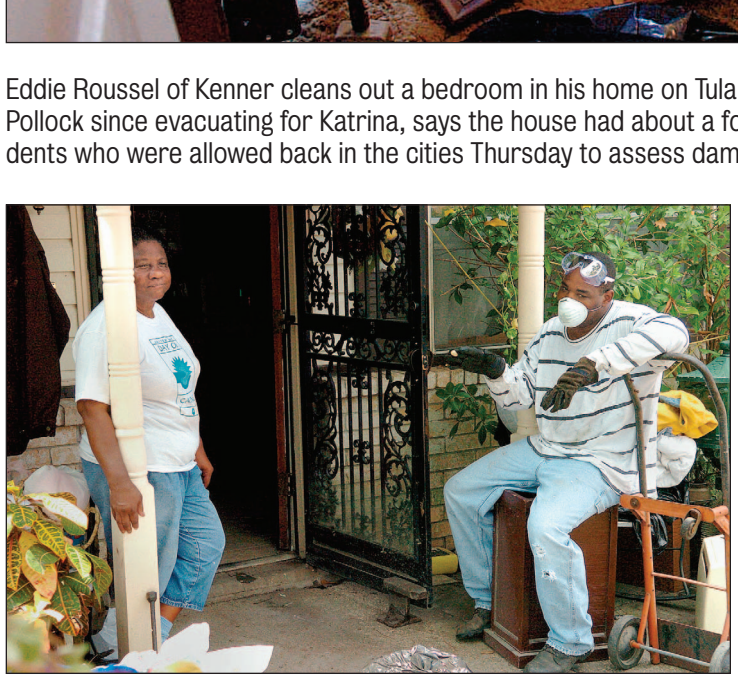
Capitano said it will take six to eight months to clean up the storm debris that lines some parts of the city like levees.

Nowhere is that more evident than the Driftwood subdivision, a once-leafy enclave now strewn with fallen oaks and magnolia trees.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Eddie Roussel of Kenner cleans out a bedroom in his home on Tulane Drive on Thursday. Roussel, whose family has been staying in Pollock since evacuating for Katrina, says the house had about a foot of water in it. He was among the many Kenner and Harahan residents who were allowed back in the cities Thursday to assess damage and begin cleaning up.



Barbara Stewart, left, and her son-in-law, Ninas Jenkins, take a break from cleaning out Stewart's home on Tulane Drive in Kenner on Thursday. The house is uninhabitable, so Stewart will be staying in LaPlace until her home is ready.

Gelpi Drive resident Kendra Calamari stood on the edge of her now-muddy backyard swimming pool and pointed out several trees that toppled and punched holes in her neighbors' roofs.

"Look at that. It took up half their yard with it," she saidPolice Chief Nick Congemi said he didn't detect a throng of people returning to Kenner on the first day.

"People need time to pack and get here," Congemi said. "I think we're going to see a lot more in the next few days."

In Harahan, Mayor Paul Johnston wasn't expecting a huge rush of evacuees because many residents had already arrived.

"We worked for the first three days to cut our way through the streets so that Entergy could get in and fix the power lines," he said. "We've been clearing the streets ever since."

"Some people ask why Harahan is a city. This is why," he said. "We were cut off from the rest of the parish for days, but we were able to act on our own, to clear the streets and protect our citizens."

However, Johnston said the city desperately needs money to make payroll.

"I've got a $250,000 payroll next week, thanks to overtime costs, and we don't have that much money in the bank," he said. A normal biweekly payroll totals about $62,000, he said.

He said he needs at least $1 million to pay storm-related expenses, which included commandeering a gas station to fuel city vehicles after the storm.

Grove Avenue resident Kevin Cedor, who arrived Thursday, said he's happy with the way the city looks, even though his backyard shed looks like a crumpled beer can and his roof may have been nicked by a tree.

"It looks a heck of a lot better than it did when I came in last week," he said.

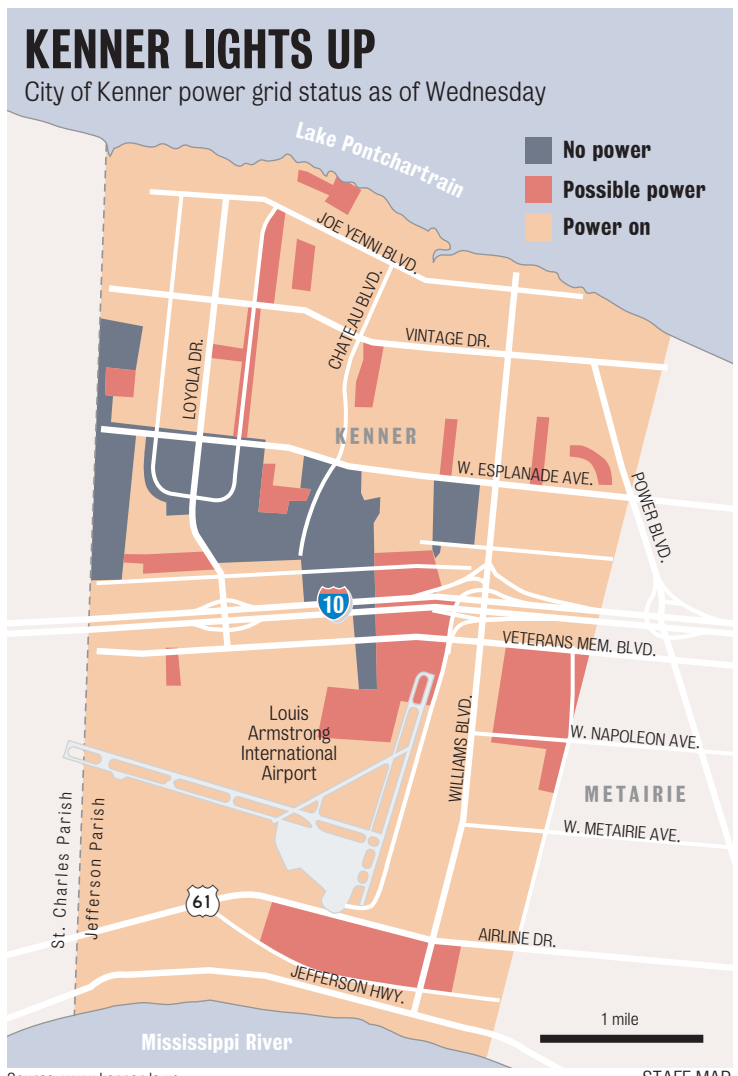
"We were very lucky," said Ashlawn Drive resident Bryn Whatley, as a city contractor scooped up branches to be hauled to the Harahan Playground, which is now a tree cemetery.

Ricky Lehmann of J&W Tree service said he has been working 10 to 12 hours a day every day since the storm to move fallen limbs from the city.

But like the cobbler whose children go barefoot, he hasn't had time to remove the pecan tree that is lying on top of his Houma Boulevard home.

## KENNER LIGHTS UP

City of Kenner power grid status as of Wednesday




Source: www.kenner.la.us

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# Catholic schools chief advises parents

## *Most instructed to enroll in B.R.*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Catholic schools in the Baton Rouge area will open their doors to New Orleans area students, and one closed school may reopen, the Rev. William Maestri, the New Orleans archdiocese's superintendent of schools, told a packed meeting for parents Tuesday night in Baton Rouge.

Maestri told the parents that if they are planning to stay in the Baton Rouge for more than eight or nine weeks, they should enroll their children in local Catholic schools.

However, Maestri said, those students enrolled at parochial schools in Jefferson that have projected opening dates of Oct. 3, and students in St. Tammany, which are slated to open Monday, should not try to enroll in Baton Rouge schools.

St. Jude, St. Teresa, St. George and St. Isidore elementary schools in the Baton Rouge area will expand to accept more students, Maestri said. St. Pius, which is closed, might reopen depending on the need.

Maestri said St. Michaels, a high school in Baton Rouge, will accept 1,000 new students, starting Sept. 19, for evening classes.

Maestri instructed parents who intended to stay in Baton Rouge to fill out forms listing contact information and details regarding their children. He said parents should expect a call from archdiocese officials by the end of the week about placing their children in local schools.

The meeting, held in the Catholic Life Center auditorium, drew more than 500 parents, bearing notepads and pens, many wearing expressions of exhaustion and bewilderment.

Genevieve Rodick, of Lakeview, was frustrated by the lack of information regarding tuition. She already paid for her two children to attend schools in New Orleans and now is having trouble getting her money refunded, she said.

"At this rate, I'm thinking about moving out of the state altogether," she said.

Others worried about the logistics of starting a new school year, given their recent losses.

"I live in north Kenner and everything in the house flooded," said Lisa Giusti, whose daughter is enrolled at Archbishop Chapelle High School in Metairie. "All her books flooded, school shoes flooded, everything. Should we just show up for the first day of school?"

Maestri cautioned parents to avoid becoming anxious at the thought of their children missing a month of school. He said the school year might be extended, or holiday vacations might be eliminated, to make up for missed time.

"You're not going to lose the year," he said.

Maestri said the meeting was a way to assess how many students need placements, and that more information will be available to parents in the future.

"This is to be continued," he said. "This is just our initial assessment and approach."

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AP PHOTO

Shannon Huyser, left, a training staff member of the Gulfport Marine Oceanarium, works with a dolphin along with NOAA researcher Jeff Foster, second from left, and Marci Romagnoli, right, on Thursday in Gulfport, Miss. The dolphins were washed out of the oceanarium's tank during Hurricane Katrina. The staff recovered two injured dolphins earlier in the day and returned to the pod to train the younger dolphins for transport.

# Scientists rescue aquarium dolphins washed into Gulf

*Six are still loose off Gulfport*

**By Holbrook Mohr**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, MISS. - Two dolphins that were swept from their aquarium tanks into the Gulf of Mexico by Hurricane Katrina were rescued Thursday, but six others remained at sea.

The two rescued dolphins were captured after scientists in a boat coaxed the trained animals into sliding onto mats.

The dolphins had cuts and appeared to be the worst injured of the eight, Jeff Foster, a marine specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They were being moved to a hotel swimming pool.

Trainers and scientists hope to catch more of the dolphins on Saturday, but said that may be tougher because the dolphins "get pretty wise to our tricks," Foster said. Nets are also an option, a NOAA spokeswoman said.

The marine mammals had spent much of their lives in captivity at the Marine Life Oceanarium in Gulfport. After Katrina's storm surge washed them away, they were spotted Saturday swimming off Gulfport by NOAA scientists conducting an aerial damage survey.

Scientists worried that the dolphins might not have the instincts to avoid predators and boat traffic.

The dolphins' home had been a 30-foot high tank. The Marine Life Oceanarium was destroyed by Katrina.

Moby Solangi, the aquarium's owner, said the staff had been worried that the dolphins had died. "We are just thrilled that they have stayed together during the past couple of weeks," Solangi said.

# 70-plus arrested for lootings in Kenner

*Congemi: Officers who lost homes sleeping in station*

**Kenner bureau**

Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi said his department has arrested more than 70 people on looting charges since Hurricane Katrina.

Most of the arrestees were Kenner residents.

"I can understand if someone who doesn't have food or water and see it separated from them only by a pane of glass, but some of these people stole hi-fi's and whiskey," he said. "They are the lowest of the low."

Congemi also said about 15 police officers lost their homes to flooding during Katrina, but are being forced to sleep on air mattresses in the police station because there are no hotel rooms available in the area.

Congemi made the remarks at a Kenner City Council meeting Thursday night. The council approved an ordinance ratifying Mayor Phil Capitano's declaration of an emergency during Hurricane Katrina.

The council set a special meeting for Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. to take up special matters.

Capitano praised city workers who weathered the storm and began the rebuilding.

"As I said, we are still in crisis, but within a few weeks, Kenner no doubt will be thriving again," he said.

# NBC, CNN to open full-time bureaus in New Orleans

**By David Bauder**
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK - Anticipating that the Hurricane Katrina recovery will be a big story for months to come, both NBC and CNN said Thursday they are opening full-time news bureaus in New Orleans.

NBC News said its bureau will operate out of space at WDSU-TV, its local affiliate, and will help the network and MSNBC originate shows in the city. Brian Williams anchored the "NBC Nightly News" from there on Thursday in advance of President Bush's speech.

Frieda Morris, currently chief of NBC's Atlanta bureau who has been living out of a trailer in Biloxi, Miss., since the storm, will be in charge of the New Orleans bureau. NBC had no immediate details on how many people will staff the operation.

CNN said it had obtained office space in downtown New Orleans and is moving equipment, journalists and a production crew there soon. It moved up its announcement by a day after NBC made its news.

"The story of the devastating wrath of Hurricane Katrina will unfold for years to come as the coast recovers and rebuilds," said CNN/US president Jonathan Klein.

**"This is the news that all my Jefferson Parish residents in exile have been waiting for."**
PARISH PRESIDENT AARON BROUSSARD

# Jeff fully open to residents by Wednesday

*Staggered re-entry schedule announced*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

Almost all of Jefferson Parish will be open to residents by Wednesday at 5 a.m., Parish President Aaron Broussard said.

"This is the news that all my Jefferson Parish residents in exile have been waiting for," he said Thursday evening as he announced a plan for staggered re-entry.

Residents of Kenner, Harahan, Westwego, Jean Lafitte and Gretna have already been invited to return home. Because of the devastation in Grand Isle, Broussard said he is letting Mayor David Carmardelle determine his town's re-entry schedule.

The latest re-entry schedule is:

**—TODAY**

All West Jefferson residents living west of the Harvey Canal.

All east bank residents living south of Airline Drive except those living in the Rio Vista neighborhood in Old Jefferson.

**— SATURDAY**

All West Jefferson residents living east of the Harvey Canal.

All Metairie residents living between Kenner and Transcontinental Drive.

**— SUNDAY**

All Metairie residents north of Interstate 10 between Transcontinental Drive and Orleans Parish line.

**— MONDAY**

Rio Vista residents.

**— WEDNESDAY**

All remaining Metairie residents living in the area bounded by I-10, Airline, Transcontinental and New Orleans.

Residents may return beginning at 5 a.m. on their scheduled day, Broussard said.

Interstate 10 inbound on the east bank is off limits to the public, but the West Bank Expressway is open, Broussard said. Authorities will enforce a strict curfew of 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Rio Vista and the central portion of Metairie are on the tail end of the re-entry schedule because those areas were hit by power outages and flooding from the 17th Street Canal break, Entergy representative Gary Silbert said.

Availability of power and sewerage services also decided the schedule, Broussard said.

As of Thursday, only 10 percent of West Jefferson was without power, 20 percent on the east bank.

As residents return, Broussard said, they will still find scattered utility failures. If the power outages are due to damage to the meter box or the weather head, residents must contact a private electrician.

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Now that floodwaters in St. Bernard Parish have gone down, the cleanup is beginning. Crews remove mud Tuesday in the middle of Judge Perez Drive near Palmisano Blvd.

## Reflections from St. Bernard Parish

It's been more than two weeks since Hurricane Katrina.

I still don't think I fully understand what has happened. This is just too surreal.

Growing up in St. Bernard Parish, with most of my family from Delacroix Island, we always heard of Hurricane Betsy. Yet Betsy was never real to me. Betsy was a tale from history — the legendary beast from the heavens that left nothing in her path. Now, Katrina, of the new generation of catastrophic heavyweights, has earned her crown.

It's one thing to lose your home, but to lose your entire parish is incomprehensible. Roots can survive rain, but being ripped up and tossed 50 feet is a different problem.

I keep wondering, will another storm follow in 40 years the way Katrina followed Betsy? Will residents again try to ride out Mother Nature's fury?

Like a dysfunctional family, our parish was beaten and battered, then abandoned by the home-wrecking wrath of Katrina. It's an event that may keep us in need of therapy for years, fearing her return or who she will send in her place. Will she give the world of psychology a new phobia?

An intense fear engulfing one's mind every year on June 1: the Katrina complex.

**Cherreen Johnson**
*Chalmette*
*Now in Bossier City*

## Our homes can't wait

As a resident of Jefferson Parish, I went back to see my home during Labor Day week. However, due to heavy traffic, we did not arrive until much later in the evening than we had planned.

Unfortunately, my house sustained water damage, and mold and mildew has begun to set in. There is much work to be done in my home, including moving heavy furniture, removing carpeting and cleaning the mold and mildew.

Because of the lateness of the hour, we did not get as much accomplished as we had wished. The curfew of 6 p.m. had arrived, and we did not wish to spend the night in our home. As we are staying so far from home, it was not feasible for us to return the next day, which was the last day we could legally return.

Because Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard is not letting us back into our homes for several weeks, the damage will be worse and unfixable. I can understand that he wishes to have everything up and running, but our home is being destroyed in the meantime.

Our home could have been salvaged by now, but it may be too late by the time we can return.

This has me very upset, and I believe we should be allowed to return home sooner.

**Bonnie Graham**
*Metairie*
*Now in Gonzales*

## Rebuild the attractions inland

The only real long-term solution to the destruction of New Orleans would be to faithfully rebuild and replicate the French Quarter inland.

All landmark establishments would have their relocation and construction defrayed. The state and federal governments would recover their investment as tourism soon returned.

I would also suggest that both ends of the replicated French Quarter be anchored by deluxe hotels and malls. This rebuilding would boost both the state and city economies.

**Joseph P. Martino**
*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

## Why not a nonpartisan investigation?

I want to know why the media are not talking about this phony investigation that the Republicans support involving Hurricane Katrina. The Republicans want to investigate themselves?

This reminds me of the investigation of 9/11. President Bush wanted to let the foxes investigate themselves until widows of 9/11 came forward and embarrassed him into having a real investigation.

We need a totally independent panel to see what went wrong. Let's learn from our mistakes, move forward and kick out the ones who failed us. How many times can Americans be fed tainted, incorrect information?

So, President Bush, what went wrong?

**Jeffrey Levin**
*Glencoe, Ill.*

## FEMA slow to help family

If what my family and I are experiencing dealing with FEMA is indicative of that agency's policies, then God help us all. Everyone at FEMA should be fired, not just the head clown.

We are a middle-class working family. We have paid payroll taxes for 37 years and never asked the government for help before. When Mayor Ray Nagin advised us to evacuate, we did. We left our home in Algiers and have been on the road for more than two weeks, paying as we go for everything out of our pockets. We didn't drive to the Superdome expecting the government to take care of us. We didn't pillage the Dome. We didn't rape anyone. We didn't murder anyone. We didn't loot our neighbors' homes. We did the right thing: We evacuated, despite the fact that I'm awaiting spinal surgery and possible bypass surgery when we return to New Orleans.

Last week on TV we saw the unfortunate people in the shelters in Texas receiving their $2,000 awards from FEMA. It was money badly needed by them and everyone who has evacuated. Unfortunately, some of those receiving the money may be the pillagers, rapists and murders from the Superdome and Convention Center. I went online and filed a claim with FEMA. Twenty-four hours later the response I received online from FEMA about my claim was that "an inspection of my home was necessary."

Since then, I've called FEMA every day to explain that an inspection of my home is a little difficult given we aren't allowed into New Orleans. Every day I've been told their hands are tied. Today I received a new excuse why I wasn't being given the same help as other evacuees: I was told my application was flagged and being held up because my wife and I both work and we make money. Guess we just have to keep digging into our money until it runs out, and then that will force our government to help us.

**George Avery**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Cedar Rapids, Iowa*




# OUR OPINIONS

## Homecoming in sight

An exile that seemed certain to last for months will end in a matter of days for some New Orleans residents, and that has to be the most hopeful development the city has seen since Hurricane Katrina sent Lake Pontchartrain pouring over floodwalls a little more than two weeks ago.

Mayor Ray Nagin released a schedule Thursday for the reopening of specific parts of the city, starting with Algiers Monday and moving through Uptown, the CBD and the French Quarter in subsequent days. The reopening of Algiers will fall on the three-week mark. That's remarkable, considering initial projections that the city would be uninhabitable for three to four months.

The quicker return is a significant step to recovery. New Orleans can't possibly recover without New Orleanians. Getting people back into their homes and businesses wasn't the first priority, but it's just as important to the city's ultimate recovery as getting the floodwater out and the power grid restored.

People have work to do, and they want and need to get started. Not everyone who can return next week will be able to do so immediately. Or they may not be able to stay. The first trip back might be short for many, a journey to seek reassurance, assess damage and grab essential paperwork or personal items that were left behind.

The neighborhoods that are reopening are home to 182,000 people, and Mayor Nagin expects the city will resettle 250,000 during the next three to six months. Returning to the half-million mark will take more time, but he is optimistic.

"I imagine building a city so original, so unique that everybody's going to want to come," he said. That sounds like a description of New Orleans before Katrina hit the city. The many people who loved the city then, those who called it home, are eager to get back now.

As the city begins filling up with people again, New Orleans will no longer seem like a lost world, and we will no longer seem like a lost people. We're counting the days.

## In the eye of the beholder

The sights and sounds that make the New Orleans area beautiful, that make it home, are likely to be in short supply for the immediate future. Who knows how long it will be before the smell of roasting coffee or sweet olive wafts through the air instead of the scent of Lake Pontchartrain muck? Before we can boil shrimp instead of boiling water?

We've always had a talent for finding something to celebrate, though, and that's going to help us get through these difficult days. As Mayor Ray Nagin noted, we're longing for the sound of jazz instead of the thump of helicopter rotors, but we also have a new appreciation for mundane things we never stopped to think about before.

Sure, we miss music, but the sound of chain saws is welcome to the ears of St. Tammany Parish residents whose homes and businesses are being liberated from the crushing weight of toppled pine trees. The hum of traffic in Covington andSlidell, the ring of school bells in St. John the Baptist Parish signal thereturn of people and the start of recovery. So, too, do thehand-painted plywood signs going up in front of stores that proclaim them open for business.

Men in camouflage and khaki have never seemed so appealing. A convoy of utility trucks moving down the street is more exciting than any parade. Forget about throwing us something, the return of electricity is thrill enough.

Then there's the wonder of ice. We're not so concerned any more if it's hand-chipped or machine-made. Just as long as it's cold and plentiful. A hot shower is the most decadent pleasure imaginable. And despite the many wonderful meals that live in our memories, anything that hasn't come out of a can or pouch tastes pretty delicious right now.

Contact from a loved one, a decent night's sleep, the prospect of getting back into the city pretty soon — these are the things that buoy our spirits right now. No one doubts that recovery will be an arduous process. But every step, large and small, that gets us closer is something to embrace.

We know, too, that someday we'll be able to take things for granted again, and that will be the sweetest moment of all.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Once you fall, you'll never be the same




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

St. Charles Avenue is empty in the late afternoon Sept. 6. A resident left the sign for passers-by.

Black people have a phrase for the kind of love that's indistinguishable from stupidity. The person so afflicted is said to have his "nose open." If my nose hadn't once been as wide open as a canyon, I may never have set foot in New Orleans.

When people ask me how I ended up in New Orleans, I usually say "a job." It's true that an internship with The Times-Picayune gave me an official excuse to be in the city, but it wasn't the job that drew me to place. I came to New Orleans for a woman, a woman who had been sending plenty of signals that she didn't want me anymore. I pursued her anyway. Stupidity has never been so richly rewarded.



JARVIS DEBERRY

I had been to New Orleans three times before my internship began and had hated the place more with each successive trip. I blamed New Orleans for my girlfriend's waning affection. I felt boring. That wasn't a new feeling at all, but I thought my boringness must have seemed all the more conspicuous to her contrasted against the neon lights of Bourbon Street. New Orleans was stealing my woman, and I hated the place the way I'd hate any romantic competitor.

Still, I moved in. If New Orleans was where the battle for her heart was being waged, I needed to be on the front line. But wouldn't you know it? She's the one who eventually left the city, and I'm the one now writing love songs to it.

New Orleans attracts tourists because of its perceived exoticism. But I chose to call it home because its traditions felt so natural. On return trips to my birthplace in northern Mississippi, I've tried to greet family and friends with a kiss on the cheek. They're expecting a stiff-armed handshake. A place where people don't hug hello now feels foreign to me. Not just foreign, but backwards.

New Orleanians are sometimes criticized for being uninhibited folk. Granted, there's value in some inhibitions — and it would be nice if the city's tourists would observe some now and then — but New Orleanians figured out long ago that emotional restraint and stoicism just aren't natural. Consequently, grown men aren't afraid to call other grown men "baby," and mourners can dance at a relative's funeral without fear of being thought undignified. In fact, there's a greater chance they'd be talked about if they didn't dance.

One Tuesday evening in Treme, I watched the neighborhood throw a parade for a homeless man. He had passed away behind a nearby funeral home. Everybody knew him. So somebody had the idea that they ought to honor his memory. There are places where highfalutin people don't have parades held in their honor. In New Orleans a homeless man was honored. The crowds wouldn't have danced any more jubilantly if he had had a mailing address in Eastover.

Maybe my nose is as wide open for New Orleans as it used to be for the woman who drew me there, but when I stood in Treme last week, I found myself silently agreeing with residents who were defying Mayor Ray Nagin's order to leave town. "If I leave New Orleans, where the hell I'm gon' be after that?" a stalwart Robert Thomas asked me. I interpreted his question two ways. He wanted to know to which mystery location he'd be shipped if he consented to leave, and he was also asking how he could possibly make his home somewhere else or why anybody would think he'd agree to such a thing.

Those who left the city weren't exactly agreeing to go. They left because they could see no other way to make it where they were. Some folks seem not to understand that. Barbara Bush said last week that living in a Texas evacuation shelter was no big deal for some New Orleanians because so many of them were underprivileged anyway.

Leaving home under duress would be catastrophic for any human being, but leaving New Orleans is more stressful still. We love that place with all the tenacity, defiance and ferocity we can muster. Others might find our love of the place incomprehensible, but to us, nothing makes more sense.

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Jarvis DeBerry is a Times-Picayune editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

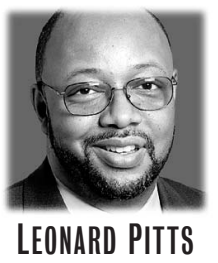
# Amid ruins, dire questions arise

WAVELAND, MISS. — "What town is this?" I asked the young man standing on the lawn with arms folded.

"Waveland," he says. "Or it used to be."

"It will be again," I assure him.

"I hope so," he says. His tone suggests his expectations aren't particularly high. It's hard to blame him. In Waveland, railroad tracks are ripped from track beds and twisted like plastic bag ties. Cars are stacked in piles and neighborhoods have been stomped flat, peaked roofs sitting atop mounds of rubble maybe 5 feet high. Other houses seem to have simply exploded, leaving nothing but a field of debris.



LEONARD PITTS

I am parked in the driveway of what used to be a home in a very nice neighborhood. The ocean is across the street. Once in a while, cars go by slowly and people look around, faces slack, expressions numb.

Just a few days ago, I might have told them about Hurricane Andrew. I rode out that beast 13 years ago in a bedroom closet. It ripped the roof from the house, drove a tree through my wife's car, took virtually everything we owned.

So I found myself trying to comfort Katrina's victims by assuring them from experience that, although things are difficult now, they will get a little better every day. But the words have come to feel facile. There is no comparison between Andrew and Katrina. The difference between them is the difference between severe damage and total destruction.

To properly understand what has happened in this region, it helps to think in terms larger than "just" a cataclysmic storm. Think in terms of events that altered history, that obliterated cities. Think the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, or the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and then realize that this storm destroyed not just one major city, but an entire region, and did so in the poorest quadrant of the country.

There is another area in which Andrew and Katrina do not merit comparison: Government response. The day after I crawled from the wreckage of my home in 1992, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was there with water. Shortly thereafter came low-interest loans and other forms of help.

By contrast, a woman who saw me conducting interviews in Bogalusa, La., seven days after Katrina struck marched up and demanded to know whether I was, finally, the man from FEMA because her house was split in two and she and her husband and children and grandchildren were sleeping on the porch.

President Bush - this would be the same President Bush who failed to react to the storm until two days after it hit - has promised to lead an investigation into the government's laggard response. In other words, the fox has promised to lead an investigation into the slaughter at the henhouse.

Beg pardon, but we need to not play the usual games with this. That's why I'm gladdened by news that Congress has grown a spine and is launching a bipartisan investigation of this tragedy and the botched relief effort that followed. Among the questions that desperately need answers:

It has long been widely known that flooding would bring catastrophe to New Orleans, a city of 484,000 that lies below sea level. What, if any, was the role of local, state and federal intransigence, incompetence or inertia in the failure to strengthen the levees on which the city counted for protection against disaster?

Where was FEMA? Did its incorporation into the Department of Homeland Security hamper its ability to respond quickly to this disaster?

Based on their performance in a natural disaster that had been forecast, why should Americans have confidence in FEMA's or Homeland Security's ability to react quickly to a surprise terrorist attack?

Why were the indigent, the infirm and the old left in the path of the storm?

These are just a few of the questions to which all of us should now be demanding full and forthright answers. We owe at least that much to the people who once lived in the debris field where Waveland used to be.

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Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald. He can be reached at lpitts@herald.com.



JAMES GILL

# Gee thanks, Mr. Benson

Word will have spread quickly through the evacuation shelters. For the first time in weeks, the desperate and the dispossessed will have cracked a smile, given one another a high-five and cried, "Good old Tom has come through for us again!"

That's right; it takes more than a killer hurricane to make Tom Benson forget what matters. Some might have contemplated the wreckage and despaired, but Benson's purpose never wavered.

The masses, meanwhile, were no doubt praying that Benson's yacht was docked somewhere far away from Katrina's ravages. But for the millions we have given him in subsidies, he might have taken the Saints far away by now. Let's just hope he doesn't blame us for any losses he suffers from the storm.

Typically, however, Benson was thinking only of the fans. He did not keep us in suspense for long before announcing his plans for fans who had bought tickets for the home games scheduled for the Superdome before it was knocked out of commission.

A less resourceful businessman might have figured that since the fans could no longer receive what they had paid for, they were entitled to a refund. A weaker character might have thanked Providence for his own millions and felt a tad sorry for all the Ain'ts who ain't got a job no more and could really use a few bucks.

But let it not be said that Benson is offering no relief. He has announced that "All current Saints Superdome ticket holders will have the right to apply their funds to tickets in the Alamodome or Tiger Stadium," where the Saints will play their home games this season.

That's right. If you've already paid to see a game, Benson will not dispute your right to attend.

He could hardly be more considerate than that, you might think, but you would be wrong because there is one other option. Those who don't want, or cannot afford, to make the trek to San Antonio or Baton Rouge will be permitted to "apply credits toward the 2006 season."

**The Saints' initial reaction to Katrina was to intimate that this might be a good time to pick and move to San Antonio permanently, which certainly made sense if profit is the overriding consideration.**

Well, it's something to look forward to when our current woes are over.

The "ticket policy" that Benson has just announced will affect fewer people than it would have a few years ago. Saints ticket sales were so sluggish for this season that, not long before the storm, Benson said he was ready to resume the negotiations with Gov. Kathleen Blanco that he had earlier insisted could wait until next year. Benson wanted to be sure of keeping the entire $186 million promised in a weak moment by Blanco's predecessor Mike Foster and minimize his contribution to renovating the Superdome. He evidently decided that any further delay would weaken his bargaining position as fans grew weary of rising ticket prices and his constant demands for state hand-outs.

He had been whining about the inadequacies of the aging Dome long before Katrina, with an assist from evacuating vandals, left it in ruins. Maybe we will wind up with a superior stadium without any great charge on the public purse if the insurance companies and FEMA are in a sympathetic mood. It won't happen otherwise, because the public purse is more or less nonexistent right now. If we ever could afford to pay for a new or improved stadium, we sure can't now.

The Saints' initial reaction to Katrina was to intimate that this might be a good time to pick and move to San Antonio permanently, which certainly made sense if profit is the overriding consideration.

That seemed a tad heartless so soon after a historic disaster. NFL owners are not a sentimental bunch.

Perhaps we will lose the Saints when this is all over, but, for the moment, talk of relocation has been suspended amid the euphoria of the last-minute victory over the Panthers in the season opener.

Benson must know how much a winning season would mean for the city's morale in these parlous times, and he evidently does not wish to be denounced as a selfish old skinflint when so many are suffering privation.

So he is making it clear how much he sympathizes, announcing that "partial proceeds from all tickets sold" in San Antonio and Baton Rouge "will be applied to the New Orleans Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund."

It just does your heart good.

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James Gill is a Times-Picayune staff writer.

# A question we've asked every day for over a hundred years means so much more today:

# "How may we help you?"

**We're inspired by the courage shown daily by the people of Louisiana.
We're committed to help you overcome whatever you face.**

## Consumer Banking

Our ATM network is up and running and we have continued to provide expanded hours at branches near disaster relief centers throughout these past weeks. Affected customers can also seek assistance with:

- Waiving Chase and Bank One fees on their transactions on other bank's ATMs
- Cashing of FEMA, Social Security, insurance and other disaster relief related checks
- Making donations that will be routed directly to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief

## Credit Cards

Credit Card customers displaced by Katrina depend on their cards now more than ever. We can help with:

- Deferred payments
- Waived late fees
- Waived overlimit fees
- Expedited requests for credit line increases

## Home Loans

Whether it's your mortgage or a home equity loan or line, we're committed to help. For those affected by the storm we may be able to:

- Defer payments up to 90 days
- Waive late fees
- Short-term unsecured fixed rate loans available
- Simplified documentation
- Dedicated Loan Specialists

## Small Business

We've opened a Small Business Recovery Center specifically dedicated to assist our small business customers with their special needs during this recovery period:

- Emergency Banking Services - restoration services, checkbooks, statements, and wire transfers
- Credit Services - Bridge loans, SBA financing, Loan restructuring, and New loans.
- Business Consulting Services - Business continuation and business succession Planning

Small Business Recovery Center
5321 Corporate Blvd.,
Baton Rouge, LA
M-F: 8:30 - 5:30 Sat: 9:00-1:00

**For additional information on any of the above services or for further disaster relief updates, please call 1-877-CHASE05 or visit ChaseNow.com**

CHASE

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C
Friday
September 16, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5



**IT TAKES A MEDIA VILLAGE:** Canal Street in the Central Business District has turned into a city of television trucks, satellite dishes and the army of journalists and technical crews that go with them.

# AIR PATROL

*New Orleans is now occupied by two armies: the military troops who are restoring order, and the TV crews bent on broadcasting the destruction and rebirth of an American city.*




**DISHVILLE:** Satellite dishes from networks around the world sprout up along Canal Street wherever there's an empty stretch of concrete.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



DAVE WALKER
*On the Air*

THE ONLY MUSIC on Canal Street Tuesday was the drone of gas-powered generators.

Its citizens evacuated, New Orleans belonged to the military and the media.

With floodwater receding and the Hurricane Katrina story entering its third week, finding the TV troops was easy. Several networks have set up base camps on the Canal neutral ground beside the French Quarter. The NBC camp was on a parking lot next to WDSU-Channel 6's Central Business District building.

CBS's outpost — two rented RVs, a satellite uplink truck and a security guard - sat atop rusting streetcar tracks at the intersection of Canal and Galvez.

CBS had a total of about 40 staffers in greater New Orleans, and one of them was correspondent Byron Pitts, who'd arrived in town the Thursday after landfall.

"We were seeing the back end of the worst of it by that time," said Pitts, relaxing for a moment in the cool air inside one of the RVs. Opposite him at the small table, producer Betty Chin reviewed video footage shot earlier that morning. "They were beginning to move people out of the Convention Center. There was still chaos, violence, some looting. Tons of despair."

Pitts, one of several CBS staffers who were embedded with combat units during the first few days of the Iraq war, has covered many disasters, natural and man-made.

He was reporting at the base of the World Trade Center when the first

*See* **WALKER,** *page C-4*

# CHARLIE MILLER, 67, MUSICIAN

**HOME:** *Bucktown*
**HAVEN:** *Lake Village, Ark.*

**MY STORM STORY**



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"I usually ride out hurricanes, but a lady friend I trust said, 'Don't stay.' I left about 1:30 Sunday afternoon. The winds were blowing, and the roads were already clogged. I drove for 17 hours. I zigzagged, would go north and then west. People at every hotel just waved me away through the glass doors. No vacancies anywhere. At 4 a.m, I stopped at a Ramada Inn (in Lake Village, Ark.). I told the clerk, 'Lady, I don't care what it costs, may I just sit on that sofa in the lobby and go to sleep?'

"The next day local churches were bringing food and stuff to the Ramada. The next night I had a room in the family center of the McGehee Baptist Church with an air mattress and a ping pong table turned on its side for a door.

"Now I have an apartment here. I went back to New Orleans to check on things there, and while I was gone, the people here furnished my apartment with new furniture, food and linens.

"My heart is transient now, like everyone else. Something guided me here (to southeast Arkansas). I just went, plop! I have had an amazing human and musical experience here. It's not about a career; it's about being honest with my music, playing sincerely and touching people's hearts. Here, I see so many people giving from the heart. These are not money-generated relationships. They walk the walk.

"I have been asked to play in both traditional Christian churches and black gospel churches. And I always play the piano after I eat in the community hall here. Sometimes I play serene music, and sometimes flat-out ratty raw music, but I think all music is spiritual. There's New Orleans in everything I play. I just have that in me now.



"This is the best time of my life. These honest, caring people are stronger than armies or rulers of countries. They are needed much more than all the negotiations and all the lip service given to peace in this world.

"I heard one of the music ministers here say, 'Katrina has brought the community together.' I might just stay here for awhile and see what I can give back."

*— As told to staff writer Chris Bynum on Sept. 11, 2005*

# Saving Lieutenant Ryan

*Former Marine found a different kind of warfare in post-Katrina N.O.*



ANGUS LIND

Bill Ryan survived the treacherous jungle warfare of Vietnam. He was wounded three times — so much so that he couldn't return even though he wanted to. He lost an eye, had his shoulder torn up and was awarded three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star during his tour of duty.

The former Marine Corps lieutenant, as anyone who knows the Irish leatherneck would tell you, is the toughest of the tough guys, a survivor who has seen it all — or so he thought.

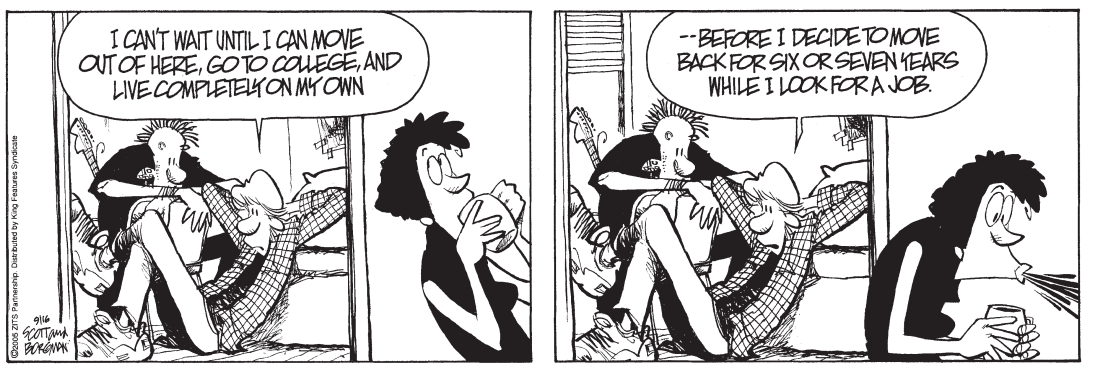
After dispatching his wife Pam, daughter Meaghan, older son Neal and his new wife Mimi to Louisville, Ky., Ryan and his younger son Andy stayed behind in Uptown New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina to help neighbors because . . . that's what the Bill Ryans of the world do in life-and-death situations.

"I know what it's like to be in combat, believe me, but this was spooky, real spooky," he said. "At night it was black as

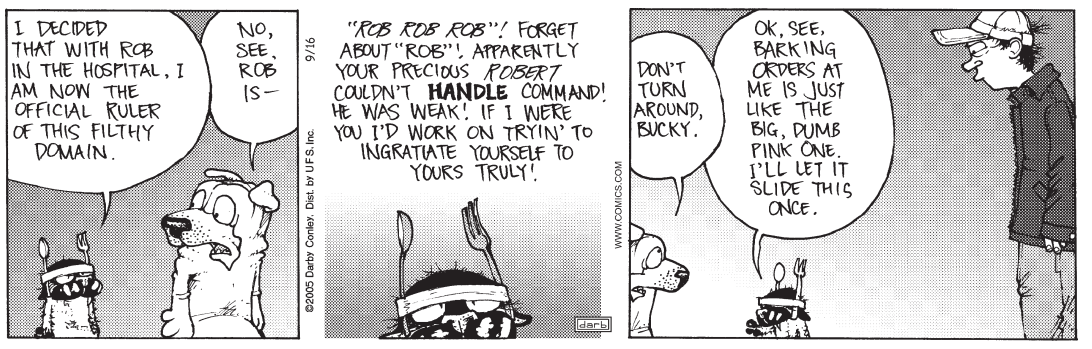
*See* **LIND,** *page C-4*

# COMICS

## ZITS



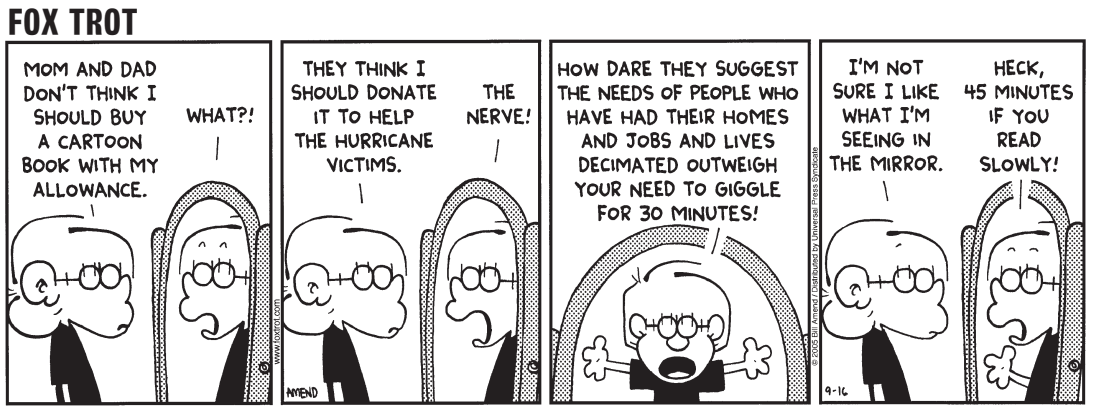

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



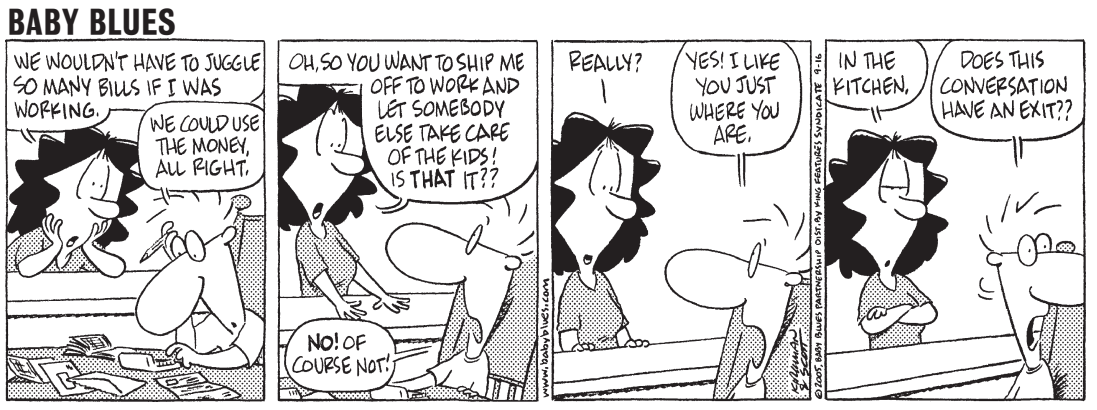

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAYAR

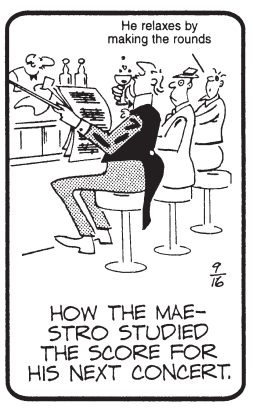
DAMAR

COBORN

BLUMFE

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: ____ ____ TO ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRACT MAJOR HUMBLE BROGUE
Answer: When the lumberjacks formed a jazz group they ended up with a — LOG "JAM"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 3rd Letter Triple | RACK 1 |
| E1 | O1 | S1 | S1 | W4 | L1 | T1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | T1 | X8 | T1 | R1 | | |
| | | | | | | | Double Word Score | RACK 3 |
| I1 | O1 | Y4 | D2 | P3 | G2 | R1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | V4 | D2 | R1 | F4 | | |

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 217

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 150-160

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = 62 | S1 | L1 | O1 | W4 | E1 | S1 | T1 | |
| RACK 2 = 13 | E1 | X8 | O1 | T1 | R1 | T1 | | |
| RACK 3 = 78 | P3 | R1 | O1 | D2 | I1 | G2 | Y4 | |
| RACK 4 = 64 | F4 | A1 | V4 | O1 | R1 | E1 | D2 | |

TOTAL 217

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | J | G | D | A | X | V | S | Q | N | K | I | F | D | A |
| X | V | T | Q | O | M | J | H | F | C | A | Y | W | U | R |
| P | N | E | L | J | H | S | G | N | I | T | T | I | F | F |
| S | S | E | R | P | S | D | R | N | B | F | Z | M | X | V |
| T | R | W | Q | U | S | G | I | E | I | I | I | O | M | K |
| I | H | E | F | N | T | D | N | B | N | L | Z | Y | W | K |
| V | T | L | R | C | E | X | D | I | L | E | R | Q | C | O |
| N | L | D | K | H | V | I | I | I | R | H | T | U | F | D |
| C | A | I | S | E | I | D | N | F | Z | A | H | S | N | X |
| W | V | N | U | S | R | G | G | I | J | C | E | S | A | K |

R Q G O N E L D N I P S B M F

Thursday's unlisted clue: STAUB

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: JOINING METALS WITH HEAT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bearings | File | Jig | Punches |
| Chuck | Fittings | Knurling | Rivets |
| Dies | Fixture | Milling | Spindle |
| Fasteners | Grinding | Press | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| E | Y | A | A | Y | P | N | U | D | O | J | N | U |
| 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| C | O | A | B | Y | E | Y | E | N | R | A | H | F |
| 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| O | C | O | U | U | Y | B | M | E | U | E | O | N |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| C | M | C | O | O | F | R | Y | T | T | M | U | E |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| N | R | W | E | I | E | I | N | O | I | O | D | R |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| L | N | M | O | I | W | L | Y | N | E | F | X | N |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| E | G | N | C | U | D | N | A | E | M | L | I | C |

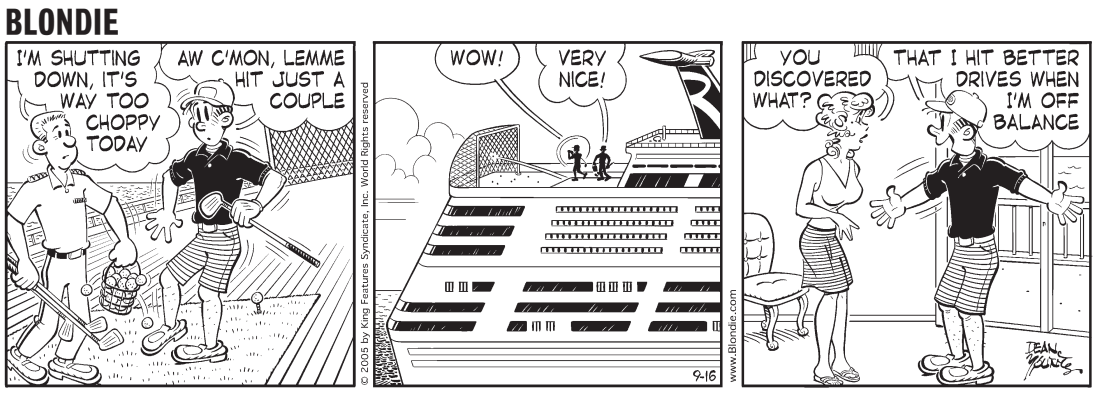
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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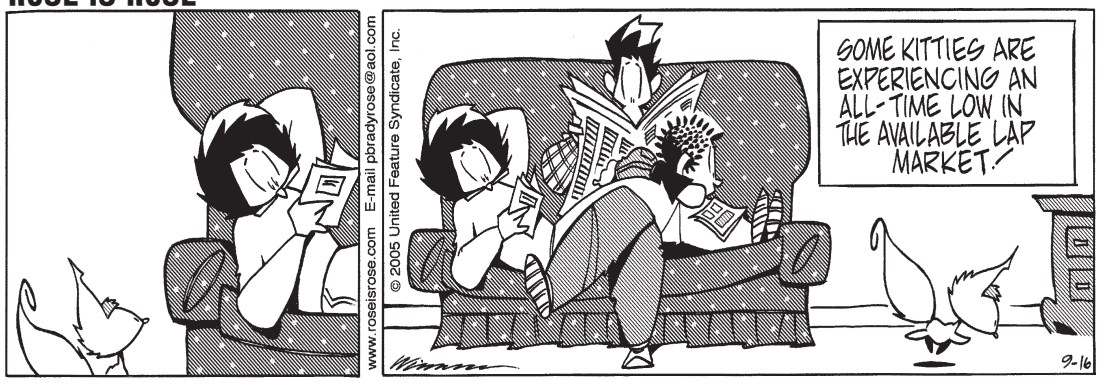
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



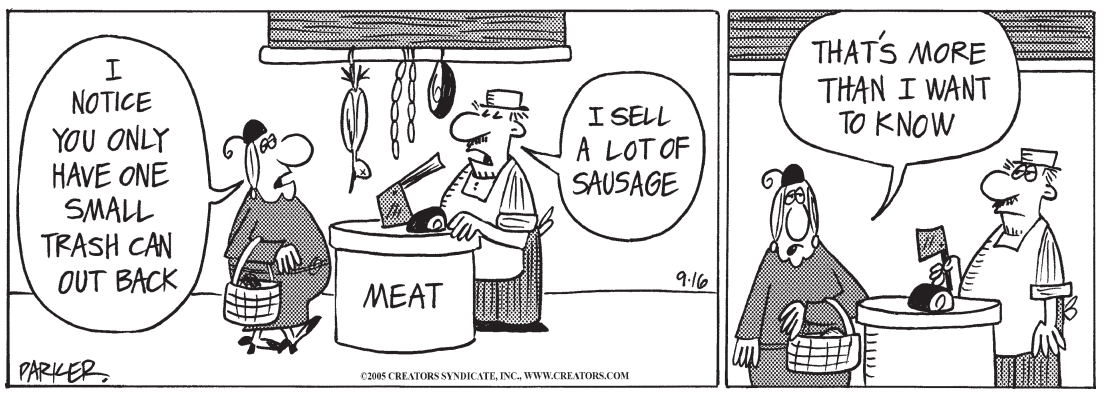

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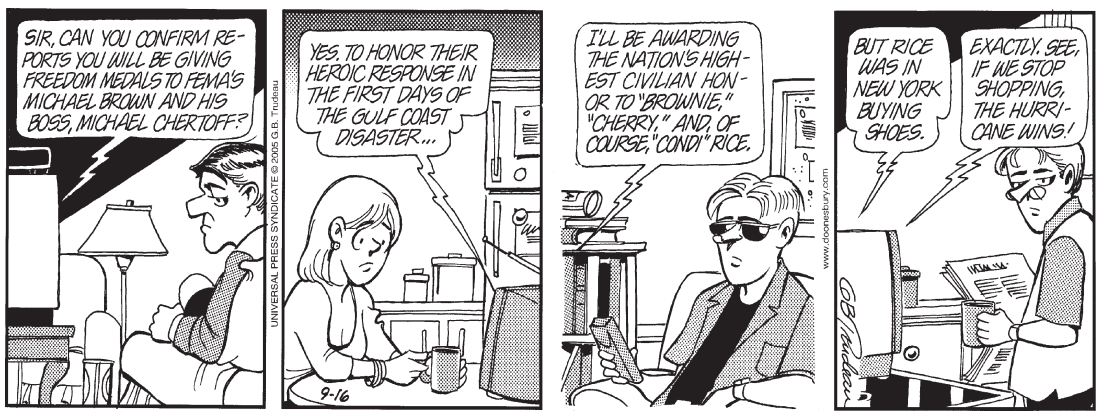

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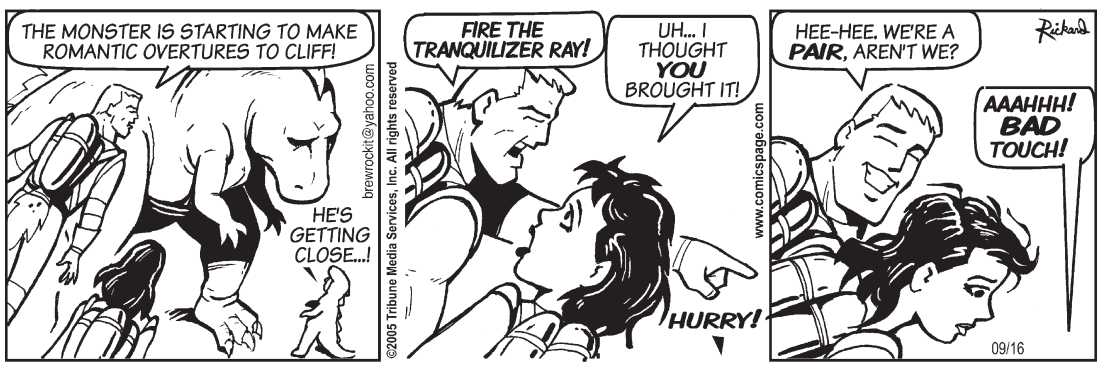

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT



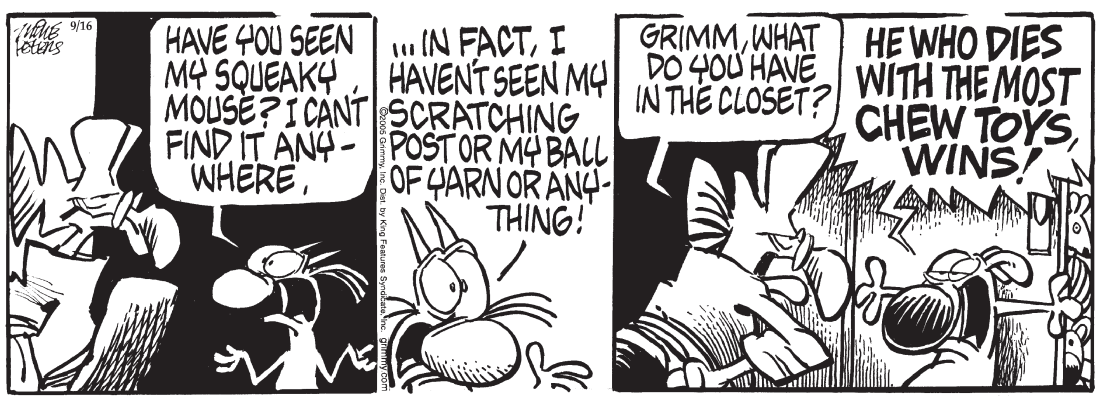

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

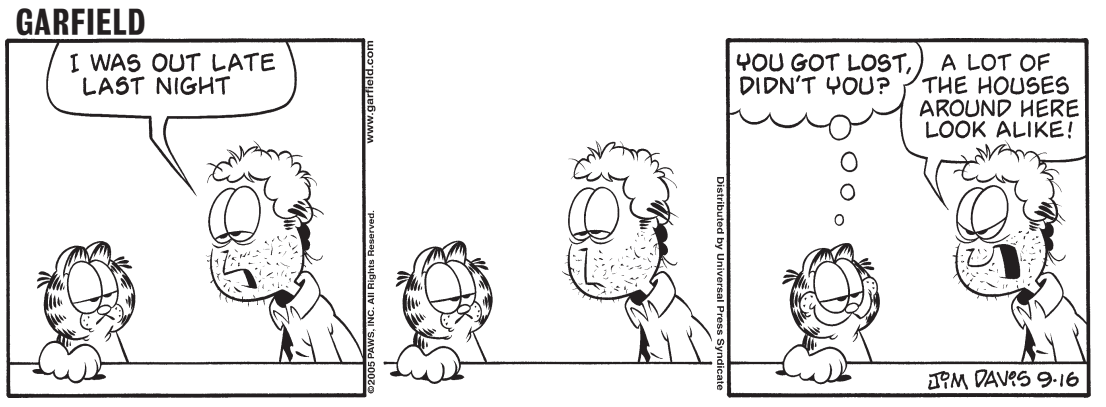



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



# COMICS

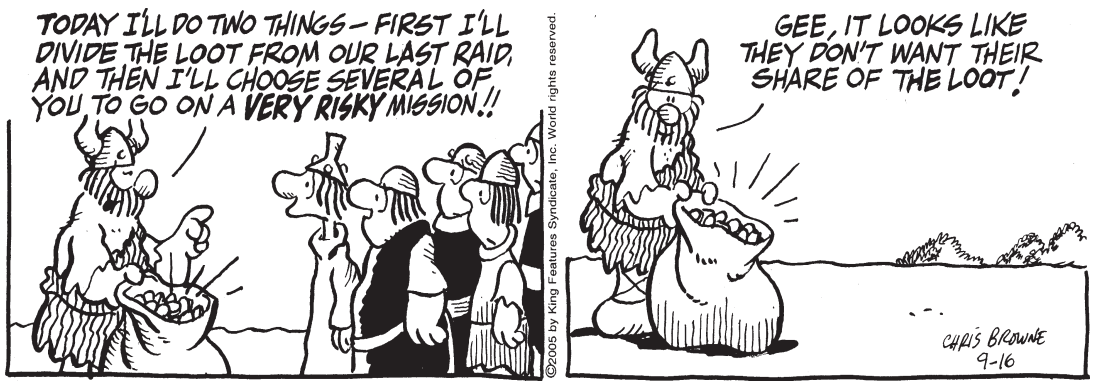
## GARFIELD



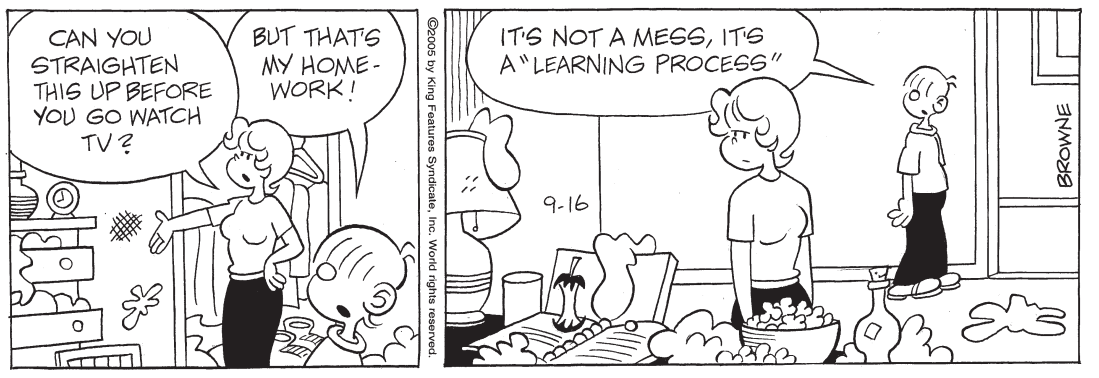

## DRABBLE



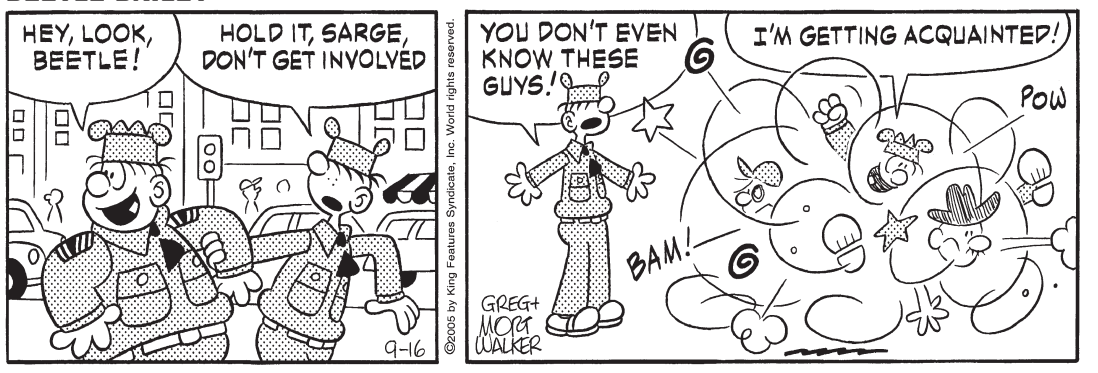

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



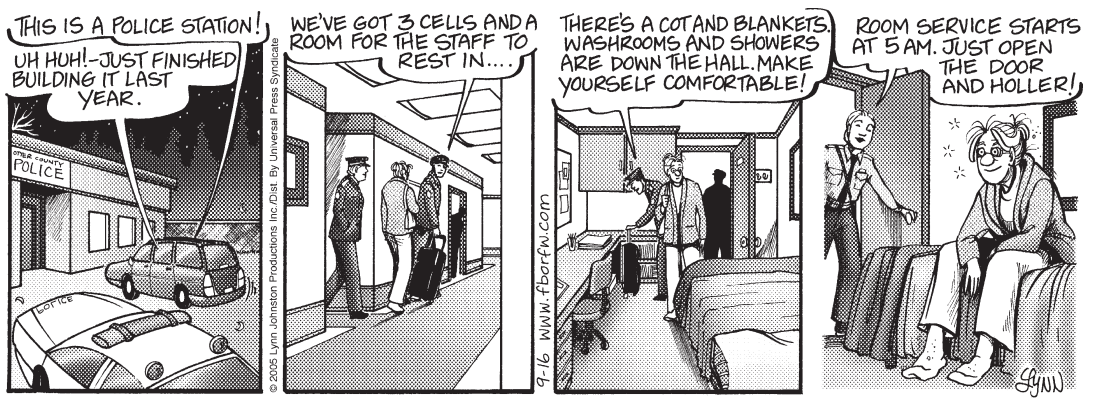

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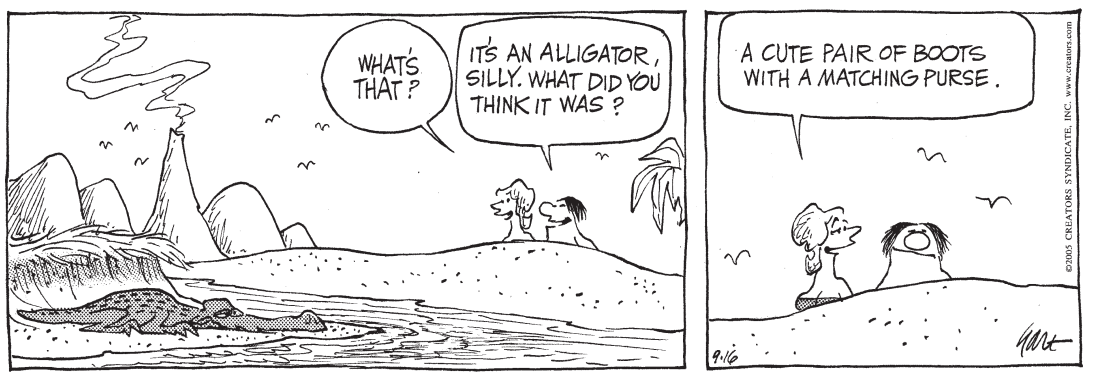

## BEETLE BAILEY



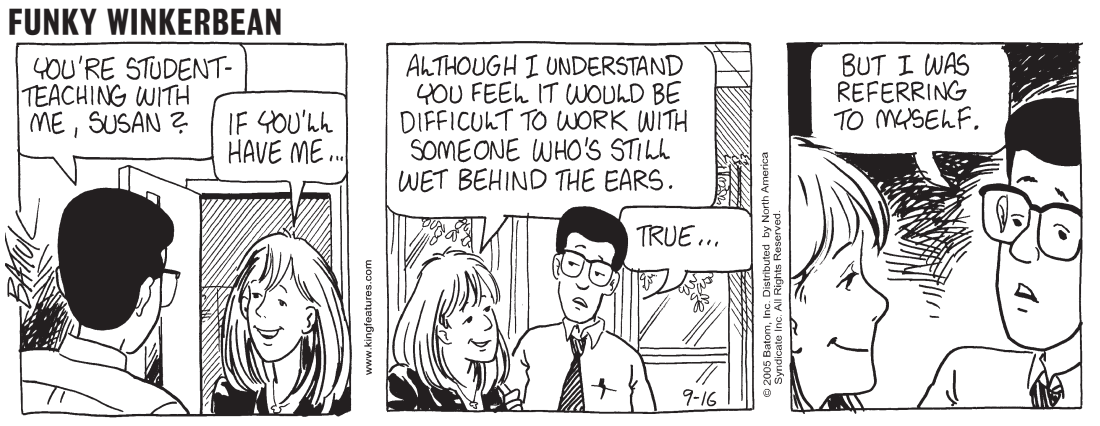

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.



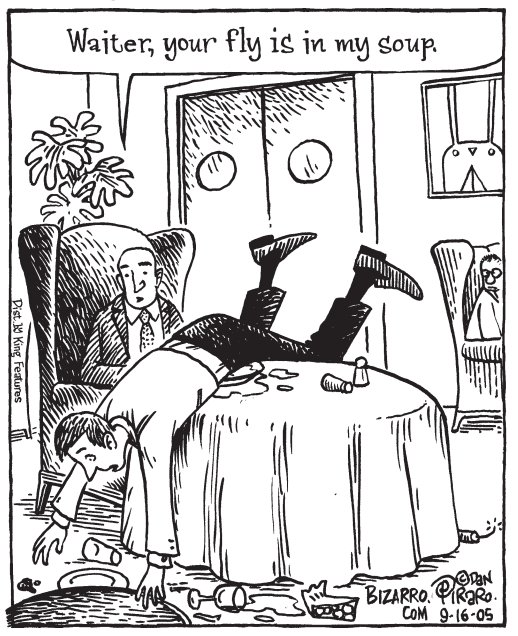

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

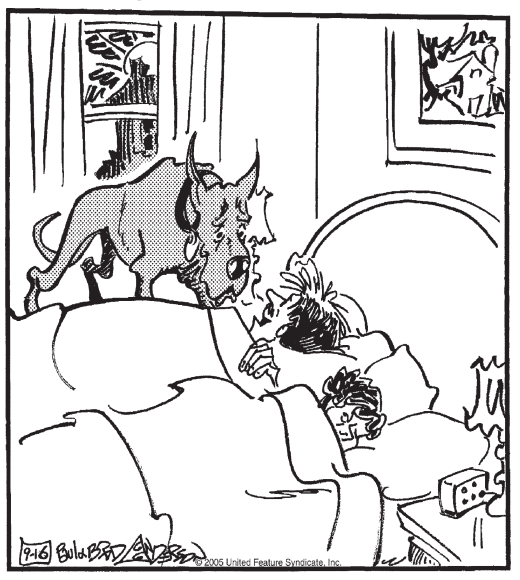



The least desirable of all the post-tournament jobs: lance cleaner

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE

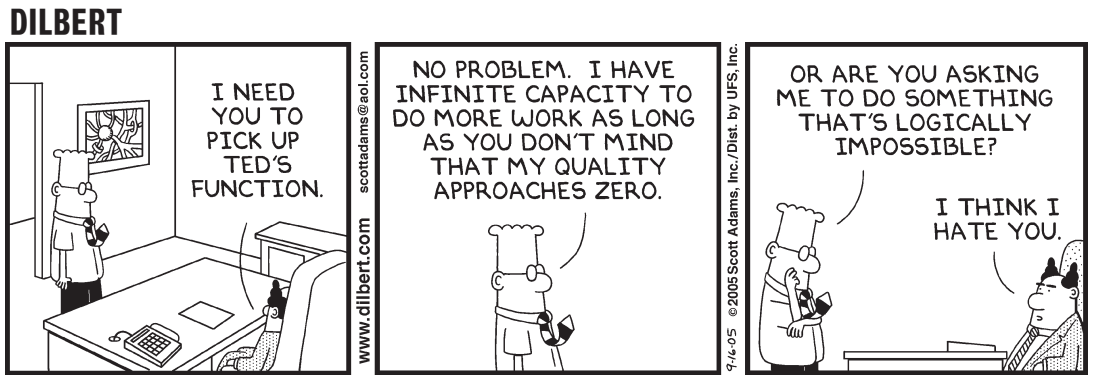



"Yes, it's early, but we decided to crawl into bed before you did."

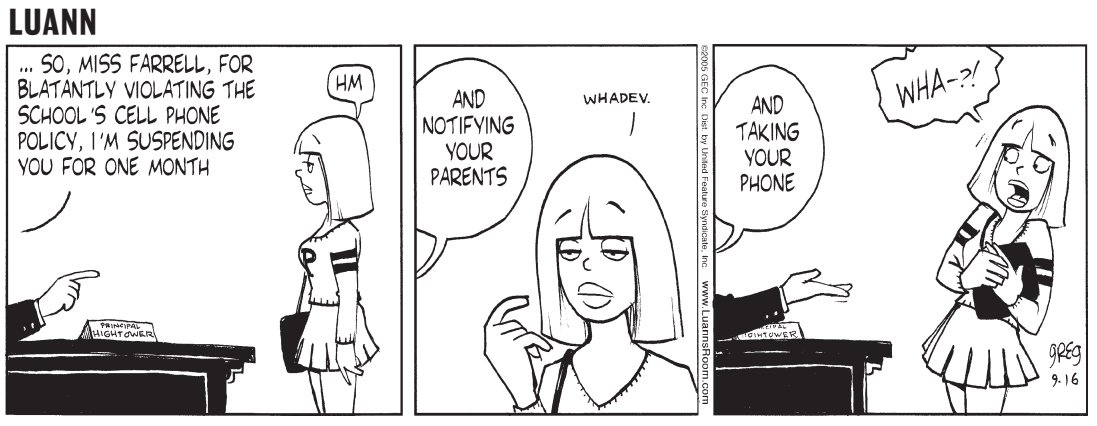
## JUMP START



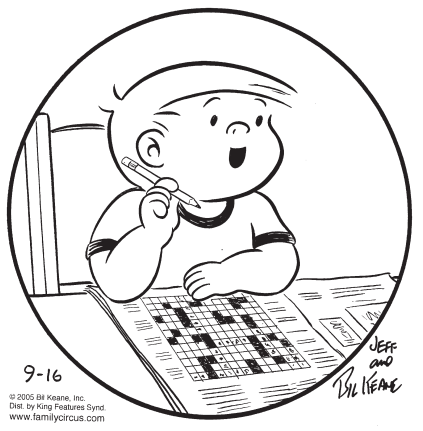

## DILBERT




## LUANN

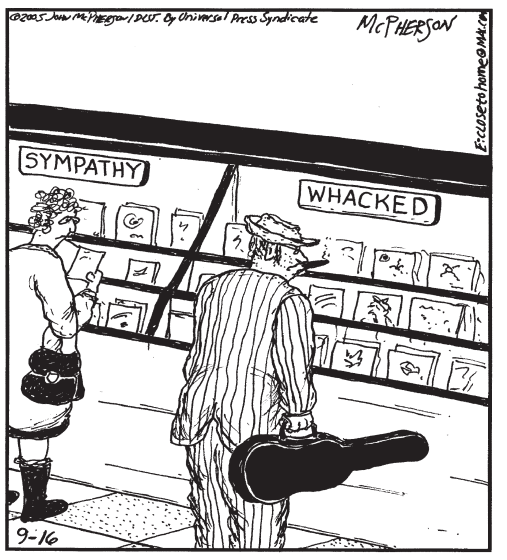



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

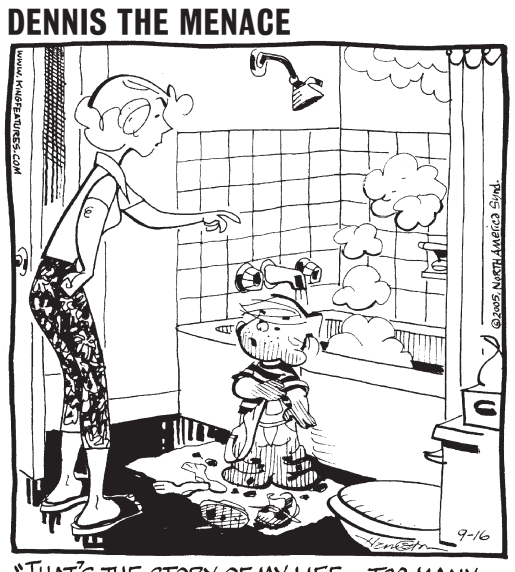



"Printing the 'Down' words in crossword puzzles is like writing Chinese."

## CLOSE TO HOME




## DENNIS THE MENACE




"THAT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE...TOO MANY BATHS AN' NOT ENOUGH COOKIES."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FOLLOWING FOOTPRINTS** **Solution: 10 letters**

S C I E N C E M D Y H S E O T
R U U R H K O E S K E T C H E
E L O A I R T S L E E H A M U
C N R I F A E A W I D T H P Q
O T G L C M W O D E E P P S I
R L O I R I L S I Z E S Y W N
D O D M S L P M A T S P L A U
R N E A O L T S L H P W I P E
I G N F L S D N U O R G A N L
D E T A E P Y M L S B T R D G
G R M R S D A S P O T M T E N
E S O O D N T I H E S O Y H U
S F I U H R S E R O T O S S J
S L M I T S A N D Y E N W A L
R E M O V E C W H O P S O W N

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Cast, Chart, Clue, Deep, Dent, Draw, Familiar, Floor, Follow, Forest, From, Ground, Heel, Home, Hops, Human, Indicated, Jungle, Lawn, Long, Mark, Messy, Moon, Muddy, Pair, Path, Pattern, Paws, Record, Remove, Ridges, Route, Sandy, Science, Shoes, Sign, Sizes, Sketch, Sloppy, Small, Soil, Spot, Stamp, Step, Suspicious, Sweeping, Symbol, Toes, Trail, Unique, Walk, Washed, Width, Wipe

**Yesterday's Answer: Syndrome**

CONTINUED

# TV crews

*are bent on broadcasting the destruction and rebirth of an American city*







STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**POWER BOULEVARD:** In a city without electricity for weeks, the television crews on Canal Street have been thriving in a community that throbs day and night with the hum of generators and engines.

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

tower fell. He covered the Asian tsunami, the Florida Presidential recount, the past Iowa Caucus.

"The thing that surprised me most (about post-Katrina New Orleans), having covered disasters in other parts of the world (in) Central America, Kosovo, Haiti, Indonesia, was the amount of bodies still on the street three days, four days after the hurricane," he said. "That amazed me then and it still amazes me now.

"Even in Third World countries where I've been covering disasters, an effort is made, if not by the government but by the people and certainly by the people in Muslim nations, to bury the dead as quickly as possible.

"Conditions here were horrific, but they've been horrific in other places. I can understand not being able to get bodies in the water, but we saw bodies on I-10, a body mingled with a group of people trying to survive.

"For me, in many ways, that was ... an indication of how overwhelmed the system was - local, state and national."

More overwhelmed than "the system" was after the tsunami, he added.

A comparison between the two disaster scenes seems apt.

"The smell is the same," he said. "Whether it's death in Indonesia or death in New Orleans, death is the same.

"The international response, certainly the American response, seemed far more efficient in Indonesia than it's been here, and it's still that way. Seven days into Indonesia, it was hard to find a community without food and water.

"In New Orleans, it was 10 days and people were still struggling with no food and water."

Pitts' dramatic "CBS Evening News" story the night before had been about the local 911 operators who'd taken the calls from flood victims trapped in their houses as water rose.

Early Tuesday, a piece about the first post-Katrina commercial flight into Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, complete with audio of the plane's captain welcoming passengers to the ravaged city, appeared to be as good a candidate as any for that night's newscast.

"We're still digging," Pitts said. "Early on it was like picking fish out of a cup. Now we're back in the ocean. Most of the people are gone."

Early in Katrina Week Three, the story had shifted from the micro to the macro, to bureaucrats and blame from search-and-rescue.

"For those of us who like to tell human stories, it's getting a bit more challenging," said Pitts.

Due to rotate out of the city late this week, Pitts, who's on the road for CBS about half the year, said he'd been scheduled to return to Iraq in October, but would probably request a return to New Orleans to check on the recovery.

"I'm an optimist," he said. "When I came here, I didn't think, 'Oh, my God, how awful New Orleans looks.' I thought, "Oh, my God, (look at) how much New Orleans looks like the rest of the world.

"Maybe there's some good in this, if it caused Americans not to be so comfortable, not to be so cocky about where they are in relation to the rest of the world.

"A lot of Americans saw that many parts of this country are one disaster away from being a Third World country. Maybe some good will come of that."

• • • • • •

**The air conditioning inside** WDSU's headquarters was bracing.

Entergy had restored electricity to the building just the day before, and the skeleton-crew "bureau" that had been working there on generator power since the first weekend after Katrina hit had gained that creature comfort, at least.

Air mattresses have become standard-issue newsgathering tools in the past couple of weeks.

Bunking in editing bays, the WDSU New Orleans bureau has pumped out live shots and reported stories for Katrina coverage that has otherwise originated from Jackson, Miss., and Orlando, Fla. — cities in which WDSU's parent company, Hearst-Argyle Television, operates other TV stations.

Sports reporter/anchor Fletcher Mackel rode out Katrina at Harry Lee's command center in Jefferson Parish. He'd left the city when looting near the station prompted management to order everybody out, but he'd returned a few days later and hasn't left since. "I said, 'If I don't go back, I may quit,' " he said. "I was born and raised here. I had to come back and see what it looks like.

"The third day here, we saw a body floating down Elysian Fields. We've seen some horrible stuff, rough to see.

"I've seen a lot of good people coming back to do a lot of good things. A lot of good things.

"I've seen people who are so optimistic. What you want to feed off of, I guess, is that optimism." In addition to reporting, Mackel has been trying to reach his mother's home near the lake.

"That's been an ongoing thing, trying to get to my childhood home," he said.

Mackel said he'd broken down only one since Katrina hit, while watching the NBC benefit special that featured New Orleans musicians like Harry Connick Jr. and Wynton Marsalis playing New Orleans music.

"I think I'll have another breakdown when my mom gets to her house," he said. "She was a big picture-taker. For 30 years, me, my brother, my dad who's not alive anymore."

Mackel, whose father, Frank, was a beloved local golf pro, said his mother had moved a lot of her pictures onto the dining room table and the pool table, but the water in her home was still much higher than that. "When I go into her house, the house I grew up in, and see the pictures of me and my brother, I think I'll have another little moment," he said.

Lately, WDSU News Director Anzio Williams has been badgering Mackel to rotate out of the city, take a breather.

"I told Anzio, 'Where am I going to go?' " Mackel said. "My brother's in Orlando. My mom's safe in Austin, Texas. My home stinks because it had water. Her home is still underwater. My friends have all evacuated. I have nowhere else to go."

• • • • • •

**In the parking lot** behind WDSU, a catering truck was serving lunch to NBC's New Orleans deployment - and clouds of black flies.

Up walked Chris Matthews, MSNBC political analyst/animal and who was in town to do a few days of "Hardball" live feed.

A former speechwriter for Jimmy Carter who also worked as an aide to Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Matthews has fond memories of covering the 1988 Republican convention in New Orleans for the San Francisco Examiner.

He has a visitor's deep affection for the city, which, he said, you'd have to put among the great American cities you'd count on one hand.

Fascinated, no surprise, by the political implications of the enormous recovery effort that will take place in New Orleans over the next however long it takes, Matthews said that securing the city from future storms should be an engineering feat worthy of a tourism following of is own.

Citing Holland's water-control system, Hoover Dam and even the Panama Canal, Matthews proposed turning the massive task of waterproofing New Orleans into a new wonder of the engineering world.

More urgent, he said, is picking the perfect person to lead the overall recovery effort.

A lot of towns take "perverse pride" in civic corruption, he said.

But New Orleans and Louisiana will have to rehabilitate that undeniable trait for the coming rebuild effort to succeed. The city's continuing existence now rides as much on the purity of political will as it does on drainage pumps and dump trucks.

Monitoring the effort will be the local media's biggest job, bigger than covering the storm itself.

If recovery money is treated like spoils, New Orleans is doomed. "Politics is a spectator sport," Matthews said, "until you're given the football."

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# Days of toil, nights of gunfire in Uptown N.O.

**LIND,** *from C-1*

coal. It was so hot you couldn't sleep. There were running bands of thugs better armed than we were."

But the Ryan boys stayed to help neighbors and friends. There were cars and driveways blocked by trees and branches. The Ryans had chainsaws, so they went to work.

"It was amazing," he said. "I'm a pretty tough bird, but my son Andrew was one of the greatest troopers I've ever seen. He worked 12 to 14 hours a day with a chainsaw. We were like the neighborhood chainsaw brigade except we carried (weapons) with the chainsaws."

That allowed neighbors to get into their cars and flee.

One neighbor, Hal Roark, didn't have a car. Ryan gave him his daughter's car and a sidearm. That car also carried Tommy Lemann and his wife, author Sheila Bosworth.

"They almost got carjacked," he said.

"There were prowlers all through Uptown. They demolished Magazine Street, Perlis, Gentry, Whole Foods. At night, Andy and I were on the back porch with shotguns and side arms. It was amazing. I'm talking to a kid who's never talked to me about Vietnam — ever. I'm 60 and he's 25 and he's asking me what it was like. I told him — up to a point."

Ryan said he told Andy as they lay on the floor in the darkness, "Son, we may have to shoot our way out of this. If they come in, you shoot the first shot up in the air. Then you lower the guns and shoot."

Mercifully, it never came to that.

Ryan said there was a lady with her kids in a house nearby. One car had two flat tires and no spare and the other had a dead battery and no gas. They swapped things around and got them out.

They heard sporadic gunfire at night, but it was all small arms fire. "It wasn't like there was anyone shooting cannons at you," Ryan said. "But everyone we saw who had stayed was openly carrying weapons. It's not quite the way we think of Uptown.

"One of the craziest things of all," he said, "is that we didn't see a policeman or National Guardsman for three days in Uptown New Orleans — you didn't see anybody."

Amazingly, at Ryan's home near Audubon Park, one old land-line phone worked.

"We had the only phone working in the whole neighborhood. People were queuing up in the back yard to use it once they found out. And that old land line — it never went down."

The Ryans gathered up some prized possessions and even recovered from a neighbor's house the wedding dress of the neighbor's daughter, who is engaged. They packed all that and three dogs into their car and finally hit the road on Thursday morning around 11 a.m. They made their way to River Road, then got over the Huey P. Long Bridge and headed to Louisville.

That, he said, "was the first time we saw any police or military presence."

"I spent many nights crying," he admitted. "It's unbelievable. I'm from New York but this is my home. I've been here more than 30 years. I spent lots of time thinking how I am going to help rebuild this city."

Ryan is a lawyer and businessman. And he is also the ultimate can-do guy. Surrounded by enemies, death and danger 37 years ago on foreign soil, surrounded by the same in his hometown today, Ryan remains undaunted. His city will come back.

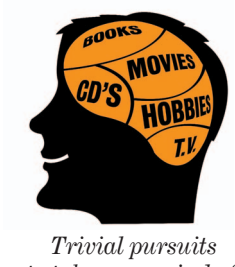
"Situations like this don't build character," he said. "Situations like this bring character out."

• • • • • • •

Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

# RENT-A-LAUGH

**WELCOME DISTRACTIONS**




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

If laughter is the best medicine, then Hollywood is your doctor and the video store is your pharmacy. Our prescription: Take three comedies and smile in the morning.

*— By Michael Kleinschrodt, movie critic*




**AIRPLANE! (1980)**

Not one cliché of airline disaster films is left unexploited in this hilarious spoof. Robert Hays plays an ex-pilot afraid to fly but forced to land a jet after the crew falls ill. Julie Hagerty is a helpful flight attendant. And don't call me Shirley.




**SOUTH PARK: BIGGER, LONGER & UNCUT (1999)**

In Trey Parker and Matt Stone's animated musical adaptation of the hit TV series, the United States declares war on Canada after a group of foul-mouthed children is corrupted by watching an R-rated film with Canadian stars. Offers more laughs per minute than most films, but is in no way appropriate for families.




**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (1974)**

In one of Mel Brooks' best films, Gene Wilder plays Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, who inherits his grandfather's castle and repeats the famous experiment with the creation of life. And hang on tight to the immortal words of Marty Feldman's Igor: "It could be worse. It could be raining."

The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Friday
2 September 16, 2005

# SHOW OF SUPPORT

*The Hornets toured evacuation centers Thursday, bringing supplies and, perhaps just as important, a much-needed sign of hope to thousands of misplaced fans*




STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Hornets forward Chris Andersen autographs an item for New Orleans resident Ashika Brown and her one-year-old daughter Asia on Thursday at the Red Cross Shelter at Istrouma Baptist Church. The team visited thousands who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BAKER — Hornets forward David West, a black baseball cap sitting slightly askew atop his head, wandered around the evacuation shelter at the Bethany World Prayer Center, his countenance bewildered.

Strewn around the floor of the building that once housed more than 1,000 displaced New Orleanians, a figure that's now about 400, were mattresses and pillows, and the few worldly possessions that remained of families who once lived in areas such as the Lower Ninth Ward, Gentilly, Chalmette and parts of Plaquemines Parish.

"I can't even put it into words," said West, who rode out the storm in Raleigh, N.C., and had seen some of the evacuees who'd been brought to that city in the days after Hurricane Katrina washed over metro New Orleans. "There were 65-, 70-year-old people who have to start from scratch. It's nuts . . . people don't have anything anymore."

Just then, an elderly man, whose eyes reached about chest level on the 6-foot-8 West, offered a bit of levity that brought a smile to West's face.

"How's the weather up there?" asked Howard Lockwood, who once lived on Lloyds Avenue in Chalmette.

"Good," West said. "How is it down there?"

West, along with teammates P.J. Brown, Chris Andersen, Chris Paul and Brandon Bass, accompanied by owner George Shinn and a dozen or so other Hornets employees, toured that shelter and two others in the Baton Rouge area Thursday, handing out boxes full of NBA hats, T-shirts, school supplies and dozens of autographs to just some of displaced individuals who remain homeless.

In all, the Hornets brought two 18-wheel tractor-trailers that were packed with supplies for distribution to various shelters.

**"I can't even put it into words. There were 65-, 70-year-old people who have to start from scratch. It's nuts . . . people don't have anything anymore."**
DAVID WEST, Hornets forward

The players said they were inconvenienced, more than impacted, by the storm, save for Brown, whose Slidell home was looted in the days following Katrina's landfall.

But each empathized with the plight of those less fortunate and the city that the Hornets have called home since 2002.

"I was in the process of having a house built in English Turn," said rookie Chris Paul, whose home may not have been affected. "It's just unbelievable. It's such a tragedy. People back home (in North Carolina) are always asking me, 'How's your house?'

"You can replace houses. You can't replace people. I mean, it's left me speechless. I was talking to P.J. about it. When the storm hit, I just kept it on CNN and watched the whole thing. Just seeing Canal Street,

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-6*

# Jefferson schools may merge into one district

*Proposal faces several hurdles from principals*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Jefferson Parish Public Schools have a possible option to merge their five Class 5A football teams – Bonnabel, Ehret, Higgins, King and West Jefferson - into one district and compete for championship honors this season if the schools can regroup in time to field teams.

To be reunited, though, the Jefferson schools must clear four hurdles.

First, principals at Assumption, Destrehan, East St. John and Hahnville must agree by majority vote to release Ehret and West Jefferson from District 5-5A by voiding the current district schedule and adopting a new one that involves games between the four remaining teams.

Second, Bonnabel, Higgins and then would have to accept Ehret and West Jefferson into what remains of District 7-5A, void their current schedules and adopt a new schedules involving all five Jefferson schools. Abramson, Easton, McDonogh and Reed are the other members of District 7-5A, but those Orleans Parish public schools will not field teams this season.

Third, the five Jefferson schools also would have to be certain that their football teams can resume play by Oct. 7, the sixth playing date of the regular season, in order to a complete a four-game district schedule, with the champion advancing to the state playoffs.

Once those three criteria are met, the Louisiana High

School Athletic Association executive committee would have to approve the revised District 7-5A that would operate only for the 2005 football season.

The possibility of Jefferson reuniting its five Class 5A schools surfaced Thursday during a special meeting of the executive committee. Jefferson Parish Public Schools athletics director Manny Barocco met with LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry on Wednesday and appeared before the committee Thursday to explore what options were available to the Jefferson schools, which are

*See* **JEFFERSON,** *page C-8*

# Saints' smooth offense impresses Coughlin

*Simplified schemes improve production for New Orleans*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — It wasn't just the Saints' intensity that caught New York Giants coach Tom Coughlin's attention when he reviewed game tape from New Orleans' 23-20 victory last Sunday against the Carolina Panthers.

Coughlin, who will guide his team against the Saints on Monday night at Giants Stadium, noticed very quickly how well the Saints executed offensively.

They went into the red zone four times and scored twice. They kept the ball for 32 minutes, 36 seconds, compared with the Panthers' 27:24.

Their offensive line was physical, helping tailback Deuce McAllister rush for 64 yards on 26 carries.

Quarterback Aaron Brooks didn't force passes, patiently waiting for his receivers to break open. And if Brooks' wide receivers were covered, he looked for other targets.

"They do crank it up and run the football, I think, very well," Coughlin said. "But all I look at is 18-of-24 for 192 yards and no interceptions (by Brooks). I think that speaks well for the style in which they are playing, and winning time of possession as well."

That new style comes from Mike Sheppard, who was promoted to offensive coordinator in the offseason after three seasons as the team's quarterbacks coach.

Sheppard's playbook is much thinner now than that of former offensive coordinator Mike McCarthy, now with San Francisco 49ers. Gone are the complicated motion sets and trick plays. Now it's mostly basic plays and basic reads.

"We do the same things over and over,

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-7*




AP PHOTO

Saints receivers Joe Horn, left, and Donte' Stallworth have played an integral part in the team's efficient passing game.

# Tigers' Pelini has faith defense will come around

*Coaches certain performance against ASU was anomaly*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU defensive players spoke with a measure of relief before last Saturday's delayed season opener against Arizona State.

No longer saddled with the mental baggage of former coach Nick Saban's high-tech defenses, defenders were ready to let it rip under the simplified plan of new coordinator Bo Pelini.

But in the course of allowing 560 yards - 461 passing - in a 35-31 victory, the Sun Devils did the ripping while LSU defenders at times looked more confused than in their worst moments under Saban.

LSU coach Les Miles chalked it up mainly to a first-game shakedown combined with a quality opponent. Players blamed themselves; Pelini laid it on coaching for not getting the message across. One thing Pelini didn't blame was the system.

LSU fans might already be drawing parallels between Pelini and Lou Tepper, whose stint as defensive coordinator in 1998 precipitated the fall of Coach Gerry DiNardo a year later. Opponents ran roughshod over the defense Tepper installed, helping to end a streak of three straight winning seasons. Might it be happening again? Don't bet on it, Pelini says, and don't expect wholesale changes.

"I believe in my system, I believe in what we do," said Pelini, who joined LSU after stints at Nebraska and Oklahoma the past two years. "It's not neces-

*See* **PELINI,** *page C-8*

# Volunteers face familiar foe with a new look



PETER FINNEY

College game of the week?

That would be Tennessee-Florida.

Yes, the Vols are ranked higher than the Gators in two major polls, No. 5 to No. 6 by The Associated Press, No. 4 to No. 7 by the coaches.

So why are the Gators favored by a touchdown?

Two reasons.

They're playing in Gainesville.

And Urban Meyer is the Florida coach.

After only four years as a head coach, two at Bowling Green and two at Utah, Meyer became the hottest ticket in the land coming out of the 2004 season after taking the Utes to a 12-0 record and a No. 4 ranking in the final polls, doing it with a spread-the-field, guns-away offense that ran up 582 yards against Texas A&M, 669 against North Carolina and a 35-7 runaway win against Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl. It embellished an already-impressive resume'.

Notre Dame, which fired Tyrone Willingham believing school officials could attract Meyer, had to accept New England Patriots assistant Charlie Weis as a consolation prize which, at the moment, doesn't seem that shabby a choice.

Still, in college circles, Meyer remains the golden boy of 2005. On Saturday, he'll be facing a polar opposite in Phil Fulmer, as conservative as Meyer is wide open, a coach who has seen 35 head coaches in the SEC come and go during his 12 seasons in Knoxville, a longevity that has made him the dean of SEC coaches.

What does Fulmer think of Meyer?

"Their offensive scheme is a proven scheme," said Fulmer. "It's effective if you have the right people running it."

Last year running things for Meyer was Alex Smith, taken by the San Francisco 49ers with the first pick in the 2005 draft. This year Chris Leak, who came into the season with 45 touchdown passes, is in charge of an offense that places the quarterback in a shotgun setup that includes the option, shovel passes, reverses and lots of motion.

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-6*



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Hornets guard J.R. Smith signs autographs as Willie Mae Crosby, left, and her grandson Deante, 1, wait their turn at a Red Cross shelter Thursday.

# PMAC to receive favorable rating by NBA

**HORNETS,** *from page C-5*

knowing I was there just a few days before the storm and seeing all those stores I went in being under water. Unbelievable."

Andersen's home on the West Bank had some wind damage, he said.

"But it's nothing like these people here," Andersen said. "I don't even worry about that. It's material things, minor things. I just want to be here to support all these people because they support us. A lot of people lost family members. That's got to be a more excruciating pain than just losing a house."

"It's hard to see all of this," said Bass, a former LSU player whose family lives in the Baton Rouge area. "This is big, but it's little, too. With the help of God, anything is possible. I think eventually, everybody will be all right."

**VENUE UPDATE:** Sources familiar with the process said the NBA will file a mostly favorable report on the Pete Maravich Assembly Center as a possible site to host up to a dozen Hornets games this season, splitting time with Oklahoma City as a home court until the team can move back into New Orleans Arena.

A tour of the PMAC was completed Wednesday, as well as possible practice sites for the displaced Hornets by team representatives and Peter Fink, the NBA's vice president of NBA events and attractions.

Fink was scheduled to forward his findings to league headquarters Thursday.

An announcement from the Hornets and the league as to just how the schedule will break down, and what games will be held in Oklahoma City and Baton Rouge, could be forthcoming early next week, Shinn said Thursday.

With damage to the team's New Orleans Arena home said to be minor enough that the building may be operational by the NBA All-Star break, Shinn said he'd like nothing better than to play some games there under the right circumstances.

"I just got off the phone with (NBA commissioner) David Stern and he'd just spoken with the mayor (Ray Nagin)," Shinn said. "I've spoken to David every day. He's been a real rock to me through this whole situation. He's assured me they're going to stand behind us the whole way and make the right decision.

"When we come back and what we do is a real good question. We're looking at Oklahoma City and here in Baton Rouge. Playing in the Arena has good and bad possibilities. If we could do it in a way that we'd have a full crowd, it would be ecstatic. If we have 1,500 people, it would be horrible. That might send a signal there was no hope there."

# Vols fans slam LSU over game time against Tigers

**FINNEY,** *from page C-5*

"It's different from what Florida ran with Steve Spurrier," said Fulmer. "The way they run the option makes it different."

It's an option that involves the principles of a quarterback running the Veer attack, one that puts the quarterback at risk, suggesting Leak will be a prime target for punishment against a veteran Tennessee defense.

Let's say this for the Vols. They're looking at the kind of schedule – back-to-back road games against Florida and LSU – that Nick Saban faced last year when, during a four-week span, the Tigers traveled to Auburn, Georgia and Florida.

Right now, in the post-Hurricane Katrina atmosphere, you already have some Tennessee fans giving LSU grief over the 6:45 p.m. starting time of next week's game in Tiger Stadium.

Tennessee officials pushed for an afternoon kickoff to allow Vol fans more time to travel out of a city jammed with evacuees. The kickoff was set by ESPN and will remain at 6:45.

Tennessee's side: It's wrong for LSU to want a night game.



AP PHOTO

Urban Meyer's spread option is a new wrinkle that Tennessee will have to contend with when it faces SEC East foe Florida.

UT fans can't get a hotel. LSU can provide a level playing field.

An LSU fan put it this way: "We could care less about how UT fans feel slightly inconvenienced. Imagine this scenario: A UT fan travels to Tiger Stadium and, upon returning to Tennessee, finds that he won't be able to go home for six months. He won't even be allowed to get back to his home and gather personal belongings. And he faces the uncertainty of not knowing if he has anything left. This is what hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents are facing. This is about life in Louisiana getting back to normal and a big part of that is Saturday night in Tiger Stadium."

# N.O. Bowl vows to play on, maybe in Lafayette

*Sports Foundation has had 'preliminary talks' with ULL officials*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Lafayette is the first choice for a relocated New Orleans Bowl, said executive director Billy Ferrante of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation.

Ferrante said Thursday that the foundation intends for the game to be played this year despite the unavailability of the Superdome and even though he has just begun exploring alternative sites.

"We have had some very preliminary talks with the folks at Louisiana-Lafayette, and our first choice is to keep the game in Louisiana," he said. "Hopefully we will have a decision wrapped up in a couple of weeks."

The 5-year-old bowl matches the champion of the New Orleans-based Sun Belt Conference against a team from Conference USA. ULL is a Sun Belt member. This year's game is scheduled for Dec. 20.

Sun Belt commissioner Wright Waters said his office and C-USA had been prepared to take over the game this year but applauded Ferrante's decision.

"That's what's best for everyone," Waters said. "It's good to know that the Sports Foundation is up and running. We're very interested in hearing their plan, but we'll do whatever we can to make this work."

Waters also said he favored Lafayette for the game.

"First off, it's one of our conference members," he said. "And beyond that, Lafayette is a city with plenty of amenities to entertain the teams and fans."

Ferrante said any decision on the bowl's future beyond this year will depend on the restoration of the Superdome, a project that is expected to take at least a year if it's done at all.

"This is the Sports Foundation's signature event," he said. "And we want to be part of the rebuilding of New Orleans. It may mean we have to relocate some of our other events around the state in the coming year, but we're going to stick around."

Waters and some staff members have relocated the Sun Belt offices to Tuscaloosa, Ala. Waters said he intends to inspect the conference offices in the Pan-American Life Building next week, but he is uncertain when the league might move back to New Orleans.

# THE WORLD OF SPORTS

## NFL

**GIANTS SAY STADIUM DEAL NEAR:** The New York Giants say they are close to deals for a new football stadium at the Meadowlands Sports Complex to be owned and operated jointly with the New York Jets. The announcement Thursday came as the Giants submitted a revised plan for a new stadium to the Jets and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which runs the Meadowlands. The Giants and Jets are tenants at Giants Stadium. The plan was delivered a day before the sports authority is to consider whether to recommend that New Jersey walk away from its agreement with the Giants on a new stadium. That opinion could hinge on whether the Giants reach an accord with the Jets, who have proposed a design of their own for the Meadowlands. The Jets appeared to have a different view of the status of negotiations. "I think at this point we are far apart," spokeswoman Marissa Shorenstein said. The 80,000-seat stadium and adjacent practice facility proposed by the Giants would cost $800 million and be paid for by the teams, said John K. Mara, the Giants' chief operating officer. It is designed to accommodate a retractable roof, at a cost of about $200 million more, which Mara said he hoped the state and NFL would help pay for.

**ROETHLISBERGER QUESTIONABLE:** Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was downgraded to questionable because of a bruised knee bone. Thursday's practice is considered the most important of the week by the Steelers, and players who don't practice or practice little often are held out of games. Roethlisberger didn't practice Wednesday and had limited work Thursday. "He worked a little bit, but not as much as I hoped he would," coach Bill Cowher said. "There's not really any kind of setback. ... His status is day to day." If Roethlisberger can't play, backup Tommy Maddox will start at Houston.

**FALCONS LOSE CB:** Atlanta cornerback Kevin Mathis tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee during practice Wednesday. Mathis, 32, is out for the season. Atlanta placed Mathis on the season-ending injured reserve list and signed Christian Morton off Washington's practice squad. Coach Jim Mora indicated Mathis will undergo reconstructive surgery early next week.

**BAILEY BETTER:** Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey, who hasn't missed a game in his seven-year NFL career, practiced in pads and said he expects to keep the streak going Sunday against San Diego despite a dislocated shoulder. "If I'm in pads during the week, I'm probably going to play," Bailey said. "So, there's no doubt that I'll probably be out there. As long as I don't have any setbacks, I'll be fine." Bailey has started all 97 regular-season games since he entered the league in 1999.

**NINE FINED:** Nine players were fined for their roles in a fight before Monday night's game between the Eagles and Falcons, with Atlanta defensive tackle Chad Lavalais drawing the biggest fine – $7,500 – for a hit on Donovan McNabb. Lavalais was fined for using his helmet on McNabb, who hurt his chest on the play. McNabb is questionable for Philadelphia's game Sunday against San Francisco because of the injury. For the pregame fight, which resulted in Falcons cornerback Kevin Mathis and Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter being ejected before kickoff, both players got $5,000 fines. Also receiving a $5,000 hit was cornerback DeAngelo Hall for unsportsmanlike conduct for grabbing an opponent's facemask and then throwing the opponent's helmet. Two Falcons were fined $2,500 for entering a fight area, which made them active participants: safety Keion Carpenter and cornerback/kick returner Allen Rossum. Safety Kevin McCadam was fined $1,000. Along with Trotter, the three Eagles fined for entering a fight area were linebackers Keith Adams, Jason Short and Mike Labinjo.

**McNABB IMPROVES:** Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb practiced for the first time this week after suffering a chest injury Monday against the Atlanta Falcons. McNabb said he felt a little sore, though he reiterated the injury won't keep him out against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

**BILLICK: BOLLER'S THE MAN:** The toe injury that forced Kyle Boller out of Sunday's game against Tennessee will not cost him his job as the Baltimore Ravens starting quarterback. Eager to clarify his remark Wednesday that Anthony Wright "will be our starting quarterback until circumstances change," Coach Brian Billick emphasized Thursday that his confidence in Boller has not waned. "Kyle Boller is our starting quarterback," he said. "If Kyle is able to return in the two- to three-week prognosis that we currently have, he will be our starting quarterback." Boller could be available to face the New York Jets on Oct. 2, which follows the Ravens' bye week. "Anthony Wright is the starter for an undetermined period right now due to injury," Billick said. "Kyle Boller is our starting quarterback. If I left it open to interpretation, if I left that in a way that led to speculation that we did not have the faith in Kyle, that our faith is wavering, that was not my intent." Boller hyperextended his right big toe and injured his ankle in last Sunday's 24-7 loss to Indianapolis. He is wearing a protective boot.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**SPARTANS RB MAY RETURN:** Michigan State running back Jason Teague could play Saturday against Notre Dame after being suspended for last week's game against Hawaii. Teague will travel with the team and is expected to be in uniform for Saturday's game at No. 10 Notre Dame, Michigan State associate athletic director John Lewandowski said Thursday. Teague is not listed on the team's depth chart. Teague had 89 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries in Michigan State's 49-14 win over Kent State on Sept. 3.

**FSU–MIAMI TO OPEN ON ESPN:** Florida State and Miami will again open their seasons against each other on Labor Day in 2006, but ESPN will be televising the game in prime time instead of ABC, which has carried the game the past two seasons. A week after the Sept. 4 game between the Seminoles and Hurricanes, ESPN will begin airing NFL Monday Night Football. The Florida State-Miami game was moved to the start of the season in 2004, when the Hurricanes joined the Seminoles in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Last year's game was scheduled to be played in the Orange Bowl on Labor Day night but had to be pushed back because of Hurricane Frances.

**REBELS ADD MIZZOU:** Ole Miss' first meeting with Missouri in 27 years highlights the Rebels' 2006 football schedule, Athletic Director Pete Boone said. The Rebels will play the Tigers on Sept. 9, 2006, in Columbia, Mo., in the first meeting between the schools since 1979. Missouri, a Big 12 member, will visit Oxford on Sept. 8, 2007.

## NBA

**MINNESOTA HIRES ASSISTANTS:** The Minnesota Timberwolves hired Bob Thornton, Rex Kalamian, Vince Taylor and Aleksandar Dzikic as assistants to coach Dwane Casey. The four join former Orlando head coach Johnny Davis on Casey's staff. The team also announced that Brent Haskins has been promoted to assistant coach-advance scout.

**CLIPPERS SIGN GUARD:** Free agent guard Yuta Tabuse, the first Japanese-born player to appear in an NBA game, has signed with the Los Angeles Clippers. Tabuse, who played at BYU-Hawaii, averaged 1.8 points and 1.0 rebounds in 4.3 minutes over four games with Phoenix last season. Tabuse, 5 feet 9 and 165 pounds,scored a career-high seven points in 10 minutes in the Suns' opener against Atlanta. Tabuse, who turns 25 next month, was released by the Suns on Dec. 18, and later played with Long Beach of the ABA, where he averaged 9.0 points and 6.3 assists in 12 games.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**YOUNG BACKS OFF:** Tampa Bay Devil Rays prospect Delmon Young said Thursday that critical statements he made about the organization for not promoting him to the majors this month were not aimed at players on the last-place team. "I never meant any disrespect to the Devil Ray players. I have nothing but the highest respect for these guys and I know how hard they have worked to get there," the 19-year-old outfielder said in a statement. "I am just so frustrated that the team would not give me the opportunity to play with and against the best players in the game, so that I could continue to learn and develop in the major league environment." Young, the brother of Detroit's Dmitri Young, was named Baseball America's Minor League Player of the Year this week, and during a conference call with reporters he expressed unhappiness over not being promoted at the end of his season. Asked why he felt he was not called up, Young replied: "The only thing I can think of is they're being cheap. When it comes to free agency, no use trying to stay around there for the long haul," he added. "Get your six years and leave." Young said some of his remarks had been "twisted" in a way that distorts what he was trying to say.

# Independence Bowl making Tulane at home

*Shreveport pulls out stops for Wave's season opener*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — It was a sign of normalcy. Off Interstate 20 in Shreveport, next to Independence Stadium, an electronic billboard read: Tulane vs. Mississippi State. Saturday 7 p.m.

Tulane football players peered at the sign as their bus zoomed by on Monday. It was, finally, game week. For the folks at the Independence Bowl, normalcy comes in December. But they have opened their doors – er, gates – to the Tulane football family. And that means it's game week for them, too.

"With this one, the only thing that's been challenging has been the turnaround time," said Missy Setters, interim executive director of the Dec. 30 bowl. "You don't have a lot of time to get everything set up and situated for it. But we're used to doing a bowl game, so everyone on the staff is very skilled and experienced in what they do. So you just draw on that and kick it into bowl-week mode."

The Independence Bowl staffers aren't the only workers putting in overtime this week. Conference USA, the city of Shreveport and Tulane employees have united their resources to put on a Tulane home game in a stadium 341 miles from Tulane's home.

"In terms of operations of the stadium, it will all be Shreveport," said Shreveport chief administrative officer Ken Antee, who estimated 100 city employees will assist Saturday.

Tulane can bring in only a portion of its normal game-day staff. So C-USA will assist.

"When you look at the overall picture, Tulane brings their staff in from all over the place," said Russ Anderson, C-USA's assistant commissioner. "And they haven't played in this stadium. Everyone's very appreciative of the help that the Independence Bowl people are giving. A lot of the people involved, running the game operations, have never been in that stadium. ... But if we're organized, we'll be able to minimize the glitches."

C-USA unveiled a marketing plan Wednesday, hoping to persuade locals to attend the game. Fifteen radio channels have aired promotional ticket giveaways. And Tulane's sports information staff, as well as C-USA's media relations staff, have fed press releases and information to North Louisiana media outlets.

But who is going to come?

Dan Holden doesn't know for sure. Tulane's director of ticket operations has been working out of Shreveport with minimal resources. His office was inundated by floodwaters.

"I pretty much don't have anything," he said.

Among the items back home are thousands of tickets already purchased, which were set to be mailed the first week of September. But Holden did obtain one file with season ticket-holder information. He has been working the phones, calling fans and receiving calls from people who bought tickets, didn't get them, but want to come to Shreveport.

"The fans who can come will come to the will-call window," said Holden, who said about 12,000 season tickets have been sold for this season.

Tulane communicated with Ticketmaster – where tickets can still be purchased online – and had new printed tickets sent to Shreveport this week. Holden said about 1,000 tickets have been sold through Ticketmaster.

Mississippi State fans purchased 2,700 tickets, and Holden said he expects "a couple thousand more" fans to show up Saturday night.

"I think it will be a huge walk-up crowd, and a last-minute thing for people in Shreveport," he said. "We're really dependent on that.

"I don't know how many of our season ticket-holders are going to come – I don't know if we'll get 500 season ticket-holders or 5,000. I'm going to say (a total attendance of) 15,000 to 20,000 is realistic."

"Hopefully, we can get a big crowd out there," Antee said, "because God knows those kids deserve it."

Tulane will gain the majority of profits from Saturday's game. The city of Shreveport offered the stadium free. Mississippi State waived the $200,000 fee Tulane owed it for the game. There will be a telethon during the game. At the stadium, Tulane will get ticket money and a percentage of parking money and concessions.

And, of course, the game-day normalcy is priceless.

**WTIX CAN'T AIR TU GAME:** Tulane's football game with Mississippi State on Saturday night at Shreveport's Independence Bowl Stadium will not be broadcast over its flagship radio station in New Orleans.

WTIX 690-AM will be unable to air Tulane's opener because of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, according to ISP Sports Network.

"They've got some technical issues that will prohibit them from broadcasting," said Taylor Durham, ISP's recruiting manager, who handles the southeast region. "I think TIX is an integral part of our coverage, and we're looking forward to getting them back on the air. We will carry every major market (in Louisiana)."

Durham said several radio stations, including WJSH 104.7-FM on the north shore and WSKR 1230-AM in Baton Rouge, will air Saturday's game. Stations in Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport and West Monroe also will air Tulane's game.

The game will also be televised by College Sports TV and on the I Network, formerly PAX (local channel 49).

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Staff writer Fred Robinson contributed to this story.

# Harvey's Jones still on fast track for Bulldogs

*Ex-West Jeff standout learning on the job for Mississippi State*

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer



AP PHOTO

Mississippi State running back Jerious Norwood missed practice time this week with a bruised shoulder, but he is expected to get the ball plenty against Tulane.

Mississippi State runs the West Coast offense, but Bulldogs players know they must be able to run the football to be successful Saturday against Tulane. The teams meet Saturday at 7 p.m. in Shreveport.

"We have receivers who can do it all," said Mississippi State tight end Jeremy Jones. "We have a quarterback (Omarr Conner) who is really underrated. We have three or four tight ends who can go in and do whatever. But what we're really going to try to do is pound the football."

That means utilizing running back Jerious Norwood, who didn't practice before Thursday because of a bruised shoulder.

"Hopefully he's back," Jones said. "He's the key to everything."

That Jones can even talk about the offensive output is surprising. Jones, a redshirt freshman from Harvey, started at tight end against Auburn in the Bulldogs' 28-0 loss last weekend. Jones thought he would be playing defensive end this fall.

"Yeah, that's what I thought," he said, laughing. "I don't know what happened. I showed up for two-a-days, and I was a tight end again."

And what would he prefer to be playing?

"It doesn't matter. I play where they tell me to play."

Which is how he became a tight end in the first place at West Jefferson High School, as a senior, in his only season of football there.

Jones went out for football in the spring before his junior season after being an all-district basketball player as a junior. It didn't take.

"To be honest," he said, "it was hot. I wasn't ready. I wasn't committed. I felt like I was wasting my time and Coach's time."

Coach felt the same. "When I got here (at West Jeff in 2002 after a sterling career at Archbishop Shaw), I heard there was this great athlete at the school, but I couldn't get him to come out," said West Jeff coach Hank Tierney.

When he did, before his junior year, he was there a day.

"He said he just didn't want to play. He was out there for all the wrong reasons," Tierney said.

So Jones went back to basketball. He was quite a player: 6 feet 4, 275 to 280 pounds and quick. He could drive. He could shoot. And he was as strong as a bear. He made all-district again.

Tierney kept asking when he saw him in the halls and on the court.

"Coach kept on," Jones said. "He told me that if I would just put in the effort, good things would happen for me. I didn't believe him."

In May 2003, after West Jeff went 5-5 in Tierney's first season, Jones asked if he could come back.

"My mama kept on me," Jones said. "She believed Coach about what could happen. Basketball just wasn't going to take me anywhere."

"At Shaw, we didn't allow seniors to go out for football. I just felt it wasn't fair to the seniors," Tierney said. "But we were desperate."

So Jones came out. But what would he play?

"He said he wanted to play defensive end, and he could have. But we were in bad need of a tight end," Tierney said.

Jones became a tight end.

"I understand why he can do both (offense and defense), because he's an amazing athlete," Tierney said. "He's agile, with great feet and great quickness."

Amazingly enough, by midseason, big-name colleges were calling. LSU, Tennessee, Southern Cal. All wanted to talk to this kid who was still learning on the job.

"I'd like to say we made him into a player," Tierney said. "But we didn't. We showed him how to block and who to block, and he took it from there. He's just a natural."

So natural that he signed with LSU in November, a couple of weeks after hurting a knee badly in the ninth game of West Jeff's undefeated regular season.

LSU coach Nick Saban wanted Jones to "grayshirt" or go to LSU for a semester then be put on scholarship for the second semester. There were grave concerns by many about whether the knee was ready.

His mother intervened again. She refused to allow Jones to go to LSU, and he was released. He signed with Mississippi State and hasn't looked back.

He redshirted as a freshman, then hurt his knee again in March. He almost quit.

"But what was I going to do, go back there and do nothing?" he said. "I knew what I had to do to rehab, and I did it."

So much so that he was in on 20-22 plays against Auburn.

Now he'll be playing against an old teammate, Antonio "Freeway" Johnson, a defensive tackle for Tulane.

"I know what they've been through, because I've been through it some," Jones said of the displaced Tulane team. "My family is in Texas. They got out the day before the storm."

His family home in Harvey was damaged, and, like most of the West Bank population, he doesn't know when it'll be OK to go home.

"I'm sorry about what they're going through, but we've got to play," he said.

He knows he has far to go, he said, but he's working hard to get there because he has people who believe in him.

"I never had a player come so far so quickly," Tierney said. "I'm not surprised at anything he does."



AP PHOTO

The Saints leave the practice field Thursday in San Antonio. After winning an emotional opener at Carolina, New Orleans is hoping for similar results in its 'home opener' at the New York Giants.

# New offensive system successful in debut

**SAINTS,** *from page C-5*

and we're getting good at them," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "We're trying to play team football, take advantage of our offensive line and the players we have at wideout. Mike has done a great job with that so far."

It wasn't that simple last season, especially when the Saints lost three of four games last October.

"Last year, we had stuff that we work on practice, and 25 percent was never used in the game," said backup running back Aaron Stecker. "Now everything is condensed, and we just line up and play football."

Brooks enjoys the new simple scheme and holds Sheppard in high regard.

"I don't even think he understand and realizes how much he means to me," Brooks said. "He's just a good guy who cares about his players and values opinions.

"As a player, that's all you want. So in turn, I was elated when he received the offensive coordinator's job. I know he would do everything in his power to make us successful."

The Saints are likely to see more blitzes than they saw from the Panthers.

The Giants are also likely to mix up the secondary coverages, keying on wide receiver Joe Horn and trying to contain short passes across the middle to the tight ends.

But no matter what happens, the Saints' offensive players are confident.

"Right now we are really enjoying the play-calling," starting offensive guard Kendyl Jacox said. "It's not that things are being called our way, it's just that calls are being made to put us in position where we can win. Where we're not backpedaling every play. He's putting us in a great position where we come off and be aggressive. ... Anytime you start at your own 20 and drive it 80 yards on the opening possession and take 10 minutes off the clock, you wear down a team's will."

# Brooks says Saints always deserved attention

*Deuce 9 yards shy of Saints record; Horn news junkie*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks has noticed a change.

The Saints are drawing a substantial amount of national media attention unlike past seasons as a result of being displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Because of damages caused by Hurricane Katrina and the facility being used as an evacuation, the Saints are practicing in San Antonio for the season and will split their home schedule between Baton Rouge and San Antonio.

"It's just unfortunate that we're part of the 32 teams in the NFL and it takes a national disaster for the media and NFL to show us some love," Brooks said.

"That's really uncalled for. There are a lot of great players on this football team and we're a team in the middle of the pack that deserves attention."

**NEARING MILESTONE:** With nine more rushing yards, running back Deuce McAllister will become the Saints' all-time leading rusher, passing George Rogers, who had 4,267 when he played for the Saints from 1981-84.

**STAYING TUNED:** Wide receiver Joe Horn said he keeps his television set tuned to the news networks to monitor the recovery effort going on in New Orleans.

"I'm more impressed with the speedy recovery right now and we were thinking next year sometime, but the mayor (Ray Nagin) is telling some residents that they will be able to come back soon," Horn said. "I'm sure the clean-up is going to be quicker than we thought."

**BACK AT WORK:** Despite being listed as questionable for Monday night's game against the New York Giants, tight end Ernie Conwell practiced Thursday.

Conwell suffered a dislocated jaw and injured his wrist in last week's game against the Carolina Panthers. He had a cast on his right wrist Thursday.

**GETTING READY:** Alamodome officials are putting down the turf,, but it's still not ready for the Saints to begin practicing.

**GOOD DRAW:** Conrad Kowal, the Saints' senior director of marketing, said the team sold more than 50,000 tickets on the first day of sales for the three games that will be played at the Alamodome this season.

"It was overwhelming, and we were a little overwhelmed," Kowal said. "It was a terrific start."

# Wildcats coach laments loss of lineman Johnson

*Dauterive blasts LHSAA rule allowing star OL to play at Evangel*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

It's been a time of give-and-take for East St. John coach Larry Dauterive.

On the one hand, Dauterive, whose squad will open its season against Hahnville in Boutte on Saturday at 3 p.m., lost big. Senior Jamar Thompson, a 6-foot-6 offensive lineman with major college prospects, evacuated LaPlace and ended up in Shreveport. For the

past two Friday nights, he has played football for Evangel. Thompson, Dauterive said, apparently, isn't coming back.

On the bright side, Dauterive has picked up about 20 players from Orleans and Jefferson parishes. He's glad to have those players, he said.

But he's not happy about losing Thompson.

Thompson's father returned his son's equipment to the coach Tuesday. Dauterive said that came a week after Jamar Thompson returned to LaPlace, met with him and promised he would be at practice the next day.

"He told me he was going to come back," Dauterive said. "He shook my hand. But he's done now."

Attempts to reach Thompson and his family were unsuccessful.

According to the emergency ruling made by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, students in the parishes affected by the storm - St. John the Baptist was one of those - may enroll in the school of their choice

and be immediately eligible. The ruling was intended to give students displaced by the storm a chance to attend school and play sports.

But Dauterive, who is the only River Parishes coach to have lost a player, said the rule should not apply to River Parishes students because none of the area's schools was closed longer than three weeks. St. James Parish schools reopened Sept. 6. St. John the

Baptist resumed on Sept. 12, and St. Charles on Thursday.

"If a kid's been displaced and he needs a place to go to school and a place to play, I've got no problem with that," Dauterive said. "But our school is open.

His house is fine. And once we started back up, he should have to come back. That's my point."

But Dauterive is moving on and working on a game plan for Saturday's game against Hahnville – a team Dauterive has been unable to defeat in his previous three tries. This week's game is a non-district contest, scheduled because both teams were originally supposed to play Orleans Parish schools. East St. John was to play St. Augustine. Hahnville was to play Sarah Reed. Hahnville and East St. John will meet again Oct. 7 in a District 5-5A game.

But Dauterive doesn't want to minimize the importance of Saturday's game. "It's still Hahnville-East St. John," he said. "The magnitude of this game hasn't changed."

No, but the numbers have. Dauterive estimates he will dress out a total of 140 players Saturday. Some are displaced students from Orleans and Jefferson parishes. The rest are freshmen he promised would dress if they attended a certain amount of his summer workouts.

"I'm keeping my commitment to them," Dauterive said.

He's trying to indoctrinate the 20 new players he has picked up from the New Orleans area schools. Some are students who already lived in the parish but attended private schools in the city.

Others are students whose home and school were lost.

Kenton Hill, who was a senior cornerback at Bonnabel, said he was heartbroken when he learned his senior season as a Bruin would be lost.

"I was like, 'What's going to happen to my senior year?' " he said. "But then my grandmother said she would try to get me in at East St. John. I said, 'I would love to play for East St. John. They're going to make me a better player.'"

Dorian Price was a senior linebacker at Bonnabel. He, too, is grateful that his senior season can be salvaged.

"I didn't know if I was going to get to play again or not," he said. "I was excited when I found out I'd be playing here. I know nobody is going to hand me anything. I know I'm going to have to work hard to play on this team."

The influx of students and football players has affected those already at East St. John, too. But senior running back Joshuelle Tuesno said everyone is adjusting.

"I have to help them learn, but also they are bringing out the best in me," Tuesno said. "Everybody's got a chance here. If you can play, you're going to play."

Tuesno said he has a great deal of compassion for his new school mates, some of whom have lost everything.

He is now sharing his own house with 17 family members and friends from the 9th Ward.

"Everybody's trying to show everybody love," he said. "It could very easily have been the same way for me."

# Hahnville principal objects to proposal

**JEFFERSON,** *from page C-5*

scheduled to reopen Oct. 3.

"We are going to play football this season," Barocco told the executive committee. "Our superintendent (Dr. Diane Roussel) is excited about restarting athletics (because) it is a rallying point."

Jefferson's other options are to have their Class 5A schools remain in their present districts and compete, or withdraw from championship competition in their current districts and form one or more independent leagues that could not send teams to the state playoffs. Under the independent league scenario, Barocco said he envisioned two four-team leagues set along geographical lines with Bonnabel, East Jefferson, King and Riverdale competing on the east bank and Ehret, Higgins, West Jefferson and Cox competing on the West Bank.

That scenario would have Cox, East Jefferson and Riverdale withdrawing from their respective Class 4A districts and playing against the larger parish schools. Fisher, Jefferson's ninth football-playing high school, competes in Class 2A.

West Jefferson is not interested in participating in any form of independent league play, Barocco said. Cox, East Jefferson, Fisher and Riverdale would be unaffected by a merger of 5A schools.

"I don't think that there is an ideal scenario in all of this," Barocco said.

Barocco acknowledged that Ehret and West Jefferson prefer to be reunited with their Jefferson rivals, who face the same challenges they do in reviving football teams that have been dormant for four-plus weeks. Ehret and West Jefferson also would be forced to compete against three of the state's top programs in Destrehan, East St. John and Hahnville, which will have a four-week head start in resuming their programs.

"It is a disadvantage for Ehret and West Jefferson to go in and play those teams, especially at that level," Barocco said.

"The school system's problem is numbers because everything is based on numbers. We don't know what kind of numbers we will have when we return to school."

Barocco also is uncertain if Jefferson schools can be ready to play games by an Oct. 7 deadline.

Also unanswered is whether Bonnabel, Higgins and King would be agreeable to accepting Ehret and West Jefferson into their district. Those three schools balked at a reclassification proposal by Ehret last October that would have merged all of Jefferson's Class 5A schools with Destrehan, East St. John and Hahnville. The three schools instead petitioned the LHSAA to merge them with the Orleans Parish public schools.

Hahnville principal Barbara Fuselier, an executive committee representative, told the committee that she had spoken to principals at Destrehan and East St. John and that all three schools would prefer for Ehret and West Jefferson to remain in District 5-5A for the football season.

Hahnville already has tentative road games scheduled against Airline on Oct. 14 and West Monroe on Oct. 21 to replace West Jefferson and Ehret.

But the St. Charles Parish school would prefer to play closer to home and losing its home game against Ehret would cost the school at least $5,000, Hahnville coach Lou Valdin said.

During a break from the five-hour meeting, Fuselier seemed to soften her stance after speaking with Barocco and Henry.

Fuselier was advised by Henry that allowing Ehret and West Jefferson to leave the district likely was the right thing to do.

Fuselier said she would ask principals Lorel Gonzales of Destrehan and Debra Schum of East St. John, who serve as co-chairpersons of 5-5A, to hold a district meeting to address the issue. Fuselier also asked the executive committee not to discuss the matter Thursday until the 5-5A principals have an opportunity to meet.

"Ultimately all of these decisions should be about what's best for the kids," said West Jefferson coach Hank Tierney. "In trying to reach our kids over the past week, many have been displaced and I don't know how many we'll get back."

Henry also said that Ehret and West Jefferson would have to play their district games against the River Parish schools or risk forfeits, if they're operating and fielding football teams as members of District 5-5A. By LHSAA rules, teams that forfeit two games in one season are not allowed to participate in that sport for the following two seasons.

# Salmen to call Northshore 'home' this season

*Spartans to practice, attend classess at rival school*

**By Marty Mule'**
Staff writer

Salmen football will have a new look this season.

The Spartans will practice, play games at Northshore and also attend classes at the school.

"Anything that's mine is his," said Panthers coach Frankie Jabbia of Salmen coach Jerry Leonard. "Just as I know it would be if the situation were reversed."

Salmen, located in the southern-most part of Slidell, near Lake Ponchatrain, was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and may not be suitable for use for months.

The Salmen student body will be platooned at Northshore, according to Jabbia, who is also administrative assistant for discipline at the school.

Northshore's school hours will be the normal 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. "When that bell rings in the afternoon," Jabbia said, "this will become Salmen High."

Salmen's teachers, administrators and students will then conduct that school's business for the next seven hours.

When Northshore is in session, the Spartans will practice on the auxiliary field or on the Panther Stadium field, sites that Northshore will utilize in the afternoon.

"The thing is, the season for those kids has to be saved," Jabbia said.

Northshore wasn't heavily damaged by the storm and has been used by the Red Cross.

"We weren't damaged that badly," Jabbia said. "And, in emergencies like this, everyone has to do what they can for everybody else."

Leonard has a major task on his hand in trying resurrect the team's schedule. District 10-4A was essentially wiped out by Katrina. None of the other district teams - Chalmette, Douglass, Carver and Kennedy - likely will play this season.

"As I read that," Jabbia said, "that makes Salmen the district champion (which qualifies the Spartans for the playoffs)."

Leonard is working to put together a make-shift schedule to accumulate power points. The Louisiana High School Athletic Association has said that teams affected by Katrina could make schedules as best they could among each other. Though other St. Tammany schools will start playing on Sept. 23, Salmen may not be able to until Oct. 7.

Northshore's athletic facilities are in need of repair, with the press box blown down and the scoreboard torn in half. The Panthers' first game was scheduled to be at home against Ponchatoula, but Northshore will instead play at Ponchatoula.

"It'll be three weeks before we'll be able to play at home," Jabbia said. "But, you know, we're much better off than we could be."

# Tigers say new system easier to execute

**PELINI,** *from page C-5*

sary to change. It works. It's proven."

Not here, not yet. But Pelini, 37, has earned some serious credibility. He's worked under such NFL names as George Seifert, Pete Carroll and Ray Rhodes, in addition to his big-time college stops.

Two years ago, Nebraska led the nation in turnovers (47) and pass-efficiency defense (88.66) and was second in scoring defense with Pelini running the same defense. So what happened Saturday?

"We didn't execute the things we did in practice," he said. "They (Arizona State) didn't give us anything out of the ordinary, that we didn't expect. We practiced against a lot of the things they made plays on. We just didn't execute very well throughout the course of the game. That's more on us as coaches than anything else."

Pelini's defensive philosophy is built around aggressiveness and turnovers – he likes lots of both. Unlike Saban, who preferred man-to-man coverage in the secondary, Pelini likes zone. And although he will blitz, it won't be nearly as much as Saban's defense did.

Saban was a chess master once the offense broke the huddle, giving his players many options and relying on them to pick up the changes quickly. Pelini wants his players' minds uncluttered so they can take the shortest distance to the ball – and be ready to take it away when they get there.

"You play with great effort and get 11 hats to the football," Pelini said. "That's where great defense starts. We talk about it all the time.

"When you get there you have to get there in a bad mood with the awareness that you're not going there just to make a tackle but get the ball out, too."

LSU players welcomed the change, although they couldn't argue with the success they had under Saban. Last year, LSU was No. 3 in total defense, No. 5 in pass defense and No. 7 vs. the run, and most of that crew returned.

But these days, when a defense is called from the sideline, the confusion ends there. Usually, regardless of what the offense lines up in or changes into, Pelini's defenses play the hand they've been dealt.

"(Under Saban) we would get two or three calls at a time, and we'd make the call according to the formation," said middle linebacker Cameron Vaughn, who calls the defensive plays. "That was good, but a lot of times we lacked communication because it's hard with 92,000 people screaming in your ear. We had a lot of busts doing that.

"With Coach Pelini, the call is going to be the call 90 percent of the time. We'll check it sometimes, but usually it will just play out. We have a lot fewer communication busts."

Said safety Jessie Daniels: "It's much easier to execute when you have so much less to think about. We made a lot of mistakes Saturday, but if we execute this defense the way we're supposed to, we'll be fine. The guys really like playing it."

## Toms rushed to hospital during first round

**From wire reports**

FARMINGTON, PA. - David Toms was rushed to a hospital after developing a rapid heartbeat during the 84 Lumber Classic on Thursday and was later taken by helicopter to a Pittsburgh hospital.

Toms, who played at LSU, was even par through nine holes - he started on No. 18 - before being taken off the course on a stretcher, according to PGA Tour officials. He was taken first to Uniontown Hospital, then was flown to Pittsburgh's UPMC-Presbyterian University Hospital.

Toms' caddie, Scott Gneiser, told The Associated Press that Toms was airlifted to Pittsburgh because "his heart rate went way up," but that he was "doing better now."

## CAPSULES

**Today's games**

**St. Thomas Aquinas at Riverside**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: Riverside defeated Bourgeois 23-20. St. Thomas Aquinas lost to Episcopal 33-28.
Last year: Did not play.
Notable: Riverside was scheduled to play New Orleans Desire Academy, which was fielding its first football team. . . Riverside running back Jarid Caesar rushed for 117 yards and one touchdown, plus he had 95 yards in kickoff returns last week.

**St. James at South Lafourche**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: St. James defeated Terrebonne 28-7. South Lafourche did not play.
Last year: Did not play.
Notable: St. James rushed for 187 yards last week. Tremaine Dapremont led the Wildcats with 70 yards and one touchdown on 17 carries. Javon Keller ran for 64 yards and a touchdown. Luther Ambrose also scored a touchdown.

**Destrehan at Terrebonne**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: Destrehan defeated Thibodaux 14-0. Terrebonne lost to St. James 28-7.
Last year: Destrehan defeated Terrebonne 23-20.
Notable: Destrehan and Terrebonne are no longer district opponents, thanks to redistricting, but the two agreed to play this season. . . Terrebonne quarterback Mark Hebert passed for 107 yards with two interceptions last week. . . Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene passed for 163 yards and intercepted a pass.

**Bourgeois at St. Charles**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: Bourgeois lost to Riverside 23-20. St. Charles defeated Jackson 42-0.
Last year: Did not play.
Notable: St. Charles rushed for 211 yards last week, and Chase Emerson had 155 yards. He scored four touchdowns.

**Thibodaux at Lutcher**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: Thibodaux lost to Destrehan 14-0. Lutcher lost to St. Amant 17-7.
Last year: Thibodaux won 36-21.
Notable: Lutcher running back Wayne Albert rushed 26 times for 154 yards and the Bulldogs' lone touchdown last week.

**Patterson at West St. John**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: West St. John lost to South Terrebonne 31-28. Patterson defeated Morgan City 35-7.
Last year: Patterson won 38-28.
Notable: Last year's game between these two teams had to be postponed from Friday to Sunday because of the mandatory evacuation for Hurricane Ivan. . . Rams quarterback Olajuwon Hall completed 15 of 19 passes for 267 yards and three touchdowns last week. . . Patterson, which scored 35 points in the third quarter last week, rushed for 233 yards.

**Saturday's game**

**East St. John at Hahnville**
Time: 3 p.m.
Last week: Hahnville defeated Central Lafourche 43-7. East St. John did not play.
Last year: Hahnville won 32-27.
Notable: This is a non-district game scheduled because both teams were originally scheduled to play Orleans Parish opponents. . . The two will meet again Oct. 7 in a District 5-5A game. . . East St. John is the only River Parishes team that did not play last week.

HEADING HOME? TIPS FOR CLEANING UP THE MESS LIVING, C-1


# The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 240 | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION


## DAY 19 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**579**



Drying sediment of sludge may contain petroleum, fecal matter, **See A-2**

A contingent of U.S. senators, led by Louisiana's Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, vows to rebuild New Orleans, **See A-2**

Lack of policy to save pets doomed many in New Orleans homes, **See A-3**

Battered emergency communications complex to get new gear, **See A-5**

Trailers promised for many homeless Slidell workers, **See Metro**

Housing shortage likely to raise prices in key areas, **See B-8**

**14**
**DAYS WITHOUT RAIN**

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and some Army Corps of Engineers officials say the lack of rain has helped the city drain more quickly, but corps Maj. George Stejic said showers would help wash away filthy floodwater residue. Parts of New Orleans received about a quarter-inch of rain late Friday.

## DEVASTATION, DEATH HAUNT THE LOWER 9TH WARD



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Homes off North Claiborne Avenue in the Lower 9th Ward are vivid illustrations of the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. The emptiness – the only sounds the faint howls of animals and the roar of helicopters – underscored the nearly complete depopulation of the neighborhoods.

# AFTER THE WATER, UTTER EMPTINESS

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Staff Sgt. Robert Andrade and his two-Humvee patrol rolled past a Lower 9th Ward house Monday when one of the soldiers noticed a dog chained up in front of a house. They figured someone had to have secured the chain, so they approached the house and yelled inside.

"Anybody in there?"

No response.

On Tuesday they rolled again past the St. Claude Avenue home, now dry several days after Hurricane Katrina had turned the thoroughfare into a 15-foot canal and a death trap.

No dog. They called into the house again, now nearly certain that the dog's owners had pulled him inside. They called again. No answer. So they left a bottle of water on the porch.

On Wednesday, the water was gone. On Thursday, they left two MREs and a bottle of water, and the next day those were gone as well.

After three days of feeding a ghost in a dead village, surrounded by hungry dogs standing menacingly atop imploded houses, that was the closest Andrade's patrol came to seeing any sign of life. The utter emptiness – the only sounds the faint howls of animals and the roar of helicopters – underscored the nearly complete depopulation of massive swaths of the city and the Herculean, perhaps impossible, task of rebuilding.

All veterans of a recent tour in Baghdad, the soldiers got so bored they took a picture of a dog defecating on a roof, laughing as they pulled the image onto a laptop computer.

When some subjects came up, they didn't joke.

"It's not the ghosts that scare me, it's the nightmares," Staff Sgt. William Thompson said. "That's the bad stuff, the stuff that keeps you up at night."

Asked if he had seen bodies, he closed his eyes, rubbed his temples for several seconds, and said, "Yes. I don't think they'll ever get an accurate count of the dead."

Down the street from the soldiers,

*See* **NINTH,** *A-9*

# Bush plan could be New Deal for N.O.

*Programs combat 'legacy of inequality'*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — As his aides released details of plans to restore Gulf Coast communities crippled by Hurricane Katrina, President Bush said Friday that he hopes the programs will generate new opportunities for those who have faced years of poverty and inequity.

The Bush plan, revealed Thursday in a nationally televised speech from Jackson Square in New Orleans, includes a Gulf Opportunity Zone to foster job creation through tax breaks and small business loans; worker recovery accounts of as much as $5,000 to pay for job training and child care; an urban homesteading program that would give low-income residents the chance to buy into 4,000 single-family homes in return for "sweat equity"; and federal aid that would provide as much as $7,500 for each dislocated Gulf Coast student taken in by public or private schools.

The latter would allow Bush to create, on a temporary basis, the kind of large-scale school voucher program he has been unable to pass through Congress during his first term.

And despite urging from some, Bush on Friday ruled out raising taxes for the massive reconstruction effort, which aides said could cost $200 billion or more. The scope of the Gulf recovery plan surprised some observers.

*See* **BUSH,** *A-8*

# Body count will likely jump in hard-hit areas

*Flooding likely caught many by surprise*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

Tentative optimism that New Orleans' death toll from Hurricane Katrina might be far lower than first projected gave way to somber reality over 36 hours as search and rescue squads turned up bodies by the dozen in the hardest hit areas of the city.

By midafternoon Friday, the black triangles used to designate human remains were multiplying on an emergency command center map. Federal Emergency Management Agency rescue squad liaison Charles Hood said a spike in discoveries Friday started to take an emotional toll on rescue workers.

"Our squad members are getting access to trauma and grief counselors," Hood said. "It's becoming a very difficult task."

The state is in charge of releasing Katrina's official death total, which stood at 579 Friday night. Hood said the periodic reports from his seven 80-person squads indicate the casualty count is going to jump in the coming days, but declined to speculate on what the number would reach. One squad alone located and marked more than a dozen houses containing bodies Friday.

"Parts of the city have become a target-rich environment for human remains," Hood said. "We're just now getting into the areas that experienced the most rapid inundation."

Large chunks of the city, including parts of Gentilly, the Desire-Florida area and Upper 9th Ward, have revealed telltale signs that the two breaches of

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-10*

**2,560**
Louisiana children have been reported missing

**691**
of those have been reunited with family as of Friday

**The Katrina Missing Persons Hotline is (888) 544-5475**

# 1,900 La. kids still separated from parents

**Mary Swerczek and Allen Powell II**
Staff writers

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, some families were forced to enact the most gut-wrenching of escape strategies: separating children from parents to get everyone out of harm's way.

"The circumstances were so dire" that at some crowded evacuation points, parents were told to "pass all of the babies forward," said Nancy McBride, national safety director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Things were in such a state of confusion trying to get people to safety."

*See* **MISSING,** *A-11*

nola.com
**CONTINUOUS UPDATES COMPLETE KATRINA COVERAGE**
Expanded edition of The Times-Picayune at www.nola.com


**INSIDE**

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**POSSIBLE STORM**
HIGH 91 | LOW 76

# Sediment may be health hazard

*Drying sludge may contain petroleum, fecal matter*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

The sediment left behind by floodwaters in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish contains bacterial and petroleum contamination in amounts that could pose a health risk for returning residents, officials with the Environmental Protection Agency and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality said Friday.

And the material may be dangerous in the weeks and months ahead as it dries and becomes airborne, they added.

The most immediate concern is with residents returning today to St. Bernard, where a major oil spill at Murphy Oil in Chalmette left contaminated sediment in homes and yards, said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel.

He said the decision to allow residents to re-enter St. Bernard Parish today "causes me a great deal of concern" because of the potential exposure to petroleum products and fecal matter in the sediment left behind by floodwaters.

"I'm hopeful that there's going to be some form of a thoughtful process in making sure people aren't placed in unsafe conditions on their return, or don't run into additional health problems while they're in there," McDaniel said.

EPA and DEQ on Friday released results from 18 sediment samples taken Sept. 10, promising it was the first of many more in the days and weeks to come.

They said there are still no results from air samples taken anywhere in the New Orleans metropolitan area, other than limited data gathered by EPA's ASPECT aircraft, used to sniff out dangerous chemicals from fires and overturned rail cars.

The mix of chemicals found in crude oil and petroleum products poses a variety of short-term and long-term risks, EPA officials said. Some, such as diesel and fuel oils, can cause skin irritation.

Breathing fuel oils for short periods can cause nausea, eye irritation, increased blood pressure, headache, light-headedness, loss of appetite, poor coordination and difficulty concentrating. Breathing diesel fuel vapors for long periods can cause kidney damage and lower the blood's ability to clot.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommends that those exposed to fuel oils wash with soap and water, flush the eyes, remove contaminated clothing and receive immediate medical attention if contaminated soil is ingested.

EPA officials estimated that the sediments in the St. Bernard area contained one-tenth of 1 percent of petroleum products, an amount they said could take several years to disappear without treatment.

Three of the 18 samples released Friday had slightly elevated arsenic and lead levels. The level of lead detected is typical of that found in urban areas, they said.

The officials said the results are only the beginning of an extensive sediment testing program that already is being adjusted to address EPA Science Advisory Board concerns that they include samples taken inside buildings and from building walls, and include tests for a longer list of substances.

McDaniel said petroleum products also are being found in some locations in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, which he said was not unexpected.

"We have 350,000 vehicles and about 50,000 boats that were under water, and lots of underground storage tanks and aboveground tanks," he said.

"And then we've got the Murphy Oil spill," 19,000 barrels spilled near Chalmette. "That will pose special problems with the cleanup."

McDaniel predicted that environmental officials will run into several hot spots in New Orleans and surrounding communities during the cleanup, "perhaps in industrialized areas or in commercial areas where a business is storing hazardous waste."

He said the process may eventually include the cleanup or demolition of 160,000 homes and businesses in New Orleans.

EPA Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science Bill Farland said officials also are concerned about the sediment becoming airborne as it dries.

"First, there's the question of all this coarse particulate matter being created as it dries up," he said. "People driving across, moving the material, and then it will be entrained in the air."

Farland said he doesn't believe the sediment will be considered hazardous waste, based on the contaminants it contains.

But he couldn't say whether oil-contaminated wastes would have to be disposed under federally mandated oilfield-waste rules, which require such wastes to be placed in separate landfills or treatment facilities from construction debris or household solid waste.

EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock said this first set of sediment samples did not include tests to determine whether asbestos fibers are a byproduct of the floodwater removal.

"We expect to see some asbestos," Peacock said. "We also expect to be dealing with lead, and old lead paint."

He said federal and state environmental officials are drawing up plans to assess individual homes for hazardous materials to determine how they will be demolished.

# First look at N.O. damage leaves delegation stunned

*Senators vow to rebuild city*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

They had seen the TV reports and read the stories of heroism and tragedy, but nothing prepared a U.S. congressional delegation for the experience of a personal look at the devastation in New Orleans.

A contingent of 14 U.S. senators, led by Louisiana's Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, took a 2-hour multi-parish tour Friday in four Army Blackhawk helicopters, then alit in downtown New Orleans for a first-hand survey of the damage. For most, it was their first visit to the hurricane-ravaged area.

"I've always said that if a picture is worth a thousand words then being on the ground is worth a thousand pictures," Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyoming, said. "That's exactly what I've seen today."

The group toured most of the New Orleans metropolitan region in the morning, before heading east to visit afflicted areas in St. Tammany Parish, Pass Christian, Miss., the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., and Dauphin Island, Ala.

For Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Hurricane Katrina and its devastating aftermath was personal. His wife Vicky graduated from Tulane and still has family in New Orleans and Crowley.

"You can see the television coverage millions of Americans have seen over the past days, and you can read the stories, the heartbreaking stories and the stories of courage that we've all read in the last few days," Kennedy said. "We can even hear from some of the evacuees, which my wife Vicky and I have listened to up in Cape Cod, Mass., where we have 290 evacuees. But nothing – nothing, nothing, nothing – compares with seeing for ourselves the devastation that we have seen for the last few hours and we'll continue to see."

Echoing the sentiments of President Bush in his Thursday night speech from Jackson Square, lawmakers pledged full support in the effort to rebuild the city, decimated by Hurricane Katrina 19 days ago.

"We're here to send a message that our first priority and our highest obligation is to help all of those affected by this disaster," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "All of us are united to help the Gulf Coast recover from this extraordinary natural disaster."

The contingent of powerbrokers included Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, as well as the leaders of several Senate committees.

"I stand by President Bush in his pledge to aid all those affected by this violent storm, and will work with my colleagues to ensure Congress acts swiftly and decisively in helping rebuild this battered region," Frist said. "The homes that we flew over today, each one is a catastrophe, a story that we've reached out to and responded to."

Congress already has appropriated a record $61 billion toward the relief efforts in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. And more help in the form of military and medical personnel and funding is on the way. Some lawmakers have estimated the final tally could soar to $200 billion.

"The resources are going to be there to get the job done," said Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. "I think the president was right. We're going to do what it takes and we're going stay here as long as it takes, and we're going to come back again and again to see that it's done right."

**POWERFUL LOBBY**

Fourteen U.S. senators participated in a tour of the hurricane-affected areas of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi on Friday. They were met by Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter:

- Max Baucus, D-Mont.
- Thad Cochran, R-Miss.
- Susan Collins, R-Maine
- Chris Dodd, D-Conn.
- Richard Durbin, D-Ill.
- Mike Enzi, R-Wyo.
- Bill Frist, R-Tenn.
- James Inhofe, R-Okla.
- Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.
- Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn.
- Harry Reid, D-Nev.
- Richard Shelby, R-Ala.
- Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.
- John Warner, R-Va.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., talks Friday with Louisiana Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Robert Gates, right, who was among those who helped open the Superdome as a shelter. Decisions about reconstruction should be made, Landrieu said, 'on the banks on the Mississippi River, not on the banks of the Potomac.'

Louisiana's congressional delegation has campaigned for local control of the funds.

While insisting that the reconstruction job "must be rooted in principles of accountability," Landrieu added that "Louisiana will be rebuilt by Louisianians. New Orleans will be rebuilt by New Orleanians."

Decisions should be made, Landrieu said, "on the banks on the Mississippi River, not on the banks of the Potomac."

Others think independent out-of-state auditors should oversee the money and how it is spent.

"It is our job in the United States Senate to work together in a non-partisan way to give the appropriate oversight to make sure that money is spent wisely," Frist said. "And that is exactly what we're going to do."

Vitter, who has been in and out of the city several times since the storm hit Aug. 29, said he's seen significant progress in the past week and expects to see more in the future as residents return to the city next week.

"(Last week) was tough. It was hard," Vitter said. "Now we're here a week later and things are turning the corner. People are upbeat. We came here to listen, to learn, to talk to people and to analyze what went wrong. And so far we've learned a lot."

• • • • • •

Jeff Duncan can be reached at (504) 826-3405.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Quote was Vitter's:** A story published Sept. 8 incorrectly attributed to a Federal Emergency Management Agency official a quote about flooding in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. It was Sen. David Vitter who said, "I don't want to alarm everybody that, you know, New Orleans is filling up like a bowl. That's just not happening."

**Funeral date corrected:** A headline in The Times-Picayune's Friday edition gave the wrong date for the funeral of traffic accident victim Charie Billiot of Chalmette. The funeral will be today at 1 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mandeville.

**Not all lenders offer grace periods:** A story in Thursday's Money section about lending institutions providing hurricane victims a grace period on mortgage payments implied that all lenders are giving 90-day extensions on payments in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Mortgage Bankers Association says that although 98 percent of its members are offering some grace period, not all are offering the same support and some mortgage companies are not offering grace periods at all. Furthermore, not all lenders are postponing foreclosures. Borrowers need to contact their lenders or the service companies handling their loans to find out the specifics on what, if any, grace period they are eligible for and how any missed payments will be handled. The Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions has set up hotlines operating seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. to help borrowers find their lenders. Borrowers relocated out of state should call (866) 783-5530. People still in Louisiana can call (888) 525-9414.

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# Lack of policy dooms some pets, official says

## *Animals stranded in N.O. homes*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

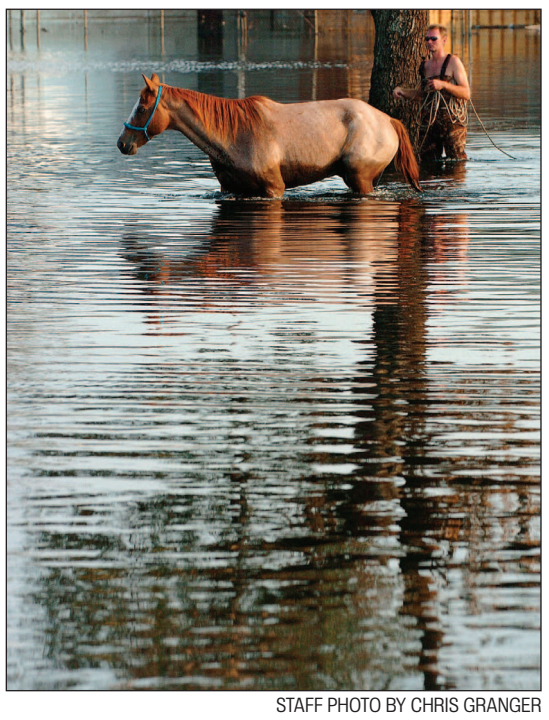
BATON ROUGE — Although about 5,000 animals have been rescued from the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands have been abandoned and possibly left to die because there is no policy in place to save them, the national president of the Humane Society of the United States said Friday.

Wayne Pacelle criticized both the state and federal governments for not having a standing policy to rescue animals in a disaster. He said that animal control officers and animal lovers have been "going door-to-door" in the New Orleans area, looking for animals to save.

Pacelle said a few days ago, rescuers found a St. Bernard on the roof of a house – he did not say where – and the dog had not eaten or had potable water for two weeks. "He should have weighed 90 pounds but he weighed 40 pounds," he said.

"This constitutes the largest animal rescue effort in the United States," said Dr. Joel Goldman, the U.S. Agriculture Department's area federal veterinarian in charge. "Time is getting critical for the ones still stranded."

Pacelle estimated that based on national figures, 65 percent of all homes in the nation have pets, and at least 50,000 animals were left behind by evacuees from the New Orleans area.



Jasson Bartell of Durham, N.C., tries to persuade a stranded horse to walk toward dry land on Earhart Boulevard after Hurricane Katrina. Many horses have been rescued from the New Orleans area after the storm, and many more pets still await rescue.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Pacelle called on state and federal forces in Louisiana to adopt a policy that would commit resources to rescuing animals. He said in addition to private citizens and groups that have helped rescue stranded animals, the National Guard has saved some on its own.

"National Guardsmen have pets, too,'' said Guard spokesman Maj. Ed Bush. "But (rescuing) human beings are absolutely our first priority."

More than 5,000 rescued animals are being housed in the Lamar Dixon Center near Gonzales, and Louisiana State University's Parker Coliseum has been the safe haven for thousands of pets that evacuees could not take with them to evacuation centers, apartments or hotels.

Goldman said about 600 of the 5,000-plus animals at the center have been reunited with their owners.

Bush said there is no Guard policy dealing with rescuing animals but said if there was space in a boat or vehicle, pets were evacuated with their owners. He said troops at the Superdome also set aside an area for pets to be fed and watered.

Bush said if an animal becomes "aggressive" toward police, soldiers or other rescuers, or attacks a dead victim, the animal "is put down."

Madeleine Pickens, the wife of wealthy businessman T. Boone Pickens, was in Baton Rouge this week to fly a second planeload of dogs, cats, birds and other animals made homeless by Katrina to California for care and housing.

She said if the state and federal government want the nation to help rebuild New Orleans, then officials should be more sympathetic in handling animal rescues.

"Why not fill a barge with a large number of animals and float it up the river (for animal care)? I will pay for it. But they won't address these issues," Pickens said.

Goldman said more than 8,000 requests for animal rescues have been made to a call center in Baton Rouge in the past two weeks. Anyone knowing of a stray or abandoned animal can call (225) 925-3980, he said.

Dr. Rustin Moore, director of Equine Health Studies at LSU's School of Veterinary Medicine, said horse rescue teams were out Friday in Plaquemines Parish and Algiers corralling stray horses. He said seven had been located.

Moore said that as many as 60 to70 horses a day have been rescued. He said about 350 horses have been rescued and 75 have been reunited with their owners.

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# Blanco adviser lobbies for insurer

*Witt hired to help La. with disaster recovery*

**By Sharon Theimer**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON – As former federal disaster chief James Lee Witt advises Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco governor on hurricane recovery, he is also working for an insurance company lobbying Congress to create a fund to ease insurers' burdens from disaster claims, records show.

The former Federal Emergency Management Agency director and his firm, James Lee Witt Associates, registered this week to lobby for Allstate Insurance Co. Their mission: "to draft and introduce model legislation creating a natural disaster catastrophe fund," according to the registration, posted Thursday by the Political Money Line lobbying tracking service.

Witt's lobbying for the fund comes as he works for the state of Louisiana. Blanco hired him this month to advise her on the state's Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Witt is mindful of the potential appearance of a conflict of interest, so he and his firm are turning away prospective clients that want them to lobby in Louisiana, said Barry Scanlon, a firm partner and lobbyist. They also are refusing to do such work for existing clients, he said.

"We're not doing any business in the state of Louisiana," Scanlon said. "We're not representing anyone in Louisiana other than the state of Louisiana. That's where our loyalty lies."

Though the Allstate lobbying registration was filed Tuesday with Congress, the firm's work for the company began Aug. 1, nearly a month before the hurricane hit, Scanlon said.



AP FILE PHOTO

Former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt won't accept lobbying work from Louisiana insurers while he works as an adviser on hurricane recovery to Gov. Kathleen Blanco, said a partner in his firm. James Lee Witt Associates registered this week to lobby for Allstate Insurance Co.

Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said Witt's move to avoid lobbying for anyone else in Louisiana, including Allstate, eased any concerns the governor might otherwise have had about his lobbying work. Witt's contract with the state is still being worked out; he has been operating under an oral agreement, Bottcher said.

Witt directed FEMA in the Clinton administration. His Washington firm lobbies on disaster issues for several clients and also consults on disaster preparedness planning, training and assessments. Less than 5 percent of the firm's revenue comes from lobbying, said Scanlon, a special assistant to Witt while they were at FEMA.

Witt's FEMA experience was one reason Allstate hired him, said Allstate spokesman Michael Trevino.

"He's an expert," Trevino said. Allstate, the second-largest homeowners insurer in Louisiana, believes the state would benefit from a national catastrophe fund, he said.

Under the proposal, insurers would cover homeowners' natural disaster-related claims up to a certain amount. The state affected by the disaster would pay claims over that limit up to a certain level, and the federal government would cover claims beyond that.

"It's not a bailout," Trevino said. "It's not a retroactive solution that we're advocating. It's ensuring that there is adequate protection for consumers. Our ability to protect consumers is finite."

The proposal would affect states, particularly those prone to natural disasters, such as hurricane-afflicted Louisiana. There is no price tag attached, but it would likely require billions of taxpayers' dollars.

Besides Allstate, Witt's lobbying clients this year include Nextel, whose issues include the interoperability of public safety communication; Los Angeles County, on whose behalf his firm has lobbied FEMA; and Whelen Engineering Co., based in Connecticut, whose issues include potential changes to FEMA guidelines on outdoor warning systems.

Witt isn't the only former emergency management chief with a prospering lobbying business.

Joe Allbaugh, President Bush's first FEMA director, also has a Washington lobbying firm that represents several clients on disaster and domestic security issues. They include the government contractor Kellogg, Brown & Root Services Inc. of Arlington, Va.; Shaw Group Environment of Baton Rouge; and defense contractor Northrop Grumman.

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# Agriculture, forestry take $1.1 billion hit

*Timber industry takes biggest loss*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Hurricane Katrina dealt the state's agriculture and forestry industries a $1.1 billion blow, according to early crop loss estimates released Friday by Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Bob Odom.

Odom said more than half of the losses, between $600 million and $700 million in damages, were sustained by the timber industry.

He said at least 75 percent of the timber in Washington, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes was damaged, and only about 30 percent can be salvaged.

The numbers do not include at least $150 million – and possibly as much as $500 million – in damages to the seafood infrastructure and markets in south Louisiana. Last week, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said preliminary estimates indicated the state's seafood industry was dealt a $1.3 billion loss over the next two years.

Odom said preliminary loss estimates to other crops include:
▶Sugar cane, $145 million to $200 million.
▶Citrus crops, mainly in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, about $11 million.
▶Dairy industry, more than $21 million.
▶Cotton in north Louisiana, damaged by high winds, about $220 million.
▶Christmas tree farms, $2 million to $3 million.

Odom said that although his office and rescue workers have been making regular drops of hay and water to stranded cattle on levees in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, about 11,000 head of cattle is missing.

"That's about an $11 million loss," Odom said.

Additionally, Odom said, there have been "25 to 30 forest fires" in the Florida parishes in the past few days that firefighters have had trouble reaching because of fallen and damaged trees.

Odom said damages to the dairy industry may be severe enough to decrease the 200 dairy farmers in the area to 100.

"In the Florida Parishes, they (dairy farmers) had to pour milk out because they don't have ways to get it to processors or the processors are closed," Odom said. "They had to run generators to be able to milk cows,"

He said the sugar cane can be harvested although much of the cane "is twisted" and will mean a lower yield of sugar. He said it may take the crop three years to fully recover.

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**"The current situation is unacceptable. As we repopulate, stuff will happen. People using chainsaws will cut themselves, there will be auto accidents, and people will have heart attacks. We have to get up and running."**

DAN GILBERT, Orleans Parish Communication District

# Emergency communications needs rescue itself

*FEMA is sending in $2.2 million in gear*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Add New Orleans' 911 network to the list of Hurricane Katrina casualties.

Much of the emergency communications system was either destroyed or rendered inoperable by floodwaters that inundated the city in the days after the storm passed.

The good news is that only a tiny fraction of the city's population was left behind and there have been few calls for police, fire and medical service over the past three weeks.

But now that Mayor Ray Nagin has given the all-clear for residents and business owners from Algiers, the Central Business District, the French Quarter and parts of Uptown to return over the next two weeks, the agency that oversees the 911 system is scrambling to bring the service back to life.

"The current situation is unacceptable," said Dan Gilbert, deputy director of the Orleans Parish Communication District. "As we repopulate, stuff will happen. People using chainsaws will cut themselves, there will be auto accidents, and people will have heart attacks. We have to get up and running."

For now, Gilbert said the communications district is being jury-rigged to get by.

A handful of call-takers are stationed at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in the French Quarter, where New Orleans Police Department dispatchers have established a temporary home. Unable to record calls and enter the information into a computer, the skeleton crew has gone primitive, making hand-written notes.

That should change by the middle of next week when the agency plans to open an interim 911 call center in a third-floor ballroom at the Hyatt Hotel across from City Hall, where the mayor and members of his executive staff are based.

Gilbert said $2.2 million in new communications equipment, being paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, is scheduled to arrive late Sunday. The city hopes to have the center open for business by Wednesday.

The interim center will be staffed by about 15 call-takers, half the normal complement. But Gilbert said those numbers should be more than sufficient to handle the reduced population the city is expected to have over the next several months.

The communications district, which collects about $3.2 million annually from fees on all phone service in New Orleans, has been planning for years to bring all the components of its 911 system under one roof in a secure location.

Parts of the now broken network, which fields more than 1 million calls annually, are scattered across the city, from Mid-City to the French Quarter to the second floor of police headquarters on Broad Street.

The city was scheduled to break ground early next year on $16 million communications complex on a largely vacant site south of City Park Avenue between Canal Street and Interstate 10.

The board of the Communications District, which includes the directors of the police, fire and health departments as well as representatives of the Louisiana National Guard and the State Police, chose the 5.5-acre parcel adjacent to Cypress Grove Cemetery because it is located on a natural ridge. Nonetheless, plans call for the building to be raised by several feet to guard against flooding.

Under the design concept, the building's windows and exterior would be strong enough to withstand a Category 5 hurricane and would feature backup generators as well as kitchen, storage and sleeping areas, allowing emergency personnel cut off from the outside world to function autonomously for nearly a week.

While Gilbert said the agency intends to move forward with the project, the start of construction likely will be delayed while government officials digest Katrina's impact.

Even with all the safeguards incorporated into the new building's design, Gilbert said he is not sure the 911 system would have continued to operate after the hurricane passed.

"But we would have been in 1,000 percent better shape right after," he said. "I think we would have been able to come back on line quicker, maybe two or three days later."

# Papers chased: Case far from closed for law school grads

*Storm might have soaked bar exams*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

The list of people injured by Hurricane Katrina might include some of the more than 700 men and women who took all or parts of the nine-part Louisiana bar exam this past summer.

A week after Katrina thrashed and soaked the New Orleans area, the Louisiana Supreme Court's Committee on Bar Admissions started a process – that may end in 10 days – to determine whether any of the exam results were destroyed, said Scott Whittaker, the committee's chairman.

The hurricane might have washed away or rendered illegible parts of the exam administered in July to law school graduates, mostly from Tulane, Southern, Louisiana State and Loyola universities.

"Some examination papers were likely lost to Hurricane Katrina," according to the committee's Web site, www.lascba.org. "Our efforts reveal that the overwhelming majority is secure and grading is going on."

The 14-member committee's audit has not confirmed that any exams "have been irretrievably lost," Whittaker said. But the fact-finding mission has revealed "there were instances where exams were left in places where they might not be retrievable," he said.

Whittaker estimated at least 60 to 75 sections of the exam might have been soaked in floodwaters or blown away by Katrina's powerful winds. Some of the 450 Louisiana attorneys grading the exams took sections of the test to their homes in St. Bernard Parish and the Lakeview area of New Orleans, both of which were heavily flooded, he said.

Those parts of the exam – even wet – still may be legible, Whittaker said.

"We just don't know yet," he said

Applicants must pass seven of the nine parts of the bar exam to practice law in Louisiana, so even if a part or two were destroyed, the applicant could still pass. And at least 130 applicants took the exam on a computer, which means there's an electronic backup, he said.

Getting in contact with those grading the exams has been a challenge, he said. Many of those grading the tests were displaced by Katrina. As of Friday, about 60 percent of those grading the exams had been contacted.

No one has determined what will happen if the pass or fail status of an applicant cannot be determined because of Katrina-related damage.

"We need a better understanding of the scope of the problem before confecting a solution," Whittaker said

Whittaker urges applicants not to call and ask about the status of the search. Updates will be posted on the committee's Web site, he said.

The final grades were to be announced Sept. 30, with a swearing-in ceremony Oct. 14, Whittaker said. Those dates might change. The Supreme Court will determine whether the dates for the announcement and swearing-in ceremony, normally at the Municipal Auditorium in New Orleans, will be pushed back, he said.

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Terry and Wendy Borne look over what used to be their bedroom in their now-roofless Venetian Isles home in eastern New Orleans. 'Everything we have is tied up in this house,' Terry Borne said Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON



Tieria Tillman, 11, finds a friend in Cisco, a police dog, as Special Agent Tom Tallas of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives watches at West Jefferson Medical Center in Harvey. Tieria was at the hospital, where her mother works, when Cisco and another police dog stopped by to bring smiles to the faces of people there.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

# FACING THE AFTERMATH



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Using her shattered china cabinet as a makeshift seat, an equally shattered Elizabeth Mathews surveys her debris-cluttered Irish Bayou home Friday. Mathews and her husband, John, lost nearly everything in their home during Hurricane Katrina. 'Let me get you out of here before you start crying again,' John Matthews told his wife before leading her to their truck, loaded with a few salvageable trinkets.

Stare into the face of someone in the New Orleans area, and the first thing you see is the exhaustion, both emotional and physical. Beneath that weariness, though, runs a range of feelings — from grief to relief, from cheer to fear — as returning residents pick up the pieces and try to answer the one question that is occupying nearly everyone's mind: What now?



Kim Philips of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Texas Task Force One wades through hip-deep waters Friday in the 7000 block of Milne Avenue. Philips was part of a team searching the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

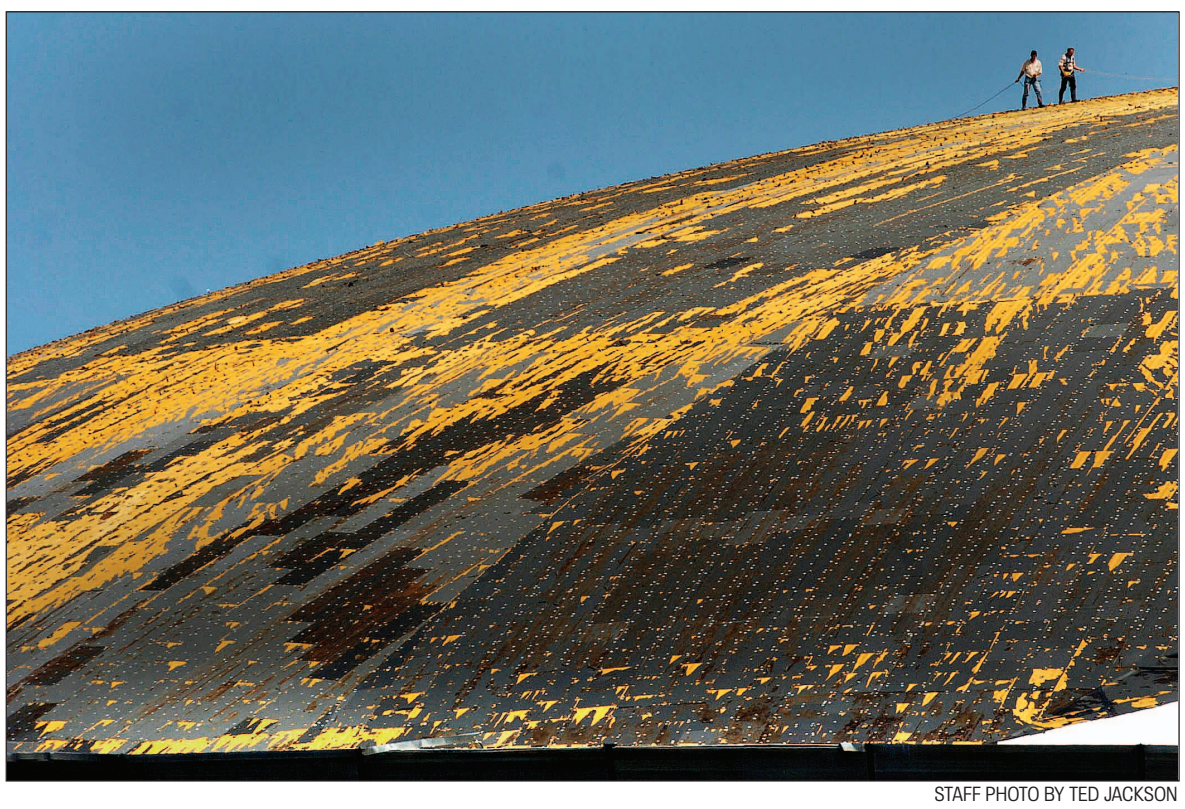
# A CITY ASUNDER

Day by day, the water keeps going down, revealing the unparalleled mess left behind by Hurricane Katrina. From the foul muck left behind in city streets, to the colonies of mold growing on wallboard throughout the metro area, it is evident that recovering from Katrina will involve quite a bit more than merely drying out.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

A pair of military helicopters buzz past the familiar spires of St. Louis Cathedral on Friday. Though parts of the city are preparing to be reopened to residents, the military presence in New Orleans is still strong, and it likely will be for a long time.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

ABOVE: Workers get a close-up look at the damage Hurricane Katrina did to the Superdome. The storm ripped a waterproof membrane off the Dome.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

RIGHT: Water has been drained from Dumaine at North Roman Street, but it is covered in a layer of mud and filth.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Amid the tons of anonymous debris in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans floats a child's toy with a heartbreakingly personal touch: the name Ralph inscribed on the side.

# 'It's going to cost whatever it costs'

**BUSH,** *from A-1*

"I really didn't expect him to come off sounding like FDR, even though he mixed in some standard Republican proposals like enterprise zones and school vouchers," said Bruce Buchanan, a government professor at the University of Texas in Austin.

Speaking Friday at a prayer service for victims of Hurricane Katrina, Bush talked about his commitment to helping the poor, including many African-Americans, who N.O. officials said were not well-served by the initial federal response to the disaster.

"As we clear away the debris of a hurricane, let us also clear away the legacy of inequality," the president said.

Bruce Ransom, a professor of political science at Clemson University, said some will see the president's declaration as "politics as usual," but he believes there's more to it.

"I think this tragedy has resonated so much – seeing the destruction of a good portion of a great American city and so much suffering – that it's almost a paradigm moment in our history and caused a shift in thinking not only by the president but a great many Americans as well," Ransom said.

Ronald Utt, a housing expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said that although some conservatives are complaining about the likely cost of the president's proposals, he was pleased the administration pulled away from its earlier plans to put tens of thousands of dislocated Gulf Coast residents in temporary shelters, such as cruise ships and recreational vehicles, probably located far from population centers and jobs.

Utt said that although Bush didn't say so directly Thursday, he signaled he's prepared to give displaced Gulf Coast residents housing vouchers they can use to rent vacant apartments in areas where they have family connections or a chance at a job.

Aides fleshed out a few details of the president's plan during a briefing Friday.

The Gulf Opportunity Zone would cover the most stricken Gulf Coast communities, including the New Orleans area. It would provide a 50 percent tax write-off for investment in buildings or equipment. For small businesses, it would provide a 100 percent write-off for investments of as much as $200,000 and subsidized loans of as much as $10 million.

"The president believes very strongly that this is going to have a major, major impact on economic growth and economic growth in the short run, which is so important to creating those jobs where people will come back to New Orleans, southern Mississippi and southern Alabama," said Al Hubbard, director of the president's National Economic Council.

Another component is a $5,000 worker recovery account, which displaced workers can use for job training, child care, transportation or even housing costs – if related to their pursuit of a job. Eligibility would be determined by regional and state officials, and it would be limited to those designated as the "hardest to employ."

Those in the program who find work after receiving unemployment insurance for less than 13 weeks could get 60 percent of leftover recovery account funds as an "employment bonus," Hubbard said, and the remaining 40 percent could be theirs if they keep their jobs for at least six months.

The president's homestead proposal would make available about 4,000 single-family housing units, mostly homes repossessed by the federal government. An estimated 1,000 are in the New Orleans area.

The administration said details still are being worked out, but officials want to make the units available through a lottery to low-income residents who agree to fix them up through sweat equity, with the help of nonprofit groups such as Habitat for Humanity.

All the units are habitable, according to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson, and they generally need about $5,000 to $10,000 worth of renovation.

The administration also plans to provide displaced residents with an initial payment of $2,000. For those who owned a home damaged severely in the hurricane, another $26,000 in federal financing would be available to cover long-term housing, as a supplement to their insurance, or to help those left without any coverage.

Jacob Vigdor, an assistant professor of public policy and economics at Duke University, said he wonders whether that assistance will be enough, given that in many cases, even those with insurance live in homes whose insured value is less than the cost to replace the structure.

Some Democrats, including former President Clinton, have suggested Bush should, at least temporarily, pull back extending the tax cuts from his first term in office, at least for the most affluent Americans, to defray the cost of the Katrina rebuilding efforts. Some Republicans complained Bush had proposed an immensely expensive proposition without targeting spending that could be reduced to offset the cost.

Bush said he won't raise taxes because it would hurt the economy.

"You bet it's going to cost money. But I'm confident we can handle it and I'm confident we can handle our other priorities," he said during a news conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "It's going to cost whatever it costs."

He said he favors looking for ways to cut other spending.





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# 'It's not the ghosts that scare me, it's the nightmares'

**NINTH,** *from A-1*

on Caffin Avenue, Fats Domino's house was empty, the wreckage inside one room visible from the sidewalk: a twisted and warped grand piano, white with gold trim, standing on its end; couches piled on top of one another in the 6 inches of muck on the floor; and bundles of paper records buried the mud.

"Really, that's his house? Where?" asked Andrade, unaware and a bit shocked that a star of Domino's magnitude lived in a block that, in his words, "looked like an A-bomb dropped."

The soldiers' Humvees and boots crackled over crisp dry chips of gray mud, which gave the historic neighborhood the feel of a battered moonscape. The dried muck, the end product of the brown and black slime that poured into homes, coated the grass and climbed halfway up buildings.

Just inside a tiny church a few houses away, pews and pianos lay in a heap of wreckage. A composition book marked "Queen Ester Temple .. Building funds ... Pastor Bishop Adams" contained just two entries, handwritten: "Bishop Adams ... $100 ... Sis. Betsy Grant ... $50."

"The thing that blew me away was the barge," Thompson said, referring to the dark red barge that appeared to have to blown through the levee a few hundreds yards north of the Claiborne Avenue bridge and now sat in the middle of the neighborhood, atop the wreckage of homes and cars. Next to it sat a short yellow school bus, the kind used for disabled students. "Anybody there didn't get out. It's beyond anything I've ever seen. I'm an artist and I couldn't even begin to draw it.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

A stray dog is the only sign of life at Tennessee Street and North Claiborne Avenue on Thursday.

"It just looked like toothpicks everywhere" from the viewpoint of the bridge, Andrade said.

The day after Katrina smacked the city, Daniel Weber, who had watched his wife drown, wept and screamed about the barge, how it had "just killed so many people." He had barely escaped by floating on a piece of wood until rescued 14 hours later.

"It's just not right, it's not right," he sobbed. "It just came rushing in so fast. I was looking at the levee, and water was just splashing over it a little – and then, BOOM! The barge hit, and it filled up in less than five minutes."

The other direction on Caffin Avenue from where the soldiers parked, Martin Luther King Elementary School, one of the system's nicest school buildings had mud pouring out its front door. At the curb, tens of thousands of dead minnows lay in a shallow pool. A school office phone lay draped over the fence outside, along with an office chair. At the front entrance, one of the thousands of DVD cases strewn about the area, as if a Blockbuster had exploded, a weather Channel special titled "Hurricanes!" lay caked in mud.

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# Flooding likely caught many by surprise

DEATHS, *from A-1*

the London Avenue Canal led to a rapid rush of floodwaters that caught scores of residents off guard. The surprise factor was only worsened by the fact that the fast-rising water, more than 12 feet in spots, came well after the storm had passed.

"Those are areas where the people were probably asleep when the water rushed in," Hood said.

The urban search and rescue squads were bracing for inspections of neighborhoods that experienced rapid inundation, such as the Lower 9th Ward. The inspections are referred to as "secondary searches," in which squad members are breaking into homes to conduct room-to-room searches, Hood said. In some cases, workers have been breaking through roofs and attics before checking off houses as "all clear."

**"Parts of the city have become a target-rich environment for human remains. We're just now getting into the areas that experienced the most rapid inundation."**

CHARLES HOOD
Federal Emergency Management Agency rescue squad liaison

Thursday and Friday's developments were mostly grim, but the discovery of a 70-year-old man, alive and well after being trapped for 17 days, brought cheers from the beleaguered rescue squads. He was the first "live" discovery by the squads in two days, Hood said. The man was found in an area near the University of New Orleans, but other details about the rescue were unavailable late Friday.

"That is really going to help give momentum to everybody," Hood said. "As bad as things are out there, we're still holding out hope that we can find others like him."

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# Heard the one about the hurricane? Humor helps heal a nation's wounds

## *Comics take aim faster with Katrina*

**By David Bauder**
AP entertainment writer

NEW YORK — The joke rattled through e-mails across the country even as lives hung in the balance after Hurricane Katrina: What's President Bush's position on Roe v. Wade?

Answer: He doesn't care how people get out of New Orleans.

The shock and sadness that muted comedians after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks hasn't been repeated four years later, largely due to some easy targets. This time, joking about a tragedy comes as a welcome relief from the pain, tension and emotion.

"The anger that fuels comedy has built up," said Stephen Hill, executive producer of the upcoming BET comedy awards. "We fully expect Katrina to become part of the comic lexicon of the show."

BET gave only a "fleeting thought" of canceling the show, which airs Sept. 27. And producers of Sunday's Emmy Awards — which was postponed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — promise a mix of laughs and calls to help victims, hosted by comedian and New Orleans native Ellen DeGeneres.

Comedy can help heal a nation's wounds, said Robert Thompson, a professor of popular culture at Syracuse University. He likened it to "a sorbet to cleanse the palate."

"People watch four or five hours of coverage of a very sad story. Humor has always been a way to smooth that over," Thompson said. "It's one of the ways you can process things."

Four years ago, comedian Gilbert Gottfried famously learned the perils of puncturing the national mood. Three weeks after the terrorist attacks, he was speaking at a Friar's Club roast of Hugh Hefner and joked that he had to leave early to catch a plane to Los Angeles.

He couldn't get a direct flight, he said, so he had to make a stop at the Empire State building.

He heard a collective gasp. Someone shouted out, "Too soon!" Gottfried retreated by telling the filthy, hoary joke immortalized in the current movie "The Aristocrats."

"I had to go into safe territory," he said, "like incest and bestiality."

After Sept. 11, entertainment briefly stood still. The Emmy Awards were postponed and people talked about the death of irony.

It didn't die. It was just stunned.

"With (Katrina), it's almost like the sequel that doesn't live up to the original," Gottfried said. "It's certainly a shocking event and a tragedy, but somehow as a big event it doesn't seem to carry as much weight with the public as 9/11 did."

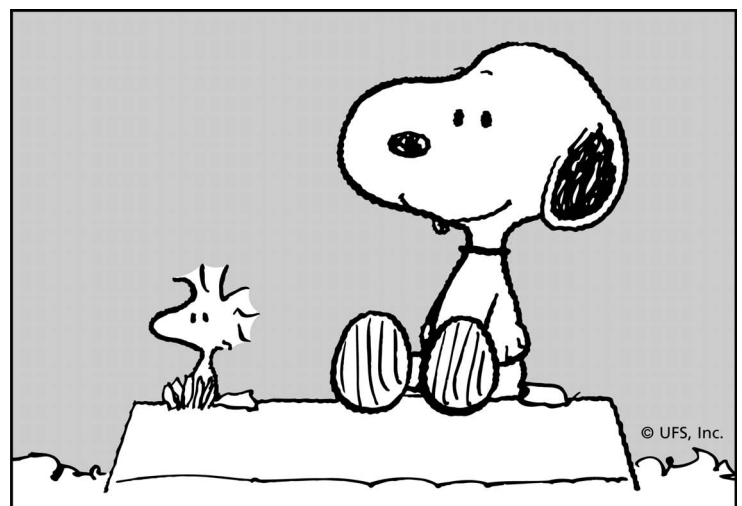
That day was sudden and unfathomable. The attacks' terrifying randomness affected people in all walks of life. Every American could relate to the victims. The Katrina story, however, built up over several days. It also particularly hurt one class of people, which may play a subtle part in the reaction, Thompson said.

Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" came back from a vacation after Katrina with guns blazing at Bush. In 2001, the show went off the air for a week.

Most of the late-night TV comics' barbs have been directed at the Bush administration.

When told it was going to take 80 days to drain flood water out of New Orleans, Conan O'Brien joked that Bush said, "that's almost half a vacation." Jay Leno said the Federal Emergency Management Agency head recently appeared at his doorstep and said, "I'm here for the earthquake damage you had back in '94."

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Officials tracking cases for reunion of children

**MISSING,** *from A-1*

As a result, about 2,800 children have been reported separated from parents or caretakers since the storm. Of those, about 760 have been reunited, according to figures released by the center Friday afternoon. The center is operating a Web site, www.missingkids.com, which has photos of children reported missing. The Red Cross, the Louisiana Department of Social Services, local law enforcement agencies and the FBI also are working to reunite families.

"When you see all these people working on it, I feel hopeful that people will be reunited," Laura Bush said Friday at the center's headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

But Marketa Garner Gautreau, the assistant secretary for the Louisiana Office of Community Services, said the number of children reported missing to the national group may be inflated because the children could be with one parent without the other's knowledge.

She said state officials typically have been successful in reuniting children with family within three days of locating the children.

When relatives or guardians cannot be located, the state is authorized to assume custody of the child and place him or her into foster care.

**"When you see all these people working on it, I feel hopeful that people will be reunited."**
LAURA BUSH

Gautreau said 50 children have been placed into foster care since Katrina hit. She said 35 of those children were found in shelters in Texas and the remainder came from shelters in Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Gautreau said Louisiana is very hesitant to place children into foster care because it often can be traumatic, which would only exacerbate the stress children have faced as a result of the storm.

Gautreau added that officials are still attempting to locate 500 foster children missing in the wake of Katrina.

She said progress is being made in locating the children thanks to anecdotal information from caseworkers who received reports from foster families before they evacuated the storm. State policy requires all foster families to check in before they leave the state for any reason.

However, Gautreau noted, about 15 percent of the caseworkers from New Orleans still have not been located, which means they cannot supply information on the missing children.

Those working to reunite children with parents say they are inspired by the success stories. McBride said she met with a family at a Red Cross shelter in Palm Beach County, Fla. that had been rejoined Wednesday, more than two weeks after the hurricane hit. The three children were taken to the Astrodome in Houston, and the parents were brought to the Florida shelter.

McBride hopes that the task of rejoining families is mainly one of coordination and finding families scattered around the country, but she suspects that some endings won't be happy.

"We know many people didn't survive and we don't know how many yet,"

McBride said. "That's going to impact children in shelters."

As people move out of shelters and into more permanent housing, the task of reuniting children with parents will become more monumental, Laura Bush said.

"And right now, as many of the shelters are - people are moving out of the shelters into apartments and into hotel rooms, we know that the crowds will disperse and that might make it a little more difficult to find people," Bush said.

In Louisiana, 2,560 children have been reported missing by parents or have reported themselves missing, and 691 of those have been reunited with family as of Friday at noon, according to Oname Thompson, communications coordinator of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

In Mississippi, 217 children were reported missing and 66 were recovered. In Alabama, 35 children were reported missing and three reunited.

The center is also keeping tracks of adults reported missing: 7,565 since Katrina; 1,016 of those reported missing have been found.

The Katrina Missing Persons Hotline is (888) 544-5475.

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com.

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# Mass evacuation poses housing dilemma

## *Communities wary of trailer homes*

**By Jan Moller and Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – As state and federal officials prepare to move hundreds of thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees from shelters into more-permanent trailer communities around Louisiana, concern is growing in some areas that are being asked to absorb the new arrivals.

St. John the Baptist Parish officials are urging that local zoning laws be obeyed as the Federal Emergency Management Agency scouts for possible locations for trailers. In East Baton Rouge Parish, Mayor-President Kip Holden is working with the federal government to get as many people as possible into apartments and other permanent housing instead of the large trailer communities that FEMA is planning to stage around the state.

And in East Feliciana Parish, government officials worry about the effect that 10,000 new residents could have on a parish that only had 21,000 inhabitants before Katrina.

"We're willing to do our part, but within reason," said Judith Kelly, secretary-treasurer of the East Feliciana Police Jury. She said parish officials haven't been told how many evacuees will eventually settle there, even though FEMA representatives have dropped in on several occasions to scout locations, including a Boy Scout camp.

Although "backlash" is too strong a word to describe residents' reaction to the influx, "they're concerned," Kelly said. Among the chief worries, she said, is how the state will provide water and sewerage service to the new arrivals.

"We're a poor parish," she said.

State and federal officials, meanwhile, are being asked to accommodate the interests of several groups that might not always coincide: evacuees, who want a choice of where and how they live; state officials, who have said their top priority is bringing people back to New Orleans as soon as possible; and local communities that are being asked to find rooms for semi-permanent trailer communities that might house evacuees for as long as two years.

Alphonso Jackson, secretary of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, said government officials "will do everything in our power to accommodate those persons who do not want to leave" Louisiana.

But Jackson said the agency also has identified 34,000 vacant public housing units around the country that can be made available for people who evacuated public housing units in and around New Orleans. Jackson said the agency's goal is to get people into something semi-permanent as quickly as possible.

"That is not our goal, to keep people in trailers and transitional housing," Jackson said.

Holden, who said he expects Baton Rouge to host about 8,000 people in transitional units, said he views the influx as an opportunity to redevelop long-neglected parts of the inner city using federal money that he expects to flow into the state. "He (Jackson) told me there would be plenty of money coming our way," Holden said.

St. John the Baptist President Nickie Monica said his parish, which has a population of about 45,000 people, has swelled by 18,000 since the storm, mostly evacuees who are living in hotels or with friends and relatives. On Friday he received his first visit from a FEMA representative, who was looking at possible sites for a trailer community.

Monica said the trailers would be welcome, but that he hopes they are confined to areas already zoned for such use. "We're going to maintain our zoning ordinances as much as we can through this event," Monica said. "We worked hard over the last 20 years to establish our zoning."

State officials insist their top priority is to get people back to Louisiana as soon as possible, but state Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, said officials might be ignoring options that might help people return quicker to the New Orleans area. For example, Richmond said, it might make sense to put up some displaced people in hotel rooms in the city, which will need workers as the rebuilding gets under way.

"We can't just allow them to form trailer housing projects," Richmond said.

The idea of establishing large trailer communities has been criticized by a number of people outside the state, who question what kind of living environment they will provide. Instead of putting people in cramped trailers that might not be located near services or jobs, it makes more sense to help people rent apartments, said Bruce Katz, a vice president at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

"What we need to put at the highest priority level is the health and welfare of these displaced people," Katz said, even if that means temporarily relocating them in apartments outside Louisiana.

But state officials, long concerned about Louisiana's stagnant population at a time when other Southern states have boomed, are fearful that evacuees won't want to return once they have settled into new lives in other states. But Katz noted that people from Louisiana have "deep roots" and predicted that many will eventually come back.

Katz said FEMA should note the example of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, after which California public housing authorities distributed rental vouchers to displaced residents. Officials then worked with landlords to increase the number of apartments that would accept the vouchers, which go to low-income renters.

Federal and state officials have said that people won't just be dropped into trailer developments, and that physical infrastructure will be built up around the communities along with social services. That includes helping people with job training and transportation, said Kim Hunter Reed, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's policy director.

"This will be much more than housing for our citizens," Reed said.

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# Katrina affected one-sixth of Alabama's businesses

## *Nearly 75 percent of La. workers affected*

**By The Associated Press**

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — Hurricane Katrina caused more than one-sixth of Alabama's business to close at least temporarily, but that was not nearly as bad as Mississippi and Louisiana.

The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics said 22,223 businesses, or 17.7 percent of Alabama's total, were closed by the hurricane. Many were closed a few hours or few days because of power outages, but some coastal businesses remain closed due to extensive building damage.

The report showed that 317,206 workers, or 17.1 percent of Alabama's work force, were affected by the storm.

In neighboring Mississippi, 41,941 businesses — or 63.3 percent of that state's total — and 729,466 workers were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana fared worse with 83,177 businesses — or 71.6 percent of the state's total — at least temporarily shut down by the hurricane. More than 1.37 million workers, or nearly three-fourths of the state's work force, were affected.

The bureau's report said 38 percent of Louisiana's and Mississippi's businesses were within 100 miles of the center of Hurricane Katrina's destructive path.

Before hitting the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, Katrina struck the Miami area, affecting more businesses in the Sunshine State than in Alabama.

About 177,249 businesses, or 33.8 percent of Florida's total, were closed temporarily due to the storm, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

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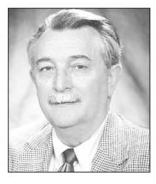
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# Kenner tenants lack relocation options



**KENNER:** Maria Sagastome, left, and her son Mario Sagastome Jr. are leaving Redwood Apartments in Kenner, but many of the other tenants of the sprawling 53-building complex say they have nowhere else to go.

STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

## *Officials pin hopes on mobile homes*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

Miguel Ramos rode out Hurricane Katrina in his home at the Redwood Apartments in Kenner, and he heard the roof come off the building.

"Plywood was flying everywhere," said Ramos, a gardener who has continued to live in the sprawling 53-building complex that caters to working poor people.

Dorvin Development, owner of the complex, is asking residents to leave as quickly as they can so it can begin repairs. But many residents say they have no other options.

"My apartment is destroyed. I don't know where else to go," said Carla Rosales, holding her 9-month-old son, Alfredo, in her arms. Rosales, an immigrant from Honduras who has lived at Redwood for five years, spoke through an interpreter.

The residents' dilemma is one faced by tens of thousands of New Orleans-area residents whose homes were damaged by the Aug. 29 storm.

Temporary housing is available for some. As many as 1,000 Port of New Orleans workers, for example, could soon be living on a docked ship. Government-supplied mobile homes are being set up at manufacturing plants for hard-hat workers who have lost their homes. Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi said more than a dozen officers who lost their homes are sleeping on air mattresses at the police station.

"All they have is the clothing on their backs," he said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that Louisiana needs 200,000 mobile homes for storm victims.

There seems to be plenty of demand. Real estate developer Henry Shane said half of the 7,000 apartment units that he owns in the New Orleans area were damaged in the storm.

"We have 100 percent occupancy on the units that are undamaged," he said. "If I had a choice, I would fill them with people trying to rebuild the city, like policemen and firemen."

Many of Shane's current tenants have lost their jobs and are unable to pay rent.

"Under normal circumstances, if you don't pay your rent, I evict you very quickly. But these aren't normal times," he said.

The Redwood Apartments have long attracted immigrants from Central America. The privately owned complex operates under a federal program that provides affordable housing to working poor people.

"This place is like a little city on its own. It's a trampoline into the American dream," complex manager Jorje Picado said. "People start out here and go on to buy houses in Kenner."

Still, Picado is trying to discourage the 1,800 residents from returning to the complex.

"We couldn't handle it," he said.

Dorvin executive Howard Raymond said he is concerned about the residents' safety, and is asking Kenner officials to help relocate them.

"What I'm worried about is what happens when it starts raining again," Raymond said. "Some of these units still have electricity. What happens when the water starts pouring in?"

Kenner City Council President John Lavarine III said he is trying to persuade FEMA to locate mobile homes on a city playground near the complex.

"We want these people to stay in Kenner," he said. "We want them to continue to participate in our community and our economy."

# Empty bus catches fire on I-12

## *No one hurt in tie-up south of Covington*

**St. Tammany bureau**

A charter bus caught fire Friday afternoon as it was being towed along Interstate 12 south of Covington, creating a spectacle of smoke and flames that backed up traffic in both directions.

The bus was empty, and the tow truck driver was uninjured.

The unidentified driver for Hidden Valley Wrecker Service of Houston told State Police a tire on the bus blew out and started smoking as he drove the disabled bus back to Texas on I-12 near the Tchefuncte River overpass.

By the time the wrecker pulled off the highway and stopped, the back of the bus was engulfed in flames. The rear half of the bus appeared destroyed.

By the time the Covington area's 12 Fire Protection District extinguished the blaze, traffic was already backing up on I-12 in both directions

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# Residents should avoid unnecessary vaccination

*Supply of shots is threatened*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

Due to a limited supply of several vaccines, Louisiana health officials are urging local residents to avoid unnecessary vaccinations before they return to their homes in Hurricane Katrina affected areas.

State Health Officer Jimmy Guidry said officials have received a rash of requests in the aftermath of Katrina for vaccinations for diseases ranging from hepatitis A to cholera, although there is little to no danger of residents contracting those diseases in the course of normal clean-up activities.

Guidry said that concerns that outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and typhus could occur are completely unfounded since none of those diseases existed in large numbers in the New Orleans area before the storm. Guidry blamed the fear of outbreaks on rumors and erroneous reports from some media sources, and said many residents are straining the health care system by requesting unnecessary vaccinations for hepatitis A and B and tetanus.

Those requests are taxing the supply of vaccinations needed for first responders and other at-risk individuals, he said.

Guidry noted that most residents only need a tetanus shot if they are returning to the areas affected by the storm. He added that most of the medical problems in Katrina's aftermath have dealt with injuries sustained during rescue and cleanup efforts, not communicable diseases.

However, officials are still on the ground watching for possible disease outbreaks in areas where standing water is prevalent and mosquitoes could be breeding.

"It's still not yet safe for all of these residents to return to their homes, although we're making great progress," Guidry said.

Guidry reminded residents that water-boil orders are still in effect for many areas, and added that residents should not take showers in places with contaminated water supplies.

Dr. Raoult Ratard, a state epidemiologist, agreed with Guidry's advice, and noted that there have only been about 50 reported cases of hepatitis A in Louisiana this year. Ratard acknowledged that the disease can be underreported, and estimated that no more than 40 people in the New Orleans had the disease. However, he noted that that is far too few people to cause a mass outbreak.

# Strapped city ponders payroll

*Money to pay workers sought as areas reopen*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Evidence of recovery is everywhere in New Orleans, with hotels, grocery stores and government agencies slowly emerging from beneath the muck and debris that Hurricane Katrina left behind.

But out of public view, reconstruction of another kind is moving forward as City Hall struggles to reassemble a work force that has scattered far and wide across Louisiana and the nation.

And now that four areas of the city are scheduled to reopen, Nagin administration officials say it is imperative that essential personnel be in place to provide basic services, from garbage removal to traffic control to granting permits to businesses.

The first challenge facing the city is to find far-flung workers and determine whether they are ready and willing to return. As part of a tracking system, employees are contacted and asked a series of questions about job titles and duties, whether children are enrolled in schools outside of the city, the status of their home in New Orleans and long-term plans for returning.

The larger dilemma is how to pay them.

Nagin has said the city's coffers are effectively empty pending an infusion of cash from the state, the federal government or a line of credit. Even as commerce returns, the city budget picture will be grim for months, if not years, because property and sales tax collections are expected to be minuscule.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency has pledged financial assistance, the Nagin administration has encountered what could be a huge problem: Federal regulations limit the level of aid cities can receive to make payroll.

"FEMA only reimburses for overtime during emergencies," said Finance Director Reggie Zeno. Zeno said the administration has asked FEMA to waive those regulations immediately and provide full base pay for the foreseeable future for all city employees deemed essential to the recovery and repopulation effort.

While the request is "moving up the chain of command," Zeno said Thursday that the city has not gotten a reply.

**"FEMA only reimburses for overtime during emergencies."**
REGGIE ZENO
Finance Director

City officials, who meet regularly with FEMA executives, have not put a dollar figure on their request. But Zeno said on average, New Orleans spends about $20 million a month on salaries.

"The bottom line is we have no money coming in," Zeno said. "Rules are rules, but this is an unprecedented emergency. In the history of the United States, I don't know if there's ever been a case where a large American city was knocked out of commission for this long. There are no regulations to cover this."

In the meantime, Zeno said he is working with representatives of Foley & Judell, the city's bond counsel, "to put our hands on any source of funds we can find."

Nagin confidant David White, a Mandeville businessman who is assisting the negotiations with FEMA, called the payroll dilemma "the biggest issue now facing the city."

"To be fair, FEMA is totally committed to providing temporary housing for city workers" who have been displaced, White said. Indeed, the cruise ships Ecstasy and Sensation have been moored at the Poland Avenue and Julia Street wharves to provide housing. Nagin and some other city brass are housed at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which also is being used for office space.

"But if the city can't pay them and they can't take care of their families, that means they probably can't come home. This is a problem that needs to be resolved and resolved quickly," White said.

City workers can contact the city at (877)751-2415. Sewerage & Water Board employees are asked to call (877)863-9405.

# Leader of state's Democrats steps down

*Shaw chief swamped with recovery work*

**From staff reports**

BATON ROUGE – The chairman of the state Democratic Party resigned Friday, saying he needs to focus on his company, which has landed several large contracts to help with the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Jim Bernhard Jr. said directing The Shaw Group Inc.'s relief efforts will be a full-time job.

"The people of our state who have been so tremendously and adversely affected by this disaster require all the available help that exists, and I feel an obligation to contribute to those needs," Bernhard said in a letter to party Vice Chairwoman Mary Lou Winters.

"Though political action will be part of the state's response, I do not believe I can fairly divide my energies between the party and my relief and recovery efforts and totally fulfill the obligations of both important jobs to my satisfaction or yours," he wrote.

Winters, who lives in Columbia, will take over his duties, according to the letter.

Bernhard founded the Baton Rouge-based industrial construction and engineering company and serves as the chairman and chief executive officer.

He became head of the Louisiana Democratic Party for about eight months after becoming actively involved in state politics in the 2003 governor's race.

While Bernhard backed former Attorney General Richard Ieyoub in that election, he supported Kathleen Blanco in her successful runoff campaign and helped run her transition team before she took office.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the Shaw Group has been awarded two large no-bid contracts from the federal government: a $100 million contract from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide temporary housing for evacuees and a $100 million contract from the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in the efforts to drain floodwater from New Orleans.

Contracts awarded without bid, which also have gone out to firms like Bechtel Corp. and Kellogg, Brown & Root Services Inc., have been questioned by some critics of the Bush administration, including prominent national Democrats.

For example, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has noted that the Shaw Group and a couple of other contractors have used former FEMA head Joe Allbaugh as a lobbyist. Allbaugh, a close friend of President Bush, also managed his 2000 campaign.

But Andrew Koneschusky, acting executive director of the state Democratic Party, said the Shaw Group is the logical company to work on the recovery efforts. It is the only business based in Louisiana that can compete for the large contracts, he said. A company spokesman also noted that Shaw typically uses Louisiana-based subcontractors to help with its work.


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# Entergy seeks rate increase to cover costs

*Major displacement means lost business*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Entergy Corp.'s southeastern Louisiana electric utilities will seek rate increases to pay for some of the costs from Hurricane Katrina and to compensate for lost business from some evacuees who won't return home soon, if ever, senior utility executives said Friday.

"We are going to have to do something," said Dan Packer, chief executive officer of Entergy New Orleans. "Our revenue requirement was based on 250,000 electricity customers and 150,000 (natural) gas customers. We're not going to have that anymore."

Even as hundreds of utility workers move into the hardest hit areas to restore power, senior executives with Entergy New Orleans, which supplies power to Orleans Parish, and Entergy Louisiana, which supplies power to the city's suburbs, have begun crunching numbers to figure how much more income the utilities will need to keep their businesses afloat.

"We started meetings on (possible rate increase requests) last week. I've got more meetings on it next week," Packer said during a morning news conference on Poydras Street in New Orleans' Central Business District.

Packer and Entergy Louisiana Chief Executive Officer Renae Conley would not predict how much rates might increase for the two utilities' 1.1 million customers in the region, but Conley said requests for the increases could be filed with regulators fairly quickly.

Entergy New Orleans is regulated by the New Orleans City Council while Entergy Louisiana is regulated by the state Public Service Commission.

Entergy executives had anticipated losing some customers from a direct hurricane hit as part of disaster drills before Katrina, so they were prepared to consider the financial implications for the companies. But they never imagined the massive population displacement produced by this storm, Packer said.

"I think the reality of it is different than our war games. I think it's worse," he said.

Both executives said their companies, at least for the time being, remain financially sound. But that could change in the coming months as revenue from their businesses tumble because of lost customers and bills mount from the recovery effort.

Though none of the major bond rating firms had altered their ratings for Entergy New Orleans or Entergy Louisiana, the New Orleans utility remained under review by Moody's Investor Service for a possible downgrade.

Meanwhile, utility workers continued to restore power to parts of the city that weren't badly flooded and Jefferson Parish communities in the suburbs.

About 250,000 Entergy utility customers remained in the dark Friday, but many of those homes and businesses were in the hardest hit areas that will not be repopulated for weeks or months.

About 20 percent of New Orleans, including much of the neighborhoods along the Mississippi River from the Bywater to Uptown that escaped flooding, should have electricity within two weeks, Packer said.

That was good news for the business people and residents who will start returning to the city over the next week.

Power will return more slowly in more heavily damaged areas such as the lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, St. Bernard Parish and lower Plaquemines Parish, he said.

"The most difficult restoration after Katrina has just begun. Some areas require complete reconstruction. This damage was catastrophic," he said.

Workers must replace hundreds of utility poles and miles of electricity lines that were blown down in the storm, he said. In New Orleans alone, nine of the city's 17 substations were flooded and required repairs.

Water remained a problem for utility crews in some parts of the Central Business District on Friday even though the area's streets had been dry for days. Even though most of the district was connected to the regional power grid, some buildings still couldn'taccept juice because basement utility substations continued filling with water after days of pumping.

Utility workers were having trouble figuring out where the water was coming from or when it might subside, Packer said. "It could be coming from the municipal water system, or it could be residual water" from the flooding, he said.

• • • • • •

Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

# Feds aim to funnel cash to schools in storm areas

*$2.6 billion in aid could be on the way*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

To help school districts educate the more than 372,000 Louisiana and Mississippi students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, the federal government is proposing a $2.6 billion program to pay as much as 90 percent of the cost of schooling evacuated pupils in this academic year, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced Friday.

The aid, which Congress must approve, could amount to as much as $7,500 per pupil, though that amount would vary depending on the school district. It represents a marked increase from the 9 percent the federal government generally allocates for students in kindergarten through high school, she said.

It would also include students in private and parochial schools, with $488 million to help families meet tuition costs, Spellings said in a telephone news conference in which she defended the amount by stressing the uniqueness of the situation.

"The president believes this is appropriate for kids who were in private education, particularly coming out of Louisiana," she said. "We're not trying to provoke a voucher debate but to provide aid to these kids and their families."

Money for public school students would go to school districts except in Louisiana and Mississippi. In those states, Spellings said, it would go directly to the state education departments to give them flexibility in deciding how to divide the aid between districts coping with an influx of new students and districts shut down by the storm that are trying to reopen.

This program, which could cost as much as $1.9 billion, is one part of the overall $2.6 billion package for students from kindergarten through college who were forced to leave their local schools and enroll elsewhere.

Calling the proposal "a big step in getting our schools' financial needs met," state Education Superintendent Cecil Picard said the money "not only addresses the needs of our devastated school districts but also takes into account the additional costs to those schools that are accepting Katrina's kids with open arms."

For that factor, he said, "I am grateful."

Picard said he wished federal money also was available to pay salaries of teachers forced to flee.

"Many of our teachers want to return to their home districts to reopen their schools but can't do so without a paycheck," he said. "It is critical to our children's future that we do not lose our high-quality educators. Louisiana's children need to come home to Louisiana teachers."

At the college level, a $227 million allotment is designed to provide relief on student-loan payments and help colleges that have received displaced students or have been forced to close.

The Education Department said it would forgive six months of interest payments on student loans for borrowers in hurricane-affected areas of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and that it would provide as much as $1,000 for each student a college accepted because of the storm.

Institutions forced to close temporarily would retain aid they had already received, according to the department, and students there would not be required to repay financial help they had received for this semester.

To help people who need help in finding work, the federal Labor Department on Friday proposed accounts for states to design that would provide as much as $5,000 to each person needing extra training or for such services as child care or transportation.


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# AFTER THE STORM

**LA. DEATH TOLL**

**579**

**465** bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
**53** bodies in East Baton Rouge Parish
**27** bodies in Jefferson Parish
**14** bodies in Terrebonne Parish
**6** bodies in St. Tammany Parish
**6** bodies in Iberia Parish
**3** bodies in St. Charles Parish
**3** bodies in Plaquemines Parish
**2** bodies in Assumption Parish

**IN THE SHELTERS**

**52,140** PEOPLE IN LA.
**26,840** IN TEXAS
**31,626** ELSEWHERE
**675** SHELTERS
**25** STATES

**POWER**

**ENTERGY CUSTOMERS**
ORLEANS PARISH **19%**
JEFFERSON PARISH **86%**
PLAQUEMINES PARISH **19%**
ST. BERNARD PARISH **1%**
ST.CHARLES PARISH **99%**
ST. TAMMANY PARISH **99%**
WASHINGTON PARISH **61%**
TANGIPAHOA PARISH **99%**

**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
ABITA SPRINGS **383%**
COVINGTON **80%**
LACOMBE **41%**
FRANKLINTON **71%**
MADISONVILLE **99%**
MANDEVILLE **90%**
PEARL RIVER **93%**
SLIDELL **74%**

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- Temporary change of address forms available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

**PARISH-BY-PARISH**

**ORLEANS**
- Algiers set to open Monday
- Uptown will be open in stages next Wedneday and Friday
- French Quarter to open Sept. 26
- Businesses will be allowed in the Central Business District Saturday and Sunday, although it will not be officially open.
- Flooded areas of the parish closed

**JEFFERSON**
- Water pressure restored to most of parish. To report leaks on the east bank, call 838-4398; West Bank, 349-5081
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted
- Kenner, Harahan opened to residents Thursday, joining Westwego, Jean Lafitte and Gretna, which opened Wednesday

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- 911 phone system back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Streets expected to be cleared by the weekend
- No electricity restored, no telephone, no trash pickup. Low water pressure in some areas. Gas and food not available.
- Officials will begin reopening the parish today with a plan that will divide the parish in sections and give residents of each area a two-day window to come in, retrieve belongings, and leave. To re-enter, residents must present proof of residence, and must come prepared with enough food for their subsistence, and enough gas to leave.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
- Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities working

**FOR HELP**

- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA www.fema.gov or (800) 621-3362
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Toll-free hotline for people seek-

**"They said they refused to recognize that this was a forced evacuation. I said, 'Well, I suggest you go pick up a newspaper and look at it.' "**
MACKIE SHILSTONE, Garden District resident

# Living expenses reimbursed, sometimes

*14-day limit is likely to be sticking point*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff Writer

Like many New Orleans residents, Mackie Shilstone's first post-Hurricane Katrina conversation with his insurance company didn't go well. Though he had run up thousands of dollars in expenses after evacuating his family to Houston, the Chubb agent he reached on the telephone refused to offer a penny of assistance.

"They said they refused to recognize that this was a forced evacuation," Shilstone recalled. "I said, 'Well, I suggest you go pick up a newspaper and look at it.' It really surprised me."

But two days later, Shilstone said, the company agreed to send him a check for $6,800 to cover his hotel bills and a bunch of other living expenses, including food and clothing – even though Shilstone didn't know whether his Garden District home had sustained as much as a scratch.

After a few days of confusion, in which many legitimate claims for living assistance were rejected by insurers, most companies are now paying off like slot machines. In fact, money typically is being handed out before a claims adjuster has even looked at a policyholder's home.

Any money provided for living expenses is not subject to a policyholder's deductible.

At State Farm, the largest residential insurer in Louisiana, representatives said they have sent out 90,000 checks to homeowners in the three states affected by Katrina. Each of those checks was for $2,500.

"In some cases, $2,500 may be more than the legitimate claim is," said Mike Tucker, a State Farm executive who testified at a joint legislative hearing this week.

So why is State Farm handing out the money without first peeking at the damage?

"We realized this was a drastic situation," said Robert Phillips, a team leader for State Farm's catastrophe team. "A lot of people didn't have the money they needed to feed themselves or house themselves. They were in a bad situation, and we wanted to get help to them as quickly as possible."

But don't get used to the assistance. In most cases, policyholders in the New Orleans area won't receive money for so-called additional living expenses – ALE in insurance jargon – for more than 14 days, insurers said. That's because the vast majority of homes in this region were damaged by water, not wind, and there are major differences between flood insurance and homeowners insurance when it comes to providing such assistance.

In short, flood insurance – which is issued by the federal government – provides no money for living expenses.

By contrast, a homeowners policy provides at least 14 days of assistance, as long as the civil authorities ordered a mandatory evacuation or didn't allow residents to live in their homes in the aftermath of the hurricane, which includes Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and portions of St. Tammany parishes. That benefit is paid even if your home sustained no damage whatsoever, insurers said.

There is no dollar limit to the amount of such help, but insurers said policyholders must support their expenses with receipts and may be asked to repay any unspent advances. What's more, payments will be reduced if someone went beyond their normal standard of living, such as a splurging on a suite at the Waldorf-Astoria in Manhattan or eating every meal at an expensive restaurant.

"The idea of this benefit is to accommodate your normal standard of living," said Michael Trevino, spokesman for Allstate Insurance Co., the state's second-largest residential insurer.

Allstate customers received up to $5,000 to cover their post-Katrina living expenses, Trevino said, but he declined to say how many policyholders received such checks or provide a total dollar figure.

Not all insurers have been so generous. Louisiana Insurance Commissioner J. Robert Wooley said a number of companies have called his office to "apologize" for not providing such assistance to their customers. Wooley told state lawmakers that some of those companies simply couldn't afford to take the risk of shelling out the money without knowing the actual damage suffered by the policyholders' homes.

Wooley's office declined to identify the companies that have refused requests for living assistance.

For policyholders whose homes sustained major wind damage, the customer could be reimbursed for virtually all of their living expenses while their homes are repaired or rebuilt. This benefit usually lasts one or two years, depending on the company. Typically, there is no dollar limit.

Because most damage in this area was caused by flooding, which limits living assistance help to 14 days, some lawmakers are concerned that people will need much more assistance with living expenses than their insurers have provided.

"A lot of that money has been exhausted," Wooley said. "We're rapidly reaching the point where everybody needs that assistance."

To help fill the gap, many residents will turn to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. However, there are strict limits on how much help FEMA will provide for living expenses.

## LIVING EXPENSES REPORT

Here's the kind of help you can receive for living expenses if you live in a parish that was subject to a mandatory-evacuation order or you could not immediately move back into your home

| | No property damage | Home was flooded and is uninhabitable | Home sustained wind damage and is uninhabitable |
|---|---|---|---|
| **What your homeowner's policy will provide*** | Up to 14 days of living expenses, including hotel, restaurant and clothing charges. No dollar limit. | Up to 14 days of living expenses. No dollar limit. | Up to one or two years of additional living expenses, depending on the insurer. No dollar limit. |
| **What your flood insurance policy will provide** | Nothing | Nothing | Nothing |
| **What FEMA will provide** | An additional 30 days of housing expenses. Subject to overall cap of $26,200 in FEMA grants | An additional 30 days of housing expenses. Subject to overall cap of $26,200 in FEMA grants | An additional 30 days of housing expenses. Subject to overall cap of $26,200 in FEMA grants |

*For most major insurers in Louisiana.

STAFF GRAPHIC

West Jefferson Medical Center
Hospital and Health System
Marrero, Louisiana
www.wjmc.org



September 15, 2005

Dear Hospital Family including our Patients, Physicians, Employees, Volunteers, Business Partners, Jefferson Parish officials, Fire Departments, Sheriff and officers, DMAT, United States Military, National Guard, Businesses, Extended West Jeff Family and Community:

Words cannot begin to express my feelings of gratitude for all of you who have contributed to our ability to serve the needs of this area during Hurricane Katrina and her ferocious aftermath. We were the only hospital on the West Bank and one of only three in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard. Professionalism, Compassion, Humanitarianism, Dedication, Family: these are the words that resound throughout the halls of West Jefferson Medical Center, the Physicians Center, and the other facilities in the West Jefferson Healthcare System. These are the words that are synonymous with the West Jefferson Staff.

Because of you, because of your presence in the hospital, because of your assistance on our behalf off-campus, because of the hand you extended from your base of operations and all of the hard work you have done amidst less than ideal circumstances, we have been able to maintain essential healthcare services and more. We were always safe, our needs have been met and all patients received excellent care. To the more than 2,000 persons who rode out Katrina with us despite not knowing how your homes and loved ones fared during the storm, I applaud you for remaining loyal to our mission; you put our patients first.

I am indeed deeply sorry for your personal losses, especially for anyone who lost a loved one as a result of Katrina. You and your family are in my thoughts and personal prayers. I have long been aware of "random acts of kindness" but never before have we been in a position to be both the recipients and donors of such largesse. I am grateful.

It is my hope that a disaster such as this never be repeated in our community or visited on any other. However, because of your response to Hurricane Katrina and the lessons she provided, we are stronger now and will be more so in the future. We are humbled by the outpouring of love and aid from around our nation and the world. Jefferson Parish leadership has been and will continue to be a "Beacon of Light and Hope" for the future rebuilding of our wonderful community.

You have my admiration and sincere thanks for all you have done and continue to do to safeguard the health and vitality of our community.

To those of you on your way back to the Medical Center, please have a safe journey. The hospital, our staff, and our community need you. Please go to www.wjmc.org today.

Thank you one and all,

A. Gary Muller, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Board of Directors

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Saturday
September 17, 2005

## Rescuers leave city angry and disillusioned

*Counselors hear about frustration with leaders*

By Bruce Nolan
Staff writer

Scores of New Orleans police and firefighters coming off the most intense duty of their lives are deeply angry at their commanders, charging that their departments let them down after Hurricane Katrina and left individual groups of officers to care for desperate people on their own.

The sentiments are emerging in debriefings with counselors and psychiatrists at a Baton Rouge respite center, said Dr. Elmer Rigamer, medical director of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New Orleans, which is running the center.

For days, police and firefighters have been checking in at the center, headed for a few days relief out of town. They get vaccinations, apply for federal relief and make travel arrangements to see their families.

Many are also debriefed by Rigamer and Dr.

*See* **TRAUMA,** *page B-2*

## Some Orleans schools to open on West Bank

*New registration begins Sept. 26*

By Susan Finch
Staff writer

Orleans Parish public school officials hope to launch the system's 2005-06 term by Nov. 1 on the West Bank, where a team of experts this week found most school buildings had sustained little storm damage, interim Superintendent Ora Watson said Friday.

"We intend to start registration of teachers and students on Sept. 26." Watson said, adding that parents should let the School Board know whether they'll be enrolling their children, and the board needs to find out which teachers will be available to report for duty.

She called the West Bank the "most logical place" to begin bringing the city's public schools back to life, not only because school buildings there are in good shape but also because many

*See* **ORLEANS,** *page B-2*

## *The* PANE *of* LOSS




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A large stained glass window behind the altar at St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Church lost two sections to Hurricane Katrina. The church is located near Erato and Coliseum streets. The stuccoed church was designed by the noted architect T.E. Giraud and built in 1848 in the Gothic revival style. The land it sits on was once part of the Saulet plantation.

## Investors want to open Lowe's

*Capitano calls developer 'quick-buck' artist*

By Matt Scallan
Kenner bureau

A land developer is seeking to erect a Lowe's Home Improvement outlet in tents or trucks near The Esplanade mall, but Kenner officials derided the proposal Thursday, with Mayor Phil Capitano calling the developer a "quick-buck artist."

The pitch came from Greg Clayton of Hahnville, representing an investment group that is trying to buy the property from Louis Armstrong International Airport. He asked the Kenner City Council on Thursday to speed the rezoning and resubdivision of a 26-acre tract, saying Lowe's is interested in selling merchandise immediately from tents or trucks while a permanent store is built.

"Kenner is going to be able to use all the building material that it can get for the next five years," Clayton said.

But most council members opposed the idea, saying the move would set a bad precedent and that plenty of retail space is available in Kenner if Lowe's wants a presence there. Council

*See* **KENNER,** *page B-2*

## St. Charles schools open to some

*Displaced students will wait two weeks*

By John-John Williams IV
River Parishes bureau

School resumed Thursday for nearly 10,000 St. Charles Parish public school students, but more than 1,600 displaced pupils who moved to the parish after Hurricane Katrina will have to wait two more weeks before attending classes.

On Thursday, the School Board discussed different plans to deal with the influx of 1,603 students and the need to hire adequate staff to accommodate the bump in enrollment. Officials said the additional students will push the district's pupil-to-teacher ratio from 20-to-1 to 22-to-1.

Board members agreed to absorb the additional students starting Sept. 26 and have them attend the school closest to where they currently reside. The board will take formal action at its meeting Wednesday.

"We need to do this in a quality, orderly fashion," said Superintendent Rodney Lafon.

District officials hope to register displaced students Sept. 21-23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. East bank students will register at Harry Hurst Middle School in Destrehan and Albert Cammon Middle School in St. Rose, while west

*See* **SCHOOL,** *page B-2*

## NOWHERE TO CALL HOME

*Slidell workers await promised trailers*

By Paul Bartels
St. Tammany bureau

Sitting next to his wife in one of the Slidell emergency operations center offices, veteran Slidell city worker Ralph Galliano slumped in the blue-cushioned chair in a brief moment of relaxation followed by flashes of anxiety as he spoke Friday.

"We had 7 feet of water," he said of what used to be their home on Brookwood Drive in south Slidell's Dellwood subdivision. "The roof was torn open in a couple of spots. The garage was torn up. Everything in the house was flooded."

While his family evacuated to Arkansas, Galliano stayed close to home as Hurricane Katrina bore down on St. Tammany Parish. The municipal vehicle maintenance foreman hunkered down in the shop and slept – when he could – on an air mattress on floor.

Since then, he's been lucky if he could get a few hours of unbroken sleep a night. Galliano and many others worked virtually around the clock the first four or five days, then 18-hour shifts, then 12-hour ones and finally, beginning Monday, 10-hour shifts.

Galliano allowed workers an hour or two to check on their homes and then get back to work. It was almost a week after Katrina hit before he went to see his own, as the water was slowly draining and being pumped out of badly flooded south Slidell.

*See* **WORKERS,** *page B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

City employee Billy Palmisano drags a rug from his home to an ever-growing pile in the front yard. Palmisano had about 8 feet of water in his home, and he and his family lost almost everything. He was able to take a break from his job Friday to begin the cleanup.

# 'They've helped as much as they could'

**TRAUMA,** *from B-1*

Cheryl Person, psychiatrists with specialties in mass disaster response.

Ordinarily, police and emergency crews thrust into the acute human suffering of a major natural disaster like an earthquake feel a sense of overwhelming sadness, knowing that earthquakes are not preventable, Rigamer said.

Anger is for other kinds of disasters – a terrorist attack, for instance – because a human cause is behind the suffering, he said. "You want to go bomb something," he said.

"But the dynamic here is fascinating. Sad to admit it, but the predominant dynamic here is anger and disillusionment," Rigamer said.

"They really feel let down at all levels."

In scores of conversations this week, Rigamer and Person have heard tales of frustration from police and other rescuers coming out of flooded neighborhoods, especially in the first four harrowing days after Katrina stuck Aug. 29.

"It's fascinating what we've seen. Regardless of background or experience, they were simply heroic. Sometimes showing heroism of mythic proportions," Rigamer said.

But in many cases, officers told the psychiatrists tales of being stranded with small bands of people, of being promised by commanders that help was coming, of passing the word to those under their care – only to see hours and days go by with no relief.

"This is a big-time thing with these guys," Rigamer said. "They really feel let down."

One person Rigamer interviewed complained bitterly about his department's perceived lack of preparedness.

Consulting a notebook on his lap, Rigamer read a fragment of the interview: "This city begins to prepare for next year's Mardi Gras the day after this year's. They did nothing to prepare for this."

Even so, the overwhelming majority of those he has talked to are clear they want to remain in their jobs as police, firefighters or paramedics, he said.

But a "significant percentage," he said, have spoken about wanting to resume their career elsewhere after their own departmental experiences.

In sessions with police and others, Rigamer and Person said they are urging their patients to focus on the good they were able to do and the rescues they made.

Even now, days after the worst of the crisis, many officers are still running on adrenaline, still suffering sleep disturbances, Person said.

"They're having trouble coming out of the hyper-vigilant phase," she said.

By and large, it is too soon to tell whether police and firefighters are at risk for suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome, said Rigamer and Person.

In their favor is the reality that they are a tough, self-selected group – already among the most self-reliant individuals, Person said.

"Generally, they're physically exhausted, though not damaged," Person said. "They are extraordinarily resilient. The few problems I've seen revolve around very appropriate anger."

"They know what they've been through," Rigamer said. "They know they've helped as much as they could, in the absence of adequate support."

# Workers stretched to breaking point

**WORKERS,** *from B-1*

"I was in awe," he said. "I lost everything. It was so unimaginable. It was either laugh or cry, but crying was no option at that point."

Galliano is hardly alone.

The ranks of the hurricane homeless include more than 140 of Slidell's city employees – about 45 percent of the civilian and police work force, from laborers all the way up to the mayor, police chief, the council administrator and several City Council members.

They're staying with family or friends, in the operations center in the new city barn that serves as a makeshift City Hall or in motels. Almost all of them continue to report for another long hard day of work and have been since shortly after the storm.

In the early aftermath, with no power or telephone service and amid grinding turmoil, one of the greatest concerns was the lack of communications with family members who had scattered to various safer locations.

Now many are just weary, emotionally drained. Some are stretched to the breaking point, city officials say. They're also anxious about whether, or at least when, the federal government is going to send some of the help President Bush and others keep promising.

Among the many are recreation and parks employee Mary Reyes, whose Windward Place home in Eden Isles south of Slidell was demolished by winds as strong as any that ripped through New Orleans and the storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain.

"I live in fear, just like everybody else, that they are not going to be there for you," she said of the widely criticized Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mike Provenzano, a vehicle maintenance technician for only nine months, had been living with his parents on Sanctuary Drive off Eden Isles Boulevard before Katrina struck. He, too, no longer has a home to stay in. He's been sleeping on the shop floor.

"There was 4½ feet of water and lot of debris in the yard," he said. "The water went down pretty fast, but the mold took over very fast."

It's been a struggle to keep working. "I don't have much left in me, not much to keep going. The stress level is pretty high," he said. "But there's plenty of good people around you to help keep you going."

Provenzano believes the family home is salvageable, but he hopes FEMA, or someone, will provide him and his co-workers




STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Billy Palmisano takes a break Friday from cleaning out his Slidell home, where water rose nearly to the ceiling during the storm.

with a small trailer or some other temporary residence so he can "get off the shop floor" while the rebuilding goes on.

Mayor Ben Morris and other city officials have been working frantically to get temporary housing – trailers, other mobile residences – from FEMA for the displaced city employees and others who keep plugging away at the job.

"Some of them don't have anything – zero!" he practically shouted in a now-familiar rant at the sluggishness of FEMA's recovery response. "They (the workers) are breaking down."

Morris, Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing and others have been trying to bring 400 house trailers to two mobile home parks, one off Interstate 59 near Pearl River and one off U.S. 190 East, or Shortcut Highway, near the Indian Village area.

The temporary residences would be for displaced personnel from the city, the Slidell area fire protection district, Defense Information Systems Agency, Slidell Memorial Hospital and other public and quasi-public agencies contributing to the recovery effort.

At one point, Morris went into a rage when he thought FEMA had reneged on the 400 trailers, which Councilman Ray Canada had arranged through a FEMA representative in Baton Rouge about two weeks ago.

On Friday, he fretted that St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis, who has parishwide authority in declared emergencies, would snatch up most of the mobile residences that Morris believed had been set aside for Slidell.

So a group of Slidell officials put in a rare appearance Friday at the daily late-morning briefings Davis has been holding with municipal officials, power companies and others throughout the parish.

Although the trailers issue wasn't brought up, Davis said later that FEMA had control over such matters and noted that Slidell representatives seldom attended the meetings he's been holding to coordinate recovery and assistance efforts.

Back in Slidell, Dearing acknowledged Davis' executive-order authority, under state law, in a parishwide disaster.

Davis "has assured us that he will do everything in his power to provide FEMA housing, to make sure that not only city employees that have been made homeless, but private residents as well, will have someplace," Dearing said. "And I do believe he is sincere in that."

# Group wants to buy land

**KENNER,** *from B-1*

member Michele Branigan cited the vacant former Wal-Mart store at 1000 W. Esplanade Ave.

Clayton's investment group includes Latter & Blum owner Robert Merrick, Barriere Construction Co. and Clancy Developments. The group is negotiating to buy the 26 acres from the airport. Any sale of the property would need approval of both the New Orleans Aviation Board and the New Orleans City Council.

The property abuts 32nd Street, eastern entrance to The Esplanade. It was a residential neighborhood until the airport bought out the property owners as part of its noise mitigation program in the mid-1990s.

Kenner owns the rights of way for streets, controls the zoning and determines whether the residential lots can be consolidated into large parcels. Clayton said the investment group would pay the city $1 million immediately for the streets if the council approves the deal.

Capitano criticized the proposal for a temporary store and said Clayton was trying to take advantage of the situation. He said a tent store would violate many of Kenner's building code regulations, and he added that he would prefer to negotiate directly with Lowe's.

"We want people who will take a stake in this city, not a tent stake," he said. "If we allow this, where will it end?"

Capitano later apologized for the "quick-buck artist" remark, saying that he had gotten only an hour's sleep the night before.

Councilman Dominic Weilbaecher, who has clashed often with Capitano in recent months, told Clayton that the mayor doesn't have the final say on the property.

"These seven people up here are the ones who are going to make the decision," he said, referring to the council.

Clayton said his group has been working on the project for some time, and that the idea for a tent was simply a "wild idea" to help residents after the storm.

"We'll go back and do this the regular way," he said.

# Most schools unharmed on West Bank

**ORLEANS,** *from B-1*

parents of public school students own homes in that area of the city.

Of 21 schools — including some on the east bank — surveyed earlier this week by a team of experts from the Council of Great City Schools, five were found with damage that would make their immediate use impossible, Watson said. The five were L.B. Landry High School and Paul Habans Elementary in Algiers, as well as Alcee Fortier High School, Eleanor McMain Magnet School and Lusher School extension, Watson said.

Watson said plans are still tentative, but the configuration being considered would send ninth- through 12th-grade students to O. Perry Walker or Edna Karr High Schools while kindergarten through eighth-grade students would been sent to Henderson Middle School, Rosenwald Elementary, Fischer Elementary, Alice Hart Elementary, Martin Behrman Elementary or Eisenhower Elementary.

Watson's comments came one day after the School Board, holding its first meeting since the hurricane in Baton Rouge, approved the controversial charter application of Lusher School, which would remove one of the school district's highest performing schools from the direct control of the school district administration. The application had won the backing of the school's faculty and the overwhelming majority of the students' parents in August.

Words of support for the measure came from Watson and from Flozell Daniels Jr., executive director for state and local affairs at Tulane University, which is providing $1.5 million in private gap funding to help the transition from the school district to the charter operation.

Daniels, the husband of board member Heidi Lovett Daniels, said the university is retaining its 7,000 full-time employees through the storm recovery, at an operational loss of $42,000 a day, to make sure that New Orleans' largest private employer stays in business. Ensuring that those workers can send their children to a quality public school goes hand in hand with that effort, he said.

All the board members voted for the charter plan except for Heidi Daniels, who abstained, and board president Torin Sanders. Sanders expressed misgivings about a provision that treats children of Tulane employees as residents of the Lusher district, thereby giving them preference for admission ahead of students from other areas of the city.

The scores of school system employees who packed the meeting, held in an auditorium at the Department of Education's headquarters in the state capital, were there to find out what will become of their jobs, for which they received their final pay this week until the system recovers.

The board passed a resolution putting them on "disaster leave," a status that gives them no income or benefits but assures them the same pay as their old jobs, though not necessarily at the same sites, when they return to work.

The lapse of health insurance coverage was of particular concern to the teachers and administrators. State Education Superintendent Cecil Picard said he is working with the insurance carrier to get the coverage extended.

Picard noted, too, that the state Department of Labor has made an exception for school system workers, allowing them to receive $250 a week in unemployment compensation instead of the standard $95.

Joe DeRose, spokesman for the United Teachers of New Orleans, said Friday that the union is happy to see the board making efforts to open schools as soon as possible.

The Thursday meeting began with a chorus of calls from board members to work together to improve the schools and to abandon rancor that divided them before the hurricane.

The divisiveness reappeared, however, when board member Phyllis Landrieu sought to add to the agenda a resolution that called for hiring former U.S. Secretary of Education Rodney Paige as acting chief academic officer for the district and installing William Roberti, of the financial turnaround firm Alvarez & Marsal, as acting superintendent. The plan called for honoring Watson's contract, with her duties to be determined by Paige.

The proposal drew a roar of disapproval from the audience of mostly teachers, principals and other school employees.

Though board members Jimmy Fahrenholtz, Lourdes Moran and Una Anderson joined Landrieu to support her proposal, state law requires that at least two-thirds of members – in this case, five — approve adding items to published agendas. Sanders, Daniels and board member Cynthia Cade voted no.

# More teachers will be hired

**SCHOOL,** *from B-1*

bank students will register at Raymond K. Smith Middle School in Luling.

"The students will be contacted by the schools in regard to registering," said Rochelle Cancienne, the district's director of public relations. "At registration they will be told their official start date."

With the additional students, the district plans to hire 41 full-time teachers and 10 half-year teachers. Sixteen of the new hires will replace teachers who resigned following Katrina. More than 300 teachers applied to work in the system since the storm, and district officials interviewed half of them Tuesday.

School system officials do not think that all of the new students will remain with the district for the remainder of the school year.

Lafon said he recently spoke to Jefferson Parish Superintendent Diane Roussel who told him that she planned to open many of her schools Oct.3.

"She's working hard to get them open," Lafon said. "They need to get their kids up and their numbers back. We think some (students) will leave. I think a lot will leave after Christmas."

Some seem to think that displaced students from St. Bernard and Orleans parishes will remain with the district until the end of the school year — and maybe longer if their families decide to settle in St. Charles Parish.

"I think a lot will stay," board President Mary Bergeron said.

# For tales of life and death, the writing's on the walls

*Rescuers' language of painted scribbles awaits homeowners*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

As the floodwaters subside and rescuers complete their last searches of attics and barricaded rooms, police and military troops are fanning out across the city with cans of spray paint, pinpointing the dead and clearing the way home for the living.

Hurricane Katrina has turned New Orleans into a marked city.

In what is sure to become one of the lasting reminders of the storm's devastation, ground squads are going door to door and marking doors, walls, fences and sidewalks with coded inscriptions in colors that range from Day-Glo orange to charcoal black.

They are moving across the city, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block and in some districts house by house, leaving behind the FEMA schematic that will be read by workers conducting the next stages of the recovery: collecting bodies and turning on utilities.

"What we are doing is unheard of in the history of recovery operations," said Charles Hood, an urban search and rescue commander for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "I searched for space shuttle debris for 17 days, but I've never searched house to house in a city this size."

Hood, normally the deputy chief of the Phoenix, Ariz., Fire Department, said the markings are borrowed from generations-old firefighting protocol.

To most returning residents, the markings will be strange and meaningless hieroglyphics, destined to be painted over. But inevitably, some marks will remain, to serve as harsh memorials of the perfect storm.

Parts of town that stayed dry – the French Quarter, parts of the Central Business District and a large slice of Uptown – are only lightly painted. Some areas have only a single symbol on the street or sidewalk to designate "all clear" for an entire block.

In areas that saw significant flooding, every house is marked. Some sport the shorthand "EXT" for exterior search only, or "NE" for no entry. But in areas where the water topped 5 ½ feet, the search teams were ordered to pry open doors or break windows to conduct room-to-room inspections. In still-inundated areas of Lakeview, the marks are being painted on rooftops and the break-ins are being conducted through attics.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Markings on the side of a house on Gov. Nicholls Street in Treme indicate it has been checked. Starting at the top of the X and moving clockwise, the markings indicate the house was checked on Sept. 11, it was not entered, there are no dead and no animals in the house, and the numbers 3505 indicate the team that checked the house.

The Sheriff's Office in New Jersey's Passaic County was among the military units, police squads and fire departments that made up the 28 inspection squads. Detective Lt. Neil Van Ess and Sgt. Kevin Taylor of the New Jersey group were working their way up and down Octavia Street on Thursday. They left their mark, NJ1, in several pockets of the city.

"At some point, people are going to come back, and everything's going to be cleaned up except for these marks," Van Ess said. "They're going to be here for a long time."

Taylor compared the mission to his work in Manhattan after Sept. 11.

"The hurt is the same, but here the people are gone," Taylor said. "In New York, you could see the hurt on the people's faces. Here, there are no faces. It's abandoned. Compared to Sept. 11, the scale is huge. Just the smell of it, the damage that the water does, it's amazing."

Taylor and Van Ess said they didn't break into many houses Uptown, but in other parts of the city, like the 7th Ward, room-by-room searches were necessary to make sure no survivors were left behind.

"We enter if there is some suspicion that somebody is in there," Van Ess said. "Maybe there are cars in the driveway or flies on the window (a sign of a dead body). Of course, you usually know when you have a body. You can smell it from 200 feet."

Hood conceded that a shattered window or busted-in door might be a rude awakening for some homeowners whose houses were otherwise unscathed, but such is life and death at the center of the nation's worst disaster.

"We don't want to create any more damage than absolutely necessary," Hood said. "But in areas that had high water, we have to go in. There's still a chance that somebody might be in these residences."

Hundreds of houses are painted with a second set of markings left by the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, designated as "LSPCA." In these homes with abandoned pets, the animal rescue workers have left food and fresh water, plus a mark with the date and how many pets were left inside.

"We're authorized by law to go in and provide food and water," Louisiana SPCA Director Laura Maloney said. "Some people are getting a bit liberal with the spray paint, but we need to know if we have to go back in to leave more food."

Van Ess, who normally would be investigating murders and robberies, said returning residents should not view the markings left by him and his officers as cold scribbles left by strangers.

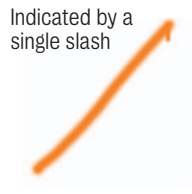
"We've gone inside the houses and we've seen the family pictures on the wall," he said. "It's like working in the twilight zone because none of the people are here, but we can feel it, we can feel the connection."

## X MARKS YOUR HOUSE

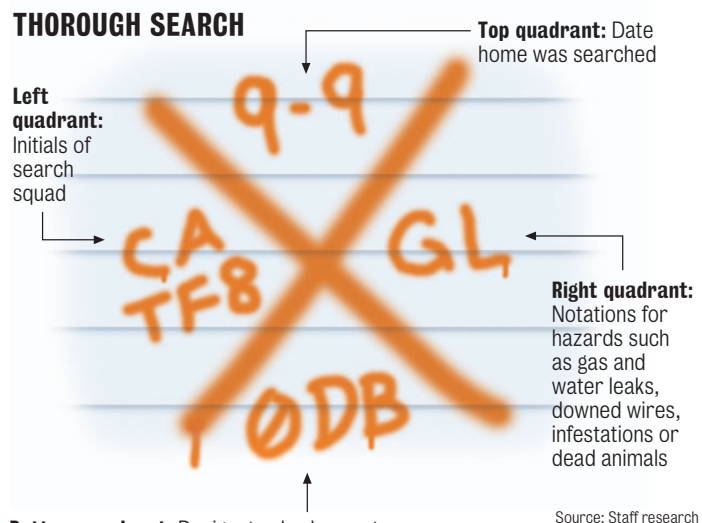
Every house, scathed or not, in the flooded areas will be marked with a spray-painted 'X' and other notations within the four sections of the mark. Here is what residents could find when they return and what the markings mean:

### HASTY SEARCH

Indicated by a single slash



### THOROUGH SEARCH




Source: Staff research
STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

After searching for any bodies in a house in Meraux, Ray Citrone, far right, with the South Carolina Emergency Response Team, spray-paints the side of a house to indicate it has been searched after Hurricane Katrina.

# Classrooms become bedrooms for some teachers

*Group of new hires displaced by storm*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Each day, long after all the students have left, when Principal Patricia Triche's legendary booming voice can no longer be heard in the halls, and even after the last trash can has been emptied, a group of seven teachers remains at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School in LaPlace.

The group of new hires displaced by Hurricane Katrina and calls the school home. After the storm hit just east of New Orleans, thousands of people sought housing in surrounding areas, including LaPlace, making it nearly impossible to find any type of housing.

Bunking the new hires in classrooms became a temporary solution for the school district.

Efforts are being made to secure permanent housing by both the teachers and the district. But in the meantime, home is the elementary school classrooms.

Kelly Eldridge, who had been a teacher at McDonogh 42 Elementary School in New Orleans, said she accepted a job in St. John the Baptist Parish to stay close to the children and city she has grown to love.

"We wanted to do something for our Orleans kids," Eldridge said. "They (displaced students) light up when we say we are from Orleans Parish."

St. John has been inundated with nearly 1,500 displaced students since Katrina hit, many of them from New Orleans. Lake Pontchartrain alone has more than 200 displaced children. The district hired 25 teachers to deal with the influx.

Sean Duncan, who also taught at McDonogh 42 and now teaches at Lake Pontchartrain, said he decided to stay in the area because he loves New Orleans.

"I always liked the city — the culture; there is always something to do," Duncan said. "And the kids … they really need someone looking out for them."

Two classrooms have been turned into sleeping quarters, and a third classroom is being used as a lounge area.

"This is our chilling-out area," Eldridge said with a laugh as she opened the door to a classroom with a large black futon. "I live down the hall. It's the shortest commute ever."

Duncan, the lone male teacher in the group, has his own classroom to himself but usually sleeps on the futon in the lounge area.

"It starts to take its toll on you," Duncan said. "It's awkward. I'm trying to stay focused and motivated. The classroom is the most stable part of our lives."

Teachers said they pass the time talking to each other, watching television in the school library and trying endlessly to telephone friends, family and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"That can take all night," said Joanna Rich, who taught at A.D. Crossman Elementary School in New Orleans before getting a job as a third-grade teacher at Lake Pontchartrain. She said one advantage to sleeping at the school is the ability to get a jump-start on the next day of work.

"It's easy to come back and do something in our rooms," she said.

After school, the teachers have had to work feverishly to secure permanent housing, obtain the last checks from their former school districts, apply for federal aid, shop for groceries and run other errands. The teachers must be back in the building before 7 p.m., when the maintenance workers leave.

"We've been locked out before," Rich said.

Rich said she dreads taking cold showers in the school's locker room every morning but wouldn't have it any other way.

"I know I have a bed in another state," Rich said. "I have a choice. I chose to be here. It's a challenge. I definitely feel displaced, but I wanted to serve the same community. I got as close as I could."

There are 29 teachers working in the district that have been displaced by Katrina and do not have a permanent place to stay.

"They are staying at teacher's houses, they are staying with friends," said Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services for the district. "Some are commuting from Baton Rouge and Gonzales."

Katrina might have left the teachers without homes, but it hasn't stopped their desire to educate youth.

"My family says we are amazing," Eldridge said. "I don't think we are amazing. We are finishing the job we came to do."

# Plenty of togetherness at Evacuation Central



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

Watching hurricane coverage on television in the three-bedroom home of their Baton Rouge relatives, members of the Emery family gather for breakfast. They have been cooking assembly-line-style, going through entire cartons of eggs and pots of grits each morning.

## *Four generations find shelter in family home*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

BATON ROUGE — Into the third week of the Hurricane Katrina evacuation at the Emery household, the washer and dryer still ran nonstop, a tower of bottled water remained stacked by the carport, and parking all 10 vehicles in the driveway continued to pose a daily puzzle centered on the question of who needed to leave first in the morning.

At the peak of its population, 25 visitors, mostly relatives whom the storm chased from Jefferson Parish, slept in the three-bedroom, two-bathroom house that is usually home only to Caleb and Thelma Emery and their two children. At night every bed, couch and patch of carpet was occupied.

Seventeen people from four generations continued to live there this week, already well beyond the time they expected to stay. Yet they managed to maintain jovial spirits as they cooked assembly-line style and crowded in front of the big-screen television set.

The Emery family contributed more than its share to the suddenly overpopulated city of Baton Rouge, where thousands of people from the New Orleans area have temporarily settled, pushed there by Katrina. And among the family members were examples of several major types of hurricane hardship: employment uncertainty, education uncertainty, ruined houses and a lost loved one.

There was the matriarch, Verlina Lewis, 65, of Kenner, mother of eight children, including Thelma Emery and five others who are staying in the house along with their children. Lewis had a 60-year-old brother, Jake James, who was weak with cancer. But on Sept. 1, amid the post-Katrina confusion, he died.



Andrea Thomas throws a blanket over her niece, Zaire Lewis, 4, as she sleeps next to her cousin, Austin Lewis, in what used to be a dining room.

He had been in hospice care when the storm threatened. He moved to Kenner Regional Medical Center while his family evacuated. Lewis figures the abrupt move and loss of family by his side might finally have overwhelmed him.

With parts of the New Orleans area slowly coming back now, she said, she had no idea how to plan her brother's funeral. She couldn't even be sure where to find his body.

"I guess all the funeral homes are underwater, too," she said.

Then there was Lewis' daughter Diana; Diana's daughter, Taneika; and Taneika's four-year-old daughter, Zaire. They returned to their Kenner house when officials first let people back in to check their property in Jefferson Parish, only to discover the roof caved in and the place ransacked, presumably by squatters.

They found unfamiliar clothing, an unfamiliar TV, a different computer in place of theirs and a mess on their gas stove. The little girl's monogrammed jewelry set was gone.

"They turned over things. They dumped every single last drawer out the dresser. They were probably looking for money," said Taneika Lewis.

However, she said, "They were courteous enough to set buckets and trash cans to catch the water."

And there was Verlina's daughter Valencia, and Valencia's daughter, Brianna, a senior at East Jefferson High School in Metairie, whose plans for football games, dances and a timely graduation are now in doubt. Enough water got into their Metairie house to make it a lair of mold and stench.

"She wants to go wherever all of her friends are, and now everybody's separated," Valencia Lewis said of her daughter. "She's like, 'I have five friends in Texas. Can we move to Texas?'"

This week Brianna registered to enroll at Baton Rouge's Bellaire High School and begrudgingly tried on her new school's uniform. Some Jefferson Parish public schools aim to reopen Oct. 3, but East Jefferson High suffered some of the worst damage in the Jefferson system and could remain closed indefinitely.

Meanwhile, Valencia awaited news of when she could return to work as a minute clerk for the 24th District Court in Gretna; Oct. 3 is a possibility. Taneika, a medical assistant at a Kenner doctor's office, had no specifics on the return of her job. Another of Verlina's children, Andrea Thomas, who works for Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in New Orleans and who lived in a Bridge City house that now has three holes in the roof, searched Baton Rouge funeral homes for temporary employment.

Seeing all the cars in the Emery driveway, neighbors donated food and supplies. Lacking space for all the suitcases indoors, family members went out to their car trunks to retrieve clothing. Those with beds had to be careful not to step on someone when getting up.

There were a few perks, however. Thelma Emery said it was as if her house had morphed into a full-service hotel: Everyone else did the cooking, cleaning and even lawn-mowing.

"It surprised us that so many could be congested in a small area and manage to get along pretty well," said Caleb Emery, who, in contrast to his wife, came from a smaller family unaccustomed to such crowding.

The situation may even have drawn the family closer together, figuratively speaking. As relatives came and went late in the week, trying to get back to check on their houses, and the census at the Emery home fluctuated, Thelma Emery said the experience made her reflect on growing up with seven siblings.

"It's something we just had to do," letting everyone stay at her home, Thelma said. "Everybody was welcome. So many family members (who) came in needed a place to stay because of a lack of hotels.

"We never complain," she said. "It just felt like old times again, like a big family reunion."




Students at the University of Southern Mississippi sort clothes and other donated items at the Hattiesburg, Miss., campus. The items, which included a pair of sneakers with a note from a woman in Michigan, were to be loaded onto a truck and shipped to the Gulf Coast.



A long way from her home in Biloxi, Miss., hurricane evacuee Imunique Shaver, 2, kisses grandmother Sheila Shaver in a Detroit church on Friday as Louisiana resident Tracey Marrero, background, holds niece Dylan Rabathaly. Sheila Shaver said she still has not located a large part of her family since fleeing Katrina.

# COASTAL COMFORT



AP PHOTOS

A truck driver swings open the back of his truck in D'Iberville, Miss., unloading storm debris from Hurricane Katrina onto a trash fire. An estimated 50 million cubic yards of debris is being removed from the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of the storm.



A pack of canine evacuees elicits a round of oohs and aahs Friday from people in Shawnee, Kan. The puppies were on display at the Sunflower Humane Society, which announced it would be adopting the Humane Society of South Mississippi in Gulfport.




Workers unload truckloads of storm debris at a landfill in D'Iberville, Miss.

They are homeless and heartbroken, but residents of coastal Mississippi, like people from the New Orleans area, are determined to rebound from Hurricane Katrina. And people across the country are reaching out and pitching in to make sure the Magnolia State comes back, bigger and better than ever.

The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

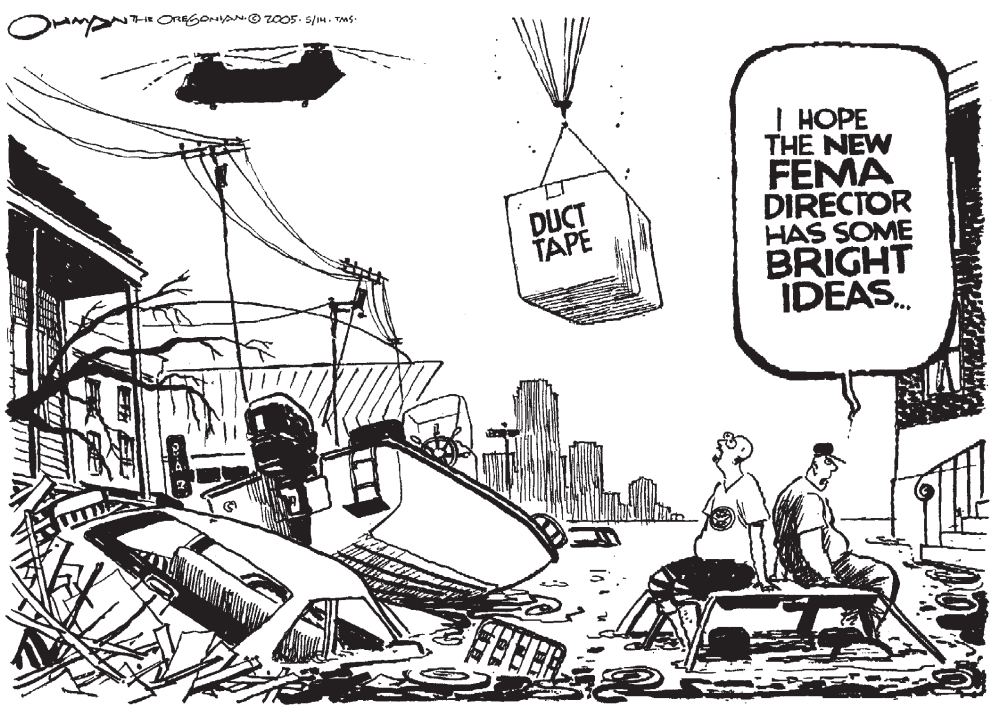
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and FRANCIS A. LUMSDEN, *Publishers, 1837-1864*
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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Sgt. Richard Caudill of the Alabama National Guard answers questions as hundreds stand in line for disaster food stamps Sept. 12 in Covington.

## Slidell is hurting, too

While I respect New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's courage and tenacity, I respectfully disagree with his statement that New Orleans should receive most of the money available from the federal government. Perhaps he is not aware that Slidell has been destroyed. Most of the town is flooded, and all of the businesses have received some damage. They are, as of today, not receiving very much in the way of help. FEMA has only a very small presence (perhaps because they are all across the lake in New Orleans), the people cannot get around and if they could, they would not have anywhere to go anyway.

While I understand that Mayor Nagin loves his city very much, I think before we talk about rebuilding barrooms and the Superdome we need to think about getting everyone a place to live — regardless of their town. New Orleans was not the only place hit by the storm. In fact, some other places were actually hit by the eyewall of the storm.

**Nancy Brown**
*Durango, Colo.*

## Nagin's turn to take blame

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has admitted the state made mistakes during the horror and tragedy that occurred in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Now it is New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's turn. He did not employ every bus available to get citizens out of harm's way. The lame excuse of not finding enough drivers just isn't going to wash.

To take responsibility for the office that he holds, he must answer the following questions: Why did he wait until Sunday morning to call for a mandatory evacuation, when the National Weather Service put out a warning of catastrophic flooding for New Orleans on Friday evening?

How and when was the process initiated to find bus drivers to get our citizens out of harm's way?

Why wasn't a backup supply of food and water provided for those who were being housed at the Superdome, with officials knowing full well that New Orleans could flood during a catastrophic storm, leading evacuees stranded for days there?

**Elizabeth Cook**
*Gretna*

## Time for the meek to inherit the earth

I am 33 years old and have lived in New Orleans for eight years. I was neither born nor raised there, but every significant event of my adult life has taken place there. I met my wife there, solidified my career there; we bought our first house there, had our daughter there. There isn't really anyplace else I want to live.

I love my city. I love it for the food, for Mardi Gras, for Jazzfest. I love it for the Indians and the Bone Gangs and for second lines. I love it because everyone calls you baby. I love it because nothing happens so fast that you'll miss it. I love it because life happens in the street and on the porches, because children play their trombones and trumpets outside on the way to school. I love it because a boil anywhere in the neighborhood means a plate of crawfish for everyone.

But my city hides its real self. It hides itself on the maps we give out to tourists. It hides itself in the kitchens of restaurants, the laundry rooms of hotels and on street corners outside the French Quarter. My city's real self was exposed by Hurricane Katrina. We are a city ravaged by poverty. We graduate our students at an abysmally low pace and incarcerate an astronomically high percentage of our citizens. I heard on CNN that the average wage in New Orleans was $9 an hour; I don't believe it's that high, but even if it were, that's not even above the poverty line for a family. Our mayor in the not-so-distant past put our real unemployment rate at 49 percent. Our murder rate leads the country. As a teacher, I personally saw nine of my students buried in the past three years.

Many of those 250,000 houses that President Bush called "now uninhabitable" Thursday night were uninhabitable before the hurricane.

The president spoke about what we should see in our city when it is rebuilt. He said we should see minority-owned business, we should see more home ownership and less rental property. We should have seen those things three weeks ago, but three weeks ago nobody cared about the Third-World-like conditions in New Orleans.

"Should" is a suggestion. I never hear the president use the word "should" when he talks about Iraq or other issues he cares about. For those issues he speaks with conviction. Conviction in our case would have had the president saying ìwillî ñ we will see minority-owned business, we will see more home ownership.

That's what my city needs, for the president to act with conviction for its people. I'm not talking about enterprise zones to bring in new business and new people to make new fortunes in our fallen city. I mean housing and ownership. The president could do it, too, not just on federally owned land, and please not through a lottery. I mean do it everywhere. The houses are going to be torn down anyway; the landlords can collect the insurance money. Buy up the land, build housing and give it away, give low- and no-interest loans to renters who were displaced — all of them. Make us a city of homeowners. Make us proud of every street because it is ours.

This could be President Bush's great social experiment, trickle-up economics — his legacy. He could jump-start the American Dream for a whole city of impoverished citizens. He could fulfill some of the promises that his party made 140 years ago.

Mr. Bush is a man of faith. Jesus had no time for the moneylenders; Psalms 37:11 says the meek shall inherit the earth. Maybe God wants to start in New Orleans.

**Shawne Anderson**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Superior, Colo.*

## Where were the ward bosses?

I am just as angry as everyone else about the federal government's near-abandonment of the people who were left behind in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. I believe President Bush's behavior is not the result of racism, but rather the result of his frat-boy cluelessness, which should be apparent to all by now. Believe me, you will never see a member of the Bush family waiting in line to buy gas.

Although I was shocked at how long it took for the cavalry to arrive, I still have a nagging question about why all those people were left in New Orleans in the first place. It is common knowledge that when election time rolls around, New Orleans' poor are transported to the voting polls by a well-oiled "get out the vote" mechanism. As a registered New Orleans Democrat, I ask why this efficient "get out the vote" machine, which has put so many people into positions of power, was not kicked into gear to transport New Orleans' poor out of the path of a Category 4 hurricane.

**Kim Marshall**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Lafayette*

# OUR OPINIONS

## A Katrina commission

The Gulf Coast and the nation as a whole shouldn't have to wait years for an independent, bipartisan investigation of what went wrong at all levels of government in preparing for and responding to Hurricane Katrina.

Bush administration reluctance delayed just such an examination of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As a result, Congress didn't establish the 9/11 Commission until late in 2002, and its report was not published until July 2004 — nearly three years after the attack. Now, Senate Republicans have scuttled an effort to set up a Katrina commission that would follow the 9/11 Commission model.

Their resistance is frustrating. Sen. Hillary Clinton, who authored the bill, said that it's not appropriate for the government to investigate itself. Certainly that approach will suffer serious credibility problems, even if it manages to be objective and free of partisan maneuvering.

The White House, in particular, has said repeatedly that focusing on the "blame game" should not be the first priority; rescuing those in danger and getting recovery under way is far more important.

No one in South Louisiana or Mississippi would argue with that. The monumental task at hand is to begin to clean up damaged homes and businesses, recover the dead and help those who are displaced find a place to live. No one who has lost a home or business would want attention to be distracted from the rebuilding of this region.

But the breadth of this disaster and the failings of the government's response to it demand a full and impartial analysis. The best way to do that is to turn the investigation over to an independent body, one that would enjoy the public's confidence.

Sen. Susan Collins, who chairs the Homeland Security Committee, convened the first hearings on Katrina on Wednesday. She criticized the government's response as sluggish and disjointed and said it had failed the first major test since Sept. 11. But despite that candid assessment, Sen. Collins insisted that the committee focus on what needs to be done for Katrina's victims — not figuring out who blew it.

That may have been the right call for now. Katrina's victims need help, no question about it. So does our region. But this nation eventually needs to figure out why the response was sluggish and disjointed and how to make sure that future disasters aren't met with the same inadequate response.

The public clamored for an independent panel to get to the bottom of the Sept. 11 attacks, and polls show that a majority of Americans want the same kind of scrutiny for Katrina. That's hardly surprising. No one is immune from disaster, whether it's caused by terrorists or by nature. Americans who saw babies lifeless from dehydration and elderly people expiring from heat on the streets of New Orleans want to be sure that the mistakes of Katrina are not repeated the next time disaster strikes, possibly in their city.

They have every reason to be worried, and their legitimate concerns shouldn't be dismissed as a "blame game." Those of us who are living in Katrina's aftermath are growing weary of that phrase. An independent assessment of what went wrong is vital, not only to our future but to the future of the entire country. Those who don't want to see that happen are playing a game, too. It's called dodgeball.

## We'll want to celebrate

After enduring more than two weeks of dislocation, destruction and gloom, New Orleanians are finally beginning to see some hopeful signs. Floodwaters have receded in much of the metro area. Power is coming up faster than anticipated. Hundreds of thousands of evacuees are tantalized by the possibility of going home.

And now, some of the most important figures in the Mardi Gras world are predicting that the New Orleans area's signature celebration will go forward as usual in 2006.

"Maybe I'm an eternal optimist," Mardi Gras World owner Blaine Kern said this week, "but we're going to have Mardi Gras this year." Mr. Kern, of course, is Carnival's most influential float maker, and officials of several major krewes say they're ready to roll no matter what.

It won't be surprising if the 2006 celebration is somewhat more subdued than in the past. Many families will be hurting for money, so krewes may have trouble getting riders. Local governments will likely have less money available to pay police along parade routes. But with a little creativity, these obstacles will be surmountable.

It won't matter how many krewes put on parades or how many out-of-towners attend. If Mardi Gras comes off as scheduled, it will be proof of southeast Louisiana's resilience. It's bound to be the best Carnival ever.

## OTHER OPINIONS



WILLIAM RASPBERRY

# Looting isn't always looting

My Duke University class on family and community had no trouble with the New Orleans "looters" who smashed store windows for food and clothing. They had done their reading, so they understood that an important element of what makes a community work is the willingness of people to abide by agreed-upon rules.

But the floods and impending starvation on the Gulf Coast, they agreed, suspended the rules. Survival was an overriding "virtue," they said — so long as the necessities weren't taken directly from another person in similarly desperate straits.

And maybe even then, some of them thought. Although a few would choose to die rather than wrest food from the gnarled hands of a starving old woman, several thought that the biological imperative to survive might trump even such uncivilized behavior as that.

No senseless looting for material goods, even if the purloined laptop might become the price of a ride to Baton Rouge. No firing on rescue workers. No carjackings. But if the waters were rising swiftly enough, and the helicopter lifts were working slowly enough, one could, perhaps, justify elbowing one's way nearer to the front of the rescue line. After all, though one might defer to a weaker blood relative or spouse, survival is the most basic urge there is.

**Survival was an overriding "virtue" — so long as the necessities weren't taken directly from another person in similarly desperate straits.**

Then I reminded them of what they all knew: that sometime in the next few weeks, when things have returned to normal and Katrina has been replaced by Supreme Court confirmation hearings or escalating slaughter in Iraq as Topic A, they will see on the 6 o'clock news some teenager accused of shooting a shopkeeper or robbing a convenience store or selling crack. And the youngster's explanation for his dreadful behavior? "You got to survive."

The point of this small exercise was neither to justify lawlessness nor to raise looting to a level of particular importance in the catastrophe that befell the Gulf Coast. It was, rather, to observe that the rules that make our communities work — legislated and otherwise — don't exist as moral abstractions. We uphold them because they work for us ñ at least until we find ourselves under water.

What we forget is that some people in some communities see themselves as under water pretty much all the time.

Our rules — deal fairly with one another, avoid violence, obey the law — don't always make sense to them because the rules don't always make their lives more livable. And yet we think they should go on following our rules because it makes our lives more livable.

I'm talking about poor people, of course, but not all poor people. Some poor people are among the most law-abiding people I know. But some see themselves as outcasts reduced to basic survival.

They see themselves this way, in part, because many Americans don't see them at all. Erstwhile visitors to New Orleans still remark how surprised they were to see the masses of the very poor holed up in the Superdome or on freeway overpasses. They had no idea!

And most of us have no idea of the desperately poor in our own towns. They don't exist for us except when crime or social cost or catastrophe puts them on our television screen.

And even then, we are likely to miss the point of their existence. They wouldn't be poor, we tell ourselves, if they lived by our rules. A number of e-mails of the past few days make the point: Poor people are often the cause of their own poverty.

It's mostly true. There are people who, like many of those pitiful souls we saw waiting to be rescued from the floodwaters last week, are in dire straits because they ignored our well-meant advice. But some, like those ride-less New Orleans residents who couldn't get out, simply haven't been able to translate our advice into action: stop having babies, save enough to move away, get married.

I'm not saying it's all society's fault that our rules don't work for them. But I am saying that it is in society's interest to make sure they do, rather than sit blithely while the growing gap between them and us produces a community destroying economic disequilibrium.

What can we do? At the very least, we should see to it that no one who works hard all week has to live in poverty and without access to good health care.

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William Raspberry is a Washington Post columnist. His e-mail address is willrasp@washpost.com.

# THE OMENS ARE NOT GOOD

## *Cronyism, conservative agenda to guide recovery*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A rescuer from Houma tows a boat loaded with three casualties of Hurricane Katrina down Read Boulevard in eastern New Orleans on Sept. 12.



PAUL KRUGMAN

Now it begins: America's biggest relief and recovery program since the New Deal. And the omens are not good.

It is a given that the Bush administration, which tried to turn Iraq into a laboratory for conservative economic policies, will try the same thing on the Gulf Coast. The Heritage Foundation, which has surely been helping Karl Rove develop the administration's recovery plan, has already published a manifesto on post-Katrina policy. It calls for waivers on environmental rules, the elimination of capital gains taxes and the private ownership of public school buildings in the disaster areas. And if any of the people killed by Katrina, most of them poor, had a net worth of more than $1.5 million, Heritage wants to exempt their heirs from the estate tax.

Still, even conservatives admit that deregulation, tax cuts and privatization will not be enough. Recovery will require a lot of federal spending. And aside from the effect on the deficit ñ we are about to see the spectacle of tax cuts in the face of both a war and a huge reconstruction effort ñ this raises another question: How can discretionary government spending take place on that scale without creating equally large-scale corruption?

It is possible to spend large sums honestly, as Franklin D. Roosevelt demonstrated in the 1930s, presiding over a huge expansion of federal spending, including a lot of discretionary spending by the Works Progress Administration. Yet the image of public relief, widely regarded as corrupt before the New Deal, actually improved markedly.

How did that happen? The answer is that the New Deal made almost a fetish out of policing its own programs against potential corruption. In particular, FDR created a powerful ìdivision of progress investigationî to look into complaints of malfeasance in the WPA. That division proved so effective that a later congressional investigation could not find a single serious irregularity it had missed.

This commitment to honest government was not a sign of Roosevelt's personal virtue; it reflected a political imperative. His mission in office was to show that government activism works. To maintain that mission's credibility, he needed to keep his administration's record clean.

But George W. Bush is no FDR. Indeed, in crucial respects he is the anti-FDR.

Bush subscribes to a political philosophy that opposes government activism. That is why he has tried to downsize and privatize programs wherever he can. (He still hopes to privatize Social Security, FDR's biggest legacy.) So even his policy failures do not bother his strongest supporters: Many conservatives view the inept response to Katrina as a vindication of their lack of faith in government, rather than as a reason to reconsider their faith in Bush.

And to date the Bush administration, which has no stake in showing that good government is possible, has been averse to investigating itself. On the contrary, it has consistently stonewalled corruption investigations and punished its own investigators if they try to do their jobs.

That is why Bush's promise on Thursday night that he will have ìa team of inspectors general reviewing all expendituresî rings hollow. Whoever these inspectors general are, they will be mindful of the fate of Bunnatine Greenhouse, a highly regarded auditor at the Army Corps of Engineers who suddenly got poor performance reviews after she raised questions about Halliburton's contracts in Iraq. She was demoted late last month.

Turning the funds over to state and local governments is not the answer, either. FDR actually made a point of taking control away from local politicians; then as now, patronage played a big role in local politics. And our sympathy for the people of Mississippi and Louisiana should not blind us to the realities of their states' political cultures.

Last year the newsletter Corporate Crime Reporter ranked the states according to the number of federal public-corruption convictions per capita. Mississippi came in first; Louisiana came in third.

Is there any way Bush could ensure an honest recovery program? Yes. He could insulate decisions about reconstruction spending from politics by placing them in the hands of an autonomous agency headed by a political independent, or, if no such person can be found, a Democrat (as a sign of good faith).

He did not do that on Thursday night, and probably will not. There is every reason to believe the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast, like the failed reconstruction of Iraq, will be deeply marred by cronyism and corruption.

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Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.



BOB HERBERT

# Sick and abandoned after Katrina

It was the stuff of nightmares. Poisonous water moccasins were swimming in the filthy water of the flooded first floor, and snipers, rats and even a 12-foot alligator were roaming the treacherous area just outside the hospital's doors.

"To me, it was like being in hell," said Carl Warner, the chief engineer for Methodist Hospital in the hard-hit eastern part of New Orleans. "There were bodies floating in the water outside the building, and our staffers had to swim through that water to get fuel for the generator."

The patients and staff at Methodist could have been evacuated before Hurricane Katrina hit. But instead they were condemned to several days of fear and agony by bad decision-making in Louisiana and the chaotic ineptitude of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Some of the patients died.

Incredibly, when the out-of-state corporate owners of the hospital responded to the flooding by sending emergency relief supplies, they were confiscated at the airport by FEMA and sent elsewhere.

The time to evacuate the hospital was when it became clear that New Orleans was in the path of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane. "We had about 137 patients," said Dr. Jeffrey Coco, the hospital's chief of staff, "and we had a company called Lifeguard that was going to take them out."

But apparently there was a reluctance to evacuate without some sort of governmental guidance. When the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, issued a mandatory evacuation order, hospitals were exempted. Dr. Fred Cerise, secretary of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals, said Methodist officials could have decided on their own to evacuate, but that never happened.

Some of the patients were extremely ill, requiring ventilators or dialysis treatment or major surgery. When the hurricane hit, part of the roof blew off, windows were blown out, the atrium was badly damaged, and the hospital was drenched with rain. On Monday night, the power went out, and on Tuesday, after the levees broke, the first floor became hopelessly flooded.

By midweek you had a bizarre situation in which hundreds of people (patients, doctors, nurses, administrative staffers, relatives and people seeking emergency shelter) were stranded, cut off from the rest of the world, in a badly damaged hospital in a major American city.

Staffers with flashlights worked heroically in a sodden, stench-filled environment in which temperatures reached 110 degrees. Elevators did not work, and some patients weighing more than 400 pounds had to be carried up dark, reeking staircases. When ventilators shut down with the loss of power, volunteers worked in shifts to do the difficult hand-pumping necessary to keep patients alive.

Nevertheless, according to Dr. Albert Barrocas, the chief medical officer, the decline in the well-being of the patients was both palpable and widespread. "All of them were deteriorating in the sense of becoming weak," he said. "You could see in their faces the fact that they were scared."

By Tuesday evening, four patients had died, and a dozen were dead by the time the hospital was finally evacuated on Friday. Doctors believe half of the deaths were caused by the dreadful conditions in the hospital.

Everybody's suffering would have been eased if the emergency relief effort mounted by the hospital's owner, Universal Health Services in King of Prussia, Pa., had not been interfered with by FEMA. Company officials sent desperately needed water, food, diesel fuel to power the hospital's generators and helicopters to ferry in the supplies and evacuate the most vulnerable individuals.

Bruce Gilbert, Universal's general counsel, told me on Wednesday, "Those supplies were in fact taken from us by FEMA, and we were unable to get them to the hospital. We then determined that it would be better to send our supplies, food and water to Lafayette (130 miles from New Orleans) and have our helicopters fly them from Lafayette to the hospital."

Significant relief began to reach the hospital on Thursday, and by Friday evening everyone had been removed from the ruined premises. They had endured the agonies of the damned, and for all practical purposes had been abandoned by government at all levels.

When you consider that the Methodist Hospital experience was just one small part of the New Orleans catastrophe, you get a sense of the size of the societal failure that we allowed to happen.

Welcome to the United States in 2005.

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Bob Herbert is a columnist for The New York Times.

# Unflooded areas poised for real-estate boom

*Housing shortage likely will increase prices in key areas*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Neighborhoods that weren't flooded after Hurricane Katrina will likely see their home values climb as residents looking to start over seek higher ground, local real estate brokers said.

Property values in West Jefferson, River Ridge, Kenner, Mandeville, Covington and parts of Slidell – all of which emerged from the storm relatively unscathed – are expected to jump 10 percent to 15 percent.

"In those areas there is just going to be substantial premiums being paid" for housing, said Wade Ragas, recently retired professor of finance at the University of New Orleans and former head of its Real Estate Market Data Center.

Ragas said he expects strong demand and higher prices in St. Charles Parish.

Ragas and Arthur Sterbcow, president of Latter & Blum Realtor Inc., also expect River Ridge in Jefferson Parish and Uptown New Orleans, two areas where flooding was minimal to nonexistent, to see strong demand and resulting price increases. Ragas said he was hesitant to put a percentage increase on every area. Specific data on post-Katrina real estate sales are unavailable.

West Jefferson, which also saw little if any flooding, will be another high-demand area for housing. But the incomplete levee protection system will keep prices there from climbing too far.

"The only reason the West Bank didn't flood is because of the path the storm took," Ragas said. He said if the federal government agrees to spend the estimated $70 million needed to complete the levee protection system, especially along the Harvey Canal, home prices in Harvey, Marrero and Terrytown could jump higher.

**"Buyers are more frightened about being closer because of the flooding in Metairie."**

WADE RAGAS
Recently retired professor of finance at the University of New Orleans

But the Katrina-related flooding in Old Metairie likely will leave some suburban buyers with a psychological inhibition about moving too close to the city.

"Buyers are more frightened about being closer because of the flooding in Metairie," Ragas said.

Kenneth Levy, a Latter & Blum broker in the Slidell area, said the inventory of available homes is far short of demand and that the demand will soar once repairs begin on damaged homes.

Some contractors are finding innovative ways of getting quick starts on repairs. They are offering the owners of some damaged but inhabitable homes the chance to get their dwellings repaired for free, as long as the workmen are allowed to live in the home they are working on, Levy said.

"That's one of the few win-wins" in the market," Levy said.

The already bustling Baton Rouge real estate market is also experiencing a surge of activity as Hurricane Katrina evacuees in need of housing snap up properties.

When multiple offers are made on Baton Rouge properties, New Orleanians are making "outrageous" counter offers, said Nancy Abney, an owner and broker with Prudential Unlimited Properties, which was recently bought by Prudential Gardner Realtors inc. of New Orleans.

Sterbcow spoke of one New Orleans businessman who looked at a $600,000 Baton Rouge home as a place to relocate employees and crank up business. After hearing that a second offer on the home was imminent, the businessman "doubled (his offer) and paid cash," Sterbcow said.

The flurry of activity has resulted in some complaints of price gouging in the Baton Rouge market. But the state attorney general's office has said a state law that prohibits price gouging during disasters does not address home prices.

"It's an unbelievable market," said Barbara Dixon of Dixon Realty Inc. of Baton Rouge. "I've had sellers call and say they want to double the asking price for their homes. I'm sure I'm going to make a lot of enemies, but that just shouldn't be. I want business, but I don't want bad business. I won't take their listing."

In Baton Rouge, Ragas estimates that the premium being paid on single-family homes in Baton Rouge is probably about 30 percent. "That's the typical premium being paid, and that's a mistake for many buyers," Ragas said.

Terry Moore, a broker whose territory includes the Mandeville-Covington area, said the scope of the reconstruction effort will result in shortages – and price run-ups – in key building materials.

As a result, home values will rise not only in southeast Louisiana, but across the country.

"Think of it as the ripples caused by a pebble thrown into a pond. They just haven't hit the shore yet," Moore said.

# Business is brisk, but workers in short supply

*Retailers encounter many obstacles*

**By Ronette King**
Business writer

Keeping the ovens stoked at Domino's Pizza is a job that usually requires six workers to assemble the pizzas, four managers and more than a dozen delivery drivers.

But in the post-Hurricane Katrina workplace, with workers still scattered, just six people have been working at a Domino's in Slidell.

That means things aren't normal. For one thing, the menu is limited to cheese or pepperoni pizza. And forget about deliveries.

The hours are much shorter, too. "People show up at 10:30 (in the morning) and just stay until we close," said assistant manager Nick Guidry. The store's 7 p.m. closing time is much earlier than the usual midnight or 2 a.m. closings.

For business owners who have returned to the hurricane ravaged area, one of the biggest problems — after cleaning up and getting electricity and water service restored — is finding enough workers.

To fill the void, many local entrepreneurs are relying on family members — and their own stamina — to get their shops open. Some national drugstores and restaurant companies have recruited volunteers from other states.

The Domino's location, for example, opened a week after the storm with help from out-of-state workers who volunteered via the Domino's corporate office. Guidry returned to work after fulfilling his Army National Guard duties in Chalmette, on the West Bank and in Slidell.

Rite Aid Corp. was ready to reopen some of the 43 stores shut down in Katrina's wake but didn't have enough people.

"Some (store) buildings were ready but needed staff to run them," said Jody Cook, spokeswoman for Rite Aid. So the company recruited workers from around the country, she said. For that plan to work, the company had to set up four of its own shelters to house the workers. Hotels weren't an option, because they were filled with evacuees. So Rite Aid turned some of its vacant storefronts into shelters, setting up cots, portable showers and kitchens.

By this week 18 stores were reopened, each with a complement of imported staff living in shelters.

"We're trying to make them as comfortable and convenient as possible," Cook said.

Anthony's Ace Hardware owner Brian Tobin fled the area as the hurricane approached, as did about a dozen workers at his Destrehan store. Most haven't returned to work because they live in Jefferson Parish, where residents aren't yet allowed to remain full-time.

So, Tobin said, he reopened the store with a limited staff: "four people and my mom." Normally about a dozen workers keep the place going – Tobin's mother isn't usually among them.

At first, the Anthony's Ace was open just a few hours each day, but now Tobin is there from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Several store operators said the shorter hours are partly dictated by police curfews that require everyone be off the streets by a certain time. But limiting hours of operation also avoids overworking the few staffers who show up.

Other stores have used ingenuity to stay open. Randy Gros closed his Dekle Drugs store in Marrero on the day the storm hit. Since the store is near West Jefferson Hospital, immediately after the storm the hospital called on him for help. With no electricity to run the cash register, Gros kept notes on what the hospital picked up, and he stored drugs that needed to be kept cool in his home refrigerator, which was powered by a generator.

"Sheriff's deputies and Jefferson officials knew where I lived, and they would contact me through my wife and let me know there was a need, and I'd go there and take care of what they needed," he said.

But for those stores that have managed to open, business has been good. Demand for goods and services is high, and competition is low.

The Slidell Domino's, for example, did more than double its usual business, and that was without delivery service, Guidry said. One recent night, the store sold 120 pizzas in the last 30 minutes of the day.

Tobin, the hardware store owner, said residents of the nearby Ormond Estates area want chain saws, masks, bleach, blades to cut out soaked carpets, and chemicals to clean darkened pool water, among other items to help clean up. In fact, as soon as the storm passed, customers started leaving notes on the memo board Tobin keeps posted at the store.

"Chain saws are mostly what we're dealing with," Tobin said. Residents want them because of a worker shortage in another discipline: tree services.

"All the tree services are booked solid, so they can't get to residences. So residents are dealing with the trees them-

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# LIVING

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

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SECTION C
Saturday
September 17, 2005

## REPAIRING HOMES AFTER KATRINA'S CHAOS WILL REQUIRE PATIENCE AND PREPARATION



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**EVERYTHING OUT:** Mitigating the damage from Katrina's water will in most cases involve removing virtually everything from the home. But experts caution that property owners should photograph all damage before disposing of anything to preserve a record for the insurance company.

# MENDING A BROKEN HOME

HOME REPAIR in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is enough to boggle the brain.

Ruined refrigerators are the common denominator of damage, but past that, other things seem to come in layers. Wet wood that sat in 2 feet of rainwater for two days is usually salvageable, but wood that soaked in 6 feet of toxic water for three weeks may not be – and since no city since Atlantis has sat underwater as long as parts of southeast Louisiana after Katrina, experts are still debating what can be saved and what must be bulldozed, and conditions will vary widely from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Air-conditioning can be an important tool in drying things out, but experts advise against turning it on until it can be checked for electrical damage and the ducts cleaned of mold spores and other potential health irritants. After spending a couple of weeks unchallenged, mold is likely not only to coat your walls but to threaten your health as well.

By Karen Taylor Gist, Renee Peck and Judy Walker
Staff writers

"There's nothing generic about the damage from this hurricane," said Bill Coulbourne, a structural engineer in charge of risk management services for Citigate Sard and Verbinnen, a consultant to Fortune 500 companies. "It will have to be judged on a case by case basis."

One thing is clear: Each plan of action depends on the homeowner's specific circumstances, and those are only apparent after you go home again, something that New Orleans metro-area residents will be doing en masse in the coming days.

Here's an overview of what you should plan for if your house has less than catastrophic damage. A more detailed list begins on C-4.

### RE-ENTER CAREFULLY

You've been away for a long time, and you're eager to get back inside your house. But experts warn that patience is important: Enter your home only after examining the exterior for structural damage and evidence of gas leaks. If there is evidence of the latter, retreat to a safe distance and call your natural gas provider, who will give you further instructions. If there is obvious structural damage, you won't want to go inside until a building inspector can assure you that it's safe.

When you're ready to go inside, treat the entry like TV characters working a crime scene: Carry a face mask (to protect your lungs from mold and other allergens); gloves (to protect your skin from infectious residue); and a camera (to document damage to your home and belongings for your insurance company). Take pictures before you move anything, and include close-ups.

The extent of the damage will depend on the depth, duration and velocity of the floodwaters, Coulbourne said. Velocity likely will be a problem only for houses near the levee breaches, where fast-moving water may have scoured the homes' foundations, undermining them and causing potential settling. Depth will be a more widespread problem, affecting everything from floors and framing to power and plumbing.

"You don't have to have water very far off the floor to do electrical damage," Coulbourne said. "The same is true of air-conditioning and heating systems."

Chris Paul of Paul Davis Restoration in Alexandria, who is certified in mitigation and remediation for mold, fire and water damage, said floodwater is divided into three grades: clean water (washing machine hose breaks, tub overflows, etc.); gray water (toilet that backs up before flushing, etc.) and black water (floodwater containing bacteria and pathogens). Katrina's floodwater is black water, and anything porous that soaks it up, such as drywall, insulation, carpet or upholstery, must be removed and discarded.

Rain that entered homes through roof gashes qualifies as clean water, which is easier to mitigate. However, if that water was left standing for weeks, Paul still recommends using gloves and face masks when cleaning up residue.

### MOLD: IT'S INEVITABLE

Forty-eight hours. If you had water in your house for at least that long, you can expect to find a house filled with mold.

"Mold remediation is a big job," said Jeff Pothast, a certified industrial hygienist from Colorado who specializes in mold removal.

Despite the occasional alarmist overreaction to the presence of "toxic mold," the presence of mold is not a fatal blow to every home. "I've seen three-story houses stripped back to bare studs, then restored," Pothast said.

But in combination with other factors, it may be more practical to rebuild a mold-infested house than to clean it.

"A house that was fully impacted by floodwater is probably going to be cheaper to tear down and rebuild than remodel," said Martin King, technical advisor to the Association of Specialists in Cleaning and Restoration. "If you have to strip the interior completely, it's often not economically feasible to salvage the house.

"Wood framing should survive flooding, but on a square-foot basis, it's more expensive to repair and remodel than to build new construction."

If structural damage is less severe, he said, a germicide should be used to clean exposed framing, studs and the like.

Paul suggests putting furniture up on blocks or moving it to a dry room. It is possible to extract water from carpet, but not after it has been damp for as long as the floors of Katrina victims returning to their homes this week.

"If it's been sitting four or five days, you want to just get it out of there," King said. "It's a hundred times easier to physically remove water than to dry it out. Take (wet) carpet out or the substructure will start buckling."

And about that refrigerator: If it has been sitting in floodwater for days or weeks, it can't be salvaged. If it simply sat without power for a few weeks, it may be. In either case, whatever you do: Don't open it inside the house.

"I moved my mama out last Wednesday (from Metairie) and the first thing I told her was not to open it. Get it out of the house. Duct tape it up and remove it from the house," Paul said.

The fridge likely leaked, and the fate of the floor beneath it depends on the material it's made from. Ceramic tile is nonporous, so it can be cleaned as usual, although the grout, which is porous, may require special effort. Linoleum lets water in around the edges, and must be removed for the subfloor to dry. Nonporous materials, such as Corian countertops or stainless steel, can be cleaned.

### THE AGONY OF THE STINK

For lingering smells, Paul recommends using a machine that puts ozonated oxygen into the air, microscopic particles that get down into the pores of furniture, draperies and other interior fabrics and surfaces to root out odors.

Damp drywall must be removed as quickly as possible, taking with it odors and at least a

*See* **BROKEN,** *page C-4*

MITIGATING YOUR PROPERTY DAMAGE: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE, C-4



CHRIS ROSE

## A city stirs from its slumber

*Glimpses of normalcy provide a glimmer of hope*

Amid the devastation, you have to look for hope. Forward progress of any kind.

Even the smallest incidents of routine and normalcy become reassuring. For instance, I was driving down Prytania and at the corner of Felicity, the light turned red.

Out of nowhere, in total desolation, there was a working stoplight. I would have been less surprised to find a Blockbuster Video on Mars.

And the funny thing is, I stopped. I waited for it to turn green and then drove slowly on my way, even though there were no other cars anywhere and the likelihood of getting a ticket for running the only traffic signal in town seems very unlikely right now.

Considering.

Also on Prytania, there was a gardener watering the plants on the porch of Nicolas Cage's mansion and I guess that's a good sign. Life goes on. In very small ways.

The toilets flush now and I never thought that would be a sound of reassurance. An even better sound was finding out that WWOZ is broadcasting on the Web — radio in exile — laying out their great New Orleans music.

That's important. I have no idea from where they're operating or which deejays are spinning the discs but I can tell you this: The first time I ever hear Billy Dell's "Records from the Crypt" on the radio again, I will kiss the dirty ground beneath my feet.

Guys with brooms have started cleaning Canal Street and Convention Center Boulevard; until recently, any tidying up required either a back hoe, a crane or a Bobcat.

God only knows where they're going to put all this garbage, all this rubble, all these trees, but they're gathering it up all the same.

The streets of the French Quarter, absent the rubble of the CBD, basically looks and smells like the day after Mardi Gras, except with no broken strands of beads in the gutter.

OK, maybe it was a real windy Mardi Gras, but you get the point.

It just needs a little face lift, a little sweeping up and a good hard rain to wash away . . . all the bad stuff.

A counterpoint to that scene would be Broadway Avenue Uptown — Fraternity Row — where the street is actually CLEANER than usual and that's because the fine young men and women of our universities had not yet settled into their early semester routines of dragging living room furniture out onto their front yards and drinking Red Bull and vodka to while away their youth.

I wonder where all of them are? When this is over, who will go there and who will teach there?

What will happen to us?

One thing's for sure, our story is being told.

The satellite trucks stretch for eight blocks on Canal Street and call to mind an event like the Super Bowl or the Republican Convention.

It's a strange place. Then again, anywhere that more than 10 news reporters gather becomes a strange place by default.

I saw Anderson Cooper interviewing Dr. Phil. And while Cooper's CNN camera crew filmed Dr. Phil, Dr. Phil's camera crew filmed Cooper and about five or six other camera crews from other shows and networks stood to the side and filmed all of that.

By reporting this scene, I have become the media covering the media covering the media.

It all has the surrealistic air of a Big Event, what with Koppel and Geraldo and all those guys wandering around in their Eddie Bauer hunting vests and impossibly tall and thin anchor women from around the region powdering their faces and teasing their hair so they look good when they file their latest report from Hell.

"And today in New Orleans . . . blah blah blah."

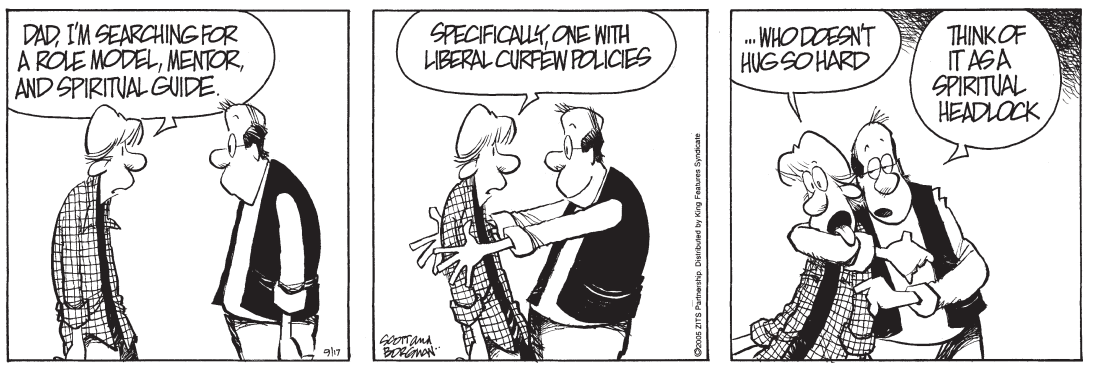
Today in New Orleans, a traffic light worked. Someone watered flowers. And anyone with the means to get online could have heard Dr. John's voice wafting in the dry wind, a sound of grace, comfort and familiarity here in the saddest and loneliest place in the world.

It's a start.

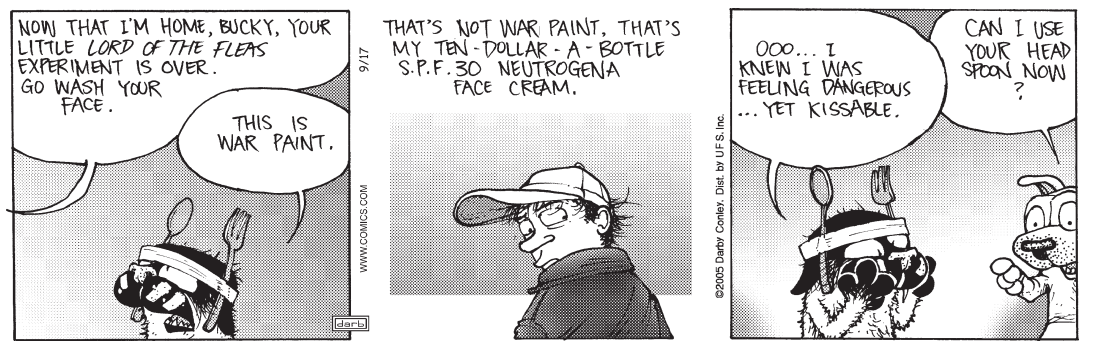
Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

# COMICS

## ZITS



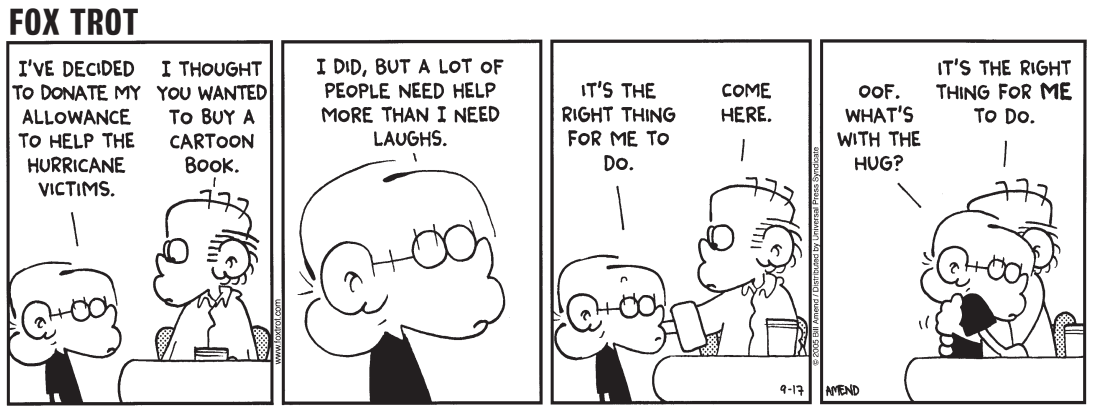

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



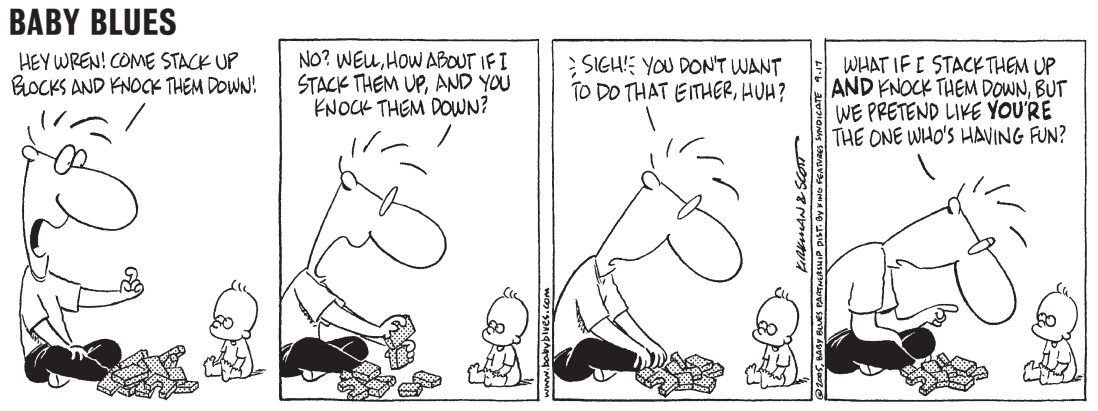

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WALBY

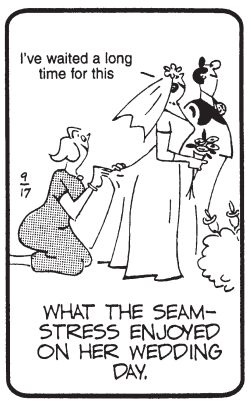
SOINY

NUTTAR

HERTAH

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: "_____ - _____"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARRAY DRAMA BRONCO FUMBLE
Answer: How the maestro studied the score for his next concert — FROM BAR TO BAR

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 | |
| $E_1$ | $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $D_2$ | $D_2$ | $R_1$ | $R_1$ | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 | Triple Word Score |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $E_1$ | $E_1$ | $G_2$ | $P_3$ | $S_1$ | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 | |
| $A_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $F_4$ | $T_1$ | $T_1$ | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 | 1st Letter Double |
| $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $R_1$ | $D_2$ | $B_3$ | | |

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 211

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 140-150

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = 63 | $R_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $D_2$ | $U_1$ | $O_1$ | $B_3$ |
| RACK 3 = 9 | | $T_1$ | $I_1$ | $F_4$ | $T_1$ | $U_1$ | $O_1$ |
| RACK 2 = 80 | $E_1$ | $G_2$ | $A_1$ | $P_3$ | $E_1$ | $E_1$ | $S_1$ |
| RACK 1 = 59 | $D_2$ | $E_1$ | $R_1$ | $E_1$ | $D_2$ | $R_1$ | $O_1$ |

TOTAL 211

## WORD SLEUTH

G S G E B Y T N A C E S O C W
U R E P D E N K I G Q D B Z X
V S Q L O E S M K R U I G E C
A Y W C E U D U S Q I P N L J
H F E O C C A I N Y L G O X V
U S Q S P N S M S E A B H K J
H T R I G O N O M E T R Y T F
E C E N E L A C S U E O B Z Y
X V U E T U C A S I R R P T R
Q A T E H T N E G N A T H Y P
O M L K I H N O G Y L O P T H

Friday's unlisted clue: WELDING

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Saturday's unlisted clue hint: **An Angle less than 90 Degrees**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cosecant | Isosceles | Scalene | Theta |
| Cosine | Obtuse | Secant | Three-sided |
| Equilateral | Polygon | Sine | Trigonometry |
| Hypotenuse | Right | Tangent | |

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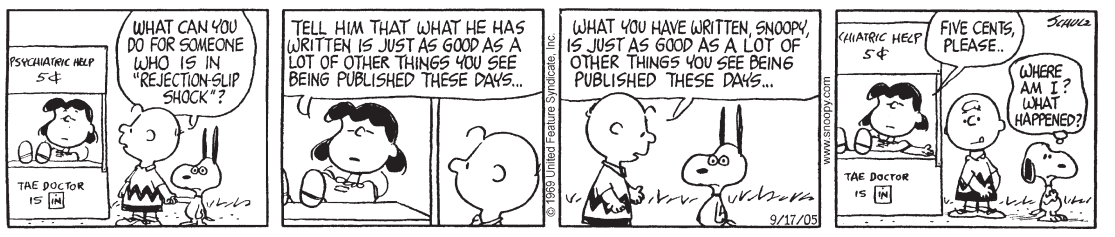
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| C | E | H | L | T | E | B | X | E | U | E | E | W |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| A | A | D | K | D | L | X | E | E | T | R | I | E |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| H | A | I | A | P | S | C | E | Y | C | O | W | E |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| N | C | E | Y | T | F | A | T | C | I | H | V | Y |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| O | E | O | I | A | V | U | D | U | R | N | T | S |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| E | E | G | I | N | R | Y | D | E | O | S | E | C |
| 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| U | A | R | E | O | H | L | E | E | A | S | R | T |

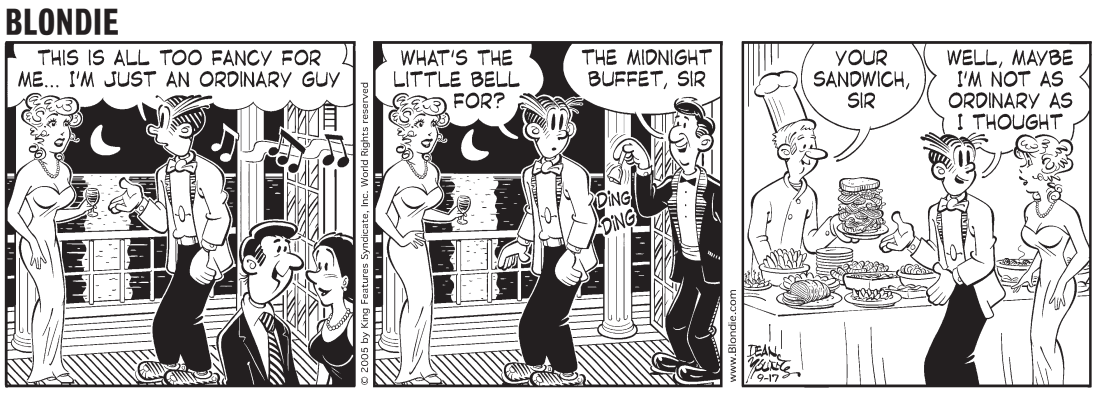
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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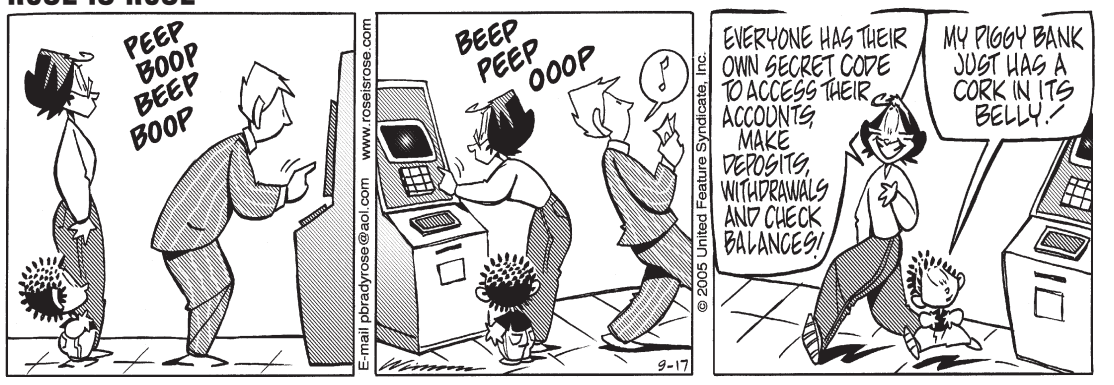
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



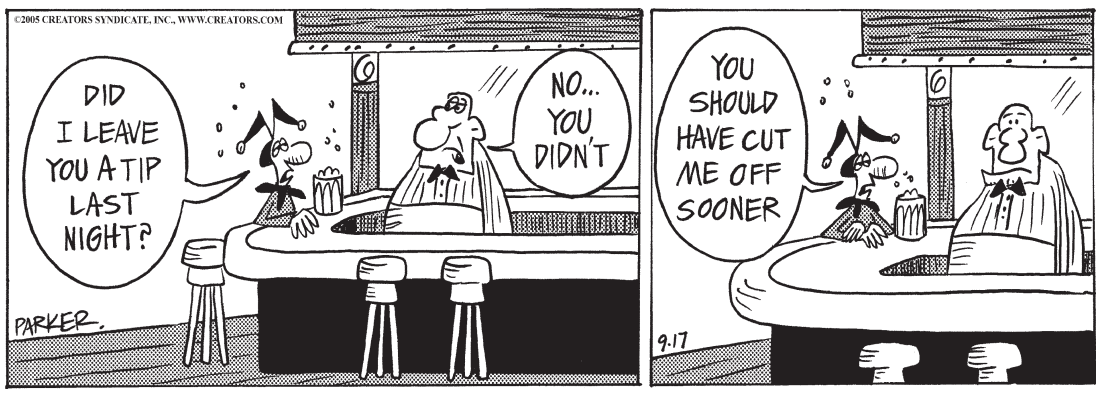

## BLONDIE



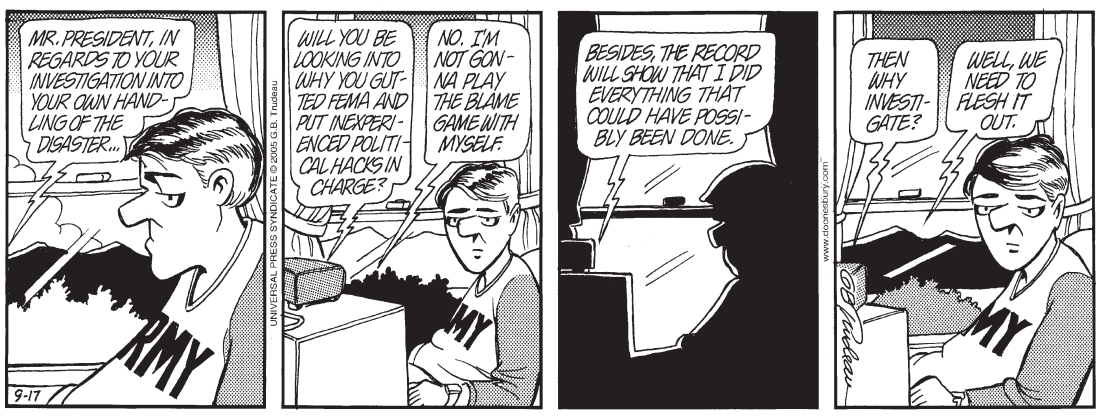

## ROSE IS ROSE



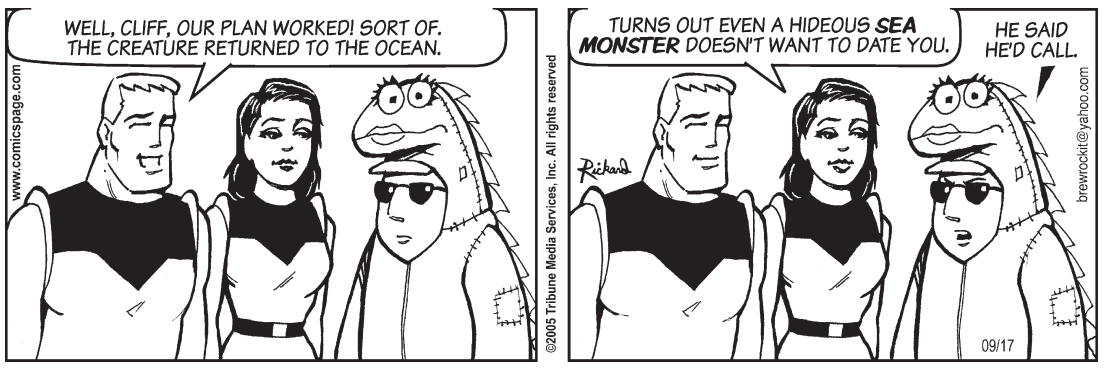

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



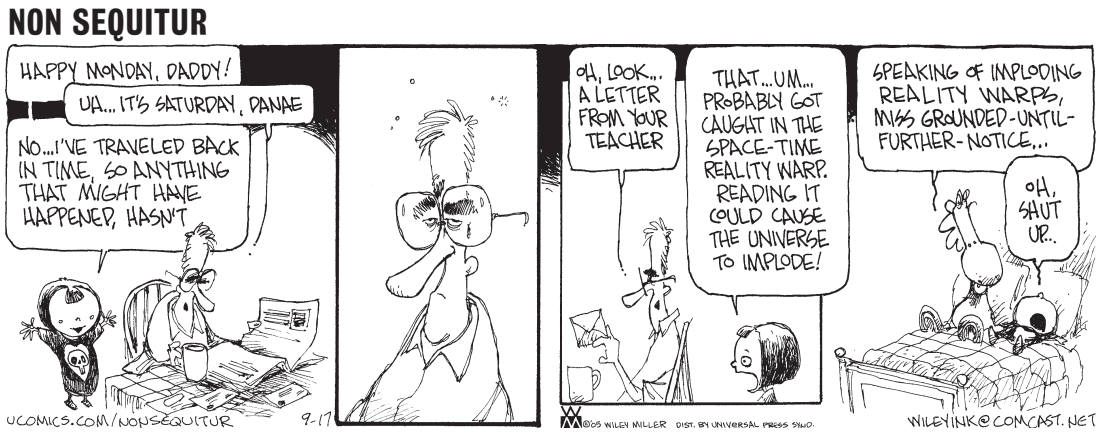

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

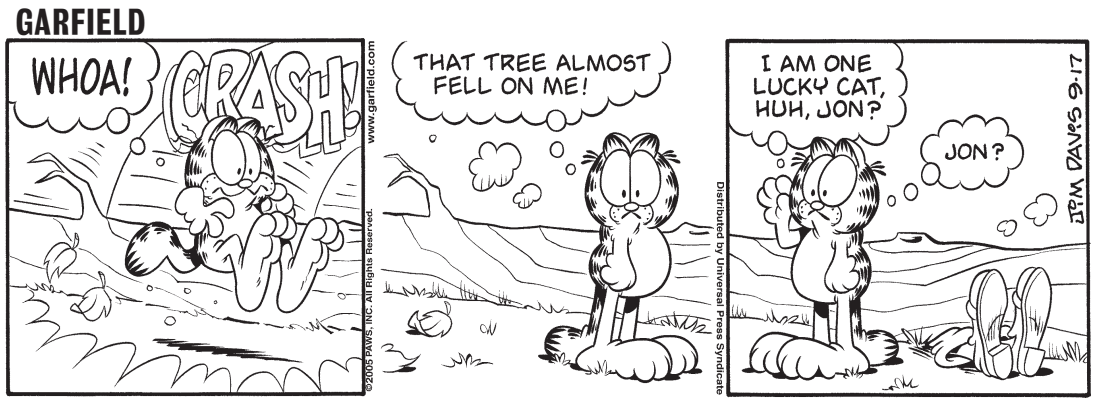



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

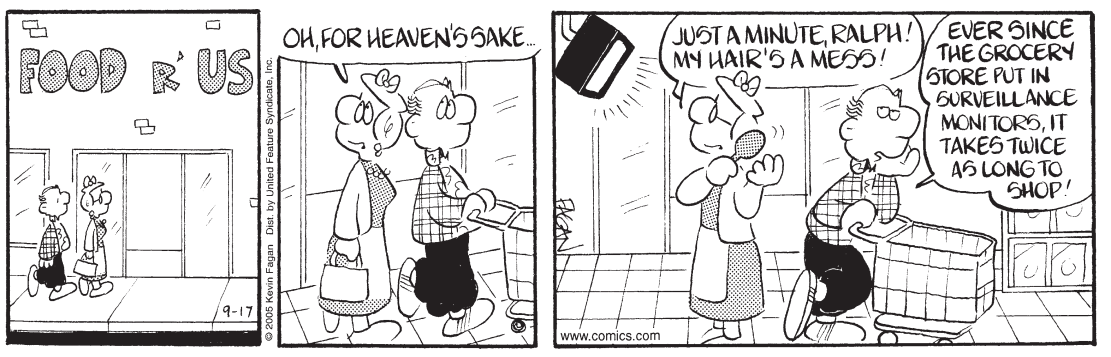


# COMICS

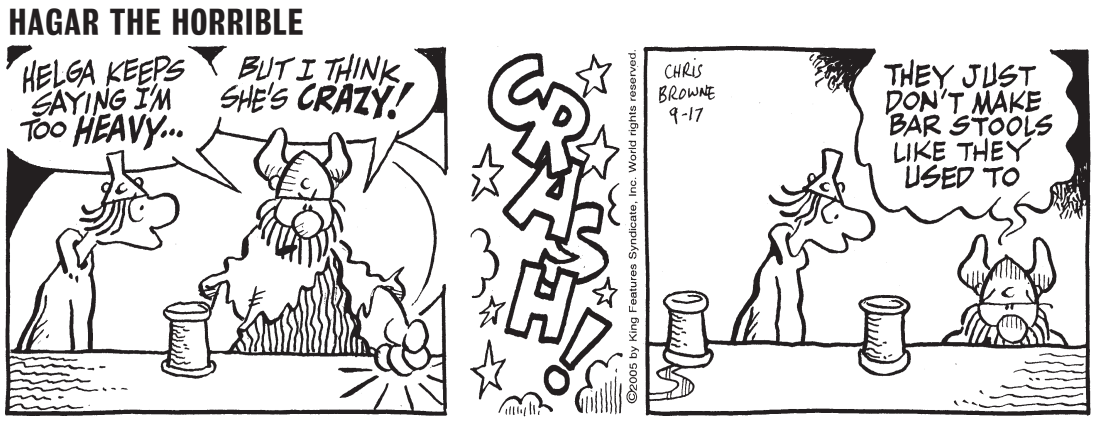
## GARFIELD



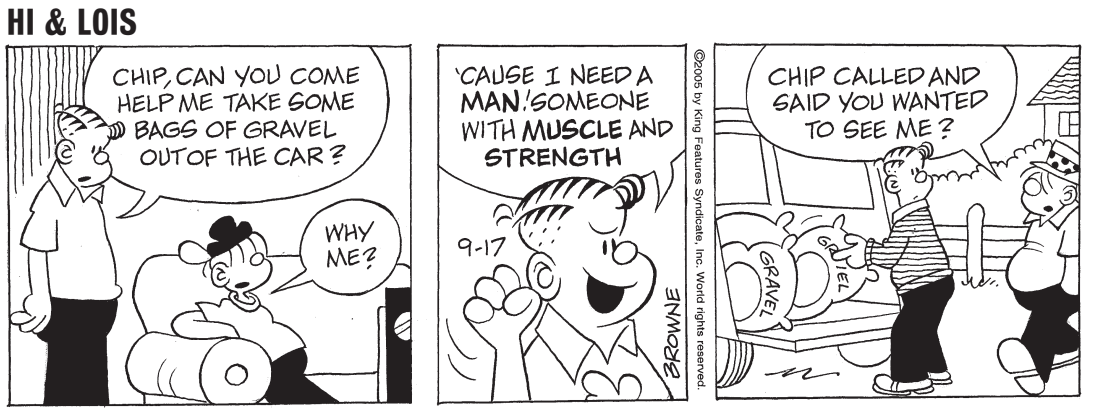

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




## HI & LOIS



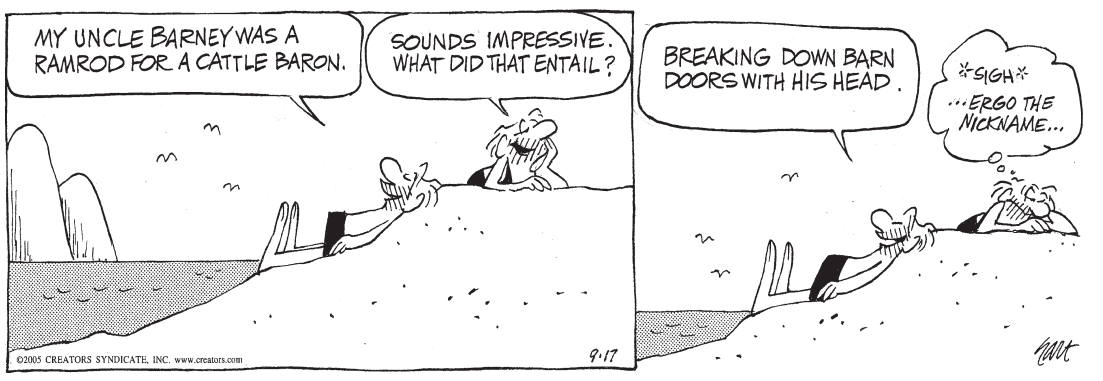

## BEETLE BAILEY



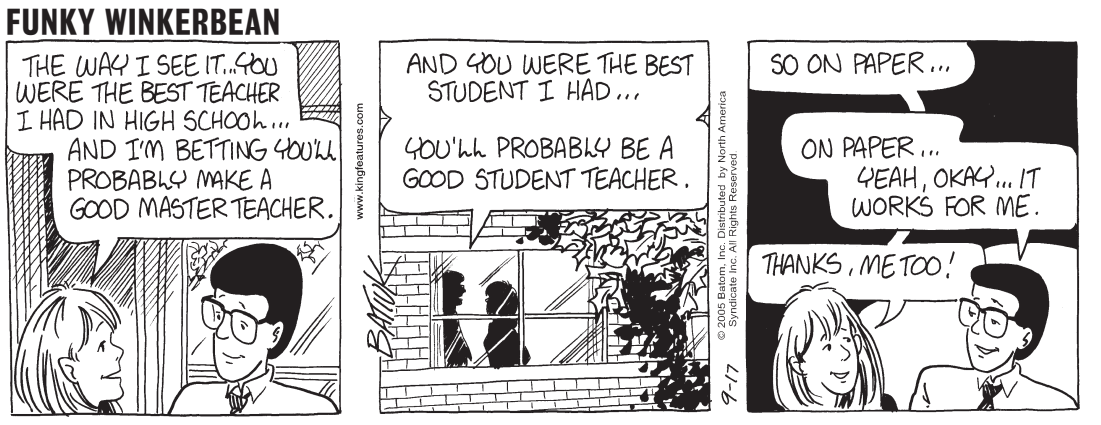

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



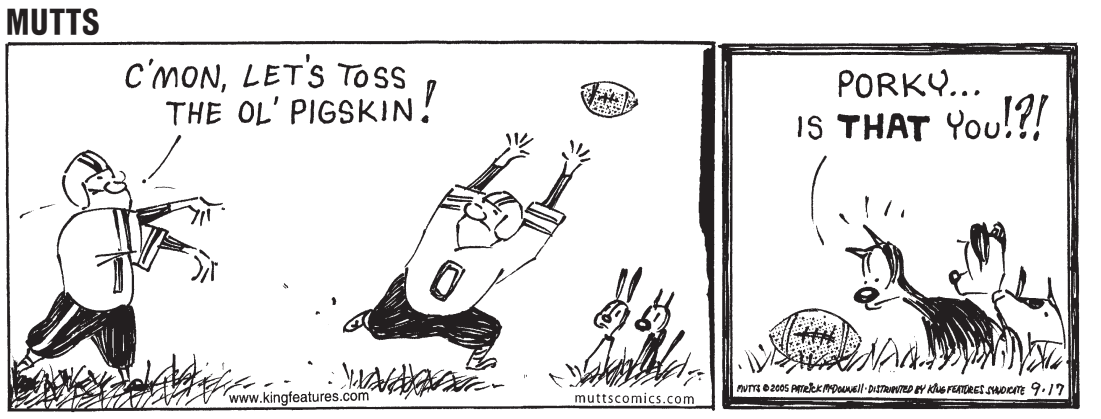

## B.C.



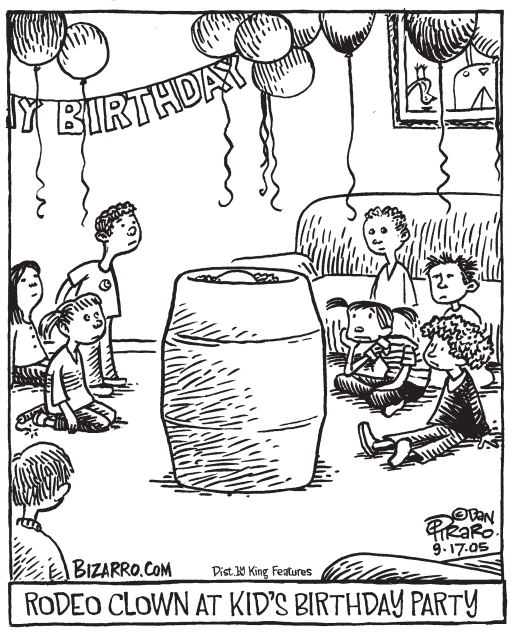

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



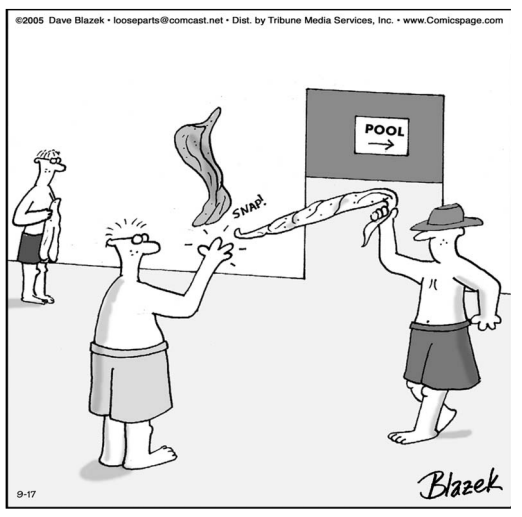

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

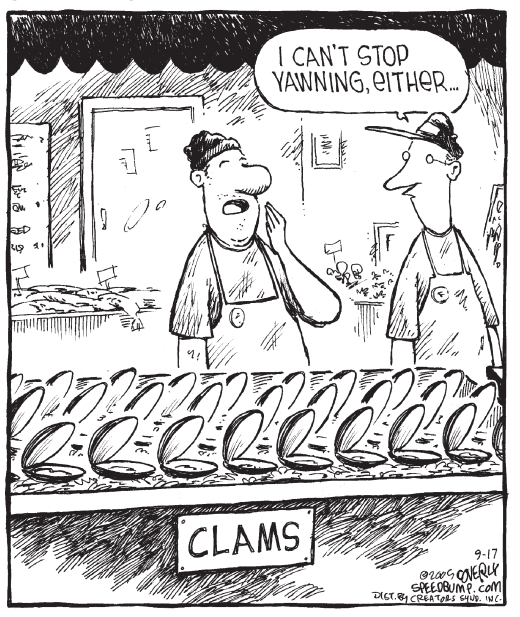



## LOOSE PARTS




Billy's mistake? Starting a towel fight with that new Indiana Jones kid.

## SPEED BUMP

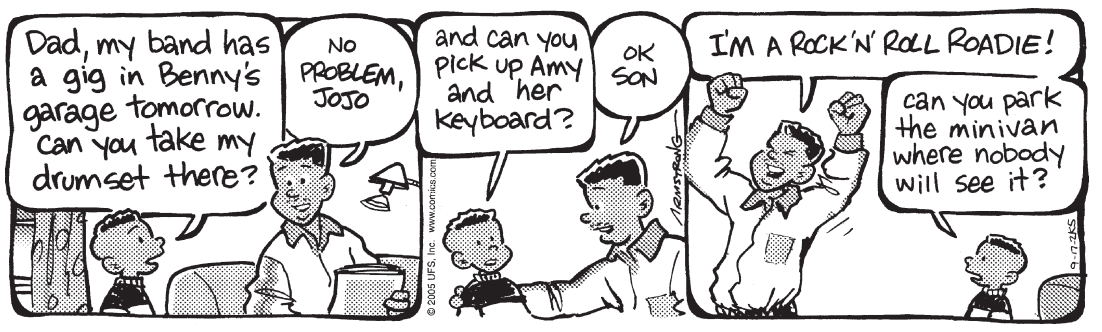



## MARMADUKE

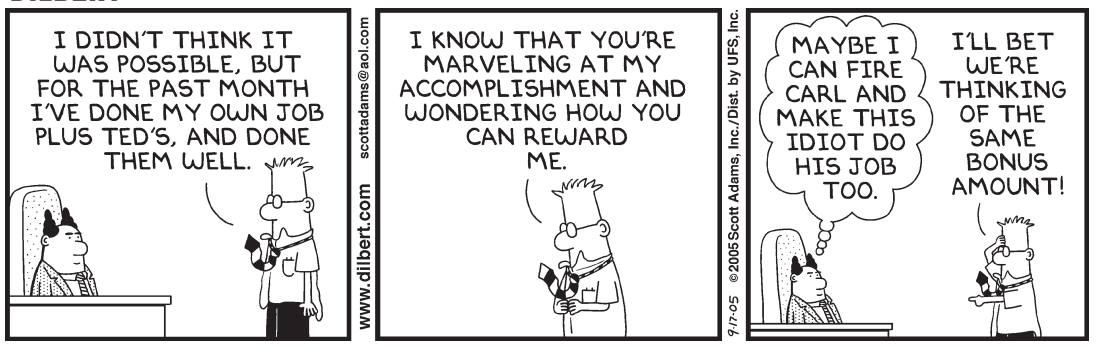



"When you visit the retirement home, stay away from rocking chairs."

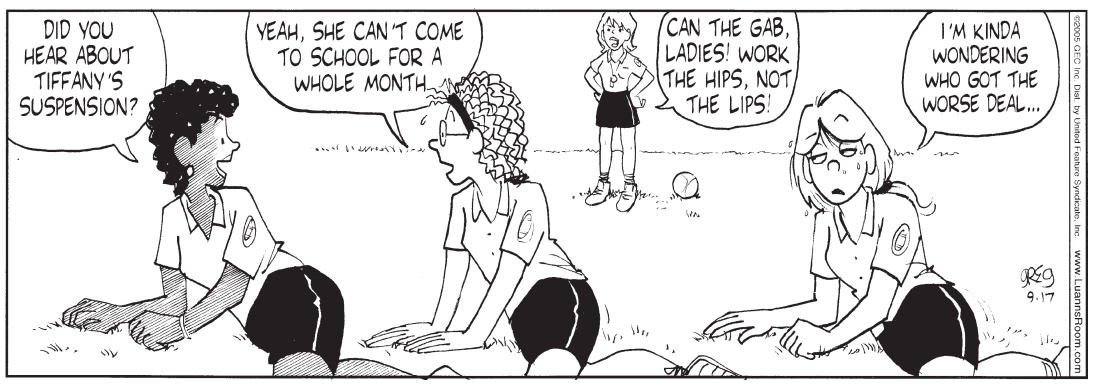
## JUMP START



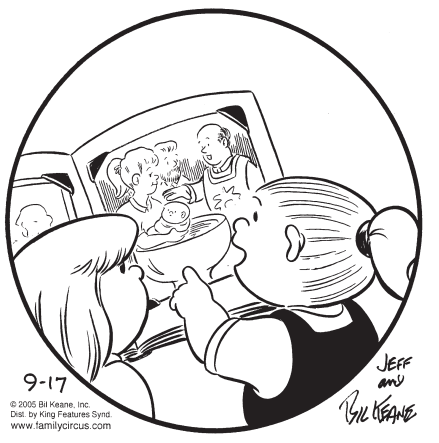

## DILBERT




## LUANN

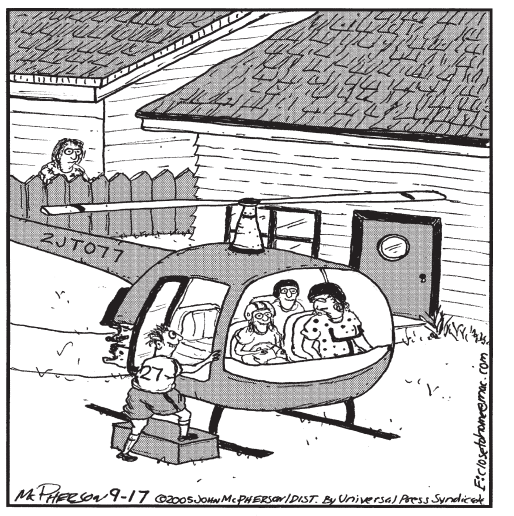



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



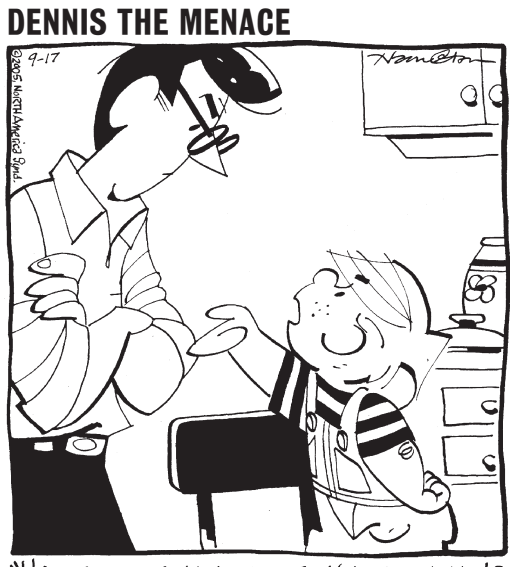

"And this is a picture of PJ being bathtized."

## CLOSE TO HOME




With the kids' schedules more insane than ever, Carol wisely invested in a chopper.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"HOW COULD I HAVE GOTTEN 'OUT OF LINE'? I WASN'T STANDIN' IN ONE."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**THE ODYSSEY** **Solution: 7 letters**

T E O P K S H I P G R E E K E
G R T H E M E T O S M R T I G
H F A M I L Y D N U O A F S N
O H L N B L S C H E R I A S E
S T E O S C I P E Z T D R C V
T U N R X L L A S T A S I Y E
A R (K)(O)(O)(B) A E D T L S S C R
M T I B D E U T R E S E D L E
B P M N A T S A I A F F N O G
U Y E A R S P Y L O S I A P N
S G O I A S D C G R N W L E A
H E V R P E R A E F A S S S D
O E M I T H A K A R O T I U S
M S T O R Y E N R U O J S D O
E M N E V I T A R R A N A L P

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Ambush, Book, Classic, Cyclopes, Danger, Egypt, Epic, Family, Fear, Ghost, Gods, Greek, Heroes, Home, Iliad, Islands, Ithaka, Journey, Kiss, Last, Life, Mortal, Narrative, Noble, Noted, Paradox, Plan, Poet, Pylos, Raft, Raids, Revenge, Scheria, Ship, Sparta, Star, Story, Suitor, Symbolic, Tale, Tenth, Theme, Time, Translations, Troy, Truth, Virtues, Wife, Years, Zeus

**Yesterday's Answer: Impression**

CONTINUED

# YOUR HOME AFTER THE HURRICANE: A GUIDE TO PROPERTY MITIGATION

## TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Unless you're an emergency worker or have been living in a shelter for an extended period, the only extra shot you need, according to state and federal health officials, is a tetanus shot if you have not had a booster in the past five years. If you have health problems or you have any questions about whether additional vaccinations are warranted, check with your doctor or a health clinic.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

If you haven't talked to your insurance agent yet ... redouble your efforts to do so now! Find out EXACTLY what documentation is needed for reimbursement – some companies may ask you to keep a piece of your soggy carpet, for example, to prove loss – and how much work you may and may not do on the property before the adjuster arrives.

## STAY SANE ...

- Prepare yourself emotionally. Have Kleenex ready, and a shoulder to cry on.
- Set a realistic and manageable schedule. Don't try to rehabilitate your house in one day or, for that matter, one month.
- Keep the family together, but don't take infants (they tend to put things in their mouths), anyone who is pregnant or has health problems, or pets.

## ... AND STAY SAFE

- Injuries from chain saws and carbon monoxide poisoning are common during recovery efforts. Take every precaution.
- Don't enter a building that has serious structural damage or signs of imminent collapse.
- If you smell gas or suspect a leak, retreat to a safe distance and call authorities immediately.
- Wear protective clothing and rubber gloves when cleaning. If there has been a backflow of sewage in the house, wear goggles, rubber boots and rubber gloves.
- Disconnect main electrical switches and circuits.
- Remove covers from all outlets and fuses or multi-breaker boxes.
- Snakes and vermin are often present after hurricanes and floods. Stay away from feral animals that may be rabid.
- Do not combine ammonia and bleach as a cleaning agent.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or burning devices inside your home, basement, garage or camper, or even outside near a window, door or vent. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and can build up inside and poison people and animals.
- Wash skin that may come in contact with hazardous materials.

## ASSESSING THE EXTERNAL DAMAGE

- Take stock of the house from the outside. Look for visible, physical damage. Are there broken pilings? Cracks in the foundation? Are the walls or floors slanted? If you see obvious damage, you are going to need professional help. Have a building inspector check the premises before you go in.
- Check the exterior door. If it is swollen with moisture only at the bottom, it can be forced open. If it sticks at the top, your ceiling may be ready to fall in. You can force open the door, but wait a few minutes to make sure nothing falls.
- If doors are too swollen, you may have to enter through a window. Lean inside and check the ceiling before you do.
- If your roof has been damaged and you're unable to cover it yourself, call the Corps of Engineers at (888) 766-3258 and members of "Operation Blue Roof" will perform temporary repairs.

## ASSESSING INTERNAL DAMAGE

- Turn off the electricity. Structural engineer Bill Coulbourn recommends using a wooden stick to turn each circuit breaker to the off position.
- Unplug all appliances and lamps, remove light bulbs and then take off outlet covers for any electrical outlets that got wet. (Once you are sure the electrical system is undamaged – preferably after a licensed electrician checks it out – you can turn the breakers back on.)
- Check the ceiling for signs of sagging. If necessary, use a stick to poke a hole at the edge of the sag so that water can begin draining. Don't stand under the sag.
- Remove mirrors and heavy pictures from walls; they can fall from wet surfaces.
- Check furniture to make sure a chest or armoire isn't ready to topple.
- Document the damage by taking pictures of each room as you inspect it. Start making list of damages for your insurance company.
- Rescue valuables first. Remove them to a dry second story, or place in plastic bags.

## DO NO (MORE) HARM

- Before starting clean-up, protect your home from further damage from wind and rain.
- Open windows if weather permits. This will start the drying-out process. If windows are swollen shut, don't break the glass; remove the sash and panes with it.
- Cover holes in exterior walls with tarps or plastic sheeting. Nail them down with wooden strips or secure with duct tape.
- Use lumber or 4-by-4's to brace sagging ceilings or walls. If the damage is severe, you may need to call in a contractor.
- Check for broken or leaking pipes. If you find them, you will need to turn off the water at the valve at the water meter. If you can't find it, call the Sewerage and Water Board.

## CLEAN-UP

- Do a form of triage: Decide what can be saved and what can't. If in doubt, throw it out.
- Start with your refrigerator. If it was underwater, it can't be saved. Clean-up specialist Chris Paul advises wrapping it shut with duct tape and removing it from the house.
- If it wasn't underwater and you think you can salvage it, take a deep breath, cover your nose, and throw away everything in the refrigerator. Unplug the appliance and take out all removable parts. If there is one, empty the defrost water disposal pan. Wash all parts thoroughly with hot water and rinse with disinfectant made from 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach to each gallon of water. With a solution of hot water and baking soda (or 1 cup vinegar or household ammonia to 1 gallon of warm water) wash the interior, including doors and gaskets. Leave the door open for the appliance to ventilate it. WARNING: Do not mix ammonia and bleach as it can release poisonous gas.
- Strip the house of all furnishings impacted by flood waters. Cover salvageable items with plastic and leave outdoors to dry.
- If the carpet got very wet, it has to go, since carpets harbor mold. Saturated carpet is heavy, so remove in 6-foot sections, roll them up with the pad and take them to the dump or put it out with the trash. (High quality oriental or wool rugs may be able to be saved; try not to fold them and get them to a cleaner as soon as possible.)
- Throw away anything porous that got wet: bedding, books and papers, upholstered furniture, kitchen utensils.
- Remove linens and clothing to a dry place; they may be able to be laundered and restored. Nonporous dishes can be cleaned after the water is declared safe to drink and the sewer lines are clear.
- If you have mud: Shovel out as much as you can, being careful to wear protective clothing such as rubber boots and gloves. Then, if you have running water, hose down the floors, washing mud out the doors. Don't allow the water to sit on the floor for long; use a wet vac or squeegee mop to remove it promptly.
- Any food including canned food that has been touched by flood water must be considered contaminated and discarded.
- Remove limbs, debris and trash.
- Start the interior drying-out process.
- Open up closet and cabinet doors. As cabinets dry, you should be able to remove swollen drawers.
- Use fans to move the air. Do not use central air conditioning until ducts have been inspected and cleaned. If ducts run through the slab or were flooded they may contain debris and bacteria, which will just be blown into your home.
- Run dehumidifiers and window air conditioning units.
- Use dessicants (materials that absorb moisture) in closets or other enclosed areas. These include chemical dehumidifying packets used to dry out boats, cat litter made of clay, or calcium chloride pellets used to melt ice in the winter. Hang the pellets in a pillow case in the closet and place a pan beneath to catch dripping water.
- Start removing waterlogged surface materials. Wallboard acts like a sponge; even several inches of water can be soaked upward in what is called a wicking effect. Wallboard will have to go. Plaster survives a flood better than wallboard, but takes a very long time to dry. If plaster separates from the wall laths (studs) as it dries, it will have to be replaced. Wood swells and distorts with moisture intake, but generally regains its shape as it dries.
- Even if walls and ceilings look undamaged, open them at various places to check for mold and mildew. If you see either, drywall must come out.
- Remove, bag and throw away all insulation in the walls. This will have to be replaced.
- Clean all non-porous surfaces with a disinfectant. Ceramic tile is nonporous, so it can be cleaned as usual, although the grout, which is porous, may require special effort. Nonporous materials such as Corian countertops or stainless steel also can be cleaned.
- Vacuum floors if possible with a vacuum that has a HEPA filter. Do not use your regular vacuum unless you can cover the exhaust with a filter or direct the exhaust outside; you may simply blow bacteria around your house.

## MOLD REMOVAL

- The rule of thumb is that anything that stays wet for 48 hours has potential mold growth. And anything porous – sheetrock, ceiling tiles, insulation – will host mold. So if you had any standing water for more than two days, you should remove all porous materials.
- Always wear protective clothing when dealing with mold; respirators, preferably made of neoprene, are recommended.
- The Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Commission recommends that you use the following mixture to clean all moldy surfaces to keep mold from spreading as you remove porous surfaces: In a garden pump sprayer, mix 3/4-gallon bleach and 1/4-gallon TSP (trisodium phosphate, a common ingredient used in pressure-washing, available in paint and hardware stores) with 1-1/2 gallons water. Spray infested surface so that it is wet to the touch. The kill time is 10 minutes MINIMUM. Scrub infected area if necessary. Allow drying to the touch. Repeat procedure. Others recommend a mixture of one part chlorine bleach to nine parts water, but the chlorine smell will linger. Acceptable as well are phenolic or alcohol-based germicides available at janitorial supply stores.
- Remove and discard all porous materials (that is, anything that will absorb water): wallboard, ceiling tiles, insulation, carpet, etc.
- Remove Sheetrock in the following manner: Make a horizontal cut parallel to the floor at least 3 feet above the level of flood water contamination; if the water was 1 foot high in the house, go up to 4 feet of sheetrock and cut it out. If flood waters were 4 feet or above, the entire wall needs to be removed.
- Disinfect studs and other exposed structural wood with a good germicide and then seal them with a fungicidal encapsulant, such as Kilz.
- Be prepared to remove flooring, since most ceramic tile is installed on top of drywall or greenboard. Spaces between floors and subfloors can harbor mold and bacteria.
- Allow exposed walls to dry thoroughly before starting restoration. This will take at least a week or more. Moisture meters can test for wood moisture.
- While wood frame homes will survive flooding, those fully impacted by flood waters may not be good candidates for repair. On a square-foot basis, new construction is cheaper than remodeling.

## KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

Use the above information as a general guideline, but understand that every situation will be different. Katrina left thousands of homes under a foot or two of water for a couple of days, thousands of others under seven feet of water for a couple of weeks. Every situation will require a tailored response, often with the help of professionals in structural engineering and disaster recovery. If you're overwhelmed or don't know where to begin, seek help before taking on the task of recovery, starting with your insurance company if available. And be prepared for the extra energy that the emotional toll of cleanup will require. As many public officials have said about the larger rebuilding process, it's a marathon, not a sprint. So, too, is recovering your home.

SOURCE: The Red Cross; Federal Emergency Management Agency; interviews with contractors, structural engineers, industrial hygienists, insurance adjusters, residents who have previously mitigated after hurricanes and floods.

### TWO WORDS TO KNOW:

**MITIGATE:** to "soften the blow." Hurricane mitigation applies to repair of hurricane damage and prevention of damage from future storms.

**REMEDIATE:** To correct a deficiency. Mold remediation involves getting rid of same.

### WHAT TO PACK

- Camera to record everything before you touch it
- Heavy rubber gloves (elbow length if you can find them)
- Rubber boots
- Neoprene respirator or surgical masks (look for them at hardware and drugstores; get the ones with rubber sealants on either side)
- Goggles
- First-aid kit
- Vicks Vap-o-rub (apply under your nose for smell)
- Heavy-duty 30-gallon garbage bags and twist ties
- Mold remediation supplies, including 10-gallon sprayer
- Bleach and fungicidal disinfectants
- Rags
- Buckets
- Duct tape
- Full set of tools, including a chainsaw or handsaw, shovel and something to get into house if doors and windows are swollen shut, such as an axe or crowbar
- Flashlights to see into dark closets
- Wooden stick for turning things over, scaring away snakes and moving electrical wires
- Tarps to secure openings in windows or roofs
- Insect repellant and sunscreen
- LOTS of drinking water and non-perishable food
- Change of clothes for immediately after your cleanup




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**WATER LOGGED:** Homes with several feet of water inside will need, at minimum, all walls removed.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**OUTSIDE APPLIANCES:** Refrigerators and washing machines will have to go outside to repair floors underneath.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**PROTECT YOUR LUNGS:** A neoprene respirator or surgical mask can prevent the inhalation of contaminants.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**TURNED INSIDE OUT:** Mitigating the damage from Hurricane Katrina to your home may require you to haul some or all of your contents outside to dry, or to discard.

# Consult your adjuster

**BROKEN,** *from C-1*

portion of humidity.

"There's a lot of secondary damage from humidity," Paul said. "I've walked into houses before that only had 2 inches of water but the ceiling was dripping because of the humidity, probably four days later."

The Environmental Protection Agency points out some health risks associated with humidity: Long-term increase in humidity can foster growth of dust mites, a major cause of allergies and asthma, and microorganisms that cause allergic reactions can grow in standing water, even if it came from rain.

"Some people are going to (take drywall out) themselves," Paul said. "It just seems dangerous to me. When we do it we're full-suited up in black-water cases."

King cautions those determined do-it-yourselfers to "start off on the right foot by removing the things that need to be removed. Don't try to save anything you're doubtful about. Even bathroom fixtures are probably going to have to be removed and cleaned, although they can probably be reinstalled. Even if you don't see surface damage, you should open walls and ceilings to inspect for mildew."

Don't count on air-conditioning to make things any easier.

"It's better to leave it off (until it can be serviced)," Paul said. "The humidity will have found its way to the vents. If mold is growing in your living room, it can be growing in the vents, too. And if you have mold on the lower dry wall, you could be recirculating mold spores. Have the ducts cleaned before you use it."

## INVOLVE YOUR INSURANCE AGENT

Every decision you make about the mitigation of your property should be made in consultation with your insurance agent or adjuster. Bill Bailey, managing director of the Hurricane Insurance Information Center, said the speed of your settlement will depend on how quickly you get confirmation of damages.

"Once you start picking up the trash, the adjusters show up the day afterward," he said.

It can't be stressed enough to document the damage with photos, particularly before attempting to rearrange or repair parts of your home yourself.

"Not that anyone's saying you're a crook," Bailey said. "Companies require verification to give damages."

When hiring professionals to help with clean-up or repairs, Bailey's golden rule is: Trust, but verify.

"Don't sign contracts until after contacting your agent," he said. "An insurer might say, 'We'll pay $107 per square foot for roofing materials,' but the contractor may quote $200."

In a high-demand environment such as the post-Katrina Gulf Coast, a gap often exists between the going rate for labor and materials and the insurance company's normal and customary rates for reimbursement. You're stuck in the middle. Be prepared to negotiate.

"It's possible that the insurance company low-balled because it didn't take into account normal price increases, but check first," Bailey said.

"Rule No. 1 is do not give contractors money up front until you've checked them out thoroughly. They should tell you what it's going for, and they should show you they've used your money to buy what they need to fix your roof. Not everyone can dig into his own pockets (for the materials up front). If they expect you to put up money, make darn sure the money went to your materials and it went to your property."

Also, verify that contractors have proof of insurance, he advised.

Many homes – and in some neighborhoods, most homes – will be beyond repair. The insurance adjuster will make that call, based on the percent of the property that's left intact.

But making those determinations won't be easy after Katrina, the first hurricane to introduce "toxic soup" as a mitigating factor.

"In 22 years, mostly in claims, I don't recall toxicity ever being such an issue," Bailey said. "Very serious questions will remain even when the water is drained and everything in the water cleaned out."

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The Times-Picayune

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# SPORTS

PAGE C-5
Saturday
★ September 16, 2005

# AT LAST

## After withstanding the turmoil of fleeing from Hurricane Katrina, Tulane finally gets to open its season tonight against Mississippi State



AP FILE PHOTO

After coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Coach Chris Scelfo and the Tulane Green Wave will take the field today against Mississippi State in Shreveport.

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

SHREVEPORT — Just like a year ago, Tulane's first game of the season will be against Mississippi State. Unlike a year ago, when all the media attention was on Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom, the first African-American head football coach in the SEC, this year's spotlight is on Tulane.

After being forced to relocate more than 300 miles away because of Hurricane Katrina, the Green Wave has been the focus of the national media, from Sports Illustrated to "NBC Nightly News" to ESPN.

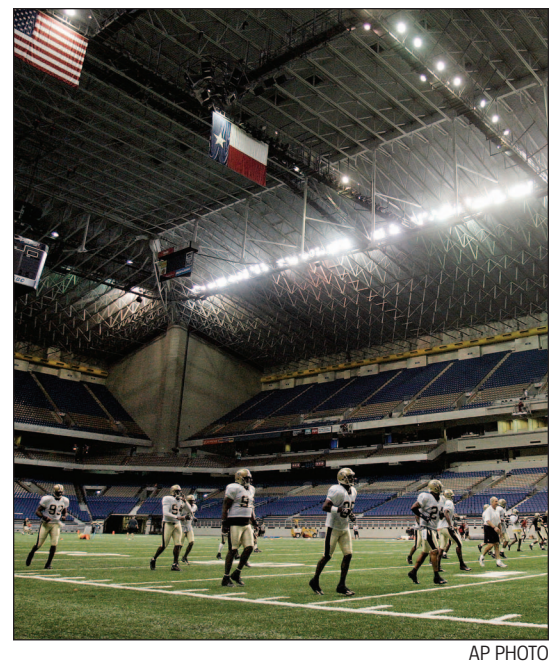
For many of Tulane's players, football has been a welcomed distraction. For others, concentrating on football has been difficult. The players haven't seen home since Aug. 28, when the Crescent City was under a mandatory evacuation order, and they likely won't see it again for several months. Whatever home-field advantage Tulane might have had going into tonight's game with the Bulldogs in Shreveport has been erased. Tonight, the Green Wave will be trying to ignore the past.

Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo has said football, as his team knew it a month ago, isn't the same.

"It isn't about winning or losing," he said. "It's about persevering and providing hope."

Tulane, for sure, is lucky to be playing football this season. Although the lives of Tulane's play-

*See* **TULANE,** *page C-6*



AP PHOTO

The Saints stretch before practice Friday at the Alamodome. New Orleans' game Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills will be the first time that the city will host an NFL regular-season game.

# Alamodome finally gets its team – albeit temporarily

## *Facility will not undergo major makeover as it prepares to host the Saints*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Earlier this week, Andrea Delaune was one of several Alamodome executives scrambling to get everything in order for the Saints, the facility's temporary tenants for the next four months.

Delaune, the marketing manager at the Alamodome, was on the phones, trying to reschedule the complex's previously scheduled events.

"We've been busy, but everybody has been real positive and very cooperative about it," Delaune said. "We're happy to help out in a time of need, and that's the way we are kind of looking at this, like LSU, who are also having the Saints use their facility."

This week, the NFL announced that the Saints would play four games at LSU and three at the Alamodome. The Superdome cannot be used because of damages caused during and after Hurricane Katrina.

The Saints' opening game at the Alamodome is Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills. New Orleans, which temporarily has moved its headquarters to the Alamodome, also will play the Atlanta Falcons on Oct. 16 and the Detroit Lions on Dec. 24 at the facility.

On Friday, there were still boxes of office equipment and computers outside the Alamodome's lower corridor, where meeting rooms were located. That area will house the Saints' offices.

The Alamodome will not undergo any major makeover to become NFL ready this season, Delaune said. The same field turf that was used at last season's Alamo Bowl game will be used for the Saints, who practiced on the surface for the first time Friday. It is similar to the playing surface at the Superdome.

If the Saints were to move to San Antonio permanently, a major renovation, likely to cost millions of dollars, would have to occur at the 65,000-seat Alamodome, which has 38 suites compared to the Superdome's 137.

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-8*

# Dickson and Tulane again are 'fighting to exist'

## *Katrina chaos puts Wave athletic director back on offensive*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

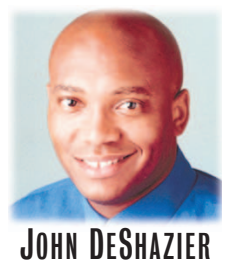
SHREVEPORT — Smart people said Tulane should consider dropping its Division I-A athletic program, but Rick Dickson knew better. So the athletic director disregarded sleep. He saw his family as often as his dentist. He volunteered for pressure.

Two years ago he traveled the country, begging strangers for millions to financially resurrect his athletic program. He fought for the jobs and lifestyles of dozens of employees, and inspired them to work tirelessly despite looming gloom. Dickson didn't rest because of the student-athletes: They came to Tulane to play D-I sports, and he would keep it that way.

Dickson's plan overcame the scrutiny of the athletic review.

*See* **DICKSON,** *page C-6*

# Green Wave just glad to be back on the football field



JOHN DESHAZIER

Forget the Ws and the Ls. Instead, concentrate on the games, and the joy and the passion with which Tulane will play football this season. Because that, and not numbers on a scoreboard, will be the fairest, best way to judge the Green Wave.

"My kids and my coaches all know my position on this," Coach Chris Scelfo said as the Wave prepared to play Mississippi State today. "It's not about winning and losing. It's about us providing three hours of therapy."

He was talking about one game, but may as well have been talking about the season. Because therapy really is what Tulane's season will be all about.

Realistically, a team with Tulane's talent still has a good chance to play in a bowl game.

*See* **DeSHAZIER,** *page C-6*

## BUSTIN' OUT



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

St. Charles players rush the field before their game Friday against H.L. Bourgeois.

# LHSAA warns schools to be vigilant about new athletes

## *Schools risk forfeits if displaced students aren't registered*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Schools that do not register their displaced student-athletes with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association by Thursday risk forfeiting any games the new students participate in after that date, the LHSAA executive committee ruled Thursday.

The LHSAA said it had processed nearly 700 displaced-student reports through Wednesday that involved 523 state students and 157 out-of-state students. But Commissioner Tommy Henry said he was concerned that far too many schools may not be in compliance with new legislation that requires principals to report all new student-athletes who enroll in their schools as a result of evacuations.

LHSAA officials hope the new rule will help prevent schools from playing ineligible athletes and being forced to forfeit games.

"This rule applies to the residency and transfer rule," Henry said. "If a school plays an ineligible player, however, it's going to involve a forfeit. So you're taking a chance when you play one of these (non-reported) kids."

The executive committee's ruling Sept. 1 allowed leeway in permitting displaced students to play immediately. But the conditions of the legislation required that a student meet the age-requirement rule and that his or her principal makes the best effort to assure that the student is eligible under all other LHSAA rules.

"My deal is, don't play these kids if they're not registered," Henry said. "This is one place we're drawing a line in the sand. If a kid is too old or is past eight semesters (of eligibility), we're not backing off of these two. If the records show that they're not eligible, then schools and individuals must show proof otherwise."

Those rules were among many topics covered by the executive committee during a meeting called by Henry to address hurricane-related topics. The committee discussed but rejected the idea of extending football's regular season by two weeks, which would have delayed the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic until Christmas week.

Playing the games on the

*See* **LHSAA,** *page C-8*

# TULANE VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

GAMEDAY

## TULANE (0-0)

### ROSTER

| No | Player | Pos | Ht | Wt | Cl |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Matt Harding | DB | 5-11 | 185 | Fr. |
| 2 | Tra Boger | SS | 6-1 | 223 | Sr. |
| 3 | Chris Dunn | WR | 6-2 | 200 | Fr. |
| 4 | Israel Route | CB | 5-9 | 184 | Jr. |
| 5 | Brandon Spincer | LB | 6-2 | 213 | Sr. |
| 6 | Nick Cannon | QB | 6-3 | 215 | Jr. |
| 8 | Lester Ricard | QB | 6-5 | 222 | Jr. |
| 9 | Anthony Scelfo | QB | 5-10 | 190 | Fr. |
| 10 | Ryan Meyers | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Fr. |
| 11 | Anthony Cannon | LB | 6-0 | 224 | Sr. |
| 12 | Josh Lumar | DB | 5-11 | 165 | Fr.-R |
| 13 | Fred Smith | WR | 5-8 | 183 | Jr. |
| 14 | Carlis Jackson | CB | 6-0 | 178 | So. |
| 15 | Terrence Peterson | LB | 5-11 | 215 | Jr. |
| 16 | Scott Elliott | QB | 6-1 | 193 | Fr.-R |
| 17 | Bubba Terranova | WR | 6-3 | 205 | Sr. |
| 18 | Joe Goosby | DB | 6-0 | 203 | So. |
| 19 | Chris Dawson | QB | 6-2 | 213 | Sr. |
| 19 | David Skehan | DB | 6-0 | 196 | So. |
| 20 | Bruce Youmans | CB | 5-10 | 190 | Sr. |
| 21 | Jeremy Foreman | CB | 6-2 | 172 | Jr. |
| 22 | Ray Boudreaux | RB | 5-10 | 200 | So. |
| 22 | Louis Thomas | DB | 5-11 | 180 | So. |
| 23 | Ade Tuyo | RB | 5-11 | 203 | So. |
| 24 | Damarcus Davis | WR | 6-0 | 189 | Jr. |
| 25 | Matt Forté | RB | 6-1 | 224 | So. |
| 27 | Christian Ducré | RB | 6-0 | 200 | Fr. |
| 28 | Jovon Jackson | RB | 5-11 | 210 | Sr. |
| 29 | Barrett Pepper | K | 5-10 | 193 | Jr. |
| 30 | Darren Sapp | DB | 6-0 | 211 | Sr. |
| 31 | Sean Lucas | DB | 5-11 | 202 | Sr. |
| 32 | Ryan Bewley | LB | 5-11 | 208 | Fr.-R |
| 33 | Ace Foyil | LB | 6-3 | 230 | Fr. |
| 34 | Evan Lee | RB | 6-1 | 230 | Fr. |
| 34 | Kirk Bush | RB | 5-11 | 200 | Fr. |
| 36 | James McMurchy | LB | 6-1 | 215 | Fr. |
| 36 | Jacob Hartgroves | K | 6-0 | 170 | Fr. |
| 37 | Cary Koch | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Fr. |
| 38 | Corey Sonnier | S | 6-0 | 190 | Fr. |
| 39 | Antonio Mason | LB | 6-0 | 222 | Sr. |
| 40 | Ian Miller | FB | 6-0 | 253 | Jr. |
| 40 | O'Lindsey Brown | DB | 5-10 | 189 | So. |
| 41 | Shane Hannabury | FB/TE | 6-0 | 241 | So. |
| 41 | Luke Bell | K | 6-2 | 210 | Fr. |
| 42 | Billy Harrison | DE | 6-4 | 243 | Jr. |
| 43 | Christian Okoye | DB | 6-1 | 185 | Fr. |
| 43 | Michael Sager | K | 5-9 | 195 | Jr. |
| 44 | Jordan Ellis | LB | 6-1 | 235 | Fr. |
| 45 | Chris Beckman | P | 6-2 | 202 | Jr. |
| 46 | David Kirksey | LB | 6-1 | 200 | Fr. |
| 47 | Evan Smith | WR | 5-8 | 172 | So. |
| 48 | James Dillard | LB | 6-1 | 220 | Fr. |
| 51 | Aryan Barto | OL | 6-4 | 262 | So. |
| 54 | Taylor Bertin | DE | 6-2 | 255 | Jr. |
| 55 | Joe Traina | C | 6-3 | 285 | Sr. |
| 56 | Avery Williams | DL | 6-0 | 282 | So. |
| 57 | Antonio Harris | DL | 6-2 | 271 | So. |
| 62 | Chris Bordelon | OL | 6-4 | 275 | So. |
| 64 | Derek Rogers | OT | 6-5 | 309 | Jr. |
| 65 | Michael Parenton | OL | 6-3 | 292 | Fr.-R |
| 66 | Donald Madlock | OG | 6-4 | 295 | Sr. |
| 68 | Chris McGee | OT | 6-4 | 296 | Sr. |
| 70 | Travis Olexa | OL | 6-4 | 290 | Fr. |
| 71 | Percy Huff | OL | 6-4 | 316 | Fr.-R |
| 72 | Matt Traina | OL | 6-3 | 280 | Sr. |
| 74 | Scott Holt | OL | 6-5 | 282 | So |
| 75 | Tyler Rice | OL | 6-5 | 285 | Fr. |
| 76 | John Landa | OL | 6-3 | 295 | Fr. |
| 77 | Troy Kropog | OL | 6-4 | 287 | Fr.-R |
| 79 | William Fairburn | DE | 6-4 | 249 | Jr. |
| 80 | Justin Kessler | TE | 6-4 | 234 | Fr. |
| 81 | Preston Brown | WR | 6-4 | 232 | Jr. |
| 82 | Gabe Ratcliff | TE | 6-2 | 231 | So. |
| 83 | Brian King | WR | 6-1 | 180 | Fr. |
| 84 | Kenneth Guidroz | WR | 6-3 | 209 | So. |
| 85 | Michael Batiste | WR | 6-2 | 188 | Fr.-R |
| 86 | Jeremy Williams | WR | 6-2 | 175 | Fr. |
| 87 | Jerome Landry | TE | 6-4 | 260 | Jr. |
| 88 | Bobby Hoover | TE | 6-4 | 262 | Sr. |
| 89 | Charles Harris | WR | 6-3 | 175 | Fr. |
| 90 | Alvin Johnson | DE | 6-3 | 300 | So. |
| 91 | Craig Morris | DL | 6-2 | 240 | Jr. |
| 92 | Reggie Scott | DL | 6-3 | 252 | Fr.-R |
| 93 | Taurean Brown | DL | 6-6 | 280 | Jr. |
| 94 | Sean Carney | DE | 6-3 | 240 | Fr. |
| 95 | Michael Roberts | DE | 6-3 | 250 | Jr |
| 97 | Julian Shives-Sams | DL | 6-2 | 266 | Fr.-R |
| 98 | Craig Gelhardt | DS | 6-2 | 250 | Fr.-R |
| 98 | Michael Purcell | DL | 6-1 | 275 | Jr.-R |
| 99 | Frank Morton | DL | 6-2 | 303 | So. |

### SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | Mississippi State | Shreveport | 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 24 | Southern Methodist | Dallas | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 | Southeastern Louisiana | TBD | |
| Oct. 8 | Houston | TBD | |
| Oct. 14 | Texas-El Paso | 7 p.m. | |
| Oct. 22 | Central Florida | Orlando | 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 29 | Marshall | TBD | |
| Nov. 5 | Navy | Annapolis, Md. | 12:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 12 | Rice | Houston | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 19 | Tulsa | TBD | |
| Nov. 26 | Southern Mississippi | Hattiesburg, Miss. | TBD |

## 'It's about persevering' for Wave

**TULANE,** *from C-5*

ers were turned upside down by the hurricane, one thing hasn't changed: The Green Wave wants to win.

After finishing the 2004 season 5-6 and winning four of its final six games, the Green Wave returned to school in August beaming with confidence.

"The expectations are still up there for this team, and even higher because of the media attention," senior linebacker Anthony Cannon said. "As a team, we're doing everything possible to keep the ball moving forward.

"We're not just going to show up. This is my senior season, and we're not going to let that happen. To give up is not the character of this team. It's not going to happen."

"The hurricane would be the perfect excuse for us," center Joe Traina said. "The test for this team will be if guys won't use that perfect excuse."

After being told what Scelfo said early in the week, quarterback Lester Ricard said: "I don't know what he's talking about – we're going out there to win."

Offensive tackle Chris McGee said Ricard's attitude is the team's attitude.

"Yeah, we have all the excuses right now. And if we don't do anything, everybody will understand. But we don't want to use the excuses," McGee said.

"There's no reason to go out there if you're not trying to win. We're not just trying to go out there and just play football. We want to go there and win football games. Persevering and giving hope, all that's good, but it's not the same as winning. It's definitely about winning. I've been playing football a long time, and I've never had fun losing."

The Green Wave reported Aug. 8-9, and was a week away from its Sept. 4 opener with Southern Miss when the hurricane hit, forcing the schools to postpone game until Nov. 26. Tulane will be the last Division I-A school to start the season.

"Words can't really describe the feeling," Traina said of finally getting to play. "We've been going through so much, and we've been practicing so long, it seems like we've been in camp for two months. It's just great to finally have our sights on a game and know that we're going to play it. Everything's been so uncertain that it's nice to have something that's definite."

And after all the chaos the Wave has been through, playing the game will be a piece of cake.

"I think it'll be the easiest thing we've done since the hurricane," McGee said. "We can put everything behind us. We don't have to think about anything that's happened. For three hours, it's nothing but football."

## Season's mere existence is success for Tulane

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

There's a reason Scelfo was as upbeat as he's ever been entering a season, and it had everything to do with returning lettermen who already had been in the fire, who already had performed under pressure. That includes a quarterback (Lester Ricard) who looks about as big-time as all the other recent NFL draft picks who have played the position at Tulane.

But here's a dose of reality, too, provided by of Hurricane Katrina: Game-wise, the Green Wave probably is farther behind than any team in the nation. Today's game will be Mississippi State's third. Tulane is playing its opener.

Think a team, entering its third game, hasn't already worked out a few kinks? Think a team, entering its first, won't have to overcome first-game jitters and the likely spate of miscues that accompany the adrenaline and game rust?

"From a competitive standpoint, obviously, they're at a great advantage," Scelfo said.

And still, that's so secondary, it's almost comical.Wave players are attending class and practicing at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, bumping into other displaced New Orleanians who were forced to flee the city. Those whose families reside in areas that were hit by

Katrina had so much more to worry about than blocking, tackling, throwing and catching.

"No question, (the game) is secondary," Scelfo said. "It's third-ary, fourth-ary and any other 'ary' you can come up with. It's unrealistic for me to look at it any other way. This (Hurricane Katrina) has affected thousands and thousands of people. I have it

in perspective."

And, certainly, we must keep it there, too. Because to judge this Tulane team on its results this season would be to overlook the big picture - that it's pretty impressive Tulane even is having a season.

A lot of juggling had to be done, and a lot of people had to agree to the juggling, in order for the Wave to have somewhere to live, practice, attend class.

"I'm trying to get them in a normalcy mindset," Scelfo said. "That's my goal. If we get something good out of football, so be it."

There will be plenty of good that comes of it, even if it doesn't show up on the scoreboard. His players, like most others who have been affected to varying degrees, need to get back to doing what they love, as quickly as possible. That will be as therapeutic for

them as it will be for Wave fans, because anything that resembles routine only can be considered a positive when your life has been turned upside down.

"The season is already on the positive," Scelfo said. "Just being able to play it."

He's right. This isn't a time to worry about bowl games and all the other trappings, even though Tulane was a good bet to play an extra game before Katrina and still may be a solid choice, even after a two-week delay to the commencement of the season.

For this season, forget the Ws and the Ls.

Just enjoy the games as much as Tulane's players will, as much as they'd like for you to.

## MISS. STATE (1-1)

### ROSTER

| No. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Cl. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Keith Fitzhugh | DB | 5-10 | 203 | Fr. |
| 2 | Quinton Culberson | LB | 6-0 | 222 | Jr. |
| 3 | Derek Pegues | DB | 5-10 | 189 | Fr. |
| 4 | Kevin Dockery | DB | 5-9 | 187 | Sr. |
| 5 | Gabe O'Neal | LB | 6-0 | 213 | So. |
| 6 | Mario Bobo | DB | 6-0 | 180 | So. |
| 7 | Michael Henig | QB | 6-1 | 180 | Fr. |
| 8 | Adron Chambers | WR | 5-9 | 182 | Fr. |
| 9 | Keon Humphries | WR | 5-10 | 176 | Fr. |
| 10 | Jonathan Lowe | RB | 5-6 | 180 | So. |
| 11 | Will Prosser | WR | 6-3 | 203 | Jr. |
| 12 | Jerious Norwood | RB | 6-0 | 204 | Sr. |
| 13 | Jamaal Johnson | DB | 5-9 | 170 | Sr. |
| 14 | Omarr Conner | QB | 6-1 | 222 | Jr. |
| 15 | Marcus Evans | DB | 5-10 | 198 | Sr. |
| 16 | Ty Evans | QB | 6-4 | 199 | Fr. |
| 17 | Tray Rutland | QB | 6-2 | 210 | Fr. |
| 18 | Brett Morgan | QB | 6-0 | 204 | Sr. |
| 19 | Tee Milons | WR | 5-10 | 173 | Sr. |
| 20 | Jarvis Kyles | DB | 6-0 | 176 | Fr. |
| 22 | Jamar Chaney | LB | 6-2 | 230 | Fr. |
| 23 | David Heard | DB | 6-0 | 195 | Jr. |
| 24 | Kentrel Brooks | RB | 5-7 | 205 | So. |
| 25 | Tyler Threadgill | WR | 5-10 | 185 | So. |
| 26 | Derek Ambrose | RB | 6-1 | 205 | Sr. |
| 27 | Brandon Thornton | RB | 5-10 | 195 | Fr. |
| 28 | Aubrey Bell | WR | 6-3 | 209 | Fr. |
| 29 | Clarence McDougal | LB | 6-0 | 221 | Sr. |
| 31 | Casey Rogers | RB | 6-1 | 226 | Jr. |
| 32 | Carlton Rice | LB | 6-0 | 226 | So. |
| 33 | Demarcus Johnson | RB | 5-10 | 205 | Fr. |
| 34 | Jeramie Johnson | DB | 5-11 | 209 | Jr. |
| 35 | Brandon Hart | RB | 5-10 | 240 | Fr. |
| 36 | Willie Evans | DL | 6-2 | 270 | Sr. |
| 37 | Adam Carlson | P/PK | 6-4 | 185 | Fr. |
| 38 | Brooks Crabtree | P | 5-10 | 182 | Sr. |
| 39 | Fred Akines | LB | 6-3 | 205 | Fr. |
| 40 | Adrian Griffin | DB | 5-9 | 166 | So. |
| 41 | Bryson Davis | RB | 6-2 | 266 | Jr. |
| 42 | Jonathan Hill | DB | 5-11 | 200 | So. |
| 43 | Blake McAdams | P/DB | 5-11 | 187 | Fr. |
| 44 | Brad Horton | LB | 5-11 | 232 | Jr. |
| 45 | De'Mon Glanton | DB | 6-1 | 185 | Fr. |
| 46 | Keith Andrews | K | 6-1 | 205 | Jr. |
| 47 | Andrew Ga.mbrell | P | 6-2 | 205 | Fr. |
| 48 | Dezmond Sherrod | RB | 6-2 | 245 | So. |
| 49 | Terrence Beaman | LB | 5-11 | 215 | Sr. |
| 50 | Chris McNeil | OL | 6-4 | 295 | Sr. |
| 51 | Avery Hannibal | DL | 6-0 | 260 | So. |
| 52 | Jimmy Miller | LB | 5-11 | 227 | Fr. |
| 53 | Anthony Strauder | OL | 6-3 | 300 | Fr. |
| 54 | Titus Brown | DL | 6-3 | 244 | So. |
| 55 | Brian Anderson | OL | 6-6 | 305 | Jr. |
| 56 | Anthony Littlejohn | LB | 6-2 | 225 | |
| 57 | Soloman Ona | DL | 6-0 | 280 | Fr. |
| 58 | Michael Heard | DL | 6-2 | 262 | Jr. |
| 59 | Johnny Carpenter | OL | 6-3 | 282 | Fr. |
| 60 | Chris Spencer | OL | 6-3 | 301 | Fr. |
| 62 | Russell Cook | SN | 6-1 | 226 | Jr. |
| 63 | Mike Evans | DL | 6-0 | 285 | Fr. |
| 64 | Anwar Phillips | DL | 5-10 | 275 | Jr. |
| 65 | Anthony Bowles | SN | 5-10 | 206 | Fr. |
| 67 | Roland Terry | OL | 6-7 | 296 | Fr. |
| 68 | Johnny Wadley | OL | 6-3 | 329 | Sr. |
| 70 | Avery House | OL | 6-5 | 315 | Sr. |
| 71 | James Redmond | OL | 6-7 | 301 | Jr. |
| 72 | Anthony Dunning | OL | 6-3 | 322 | Fr. |
| 73 | Dio Herrera | OL | 6-3 | 310 | Fr. |
| 75 | Craig Jenkins | OL | 6-4 | 342 | Fr. |
| 76 | Royce Blackledge | OL | 6-3 | 291 | So. |
| 78 | Michael Ga.tes | OL | 6-4 | 260 | Fr. |
| 79 | Calvin Wilson | OL | 6-5 | 366 | Fr. |
| 81 | Tay Bowser | WR | 6-0 | 175 | Fr. |
| 82 | Jason Husband | TE | 6-4 | 221 | So. |
| 83 | Joey Sanders | WR | 6-0 | 204 | So. |
| 84 | Jeremy Jones | DL | 6-3 | 262 | Fr. |
| 85 | Corey Ga.rdhigh | WR | 6-2 | 208 | Fr. |
| 86 | Lance Long | WR | 5-10 | 180 | So. |
| 88 | Eric Butler | TE | 6-3 | 254 | So. |
| 89 | Britt Cross | TE/SN | 6-3 | 246 | Sr. |
| 90 | Antonio Johnson | DL | 6-3 | 300 | Jr. |
| 91 | Jeremy Jack | DL | 6-2 | 236 | Sr. |
| 92 | Charles Burns | DL | 6-2 | 263 | Fr. |
| 94 | Andrew Powell | DL | 6-0 | 298 | Jr. |
| 95 | Stephen Arant | DL | 6-3 | 245 | Jr. |
| 96 | Markell McKinley | DL | 6-2 | 295 | Jr. |
| 97 | Corey Clark | DL | 6-1 | 306 | So. |
| 98 | Deljuan Robinson | DL | 6-4 | 289 | Jr. |
| 99 | Quinton Wesley | DL | 6-5 | 262 | Fr. |

### SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site | Result/time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 3 | Murray State | Starkville | W, 28-6 |
| Sept. 10 | Auburn | Auburn, Ala. | L, 28-0 |
| Today | Tulane | Shreveport | 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 24 | Georgia | Starkville, Miss. | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 | LSU | Starkville, Miss. | TBD |
| Oct. 8 | Florida | Gainesville, Fla. | TBD |
| Oct. 22 | Houston | Starkville, Miss. | 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 29 | Kentucky | Lexington, Ky. | TBD |
| Nov. 5 | Alabama | Starkville, Miss. | TBD |
| Nov. 19 | Arkansas | Little Rock, Ark. | TBD |
| Nov. 26 | Mississippi | Starkville, Miss. | TBD |

# Dickson, Wave again struggling to survive

**DICKSON,** *from C-5*

Then Hurricane Katrina threw him a counterpunch.

Tulane's athletic family evacuated New Orleans while Katrina ravaged Tulane's athletic epicenter. Just like two years ago, the fate of athletics was uncertain.

Should Dickson cancel the season, or should Tulane scrap and scrape together its athletic program, because it was the right thing to do?

"We're fighting to exist again," Dickson said. "But I think (the first fight) was more specific to us – it was whether Tulane athletics should or would continue. This one, I think we feel the responsibility to others – to Tulane, to New Orleans, to others that don't have the ability to help themselves. And we have that ability."

It is now 16 days since Dickson slumped in a hotel lobby chair, wearing another man's clothes, admitting his uncertainty about this athletic season. Since then Dickson has galvanized support, while uniting with Tulane president Scott Cowen, who in 2003 was the realistic arbitrator, seeing both sides of Tulane's quandary. Tulane is competing this season – teams are on campuses in Texas and other parts of Louisiana, taking classes and playing games. The first football game is today at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

Said Tulane associate athletic director Scott Sidwell: "If you look at what happened in the last two weeks and step back from it – and it's hard for us to step back, because every minute there's something new to tackle – it's certainly unprecedented. And I think it will go down as one of the better stories in college athletics that has ever happened."

"We could have opted to tell our kids to fall in line with the other 13,000 Tulane students and say, 'We'll see you in the spring.' " Dickson said. "But we chose it, and I think we did it knowing it wasn't just about sticking together and competing – it was about a purpose."

Dickson has served as the father of Tulane athletics. It's a familiar role – he's already the father of a Tulane athlete.

Kelli Dickson plays volleyball for the Green Wave, so Dickson knows the personal side of nurturing these athletes during this time of turmoil. He had to watch his daughter leave for Texas A&M, where her team will attend classes this semester. He has to make sure that she and her fellow athletes assimilate into foreign surroundings, and try to focus on midterms and side outs, and not flooding and looting. He has also made it mandatory that every Tulane athlete goes through counseling.

"I can't put these kids a position of doing this – maybe the greatest challenge we've all ever been faced with – if they're not in a stable place," Dickson said.

"He's done a tremendous job of staying on top of everything, not only with the football program but all the sports programs," Tulane football senior Tra Boger said. "Going through this – and not having a blueprint – just speaks volumes of what he can do."

But for all the paternal aspects of running a scattered athletic program, Dickson is running a business, too. He doesn't have access to university bank accounts. And while he began the year on a "zero-based budget," the difference between Tulane and other programs is Dickson can't receive a university subsidy. Tulane doesn't have access to its season ticket profits, which Dickson said should be about $1 million. Also, Dickson said Tulane would have been about one-sixth through its fundraising campaign by this week – last year they received about $2.2 million.

"So we would have already seen some of that coming," he said. "Typically, in our almost $22 million budget, which we almost split down the middle, and in the first school term you'll expend the $11 million range. As we speak (on Wednesday), I have $308,000 from NCAA, $50,000 (donated) from the Orange Bowl and $200,000 back from Mississippi State (Tulane's guaranteed payment for Saturday's game), plus what a couple people have sent."

Dickson is running Tulane's athletic budget out of a Dallas-based checking account. "It's truly been operating the athletic enterprise on a cash-on-cash basis," he said.

"Anything you see us do, like when the buses rolled into Ruston, you pay for it out of that account. When they go somewhere the night before the game, or you see them eating chicken out of the boxes for lunch, that comes from the checking account."

The initial objective was providing for athletes housing, tuition, food, books and counseling. Dickson said the cost to do so weren't overwhelming. Southern Methodist, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Rice and Louisiana Tech, like the numerous other institutions taking in Tulane students, took care of tuition issues for visiting Tulane student-athletes.

"And in most instances," Dickson said, "the other things have come at the graciousness of the people hosting us."

Dickson continues to coordinate. He is eternally on a conference call. He has made trips to each campus with Tulane student-athletes. He has continually reassured coaches everything will be all right, while sometimes having to do so for himself as well. He remains constantly preoccupied with work; he couldn't even find time to get new prescription glasses, until his wife, Brenda, demanded it.

"She has experienced my driving at night without glasses . . . it's been pretty dangerous," Dickson said. "So that was a good step. That was the first attempt to get both my feet on the ground."

"Any time you face adversity, face challenges, I think that you find out the type of people that are around you," Sidwell said. "And there's no doubt that Rick Dickson is the rock of our organization. And we're going to persevere."

Again.

# TAILGATING

## Vanderbilt creating unexpected excitement

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Things have been buzzing in the Volunteer State this week.

After all, who wouldn't get excited about an early-season matchup of undefeated SEC teams with major bowl implications?

It's not Tennessee-Florida we're talking about. We'll get to that one.

The game in question is 2-0 Vanderbilt playing host to 1-0 Ole Miss today in Nashville.

Yes, that's 2-0 Vanderbilt, four words that haven't been used together since 1988. And we're not talking about victories against East Cupcake Community College.

The Commodores went on the road and beat two BCS-conference teams – Wake Forest and Arkansas - by 24-20 and 28-24, rallying in the fourth quarter in both.

The victory at Arkansas was Vandy's first in an SEC opener since the Commodores beat LSU in 1990, and the 2-0 start on the road is the school's first since 1943.

There are plenty of other "firsts since" about Vandy's start, but you get the picture – the SEC's longtime whipping boy is suddenly a force to be reckoned with.

Sorta.

"I think it's a little too early to say we've turned the corner," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "But we're very pleased with the way we've stayed in the games and come back to win both of them.

"That says a lot about the mindset and discipline of our players."

Indeed, the Commodores are doing the little things it takes to win. In two games, they've had four penalties for a total of nine yards. They've been intercepted twice but have not lost a fumble.

Against Arkansas, Vandy trailed 24-21 after a missed field-goal attempt with 2:46 left. But the Commodores got the ball back 24 seconds later and drove to score the winning touchdown on Jay Cutler's six-yard pass to Marlon White with 26 seconds to go.

That's effective clock management.

"Vanderbilt is one well-coached team," said Ole Miss coach Ed Orgeron. "You can see it in their play calls and how their players know exactly what their assignments are.

"They're always in the right place at the right time."

Well-coached, yes. But given Vanderbilt's academic restrictions compared to the other teams in the conference, the Commodores are always fighting an uphill battle, arguably the most difficult of any school in a BCS conference.

In Johnson's first three years in Nashville, his teams won two games each season. A lack of improvement probably would have meant a coaching change.

But Johnson got a break when Cutler opted to return for his senior season rather than enter the NFL draft. Not only does Cutler lead the SEC in total offense (321 yards per game), but Johnson says he is a sublime leader.

"Jay believes in the program, and the other players believe in him," he said. "That's because, even though Jay has proven himself, he never quits working hard to improve.

"When your players buy into what you're doing, that's the fun part of being a coach."

Of course, with success come more expectations.

Vandy fans can look at the schedule and see that a victory today followed by ones against Richmond and Middle Tennessee in the next two games would put the Commodores at 5-0 going into the Oct. 8 game against LSU. That's just one victory from a winning season and bowl eligibility.

Vanderbilt hasn't achieved either since 1982.

Although LSU, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee occupy the bottom half of the schedule, there's also a very winnable game against Kentucky.

Certainly Vandy fans are excited. More than 500 of them, plus the band, met the team when it returned from the Arkansas game at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Today's game is a sellout, something that only happens when visiting SEC fans fill the Commodores' 40,000-seat stadium.

"We have a very loyal fan base. But, like any fans, they respond best when you put a winning product on the field," Johnson said. "So the more we win, the more they will come to see us play. We just hope we can keep it up."

### That other game

Even the Ol' Ball Coach will be watching Tennessee-Florida tonight.

"Let's see, we should be wrapping up with things about the time they begin," said ex-Gators and current South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier. "So I imagine we'll come up to the office and see whatever game's on."

He should.

It was Spurrier's building of the Gators' program into a powerhouse that helped make the Florida-Tennessee game the SEC's signature event the past decade-plus.

That CBS is airing it prime-time is proof of that, even though neither school has won a conference championship since 2000.

This year's game is even more intriguing because it's the debut of Florida coach Urban Meyer and his spread option against the Vols.

Whether the offense that ripped through the Mountain West Conference the past two years can be effective against the superior talent of the SEC is one the game's top story lines.

"It's all relative," said Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer, who's 5-8 against the Gators. "The guys Utah was playing against were pretty much the same kind of football players, and it worked very efficiently up there.

"The things that go with their offense are tough to defend. It gets back to people and gets back to the best players doing their assignments and making plays."

Another story line is Meyer's introduction to the rivalry that Spurrier fueled with offseason shots at the Vols.

But Meyer, who never referred to rival Toledo by name when he was at Bowling Green or Brigham Young when he was at Utah, has been nothing but respectful of the Vols.

"I've always admired Tennessee's consistency," he said. 'Whenever a staff has stuck together as long as they have, it means they're winning a lot of football games. We've been looking for weaknesses in Tennessee this week, and they're very difficult to find."

The game features an intriguing quarterback match-up.

Tennessee is starting senior Rick Clausen after sophomore Eric Ainge struggled in the Vols' season-opening 17-10 victory against UAB. Florida's Chris Leak is a Heisman Trophy hopeful, but he's 0-2 against Tennessee.

Besides preparing for Tennessee, Leak has spent the week telling Meyer about the intensity of game.

"I have no words for it," he said. "The atmosphere and the crowd are amazing. It's really special for the coaches, players and families."

Not to mention the viewers.

### QUICK PICKS

**Mississippi State at Tulane, 7 p.m., CSTV**
The Green Wave has gained the country's admiration for having the fortitude to have a season. That effort deserves to be rewarded with a victory.
Line: Mississippi State by 3; Pick: Tulane, 14-10

**Tennessee at Florida, 7 p.m., CBS**
All eyes will be on the Gators' spread option. But it's the Vols' offense that needs improvement.
Spread: Florida by 6; Pick: Florida, 20-17

**Ole Miss at Vanderbilt, 11:30 a.m., CBS**
Commodore Fever! Catch it!
Spread: Vanderbilt by 3; Pick: Vanderbilt, 21-14

**Alabama at South Carolina**
2:30 p.m., CBS
Steve Spurrier vs. Mike Shula. Doesn't seem fair, does it?
Spread: Alabama by 2 ½; Pick: South Carolina, 17-16

**Kentucky at Indiana**
5:45 p.m., ESPN Classic
ESPN Classic? Is this some kind of joke? Somebody must think this is a basketball game.
Spread: Indiana by 2 ½; Pick: Kentucky, 24-20

**Florida State at Boston College**
6:45 p.m., ESPN
The Seminoles welcome the Eagles to the ACC.
Spread: Florida State by 1; Pick: Florida State, 19-17

**Miami at Clemson**
2:30 p.m., ABC
The Tigers have impressive road victories at Texas A&M and Maryland. And the Hurricanes didn't look too good at Florida State. That can only mean a Miami victory.
Spread: Miami by 7; Pick: Miami, 27-24

**Michigan State at Notre Dame**
2:30 p.m., NBC
Welcome to the Charlie Weis bandwagon. Beware though that the Spartans have won in their past four visits to South Bend.
Spread: Notre Dame by 6 ½; Pick: Notre Dame, 32-27

**Pittsburgh at Nebraska**
2:30 p.m.
We're joining Panthers fans in jumping off the Dave Wannstedt bandwagon. The Cornhuskers haven't been very impressive though.
Spread: Nebraska by 10 ½; Pick: Nebraska 13-7

**Last week; 6–4, 5–5 vs. spread; To date: 14–6; 10–7 vs. spread**

### EXTRA POINTS

Two weeks into the season, WAC and Sun Belt teams are a combined 0-21 against Division I-A teams outside their conferences. ...Also through last weekend's games, there have been a total of 77 calls reviewed in 101 games. Of those reviews, 26 were reversed, most notably Michigan's goal line fumble against Notre Dame. Conference USA officials must be doing the best job. Nine plays have been reviewed in C-USA home games with none overturned. C-USA is the only league in which the referee makes the final ruling. ...Ohio State fans obviously were upset by their team's loss to Texas. The Ohio Stadium cleanup crew removed 43.6 tons of garbage after the game, almost three times as much as was left behind after the Buckeyes' opening game victory against Miami of Ohio. ...Clemson has beaten two Division I-A opponents to start the season for the first time since 1968. ...The SEC has extended the contract of Commissioner Mike Slive through 2009. ...SMU's 21-10 victory against No. 21 TCU was the Mustangs' first in 23 tries against ranked teams. ...Retired Army parachutist Dave Larson, who broke his hip with a hand landing on the field before the Washington State-Nevada game, has vowed to be jumping again within three months. ...Speaking of Washington State, Grambling coach Melvin Spears, whose team plays the Cougars today, has refused to exchange game tapes. Spears also demanded a forfeit from Alcorn State when the Braves refused to move their game to Grambling because power was out on the Alcorn campus following Hurricane Katrina.

Auburn freshman defensive end Alonzo Horton, who prepped at Abramson, learned this week that two brothers he feared had been killed during Hurricane Katrina were instead alive and well with their father in Houston. ...Michigan's loss to Notre Dame marked the sixth consecutive year that the Wolverines have lost a game in September. ...Trivia Time: Was Dion Byrum's 85-yard interception return that gave Ohio a 16-10 overtime victory against Pittsburgh the longest, or perhaps even first since Division I-A went to OT in 1996? Nobody knows. The NCAA doesn't keep such statistics. ...

Atlanta may be closer for his team's fans, but count Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville among those hoping that the Sugar Bowl can be played at LSU this year. "One of the great things about playing in the Sugar Bowl is the atmosphere of New Orleans," he said. "Our fans loved it and our players loved it last year. We understand that, even if the game can't be played there this year, we would be all for having the game as close to New Orleans as possible."

### CRESCENT CITY CONNECTIONS

Curtis Baham, Clemson, WR , Sr., (John Curtis); and Nick Watkins, Clemson, LB, So., (Karr)

Baham had two touchdown receptions and Watkins a team-high six special-teams tackles in the Tigers' 28-24 victory at Maryland. They were named Clemson's offensive and special teams players of the week for their efforts.

"Here are two guys from New Orleans with all that their families have been going through having great games on national TV," said Clemson coach Tommy Bowden. "I don't think that happened by accident.

"Both of them knew their families and friends are hurting. I think they wanted to do something to make those people feel a little bit better, and their concentration and effort levels went way up."

Coach's Corner

"You throw your visor once and people expect you to do it every game for the next 20 years." – South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier.

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Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

## Lewis solid in debut for Southern

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

J.C. Lewis waited behind some talented quarterbacks before getting his chance to start for Southern University.

Two years ago, Jaguars quarterback Quincy Richard was the SWAC offensive player of the year. Last year, the Jags' Thomas Ricks won that honor.

In Southern's opener last week at Mississippi Valley State, Lewis, a redshirt sophomore from Walnut Creek, Calif., took charge of the offense.

Despite a Delta Devils' defense designed to pressure him, he played solidly – just as Southern coach Pete Richardson had expected.

"I wasn't really surprised, because he had been on the team, and he had played a little the last year, and he had played well for us, and he had an excellent spring,'' Richardson said. "The only thing he needed was playing time."

Lewis completed 24 of 39 passes for 312 yards and a touchdown, with one interception, in a 31-28 loss to Mississippi Valley.

Tonight, he'll lead Southern in its home opener against Prairie View A&M. Kickoff at A.W. Mumford Stadium is at 7 p.m. (Cox Sports Television).

NORTHWESTERN STATE AT LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (7 p.m. at Lafayette): The Ragin' Cajuns, the host team in the Herbert Heymann Classic, have started 0-2 for the seventh time in the last nine years.

MCNEESE STATE AT SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (6 p.m. at Hattiesburg, Miss.): The Golden Eagles, who lost their opener at Alabama, 30-21, will try to rebound against the Cowboys.

LOUISIANA-MONROE AT GEORGIA (noon at Athens, Ga.): The Indians, coming off a 38-0 loss to Wyoming, haven't scored since the second quarter of their opener against Northwestern State.

LOUISIANA TECH AT KANSAS (6 p.m. at Lawrence, Kan.): The Bulldogs couldn't prevent big plays in losing their opener at Florida, 41-3. The Gators gained 475 yards, 231 on six plays of at least 20 yards.

GRAMBLING VS. WASHINGTON STATE (6 p.m. at Seattle): After opening with a 44-0 rout at home last week against SWAC rival Alabama A&M, the Tigers will face a much tougher test against the Cougars (2-0).

CHENEY UNIVERSITY AT NICHOLLS STATE (2 p.m. at Thibodaux): The Colonels (0-1), who showed a strong running game in a near-upset of Indiana last week, face Division II opposition in their home opener today against the Wolves (2-1) from Pennsylvania.

Nicholls lost at Indiana 35-31 on a touchdown scored with 47 seconds left. The Colonels, who outgained the Hoosiers 459 yards to 405, rushed for 408 yards. Running backs Anthony Harris, Broderick Cole and Joseph Tobias ran for more than 90 yards apiece and combined for four touchdowns.

Cheney is coming off a 13-10 victory against St. Paul's College.

## LSU, former teacher agree to settlement

*Lawsuit involved alleged academic fraud by football players*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU has reached an undisclosed settlement with former kinesiology instructor Tiffany Mayne, who sued the university over alleged academic fraud involving football players, the school said Friday.

Michael Ruffner, vice chancellor for communications and university relations, said in a press release that the school agreed to settle to avoid the expense of further litigation. He said the university "continues to deny wrongdoing relative to Mayne's former employment at LSU or otherwise."

Mayne, an instructor for 10 years, sued LSU and department head Amelia Lee in 2002. Mayne claimed that in 2000 she was pressured to change grades of LSU football players and hide academic misconduct to keep them eligible for the 2000 Peach Bowl. She said in her suit that 10 players who received failing grades were allowed to get extra credit and remain eligible.

LSU admitted to five secondary NCAA violations after an investigation. The NCAA accepted LSU's self-imposed penalties of two lost scholarships and four recruiting visits during the 2003-04 recruiting year.

In November 2004, LSU paid former kinesiology professor Caroline Owen $150,000 and gave her an apology and three letters of recommendation after Owen sued over similar issues. Owen claimed LSU players plagiarized work and she was told by Lee to "keep the matter quiet."

## Lions taking to the air for Northern Colorado

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

Southeastern Louisiana coach Dennis Roland walked out of Strawberry Stadium on Saturday with the season-opening game ball tucked under his arm, smiling and with his first victory as head coach.

The obstacle of winning in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was behind him. But he knew he would have an equally tough job readying his team for its second game.

The Lions will play at Northern Colorado (1-1) at 2 p.m. today in a non-conference game. The team took a charter flight out of Baton Rouge on Friday morning.

For a school that hasn't flown to a game since 2003, it's a big deal. Many of the Lions have never flown on a charter flight.

"I think (the players) have got a little bounce in their step, excited about the victory," Roland said. "The true test — if you want to impress me — go out and get ready to play this ball game in a business-like way. We've got to win the travel and then win the game."

The game should be challenging enough. Southeastern and Northern Colorado are similar in their ball-control offenses, solid kicking games and scrappy demeanor. Northern Colorado showed resolve in rallying in a game it lost 28-23, Roland said. The Bears scored the final 16 points after falling behind 28-7. After allowing 318 yards in the first half, Northern Colorado's defense allowed 109 in the second.

"They play harder than any team I've seen in a long time," Roland said.

Southeastern played well in the second half last week, also. The Lions scored 27 third-quarter points in a 48-21 victory against Alcorn State. The offense, led by first-year starting quarterback Trey Willie, showed versatility in rushing for 223 yards and passing for 236. Willie surpassed his previous career high by completing 16 of 30 passes for 236 yards and three touchdowns.

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (1-0, 0-0 in Southland Conference) at NORTHERN COLORADO (1-1, 0-0 in Great West)
**TIME:** 3 p.m.
**LOCATION:** Nottingham Field in Greeley, Colo.
**NOTES:** Northern Colorado quarterback Nick Hager passed for five touchdowns and 304 yards in the first game of the season. But Hager didn't get the Bears' offense going until the second half in week two. Kicker Justin Zaitz is 4-for-4 this season in field-goal attempts (42, 24, 25, 28 yards) and has a streak of 36 consecutive successful extra-point attempts.

The victory came after a disjointed week for the team. Kicker Jim Hall said the team is much better prepared this week.

"With the storm, there were a couple players on our team that lost everything. I think football put a little peace back in their hearts and minds," Hall said. "We didn't really have the practices ticking last week. This week, they are like ticking. This week, we practiced really well."

Hall was chosen Southland Conference co-special teams player of the week after kicking two field goals (31, 36 yards) and going 6-for-6 on extra-point attempts.

Hall said the emotion might be a little less intense this Saturday, but not the effort.

"The team is very much upbeat because it was our first rodeo last week, winning our first game," Hall said. "But we've got to go up there and play businesslike. Not be excited about the flight, be excited about the game."

# Saints get familiar feel in new place

By John Reid
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — After waiting two days for the FieldTurf surface to be installed, the Saints finally practiced inside the Alamodome on Friday.

Since last week, the Saints had been busing to a sports complex site in San Antonio for practices.

"It was a chance to get out of the heat,'' Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "I wanted to get on the FieldTurf because that's what we're going to play on (Monday night at Giants Stadium)."

Haslett plans to alternate his practice schedule for the rest of the season between the Alamodome and the outdoor sports complex site.

**MOTIVATIONAL BOOST:** Last week, Haslett read a letter from Mayor Ray Nagin the night before playing the Carolina Panthers to inspire his players. This week, former Saints coach Bum Phillips (1981-85) spoke to the team after Thursday morning's walk-through.

"I didn't know he was coming," Haslett said. "It was the first time I met him, and it was an honor.

He's a friend of a lot of people in the organization when he coached here in the '80s."

**PLEASED:** Haslett has been pleased with the work habits of his players during this week's preparations for the Giants.

"The guys got a spirit about them that I hope will continue for the rest of the season,'' Haslett said.

**ROAD WARRIORS:** The Saints are 25-16 on the road during the six seasons Haslett has coached the team.

Tailback Deuce McAllister said Friday his teammates focus more when they are on the road.

"You have less distractions like you may would have at home, with a lot of family and friends coming in," McAllister said. "You have that mentality that when you step on the field, you know you only have maybe 200 people in that stadium that are for you."

McAllister needs nine yards Monday night to become the franchise's career-leading rusher, surpassing George Rogers who rushed for 4,267 yards from 1981-84.

"It's really something for the guys upfront and the other guys who have helped me achieve like the fullbacks I played with," McAllister said.



AP PHOTO

Defensive back Mike McKenzie (34) and his Saints teammates stretch before practicing Friday on the Alamodome's new FieldTurf, the same surface on which the team played at the Superdome.

# LHSAA lays down law

**LHSAA,** *from C-5*

home field of an individual school also is unlikely.

Henry said LSU, Shreveport's Independence Stadium, Louisiana-Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana have expressed interest in hosting all or part of the Nokia Prep Classic, which cannot be played at the Superdome because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Henry said the Superdome might not be available in 2006 either.

"We may have to play these games away from the Superdome for a couple of years,'' Henry said. "I think there will be another Superdome (Prep Classic). It may not be next year, but there will be one."

Bids for the Prep Classic are due Oct. 7, and the executive committee will select a site or sites Oct. 19. Shreveport would like to host all five games at 50,000-seat Independence Stadium, Gaspard said. Independence Stadium is the only facility among the four sites with artificial turf.

The Prep Classic will be played over three days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with no more than two games on Friday and Saturday.

## LHSAA RULES ON HURRICANE-RELATED ISSUES

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association executive committee met Thursday and passed several hurricane-related rules:

**ONE-TEAM DISTRICTS:** Football schools left as the only school in their district as a result of Hurricane Katrina will be declared district champion without having to play any league games. Such schools are free to schedule other non-district games in place of the district contests. Schools, particularly those that lost games because of Katrina, are allowed to play an extra game after they are eliminated from the playoffs as long as the game is played prior to the state championship games.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Displaced students are eligible when they return to their original school even if the school is located outside of their residence zone. This would prevent private school students, particularly those from the metro area, from being penalized for breaking the chain of residency requirements.

**DISPLACED COACHES:** Schools are allowed to employ two displaced coaches per sport similar in concept to those employed under the Coaches' Education and Certification Program. Displaced coaches are not required to pass the CECP exam.

**VOLLEYBALL:** Schools will be allowed to play a third volleyball match each week if the game is against a displaced school from a storm-affected parish. The girls volleyball state tournament will be held either at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Cajundome or Comeaux High School in Lafayette on its original dates, Nov. 9-12.

**SWIMMING:** The format of the state swimming championships, already awarded to LSU in place of UNO, was changed to have preliminary competition and finals contested on the same day. Division IV will be held Nov. 16; Division III Nov. 17; Division II Nov. 18; and Division I Nov.19.

**WRESTLING:** The state wrestling tournament still is scheduled for the Pontchartrain Center on Feb. 17-18.

**SOCCER:** The divisions I, II and III state soccer championships are scheduled for Louisiana-Lafayette on March 3-4.

# San Antonio has NFL presence

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

"There is not much you can do for this season. We have 30 or so suites finished out, and maybe there's some money in the budget to finish out some more," said former San Antonio mayor Nelson Wolff, now a county judge. "There are certainly things you can do to improve for the future. But we have to concentrate on what's happening right now."

Right now, Saints owner Tom Benson is happy that San Antonio has welcomed his team while the recovery efforts continue in New Orleans.

"The outstanding people at the (Alamodome) here have bent over backwards 24 hours a day to help us,'' Benson said. "We moved the whole staff, and they welcomed us. We got in their way, they've had events going on, and I just can't say enough nice things about them.

"Our practice facility in New Orleans was taken over by the federal government (FEMA) and we don't know when it will ever be back again available, so we're going to worry about the present."

It's that kind of uncertainty that has some elected officials in San Antonio hoping the Saints will permanently relocate to San Antonio, where Benson has several business interests.

But most of San Antonio's elected officials are maintaining the party line, that the city is helping the Saints for the short term.

Unlike Texas' biggest population centers, Houston and Dallas, San Antonio has one professional sports franchise — the NBA's San Antonio Spurs, who won their third NBA championship since 1999 in June by defeating the Detroit Pistons in Game 7 in San Antonio.

Although the city has supported the Spurs well for years, San Antonio's real passion has always been football. The Alamodome was built in 1993 for $183 million to help land an NFL franchise. But none came.

The Saints' game Oct. 2 will be the first time that the city will host an NFL regular-season game.

"Of course, we're not unmindful of the fact that it's going to be very good for San Antonio," said San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger. "We're going to do everything we can to make this a success.

"The statistics show that when you have a professional football team, exclusive of concessions and tickets, it brings $8 to $9 million dollars into the city per game. So that's a great opportunity."

More than 50,000 tickets were sold in the first eight hours of ticket sales for the Saints' three games at the Alamodome.

# Atlanta, Houston, Miami vying for 2010 Super Bowl

*Site to be chosen Oct. 6 in Detroit*

From wire reports

ATLANTA — With New York out of the running for the 2010 Super Bowl, the NFL next month will pick from three cities that lost a bid for the 2009 game — Atlanta, Houston and Miami.

New York was awarded the 2010 game on the condition it build a new 75,000-seat stadium in Manhattan that would have become the Jets' new home. The stadium, which also was part of the city's unsuccessful Olympic bid, failed to win government approval. Atlanta, Houston and Miami lost out to Tampa Bay for the 2009 game at NFL meetings in May.

Instead of going through another extensive round of bidding, the league decided to pick from the three cities that already had made extensive proposals. The 2010 site will be chosen at an Oct. 6 meeting in Detroit.

"We want to get it awarded," league spokesman Greg Aiello said Friday. "Those cities did a lot of work and had three good presentations."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution first reported next month's vote.

Atlanta, which hosted the 1994 and 2000 games, was considered a slight favorite for the 2009 game because its bid included $150 million in improvements for the Georgia Dome. But Tampa Bay beat out Atlanta in the final round of voting after a strong push by Buccaneers owner Malcolm Glazer.

Atlanta and Houston will go into the 2010 vote as favorites, since Miami already has been picked for the 2007 game.

This season's Super Bowl will be held in February 2006 at Detroit's Ford Field. The 2008 game was awarded to a new stadium being built in suburban Phoenix.

# NFL ROUNDUP

## Bucs rookie suspended

Tampa Bay rookie fullback Rick Razzano was suspended four games Friday by the NFL for violating the league's policy on anabolic steroids.

Razzano, a seventh-round draft pick from Mississippi, said through the team that he tested positive for a substance he used in training before joining the Buccaneers. He did not identify the substance.

"I take full responsibility for my mistake and encourage all athletes to be fully aware of all substances which may be prohibited by the NCAA or their respective sports and leagues," Razzano said.

"I apologize to my family, my coaches, teammates, the ownership and Buccaneer fans for the embarrassment and distraction I have caused. Let my experience be a further lesson for all."

Razzano, a third-stringer who plays behind Mike Alstott and Jameel Cook, was inactive for last Sunday's season opener at Minnesota. He will be eligible to return to the active roster on Oct. 10, a day after Tampa Bay plays the New York Jets.

The suspension follows the arrests this week of reserve cornerback Torrie Cox and offensive assistant Jay Gruden, younger brother of Bucs coach Jon Gruden, on drunken driving charges.

## McNabb will start Sunday

Dononvan McNabb's bruised chest won't keep the quarterback out of the starting lineup for the Eagles' home opener Sunday against San Francisco.

Coach Andy Reid said Friday that McNabb would be in there "unless something crazy happens."

McNabb, who was injured in the first quarter in the Eagles' 14-10 season-opening loss at Atlanta on Monday night, practiced for the second straight day Friday. He looked fine during running drills, dropping back and making little-defended passes with ease.

McNabb didn't miss any plays after a crushing hit from Chad Lavalais sent him wincing to the sideline, but he struggled the rest of the game against the Falcons. Lavalais was fined $7,500 for using his helmet on McNabb.

McNabb missed practice Wednesday.

## Hasselbeck has sore arm

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck was added to the team's injury report due to arm soreness Friday, but coach Mike Holmgren said his starter will play in the team's home opener against the Atlanta Falcons.

Hasselbeck is listed as probable on the injury report after being limited at practices all week.

"His arm's sore, so we just backed him off," Holmgren said. "He'll play Sunday."

Hasselbeck appeared to injure his arm on the final offensive play of last week's 26-14 loss to Jacksonville, but he would not admit to any injury afterward.

He spent most of the Wednesday and Thursday practices watching backup Seneca Wallace run the No. 1 offense while rookie David Greene ran the third team.

## Roethlisberger practices

Ben Roethlisberger practiced with the Pittsburgh Steelers on Friday, but is still listed as questionable for Sunday's game in Houston.

Coach Bill Cowher said it likely would be a game-time decision. If Roethlisberger can't play, former starter Tommy Maddox will take his place.

Roethlisberger was held out Wednesday and Thursday with a bone bruise on his knee, and was downgraded from probable (75 percent chance of playing) to questionable (50 percent) by Cowher.

Roethlisberger, the 2004 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, is 14-0 as a regular-season starter. He was hurt while throwing for two touchdowns in a 34-7 victory Sunday over Tennessee, but was pulled from the game because of the big lead rather than the injury.

The Steelers normally hold out any players who do not practice on Friday, so Roethlisberger's participation could be a sign he might be ready to play. He didn't practice Wednesday and had only limited work Thursday.

"The biggest thing is just make sure I'm ready to play for Sunday," Roethlisberger said. "I'll be ready by Sunday, hopefully."

Maddox began the 2004 season as the Steelers' starter, but injured an elbow during a Week 2 loss to Baltimore and was replaced for the next 13 games by Roethlisberger. Maddox started once more the rest of the season, a Jan. 2 game at Buffalo in which Roethlisberger was held out with a minor injury.

The last time Pittsburgh played Houston, in 2002, Maddox had two interceptions and a fumble returned for touchdowns.

# Toms released from hospital

From wire reports

FARMINGTON, PA. — David Toms was released from a Pittsburgh hospital Friday and plans to play in next week's Presidents Cup matches despite being stricken by a heart problem during the first round of the 84 Lumber Classic.

Toms, taken off the Nemacolin Woodlands resort course Thursday with what his caddie said was a rapid heartbeat, said Friday in a statement issued by his charitable foundation that his problem is "treatable and curable."

According to the statement, the condition - supraventricular tachycardia, a general term for a rapid heart rate originating above the ventricles - is not life-threatening. Doctors told Toms it can be treated with medication or cured with minor surgery.

The 38-year-old Toms, No. 4 on the PGA Tour money list and No. 11 in the world rankings, grabbed his chest and complained about not being able to breathe properly halfway through his round and was taken off the course in an ambulance.

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SUNDAY HURRICANE HEROES: HOW ONE WOMAN STAYED TO HELP THE NEEDY A-17

The Times-Picayune

$1.50 169th year No. 241 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005 HURRICANE EDITION

DAY 20 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **579**

Dispersal of New Orleans voters could change state's unique political history, **See A-2**

Team rescues frozen embryos from east New Orleans clinic, **See A-5**

Storm forces funeral homes into temporary burials, cremations, and to move bodies, **See A-6**

The lack of functioning hospitals is a major obstacle to allowing residents to return, **See A-9**

Neighborhoods in eastern New Orleans devastated, **See A-14**

Instead of ordering a phased return, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard says all Jefferson Parish residents are welcome to come back sooner, **See A-20**



Analysts say Katrina may have ended careers of thousands of commercial fishers, **See Metro**

Responding to a request for as much as $5 billion in federal aid, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie says it should be introduced in Congress as soon as Monday, **See Metro**

## St. Bernard residents return home

# EMPTY HANDS, BROKEN HEARTS



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Associate pastor Glenn Barras, from left, of Adullam Christian Fellowship in Arabi, prays Saturday with Arabi residents Angela Tyrone and Laura Freeze, and Derrick Young, a firefighter chaplain from Seattle, as the women take a break from salvaging possessions.

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The once-tidy cottage on Lebeau Avenue in Arabi had been home to five generations of Susan Probst's family, from her grandparents to her 9-year-old grandson.

So Probst made sure she was among the first in line Saturday at dawn when St. Bernard Parish officials allowed residents in her neighborhood to return and salvage the few possessions that Hurricane Katrina had spared.

Despite dire warnings about the devastation throughout the parish, Probst and her husband, Tony, held out hope and had even rented a small moving van to haul away their possessions.

But that all changed with one glimpse through the home's windows.

"Oh, my God! Oh, my God!" she screamed as she fell to her knees and her words dissolved into a piercing wail.

The refrigerator lay in the middle of the kitchen floor, surrounded by slimy muck. The living room was a jumbled mess of mildewed furniture tossed about by floodwaters that had nearly reached the tops of doorways. Mold was spreading on the walls and ceilings.

Once she gathered herself enough to go inside, Probst discovered more heartbreak. Her collection of Mickey Mouse memorabilia was destroyed, and the water had smeared the ink on scores of pictures of her five grandchildren, blurring their faces so she couldn't recognize them.

"I tried to prepare myself for what I might see, but I never imagined this," she said. "Maybe I was just trying to fool myself."

"Looks like we won't be needing the truck after all," Tony Probst said.

Similar scenes played out throughout Old Arabi as about 300 carloads of residents returned to the parish Saturday to see what they could salvage. Most left virtually empty handed.

"People are shocked by what they're seeing and this is the least impacted area," Sheriff Jack Stephens said.

"It's only going to get worse."

In the coming days, residents will be allowed to return in stages to other areas of the devastated parish, where virtually all 27,600 homes flooded, including

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *A-20*

# New Orleans opens doors to some business owners

*Firms find much work to do*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Roland Adams walked into his Faubourg Marigny restaurant Saturday morning for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck and found a surprise: Everything was just as he had left it three weeks earlier.

Tables inside Marigny Brasserie at the corner of Royal and Frenchman streets were perfectly set with clean white linen cloths, china and glasses. The bar was stocked with a full supply of liquor, wine and beer. Even the $400 in cash left behind by the owner was still in its place.

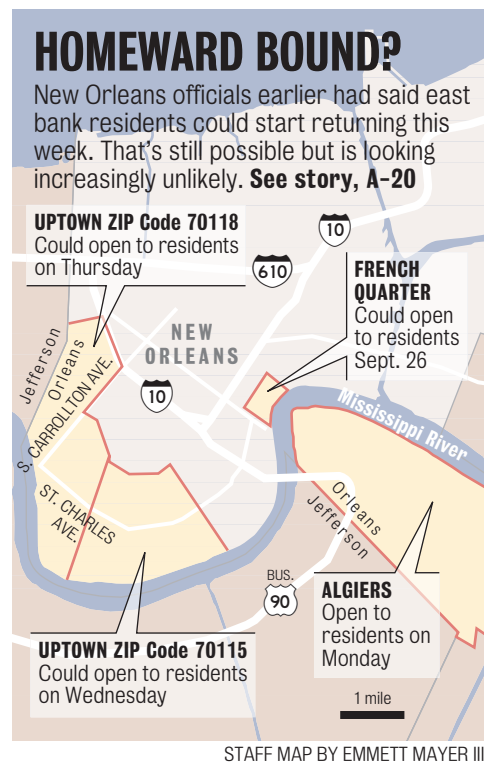
"We're so lucky," Adams said. "No water damage. No looting."

Business owners began assessing Hurricane Katrina's damage Saturday, the first day they were allowed to enter New Orleans. Their work marked the start of the long process of resurrecting the city's battered economy.

From Uptown to the Marigny, workers swept shattered storefront glass from sidewalks, emptied rotten food from kitchen freezers and carried important files and computers to moving trucks.

Just off Poydras Street, along the city's main high-rise office strip, Sal Cannatella stuffed equipment from his copier, printer and litigation consulting business into a

*See* **BUSINESSES,** *A-12*




STAFF MAP BY EMMETT MAYER III

# Turf wars, political strife threaten plans to rebuild

*Racial tension mars initial discussions*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Twelve days after Hurricane Katrina, as the worst of the storm's physical perils subsided, about 60 business people and public officials from New Orleans gathered in Dallas with Mayor Ray Nagin to discuss the future of the city.

The room full of "type A" personalities, as one participant described them, showered advice on the mayor. But it was New Orleans-born trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis, one of several people participating by phone, who passionately made the point that seemed to resonate most with the group: New Orleans must rebuild its cultural, as well as its economic, strength.

For a city suffering an almost total exodus of residents and standing on the precipice of historic change in its population size and demographic makeup, the challenge of Marsalis' message struck deeply, according to people who attended the Dallas meeting Sept. 10. One huge concern is the potential loss of a disproportionately large number of African-Americans whose

*See* **REBUILD,** *A-15*

# Need, response proved out of sync

*Initial confidence rooted in ignorance*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — It was 8:30 a.m., shortly after Hurricane Katrina made landfall Aug. 29, and Donald Bordelon was feeling pretty good.

Katrina's 145-mph fury was still raging outside his Arabi home. But in St. Bernard Parish, where residents look up at the Mississippi River, the real worry is water. Always, the water.

For the time being, the levees were holding back the forces of nature that daily threatened to render his neighborhood just one more south Louisiana swamp. His relief didn't last long.

Forty minutes later, water swirled up around the stove in his kitchen. He jumped into his boat and gave up his home to the storm.

*See* **RESPONSE,** *A-21*

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# Evacuations trip up Democratic strategy

## *Return of reliable voter base uncertain*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE – With so many New Orleans residents in evacuation centers and temporary housing arrangements across Louisiana and the rest of the country, political analysts say that Hurricane Katrina could prove a turning point in the state's political history.

The potentially permanent diaspora of voters – especially the poor and black residents who make up the Democratic Party's most loyal constituency and may lack the resources needed to return – could change the calculations for getting elected to statewide office for years to come.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other leaders are beginning to assess the task of rebuilding the city and surrounding region, emphasizing that they want all of the Louisiana citizens to come back home. Those displaced lower-income residents currently without jobs, they say, can be put to work on the massive construction projects that are soon to come to the area.

The city of New Orleans has always been key in statewide elections, where well-established political machines have historically been able to turn out a large Democratic vote.

African-American voters make up about 63 percent of the registered voters in the city and 29 percent in the state. They have historically vote overwhelmingly for Democrats, making them essential to a winning strategy.

The well-organized black voters in New Orleans have been an essential factor in statewide elections, allowing Democrats to compete in a way that they haven't been able to in neighboring Deep South states such as Mississippi and Alabama, said Jim Nickel, a former chairman of the party.

"Unless there is a very significant, almost complete return, the math gets very complicated for Democrats," Nickel said.



**Gov. Kathleen Blanco**
Emphasized that she wants all La. citizens to return

It is unclear exactly how many people from southeast Louisiana have left the state since Katrina struck the coast three weeks ago, although Blanco estimates that 1 million residents from the region have been dispersed. Many of them are now out of state, including an estimated 250,000 in Texas alone.

Which of those Louisianians choose – or are able – to return will set the political landscape.

Residents already have begun to return to St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes, which have majority white populations that often back Republican candidates. Both parishes went for Blanco's GOP opponent, current U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, in the 2003 governor's race and gave Republican George W. Bush some of his highest percentages in the state in 2000 and 2004.

People from the flood-ravaged parishes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines are unlikely to be able to return as quickly because of the extensive flood damage. But those rural parishes, which are almost entirely white, are less politically predictable, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans in competitive races.

The real question mark remains Orleans Parish. Heavily black neighborhoods such as the Lower Ninth Ward and eastern New Orleans suffered extensive flooding, which could take months, if not years, to rebuild.

At the same time, thousands of lower-income New Orleanians, most African-American, who were unable to leave the city before the storm waited for days to be evacuated, often without food, while increasing violence dominated the streets. Many have expressed anger at their state and local leaders and reluctance about returning to the area. One recent poll of evacuees at shelters in Houston found that 44 percent intended to permanently relocate outside New Orleans.

State Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, said that it may be too soon to tell whether people will be unwilling to return to the city because of their experiences during Hurricane Katrina. An African-American politician, Richmond acknowledged that the exodus of large numbers of black voters would be significant for state Democratic politics.

"If we don't get people home, it is going to be very hard for Democrats to be elected," he said, while emphasizing that politics isn't the priority right now. "The main goal is to create a new city that everybody who was displaced would want to come home to."

Bernie Pinsonat, a pollster and political consultant with Southern Media & Opinion Research in Baton Rouge, said it likely won't be clear for at least three months how the storm will impact the voter base in New Orleans.

For current leaders, the political impact of Hurricane Katrina could be problematic even if people do return to the state. A survey of 680 people at shelters in Houston, almost all of them from New Orleans, found that evacuees were critical of politicians at every level.

Fifty-eight percent disapproved of Blanco's handling of the storm's devastating aftermath, when flooding and violence overtook the city and thousands of people were stranded with little assistance for days. About 53 percent disapproved of New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's actions, while 70 percent found fault with President Bush.

The survey showed that people experienced a total collapse of local and state services, said Robert Blendon, professor of health policy at the Harvard School of Public Health, who helped conduct the survey, along with the Kaiser Family Foundation and The Washington Post.

Only 7 percent of respondents said they were helped by the New Orleans police or fire departments or a state agency, compared with 25 percent who said they received assistance from the National Guard or other military units.

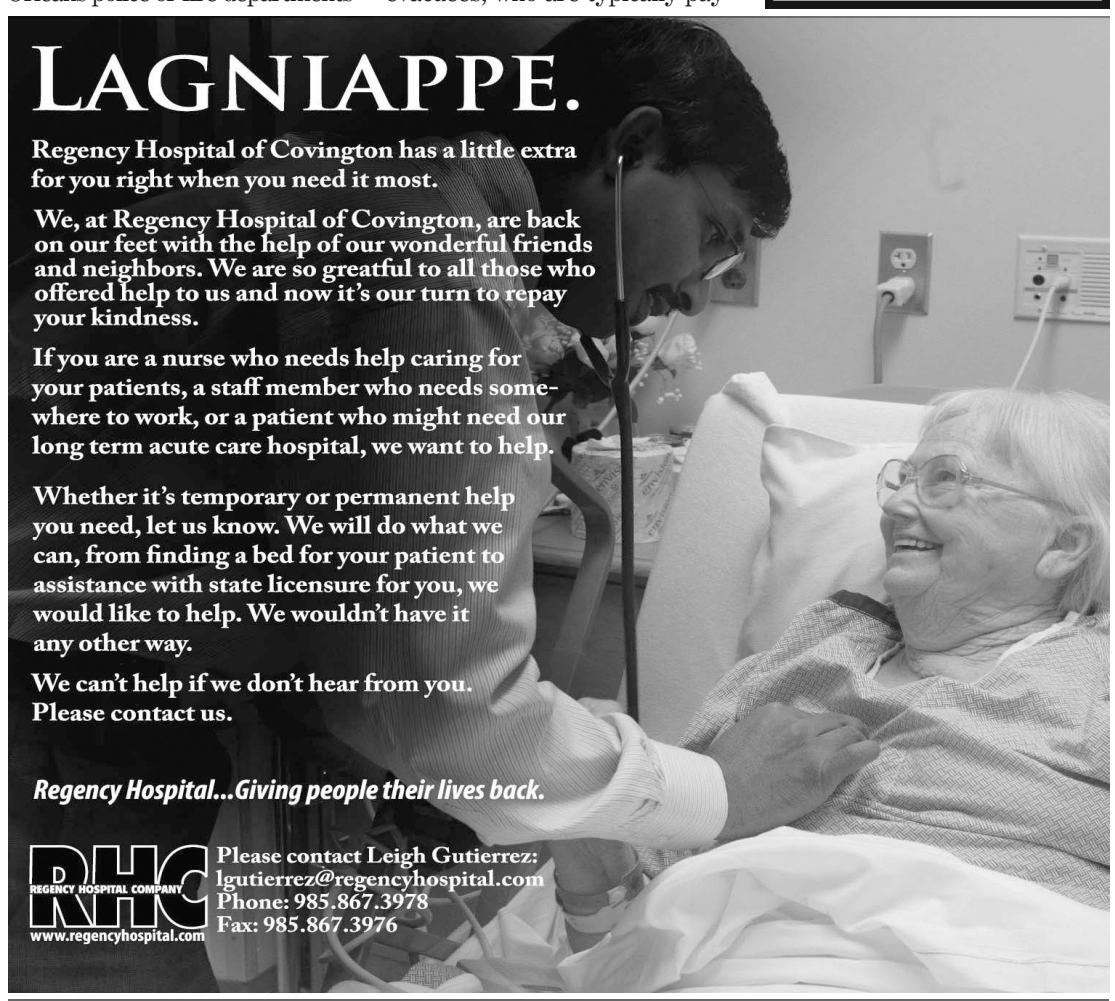
"There was a real skepticism about the ability to rebuild and make things work in the future at the state and local level," Blendon said.

As the survey polled only people in emergency shelters, it is not a representative sampling of all New Orleans-area people who have evacuated to Houston, capturing generally low-income people who stayed in the city during the storm and needed government help to get out. More economically well-off evacuees, who are typically paying for their own housing or staying with family and friends, were not included.

• • • • • •

Capital bureau reporter Robert Travis Scott contributed to this report.


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GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO

# Blanco to nation: Our people will return

*Radio address promotes teamwork*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Gov. Kathleen Blanco was tapped to deliver the Democratic Party's weekly radio address Saturday, using the national forum to thank people around the country for their generosity to Louisiana citizens in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Blanco said the state is expecting to bring back residents who have been scattered across the nation – an exodus that some have called the greatest U.S. population shift since the end of the Civil War.

"Accept our thanks and hear our resolve: We will bring our people home as soon as we can," she said. "We need and want our people back."

While the Democratic address is often a counterpoint to President Bush's weekly radio address, Blanco used her time to thank the president for his pledge to commit the federal government to rebuilding New Orleans.

"We are prepared to work as partners. Some issues reach beyond party," said Blanco, who has been critical of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the weeks since the storm struck. "In the face of the human tragedy, which lies behind us, and the task that lies ahead of us, there is no room for partisan politics."

Blanco and Bush both touched on many of the same issues in their radio addresses as in speeches given early this week, with the president explaining the programs he has proposed to help bring residents and businesses back to the devastated Gulf Coast.

"Our reconstruction efforts will be guided by certain principles: When cities are rebuilt, those cities should have many new businesses, including minority-owned businesses," Bush said. "When houses are rebuilt, more families should own, not rent, those houses."

Bush also sounded a theme of faith-based optimism that has replaced the earlier finger-pointing and pessimism that colored the earliest days of the strategy.

"In the life of our nation, we have seen that wondrous things are possible when we act with God's grace," Bush said. "From the rubble of destroyed homes we can see the beginnings of vibrant new neighborhoods. From the despair of lives torn asunder, we can see the hope of rebirth. And from the depth of darkness we can see a bright dawn emerging over the Gulf Coast and the great city of New Orleans."

# Square away insurance before filing for FEMA aid

*Grants issued for various expenses*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Making a claim on your insurance policy, if you have one, should come before filing for FEMA assistance, insurance industry representatives said this week.

As a rule, individuals should get insurance settlements first and then talk to FEMA "to determine if you qualify for government public assistance," said Jeff Albright, chief executive of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

That's because FEMA does not duplicate the coverage provided by insurance policies.

"If you get FEMA money, insurance companies wouldn't refuse to pay," said Don Beery, a vice president at Eustis Insurance Co. in New Orleans. However, if you receive an insurance settlement, you may have to reimburse FEMA because the federal agency will not duplicate coverage.

But Louisiana insurance brokers say many people file for everything -- homeowners insurance and FEMA assistance — and "sort things out as they go," Albright said.

FEMA offers a wide range of financial assistance.

The agency may be best known among Hurricane Katrina victims for its $2,000 temporary housing grants.

But FEMA also issues grants for a variety of other needs, including personal property replacement and medical, dental and funeral expenses, said Dean Cushman, a Baton Rouge spokesman for the agency.

These income-based programs mostly benefit those who have no insurance, Cushman said. But those who have insurance may also apply.

"If it looks like insurance is not enough to complete your home repairs, FEMA will come out and see if we can make an adjustment to add to your funds," Cushman said.

FEMA programs provide up to $26,200 per individual or household for housing and other needs. This includes up to $5,200 to make home repairs, said Pam Glasschroeder, a FEMA spokeswoman.

The FEMA program also includes assistance for repairing or replacing an automobile.

FEMA awards $500 for auto repair, as long as the vehicle is inspected, insured and registered. The assistance is most frequently made available to drivers who do not have full insurance. However, consumers with full insurance may still get an award.

Glasschroeder said a consumer may submit receipts for additional repairs, up to a total of $4,500.

FEMA grants are not intended to cover deductibles for those with insurance. Consumers with full insurance protection, which includes comprehensive and liability coverage, will generally be ineligible for assistance.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Writer misidentified:** A story published Sept. 1 under the headline "Baton Rouge real estate activity surges" had the wrong byline. It was written by Times-Picayune real estate reporter Greg Thomas.

**Rate increases not sought:** A headline and story in Saturday's edition about electric utility rates were incorrect. Entergy New Orleans and Entergy Louisiana have not sought rate increases from regulators. Over the coming weeks, the utilities will study changes in their customer bases and in costs related to Hurricane Katrina and the resulting evacuation. The utilities might request changes in their rates if they are needed to maintain their financial health, Entergy spokeswoman Amy Stallings said.

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# FEMA sets up clinics for minor ills in Jefferson

## *Residents get free help for medical complaints*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

At Westwego Elementary School, Wendy Spino, left, of Chalmette is given a shot by nurse Sherry Holland of Columbia, Md. With them is emergency medical technician Chip Miller, center, a captain with the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department in Maryland. Ten sites throughout Jefferson Parish are being used as makeshift hospitals where residents can receive free, walk-in medical service, including vaccinations, drug refills and care for minor injuries.

Doctors and nurses moved swiftly around the room, some taking temperatures or monitoring blood pressure, others providing canned water for a steady stream of patients.

There were boxes of equipment, prescription drugs, a gurney and even a seating section for those awaiting a word with doctors.

It had all the feel of a typical hospital, with one glaring exception: the action was taking place in the cafeteria of Westwego Elementary School.

As part of a FEMA-run initiative dubbed "Operation Lifeline Depot," 10 sites throughout Jefferson Parish are being used as makeshift hospitals where residents can receive free, walk-in medical service, including vaccinations, drug refills and care for minor injuries.

The depots have been running for about two weeks and might end sometime next week as local hospitals come back on line, officials said.

Kelly Hudson, a FEMA spokeswoman, said Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard initiated the idea so residents who did not evacuate could still receive care.

"This is the largest-scale event I've ever been a part of," said Mike Millin, a doctor at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore who is running the depot.

He and several workers on his 20-member staff, including many from Johns Hopkins, volunteered to work in Louisiana and expected to find heavy trauma cases when they arrived.

Instead, the more than 700 residents who have come through the depot have seen more basic needs such as treatment for hypertension and diabetes and prescription drug refills, Millin said.

In addition to medical attention, some residents, still traumatized or stressed by the storm, are looking for something beyond medicines and X-rays, he said. "They need the human touch," Millin said.

The centers are generally open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and transportation is available to area hospitals for more serious cases, Millin said. Overall, the centers have served about 3,500 residents since Sept. 7.

Westwego resident Robert Kennedy, who rode out the storm in the city because his mother refused to evacuate, called the center a blessing. He said he has not been feeling well the past several days and came to the depot Saturday to have his blood pressure and blood sugar checked.

"It's great," he said. "It's good for the community. It gives people somewhere to go. Some people say (FEMA) didn't come in fast enough, but better later than never."

Sitting at a table waiting to be seen by a nurse, Edward Matherne said his evacuation to New Iberia forced him to go without his blood pressure medication for three weeks. A friend told him about the depot when he returned to town Friday.

"It's great," he said, moments before his name was called. "People need their medication."

Meanwhile, inside the recreation center near Belle Terre Playground in Marrero, further recovery efforts bustled. The center has been turned into a headquarters for FEMA officials, U.S. marshals and firefighters from around the country.

More than 500 firefighters voluntarily came to Louisiana to help, including roughly 40 in Jefferson Parish.

Many spent the first few days after the storm helping with search and rescue efforts throughout the region.

Once those frantic days ended, the firefighters turned their attention to community outreach, traveling door-to-door with fliers containing FEMA information as well as supplies of food and water. They answered residents' questions and, in some cases, also provided minor medical care that officials believe saved nearly 20 lives in the first days after Katrina.

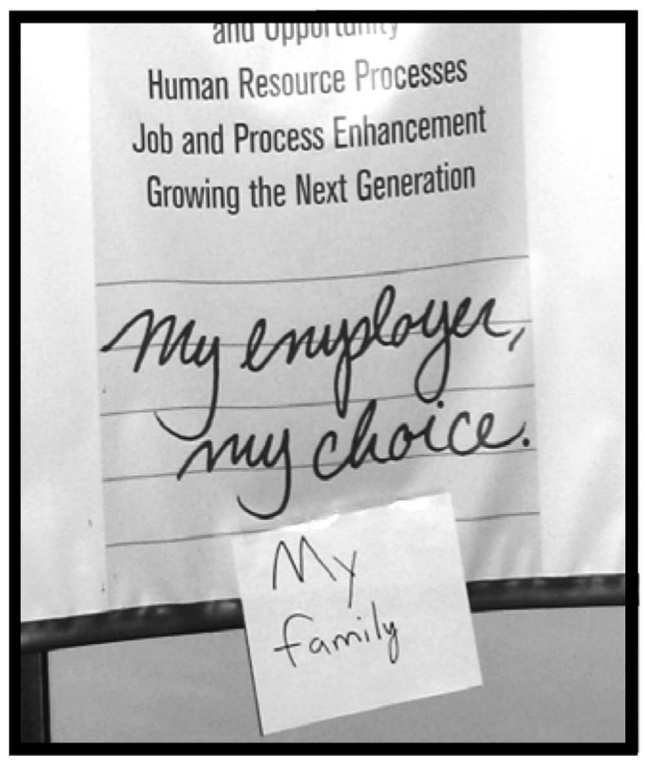
With a smaller number of firefighters, those efforts will continue as most Jefferson residents return home, but will eventually be disbanded as FEMA establishes disaster recovery centers throughout the area.

"Whatever the immediate need was, that's what we did," said Idaho firefighter Shane Arak, referring to his first few days in Louisiana. "This is history. This is what we do for a living."

The enormity of the disaster struck Marc Maiello, a colleague of Arak's from Idaho. "You can't grasp it until you are in it and it hits all of your senses," he said. "You have to walk through it. You have to smell it. It just leaves you with a numb, sober feeling."

The other nine depot locations are as follows:

▶Ames Elementary School, 500 Pine St., Marrero
▶Lincoln Elementary School, 1429 Ames Blvd., Marrero
▶Herbert Wallace Fire Station, Highway 90, Avondale
▶St. Ville Elementary School, 1121 Pailet St., Harvey
▶Woodmere Fire Station, Destrehan Ave., Marrero
▶AP Clay Resource Center, 200 Decatur St., Kenner
▶Shrewsbury Community Center, 1121 Causeway Blvd., Metairie
▶Dorothy Watson Community Center, Myrtle Drive, Metairie
Lincoln Manor Gym, 31st St., Kenner


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# Team rescues embryos from east N.O. clinic

## *Frozen tanks taken by boat to safety*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

The day before Hurricane Katrina tore across New Orleans, staffers at an eastern New Orleans fertility clinic moved swiftly to protect their most precious asset: 1,000 frozen embryos in four 80-pound tanks.

Before anyone knew how much damage the storm would inflict, specialists at the Fertility Institute of New Orleans moved the bulky tanks from the clinic to the third floor of nearby Lakeland Hospital at Bullard Avenue and Interstate 10, said Dr. Sissy Sartor, a fertility specialist. Then they refilled them with liquid nitrogen, which keeps the embryos at a safe temperature of 150 degrees below zero for three weeks or more, even if electrical service fails.

Katrina swamped much of eastern New Orleans. The clinic and hospital were not only flooded but also surrounded by about 8 feet of water, Sartor said, but the embryos were dry and safe – for the time being.

Even with a three-week margin of safety, Sartor said she and her colleagues didn't want to risk leaving them there that long. So on Sept. 9, they began arranging to remove the embryos, some of which had been stored there since 1989.

The effort took off after one strategically placed call to an acquaintance, state Rep. John Alario, D-Westwego, who just happened to be en route to a meeting at Gov. Kathleen Blanco's office with representatives of the State Police and the National Guard.

Alario brought the concern to the meeting's attention. "I told them the problem I had," Alario said, "and said we were looking for people – anywhere, anyhow – who were ready to go."

As a result of that encounter and more telephone calls, a coalition was formed. On Sept. 11 at 7:30 a.m., a Fertility Institute contingent met members of the State Police, the National Guard and the Illinois Conservation Police at Bullard and Chef Menteur Highway to start what Sartor called Operation Embryo Rescue.

The Illinois group was there because it had three flat-bottomed boats: valuable assets, Sartor said, because they encountered high water a block from the intersection.

The group of 20 climbed onto the boats and started paddling down Bullard toward the clinic. Although the water had started to recede, Sartor said, cars were still submerged, and some houses held 6 feet of water.

"It was mind-boggling," she said. "When we got the hospital door open, it was as if a dam had opened up. Water started flowing out."

Spotting a dinghy bobbing nearby, Roman Pyrzak, the clinic's lab director, clambered aboard and paddled down the aisles and halls of the dark, dank building, followed by members of the State Police and National Guardsmen in waders. When they reached a stairwell, Pyrzak, who had been in charge of moving the embryos to the third floor, led the way to the tanks.

Their first priority, Sartor said, was to ascertain that the nitrogen levels were still high enough to sustain the embryos.

They were. Then it was time to get them out. With two men carrying each heavy tank, the group slowly descended two flights of stairs, sloshed back through the hospital's first floor and loaded them onto the boats for the ride back to Bullard and Chef Menteur. The tanks were transferred to trucks for the ride to the Fertility Institute's branch at Lakeside Hospital in Metairie, which had power and nitrogen.

Once the embryos were safe, Fertility Institute staffers started notifying clients of the rescue.

"They were ecstatic," Sartor said.

So was Alario.

"It's almost like saving 1,000 lives at one shot," he said. "Maybe some of them could be twins."




A State Police officer helps Greg Hunter, right, a member of the Illinois Conservation Police, carry a tank of frozen human embryos out of Lakeland Hospital in eastern New Orleans on Sept. 11. Rescuers moved 1,000 frozen embryos in four 80-pound tanks to a Metairie hospital for safekeeping.

# Colo. town 'adopts' stricken Pearlington

## *Officials send aid, bypass red tape*

**By The Associated Press**

CARBONDALE, COLO. - This town has found its own way to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

It has "adopted" Pearlington, Miss., to provide help and supplies directly to a town that isn't in the national headlines but is in need of as much help, if not more, than New Orleans, officials said.

The idea was developed by Town Manager Tom Baker, Police Chief Gene Schilling and Fire Chief Ron Leach after an online search of the Gulf Coast communities destroyed or severely damaged by Katrina.

On Monday, a Carbondale ambulance and other vehicles are set to roll out Monday to help Pearlington. Leach said that bypasses "the bureaucracy and red tape" of working with the federal government or national aid groups.

A team of area emergency response experts will go along to assess the situation and determine Pearlington's needs as it tries to recover. Leach said the Carbondale community will be asked to help collect whatever is needed.

On Sunday, cash donations will be sought at the annual street dance and a local Cub Scout pack, as part of a national project called Project Backpack, will fill backpacks with needed items to be taken to Pearlington.

The town and fire department both donated $5,000 to get the project rolling, but they don't want to spend a lot of taxpayer money on the relief effort. Baker said he hoped the effort would serve as a model for other communities that want to help.

Officials in Pitkin County and the towns of Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt say they are working to "adopt" an area as well.

An unincorporated community of about 1,700 people in Hancock County, Pearlington is about halfway between Slidell and Waveland, Miss., both severely damaged by Katrina. It is only a few miles from the Gulf of Mexico, just east of Lake Pontchartrain and 35 miles east of New Orleans.

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Little peace found at funeral homes

## *Temporary burials, cremations increase*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

It was Aug. 27, a sunny, hot Saturday in New Orleans. But despite the picture-postcard weather, Cal Johnson, a funeral-home manager, refused to schedule any more services because he had an uneasy feeling about the hurricane churning toward Louisiana through the Gulf of Mexico.

"I had a gut feeling that after that storm, we would have no electricity and no way of operating," he said. "I didn't want to have someone's loved one floating at my facility if those remains had been entrusted to me."

Johnson's premonition was right. In its march across southeast Louisiana, Hurricane Katrina disrupted the local funeral industry and made mourners' grief even more intense.

Beset by a loss of electricity and rising floodwater, some mortuaries and the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office had to ship bodies where they could be kept safe and chilled. Some families who fled the storm's wrath and have no idea when they'll be able to return have had to hold services near their temporary homes.

Local funeral homes have been hamstrung because they have not been allowed into New Orleans to pick up bodies or inspect their businesses, said Cecilia Robert, president of Majestic Mortuary Service.

These restrictions have been hard on family members too, said Johnson, manager of Littlejohn's Funeral Home, whose two New Orleans branches flooded.

"They're emotionally torn up," said Ceatrice Johnson, his wife, who is a funeral director at Littlejohn's.

"One lady stayed back after evacuating her home so she could bury her son or know where he was going," she said. "She had a nervous breakdown."

Because of the inability to conduct funerals in New Orleans and the uncertainty of a return date, there has been a big increase in cremations and in temporary burials until people can return home, said Gene Walters, executive director of the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association.

"Funeral directors need to tell families that this is the only option for burying a loved one for a while, because we don't know when they'll be going back to New Orleans," Walters said. "If they want to get Mama buried with Daddy, they may have to wait until next year."

The state Cemetery Board is contacting local cemetery operators to determine when their graveyards can reopen, said Lucy McCann, its executive director.

Even though temporary burials are unusual, funeral homes and cemeteries are working to accommodate families' wishes, using unsold space on a rental basis, she said.

As a result of such kindness, "people are grateful," said Billy Henry, Bultman Funeral Home's manager, who has been working at mortuaries in Lutcher and Marrero until he can return to New Orleans.

He recalled one man who showed up at Alexander Funeral Home in Lutcher. He was trying to find his mother's body, which had been moved five times since the storm hit.

She was there, Henry said. "He just wanted to touch her. I wheeled her into the room, and he sat with her for 30 minutes and cried like a baby."

Because of flooding, the morgues for Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes have been moved to the St. Gabriel warehouse that is also being used to identify bodies of storm victims, Health and Hospitals Department spokesman Bob Johannessen said.

Once enough information is available to make a presumptive identification, he said the coroner of the dead person's parish will be notified, along with the family-assistance center being operated by the health department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The center notifies the next of kin, Johannessen said, and the funeral home the family selects will retrieve the body.

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# Michigan volunteers help evacuees find new jobs

**By The Associated Press**

SOUTHFIELD, MICH. — Hurricane Katrina evacuees have come to Michigan seeking food, shelter, refuge — and jobs.

Whether families of evacuees stay or go will be largely determined by their ability to find jobs in Michigan, experts said.

Many are searching for work in Detroit-area hotels and restaurants, even with the state's unemployment rate at 6.7 percent, one of the highest in the country. But Michigan can handle a few more job-seekers, experts said.

"I could see there being a problem if there were planeloads of people being dropped off, but that's not the case," said Robyn Boyle, an urban affairs professor at Wayne State University.

Among those looking for work is Tanjie Watson, 31, of Biloxi, Miss., who drove to Detroit with her husband and their four children, ages 6 months to 10 years.

The family is staying at the Homestead Inn in Southfield with help from the Red Cross. The 14-day arrangement ends in a week, Tanjie Watson said. After that, they have to fend for themselves.

"We're trying to find our way, but we don't really have funds," she told the Detroit Free Press for a Saturday story. "How are we going to find anything when we don't have funds?"

Watson most recently worked at the reservation desk of a Biloxi hotel and casino. Her husband, Duane Watson, a 31-year-old truck driver, also is looking for work.

At the Ramada Inn and Convention Center in Southfield, which has housed about 360 evacuees since the beginning of September, volunteers are organizing a job room as a resource for evacuees in the area.

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# Uptown hospitals delay reopening ER services

## *Touro, Children's need time to clean, restock*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

Throwing another wrench into Mayor Ray Nagin's ambitious plan for repopulating parts of Uptown, officials from Touro Infirmary said Saturday they do not expect to reopen their hospital for emergency services until Wednesday, while their counterparts at Children's Hospital said their facility may remain shuttered for 10 days or more.

The lack of functioning hospitals in the city is one of several major obstacles that could get in the way of the mayor's plan, announced Thursday, to allow residents to return to those parts of New Orleans not devastated by Hurricane Katrina and the flood that followed it.

Because they were relatively undamaged, Touro and Children's were the two hospitals Nagin said he hoped would be open by the time the city – now populated by an odd mixture of city and federal workers, the military, journalists and stragglers – gets some of its residents back. The other hospitals were too badly damaged or flooded to open quickly. Officials at both institutions said their facilities are in relatively good shape, but noted that there is a lot of work to be done before they can accept patients.

"There's a whole process we have to go through to get back online," said Brian Landry, a spokesman for Children's Hospital. "But we're moving very quickly."

"Certainly, the place needs a good cleaning," said Les Hirsch, Touro Infirmary's chief executive officer.

It's not clear whether Touro alone can handle the emergency services for returning residents.

Some health care professionals said emergency room visits tend to rise steeply after events like Katrina. With traffic lights out, car accidents can be frequent, and others injure themselves while attempting home repairs.

After Hurricane Hugo battered South Carolina in 1989, the number of emergency room visits doubled, said Dr. Joe Guarisco, director of Ochsner Foundation Hospital's emergency department. About 80 percent of those visits were for injuries from do-it-yourself home repairs.

Chain saw injuries send the most people to emergency rooms, Guarisco said, followed by injuries from falling off ladders or roofs.

Although both hospitals have had power for several days, they still must be scoured from top to bottom. Supplies that needed refrigeration, ranging from drugs to blood to food, have to be thrown out and replaced. Equipment must be inventoried and recalibrated. And the hospitals have to make sure they have the right medical staff in place, and that the employees have a place to live.

Saturday morning, both hospitals were teeming with cleanup crews from ServiceMaster and Aramark. Hundreds of workers milled about, sweeping up, bringing out soiled linens and testing equipment. At Children's Hospital, air "scrubbers" were fired up in an effort to freshen the stagnant air inside the building.

"We're going to try to open our ER as fast as we can," said Mary Perrin, vice president of operations for Childrens Hospital. "It's possible we'll open at the very end of next week. But more likely, it will be the week after that."

At the same time, she said, the hospital will not reopen until it's safe. Apart from the cleanup, hospital officials are concerned about the quality of city water, which has thus far been deemed unsafe for cooking, drinking and bathing.

Perrin said the lack of potable water wouldn't necessarily stop the hospital from reopening. Some water can be brought in, she said, and doctors can wash their hands with a waterless hand gel.

The outlook was more optimistic for a quick turnaround at Touro Infirmary. While Touro took on a small amount of water, its floodgates held for the most part, Hirsch said.

Hirsch said current plans – which, he emphasized, are subject to change – call for the hospital to open for emergency patients on Wednesday at 7 a.m.

"The plan assumes no issues with potable water, with sewerage, or any other public health concerns that would be outside the control of Touro," Hirsch said. "Based on what I know at this moment, we'll be open Wednesday, but there may be developments beyond my control."

City officials, in a checklist released Friday, cited security as one of the few bright spots in the restoration of services. But it hasn't always been so, according to the security chief at Children's Hospital.

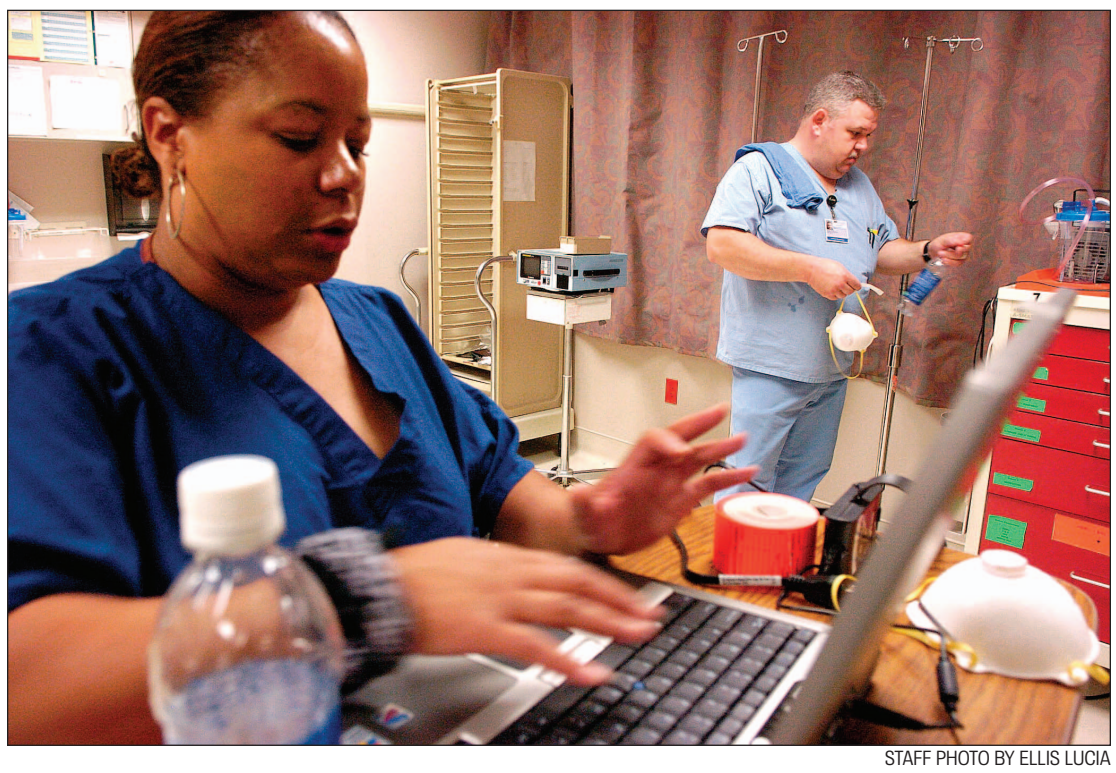
Chad Clayton of Clarence M. Kelley & Associates, a Kansas City firm that has been handling security at the hospital since the Saturday after the storm, said his team had encountered a number of problems in the early days.

"There's still some gang activity, unfortunately," he said.

Safety improved dramatically with the arrival of the National Guard, which has been bivouacking nearby in Audubon Park, Clayton said.

• • • • • •

Staff writer John Pope contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Touro Infirmary workers Rolena McGee, left, and Sammy Davis catalog biomedical equipment in the hospital's emergency room. The hospital is preparing for a Wednesday reopening.


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# State looks at ways to keep folks in La.

*Firms, homeowners could get tax credits*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE – State officials are working on an economic development package they want Congress to consider to help jump-start businesses in New Orleans, as well as encourage people to rebuild their homes in the area, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said in an interview Saturday.

Based on the tax breaks and other incentives that were created for New York City after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the state is trying to craft "sellable" tax credits program for homeowners and businesses that would benefit anyone who rebuilds in the 10-parish area affected by the storm, Blanco said.

The package is still in its conceptual stages, Blanco said, being worked out in partnership with Mississippi officials, who will have similar problems rebuilding along the coastline.

"A lot of the details are not yet identified, but we want it as liberal as possible," Blanco said, adding that any incentives would likely have to be in place for as long as a decade. "We want it to work for re-employing our people."

Among the ideas:

▶A $50,000 tax credit for homeowners who rebuild in the area or a $20,000 tax credit for renters who return. People whose tax liability is less than those amounts would be allowed to sell those credits.

▶An accelerated depreciation schedule for businesses, allowing them to write off 50 percent of their investment in the first year.

▶A $30 billion bond issue allowing businesses that want to rebuild to get tax-free bonds, as well as providing businesses that reopen in the New Orleans area with a $100,000 tax credit.

The state already is working with large companies to get their work forces back into the area, Blanco said, by helping set up temporary housing at facilities. This will help get the larger employers up and running, she said, providing a boost for the stalled economy.

In a phone interview before she traveled to Alexandria to meet with troops coming back from the war in Iraq, the governor said she had a good meeting Wednesday night with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. The mayor has been critical of the state's post-hurricane response, saying that he did not get enough support as flooding swamped the city and violence became more pervasive.

"We began the process of debriefing each other, sharing what our unique experiences were," Blanco said. "I know the mayor felt very desperate in his hour of need."

But Blanco said that because of the communications network breakdown, Nagin was unaware of all that was going on at the state level to deal with the crisis. "We came to some new levels of understanding that were absolutely necessary," she said.

Although Nagin endorsed opponent Bobby Jindal during the 2003 governor's race, Blanco said she has developed a good working relationship with the mayor since she took office. "We re-established our friendship," Blanco said of their conversation.

# Miss. begins Katrina cleanup, but where will the garbage go?

**By Matt Apuzzo**
Associated Press writer

D'IBERVILLE, MISS. - In a sandy construction site on the outskirts of town, more than a dozen trucks await their chance to unload tree limbs and feed a huge bonfire that will burn from dawn until dusk every day for months.

In an abandoned tanning salon a few towns away, members of the Army Corps of Engineers kneel on the floor and look for available dump sites on maps laid on the carpet.

The Hurricane Katrina cleanup represents the biggest waste-disposal job in U.S. history, dwarfing in volume the debris carted off after the World Trade Center's twin towers fell in 2001, officials said.

In the past few days, a loose network of contractors, government officials and out-of-work residents has sprung up to scoop, sort, grind and dispose of not just mountains of garbage, but whole mountain ranges of the stuff.

With entire communities reduced to rubble, engineers and environmental officials are scrambling to figure out where to put the debris. The largest dump site in southeastern Mississippi is already nearing capacity.

Zogas Costas, the Corps engineer leading the cleanup in two southeastern Mississippi counties, said aerial photos suggest Mississippi has as much as 50 million cubic yards of debris — enough to fill Atlanta's Georgia Dome nearly 13 times.

Louisiana, where thousands upon thousands of flooded homes in and around New Orleans probably will have to be razed, could have nearly as much.

"I was at 9/11. That was done in about four months," Costas said. "This is going take longer."

The cleanup in Mississippi follows a process that probably will be adopted in Louisiana.

First, construction crews use bulldozers and backhoes to load trucks with debris and haul it to "reduction sites." There, most household debris — mattresses, vinyl siding, toys, rusted metal, lumber and the like — is separated and ground up together. Trees, shrubs and brush are burned or turned into wood chips.

Air conditioners, refrigerators and other items that could contain hazardous materials such as coolant are set aside. The dangerous substances will be removed before those items are ground up, too.

To handle the load, Mississippi will need dozens of new landfills and reduction sites amounting to hundreds of acres, said Mark Williams, a program manager with the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Some closed sites may be reopened, existing landfills may be expanded, and people with land to spare have called the state, looking to get in on the action.

"Land is going to be at a premium," Costas said. "It's a huge, enormous task."

Approving such a site normally takes months, but environmental officials have speeded up the process.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is preparing a bill that would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to waive certain environmental rules during the cleanup, although EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson said there is no immediate need for such waivers.

As for how long the cleanup could last, Costas said much of the debris will be removed from streets within three months. But burning and grinding it all could take years.

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# Many businesses eager to reopen

**BUSINESSES,** *from A-1*

trailer. For the time being, Cannatella has relocated Southern Imaging Solutions from the sixth floor of the Freeport McMoRan Building at 1615 Poydras to locations in Kenner and Baton Rouge.

"The building will be closed for two and a half to three weeks," Cannatella said. "In my heart I feel there will be greater opportunity for those who stick it out and stay here. I'll be back."

Saint Jones had the same view standing in front of Big Daddy's, a Bourbon Street strip club famous for the pair of mannequin legs that swing out from its front window.

Workers have cleaned up the club. All it needs now to reopen is electricity and girls.

Eight dancers are waiting in other cities to return to the club's stage and tabletops as soon as soon as possible, Jones said. But that won't be nearly enough to handle the flood of business he expects from the security officers, firefighters, recovery workers and reporters who now make up the bulk of the city's population.

"They've all been banging on my door everyday asking when I'm going to open," he said. "They're going to have a lot of money to spend."

Jones expects to hire another 32 dancers to meet customer demands. The only trick is finding women willing to work in the city during the early phase of reconstruction.

But Jones said he thinks the dancers will be drawn by the opportunity to make money. "This is bigger than any convention that we've ever had," he said.

In the Central Business District, workers hauled cartloads of computers out of Hibernia National Bank's operations center at the corner of Common and South Rampart streets and loaded them into a pair of trucks bound for Shreveport. The equipment is going to a temporary customer call center for the bank, said Kent Wedel, a network facilities manager for the bank.

Not everyone was pleased with the progress.

Kay Vereen complained about the pace of restarting commerce in the city while walking her dog Sabrina a few blocks from The John, a bar that she owns at the corner of Burgundy and Frenchman streets in the Marigny.

Vereen, who never evacuated, said she's been ready to reopen for days but won't do it, because of health concerns, until utility services are restored.

"I'm tired of the press conferences. Get me up and running," she said.

• • • • • •

Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.




STAFF PHOTOS BY CHUCK COOK

Allan Kagan, owner of The Dungeon, a bar on Toulouse Street in New Orleans, hangs the sign he removed as Hurricane Katrina approached. He said he plans to open as soon as he gets power and cold beer.



Franco Valobra works on the doors of Valobra Jewelry and Antiques on Royal Street on Saturday, when business owners returned to some parts of New Orleans.

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# Annan presses nations on U.N. reform

## *Overhaul targets poverty, terrorism*

**By Nick Wadhams**
Associated Press writer

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan, armed with what he called the most significant blueprint for reform in the United Nations' history, said Saturday the 191 member states should quickly create new human rights and peacebuilding machinery and address the growing risks of nuclear proliferation and "catastrophic terrorism."

While Annan sought to spur momentum for change after a three-day summit of world leaders, Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was certain to take the spotlight with a speech later Saturday responding to a European demand for Tehran to halt uranium enrichment.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice diverged from her prepared remarks at the opening session of the General Assembly and omitted a reference to Iran as a "leading sponsor of terrorism." But she still accused Iran of having "unilaterally walked away from" nuclear talks.

Tension over Iran's intentions was one of the biggest side events to the debate, which opened less than 12 hours after the summit closed. That event saw world leaders adopt a document committing them to an overhaul of the world body and efforts to fight poverty, human rights abuses and terrorism.

Annan had wanted more, and many sweeping changes were gutted because of bitter diplomatic disputes.

But Annan and several leaders defended the summit's achievements, telling the General Assembly that leaders did more at one time than ever before in 60 years of U.N. history.

"Now we turn to a new task: to implement what has been agreed, and keep working to bridge differences that remain," Annan said, adding he would "speak plainly" if leaders fall behind. "And I have no doubt that global public opinion will keep a close eye on our progress."

For the first time, leaders accepted a collective international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

They also agreed to establish a new Human Rights Council to replace the long-discredited Human Rights Commission, tainted because countries accused of rights abuses ó including Cuba, Zimbabwe and Libya ó have gained membership.

In addition, Annan urged them to make good on the promise to set up a Peacebuilding Commission to help nations recover from war.

"Let's each do our part so that the Peacebuilding Commission can begin its work before the end of the year," Annan said.

Yet one of the summit document's failures was that it never mentioned the issue of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament because leaders could not agree on what to say.

Annan had called that a disgrace, and on Saturday he said the world faces growing risks of "proliferation and catastrophic terrorism."

He urged nations to strengthen the three pillars of the nuclear arms control regime: nonproliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses.

"The stakes are too high to continue down a dangerous path of diplomatic brinkmanship," Annan said.

Rice followed with a plea for world leaders to adopt a sweeping anti-terrorism convention and include a definition of terrorism that outlaws attacks targeting civilians. The absence of that definition of terrorism was one of the key failings of the summit document.

"No cause, no movement and no grievance can justify the intentional killing of innocent civilians and noncombatants," Rice said.

Leaders praised the summit document as a first step toward bringing change to the United Nations and helping the world's poor. But they acknowledged that some saw it the other way ó as a document that made little difference to the rest of the world.

"Who is right? The answer, I believe, is up to us," said General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden. "The document should, as one speaker put it, be a beachhead of common ground from which we launch ourselves forward with urgency and common purpose."

The original thrust of the U.N. summit was to take action to implement goals set by world leaders at their last summit in 2000. Those include cutting poverty by half, ensuring universal primary education and stemming the AIDS pandemic, all by 2015.

Jamaica's Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries, echoed many leaders when he lamented that the world was nowhere near on track to meet the targets, called the Millennium Development Goals.

"At the current pace, some regions and countries will miss several of the MDGs by decades," Patterson said. "In certain areas, such as the elimination of hunger, we would be centuries away."

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Don't endanger your life by disregarding safety as you return home. Hurricane Katrina left Entergy's gas and electric systems in the New Orleans area severely damaged. As we work to repair the gas system and restore electrical power, we ask that you make safety your top priority. Full power and gas restoration will be a long and difficult process. And with your help and patience we can rebuild what was destroyed. The storm is over. But the danger is not. Below is a list of guidelines and safety precautions to keep in mind when assessing your damage.

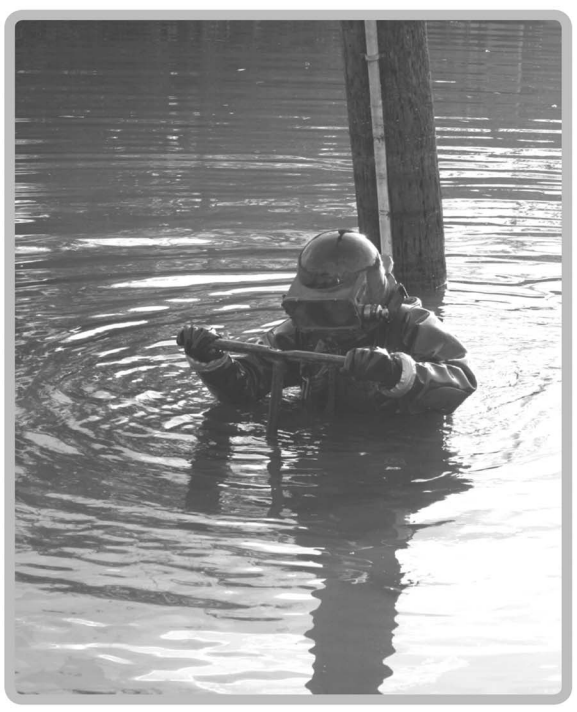


**Stay away from downed power lines and areas of debris.** Energized power lines may not be visible among the rubble. Report downed lines immediately to Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749). If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, continue to drive away from the line.

**Generator safety.** Use generators in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Never run a generator indoors. Carbon Monoxide from the exhaust can kill. Electricity and water don't mix. Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator. Never connect a generator directly to a building's wiring without a licensed electrician. It can create a lethal safety hazard for you, your neighbors, and Entergy's linemen working to restore power.

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The street looks more like a marina at Read Boulevard where it meets Chef Menteur Highway.

# Vietnamese businesses must start over — again

*Many made homes in eastern New Orleans*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

The grass in the neighborhoods along Chef Menteur Highway beyond Interstate 510 is a cadaverous gray color, seemingly lifeless after being submerged for days beneath floodwaters.

Bass boats, V-bottomed pleasure craft and even one forlorn Sunday-in-the-park paddleboat are grounded on the four lanes' shoulders, medians and side streets – evidence of a hectic exodus. Car washes, mobile homes and threadbare motels dating from the era when Chef Menteur, also known as U.S. 90, was a thoroughfare to the Gulf Coast, seem to have exploded into rubble along the roadside.

Other, more substantial architecture is merely scoured by the wind, missing shingles and gutters. Cypress and cedar trees are bent to the ground, their roots pulled summarily from the earth like garden weeds. As other New Orleans neighborhoods seem poised for a speedier-than-expected comeback, eastern New Orleans is still utterly humbled by Hurricane Katrina's power.

Near the corner of Chef Menteur and Alcee Fortier Boulevard, where for 30 years Vietnamese lettering has replaced English on the roadside shop marquees, businessman Huang Tran, 49, surveyed the damage with nervous dismay Friday.

"I feel very down," he said. "It's so terrible. Before I came back I thought I could rebuild in a few weeks. Now I think it will take five or six months."

Tran pointed to several of the storefronts in the block-long strip malls that line the intersection, each owned by a member of his immediate or extended family, all of them damaged. His younger sister owns the jewelry store, his wife's older sister owns the pharmacy, and his older sister owns the Vietnamese ham factory, where, he said, the hundreds of pounds of meat have certainly spoiled.

Other family members ran small businesses in neighborhoods across New Orleans, most, he said, damaged to some degree by the storm. Everyone, he said, escaped to Carrollton, Texas, near Dallas, where they waited for his report on the damage.

Tran's own business, a second-story video rental store, had survived both wind and floodwaters. Ironically, this fact only seemed to add to his frustration, since somehow he'd misplaced the keys, making the long drive from Texas to retrieve valuables and begin the repair process in part useless.

"I've almost lost my mind," he said, patting his forehead, the heat of the midday sun rippling from the muddy, littered pavement around him.

As a 19-year-old, Tran was one of thousands of Vietnamese who escaped their war-ravaged homeland to take permanent asylum in the somewhat familiar heat and fecundity of the reclaimed wetlands in New Orleans' eastern reaches. There they'd established a largely self-sufficient Southeast Asian community superimposed on a typical American suburb of tract houses, modest yards and chain-link fences.

"I feel the same thing as then," he said. "I have to start at the beginning, just like when I came here in 1975."

A fishy smell filled the air from the nearby bayou, which had returned to its banks only days before. The staccato pulse of helicopter blades could be heard in the distance. The streets of the neighborhood were almost completely vacant, except for a rare passing car with wide-eyed occupants inspecting what the flood had left behind.

Tran had not abandoned his neighborhood and business easily. He drove through the limb-strewn streets while Katrina's winds still wailed. He forded the same streets as the tide rose, leaving only when the waist-deep water threatened to drown the engine of his Ford pickup. Now he was among the very first to steal back in for a peek. He said he believes that many of his Vietnamese neighbors will return.

"The young people are gone, he said. "The old people, yes, they'll come back for the church."

He was referring to Mary Queen of Vietnam Church on Dwyer Boulevard a few blocks away, a modern sheet-metal structure adorned with subtle Asian motifs, but with part of its roof torn away and dropped like a shed snakeskin in the adjacent parking lot.

"Now I have to go back to Dallas to see what to do next," he said.

Unexpectedly, Tran went to the back of his truck, returning with cold Cokes to share.

Inside the truck's large cab, two of Tran's employees, Willie Watson, 56, and Michael McKinley, 22, waited somewhat impatiently, dust masks pasted to their foreheads with sweat. In the front seat sat Phat Quach, 26, introduced as Tran's daughter's boyfriend, a newly minted Xavier University pharmacist.

The next and last stop on Tran's expedition was Quach's house, a mile away down Chef Highway on a short cul-de-sac that was no longer marked with street signs.

The modest low-slung ranch house had one of the now-familiar rescue schematics spray- painted on the door, a crossed circle indicating no one was found inside, dated 9-10. The house had taken in a foot of water that drew a greasy brown tidemark around the inside of the living room. The floor was slick with mud, the walls polka-dotted with quarter-sized mold colonies. Scenes of Vietnam's long-ago war with China and da Vinci's "Last Supper," rendered in mother of pearl, shared the wall with formal, old-world, family photos.

"I just kind of expected it," Quach said of his musty, waterlogged home. "But it's just now hitting me that it's real. You have to step into your house and see it for yourself."

Quach was most interested in retrieving two articles. The first was a sheaf of papers including the permits and licenses for the pharmacy he and Tran were on the brink of opening in Mid-City when the storm struck.

"We were going to open in October," he said, a faint smile of pride, or perhaps irony, lighting his face as he handed the documents to Tran for safekeeping.

"I work 365 days," said Tran, standing in the doorway. "I never close. In the evening I go fishing for a couple of hours. I go home and have a couple of beers and go to bed and get up again every day."

"He's a good boss," Watson said. McKinley nodded in agreement. "But it's going to be a long while before we're back. Just look at the place."

Quach clutched the other object he hoped to salvage, a suit he said he'd recently paid $1,000 for, stored in a now-dripping vinyl carrying bag. No one stated the obvious, that the suit was a lost cause.

Unexpectedly, there was the sound of another vehicle on the road and a heavily accented voice called out to Tran's party.

Three police offers had arrived, parking their black pickup across the driveway, trapping Tran's vehicle. One wore an NOPD T-shirt. The other two, a man and woman, wore black and khaki combat gear, complete with flak jackets, spare clips and leather-sheathed gear clustered on their belts. He carried an assault rifle with sniper scope; she, a bulky pistol.

Special Agents Kim Wright and Manual Noudewo, accompanied by officer Douglas McGowan, were on looter patrol. They politely asked for ID, never assuming a threatening posture – never needing to. In their regular life, they said, they are Drug Enforcement Administration officers in Miami. Agent Noudewo, with the distinct accent, was born in Cameroon.

Once the IDs were produced, the officers chatted for a few minutes with Tran's expedition party. "It's the bad luck of our people," Tran said, explaining his belief that every 30 years the Vietnamese have been forced to leave behind one life for another. In 1945 they escaped Japanese occupation; in 1975 they fled the communist takeover; now it's Katrina.

His father, he said, had seen it all, but since he is now in his 80s, Katrina will probably be the old man's last exodus.

Heading back to the black pickup, Wright said, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

"You'll get it, you'll get it," Watson said reassuringly as Tran and the others stepped to the Ford, preparing for the long trip to their temporary home. "You're a businessman; you've seen hard times."



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Thahn Nguyen checks the contents of a bag as his son, Hiep, brings more of their belongings from their home on Saigon Street in eastern New Orleans on Saturday. Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage in the eastern part of the city.




A car was left overturned near an auto parts store on Morrison Road.

# Federal, state agendas may hinder consensus

**REBUILD,** *from A-1*

neighborhoods endured some of the most damaging flood waters and whose low incomes hinder their return.

Reaching agreement on how to rebuild New Orleans won't be easy. Nagin's effort already has run up against a Louisiana political environment rife with historical divisions and turf wars. The city's initiative also will face a headstrong wave of federal aid and free-market forces that will play a role in making or breaking a new grand plan, whatever it turns out to be.

"We can talk in the abstract about what a rebuilt New Orleans would look like," said Jim Schwab, senior research associate with the American Planning Association. "In the end that is not going to matter nearly as much, I hope, as what the people of the region themselves decide they want."

And while critics from across the political spectrum darkly warn about the dangers of "social engineering" as a strategy for rebuilding the region, costs, safety issues and what insurance companies are willing to underwrite may be the determining factor in many decisions.

Urban planners who have studied the history of communities struck by disaster recommend they begin by building a consensus about what they want to preserve and create, Schwab said. But Katrina makes that job especially difficult.

"Every time you've done it before, you still had people in the community," Schwab said.

In Dallas alone, as the mayor's group met, thousands of evacuated citizens from New Orleans filled shelters and hotels, including about 2,000 people being placed there in federally subsidized housing. Nagin was in Dallas primarily to rent a place for his family and to settle his children into school until they can re-enroll in a New Orleans school.

Marsalis and others participating in the Dallas meeting predicted that if the diverse peoples of New Orleans do not return, its distinctive neighborhoods, musical inspirations and culinary traditions probably won't, either.

## Confusion, hard feelings

The Dallas meeting was an early lesson in the difficulties facing those who seek a consensus on a plan for the future. It quickly ignited a controversy and led to miscommunication and hard feelings among some political leaders.

One of its organizers was Nagin's Regional Transportation Authority chief, Jimmy Reiss, a white businessman who was quoted that week in the Wall Street Journal saying that some people who want to rebuild the city foresee a town with a new demographic of fewer poor people. To some in the city, the story painted an impression of an elitist cadre of white New Orleans leaders callous to the plight of the city's poor.

"It was an extremely unfortunate article," said Bill Hines, a lawyer and leader of the economic development group Greater New Orleans Inc. who attended the Dallas meeting.

The story enraged a number of black state lawmakers and New Orleans City Council members, including Council President Oliver Thomas, state Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, and Sen. Diana Bajoie, both D-New Orleans, who confronted Nagin in a public meeting Sept. 12 at the state Capitol. As the legislative hearing room gained the air of a formal inquiry, Nagin responded sharply that he had no such intention and said he had made that point clear at the Dallas gathering.

"So don't worry about this city being hijacked by a small group of people who are trying to take us backward," said Nagin, who is black.

Reiss, contacted at his home in Aspen, Colo., would not comment. In a letter to The Times Picayune, he said, "there was no selfish politics, no parochial goals" at the Dallas meeting. "We all shared the same objective: Make New Orleans a prosperous city that provided jobs and a high quality of life for all of its citizens, and preserving the diverse cultural and ethnic heritage that makes us special."

Some of those who joined the Dallas meeting, which lasted several hours, said it was positive and unified, and that Nagin persuasively articulated his dream for a prosperous city. In addition to Marsalis, there were other African-Americans who participated, including Entergy New Orleans chief Dan Packer, who is the board chairman of the Louis Armstrong International Airport, businessman David White and state Sen. Derrick Shepherd, D-Marrero.

Still, the event fed Nagin's reputation as an aloof leader indebted to the white business establishment that helped elect him. Nagin himself is a businessman with no experience in elected office. Few have forgotten that Nagin, a Democrat, endorsed conservative Republican Bobby Jindal in the 2003 governor's race over Kathleen Blanco, the Democrat who won.

He also has strained relations with council members and the black legislative delegation from New Orleans, many of whom feel shut out by his administration, especially in this time of crisis. Those same people were unaware of the Dallas meeting until it was over.

"You don't need to fight these battles by yourself," Thomas told Nagin at the hearing.

"You may have done it that way in the past," state Rep. Karen Carter, D-New Orleans, told Nagin. "But you don't have to do it that way in the future."

Nagin explained that he had been dealing with urgent and stressful conditions hampered by dysfunctional communication systems. He made his mea culpa and announced he would appoint a racially balanced task force dedicated to planning the city's revival. He was adamant that New Orleanians, not state or federal officials, will determine the new plan for New Orleans.

## Limited local leadership

Bernie Pinsonat, a consultant with Southern Media & Opinion Research in Baton Rouge, said the public perceives the Katrina political landscape as devoid of outstanding leadership from the president on down.

"Louisiana produced no Giuliani figures for the rest of the country," Pinsonat said, referring to former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's much-lauded handling of the 2001 terrorist attacks on his city.

Leadership is critical to the recovery process, and Nagin seems determined to emerge as the one setting the agenda for the future.

But the city has long been limited in determining its own affairs and revenue base. For example, state commissions own the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and the Legislature ultimately decides how much room tax New Orleans hotels will charge to pay for the buildings. The state, represented by the governor, is the primary negotiator in deals with the New Orleans Saints. Local sales and property taxes are capped by state law.

The city's public housing authority, which has temporarily moved to Houston, is under the control of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development because of past financial problems. Financing for future public housing projects will depend largely on the impetus of the federal agency.

Last week, the state Bond Commission, acting on a request that preceded Katrina, approved a federally backed $49 million financing package to continue a redevelopment program for three of the city's major public housing developments, one of which was severely flooded. It won't matter if people don't come back to occupy the apartments; the financing is not based on occupancy.

One senator on the commission questioned whether the panel was moving too fast considering the many unknowns about New Orleans' public housing scene. But the commission decided it was better to have the money in the pipeline than to derail the projects while waiting for a grand new plan.

The federal government has its own recovery agenda, announced by Bush last week, and it plans to contribute billions of dollars. There has been much talk about the possible appointment of a federal tsar for the recovery effort.

Federal Emergency Management Agency money for the city will pass through state agencies. It remains to be seen whether state or federal authorities will interfere or attempt to dictate the city's plan.

Blanco wrote President Bush this week requesting that federal dollars cover 100 percent of the cost for Katrina recovery, and lawmakers at the state Capitol last week were nearly universal in their expectation that federal money would take care of New Orleans, leaving state budgets to continue providing the same services and projects elsewhere in Louisiana.

Late last week, Nagin spent considerable time building political allies and staking out a national media presence to put a confident face on the daunting recovery effort. Now out of crisis mode, he can spend more time on the future.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild the greatest city in the world," Nagin said. "It's been a wild ride, and we're getting ready to get on another wild ride."

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**It is urgent that all employees of the University of New Orleans, the LSU Health Sciences Center and employees of the Health Care Services Division contact their employers immediately, if you have not done so already.**

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HURRICANE HEROES

*N.O. woman stays behind to provide hope,help*

# MOMMA'S MISSION

## *Amid the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, one woman stayed behind with a simple goal: to take care of those who need it the most*



STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

Activist 'Momma D,' center, tries to get a laugh out of Jim Osborne, one of the Treme residents she checks on daily. Another resident who stayed in Treme through Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath is Debra Allison, in the wheelchair at left.

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

Diane "Momma D" Frenchcoat rises early each morning and pushes a cart of food and supplies through the sludge-spoiled streets of Treme and the 7th Ward.

She delivers food and hope for the hungry. She serves the delusional and dejected, the junkies and the flood survivors who have remained in the city despite its mass evacuation.

Each day, she pushes her cart up and down Esplanade Avenue and Dorgenois, Aubry and North Tonti streets, calling to those too ill or too old or too stubborn to leave the neighborhoods that they've loved for so long.

"You need something to eat?" Frenchcoat yelled to a skinny, shirtless man perched in a second-floor window of a home on Esplanade near Treme Street, earlier this week. "You hungry? You want some food?"

The man peered down from his post to the mud-crusted block below and responded with silence.

"You need some food, baby?" Frenchcoat hollered again.

The man stood there for a moment then vanished into the darkness.

"So many of them are scared to come out of their homes. But they're hungry, I know they are. So, I just come by every day and let them get used to my voice and hope they come out."

She marches on each day, up and down Treme and St. Philip and St. Ann streets calling out to the frail and the frightened, to those who shudder at the sounds of the military machines grinding on their blocks or hovering above their humbled homes.

Her cart is usually packed with baby formula, deodorant, canned soup and sandwiches. Some of it has been "liberated" from local groceries, she said, where it would have gone to waste in the wake of the hurricane and flood. Some had been given to her by out-of-state soldiers sympathetic to her cause.

"I can't think of a better gift in the face of this tragedy than Momma D," said Lt. Ken Noack, 24, of the 82nd Airborne out of Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. "She's just the sweetest woman."

Noack and his men piled out of a military vehicle Wednesday onto Dorgenois Street, bearing bags of ice.

"With this city being so sad right now, to see her so willing to help brings smiles to our faces," he said, "the only ones we've had in two weeks."

Noack said Momma D has helped them find dozens of people in need of help who otherwise might never gotten attention.

Frenchcoat said she has too much work ahead of her to leave the city. And she said she won't be forced out either. Not by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, not by New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass and not by any other official pressing people to leave their homes.

"This is me. This is my home," she said, pointing to the brown gravel beneath her feet Wednesday. "This is me to the bone.

"Why would I leave now?," she said. "Why would I leave my people when so many of them are still here, suffering."

Her graying dreadlocks flowed down the nape of her neck, spilling over her sturdy, sloping shoulders as she spoke of a city she hopes will be reborn from the loins of her people.

Momma D has a loyal following of community activists working to help stabilize Treme from the grassroots up. They've stayed behind to help their people, their neighbors and themselves.

They call themselves the Soul Patrol, a loosely organized group led by Momma D. The Soul Patrol was on the front lines battling the floods and the hunger following Hurricane Katrina.

In the midst of the crisis, Soul Patrol members said they were about 30 strong. As time went on, the numbers dwindled. Tragedy gripped a few, some losing family members, others physically and mentally worn down.

"I ain't going nowhere," said Soul Patrol member Earl Barthe, 45. "I'm the son of a bricklayer. I'm ready to cut some sheetrock, lay some block, anything to rebuild the city."



Diane Frenchcoat, known on the streets as 'Momma D,' calls for people still living in Treme, so she can supply food and water to the flood survivors remaining in the neighborhood.



Lt. Ken Noack of the 82nd Airborne greets Diane 'Momma D' Frenchcoat as they make their rounds. 'I can't think of a better gift in the face of this tragedy than Momma D,' Noack said.

Members of the Soul Patrol said they "liberated" nearby McDonogh Elementary 42, where they evacuated hundreds of area residents during the flooding. The fire department then shipped the residents to the Superdome and Interstate 10, said Manuel Mercadel, 48.

"We had facilities there, dry land and a roof for those people," Mercadel said.

Mercadel said Frenchcoat has been an inspiration to the entire movement. She's been like a big sister who always has your back and treats everyone as an equal, he said.

**"How can the city demand that we evacuate our homes but then have thousands of people from across this country volunteering to do the things that we can do ourselves?"**

DIANE "MOMMA D" FRENCHCOAT
Treme resident

"She has a love affair with this city," said Jerome Smith, 64, a fellow activist and friend who said he's known Momma D since the early 1960s. "A love affair that she's had for a very long time."

Last week, Smith went looking for Frenchcoat to coax her out of New Orleans to a shelter in Texas. Smith said he had wanted to use her clout to organize the now evacuated young men from the community and prepare them to re-enter the city as a productive work force.

Smith called on Compass to help him find Frenchcoat.

Compass, who did not support the idea of residents remaining in the city for any reason, extended the police resources to get Momma D.

Smith and a convoy rolled down Esplanade, where the sight of a short woman in dreadlocks and bright yellow waders brought a smile to Smith's face.

The two activists met in the middle of the road, embraced and exchanged notes. The pair huddled and whispered.

Momma D had a plan.

"Rescue. Return. Restore," she said, each word seeming to freeze from her lips and hang before falling into the other.

"Can you here what I'm saying, baby? Listen to those words again," she said, leaning closer.

"Rescue, return, restore. We want the young, able-bodied men who are still here to stay to help those in need. And the ones that have been evacuated, we want them to come home and help clean up and rebuild this city. How can the city demand that we evacuate our homes but then have thousands of people from across this country volunteering to do the things that we can do ourselves?"

WORLD

# Pope's last words: 'Let me go to the house of the Father'

## *Vatican issues tome detailing final days*

**By Frances D Emilio**
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — Struggling to swallow and breathe, Pope John Paul II mumbled his final words weakly in Polish: "Let me go to the house of the Father." Six hours later, the comatose pontiff died, the Vatican says.

The account of John Paul's final hours appears in a meticulously detailed official report on his last weeks just released by the Vatican in what might be an effort to ward off any doubts about how forthcoming it has been about his illness and April 2 death.

There was much speculation in past decades about how some pontiffs died and what caused their end.

John Paul I's brief tenure of 33 days as pope in 1978 spawned conspiracy theories that he did not die naturally in his bed, as the Vatican said. Some wondered whether the pope might have been killed because he had information about an Italian banking scandal in which the Holy See's bank was later found to be involved.

While no one has publicly suggested anything amiss about John Paul II's final hours, the Vatican said nothing for years when it was apparent to observers that the globe-trotting, widely beloved pontiff was suffering the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

The Vatican already revealed many of the details in the new report, but the 220-page volume provides more description of John Paul II's decline. It went on sale at the Vatican in recent days, the Holy See's publishing house, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, said Saturday.

The book, published as a supplement to the Vatican's official journal, has entries in chronological order, starting with Jan. 31, the day the Vatican's press office announced that the pope's audiences were being suspended because he had flu symptoms.

It chronicles John Paul II's symptoms, care and response to treatment during two hospitalizations and then during his last days in his Vatican City apartment.

After the second hospitalization, which included Feb. 24 throat surgery to insert a breathing tube, John Paul's convalescence was hampered by "very difficult swallowing," laborious attempts to utter words, "nutritional deficit and marked weakness," the account says.

Swallowing and breathing problems were consequences of the progression of Parkinson's disease, which the 84-year-old pope suffered from for years, doctors have said.

Six hours before his death, John Paul said in Polish, "with a very weak voice and with mumbled words, 'Let me go to the house of the Father,'" the report said.

The official account is quite close to one offered last month by John Paul's longtime personal secretary, now Krakow Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz. He told an Italian TV interviewer that a nun who was near the pontiff heard him say: "Let me go to the Lord."

Media accounts published at the time of John Paul's death said he looked toward the apartment window and whispered "Amen." The Rome newspaper La Repubblica quoted a Polish priest, Jarek Cielecki, as saying the pope died "an instant" after he made a great effort to say, "Amen."

The Holy See's new book said the pope's longtime physician, Renato Buzzonetti, declared John Paul dead after running an electrocardiogram for more than 20 minutes, "according to Vatican rules."

Thousands of faithful had gathered to pray aloud and keep vigil in St. Peter's Square below the apartment in the days before his death. Dziwisz said last month that John Paul heard the crowd and their prayers.

According to the Vatican account, the pope uttered his final words at 3:30 p.m. "A little before 7 p.m., he went into a coma," it said.

"According to a Polish tradition, a small, lit candle illuminated the twilight of the room, where the pope was expiring," the account said.

Shortly after the pope died, the Vatican press office announced the time of death as 9:37 p.m.

The account is particularly elaborate about John Paul's turn for the worse on the morning of March 31 at his private chapel when he was "hit by a shaking chill, followed by a sharp rise in temperature" to about 103.

"Then very grave septic shock set in, with cardio-circulatory collapse, due to a diagnosed infection of the urinary tract," the account said.

"The explicit desire of the pope to stay in his apartment was respected," it said of the decision not to hospitalize the pope despite his deteriorating condition.

The Vatican account describes the pontiff as experiencing various levels of participation in what was going on around him.

John Paul's eyes were practically closed during a Mass celebrated at the foot of his bed in the late afternoon of March 31, the account said.

"But at the moment of the consecration, he weakly raised his right hand two times, that is, on the (raising up) of the bread and wine. He made a gesture indicating he was trying to strike his chest during the recitation" of the Lamb of God prayer, the Vatican said.


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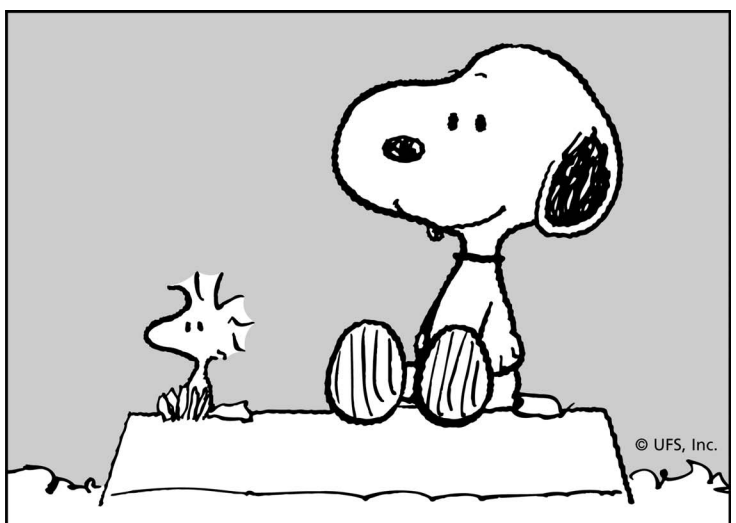
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To assist our clients and the impacted communities with the recovery, Jones Walker has formed an interdisciplinary task force to assist clients with their efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The Disaster Recovery Client Team offers assistance with a focus on insurance coverage, tax incentives and abatement, employment law, corporate reorganization and bankruptcy, FEMA and federal disaster assistance, SBA business claims, environmental and clean-up, real estate and construction. Call our Baton Rouge office and ask for a Disaster Recovery Client Team member.

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CONTINUED

# Jefferson Parish springs back to life

## *Residents return, businesses reopen*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Backing away from a phased return order that had stretched through next Wednesday, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard announced that all Jefferson Parish residents are welcome to return this weekend.

"He feels the parish has come back enough," said Walter Maestri, the parish's Director of Emergency Management. "That was his commitment that he could bring more and more people in as the infrastructure would admit."

Maestri estimated Saturday that about 75 percent of electricity and sewerage is working in the parish. But he said the hardest-hit areas of Old Metairie, Bucktown and Terrytown remain without those services. Parish officials say about 65 percent to 70 percent of the parish's residents have already returned.

Beginning Monday at 5 a.m., residents will have total access to the Causeway bridge, said Causeway General Manager Robert Lambert. Previously, the commission had restricted access to emergency personnel and those with special business permits, in an effort to help adhere to the curfews enforced in various parishes, Lambert said.

But as of Monday, each parish will have to decide how it wants to handle the curfews in light of the Causeway's opening, he said. "The parish will have to enforce (curfews), not the Causeway Commission," he said.

With more and more residents arriving, Maestri said the biggest challenge facing the parish now is finding temporary housing for thousands of citizens left homeless by the storm. West Bank residents have been allowed to return, with the main problem area being Terrytown, Maestri said.

Also, the parish is lifting the restriction against recreational vehicles and trailers in driveways, as long as residents get a permit from the Jefferson Parish Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement, Maestri said. There is no charge for the permit.

He didn't have an estimate of how many businesses have reopened, but said more are springing to life every day.

"Today's the first active day," said River Ridge resident Sandra Couvillion, standing outside a McDonald's on Jefferson Highway on Saturday.

The fast-food restaurant's lobby was closed at lunchtime, but the line for drive-through stretched onto the highway.

Many businesses advertised not just that they were opening, but that workers were needed.

"We're hiring for every position," said Lowe's zone manager Dwayne Dempster, at a Veterans Memorial Boulevard location. Employees from Lowe's stores throughout the country and Lowe's vendors are helping out at New Orleans area stores, Dempster said.

In addition to the new businesses opening, there were other signs of life returning closer to normal.

In River Ridge, only the crumpled awnings and damaged signs signaled the storm that came through nearly three weeks ago.

Traffic was brisk along Jefferson Highway where the median was dotted with spray-painted signs announcing that various restaurants were open for business.

At Colonial Lanes bowling alley in Harahan, owner Chuck Ferrara threw a party for police and firefighters who hepled the city reopen. "It's just a little bit of appreciation for the people who helped get us back on our feet again," said Ferrara, as the emergency workers bowled and ate pizza.

An RTA bus that was commandeered by New Orleans evacuees to escape the city in the days after the storm is parked in front of City Hall. The dozen people on the bus weren't booked with a crime, but were brought to the evacuation center at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

"I understand why they did what they did," Police Chief Peter Dale said.

• • • • • •

Staff writers Matt Scallan and Jenny Hurwitz contributed to this report. Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com.

# Business owners return to city

## *Officials stall on plan to let residents in*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

Business owners on Saturday streamed in to four unflooded parts of New Orleans, and plans remained in place for Algiers residents to return home Monday. But city officials were taking a wait-and-see stance on whether to stay with a plan that would let some Uptown residents start returning next Wednesday, with French Quarter residents to follow a week from Monday.

Col. Terry Ebbert, the city's director of homeland security, said city officials will make a daily evaluation of progress toward restoring vital services to those neighborhoods, ranging from trash pickup to water and sewer service to electricity. "The lessons we learn this weekend will be incorporated into the next phase. We will move very carefully."

While most services have been largely restored in Algiers, east bank districts are less ready. Utility crews have been out in force, for instance, but most of the areas the city hopes to resettle soon still lacked power Friday.

Entergy New Orleans CEO Dan Packer said Friday that crews must work slowly because of the hazards left by Katrina.

"You're really asking for trouble," Packer said. "There is the potential for everything from fires to electric shock. We want to be really slow and deliberate about bringing it back. This is not a typical restoration as with some of the other tropical storms and hurricanes."

Despite good news on some fronts, Ebbert said many challenges remain.

"We're working toward some of the goals the mayor laid out," Ebbert said. But the resettlement "is going to be dependent on our ability to bring the central services back. We're faced with a very fragile infrastructure."

The city now has a functioning 911 system, Ebbert said, but it is not capable of handling the roughly 2,000 daily calls for service the city receives in normal times. A new system is on order, and officials hope to have it up by midweek.

Elaborating on plans for reopening the city, Ebbert said there would be nine primary checkpoints around the city and two major entrance points: the West Bank Expressway and Interstate 10, which is now open from the west.

The city will distribute two-page information packets to everyone entering the city. Roughly 100,000 have been printed, Nagin spokeswoman Sally Forman said.

The packets contain a list of warnings, beginning with: "The city of New Orleans remains a hazardous site."

Among other pointers, residents are being advised to bring in all the food and water they'll need, as supplies in the city are limited. For the time being, only those in Algiers will be able to drink and bathe with city water.

Ebbert also warned that a relatively minor storm, one bringing three or more inches of rain, could cause the remaining floodwaters to rise again, reflooding parts of the city. A storm with strong winds could compromise the repairs to the levee breaches as well.

Those who return will be forbidden from going into the neighborhoods outside the eight ZIP codes outlined in the plan. Asked about the potential for looting and other mayhem in the non-populated areas, Ebbert said that with thousands of soldiers and police officers in the city, keeping people out of places they shouldn't go won't be a problem.

Residents in these ZIP codes are included in the plan: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131.

# 'It's only going to get worse,' sheriff says

**ST. BERNARD,** *from A-1*

hundreds that were simply washed away in eastern St. Bernard.

On Saturday, warped doors and jammed locks forced many residents to break into their own homes.

Residents wore masks, rubber gloves and knee-high boots as they dragged moldy furniture to the curb. Soggy photo albums and other valuables were delicately placed into plastic bags.

Mary Ann Hoover, 79, insisted on personally inspecting the damage to the Friscoville Avenue home, where she has lived for more than 50 years.

"She's got things stashed away in there that only she knows how to find," said her son, Jesse Hoover.

Wearing a flowered shirt and matching slacks, Mary Ann Hoover donned a white mask and green rubber gloves. She then shuffled toward her side door past a refrigerator filled with rotten food.

"Good thing I lost my sense of smell," she said.

"What in the world is that?" she said, looking at a large mold-covered object in her darkened living room.

"That used to be your coffee table," Jesse Hoover said.

"You've got to be kidding me," she said.

Authorities have estimated that 75 percent or more of St. Bernard's homes will have to be razed.

Parish Councilman Craig Taffaro said an informal poll of residents returning to the 800-home Old Arabi neighborhood suggested that six out of 10 don't plan to rebuild.

Even so, Councilman Mark Madary, whose district includes Arabi, said he saw some encouraging signs.

"It was uplifting to see people cleaning out their homes," he said.

"The rebirth of St. Bernard depends on people coming back. And like childbirth, it ain't always going to be a pretty sight."

Carol Becnel said she can't imagine rebuilding her shotgun in the 300 block of Angela Drive, which took on precisely 36 2/3 inches of water, according to her husband's tape measure.

"I spent the first half of my life renovating this house. I'm not going to spend the rest of my life doing it all over again," she said, holding back tears. "I try not to cry because if I start, I might never stop."

Displaced from the close-knit parish where people pride themselves on looking out for each other, Becnel said she has had to rely on the kindness of strangers:

The waitress in Houma who tore up their dinner bill when she heard their house had flooded.

The woman who offered to replace the shoes Becnel bought for her son's wedding next month.

Even the postal clerk who handed her a phone book brought tears to her eyes.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

'I tried to prepare myself for what I might see, but I never imagined this,' said Arabi resident Susan Probst, who salvaged a picture from her wall. 'Maybe I was just trying to fool myself.'

**"The rebirth of St. Bernard depends on people coming back. And like childbirth, it ain't always going to be a pretty sight."**
MARK MADARY
parish councilman

"I wish I was the one being kind," she said. "I don't like being on the receiving end, but God is working through these people."

Children were conspicuously absent from Saturday's recovery efforts, which took on the feel of a reunion as neighbors spoke to one another for the first time since before the Aug. 29 storm.

For safety reasons, parish officials had urged residents to not bring their children.

Brenda Schaubhut, whose recently restored shotgun double was ruined by the storm, left her two children with friends at a Shreveport hotel.

She said they are doing well and have treated the family's evacuation, including a week at a makeshift shelter in Chalmette, as an adventure.

Mallory, 7, told her grandmother how they "got" to sleep on cardboard at the shelter. And Dylan, 5, was thrilled by the sight of helicopters buzzing over New Orleans as the family was evacuated on a crew boat up the Mississippi River to Baton Rouge.

But Schaubhut said the children's resilience is being stretched thin as the days have turned into weeks. "Dylan just about broke my heart the other day when he asked me, 'Does Santa Claus come to hotels?' " she said.



Saturday's return of Arabi residents took on the feel of a reunion as neighbors spoke to one another for the first time since before the Aug. 29 storm. About 300 carloads of residents returned to the parish Saturday to see what they could salvage.

# *Returnees warned about cuts, infections*

## *St. Bernard to offer vaccinations*

**From staff reports**

The biggest health risk for people returning to St. Bernard Parish is the possibility of accidental injuries such as cuts or infections when open wounds are exposed to foul water, Health and Hospitals Secretary Fred Cerise said.

Tetanus shots are available at entrance points to the parish for people who have not had a booster in the past 10 years, but Cerise said no other immunizations are necessary.

To protect themselves as much as possible, people returning to the parish are advised to wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts, gloves and, in areas where indoor mold is dense, masks.

People also should use mosquito repellent, beware of stray animals, drink only bottled water and use restrooms before entering the parish, health officials say.

Even though people are eager to see their homes, Cerise said older people, children and anyone with chronic health problems such as asthma, allergies or a weak immune system should not go back yet.

# IN THE STORM *A look at how the disaster unfolded*



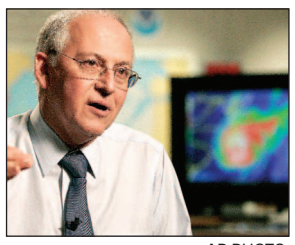
STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**AUG 29:** Shortly after the storm roars ashore, Mayor Ray Nagin announces that he has heard reports that levees have been breached. Eventually, six holes would open in the levee system, including at the 17th Street Canal, above.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 26**

▶ Watching Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf of Mexico, National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield calls Jefferson Parish emergency management chief Walter Maestri with a frightening analysis: "This is the 'Big One.' I'm as sure as I can be."

▶ Gov. Kathleen Blanco declares a state of emergency.



AP PHOTO

**AUG. 26:** Three days before the storm, Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Center issues a warning in the simplest of terms: 'This is the "Big One." '

**SATURDAY, AUG. 27**

▶ Mayfield calls New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Blanco with his warning of a potentially disastrous storm.

▶ Blanco orders mandatory evacuations of low-lying areas.

▶ **4 p.m.** Officials implement contraflow on Interstate 10. Traffic is already backing up from people leaving the coast.

▶ President Bush declares a state of emergency in Louisiana, authorizing Department of Homeland Security and FEMA 'to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population.'

▶ St. Charles and Plaquemines parishes order mandatory evacuation. Others are voluntary.

▶ **5 p.m.** Nagin declares state of emergency and gives voluntary evacuation order.

▶ Nagin says Superdome to be opened at 8 p.m. for prequalified special-needs patients.

▶ FEMA told by National Hurricane Center that Katrina storm surge is likely to top levees.

▶ FEMA Emergency Headquarters put on highest alert. FEMA Director Michael Brown dispatches teams to Louisiana.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 28**

▶ **2 a.m.** Katrina declared a Category 4 hurricane, with sustained winds of more than 140 mph.

▶ **8 a.m.** Katrina upgraded to a Category 5 storm, with sustained winds above 155 mph.

▶ **10 a.m.** Nagin orders mandatory evacuation; opens Superdome as shelter of last resort, warns that floodwaters could top levees.

▶ President Bush takes part in teleconference with officials in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. 'I asked him to send me everything he's got,' Blanco said.

▶ FEMA positions food, water and medical supplies around region for deployment as soon as safe, begins coordinating with military.

▶ **3 p.m.** About 10,000 people are sheltered in the Superdome. They are told to bring enough food, water and medicine for five days.

▶ **7 p.m.** National Weather Service predicts levees may be topped. "All indications are that this is absolutely worst-case scenario," said Ivor van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center.

**MONDAY, AUG. 29:**

▶ **6:10 a.m.** Katrina makes landfall as a Category 4, with 145 mph winds, surging ashore just east of New Orleans.

▶ **8 a.m.** Nagin announces he has heard reports that levees have been breached. Ultimately, six breaches open in three levees.

▶ **11 a.m.** Nagin talks to Matt Lauer on the 'Today' show about an estimated 30,000 people in Superdome: 'Well, you know, we have everything planned for them to be in there for four to five days. And then if it has to extend beyond that, we're going to – we're basically counting on the federal government to supply us with what we need.'

▶ FEMA's Brown issues directive urging all fire and emergency services not to respond to counties and states affected by Katrina 'without being requested and lawfully dispatched.'

▶ **11:37 a.m.** National Weather Service advisory: 'Widespread flooding will continue. Those seeking refuge in attics or rooftops are strongly urged to take the necessary tools for survival.'

▶ **3:30 p.m.** National Guard trucks start bringing dozens of people trapped in their houses to the Superdome. Many are barefoot and wrapped in sheets.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**AUG 28:** Gina Sannoh, 12, waits with thousands to enter the Superdome, which was declared the city's 'shelter of last resort,' the day before Katrina makes landfall.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**SEPT. 4:** Residents of the Bywater area sit aboard a rescue helicopter after being plucked from their flooded neighborhood.

▶ Bush declares major disaster in Louisiana, releasing federal money.

▶ FEMA's Brown arrives in Baton Rouge. Blanco said she feels 'blessed' he has arrived. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., calls him 'an able and experienced director.' FEMA teams will wait to enter the city.

▶ Two holes ripped in Superdome roof.

▶ Red Cross announces it is 'launching largest mobilization of resources in its history.'

▶ Coast Guard begins rescuing people from roofs.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 30**

▶ Nagin estimates that 80 percent of the city is under water. He says it's up to 20 feet deep in some places.

▶ Bush is briefed about rising waters in New Orleans, decides to cut short vacation.

▶ Nagin evacuates city government to Baton Rouge. He remains in a city hotel.

▶ Looters begin ransacking stores.

▶ Officials issue a call for flatboats to rescue people stranded in the flood.

▶ National Guard soldiers bring people from outlying areas into the Superdome in the backs of Army trucks. Louisiana's wildlife enforcement department also transports people in the backs of their pickup trucks.

▶ Gov. Kathleen Blanco says everyone still in the city, now huddled in the Superdome and other rescue centers, needs to be evacuated. There aren't enough buses or drivers for the job.

▶ **6:30 p.m.** Nagin announces efforts to patch the breach in the 17th Street canal levee have failed. Helicopters that were to drop concrete barricades in the breach weren't equipped with the proper slings.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31**

▶ Bush heads back to Washington flying over the region. Appoints Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to lead federal task force.

▶ In Baton Rouge, Brown says: 'The president's admonition to me today was that we do everything, everything's on the table. I've got access to everything I need.'

▶ Blanco again asks Bush for troops.

▶ With looting and violence escalating, Blanco and staff search for buses to evacuate New Orleans. She calls for a day of prayer.

▶ Nagin calls for total evacuation. The Superdome is crowded with 23,000 people. It is hot and there is no power, food or water.

▶ Ten buses are found and head to Houston with evacuees. The state promises 475 more.

▶ Brown sends memo to Chertoff that he needs 1,000 people within 48 hours. They are advised to bring sunscreen, sun hat and sunglasses, walking shoes, mosquito repellant.

▶ Maestri complains: 'We have no food or water for evacuees. FEMA and national agencies are not delivering the help nearly as fast as it's needed.'

▶ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers works to plug a 200-foot hole in the 17th Street Canal levee. The water in the city has crested and begins to slowly recede.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 1:**

▶ Bush tells 'Good Morning America,' 'There is a lot of help coming.'

▶ Nagin lashes out at federal response: 'They are thinking small, man. This is a major, major deal.'

▶ Attempted rescue by helicopter of patients at Charity Hospital is aborted amid reports of sniper fire.

▶ Nagin issues a statement about conditions of evacuees at the Convention Center: "This is a desperate SOS. We are out of resources at the Convention Center."

▶ FEMA's Brown says on CNN that the federal government learned only about the situation at the Convention Center that morning.

▶ 45,000 evacuees estimated to be at the Superdome and Convention Center.

▶ With water level dropping a half-foot per hour, Corps of Engineers makes progress closing the 17th Street Canal levee breach.

**FRIDAY, SEPT 2:**

▶ Bush heads to region. As he boards the helicopter he says, 'The results are not acceptable.' In Mississippi he tells the FEMA director, 'Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job.'

▶ Nagin says: 'People in our city are holding on by a thread. Time has run out. Can we survive another night? Who can we depend on? God only knows.'

▶ 50 trucks with food and water and supplies roll into New Orleans.

▶ The National Guard moves into Convention Center and controls it.

▶ The Coast Guard has rescued more than 4,000 people in the Gulf region.

▶ Nagin estimates that 50,000 survivors remain on rooftops or in shelters, awaiting rescue and evacuation.

▶ Congress approves $10.5 billion to continue the relief operation.

▶ Bush tries to seize control of National Guard troops from Blanco. She refuses.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 3**

▶ Bush orders 7,000 active-duty soldiers to the region. They arrive throughout the day.

# Getting 'boots on the ground' proved particularly difficult

**RESPONSE,** *from A-1*

Elsewhere in the hurricane's tailwinds, a brief sense of security swept across much of southeastern Louisiana and the nation. In the early afternoon of that Monday, it seemed, the 287-year-old city had once again been spared a direct hit by a major storm. A headline in a national press service assured, "New Orleans Weathers the Storm."

That assumption was dead wrong.

As surely as water seeks the lowest level, Katrina was about to lay bare the shortcomings of disaster plans by local, state and federal officials.

And as levees were breached around a city resting mainly below sea level, years of disaster planning gave way to finger-pointing, legal wrangling and denial that things were as bad as they clearly were – even as residents suffered through unimaginable conditions just to survive.

## A million evacuate

Days before it struck, Hurricane Katrina commanded a fear and respect uncommon along the Gulf Coast, where residents are annually menaced by several hurricanes that are often false alarms and near misses.

More than 1 million people fled the region ahead of the massive storm under a new evacuation plan. Many had heeded New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's stern warning to "treat this one differently." Those left behind – some who chose to stay, others who couldn't afford to leave – were promised a shelter of "last resort" in the Superdome. Nagin said the city "planned for them to be in there for four of five days."

Amtrak offered its last train out of town Saturday night, which had room for several hundred passengers. A railroad spokesman said the city declined and the train left empty.

On Sunday, Nagin ordered the first-ever mandatory evacuation of New Orleans. Police with bullhorns combed neighborhoods for stragglers.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco also issued a mandatory evacuation and Michael Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, described "a phalanx of supplies" positioned in a semi-circle around the city ready to deploy once the storm had passed. President Bush had taken the extraordinary step Saturday of declaring a state of emergency, activating for the first time the much-vaunted National Response Plan created in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"We've planned for this kind of disaster for many years because we've always known about New Orleans and the situation," FEMA's Brown said on NBC's "Today" show as the hurricane made landfall. "We actually did catastrophic disaster planning for this two years ago, so we've put all of those in place. One year ago we actually did a tabletop exercise with the state of Louisiana, so they've been through this drill."

But, as Nagin had said in urging residents to evacuate, this was not a drill.

## FEMA's role

His frequent public pronouncements notwithstanding, Brown clearly saw himself in a supporting role in the disaster drama. He issued a directive to FEMA employees Monday not to respond to hurricane-ravaged areas "without being requested and lawfully dispatched by state and local authorities."

The directive revealed an allegiance to bureaucratic processes that proved maddening to some as FEMA demanded written requests for food, troops and fuel. A Florida congressman said the agency turned down an offer for flat-bottomed air boats because it didn't want to sign a contract with the supplier.

Save for the Coast Guard's dramatic air rescues, a detached, legalistic approach set the tone for the federal government's response. Brown is a lawyer as is his boss, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. And the founding document of U.S. disaster planning reads like a legal brief.

The National Response Plan is chock full of legalese, case law and statutes, but it doesn't clearly spell out something as basic as who is responsible for getting food and water to flood victims. The 426-page plan was supposed to have remedied the command-and-control problems that plagued the response to the terrorist attacks in New York City. But it's hardly a model of clarity. Its authors thought it necessary to attach an 11-page glossary of "key terms" and a three-page explanation of acronyms. On the seminal question – Who's in charge? – the Federal Response Plan is murky.

It says incidents are "typically" managed at the lowest levels of government. On the same page, however, it says that "Incidents of National Significance" put the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in charge. The next page seems to reverse course again. It says that "Incidents of National Significance," emergencies declared by the president, puts the federal government in a supporting role to protect state sovereignty. That is, unless the president decides he wants to be in charge, in which case the governor is secondary. Under those circumstances, the plan says, the president will consult with the governor, "if practicable."

## Desperate situation

Legal nuances meant little to those in the disaster zone. In many parts of New Orleans, the water was on the rise.

Three breaches in the Industrial Canal levee poured water into the Lower Ninth Ward and Bywater. Two others breaks along the London Avenue Canal sent a deluge into Gentilly. Another along the 17th Street canal levee flooded Lakeview, City Park and Mid-City. As long feared, the barriers that had been built to keep the water out were now trapping it in.

The thousands of people who hadn't evacuated scrambled to keep above the rising water. By mid-afternoon Monday along Claiborne Avenue, a man and his family could be seen peering out a window from his attic as 12 feet of water churned below. Many people were forced to cut their way through their roofs to escape the rising tide. Some were being plucked off roofs by Coast Guard helicopters or lifted into boats, both which were suddenly in short supply.

By nightfall, a helicopter pilot flying over the darkened city reported seeing dozens of flickering lights below, signals from desperate flood victims hoping for a ride. Most would spend the first night after Katrina on their roofs. Some would be there for days.

## Rule of law falters

Lawlessness became the story Tuesday. Looters smashed store windows and pried open doors. Some of the looters sought food and health supplies. Others went for the big-ticket items.

New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass said that his 1,500 officers were too busy rescuing people to worry about looting. But some officers took more than a passing interest. At the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street, an officer was seen loading a shopping cart with a 27-inch flat-screen television and a personal computer.

Some residents began arming themselves. Keith Williams said he began carrying a handgun in his Uptown neighborhood after seeing the body of a gunshot victim slumped on a sidewalk.

"What I want to know is why we don't have any paratroopers

*See* **RESPONSE,** *A-22*

# White House says Blanco wasn't clear

**RESPONSE,** *from A-21*

with machine guns on every street," Williams said.

Nowhere was the need for law and order more acute than in the Superdome. About 25,000 people had taken refuge in the domed stadium and the situation quickly deteriorated. The lights went out. The air-conditioning stopped. The plumbing failed.

Violence, deprivation and worse were widely reported inside. Thousands were trapped.

Buses that the city was to have provided to get people out had been parked on low ground and were now stuck in water. It took at least three days for Blanco and federal officials to round up enough buses and drivers to haul people out.

For the moment, Nagin remained calm. Asked whether he had enough troops to keep order, he answered: "Absolutely. There are 3,500 National Guard officers that are on their way and should be here tomorrow. So we have enough resources to get the job done."

What Nagin didn't know was that the rescuers were having problems of their own.

The National Guard staging area at Jackson Barracks had flooded, and a downed radio tower crippled communications. The water in many parts of the region was too deep to drive in trucks pulling rescue boats, yet too shallow for top-grade Coast Guard vessels.

"No one is satisfied with the response early on," said Russ Knocke of the Department of Homeland Security.

## Third World scenes

By Tuesday afternoon, the enormity of the disaster was becoming clear to almost everyone. It seemed to knock officials back on their heels. After a helicopter tour, Blanco called the devastation "untenable" and "heartbreaking." FEMA's Brown predicted it would be "weeks and weeks" before people could return home.

On national television Americans watched Third World scenes play out in a beloved American city.

Viewers couldn't help but notice that the vast majority of those pleading for help from atop roofs or outside the Superdome were African-American. Some of the victims asked whether the response would have been quicker had their skin color been lighter. Although many white residents were stranded in other places outside the majority-black city, race became an undercurrent of criticism of the federal response.

On Wednesday, Bush cut short his Texas vacation and went back to Washington. On the way, he peered out over the disaster zone from Air Force One as it passed high above.

At the White House, Bush hastily convened a Cabinet meeting and appointed Chertoff to the helm of a new hurricane task force. The political master stroke, though, was the appointment of Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, a brash, media-savvy Louisiana native, as the federal government's new face in New Orleans.

The imposing three-star general barked out orders to soldiers and obliged countless reporters enthralled by his cigar-chomping style. Even Nagin was impressed, calling him "that John Wayne dude."

Assessing the federal government's response from the comfort of the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, Chertoff on Wednesday liked what he saw.

"We are extremely pleased with the response that every element of the federal government has made to this terrible tragedy," Chertoff said.

## Dangerous refuge

Chertoff, he would later confess, had not yet seen what was unfolding at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Thousands of people since Tuesday had begun seeking refuge in the Convention Center in the high ground along the Mississippi River. The massive halls soon became desperate scenes of deprivation.

Outside, the body of a 91-year-old man slouched in a lawn chair. His wife said he died in the back of a Ryder van during the evacuation and was deposited on the neutral ground.

Inside, there were reports of armed men from rival public housing developments in an atmosphere teeming with danger. A doctor said he saw at least four dead bodies uncovered, uncared for.

Help, it turned out, was only a few doors away. A contingent of 250 armed National Guardsmen had decamped in one of the convention halls nearby. But a Guard spokesman said that they held back attempting to quell the violence awaiting reinforcements.

Getting enough "boots on the ground" proved a difficult task in the aftermath of Katrina. Legalistic wrangling between Gov. Blanco and the White House would keep active-duty soldiers out of the disaster zone until five days after the hurricane had passed.

Blanco said she expected to see a heavy federal military presence soon after she spoke with President Bush on Sunday.

"I asked him, 'Send me everything he's got,'" she said.

But the administration said Blanco hadn't been clear on what she needed. On Wednesday, she asked for 40,000 troops. Bush administration officials say Blanco wanted active-duty soldiers, who aren't by law allowed to act as police. But, Blanco aides said she requested any combination – National Guard or regular Army – just as long as there were enough to help restore order and help in the rescue effort.

"She didn't know what she wanted or what she needed," an administration official said.

*See* **RESPONSE,** *A-23*

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# Afghan polls prepared amid violence

## *Rebels seek to disrupt parliamentary vote*

**By Steve Gutterman**
Associated Press writer

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — Officials urged Afghans on Saturday to defy Taliban insurgents and powerful warlords by turning out in force for todayís landmark parliamentary elections despite a wave of rebel attacks that killed 12 more people.

Security forces reported thwarting an attempt to blow up a big dam in the south and three other bomb plots, underlining the threat to a ballot aimed at bolstering Afghanistan's fragile democracy and marginalizing insurgents after decades of bloodshed.

Top U.N. envoy Jean Arnault said militants failed to disrupt poll preparations with a surge of fighting that has killed more than 1,200 people the past six months, including seven candidates and four election workers.

"We are very confident that those extremists will also fail to disrupt and derail voting day," Arnault said at a news conference. "The Afghans will not let anyone stop them from participating in this election."

Some 12.4 million people registered to vote in Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in more than 35 years — a span during which the country has been scarred by a Soviet invasion, a devastating civil war and the oppressive rule of the Islamic hardliners of the Taliban.

Voters also will choose 34 provincial councils.

Coming 11 months after Afghans flocked to polling places in defiance of insurgent threats and elected Hamid Karzai as president, the ballot is the last formal step in instituting a democratic system envisioned when a U.S.-led coalition drove the Taliban from power in 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida camps.

A U.S. military spokesman, Col. James Yonts, predicted "a massive number" would vote today.

"This election will send a powerful message to the Taliban that their influence is waning and that the overarching grip they've had on this country for several years is no longer there," he told The Associated Press.

The comment came a day after a Taliban call for an election boycott. Taliban fighters said they would not attack civilians going to vote but would target areas where U.S.-led coalition forces are deployed.

Militants ambushed a security patrol on the outskirts of Kabul, killing a district police chief and two officers in the first attack so close to the capital in some time, Interior Ministry spokesman Luftullah Mashal said.

"The Taliban and al-Qaida are trying their best to create problems," Mashal told AP.

Security forces aided by U.S.-led coalition troops captured 20 militants as they laid explosives trying to blow up the hulking Kajaki Dam in southern Helmand province, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Saher Azimi said. Thousands of people live nearby.

Mashal said government forces also stopped planned car bombings in volatile Ghazni and Paktika provinces and a fourth bomb plot near the border with Pakistan, where two Pakistanis suspected of being Taliban members were caught with explosives.

Guerrillas ambushed a patrol on the highway linking Kabul with the southern city of Kandahar, triggering a firefight that killed seven militants, local government chief Gulam Rasool said. He said a rebel rocket set a police car on fire, but the officers escaped.

The U.S. military said it had discovered seven roadside bombs across the country.

About 100,000 Afghan police and soldiers and 30,000 foreign troops were on alert to guard the election. In Kandahar, the former Taliban stronghold, all vehicles were banned from driving after midday Saturday due to car bomb fears.

In Pakistan, thousands of soldiers stood by near the border with Afghanistan. Militants based on the Pakistani side of the mountainous frontier are believed to cross into Afghanistan to stage attacks.

Amid the violence and concerns about voters being pressured by local warlords, the chairman of the Afghan-U.N. electoral body, Bismillah Bismil, assured voters their ballots would be secret.

"Do not be intimidated or frightened by the empty threats of those who attempt to influence your vote," he said.

Arnault, the U.N. envoy, hailed the election as a victory over violence.

"We are seeing today an unmistakable confirmation that there is in the country the emergence of a new political culture," he said. "A sense that the legacy of the rule of the gun can be resisted is now taking root."


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Employment

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4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

***NOW HIRING** Front desk staff, restaurant staff, & housekeeping. Apply online at greatjobs.marriott.com or 985-871-0244

**CHURCH'S CHICKEN:** Reloc Help-CA. Call (949)631-4337 Fax(949)631-0425, westlandben@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

4095 Legal

**BECKY BROWN** Legal 1 since 1981. Here to help & assist after Katrina. Start your new career through us! Legal staffing personnel needed with experience only to fill new job openings in the Metairie & Baton Rouge areas. Solid Word Processing skills & minimum 1 year+ litigation experience. Openings range from Support staff to Paralegal. Salary depending on exp. beckybrownlegal1@aol.com. 504-250-2842. Success to us all!

4100 Management

**ASSISTANT PROPERTY** MANAGERS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Strong customer service & sales background. Competitive pay + commissions. Vacation, insurance, 401K Match. Fax resumes to 225-383-41862

**BEST BUY** Slidell and Veteren's Blvd Locations. Now hiring General Managers. Plan, manage and control operations of a Best Buy retail store. Experience in retail sales management, planning and cost analysis, along w/the ability to lead and inspire a team of assistant managers and non-exempt employees. Best Buy offers competitive pay, employee discounts, great benefits and excellent career opportunities. Apply online at careers.bestbuy.com EOE DFWP

Employment

4100 Management

**HUMAN RESOURCES** COORDINATOR Global Industries, Ltd. has an immediate need for an experienced Human Resources Coordinator to oversee its new Houma, LA office. The Qualified candidate will serve the company on a regional and local basis. The successful candidate will be responsible for the Company's offshore recruiting efforts. The candidate will also have a thorough knowledge and understanding of basic HR recruiting concepts. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree preferred but not required; previous offshore recruiting experience; MS Word and Excel and the ability to work in a team environment.<BR> We offer career growth, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package. Interested candidates should Email a resume to: jamesh@globalind.com; Fax a resume to: (337)583-5030 or Mail resume to: Global Industries, Ltd. Department JH, 8000 Global Drive, Sulphur, LA 70665

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie & Kenner apts. 3 years exp req. Strong customer srvc. & comm skills. Salary + bonus, vac, ins, 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**SALON MANAGER,** Planet Beach, Is seeking a Mgr for the New Orleans-Uptown Location. The #1 Location in the US. Base Salary, Commission, Bonuses and Overrides. Health Insurance and cell phone paid. Opportunity for Executive Advancement. Membership Sales and Cosmetic Sales Exp Desired. Email Resumes To: jodie.mateu@planetbeach.com

4110 Mechanical

**DIESEL MECHANIC** Needed ASAP with own tools, Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

**TRUCK TECHNICIANS** needed in Oklahoma, earn $35,000-$100,000 year. Need heavy line, medium duty and light truck techs., to work on all makes... Ford, Sterling, Navistar, and Kenworth. For confidential interview call Jack Shores 405-409-7158 Joe Cooper Ford, Oklahoma City, OK.

Employment

4120 Medical

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** TO ALL EMS PERSONNEL Acadian Ambulance has immediate openings for all medics whose company operations have been halted by Hurricane Katrina. Acadian is prepared to offer you full-time or temporary employment immediately. Acadian Ambulance Services 33 Louisiana Parishes. Join the Acadian Family today by applying online at www.acadian.com or call 1.800.259.3333.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's LPN's Cert. Aides NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS Great Pay Rates & Benefits Join A Winning Team! Fax, Email, Mail Resumes Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney Administrator Tel: 985-626-8581 Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com 1401 Highway 190 Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**WOODLAND VILLAGE** We're coming home! Millennium management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans is re-opening its doors to our residents & our employees. If you are a current employee of Woodland Village, Please contact us or return to the facility. If you are a displaced New Orleans resident & are ready to return home, we are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. 504-394-5807

4145 Retail

**AUTO SALES** Attention Hurricane Survivors - Landmark Ford In Tigard Oregon, The Northwest's #1 Volume Ford Dealer, is Hiring Experienced new and used auto sales professionals displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We Will pay relocation expenses for you and your family. Great Benefits, Incentives and Unique pay and longevity bonus plans. Call Sales Manager For Interview 503-639-1131

Employment

4145 Retail

**Family Dollar** Stores is one of the fastest growing discount retail store chains in the US, meeting the needs of our customers by providing good quality, low cost, merchandise at convenient store locations across the country. Family Dollar Stores is looking for hands-on, ASSISTANT STORE MANAGERS AND CLERKS to operate our store(s) located in New Orleans and surrounding areas. If you have experience in discount, grocery, drug store or variety store management, send us your resume today! We Have immediate positions available and provide paid training for those who qualify FDS considers employee benefits to be an essential and important part of total compensation. We Offer competitive salaries and an excellent benefits package including: Medical Insurance, Short-term and long-term disability insurance, 401(k), Paid vacation, Life insurance, Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Dental Insurance, Paid Training. Please Apply in person Monday September 19th through Friday September 23rd from 10:00 AM-4:00PM at any of the following Locations: **10982 Riverview Road. St. Rose, LA 70087. 504-712-9137 **6521 Airline Hwy (Airline Park Shopping Center) Metairie, LA 70003. 504-731-2932 **Hwy 90 In The St Charles Shopping Ctr. Boutte, LA 70039. 985-785-9811 **186 Gause Blvd. Plaza 190 Shopping Center. Slidell, LA 70458. 985-641-6916 **1633 W. Airline Hwy (LaPlace Center) LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-653-9444. **1761 Hwy 3125. Gramercy, LA 700052. 225-869-0469. **3919 W. Airline Hwy. Reserve, LA 70084. 985-479-3076

**SALES &** DESIGN Excellent opportunity in Kitchen Design & Sales in the Slidell area. Basic computer skills required. Will help with training. Call Jim or John 985-809-9200

**SALES ASSOCIATE** Needed immediately, full or part time. Apply at Mike's Den in Mandeville, we will be re-opening Monday, September 19th. 985-626-9668

4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

Employment

4160 Trades/Skills

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**GAMETRADER Hiring** repair staff. Electronic or video game repair experience preferred. Fax resume to: Attn: Amy @ 985-652-1453

**LANDSCAPING** - Installers and maintenance crew. Please call 985-871-4954

**Looking for** Structural Steel Fitters and Welders. Pay DOE. Insurance benefits, 401(k), dental. Tyler, TX area. Fax resume w/history: 903-595-4554

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Off road motorcycle enthusiast wanted to package and prep product for national sales distribution. Contact Benson, 985-875-9192

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

4170 Miscellaneous

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

**EVACUEES: Attorneys,** paralegal, spanish translators, all required immediately! Mobile, AL. 5 years minimum experience for paralegals & translators. Dynamic interesting work. Full benefits, relocation & housing assistance available. EOE. Fax resume to: 251-343-5554

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Laborers needed,** Orleans, Jefferson and River Parish area. Call 504-884-1418

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multi-task while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

RESIDENCES FOR SALE

7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**DID NOT** FLOOD! 3001 Belmont. 1890 SF, 3/2, dbl carport, $189,900. Foster Rlty 504-467-4282

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

7560 West Bank

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

7570Mandeville/Covington

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

7580 Slidell

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

7615 Mississippi

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

Residences for Sale

7620 Gulf Coast

**AUCTION 25+/-** Acre Luxury Estate Near Gulf Shores/Fairhope, AL 10798 US Hwy 98, Fairhope Wednesday, October 5, 1:00PM *Country French home with guest cottage, LSU football field, basketball court, golf green & much more Virtual Tour on website gtauctions.com 800-996-2877 Granger, Thagard & Assoc, Inc. Jack F. Granger #873

COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

7690 Rent/Lease/Comm./ Offices

**COVINGTON Law** Office Space Available. Office Services Available. Call 985-893-9962

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

7735Investment Property

**METAIRIE 300** N.Elm, 4 plex, 2BR/1BA, renovated, $189,000. Foster Realty 504-467-4282

7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $185,000, 504-468-8882

7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

RENTALS UNFURNISHED

8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment with appliances, available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

Rentals Unfurnished

8104 West Bank

**WEST BANK** 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

8106Mandeville/Covington

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves sub-division, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

8108 Slidell

**NO FLOODING!** 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, fireplace, 1040 square feet living. James 985-640-1890

8150 Rentals Wanted

**LA PROPERTIES** NEEDED! Available immediately, all types, furn./unfurn. RX Housing. 888-569-3301 or www.rxhousing.com

AUTOMOTIVE

8880 Miscellaneous

**'04 Sprinter** 27.6' Fifth wheel, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 985-537-5332

**'95 Rexhall** Aerbus MH, 28.5ft, 63K. Very Clean, Great Cond. $16,000. 903-963-8155

**05 PUMA** PALOMINO 26ft, slide, Sleeps 6. Must Sell Due To Illness. $18,500. 985-764-3602

8915 Pickup Trucks

**'93 CHEVY** Silverado, X-cab, LWB, Auto, new motor, good work truck. $3950. 918-277-3564

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers

**Backhoes, manlift,** telescopic handler with forks, etc. 812-547-0933, 812-547-3321, or email twincities@psci.net.

# Car bomb kills 30 outside Baghdad

## *Sectarian slayings surge in 'all-out war'*

**By Steven R. Hurst**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Four days after al-Qaida in Iraq declared all-out war on the Shiite majority, more than 250 people have been killed, 30 of them by a car bomb Saturday outside a produce market in a poor Shiite suburb east of Baghdad. The blast underlined one of the bloodiest weeks since the U.S.-led invasion.

In all, at least 52 people were killed or found dead throughout the country Saturday, victims of mounting sectarian killings promised by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born leader of the terrorist organization and a moving force behind the Sunni-dominated insurgency.

After a suicide car bomber exploded his vehicle Wednesday in the midst of assembled day laborers in a largely Shiite neighborhood in north Baghdad, an audio tape posted on the Internet that claimed to be from al-Zarqawi announced "all-out war against Shiites everywhere. Beware; there will be no mercy."

The death toll from at least 14 bombings Wednesday was 167, marking the worst day of violence in the capital since U.S. troops invaded and overthrew Saddam Hussein 2.5 years ago.

In Saturday's remote-controlled car bombing, Interior Ministry police Maj. Falah al-Mhamadawi said the vehicle was parked in front of fruit and vegetable stands in the market at Nahrawan, about 20 miles east of Baghdad.

Victims were taken to Baghdad's al-Kindi hospital in pickup trucks and minivans, police Lt. Abdulal Ibrahim said.

Some of the wounded - including those who lost limbs - lay bleeding on the hospital grounds.

"I came with my brother Hamid, whose right leg was blown off below the knee," Alaa Mohammed said outside the hospital. "I saw neighbors putting him in a truck so I just jumped in with him."

Shiites have suffered the brunt of a massive campaign of bomb and shooting attacks, which al-Zarqawi said would continue against "any of (Iraq's) national guards, police or army (who are found to be) agents of the crusaders (American forces). They will be killed and his house will be demolished or burned - after evacuating all women and children."

But as the indiscriminate bombings continued into the weekend, the majority of the dead were Shiite civilians, prompting Islamic clerics from both the Sunni and Shiite sects to call for an end to the killing of innocent people.

"I call for a meeting ... of all the country's religious and political leaders to take a stand against the bloodshed," Sheik Mahmud al-Sumaidaei said during his Friday sermon at Baghdad's Um al Qura Sunni mosque.

"We don't need others to come across the border and kill us in the name of defending us," he declared, a reference to foreign fighters who have joined the insurgency under the banner of al-Qaida. "We reject the killing of any Iraqi."

Throughout Iraq on Saturday, police reported finding 16 bodies that were blindfolded, bound hand and foot, and shot. Two other people died in bomb attacks and four more were killed in shootings.

The bombing campaign, al-Zarqawi said, was launched in retaliation for a joint Iraqi-U.S. operation that chased his fighters and other insurgents out of their stronghold in the northern city of Tal Afar, near the Syrian border. Hundreds of insurgents reportedly were killed or captured.

The incessant attacks since Wednesday also have blunted the Iraqi military's ability to gain broader recognition for what, by all accounts, was a highly successful operation - the first in which Iraqi forces outnumbered Americans.

Earlier this week, the U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad said the spasm of violence was to have been expected after the operation in Tal Afar and before the Oct. 15 referendum on a new Iraqi constitution.

"These spikes of violence are predictable around certain critical events that highlight the progress of democracy," Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch said.

"Remember, democracy equals failure for the insurgency. So there has to be heightened awareness now as we work our way toward the referendum. That's power, that's movement toward democracy."

Also Saturday, a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy near Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad, destroying three vehicles, and insurgents shelled the notorious lockup with seven mortar rounds, police Lt. Alaa Hussein said.

In the same area, he reported, insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades at a second U.S. convoy, damaging three armored vehicles.

The U.S. military issued no immediate casualty reports in any of the incidents.

Abu Ghraib was scene of the torture and execution of countless political prisoners under Saddam and of serious prisoner abuse by American forces after they toppled the dictator.




The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Sunday
September 18, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Getting back in the saddle

Sharon Diebold never intended to leave her home in Violet, never intended to abandon her beloved horse Casey, her pygmy goat Pepper, or her collection of rescued animals.

But when she heard Katrina was a Category 5 hurricane headed toward St. Bernard Parish, she changed her mind.

"I asked myself, 'Do you want to live or die?' In my heart, I knew I had to go," she said.

She loaded her four rescued dogs in her 15-year-old pickup, turned Casey, Pepper and the other animals loose, and headed for western St. Tammany Parish, where Howard Austin and his family had offered her a place to stay.

Before leaving, she handed over her air-conditioned car to neighbors so they could evacuate their disabled son to Florida.

"I thought, 'Even if I can't save my horse, I can save this family,' " she said.

### Waiting on news

It was hard to leave Casey behind.

Sharon, 45, had owned the Tennessee walker for 15 years and loved her every one of them. The gentle horse had seen Sharon through the loss of her mother and her brother. She'd been a lifeline during times of tragedy.

"I knew Casey depended on me, and I walked away, knowing I had let her down," she said.

Sharon sat out the hurricane with her friends, the Austins, who let her know she had a place to stay as long as she needed one.

"I've known them since I was a little girl," she said. "Howard always said I was his adopted daughter, and now I know he meant it."

Most news from her home on Farmsite Road has not been good: a tree through Casey's barn, five feet of water in the house her parents bought 40 years ago, everything she left behind ruined.

"My family pictures are floating in St. Bernard Parish," she said.

### A reunion

One piece of news made up for the rest, though.

Ten days after the hurricane, Sharon learned that three horses had been rescued from Farmsite Road and taken to the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, where pets separated from their families are being sheltered.

"I had so much faith I took a horse trailer when I went to look for her," Sharon said.

She searched for two hours among the 300 horses, but no Casey. She was crying as she made her way past stall after stall, about to give up, when suddenly, there was her chestnut mare. She was 200 pounds lighter, but it was Casey.

"And when I went in the stall, my little goat Pepper was there by the door," Sharon said.

Casey is staying in a portable pen on a piece of property Sharon happened to buy April 15. It's only two miles from the Austins' house, so they're spending lots of time together.

Sharon isn't sure what the future holds, but she knows one thing.

"Three weeks with no makeup and no home, but I'm doing fine," she said. "I got my girl back. I will recover."

• • • • • •

For information about pets rescued after Hurricane Katrina, go to ww.vetmed.lsu.edu. Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# Colleges to seek billions in federal aid

*Officials hope influx strengthens systems*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

A tattered American flag was tacked to a thin plank of wood just inside the door of Delgado Community College's main administration building, a hurricane relic that soldiers from the Oregon National Guard plucked from a tangle of storm debris.

The shredded flag could serve to symbolize the blow suffered by several campuses that are beginning to restore crippled physical plants. Preliminary assessments of damage to campus buildings, equipment and lab materials has set the stage for a historic request of as much as $5 billion in federal aid.

Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie said Saturday that congressional staffers are working out the details but that the request should be introduced in Congress as soon as Monday. Savoie said the total is "subject to all sorts of strategic decisions they're going to have to make." In addition to rebuilding damaged buildings, the money would be used for scholarships, faculty stabilization, economic development and to restore damaged research, Savoie said.

To fine-tune the damage assessment, "we're hoping to have people on site this week looking at all those campuses," Savoie said.

But in interesting ways, despair over the havoc wrought among institutions so important to New Orleans' economy and culture is giving way to optimism that the storm may have provided an opportunity. College and university leaders meeting regularly in Baton Rouge as part of the higher education response team have begun talking about how wise use of federal aid could ultimately

*See* **AID,** *page B-4*




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Cleanup crews worked at the Rosen House on Tulane University's campus Thursday. Much of Tulane's Uptown campus was flooded after Hurricane Katrina, including the basement of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, where a jazz music archive is stored.

**WAY OF LIFE IS ENDANGERED**



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Thousands of minnows lie dead in the street in St. Bernard Parish. An estimated 4,800 commercial fishers from St. Tammany, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Lafourche parishes took a beating from Katrina, and hundreds more were affected in Mississippi and Alabama.

# Deadly blow dealt to La. seafood industry

*But many vow to return to the only life they know*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Hopedale oyster farmer Charles "Charlo" Inabnet lost it all with Katrina — his home, his car, his boat — even his teeth.

Inabnet, 58, watched as the storm ripped away all he had labored for in the marshes and bayous of St. Bernard Parish. Winds of 130 miles an hour flattened his house. Floodwaters submerged one of his cars. The tidal surge left his oyster boat, the Captain John J, stranded on high ground, its cabin ripped off and lost. Displaced mud covered his oyster leases on the bottom of Turkey Bayou, probably suffocating thousands of pounds of oysters ready for harvest. And Inabnet said he spit out his dentures to make breathing easier as he swam in the 20-foot surge that overtook him near his house.

"I started praying the Hail Mary," he said between drags on a Liggett Select cigarette tucked between his toothless gums. "I duct-taped my driver's license to my leg in case I did not make it."

Heaped on top of the myriad troubles that already had hobbled the fishing industry – increasing foreign competition, high fuel prices and ever-tighter government rules— analysts say that despite Louisianians' best intentions to rebuild, Katrina's punch is likely to push Inabnet and thousands of other fishers out of the trade altogether. In Louisiana, that would put a

*See* **INDUSTRY,** *page B-2*

# Ban on fishing in lake sought

*Federal officials concerned about pollution in water*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Federal health officials have asked Louisiana to put a ban on all fishing in Lake Pontchartrain until fish, crustaceans and other marine life can be tested to ensure that polluted floodwaters being pumped out of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish have not turned the lake's seafood into a health hazard.

The request comes as Louisiana's battered seafood industry is struggling to reassure consumers that its products are unlikely to be tainted by the 225 billion gallons of water being pumped out of New Orleans. Those waters are a "toxic stew" of sewage, petrochemicals and other pollutants.

"The FDA would like to see the state take action to put a preventative closure in place," said Donald Kraemer, acting director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Seafood. "Obviously there's pain associated with a closure like that. From a public health standpoint, it's a necessary action."

But others say the FDA's request could further undermine public confidence in Louisiana seafood, already shaken by images of fouled water being dumped into Lake

*See* **FISH,** *page B-5*

# Residents of Old Metairie shocked by flooding

*Mess is worse 'than you think'*

**By Bob Ross**
East Jefferson bureau

Anne Hebert Winston tried several times in the past couple of weeks to reach her mother's home in Old Metairie. But the high water that stubbornly engulfed much of the area, even as other sections of East Jefferson dried out, were too much to overcome.

Winston and her husband finally arrived Wednesday at the 500 block of Rosewood Drive, just south of the railroad tracks and almost halfway between Metairie Road and Airline Drive.

"It was shocking," she said of that first walk into the three-bedroom, two-bathroom home where she grew up. "You always think your house is going to be sealed up tight. But it wasn't."

Though it is raised, the 1,700-square-foot house took on 2 feet of water, and the water had its way with the possessions of Winston's mother and grandmother.

"All the furniture floats around, and the chairs are turned over, and it just looks like it has been ransacked," Winston said. Green mold grows on some of the furniture, "and it looks like science experiments all over the place."

Winston's mother lived in one of the sections of East Jefferson that had the deepest flooding after Hurricane Katrina passed Aug. 29. Although many east bank neighborhoods dried quickly, a swath from Severn Avenue to the 17th Street Canal, between Metairie Road and Airline Drive, still held water in the streets, and some houses, until only recently.

Alan Hebert, who came with his wife from Wichita Falls, Texas, to help, said the extent of water damage staggered him.

"There is no such thing as cleaning up," he said. "You just extract the things you can find, the memories. Everything is gone from the waist down in there."

*See* **OLD METAIRIE,** *page B-5*



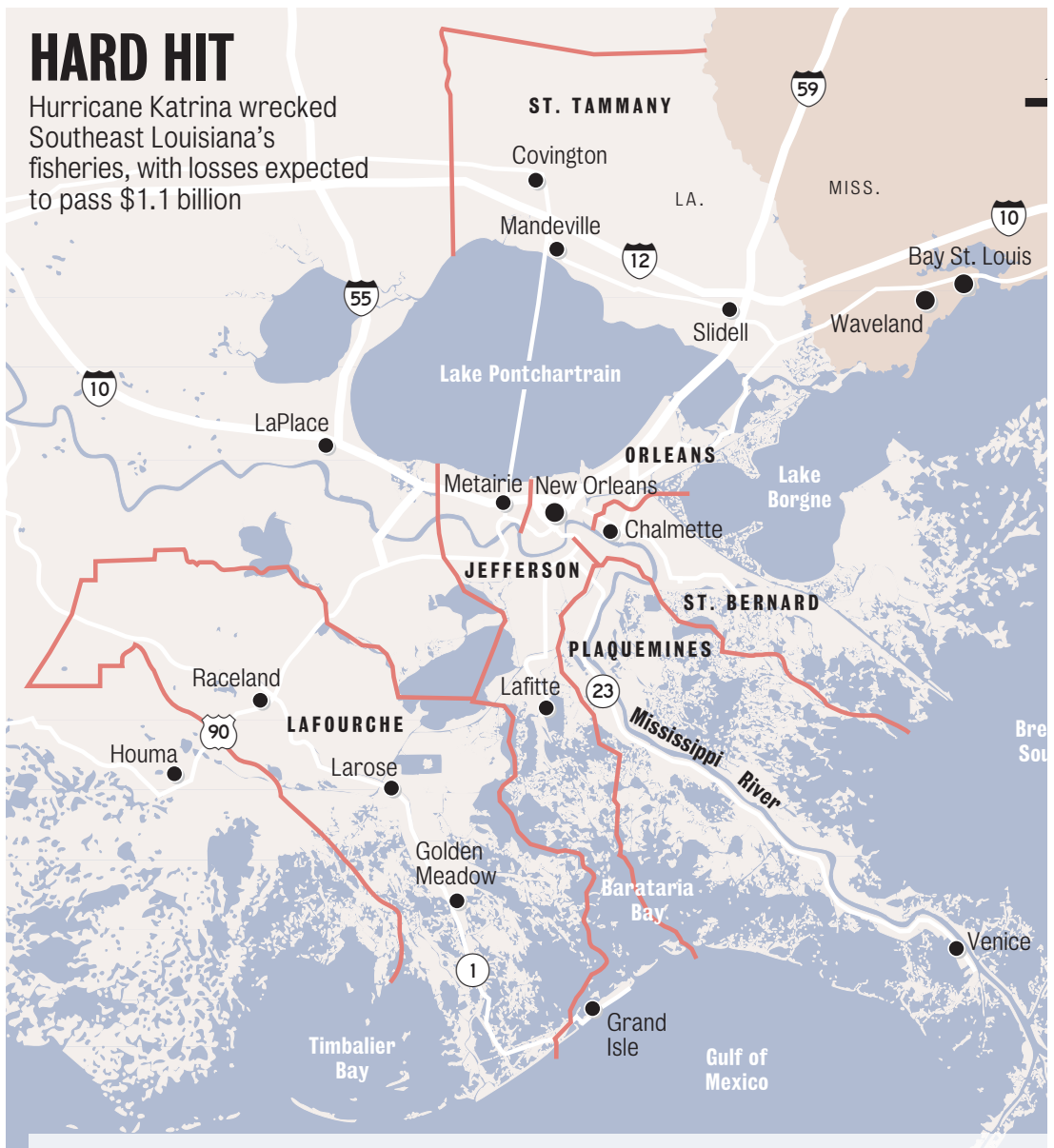
STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Wayne Buguet carts ruined possessions from the home of Lance Letellier and Laura Simpson in Old Metairie. The home was flooded when the 17th Street Canal levee broke. Letellier and Simpson retreated to their attic when the water rose, created a raft of air mattresses, escaped and were later evacuated by helicopter.

# METRO

**"I've been in oysters for 36 years. I've got a seventh-grade education. Who the hell wants me? As a fisherman, I make meals for my fellow human beings. That's what I know."**

CHARLES "CHARLO" INABNET
fisherman




**PARISHES AFFECTED**

| Parish | Seafood dealers | Commercial fishermen | Commercial fishing vessels |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jefferson | 143 | 1,485 | 1,296 |
| Eastern Lafourche* | 36 | 660 | 511 |
| Orleans | 69 | 343 | 260 |
| Plaquemines | 58 | 1,137 | 1,360 |
| St. Bernard | 51 | 740 | 773 |
| St. Tammany | 69 | 403 | 225 |
| **Total** | **426** | **4,768** | **4,425** |
| **Percent of state total** | **33%** | **35%** | **49%** |

*Western half of Lafourche not included because storm damage considered light.

**LOSSES EXPECTED**

| Fishery | Estimat through |
|---|---|
| Crab | $8 |
| Freshwater fish | |
| Menhaden | 9 |
| Oysters** | 14 |
| Saltwater fish | 7 |
| Shrimp | 53 |
| Recreational fisheries | 19 |
| **Total*** ** | **$1,14** |

**Oyster losses expected to continue for up to thr
***Recreational losses primarily from lost license

Source: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

STAFF GRAPHIC B

# Sales loss from Katrina could cost $1.1 billion

**INDUSTRY,** *from B-1*

sharp dent in a $3-billion-a-year industry, and deliver a profound blow to the state's vibrant coastal culture.

Yet many who have spent much or all of their adult lives trapping crabs, netting shrimp, farming oysters or hooking red snapper are stubbornly pledging to return. It may take years to rebuild, they say, but it's the only life they know — a life that had treated Inabnet well. He said he earned enough to buy a 50-foot boat, two cars and a shotgun-style house and to put his daughter through college.

"I've been in oysters for 36 years. I've got a seventh-grade education. Who the hell wants me?" he said. "As a fisherman, I make meals for my fellow human beings. That's what I know."

An estimated 4,800 commercial fishers from St. Tammany, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Lafourche parishes took a beating from Katrina, and hundreds more were affected in Mississippi and Alabama.

Many not only lost their property but also no longer have access to ice houses, fuel docks, processing sheds, seafood dealers and restaurants that were the backbone of the industry. Legendary fishing villages such as Venice, Buras, Empire, Yscloskey and Delacroix in southern parts of St. Bernard and Plaquemines are now a jumble of overturned boats, tattered marinas and clogged canals.

The economic toll in Louisiana alone is expected to top $1.1 billion in retail sales over the next year. Losses to the oyster industry, which took the biggest pounding, are expected to continue to rack up an additional $148 million per year, possibly through 2008.

Yet with the exception of oysters, the fish themselves are expected to bounce back, state and federal management officials said.

Shrimp and crabs have a one-year life cycle, so even if they took a significant hit, a new generation would be right on its heels. Red snapper, tuna, amberjack and other deep-water species live far enough out in the Gulf of Mexico that they probably had a chance to move out of the storm's path, said Roy Crabtree, regional administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, a branch of the U.S. Commerce Department.

"If you look at past hurricanes and storms like this, it's the humans and the infrastructure that take a while to come back. Mother Nature kind of rolls with the punches," Crabtree said.

But oysters face a grim assessment. Rooted to the bottom of marshes, the shellfish could not escape from the storm or relocate when mud and sediment blanketed vast areas of oyster reefs, said John Roussel with the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

An estimated 81,200 acres of reefs were affected, with some experiencing mud up to two or three feet deep, Roussel said. Inabnet said he expects to salvage little from his 1,100 acres of reefs that he spent years building up to prime productivity.

The price tag for rebuilding all ruined reefs from scratch could top $860 million, according to the state's preliminary damage assessment. It remains unclear who might pick up such a bill.

Even if the oyster farmers bounce back, their product still may suffer from an image problem. Concern over petrochemical spills and the pumping of toxic floodwaters from New Orleans into Lake Pontchartrain led the state on Aug. 30 to close all oyster beds between the Mississippi state line and Timbalier Bay west of Grand Isle.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has asked the state to extend that moratorium to cover all fishing in Lake Pontchartrain. No action has been taken on the FDA's request. Pollution is considered less of a problem for other species. But A.J. Fabre, president of the Louisiana Shrimp Association, said having healthy shrimp means little if you can't sell them.

"You put money into a shrimp boat, that's fine," said Fabre. "But if the boat doesn't have anywhere to unload, if a boat doesn't have anyplace to get fuel, if a boat doesn't have anyplace to get ice, it's not going anywhere."

Also, few retail seafood sellers have reopened in the New Orleans area, one of the biggest markets in the state. At the Westwego fish stalls off the West Bank Expressway, only one of more than a dozen businesses was back in operation by the end of last week.

There were no crabs or fish for sale at Amy's Seafood Mart, only shrimp. Stall operator Sandy Theriot said the shrimp came all the way from Houma since her regular suppliers in Venice and Grand Isle are grounded. "Fresh shrimp right from Louisiana," Theriot said. "We're getting pretty good business. A lot of people said they were tired of eating beef."

In the past five years, as prices for shrimp fell in the face of competition from cheaper imported shrimp, thousands of shrimp fishers across the Gulf of Mexico docked their boats, according to Crabtree.

Yet Howard Johnson, a fishing industry consultant based in Portland, Ore., is among those who argued there were still too many boats on the water. Johnson said profits for individual fishers have been diluted by the bloated status of the fleet, and in the wake of Katrina, he sees an opportunity to fix that imbalance.

"There would seem to be an opportunity to buy these people out," he said.

But Johnson acknowledged that while his argument makes sense from a macro-economic perspective, it could be tough on individual fishers.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, whose coastal district includes many of the fishing villages destroyed by Katrina, said he is in discussions with federal agencies on the possibility of turning idle fishers into a legion of cleanup and recovery workers.

That promises to be a potentially tough transition for folks such as Inabnet and Plaquemines Parish shrimper Edward Wallace, 42, who spent the past four years living in Empire aboard the Instigator, a 30-foot shrimp boat Wallace built from scratch.

The boat, which was not insured, was docked at an Empire marina where dozens of boats were destroyed. Wallace said he has not been able to get down there to check on his own vessel, but expected it to be lost.

"I'll be back," Wallace said of shrimping. "I love it. I used to work with my daddy as a deckhand, since I was 14. It took me four years to build my boat, and I'll build another one if I have to. You've got to be tough to shrimp or you're not going to make it."

**Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann & Papale L.L.P. has formed a Client Task Force to assist clients with efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina.**

The Client Task Force offers services in the areas of insurance coverage, auto, casualty and premises defense, employment law, environmental, products liability and construction litigation. The firm stands ready To represent existing and new clients in all aspects of defense and corporate litigation and consultation.

The Hailey, McNamara Client Task Force is working out of the firm's Baton Rouge office at:

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To contact a specific New Orleans office attorney, contact Julia Blackshear at (318) 934-4024 (jblackshear@lemle.com) or Ann Chatelain at (225) 387-8068 (achatelain@lemle.com). We will route your call to the attorneys with whom you have been dealing, and, if they are not immediately available, we will have one of our attorneys in the same field of practice return the call as soon as possible.

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# Campuses covered by water

AID, *from B-1*

strengthen the institutions, Savoie said.

"There's a growing sense of opportunity; people are thinking of ways they can improve their circumstances," he said.

Last week, conditions at several campuses appeared grim. A sheen of white and brown muck marked building windows and was cracking in the sun.

Floodwaters covered two-thirds of the Tulane University's Uptown campus between Freret Street and South Claiborne Avenue, to depths of three or four feet in many places. The brackish water tossed debris about a baseball stadium that was under renovation, ruined virtually all of the university's vehicle fleet and spilled into the basement of Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, where a world-famous jazz music archive is stored, officials said. The university hired a document salvage firm, but it was unclear Saturday how much of the archive will be saved. Much of the campus was strewn with large tree limbs.

"We're going to be buying a lot of stuff," said Senior Vice President Yvette Jones. "We're moving quickly."

Floodwaters still covered most of the Southern University at New Orleans campus Wednesday, the first day anyone representing SUNO could access the property near the Lakefront to check on its condition, interim Chancellor Robert Gex said. There were reports of water as deep as 14 feet around the campus after the storm, and by Wednesday the receding water was still an inch deep in the administration building. A state damage assessment team hadn't yet begun its work, he said.

"In every building, some damage has taken place. We need people to look at foundations and things," he said Thursday. "It's been hard on everybody. We're trying to make the best of the situation."

At the University of New Orleans, floodwaters at some point covered about a third of the Lakefront campus, mostly on its south and west sides, invading the first floor of a dorm and the city's premier high school, Ben Franklin, at the edge of the college campus. But "most of the academic buildings didn't have water," Chancellor Timothy Ryan said. Still, he estimated that building repair and equipment replacement needs will top $100 million.

Storm refugees brought from rooftops by helicopter to open ground at UNO broke into many buildings and spent days on campus, with the bulk of them, 1,500 or more, apparently sleeping at Kirschman Hall, a new multi-story business complex, Ryan said.

"Apparently there was some miscommunication, because they were left there for several days," Ryan said, adding there was "some substantial damage done, but reparable damage." Some of the displaced residents apparently broke into soft drink machines, he said.

Cleanup workers on Wednesday said they found human feces and mounds of trash inside the business hall, and more than 100 chairs from the building had been dragged out and left in a grassy field.

"For somebody to have that much trash in there, it had to be a whole, whole bunch of them," said Ricky Burch, director of a private cleanup crew hired by UNO.

Xavier and Dillard universities, both hit hard by what appeared to be at least a few feet of flooding on ground floors, were strewn with tree limbs and other debris last week. Damage at Xavier, near South Carrollton Avenue and the Pontchartrain Expressway, had yet to be formally assessed, Savoie said.

In addition to flood damage, Dillard lost three buildings to fire, said Savoie, who did not know which buildings burned. A drive past the campus suggested that the stately buildings along Gentilly Boulevard had been spared. But dried muck and downed tree limbs across much of the campus gave it a look of devastation.

Dillard and Xavier officials weren't immediately available for comment.

"Dillard requires significant cash investments from alumni, government, foundations, corporations and friends to restore the physical facilities and infrastructure, equipment and academic instructional materials," Dillard's Web site says.

"We are dedicated to the success of our students and the entire Dillard community, and all of us eagerly await our return to fair Dillard."

Floodwaters invaded ground-floor medical facilities of Tulane University and Louisiana State University in the Central Business District, damaging records, killing laboratory animals and disrupting hundreds of research projects, Savoie said.

Money for shoring up such research projects will be sought from Congress, he said.

Nunez Community College in Chalmette, part of a swath of destruction caused by storm surge in St. Bernard Parish, saw six to seven feet of water on the bottom floors of its four buildings, spokeswoman Teresa Smith said. Some of the buildings also sustained roof damage, and mud from the storm waters filled parking lots, one of which was littered with marooned boats. A damage assessment for Nunez was incomplete last week.

Delgado received some flooding on the back sections of the City Park campus, and soldiers from the Oregon National Guard found in the main administration building trash that appeared to have been left behind by a small colony of storm refugees.

But the unit, which had more than 240 soldiers camped out at the campus, found no major damage or evidence of looting, said its spokesman, Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Hanson.

Using Delgado equipment, the Oregon soldiers mowed the lawn.

Other than minor wind damage, Our Lady of Holy Cross, located in Algiers, and Loyola University, off St. Charles Avenue Uptown, were left relatively unscathed by Katrina, officials said.

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STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Justin Winston looks over some old photographs he took of his mother-in-law's Old Metairie home on Rosewood Drive, in one of the sections of East Jefferson that had the deepest flooding. The waterline is visible on the house's exterior.

# 'What wasn't hit with water was exploded by the mold'

**OLD METAIRIE** *from B-1*

By Friday, hardly any water stood in Old Metairie's streets. But its signs were visible virtually everywhere.

On Airline Drive, several makeshift pipelines still stretched west from near Causeway Boulevard to beyond Severn Avenue. They were hooked up to generators and portable pumps to help drain Old Metairie, including more than 10 feet of water that pooled on Airline beneath Causeway.

Parish President Aaron Broussard created the system to move out water that normally drains east through the huge Pumping Station No. 6 just across the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans, Jefferson Drainage Director Kazem Alikhani said.

Station No. 6 normally moves water into the 17th Street Canal and into Lake Pontchartrain, but officials shut it down after a breach in the canal's eastern wall flooded parts of New Orleans and, eventually, Old Metairie.

"That water wasn't going anywhere," Alikhani said.

Airline remained closed at Causeway on Friday. It could reopen as soon as a state Department of Transportation and Development team inspects the area, Alikhani said.

On Ridgewood Drive, Lance Letellier returned to his house from Houston this week, knowing full well it had taken a huge hit from the flooding. That's because Letellier and his fiancee stayed in the house through Katrina's assault, until rising waters finally chased them out Aug. 30.

They used duct tape and cable wire to bind two air mattresses. Armed with drinking water, flashlights, batteries, a television set and a radio, they pushed off from the roof. Paddling with whatever they could find, they headed toward Airline Drive, just a couple of blocks away. Their goal was to reach Causeway Boulevard to the west.

"By the time I had paddled to Airline, I though my arms would fall off," Letellier said.

A neighbor in a boat passed by, and the two were rescued. They later evacuated to Houston and returned Wednesday.

"Somehow, it still was worse than you think," he said. "I put things up high on the refrigerator to be safe, but then the refrigerator floats around and those things fall off."

Pictures and other memorabilia that had been placed on top of beds, tables and countertops also were claimed by the water, he said.

"I'm thinking it can't get that high. But guess what? It did," he said.

Like many residents, Letellier said he survived the hurricane's initial blow with only some siding and roof damage. The water rose only as high as the sidewalk — at first.

But hours later the water started rising again, and the couple retreated into the attic. They tried to catch the attention of a couple of helicopters before eventually rigging their homemade raft and floating to safety.

"It's so ugly. It's so nasty. It's so dirty," said Letellier, a campaign manager for the United Way of Greater New Orleans.

"What wasn't hit with water was exploded by the mold."

# Oysters may be at greatest risk

**FISH,** *from B-1*

Pontchartrain.

"We've got a big problem with the rest of the country thinking all seafood in Louisiana is tainted. It's not," said Harlon Pearce, chairman of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Kraemer said a closure would reassure the public that Louisiana seafood that does make it to market is clean.

Oysters are considered to be at the greatest risk of contamination, both because of the way they feed, filtering water to strain out small bits of nutrients, and because they cannot swim away to avoid contaminated water. Oyster reefs from the Mississippi state line to west of Grand Isle have been closed since the storm because of potential contamination. No oyster dredging had been allowed in Lake Pontchartrain for years.

The regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Roy Crabtree, said in a recent interview that other seafood species including shrimp, red snapper, tuna and amberjack probably are not at risk. By the time the contaminated floodwaters reach the Gulf of Mexico, where many of those species live, it is expected to be too diluted to pose a threat. Kraemer added that some of those species can break down any petrochemicals during the digestive process.

State and federal officials say they will participate in a conference call Monday to discuss the request from Kraemer's office.

Kristen Meyer, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said little or no fishing is occurring now in Lake Pontchartrain, so the issue is not considered urgent.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which is coordinating the pumping of water from flooded areas, estimates it will be 15 to 30 days before New Orleans is dry, said agency spokesman Mitch Frazier. St. Bernard and lower Plaquemines Parish are expected to be dry by Oct. 8.

Frazier said that as the pumping gets down to the last remaining pools of water – those thought to hold the most pollutants – the Corps will consult with the Environmental Protection Agency to make sure the lake is protected. Some pumps in St. Bernard already have quit pumping because of 250,000 gallons of spilled oil from the Murphy refinery in Meraux, he said.

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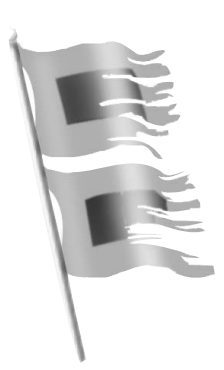
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# Your Opinions



Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco greet President Bush on the USS Iwo Jima Thursday in New Orleans.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

## Meeting's aim was to unify New Orleans

Robert Scott's article on nola.com Tuesday does not accurately reflect the meeting between Mayor Nagin and some of his associates and a biracial group of community and business leaders who pledged to work together to renew the city. It's important to set the record straight.

The meeting arose out of deep concerns by business people who care about our city and all of its citizens. A lot of us had been in touch and believed, as did Mayor Nagin, that holding the meeting made sense and was productive.

We all had one goal: finding the best action plan to rebuild and renew New Orleans in order to make it a national showcase for success for everyone in our city.

Mayor Nagin thanked the group for coming together and expressed his appreciation. He agreed that a biracial task force should be set up to work under his direction to deal with rebuilding issues concerning infrastructure, housing, education, culture and business.

There was no selfish politics, no parochial goals. We all shared the same objective: to make New Orleans a prosperous city that provides jobs and a high quality of life for all of its citizens and preserving the diverse cultural and ethnic heritage that makes us special.

Among the most active and helpful participants was Wynton Marsalis, whose views on ethnic and cultural diversity were enthusiastically received and adopted by all of us.

Why Mayor Nagin would criticize this meeting and the offers of hard work by concerned leaders is puzzling and a disappointment. Reading his statements, one might infer that it consisted of white businessmen. Actually, in addition to the mayor and Wynton Marsalis, important African-Americans who provide strong voices for our future, including David White, Dan Packer and Derrick Shepherd, participated. It bears stressing: The group was unified, not divided.

The meeting adjourned with everyone making a commitment to work in a spirit of cooperation.

We have a unique opportunity to renew New Orleans and make it a 21st century model of success for our state, our region and our nation. We can achieve that success for all of us, but only if we work together. Let's not allow politics to tear apart honest, focused efforts to get our city moving again. We're rolling up our sleeves to pitch in and help. We have high confidence that this is also the mayor's intention.

**Jimmy Reiss**
*Executive director*
*Regional Transportation Authority*
*New Orleans*

## No room for youngest displaced students?

I read the article by Mark Waller about displaced students. I have called state Superintendent Cecil Picard six times since Sept. 6 (I spoke to a not-very-compassionate aide twice) and Gov. Kathleen Blanco's office twice (spoke with a student who seemed to be interning on Sept. 14), and no one seemed to think it mattered that the East Baton Rouge School District and the state Department of Education made no provisions and deemed it "not mandatory" (their words) that preschool and prekindergarten students be eligible for enrollment. It is not a priority, I was told.

I was also told there are roughly 3,000 to 5,000 prekindergarten students displaced from Orleans, St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes, many of whom ended up in Baton Rouge.

Please tell me why my 4-year-old does not deserve some semblance of normalcy and a social outlet to deal with her displacement. And please tell me why I cannot get a call or even an e-mail from someone with a can-do attitude in the offices listed above.

The aide told me the superintendent was too busy to call me back. He said to register my child, and they would get to me. Excuse me? It is "not mandatory," and no spaces were even opened for our kids.

**Todd Taylor**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

## Fine words aren't enough

The president's prime-time Thursday speech from New Orleans was designed to restore confidence in his ability to lead, to establish in the minds of the American people a belief that he cares about the people who resided in the area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, and that he will demonstrate his concern by pouring in tens, if not hundreds, of billions of federal dollars to rebuild the region.

The words uttered by the president were fine, a well-written presentation which, of course, was produced not by him, but by a team of skilled writers. It will require far more than words, though, to begin to aside the horror of the abandonment of so many of society's most vulnerable individuals.

It is ironic that a president who touted a program which has as its lofty goal "no child left behind" ultimately left behind not only children, but the elderly, the infirm, and the poor to suffer hideously and to die before our eyes on national television.

President Bush did not create the situation that caused New Orleans to be a city teetering on the verge of obliteration through flooding, and the federal government headed by the president shares culpability in this catastrophe with the mayor of New Orleans and the governor of Louisiana, who also froze in the face of disaster.

In the final analysis, though, the buck must stop with George W. Bush. The horrific images of delay, death, and abject human misery which were beamed all over the world from the most powerful and rich nation in the world, are commonly and accurately attributed to him.

The president has paid lip service to taking responsibility for the catastrophic failures in providing rescue and relief, and has stated that he will "make it right." How in God's name will he "make it right" to those who died and their survivors, and those who suffered what no human being should ever have to endure?

The president has more than three long years left in his second term, but it will take far longer than that for the United States to recover from Hurricane Katrina, our international shame and mortification.

**Oren M. Spiegler**
*Upper Saint Clair, Pa.*

## Sickened by deaths at nursing home

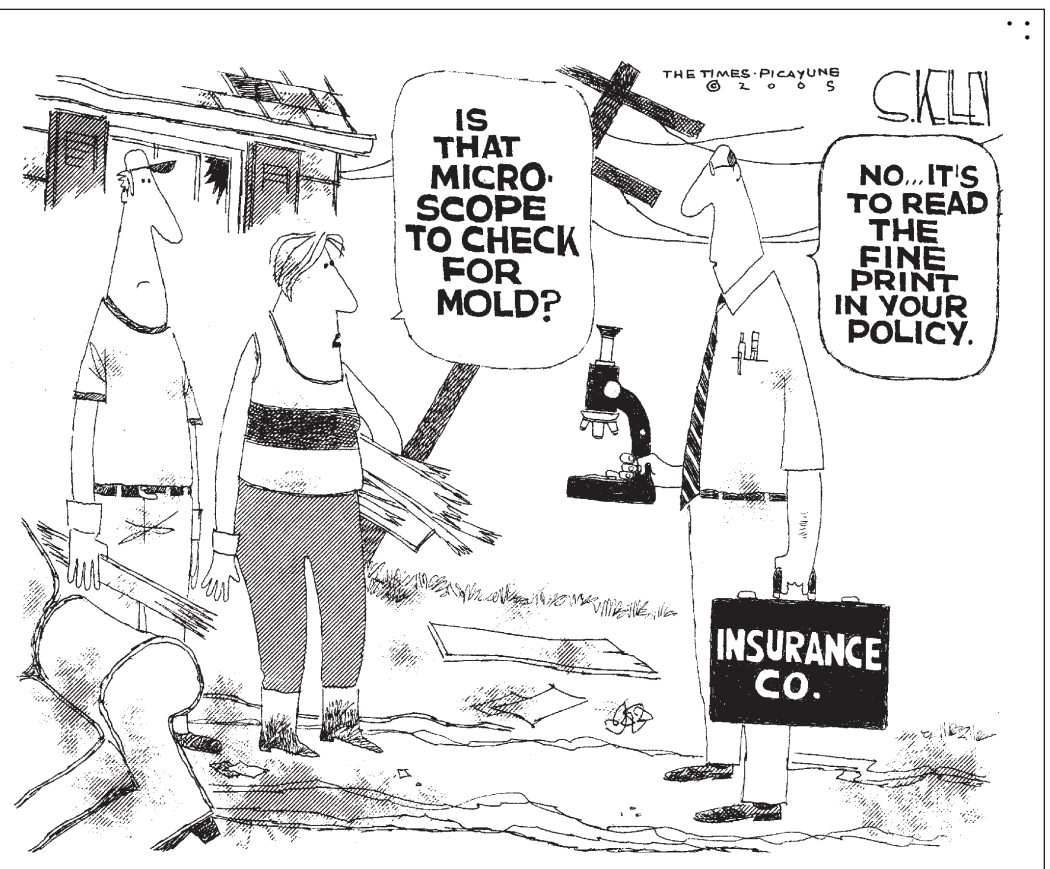
It makes me sick to†hear about those poor elderly people left to die in their nursing home.

How could the owners live with themselves, knowing what they did? They were nice enough to tag them! That sounds like premeditated murder to me.

There should be no bond. And if there is a lawyer out there who is helping them, he should be in the same place they end up.

God be with the families of residents of this so-called nursing home and with the people who I believe are responsible for so many deaths.

**Robin Choplin**
*Winston-Salem, N.C.*




# Our Opinions

## Ready for the second line

President Bush outlined his plans for rebuilding the Gulf Coast on Thursday night, and his emphatic show of support for this metropolitan area in particular was heartening and reassuring. "There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans," he said, addressing the nation from a podium in front of St. Louis Cathedral, "and this great city will rise again." He even invoked the traditional jazz funeral, in which a slow, mournful dirge gives way to a second line — a loud, raucous, irrepressible outpouring of joy.

To bring relief to an afflicted region, the president offered a number of substantive proposals. The creation of an "opportunity zone" in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama would provide tax incentives for employers and worker training accounts of as much as $5,000. Whether those tax incentives are as great as needed remains to be seen. The president also described an urban homesteading plan, in which the federal government would give free home sites to those who could not otherwise afford them.

The details of these and other efforts will need to be worked out ñ and worked out quickly. It was not immediately clear, for example, how much federally owned land in the New Orleans area will be suitable for new home construction.

Nevertheless, the considerable reach of President Bushís proposals suggests that he recognizes not just the scale of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina but also the vital importance of rebuilding the Gulf Coast. Reconstruction money is not a giveaway. Southeast Louisiana is home to extensive fisheries, major oil and gas production and refining facilities, not to mention some of the nationís busiest ports.

Already, proposals for an ambitious federal post-Katrina effort are being picked apart by clueless lawmakers such as Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who told The New York Times that he doesnít think "everything that should happen in Louisiana should be paid for by the rest of the country." He went on to suggest that "certain responsibilities" should be borne by the people of Louisiana. Itís as if thousands of New Orleanians skipped work for a three-week luxury vacation. On the Astrodome floor.

Sen. Coburn would surely be more sympathetic if the storm had threatened to wipe Oklahoma City off the map, rather than New Orleans. Anyway, Louisianians are already paying for this disaster, and we will keep on paying for it indefinitely. Many New Orleanians have lost homes, vehicles and jobs. Some of us left our homes or our initial places of shelter with little more than the clothes on our backs. Even with extensive assistance from outside, recovering from the storm will be costly and difficult.

This newspaper has argued time and again that, in the long run, spiraling budget deficits threaten the security and prosperity of the United States. But leaving the Gulf Coast in shambles would have the same effect right now. If this spendthrift Congress finally has found fiscal religion, surely lawmakers can make cuts in the existing budget to make room for the survivors of Katrina.

To judge from his speech, President Bush understands the impact of the hurricane upon the metropolitan area. In theory, his recovery plans could promote homeownership in New Orleans, which has long had a high percentage of renters. The president also took pains to acknowledge that poor African-Americans suffered disproportionately during the storm and suggested that minority-owned businesses should benefit from the relief effort.

The administration and Congress must be careful. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, emergency preparedness money was spread out across the country, and areas at the highest risk of terrorism got shorted. That must hot happen again. The federal recovery plan has to be focused on the areas hit hardest by the storm.

Another caveat: With the huge flow of government money coming in, transparency and accountability will be crucial. Louisiana politicians have a reputation, often deserved, for putting political connections ahead of public needs. The federal government has a long history of letting itself be gouged by contractors, too. But post-Katrina reconstruction costs are likely to be huge, so wasting even a dime of public money would be shameful.

New Orleans suffered badly after the hurricane, and parts of the city remain under water. Vast areas of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes have been utterly devastated. Even in parts of the metro area where the damage wasnít as bad, the recovery process will go on for years.

Nevertheless, it's now possible to see past the destruction to a brighter future for the metro area. And the presidentís public commitment of federal help lightens the heavy burden now facing Hurricane Katrina's many victims.

OTHER OPINIONS

# BLACK MIDDLE CLASS IS STORM-TOSSED

## *Lack of attention has some residents of eastern New Orleans frustrated*




STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

Members of the 3rd Platoon of the Ohio National Guard paddle the floodwaters in eastern New Orleans as they began their search and rescue mission.

Critty Hymes is a physician. Like so many of New Orleans' black doctors, lawyers, accountants, dentists, politicians, professors and entrepreneurs, she made her home in eastern New Orleans, an area hit especially hard by the floodwaters that followed Hurricane Katrina.

Despite its devastation, the area known as New Orleans East, the other part of the 9th Ward, hasn't gotten much attention since the storm. There are probably multiple reasons for that. First and foremost, the human drama was playing out elsewhere. Media attention was focused on the poorer areas of New Orleans because that's where so many people were gathered on their rooftops, crying out to be rescued. If we assume that people with means were more likely to flee the storm, then they wouldn't have been around to draw attention to their neighborhoods.



JARVIS DEBERRY

Drowning houses can't cry out like drowning people do.

Besides, the area was largely inaccessible. Soon after Katrina passed through that Monday morning, I joined a Times-Picayune team that tried to make it to the East. We couldn't even get as far as the high-rise over the Industrial Canal, the water was so high.

But I suspect that there's a third reason the East has been largely ignored: Despite the wealth, fame or stature of many of its residents, for too many people now covering New Orleans, the area simply doesn't exist. It's not a place they ever think about.

Hymes, who worked as a gynecologist at Methodist Hospital on Bullard Avenue, was in Houston with her family during the storm. When reached there by phone Friday morning, she had heard a rumor that New Orleans officials are planning to bulldoze New Orleans East, which, to her, sounded like a plan to throw dirt over the city's black middle class.

I had to pay special attention to understand her through her weeping.

"My practice is under water," she said. "I have no more patients. Now you're going to tell me I have no more home?"

What Hymes has heard about the East in particular seems to jibe with what Mayor Ray Nagin has said about New Orleans in general. He predicts that only half of the city's 160,000 homes will be salvageable and that the others will have to be destroyed.

Still, I don't know what bulldoze means. Does it mean tearing down houses irreparably damaged by the water so that the owners can build again? Not even the most sentimental person should stand opposed to that. Or does "bulldoze" mean the demolition of an idea? The idea that upward mobility and neighborhood stability are as attainable for black New Orleanians as they are for other races. Does it mean the city will throw out the black middle class with the floodwater?

Even when slavery was the law of the land, New Orleans had a significant number of free people of color who, with their commitment to education, industry and self-reliance, defied all stereotypes of black inferiority. Centuries later, other Southern cities would develop black middle classes that would dwarf New Orleans'. But that doesn't mean the one in New Orleans ever went away.

At least it hadn't before Katrina.

Despite the vital role that black professionals have played in the history of New Orleans, Hymes said she thinks they've been given short shrift during this crisis. She thinks the East took a backseat to Lakeview.

"You want to tell me that a country that can put a man on the moon can't drain two areas of the city at the same time? Send the (Army) Corps of Engineers out there the same time you sent them to the 17th Street Canal."

It's too soon to know what the political fallout from Hurricane Katrina will be. It's not even clear at this point who will return to the city to vote. But if I held elective office in New Orleans, I'd be trembling at the thought that my constituents thought I'd done nothing to bring them relief.

Even through Hymes' sobs I heard her anger. She perceives disrespect. And if anything else is said or done that makes her feel less important than those in other ZIP codes, she vows not to return to her birthplace.

"It's like we are the forgotten out there," she said. "I'm well-educated, and we were just left. Left like we didn't even exist."

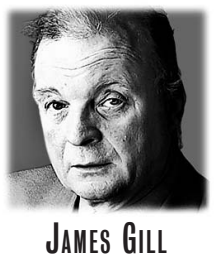
Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

# So sorry, but we don't cover water damage

Almost everyone — and certainly every reader of The Times-Picayune — knew what would happen when the big one hit, but only a minority took out flood insurance.

Some, no doubt, were reckless, but many of those now ruing their oversight were apparently under the impression that their homeowner policies would replace all that was lost.

Insurance adjusters have seen many a jaw drop as they explain that they will pay for damage caused by wind, but not by rising water. Policyholders contemplating the destruction of their homes and possessions naturally view this distinction as picky, a legalistic pretext for companies to cut their losses and leave Katrina's victims in the lurch.



JAMES GILL

Companies take the view that they should pay for losses only if they collected premiums to cover them. It is hard to dispute the logic of that position, although hardly anyone is in the mood for logic right now. Besides, insurance companies took a generous stance after 9/11, electing to ignore policy limitations for humanitarian reasons. The Gulf Coast region may feel it is no less deserving.

Even those who did take out flood insurance may find they are seriously out of pocket. The maximum payout under flood insurance, which is run by the federal government, is $250,000, and many a burgher lost much more than that when the levees broke and some of our ritziest neighborhoods went under.

There is no political advantage in siding with the insurance companies on this issue, and they got quite a pounding at a joint legislative hearing last week. Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R-New Orleans, warned that "World War III" would break out if the companies did not learn a little flexibility. To look at parts of the New Orleans area right now, you'd think World War III had already broken out; the insurance companies are merely shooting the survivors.

They would appear to have no legal obligation to pay for losses excluded in homeowner policies, but that ultimately will be the Louisiana Supreme Court's call. A class-action lawsuit filed in a Baton Rouge district court asks for a judgment that the companies are responsible for damage caused by post-Katrina floods.

That will be a ticklish one for the Supreme Court, which in recent years has been notably sympathetic to business. But a vote for the insurance companies will be remembered by hundreds of thousands of hurricane victims come re-election time.

The stakes are pretty high. The insurance companies, if they are forced to adopt a more liberal payout policy, could be on the hook for $50 billion, or about a quarter of Katrina's costs.

State Farm lobbyist Bubba Henry claims that extracting payments for uncovered losses would bankrupt the insurance industry, but then nobody appearing before a legislative committee ever understates his case. Former state Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown, who is advising the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, points out that the companies facing Katrina claims have reserves 10 times greater than their potential exposure. Furthermore, insurance companies always lay off their major bets, and most of the Katrina risk will have been shunted to reinsurance conglomerates around the world.

We can be sure that, regardless of which way the courts rule, the insurance companies will survive. We can be reasonably confident that the victims will ultimately be made whole too, even if it is not by way of their homeowner policies. If only for political reasons, President Bush is clearly eager to compensate for the fiasco of the Katrina aftermath by making a success of reconstruction. His speech on Thursday suggested that money would be no object. It is thus hard to imagine that a quirk in insurance coverage will be allowed to ruin citizens who did their best to prepare for disaster.

The only catch may be that the obvious agent for federal largess is FEMA, which may be slightly less clueless since the departure of director Michael Brown, but still does not command total confidence in its ability to handle a multibillion-dollar effort. If legislators at the joint hearing hoped FEMA might provide some clues as to its future role, they were in for a disappointment. No sooner had the hearing begun than the FEMA representative up and walked out. The money needed for reconstruction may not be a problem, but competence may be.

James Gill is a Times-Picayune staff writer.



STEPHANIE GRACE

# Now is the chance to remake New Orleans schools

When Gov. Kathleen Blanco thanked heroic first responders during her first post-Hurricane Katrina speech last week, the state legislators who made up the bulk of her audience stood and applauded, just as they should have.

After the governor introduced ordinary people who rescued tens of thousands of hurricane victims via boat and school bus, they leapt to their feet once more.

Blanco's other vows ñ to rebuild the shattered city and suburban parishes, to bring far-flung evacuees back home and to call on FEMA to hire local companies and workers ñ also met with enthusiastic responses.

But when the governor promised to seize an extraordinary opportunity to remake New Orleans' dreadful schools, many applauded, but some didn't.

Here's the statement that prompted the surprisingly lackluster response: ìWe're not going to simply recreate the schools of New Orleans,î the governor said. ìTonight, I am calling on all Louisianans and all Americans to join an historic effort to build a world-class, quality system of public education in New Orleans. Our children who have weathered this storm deserve no less.î

On its face, who could argue with such a call?

Don't those kids deserve no less than a fully committed partnership from the state lawmakers who will be making key decisions about the system's future ñ whether or not their constituents are directly affected?

Instead, the initial response hinted of business as usual ñ in other words, a return to the old pre-Katrina order of heated debate over whether to stick with the urban-district model, open a bunch of independently-run charter schools, or just turn the whole mess over to the state or city.

Before the storm, there were legislators who wanted to keep the Orleans Parish School Board intact, others who wanted to pull students out of the broke, failing system by any means possible, and still more who seemed ready to give up.

Apparently, that's still the case, despite Blanco's commitment and President Bush's subsequent promise of massive federal aid to rebuild.

That's a shame, because it is vital to figure out how to create a quality system out of what is now basically nothing.

In his Jackson Square speech Thursday night, President Bush vowed not just to improve levees and rebuild homes, but to confront the deep-seated problems that the storm exposed. As we've known all along, a key component in any plan to attack the city's poverty and social ills is a healthy school system.

There's tremendous room for debate over what form the new schools should take. Urban planners from all over the country see New Orleans as a laboratory, and the same goes for educational reformers. That means it's especially urgent that locals of all stripes stay engaged.

Maybe the legislators who sat on their hands during Blanco's promise to rebuild, vague as it was, are just fatigued over years of dysfunction, although their silence might be mistaken for lack of interest. No matter what the reason, they need to get over it.

The Legislature and Louisiana's other political institutions are about to go under a microscope more powerful than they've ever imagined. They need to think long and hard about what the world will see.

Stephanie Grace is a Times-Picayune staff writer.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

SECTION C
Sunday
September 18, 2005

LIVING
For complete coverage, see PAGE C-7

## Athletes pitch in to help with relief

*Magloire, Floyd organize donations*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

It began with modest contributions of $1 million each from the NBA Players Association and Major League Baseball.

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast, groups and individuals from the sports world have contributed countless millions more in monetary donations, supplies and volunteer efforts aimed at storm relief.

Each day, another story of financial aid comes to light, one of the most recent from Hornets center Jamaal Magloire.

Magloire will host a benefit gala in his native hometown of Toronto on Sept. 29, with the proceeds going to his adopted hometown of New Orleans, he told Toronto media last week, putting aside whatever personal losses he might have incurred at his in-season home in the Warehouse District as minor compared to the ravages of what he has seen in the news.

"All that stuff is trivial to me," Magloire said. "People lost their lives; people without home insurance lost their homes. My stuff can be replaced, because I've been blessed. Lives can't be replaced. Friends of mine are still looking for their siblings and their mothers and fathers. I don't care about my stuff."

Magloire has put together a fund-raiser ó at $300 per ticket ó that includes dinner, live entertainment and a silent auction at a theater in downtown Toronto.

Magloire said he'll deliver the proceeds to the Crescent City.

"I will go to the school with the roof blown off, or homes that have been damaged, and make sure they're OK," Magloire said. "But I can't do this on my own. I need help, and I want to show the people of New Orleans the people of Toronto care.

"New Orleans is a good, loving environment, and I'd like to try to help get that back. I want to be a part of it."

Professional athletes and even coaches around the country with ties to the metropolitan area and other affected parts of

*See* **RELIEF,** *C-3*



*After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Saints marched into New York to try to play spoiler to the Giants. This time, the nation's hearts are with New Orleans.*

# SHORT BREAK FROM REALITY



AP PHOTOS

New York firemen and police officers line the field before the Giants' first game after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. Monday night in New York, as the Saints play what was scheduled to be a home game, New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass and other members of the Crescent City police and fire departments will assist with the pregame coin toss.

## *Saints could be New Orleans memory after next season*



PETER FINNEY

After one hurricane and one victory, they're calling the 2005 New Orleans Saints "America's Team."

That's nice.

It's fitting and heartfelt.

But what about the 2006 Saints?

And beyond?

For example, will there be a "New Orleans Saints" in 2010?

It's a question worth posing because some Big Easy lovers with a sporting bent have suggested a city that experienced a change-of-life catastrophe should be awarded the next available Super Bowl (2010), which, in the case of New Orleans, would be No. 10.

The timeline suggests it

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-3*

**By Aaron Kuriloff**
Contributing writer

NEW YORK — Three hours.

That's what the Saints can give New Orleans on Monday, according to Jason Sehorn.

**SAINTS VS. GIANTS**
6:30 p.m.
Monday **ABC**

Almost exactly four years ago, in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, New York asked the same thing from Sehorn and the Giants. The same three hours.

The Giants delivered. The Saints came to the Meadowland as spoilers and the Giants beat them in front of 80,000 cheering New Yorkers. For three hours, Giants fans worried about something else.

Now the roles are reversed. Now it's New Orleans that could use its three hours and the Giants playing spoiler. They should be playing in the Superdome. But that's not an option. The Saints have become nomads. So even though it's New Orleans' turn, even though the Saints probably could use a break, the teams once again will meet in the Meadowlands.

Nobody said life was fair.

"It's the worst situation possible," said Sehorn, who

*See* **NEW YORK,** *C-2*

## Green Wave fans keeping spirits up

*Faithful make trek for opener; some vow to keep attending*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

SHREVEPORT — The therapy session came with a complimentary beer.

Patients united at the Wow! Wingery recreation vehicle, plush with air conditioning, couches and televisions. The adults wore Tulane hats and polo shirts, the kids wore football jerseys and cheerleader outfits.

"It's going to be three hours of therapy," said Stephen Mott of Covington.

Not a lot of Tulane fans could make it. It was understandable. Since Hurricane Katrina, the thought of attending a football game has been fleeting for most. But other Tulane fans did make the excursion to Shreveport. These fans sure have some problems back home, but today was game day, and they decided to lose themselves in Saturday-afternoon normalcy.

Complete coverage of Tulane & Mississippi State on nola.com

"Could we be at home working? Yeah," said Steven Ballard, a former Tulane receiver from 1988-92. "The insurance adjuster — I have to replace the roof on my house — called me on Thursday and said, 'I'm coming at 12 on Saturday.' I had to postpone my insurance adjuster. We wanted to make the first game."

Ballard and his brothers, Paul and Scott, all Tulanians, started the Wow! franchise.

"It's a fast-going franchise," Steven Ballard said. "We have 21 stores operating — well, we did before the hurricane. We're going to lose three coming out of it."

Steven Ballard loaded eight family members into the R.V. and headed to Shreveport. Paul Ballard and his wife, Torry,

*See* **TULANE,** *C-4*

### LEGENDARY LOCAL FAMILY FINDS KATRINA WAS 'WORSE THAN EVERYTHING'

# CAMPOS: STUNNED BY DESTRUCTION

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

After living in the St. Bernard marshes all of his 87 years, Blackie Campo thought he'd probably seen and heard it all — even when it came to hurricanes. It was a hubris Campo earned by watching storms wipe homes away in 1947 and 1956.

So as he and his son, Ken, waited in the Poydras home of his grandson, Kenny, for Hurricane Katrina on the night of Aug. 28 Blackie — arguably the best-known marsh man in south Louisiana — thought there could be no surprises.

He was wrong.

"This was worse than everything I've ever seen before combined," Campo said Friday from his refuge in Baton Rouge. "I thought we'd have some water. I thought there would be winds. But I never thought it would be like this — just all gone.

*See* **CAMPO,** *C-6*



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Blackie Campo's Shell Beach hoist was wiped away by Hurricane Katrina.

NFL

# Honor for Mills lost in all the aftermath

By Brian Allee-Walsh
NFL columnist

I've had way too much time to think about Sam Mills' death and now his aborted induction onto the Superdome Wall of Fame.

His banner would have been unfurled today at the Saints' home opener against the New York Giants, but the devastation to our city caused by Hurricane Katrina forced the game to be moved to Monday night in East Rutherford, N.J.

As far as I'm concerned, his tribute will proceed as planned, no matter what.

Let the credits roll.

During nine stellar seasons in New Orleans and later with the expansion Carolina Panthers, Mills, a 5-foot-9, 225-pound rock of a man, established himself as one of the premiere middle linebackers in the NFL.

Simply, he climbed over people on his way to the top of the Wall to join Jim Finks, Archie Manning, "Pistol Pete" Maravich, Eddie Robinson, Dave Dixon and Rickey Jackson.

Does Mills belong with such illustrious company?

Arguably, he might own the Wall, if the criteria for selection were based solely on the size of the fight in the dog.

No disrespect to the previous inductees, but the Littlest Rhino defied the odds, beginning with a decision that he made 25 years ago to reject a popular belief that he was too small to play in the NFL.

Mills' critics harped too much about his lack of physical stature. If they had probed deeper into his background, they might have discovered the heart of several lions.

My hope was to have Mills stand at midfield in the Superdome, flanked by his family, former Saints coach Jim Mora and fellow linebackers Pat Swilling, Vaughan Johnson and Jackson, with a sell-out crowd hanging on every word.

It was wishful thinking on my part.

Truth be told, Mills should have been inducted before he succumbed to intestinal cancer in 2004, long before Katrina changed our lives forever.

The Wall of Fame selection committee and Saints owner Tom Benson dropped the ball with regard to Mills. C'mon gentlemen, a life-size statue of the man stands outside Ericsson Stadium in downtown Charlotte in recognition of his many contributions to the Panthers' organization.

Why the delay? What did Carolina officials see in Mills that we in New Orleans did not see in his body of work that covered nearly a decade?

Mills should have been recognized while he was living for his accomplishments in New Orleans as the exemplary gentleman/citizen/consummate pro/role model that he was.

Better-late-than-never wasn't the appropriate decision. Now it may be never. Because of Katrina and all that has ensued, the Superdome Wall of Fame may never bear Mills' name. Furthermore, the Superdome may have suffered irreparable damage and never be home to the Saints again.

"We've got months before we can determine the future of the building,'' Superdome spokesman Bill Curl said Friday. "Certainly our intention would be if the Superdome is restored, we would continue the Wall of Fame, and Sam would be a part of it. That's our intention.

"But the future is indefinite."

My bet is Mills' spirit will be standing alongside Saints coaches and players Monday night at Giants Stadium, proudly wearing No. 51, eager to help make a difference.

That's the man, teammate and person he was.

Sam, on behalf of Saints fans home and away, congratulations. You richly deserve to be on the Wall of Fame. Hopefully, in the foreseeable future, we can pause and reflect on your life and career and make it a banner day.

Meantime, please keep our ravaged city and region in your prayers. A good word from you should go a long way.

# New York can empathize with New Orleans

NEW YORK, *from C-1*

played cornerback for the Giants in the 2001 game. "It really (stinks), to be honest with you."

There are parallels, Sehorn said, but no comparison. And in the Giants' locker room last week, players agreed. The Giants weren't forced to leave their homes and city behind. They weren't separated from family and friends. Their stadium wasn't wrecked, or their fan base scattered. They didn't watch their home debut transferred to a foreign stadium, full of hostile fans.

In the past two weeks, Saints players have visited shelters and met with storm victims. They've distributed good wishes, food and money. But they've been asked for three hours.

Any Giants who was here four years ago knows what that's like.

"It was kind of naïve," Sehorn said. "We looked at it as taking people's minds off what happened. There's no way you can do that. But maybe you can just help them take their minds off it for those three hours."



AP PHOTO

The Giants, playing with inspiration on the heels of 9/11, gave the Saints and Aaron Brooks fits.

## A city's undivided attention

That awesome duty was obvious to New York players every day leading up to the Saints game. From the parking lot at Giants Stadium, on the way to practice, they could see the World Trade Center rubble smoldering.

In the days after the attacks, that parking lot became a collection center for emergency vehicles and donated relief supplies. The NFL halted its schedule, and the illuminated signs outside the Meadowlands read "No Game Today."

With the week off from football, the Giants' organization and its players got involved in relief efforts. On Sept. 15, players visited the site that later became known as Ground Zero. A second group of Giants returned Sept. 18. Football resumed. The Giants beat the Cardinals on the road and Arizona fans gave them a standing ovation.

But the first home game was the big one. That's the game they had to win. The other New York teams were doing their part. Mike Piazza had hit a bottom-of-the-ninth, game-winning home run during the Mets' first game back. The Yankees had just embarked on what would become one of the most thrilling postseason runs in memory. And the Jets weren't scheduled to play at home until Monday night. For three hours Sunday, the Giants would have the city's undivided attention.

On Saturday, Coach Jim Fassel invited the family members of slain rescue workers to practice. A mother asked star defensive end Michael Strahan to sign a photograph of her lost husband, a fan.

"It amazes me when people say 'Thank You,'" Strahan told reporters at the time. "What are you thanking us for? But it made me realize that what we do is important to them."

Like most of the nation, the Saints also tried to pitch in as best they could, taking up locker room collections and soliciting donations in New Orleans for the New York recovery efforts. But the Saints were conference rivals, known for hard hits and grinding defense and coming off a playoff season. To New Yorkers hoping the Giants would defend their 2000 NFC title, the Saints were indisputably the bad guys.

## Emotions ruled the game

Game day was damp and gray, with temperatures around 56 degrees. The Harlem Boys Choir sang the national anthem. The Giants lined up behind a color guard made up of representatives from the New York police and fire departments, along with the New York Port Authority Police Department. Many on the team donned NYPD and NYFD hats.

"The locker room atmosphere was much different than for a normal game," Sehorn said. "Far quieter. Everyone acts differently to prepare for a game, but that game everyone was in the same mode."

Emotions ruled the game. In the first seven minutes, the two teams combined for six penalties, four of them personal fouls. Strahan ran over then-Saints tackle Kyle Turley for three sacks, while Turley racked up four penalties by himself.

Giants quarterback Kerry Collins found Joe Jurevicious for a 46-yard touchdown with six minutes remaining that iced the victory. It started raining. Penalties killed the Saints' final drive.

After the game, the Giants celebrated unabashedly. Strahan called it one of his most satisfying victories. Even today, playing on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks still moves him.

"The fans of the city are here to support us on a day that is very tough for everybody here and we didn't want to go out there and not perform our best for them," Strahan said after the Giants beat the Cardinals at home last week on Sept. 11. "We went out there and we did it and I hope for the few hours that we were out there a lot of people had their minds off the past."

## A heavy burden

That Saints want the same thing for their fans. The desire is the same.

"When I went to shelters, I just kept telling people 'Hold on,'" Saints receiver Joe Horn said in San Antonio last week. "Just keep holding on.

"And what they asked of me was 'Joe, you guys go and do what you've been doing – play football games and win football games."

But their burden is much heavier. This time, the stadium itself became Ground Zero and the players joined everyone else evacuating the city. Fans fear the Saints won't ever play in New Orleans again – that the team will make permanent its relocation to San Antonio.

"Their situation is so much more difficult," Sehorn said. "We weren't forced from our town, forced into a hotel away from our friends and family. We weren't forced to play on the road."

Such factors add significantly to the Saints' challenge this weekend. But several Giants noted that hardship has granted the suddenly vagabond Saints permanent underdog status, a lot of motivation and a sudden burst of national popularity.

"That's a strong motivation to play for when you have people who've gone through such tragedy say, 'Hey, we're rooting for you, go out there and do well," said Giants quarterback Eli Manning, a native New Orleanian who prepped at Newman.

Coach Tom Coughlin praised the Saints for maintaining focus and gutting out a 23-20 victory over Carolina last week.

"Knowing the Carolina team and how good they are, knowing what New Orleans has been through, knowing the anguish that has accompanied all of them – coaches, players, the organization, their families being uprooted what have you.... I would say that the whole National Football League takes its hat off to the job they did," Coughlin said.

Strahan put it succinctly.

"I was pulling for them myself," he said.

But not this weekend.

"Once you get out on the field, all that stuff stops."

## Just visitors

The Saints may have become America's team, but to New York fans, they're just visitors. The Giants passed the hat for relief efforts – just as the New Orleans team once did for New York – but they're still planning to beat the Saints.

That's partly why Saints coaches are scoffing at the league's efforts to make Giants Stadium more welcoming.

It's not that the efforts aren't impressive. New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass and other members of the Crescent City police and fire departments will assist with the pre-game coin toss, along with former president George H.W. Bush, who co-leads the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis will play the national anthem, while Irvin Mayfield will play "America the Beautiful." The Saints will wear their black home jerseys. Ground crews will paint the Saints logo on the west end zone. Some 600 New Orleanians will be flown in by relief agencies for the game.

But none of the hoopla impresses Saints coach Jim Haslett.

"They don't need to paint that field with any fleur-de-lis or anything," he said. "This is a home game for the Giants and we'll leave it that way."

That might be for the best. The Saints are 25-16 on the road since Haslett took over as coach, second only to the Philadelphia Eagles in the same time period. But at least the Giants know where home is. The Saints spent Tuesday and Wednesday looking for new housing in San Antonio.

"Everyone can put sheepskin over their eyes and act like it's not a home game for the Giants," Horn said. "But we all know. I'm sure the fans and the Giants football club care what happens and their heart goes out to us. We will appreciate that, but we're also not crazy and thinking it's a home game."

The Saints are scheduled to play four games in Tiger Stadium. Maybe then they'll get a real homecoming, with nearly 100,000 Louisianians cheering them on. But they're also playing three games in a suddenly black-and-gold San Antonio.

As if Saints fans didn't have enough to worry about.

But that's the future. On Monday night, the Saints will try to deliver all they can: another three hours.

"Take the game for what it is – a game," Sehorn said. "Then get back to reality after."


A SPECIAL MESSAGE
for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Members
affected by Hurricane Katrina

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, we know our customers affected by Hurricane Katrina are facing many challenges right now. But getting the health care you need *when* you need it shouldn't be one of them. That's why we're working with doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and providers everywhere to assist you during this difficult time.

Here are some other ways we're trying to help:

- Granting grace periods for premium payments through November 1
- Providing access to ***all*** doctors and hospitals for covered medical services
- Making it easy to get prescriptions filled ***wherever*** you are

**This applies to members from the following parishes:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assumption | Orleans | St. John the Baptist | Terrebonne |
| Jefferson | St. Bernard | St. Mary | Washington |
| Lafourche | St. Charles | St. Tammany | |
| Plaquemines | St. James | Tangipahoa | |

To help find a doctor or hospital, get a new ID card, or ask any other questions about your health coverage,

call us at **1-800-599-BLUE (2583).**

Hurricane Katrina information is also available online at www.bcbsla.com.

If you have questions on prescription coverage, please call **1-866-781-7533** (24 hours a day, seven days a week) or visit www.express-scripts.com.

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has deep roots in Louisiana, dating back to 1934 in New Orleans. Many of our own employees have been affected by this tragedy. We want to assure our customers that we're here to help you and your loved ones as you rebuild your lives and as we all rebuild this great state we call home.

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NFL

# Saints to win 'home' game vs. Giants, go 2-0

By Brian Allee-Walsh
Staff writer

**New York Giants (1-0) at Saints (1-0):** Saints are home team on the road at Giants Stadium but the world is pulling for the Fleur de-Lis. Giants will work hard to defend their home turf Monday night but take the Bayou exiles. Saints 23-19

**Pittsburgh (1-0) at Houston (0-1) –** Steelers will make it 16 consecutive regular-season wins, with or without Ben Roethlisberger. Steelers 24-10

**Baltimore (0-1) at Tennessee (0-1):** Don't look for the Return of the Titans this week. Ravens 23-13

**Jacksonville (1-0) at Indianapolis (1-0):** Jags beat the Colts at the RCA Dome in 2004. Won't happen this year. Colts 27-16

**Detroit (1-0) at Chicago (0-1):** Lions seek fourth consecutive win against the Bears, and get it. Lions 20-16

**Minnesota (0-1) at Cincinnati (1-0):** The Vikings - my pick to win the NFC - are in danger of going 0-2. Bengals 31, Vikings 27

**San Francisco (1-0) at Philadelphia (0-1):** Eagles rebound with a vengeance. Eagles 23-10

**Buffalo (1-0) at Tampa Bay (1-0):** Bucs seek first 2-0 start since 2000. Bucs 19-17

**New England (1-0) at Carolina (0-1):** Bill Belichick and QB Tom Brady combine on their 50th win together. Patriots 26-20

**Atlanta (1-0) at Seattle (0-1):** Falcons hope to avoid a letdown after emotional win against the Eagles. Falcons 24-17

**St. Louis (0-1) at Arizona (0-1)** - New Orleans' Marshall Faulk needs one yard to become the 12th player in NFL history to rush for 12,000 yards. Rams 24-20

**Miami (1-0) at New York Jets (0-1):** Jets get back on winning track after stinker at Kansas City. Jets 19-10

**Cleveland (0-1) at Green Bay (0-1):** Packers and Brett Favre get emotional boost from sold-out Lambeau Field. Packers 24-7

**San Diego (0-1) at Denver (0-1):** LaDainian Tomlinson has a rushing touchdown in 13 consecutive games, tying him with John Riggins for longest streak in league history. Chargers 21-20

**Kansas City (1-0) at Oakland (0-1):** Chiefs snap Raiders' seven-game winning streak in home openers. Chiefs 26-23

**Washington (1-0) at Dallas (1-0):** Cowboys and Redskins meet for 14th time on Monday Night Football. Cowboys 24-16

**Last week:** 11-5.

NFL PICKS

# Saints-Giants game to feature telethon

**RELIEF,** *from C-1*

the Gulf Coast region have mobilized to lend their support and clout to various relief efforts.

Former UNO and Hornets coach Tim Floyd, whose sister lost a home in Mississippi, has helped organize an online sports auction that will benefit Habitat for Humanity's relief fund.

The Miami Heat and NBA champion San Antonio Spurs have tabbed their exhibition opener in Miami Oct. 10 as a relief effort game.

The Heat will donate all proceeds from ticket sales, concessions, parking and retail sales to the American Red Cross, and tickets will be sold at regular-season prices in an effort to maximize the contribution.

Last week, Heat center Shaquille O'Neal and his wife, Shaunie, organized a major relief effort in the Miami area, with O'Neal chipping in to help load 18-wheelers with supplies trucked into the Baton Rouge area.

"I commend everybody who's helping out in some way," O'Neal said last weekend. "When it's monetarily or going to the stores and buying cases of water, bundles of ice ... there's a lot of people chipping in, and my hat goes off to every American and non-American that's helping."

O'Neal, after a quick visit to Louisiana following the storm, said he decided to formulate a plan in which he could lend a hand.

"I'm just doing what I've been taught by my parents to do," he said. "This is the right thing to do, and I'm trying to urge other people to do it."

Football efforts are taking center stage this weekend.

On Saturday, a telethon was to be held during Tulane's game against Mississippi State in Shreveport's Independence Bowl Stadium.

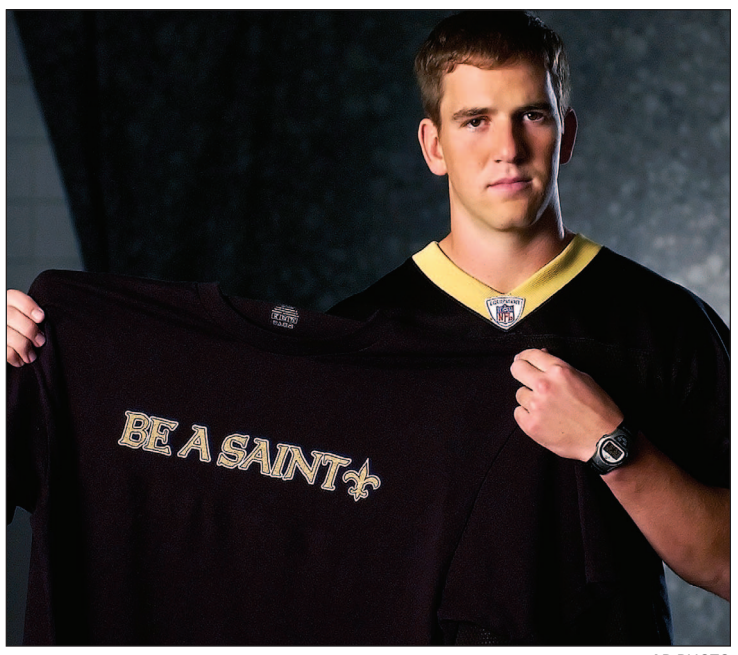
The game was touted as the "Big Game for the Big Easy" and was to be telecast by Collage Sports Television. Proceeds obtained during the game — a telephone number through which viewers can make donations was to be superimposed on the screen — will assist children in various shelters and help rebuild Boys and Girls Clubs damaged by the storm.

The federal Department of Education says more than 370,000 elementary and high school students have been displaced by the storm,

And the Saints, who will play at the New York Giants as part of a "Monday Night Football" doubleheader being promoted as the culmination of the NFL's "hurricane relief weekend," will also be part of a major, daylong fund-raising telethon on ABC.

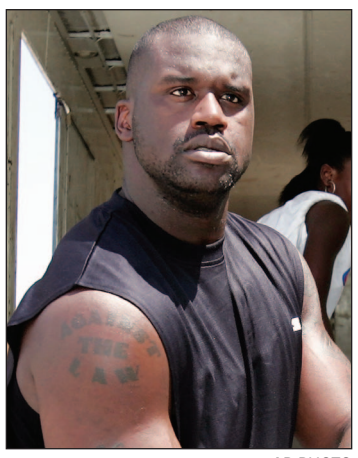
Current and former NFL players, including several members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will be part of the telephone bank that will answer calls and accept pledges during the telecast.

Donations will benefit the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, which is led by former Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton. The fund serves as an umbrella organization for three special funds established by the governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to assist in long-term recovery plans.




AP PHOTO

New Orleans native Eli Manning delivered relief items to various shelters in Baton Rouge.



AP PHOTO

Shaquille O'Neal organized a relief effort in Miami, collecting clothes, food and other supplies.

## SPORTS-RELATED HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

**NFL**

▶Saints owner Tom Benson organized team's Hurricane Katrina relief effort and made the initial contribution.

▶Seattle Seahawks owner Paul Allen donated $1 million to relief effort.

▶Texans owner Bob McNair announced he will match up to the first $1 million raised in the Houston community.

▶Washingto Redskins owner Daniel Snyder donated $500,000.

▶New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft donated $250,000.

▶Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning collected 31,000 pounds of relief items and delivered them to Baton Rouge-area shelters.

▶Green Bay Packers organized effort with $100,000 Red Cross donation and encouraged fans to make contributions at home opener against Cleveland Browns.

▶New York Jets center and former LSU player Kevin Mawae and wife, Traci, organized a food drive in Garden City, N.J.

▶New York Giants players Ryan Kuehl and Shaun O'Hara helped collect more than $141,000 to be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

▶ABC Sports and ESPN to hold telethon during Monday night's doubleheader featuring Saints-Giants and Redskins-Cowboys games with proceeds going to Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

▶Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn, a Baton Rouge native, challenged every player in the NFL to donate at least $5,000 to hurricane relief.

**NBA**

▶Hornets owner George Shinn accompanied players and two trailer trucks filled with clothing and school supplies to three Baton Rouge-area shelters.

▶NBA Players Association has initially pledged $2.5 million and is partnering with Feed The Children, a Christian, non-profit international relief organization, in an effort called "Operation Rebound." More than 90 tractor trailers filled with food, clothing and supplies have already gone out to various shelters around the region.

▶New York Knicks guard Stephon Marbury has pledged to donate between $500,000 and $1 million this season to relief efforts.

▶Hornets center Jamaal Magloire is staging a $300 per person dinner, entertainment, auction gala in Toronto with proceeds going directly to affected areas in New Orleans.

▶Several NBA players have made personal donations: Kobe Bryant (Los Angeles Lakers) and Alan Henderson (Dallas Mavericks), $100,000 each; Baron Davis (Golden State Warriors) $60,000; Chris Duhon (Chicago Bulls) $30,000.

▶Miami Heat and San Antonio Spurs are donating proceeds of Oct. 10 exhibition game to hurricane relief.

▶Shaquille O'Neal organized relief effort last week in Miami, collecting clothes, food, supplies, bedding and appliances.

▶More than 30 NBA players participated in an exhibition game last Sunday in Houston, organized by former player and current TV analyst Kenny Smith. All proceeds went to relief.

▶Cleveland Cavs guard LeBron James went on a $120,000 shopping spree at an Akron Sam's Club and helped load four trailer trucks with supplies that headed for evacuees in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.

▶Bulls guard and Slidell-native Chris Duhon has raised nearly $1 million in funds he plans to funnel to areas in his affected hometown.

▶Current and former NBA and WNBA players will participate in the gameshow "Wheel of Fortune" with monies going to the American Red Cross.

▶Orlando Magic, led by head coach and former Hornets assistant Brian Hill, have made two trips with their team plane loaded with 6,000 pounds of supplies, into the affected areas.

**MLB**

▶Donated $1 million to relief efforts.

**COLLEGES**

▶USC and former UNO and Hornets coach Tim Floyd among group that organized on-line sports auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Also joining the effort are Texas Tech's Bob Knight and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski.

▶NCAA has suggested schools use Midnight Madness and two basketball exhibition games to support relief, as well as asking for voluntary donations at other sports exhibitions this year.

▶Telethon during Saturday's Tulane-Mississippi State game to help rebuild Boys and Girls Clubs affected by storm.

# Media rooting for Saints to remain in Big Easy

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

may be too early in the game to provide a valid reply, too early to get a feel as to what role Hurricane Katrina played in the long-term future of an NFL franchise.

Alongside Katrina's arrival, the on-again, off-again talks between owner Tom Benson and Gov. Kathleen Blanco regarding the future of the franchise amounts to little more than a hill of beans.

Still, you can't minimize what role, if any, the Saints will play in a city's revival measured, not in years, but decades.

In a meaningful way, Commissioner Paul Tagliabue moved quickly to give the 2005 Saints as much Louisiana-flavoring as possible, realizing it made sense for a team practicing in San Antonio to play four of its "home" games in Tiger Stadium, the other three in the Alamodome.

All of which takes us back to the first question: What about the 2006 Saints? Will they have one "home"? Or two? Or more?

Because the Saints' practice facility dodged the brunt of Katrina's wallop, because, barring an unforeseen turn of events, it will be ready to welcome back a vagabond football team next year, the 2006 Saints will be practicing at home, indoors and outdoors.

Does it mean they will be playing eight "home" games in Baton Rouge?

That's a matter squarely in the hands of Tom Benson and Paul Tagliabue.

By that time, the viability of the Superdome – Can it be restored for $100 million? Does it make more sense to build a "new" one for, let's say, $600 million? – will be determined.

Of course, logic tells you a new Superdome would not be built without some long-term agreement between the state and the Saints. And let's not forget the NFL.

Katrina came at a time Commissioner Tagliabue is using all of his powers to land a franchise for Los Angeles. How do the Saints play into this reality? How valuable is it to the league, to keep the small-market Saints where they have been since 1967?

Meanwhile, as the Saints face an uncertain future, in a way, so does the shape of a new New Orleans.

"The great tragedy," said Mark Wigley, the Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, "would be to embalm New Orleans by simply rebuilding it the way it was."

Another person worried about the city becoming a Disneyland, losing the charm of "the quaintness and the crooked walls and the old shutters."

Katrina left the Superdome, also home to the Sugar Bowl and Tulane, with shafts of light pouring through holes in the roof, a football field littered with trash.

Will a brand new giant mushroom rise from a scene akin to primeval ooze?

We know this: No one is rooting more for the Big Easy than the media.

Pat Forde led off an ESPN.com package on New Orleans with his thoughts on the city:

"It's ancient without feeling outdated, modern without feeling theme park-ish, cool without feeling pretentious."

When Forde recalled that Charlotte, hosting a Final Four, converted a downtown bank into a "faux" nightclub, it reminded me of the Super Bowl in Pontiac, Mich. It featured "Bourbon Street North," one with cardboard French Quarter lights, with a "Pat O'Brien's" serving hurricanes in Dixie cups.

With Roy Blount Jr., author of "Feet on the Street: Rambles Around New Orleans," the memory he wrote for ESPN.com was being in town for Super Bowl IX with the Pittsburgh Steelers. "Who wanted to sleep? Somehow I wound up with rooms in two different hotels and two rental cars, one of which I lost track of. Every now and then, I still wake up wondering whether I'm ever going to get a bill."

"All I know is," wrote Dan Jenkins, "they should hold every Super Bowl there so you wouldn't have to care about the game, which is usually an overrated, over-covered deal anyhow."

Jay Mariotti recalled "jogging through a park with (boxing champion) Thomas Hearns" and seeing "a young Britney Spears wearing beads on Bourbon Street."

Ivan Maisel was in town to watch Muhammad Ali win his last fight in 1978 in the Superdome, a decision over Leon Spinks. He enjoyed the fight but enjoyed more the red beans and rice at Buster Holmes, served, as he recalled, "with a baton-sized portion of French bread and a Barq's root beer."

Apparently, good memories never die.

DRS. SCHULTIS, LANDRY & GUILLORY
110 LAKEVIEW LANE, SUITE 100
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# THE WORLD OF SPORTS

**LSU RELEASES MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

The Pete Maravich Assembly Center wasn't the only thing the LSU basketball program had renovated. The Tigers released their upcoming schedule Saturday, the most ambitious in John Brady's nine years as coach.

LSU will play 10 opponents ranked in the top 50 in RPI last season, and it includes games against non-conference powers Connecticut, Cincinnati and Ohio State.

"We have made a commitment to improve our schedule and we continue to do so," said Brady. "With only one senior in Darrel Mitchell, we will have to grow up in a hurry. But we have some young, athletic, exciting players on this year's team anchored by SEC Freshman of the Year Glen Davis."

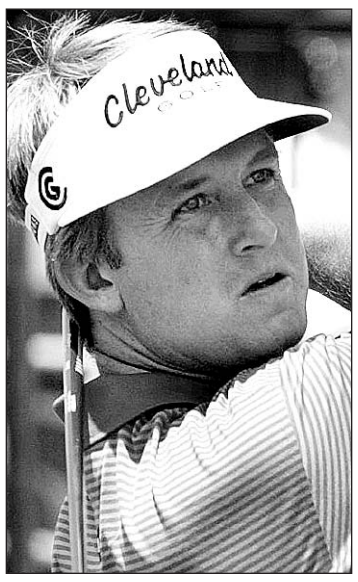
LSU, 20-10 last season, has 16 games scheduled for television and will play Louisiana-Lafayette, UNO, McNeese State and Southern, which is the home opener Nov. 18. The road schedule starts with a visit to Elite Eight finisher West Virginia on Nov. 26, and includes meetings with Northern Iowa and Cincinnati on Dec. 22-23 in the Las Vegas Classic, a trip to Ohio State on Dec. 31 and a CBS nationally televised game with 2004 national champion Connecticut on Jan. 7. "Our schedule this year is by far the most challenging we have had," said Brady. "Our road games against West Virginia, Ohio State and Connecticut will be great for our young team"

Season-ticket renewal letters are being mailed to season ticket holders with a deadline of Oct. 14.

## GOLF

**TOMS THOUGHT HE MIGHT DIE:** An intravenous tube dangling from his arm and a heart monitor beeping above his head, David Toms watched as emergency medical technicians sprayed nitroglycerin and jabbed aspirin tablets under his tongue to try to calm his out-of-control heart. Moments before, the Louisiana native and one of the world's best golfers was fretting about his three putts on No. 18 at the 84 Lumber Classic. Now his world had changed in a heartbeat. Unable to quiet a heart that was beating more than 170 times a minute, the technicians gave 38-year-old Toms a shot that intentionally stopped his heart, then used electrical impulses to start it back again.

"It was a scary situation," Toms said Saturday after returning to the



AP PHOTO

Despite his health scare, Louisiana native David Toms said he will play in this week's Presidents Cup.

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, where he plans to rest before going to the Presidents Cup matches. "I really didn't know what was going on. It got obviously kind of hairy there for about 45 minutes. . . . I knew right away my vitals weren't very good, and I was hurting real bad in my chest. At that point, they don't know if you're having a heart attack. I didn't know what was going to happen to me, really."

"One girl started to try to put an IV in my left arm, and I said, `I've got to go hit my second shot or I'm going to be disqualified,' " Toms said.

If he weren't playing in the Presidents Cup matches in Gainesville, Va., he would have stayed in Pittsburgh and had corrective surgery Monday. Instead, Toms will take medication, play his matches, then have an operation that can last six hours. Toms said he is so committed to playing next weekend, he will stop using the medication if it disrupts his game, though it seems unlikely any doctor would knowingly allow him to do so. "I will be OK, and he can count on me for some points," Toms said.

**CAMPBELL ROUTS GOOSEN:** U.S. Open champion Michael Campbell routed top-seeded Retief Goosen 7 and 6 Saturday to advance to the final of the World Match Play Championship. Campbell will play for the title Sunday against 11th-seeded Paul McGinley, who defeated second-seeded Angel Cabrera 4 and 3.

"Cabrera was tough today," said McGinley. "I hit him with some hard punches. He didn't buckle."

Goosen did not have a birdie in the first 11 holes as his bid for the first prize of $1.8 million - the biggest in golf - vanished.

"I played terrible," Goosen said. "I just didn't make a putt and was wayward off the tee and missed a lot of fairways. Michael got on a roll at the start, but if I had played a bit of a game out there it would have been nice."

McGinley took the lead at the 10th with the second of four straight birdies. "He holed more putts than I did," Cabrera said. "I was always struggling when he birdied four holes in a row."

**STRANGE LEADS IN TAIWAN:** Scott Strange shot an 8-under-par 64 Saturday to take a one stroke lead heading into the final round of the Taiwan Open. Strange shot eight birdies to equal the course record at Chung Gung Golf Club near Taipei and record a three-day total of 13-under 203.

**GILDER LEADS CHAMPIONS:** Bob Gilder shot a 5-under 67 Saturday to maintain a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the Constellation Energy Classic. Gilder birdied the par-4 18th to reach a tournament-record 13-under 131 after 36 holes at Hayfields Country Club. D.A. Weibring and Morris Hatalsky are tied for second at 11 under. Two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange (66) and Senior British Open champ Tom Watson (68) are three strokes back.

## AUTO RACING

**STEWART WINS POLE:** Tony Stewart struck just the right note for a guy hoping to get off to the right start in NASCAR's 10-man, 10-race championship playoff, winning the Nextel Cup pole at New Hampshire International Speedway.

"It's a perfect place to start when you're in the Chase for the championship," Stewart said after driving his No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Chevrolet to the fastest lap of 131.143 mph on the 1.058-mile oval.

"We've done everything we needed to do so far this weekend," the series leader said. "The car was really good in race trim and now we're on the pole. Now we've got everybody else in the top 10 scratching their heads wondering what we're doing."

Stewart, who won at NHIS in July, was easily the best of the championship contenders in qualifying. Among the others in the Chase, Matt Kenseth was fourth, Rusty Wallace seventh, Jeremy Mayfield eighth and Jimmie Johnson 10th.

## BASEBALL

**BONDS WANTS TO LOSE WEIGHT:** Barry Bonds used to commit any spare time before games to lifting weights, working meticulously to build up his leg strength. His bum right knee no longer allows it. He is carrying a few extra pounds around his middle and vows to spend the offseason bringing his playing weight down from more than 228 pounds to about 200.

"I'm going to be skinny," said Bonds, who weighed 185 pounds as a rookie in 1986 but has not been near 200 for many years. "I want to get my legs strong again. Hopefully I'll train hard all winter. I can hit it, but I don't feel like I feel when I'm strong. I can tell out there. I'm older now. It's harder."

## BASKETBALL

**CAVS SIGN HENDERSON:** Free agent forward Alan Henderson signed a one-year contract Saturday with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Henderson, 32, spent last season with Dallas after playing nine seasons for the Atlanta Hawks.

"Alan is a proven veteran with playoff experience who will be a valuable asset to us on the floor and in the locker room," Cavs general manager Danny Ferry said. "He can give us toughness and depth in the post."

The Cavaliers will begin the season without forward Anderson Varejao, who dislocated his shoulder playing for Brazil at last month's world championships and recently had surgery.

## TENNIS

**DAVENPORT, SCHIAVONE IN FINAL:** World No. 2 Lindsay Davenport advanced to the Wismilak International final on Saturday with a lopsided 6-2, 6-2 win over China Li Na. Top-seeded Davenport will face fourth-seeded Francesca Schiavone in Sunday's final after Schiavone defeated Patty Schnyder, who retired after the second set due to heat exhaustion.

# Some TU fans happy to visit for home game

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

"He's calling us every 15 minutes," Steven Ballard said. "He's dying to know how everything's going on."

"We support Tulane athletics," Torry Ballard said. "I think it's a way to come together with other people from New Orleans and help each other stay strong. … I think the adjustments the team had to make, they need to feel that support, we need to support them for the city. And to be honest, we need an outlet for all the stress from our businesses and our friends and family. There was no question that we would be here today."

Standing outside Independence Stadium, Randall Toepfer and Chris Storey, both 2003 graduates, reminisced about the good old days of 2004. Storey said being outdoors reminded him of Tad Gormley Stadium, the City Park home of Tulane for its homecoming game.

"Every year at homecoming," Toepfer said, "we go out at 6 a.m. and set up a huge tailgate. We have about 50 people who come, we fry turkey, and we have this huge iron tailgate and barbecue pit."

Asked where that was Saturday, he said, "under five feet of water."

Mott and his friend, Chris Gallagher, drove up from Covington, Green Wave flags flying. Neither man went to Tulane, but both are New Orleanians and Green Wave fans. Mott's place in Covington wasn't hit too badly, but Gallagher's home in Uptown had major damage.

"I was telling him on the way up here," Mott said. "I don't think I've ever been more proud to wear a Tulane hat in my entire life, than coming up here today. … We've got the tailgate going, we've got beer, we're relaxing today."

"It's my mission to make every game this year," Gallagher said. "They're going through so much, and I know a lot of people aren't fortunate to make all the games, and I've got time that I can take off, and we need fan support."

Before the game, Gallagher spotted Tulane offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo.

"We're going to all the away games this season," Gallagher screamed proudly.

"They're all away games," Scelfo said, smiling.

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METRO PREP

# Eugene, Destrehan throttle Terrebonne

## *Lutcher, Riverside, St. Charles roll*

It was no surprise that when Destrehan found itself in a bind, it turned to its all-star player.

And he came through every time.

Quarterback Jai Eugene threw for 225 yards and three touchdowns, and he ran for 61 yards and a score to lead the Wildcats (2-0) to a 35-13 victory at Terrebonne on Friday night in Houma.

With his team leading 7-0 late in the first quarter but facing a third-and-34 play, Eugene broke free from pressure and threw a 41-yard completion to Joshua Martin. Four plays later, Destrehan took a 14-0 advantage on Raynor Derkins' one-yard run.

Edwin Reed scored his second long touchdown on a 29-yard catch in the end zone, on which he stole the ball from Terrebonne defensive back Edrik Johnson.

With 10:09 remaining in the first half, Destrehan led 21-0.

But the Tigers (0-2) came back with two quick scores to start the second half, and the lead was trimmed to eight.

"Coach said that if we have it that big, we've got to take it down," Eugene said. "Even though we let them have a little, we had to maintain our ground and play hard.

(At halftime) Coach told us we were going to run the ball more, and I had to take over."

He did.

After rushing for six yards in the first 24 minutes, Eugene had 55 in the second half, including runs of 16, 17 and 24 yards. He also scored the clinching touchdown from seven yards out with 2:26 remaining.

"He's a great athlete, and he can do it all," Destrehan coach Steve Robichaux said. "He's got a lot of good guys around him, and he keeps finding them to make big plays. He makes them when he has to, and that's what's most important."

**Jim Derry**

**LUTCHER HOLDS OFF THIBODAUX:** Thibodaux turned what started out to be a Lutcher rout into a close game by scoring 14 points in the fourth quarter.

In the end, however, Lutcher's defense prevailed, and the Bulldogs escaped with a 20-14 non-district victory Friday night.

After scoring two big-play touchdowns and stopping a Lutcher drive short of midfield, the Tigers were driving. Thibodaux had the ball at the Lutcher 46 with 30 seconds remaining. But on fourth-and-five, Lutcher lineman Jyron White sacked Thibodaux quarterback Zach Chauvin to end the threat.

"I was surprised when it was 20-0, to tell the truth," Lutcher coach Tim Detillier said. "But it just seems like, whenever we play the St. Amants, the Thibodauxs, this is the kind of game we play. Last week (against St. Amant), we didn't get a break. Tonight, I felt like we got some breaks. 'Bout time. But it's nice to finally win one we're not supposed to win."

Thibodaux (0-2) muffed two punts, both of which were recovered by Lutcher. The first resulted in a 25-yard field goal by Terrence Jeffrey. The Tigers also had 85 yards in penalties.

After Thibodaux punted on its second possession, a personal foul penalty was tacked onto the return. The Bulldogs then took 11 plays to drive 55 yards. On fourth-and-goal at the 4, Rashad Webster threw a halfback pass to Juan Johnson for the touchdown. Jeffrey's extra point increased Lutcher's lead to10-0 with 8:16 to play.

Bulldogs running back Wayne Albert, who rushed for 108 yards on 17 carries, made it 17-0 when he grabbed a short screen pass and ran 35 yards for a touchdown. Lutcher took that lead into halftime and added to it with a 28-yard field goal by Jeffrey to open the third quarter. That would be all the scoring for the Bulldogs.

But Thibodaux was just getting started.

After forcing the Bulldogs to turn the ball over on downs at the Tigers' 20 with 7:13 left in the game, Thibodaux took eight plays to score. Chauvin passed to Demetrius McCoy for a 25-yard touchdown with 4:35 to play, then Chauvin ran for the two-point conversion.

The Tigers then forced Lutcher to punt after three plays and took over at their own 29. After an incompletion, Chauvin again passed to McCoy, who broke a tackle at the Lutcher 45 and sprinted the rest of the way for a 71-yard touchdown. The failed.

The Tigers again contained Lutcher on its next drive. After Albert gained a yard, Poche fumbled and recovered back-to-back snaps, and the Bulldogs had to punt.

From the Tigers' 30, Chauvin threw to Kelvin Adams for 19 yards, then he ran for six yards to the Lutcher 45. A screen pass to Chaz James lost a yard, then Chauvin threw incomplete over the middle. On fourth-and-five, Chauvin dropped back and found only Lutcher linemen Jordan Gant and Jyron White in his face. White dropped Chauvin for the loss.

**Lori Lyons**

**REBELS OVERWHELM FALCONS:** For a little more than two hours, the home-team Riverside Rebels and the St. Thomas Aquinas Falcons provided high school football fans with a respite from flood waters and flood insurance and FEMA on Friday.

For a little more than two hours, play-action and sweeps and fumbles and interceptions became the order of the day, as Hurricane Katrina was temporarily relegated to the back burner.

The Rebels' offense (2-0) displayed the ability to score with quick strikes and methodical marches in a 27-0 non-district victory.

Riverside scored on its first snap and on its next possession to take a 12-0 lead against the Falcons (0-2), who struggled on offense, finishing with 62 yards rushing and 56 yards passing.

Sophomore running back Jarid Caeser led Riverside with 190 yards rushing on 17 carries and scored three touchdowns and a two-point conversion.

After the Riverside defense held on the game's first series, Caeser broke through on the first snap and scored from 55 yards at the 10:09 mark.

The 6-0 lead doubled on the next series, as Riverside marched 91 yards in 10 plays. Caeser and quarterback A.J. Delaneuville opened the drive with 11-yard gains. Then Caeser again shook free and scored from 40 yards with 2:26 to play in the first quarter.

Delaneuville completed a 37-yard pass to Chase Emerson on the next series, but the drive resulted in a missed field-goal attempt.

Riverside did not manage another first down in the half.

"We had too many penalties," Riverside coach Mickey Roussel said. "That was problem No. 1. The other was some foolish mistakes."

Riverside picked up six players from schools affected by the hurricane, and Roussel expects to add two more.

"It does not affect our kids," Roussel said about any possible change in the depth charts.

"I thought this was a pretty good effort tonight. The defense was outstanding."

The Falcons started the second half with Kyle Musacchia recovering the opening kickoff at the Rebels' 25. But Riverside's defense sacked quarterback Chris Graves for a 12-yard loss, and the threat ended with an interception by Collin Yeargin that he returned 20 yards.

Riverside's third scoring drive covered 77 yards. It was highlighted by a 24-yard gain by Delaneuville, who scored untouched from 30 yards following a fake handoff.

Caeser returned a punt 45 yards to set up his 34-yard touchdown run with 6:46 in the game.

St. Thomas Aquinas' Justin Burns attempted a 43-yard field goal with 48 seconds to play, but it was wide.

"We are a very young team, with just nine seniors," St. Thomas coach Randy Johnson said. "For two weeks our defense has played very well, so we just need some help from our offense."

**Bill Bumgarner**

**ROBOTTOM PROPELS COMETS:** A couple of acrobatic catches, some weaving runs, and threatening kick returns drew attention to St. Charles Catholic junior receiver Casey Robottom on Friday night in a home non-district game against H.L. Bourgeois.

The Comets' defense did the rest, pushing St. Charles to a 28-7 victory.

Robottom began his work in the second quarter. He burst up the middle and weaved around tacklers toward the left sideline on a 51-yard touchdown run that gave St. Charles Catholic (2-0) a 14-0 lead with 4:50 remaining in the half.

H.L. Bourgeois (0-2) answered. Jake Hebert threw a 79-yard touchdown pass over the middle to Willie McKinley, who caught the ball in stride, cutting the margin to 14-7.

But Robottom struck again. He caught a 34-yard pass while backpedaling that put the Comets on the Bourgeois 28-yard line. Four plays later, Christopher Jones caught Philip Sutton's six-yard touchdown pass to extend the Comets' lead to 21-7 with 52 seconds left until halftime.

Robottom finished the first half with two carries for 72 yards, two catches for 48 yards, and one kickoff return for 25 yards. He finished the night with 196

all-purpose yards (91 rushing, 79 receiving, and 26 return yards).

He made a diving catch at the end of the third quarter, scooping up the ball just before it hit the grass on a third-and-17 play, gaining 26 yards.

Though that drive stalled on a sack, St. Charles blocked an H.L. Bourgeois punt on the next drive and Darin Helm recovered the ball and ran eight yards for the touchdown that put St. Charles ahead 28-7.

The Comets' defense allowed one big play in the second quarter, but held the Braves to 66 yards rushing, 26 in the first half. Most of Jake Hebert's 128 passing yards came on the touchdown pass. The Comets' Jared Nowell ended another Braves drive with an interception deep in St. Charles territory.

St. Charles scored on its first possession when Matthew Walters ran two yards for a touchdown, capping a 10-play, 50-yard drive.

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# N.O. can thrive, but only as nature allows

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

The dividing line between good and bad could not have been starker.

Inside the levees that formed the border of Port Sulphur - the Mississippi River levee on the east, the so-called hurricane protection levee on the west - the scene was one of utter, ugly ruin. Islands of debris that had once been homes, marinas and schools floated in a sickening black sea of fetid water. Even at 300 feet in a seaplane, the odor of what had happened there permeated the humid air.

It was a different story outside the levees. On one side green oyster grass sliced by bayous rested under the sun, clean and quiet. On the other the big river flowed easily toward the Gulf. Nature seemed at peace.

We all saw the contrast. Wildlife biologist Scott Burdett spoke first. "There's a lesson to be learned from that picture, and some serious questions to be asked," he said.

Indeed.

In the immediate wake of Hurricane Katrina, the obvious question coming from all parts of the country went like this: Why rebuild a city that sits on sinking lands in a hurricane zone?

The answer is equally obvious. For the same reason we're not moving Los Angeles or San Francisco, which sit on major fault lines. Or Miami or Tampa, which sit on the coast in hurricane zones. Or Denver and Las Vegas, which are sucking local aquifers dry.

It would be too expensive and far too inhuman to attempt to move a million or more people. Further, those cities represent important cogs in the nation's economy. In our case, the city's port is indispensable to the economies of all those states that touch the Mississippi River and its tributaries, easily one-third of the nation.

That said, this disaster should finally teach the nation a lesson it has refused to learn for 200 years: Our communities must live within the infrastructure of the ecosystems upon which they are built. If we allow ourselves to grow beyond those limits we are courting disaster, whether on the Gulf Coast, the Great Plains or the arid west.

We can live safely in New Orleans, but only if we respect the natural storm defenses that once existed. If we hadn't allowed industry to destroy half the marshes that were found south of the city 100 years ago, Katrina's blows would have been much less severe. If we had put parochial concerns aside 20 years ago and united behind plans to rebuild those marshes, many more of us would be dry today, and the nation would be $100 billion richer. If we hadn't allowed developers to put houses and businesses in areas prone to flooding, we would have a smaller city – but we would have had much less death and destruction.

We can live here in safety, but not if we try to ignore nature. Yes, we will need to build levees that are high enough and strong enough to withstand a Category 5 storm, but we must also rebuild the wetlands we've destroyed, even if that means removing some old developments and curtailing future growth. If not, we'll soon be an island in the Gulf too vulnerable for levees of any height to protect.

This lesson isn't only for New Orleans. Disasters on a similar scale are building across the nation, just from different forces of nature, and all because our planners put "growth" ahead of respect for their ecosystems. Western cities like Denver and Las Vegas that were built on dry or semi-arid landscapes have been allowed to grow without limits. Now they face the prospect of running out of water in 30 or 40 years, leaving millions of people homeless.

Yet the solutions being discussed point to further development – trapping water in endless reservoirs, piping it down from Canada, taking it from the sea. Even if possible, those ideas would cost billions and still not solve the problem, because the continued growth would soon out-pace the new supply.

They can have their cities in the desert just as we can have our city on the delta – but only if we respect the natural systems we're building on. The penalties we court for ignoring and destroying those systems can be found in New Orleans today.

# Like many, Campos struggling with effects of Katrina

**CAMPO,** *from C-1*

"I'll tell you, we're lucky we got out of there with our lives." They have little else left.

Katrina is being called the most destructive natural event in the nation's history, a storm that spawned a million stories of horror, escape and lives suddenly changed. The Campos have one such story.

If a family and a place can be an icon for a tradition as old and cherished as fishing in southeast Louisiana, it has always been the Campos and Blackie's Shell Beach hoist. They have been fixtures not just on the Lake Borgne fishing scene, but in the hearts and dreams of three generations of metro-area residents. Saying "Blackie's" in a New Orleans crowd is almost like saying "Archie." The name brought instant recognition, and visions of a place as much a part of the local culture as Jackson Square. The Campo clan had been there since the 1800s, running their hoist since 1931. They seemed permanent, even in a region where land disappeared at the rate of 35 square miler a year.

Today they are gone, and the future is uncertain. Blackie and his wife, Mabel, are staying with family in Baton Rouge. Ken, 57, and Kenny, 33, are earning a wage working on hurricane cleanup crews in St. Tammany Parish.

"We're making a living, and happy to have it," said Kenny. "But did I ever dream it would come to this? Not until that day.

"And I can tell you exactly when everything changed." It was 11 a.m. On Monday, Aug. 29, and the Campo men were in a celebratory mood. Katrina's eye and its vicious 145-mph winds had passed close to the area, but they had come through unscathed in the house just 200 yards from the river levee. They really weren't surprised.

"When I built my house, I chose that land in Poydras because everyone said it had never flooded there, ever," Kenny said. "That's why we evacuated there. We had locked down Grandpa's house, the hoist and the business on Sunday, our families had gone to Baton Rouge, and we'd come to my house because – like Grandpa said – it never floods in Poydras.

"And after the first part of Katrina passed, it still hadn't flooded." With a new generator purring, the men watched the storm's progress on TV and were preparing to have some lunch. Kenny went outside bare-chested and barefoot to pick up the few shingles blown off his roof. That's when he heard a peculiar hissing sound, and looked up the street.

"Water was coming down the street, then from the other yards, then up the street, it was just pouring in from everywhere," he said. "By the time I got back to the house, it was up to my knees."

His alarms dumbfounded his father and grandfather.

"Kenny comes in yelling 'We got to get out of here! We got to go!' and I didn't know what he was talking about," Ken Sr. said. "Then the water started coming in the house."

The men ran to their two pickup trucks, Blackie joining Kenny in one, Ken Sr., in the other, and with the water rising fast made a hurried, fateful decision.

"As we're getting in the pickups, I'm thinking about where we should go," Ken recalled. "At first I thought we should try to get to St. Bernard High School, then maybe the courthouse. But the levee was right there, so we just took off and drove up to the top of the levee.

"Let me tell you, maybe 15 minutes had passed since Kenny saw that water until the time we got to the top of the levee, but by then there was seven feet of water in his house, and it was still rising. We were on the only high ground left. If we'd tried to go anywhere else, we would have all drowned."

They were safe, but only for the moment. Katrina's winds returned, blowing from the northwest with a vengeance.

"It was so strong it was rocking those pickup trucks, and several gusts almost rolled us completely over," Ken said. "We finally decided we had to drive part way down the river side of the levee. That got us some protection, but we were still being bounced by the gusts.

"We stayed like that for two hours, but it seemed like weeks. It was really, really scary. Several times I thought we'd be rolled into the river."

When the wind and rain finally eased, the men drove north on the levee to Violet, where Ken's brother, F.J., had planned to ride out the storm in his 55-foot shrimp trawler. What they saw along the way made them anxious. The parish was a lake broken only by the roofs of homes, many holding people begging for help. They rescued a few, including several relatives.

Each mile made them fear the worst for Violet and F.J. But he was fine, and the shrimp boat became their home for the next three days.

"We had a whole bunch of people living on boats, waiting to find out just what had happened," Kenny said.

The survivors helped open the Violet floodgates with hand power, and on the Wednesday after the storm, the Campos motored down the MR-GO to check on their business and homes in Shell Beach. It was a short voyage, but one they will never forget.

"The (MR-GO) levee was gone, and that's what probably flooded St. Bernard and Poydras," Kenny reasoned. "The channel was twice as wide as it was before the storm.

"When we made that turn from the channel into the bayou (Ycloskey), we couldn't believe our eyes – because there was nothing to see. The steel beams and the roof on the hoist were still standing, but there was nothing else left. It was total devastation."

Blackie's home, which had withstood everything nature had thrown its way since 1956, the marina store, the boat sheds, and almost every home on nearby Proctor's Landing and Beauregard Estates were gone. Only slabs remained.

"My house was built strong, with the idea of hurricanes hitting," Ken Sr. said. "The pilings were driven deep, and they were anchored in the slab, and then bolted to the frame of the house. Everything was bolted and anchored down. And there's nothing left.

"I don't mean it was torn down. I mean it's nowhere to be found. I don't know what hit us, but it had to be a hell of a lot of water, and an incredible amount of wind."

Blackie looked at the scene through eyes that have watched nature play violent games with his native marshes for 87 years, and was still shocked.

"I knew it would be bad, especially after the flooding at Kenny's house, but I've never seen anything like this," he said. "You put all the other storms together, and they don't equal this.

"I don't know where my house is, or even its roof. Nothing's left. It's almost like we were never there." By the end of the week, the family had effected a rescue thanks to friends in Covington, and cousin David Snyder, a native who had relocated to Baton Rouge more than 15 years ago. Like hundreds of thousands of other evacuees, their immediate concern was getting work, and their vast extended fishing family was ready to help.

"We got offers to work, places to stay – people have just been unreal," said Ken. "We're OK for now." But the future is in question. The infrastructure of the fishing business – roads, fuel, ice and customers – is in shambles.

"Sure, we'd like to rebuild the business, but even if we could do that next week – they could open the roads, fix the bridges, get power and fuel – where would our customers come from?" Kenny pointed out. "I can't see us staying out forever, but for right now I don't see how any of that's going to get done very soon."

Ken agreed but said his clan is struggling with the same emotions all Katrina evacuees are saddled with. He and Kenny will look for work and places to live with their families as close to home as possible, and make the best of it.

Blackie and his wife of 65 years will remain for now with his cousin in a Baton Rouge subdivision called Camelot. He knows it's too far from the marsh to live up to that name.



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Blackie Campo and his wife, Mable, found refuge with family in Baton Rouge. He initially rode out the storm on a levee in pickup trucks with his son and grandson.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Amid broken tree branches in Mandeville, Kenny, left, and Ken Campo supervise the clean up. They both worked at Blackie Campo's marina at Shell Beach. The marina and homes were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

# Officials urge caution for outdoors people

## *'Dramatically changed' landscape can be dangerous, DWF says*

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

As hurricane evacuees return to their homes in southeast Louisiana this week, trying to resume a normal life, state fish and wildlife officials caution there will be nothing normal about hunting, fishing and outdoors sports in the region.

Deer and rabbit seasons have been canceled until further notice in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes as Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists attempt to assess Hurricane Katrina's impact on those species.

Alhtough other seasons will follow their announced schedules, getting to fish and game could prove very challenging and dangerous, agency officials said. "Technically, teal season is open, and so are the WMAs (wildlife management areas) in those coastal parishes, but people have to realize they're going back to a dramatically changed landscape," said Dave Moreland, DWF Wildlife Division administrator.

"Nothing looks like the same. There are obstacles that can prove dangerous. And there are no services out there for the sportsman. Be careful."

Moreland said the deer and rabbit seasons were closed after aerial surveys by the agency revealed serious damage to wildlife habitat in both parishes. His agency typically closes hunting season if storm damage leaves wildlife more vulnerable to hunting.

"It will remain closed until we can get on the ground and make more detailed studies of the species impacted," Moreland said. "Those are the only two species and the only two parishes currently affected by the closure.

"Everything else is open."

Though the other seasons are open, many of the roads and bridges sportsmen would use to access launching spots in those areas still are not fully open. Even if they were, the marinas that served sportsmen in the lower half of both parishes were wiped away by Katrina.

"There are no launches, no fuel, no ice, nothing," said Moreland.

Even if determined sportsmen launched at distant marinas and tried to motor to places like Pass a Loutre Wildlife Refuge at the mouth of the Mississippi River, or Biloxi Wildlife Management Area in lower St. Bernard Parish, their trip would be extremely hazardous. Katrina's floodwaters have left many bayous and canals clogged with grass clumps, turned some lagoons into solid marsh, and created new lakes where marsh once was.

Finally, even if they could reach their objective, there's little guarantee hunters would find any game. "The mouth of the river is just brown, and all the duck food that was there is probably gone with the storm," Moreland said. "If ducks arrive, they'll probably leave pretty quick, because they won't have anything to eat."

Similar difficulties await land-based sportsmen. For instance, DWF biologists estimate the storm knocked down nearly 50 percent of the timber on the popular Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. The agency had crews on the property last week attempting to clear access roads, but the interior of the area remains a maze of newly downed trees.

"A hunter won't recognize his old trails, that's for sure," Moreland said.

"If you're going to hunt, make sure you're prepared for this new landscape. Go early, be careful."

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING



New Orleans social scene at home in Houston
C-8

CROSSWORD • C-8
WELCOME DISTRACTION • C-8






STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# One last meal in the Old New Orleans

## *Clancy's was packed that Saturday night before the storm as city-dwellers savored the flavor of the city they love*

**By Brett Anderson**
Restaurant writer

Five years ago this month, my girlfriend and I flew to New Orleans so I could interview for a job that, like everything, changed irreversibly Aug. 29. As part of the interview process, I was asked to write sample reviews of two New Orleans restaurants. One of them was Clancy's.

I had two meals at the restaurant in three days, the second of them a Saturday evening dinner, after which we took a cab to see Los Hombres Calientes at Tipitina's. It was that night that convinced me I wanted this job, that this was my kind of town, and it was at Tips where I ran into Keith Spera, a future colleague and great friend who, the Saturday before Katrina hit, just eight hours before I fled my house, picked me up in his convertible. His top was down. It was a beautiful night.

We were headed to Clancy's.

For me, getting to the restaurant is part of its draw. I live downtown, in the Faubourg Marigny. Clancy's is an Uptown institution. The distance between the two coordinates is, by my measure, as far as you can travel from my house without crossing the parish line or settling for less. And the drive can't be beat. We traced the edge of the French Quarter and then sped through the Garden District via St. Charles Avenue, where gnarled oak trees obscured our view of a bright moon. The table we thought we'd have to wait for was ready when we arrived at Clancy's.

I didn't expect many restaurants to be open on the Last Saturday Night in Old New Orleans. The fearful, mobilizing citizenry had rendered westbound traffic insane all day, and the restaurants I was currently reviewing - the ones I called first - were all closed.

That Clancy's was packed in spite of it all – "Can you say that again?" the host asked when I called about a table, struggling to hear over the crowd noise - says volumes about why it was an ideal setting for what we were calling our "last supper" - a glib joke in retrospect, but one that, mixed with a pre-prandial round of cocktails, helped dull the edge of the moment. It felt good to set our elbows on pressed white linens and stare into a room of people in the same predicament, drunk on rye whiskey, wine and lump crabmeat.

Keith and I were perusing the menu when our friend Cynthia walked through the door to join us. The dishes are printed in a font that matches the cursive "Clancy's" sign hanging outside the converted po-boy shop: Fried Oysters with Brie. Rabbit Sausage en Croute. Shrimp Remoulade. Smoked Soft Shell Crab with Crabmeat. Lamb Chops Webster. When the tuxedoed waiter informed us of the evening's appetizer special, I mentioned it could be a long time before anyone on earth utters the phrase "andouille-crusted duck livers in Creole mustard sauce" again.

"Our crabmeat salad tonight has a horseradish-sour cream-mayonnaise dressing," the waiter continued. "It's topped with Louisiana caviar. And there's a splash of vodka in there, too."

"Sold!" I howled, before also claiming the Panee Veal Annunciation: Two tender, pan-fried cutlets covered in béarnaise and crabmeat, a house specialty.

*See* **CLANCY'S,** *C-8*

# GINGER BARBIER, 48, NURSE

**HOME:** *Aurora Gardens, Algiers*
**HAVEN:** *Her mother's home in Alexandria*

**MY STORM STORY**



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"My mother had colon resection surgery at Ochsner the Friday before the hurricane, and spent the night in ICU. Saturday we boarded the house and went to the hospital to be with her.

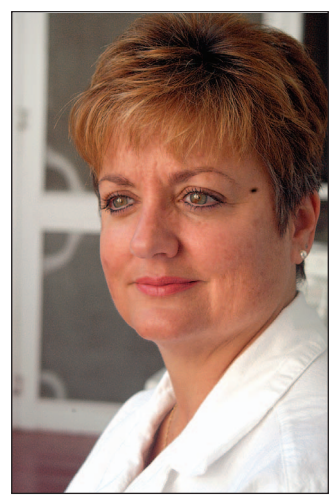
"The hospital lost electricity sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday. The sky was a weird orange. My mother said it was like looking into the eyes of the devil. The hospital was full, because people dump their family members they can't take care of in hospitals when something like this happens.

"We were hot. People were scared. People were crying. People were sick. These were surgical patients. Some had brain surgery. Some had back surgery. Some had bowel surgery. Some were in beds. Some were in chairs. The space in the hall between the beds and the chairs and the pumps and wires was about hip wide.

"And then the fire alarm went off. There were fires we knew of on the 11th, eighth and fourth floors. The windows in the rooms were breaking. Water was coming in. It was scary.

"The whole staff was exhausted, and they were worried about their families. They were crying. The patients and families were crying. It was finally sinking in that no one was coming to help us. We kept asking, 'Where are the helicopters?'

"Thursday about 5 a.m., my mother's fever had shot up. She was in a total delirium. She's only 68, but this was a serious surgery. She was screaming that she was dying. I called my brother in Alexandria – that's where I grew up and she lives – and I said, 'We're getting out.'



"The staff didn't want me to leave without signing papers. I told them to get some Dilaudid and an anti-nausea medicine into her. I drew a box in the air and said, 'Box. Think outside the box.' I finally got her in my SUV, and on the Huey P. Long Bridge. I think I drove like 100 miles per hour and on the shoulder of the road.

"The hardest part was leaving all those people there. I cried the whole first hour in the car. We felt like these people were friends and family. I never did learn what happened to them. My mother is still in the hospital in Alexandria.

"There have been times I didn't want to do patient care. But to watch these nurses working, I was very proud to be a nurse. It's a very noble profession."

*—As told to staff writer Millie Ball on Sept. 13*



ANGUS LIND

# Finding peace in the country

## *Small towns offer shelter from the storm*

BIG BEND, LA. – Like a lot of lost souls displaced by Katrina, I've lost track of days and time.

"Today's Tuesday, isn't it?" I ask my wife. "It's Wednesday," she replies. Wednesday, Tuesday, Monday – no big deal – it's a day.

"What time is it?" I ask. I don't wear a watch, never have. "It's 5:30," she says. "It can't be – I just asked you and you said it was 2:30," I say.

And then I remember that I fixed a broken window where the entire insect world was coming to pay a visit. Then I got in a pitched battle with some wasps (I'm highly allergic to them) but prevailed thanks to "Mata El Nido Entero!" (Kills the Entire Nest!) Raid Wasp & Hornet Killer. This stuff is like a super powerful anti-aircraft weapon in spray form, I think to myself, noting that I've never handled an anti-aircraft weapon. But it sure knocked them out of the sky.

And then, pleased with my military action for the day, I headed up the road to get some grub.

I have come to recognize every house along Hwy. 451 going from Big Bend towards Moreauville and La. 1, which takes you north to Marksville and then on to Alexandria. The homes are spread out. Your neighbor could be a half mile away, maybe more. You might be able to see him with binoculars.

We even take walks in the morning on Hwy. 451. Sounds dangerous, but there's no other place to walk. No sidewalk, no parks, the grass is too long on the levee and there are no paved jogging paths as there are in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. So you walk in the lane where cars are coming toward you and step off the road when they get close. The drivers are used to me, so I don't get that "Who's the crazy guy walking down the highway with a headset on?" Now they just wave. They know I'm a fish out of water – an evacuee.

Nobody else is doing this – walking on the highway, 2.5 miles up and 2.5 miles back - but me and my wife. They all get their exercise in the fields, all day long. The last thing they need to do is take a walk for exercise.

I was talking to Carl, an employee of the Harvest Fresh supermarket in Marksville, and like all the folks up here, Carl is as nice as they come, walking me around the store, smiling, telling me where the bread is, where the mayo is, and asking me if I'm doing OK. I tell Carl I never could understand why anyone would want to live in a small town, but in the last few weeks I've figured it out.

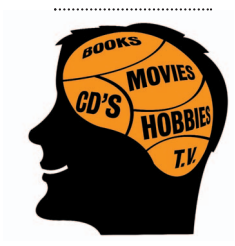
The pace is slow and concern for your fellow man is high on

*See* **LIND,** *C-8*

CONTINUED

# JOYFUL CHORES

## WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

IN times of disaster, experts recommend getting back to the familar tasks as soon as possible. Here are three to-do's that may bring comfort.

*— By David Cuthbert, theater critic*



**OBVIOUSLY, NOW IS THE TIME TO REARRANGE YOUR BOOKSHELVES.** Begin your task with a firm plan to arrange your library alpahebtically, by author or subject. Inevitably, you will find a book you just have to open, sample and then read and happily, you will forget all about your original task.



**NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SPEND THAT ALL-ELUSIVE QUALITY** time with your children or grandchildren. Whether it's quiet time or vigorous physical activity outdoors, simply hand them over to your husband and tell him not to show their faces for the next two hours while you treat yourself to a nice soak, nap or romance novel.



**SIT DOWN AND MAKE A LIST OF TASKS YOU HAVE NEVER HAD TIME TO DO.** With each new task, you accomplish reward yourself with a liberal helping of your favorite spiritous libation . With any luck, you will fall into a sodden slumber before too many tasks have been accomplished.

STAFF ILLUSTRATIONS BY KENNETH HARRISON

# A meal before the storm

**CLANCY'S,** *from C-7*

Cynthia ordered the proscuitto-wrapped shrimp over stone-ground grits and the smoked softshell. Keith had a taste for drum, and the waiter, who Keith, a native of eastern New Orleans, has known for years, recommended it pan-sautéed with meuniere sauce. "It's not on the menu, but I'll get it for you," the waiter assured him. When the massive drum filet arrived under a mound of crabmeat, I blurted an answer to a question that's no doubt crossed a lot of CNN-watchers' minds recently. "This is why we live here," I said.

There are other reasons, of course, and to the list I've added things I saw when I returned to New Orleans after Katrina trashed it. In a week of reporting alongside colleagues infinitely better suited to the task than I, I stepped over dead bodies. I rode through flooded streets on the back of a military truck designed to haul rockets. I scribbled quotes from countless soldiers and cops and survivors. I met a guy who, having just been rescued by boat from his flooded Gentilly home, openly questioned the wisdom of his decision to leave. He had plenty of Sterno, spices, water, smoked turkey. He'd just cooked up a batch of red beans.

Most of all I felt that resting on the precipice of existence was not just a magical city but my home. Returning to a death-stricken New Orleans was heart-breaking, but abandoning it for a more comfortable place, even my birthplace, would have been even harder to bear.

Coming to this realization helped me understand that there are reasons beyond stubbornness, ignorance or lack of means that compel people to ride out storms - and then, even more astonishingly, endure the nightmare that follows. They stay because they love New Orleans, love it with an intensity you would a human being. They'll be damned if they're going to turn their back on it, particularly now.

I'm lucky to live here, even today, but that doesn't mean I wouldn't give anything to turn back the clock. We finished our meal at Clancy's with a slice of lemon icebox pie. "You have to," our waiter said.

Brett Anderson can be reached at bretta1@cox.net.

# See 'our town' at the Armani opening



**NELL NOLAN**

*Social scene*

HOUSTON — "When you go through the Galleria doors, you'll see a great-looking bunch of guys in black. They've got to be the Armani models," said my husband Robert as he entered our car - I was picking him up from work - and I alighted. As it turned out, they were the wait staff.

The trademark black for Italian designer Giorgio Armani served as the base color for the white wording of the invitation: "Giorgio Armani invites you to celebrate our opening (in the Galleria of Houston) and the kick-off to the grand gala ball at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston." Cocktails and hip hobnobbing were the format, as was shopping with a capital S. Fifteen percent of purchases during a two-week period would benefit the gala ball, which is scheduled for Oct. 7 at the museum. Chairing it are Mrs. Harry H. Cullen Jr. and Mrs. Peter Kurth Jameson. Both were mingling at the Armani outing.

City Kitchen did the catering and taped music-of-the moment played, adding a decibel or two as the crowd increased. Seven-foot-tall models mingled in the crowd, punctuating their peregrinations by climbing up on translucent "glass" cubes for poses. To-diet-for clothes and neat hairdos were the LOOK.

Now for the Big Easy connections!

As I mixed with the sartorial swells, and savored a white-cranberry martini and a ratatouille hors d'oeuvre, I approached two gorgeous gals to ask them if they knew Margaret (Mrs. Thomas R. IV) Reckling. Through my Houston-resident sister, Nancy (Mrs. John S.) Parsley, Margaret was a contact. She's also connected to Orleanian Kay Reckling (Mrs. R. Roy) Fausset. Judy in the Rink at Prytania Street and Washington Avenue is the Fausset's shop.

When I mentioned my name to the comely duo, one of them gave me a big hug. "Nell," she said, "I'm Ria and Dick Seba's daughter." Yeah! The Crescent City connection was starting. She identified herself as Cindy Cook and her friend as Michelle Stewart. A week before the horrible hurricane, Ria and a gang of New Orleans' artsy movers and shakers gathered for lunch to fete birthday girl Yvonne Coe. There were about 12 hostesses.

Moments later, erstwhile Orleanian George Lancaster, who, years ago, spearheaded Canal Place and made just about every social round, arrived at the Armani ado with our town's Lisa Tudor. (Some of her news was getting her twins enrolled in a Houston school.) "Are you getting tons of e-mail from (displaced) friends?" asked George, who definitely was. Then he turned to Lisa with "Let's shop!"

George's photo appears in the current issue of Houston's Papercity, which features style, fashion and the socially seen. The Armani venue in partnership with the magazine hosted the party.

Familiar faces in new places also rendered E.J. "Jodie" and Maryann Hoffer, who've partied in New Orleans with Sheila Davlin and Mickey Easterling. They said that Sheila's still in Paris, where she spent the summer, and that she'll probably head to California to stay with her movie-making son, Josh, for a while. Jodie and Maryann caught me up on former Orleanians Bonnie and Bill Eubanks, who are still giving generously to our town's cultural causes. They're off to central Europe.

As a sub-layer to all the Armani levity, there was the sentiment expressed by almost everybody I talked to concerning the destruction and aftermath of Katrina. Numerous people told me that they had already made donations or were hosting families. Others asked what they could do.

"My thoughts and my prayers are with you and New Orleans" said John Bies, Giorgio Armani Area operating manager.

# Losing track of time

**LIND,** *from C-7*

the list. People aren't uptight like they are in the city. There is no rat race, no road rage, no gridlock, no traffic report – hell, there's no traffic. People always have time for you. Nobody blows you off. Nobody is rude. Nobody's in a hurry. Everybody says hello or waves.

The mindset and attitude is infectious. Sure, I want to get home eventually, but for the first time since Aug. 29, I feel relaxed. And if I had to guess, despite all that's happened, all the stress and uncertainty, all the anguish of being a long way from home, away from my son, my daughter and my buddies, I'd guess my blood pressure is down. And it's usually up, as my doctor would tell you.

I tell Carl, who came from a tiny Louisiana community, that I've lost track of time.

He laughs. And then he shares with me some great country wisdom that was given to him: "Time don't mean nuthin' to a hog."

I tell this to my wife and for the first time in a while, she laughs out loud – really loud. I make a note: We've got to get back and visit with Carl some more.

Aug. 29 seems so long ago now that I can't even remember what I was working on or writing about. All I know is that it wasn't very important, even though I'm sure I thought it was. Someday I'll remember.

But right now I'm remembering something I saw framed over a sink in Elizabeth, La., where we spent one night with some other nomadic types from New Orleans on yet another farm that featured horses, lots of old friendly country dogs, peacocks and – if you can believe it – a llama. I was so impressed with what I read inside that frame that I took the time to jot it down:

*"As children bring their broken toys*
*With tears for us to mend*
*I brought my broken dreams to God*
*Because he was my friend."*

*"But then instead of leaving him*
*In peace to work alone*
*I hung around and tried to help*
*With ways that were my own."*

*"At last I snatched them back and cried,*
*'How can you be so slow?'*
*'My child,' he said, 'What could I do?*
*You never would let go.'"*

The credit at the bottom said "Author Unknown," probably the most prolific writer in history. But the wisdom was sound. Right now, there are a lot of broken dreams. And a lot of healing and mending that needs to take place. And it's going to take a long, long time to fix things. So being patient will not only be a virtue, it will be a necessity.

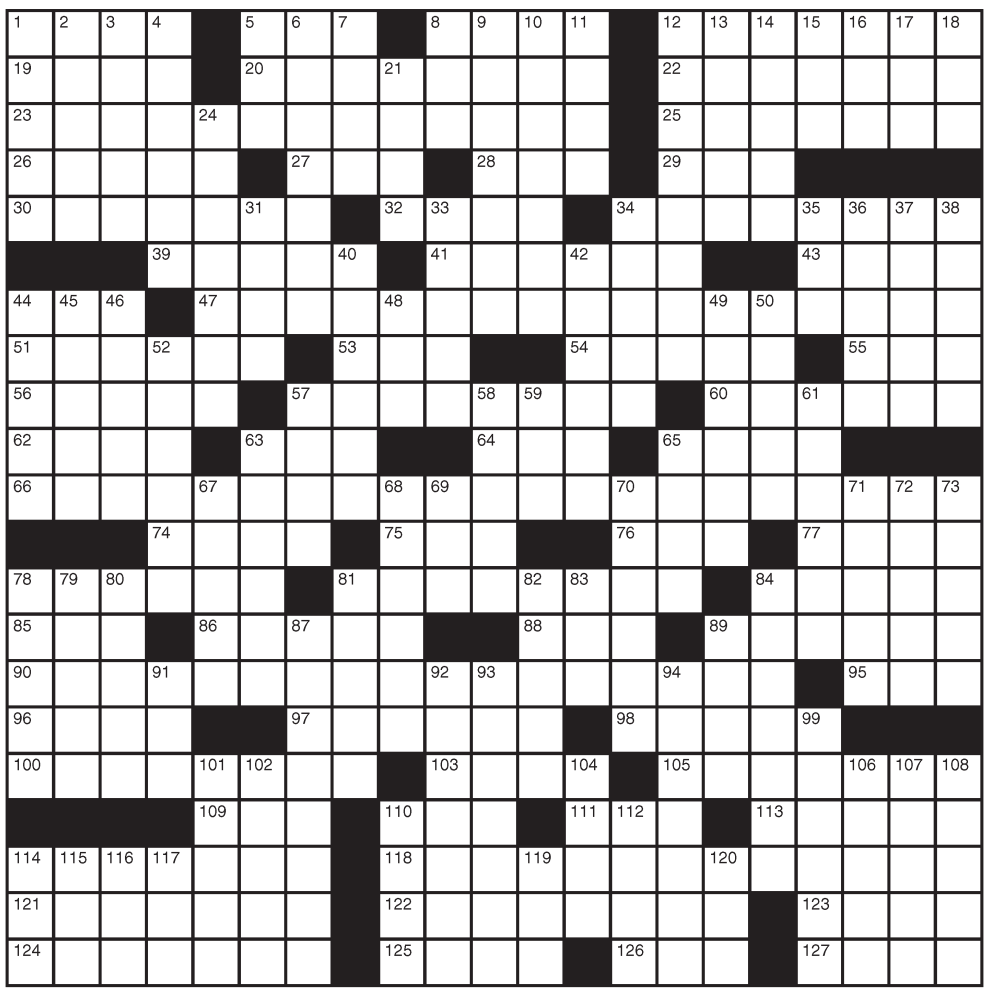
And so will be trusting in whomever you pray to.

I've decided to do that. Every day, from now on.

Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

# THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



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9/18/05

Answers Monday in Living

## E EQUALS MC SQUARED

By Alan P. Olschwang, Huntington Beach, California

**ACROSS**

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89 Grievously
90 Part 4 of quote
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17 Grant or Marvin
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The Times-Picayune

SECTION C-9
Sunday
September 18, 2005

SPORTS EXTRA

# DISAPPOINTING START



AP PHOTOS

Tulane running back Matt Forte tries to find a seam in Mississippi State's defense Saturday. The Green Wave's season opener was moved to Shreveport due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

*Hoping to shake off the effects of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Tulane comes up short against Mississippi State in its season opener.*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

SHREVEPORT — The Tulane Green Wave, playing its first game of the season after being forced to relocate in north Louisiana because of Hurricane Katrina, battled back from a 14-point deficit before a critical mistake aided Mississippi State in its 21-14 victory over Tulane at Independence

Bowl Stadium.

"If I weren't a competitor I wouldn't be disappointed, and the team wouldn't either. But in reality, I'm very proud of the way we got off that bus and ran out of the tunnel and played as hard as we could for 60 minutes," Tulane coach Chris Scelfo said.

The Green Wave, which was penalized 10 times for 75 yards and lost two of three fumbles, didn't run out of chances until there was no time left on the clock. The game ended with Wave quarterback Lester Ricard heaving a Hail Mary pass into the Bulldogs' end zone. The ball was tipped by a Mississippi State player and dropped to the turf incomplete near the back of the end zone.

"Fighting back is great, but not winning hurts," Ricard said. "This team is filled with character. Right now, there's no happiness around here."

After a scoreless first half, Mississippi State (2-1) scored on its first and third series of the third quarter. But as quickly as the Green Wave fell into a hole, it dug itself out and tied the score on an 18-yard run by senior running back Jovon Jackson with 9:35 showing.

But the hope that Scelfo had been telling his players was going to be a huge part of its 2005 season began slipping away with just less than eight minutes left. The defense forced the Bulldogs to punt on fourth-and-11. But kick returner Izzy Route lost the ball. It was recovered by Mississippi State's Lance Long at Tulane's 17 with 7:57 to play.




Tulane fans made the trek to Independence Stadium in Shreveport to support their team. These Wave backers show their support for TU tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator Brad Smiley.

On the Bulldogs' next play, running back Jerious Norwood, who was held to 15 rushing yards in the first half by Tulane's defense, broke loose for the deciding touchdown.

Tulane's offense, which stumbled through the first half, had two more opportunities following the Bulldogs' final score. On the first possession, punter Chris Beckman completed a 27-yard pass to Preston Brown on fourth-and-11 from its 19. It was the longest pass completed by the Green Wave.

However, the big play went unrewarded. Four plays later, the Wave was again facing a fourth down, and this time it punted.

On its final possession, time proved to be the biggest enemy. It converted a fourth-and-9, reaching the Bulldogs' 39 with only eight seconds to play. But at that point, the Wave's options were now down one play.

The loss to Mississippi State, in many ways, was much like the loss to the Bulldogs last season. The offense didn't perform up to its capabilities in the first half, and a critical turnover in the second half gave Mississippi State all the momentum it needed in taking a 28-7 win.

Although Mississippi State scored the winning touchdown Saturday one play after recovering the fourth-quarter fumble, Scelfo would not allow the loss to be pinned on that mistake. Instead, he blamed his decision for trying an onside kick after the Wave closed to 14-7 as a major mistake.

"I thought the second half we played our football game," Scelfo said. "I thought there was one big play in the game; the decision to go for the onside kick was bad by me from the standpoint that it probably turned the field around. That was the worst play of the game."

Scelfo said there were other aspects of the game that played a part in Tulane's loss. The team's conditioning wasn't what he was hoping it would be, and the players were maybe a little bit too high at the start of the game. Eight of the Wave's 10 penalties came in the first half.

"Our emotion was way too high early in the game," Scelfo said. "I think a lot of it had to do with the emotions of what we've been going through."



AP PHOTO

Tulane linebacker Antonio Mason, left, and cornerback Israel Route bring down Mississippi State running back Jerious Norwood during the first half Saturday in Shreveport.

# Wave to play SLU in Tiger Stadium

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

SHREVEPORT — Tulane's Oct. 1 game against Southeastern Louisiana will be played in Baton Rouge at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

In the past two days, Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson worked out a plan with LSU athletic director Skip Bertman and his associates for the Green Wave to play Southeastern Louisiana at 2:30 p.m. Otherwise, Dickson was planning to play the game in Shreveport, or in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"What we're trying to accomplish in all of this is, when possible, we'd like to play in-state, around our fans," Dickson said. "And we look at where the opponents are and see which site makes sense, because there is also a financial aspect in all of this."

LSU's football team is on the road against Mississippi State on Oct. 1. The SLU game was originally Tulane's homecoming, scheduled for City Park's Tad Gormley Stadium.

"In a very short time frame, it came up to be a very suitable solution," Dickson said. "We're excited about coming back to south Louisiana, and playing in front of a lot of New Orleanians."

Tulane will cover the cost of event management, such as ushers and ticket-takers, and Tulane will get the money from ticket sales.

Dickson's next task is scheduling the next home game, an Oct. 8 game against Houston. He said he should have a better idea of the location by Wednesday. Independence Stadium in Shreveport and Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala., are possibilities.

Tulane plays next Saturday at Southern Methodist in Dallas.

**FIRST IMPRESSION:** Tulane junior Preston Brown started at wide receiver for the first time, and promptly caught his first pass, a 20-yard grab with 10:10 left in the first quarter. Brown became quarterback Lester Ricard's go-to receiver in the first half, catching five passes for 52 yards, including one in which he broke a tackle and picked up a first down. He finished with nine receptions for 117 yards, both game-highs.

"I wanted to make every opportunity count," Brown said.

His biggest catch was with 6:13 remaining in the fourth quarter, when Chris Beckman faked a punt and passed to Brown down the sideline for 27 yards. And pass interference was called on the cornerback defending Brown. The catch was the longest of the game for either team.

**NEW-LOOK LINE:** Although the left side of Tulane's offensive line looked the same as the past two seasons, the right side included guard Michael Parenton, starting for the first time. Right tackle Derek Rogers started instead of Troy Kropog, who battled Rogers through much of camp. Rogers started twice in 2004 and twice in 2003. Kropog played often Saturday, and he was at right tackle during Tulane's final drive.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Cornerback Bruce Youmans started for the first time since 2003, when he started five games. Receiver Damarcus Davis extended his starting streak to eight games. He missed 2003 with an injury, then cracked the lineup in 2004 in the fifth game. ... Kenneth Guidroz made the field on the second play, the sophomore's first career action as a receiver. Freshman receivers Brian King and Cary Koch also played for the first time. Guidroz and King each caught three passes, and Koch caught one. ... After seven quarters without a score, Mississippi State scored its first touchdown with 12:17 left in the third. The score was a three-yard pass to running back Jerious Norwood, the senior's first career touchdown reception. ... Attendance at Independence Stadium was announced as 16,421. ... Tulane president Scott Cowen attended. Tulane men's basketball coach Dave Dickerson and three assistants drove in from Texas A&M, where the team is based this semester.

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## SCORING SUMMARY

**First Quarter**
No score.
**Second Quarter**
No score.
**Third Quarter**
**MSU 7, Tulane 0**
Scoring play: Norwood 3-yard pass from Conner (Andrews kick). Drive: 8 plays, 65 yards; Time of possession: 2:43. Key play: On first, Norwood broke off a 34-yard run to the Wave's 9. Time: 3:23.
**MSU 14, Tulane 0**
Scoring play: Butler 18-yard pass from Conner (Andrews kick). Drive: 6 plays, 39 yards; Time of possession: 2:02. Key play: A third-down reception for 11 yards by Tee Milons. Time: 6:50.
**MSU 14, Tulane 7**
Scoring play: Davis 11-yard pass from Ricard (Hartgroves kick). Drive: 10 plays, 83 yards; Time of possession: 3:03. Key play: A 7-yard completion to Jovon Jackson kept the Wave's drive moving. Time: 3:43.
**Fourth Quarter**
**MSU 14, Tulane 14**
Scoring play: Jackson 18-yard run (Hartgroves kick). Drive: 6 plays, 28; Time of possession: 3:43. Key play: A 3-yard gain on a QB draw by Ricard on third-and-three from MSU's 21. Time: 9:35.
**MSU 21, Tulane 14**
Scoring play: Norwood 17-yard run (Andrews kick). Drive: 1 play, 17; Time: 7:44.

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AP PHOTO

Tulane receiver Preston Brown, left, is knocked down by a host of Mississippi State defenders during the first quarter.

# Wave's thoughts elsewhere before focusing on Bulldogs

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

SHREVEPORT — Twenty minutes before kickoff in the season opener Saturday, the locker room doors opened, and there sat the Tulane football players, New Orleans resting on their shoulder pads.

A few players uneasily cracked jokes. Others lost themselves in headphones, while rap music blared so loud that passersby deciphered the lyrics. Receiver Bubba Terranova, whose parents' home in Slidell was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, stared at his hands.

These players were all evacuees of the hurricane. Victims, too. After scrambling to Jackson, Miss., they traveled to Dallas, then Ruston and finally to an antiquated locker room at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

Kenneth Guidroz smiled nervously. Two weeks after fearing his father dead, he prepared for his first college game at receiver. Brandon Spincer's home was damaged heavily by Katrina. So was his parents' home. The senior bowed his head in prayer.

Assistant coach Bill D'Ottavio strutted past the players, shattering the silence: "Cut it loose, let's have some fun out here." The coach, like the others, wore his gray practice shirt and green mesh practice shorts. His game clothes, presumably, were under water.

The game helmets were back home, too, so the Green Wave wore practice helmets, green without decals. Defensive end William Fairburn had some issues with his helmet, so he wore one donated by a nearby high school. The green was a shade brighter.

Assistant coach Greg Davis Jr. suddenly told the players to converge on the main doors. The captains, every Tulane senior, pushed toward the front. Each player got on one knee. Coach Chris Scelfo emerged.

"Defense, you got to fly to the football," he said. "We've got to give everything we've got, every time we're out there. "Defense, we have got to get people to the football. We have to create turnovers. Don't ask for them – I want you to create them. And you know how to create them – by peppering them, peppering them. I want to stop the run. And secondary, do not go to sleep on your guy, until the quarterback crosses the line."

Senior Anthony Cannon's eyes locked on the coach. Cannon's apartment in New Orleans was flooded. The defensive leader hid in the locker room, fixated on football.

"Offense," Scelfo continued. "No penalties, no turnovers, stay ahead of the chains. Pretty simple. Pretty simple. All we've got to do is get first downs. Keep your composure, keep your poise."

Quarterback Lester Ricard leaned against a locker. He was one of the few players standing. His uncle stayed in the Ninth Ward during Katrina, risking death and making his nephew cry in fright. His uncle was now safe. Ricard, the offensive leader, was attentive at the words "composure" and "poise."

"Let me tell you what," Scelfo said. "Tulane's motto since the school started is: 'Not for thy self, but for others. Not for thy self, but for others.' I'm going to tell you what – I don't want you thinking about nobody but the others in this room for the next three hours."

Scelfo, whose roof was badly damaged by the hurricane, paused.

His voice became fierce: "I want your heart, mind and soul for three hours. Everybody got it?"

Eighty-eight men said, "Yes sir."

"I want your heart, mind and soul! And I guaran-dang-tee you – the best team will win. The best team will win. Because the best team is in this locker room. And I'll be darned if we're going to feel sorry for ourselves, are we?"

Eighty-eight men said, "No sir."

"ARE WE?"

"No sir."

"We're going to go out there and do what?"

"Win!"

The players erupted from their stances and charged into the tunnel at Independence Stadium, their cheers echoing.

Tulane lost Saturday night. But these days, a loss is all relative.

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# Southern thrashes bumbling Prairie View

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Snap, punt, cover.

Prairie View botched every phase of punting Saturday night, and Southern took advantage.

With special teams providing the spark, the Jaguars took command. They pulled away behind the passing of quarterback J.C. Lewis to win their home opener 38-0 before 15,994 at A.W. Mumford Stadium.

But the game was tight until the Panthers' punting problems helped propel the Jaguars.

"The game is about field position, and we were able to capitalize," said Lewis, who completed 18 of 29 passes for 282 yards and three touchdowns. "We started getting confidence."

Both teams missed opportunities in the first half. The score was scoreless in the half when Eric Hernandez, the All-SWAC punter last year, was ready to kick from deep in Panthers territory. The snap bounced, and Hernandez had no chance to kick.

Hurried, he threw an incomplete pass toward wide receiver Sheron Harmon, and the Jaguars took over at the 15. Breck Ackley's field goal on fourth-and-seven with 1:32 left provided the only points of the half.

After the Panthers were stopped on their second possession in the second half, Hernandez kicked a 35-yard, line-drive punt, the kind that's easy to return and tough to cover. James Vernon returned the ball 42 yards to the Prairie View 18. On the next play, Lewis passed to Antonio Overstreet for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead.

Prairie View failed to move on its next possession, and Hernandez lined up to punt. Junior Joseph blocked the punt and recovered the ball at the Panthers' 15.

Carrying on three consecutive plays, Larry Nichols scored from the 5-yard line. The Jaguars led 17-0 with 7:05 left in the third quarter, and the rout was on.

"This year, what we try to do is work hard on special teams," Joseph said. "We realized that special teams are a big part of this game. My teammate that was next to me (Dio Bernard) did his job. That opened it up for me."

Southern dominated the rest of the game.

Even a three-yard punt to the Southern 45 by Southern's Colby Miller – after he bobbled a snap – didn't hurt the Jaguars. Prairie View moved to the 29, but Chris Gibson was sacked for a nine-yard loss. Southern cornerback Michael Williams ended the threat by intercepting Gibson's pass and returning the ball 18 yards to the Southern 30.

The Jaguars scored in seven plays, the big plays being Lewis' 35-yard pass to Vernon, and a 21-yard pass from Lewis to Emile Bryant that put the ball at the 1. Nichols scored from there for a 24-0 lead.

Lewis passed 51 yards to Gerard Bryant to make the score 31-0 with 19 seconds left in the third quarter. Lewis and Vernon combined on a 20-yard pass with 10:32 left in the fourth to cap the scoring.

In the first half, the Jaguars moved from their 30 to the Prairie View 32 on the game's first drive. On fourth-and-two, it appeared there was early movement along the line of scrimmage, but neither team was called for a penalty. Lewis was stopped for no gain, and Southern lost the ball on downs.

The Panthers then moved to the Southern 33. But they lost five yards on a fumble that they recovered, then lost seven more on a reverse sniffed out by linebacker David Brooks. Southern took over on its 20 after Hernandez's punt went into the end zone.

On third-and-18 from the 12, Lewis completed a 31-yard pass to Overstreet. Three plays later, Lewis scrambled and found Joseph for 26 yards to the Prairie View 25. A 15-yard run by Steel Adams put the ball on the 10. But the drive fizzled, and Ackley missed a 29-yard field goal attempt wide left.

Southern (1-1), which allowed 451 yards in an opening loss to Mississippi Valley, held Prairie View (1-1) to 209. Williams was involved in 12 tackles, including seven solos. Brooks, defensive end Joe Sykes, defensive back Joemaine Spears, and linebacker Maurice Runnels also were prominent defenders.

Southern won big in the punt-return game, with six returns for 126 yards. The Panthers returned two for 12. Also, a 44-yard Prairie View return was wiped out by a penalty.

"We have to win the special-teams game," Southern coach Pete Richardson said.

Richardson said the big plays in the punting game changed his team.

"They started to play relaxed, starting running to the ball," he said.

**FOUR CITIES INTERESTED:** Shreveport, Houston, Orlando, Fla., and Birmingham, Ala., are submitting bids to play host to the Bayou Classic, and a decision is expected soon, Southern director of athletics Greg LaFleur said Saturday.

"We had cities approach us," LaFleur said. "They just called and said they had interest in the game."

The Bayou Classic, which matches Southern and Grambling State, was scheduled for Nov. 26 at the Superdome but must be moved out of New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina. When New Orleans again can play host to the game, it will return to the city, LaFleur said.

"We'll definitely go back to New Orleans," he said. "New Orleans is the Bayou Classic."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# SLU falls behind, can't catch Northern Colorado

STATE

*Georgia reserves too much for ULM*

**From staff, wire reports**

It wasn't quite the Southeastern Louisiana defense Northern Colorado was expecting, but the end result was just what the Bears wanted.

"They changed the defense up on us," Northern Colorado coach Kay Dalton said. "The film we saw of them had no strong safety, and the one we saw had one, which bottled up our running game."

Instead, Northern Colorado relied more on its passing attack, and Nick Hager threw for 175 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Bears to a 35-19 victory Saturday over the Lions.

Hager was 16-for-22 and threw an interception for Northern Colorado (2-1).

"I have so many weapons," Hager said. "So when a team takes away the running game I have confidence in all my receivers."

Andy Birkel caught eight passes for 98 yards and two touchdowns.

The passing game eventually opened the running game. Andre Wilson ran for 113 yards and three scores as the Bears avenged a 26-13 loss last year to Southeastern Louisiana (1-1).

Trey Willie was 34-for-53 for 286 yards and three interceptions, and Jerald Watson had 13 carries for 58 yards and two touchdowns, plus six catches for 47 yards and another touchdown, for Southeastern Louisiana.

"We had our own way with them for a half," said cornerback Greg Gebhardt, who intercepted two passes. "We did it by avoiding the big play."

Northern Colorado led 21-0 at the half. Greg Gebhardt intercepted a deflected pass at the Lions 32, and nine plays later, Wilson's 1-yard dive with 10:27 left put the Bears ahead 7-0.

SLU had two chances to score in the first quarter. After the Lions benefited from a 29-yard punt, Willie threw an incomplete pass on a fourth-and-2 from the Bears 29.

After Derrick Mincey's interception gave SLU the ball at the Bears 31, Mario Gilbert fumbled at the Northern Colorado 34. From there Hager led a 66-yard drive culminated by a 16-yard touchdown pass to Birkel that made the score 14-0.

Two series after a Willie pass was intercepted in the end zone by Gebhardt, Aaron Henderson returned a punt 75 yards to the SLU 19. Hagar passed 19 yards to Birkel for the touchdown.

"You can't spot a team a 21-0 lead and win the game," Southeastern Louisiana coach Dennis Roland said. "Our team did show me something in the second half by not quitting. They came out in the second half thinking it could win."

SLU cut the lead to 21-7 early in the third quarter when Willie passed 11 yards to Watson for a touchdown. The Lions drove 90 yards and scored on a 17-yard run by Watson that cut the lead to 21-13 with 9:12 left.

The Bears answered with a 53-yard drive that ended with Wilson's nine-yard touchdown run with 6:04 left.

Watson scored on a one-yard run with 2:14 left, but the pass on the two-point conversion failed.

Wilson added an eight-yard touchdown run in the final minute.

**No. 7 GEORGIA 44 vs. LOUISIANA-MONROE 7:** Louisiana-Monroe got Georgia's attention with some trickery to open the second half - an onside kick that led to a touchdown and made the game close.

But led by a bunch of backups, the Bulldogs recovered quickly and showed they have the depth to overcome future challenges.

The second-teamers delivered front-line performances and the Bulldogs rolled past the Indians in Athens, Ga.

Filling in for injured tailback Thomas Brown, Danny Ware rushed for 109 yards. Martrez Milner caught three passes for 79 yards and a touchdown while starting at tight end for Leonard Pope, who was held out for disciplinary reasons.

Also, Danny Verdun Wheeler moved into the starting lineup for injured linebacker Jarvis Jackson, and led the team with 11 tackles. The Bulldogs also were without starting receiver Sean Bailey, but Georgia still rolled to 543 total yards with their most balanced attack of the season.

Still, the first reaction from Georgia coach Mark Richt was one of relief.

"I'm glad that's over with," Richt said after his team committed 11 penalties for 99 yards and lost two fumbles.

Bailey suffered a shoulder injury late in the practice week.

Richt said Pope "had broken a rule I wasn't too pleased about," but gave no other details.

Richt said Brown, Pope, Jackson and Bailey are expected back for next Saturday's game at Mississippi State.

The Bulldogs led 17-0 at the half but had a scare when Louisiana-Monroe recovered an onside kick and went on a 53-yard touchdown drive.

"It was kind of shocking at the time," Georgia quarterback D.J. Shockley said. "We had just talked at halftime about making sure we put points on the board, and then the game was one play away from being close."

As Shockley led the way, Georgia (3-0) answered with 17 third-quarter points and coasted to 10 points in the final quarter.

**KANSAS 34 vs. LOUISIANA TECH 14:** Brian Luke threw three touchdown passes and Kansas scored twice off interceptions in a 66-second span in the fourth quarter to beat the Bulldogs.

Wearing red uniforms for the first time in 58 years, the Jayhawks snapped out of a funk and a 7-7 halftime tie to go to 3-0 for the first time since 1997.

Luke, a senior who began the season No. 2 behind Adam Barmann, was 19-for-31 for 236 yards after passing for only 60 yards in the first half. Mark Simmons caught six passes for 106 yards and figured prominently in two scoring drives.

Louisiana Tech (0-2), which gave up 475 yards in a 41-3 loss to No. 6 Florida in its opener, held Kansas to 73 yards in the first half. But Matt Kubik and Donald Allen each threw two interceptions.

The Jayhawks were leading 14-7 beginning the fourth period, and Brandon Perkins tipped Kubik's pass and Theo Baines intercepted on the Bulldogs 14. A personal foul moved Kansas to the 7, then Luke threw to Brian Murph in the back of the end zone.

About a minute later, Charles Gordon broke up Kubik's pass to Seneca Chambers, the ball popped into the air and Aqib Talik made a diving interception on the 30.

Luke threw to Simmons for 29 yards to the 1, and Jon Cornish took it in on the next play for a 28-7 lead.

The Bulldogs responded with a nine-play, 80-yard drive capped by Kubik's 15-yard touchdown pass to Freddie King.

Scott Webb had field goals in the final minutes of 47 and 24 yards for the Jayhawks, who played their first three games at home but will not play at home again until Oct. 29.

**NICHOLLS STATE 54 vs. CHEYNEY STATE 0:** Dwayne Jones rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Colonels. Of Nicholls State's 421 total yards, 395 came on the ground.

Zach Morgan rushed for 56 yards and two touchdowns and quarterback Vincent Montgomery chipped in 24 yards and two more touchdowns for the Colonels (1-1).

Nicholls State's defense held Division II Cheyney (2-2) to a minus-5 yards total offense. Quarterback Lamar Hyson was just 3-of-10 for seven yards.

Cheyney is 0-5 against Division I-AA competition.

The Wolves reached Colonels' territory only twice, both off Colonel turnovers. Cheyney's deepest drive brought them to the Colonels 18 after a turnover, but the Wolves

*See* **STATE,** *page C-12*

# Defense, special teams lift Florida

*New coach's offense struggles, but Gators overcome Vols*

**By Mark Long**
AP sports writer

GAINESVILLE, FLA. — Maybe Urban Meyer's defense and special teams should have been getting all the hype.

No. 6 Florida held fifth-ranked Tennessee scoreless in the second half, took advantage of three special teams errors and won 16-7 Saturday night to give Meyer a resounding victory in his Southeastern Conference debut.

The Gators had lost three of the past four against the Volunteers, including two in a row at Florida Field. They ended that streak and got an early edge in the Eastern Division race.

Since the SEC adopted its 12-team, two-division format in 1992, the winner of the Tennessee-Florida game has won the East and advanced to the championship game nine times.

For the Gators to get there, they probably will need to get more production from their offense. Meyer's spread offense was the biggest story line entering the game: could it work against one of the nation's top defenses?



AP PHOTO

Florida quarterback Chris Leak is tackled by Tennessee's Xavier Mitchell in the third quarter Saturday. Leak and the Gators won 16-7.

The answer Saturday night was not very well, but Florida was able overcome its offensive shortcomings.

The Gators (3-0, 1-0) did prove to have a strong defense, a unit that had several late collapses the past three seasons. But special teams turned out to be the deciding factor.

Florida got three second-half field goals from Chris Hetland, who was benched after missing an extra point attempt last week against Louisiana Tech. Each of his kicks followed a special teams blunder by Tennessee (1-1, 0-1).

Jonathan Hefney fumbled a punt after Florida's opening possession of the third quarter. Florida's James Smith hit Hefney after the drop, preventing him from picking up the ball, and Tremaine McCollum recovered it.

The Gators had the ball at the 28, but Chris Leak was sacked on the first play and they had to settle for a field goal and a 10-7 lead.

Tennessee made an even bigger miscue on the ensuing possession. The Vols tried a fake punt on fourth-and-9 from their 32. Punter Britton Colquitt's pass was nearly picked off by Tony Joiner, and the Gators got great field position again. But Leak was sacked for the fifth time, and Florida settled for another field goal to go up 13-7 with about five minutes to play in the third.

The Vols got the ball back, but their next drive ended with an 8-yard punt. Florida got close to the end zone, but ended up with a 20-yard field goal.

That was plenty of cushion for the defense, which played without end Ray McDonald for much of the game. He injured his right knee early in the second quarter and did not return. Even without him, the Gators got good pressure on quarterback Erik Ainge and stuffed running back Gerald Riggs in the second half.

# Spartans continue dominance of Irish

**From wire reports**

SOUTH BEND, IND. — Not even Charlie Weis could stop Michigan State's mastery over Notre Dame in South Bend.

The Spartans overcame a 21-point comeback by the 10th-ranked Fighting Irish and pulled out their fifth consecutive win at Notre Dame Stadium with a 44-41 overtime victory on Saturday.

Jason Teague ran 19 yards with an option pitch for the game-winning touchdown, handing Weis his first loss as Irish coach after starting the season 2-0 on the road.

"I told them you don't get any medals for trying," Weis said. "I'm never content when you end up losing."

Drew Stanton led the Spartans offensively, throwing for three touchdowns and running for another. Michigan State amassed 488 yards total offense against the Irish. Stanton was 16-of-27 for 327 yards.

"We wanted to show that this program is back in the right direction," Stanton said. "There's no better way to do that than a rivalry game at Notre Dame."

The Spartans (3-0) have made a habit of beating the Irish on their home turf, joining Purdue (1954-62) as the only opponent to win five straight at Notre Dame Stadium. Irish fans, many of them wearing the yellow of the school's new spirit shirt, booed as the Spartans celebrated the victory at midfield.

"It's good coming into a hostile environment and winning a game like this," said Matt Trannon, who had five catches for a career-high 136 yards and two touchdowns.

Michigan State's 12 wins at Notre Dame are the most by an Irish opponent.

Teague, who had been suspended a week earlier for Michigan State's victory over Hawaii, said he had a hard time breathing at his teammates piled on him in the end zone.

"This is the best time of my life," he said.

Teague credited Stanton for pitching the ball at the right time and his teammates for clearing his path to the end zone.

"I couldn't have done it without these guys," he said, pointing to his teammates.

The Fighting Irish (2-1) rallied from 21 points down in the third quarter to tie the score, but had to settle for a 44-yard field goal by D.J. Fitzpatrick on their OT possession.

"When you come back like that, you've got a lot of emotion and you feel pretty good about yourself," Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn said. "And then when you can't come through with the victory, I think there's the ability to be a big letdown."

Quinn passed for a school-record five touchdowns and a career-high 487 yards, the second highest total in Notre Dame history. But it wasn't enough.

# Clemson gathers no Moss in loss to Hurricanes

*Oklahoma's struggles continue; Longhorns roll past Rice*

**From wire reports**

Tyrone Moss' 25-yard touchdown run in the third overtime lifted Miami to a 36-30 triple-overtime victory over Clemson and helped the visiting Hurricanes avoid their first 0-2 start in 27 years.

Moss bounced out to the right side for his scoring run and safety Kenny Phillips intercepted Charlie Whitehurst when the Tigers (2-1, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) got their chance in the third extra period.

Moss finished with 139 yards rushing and three touchdowns, two in overtime. His one-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter put Miami up 20-10. His three-yard scoring run gave the Hurricanes (1-1, 1-1) a brief 27-20 lead in the first overtime.

**No. 4 VIRGINIA TECH 45 vs. OHIO 0:** Marcus Vick and Virginia Tech started fast, stalled some and then got it going again with a couple of kick-starts from the defense.

Vick threw two scoring passes and ran for a third as the Hokies turned three turnovers into touchdowns in their second consecutive victory.

The Hokies (3-0), who blanked Duke 45-0 last Saturday, also twice turned the Bobcats away after they drove to the Hokies 19. The first time, Brooks Rossman missed a field-goal attempt and the second time, Tech's Roland Minor made an interception.

**UCLA 41 vs. No. 21 OKLAHOMA 24:** Drew Olson threw for 314 yards and three touchdowns, UCLA held Adrian Peterson to 58 yards rushing, and the Bruins beat the struggling Sooner.

After playing in the past two BCS national championship games, Oklahoma is 1-2 for the first time since 1997 and its offense fumbled six times.

UCLA recovered three of the fumbles and turned them into 17 points.

The Bruins (3-0) pulled away from a 20-17 lead with two Olson touchdown passes and Maurice Drew's scoring run in the fourth quarter and beat the Sooners for the first time.

Redshirt freshman Rhett Bomar completed 20-of-29 for 241 yards and ran for a 16-yard score for Oklahoma, but fumbled four times.

**No. 2 TEXAS 51 vs. RICE 10:** Freshman Jamaal Charles ran for 189 yards and three touchdowns in his first career start to lead Texas to another win over Rice.

Charles had a pair of 25-yard scoring runs in the first quarter and added another four-yard touchdown in the second as Texas (3-0) built a 42-0 lead by halftime.

Texas has won 38 of the past 39 meetings in a rivalry that dates to 1914.

**No. 8 FLORIDA STATE 28 at No. 17 BOSTON COLLEGE 17:** A.J. Nicholson intercepted two passes, scoring on a 19-yard return on the first play of the game, and Greg Carr caught two touchdown passes to help Florida State spoil the Eagles' Atlantic Coast Conference debut.

Nicholson's interceptions sparked the Seminoles (3-0, 2-0) to a 14-0 lead in the first five minutes before BC scored 17 unanswered points to take the lead. The Eagles (2-1) nursed the lead _ thanks to a great play by Mathias Kiwanuka - until quarterback Quinton Porter left with an ankle injury and Florida State took advantage.

Drew Weatherford was 20-for-38 for 243 yards and two touchdowns for Florida State. Porter was 20-for-31 with one touchdown and two interceptions before leaving late in the third quarter, and Matthew Ryan was 7-for-11 for 89 yards, most of it on the last drive.

**No. 11 LOUISVILLE 63 vs. OREGON STATE 27:** Brian Brohm threw for 368 yards and five touchdowns and Louisville topped 50 points for the ninth time under coach Bobby Petrino.

Mario Urrutia caught seven passes for 175 yards with two touchdowns for Louisville (2-0), which tied an Oregon State record for points by an opponent.

Louisville linebacker Brandon Johnson blocked a punt and returned an interception for a score and defensive end Elvis Dumervil set an NCAA record with his ninth sack in consecutive games.

**No. 14 MICHIGAN 55 vs. EASTERN MICHIGAN 0:** Max Martin ran for two touchdowns, then Chad Henne threw two touchdown passes to Jason Avant as Michigan tied a school record with 28 points in the first quarter.

A week after losing to Notre Dame, the Wolverines (2-1) recorded their most lopsided win since beating Indiana 58-0 in 2000. They led 54-0 early in the fourth quarter after scoring on nine of 10 possessions.

**No. 16 GEORGIA TECH 28 vs. CONNECTICUT 13:** Redshirt freshman Taylor Bennett, playing for Reggie Ball, threw a touchdown on his first college pass.

Ball, coming off a career-best 320 yards passing the previous week, began feeling ill Friday and was taken to the hospital Saturday morning, school officials said. He was undergoing tests and scheduled to be kept overnight.

**No. 19 TEXAS TECH 80 vs. SAM HOUSTON STATE 21:** Cody Hodges threw for 356 yards and four touchdowns in the first half to lead Texas Tech to its highest scoring game in 52 years.

The fifth-year senior who led the nation in total offense coming into the game, added 80 yards passing and another touchdown throw in the third quarter to put Tech up 56-7 before backup quarterback Graham Harrell took over.

Hodges finished 26-for-37 for 436 yards.

**No. 22 IOWA 45 vs. N. IOWA 21:** Drew Tate returned from a concussion to throw two touchdown passes and Albert Young ran for two more scores, leading 22 Iowa to a victory.

In tying a school record with its 20th straight win at home, Iowa (2-1) got some of its confidence back after a 23-3 loss at Iowa State.

Tate showed no problems from the concussion that knocked him out of the Iowa State game, completing 15 of 18 passes for 247 yards and no interceptions.

**No. 25 VIRGINIA 27 at SYRACUSE 24:** Connor Hughes kicked a 19-yard field goal as time expired, and Virginia escaped the raucous Carrier Dome with a victory over Syracuse.

Marques Hagans, who gained 110 yards rushing and was 16-for-26 for 145 yards passing, shook off three interceptions to lead the Cavaliers (2-0).

**OREGON 37 vs. NO. 23 FRESNO STATE 34:** Kellen Clemens threw for 332 yards and four touchdowns for Oregon.

The loss snapped a seven-game winning streak for the Bulldogs (1-1), who also had won their past three against Pac-10 teams.

The Ducks (3-0) saw their new spread offense come together against a ranked opponent a week before No. 1 USC comes to Autzen Stadium for the conference opener.

FOOTBALL

# Hahnville rallies past East St. John

METRO PREP

By Lori Lyons
Staff writer

It was a non-district game played between two district opponents, and it was played during the daytime instead of at night. But it still was a typical Hahnville-East St. John game – with the same result.

Hahnville receiver Laron Byrd caught a 51-yard touchdown pass from Tigers quarterback Early James as time expired to give Hahnville a 28-27 victory over East St. John in Boutte on Saturday.

James' Hail Mary pass was tipped by Tigers receiver Brian Singleton into the waiting hands of Byrd, who landed in the end zone.

It was the sixth consecutive victory for Hahnville over East St. John, although all of those were district games. Saturday's game was arranged because both teams were scheduled to play Orleans Parish opponents.

The game had to be played during the day because of damage to Hahnville's stadium lights.

"It was typical Hahnville-East St. John football," said Hahnville coach Lou Valdin, who said he didn't see the catch or know who caught it. "I couldn't tell you. I know he was wearing a purple jersey. We just sent four receivers right up the pipe.

"We've got two basketball players out there. I figured one of them could jump up and catch it."

Byrd, a sophomore, was carried out of the end zone by teammates as the rest of the team rushed onto the field. At the other end, East St. John's players were sitting, squatting, some lying on the field, stunned by the turn of events.

After officials marked off a 15-yard penalty against Hahnville for celebrating, James took a knee on the extra point try to end the game.

"The last play of the game, it was just up to everybody," said Byrd, who had one other catch for three yards in the game. "We just went out and executed. Number 14 (Singleton) tipped it, and I had it in my vision. It was the best play of my life."

James completed 12 passes for 195 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a touchdown.

"I had (Singleton) in mind," he said. "The play was just to throw the ball in the end zone, so that's what I did."

East St. John hadn't been so close to victory against Hahnville in a while. The Wildcats had scored 27 points in the first half, and quarterback Johnnie Theil had completed all three of his passes 152 yards and two touchdowns. Running back John Owen, who transferred to

East St. John from Brother Martin after the storm, had two carries for 81 yards, including a 78-yard touchdown run. But in the second half, East St. John gained only one first down.

Victory seemed within reach when the Wildcats, who were leading 27-20, stopped a Hahnville drive deep in East St. John territory. East St. John's Lacardio Joseph intercepted a pass by James at the goal line but landed on his back at the 1. On the next play, Hahnville's Carnell James sacked James in the end zone for a safety, cutting East St. John's lead to 27-22.

After the kick and an illegal block penalty, Hahnville started its next drive at its 29 with 2:35 to play. James drove the Tigers to the East St. John 30, but a fumbled pitch to running back Terrance Isaac was recovered by East St. John's Kalen Collins. The Wildcats took over with 1:19 to play.

Hahnville's defense held the Wildcats to six yards on three plays, and East St. John punted.

The Tigers had only 16 seconds with which to work. On first down, James connected with Singleton on a 12-yard pass to the Hahnville 49, after which James grounded the ball to stop the clock. Then came the miraculous play.

"It was a typical Hahnville-East St. John game," said Wildcats coach Larry Dauterive, whose team was playing its first game since the River Parishes Jamboree on Aug. 26. "And, as usual, we come out on the losing end. It definitely was a first game for us. But I don't want to use that as an excuse. They did a great job of adjusting. I can't take anything away from them. We did the same thing we had been doing (in the second half), they just stopped us."

**ST. JAMES 42, SOUTH LAFOURCHE 6:** Luther Ambrose ran for two touchdowns, Jason Zenon ran for two, Tremaine Dapremont ran for one and quarterback Antonio Phillips passed for another, as the Wildcats amassed 441 yards. St. James (2-0) never punted and held the Tarpons (0-1) to 12 yards.

**PATTERSON 40, WEST ST. JOHN 18:** Running back William Griffin rushed for 395 yards, and the Rams (0-2) gave up more than 400 yards rushing.

# Golden Eagles route Cowboys; Washington State runs over Grambling

**STATE,** *from C-11*

fumbled two plays later.

"After all these players have been through in the last couple of weeks, it was great to be in front of a home crowd and capture a win," Nicholls State coach Jay Thomas said. "I thought we made too many mistakes on both sides of the ball. However, the good part of that is we got to look at a lot of players."

The Colonels led 21-0 at halftime after a six-yard touchdown run by Vincent Montgomery, and a 44-yard run by Morgan. Montgomery started the scoring in the second half on a nine-yard run with 11:52 remaining in the third quarter. He finished with 56 yards on three carries.

Freshman Dwayne Jones scored four seconds into the fourth quarter on a 10-yard run, and he closed the scoring on a 49-yard run with 1:20 remaining. Jones finished with 138 yards on 16 carries.

**SOUTHERN MISS 48 vs. McNEESE STATE 20:** Larry Thomas ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns and Southern Mississippi scored four times off turnovers in its home opener.

The Golden Eagles had trouble running the ball in a 30-21 loss to Alabama last week and coach Jeff Bower wanted to find someone to provide the ground game with a boost. Bower may have found his man in Thomas, a redshirt sophomore making his second career start.

"We wanted to get the running game going and be more balanced," Bower said. "That was the bottom line, and we got some good things going running the ball."

Dustin Almond and Antwon Courrington connected on two scoring passes in the second meeting between the teams and the first since the 1980 Independence Bowl.

Southern Miss (1-1) led 24-13 at the half after Thomas' two-yard touchdown run in the second quarter and Darren McCaleb's 40-yard field goal.

McNeese State (1-1) scored on an eight-yard run by Steve Whitehead and field goals from Blake Bercegay of 29 and 51 yards in the first half.

But the Golden Eagles dashed any Cowboys comeback with a pair of touchdowns in the first five minutes of the third quarter. Eubanks returned a kick 70 yards to set up an eight-yard Almond-to-Courrington touchdown toss. A botched punt attempt on the Cowboys' initial possession of the second half set Southern Miss up at the McNeese State four-yard line. Two plays later, Thomas plunged in from 4 yards out to make the score 38-13.

**WASHINGTON STATE 48 vs. GRAMBLING STATE 7:** Jerome Harrison had his sixth consecutive 100-yard rushing game, running for 104 in the first half, and Washington State improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2001.

Alex Brink threw three touchdown passes, but the Cougars were inconsistent on offense. Washington State, which gained 534 total yards last week at Nevada, gained 446 yards Saturday in their first game against a I-AA team since beating Montana State in 2002.

Harrison finished with 113 yards, and three touchdowns. He surpassed 100 yards in Washington State's last three games of 2004 and the first two this season, and the Cougars are 5-1 during that stretch.

Washington State's defense was stout against the run, holding Grambling (1-1) to 12 yards rushing.

On Washington State's first offensive play, Brink fumbled and Joshua Bester recovered for Grambling at the Cougars 18. Grambling drove to the Cougars' 3, but stalled. Shawn Millson missed a 26-yard field goal attempt wide left.

Washington State responded, taking the ensuing drive 80 yards in 2:08. Harrison scored on a one-yard run.

On the Tigers next play, Terrion Rogers was hit by Mkristo Bruce and fumbled at the Grambling 8. The Cougars' Eric Frampton recovered the fumble, and two plays later Harrison scored again from the 1.

Brink threw an 18-yard touchdown to Jason Hill in the second quarter, one play after Grambling punter Tim Manuel dropped the snap. Brink added a seven-yard TD pass to tight end Troy Bienemann midway through the third quarter, to put the Cougars up 34-0, and Brink and Hill connected on a 56-yard score early in the fourth quarter.

Hill finished with 10 catches for 143 yards, and Brink was 19-of-29 for 262 yards.

Grambling opened with a 44-0 win over Alabama A&M last week, and the Cougars were Grambling's first Division I-A foe since a 29-0 loss to San Jose State in 2003.

**HARDIN-SIMMONS 51 vs. LOUISIANA COLLEGE 13:** Jordy Bernhard came off the bench to throw for 270 yards and three touchdowns, and three Hardin-Simmons running backs surpassed 100 yards rushing in a 51-13 win over Louisiana College.

Brad Clark ran for 112 yards a touchdown, Thurston Ashley had 107 yards and two touchdowns and Quinton Jones finished with 105 yards and one touchdown. They helped Hardin-Simmons (2-0, 1-0 American Southwest) set a school record with 385 rushing yards.

Louisiana College (0-2, 0-1) committed seven turnovers, including five interceptions. Wesley Cooper threw four and was 23-of-47 for 258 yards and two touchdowns.

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# Officials rethink Uptown return plan

*Reopening may be too soon for parts of area, some worry*

**By Michelle Krupa and Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writers

New Orleans officials said Algiers residents will be allowed to return home today, but said they will reassess a preliminary plan for reopening parts of Uptown later this week.

Mayor Ray Nagin and Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, federal head of New Orleans' hurricane recovery effort, are meeting this afternoon with other state and local officials.



**Mayor Ray Nagin**
His original timeline called ambitious

Col. Terry Ebbert, the city's director of homeland security, said a decision about whether to allow residents in the 70115 and 70118 ZIP codes to return Wednesday and Friday will depend on conclusions reached at that meeting.

"We will reassess how we have done in reopening so far and the status of our water, sewerage, electricity and hospitals" across parts of the city left relatively unscathed by Hurricane Katrina, Ebbert said, adding that the projected direction of Tropical Storm Rita, presently in the Atlantic Ocean, also would be a factor in determining whether to reopen Uptown.

Allen on Saturday questioned Nagin's proposed timeline, calling it "extremely ambitious" and "extremely problematic." Tap water remains unfit for drinking and bathing in most parts of the city, and Rita posed another potential threat, he said.

In an interview Saturday with the Associate Press, Allen called on the mayor to be "mindful of the risks" and said he would share his concerns when they meet.

City officials continued to recommend that residents visit the city during daytime hours only and not stay overnight, Ebbert said. An 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew remains in effect, he said.

The city's initial phase of reentry, which allowed business owners in the two Uptown postal codes to return, "went very, very well," Ebbert said, with an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people passing military and police checkpoints to get back to their shops and restaurants.

No serious incidents were reported to health or police authorities, he said.

"I think there were a lot of

*See* **NAGIN,** *A-11*

# 'Help me, please don't let me die'

*911 operators confront grim task, ghastly calls*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

As she took that first call from a woman trapped in her 9th Ward attic, 911 operator Lechia Allen ached with the grim realization that the next call would be the same. And the next. And the next. She couldn't do a thing for any of them.

Working in the downtown 911 center at Broad and Gravier streets, next to the Falstaff antenna, Allen knew police wouldn't respond to calls while the winds of Hurricane Katrina roared. She knew the rescue operation wouldn't start for hours and, in many cases, days. Laboring under the heavy weight of helplessness, all Allen and her 120 fellow operators could do was listen to the terrifying tales of rising waters, raging fires and parents holding their children toward the skies, above the floodwaters.

"They heard people taking their last breaths. They heard people holding children up in the peak of the attics, and dropping children in the water and watching them drown," said New Orleans Police Capt. Steve Gordon, chief of the 911 center.

Some of the nearly all-female staff working with Allen, 44, took calls from the same neighborhoods where they knew their families had stayed to ride out the storm, she said. Some lost loved ones. Others haven't been found.

"Seek higher ground" – that was all that Allen could tell them, in the calmest voice she could muster."I'm already on my roof," so many of them would respond.

*See* **911,** *A-10*

# KEEPING THE FAITH



STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

Deacon Adam Gillespie of First Baptist Church of Belle Chasse prays for special needs during an altar call Sunday.

There's the church, there's the steeple. But open the doors, and where are all the people? After being scattered by Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans area's faithful are slowly returning to the pews. **See Metro**



Marie Keeton of First Baptist Church of Belle Chasse sheds a tear Sunday during the church's first service since Hurricane Katrina moved through the area.



NNS PHOTO

*A straight-shooting, take-charge 'John Wayne dude,' Lt. Gen. Russel Honore appeared to be exactly what New Orleans needed after Hurricane Katrina hit*

# THREE-STAR CELEBRITY

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

As he strides through the rubble that once was downtown New Orleans, the sturdy man with the aviator sunglasses, the black beret and three shiny silver stars is the focus of all eyes.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, the commanding general of Joint Task Force Katrina, is on the scene — and everybody knows it.

Police officers, relief workers and medical personnel flock to him to shake his hand or pose for pictures. One by one, U.S. senators fight their way through the crowd to congratulate him for his efforts.

His aide, Lt. Col. Richard Steele, constantly fields e-mails on his Blackberry for interview requests. Vanity Fair magazine, Larry King, "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation" are jockeying for his time.

*See* **HONORE,** *A-9*

# Tough-as-nails survivor had only a jug of water



AP PHOTO

Rescue workers take Gerald Martin to the hospital Friday. The 76-year-old spent 18 days in his Gentilly attic.

*Rescuers find him 18 days after storm*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

When Eric Mijangos and J.D. Madden approached the modest one-story cottage on Painters Street in their Coast Guard flatboat, they were anticipating the same response they got from all the other houses that day: silence.

Instead, they heard a faint but firm voice yell out, "Hey, over here."

The two California firefighters sloshed through knee-high water, and with two swings of Mijangos' sledgehammer, they were through the front door and face-to-face with a miracle wearing jeans and a T-shirt: 76-year-old Gerald Martin.

*See* **SURVIVOR,** *A-11*

## DAY 21 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **676**

Evacuees in Milwaukee long for red beans and rice, **See A-2**

Plan would find temporary housing for more than 1 million in La., **See A-3**

Kenner storm brews between the mayor and the police chief, **See A-6**

Slidell hopes to broadcast information on recovery operations, **See A-7**

La. has been approved for more than $700 million in public assistance, **See A-11**

Jefferson Parish's east bank headquarters damaged in storm, **See B-1**

Preservationists save centuries-old records from floodwaters, **See B-1**

Boat rescues, prayer, funeral all in a day's work for minister, **See B-1**

Next stop for returnees with trashed homes: the dump, **See B-8**

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# Though hosts are gracious, evacuees long for Louisiana

## *Few show interest in putting down roots*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

MILWAUKEE — There was no mistaking Hernell Reed as anything but a stranger in a strange land, sipping a 16-ounce Milwaukee's Best on a bench behind the livestock barn and next to the Sheboygan Brat Haus concession stand.

His head covered with a doo-rag, the 47-year-old grass-cutter from Pigeon Town said he was one of the first New Orleans evacuees to arrive at this well-appointed Wisconsin shelter inside sprawling State Fair Park. For a couple of days, he was one of the few African-Americans, period, in this largely white section of this breadbasket city of cheese and bratwurst.

Then several planeloads of other flooded-out New Orleanians began arriving, nearly all of them from the city's hard-scrabble neighborhoods, dispersed nearly 1,000 miles from home as evacuation centers closer to New Orleans began filling to capacity. Now Reed is in the company of about 600 other displaced storm victims – 203 families altogether – spending their days and nights at the Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center.

"I wanted to stick it out, but the soldiers ordered me to leave," Reed said. "Don't get me wrong, the people here have been treating us right – top class, beautiful – but I want to go home. I really haven't been able to sleep right since I got here."

Reed's longing for home, or at least some place closer to home, is magnified by the fact that most of his family left before the storm and ended up in Charlotte, N.C., or with his sister outside of Houston.

"Heck, I was never in an airplane before this," he said.

More than 110,000 New Orleans area residents are staying at 675 shelters in 25 states, about 79,000 in Louisiana and Texas. But as the closest evacuation centers filled up in the first days after Katrina, the remaining exiles seemed to be scattered in a pattern of concentric circles emanating from the disaster zone, with the later – and less willing – evacuees landing in cities as far away as Denver, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Some polls of New Orleanians being housed in Houston and Atlanta have shown that as many as 50 percent would rather carve out new lives in their stopover cities than return to their battered hometown. At the farthest reaches of the New Orleans diaspora, however, it's a different story.

Lucien Lancaster, a French Quarter hotel handyman from Central City, said he pleaded with relief workers to send him to Houston, where his girlfriend was sent. And that's exactly where he thought he was going until 20 minutes into his flight when the pilot announced they were going to Milwaukee.

"When they said that, I wanted to jump out of the airplane," Lancaster said. "The people here are nice and all, but I've never been here before. I don't know anybody."

Accounts from other faraway shelters, while largely anecdotal, seem to capture the same desire of New Orleanians to return home, or at least as close as possible.

In Milwaukee, American Red Cross spokesperson Kathy Fargo conceded that very few of the in-house evacuees had sought long-term work through the shelter's job placement center. Among the 300 displaced Louisianans staying with family members in the Milwaukee area, there has been a trickle of interest, she said.

Even so, the cultural divide is obvious, Fargo said.

"I had one woman come up to me, 'Excuse me, ma'am. When are we going to see the snow?' "

The Red Cross and Salvation Army volunteers running the Milwaukee shelter have done a lot to make the storm-chased transplants feel at home. They've arranged Sunday meals at the homes of local families. They treated 175 people to front-row seats at a Milwaukee Brewers game. They brought in a clown to entertain the children.

Another perk of the Milwaukee shelter, Fargo said: It has welcomed pets with open arms. The animals, more than 25 of them, are split between the "Sheep and Goats" barn and the "Poultry and Rabbits" pen.

But Michelle Perique, speaking for her extended family of 17 Periques staying at the shelter, seemed to express the prevailing sentiments about staying in Milwaukee vs. returning home.

"It's a nice town and all, but I don't think I could live here. I'm hungry for some red beans and rice real bad."

# Volunteer relief groups fill medical gaps on coast

**By Vicki Smith**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. — Ricardo Scott holds his breath and looks away as a nurse wearing a handwritten ID tag _ "Doe, RN" _ jabs a needle into his index finger, testing his blood sugar.

She gives the cable company worker from Atlanta a stern look as the hot morning sun filters through the tent roof. She asks what he had for breakfast and nods about the croissant with ham and egg.

"And to drink?" she inquires. "Sprite," he replies.

Scott, 32, is a diabetic with high blood pressure and a heart condition, so the nurse scolds him gently about consuming so much sugar and tells him to come back tomorrow to this nameless clinic in a Surplus Warehouse parking lot.

Since Hurricane Katrina shuttered hospitals and doctors' offices across the Gulf Coast three weeks ago, health care volunteers have poured into Mississippi, where thousands were uprooted and at least 219 died.

The Federal Emergency Medical Agency was overwhelmed when more than 33,000 doctors and relief workers from across the country tried to register with the agency to help with recovery efforts from Louisiana to Florida.

"It really didn't work," said Jim McIlwane, who directs a newly formed Information and Quality Healthcare coalition in Mississippi that is coordinating assignments for doctor and nurse volunteers coming to the state.

"At first it seemed rather chaotic as it was with everything else _ some physicians just came and set up," he said. "I don't know of any problems that developed but it is a little more sophisticated now."

About 200 doctors and an equal number of nurses have come from out of state to Mississippi, joining more than 300 Mississippi physicians volunteering to help colleagues whose offices were destroyed by the storm.

Gov. Haley Barbour's state of emergency order grants temporary licensure to out-of-state health care professionals in good standing in their home state during the Katrina recovery.

"The medical volunteers have come in to fill a critical need and their support has been immeasurable," said Pete Smith, the governor's spokesman.

At the nameless clinic in Gulfport, doctors, nurses and paramedics from at least 10 states deliver free, routine health care to some 600 people a day, while free meals are dished up at a church next door.

Their initiative was started independently by a medical team with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, supported by donations from across the nation and now led by the Virginia-based Volunteers of America.

It's become so successful the Red Cross and hospitals in Biloxi and Gulfport refer patients with less serious needs here.

Steve Garrison, a nurse-paramedic from South Bend, Ind., manages daily operations while a doctor oversees a medical staff that has grown to include dozens of people who came on their own to the devastated region with nothing more than a desire to help.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Name corrected:** The full name of activist "Mamma D" was incorrect in Sunday's paper. Her name is Dyan French Cole.

**Fishery losses clarified:** Some information on expected fishery losses after Hurricane Katrina was cut off in Sunday's paper. The figures are printed here.

**Fishery losses clarified:** Some information on expected fishery losses after Hurricane Katrina was cut off in Sunday's paper. The figures are printed here.

### LOSSES EXPECTED

| Fishery | Estimated losses through Aug. 2006 |
|---|---|
| Crab | $81,766,427 |
| Freshwater fish | 1,256,934 |
| Menhaden | 93,435,257 |
| Oysters** | 148,213,824 |
| Saltwater fish | 78,710,687 |
| Shrimp | 538,996,879 |
| Recreational fisheries | 199,517,744 |
| **Total*** ** | **$1,141,897,752** |

**Oyster losses expected to continue for up to three years.

***Recreational losses primarily from lost license fees.

Source: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

STAFF GRAPHIC

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HURRICANE KATRINA AFTERMATH

# Temporary housing planned for 1 million

## *FEMA to create miniature towns*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau




Trailers that are part of the FEMA's massive temporary housing effort head toward the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base on Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

Officials have announced an aggressive plan to find federally funded temporary housing for the more than 1 million Louisiana residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina —including more than 100,000 still in shelters — that could create new miniature towns throughout the state.

The plan, which would be financed completely by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, would include about 200,000 manufactured homes and camping trailers, thousands of prefabricated apartment complexes and single-family homes and several cruise ships, said Jerry Jones, the director of facility planning and control for the state Department of Administration.

Louisiana officials have estimated that more than 250,000 homes in the New Orleans area are now uninhabitable, said Mark Smith, a spokesman for the state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Any individual whose house is no longer inhabitable and has not found any other suitable housing is eligible for FEMA housing.

Some of the FEMA housing units would go in hurricane-affected parishes, but many will be placed in unaffected parishes. There have not been any estimates on the possible cost of the housing plan, and some people may have to stay in the homes for two or three years, Jones said. State and federal officials have already begun moving employees of certain essential industries and companies into temporary housing to help jumpstart the economy. In addition, the state has obtained waivers from the federal government to eliminate all income-restrictions on any existing apartment complexes and single-family homes so that anyone can move into them.

Work has already begun on a temporary community of camping trailers in Baker, near Baton Rouge. Smith said that FEMA contractors have already begun installing the infrastructure — sewerage and roads— necessary for about 600 trailers.

Jones said the state has given FEMA a list of all state-owned land that could be used for housing and is working with local parishes to create a list of parish-owned land. Several dozen commercial properties are also under consideration. Once each site's location, existing infrastructure and availability are evaluated, Jones said residents would be moved in based on a priority system.

First priority would go to those individuals still in shelters, individuals with special needs or small children, and first responders. There are about 46,000 individuals still in Louisiana shelters alone, and hundreds of others are still in special-needs shelters. In addition, about 2,000 first responders are being housed in cruise ships in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish.

However, Lisa Woodruff White, the deputy secretary of Louisiana's Department of Social Services, said that the number of people in shelters across the country has decreased rapidly from its highest point of 230,000 a short time ago.

"We're keenly interested in getting our people back home," Jones said. "We want all the other states to know that those are our people and we want them back."

Kim Hunter Reed, the director of policy and planning for Gov. Kathleen Blanco, said the state is working to not only get all of its residents back to Louisiana, but to also get them in temporary housing near their previous homes. Reed said the goal is to create small semi-self-contained communities where FEMA will provide all of the necessary services, including transportation, job placement and some infrastructure.

Jones noted that the state plans to place people from the same communities and shelters together, so that they can retain their sense of community.

"We realize this must be done as expediently as possible," Reed said. "We want to ensure that these transitional communities are enriched communities."

Jones noted that some local officials have expressed concern about the possible impact on their areas' infrastructure and law enforcement from the large influx of residents. He said that FEMA understands that it may have to provide new roads, sewerage systems and policing forces to these communities. He attributed some of the alleged lag in the agency's response time to the uniqueness of Louisiana's plight, and said the agency is now fully aware of its responsibility.

"Everything a community needs, FEMA will have to provide," Jones said. "You can't just abandon our people."

David Passey, a FEMA spokesman, said the agency understands that Katrina will require several atypical actions by the federal government.

In most disasters, FEMA would have partnered with private insurance companies to provide residents with money to find their own housing. But Louisiana's existing housing shortage was only exacerbated by Katrina's destruction, which means that FEMA is in the position of having to create new communities for people. Passey said the enormity of the task, and people's natural impatience, may be driving the perception of the agency's slow response.

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# Dome might be salvageable, official says

*2nd inspection shows damage not as bad as originally thought*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

Cancel the wrecking ball. The Superdome might be salvageable after all.

A second inspection over the weekend revealed the damage to the 30-year-old stadium isn't as bad as first thought, said Doug Thornton, regional vice president of SMG, the company that manages the Superdome.

Thornton initially feared the landmark facility might need to be completely gutted because of damage from Hurricane Katrina and the thousands of storm victims who sought shelter there.

"I'm a little more encouraged after walking through it a second time," Thornton said. "I'm a little more optimistic."

The bad news is the adjacent New Orleans Arena, which also is managed by SMG, appears to be in worse shape than originally thought. Thornton said the building suffered extensive water damage on its south side, where floodwaters rose as high as four feet.

The four locker rooms on the ground floor still have standing water in them, as much as six inches in spots. The Harrah's Courtside Club and the hardwood basketball court are completely destroyed, he said.

"That building is a little worse than I first thought," Thornton said. "I'm a little discouraged by what we saw there."

Thornton and a team of about a dozen contractors and consultants toured the two buildings Friday and Saturday to begin initial damage assessments. He and a group of environmental contractors previously inspected the facilities Sept. 9.

J&J Maintenance Inc. the Austin, Texas-based company hired by FEMA, cleaned and removed massive amounts of debris and refuse inside the Dome and its outside concourses. The building now is almost completely free of debris and standing water.

"If you were to walk through it now you would say it's not that bad and could possibly be repaired," Thornton said. "The thing you don't know is how many of those electrical panels and transformers have been damaged beyond repair and have to be completely replaced; the same thing for the plumbing. And we still don't know what we're going to find when we start tearing down that Sheetrock."

Friday marked the first time anyone had inspected the building's roof, and, as expected, the results weren't good. Thornton estimated that more than 60 percent of the roof's sheet-metal decking and rubber exterior layer has been destroyed.

If the building is salvaged, Thornton said, the roof will need to be replaced. That alone could cost $6 million to $8 million, he estimated.

Meanwhile, consultants are trying to find a way to temporarily patch the roof until a final assessment is made. A polyurethane sealant likely will be sprayed over the roof's 9.7-acre surface to prevent more leaks while damage estimates are made.

Thornton hopes to select a sealant this week so workers can start the two- to three-day sealing job the following week.

"We've got to be cost-effective here," Thornton said. "You've got to be really careful, otherwise you're going to be spending a million or $2 million just to patch the roof."

On the bright side, he said, the concrete floors and steel superstructure appear sound. He's also optimistic that most of the 70,000-plus vinyl seats in the building can be salvaged. Most of the seats became covered in mold while sitting in the wet, still air — but Thornton thinks environmental cleanup crews can treat the damage.

The storm damage is confined mostly to carpets, dry wall, ceiling tiles, electrical panels, escalators and ventilators. He said the luxury suites, SMG offices, meetings rooms, press box and audio room were vandalized as well.

"That was very disheartening to see," he said. "The water damage to the interior carpet and walls wasn't as bad as the interior damage by the people.

"I don't understand why they did it. It wasn't like they were looking for food."

Thornton said someone appeared to have broken the windows to the audio room with a fire extinguisher, then used the device to spray — and subsequently ruin — the amps and other equipment.

"I don't get that," Thornton said. "What was that all about?"

Thornton said damage assessments will continue for the next two weeks. An environmental cleanup team is expected to s and removing hazardous waste this week.

Thornton is confident most if not all of the cleanup and reconstruction costs will be paid for by insurance and FEMA. He hopes to have a final damage assessment made in eight weeks.

He said it's way too early to estimate the final bill, but he thinks damage totals could eventually run between $100 million and $150 million.

"You get the feeling that if you could take this thing down to the bare walls and replace some of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing (systems), you could be back in business," Thornton said. "I don't know how long that would take, but structurally the building seems to be in pretty good shape."



NNS PHOTO

Doug Thornton, regional vice president of SMG, the company that manages the Superdome, said damage totals to the building could eventually reach $150 million.

## WHAT MIGHT BE SAVED

Officials say the concrete floors and steel superstructure of the Superdome appear sound. There is also hope that most of the 70,000-plus vinyl seats in the building can be salvaged, though they became covered in mold n the wet, still air. Environmental cleanup crews may be able to treat the damage.

## WHAT WAS DAMAGED

The storm damage is confined mostly to carpets, dry wall, ceiling tiles, electrical panels, escalators and ventilators. Luxury suites, SMG offices, meeting rooms, the press box and the audio room were vandalized as well. Damage assessments will continue for the next two weeks.

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**"Katrina laid all this bare — that Americans don't feel safe, and that's the No. 1 essential mission of government independent of party."**

GORDON ADAMS, director of security policy studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

# Government's shortcomings exposed

## *System not tailored to respond quickly*

**By David Wood and Chuck McCutcheon**
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — The muddled federal response to Hurricane Katrina has exposed a simple truth well known among government insiders: For reasons that run deep and probably can't be fixed, Washington has difficulty making long-range plans, coordinating its actions and tackling the tough political decisions required for swift disaster response and other critical responsibilities.

Katrina's immediate aftermath saw heroic service by individuals and stellar work by agencies such as the Coast Guard and U.S. Postal Service — the latter of which acted on early storm warnings and saved thousands of tons of mail by diverting it from the hurricane's path.

But overall, as President Bush finally acknowledged this week, Katrina "exposed serious problems in our response capability."

How could this happen?

Safeguarding its citizens is government's highest calling, and certainly no one in government service is actively working against that responsibility. Then why have the repeated warnings of experts and blue-ribbon commissions gone unheeded? Why, four years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, revealed precisely these deficiencies, have we not come to grip with them?

The answers go to the very heart of American democracy.

"You've got to redesign the system," said Newt Gingrich, former conservative Republican speaker of the House and fiery government reformer.

### Spread out, short-sighted

Washington veterans cite these key factors:

— Power and authority, as the founding fathers intended, are scattered across Congress, the White House, executive agencies and on through state and local governments. That complicates coherent planning, allocation of money and accountability.

— Two- or four-year election cycles keep attention spans short and focused on the next campaign. Money is appropriated year to year, with results demanded immediately.

— The executive and congressional bureaucracies stifle initiative and smother creativity, a problem some say has grown worse with the proliferation of congressional committees and subcommittees and the consolidation of independent agencies into the vast Department of Homeland Security.

— The rising demands of bitterly fought election campaigns tend to stifle political courage and spur partisan squabbling.

"Katrina laid all this bare — that Americans don't feel safe, and that's the No. 1 essential mission of government independent of party," said Gordon Adams, director of security policy studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

"It is a scary time," said Joan Claybrook, a longtime Washington player who headed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the Carter administration and is now president of Public Citizen, a government reform group.

"Every generation has seen challenges, but today we see the speed and destructive power of international and domestic threats. There is little time to adjust," she said. "We don't have the luxury of time anymore."

### Infighting persists

Chief among the federal government's structural problems is its division of responsibility, said Paul Light, professor of public service at New York University and author of many books on government reform.

"It's built into the Constitution that we have a federal system where states and localities have a lot of responsibility," he said. "Part of this is embedded in the system that we don't want a strong federal presence. ... The founders were clear in wanting to protect citizens from the national government."

Hence the initial and continuing confusion over who is in charge of the response to Katrina, the awkward breach between active-duty military commanders and the National Guard, the quarreling between Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Washington.

Despite the lessons of the recent past, "the bureaucratic infighting and turf protection seem undiminished," said Richard Ben-Veniste, a member of the Sept. 11 commission that aired the government's shortcomings related to the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"The word is 'caution,'" Paul McHale, assistant defense secretary for homeland defense, said in an interview last spring, in explaining how the Pentagon responds to emergencies. "We have to look at a mission and decide if a civilian capability is available and appropriate."

Caution is proper, he said — not from fear that the military "will impose its values on an unwilling society at the point of a bayonet," but out of concern that people will come to depend too much on the military. Even in a disaster, he said, "the military role should be limited."

### Focus on the here and now

A second structural problem is embedded in the calendar.

"If it's beyond the next election cycle, we'll worry about it next year after we get ourselves elected," said Winslow Wheeler, recently retired chief defense analyst for the Senate Budget Committee.

Work within the executive branch is similarly compressed, first by a four-year clock of presidential elections, then by the sheer number of crises.

Adams, senior budget director for national security in the Clinton administration, described his White House work this way: "I am standing with a paddle in the middle of a big room. All around the edge of the room, people are throwing balls at me. My job is deciding which balls to hit back. In the White House, that's long-range planning."

In that kind of pressure cooker, "you become risk-averse," said Wheeler, author of "The Wastrels of Defense: How Congress Sabotages U.S. Security."

"If you are outside the conventional wisdom, you are vulnerable," he said. "Both parties have purged themselves of big thinkers and a diversity of views."

So bad is the bureaucratic undertow, Gingrich said, that if you dropped a couple of whiz-bang business executives into the federal government, "in 60 days they'd become slower and less competent."

And without clear political vision, the work of Congress and the executive branch can dissolve into parochial sniping and pork-barrel politics.

"Retail politics seem to trump leadership," a frustrated Ben-Veniste pronounced after almost three years of investigating the government's failures in the Sept. 11 attacks. "Time and time again you see the political will is just lacking to make the kind of sacrifices that are needed."

### No one saying 'no'

Nowhere is this clearer than in the federal money distributed in the name of homeland security, including terrorism and disaster preparedness, a process that seems to ignore the most urgent needs.

Under congressional direction, for example, the Department of Homeland Security last year handed out grants to states for "counterterrorism" activities. South Dakota received $26.13 per capita, while New York — arguably a greater terrorist target — was given $5.37. Wyoming was given $37.13 per capita, while New Jersey got $6.37, according to DHS figures.

"No one in government is making hard choices," said David Williams, vice president of Citizens Against Government Waste, a nonprofit reform group in Washington. "It's about handing money out. There's very little of somebody saying, 'No.'"

And that, of course, includes the public. It's an old adage, but true: We get the government we demand.

"What is required here," Ben-Veniste said, "is a level of outrage from the citizenry to require that those in positions of leadership lead the country in a way that transcends those retail political concerns."

Not so fast, Adams said: "We are the nation of quick fix. Americans as a culture are into the short-term mentality: Fix me now.

"The difficulty with an outraged citizenry is impatience, and it's very hard for an outraged, impatient citizenry to focus on the long term," he said.

"But that's what we've got to do now."



AP FILE PHOTO

President Bush, left, listens to FEMA Director Michael Brown on Sept. 12 during a briefing in Mobile, Ala. Bush acknowledged last week that the hurricane 'exposed serious problems in our response capability.' Analysts blame the tie-ups on fragmented authority and short attention spans in Washington, D.C.

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# Tensions mount in Kenner between Capitano, Congemi

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

In another sign of normalcy returning to Kenner, a political storm has erupted between Mayor Phil Capitano and Police Chief Nick Congemi over how the mayor's administration and the elected chief's department responded to Hurricane Katrina.

Capitano says police failed to work with City Hall and sometimes blocked his administration's rescue and relief efforts, while running an independent operation out of police headquarters. Congemi says the Police Department simply implemented its own long-standing emergency response plan, whereas City Hall had none, and that Capitano is now trying to shift blame for his own shortcoming.

The finger-pointing underscores political differences that date from the 1990s and that climaxed March 9, 2004, when Capitano defeated Congemi in a special mayoral election to complete the term of the chief's brother, Louis, who had resigned. It also sets the stage for the spring election season, when Congemi seems likely to challenge Capitano for a four-year term.

During the chaos before, during and after Katrina, Capitano said, the administration and Police Department rarely communicated with each other and sometimes were at cross purposes.

"The chief gave us little or no cooperation before or after the storm," Capitano said. "He would not return phone calls and in some cases, the department hampered our relief efforts."

Congemi called the allegation ludicrous. "We had a plan for the storm, and they did not," Congemi said. "Now that their failures are becoming apparent, they are trying to shift the blame to the men and women of this department who risked their lives for this community."

Congemi said he met with Capitano's staff twice in the two weeks after the storm when they requested his presence, attended numerous meetings at the Jefferson Parish Emergency Operations Center where Capitano was present and that his staff took daily calls from Capitano's chief of staff, Phil Ramon.

"Why are they waiting until now to bring this up?" he asked.

But City Hall staffers say they got little information from the Police Department, which ran a parallel but separate relief operation from its headquarters at 500 Veterans Memorial Blvd., about three miles from City Hall.

Asked if his department's emergency plan includes coordination with City Hall, Congemi said his department coordinates "with anyone who comes in the door."

"We give the administration a general idea of what we're doing," said Capt. Steve Caraway. "But do we tell them how many police officers we have on the streets and where they are? No."

Capitano administration officials point to several clashes between their employees and police:

— On Aug. 30, two police officers ordered a city truck on its way to get supplies for a shelter to stop in high water, and one of the officers began to draw his gun when the driver put the vehicle in gear to keep it from flooding, said Clerk of Court Keith Conley, who was in the vehicle.

"They wanted to know where we were going, even though we were in a city truck and had city IDs. I've never seen anything like it," said Conley, an attorney and 21-year veteran of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Congemi said he had not heard of the event. He said Conley should have filed a complaint with the Police Department's internal affairs division if he had concerns about the matter.

"I saw him the other night at a meeting and we had a pleasant conversation. He didn't say anything about it to me," Congemi said.

— Sept. 9, Kenner police officers working a checkpoint at the city limits delayed a truck carrying parts to repair the municipal sewer system for two hours because it arrived after the 6 p.m. curfew set by Parish President Aaron Broussard, said Joanne Massoney, Kenner project manager for Veolia Water, the contractor that runs the sewer system.

Massoney said she drove to the checkpoint from City Hall with permits to enter the city, but the officers still had to be persuaded to let the truck through.

"Then, they didn't want to let me back in even though I had just come from City Hall," she said. Congemi said the officers were following the curfew orders of Parish President Aaron Broussard, whose position gives him enhanced authority during officially declared emergencies such as Katrina. Caraway said officers staffing the checkpoints had instructions to let such trucks through.

— Fire Chief Mike Zito said that on Sept. 7, a police officer in an unmarked police car pulled over the Fire Department's chief medical officer. "He wanted to know where he was going and why he had his lights on," Zito said. Firefighter Iggy Rosales was carrying doses of tetanus shots to a shelter, Zito said. "The police officer said that he knew from 911 that there was no emergency in progress, and he was right. There wasn't one," he said.

— Ramon, Capitano's chief of staff, said Congemi refused to provide security for the City Hall complex in the first days after the storm, when there were reports of looting and sniper fire.

"We had some National Guardsmen here, but they were unarmed," Ramon said.

The tension between Capitano and Congemi is becoming even more evident three weeks after Katrina passed. On Friday, the police chief and Cedric Floyd, Capitano's chief administrative officer, got into a shouting match in front of a Cable News Network news crew over the fate of residents of the storm-damaged Redwood Apartments, which caters to working poor Hispanic Americans.

As Floyd made a food delivery to the complex, Congemi accused him of trying to force them to leave Kenner. Congemi said Kenner needs to build housing for them.

"The truth is that you all don't want these people here, and you're trying to run them off. That's what this is really about," Congemi said, according to a transcript of the exchange that ran on CNN that night. Congemi carried the precinct that includes the 1,800-resident Redwood complex in the 2004 election.

"Chief, guess what? I'm a minority. And you discriminate. You discriminate," said Floyd, who is African-American.

"You're a rich minority. A rich minority," Congemi replied. "You run off your mouth about how much you care about these people, and you don't give them anything."

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The Ninemile Point Electric Generating Plant had proposed to obtain an initial Part 70 air operaing permit for this existing electric generating facility. The Ninemile Point Electric Generating Plant **(Agency Interest Number AI2841, Permit Number 1340-00006-V0, and Activity Tracking Number PER19960001)** had been operating under Permit Number 529C, issued December 12, 1975 and Permit Number 1340-00006-IV0, issued October 23, 1996. The Ninemile Point Electric Generating Plant is a fossil fueled electric generating facility made up of five steam generating units.

Inquiries or requests for additional information regarding this permit action should be directed to Dustin Duhon, LDEQ, Permits Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, phone (225) 219-3080. Additional information about the public noticing process may be obtained from Ms. Soumaya Ghosn in writing at LDEQ, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, phone (225) 219-3276, or by email at maillistrequest@ldeq.org.

The original public notice and request for public comment that was published in The Advocate and The Times-Picayune on August 27, 2005 can be viewed on the LDEQ Permits Public Web page at WWW.deq.state.la.us/news/PubNotice/.

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**DRIVERS ROLL** OFF Needed ASAP. Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS CDL License required. $12/hour. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**ROLL-OFF DRIVERS,** Experienced. Please Call For More Information: 901-854-8865

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

***NOW HIRING** Front desk staff, restaurant staff, & housekeeping. Apply online at greatjobs.marriott.com or 985-871-0244

**CHURCH'S CHICKEN:** Reloc Help-CA. Call (949)631-4337 Fax(949)631-0425, westlandben@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT PROPERTY** MANAGERS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Strong customer service & sales background. Competitive pay + commissions. Vacation, insurance, 401K Match. Fax resumes to 225-383-41862

**BEST BUY** Slidell and Veteren's Blvd Locations. Now hiring General Managers. Plan, manage and control operations of a Best Buy retail store. Experience in retail sales management, planning and cost analysis, along w/the ability to lead and inspire a team of assistant managers and non-exempt employees. Best Buy offers competitive pay, employee discounts, great benefits and excellent career opportunities. Apply online at careers.bestbuy.com EOE DFWP

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie & Kenner apts. 3 years exp req. Strong customer srvc. & comm skills. Salary + bonus, vac, ins, 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**SALON MANAGER,** Planet Beach, Is seeking a Mgr for the New Orleans-Uptown Location. The #1 Location in the US. Base Salary, Commission, Bonuses and Overrides. Health Insurance and cell phone paid. Opportunity for Executive Advancement. Membership Sales and Cosmetic Sales Exp Desired. Email Resumes To: jodie.mateu@planetbeach.com

### 4110 Mechanical

**DIESEL MECHANIC** Needed ASAP with own tools, Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

## Employment

### 4120 Medical

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's LPN's Cert. Aides NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS Great Pay Rates & Benefits Join A Winning Team! Fax, Email, Mail Resumes Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney Administrator Tel: 985-626-8581 Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com 1401 Highway 190 Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**WOODLAND VILLAGE** We're coming home! Millennium management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans is re-opening its doors to our residents & our employees. If you are a current employee of Woodland Village, Please contact us or return to the facility. If you are a displaced New Orleans resident & are ready to return home, we are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. 504-394-5807

### 4145 Retail

**AUTO SALES** Attention Hurricane Survivors - Landmark Ford In Tigard Oregon, The Northwest's #1 Volume Ford Dealer, is Hiring Experienced new and used auto sales professionals displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We Will pay relocation expenses for you and your family. Great Benefits, Incentives and Unique pay and longevity bonus plans. Call Sales Manager For Interview 503-639-1131

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**LANDSCAPING** - Installers and maintenance crew. Please call 985-871-4954

**Looking for** Structural Steel Fitters and Welders. Pay DOE. Insurance benefits, 401(k), dental. Tyler, TX area. Fax resume w/history: 903-595-4554

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Off road motorcycle enthusiast wanted to package and prep product for national sales distribution. Contact Benson, 985-875-9192

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multi-task while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

### 7560 West Bank

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

### 7570 Mandeville/Covington

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

### 7580 Slidell

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

### 7615 Mississippi

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7690 Rent/Lease/Comm./ Offices

**COVINGTON Law** Office Space Available. Office Services Available. Call 985-893-9962

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $185,000, 504-468-8882

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment with appliances, available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

### 8104 West Bank

**WEST BANK** 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

### 8106 Mandeville/Covington

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves sub-division, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

### 8108 Slidell

**NO FLOODING!** 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, fireplace, 1040 square feet living. James 985-640-1890

### 8150 Rentals Wanted

**LA PROPERTIES** NEEDED! Available immediately, all types, furn./unfurn. RX Housing. 888-569-3301 or www.rxhousing.com

## AUTOMOTIVE

### 8880 Miscellaneous

**'04 Sprinter** 27.6' Fifth wheel, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 985-537-5332

**'95 Rexhall** Aerbus MH, 28.5ft, 63K. Very Clean, Great Cond. $16,000. 903-963-8155

**05 PUMA** PALOMINO 26ft, slide, Sleeps 6. Must Sell Due To Illness. $18,500. 985-764-3602

## BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

### 8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers

**Backhoes, manlift,** telescopic handler with forks, etc. 812-547-0933, 812-547-3321, or email twincities@psci.net.

# ‘Radio Slidell’ to offer recovery information

## *AM, FM stations plan simulcast*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

By Monday, Slidell hopes to be broadcasting up-to-date information on Hurricane Katrina recovery operations, rebuilding, business reopenings, loan and assistance aid, and interviews with city and other officials.

“Radio Slidell” will be simulcast on WPOR-FM 94.7 and WSLA-AM 1560, city public affairs director Kelli Gustafson and Slidell area Chamber of Commerce director Jamene Dahmer said Friday.

The regional WPOR, owned by Northshore Broadcasting in Hammond, has been closed for some time, Dahmer said, although the company recently bought a new tower that suffered only minor damage and will be used.

WSLA on Coast Boulevard was shut down by the storm.

The hours of operation for Radio Slidell, a joint effort of the city, chamber and others, will be flexible for a while, depending on the conditions of the stations, but will soon go around the clock, officials said.

Gustafson and assistant Kim Bergeron are scheduled to be the announcers in a format similar to the “official voice” of Access St. Tammany radio. The city also hopes to provide more detailed information on its Web site, www.slidell.la.us.

St. Tammany Parish government has had a similar operation on WASO-AM 730 for the past two weeks.

City officials had hoped to get Radio Slidell on the air this weekend, but officials said the WSLA building would have to be cleaned up and the equipment checked out.

A Marine Corps sound engineer temporarily stationed in Slidell during the storm aftermath and others will help get the station broadcasting facilities ready for a Monday sign-on, Gustafson said.

Dahmer said business news also will be offered. The chamber’s West Hall Avenue office has been relocated to Whitney National Bank at 1338 Gause Blvd. The chamber’s phone number is the same, 643-5678.

# Alleged evacuee charged with fraud

## *He told FEMA, Red Cross that he lost his home*

**By Wayne Parry**
Associated Press writer

NEWARK, N.J. – His story was as heart-rending as it was amazing: fleeing Hurricane Katrina before his Gulf Coast trailer and all his possessions were washed away, hitchhiking to the nearest Greyhound bus terminal and riding for days to New Jersey, where a kindhearted homeless woman, moved by his inability to locate his long-lost sister, directed him to an emergency shelter.

Almost none of it was true, authorities say.

Donald Adair, 42, who spent hours spinning his tale of woe to an Associated Press reporter last week, was arrested Saturday, accused of scamming the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency out of thousands of dollars in aid meant for hurricane victims.

He was charged with theft by deception, theft of services, falsifying a public record and filing a false financial report.

Adair was being held at the county jail on $25,000 bail, and has admitted making up his tale of being a hurricane victim, Feldman said.

An Associated Press reporter met Adair at an emergency shelter in Newark on Sept. 9, where Adair said he was a Hurricane Katrina evacuee who had arrived in Newark the day before in search of his sister.

Adair told a Red Cross volunteer his identification had been lost in his hurried flight from the storm. He told an AP reporter, and later repeated to the Red Cross, that he had lived in Mississippi for about 10 years. When the Red Cross worker asked for his ZIP code in Mississippi, he said he didn’t remember it.

**BUILDINGS CAN BE REPLACED. LIVES CANNOT.**

Don’t endanger your life by disregarding safety as you return home. Hurricane Katrina left Entergy’s gas and electric systems in the New Orleans area severely damaged. As we work to repair the gas system and restore electrical power, we ask that you make safety your top priority. Full power and gas restoration will be a long and difficult process. And with your help and patience we can rebuild what was destroyed. The storm is over. But the danger is not. Below is a list of guidelines and safety precautions to keep in mind when assessing your damage.



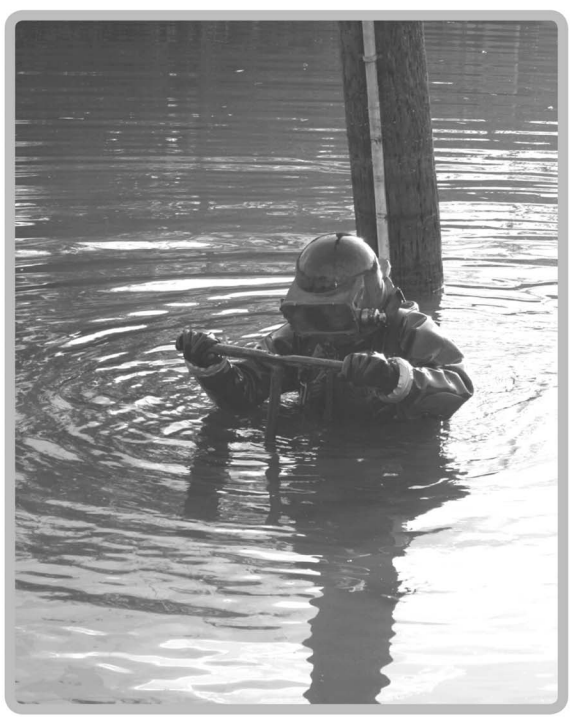
**Stay away from downed power lines and areas of debris.** Energized power lines may not be visible among the rubble. Report downed lines immediately to Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749). If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, continue to drive away from the line.

**Generator safety.** Use generators in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Never run a generator indoors. Carbon Monoxide from the exhaust can kill. Electricity and water don’t mix. Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator. Never connect a generator directly to a building’s wiring without a licensed electrician. It can create a lethal safety hazard for you, your neighbors, and Entergy’s linemen working to restore power.

**Use extreme caution.** Look for electrical system damage once power is restored. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or the smell of hot insulation is noticeable, turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Call an electrician for advice when necessary. Don’t step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker.

**IF YOUR NATURAL GAS IS TURNED OFF, FOR SAFETY’S SAKE, LEAVE IT OFF**

*If you have pipe damage, you’ll need a licensed plumber*



To help ensure your personal safety and the safety of your property, Entergy has likely turned your natural gas service off. Please do not attempt to turn it on yourself. This could cause a safety hazard for you and your property.

If your home was flooded or sustained structural damage, you should contact a licensed plumber to inspect gas piping and make repairs.

Please do the following:

1) **Have repairs made by a licensed plumber**
2) **Have repairs certified by a city inspector**
3) **Call Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) when the repairs are completed**

We will arrange to have gas service turned on at your home as soon as you have had a certified plumber and city inspector confirm that gas service is safe to turn on. Someone must be present for your gas to be turned on.

If you smell gas at your home or any in other building, you should leave the area immediately and go to a safe area and call us at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) to report the location of the suspected leak.

For more important safety information – go to www.entergy.com and click on Returning Home Safely.

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THE POWER OF PEOPLE℠

Ochsner

# Healthcare that's always here

## Ochsner is here

Throughout Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, we stayed open to help everyone from the tiniest of newborns to the frailest of elderly.

## Ochsner answers the call

We continue to provide uninterrupted healthcare for Ochsner patients and others in need of medical assistance:

- **We deployed close to 100 doctors to areas closest to you in Baton Rouge and the outlying regions**
- **We are flexible and are planning to open even more clinics and provide more specialists and physicians to these areas based on the town's needs and the needs of patients**
- **Our electronic medical information technology ensures that all Ochsner patient records remain accessible from any Ochsner clinic**

## Ochsner is everywhere you are

From the South and North Shores of New Orleans to Baton Rouge, our unique network of local clinics, hospitals, and physicians are ready to assist you with your every healthcare need — whether it be routine health matters or something more serious.

## Call Ochsner today

An Ochsner healthcare professional is waiting to answer your call.

## Ochsner is open in the North Shore Region:
## For medical assistance or an appointment, call 1-985-875-2828

**Ochsner North Shore Medical Center**
1000 Ochsner Blvd., Covington

**Ochsner Abita Springs**
22070 Highway 59, Abita Place, Abita Springs

**Ochsner Tangipahoa**
41676 Veterans Ave., Hammond

**Ochsner Slidell**
2750 East Gause Blvd., Slidell

## Ochsner is open in the Greater New Orleans Region:
## For medical assistance or an appointment, call 1-504-842-3155

**Ochsner Main Campus**
1514 Jefferson Highway

**Ochsner Pediatric Clinic**
1315 Jefferson Highway

**Ochsner Destrehan**
1970 Ormond Boulevard

**Ochsner Kenner**
2120 Driftwood Boulevard

**Ochsner Metairie**
2005 Veterans Memorial Boulevard

**Ochsner Lapalco**
4225 Lapalco Boulevard

**St. Anne General Hospital**
4608 Highway 1, Raceland

## Ochsner is open in the Baton Rouge Region:
## For medical assistance or an appointment, call 1-225-761-5200 or 1-800-346-9383

**Ochsner Bluebonnet**
Baton Rouge Main Campus
9001 Summa Avenue

**Ochsner Baton Rouge East**
2345 O'Neal Lane

**Ochsner Baton Rouge Mid-City**
3401 North Blvd., Ste. 200

**Ochsner Baton Rouge Prairieville**
16260 Airline Highway, Suite A

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www.ochsner.org

OCHSNER ACCEPTS ALL MAJOR HEALTH PLANS

# AFTER THE STORM

### LA. DEATH TOLL
**646**

**490** bodies at the metrowide morgue at St. Gabriel
**63** bodies in East Baton Rouge Parish
**30** bodies in Jefferson Parish
**20** bodies in Tangipahoa Parish
**14** bodies in Terrebonne Parish
**7** bodies in St. Tammany Parish
**6** bodies in Iberia Parish
**5** bodies in St. Charles Parish
**4** bodies in Livingston Parish
**3** bodies in Plaquemines Parish
**2** bodies in Assumption Parish
**2** bodies in West Baton Rouge Parish

### IN THE SHELTERS
**52,140** PEOPLE IN LA.
**26,840** IN TEXAS
**31,626** ELSEWHERE
**675** SHELTERS
**25** STATES

### POWER
**ENTERGY CUSTOMERS**
ORLEANS PARISH **19%**
JEFFERSON PARISH **90%**
PLAQUEMINES PARISH **26%**
ST. BERNARD PARISH **1%**
ST.CHARLES PARISH **99%**
ST. TAMMANY PARISH **99%**
▶ Power outages caused by Hurricane Katrina have been restored to Entergy customers who can take power in the following parishes: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
ABITA SPRINGS **86%**
COVINGTON **80%**
LACOMBE **41%**
FRANKLINTON **91%**
MADISONVILLE **99%**
MANDEVILLE **95%**

### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
▶ Standard mail delivery, including letters and periodicals, suspended in ZIP codes that begin with 395, 700, 701 and 704
▶ Suspension lifted for ZIP codes that begin with 369, 393, 394 and 396
▶ Temporary change of address forms available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

### FEDERAL AID
Eight parishes, municipalities and state departments have already received about $218 million in reimbursements, and the remaining approved money should be distributed soon.
▶ New Orleans: **$102,837,450**
▶ Louisiana Office of Homeland Security: **$70,386,000**
▶ St. Bernard Parish: **$31,601,040**
▶ Plaquemine Parish: **$4,354,000**
▶ Lafourche Parish: **$6,669,000**
▶ Louisiana Department of Transportation: **$1,180,075**
▶ Louisiana Department of Public Safety: **$348,030**
▶ St. Tammany Parish: **$323,609**

### PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
▶ Algiers, set to open to residents today
▶ Officials meeting today to decide opning schedule for neighborhoods that did not flood
▶ Flooded areas of the parish closed

**JEFFERSON**
▶ Both the east and west banks opened Sunday.
▶ Boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
▶ 911 phone system back online
▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
▶ Street cleaning crews worked throughout the weekend.
▶ Gas, food unavailable; no utility services
▶ Parish officials allowing residents in by sections, giving them a two-day window to retrieve their belongings and leave

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
▶ Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
▶ Parish is open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
▶ Parish is open

# General follows orders from younger daughter



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, the commanding general of Joint Task Force Katrina, talks with Gov. Kathleen Blanco on Sept. 7 in the back of a truck as it rumbles through the Central Business District. Honore has a personal stake in the recovery effort: He is from Louisiana, and one of his daughters lives in Kenner.

**HONORE,** *from A-1*

Honore didn't sign up for this. When President Bush assigned him to command Joint Task Force Katrina, Honore knew it would be the most difficult operation of his life. He commands more than 20,000 active-duty troops from all military branches devoted to the storm recovery operation in the three-state region. He didn't anticipate that in doing so, he'd become a national celebrity.

The 36-year military veteran from Lakeland, La., has become Hurricane Katrina's reluctant superstar.

"The general is getting tired of all of these profiles," Steele said. "He's a humble guy. He didn't want to become a celebrity from all this. He wants the focus to be on the mission and not on himself."

Good luck.

The Honore legend began from the moment his boots hit Canal Street and national TV cameras captured him dressing down soldiers for carrying their firearms with the barrels pointed too high.

Then, with the floodwaters rising and his city in disarray, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin cemented Honore's hero status during an emotional interview with WWL-AM radio in the chaotic days after the storm. A few breaths after he ripped President Bush and the federal government for their slow response, Nagin went out of his way to praise Honore, admiringly dubbing the general "one John Wayne dude."

"He came off the doggone chopper, and he started cussing and people started moving," Nagin said. "And he's getting some stuff done. They ought to give that guy — if they don't want to give it to me — give him full authority to get the job done, and we can save some people."

Honore became an overnight sensation.

In the aftermath of the storm, he has emerged as the white knight for those affected by Katrina, a salty-mouthed, cigar-chomping guardian angel in camouflage. His take-charge attitude and no-nonsense style have endeared him to storm victims who were frustrated by the dithering and finger-pointing of administration officials.

"We're very fortunate to have someone of his experience and ability here," New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said. "He's a good man and very much has control of the Army. He and I have worked together very, very well."

Time Magazine said Honore has built a strong case for its prestigious Person of the Year award, and it's almost certain President Bush will reward him with a fourth star for his tireless work in the flooded streets of New Orleans and the debris-strewn Mississippi and Alabama coasts.

"He deserves it," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, who, under Honore's direction, commands the 7,000 active-duty troops in the 82nd Airborne Division. "He's a great leader. He knows the area, understands the people and doesn't take 'no' for an answer."

A quick study, Honore has learned to refine his message to the media. Many of his pet phrases are now well known to the hundreds of reporters who have covered the Katrina story daily since Aug. 29. Among them:
▶ "The storm had a vote."
▶ "Don't confuse a plan with execution. A plan is like good intentions. You don't win with good intentions."
▶ "You're looking at a calendar, and I'm looking at my watch."
▶ "Normally, we go in and break things. Here we're trying to fix things."

Honore has compared Katrina to a military opponent, saying the hurricane made "a classic military maneuver" by surprising its victims and overwhelming them with shock and force.

"This was an evil storm," Honore said. "We've got a disaster of biblical proportions here."

He's also fond of comparing the mission to a football game.

"By definition, you're going to lose the first quarter in a disaster," he said in a now well-worn analogy. "What does a coach do when his team is losing 25-0 after the first quarter? Does he call the quarterback over and tell him how stupid he is because he didn't play right, or does he get out the white board and start making adjustments?

"Now we can stay talking about the first quarter. All of you are talking about the first quarter. But there's still three quarters left to this thing. The next three quarters can be as tragic as the first quarter if we don't handle this right."

Lately, Honore has grown increasingly weary of dealing with the horde of reporters in the area. During a briefing with city officials at City Hall last week, he spent most of his time checking his watch and working his cell phone. After 15 minutes and one question, he shook Compass' hand and bolted.

"I can't swing a stick and not a hit a reporter," Honore said. "I didn't know there were so many of them."

Honore tangled with two reporters Friday during an impromptu news conference at the staging area at Harrah's New Orleans Casino.

When grilled about the breakdowns in security for the thousands of evacuees at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, he showed reporters why his troops have nicknamed him "The Ragin' Cajun."

"OK, reporter," he growled. "How many people did you take out? How many people did you give water to?"

Another reporter asked Honore why it took so long for the evacuation buses to arrive and noted that he was able to drive himself into the city.

"Where were we going to find the buses at, mister?," he shouted. He added: "You see, you're confusing what you can do with money in your pocket and the corporate sponsorship of some news company with taking care of 20,000 people with no water in an unsafe environment. You're confusing what you can do with how you try to take care of that many people in that amount of time. Don't confuse that, OK?"

Honore is uniquely qualified for his recent mission. He was commander of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and commander of the Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Homeland Security, part of the U.S. Northern Command. He saw action in Iraq and Kuwait during 1991's Operation Desert Storm, and he holds a master's degree in human resources management.

As a Louisiana native and commanding general of the 1st Army at Fort Gillem, Ga., Honore was familiar with the disaster zone. Honore spent two summers with relatives in New Orleans' 9th Ward. As a child, he spent two weeks at Charity Hospital after being hit in the head with a baseball bat.

Honore said his primary goal is to save lives and help the city's recovery efforts. He empathizes with many of the evacuees, especially the ones who suffered in the hellish conditions at the Convention Center and Superdome.

"By-and-large, these were people that were frustrated — I would be, too," Honore said. "I get frustrated at the cash register counter when the paper runs out."

Although gruff and intense with his troops, Honore has displayed uncommon compassion with many of the elderly, infirm and poor people affected by the storm.

"These were mostly poor people who didn't have much other than their homes," Honore said. "We didn't pull anybody off those rooftops that said, 'Damn, I left my Lexus!' "

Of the poor, he said: "When it's hot, they're hotter. When it's cold, they're colder. When the wind blows, they go over farther. And when a plague hits, they die faster."

Honore can identify with Louisiana's underprivileged. He was one of them once.

The son of a Creole farmer, Honore was the youngest boy in a family of 12 children. He was raised on a farm in Lakeland, a rural community northwest of Baton Rouge in Pointe Coupee Parish. The family raised sugar cane, corn, squash and cotton. They also had pigs, cows and chickens.

He graduated from Southern University in 1971 and entered the Army as a second lieutenant through the ROTC program. He rose steadily through the ranks.

"When he shoots from the hip, it's always based on experience, and his experience is where the rubber meets the road," said Army Gen. Dennis Reimer, who served as Army chief of staff from 1995 to 1999, in an interview with the Washington Post.

Said Caldwell: "They call him 'Ragin Cajun' for a reason. When he gets on a tirade, it's something to watch. Some people deal with that better than others, but I love him to death."

Honore, who turned 58 Thursday, and his wife, Beverly, have four children. Oldest son Michael, 29, is an Army sergeant who recently served in Baghdad, Iraq. Their youngest child, Stephen, is 15.

His oldest daughter, Stephanie, lives in Florida, where she recently gave birth to Honore's first grandson. His other daughter, Kimberly, lives in Kenner. She evacuated to Stephanie's home in St. Petersburg when Hurricane Katrina hit. But, like many evacuees, she left behind her pets.

She e-mailed her father daily to rescue her cat, Gumbo, and hamster, Hammie. After 10 days in the city, Honore finally accomplished the search-and-rescue mission.

"I've got 80 helicopters in the air and we're trying to evacuate 20,000 people from the Convention Center, and she's e-mailing me every day about her cat," Honore said.

A man of duty, the general followed orders. He made the trek to Jefferson Parish.

"The good news is they were OK," Honore said. "The cat was living large in that place."

# Operators fall apart once off the phone

**911,** *from A-1*

After that first call, the one that still sticks in Allen's head, they all blended together.

"It was a lot of hollering and screaming and, 'Help me, please don't let me die,' and 'The water's coming up' and 'We're all going to die' … 'I have a baby' … 'Where do you go? What do you do? What time are you coming?'" Allen said after working another 12-hour shift one day last week.

Such moments are captured in wrenching clarity in a sampling of 911 tapes released by the New Orleans Police Department.

In one, an operator identified only as "operator 16" calmly and politely advises just-as-polite resident from "1623 Rampart, between Tupelo and Gordon" that help would not arrive anytime soon.

"I'm stuck in the attic, me and my sister and them, and my mama, and we got water in the whole house," the caller says.

"How many people are in this location with you?"

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine people."

"OK, ma'am, we're going to try to get somebody out there to 1623, OK.?"

"OK, thank you."

"You're welcome."

Another woman called from eastern New Orleans, reporting a spreading fire across the street.

"I'm calling to report a fire, at 6131 Bundy Road."

"What type?"

"There's a whole apartment complex on fire ... "

"Do you know how long … ," the operator interrupts.

"No, ma'am."

" Do you know if anybody's inside the house?"

"I know there's people over there, that's what I'm trying to say … "

"… OK, we'll get somebody out there."

"Ok. Thanks."

Another woman called from 1428 Gallier St. in the 9th Ward.

"How many inside the location with you, ma'am?" the operator asks.

"I got a handicapped girl and I got a baby that's on a pump machine ... we're in the bed ... But the water is coming up."

"He's an infant?"

"Yeah, the baby's 8 months …"

"OK, what you need to do – we're trying our best – but you need to get to higher ground, until we're able to get to you."

As Hurricane Katrina sent water rushing into the 9th Ward and eastern New Orleans the day of the storm, Allen listened for a full hour to the callers before taking a break. Many of the operators around her couldn't take it for more than 15 minutes before breaking into sobs and handing the chair over to a revolving cast of replacements. When they recovered their composure, they stepped back in line to relieve those who just had relieved them.

In between such stunted shifts, the women gathered in the hallways, weeping and hugging, watching for which of their colleagues would be the next to break down.

"It's a given that they handle life-and-death emergency calls," said Joe Narcisse, second in command at the call center. "But they don't handle calls where somebody's going to die call after call after call. It was a kind of doomsday, sum-of-all-fears atmosphere."

Yet the women processed the calls like they always do, knowing that for so many of the people they had tried to soothe, it wouldn't matter. At times they couldn't get clear answers even on the most basic information from distressed callers.

In one call that drove home the deadly power of the storm, Narcisse said, an operator asked for an address the caller couldn't possibly give.

"His house had floated down the street," Narcisse said.

Even as they continued to get frantic calls from east of the Industrial Canal, nearest the storm, the passing of the storm gave way to a brief sense of relief, an end in sight.

Then the floodwall at the 17th Street Canal burst, sending water raging into the city all night and generating a whole new round of frantic calls. The new wave of destruction swamped Allen's house in Gentilly.

As the city continued to flood late Aug. 29 and into Aug. 30, the difference between day and night blurred as the operators continued to struggle through short shifts, replacing one another as each reached the limit of horrors.

Meanwhile, the water crept closer to the call center, already damaged by wind. Gordon roamed the center that night, trying to determine whether to move the operation to a safer room.

By daybreak, the water came in around the operators' ankles, then to their knees. Gordon had little choice: The operators loaded onto boats that would take them to the Broad Street overpass, where they would bake in the heat for several hours before spending several uncomfortable days at downtown hotels.

Even as the water had come into their building, the operators' phones never stopped working. They were ringing as the boats pulled away.

Now, more than two weeks after the storm, almost all of the operators have left town, in many cases joining their evacuated families out of state. Only about 15 operators, including Allen, remained in the city and working this week. State Police operators have stepped in to fill the gap, 911 officials said.

Allen has yet to take a day off. She hasn't seen her house, her boyfriend or her two sons, who all evacuated. She doesn't know when she'll be able to see them, and her cell phone rarely works. She's also waiting for calls from FEMA and her insurance company.

But she said she plans to keep her $9-an-hour job, and to stay in New Orleans.

"I'm not leaving New Orleans," she said. "If I have to rebuild, I'll rebuild."

# Money for evacuation plan misspent, officials say

## *Congress gave FEMA $500,000 in 1997*

**By Rita Beamish**
Associated Press writer

As far back as eight years ago, Congress ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a plan for evacuating New Orleans during a massive hurricane, but the money instead went to studying the Causeway that spans Lake Pontchartrain, officials say.

The outcome provides one more example of the government's failure to prepare for a massive but foreseeable catastrophe, said the lawmaker who helped secure the money for FEMA to develop the evacuation plan.

"They never used it for the intended purpose," said former Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La. "The whole intent was to give them resources so they could plan an evacuation of New Orleans that anticipated that a very large number of people would never leave."

In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, attention has focused on the inability of local and federal officials to evacuate or prepare for the large number of poor people, many of them minorities who had no access to transportation and remained behind.

That possibility was one of the concerns that led Congress in 1997 to set aside $500,000 for FEMA to create "a comprehensive analysis and plan of all evacuation alternatives for the New Orleans metropolitan area."

Frustrated two years later that nothing materialized, Congress strengthened its directive. This time it ordered "an evacuation plan for a Category 3 or greater storm, a levee break, flood or other natural disaster for the New Orleans area."

The $500,000 that Congress appropriated for the evacuation plan went to a commission that studied future options for the 24-mile bridge over Lake Pontchartrain, FEMA spokesman Butch Kinerney said.

The hefty report produced by the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission "primarily was not about evacuation," said Robert Lambert, the general manager for the bridge expressway. "In general it was an overview of all the things we need to do" for the Causeway through 2016.

Lambert said he could not trace how or if FEMA money came to the commission. Nor could Shelby LaSalle, a Causeway consulting engineer who worked on the plan.

LaSalle said it would be "ludicrous" to consider his report an evacuation plan, although it had a transportation evacuation section, dated Dec. 19, 1997. That part was tacked on mainly to promote the Causeway for future designation as an official evacuation route, LaSalle said.

"We didn't do anything for FEMA," he added.

Asked why the congressional mandate was never fulfilled, Barry Scanlon, senior vice president in the consulting firm of former FEMA Director James Lee Witt, said he believes the agency did what it needed when it gave the money to the state.

"FEMA received an earmark which it processed through to the state as instructed by Congress," Scanlon said. Witt is now a private consultant to Gov. Kathleen Blanco on the Katrina aftermath.

Tauzin said he, too, could never find out where the money went. "They gave it to the Causeway commission? That's wacky," he said.

At the time eight years ago, the Louisiana delegation had plenty of political muscle to get the money. Then-Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., was chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which controls the government's purse strings.

Livingston, now a lobbyist, said he could not explain what happened either, although he knew of other predictive hurricane studies over the years.

"Do I wish the study had been made? Sure, but now that's by the boards. We're doing the best we can right now to repair and rebuild," he said.

FEMA typically contracts its studies to private or government entities. Kinerney, the agency spokesman, said it appeared the money went through the Louisiana government. State emergency and transportation officials said they do not recall it.

After nothing came of its first directive, FEMA addressed the need for an evacuation plan "off and on" over the years, Kinerney said. Last year, the agency undertook the massive "Hurricane Pam" project that was supposed to create a comprehensive emergency plan for New Orleans.

That work was unfinished when Katrina struck, though its first phase involved an elaborate hurricane simulation that was eerily predictive of Katrina's disaster.

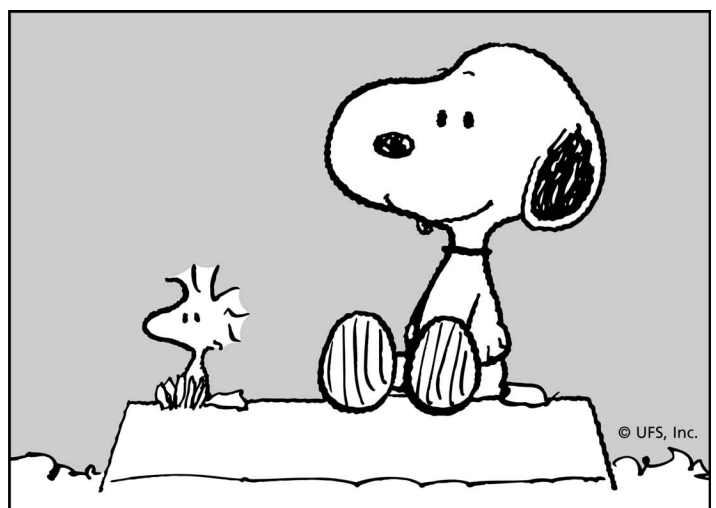
Asked about any earlier FEMA-funded plan, Mark Smith, spokesman for the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said, "To the best of our knowledge we can find no information on this."

Congress' 1999 language directed that FEMA consult with that state agency as well as the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

FEMA's parent agency, the Homeland Security Department, did provide $75,000 to print 1 million evacuation maps that were distributed this year for the state's updated transportation evacuation blueprint, state transportation spokesman Mark Lambert said.

That plan used phased evacuation orders and reverse-flow traffic patterns to avoid the highway snarls New Orleans saw during Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

But that plan was designed for traffic management, not to provide transportation or contingencies for the infirm, elderly and poor who could not get out on their own, officials said.


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# Federal Katrina money funnels to Louisiana

## *Many more requests expected throughout state*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

Louisiana parishes, cities and various departments of state government already have been approved for more than $700 million in federal public assistance for expenses responding to Hurricane Katrina, and officials expect that amount to grow exponentially in the years to come.

Mark Smith, a spokesman for the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said Sunday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has received reimbursement requests from dozens of parishes and municipalities across the state, and expects all 64 parishes to make requests in the future. He said the amount of public assistance sought will be several billion dollars.

Eight parishes, municipalities and state departments have already received about $218 million in reimbursements, and the remaining approved money should be distributed soon, Smith said. He said the federal government has streamlined the reimbursement process, and federal money typically is distributed a week after local governments submit their requests. Smith said federal officials understand that many local governments do not have the ability to collect taxes, which would severely limit their ability to provide essential services without federal help.

"Everything's been expedited to the max," Smith said.

Smith said the money is used by local and state governments to pay for any Katrina-related expenses that were accrued after the state was declared a disaster area. Those expenses can range from repairs on existing infrastructure to road clearing and public service restoration costs. In addition, overtime pay for local employees and law enforcement officers will be covered by FEMA, Smith said.

Officials did not have a breakdown of the various financial requests, but did provide this list of allocated funds as of Sept. 18:

- New Orleans: $102,837,450
- Louisiana Office of Homeland Security: $70,386,000
- St. Bernard Parish: $31,601,040
- Plaquemines Parish: $4,354,000
- Lafourche Parish: $6,669,000
- Louisiana Department of Transportation: $1,180,075
- Louisiana Department of Public Safety: $348,030
- St. Tammany Parish: $323,609

## 'It's amazing what one survivor can do to boost everybody's spirits'

**SURVIVOR,** *from A-1*

Martin's rescue Friday afternoon, a full 18 days after Katrina inundated his Gentilly neighborhood, came after a three-day stretch in which the only search-and-rescue discoveries were grim ones.

And while it's taboo around "Camp Zephyr" – the Airline Drive baseball stadium turned FEMA staging area – to suggest that Martin will be the last survivor plucked from a flooded house, it grows increasingly likely with each passing hour.

But the way Mijangos and Madden see it, if Martin can survive 18 days with only a jug of water, most of the time spent in a broiling attic, there could be others.

"It's a mental challenge, but we try to keep hope," Madden said. "There's always a chance to find someone who's been able to survive on whatever's in their house."

In Martin's case, a few gulps of water a day from a one-and-a-half gallon jug did the trick. That, and "a huge will to live," Madden said. "He said we were the first people he had seen or heard. No food, nothing. He was a fighter."

Martin's daughter, Gail Ratleff of Baton Rouge, said there is no doubt that several other factors played a role in her father's survival: his devotion to his 14 children, his marriage of more than 50 years and his strong Catholic faith.

"We went to pick him up Sunday to evacuate him, but he wasn't there," Ratleff said. "Turns out he was at Mass, but we had no idea. We just figured he left on his own. He's a strong man. You have to be strong to survive the Korean War and raising 14 kids."

Martin told Mijangos and Madden that when he returned from church, he settled in to take a short catnap, but awoke after a lengthy sleep to the sight of water pouring into his house.

"He said he grabbed his water jug and went up to the attic," Madden said.

A few days before Martin was discovered, rescue boats checked his block, near Vienna Street by the University of New Orleans, but a cluster of huge tree limbs surrounding his house apparently kept rescuers from getting close enough to get his attention.

When the rescuers, both from the San Francisco Bay area, first laid eyes on Martin, he was sitting in a chair in his kitchen, water still covering the floor. They said they climbed over and around splintered and waterlogged pieces of furniture to reach him. When they did, they found him very dehydrated, but alert and in good spirits.

"I introduced myself as Eric, and he introduced himself, calm as could be," Mijangos said.

Martin couldn't tell Mijangos and Madden precisely when he descended from his sauna-like sanctuary in the attic, but it hadn't been more than a day or two.

"He said he came down when the water subsided, so it couldn't have been long," Mijangos said. "He said he was feeling great except that he was really thirsty."

When the rescue team escorted Martin into their boat, the retired City Park maintenance worker had to double-clutch his pants around his waist to keep them from falling off.

"He was a big man who lost a lot of weight," Mijangos said. "Those pants were just coming right off him."



California firefighters J.D. Madden, left, of Santa Clara and Eric Mijangos of Newark rescued Gerald Martin from his home, where he'd lived since the storm.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

He took only one item with him from the house, Madden said: his bone-dry plastic water jug. "He wasn't letting go of that for anything, even though there wasn't a drop of water in it."

As the rescuers – members of California Task Force 3 – handed Martin over to a waiting helicopter for medical evacuation, his parting words left them in stitches. "Can we stop by the Taco Bell?" they quoted him as saying.

While Martin was flying to Ochsner Foundation Hospital, word of his rescue was broadcast at the Emergency Operations Center at the Hyatt Hotel as well as Camp Zephyr.

"This was something that was crackling over the airwaves immediately," FEMA Search and Rescue spokesman Louie Fernandez said. "If happiness could have been a cloud of red smoke, we wouldn't have been able to see our hands in front of our face. Amid all the death and destruction, it's amazing what one survivor can do to boost everybody's spirits."

Once Martin arrived at Ochsner, the staff immediately notified his family.

Ratleff said her first words were, "Thank you, Jesus. After that I couldn't speak."

Ratleff said the clan had spent three increasingly nervous weeks using every way possible to locate Martin, calling or visiting evacuation centers from Houston to Georgia, posting urgent messages on the Internet and, about a week ago, checking with the official Hurricane Katrina morgue in St. Gabriel.

"The good news is that he wasn't there," Ratleff said. "Personally, I knew he would survive. Of course, you have your doubts at times, but deep down in my subconscious I just knew he was alive. I just didn't expect that he'd still be in that house. Not in my wildest dreams did I expect that."

When Ratleff spoke to her father on the phone for the first time in nearly three weeks, she asked how he was doing. She said he responded in his usual upbeat way, "I'm great. I'm alllll right."

Still in a state of joyous disbelief, Ratleff said the reality that her father was still alive sunk in when he let out one of his trademark hearty laughs and started asking about his children and grandchildren.

"That's the kind of man he is, always putting his family ahead of himself," she said. "But it was the laugh that did it. That's when I said, 'That's my dad.' "

## Some Uptown residents already have returned

**NAGIN,** *from A-1*

people obviously drained to see the amount of damage, especially the small businesses in areas that had a lot of flooding," he said.

With Rita's path still uncertain as the city works to recover from Katrina, Ebbert said that the new storm will play a part in near-term planning. The city presently is populated with government and relief workers, journalists and some residents.

"They obviously had vehicles to get in here," he said. "We will continue to institute a mandatory evacuation. (Rita) may be a factor that will affect our decision about reopening portions of Uptown New Orleans."

Nagin could not be reached for comment on Sunday. Ebbert said the mayor spent the day visiting New Orleanians staying in emergency shelters.

But some Uptown residents, heedless of Nagin's plan to allow them to start returning Wednesday, already are inhabiting their houses on what they said will be a permanent basis.

Some returned Sept. 12, when business owners were granted a day of access to check on their concerns, and they brought enough supplies to sustain them until the power comes back on and the neighborhoods revitalize.

Others never left. For them, the repatriation is in full swing.

"We're here to stay," said David Barrett of 918 Joseph St., an Amtrak employee who returned Tuesday to help a "skeleton crew" of about 20 workers restore service for the company's two main lines to Chicago and New York. "We have good music, good wine and good food," he said.

Barrett, a 16-year resident, evacuated to Memphis, Tenn., the day after Katrina struck. He returned with gas, food, water and camping gear. A 1969 Quincy Jones recording flowed from his light-blue shotgun,

drowning out the purr of his generator.

He was looking forward to offering a barbecue feast to the military troops in his neighborhood, with two shoulders, two slabs of ribs and two briskets, courtesy of Tim's Barbecue in Memphis.

"We've got pretty much everything but electricity," he said.

Tom Bimmerle evacuated to Orlando, Fla., on the afternoon before the hurricane. He returned to his basement apartment at 1035 Jena St. on Saturday. A mechanic at Crescent City Automotive, about three blocks away, he was watching football on television and enjoying the cool air from his wall unit.

"For right now, I'm just kind of staying in," he said.

Bimmerle said he expected to find any supplies he needs in Jefferson Parish.

But he, too, was skeptical of the mayor's plan, saying he believes federal officials will override it. "It doesn't sound like it's in Nagin's hands anymore," he said. "As far as 180,000 people coming in, the city isn't ready for that. I think the mayor knows that. A lot of people are not going to rush back."

Bimmerle spent about a week in Baton Rouge, then decided to

"jump-start" the city's recovery and prepare to reopen his shop in mid-October. "I was bouncing around from place to place, feeling like a gypsy," he said.

Gheri Branch and Burgin Sund came back to 355 Lowerline to rescue their pets, and their neighbors'. They evacuated to Columbus, Miss., and returned Sept. 12. "We got in with the business people, and we've been here since then," Branch said. "We came back because we knew our cats didn't have enough food and water."

In the past week, the couple has rescued about 13 animals from the Mid-City area, helping friends and picking up pets whose owners were forced to leave them behind. "We felt like we had to do something," Sund said.

He also was worried about living without air conditioning.

"I told him, people did it for hundreds of years. We'll just sit on the porch and fan ourselves," Branch said.

The couple is using their generator for about 10 hours at night, to sleep in the relative comfort of air conditioning. "It's bearable," Sund said.

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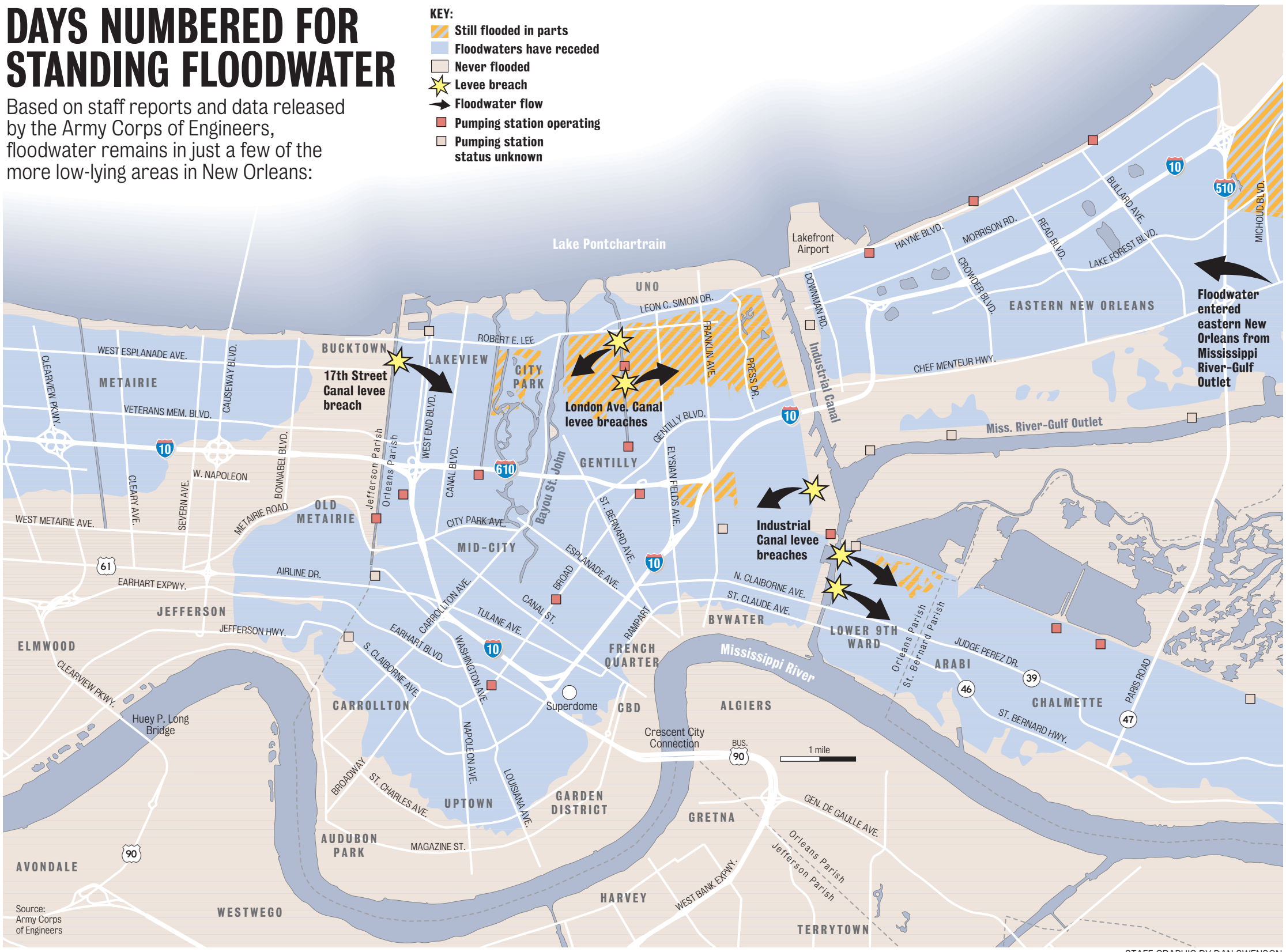
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STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON


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# Landmark elections in Afghanistan hailed as success

*Taliban fighters fail to disrupt vote*

**By Daniel Cooney**
Associated Press writer

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — Some filed into schools to cast their ballots amid lessons still scrawled on blackboards. Others stepped over piles of shoes to vote in mosques. In remote areas, tents served as polling stations.

Across Afghanistan, millions of people lined up at polling stations in defiance of a Taliban boycott call and militant attacks to vote for a new parliament Sunday.

It was the last formal step in starting a democracy aimed at ending decades of rule by the gun.

"Today is a magnificent day for Afghanistan," said Ali Safar, 62, standing in line to vote in Kabul. "We want dignity, we want stability and peace."

Officials hailed the polls as a major success, although initial estimates suggested voter turnout was lower than hoped for because of security fears and frustrations over the inclusion of several warlords on the ballot. Results were not expected for more than a week.

Many people looked to a big vote to marginalize renegade loyalists of the ousted Taliban regime by demonstrating public support for an elected government built up under the protection of 20,000 soldiers in the American-led coalition and 11,000 NATO peacekeepers.

Washington and other governments have poured in billions of dollars trying to foster a civic system that encourages Afghanistan's fractious ethnic groups to work together peacefully and ensure the nation is never again a staging post for al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

"After 30 years of wars, interventions, occupations and misery, today Afghanistan is moving forward, making an economy, making political institutions," President Hamid Karzai said as he cast his ballot nearly a year after his own victory in an election that defied Taliban threats.

Fifteen people, including a French commando in the U.S.-led coalition, were killed in a spate of violence during the day. But there was no spectacular attack as threatened by Taliban militants, whose stepped-up insurgency the past six months caused more than 1,200 deaths.

Heavy security kept most violence away from polling stations. Election officials reported three people wounded and no one killed in attacks near polls and said only 16 of the 6,270 voting stations did not open because of security threats.

Vote counting begins Tuesday, and with donkeys and camels being used to collect ballots in some remote areas, preliminary election results are not expected until early October.

Even then, it likely will take time to figure out who has the power in the new Wolesi Jirga, a parliament with 249 seats, 68 of which are set aside for women. Most of the 2,775 candidates ran as independents, and Karzai was careful not to publicly favor anyone, fearing renewed tensions if any political blocs become too powerful.

# Challenger gaining in German election

*But Schroeder still could retain power*

**By David Rising**
Associated Press writer

BERLIN — Vote counts and exit polls showed conservative challenger Angela Merkel's party leading in German parliamentary elections Sunday but falling short of the majority she needed to form a center-right coalition as the nation's first female chancellor.

Gerhard Schroeder, written off as a lame duck a few weeks ago, finished stronger than expected and refused to concede defeat, saying he could still theoretically remain in power if talks with other parties were successful.

An exit poll by the Forsa agency showed Schroeder's party winning more seats in parliament even though Merkel's Christian Democrats received more votes overall.

"I feel myself confirmed in ensuring on behalf of our country that there is in the next four years a stable government under my leadership," he said to cheering supporters at his Social Democrat party headquarters while flashing the thumbs-up signal and holding his arms aloft in a gesture of triumph.

But Merkel claimed her party received a mandate from voters to form a new coalition government to carry out her plan to mend frayed ties with the United States.

"What is important now is to form a stable government for the people in Germany, and we ... quite clearly have the mandate to do that," she said.

Both Schroeder and Merkel said they would talk to all parties except the new Left Party, a combination of ex-communists and renegade Social Democrats.

The national election authority said Merkel's party and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, had 36.5 percent of the vote from 241 of 299 districts counted. Schroeder's Social Democrats had 34 percent and their coalition partner, the Greens, 7.9 percent.

The pro-business Free Democrats had 9.8 percent and the Left Party 7.9 percent.

Sunday's vote centered on different visions of Germany's role in the world and how to fix its sputtering economy. Schroeder touted the country's role as a European leader and counterbalance to America, while Merkel pledged to reform the economy and strengthen relations with Washington.

# Kurdish lawmaker assassinated in Iraq

*Roadside bomb kills U.S. soldier*

**By Slobodan Lekic**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Insurgents assassinated a Kurdish member of parliament, and police found 20 bodies shot to death and dumped in the Tigris River north of Baghdad, where there was no major violence Sunday for the first time in five days.

In a violent insurgent-infested region near the Syrian border, the U.S. military said a soldier was killed in a roadside bombing while on patrol near al-Asad Air Base The dead soldier was assigned to the 56th Brigade Combat Team.

The death raised to at least 1,899 members of the U.S. military who have been died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Faris Nasir Hussein, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, was killed along with his brother and their driver in an ambush 50 miles north of Baghdad. A second Kurdish lawmaker, Haidar Shanoun, was wounded in the attack near the town of Dujail.

Police and party officials said the men were murdered Saturday night as they drove to the capital for Sunday's session of the legislature, which signed off on minor amendments to Iraq's draft constitution and delivered it to the United Nations for printing. The U.N. will distribute 5 million copies in advance of the Oct. 15 referendum.

Lawmakers sat for a minute of silence to honor their dead comrade.

"The terrorists have launched a war of aggression against all Iraqis, (but) we are up to it," said Deputy Speaker Hussain al-Shahristani.

## 24 bodies found

Authorities reported finding two dozen more bodies Sunday, men shot to death in the apparent ongoing tit-for-tat killings between Sunni and Shiite death squads.

Four of the dead were found handcuffed and shot in east Baghdad. Twenty more were dragged from the Tigris River near Balad, a city 50 miles north of the capital, police reported.

In Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 200 militiamen with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades set fire to tires as they barricaded main streets, demanding the provincial governor order the immediate release of Sheikh Ahmed Fartosi.

The sheikh, a senior figure among followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army militia, was arrested by British and Iraqi forces on Friday. He was accused of launching raids against security forces in the city, police said.

A coalition military statement on Sunday said Fartosi and two other detained militants were "suspects in terror attacks against coalition forces, resulting in the deaths of nine members of coalition forces in the past two months in Basra."

After a tense standoff lasting several hours, the militiamen withdrew when an al-Sadr representative arrived from Najaf to negotiate with police and British forces who control the region.

## British forces to stay

Sheikh Mudhafar al-Shawki emerged from the meeting Sunday night and ordered the militiamen stay off the streets until he could report to al-Sadr. Neither side would give details of the talks.

Last year, the Mahdi Army fought U.S. forces in the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. The fighting ended after al-Sadr accepted a peace agreement negotiated by the Shiite clerical hierarchy.

Britain, which has about 9,000 forces in the Basra region of southern Iraq, will keep its troops in the country as long as they are required and could send more, British Defense Secretary John Reid said on Sunday.

"Our troops will be there until such times as the conditions are met — those conditions being the Iraqis themselves having such democratic control and such security forces that they can take the lead," Reid told ITV television, adding that more British forces could be deployed if necessary.

In the troubled and ethnically mixed northern city of Kirkuk, a roadside bomb killed five Iraqi soldiers and wounded two others, police said.

Insurgents attacked a fuel train headed for Baghdad's major power station early Sunday, but there were no casualties in the bombing which was one of only a few incidents of violence reported in the Iraqi capital Sunday.

# Residents of Keys flee as system heads for Gulf

*Storm could become 'Rita' by late today*

**By John Pain**
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Tourists were told Sunday to evacuate the lower Florida Keys as a new tropical depression strengthened over the Bahamas and moved toward the vulnerable, low-lying island chain.

A hurricane watch was posted for the entire Florida Keys.

"It does look like that there is the potential for it to become a hurricane, near or just before it reaches the Florida Keys," said Daniel Brown, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center.

The watch means hurricane conditions with sustained winds of at least 74 mph are possible by late today, according to the Miami-based Hurricane Center.

Long-term forecasts show the system heading generally toward the west in the Gulf of Mexico toward Texas or Mexico later in the week, but such forecasts are subject to large errors. That means areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina could potentially be in the storm's path.

"Once it reaches the Gulf, really everybody should pay attention at that point," Brown said.

If its sustained wind speed climbs to 39 mph, the depression would be named Tropical Storm Rita, the 17th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. That would make this season the fourth-busiest since record keeping began in 1851. Twenty-one tropical storms formed in 1933, 19 developed in 1995 and 1887 and 18 formed in 1969, according to the Hurricane Center.

Emergency management officials in Monroe County, Fla., told visitors to leave islands extending from the Dry Tortugas west of Key West to the Seven Mile Bridge near Marathon. The islands are connected to each other and the mainland by a single highway.

Hundreds of motorcyclists were in the Keys for an annual event, but most were leaving Sunday, senior emergency management director Billy Wagner said.

County officials also urged residents of mobile homes to prepare for possible evacuation.

Michael Knowles, general manager of the Hampton Inn Resort in Key West, told his guests to leave Sunday but said he wasn't too worried about the latest weather system because it wasn't as strong as Katrina.

"These are like rehearsal drills for us," Knowles said. "I'm originally from the Bahamas, so this is like my 25th hurricane."

Residents of South Florida and central and western Cuba should also closely monitor the system's progress, Brown said.

Elsewhere, the 18th depression of the Atlantic hurricane season formed late Saturday east of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sunday afternoon, the depression had top sustained winds of about 35 mph. It was centered about 385 miles east-southeast of Nassau, Bahamas, and 600 miles east-southeast of Miami.

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# Floating refrigerator becomes Kodak moment

## *Amid the destruction in one Lakeview home, a photographic oasis awaits one crestfallen homeowner*



DAVID MEEKS

My life for the past three weeks has been about cherishing any little victory. There weren't many to find in my visit Saturday to what used to be my home on Memphis Street in Lakeview.

Only a few victories, but they mean so much to me now.

Amid a devastated house, furniture and appliances toppled about as if a bomb exploded, all my possessions painted with a toxic sludge that, once it gets on you, sticks like glue, I found my refrigerator lying face up on the kitchen floor.

Every photo on it, keepsakes of special memories pinned by magnets, was perfect. My daughter and me on her fifth-grade trip to Washington D.C., her eighth-grade graduation photo, a shot of a good friend's newborn twins, me with two buddies at the last live music show at the old Mermaid Lounge. There's the summer vacation in the Smokies, there's Mom with her dog.

A sentimental oasis surrounded by disaster.

Somehow, when the water rose, the refrigerator floated on its back and never turned over. It just eased back down and was sitting there, the front of it untouched, like nothing ever happened.

On the first floor, nothing else will be salvaged. The stench is unbelievable and the muck includes ingredients so powerful that once your feet step through the crusty top and into the moist slime underneath, your eyes start burning within 30 seconds.

If you're going back to get what you can from your flooded house, I can offer only this advice: Prepare yourself emotionally and be careful. This stuff is slippery and dangerous, and you might have to throw away whatever it touches.

In my 1,800-square-foot home, only about 300 square feet are in the camelback upstairs. Having seen so many hurricanes approach New Orleans and miss, I still feared the worst with Katrina. So, in a decision I always will be thankful for, I moved all our family photos upstairs, including some framed ones I hadn't yet hung on freshly-painted walls.

Yet somehow, in my haste to evacuate, I missed the ones on the refrigerator.

I also left some stuff hanging on the walls, under the belief that a photo mounted 5 feet above the floor couldn't possibly be at risk. But getting stuff off the floor wasn't good enough at my house, which filled up with 6 feet of water and stayed that way for more than two weeks.

Now, whatever was upstairs is all we have left.

This wasn't my first visit home since the storm. I'd already done my crying while sitting in a kayak, overwhelmed by the sight of our charming Lakeview cottage inundated with water almost to the gutters. I'd already been inside, having kicked in a window to swim in water over my head to rescue Carson, our golden retriever-Australian shepherd mix trapped for days on the second floor. I'd already bumped into floating appliances, sofas and an iMac.

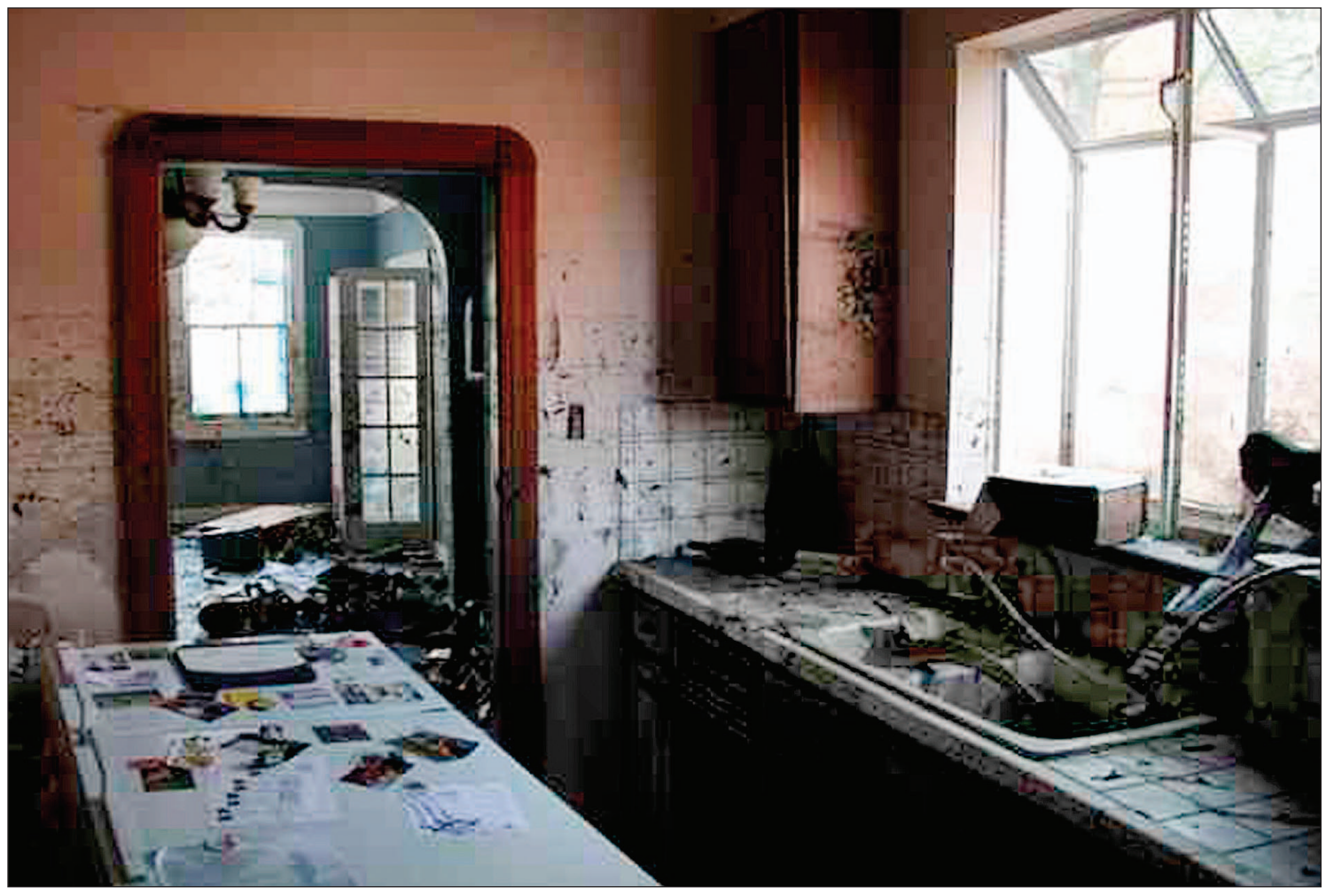


PHOTO BY ARIC MAYER

Everything else in the Meeks household on Memphis Street in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans was destroyed, covered in the toxic sludge that swam in with Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters. But on the front of the displaced refrigerator, which apparently had floated as the waters rose, were a series of pristine photos, held in place with magnets, and smiling brightly amid the destruction.

I knew it would be a mess once the water drained out. I don't think I quite realized what I do now: We'll never reside another day in this house. A place where people used to laugh and watch movies and hold Sunday cookouts is now an eerie, distorted environmental hazard.

Every piece of vegetation in the yard is dead. Huge trees are dead.

Look down the street. It's all dead, like a city that no longer exists.

Everyone in our neighborhood, and in so many others, faces that same emotionally wrenching walk into the place they used to live, to save what they can, what they wish they would've saved before the storm.

Someday I know, I hope, it will be better than now. But the scenes inside these homes make that day seem a long ways off, almost like it never will come.

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David Meeks is an editor who has been working in New Orleans since the hurricane struck. He can be reached at dhmeeks@cox.net


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# Residents clean up soggy Lakeview



The statue of Madonna and child outside Mount Carmel Academy shows the water level in the Lakeview neighborhood, which was submerged after the 17th Street Canal was breached.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Shannon Richard pulls a wagon of oil paintings rescued from her home on Gen. Haig Street. 'There's not much worth saving,' she said after going through her home with her husband, Scott, right, and her father, Randi Reboul.

## *Receding waters reveal destruction*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

The water is gone. But what is left of Lakeview is enough to make a grown man weep.

After being submerged in floodwaters for nearly three weeks, the area – now a virtual dead zone – was finally dry enough Sunday for residents to re-enter their homes and try to salvage whatever was left of their lives.

But for many, the sight was almost too much to bear.

The neighborhood's formerly lush foliage and tree-lined boulevards are covered in an ashen film. The streets, where children once rode bikes and parents once pushed baby strollers, are covered with thick, black sludge.

The air, once fragrant with the smell of gardenia and ligustrum, reeks of sewage and dead fish.

For Mark and Mary Ripple, returning to their home in the 6600 block of Louis XIV Street was a lesson in humility, they said.

The upstairs was virtually untouched.

"My Pottery Barn magazine is still sitting by the toilet," said Mary Ripple, a teacher at St. Dominic School who on Sunday was covered in a mixture of sweat and sludge. "That bathroom is what our life was."

But downstairs, the Ripple's home, like most in the neighborhoods that stretch from Lake Pontchartrain to City Park Avenue, stewed in 7 feet of polluted floodwaters for almost three weeks after Hurricane Katrina caused a floodwall on the 17th Street Canal to fail, pouring water into the city.

With the water finally pumped out, the Ripples found everything on the first floor covered in thick black mud. Their furniture was scattered, as if their home had been a doll house toppled by an angry child. Mold was already blanketing the drywall.

"Some things you can't control," Mark Ripple said, frantically pulling out soggy insulation and tossing it out the window. "All we can do is get this crud out of here."

Virtually nothing on the first floor was salvageable. But two things did survive: a sign the Ripples bought for their two kids, proclaiming "Thou Shalt Not Whine," and a placard that reads "Smell the Roses."

"Ironic, huh," said Mark Ripple, an architect. "So we've decided we are not going to complain."

His wife retorted: "Well, we might complain a little bit."

For the handful of Lakeview residents who made their way back home Sunday by working around military checkpoints or using permits issued to business owners, the scene was equally as shocking.

In recent years, the Lakeview area had undergone massive gentrification, with young homeowners renovating older homes or tearing down cottages to build bigger, more expensive homes. Property values were among the highest in the city.

Life was good, said Patsy Jarreau, who packed up a truck and headed back to her Cape Cod cottage Sunday — only to find it in ruins. Now, all that is left is heartbreak.

"This is devastating," Jarreau said, standing in the bed of the truck with muck covering her face, arms and legs. "This house was so beautiful."

Refusing to leave all her waterlogged belongings behind, the clinical sciences professor loaded up some damp antique chairs and paintings, the backs of which were already covered in mold. Her friend Louann Lawrence wept after dropping a box of glasses she tried to save from Jarreau's cabinets. Her house, on Marshall Foch, was next to be visited.

"It's all right," Jarreau said, trying to comfort her. "It's just stuff."

While broken glasses brought some to tears, others wept at the sheer barrenness of everything.

The Harrison Avenue shopping area, usually bustling with people buying groceries at Lakeview Fine Foods or picking up their children at St. Dominic School, was desolate, waterlines ringing the buildings. Brightly colored jungle gym equipment was strewn over the fence at Mt. Carmel Academy. Restaurants along West End were missing stairs, roofs, awnings and windows. Sailboats were piled one on top of the other at the lakefront marina. Cars, parked on neutral grounds, were covered with a yellowish brown film.

Doug Thornton and his wife, Donna, also returned Sunday to their home in the Lakewood South subdivision to retrieve what they could. They said they were awed at the sheer power of the floodwaters.

"It's unbelievable." said Thornton, the regional vice president of SMG, the company that manages the Superdome. "All these big oak trees are just uprooted, everything is brown and the waterline is up to 7 feet on the house. It's like somebody dropped a nuclear weapon and just killed everything. There's not any sign of life. There's no greenery. It's bizarre. It's the weirdest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Back at the Ripple house, the couple furiously ripped out drywall while their daughter Sarah picked through her room, salvaging what she could. Determined to hold onto hope that she will return to Mt. Carmel Academy for the second semester of her senior year, Sarah hung her soaked uniform to dry from the kitchen chandelier. After enough digging, she also found her nametag.

"I can still close my eyes and see everything in my room perfectly," she said.

Mark Ripple said the family has been most distressed about Sarah having to start her senior year at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge. Then he began to cry, as he told of how on Sarah wore her Mt. Carmel sweater on her first day at St. Joseph's, despite the 95 degree heat.

"We had dinner with friends recently and we all tried to name 10 things that were positive that could come out of this," he said, choking up. "The thing on everybody's list was that you'll never take the simple things for granted again."



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

With the waterline in her house well above the mailbox, Sarah Ripple, who should be starting her senior year at Mount Carmel Academy, instead is hauling debris and possessions from her home in the 6600 block of Louis XIV Street.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Despite the devastation to her Lakeview home, Glenda Lott, covering her nose from the stench, finds a few items unharmed as she sifts through her sludge-covered possessions.

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Monday
September 19, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Rebuilding should lift up the poor

David Kallick worried aloud that his phone call, or at least his subject matter, might be premature.

Kallick is a senior fellow at the Fiscal Policy Institute. The New York think tank coordinated a coalition of progressive groups that helped shape the direction of the rebuilding effort following the Sept. 11 attacks.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is largely empty of its people. Many of our homes remain under water. Our dead are unburied. So Kallick, a sensitive man, wanted to proceed with caution. He had some suggestions about what we should do, even at this early stage, to ensure that the interests of our poorest citizens are taken into account as we rebuild.

Other people have not been so delicate.

Last Thursday President Bush suspended the Davis-Bacon Act, the law requiring employers to pay locally prevailing wages to construction workers on federally financed projects. The declaration applies to parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

### Snouts in the trough

Since Katrina, nothing has been laid so bare as the fact that, in many instances, the poorest among us were fatally ill-equipped to save their own lives. Yet if these people managed to survive the hurricane and obtain jobs in the rebuilding effort, they may well find that their president is opposed to using their tax dollars to pay them decent wages.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in no-bid contracts have already been let. Companies that have received them seem guaranteed to reap big profits.

In "An Open Letter From Civic Groups in New York on 9/11 and Katrina," the Fiscal Policy Institute, in conjunction with Good Jobs NY and Good Jobs First, urge community groups to move quickly to help shape the debate over the rebuilding of our city.

"In New York, many of us hesitated in criticizing program design because we didn't want to seem ungrateful or (in the post-Sept. 11 world) divisive. As it turned out, however, when we got into debates later on, the early design of the programs wound up limiting the possible range of our response," the letter states.

### Pricing out the poor

Ultimately, the financial assistance and focus of the Sept. 11 rebuilding effort focused on ensuring that falling real estate values were propped up. This was a boon to those rich enough to own property in the area, but little was done to ensure affordable housing and living wages for the area's moderate-income residents. As a result, Kallick said, that area of Manhattan is wealthier than ever. But income levels in the community were raised primarily by pricing out poor residents.

We could soon face the same problem in New Orleans.

I hope that our political leaders have learned more from this disaster than our president has.

But, if their past action is any indication, their contempt for our poorest citizens will remain unabated.

• • • • • •

The full text of the open letter can be found at http://www.reconstructionwatch.net/ . David Kallick can be reached at ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org.

# City's scattered faithful returning to worship

## *Back to normal means back to church*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

It was shortly after 10:30 a.m. when the Rev. Argile Smith, dressed informally this remarkable Sunday in slacks and shirt sleeves, rose before a remnant of his scattered Southern Baptist congregation and summoned them to prayer.

The white steeple still stood atop First Baptist Church of Belle Chasse, but a patchwork of blue tarps covered the bald spots on the roof. They marked the places where Hurricane Katrina stripped off the shingles one day short of three weeks ago.

In the lot next door, three dozen Oklahoma Baptist relief workers prepared to cook 10,000 boxed meals for the Red Cross to deliver to stricken New Orleanians across the Mississippi River.

Everywhere around the church, trees were snapped, billboards crumpled, roofs scalped of shingles.

Inside, Judy Winfrey, who

*See* **CHURCH,** *page B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Five-year-old Gabrielle Strahan lifts up her voice during the chorus of 'Blessed be the Name of the Lord' as her grandfather Pat Stubbs holds her Sunday during services at First Baptist Church of Belle Chasse. The service was the church's first since Hurricane Katrina tore through the region.

# SAVING HISTORY



NOTARIAL ARCHIVES PHOTO

Bound volumes of notarial documents sit in the archives in the Civil District Court building on Loyola Avenue. Workers are hurrying to save about 6,000 bound volumes that had been under 3 feet of water in the lowest level of the building.

## *Centuries-old records imperiled by floodwaters*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

When Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans, a group of highly trained professionals knew exactly what to do: Find and preserve Louis Armstrong's trumpet, John James Audubon's bird prints, a drum from the Battle of New Orleans and city records dating back to 1769.

To a large extent, they succeeded. These and other irreplaceable ingredients of the city's history, along with Napoleon Bonaparte's death mask, early Carnival costumes and the paintings of acclaimed primitive artist Clementine Hunter, have been moved to warehouses in the Baton Rouge area, said Emily Sneed, press secretary to Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, whose office is responsible for the state museum network.

She declined to be more specific about where they are, citing security concerns.

Those artifacts came through the storm undamaged, but others remain in doubt. Professionals are working to salvage about 6,000 bound volumes of more than two centuries of property transactions in Orleans Parish — about 10 percent of all the books in the Notarial Archives — that were under 3 feet of water in the basement of the Civil District Court building on Loyola Avenue.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Greg Lambousy, director of collections for the Louisiana State Museum, on Wednesday shows off Louis Armstrong's cornet, which was moved to the Baton Rouge area ahead of Hurricane Katrina's landfall. Many one-of-a-kind artifacts were evacuated before the storm hit.

Concern mounted because archivists weren't allowed inside for more than a week after the storm, prompting Shelly Henley, immediate past president of the Society of Southwest Archivists, to sound the alarm in a letter to editors of several newspapers.

Without professional help, the documents "will soon be unrecoverable," she wrote. "New Orleans, a city so rich in history, may soon become a city with no history."

All the documents are backed up on microfilm in Baton Rouge, but saving the actual records is crucial, said Stephen Bruno, custodian of notarial records.

"When you talk about losing land records, you can't establish who the owner of a property is," he said. "These records are critical to any kind of

*See* **CULTURE,** *page B-2*

# Jeff's Yenni building damaged

## *Some floors might open in October*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

The Joseph S. Yenni Building, Jefferson Parish government's east bank headquarters, rises 10 stories above Elmwood in an area that often floods at ground level with rainwater pooling on nearby Clearview Parkway.

But when Hurricane Katrina hit, the Yenni Building flooded from the top down when the Category 4 hurricane ripped away the rooftop housing for its elevator mechanics and cooling tower and hurled their tin siding into the parking lot and around several trees. The resulting hole in the roof let rain pour into the building's core around the elevators, soaking the seventh through 10th stories. The floors below received less water damage, mostly on the northeast side of the building.

"It was like something out of a movie," said parish Deputy Chief Administrative Assistant Deano Bonano. "The lights were flashing. There was water running down the walls from the ceiling. It was unreal."

The Yenni Building still resembled a movie set Friday — this time a work of science

*See* **YENNI,** *page B-3*

# Some in Jeff get first look at homes

## *Many ready to rebuild lives*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Ernest and Rose Landry have lived in their house in Metairie since the road out front was made of gravel and shells. All through those 49 years, they said, their home never flooded. That was, of course, until Katrina.

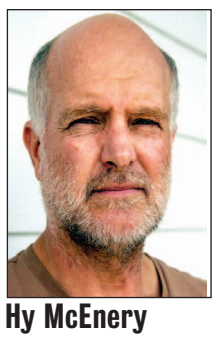
They returned Sunday for the first time since the Aug. 29 hurricane, along with dozens

*See* **JEFFERSON,** *page B-3*

HURRICANE HEROES

*Boat rescues, prayer, funeral all in a day's work*

# Minister offers help and hope



**Hy McEnery**

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

The old woman didn't want to leave her dead husband behind on the porch of their Uptown shotgun. But she desperately needed dialysis, and knew she would be joining her husband among the deceased if she didn't get it.

Hy McEnery knew what he had to do to help her: Perform a funeral for her husband – Alcede Jackson – and wrap him up as well as he could. That, he hoped, would afford the grieving widow enough peace to be able to leave.

It worked. An ordained Baptist minister, McEnery, 54, launched into a 15-minute ceremony honoring a man he'd never met, a man whose long-exposed corpse, with a makeshift sign for a headstone, had emerged as one of the icons of the city's suffering.

He could sense Violet Jackson's change in attitude. A few minutes later, she and two

*See* **HERO,** *page B-2*




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Workers pack up boxes of records from the Civil District Court building near City Hall on Wednesday. 'We have to come up with a plan to protect them,' state culture secretary Angele Davis said of the historical documents.

# Amistad's curators optimistic

**CULTURE,** *from B-1*

real-estate commerce in the city."

His office has hired Munters, a Swedish firm, to restore the documents. The job could cost as much as $500,000, but, Bruno said, "there's no price tag on this. They're too priceless."

## Plan of action sought

The close call made Angele Davis, Louisiana's secretary of culture, recreation and tourism, realize that a plan must be developed to protect the city's past. "We've got a task force going now," she said. "We have to come up with a plan to protect them."

Members will include representatives of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Buildings containing both institutions' holdings were unscathed, even though the art museum was surrounded by floodwater.

However, the storm reduced a piece in the museum's sculpture garden to a mass of twisted metal.

Davis' purview includes the Louisiana State Museum system. Part of the roof was torn off the Old U.S. Mint on Esplanade Avenue and Decatur Street, but damage was minimal to the Presbytere and Cabildo, two iconic structures that flank St. Louis Cathedral overlooking Jackson Square.

Another historical storehouse that escaped damage was the basement of New Orleans' main library at Tulane and Loyola avenues, which houses the city archives.

Papers there date back to 1769, and they include the papers of all New Orleans' mayors, some court records, photographs, slave records, maps and City Council minutes, said Tania Tetlow, chairwoman of the New Orleans Library Board.

"The historical importance of the survival of these archives cannot be overestimated," said Loyola history professor Michael Ross, who described them as "one of the nation's great historical treasures."

The archives were secure, Tetlow said, because the library was built in the late 1950s, when officials were preoccupied with making buildings strong enough to withstand a nuclear attack.

## Preserving archives

The major focus of historical restoration has been the Notarial Archives. Munters employees assessed the damage last week, pumped out water and retrieved the books.

Damaged books were sent to a company warehouse, where workers hope to minimize damage by freeze-drying pages and vacuuming the ice off.

The other records were put in air-conditioned trucks to be delivered to a temporary storage site, said Bruno, adding that he does not sure where they will go.

Older property records, some dating to 1734, are in the Notarial Archives Research Center in the Amoco Building on Poydras Street. Although floodwater didn't damage them, the lack of air conditioning is affecting older documents, he said, and they may be moved where air conditioning is available.

Among other repositories in the New Orleans area are several at Tulane University's Uptown campus, including the William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive; the Special Collections department, the city's oldest historical research library; and the Amistad Research Center, which specializes in African-American history.

Although curators were optimistic because floodwaters did not get into those buildings, they were eager to pump in air conditioning to thwart the dangerous effects of mold and humidity.

And Susan Tucker, a curator at the Newcomb College archives, said she was concerned about the status of her holdings and Amistad's, which share space in an off-campus building that she had not heard about.

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Staff writers Chris Kirkham and James Varney and Salon.com contributed to this article.

# Spiritual help offered to rescuers

**HERO,** *from B-1*

relatives were ensconced in McEnery's church van, en route to Louis Armstrong International Airport, where he hoped she'd get the medical help she needed. He found a doctor, who said he'd take care of her, and McEnery sped back to his neighborhood.

It was just another post-Katrina day for McEnery, a self-described survivalist, Mississippi National Guardsman and Christian who has spent the past three weeks offering rides, handing out food and water, performing search-and-rescue missions, ministering to the needy and providing shelter for other aid workers in his home, which doubles as a bed-and-breakfast.

All of this while awaiting deployment to Iraq, where he's due to spend the next seven months.

McEnery emphasized that he is not unique. He sees himself as one of hundreds of regular citizens who have been doing what they can to help people in desperate straits.

The charity comes naturally to him. In normal times, McEnery runs what he describes as "an inner-city ministry" that aims to help kids out of the grinding cycle of poverty, teen pregnancy and welfare by preaching the Gospel and providing hot meals and tutoring. The church, known as Child Evangelism Fellowship, has about 100 members, he said.

Before the hurricane, McEnery was in constant contact with members of the group, trying to persuade them to leave. While most rode out the storm, they left their homes when the city flooded — some for the misery of the Superdome and Convention Center.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Hy McEnery, a self-described survivalist, National Guardsman and Christian, has spent the past three weeks in New Orleans offering rides, handing out food and water, performing search-and-rescue missions, ministering to the needy and providing shelter for other aid workers in his home.

As despair grew, McEnery took to the streets in his church van, picking up "the sick and the infirm" and taking them to Ochsner Clinic Foundation or to the airport. The able-bodied he dropped off at the Convention Center.

It was scary at times for freelancers like McEnery. The crowds lining Interstate 10 and the area around the Convention Center were becoming unhinged, and his 12-passenger van was an inviting target.

He doesn't blame people, though.

"You take the finest group of suburbanites in America, with great wealth and education, and you put them in a situation without food or water for 24 hours," he said. "I don't care who you are – you're going to get nasty. Desperate people are dangerous people."

He worried about authorities getting the wrong idea about him, too.

"They're saying 'Shoot the looters,'" he said. "I'm thinking, I'm going to get shot driving around in my van."

Late in the first week, McEnery and a friend from Dallas began taking boat rides from the staging ground near Napoleon and St. Charles avenues to look for people trapped in the water, mostly in parts of Uptown. He estimated that he helped bring about 200 people to safety.

He saw few authorities helping in the rescues, he said, although he conceded that official efforts may have been focused in harder-hit areas.

In general, McEnery and the ragtag groups who were involved in the rescues – including a team from a halfway house run by Volunteers of America – were deeply unimpressed with the official response.

"While they (government officials) were posturing, the little people of New Orleans were dying by the hundreds, and possibly thousands," he said. "And if it's not thousands, it's because of all the volunteers. The state was not proactive or reactive – it was inactive."

Late in the second week after the storm, the rescue effort waned, and McEnery decided to push himself in a different direction. He asked a cop he knew whether the police department needed anything.

Just one thing, the cop said: Spiritual help.

So for the past week, McEnery has been visiting police and fire stations, offering sermons, prayers and counseling to anyone who wants it.

McEnery, a National Guard sergeant who serves as a chaplain's assistant, is due to report for Iraq duty on Sept. 22. He completed a tour in Afghanistan last year. He's hoping the military, which already gave him one 10-day reprieve because of Katrina, will give him a bit more time.

"I love my country, and I love the military," he said. "I count it a great honor to serve my country. But in some ways I'm not looking forward to it (Iraq), because of what happened here."

# Churches can only pray sheep return to fold

**CHURCH,** *from B-1*

rode out the storm in Harvey as her roof disintegrated overhead, bent over the keyboard this second Sunday after Katrina and launched into "The Name of the Lord."

Arrayed before Smith stood perhaps one-third of the usual congregation of 250. They were among the first to return to the high ground of upper Plaquemines Parish, whose lower third lay in ruins downriver.

These are make-do, informal times. Many in the congregation were in jeans and clean T-shirts. They hugged and greeted each other and swapped evacuation and storm stories.

Most had fled the Belle Chasse area before Katrina. On their return, most found that their homes had been spared from flooding and were more or less dry. They were damaged but fixable.

"I'm just so happy to see these people again. It gets you kind of choked up when you greet," said Lorraine Hess, a church member for 36 years. Most congregants seemed safe and well, she said.

"Most of these people are not complainers anyway," added her husband, Bill.

They were a rare group, blessed for having a relatively undamaged church on high, accessible ground in a community just beyond the city and open to receive its returning residents.

Although the New Orleans area has gushed a torrent of prayer since Katrina struck on Aug. 29, the worship of its organized faith communities remains largely disrupted.

Masses and Sunday services have begun to return in St. Tammany, the River Parishes, and to some extent in Jefferson Parish. But closer to the city, they are almost nonexistent.

The largest churches in New Orleans – Pentecostal giants Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, Beacon Light International Cathedral and Life Center Cathedral – are flooded, wrecked or inaccessible. Their congregations are scattered like those of much smaller churches.

The city's iconic St. Louis Cathedral appears relatively undamaged in the high-and-dry French Quarter, but the area remains sealed by civil authorities. No public Mass was celebrated there Sunday.

The city's Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral on St. Charles Avenue is similarly dry, but also in an area still under lockdown.

So services close to the city, like the one in Belle Chasse, were rare.

But an early return does not necessarily translate into a secure future, either for First Baptist Belle Chase or hundreds of others similarly situated congregations.

Four weeks ago, this church was stocked with dozens of families with children, Smith said.

They fled New Orleans on a few hours notice. They landed – they thought temporarily – with friends and siblings in distant cities. Now circumstance has forced them to put down roots in unfamiliar places and enroll their children in new schools on short notice.

Nobody yet knows how many of First Baptist's missing faces will show up next week – or ever, Smith said.

Still, the first words out of Smith's mouth on Sunday were these: "How we have missed the opportunity to worship together, and how grateful we are to be back at it."

If this was the moment for asking the big theological question – Why did this happen? – Smith opted not to seize it. Instead, he took as his message a passage from the New Testament's book of Hebrews, 10:24-26, urging his flock to do good deeds among one another, worship together, and encourage each other.

"On this side of the storm, I don't have to tell you what love looks like," he said. "It looks like doing good works, where you look after your neighbor as well as yourself."

But some, it was clear, had begun to grapple with the meaning of Katrina.

And since these were the self-selected faithful, they stood on the bedrock of Christian belief.

Take Hess, for instance.

At 74, she is no stranger to adversity. A few hours before coming to worship Sunday, she telephoned a 24-year-old Marine grandson to say goodbye, literally hours before his deployment to Iraq.

"God is in control," she said firmly.

Then paraphrasing the book of Mathew, she said, "There will be storms and rumors of storms. God is always in control. If only we put our faith in him, he will pull us through."

# Returning residents keeping grocery busy



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

Relatives help Ernest and Rose Landry sift through the sodden belongings at their home in Metairie on Sunday. Daughter-in-law Sharon Landry, center, drags a bag of wet shoes to the curb, as daughter Beth Landry helps empty her parents' house of damaged furniture.

**JEFFERSON,** *from B-1*

more Jefferson Parish residents, and inside their house found mold flourishing and puddles of water still standing after a flood that apparently reached almost a foot deep.

"I just dreaded seeing what it would look like," said Rose Landry, 70, who said she cried after opening the door. "I just kind of walked around and looked and went back outside and thought, 'Where do I start?' "

Now that Parish President Aaron Broussard has abandoned a phased reentry plan and let all Jefferson residents return to their homes, more and more dust mask-clad residents are hauling out ruined carpet and furniture, and scattered gasoline stations, hardware stores, restaurants and snowball stands are opening to serve the reawakening parish.

The Landrys said they will stay in their son's house, across Lakeshore Drive from their own, where less water invaded, while they try to clean up, dry out and salvage their own cherished belongings. Then they will return to their evacuation homes, with relatives in St. Tammany Parish and Mississippi, until they can begin the project of restoring or rebuilding the first and only house they've ever owned.

Ernest Landry, 76, sat under the carport carefully removing metal etchings of female figures in flowing gowns from their moldy frames. His daughter-in-law, Sharon Landry, dragged Rose Landry's shoes out of the house in plastic bags. Ernest Landry said he has had the artwork for years and thinks the pieces will be all right.

"I think it's beautiful," he said of as he picked at the soggy backing of an etching. It was in a closet above the waterline but not immune to the steamy conditions of the past three weeks. "I'm going to have them reframed and everything."

Rose Landry said she hopes the house gets condemned so they can rebuild completely. Both she and her husband said they are committed to staying in the neighborhood where the Lake Pontchartrain levee is visible just down the street.

"If I live to be a million, I'll never move again," Ernest Landry said. "I've been here too long."

Across Metairie in Bucktown, Banghe Xing shook his head at the two-bedroom apartment where he used to live with his wife and child. Katrina's winds inflicted severe damage on the area around Live Oak and Carrollton streets, including blowing the roof off Xing's apartment building.

"Jefferson Parish is open to residents, but to me (there's) no way I can live here," he said, pointing to his apartment, where three rooms are open to the sky. His family is staying in a Baton Rouge shelter for now.

"The blue roof probably cannot help this building," he said, referring to a campaign to cover damaged roofs with blue tarps.

Xing is looking for a place to rent in Jefferson Parish so he can move back and resume his job as a software engineer. A few blocks away on Lake Avenue, some businesses cleaned up and a couple even prepared to open.



Mardi Gras beads and a toy car are among the items found curbside in Metairie, mixed in with other debris that is being thrown out from a house damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Chad Nunez, owner of Daiquiris and Creams, had power and water and hoped to open his doors for Monday night's New Orleans Saints game, as long as authorities would allow it after curfew. Across the street, Sidney Patrick Sr., who runs Captain Sid's Seafood, said he needs probably six weeks to clean up enough to sell seafood again.

"It just takes time to do everything," he said, amid the rotten smell of $50,000 of ruined shrimp, crawfish and other fish. "We were hard hit."

At Breaux Mart in River Ridge, workers also had to dispose of mass amounts of food.

"We just about threw away the whole store and restocked it," assistant manager Willie Mendez said. But he said the store has enjoyed brisk business as residents arrive and begin restocking their home refrigerators, Mendez said.

On Woodvine Avenue, in a part of Old Metairie that saw as much as four feet of water, Chuck Iglesias had several fans set up on his buckled wood floors as he tried to dry his house, salvage dolls belonging to his 7-year-old daughter and save curtains for his wife. Mounds of furniture and sagging belongings lined the front walkway to the house. Iglesias, an architect with an office on Metairie Road, said Katrina will create a lot of business for him. Maybe too much business.

"It will be overwhelming," he said. "Taking care of your client is going to be overwhelming."

Because the water rose and receded slowly in Old Metairie, Iglesias said, he thinks most of the stately houses probably avoided structural damage and can be restored. In places caught in a current from a levee breach, however, the damage will be insurmountable, he said.

After Katrina, Iglesias lived with his wife and daughter for two weeks at a hotel in Lafayette and drove and pirogued in to check on his house. He's staying with friends in Kenner while he works at the house but plans to return to his family, now in Houston where his daughter has enrolled in a new school, until the contractors can come.

"I'll be back," Iglesias said. "Oh yeah, we'll come back. My wife's family's been in New Orleans for 150 years."

"I'm an optimist," he said. "It's going to be just fine."

Mary Swerczek contributed to this report.

# Building's repair costs could total more than $1 million

**YENNI,** *from B-1*

fiction. Large ducts of clear plastic tubing were hanging from the ceiling, pumping fresh air throughout the building. Cables lined the hallways, and cleanup crews clad in protective breathing masks, goggles and yellow rubber gloves tromped about.

No one dares hazard a public guess as to the total repair costs; the cooling tower alone would cost $350,000. Just the cleanup, parish officials say, will total more than $1 million.

But they hope to reopen the lower floors by October and the upper floors by the end of the year.

The smell inside has improved since all the soggy, musty carpeting and ceiling tiles were removed, said Anthony Francis, director of general services for parish President Aaron Broussard's administration.

On the top floor Thursday, a team of workers armed with bottles of disinfectant and cloths moved through Broussard's suite and the offices of his administrative staff. They attacked every surface. The crews meticulously wiped down the medals, badges and buttons framed on Broussard's office walls. They even sanitized the New Orleans Saints football sitting on his conference table.

Eventually, they'll work their way through the entire building. Everything must be disinfected, Francis said. Water contaminated by the biocides in the cooling system and other chemicals seeped through the building. And two days of heat provided some incubation time for mold spores, he said.

Officials hope to reopen the upper floors in December, but aesthetic repairs such as carpeting and ceiling tiles will have to wait, Francis said.

"A lot of people use the analogy, 'It looked like it was hit by a bomb,'" he said. "I say no, it was hit by a hurricane. I've never seen a bomb go off, but I've seen what a hurricane can do."

Aside from the water damage, the storm knocked out five windows on the first floor, ripped out the East Jefferson Consolidated Fire

Department's communications tower and disabled the elevators and the building's fire alarm system, Francis said.

Once the initial cleanup has been completed, crews will move in for remediation, removing any wallboard and other materials that could contain mold, Francis said. When air quality inside is acceptable, repairs will begin.

On a positive note, Francis said, services housed on the first through third floors, including the Water Department and the Inspection and Code Enforcement Department, could be open as early as October. Those floors escaped the heavy water damage seen on the higher levels.

"People are going to need permits," Francis said. "Those are the people that are going to be rebuilding Jefferson Parish."



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Jefferson Parish official Anthony Francis works on the roof of the Joseph S. Yenni Building in Elmwood. Behind Francis are the remains of the air-conditioning unit, which was heavily damaged when Hurricane Katrina hit the roof of the parish's east bank administration building.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

ABOVE: A firefighter cools off while putting out a house fire at the corner of Simon Bolivar and Erato streets on Saturday.
RIGHT: A firefighter rips a hole in the roof of a home Sunday in the 1100 block of Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Firefighters from the New York Fire Department use picks and axes to break through siding on a burning home in the 1200 block of Simon Bolivar on Saturday, contributing to a busy weekend for firefighters in the mostly abandoned city.

# THE HEAT OF BATTLE

## Firefighters from around the country are volunteering their time and efforts, assisting the New Orleans Fire Department in putting out the rash of fires that occur in the city on a daily basis.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A home on the corner of Simon Bolivar and Erato streets was engulfed in flames Saturday.



Pilings are all that remain of Bruning's, Jaeger's, Sid-Mar's and The Dock in West End after Hurricane Katrina stripped away the once-popular restaurant area.

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

# PICKING UP THE PIECES

## Weeks after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the New Orleans area, splinters of the past are still in every glimpse and under every footstep — some restorable, others lost forever.




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Katrina piled up battered boats near the Municipal Yacht Harbor in New Orleans, where they remained amid lots of debris Tuesday.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

ABOVE: A face from a downed billboard still smiles on Elysian Fields drivers in Gentilly.

LEFT: Keith Martino works on a home on Vanderkloot Avenue at Morrison Road on Saturday. The area in eastern New Orleans was devastated by four to five feet of floodwater.

The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS



Carmen Cortez of Zinsel Glass looks out over the Central Business District on Sunday while fixing windows at a Camp Street hotel. With so much reconstruction ahead, some say it's the perfect time to revamp the face of the Crescent City.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

## It's time for visionary ideas

The letter from Wayne Troyer is right on. We have been given an opportunity to re-create our city and make it truly great. I am observing the situation from Biloxi as fate put me here for the storm. We are doing well. But I have had time to consider New Orleans, the city I love more than any other. This is no time to think small; think outside the box. Way outside.

Let the company that was brought in to audit the schools rebuild the system from the ground up. Let the floodwaters be the baptismal font of a system that works. Create vo-tech schools that will truly give our citizens opportunities to earn a good living.

Create the neighborhoods Mr. Troyer spoke of with green spaces, schools, day-care centers and community centers. This task is much bigger than anything our governor can handle. It should be her job to phone the president and say we are giving up our reputation of bickering and small-mindedness and corruption to create a great state. For example, think Nevada and Delaware: no income taxes. People move to those sorts of states in droves.

Think efficiency: It takes 15 minutes to get a permit to open a business in Hong Kong, and it is one of the world's greatest and richest cities. Call every Fortune 500 company and tell them we will make it easy for them to set up shop here. And of course we want foreign companies to join us. Let's let the Europeans bring in the technology to create a wireless city. I mention Hong Kong because, like New Orleans, it treasures its history, but it has built a city for the 22nd century around its historic district. We can do that.

Next, much has been noted of the poor in this awful situation, and rightly so. However, the monied classes of the city are homeless as well. If quick incentives are not laid out for them, they will take their brains, businesses and money to the states in which they are now living. Make them offers they can't refuse such as long-term tax incentives and easy access to money to start over.

Think about Singapore. Corrupt judges that keep the criminal element in business have to be gotten rid of quickly. In Singapore, penalties for crimes are so harsh that crime does not exist. Make criminals unwelcome here.

Think about the Audubon Institute. It is world-class in every way. Unleash their creativity to create family-oriented and environmentally friendly spaces for the city.

Finally, think about Mickey Mouse. If Disney could create a world in a Florida swamp, we can create the prototype city of tomorrow on the country's greatest river. Don't be ashamed to call the Disney engineers and ask for their help and input. Think of how they recycle garbage, use water, and connect everything by monorail.

Think big. Think brilliantly. Most importantly, say this: Corruption, cronyism and small-minded inter-parish bickering are gone with the winds. The new New Orleans will be America's great city of tomorrow. That is the spirit of Louisiana.

**Maria Baisier**
*Metairie*
*Now living in Biloxi*

## In North Carolina, longing for home

Hello. We are New Orleanians displaced by Hurricane Katrina.We aren't the ones you see on cots at the Astrodome. We aren't the ones you saw paddling to safety among the rooftops of a flooded city. Most of us didn't endure the despair of the Convention Center. We left the city before it became Hell on Earth but we only made it as far as purgatory.

We are now widely dispersed, some in greater concentrations than others. While we may seem to be getting on, we are emotional wrecks, living with a paper-thin skin afforded by these attempts at what the eggheads call normalcy. Nothing is normal. Can you envision January? To us now, it seems like next week and next century, all at the same time.

Interacting with others not from the Gulf South is like being single at a family reunion: Everyone asks you the same questions over and over; it is not the questions that torture you, but the painful realization that you really just don't have any answers.

Some of us have houses in a place that used to be our home: houses we cannot visit, cannot repair, cannot imagine. But many simply aren't that fortunate. They can only remember a place that used to be home.

The days and weeks go by, and our new locations become part of some daily routine, or another. We know our new grocery stores now. We know where to get a beer at a place that isn't showing CNN all the time. We know how to text-message our friends, wherever they may be, and perhaps one day we can talk cell phone to cell phone like we used to. And even as we grow more familiar with our new locations, we yearn more for that which we lost, so precious in its uniqueness. And we realize that the only way we will ever feel at home, is by being at home.

Home is gone for us now. Maybe it will be back by January. But saying it might be back by Mardi Gras seems more concrete to us now than any traditional unit of time.

Some of us may never return home, but not one will tell you they're from somewhere else ever. Others will continue to feel the gravity that New Orleans has always had. It's a place where home was, is and will always be, no matter where we are currently making our groceries.

**Chuck Wallace**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Morehead City, N.C.*

## Venice of the South?

By now there have been several suggestions regarding the rebuilding of New Orleans. A while back, The Times-Picayune ran a feature of what New Orleans would look like in the future, with Venice-like canals. I believe the future is now.

Our planners really need to research a canal system through the city that allows for the inevitable rise and fall of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. I do not believe the current system of levees and drainage ditches will give any New Orleans resident peace of mind again. I envision a canal district on par with Venice, Italy, surrounded by structures — housing, hotels, retail, etc. — designed to co-exist with the water.

We fought the battle with the water and lost. It's time to figure out a way to live with it.

**Joe Milam**
*Mandeville*

## A sad day

What a sad day for the state of Louisiana! To watch New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco act in an emergency situation was like watching the Three Stooges less one. They were all griping that the other person did not do anything.

It was something less than funny for the poor souls who needed leadership at a time of major crisis. The bigger shame is that this will probably be our leadership for the next several years. The only saving grace is that the entire country and even the world got to see what poor leadership does in a crisis situation.

Maybe this will help people choose better at voting time. Let's hope so.

**Ron Leonard**
*Slidell*
*Now in Kentucky*




# OUR OPINIONS

## Rebuild with character

The new New Orleans deserves neighborhoods that look like the ones Hurricane Katrina flooded. Without the federal government, the city could not rebuild. But that help should include a promise to rebuild this architecturally unique place in a way that's authentic.

Once the rebuilding is done, New Orleans must look like New Orleans.

At no point in its nearly 300-year history has New Orleans been mistakable for other cities. One could never have parachuted into New Orleans and confused it with Little Rock, Ark., Des Moines, Iowa, or Cape Girardeau, Mo. No, if you were in New Orleans, you knew it. If you couldn't tell where you were from the sounds of jazz, the taste of the etouffe or the sight of Carnival parades, then you could look at the carefully crafted houses and know for sure.

There are bound to be some people who will say New Orleanians are asking for too much and that we ought to be satisfied with whatever we get, as long as it's safe and functional. They will be wrong. Although it's true we are concerned about how the future New Orleans will look, we are even more concerned about how it will feel. It will not feel like home unless it feels strangely foreign to everybody else.

There are organizations in the city, the Preservation Resource Center chief among them, that exist to protect the architectural integrity of New Orleans' neighborhoods. The preservationists who work for those organizations have consistently raised their voices to prevent homes in Holy Cross from being made to look like homes in Gentilly, and to prevent homes in the Irish Channel from looking like those in Broadmoor.

That should give outsiders a clue to the kind of city New Orleans was and is. Two houses on opposite sides of town can look drastically different but equally well-crafted. There's an internal diversity in the housing stock. As we go forward, it's important that such diversity remains intact.

That's why the city's preservationists need to be consulted as New Orleans rebuilds. Officials at the PRC have demonstrated time and again that making houses that are architecturally interesting doesn't mean only the rich can afford them. Preservationists have built and renovated homes in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods for the people who live there. Their efforts should now be duplicated on a large scale for the benefit of the people who called those destroyed neighborhoods home.

## Grandma's choice

No one with a heart or a sense of decency would quibble with Barbara Roberts' decision to stay with an 18-month-old granddaughter, whose parents were stranded in New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina, rather than report for work.

But that decision cost Ms. Roberts her job with Positronic Industries in Missouri. The 54-year-old assembly line worker had no more vacation time or unpaid leave time left. When she made the decision to stay with her granddaughter in Columbia, Mo., instead of returning home to Mount Vernon, Mo., and her job, she didn't even know for sure her daughter and son-in-law had survived. For that choice, she was terminated.

Companies should want employees who understand the concept of personal responsibility and are able to make the right decision under difficult circumstances. If Ms. Roberts had been an emergency worker whose absence endangered the lives of others, her choice would not have been an ethical one. But the plant where Ms. Roberts worked makes electrical connectors. The only person put in jeopardy by her decision was Ms. Roberts herself.

Her dilemma is not likely to be unique. The ripples from Katrina are going to reach into the lives of many people who were not immediately affected by the storm. Residents of other states have family, friends and co-workers who will call on them for all kinds of assistance, whether it's a place to stay, a lead on a job or some time to help clear the wreckage. If companies and firms in other parts of the country aren't willing to be flexible with their employees, many more people may face the same tough decision Ms. Roberts faced.

A disaster of this magnitude is going to require sacrifices far beyond the Gulf Coast. Fortunately, many businesses will be generous to the victims of Katrina and those who come to their aid. Perhaps one of them will hire a grandmother in Missouri who needs a job.

# OTHER OPINIONS

ANNE APPLEBAUM

## Whose victory, exactly?

Last week my son's elementary school raised several thousand dollars for hurricane victims by washing cars. My other son's preschool announced without fuss that a boy from New Orleans would be joining the class. My employer is organizing help for the company's Gulf Coast employees, my local bookstore is collecting money for the Red Cross and my favorite radio station raised $54,000 last weekend. Every church or synagogue attended by anyone I know is, of course, raising money, housing evacuees or delivering clothes to victims.

To put it differently, nearly every institution with which I come into daily contact — my library, my grocery store, my search engine — has already donated time or money to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and I don't think this makes me or my community unique. A Zogby poll conducted last week found that 68 percent of Americans had donated money to hurricane relief. An ABC News/Washington Post poll published Tuesday found that 60 percent had already donated, and a further 28 percent intend to. Those percentages mean that donors must represent a huge range of political views, economic classes, even aesthetic preferences. Among the fund-raisers listed in last weekend's Post were a jazz concert, a tea dance, a 'Christian music' concert and a rehearsal of Verdi's 'The Sicilian Vespers.' No wonder the Red Cross has already collected more than half a billion dollars; no wonder it was impossible to get on to the Salvation Army's Web site at peak times last week.

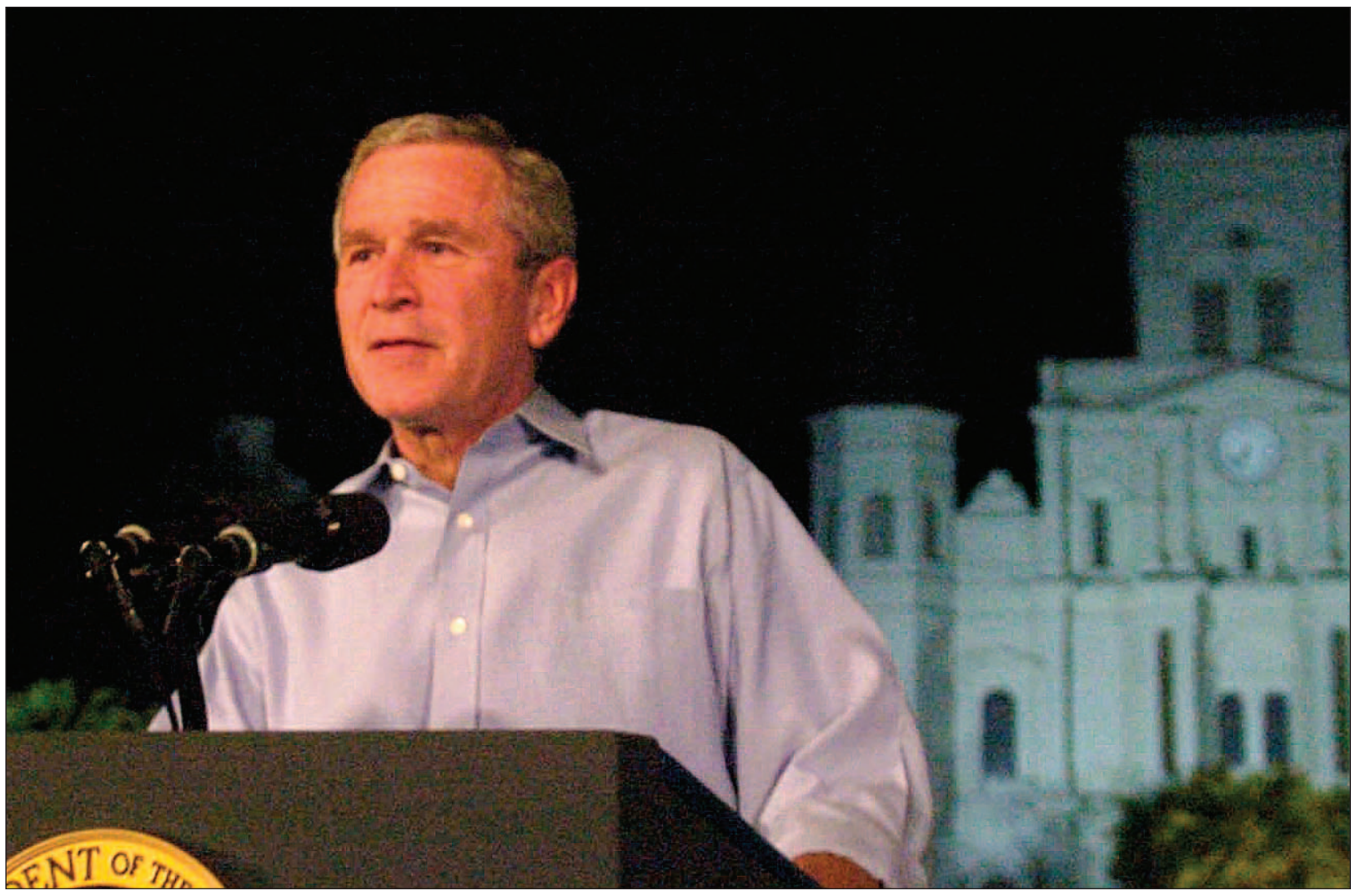
But those percentages also mean that it is important not to draw hasty conclusions about the ultimate political impact of this tragedy. More specifically, it's important to ignore the hasty conclusions that have already been drawn, both here and abroad, about the victory of 'big government' and the death of a certain kind of American individualism. The German chancellor — once again using American politics in his election campaign — has already called the disaster an argument for 'strong government.' Polly Toynbee, a columnist for Britain's Guardian, declared that Katrina revealed 'a hollowed superpower ... a country that is not a country at all, but atomised, segmented individuals living parallel lives as far apart as possible.' A Los Angeles Times article, headlined 'A Comeback for Big Government,' more objectively quoted lots of experts agreeing that in the wake of the hurricane, the administration will 'put aside its interest in small government.'

But while it is true that the government's relief effort looks set to dwarf anything it has tried before, consider what the actual experience of the disaster has already been — not theoretically, not on paper, but in practice. Listen, for example, to volunteers who prepared 92 boats to help evacuate people from the rooftops of New Orleans. They were ultimately kept out by Federal Emergency Management Agency bureaucrats because, among other things, they didn't have life preservers. Or listen to the volunteers who organized 100 doctors to treat 400 sick people at a converted Baton Rouge warehouse — until they, too, were told by the government to shut down, reopen and then shut down again. Or to the hundreds of firefighters who, according to The New York Times, responded to a nationwide call for help and were then 'held by the federal agency in Atlanta for days of training on community relations and sexual harassment,' while women were raped and lives were lost in New Orleans. Compare their frustration to the joy experienced by 8-year-olds across the country, washing cars for the Red Cross.

By the same token, consider the effectiveness of the relief strategies so far. With great fanfare, the federal government announced it would distribute debit cards to Katrina victims. The result was chaos, anger and expectations of fraud. Quietly, the Red Cross has been paying evacuees' hotel bills. The result is that 57,000 people have time to plan what to do next. Massive government efforts to get people into massive shelters have led to dissatisfaction, delays, long lines and frustration. But private initiatives — ranging across the political spectrum from MoveOn.org's Hurricanehousing.org, which is advertising space in thousands of private homes, to First Baptist Church in Athens, Texas, which has just installed six new showers — are helping people find better housing faster. Over the longer term, it's also pretty safe to bet that people who relocate thanks to a church, find a job thanks to a charitable Web site, and get by thanks to their extended families are going to do a lot better, economically and psychologically, than the people who hang around waiting to be helped by a government jobs program and a government trauma counselor.

I'm not saying anything radical here: I'm not calling for the abolition of FEMA, and I certainly think there's a role for government in disaster and evacuation planning. But it is true that the worst failures of the past two weeks have been big government failures. The biggest successes, by contrast, have come out of this country's incredibly vibrant, amazingly diverse and fantastically generous civil society. Sooner or later, it will be impossible not to draw political lessons from that paradox.

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist.



President Bush addresses the nation Thursday from Jackson Square, in front of St. Louis Cathedral.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

## Bush turns N.O. into Disney World



MAUREEN DOWD

The president, as he fondly recalled the other day, used to get well-lit in New Orleans. Not any more.

On Thursday night, Bush wanted to appear casually in charge as he waged his own Battle of New Orleans in Jackson Square. Instead, he looked as if he'd been dropped off by his folks in front of an eerie, blue-hued castle at Disney World. (Must be Sleeping Beauty's Castle, given the somnambulant pace of W.'s response to Katrina.)

All Andrew Jackson's horses, and all the Boy King's men could not put Humpty Dumpty together again. His gladiatorial walk across the darkened greensward, past a St. Louis Cathedral bathed in moonglow from White House klieg lights, just seemed to intensify the sense of an isolated, out-of-touch president clinging to hollow symbols as his disastrous disaster agency continues to flail.

In a ruined city still largely without power, stinking with piles of garbage and still 40 percent submerged; where people are foraging in the miasma and muck for food, corpses and the sentimental detritus of their lives; and where unbearably sad stories continue to spill out about hordes of evacuees who lost their homes and patients who died in hospitals without either electricity or rescuers — isn't it rather tasteless, not to mention a waste of energy, to haul in White House generators just to give the president a burnished skin tone and a prettified background?

The slick White House TV production team was trying to salvage W.'s "High Noon" snap with some snazzy Hollywood-style lighting — the same Reaganesque stagecraft they had provided when W. made a prime-time television address from Ellis Island on the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. On that occasion, Scott Sforza, a former ABC producer, and Bob DeServi, a former NBC cameraman and a lighting expert, rented three barges of giant Musco lights, the kind used for "Monday Night Football" and Rolling Stones concerts, floated them across New York Harbor and illuminated the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop for Bush.

Before the presidential address, DeServi was surveying his handiwork in Jackson Square, crowing to reporters about his cathedral: "Oh, it's heated up. It's going to print loud."

As Elisabeth Bumiller, the White House reporter for The New York Times, noted in a pool report, the image wizards had put up a large swath of military camouflage netting, held in place by bags of rocks and strung on poles, to hide the president from the deserted and desolate streets of the French Quarter ghost town.

The president is still looking for a tiny spot of unreality in New Orleans — and in Iraq, where a violent rampage has spiked the three-day death tally to over 200.

The Oedipal loop-de-loop of W. and Poppy grows ever loopier.

With Karl Rove's help, Junior designed his presidency as a reverse of his father's. W. would succeed by studying Dad's failures and doing the opposite. But in a bizarre twist of filial fate, the son has stumbled so badly in areas where he tried to one-up Dad that he has ended up giving Dad a leg up in the history books.

As Mark Twain said: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

Of course, it's taken Junior only five years to learn how smart his old man was.

His father made the "mistake" of not conquering and occupying Iraq because he had the silly idea that Iraqis would resent it. His father made the "mistake" of raising taxes, not cutting them, and overly obsessing about the federal deficit. And his father made the "mistake" of hewing to the center, making his base mad and losing his bid for reelection.

Bush pere did make a real mistake in responding slowly to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, but that blunder has been dwarfed by what the slothful son hath wrought. Because of his fatal tardiness, W now has to literally promise the moon to fix New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast, driving up the federal deficit and embarking on the biggest spending bonanza and government public works program since FDR.

In his address from the French Quarter, the president sounded like such a spendthrift bleeding heart that he is terrifying the right more than his father ever did.

Read my lips: By the time all this is over, people will be saying that Poppy was the true conservative in the family.

Maureen Dowd is a New York Times columnist.

## A lab for compassionate conservatism



DAVID BROOKS

On Oct. 5, 1999, George W. Bush went to the Manhattan Institute and delivered the most important domestic policy speech of his life. In what was mostly a talk about education, he made it quite clear he was no liberal. But he also broke with mainstream conservatism as it then existed.

He distanced himself from the cultural pessimists, the dour conservatives who were arguing that America was sliding toward decadence. Then he bluntly repudiated the small-government conservatism that marked the Gingrich/Armey era.

It's not enough to cut the size of government, Bush said, or simply get government out of the way. Instead, Republicans have to come up with a positive vision of "focused and effective and energetic government."

With that, Bush set off on a journey to define what he called "compassionate conservatism" and what others call big government conservatism.

It's been a bumpy ride. Over the past five years, Bush has overseen the fastest increase in domestic spending of any president in recent history. Moreover, he's never resolved the contradiction between his compassionate spending policy and his small-government tax policy.

But gradually and fitfully, Bush has muddled his way toward something important, a positive use of government that is neither big government liberalism nor anti-government libertarianism. He's been willing to spend heaps of federal dollars, but he wants that spending to go to programs that enhance individual initiative and personal responsibility.

On Thursday, President Bush went to New Orleans and gave the second-most important domestic policy speech of his life. Politically it was a masterpiece, proof that if the president levels with the American people and admits mistakes, it pays off.

But in policy terms, the speech pushed the journey toward Bushian conservatism into high gear. The Gulf Coast will be a laboratory for the Bushian vision of energetic but not domineering government.

Bush proposed an Urban Homestead Act, which will draw enterprising people to the area, giving them an opportunity to own property so long as they're willing to work with private agencies to put up their own homes. He proposed individual job training accounts, so much of the rebuilding work can be done by former residents. Children who have left flooded areas will find themselves in a proto-school-choice program, with education dollars strapped to each individual child.

This is an effort to transform the Gulf region, which had become a disaster zone of urban liberalism. All around the South, cities are booming, but New Orleans never did. All around the country, crime was dropping, but in New Orleans it was rising. Immigrants were flowing across the land in search of opportunity, but as Joel Kotkin has observed, few were interested in New Orleans.

Now the Bush administration is trying to change all that. That means trying to get around the corruption that made the city such a rotten place to do business. The White House is trying to do this by devising programs in which checks and benefits flow directly to recipients, not through local agencies.

That means challenging the reigning assumptions. Right now the White House is fighting with Louisiana over where to house evacuees. The state wants to put temporary trailer parks on far-away military bases, where there are no jobs and where they will live in "abject dependency," as one senior White House official puts it. The Bush folks want to put temporary housing within a mile of the original neighborhoods so people can become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.

On Thursday, the president was honest about the cost of all this, but he only began to lay out a plan. The Bushies are still trying to figure out how to help people from broken families and those with mental disabilities. They're trying to figure out where to cut government to offset the costs. There are arguments about what New Orleans should try to be, a smaller controlled-growth Portland, Ore., or a booming and spreading Houston.

Like Franklin Roosevelt in the New Deal era, Bush doesn't have a complete vision of what he wants to achieve. But he does have an instinctive framework.

His administration is going to fight a two-front war, against big government liberals and small government conservatives, but if he can devote himself to executing his policies, the Gulf Coast will be his TVA, the program that serves as a model for what can be done nationwide.

David Brooks is a New York Times columnist.

# Returnees prepare for the long haul

## *Next stop is dump for those whose homes are trashed*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Allen Prestenbach of Lafitte empties his family's trash cans in Lafitte's temporary dump. The volume of trash in the New Orleans area, government officials said, will be unprecedented and could cost at least $1.5 billion to clean up.

Three refrigerators wrapped in duct tape rose above the garbage heap last week in front of Allen Gaudet's Old Metairie home, the tallest pieces in a mound that included a bookshelf, upholstered chairs, end tables, a wading pool, a computer monitor, a lawnmower and a half-dozen bags filled with moldy pots and pans.

"This is my pile," Gaudet said, standing next to the chest-high stash of items that were ruined when four feet of floodwater poured into his neighborhood Aug. 30 because of a breach in the 17th Street Canal levee. "And this is not even the construction" debris.

A few doors down, another sealed fridge containing the sickly sweet remnants of a whole, uncooked turkey had become the cornerstone for Steve Brinson's flood junk. With black mold inching up the drywall of his East Livingston Place home, he expected the heap to match Gaudet's in a matter of days.

"There'll be a lot of stuff piled up, and I have a pickup truck, so I'll be heading to the dump," Brinson said. "But stuff is stuff. It's just stuff. I've got my family. All of this is just stuff."

As tens of thousands of evacuees trickled home last week to find their houses in varying degrees of ruin, so began the arduous, smelly and often emotional task of carrying to the curb the soggy, mildewed vestiges of life before Hurricane Katrina. The volume of trash, government officials said, will be unprecedented and could cost at least $1.5 billion to clean up.

The estimates include: 22 million tons of construction and landscaping waste; more than 350,000 automobiles, with 1.75 million tires; 50,000 boats; and 1 million "white goods," such as washing machines and refrigerators. And that is state leaders' estimate for Louisiana alone, without debris from devastated areas of Mississippi and Alabama.

"There's no comparison," said Chuck Brown, assistant secretary at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. "At the largest landfill in the state, they process a million tons (of garbage) a year."

Included among the estimates are thousands of southeast Louisiana homes that may have to be demolished, according to the state's Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Entire sections of New Orleans could be bulldozed, their wood-framed houses no longer stable after sitting for days in putrid floodwater. St. Bernard Parish officials have said structures in as much as 80 percent of the parish may be razed.

The cost, too, will be staggering. The sum skyrocketed to $1.5 billion Thursday, when three out-of-state firms won competitive contracts to direct Louisiana's waste management, said Bob Anderson, a spokesman for the Corps, which handles disaster debris cleanup for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The deals included an initial cap of $500 million, with an option for another $500 million for each firm. The contractors are: Environmental Chemical Corp. of Burlingame, Calif.; Ceres Environmental Services Inc. of Brooklyn Park, Minn.; and Phillips and Jordan Inc. of Zephyrhills, Fla.

Ashbritt Inc., the Pompano Beach, Fla., company that led Louisiana's $3 million emergency debris collection effort, won an identical contract in Mississippi, Anderson said. The agreements require contractors to hire local and disadvantaged companies as subcontractors and likely will be the first of several deals enacted to handle hurricane refuse.

"The debris removal for the state of Louisiana will far exceed Hurricane Andrew," the Category 4 storm that caused $20 billion of damage and leveled entire communities in Florida in 1992, Anderson said. Crews hauled away 17 million cubic yards of debris after that storm, at a cost of $375 million.

The Corps estimates that Katrina has created 37 million cubic yards of ruin in Louisiana – enough debris to fill the Louisiana Superdome about eight times. The final tally, however, could reach 75 million cubic yards if all homes that have languished for weeks in the Lake Pontchartrain and tidal surge floods have to be flattened, Anderson said. Early estimates set the price tag for initial collection and disposal at more than $2 billion.

All refuse from Katrina likely will rest ultimately in south Louisiana, in part to protect the rest of the state and nation from unintentional infestation by the local Formosan termite. The region has ample landfill space to handle the influx of trash, Brown said. Indeed the owner of a landfill in Waggaman said he can accommodate 70 million tons of waste.

In addition, DEQ has designated 49 sites in nine parishes as zones for chipping and burning tree waste or for receiving garbage from residents, department records show. Three sites, including the Municipal Auditorium and the Fair Grounds in New Orleans, have opened for automobile collection. Lafreniere Park in East Jefferson hosts a growing pile of yard waste that last week was 100 yards long and five stories tall.

Still, officials are considering opening two or three shuttered landfills near New Orleans to deposit construction and demolition trash so hurricane garbage doesn't sap valuable space from operational dumps, Brown said. He added that many closed C&D dumps across the state don't have liners to protect against chemical seepage because they are not required by law. Brown would not say whether his department intended to hold public hearings before reactivating closed dumps. DEQ's Katrina emergency declaration, issued Aug. 30, does not specifically require public hearings on hurricane-related plans. A spokeswoman for Gov. Kathleen Blanco said hearings would not be required and that a citizen's appeal would not halt an emergency move such as reopening a landfill.

Besides dumping, Brown said the state "will recycle everything that we possibly can."

Wood waste will be mulched to fuel paper mill boilers; ash from burned limbs will be spread for soil enhancement; some fallen tree trunks may be bound like Christmas trees and hauled to coastal areas "so we can shore up the coastline."

Environmental Protection Agency teams will assist local authorities to rifle through vehicles, white goods and other property to remove Freon, gasoline, mercury, propane and other hazardous materials, then turn them over to contractors to salvage parts or send recyclable metals to collection yards, said Bill Hines, FEMA's deputy public assistance officer for debris.

Authorities also will try to remove chemicals and white goods from homes before they're bulldozed. "There will be a household hazardous waste sweep where we can," he said.

As official plans unfold, however, so too will improvised solutions, said Rick Richter, a regional director for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Richter said that after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, residents illegally burned all sorts of waste, wreaking environmental havoc and making a final storm-trash tally something of a mystery.

"We didn't want it to be done, things like roofing tar and shingles, PVC pipe, whatever they could put in a pile and set on fire," he said.

In Algiers, authorities on Thursday put up a fence around a pile of mattresses, chairs and other trash dumped in the parking lot of a shuttered Schwegmann's store. New Orleans Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said the unauthorized dumping of trash from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, which became a last-chance shelter during Katrina, absolutely had to stop.

"I want whoever did that to be hung," said Clarkson, who represents the city's West Bank. "We are rebuilding New Orleans from Algiers and the French Quarter, so we can't let Algiers become a dump. Algiers was contamination-free, and we didn't need some idiot to bring us contamination from the east bank, especially from the convention center."

### MOVING STORM DEBRIS

State and federal inspectors are looking for land to serve as new landfill sites in Mississippi for debris from Hurricane Katrina. Some landfill sites are nearing capacity and can't handle the massive amount of storm waste.

**Cleanup efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana:**

**COLLECTION**
- ▶ Workers clear only roads and public property
- ▶ Tree limbs and brush removed from lumber, metal and household debris
- ▶ Bulldozers load debris in trucks to take to temporary lots

**SEPARATION**
- ▶ Debris at reduction sites is separated again
- ▶ Mattresses, vinyl siding, toys and rusted metal are shredded
- ▶ Trees and shrubs are burned or ground into wood chips

**NEW LANDFILL SITES**
- ▶ Approval takes months, but officials have sped up process
- ▶ Crews can have roads to new sites built in a week for debris

Sources: FEMA; Army Corps of Engineers

AP GRAPHIC

# Evacuees may dry up Houston's job market

## *But many think they're better off looking in Texas*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Darnell Johnson, right, carries possessions out of an apartment in Houston as his wife, Telesha, and son Justin help pack up to move into a hotel. The displaced family plans to start a new life in Houston. 'It seems like it's going to be useless to go back,' Darnell Johnson said.

HOUSTON — As scores of other job seekers scurried past, Sabrina Lynn mentally checked off the companies she wouldn't interview with from a list of employers at a recent job fair.

Although she had come to terms with losing her job, her four-bedroom home and her car in eastern New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Lynn said she wouldn't take an entry-level position that would prevent her from providing the quality of life her family was forced to leave behind.

"I was in sales," said Lynn, disappointed that the major hotels in town weren't at the job fair. "I don't want to be out pounding the pavement for just anything. I'm too old for that."

With the reality that it will take months, possibly years, for life to return to normal in New Orleans, many Louisiana residents are relocating or, at the very least, finding temporary jobs in the Houston area.

Some are snatching up anything to make ends meet, while others are more calculated in their job searches as Houston area business leaders work to fill the void by hosting job fairs and networking events for the displaced.

Barton Smith, director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the University of Houston, estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people from the New Orleans area will be looking for employment during the next several weeks. That influx might stretch thin the job market. About 30,600 jobs were created in the area within the last 12 months ending in August. The numbers equated to about 10,000 more jobs in the Houston area than the previous 12-month period ending in August 2004, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

The job market is "going to have a hard time absorbing workers," Smith said. "You are asking to absorb right now the number it took an entire year to absorb."

### Crowded schools seek staff

The WorkSource, a public employment agency responsible for 13 counties in southeast Texas, including the Houston area, reported a threefold increase in the number of applicants from the usual 5,000 to 16,000 in the first two weeks of September.

Mike Temple, work force manager for The WorkSource, said he is confident the market would stretch to accommodate the increase.

"I think there's enough for everybody," Temple said. "Right now we always need people in health care, education and oil field related (industries)."

Many evacuees might find themselves working in education.

The Houston Independent School District, the nation's 7th largest school district with more than 200,000 students, recently held a job fair where a district spokeswoman said 1,000 applicants showed up. Applications are being processed to help fill the demand for more teachers and staff for the more than 3,400 students from Louisiana who have enrolled in the school system. Overall, the region has absorbed nearly 20,000 students, the Harris County Department of Education said.

Registering their 13-year-old twin boys and finding day care for their three younger sons is the next step for Darnell and Telesha Johnson of Marrero. who want to start a business in Houston.

The Johnsons, who are searching for financial assistance to help them secure an apartment, said they couldn't afford to travel to Jefferson Parish to see the damage for themselves. It was easier just to stay in Texas. "It seems like it's going to be useless to go back," said Darnell Johnson, who plans on helping his wife re-establish her online business while searching for a full-time job.

Houston seems right for now, said Telesha Johnson, who purchased a laptop computer and plans to have the business up and running again this week.

"I'm very interested in seeing what the city of Houston has to offer," Telesha Johnson said. "We are willing to work. We just need the opportunity."

### 'A better place'

Belinda Hart, who slept on her apartment balcony for several days before being rescued by helicopter with her family in eastern New Orleans, said she'll take whatever job comes her way to stay in Houston.

"I think that God has moved us to a better place," said Hart, who is four months pregnant and recently attended a job fair with her two young children. "I have no regrets."

The young mother said she will not miss the crime and violence that plagued New Orleans and was hopeful she and her children would have a better life in Texas.

"You have to look forward," Hart said. "You can't look back to what you've lost. Everyone that survived this, I believe they are here for a reason. "

Although some are not having any problems entering the Houston job market, others might take longer to find their niche, said Katy Greenwood, an associate professor in human development and consumer sciences at the University of Houston, who has worked in the past with displaced residents.

"You can't look for a job while you're grieving or under stress," Greenwood said. "I know a lot of them are still worrying about their families."

Most jobs won't be found at the unemployment office but through good old-fashioned networking, Greenwood said. The more contacts, the better, she said. "It's the perfect time to reassess," Greenwood said. "It's a whole new beginning."

### 'A lot more opportunity'

A fresh start is just what Thomas Taube of New Orleans is looking for. Although he still has a job at the Hotel Royal in New Orleans, he has lost everything else, said Taube, who has been attending Houston-area job fairs in search of work.

"At this point, I don't hold a lot of hope for anything," said Taub. While Hurricane Katrina might have swept away his belongings, Taube said Houston area residents have been more than generous to him and his partner, Thomas Harmon.

A friend has let them use a vacant home, and Whole Foods Market has provided Harmon with a new job and money for relocation, Taube said.

Harmon, who is from Houston and worked at Whole Foods in New Orleans, said the Austin, Texas-based company is working to find openings for all its displaced employees.

In the end, Harmon said, New Orleans residents who choose to stay in Houston will have more opportunities.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

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SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5



Guy Max Orlovitz of International Investigative Group, Ltd., keeps an eye on the entryway of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

BELOW, Stephen Dux stands armed guard over one of the museum's exhibits.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

By Doug MacCash
Art writer

# AN ARTFUL DODGE

*The New Orleans Museum of Art in City Park survived with its facilities and collections nearly intact*

THE APPEARANCE OF the New Orleans Museum of Art's great hall is unchanged since Hurricane Katrina blew through two weeks ago, but the atmosphere within the neoclassic interior last week was decidedly different.

Behind the reception desk where, ordinarily, genteel docents take admissions and dispense museum maps, a volunteer New York City policeman stood guard, a skeleton motif bandana around his head and a riot gun in his hand.

Other NYC officers patrolled the front steps and a squad of National Guardsmen monitored traffic at 1 Collins Diboll in City Park. What was once a welcoming cultural destination now has the forbidding feel of an armed camp. But the treasures inside are certainly safe.

A Category 5 hurricane, breeched levees, a loss of power and limited police protection in the early days of the disaster presented a worst case scenario for New Orleans museums. Some fared better than others, though, all things considered, the current situation could be much worse.

*See* **ARTFUL,** *page C-4*



# PRINCE MYERS, 14

## NINTH-GRADER AT HOLY CROSS

"Saturday afternoon I was just chilling with my friends on St. Claude Avenue. We got up early to prepare for a family reunion in Houma. The people on the TV said that if the hurricane hit, it would be pure devastation. Outside, it was just really beautiful. No one in the city had any reason to believe it was coming.

"We left for the reunion in Houma, thinking it would just pass. The whole day we kept saying, 'Ain't nothing going to happen.' We never believed it could all be gone. Sunday morning, my family headed toward Baton Rouge with my sisters. My friend and I were stuck in Houma.

"The roads to Texas were packed and we figured we couldn't get out. On Sunday afternoon, when Mayor Ray Nagin told us to get out or we'd be stuck, four of us and a baby headed for Lafayette. We drove all night and slept in the car at a rest stop. They slept. I didn't feel safe. People were everywhere at the rest stop wandering around.

"Then the storm hit.

"We couldn't find a hotel room, so, we drove all night back to Houma. For two days, we watched on the television the scenes from New Orleans. We saw all the violence, the chaos and we never saw our house, but we saw our neighborhood. I saw my friend from around the way in those waters, that nasty, nasty water. We knew nothing was going be the same. To us, it was impossible that it was all gone.

"I needed to be with my family, so, my friend's mother drove me to Baton Rouge. My family needed money, food and clothes. Not a lot, just something to get us by, but we couldn't find any help. For days, we stayed in the Bethany shelter watching and waiting for FEMA or the Red Cross to give us answers. My mom, she said we couldn't wait anymore. We had to get out of Louisiana. It took us 20 minutes and $280 to buy eight bus tickets.

"I never rode a Greyhound bus before. We normally take a plane to Atlanta. There's no money for plane tickets anymore. My momma just wants us to get our lives back.

"I want to go to school again. I don't want to be here (in a bus station in Baton Rouge) waiting on a bus. I want to be home — not squashed on a cramped bus with my knees all buckled up in somebody's back."

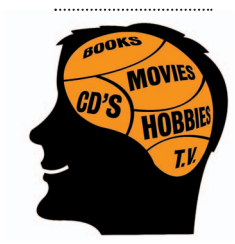
*— As told to Maria Montoya, staff writer, on Sept. 12, 2005*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

# GUMBO? YEAH! YEAH!

When the going gets tough, the tough start cooking. At least they do if they're New Orleanians.

Begin with a gumbo, the ultimate Louisiana comfort food. It will be a challenge to make a gumbo in someone else's kitchen. Can a roux get dark but not burnt in an aluminum frying pan? Where in the world do those people keep their sharp knives? Don't they grow any okra in this part of the world?

It will be another challenge to make a gumbo in a town that isn't normally stocked with oysters and crabs and shrimp and andouille. But substitutions are allowed (DON'T try kielbasa), unconventional methods will no doubt be forgiven (anise does NOT have the same effect as file) and creativity will certainly be rewarded (shrimp and scallops DO make a sweet combination).

Avoid those hot sauces that come pouring out of the bottle in glugs rather than drops. And stay away from converted rice. Other than that, have at it. Your hosts will be charmed by the effort. Your family will be forever grateful.

And when you get right down to it, how bad can any gumbo be?

*— Elizabeth Mullener*



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# COMICS

## ZITS



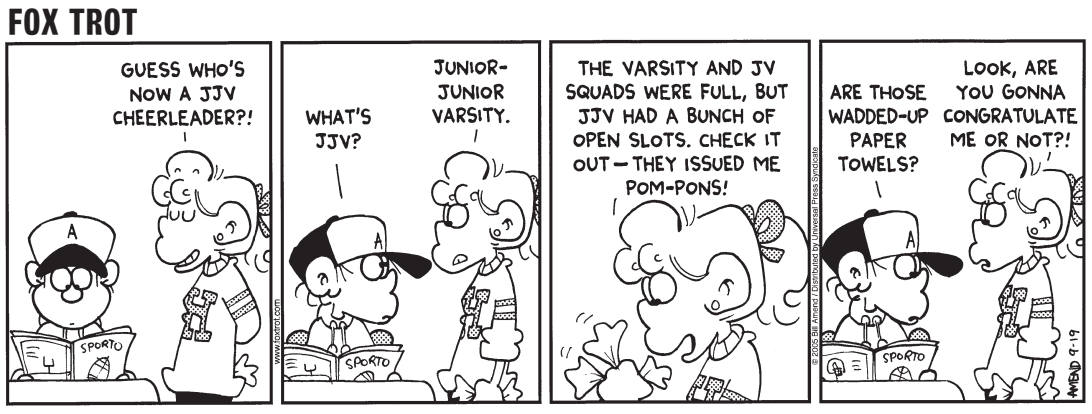

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

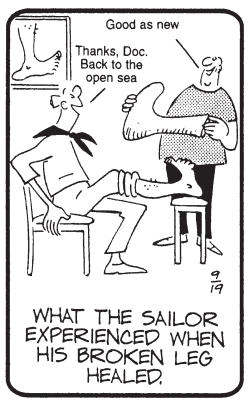
NUKKS

ROATA

FOLFAY

PANUCK

www.jumble.com




WHAT THE SAILOR EXPERIENCED WHEN HIS BROKEN LEG HEALED.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Print answer here:** A _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BYLAW NOISY TRUANT HEARTH
Answer: What the seamstress enjoyed on her wedding day — "ALTAR-ATIONS"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| A1 | I1 | Y4 | S1 | R1 | T1 | V4 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| E1 | E1 | O1 | U1 | N1 | D2 | B3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| A1 | I1 | I1 | L1 | T1 | G2 | P3 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| U1 | I1 | A1 | L1 | F4 | N1 | G2 | 1st Letter Double |

**PAR SCORE 145-155**
**BEST SCORE 215**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL** ____
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 145-155 |
| RACK 1 = | V4 | A1 | R1 | S1 | I1 | T1 | Y4 | | 63 |
| RACK 2 = | D2 | E1 | B3 | O1 | N1 | E1 | | | 9 |
| RACK 3 = | P3 | I1 | G2 | T1 | A1 | I1 | L1 | | 80 |
| RACK 4 = | G2 | A1 | I1 | N1 | F4 | U1 | L1 | | 63 |
| | | | | | | | | TOTAL | 215 |

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | X | V | S | Q | 7 | N | K | I | F | D | A | X | V |
| T | Q | O | M | J | H | F | 3 | 2 | C | A | Y | W | 8 | U |
| R | F | P | P | I | G | 1 | 1 | 3 | N | L | J | H | 4 | F |
| D | O | B | Z | H | A | M | S | T | E | R | 1 | 6 | 1 | X |
| V | X | T | R | 0 | 5 | K | N | I | M | S | 6 | L | P | Q |
| O | 5 | M | K | I | C | H | F | B | D | 2 | R | I | E | B |
| Z | 2 | 6 | G | O | D | Y | C | B | N | W | A | O | E | V |
| T | R | Q | W | 1 | 5 | 1 | T | A | O | G | T | N | H | O |
| N | 1 | 2 | E | S | U | O | M | R | T | L | 2 | 1 | S | K |
| I | 8 | 2 | 6 | K | N | U | K | S | H | 6 | 1 | 0 | F | D |
| 0 | C | A | Z | X | H | W | V | U | S | R | 2 | 8 | Q | O |

Saturday's unlisted clue: ACUTE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: DOMESTIC SWINE 113 DAYS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cat 62 | Goat 151 | Lion 108 | Rat 21 |
| Cow 280 | Hamster 16 | Mink 50 | Sheep 148 |
| Dog 62 | Horse 337 | Mouse 21 | Skunk 62 |
| Fox 52 | Human 266 | Rabbit 32 | |

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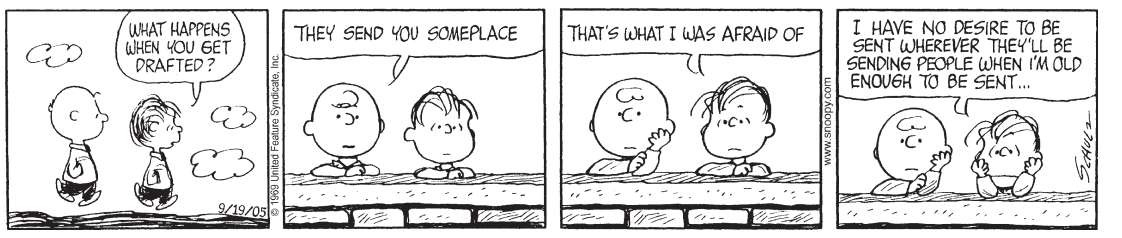
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| N | N | Y | L | O | D | E | E | V | B | W | P | E |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| E | L | U | R | A | I | R | S | S | S | Q | F | R |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| I | O | I | E | V | D | U | E | R | T | E | E | O |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| O | S | A | H | U | P | S | S | I | E | F | E | S |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| T | S | F | E | T | R | U | A | L | N | D | T | D |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| L | U | A | I | R | F | D | D | I | V | L | T | Y |
| 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| L | Y | E | A | O | N | D | L | Y | O | V | W | E |

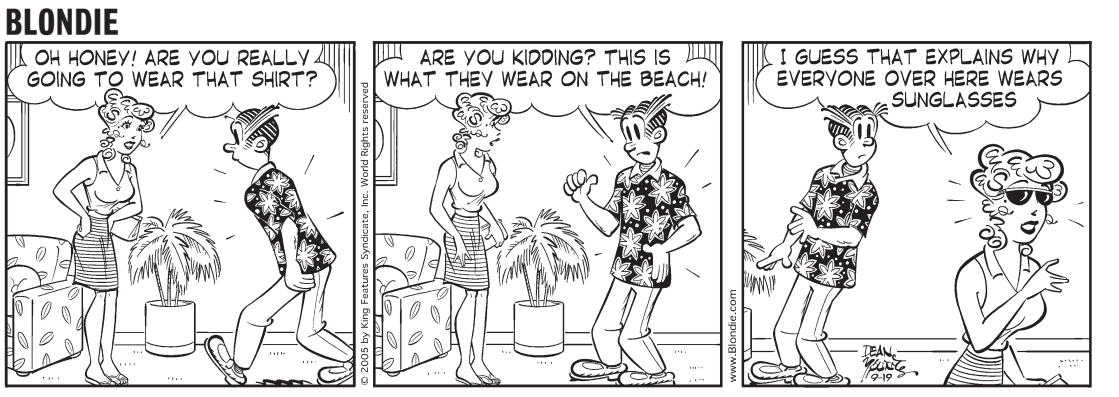
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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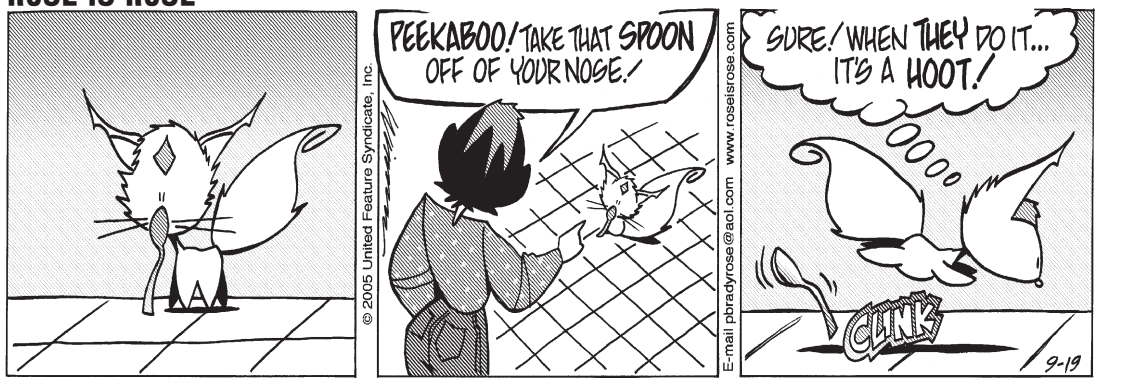
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



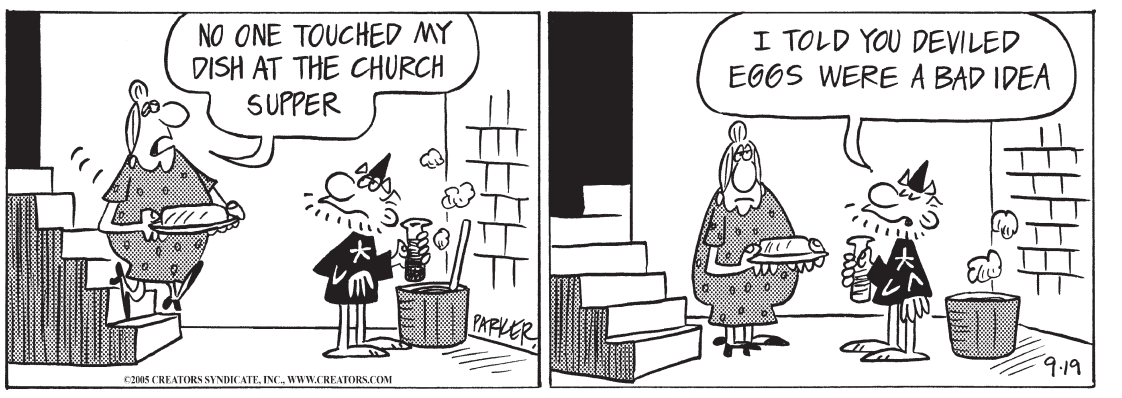

## BLONDIE



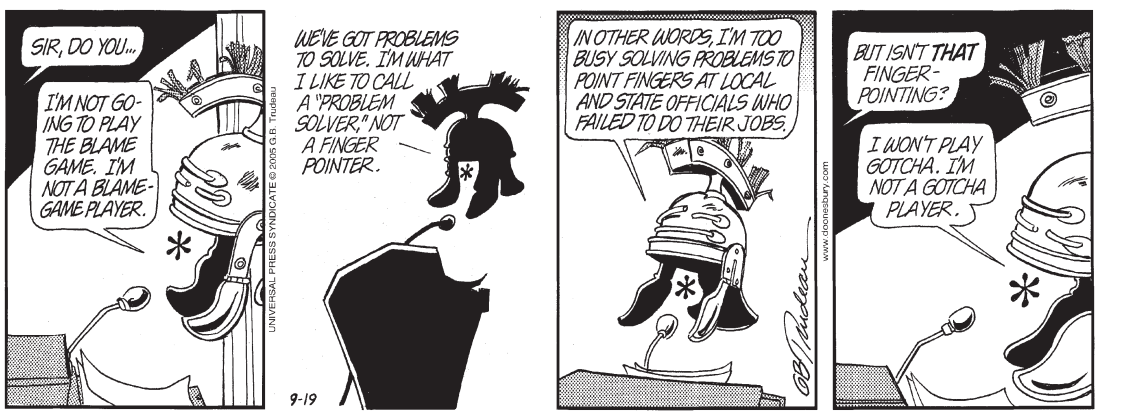

## ROSE IS ROSE



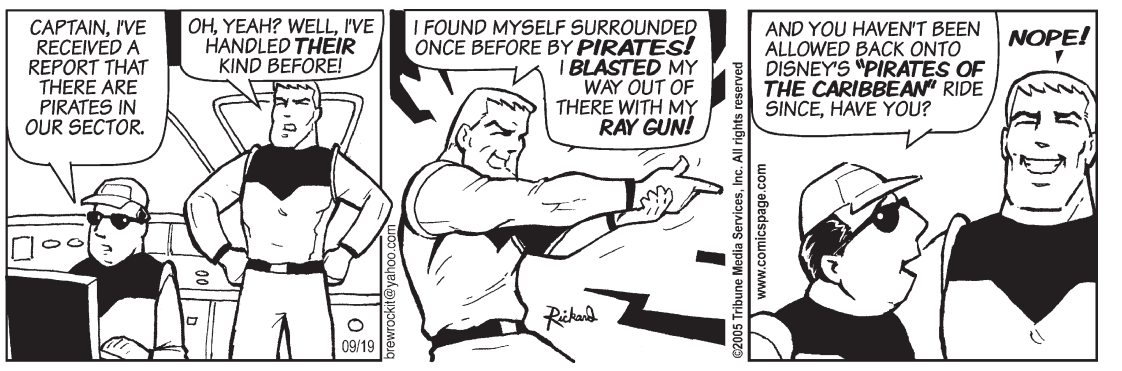

## THE WIZARD OF ID



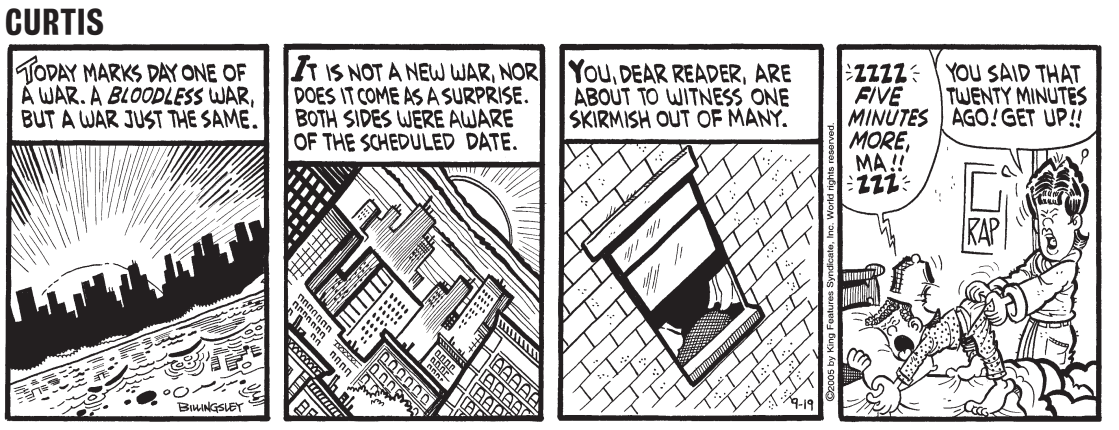

## DOONESBURY



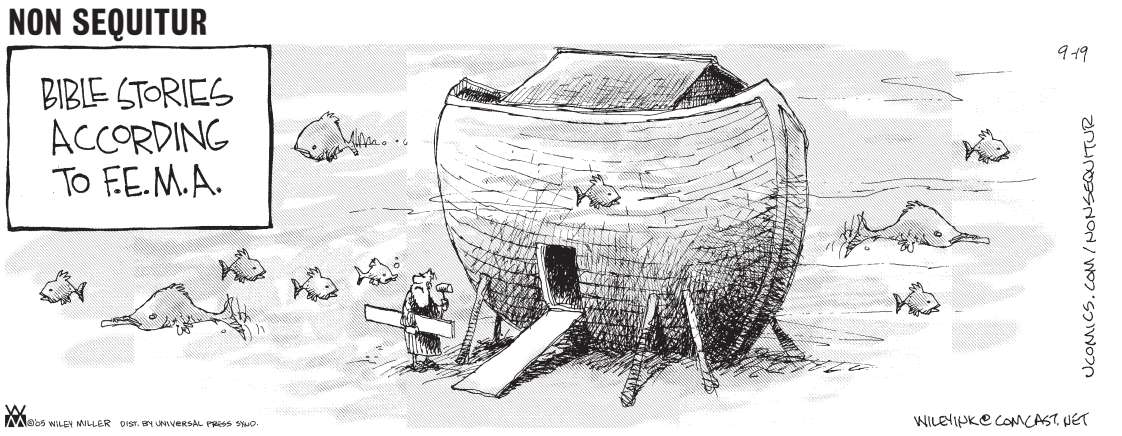

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

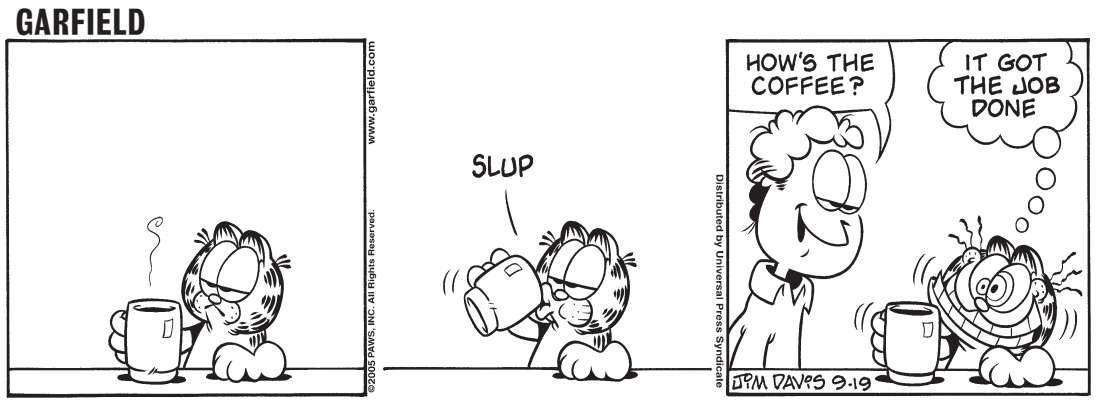



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

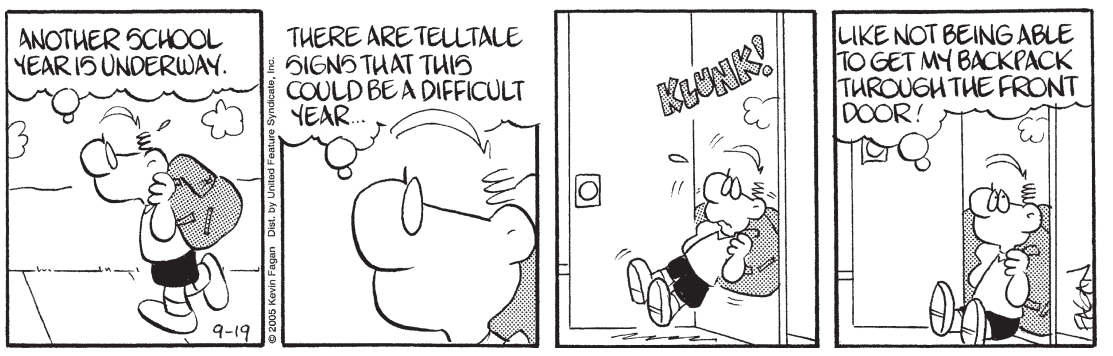


# COMICS

## GARFIELD



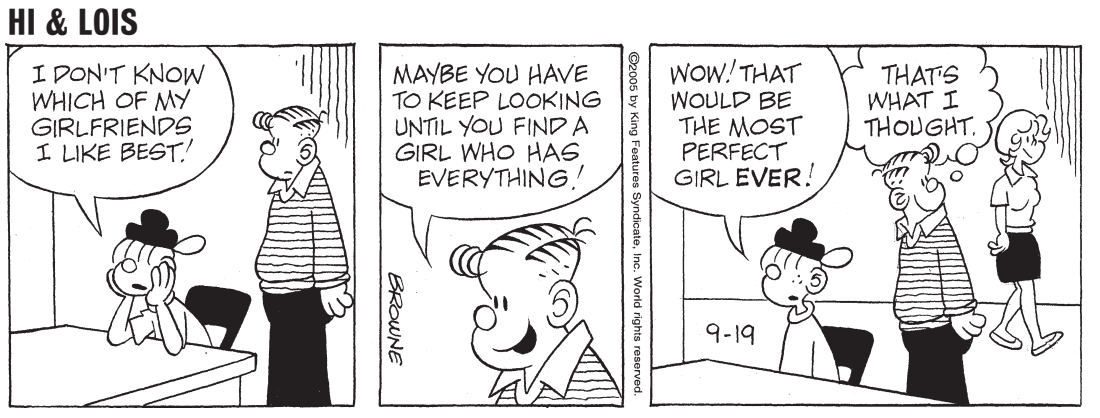

## DRABBLE



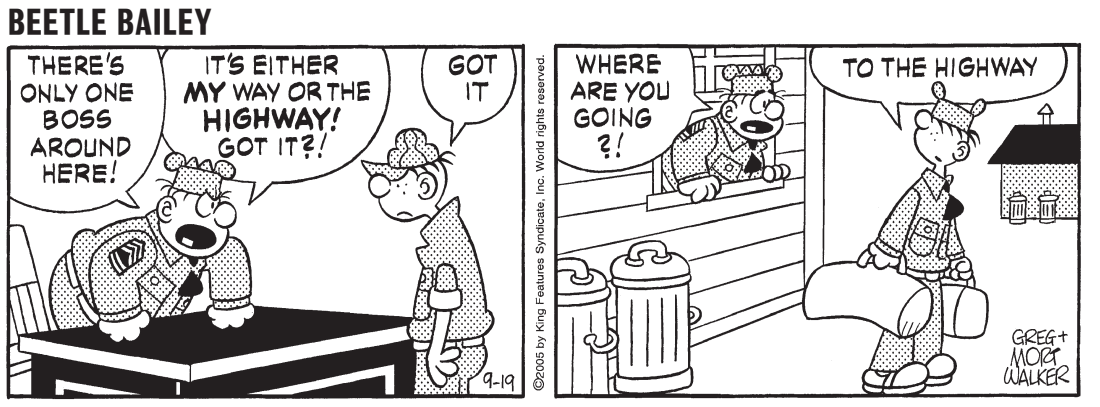

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



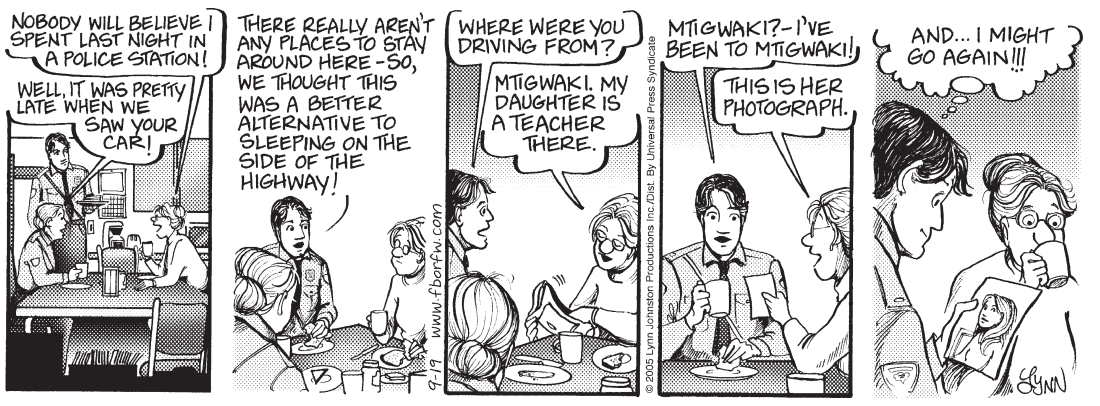

## HI & LOIS



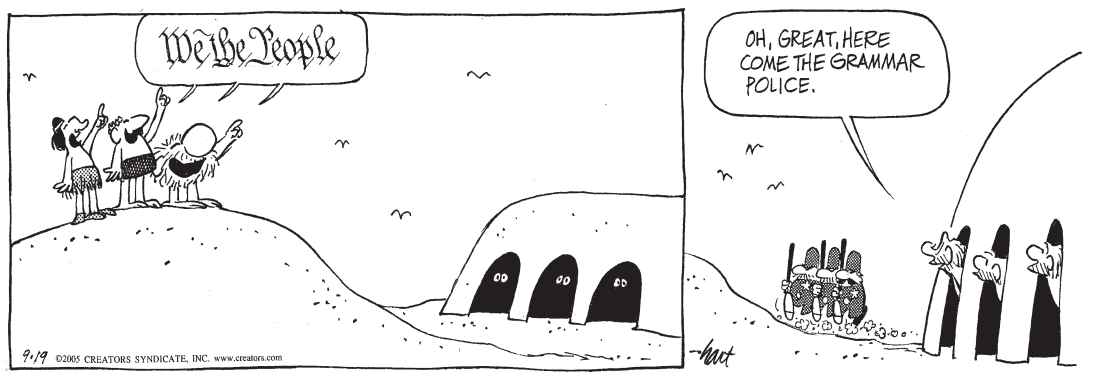

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.



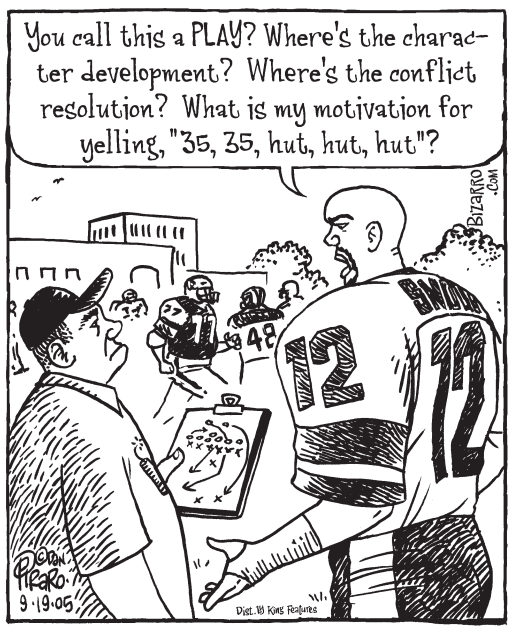

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



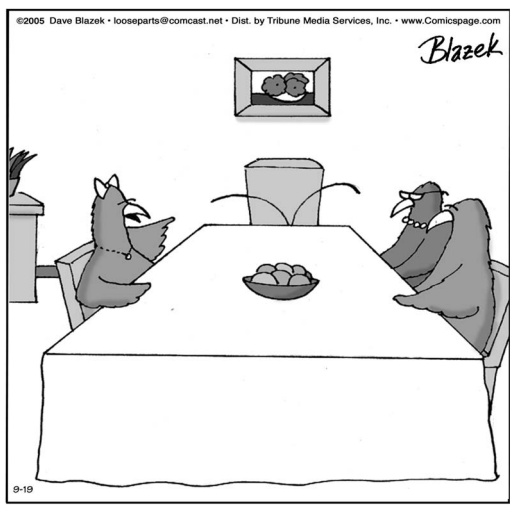

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

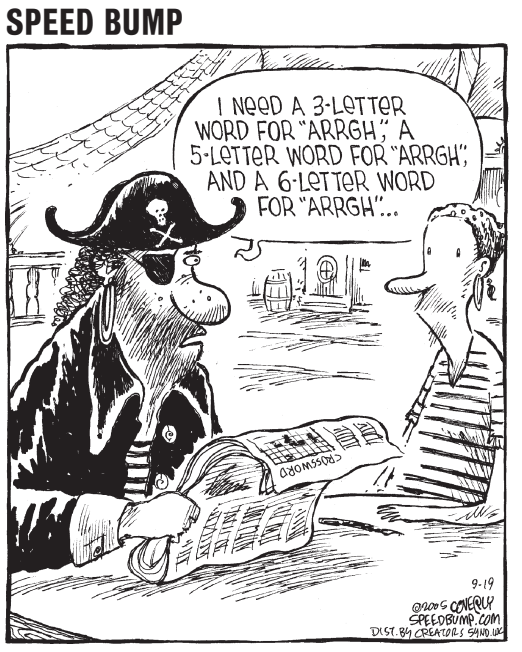



## LOOSE PARTS

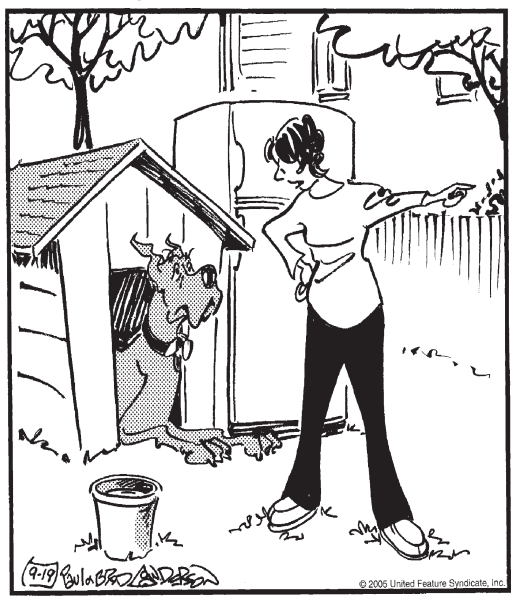



"Mom Dad this is Hector.
He's an actor in the comics industry."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Our refrigerator goes back in the kitchen."

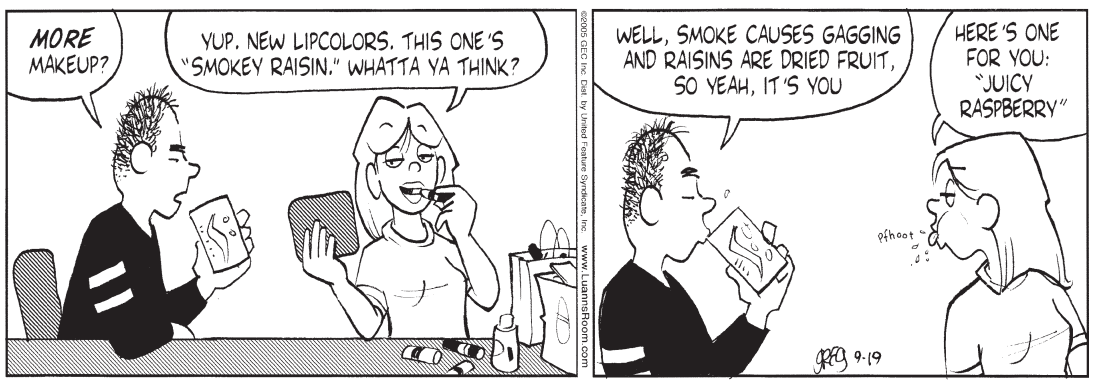
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"It's not for our baseball team.
It's for my vegetable garden."

## CLOSE TO HOME




Building on the popularity of casual Fridays, many companies have instituted bad hair Monday.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"MR. WILSON SAYS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG THERE WERE ONLY *THREE* CHANNELS, BUT THE PROGRAMS WERE A *HUNDRED* TIMES BETTER!"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**WINE PLEASURES** **Solution: 6 letters**

G E N I D E L L I T S I D M R
E C N A R F E T A R B E L E C
S M E L L B A R S R I I S R B
E E C A L P E R I F Q T A L U
F R V O L T E O I U A L U O L
A O O L T E R T O U L S V T C
R D I I H R R R R E H I I A T
A H B C E O B A C E N H G S H
C O A T F O N H R E A D N T G
W M P R T T I R Y R I A O E I
H E U T E L Y A V N L T N C N
I I L S E E R E N (T) A E E I F
T E D V W D S E (R) B T D A T I
E E O E S T R (O) L S I P S Y N
R L E C I R (P) E R S S T O R E

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Bars, Bitter, Blood, Bottle, Carafe, Celebrate, Cellar, Cheers, Chile, Chill, City, Date, Dine, Dinner, Distilled, Fine, Fireplace, Flavor, Fortified, France, Fruit, Harvest, Home, Iced, Italian, Liquor, Love, Merlot, Nightclub, Port, Price, Reds, Restaurant, Rosé, Sauvignon, Sherry, Sips, Smell, Spain, Store, Sweet, Table, Taste, Terroir, Vineyards, White

**Last Saturday's Answer: Kingdom**

CONTINUED

# *The* NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART *in City Park survived nearly intact*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

International Investigative Group guard Stephen Dux patrols the upstairs concourse at the New Orleans Museum of Art, which had only 24 out of 40,000 objects affected by Hurricane Katrina.

**ARTFUL,** *from C-1*

NOMA deputy director Jacqueline Sullivan, who road an airboat through flooded City Park to the museum last week, said that of the 40,000 objects at the museum, only 24 were touched by the storm. The museum building was virtually undamaged by the high winds or flood, though what Sullivan describes as hydroscopic pressure forced three inches of water through the building's foundation into the storage vaults, where it reached a few Japanese prints, photos and Native American kachina dolls.

The Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden beside NOMA had been prepared for the coming storm, with many of the more vulnerable elements moved inside. Only one piece, Kenneth Snelson's "Virlane Tower," a spare geometric obelisk made of tensioned steel wire and rods, valued at $500,000, had crumpled into the lagoon.

Sullivan said that three museum engineers and three security guards stayed in the museum with their families — 39 people in all — through the storm and the four days after, until National Guard troops asked them to leave, assuming the security duties themselves. Air conditioning has been restored to the collections after a short hiatus when fuel in a generator ran out and NOMA plans to open a remote office at the Louisiana Arts and Science Center in Baton Rouge in the next weeks.

"As soon as the mayor gives the OK, we'll reopen," Sullivan said. "Our exhibition schedule may change, but at this point we're flexible."

Elsewhere in the bedraggled city, things didn't go so smoothly.

By far the most harrowing tale of museum survival was told by Jake Staples, assistant director of facilities at the D-Day Museum, where 30 to 40 looters at a time marauded through the ground floor of the glass-faced building as he hid in a gallery on the second floor.

"From Wednesday night to Friday evening I was bunkered down behind the serpentine wall on the second floor," he said of his hair-raising ordeal.

Staples reports with relief that the museum exhibits went essentially untouched while "the gift shop and PJ's (coffee shop) got trashed."

Nowhere else was the drama so intense, though there were places that damage was more severe.

Much of the copper roof was torn from the Louisiana State Museum at the Old Mint at the foot of Esplanade Avenue, a depository of much of Louisiana's jazz memorabilia collection. The pieces of roof lay tossed onto the lawn like crumpled aluminum foil.

Angele Davis, secretary of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, said she sent recovery teams into the city immediately after the storm, combing through French Quarter museums. The teams found the vast majority of priceless items intact, among them Louis Armstrong's trumpet, surely as paramount a symbol for New Orleans as the Mississippi River. Only 1 percent of the museum's jazz memorabilia was wet by storm waters, Davis reported. Those objects are currently being gently freeze-dried at the LSU Library in Baton Rouge to prevent further damage, while tarps have replaced the copper sheeting to prevent further leaks.

"We're very fortunate that our state's cultural assets survived the brunt of the storm," Davis said.

Clay tiles from the roof of the Historic New Orleans Collection — a document, photo and regional painting archive in the French Quarter — broke free and smashed onto Toulouse Street, but no water entered the building during the storm.

Fearing possible post-Katrina damage, HNOC director Priscilla Lawrence led a Louisiana National Guard-escorted rescue party to the museum, removing two truckloads of historic documents, which have been stored in an undisclosed museum elsewhere in the state.

"We moved original manuscripts and artwork," Lawrence said, "just to spread the risk in case there was a fire. Everyday you heard something horrible was happening. There was so much military presence in the French Quarter, we felt perfectly safe."

The art galleries along Julia and Royal streets seemed largely intact when viewed from outside, with only an occasional broken windowpane or water stain to mark Katrina's passing.

At the Contemporary Arts Center, the Crescent City's Camp Street venue for cutting-edge expression, the fourth floor windows were punched through by the pressure of Katrina's hurricane-force winds, glass shards and rain showering into the atrium below, sparing the exhibit in the closed upstairs gallery.

"The old, old water tank on top of the roof ruptured and that slipped over to the Joseph street side," said CAC employee Neal Fuselier, who was escorted to the building by a police office friend six days after the storm. "That's what knocked the edge off the roof. But the art work is perfect, excellent, not damaged."

Security guards manning the lobby of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, across the street form the CAC in the Warehouse District, reported that the museum was virtually untouched by Katrina, with continuous air-conditioning to the collection vaults throughout the aftermath of the storm.

Like NOMA, security guards were present at the Ogden until asked to leave by the National Guard on Friday. A remote office at the St. Tammany Art Association in Covington will be established in the near future.

"The damage to the city is tragic," Ogden curator David Houston from his refuge in South Carolina, "but it will cause a creative burst. Tragedies always do."

Art Critic Doug MacCash can be reached at dougmaccash@yahoo.com.

# 'Head-rocking' is no cause for alarm

**QUESTION:** When I put my 4-month-old son down to sleep, he shakes his head right and left pretty hard for a while and then falls to sleep. I think he's trying to get comfortable but he shakes his head quite a bit. Is this a need for concern?

*— C.H.*

**ANSWER:** Head rocking isn't uncommon as a soothing technique or a way of quieting one's self when a baby is adjusting to a transition like going to sleep. It can be like thumb-sucking or other soothing techniques.

With this kind of rocking, though, babies sometimes wear patches of hair off the backs of their heads in the process. Sleeping on their backs is difficult for active babies, who can more easily cuddle themselves and find their thumbs when lying on their bellies.



T. BERRY BRAZELTON

But our concern about the danger of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) makes it necessary to position babies this age on their backs, even though they then may resort to behaviors like this head rocking to soothe themselves.

When your baby is awake, you can prop him up at an angle at this age so he can look around, and begin to reach for a safe toy strung across his crib. Don't leave him too much. Carry him with you, or talk to him or play with him.

Are you worried about whether this head-rocking represents a neurological problem? It certainly needn't be, for many healthy young children do rock. If you're worried, check him out with his doctor and let him know your concern. He or she can look for other symptoms in order to reassure you.

**Q.** I have an 18-month-old child who is like a piranha. He bites two or three times a day at daycare and I dread the "Oh, no" reports I have to sign upon picking him up — not to mention the criticism I receive from the director because the other parents want my child kicked out of school. How can I get him to stop biting?

*— C.K.*

**A.** Biting is common at this age, but two or three times a day — on a regular basis — does sound excessive. It would be hard to blame the daycare staff and parents for being concerned about him.

Biting episodes usually occur when a toddler is losing control, or getting too excited. He may not yet have learned to socialize and biting is his way of engaging his peers and seeking attention, even if it's negative.

So of course the frantic reactions that biting usually sets off means he'll get plenty of attention, leading him to bite again. He may also need to bite again to try to figure out what all the fuss is about, or because the intense reactions around him give him a sense of power that very little else he can do ever does.

Perhaps the teachers could try to respond to some of the positive things he does with as much intensity. And you might look for a playmate his own age who won't put up with his aggressive responses, one who, when he bites, will say, "It hurts. I don't like it. I won't play with you if you bite."

To put a stop to all the biting, details about what sets it off and what settles it down are needed, but often these are lost in the panic reactions. Then, of course, no one knows what to do.

Ask for the details of some of these incidents at daycare. Are there warning signs in his behavior that might tip teachers off to move in early to distract or even briefly isolate him? Are there specific triggers, predictable events that upset him or overexcite him that can be avoided, or if unavoidable can be followed up with individualized soothing?

You might suggest that he either be given something safe to bite on before he bites anyone. Once he does, he needs to be put in a safe isolated place and told quietly, "No one likes to be bitten. When you can get yourself under control, you can play again."

But he'll need the teachers to return quickly to comfort him. If he tries to contain himself, he needs praise for that: "It's tough to be 2 years old and unable to control yourself."

Learning how is a lifetime project and you can start by teaching him how.

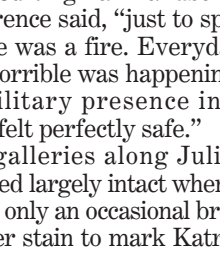
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Questions or comments should be addressed to Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and Dr. Joshua Sparrow, care of The New York Times Syndication Sales Corp., 609 Greenwich St., 6th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10014-3610. Questions may also be sent by e-mail to: nytsyn-families@nytimes.com. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column. Drs. Brazelton and Sparrow regret that unpublished letters cannot be answered individually. Responses to questions are not intended to constitute or to take the place of medical or psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis or treatment. If you have a question about your child's health or well-being, consult your child's health-care provider.

# Be kind to your deadbeat of an ex

**DEAR CAROLYN:**

Three years ago, I broke up with my then-fiancé. We had dated long-distance the entirety of my college career. He's six years older, and his life had not changed a bit (same dead-end job, same crappy apartment, same pot-smoking) while I was in college. When I moved back home after graduation to be with him, I realized that I had changed and he hadn't, and that this wasn't the life I wanted or the man I wanted to marry. I gave back the ring, broke his heart, and understandably he felt betrayed. I moved away and have not spoken to him or seen him since.



CAROLYN HAX

Fast forward to today: I'm newly married to a wonderful man, I have a successful career, life is good. I've heard that my ex is working the same job and hasn't had a long-term relationship since our break-up. I'm also fairly certain he has heard that I'm married. I know one day my husband and I will run into my ex, since we return to my hometown at least once a year. How do I handle the situation gracefully? I don't wish my ex ill, but also have no interest in feigning friendliness that I do not feel.

*Impending Awkwardness*

**DEAR AWKWARDNESS:**

"Hi. This is (husband). I hope life has been treating you well." It's something you can say sincerely, I hope, even if you don't feel friendly.

Something else you can do: Level your head, so you can look him in the eye without looking down your nose. You may have outgrown him, and chosen connubial bliss over his cannabial rut, and therefore earned your pride and relief.

But don't vilify a guy you once found attractive, just to ease the burden of breaking his heart.

There's also no guarantee either of you is long for either station in life. He could very well clean up and soar as your marriage and hot career tank — and it's always better to find humility before it goes out looking for you.

**HEY CAROLYN:**

I'm a few months into a great relationship and we're both still working out the kinks. We have a ton in common personality-wise, but differ widely on issues of lifestyle preference: She hates anything mildly offensive, I just went to see "The Aristocrats" and loved it. She is pretty religious and quietly demands that I rise to her level. I work in entertainment and she refuses to have a TV or stereo. The list can go on. I say all this to ask, at what point do smaller clashes of lifestyle add up to a bigger problem of compatibility?

*—Capitol Hill*

**DEAR CAPITOL:**

Opposites do just fine — theoretically and anecdotally — when the love and respect are for any differences, not in spite of them, and when you're both confident in your own lifestyle choices.

The problems start when one of you wishes the other were different; wishes you yourself could be different; believes the relationship will get better if you work at it; even considers that it's your place to change, upgrade, educate, enlighten, break in, quietly demand things of, loudly demand things of, or disapprove of, the other person; thinks there's something wrong or lonely about doing cultural things separately; or feels a rush of relief upon meeting someone who watches TV.

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E-mail "Tell Me About It": tellme@washpost.com; fax:202-334-5669; or write: "Tell Me About It," c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20071. Chat online with Carolyn each Friday at noon Eastern time, at www.washingtonpost.com.

## SUNDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Monday
September 19, 2005

# EMOTIONALLY CHARGED



AP PHOTO

New York Giants return specialist Chad Morton, who once played for the Saints, returned a punt 52 yards for a touchdown in last week's season-opening victory over the Arizona Cardinals. The Giants, who were scheduled to play at New Orleans in Week 2, will instead host New Orleans in the Saints' 'home' opener.

## *No matter where they play, the Saints promise to bring plenty of intensity*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

The Saints' don't care where they play. The game could be in San Antonio, Baton Rouge or like tonight, in East Rutherford, N.J., and the players promise to play with the same intensity and effort as they have in putting together a five-game winning streak, the longest in the NFL.

"We are like a bunch of stray dogs, scrapping like it's all or nothing," defensive end Charles

Grant said. "In a situation like we're in, that's all you can ask for."

The Saints are an inspirational force for a city devastated by Hurricane Katrina, which forced the team to move its business and football operations to San Antonio for the remainder of the season.

Tonight, the Saints (1-0) will be the designated home team in a nationally televised game against the New York Giants (1-0), although it will be played at Giants Stadium.

Even though the Saints didn't make the 2004 playoffs, they ended the season on a four-game winning streak. The same work ethic, the same intensity and the same effective execution that prompted the winning streak has carried over into this season. They went to Charlotte, N.C., in last week's opener and came away with a 23-20 victory against the Carolina Panthers, who came back Sunday to defeat the defending Super Bowl champion New England

Patriots. The Saints used a ball-control offense to take control of the game, and then their defense held off a late second-half comeback by the Panthers.

"The guys got a spirit about them that I hope will continue for the rest of the season," Coach Jim

Haslett said last week.

During the Saints' five-game winning streak, their defense has intercepted seven passes, including two last week by Jason Craft and Mike McKenzie, and has 14 sacks.

But they will be playing a Giants team that has plenty of offensive weapons, starting with New Orleans native Eli Manning, a second-year quarterback who completed 10 of 23 passes for 172 yards with two touch-

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-6*

## Eli not first Manning to weather storm

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Way, way down on the list of what Hurricane Katrina did was this: It looks as though Eli Manning will never get to play a football game in the Superdome.

That should have happened Sunday, when the Giants and their second-year quarterback were scheduled to face the Saints in that famous building on Poydras Street.



PETER FINNEY

Well, here are the Giants preparing to welcome the Saints to one of those home games away from home, and here is Archie Manning saying he'll be watching his son from afar - on TV, from Mississippi.

"I regret not being able to be there, to watch Eli play against a team he grew up rooting for," said

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-6*

## Hornets to base operations in Oklahoma City

*Team will announce decision this week*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

The Hornets will announce early this week that they will base their operations this season in Oklahoma City, keeping a smaller satellite office in either Baton Rouge or New Orleans, a source familiar with the plans said Sunday.

The team will have a split staff working both locations, with a larger group in Oklahoma City, where the NBA will announce that the team will play many of their "home" games this season in the 19,000-seat Ford Center downtown, a facility opened in 2002 that can accommodate the need for club seat and luxury suite sales.

It remains unclear, however, how many games will be played in Oklahoma City this year and how many at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

Hornets officials are hoping that between eight and 12 games can be played at the recently renovated PMAC, which for two weeks served as a

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-8*



AP PHOTO

Bostjan Nachbar and the Hornets will move their base of operation to Oklahoma City, according to a source familiar with the plans.

## Bertman: It was the most intense time I've ever had in my life

*AD proud of LSU's relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — As the humidity-soaked days of summer grinded onward toward the start of LSU's football season, the No. 1 topic among fans was the most physically visible.

Would the renovations of Tiger Stadium's west upper deck be finished in time for the season?

Athletic Director Skip Bertman's stock answer throughout was that barring a hurricane, the section would be habitable and every Tiger ticketholder would have a seat this season.

The statement turned out to be more ironic than prophetic.

The hurricane - the infamous Katrina - did come, precipitating the largest natural disaster in U.S. history on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Seemingly everything at LSU but the stadium renovation – still close to, if not right on schedule – was turned topsy-turvy in Bertman's world.

Two consecutive weeks he had to disappoint LSU fans by postponing the season opener and relocating the second home game. And in the grander scheme, the life-and-death matters, he watched his physical plant be turned into ground zero for the relief effort.

His long workdays suddenly revolved around daily morning and afternoon meetings with Chan-

*See* **BERTMAN,** *page C-7*

**ANALYSIS**

## Wave needs to look forward now

*Leaders need to step up, steer team in right direction*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

Tulane coach Chris Scelfo knows there are some positive things to build on from the Green Wave's 21-14 loss to Mississippi State on Saturday night in Shreveport.

Playing the way the Green Wave did after three weeks of uncertainty, coming back after being down 14-0 and forcing the Bulldogs to come up with a huge defensive series at the end of the game were all positives for Scelfo's team.

For Tulane's players, getting through the first game had to be like lifting a boulder off their shoulders. The past two weeks, especially last week, the team was bombarded by interview requests from the national media.

Now the Wave, which entered fall with the potential to be a bowl team, has to have its leaders move this team forward and put Hurricane Ka-

*See* **TULANE,** *page C-7*



AP PHOTO

Tulane linebacker Antonio Mason, left, and cornerback Israel Route bring down Mississippi State running back Jerious Norwood during the first half Saturday in Shreveport.

**INSIDE** • **UNO AD Miller adjusting after hurricane, C-7**

# INSIDE GAME

## SAINTS vs. GIANTS

Kickoff: 6:30 p.m. at Giants Stadium, N.J.
Coaches: Jim Haslett (43-38 in sixth season with Saints); Tom Coughlin (7-10 in second season with Giants; 75-70 in 10th season overall)
TV: ABC (outside of the Saints' and Giants' markets, the game will switch to ESPN at 8 p.m.).
Radio: WLMG 101.9-FM

## KEEP AN EYE ON

**TIKI BARBER:** The Saints' biggest weakness is defending the run, and the Giants' tailback is exactly the kind of shifty open-field runner that causes problems for the Saints' linebackers and safeties. He is a threat both running and catching the ball and can make tacklers miss if he breaks past the line of scrimmage. The Giants will balance him with bullish rookie Brandon Jacobs, a Louisiana native who impressed in Week 1 with 39 yards and a touchdown on six carries. The key for the Saints will be to get ahead early and force the Giants to throw.

**ELI MANNING:** All attention has been focused on the Saints in this hastily scheduled Monday night opener, but it also will be the biggest stage yet for the Giants' second-year quarterback, playing on national television and against his hometown team. Manning has started only eight games, and the Saints would love to put pressure on him to play catch-up, so they can attack with defensive ends Charles Grant, Darren Howard, Will Smith and Tony Bryant – a formula that worked well last week against Carolina and Jake Delhomme. ... But then again, this could become Manning's coming-out party. A big, national stage is nothing new to last year's No. 1 overall draft choice.

## GAME PLAN

The Saints would love a repeat of last week's first half in Carolina – emphasis on the word run. Putting the plan they had talked about all offseason into practice, the Saints ran the ball early and often, mixing in some short passes and controlling the clock. The Saints' game-opening touchdown drive lasted 15 plays. In the second quarter, they had a nine-play touchdown drive. They held the ball for 18 minutes in the first half and took a 14-7 lead into the locker room. That kind of play makes everyone better – quarterback Aaron Brooks isn't pressured to do too much, the defense stays off the field, and opposing offenses are forced to stray from their own game plans. ... The Giants' run defense, however, is stingy, so look for a test of wills Monday night.

## KEY MATCHUP

**JAMMAL BROWN vs. MICHAEL STRAHAN** Brown, the Saints' rookie offensive tackle, passed his first test last week against Carolina's star defensive end Julius Peppers. But now he has to go against an all-time great in Strahan, who has 119.5 sacks. In his 13th NFL season, Strahan, who is list as questionable with back spasms, may not be as explosive or athletic as Peppers, but he certainly knows how to get the best of a rookie offensive tackle. He'll try to get in Brown's head – and into the Saints' backfield.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** The Saints are 6-13 all-time on "Monday Night Football," having lost five in a row dating to 1993. This will be only their second MNF appearance since 1994. The other was a 34-21 loss to St. Louis in 2001. ... The Saints had the oldest opening-day roster in the league, averaging 28 years, 228 days. But timeless special teams standouts John Carney, 41, and Fred McAfee, 37, can take some of the blame for that. ... Carney was selected the NFL's Special Teams Player of the Week this past week, making the Saints the first team to win the award five weeks in a row, dating back to last season. ... Tailback Deuce McAllister needs 10 yards to become the Saints' all-time leading rusher. George Rogers currently holds the mark of 4,267 yards from 1981-84. ... Under Coach Jim Haslett, the Saints are 25-16 on the road in the past five seasons.

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** "It was a long time coming (last week's game). We had a great offseason. We worked really well in the offseason. We had minicamps in the offseason, the OTA's. The last two weeks have felt like six months, so, I think it was just relief that they had the opportunity to play in a regular-season game. I know I was looking forward to it and I think that was the big thing where they were looking toward the opportunity to be playing. ... They'll be excited about playing on Monday night. They'll be excited about the opportunity to play in New York. And hopefully we can continue to keep playing well." **– Haslett.**

# Saints look to continue their winning ways

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

downs in the Giants' 42-19 victory against the Arizona Cardinals in Week 1.

It was the most points the Giants have scored in a game since the 2002 season, and they had to overcome a 13-7 halftime deficit. Running back Tiki Barber rushed for 62 yards on 13 carries and scored a touchdown, and wide receiver Plaxico Burress caught five passes for 76 yards with a touchdown.

"The No.1 thing is that we have to stop the run and come out playing fast," cornerback Fakhir Brown said. "Hopefully, we can put a little pressure on their young quarterback."

The Saints sacked Jake Delhomme once last week, but linebacker Courtney Watson promises that they will provide a better pass rush tonight.

"Hopefully, we'll get them out of their comfort zone," Watson said. "We're going in with the same

emotion and intensity that we did in Carolina. Right now, we fully understand what we're doing on the defensive side and the coaching staff understands what we do well, too."

Offensively, the Saints will try to control the clock again, relying on their physically tough offensive line and running back Deuce McAllister, who rushed for 64 yards last week. They controlled the clock for 32 minutes, 36 seconds compared to the Panthers' 27:24. The Saints also scored on their opening possession of the game for the first time since the 2003 season.

The Giants are likely to show more blitz packages to disrupt quarterback Aaron Brooks, who completed 18 of 24 passes for 192 yards with no interceptions last week.

Despite injuring his jaw and wrist against the Panthers after catching a team-high six passes for 71 yards, tight end Ernie Conwell did not miss any practice time last week.

"The Giants are the No. 1 rushing defense in the NFL and they're big, strong and physical," Conwell said. "They give you different schemes, mixing up their pressure. Clearly, this is a healthy defense, so there is no let up for us as far as what we have to do."

# Archie Manning is a hurricane veteran

**FINNEY,** *from C-5*

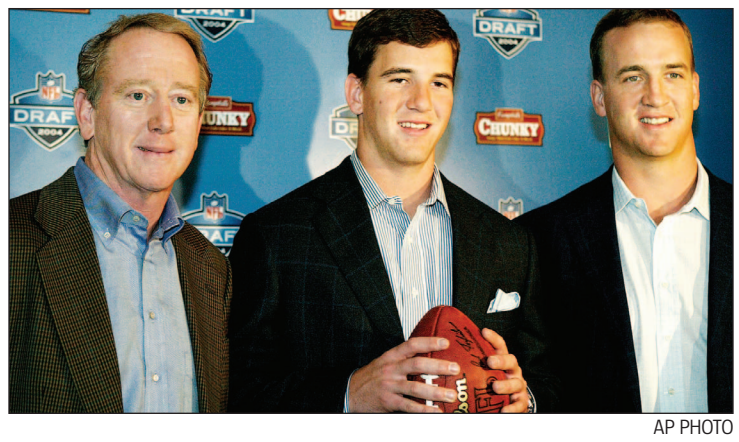
Archie. "As a fan, I think it's great what the NFL is doing with the telethon on Monday, with the relief effort by the league and by so many of the players. I understand they've already raised $10 million, which is fantastic."

Archie counts himself as a hurricane veteran, remembering he was a quarterback at Ole Miss when Hurricane Camille hit the Gulf Coast in 1969.

"I had teammates who lost relatives and had their homes blown away," said Archie. "In New Orleans, you always kept hearing about the Big One and what could happen with the water surge from the lake and those kind of things. So Katrina did not come as a total surprise."

Archie said he could understand Jim Haslett's chagrin about being robbed of a home game, having the play the Giants in their back yard.

"The league felt a sense of urgency," said Archie, "that it was too quick to play the game



AP PHOTO

Archie Manning, left, with sons Eli and Peyton, has dealt with the aftermath of a deadly hurricane before. When Hurricane Camille hit the Gulf Coast in 1969, Manning said he knew of friends who lost family members and property.

in San Antonio or in Baton Rouge. They also had the telethon in mind. All in all, under the circumstances, I think the league acted wisely."

Back in the days Archie was announcing Saints games, there were times sons Peyton, Eli and Cooper, along with a friend, would play two-against-two pickup football after the game in the Superdome.

Obviously, Eli was looking forward to playing a real game there. Now, thanks to Katrina, the Giants and their young quarterback will be trying to snap a five-game winning streak by Coach Haslett's displaced invaders, going back to last year's 4-0 finish.

On the other hand, you have the 1-0 Giants looking for a 2-0 start for the first time in five years.

In last week's 42-19 win over the Arizona Cardinals, they trailed 13-7 at halftime (Manning threw two interceptions, one returned for a touchdown in the first half) before a five-touchdown explosion that included a punt return by ex-Saint Chad Morton, whom the Giants signed last week.

At a time the Saints were bonding because of Katrina in their 23-20 upset of the Carolina Panthers, Giants coach Tom Coughlin was using a game played on the fourth anniversary of 9/11 as a motivational tool.

"There was no way we were going to lose on that date for this great city and these great people," he said.

On the day of the terrorist attacks, Coughlin's son, Tim, escaped from the World Trade Center.

Today, in a way, opposing sides will be facing similar tasks.

The Giants' defense will be asked to handle Deuce McAllister on the ground, and in the air limit the damage of Aaron Brooks throwing the football to Joe Horn.

As for the Saints, nicked by some big Carolina rushes last week, it will be a matter of preventing Tiki Barber from running wild and not allowing the aerial combo of Manning-to-Plaxico Burress (that produced five catches for 76 yards last week) to get into a rhythm that could tip the scales.

Come tonight, so much for life on the football field.

Off the field, Katrina left an anxious mark on Giants defensive tackle Kenderick Allen of Bogalusa, a former LSU Tiger and New Orleans Saint. Allen spent six days wondering if his mother had survived the hurricane.

She did.

"There was no way I could concentrate on football," said Allen."I was up here wishing I was down there."

The day after defeating the Cardinals, the Giants agreed to donate part of their paychecks to Habitat for Humanity for hurricane relief. At one meeting, they raised $140,000.

# Defense gives Colts a lift over Jaguars

*Manning limited to 122 passing yards in 10-3 win*

**From wire reports**

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts have a new winning combination: patience and defense.

With Peyton Manning's wide-open passing game mostly grounded Sunday, the Colts pounded away at Jacksonville, breaking through in the final nine minutes with a six-yard touchdown run by Ran Carthon and letting their defense preserve a 10-3 victory over the Jaguars.

"We need to be able to win games like this," Coach Tony Dungy said. "Good teams have to win games that go any kind of way."

It wasn't pretty for the Colts (2-0), but it was effective.

Manning, the two-time MVP, was off the mark, overthrowing receivers much of the day and looking out of sync as the Jaguars pressured him. He finished 13-of-28 for 122 yards with one interception and a quarterback rating of 44.0 — his worst regular-season rating since December 2001.

The NFL records some expected to fall this week for most yards passing and touchdowns by a quarterback-receiver tandem never materialized. Manning connected with Marvin Harrison three times for 36 yards, leaving the duo 24 yards and three touchdowns short of their claim to bring the league's best tandem ever.

Instead, the Colts relied on a



AP PHOTO

Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning hands off the Edgerrin James during their narrow victory over Jacksonville on Sunday.

persistent running game. Edgerrin James ran 27 times for 128 yards, and Indianapolis used a 17-play drive that consumed nearly nine minutes before Carthon's late touchdown run finally gave the Colts the lead with 8:27 left.

Still, Indianapolis took the early edge in the AFC South title chase — protecting its home field against the only team to beat it at home last season — and got more help when Carolina beat two-time defending Super Bowl champion New England. That result brought a roar from the stragglers still left inside the RCA Dome.

"Every week it seems it's a different test," James said. "We show the fans what we can do."

The Jaguars (1-1) may have lost more than a game.

Quarterback Byron Leftwich hobbled up the field during the final two minutes as he nearly rallied Jacksonville. He got the Jaguars to the Colts' 22 before a pass to Jimmy Smith in the end zone was broken up by Bob Sanders on the final play.

Leftwich was injured on the second-to-last series when Raheem Brock sacked him from behind and bent him over awkwardly. Leftwich lay on the ground, reaching for his knee before limping off the field. He was X-rayed after the game.

"I don't want to say what it is right now, but it wasn't the knee," said Leftwich, who was in obvious pain on the final drive. "I'm happy the knee is OK."

Leftwich finished 16-of-29 for 198 yards, was sacked six times — three times by Montae Reagor — and continually took big hits.

# Davis helps carry Panthers past Patriots

*Running back scores 3 touchdowns*

**From wire reports**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers know a Week 2 victory over New England doesn't come close to rectifying their Super Bowl loss to the Patriots two years ago.

Even so, their 27-17 victory over the Patriots on Sunday sure did feel good.

"It wasn't a revenge game or a get-back game, because that was a long time ago," said Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme. "This was just a big win for us."

It certainly was no Super Bowl reprise because neither team played that well.

But the Panthers (1-1) did just enough to win, getting three touchdowns from Stephen Davis in the first regular-season meeting between the teams since the Patriots' 32-29 Super Bowl win two seasons ago.

But if it was any indication, neither team is ready to play for a championship and the Patriots (1-1) look nothing like a winner of three of the past four Super Bowls.

"Do you think we're going to win any more games playing like this?" Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "We can't play like this. We have to play better. We have to coach better. This won't be good enough ... against anyone we play."

Delhomme, who threw an interception that Mike Vrabel returned 24 yards for a touchdown, finished 11-of-26 for 154 yards and no touchdowns.

It meant the Panthers had to rely on Davis, who ran for 77 yards and scored on three 1-yard plunges in his second game back from microfracture surgery on his right knee. Davis became the first running back to score three touchdowns against the Patriots since Curtis Martin did it in 2000.

"I'm fine," Davis said. I'm feeling great. I'm having no setbacks."

# Seahawks start fast, then hold off Falcons

**From wire reports**

A week ago the Seattle Seahawks wilted in the Florida heat. On Sunday, they nearly wilted on their own, taking a 21-0 halftime lead and then holding on to beat visiting Atlanta 21-18.

Shaun Alexander ran for 144 yards and a touchdown and Matt Hasselbeck threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns for Seattle. Still, it was the defense that won it for the Seahawks (1-1), shutting down the Falcons (1-1) after Atlanta got the ball back with 2:39 left at its 27, trailing by three.

**BUCS 19 vs. BILLS 3:** Carnell "Cadillac" Williams surpassed 100 yards rushing for the second straight week, helping Tampa Bay dominate J.P. Losman and Buffalo for the Bucs' first 2-0 start in five years.

Williams carried 24 times for 128 yards and one touchdown. The performance followed a 148-yard, 27-carry debut in a season-opening victory at Minnesota.

Tampa Bay's defense scored on a safety and was every bit as tough on Losman as it has been on a list of young quarterbacks that includes Michael Vick, Donovan McNabb and Daunte Culpepper in recent years.

**JETS 17 vs. DOLPHINS 7:** Chad Pennington threw two touchdown passes, including a one-yarder to former Tulane standout Jerald Sowell in the fourth quarter, for New York, giving former LSU coach Nick Saban his first NFl loss with Miami.

**BENGALS 37 vs. VIKINGS 8:** Chad Johnson caught a 70-yard touchdown pass on the game's second play to spark Cincinnati.

The Bengals (2-0) dominated the Vikings (0-2), rolling up 337 yards and a 27-0 lead in the first half.

**STEELERS 27 at TEXANS 7:** Ben Roethlisberger led Pittsburgh to scores on its first four drives — a pair of field goals sandwiched around touchdown passes of 16 and 14 yards to Hines Ward — and the Steelers cruised.

Pittsburgh (2-0) won its 16th straight regular-season game.

**EAGLES 42 vs. 49ERS 3:** Donovan McNabb threw four of his five touchdown passes in the first 19 minutes, including a pair to Terrell Owens.

McNabb played three quarters, finishing 23-of-29 for 342 yards and tying his career-best for touchdown passes.

**BEARS 38 vs. LIONS 6:** Chicago scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams to blow out Detroit.

Thomas Jones led Chicago with 139 yards and two touchdowns on 20 carries. .

**TITANS 25 vs. RAVENS 10:** Steve McNair threw a touchdown pass and Rob Bironas kicked field goals of 39, 29 and 47 yards as Tennessee (1-1) beat Baltimore (0-2).

The Titans' defense had six sacks and got two turnovers.

**RAMS 17 at CARDINALS 12:** Kurt Warner fell a few yards shy of a memorable comeback against his former team. Warner, 29-for-42 for 327 yards in his first game against the St. Louis franchise he directed to two Super Bowls and one NFL crown, drove Arizona to the St. Louis 5-yard line in the final seconds. But a sack by Adam Archuleta and a false start by offensive tackle Leonard Davis preserved the Rams' victory.

**BRONCOS 20 vs. CHARGERS 17:** Jason Elam's 41-yard field goal with five seconds left lifted Denver (1-1) past San Diego (0-2).

Ron Dayne came off the bench and ran six times for 39 yards on the winning drive.

**BROWNS 26 at PACKERS 24:** Trent Dilfer led Cleveland (1-1) over Green Bay (0-2) for new coach Romeo Crennel's first win. Dilfer threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Braylon Edwards and a clinching 62-yarder to Steve Heiden with 1:50 remaining.

Dilfer completed 21 of 32 passes for 336 yards.

**"It was really uplifting. Seeing our basketball team together was really encouraging."**
JIM MILLER UNO athletic director

# Miller staying the course for Privateers

*UNO athletic director has his hands full in Katrina's wake*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

For UNO athletic director Jim Miller the map in The Times-Picayune only served to confirm what he already suspected - his home, in Lakeview near Canal and Robert E. Lee boulevards, was in an area inundated by the flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Not far away, at Harrison and Argonne, Pizzazz, the women's active wear store started by wife Jane less than a year ago, is similarly under water.

"I generally try to get to bed at 10:30-11 (p.m.), but I wake up every night at 2:30-3 (a.m.) thinking about what might still be safe on the second floor, or 100 other different things," said Miller, who has not been back to check on his home. "I know that we're no different from thousands of other people out there.

"But I do know that I'm a heck of a lot more fortunate than a lot of them because I have a job."

That he does - overseeing an athletic department staff of 45 and 175 athletes on teams now scattered from Atlanta (swimming), to Las Cruces, N.M. (baseball), to Tyler, Texas (men's and women's basketball), to Thibodaux (women's golf) to Baton Rouge (track).

Miller, who has been working with the rest of the UNO administration from the LSU systems office in Baton Rouge, began visiting those coaches and athletes last week, making Tyler his first stop.

"It was really uplifting," Miller said. "Seeing our basketball team together was really encouraging,

because they are in a good situation and in great spirits.

"I used to like to go around our offices and visit with our coaches for 15 minutes or so a couple of

times a week. You can talk on the phone every day, but that personal contact is something I've really missed."

Whenever that time comes when Miller can again stroll around Lakefront Arena doing just that remains to be seen.

Plans are for classes to resume for the spring semester beginning in January, but Katrina left a 12-foot hole in the arena roof, and it's doubtful the building will be usable for basketball this season.

Figuring out where the basketball teams will play their home games is one of Miller's top priorities.

"We could use the Pontchartrain Center, the Alario Center or a combination of places," Miller said. "Our main thrust is getting things back on campus where we can have a functioning university where courses are taught and events are being held."

For Miller, 57, UNO is his first position in college athletics. After 11 years as a sportswriter in his

native Louisville and Baltimore, he went through a variety of positions in the NFL, including executive vice president of the Saints from 1986-96.

The athletic department he took over at UNO in January 2003 was one with severe problems, some that remain. The Privateers were then and remain at the bottom of the Sun Belt Conference all-sports standings.

Men's basketball attendance has sagged into triple digits and the team hasn't advanced to postseason play since 1997. A makeover of Privateer Park has been stalled because

of a lack of financing.

There appears to be a general indifference about athletics from the student body and the community as a whole despite the large number of alums in the New Orleans area.

And, as always, finances are tight for a program that depends on the university for survival.

Miller had shaken things up, changing coaches in every sport except men's basketball and women's golf and becoming more aggressive in marketing and fundraising. And in all of the team sports - basketball, baseball and volleyball - expectations were for improved performance this year.

Then came Katrina.

The easy course would have been to write off athletics for the year, perhaps permanently.

But that was never considered.

"The first time we got together, (Chancellor) Tim Ryan made the point to me that we've got to get back on track as soon as we can, and basketball in particular," Miller said. "Athletics means a lot to the university and the community.

"Katrina may have slowed us down, but it's not going to kill us."

The Miller family's own Katrina saga began with an evacuation to Baton Rouge to stay with Jane's family. After it appeared that at worst power wouldn't be restored for a few

days, the decision was made to go to Louisville to visit relatives for the rest of the week.

Those plans were reversed when while getting a new battery in Jackson, Miss., the Millers

learned of the breach in the 17th Street Canal, meaning their home was likely under water.

They immediately returned to Baton Rouge, where they've been since.

Miller recently purchased a home on Highland Road and plans to have the children, Layne,

11, and Connor, 9, in school there for the rest of the year.

"Connor's handling it pretty well because he's a boy; and our beagle Elmo, he's happy," Miller said. "But it's been tough on Layne. "She really liked going horseback riding in City Park. She was crying the other day because she misses Buttercup."

Miller said he has left many of the family matters to Jane because he is immersed in being

responsible for the athletic department.

"Thank God for Jane," he said. "She's the best.

"She's lost her business, and that's a tremendous burden. But she's got things going here."

Life for the Millers, if not approaching normalcy, is getting into a routine. Family and friends in Kentucky have sent two trucks full of furniture and clothes. A brother donated his daughter's car.

The kids are in school, along with many of their classmates from St. Dominick's in New Orleans.

"I'm as deeply into work as I have ever been," Miller said. "In normal times it's like herding cats, and this makes it just more so.

"But you never escape the personal problems - your own and those of the people you work with."

Among Miller's regrets is that he had to leave behind two family Bibles from the 19th century plus a dictionary given to his great grandfather in 1873.

"I'm sort of the family historian," he said. "I was supposed to take care of that stuff."

But there is some good news filtering back. A neighbor reported that as of Wednesday, five feet of water remained in the house, but that's down from where it had been.

"Hopefully it didn't get the kids' stuff on the second floor," he said. "You're glad to hear anything like that."

Miller said he does not consider himself an overly emotional person, but admits that Katrina has affected him deeply.

"The first Sunday after the storm, we went to church and the priest asked all of the evacuees from New Orleans to stand," he said. "I just lost it right there - not because of what had happened to us, but because I realized that there are so many people who care about us and are concerned about us.

"Events like this are something you usually see happening in Bangladesh or some other country on TV, and you just go on to the next program. This is one you're living through - we're all living through."

# LSU athletic department comes to rescue

**BERTMAN,** *from C-5*

cellor Sean O'Keefe and various other university officials and relief agencies such as FEMA. Events were in a constant state of flux and decisions were being made in rapid-fire order. Nearly every sport under his auspices was affected, displaced or delayed in some manner.

Now that the stress on LSU has eased somewhat, Bertman said what the school and athletic department accomplished in its role gives him a feeling of satisfaction and pride.

"I have never been more proud of the people in the athletic department and LSU in general," Bertman said. "(These kinds of tragedies) bring out the best and worst in people. But here at LSU I didn't see any bad things. I didn't see anyone who wasn't willing to help.

"It was the most intense time I've ever had in my life, the most serious. I worked real hard coaching the 1996 Olympic baseball team. That was physically hard. This was much more intense and much more important.

"It's different from Jim (Miller) at UNO and Rick (Dickson) at Tulane. First, they had to get a house and get to safety; they had to find a place for the teams. I can't relate to that. It must be awful for them."

Almost as quickly as the hurricane hit and the tragedy and destructiveness of the aftermath become apparent, LSU was springing into action. The Pete Maravich Assembly Center had been predetermined as a refugee site and quickly became "the largest triage site in the history of America," Bertman said, with 30,000 people coming through. The underground practice court became a temporary morgue and the Carl Maddox Field House a 500-bed hospital. Ambulances raced into and out of the campus while helicopters of all shapes and sizes ferried in evacuees, using Bernie Moore Track Stadium as a helipad. Alex Box Stadium was a drop-off point for evacuees, who were then bused to the Baton Rouge River Center.

Once the sites were determined, the relief effort needed able hands. About 3,000 student volunteers, many of them athletes and other athletic department personnel aided the dozens of doctors and nurses from across the country tending to the injured and sick while seeing things they'd never seen before.

"Every agency that came in here said LSU really stepped up to the plate," said Jim Fernandez, vice provost of academic affairs. "At no time was there ever a standoff or stoppage. Everybody in the athletic department did what they had to do."

Sports information student worker Bill Martin volunteered in triage and watched a man die. He then wrote about it in a poignant e-mail that made its way around the country. Videographer Doug Aucoin

worked his usual 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. shift before volunteering at the Field House until 4:30 a.m. one morning. Equipment manager Greg Stringfellow stayed past midnight to wash donated clothing for the evacuees. Head trainer Jack Marucci cleaned out his medical supply cabinet and donated what he could. PMAC manager Dwight Johnson rounded up cots, mattresses, blood, IVs, telephones and whatever the emergency workers and security people needed. Football players visited with and comforted the sick and injured, gaining a new cadre of fans.

Bertman never said a word about volunteering.

"It just happened," associate athletic director Herb Vincent said. "People saw it and knew they had to help because they were in the middle of it. These are people that work long hours anyway and took it upon themselves to work some more."

Said Bertman: "One of the FEMA people said in his 25 years of experience he'd never seen anything better."

Coaches understood. Bertman held a meeting of all coaches explaining the situation and that some would be unable to

use their facilities.

He didn't get one question from them asking 'When will I be able to get back into my facility?' or 'How long is this going to take?'

With the area around the PMAC buzzing like a beehive, it was apparent the first football game against North Texas couldn't be played on Sept. 3 in Tiger Stadium. That game was postponed and later rescheduled for Oct. 29.

With hotel space nonexistent because of the evacuees and emergency workers, LSU made the decision Sept. 6 to move the Arizona State game, set for Sept. 10, from Baton Rouge to Tempe, Ariz. It not only made it a tougher game to win but cost LSU $2.5 million.

"That just wasn't an issue," Bertman said.

Twice in a row was a tough one for LSU fans to swallow, though Vincent said most of the e-mail contacts they received supported the decision. Bertman said it was the toughest one the school had to make, and one that was made by the school as a whole and with its best interests at heart.

"This is bigger than an athletic department," he said. "No AD wants his football coach to play the opener on the road when it's supposed to be at home, especially when he's a new coach. We tried to play the game in the worst way and bumped into amazingly enough only one untenable obstacle. And that was no hotel rooms in a 200-mile radius around Baton Rouge, even in Shreveport. College football teams need 105 rooms and a full-service hotel.

"By game day things had settled down at the PMAC, but at the time we had to make the decision, the hospital was still here and we didn't want a huge traffic tie-up with helicopters and ambulances still trying to get in."

Bertman absorbed some criticism from anxious LSU fans, including one who e-mailed that LSU was a "university and not a hospital."

The result of the game brought an unparalleled sense of relief.

"I was emotionally invested in this game more than any game I've been involved in," Bertman said. "I wanted this game for the fans, for the players, for (head coach) Les Miles. Other than the national championship game, I can't remember being this emotionally involved."

There is still much unemotional involvement left for Bertman. Hotels will be tricky for visiting teams for the rest of the season, though residents are slowly filtering back to the New Orleans metro area. The Tennessee football team may have to arrive in Baton Rouge on game day and fly out that night for the Sept. 24 game.

LSU is set to host four Saints games, while officials from the Hornets, the Sugar Bowl and the high school state championship games are negotiating with LSU about using its facilities.

"The only ones I haven't heard from are the Zephyrs," Bertman chuckled.

"I didn't do anything personally except take my daughters (from New Orleans) in as evacuees. I watched people in our department spring forward and do some wonderful, great things. I was really proud of LSU and Louisiana."



AP PHOTO

Tulane running back Matt Forte tries to find a seam in Mississippi State's defense Saturday. The Green Wave's season opener was moved to Shreveport due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

# Defense steps up for Tulane

**TULANE,** *from C-5*

trina behind it. When it does that, it will begin to win games.

## OFFENSE – C-

Yes, Tulane came back in the second half with two scores, both fine plays – a stretched-out catch by Damarcus Davis in the end zone and an 18-yard, tackle-breaking run by backup tailback Jovon Jackson – but the offense let too many opportunities get away in the first half.

Quarterback Lester Ricard, the catalyst of this team, did not have a particularly good game (he completed 26 of 47 passes without an interception). He looked a lot the way he did in last year's game against Mississippi State. His fumble in the first half was the result of a good defensive play by State's Clarence McDougal.

Running back Matt Forte had a couple of good runs, but did not have the type of game (66 yards on 20 carries and 10 yards on four receptions) the Wave needed to win. That was mostly because of the offensive line's inability to handle the Bulldogs' front in the second half. With senior Chris McGee out for a good portion of the game, the Wave's

offensive line had a pair of freshmen logging a good bit of playing time.

## DEFENSE – A

It was deja' vu all over again.

For the second straight year, the defensive job was good enough to secure a win against the Bulldogs. The Green Wave gave up a couple of big plays in the second half, but it repeatedly turned back Mississippi State's offense.

Led by Anthony Cannon's 11 tackles, the defense held State to 225 yards and forced it to punt 10 times. The Bulldogs were held to one first down in the first half. The total performance was better than any performance by Tulane's defense last season. The

problem is the Wave's defense is far ahead of the team's offense. It again must wait for the offense to catch up, score more points and take the pressure off of the defensive unit.

## SPECIAL TEAMS – F

In spite of converting two fourth-down plays to extend drives, the Green Wave's special teams failed miserably. This was a major concern going into fall camp, and with Fred Smith's season-ending knee injury several weeks ago, the concern about Tulane's return game has grown.

A muffed punt by cornerback/returnee Izzy Route that put Mississippi State in superb position to break a tie at 14 late in the fourth quarter was the coupe de grace.

But there were more than enough blunders to go around. On the opening kickoff, a penalty negated a 50-yard return by Route.

Overall, the kickoffs were not very good, there were two fumbles on punt returns, an onside kick was botched, and even first-team all-conference punter Chris Beckman had a terrible game. After averaging 43.7 yards per punt last season, Beckman averaged 38.6 yards on 10 kicks, and had one punt that traveled 16 yards. This is an area that must improve immediately.

**Saturday's Summary**
**Mississippi State 21, Tulane 14**

| | MSU | Tul |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 10 | 19 |
| Rushes-yards | 30-117 | 35-87 |
| Passing | 108 | 206 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 13-26-1 | 27-48-0 |
| Return Yards | 11 | 71 |
| Punts-Avg. | 10-45.0 | 11-42.5 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 1-1 | 3-2 |
| Penalties-Yards | 6-59 | 10-75 |
| Time of Possession | 23:54 | 36:06 |

**RUSHING:** Mississippi State, Norwood 21-99, Conner 4-14, Lowe 5-4. Tulane, Forte 20-66, Jackson 6-29, Boger 1-3, Ricard 8-(minus 11).
**PASSING:** Mississippi State, Conner 13-26-1 108. Tulane, Ricard 26-47-0 179, Beckman 1-1-0 27.
**RECEIVING:** Mississippi State, Prosser 5-38, Sanders 2-26, Norwood 2-4, Butler 1-18, Milons 1-11, Long 1-7, Lowe 1-4. Tulane, Brown 9-117, Terranova 5-33, Forte 4-10, Guidroz 3-28, King 3-4, D.Davis 1-11, Jackson 1-3, Koch 1-0.

# Vols lament special teams breakdown

LSU NOTES

By Jim Kleinpeter
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE – Everything that special teams did for LSU at Arizona State a week ago went against Tennessee in its 16-7 loss to Florida on Saturday.

The Volunteers had a field-goal attempt blocked, fumbled a punt and failed on a fake punt attemp. Any one of those could have made a difference for the Vols, who fell to No. 10 in The Associated Press rankings.

"We had a meltdown from a kicking game standpoint," Vols coach Philip Fulmer said Sunday. "Give Florida credit. They didn't make the mistakes to beat themselves and we did."

The fumbled punt led to a field goal and after Tennessee's next possession, freshman punter Britton Colquitt tried to pass for a first down when Florida failed to cover the Tennessee gunner. But Florida's Tony Joiner hustled over to break up the pass and set up Florida at the Vols' 32-yard line. The Gators kicked another field goal to make the score 13-7.

The pass was reminiscent of a play LSU made against Arizona State when LSU punter Chris Jackson completed a 12-yard pass for a first down from the Tigers' end zone, a risky play at best. Many teams instruct their punters to automatically throw the pass when the gunner (wideout) is left undefended. Fulmer said there was some miscommunication.

"We had a successful one last year with Mississippi as well," Fulmer said. "This particular case, that wasn't really intended to happen. It was my fault for not having communicated where the punter fully understood it. We have it in our system but last night wasn't necessarily meant to be one of those."

Despite those special teams blunders, Fulmer said there were other places the Vols could have played better. Fulmer used two quarterbacks, starting with former LSU player Rick Clausen. Erik Ainge came in after the second offensive series and played most of the remainder of the game.

Fulmer said an inability to take advantage of the Gators' man-to-man pass coverage was another disappointment.

"If we connect on some of those deep balls against man coverage things look differently, maybe we make them play differently," Fulmer said. "We just didn't make the plays in the passing game that we needed to make vs. man-to-man coverage."

**ROOM AT THE INN:** The Vols will have a hotel Saturday, but won't be staying in it Friday night. The team will stay in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Knoxville on Friday and is scheduled to arrive by air in Baton Rouge around noon on game day. Fulmer said the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge will allow them to use rooms and banquet rooms long enough to rest, get a meal and go through pre-game meetings and preparation. The Vols will fly home immediately after the game.

"If we had done anything differently, it would have displaced some people there that are working with the folks in New Orleans to help them get their power back up and we didn't think that was the right thing to do," Fulmer said. "I'll be interested to see how we react. I think we'll do fine."

**QB DERBY:** Fulmer said he won't make any decisions on the Vols' quarterback situation until film has been graded. Clausen, who started against Ole Miss for LSU in 2002, transferred to Tennessee in 2003. His older brother Casey starred there at quarterback. Clausen sat out 2003 and started the last four games last year because of injuries to Ainge and Brent Schaeffer, who has since transferred. He earned the Cotton Bowl MVP award hitting 18 of 27 passes for 222 yards and three touchdowns in a victory against Texas A&M. He was two of five passing against Florida for zero yards. Ainge was 14 of 29 for 147 yards.

"Rick has made a lot of progress," said Fulmer. "He's an older guy, mature. He's been around two good systems, LSU and ours. He's way ahead of the game compared to most guys who haven't played more than he has."

# Oklahoma seizing opportunity of hosting Hornets

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

medical evacuation facility for Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Peter Fink, vice president for NBA events and attractions, toured the PMAC last Thursday and filed a mostly favorable report to league headquarters in New York, outlining the plusses and minuses of staging games there.

The primary drawback was lack of club seats and suites, and some of the other amenities customarily available in NBA arenas.

But the league and the Hornets hope to retain something of a local tie for the team this season, since it's likely the Hornets could not play again in New Orleans Arena until the All-Star break in February, if at all.

SMG regional vice-president Doug Thornton said Sunday that the Arena appears to be in worse shape than originally thought. Thornton said the building suffered extensive water damage on its south side, where floodwaters rose as high as four feet. The four locker rooms on the ground floor still have standing water in them, as much as six inches in spots. The Harrah's Courtside Club and the hardwood basketball court are also completely destroyed, he said.

"That building is a little worse than I first thought," Thornton said. "I'm a little discouraged by what we saw there."

The questions remain whether the Arena can be made playable in time to play part of the home schedule as originally planned and whether the city's infrastructure can be repaired sufficiently to house visiting NBA teams in luxury hotels downtown.

Team president Paul Mott could not be reached for comment Sunday.

And while Hornets owner George Shinn repeatedly has said he remains committed to play in New Orleans beyond this truncated season, officials in Oklahoma are seizing the opportunity to make the Hornets' temporary relocation permanent.

One state legislator, according to The Daily Oklahoman newspaper, has filed a bill aimed at the state picking up relocation costs if the team decided to move there next season.

Oklahoma House Bill 2061, filed by Rep. Joe Dorman, D-Rush, calls for the state to absorb relocation costs should the Hornets seek to move to Oklahoma City.

"Even by a conservative fiscal estimate," Dorman told the newspaper, "Oklahoma would receive a $9 million boost to our economy if the Hornets move here, even if it's only for a year. We will get new revenue from hotels, restaurants, concession sales and from new payroll. If we can spend a little to make a lot more, I want to make sure we do everything possible to get the Hornets here."

# Fla. high schools can sympathize with La.'s loss

*Sunshine State had to deal with multiple hurricanes last year*

By Pierce W. Huff
Staff writer

Port Charlotte High School running back Jason Wood said he and his family lost almost everything last year when Hurricane Charley devastated parts of Florida.

He knows what people in southeast Louisiana are going through.

But what surprised him most about the ordeal, he said, is how a hated rival became a good friend in the wake of the storm.

Port Charlotte and Charlotte high schools were bitter rivals, competing in everything from football to volleyball.

But when the area, located on the Florida Gulf Coast between Fort Myers and Sarasota, was devastated by three hurricanes, including a big hit from Charley, the schools came together in an unprecedented way.

The schools had to share everything on the Port Charlotte campus because Charlotte High suffered extensive damage from the storm.

"I never would have believed it would have happened," Wood said. "Personally, it wasn't tough emotionally for me, because it was just good to be alive."

The school-sharing experiment went off without a hitch, and the rivals grew to have a new respect for each other, he said.

Patience and staying positive helped Florida high schools survive four hurricanes last year, and those same attributes will be important for schools in southeast Louisiana that are trying to rebuild their athletic programs in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Last year, the Florida High School Athletic Association had to reschedule athletic contests in football, volleyball, golf and swimming/diving because of the hurricanes that swept through the state.

John Stewart, the director of the FHSAA, said his association devised a plan to deal with the fallout from canceled and postponed games.

The plan in football was to allow affected schools the opportunity to play as many as three games in eight days and shorten the games to eight-minute quarters in accordance with National Federation of State High School Association rules. Teams also were encouraged to play district games if possible, which is the main FHSAA criteria for qualifying for the state playoffs.

The FHSAA allowed its volleyball teams to play up to five matches per week. The golf teams were allowed to play on their normal schedule provided they could find a course in the damaged areas.

The swimming/diving state championships were moved to the University of Florida, because there were no outdoor pools available in the Florida Panhandle area.

"People poured out their hearts and were good to us," Stewart said. "We felt fortunate."

With the state rules taken care of, schools affected by the hurricanes were left to make due as best as possible. In Charlotte County that meant Port Charlotte and Charlotte high schools sharing the same campus, everything from classrooms to athletic fields, from August 2004 to last April.

Port Charlotte students went to school and practiced during the day and the Charlotte students went to school and practiced in the afternoon and evening. The teams had to adjust their schedules so they could play at the same venues.

"Everything was turned upside down," Port Charlotte athletic director Mark Primerano said. "We had over 4,000 kids going to the same school every day."

But the end result of the school-sharing experiment was that the rivals developed a newfound appreciation for each other.

"When you go through something like that, you have no choice but to get along," Charlotte football coach Binky Waldrop said. "The kids were awesome. If there was any problem, it was between the parents and the grownups."

Primerano said the schools bonded.

"It just forced us to be open and mindful," he said. "We had to be patient and more patient, because all you can do at that point is to put things in perspective. It did bring about some normalcy for the kids just to play, but it was tough for everybody. Everybody sacrificed."

Pensacola Catholic football coach Greg Seibert said the best advice he would give Louisiana schools hopeful of playing this football season is make sure that everyone on the team is contacted as quickly and as often as possible.

Pensacola Catholic canceled two games and played an eight-game schedule in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, which rocked the Florida Panhandle.

"It was a big hassle," Seibert said. "There was no power for 15 days, and the school was without power for 2 1/2 weeks."

Seibert had a team meeting four days after Hurricane Ivan hit. He and his coaching staff addressed each of his player's concerns and pledged to be there for them.

It was tough at first. Pensacola Catholic lost its first two games, but the team rallied to finish 7-5 and was the state runner-up in Class 2B.

"The kids handled it pretty well," Seibert said. "They took everything in stride."

Primerano said he has tremendous sympathy for Katrina victims.

"We feel terrible for (southeast Louisiana)," he said. "At least we had roofs to fix, but some of you all don't have roofs to fix at all."

Many in Florida high school athletics say they're willing to give any advice and support to their Louisiana counterparts.

Stewart said he has tried calling and e-mailing Louisiana High School Athletic Association commissioner Tommy Henry since Katrina hit Aug. 29, but he hasn't been able to get through.

"He must know that there are literally hundreds of thousands of people who are offering their prayers and best wishes not only to him, but to the schools, athletes and people affected by the storm," Stewart said. "It will be a long, slow healing process, but he and the people there shouldn't let the difficulty of finding a solution get them down."

Primerano said the best advice he can give to south Louisiana schools is to be strong.

"Things will get better," he said.

# THE WORLD OF SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

### NEWMAN OUTLASTS STEWART FOR FIRST WIN

Ryan Newman picked a good time to grab his first win of the season.

Newman, who barely squeezed into the Chase for the championship, got off to a fast start in NASCAR's 10-race playoff Sunday by outduelling points leader Tony Stewart down the stretch.

Stewart, who started from the pole, dominated through much of the race, leading 173 of the 300 laps in the Sylvania 300 at New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, N.H. But Newman won a late battle with Stewart, passing him on Lap 199 and holding the top spot by two car-lengths.

Following the final pit stops by the leaders, Newman found himself just ahead of Stewart when the green flag waved with 16 laps to go after the last of 10 caution flags.

Stewart, on the way to his 13th consecutive finish of eighth or better, was relentless in trying to retake the lead, pulling up to the rear quarter-panel of Newman's Penske Racing South Dodge time after time before finally slipping below him on the back stretch on Lap 292.

But Newman, whose last win came a year ago in Dover, wouldn't give up. He stayed with Stewart, got beneath the Joe Gibbs Racing Chevrolet on Lap 299 and pulled ahead, staying out front to win by 0.293-seconds.

Chase contenders Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle finished third and fourth, followed by Dale Earnhardt, who is out of the Chase but running his first race with Tony Eury Jr. back as his crew chief.

Newman was ecstatic, finally breaking through for a win after season-long struggles - and doing it in the biggest race so far this season.

"We didn't know what was going to happen with us pitting before anyone else," said Newman, who gave up the lead to Stewart when he made his final stop on Lap 235, long before the other leaders. "Fortunately, it cycled through."

## BOXING

### JOHNSON FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Leavander Johnson had worked a long time for his big night, 16 years to be exact. His first title defense turned tragic, however, leaving the veteran boxer in a fight that most with his kind of injury don't win.

Johnson was in a drug-induced coma Sunday following emergency brain surgery he underwent just minutes after losing his lightweight title the night before. He was in critical condition at the hospital's intensive care unit.

Doctors at first feared his condition was hopeless, but tests Sunday showed improvement in his brain and gave them hope that Johnson would survive.

"You certainly can't make predictions but I wasn't certain he would even survive last night," said Dr. William Smith, who performed the surgery. "My thoughts are that he's dramatically improved today so he seems to be moving in the right direction."

Johnson's family was keeping a vigil at the hospital, where he was rushed after being stopped by a flurry of punches Saturday in the 11th round of his IBF lightweight title defense against Jesus Chavez at the MGM Grand.

## GOLF

### CAMPBELL WINS GOLF'S LARGEST PRIZE

U.S. Open champion Michael Campbell won the World Match Play Championship in Virginia Water, England, on Sunday, defeating Paul McGinley 2 and 1 in the final by capitalizing on his opponent's errors in the closing holes.

Campbell wrapped up the match at Wentworth with a chip to 1 foot of the cup on the 35th green. He won the 33rd and 34th holes when McGinley bogeyed after poor shots.

"I was fortunate to win those holes," Campbell said.

Campbell earned $1.8 million, the largest prize in golf. The New Zealand native also advanced to the top of the European Order of Merit ahead of Retief Goosen. Campbell beat the South African in the semifinals Saturday.

Campbell won the opening hole and never trailed, but also never led by more than one through the morning round. He was 3 up after 23 holes, but his Irish rival won the 24th, 25th and 27th to square the match. They were still even with four to play.

"I didn't play as well today as I had the first three days," McGinley said. "If this was a stroke play event I'd have been well ahead because I played so well the first three days. But that's the way it goes. Michael played well today."

### GORE COMES THROUGH ON SUNDAY

The collapse never came, even as a once-sizable lead dwindled to a single precarious stroke. This time, Sunday didn't crush Jason Gore. It belonged to him.

Gore, whose last-day unraveling already is part of U.S. Open lure, stood up to the 84 Lumber Classic field Sunday with big drives and steely nerves to win in Farmington, Pa., on the PGA Tour barely a month after being stuck in golf's minor leagues.

Gore's four-stroke lead with five holes to play was down to one over runner-up Carlos Franco by No. 18, but Gore landed his approach shot on the 468-yard par-4 on the lower fringe of the green. With a playoff looming if he didn't get up and down, Gore deftly lagged his putt from 91 1/2 feet to within 22 inches, and tapped in for a final-round 2-under 70, a $792,000 paycheck and the Tour victory he once thought might never come.

His 14-under 274 denied Franco (69) his first PGA victory since 2001 and was three shots better than third-place finisher Ben Crane (67).

Gore never finished higher than 18th during two previous stays on the PGA Tour, in 2001 and 2003. Now, he joins Paul Stankowski (1996) as the only golfers to win on the developmental Nationwide and PGA tours in the same year. The portly, big-swinging Gore is the first to do so after earning the automatic in-season promotion that goes to any three-time Nationwide winner.

Now, all those public course duffers who think they could make the leap to golf's big leagues have a new hero to go with John Daly. Gore, 31, looks as much like a spectator as he does a pro, and his caddy wears not a Nike or a Titleist cap, bur one plugging Pabst Blue Ribbon beer.

Jason Gore, this one's on you. And this wasn't an ordinary post-majors win, either, with most of the big names long since gone. The field for the $4.4 million event was unusually strong with four of the top six money winners, including Phil Mickelson and 2004 champion Vijay Singh.

Gore opened a two-shot lead through 54 holes following a 5-under 67 Saturday at the 7,416-yard Mystic Rock course, then never trailed on a Sunday that was a polar opposite of the U.S. Open. Franco, playing one group ahead of him, tied him briefly with a birdie on the par-5 No. 8, but Gore answered minutes later with his eagle on the same hole after hitting his approach shot to 12 feet.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### GEORGIA TECH QB HAS MENINGITIS

Georgia Tech quarterback Reggie Ball was diagnosed with viral meningitis and it's not known if he'll be able to play in next weekend's crucial game against Virginia Tech.

Ball was being treated at Emory University Hospital, where he was expected to remain a second night. The school said the extra night was mainly a precaution.

The junior became ill Friday and was hospitalized the following morning, just hours before the Yellow Jackets defeated Connecticut 28-13 to improve to 3-0 for the first time since 2001.

Redshirt freshman Taylor Bennett started in Ball's place, throwing a touchdown on his first college pass but completing only 11-of-30 for 142 yards. No. 15 Georgia Tech would be a major underdog against the fourth-ranked Hokies if Ball can't return for next Saturday's game in Blacksburg, Va.

Viral meningitis is commonly found in college environments and is not nearly as serious as bacterial meningitis.

### CLEMSON TE HAS SPLEEN REMOVED

Clemson tight end Cole Downer had his spleen removed Saturday night, just hours after he was injured catching a 6-yard pass in the fourth quarter of the Tigers' 36-30 triple-overtime loss to Miami.

The senior likely will miss the rest of the season, the school said.

## TENNIS

### RUSSIANS WIN FED CUP

Elena Dementieva refused to take credit for Russia's Fed Cup victory over France.

Perhaps she should.

The Russians won the title for the second straight year. Dementieva won both her singles matches in the best-of-five final and teamed with Dinara Safina to capture the deciding doubles for a 3-2 victory. The Russian duo beat Mary Pierce and Amelie Mauresmo 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in Paris.

"It's not Dementieva's victory," Dementieva said. "We win as a team and lose as a team."

In the day's singles matches, Pierce rallied past Anastasia Myskina 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to even the series at 2-2. Dementieva defeated Mauresmo in the opener 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

"She carried the team this weekend," Mauresmo said. "She was so solid."

Dementieva sank to her knees in celebration after Mauresmo hit a forehand long on match point in the doubles finale at Roland Garros. Russia beat two-time champion France 3-2 in the final last year in Moscow.

"I've been waiting so long for this," Dementieva said. "I'm so happy."

### DAVENPORT WINS WISMILAK INTERNATIONAL

Lindsay Davenport overpowered Italy's Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-4 to win the Wismilak International in Bali, Indonesia.

The top-seeded Davenport, playing in the Bali tournament for the first time, broke serve at the start of each set.

NFL COMMISSIONER SUPPORTS SAINTS STAYING IN NEW ORLEANS SEE FINNEY, C-1

# The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 243 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# NEW EVACUATIONS CALLED

## DAY 22 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**736**

Members of Louisiana's 256th Brigade Combat Team return from Iraq to find their homes battered, **See A-2**

The cost of rebuilding sparks debate about going further into debt, increasing taxes or cutting spending, **See A-3**

Family who evacuated to Houston struggles with finances, **See A-4**

Many customers are still in the dark about the status of their power, **See A-12**

A quarter of the restaurants in the New Orleans area might not return, **See A-13**

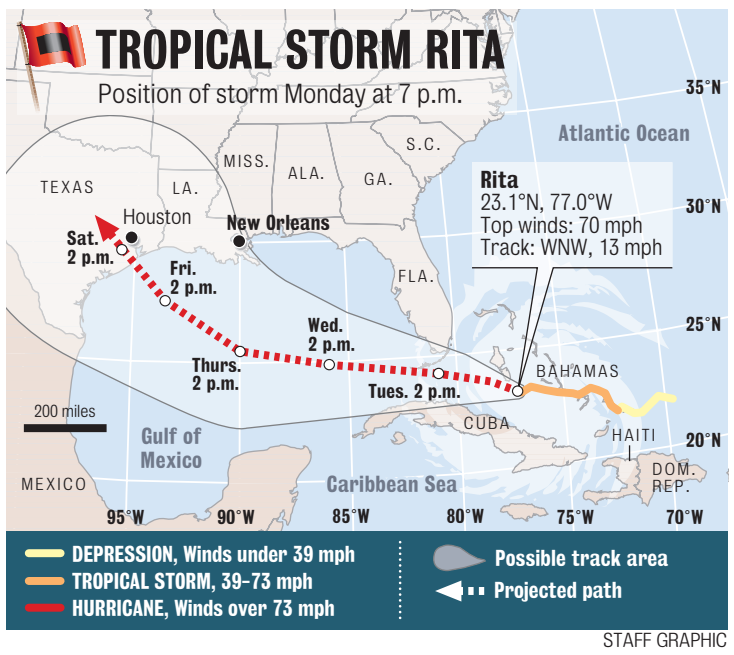
Businesses of all sizes and homeowners may apply for SBA loans to rebuild, **See A-15**

Station operators' courage, ingenuity keep pumps going, **See B-1**

Plaquemines death toll could rise because 100 shrimp boats are likely sunk, **See B-3**



Guitarist 'Gatemouth' Brown buried to the tributes of Delbert McClinton and B.B. King, **See B-4**




STAFF GRAPHIC

## *New storm threat ends homecoming for St. Bernard, N.O. residents*

**By Steve Ritea and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

Just as the region inched toward functional, the specter of Tropical Storm Rita prompted some officials across the New Orleans region to revoke plans for residents' return, fearing more rain could overtake already weakened levees and cause further flooding.

Mayor Ray Nagin suspended plans to let Uptowners return later this week and asked Algiers residents, who were allowed to come back to their homes Monday, to evacuate. And St. Bernard halted re-entry plans altogether and imposed a mandatory evacuation beginning today at 4 a.m.

"I'm hopeful people have seen the effects of Katrina, and that we won't have the same problems this time," Nagin said. "If anyone wants to sit this storm out with our soaked levee systems, then God bless them."

With Rita on the horizon, President Bush late Monday announced another visit to New Orleans, likely this afternoon. Earlier in the day, he expressed concern about Nagin's plan for the return and said his administration had passed that along to city officials.

"The mayor has got this dream about having a city up and running. And we share that dream," he said during a briefing. "But we also want to be realistic about some of the hurdles and obstacles that we all confront in repopulating New Orleans."

Bush added: "If it were to rain a lot, there is concern from the Army Corps of Engineers that the levees might break. And so, therefore, we're cautious about encouraging people to return at this moment of history."

As Hurricane Rita moved west toward southernmost Florida and the Florida Keys on Monday, forecasters warned the storm could reach Category 3 or greater

*See* **RITA,** *A-10*

## MISERY DOLED OUT EVENLY IN EASTERN NEW ORLEANS



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Dentist Terrence Augillard creates a photographic record of the damage to his home in Eastover, a gated community.

# *Shared suffering*

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

Traveling forsaken roads east of the Industrial Canal, it is evident that floodwater does not discriminate.

From the small dwellings and businesses along Downman Road to the upscale homes of Eastover and Venetian Isles beyond Bullard Avenue, water marks linger, scarring the doors of deserted buildings across eastern New Orleans.

Hurricane Katrina has come and gone. But the aftermath of muck and misery remains.

Eastover neighbors and childhood friends Kendall Parker and Terrence Augillard drove together Sunday from their temporary refuge in Lafayette to face the massive cleanup of their stately homes, nestled in a gated community waiting to be gutted.

Best friends since their days at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Parker, 39, and Augillard, 41,

**"This is our dream house. Everything we studied hard for, worked hard for. Everybody is suffering in his own way."**

KENDALL PARKER
Eastover resident

attended dental school together and recently built dream homes for their families with the hope of living and retiring side by side.

Now they are sharing a portable generator, a water vacuum and whatever else it takes to start over.

"The plan is to get one house up and then the other," Parker said. "It's pretty overwhelming."

Several feet of water crashed into the dentists' two-story houses. In a sub-room used as a sewing space in the Augillard home, floodwater and fabric formed a colorful, stinky stew that Augillard attempted to suck out.

In the nearby dining room, a surreal scene was best witnessed from the upstairs balcony. Above the swirl of dark debris, the long, blond wood table was set with white china and crystal as though awaiting ghostly dinner guests.

In the Parker home, tropical fish swam in the huge downstairs fish-tank near toppled orange suede living room chairs, resting in mud. A weeks-old silver 2006 Lexus sat ruined in the garage.

"This is our dream house," Parker said. "Everything we studied hard for, worked hard for. Everybody is suffering in his own way."

While Augillard worked to remove remaining water from his house, Parker built a makeshift corral between their houses to hold ruined furniture and other items.

Against a brown backdrop of dead grass and shrubbery, rolls of orange plastic stood out, strapped to metal tiki torches, bird-feeder stands and whatever else Parker found to secure

*See* **EAST,** *A-6*

# FEMA cuts housing plan by half

## *Evacuees leaving emergency shelters faster than expected*

**By Jan Moller and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — As unexpected numbers of Hurricane Katrina evacuees are leaving emergency shelters and finding temporary housing on their own, federal officials Monday downgraded their estimate for how many trailers will be needed in Louisiana for people displaced by the storm.

Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman David Passey said the agency is now planning to bring about 50,000 trailers to Louisiana, down from last week's estimate of 100,000.

Passey said the previous estimate was based on an earlier number of people still living in shelters. But shelter populations have declined significantly in the past week, including 4,700 people who left Louisiana shelters Sunday alone, officials said. Passey said he did not know what became of those who left, but speculated that many people used their own resources or FEMA emergency dollars to find hotels or apartments in other states.

"The focus right now is how can we get the most people out of shelters and into housing," Passey said.

"We acknowledge there's not a single housing solution," he said.

The first temporary trailer parks will not be ready to accept evacuees until next week, when 580 units are expected to open in the town of Baker, just north of Baton Rouge. Several more are expected to be up and running in the weeks ahead,

*See* **HOUSING,** *A-5*

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**INSIDE**

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# Katrina fears haunt returning La. soldiers

## *Troops find families scattered, homes flooded*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Minutes before heading out on one of his last combat patrols in western Baghdad, in treacherous rural territory that had claimed the lives of 35 soldiers in Louisiana's 256th Brigade Combat Team, Lt. William Besselman of New Orleans picked up a scrap of good news about Hurricane Katrina: It looked like the city had dodged a bullet.

When he returned from patrol 12 hours later, fatigued but comforted in the hope that his family and his hometown remained unscathed, he and the rest of the brigade confronted the grim reality. Levee breaks had inundated Chalmette and the 9th Ward with up to 20 feet of water – including his home at Jackson Barracks on the border between Orleans and St. Bernard parishes. The news only got worse; the 17th Street Canal levee breach flooded broad swaths of the city and strained law enforcement agencies lost control of the city.

"I was always worried about me not coming home – never that my family could be in danger," he said Monday as he toured his battered home inside the confines of Jackson Barracks, where New Orleans Guardsmen are stationed.

One of the first of the returning Louisiana soldiers to visit his home, Besselman relayed the story of angst over Katrina among soldiers already beaten down by a year of intense warfare marked by teary funerals for comrades. In Besselman's 19-man platoon alone, one soldier had died and eight suffered injuries, almost all from roadside bombs.

Standing in the home, surrounded by moldy furniture under a roof ripped open by wind and water, Besselman remained upbeat, even as he trudged through the stinking wreckage of his bedroom and those of his children. On an ironing board with a rotting cover next to him sat precious documents he had tried to dry out: his marriage certificate, his children's baptism certificates.

In Baghdad, upon hearing of the catastrophic flooding, Besselman had rushed to a computer to check his e-mail, finding a note from his wife saying that she and their four children had safely evacuated to a Gonzales hotel. Over the next few days, as soldiers continued their combat missions, they alternated between worry about their families, helplessness in being away at war and, Besselman said, anger and embarrassment at the reports of looting and lawlessness.

"We wished we were there" to enforce order, he said. "We were embarrassed. They did that in our own city. They didn't have to do that."

New Orleans Guardsman Brian McDow, in an e-mail from Alexandria where most of the troops are still stationed, said soldiers grew increasingly frantic as they watched news of the storm from abroad.

"With each minute that passed, we gathered around the televisions … and we watched Katrina do her work," he wrote. "Word spread like wildfire when the levees broke, and we all wanted to know where and how bad the city was flooding … What came as a horror to us was all the criminal activity during and after the hurricane. We all wanted to go to New Orleans and treat these thugs like insurgents."

McDow and other soldiers of the Louisiana Guard's 141st Field Artillery Battalion were taken out of Baghdad, via Kuwait, about a week after the storm hit. Besselman, who serves in the 156th battalion out of Lake Charles, left about the same time, on a flight out of Baghdad carrying about 130 soldiers who lived in New Orleans but served in battalions stationed in other areas of Louisiana.

Once back in Alexandria, the Guard released soldiers for four days to track down their families, McDow wrote. For many, that wasn't enough, and the Guard granted them extensions.

Upon returning home from Iraq, hundreds of Louisiana soldiers were unable to find their families for days, said Maj. Pat Simon, and some still have not.

"Myself, I had to drive from Alexandria to Lake Charles to Dallas and then back to Alexandria," McDow wrote. "I know some soldiers had to travel even farther to find their families."

The future for McDow and his brother, fellow Louisiana Guardsman Mike McDow, remains uncertain.

"I am … considering staying on active duty because I have no job or a home to go to," McDow wrote. "My brother … was able to see his home on Saturday. He said it had 5 feet of water inside. He will remodel, but doesn't know if he'll stay or sell."

As Besselman waited for about a week in Baghdad for a flight back home, a call from his wife, Stacie, desperately seeking help in finding her father, drove home the impact of the disaster. Besselman had a better chance of reaching her father from Iraq than his wife did from Gonzales.

Besselman's father-in-law, Guard Col. Lester Schmidt, had stayed at Jackson Barracks as the military compound was inundated with 10 to 20 feet of water. Once the levees broke, he and his son, Sgt. Lester Schmidt Jr., hopped in a boat and started rescuing people trapped on the roofs in the Lower 9th Ward and Chalmette.

"We tried to reach her father for five to seven days," he said.

Finally, Besselman got through to Louisiana Guard troops at the Superdome, who said they had heard his father-in-law on the radio, confirming he was safe.

Besellman's dog, Rogue, had stayed behind at the flooded military base after most of its soldiers had been evacuated. "He lived on MREs for a week until the Georgia National Guard brought him some dog food," Besselman said.

While Besselman struggled to get home, his wife went from Gonzales to Houston to Alexandria, where the couple now plans to stay and build a new life.

As he surveyed the wreckage of his home, Besselman downplayed any hardships he might have endured, either at war or in the aftermath of Katrina.

"My wife deserves all the credit," he said. "She moved all the kids around, and put them all in new schools. She's been the one taking care of the family while I've been out playing soldier for three years."

Information for Louisiana soldiers and their families displaced by Hurricane Katrina is available at www.la.ngb.army.mil or by calling (888) 777-7713.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Louisiana National Guard Lt. William Besselman looks over the master bedroom as he assesses the damage in his home at Jackson Barracks on Monday. Besselman, a River Ridge native, was allowed to leave Iraq early because of Katrina, which put about 5 feet of water in his house and sent his wife and children to Gonzales.

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# Debate grows over how to pay for Gulf Coast rebuild

*Bush adamant on not raising taxes to finance huge costs*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The staggering cost of rebuilding New Orleans and other hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast communities is sparking a debate over whether the United States must go further into debt or can offset the spending through cuts in discretionary spending, temporary repeal of some tax cuts passed in Bush's first term, or some combination of the two.

The Bush administration so far has ruled out any tax increases, including a temporary or permanent repeal of its first-term tax cuts, while Democrats have warned that Republicans will face a fight if they target for cuts programs that benefit the poor and middle class.

Keith Ashdown, spokesman for Taxpayers for Common Sense, said the costs of rebuilding the Gulf Coast, while continuing to fight an expensive war in Iraq and protect the nation from the threat of a terrorist attack, require both parties to move beyond rigid views on spending and taxes.

"If we're serious about paying this massive bill to do the right thing on the Gulf Coast, you have to keep any tool in the budgetary belt or you're not being fiscally responsible," Ashdown said.

President Bush said last week that he opposes any tax increase for fear it would make it harder to generate economic growth at a time the United States needs lots of private investment to resurrect the economy in the New Orleans area and other Gulf Coast communities.

Many congressional Republicans agree.

"The problem I have with raising taxes, I think it ends up bringing less revenue in the long run and is counterproductive and slows down the economy," U.S. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said Monday on Fox News. He said future generations will have to foot some of the bill for hurricane relief, just as "children and grandchildren paid for World War II because it was essential to defend our country."

But not all Republicans have ruled out any tweaking of tax revenues.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., one of the Senate's most conservative members, said he would oppose making some of the Bush tax cuts permanent unless he sees evidence that Congress is more serious about cutting spending that it has up until now. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said although his preference is to rely on spending cuts to help defray the costs, he's willing to look at any proposal on a "case-by-case basis, although I'm very focused on doing nothing to counteract what we have the most need for: economic incentives to bring Louisianians and business back to Louisiana."

Two weeks ago, Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., was among a group of Democrats who urged Senate GOP leaders to put off a vote on legislation to repeal the estate tax paid by wealthy Americans, saying it would send the wrong signal to do so when so many Louisiana and Mississippi residents, many of them poor, were suffering. The vote was delayed, although some Republicans are saying they'll bring up the repeal legislation at a later date.

Landrieu issued a report in February saying that some of the tax cuts enacted during Bush's first term were a major reason why some Louisiana priorities, including coastal restoration and flood control, weren't getting sufficient federal financing.

At a White House briefing Monday, Press Secretary Scott McClellan was asked how the president can sustain the argument that the United States could continue to finance an expensive war in Iraq and help the Gulf Coast recover without asking for some sacrifice from Americans. McClellan said the president is committed to trimming unnecessary spending and will work with Congress to achieve new cuts.

Trevor Parry-Giles, a University of Maryland expert on how presidents communicate their priorities, said the reluctance by Bush and other Republicans to even consider tax hikes shows how strong the anti-tax philosophy has taken hold in the party.

"For so much of its recent history, at least since the tax revolt days of the late '70s in California, but even before, the Republicans have been guided by the principle that tax increases, every time, no matter what, are bad and should be avoided," Parry-Giles said. "That was one of the cornerstones of Ronald Reagan's appeal. When George H.W. Bush broke his 'no new taxes' pledge, he paid a dear price: a primary challenge from the right of his own party. His son learned that lesson well."

# Air Force official says Keesler to be rebuilt to pre-Katrina condition

*Base took big hit from hurricane*

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — Air Force Secretary Pete Geren says Keesler Air Force Base will be rebuilt to pre-Hurricane Katrina condition.

Geren's comments came Friday after he spoke to airmen at a base lecture hall.

Geren toured the base and said he expects the initial estimates of damage to reach $1 billion.

"It hit the base hard. As the president said, we need to get the Gulf Coast back up and running. We will continue to work with the community," he said.

Geren said the fact that about 1,000 airmen will resume their training classes Monday is proof of progress. He said the Air Force's next move is to secure financing from Congress for extensive repairs at the base.

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# Red tape hinders family's struggle

*Their fresh start is stop and go*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON — For one week at least, they had a home.

After spending two weeks in a $160 a night hotel room, Darnell Johnson found shelter and at an apartment complex in Houston for his wife and five children. It wasn't much, but the modest two-bedroom apartment represented a new start for the family whose Marrero home was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

They bought beds and cleaning supplies, determined to make a fresh start. But on Friday, the family was forced to leave again after Johnson learned he did not qualify for the housing vouchers being issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA paid for lodging for 14 days.

"If you came on your own, you're on your own," said Johnson, 37, who has been turned away by disaster relief agencies housed at the George R. Brown Convention Center and Reliant Park because he didn't live at either site with his family.

It's been a disheartening experience for Johnson who stood in line for more than six hours to get assistance from the Red Cross. Johnson is worried about where the money is going to come from to pay for another hotel room.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

In their sparse Houston apartment, which they had to vacate after a week, Darnell and Telesha Johnson are surrounded by their children, left to right, Jared, Darnell Jr., Tyrek, Justin and Terrell. The family is trying to make a new life in Houston after evacuating for Hurricane Katrina.

A total of 51,818 families have called FEMA for assistance in the Houston area, said Justin Dombrowski, an agency spokesman.

Given the number of people affected by Hurricane Katrina, it's taking a longer to assist everyone, Dombrowski said.

Although the Johnson family didn't qualify for immediate assistance like many of those living in Houston-area shelters, they should be working with their insurance company to line up inspectors to assess the damage at the home, Dombrowski said.

Once the damage is assessed, FEMA can provide additional assistance if needed.

Dombrowski said families such as the Johnsons should go to local housing authorities and see what assistance is there for them. While there won't be immediate housing matches, they at least will be in the system when an opening becomes available.

But it's the waiting for the opening that worries, Telesha Johnson, who has watched her family's bank account dwindle during the past three weeks.

"It's scary," said Telesha Johnson, 31. "You wonder, 'At what point am I going to run out?' "

The family, who has decided to stay in Houston, said they need assistance because their mortgage company has refused to defer their house payments. The vouchers would have helped absorb some of the expense of renting an apartment until their insurance company could come in to assess the damage.

Bills are coming in faster than they can pay them, the Johnsons said.

Although the Johnsons have had to move back into a hotel, the setback hasn't discouraged them from making Houston their home.

Their 13-year-old twin sons, Justin and Jared, will be enrolled in school next week and their 4-year-old, Darnell Jr., will be attending prekindergarten. Their younger children, Tyreik, 2, and Terrell, 1, will go to day care.

"What can you do, other than keep living and hoping that things will get better," Telesha Johnson said. "All we need is a fresh start. We'll create the ending."

# Hurricane Katrina refugees get a visit from Laura Bush

*Says recovery will be 'a long road'*

**By Pam Easton**
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — First lady Laura Bush served smothered chicken to Hurricane Katrina refugees Monday at the city's convention center shelter, still home to about 300 survivors uprooted by the storm.

Bush also met with religious leaders and volunteers during a three-hour visit to Houston.

"This type of relief never could have happened without all of us," Bush said as she sat in a semicircle of Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders at the George R. Brown Convention Center. "It will be a long road for us. We have to stay with them every step as they rebuild their lives and it is not going to be easy."

Some refugees in Houston reacted with anger to President Bush's speech last week announcing the massive federal rebuilding effort along the Gulf Coast, complaining that he has ignored them while they were exiled. The first lady's visit seemed to salve some of that displeasure.

Bush said her husband plans to visit refugees in Texas this weekend.

"One of the most important things that happened is the first responders responded and that is very important," she said. "They did whatever they could to make sure people had what they needed. The government response is going to take a long time. We are going to have many, many months of continuing to work to make sure everybody has what they need."

Bush also stopped at a Home Depot store. The company has rehired about 10 of its displaced workers from Louisiana and Mississippi in the Houston area.

Refugee Keith Flores, who has worked at Home Depot for 20 years, said he's happy in Houston, but wants to return to New Orleans with his Great Dane, Duke, who is being cared for by the Humane Society.

Bush also stopped and talked with families at a center that helps homeless mothers who need child care while they look for work. She joined them in molding Play-Doh and gave out M&Ms and notepads.



Laura Bush hugs New Orleans evacuee Haikeem Washington, 4, at a day-care center in Houston on Monday. Mrs. Bush also served lunch to about 300 survivors still calling Houston's convention center home after having to flee Hurricane Katrina.

AP PHOTO

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# Temporary trailer park expected to open next week

HOUSING, *from A-1*

and still others could take months to get established – if they ever do.

Officials in Livingston Parish plan to stall permits for trailer parks and prevent FEMA from setting up trailer villages until the parish gets more information about the impact of the new communities and who is going to pay for them.

"They don't have a plan," Ray Chidester, director of the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security, said about FEMA and the state. "There's so many questions they're not answering."

He said FEMA and state officials are offering no answers about basic infrastructure questions, such as dealing with new demands for sewer and water, garbage, schools, roads, fire fighting and security.

"We cannot go about it haphazardly as FEMA has done from Day 1," said Livingston Parish President Mike Grimmer. "As a responsible leader, how can I just say, come on down, and then ask the questions?"

At its peak the parish had 2,500 evacuees in shelters and now has about 200 in a Red Cross shelter in Denham Springs and fewer than 500 at various churches. Many evacuees found housing in the parish or are living with other residents, increasing the parish population by about one-third, Chidester estimates.

Not counting the school district and sheriff's office, the parish government has spent $500,000 on storm-related relief, with no assurance of how it will be paid back, Grimmer said. The total parish budget is $14 million.

The Livingston Parish school system also is under pressure. The fast-growing parish already had 700 new students for this school year even before Katrina, and now the system has another 1,200 students, all in a system with 21,561 students, officials said.

St. Charles Parish will make any new trailer park proposals go through the usual process of applying with the zoning commission and then the parish council. If an area is already approved for a trailer park, then FEMA can proceed. Otherwise the process could take 30 to 60 days to go through the normal channels, and there is no assurance it will be approved, a parish spokesman said.

East Baton Rouge Parish is cooperating with FEMA to establish trailer parks while also working with the federal Housing and Urban Development agency to fix existing apartments and houses for evacuees, said parish president and Baton Rouge mayor Kip Holden. New trailer parks are expected to be ready in three to four weeks, he said, at sites in Baker, at the city's airport and on a commercial site off Lobdell Boulevard.

FEMA has promised to provide transportation, food and security for people at the parks, Holden said.

Lafayette Parish officials said no site has been identified yet for trailer villages, but the parish is ready to work with FEMA to establish them.

State Sen. Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans, whose district was severely impacted by Katrina, said for the short term people need to get out of the shelters, and temporary trailer housing is an acceptable alternative. But he said officials should not lose sight of the need for new permanent housing in New Orleans.

Murray said trailer communities could be set up in various areas of the city or nearby parishes, possibly at Pontchartrain Park, on golf courses unusable after the storm or on private property, he said. City officials will have to consider zoning changes to accommodate trailer villages.

T.W. Prewett, who heads the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in East Feliciana Parish, said federal contractors have made several trips to the rural parish to scout possible sites but have not made any decisions. Should a site be chosen, Prewett said it could take weeks or even months before services such as water, sewerage and electricity could be made available to accommodate the newcomers.

"If they put anything up here in this parish, it probably would be as late as December," Prewett said.

While trailer parks have received the most attention, FEMA also is working to move people into rental housing, motels and other transitional housing while they await word on when they can go back to their homes.

By the end of the week, FEMA hopes to have 2,400 housing units available for evacuees that could house up to 8,000 people. Another 3,400 units are expected to be available by the end of next week, Passey said.

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# Dreams of the wealthy are shown



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

With a flashlight to guide her way, Betty Brown climbs over a dresser with an armload of precious memories: a Bible, her former husband's casket flag, and some photographs.


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# no mercy in eastern New Orleans

EAST, *from A-1*

the mesh fabric.

Perhaps his insurance agent would arrive to note the loss before the coming rain, Parker said, knowing that a storm called Rita looms in the Gulf.

"I don't think Katrina was the big one," said Eastover resident and New Orleans native Aaron Neville, living in Nashville with no plan to return to New Orleans soon. Maybe never.

"I'll keep my memories," Neville said by cell phone about his flooded house. "It's all moldy and mildew and I have asthma."

The award-winning singer said that he was out of town with "a couple of pairs of jeans and shirts and shoes" when the storm hit and that his family had to evacuate. "Now I'm afraid of my people being caught down there (for the next hurricane.)

The only song heard in Eastover on Sunday was that of a mockingbird, sitting in a fledgling, dead oak next to Neville's house. A large toppled tree blocked the front entrance and a cluster of downed trees covered the back yard.

Crows and buzzards appeared to be the only birds coasting above the brown grit, dead foilage and downed fences that cover eastern New Orleans.

Only a few areas, such as houses hugging Hayne Boulevard, did not flood.

Camouflage military trucks and electric-service vehicles roamed roads such as Hayne and Chef Menteur Highway, along with the occasional animal rescuer and resident.

Mile after mile of brick homes bear the mark of floodwater halfway up the front door. Motor boats and cars covered in dried muck sit askew in driveways and on neutral grounds.

Debris lines Chef Highway east of Powers Junction. Utility poles lean into the roadway at various angles, and clothing and plastic bags are stuck in trees edging the marsh on either side.

One of several overturned boats bears the spray-painted message: "We are OK."

Farther east, Ann and Wallace Rodrigue were not OK. They found their house in Venetian Isles a twisted mess: the walls of the ground floor and the staircase leading to the second floor gone, a hole in the roof.

Their daughter's house, which once stood down the street from them, lay in rubble two lots away from where it stood.

Like a giant checkers game, it appeared that a tornado picked up the house, and the pool behind it, and plopped it on the other side of the house next door.

Betty Brown and her husband Yancy, accompanied by friends Marva Barnum and Lafete Tucker, got their first look Friday afternoon at the havoc Hurricane Katrina wreaked inside their home on Morrison Road in eastern New Orleans.

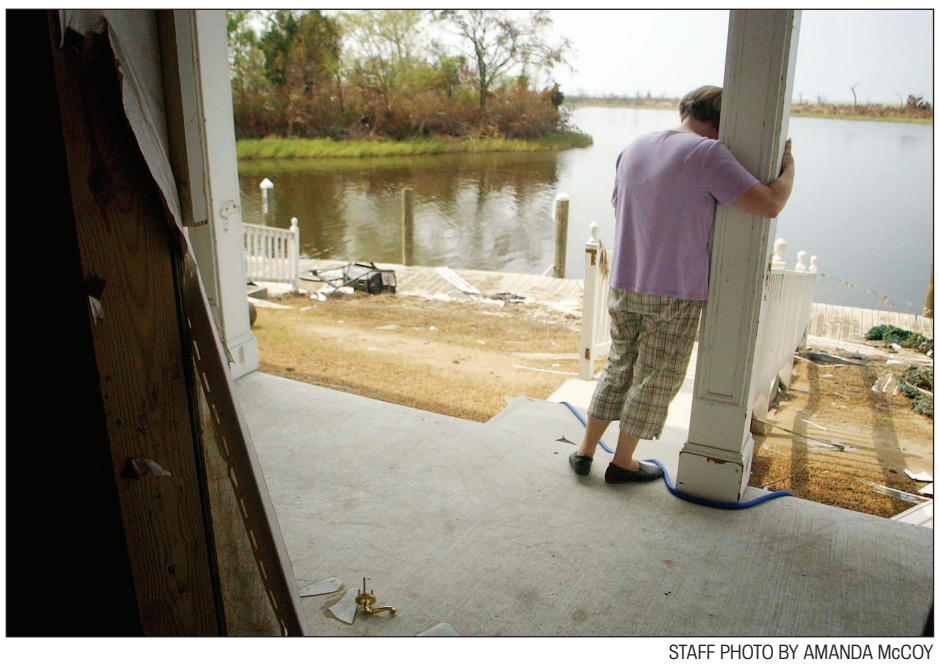
At the sight of her grandmother's antique softa and chairs covered with mold and mud, Betty Brown broke into tears and collapsed in Barnum's arms.

Brown soon found that not all her keepsakes had fallen victim to the hurricane's fury: her grandmother's candy dish was still there, unbroken, and albums of cherished photos survived, perfectly dry, in the top of a hall closet.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Yancy Brown, left, attempts to console his wife, Betty, as she weeps on the shoulder of her friend Marva Barnum upon returning to the Browns' home near the intersection of Morrison and Bullard roads. 'I just can't believe this,' Betty Brown kept repeating.



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Ann Rodrigue finds a pillar of support upon returning to her home in Venetian Isles, where the walls of the ground floor and the staircase leading to the second floor are gone.



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

Terrence Augillard opens a window of his Eastover home in an attempt to air it out.

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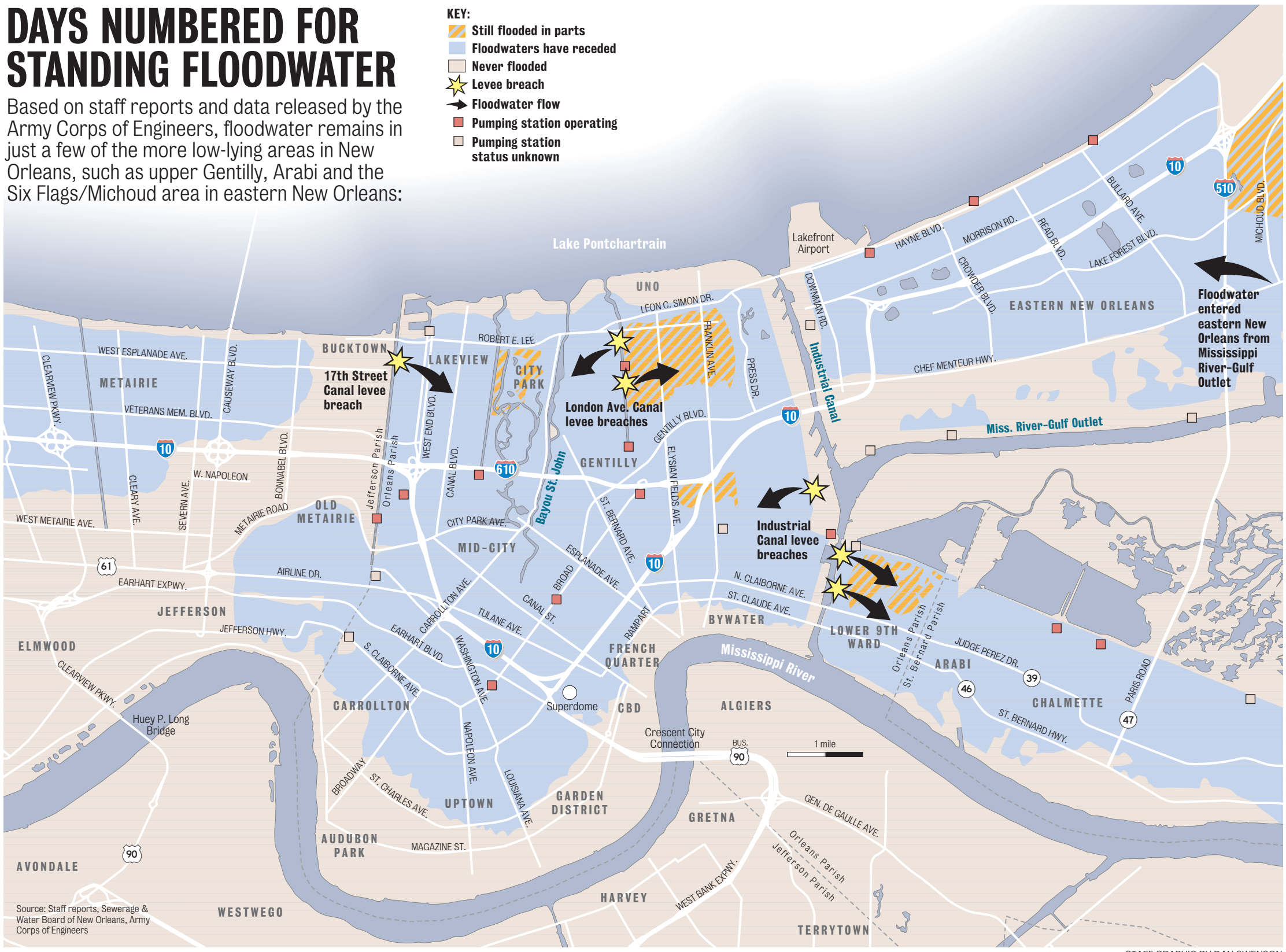
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# DAYS NUMBERED FOR STANDING FLOODWATER

Based on staff reports and data released by the Army Corps of Engineers, floodwater remains in just a few of the more low-lying areas in New Orleans, such as upper Gentilly, Arabi and the Six Flags/Michoud area in eastern New Orleans:




STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

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# Direct hit by Rita could topple levee system

RITA, *from A-1*

strength by Thursday and could threaten New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana's coastline.

"Start making preparations to leave now" if you live on the coastal area, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said late Monday afternoon. "Prepare your family, prepare your house for evacuation."

A direct hit risks overtopping what's left of the city's hurricane-protection levee system, which corps officials and contractors are working feverishly to restore. Even if Rita is a near-miss that delivers heavy rainfall to the city, it could cause 2 feet to 4 feet of flooding in many areas that just dried out or haven't yet, New Orleans District Engineer Col. Richard Wagenaar said.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield warned that Rita seemed to be following a pattern of recent storms in having its initial forecast path erode eastward, shifting from Brownsville, Texas, on Sunday to Corpus Christi early Monday and then eastward to Galveston by 5 p.m.

Landfall is predicted for Saturday with winds of 120 mph.

Nagin said he had seen a forecast from a meteorologist who is "usually on the money," whom he did not name, that showed Rita landing in Terrebonne Parish as a Category 3 hurricane.

That would put New Orleans on the dangerous east side of the storm, likely causing a storm surge of 10 feet or more, he said. At the moment, he said a storm surge of 3 feet, or rainfall of 9 inches or more, would cause substantial flooding in the city.

Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen had already publicly questioned whether Nagin's timeline to bring back residents of the Uptown and French Quarter neighborhoods, among those least damaged by Hurricane Katrina, was overly ambitious.

Allen cited the lack of vital city services, including drinking water, sewerage, a working 911 system and a lack of functioning emergency rooms, and said the plan was "extremely problematic."

Earlier in the day, Nagin was quoted as sarcastically calling Allen the "federally appointed mayor of New Orleans."

At the news conference, he called Allen "a good man."

But, he added, "When he starts talking to the citizens of New Orleans, he's kind of out of his league. There's only one mayor of New Orleans, and I'm it."

But Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, whose district includes Algiers and the French Quarter, urged residents to stay where they are until Rita's path becomes clearer. She estimated that about a third of Algiers' 60,000 residents returned Monday, the first day that Nagin opened up the city for re-entry.

Elsewhere in the region, Jefferson Parish officials said they were keeping a close watch on Rita, but they had yet to order any evacuation of those who recently returned to their neighborhoods.

"We're in such a state now, with our infrastructure so vulnerable, that we can't take a hit of any order," said Walter Maestri, Jefferson Parish's emergency management director.

"Obviously we're taking this storm very, very seriously," said Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman David Passey. As Tropical Storm Rita moves closer to the Gulf of Mexico, the agency has started conducting a daily videoconference with the National Hurricane Center in Miami to track its progress.

If the storm were to take direct aim at south Louisiana, where thousands of federal workers are helping in the Hurricane Katrina recovery, FEMA would likely evacuate most of those employees and leave only an operational team in place to ride out the storm. But so far there have been no decisions on whether such an evacuation will be needed, Passey said.

"We're all going to know more in a couple of days" about where the storm is heading, Passey said.

Work continued to repair the damage from Katrina's blast three weeks ago. At the 17th Street levee, dump trucks brought loads of crushed concrete as Boh Brothers construction workers continued to stabilize the berm that stands where the levee was breached.

"We're monitoring the situation 24-7," said Couser Hano, an equipment operator as he worked inside a bulldozer. "You don't ever second-guess Mother Nature."

The berm, he said, is strong, but workers were preparing for Rita. "It's stable. We've had bulldozers, cranes, dump trucks on it. You can put anything you want on it, and it's gonna hold."

On the city side of the breach, levee walls lay buried like tossed playing cards. Lakeview homes were shifted, broken and torn like drowned doll houses, and three large oaks were upended in a lake of seepage, their massive rootballs exposed. A chain-link fence snaked along riven earth pushed back from the canal. "Look," one worker said, pointing to ripples in the lake. "A gar fish."

Several 60-foot steel, sheet pilings had been driven into the canal at the Old Hammond Highway bridge, forming walls in the water near the sides of the canal. Corps officials said they were prepared to drive more piles and close the gap, and they were working to reinforce weakened areas of the levee system.

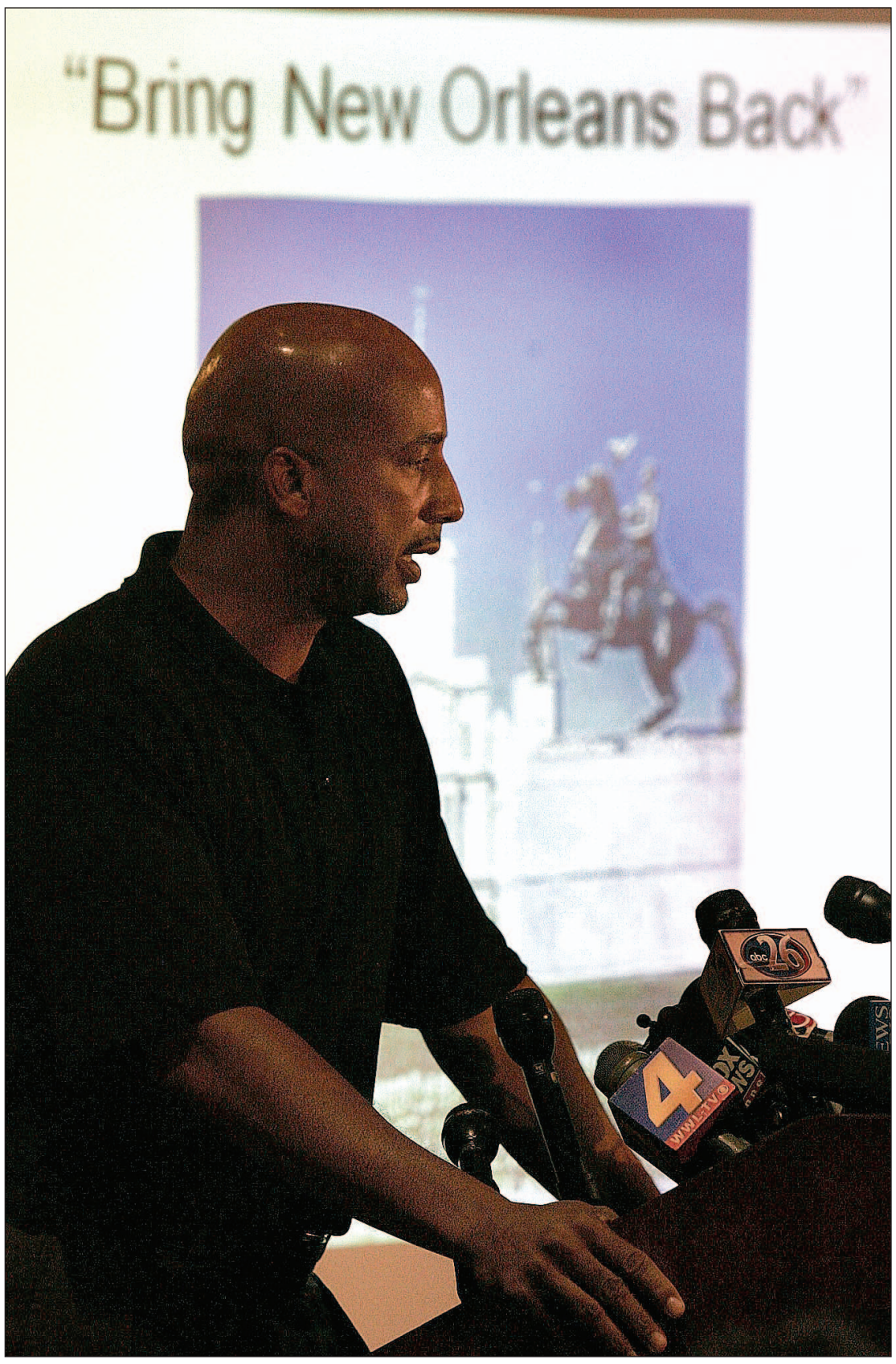
"We have contingency plans," said project manager David Wurtzel. "It really depends on the path of the storm. There are a lot of possibilities we can offer, as far as protection." He said crew members would be able to shut down their operation at the canal within four hours.

Wagenaar said workers also are moving temporary pumps to strategic locations throughout the city in anticipation of heavy rainfall accompanying Rita.

But the temporary pumps can only provide a very small fragment of the flow that the fixed stations are capable of," he said. "You can't compare even one of our 42-inch pumps to one of the 1,000 cubic feet per second pumps in the city."

• • • • • •

Staff writers Bruce Hamilton, Michelle Krupa, Kate Moran, Paul Rioux and Mark Schleifstein contributed to this report.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin called for area residents to start preparing for evacuations on Monday, as Tropical Storm Rita could grow to a category 3 hurricane, and could hit the area as early as Saturday.

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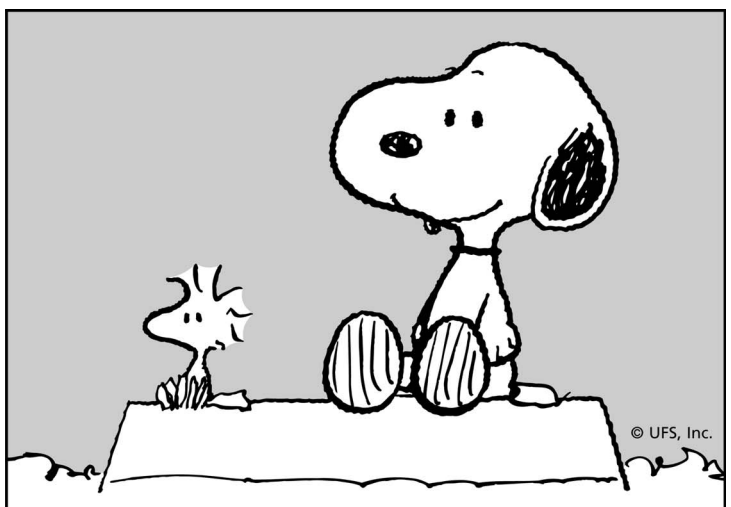
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# Algiers residents allowed back ... for now

## *But Nagin wants them to leave before Rita*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Just as Algiers welcomed its residents home Monday, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin asked them to consider leaving again by Wednesday with Tropical Storm Rita churning toward the Gulf of Mexico.

About a third of the West Bank community's 60,000 residents have returned home after evacuating the region for Hurricane Katrina, said Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, whose district includes Algiers. Though they had electricity and drinking water, residents found no grocery stores and few gas stations open.

But with the metro area a possible target of Rita, Nagin on Monday suspended his reentry plan.

Projected to land as a Category 3 storm, Rita could make landfall as far east as Terrebonne Parish, putting New Orleans on the eastern, or more powerful side.

"I'm asking everybody to start the (evacuation) process right now," Nagin said, adding that his order was mandatory for the east bank because levees breached by Katrina's storm surge are vulnerable to breaking again and pumping stations are not up to full capacity.

But Clarkson urged the residents to remain where they are until Rita's path becomes clear.

Though the New Orleans Police Department said it had no firm count on the number of people who returned to their Algiers homes Monday, officers manning checkpoints said it was fewer than expected. Streets remained largely devoid of civilian traffic.

"Stores, gas, I'm not even sure we can use the ATM," said Corey Hall, who returned home with his father, Clarence, to find their Easter Lane home in good shape after taking their families to Texas three weeks ago. "Looking at it that way, I don't want to bring my family home just yet."

Officials also warned that the emergency 911 phone number was not working, and said residents should call 552-4830 to report crimes and fires. The 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. curfew remains in effect.

With few services in Algiers, Clarkson asked residents to rely on grocery stores in neighboring Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes.

Of Algiers' three large groceries, the Winn-Dixie on Holiday Drive is expected to reopen Thursday at 8 a.m., with a limited cold food stock, a store manager said.

"There are some inconveniences," Clarkson said after opening an office at the Old Algiers Courthouse on Morgan Street. "God spared Algiers so it could lead to the rebuilding of the city of New Orleans."

In addition to a federal distribution center at Behrman Stadium, two church-sponsored operations were in full swing, providing water, ice, food and cleaning supplies to residents.

Lily Duke, who lives in Algiers Point, helped start one at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World last week, doing so with assistance from the Church of Christ.

She said the number of people seeking aid there has increased. On Sunday, more than 700 people passed through the site — 300 more compared with the day before, she said.

"These people coming here, they're going to need a lot of stuff," Duke said, acknowledging Algiers' lack of open grocery stores and gas stations. "I'm thinking another couple of weeks to a month before things get going."

St. Mary's Church, with federal and National Guard help, is distributing food, water and ice at its Gen. Meyer Avenue Center.

The church also serves free hot lunches, having fed 477 people Sunday with food donated by churches nationwide, said the Rev. James Brown, pastor of St. Mary's.

"Churches have heard about what we're doing and have sent us 18-wheelers of food," Brown said.

Paul Purpura may be reached at ppurpura@cox.net.


# Important information from Entergy as you return home.



Wind, rain and flood damage to homes and businesses from Hurricane Katrina will likely prohibit customers from receiving power from Entergy despite our success in restoring its electric distribution system.

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If your property has any water damage, please turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician for advice when necessary. Don't step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker.

A licensed electrician may need to inspect your property's electric wiring before Entergy can restore power to a home or business which has water damage from rain or flood waters.

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Property owners without hurricane damage should still be cautious. Look for electrical system damage once power is restored. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or the smell of hot insulation is noticeable, turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician for advice when necessary. Don't step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker.

Restoration crews have been working to repair the infrastructure of the electrical distribution system in order to be prepared to provide power to customers once their property is safely able to receive our services.

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# Many in the dark about power status

*Safety concerns can cause electricity to be withheld*

**By Keith Darce**
Business writer

Over utility call center telephone lines, on radio shows, through e-mails and in every other imaginable way of communicating, the question gets asked over and over every day: Does my house have electricity?

For thousands of evacuees, turning the lights back on will signal the moment when they can return home and begin restoring the life they had before hurricane Katrina.

But answering that question is proving difficult, especially in the hard-hit parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.

And even as portions of the electricity grid are turned back on in areas of New Orleans that were spared flooding, there are no guarantees that power will flow to any particular home or business.

Teams from the region's biggest electricity monopoly, Entergy Corp., are scouring the power transmission system, looking at every pole, transformer and wire for damage.

Where no damage is found, electricity is being restored. But electricity is being withheld for safety reasons from homes and other buildings that have damaged circuit boxes or wires.

That means one person could return to his Uptown home later this week and find lights burning and the air conditioner running, while a neighbor returns to darkness and steamy heat.

"If you have wind, rain or flood damage to your home or business, we are not going to energize transformers to those buildings even though we may have the grid up and running there," said Dan Packer, chief executive of Entergy's New Orleans utility.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

An Entergy employee leans out of a helicopter to repair insulation at the top of a 90-foot pole damaged by Katrina. Several poles were knocked down on the line, which runs from Michoud across Bayou Bienvenue.

"Safety trumps speed," he said. "We are working slowly and methodically."

Those words might frustrate evacuees anxious to start rebuilding their lives. Some people don't even want to move back home yet. They just want electricity flowing so they can turn on air conditioners to dry out flood-soaked furniture and walls, and halt the growth of mold.

But the dangers of powering damaged electrical systems are greater than those posed by lingering dampness, Packer said. Sending electricity through flooded or damaged circuits and wires could cause shorts that could spark fires.

"A massive fire in a neighborhood strikes me as one of the worst things that could happen right now," Packer said. "We're assuming that people want to come back to something with some value."

People in damaged buildings must get circuits and wiring fixed by a licensed electrician and cleared by a city code inspector before power will be restored by the utility, Packer said.

That's a tough assignment in a city that remains largely closed for business and evacuated.

Help could come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which supplied an army of inspectors to Hurricane-damaged areas of Florida last summer in order to speed the process of restoring power to damaged buildings.

Officials with the city's Department of Safety and Permits are looking for ways to get electricians and inspectors into the city, Packer said.

Officials with the department were unavailable Monday afternoon.

As of Monday, power was back on in much of the Central Business District, the Warehouse District, the Bienville Street corridor in the French Quarter and Uptown areas around hospitals.

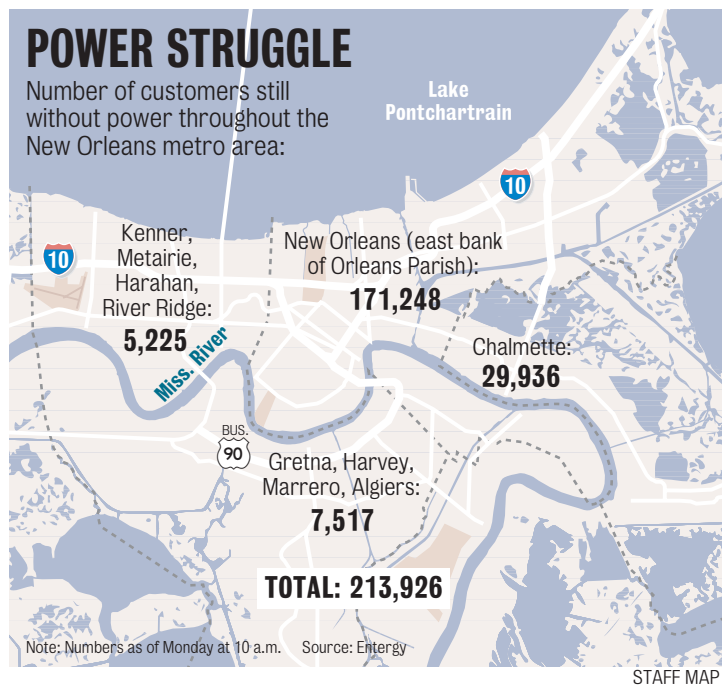
Electricity should be restored by the end of the week to the rest of the French Quarter and to Canal Street between Interstate 10 and the Mississippi River, Packer said.

Lights should be back on in other unflooded neighborhoods running along the river from the Bywater to Riverbend within two weeks.

Electricity lines running to the Superdome have been reenergized but the landmark building will remain in the dark until its internal electrical system is repaired, Packer said.

Cleco Corp. had restored power to 88 percent of its customers in the parishes of St. Tammany and Washington north of Lake Pontchartrain by Monday afternoon. About 9,200

St. Tammany customers remained in the dark, mostly in Slidell, Lacombe and Covington. In Washington, 41 customers still needed electricity.




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# Kitchens may be closed, forever

*Many smaller restaurants likely won't reopen*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — An estimated one-quarter of the 3,400 restaurants in the New Orleans area will probably not reopen because of insurance cost, cash-flow or staffing issues, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Restaurant Association said Monday.

Jim Funk said that the 25 percent projection is a minimum number and could increase.

Most of the causalities, he said, will probably not be the established restaurants like Commander's Palace or Galatoire's, but the mom-and-pop neighborhood places.

He said by the end of Monday, there were no more than 75 of the area's 3,394 restaurants open.

"The losses will be staggering," Funk said.

He projected that the $2.1 billion in annual sales at New Orleans area restaurants will be off by at least $500 million, because of the boarding up of restaurants after Hurricane Katrina or the inability to operate at full staff now.

One-third of the state's 10,628 restaurants are in the New Orleans area. Total restaurant sales across the state are about $5.2 billion a year, Funk said.

Katrina's timing was also cruel: It shuttered several restaurants at the time of year when their sales receive a boost from conventions.

"September is a good month, October is a great month, and November is a doggone good month,'' Funk said. "But now, a lot will depend on the repopulation" of the area and how fast the tourism and convention industry can bounce back.

"The jewels of our industry are the restaurants of New Orleans," he said. "That's where people go when they think of food."

But Funk admitted that "a lot of restaurants will have to tough time surviving. Some may open and there will be poor cash flow, and it will be a matter of weeks before they close."

He said some of the factors that may play a role in restaurants boarding up for good include how much insurance the restaurants had and how much it will cost to get insurance in the future. Also, he said, some operators might decide that they "don't want to fight this any more."

More than 53,000 of the 140,000 direct jobs supported by the state's restaurant industry are in the New Orleans area. Funk said some restaurants trying to open with skeleton staffs.

"We have employees scattered all over the board," he said. He said one New Orleans area restaurant has opened with nine employees instead of its regular complement of 30 to 40 workers.

As time goes by, Funk said, more restaurants will open. "There are a few open in the Veterans (Memorial Boulevard) corridor (in East Jefferson) now and some in New Orleans are trying to get open," he said.

Although sales have nose-dived in the New Orleans area, other areas of the state are reporting an increase in sales of 5 percent to 15 percent because many local residents have been displaced, but are still eating out.

But the increase in business in Baton Rouge, Lafayette and other areas will not offset the losses in the New Orleans area, Funk said.

Les Guerin, an official for Piccadilly Corp. and a member of the association's board, said one problem that may slow the reopening of New Orleans area residents may be a shortage of health inspectors or sanitarians to check out the conditions of the restaurants before they can open their doors.

Greg Reggio, owner of Taste Buds, the corporation that operates some Semolina and Zea's restaurants in the New Orleans area, said many restaurant operators will feel a cash crunch.

To ease the cash-flow problem, he said, he is trying to put together a coalition of restaurants to meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to see whether it can use New Orleans area restaurants to cater to security and rebuilding forces in the New Orleans area.

"I want to see how we can get involved," Reggio said. "If they have a mouth, we can fill it."

After they return, New Orleans area residents will not have the disposable income they had pre-Katrina, he said, and restaurants will have to adapt.

"Prime rib is not going to be on my menu," he said. "I can't put a $12 hamburger on my menu, and nobody else can either."

**1/3** of Louisiana's 10,628 restaurants are in the N.O. area

**75** of the area's 3,394 restaurants open, as of Monday

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**PLUMBERS: Need** a hand to restart your business? Roto Rooter, with locations throughout the U.S., wants to help professional Plumbers affected by the hurricane. If you are a seasoned Manager/Owner, become a Roto Rooter Authorized Service Provider and we'll help get you all the tools and support you need to begin again. You must have significant plumbing and business management experience, including successfully training and developing a team of quality-focused professionals. We're here to help. Call 1-800-543-7745 for details. EOE

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**ATTENTION. LOCAL** WORKFORCE AREAS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES. Displaced citizens, who were forced from their homes because of Hurricane Katrina, can now find temporary work through the One-Stop Workforce Center of Tangipahoa and its satellite offices. Applications are currently being taken for temporary jobs in public and non-profit agencies that provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. These jobs will pay $9.00 per hour and are currently limited to individuals who lived or worked in St.Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.Tammany, and Washington parishes. Applicants should be able to show proof of residency or employment in the affected areas. Funding for the temporary jobs is through a National Emergency Grand (NEG) from the United States Departments of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Applications will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you are an evacuee from the affected areas and currently reside in: -East Baton Rouge Parish contact: East Baton Rouge Workforce Center (225)358-4579. -Ascension Parish contact: Ascension Parish Workforce Centers. 54 Veterans Avenue, Suite B. Donaldsonville LA (225)473-5712 or 1715 South Burnside, Gonzales LA (225)647-7394. -East and West Feliciana Parishes contact: East and West Feliciana Parishes Workforce Center, 5681 Commerce Street, St.Francisville LA. (225)635-6635. -Iberville Parish contact: Iberville Parish Workforce Center. 23425 Railroad Ave, Suite 1, Plaquemine, LA. (225)687-0969. -Livingston Parish Contact: Livingston Parish Workforce Center. 9384 Florida Blvd-Suite B, Walker LA. (225)667-1874. -Pointe Coupee Parish contact: Pointe Coupee Parish Workforce Center. 305 East Main Street. New Roads LA. (225)638-6852. -St.Helena Parish contact: St.Helena Parish WIA Office/Youth Center. 1011 NW Central RR Ave. Hammond LA. (985)748-7718. -Tangipahoa Parish contact: Tangipahoa Parish Workforce Center. 1745 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond LA. (985)345-4465/(985)902-4200. -West Baton Rouge Parish contact: West Baton Rouge Parish Workforce Center. 149 North Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA. (225)343-5915. -Washington Parish contact: Washington Parish Workforce Center. 438 Avenue B. Bogalusa,LA. (985)732-6630. -St.Tammany Parish contact: St.Tammany Parish Workforce Center. 19376 N.Third Street. Covington, LA. (985)893-6254. Displaced workers may be eligible for occupational training.

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multi-task while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7525Eastern New Orleans

**La Place,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large family room, kitchen/dinngg room, office room, 2 car garage, covered patio. 120x110 corner lot, large freezer/refrigerator, 1 bed, dresser, couch, washer and dryer, 2 lounge chairs, they all stay. $180,000 Firm. 985-652-2519

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

### 7560 West Bank

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**ABITA SPRINGS** 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Call 985-893-5502 or @ www.HomesByOwner.com/98220

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

### 7580 Slidell

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

### 7615 Mississippi

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**FEMA HOUSES** AVAILABLE NOW! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

### Residences for Sale

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**Baton Rouge/Baker,** 3BR, 1.5BA, C/A/heat, high/dry, 2614 Boxwood, $65,000, 225-928-0824

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/Comm./ Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

### 7690 Rent/Lease/Comm./ Offices

**COVINGTON Law** Office Space Available. Office Services Available. Call 985-893-9962

**MANY, LA.** Immediate Office Space Available. Resort Hotel located 4 hours North of Baton Rouge and 1.5 hours South of Shreveport has immediate space available for a 5 month period. 11,000 square feet of space could easily be converted to office space - 90 guest rooms available for long-term housing. For additional information contact laresort@yahoo.com or call 281-384-7905

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $185,000, 504-468-8882

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** brick, with 1-6 acres, exc cond. 15 min north of covington, 45 min north of slidell. $110,000 or $150,000. 985-735-6575

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** 1700 sq.ft, 7 mo old, 1/2 acre lot, wood and ceramic tile floors. $168,000. 504-427-8310

### Real Estate for Sale

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**Amite Homes** 900 W. Oak St. Drive a little save a lot. Quality homes at reasonable prices. Single and Double wide. 985-748-3700

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**INVESTOR Will** purchase commercial and residential property in Metairie area, 225-928-0824

**SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA/ SOUTH** MISSISSIPPI. 35-40 ACRES In pasture w/small house. 859-312-0200

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. Call for more 1-877-893-1799

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### 7916 Warehouse/CBD

**COTTONNILL Condos,** 1 bedroom for rent, furnished, 600 square feet, fitness center included, pool, $1200/mo. 504-583-2997

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8062 Above Canal

**UPTOWN Apt,** No hurricane damage, forced to relocate to Houston for 4 mos, willing to sublease for 4 mos. $1500/mo. 254-716-8950

### 8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment with appliances, available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

### 8106Mandeville/Covington

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves sub-division, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

### 8108 Slidell

**NO FLOODING!** 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath, fireplace, 1040 square feet living. James 985-640-1890

### 8110 River Parish East Bank

**DESTREHAN -** 1BR, $525. 2BR, $695. W/D hookups, great St. Charles Schools, Ormond Subdiv. No storm damage, going fast. 76 Carriage Ln. Please call 504-957-2462, 504-319-6060

### 8135 Miscellaneous

**FORECLOSURE! 3/2** Only $12,900. For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension 1076

### 8150 Rentals Wanted

**LA PROPERTIES** NEEDED! Available immediately, all types, furn./unfurn. RX Housing. 888-569-3301 or www.rxhousing.com

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### 8630 Honda

**'90 Accord,** Only $900, For Listings 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

### 8870 Under $2,000

**'94 Jeep** Cherokee, Only $600. For Listings 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

### 8880 Miscellaneous

**'02 Excel** 5th Wheel, pics at www.RheaExcelRV.shutterfly.com, Will deliver. 828-733-3382

**'02 Jayco** Kiwi, sleeps 8, air conditioning, full kitchen & bath, $9850. Call 785-865-5555

**'04 Sprinter** 27.6' Fifth wheel, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 985-537-5332

**'95 32** ft Motor Home by Fleetwood, generator, exc cond. $26,500, will trade. 985-735-6575

**'96 Dutchstar** 37 ft, diesel pusher, 55K miles, lrg. Liv. Rm. slide-out, gen., twin rf. air, queen bed, large BA, Spartan Chassis, Cummins Diesel with Allison 6 spd., hyd. levelers, $64,500. 612-749-1999

**'99 Fleetwood** Georgetown Motorhome, White/Tan, 36' w/ large slide out, low miles, very nice, like new, has generator that will run full motorhome. 601-835-1655, 601-833-2561

**05 PUMA** PALOMINO 26ft, slide, Sleeps 6. Must Sell Due To Illness. $18,500. 985-764-3602

### 8925 Vans

**'98 Ford** F150 Conversion Van, leather, tow package, 89,000 miles, $6995. Call 785-865-5555

### 8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers

**Backhoes, manlift,** telescopic handler with forks, etc. 812-547-0933, 812-547-3321, or email twincities@psci.net.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### 8965 Misc. Services

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**Debris removal/tree** removal, house repairs/demolition, fast & dependable, licensed & insured, no job too big or small. 1-877-893-1799

**Wightkin Bulk** Water sold & delivered. Call 225-252-7655 for more information.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NASA shoots for the moon by 2018

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — It will cost $104 billion over the next decade to send astronauts back to the moon, NASA's chief said Monday, defending the price tag as an investment the nation can afford despite the expense of Hurricane Katrina. Described as "Apollo on steroids," the new moon exploration plan unveiled by the space agency will use beefed-up shuttle and Apollo parts and aims to put people on the moon by 2018. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said he is not seeking extra money and stressed that NASA will live within its annual budgets of $16 billion. Funding within the human spaceflight program will be redirected to achieve this goal, and not "one thin dime" will be taken from science projects, he said. The $104 billion price tag, leading up to an initial four-person lunar landing and spread over 13 years, represents 55 percent of what the Apollo program would cost in today's dollars, Griffin said. Apollo development spanned eight years, from 1961 to the first manned moon landing in 1969. The new space vehicle design uses shuttle rocket parts, an Apollo-style capsule and a lander capable of carrying four people to the moon.

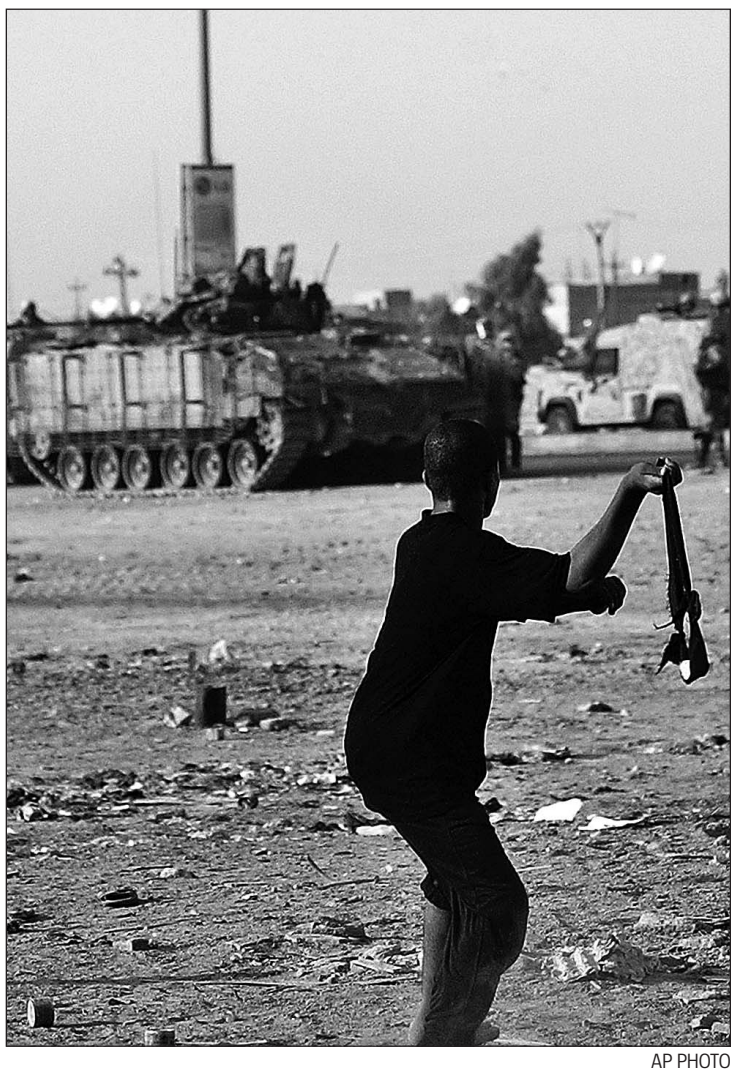
## Power plays under way after election

BERLIN — German opposition leader Angela Merkel and the chairman of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's party made their first contacts with potential coalition partners Monday in a scramble for power after the country's inconclusive election. Voters denied both Schroeder and Merkel a majority, but each is demanding the chancellor's office. Their struggle could last weeks, even as business leaders and economists warn decisive action is needed to invigorate the sluggish economy. Germany's foreign policy — addressing such issues as Turkey's bid for European Union membership, Iran's nuclear program and U.S. relations — also remains on hold. Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party just barely beat Schroeder's Social Democrats 35.2 percent to 34.3 percent. The muddled result could lead left and right to link up in a so-called grand coalition. But either Merkel or Schroeder would have to yield the chancellorship, and many fear such a merger would be too internally divided to be effective. Other coalitions remained possible.

## Ex-CEO gets 25 years in Tyco scandal

NEW YORK — Former Tyco CEO L. Dennis Kozlowski was sentenced Monday to up to 25 years in prison for looting the company of hundreds of millions of dollars, the climax of a case of executive greed replete with tales of a $6,000 gold-threaded shower curtain and a $2 million Mediterranean birthday party. Kozlowski, 58, was led out of the courtroom in handcuffs as his wife quietly sobbed from a bench three rows back. He will be eligible for parole after eight years and four months behind bars in a state prison in New York. Tyco's former finance chief, Mark Swartz, 44, received the same sentence, and state Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus ordered the defendants to pay a total of $134 million in restitution to Tyco International Ltd. In addition, the judge fined Kozlowski $70 million, and Swartz $35 million. Kozlowski and Swartz join a line of other executives sentenced to prison for lengthy stints after white-collar scandals that outraged the public. Former WorldCom Chairman Bernard Ebbers was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the $11 billion accounting fraud that toppled the telecommunications company that emerged from bankruptcy as MCI Inc. Adelphia Communications Corp. founder John Rigas was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his role in the looting and fraud at the cable TV company. His son and former finance chief, Timothy Rigas, got 20 years. Enron Corp. founder Kenneth Lay, former CEO Jeffrey Skilling and former top Enron accountant Richard Causey are expected to go to trial in January. Unlike WorldCom and Enron, Tyco survived the scandal.

From wire reports



AP PHOTO

An Iraqi boy uses a slingshot to hurl stones at British troops Monday in Basra, where two British soldiers were arrested for allegedly gunning down an Iraqi police officer. Witnesses said British tanks knocked down the walls at a jail to free the two soldiers.

# Al-Qaida takes credit for London bombs

*Two British soldiers freed from Iraqi jail*

**By The Associated Press**

Al-Qaida deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahri said in a statement broadcast Monday that his terror network carried out the July 7 London bombings, marking the group's first direct claim of responsibility for the attacks that killed 52 people.

"The blessed London attack was one which al-Qaida was honored to launch against the British crusader's arrogance and against the American crusader aggression on the Islamic nation for 100 years," al-Zawahri said in the tape aired on Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV.

"In their final testament, the heroic brothers in the London attacks ... provided great lessons to the Islamic nation and Muslims in Pakistan to oppose the infidels," said al-Zawahri, who was shown wearing a white turban and speaking to someone who was interviewing him off-camera.

The attacks also killed the four bombers.

"This blessed attack revealed the real hypocritical face of the West," said grey-bearded al-Zawahri, who wore a black vest over a white shirt.

A spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan Police said she had no immediate comment on al-Zawahri's tape.

Meanwhile, in Basra, Iraq, British soldiers used tanks to break down the walls of the central jail in this southern city and freed two Britons, allegedly undercover commandos arrested on charges of shooting two Iraqi police officers, witnesses said. The Basra governor called the rescue a "barbaric" act of aggression.

But in London, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement that two British troops held by Iraqi authorities in Basra were released as a result of negotiations. It said the two service personnel were with British forces.

A Defense spokesman added he had no information suggesting they were freed as a result of any overt military action. But the spokesman stopped short of denying reports that British tanks crashed through the walls of a jail in Basra to free the two troops.

In a public humiliation, Arab satellite TV stations showed pictures of two Western men sitting on the floor of the jail building with their hands tied behind their backs. One of the men had a bandage covering most of the top of his head, the other had blood on his clothes. Television commentary identified them only as Britons.

While the Shiite-dominated south of Iraq, where 8,500 British troops are based, has been far quieter than Sunni regions to the north, Britons have come under increasingly frequent attacks in recent weeks. The British military has reported 96 deaths since the war began in 2003.

That compares with the deaths of 1,899 Americans who are stationed nearer the violent insurgent regions around Baghdad and stretching west to the Syrian border.

This past summer, freelance journalist Steven Vincent wrote a column in The New York Times accusing Basra police of being infiltrated by Shiite militiamen. Shortly thereafter, on Aug. 2, Vincent was abducted at gunpoint and his body was discovered that night on the side of the highway south of Basra. A senior British official said Islamic militants — and not Iraqi police — probably killed Vincent.

To the north Monday, an estimated 3 million pilgrims, some carrying signs reading "We welcome martyrdom," jammed the holy city of Karbala for a major Shiite festival in defiance of insurgent declarations of all-out sectarian war.

And an Iraqi court in Baghdad sentenced one of Saddam Hussein's nephews to life in prison for financing the country's violent insurgency and bomb-making after a previously unannounced trial. It was the first known trial of any of the former leader's family.

Elsewhere Monday, militants continued bloody attacks, killing 24 police and civilians and wounding 28 others.

EXPANDED COVERAGE ON nola.com

# North Korea makes deal to drop nuclear programs

*But U.S. wants words backed by actions*

**By Burt Herman**
Associated Press writer

BEIJING — North Korea agreed Monday to dismantle nuclear weapons and its atomic facilities in exchange for energy aid, economic cooperation and security assurances, a breakthrough that marked a first step toward disarmament after two years of six-nation talks.

The chief U.S. envoy praised the development as a "win-win situation" and "good agreement for all of us." But he promptly urged Pyongyang, which also agreed to international inspections, to make good on its promises by ending operations at its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon.

"What is the purpose of operating it at this point?" said Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill. "The time to turn it off would be about now."

Despite the deal's potential to help significantly ease friction between the North and the United States after years of false starts and setbacks, Hill remained cautious.

"We have to see what comes in the days and weeks ahead," he said.

President Bush called it a positive step, but he expressed some skepticism about whether North Korea will live up to its promises.

"They have said - in principle - that they will abandon their weapons programs," Bush said. "And what we have said is, `Great. That's a wonderful step forward.' But now we've got to verify whether that happens."

"The question is, over time will all parties adhere to the agreement," Bush said.

The agreement clinched seven days of talks aimed at setting out general principles for the North's disarmament. Envoys agreed to return in early November to begin hashing out details of how that will be done.

Then, the hard work of ensuring compliance will begin, officials attending the talks said.

"Agreeing to a common document does not mean that the solution to our problems has been found," said Japan's chief envoy, Kenichiro Sasae.

Another Japanese official, who spoke on condition he not be named, noted that there was no common understanding among the participants about the nature of North Korea's nuclear program.

The head of the U.N. nuclear nonproliferation agency welcomed North Korea's decision to allow inspections, saying he hoped his experts could take the country at its word as soon as possible.

"The earlier we go back, the better," said Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Hill and other envoys said the timetable for inspections had not been set, although they want compliance as soon as possible.

The talks, which began in August 2003, include China, Japan, Russia, the United States and the two Koreas.

The negotiations had been deadlocked over North Korea's demand to keep the right to civilian nuclear programs after it disarms, and the statement acknowledges the North has made such an assertion but doesn't go beyond that.

North Korea also had demanded that it be given a light-water nuclear reactor at the latest talks - a type less easily diverted for weapons use - but Washington had said it and other countries at the talks wouldn't meet that request.

Putting aside the question for now, the statement said: "The other parties expressed their respect and agreed to discuss at an appropriate time the subject of the provision of light-water reactor" to North Korea.

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LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

Local Union 689 LEGAL NOTICE
Its Officers and Members

Re: Local Union 689, New Orleans, Louisiana
Notice of Imposition of Emergency Trusteeship

**Dear Brothers and Sisters**:

As a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to New Orleans and surrounding areas along the Gulf Coast, Local Union 689 has and will continue to require emergency assistance from the International Union to assure that the rights and interests of our members are effectively served during this crisis.

Tragically, some of the officers and as yet undetermined numbers of the Local Union's more than one thousand proud members remain unaccounted for in the aftermath of the storm and massive flooding. In addition, although the Local Union's office building remains standing, it is inaccessible and cannot yet be inspected for possible damages. Since the disaster struck, the International Union has taken the lead on behalf of the Local Union to locate and assist our members, refer our members to work, find new job opportunities, and push recovery efforts forward.

In consideration of these exigent and unprecedented circumstances, I have placed Local Union 689 under the emergency trusteeship of the International Union, effective immediately. The affairs of the Local Union shall be conducted by James C. Hale, Vice President and Ohio Valley and Southern States Regional Manager. The Deputy Trustee shall be International Representative Darren Johnson. You may contact Vice President Hale at 25 Century Boulevard, Suite 305, Nashville, Tennessee 37214, telephone number (615) 885-7196.
This action is only part of the massive recovery effort that LIUNA has undertaken on behalf of our brothers and sisters in hurricane-affected areas. Other LIUNA-sponsored initiatives include:

**Laborers' Care** - This fund raising initiative continues to receive an overwhelming response from Laborers throughout the country who have opened up their hearts and their wallets to help their brothers and sisters in hurricane ravaged areas. Donations can be made online with credit cards at www.laborerscare.org, www.ovsslecet.org, or www.liuna.org. Checks should be made out to Laborers' Care, and mailed to the International Union's Headquarters at 905 16th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006, Attention General President's Office. For further information or assistance concerning donations, please call Terra McFadin at (615) 885-7828.

**Membership Outreach Program** - Laborers are urged to call our Toll Free 24- hour hotline number at 1-888-214-7994. We want to know where you are, how you are, and what we can do to help. Please call now.

**Help Desk** - Our members get the help they need from LIUNA and other agencies we access on their behalf, such as FEMA, the Red Cross, the Louisiana Department of Labor, and the Louisiana Food Stamps Office.

**School Enrollment** - We are arranging for the children of our members whose schools were closed or destroyed by the hurricane to enroll in schools safely outside hurricane affected areas.

**Employment** - We are conducting an aggressive outreach initiative to our local partnering contractors and those outside contractors who will be rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. Our goal is to ensure that our members play a vital role in these reconstruction efforts. In the meantime, we are taking steps to assure that all available members are referred for employment and that their rights as union members are protected. Contractors may contact us at (615) 885-7196.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the International Union Constitution, a hearing will be conducted by the Independent Hearing Officer to determine whether the Trusteeship shall continue. A separate Notice will be issued regarding this hearing.

In solidarity, I remain

Fraternally yours,

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

# Offshore oil industry expects one-two punch

## *Recovery incomplete, as Rita heads to Gulf*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Energy companies, still struggling to restore oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico after Hurricane Katrina, have begun shutting down operations and evacuating personnel in advance of Tropical Storm Rita.

Crude oil prices jumped 7 percent and natural gas prices closed 14 percent higher Monday in anticipation of further pinched oil and gas supplies.

Oil companies began bringing construction workers and project crews ashore Sunday in the first wave of personnel clearing from platforms and drilling rigs in the Gulf. Major oil companies with operations in the deep water Gulf launched the earliest evacuation.

Rita is expected to race through the heart of the Gulf, where energy operations ravaged by Katrina three weeks ago have not been restored to full operation. The damage affected all aspects of the energy supply chain from drilling rigs to gas processing plants and oil refineries which produce gasoline.

Art Hogan, chief market analyst for Jeffries and Co. in New York, said fear of more damage from Rita has fueled "one of the largest one-day moves in modern times" in crude oil trading.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange Monday, crude for delivery in October was up $4.39 a barrel to close at $67.39 a barrel. Natural gas rose $1.52 per million British thermal units to close at $12.66.

"It will certainly impact Gulf of Mexico volumes of gas and oil and probably will impact the offloading of oil tankers, which is why oil futures are up and gas is up," said Kenneth Beer, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Stone Energy in Lafayette.

There is concern that even if Rita strikes the Texas coast, it would further rough up the energy infrastructure.

As of Monday, about 56 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut in and 34 percent of natural gas production was not being pumped. About one-third of the shut-in production was the result of onshore infrastructure problems, which includes pipelines, production facilities and oil refineries, according to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, the federal agency that oversees Gulf leases.

If the storm "continues westward, it will threaten the Houston Ship Channel and the many refineries along the Texas coast," said Marshall Steeves, an analyst at Refco Inc. in New York. He said about 5 percent of the refining capacity is out of operation "indefinitely because of Katrina and can't afford to lose more."

And consumers can expect to pay more for gasoline.

"What seems to be a pullback in gasoline prices may come to a screeching halt," Hogan said. More than $3 a gallon gasoline is a likely prospect, he said.

He said the higher prices would be fueled not only by higher crude oil prices but the availability of refining. The spot gasoline shortages experienced immediately after Katrina were not a result of a shortfall in crude supplies but "the inability to get crude and refined product delivered," Hogan said. Refineries were damaged and the pipelines that crisscross the country were out of service at first.

Shell Oil Co. began evacuating workers from the eastern Gulf on Sunday and said it would move employees from structures further westward as the evacuation continued. A total of 195 workers came ashore Sunday, and the company was in the process of bringing in an additional 350 workers on Monday.

BP said Monday it has evacuated nonessential personnel from the eastern Gulf and its deep-water platforms in the central Gulf in a recorded message.

Beer of Stone Energy said he would not be surprised if today "we would start the process of physically getting people out and shutting down facilities again." He explained that the majors, which have more people and are further out in the Gulf, typically evacuate before smaller independent companies, like his.

Energy Partners Ltd. tracked the storm Monday and is evaluating whether to evacuate workers in the western Gulf, where the New Orleans firm has 25 percent to 35 percent of its production, said Al Petrie, an Energy Partners spokesman.

• • • • • •

Bloomberg News contributed to this report.

# SBA loans can help many get back on feet

## *Businesses of all sizes, homeowners and renters may apply*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

The Small Business Administration is offering loans to businesses, homeowners and even renters to help pay for damages and rebuilding costs associated with Hurricane Katrina.

The loans range from $40,000 to homeowners and renters to cover uninsured losses of personal property, clothing and furniture to $1.5 million to businesses for rebuilding.

During declared disasters, the SBA lends to businesses of all sizes as well as individuals, said Carol Chastang, a spokeswoman for the SBA Office of Disaster Assistance.

The SBA loans are designed to pick up where FEMA grants leave off, Chastang said. The main purpose of the loans is to assist with long-term rebuilding costs, whereas FEMA grants mostly are for temporary costs associated with displacement.

What FEMA offers is "a short-term fix," Chastang said. "If you're a homeowner and your house is underwater, you're going to need an SBA loan."

The SBA has issued more than 740,000 loan applications to hurricane victims along the Gulf Coast, and more than two-thirds of those were issued to Louisiana business owners and individuals. So far, eight loans have been approved in Louisiana for about $203,000, Chastang said. All were for home loans.

"With any given disaster, the majority of the loans that we make are for home loans," she said.

But the number of loan requests for businesses as well as the number of approvals for businesses and homes will grow in the coming months as SBA appraisers, business owners and residents are able to assess damage.

So far, the number of loan applications is comparable with those issued last year after four hurricanes tore through Florida. Last year's loans totaled $2.2 billion and were spread over 13 states. But because none of those areas was as densely populated as the ones affected by Hurricane Katrina, the loaned amount is expected to be greater for this storm.

To apply for an SBA loan, individuals must complete a FEMA application first, Chastang said. FEMA, which acts as the federal coordinating entity for disaster recovery, then refers individuals and businesses to the SBA. The SBA issues applications for disaster loans only to people who are referred by FEMA.

"In some cases folks will think they need an SBA loan and they really need a FEMA grant," Chastang said.

The SBA is offering four loans, one for homeowners and renters and three for businesses.

Home loans are capped at $200,000 for home damage and rebuilding or $40,000 for personal property loss. The interest rate on a home loan is 2.69 percent. The application deadline is Oct. 28, but Chastang said that date likely will be extended.

Of the business loans, one applies exclusively to small businesses. The economic injury loan, capped at $1.5 million, is for operations that might not have suffered physical damage, but suffered economic injury, Chastang said. It can be used to pay employees and other bills.

"It's aimed at helping businesses cover their operating expenses had the disaster not occurred," Chastang said.

The interest rate on the economic injury loan is 4 percent. The application deadline for the economic injury loan is May 29.

The remaining business loans, also capped at $1.5 million with a 4 percent interest rate, apply to businesses and nonprofit organizations of any size. They are to assist with costs associated with rebuilding a facility and replacing machinery and equipment, Chastang said. The deadline to apply is Oct. 28.

Loan amounts are determined on a case-by-case basis. Borrowers will be allowed to defer payments for up to one year, Chastang said.

Although it usually takes 19 to 21 days from the time an application is filed until money is received, Chastang said, waits will be longer this time around.

"This one we've got to say something different because we don't want people to expect it that soon," she said, though she could not give a timetable. "This situation takes us out of the normal situation because people can't get to their homes and businesses."

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# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Tuesday
September 20, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Branching out after tragedy

Our daughter Claire e-mailed me a week ago to say she and her boyfriend Randall were going to take off work and come from Atlanta to take part in our post-Katrina cleanup. This is the daughter who once told her father, "My fingers are too tired," when he asked her to turn on a light switch.

"Please don't come," I told her. "It's bad enough having two people trip over dogs in the dark. It's hot, and there's nothing to eat at our house. Being pioneers is no fun."

But they insisted on coming, power or no power. And they stopped in Laurel, Miss., first to spend a day cleaning up Randall's grandmother's yard, which was also full of trees and limbs.

They arrived in Covington Friday afternoon with a chain saw, two brand new blades for Stroup's saw, long pants, work gloves and a pair of willing hearts.

### Tossed in a basket

Saturday morning, we went over to the house where my mother used to live and spent four hours sweating profusely and clearing the back yard of fallen trees. The men wielded chainsaws while Claire and I dragged branches and hunks of trees out to the curb.

"My fingers are getting tired," I said numerous times, but it felt good to be working together.

I couldn't help being relieved Mom had not lived to see the wrath of Katrina. She would have been terrified of evacuating, but how could she have stayed?

I kept thinking about my friend, Dorothy McLeod. I had finally heard from her on Friday, after more than 2 1/2 weeks of worrying.

Dot, in her 70's and in poor health, lived in Gentilly near Lake Pontchartrain. She had evacuated to a motel in eastern New Orleans like she always does when a hurricane looms and had ended up being carried up to the roof by two men and "tossed into a basket" attached to a helicopter.

"Have you ever ridden in a basket under a helicopter?" she asked me.

### Signs of hope

Dot has been relocated to a nursing home in Fort Worth. The bag containing her clothes, medicine, identification and money never made it there, but her great sorrow is that she had to leave her cat, Poupon, behind.

"For nearly 13 years, he slept in my arms," she said, through her tears. When we talked, she was also fretting about her dear friend, Henry Kraft (who has since been located in Knoxville, Tenn.). She had called a local television station to ask how she should go about looking for him, and the woman she talked to said she'd try to help.

A few hours later, a big bouquet of flowers was delivered to Dot's room.

"That woman had never heard of me before today, and she sent me flowers," Dot said.

In some small way, those flowers are helping Dot live in a room far away from everything she knew and loved.

Like tired fingers and new chainsaw blades, they are a sign of grace after the storm.

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

HURRICANE HEROES

*Determination keeps pumping station running*

# TRIAL BY WATER

## *Pumping station operators ride out storm, and more in 21 days filled with courage and ingenuity*



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Dave Howard's dog, Sugarfoot, stayed with him as he and a few co-workers kept the four pumps at Jahncke Pumping Station No. 14 operating almost continuously.

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

The morning before Hurricane Katrina roared into New Orleans, Dave Howard got a call from his supervisors at the Sewerage & Water Board directing him to report to work at Jahncke Pumping Station No. 14 alongside the Lake Pontchartrain levee in eastern New Orleans.

"They told me to bring enough stuff to last me a couple of days," Howard said.

Two days turned into 21 days.

Howard and a few co-workers staffed their posts nonstop until last Sunday – except for a quick trip to Ochsner Medical Center for shots - when they finally got 24 hours of R&R.

With a mixture of determination and what Howard, age 52 with 30 years at the water board, calls "old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity," the group managed to keep the station's four pumps up and running nearly the entire time.

The storm itself had been plenty hairy. It rattled the solid concrete building, leaving cracks in all four corners, and ripped off the roof. Water from the lake scoured out a section of levee adjacent to the station. Things only got worse after the wind subsided.

The television, which mostly worked, was describing all manner of mayhem taking place in the city. Thugs were

*See* **HEROES,** *page B-2*



Dave Howard slept next to the gauges for Jahncke Pumping Station No. 14 during Hurricane Katrina, which rattled the solid concrete building, left cracks in all four corners and ripped off the roof.

# Death toll may rise with boats in Plaquemines

## *Shrimpers often ride out storms on vessels*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Barreling out of the Gulf of Mexico with winds topping 140 miles per hour, Katrina struck first and hardest at the fishing communities of lower Plaquemines Parish.

The front side of the hurricane pushed a massive surge of water up the Mississippi River that overtopped a 65-mile stretch of levee in Plaquemines, sending violent torrents ripping through an estimated 6,000 houses, stores, schools, churches and marinas.

Amazingly, only three bodies have been found among the ruins in the three weeks since the storm passed. But officials fear the good news might be about to

*See* **PLAQUEMINES,** *page B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Boats from Empire were dumped onto Louisiana 23 by Hurricane Katrina. Many other boats are thought to be at the bottom of nearby Doullet Canal, and officials fear the bodies of shrimpers, who traditionally ride out hurricanes on their vessels, will be discovered there.

# Rita halts returns home

## *Damaged levees leave St. Bernard vulnerable*

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

St. Bernard Parish officials on Monday halted the return of parish residents and called for a mandatory evacuation starting today, as Tropical Storm Rita churned into the Gulf of Mexico and threatened to affect the parish.

Officials made the decision late Monday after a conference call in which they said Gov. Kathleen Blanco asked them to evacuate and Corps of Engineers officials said Katrina's damage to the parish's levees means the area is vulnerable to even a small surge.

"The governor told us to leave," said Council Chairman Joey DiFatta.

Earlier in the day, officials had announced they would let in those residents scheduled to come in today, but would close the parish for the rest of the week. They said they would decide whether to evacuate or not after reviewing the storm's path.

The storm is projected to hit Texas. But Katrina, which flood-

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *page B-2*

# Parents may not get tuition back

## *Schools say money needed to keep faculty*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Now that many of them have enrolled their children in new schools in new cities, parents of students displaced from New Orleans area private schools are turning to a new financial question: What happens to the tuition money they paid before Hurricane Katrina chased them away?

The answers vary, with some private school officials saying the money can be transferred to new schools and others saying the disrupted schools must keep the tuition money so they can continue paying faculty members in hopes that the staff will return when the school reopens.

"It's a frightening thing for a school," said Chris Proctor, new headmaster of St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, which plans to reopen Oct. 3. "The thing that makes a school unique is the faculty. Schools desperately want to hang on to their faculties."

The tuition question involves several thousand dollars for each displaced student and weighs on thousands of families who fled Katrina and its aftermath. Louisiana has the highest percentage of students in nonpublic schools of any state, and three New Orleans area parishes – Jefferson, St. John the Baptist and St. Bernard – are in the Top 10 counties nationwide.

St. Martin's is not offering tuition refunds for the lost portion of the school year, Proctor said,

*See* **TUITION,** *page B-2*

# Garden hoses bring water from canal to cool pumps

HEROES, *from B-1*

roaming the area around Jahncke, and some people came by to curse out Howard and his coworkers for failing to keep them dry. One person smashed out the windows of the S&WB truck parked on Hayne Boulevard in front of the station. Security arrived after that, in the form of a single National Guardsman.

There were "friendlies," too, Howard said: A couple who needed to use the station's power to treat their asthmatic child dropped off some turkey sandwiches. Howard and his group shared military rations with other "friendlies" awaiting rescue on the levee.

But the pumps kept running with one exception: A spell of two days early in the crisis, when the city's water supply gave out and the pumps had to be shut down before they overheated.

During that lapse, Howard and his cohorts – including electricians John Alexander and Bobby Brouillette and diesel mechanic Steve Tregre - devised an alternative: They'd run one pump at a time until the temperature in the gear boxes reached 150 degrees. Then they'd shut it off and fire up the next one until it, too, was nearly fried.

The Thursday after the storm, Tregre came up with a better idea: Use the water from the Jahncke Canal, which the station pumps into the lake, to cool the pumps. Sure, the water was nasty and full of debris, but these were desperate times, with at least three feet of water – full of feeding alligator gars - pooled around the station and nearby homes virtually inundated.

Making it work wasn't as simple as dropping a bucket into the canal. Had the water been routed into the normal heat exchangers, it would have ruined them. So the crew bypassed the system. They found a sump pump to suck out water, ran a couple of garden hoses up to the deck, and allowed the water to pour directly onto the gearboxes.

The crude fix worked. And it is still in place, for there's still no water pressure in eastern New Orleans – which is at the far end of the area the water board serves.

Things are gradually returning to normal at Jahncke, save for the crew of guardsmen and the motley collection of dogs and cats taken in by Howard and his men. The surrounding neighborhood is nearly dry, and on Thursday afternoon, a group of Entergy workers restored electrical power to the station.

Since the night of the storm, the plant had been running off a massive diesel generator that normally runs no more than a day or two at a time. The behemoth engine sucks up 3,300 gallons of diesel and 20 gallons of motor oil a day.

During his trip to Ochsner, Howard saw firsthand the devastation of his beloved hometown, including the flooded area around Carrollton and South Claiborne avenues where he grew up. It hit him hard.

"It seemed so surreal," he said. "I couldn't really believe it. I love the old New Orleans, the architecturally significant old houses. It sort of broke my heart a little bit. But we'll be back. We'll come back."

Howard, who makes a "whopping" $14.59 per hour, disdains the notion that he's a hero.

"I don't consider myself a hero," he said. "I'm just a dedicated employee. And there are quite a few of them here."



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Jamie Hendrix of Chalmette, among the last wave of St. Bernard Parish residents allowed into the parish as Hurricane Rita loomed, salvages her children's sports jerseys and communion gown. She said she plans to make a memory quilt out of the numbers on the jerseys.

# Residents flee another storm

ST. BERNARD, *from B-1*

ed almost the entire parish with as much as 20 feet of water, destroyed much of the levees that protect the parish.

"We're starting all over again. The only difference is I don't have as many people to evacuate," said Larry Ingergiola, the parish's emergency preparedness director.

Hundreds of St. Bernard residents had streamed into the parish daily since officials launched a two-week re-entry plan on Saturday to let people assess the Katrina's damage. But only a few residents remain. Another 700 civilians, including parish employees and emergency and health workers, are also in the parish.

"It's like a recurring nightmare," said Councilwoman Judy Hoffmeister, referring to the possibility that Rita may affect the area. "If I see four horsemen and an angel playing the trumpets, I'm going to get on my knees because this is it."

St. Bernard, like much of the eastern sections of the New Orleans area, is a sitting duck for any major storm. More than 90 percent of levees along the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, which were supposed to protect the parish from storm surges, got wiped out by Katrina.

Finding humor in the possibility of a new storm affecting the area, Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said Rita would have little to destroy after Katrina.

"We're going to have to give Rita an IOU because she can't do any more damage," Rodriguez said.

Ingergiola said a new evacuation will protect new generators, trucks and other equipment bought to replace what Katrina ravaged.

"I can't go buy a new fleet of trucks every 10 days," he said.

Meanwhile, officials have also been treating some of the people returning. Two people were hospitalized with severe depression, after witnessing the devastation of their property. Dr. Paul Verrette, the parish medical director for emergency operations, said more cases may surface when people are allowed to access more devastated areas in the eastern portions of St. Bernard.

"It's a traumatizing thing. Overnight, an entire community lost everything," he said.

As many as 20 other people have been treated for cuts, mostly from shattered glass, and for injuries related to falls in the slick muck that cover everything.

# Only three bodies found so far

PLAQUEMINES, *from B-1*

change.

With an estimated 100 shrimp boats sunk in canals and about a third of the parish still underwater, a pivotal question hangs over the tally of dead. How many residents tried to weather the storm in boats or locations still unchecked by rescue teams? It's a question being asked most frequently of Plaquemines' fishers, including hundreds of Vietnamese ancestry who traditionally have stayed aboard shrimp boats during hurricanes to safeguard what for many was their sole source of income.

"The boat was like their house, their business," said Tuan Vo, a 34-year-old shrimper who worked out of the fishing village of Empire, where the center of Katrina passed by on Aug. 29. "A lot of fishermen would stay. They were afraid to leave; many didn't have insurance. Maybe the storm has floated them away too."

Vo, who evacuated to Texas and later Canada, returned this week to search for his 50-foot trawl boat, Miss Christina.

That the boat could not be found after several hours of searching was not surprising: The Mississippi River floodwaters that decimated lower Plaquemines picked up and carried some vessels a half-mile or more from where they had been tied. Hulls of boats that were overturned and sunk now poke from the water all along the 15-foot deep Doullut Canal in Empire, a waterway previously regarded by fishermen as a "safe harbor" where they could ride out storms.

Katrina has debunked that maritime legend.

## Boat graveyard

A sonar survey taken last week indicated that up to 100 sunken boats are resting on the bottom of the canal, said Parish President Benny Rousselle. The Kostmayer Construction Co., a contractor hired to fix the mangled locks at both ends of the canal, is scheduled to begin pulling up the vessels this week.

If there are more dead in Plaquemines, they likely will be found in those boats, said parish Emergency Operations Director Jesse St. Amant.

"Boat people feel like that is the safest place," he said. "It's what my grandmother used to do. Every time a storm was coming, she'd get on her boat."

More than 90 percent of Plaquemines' 27,000 residents evacuated before the storm hit. For many, it was a familiar ritual.

"You grab your guns, a handful of pictures and some clothes and go," said Hewitt Gauthier Jr., a 47-year-old Nairn resident who runs a fleet of oilfield crewboats. Gauthier's wife, Robin, said: "We evacuated so many times and we were able to just come back the next day. This was our third time this year. We'd just unpacked from last time."

## Trapped in the chaos

But if leaving was the grudgingly accepted norm for most, a stubborn few in Plaquemines always stayed. At least 250 people were rescued in the week after Katrina, Amant said.

According to rescuers' accounts, about a half-dozen people were plucked from St. Patrick Church in Port Sulphur, and 10 others from the government building just up the road. In Diamond, a man was found living in a makeshift shelter on the levee after his house washed away. Down in Venice, near the mouth of the Mississippi, another man was rescued from a treetop.

At least four shrimpers from Empire also made it out alive, including Kent Frelich, who videotaped the storm from the cabin of his boat in the Doullut Canal.

A copy of the video provided by Rousselle showed waters up to 12 feet deep knocking boats against one another while winds peeled the roof of a tin shelter in a matter of moments.

As the eye of the storm passed, the video showed a pair of shirtless survivors whose boat had gone down trying to claw their way through the diesel-soaked debris choking the canal. The unidentified men took refuge on Frelich's boat for the remainder of the storm.

After the back side of the storm moved through, the video showed a scene of utter destruction: smashed fuel docks and ice houses, boats stacked atop one another on the Louisiana 23 bridge, houses left splayed across the road after being floated off their foundations.

Except for the four shrimpers, the only sign of life depicted in the storm's immediate aftermath is a tattered-looking black dog cowering atop a forklift at the canal's edge.

## Searches come up empty

Other parishes have seen their death tolls skyrocket in recent days as floodwaters receded, but no bodies have been found for more than two weeks in Plaquemines. Airboats and helicopters continue to crisscross areas of the parish that are still flooded, from Home Place south about 25 miles to Venice.

"The level of destruction down there is such that there's really no place for bodies to hide," Rousselle said. "We've been circulating around there enough to think somebody would have run across them."

He added in a whisper, "You would think by now they would have started smelling."

Reports of missing persons have poured in steadily since the storm hit. Some have proven false; others are impossible to verify with evacuees scattered across the country.

Vo, the Empire shrimper, said many of his fellow fishers have been reluctant to return, figuring their homes and businesses are gone. His sister-in-law, Ida Nguyen, said she fears the worst, knowing many fishermen already had stayed through two storms this year, Tropical Storm Cindy and Hurricane Dennis.

She had hoped to see those fishermen when her family evacuated to Houston.

"Usually, I see all the faces I know. But this time, I didn't see them," she said.

# Abita Springs springs back from the storm

*But many residents still without power*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

During a brief lull as Hurricane Katrina moved through the area on Aug. 29, Abita Springs Mayor Louis Fitzmorris ventured outside Abita Elementary School to take a peek.

His heart sank. All he could see was downed trees.

"I was certain that the entire town had been destroyed," he said. "There was just a mountain of trees. I climbed up on some of the fallen trees and could not see a single house, just stacks and stacks of blowndown trees. I have never felt so desolate."

The mayor was certain that beneath all those trees were all of the town's houses and businesses smashed to splinters.

Today, most of the trees have been removed, the streets have been cleared, most municipal services have been restored, and the tally is not as bad as initially feared. Fitzmorris was showing signs of post-storm weariness but was mostly upbeat recently while giving an assessment.

"We have counted 120 homes . . . that have moderate to severe roof damage from falling trees, mostly our town's cherished pine trees, and hundreds and hundreds of them just snapped like toothpicks. But most of the houses can be repaired."

Of the 120 houses, 15 were destroyed.

After evacuating his family to Alabama and then Raleigh, N.C., Fitzmorris, Town Clerk Donna Kilpatrick and her husband and three town workers hunkered down at the elementary school to ride out the storm.

"We probably got back out too soon on that Monday afternoon because soon after that brief lull, the wind gusts picked up again strong for several more hours," Fitzmorris said. "But we got out anyway. It was scary at times," but using a four-wheeler and a chainsaw they began the process of clearing the major roads.

"We had the town open in two days after the storm," he said.

Then work began to clear interior streets. "As we opened the streets, to our great joy we were finding that more and more homes had been spared, and the center of town businesses for the most part were not seriously damaged," Fitzmorris said.

"Our biggest problem now is that our gas system was badly damaged. I don't have a time frame yet for getting it up and running," he said.

Fitzmorris said he is frustrated that many residents still don't have electricity because they are customers of Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative. "The Cleco customers in town have had power for days but most of the town is still without power. I am upset that Washington-St. Tammany is recovering so slowly. After this is all over, I am going to talk to Cleco and see what we can do to make them our town provider," he said.

So far, 100,000 yards of debris has been hauled away from the town. The mayor expects the total clean-up bill to be more than $1 million, which he said will be covered by FEMA. Two of the town's sewer system pumping stations were damaged and the one on Bryan Street was demolished. "But it has been replaced as of Friday," he said.

Fitzmorris said he finally realized how lucky Abita Springs was when someone from the "Today" show contacted him and said they wanted to adopt a small town hit by the storm and do daily reports on its recovery.

A crew and producer surveyed the town but decided to look elsewhere because Abita Springs did not have enough destruction to qualify for what they wanted to spotlight, the mayor said. He said he told the producer "Thank goodness," and the TV crew left town.

# Some schools take displaced pupils for free

TUITION, *from B-1*

partly because it still plans to offer a full academic year, albeit one that will run later than usual. "We're fortunate that we're going to offer a product, so we can charge tuition and not worry about it," he said Monday.

Proctor and officials from other schools in the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest said many member schools in different states are offering free education to displaced students. That should help some families who cannot return to their homes even though St. Martin's is reopening, Proctor said.

The association has 11 schools in New Orleans and surrounding parishes, including St. Martin's, and five more across the state.

There are exceptions to the practice of taking displaced students free of charge, especially at other ISAS Louisiana schools, said Geoffrey Butler, executive director the association, which is based in Fort Worth, Texas, and also includes schools in Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Butler said some Louisiana schools outside the New Orleans area are not offering free tuition to families who are buying houses and appear to be settling into their new schools and towns permanently. Free tuition, he said, seems more appropriate for temporary dislocation.

"They expect the families will return to their home schools when they are available," Butler said.

Stephenie Gaudet, mother of a fourth grader at Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans now attending an Episcopal school in Panama City, Fla., said she is eager to return her daughter to McGehee, an ISAS school that Gaudet described as offering an umatched educational opportunity for girls.

McGehee is not offering tuition refunds, and Gaudet said she understands the school's need to maintain solid financial footing and entice its faculty back. At the same time, she said, she and her husband are temporarily out of work thanks to Katrina and would welcome any help with their costs.

An Internet statement from Isidore Newman School in New Orleans, another ISAS school, which doesn't anticipate a full reopening until January, said its families are expected to honor their tuition obligations because the school considers its students still to be Newman students even while they attend schools elsewhere.

The statement emphasizes the other independent schools that are helping by offering free temporary schooling. It said displaced parents who must pay tuition at their new schools will be able to apply for credits against their Newman expenses over four semesters. Parents of seniors may seek refunds or receipts treating their tuition payments as tax-deductible charitable contributions.

Hanging on to tuition money let schools maintain their long-term viability, according to the Newman statement.

"Nearly 85 percent of the school's income is spent on faculty and staff salary and benefits," the statement said. "If Newman refunded all the tuition and fees collected this year, there is no way we could pay Newman employees, and without them Newman is just a bunch of buildings."

Catholic schools closed by Katrina, meanwhile, are taking a different approach, relying on donations and emergency financing by the

Archdiocese of New Orleans to keep paying teachers, while at the same time, letting parents transfer tuition dollars elsewhere.

"Our situation is rather simple: The tuition follows the student," said the Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of archdiocese schools.

Maestri said the money may be directly transferred for students attending other schools in the archdiocese, such as Catholic schools that have already reopened in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes. For students now living outside the New Orleans area, direct transfers might still be possible, or parents may receive refunds to use in paying tuition at their new schools, Maestri said.

Some private school parents also buy tuition refund insurance, but school and insurance officials said Monday that such policies are not designed to cover disasters that close schools.

Carl Stockfleth, chairman of A.W.G Dewar Inc., a Quincy, Mass., company that offers tuition insurance, said the policies normally cover mid-year student withdrawals from a school because of illness, parent job transfers or the student having difficulties at the school. Typically about 15 to 20 percent of parents buy the insurance, he said.

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**75%** restored

**FEDERAL AID**

- Eight parishes, municipalities and state departments have already received about $218 million in reimbursements, and the remaining approved money should be distributed soon, New Orleans: $102,837,450
- Louisiana Office of Homeland Security: $70,386,000
- St. Bernard Parish: $31,601,040
- Plaquemine Parish: $4,354,000
- Lafourche Parish: $6,669,000
- Louisiana Department of Transportation: $1,180,075
- Louisiana Department of Public Safety: $348,030
- St. Tammany Parish: $323,609

**Lake Pontchartrain Causeway**
Opened Monday

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**
Status of U.S. mail delivery in southeast Louisiana as of Monday. Partial delivery is being made in these zip codes: 70001, 70002, 70003, 70005, 70006, 70036, 70037, 70039, 70053, 70056, 70058, 70062, 70065, 70068, 70072,70087, 70094, 70123, 70433, 70435, 70458, 70460, 70461, 70467, 70471.
No mail was being delivered to these zip codes: 70032, 70040, 70041, 70043, 70075, 70083, 70085, 70091, 70092, 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70117,70118, 70119, 70121, 70122, 70124, 70125, 70126, 70127, 70128, 70129, 70130, 70131, 70358.
Temporary change-of-0address forms available at any post office or https://moversguide.usps.com/mgservice/ECOA

**SCHOOL OPENINGS**
**ORLEANS PARISH**

- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next
- Teachers, other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**

- Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools
- Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call 225-819-2846 to register
- Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- Catholic: Several schools opened Monday. Our Lady of the Lake, Oct. 3

**ST. BERNARD**

- Public: Likely closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**

- Public: January target date

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

- Public: Reopening Thursday
- Catholic: Reopened Monday

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**

- Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin the week of Sept. 26.
- Catholic: Open.

**FOR HELP**

- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA www.fema.gov or (800) 621-3362
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Toll-free hotline for people seeking information about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393

# FEMA center opens in St. Tammany Parish

*Hundreds show up to file for help*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

Three weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated much of metro New Orleans, the Federal Emergency Management Agency finally opened its first major Disaster Recovery Center in St. Tammany Parish on Monday in the John Slidell Park gymnasium in Slidell.

The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week "until the need has been completely eliminated - or as best as we can," FEMA spokesman Mark Haimann said. "We don't have any end point for this one."

Asked whether a DRC would be established in Covington so west St. Tammany residents could be helped more easily, he said that it would make "perfect sense" and that he will bring the matter to the attention of his superiors.

At midafternoon, hundreds of east St. Tammany's hurricane homeless, with the help of FEMA, contract agents, Small Business Association officials and volunteers who typed information into laptop computers, sat at tables filling out forms or lounged in the bleachers waiting for their names to be called for the next step in the process.

A Lake County, Fla., sheriff's deputy posted at the park entrance told motorists who drove up, "I've got good news and I've got bad news. The bad news is it's a 5½-hour wait. The good news is that they're here seven days a week for the next six months."

Many of those who came already had managed to register by telephone, 1 (800) 621-3362, or online at www.fema.com, and were at John Slidell to see about receiving up to $2,000 in cash assistance and/or temporary housing help, Haimann said. State officials also offered free legal assistance to those who needed it.

Haimann acknowledged about one-third of the Slidell area is still without phone or Internet service.

FEMA has 11 such centers statewide. That includes two that opened this weekend in neighboring Washington Parish, but he added that "we're registering 3,000 to 4,000 people a day" in St. Tammany.

Thus far, almost 90,000 homeowners, businesses and others have registered with FEMA, including at least 36,000 in the Slidell area, he said. By late afternoon, an estimated 400 to 500 people had signed up for help at the center.

Now that most shelters have been closed, temporary housing or housing allowances were the highest priority for the majority of those who came to the center Monday as federal and state agencies worked with parish and municipal officials to bring in as many as 20,000 small trailers and other mobile residences to the parish.

Asked how long it would take to bring in thousands of such residences to the battered Slidell area and other hard-hit parts of the parish, Haimann said there isn't yet a specific timeframe for that. However, he added, he believed it wouldn't be too much longer.

That issue is now being decided at the Washington, D.C., level, with input from local and state officials, he said. "I don't want to give anybody a false sense of hope. But once they get the train on the tracks, it's pretty fast getting here."

About 40 trailers already have been moved into a trailer park off Interstate 59 near Pearl River, officials said, and efforts are under way to bring several hundred more to a trailer park off Shortcut Highway southeast of Slidell.

Haimann said he understood the frustration that many people in the parish felt about displaced persons from St. Tammany staying temporarily out of state receiving FEMA and American Red Cross financial aid, although those still in the parish could apply for it only by calling the FEMA number or the Red Cross at 1 (866) 438-4636.

"I heard some people were saying that Slidell felt like the forgotten city, but we haven't forgotten them," he insisted.

Mayor Ben Morris was among those the most vocal in his criticism this past week about FEMA's slow response in the disaster recovery effort. On Monday, while still not fully satisfied, he welcomed to Disaster Recovery Center to Slidell.

"I'm so glad they're here," he said. "It's been tough ... People need housing and they can't get it. It's not been a very effective system, but at least they're here.

# St. Tammany still waiting for trailers from FEMA

*2- to 3- week wait for temporary housing*

**St. Tammany bureau**

Parish President Kevin Davis said Monday it likely will be two to three weeks before large numbers of FEMA trailer homes arrive in St. Tammany for displaced parish residents.

A major concern is the 850-plus residents staying at eight shelters in parish schools.

Those in the shelters "have no place to go back to," Davis said, noting that they must be moved to other locations before Tammany schools reopen on Oct. 3. The North Shore Harbor Center is a possible location for some of the residents, he said.

In other news:

• Davis, after informally polling municipal and parish law enforcement officials, decided to keep intact a parishwide curfew of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. until further notice.

• Bellsouth officials reported that about 8,000 customers in St. Tammany were without telephone service Monday morning. Local outages have stemmed from crews picking up debris near telephone lines and accidentally cutting lines, company officials said. Some 12 splices to the local lines have had to be made since Friday, officials said.

• Cleco officials reported that 85 percent of St. Tammany customers have had power restored. The 11,000 customers still without power included about 5,600 Slidell-area homes and businesses too heavily damaged for the restoration of power, officials said.

• Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative officials reported that 70 percent of its customers in Washington, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes have electricity. Cooperative chief executive officer Jeff Kilpatrick said 74 percent of the utility's customers in St. Tammany have power. The 30 percent without electricity includes some 6,500 customers in St. Tammany, 110 customers in Tangipahoa and 7,200 customers in Washington, he said.

• Davis said he met recently with Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, who is heading the federal recovery effort in the New Orleans area, who told Davis that the problem with FEMA's slow disaster response is because of lack of personnel. "The problem is not enough people," Davis said, adding that he was told the agency only has 2,400 workers. To beef up FEMA, Davis said workers from other agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, are being temporarily shifted into FEMA jobs.

# 6 booked with soliciting sex online

*Investigators posed as storm-stranded teens*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Five men and one woman have been arrested for allegedly attempting to make dates for sex with investigators posing as teenage girls stranded in Hurricane Katrina evacuation centers, Attorney General Charles Foti said Monday.

Foti said his investigators posed as 13- to 15-year-old girls who were living in centers or whose parents were missing or evacuated to other parts of the state or nation.

Foti said the investigators received "immediate hits" on Internet chat rooms and were solicited for sex.

The six arrested during the past eight days are: Perry Davies of Baton Rouge, arrested Sept. 11; Henry Duncan of Baton Rouge, arrested Sept. 12; Ralph Polk II of Lafayette, arrested Sept. 13; Michael Christopher Aguillard of Lafayette, arrested Sept. 13; and Kylie Bellard and Khristopher Kyzar of Hammond, both arrested Sept. 15.

All were booked on the newly established crime of computer-assisted sexual solicitation of a minor, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years for a first offense and a mandatory 10 years and up to 20 years for a second offense, Foti said.

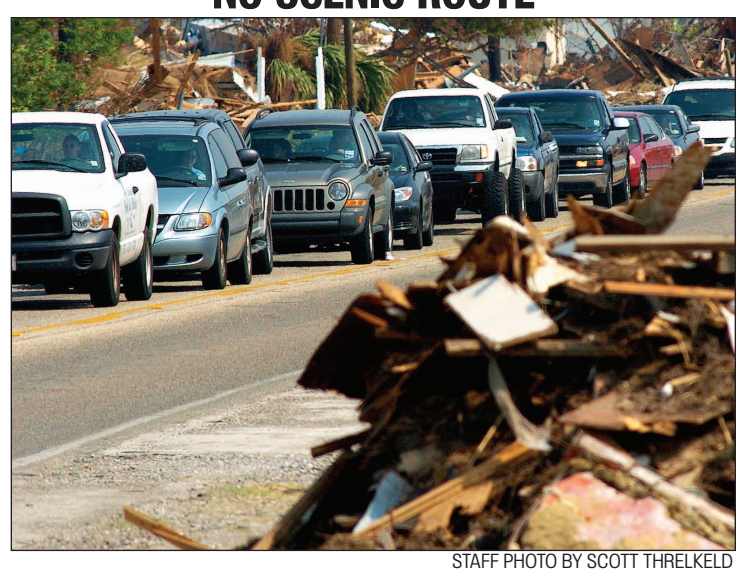
He said three more arrests on similar charges are anticipated. The six arrests took place in Lafayette and Baton Rouge, he said.

Foti said Aguillard was arrested again Friday, this time on charges of felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile and indecent behavior with a juvenile after allegedly soliciting a teenager for sex online in the past and having sex with the teen.

Foti did not say when the sex rendezvous took place.

He called the conduct "reprehensible," especially in light of the disaster and the heartache people are going through.

**NO SCENIC ROUTE**



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Traffic backs up on U.S. 11 south of Slidell on Monday as drivers, many headed to St. Bernard via the U.S. 11 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain, pass mounds of Katrina debris.

# Deputy fired for desertion, arrested for looting

*Men accused of taking guns from Buras home*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

A Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's deputy fired last week for desertion in the wake of Hurricane Katrina was arrested Monday and accused of looting guns from a flooded Buras home while he was still a deputy, authorities said.

Buras was covered by water at the time of the incident, and authorities allege the former deputy and an accomplice used an airboat to access the area.

The former deputy, James Mitchell, 21, of 511 Farmington Place, Terrytown, and Brent E. Trauth Jr., 20, of 1108 Epsilon Drive, Belle Chasse, were booked with looting, violation of curfew and unauthorized entry of a business. Mitchell also was booked with malfeasance because the crime allegedly occurred before he was fired Sept. 16 for a 2 ½-week absence after August 29, the day Hurricane Katrina hit, said Maj. John Marie with the Sheriff's Office.

Mitchell had been in the Sheriff's Office field training program just a few weeks after recently graduating from the police academy, Marie said.

Mitchell and Trauth initially were arrested Sunday night on the curfew and unauthorized entry charges after a deputy spotted them riding a dune buggy near the former Alpine Mud Products building, at 8391 Belle Chasse Highway, Marie said.

Marie said Sheriff Irvin "Jiff" Hingle had received a tip that the men had been in an airboat owned by Louisiana Bowfishing, for whom Mitchell once worked.

With the cooperation of Trauth's father, Marie said an investigator recovered from Trauth's house six rifles and shotguns that had been taken from a residence in Buras last week. The men were then rebooked on the additional charges.

Looting carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a $10,000 fine or both. Malfeasance carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a $5,000 fine, or both.

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# Tammany food stamp relief to end today

*Residents must apply at Slidell auditorium*

**By Kadee Krieger**
St. Tammany bureau

**Tuesday's deadline is for St. Tammany residents only. Residents of other parishes who are now in St. Tammany should call Sharon Tucker, director of field operations for the state Office of Family Support, at (225) 342-0495.**

St. Tammany residents have until today at 4:30 p.m. to apply for disaster relief food stamps, unless the Food Stamp Disaster Program is again extended.

The food stamp applications will be taken from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Slidell Municipal Auditorium, on Second Street across from City Hall.

The parish's food stamps operation was moved Monday to Slidell from the main office on Louisiana 21 in Covington because the auditorium is able to handle many more applicants at a time, said parish food stamps manager Ann Stone.

Stone said the Covington office is still open, but anyone who is looking for food stamps as a direct result of hardship after Hurricane Katrina should go to Slidell.

She also said anyone who wants to apply for regular food stamps should wait until after Tuesday if they have received stamps in the past two weeks.

The food stamps program is meant for those who have loss of income or lost significant amounts of food because of the hurricane. The disaster program was scheduled to end Sept. 16, but was extended to Tuesday, Stone said.

She said she does not know if the program will be extended again.

Tuesday's deadline is for St. Tammany residents only. Residents of other parishes who are now in St. Tammany should call Sharon Tucker, director of field operations for the state Office of Family Support, at (225) 342-0495.

or more information, call 893-6215 or 646-4261.

# ‘Gatemouth’ Brown buried near boyhood home

## *Delbert McClinton and B.B. King send tributes*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

ORANGE, TEXAS — A banner above the lectern at Mount Calvary Baptist Church spells out the house rules: “Let the Preacher Do the Talking! Let the Ushers Do the Walking!”

Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, lying beneath the banner in a bronze-tinted steel casket, likely would have appreciated the no-nonsense directive. On the bandstand and in life, the 81-year-old Brown did not suffer fools, or foolishness, gladly.

He died Sept. 10 in Orange, Texas, his boyhood home, after fleeing his Slidell residence as Hurricane Katrina stalked southeast Louisiana. At a repast following Saturday’s funeral, friends devoured barbecued chicken and ribs with potato salad and dirty rice and joked that God had made Brown endure the sloppy chord changes perpetrated by the Mount Calvary guitarist.

“I’m surprised Gate didn’t get up out of that coffin and take that guitar,” said Terry Phillips, who spent many months caring for and chauffeuring Brown as the musician battled lung cancer, emphysema and the heart ailments that finally killed him.

Had he risen up, Brown would have been dressed for the occasion. In repose he wore his trademark black cowboy hat, a black Western shirt embroidered with elaborate yellow and green flowers, and an oversize belt buckle belonging to his brother. Brown’s own buckles were likely submerged in a Slidell bayou, along with most of his possessions.

News that Katrina destroyed his house, with his gun and model-ship collections and 50 years of career artifacts, left Brown “pretty depressed,” said Jim Bateman, Brown’s friend and manager of 29 years.

Brown was a storm victim almost as surely as the people in St. Bernard Parish and the lower 9th Ward. Sheer force of will had sustained him for months, as he struggled to render his strikingly original and precise medley of blues, big-band swing, country, jazz and Cajun music. An oxygen tank became as constant a companion onstage as the Firebird guitar with the customized leather pick-guard.

As Katrina bore down, a weakened Brown finally consented to allow a daughter, Renee Brown, and ex-wife Yvonne Brown to evacuate him to Orange. Heavy traffic transformed what is normally a five hour drive into a 12-hour ordeal.

After several days in Orange, an effort was made to move him to Austin, where club owner Clifford Antone had agreed to look after him. Saxophonist Eric Demmer and his wife, Dusty, traveled from Houston to Orange in a borrowed limousine on the night of Monday, Sept. 5, planning to pick up Brown and drive him the five hours to the Texas capital.



AP PHOTO

DeWayne Brown, Celeste Biles and Bobby Brown, from left, leave Clarence ‘Gatemouth’ Brown’s funeral at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Orange, Texas.



AP FILE PHOTO

Clarence ‘Gatemouth’ Brown was buried in his trademark black cowboy hat.

But Brown appeared to be much frailer than when they last saw him in Slidell on Aug. 21.

“I was shocked at his condition,” Dusty Demmer said. “I was afraid he might die if we took him to Austin.”

So instead, they summoned an ambulance; it rushed him to the Medical Center of Southeast Texas in nearby Port Arthur. Doctors inserted a stent to relieve pressure on blocked arteries. Four days later, on Sept. 9, Brown checked out of the hospital. He died the following day at his niece’s apartment in Orange.

### Grief and reunion

The humble Mount Calvary church is tucked into a leafy, working-class pocket of Orange, the first Texas town to greet westbound travelers on I-10. Built with a low ceiling, cheap wood paneling, frosted not stained glass, and an uneven floor that creaks under red carpet, Mount Calvary’s sanctuary hosted 54 attendees the Sunday before the funeral.

**“I’m surprised Gate didn’t get up out of that coffin and take that guitar.”**

TERRY PHILLIPS, Brown’s caregiver and chauffeur

Nearly four times as many souls settled into the cushioned pews for 90 minutes of music and memories in honor of Brown.

The funeral functioned as a family reunion. At least two of his children by different women had never met. A great-nephew who spoke during the service confessed that he “wasn’t real close” to Uncle Gatemouth. “I was just scared of him.”

B.B. King, Delbert McClinton and New Orleans singer-songwriter Shannon McNally sent flowers. Austin guitarist Jimmie Vaughan attended, as did the six members of Baton Rouge guitar-pop band the Benjy Davis Project. Like Brown, they are managed by Bateman; Brown’s guest appearance on the band’s upcoming CD is his final recording.

A 1982 Grammy for his “Alright Again!” album served as the funeral’s touchstone. Custom gold embroidering inside his coffin lid trumpeted the award, spelling out the category – Best Traditional Blues Album – and album title. The album artwork dominated the cover of the glossy funeral bulletin.

Commercial success on par with B.B. King’s eluded Brown. But among musicians and discriminating fans, the broad scope of his musicianship was unparalleled.

“He was the No. 1 guitar slinger from the Gulf Coast,” said a somber Vaughan. “I learned a lot from his records. I never dreamed that I would grow up to meet him and play with him.”

During the service, Gene Gunulfsen, a frequent collaborator, reprised an a cappella “For Now, So Long,” a farewell from Brown’s 2004 “Timeless” album. Backed by an electric keyboard, guitar and an eight-voice male choir, Pastor Joe Roberson sent up an exhilarating “I Got Nothing but the Holy Ghost.” Urging congregants to “put your hands together,” he gripped the lectern, hunched his shoulders in time with the rhythm and rocked the house with a gritty high tenor voice.

Pastor George H. Brown, no relation to the deceased, delivered a 30 minute sermon that only occasionally referenced the Grammy winner lying before him. His cadence was that of Bill Cosby posing as an elderly preacher. In a knee-length cream jacket and matching vest, he described how he was once “crazy in my mind and no sense in my soul,” then found salvation.

### Military salute

Having concluded his talk, Pastor Brown announced “the undertakers are coming.” They slowly wheeled Brown’s casket down the center aisle, as a procession of pastors, family and friends followed, quietly singing “I’ll Fly Away.”

A black Cadillac hearse – Brown always loved black Caddies – transported the body two miles to Hollywood Cemetery. There he was laid to rest between a water tower and drainage canal, alongside the graves of his mother, sister and uncle in a grassy field studded by magnolia and cedar trees and cement slabs.

Under a punishing sun, a seven-man honor guard – Brown’s honorable discharge from the Army qualified him for a military funeral – fired three volleys, followed by a trumpeter’s taps. A chaplain from a veterans’ group oversaw the ceremonial folding of the flag draped over the casket.

Gatemouth Brown had reached the end of a long road, back in Orange, where it began.

# Kenner employees accused of pocketing supplies

## *Workers were also victims, CAO says*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

The city of Kenner will investigate allegations that Chief Administrative Officer Cedric Floyd and other city workers took clothes and supplies from trucks that were hauling items for hurricane victims, a Kenner official said.

Floyd also will no longer oversee the city’s distribution center, the city said.

Phil Ramon, chief of staff for Mayor Phil Capitano, said Floyd is needed elsewhere as the city recovers from Hurricane Katrina.

“It wasn’t like he was removed or dismissed,” Ramon said. “After we reassessed it, there was no reason to keep the CAO out there. He was brought back to City Hall.”

Floyd, who started overseeing the distribution Sept. 1, said city workers, whom he pointed out were hurricane victims too, took only necessary items.

“It was no abusive situation,” he said. “The city workers had the opportunity to get a few things for their family just like everybody else.”

News reports surfaced Sunday detailing accusations from a National Guardsman and a truck driver who delivered supplies that Floyd and city employees took new clothes and other supplies from the trucks at the distribution center in a parking lot at 25th Street and Williams Boulevard. Ramon said Monday that the city is investigating the reports.

But, he added, “I haven’t gotten any type of official complaint. We’re not saying he did anything wrong.”

The city has since moved the donation center to the Wentwood gym at 2001 34th St., although National Guardsmen are still handing out water, ice and meals ready to eat at the Williams Boulevard parking lot.

Floyd said that move, along with his handing over the reins of the donation distribution to Edgar Bernard, Kenner’s community services director, has been planned since Labor Day.

“That was not long term,” Floyd said. “I’m back at City Hall.”

The line of cars at the parking lot stretched down the street on Monday, but there was no line at the Wentwood gym several hours after the donation center opened there. Bernard said the word had not gotten out that it was open.

Floyd said city workers distributed supplies to about 1,500 to 3,000 people daily while he was in charge.

“If the police or the National Guard saw a crime, they should have arrested people at that time,” Floyd said.

• • • • • •

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com.

## ALGIERS FIRE



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Capt. Gary Hargis of the New Orleans Fire Department directs firefighters at a blazing house in the 600 block of Thayer Street in Algiers.

# POINT OF UNEASY RETURN

*Driven by feelings of relief and anxiety, residents poured back into Algiers on Monday to discover the fates of their homes and businesses. They started to resume their lives amid an altered landscape, where mold and tree branches were probably easier to find than an electrician, ice or a hot cup of coffee.*



Kenneth Champagne of Marrero sweeps up storm debris Monday morning on Inwood Avenue in the Tall Timbers subdivision. Tree limbs and leaves were a common sight on Algiers streets.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Kevin Gilheany belts out an official welcome tune, 'When The Saints Go Marching In,' to Algiers residents on Monday. Gilheany, president of the Coast Guard Pipe Band in New Orleans, arrived early from Houston, checked on his home, then went to the river levee to fill the air with music.

Jill Marshall, owner of Tout de Suite coffee shop, offers free coffee, water and ice to passers-by of her Verret Street store in Algiers Point. Although not open for business yet, the shop is offering wireless Internet to laptop users and is seeking a computer for residents to check their FEMA applications online.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

A fallen electrical pole has put Algiers Point residents Amanda and David Carpenter in a bind. On Monday, they try to attract attention to electrical problems at their home.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG



A box of moldy hymnals sits outside while volunteers clean out the First Baptist Church of Algiers on Opelousas Avenue. The church suffered about $150,000 in damage, said the Rev. Albert Pendarvis.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

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# Your Opinions



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

The breach in the 17th Street Canal allowed water to pour into Orleans Parish.

## Questions for the Corps

Congratulations and a hearty thank you to John McQuaid of The Times-Picayune for his persistent coverage of the floodwall breaches that brought such a devastating blow to New Orleans. Whenever these questions become uncomfortable for the Corps of Engineers, they fall back to a simple mantra.

"The city's defenses were designed for a Category 3 storm, and Category 4 Katrina overwhelmed those defenses. We built what was ordered."

But this simple line obscures an essential distinction that should be obvious to a room full of engineers. The measure of a hurricane is wind speed; the measure of a levee or floodwall is water. Apples and oranges. What they mean to say is that the system was designed to withstand the water associated with a Category 3 storm along a particular path.

If we can dispense with this ridiculous oversimplification of the problem, the more serious questions can be addressed about the variety of failures in the region. For example: If the storm surge experts at LSU are correct, "overtopping" is unlikely to have occurred at 17th Street or the London Canal; what else may have caused those failures? Or this one: Endless news footage showed water rushing from the Lower 9th Ward into the Industrial Canal, not the other way around; did all that water come from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet?

I don't want to disparage the heroic efforts of the Corps and its contractors as they undertook the dangerous and challenging job of closing these breaches. But, with insurers denying coverage for damages related to these breaches, responsibility for the failures is now a multibillion-dollar question.

**Dan Houston**
*Austin, Texas*

## Demand an independent probe

After the criminally inept response of the federal government to Hurricane Katrina, it is hard to believe that Louisiana's junior senator failed to vote for an independent commission to investigate what went wrong. In a vote along party lines the Senate failed to call for an independent commission. Sen. David Vitter put his party ahead of his constituents' right to a unbiased and accurate accounting of the federal government's response.

An independent investigation into the actions of this administration before, during and after Katrina is the right of its citizens. The federal government is criminally negligent for failing to maintain the infrastructure of South Louisiana. It is in the realm of possibility that the failure of the levee system was preventable. In June 2004, the Army Corps of Engineers budget for the levee construction in New Orleans was slashed. Jefferson Parish emergency management chief Walter Maestri commented that "It appears that the money has been moved in the president's budget to handle homeland security and the war in Iraq, and I suppose that's the price we pay." Many Louisiana citizens have now paid with their lives.

In June 2005, funding for the New Orleans district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was cut by a record $71.2 million. One of the areas hardest hit by these budget cuts was the Southeast Louisiana Flood Control Project, which was created after the May 1995 flood to improve drainage in Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. These cuts were made even though a catastrophic hurricane hitting South Louisiana was one of the top three risks facing this country.

The federal response was no accident but the result of four-plus years of Republican policy and budget choices that favor ideology and partisan loyalty over honest and competent governance. We deserve an independent commission just as the victims of 9/11 did. And just as the federal government made cash payments to the victims of 9/11, the government needs to step up and make cash payments to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, citizens who have paid the price for this administration's gross incompetence.

**Vicki Lancaster**
*Baton Rouge*

## We are the lucky ones

What does it mean to miss New Orleans? That is something so many of us native New Orleanians are now experiencing. We, the proud. We, the displaced. We, the people who made the South our home, no matter the odds against us. We now know what it means to miss New Orleans.

We are numb. We are dismayed. We are locked onto every national television station, remotes in hand, as we feel the nausea that overcomes us. We are homeless. We are evacuated. We are the truly lucky ones. We are alive and safe.

We fled with a few days' worth of clothes and some of our pets. We brought the dog, but the cats would not come out. So we left them, knowing we would be back in a few days. We left knowing that we had vacation days that we could use. We were not Bonnie, who works in a hotel on Canal Street, who had to stay until it was too late to leave. Where is she now? We are not Katie and Jane, who stayed in a three-story house and who by God's hands were rescued by air by the National Guard almost a week after the waters rose.

We drove to Mississippi or Alabama, Texas or Florida. We stayed with friends and family or in hotels. We are the lucky ones. What we believed to be the usual day or two days away from our jobs now finds us receiving charity from family and friends. Again, we are the lucky ones. We have become what we never believed we could become ñ homeless, jobless, moneyless, hopeless. Mostly just numb.

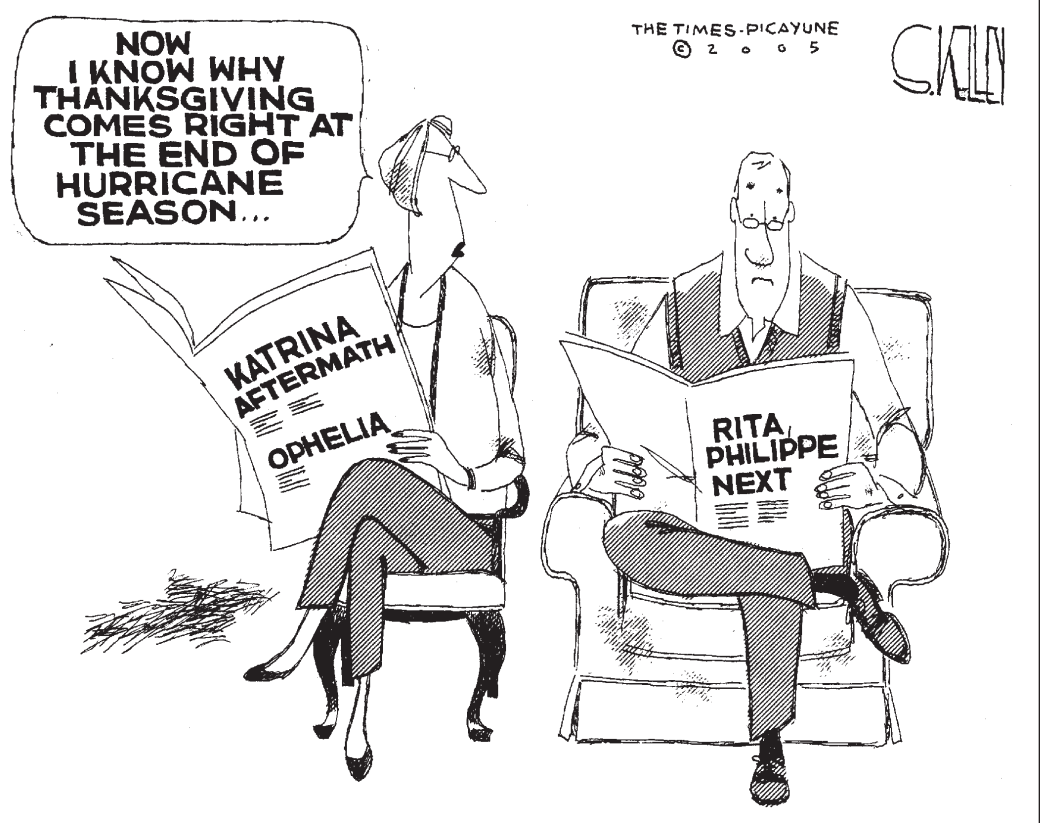
What is to become of my family? My town and my community that is my home? My friends and neighbors, coworkers and structures that used to be called home? When can we go home again? Will it ever be home again?

We are not the ones who experienced hell in the Superdome, or fought for food and water at the Convention Center. We are not the nurses who stayed in hospitals to care for the sick. We are not the poor with no other family and friends than those next door in New Orleans. Where did they go?

We are the survivors who will show the world again what we know as the best city in the world. Where do we go from here? And when?

We wake up every morning hoping that it is a bad dream. Only it isn't. It is a bad reality. And we miss New Orleans.

**Betty Aasgaard-DeSchinckel**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Las Vegas*




# Our Opinions

## From the bottom of our hearts

Southerners have always opened their homes and their arms to wayward kith and kin. It was common a few generations back for a distant cousin to come for supper and stay for a month.

In that tradition, cities across South Louisiana have taken in stranded evacuees from New Orleans and the submerged suburbs fanning out from the city. From Houma to Lafayette and beyond, our neighbors have drawn us close. Nowhere has the welcome been warmer, though, than in Baton Rouge.

Inundated with 250,000 temporary residents, enough to double the size of the city and strain the capacity of every road, grocery store and gas station, the people of Louisiana's capital city have been gracious, patient and welcoming.

Early on, a billboard on Interstate 10 flashed this message: NO plus BR equals One. And that is the way this merger of cities has felt.

The kindnesses done to those of us who were forced out of our homes by wind, water and official decree will never be forgotten.

St. Bernard Parish resident Carol Becnel talked about the kindness of strangers Saturday as she saw her decimated home for the first time. Every gesture touches her heart, she said.

"I wish I was the one being kind," she said. "I don't like being on the receiving end, but God is working through these people."

And if those of us who have benefited so much from the generosity of our distant cousins across South Louisiana can ever return the favor, we would love to do so.

## When care means evacuating

Almost all of St. Bernard Parish suffered immensely because of Hurricane Katrina, but the toll at St. Rita's Nursing Home near Poydras was especially high. The hurricane's storm surge flooded the single-story building from floor to ceiling in half an hour or less. Neighbors and firefighters managed to save about two dozen residents. Thirty-four residents died.

The obvious question is why residents were still in the home at all. Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti says state law required the owners of the home, Mable and Salvador Mangano, to follow a mandatory evacuation plan filed with the parish government for hurricanes stronger than Category 2. St. Bernard and state officials maintain that Mrs. Mangano, the home's administrator, refused an offer by the parish to send buses to help.

Mr. Foti announced last week that the Manganos had been booked on 34 counts of negligent homicide. The attorney general's office and St. Bernard authorities are right to take this case so seriously.

Formal charges, of course, do not amount to a conviction. The Manganos are entitled to contest the accusations against them, and their lawyer, James Cobb, maintains they are innocent. He disputes the assertion that parish officials offered to help his clients move residents out. Mr. Cobb says that arresting the couple is "ridiculous" amid the "problems with the evacuation at all levels of the government."

He also argues that the Manganos and others at the home saved dozens of people, including residents, staffers and their families; and that any deaths were the result of breached levees rather than a failure to evacuate residents in advance of the storm. But long before Katrina, emergency-management planners worried in public about the possibility that a hurricane could overwhelm the metro area's levees.

Besides, the storm cannot be an all-purpose explanation for any misconduct in which individual people might have engaged. Nursing homes must look out for the safety of the people in their charge. If it turns out that St. Rita's did break the law and put patients at unnecessary risk, then those responsible ought to be punished.

While traveling can be traumatic or physically harmful for some nursing home patients, staying in a low-lying area when a ferocious hurricane threatens can be deadly. And it was at St. Rita's.

Unfortunately, Louisiana's enforcement of any number of safety regulations for nursing homes has been unacceptably lax. An investigation by this newspaper earlier this year found that poor care by nursing homes resulted in the deaths of at least 33 residents since 1996. But homes face minimal penalties even when patients are killed or maimed. In this environment, it would not be surprising if some homes failed to follow the letter of state laws concerning hurricane evacuation.

After the horror of Katrina, nursing home owners — along with plenty of other people in the New Orleans area — are more likely to take the deadly power of hurricanes more seriously. Unfortunately, hindsight won't bring back the victims of this storm.

# OTHER OPINIONS

**"I hope we realize that the people of New Orleans weren't just abandoned during the hurricane. They were abandoned long ago — to murder and mayhem in the streets, to substandard schools, to dilapidated housing, to inadequate health care, to a pervasive sense of hopelessness."**

SEN. BARACK OBAMA, D-Ill.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

A family bobs with their belongings in the floodwaters filling the Lower 9th Ward after Hurricane Katrina.

# DON'T LET THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR FADE FROM VIEW



STEPHANIE GRACE

So now they know.

Now everyone in the country and many across the globe has gotten an up-close look at what we in New Orleans have been seeing for years: the poverty, crime and general despair that have long lurked just under the city's decadent facade. The thousands of people who lived so close to the edge that it took just a few terrible days to push them over. The developing-world conditions that really did, and still do, exist in this prosperous, confident nation. The racial divide that was so apparent in all those heart-wrenching pictures.

One of the astonishing things about all the outside coverage is that people seem so surprised.

The cycle of entrenched poverty is suddenly breaking news, being discussed with an intensity to rival the country's newly discovered vulnerability to terrorism after Sept. 11 four years ago.

The New York Times public editor issued an astonishing apology for failing to bring the "poverty so pervasive that it hampered evacuation" to its national readers' attention before the storm. Newsweek ran a cover package headlined "The Other America," that declared that "for the moment at least, Americans are ready to fix their restless gaze on enduring problems of poverty, race and class that have escaped their attention." Many other news organizations have followed suit.

And so have politicians.

"I hope we realize that the people of New Orleans weren't just abandoned during the hurricane," Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., chided his colleagues on the floor of the Senate. "They were abandoned long ago — to murder and mayhem in the streets, to substandard schools, to dilapidated housing, to inadequate health care, to a pervasive sense of hopelessness."

Across the party divide, even President Bush abandoned his free-market rhetoric and pledged to put government to work addressing persistent, systemic inequalities.

I have to admit that, a month ago, I wouldn't have predicted this outpouring. I always figured that people knew, but just didn't care.

Or maybe they knew a little and cared just enough to be intermittently sad, to feel a few minutes of empathy for the children who had to walk through virtual war zones to attend dilapidated schools — but not enough to stand up and shout about it.

It always felt like society, including government at all levels, had accepted that New Orleans and other big cities would always have an underclass. There was concern, but precious little outrage.

Until Katrina.

So the question is: What do we do with all this newfound outrage?

Although it's an important start, curing persistent poverty is hardly as simple as writing a big federal check. If it were, the problem would have been solved a long time ago.

The real work will come down the road, as local and national experts try to hammer out public policy solutions in health care, housing, jobs and education. It's a huge, hard, long-term and utterly necessary job.

All of us who are haunted by the people we couldn't help in the days after the storm can help now. Some of us can offer time, resources or expertise, as so many already have. All of us can raise our voices and say "never again" — and keep saying it long after the media and politicians have moved on to the next big story.

After what we've all seen, it's the least we can do.

Stephanie Grace is a staff writer.

# New Orleans a tragedy in black and white



PAUL KRUGMAN

By three to one, African-Americans believe that federal aid took so long to arrive in New Orleans in part because the city was poor and black. By an equally large margin, whites disagree.

The truth is that there's no way to know. Maybe President Bush would have been mugging with a guitar the day after the levees broke even if New Orleans had been a mostly white city. Maybe Palm Beach would also have had to wait five days after a hurricane hit before key military units received orders to join rescue operations.

But in a larger sense, the administration's lethally inept response to Hurricane Katrina had a lot to do with race. For race is the biggest reason the United States, uniquely among advanced countries, is ruled by a political movement that is hostile to the idea of helping citizens in need.

Race, after all, was central to the emergence of a Republican majority: essentially, the South switched sides after the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Today, states that had slavery in 1860 are much more likely to vote Republican than states that didn't.

And who can honestly deny that race is a major reason America treats its poor more harshly than any other advanced country? To put it crudely: a middle-class European, thinking about the poor, says to himself, "There but for the grace of God go I." A middle-class American is all too likely to think, perhaps without admitting it to himself, "Why should I be taxed to support those people?"

Above all, race-based hostility to the idea of helping the poor created an environment in which a political movement hostile to government aid in general could flourish.

By all accounts Ronald Reagan, who declared in his Inaugural Address that "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem," wasn't personally racist. But he repeatedly used a bogus tale about a Cadillac-driving Chicago "welfare queen" to bash big government. And he launched his 1980 campaign with a pro-states'-rights speech in Philadelphia, Miss., a small town whose only claim to fame was the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers.

Under George W. Bush — who, like Reagan, isn't personally racist but relies on the support of racists — the anti-government right has reached a new pinnacle of power. And the incompetent response to Katrina was the direct result of his political philosophy. When an administration doesn't believe in an agency's mission, the agency quickly loses its ability to perform that mission.

By now everyone knows that the Bush administration treated the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a dumping ground for cronies and political hacks, leaving the agency incapable of dealing with disasters. But FEMA's degradation isn't unique. It reflects a more general decline in the competence of government agencies whose job is to help people in need.

For example, housing for Katrina refugees is one of the most urgent problems now facing the nation. The FEMAvilles springing up across the gulf region could all too easily turn into squalid symbols of national failure. But the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which should be a source of expertise in tackling this problem, has been reduced to a hollow shell, with eight of its principal staff positions vacant.

But let me not blame the Bush administration for everything. The sad truth is that the only exceptional thing about the neglect of our fellow citizens we saw after Katrina struck is that for once the consequences of that neglect were visible on national TV.

Consider this: in the United States, unlike any other advanced country, many people fail to receive basic health care because they can't afford it. Lack of health insurance kills many more Americans each year than Katrina and 9/11 combined.

But the health care crisis hasn't had much effect on politics. And one reason is that it isn't yet a crisis among middle-class, white Americans (although it's getting there). Instead, the worst effects are falling on the poor and black, who have third-world levels of infant mortality and life expectancy.

I'd like to believe that Katrina will change everything — that we'll all now realize how important it is to have a government committed to helping those in need, whatever the color of their skin. But I wouldn't bet on it.

Paul Krugman is a New York Times columnist.



JARVIS DEBERRY

# Light or dark shouldn't matter

New Orleans is a place with its own distinct culture, and everybody displaced from the city can now be considered a cultural emissary.

People in the cities that have welcomed us are in for quite a lesson: how we cook, how we talk, how we parade and mask, throw parties and dance and drink, how we separate ourselves according to slave-era hierarchies, with some lighter-skinned black folks making distinctions between themselves and those who are darker skinned.

Oh, you thought only the good vibes would travel?

As we smile at the thought of our endearing quirks and traditions spreading to, and maybe even taking root in, towns and cities across America, we can't expect the things that embarrass us to stay put. We can only shudder and hope that as an unprecedented number of New Orleanians are exposed to the outside world they find it more difficult to cling to the prejudices that kept the city separate.

Friday afternoon in a store in Memphis, Tenn., a New Orleanian asked my friend Treasure Williams for help. "Where are all the light-skinned black people?" she said.

She asked her question the way you or I would ask directions to the local grocery.

I'll point out — just to heighten the absurdity — that Treasure has a dark complexion. When I met her five years ago she wore dreadlocks. Today she wears her hair braided. Nothing about her appearance suggests that she's the go-to person for information about light-skinned enclaves. The fact that the woman asked her anyway is proof that she did not understand her question to be offensive.

So what did this dark-skinned black woman with African features say to this light-skinned black woman with African features?

"I laughed," Treasure told me. "Incredulously."

Here's how Treasure interpreted the question: "Where are the people I'd rather be talking to at this moment?"

That's a fair interpretation. But the woman's question says a lot more than that. It reveals a belief that light-skinned black people everywhere form exclusive communities, that they form their own clubs, churches, schools and 7th Wards.

I quickly learned how New Orleanians use "7th Ward" as a shorthand. For some who grew up there, it's a code for light-skinned and important. People from other parts of the city might use it to mean stuck-up and imperious. A member in a writing workshop I belong to once read aloud a story that revealed a virulent animosity toward black people with light complexions. When the other writers in the room expressed alarm at her prejudice she held firm. "Oh, you know how people in the 7th Ward are," she said.

**It's now 2005, and most black people in this country have sense enough not to make judgments on the basis of complexion or ask for directions to light-skinned communities.**

Even as the neighborhood declined and crime and blight increased, even as those with money built homes elsewhere, "7th Ward" came to define a concept, even if the actual place was no longer the exclusive domain of folks with a particular skin color and hair texture.

I told Treasure that the woman she met Friday was looking for Memphis' equivalent of the 7th Ward, but alas, that city doesn't have one. I guess if the woman chooses to be around black people at all she's going to have to risk being associated with people with dark skins. How will she ever survive?

We can look to slavery for the roots of this intra-racial prejudice. Slaves with lighter complexions were thought to be more attractive, more intelligent, more industrious. In short, more white. I don't know of a place in this hemisphere where people of African descent haven't at one time or another made distinctions among themselves based on complexion. But it's now 2005, and most black people in this country have sense enough not to make judgments on the basis of complexion or ask for directions to light-skinned communities.

Not everything that was in New Orleans was worth preserving. When the city reforms, let's hope that those who return have held fast to the culture, traditions and attitudes that have made New Orleans great but that they've rid themselves of some junk. The obsession over complexion should be one of the first things tossed in the trash.

Jarvis DeBerry is a Times-Picayune editorial writer.

Ochsner

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LIVING
For complete Living section, see PAGE C-5

# SPORTS

SECTION C
Tuesday
September 20, 2005

# Commissioners dealt a tough hand by Katrina

## *Tagliabue, Stern express support for New Orleans*

NEW YORK — In their Manhattan headquarters, the NFL's Paul Tagliabue and the NBA's David Stern are two commissioners trying to fight their way through the biggest problem ever laid on their desk, simply because Hurricane Katrina was a natural disaster that touched more people than any catastrophe in the history of this country.



PETER FINNEY

Tagliabue was at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on Monday night, watching the "home" opener of Tom Benson's New Orleans Saints.

And Stern intends to be in Oklahoma City in early November when the New Orleans Hornets open at "home" in a 19,000-seat arena that will be "home" for all but six of 41 dates in an 82-game regular season.

Depending on the condition of New Orleans Arena (where damage was worse than first reports indicated), some of the six games might be played in the Arena, the others at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

For this season, the remaining Saints' "home'' schedule is fixed, three at San Antonio's Alamodome, four at Tiger Stadium.

Tagliabue was already looking ahead, saying he shared the sentiments of J. Wayne Leonard, chief executive of Entergy, the power company that serves New Orleans and post-Katrina, moved its headquarters to Clinton, Miss.

It is Leonard's plan to return to New Orleans "as soon as possible." Leonard said he wanted "to be at the table when decisions are made about money that needs to be put into restoring the Gulf Coast, into schools, into restoring mass transportation."

Tagliabue also wants to be "at the table."

"I want to be engaged," said the commissioner, "in talks about the future of sports in New Orleans and the Superdome."

As for 2006, when the Saints are expected to return to their practice facility on Airline Drive, Tagliabue said he's planning to be in Baton Rouge on Oct. 30 when the Saints play Nick Saban's Dolphins and have discussions with LSU officials and start "focusing on scheduling options" regarding Tiger Stadium next season.

As for the Alamodome, Tagliabue said former San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros was correct in saying the city was not out to "steal" someone else's team at a time when "a national tragedy" grew out of an

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-3*

# HAVING FAITH

## *Fans travel long distances to cheer on Saints*

**By Aaron Kuriloff**
Contributing writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Freddie Taylor and his wife Rita spent four days in a flooded high-rise on Chef Menteur Highway. They drove out of the city in a truck packed with children and didn't stop until they reached Alexandria, La. Then they made their way north, through Tennessee and the Shenendoah Valley, across Pennsylvania and all the way to Staten Island. And there, a few days later, the Taylors suddenly found themselves in the Giants Stadium parking lot, the honored guests of a local congressman.

It was a longer road than he ever imagined, but Freddie finally got his wife to a Saints game.

"It feels great," he said. "It's good to get my mind some relaxation. … We don't have anyplace place to live, but we're going to the Saints game."

The Taylors, all seven of them, once you add Freddie and Rita's five children, were among 1,200 in the New Orleans Diaspora brought to Monday's game by the largesse of the National Football League and dozens of relief and charity organizations. From Hyannis, Mass., to Washington D.C. and beyond, displaced Crescent City residents boarded buses and made their way along Interstate 95 to the Meadowlands.

Added together, the Saints faithful in the stadium might have totaled 2,000. Maybe 3,000. But for one night, these men, women and children — especially those now sleeping in church halls, armories and public schools — made up a rowdy and defiant community.

There were some trappings of home. While the sweet, clear notes of Irvin Mayfield's warming up his horn for a pregame rendition of "America the Beautiful" drifted across the parking lot, a group of about 30 people raised black and gold banners, donned black home jerseys and began to laissez les bon temps roulez.

*See* **FANS,** *page C-2*

**Complete Saints coverage and sports section on** nola.com




AP PHOTO

Several hundred Saints fans traveled to New Jersey and temporarily escaped the misery of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath to attend the Saints-New York Giants game Monday.

# League heads to discuss site for Sugar Bowl

## *No decision expected to be made until next month*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Sugar Bowl officials will meet with the 11 Division I-A conference commissioners Tuesday to discuss where this season's game might be played, but no decision is expected on the site until next month.

"We're zeroing in on what is in the best interests for all parties," said Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan, who, along with bowl president Mark Romig, will address the commissioners in Chicago. "We have to keep our options open on parallel tracks.

"But the bottom line is that we are prepared to do whatever is necessary to keep the Sugar Bowl a viable player in the BCS rotation."

With the Superdome unavailable, the options for the Jan. 2 bowl are LSU's Tiger Stadium, with most fans housed in New Orleans-area hotels, or another site like the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Romig said his preference is to play in Baton Rouge, although he said he was aware that factors such as the lack of hotel space might make that difficult.

"We are still in the research and discovery stage," he said. "We want to be part of the recovery of Louisiana, and that means playing the game in Louisiana.

"But we are also cognizant that the availability of hotel rooms is a major

*See* **SUGAR BOWL,** *page C-4*



AP PHOTO

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan, left, said discussions are ongoing to find a suitable place for the 2006 Sugar Bowl.

# Oklahoma City council to vote on lease agreement with Hornets

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

With the team poised to announce its 2005-06 base of operations in Oklahoma City, city leaders there are finalizing a lease agreement that will enable the Hornets to play a yet unspecified number of games in the 19,000-seat Ford Center.

Mayor Mick Cornett told The Daily Oklahoman on Sunday night that he will ask the city council to approve the agreement at a special Wednesday morning meeting.

"Everything is going well," Cornett told the newspaper, "but we still have a few details to work out. I'm confident everything will be completed by Wednesday."

A source familiar with the team's plans said Sunday the bulk of the Hornets' staff will set up shop in Oklahoma City this year, though the team will have a smaller satellite office in either Baton Rouge or New Orleans this season.

The Hornets are attempting to play up to a dozen games in Baton Rouge this season at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus.

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-3*

NFL

# 'The challenge was to make this a meaningful season'

*NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue sat down with Times-Picayune columnist Peter Finney and staff writer Mike Triplett on Monday at the NFL offices in Manhattan. Here is a partial transcript of the interview:*

**The Times-Picayune:** Why did the NFL want to play as many games in Baton Rouge as possible?

**Tagliabue:** (The league needed to look into all the logistics of when Baton Rouge could be ready) That was the key for me, was just to buy a little time. That's why we put this game here. And then if we had been able to play the Oct. 2 game over in Baton Rouge, we would have. But it just was not possible. You're living there; you know what's going on up there.

**TP:** Do you understand where (Saints coach Jim) Haslett's coming from: The team is practicing in San Antonio, wants to play?

**Tagliabue:** But the key thing is that even from a coaching standpoint, the whole challenge from late August forward was to make this season a meaningful season, a season to fight for, a season to compete in, rather than to make it a lost cause. So how do you make it a season to fight for? You do it by making every game a big, big matchup, including the first home game. We could have put this game – in fact, we offered to put this game – at neutral sites, like the Georgia Dome and Texas Stadium and Reliant Stadium. But what group of players wants to go into play at a divisional opponent's stadium, like the Georgia Dome? I mean, I played sports; you want to go in, you want to be challenged to compete. Go into the other guys' den and beat 'em. And make the game what it's become.

(Tagliabue then made reference to a cover story about the game in Monday's USA Today sports section, and later talked about the coverage on national network TV morning shows. Tagliabue then also pulled out a Fats Domino CD from his collection of "college albums": "When the Saints Go Marching In." They should put out a new edition, a 2005 edition. They should have a special edition of that for the first LSU game. Do an extra stanza or two relative to (Nick) Saban in there.)

**TP**: What's your gut feeling, 2010? Will there be a New Orleans Saints team?

**Tagliabue:** You know, I think it really turns on, "What kind of a New Orleans will there be?" That really is the question. And we're going to do everything possible to make sure there's a New Orleans Saints. But people larger than us and institutions larger than us are going to have to succeed in making sure there is a robust, healthy New Orleans, you know, with fans and businesses and all the things you hope a city can have. But certainly we're going to do everything we can to try to keep the New Orleans Saints as the New Orleans Saints. And when you read all these different points of view, including the president's speech, you don't know what to conclude. Because the president's speech, I think he said it himself on Friday, was just the beginning of a road map. Now you've got to fill in the roads and the street signs and you've got to start investing. I saw an interview with the head of Entergy, and I thought he made a very positive point. "Yes, we're committed to New Orleans. But it depends on a lot of decisions being made in the right way. And we hope to have a seat at the table in those conversations." And I think that pretty well is where I am. We need to have a seat at the table. We need to be engaged. I can't sit here in New York; that's the reason I went to Baton Rouge to talk about the schedule. And at some point, hopefully, we can sit at the table and talk about the future of sports in New Orleans, specifically the Superdome or whatever you want to call it, and the Saints.

**TP**: A new stadium would never take shape without some sort of long-term commitment on Saints owner Tom Benson's behalf?

**Tagliabue:** Right. It's going to have to be a two-way street. I was on the Saints' radio during the preseason, with Bobby Hebert. And it was my understanding at that time – this goes back to early- to mid-August, this was well before Katrina – that the focus was going to be on a successful season and that Mr. Benson and the governor were going to have conversations after the season. That's what I said, and I said that I would be available to try to make the conversations productive. And then a few days later I saw that they were maybe going to be at it again right now, in August and September. So even before Katrina, you kind of needed a game program to keep track of what was going to happen from week to week.

**TP**: Everybody calls the Saints a small-market team, so to speak. But the deal they had in place was a good deal by NFL standards, right?

**Tagliabue:** Well, I don't know that much about the deal. I know there was a payment, I know about the various issues. To me, the issue has always been – I think I said this two or three years ago – the issue has always been about the market. And at that time, they were making a lot of efforts to move east to Gulfport and Biloxi and across I-10, and I think they were doing a good job of selling season tickets. They got a pretty good boost in the season-ticket sales at one point. And now it seems like when you go toward Baton Rouge and Lafayette, you've got fans over there. You know, it's got to be like the Kansas City Chiefs, where you go out two or three hundred miles. In Kansas City, you can do it in a series of concentric circles. In New Orleans, you're a little bit more like the Baltimore Ravens. You've got the Gulf of Mexico, and they've got the Chesapeake Bay. And of course, that's a much more populous area, but you've got the Redskins right to the south and the Eagles to the north and the Steelers to the west and the Bay to the east. But I thought two or three years ago when they were really focusing in the "Gulf Coast Saints" concept with (executive vice president) Arnie Fielkow, they were doing pretty well, in terms of reaching out beyond the immediate city of New Orleans, which I've always felt is the issue. But you know, whether it's Indianapolis or Buffalo or New Orleans or San Diego or any other city, I think it's our responsibility to have a team which the fans and the business community can support long-term. We cannot get into situations where we have to have governmental subsidies to support an NFL team. The fans have to be there, and the business community has to be there. And I give credit to Indianapolis, because I think that they've managed to accomplish that out there, with their business community and with their fan base. But that's the challenge for every team.

**TP**: Next year, when the Saints practice again in New Orleans, wouldn't it be logical that all the games be played in Baton Rouge?



AP photo

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said Monday he wants to be a part of the discussion in the rebuilding plans of Louisiana. He said the New Orleans' reputation as the favorite Super Bowl site of NFL owners will play a role in helping shape the Saints future in the Crescent City.

**Tagliabue:** Well, the first thing we have to do is talk to LSU about that. It was beyond what we were trying to do a week ago today, when we were up there. But that's a conversation that I think we need to have with Bernie Boudreaux (chairman of the board of supervisors) and his people. What would a Saints schedule, in sync with the LSU schedule, look like? And how would that work from the standpoint of LSU? And how would it work from the standpoint of the fans of both teams? And I just don't know enough about any of those issues. We talked a little bit last Monday with Doug Thornton and with Bernie and (LSU chancellor) Sean O'Keefe about, once the New Orleans airport opens up, then could the visiting team for the games at LSU, could they stay at the Airport Hilton at Louis Armstrong Airport? And could they take buses over to Baton Rouge the day of the game? So we talked a little bit about the drive time for fans in the whole region to access games at LSU. But it was really in the context of this year's games and the teams traveling from the Louis Armstrong airport over to LSU. We never really got beyond that to take a look at, where are the fans and how would you put 15 to 20 games in one stadium on a college campus, especially since they play most of those games on a Saturday night. But that's something we're going to have to start looking at real hard, soon.

Right now, my focus goes from tonight to the 30th of October. Because I think the critical thing now, after this event tonight, which is turning from a logistics standpoint into like a mini-Super Bowl preparation for our staff – we've got people working 22 hours a day. But then we've got to do the same thing with respect to the four games at LSU and make sure that they're presented in the right way and that there's outreach to the fans and that tickets get sold in the right way. I read some stories about LSU ticket-holders in the New Orleans area and about tickets lost, just floating out to sea. I don't know what the situation is with Saints ticket-holders. I asked Mr. Benson last week, I know he's got his people working on it, "How many of the Saints' season-ticket holders actually have a ticket that you can find? And how many of them are going to be in a position to go over to Baton Rouge?" Because hopefully you've got some of that. But on top of that, you're going to have to sell a lot of tickets to new fans who haven't customarily been going to Saints games.

I'm going to be at LSU for the first game, that Oct. 30 game. So I would think that maybe that's the time that we could sit down with Bernie Boudreaux and Chancellor O'Keefe and Mr. Benson and start focusing on the 2006 scheduling options, that type of thing. Because I think that's the next priority, once we get through tonight, from our perspective. Then we've really got to start looking at the logistics for those four games this year, then start talking about next year.

**TP**: Is it also too early to decide what kind of commitment the NFL wants to make toward helping the team stay in New Orleans, such as awarding the city a Super Bowl, etc.?

**Tagliabue:** We really haven't discussed that. That's going to be a membership decision, obviously. Even on the issue of playing this game here in New York, I had a conference call with Mr. Benson and a half a dozen owners and we had a very thorough conference call in terms of what the alternatives were. Obviously we knew we had to play someplace outside of the Gulf Coast region. But we did talk about the Georgia Dome and Texas Stadium. They were both available yesterday. And that would have been analogous to what we did with the Chargers-Dolphins game when we had the wildfires in San Diego. We played it over in Phoenix, in the Cardinals' stadium. But it really seemed that the overriding theme here was taking this first Saints home game, quote-unquote, and making it the centerpiece for the rebuilding and the recovery effort. And the choice was clear. Do you have a mega-spotlight on the region and the needs of the region, through the New Orleans Saints? Or do the New Orleans Saints become a minor-league story by playing in the Georgia Dome in front of 25,00 people? So, there was no reason to have it be a minor-league story. It had to be a major-league story.

In fact, on that call, (Patriots owner) Bob Kraft said that, "What is uncanny to me is that after 2001, the Patriots became America's story because it was about patriotism and the nation was under attack from a foreign enemy." And after the Patriots won the Super Bowl, he said, "We are all Patriots." And he said, "This is the same thing for the Saints. We are all Saints in 2005." And that was the choice between this type of a platform on national television with an unprecedented "Monday Night Football" doubleheader, or some other alternatives that would have made it clear that the team is Louisiana's team. But how do you do that? Do you put them in a stadium that's closest to Louisiana, like Atlanta? You know, the idea that people from New Orleans were going to travel to Atlanta under these conditions was obviously not correct. The only people that we felt would respond with passion and understanding and empathy was the people of New York. They've been through it four years ago. So that was the reason.

And like I say, from a players' standpoint, what's better, to play on a national platform with the whole area that you represent, knowing that when the going gets tough, the tough get going? Or playing in a jury-rigged setting with 25,000 to 40,000 fans, which is what the Georgia Dome could have been? Maybe it would have sold out, but you wouldn't have had the same empathy that you had from the people of New York. And I was well aware as soon as it happened, that the first Giants home game after 9/11 was the Saints. And I met the head of the police department, the head of the fire department down on the field.

**TP**: What about Baton Rouge supporting both LSU and the Saints for a full season next year?

**Tagliabue:** It's a little bit like Bear Bryant at Alabama, when we used to talk about a team in Birmingham. It was like Bear had a stranglehold on the Alabama fans. But we heard that in Tennessee, too, when we were looking at Nashville. We were told by a lot of people that it was a Volunteer state. And I think the Titans have demonstrated that with the right city, the right team, the right presentation, a place like that can support both college football and the NFL.

**TP**: When discussing options for Monday's game, was San Antonio an option?

**Tagliabue:** No. San Antonio was not in that conversation. I talked to Mr. Benson before the conference call and told him the choices we were looking at were New York, Atlanta, Dallas and Reliant Stadium (Houston). We would have had to do that on a Monday night. And that our policy and our precedents were that you play in another NFL city, in another NFL stadium. The precedents we had were the 49ers after the earthquake – they played a game down at Stanford, which is analogous to playing at LSU. And then we had the most recent example was the wildfire crisis in Southern California; we moved the Chargers and the Dolphins into Arizona in the Cardinals' stadium. So I told all the owners the choices we were looking at for the first game were NFL cities. It was not going to be the first game in a non-NFL city. We were not going to look at Birmingham. We were not going to look at Orlando. We were not going to look at San Antonio. We were looking at NFL cities. That was our precedent. Whether we changed that down the road once we had more time to think about it, that would be a conversation we would have later. Because our staff had done a lot of work, and they had looked at places like Orlando and Birmingham. In fact, Bart Starr called me up about Birmingham. He said, you know, people down here would be in a position to do it at Legion Field. You could have done it in various non-NFL cities, but. ...

**TP**: In this situation, does the Alamodome make sense because the Saints are practicing there?

**Tagliabue:** Yeah. From a players' standpoint, doing it on Monday night I felt was a dream of a lifetime, which is reflected in the players' comments. Then ABC and ESPN were terrific, not only in figuring out how we could do the telecast, but in committing to the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort.

**TP:** In reference to Jim Haslett's comments about being disappointed about playing in New York, do you think part of it was a motivational tool?

**Tagliabue:** The one thing I noticed was that the AP put a story out which speculated about the idea that they would play every game on the road in another NFL city, which was ridiculous. The day we announced that they were going to play in New York, we sent a memo out to all the NFL teams that under no circumstances would they play in the stadiums of their divisional opponents, Atlanta, Tampa Bay and Carolina. So from Day One, we were clear on that. We focused on the divisional games, because that's a primary determinator of the (division race). But I think that (story) is the first thing the coach saw. And the problem was, we sent the memo out, but the Saints never saw it, because their fax machines weren't working, until the following Tuesday. That Tuesday, I was talking to Mr. Benson and Coach Haslett on a conference call, and neither one of them had seen the memo. They had no fax, they had no e-mail. We were barely able to communicate with them over cell phones.

**TP**: The fact that it's a very popular Super Bowl site, that helps New Orleans out down the line in the unknown future?

**Tagliabue:** Absolutely. I would think the success of the prior games would be a big factor for a lot of people – for a lot of owners, and for a lot of other people as well.

**TP:** Is San Antonio dangerous territory because they are openly considering these three games as a tryout to prove they can be an NFL city?

**Tagliabue:** I think their former mayor, Henry Cisneros, I think he put it well. They have got to be clear what their motives are. To be helpful in the context of a national tragedy that grows out of an unprecedented disaster. And their motive is not to steal someone else's team. He said that.

**TP:** Stealing the Saints aside, they quickly sold over 50,000 tickets. Might this turn into an opportunity for that city to prove that they should be in the mix?

**Tagliabue:** Ever since we approved the move of the Raiders and the Rams, I've been saying that our goal is to get a team back to L.A., either through expansion or whatever, and we're not going to be moving any teams into small markets. We're going to be moving up in market size, not either down or flat. That's our goal. So that's been my mindset. We've had enough teams move from large markets to small markets. So if – if – any teams are relocated in the future, the objective is going to be to concentrate them, put it this way, in markets that can really support them. Gene Upshaw said it the other day about Jacksonville. I think Jacksonville, long term, we knew what we were getting into. We knew we were getting into the growth of Northern Florida. But Jacksonville was an expansion decision consciously made by the entire membership. Relocation of a team involves a whole different set of issues.

**TP:** The 2010 Super Bowl is completely off the table for New Orleans?

**Tagliabue:** Yeah, we decided that a month or six weeks ago, that the three cities that lost out to Tampa would be the three cities that would compete for the game we had tentatively committed to New York.

# Tagliabue wants Saints to remain in New Orleans

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

"unprecedented disaster."

He was firm on one point. San Antonio was "not" considered as a possible site for Monday night's game. The commissioner made it clear he wanted the game played in an NFL city and an NFL stadium. He also did not want any Saints "home" games played on the field of division foes Atlanta, Tampa Bay and Carolina.

What he pushed for Monday night was a match that would be the "centerpiece for the city's rebuilding and recovery effort." In other words, "a mega-sportlight."

He talked about New England winning the Super Bowl in 2002, the season following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when the cry was "we are all Patriots."

Now, Tagliabue suggested, Katrina has left fans coast to coast shouting "we are all Saints."

Would New Orleans' undisputed reputation as the NFL's favorite Super Bowl city play a role in the Saints' future?

"Absolutely," said the commissioner. "It would be a big factor for a lot of people and a lot of owners."

As for government involvement, Tagliabue was also clear.

"Whether it's Indianapolis or Buffalo or New Orleans or San Diego or any other city," he said, "I think it's our responsibility to have a team that the fans and the business community can support long term. But we cannot get into situations where we have to have governmental subsidies to support an NFL team."

Earlier, on a day Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis were involved in game-day entertainment, Tagliabue was holding the Fats Domino album "Blueberry Hill," which includes a familiar song: "When The Saints Go Marchin' In."

It's one the commissioner, a graduate of St. Michael's High School in Union City, N.J., knows well, and for a long time.

"It was our fight song," said the boss of the National Football League.

# Stern: Hornets have to plan for year

## *Team could play limited amount of games in N.O.*

*NBA commissioner David Stern and other league officials sat down for an interview with Times-Picayune columnist Peter Finney and staff writer Mike Triplett on Monday at the league's Manhattan offices to discuss the future of the Hornets in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The following is a partial transcript of the interview:*

**Times-Picayune:** What does it look like right now?

**David Stern:** This is a day-to-day proposition. We're trying to juggle a lot of different eventualities. We know that we believe it will be several months before the (New Orleans) Arena is serviceable. So our theory is that we want to find an interim facility, where we can do the best job possible in terms of both seeing an arena that has people in it, and that does as little disruption to the traveling schedule of visiting teams as possible. And at the same time, we want to also schedule a series of games in Louisiana. And that's the juggling act that requires us being in detailed discussions, on the one hand with Oklahoma City, on the other hand with the officials of Louisiana, so that we can make arrangements for some games to be played in Baton Rouge.

**TP:** Any other spots in Louisiana besides Baton Rouge?

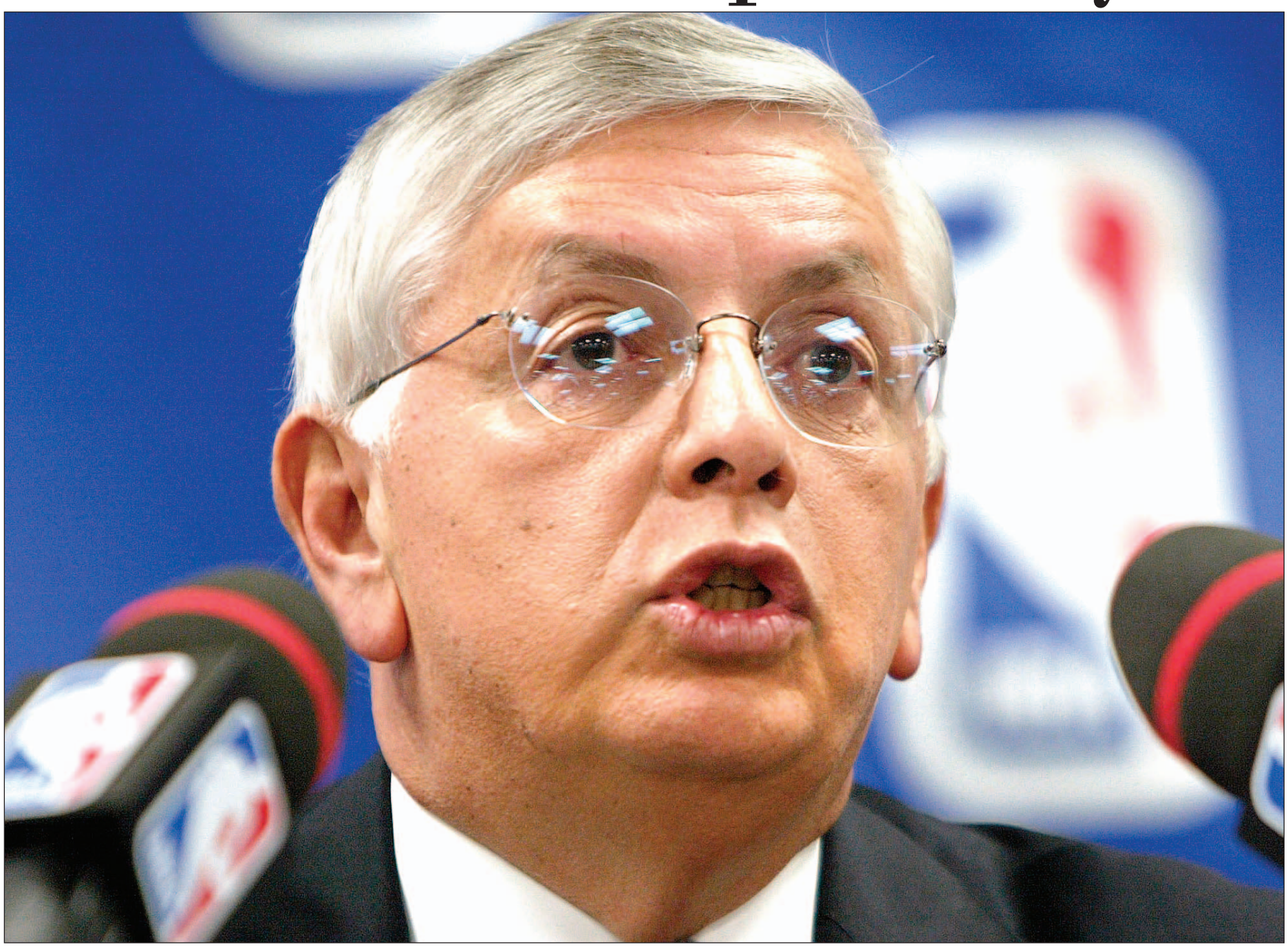
**Stern**: Well, right now we have an exhibition game scheduled for Bossier City. … And we have no certain sense of the economic viability of the games in Louisiana. We're just going to play them.

**Russ Granik, deputy commissioner:** Well, we almost know that we can't be strong economically, because the building, the Maravich Center, only holds 13,000-something.

**Stern**: But that doesn't matter. You know, George Shinn feels strongly that he has made a commitment to Louisiana. Louisiana has made a commitment to him. And he wants to play a number of games in Louisiana. We have suggested strongly that the right number is five or six, and that trying at least internally to accommodate the early suggestions of the LSU folks, we're trying to focus on the winter break and the spring break.

**TP:** Five or six until the arena can be used?

**Granik**: For the season. The team has to make a plan for the year. You've got season tickets to sell. I think the NFL can a little more readily put a game in New York, and it sells out. But we have, counting exhibition games, it's 43 dates. We've still got to plan for the season. So I think the discussions that we've had, we'll have an understanding up front; those are the games that will be played in Louisiana for this season. But if some of them can end up back in New Orleans, that will be terrific.



AP PHOTO

NBA commissioner David Stern says that his concern is not only finding a home for the Hornets this season, but making sure it doesn't severely disrupt the traveling schedule for the visiting teams.

**TP:** Because as of right now, you don't know if the arena is going to be ready?

**Granik**: They've told us they think the arena can be ready by January, February. But nobody knows about the surrounding areas, the infrastructure, whatever else you might need. It doesn't appear that the basketball arena was as damaged as the Dome. No holes in the roof or anything like that.

**Stern**: The last thing that we want to do is to somehow be involved in pushing people to do things faster than makes sense for what their other goals are. We read the newspaper, the ongoing discussions about city and state vs. federal opinions. We read about the need to move into temporary housing and develop other cities. On the one hand, we recognize the potential that sports holds to sort of distract and entertain. But on the other hand, it can't become the story. So our early decision here has been, look, let's find a place that is temporary and that is the closest place, so that it represents no great distraction for the visiting teams. On the other hand, once we decided to find a temporary city, Oklahoma City came in and said, 'Look, we're no strangers to tragedy, and we'd very much like to be helpful. By the way, we happen to have this building here.' We said, 'OK, let's have an economic plan that makes sense. So if we give you this many dates, can we do this, can we get that, can we make this into a season, so that when the Hornets return, they don't go back hobbled.'

**TP:** How much of that agreement has officially been announced?

**Stern**: A lot's leaking out. We're there negotiating today.

**Granik:** We're talking to LSU, but we're not as far along with that. I don't want to suggest that somehow we have a deal on a certain number of games. But I think we all have a certain sense of what could work and what wouldn't work.

**TP:** And the New Orleans part of it is that if they tell you at some point what could work, then you would play there?

**Stern**: Whatever number of games we're going to play in Oklahoma City, we're going to play there. In my mind is, once we announce a game in Louisiana, if the building were ready, that game could easily be moved to New Orleans. It's right there. Not, 'Oh hello Oklahoma City, sorry we scheduled this and sold tickets and got sponsors and now we're going to pull it back.' That's not a commercially viable idea from a league perspective. And we want teams to be able to plan where they're going and how they're going, etc.

**TP:** The Hornets will play 41 home games?

**Stern**: That's correct. And the bulk of them will be in Oklahoma City, and a number of them will be pledged to Louisiana. And by the way, we're going to make the right deal with LSU. It's just that they're backed up.

We told George and the staff, look, let us do this. We're going to do what's best for the league and you and Louisiana, we think, at the same time. So allow us, because you guys as a staff, you can imagine, their heads are spinning. … But George Shinn has made it clear that they are the New Orleans Hornets. The team will be representing New Orleans.

**TP:** The situation is a little different than with the Saints. It sounds like San Antonio and Oklahoma City are making similar efforts, but San Antonio is seen as more of a takeover, while Oklahoma City seems like a generous offer.

**Stern**: Well, you know, the response from Oklahoma City has been very dignified, very understanding. Now, obviously, one understands that a city gets an opportunity to show that it's a great helper, a true simpatico city, and also, it happens to have a basketball facility ready to go. And very much, I think there are many citizens and businesses that would like the opportunity to demonstrate that it's a major-league city. And we very much understand that. But there is enormous compassion that gets expressed at every turn. That's why we thought it best for the sensitivities involved that the NBA handle the process.

The stuff that we've read about, the pressure that's been put on Baton Rouge by the influx of offices, buildings, people. We've said, yes we're going to do it. But in terms of housing and access to the visiting teams and moving to the arena, what we didn't do is what other businesses did, we didn't say, OK we're going to buy 60 units. We did this on faith, on the theory that somehow or another there would be adequate housing, transportation, office space or something at the right time to make this happen. But it was imprudent of us to go start buying stuff or renting stuff.

**TP:** And it's too early, you guys haven't started talking about future endeavors when the team returns to New Orleans or anything like that?

**Stern**: You know, one thing that we have been doing here is, we took a step back so that our players could express themselves and shine. And they've been great, the WNBA and the NBA players, and our union, have been terrific. The Houston game and the visitations by our players to the shelters, this has been the most heartfelt outpouring of response by our players that I have witnessed in my almost 40 years of being involved in the NBA. And they're not asking for anything in return. It's really been quite extraordinary, and appropriate. Clearly, the images have touched our players greatly.

And George Shinn has not only made the move to New Orleans, but expressed his confidence and intentions by buying out Ray and becoming a 100 percent shareholder. Obviously, he was looking to bring in some additional investors, but I think that's on hold. I can tell you that there have been no shortage of interested groups who see this as an opportunity to advance the interests of their particular city, that they see as a potential NBA city, who have offered to pay a substantial premium for the team, and George has said no. It tells you where his heart is.

**TP:** Would there be any thoughts or discussions of putting an All-Star Game in New Orleans or any similar gesture down the road?

**Stern**: Let's let it play out and see how it works. The most important thing is what we can do to assist the victims. … Thus far, everyone we have spoken to has been more than understanding just to touch base with Cox and SMG and the mayor. You know, we just want to do the right thing and not just make some gestures that seem like gestures. But George has been terrific.

# Fans 'home' in New York City

**FANS,** *from C-1*

"I was born and raised in Chalmette," said Troy Majnerick, who was struggling into an undersized Rickey Jackson jersey. "My grandparents spent 13 hours in their attic up in Arabi, waist deep in water, before the next door neighbor chopped through the roof. They made it up here now."

This group of Who Dats came together thanks to a Saints fan website, and they shared beers and swapped screen names such as "Jerseyyat." Sean Carroll said he'd tried to find crawfish for a parking lot boil, but the only local source proved too expensive. Sausages, chicken and clams served for eats instead, though someone mixed up a round of Hurricanes strong enough to make anyone forget the difference.

"I've never been to a Saints home game," said Alex Jonak, who introduced himself as the No. 1 Saints fan in New Jersey.

Giants fans, dressed in blue, stopped by the encampment. Those with kind words found themselves rewarded with Mardi Gras beads. Some were black and gold. Some were red, white and blue. One local commented that the Saints had become America's team. A Saints fan pointed him to a banner strung across the back of a truck with Virginia plates:

"Thanks America, but the Saints are New Orleans' team."

Inside the stadium, New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass praised New York's welcoming efforts, but said he was still solidly backing the nominal home team.

"When people talk about getting back to a normal lifestyle, nothing in New Orleans is more normal than football," he said.

Joe Jeanjeaques waved a Fleur de Lis banner nearby.

"I've got 36 people staying in my house in Dallas, Texas," he said. "I came up hear to get away from the 36 people."

The Taylors also described the game as a welcome escape.

"I was stressing on this," said Freddie Jr., the 22-year-old middle child. "It hit me. I exhaled and said 'We're alive. Now what would we like?' Well, I'd like to see the Saints game."

The younger family members agreed. Rita, however, frowned.

"I would like a house, myself," she said.

# Hornets still working out details for playing in Oklahoma City

**HORNETS,** *from C-1*

Hornets officials, including team president Paul Mott, were unavailable for comment Monday.

In other league news Monday, the NBA announced working agreements with NBDL teams for each of its 30 teams.

Under the new collective bargaining agreement ratified over the summer, NBA teams can send as many as two players on their inactive list to the development league.

Hornets players would be assigned to Tulsa (Okla.) of the NBDL, along with players from Chicago, Milwaukee and Indiana.

"They're really going to benefit both players and teams," Stu Jackson, NBA senior vice president of basketball operations, said in a conference call Monday. "For players it will allow them to get playing time that they might not have gotten under the old system. For teams, it gives them another option and flexibility in player development."

No player can be assigned to the NBDL more than three times in a season, though there is no limit on the length of the assignment.

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# Defense bearing brunt of criticism

## *Pelini's schemes are talk of Tigers fans*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Spam doesn't have this long a shelf life.

For the past week, every Monday morning quarterback has sent a heaping helping of criticism toward Bo Pelini's perceived passive defensive scheme. Fans have been dumping on the Tigers' new defensive coordinator after a rather generous performance against Arizona State on Sept. 10.

Listen to the radio. Overhear a restaurant conversation. Call your grandmother. It's the talk of the swollen town. As political strategist James Carville said last week, even surviving an awesome, humbling natural disaster can't wipe away the tendency for LSU fans to find something to complain about.

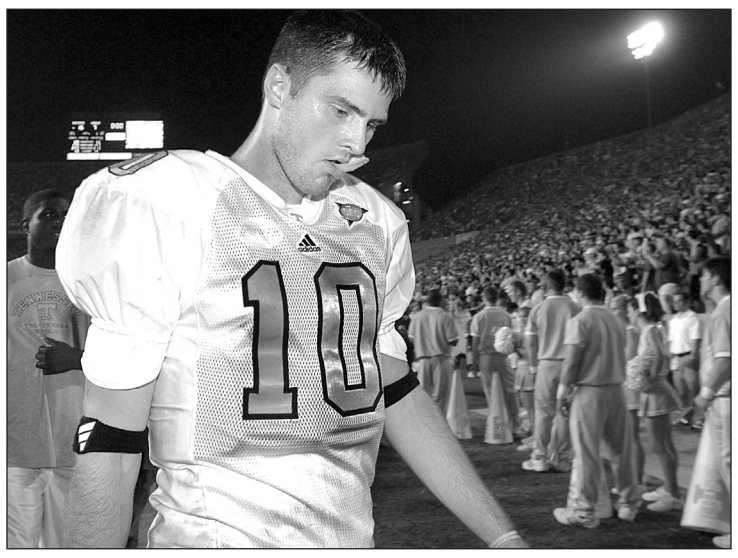
Yes, LSU won although the Tigers allowed 461 passing yards to Sam Keller and 100 yards rushing. Doesn't matter that disturbing dish was served 10 days ago, these Chicken Littles can't seem to get enough.

So with its still-interested readership in mind, the media went back for leftovers at Les Miles' weekly press conference, addressing one of the few hot-button issues to surface during Tennessee week.

And though Miles failed to rattle any cages with his quotes, he did toss a bone to those begging for some semblance of the not-so-far-gone days featuring intense man-to-man coupled with a cornucopia of blitz packages – a trademark of Nick Saban's regime.

"They probably played a little bit more man (coverage) than was played in the first game," Miles said of the fundamental differences in his defense compared with Saban's. "That's not to say that won't be played a little bit more extensively in the second game. It really kind of depends on who we're playing."

On paper, at least, Tennessee and Arizona State seem to clash offensively, which hints to some sort of defensive shakeup. Through two games, Erik Ainge and Rick Clausen are 40 yards shy of matching Keller's individual performance against Pelini's bunch, not to mention several football fields behind when you add what Keller did in the Temple and Northwestern games. Tennessee's Gerald Riggs Jr. piles up most of his yardage between the tackles compared to the Sun Devils' tandem, who take handoffs out of the spread formation and are more finesse than physical.



AP PHOTO

Although he struggled last week against Florida, Erik Ainge will be the starting quarterback for Tennessee this week against LSU.

"I think it's a matchup," Miles said. "How do our players match up vs. their players? How does a man scheme, with a quick-release passing opportunity for them, either give them opportunities or take them away? I understand, 1-2-3, let it rip, put the ball in the air, and then it's their players vs. your player when it's man-to-man.

"Certainly, you can see that working to our benefit and you can also see that working against us. So, I think it's the mix – the ability to let that corner know he has some help and, when we choose, put him out there man-to-man."

While Pelini's defense did concede mounds of yards, the Tigers were placed in prime locations to force fumbles or pick off Keller. Almost forgotten is Ali Highsmith's key strip of the football inside the LSU 10-yard line, when the Sun Devils appeared on the verge of increasing their lead to 24-7 in the third quarter. And on the final drive, Chevis Jackson had an ideal opportunity to slam the door, but it slipped through his hands, certainly not Pelini's fault.

"There are so many things to take into a account no matter what our scheme was," defensive tackle Kyle Williams said. "We definitely gave up more yards and more points than we wanted to. I think we're OK. I think we improved last week. We cleared up some things, and I think we'll do some things different to get ready for Tennessee."

# Tigers 'can't wait' for home opener

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE— LSU players will probably get as big a welcome from their fans Saturday as ever seen in Tiger Stadium.

Because of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the season opener was postponed and the next game was relocated. Also mixed in was an open date, giving LSU only one game in the season's first three weeks.

This weekend, the No. 3 Tigers will be playing their first game at home against the No. 10 Vols.

LSU fans have been itching for their Death Valley atmosphere, and the players, who are tired of practicing, are ready to play wherever.

"It's rare for us to be preparing for a game at all, so it's a plus to be preparing for a home game," said LSU defensive tackle Kyle Williams. "It's exciting either way.

"We're going to get it from both (all) sides – our team, their team and our fans. It's going to be a great night to play football here."

"It means a lot," said center Rudy Niswanger. "You usually open up the season at home, but we didn't get that due to other circumstances. … We're ready to play in front of our fans in our stadium and our atmosphere. We can't wait for it."

ESPN is sending its "GameDay" crew to broadcast from Baton Rouge, and the network's morning show "Cold Pizza" will broadcast live from LSU. Tigers coach Les Miles said he isn't worried about any added hype or distractions after the way his team has handled the past three weeks. "I think we've handled a lot of outer stuff," he said. "I don't think that's going to be an issue. (We're) just being prepared to play and looking at our opponent."

# Atlanta could host upcoming Sugar Bowl

**SUGAR BOWL,** *from C-1*

part of the equation, because fans have to stay in the area where the game is being played."

In past years, visiting Sugar Bowl fans occupy upward of 30,000 of the city's 38,000 hotel rooms. But, even if most of the downtown hotels normally used during the Sugar Bowl are fully functional, many rooms will be used by hotel workers still out of their homes and by recovery workers.

"It is a whole different landscape," Romig said. "You got to add the recovery workers and their needs to the equation as well."

Atlanta would have plenty of hotel rooms because the Peach Bowl is played there Dec. 30 and those fans would have departed by the time most Sugar Bowl fans would be arriving.

Romig added that the ultimate decision on this year's game will be made by the Sugar Bowl's executive committee, with input from the BCS, and especially the SEC.

Beyond this season's game is the larger question of when and if the Superdome will be refurbished.

Hoolahan said his hope is that the building, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina and those who used it as a shelter, will be usable for the 2006 season.

"We need to see it repaired and up to snuff as soon as possible, whether it's for the short term or the long term," he said. "We're going to lose this year, but we can't afford to lose another one with the new contract cycle beginning."

The Sugar Bowl is scheduled to host the championship game and its regular bowl game at the end of the 2007 season as part of the new "double hosting" system. Hoolahan said last week that the Sugar Bowl faced the risk of losing its spot in the championship game rotation if a major stadium is not available in New Orleans in 2007.

Hoolahan also said the Sugar Bowl offices at the Superdome were ransacked during the stadium's use as a shelter, but that little of the bowl's memorabilia collection was missing.

"They looked first in the kitchen and then in every desk and filing cabinet, I guess for money or valuables," he said. "So there wasn't much to take, but it's a real mess."

After today's meeting, Sugar Bowl officials will work with a subcommittee chaired by SEC assistant commissioner Mark Womack until a decision on this year's game is made.

"Whatever we do this year is just a temporary solution," Romig said. "The Sugar Bowl ultimately will be back in New Orleans."

• • • • • •

Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

# Scelfo: Wave will improve Saturday

## *Coach laments missed chances against MSU*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Tulane coach Chris Scelfo wasn't quite ready to go out on a limb and guarantee a victory when the Green Wave travels to Dallas this weekend to take on Conference USA opponent Southern Methodist, but he was more than willing to predict a better performance from his team.

Scelfo made it clear Monday that had the Wave capitalized on a couple of opportunities, the team might have come out of the contest with a victory over Mississippi State instead of a 21-14 loss.

"I expect us to play a lot better (against SMU). I'd be disappointed if we do not play four quarters like we played the last two (quarters) on Saturday, from the standpoint we only had two penalties in the second half," Scelfo said.

But it wasn't just limiting penalties in the second half that had Scelfo optimistic. The offense came to life and produced both scores in the second half. The Wave drove 83 yards in 10 plays, and used six plays to cover 28 yards following a 36-yard fumble return by Sean Lucas.

"We settled down and executed on offense and made some plays. A couple of catches Bubba (Terranova) made, K.P. (Kenneth Guidroz) made, and Damarcus (Davis) and Preston (Brown), that's what we have a chance to be."

While Scelfo was praising the receivers for the catches in the second half, he was just as critical for the many passes that were dropped. A couple of the dropped passes could have kept drives going, and at least one of the drops, Scelfo said, would have been for a long gain or a touchdown.

"We've got to catch the football," he said. "We do it every day in practice; we've got to catch it on Saturday. This was our first game. I expect us to be better this Saturday."

Scelfo said junior quarterback Lester Ricard, who completed 26 of 47 passes for 179 yards, was a little too charged up for the Mississippi State game. Scelfo said getting him to play the way he did in the second half has to be a goal.

"Offensively, the only thing we need to do a better job of is to get Lester under control early in the game," Scelfo said. "He was way too high. He wasn't nervous; he was just way too high. We've got to get him on an even keel, as he was when the year progressed last year.

"We know Lester has the potential to be as good as any quarterback that's ever played (at Tulane), and he'll get in that groove. When he gets in that groove, we're going to be a better offensive football team."

Ricard, who threw for 135 yards against the Bulldogs in his collegiate debut a year ago, said he felt fine going into Saturday's game, and believes it was one of his best efforts.

"Looking at the film, I felt like I was right where I was when I got hurt last year," Ricard said. "Everybody talks about last year's Navy game being my best game, but I thought this was my best game. My reads were good and nothing rattled me. I think it was my best game as far as controlling everything and not panicking. We had some incompletions, but that's going to happen."

As for being a little "too high," Ricard said he was just eager to get on the field after the long wait.

"I think I was as calm as I've ever been," Ricard said. "I was just ready to play. We all were a little antsy about playing. You couldn't settle anyone down after what we'd been through. Everybody was antsy to play."

Despite a muffed punt that was recovered by Mississippi State and led to the winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter, Scelfo said he was pleased with the play of the special teams. Other than the team's receivers, the kicking game was his biggest worry. After using three kickers Saturday night, Scelfo said he's fine with that phase of the game.

"We made both extra points, which was a big concern of mine going into the season," Scelfo said. "That's the one position I was laying awake every night fretting about. I'm not laying awake worrying about our kickers right now. I've got confidence in them."

# Downsized Holy Cross opens season Saturday

## *Tigers to play Fisher missing top two players*

**By Jim Derry**
Staff writer

Even the worst storm to hit New Orleans wasn't enough to cancel Holy Cross' football season.

The Tigers have assembled about 30 players, and they began practice Monday at Millerville Academy in Baton Rouge in preparation for their season opener Saturday at Fisher at 5 p.m.

Approximately 200 students from Holy Cross and Cabrini have combined and will attend night classes at the Dunham School in Baton Rouge.

Although the offense will be without quarterback Lance Lacoste, who is starting at quarterback for Class 1A St. Mary's in Natchitoches, and All-Metro running back Moncell Allen, who is playing for Providence Day High School in Charlotte, N.C. Athletic Director Greg Battistella and Coach Barry Wilson have put together a five-game schedule and hope to find opponents to fill their open dates in weeks 6 and 10.

"The schedule is a little lower level than we're used to, but it's just great for the kids to be able to buckle the helmets again and for the coaches to be able to coach," Battistella said. "We had 350 people at the Holiday Inn Select (in Baton Rouge) for a meeting (discussing how and when school would reopen)."

Ten of 11 defensive starters will play, along with some of the offensive starters, including senior wide receiver Cass Hargis. Although Battistella would love for all of his players to be here, he understands their plight.

"Lance Lacoste has a great situation in Natchitoches, and he is with his family, so he is going to stay up there," he said. "We're having a little trouble communicating with Moncell. He has a new cell phone number, because his New Orleans number wasn't working, but we know he's in North Carolina, and we're tryingto get a hold of him."

After the Tigers face Fisher on Saturday, the remainder of the schedule, all on the road, includes Lutcher on Oct. 14, St. Charles Catholic on Oct. 21 and Salmen at Southeastern Louisiana's Strawberry Stadium on Oct. 28. Battistella is uncertain of the Tigers game against Helen Cox, scheduled for Oct. 1 at Hoss Memtsas, because he has not received a confirmation from the Cougars.

Also, they are trying to move the three games currently scheduled for Fridays (Lutcher, St. Charles and Salmen) to Saturday so the dates won't conflict with the students' class schedules. Regardless, they know they'll be playing Saturday in Lafitte.

"We're just glad to be playing football again," Wilson said. "We don't have everybody – only about 30 – but we have a chance to get back out there. This is a chance to give the kids a break from all this and to get their minds off this tragedy. I am excited about it, and we just gave the kids their equipment, at least what was dry anyway, and it's great to see them happy."

**NOTE:** Holy Cross is looking for an opponent with an open date the weeks of Oct. 7 and Nov. 4. For more information, contact Battistella at (985) 788-8219.

# St. Tammany schools players few, far between

## *Coaches waiting as familes trickle in*

**By Marty Mule' and Tammy Nunez**
Staff writers

Not only does football seem a little different in east St. Tammany Parish right now, but there aren't as many football players as there used to be.

On the first day of practice for public schools, more than half the athletes for the area's high school teams were missing in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"Of course, a lot of families are just trickling back right now," said Northshore coach Frankie Jabbia. "We don't really know how many of our kids will eventually be back; maybe all, maybe not. All this kind of puts football in perspective, that it's certainly not the most important thing in the world despite all our emotions on Friday nights."

Jabbia said 37 Panthers from a roster of 67 were at practice.

"Whatever we have, that's what we'll play with," he said.

The Panthers were scheduled to play Ponchatoula on Friday at Northshore. But the game was moved to Ponchatoula because of damage to Northshore's facility.

Fewer than half of Pope John Paul II's 65 players practiced Monday. Thirty of the Jaguars' 65-man team have been out. PJP II will play Live Oak at 7 p.m. at Pope John Paul II on Friday.

"I'm glad," Jaguars coach Chris Lachney said. "I think it's important for us to play, to return to a degree of normalcy. Football will do that, and hopefully we'll be back at full strength (in numbers) before long."

Displaced Salmen, which will not be able to play at its damaged stadium, held a team meeting Monday. The Spartans, whose District 10-4A schedule was wiped out by Katrina, likely will not be able to play until Oct. 7.

"Maybe we'll be surprised," Salmen coach Jerry Leonard said."But I can't count on anything."

Pearl River coach Joe Harris worked with 34 Rebels from a team of 60 Monday.

"I think some of our kids are just getting back," Harris said, "so I'm not concerned at the moment."

The Rebels play at Loranger on Friday. West St. Tammany schools have struggled with communication as their athletes return home. Covington coach Darryl Graham said he has only been able to talk with about 15 of his players.

"I think our guys have done a good job of letting each other know what is going on," Graham said. "Word of mouth has worked I guess because these guys hang out together so much."

As for what to expect on the first day of practice, which was held Monday evening, Graham was less sure.

"I'm sure they're going to be rusty, but they also are excited to be out of the house and doing something they've worked so hard on."

The Lions are hosting Slidell on Friday in a District 4-5A opener at 7 p.m. pending repairs to the light poles. If the lights cannot be fixed, the game will be played at 6 p.m., Graham said.

Mandeville coach Rodney Corkern had one hope for Monday's first practice since the storm.

"I just hope we still have the kids we had," Corkern said.

Corkern had trouble contacting his players because of the cell phone and land line disruptions, but is also looking forward to taking the field again.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-6

PAGE C-5
Tuesday
September 20, 2005



Kermit Ruffins takes the sound of New Orleans on the road.

Wednesday in Living




Oregon National Guard Cpl. Eamon Graham plays the Neil Young song 'Hey, hey, My, My' on his guitar while fellow Guardsman Randy Keiper rests on his cot in their bunk on the second floor of Frederick Douglass High School in New Orleans.

# IT'S A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Story and photos by
Kathy Anderson
Staff photographer

*For the thousands of National Guardsmen patrolling the desolate and decimated streets of New Orleans, home is wherever help is needed.*

SOME TAKE REFUGE in tents, others sleep in air hangars, more reside in vacated public school classrooms. For many there is no running water and no shower. Some have postponed college graduations to be here because of missed classes. Others make the sacrifice of being far from children and spouses. But all of the 25,000 National Guardsmen that we talked to — representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — gave the same response when asked why they've come to New Orleans at the lowest point in the city's history: "We are here to help."

"I was glad to have the opportunity to help rather than watching things on the news," said Cpl. Eamon Graham of the Oregon National Guard. Graham's current "home" is a second-floor classroom at the Frederick Douglass School in New Orleans, where his National Guard unit is based. Members of his unit cleaned the mess left by residents who turned the building into a makeshift shelter, and repaired the damage done by vandals. Despite the lack of running water, "It's a great place to be living right now," Eamon said.

For Spc. Krys Jackson of the Illinois Army National Guard, the mission was more personal: She has relatives in New Orleans. Her grandfather was in the hospital when the hurricane hit. "I was here for five days before I found out that he'd been airlifted to Texas," she said. "If it weren't for the guard troops doing the airlifting, he wouldn't have escaped."

Their day-to-day routines are anything but routine — one day they may be clearing trees with chainsaws, the next day patrolling flooded or wind-sheared city streets by boat or by truck, the next day knocking on doors in search of God-knows-what. The personal toll is high, but so, says Master Sgt. Roger McBride of the California National Guard, are the rewards.

"I do this for selfish reasons," he said. "It's the good feeling I get from helping people."

For more pictures, turn to page C-8

Staff photographer Kathy Anderson can be reached at kathyanderson3@yahoo.com.



A pack of dogs bark at a pair of patrolling National Guardsmen at the corner of Bartholomew and North Galvez Streets.

# MICHAEL VICKNAIR, 28

MECHANIC & TOW TRUCK DRIVER

**HOME:** *Toca, La., in St. Bernard Parish*
**HAVEN:** *Wolf Creek Baptist Camp shelter in Lake Village, Ark.*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"Never in a million years did we think we would have a storm surge like this. When the storm got really bad, the wind was bending 70-foot trees like plastic spoons.

"We went to a neighbor's house. The windows there were flexing with the wind's force, and when the electricity went out, I started walking to my house to get a generator. On the way, I saw a wall of water about a foot high rushing toward me. I decided to go for my boat, not my generator.

"By the time I got it off the trailer, the water had swollen to about 7 feet.

"We pointed the boat toward Almonaster Blvd. We saw coffins floating out of tombs . . . one on a church doorstep.

"At the Industrial Canal levee, I saw 18-wheelers (parked in a truck lot). A Peterbilt is a water-tight machine. I'm not a thief. I'm a mechanic. But I've got my family. I decide the water is only 3 to 6 feet high. I say to my family, 'Get in, or you're staying here.'

"We head to Chef Menteur (Highway). It looked like someone had put someone's town in a blender and dumped it out.

"I'm not sure how many days had gone by. We proceeded West. We stopped to sleep and shower in a hotel. When we came back out to the Peterbilt, it had been stolen. We had $500 in cash, and I bought a piece-of-junk Dodge van for $300. We spent $97 for gasoline. Three hours later, it blew up on the interstate.

"A street-sweeper towed us in after we stopped at Wal-Mart for some rope. We spent our last $100 on a cell phone. We called relatives from Lake Village (Arkansas) to come get us. Even the strangers here (at Wolf Creek Baptist Camp) treated us like long-lost relatives.



"I'll be back home as soon as they open up the highways, and if they don't, I know where I left my boat.

"It's not about what happened. It's about putting it back."

*— As told to Chris Bynum on Sept. 9*

# New Orleans means always having to say they're sorry



CHRIS ROSE

CHEVY CHASE, MD. — I am writing this from the house where I grew up. It's a thousand miles from New Orleans.

Could be a million, really.

I have come to visit my wife and children, who have settled here amongst my family and old friends in a place we know and trust.

My gang, they live what looks like a normal life here now. School. Shopping.

Play dates and birthday parties. Next week, my wife says she's going to start going to the gym.

A normal life. Without me.

Life goes on, I guess. But it's hard to bond the disconnect between what life was like before Aug. 29 and what it's like now.

Talk about loose ends.

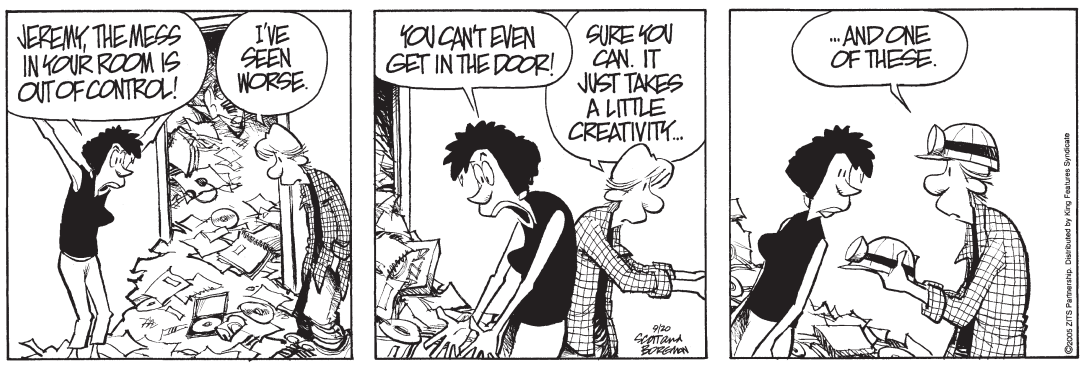
Don't get me wrong: Chevy Chase is an amazing place. It was a homey, professional-class neighborhood when my parents moved here in 1963 and is now a profoundly wealthy suburb of Washington, D.C., where famous people live.

It took a hurricane to make it happen, but now my family lives in the same ZIP code as George Will.

*See* **ROSE,** *C-8*

# COMICS

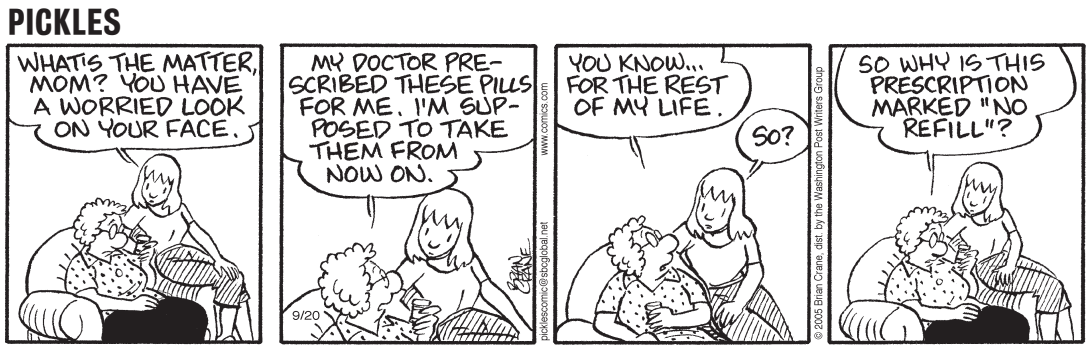
## ZITS



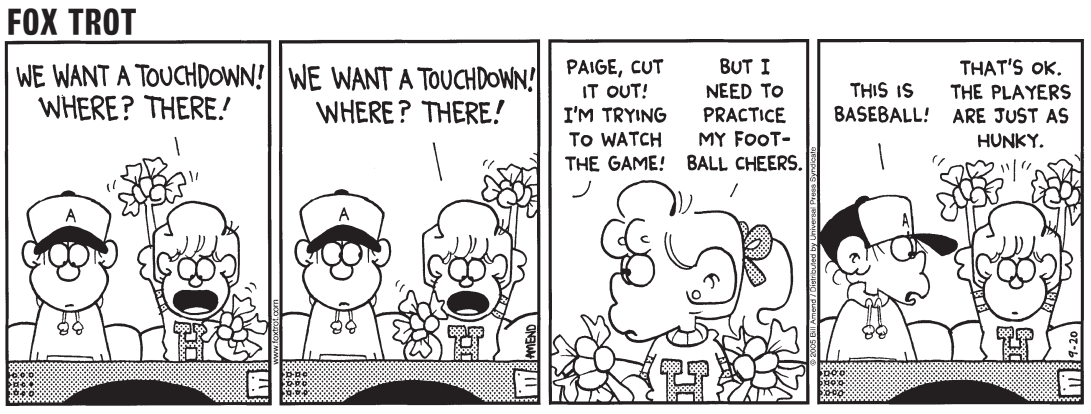

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOIRN

MAGEL

LOPARR

ENBLIM

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKUNK AORTA LAYOFF UNPACK
Answer: What the sailor experienced when his broken leg healed — A CAST OFF

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | A1 | I1 | N1 | T1 | F4 | C3 | Double Word Score |
| E1 | E1 | Y4 | L1 | D2 | L1 | R1 | 1st Letter Triple |
| E1 | O1 | N1 | F4 | G2 | R1 | R1 | |
| E1 | O1 | O1 | D2 | D2 | L1 | N1 | |

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 206

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

ANSWER KEY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = | 59 | TOTAL 206 |
| RACK 3 = | 10 | |
| RACK 2 = | 63 | |
| RACK 1 = | 74 | |

PAR SCORE 140-150

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| E | B | Y | S | L | I | V | E | E | W | W | U | S | R | P |
| N | K | S | R | E | K | C | U | S | I | E | G | G | S | D |
| B | Z | X | V | A | D | S | Q | O | M | K | D | U | E | I |
| S | G | E | C | F | T | E | A | Y | W | S | G | L | T | U |
| S | D | Q | P | H | N | L | P | J | T | N | H | S | I | F |
| E | C | I | G | O | R | A | Y | I | U | A | X | V | M | M |
| D | U | I | H | P | S | E | B | F | L | I | Q | P | N | M |
| K | L | J | H | P | F | B | E | E | T | L | E | S | E | C |
| B | B | O | Z | E | A | Y | X | D | V | S | I | U | T | R |
| Q | P | O | M | R | O | W | G | A | B | M | L | M | K | I |

Monday's unlisted clue: PIG 113

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: BAMBI AND FRIENDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aphids | Fungus | Mites | Snails |
| Bagworm | Leafhopper | Mold | Suckers |
| Beetles | Mildew | Rabbits | Weevils |
| Blight | Millipedes | Slugs | |

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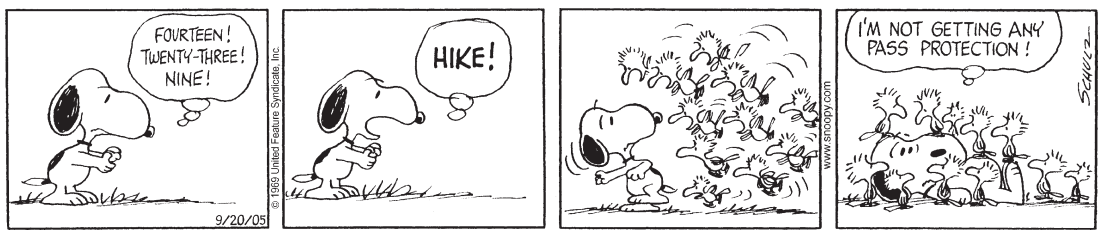
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| B | E | L | A | E | H | X | Y | G | S | E | T | O |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| A | I | E | Y | U | R | F | A | E | Y | R | C | W |
| 6 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| P | A | P | O | E | N | U | I | Y | S | I | E | C |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| E | T | P | H | C | E | A | S | T | N | R | E | B |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| F | A | N | I | R | C | O | A | R | I | U | I | T |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| E | V | D | E | R | V | U | I | S | P | E | R | I |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
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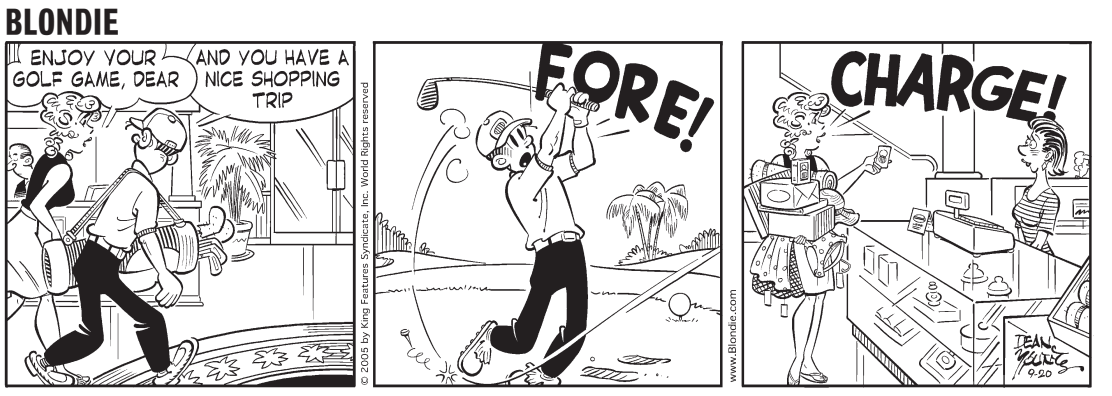
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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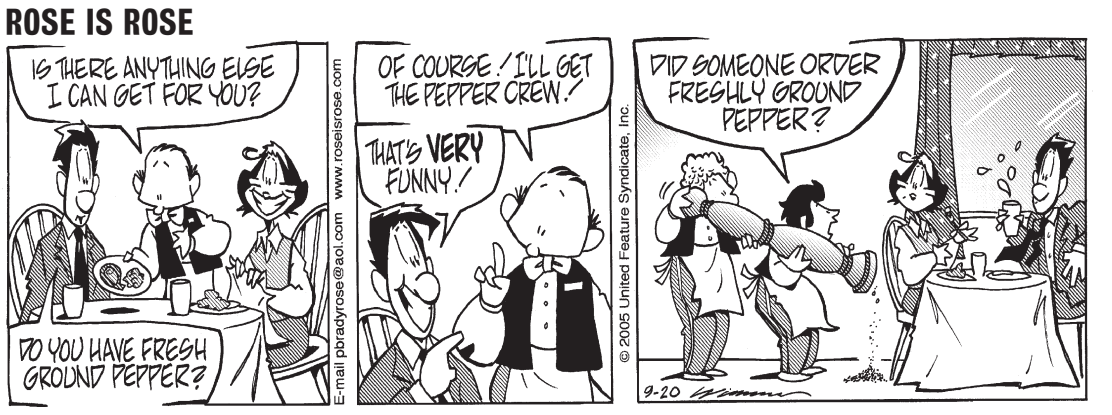
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



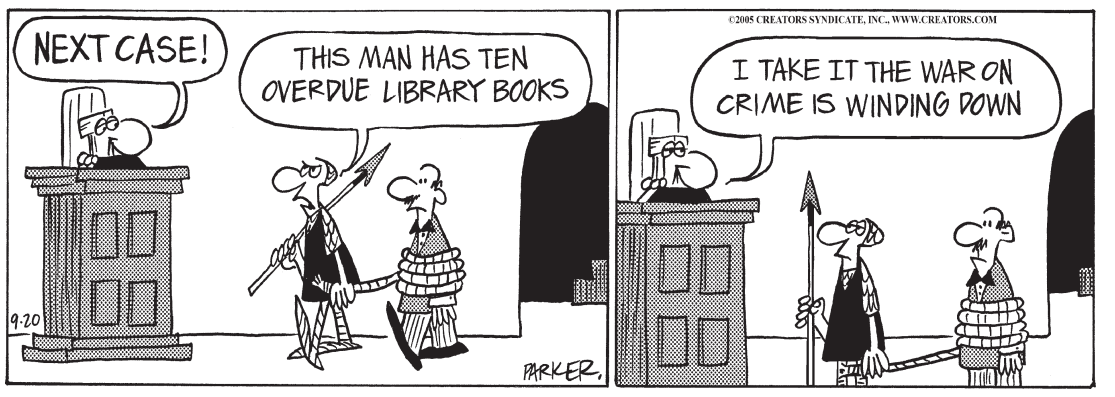

## BLONDIE



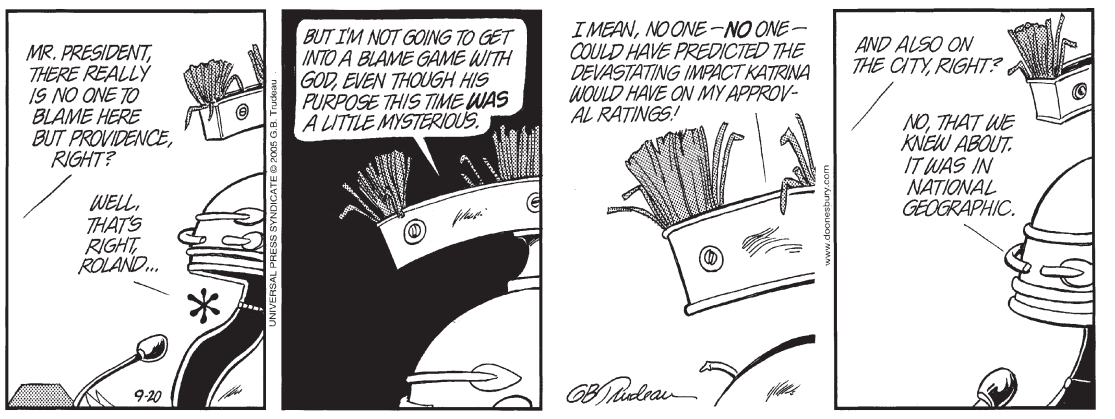

## ROSE IS ROSE



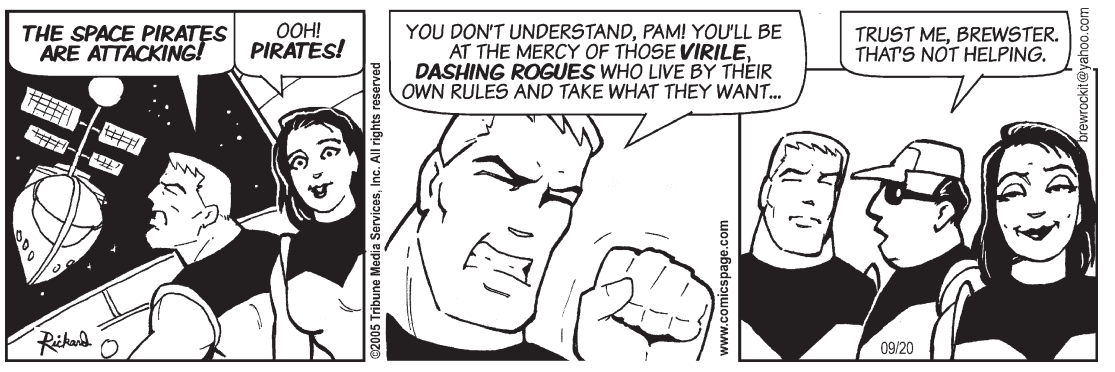

## THE WIZARD OF ID



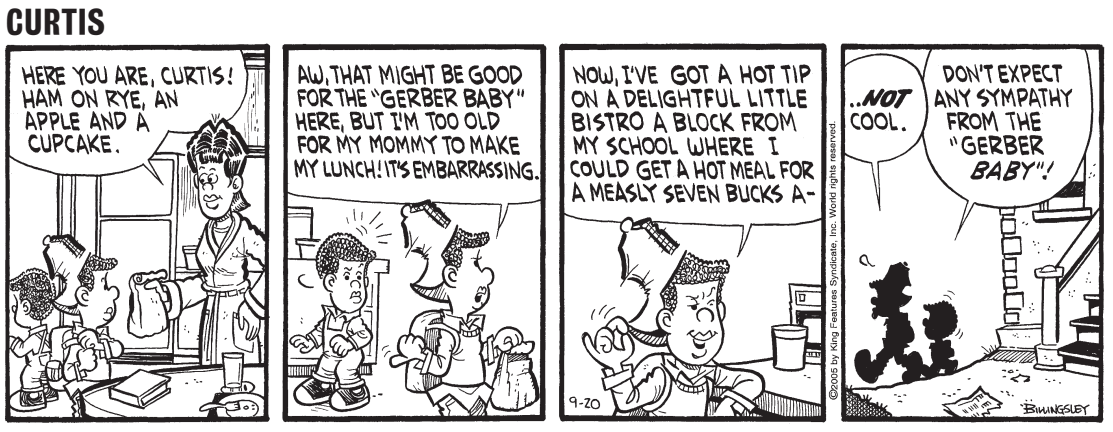

## DOONESBURY



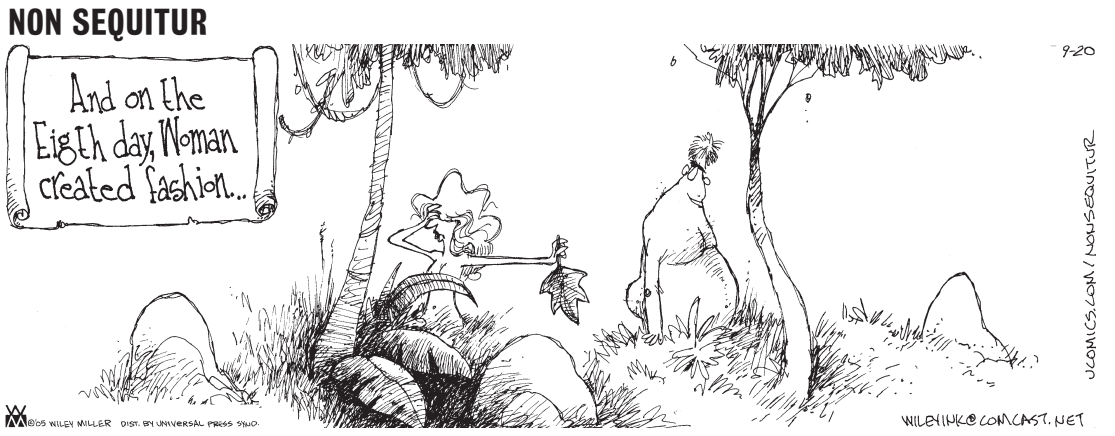

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



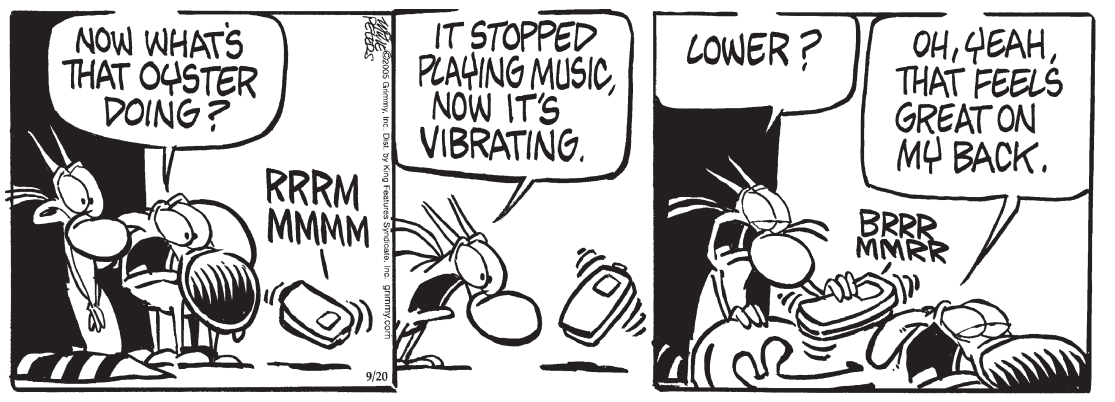

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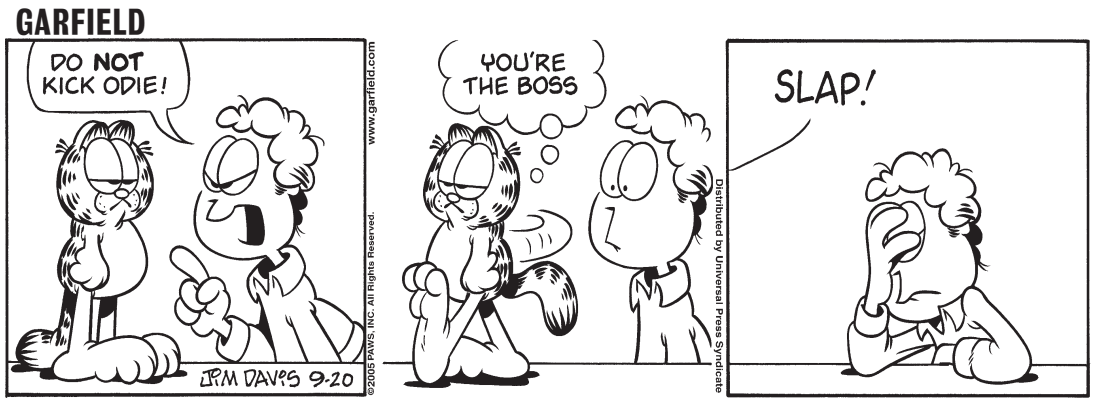



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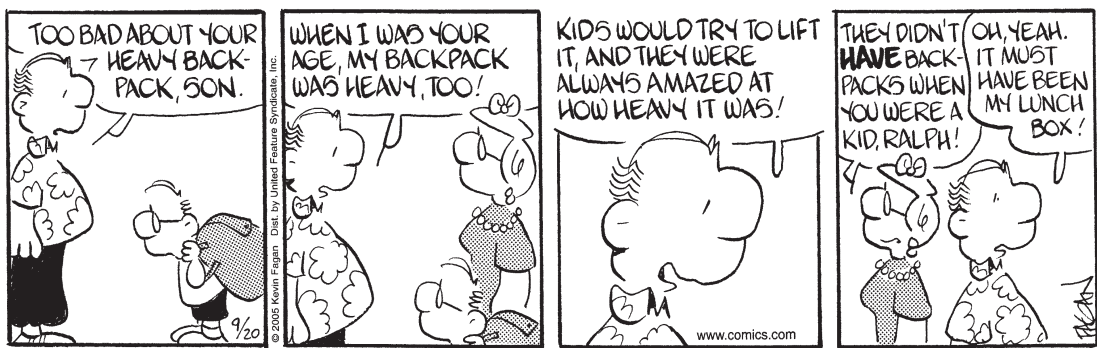


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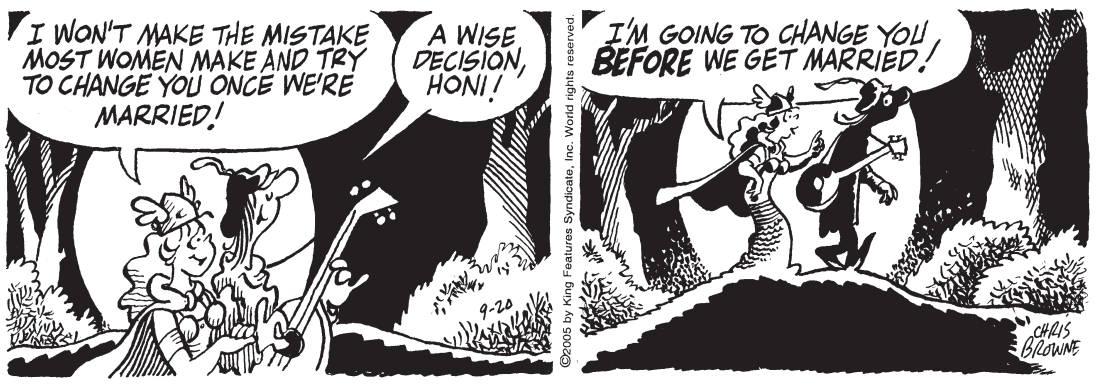
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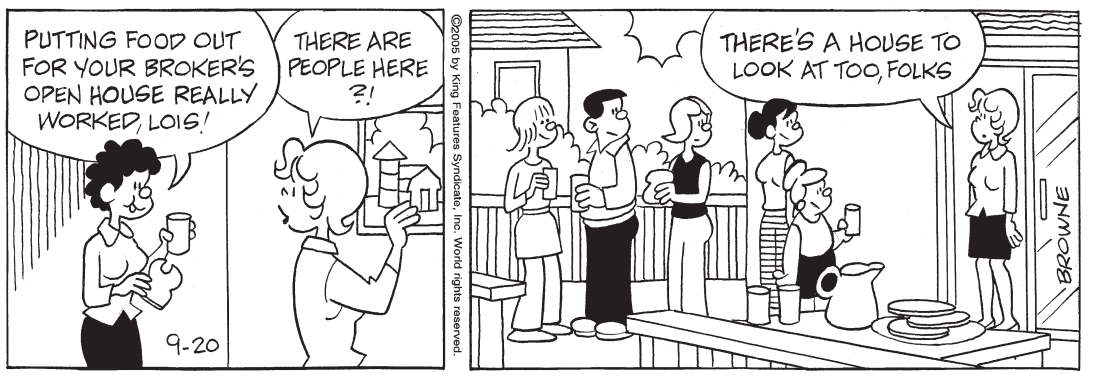

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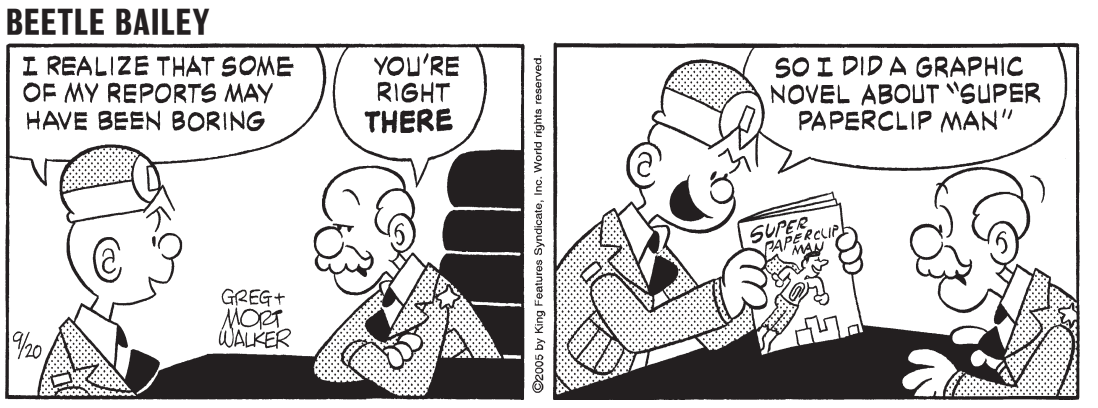

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



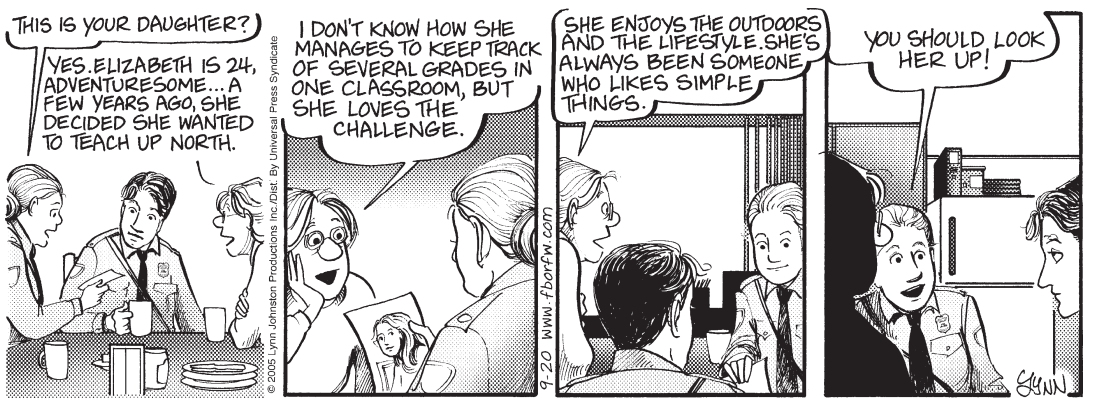

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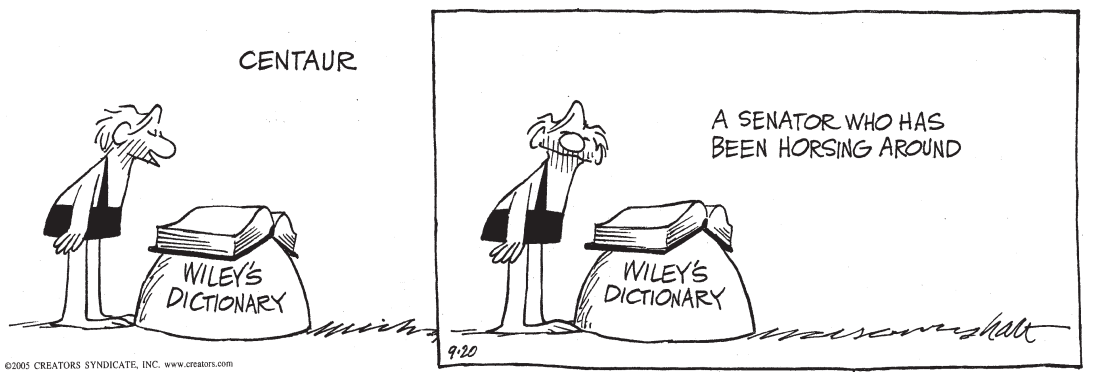

## BEETLE BAILEY



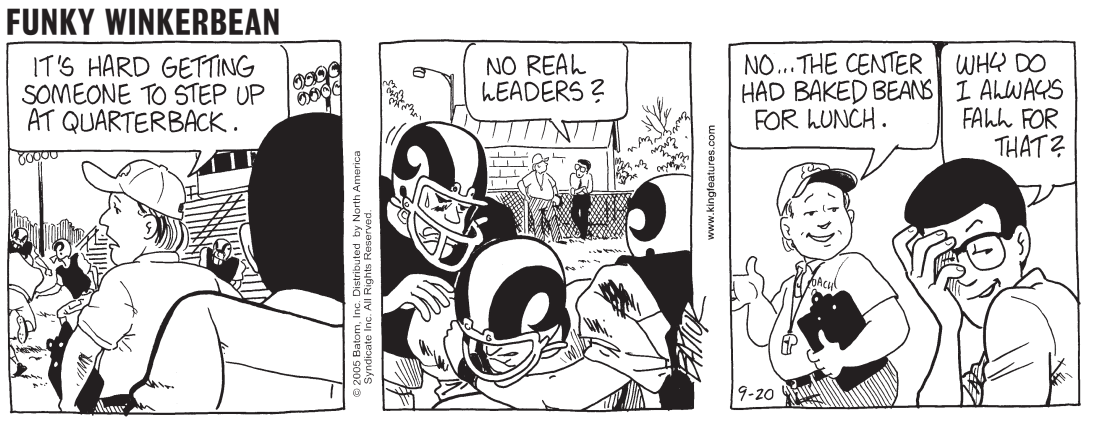

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



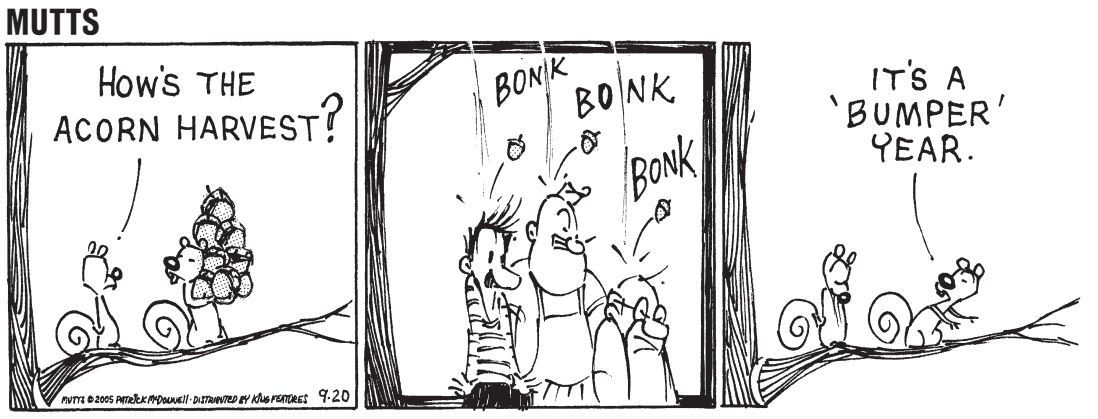

## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

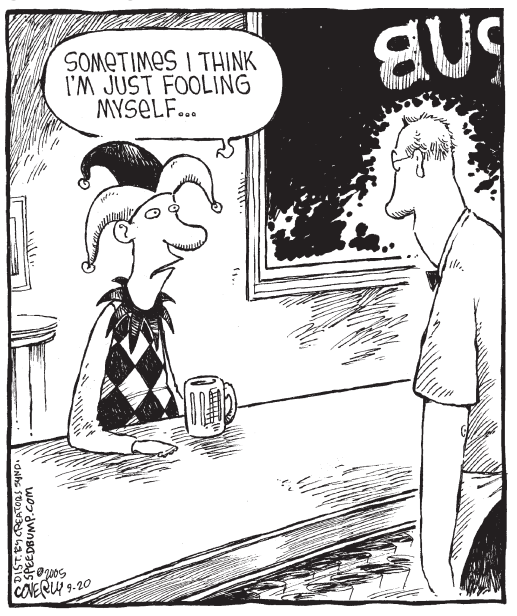



## LOOSE PARTS

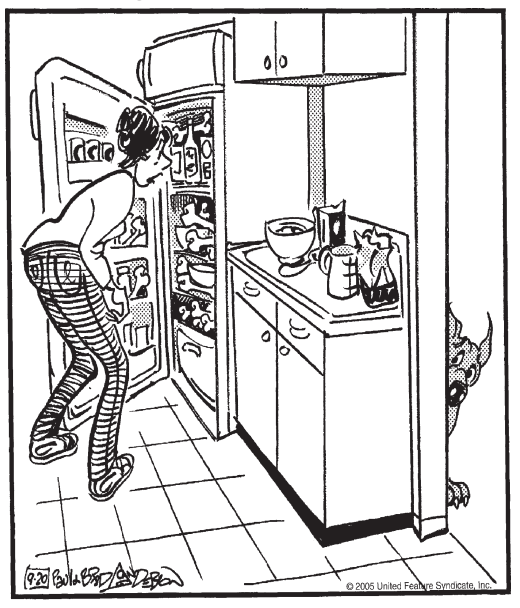



A sign it's time to give up on that giant SUV

## SPEED BUMP

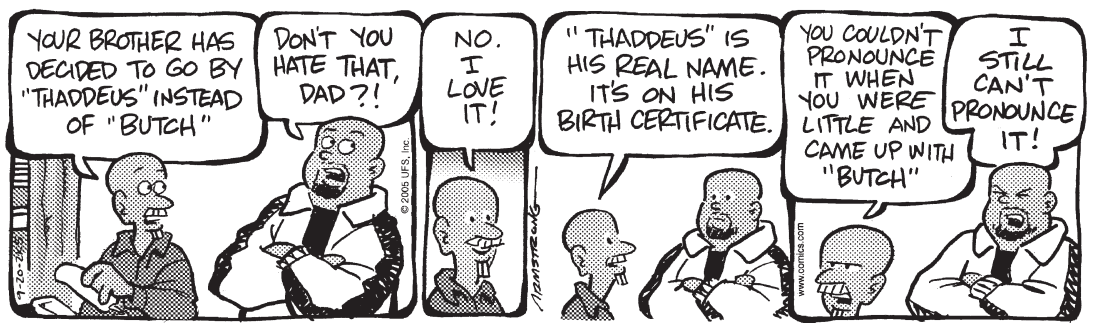



## MARMADUKE

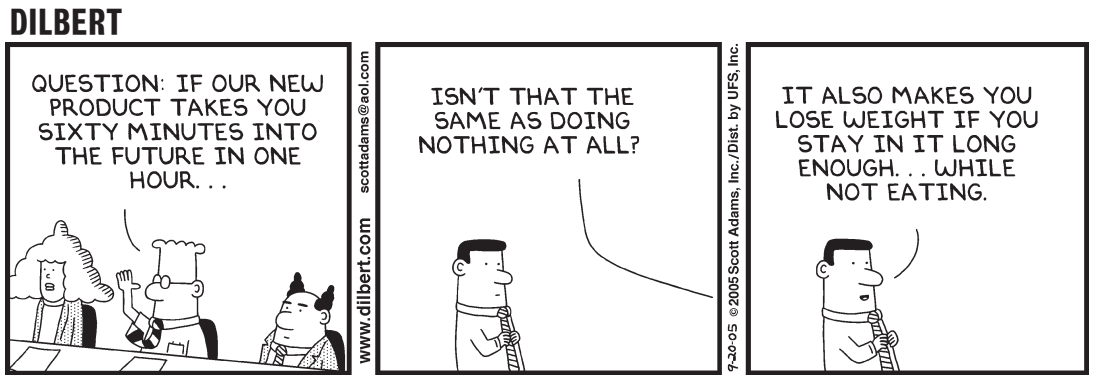



"Who keeps putting bones in the refrigerator?"

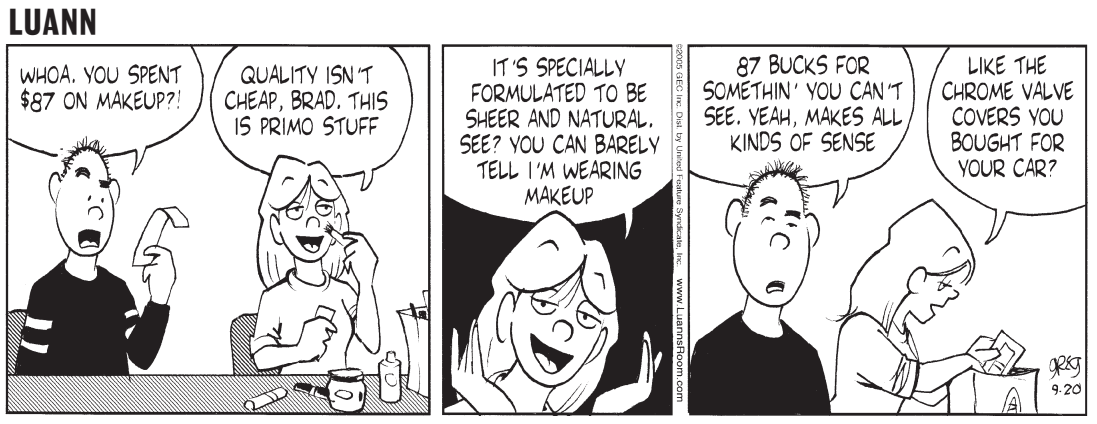
## JUMP START



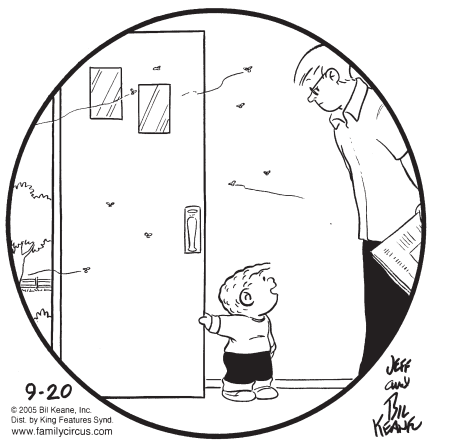

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



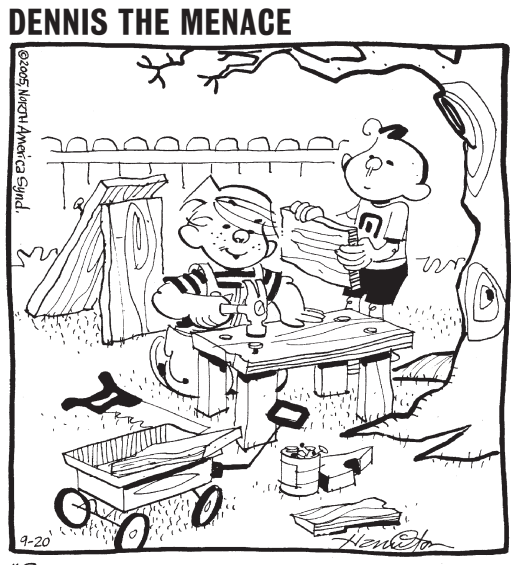

"I'm holding the door open so the flies can get out."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Oh for heaven's sake! Don't tell me the dog faked you out AGAIN!"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"REMEMBER THIS, JOEY... NEVER TALK BACK TO YOUR PARENTS WHEN THEY CAN HEAR YOU."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**SHOOTING FILMS** **Solution: 9 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | I | G | H | T | S | U | O | M | A | F | E | S | A | R |
| M | A | G | A | Z | I | N | E | S | H | E | T | W | O | O |
| R | E | V | I | E | W | T | S | A | C | I | A | E | L | T |
| A | H | S | I | L | B | U | P | L | M | R | R | N | P | C |
| M | K | T | S | T | A | G | E | A | D | B | E | I | R | E |
| E | I | A | S | K | S | D | G | I | H | I | R | E | E | R |
| N | S | T | C | H | E | E | A | D | V | C | P | Y | N | I |
| I | S | I | W | B | O | M | F | E | S | O | L | A | E | D |
| C | L | S | A | Y | A | W | S | M | R | N | M | Y | C | I |
| F | L | T | A | R | S | R | A | T | S | T | D | S | S | A |
| L | E | I | D | P | P | J | U | D | G | E | N | T | E | L |
| O | R | C | P | I | C | K | S | Ⓣ | M | X | G | O | D | O |
| P | N | S | A | S | A | C | T | Ⓞ | R | T | I | R | I | G |
| H | E | A | R | E | M | A | C | Ⓛ | O | S | S | Y | U | U |
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Actor, Award, Brief, Camera, Cast, Cinema, Clips, Comedy, Context, Deal, Debate, Dialogue, Director, Drama, Famous, Festival, Flick, Flop, Genre, Guide, Hear, Hire, Image, Judge, Kiss, Lights, Magazines, Media, Movie, News, Part, Pass, Picks, Plot, Praise, Publish, Rate, Report, Review, Scene, Screen, Script, Show, Sign, Stage, Stars, Statistics, Story, Sway, Texts, Viewpoint

**Yesterday's Answer: Grapes**

CONTINUED



# Their day-to-day routines are anything but routine



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

Army National Guard tents and vehicles dot the landscape at the Belle Chasse Naval Base. TOP OF PAGE: Private Jeremi Uhrig takes pictures of the wreckage left by Katrina.








Guardsman relax in the back of a truck en route to clear trees and debris from North Galvez Street. ABOVE LEFT: For many Guardsman in New Orleans, the weapon of choice is a chainsaw. BELOW LEFT: A convoy of Guard vehicles prepares to roll into New Orleans.

# No fun playing 'the hurricane victim' game

**ROSE,** *from C-5*

That's almost funny.

It's impossible not to like it here. It's so clean and everyone is so educated and polite and everyone cleans up after their dogs and we pass three crossing guards on our walk to school.

Although the streets are familiar to me — I've come back many times over the decades — I can't help but feel lost here. Like I'm moving underwater.

After living in the specter of curfews and military troops and arson and desperate squalor, maybe for the first time in my life I get a hint of what post-traumatic stress really is. Low-grade, to be sure, but you feel it.

I don't recognize any of the kids and I don't know who the parents around me are and I suppose this happens to everyone who relocates to another city but I don't think "relocate" is really the word for what we did.

What happened was, our lives and social structures and friendships and classmates and easy routines were blown across the globe on one fateful morning and now everything is different.

Just like that.

My daughter, she runs into the gym for her homeroom exercises and she starts playing one of those crazy hand-clapping games with a little girl I've never seen before and who is that girl? What are they saying to each other?

I used to know the language and rhythm of her school in New Orleans but here, I stumble.

At the entrance to the school, there is a folding table set up where parents can

contribute to a fund to buy backpacks and school supplies for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Victims. That's the mantle we wear now. And that sucks. In our lives — in all of our lives — the people we want to be are the rescuers in the boat, not the people plucked from the water, but that's what so many of us have become.

At my son's school, I was introduced to the teachers and administrators the other morning. "This is Jack Rose's father," they would say, and you could see it in their eyes right away: Oh, the Hurricane Boy.

Don't get me wrong, they're unbelievably generous and kind to us. In private, I cry when I think about what everyone here is willing to do, how much strangers here — everyone across this country, it seems — wants to help, wants to make us feel welcome.

But still, my son is the Hurricane Boy and that's not going to change overnight. In my hometown, we are the hurricane family. Evacuees, refugees, whatever.

When I am introduced as someone from New Orleans, people sometimes say: "I'm so sorry."

New Orleans. I'm so sorry.

That's not the way it ever was before, not the way it's supposed to be. When people find out you're from New Orleans, they're supposed to tell you about how they got really drunk there once, or fell in love there, or first heard the music there that changed their lives.

At worst, people would say: I've always wanted to go there.

But now, it's just: "I'm sorry."

Man, that kills me. That just kills me.

And by the time this runs in the newspaper, I'll be on my way back to the city, back to Sorry Town. And I'll leave my hurricane family behind here in what you could only call Pleasantville, and somehow I'll find the means to reconcile the two lives, the new and the old, the temporary and the permanent, a thousand miles apart.

It might as well be a million.

Not the biggest tale of hardship you're going to hear from this storm. Far from it. Just one man's journey. One guy wondering what the light at the end of the tunnel looks like.

Wondering where this all will take us. Wondering if any kids will come by our house on Halloween this year. Wondering who will set up their ladders on the corner where we always watch our Mardi Gras parades. Wondering who will be sitting under our shade tree at Jazzfest.

It's not premature to think about these things. They are the familiar — and very special — touchstones of our lives.

They are the city where I live. The city that exists, at this moment, as a fond memory.

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Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

The Times-Picayune

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SPORTS

WEB EDITION

SECTION C-9
Tuesday
September 20, 2005

# HOMESICK



In one of the few times the Saints got to Giants quarterback Eli Manning, Will Smith was flagged for illegal contact.

## *Displaced Saints are generous "hosts" with six turnovers in loss to Giants*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – They've roamed this country for weeks now, evacuating to northern California, seeking refuge in south Texas, playing on the road at Carolina and at "home" in New Jersey.

And everywhere these gypsy Saints have gone, they've been enveloped in an aura that has signaled this is no ordinary team, and these are extraordinary circumstances.

That aura Monday night, however, was bad from the start.

This one just didn't feel right – even some of the supposedly welcoming touches, like having "Saints" painted across the west end zone at Giants Stadium, and the team from New Orleans rushing out of the tunnel last in their home-field black jerseys.

Then the Saints fumbled away their opening kickoff return – the first of six turnovers on this deflating evening.

And they approached a franchise record with 13 penalties for 92 yards on their way to a disappointing 27-10 loss to the New York Giants, evening their record at 1-1.

"We fed them on a platter, and they ate," Saints receiver Joe Horn said of a loss he called "embarrassing."

Their plight having landed them on a national stage in a prime-time, made-for-TV event, the Saints for the first time looked like a beleaguered team that has been bounced about this country, like the square white ball in the classic video game Pong.

Coach Jim Haslett and many of the players said they felt the same energy, emotion and enthusiasm before the game as they had one week earlier before an inspired season-opening win at Carolina.

But, said Haslett, "We just didn't control it very well this week."

And sure, several players took another opportunity to complain about being sent across the country to play their "home opener" at Giants Stadium. Quarterback Aaron Brooks called it "patronizing."

But they all said it was no excuse – certainly not for such a colossal collapse. None of the underlying factors could be blamed for this performance.

"You know, we take this thing day by day," Haslett said. "I've been in four complexes in four weeks, moving offices, three hotels, now an apartment. But that has nothing to do with what we did on that field today. We sucked on that field, if you want to know the truth.

"We haven't done that in a long time. I don't know if there was just so much buildup for this one game. It was just one game, and they built it up like it was the Super Bowl, for obvious reasons. But we just didn't do a very good job."

The pregame ceremony was riveting – stirring renditions of "America the Beautiful" from Irvin Mayfield's trumpet and the "Star-Spangled Banner" from Harry Connick Jr.'s voice and Branford Marsalis' sax.

And the accompanying relief efforts were much appreciated – Haslett's opening comments were actually a "thank you."

Wherever your rooting interests lie, and however you felt about NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue's decision to play this game on this night in this city, you'd have to agree this performance was a shame. A letdown.

It was the exact opposite of a week ago, when every break seemed to bounce the Saints' way, a magical force seemingly on their side.

On this night, the Saints could do no right. Every glimmer of hope followed by a more spectacular flub.

- That opening kickoff – Michael Lewis received the ball, ran 10 yards and pitched to Fred McAfee, who fumbled it away. Three plays later, the Giants led 7-0.

- The Saints' defense forcing a three-and-out late in the second quarter, only to give it right back with an interception

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-10*



AP PHOTOS

New York receiver Plaxico Burress had five catches for 64 yards in the Giants' 27-10 victory against the Saints on Monday night at Giants Stadium. Saints defensive back Jason Craft, left, had four tackles.




New Orleans superintendent of police Eddie Compass, Saints receiver Joe Horn, and former president George Bush, chat on the field before the coin toss.

## Saints should put debacle out their minds

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Well, there's always time for a first.

Right, Jim Haslett?

"First time I'm taking a four-hour plane ride after a home game," said the coach of the 1-1 Saints.

One by one, Jim Horn, Aaron Brooks and Deuce McAllister talked about going back to San Antonio to "look at the film" so mistakes can be corrected.

You know what I say?

I say, burn the film.

It would only torment an already tormented football team.

And what will the film show?

It will show 22 penalties, 13 by the team that lost 27-10 before a crowd of 68,031 in Giants Stadium.

It will show a house of horrors.

It will show Joe Horn, stretching to get the football into the end zone and winding up fumbling it in for a touchback instead.

It will show John Carney, who beat the Panthers with a 47-yard field goal last week, hitting the left upright from 29 yards.

It will show Carney kicking a 21-yarder with time running out in the first half, but only after the offense, facing a first-and-goal at the nine, failed to make it a 21-14 game. Footnote: A dropped potential touchdown pass by tight end Ernie Conwell did not help the cause.



PETER FINNEY

Sadly, the film will show Michael Lewis suffering possibly a season-ending injury on a kickoff return.

"Look at it this way," Horn said, "the Giants beat us, but they didn't kill us. It's irrelevant where we played the game. We got our butts kicked. We got no excuses."

The film will show Brooks outgained Eli Manning in the air 375 yards to 165. But it will also show Brooks throwing three interceptions, half of his team's turnovers.

Looking into the immediate future, Brooks wasn't sure.

"It could wear down on us," he said about having to play 16 games on the road, "but it's something we have to find a way to deal with."

It took the NFL's vagabonds only a few seconds to discover New Jersey was not Carolina.

A week ago, the Saints opened with an impressive 9 ½-minute drive and a 7-0 getaway.

This time it was a fumbled kickoff and a 7-0 start by the Giants after a 10-yard drive.

And that wasn't all.

Inside Giants Stadium, the message board said: WWW.SaintsHurricaneFund.org.

On the field, it was something

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-10*



AP PHOTO

Before their game against the Giants on Monday night, Saints players run onto the field holding hands in a sign of unity.

# Saints flop in rare prime-time appearance

**SAINTS,** *from C-9*

thrown by Brooks. Four plays later, the Giants led 21-7.

- A Brooks fumble and interception in the third quarter, when the "visiting" team's 21-10 lead was still within reach.

- Finally, an apparent meaningless touchdown pass from Brooks to Horn late in the fourth quarter. Only Horn fumbled as he reached for the goal line, the ball bouncing off the pylon and being ruled a touchback.

"We put ourselves in the hole right off the bat," defensive end Darren Howard said. "And we kept digging the hole with all those penalties and turnovers."

The running game, which propelled the Saints to victory at Carolina, and which was supposed to do the same week in and week out this year, was shut down handily by the Giants' defensive front – perhaps as devastating to the Saints' cause as all those penalties and turnovers.

After seeing his team gain 72 yards rushing on 22 carries, Saints center LeCharles Bentley fought the words as they came out of his mouth: "Yes, they won (the battle at the line of scrimmage)," Bentley said. "As much I hate to say it, they won the battle up front. They played us a little differently than we were expecting – a lot differently. And we didn't adjust."

Brooks made as many big plays as disastrous plays, throwing for 375 yards and a touchdown. But he said he and his teammates did not deliver in the red zone, time and again.

Horn and Donte' Stallworth combined to catch 17 passes for 284 yards – big numbers that didn't add up to much. Horn fumbled once, and Stallworth had one glaring drop deep down the field.

Five of the 13 penalties came on special teams on a night when everyone joined in the blame.

Tailback Deuce McAllister, who surpassed George Rogers as the franchise's all-time leading rusher, actually apologized to all those displaced fans this team had hoped to inspire, as the hope swept across the locker room that they could make up for this game.

"They beat us, but they didn't kill us," Horn said, promising the Saints would bounce back Sunday at Minnesota – their next trip to a faraway corner of the country. "We better."

"Like I told the players after the game," Haslett said, "We've overcome a lot more than that one game."



AP PHOTO

Saints tailback Deuce McAllister found little room to run against the Giants on Monday night. He was held to 47 yards on 15 carries.

# Promising start takes ugly turn

**FINNEY,** *from C-9*

like WWW.SaintsSpecial-Teams.Ouch.

Haslett's special-teamers drew five of the 11 first-half flags following the gaffe on the opening kickoff.

As for Brooks in the first half, although he threw one pick, he had a couple of back-to-back drops and had six double-digit-yardage completions, including a 21-yard touchdown strike to Horn.

The biggest turnaround came with the Saints trailing 14-7, when Will Smith knifed through on third down to nail Manning for minus-eight yards, moving the Giants out of field-goal range.

Hold it. Illegal contact on Sedrick Hodge. First down Giants.

Two plays later, it was 21-7 after a 12-yard run by Tiki Barber.

After that, the Saints never got closer than 11 points.

**"You can't get caught up in the emotion. I just like to apologize to our fans for the way we played. And I'd like to thank the NFL for all the money they raised for hurricane relief."**

DEUCE MCALLISTER

Did the Saints get caught up in the emotion of last week's 23-20 upset of Carolina? "You can't get caught up in the emotion," McAllister said. "I just like to apologize to our fans for the way we played. And I'd like to thank the NFL for all the money they raised for hurricane relief."

It won't help Jim Haslett sleep any better, but look at it this way: A 27-10 "home" loss raised $2.4 million for the cause, for the scars Katrina left behind far, far away from the New Jersey shores.

# It was a Queen-size party before the game

**By Steve Politi**
Newark Star-Ledger columnist

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Queen Inertia is accustomed to jambalaya and crawfish, not sausage sandwiches. She prefers bars and jazz bands, not a parking lot and boom boxes. Usually, when the Queen shows up at a game for her beloved New Orleans Saints, she will arrive dressed in a full gold-and-black costume. Last night, she only had her tiara and scepter.

Everything else is back in her house.¶

Everything else is underwater.

"I evacuated with my New Orleans Saints earrings," she said, her fingertips touching the fleur-de-lis shaped jewelry, as she tailgated in the strange surroundings outside Giants Stadium. "I couldn't leave them behind."

Her real name, the one she uses in her temporary home in West Long Branch, is Jeanette Meyer. But to her Mardi Gras krewe, she is the Queen Inertia of the Mystic Orphans and Misfits. The Queen has partied before dozens of Saints home games over the years.

She has never done it in New Jersey.

No, this was different - for the Giants fans, for Saints fans, for the entire NFL. Two teams played a football game last night in the Meadowlands, but really, it was much more than that.

It was a fundraiser. It was a rock concert. But most importantly for the hundreds of Saints fans who found a way to get here, it was a distraction from the misery in their lives.

Imagine that. The Saints, a team so bad over the years fans have donned paper bags to home games, providing people with a rare moment of joy and hope.

"Hey, that's one of the things that makes New Orleans so resilient," said Paul Gelston, a city resident who helped organize a group of evacuees to attend the game. "If we can survive 35 years of being Saints fans, we can survive a little water in the house."

Gelston smiled. He knows many of the evacuees still do not know if their homes can be saved, or when - if ever - they would return to the city. But for one night, at least, they could regain a measure of normalcy in their lives with football.

He helped get tickets for about 20 transplants, some of whom he met while waiting for aid at the Red Cross in Montclair. The group included Albert Marshall, who has seven relatives from New Orleans living in his small two-bedroom house.

Their days are spent waiting in lines, filling out forms. His uncle, Edward Gabriel, needed his hearing aids and eyeglasses replaced. His niece and nephew, Kedra and La-Mont, needed new schools. Their homes are gone, but at least everyone is OK.

That was a concern for weeks after the storm. One relative who stayed behind spent two days on a roof, then another two days floating on an inflatable bed. Another was missing until last Sunday, and when Gwendolyn Thomas, the matriarch of the family, heard the news that he was OK, she passed out in church.

"This like a release," Albert Marshall said. "They've been going every minute since they've been here. This is a chance to take a break, relax, and take their minds off everything."

Yes, football. Yes, the Saints. They fumbled the opening kickoff? Of course they did. The Giants recovered and scored a touchdown? Of course they did. They have grown up with bad football teams. This team might not make the playoffs, but it still has become an inspiration.

Donyea Hoffman-Goodman has 33 members of the same family staying in her 11-bedroom Phenomenal Women Outreach Center in downtown Newark. They had no jerseys to wear, so they spent the hours leading up to the game makings signs with magic markers and construction paper.

Charles Acevedo drove up from Virginia to watch. He wore a hand painted T-shirt that read, "Katrina Took My Jersey." The jersey, he figures, is still in his closet back home. The problem is, the roof on his house collapsed, and the entire place is covered with sludge and mold.

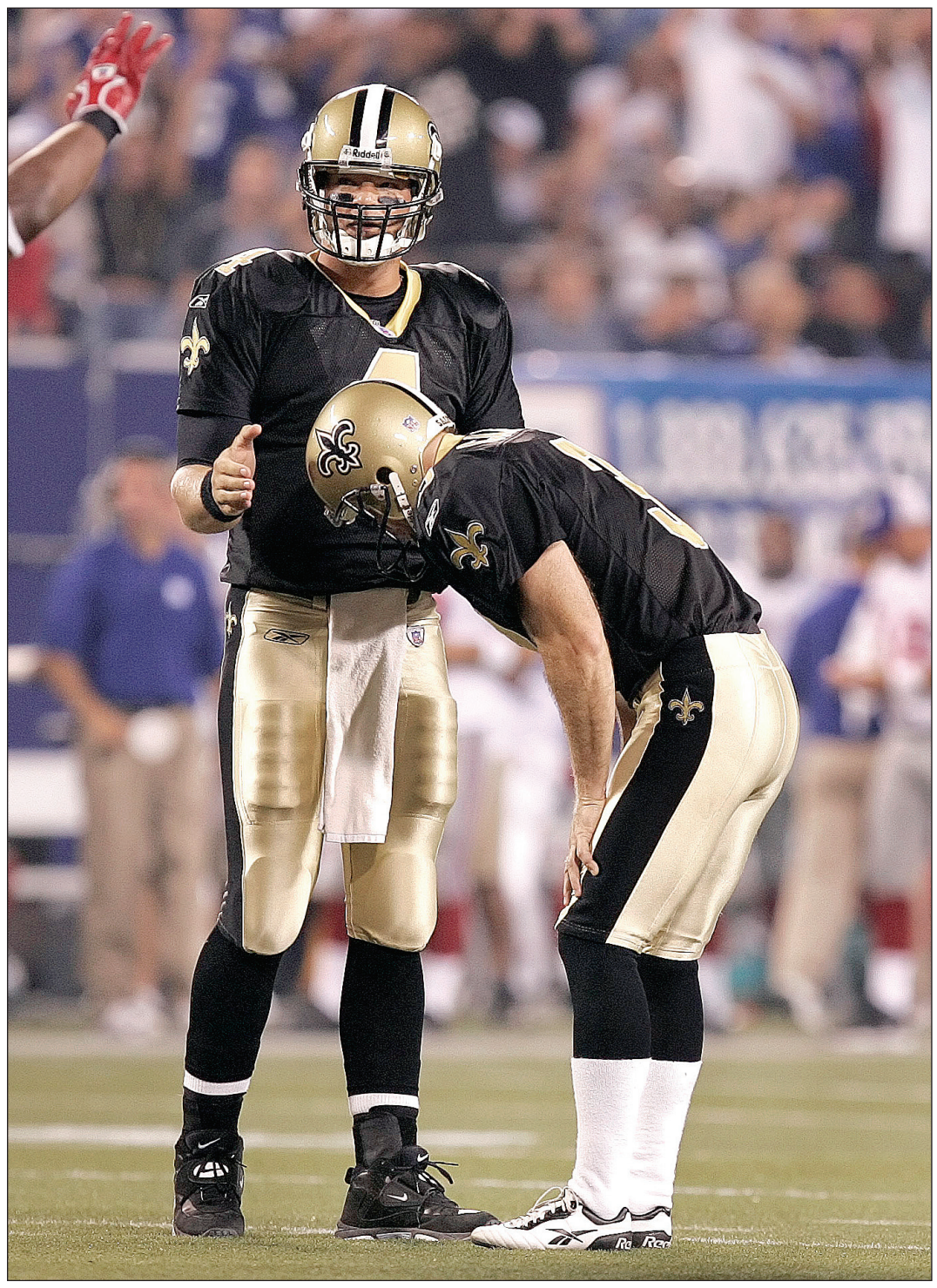
"For a lot of us," said Brian Epstein, the Queen's boyfriend, "it was like a giant eraser came out of the sky and erased our lives. Just like that. I'm still numb."

Epstein lost his fishing business to the floodwaters. The Queen watched the casino where she works get washed into the one next door. Their house is still flooded. They came to West Long Branch, to stay with his parents and wait for a sign they could return. They are still waiting, and probably will be for months.

Until then, they make do. The Queen was walking through the parking lot when she heard the familiar sound of jazz music playing on a small compact disc player. Joe Pinto, a Hasbrouck Heights resident, welcomed them over for some food.

But the Queen and her friends came for the music. She lifted her scepter in the air and started dancing to the trumpets. She turned and smiled and let out a big laugh.

For a moment, her problems were forgotten. For a moment, in a parking lot a thousand miles away from Bourbon Street, Queen Inertia of the Mystic Orphans and Misfits felt right at home.



AP PHOTO

This was the way the night went for the Saints. Ordinarily one of the more accurate kickers in the NFL, John Carney missed a 29-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

# Manning coolly thwarts Saints

*Second-year pro shows 'outstanding poise'*

**By Aaron Kuriloff**
Contributing writer

Eli Manning played one of his best games as a professional Monday, completing 13 of 24 passes for a touchdown and no interceptions to lead the New York Giants past the New Orleans Saints 27-10.

Although Manning has yet to throw a touchdown pass outside Giants Stadium, he still got his first official road touchdown, since New York was technically the visiting team. He led touchdown drives of 10, 86, and 36 yards.

"He had outstanding poise, outstanding control," said Giants coach Tom Coughlin. "He managed the game very well. He didn't have an interception or a fumble. So, from that standpoint, he has improved."

Though the Giants scored all three of their touchdowns in the first half, Manning's best series came in the fourth quarter. With the Giants leading 24-10 but the outcome still in doubt, the New Orleans native and former Newman standout led a 14-play, 68-yard drive that consumed 6:47 and ended in a 30-yard field goal by Jay Feely.

"That was a big-time drive where we put some plays together well," Manning said.

Manning's teammates praised the second-year quarterback's effort, saying he looked better from one game to the next.

"He commanded the huddle," said defensive end Michael Strahan. "He commanded the offense. And he's only going to get better."

Manning said last week that, despite growing up in New Orleans, he had never played in the Superdome. But playing against the Saints held special significance.

"It was important for me, playing against the team I grew up rooting for," Manning said. "I went to all the games. It's the team my dad played for."

# Tickets are good for any Saints home game

*Lewis may have suffered torn knee ligament*

**By Aaron Kuriloff**
Contributing writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Saints ticket holders can use their seats to attend games at Tiger Stadium or the Alamodome, save their tickets for the 2006 season, or seek a full refund, under a ticket policy announced on the Saints Web site last week. Tickets can be applied for comparable seats to any of the team's remaining home games, in any combination the holder wishes, based on availability. Details on pricing and seat availability at Tiger Stadium will be released today. Though no announcement has been made concerning where the team will play in 2006, ticket holders who do not wish to attend Saints home games this year will have their tickets automatically credited to 2006, or they can receive a full refund – either by contacting their point of purchase, including Ticketmaster, or by writing the Saints at: New Orleans Saints Ticket Returns, c/o The Alamodome, 100 Montana St., San Antonio, Texas, 78203.

**LEWIS INJURED:** Michael Lewis, the former beer delivery truck driver who became a Saints wide receiver and return man, was taken from the field in the fourth quarter following an injury to his left knee. The initial diagnosis was a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Lewis, All-Pro in 2003, had just crossed the 30-yard line when his leg gave out and he collapsed near the 35. New Orleans' backup returner, Az-Zahir Hakim sat out Monday night's game with a hamstring injury. Wide receiver Donte Stollworth returned the game's final punt, for 27 yards.

Saints coach Jim Haslett said he didn't yet know the extent of Lewis's injury/ "It didn't look good."

**4,271 THE HARD WAY:** Running back Deuce McAllister, who came into the game needing 10 yards to pass George Rogers and become the Saints' all-time leading rusher, accomplished that with a seven-yard run early in the first quarter. McAllister, who was drafted by New Orleans in 2001 with the 23rd pick in the first round, became in 2004 the first Saint to rush for 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons.

Rogers finished his stay in New Orleans with 4,267 yards. McAllister finished the game with 47 yards rushing, to give him a career total of 4,308 yards.

**HENDERSON IN:** A 13-yard hookup between Brooks and Devery Henderson helped the Saints gain a first down and move out of the shadow of their end zone midway through the second quarter. It also was Henderson's first NFL catch. The former LSU standout –he led the SEC in 2003 with 11 touchdowns – spent most of last season on the inactive list and was playing Monday night in only his second NFL game.

**SWEET CHARITY:** The teams gave more than a few hours of entertainment to those on the Gulf Coast Monday. Officials with the Saints, the Giants and the NFL Player's Association announced Monday that the three groups would donate a combined $2.4 million to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The Saints and Giants donated $1 million from the game's ticket receipts, the Giants added an extra $400,000 and the Player's Association added an additional $1 million on behalf of all NFL players. League wide, the NFL has donated about $11 million to Katrina relief.

Giants running back Tikki Barber pledged an additional $100 for every yard he gained during the game, and $500 for every touchdown. Barber, who during the game became the first player in Giants history to pass 7,000 career yards, finished with 89 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns, but failed to reach his minimum $10,000 pledge.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Michael Strahan's sack of Aaron Brooks late in the second quarter gave him 120 ½ for his career and made him the 11th NFL player to reach 120 sacks since the league started keeping the statistic in 1982… The Saints special teams committed five penalties in the first half … Cornerback Fakhir Brown did not play because of a knee injury

# One common north shore quest: See the Saints

*Rare circumstance sends fans scrambling for routine escape*

**By Tammy Nunez and Trey Iles**
Staff writers

Each person who gathered in the smoky, dark confines of Buck's Black Jack Saloon on Highway 190 in Covington on Monday night had a varying tale to tell. But they shared the desire to see the Saints play the New York Giants on television despite cable outages and satellite blackouts.

The fans at Buck's found the game. They bonded over some of the only visuals on the north shore, cheap beer, agony from Saints miscues and frivolous penalties, and the instant bonding of a roomful of fans willing Saints success.

Buck's was just one of several places where north shore residents gathered and for a few hours tried to resume normal lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, watching the Saints stumble their way to a 27-10 loss.

Fans dressed in Deuce McAllister jerseys and Saints hats crowded into restaurants, many throughout the area serving only a limited menu.

The Slidell WOW Wingery Cafe offered John Sconza and wife, Kathy, two rare pleasures in one place in a city devastated by Katrina. They got to watch the Saints game and use the restaurant's wireless internet setup.

"It's kind of an escape for us,'" said Sconza, whose house in Eden Isles was flooded.

They weren't the only Slidell residents to use the restaurant as an escape. Restaurant manager Nick Nastasi, a Slidell High graduate, said fans started filling WOW at 5:30 p.m., an hour before the game.

"It was like this for the (Saints') first game,'" Nastasi said. "It was packed.'"

Lenus Jack, 35, did everything he could to see the game. When Hurricane Katrina wiped out his cable and Charter Communications proved unreachable, he put an express order in for DirecTV.

"I tried and tried, but I couldn't get the game, so I came (to Buck's)," Jack said.

Jack wasn't alone.

Roomates Steve Besnard, 22, and Chris Barbot, 23, lost cable service in the storm also, so they called the WOW Cafe and Wingery on Highway 21 and got there to secure a table. The pair was disappointed when the restaurant's cable feed cut off right before kickoff. It eventually returned, but not in time for them.




AP PHOTO

Several hundred Saints fans traveled to New Jersey and temporarily escaped the misery of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath to attend the Saints-New York Giants game Monday.

"When they couldn't get the game up, we came here," Besnard said.

A big sign reading "Saints on TV" called fans to Buck's like a siren in Greek folklore.

It drew 30-year-old Fred Wild, too.

"We got three refugees (from Algiers) staying with us and all they want to watch is flood stuff on TV. I'm like, that's great, but I need to watch the game," Wild said. "This place is great. The game is on, and the beer is cheap, just $3 for a Corona."

As the night wore on, there were fewer and fewer high fives exchanged by the hodge-podge at Buck's.

The Saints were undone by penalties, turnovers, and a defense that couldn't hold.

But at least the fans saw the game among others who had "the faith."

"I watched the game in Memphis last week and there were only about five Saints fans," Wild said.

"That surprised me because there were so many people from New Orleans there. I thought there would have been more Saints fans."

Throughout the north shore, standing-room-only crowds cheered when things went right for the Saints and grimaced at every bad play.

After the Saints were called for holding late in the first half, one fan at the WOW in Slidell wearing a McAllister jersey said, "Don't you (referees) know we're hurricane victims down here? Give us a break."



PHOTO BY JOHN MUNSON, THE STAR-LEDGER

Walter Wright dances with the crowd as the Saints take the field. Wright had to be airlifted from his apartment in New Orleans after Katrina hit.

# *I want to be in that number*

*East Rutherford, N.J. became a home away from home for New Orleans natives and Saints fans from around the Gulf Coast*



PHOTO BY JOHN MUNSON, THE STAR-LEDGER

Tommy Harris and his 6-year-old nephew GaCoy Jacks of Mississippi cheer the Saints as they take the field against the New York Giants.



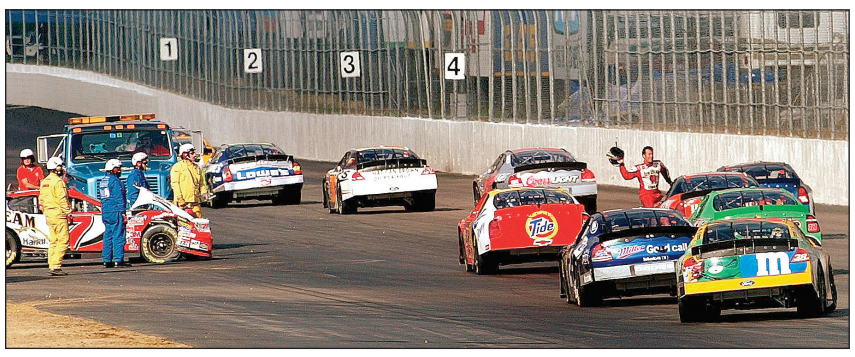
AP PHOTO

Harry Connick Jr., left, and Branford Marsalis, both New Orleans natives, perform the national anthem before the start of the Saints 'home' game against the New York Giants at Giants Stadium.



Irwin Mayfield of New Orleans plays 'America the Beautiful' before the start of the Saints game.

# THE WORLD OF SPORTS



AP PHOTO

Racecar driver Robby Gordon was so angry with Michael Waltrip that he walked out on the track and threw his helmet at Waltrip's car. Gordon said Waltrip caused him to spin out.

## NFL

**TEXANS FIRE COORDINATOR**

The Houston Texans fired offensive coordinator Chris Palmer on Monday following the team's second straight loss. Palmer will be replaced by offensive line coach Joe Pendry, according to a source who asked not to be identified because the team had not yet made the announcement. Palmer, who has been the offensive coordinator since the team's inception, also called the plays. The Texans lost to Pittsburgh 27-7 Sunday after losing to Buffalo 22-7 in the opener. Houston has averaged the fewest yards (170.5), fewest passing yards (66.5) and points (7) in the NFL through its first two games. In Sunday's game, quarterback David Carr appeared to be confused and bewildered. He was sacked eight times, the most since the expansion year in 2002 and one shy of the most in the team's 50-game history.

**VIKINGS GETTING NEW STADIUM**

The Minnesota Vikings and Anoka County have agreed on a plan for a $675 million football stadium with a retractable roof in suburban Minneapolis. The sides intend to reveal how they want to pay for the stadium in a news conference today in Blaine, north of Minneapolis. "We've been working around the clock and we are just putting the finishing touches on the agreement," Vikings executive Lester Bagley said. Bagley said the deal calls for the football stadium as part of a broader development project. The county would seek permission from the state Legislature to enact a 0.75 percent sales tax to help pay for construction and ask for the state to chip in for road projects around the site. Last week, new Vikings owner Zygi Wilf held a series of meetings with top lawmakers, including Gov. Tim Pawlenty, about the stadium. At those meetings, he told the elected officials he was willing to contribute at least $250 million to the project.

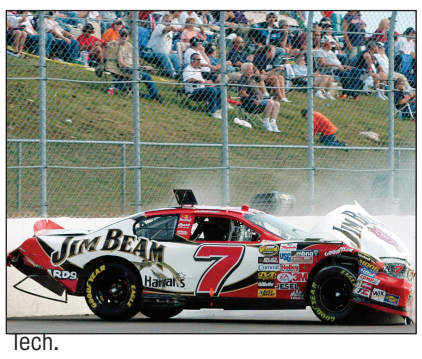
**AROUND THE NFL**

New York Jets running back Curtis Martin has a strained right knee and his status is uncertain for Sunday's game against Jacksonville. Coach Herman Edwards said Martin was undergoing tests, and would wait for results before determining if he can play. Martin, who led the NFL in rushing last season, was injured in the first quarter but stayed in the game and finished with 72 yards on 31 carries. . . . Jacksonville quarterback Byron Leftwich apologized for his actions against Indianapolis and vowed to play against the New York Jets despite a strained groin muscle. Leftwich was caught on camera directing two obscene gestures toward Colts defensive line coach John Teerlinck during the Jaguars' 10-3 loss Sunday. . . . Oakland receiver Ronald Curry re-injured his right Achilles' tendon and will miss at least this week's game against Philadelphia and possibly more. Curry was injured in the final two minutes of Oakland's 23-17 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night and the severity of his injury won't be known until doctors get the results of his MRI exam. . . . Anthony Clement, a veteran offensive tackle who spent seven seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, signed with the San Francisco 49ers. To make room on the roster, San Francisco waived defensive back Dwaine Carpenter. . . . Carnell Williams arrived at Tampa Bay Buccanneers practice wearing a protective boot on his sprained left foot, but said he expects to play this week. . . . Seattle wide receiver Alex Bannister, a former Pro Bowl special teams selection, has broken his right collarbone for the third time in a year. His status for the rest of this season is unknown. . . . Jacksonville released receiver Chad Owens after the rookie fumbled two punts and mishandled another before getting benched in a 10-3 loss at Indianapolis. . . . Detroit cornerback Fernando Bryant separated his shoulder in the 38-6 loss to the Chicago Bears and will be out several weeks.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**GEORGIA TECH QB OUT OF HOSPITAL**

Georgia Tech quarterback Reggie Ball was released from the hospital Monday after being treated for viral meningitis. Ball became ill last week and spent two nights at Emory University Hospital. He missed a 28-13 victory over Connecticut. The junior has been cleared to attend classes today and be at practice in the afternoon, though his activity will be limited, Coach Chan Gailey said. It's too early to determine if Ball will be able to play Saturday against fourth-ranked Virginia Tech.



Robby Gordon spins into the wall at the NASCAR Sylvania 300 Sunday at New Hampshire International Speedway.

**AROUND THE NATION**

Michigan safety Ryan Mundy is expected to miss the rest of the season with a nerve injury. Mundy started all 12 games at free safety as a sophomore last season, and was expected to start again this year. He intercepted two passes and was fourth on the team with 51 tackles last season. . . . Oklahoma backup quarterback Paul Thompson will switch to wide receiver, Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "He's an excellent athlete who's worked hard and we want the opportunity to get him on the field," Stoops said. "(Quarterback) Rhett Bomar has got four years in front of him and he's ahead in some areas right now."

## AUTO RACING

**GORDON, KAHNE AVOID SUSPENSION**

Robby Gordon and Kasey Kahne avoided suspensions when NASCAR penalized them for road-rage incidents in New Hampshire. Gordon was fined $35,000 and docked 50 points in the driver standings for intentionally trying to hit Michael Waltrip's car during Sunday's race at New Hampshire International Speedway, throwing his helmet at Waltrip's car, and cursing during a television interview. Kahne was fined $25,000 and penalized 25 points in the standings for intentionally hitting Kyle Busch's car in retaliation for an earlier accident.

"There have been a growing number of incidents lately where drivers have taken matters into their own hands," NASCAR president Mike Helton said. "Such unsafe and inappropriate behavior has to stop. NASCAR will use whatever means necessary to stop it." Waltrip was fined $10,000 and 25 points for using an obscene gesture during the televised broadcast, and his car owner, Teresa Earnhardt, was penalized 25 points.

## BASEBALL

**AROUND THE MAJORS**

Cincinnati Reds first baseman Sean Casey was examined by a spine specialist and cleared to participate in light physical conditioning, but there's no timetable for his return to the lineup. Casey, 31, was briefly knocked unconscious and suffered a concussion after a collision on the field in Friday night's game at Pittsburgh. He was taken off the field on a stretcher. . . . The Boston Red Sox called up reliever Craig Hansen, the team's first-round draft, from Double-A Portland. The right-handed closer from St. John's, selected 26th overall in June, signed a $4 million, four-year contract earlier this year.

## MISC.

**LOUISVILLE CENTER HURT**

Louisville sophomore center David Padgett will be sidelined six to eight weeks after breaking a bone in his right foot and spraining his ankle in a pickup game Monday.

**TENNIS**

Lindsay Davenport, coming off a title in Bali, pulled out of the China Open because of a strained lower back. The WTA said it was informed of the withdrawal Sunday night.

**HORSE RACING**

Keeneland surpassed its own world record for gross receipts in a single thoroughbred auction Monday at its September Yearling Sale. The purchase of a colt by the sire Officer, out of the broodmare Prim Flower, for $45,000 by Excel Bloodstock, LLC brought the sale's total gross to $324,927,500. The record was broken during the auction's seventh day, 2,216 horses into the 5,110-horse catalog for the sale, which runs through Sept. 26. Last year, Keeneland set the former record during its 14-day September sale.



AP PHOTO

Dallas Cowboys receiver Terry Glenn scores on a 70-yard pass from quarterback Drew Bledsoe in the third quarter of the Redskins' 14-13 win Monday night. Glenn had six catches for 157 yards receiving.

# Redskins' rally stuns Cowboys

*Brunell, Moss go long late twice in subduing Dallas*

**By Jaimie Aron**
AP Sports Writer

IRVING, TEXAS — As much as the Washington Redskins would've settled for any kind of victory over the Dallas Cowboys, this one was especially sweet.

Mark Brunell passed to Santana Moss in stride for touchdowns of 39 and 70 yards in the final 3 minutes, 46 seconds, then the defense made it stand up, giving Washington a 14-13 victory over its top rival Monday night. The Redskins won for only the second time in 16 games against the Cowboys, their longtime NFC East rival, and for the first time at Texas Stadium since 1995.

The comeback was stunning because Washington hadn't crossed the Dallas 27-yard line until Moss' first touchdown, which also was the first of the season for the Redskins (2-0). The second one put the Cowboys (1-1) behind for the first time and silenced a crowd of 65,207, their largest since 1995.

The lure was partly Washington, but mostly a halftime ceremony featuring the induction of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin into the team's Ring of Honor. They were enjoying a great performance from Dallas' new-look defense and seemed only mildly irritated by Coach Bill Parcells' conservative game plan.

It didn't seem to be a big deal when Jose Cortez's second field goal pushed Dallas' lead to 13-0 with 5:58 left.

Then the Redskins – 0-for-their-past-25 games when trailing after three quarters - changed everything.

The touchdowns by Moss came 1:11 apart, so the Cowboys still had time to regain the lead. They seemed to be in good shape, when rookie Tyson Thompson returned the kickoff to the 48 after the first Washington touchdown.

A six-yard run by Julius Jones followed, then came two incompletions. Going for it on fourth down, Drew Bledsoe passed short to Terry Glenn across the middle, but he couldn't get the yards needed for a first down. After the stop, defensive lineman Joe Salave'a threw open his arms, leaned back and jiggled with delight, and cornerback Walt Harris bounced up and down as if on a pogo stick.

The Cowboys had one last drive, starting on their 21 with 36 seconds left. They got to their 41, then went to a desperate measure on their last play - Bledsoe passing to Jones and him lateraling to Glenn. He was tackled at the Washington 43, then rose to his knees and threw the ball up in disgust while the Redskins began celebrating perhaps the most satisfying victory in Joe Gibbs' second tenure.

It's the first time Parcells has lost a game with his team leading by 13 or more points in the fourth quarter, a streak of 77 games.

Brunell was 20-of-34 for 291 yards with an interception, but the most important thing was how he remained cool despite everything going wrong for 3 1/2 quarters. His first breakthrough was a 20-yard completion to James Thrash on fourth-and-2 midway through the first touchdown drive. That touchdown came on fourth-and-15.

Moss, acquired in an offseason deal for Laveranues Coles to be the Redskins' deep threat, caught five passes for 159 yards. Clinton Portis ran 17 times for 52 yards.

Bledsoe was efficient, but was never asked to do much more than hand off to Jones (22 rushes, 81 yards) and throw short passes. He was 21-of-36 for 261 yards and remained interception-free in his second go-round with Parcells.

He's being asked to manage games, not win them, which means few deep passes. His first came on the opening drive of the second half, when he used a flea-flicker to open up a 70-yard pass to Glenn for their first touchdown connection since they were teammates in New England. It was Dallas' longest play since October 2002, pre-Parcells.

Bledsoe and Glenn hooked up on a 43-yarder to set up Cortez's kick that made it 13-0.

Cortez, who made field goals of 41 and 33 yards, missed a 41-yarder on the opening series. The Cowboys also squandered a chance to try a field goal after getting a turnover in Washington territory in the closing seconds of the second quarter.

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# RATTLED BY RITA

**NEW ORLEANS**
## City fears flooding from passing storm

**HOUSTON**
## New Orleans refugees evacuated once again

**FLORIDA**
## Category 2 hurricane rakes the Keys



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Hurricane Katrina evacuee Eric Robins loads his car Tuesday outside the Reliant Arena in Houston, while his mother, Dianne, feeds his daughter, Mariyah. After being told there was a mandatory evacuation for Hurricane Rita, Robins said he was taking his family to an apartment he found in Houston, instead of going to an Arkansas military base.

### DAY 23 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **736**

St. Bernard trying to get insurance cash flowing, **See A-2**

Parishes handling thousands of new students, **See A-3**

Preservation teams to inspect New Orleans buildings, **See A-4**

Limited service returning to Armstrong International Airport, **See A-4**

New Orleans man pulled from house with dead wife's body, **See A-16**

Federal courts rounding up area lawyers, **See A-16**



Gov. Kathleen Blanco tightening state's finances, **See A-9**

Blanco seeks hotel rooms to shelter refugees, **See A-17**

Episcopal bishops' tour finds damaged churches, **See Metro**

Actor Dennis Quaid to still film movie in New Orleans, **See Metro**

Kenner officials continued to coax about 50 remaining residents from Redwood Apartments, **See Metro**

League to announce that Hornets will play home games in Oklahoma City, **See Sports**

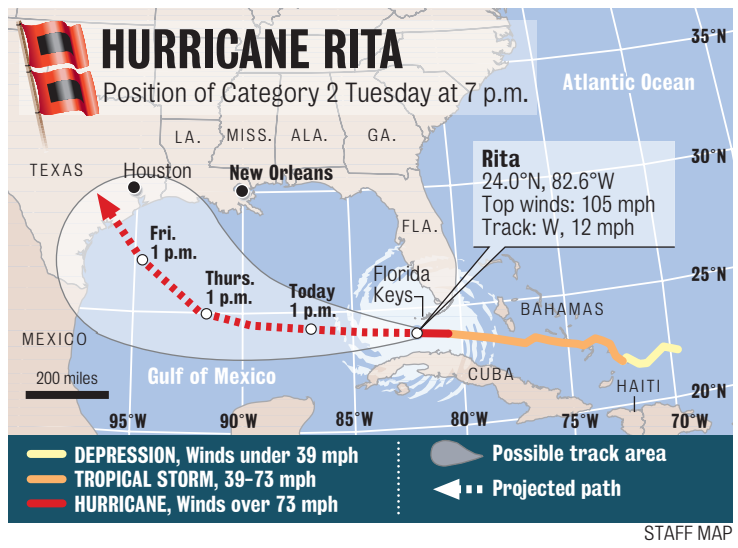
## *It's déjà vu for 4,000 evacuees in Houston*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON — Preparing for the worst, state and local officials Tuesday ordered the mandatory evacuation of about 4,000 evacuees from Houston-area shelters, offering them a chance to relocate to Arkansas as Hurricane Rita swirled toward the Texas coast.

Storm-weary residents expressed fear of the unknown and frustration at the thought of having to pick up and relocate again to Fort Chaffee, a defunct

*See* **HOUSTON,** *A-11*




STAFF MAP

## *Storm whips into Gulf, heads toward Texas*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Hurricane Rita roared into the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday after drenching the Florida Keys, prompting storm-weary Louisiana officials to postpone residents' return to New Orleans and warn people who headed west to escape Hurricane Katrina to be ready to flee once again.

Even though Rita, a Category 2 storm Tuesday night with 100 mph sustained winds, seemed poised to strike the Texas coast near Galveston late Friday

*See* **HURRICANE,** *A-14*

## After the storm come injuries, infections

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

Elmore Crosby didn't give a whole lot of thought to the nail that stuck through his plastic slip-on shoes or to the little cut on the bottom of his foot, which he treated with hydrogen peroxide.

"I pulled the nail out, washed the shoes out, put the slippers back on, went and sat on the porch, smoked a cigar and drank a

*See* **INJURIES,** *A-12*

## Levee system projections flawed, experts say

A crew pumps water from Franklin Avenue on Tuesday. According to a 2002 analysis, the risk of flooding is greater in some parts of New Orleans than previously thought.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

### *Flood risk may be greater in some areas*

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

Before the giant storm surge from Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane, washed away some levees and crashed through others, the Army Corps of Engineers had maintained that the levee system surrounding the New Orleans area could protect residents from a fast-moving Category 3 hurricane.

*See* **LEVEE,** *A-16*

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INSIDE

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# President picks Katrina inquiry chief

By Bill Walsh
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — In appointing his domestic security adviser to investigate the administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, President Bush has selected someone with a prosecutor's reputation for tenacity who served at the upper echelons of the Clinton Justice Department.

But Frances Townsend's background wasn't enough to convince some Democrats that the president is serious about finding out what went wrong in the slow and muddled government response to the Aug. 29 hurricane that swamped New Orleans.

Democrats have complained that Republicans are attempting to control a congressional inquiry into the delayed pace of hurricane assistance, and Bush's selection of a member of his staff to lead the White House probe only heightened that criticism.

"The Bush administration can't investigate its own failures," a spokesman for Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said.

In an interview with CNN, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., echoed those concerns. "How in the world can we get to the truth as to what went wrong with Hurricane Katrina, how can we really hope to discover the incompetence that led to all the human suffering and devastation if the administration is going to investigate itself?" Durbin asked.

But the White House said the appointment of Townsend would fulfill Bush's vow to review the post-Katrina response and figure out "what went right and what went wrong."

Bush last year appointed Townsend, 44, to reorganize the nation's intelligence services after the failures leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Since then, she has been Bush's top homeland security adviser.

Her proximity to Bush's inner circle is all the more remarkable given that she began her career as a prosecutor in Brooklyn, N.Y., under District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, a liberal Democrat. She went on to prosecute mob cases in the U.S. attorney's office under Republican Rudolph Giuliani.

Although she once described herself as a lifelong Republican, Townsend came to Washington in 1993 to work in the Clinton administration, where she was described as a confidant and friend of Attorney General Janet Reno.

"She had the ability to get to the heart of the issue," Reno told U.S. News & World Report last year.

Reno appointed Townsend to head the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, where Townsend worked closely with the FBI in securing wiretaps of terrorism suspects. The office was sharply criticized by the Sept. 11 Commission and the Government Accountability Office for failing to pick up on terrorism activity in the United States, and for neglecting to share what it did know with other agencies in the government.

Townsend was moved out when Bush was elected. She was reassigned to the Coast Guard, which after the Sept. 11 attacks played a central role in anti-terrorism efforts. Townsend soon found herself as a deputy on counterterrorism to then-National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, a role in which she focused on blocking terrorist financing. Last year, with Rice's blessing, she became the top White House adviser on homeland security.

# St. Bernard seeks to innovate to get insurance cash moving

By Jeffrey Meitrodt
Staff writer

Faced with a deluge of complaints about long delays in getting insurance adjusters to visit flooded homes in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program announced Tuesday that it will do away with many of its usual requirements in order to speed the arrival of big checks to many victims of the catastrophic storm.

For owners of federal flood insurance, the announcement could mean the arrival of up to $250,000 in a matter of weeks, as opposed to months.

"Katrina is the largest flood disaster in our nation's history, and it requires us to take a new look at how we process flood insurance claims," said David Paulison, acting under secretary for emergency preparedness and response for the federal Department of Homeland Security. "Our mutual goal is to get families into the recovery process as quickly as possible."

Though flood insurance is backed by the federal government, it is sold by insurance companies, which also are responsible for handling claims. The maximum benefit for dwelling damage is $250,000.

Many insurance companies have been cutting checks for $2,500 to $5,000 to help displaced policyholders with their living expenses, but they have been reluctant to pay larger settlements without first having a property inspected by an adjuster.

That has frustrated many state and local officials, who say it is obvious that whole neighborhoods were wiped out by Katrina, and that the government should fork over the cash as quickly as possible.

"We had 100 percent devastation down here, and I haven't seen an adjuster yet," said Joey DiFatta, president of the St. Bernard Parish Council. "We need some relief for these people."

State Rep. Karen Carter, D-New Orleans, said the new policy "will permit people to move forward with their lives. This is what we have been begging for."

Louisiana Insurance Commissioner J. Robert Wooley said Tuesday's announcement "is a big piece of the puzzle."

Wooley said the announcement means that thousands of homeowners in Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes will find their claims put on a "fast track," enabling many of them to collect the full value of their policies without waiting for an adjuster to visit.

To determine which properties qualify for the expedited process, insurers will review aerial photographs, flood data and policyholder information.

"It will be possible to pay the policy limits through dialogue with the insured and without waiting for a site visit to adjust the loss," the announcement said. "The process may be used for homes that "have been washed off their foundations, affected for long periods by standing water or when only pilings or a slab remain."

Wooley said the new arrangement should help quicken the pace of recovery in the New Orleans area, but he said it doesn't solve all the problems. He said he is still working on an arrangement that would dramatically reshape the way private insurers are dealing with the crisis with their homeowners' policies.

As it stands, adjusters are spending most of their time on the fringes of the disaster, sometimes working on claims involving minor damage. Wooley said it is important to get those adjusters to areas that sustained the biggest losses as quickly as possible.

He wants to start with St. Bernard Parish, which Wooley visited last week.

"It's the worst situation you can think of," Wooley told state lawmakers last week, when describing his visit. "It will make you cry to see it. It's horrible."

To make sure that flooded homes don't become a health hazard, Wooley said, insurance adjusters should coordinate their activities, sending in armies of adjusters to the same neighborhood at the same time so that demolition of ruined properties can begin as quickly as possible.

As it stands, he said, adjusters are visiting homes in a "helter-skelter" fashion, visiting properties in Mandeville one day, and Slidell the next.

Insurers said they've never had to do business any other way, because gaining access to destroyed property usually isn't a major problem.

Wooley said local officials will have a key role in notifying residents of what is going on, and arranging for the demolition of properties in such a way that residents can go into the properties and remove any items of sentimental value.

If he can get the process started in St. Bernard, Wooley said, it could be used in other parts of the metropolitan area, including Plaquemines Parish and parts of Orleans Parish.

He said the process could help New Orleans avoid becoming a "trailer city," in which large numbers of displaced individuals are forced to live together while waiting for the adjusters to finish their work.

This way, he said, residents could move into their neighborhoods as soon as their homes are demolished, living in a trailer in their own back yard while construction of a new home takes place in front of them.

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# School systems across the state bursting at the seams

## STUDENTS SCATTERED ACROSS STATE

By Monday, 39,518 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina had enrolled in public schools across Louisiana, including every parish outside the storm-affected region. The student populations of the school districts increased by at least 4 percent to accommodate the evacuees. The state does not have figures for the thousands of displaced students who enrolled in private schools.

| School district | Regular enrollment | Student evacuees | Percent increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tensas Parish | 918 | 253 | 28% |
| St. John Parish | 6,559 | 1,360 | 21% |
| City of Baker | 2,271 | 455 | 20% |
| Pointe Coupee Parish | 3,024 | 510 | 17% |
| West Feliciana Parish | 2,472 | 390 | 16% |
| W. Baton Rouge Parish | 3,426 | 538 | 16% |
| St. Helena Parish | 1,370 | 193 | 14% |
| E. Baton Rouge Parish | 46,928 | 6,313 | 13% |
| St. Charles Parish | 9,797 | 1,313 | 13% |
| Ascension Parish | 16,511 | 2,129 | 13% |
| Concordia Parish | 3,883 | 493 | 13% |
| Iberville Parish | 4,310 | 529 | 12% |
| Lafayette Parish | 30,042 | 3,629 | 12% |
| Zachary Community | 3,254 | 367 | 11% |
| St. James Parish | 4,113 | 391 | 10% |
| Assumption Parish | 4,424 | 387 | 9% |
| Rapides Parish | 23,125 | 1,875 | 8% |
| Natchitoches Parish | 6,975 | 561 | 8% |
| Catahoula Parish | 1,760 | 140 | 8% |
| Lincoln Parish | 6,677 | 528 | 8% |
| Avoyelles Parish | 6,625 | 485 | 7% |
| East Feliciana Parish | 2,359 | 164 | 7% |
| St. Landry Parish | 15,384 | 1,051 | 7% |
| St. Mary Parish | 10,216 | 660 | 6% |
| St. Martin Parish | 8,632 | 531 | 6% |
| Calcasieu Parish | 32,792 | 2,001 | 6% |
| Tangipahoa Parish | 18,654 | 1,106 | 6% |
| Livingston Parish | 21,561 | 1,250 | 6% |
| Vermilion Parish | 9,137 | 513 | 6% |
| Allen Parish | 4,317 | 238 | 6% |
| Iberia Parish | 14,219 | 782 | 5% |
| Grant Parish | 3,671 | 201 | 5% |
| Terrebonne Parish | 19,493 | 963 | 5% |
| Lafourche Parish | 14,901 | 715 | 5% |
| Beauregard Parish | 6,232 | 277 | 4% |
| Jefferson Davis Parish | 5,927 | 261 | 4% |
| Winn Parish | 2,817 | 123 | 4% |
| Madison Parish | 2,312 | 100 | 4% |
| City of Monroe | 9,499 | 410 | 4% |
| Vernon Parish | 10,042 | 406 | 4% |
| Evangeline Parish | 6,129 | 235 | 4% |

Source: Louisiana Department of Education; school districts

STAFF GRAPHIC

## *Congress asked to help cover added expenses*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

Kerry Laster is desperately seeking school buses. And teachers. And textbooks.

The superintendent of Concordia Parish schools is coping with nearly 500 new students infused into her poor, east-central Louisiana school district because of Hurricane Katrina's disruption of the education system in the New Orleans area.

"We don't even have any schools with this many students in it," Laster said Tuesday of the evacuees, who represent a 13-percent jump in Concordia's enrollment. "This is like I've added a whole school."

Across Louisiana, in every district outside the storm-damaged area, school systems have gotten swarms of students displaced by the Aug. 29 hurricane. With the help of volunteers and a hope that the state and federal governments will eventually reimburse them, they are overspending their budgets and finding resources on their own, many expressing feelings of neglect by state authorities in a time of crisis.

The federal Department of Education says about 372,000 students from Louisiana and Mississippi are unable to attend classes at their normal public or private schools because of Katrina. Louisiana's education department, which has assigned an agency liaison to each school district in the state, counted 39,518 student evacuees enrolled in Louisiana public schools Monday.

Thousands more evacuees have enrolled in private schools, not counted by the state education department.

The East Baton Rouge district, which includes the state capital, has absorbed the largest number of evacuees, with 6,313 new students bulging the normal student body by more than 13 percent.

Tensas Parish, one of the state's poorest and least populated parishes, is handling an increase of 253 students in a system that had only 918 before Katrina. That's a 29 percent increase, the largest of any district in the state.

"It has been a tremendous expense on our school system," said Arthur Johnson, Tensas schools assistant superintendent.

"Try to be creative" is the message to school systems from state schools Superintendent Cecil Picard, who is looking for long-term compensation from the federal government while advising local authorities to solve their immediate problems as best they can without state money.

Picard is banking on a federal Department of Education request to Congress for $1.9 billion in aid to compensate school districts, up to maximum of $7,500 per evacuee student. The agency has requested additional funds to compensate private schools and colleges.

In Louisiana, politics may decide how much the districts get. If the federal money is approved, it will flow to the state, which will have the flexibility to divide the funding between the districts serving evacuee students and the districts severely damaged by the storm. The state Legislature will have to be involved in allocations that involve the state's school funding formula, likely setting off a regional tug-of- war.

So far, communication between the state and the districts has been inadequate, officials in some parishes say.

"We can't get a straight answer," said Rochelle Cancienne, public information officer for the St. Charles Parish school district, which has accepted 1,313 evacuee students and will begin phasing them in Monday. "There's just a lot of unknowns right now."

The burden of new students is straining the St. Charles district's supplies of buses, meals, textbooks, teachers and classroom space. Destrehan High School alone has about 500 new students. Superintendent Rodney Lafon is planning to testify before Congress about the problems Thursday.

Resourcefulness and generosity have benefited many parishes. The town of St. Clair, Minn., has targeted Concordia schools for help with uniforms and other supplies. Calcasieu Parish schools have seen a "tremendous outpouring from the community" that will probably result in the parish not feeling a substantial financial impact, Superintendent Jude Theriot said.

Iberville Parish schools raised $12,500 in donations for uniforms, textbooks and desks, while also finding counseling for faculty and students dealing with grief. "We're going to find the money somewhere," Iberville Superintendent Martin Bera said.

Iberia Parish has picked up 50 to 100 new students per day in recent days, many of whom brought very little with them, said Superintendent Eugene "Sonny" Baudry Jr. But the "list just goes on and on" of people and organizations that have helped, he said.

Teachers were also displaced by the storm. Casper said 343 public school teachers who evacuated the New Orleans area have found jobs in other districts. But about 1,600 displaced teachers are looking for jobs, Casper said.

The number of evacuee students fluctuates day to day, and as public and private schools reopen their doors in the New Orleans area, the evacuee students are expected to stream back to their former homes.

It is possible that some Orleans Parish public schools could reopen as soon as January, said Steven Alschuler, a spokesman for Alvarez & Marsal, a consulting group that is trying to put the system back on its feet. Engineers and architects are assessing the condition of Orleans schools and will make a public recommendation on reopenings in about 10 days, he said. The health and safety of students and staff are the top priorities, he said.

The Jefferson Parish School Board is planning to reopen some undamaged schools Oct. 3.

Louisiana is not the only state hosting evacuee students. Florida has 6,000 Louisiana students, and Texas has "tens of thousands," said state education department spokeswoman Meg Casper.

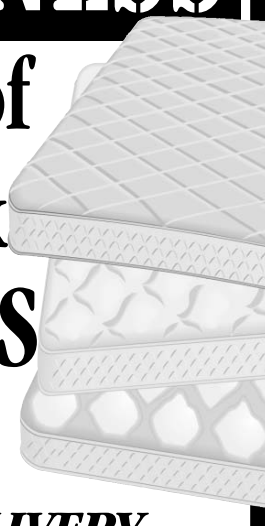
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# Limited service expands at Armstrong International

## *Southwest starts up Tuesday; American, today*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

In yet another sign that normalcy is returning to Louis Armstrong International Airport, Southwest Airlines restored limited service Tuesday with two flights a day to Houston.

Southwest, the largest carrier to serve New Orleans, resumed service sandwiched between Continental, which restarted with four flights a day on Monday, and American Airlines, which will offer three flights a day to Dallas beginning today.

The lights were dark Tuesday at most of the restaurants and shops that line the airport concourses, and traffic remained far below the 174 flights per day that served the airport before Hurricane Katrina struck. Yet the slow trickle of passengers reported no glitches or higher prices as a result of the limited service. Many were heartened to see life returning to the airport.

"This feels good," said Juanita Grissom of Covington, as she collected her baggage after stepping off Southwest's first flight from Houston. "I'm delighted to be going home."

The airport expects United Airlines to resume flights in early October and US Airways to follow shortly after with limited service. By November, the airport could be supporting 30 to 40 flights per day.

But a spokeswoman for the airport, which relies on tourism to fuel demand, said it was not known when service would be restored to full strength.

"It depends on how the city rebounds," said Michelle Duffourc, the airport's public information officer. "As the tourism returns, so will the market and the number of flights."

Baton Rouge has absorbed some of New Orleans' air traffic in recent weeks. Continental instituted temporary service from New York to Baton Rouge and switched to larger aircraft to accommodate residents and relief workers who needed to travel in and out of Louisiana. But Duffourc said New Orleans already is matching Baton Rouge in traffic, and she did not expect the latter to siphon business from Armstrong International in the long run.

"New Orleans is always going to be the larger market," she said.

The Southwest check-in area was quiet Tuesday morning after the airline sent its first passengers to the terminal for the 11:30 a.m. flight. Station manager Dave DeMeyer said the first flight was sold out and the second one later in the day was two-thirds full.

DeMeyer said the airline will monitor demand during the next 10 days before deciding when to resume additional flights. However, a spokeswoman for the airline's corporate office said Southwest had no timeline for when it might bulk up service again.

"We plan to rebuild as the city rebuilds," said the spokeswoman, Paula Berg. "New Orleans is an important city to us. We have employees who are anxious to get back to work, but we don't want to give anyone false hope for when we will start more flights. We're looking at this much as we would look at a new startup city. We'll watch the trends."

Southwest has 400 employees who live in the New Orleans area, about half of whom work at the airport, and Berg said the company had to scramble to locate all of them in the wake of the hurricane. In addition, it has had to retool its entire flight schedule and call thousands of passengers who would be affected nationwide.

"It's not as simple as blocking out New Orleans," Berg said.

A Continental spokesman said the airline has scheduled flights only through February but would watch how demand unfurls. For now, the airline is running four round trips a day between New Orleans and Houston, and one round trip between New Orleans and Newark, N.J.

The airlines that are running had not yet made plans to abate service as Hurricane Rita moved toward the Gulf of Mexico, Duffourc said. Most airlines continue to fly until they face wind gusts of at least 30 mph, she said.

Armstrong International had only two of its four concourses open to passengers Tuesday. While those areas looked normal except for the shuttered stores, the airport estimates it will have to spend at least $55 million to repair damage from the hurricane. Temporary panels now cover sections that winds sheared off the roof of Concourse C, and several hangars were blown over. Duffourc said some sections of the airport still have to be investigated to make sure they are structurally sound. During the next 16 months, the airport expects to lose $70 million in revenue.

Stephanie Walker, director of operations for Hudson News, which runs newsstands and leases other retail space, said some businesses cannot reopen until damaged carpets are ripped up or mold caused by leaky ceilings is scrubbed away. Hudson News, which was open Tuesday, was selling week-old magazines because many of the local vendors that provide merchandise have not reopened.

Business, though, has been "wonderful," Walker said.

"It's picking up every day."

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Kate Moran can be reached at katherine_moran@yahoo.com.

# Preservation teams to inspect N.O. homes

## *Group fears huge loss of historic black buildings*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

All of the estimated 100,000 New Orleans houses and other buildings flooded by Hurricane Katrina will be carefully examined by teams of safety and other experts before consideration is given to demolishing any of them, a city government employee said Tuesday.

"The public is concerned about coming home and not finding their houses; that's not going to happen," Vieux Carre Commission Deputy Director Dan Brown told more than 50 preservationists who met in Baton Rouge to discuss ways to minimize loss of New Orleans' historically significant buildings and cultural sites.

Brown said every flood-damaged house or building in New Orleans, whether or not it is located in a historic district, will be visited by one of 100 assessment teams the city will field, and photographs of each building will be posted on the Internet.

"It will be a methodical, open process," he said.

The city's Safety and Permits Department is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal agencies to establish inspection guidelines.

Also at the meeting, Karen Huff of the Society for Black History said she had spent the past six days tallying Katrina's damage to the city's "African-American landscape."

"We are looking at probably the largest loss of African-American buildings in the history of the United States," said Huff, adding that her group will be working to help limit the damage. Her organization is equipped to help residents salvage old photos and other artifacts damaged in the hurricane, she said.

**"Try to imagine New Orleans without the canopy of trees that is almost as important as the architecture that gives New Orleans its character."**
SUSAN TURNER
historic landscaping expert

National Trust for Historic Preservation President Richard Moe, whose organization helped host the meeting, said based on his tour of the city, he's confident that wholesale loss of New Orleans' houses can be avoided, especially if measures pending in Congress win approval. One would give owners of historic homes a 30 percent tax credit against qualified expenditures to repair storm damage, he said.

Homes weren't the only Katrina victims to elicit concern from meeting participants. Susan Turner, an expert in historic landscaping, urged FEMA to keep New Orleans' trees in mind in its planning.

"Try to imagine New Orleans without the canopy of trees that is almost as important as the architecture that gives New Orleans its character," she said.

Mary Elizabeth Paltron, a lawyer who heads one of New Orleans' many neighborhood organizations, said it's vital to bring homeowners and renters into the discussion of what happens next in the city.

"Get them involved on a regular basis, please," she said.


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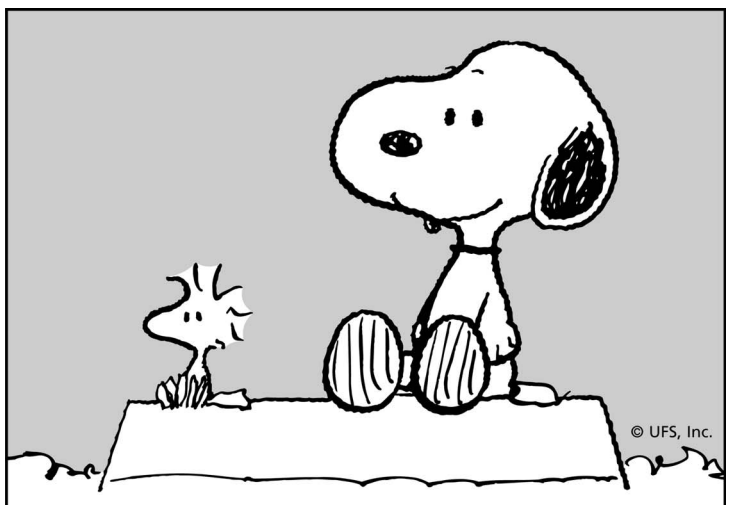
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# Safe water may be months away in N.O.

## *Pump repairs just a drop in the bucket*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

The east bank of New Orleans may not have safe tap water for up to two more months, Sewerage & Water Board officials revealed Tuesday, further jeopardizing plans to begin a staggered repopulation of unflooded Uptown neighborhoods and the French Quarter.

Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans' water, drainage and sewer systems, and officials said they are working aggressively to restore services as quickly as possible, but the job is one of unprecedented proportions.

The road to recovery was complicated Monday when New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin ordered an evacuation of the sparsely populated city, fearing that even minimal bad weather from Hurricane Rita could overwhelm the already beleaguered infrastructure.

Algiers residents who had returned to their homes were told to leave.

Uptowners who had hoped to return this week were asked to put off their plans indefinitely.

S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said Tuesday that she is making plans to staff all operable pump stations if Rita threatens, as long as it is safe for employees. If it appears workers may be at risk, they will be moved to the city's water purification plant off Claiborne Avenue until the storm passes, then sent back to their posts, she said. Many of the city's pump stations have only recently come online.

Crews also worked Tuesday to repair the roof of the city's power plant on Claiborne Avenue in preparation for Rita.

During the height of Katrina, a fire erupted at the plant when winds blew in a window and rain ignited electrical equipment. It was contained by employees armed with fire extinguishers.

The power plant was flooded two days later, shutting down all water, drainage and sewer systems except for those stations with backup generators. It was the first time in the water board's century-long history that there was an almost complete failure of all systems.

No one wants a repeat performance, St. Martin said.

But the water board is facing other problems. Only 430 of the agency's 1,200 employees have reported back to work, requiring that the many of the same employees who stayed on site for Katrina remain in place for Rita. The agency also lost its entire $35 million fleet of vehicles when Katrina flooded the maintenance facility on Peoples Street. FEMA has authorized the S&WB to rent vehicles, but not all have arrived, St. Martin said.

Fortunately, much of the slack has been taken up by private contractors who have been hired on an emergency basis. Most, among them Boh Bros. and Drennan Construction, have held contracts with the S&WB in the past and are familiar with the city's systems, she said.

"What the public really needs to know is that nothing will be abandoned," she said. "I'll be here. We'll all be here."

### Huge task ahead

Barring further damage from Rita or subsequent storms, the water board is still facing a huge task in rebuilding the city's infrastructure.

While the east bank water purification plant is operational,

Katrina caused untold damage to the 1,600-mile maze of underground pipes that carry water to homes and businesses. Lines were snapped, cracked and busted all over town when trees were uprooted, houses wiped off their slabs and fire hydrants toppled.

Floodwaters 20 feet deep also destroyed the only wastewater treatment plant that services the east bank, located on Florida Avenue near the St. Bernard Parish line. Repairs to that facility could cost $156 million and take nine months, during which time the city has no other alternative than to send untreated sewage generated west of the Industrial Canal into the Mississippi River, St. Martin said. East of the canal, sewage may have to be sent to Lake Pontchartrain through a newly engineered bypass system or possibly through open drainage canals, officials said.

"We are currently working with the EPA on how to collect sewage and dispose of it," she said. "We are trying to see if there is any way to do any basic treatment at the end of the pipe, but we don't know yet."

As for water, it is flowing through the taps on the east bank, but is not suitable for washing hands, bathing, cooking or drinking unless boiled for three to five minutes. Officials warn that harmful bacteria could be present from floodwaters or muck that has infiltrated broken pipes, and that residents run the risk of catching a range of intestinal illnesses if they consume the water in any way.

The West Bank water purification plant suffered minimal damage and drinkable water has been restored in Algiers. The plant is operating at full capacity, and is supplying FEMA tankers around the clock with potable water that is being trucked to different sites in the CBD where relief workers and government officials are being housed, St. Martin said. Sewage also is being successfully treated by the West Bank sewer treatment plant, she said.

### Pipe repairs under way

This week, the board overcame the first major obstacle to repairing the water system: getting rid of the floodwaters.

Now, St. Martin said, contractors will work simultaneously making pipe repairs and removing mounds of debris and hulking trees that are blocking crews from the underground pipes. Once enough holes are patched, the board can chlorinate and flush out the system, then test for chemicals and bacteria.

Finally, the state Department of Health and Hospitals must certify the water quality.

Until a significant number of breaks are repaired, normal water pressure cannot be restored. The board now is pumping out millions of gallons to a handful of customers, and it's all flowing into the ground through breaks in the system, which is acting as a sieve, she said.

On the sewer side, only one of the city's 65 pump-and-lift stations, which move sewage through a series of underground pipes to the now-defunct wastewater treatment plant, is operable. All were flooded, St. Martin said, and will take time to repair. Many also will have to be rerouted to bypass the plant and dump sewerage directly into the Mississippi River.

The agency's goal is to repair the stations in the zip code areas that the mayor is aiming to reopen in time for re-entry by residents, St. Martin said.

"The Corps said the city would be dry in October, and it's nearly dry now," she said. "Same goes with water and sewer. We intend to beat the projections we've set for ourselves."

S&WB workers wishing to return to work should call (877) 863-9405. A tent city has been established to provide workers with food, shelter, sanitary and laundry facilities.

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Martha Carr can be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.

# Blanco orders state to tighten its belt

## *Hiring, non-storm travel expenses are frozen*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — With state revenues expected to take a drastic hit from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, Gov. Kathleen Blanco ordered state agencies Tuesday to freeze travel and new hiring and to stop spending money on supplies and major repairs.

Blanco's executive order, signed late Monday, came five days after she announced the fiscal belt-tightening in a rare joint session of the Legislature and more than three weeks after the storm laid waste to much of southeast Louisiana's tax base.

State budget officials won't know for months exactly how revenues will be affected by the storm. "It's obviously a ton of money," said Greg Albrecht, the chief economist of the Legislative Fiscal Office, who said he expects to have ballpark estimates to release when the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget meets Friday.

Administration officials said that the executive order is an "initial step" expected to save taxpayers $30 million to $50 million, and that more cost-saving measures are likely once the state gets a better handle on the extent of the budget hit.

The directive makes exceptions for several agencies, including State Police, the Department of Corrections, and for travel and other expenses related to the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. It also allows employees of the Office of Tourism and the Department of Economic Development to continue "all travel associated with promoting or marketing the state of Louisiana and/or its products."

The spending freeze also does not address several large items included in the $18.7 billion budget approved by the Legislature in late June, such as $37 million in pet projects requested by individual lawmakers for their districts and $16 million for projects controlled by the governor's office in urban and rural district.

Routine field travel by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the State Fire Marshal, the members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and several other agencies also will be allowed. Other agencies can still hire new workers or buy equipment with written permission from the Division of Administration.

Although the state has already spent hundreds of millions of dollars in storm expenses that were not in its budget, much of that money is expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Several state agencies already have begun tweaking their budgets in response to the storm. At the Department of Health and Hospitals, Secretary Fred Cerise ordered agency employees to restrict spending on items that are not reimbursable by FEMA.

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Jan Moller can be reached at tpicBB@aol.com.

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# Automobile destruction likely tops 200,000

## *For many, insurance won't replace cars*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

If you lost a car in Hurricane Katrina, you're not alone.

State Police estimate that more than 200,000 cars were lost in Louisiana. So far, State Farm Insurance, the largest insurer in Louisiana, has recorded 48,140 auto insurance claims in Louisiana, 62 percent of State Farm's auto insurance claims from the four states affected by the storm.

"I would imagine those numbers will continue to rise," said Fraser Engerman, a spokesman for State Farm.

The owners of those 200,000 cars are likely to be reaching into their own pockets to buy new ones.

Basic liability insurance, the kind that's required by the state to protect drivers against hitting another vehicle, or collision coverage, which covers a car if it hits something regardless of who is at fault, won't cover losing a car in a storm.

And if the car was parked on its owner's property when it was destroyed, a homeowner's insurance policy is unlikely to help. "Homeowners insurance excludes losses to automobiles," said Michelle Levy, spokeswoman for Farmers Insurance. State Farm and Allstate, the state's second largest insurer, agree.

Those with comprehensive auto insurance are likely to fare the best. Comprehensive insurance, which is often required if a car is financed, covers damage from floods, fires, theft, vandalism and civil unrest – essentially any type of damage not caused by a collision.

The Louisiana Department of Insurance doesn't track what percentage of Louisiana vehicles carry comprehensive insurance, but Loretta Worters, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, a trade association sponsored by the property-casualty insurance industry, said many people don't carry comprehensive insurance because it's too expensive.

Most people drop comprehensive insurance by the time their car is five to seven years old, Worters said, because the value of the car usually is not worth the cost of the insurance.

But even with comprehensive insurance, many Louisiana drivers are likely to face out-of-pocket expenses to replace a vehicle. Comprehensive insurance pays according to the value of the car that was totaled, not the amount of the loan that bought the car or what it would cost to replace the car.

"It would always be what the (Kelley) Blue Book value of the car is," Worters said. "The Blue Book value may not be the same as what it would cost you to replace it."

So if a person bought a car for $25,000 two years ago, a comprehensive auto insurance policy might pay only $20,000 for a flooded car because car values depreciate quickly. If a person had a loan for that $25,000 car, the insurance might not cover the amount remaining on the loan.

"It's not necessarily replacement of your loan cost. It's replacement based on the value of your automobile," said Bobby Ann Clark, spokeswoman for the state insurance department.

That is, unless a driver has supplemented the comprehensive policy with something called "gap insurance," which, as the name implies, fills any gap between the value of the car and the cost of replacing it or paying off the loan.

But the good news is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency might be able to help where insurance leaves off.

Mike McCormick, a FEMA spokesman, said that if a person receives housing assistance from the agency and still has unmet financial needs, the application is forwarded to the U.S. Small Business Administration, which handles disaster loans for FEMA. Loans granted through the SBA are low-interest loans. McCormick said some of that money can be used to replace a car.

If a person fails to qualify for a loan through the SBA, the application gets kicked back to a FEMA grant program dealing with unmet needs. As much as $4,400 is available through that program for replacing transportation lost during the storm. But McCormick said disaster victims might not be able to use that money toward an expensive car because FEMA's role is to restore people's basic capacity to live their lives, not to replace luxury items.

The Internal Revenue Service also offers relief. People can claim a tax deduction for things such as cars by amending this year's tax return or filing the damage on next year's tax return.


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# Data on powerful hurricanes limited

**LEVEE,** *from A-1*

But that estimate is a piece of guesswork based on old data that experts say underestimates the risks in some spots.

Even if accurate, the risk estimate says that statistically, the long-term likelihood of a flood overflowing the levees is not significant – in New Orleans, for example, it was estimated at 10 percent in a 30-year period, the current lifespan of the levee project.

Some areas within the levee system have always been more likely to take a hit from hurricane storm surges than others, corps engineers say. Among those are the hardest hit areas of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. Katrina's storm surge washed over levees to the east of the city and put those areas under water in a matter of hours. The hurricane levee intended to protect St. Bernard was all but destroyed.

Corps officials say that Katrina's powerful storm surge would have overwhelmed all but the highest levees and that their risk estimates are used mainly to justify their financing requests to Congress as required by law.

But the flaws and differences in flood risk built into the current levee design will likely have to be addressed when the levee system is rebuilt and upgraded to defend against the major storms, something that President Bush promised in his speech in New Orleans last week.

"They really need to re-analyze how to rehabilitate the levees using a current risk-based analysis. That can be easily done, that's what needs to be done. They really have to take all the calculations and weave that into a new design," said Lee Butler, an engineering consultant and former corps computer analyst who found possible deficiencies in the corps' levee designs in a study he did for The Times-Picayune.

For that to happen, though, Congress would have to get involved. Corps project manager Al Naomi said that the current congressional mandate doesn't allow for such variations.

The corps based its levee design on a fictional, meteorologically inaccurate "standard project hurricane" devised in the 1960s, based on characteristics of past storms that had flooded the city. In the 1990s it used computer models to analyze the system. They showed that the levees could protect the city against a fast-moving Category 3 or weaker storm, but could fail if struck by a slow-moving Category 3 storm or something stronger.

But that is a crude way to look at the problem, experts say. The strength categories of the Saffir-Simpson scale used by meteorologists are based on wind speed – not the storm surge flooding that poses the most serious threat to the New Orleans region. Hurricanes come in all sizes and move at different speeds. Some Category 1 or 2 storms can cause more severe flooding than Category 3 storms, for example.

"The storm category characterization is too simplistic. It's as simplistic as the color code for terrorism alerts," Butler said.

The clearest example of that is that some areas inside the system have turned out to be significantly riskier than others.

The reason for the differences is geography. On open water, a hurricane storm surge is shaped like a giant dome. When that dome hits a low-lying coastal area, it rises and runs into a varying landscape of marshes, lakes, levees and other man-made structures. Some of those areas are naturally more exposed to storm surge waters than others – and more likely to be inundated.

The corps breaks it down this way: The West Bank has less than a 1 in 500 chance of being flooded by a storm surge in a given year.

For central New Orleans and the east bank of Jefferson Parish, the figure is about 1 in 300. Flooding is likelier because those areas front Lake Pontchartrain, which is open to storm surge water flowing in from the Gulf of Mexico.

In the Lower 9th Ward, eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish – areas quickly swamped by Katrina – the corps' figure is 1 in 200. The odds of flooding are higher because the areas are more exposed to the Gulf of Mexico than anywhere else in the region. They are closer to marshes, Lake Borgne, and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, all direct conduits for storm surge water from the Gulf.

But there is evidence that the risk is even greater. The levees in that area come together in the shape of a "V." Computer modeling shows that a large storm surge moving into such a confined space will rise unusually high, something not accounted for in the corps' risk estimate.

Butler's 2002 analysis, a rough estimate based on a computer projection from historical flooding in the area, showed that the risk of levees along the eastern edge of St. Bernard being overwhelmed was closer to 1 in 100 each year – double the corps' estimate.

Such numbers make the risks seem small. But if it's calculated over decades, it grows considerably. A 1 in 100 chance in a given year rises statistically to 33 percent over 40 years – the kind of time scale that governments and engineers need to think about if they want protections to last.

But it's not clear the corps can even take such statistics into account in its designs. Naomi said the mandate from Congress calls for the entire region to be protected from the same strength of storm

"All things being equal, you still have the same level of protection wherever you are" within the system, Naomi said. The levees protect against a certain maximum storm surge height: 11.5 feet.

The corps isn't authorized to adjust for variations in the landscape that make severe hurricane flooding a more frequent occurrence in some areas. Building higher levees in those areas would conflict with the corps' legal mandate.

"I can't go above it by law," Naomi said. "That's what I am authorized to do. Anything above that means I have to spend money that Congress specifically authorizes for that purpose. Only then we can go build it. It's not simple."

Another problem for corps officials is accurately predicting the risks. Engineers use a combination of data from past flooding and computer modeling to make estimates. But because powerful storms are rare, it's hard to get accurate projections because there isn't much data.

"Look at the stock market. It's as if you had only two years of data to make a decision versus 50 years of data," said Leon Borgman, a retired professor of geology and statistics at the University of Wyoming who specializes in flooding projections. "Fifty years allows you to catch trends, look at some of the big depressions. If you just had two years of data, you are the mercy of what happened in those two years. With a levee, instead of two years, we've got a century. But we've got only a dozen events of real significance to go by."

Data from Katrina's flooding will be added into future calculations, Borgman said, and that will produce results showing the risks are slightly higher than previously projected.

# Identity theft claims rise as relief doled out

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — About two dozen inquiries about identity theft have surfaced in the flood of paperwork spurred by Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, the state attorney general reported Tuesday.

No arrests have been made on identity theft charges, but the complaints are still under review.

Isabel Wingerter, director of Attorney General Charles Foti's Public Protection Division, said identity theft is now the most prevalent type of complaint submitted by Katrina victims.

In the days after the hurricane, the office logged 1,263 complaints of price gouging, which were investigated, Foti said. Some were dismissed as unfounded, and others are being reviewed, he said.

"It never ceases to surprise me how these things come in waves," Wingerter said. "We go from one issue to another."

First, she said, the calls dealt with price gouging. Now identity theft has surfaced, mainly among people filing claims for federal relief who find that their names or Social Security numbers already have been filed with federal officials by someone posing as a Katrina victim.

"Most people are applying online," she said. "Then they get the message that their applications have already been submitted."

The next batch of complaints, she said, will probably center on contract fraud or shoddy repair work by crews hired to repair homes and businesses damaged by Katrina.

Wingerter said anyone who is a victim of identity theft must file a police report with local police or with investigators from Foti's office. The attorney general's office will then notify federal officials, such as the Office of Homeland Security's inspector general, about the possible fraud.

People who think they have been victims can call Foti's consumer protection hotline toll-free at 1-800-351-4889 or visit www.ag.state.la.us.

In the meantime, the victim should notify credit card companies, credit bureaus, banks and other financial institutions, mortgage companies, landlords and other creditors of the theft.

Foti said of the 1,263 price-gouging complaints his office has received, 818 involved service stations that customers felt charged too much for gasoline.

He said his office is looking into other complaints and meeting with the service stations about possible refunds.

He said his office has also issued a subpoena to a small oil company, which he did not identify, regarding allegations it overcharged customers.

He said his office has also received 172 complaints about hotels overcharging Katrina victims, 73 for stores overcharging on food items, 69 dealing with price gouging on generators and 72 dealing with overcharging for housing or real estate.

Foti said as an added safeguard for donors who contribute to relief efforts, he has put into effect emergency rules – effective Tuesday – that require all charities that collect money for hurricane victims to register with his office. They must provide the organization's name, location, how much has been collected and distributed, and detail how much of the collected money goes to administrative overhead costs.

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# Evacuees are offered relocation to Arkansas

**HOUSTON,** *from A-1*

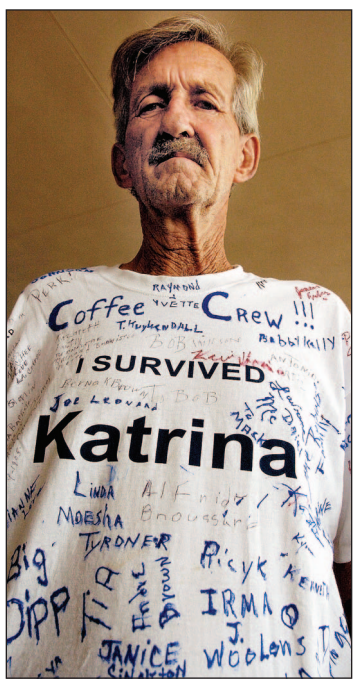
military base. But Harris County, Texas, officials, who absorbed 27,100 evacuees at local shelters during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, said ordering the remaining 4,000 out was for their own safety. The move also would free up manpower to take care of the area's own residents as the storm approached, they said.

Only 240 evacuees had accepted the offer by Tuesday afternoon; many others decided to find apartments or shelter elsewhere, officials said.

"If they want to go somewhere else, they are free to do so," said Coast Guard Lt. Joe Leonard, who has been in charge of the 21-day effort to shelter evacuees at Reliant Park and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

On Tuesday, 10 commercial planes took evacuees from Houston to Fort Chaffee. Leonard said he expected that the last evacuees choosing to go to Arkansas would be flown out today. About 40 who were afraid to fly were taken to the base by bus.

As Louisiana residents learned that Hurricane Rita was threatening the Texas coast, many showed obvious signs of post-traumatic stress. Some stood in front of the Reliant Arena with their bags, unsure where they were going but determined not to be shipped away to Arkansas. Others stood in long lines at the makeshift U.S. Post Office, waiting to change their address to alert family members of their next




Bob Muir of St. Bernard says he made arrangements last week to go to Corpus Christi, Texas — and he was still going, despite the threat of Hurricane Rita.

move.

"I don't have a choice," said Wayne Sylvester, a 9th Ward resident who chose to go to Arkansas. "If I were to stay here, where would I live?"

Three weeks was not enough time to recover from the storm, Sylvester said. "I've been through so much," he said, wearing an "I Survived Katrina" T-shirt. "I'm tired. It's just so hard."

"It's time to go," said Maurice Brown of Violet, who found an apartment Tuesday.

"We had notice that everybody had to leave," Brown said. "It's not like this snuck up on us."

Brown said he used money he received from the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help him.

"People can't stay here forever," Brown said. "They got to realize that. They have to move on."

On Tuesday, residents could be seen packing up the possessions they had managed to accumulate during their stay. They used trash bags, boxes, suitcases and grocery carts to haul away their belongings.

Although they were told late Monday that the Reliant Arena would be vacated by Tuesday night, several evacuees still were in their bed clothes at noon.

Volunteers from the Red Cross and other agencies gingerly prodded them to make a decision.

Roy Grant said he would take his chances in Baton Rouge with his wife and two children.

"It will be an old Army base in Arkansas," Grant said. "That's way too far."

Grant said he was told if he did not go to Arkansas, he would be on his own.

"We are practically on our own now," he said. "Everybody has a lot of tension. They're frustrated."

In addition to the one-way plane ride to Arkansas, flights to and job opportunities in many cities across the nation were posted throughout the shelter.

*See* **HOUSTON,** *A-13*




STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Maurice Brown, right, of lower Violet, and Carl Wright of Uptown New Orleans wait to leave Reliant Arena on Tuesday. Brown said he spent three days trapped in his house after Hurricane Katrina. Wright said he was leaving for Colorado, where he was offered a place to stay.

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# Puncture wounds, falls are common

**INJURIES,** *from A-1*

beer," said Crosby, a 52-year-old Gretna resident.

After eleven days and no tetanus shot, however, Crosby lost two toes to infection and gangrene, said Dr. Brian Cain of West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, residents returning to wrecked homes and streets without traffic signals are showing up at clinics and hospitals with all sorts of injuries that, in other times, would be less common. Rusty nails puncturing feet, ribs broken from amateur repairers falling off roofs and infections from untreated mosquito bites are among the complaints, along with stress and dehydration. While patients with chainsaw injuries — usually a common affliction seen at emergency rooms after a hurricane or major storm — haven't begun to show up en masse, physicians say it's only a matter of time.

Crosby said he thinks he stepped on the nail while walking over storm debris a few days after Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. It punctured his right foot between two toes. A diabetic, Crosby has limited sensation in his feet and didn't know the wound was that serious.

**"Don't wait to get treatment. That's my only regret."**

ELMORE CROSBY, who lost two toes to infection after stepping on a nail from Katrina debris

Dr. Frank Culicchia, a West Jefferson neurosurgeon, has treated five fallen roofers in one week, including one who died from massive head injuries and another who was paralyzed from the waist down.

"It's very dangerous," Culicchia said. "If I've seen five people in one week, imagine how many other injuries are out there that didn't come to the emergency room."

He said homeowners should leave roof repairs to professionals.

But even the slightest scratch could turn into a big concern.

"Simple cuts can become full-blown infections," said Cain, recalling a New Orleans police detective who picked up a severe infection from walking on a blistered foot through floodwaters.

At risk are not only the returning residents, but the remaining rescue workers, law enforcement personnel and anyone else who slogs through contaminated muck, Cain said.

"Don't wait to get treatment," Crosby said Tuesday from his hospital bed at West Jefferson. He was treated only after a friend suggested he get a tetanus shot. "That's my only regret."

Disease also can catch a ride into the human body via mosquitoes — either through bites that become infected or directly from the bugs themselves.

"We don't know what they've been feeding on in this toxic soup," said Kerry Jeanice, clinical manager for the emergency department at West Jefferson Medical Center.

"Animal encounters," a categorical catch-all Jeanice uses to include mosquito, ant, dog and snake bites, as well as cat scratches, are on the rise, he said. Dog bites, in particular, have been pretty nasty, he said. Reports of roaming packs of wild dogs have been common.

Also, residents ripping out wet carpet or removing ruined furniture often aren't drinking enough water, resulting in a rise in dehydration cases, Jeanice said. And the anxiety caused by the hurricane's devastation has jolted those with long-standing heart conditions.

A surprising post-Katrina trend has been the number of motor vehicle-related injuries, said Dr. Joseph Guarisco, director of Ochsner's emergency department. Traffic signals are not functioning in many areas, stop signs are down, and law enforcement agencies aren't focused on traffic control.

"Residents should be careful," Guarisco said. "It's a free-for-all out there."

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- 213,739 BellSouth customers in N.O. area remain without service.
- 85,082 Cox Communications telephone service customers in N.O. area are without service.

### FEDERAL AID
Eight parishes, municipalities and state departments already have received about $218 million in reimbursements, and the remaining approved money should be distributed soon.
New Orleans: $102,837,450
- Louisiana Office of Homeland Security: $70,386,000
- St. Bernard Parish: $31,601,040
- Plaquemine Parish: $4,354,000
- Lafourche Parish: $6,669,000
- Louisiana Department of Transportation: $1,180,075
- Louisiana Department of Public Safety: $348,030
- St. Tammany Parish: $323,609

### PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has urged residents to cancel any plans of returning to the city due to the threat posed by Tropical Storm Rita.
- The city s previously planned announcement for reopening the least-ravaged parts has been postponed indefinitely.
- Algiers residents were allowed to return home Monday but were told they ll need to leave again.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
- FEMA office opened Monday in Slidell. Office is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at John Slidell Municipal Park, 105 Robert Road.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Street-cleaning crews worked throughout the weekend. Gas, food, utility services not available. Plan to allow residents back postponed until threat of Hurricane Rita passes.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Some parts of parish still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open; utilities working.

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
Parish is open; utilities working.

### SCHOOL OPENINGS
**ORLEANS PARISH**
Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next. Teachers, other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country.

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools.
Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call 225-819-2846 to register.
Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
Public: Oct. 3 target date.
Catholic: Several schools opened Monday. Our Lady of the Lake, Oct. 3.

**ST. BERNARD**
Public: Likely closed for year.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
Public: January target date.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Public: Open
Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin the week of Sept. 26.
Catholic: Open.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Displaced New Orleanian Roy Grant, far left, sits with his son, Roy Hilton, outside the Reliant Arena on Tuesday, waiting for a ride to Baton Rouge. Grant said he didn't know where they would stay in Baton Rouge, but he didn't want to evacuate any farther from home.

## 4,000 refugees told to leave as Hurricane Rita threatens Texas

**HOUSTON,** *from A-11*

In the midst of the chaos of people scrambling to find last-minute places to stay, Carl Wright was at peace Tuesday.

Wright, who lost the use of his legs almost 20 years ago, sat in a wheelchair and waited for a bus ride to the airport. A company had paid to relocate him to Colorado Springs, Colo., he said.

Wright, who used his upper body to pull himself and his wheelchair into the attic and then onto the roof of his Uptown home, said he won't be returning to New Orleans.

"I don't want to go anywhere near water again," he said.

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Tara Young can be reached at youngster2574@yahoo.com.

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Southland Mall, 5953 W. Park Ave., (985) 804-2355
Kenner, 1000 W. Esplanade Ave., Ste. 106, (504) 468-8334
Larose, 115 W. 10th St., (985) 798-2323
Metairie, 2701 N. Causeway Blvd., (504) 835-1105
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# Bush praises decision to halt residents' return

HURRICANE, *from A-1*

or early Saturday, forecasters said it could hit anywhere between Mexico and southeast Louisiana. Gov. Kathleen Blanco warned people in shelters in southwest Louisiana to be ready to head north instead of west.

About 175 buses were standing by to help about 4,200 Katrina evacuees in Lake Charles and Lafayette evacuate again, said Lt. Col. Bill Doran of the Louisiana National Guard.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announced Tuesday that he and federal and state officials will proceed with a plan to evacuate the few residents remaining in the city, using 500 buses laden with food and water for people needing transportation.

This time, authorities said, the evacuation will not turn into the debacle that followed Hurricane Katrina, in which tens of thousands of refugees were stranded in miserable conditions at the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center for as long as six days.

"We're learning as we go," Nagin said. "We're a lot smarter this time. We understand what it takes to mobilize away from the threat of a hurricane."

This time, the Superdome and Convention Center will not be staging areas, said Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, commander of the armed forces stationed in the city.

"It ain't going to happen," he said.

As officials fretted about Rita's approach, President Bush made his fourth visit to New Orleans since Katrina to praise work being done to revitalize the local economy, saying it will lead to "a vibrant New Orleans and surrounding parishes."

In an appearance with Nagin at the Folgers coffee plant, which sustained about $20 million in losses because of the storm, Bush talked with contractors and employees, asking some if they had received the promised $2,000 payments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pay for basic needs after an evacuation.

"He asked us individually if we had gotten our money, and those of us who didn't he asked why," said Danny Carreras, whose Arabi house was demolished by Katrina.

At the plant, Bush praised Nagin's decision to put the return to New Orleans on hold in light of Rita's march across the Gulf and possible threat to southeast Louisiana.

"He made a wise decision to say to people, 'Be cautious about returning here,' because a rain of any amount could cause these levees to break again," said Bush, who attended a briefing on Rita with Blanco, Nagin and Honore aboard the USS Iwo Jima.

Bush also visited Gulfport, Miss., before returning to Washington.

The timetable for people to return to New Orleans by ZIP code is in limbo, said Nagin, because electrical service is spotty in some places and potable tap water may not be available for two months, according to Sewerage & Water Board Director Marcia St. Martin.

Algiers residents who had been permitted to move back into their homes Monday were ordered to leave Tuesday, as were business owners who began trickling back into the city over the weekend.

"I know the people of this city have been away from their homes and businesses for three weeks now," Nagin said. "I'm asking you to just hold on for a little longer."

According to Tuesday's National Weather Service tracking maps, Rita seemed poised to strike Galveston, where a 1900 hurricane that killed about 8,000 people, one of the biggest natural disasters in U.S. history.

Even if that forecast holds, New Orleans could have a storm surge as high as 2 feet, said Ed Rappaport, the National Hurricane Center's deputy director.

In Galveston, a coastal city about 40 miles southeast of Houston, officials told residents to begin leaving.

Tuesday was "boarding-up and decision day," city spokeswoman Mary Jo Naschke said.

Rita could reach Category 4 strength today.

Meanwhile, as southeast Louisiana struggled to return to normal after Katrina, Public Service Commission officials announced that power had been restored to about 78 percent of the approximately 900,000 homes that lost electricity.

About 22 percent, or 239,904 households, mainly in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, still lacked power, said Arnold Chauviere, chief of the commission's utility division.

"We would like it to be faster," he said. "Utility companies have hired extra work crews. I think they are doing the best they can under the circumstances."

In New Orleans, 169,308, or 84 percent, of the 201,369 Entergy customers who lost power still did not have it Tuesday, 22 days after Katrina struck.

Eighty percent of Entergy's Plaquemines Parish customers and 99 percent of St. Bernard Parish households had power, he said.

Chauviere said 213,739 BellSouth customers and 85,082 Cox Communications customers still were without phone service.

• • • • • •

Staff writers Ed Anderson, Frank Donze, Michelle Krupa and Gordon Russell and The Associated Press contributed to this report.



President Bush autographs a can of coffee for Folger's coffee employee Emory Zimmer, left, during a tour of the company's plant on Almonaster Boulevard in eastern New Orleans on Tuesday. Bush praised Mayor Ray Nagin for suspending plans to return residents to the city.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

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**PAYROLL & BENEFITS**

- Payroll and benefits to be retained by all eligible employees through December 6, 2005.
- Co-payments and employee contributions on medical, dental and prescription drug claims are being waived.
- "Out of Network" restrictions on doctors and pharmacies have been lifted.
- 401K contributions will continue to be matched.
- A commitment by Beau Rivage to rehire employees when the resort reopens.

**BEAU RIVAGE RECOVERY CENTER**

- Now opened in the Beau Rivage employee parking lot.
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- Assist employees to secure jobs with companies restoring and rebuilding at the resort and throughout the Gulf Coast area.
- Job opportunities matching employees with open positions at other MGM MIRAGE properties.
- Direct Internet access provided to the American Red Cross and FEMA.
- Meals from an on-site Dining Hall.
- Clothing and other appropriate items from the resort's retail warehouses.

**RECOVERY FUND**

- A special Recovery Fund has been established as part of the company's employee-funded Voice Foundation.
- MGM MIRAGE will make an initial donation of $1 million and also will match, without limit, dollar-for-dollar every employee donation made.
- Funds to be devoted to Beau Rivage employees and their families.

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- Waiving Chase and Bank One fees on other banks' ATM transactions
- Making donations that will be routed directly to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief

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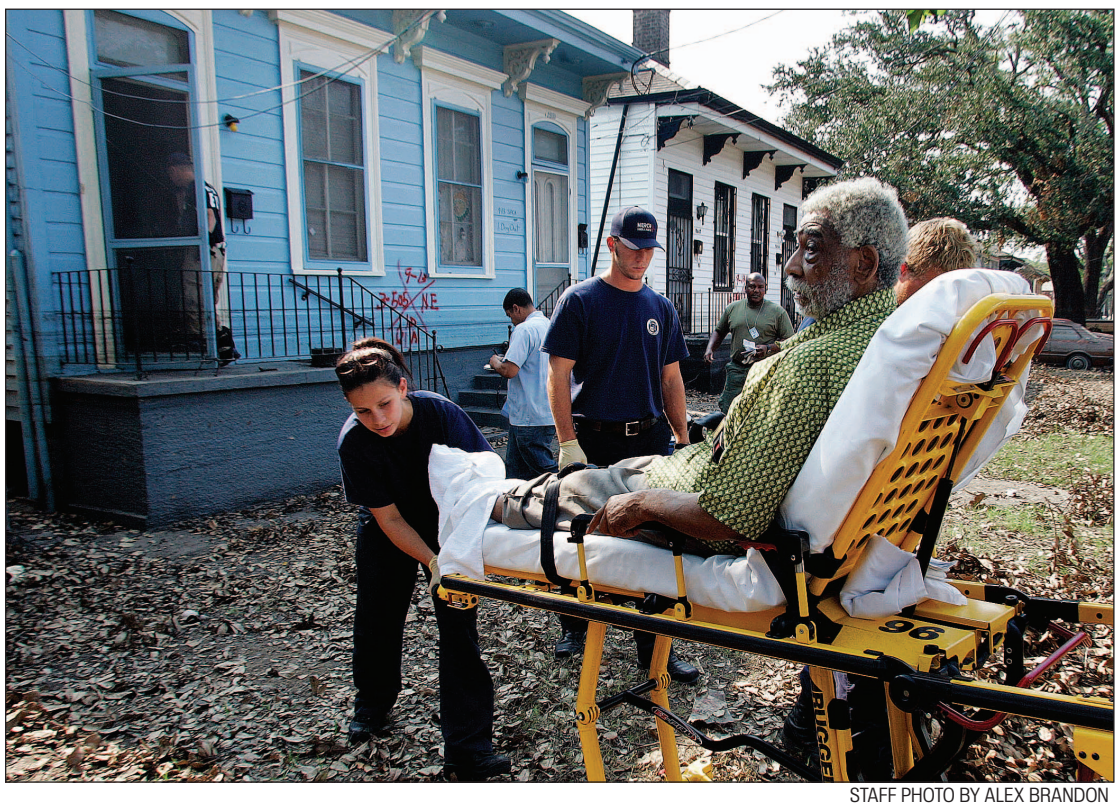
- Emergency Banking Services - restoration services, checkbooks, statements, and wire transfers
- Credit Services - Bridge loans, SBA financing, Loan restructuring, and new loans.
- Business Consulting Services - Business Continuation and Business Succession Planning

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STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Rescue workers take John Lyons, 72, to a waiting ambulance Tuesday after discovering him alive in his Bienville Street home. Lyons rode out Hurricane Katrina with his wife, Leola Lyons, whose body was found in the home. She had been dead for five days, officials said.

# Victory, tragedy emerge from single address

*Man pulled from house, but so is wife's body*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

John Lyons was rescued from his flood-damaged Bienville Street house Tuesday, 20 days after riding out Hurricane Katrina there.

His wife, Leola, wasn't as fortunate. A mortuary team removed her body from the home, where flies massed on a front window screen. She had died five days ago.

Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives found 72-year-old John Lyons in the home, at 2508 Bienville St., after responding to a tip, said Charlie Smith, team leader for the agency's special response team.

The Lyonses appeared to have ridden out the storm in the house, which had a water line showing the flood reached about 3 feet inside the home in the wake of the Aug. 29 storm. The couple apparently stayed there ever since, Smith said.

Mortuary teams from Kenyon Inc., the private company contracted to retrieve bodies from the flooded and hurricane-ravaged city, pulled the body of Leola Lyons from the home.

"We found the husband alive but her dead," Smith said. "They had been married for 40 years."

The home, one side of a shotgun double, had been marked "NE" in spray paint, apparently indicating that someone had checked the house previously but been unable to enter. The Kenyon team left a different mark – "KEN 1" – indicating the retrieval of one body.

The discovery of a survivor in the city so long after the storm is exceedingly rare. But John Lyons appeared fine, Smith said. He was taken to Ochsner Foundation Hospital.

Smith said the ATF agents were responding to a tip from a worker at Snee Chemical in Harahan.

"The guy asked me to check on his sister," Smith said.

Smith let the mortuary team take over the scene once John Lyons was rescued.

"I didn't go into the house. I had no desire," Smith said. "He came to the door. That was good enough for me."

# Orleans lawyers are asked to contact federal courts

*Communication center established in Lafayette*

**From staff reports**

The federal courts in Louisiana are trying to track down New Orleans lawyers who have relocated because of Hurricane Katrina, asking them to register with a "communications center" set up in Lafayette.

Gary Zwain, appointed by a court order to oversee the operation, said Tuesday that lawyers need to be contacted so that cases can be moved forward.

There are 5,934 cases pending before the Eastern District federal court, based in New Orleans, almost all of which involve New Orleans lawyers. In addition, about half to three-quarters of the 9,441 cases in the U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge involve New Orleans attorneys, while lawyers from the city were involved in another 600 to 700 cases in the U.S. District Court in Lafayette.

Lawyers with the larger firms in New Orleans, many of which also have offices in other cities, will likely be able to quickly get back on their feet and assess the status of their cases. But solo practitioners could need additional help in rebuilding damaged case files and figuring out when they can be ready for hearings and trial, Zwain said.

"We are trying to put together criminal defendants and their lawyers," he said. "A lot of criminal lawyers do not work as part of a large firm. That is going to be a big job."

Attorneys are asked to contact the communications center at (337) 235-2444 or (866) 456-8297 or visit www.laspecialmaster.com. The center will forward the collected contact information to the federal courts.

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EDITORIALS • B-8

SECTION B
Wednesday
September 21, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Grandma's legacy is storm-proof

When my grandmother died, there was no reading of the will, no made-for-television moment, no surviving relatives anxiously awaiting word of whether she had favored them with a monetary remembrance.

For most of her life my grandmother cleaned other people's houses. What money she did make in those days of post-slavery wages, she invested in the education of her three girls. She wanted to be sure that they could "earn some bread without scrubbing floors."

A few years before her death in 2002, my mother bought my grandmother a set of bedroom furniture. Each piece featured a marble top and pickled wood sides. I bought a piece and added it to the set.

By then, my grandmother's fading health had made it clear that she wouldn't live forever. But I figured that set of furniture, a nicer one than she had ever owned before, might be our inheritance. I imagined future generations saying, "that furniture belonged to your great, great grandmother."

That furniture spent several days in Hurricane Katrina's waters. It's certainly damaged and probably ruined. And it's unlikely to be handed down much further.

### Living legacy

So what did Lucille Crump Moore leave us?

We inherited the Crumps on Maringouin Bayou, the descendants of General and Celie Crump. We inherited the old tales of how General Crump, owned his own land and had the newspaper read to him because he himself couldn't read.

We inherited the bonds my grandmother nurtured to those people and to this small place several miles west of Baton Rouge.

We inherited Dot Stewart, who looks more like my grandmother than any of my grandmother's own children.

We inherited Cousin Sis and her determination to take control of any situation and her brother, Benny, whose graying hair is the only clear indication that he has aged since those summers that I spent in Maringouin 30 years ago.

We inherited Doris Steele with her warm smile and welcoming attitude. And we inherited her husband, Uncle Melvin, who left Virginia decades ago, fell in love with this woman and this place, and never looked back.

### Warm port in a storm

It is to these people that we fled in advance of Hurricane Katrina's winds and waters.

They welcomed us with succotash made from fresh-picked okra and with a bond forged generations ago by people who seemed to know that this moment of emergency might come.

As thoughts of a quick return home gave way to the reality that it would be weeks, perhaps months, before we could return to New Orleans, they made provisions to make our extended stay comfortable.

Had I gotten my wish, had my grandmother left me expensive jewelry or the money to buy a shiny sports car, my inheritance might well have vanished in the raging waters of the storm.

But my inheritance is very much intact. And it is unlikely to be tarnished by anything as fleeting and fickle as inclement weather.

# SEEING WHAT CAN BE SAVED

## *A tour of New Orleans Episcopal churches finds few undamaged*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

The first moments inside the shuttered, once-flooded St. Luke's Episcopal Church on North Dorgenois Street Tuesday did not bode well.

The air was still and dank, heavy with mildew.

Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, the leader of the Episcopal Church USA, Louisiana Bishop Charles Jenkins, and a small party of Episcopal relief officials could see the water marks shin-high against the ends of the pews.

But then, a gift.

Walking up the center aisle, they found the altar high and dry on its platform, still set for a Sunday service.

Three weeks after wind, flood and widespread looting sparked by Hurricane Katrina, St. Luke's remained locked, pristine, unviolated.

The altar's heavy gold candlesticks flanked a golden chalice and a Missal for the recitation of the Mass. Cruets containing water and wine, with another chalice, stood unmolested in a nearby alcove.

And off the sanctuary, the sacristy proved to be intact. The sacred golden vessels Episcopalians use in worship stood where they had been left.

"This is good," said Elvia James, the little church's senior warden. "This isn't bad. We can survive this, with God's help."

The experience at St. Luke's was a slight lift in a grim tour of Episcopal churches in New Orleans. None was undamaged.

A few, like the Church of the Annunciation on South Claiborne near Napoleon Avenue, were devastated.

St. Paul's in Lakeview stood on dry ground for the first time in weeks. But a waterline eight feet up the exterior wall suggested what would be inside the still-locked church.

The landmark Christ Church Cathedral on St. Charles Avenue did not flood, but took rain damage when a skylight over the altar shattered.

The best of the lot, appearing to have only minor roof damage, was the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, a facility for students at the nearby University of New Orleans.

The tour was Griswold's chance to see Katrina's devastation first-hand. It began Monday in Ocean Springs, where the storm demolished homes and businesses and swept their slabs broom-clean. In New Orleans, he found

*See* **CHURCH,** *page B-2*



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, the leader of the Episcopal Church USA, and Louisiana Bishop Charles Jenkins tour St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lakeview on Tuesday. Several feet of water damaged both the church and the school. The pair also toured other churches in the area, surveying the damage.



As Bishop Frank Griswold looks on, Bishop Charles Jenkins hugs Elvia James, senior warden of St. Luke's, a Mid-City church, which suffered minor damage from Katrina.

# 'It was mass chaos'

## *Strains from storm drive nurse to brink*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

On her sixth straight night in Methodist Hospital in eastern New Orleans Elizabeth "Liz" Welch, a registered nurse, was near the breaking point.

She was dehydrated, hungry, exhausted. She had been caring for patients under nightmarish conditions. She had contemplated, even anticipated, her own death. But when relatives of patients began to rebel against their caregivers and nearly rioted, her resolve crumbled.

"This so broke my spirit," she wrote later in an online journal that documents the experience, it "made me wonder if I was even in the right profession."

Welch, a LaPlace resident, had packed clothing and headed to work for her night shift Aug. 27, two days before the hurricane hit. Despite dire predictions, she was prepared to stay through the storm.

At 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 29, "all hell broke loose." Katrina tore off part of the roof, blew out windows and raked rooms of their contents. For the next three hours, she and other staffers helped move patients to interior sections of the building. The power went out, and 8 feet of water engulfed the first floor, swamping its emergency room, morgue, laboratory, pharmacy and cafeteria.

About 120 staff members remained with more than 100 patients and countless relatives and children, who ran around unsupervised. "The place was packed," she said. "It was mass chaos."

Still, Welch tried to be professional, even as power failed, temperatures spiked and toilets backed up. "That night was hell. Absolute hell," she wrote. Patients cried for help. Welch was one of three nurses caring for about 25 patients, giving them head-to-toe assessments. They made their rounds together to conserve flashlight batteries and waited for sunrise to write up charts.

*See* **HERO,** *page B-2*

HURRICANE HEROES

*Methodist Hospital nurse saw patients 'pour their souls out'*



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Registered nurse Elizabeth 'Liz' Welch was one of three nurses caring for about 25 patients at Methodist Hospital in eastern New Orleans as Hurricane Katrina roared through, causing power to fail, temperatures to spike and toilets to back up.

# Storm doesn't can star's movie plans

## *Quaid vows to keep his film in N.O.*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

It was one of those only-in-New Orleans celebrity sidewalk encounters, post-Katrina style. But, in some small way, it may help revive the city's reputation as Hollywood South.

An impromptu meeting between actor Dennis Quaid and New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass on Tuesday ended with a commitment by Quaid to return to New Orleans as the site of his next movie. The only catch: Compass wants a walk-on role.

**"If there's any way we can do it here, I want to do it here. This is the place that really needs it."**
DENNIS QUAID
actor

"Get me in there, brother, even if it's as an extra," Compass told the actor as the two hugged and posed for pictures at the police staging area at Harrah's New Orlean sCasino.

Quaid had been set to begin filming his self-penned "Shame on You" in New Orleans later this year, but the hurricane scuttled those plans. Location crews had been scouting replacement sites in Shreveport and Baton Rouge, Quaid said.

But after landing in the city on a relief mission Monday night, Quaid said he is determined to return to New Orleans to shoot his film, which he is directing himself.

"Can we get in here by Jan. 1?" he asked Compass. "If there's any way we can do it here, I want to do it here. This is the place that really needs it."

Quaid, the son of an electrician who was born and raised in Houston, said he has carried a soft spot for New Orleans since starring in the 1987 film "The Big Easy," which filmed in the city.

"I've spent about a year of my life here between the four movies I've filmed," he said. "I can't imagine how devastated people must feel."

Quaid said he was in town to bring medical supplies and money in support of International Hospital for Children, the non-

*See* **QUAID,** *page B-2*

**"The rebuilding of this city has to be open, and it has to be collaborative."**

CHARLES JENKINS, Louisiana Bishop

# 'We can come back as the Las Vegas of the South'

**CHURCH,** *from B-1*

churches and neighborhoods first pummeled, then drowned.

As the leader of the 2.4 million-member church, Griswold's mission was part fact-finding – but only partly.

"I'm just 'being with' – being with the bishop, with clergy, with people and whoever wants to see me," he said.

In his storm tours, Griswold said he was urging clergy to care for their people, but to beware "exaggerated generosity" – a regard for others so complete that it neglects self. Like a chaplain to chaplains he reminded them "that we have to take care of ourselves too. As we look out for others, we have to be gentle with ourselves."

In coming weeks, he said, he would tell the national church that its moment was coming to render help. After the first wave of emergency help recedes, New Orleans will find itself downshifting for a long, marathon slog largely out of the eye of the sympathetic public.

That will be the church's call to step in with longer term relief to victims, neighborhoods and churches, he said.

Jenkins, meanwhile, surveyed his churches as pastor of a battered diocese of 20,000 persons in 52 churches – most of them damaged.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

A book languishes outside St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lakeview on Tuesday. The church has a water line eight feet up the exterior.

In recent months, his name has been floated as a possible replacement for Griswold next year. Earlier this year, Jenkins agreed to submit to a vetting process by a national search committee selecting nominees to stand for election to succeed Griswold.

Now, Katrina's destruction of his diocese has prompted him to rethink any notions of national office, he said.

For the moment, nothing is clear, he said, except the need to rebuild New Orleans as a better, more equitable, more open city.

"The people of this city need to hold the captains of industry, their political leaders and their religious leaders accountable," he said.

"The rebuilding of this city has to be open, and it has to be collaborative.

"We can come back as the Las Vegas of the South. We have a wonderful opportunity here. As wonderful as Mardi Gras is – and it's wonderful – we can't base our economy on Mardi Gras."

# 'Everyone cried and lost it at some point'

**HERO,** *from B-1*

The nurses dispensed with the dress code, and Welch began working in pajamas and flip-flops. Outside the window, an apartment building had been consumed with fire; the Pep Boys' roof was in shambles. She saw a snake chasing fish through the parking lot. Slivers of vehicles were visible above the water's surface like curved backs. The breezeway was submerged.

By Wednesday night, Aug. 31, the stink inside – from stopped toilets and the sweat of bodies - was overwhelming. A doctor confiscated a bedside commode and ordered everyone to use biohazard bags for their waste. They were running out of water, and the nurses limited their intake to ½ glass per day. When patients took pills, they were given only a sip. Welch had barely slept – only a few hours scattered over several days – and she ate only a few peanut butter crackers she had brought from home.

After the generator in the ICU went out, staff took turns "bagging" patients on ventilators by hand, helping them to breathe. Patients began to die, and a new morgue was set up in the operating room. There was no way to contact families of the deceased. It was a dreadful, soul-wrenching situation for those whose profession is dedicated to saving lives.

"Everyone cried and lost it at some point," Welch wrote. "Things got miserable."

After seeing a body in the water, she sent a text message by cell phone to friends, asking them to prepare a decent funeral for her. "I believed I was going to die. Everyone did. We had daily prayer ... we sang 'Amazing Grace.' I wanted to believe God would save us. It was getting hard to have faith. Very hard."

Still, there were hopeful signs. Welch could see people waiting on roofs to be rescued, and when helicopters retrieved them, everyone around her cheered. Military helicopters began to evacuate patients, and eight to 10 of the strongest men on staff carried the heaviest patients through stairwells. The hospital's parent company, University Health Services, also sent helicopters, and they later began to take staff members with small children.

But in the predawn hours Sept. 2, the relatives of patients thought they were being left behind. They believed promised evacuations were lies; they became abusive.

Welch and her colleagues were trying to sleep in chairs in the middle of a hallway. A flashlight shone in her eyes. "There are our nurses," a voice behind it said. "If we see them leave, I will stab one."

The nurses tried to reassure everyone that they would not be abandoned. But many were still agitated.

"My professionalism just about flew out the window," Welch said. She thought about the sacrifices she had made for patients and members of their families who took refuge in the hospital. She had given up food, sleep, water; it seemed those she helped were turning against her.

On the seventh day came deliverance. The nurses went to the roof for evacuation, where cold water and Cokes were waiting. They were flown to Northshore Regional Medical Center in Slidell, took showers and cooled off in air conditioning powered by a generator. Welch was bussed by UHS to Dallas, where she began to reassemble the pieces of her life.

Now home in LaPlace, Welch misses her colleagues, with whom she strengthened bonds during their horrible trial.

"I saw them sweat, bleed, cry, pray, pour their souls out," she wrote. "I still cry every night, thinking of what would have happened, what did happen and what is going to happen."

She is thinking of finding work at a travel agency, perhaps in Shreveport. People have been telling her she saved lives, but Welch doesn't feel like a hero.

"We did what we did," she said. "We did what we could do."

• • • • • •

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.

**"It will be a long process of rebuilding the park but it will be done.'**

SHARON BROUSSARD, spokeswoman for the Office of State Parks in Baton Rouge

# Tammany's Fontainebleau closed as park rebuilds

*Thousands of trees down, several camps destroyed,*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

The facilities at Fontainebleau State Park near Mandeville were nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, and the park will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

Three group camps scattered among the park's sprawling grounds between Bayou Castine and Cane Bayou were reduced to rubble and will have to be rebuilt.

The sandy beachfront and nearby Olympic-size swimming pool were destroyed.

Toppled throughout the park were thousands of trees, including the hardiest of pines that had survived a severe pine beetle infestation a decade ago.

Cleanup work is under way, but the amount of downed trees makes it difficult to get around the grounds of the 2,800-acre park.

"It will be a long process of rebuilding the park but it will be done," said Sharon Broussard, spokeswoman for the Office of State Parks in Baton Rouge.

It's too early to put a price tag on the damage, Broussard said.

All of the park's camping sites were heavily flooded by the storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain, and they are still littered with storm debris. In addition, the electrical wiring and campsite power connections will have to be checked and likely rewired before visitors can use them again, Broussard said.

The storm also caused extensive damage to a new wetlands walkway that afforded visitors views of birds, wildlife and sweeping vistas of the lake and adjacent marsh, including summer and fall sunsets. That will also be repaired, Broussard said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHUCK COOK

Thousands of downed trees in Fontainebleau State Park were felled by Hurricane Katrina's strong winds as park officials conduct controlled burns of the lumber remnants.

Also gone are the pavilions used during the summer months for elaborate group picnics by busloads of visitors who visit the park on weekends.

Ironically, Fontainebleau's current $7.9 million expansion project fared much better. It includes creation of 10 raised cabins at the lakeshore near Bayou Castine.

Contractors had completed framing all 10 cabins and installed windows before Katrina, but they had not begun interior work that included drywall and plywood.

"In retrospect, that was good, because had the interior work been done, it would have been ruined, so we won't lose too much time," Broussard said. Windows were blown out, but only minor damage was inflicted to the cabin exteriors.

Pylons that had been installed for a beachfront pier survived the storm. Only the foundation work had been done on a planned visitor's center, so that work will not be slowed, Broussard said.

"We have no power yet at the park except at the office just off U.S. 190, so we cannot even open (the park) to rescue workers or for storm evacuees still seeking refuge," Broussard said.



Fontainebleau State Park Ranger Greg Thomas walks past a park bench buried by sand from Lake Pontchartrain , a victim of Hurricane Katrina's powerful storm.

But on Louisiana 22 east of Madisonville, Fairview-Riverside State Park should reopen in about two weeks and will be available for evacuees to use for camping – free of charge – until the end of October.

Otis House, the park's centerpiece, was not damaged. Several trees fell and camping areas were flooded but they have since dried out and cleared of most debris.

The state's newest park, Tickfaw State Park in Tangipahoa Parish, will reopen in a few days, Broussard said, and will also be offered to evacuees free of charge until the end of October.

# Actor visited N.O. after storm

**QUAID,** *from B-1*

profit organization he helped launch with a local doctor. The group usually provides assistance to children in Latin America, but "this is the place that needs the help now," Quaid said.

Quaid, who saw Katrina's devastation during a drive through the city Tuesday, compared the destruction to what he saw in New York City after Sept. 11, only bigger.

"It's so widespread. It's just so huge," he said.

The actor, known for marquee roles in films such as "Everybody's All American" and "The Right Stuff," said he is convinced the city will bounce back.

"One thing I do know about this city is that people have spirit," he said. "It's going to come back strong."

# Cable TV still off for 25,000 in Tammany

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

Cable television service to most of St. Tammany Parish should be restored within one to two weeks, a spokesman for Charter Communications told local officials Tuesday.

But some areas of rural northern St. Tammany, including Folsom, Sun and Bush, could be without the service for four to six weeks, according to James A. Laurent Jr., Charter's director of government relations in Louisiana.

"In those areas, we still need our pole routes (for cable lines) restored," he said.

He said about 25,000 of Charter's 90,000 customers in the parish still are without cable services.

Service has been restored to the area around the parish government complex on Koop Drive north of Mandeville, and Access St. Tammany, the parish government's information channel, should be back on the air in two to three days.

Cleco officials reported Tuesday that 88 percent of its customers in St. Tammany have electricity. They said the company's goal is to have power available by Monday to every home and business in the parish capable of accepting electricity.

A spokeswoman for Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative said Tuesday that 77 percent of its customers in St. Tammany Parish have electricity. There are 5,792 customers in St. Tammany who do not have power, utility marketing manager Coylean Gilmore said.

The reports by the utilities were made during Tuesday's briefing of local, state and federal officials working on recovery efforts in St. Tammany.

In other news, Causeway Police Chief Felix Loicano said the southbound span of the Causeway will be closed to traffic from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily through Oct. 3 because of a curfew in Jefferson Parish. Jefferson officials have informed Causeway officials that the parish's curfew will be in effect until at least that date, Loicano said. The southbound span across Lake Pontchartain from Mandeville to Metairie will be limited to emergency traffic during those hours, he said.

# Algiers church opens doors and hearts to those in need

*A reverend's mission now feeds hundreds*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank Bureau

The day after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, throwing the New Orleans area into chaos, the Rev. James Brown opened St. Mary's Church in Algiers just as he has done three times a week for eight years.

There would be impoverished and homeless people to feed.

That day, he and 15 church volunteers served 19 people.

Now, about 500 people line up for free hot lunches, served daily from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the community center at 3815 General Meyer Ave.

"How you doing, sir? Got an appetite?" volunteer Carey Peyton, the church's minister of music, asked an elderly man who walked in out of Tuesday afternoon's sweltering heat.

"I got a little one," the man replied with a chuckle before getting in line for lunch.

"The needs motivate me," Brown said. "I see needs. That's why I didn't leave (during Katrina). I knew there would be a lot of needy people."

Churches nationwide have heard of Brown's work and have donated food and supplies. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have donated cleaning supplies for distribution. The military has chipped in water, ice and military MRE's (Meals, Ready to Eat). An Army major general and colonels have visited and agreed to lend support, Brown said. California National Guard soldiers provide security and help in the kitchen.

The church has garnered national and international media attention, attracting the interest of a private group in Israel that shipped cases of clothing to St. Mary's for distribution.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

The Rev. James Brown assists volunteers in unloading boxes of clean-up kits donated by the Salvation Army on Tuesday. Since the day after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, Brown and members of his church have been serving hot meals and providing supplies to community members in need.

George Rainey, owner of Rainey's Restaurant and Catering in Algiers which is known for its gumbo, began running the kitchen nine days after Katrina passed. With his business temporarily closed, Rainey said his philosophy is that businesses rely on communities, so during a crisis, businesses should serve the community. But he deflected attention to Brown.

"He's a miracle to Algiers," Rainey said of Brown.

"He took it on himself," state Sen. Francis Heitmeier, D-Algiers, said of Brown's community service. "When you talk about heroes, this guy is one."

Still, the city of New Orleans has not formally recognized St. Mary's as a "point of distribution," Heitmeier said. Such a designation would open the church as a hub for Federal Emergency Management Agency services and allow the church to recoup its out-of-pocket expenses, Heitmeier said.



Volunteers at Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Algiers have been serving hot meals for more than 500 daily, and the church is providing relief supplies to those who need them.

City Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson is working to get St. Mary's that designation, he said. "This guy needs some assistance," Heitmeier said.

# Food Bank hours, mission expanding

*Covington center now serving 'anybody'*

**By Karen Baker**
St. Tammany bureau

The Covington Food Bank, which is normally open three days a week to provide food to the needy in St. Tammany and Washington parishes, will reopen Thursday at 840 N. Columbia St. with new hours and a new mission.

The Food Bank will now act as the New Orleans area representative for Second Harvesters, according to Food Bank manager Jackie Catalanotto.

That means the Food Bank will provide food for "anybody from anywhere," Catalanotto said. First-time clients will need to bring a Social Security card and a picture ID.

The Food Bank will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon and will provide boxes of food as well as personal-care items, she said.

Volunteers and large boxes are needed.

"FEMA sent 10 wonderful firefighters from Kentucky, California and West Virginia to help us," Catalanotto said. They swept, packed supplies and generally helped get the place up and running, she said. She also found plenty of help from her church parish at St. Benedict's, north of Covington.

**"FEMA sent 10 wonderful firefighters from Kentucky, California and West Virginia to help us."**
JACKIE CATALANOTTO
Food Bank manager

"These are bad times," she said, but added that good people are helping one another get through. Someone from Knoxville, Tenn., was in town helping to clear trees and decided to donate $10,000 to the Food Bank, she said.

The All Saints Medical Clinic, which recently opened next to the Food Bank in expanded quarters, also will reopen Thursday for minor medical needs.

The Food Bank and medical clinic operate as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its newly expanded offices on Columbia Street in downtown Covington. Volunteers for the Food Bank and medical clinic are welcome. For more information, call (985) 893-3003.

# Workshop deals with storm fears

**St. Tammany bureau**

A free seminar will be held Saturday in Slidell to aid parents in helping their children deal with fears related to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

"Coping with the Aftermath of Katrina: A Workshop for Parents" will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 360 Robert Blvd.

The workshop will be presented by Dr. Paul Frick, a psychologist and director of Applied Developmental Psychology at the University of New Orleans, and Dr. David Kidder, a psychologist specializing in the evaluation and counseling of children and families.

For more information, call (985) 641-5829.

# TP, WWL-TV to be honored for coverage

*N.O. media kept working in trying conditions*

**From staff reports**

BATON ROUGE – The efforts of The Times-Picayune and WWL-TV to continue providing crucial information to the New Orleans area and its evacuees in the wake of Hurricane Katrina will be honored with this year's Manship Prize for Exemplary Use of Media Technology, LSU officials announced Tuesday.

"The Times-Picayune continued to operate on the World Wide Web, and WWL-TV continued to broadcast even after they were forced to evacuate New Orleans," said John Maxwell Hamilton, dean of LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication. "They were a vital conduit of information for evacuees and others trying to find out what was happening after Hurricane Katrina. Their actions epitomize calm in the face of a storm. They were out but not down."

The two news outlets were faced with reporting one of the largest natural disasters in the nation's history without electricity, telephones or offices. The Times-Picayune turned to its affiliated Web site, NOLA.com, to provide news, photographs, information and a missing persons forum for three days until it could resume publishing a printed version at The Courier in Houma.

The newspaper also provided Web logs for specific sections of flooded areas, allowing Internet users to share information through citizen journalism.

While continuing around-the-clock updates on NOLA.com, The Times-Picayune has shifted printing operations to the Mobile Press-Register, a sister Advance Publications newspaper, and is circulating more than 130,000 copies of the paper in areas where access is available.

WWL-TV used a tower and transmitter at the company's facility in Gretna to remain on the air continuously after the hurricane to provide information to displaced residents. It also streamed all its coverage onto the Internet and then partnered with Louisiana Public Broadcasting for an even broader outreach.

"Publishing and broadcasting are most crucial at times when they are most difficult to do," said Stephen Banning, an assistant professor of mass communication and chairman of the Manship Prize Committee. "The news media are more important than ever during a crisis situation when it is vital that people be informed."

The Manship Prize is sponsored by LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication and financed by an endowment from the Douglas L. Manship family. The Manship School faculty awards the prize annually to someone who has "demonstrated exemplary use of new media technology." Previous winners include Brian Lamb for his work at C-SPAN, Michael Bloomberg for financial reporting on the Internet and Barry Cooper for his work with Black Voices.com.

The prizes will be awarded Sept. 30 during the Manship School of Mass Communication's annual dinner. An event open to the public will be announced at a later date.

# Expecting fiscal famine, Westwego looks to feds

*City seeks a slice of $100 million loan*

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank Bureau

Anticipating drastic drops in sales taxes, fees and fines as the city struggles to resume operations after Hurricane Katrina, Westwego must have financial help if it is to continue as an independent city, Mayor Robert Billiot told the City Council this week.

The council authorized Billiot on Monday to join Jefferson Parish in seeking a $100 million federal disaster loan and gave the mayor permission to seek a separate loan of up to $10 million from the State Bond Commission.

City accountant Jim Butler told officials that FEMA grants will cover additional costs incurred by the city in dealing with the storm and its aftermath, but the federal agency will not pay for lost revenue.

Billiot said substantial losses are expected in coming months in sales taxes, city court fines and Westwego's share of taxes from the Boomtown Casino in Harvey.

In a worst-case scenario, with no outside financial help, "everything would stop, and Jefferson Parish would have to take over" most city services, Billiot said, although he doesn't expect it to come to that.

The City Council's actions mean Westwego can accept part of the $100 million disaster loan sought by Jefferson Parish, although the parish would have the right to designate how that money will be apportioned and spent, Billiot said.

"We'll submit an invoice and they will give us the money," he said. "If we think we need to buy 100 gallons of gas and they think we need only 50 gallons, we get paid for 50 gallons."

Billiot said Westwego must provide local matching money for several high-profile projects, including historic Sala Avenue improvements, a new sewer force main and a farmers-seafood market.

"If the parish says they want us to just continue our daily operations and we can't (spend money to) grow, I will go to the State Bond Commission," the mayor said.

To deal with the city's financial crisis, officials should look at "minimizing costs across the board," Councilman Johnny Shaddinger said. City employees may have to forgo their annual 2 percent raise next year, Billiot said.

The council also passed two resolutions allowing trailers to be used as temporary homes in the city.

One measure will allow residents whose homes are uninhabitable to put small trailers or campers on their property while repairs are made. The permits will be issued for 90 days, and will be renewed if necessary.

The second resolution gave 90-day permits to National Gypsum and Southern Scrap Material companies to place up to 15 trailers on their properties for workers who have lost their homes, because of the importance of those firms to the local economy.

Councilman Ted Munch said National Gypsum manufactures wall board, a commodity that will be essential to the rebuilding of the New Orleans area.

On motion of Nancy LaHaye, seconded by Betty Dinette and carried, the following Resolution was offered:

**RESOLUTION**

This resolution is to certify the existence of an extreme public emergency due to Hurricane Katrina and the resulting damages to the property and school facilities of the Plaquemines Parish School Board and to provide notice of such public emergency as provided by La. R.S. 38:2212D.

**WHEREAS**, due to Hurricane Katrina, the Plaquemines Parish School Board has suffered destruction and damages to its property, including the various schools located within the Parish of Plaquemines; and

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 38:2212D provides that advertisement for public bids shall not apply in cases of extreme public emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, there is need to provide for repairs to the three schools located in Belle Chasse, Louisiana and in the other schools and facilities of the School Board when the sites become available for repairs.

**BE IT RESOVLED AND ORDAINED** that the Plaquemines Parish School Board, at a legally convened special meeting, hereby certifies that an extreme public emergency exists due to the damages and destruction resulting from Hurricane Katrina to all of the schools and other facilities of Plaquemines Parish School Board including, but not limited to, the three school sites located in Belle Chasse, Louisiana and pursuant to said extreme public emergency, the Superintendent of Schools, or its Director of Finance and Management, are authorized to, without the necessity of advertising or complying with the formalities of La. R.S. 38:2212, et seq., to negotiate all contracts necessary to restore all of the schools and facilities of the Plaquemines Parish School Board to operating condition in compliance with all applicable code and regulations to provide for the safety of the students, teachers, and staff upon reopening of the schools and to take all other actions necessary and required to complete the emergency repairs.

**RESOLVED AND ORDAINED** that notice of the provisions in this Resolution shall be published in The Advocate located in the Parish of East Baton Rouge where the School Board's administrative offices are presently located and due to the lack of any newspapers operating in Plaquemines Parish or in the greater New Orleans area.

Upon roll call, in open meeting, the vote on the motion was as follows:

**YEA:** Nancy LaHaye, Anthony St. Philip, Joyce Lamkin, Sharon Branan, Paul Lemaire, Bobby Benefield and Betty Dinette
**NAY:** None
**ABSENT:** Byron Williams and Carlton LaFrance
**ABSTAIN:** None

The motion passed by a vote of seven (7) "Yea" votes, no (0) "Nay" votes, no (0) "Abstentions" and two (2) members "Absent"

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 16th day of September, 2005.

/s/ Sharon Branan
SHARON BRANAN, President
Plaquemines Parish School Board

/s/ James C. Hoyle
JAMES C. HOYLE, Superintendent
Secretary-Treasurer
Plaquemines Parish School Board

# St. Charles rejects video poker stop

*Paradis residents call plan 'death warrant'*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

After impassioned pleas by parish residents, the St. Charles Parish Council on Monday voted down a rezoning proposal that would have paved the way for a video poker truck stop in Paradis.

The truck stop has been a hot issue among Paradis residents since early August, when it was brought to the Planning Commission. Paradis Investment LLC was hoping to use about 10 acres along U.S. 90 for the 24-hour business, which called for about 50 video poker machines and 80 employees.

Under parish law, the land needed to be rezoned from commercial to light industrial to allow the video poker truck stop to be built. In addition, video poker truck stops can be located only along U.S. 90, Louisiana 3127 or U.S. 61 in St. Charles Parish under the law. The council would have had to rezone the 10-acre parcel for Paradis Investment and then issue a special use permit for the building.

Parish residents near the proposed truck stop, and several from other areas, told the council that the plan amounted to spot zoning – a notion disputed by some parish officials - and that gambling would be bad for the community.

"I don't believe you should give up this community for this building," said Ralph White, who lives slightly north of where the truck stop was slated to be built. "If you rezone this thing to M-1, you would be signing the death warrant for this community."

Along with several other residents, White also raised the issue of what would happen to the land if the truck stop closed or was never built. They said any kind of light industrial plant could move into the area and depreciate the quality of life of residents there.

Sandra Morris said she has lived in her quiet community for 45 years and that she fears the truck stop would ruin the lives of families there.

"What good is gambling? Can you tell me?" Morris asked the council during her emotional statement.

But the people trying to build the truck stop said residents were trying to punish them for trying to set up a business that is already allowed in St. Charles Parish. Debbie Dufresne Vial said St. Charles Parish already has two video poker truck stops operating, and another one was approved Monday. She said the truck stop would bring needed economic development to U.S. 90.

In addition, the business would generate about $200,000 annually for the parish through poker revenue alone. The parish already receives more than $500,000 from the more than 220 video poker machines operating in truck stops, lounges and bars, but that amount is far less than several neighboring parishes get, Vial said.

Vial said the truck stop would employ off-duty police officers for continual security and would not create an undue amount of traffic and noise.

## BLOTTING THE BAYOU



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Sheets of absorbent material soak up oil Tuesday in a bayou near Empire. Small oil spills, along with a number of not-so-small spills, dot the landscape in southern Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

# Political fight extends to damaged apartments

*Mayor, officials argue over what to do with holdouts*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

Kenner officials and owners of the storm-damaged Redwood Apartments continued efforts Tuesday to coax about 50 remaining residents into leaving, but only 17 of them boarded a bus bound for a shelter in Baker, north of Baton Rouge.

The apartment complex, normally home to about 1,800 people, has become the latest battleground in a years-old political war between Mayor Phil Capitano, who wants to move the residents to shelter outside Kenner, and Police Chief Nick Congemi, who, with City Councilman Michael McMyne, accuses the mayor of trying to drive working poor people out of the city. The complex's owner, Dorvin Development, barred reporters from the site Tuesday, after several days of seeing the squabble play out in the news media.

Though privately owned, the apartments are governed by federal regulations designed to provide housing for low-income residents.

About 50 residents stayed through Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29, and others have returned since and stayed — even though their apartments in some cases are badly damaged. They say they have no other place to go.

Capitano said he's concerned that the complex is so badly damaged that power cannot be restored to it. He arranged for a bus to take willing residents to Baker.

But McMyne, whose district includes the area, said Kenner should create a temporary shelter for the residents, preferably at the Susan Park Playground gymnasium where troops assisting the city's rescue efforts were housed until today. Many Redwood residents are Hispanic Americans and do not speak fluent English.

"I don't think you can just tell them to leave. I think you need to have a conversation with them so they can make their own decisions," McMyne said.

Capitano countered that the owners of other private apartment complexes damaged by Katrina are refunding deposits to tenants so they can leave and repairs can begin.

"They're telling them that they cannot provide a safe environment, and that's what's happening here," Capitano said.

A variety of relief agencies, including the Kenner Police Department, are delivering food and water to Redwood. Chief Congemi carried the precinct that includes the complex in the March 9, 2004, mayoral election, which he lost to Capitano.

Capitano said state and federal relief agencies have strongly advised him not to open any more shelters, particularly with Hurricane Rita now threatening the Gulf Coast. But he said he can't force Redwood residents to leave.

"We've got another storm bearing down on us, and if we open up a shelter, we're going to be responsible for those people," he said.

Capitano said he did ask the state fire marshal to determine whether the Redwood complex is habitable.

"It is not fit to live in," he said.

# Orleans schools' health benefits stable for now

*'Nobody's having their insurance canceled'*

**From staff reports**

New Orleans public school employees will retain their health insurance coverage even if they are unable to find other temporary employment, said a spokesman for Alvarez & Marsal, the New York turnaround firm working to right the district's finances.

Although the district's current health coverage will remain in effect only through September, "nobody's having their insurance canceled," spokesman Steve Alschuler said Tuesday.

The Alvarez & Marsal team is "working on details of a plan now that will be as helpful to employees as possible in terms of premiums," he added.

Details of that plan should be announced in the next few days, Alschuler said.

The Orleans Parish School Board last week placed all of its employees on emergency leave, effectively terminating pay and benefits other than health insurance. They have been advised to seek temporary employment elsewhere or to apply for unemployment benefits. Workers had previously been instructed to pick up paychecks at Western Union facilities beginning Sept. 14. Those checks were for the payroll that was to have been distributed Sept. 2 but was delayed by Hurricane Katrina. They will get no additional pay until they return to work.

School Board officials said they hope to open some schools by Nov. 1, and they have asked employees who will be available to work at that time to submit applications for reinstatement beginning Sept. 26. Student registration also is scheduled to begin at that time.

Anyone seeking more information should visit www.alvarezandmarsalnops.com or call 1(877)771-5800.


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# St. Charles schools awaiting money promised by FEMA

By John-John Williams IV
River Parishes bureau

Like many Hurricane Katrina survivors, the St. Charles Parish public school district is playing the waiting game.

Since being cleared for $4 million in relief money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the school system has been eagerly awaiting a check. District officials have been given several dates for when the money will arrive. Most recently, they said, they were told it would be in their hands at some point this week.

Initially, St. Charles officials thought the money would arrive in the first wave of relief funding. But harder-hit parishes such as Orleans and Jefferson received the first round of money, said Rochelle Cancienne, director of public information for the district.

What sets St. Charles apart from other districts is that it is open. Classes started last week for students not displaced, and there are plans to allow more than 1,600 displaced students to start classes next week.

Before schools could be opened, more than $2.8 million in repairs had to be completed. District officials hope the FEMA funds will replenish the money used for recovery work.

The district had a fund balance of $12,558,000 on June 2004, officials said. District officials did not know the fund balance Tuesday.

The $2.8 million in damage is expected to increase as the district identifies other storm-related damage not found in initial observations. The $4 million initially requested was an early estimate of total damage, and any remaining money will be returned to FEMA, Cancienne said.

Much of the initial estimate was for cleanup and disposal. The maintenance cost was $735,000.

Several schools also sustained roof damage. One of the hardest-hit schools was the newly built Raymond K. Smith Middle School in Luling, which had $400,000 in damages.

Larry Sesser, executive director of plant operations for the district, said heavy, sustained winds took a lot of the trim off of the building and ripped off a gymnasium door.

"It's going to be a lengthy task," Sesser said about the repair effort. "The roofs are intact. They had an extreme test."

New Sarpy Elementary School in Destrehan received some of the most severe roof damage in the district. Sesser estimated that $80,000 will be needed to repair the school.

It will cost the district $100,000 to replace food lost because of the hurricane.

The district's Satellite Center, which will house vocational programs for high school students, racked up $1 million in damages and delay costs. The district will not be reimbursed for any of those damages because it technically does not own the site. The site still belongs to contractor Aegis Construction.

The completion of the Satellite Center will be pushed back another 20 days, officials said.

"Now we're looking at November," Superintendent Rodney Lafon said. "Happy Thanksgiving."

# Children of displaced teachers find home in St. Charles Parish

By John-John Williams IV
River Parishes bureau

One worry has been eliminated from Wendy Rock's life.

Her Metairie home is filled with mold, forcing her family to live in a friend's house in Luling. Her husband's job at St. Paul Episcopal School in Lakeview is gone. The culprit: an estimated eight feet of water. Rock's son Davidson, 6, attended first grade at the school.

A little relief is on the way for Rock, a counselor at Hahnville High School. Her employer, the St. Charles Parish public school district, has allowed 27 employees displaced by Hurricane Katrina to enroll their children in parish schools for the remainder of the school year.

"The main benefit is that I have a school for him to go to," Rock said of her son. "At this point, I didn't have a school for him to attend. It's nice also that we are all here together as a family."

In the past, teachers who lived outside of the parish could not send their children to St. Charles schools. Consistently ranking among the best in the state in standardized test scores, St. Charles has long been an option for students to get a top-notch education without the costs of private school. But there is a cost associated with a St. Charles Parish education: St. Charles has one of the highest property tax rates in the state.

"This was an effort made to accommodate teachers in need … so that they could continue their jobs and have a place for their kids to go to school," said Rochelle Cancienne, director of public information for the district.

Davidson started Tuesday at Mimosa Park Elementary School in Luling, the third school he has been enrolled in this semester. He attended St. Paul's before Katrina hit and a school in Atlanta when his family evacuated.

Mimosa Park is located near a preschool program where Rock's 4-year-old daughter is enrolled. Both are only a couple of miles from Hahnville High School.

"That's really convenient and easy … to keep the kids close while I'm at work," Rock said. "Those are the main benefits."

The deviation from policy concerns at least one School Board member.

Sunny Savoie said all teachers should be allowed to have their children attend district schools. Savoie said it would create a morale problem among staff if some teachers — displaced or not — were the only ones allowed to send their students to St. Charles schools.

"If we open it (the policy), we open it for everybody," Savoie said at a committee meeting held last week.

"People have been displaced; it's a hardship," said board President Mary Bergeron. "I hope other employees would understand that."

Bergeron also emphasized the financial strain additional students would put on the system.

"If we open it up for everybody, we are not going to be reimbursed for that," Bergeron said.

Teachers who have not been displaced by the storm should not be allowed to send their children to district schools, said board member Alfred Green.

"We are in no way changing the policy," said board member John Smith. "The only thing we are asking is to waive that policy for one year."

There is no plan for the district to waive the policy and allow all teachers to enroll their children in the district, Cancienne said Monday.

The board will vote on the policy tonight at its monthly board meeting at the district's central office in Luling. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

# Hurricane Rita halts St. Bernard reconstruction

By Manuel Torres
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Cleanup and reconstruction efforts came to a halt in St. Bernard Tuesday as contractors began complying with a mandatory evacuation prompted by the threat of Hurricane Rita.

Silence replaced the sounds of bulldozers and emergency vehicles as hundreds of civilians and emergency personnel began leaving the parish. Officials said most nonessential personnel should leave by today. But elected officials said they are waiting to see where Rita heads before deciding if they themselves will evacuate.

Most parish officials rode out Katrina in the parish.

St. Bernard ordered the evacuation late Monday after Blanco told officials that they needed to leave, and the Army Corps of Engineers warned that levees destroyed by Katrina offered little or no protection from any type of storm surge.

With the reconstruction progress suspended, officials turned their attention to their mounting fiscal troubles and put pressure on Entergy to begin restoring power in St. Bernard. The entire parish was flooded by Katrina and power is out throughout the area.

"We don't even have a light bulb turned on here," Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez chastised Entergy for not restoring power to the parish yet. Entergy has said that the transmission lines feeding St. Bernard suffered extensive damage, but the company has indicated that they expect to restore a substation in Arabi by the end of this week. Rodriguez said officials are primarily concerned with returning power to the parish's two refineries.

Parish officials are also trying to find ways to pay for their expenses and keep government functioning. The parish has received over $31 million from FEMA, and Rodriguez said they might also be able to tap reserves accumulated to build a new water plant.

"We should be able to make payroll and be alright," he said.

At the sheriff's office, Sheriff Jack Stephens painted a much bleaker picture. He said his department paid employees Tuesday, but he said he needs a cash infusion of at least $800,000 to make payroll for his 400 employees two weeks from now.

Stephens said that while he is seeking FEMA's help, he has asked the state to help him secure a private loan.

The crisis in the sheriff's office underscores the fiscal hit local governments suffered after Katrina, which in St. Bernard wiped out practically the entire sales tax base and destroyed many of the properties that generate taxes that pay for many public services.

Stephens, who acts as the parish tax collector, said that with almost all parish residents displaced, he doesn't even know where to mail tax bills that were to be sent out next month.

"Even if we had addresses, most people will not be able to pay the bill," he said.

On top of trying to pay for daily expenses, government entities are trying to replace equipment Katrina destroyed. Stephens said his department will need about $6.5 million to replace 70 of the department's 110 vehicles and other equipment that flooded.

As he lamented his situation, and pondered whether his office will be reimbursed for expenses caused by Katrina, Stephens compared the situation to a patient waiting for medical test results.

"It's like doing a biopsy," he said, "and not getting the results to see if you have cancer or not."

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Employment

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Employment

4170 Miscellaneous

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# Displaced officials drop anchor on cruise ship

*But St. Bernard 'home' far from luxurious*

**By Paul Rioux**
Staff writer




More than 400 people are staying in the Scotia Prince as they help clean up St. Bernard Parish. Parish President Henry 'Junior' Rodriguez and his wife, Evelyn, are among those staying on the ship.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

With virtually every structure in St. Bernard Parish destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by Hurricane Katrina, finding a place for local officials and cleanup workers to live was a difficult task.

But a recently de-mothballed cruise ship has provided temporary shelter for a place with a desperate need for it.

The Scotia Prince is home to more than 400 people who are helping clean up the mess Katrina made of the parish. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to pay $52,000 a day to keep the 470-foot ship docked at the Chalmette slip for six months, with an option for three more months.

While the Scotia Prince is not a posh, top-of-the-line cruise ship, those who now call it home are happy to have it in St. Bernard.

"It sure ain't the Carnival Cruise line, but we were pretty desperate for housing," said Larry Ingargiola, the parish's director of emergency preparedness. "You could have brought us a pirogue with a bed in it and we would have taken it."

He said the ship is a stop-gap measure as parish officials build a trailer city near the government complex on Judge Perez Drive to house firefighters, sheriff's deputies, parish employees and others helping to rebuild the parish.

The six-month contract will cost $9.5 million, which is being billed directly to FEMA, Ingargiola said. The three-month option would cost another $4.75 million.

While everyone onboard seems grateful to have a place to sleep and three hot buffet-style meals a day, some say the vessel seems more like a glorified ferry than a cruise ship. And they have a point.

Built in 1972 in Yugoslavia, the ship served as an overnight ferry from Portland, Maine, to Nova Scotia, with a 200-car capacity. The eight-deck vessel was lengthened and refurbished to serve as a cruise ship in 1987 by Prince of Fundy Cruises.

The ship's captain declined to be interviewed, but a crew member said the Scotia Prince had been dry-docked for an extended period before it was hurriedly cleaned and supplied in Miami and sent to the St. Bernard Port.

After the ship arrived last week, it took several days for the crew to work out some kinks. Most notably, the air-conditioning system kept shutting down, leaving "passengers" lying awake at night in the heat.

Also, some of the cabin door locks had become difficult to open because of inactivity.

One of the ship's two "suites" is reserved for Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez and his wife, Evelyn. "It was nice. It even has a tub," Evelyn Rodriguez said. "But we only stayed there one night because I have a little claustrophobia."

Claus Boettcher of Pinneberg, Germany, found ample space for his 6-foot-5 inch frame in the cabin he shares with three men from the Federal Agency for Technical Support, a German agency helping repair the parish's water pumps.

Before arriving at the Scotia Prince on Sunday, he had been staying on a naval ship with up to 30 people in a cramped barracks-style room. "The distance between the tip of your nose and the bunk above you was approximately 30 centimeters," or about a foot, he said.

Besides a little extra nose room, the ship offers a few other amenities. The duty free shop has been turned into an American Red Cross commissary to dispense toiletries, snack food and clothing. The casino has satellite phones and wireless Internet access. But the most popular spot is the Concorde Dining Room, where a recent lunch offering included beef tips, tuna melt sandwiches and steamed vegetables.

"The food is pretty good," Parish Councilwoman Judy Hoffmeister said. "It sure beats an MRE."

# U.S. asked to finance N.O. health facilities

*LSU can't afford to replace Charity*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The federal government is being asked to foot the bill for temporary medical units in New Orleans until new facilities can be built to replace Charity Hospital, which officials said likely will be declared a total loss as a result of Hurricane Katrina-related damage.

The requests, made during meetings Tuesday with White House and congressional officials, calls for the Pentagon to provide the USS Comfort, a Navy hospital ship, to be used as a temporary replacement for Charity Hospital. The USS Comfort has been deployed off the Gulf Coast, but is now being sent offshore to ride out approaching Hurricane Rita.

Dwayne Thomas, the chief executive officer for Charity, now known as the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans, said the federal government is also being asked to provide portable military medical field hospitals to take over medical care when the Comfort is deployed elsewhere.

There was no immediate comment from the Navy or White House, but Thomas and Donald Smithburg, vice chancellor and CEO of the LSU health care system, which operates Charity, said they got a sympathetic ear from the Bush administration and members of Congress.

"How many will stay, how many will repatriate to New Orleans has yet to be determined," Smithburg said. "But we know we have a responsibility to care for the underinsured, the uninsured."

Smithburg said that even before Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, officials were planning for a replacement facility because it was aging building that has been deteriorating. Given the hurricane's impact on the LSU system's revenue picture, he said, the system is no longer able to join in the financing and is looking for the federal government to provide the entire $750 million cost of building a new medical center in New Orleans, along with a new facility in Baton Rouge, budgeted for another $600 million to $700 million.

William Jenkins, chancellor of the LSU system, said doctors, nurses and orderlies performed "heroically" as Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, continuing to treat Charity patients despite a loss of power, and dwindling supplies of food and medicine while awaiting an evacuation that took five days to complete.

Thomas said the hospital has been the only source of medical care to tens of thousands of New Orleans residents who lack health insurance, and those numbers are likely to rise as people return to the city, in many instances without their previous jobs or homes.

"I do believe that they will return, and we will be there to serve them," Thomas said.

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The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

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# Rita has offshore workers packing up again

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

Energy companies in the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday continued evacuating workers and halting production in preparation for Hurricane Rita.

For Stone Energy, the task is discouraging. Stone had returned to about 80 percent of its production capacity in the three weeks since Hurricane Katrina churned through the Gulf. Now the company is faced with perhaps losing any gains it had made while production is stopped for as long as four days, said Kenneth Beer, the company's chief financial officer.

"With Rita, everyone is going to have to come off the platforms again," Beer said. "Obviously from a safety standpoint and security standpoint, it's the right thing to do. But with energy prices so high, it's hard to turn off the tap."

Stone isn't alone. Majors and independents throughout the Gulf, including Shell Oil, Chevron Corp. and BP PLC, continued to evacuate Tuesday with the approach of Rita, which grew Tuesday to a Category 2 storm.

According to a report released by the Minerals Management Service, 136 platforms and 15 rigs were evacuated in the Gulf as of Tuesday afternoon. The amount of oil flow that was halted, or "shut in," corresponded to about 58 percent of daily production in the Gulf and nearly 35 percent of daily natural gas production.

On Friday, before news of then-Tropical Storm Rita was widespread, 56 percent of daily oil and 34 percent of daily natural gas production remained shut in following Katrina.

Since Aug. 26, about 26 million barrels of oil and 120 billion cubic feet of gas have remained shut in. That's equal to Gulf oil and gas production of 4.7 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

Beer said the current shut-in could cost Stone about $8 million over four days of lost revenue. That doesn't include such costs as hiring helicopters and boats to move personnel ashore.

"The big, big cost is, we're not able to produce and get revenue for four days worth of volume. (Four days) is a big number right now," Beer said.

For Marathon Oil, the shutins will be a step in the wrong direction. Just one of the four platforms the company operates in the Gulf escaped damage from Hurricane Katrina. That one, its largest, had started producing again during the Labor Day weekend and had reached its daily maximum production capability of 17,000 barrels of oil and 17.5 million cubic feet of gas.

It was evacuated Tuesday.

Dominion Resources, which has several undamaged platforms in the Gulf and has received clearance from the MMS to resume production, has not done so because it has nowhere to send its product, said David Auchter, a company spokesman. Pipelines on the floor of the Gulf that carry oil and gas to shore were damaged during Hurricane Katrina.

The worry now is that Hurricane Rita could further damage those lines and leave production shut in for a much longer period.

Markets shook off the news. Crude oil futures prices, which surged more than $4 a barrel on Monday, on Tuesday fell $1.16, to $66.23 a barrel, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

# Entergy unit in N.O. may file for bankruptcy

## *Hurricane caused millions in damage*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

The high cost of repairing hurricane-damaged power networks and a potentially crippling loss of customers is forcing Entergy New Orleans to consider filing for bankruptcy protection, the electricity and natural gas utility's parent company said Tuesday.

Even if Entergy New Orleans does move to reorganize its finances through a bankruptcy proceeding, the company will continue operating.

News of the bankruptcy possibility came on the same day Moody's downgraded Entergy New Orleans' debt five steps to junk status.

Repairing damage caused by Hurricane Katrina could cost all of Entergy's Gulf Coast utilities $750 million to $1.1 billion, the company said. Entergy New Orleans' portion of those costs could run from $325 million to $475 million.

Those figures are estimates and could change as utility crews gain access to areas that were flooded after the storm and make a more accurate damage assessment, Entergy Corp. said.

The costs could prompt some of the company's utilities to seek higher rates from regulators, a move that could be especially painful to utility customers who already are facing higher cooling and heating bills because of rising prices for natural gas, the main fuel at power plants in Louisiana.

A bankruptcy filing could help shield customers, many of whom lived in poverty before the storm, from bearing a larger portion of the recovery costs while protecting the integrity of the utility, said Entergy Chief Executive Officer Dan Packer.

Entergy earned $933 million in 2004 on revenue of $10.1 billion.

Entergy New Orleans has lost business from as many as 130,000 customers who evacuated the city. That represents 69 percent of Entergy New Orleans' customer base. Another 35,000 to 40,000 Entergy Louisiana customers have been displaced. The utilities don't know when those customers will return to their homes and businesses and reconnect utility services, Entergy said. The displaced customers account for $160 million to $190 million in annual revenue for Entergy New Orleans and $50 million to $60 million in annual revenue for Entergy Louisiana.

Although Entergy New Orleans accounts for only about 3 percent of the parent company's earnings, Wall Street is closely monitoring the crisis, said Debra Bromberg, a utility stock analyst at Jefferies & Co. in New York. "Investors in the near term will be mostly concerned about being able to adequately recover costs from the hurricane," she said.

The company hopes to recover some of its storm costs from insurance payments, federal assistance and changes in the rates that its utilities charge customers.

Entergy New Orleans holds about $400 million in property insurance policies, Bromberg said.

Already, company executives have talked to federal lawmakers about providing money for utility restoration and repair work through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, community development block grants and other relief programs created in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In a prepared statement, Entergy said it believes it has the financial liquidity to meet its obligations as well as pay for restoration efforts. But the combination of lower revenue and increased costs because of the storm, which are concentrated at Entergy's New Orleans unit, "are expected to create liquidity constraints at that company."

In addition to considering filing for bankruptcy protection, Entergy said it is considering other options, including advancing money to the New Orleans unit and taking on debt.

About 226,000 Entergy customers, mostly in New Orleans, remained without power Tuesday. At the peak of the disaster, 1.1 million Entergy customers were in the dark in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Shares of Entergy fell 85 cents Tuesday to close at $74.39 on the New York Stock Exchange.

# State starts reviving its cultural economy

## *Post-9/11 New York has lessons to offer*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu and national tourism industry leaders said the New Orleans hospitality industry can rebuild by leveraging Louisiana's cultural assets, lobbying for federal financial assistance, and learning from New York's comeback after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We're here today to announce our plan to rebuild the cultural economy of the state of Louisiana," said Landrieu, whose office is in charge of state museums, parks and tourism advertising. "We have to rebuild the metropolitan area of the city of New Orleans, because this area is the soul of America."

Landrieu's news conference Tuesday at the Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge was the first official gathering of the tourism industry since Hurricane Katrina hit three weeks ago. At Landrieu's side were tourism and convention leaders from across the state and national tourism industry executives, all wearing stickers that said "New Orleans Louisiana Rebirth: Restoring the Soul of America."

Landrieu called for business assistance and workforce development for all entities in the state's tourism industry, which employs 120,000 people and generated $9.9 billion in visitor spending last year. A national and international advertising and public relations campaign is also needed to restore the image of New Orleans and Louisiana after images of flooding and looting were beamed around the globe.

Landrieu has created the nonprofit Cultural Economy Foundation to handle relief donations related to the arts, and has created a national advisory board of tourism and arts leaders from across the country to help guide New Orleans' reconstruction. National industry groups the Tourism Business Roundtable and the Travel Industry Association of America pledged their support and lobbying muscle for rebuilding the Louisiana tourism industry after the hurricane.

"I can promise you as an American and a New Yorker that you were there for us, and we will be there for you," said Jonathan Tisch, chief executive of Loews Hotels, which has a property in New Orleans, and chairman of the Tourism Business Roundtable.

TIA and the Tourism Business Roundtable sent an open letter to federal policymakers Tuesday detailing the economic impact of the Gulf Coast tourism industry and asking for federal help.

The groups recommended federal financing for local tourism promotion because groups such as the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau have no budget now that their members are shut down and tourism taxes are not being generated. They also recommended congressional action to increase the business meal tax deduction and restore the spousal travel deduction to spur visitation and spending along the Gulf Coast. Other recommendations called for a variety of tax programs to assist displaced tourism employees, to help companies that continued to pay or house workers after the storm, and to help small businesses get loans and make business investments.

While there are some similarities between New York and New Orleans, the situations differ because New Orleans is completely shut down and will be unable to accommodate visitors as quickly as New York did. And, while Americans had a patriotic response to the terrorist attacks by wanting to travel to New York, it's unclear whether Americans will want to make the same sympathy visits to New Orleans after seeing the widely broadcast images of looting in the city after the storm.

But Tisch said he's confident that travelers will return to New Orleans.

Roger Dow, president of the Travel Industry Association, emphasized the economic reasons why the New Orleans tourism industry will bounce back. Rebuilding the Gulf Coast tourism industry is critical, Dow said.

Other tourism industry leaders at the meeting pledged that their attractions would reopen as soon as possible.

Ron Forman, president and chief executive of the Audubon Nature Institute, said that most of the damage at the Audubon campuses was at the Aquarium of the Americas, where about 10,000 aquatic creatures died. The sea lions were saved and went to Houston, and the penguins and the sea otters are staying at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In order to reopen, the Audubon Institute needs to stabilize its facilities by getting the water and electricity running, and it needs to replace the animals that died. Forman estimates that bringing back the Audubon Institute will cost about $25 million.

Although Six Flags New Orleans was flooded during the storm and its parent company, Six Flags Inc., has put itself up for auction, Terry Prather, the park's general manager, pledged that the park will reopen.

# DEATHS

**Cynthia Ann Charvet**
**Joseph M. Brisbois**
**Julie Mae Daigle-Gravois**
**Charles Dixon Dees, Jr.**
**Anna Belle Meche Lavergne**
**Marie Richard LeBlanc**
**Evens "China" Matte**
**Jerry J. Ockmand, Sr.**
**Peter Pelitire, Jr.**
**Lottie Bouchon Short**
**Stella Policar Stein**

### BADEAUX

Della Vern Desselle Badeaux of Avondale, LA on Sun., Sept. 11, 2005 at 9:50 AM. Age 82. Beloved wife of the late Albert J. Desselle by first marriage and the late Nelson Badeaux, Sr. by second marriage. Mother of Jeanette Adams, Lolita Smith, Alberta Breecher, Tommy Desselle, Robert Desselle, Roland Desselle, Elbert Desselle and the late Albert Desselle, Jr. Daughter of the late Dewey Laborde and Lottie Baudin Laborde. Sister of Dorothy "Deaky" Moreaux, Vernon Laborde and the late Madgie Laborde, J.D. Laborde and Numa Laborde. Also survived by 22 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild. Proceeded in death by 1 grandchild. Relatives and friends of the family, also former employees of T.G.& Y. and Lafitte Welding Works, Inc. are invited to attend the funeral mass from the chapel of Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA, on Fri., Sept. 23, 2005 at 12:00 PM. Internment in McDoughville Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Visitation on Friday morning from 9:30 AM until service time. Information: 341-9421

### BRISBOIS

Joseph M. Brisbois died on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at his home in Destrehan. Beloved husband of Joycelyn Sanchez Brisbois for the past 57 years. Most beloved father of Jan Louise Brisbois and Keith Joseph Brisbois. Adoring grandfather of Christopher and Ian Hackett, Pippa Barrios, Courtney and Eleanor Brisbois. Brother of Herbert Paul Brisbois. Son of the late Joseph M. Brisbois, Sr. and Louise Fastring Brisbois. Also survived by 7 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Brisbois was a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church. He was a past member of the Greater New Orleans Homebuilders Association and was the builder of over 100 homes in the greater New Orleans area. Mr. Brisbois was a graduate of Warren Easton High School and had attended Tulane University. He was a past member of the Krewe of Carrollton. Age 76 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass fron St. Charles Borromeo Church, 13396 River Road in Destrehan on Thursday morning, September 22, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Visitation will be on Thursday from 9:00 AM until 10:00AM at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Temporary interment will be in Garden of Memories with permanent interment in Greenwood Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Masses preferred. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### CHARVET

Cynthia Ann Charvet died on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Beloved daughter of Rita Buck Rickoll and the late Raymond Rickoll. Sister of Carolyn, Raymond, Robert and George. Loving sister-in-law to Ray, Brenda, Terri, Sharon and Lauri. Special aunt to Stephanie and Rachael and all 6 nieces and 7 nephews, 6 great nephews, 3 great nieces and one great-great niece. Ms. Charvet was employed at Prudential Gardner with her many friends. Age 53 years. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy., in Metairie, LA on Thursday afternoon, September 22, 2005 at 2:00PM. Temporary interment will be in Garden of Memories with permanent interment in Greenwood Mausoleum at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com

### DAIGLE-GRAVOIS

Julie Mae Daigle-Gravois, a homemaker, died Friday, September 16, 2005. She was 66. Mrs. Gravois was born in New Orleans and was a resident of Metairie, Louisiana. She was a graduate of Sacred Heart of Jesus High School and an Alumni Board Member. She was a 33 year local volunteer with the Southeast Louisiana Girl Scout Council. She was a 25 year member of the Crescent City International Dancers and an 18 year member with the local Israeli Dancers. Mrs. Gravois was the beloved wife of Edward John Gravois, Sr. The Loving Mother of three daughters, Collette G. Leto, Melanie G. Saxton, and Lydia G. Appling; and two sons, Edward J. Gravois, Jr. and Daniel P. Gravois. She is survived by three sisters, Marie Clare D. Liuzza, Jeanne D. DeVille, and Sister Juliette Marie Daigle, SSND, and one brother, Nelson J. Daigle, Jr. Mrs Gravois is the Loving Grandmother of eleven grandchildren. Visitation will be held at Leitz Eagan Funeral Home, Wednesday, September 21, 32005 from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM at which time the Funeral Mass will be conducted at the funeral home chapel. Burial will follow in Jefferson Memorial Gardens. The family is requesting donations of Masses or donations to School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Home in Chatawa, Mississippi. Box 38 Old Highway 51 South. Chatawa Mississippi, 39632.

### DEES

Charles Dixon Dees, Jr., went to be with the Lord on Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 4:45 AM. Beloved husband of Helen MacKenzie Dees for 56 years. Father of Charles (Chuck) D. Dees, III and Lottie Dees Lipsey. Father-in-law of Anna Dees and Michael Lipsey. Loving grandfather of Chuck Dees, Jayson Lipsey and wife Catie, Jess Lipsey, Kelly Dees and Jordy Lipsey. Son of the late Charles Dixon Dees, Sr. and Mamie Lockhart Dees. Brother of the late Lockhart Dees. Mr. Dees retired from South Central Bell after 36 years of employment. He was a past Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM Louisiana Lodge No. 102. Mr. Dees was a graduate of Tulane University, was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII, was a member and former deacon at Memorial Baptist Church and he was a member of the Gideons. Age 77 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for over 50 years. Funeral Services were held from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy., in Metairie on Tuesday morning, September 13, 2005 at 11:00AM. Pastor Larry Langley of Lafayette, LA officiated. Interment was in Garden of Memories. Visitation was on Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association or to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com

### LAVERGNE

Anna Belle Meche Lavergne, Age 76, the former Anna Belle Meche who died at 7:44AM at The Heart Hospital in Lafayette, LA. on Monday September 19, 2005. Funeral Services will be held Thursday September 22, 2005 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment will be in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Church Point, LA. Mosignor Fred Swenson will conduct the services. Survivors include her husband of 59 years Gervais Lavergne of Church Point, LA. four daughters, Mary Oakley and husband Ronald of Houma, LA., Pricilla Borne and her husband Randy of Belle Chase, LA., Sharlene Levergne and husband Kenneth of Jonesboro, Georgia, Sue Lopez and her husband Bill of New Iberia, LA., one son Michael Lavergne of Broussard, LA., one sister Josephine Godeaux of Lake Charles, LA., one brother, Lester Meche of Wewahitchka, Florida, ten grandchildren, Rachelle Borne, Rebecca Amos and Husband Gary Amos Jr., Chris Lavergne and wife Paige, Rhegan Lavergne, David Lavergne and his wife Becky, Steven Lopez, Melissa Lavergne, Amy Lopez, Dylan Lavergne, Ryan Lopez, six great grandchildren, Carrie Dufrene, Erin Amos, Randy Amos, Nolan Lavergne, Peyton Lavergne, Triston Lavergne. pallbearers will be Randy Borne, Ronald Oakley, Bill Lopez, Kenneth Lavergne, Chris Lavergne, David Lavergne. Honorary Pallbearers will be Steven Lopez, Dylan Lavergne, Kenneth Latiolais, Lester Meche, Gary Amos, Ryan Lopez. The family would like to give special thanks to the caring doctors, nurses, and staff The Heart Hospital of Lafayette and Acadia-St. Landry Home Health and special thanks to Dr. David G. Baker. She was preceded in death by parents Rosa Guidry Meche and Ned Meche of Branch, LA., her first born daughter, Linda, her four brothers Curtis Meche, Roland Meche, Houston Meche, and L.B. Meche and one sister Clara Meche Lavergne. The family requested that visiting hours be observed from 11:00AM Wednesday until 9:00PM and from 8:00AM until time of services Thursday. Rosary will be recited at 7:00PM Wednesday. Arrangements have been entrusted to Guidry Funeral Home, Church Point, LA. 337-684-5488

### LEBLANC

Marie Richard LeBlanc of Metairie, LA died on Monday Sept. 12, 2005. Wife of the late Hynum P. LeBlanc, mother of Rodney P. LeBlanc and Mother-in-law of Cindy Parden of Madisonville, LA and mother of the late Alan J. LeBlanc. Sister of the late Carl, Billy, and Amos Richard and the late Enola Sara, grandmother of Carl Parden, Hannah Parden and Charlie-Paul LeBlanc. Aged 86 years, a native of Labadievelle, LA and resident of Metairie, LA. Funeral services were held on Saturday Sept. 17,2005 from the Chapel of E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc. 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA. Interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens Mausoleum

### MATTE

Evens "China" Matte of Church Point, LA, Age 71 on Saturday September 17th, 2005 at 3:31AM at Opelousas General Hospital, Opelousas, LA. Services will be held Tuesday, September 20th 2005 at 11:00AM at Our Lady Of the Sacred Heart Church, Church Point, LA. Officiating Fr. Bourgeois. Burial at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Cemetery, Church Point, LA. Rosary will be Monday September 19th, 2005 at 7:00PM at The Funeral Home Chapel, Church Point, LA. Visitation will be Monday, 6:00PM till 10:00PM, then on Tuesday 8:00AM Till Time Of Service. Survivors Include: Wife: Eura Mae Matte of Church Point, LA. One Daughter: Phyllis(Michael)Dal Degan of Marrero, LA. Two Sons Richard(Lucille)Matte and Charles(Gwen)Matte Both of Belle Chasse, LA. Two Brothers Leo Matte of Church Point, LA and Gurvis Matte of Port Arthur, TX. One Sister Rita Primeaux of Opelousas, LA. Five Grandchildren: Phillip Dal Degan, Kristen Matte, Annie Del Degan, Jacob Matte, and Charles Ellis. One Great Grands on Daniel Ellis. Mr. Matte is preceded in death by his parents, Oliver & Elena Matte, Two Sisters, Wilma Oaks & Yvonne Matte. China is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a long time resident of Church Point where he served as a Care Taker of Our Lady Of Sacred Heart Church and School, before moving to Belle Chasse where he was employed by Freeport McMoran. Arrangements by: Duhon Funeral Home of Church Point.

### OCKMAND

Jerry J. Ockmand, Sr., age 58 years at West Jefferson Hospital on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at 11:30 PM. Beloved father of Jerry J. Ockmand, Jr. and Ashley Ockmand. Son of Mrs. Henrietta S. Ockmand and the late Paul Ockmand, Sr. Brother of Paul Ockmand, Jr. and Marjorie Broussard. Fiancee' of Joyce Gabor. Also survived by 2 granddaughters, Hunter Wilson and Carson Ockmand. Relatives and friends of the family and fellow contractors are invited to attend the funeral mass from the chapel of the Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero on Tuesday, September 2005 at 2:00PM. Friends may call at the funeral home from 10:00 AM until service time. Interment will follow in Westlawn Memorial Park in Gretna. Information 341-9421

### PELITIRE

Peter Pelitire, Jr., a retired fire inspector for the City of Kenner Fire Department died on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 at Plaquemine Caring Nursing Home, Plaquemine, LA. Age 70, a native of New Orleans and a lifelong resident of Kenner, Mr. Pelitire attended Kenner High School, was an Assistant Chief for the Kenner Volunteer Fire Department, a life member of the Louisiana State Fireman Association and the Kenner Fireman Association. He was a third degree member of the Ed Stoulig Council No. 3528, Knights of Columbus and a fourth degree member of the William J Guste, Sr. Assembly No. 331, Knights of Columbus. Beloved husband of Brendaline "Crickett" Pelitire. Father of Keith, Adrienne, and Peter Pelitire, III. Son of the late Peter and Louise LeBlanc Pelitire. Brother of Marie Piglia and the late Henry Pelitire. Grandfather of Tiphanie Bennett, Peter Pelitire, IV and Robert Pelitire. Also survived by a nephew and three nieces. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Friday, September 23, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Visitation on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service.

### SHORT

Lottie Bouchon Short A resident of Metairie, Louisana and a native of New Orleans, passed away on Friday, September 9, 2005. She was 84, born April 9, 1921. She is survived by her sister, Althea Bouchon Caro, a daughter Vera Tujague and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Louis Edward Bouchon and Iler Sones Bouchon, and her husband of 44 years, Kenneth Marshall Short. Visitation for relatives and friends of the family was at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie on Thursday, September 15th from 1:00 PM until religious service at 2:00 PM. Interment was in Garden of Memories, Metairie, Louisiana.

### STEIN

Stella Policar Stein on Sunday September 18, 2005 at 9:25 PM. Wife of the late Malcolm T. Stein, Sr., Mother of Malcolm T. Stein, Jr., Connie S. Davis, and Beverly Stein, Sister of Pauline Morris, and the late Thelma Policar, Norma Koepp, Claire DeFenso and Leah Policar, Grandmother of Donna Lynn Lee and Malcom Stein, III. Also survived by six Great-Grandchildren and four Great-Great-Grandchildren. Age 92 years, a native and life resident of Madisonville, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at 12:00 PM from St. Anselm Catholic Church 307 St. Mary Street Madisonville, LA 70447. Visitation on Wednesday September 21, 2005 from 10:00 AM until service time. Interment in the Theodore Dendinger Cemetery Hwy 22 Madisonville, LA. In lieu of flowers Masses preferred or or donations to St. Anselm Catholic Church. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune
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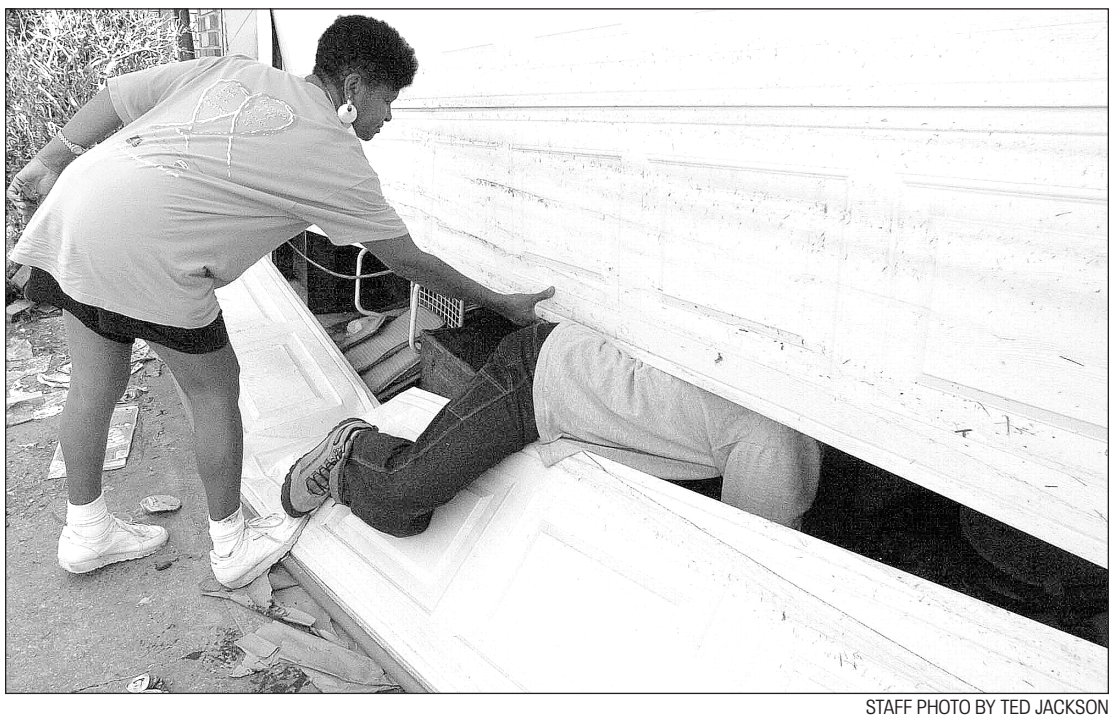
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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Eastern New Orleans resident Betty Brown helps her husband, Yancy Brown, slide in through a slit in their home's garage door. They had tried the front door, but the key would not turn in the lock.

## Some areas aren't ready for people

Sunday's, Monday's and Tuesday's papers contained stories about residents returning to their homes in Lakeview and New Orleans east to assess damage and salvage whatever they could. However, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has not yet issued the green light to people living in these areas to return. Surely I am not the only person wondering how these residents managed to dodge the checkpoints that are supposedly in place to prevent such unauthorized re-entries.

By printing such stories, you are encouraging others to attempt to re-enter the city before it has been deemed safe to do so.

**Frances S. Wegener**
*Luling*

## Why couldn't FEMA get in? I did

Re: "Need, response proved out of sync," Page 1, Sept. 18. I read with interest reporter Bill Walsh's excellent review of the events leading up to Hurricane Katrina's landfall and the first few days after. I would add a couple of items:

The assertions of FEMA and military representatives that they could not get to the city have proven to be, shall we say, untrue. Many of us returned to the city in the days following landfall. I returned three times in the first week, the first time in the early afternoon of Monday, the day Katrina hit, as the storm was waning. Among the many places I drove my father-in-law's pickup truck were the Superdome and the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard bridge across the 17th Street Canal.

Mr. Walsh states that when President Bush arrived almost a week after the storm, a long-awaited convoy of food, supplies and troops rumbled ahead of him into New Orleans through deep water. What he didn't mention was that if this convoy had bothered to ask, it could have taken the high and dry Camp Street off-ramp to the Convention Center and wouldn't have gotten a tire wet. The arrogance and ineptitude were astounding.

**W. Philip Clinton**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Aspen, Colo.*

## Bywater resident wants to return

I am an arts administrator living on Alvar Street between Chartres and Royal streets in the Bywater. I was there for the hurricane and was not evacuated until the Friday afterward. I am anxious to return, since there was no water in my neighborhood from about St. Claude Avenue to the river.

Meanwhile, I have a couple of requests to make of The Times-Picayune. Please send more copies of the newspaper to the Lafayette area. There are thousands of New Orleanians here, and we can't get our hands on The Times-Picayune.

Also, please ask the city to publicize when people from the Faubourg Marigny and the dry part of Bywater will have utilities back on and can return. We hear about the French Quarter, but nothing more.

And please look into the fact that the American Red Cross is helping evacuees all over the country, but not in Lafayette! It is ridiculous! Three weeks after the storm, no help is available from the Red Cross. People are truly angry and frustrated here.

**Gloria Powers**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Lafayette*

## Educating America

First, let me applaud the heroic efforts of The Times-Picayune during this disaster. An unfortunate circumstance has shown the world The Times-Picayune's commitment to journalism.

I would like to suggest using the approaching Hurricane Rita to educate the rest of America about what would need to occur to completely evacuate New Orleans, in real time, in the face on an impending hurricane disaster. As so much criticism has been placed on our leaders since Hurricane Katrina, a real-time exercise showing the necessary time line would demonstrate to America that we are not slow Southern morons who don't know when to come in out of the rain.

We would need to start evacuating the city now in order to be safe from the hurricane at landfall. Would America support federal dollars being used to evacuate New Orleans each time a hurricane was three to four days from landfall?

Using Rita in her current state with a real-time analysis would help show the rest of the world what so many Louisianians have been trying to get across to everyone who asks why†they didn't evacuate.

**Mark Casemore**
*New Orleans*

## A frustrating search

I am a pet owner frantically searching for my cats. I registered with the Humane Society and the SPCA. We were told to look for pictures of our pets on Petfinders.com. If you see one that resembles your pet, you are to call the number given for the shelter.

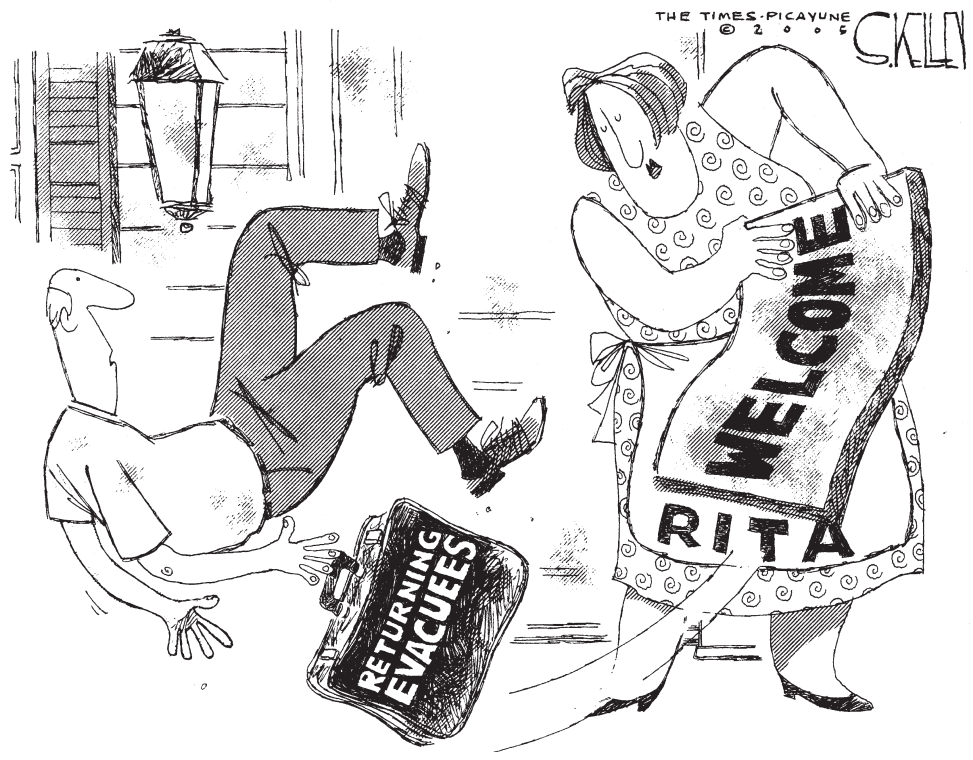
However, when I called the number given, I was told that the phone number is incorrect and that they do not have information regarding lost pets. The person who answered gave me a number for the SPCA. I called for two days before reaching an SPCA administrator. She told me that the SPCA office is unmanned and that they will not provide that information either, even if they do happen to answer the phone. She sent me back to Petfinders and the shelter. But the number on Petfinders does not lead people to their pets. That number must be changed.

Many who are searching for their pets have no access to computers. Their pets are being shipped all over the country after a short stay in Baton Rouge or Gonzales. The overtaxed volunteers there are frustrated because people aren't coming to look for them, apparently unaware that many of us, myself included, don't have cars any more, if we did before Katrina.

It isn't only that rogue groups of rescuers have made it hard for us to find our pets, as the SPCA claims. The SPCA's system has made it impossible.

The SPCA administrator told me that the group's sole focus is on rescuing as many pets as possible, which is commendable. But what will happen to these thousands of animals when their owners can't find them? Many well-loved pets, like my ill, 15-year-old† cat, will be euthanized while the SPCA and the Humane Society reap donations from people impressed by their efforts.†I, as a pet owner, am far from impressed. I'm outraged.

**Victoria Cooke**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Oxford, Miss.*




# OUR OPINIONS

## More embarrassment for Kenner

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano and Police Chief Nick Congemi don't have to like each other. But when a hurricane threatens the city, the two elected officials should be able to cooperate on keeping the public safe.

Instead, Hurricane Katrina only intensified the political rivalry between Mr. Congemi and Mr. Capitano. The resulting lack of coordination between police and other city agencies is an embarrassment to the city, and it could have put human lives at risk.

Members of the mayor's camp say police failed to return phone calls from City Hall. They also say that, after the storm, Mr. Congemi's department ran a separate relief operation from police headquarters rather than joining with the rest of city government. Most seriously, Mr. Capitano's administration accuses the Police Department of getting in the way of other city agencies' work. According to Fire Chief Mike Zito, a police officer in an unmarked car stopped the Fire Department's chief medical officer as he tried to deliver tetanus shots to a shelter.

For his part, Mr. Congemi insists that the Police Department merely executed its own emergency-preparedness plan. By contrast, he suggests, City Hall officials failed to prepare sufficiently for the storm and are trying to blame him for their problems.

If the chief has specific evidence of a lack of preparation on the administration's part, he should make it public. Regardless, any Police Department hurricane plan that doesn't involve close work with the city's chief executive is no plan at all. And while Mr. Congemi maintains that his department works "with anyone who comes in the door," the rest of city government isn't just anyone.

The situation in Kenner is ludicrous. As much of the rest of the metro area lay devastated, Mr. Congemi and Mr. Capitano's chief administrative officer, Cedric Floyd, took the opportunity to tear into each other before a Times-Picayune photographer and a visiting CNN crew.

Mr. Floyd was delivering food to an apartment complex with a number of low-income Latino residents when Mr. Congemi accused him of "trying to run them off." Mr. Floyd accused the police chief of discriminating against minorities. Mr. Congemi responded, "You run off your mouth about how much you care about these people, and you don't give them anything."

Lovely. Viewers in Peoria, London and Timbuktu surely wondered why two top Kenner officials were shouting at each other in their city's time of need.

Nursing private grudges at a time of public crisis is a risky political strategy. If Kenner's elected officials don't change their ways, voters might start casting about for leaders who'll put the general welfare first. Watching the two sides blasting away at each other is annoying under the best of circumstances. But amid a cataclysm, the pettiness ought to stop.

## Question of control

Louisiana's congressional delegation has known for some time that a first-hand look at the state's coastal erosion problems is more convincing than words alone, and they're wisely using that strategy to build support for Hurricane Katrina recovery.

A band of 14 senators, including Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, who chairs the Appropriations Committee, toured the ravaged region by helicopter and inspected downtown New Orleans on the ground. What they saw clearly had a strong impact on them.

Sen. Edward Kennedy said he had seen extensive television coverage and had talked to evacuees. "But nothing — nothing, nothing, nothing — compares with seeing for ourselves the devastation that we have seen for the last few hours and we'll continue to see," he said.

The senators pledged support for rebuilding efforts, and that's something this region badly needs to hear. Sen. Cochran said the resources will be made available, and Sen. Frist said Congress will act "swiftly and decisively" to rebuild the region.

Though no one is disputing the need for significant federal help, the question of who will control the money looks likely to provoke more dissent. Some senators favor out-of-state auditors to keep an eye on spending. Sen. Cochran said, "We're going to come back again and again to see that it's done right."

Their concern is not without foundation. It's clear that the deluge of spending on homeland security that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks included some very questionable items. According to Washington Post reports, for instance, $5.4 million was spent on nine months' salary for the chief executive of an events logistics company that was created and then folded during the life of the contract.

Louisiana also has a reputation to overcome. Regrettably, our state is known for political corruption at every level of government. That tag is not entirely fair at this point, but it will be difficult to shake.

Still, Sen. Mary Landrieu was adamant about the need for local control. "Louisiana will be rebuilt by Louisianians. New Orleans will be rebuilt by New Orleanians," she said. That viewpoint must prevail if this region is to revive and thrive.

Oversight is one thing, control is another. It's good that Senate leaders understand the scope of this disaster and are committed to helping us overcome what could otherwise be a fatal blow. But that doesn't mean we can't figure out what needs to be done here.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

SPORTS
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September 21, 2005



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Kermit Ruffins plays his trumpet to an appreciative crowd peppered with displaced New Orleanians at Sammy's nightclub in Houston.

# RUFFIN IT IN HOUSTON

## *Kermit Ruffins and other New Orleans musicians are finding warmth, hometown fans and a place to play in Texas*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

HOUSTON – Like hundreds of previous Thursdays, Sept. 8 found Big Easy trumpeter Kermit Ruffins in his element: Onstage, black fedora over a blue bandana, cold beers at the ready, easing into "When It's Sleepy Time Down South."

But Ruffins was not at Vaughan's, the tumble-down Bywater watering hole where he reigned most Thursdays for more than a decade. He was 500 miles west at Sammy's, a downtown Houston nightclub.

After fleeing Hurricane Katrina, Ruffins landed in Houston alongside scores of fellow musicians and New Orleanians. A hastily organized coalition dubbed NOAH, for New Orleans And Houston, welcomed them.

Years ago NOAH's Jeff Kaplan, by day a broker of inner-city Houston real estate, paid a visit to Donna's, the North Rampart Street brass band hotspot, and was immediately smitten with the scene and its characters. When he learned of the displaced musicians now in his midst, he quickly secured 30 apartments in midtown and has worked tirelessly to get them settled.



Meredith Grover dons an Irish Channel T-shirt at Sammy's, where she finds a willing dance partner in fellow evacuee Mike Higgins.

"These guys are really making Houston home," Kaplan said.

He also arranged for Sammy's to serve as a de facto headquarters for the transplanted brass band community. Co-owner Sammy Ralford, an R&B singer and longtime fixture of Houston nightlife, readily agreed to take in the New Orleanians.

So on Sept. 8 Ruffins joined members of the New Birth Brass Band, the Lil' Rascals Brass Bands and Bonerama at Sammy's, to initiate this new residency in exile, which continued the following Thursday.

All involved followed very different paths to Houston, some more harrowing than others.

*See* **RUFFINS,** *page C-4*

# Covering their losses

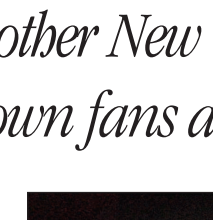
## *TV and radio broadcasters take audiences back to their hurricane-damaged homes*

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

It's homecoming week.

The experience of returning to a household that was blown, tossed and soaked by Hurricane Katrina — the heartbreaking re-entry to places where lives were lived, left behind and maybe lost — has already been previewed by two awfully beautiful stories by local broadcast newsmen.

WWL-Channel 4 meteorologist Carl Arredondo took a photographer on his return to his storm-surge-drenched Slidell home.



DAVE WALKER
*On the Air*

WWL AM-870 news director Dave Cohen packed a tape recorder into his flooded Metairie house. The story opened with the sound of water sloshing at his feet.

The first sign of the water's fury at Arredondo's place: Garage doors in most of the neighborhood had buckled inward. As viewers saw, the same thing happened to the interior walls of his house. Two highway exits inland, the storm-surge water mark measured more than 3 feet from the floor.

"I saw things — I saw furniture rearranged — that boggled my mind," Arredondo said. "I saw a toy chest that had been in my son's and stepson's room that had been moved completely out of the room, through a hallway, into a living room and almost into the kitchen.

"To think about it being moved from one side of the house to another, it was amazing to know that water could've done that.

"Then again, one little table that had a lamp and two crystal thermometers was in the same place it was when I left."

Arredondo had watched and reported on the campaign waged by Katrina's eyewall. He realized that the vector of destruction knew his address.

"My perspective may be different than everyone else's," Arredondo said. "I know what the damage of a storm can be. I expected some damage when I saw the eyewall hit Slidell.

"I was prepared for wind damage. I didn't expect the water to get that far."

Hardest was seeing the damage to little things his family loved. A basket of favorite stuffed toy animals was ruined.

"I've never put much value on material things," he said. "I know things can be replaced."

"To see those (toys) soaked and muddy — that's where I

*See* **WALKER,** *page C-4*



ANGUS LIND

# TRIED AND BLUE

## *A family of New Orleans police officers lost their homes but not their hearts*

MARKSVILLE — Personal loss and tragedy took a back seat for the Palumbo family, all members of the New Orleans Police Department, who had a five-day R&R break here after working 14 straight days and going four-plus days without a shower.

Thirty-year NOPD veteran Sam Palumbo, 54, of the 8th District (French Quarter) had an aunt drown along with 33 others in St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard Parish and he got water in his Metairie home. His son Andrew Palumbo, 28, a seven-year veteran of the vice squad, got married in 2004 and his wife is expecting their first child. He lost the home he had just renovated on Louis XIV Street in Lakeview where the floodwaters topped the gutters. Son Sammy Palumbo Jr., 24, a 3-year veteran of the 6th District (Central City) put it more succinctly:

"I used to live on Avenue B right off 36th Street - used to. The break was around 40th Street, four blocks from the 17th Street Canal," he said.

All three are Archbishop Rummel High graduates. But what the Palumbos really are, said Sam, is "a police family." His dad is a retired NOPD and Jefferson Parish sheriff's officer. A brother worked for the NOPD and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. His sons always wanted to be cops. The work has been brutal, the hours long, and their losses severe. But — no complaints. In conversations he's had with other fellow officers, he estimates that 70 percent of the NOPD's officers lost their houses.

"You don't have time to think about your own house or take care of it," Sam said. "You're trying to save people and dodge bullets. You're patrolling the city. That's what we do."

Like many other brave officers, the Palumbos spent much of their time in boats, pulling people off of rooftops, coaxing them out of their homes, ferrying them in vans to the Convention Center and the Superdome. But even after they did that, there was a feeling of helplessness.

"People were sick, begging for help and there's nothing you can do," said Andrew. "I'm looking at people on the interstate literally dying. There's no EMS to call, no hospital I can take them to. There was this old guy who came up and said he just had triple bypass surgery. A helicopter landed on the interstate. We got him there. I'm assuming he got help but I don't know. There was no one we could call."

A teenager during hurricanes Betsy and Camille, Sam Palumbo said that he knew "when the big one they've been talking about for years hit, we could be in for a long ride." Then, when the next day dawned and the of-

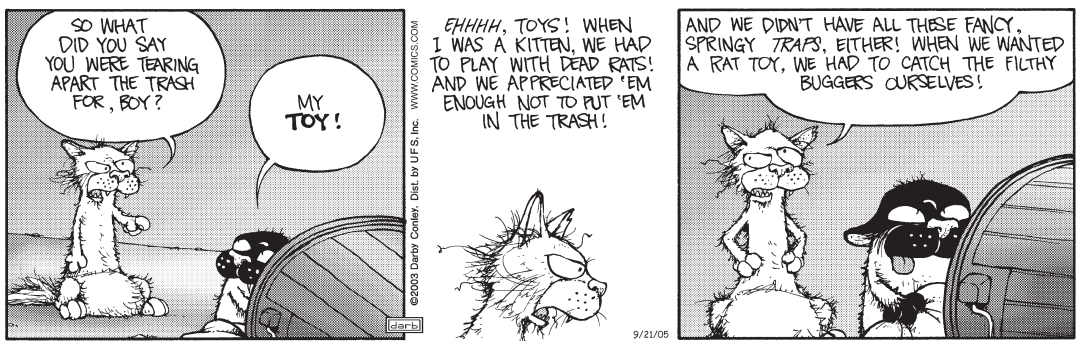
*See* **LIND,** *page C-4*

# COMICS

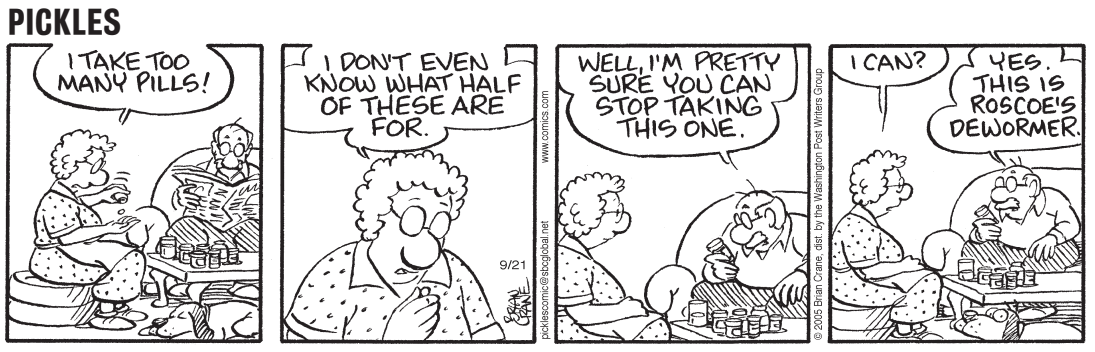
## ZITS



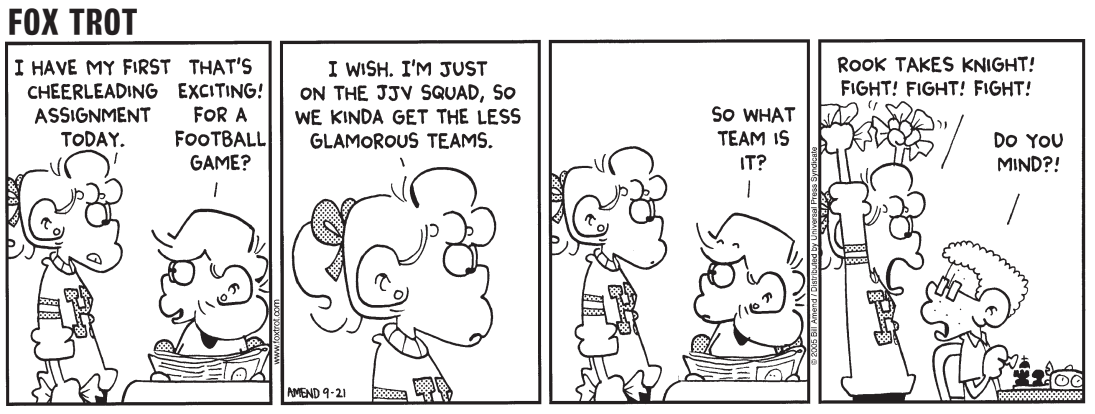

## GET FUZZY



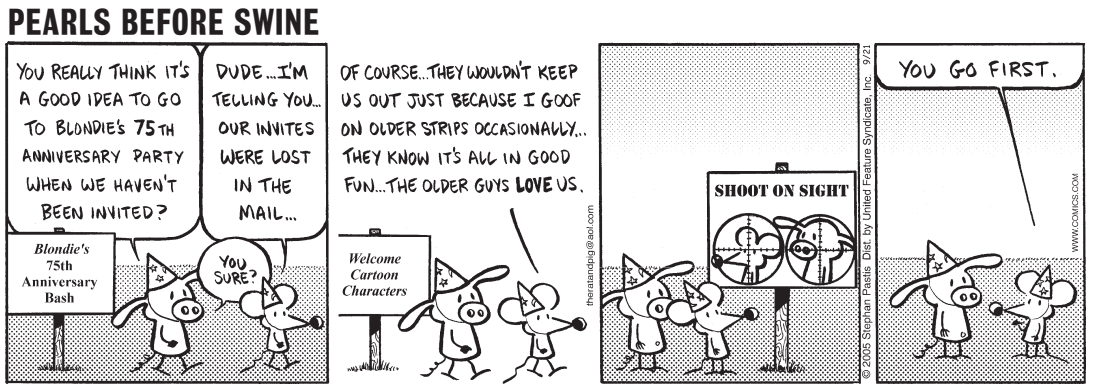

## PICKLES



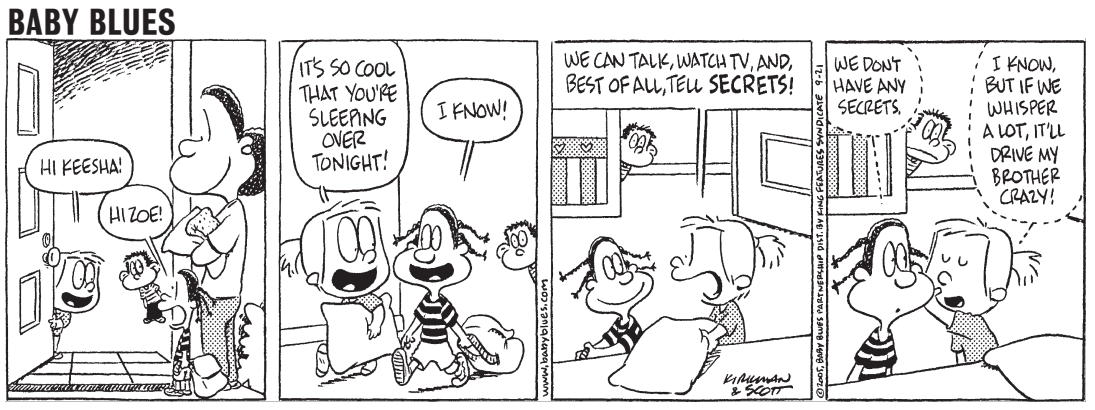

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YAMEL

UVESA

RENACK

KANNIP

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer here:** THE "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IRONY GLEAM PARLOR NIMBLE
Answer: When can evening clothes be seen? — EARLY MORNING

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | M3 | G2 | R1 | D2 | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | E1 | L1 | C3 | N1 | N1 | H4 | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | I1 | I1 | O1 | N1 | N1 | M3 | 1st Letter Double | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| E1 | O1 | O1 | G2 | L1 | T1 | B3 | | RACK 4 |

**PAR SCORE 145-155**
**BEST SCORE 216**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 145-155

| | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = | G2 | E1 | L1 | T1 | O1 | O1 | B3 | 60 |
| RACK 3 = | | N1 | O1 | I1 | N1 | I1 | M3 | 11 |
| RACK 2 = | L1 | E1 | N1 | N1 | A1 | H4 | C3 | 62 |
| RACK 1 = | M3 | A1 | R1 | G2 | A1 | I1 | D2 | 83 |

## WORD SLEUTH

F W T Q N K I F C Z W U R P M
J H A E C Z K X U S Q N L J G
E C Z R X V T L R P N L J H E
C A Y E O D K W I V T R P N I
L K I G R G E C C M O H A I R
B T O G G E N B U R G Z R N I
X W U S R C M A P B O Y E M M
L S J I G E E H I D B N H A H
Y S D R A E B X S B A N T W S
U T S I Y L L I B A U A E Q A
P O N L K F K J S H C N W G K

Tuesday's unlisted clue: DEER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: NAME FOR A FEMALE GOAT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Angora | Cashmere | Kids | Saanen |
| Beards | Doe | Milk | Toggenburg |
| Billy | Fleece | Mohair | Wether |
| Buck | Kashmiri | Nubian | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| B | B | D | V | F | E | A | E | I | G | B | R | C |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| O | I | L | T | E | C | A | U | N | M | O | E | R |
| 7 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| U | N | E | N | U | Y | S | T | R | Y | E | T | S |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| O | K | R | E | I | I | F | D | E | N | U | S | I |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| L | T | A | S | R | H | A | E | P | M | T | A | U |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| P | I | I | G | H | E | D | E | R | E | S | A | A |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| L | D | H | R | T | E | E | D | A | S | Y | I | C |

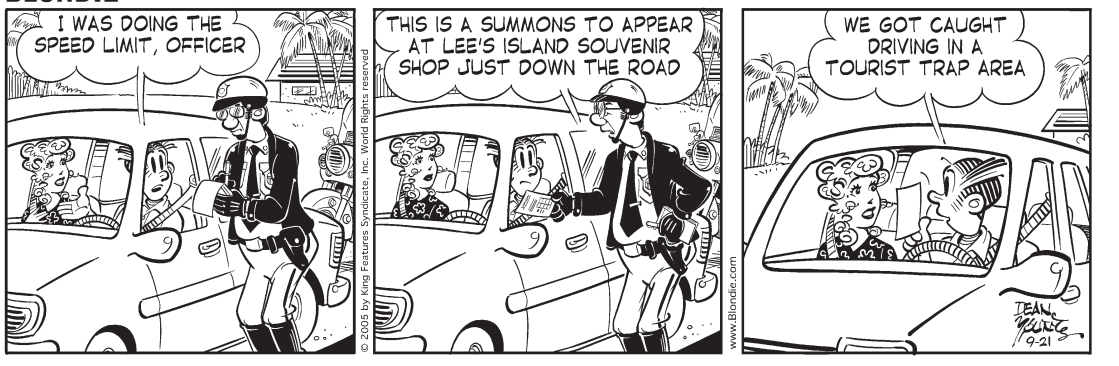
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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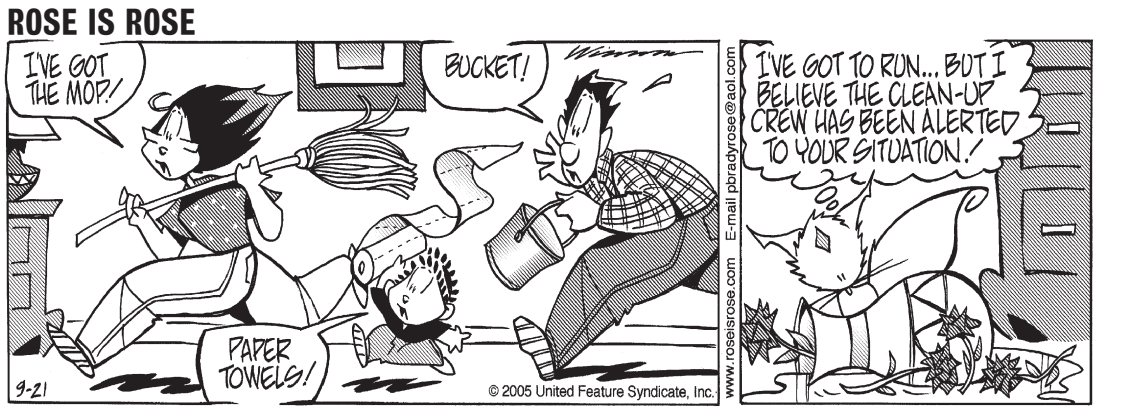
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



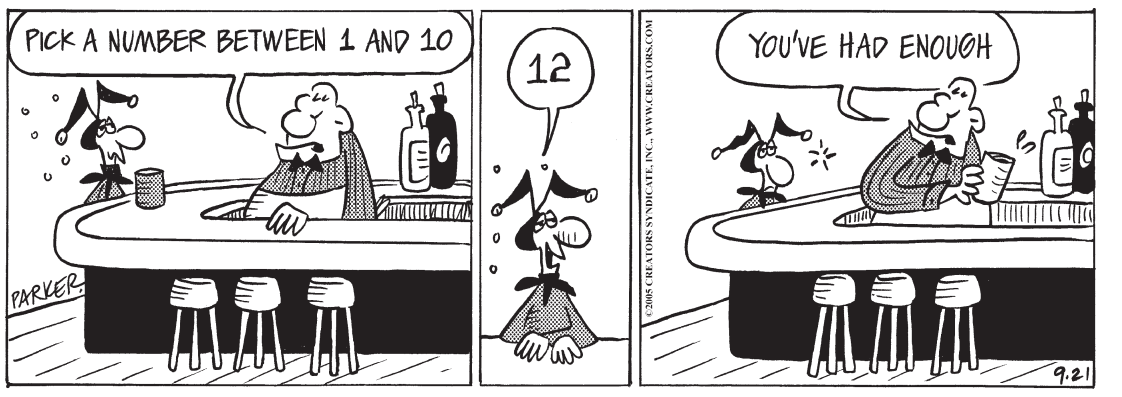

## BLONDIE



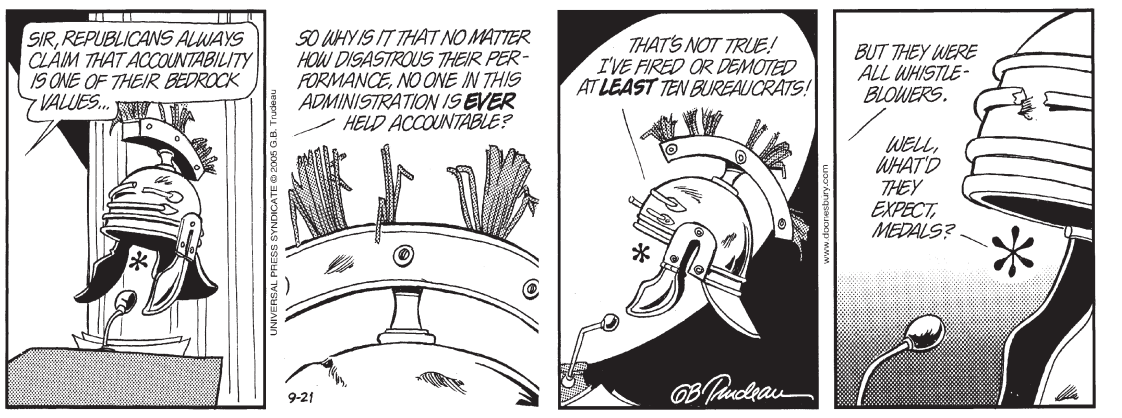

## ROSE IS ROSE



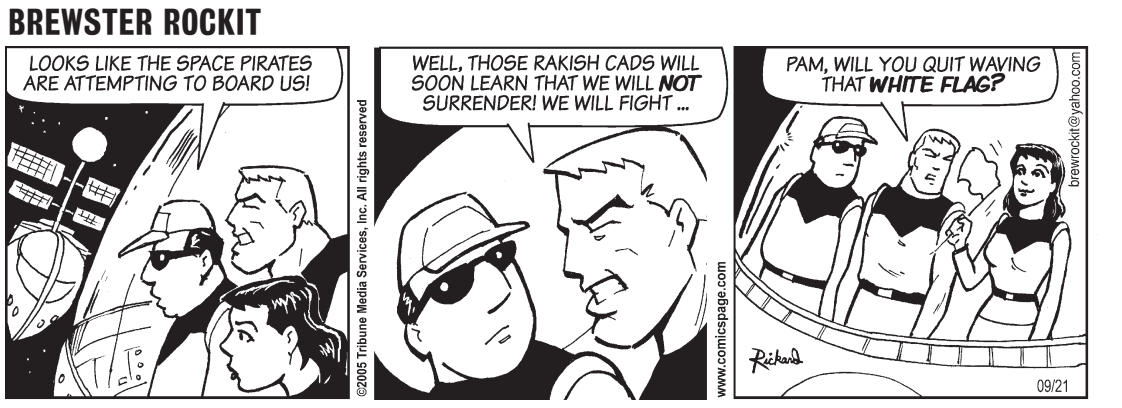

## THE WIZARD OF ID



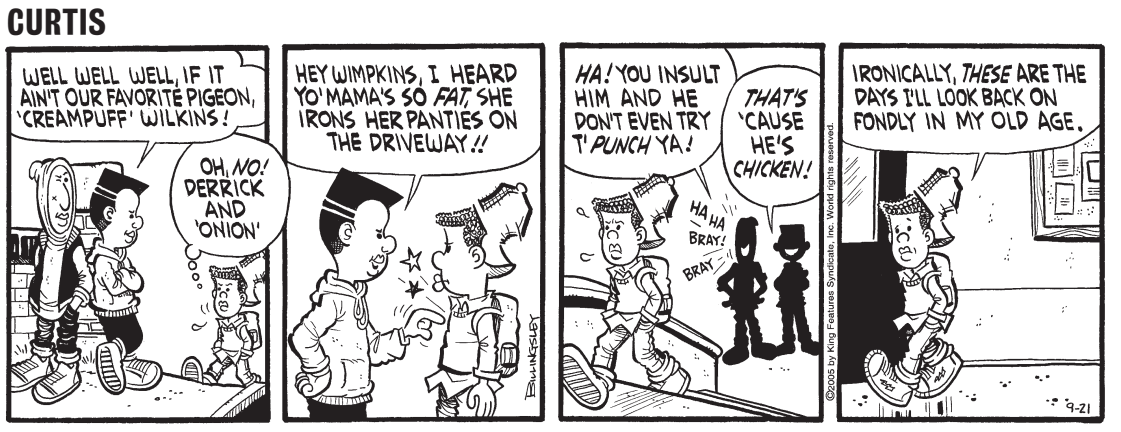

## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT



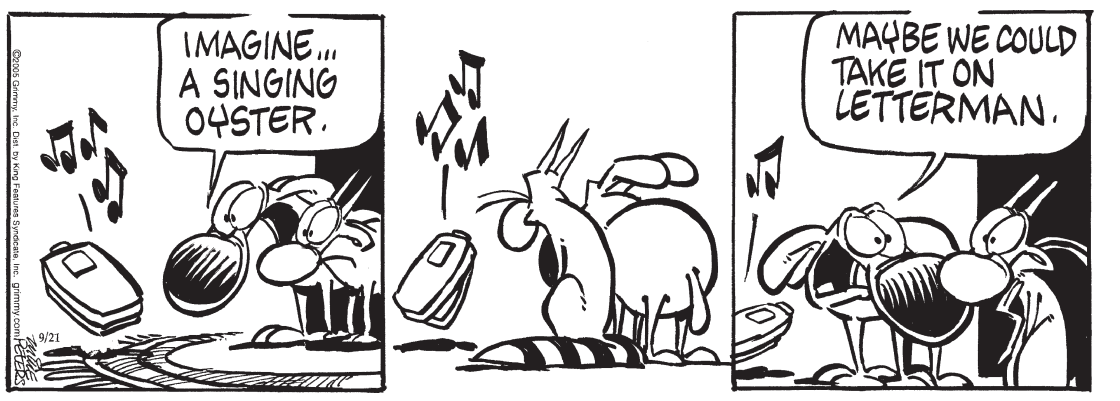

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

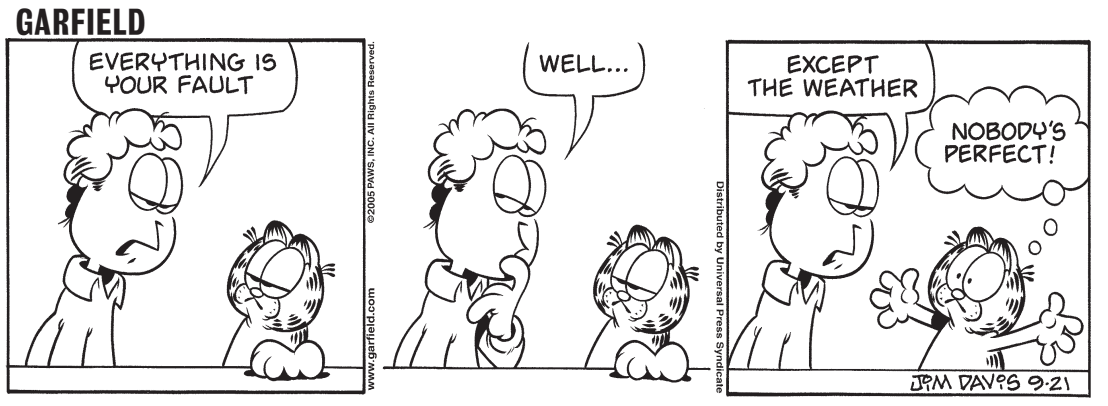



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

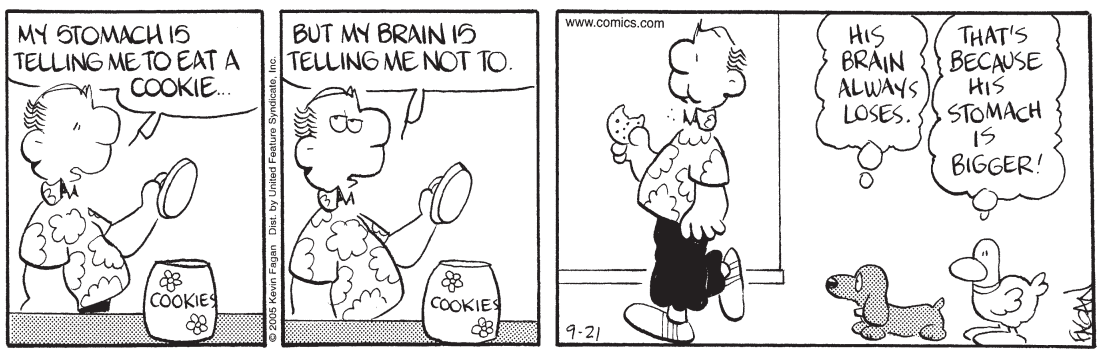


# COMICS

## GARFIELD



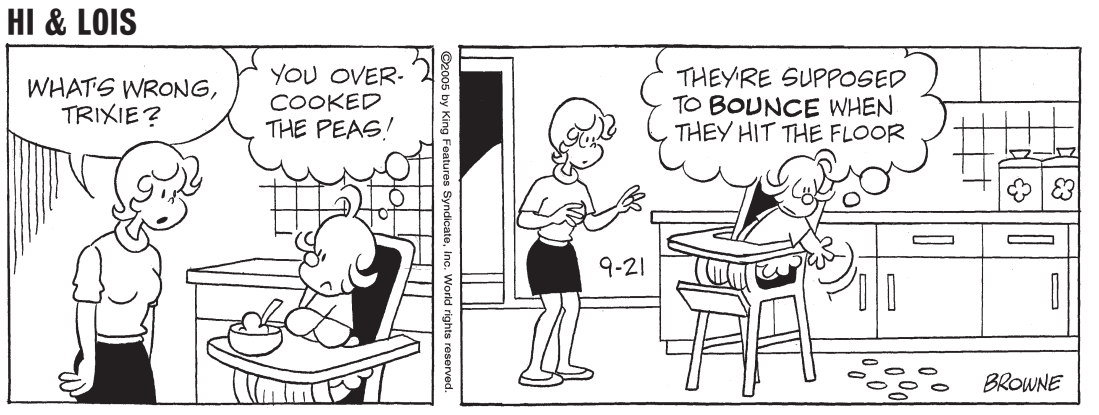

## DRABBLE



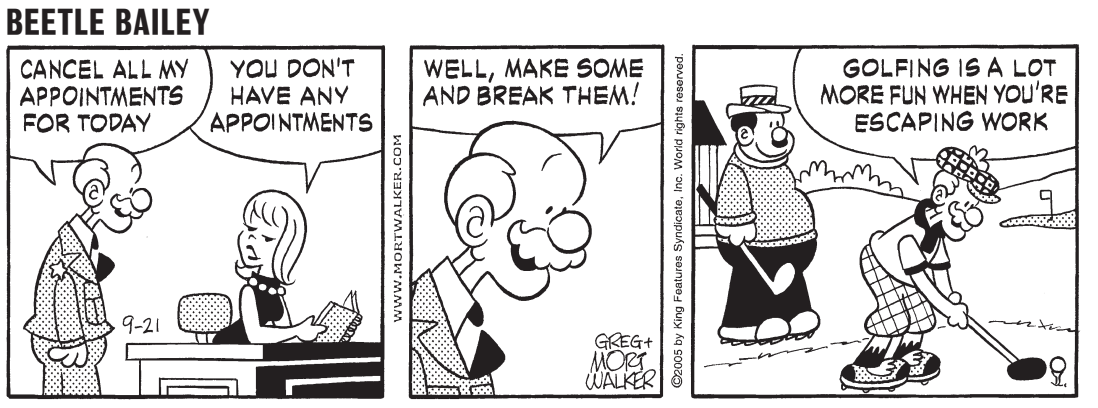

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



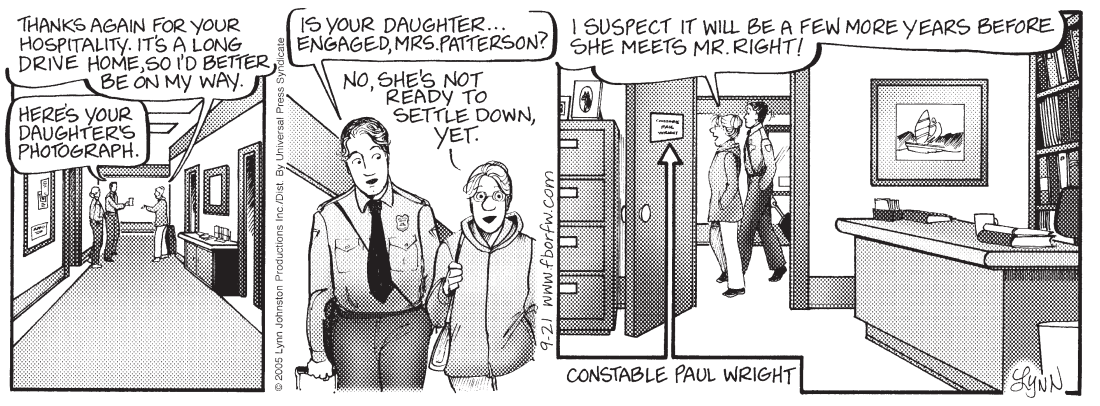

## HI & LOIS




## BEETLE BAILEY



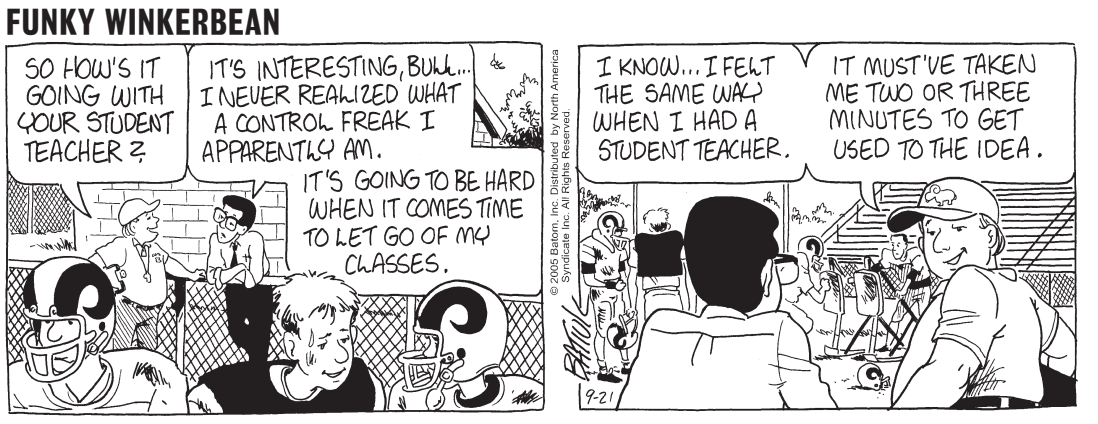

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



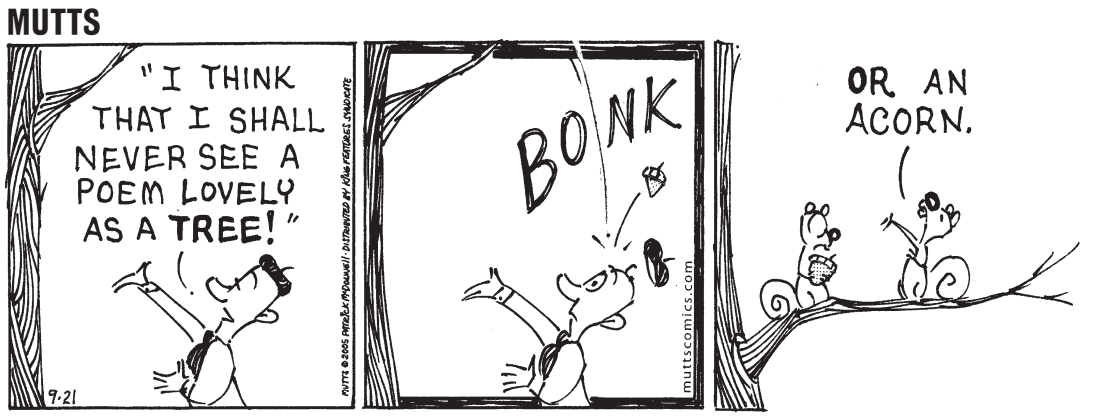

## B.C.



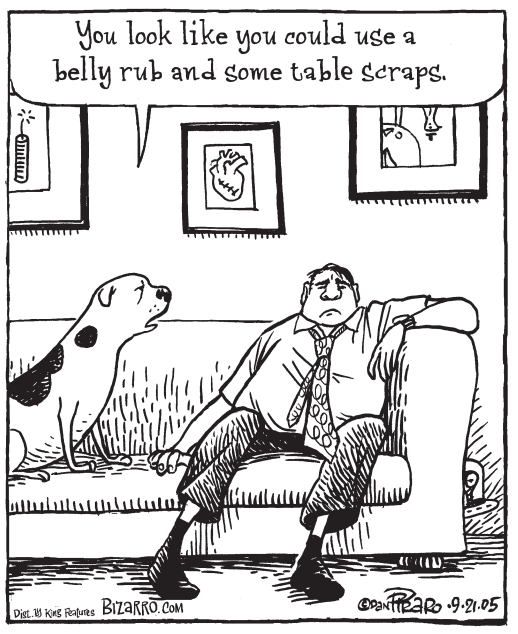

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

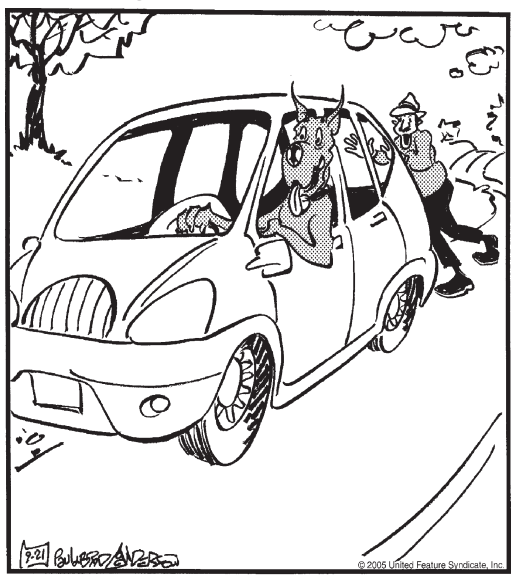



Zeb flunks out of Indian Scout Corps.

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Don't forget, when the engine starts, I take the wheel."

## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

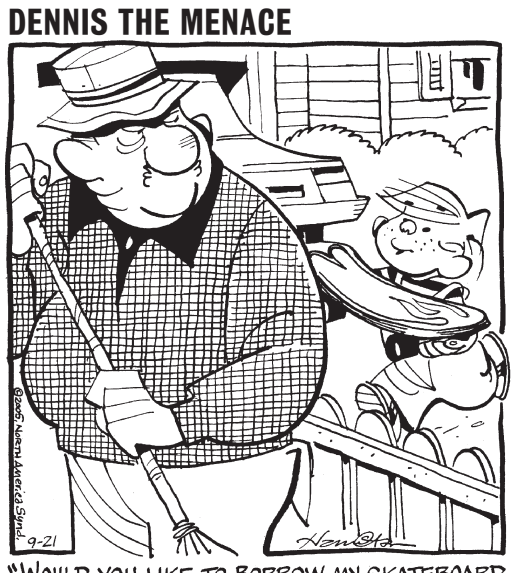



"Yeah, she told us that a couple times before."

## CLOSE TO HOME




## DENNIS THE MENACE




"WOULD YOU LIKE TO BORROW MY SKATEBOARD WHILE YOUR CAR'S IN THE SHOP?"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ON BECOMING A GREAT SINGER** **Solution: 10 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | L | Y | T | S | S | P | E | C | K | F | G | (T) | D |
| N | E | M | Y | H | R | R | C | H | K | L | N | E | (A) | A |
| L | R | A | K | N | A | A | O | I | G | O | S | P | (E) | L |
| A | U | E | Y | C | O | R | I | D | S | F | A | R | (B) | L |
| I | N | S | T | R | U | M | E | N | T | S | E | R | N | A |
| T | S | I | I | S | O | L | R | T | I | H | A | O | A | B |
| N | C | C | I | O | E | T | P | A | E | N | I | L | L | K |
| E | T | R | I | P | E | W | A | A | H | T | G | A | C | O |
| T | Z | C | A | R | E | E | R | V | I | M | R | A | W | M |
| O | N | I | A | A | Y | S | L | S | R | Y | B | B | O | H |
| P | E | B | R | N | E | L | O | A | N | E | C | C | R | T |
| K | A | C | P | O | D | P | O | X | T | I | S | I | D | Y |
| C | H | O | I | R | M | N | K | U | S | I | F | N | S | H |
| O | E | O | L | O | S | E | A | U | D | F | N | D | O | R |
| R | L | A | C | O | V | A | M | B | I | T | I | O | N | C |

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Ambition, Ballad, Band, Beat, Cabaret, Career, Choir, Chorus, Classics, Clip, Composition, Conservatory, Disco, Feel, Folk, Gospel, Harmony, Hobby, Instruments, Karaoke, Larynx, Latino, Look, Loud, Lyrics, Memorize, Music, Pluck, Potential, Practice, Rehearse, Rhyme, Rhythm, Riff, Rock, Solo, Song, Soprano, Styles, Training, Trip, Vocal, Voice, Warm, Western, Words

**Yesterday's Answer: Hollywood**

CONTINUED

# Police family rides out a 'big one'

**LIND,** *from C-1*

ficers who had been bunkered down at the Marriott and the J.W. Marriot Hotels, like Sam, took a look around and they felt a little better.

"The sun came up and the eye was just passing and my feeling was we escaped another one." Then, "all hell broke loose when the levees broke and we lost communication with each other."

Once the radio went out, they commandeered boats and ran the interstates with vans. There were civilian volunteers, he said, who came from New Iberia and Lafayette, including "a few guys who used their vacation time to come here and help."

"I was riding on I-610 and you'd look on both sides toward the 3rd District and the 5th District and Jesus, it was just amazing - all water," he said. "We'd been getting in the water every day and it was just getting worse and worse. The water, it's wasn't brown — it was black. We'd tell the driver to get moving — it stunk that bad.

"Chef Menteur was dry," said Sammy Jr., "but to think that from Chef to Hayne Boulevard and from Downman Road to the Venetian Isles was under water — that's just about all of New Orleans east. And the east is a big area."

Sam Sr. was in a Blackhawk helicopter flying over some of the flooded areas, including Old Metairie. "It was weird," he said. "We went over Metairie Country Club and you could see about three greens and two tee boxes — that was it. You could see a few more at New Orleans Country Club, but not much more."

Sam Sr. also went on camera with NBC-TV's Ted Koppel after he learned about his aunt. "I told him, do not ask the name of a nursing home or where it was. I would not want to find out my relative died that way on TV."

A TV crew from Spain asked Sam to find them a body. Palumbo asked them why they were here covering a hurricane in the Gulf. He said their reply was that "the Europeans feel that this storm has crippled the most powerful country in the world."

Palumbo told them that was hardly the case.

His personal worst moment, he said, came when he was with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, who came in to help out. "You live in that city all your life, and there are so many memories. We passed St. Matthias Church at Broad and General Pershing, under water. That's where Debbie and I got married," he said. "I lost it. I know that neighborhood like the back of my hand. Debbie lived on Walmsley, off Rendon. There are so many good memories . . ."

A veteran officer on any large city police force has seen his share of death and bloodshed, sorrow, loss and despair. "Yes, you do get hardened by looking at so many crime scenes and seeing bodies," Sam Sr. said. "But this was different. You look, see a body floating and then you've got to move on and see if you can help the next person. There's no helping the last."

What was difficult, he said, was that "most of the people who died during this storm were helpless. It was worse than a murder scene. These were helpless people who died for no cause at all."

Morale, said Sammy Jr., "got low when we heard people (officers) were leaving. But when other police and other fire departments started coming in, well, your morale goes back up."

And when the food and water was dropped in, that made it even better.

"But it's still tough when you know you've lost everything you had."

Sam's wife, Debbie, and Andrew's wife, Maritza, five months pregnant, evacuated to a cousin's home in Marksville before the storm. They didn't bring many clothes, but they got all the family photos, wedding albums and the baby clothes.

"Friends keep calling and checking on us," Andrew said. "I tell 'em everybody's safe and alive. You can rebuild a house — you can't rebuild a life. I just thank God that I didn't have to go in a boat and pull my wife off a roof."

At one point during the most terrifying part of the storm's aftermath, Debbie Palumbo called her husband Sam Sr. after watching some horrifying scenes on television. "She asked me, 'Why are you still there?'

"Because it's my job," he said.

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# Houston rocks, but it's no gig like home

**RUFFINS,** *from page C-1*

Ruffins' only previous storm evacuation was in 2004 for Hurricane Ivan, which spared New Orleans with a last-minute eastern drift. He sensed the Big Easy would not be so lucky with Katrina.

"I looked at that thing on TV and said, 'I'm getting out of here,' " he recalled. "It was like common sense."

Before driving to Baton Rouge, he visited a half-dozen watering holes. "We were joking like, 'Hey, this place might be underwater,' " he said. "Just kidding, that normal New Orleans humor. And sure enough, it was the big one."

He arrived in Houston with an entourage of 34 family members and two dogs. He called on a wealthy acquaintance, the former owner of a record label, who promptly provided hotel rooms and apartments.

"Houston ain't nothing to play with," Ruffins said. "They really take care of you."

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**Others were not so fortunate.** As Katrina approached, New Birth Brass Band trombonist Glen David Andrews stacked most of his belongings in two rear rooms of his Treme home — rooms subsequently crushed by a falling tree, then filled with 6 feet of floodwater.

Left with "nothing but life," Andrews spent 36 hours in the hellish squalor of the Superdome, surrounded by "looters, dead babies and feces." He was finally bussed to the Astrodome in Houston.

He's performed in more than 30 countries, but no longer has a passport or a trombone. He would miss the Astrodome's 11 p.m. curfew to be at Sammy's, but needed the camaraderie more than a cot.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

New Orleans trombonist Corey Henry sits in with Kermit Ruffins for a set at Sammy's, a Houston nightclub adopted by some evacuated New Orleanians.

"This is the first day I haven't cried," he said.

Dewon "Itchy" Scott plays drums in Ruffins' band and trumpet in the Lil' Rascals Brass Band. He also left New Orleans empty-handed. He and his wife spent several days trapped by floodwaters in the darkened Booker T. Washington High School. A helicopter finally plucked them from the roof and deposited them on Interstate 10 in Metairie near the Galleria, where they boarded a bus for Baton Rogue and then Houston.

"Look at this," Scott said, indicating the two drumsticks in his back pocket. "That's all I have."

The Sammy's reunion cheered him greatly.

"I never thought I'd see so many musicians again," he said. "It's a blessing and an honor. I'm overwhelmed. I took all of my emotions out on my drums."

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**Outside Sammy's, the New Birth Brass Band** orchestrated a mini-second line parade, much to the surprise of disembarking passengers at the nearby Greyhound terminal. Bass drummer Tanio Hingle led his crew down the sidewalk, as cars whizzed by on Main Street.

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras beads worn outside Carnival season are the mark of a tourist. At Sammy's, they functioned as badges of honor.

Hingle and his bandmates are bullish on Houston. "They're showing love for all of us," said snare drummer Kerry Hunter. And Ruffins reports receiving "job offers like crazy."

They predict their weekly New Orleans residency at Sammy's will liven up the otherwise lonely downtown. "This ain't gonna be dead no more," Hingle said.

At Sammy's, "we're running it like we're at home," Scott said. "This can be like Vaughan's every Thursday."

Not exactly. The ramshackle Vaughan's is tucked away in an old, residential neighborhood. Ruffins and his Barbecue Swingers set up in a dark corner, on the floor. The building appeared ready to collapse even before Katrina.

Sammy's, in the shadow of skyscrapers, boasts valet parking, a stage, sleek lights, plush banquettes and elegant framed portraits of jazz singers. In honor of the evening's guests, someone taped a picture of the Treme Brass Band's "Uncle" Lionel Batiste to the door.

Despite the warm embrace, said the New Birth's Hunter, their adopted hometown can never replace home.

"In New Orleans, you know you've got the Rebirth Brass Band at the Maple Leaf on Tuesday, the Soul Rebels at Le Bon Temps on Wednesday, Kermit Ruffins at Vaughan's on Thursday, Mardi Gras Indian practices on Sunday, Bob French at Donna's on Monday," Hunter said.

"New Birth could have a gig every day in New Orleans. You can't do that here in Houston."

Diehard New Orleanians must make other adjustments.

A Sammy's bartender boasted that his establishment stocks "just about every beer you could want."

But not Abita.

In Houston, alcoholic beverages stay inside, no exceptions. All drinks must be consumed by 2 a.m., again no exceptions.

And those who arrived late, assuming Ruffins would still operate on "New Orleans time," missed his set. He finished well before midnight, his normal starting time at Vaughan's.

Keyboardist David Torkanowsky traveled from Lafayette for the gig, then returned to Lafayette afterward.

"I drove three hours to play for 20 minutes," Torkanowsky said. "But it feels good to play. And Kermit is one of the bandleaders I respond to without hesitation."

Among the New Orleans expatriates gathered at Sammy's was Ira "Dr. Ike" Padnos, producer of the Ponderosa Stomp, the annual Jazzfest gathering of dozens of lost legends of blues, R&B, rockabilly and New Orleans music.

Padnos left New Orleans with two boxes of old records and little else. He and his wife reveled in seeing the displaced musicians onstage again.

"Get them working, so others can appreciate what they do and they don't feel like they're waiting around in despair," Padnos said. "It's at least a chance to have their dignity, and to do what they love.

"When they hear the music, they'll feel all right. They'll feel like they're home."

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**As the evening wore on,** it took a toll. Ruffins' eyes are frequently red, but rarely so tired and sad.

A man wearing a Jazzfest T-shirt approached the trumpeter, tears streaming down his face. He lives in Houston but loves New Orleans.

"I'm so glad you're alive," he said. "I've seen you at Vaughan's and the Funky Butt. I love you. God bless you."

After midnight, Lil' Rascals trombonist Corey Henry led a cheer: "New Orleans, we're gonna rebuild, y'all!"

Henry finally shut down the band, but the people wanted more. Bryson Neville, a percussionist in cousin Charmaine Neville's band — and a Superdome survivor — commandeered the microphone.

"Scream for New Orleans!" he shouted.

The response is long and loud, fists and voices raised in defiance of the creeping realization of all that is lost.

Then someone cued up a recording of the Rebirth Brass Band's "Do Whatcha Wanna," and the dance floor filled again.

No one wanted the night, or New Orleans, to die.

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# Reporters became the story

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

guess I got the emotion. I knew it was the things they loved the most.

"That kind of thing means more to them than they do to me. I knew they were going to be sad."

Cohen's homecoming story "was more out of necessity than anything," he said. "I had to keep working. I also had to take care of my home and my family.

"I told my boss that I was going home (and that) that was going to be the story I told."

Cohen's family had evacuated to Alexandria before landfall, allowing him to throw himself at his work — overseeing 40 or so newspeople, several borrowed from radio stations in other cities, covering the catastrophe.

Cohen was on the air when news broke that the 17th Street Canal levee had been breeched, and instantly understood the implications to the thousands of people listening to his voice. Also to the people he worked with.

"My stomach dropped," he said. "My heart dropped. My energy level dropped. We thought we had dodged the atomic bomb. We knew we might be devastated by this hurricane. We didn't know the city would fill with water. That was a real tough moment.

"Both personally and professionally, a very difficult moment, to suddenly have to deliver that kind of news."

By the time he made it to his house, Cohen had surrendered to the notion that he'd had some damage, and was sort of OK with it.

"I convinced myself early on that it's just material, it's just stuff," he said. "Two of my rooms were flooded. The water mark on the back of the house was over a foot. I had to pull out the carpet in two rooms.

"I had some missing shingles. I have no fences anymore. All the fences had blown in around the house. I saw that I have some damage. It's reparable.

"I echo the sentiment of a lot of people I talk to. It's not the damage, it's not the missing shingles, it's not the fence, it's not the power tools I lost. It's the fact that a million people lost their jobs, that I can't see my family every day."

Cohen's radio story had the perfect New Orleans ending. After Cohen dragged his ruined carpet out to the street, assessed his damage and maybe had an intimate conversation with a higher power, he fired up his backyard grill and threw a barbecue.

**"When I realized that my home was damaged, the first thing that came to my mind was, 'What do I do now?' "**

CARL ARREDONDO
WWL-TV meteorologist

Reporters from Seattle, Kansas City and Buffalo, N.Y., who'd been contributing to WWL's coverage came by. Harry Smith of CBS' 'The Early Show' showed up with his producer, photographer and sound tech. Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard came by.

The gathered ate charred meat. Beverages were taken. The unique fellowship that exists between survivors of extraordinary circumstance transpired.

Then Cohen went back to work.

The existential sadness in both of these stories was the unspoken job ahead for both homeowners.

At the time of his homecoming, Cohen had been working nonstop, every minute of it evident in his on-air voice.

Like everybody, Arredondo had begun mentally cataloging the messy work of resurrecting a life — all while slogging through seven-day futurecasts for his meteorologist-depleted station.

Dealing with the insurance adjuster.

Cutting out the drywall.

Documenting every ruined toy.

"Each DVD," Arredondo said. "The kids' books on their shelves. Each one of the books has to be counted. That seems like such a time-consuming thing."

Letting viewers or listeners experience those first wrenching impressions — showing, not telling, your audience the details of what will be weeks and months of collective anguish — was brave work.

There's been a lot of that lately, by people in all kinds of jobs.

"You can report on and cover hurricanes," Arredondo said. "All our lives in this business, you see people affected, you see homes damaged. It's a distant thing. When I realized that my home was damaged, the first thing that came to my mind was, 'What do I do now? What are the steps?'

"I've seen people lose homes, but that was the point where it ended. I never saw what happened after that.

"I felt helpless."

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The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Wednesday
September 21, 2005

## Multiple pricing available for Saints at LSU

**From staff reports**

The Saints on Tuesday announced home-game ticket prices for the four games to be played at Tiger Stadium, starting with the contest against Nick Saban's Miami Dolphins on the weekend of Oct. 30. A formal pricing plan for the three games the team will play at the Alamodome in San Antonio was announced last week.

The Saints' other games in Tiger Stadium: the Chicago Bears on the weekend of Nov. 6, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on the weekend of Dec. 4 and the Carolina Panthers on the weekend of Dec. 18. Exact dates and times will be announced by the NFL in the near future.

For Saints games, full capacity for Tiger Stadium will be 79,000, which is 15,000 more than capacity for Saints games at the Super-

*See* **GAMES,** *page C-6*

## Saints don't make the grade

*Turnovers and penalties are to blame for loss at Giants*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Less than 90 seconds into Monday night's game against the New York Giants, the Saints were playing from behind. And for the full 60 minutes, they looked like a team that was never in control.

**AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**
**SAINTS VS. VIKINGS**
noon
Sunday FOX

Sound a little like the early months of the 2004 season?

Trailing 14-0 in the first quarter, 21-7 in the second and 27-10 when the game finally, mercifully ended, this was such a far cry from the Saints' commanding performance one week earlier at Carolina.

This time, the Saints never established the running game and

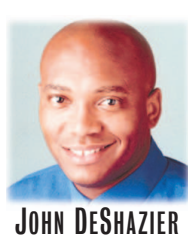
*See* **GRADES,** *page C-6*



AP PHOTO

Nothing seemed to go right for the Saints Monday night, even when it seemed to go right. Joe Horn was on his way into the end zone for a touchdown in the fourth quarter when the ball slipped out of his hands, hit the pylon for a touchback.

## Saints will finish the season as winners



JOHN DESHAZIER

Well, they won't go undefeated.

Still, the Saints are going to emerge from this nomadic season as winners. Even if a couple of clunkers like their 27-10 loss to the Giants on Monday night are tossed into the mix. Even if there are times that they look distracted during games.

"We sucked on that field," Coach Jim Haslett surmised, correctly, after the game. "It had nothing to do with where we live. We were just poor."

But poor as they were - and the Saints were awful - it won't routinely be that way, if only because it'd be hard to be that rank regularly.

Six turnovers, four of them via quarterback Aaron Brooks' three interceptions and one lost fumble, and 13 penalties is way past any team's norm. That kind of incompetence isn't acceptable even for a team that is displaced, one whose emotions have been yanked to the extreme, one that'll spend more time packing and unpacking luggage this season than some flight attendants.



AP PHOTO

One of the big reasons the Saints lost to the Giants on Monday was because they weren't able to get Deuce McAllister and the running game going. McAllister was held to 47 yards on 15 carries.

But it is correctable, assuming players can focus on the games more than the peripheral stress. That, though, is a heck of a lot easier said than done.

"We lost a football game that I felt we should have won," receiver Joe Horn said, after the Saints dug a hole by fumbling the opening kickoff, then kept on digging as the game progressed.

And yet, it's difficult to hammer these Saints, especially this early, especially considering the extenuating circumstances.

Publicly, they have been telling anyone who will listen, and perhaps privately even are willing to toe the same line, that they aren't looking for sympathy. They're in an unforgiving business – witness the Giants' total willingness

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *page C-6*

## Sugar Bowl could move to Atlanta

*But officials are still trying to stay in Louisiana*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan said Tuesday that it would be "gut-wrenching" to move the game to Atlanta for one year, but that the odds of that happening are 50-50 right now.

Hoolahan met with the 11 Division I-A commissioners who govern the BCS to discuss possibilities of holding the bowl in Atlanta or LSU's Tiger Stadium because of damage to the Superdome during and after Hurricane Katrina.

No decision is expected for two weeks.

"First and foremost, we want do everything possible to play the game in Louisiana," Hoolahan said. "And that is still doable. But we face formidable challenges, and we are trying to deal with them rationally instead of putting our eggs in one basket. In the end, we have to do what is in the best long term interests of the Sugar Bowl, not just the short term ones."

Hoolahan, who attended the meeting with Sugar Bowl president Mark Romig and senior associate director Jeff Hundley, emphasized that the biggest obstacle to playing the Jan. 2 game at LSU is hotel rooms.



**Paul Hoolahan**
'First and foremost, we want do everything possible to play the game in Louisiana'

A normal Sugar Bowl fills 32,000 of the 38,000 rooms in the New Orleans area.

Virtually all rooms in Baton Rouge, less than 10,000, are occupied by evacuees and recovery workers with no date as to when they might become available.

In New Orleans, many of the major hotels anticipate reopening in the coming weeks, but Hoolahan said upward of 20-25 percent of their rooms would be used by displaced employees and many of the others are reserved for recovery workers.

"We are working every day to assess the situation with the city and state tourism officials, the restaurants and the merchandisers," Hoolahan said. "Time is of the essence, but we feel we can have a pretty good idea of where we stand in about two weeks.

"Above all, though, we are committed to running the game at the same level which we have traditionally run it. We are not going to diminish this game in any form or fashion."

Atlanta would have plentiful hotel rooms, especially since that city's Peach Bowl is played on Dec. 30, meaning there would be little overlap of visiting fans. There also are ample training facilities for the overlap of time that all four teams would be there.

Peach Bowl executive director Greg Stokan pledged his office's help in whatever the Sugar Bowl would need, including

*See* **SUGAR BOWL,** *page C-8*

## THE BUZZ IS IN OKLAHOMA CITY

*Hornets will play 35 games there, six at the PMAC*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

The NBA will announce at a midday news conference today in Oklahoma City that the Hornets will play the bulk of their home schedule this season at that city's Ford Center.

Hornets owner George Shinn, Coach Byron Scott, General Manager Allan Bristow and team president Paul Mott are expected to be in Oklahoma City for the league's disclosure.

The team and the league will announce the Hornets will play 35 games in Oklahoma City and six in Baton Rouge at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus, though three of those scheduled sometime in March could be moved to New Orleans Arena if repairs to the facility can be made.

"I think the games in Baton Rouge will start in mid-December based on the parameters we got from the people at LSU," Mott said Tuesday. "We're still in negotiations."

The team is waiting, Mott said, for the green light from the NBA to also reveal its plans to base the bulk of its operations in Oklahoma City this season, though a source familiar with the Hornets' plans said earlier in the week that the team would also have a smaller office in either Baton Rouge or New Orleans.

Mott said the team has already identified office space in Oklahoma City.

Lack of premium club seats and box suites, in addition to a seating capacity of about 13,000, make the PMAC a somewhat undesirable venue for the Hornets and the league for more than a half-dozen games, though both would like to keep some sort of local ties in a season that has been affected by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Oklahoma City has offered the Hornets a 19,000-seat arena, replete with more than 3,000 club seats, and nearly 50 private suites, and a calendar with no date conflicts.

The city and Hornets were finalizing a lease agreement Tuesday that is expected to be approved by the Oklahoma City city council at a special morning meeting today.

With the decision to play most of the home schedule in Oklahoma City, the team's original plans to hold training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., are being reconsidered.

The University of Oklahoma in Norman, about 30 miles from Oklahoma City, has been mentioned as a possible site for training camp, Mott confirmed.

"They reached out to us and made it clear they'd be willing to work with us," Mott said, adding that Bristow is in Oklahoma City scouting possible training camp facilities that also include several other state and private universities.

"We're looking at what makes the most sense," Mott said.

The Hornets are scheduled to begin camp Oct. 4.

# SCOUTING REPORT

## SAINTS (1-1) vs. VIKINGS (0-2)

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

Red McCombs must have known something. First, he unloaded the Minnesota Vikings to a New Jersey land developer named Zygi Wilf for $600 million. Then, Hurricane Katrina forced the Saints to evacuate New Orleans and temporarily settle in McCombs' old stomping grounds of San Antonio, which also happens to be Tom Benson's home away from home.

Now the Vikings, 0-2, are playing so poorly that even Hagar The Horrible, the comic strip plunderer, wouldn't claim them.

After a loss to Tampa Bay 24-13 in Week 1 at the Metrodome, a dazed Wilf drove aimlessly around the Twin Cities for five hours, wondering perhaps if McCombs had sold him a lemon.

Quarterback Daunte Culpepper is performing like a journeyman with no touchdown passes, eight interceptions and the NFL's lowest quarterback rating of 41.6 after two games. In Sunday's 37-6 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals, Culpepper threw five interceptions and had two lost fumbles nullified by penalties.

This is the same player who posted a 110.9 passer rating in 2004.

Reports surfaced Tuesday that Culpepper is playing with an unspecified injury to his right knee, initially sustained against Tampa Bay. Culpepper alluded to the injury Monday night on the radio.

Running back Michael Bennett, who fumbled twice against Cincinnati, has been so ineffective that he might be benched for Sunday's game against the Saints at the Metrodome.

Mike Tice, who's operating in the final year of his contract, might not survive past midseason if his team doesn't get it together soon. He's off to his worst start since going 0-4 in his rookie season in 2002.

And a defense that added five starters during the offseason looks unsettled, especially against the Bengals. On the second play from scrimmage, Cincinnati quarterback Carson Palmer collaborated with a wide-open Chad Johnson on a 70-yard touchdown pass.

And the rout was on.

"We have a veteran group with a lot of pride, and we're embarrassed with the way we're playing," Culpepper said. "I'm determined to fix it. One thing we've got to do is stay together."

A players' only meeting is called for Wednesday.

**LAST MEETING:** Vikings won 38-31 on Oct. 17 at the Superdome in a game played on ESPN. The Vikings amassed 605 yards, the most against a Saints team in franchise history. Culpepper carved up the Saints' defense, completing 26 of 37 passes for 425 yards and five touchdowns.

### VIKINGS ON OFFENSE

What offense? When a team falls behind 27-0 in the first half, as it did against the Bengals, you might as well chuck the game plan. At first blush, the Vikings appear to miss wide receiver Randy Moss, who McCombs dealt to the Oakland Raiders during the offseason. But the Vikings didn't fulfill their lofty expectations with Moss and the Raiders are 0-2 with him now. Their biggest loss may be offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Scott Linehan, now on Nick Saban's coaching staff in Miami. Tice stayed in-house to replace Linehan, promoting offensive line coach Steve Lomey. At the moment, the Vikings' can't get the ball to any receiver on a consistent basis. Travis Taylor leads the team with 10 catches for 113 yards. Teams are doubling Nate Burleson (six catches for 93 yards) and putting a safety in the box to stop the run. Bennett has rushed nine times for a team-high 35 yards. The offense also misses veteran center Matt Burk, who decided to skip the 2005 season and undergo hip surgery after team officials declined to guarantee his 2006 salary. The return of right tackle Mike Rosenthal and fullback Jimmy Kleinsasser from injuries has made little impact. Look for Tice to give former Tulane running back Mewelde Moore more playing time against the Saints in an effort to jumpstart the offense.

### VIKINGS ON DEFENSE

The off-season additions of defensive lineman Pat Williams, linebackers Sam Cowart and Napoleon Harris, and defensive backs Darren Sharper and cornerback Fred Smoot were expected to make the Vikings a legitimate Super Bowl contender in the NFC. Instead, the Vikings can't get off the field in crucial third-down situations. Sharper, who returned an interception 88 yards for a touchdown in Week 1, sprained his left knee against Cincinnati and is questionable. Cowart strained his left calf against Tampa Bay and is questionable against the Saints after missing the Bengals' game. Antoine Winfield and Smoot are solid cornerbacks. Opponents appear to be picking on the third cornerback in passing situations.

### VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS

A sign of struggling times in Minnesota: Tice opened his Monday press conference applauding the effort of punter Chris Kluwe. The free agent is averaging 51 yards per punt, with a net average of 42.1 yards. Rookie wide receiver Troy Williamson, the seventh overall pick in the draft, has averaged 12.7 yards per kick return. Keenan Howry is averaging 9.8 yards per punt return. Kicker Paul Edinger has not missed a field-goal attempt, converting from 53 and 22 yards.

**INJURY REPORT:** LB E.J. Henderson, high right ankle sprain, questionable; FS Darren Sharper, sprained MCL in left knee, questionable; WR Nate Burleson (sprained PCL in left knee), doubtful; LB Sam Cowart, strained left calf, questionable.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 10 - Turnovers by Culpepper after two games (eight interceptions, two fumbles). Last season, he threw 11 interceptions in 16 games.

**WORTH REPEATING**

"Stay within the scheme, go down the list, ba-boom-, ba-boom, and that takes cares of the rhythm with the passing game." **— Tice on Culpepper.**

"I have to get back to playing within myself and doing what I have to do - make plays." **— Culpepper.**

# Saints offensive ineptness means 'F' on report card

**GRADES,** *from C-5*

certainly were not able to stay committed to it later in the game.

This time, quarterback Aaron Brooks was asked to do too much. And though he dazzled at times, throwing for 375 yards, he threw three interceptions and fumbled a shotgun snap from center LeCharles Bentley.

And this time, the Saints never had the opportunity to rattle sophomore quarterback Eli Manning's cage in his first "Monday Night Football" appearance.

Manning was far too comfortable playing with a 14-point lead.

Other things happened on Monday night that probably never will be repeated this season – five penalties on special teams in the first half; 13 penalties by the Saints overall in the game; six turnovers, including a fumble on the opening kickoff return and a late fumble by Joe Horn at the goal line that tumbled out of bounds for a touchback.

But the most important lesson learned is that the Saints are a much better team – who isn't? – when they don't dig themselves into an early hole.

And they did not handle adversity well the first time it was presented this year … on the football field, that is.

**OFFENSE F**: Some football math: 422 yards is supposed to equal way more than 10 points. The Giants' offense, for example, scored 27 while gaining just 257 yards. But the Saints turned the ball over time and time again and were downright dreadful in the red zone.

This was one of the more spectacular up-and-down performances of Brooks' career. He threw some beautiful and accurate bullets and looked totally in command at times, finding his receivers deep downfield. But the turnovers were devastating, and they didn't just occur when the game was out of reach. He fumbled and threw a pick on the Saints' first two drives of the second half.



Giants quarterback Eli Manning had a solid game against the Saints, going 13 of 24 for 165 yards and one touchdown to lead the Giants to a 27-10 win.

AP PHOTO

But perhaps the most undervalued aspect of this game was that the Saints were never able to establish the run – their supposed bread and butter this year - against a steadfast Giants defense. For the Saints' sake, this was just a terrific performance by the G-Men and not a blueprint that other defenses can follow throughout the year.

**DEFENSE C-:** This loss was not the defense's fault, by any stretch. But on a night when they needed to provide a momentum swing, the Saints defenders forced zero turnovers (one fumble came on special teams).

The Giants did not score a touchdown in the second half, despite four Saints turnovers. But they did score three touchdowns in the first half. The first came after that fumbled kickoff return. But the next came on an 11-play, 76-yard drive, and the third came after a penalty on linebacker Sedrick Hodge on third down.

**SPECIAL TEAMS F:** The most inexplicable part of this game was the performance from one of the league's most consistent special teams units. Veteran Fred McAfee fumbled away a handoff from Michael Lewis on the opening kickoff, which was followed by all those penalties. Then kicker John Carney missed a 29-yard field-goal attempt off the left upright in the fourth quarter.

Of course, this area will be better. But adding injury to insult, the Saints lost Lewis to a knee injury late in the fourth quarter, and was scheduled to have an MRI on Tuesday night. But Haslett said the prognosis is not good. The Saints have guys who can fill in, but Lewis is a special part of this team.

**COACHING C:** It's impossible to blame the coaches, who must have wanted to rip the game plan to shreds somewhere between the 13 penalties and six turnovers. Perhaps some might suggest they did not have their team in the right mental state for this game, but the Saints seemingly had a good week in practice, riding the emotion of last week's win, and they had handled their plight extremely well to this point.

This was just one of those games that spiraled out of control. The real coaching job begins today, with the Saints needing to prove the sting of this loss won't linger. They travel to Minnesota this weekend – their fourth consecutive road trip, this one on a short week following a Monday game.

# FUMING HASLETT

## *Saints coach rants about 'home' game in New York*

**From wire reports**

SAN ANTONIO — Now that he has been through the experience of playing a "home" game on the road, and came away a loser, Saints coach Jim Haslett is furious about it all.

Back at the team's temporary home in San Antonio, Haslett said Tuesday the Saints were at a competitive disadvantage in their 27-10 loss to the New York Giants at Giants Stadium on Monday night - even if they were wearing their home jerseys and saw their nickname painted in one of the end zones.

"They could have done that anywhere," Haslett said. "They could have played that game in Baton Rouge. They could have played it in San Antonio and could have done the same thing.

"To play it in Giants Stadium, to give them another home game and to put us in a situation where we couldn't hear … It wasn't why we lost that game, but …"

When the league told the Saints they had to play in New Jersey, Haslett would only say it put his team behind the eight-ball. Yet after seeing his team commit six turnovers and 13 penalties, he let loose.

"It wasn't a home game," he said. "I look up at the scoreboard and there are signs, 'Let's Go Giants'. The referees, when they flipped the coin, they asked us if we wanted heads or tails. They had no idea who the home team was and who was away. The crowd noise we had to deal with, we never had to do a silent count at home."

Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks had some strong comments about all the hoopla surrounding the game.

"They made this seem like the Super Bowl," Brooks said after the loss. "We played a team that outplayed us today, but it was way overdone. Setting up a stage, traveling out here, was uncalled for.

"Try not to patronize us next time, traveling us to New York, saying we're playing a home game."

Haslett tempered his remarks with appreciation for the in-game telethon that featured current and former NFL star answering telephones in the effort to support those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The league said Tuesday that $5 million was raised for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund in about 6 1/2 hours.

"The whole thing was a great cause and the NFL did a great job of raising money for the Gulf Coast," Haslett said.

The Saints won't have any more home games in an opponents' stadium. The remaining seven games initially scheduled for the Superdome will be played at Tiger Stadium and the Alamodome in San Antonio, where the team has its practice site and headquarters.

"I don't think (an NFL team) has done that many games traveling," he said. "I think that's something that will be answered in January or February because I really don't know. Hopefully we handle it better than what we did yesterday."

The Saints were attempting to maintain the league's longest winning streak dating to last season. New Orleans won four straight to end last season and defeated the Carolina Panthers in their season-opener.

During their roll, the Saints had eight more turnovers than their opponents. On Monday night, it was the Giants that came away with five more.

The edge began eroding when Fred McAfee fumbled on the opening kickoff on an attempted reverse. New York scored three plays later.

Many of the penalties came on special teams. One possession started on the 14-yard line instead of the 28 because of a Mike McKenzie roughness penalty on a kickoff return. Another was backed up to the 5-yard line when Fred Thomas was called for blocking above the waist on a punt return. And another drive started on the 15 when Terrence Melton was called for holding on a kickoff return.

"The penalties were our fault and the turnovers were bad decisions," Haslett said. "You've got to hold onto the ball. We had poor field position all day because of our own doing. Special teams were ragged all day on our return units."

Even if McAfee would have held on to the ball, the Saints would have started their first drive of the night from their own 16 on the failed reverse.

"That's not the great way to start the game - a turnover and seven quick ones," Haslett said.

Now the Saints (1-1) are getting ready for another road game, this time in Minnesota. It will be the fourth consecutive week they fly to a game, counting the preseason.

"We lost one game and this team's overcome a lot in the last month, so that one game is nothing compared to what we've had to overcome," Haslett said. "It's just the way it was played out - a Monday night and all the things that were going on. We didn't deal with the situation very well.

"We'll forget it and we'll move on and try to play better this week."

# Saints know there'll be days like this

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

to smack them every time the opportunity presented itself – so they won't receive any slack between the lines anyway.

But the Saints, who will endure a season unlike any other in NFL history, unable to play a single game in their home city of New Orleans, need a break in the worst way.

And they're going to have to create their own luck. They're going to have to stop feeling put upon and get back to being the team they believe they can be.

"It seemed like an away game to me," Haslett said of Monday's game, which was played at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., but, to the chagrin of the Saints and their fans, was designated by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue as a Saints home game.

They'll all seem like away games to a degree, since none will be played at the Superdome this season, and maybe ever again. Which means the Saints will be forced to make themselves at home, whether in Baton Rouge, San Antonio, Atlanta or Minnesota.

All of this means the Saints are going to have to be a tad more businesslike, rather than riding waves of emotion. Because - while adrenaline aided them mightily in the season-opening victory at Carolina – it all comes down to simple execution. And if the execution isn't there, like it wasn't Monday, the result on the scoreboard can be sobering, if not downright embarrassing.

Not so shameful, though, that we should be eager to write off the Saints, who have gained admirers nationally through their willingness to forge ahead.

Not much this season will appear to be fair for New Orleans, whether playing the Giants in a "home" game at Giants Stadium, or splitting its real "home" games between one city that loves college football (Baton Rouge) and another city (San Antonio) that's working its tail off to make the Saints feel at home, but isn't New Orleans and, therefore, isn't home.



AP PHOTO

The Mississippi connection: Saints running back Deuce McAllister and Giants quarterback Eli Manning both played college ball at Ole Miss.

But the inconvenience doesn't amount to a pimple on an elephant's backside when compared to the major tragedies that others have endured and continue to rebuild from.

And, in the end, the Saints will finish the season as winners, just for having survived it.

# Tickets can be had for as low as $15

**GAMES,** *from C-5*

dome. Partial proceeds from all tickets sold will be applied to the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Pricing for Saints games at Tiger Stadium is as follows:

Lower sideline seats: $89 for individuals, $336 for a four-game pack, $87 for LSU students and group purchases.

Lower corner seats: $70 for individuals, $260 for four-game pack, $68 for LSU students and group purchases.

Lower end zone: $55 for individuals, $200 for four-game pack, $53 for LSU students and group purchases.

Tiger Terrace: $75 for individuals, $280 for four-game pack, $73 for LSU students and group purchases.

North end zone upper: $25 for individuals, $80 for four-game pack, $23 LSU students and group purchases.

Upper sideline: $15 for individuals, $40 for four-game pack, $13 for LSU students and group purchases.

An Internet-only pre-sale for Tiger Stadium Saints 4-Packs will take place beginning at 10 a.m. Friday at both www.neworleanssaints.com and www.ticketmaster.com. All tickets will be available through all outlets (phone, in-person, Internet) beginning Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. by calling the Saints' Baton Rouge office at (225) 927-8626 or Ticketmaster at (800) 877-0898, or by visiting the aforementioned Web sites.

# Lutcher struggles to find opponents

*Bulldogs only team to play football in District 10-3A*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

Lutcher football coach Tim Detillier said his phone has never been so busy, and he's not about to miss a single call.

"It might be a game," he says, after excusing himself to answer the phone.

These days, Detillier will take any game he can get.

Among the things Hurricane Katrina tore apart was District 10-3A. What was to be one the state's biggest football districts, with eight teams, is reduced to one, Lutcher. It appears unlikely that any of the other teams in the league will field football teams this season.

The good news is that the Bulldogs automatically qualify for the playoffs. The bad news is Detillier has to search for seven opponents.

The reclassification process last year put Lutcher into a geographical nightmare of a district that included Lawless, Clark, Hannan, De La Salle, Landry, St. Bernard and Karr. This week, Lutcher was supposed to face St. Bernard. Instead, the Bulldogs will be taking on Class 5A powerhouse Hahnville at 7 p.m. Friday in Lutcher.

And, with more and more schools reopening, Detillier's written-in-pencil revised schedule has been revised and revised again.

"I'm on my fifth schedule right now," Detillier said. "I have been diligent, I'll say that. I started working on it with my lantern in the dark way back when. No one in the state of Louisiana has pressed the redial button as many times as me, I promise you."

When asked if it compared to trying to reach FEMA, Detillier said: "FEMA? They've got a team? I'll play 'em. I'll even feed them."

After Friday's game with Hahnville, Lutcher has an open date. Then the Bulldogs are scheduled to play Salmen on Oct. 7 and Holy Cross on Oct. 14. On Oct. 21, it's either King or St. Martin's. On Oct. 28, it's either Assumption or Kentwood. On Nov. 4, it's definitely Riverside. And all games will be played at Lutcher.

"The silver lining to all this is, we might actually make a little money," said Detillier, who has agreed to split the gate with all opponents. "With the schedule we had, we were going to take a beating. But this schedule should make my spring sports a little happier."

But all of Lutcher's sports teams are concerned about their because of the uncertainty within the district. With Orleans Parish schools closed until further notice, Detillier still has no idea what has become - or will become - of his district. None of the district's other coaches has contacted him, but Detillier said he's working under the assumption that none of the teams will play football or volleyball.

"It doesn't appear that way," Detillier said. "So I am scheduling games with that assumption."

And, if the circumstances leave Lutcher the only team remaining in the district, Detillier said he will not claim the district championship.

"Someone asked me the other day if we were going to order T-shirts," he said. "I said, 'No.' We will not be the district champs. We will be the representative of our district. We will represent our district in the playoffs."

Even if the Bulldogs are declared district champions, Detillier said scheduling is still important.

"I'm scheduling games with power points in mind," he said. "Yeah, I may have a spot in the playoffs, but I don't want to be the 32nd seed."

That's why Detillier decided to play Hahnville.

So far, the Bulldogs have played Class 5A opponents St. Amant (lost) and Thibodaux (won). Hahnville has defeated Central Lafourche and East St. John.

"I hope we give them a good game," Detillier said. "But let's be honest. There's no way we're supposed to win this game. But that's not the most important thing. We want to play. We need to play. That's the main thing."

# Patriots' quarterback Mitchell to return

*Ehret coach uncertain about how many players will return*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Ehret got a boost Monday when Coach Billy North said senior quarterback Chris Mitchell, a member of The Times-Picayune's blue chip recruiting list, will play for the school when the Patriots begin their season Oct. 7.

Ehret will open its season against Destrehan in a District 5-5A game Oct. 7.

Mitchell made contact with North on Saturday after a journey that took him throughout the state and to Beaumont, Texas, where he had enrolled in school.

Mitchell, his mother, sister and brother evacuated their Lincolnshire home in Marrero prior to Hurricane Katrina and ended up in a Bossier City hotel for about a week. From there, Mitchell traveled to Baton Rouge to stay with a sister for four days, then to Lafayette to stay with another sister for two days, then back home to check the condition of his family's residence and finally to Beaumont.

While in Beaumont, Mitchell enrolled at Central High School and practiced at receiver for one week, but played in no game because of a Texas rule requiring him to be in school for 15 days to establish eligibility.

"I never thought I'd be coming back," Mitchell said Monday. "(Because) we didn't have nothing to come back to except for living with my grandmother (in Woodmere). Our home is destroyed. I never thought we'd be playing again. Then when I heard Jefferson Parish schools were opening on (Oct. 3), I just hoped to come back to school."

Being displaced and homeless, Mitchell said, "was hard to swallow. We never played our first game and I was going to have to fit into a new school."

Despite having his cell phone disconnected, Mitchell said he did manage to keep in touch with a handful of teammates - receivers Anthony Roussel and Jywin Caesar, linebacker Brandon Washington and defensive tackle Charles Crayton.

All four are expected to return to Ehret as is standout defensive tackle Drake Nevis, who is at Terrebonne High School, North said. The farthest flung Patriot is senior offensive tackle Marque Black, who is playing in Boston, but attempting to return.

"It will be good to have some of these kids that have been in the program back," North said. "But it's not like we're rounding up kids. I can't tell you how many we will have."

North has begun trying to find housing for players that need it. He picked up Mitchell on Monday at Ehret where they toured the school fieldhouse and found their equipment intact and lying where it had been placed following Ehret's jamboree exhibition against Holy Cross on Aug. 26.

"It'll be nice to be around people I know," said Mitchell, whose hair is styled in dreadlocks. "Where I was, they don't talk like us. They thought I was from Jamaica. When I'd talk to people, they'd be like, 'What are you saying?' I'd be like, Never mind.'"

Though he'll play quarterback this season, Mitchell is expected to play wide receiver in college. He excelled at the position the past two seasons.

As a junior, Mitchell earned All-Metro honors after catching 64 passes for 970 yards

and 12 touchdowns for an 11-1 Ehret team that advanced to the Class 5A state quarterfinals.

Ehret will resume practice at 3 p.m. Monday in anticipation of the re-opening of Jefferson Parish Public Schools on Oct. 3. North urges any displaced Ehret football player to contact him at (504) 343-8038.

"The first time that any of my kids have called me, not just Chris, has represented a great sense of relief to know that they were alive and safe," North said. "The problem was my cell phone had not been working for some time after the storm. It was horrendous. So it was nice to know they were safe and that I don't have to worry about them anymore."

# Ehret, West Jeff to remain in District 5-5A

*Idea to create All-Jefferson League fails*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

An attempt to form an all-Jefferson Parish Class 5A football district has failed.

Ehret and West Jefferson will play football in District 5-5A this season as scheduled after the district's six principals met Tuesday and agreed to keep the league the same.

Jefferson Parish Public Schools athletic director Manny Barocco asked the Louisiana High School Athletic Association executive committee last week about the possibility of merging Ehret and West Jefferson with fellow Jefferson schools Bonnabel, Higgins and King in a revised District 7-5A. The merger would have been in effect for the 2005 football season only.

But the request drew a protest from East St. John, Destrehan and Hahnville officials, who would have had to fill two playing dates in an already storm-shortened season.

Ehret and West Jefferson officials expressed concerned about the safety of their student-athletes given that the District 5-5A openers are scheduled Oct. 7 and their schools are scheduled to open four days earlier on Oct. 3. Jefferson teams would have no more than two weeks to prepare for opponents that would have been practicing and playing games for a month.

The River Parish principals, also concerned about the possibility of facing Ehret and West Jefferson in the state playoffs, countered with a proposal to allow the Jefferson schools to leave the district, but only under a written stipulation that the two schools would not compete for championship honors this season.

Principals Lale Geer of West Jefferson and Clothilde Cobert of Ehret rejected the counter proposal.

"We all agreed that we're going to stay in the same district," Cobert said. "We don't know what's coming down the road and we don't have the energy to waste dealing with this. We expressed our concern about us being out of school and them being in school. But the biggest concern was us just needing to sit down and talk.

"We don't know what problems we're going to face, so we can't dilly-dally with this. We've got to get moving forward."

Destrehan coach Steve Robicheaux told Cobert that his program was willing to delay their teams' Oct. 7 opener for two days until Sunday to give Ehret more time to prepare. West Jefferson opens at Assumption on Oct. 7.

Ehret and West Jefferson are scheduled to resume practice Monday.

Both teams will practice at 3 p.m. Ehret players can contact Coach Billy North at (504) 343-8038. West Jeff players should call Coach Hank Tierney at (504) 874-2303.

# Crusaders relieved to have cross country season

*Smaller numbers has coach worried*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

Brother Martin has established itself as one of the state's top cross country programs.

The good news for this season is that the Crusaders, despite being displaced by Hurricane Katrina, will have a team and high expectations like most other years.

Though Brother Martin will not field programs in major sports during the fall and winter, the Crusaders' cross country team begins its season Saturday at the Roundtable Run in Baton Rouge, hosted by Episcopal of Baton Rouge.

Brother Martin, the Division I runnerup last season to rival Jesuit, has moved to Baton Rouge Catholic's campus and will run in the Baton Rouge area for the rest of the season, primarily at the Highland Road course.

But Brother Martin coach Dennis Panepinto is worried about the future of his program.

The Crusaders averaged 150 runners on its team in years past. But the squad will have only 16 runners this season.

Fewer runners means that Panepinto will not have a chance to stockpile talent and develop runners like he's done in past seasons.

"Now you just don't know what some of the young kids are going to do," he said.

Having a season will be good, though, Panepinto said. Most local teams have missed about three weeks of practice and two meets. Many, including Jesuit, will not compete this season.

It will be a long time - probably not this season - before teams run again on the Lakefront course, the cross country venue of choice for most metro area teams.

# Schultheis eager for cross country to get back on track

*Blenk coach optimistic about saving season*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

It was more than two weeks ago that Blenk senior Courtney Schultheis, her twin sister Judy, and the rest of her family fled Hurricane Katrina for her grandmother's residence near Beaumont, Texas.

The Schultheis girls enrolled at Kelly Catholic High School and ran for the cross country team. It was nice to compete in a sport that they love, Courtney said.

But Courtney Schultheis, one of the area's top female cross country competitors, said she was ready to be back home, running for Blenk.

Her wish came true Tuesday when Blenk, which is scheduled to resume classes Oct. 3, held its first cross country practice since Kartina hit.

Schultheis expects her family to return home by the end of the month and is eager to run in a meet again with her Blenk teammates.

"I missed my team so much," she said. "Competing in Texas was nothing like running with my old team."

Though she's glad to be back, Schultheis said she's worried about what the cross

country season will be like this season in the metro area.

"I wonder about where we're going to have these meets, and who is going to be there, because kids at the schools have moved throughout the country," she said.

That's the case at Blenk. Several runners who moved and enrolled at other schools were missing from the first practice.

But Blenk coach Tom Chiocchio, who lost his home in the storm, said he thinks the cross country season in New Orleans can be saved.

"I think it's going to be done on an individual basis with some of the runners," Chiocchio said. "My goal is that I want to host a cross country meet (on the West Bank) this season in New Orleans, and I don't care if I just have two teams."

## THE WORLD IN SPORTS

### MASCOT BAN IS EXTENDED TO BOWL GAMES

The NCAA is requiring bowl games to ban the "hostile" or "abusive" use of American Indian nicknames, mascots and logos beginning next year. On Tuesday, the NCAA announced it is extending its prohibition to include bowl games. The decision was made after Bowl Championship Series officials sought a ruling after determining they could not impose the prohibition, NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said. Only one Division I-A school, the University of Illinois, will be affected. "We received a written request from the BCS to take appropriate action as it related to bowl games," Williams said. "The BCS didn't feel it had the governance structure to do what was necessary." In August, the NCAA released a list of 18 "offenders," four of which play Division I-A football. But three, Florida State, Central Michigan and the University of Utah, have been granted extensions, dropping the number of schools to 15. The University of North Dakota also has filed an appeal, the NCAA said. NCAA Divisions I-AA, II and III were already included in the ban because they have a playoff system. The NCAA announced in August that the ban would be imposed at all NCAA championships. That is scheduled to take effect in February. Although the NCAA does not run bowl games, it does sanction them. So the governing body agreed to add the mascot ban to its list of requirements to be licensed. The prohibition will extend beyond the five BCS bowl games and include all postseason games.

**LSWA HONORS 3:** Three players, including a pair of defensive standouts, have been chosen players of the week by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. Derrick Smith of Louisiana-Lafayette earned offensive honors, and the Cajuns' Johnny Felders shared the defensive award with Lawrence Darby of McNeese State.

**PENN STATE REVAMPS FIELD:** Penn State is replacing the natural-grass turf at Beaver Stadium after divots kept popping up on the field during the first three games. Workers began removing the old turf Monday, and the new sod is expected to be in place later this week, spokesman Jeff Nelson said. Penn State plays its first road game Saturday against Northwestern. Chunks of turf popped up on the field during Penn State's opener against South Florida three weeks ago. Since then, workers have had to run out on the field during timeouts to replace the divots. The Nittany Lions host Minnesota on Oct. 1 and Ohio State the following week.

### COLLEGES

**MEET IS MOVED:** The SEC Cross Country Championships, scheduled to be hosted by LSU on Oct. 29 at Highland Road Park, have been moved to Fort Jackson, S.C., and will be hosted by the University of South Carolina, it was announced Tuesday by the SEC office.

"We wish we were hosting the meet here and that (Hurricane) Katrina had never happened, but unfortunately that isn't the case," said LSU track and field coach Dennis Shaver. "Knowing the short amount of time South Carolina was given to secure a facility and the necessary manpower required to host such an event, we are very lucky and grateful that they are willing to do so." The meet, still scheduled for Oct. 29, will include all 23 of the SEC's men's and women's cross-country teams.

**WAVE GETS GOING AGAIN:** The Tulane women's soccer team will take the field for the first time in its new hometown of College Station, Texas, today, taking on Sam Houston State at 7 p.m. Today's game will be the first for the Green Wave (0-3) since the UAB Nike Classic on Sept. 2-4.

### BASEBALL

**HAMPTON TO MISS 2006 SEASON:** Atlanta Braves pitcher Mike Hampton will have major elbow surgery next Wednesday and will miss the 2006 season. Hampton, a 33-year-old lefthander, will have Tommy John surgery in New York, where he was examined last weekend by Dr. Dave Altchek. Hampton made 12 starts this season, going 5-3 with a 3.50 ERA.

### BASKETBALL

**FRANCE ADVANCES:** San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker scored 13 points as France stunned host Serbia-Montenegro 74-71 to reach the quarterfinals of the European Championship. Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki scored 33 points as Germany beat Turkey 66-57 to move into the quarterfinals. In Thursday's quarterfinals, France will face defending champion Lithuania and Greece plays Russia. On Friday, Germany will play Slovenia and Croatia will face Spain.

**CHICAGO GETS A SKY:** Chicago's WNBA franchise announced that the new team will be called the Sky, with light blue and yellow as its colors. The team has been without a moniker since February, when the league awarded real estate developer Michael Alter an expansion franchise to begin play next year.

SPORTS

# Tennessee names Ainge starter

*Both Vols QBs played poorly against Florida*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE – If Rick Clausen is ever going to throw an official pass in Tiger Stadium, he better hope starter Erik Ainge chucks a few balls into the ground or over the reach of his receivers for a couple of possessions.

After choosing the former LSU transfer the starter before the Florida game, Tennessee coach Philip Fulmer again changed his mind, anointing the sophomore Ainge in charge of the offense for Saturday's LSU game. Ainge started the season-opener, a closer-than-expected 17-10 home win against UAB.

**TIGER STADIUM**
**LSU VS. TENNEESEE**
6:45 p.m. Saturday
ESPN

"I want to make clear (the decision) bears no reflection on Rick's ability or leadership or anything like that," Fulmer said. "Rick has done a great job for us, and this team is going to need him as we go through the year. And certainly the staff is counting on him."

Fulmer struck the gong quickly on Clausen last Saturday night, yanking him in favor of Ainge after just two series. Clausen did get to conduct a first-half ending two-minute drive, but spent the remainder of the evening on the sideline. Clausen completed 2 of 5 passes for 0 yards.

Ainge hardly lit up the scoreboard, either. Less than half his attempts were complete and no Vols receiver had more than 27 yards.

"Erik went to work yesterday and worked really hard - as he has," Fulmer said. "He worked with a purpose in mind, I believe, and I'm sure he has the mindset to prove that he can use his talent to help us win football games."

LSU coach Les Miles said he'll prepare for both quarterbacks.

"Both have the ability to throw the football. Receivers, they put them in the right place," Miles said. "I think they are both quality quarterbacks."

**INJURIES:** Wide receiver Dwayne Bowe, who missed the entire Arizona State game with an undisclosed ankle injury, practiced without hindrance Tuesday. Wide receiver Craig Davis wore a limited-contact green jersey but participated in passing drills.

**AFTERNOON DELIGHT:** Since no network or cable stations with broadcast rights to SEC football decided to pick up the Oct. 1 LSU-Mississippi State game in Starkville, Miss., school officials have set kickoff for 1:30 p.m. LSU officials said a decision regarding TigerVision, the school's in-house pay-per-view network, for the Mississippi State game will be made in the coming days.

**BACK IN THE DAY:** Tennessee's unique travel schedule - the Vols are leaving Knoxville on Saturday morning, instead of heading to Baton Rouge on Friday night - is nothing new for its players.

"A lot of these players have driven five hours on a bus, gotten off the bus and played a high school football game," Fulmer said. "So I'm hoping that it won't be a distraction, and I don't think it will be."

# Green Wave back in familiar digs

*Tulane to play SMU this week*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — After spending a week at Southern Methodist University in Dallas prior to relocating in Ruston, Tulane's football team is headed back to some familiar surroundings this week in Texas.

The Green Wave will begin Conference USA play against the Mustangs on Saturday.

Although Wave players got to mingle with some of SMU's players during their brief stay in Dallas, Tulane coach Chris Scelfo said the familiarity with the area will not be an advantage for his team.

"We didn't do a whole lot while we were there,'' Scelfo said Tuesday. "We went to practice and stayed in the hotel. (The players) will at least know where the stadium is.

**AT DALLAS, TEXAS**
**TULANE VS. SMU**
7 p.m. Saturday

"The players know each other, but it's sort of like high school. When you play on a Friday night in high school, you know everybody on the other team."

The difference heading into Game 2, Scelfo said, is he and his staff knows a lot more about SMU than it did about Mississippi State. Still, the Mustangs won't be an easy target, he said.

"I know SMU's going to be ready for us, and I know our kids are going to be ready to play, too. It's going to be two teams that are pretty evenly matched, and the one that makes the least amount of mistakes is going to have a chance to win," Scelfo said.

"We know more about SMU, but we've got some things we have to worry about with our football team that we have to get corrected. Regardless of what we know about them, if we don't get those things corrected, it's going to be another long night for us."

**LANDRY'S BACK:** Junior tight end Jerome Landry, who missed Saturday's game against Mississippi State, was cleared by the Green Wave training staff and returned to practice. Landry said he hadn't received the go-ahead to play earlier because he hadn't completed therapy on his left knee. Landry sat out the 2004 season after suffering torn ligaments in the 2004 spring drills.

**MCGEE TO PLAY:** Left offensive tackle Chris McGee, who suffered a sprained left ankle in the first quarter of the Mississippi State game, was walking around Tuesday with the ankle heavily taped. McGee did not practice, but said he'll be ready for the SMU game. McGee missed most of the first three quarters before playing most of the fourth quarter. McGee's absence forced a pair of redshirt freshmen - Michael Parenton and Troy Kropog - to get more playing time than was planned.

With Parenton and Kropog leading the way, the Wave had 17 freshmen, including nine freshmen, to play against Mississippi State.

**UNDER THE LIGHTS:** For the first time since relocating at Louisiana Tech, the Green Wave will hold a night practice today. Senior strong safety Tra Boger said the evening practice will be good for the team.

"It's going to give us an opportunity to have more meeting time before we go out on the practice field," Boger said. "We'll get more preparation time and have a chance to look at more film."

The Wave's workout is scheduled for 8 p.m.

**RIDING IN STYLE:** It takes a little bit more than walking downstairs and out the back door to get to the practice field for Scelfo. Not to worry, though, Scelfo has found a solution. These days, Scelfo can be seen riding from the Thomas Assembly Center to the practice field in a supped-up golf cart. It's a little bit smaller than a VW Beetle, but it seats four. It doesn't have room for golf clubs.

# Finding a perfect match for Tiger no easy task

*Woods to pair with Couples hoping to reverse trend*

**From wire reports**

GAINESVILLE, VA. — Tiger Woods has been paired with some of his best friends.

He also has been paired with Phil Mickelson.

In the seven Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup matches Woods has played since 1997, the U.S. captains have had no trouble finding him a partner for better-ball and alternate-shot matches.

Finding one who fits is another matter.

"Everybody wants to play with him," Davis Love III said Tuesday, searching for a reason why Woods already has had 14 partners in 28 matches. "Everybody gets their turn."

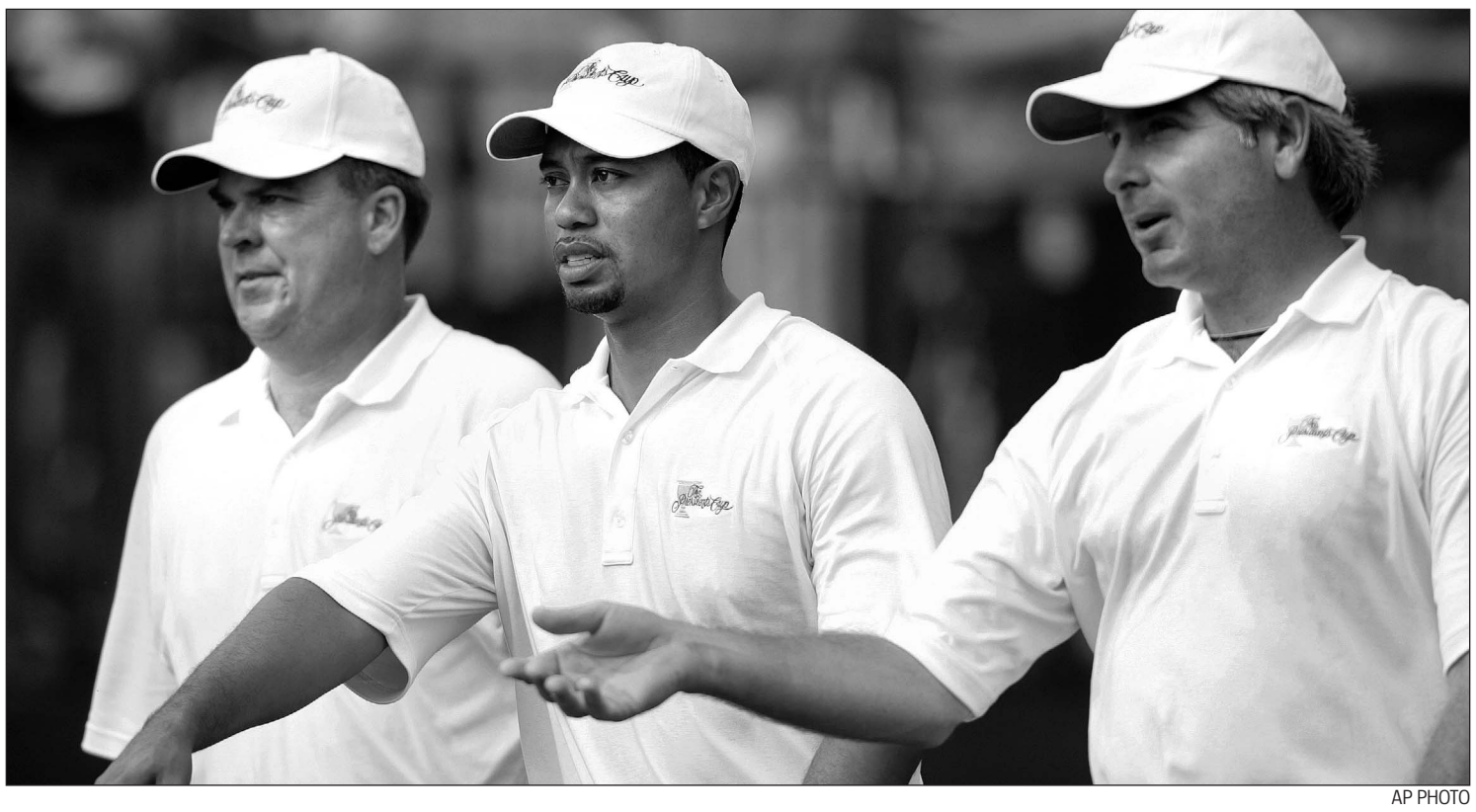
Fred Couples likely will get another turn at the Presidents Cup, which starts Thursday at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club. Woods and Couples played twice at Royal Melbourne in 1998 and were 1-1 as a team. The loss came on the 18th hole when Craig Parry chipped in from 50 feet.

What makes for a good partner?

"Being comfortable is the best thing about it," Couples said. "Everyone thinks they can play with everybody, and they all get along great. But when you're on the course, you have to know the guy pretty well because you're not going to win every single time you play, and you have to be able to say the right things and have some fun."

Woods is supremely comfortable with Mark O'Meara, his best friend on tour. That didn't help them in 1997 at Valderrama - Woods' first Ryder Cup - when they went 1-2.

Two other close friends are Notah Begay and Charles Howell III. Those are the only players with whom Woods was paired for all four team matches at the Presidents Cup - Begay in 2000 at RTJ, Howell in South Africa in 2003. Both times, their record was 2-2.



AP PHOTO

Tiger Woods, center, talks with Fred Couples, right, and Kenny Perry on Tuesday during practice for the Presidents Cup at Robert Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Va. Woods has had difficulty with his partners during Presidents and Ryder Cup play. He is scheduled to play with Couples Thursday during the first day of competition.

The uncomfortable side is Mickelson. U.S. captain Hal Sutton put them together for the first two matches last year at Oakland Hills.

"I felt like history needed it. I felt like the fans needed it. And most of all, I felt like Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods needed it," Sutton said.

It proved to be a disaster. The best two Americans rarely spoke to each other in losing both matches. The lasting image was Woods trying to keep a straight face when Mickelson nearly hit 3-wood out-of-bounds on the final hole of alternate shot with their match all square against Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood.

Woods also played with David Duval in 1999 when they were Nos. 1 and 2 in the world, an act of desperation by Ryder Cup captain Ben Crenshaw. They lost on the 18th hole to Clarke and Westwood.

There have been partnerships through the years that have been tough to beat - Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal; Love and Couples, who have played together 10 times in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup; Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson, who never lost a match.

The search for a stable partner for Woods continues, and the record reflects futility. Woods has lost only one singles match in seven cups, yet his team record is 10-17-1. He has a winning record with only two players - Love (2-1) and Chris Riley, who won his only match with Woods last year at the Ryder Cup.

Asked how many partners he has had in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, Woods guessed it was 16.

Asked for a reason why so many, he went blank.

"I have no idea," he said. "I've had some great times with my partners, trying to go out there and win points. Unfortunately, I haven't won as many points as I'd like."

His ideal partner?

"A guy that makes a lot of birdies," Woods said. "If my partner makes a bunch of birdies, we're going to have a great time."

Even that might not make a difference. Woods still recalls the time he and Paul Azinger shot 9-under 63 in a better-ball match at The Belfry and still lost to Clarke and Thomas Bjorn.

Even more staggering is his 0-6 record in better-ball matches at the Presidents Cup.

"In better ball?" Couples said. "That's best ball? That's when you use his seven or eight birdies every round? That's pretty surprising. But again, I've watched a lot of it, and I think he's ready to change all that."

To get an idea how many partners Woods has gone through, consider two other perennial cup players. Love has played in every Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup since 1993 - 11 events - and has had 13 partners. Mickelson has played in 10 cups dating to 1994, and he's had only 11 partners.

Love played the majority of his matches with Couples. Mickelson has played at least five times with three players -Tom Lehman, David Toms and Duval.

"I think it would be cool to play with the same guy," Woods said.

Maybe that would have happened if a partnership paid off earlier in his cup career. After going 1-2 in the '97 Ryder Cup, Woods and O'Meara never played together in the next two cups. Woods and Love went 2-0 at The Belfry, but their latest partnership ended in a 4-and-3 loss at Oakland Hills.

Make yourself U.S. captain for the day. Who does Woods get as a partner?

"Phil. They did good together," said Adam Scott of the International team, as the room broke into laughter.

Stuart Appleby had another solution to finding Woods a partner.

He was told only four Americans on this Presidents Cup team have ever played with Woods in cup competition - Love, Couples, Mickelson and Leonard.

"All the rest of them, I guess," Appleby said.

# N.O. venue vital for Sugar Bowl's future

**SUGAR BOWL,** *from C-5*

sharing his game's season ticket list.

"We hope they are able to play in Louisiana," he said. "But we are prepared to help make the Sugar Bowl in Atlanta everything it should be."

Hoolahan had expressed the hope that the Superdome would be operating again in 2006, but on Monday NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue indicated that the league and the Saints are acting on the assumption that it will not be and are making arrangements to play at LSU next season.

Superdome officials have said they will do their utmost to have the stadium operational by 2006.

"If the Superdome is unavailable next year, we will play in Baton Rouge and hopefully we won't be dealing with the other external issues," Hoolahan said. "We'll just cross that bridge when we come to it."

But Hoolahan also said that having the Superdome or an alternative stadium in New Orleans by 2007 is essential if the Sugar Bowl is to maintain its spot in the national championship rotation.

The Sugar Bowl is scheduled to play host to both the title game and its regular game in 2007 under the "double-hosting system" that goes into effect next year.

There is no timetable for knowing about the Superdome's viability for 2006, Hoolahan said, adding that his focus is on this year's game.

"There has to be sensitivity on all levels because this has been a devastating event," Hoolahan said. "At the same time, there is not a lot of time to make critical decisions that need to reflect the quality and tradition of the Sugar Bowl.

"It's also not a unilateral decision, but one that has to be made with all of our business partners. But in the end, we fully intend to maintain our position as one of the premier bowls in the nation."

Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

# Vikings' stadium plan will cost taxpayers

**From wire reports**

Minnesota Vikings owner Zygi Wilf put a costly stadium plan on the table Tuesday, joining baseball's Twins and the University of Minnesota's football squad in outlining a combined $1.5 billion in proposed stadium construction.

And taxes - either new or redirected - would pay much of the overall bill.

The Vikings' financing plan would require taxpayers to kick in nearly $400 million toward a $675 million, retractable-roof stadium with about 68,000 seats in Blaine, a suburb north of Minneapolis.

The public would pay another $115 million to improve the roads and highways around the stadium complex. In all, the plan calls for roughly $280 million in local taxes and $230 million in state help.

**JAGUARS LOSE DARIUS:** The Jacksonville Jaguars have lost starting strong safety Donovin Darius for the rest of the season, ESPN.com reported.

**MARTIN'S KNEE OK:** New York Jets running back Curtis Martin should be able to play this weekend against Jacksonville after an MRI exam on his strained right knee showed no damage.

**BOLLER OUT LONGER:** Baltimore Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller is likely to be out until the end of October because of his injured right toe.

**INSIDE** • MAP SHOWS WATER LEVELS AT HEIGHT OF N.O. FLOODING SEE B-2

The Times-Picayune

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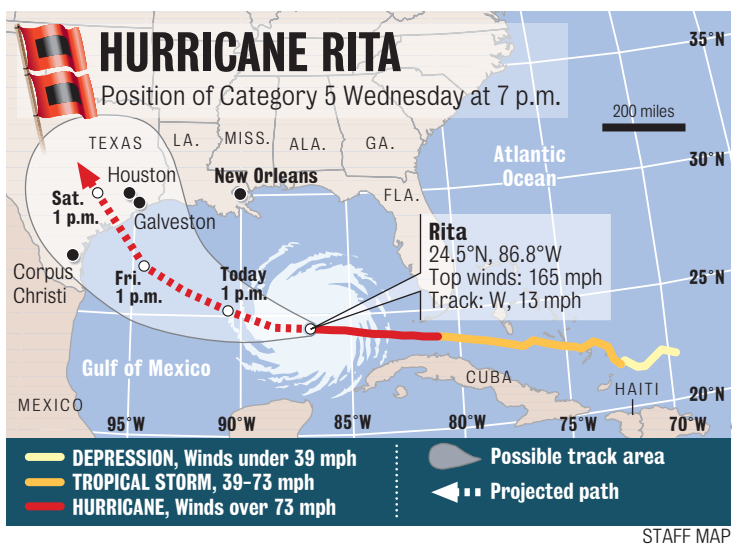
# CATEGORY 5 RITA HAS N.O. NERVOUS

## HURRICANE SCATTERS EVACUEES IN TEXAS; RAIN, SURGE COULD REACH CRESCENT CITY




AP PHOTO

Galveston Independent School District buses carry evacuees north on Interstate 45 out of the Texas city Wednesday. If Hurricane Rita hits Galveston, about 40 miles southeast of Houston, it will smash a city where a 1900 hurricane killed about 8,000 people in one of the biggest natural disasters in U.S. history.




STAFF MAP

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

With Hurricane Rita barreling toward the Texas coast Wednesday as a Category 5 hurricane, Louisiana officials struggled to prepare citizens and levees for the perilous possibility that a last-minute change of direction could put the battered state at risk of even more destruction.

"Once the storm gets in the Gulf of Mexico, there's no telling where it's going to go," New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said, adding that he should have a better indication today of Rita's course.

Despite the uncertainty about where Rita might strike, police and National Guard officers urged New Orleanians to leave town as soon as possible. This group included residents exiled by Hurricane Katrina who had returned to the city this week to try to resume their lives.

"The goal is to stay in New Orleans, but with Rita out there, I don't know," said Alex Curtis, who, with his parents, runs the Brass Menagerie on Magazine Street.

Even if Rita follows its expected route and strikes Galveston, Texas, rain and storm surges are possible in New Orleans, which

*See* **RITA,** *A-9*

## DAY 24 DEVELOPMENTS

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **799**

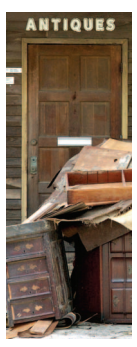
Three hospitals in the New Orleans area that stayed open appeal to Congress and the Bush administration for financial aid, **See A-2**

The House approves $6.1 billion in tax breaks to help families recover, **See A-3**

The White House says it has learned its lessons from Katrina and will be ready when Hurricane Rita makes landfall, **See A-4**

Samples from Lake Pontchartrain show the water seems healthy, officials say, **See A-5**

Thousands of city residents are about to start over in Dallas, a city that was grappling with acute poverty and rampant crime before Hurricane Katrina, **See A-11**




Few, if any, businesses in Slidell's Olde Towne survived intact, **See B-1**

Orleans Levee Board loses its revenue sources, **See Metro**

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# Bridge exposes racial divide

*Gretna police stand by decision to block evacuees*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

When the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center deteriorated into anarchy and food and water ran short, many who tried to escape the flooded streets of New Orleans found their paths blocked.

Gretna police fired shots over the heads of evacuees streaming across the Crescent City Connection, as bullhorns blared for them to go back to New Orleans.

In Plaquemines Parish, dozens of sheriff's deputies raised shotguns and pistols to turn back a convoy of school buses attempting to take storm victims to safety at the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse.

And in Westwego, arriving evacuees had two choices: Leave immediately, or go to an overcrowded shelter with few supplies where armed guards accompanied by a police dog prevented anyone from leaving.

The confrontations occurred largely along racial lines: African-American residents of poor sections of New Orleans facing off against majority white law enforcement agencies.

Elected law enforcement officials remain unapologetic over their response and say they would take the same steps if the city flooded again.

*See* **GRETNA,** *A-6*

# Nagin foresees a much smaller city

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Mayor Ray Nagin said Wednesday he foresees the New Orleans of the near future as a city of about 250,000 people, about half its population before Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in late August.

As Nagin addressed questions from elected officials and the public at a meeting in the state Capitol, he defended his policies to allow citizens limited access to re-enter the city in the short term and to rebuild New Orleans in the long term.

"We are going to lose a significant portion of our population" in the next 12 to 18 months, he said, partly because the city's infrastructure will not be able to handle more. After establishing a population of about a quarter of a million, "then we'll build from there," Nagin said.

"Let's start to dream about where we can be post-Katrina," he said.

*See* **NAGIN,** *A-7*

# Plenty customers, few workers vex East Jeff eateries

*Key obstacle: lack of employee housing*

**By Bob Ross**
East Jefferson bureau

At Houston's restaurant in Metairie, workers completed repairs to the Katrina-damaged floor Wednesday morning while a cable technician rewired a television set near the bar. Darren Newell, service manager for the usually crowded restaurant, said Houston's has the OK from state health officials and enough supplies on hand.

"I could open today, to be honest," he said.

The problem for Houston's these days, and for many restaurants and other companies throughout East Jefferson, is finding enough workers to staff the businesses. With Jefferson Parish stirring to life and owners and managers pushing to reopen quickly, some lower-paid employees – the dishwashers, wait staff, clerks and manual laborers — remain dispersed across the country by the Aug. 29 storm, leaving these businesses in a bind.

"Our people are in Houston, Atlanta, Dallas and elsewhere, and they don't have places to live here," Houston's kitchen manager Dan Maloney said. Some tell him they can't return without a home for themselves and their families.

For example, the Houston's location on Veterans Memorial Boulevard normally has about 35 people working each of the two daily shifts, for a total of at least 70 people, plus managers. Newell and Maloney said only about 42 employees have returned.

And Houston's won't open until it has enough employees and can offer a full menu, they said. Newell said he and Maloney

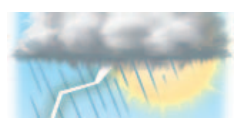
*See* **WORKERS,** *A-8*

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# Hospitals seek money from Congress

## *EJGH, West Jeff and Ochsner face layoffs*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Charity Hospital, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters, has been called a total loss. Louisiana State University, which runs the public hospital, has appealed to Congress for $750 million to redevelop the facility.

WASHINGTON – Three of the more than a dozen emergency hospitals in the New Orleans area were able to remain opened as Hurricane Katrina blew through and officials at the facilities now are appealing to Congress and the Bush administration for financial assistance as they struggle to stay in business.

The pre-hurricane exodus from New Orleans left East Jefferson General Hospital, West Jefferson Medical Center and Ochsner Foundation Hospital operating with a third of their normal patient load, officials said, and the hospitals will be forced to cut services and staff by the end of the month if they continue to hemorrhage money.

The storm-decimated hospital sector in New Orleans was already facing shortages of doctors and nurses before Katrina and now faces the possibility of residents returning without enough medical staff to treat them, health-care officials said.

"It's a huge problem," said John Matessino, CEO of the Louisiana Hospital Association. "Doors have been opening (to medical staff) to have them come to other states. When hospitals think about reopening, where will they get the staff?"

Congress moved quickly in the wake of Katrina to approve $62.3 billion in emergency rescue and recovery assistance. But the money can't be used to pay operating expenses at hospitals. Together, the three hospitals that remain open in the New Orleans area are losing $75 million a month, administrators say. All are not-for-profits and the East Jefferson and West Jefferson facilities are publicly owned.

The Senate Finance Committee is drafting legislation that could bail out hospitals and other health-care providers in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, but the bill's future is uncertain as lawmakers grow increasingly concerned about how the nation will pay for Katrina, with a price tag expected to soar to more than $200 billion.

A group of House Republicans unveiled a list Wednesday of suggested spending cuts that would be painful even to many of those whose lives were disrupted by Katrina. The group suggested cutting $24 billion in road and bridge projects earmarked in the recently passed transportation bill, increasing premiums and co-insurance on Medicare recipients, boosting the cost of home health care and delaying for a year the prescription drug benefit for seniors.

"I think our seniors have gone 220 years without a prescription drug benefit," Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, said. "I don't think they will begrudge us having them wait one more year."

Still, other lawmakers say there remains a strong sentiment in Congress for helping those trying to hang on or rebuild after Katrina.

"There is sympathy for doing something," Rep. Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, said. "I think they make a strong case for some kind of assistance."

Eleven acute-care hospitals in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes shut down during Katrina and most of them aren't sure when they will reopen. Some sustained such severe flooding, with some owners that haven't been able to get inside to assess the damage.

Louisiana State University, which operates the public Charity Hospital in New Orleans, is calling the facility a total loss and has asked Congress for $750 million to redevelop it. LSU officials were in Washington on Tuesday appealing to members of Congress for financial assistance.

Ochsner and the public hospitals in East Jefferson and on the West Bank all remained open during and after the storm. They escaped bad flood and wind damage and kept the lights on with emergency generators. East Jefferson housed 3,000 people during Katrina, 100 of them evacuees.

Dr. Mark Peters, CEO of East Jefferson General, said he will begin laying off staff in the next week and a half without a financial bailout. He said he fears that if they leave, they won't come back.

"They are facing the uncertainty that a lot of people are," Peters said. "As we lose doctors and the population returns, we will have a looming crisis."

Peters is scheduled to testify today before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in a hearing about the health care implications of Katrina. The three operating hospitals are seeking $300 million in assistance to help them cover expenses.

"We're not asking for any kind of windfall. We're asking for immediate help so we can keep operating," Gary Muller, president and CEO of West Jefferson Medical Center, said. "Winter is coming. We know there are only three hospitals. We're it for the immediate future."

The outlook for the once-bustling New Orleans area hospital sector is uncertain. Jim Montgomery, president and CEO of Tulane University Hospital and Clinic, said in a letter to staff that severe water damage on the first floor could take several months or more to repair. Tenet Healthcare Corp.'s Lindy Boggs Medical Center and Memorial Medical Center also remain closed indefinitely. Touro Infirmary had hoped to reopen its emergency room Wednesday, but delayed when New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin ordered the city evacuated as Hurricane Rita churned through the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 5 storm.

The Navy's 270-bed floating hospital, the USNS Comfort, docked in Pascagoula, Miss., for several days after the storm to assist with medical services in the Gulf Coast region. Louisiana officials had asked that the boat come to New Orleans, but Hurricane Rita has put those plans on hold.

"The plan right now is to get out of the way of the storm and see where it is needed," Navy Lt. Trey Brown said.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Sentence on levee system risks erred:** A sentence in a story Wednesday on risks in the New Orleans levee system was incorrect. It should have read: "Even if accurate, the risk estimate says that statistically, the long-term likelihood of a flood overflowing the levees is not insignificant."

**Word omitted:** A word was inadvertently omitted from a quote in a story published Wednesday on Episcopal bishops touring damaged churches in New Orleans. In speaking of the need to rebuild New Orleans as a better, more equitable, more open city, Louisiana Bishop Charles Jenkins said: "The people of this city need to hold the captains of industry, their political leaders and their religious leaders accountable.

"The rebuilding of this city has to be open, and it has to be collaborative.

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# House passes tax breaks for Katrina victims

*Some would help employers pay workers*

**By Mary Dalrymple**
AP tax writer

WASHINGTON - The House approved $6.1 billion in tax breaks Wednesday to help families recover from Hurricane Katrina and to encourage Gulf Coast businesses to reopen their doors, or at least keep employees on the payroll.

The House passed the bill 422-0 as the Bush administration urged residents to get out of the way of another approaching storm, Hurricane Rita, that was threatening Louisiana and Texas.

The vote sent the bill to the Senate, where lawmakers hoped for quick final approval.

"This aid comes at exactly the right time to help victims of Hurricane Katrina as they rebuild their lives," said Treasury Secretary John Snow.

Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La., said tax writers aimed most of their assistance at individuals and donors. The tax breaks for businesses mean "those businesses, we hope, will be employing and paying residents of the affected area," he said.

Lawmakers intend to follow the immediate aid with a broader package of tax breaks to encourage rebuilding, particularly in New Orleans. President Bush proposed creating a Gulf Opportunity Zone with about $2 billion in special tax breaks encouraging businesses to build or expand in the region.

Congress first responded to the hurricane's devastating blow by approving more than $62 billion for recovery and rescue. The cost, expected to increase, has caused wrangling within the GOP over whether to cut government spending elsewhere to meet Katrina's price.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., rejected calls to delay a Medicare prescription drug benefit or rescind recently passed "pork barrel" highway projects, but a band of almost two dozen conservatives announced proposals to take both steps.

"We do not have to raise taxes" to finance the recovery from Katrina, said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas. "We do not have to pass debt onto our children."

The group of House conservative stalwarts acknowledged that they had no agreement among themselves on a more than $500 billion roster of ideas, many of which — such as cutting public television subsidies — have been resoundingly rejected.

The tax breaks passed Wednesday would waive penalties for hurricane victims who need cash for expenses and recovery and want to use money stashed in protected retirement accounts like IRAs. The Treasury Department had already ruled the storm qualified as a hardship and permitted early withdrawals of retirement funds.

Also under the bill, families that rely on the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit could protect those benefits throughout job losses, residency changes and family separations caused by Katrina. The bill would let taxpayers use 2004 income to calculate the credits, which can mean a bigger benefit.

Other assistance lets taxpayers recoup more of their unreimbursed and uninsured losses, and waives taxes imposed when debts, such as mortgages, are forgiven.

Two tax credits encourage Gulf Coast businesses hit by the storm to keep going. One offsets wages paid to employees hired in the region over the next two years. Another helps small businesses hurt by the storm who continue paying their employees through the end of the year.

Most of the tax help is directed specifically at those hit by Hurricane Katrina and would not necessarily apply in other regions hit by hurricanes before the end of the storm season.

## KATRINA-RELATED TAX BREAKS

Congress has crafted a $6.1 billion tax relief package in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the bulk of which benefits victims and encourages the rest of the nation to give.

**Estimated tax revenue effects of Hurricane Katrina, 2006-15**




**Victim relief**
- Full loss-related tax deductions, $2.4 billion
- Extension of time to replace damaged property without incurring tax, $1.8 billion
- Other, $700 million

**Charitable giving**
- No limitation on charitable deductions for corporations and individuals, $871 million
- Additional $500 deduction for each displaced person in a household, $128 million
- Other, $56 million

**$131 million**
Tax credits for eligible employers

**$71 million**
- Penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans, $69 million
- Other, $3 million

Source: U.S. Congress

AP GRAPHIC

The Times-Picayune

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# Expansion of bus system planned in Baton Rouge

*New Orleans drivers to claim the new jobs*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE – In an attempt to alleviate traffic congestion in the state capital caused by an influx of Hurricane Katrina evacuees, federal authorities announced a plan Wednesday to expand bus service in Baton Rouge during peak commuting periods.

The Capital Area Transit System is expecting to augment its fleet with 46 regular buses and 71 smaller buses, which will be operated by drivers from the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority.

David Fukutomi, infrastructure chief for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said plans also are being made to launch "bare-bones" bus service in the New Orleans area starting as early as next week.

"This is a win-win," Fukutomi said. "It helps alleviate two problems: unemployment and the increase in traffic."

The buses are being supplied by the U.S. Department of Transportation, since many buses in the New Orleans area were destroyed or incapacitated by Hurricane Katrina, and the bill is being paid by FEMA. Local authorities are working out schedules for the additional routes, the details of which will be announced shortly, Fukutomi said.

On a separate matter, a U.S. State Department official said only one foreign national has been identified among the nearly 800 people who died during the storm. Joseph Sullivan, who is heading up efforts to identify and locate foreign nationals who were trapped by Katrina, said a British citizen who was a longtime resident of the United States is among those who perished.

The State Department's early estimates were that about 1,000 foreign nationals were unaccounted for after Katrina. Most of those have now been found, and the missing now number in the "low hundreds," Sullivan said.

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*Interest will continue to accrue on the outstanding balance during deferral period.*

# Tests wash away lake pollution fears

## *'No toxic soup' from storm, official says*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Although polluted floodwaters have been pumped into Lake Pontchartrain for the past two weeks, as shown in this Sept. 10 photo taken over eastern New Orleans, officials say that early tests indicate that the lake has not suffered any significant environmental damage.

Based on one or two samples taken in dozens of locations around Lake Pontchartrain during the past two weeks, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation said Tuesday that the lake seems fairly healthy.

"We've heard a lot during the last 10 days about a toxic soup in Lake Pontchartrain," said foundation Executive Director Carlton Dufrechou. "I'm here today to tell you that there's no toxic soup in Lake Pontchartrain."

EPA on-scene coordinator Max Dodson and DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel were a bit more circumspect, stressing that the sample results announced Tuesday were the first of what could be a five-year program to monitor potential environmental threats to the lake from Hurricane Katrina.

But the initial test results did indicate that concerns about pumping floodwaters with low amounts of oxygen, high levels of sewage and an unknown amount of toxic materials may not have hurt the lake much, even though the floodwaters pumped into the lake represented 4 percent of the 640-square-mile lake's volume.

Al Heinrichs, director of water quality assessment for DEQ, said the floodwaters did reduce the dissolved oxygen in the lake near the entrances of north shore rivers and bayous and south shore drainage canals.

Oxygen levels were below state standards at the West Pearl and Tchefuncte rivers and Bayous Lacombe, Bonfouca, Cane and Liberty.

All probably were caused by decomposing plant matter and other materials, he said.

High levels of fecal coliform were found in Bayous Bonfouca and Liberty, but in both cases were not much higher than levels normally present at this time of year, he said.

Several fish kills reported on the north shore were the result of the low oxygen, he said. There were no detectable levels of industrial organic chemicals in any of the north shore samples.

Despite concerns that the floodwater pumped out of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish might result in low oxygen levels on the south shore, that didn't happen, according to samples taken a half-mile from shore at the Duncan, Suburban, 17th Street, and Industrial canals and at Little Woods in eastern New Orleans.

Fecal coliform, an indicator of sewage contamination, also was at low levels at all of those sites, although one test directly in the plume of water being pumped from the 17th Street Canal did measure 2,000 colonies, above the state standard for swimming, but right at the state standard for boating and fishing.

But, the dissolved-oxygen content was low right at the mouths of Bayou Labranche and the Industrial, Duncan and Suburban canals.

Heinrichs also said turbidity – cloudiness in the water – also was fairly low, which could reduce the negative effect of the storm water on underwater vegetation.

Officials haven't tested Rangia clams, small mussels that have made a major recovery along the south shore. And they also haven't determined the effects on other organisms living on the lake's bottom, other than finding that crabs were still moving in the water.

Sampling at the Chef Menteur Pass and Rigolets exits from the lake also showed low levels of fecal coliform, which should be good news for oyster farmers concerned that pollutants from the storm water in New Orleans might have reached their oyster beds.

Officials said there's also been no indication of any algae blooms in the lake, a common occurrence when high levels of nutrients are added to the lake during warm, sunny weather. Sample teams reported numerous live fish bait and mullet and a number of crabs in traps along the south shore.

McDaniel said no sampling has been done south of New Orleans in areas along the Mississippi River that have been hard hit by oil spills. A DEQ official said only one boat launch that could be used by sampling teams has been opened that far south.

EPA coordinator Dodson said his staff is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to reduce or stop the pumping of groundwater from canals as the water reaches its lowest level and the contaminants in that water become more condensed.

McDaniel said he doesn't believe that dust and contaminants that might end up in rainwater in canals after thousands of homes are torn down in the city will add much to the contaminant load in the lake.

"What we're hearing is that the way they're going to be handling the debris, that's not going to be a great concern, or at least it will be a manageable one," he said.

• • • • • •

Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.

**"I think we're going to be ready when it does hit land."**
MICHAEL CHERTOFF, Homeland Security secretary

# Katrina taught lessons, emergency officials say

## *Everything's ready for Hurricane Rita, White House says*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – The White House says it has learned lessons from the slow reaction to Hurricane Katrina and will be ready when Hurricane Rita makes landfall this weekend.

Although some state and local officials are skeptical, it appears that the televised images of suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina have motivated people in the path of Rita to take action.

Galveston County, Texas, Commissioner Stephen Holmes said that unlike during past hurricanes, thousands of poor residents and senior citizens without cars came forward early to seek help in getting out of town. And government officials, he said, have responded with convoys of school buses to get people out of potential danger along the Texas Gulf coast as the hurricane was upgraded Wednesday to a Category 5 with winds of 165 mph.

"There's no doubt in my mind that people learned the lesson from Katrina," Holmes said. "We're very organized and so far 15,000 have been evacuated on school buses."

Current predictions have the storm coming ashore somewhere along the Texas or southwest Louisiana coastline.

Although Galveston residents have been able to use their usual hurricane evacuation shelters in Huntsville and College Station, Holmes said, people in other portions of Texas have had to go much farther north than normal because their shelters were full of Katrina evacuees from Louisiana.

"There are no hotel rooms to be had in Houston because we had 55,000 evacuees from Louisiana," said Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, whose district includes a large seaport and runs from Houston almost to the Galveston line.

Green said he's happy that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Bush administration are giving assurances that the government is better prepared for Rita than it was for Katrina, which tore through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama on Aug. 29. "I would hope they learned some lessons from all the problems in New Orleans, but in my lifetime of dealing with FEMA I've found that it has taken them much too much time to get in position after a hurricane, a week, for example, after Tropical Storm Allison," Green said.

In a speech Wednesday, President Bush said that the government is "ready for the worst" from Rita, while FEMA officials said that they have positioned food, ice and water for quick distribution once the storm hits. Pentagon officials said that they have 319,000 National Guard troops ready to respond to Rita, a far larger force than was readied for Katrina.

"I think we're going to be ready when it does hit land," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said.

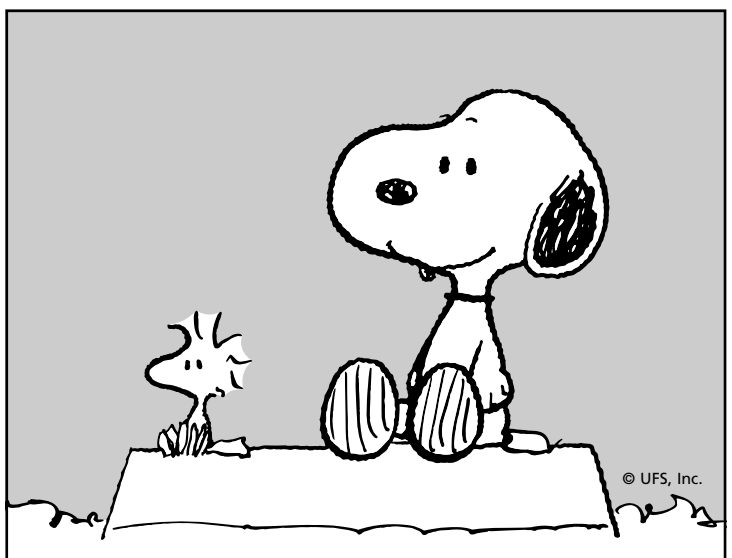
*See* **FEMA,** *A-5*

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# Communications a priority, officials say

**FEMA,** *from A-4*

David Paulison, who was named acting director of FEMA after Michael Brown resigned in the wake of criticism of the government's slow response to Katrina, said he'll rely "much more heavily" on the Pentagon and National Guard than the agency did for the August storm. He said the biggest difference will be improved communications among federal, state and local officials, allowing quicker response to emergencies than was the case for Hurricane Katrina, when communication systems failed across the board.

But Paulison said it's important that people in the potential path of the hurricane in Louisiana and Texas evacuate, because flooding and blocked roadways and bridges could mean long waits for rescue. People in New Orleans waited for as long as a week on rooftops and in attics before help arrived.

"We know that there is going to be a period of time before help gets to you," Paulison said. "So you need to make sure you have your family's plan in place, your evacuation plans in place. Make sure you have food, water, medicine, all the things you need to survive for a couple of days on your own."

In Houston, Mayor Bill White said that the city had a plan in place to move people without cars from low-lying areas, but he conceded that it lacked the "government vehicles to go and evacuate everybody in the area."

In New Orleans, city and state officials were criticized for not mounting a more aggressive effort to evacuate residents without transportation.

In Houston, White pleaded for people with cars to help their neighbors without vehicles to get out.

"We need the citizens, who are the first line of defense and neighbor caring for neighbor in this community, to do your job and to go out and to actively look for those who may need assistance," White said.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said he wishes he could offer his constituents more optimism that FEMA is ready for Hurricane Rita. "If history is any indication, then no, I don't think they're ready," he said. "They are still not prepared for doing all that's required for Katrina."

As an example, he said, FEMA is supposed to provide overtime pay to local sheriff's deputies responding to the emergency but has yet to do so. This is a problem, he said, because local law enforcement agencies are rapidly running out of money, with their tax base virtually dried up.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said that if Rita hits the Gulf, citizens can only hope their state, federal and local government officials are ready.

"I hope that, God forbid, if Rita hits the Gulf Coast, federal and state authorities will work better together and follow the design and effectiveness demonstrated by the military presence in Louisiana with a defined chain of command and accountability at all levels," he said.

Melancon said he is also concerned that FEMA's new focus on Rita will "slow even more" the process of providing help to people displaced by Katrina.

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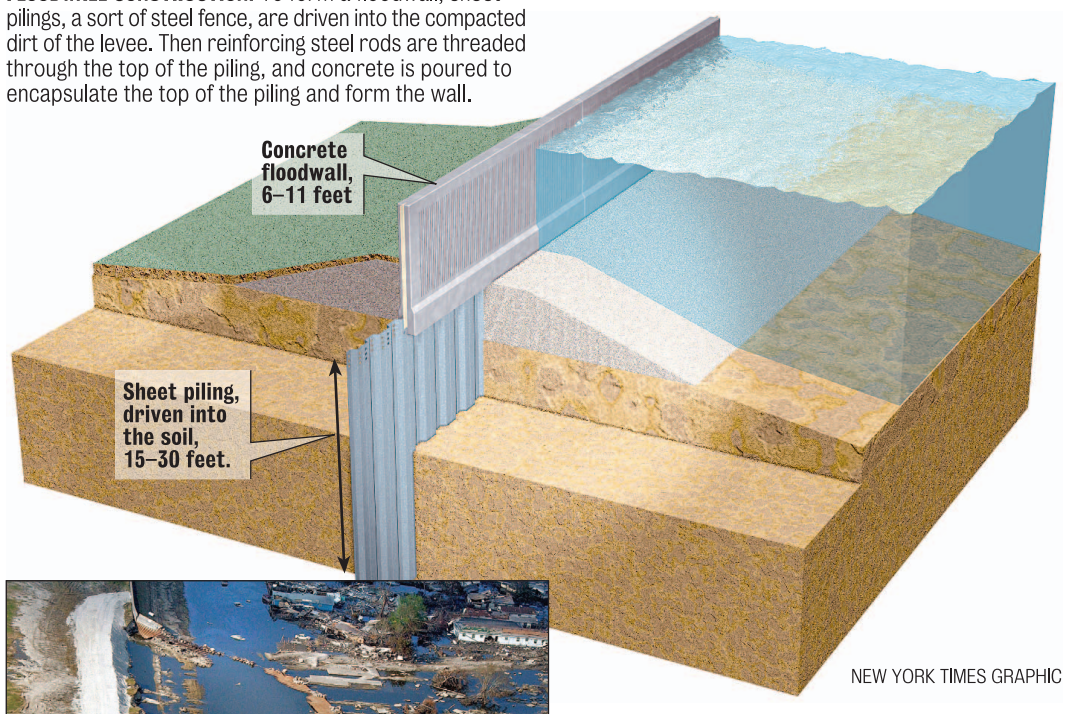
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## WHY THE LEVEES BROKE

The six breaches of the New Orleans levee system had one thing in common: the levees that failed all had concrete walls atop earthen berms. There is no agreement as to why they failed, other than the design would have been challenged by a storm stronger than Category 3. An LSU professor thinks two different types of failures occurred:

**FLOODWALL CONSTRUCTION:** To form a floodwall, sheet pilings, a sort of steel fence, are driven into the compacted dirt of the levee. Then reinforcing steel rods are threaded through the top of the piling, and concrete is poured to encapsulate the top of the piling and form the wall.




NEW YORK TIMES GRAPHIC



**OVERTOPPING THE INDUSTRIAL CANAL**
Three breaches on the Industrial Canal flooded the 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish. There is evidence that a powerful surge driving in from the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet overtopped the levee, eroding the earthen berm from the inland side.





**BOWING ON THE 17TH STREET AND LONDON CANALS**
Ivor van Heerden, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at LSU, thinks the levee failures that flooded the heart of New Orleans partly stemmed from flawed levee designs. Water pressure from inside the canals pushed through the canal side of the earthen berms and the concrete panels, much like a bulldozer. This is a controversial theory, because it suggests that the wind and wave forces on the levees were less than Category 3 strength and that the inherent design may not have taken into account water pressure.

Sources: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STAFF PHOTOS

# Expert: Surge didn't top some floodwalls

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Storm surge from Hurricane Katrina topped the levee wall along the eastern side of the Industrial Canal, likely causing it to fail, said Ivor van Heerden, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at LSU. But it was probably the pressure of water inside the canals that caused walls along the 17th Street and London Avenue canals to breach, he said.

Van Heerden is better known for the storm surge modeling he and others at LSU's Hurricane Center produce to help emergency planners in determining whether evacuations are needed.

But this week, van Heerden has traveled along the damaged canals to try to learn why they gave way, flooding large sections of New Orleans.

At issue is whether the walls failed because they were stressed beyond their design limitations. Army Corps of Engineers and Orleans Levee Board officials have said the floodwalls could withstand a storm that contained elements of both a Category 2 and Category 3 hurricane.

Based on his walks along the canals and modeling conducted in the days after Katrina hit the coast, van Heerden said he thinks the 17th Street Canal did not receive storm surge greater than what should have been expected in a Category 3 storm, while the London Avenue Canal received surge near its design standards.

The Industrial Canal walls did receive Category 3 or greater stresses, he said.

Van Heerden was quick to point out that he's no levee expert and was not involved in the design of the levees.

But he said what caused the walls to fail was becoming clearer and raises questions about their design.

He said that based on oily marks along the wall of the 17th Street Canal above the area where it failed, water in the canal never topped the walls.

The day after the storm, corps civilian engineer Al Naomi, project manager in charge of the Lake Pontchartrain and vicinity levee program, said he believed the water did top the wall, and that the force of the water falling to the earthen part of the levee scoured it away, causing it to fail.

On Wednesday, however, New Orleans District engineer Richard Wagenaar said that theory is being questioned, because no evidence has been found of scouring along that canal.

Van Heerden said his search also turned up no scouring along the 17th Street Canal. But he said there was evidence that the water had somehow pushed some pieces of the wall as much as 20 feet outward when they failed. He also found no scouring along either side of the London Avenue Canal.

Instead, he said, the walls of the London Avenue Canal clearly looked like they had been bowed outward.

"The wall panels are offset from each other, so there are gaps between each," he said.

All three sets of levee walls were built using an I-shaped design, rather than a stronger inverted T-shaped design.

A 2000 version of an Army Corps of Engineers levee design manual says that "for stability reasons," such walls rarely exceed 7 feet tall. The walls along each of the canals averaged 11 feet or taller.

Wagenaar said Wednesday that the walls are the subject of a three-day-old forensic investigation and that the corps has been ordered by Congress not to destroy any documents dealing with them.

He said investigators had begun taking photographic evidence and were attempting to gather whatever other evidence they could even as efforts were made to plug the levee gaps temporarily. Eventually, some wall panels may be removed for further forensic testing, he said.

But both he and Orleans Levee Board Chief Engineer Stevan Spencer disagreed with van Heerden's assertions that Katrina did not deliver forces that went beyond the levee's design.

Wagenaar said debris on the inside of the Lake Pontchartrain lakefront levees in Metairie indicate that powerful waves atop the storm surge reached 17 feet or higher, which would have been beyond the forces for which the walls were built.

"They weren't designed for this strong of a storm," Spencer said.

Wagenaar hinted that the design of the wall may have been influenced by local pressure. For instance, he said, corps officials had originally recommended that floodgates be built at the end of each canal, but that those recommendations were vetoed by local officials as the levees were designed.

"There's a whole bunch of lessons to be learned about the actual physical construction of this system," Wagenaar said. "Do we even need canals? Why not just build 20-foot-wide pipelines to the lake to act as conduits for storm water?"

Van Heerden said that he found no evidence of paint from the barge on the concrete walls that fell in that area.

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Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.

# Evacuees denied entrance to West Bank

**GRETNA,** *from A-1*

"If you are in your house and they're rioting all around to get in, are you going to let them in?" asked Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson. "We saved our city and protected our people. Our plan worked and we're going to stick with our plan. Next hurricane, we're going to secure our city the same way."

Lawson added that evacuees "actually would have been better off where they were, because we didn't have anything for them."

He said his city of 17,000 was overwhelmed with its own problems at the time: flooded neighborhoods, a barge that damaged the Mississippi River levee, and the daily task of feeding 800 city employees and other emergency personnel.

Officials from Plaquemines and Westwego also said their own problems were too great for them to shoulder someone else's.

But New Orleans elected officials bristle at the suggestion they should have kept residents in the city. While acknowledging their own preparations came up far short, they say getting people out quickly after supplies ran short became the only option.

"If he (Lawson) is saying they would do the same thing over again, is he saying the same woman who died on the ramp because she couldn't get over the bridge, is he saying he would let that woman die again?" said City Council President Oliver Thomas. "I don't think he's thinking that. I think he's talking political. He's just trying to make white folks in Gretna think he's protecting them from all those poor black people from New Orleans."

Lawson insists he would have taken identical measures "if it had been any ethnic group" coming into his city.

The chief's stance has turned him into a folk hero among his constituents. Signs nailed to telephone poles and planted in highway medians proclaim "Thank you and God bless Chief Lawson" and "Balls is spelled Arthur Lawson."

Sitting on the front steps of her shotgun-style house on Monroe Street, just a few paces from where Gretna police had placed barricades to keep out New Orleans residents, city resident Ida Koenig offered a more mixed reaction.

"If they were stopping looters, God bless 'em. But maybe it was just people getting out of harm's way," said Koenig, 59. "The good suffered for the bad."

But Walter Maestri, Jefferson Parish Emergency Management director, said West Bank law enforcement was justified in its aggressive reaction, particularly given the partial burning of the Oakwood Shopping Center on Aug. 30.

The fire, attributed to arson, occurred across the street from a bus stop where thousands of displaced New Orleans residents – primarily women and children – had been cordoned off by Gretna police and Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies.

"That was the fear — these people that came out of the Superdome, they had no food, no water. They were desperate and, let's be honest, there were some thugs among them," Maestri said.

Westwego Chief Dwayne "Poncho" Munch said at one point a call came over the police radio warning of "400 to 500 looters coming down the (West Bank) Expressway toward Westwego."

That marauding army never arrived, and most looting turned out to be homegrown.

This week, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office reported 266 looting arrests since Aug. 29. That included 110 residents of the parish's East Bank, 111 from the West Bank and three from out of state. The remaining 42 – about 16 percent of the total – were from New Orleans, said sheriff's spokesman Col. John Fortunato.

Lawson said few, if any, of the 50 people arrested for looting in Gretna came from other jurisdictions.

"We were not herding criminals, for God's sake," said New Orleans Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, referring to the city's attempt to march people across the Crescent City Connection on foot after evacuation buses were delayed. "We were sending poor, honest, distressed people who should have been picked up 48 hours earlier."

But both Lawson and Munch attributed the low numbers of New Orleans looters to locking down their cities. "The sh— got deep when all those people were coming through on that Wednesday and Thursday," Munch said. "If you wasn't here, shut your mouth, because you don't know."

In Plaquemines Parish, Sheriff Jiff Hingle said he was forced to turn back the school bus convoy headed for the Naval Air Station because the evacuees "would have become our problem."

"All they were going to do was end up destroying my community," he said. "I feel very, very sorry for them. But they would put such a burden on us that we would collapse."

John Pine, director of the disaster science and management program at Louisiana State University, said the actions on the West Bank underscore how ill-prepared the entire region was for the disaster.

"People are raising a lot of questions about race and class discrimination," he said. "In the law, there's two forms of discrimination: One is intentional. One is unintentional.

"I look at this situation and see it's not so much the intent of the decision-makers. It just worked out that way."

But Pine added that the images played out in the media – poor minorities struggling to survive in the face of floodwaters and hostility from their neighbors – have left a mark that will be hard to erase.

"Our state is embarrassed," Pine said.

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# Predictions of bigger, better N.O. may be only half right

NAGIN, *from A-1*

The city plans to hold meetings in cities where many New Orleans residents sought refuge "so the entire community will have a say in the new New Orleans," Nagin said.

The mayor said he still plans to name task force to direct the rebuilding of the city. It will have about 17 people on an executive committee, plus other committees with racial and ethnic segments of the city's population represented. The design of the task force is not final, he said, "but I think you're going to be happy at the end of the day."

The city's priorities are continued rescue efforts, followed by more evacuations, picking up the deceased and clearing debris, Nagin said. The next priority is to set a schedule for people to re-enter the city so they can check on their homes, he said.

Several elected officials urged Nagin to move quickly to let people back into city, even if temporarily.

"People just need to get those little pieces of their lives they can hold onto," said state Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R-New Orleans.

New Orleans City Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis called for a comprehensive timeline of re-entry plans for all of the city's neighborhoods. Her request was couched in a statement that she wants to see the entire city rebuilt, and wants a commitment from Nagin that the city would not set a plan to repopulate only certain ZIP codes.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Mayor Ray Nagin arrives at a meeting of New Orleans officials and residents Tuesday at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

Nagin warned that, if people come back to the city to stay, they should know that hospital facilities are well below the normal standard and that sewer service is faulty. "Our levee systems are beaten down," Nagin added, pointing to the potential for more flooding if further rain stresses the water barricades.

"Make sure you are a very mobile person" if you come to New Orleans, Nagin said.

Nagin last week identified several ZIP codes where residents could re-enter the city in a phased schedule over several days, but he pulled back from that plan when Hurricane Rita became a threat to the region.

The mayor said he has heard concerns about gentrification and that the targeted areas for re-entry tend to favor a repopulation of the city by white residents.

Those initial re-entry areas were targeted because they are dry, Nagin said. Collectively, 55 percent of the population in those ZIP codes is black, 42 percent white and the rest Hispanic, he said.

When Rita moves out of the way, the re-entry will start again on an expedited basis, Nagin said.

Nagin is concerned about people getting hurt in the unsafe conditions, especially in demolished neighborhoods.

"I struggle with, 'Are we moving too soon? Are we moving too slow?' " Nagin said. "You guys are pushing me in an area I don't want to go. I don't want to lose another person."

The entire City Council and nearly all the state lawmakers representing New Orleans attended the meeting.

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# Some chains bringing in staff from other cities

**WORKERS,** *from A-1*

called every apartment complex in East Jefferson to find places for their workers.

"Whenever I could, I asked to get on a waiting list," Newell said. "One place told me I was number 259."

The crunch for employees is evident just by driving by some of the major thoroughfares. Signs are sprouting up announcing businesses are looking for workers.

For many restaurants that are open, the crowds are huge. At the Burger King in the Lowe's parking lot on Veterans near Division Street, the drive-through line Wednesday extended onto Veterans. A Domino's in Fat City had four customers crammed on a bench in the small store and two more waiting outside. The Raising Canes on Veterans was filled with customers inside and in the drive-through, with some parking in the Veterans median and dashing across three lanes of traffic to the store.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Frank Ortolano, general manager of Chevy's in Kenner, buses tables at the Chevy's in Metairie on Wednesday. The chain's Metairie location is running with help from employees of the Kenner and Marrero locations.

The wait at Chevy's on Veterans Boulevard near Severn was 20 minutes shortly before noon, and Frank Ortolano sweated heavily as he carried a plastic container filled with dirty plates, glasses and silverware.

Before Katrina hit, Ortolano was general manager of the Chevy's location on West Esplanade Avenue in Kenner. Now with many employees still out, Ortolano and other managers of Chevy's bus tables, greet customers and wait on tables.

"You do what you've got to do," Ortolano said.

The Metairie location opened on Monday, with the staff from Kenner and Metairie merged, said Darryl Morrissey, front-of-the-house manager for the Kenner location. The two locations have 120 employees, but that's down to just 15 since the storm, Morrissey said. Twenty-five others are managers.

"The biggest problem is no housing," he said of getting more Chevy's employees back in the area and on the job. "Many would come back right now if we could find a place for them to stay."

Morrissey said at least six employees lost everything they own to Katrina, and he knows of 15 who have said they don't plan to return to the area. Some call and ask if they still have a job.

"We tell them whenever they can come back, we need them," he said.

Chevy's managers also are trying to hire new workers, but there is virtually no time to train them.

Large chains such as Outback Steakhouse have an advantage because they can bring in workers from other locations. The Outback location on Severn Avenue was finishing preparations early Wednesday for its re-opening later in the day, manager Elizabeth Lecky said.

But if she had to do it only with the employees from her store, it would be extremely difficult. Lecky said. Only about 20 of the 100 employees have returned.

With help of other Outback locations, Lecky said, the store is actually overstaffed and prepared to handle large crowds.

"But we are really trying to locate our employees," she said. "We are just worried about everyone."

The same is true at Canes, manager Tom Register said. The store has help in from locations in Baton Rouge, Slidell and elsewhere, because only about one third of the staff from the Veterans store has returned. Register said the total devastation in parts of New Orleans hit many Canes employees hard.

"A lot of our people are from New Orleans, and that is a big part of it," he said.

Across the large parking lot from Houston's, Khalil Khalil, owner of Phoenicia Restaurant, said he is hiring because only one of his 10 employees has returned. Katrina pushed nine inches of water into the restaurant, and Khalil worked hard to get it cleaned and ready to open Tuesday.

He needs to get new employees and continue to work to try to help his current crew get back. He needs to put more signs up on Veterans so people will know his business is open and that he will hire waiters and waitresses. And there are insurance and a host of other issues that consume his time.

Still, he manages to smile as he looks out to a largely empty parking lot, waiting for customers.

"I am the person here who is doing everything," he said. "But there is only so much you can do."

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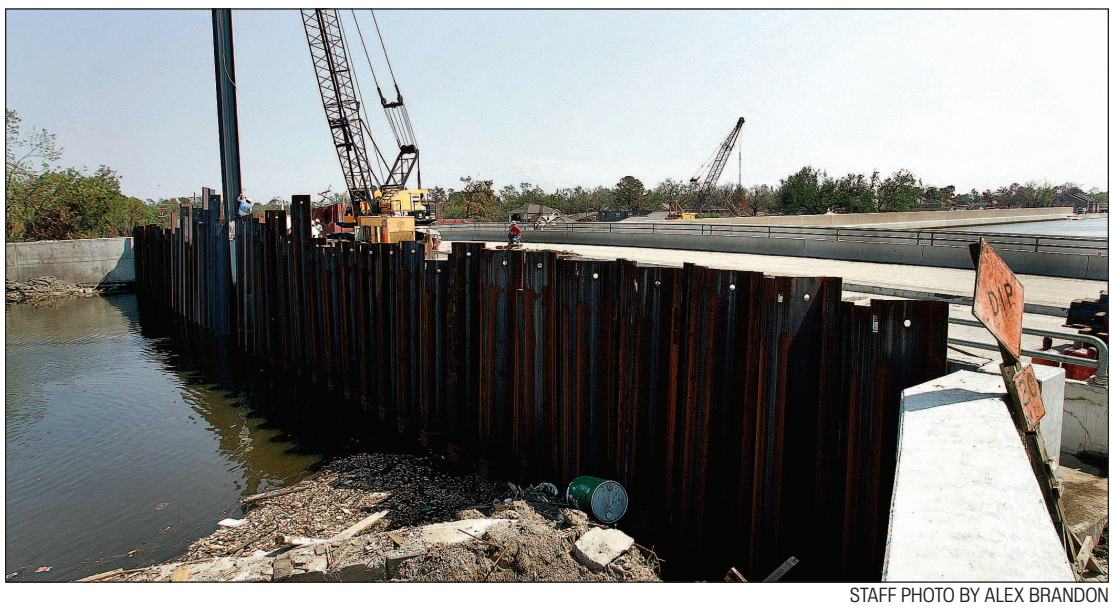
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# Jeff may not have resources to evacuate



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Workers with Boh Bros. Construction Co., under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers, close the 17th Street Canal with about 50 feet of 22-inch-wide steel sheet pilings. The canal will remain closed until the threat of storm surges passes.

**RITA,** *from A-1*

was inundated by Hurricane Katrina and subsequent levee breaks.

Given the possibility of more water for the already saturated city, the Army Corps of Engineers began Wednesday to close with steel sheet pilings the 17th Street and London Avenue canals, both of which were damaged by Hurricane Katrina, to provide protection for those parts of the city. They are to remain closed until the weather threat passes.

In neighboring St. Bernard Parish, Lake Borgne Levee District officials said they are on schedule to complete repairs of the 66-mile levee along the parish's northern and eastern flanks in time to protect against a potential for a 2- to 4-foot storm surge.

In Jefferson Parish, an official said a storm could push a tidal surge of 3 to 5 feet into Barataria Bay and threaten a weak point in the parish's storm defenses: the Harvey Canal levee. Anything over 5 feet could top the levee and cause widespread flooding, emergency management director Walter Maestri said.

But as of Wednesday, there were no plans to evacuate the estimated 200,000 Jefferson Parish residents who have returned since Hurricane Katrina. Maestri said that with relatively few gas stations or grocery stores reopened, evacuees would not be able to stock up on needed supplies before they hit the road.

"People are not ready to move again, and our infrastructure is such that we can't move again," he said.

With maximum sustained winds of 165 mph, Rita achieved the top ranking on the Saffir-Simpson scale Wednesday, only a day after becoming a hurricane. It was heading west across the Gulf of Mexico, but it is expected to turn northwest before landfall.

If Rita hits Galveston, which is about 40 miles southeast of Houston, it will smash a city where a 1900 hurricane killed about 8,000 people in one of the biggest natural disasters in U.S. history.

Watching Rita's march across the Gulf were Texas officials and Louisianians who had headed west to Texas seeking refuge from Katrina and were facing the possibility of moving yet again.

Some who had landed in Houston were thrown into deeper turmoil Wednesday when city and Harris County officials shut down the last two shelters there. About 350 Louisianians chose to board National Guard flights to Fort Chaffee, Ark., while those who stayed behind were told to prepare or evacuate or find a safe place to ride out the storm.

"We have to leave right now. They say the storm is coming," said Hilda Young, who had been looking in vain for some sort of temporary housing. She is in Houston with seven children and two other adults, and she said she didn't know where they would go.

Nevertheless, Houston Mayor Bill White said in a televised news conference Wednesday that displaced Louisianians in Texas' biggest city will not be overlooked.

"We will not forget that there are dislocated Americans with us," said White, who has not yet called for evacuation of the city.

But in that same conference, he assured the public that the city's resources were not drained by sheltering Louisiana refugees from Katrina.

"We will not and have not compromised services to Houstonians," he said.

Just across the border in southwest Louisiana, 195 Katrina evacuees with special medical problems were moved by bus Wednesday to safer shelters north of Interstate 10, along with 41 caregivers.

Areas south of that highway, which girds the southern part of Louisiana, are at the greatest risk of flooding from hurricanes.

Officials in Calcasieu Parish, the largest parish in southwest Louisiana, will decide today whether to order an evacuation, said Dana Newsome, a spokeswoman for the state Emergency Operations Center.

So far, she said, the only parish where such an order is in effect is Orleans because levees are fragile and water from Katrina still stands in some streets.

Despite that order, some people declared they weren't budging.

"We've never felt safer," said Peggy Flores as she stood in front of her two-story home at 1026 Franklin Ave.

"Why burden other states?" she said. "I'd rather take my chances here than in a shelter or on the road. If I'm going to die, I may as well die right here."

But Jerome Sterling of Bridge City had a decidedly different response – "Hell, no!" – when asked if he would ride out Rita.

Les Wisinger agreed as he packed a van with fabrics and furniture for his family business, Harper's Antique store on Magazine Street, as it moved to temporary quarters in Mississippi.

If Rita strikes, "everything that wasn't wet or destroyed will be," he said. "And even if they do turn the lights on, what have you got? There's nobody here."

• • • • • •

Staff writers Ed Anderson, Jeff Duncan, Gwen Filosa, Manuel Torres and Tara Young contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Sonia Perkins chuckles over her client number – 9,108 – as she awaits housing help Wednesday with her children, infant Arion Newton and Cedrick Perkins, in the Greater Houston Disaster Recovery Center in Houston. The New Orleans family is staying at a Houston hotel.

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# Many vow to call New Orleans 'home'

## *Restarting elsewhere not an option*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Just back from a Dallas evacuation center, Oscar Medema, 40, spent part of his first day cleaning up the yard at his Uptown home, a tiny swatch of greenery that Hurricane Katrina didn't touch. The rest of the time he was looking for work. Perhaps it would be cleaning up storm debris or office buildings, he said.

Like thousands of other city residents, Medema is about to start over in a city grappling with acute poverty and rampant crime before a natural disaster tried to wipe it off the map. But, unlike most evacuees he met last week at a Dallas shelter, Medema chose to pick up the pieces of his life at home – not in Texas, Arkansas, Utah or Detroit or any of the other locales that have welcomed the diaspora of displaced New Orleanians.

"I thought about it a little bit," Medema said of the idea of starting fresh in Dallas. "If my house was a total loss, I would have started over. It's cheaper for me to do everything from here."

By everything, he explained, he meant renewing his driver's license and finding work.

Medema evacuated to Dallas after riding out Katrina at his Robert Street home. Tuesday night, he caught a ride back to New Orleans with a couple from New Iberia.

Those he met at Dallas' Reunion Arena, which opened as a Red Cross shelter for Katrina victims on Aug. 31, were from the Lower Ninth Ward, Central City and eastern New Orleans, some of the poorest corners of one of the poorest cities in America. He understands why many never want to return and sees it supported by evidence that Texas has proved to be a receptive landing spot for New Orleans evacuees.

In Houston, where an initial 27,000 moved into the Astrodome, all but about 3,500 have found their way to other quarters, the first step toward starting a new, more independent life.

Reunion Arena in downtown Dallas held just under 1,000 evacuees at its peak, said Celso Martinez, a spokesman for Dallas government. Tuesday night, fewer than 100 people remained.

Many left the shelter for jobs and housing, and found quick and efficient access to food stamps and other welfare benefits, Martinez said. They had no problem getting temporary identification cards, and they put their kids in schools there and liked what they found in a new city.

"Dallas made it real easy for them to get it real quick," Medema said of the food-stamp debit cards provided by the state. "The school system there was really great. The system took them in in the first few days. They told me that when they were here, they were out of work. When they went to Dallas, they found work immediately."

Many told Medema they're not coming back to their ruined hometown. They have, finally, had their fill of it.

"If they can find jobs and another home, they're going," Medema said outside his modest shotgun house on Wednesday. "Since there is nothing to come home to, they're going to start a new life. A lot of them were single parents."

At the Dallas shelter, Medema said he volunteered for 12-hour shifts handing out water and food. He spent a lot of that time talking to fellow New Orleans residents.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Oscar Medema, 40, returned to New Orleans after evacuating to Dallas after Katrina, and he has been living in his Uptown home. He says many of his family and friends don't plan to return, but that he is here to stay. He spent the day cleaning up around the outside of his house and scraping together supplies for his stay at home.

"Some older folks recognized me," he said. "It was kind of like a warm feeling. They got somebody they know to help them out."

With no car, Medema walked Uptown streets Wednesday, trying to track down a weed-eater to work on his high grass. Cleaning up the front porch and yard was a chore and a half, he said, but he was thankful for having something to come home to: a house, and a job lead. He was hoping a friend would bring him a couple bottles of water, though.

Medema's perspective is not limited to his Uptown neighborhood. He has connections to Central City and has seen the same inclination among some of that district's poor residents to seek new lives away from New Orleans.

Central City, along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard by the B.W. Cooper public housing complex, was a vacant debris-strewn picture of hopeless loss this week. The body of a dead dog, the same one that was there a week ago, shriveled on the neutral ground in the hot sun. An overturned limousine sat a few blocks down Earhart Boulevard, right beside a hearse. Cars had water marks that showed they had been swallowed by the flooding.

In the 3500 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., a boat was dry-docked at the entryway to one of the Cooper stairwells. On the stoop, someone had left a picture frame, with two young people posing confidently. Toys littered the walkway, including a pink Barbie play set still in its box and a "super cap gun" that also hadn't been opened. The gun promised realistic bullet action.

The area was not entirely untenanted, however, and some of those on the streets Wednesday were, like Medema, diehard New Orleanians.

James Pellet pedaled by on his bicycle, saying he was staying in town and actually on the way to Winn-Dixie. He was staying with a bunch of people, he said, but didn't want to give the address.

Pellet pedaled with a purpose. Asked if he would evacuate for Rita, he said, "For what reason? Why?"

Up the road a piece, Brentley Duplessis, 47, walked alone down the empty streets. Duplessis, who grew up in Pontchartrain Park and parts of Uptown, said he knew the Morial family, the Nevilles and other local luminaries. His heart was heavy, he said, but it remained in New Orleans.

"I wanted to come back," Duplessis said, having evacuated from the Superdome debacle to Arkansas. "I caught a plane back today. I have to find my sister."

Repeatedly, Duplessis gently tapped his chest with one fist and said, "I always keep them here."

Duplessis, wearing a white cap and a Nike shirt, trudged along in the sun and politely turned down offers of a ride. At Euterpe Street and Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, right outside Café Reconcile, Duplessis surveyed his hometown.

He carried a palm-sized notebook filled with names and phone numbers, including Marc Morial and Ivan Neville. He ticked off the neighborhoods he grew up roaming: the 7th Ward, the 8th, the east, Central City.

Duplessis said he liked Arkansas, "Them people did a lot for us." But he said he needed to return home, to check on people.

"Our city will never die," Duplessis said, in a voice choked with tears.

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# HELL ON WHEELS




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

'Layla' has seen better days. The 1965 Mustang Fastback was photographed Wednesday on Bellaire Street near the site of the breach of the 17th Street Canal.

*Hurricane Katrina□s toll is measured not only in homes, with their promise of stability, but also in cars, with their promise of freedom. Thousands were destroyed by the rising water, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau is taking steps to ensure that vehicles reported as destroyed are not later sold on used-car lots. It will also be on the lookout for car-theft rings that take advantage of the hurricane to steal cars and dispose of them elsewhere in the country.*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Home piers stand like tombstones in the Lower 9th Ward near the Industrial Canal.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Three cars on Alvar Street are crushed by a container toppled by floodwaters.

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# National mayors group lends hand to Nagin

*It vows to provide personnel, aid*

**Capital bureau**

BATON ROUGE – The United States Conference of Mayors has pledged assistance and support to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin in his effort to rebuild the storm-stricken city.

The group, with a headquarters in Washington, D.C., will provide staff and lobbying support and help coordinate the many offers of aid in the form of personnel and equipment pouring in from the nation's mayors and cities.

'Mayors across this country are already sending supplies to these areas, we are providing housing for displaced citizens, and we will continue to provide cash donations for these affected areas,' said the conference's president, Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach, Calif.

O'Neill and other conference officials met with Nagin and New Orleans City Council members in Baton Rouge last week. The support from the conference was arranged in part by Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu and his father, Moon Landrieu, a former mayor of New Orleans who was once a president of the mayor's conference.

The group made a similar pledge to communities on the Mississippi Gulf coast.

# Men accused of fraud against relief workers

*Charity used to steal identities, police say*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Two men were arrested Wednesday on charges of promoting a fake charitable activity that targeted more than 2,500 New Orleans area police officers, firefighters and emergency workers involved in the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, Attorney General Charles Foti said.

The two were arrested Wednesday shortly before 5 a.m. in Green Bay, Wis., for falsely impersonating Salvation Army employees and for conspiracy to commit identity theft of the rescue workers.

Foti identified the two as Scott Benson, 47, of Green Bay, and Chris Armstrong, 35, of Orlando, Fla.

Foti called the scheme 'despicable' because it promised to pay the officers and firefighters $5,000 each for their roles in rescue and recovery efforts. They claimed the money was donated by the national media giant Viacom, Foti said.

He said the pair obtained the identities of the victims and their family members based on forms that had to be filled out. Foti said the data could be used to files false claims with the Small Business Administration and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief.

Besides New Orleans police officers and firefighters, those who were eligible to sign up for the vouchers included Orleans Parish Sheriffís Office deputies, Jefferson Parish Sheriffís Office deputies, emergency personnel, and state and federal law enforcement agents.

Foti said the two men posed as Salvation Army volunteers and convinced the officers and others to sign up for the free $5,000 in the past week.

Foti said the two set up a registration table behind Harrahís New Orleans Casino, a base for emergency operations. He said they set Tuesday as day to hand out the $5,000 vouchers, and about 1,500 recipients lined up to receive the money before learning the money and the men were not there.

Foti said the pair will be extradited to the state.

If convicted, Foti said, Benson and Armstrong would face up to 10 years in prison and a $10,000 fine for conspiracy to commit identity theft.

# Private schools may share in U.S. disaster assistance

*Proposal would help public schools more*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE – The effort to direct taxpayer dollars to pay for private school tuition has been a hot-button issue for years in the Louisiana Legislature, although it has been consistently unsuccessful. But Hurricane Katrina is poised to change that, at least temporarily, with officials along the political spectrum saying that both private and public schools will need assistance.

The U.S. Department of Education has proposed that up to $1.9 billion be dispersed to public schools that have enrolled at least 10 students from the region hit by the storm, as well as up to $488 million to help families whose children are attending private schools. A spokesman for U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said that a recovery plan to be unveiled by the state congressional delegation today will include monetary assistance for private schools, although the bulk of the education proposal will be directed toward public school districts.

This move is likely to be opposed by many of the traditional opponents of school vouchers, including teacher unions and other public education advocates. The Louisiana Federation of Teachers opposes the plan, said Les Landon, a spokesman for the union.

'We are unalterably opposed to any scheme that will take badly needed public education funds away from the public school children and send them to the privileged private and religious schools,' Landon said. 'It is shameful that voucher supporters will use a catastrophe like this as a pretext to raid the public treasury.'

Education Superintendent Cecil Picard did not have a comment about the proposal to help pay for private school tuition as part of the relief effort, with a spokeswoman noting that there are still 'several proposals floating around.'

Picard has said that he believes $2.4 billion will be needed for school districts that are teaching displaced students, as well as additional money to help compensate teachers who are unemployed because of the storm, said Meg Casper, a spokeswoman for the state education department.

The details about exactly who would be eligible for federal private school assistance are still being worked out, said Chad Colby, deputy press secretary for the federal education department. For example, it is not clear whether this money would be available for students who were in public school before the storm who are now attending a private school.

'We are saying this is an unprecedented one-year plan to help students displaced by a natural disaster,' Colby said. He noted that these details would have to be spelled out in legislation that Congress would need to approve before any money would be coming into the state.

The Rev. William Maestri, school superintendent for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, said that the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina should change the way people think about how to pay for education. 'The question can no longer be who is providing the education,' said Maestri, who has been a prominent supporter of school vouchers for the past few years.

Catholic schools have reopened in St. Tammany, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles parishes, and will soon be open in Jefferson Parish, Maestri said. At the same time, many of the approximately 13,000 students from Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish have enrolled in schools in those areas, as well as in Baton Rouge, he said.

The archdiocese has opened up its own satellite schools in Baton Rouge, as well as helping place students in existing Catholic schools, he said.

'There is an enormous economic and financial challenge facing us as we try to provide that education,' Maestri said.

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# Federal government rushes aid to Texas

*Bush urges people to get out of path of Category 5 Rita*

**By Lara Jakes Jordan**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The federal government rushed hospital beds, rescue teams and evacuation buses to Texas on Wednesday in an urgent effort to brace for Hurricane Rita.

President Bush, pledging to be "ready for the worst," declared a state of emergency in Texas and Louisiana as his administration moved to improve on its lackluster early response to Hurricane Katrina. He pleaded with people in the region to comply with mandatory evacuation orders issued in New Orleans and Galveston, Texas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent nearly 1,200 medical and rescue personnel into Texas as Rita grew to a Category 5 storm — the highest level on the Saffir-Simpson scale — in its sweep across the Gulf of Mexico. FEMA also asked the Pentagon to send 2,500 hospital beds to potential disaster zones in Louisiana and Texas, and was sending 200 buses to Texas to move residents out of harm's way.

Officials said rescue teams and supplies already in Louisiana to deal with Hurricane Katrina's aftermath would remain there to respond to Rita.

"I urge the citizens to listen carefully to the instructions provided by state and local authorities and follow them," Bush said in a speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition. "We hope and pray that Hurricane Rita will not be a devastating storm, but we have got to be ready for the worst."

Bush said federal, state and local governments were in close coordination as Rita moved closer. Though supplies were deployed amid ongoing discussions with local and state authorities, acting FEMA Director R. David Paulison made it clear the administration would take no chances in being ready for Rita after disaster-response mistakes that followed Katrina three weeks ago.

"We want to make sure we're ready," Paulison told reporters in Washington. "We'd rather pre-position more assets than we need than not have enough."

He called Rita "a huge storm."

Paulison said the Pentagon was working to bring specialized communications equipment to Rita's forecast strike area to ensure local emergency first-responder teams would be able to talk to each other after the storm passed though. Failed communications systems across the Gulf Coast severely hobbled Katrina response teams.

The Pentagon was to send six heavy-lift helicopters to transport rescue teams, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry already had activated some 5,000 National Guard troops to assist.

# Test-taking sites for SAT shifted

Students either displaced by Hurricane Katrina or scheduled to take the SAT at a location affected by the storm must arrange to take the test elsewhere, according to The College Board, which administers the exam to college-bound high school seniors.

Any student scheduled to take the test Oct. 8 should call (866) 392-3017 or (609) 771-7600 to arrange to take it in the city they have evacuated to, provided spots are still available. Students remaining in the New Orleans area may have to travel outside the region, said Chiara Coletti, a spokeswoman for the College Board.

Spots for additional test-takers are being added to current test-taking sites across the nation, she said. The College Board is planning to release on Monday a list of sites with available spots for the Oct. 8 exam.

All fees normally associated with such changes will be waived, Coletti said.

High school students not applying for early college admission can take the test for free in November and December if they were displaced by the storm.

All high school sophomores and juniors in storm-affected areas can also take the PSAT at no cost. Those students or their parents should call (609) 771-7070.

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# House panel hears plans to overhaul Amtrak

*Proposal may put Northeast routes in private hands*

**By Donna de la Cruz**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON - Putting routes in the Northeast under private control and other steps to make Amtrak profitable drew attention on Wednesday from a House panel.

At the hearing, the chairman of the passenger railroad, David M. Laney, said all 20 of the high-speed Acela Express trains had returned to service. The trains, which operate between Washington and Boston, stopped running in April after the discovery of cracks in brake discs. Limited service resumed in July.

Among the overhaul ideas discussed was the Bush administration's plan to eliminate Amtrak subsidies while setting aside $360 million for service in the Northeast.

Amtrak is requesting $1.82 billion for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, compared with the $1.2 billion it now receives.

One Senate proposal would cut Amtrak's operating subsidy by 40 percent, leaving the railroad with $3.3 billion over six years. This approach would give the railroad $4.9 billion over six years for capital grants.

A competing plan in the Senate would give Amtrak a $1.4 billion subsidy next year.

# Judging Roberts a winner, Democrats add their support

**By Jesse J. Holland**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice-nominee John Roberts, his confirmation secure, picked up support from fractured Senate Democrats on Wednesday as President Bush met lawmakers to discuss a second, probably more contentious, vacancy on the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Committee's senior Democrat, Patrick Leahy of Vermont, announced his support for Roberts shortly after leaving the White House, guaranteeing bipartisan backing for the nominee in todayís vote by the panel.

But Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, longtime liberal stalwart Edward Kennedy and former presidential candidate John Kerry all are opposing Roberts, underscoring a split among the Senate's 44 Democrats on whether they can or should mount even symbolic opposition to the successor to the late William Rehnquist.

Republicans control the Senate and the Judiciary Committee, so majority support was already assured for the panel's vote today and for confirmation next week.

However, some of the Democrats' liberal supporters hoped that a strong vote against Roberts would signal to Bush that replacing retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with a far-right conservative would lead to a bigger fight in the Senate.

Leahy, who has led filibuster fights against Bush's lower-court nominees, said in a speech on the Senate floor, "I do not intend to lend my support to an effort by this president to move the Supreme Court and the law radically to the right."

But Roberts "is a man of integrity," said Leahy. "I can only take him at his word that he does not have an ideological agenda."

Other Democrats, including Tim Johnson of South Dakota and Max Baucus of Montana, also have announced their support. Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana are leaning toward voting for Roberts, and Kent Conrad of North Dakota is viewed as a possible vote for him as well.

Roberts is "very well credentialed," Landrieu said Wednesday.

The other six Judiciary Democrats — Joseph Biden, Herb Kohl, Charles Schumer, Dick Durbin, Russell Feingold and Dianne Feinstein — have yet to announce their votes.

Durbin and Schumer were confronted by television producer Norman Lear and other major party supporters during a trip to the West Coast over the weekend, according to party officials familiar with the conversation.

These Democratic supporters are strongly opposed to Roberts, and want Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate, and Schumer, the head of the campaign committee, to oppose his confirmation.

Leahy's decision was "inexplicable and deeply disappointing," said Ralph Neas, head of People for the American Way.

The stakes become greater with the next nominee, and "the next nomination is going to be a great deal more contentious," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the Judiciary Committee's chairman.

The conservative Roberts is replacing Rehnquist, a reliably conservative vote on the court. Bush's next nominee will replace O'Connor, one of the court's swing voters on affirmative action, abortion, campaign finance, discrimination and death penalty cases. Replacing her could give the president a chance swing the court to the right on many issues.

Laura Bush reiterated in an Associated Press interview Tuesday that she hoped the president would name a woman.

Specter cautioned President Bush during the Wednesday morning meeting that nominating either Priscilla Owen or Janice Rogers Brown — two appeals court judges Democrats filibustered but eventually allowed to be confirmed — to the O'Connor seat could cause problems, according to a congressional official familiar with the meeting. That official spoke on condition of anonymity because the give-and-take was considered confidential.

The senators offered some names to the president, who did not share his own opinions. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush was considering a diverse list.

Among candidates widely mentioned are: federal appellate judges Owen, Brown, Edith Brown Clement, Edith Holland Jones, Emilio Garza, Edward Charles Prado, Alice Batchelder, Karen Williams, Michael Luttig, Harvie Wilkinson, Michael McConnell and Samuel Alito. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, former Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, lawyer Miguel Estrada and Maura Corrigan, a member of the Michigan Supreme Court, are also considered possibilities.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he urged the president to announce his decision within the next 10 days or so. Frist said a new justice could be confirmed "by Thanksgiving if that nomination comes quickly enough."

Specter suggested that the president wait a while, and said he had talked to O'Connor about staying on through the full 2005-06 term.

"It would be quite a sacrifice for her, but she's prepared to do it if she is asked," Specter said. "By next June we'll know a lot more about Judge Roberts ... than we do today."

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WORLD

# U.S. presses case against Iran nukes

*But push to involve U.N. Security Council faces stiff opposition*

**By Andrea Dudikova**
Associated Press writer

VIENNA, AUSTRIA - The United States on Wednesday urged fellow board members of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency to do their "duty" and haul Iran before the Security Council for violating its nuclear treaty commitments. But the timing of a vote on the issue appeared in doubt.

A new European Union proposal on Security Council referral that was circulated late Wednesday appeared to back away from a call for immediate action in the face of strong opposition from more than a dozen of the 35 board members of the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna, including Security Council members Russia and China.

The new draft still called for reporting Iran to the council – but only at a future session, if it continues defying board demands, including reimposing a freeze on uranium enrichment related activities, according to senior diplomats accredited to the IAEA. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the confidential details of the draft.

Iranian Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh arrived in Vienna to campaign against the U.S.-European motion and said his country would honor the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty regardless of the board's decision, despite Iranís displeasure over the push to involve the Security Council.

Aghazadeh spoke to reporters after meeting with representatives from Russia, China and the Nonaligned Movement, all of whom oppose the U.S.-European motion, which is expected to be introduced at the board meeting.

In Moscow, the Foreign Ministry criticized attempts to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council as "counterproductive," the Interfax news agency reported.

"This will not contribute to the search for a solution to the Iranian problem through political and diplomatic means," Interfax quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying.

The chief U.S. representative, meanwhile, lobbied board members to support the motion, formally a EU initiative that is being orchestrated in close consultation with Washington and backed by Australia, Japan, Canada and others at the meeting.

"We agree with the European Union and a growing majority of the board that the time has come to report Iran's (nuclear) noncompliance to the Security Council," U.S. delegation head Gregory Schulte told the meeting. "It is now time for the board to do our duty."

Meeting participants, who spoke anonymously because of the sensitive issues on the agenda at the closed conference, said the EU, Australia, Canada and Japan also demanded referral.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is solely for energy production, despite U.S. and EU concerns that it could be used for nuclear weapons.

# Iraqi rally denounces 'British aggression'

*Governor threatens to end cooperation*

**By Thomas Wagner**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Hundreds of Iraqi civilians and policemen, some waving pistols and AK-47s, rallied Wednesday in the southern city of Basra to denounce "British aggression" in the rescue of two British soldiers.

The Basra governor threatened to end all cooperation with British forces unless Prime Minister Tony Blair's government apologizes for the deadly clash with Iraqi police. Britain defended the raid.

In London, British Defense Secretary John Reid and Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari tried to minimize the effect of the fighting, saying it would not undermine the relationship between the two nations or their determination to lead Iraq to peace and democracy.

But the fighting raised new concerns about the power that radical Shiite militias with close ties to Iran have developed in the region, questions about the role of Britain's 8,500-strong force in Iraq and doubts about the timetable for handing over power to local security forces.

There has been disagreement about just what happened late Monday, when British armor crashed into a jail to free two British soldiers who had been arrested by Iraqi police.

According to the British, Shiite Muslim militiamen moved the two soldiers from the jail to a private home while British officials tried to negotiate their release with Iraqi officials. After raiding the jail, the British say they rescued the soldiers in a nearby private home in the custody of Shiite militias.

Earlier that day, a crowd attacked British troops with stones and Molotov cocktails.

Iraqi Interior Minister Bayan Jabr disputed the British account. He told the British Broadcasting Corp. the two soldiers never left police custody or the jail, were not handed over to militants, and that the British army acted on a "rumor" when it stormed the jail.

But Basra's governor, Mohammed al-Waili, said the two men were indeed moved from the jail. He said they were placed in the custody of the al-Mahdi Army, the militia of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

"The two British were being kept in a house controlled by militiamen when the rescue operation took place," al-Waili said. "Police who are members of the militia group took them to a nearby house after jail authorities learned the facility was about to be stormed."

At first, Basra police said the two British soldiers shot and killed a policeman before they were taken into custody, but on Tuesday al-Jaafari's spokesman, Haydar al-Abadi, said the men – who were wearing civilian clothes – were grabbed for behaving suspiciously and collecting information.

Lisa Glover, a British Foreign Office spokeswoman in Baghdad, said the two soldiers "were challenged by armed men in plain clothes ... and they obviously didn't know who they were being challenged by." But "when Iraqi police asked them to stop, they did," she told The Associated Press.


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# Massive pet rescue effort is not without claws

## *Working together key for welfare groups*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

A dog enticed from the roof of a flooded house into the arms of boat-born rescuers. Crates of mewing cats loaded into evacuation vans. Notices of stranded pets spray-painted on abandoned house fronts. These are some of the most widely-broadcast, iconic images of the New Orleans area's struggle to survive in the weeks after Katrina.

The removal of thousands of stranded pets from the flooded region by scores of professional animal rescuers from across the country is a self-evident success. Yet the head of one local animal support agency said the experience also was hampered at times by territorial infighting between some animal rescue groups that rushed into the disaster zone.

Despite profound communication problems, the early days were relatively well managed, with a single, unified list of requested rescue addresses and rescued pets, said Laura Maloney, director of the Louisiana SPCA. But she said in later days, the rescue effort sometimes dissolved into factionalism as organizations from all over the country vied for their slice of the disaster.

Maloney said she understands her colleague's duty to serve animal owners in need ñ and is quick to note the various groups saved some 3,000 animals in the region ñ but she feels the scattered efforts were at times counterproductive.

'It's like the rescue of a seeing-eye dog named Molly, she said. 'It took us 6 hours to get her. If someone else was spending 6 hours doing the same thing, then that's 6 hours wasted.'

Maloney attributed some of the infighting to 'political wrangling of the national organizations for fund-raising opportunities,' adding ,'I think they're all looking for the highest profile.'

The various organizations have since arranged themselves into a somewhat uneasy shotgun marriage, Maloney said, allowing the rescues to take precedence over infighting.

'We're trying to organize the lists again,' she said.

Shirley Minshew, employed by the Cape Cod-based International Fund for Animal Welfare,




STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MacCASH

Shirley Minshew, an employee with the Cape Cod, Mass.,-based International Fund for Animal Welfare, removes a cat from a sweltering townhouse located on Constance Street in New Orleans Wednesday. The removal of thousands of stranded pets by professional animal rescuers from across the country is a self-evident success, but it was sometimes hampered by territorial infighting between some animal rescue groups rushing into the disaster zone.

is a typical example of a professional animal handler†that flooded the region in the days after Hurricane Katrina came ashore Aug. 29. Minshew, 52, is a veteran of more than 20 animal-threatening natural and man-made disasters, including oil spills to earthquakes. She said she's never seen such widespread need for her services as she has since arriving in New Orleans on Sept. 1.

On one recent sweltering afternoon, Minshew worked feverishly to remove several cats from a hot, feces strewn townhouse on Constance Street, first seducing them with gentle coos, then snatching them with cobra-quick jabs.

One gray tabby sunk its teeth into her forearm; another sliced her wrist with a claw. Each wound required quick first aid in the house's oven hot bathroom, a smear of blood and alcohol flowing into the tiny sink.

As one cat was captured, others would appear out of nowhere, ricocheting around the baseboards like furry pin balls. Eleven cats in all would be removed in what she described as a rescue of average difficulty, before the 5:30 p.m. curfew required rescuers to retreat from the city.

The captured cats were delivered to a veterinary triage center in a grocery store Uptown New Orleans parking lot, joining other cats and dogs treated by sweating volunteer veterinarians under the row of olive green tents.

Maloney said animals at the city's animal shelter on Japonica Street in Bywater had been evacuated to Houston prior to the hurricane. An emergency plan by the Louisiana SPCA and the Department of Agriculture utilized the Lamar-Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, 70 miles west of New Orleans on Interstate 10, where evacuated animals from across the region would be warehoused until they could be reunited with their owners.

In the first chaotic days when animal rescuers weren't allowed into the stricken city, many evacuating residents busied themselves rescuing theirs and neighbor's pets, sometimes risking their own lives to do it. Many other residents refused to leave with rescuers, fearing the fate of their pets. Some police and fire department rescuers welcomed pets into their evacuation boats with their owners; while others insisted animals be left behind.

The uncertain plight of animals contributed to the chaos.

Volunteer and animal control professionals arriving in Gonzales were separated into two groups:†those with rescue experience would go to the flood site, while a larger group would stay behind to care for the animals as they arrived.

Maloney estimated that at any one time, 300 animal rescue workers were on hand, with 80 land-and-water rescuers work flooded streets.

While organizing the massive effort led to some friction between agencies, Lou Guyton, director of the southwest regional office of the Humane Society U.S. in Dallas, said that after leaping through some initial bureaucratic hoops, the overall rescue effort was a tremendous success.

'I think that it was one of the monumental rescues of all time,' Guyton said. 'The Louisiana SPCA had an excellent plan in place. Plans are wonderful, but nobody was ready for a disaster of this magnitude. The state gets to say who gets to come and who gets to go. I had to go through the official process to come in. The Louisiana SPCA was very helpful. Everybody wanted to help, and there was room for everybody to help.'

In recent days, the pace of the rescue effort has slowed from the fevered first weeks of the storm's aftermath. Rescuers in the city are removing fewer animals as the streets dry, supplying them with food and water instead. And most rescue efforts may wrap up in the coming week, especially if residents begin flowing back into the neighborhoods.

But on Monday, the 12-person water rescue team that included Minshew continued its work, slogging through black, custard-thick mud in Gentilly. The drama of the early days had dissipated in the record heat, but there were still animals to be found.

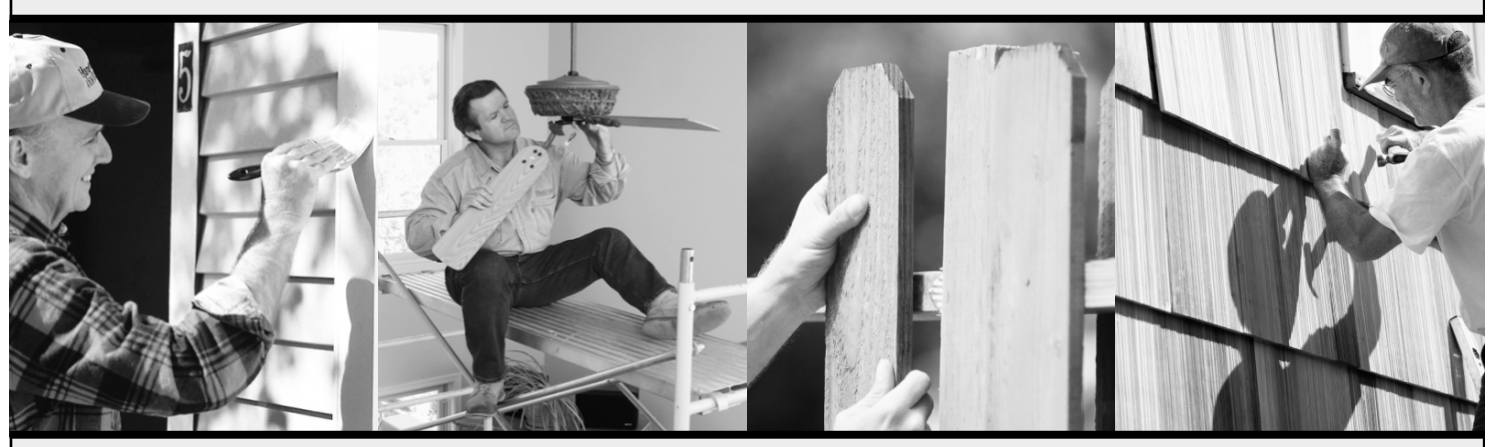
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# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-8

SECTION B
Thursday
September 22, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Tour for Cure shifts gears

A parade of power trucks passed our house Sunday, followed by one man on a bicycle.

On a normal September Sunday, Stroup and I would have gone for a long bike ride instead of hauling tree limbs out of our yard, and we would have seen dozens of other cyclists along the way.

For years, riders in padded shorts and bright jerseys have appeared on country roads in St. Tammany Parish during the scorching days of late summer.

Their goal? To pedal themselves into shape for the annual MS Tour for Cure. The 2-day 150-mile ride from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond to Percy Quin State Park in McComb, Miss., is held the first weekend of October. Except this year.

"Everything's just different this year," Brian Berrigan said. "From now on, everything is going to be BK and AK, Before Katrina and After Katrina."

### Postponement inevitable

Brian is president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National MS Society. He's staying in Baton Rouge now, but when I talked to him Tuesday, he was at the MS office in Metairie, which had two feet of water in it after the hurricane.

"I'm looking at mold, and I've been tearing out carpeting," he said.

Much as he and tour director Jessica Salter hated to postpone the 23rd MS Tour for Cure, it was inevitable for several reasons.

"First of all, we rely on 600 volunteers, and they're scattered all over," he said.

Second, finding a place for 1,200 or so riders to stay in McComb would have been impossible because the park and local hotels are full of electric company and relief workers.

And then there are the fabulous feasts Mike Maenza of Mr. Mudbug Catering always prepares for hungry cyclists.

"He's busy making thousands of meals a day for the power companies," Brian said.

### 'After Katrina' plans

Brian and his board are planning a one-day 75-mile ride in late winter or early spring in place of the fall ride, and they know the "After Katrina" October 2006 Tour for Cure will be the biggest and best ever.

"We were getting record numbers on our training rides this year, and rookie riders were absolutely incredible," he said. "One of our rookies is 80 years old."

In the meantime, Brian is making the best of things. He has already rescued the T-shirts that didn't get ruined by the hurricane and donated them to some shelters. "You're going to be seeing a lot of MS Tour for Cure T-shirts in Baton Rouge," he said.

He hopes they'll remind everyone why we ride: Because even when our hearts are focused on Katrina, people are being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and sometime After Katrina, we will find a cure.

• • • • • •

Riders who registered for the Louisiana MS Tour for Cure can take part in other fall tours across the country. For information about MS bike tours and After Katrina help for MS patients, call (800) FIGHT MS or go to www.mssociety.org.

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# SOAKED IN SLIDELL

## *Olde Towne merchants trying to put together shops' shattered pieces*



At Vintage Antiques and Collectibles on First Street, floodwater remains in antique dishes on a lower shelf of the shop.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHUCK COOK

Billy Heidelberg looks out the broken window of his Olde Towne tavern. The bar took in four feet of water. Heidelberg said he plans to rebuild, although he doesn't believe anything in the bar is salvageable.

**By Christine Harvey**
St. Tammany bureau

Sue Claverie walked into the middle of Carey Street, camera in hand and surgical mask over her nose and mouth, surveying the damage wrought more than two weeks earlier by Hurricane Katrina.

"Everything is gone," Claverie said, her eyes filling with tears. "My restaurant was filled with the most beautiful stuff. It was just really elegant."

She clicked a few photos to document the destruction at the Victorian Tea Room, hoping at the same time to avoid the putrid smell emanating from the pile of furniture, drywall and insulation on the sidewalk out front.

Although she was able to salvage some teapots and treasured china, little remains of the business Claverie and her husband, Dave, have owned for the past 13 years.

As Katrina roared across Lake Pontchartrain, a corresponding storm surge traveled

*See* **OLDE TOWNE,** *page B-3*




Ruined antique furniture sits on Carey Street outside Recollections Antiques. As Hurricane Katrina roared across Lake Pontchartrain, a storm surge traveled several miles inland and flooded Slidell's Olde Towne commercial district with more than 5 feet of water.

# TRIAGE IN HELL

## In the worst of situations, local health-care worker did what she does best: help

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

HURRICANE HEROES

*Medical worker cares for people stranded on 'hell's island'*

When Fats Domino went into a diabetic crisis at the makeshift triage center at the New Orleans Arena, a day and a half after Hurricane Katrina had leveled much of the city, it seemed to Sherry Watters that the situation must have finally bottomed out.

Unfortunately, it hadn't: Two more miserable days would pass before Watters, her fellow health-care providers and the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people they were taking care of would be rescued from the "hell's island" that the Superdome and adjacent arena had become.

Domino, happily, was soon carted away in a helicopter – not because of his celebrity, according to Watters, but because his plight was so dire. In fact, Domino, who was hallucinating, thought he was at the arena to perform a show, she said, and was refusing to eat despite the pleas of medical workers.

Things hadn't begun well at the makeshift medical center, and they steadily went downhill from there.

Within hours of the time Watters, 48, an employee of the state Department of Social Services, reported to work at the Dome on the day before Katrina made landfall, it was clear that trouble lay ahead.

"There were two doctors and two nurses for hundreds of patients per hour," she said in an e-mail about her experience. "The residents of entire nursing homes were being dropped at the door without paid staff to support them. Hospice patients on the verge of death were brought in. One lay on a table, barely alive, for hours. It was so crowded, hot and chaotic; there were not enough cots or space."

Soon there were too many needy people, as well as not enough necessary supplies and little information.

"The thing that everyone wanted most – information about what was happening and where they were going – was unknown to us, too," said Watters, whose friends teasingly call her "Saint Sherry." "There was no one in charge with good information. Trying to find even the simplest answer required asking at least five or six people and the answer would still be unclear."

Among other questions, there were no clear rules about how many healthy family members could stay with an ill relative. Entire families were brought to the triage center, only to be told that the sick could only have one caretaker. Many families were split up. "Families had to choose between parents, spouses and children in only minutes, possibly to become separated indefinitely and into uncertainty, since no one knew where anyone would be sent," she wrote.

Originally, the special-needs crowd was kept in the Dome, in a separate area from the general population of able-bodied peo-

*See* **HERO,** *page B-3*

# Capitano suspends Floyd with no pay

## *Relief goods taken from home in raid*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano suspended a top aide, Cedric Floyd, without pay on Wednesday amid an investigation into whether Floyd took more than his fair share of Hurricane Katrina relief supplies from the donation center he supervised.

Police said they raided Floyd's home Tuesday night and hauled off several truckloads of relief goods, including new clothing, cases of food, medicine and tools.

Military officials at the city-operated distribution site, located in a parking lot in the 2500 block of Williams Boulevard, had initiated the complaint against Floyd, said Capt. Steve Caraway, a Police Department spokesman. Based on the military's information, a 24th District Court judge issued a search warrant for Floyd's house, Caraway said.

Floyd, Capitano's chief administrative officer, said the items at his house weren't stolen but were destined for an outreach program in the Susan Park subdivision, for people who

*See* **KENNER,** *page B-3*

# Some residents find they've got mail

## *Carriers may delay delivery if address looks unsafe, vacant*

**By Michelle Hunter and Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Thelma Landry shuffled into the Kenner postoffice on Williams Boulevard on Wednesday anddropped four birthday cards into the outgoing mailslot, including a belated one for her grandson, Keith, who turned10 back on Sept. 1.

Although she got to share cake and a birthday dinnerwith her grandson at a restaurant in Lafayette, where she and other relatives had evacuated for Hurricane Katrina,Landry was adamant about mailing the card to hisMarrero home once she returned to Jefferson Parish.

"I put a lot of faith in birthday cards," Landry said.

"I like to receive them, and I like to send them. Wealways mail birthday cards."

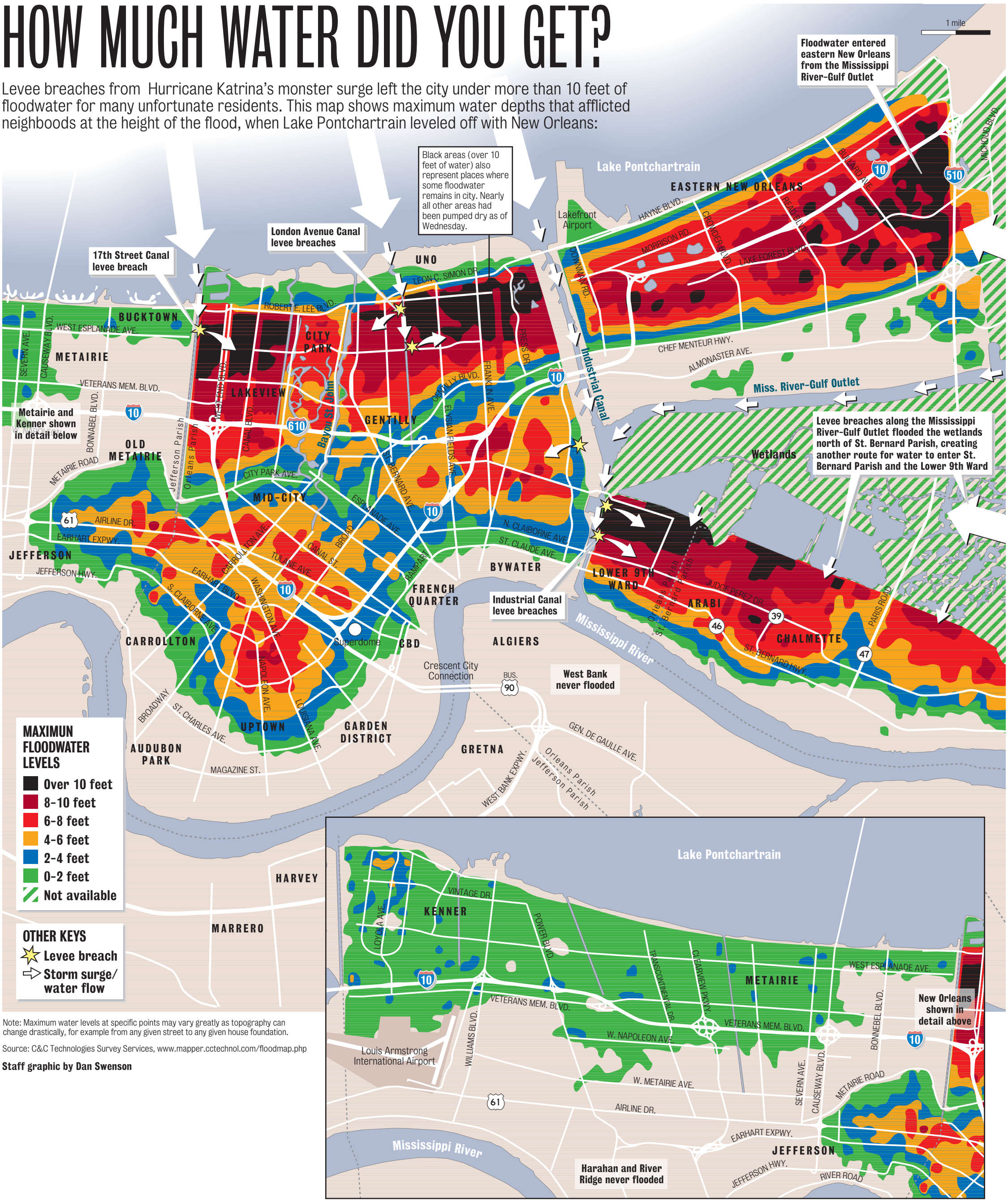
Her birthday greetings, along with tens of thousands ofother pieces of mail, are likely to be delivered soon now that the U.S. Postal

Service has resumed partial operations in Jefferson Parish for the first time since Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. Letter carriers returned to the streets of Jefferson on Tuesday, postal service spokesman StephenSeewoester said.

*See* **MAIL,** *page B-3*

# HOW MUCH WATER DID YOU GET?

Levee breaches from Hurricane Katrina's monster surge left the city under more than 10 feet of floodwater for many unfortunate residents. This map shows maximum water depths that afflicted neighboods at the height of the flood, when Lake Pontchartrain leveled off with New Orleans:




Note: Maximum water levels at specific points may vary greatly as topography can change drastically, for example from any given street to any given house foundation.

Source: C&C Technologies Survey Services, www.mapper.cctechnol.com/floodmap.php

**Staff graphic by Dan Swenson**

# Jeff court suspends cases until January

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Criminal and civil jury trials in Jefferson Parish have been postponed until January, the 24th Judicial District Court judges have decided as the parish's judicial system operates on a scaled-down basis because of Hurricane Katrina.

However, the court, closed since Katrina struck Aug. 29, is scheduled to resume operation Oct. 11, Judge Fredericka "Ricky" Wicker said.

Mass evacuations of parish residents have gutted the jury pool population, Wicker said. "We don't have enough citizens to subpoena an appropriate jury," she said.

Witnesses and victims are scattered, too, along with defendants in the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center who where evacuated to facilities statewide, said Jefferson Parish District Attorney Paul Connick Jr.

"We're going to need these people back, obviously, before we can process and proceed with the trials," he said.

Connick said about 350 people were arrested parishwide during the storm, and his office is setting up a special unit to screen the cases. He did not have a breakdown of the charges, but he said he expects to actively pursue cases involving looting, which carries a mandatory jail sentence of at least three years.

Unlike Orleans Parish, where evidence was lost to flooding, Jefferson Parish evidence survived, Connick said. Clerk of Court Jon Gegenheimer said court records were also spared.

"Since we're in cyberspace, the storm couldn't get to them," Gegenheimer said. "The paper records that we have are secure. There was nodamage."

Meanwhile, judges and magistrates are hearing emergency matters, such as injunctions and cases involving domestic abuse, and are setting bonds, Wicker said.

The statute of limitations and time-sensitive case deadlines have been suspended on orders of Gov. Kathleen Blanco and the state Supreme Court, she said.

First and Second Parish courts, which handle minor criminal and civil cases, are set to reopen Oct. 3, Gegenheimer said.

The Jefferson Parish Courthouse, meanwhile, is temporarily unusable, officials said. The building received minor damage from the storm and the sewerage system isn't working, officials said. Connick said the district attorney's building also received minor damage.

Jefferson Parish inmates who are housed in other jails around the state are being returned to the parish by the Sheriff's Office, where they are released to their homes or a "safe haven," Wicker said. The inmates are not being released in other parishes, she said.

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Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net

# Abita mayor may become full-time job

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Since he hunkered down at the elementary school with most of the town workers, police and firefighters to ride out Hurricane Katrina, Abita Springs Mayor Louis Fitzmorris had been on the job almost nonstop overseeing cleanup of the tiny town.

Tuesday night, the town's Board of Aldermen took stock of that fact and introduced an ordinance to make the mayor's job a full-time position with an annual salary of $40,000. If the measure is adopted next month, Fitzmorris would become the first full-time mayor in the 100-year history of the town.

Discussions to change the position from its current $18,000 salary and part-time status were under way among board members even before the storm, Alderman Troy Dugas said. "We have informally kind of kicked it around, thinking we might consider an ordinance toward the end of the current term in two years," he said.

**"With the rebuilding going on and the need to get more business into town to spur some economic growth to offset the big financial hit we will suffer from this storm, it is imperative that we have a mayor on the job constantly."**
Alderman TROY DUGAS

"But conditions have changed that. Our mayor has been working almost around the clock since the storm, and in fact was in many ways functioning as a full-time mayor almost from the moment he took office" in 2004, Dugas said.

"And with the rebuilding going on and the need to get more business into town to spur some economic growth to offset the big financial hit we will suffer from this storm, it is imperative that we have a mayor on the job constantly," Dugas said.

The proposed salary would match that of Mayor James Lavigne of Pearl River. In addition to the salary, Fitzmorris would be eligible for the town's health care benefits package provided for full-time employees.

Fitzmorris, who previously was an alderman, said he is in a position to accept the full-time job. He owns a pest control business but is making arrangements to hire someone to manage it for him.

"Frankly, I don't know what condition my business is in," he said. "I have been so busy with post-Katrina challenges, I have never really had much time to check on the business."




Lobby director Cynthia Ensminger, left, calls out addresses to deliver mail on Wednesday in the lobby of the post office on 17th Street in Metairie.

STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

# Postal officials took steps to save mail during crisis

**MAIL,** *from B-1*

Still, limited staffing will make daily deliveries to every residence and business impossible for now.

"At this point, we're just trying to deliver as muchas we can as fast as we can," Seewoester said.

So far, mail is being delivered in portions ofMetairie, Kenner, Gretna, Harvey, Belle Chasse,Jean Lafitte, Marrero and Westwego in Jefferson Parish, and in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes.

"Two days in a row," shouted Ron Chapoton with a grinas letter carrier Pam Butler walked into his Kenneroffice and placed a stack of letters on thecounter. Chapoton, a financial planner, said hisbusiness depends on mail delivery.

"We need to placeinvestments, and clients need to receive distributionchecks," he said. "Some of them are retirees and that's theirincome."

Butler and other carriers have been given marchingorders to avoid homes and businesses that appearunsafe, Kenner postmaster Charles Candilora said. If storm debris preventsdelivery, the mail will be returned to the post officeand carriers will try again later.

"It's pretty bad out there," Butler said as she movedswiftly down a line of business on Williams Boulevard. "A lot of trees down, a lot of power linesdown and a lot of refrigerators. And it doesn't smellgood at all. You kind of need a gas mask."

Carriers also will hold mail for houses orbusinesses where it appears residents have notreturned from evacuation, Candilora said.

Mail service for customersand displaced residents who filled out change-of-address forms won't be restored to their original address until they notify thepostal service they are back, spokeswoman Darla Stafford said.

"Until a change-of-address order is canceled, mailwon't be delivered to the permanent address," said

Stafford, who added that residents shouldn't worryabout filing multiple forms. "Our system willsupercede prior changes and go to the most recentaddress on file."

For people still displaced, it takes seven to 10 days after they complete a change form for their mail to catch up with them.

Mail service in New Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaqueminesparishes has not been restored due to safety issues,Seewoester said.

But postal officials were able to savealmost 1 million pieces of mail thanks to steps takenbefore Katrina arrived, said Tony Ruda, the Postal Service's recovery manager. All inbound mail was diverted away from the processing and distribution center in New Orleans to other sites, primarily in Houston. Postal employees in the New Orleans processing center also moved all in-house mail awaiting delivery to an upper floor to save it from flooding, Ruda said.

"We have since gone back in several times, removed all the mail from the New Orleans plant, processed that mail in Houston and sent it on to Baton Rouge" for later distribution, Ruda said.

By next week, Ruda said the Postal Service plans to have set up temporary sites to hand out mail to residents living in the devastated areas such as St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. There, normal postal operations won't resume for weeks or months.

Displaced postal employees from those areas havefound their way to the Jefferson Parish mail stations,

Candilora said. Although the two Kenner post offices are up to about 75 percent of their normal staffing, many of the employees there usually work out of the New Orleans offices,he said.

Only one third ofthe staff is back at the 17th Street post office in Metairie, which services zip codes 70002, 70005 and70006. Letter carriers are staggering the routes, meaning customers may receive mail only every other day for now, Candilora said.

Still, residents have seemed overjoyed to receive mail, even on such an irregular schedule. Letter carrier John Brehm said he's seen smiles, laughter and even a few tears.

"It's like things are getting back to normal," he said.

After hearing the metal flap on her mail slot clang shut, Lena Morina, 70, rushed to the door to catch Brehm and ask him to take some of her outgoing bill payments.

"It's so great to see a mailman," Morina gushed. "The garbage man passed by here this morning for the first time in three weeks. We were glad to see him too."

For more information, residents can go to the United

States Postal Service website at www.usps.com or call 1-800-ask-usps.

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Michelle Hunter may be reached at mhunter25@yahoo.com

# 'Chief overreacted,' Floyd says

**KENNER,** *from B-1*

couldn't get to the Kenner distribution center. Also, he said, some of the goods that police seized were his personal property, not items from the distribution center.

"The chief overreacted not knowing anything about the program," Floyd said.

Floyd has been a controversial figure from the moment he was hired as CAO on Jan. 1, 2004, by then-acting Mayor Dominic Weilbaecher. Capitano kept Floyd, previously a self-employed demographer, in the position when he became mayor 2½ months later.

In some respects, Floyd has been caught up in a larger political struggle between Capitano and Police Chief Nick Congemi, whom Capitano defeated for mayor on March 9, 2004. But state Attorney General Charles Foti, whose staff is assisting Kenner police in the Floyd investigation, said he doesn't think that political infighting is behind the raid.

Capitano said he placed Floyd on administrative leave without pay pending the outcome of the inquiry. He said City Hall had already started its own investigation and had heard differing reports on Floyd's behavior as head of the supply distribution effort.

"We were still looking into it," he said.

Allegations that Floyd helped himself to relief supplies were first publicized over the weekend, after which he was relieved of supervising the distribution site. He had headed the effort from Sept. 1 until the distribution location moved on Friday.

While the National Guard is still in the parking lot handing out ice, water and food, Kenner moved its center of donated goods to the Wentwood Playground gymnasium at 2001 34th St. on Monday.

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Mary Swerczek may be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com

# Information, rules elusive at arena

**HERO,** *from B-1*

ple simply seeking shelter. But Tuesday, as the Dome filled with thousands of evacuees rescued from rising waters and rooftops, conditions grew increasingly foul.

"Many of the post-storm people did not have any belongings except the few clothes on their backs, and some did not have even that," Watters said. "Many had no shoes, and the water around the Dome and in the docks was contaminated with the trucks, urine, vomit and human misery."

The sick were moved to the nearby arena, which soon became a hellhole to rival the Dome, according to Watters, with human waste covering the floor.

There were occasional victories. Against all odds, Watters was able to match several family members who had been split up, including the family of a Lower 9th Ward child she mentors.

But the defeats easily outnumbered the wins. At least two patients died, including an infant who had suffered from exposure. The bodies were moved to a refrigerated truck.

The sick, as well as the tens of thousands of able-bodied people in the Dome, became increasingly restive as the days wore on and conditions went south. Some vented their anger at caretakers, including a woman who threatened "manslaughter" if buses didn't arrive soon.

"These people — our people — did nothing wrong," Watters said. "They were evacuees, not prisoners. No human being should have to live like that for even a minute."

To avoid angering the general population in the Dome, the sick were evacuated from the arena stealthily, Watters said. The evacuation took about a day and a half. By late Thursday, everyone was finally out, in trucks, ambulances and helicopters headed to Baton Rouge.

For Watters, there was one final indignity: She received a speeding ticket driving through Livonia en route to stay with relatives in Iowa. The officer insisted on taking her driver's license, her sole form of identification.

But there was a bit of a happy ending when she arrived in Iowa.

"When I got to my hometown, they had started a fund drive in my name," she said. "It's a strange feeling to see my own picture on the side of a collection can. And I'm on the front page of the newspaper. I got my tuberculosis and hepatitis tests. I got a tetanus shot. I got money from the Red Cross to buy new, non-fungus-filled shoes."

# 'You gotta laugh to keep from crying'

**OLDE TOWNE,** *from B-1*

several miles inland and flooded Slidell's Olde Towne commercial district with more than 5 feet of water. Few, if any, businesses survived the storm intact.

Not even the Old Town Soda Shop, considered by many to be the area's anchor, escaped, its contents now strewn along the sidewalk and its owners rumored to be gone for good.

Inside the Victorian Tea Room, the majority of the restaurant's pink walls gave way to bare studs and its floors were covered in a half-inch of standing water and slimy black mud. Outside, customers stopped to offer their condolences.

"The quiche, oh man, it's going to get me upset," said Laura Feldhaus, noting her love of Sue Claverie's cuisine, including her to-die-for chicken salad and homemade bread. "I said we gotta go by and see."

Dave Claverie said the destruction has left his wife brokenhearted, especially given the fact that she just finished paying off in January the loan she took out to make repairs after the May 1995 flood.

"I just have to decide if I want to throw myself into it," Sue Claverie said. "I'm going to pray on it a couple of days and see what the man upstairs has to say."

Although Claverie could not say with certainty whether she would return, others on her block vowed they would be back.

"It's just a lot of work and no pay," said Karla Naulty, co-owner of Naulty's Shoe Repair, which her husband's family has operated since 1954. "We have a house note. We have to come back. We have no choice."

Naulty stood near the front door of the shop, careful to avoid the shattered glass that covered the floor when the storm surge blew out a window. Mold already has begun to form on the walls and the smell of wet leather permeates the air.

The Naultys took care to place shoes and equipment on the shop's highest shelves in anticipation of the storm's arrival. However, rising floodwaters caused the shelves to flip, tossing their contents into the drink.

Even though Katrina laid waste to the shop, it could not break Naulty's spirit.

"You gotta laugh to keep from crying," she said. "Like my dad said, you gotta lick your wounds and move on – start over."

Some of the regulars at Heidelberg's Bar have begun the healing process, despite the fact that their favorite hangout was ravaged by floodwaters, its warped wooden booths, popcorn machine and bar stools piled high on the sidewalk out front.

Don Dewitt is among those who have taken up residence outside Heidelberg's, at least for a couple of hours a night. They do have to bring their own booze, although owner Billy Heidelberg has been known to break out a bottle or two.

"It breaks my heart," Dewitt said. "This is the only place I go. I wouldn't have anyplace else to go. I wouldn't want to."

Heidelberg said he plans to rebuild, although he doesn't believe anything in the bar is salvageable. Elaine Thompson, owner of Vintage Antiques and Collectibles on First Street, looks to have been more fortunate.

A good deal of her stock consists of glass and china she has collected on trips around the world. Many of her wares floated in the floodwaters, gently resting on tabletops and in cabinets once the water receded.

However, her wooden furniture is ruined and mold has begun to form on the walls and underneath rugs, small sections of which she has begun cutting away with a knife. She can't stay inside for long because of the fumes.

At CJ's Discount Food Store two blocks away, Debbie Fernandez sat in front of the shop in a white plastic chair while her husband, Paul, hosed out the interior. A young man hauled food out of the shop in a wheelbarrow, dumping load after load onto the sidewalk and street.

Paul Fernandez said he has insurance on the shop but not its contents, estimating he lost approximately $25,000 in food and $10,000 more in equipment. He lamented the fact that four pallets of food had just arrived in the days before Katrina hit.

He couldn't say whether he would rebuild, noting that he would clean the shop and see what happens.

"We don't have the money to come back unless we get a loan," he said, "and I don't know if it's worth it."

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Christine Harvey can be reached at charve1@lsu.edu.

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Al's Plumbing Company is dedicated to the recovery of St. Tammany Parish. At this time we are looking for Louisiana state licensed service plumbers and experienced plumbing helpers. Al's Plumbing is an equal opportunity employer. We offer competitive wages, health, dental, 401k plan and paid vacations.

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CITY OF HARAHAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the City of Harahan will conduct a Special Council Meeting (due to Hurricane Katrina) and Public Hearing on September 29, 2005 at Harahan City Hall, 6437 Jefferson Highway, at 7:30 p.m. for the following:

1. An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of ($___*_____) of Public Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2005, of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; providing for the payment of the principal on such bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the refunding of certain bonds of said City; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. * Not exceeding $3,750,000. (Deferred)

2. An Ordinance levying a tax of 15.81 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation on all taxable properties in the City of Harahan for the year 2005 and authorizing the tax collector to collect said taxes on all the taxable property within the incorporated limits of the City of Harahan and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

3. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance #1510, #1507, #1504, #1500, #1499, #1496, and Ordinance #1492 which amended Ordinance #1474 the annual budget of revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana. (Maint. & Adm.)

4. An Ordinance providing that the Harahan Municipal Code be supplemented to fix the amount of compensation of the Municipal Officer of the City of Harahan as required by L.R.S. 33:404.1.

5. An Ordinance to erect "CHILDREN AT PLAY" signs on Oak Street where it intersects with Columbus Street.

6. An Ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot J, Square B-2, Harahan City Subdivision, City of Harahan, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, from R2-B, Townhouse Residential to C-2, General Commercial.

7. An Ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot J, and Lots 19 and 20, Square B-2, Harahan City Subdivision, City of Harahan, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, into Lot 19-A, Square B-2, Harahan City Subdivision, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, as shown on the plans of Gilbert, Kelly & Couturie, Inc., dated July 14, 2005.

8. An Ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lots 11 and 12, Square C, Greater Jefferson Subdivision, City of Harahan, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, made by S.Z.Z. Consultants, Inc. dated July 7, 2005.

9. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance #_____, #1510, #1507, #1504, #1500, #1499, #1496 and Ordinance #1492 which amended Ordinance #1474 the annual budget of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. (Recreation)

10. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance# _____, #_____, #1510, #1507, #1504, #1500, #1499, #1496 and Ordinance #1492 which amended Ordinance #1474 the annual budget of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. (Police Dept.)

11. An Ordinance approving a Capital Projects Budget for the Senior Center of the City of Harahan, Louisiana.

A COPY of the LOUISIANA STORM SURVIVAL GUIDE is available at CITY HALL and the HARAHAN LIBRARY for you to pick up. Emergency Information for floods, hurricanes, tornados, mitigation and evacuation are contained in this guide along with many other informational articles. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact City Hall at 737-6383, describing the assistance that is necessary.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

/s/s PAUL D. JOHNSTON
MAYOR
CITY OF HARAHAN

September 22, 2005

The Times-Picayune

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**WATER DAMAGE** RESTORATION. Heat blowers. Contractor inquiries welcome. Licensed & insured. Call 504-416-5534

**WET ORIENTAL** RUGS? For information, call Sarouk's Shop. 504-522-3260

### 2210 Contractors

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**STORM DAMAGE** REMOVAL And renovation, Please Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

### 2320 Lawn/Gardening/Trees

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**TREES &** DEBRIS REMOVAL. Fast response. Insured. Free Estimates. Call 504-712-9024

**WILL CUT** fallen trees. Leave a message. Please call 225-294-3540

### 2350 Medical

**Schween Chiropractic** & Medical Wellness Complex is now open and offering free Spinal Examinations & Message Therapy for anyone donating to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina. 985-641-2222 Referred by Donna Penny

### 2380 Painting/Paperhanging

**ANTHONY'S PAINTING** AND HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC Int/ ext painting, pressure washing, sheet rock. 504-218-3009 or 985-966-7043

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

### 2430 Professional

**For Start** Up & Technical Service, Training, Documentation, Consulting, Call 256-627-9240

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**DEHUMIDIFICATION SERVICE.** TURBO AIR BLOWERS & DEHUMIDIFIERS. NORTH SHORE & SOUTH SHORE. LOCALLY OWNED. CALL 985-727-3112 OR CELL 404-245-4922.

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**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFING &** TREE REMOVAL Free Estimates. Call anytime 985-768-7407, ask for David

### 2460 Siding

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**LOWRY-DUNHAM, CASE** AND VIVIEN INSURANCE AGENCY. Temporary location, CPB Plaza 2053 East Gause Blvd Suite 250 Slidell, LA 70461. 985-641-4148 or fax 985-641-4155. Mailing address: Po Box 430 Slidell, LA 70459

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** SPECIALIST needed. Hackbarth Delivery Service is seeking an experienced outside salesperson to develop new accounts and service our existing client base. Experience in outside sales is required as is a clean MVR and background check. Please call 504-468-6468 or apply in person at 180 East James Drive St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**Sales Agents** - Customer Service Reps, and telephone operators. Apply at PROTOCOL 19323 N 4th St. in Covington, M-F 9am-3pm, or Call 985-867-1662. EOE

**Sales Career** Opportunities: Baton Rouge to New Orleans. PFG, National Food Service Distributor. Sales or food service experience required 985-872-1483

**TELEMARKETERS** - Experienced, Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! In Kenner Location. Hourly Guarantee against Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Reliable, reasonable** Handyman needed long term, Kenner. 985-373-2631 or harinisri@aol.com

### 4030 Clerical

**AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP** Looking for Receptionist/Customer Service. Pleasant & dependable. Dealership experience preferred. Please send email to: rebecca@rainbownorthshore.com

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**MARKETING ASSISTANT** Solid Private Co. EE Bene/TPA located in the Covington area needs a very sharp person to support Sales Mgr & Marketing Team. Ideal person must have exc comm skills, detail oriented, must be self-motivated and work w/ min supervision. Phones, Excel with strong computer bkground. HS diploma or equiv, 3-4 yrs stable work exp. MUST pass bkgd check. Salary: $12/hr. Full bene's, 401K, 8-5 M-F. Fax resume to: 281-272-7629. Attn: JY-HR. MUST include daytime phone. No phone calls pls. EEO

**RECEPTIONIST/FILE CLERK** North Shore Real Estate company needs receptionist/file clerk. Experience preferred, excellent benefits. Please fax resume to: 985-542-4464

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** - Needed NOW! Heavy Phones & PC. Accuracy Essential in this fast-paced casual office. Fax Resumes: 504-443-9271 Attn Manager or Apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

### 4045 Drivers

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**DRIVERS Immediate** openings, CDL-AB, Metairie area, Please Call 504-468-7782

**DRIVERS ROLL** OFF Needed ASAP. Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

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**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS CDL License required. $12/hour. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**ROLL-OFF DRIVERS,** Experienced. Please Call For More Information: 901-854-8865

### 4060 Engineering

**ATS-Chester Engineers,** a leading environmental engineering firm since 1910, has the following positions immediately available in our New Orleans office: PROJECT ENGINEER Assist Project Manager in project budgeting and scheduling with emphasis on management and coordination of field related activities and construction contractors. Requirements include B.S. in civil or chemical engineering with 5 years experience in water & wastewater design projects with supervisory responsibilities. PE Preferred. ENGINEER: Provide technical support for studies, designs and construction management of water, wastewater & civil engineering projects. Responsible for field data collection, engineering calculations, design layouts, development of written reports, construction overview and supervision of technicians. B.S in civil, chemical, structural, electrical, or mechanical engineering is required. ATS-Chester Engineers offers highly competitive salaries, comprehensive benefits, and the opportunity to advance your career in an environment which promotes personal and professional growth. For consideration, e-mail your resume to Careers@atschester.com or mail to: ATS-Chester Engineers, Human Resources-Staffing. 260 Airside Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108. EOE

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### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

***NOW HIRING** Front desk staff, restaurant staff, & housekeeping. Apply online at greatjobs.marriott.com or 985-871-0244

**BARTENDERS Needed** immediately for the Iron Horse Saloon in Gretna. Call 504-382-1880

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### 4095 Legal

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**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY** position with Degan, Blanchard, and Nash. 2 to 5 years experience preferred. 225/610-1110 or fax resume to 225/610-1220.

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT PROPERTY** MANAGERS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Strong customer service & sales background. Competitive pay + commissions. Vacation, insurance, 401K Match. Fax resumes to 225-383-41862

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### 4110 Mechanical

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**ELEVATOR TECHNICIANS** We are a fast growing but mature elevator company based in Naples Florida. Seeking skilled, Construction Mechanics to install, modernize, hydraulic and traction elevators and Service Route Mechanics, to perform quality maintenance and troubleshooting. Prior elevator industry is desirable. Excellent starting hourly rate ($25-$31 per hour) plus overtime. Bonus potential, fringe benefits and a company vehicle. Also, mechanical and electronics experience will be considered for hiring into our training program. Our backlog and current rate of orders has created fast compensation growth opportunities to the highly motivated individuals. Please fax your resume to 239-598-9236 or Email: wcec4@earthlink.net.

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**MEDICAL- Concerned** Home Health has openings for a comptroller and biller in our Covington office, RNs, LPNs and CNAs in Metairie, Westbank and Slidell. Please fax resume to 866-536-6094 or call 888-698-2302

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**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides, NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team!Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**THERAPISTS** - Tandem Rehab has openings throughout FL, VA, MD, PA, OH and Michigan for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists. Will assist with license and relocation! Excellent pay and benefits. Call Laura Nobles at 866-400-4557 or email at rehabrecruiter@aol.com

### 4130 Part Time

**JANITORIAL Work.** Evenings, Metairie. $6.25/hour. Please call 985-652-1388

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**Architect/Technician. Well** established Architectural firm seeks a Project Manager/Architect and an Architectural CAD technician to relocate to Columbus Georgia. Each must have 3-5 yrs experience in all phases of architecture. Salary negotiable with excellent benefits. Visit our website; www.hbjkc.com or email: vstorey@hbjkc.com

**ASCENSION PARISH** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Ascension Economic Development Corp seeking highly qualified applicants. Should have management experience in economic development. Only highly experienced candidates will be considered. 4-yr degree required. CED Preferred. Send resume and cover letter to edresumes@eatel.com

**Graphic Artist** - Pensacola Magazine Full time. $30-35K. Must have Bachelor's degree and 3-5 years experience designing magazines. See www.ballingerpublishing.com for more information.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS needed** for Smiling School Photographers, no experience necessary, reliable vehicle, able to lift 40 lbs. Seasonal part-time, 504-469-0044, 225-265-1900

### 4147 Security

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

### 4160 Trades/Skills

****DRAFTSMAN** Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

****FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS** 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

***FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS* - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**ALARM INSTALLER** & TECHNICIAN Experience, Benefits Provided, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**Allstate Fence** Co looking for Fence Mechanics & Helpers, plenty of work! Call 504-737-5219

**CARPENTERS with** tools. Also need helpers. St. Tammany. 985-875-0424 hd256@housedoctors.com

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS needed** by general contractor for Hurricane clean-up. Call 504-975-0212

**Direct TV** Installers needed. Top dollar & gas money paid. Call Jay now 985-643-3292

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**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

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**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LANDSCAPING -** Installers and maintenance crew. Please call 985-871-4954

**LAWN CARE** Professional experienced and general laborer for storm cleanup. Call Grass Masters. 985-249-9881

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

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**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE Lumpers** needed in Hammond, LA. Warehouse and forklift experience a plus. Earnings $400-$600 + weekly with opportunity for advancement. Early morning start; benefits after 30 days. MUST pass background check and drug screen. Please call 985-419-0821 if interested.

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**ATTENTION. LOCAL** WORKFORCE AREAS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES. Displaced citizens, who were forced from their homes because of Hurricane Katrina, can now find temporary work through the One-Stop Workforce Center of Tangipahoa and its satellite offices. Applications are currently being taken for temporary jobs in public and non-profit agencies that provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. These jobs will pay $9.00 per hour and are currently limited to individuals who lived or worked in St.Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.Tammany, and Washington parishes. Applicants should be able to show proof of residency or employment in the affected areas. Funding for the temporary jobs is through a National Emergency Grand (NEG) from the United States Departments of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Applications will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you are an evacuee from the affected areas and currently reside in: -East Baton Rouge Parish contact: East Baton Rouge Workforce Center (225)358-4579. -Ascension Parish contact: Ascension Parish Workforce Centers. 54 Veterans Avenue, Suite B. Donaldsonville LA (225)473-5712 or 1715 South Burnside, Gonzales LA (225)647-7394. -East and West Feliciana Parishes contact: East and West Feliciana Parishes Workforce Center, 5681 Commerce Street, St.Francisville LA. (225)635-6635. -Iberville Parish contact: Iberville Parish Workforce Center. 23425 Railroad Ave, Suite 1, Plaquemine, LA. (225)687-0969. -Livingston Parish Contact: Livingston Parish Workforce Center. 9384 Florida Blvd-Suite B, Walker LA. (225)667-1874. -Pointe Coupee Parish contact: Pointe Coupee Parish Workforce Center. 305 East Main Street. New Roads LA. (225)638-6852. -St.Helena Parish contact: St.Helena Parish WIA Office/Youth Center. 1011 NW Central RR Ave. Hammond LA. (985)748-7718. -Tangipahoa Parish contact: Tangipahoa Parish Workforce Center. 1745 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond LA. (985)345-4465/(985)902-4200. -West Baton Rouge Parish contact: West Baton Rouge Parish Workforce Center. 149 North Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA. (225)343-5915. -Washington Parish contact: Washington Parish Workforce Center. 438 Avenue B. Bogalusa,LA. (985)732-6630. -St.Tammany Parish contact: St.Tammany Parish Workforce Center. 19376 N.Third Street. Covington, LA. (985)893-6254. Displaced workers may be eligible for occupational training.

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

**Full Time** Position for Vet Sales Clerc. Computer skills req. Call 225-875-7533

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multi-task while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

### 4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/ Paralegal. 901-240-7724

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7525 Eastern New Orleans

**La Place,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large family room, kitchen/ diningg room, office room, 2 car garage, covered patio. 120x110 corner lot, large freezer/refrigerator, 1 bed, dresser, couch, washer and dryer, 2 lounge chairs, they all stay. $180,000 Firm. 985-652-2519

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**FSBO 2** story Kenner townhouse. NO HURRICANE/FLOOD DAMAGE, beautifully decorated, well maintained, quiet neighborhood, 2BR/2BA, approx 1250 sq. ft., $197,500. Furniture included. 4131A Loire Dr. HOME: 504-469-2751, CELL: 504-329-2099, or EMAIL: bartyl@msn.com

### 7560 West Bank

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**Interested in** buying or selling, Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

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**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/ tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

### 7600River Parish West Bank

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

### 7615 Mississippi

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**FEMA HOUSES** AVAILABLE NOW! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

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# Levee Board loses income sources

By Frank Donze
Staff writer

Step inside the venerable, art deco lobby of Lakefront Airport's administration building and brace for a surprise: An unfettered view of the runways to the north.

"The first-floor wall is gone," said Jim Huey, president of the Orleans Levee Board, which owns and operates the facility. "All you can see is airport."

Like much of the board's vast commercial empire, the airport was largely laid to waste by high winds and storm surges produced by Hurricane Katrina.

The Belle of Orleans, the casino boat that generates about 20 percent of the board's $20 million operating budget, was blown out of the lake. Joe's Crab Shack, the Hong Kong Restaurant and several businesses in the Lake Vista Community Center, commercial tenants that lease board property, are severely damaged.

Many of the boats that were docked in slips at South Shore Harbor now rest on the marina's promenade.

At the airport, more than a dozen hangars have been flattened. Sections of the largest of the three landing strips are unusable. Storage structures are little more than piles of debris.

Amazingly, the airport control tower suffered only minor damage. But with no electrical power to operate radar and lighting, it is useless for the time being.

The board, controlled by appointees of Gov. Kathleen Blanco, is scheduled to hold its first post-Katrina meeting today in Baton Rouge to assess the damage and begin to plot a recovery strategy that likely will rely heavily on federal assistance.

"Basically, all of our revenue sources are gone," Huey said. "I can't think of one that wasn't wiped out."

Much of the balance of the board's budget comes from property taxes, which also will be severely reduced by Katrina's destruction of homes and businesses. The first order of business on the agenda will be a declaration of emergency designed to relax public bid laws governing the awarding of construction contracts. Instead of the normal 25-day advertising period, the board will consider a 10-day or 5-day procedure for choosing companies to handle demolition, debris removal and reconstruction at the airport.

"We need some flexibility so we can get moving," said board attorney Gerard Metzger.

Metzger said the board expects FEMA to provide the bulk of the money to rebuild the airport.

While the immediate goal is to get the facility up and running, Huey said the board will be seeking federal aid to construct breakwaters in the lake north of the airport to mitigate the storm surges that caused much of the devastation.

Board members also will get a damage assessment from staff members, who have established a temporary headquarters in the Baton Rouge offices of George Carmouche, one of the board's legal consultants.

Huey said the report will include some good news.

For example, the covered boat slips at South Shore Harbor appear to have had only minimal damage. And the Mardi Gras Fountain, which reopened recently after a $2.5 million restoration, was unscathed.

Also untouched was a 600-foot stretch of the lakefront north of the fountain where the board built a promenade of patterned concrete that lived up to its hype and effectively halted erosion at the water's edge. Along other stretches of the lakefront, waves carved trenches between the greenspace and the seawall along the lake.

Huey said the success of the promenade project proves that similar construction would offer protection to Lakeshore Drive and the 75-year-old seawall from future storms.

# Garbage relief is on the way in St. Charles

*Trash firm pledges pickups by week's end*

By Allen Powell II
River Parishes bureau

St. Charles residents frustrated by garbage and debris piling up in their front yards because of Hurricane Katrina-related interruptions to collections should have some relief by week's end, a Waste Management official told the St. Charles Parish Council this week.

Rene Faucheux, a spokesman for Waste Management, said Monday that the company will collect garbage at every house in the parish at least once this week, and added that the company should resume its twice-weekly pickups within the next few weeks.

Several council members said residents have complained that their trash has not been collected since Katrina hit Aug. 29, and the bags and debris are starting to take over their front yards. Councilman Brian Fabre asked Faucheux for a listing of exactly when trash is collected from every home so that he could verify residents' complaints.

Faucheux told the council that many of the Waste Management employees that operated trucks in St. Charles Parish lived in New Orleans' 9th Ward and haven't been able to return to work since the storm. Although nearly all of the company's trucks were spared in the storm, the lack of drivers has meant that only three to five of them have been operating in St. Charles since Sept. 7, instead of the normal six, he said.

The company also had problems getting to its main dump because of heavy traffic and high water, Faucheux said. St. Charles Parish has created a temporary dumpsite near the Bonnet Carre Spillway to accommodate some garbage and debris, and has hired outside contractors to supplement Waste Management. The garbage is held there until it can be brought to a landfill.

Katrina caused a significant increase in St. Charles Parish's population, which in turn has increased the amount of trash produced. Several council members said they've noticed homes with trash cans and bags of garbage across the lawn. While Faucheux said that Waste Management would collect trash from every can in the parish, he would not commit to picking up trash on the ground. Waste Management uses automated trash collection, and those trucks do not have the capacity to handle loose trash.

"I'm not going to tell you I'm going to do something I can't do," Faucheux said. "We're going to be picking more garbage in St. Charles from now on, we know that. But we're going to get back to regular service soon."

# Slidell maps out tentative plan for debris removal

*Neighborhood sweep will remove limbs*

By Paul Bartels
St. Tammany bureau

An open letter to Slidell residents from Mayor Ben Morris, Police Chief Freddy Drennan and the City Council discussed the amount of trees on city property that have fallen on or hanging perilously over private property.

"Although the city is not legally responsible for those trees, the city will begin removing these trees as part of our systematic program to assist those in need," the letter says.

"The city is also beginning a comprehensive sweep of the neighborhoods from south to north and will assist with emergency cleanup efforts to those is need," city officials said.

A specific schedule wasn't available, but Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing said the first priority for haulers hired by the Army Corps of Engineers would be the curbside mounds of cut-up trees, limbs and other storm debris in and around Slidell.

Pickups of construction debris leftover from homes and business exteriors will follow, Dearing said.

The final phase, despite the stink of rotting food in garbage cans that still haven't been emptied in some of the worst-hit areas, will be picking up household garbage and ruined appliances, including refrigerators and freezers.

Coastal Waste Management, the city's official garbage and trash collector for nearly 10,000 homes and several dozen businesses, has resumed household garbage collection in some areas, although the schedule is irregular. The company's routes are primarily in central-north and north Slidell.

Dearing said the company's general manager, Gus Bordelon, told him Coastal Waste has hired several contractors to assist with garbage and some debris removal.

"You know, after Isidore and Lili, we had 70 or 80 homes" where debris pickup was needed, Morris said, speaking of the back-to-back tropical storm and hurricane that clobbered the area in 2002. "Now, we're looking at thousands."

He waved his hand in despair and uncertainty.

"They'll be there when they get there," he said.

# Slidell concert moved back to Heritage Park

St. Tammany bureau

A Sunday concert in Slidell previously slated to be held at John Slidell Park has been moved back to Heritage Park.

The free Bayou Jam concert, featuring the Bucktown All-stars, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Heritage Park behind the Slidell train depot on Front Street.

The move was necessary because FEMA took up residence in John Slidell Park, said Kelli Gustafson, director of the Slidell Department of Cultural and Public Affairs.

Though Heritage Park is the traditional setting for Bayou Jam concerts, the city had moved it to John Slidell Park due to concerns that the inch-thick layer of dried mud that still covers most of Heritage Park could be liquefied if the city receives rains.

The city is trying to arrange to have vendors on hand to sell food and refreshments for Sunday's concert and is attempting to contact other bands previously scheduled to present concerts during the 2005 fall Bayou Jam concert series. "We're going to try to get them all," Gustafson said.

# Shelters are being moved from Tammany schools

*Classes are expected to resume on Oct. 3*

By Charlie Chapple
St. Tammany bureau

The 800 to 900 people in shelters at St. Tammany Parish schools will be relocated this week as the school system continues preparing to resume classes on Oct. 3.

Red Cross officials said Wednesday that evacuees in shelters at William Pitcher Junior High and Pineview Middle schools in Covington, Abita Springs Middle School, and 5th Ward School in Bush will be relocated today to the Folsom Community Center. Residents at the parish's special-needs shelter at Covington High School also will be moved to the Folsom Community Center.

Plans call for relocating residents at four eastern St. Tammany shelters to the North Shore Harbor Center this week, Parish President Kevin Davis said. Some minor repairs are being done at the center so it can accommodate the evacuees, he said.

Davis said he hopes the center will be ready by this weekend, "or in the worst case (scenario), by Monday." Evacuees from eastern St. Tammany are staying in shelters at 6th Ward Junior High School, Riverside Elementary School, Pearl River High School and Northshore High School.

In other news from Wednesday's briefing on local recovery efforts:

• A BellSouth official said 8,150 customers in St. Tammany are without telephone service. Cuts in telephone cables are to blame for most outages, the officials said, noting that the company had repaired 32 cuts in major cable lines since Monday.

• A Cleco official said that 92 percent of the utility's customers in St. Tammany have power. The 8 percent without power includes 5,100 homes and businesses that are too damaged to take on electricity, he said.

• A Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative official said 80 percent of its customers in St. Tammany have power. There are 5,029 customers in the parish without electricity, she said.

• Davis reported that the St. Tammany ARC headquarters and facilities for people with disabilities were heavily damaged by Katrina. "We've been told that STARC is in bad shape," Davis said. "They'll not be up and running for a while." Parish officials will see whether the Slidell organization qualifies for FEMA assistance, he said.

• Officials announced there will be a Small Business Association workshop Friday at 9 a.m. at the Slidell branch library for business and home owners interested in low-interest loans to recover from Katrina.

## DEATHS

Anna Belle Meche Lavergne
Stephen Joseph Berthelot
Mae Sager Gros
Norman John Robinson

**LAVERGNE**

Anna Belle Meche Lavergne, Age 76, the former Anna Belle Meche who died at 7:44AM at The Heart Hospital in Lafayette, LA. on Monday Sept. 19, 2005. Funeral Services will be held Thursday Sept. 22, 2005 at 10:00AM at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment will be in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Church Point, LA. Mosignor Fred Swenson will conduct the services. Survivors include her husband of 59 years Gervais Lavergne of Church Point, LA. four daughters, Mary Oakley and husband Ronald of Houma, LA., Pricilla Borne and her husband Randy of Belle Chase, LA., Sharlene Levergne and husband Kenneth of Jonesboro, Georgia, Sue Lopez and her husband Bill of New Iberia, LA., one son Michael Lavergne of Broussard, LA., one sister Josephine Godeaux of Lake Charles, LA., one brother, Lester Meche of Wewahitchka, Florida, ten grandchildren, Rachelle Borne, Rebecca Amos and Husband Gary Amos Jr., Chris Lavergne and wife Paige, Rhegan Lavergne, David Lavergne and his wife Becky, Steven Lopez, Melissa Lavergne, Amy Lopez, Dylan Lavergne, Ryan Lopez, six great grandchildren, Carrie Dufrene, Erin Amos, Randy Amos, Nolan Lavergne, Peyton Lavergne, Triston Lavergne. pallbearers will be Randy Borne, Ronald Oakley, Bill Lopez, Kenneth Lavergne, Chris Lavergne, David Lavergne. Honorary Pallbearers will be Steven Lopez, Dylan Lavergne, Kenneth Latiolais, Lester Meche, Gary Amos, Ryan Lopez. The family would like to give special thanks to the caring doctors, nurses, and staff The Heart Hospital of Lafayette and Acadia-St. Landry Home Health and special thanks to Dr. David G. Baker. She was preceded in death by parents Rosa Guidry Meche and Ned Meche of Branch, LA., her first born daughter, Linda, her four brothers Curtis Meche, Roland Meche, Houston Meche, and L.B. Meche and one sister Clara Meche Lavergne. The family requested that visiting hours be observed from 11:00AM Wednesday until 9:00PM and from 8:00AM until time of services Thursday. Ros ary will be recited at 7:00PM Wednesday. Arran gements have been entrusted to Guidry Funeral Home, Church Point, LA. 337-684-5488

**BERTHELOT**

Stephen Joseph Berthelot, 82, of Arabi, LA., died Monday September 19, 2005 in Rapides Regional Medical Center, Alexandria, LA. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

**GROS**

Mae Sager Gros, 99, of Metairie, LA., died Sunday September 18, 2005 in Regency House, Alexandria, LA. Arrangements will be announced at a later date. John Kramer & Son, Alexandria

**ROBINSON**

Norman John Robinson, M.D. died Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at the age of 87, at his home in Covington, LA. He was a graduate of University of Missouri, and received his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Robinson served as a Naval Medical Officer in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was a Resident of Pediatrics at Methodist Hospital and Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, and taught Pediatrics at University of Oklahoma and at Tulane University. Dr. Robinson was in private practice of Pediatrics in New Orleans for 22 years, and an Emergency Physician at Mercy Hospital for 10 years. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, past member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He was a member of the Orleans Parish and Louisiana State Medical Societies. Dr. Robinson was a past President of the Medical Staff of Mercy Hospital and Past President and a founding member of the New Orleans Pediatric Society. He served on the staff of Mercy, Baptist, Touro, and Charity Hospitals. He was a member of Metairie Country, Southern Yacht Club, and New Orleans Athletic Club, and a parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church in New Orleans and St. Anselm's Catholic Church in Covington. He was the son of the late Norman John Robinson and Mary Genevieve O'Mara of Potosi, Mo. He had two sisters, Norma Robinson Naiden and the late Mary Robinson Steger. Beloved husband of more than 50 years of Betty Cocke Robinson, and father of Mary Susan Martin (Randy) of Cleveland, OH., Norman John Robinson, Jr. (Suzanne) of Slidell, and James Michael Robinson, M.D. (Jane) of Covington. He had nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Visitation was held Wednesday, September 21 at St. Joseph's Abbey, followed by a funeral Mass. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days. Express your condolences by signing a guest book on nola.com/obits

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# Marigny streets groove to the sound of music

## *Makeshift disc jockey keeps the noise alive*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

The music is still alive on Frenchmen Street.

From a porch near the corner of Frenchmen and Chartres streets, the sounds of Dr. John, Professor Longhair and other New Orleans musicians pour out.

"This neighborhood is normally noisy, and I just wanted to make it noisy again," said musician Kenny Claiborne, 42, a lifelong New Orleans resident and one of the owners of the Mermaid Lounge.

Claiborne's "station" started out more as a personal need than a public service.

"By about day eight, I was going crazy because of no music," he said.

Claiborne turned his speakers toward the street from 2019 Chartres, and used his 3,350-watt generator to kill the quiet.

"It was an inspirational moment for the neighborhood," said German Bas, who lives around the corner. "That was the night that things started to lighten up here." Claiborne started spinning CDs, LPs and, with a borrowed Apple G4 computer, MP3 sound files for several hours each day.

Other neighbors cheered on the sonic mission, which has evolved with community needs. Claiborne started using his microphone to make announcements, town-crier-style. Passers-by and military troops congregated on the street outside and made requests. The stereo station became a focal point, a place to socialize.

And then one night at about 9, some police officers from out of state tried to stop the music.

He turned down the music at the officer's request. The next day, a fan in the neighborhood created fliers that read, "I (heart) Radio Marigny," and posted them on buildings to show the community's support of Claiborne's effort. She made a sun-bleached, pink "Radio Marigny (heart)" banner, which now flaps gently beside a New Orleans city flag above the porch.

The residents who remain are supportive. Herbert Laborde, 88, who was sitting Wednesday on Frenchman inside his business, Laborde and Sons Printers, said the music doesn't bother him.

"It's nice to hear there's somebody alive out there," he said. "Because I look out my door and north, south, east, west, there's nothing happening. There's life in the block somewhere. More power to him."

He has done about four "shows" in the area, playing for the Oregon National Guard, stationed at Frederick Douglass High School, and the "federal city" at Harrah's New Orleans Casino, where various police, military and federal agencies are located.




From the balcony of his Frenchmen Street home, Kenny Claiborne entertains the residents who remain in the Marigny neighborhood, which was known for its music clubs. Some live sets are featured in Claiborne's broadcasts, which also include announcements about lost animals and people in need of supplies.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER



Kenny Claiborne hangs his laundry from the balcony that houses Radio Marigny: a loudspeaker hooked up to a microphone and CD player. He plays everything from classical to rock, with public service announcements in between.



Radio Marigny operator and musician Kenny Claiborne plays his guitar in his Faubourg Marigny home on Wednesday.

Military troops, he said, tend to want to hear heavy metal bands such as Pantera. New Orleans police, he said, want to hear Al Green.

During Claiborne's off-site shows, he even performed some live music on bass with guitarist David Jaurequi of Rockin' Dopsie Jr. & The Zydeco Twisters. The duet was mostly blues. Claiborne found some upbeat forms of music don't have the right emotional timbre for the situation.

"It's not like we're partying," he said. "It's too sad. I don't want to be fiddling while Rome burns."

With Hurricane Rita hovering in the Gulf, fewer people were around. "I'm just waiting for people to come back. It's so lonely," he said. He wants to visit his family in Austin, Texas, and his girlfriend in San Francisco when things return to normal.

Until then, Galactic and Stanton Moore, the Neville Brothers and the Soul Rebels will help keep him company – along with as his dogs, Stryker and Simon, and his listeners. "I'm just trying to keep the spirit alive as well as the body," he said. "New Orleans isn't dead."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Bruce Hamilton can be reached at (504) 343-1744.

# Jeff schools push to open Oct. 3

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Its Harvey headquarters are unusable thanks to Hurricane Katrina. There are questions about whether its damaged school buildings have enough temporary protection in case Hurricane Rita sends more rain. And there's a general uncertainty about how many students and teachers will return.

But the Jefferson Parish School Board on Wednesday continued its push for an Oct. 3 reopening of most of its schools.

The board used the Jefferson Parish Council's Gretna chambers for its third emergency meeting since Katrina because its Harvey building suffered extensive roof damage, rain intrusion and mold invasion. Administrators who worked at the Manhattan Boulevard address are moving their offices and files to the school system's warehouse in Marrero.

In the meeting dedicated to gauging the system's status, board President Ray St. Pierre said that delays in the first days after Katrina mean roof coverings and other temporary measures to protect schools could be lagging short of completion in time for any more assaults by bad weather.

"If we sit here exposed, Rita or other things like that will kill us,"

St. Pierre said.

Because of problems with insurance companies that were expected to hire contractors to temporarily protect damaged buildings, the school system started hiring contractors itself to do the work, but lost time in the process, St. Pierre said.

"We lost six days in there, and this could be critical," St. Pierre

said. "There was a five- or six-day period there where we were really aggravated."

Michael Martin, a broker who represents the School Board in its

dealings with several insurance companies, told board members that a

communication breakdown led insurance officials for a time to believe the schools did not need many temporary patches.

Superintendent Diane Roussel instructed Martin to investigate who had spread inaccurate information about the condition of schools.

As of Wednesday, school system officials reported that seven schools still have severe enough damage to be unlikely to open by Oct. 3. Those are A.C. Alexander Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Terrytown Elementary, Woodmere Elementary, the independently operated Jefferson Community School and the John Martyn and Thomas Jefferson Schools, which serve as alternative and adult education sites, although Jefferson is slated to open as a magnet high school next year.

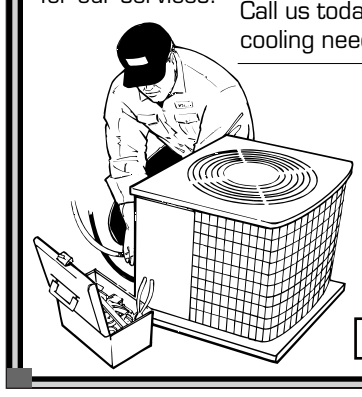
Another 28 schools are now listed as having some damage, but in most cases not enough to prevent the Oct. 3 reopening. And 52 schools are in ready condition.

"There's a lot of work going on," said David Taylor, assistant superintendent for facilities. "I think this next week is going to be critical, and hopefully the weather will hold out and this next storm will go farther south."

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The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

PAGE B-7
Thursday
September 22, 2005

# Rita could tear into oil industry

*With Texas in crosshairs, refineries face grave danger*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

The price of retail gasoline easily will shoot to and perhaps exceed $3 a gallon if Hurricane Rita, which is tearing through the Gulf of Mexico, touches down in Texas, where about a quarter of the nation's oil is refined, energy analysts said.

Supply already is tight after Hurricane Katrina severely damaged oil rigs and platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and closed four refineries in Louisiana and Mississippi.

In the worst-case scenario, Hurricane Rita would deliver an even more crippling blow if it rips through the energy capital, Houston, and comes in contact with the nation's largest refinery or any of the other 18 refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

"It's like a one-two punch," said Fred Schuster, manager of the commodities trading desk at DRW Investments LLC. "We're already on our backs and we're trying to get up and you're kicking us while we're down."

Shuster said the aftermath of Hurricane Rita could bring "new highs in gasoline."

"It's just going to put such a strain on the system that we'll for sure see gasoline rise," he said. "It's very difficult to find this thing not having an ugly ending."

Schuster said he expects prices to rise to at least $3 a gallon and said there could even be shortages if those refineries are disrupted. He pointed to the explosion and fire at a BP refinery in Texas City, Texas, in March, as an example of the nonstorm disruptions refineries can face.

"When this thing went down because of the explosion, prices leapt," Schuster said. "Pump up the tires to the old Schwinn. You might be riding it."

Four refineries responsible for 5 percent of the nation's refining capacity are still closed after Hurricane Katrina, said Sharon Day, a spokeswoman for the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association. One of the facilities, a Chevron site in Pascagoula, Miss., is on track to open again in mid-October. The others, however, will be closed for months. Those include a Conoco refinery in Belle Chasse, an Exxon facility in Chalmette and a Murphy Oil site in Meraux.

"The last thing we need is to see another refinery shut out," said Ed Silliere, a floor broker for Energy Merchant Brokerage Inc., in New York. "We have a tight situation without this storm existing and now you add to this another storm, that could cause financial devastation."

Silliere said wholesale gasoline alone would jump at least 50 cents to $1 if a refinery is closed.

"There's no question gasoline would move," he said.

But a bigger concern, Silliere said, will be the availability of diesel fuel. While the United States is receiving some gasoline from other countries, he said, diesel fuel already is in short supply. If that supply became even more strained, the effects on crops in the Midwest, for example, would be disastrous, because farmers use diesel to power equipment.

Much of the worry surrounding Hurricane Rita involves refineries, but offshore oil and gas production are also concerns. According to the Minerals Management Service, 469 platforms and 69 rigs in the Gulf of Mexico had been evacuated by Wednesday at mid-day. The shutdown will result in the loss of production of more than 1 million barrels, or 73 percent, of daily oil production and 4 billion cubic feet, or 47 percent, of daily natural gas production.

"If these guys have to shut down for any longer, it's really going to put a crimp in our supply," Schuster said.

# Real estate record rescue going well

*Documents will be moved across street*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

The rescue of critical real estate records stored in the basement of the Orleans Parish Civil District Courthouse is nearly complete, with most stored in 18 refrigerated trucks hauled in by tractor-trailers and protected by armed guards from the office of Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau. The trucks are parked near the courthouse.

All of the records can be saved and eventually moved across the street to 1340 Poydras St., the recorder of mortgages and register of conveyances reported Wednesday.

Stephen Bruno, the New Orleans custodian of historical records, a gubernatorial appointee, and Gasper Schiro, register of conveyances, said a three-year lease to locate to the former Amoco building is close to being finalized. They may permanently relocate conveyance and mortgage departments there.

Bruno's operations, where records from colonial periods on are stored, have leased 10,000 square feet on the third floor of the building for several years.

Bruno, Recorder of Mortgages Desiree Charbonnet and Schiro all said that it is a "miracle" that the documents, estimated at 12 million pages, were not destroyed or damaged beyond repair in the courthouse basement or 1340 Poydras St. "They said we were looking at nine feet of water (on Poydras), and we only had three inches of water in the basement," Schiro said. None of the records was wet, but all were exposed to potentially damaging moisture.

Schiro, who has been register of conveyances for 27 years, has been trying to find new space for his operation since the 1980s.

He was adamant Wednesday of one thing: "We're never going back to the basement. Never. Never. Never."

Along with the good news came some bad, Charbonnet said. The judges ordered Civil District Clerk of Courts Dale Atkins, Charbonnet and Schiro to reduce their work forces by two-thirds. Charbonnet, Atkins and Schiro employ between 40 and 50 workers each.

Schiro said that since the judicial fund depends on fees, which are not coming in, there is no way to pay the employees.

Schiro said mortgages and conveyance departments are arranging temporary operations in Gonzales at 1026 Worth St. and are scheduled to be operational Oct. 3. Schiro said until then, no mortgages, liens or property transfers taking place in New Orleans – if there are any – can be recorded. Civil District Court Clerk Atkins and the clerk of the First Municipal District Court are expected to set up temporary operations at the same Gonzales location.

# Officials take steps to keep flooded cars off the market



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Next to the B.W. Cooper public housing complex, a flood-tossed limousine has come to rest on its roof. The National Insurance Crime Bureau is building a database of flooded cars that will be distributed to public officials in Louisiana and to insurance companies and departments of motor vehicles across the country.

*Database will track where vehicles go*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Public officials and the insurance industry are creating a database that will track vehicles flooded by Hurricane Katrina and prevent them from turning up on used-car lots across the country.

"Our concern is that vehicles that were affected by the storm will be turned around and resold to unsuspecting consumers if they're not cataloged properly," said Lt. Allen Carpenter, supervisor of the Louisiana State Police insurance fraud unit.

Each time an insurance company takes a flood claim for a car, it will pass on the vehicle identification number, or VIN, to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, which is building a database of flooded cars. That database will then be distributed to public officials in Louisiana and to insurance companies and departments of motor vehicles across the country.

"We're keeping a running log on every vehicle that we can locate," said Dennie Huggins, vice president of field operations for the insurance crime bureau, which has set up an office in Baton Rouge. "We have thousands of VIN numbers already in it."

While the National Insurance Crime Bureau has tried to track flooded vehicles from previous storms, the Katrina database represents the group's most ambitious flooded-vehicle effort yet. The Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Insurance, the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are all involved in the database initiative. They're working with the U.S. Attorney's Office, which has formed a Hurricane Katrina Task Force.

The title of each car in the database will be stamped to indicate that the car was flooded in Hurricane Katrina. In case someone tries to alter the title to sell the car to an unsuspecting consumer, motor vehicle registry officials across the county will also have access to the database, and will refuse to register any car that had been deemed a flood loss.

"We're here to protect the insured," said Huggins, whose nonprofit investigative group is financed by the property casualty industry.

The insurance crime bureau will also be on the lookout for car-theft rings that take advantage of a hurricane to steal cars and dispose of them elsewhere in the country, as well as for stolen boats, identity theft and false insurance claims from Hurricane Katrina.

Loretta Worters, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, a trade association also sponsored by property casualty industry, said insurance companies total a car when the cost to fix the car exceeds its value.

If a car's electrical system is gone, it's generally totaled, Worters said. If only the brake pedals or carpeting is wet, the insurance company may say the car can be fixed.

When an insurance company totals a car, it sells it to a salvage yard for scrap, Worters said, but "unscrupulous people could go in there and try to sell it to unsuspecting buyers who are unaware of the vehicle's history."

When shopping for a used car, Worters said, people should go to reputable auto dealers and ask lots of questions to make sure a car isn't flood-damaged. Potential buyers should ask to see the bill of sale, ask to see the title, and ask whether the car came from a state where there has been flooding. It's also a good idea to run the VIN and take the car to a mechanic to be checked.

In the meantime, consumers should look for signs that the vehicle has been wet. Look for water lines in places that would be hard to clean, such as under the hood, around the engine, or inside the trunk. Also check for unusual wear and tear, such as rust in the glove box, mud in the trunk, discolored carpet and instruments that don't work, all of which are signs of flood damage, Worters said.

"It's something to think about," Worters said.

# Ruth's Chris, pulling up stakes, moves headquarters from Metairie

*Shift to Fla. affects 58 staffers*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

The newest publicly traded company in the New Orleans area plans to leave the city as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Ruth's Chris Steak House, which began trading on Nasdaq last month, has decided to make its temporary relocation to the Orlando area permanent.

The company said its Metairie headquarters was damaged, communications were down, and that the New Orleans area "would not be able to support our corporate office and our support center for an extended period of time."

The move affects 58 executives and corporate staffers who worked out of the Metairie office.

Ruth's two company-owned restaurants in New Orleans suffered flood and wind damage. Craig Miller, Ruth's president and chief executive, said he is optimistic the company will be able to reopen its Metairie restaurant on Veterans Highway. But company officials are far less optimistic about the Broad Street restaurant because they have been unable to assess the damage at that location.

A Ruth's restaurant in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, which was scheduled to open the weekend Hurricane Katrina hit, suffered significant damage and will not open until next year, the company said.

Miller said the company chartered a couple of prop planes and flew to New Orleans the first weekend after the storm to retrieve computer equipment.

"The first thing people took out were three pictures of Ruth and I," Miller said.

Miller said the company carried insurance on all of its facilities and expected to report a one-time gain in the third quarter because of the insurance settlements. Ruth's may also incur one-time charges for uninsured losses and asset write-downs.

Miller said central Florida is a vibrant economic area with several major restaurant chains and an available work force. The company received tax breaks from Seminole County, where it is renovating a 21,000-square-foot building to house its headquarters.

# Katrina victims can expect tax relief

*House, Senate pass changes to federal law*

**By Dennis Persica**
Staff writer

Hurricane Katrina victims can expect some relief from their federal and state tax burdens, thanks to existing federal law and several changes that are expected to pass Congress soon.

Already, administrative orders from state and federal agencies have given taxpayers a delay in filing their income tax returns if they haven't already filed for 2004. The same applies to quarterly tax filings.

While the new filing date has been pushed back to Jan. 3 for those in the federally declared disaster area, legislation being considered by Congress could push that date back to Feb. 28, said Barry Kyle, tax director at LaPorte Sehrt Romig Hand, certified public accountants in New Orleans.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have worked out their differences over different versions of legislation to help storm victims. The House took final action on the bill Wednesday, and only Senate approval is needed now for the bill to go to President Bush for his signature.

Under existing federal law, taxpayers in a federal disaster area are allowed to claim their 2005 uninsured losses on their 2004 federal income taxes. This means that people may file an amended return for 2004, or if they already are late on their 2004 taxes, they may include the losses when they finally do file their taxes for last year, said Elizabeth Alford, tax director for the Postlethwaite & Netterville accounting firm in Baton Rouge.

For all practical purposes, taxpayers may delay that decision until April 15, 2006, when 2005 taxes are due. At that time, if they decide to claim the losses on their 2004 tax returns, they can file an amended 2004 return to claim the losses and file a 2005 return without claiming the losses.

Alford said that because a lot of people will have reduced income this year as a result of Katrina, many taxpayers may find it makes more sense to claim the losses on their 2004 returns, when their income was higher.

When it comes to deducting losses, documentation is the key, Kyle and Alford said.

Two IRS provides forms and worksheets to help taxpayers document their losses and insurance coverage. Publication 2194, "Disaster Losses Kit for Individuals," and Publication 2194-B, "Disaster Losses Kit for Businesses" are available at the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov.

Alford said she thinks the Internal Revenue Service will take into consideration the fact that much of the documentation will have been lost in the flood. "I think the IRS is going to be cognizant of the fact that people's receipts are gone," she said.

However, she added, taxpayers should try to get duplicate receipts from the stores where they bought the original item or from their credit card companies.

The emergency tax relief being considered by Congress would change the way uninsured losses are considered. Currently, uninsured losses have to be reduced by 10 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income and then by another $100. Under the new law, both reductions will be eliminated, Kyle said.

The new legislation also is expected to make it easier to take an early distribution from IRA plans or a 401(k) retirement account.

Under current law, premature withdrawals require a 10 percent penalty. Under the new law nearing final adoption, people within the federally designated disaster area would not be subject to the 10 percent penalty and would not have taxes withheld from their distribution.

"Those penalties will be gone for these folks," Kyle said, referring to residents of the federally declared disaster area. Taxes will be due on the income, Kyle said, but the taxes on the IRA distribution will be spread over three tax years.

Regulations regarding loans from pension or profit-sharing plans, including 401(k) plans, also will be eased for Katrina victims, Kyle said.

Good Samaritans also will benefit from the revised tax laws in the wake of Katrina's devastation. Taxpayers who house hurricane evacuees for at least 60 days will be allowed a $500 tax deduction for each person housed, with a maximum $2,000 deduction, Kyle said. However, people who charge rent to evacuees are not eligible for the tax benefit, he said.

Businesses and their employees also get a break under current tax law for any assistance the companies provide their workers. For example, if a company provides assistance such as a per diem payment for living expenses while displaced or payments for funeral expenses or home repair, those payments are not considered taxable income to the employee, Kyle said. Such assistance also is deductible for the employer, he said.

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# Your Opinions



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

A loose barge escaped from the Industrial Canal and into the Lower 9th Ward when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. The neighborhood was still flooded when this photo was taken Sept. 10.

## Canals invite floodwaters

I'm a graduate student at Tulane University who was busy working on a dissertation proposal about the history of flood mitigation in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck. I'm profoundly frustrated at the lack of any kind of historical perspective in the media coverage of this storm.

The flooding that took out so much of our city and its suburbs was not the direct result of global warming, wetlands loss or levees left unfinished thanks to funding cuts. All of these issues are vitally important, but let's remember that the floodwaters came from the canals, while the lakefront and river levees held.

Even worse, the flooding that struck St. Bernard Parish and the 9th Ward has happened before: Nearly the exact same scenario was played out during Hurricane Betsy, as the storm surge was pushed through the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the Industrial Canal.

The most important question when we rebuild must be how we can do a better job of preserving public safety in the face of the inevitable demands of the shipping and real estate industries. It should be painfully obvious to all of us now that the MRGO should be closed immediately.

We should consider doing the same with the Industrial Canal. If the levee and floodwall improvements that were made after Betsy weren't enough to withstand this storm, there's no way we can trust that they can ever be made truly safe enough along a shipping channel that cuts through residential neighborhoods.

The Army Corps of Engineers has stated that the reason the drainage canals have floodwalls rather than levees is a simple matter of space consideration: They take up less room. We can't make such excuses again in order to allow real estate developers to create bigger subdivisions in areas that are drained swampland to begin with.

We can't completely restore the natural hydrology of the region without rendering it completely uninhabitable. But we can certainly stop creating channels that simply funnel floodwaters into the city, making all the lake or river protection in the world totally moot.

**Nicole Youngman**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Mobile, Ala.*

## Why wasn't money poured into levees?

In simplest terms, the fault for many of the deaths that occurred in New Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes lies with the state and federal governments, which failed to provide funding to properly build and maintain the levee system.

Sure, it didn't seem important then, but was a few million or even billion worth those lives and the broken hearts of many who lost loved ones and property? No. No life, no matter how small and insignificant it may seem to the powers that be, is less valuable than money we print or foreign aid we give to other countries that have no appreciation for it.

I am fortunate. I moved from New Orleans years ago. But my mother's two sisters, my aunts and their husbands, and my cousins all lived either in New Orleans, St. Bernard or Slidell. They survived by the grace of God. I still haven't heard from family friends or "adopted" family and can only pray for their safety.

Contraflow, evacuations and such are all good when you have money. The homeless, the destitute and the unwanted have none, but they still have value as human beings, and no human being is expendable.

**Karl Lehn**
*Hammond*

## Taxpayer draws the line

New Orleans citizens, politicos and other self-interested people are making many demands on the citizens of the United States. They are demanding that New Orleans be redone this way or that way, or that way or this way, in a never-ending quest to profit from the storm.

The people of New Orleans knew for years that a flood risk existed, and they refused to fund adequate flood protection. Now they are asking me to provide not only that flood protection but to build a palace of gold in New Orleans.

I as a taxpayer am willing to go only so far. New Orleans and Louisiana have for years been notorious for corruption. I will do everything in my power to avoid Louisiana and New Orleans taking advantage of me by playing on my emotions. Listen up leaders of New Orleans and Louisiana: Do not steal my money.

I will be contacting my representatives every day, urging them to take precautions in what we provide for the disaster. New Orleanians need to do something for themselves. U.S. taxpayers will be there for assistance, but do not take advantage of us. You are on a world stage now. Do not blow it.

**Dallas Jones**
*Kingwood, Texas*

## Bad reception — on TV and on the field

My cable service is MIK (missing in Katrina), so Monday evening I rushed home to turn on my new Direct TV to watch our Saints battle the New York Giants. I was hoping the Saints would keep their promise to bring "intensity and emotion" to the game and prove to be an inspirational force for a battered Louisiana.

The first minute of the game told me differently. I'd seen it before a hundred times: a pan to the sideline showing Coach Jim Haslett with a bewildered expression that screamed, "Duh, which way did he go?" Quarterback Aaron Brooks inexplicably mishandled another snap, and Joe Horn — oh, say it ain't so, Joe — fumbled the ball into the end zone for a touchback.

At a time when everything around most Louisianians has changed, the Saints have remained a bastion of consistency: a very poor and uninspired football team.

I think I'll cancel my Direct TV and go back to watching that gray and white fuzz they tell me is my cable TV service.

**Jim McCue**
*Madisonville*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# Our Opinions

## Drying out the welcome mat

Talk of getting tourists back into New Orleans when its residents can't even move back home may seem bizarre and premature, but early attention to this crucial industry is on target.

Rebuilding tourism is essential to rebuilding the city's battered economy, and we can't afford to ignore it while we deal with more immediate concerns. The tourism sector employs 120,000 people and generated $9.9 billion in visitor spending last year. Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, accompanied by local, state and national tourism and convention leaders, outlined plans Tuesday to bring the industry back to life.

Lt. Gov. Landrieu traveled to New York last week to talk with officials about post-Sept. 11 tourism. That's a useful model, though the situations aren't identical. After the terrorist attacks, people were uneasy about flying in general, something that hurt tourism around the world. Some were also nervous about traveling to a city that was obviously in the crosshairs of terrorists.

While New Orleans doesn't face those obstacles, officials at Tuesday's news conference said there's a need for a national and international public relations campaign to overcome the negative images of destruction and lawlessness that were beamed across the world last month. National tourism industry groups want federal money to help in that effort, since local agencies aren't bringing in revenue. That's a reasonable request.

Those groups also promised to lobby for increasing the business meal tax deduction and restoring the spousal travel deduction. These ideas deserve consideration — as long as they are targeted to encourage the revival of the New Orleans and Gulf Coast tourism market.

New Orleans suffered damage that's far more widespread than what New York faced in 2001. That city wasn't 80 percent underwater, nor was it emptied of its people. Our metro area has to clean up the mess; restore its roads, bridges and utilities; and get businesses, including tourism businesses, reopened, and get its work force back to work.

Lt. Gov. Landrieu understands how critical that last component is. While it's exceedingly fortunate that tourism assets such as the French Quarter were largely spared, New Orleans won't be the exciting, unique destination it has always been without its world-class chefs and talented musicians and artists. We need those people to help keep the city true to its soul as it is reinvented.

"This is a competition," Lt. Gov. Landrieu said. "At the end of the day, we're competing for citizens." If they come back — and every effort should be made to bring them back — the visitors will surely follow.

## Unlovely Rita

A healthy respect for hurricanes goes with the territory in Galveston, where a 1900 hurricane took the lives of 8,000 to 12,000 of the island's residents, the highest death toll of any U.S. natural disaster.

That history should be reason enough to clear out before Hurricane Rita shows up. A mandatory evacuation has been ordered for all of Galveston County, which has 267,000 residents, and officials there say people are complying. Houston Mayor Bill White, whose city took in thousands of exiled New Orleanians after Katrina, was urging people in low-lying parts of his city to evacuate as well.

If anyone is reluctant to leave, the fresh reminder provided by Hurricane Katrina should dissuade those foolhardy enough to consider riding out this powerful storm.

There shouldn't be any argument with the decision to evacuate New Orleans ahead of Rita either, given the fragile condition of the levees and the possibility that flooding could recur.

The storm now looming in the Gulf of Mexico looks ferocious. Rita became a Category 4 storm soon after it entered the Gulf and could become stronger as it moves across the warm waters. People on the Texas coast have now seen what a Category 4 storm can do to buildings, bridges, roads and lives.

Fortunately, there are signs that emergency-management officials have learned from the New Orleans area's post-Katrina nightmare. Food, ice and meals, as well as medical and rescue personnel, have been put in place for a quick response. Speed will be crucial. No one should be left to the mercy of rising floodwaters, or abandoned to hunger and thirst.

Nobody can prevent the weather from repeating itself, but the mistakes made before and after Katrina can and must be avoided.That includes the mistake of deciding to stay in harm's way. Trust us, Texas. You don't want to try it.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# LONG ON IDEAS, SHORT ON FOLLOW-THROUGH




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, speaking at a news conference Monday, called upon residents to evacuate again because of the threat of Hurricane Rita.



STEPHANIE GRACE

I'm irritated with Mayor Ray Nagin. And I've got to say, it's kind of a relief. In these disorienting and utterly distressing times, it's one of the few things that feels normal.

Let me say up front that irritation isn't the same as anger, although I know there are those who are fed up with his mixed signals on whether and under what circumstances they can finally return home.

I get that, but I also sympathize with Nagin's dream, as President Bush put it, to get the city "up and running" as soon as possible. I've seen how Jefferson Parish residents appreciated Parish President Aaron Broussard's insistence that they be allowed back in to assess damage ñ albeit far less of it overall ñ to their homes and businesses. I agree that Orleans Parish residents deserve the same consideration.

I just wish Nagin had thought the repopulation plan all the way through.

Almost immediately after it was unveiled, it became obvious that the devil would be in the details. Were people in the relatively unaffected areas meant to come back and look, as in those early days in Jefferson Parish, or move back to stay? What would they do without water safe enough to drink and bathe, a 911 system, power in some areas, and other necessities of ordinary life? Were stressed-out police and firefighters ready to take on the extra responsibilities? Federal authorities, who belatedly arrived on the scene but are now playing a major role in getting the city back on its feet, expressed genuine concern over health and safety.

Rita is the stated reason for abandoning speedy repopulation, and, with the status of the levees uncertain, it's a good one. But even if yet another hurricane weren't churning the gulf, the plan likely would have fallen apart. Just as in the past, Nagin didn't line up the support he needed before opening his mouth, and he didn't take care of the specifics. It's all so familiar.

In retrospect, the aborted return is a logical follow-up to Nagin's cathartic radio tirade against the federal government as he watched his constituents suffer and die needlessly on rooftops, at the Superdome and at the convention center in Katrina's immediate aftermath.

"You know, God is looking down on all this, and if they are not doing everything in their power to save people, they are going to pay the price. Because every day that we delay, people are dying and they're dying by the hundreds, I'm willing to bet you," the mayor let loose, to the cheers of so many who were just as frustrated by the lack of help.

Back then, the outpouring seemed like Nagin's defining Rudolph Giuliani moment. In hindsight, Nagin wasn't being Giuliani, he was just being Nagin.

He's always had a talent for saying what people longed to hear, as he did that fateful day, and for dreaming big, as he has been ever since order was restored and thoughts of the future became possible.

Nothing wrong with that. If ever there was a time for dreaming big, it's now, when the city is poised to flourish or founder based on decisions Nagin will make in the coming months — and without the undertow of inertia that has dragged down big ideas in the past.

But, as the whole repopulation drama has shown, the administration still needs to get a handle on its traditional weaknesses: follow-through and communication with other agencies.

People don't lie awake at night wondering whether the city will build a new municipal complex, just one of many Nagin initiatives that never got off the ground. But they do fret over their homes, their memories, how much of their old lives are still recoverable.

We're on very personal territory here, and that means the mayor holds a lot of people's hearts, hopes and fears in his hands. Straight talk and real results have never been more vital.

Staff writer Stephanie Grace can be reached at gracenola@yahoo.com.

## ON OTHER ISSUES ...

### The Roberts nomination

The question whether Judge John Roberts is qualified to be chief justice of the United States has been rendered moot by his performance in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings. He is so obviously — ridiculously — well equipped to lead the third branch of government that it is hard to imagine how any Democrats can justify a vote against his confirmation.

Start with his intellect. This is a man whose knowledge of constitutional law goes well beyond his intimate familiarity with seemingly every Supreme Court decision. It is rooted in a thorough understanding of American history. He quotes Hamilton in the Federalist Papers not to show off his erudition, but to buttress a point completely pertinent to current debates.

Next, his temperament. He has a quick wit, one that repeatedly disarmed even the prickliest of his questioners. You don't have to be an expert on reading "body language," as Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma claimed to be, to see that he is perfectly comfortable in his own skin, immune to pressure.

**—David Broder**
*in The Washington Post*

In his testimony, Roberts was brilliant, affable, engaging and amusing. He was also evasive, calculating and, well, slick.

"Would you say there's a general right to privacy?" Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) asked Roberts. "I don't know what 'general' means," Roberts replied. Fair enough, though I wish Schumer had also asked Roberts what the meaning of "is" is.

How senators vote on Roberts — and in particular how Democrats and moderate Republicans vote — depends on where they believe the burden of proof lies. The accepted Washington view is that deference should be paid to a manifestly qualified presidential nominee.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said that some of Roberts's potential opponents seemed to be saying that "the only way you can have a good heart is adopt my value system." That, Graham insisted, does "a great disservice to the judiciary."

But the doubts about Roberts have nothing to do with his good heart. The issue is the power about to be put in his hands and into the hands of President Bush's next appointee — power both will enjoy for life. The Senate and the public have a right to far more assurance about how Roberts would use that power than they have been given in these hearings. The Senate is under no obligation to give the president or Roberts the benefit of the doubt.

If senators simply vote "yes" on Roberts, they will be conceding to the executive branch huge power to control what information the public gets and doesn't get about nominees to life positions. The administration has stubbornly refused to release a share of Roberts's writings as deputy solicitor general. This is a dare to the Senate, and the administration is assuming it will wimp out. A "yes" on Roberts would be a craven abdication of power to the executive branch.

**—E.J. Dionne**
*in The Washington Post*

### Darfur and genocide

President Bush doesn't often find common cause with Cuba, Zimbabwe, Iran, Syria and Venezuela. But this month the Bush administration joined with those countries and others to eviscerate a forthright U.N. statement that nations have an obligation to respond to genocide.

It was our own Axis of Medieval, and it reflected the feckless response of Bush to genocide in Darfur. It's not that he favors children being tossed onto bonfires or teenage girls being gang-raped and mutilated, but he can't bother himself to try very hard to stop these horrors, either.

It's been a year since Bush — ahead of other world leaders, and to his credit — acknowledged that genocide was unfolding in Darfur. But since then he has used that finding of genocide not to spur action but to substitute for it.

Bush's position in the U.N. negotiations got little attention. But in effect the United States successfully blocked language in the declaration saying that countries have an "obligation" to respond to genocide. In the end the declaration was diluted to say that "We are prepared to take collective action on a case by case basis" to prevent genocide.

**—Nicholas D. Kristof**
*in The New York Times*



CAL THOMAS

# Spinning Bush's speech

It was a perfect moment for the media to use President Bush's speech from New Orleans against him.

ABC correspondent Dean Reynolds corralled about 10 evacuees and put them in chairs in the parking lot of Houston's Astrodome where they watched the president's nationally televised address. Afterward, they were asked to comment.

All of the evacuees were black and apparently poor. Given the template of news coverage — a majority of black people are said to believe aid was slow in coming because white people like George Bush don't like them — one might have expected a unanimously negative verdict to the president's address.

The verdict was unanimous, but it was unanimously positive. One by one, the evacuees replied to Reynolds' questions. "What did you think of what the president said tonight?" he asked one woman. She replied, "I think the speech was wonderful." Did she find anything hard to believe? "No, I didn't," she answered.

Reynolds put his microphone in front of another evacuee. Surely the previous one must have been a fluke. What did the next person think of the president's promises? "I really believe what he said. I believe. I got faith," she said.

A slight note of desperation seemed to creep into Reynolds' voice. Quickly, the microphone went to another evacuee. Reynolds tried another tactic. Would the woman like to criticize the slow response of the federal government (meaning the Bush Administration) to the carnage left in Katrina's wake? The woman blamed state and local officials for their slow response, not the president.

A question to all: Wasn't there anything that anyone could object to in the speech? Apparently not. Back to you Ted Koppel.

This delicious moment, which came after the other broadcast networks had quickly returned to regularly scheduled programs, speaks volumes about the media coverage of Katrina and the edited messages they have tried to shove down the public's throat.

Those messages are: White Republicans hate blacks; big business and big Republican government are evil and won't help blacks; Democrats are good and are the only ones who care for black people.

Reynolds' interviews were live, so no one could edit the content. Viewers saw and heard for themselves what at least these black people felt and believed. The ABC guest booker must have had his or her own assumptions about how such an interview would go. Surely the assemblage of black evacuees would mean unfettered criticism of President Bush. Who's racist now?

Houston's predominately Southern Baptist, but also diverse religious community has united to help the hurricane victims. Members of the mostly-white and prosperous Second Baptist Church — whose pastor, Dr. Ed Young, was asked by Houston's mayor to head the faith-based assistance effort — defied stereotypes about rich, white evangelical Christians. They applied the teaching of their Master by getting down and dirty with the poor. The Houston Chronicle also carried ads from people in many states offering help to people in need of a place to stay and assistance in finding a job.

Politicians, race-baiters and the media have an interest in keeping the racial pot boiling. For the media, it provides conflict (and ratings) so that race hustlers can blather on about a pre-voting-rights, pre-open-housing America.

For the politicians, mostly Democrats, it affords them the opportunity to stir the class warfare pot and claim that only by voting for Democrats will blacks who are poor ever escape poverty. But the political and humanitarian realities are quite different from these templates.

True compassion is not demonstrated by government, but individuals. The fundamental cause of poverty is not race, otherwise how to explain the vast and growing black middle and upper classes? A child may be born into poverty, but if he makes decisions to stay in school and study, not produce children outside marriage, refrain from taking or selling drugs and committing other crimes, there is a strong likelihood he will escape poverty.

These are the messages the government and media should be sending instead of relying on the race-class liberal Democrat templates through which it filters most contemporary issues.

Cal Thomas is a Tribune Media Services columnist.

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The people of Allstate would like to express their concern for those affected by Hurricane Katrina and let you know that their thoughts are with you.

The Allstate Catastrophe Team is working diligently to get our Mobile Response Units to the most heavily impacted areas as quickly and safely as we can.

Nothing is more important than your personal safety. So please follow the advice of local authorities and know that we are standing by ready to help.

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

Thursday
September 22, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

# 'Fitness was my salvation'

## Evacuees committed to exercise say that working out helps them beat the stress of being away from home



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

**By Siona LaFrance**
Health and fitness writer

No air-conditioning. No lights. No running water. No excuses.

Just after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Steven Deitelzweig, a physician at Ochsner Clinic Foundation, resumed his early-morning workout at the Brent House Hotel on the Ochsner campus, where he had taken refuge.

"I worked hard to approach . . . some sense of normalcy," said Deitelzweig, whose home in English Turn escaped serious damage from the storm. "And fitness was my salvation.

"While I didn't have access to my home exercise equipment and comfort zone, maintaining my fitness routine was necessary for my emotional and physical well-being."

Pam Mather hasn't been as lucky. The Algiers bride-to-be evacuated to Baton Rouge immediately after a wedding-dress fitting.

"So I had my veil and underpinnings, but no running shoes or related clothing," she said. "I was packed for a weekend at my mom's, not three weeks away from home."

After a few days, she bought exercise clothes and inexpensive running shoes. "But I just haven't exercised as much. I ran a couple of times, and my fiancé and I spent a week in the D.C. area, where we walked around a lot. But I can feel my arms turning to flab and I feel really sloth-like."

*See* **FITNESS,** *page C-4*

## 10 TIPS FOR STAYING IN SHAPE WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT

**1. BE CAUTIOUS.** If you haven't been active since the storm, start slowly — 15 to 30 minutes of exercise two or three days a week — and build from there.

**2. KEEP MOVING.** All movement burns calories, so pace while you talk on the phone, do leg lifts while watching TV or lift weights while the coffee is brewing.

**3. WALK, DON'T DRIVE.** Pound the pavement for a few minutes in the morning. Take the stairs or stroll through the mall.

**4. FIND A BUDDY.** An exercise partner can serve as a motivator and a sounding board during times of stress. If necessary, contact a local community health center and ask if counseling services are available.

**5. KEEP A JOURNAL.** Jot down your activities and your thoughts each day to help you stay focused and motivated.

**6. FORGET FORMAL DIETING** right now. Instead, simply choose more healthful foods — fruit over chips, lean broiled chicken over cheeseburgers — and eat smaller portions.

**7. SIP LOW-CALORIE DRINKS.** Drinking water rather than calorie and carb-laden soft drinks can quench your thirst and help you feel full.

**8. FIND QUIET TIME.** Set aside 10 minutes a day (in the shower, while doing dishes or folding laundry) to sort through your thoughts or review your day.

**9. STAY IN THE MOMENT.** Your feelings exert a powerful influence over your physical health, Lucy MacDonald writes in her book "Learn to be an Optimist." Don't try to look too far into the future right now; just tackle the tasks at hand.

**10. REST WELL.** Experts recommended seven to eight hours of sleep a night in order to awake refreshed and better able to handle the day's challenges. Can't sleep? Consult a physician about medical remedies.

Source: Staff research

# LEROY THOMAS III, 42 | CABLE TV TECHNICIAN

**HOME:** *A home he shared with his wife and two daughters in New Orleans East*
**HAVEN:** *His sister and brother-in-law's home near Pelham, Ala.*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"My family left Sunday morning, heading to Alabama. (By Monday morning), all hell was beginning to break loose. The tree behind my home fell and the trees behind the street started cracking. The water started creeping through the flooring, and it started coming in fast.

"The patio door, I could see it had about 5 feet on the outside, and it was just pouring in through the door. Karoom! The front door came open. The water came through. Boom! It hit me, knocked me up against the wall, and I barely had time to grab the rungs of the ladder to the attic. I'm hearing all this, hearing wind tearing up neighborhoods. I'm thinking, man, I should have listened to my wife and left.

"About 12:50, it got quiet, real quiet. It was eerie, real eerie. I grabbed my waterproof bag with my camera and climbed onto the roof. All of a sudden out of nowhere a big old gust of wind came in and whoosh! It grabbed me and lifted me clear off my slippers, tossed me into the water.

"I'm in a current because the water is coming off the lake. I went around some trees, got to my neighbor's house behind me and saw his boat. I'm still holding on to the bag with my digital camera, fighting myself into that boat. I got into the boat and said, 'Oh, Lord, thank you Jesus.' I'm trying to paddle, then I saw it was chained to a pole. I was stuck on that boat (overnight).

"Tuesday, the sun was beating me down. I was waving and the helicopters were flying constantly. But none of them saw the boat. They probably thought I was rescuing people.

"That Wednesday, maybe about 1, I'm thinking, 'Lord, if I have to stay out here another night, I'm not going to make it.' I'm just sitting there and I heard somebody say, 'Is anybody there?' I'm yelling 'Over here!' And I'm hoarse because I've been yelling for three days, and sure enough, it was a boat coming around. I'm like, 'Oh, thank you Jesus!' I'm grabbing them and hugging them. It was two NOPD officers and a guy from Lafourche Parish.



"They gave me water and told me to drink it slowly. It was hot, and my wife will tell you I don't like water, but that water was like champagne."

*— As told to staff writer Siona LaFrance, Sept. 16, 2005*

# Misfortune teller

## *Hurricane Katrina puts John Barry's 'Rising Tide' back in the spotlight*



AP PHOTO

**PRINCE OF 'TIDE':** Eight years later, John Barry's 'Rising Tide' has new relevance.

**By Susan Larson**
Staff writer

For most writers, it would be a dream come true — appearances on major television and radio talk shows, your 8-year-old book climbing to the top of the Amazon bestseller list. But for John Barry, author of "Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America," it's a success filled with sadness.

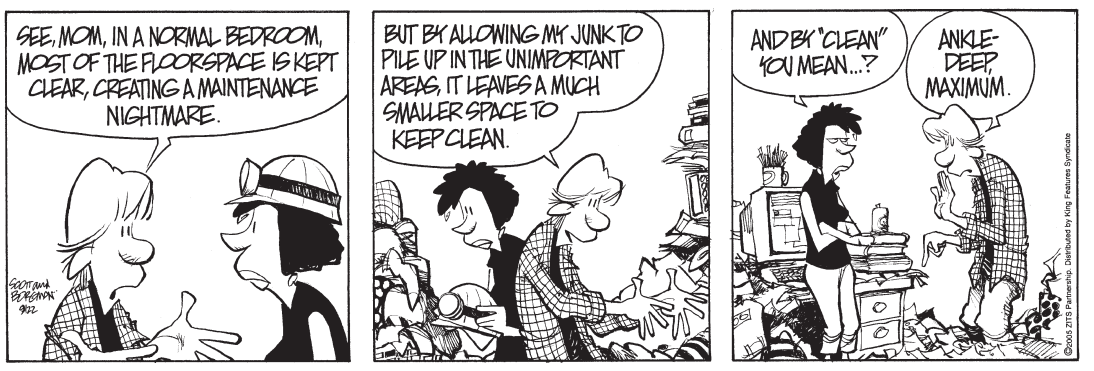
"Honest to God, it doesn't make me happy," he said Sunday (when) in an interview from his home in Washington, D.C., trying to catch a nap after an early morning appearance on Meet the Press. "It's painful.

"I'm in Washington because

*See* **TIDE,** *page C-4*

# COMICS

## ZITS



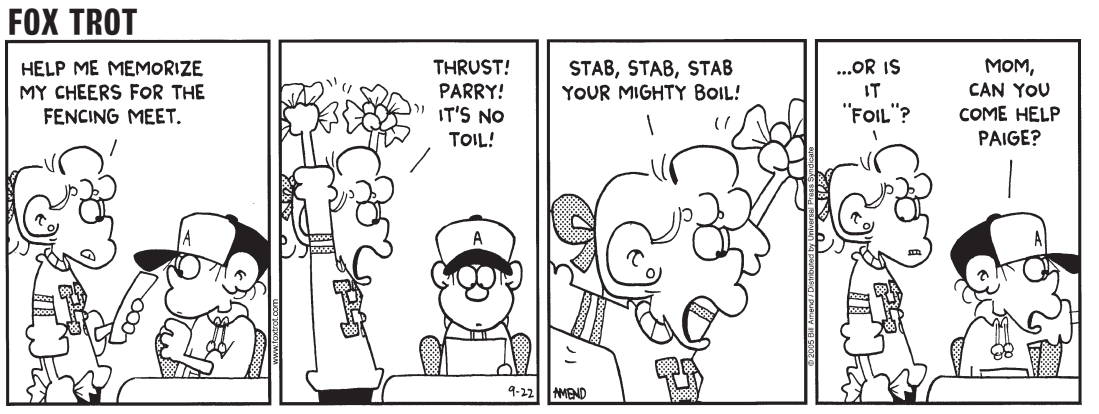

## GET FUZZY



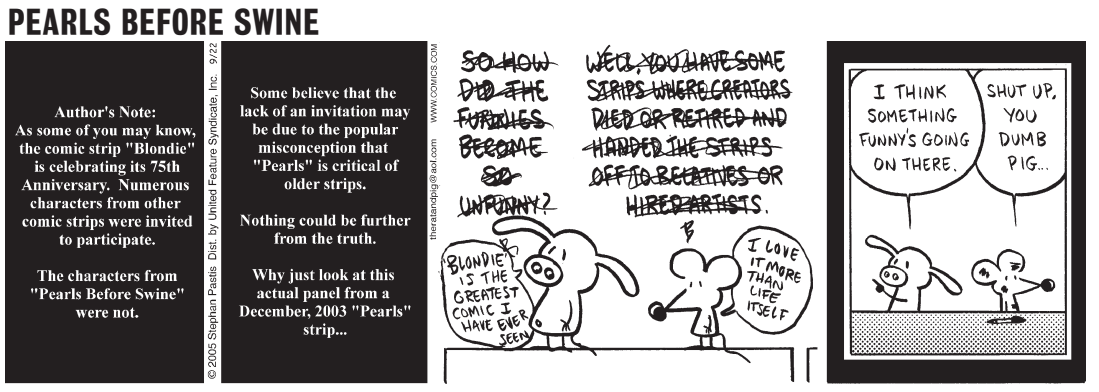

## PICKLES



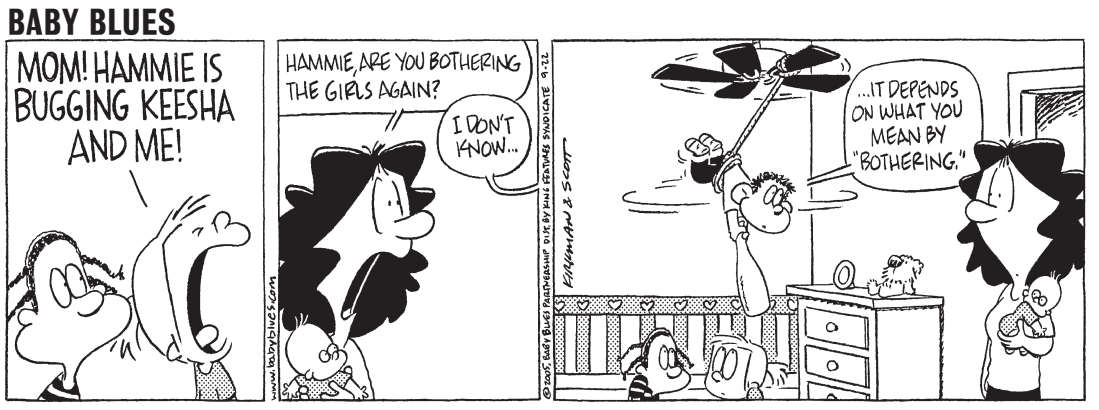

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TENGA

PORRI

ORTETT

BILBEN

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: ____ ____ A "____ ____ ____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MEALY SUAVE CANKER NAPKIN
Answer: In Congress, you can be this even if you're not — THE "SPEAKER"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 | |
| O1 | O1 | U1 | N1 | W4 | R1 | T1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 | 2nd Letter Double |
| A1 | E1 | U1 | F4 | N1 | C3 | R1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 | |
| E1 | E1 | U1 | T1 | G2 | N1 | M3 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 | Triple Word Score |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | O1 | M3 | S1 | V4 | | |

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 218

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

ANSWER KEY

PAR SCORE 140-150

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V4 | A1 | M3 | O1 | O1 | S1 | E1 | RACK 4 = | 86 |
| N1 | U1 | T1 | M3 | E1 | G2 | | RACK 3 = | 9 |
| F4 | U1 | R1 | N1 | A1 | C3 | E1 | RACK 2 = | 63 |
| O1 | U1 | T1 | W4 | O1 | R1 | N1 | RACK 1 = | 60 |

TOTAL 218

## WORD SLEUTH

P X U Q N K H E B Y V S P M J
H E B Y V T Q Y O L E I G D B
Y W T R P E M E K I S F Y D B
Y W U L S T Q L O M P J O K I
F K D Y L N R M B Z O S R X W
U S U R E A Q U V S S O U N L
J H F H D L H L E A I A O C A
Y G W U C P S P R D T D F V T
S Q O F P W H R N N O O L L K
I H N O H C A V O F E R E C B
Z Y W V M B U S N W S B B R Q

Wednesday's unlisted clue: NANNY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: ALL-TIME LEADER PATRICK —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barrasso | Esposito | Lumley | Vachon |
| Belfour | Fuhr | Moog | Vernon |
| Broda | Hall | Plante | Worsley |
| Brodeur | Joseph | Sawchuk | |

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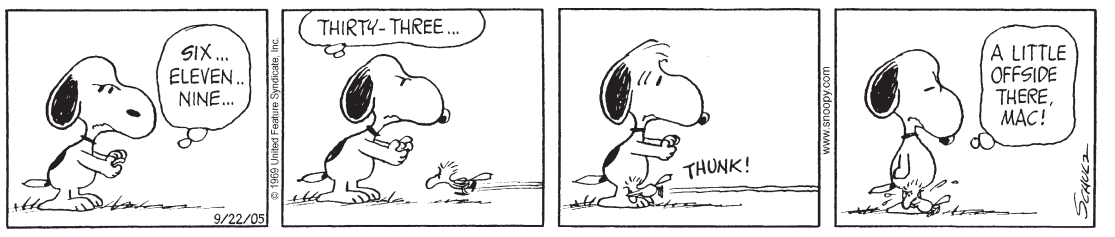
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| L | D | T | E | F | W | V | T | O | L | R | R | O |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| E | E | T | A | Y | N | E | R | I | N | S | N | D |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| H | S | E | E | T | E | H | W | O | S | I | O | K |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| O | G | R | F | F | R | G | R | E | I | L | S | A |
| 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| A | N | T | N | T | T | I | R | R | L | O | L | E |
| 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| A | E | R | S | S | R | N | S | E | D | S | E | D |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| W | H | R | A | I | R | P | D | E | E | E | D | N |

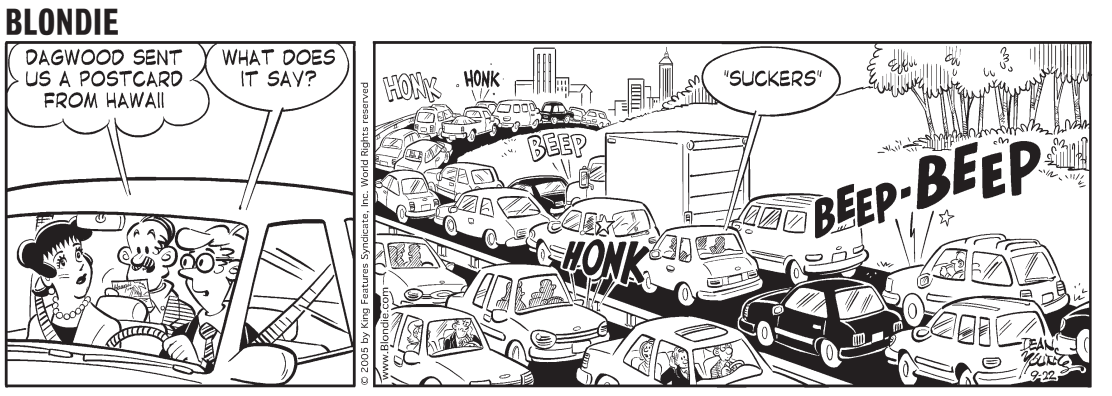
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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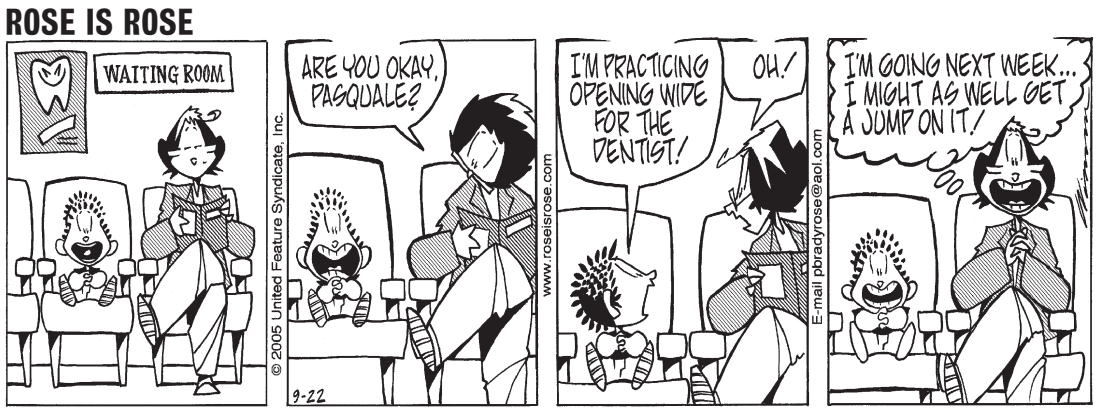
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



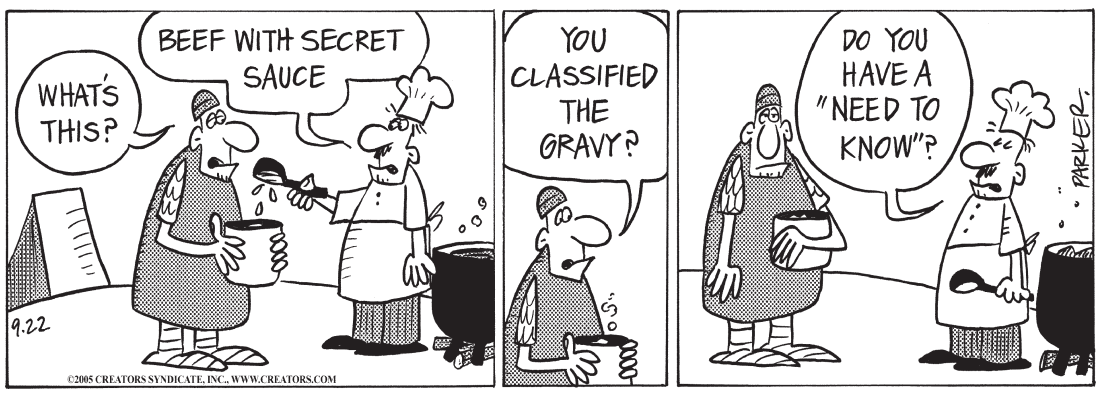

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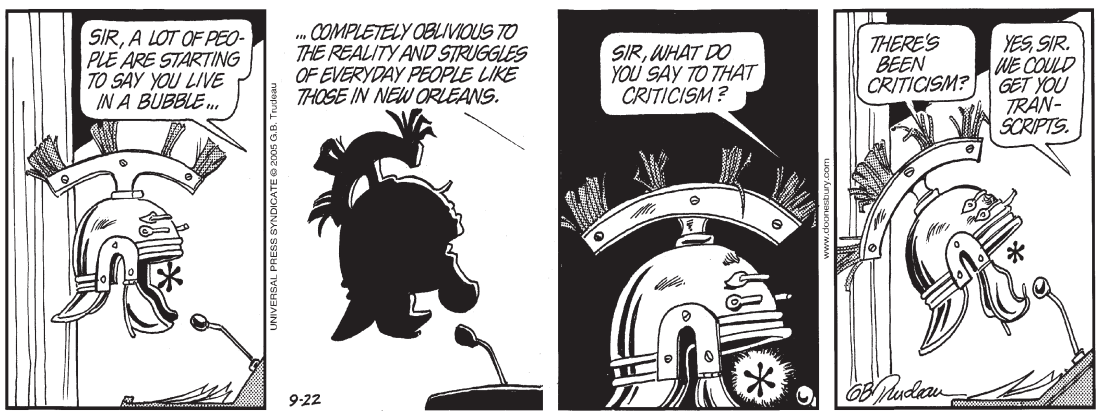

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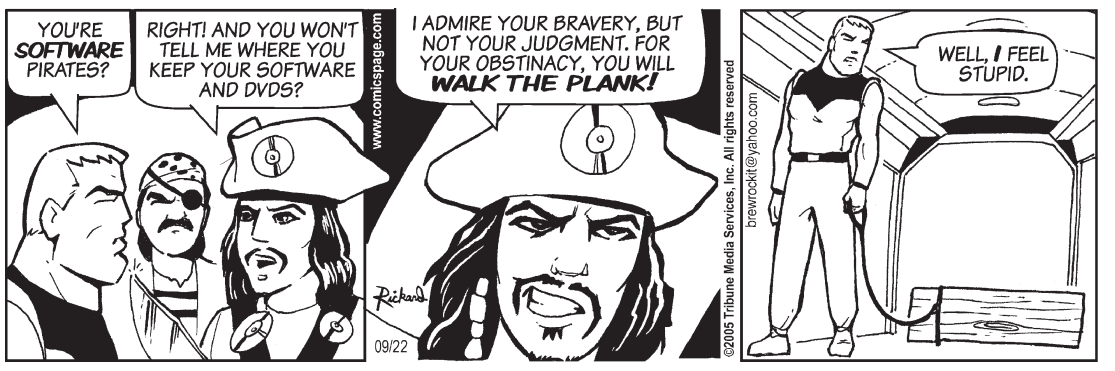

## THE WIZARD OF ID



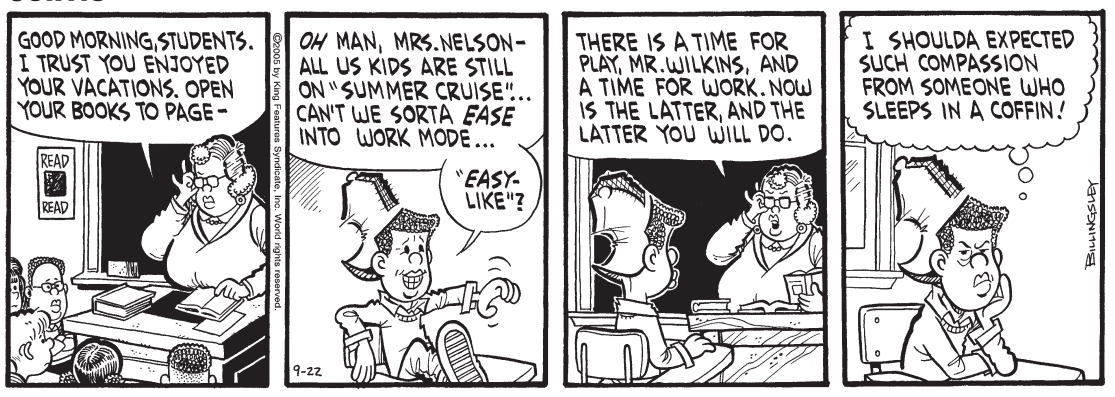

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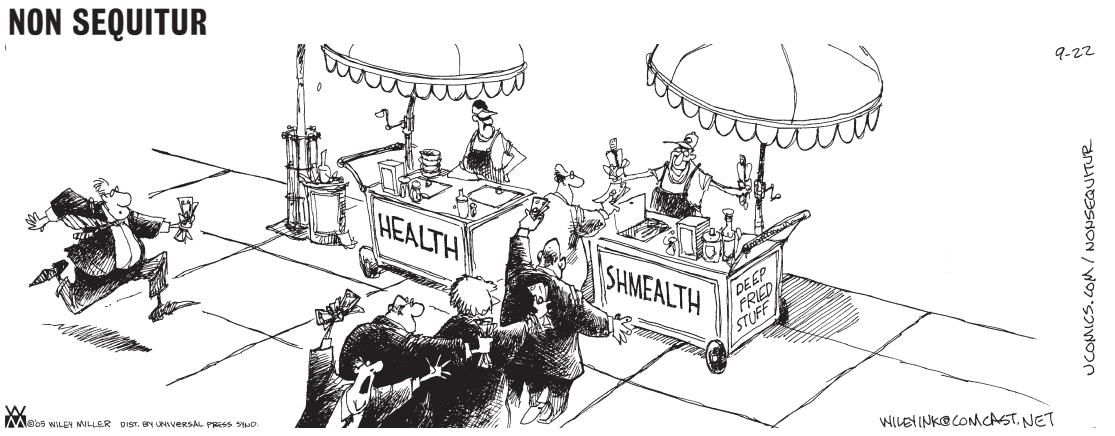

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



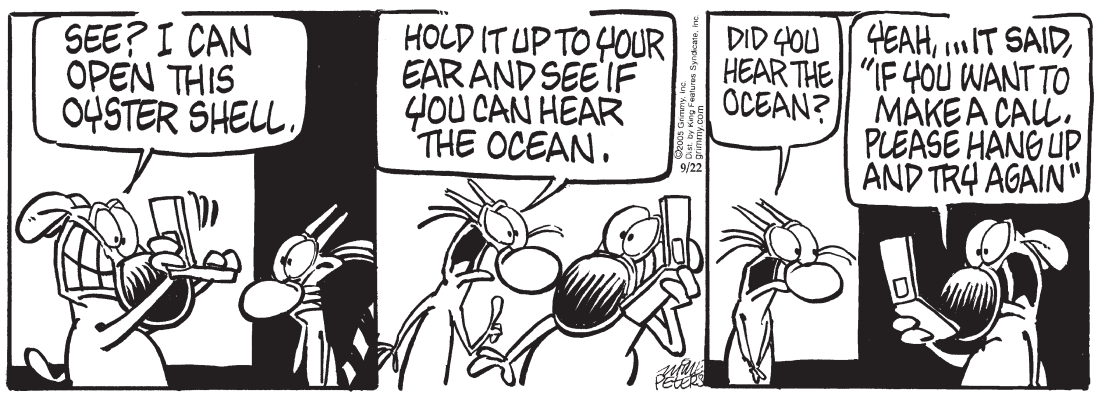

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

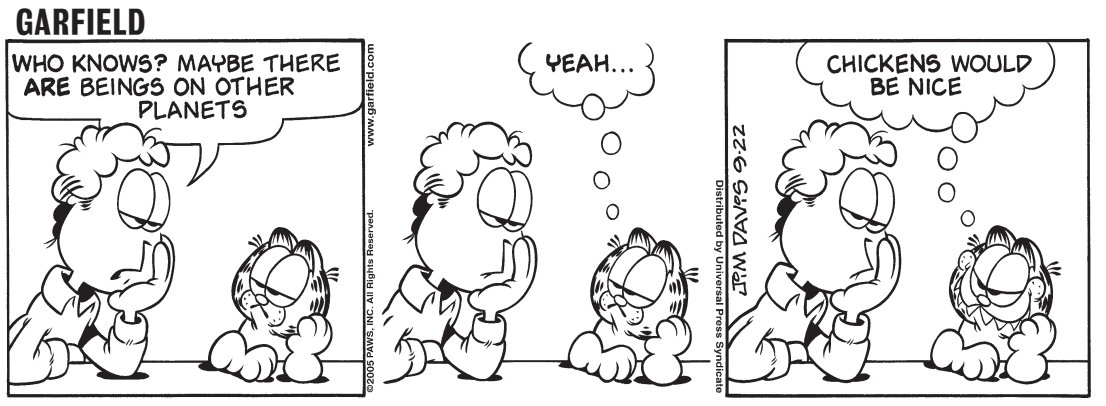



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

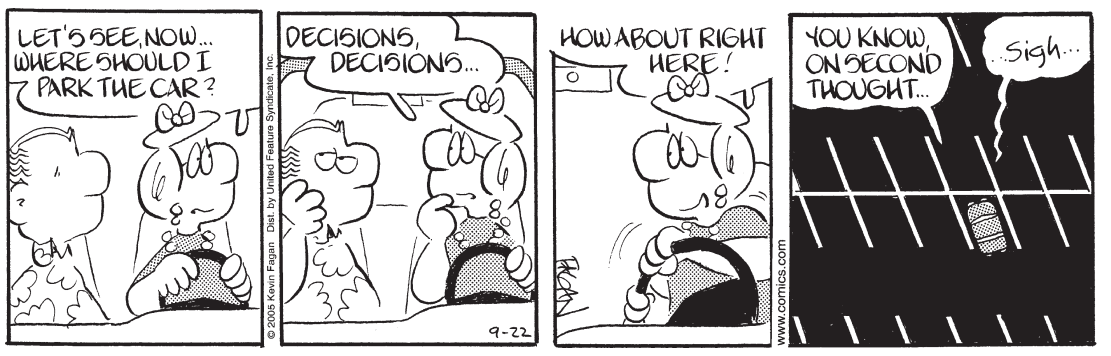


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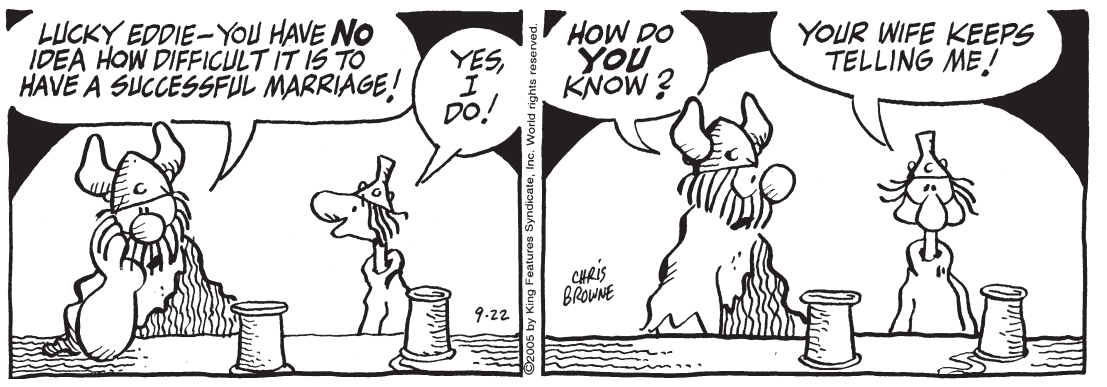
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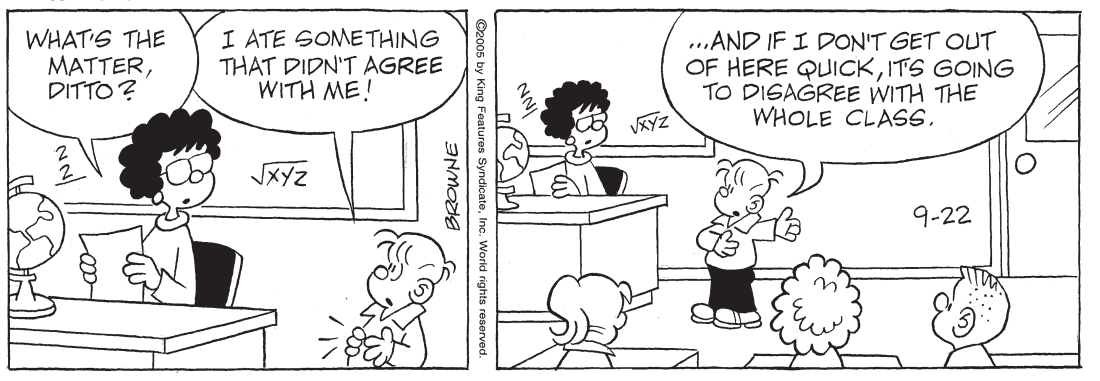

## DRABBLE



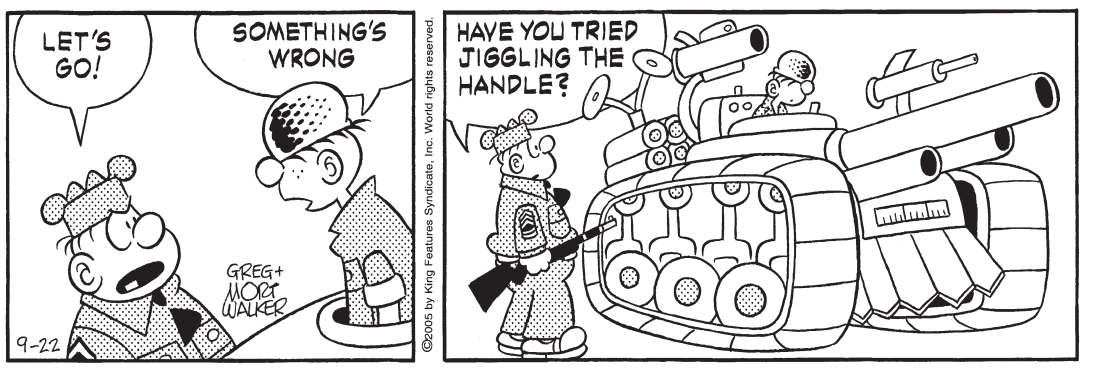

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



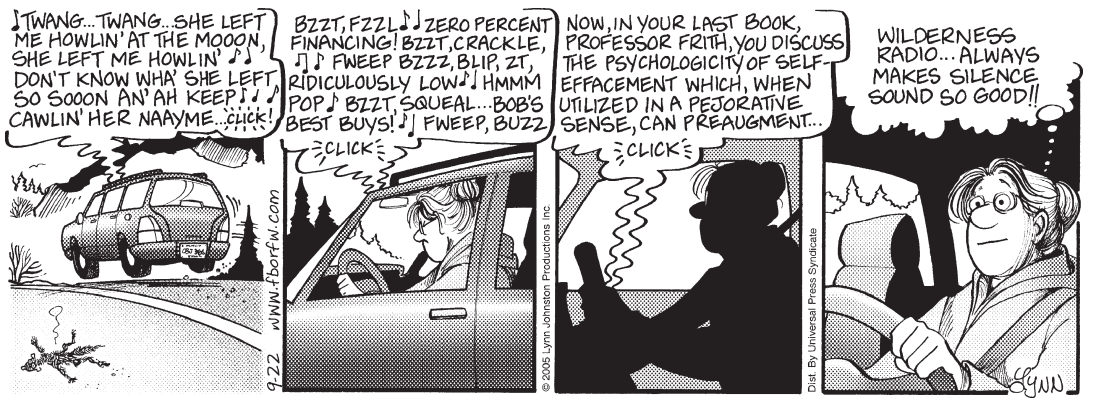

## HI & LOIS



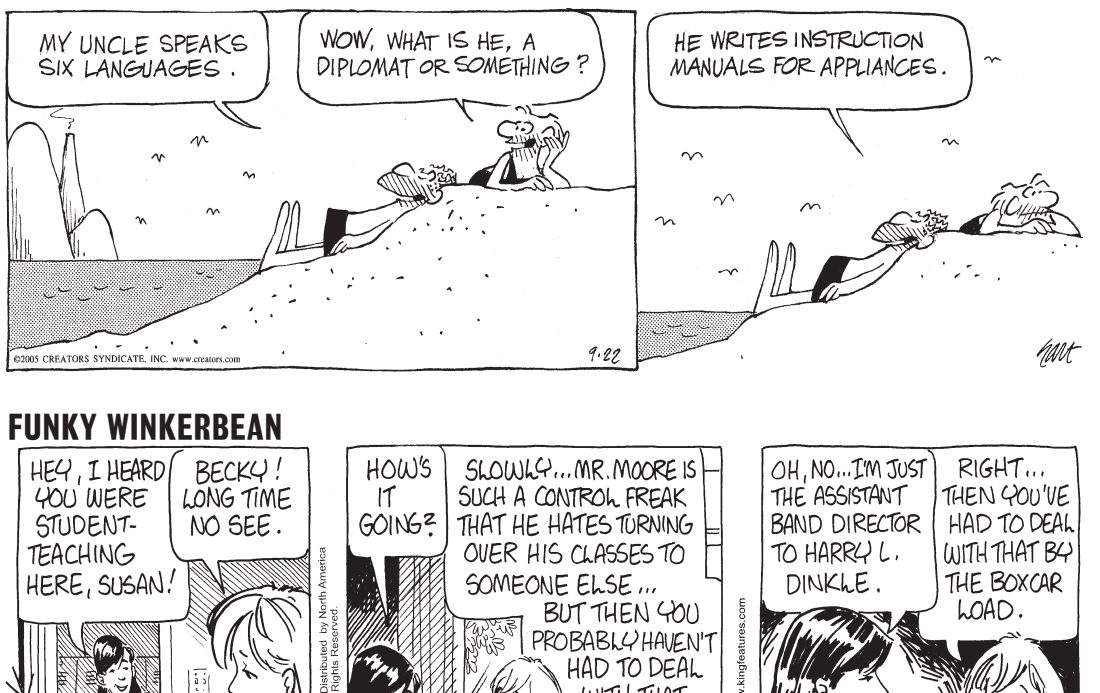

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



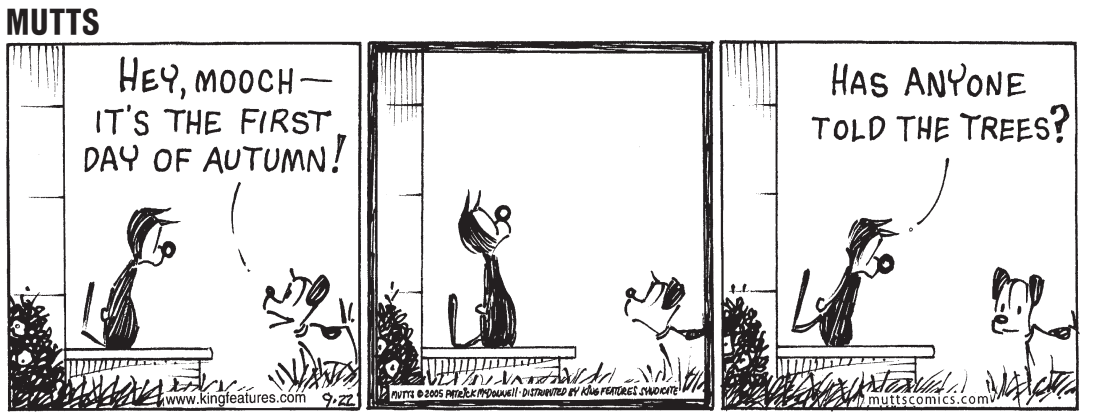

## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

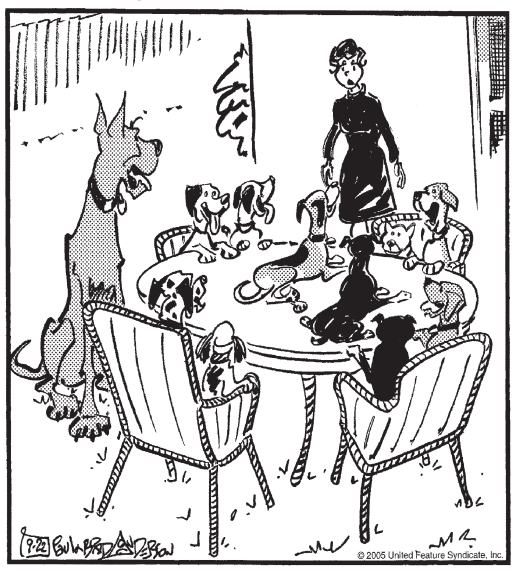



"Well, the ad did say 'Lose weight fast with no exercise or dieting.'"

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Well, pardon me. Did I interrupt a board meeting?"

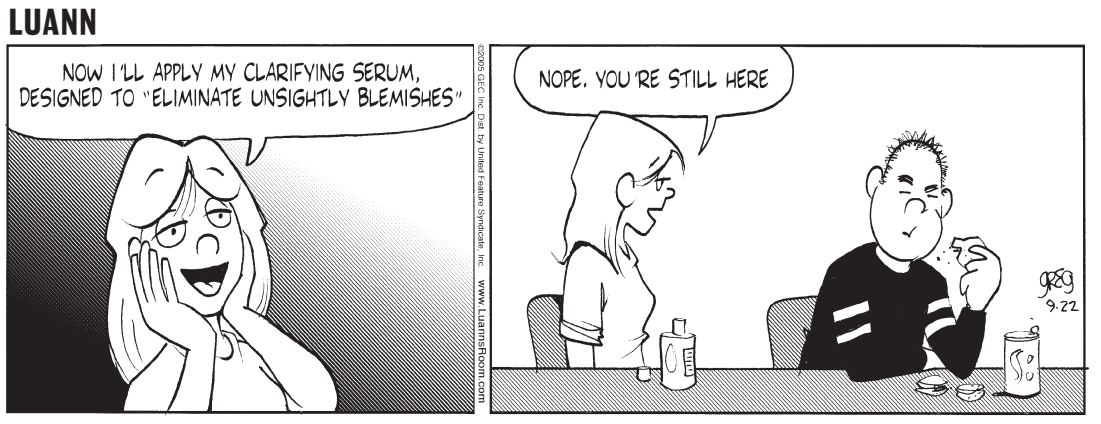
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN

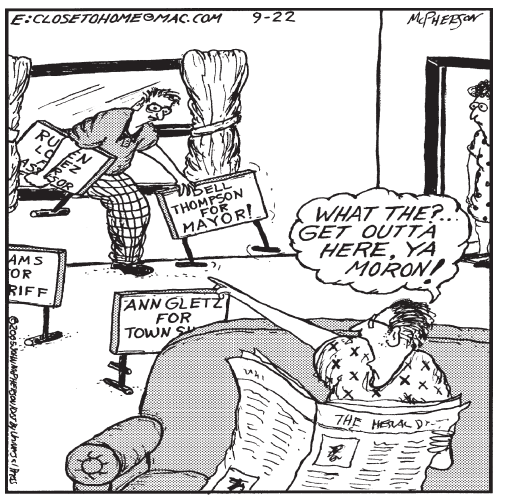



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



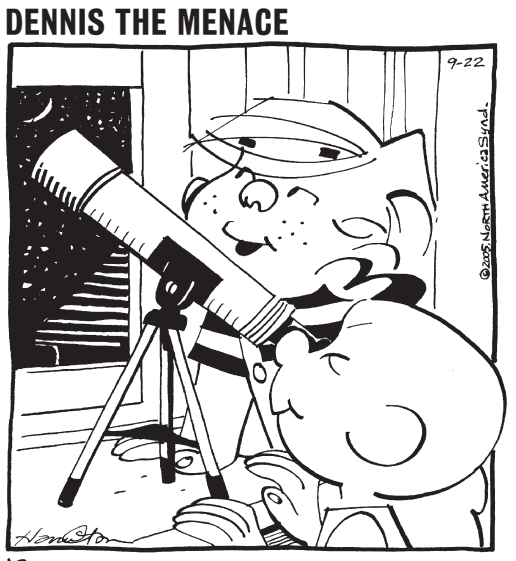

"I untied my shoes all by myself!"

## CLOSE TO HOME




With local elections in full swing, campaign workers were becoming more and more brazen about placing signs.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"SINCE THEY ALREADY NAMED A PLANET AFTER PLUTO, THEY SHOULD NAME THE NEW ONE GOOFY."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES** **Solution: 12 letters**

E S N A I I A W A H S T K T R
L N A I B R E S R A C C E N T
P A S L A C O V N I I X E A L
O A U M A T I A N O T E R M E
E K A G H S I L O P S T G S A
P I H A N D I T E J I S E S R
C R I L O I C A A A U U E N N
T F S B A E L P H L G Z U L U
N A M I L R A I C U N A G T T
S A J A G N O S T I I D N I H
C U I I E N O R U L L E O L S
H D R S K O O B D (T) U N T A L
O R E L S P Y G O L (O) M Y T E
O U A D N U O S F M A (N) Y I W
L T D N A I R A G L U B (E) N S

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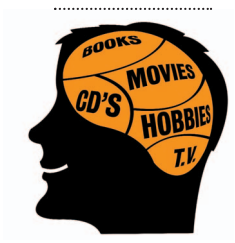
Accent, Afrikaans, Aramaic, Asia, Books, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Dialect, Dutch, Etymology, Fluent, Gaelic, Greek, Hausa, Hawaiian, Hindi, Japanese, Latin, Learn, Lesson, Linguistics, Many, Multilingual, Oral, People, Polish, Portuguese, Read, Russian, School, Serbian, Sign, Sound, Tajik, Talk, Term, Text, Thai, Tone, Tongue, Tsonga, Urdu, Welsh, Written, Zulu, Vocal

**Yesterday's Answer: Auditioned**

CONTINUED

# CITY SCENES

## WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

If you know what it means to miss New Orleans, the following films can put you back in that Crescent City state of mind.

*— By Michael Kleinschrodt, movie critic*



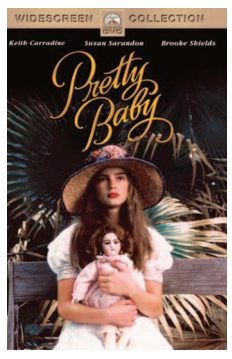

### RUNAWAY JURY (2003)

New Orleans looks amazing in Gary Fleder's adaptation of the John Grisham legal thriller. Grisham's tobacco company has been changed to a gun manufacturer, but the story remains compelling. Strong performances from Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman, John Cusack and Rachel Weisz make this one of the classiest films made in the city.




### THE BIG EASY (1987)

From classy to trashy. The lurid box art for Jim McBride's steamy crime thriller is a good indication of the movie to come. Dennis Quaid is a New Orleans police detective investigating a series of killings while prosecutor Ellen Barkin investigates police corruption. The accents are ludicrous, and the plot includes every New Orleans cliche in the book. And, yet, we love it.




### PRETTY BABY (1978)

Louis Malle's wonderfully evocative film stars Keith Carradine as Storyville photographer E.J. Bellocq. In the fictionalized account, set in 1917, Carradine's Bellocq becomes obsessed with prepubescent Brooke Shields, daughter of prostitute Susan Sarandon. The movie was filmed at The Columns Hotel on St. Charles Avenue.

# working out

*helps beat the stress of being away from home*



**FITNESS,** *from C-1*

For people displaced from their homes, separated from family, not to mention being thrown off their normal routines for eating and exercising, attention to activity and a healthful diet can be more important — and more difficult — than ever.

If you are returning to a workout schedule after an interruption of a few weeks, however, there is bound to be a period of readjustment.

"The first tip to get you to the next phase is to thank God you have the opportunity to actually do a workout at this point," said Charlie Hoolihan, personal training director of Pelican Athletic Club in Mandeville.

"Revel in the workout no matter how lacking it may seem compared to your pre-evacuation fitness level."

Hoolihan recommends resetting goals and personal standards down from peak fitness levels, and he cautions against working out too hard during times of stress.

"Remember that all stressors, whether from exercise, emotion, lack of sleep or illness, are cumulative and can build up," he said. "It is important to back off your physical intensity when your other stressors are building up.

"Most of us need to be working out to ease our minds more than to push our bodies. Going too hard during a time of stress is almost a guarantee that you will either get sick or injured."

Molly Kimball, a registered dietitian and sports and lifestyles nutritionist at Elmwood Fitness Center in Harahan, suggests people do their best to get back to their usual eating patterns.

"For example, if you usually eat small meals and snacks throughout the day, be sure to keep healthful snacks available," she said. "This will require extra planning, however, since people may not have access to refrigeration."

For snacks, she recommends stocking up on healthful nonperishables such as nuts, fresh fruit, whole grain crackers, whole grain bread and peanut butter.

"This is also a perfect time to use nutrition bars — they're portable and often fortified with vitamins and minerals," she said. "Look for a bar with at least 10 grams of protein, so it will be filling."

Another option: meal replacement shakes, she said. "These often come in packets of powder, already portioned out. You simply add water and stir, or use a cup with a lid and shake it.

"If you have access to refrigeration, or an ice chest, you can add more sources of protein: string cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese, maybe even lean deli meats."

As for fast food, Kimball advises, "Think of yourself in your 'usual' life. Many people switch into 'vacation' mode in unusual times, and have that 'what the heck' attitude regarding food."

Easier said than done, says Wayne Brown, who evacuated to Houston after his eastern New Orleans home flooded. His family has since relocated to St. Charles, Mo.

"We've eaten at either IHOP or Waffle House at least five times since this odyssey began," Brown said. "With the extra grease content and sugar content, you need something to fight that."

Brown bought running shoes at a department store and began taking daily walks or runs in Houston. Exercise was an important part of his "normal" life, he said, and is even more vital now.

"I use it to keep down the fat rolls and to try to lower my stress level," Brown said. "Since the stress level has been off the scale recently, it has come in handy."

As with all aspects of life after Katrina, however, remember to keep your temporary fitness failings in perspective. If ever there was a time for comfort food, this is it. There will be time to repair the damage later.

"It's important to recognize that the unholy trinity of you, Popeye's and a few Abita Beers is only an aberration," Hoolihan said. "If you need that comfort food because of the stressors in your life, go for it. Sit on Dr. Ben and Jerry's couch and let their healing magic cure you of all worries for the moment."

Health and fitness writer Siona LaFrance can be reached at nolacee@hotmail.com.

# Katrina and 'Tide' are 'the same stuff'

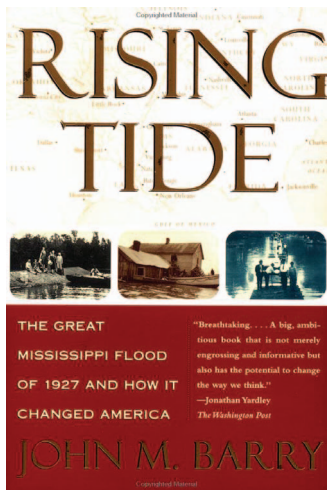
**TIDE,** *from C-1*

the National Archives and the Library of Congress are here, enormous resources for a historian, but there's no question, New Orleans is home."

The ravages of nature have informed Barry's two best-known works, "Rising Tide" and this year's "The Great Influenza." But even after acquiring the in-depth knowledge of America's greatest natural disaster — before Katrina, that is — Barry seems shaken by the reality of what's happened to New Orleans, where he and his wife Anne have a condo in the French Quarter that seems to have been spared significant damage.

Barry, who grew up in Rhode Island, first came to New Orleans on a college trip for Mardi Gras. Later, he enjoyed a stint as an assistant football coach for Tulane University; the 1973 Green Wave went on to beat Louisiana State University that year, and Barry remains an avid football fan. In 1977, he worked on a special edition of the Vieux Carre Courier, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the flood, and his longstanding fascination with the river resulted in "Rising Tide" 20 years later.

The book is a compelling non-fiction saga of the power of the river and the hubris of men who attempt to control nature. Barry describes the passion of two 19th century engineers: James Eads and Andrew Humphreys, who disagreed over strategies to control the river — levees, outlets, or a combination of the two. The levees-only policy was eventually adopted and proved to be a disastrous one.




Barry takes the reader to the Mississippi Delta, where the Percy family of Greenville, Miss., was attempting to establish an empire along the river. The 1927 flood would be their undoing, as African-American workers remained captive on the levees, forced to work. The subsequent outrage led to the downfall of the Southern feudal system, and the Percy family would turn their talents to literature rather than land.

Finally, Barry comes to New Orleans, once the jewel of the South, where 57 powerful men set in motion a plan to dynamite the levee at Caernarvon (needlessly, as it turned out) and flood St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. That willful destruction on April 29, 1927, would have far-reaching ramifications for the city: the collapse of the banks and the sugar industry when a post-flood boom did not occur; the national scandal of what happened to refugees from New Orleans; the rise of Leander Perez (who served as the attorney for flood victims seeking reparations); and the election of Huey Long, ushering in a new era. New Orleans would never quite regain its lost glory.

The Mississippi flood covered 27,000 acres of land, flooded the homes of roughly one million people, and the Red Cross subsequently fed and sheltered 667,000 people. Then, as now, the nation was under stress; then, as now, power struggles ensued.

Since Katrina struck, Barry has kept up a grueling schedule, comparing disasters then and now, providing historical context.

"Things got done more efficiently in 1927," he said. "One of the reason things worked so well in 1927 was that local people were able to move in quickly, knowing that money was behind them. But as New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said, 'Our plan was to get people to high ground, and then the cavalry would come. And the cavalry didn't come.' People who were left, who remained in New Orleans, felt abandoned — and they were abandoned."

In 1927, Barry said, the response to the event changed the way people thought about government, creating the sense that people should be cared for when they were victims of circumstances not of their own making. And while his handling of the 1927 disaster swept Herbert Hoover into office, Barry is not so sure what the political ramifications of the 2005 crisis will be.

"Beyond the (declining) approval ratings of President Bush," he said, "it's too soon to tell."

Just as the 1927 flood spawned a migration of African-Americans to Northern cities, so the 2005 hurricane will disperse the New Orleans population throughout the country. And just as African-Americans were trapped on the levees during the 1927 flood, in 2005 they were trapped in the Superdome and the Convention Center.

"Geographically," Barry said, "the movement of people is significant. I'd hate to compare it to Camille, but I think it's similar.

"We'll have to think long and hard about rebuilding," he said. "New Orleans can be less vulnerable to such destruction. It should be made impervious to it. As I wrote in 'Rising Tide,' the river is perfect. But if you make a mistake against it, it will find it and exploit it.

"The nation does want to help. America is an amazingly generous country, and that's a big plus for New Orleans."

One of the more hopeful messages Barry received after the storm came in an e-mail from a friend who had evacuated the city in the company of National Guard soldiers, one of whom was seeing the city for the first time. Even seeing New Orleans in its devastated state, Barry said, the Guardsman couldn't wait to come back.

In one of the curious ironies of this tough year, Barry's "Rising Tide" was the book chosen for the city-wide reading initiative, One Book, One New Orleans, and was discussed in reading groups and public forums throughout the city. Perhaps, in some odd way, reading those descriptions of the savage possibilities of water led a few more people to leave the city.

In a 1997 interview, Barry told The Times-Picayune, "What I think I write about is power. And there aren't many things more powerful than the Mississippi."

Walking along the river on that day, Barry remarked on the enduring power of issues concerning the river, appearing in newspaper pages from the 1840s to the present — "flood-plain usage, levees, who should pay for it, is it worth doing, what happens downstream — exactly the same stuff."

Those issues are coming around again. But Barry has no plans to write a book about Katrina and desert his work in progress, a tale of the 17th-century separation of church and state, based in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, centered on the figure of Roger Williams. Even though the hurricane would seem to call for Barry's particular gift of blending the grand sweep of history with the intense and moving personal narrative, such a work would be somewhere down the road.

"Obviously people have discussed this with me," he said. "But I don't know if I can deal with it emotionally.

"I've been wearing my old Tulane T-shirts in my office. It makes me feel better."

Book editor Susan Larson can be reached at slarson05@gmail.com.



The Times-Picayune

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Thursday
September 22, 2005

# TALE *of* TWO CITIES

*NBA to recognize Hornets as Oklahoma City's team as well as New Orleans'*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

The hurricane-decimated city's professional basketball team this season will be known as the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets, the NBA said Wednesday, and the team's lease agreement with its temporary home leaves open the possibility that the Ford Center could be the venue for games next season as well.

Along with a new arena, the league announced the name "New Orleans" will be removed from the team's home jerseys, but remain on the road uniforms while each will bear a patch signifying the Hornets' presence in Oklahoma City.

Yet despite the cosmetic permanence that seems to be attaching itself to this 35-game site shift, league attorney Joel Litvin, as well as NBA commissioner David Stern and Hornets owner George Shinn, said that everyone expects the Hornets to return to New Orleans Arena by next year, perhaps as soon as March.

Six regular-season games are scheduled to be played at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus,

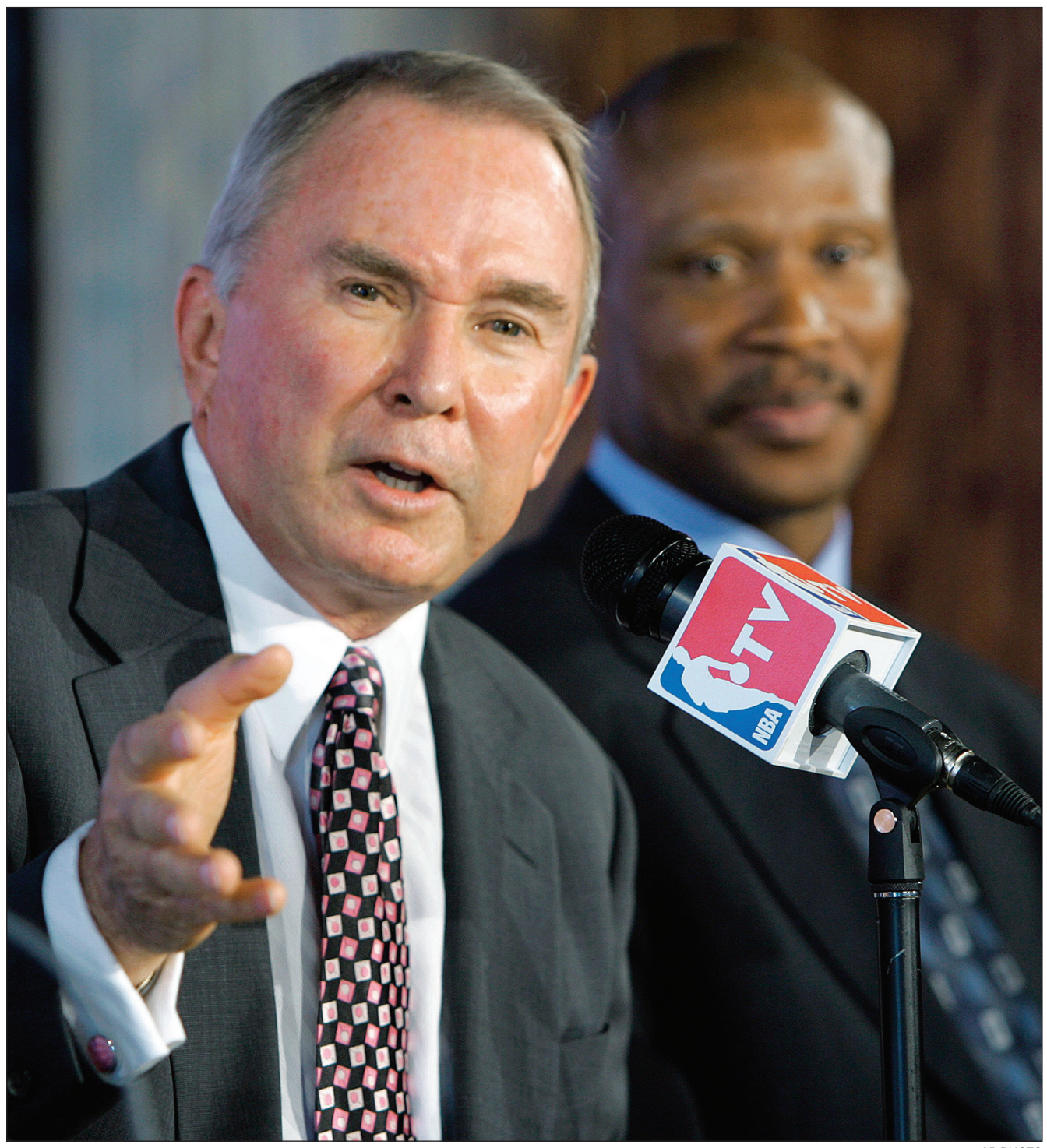
including three in March that could be played at the Arena if the damage to the facility, and the city's infrastructure, be repaired by then.

"We are New Orleans' team," Shinn said Wednesday afternoon. "We're not going to announce we're going tomove (to Oklahoma City), or anywhere else. I'm still traumatized by all this. I want to get back to New Orleans. When New Orleans is back, we're back. It's that simple.

"If everything was back now, we wouldn't be going through this thing. It's unfortunate, but this is a tragedy we're trying to deal with. We've got to do what a lot of other people have done with their lives and businesses. And that's go

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-7*

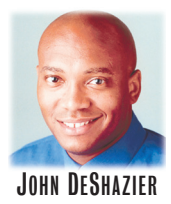
**INSIDE • Complete Hornets schedule, C-7**



AP PHOTO

Hornets owner George Shinn, whose team will play 35 of 41 home games in Oklahoma City, says his squad is eager to return to New Orleans, which has begun clean up after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city.

## Hornets' deal slap in the face to their fans



JOHN DESHAZIER

It was bad when the Saints and the NFL only found room to play four Saints games at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, just one more than the three games that were awarded to San Antonio and the Alamodome.

It's worse that the Hornets and the NBA only found room to play six Hornets games at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge, 29 fewer than the 35 games awarded to the Ford Center in Oklahoma City.

Saints fans who felt slighted at the prospect of only having a realistic chance of seeing their team in person for half of its allotted home games now appear to have landed a windfall, compared to Hornets fans who will see their team play about 15 percent of its available home dates in Louisiana.

"If the games can't be played in Louisiana for whatever reason, I'm anxious for Oklahoma City to have a chance to prove that it's a major league market," Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett told The Associated Press last week.

Well, the games can't be played at New Orleans Arena, and we know the reason. But, still, even with the league needing to nail down dates in order for opposing teams to be able to map out travel plans, the league and franchise could have done better by Hornets fans, just as the NFL and Saints could have done better by Saints fans.

Instead, today, the pledge/vow by Hornets owner George Shinn to remain the "New Orleans Hornets" doesn't look like much. Not when the team will be called the "New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets" this season, the home jerseys will spell out "Hornets" instead of "New Orleans" and the road

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *page C-7*

# Doucet making strides as WR

*Everything coming together for ex-QB*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — When LSU wide receiver Early Doucet was in high school, he made big plays on a regular basis.

For him, it was instinctive.

He was usually the best athlete on the field, and as the quarterback of St. Martinville, he had the ball in his hands every play. When he ended his high school career two years ago, he was the No. 1 recruit in Louisiana.

Two weeks ago, Doucet made one of the biggest plays in LSU history when he soared through the air to bring down a fourth-down pass from JaMarcus Russell for the winning score in a 35-31 victory at Arizona State.

That catch was mostly the product of nearly two years of mistakes followed by corrections, study and practice. It reaffirmed that Doucet was well along in his transition from high school quarterback to college receiver.

TIGER STADIUM
**LSU VS. TENNESSEE**
6:45 p.m.
Saturday ESPN

"People forget Early was never a wideout in high school," said LSU offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher. "He played quarterback, and they'd give him the ball and say, 'Here, go make everybody miss,' and nobody could tackle him and he made plays. Those guys all play fast with the ball. When you make the transition like Devery (Henderson) did, like Skyler (Green) did, you have to learn to play fast without the ball, and that takes time and understanding how to get open to get the ball.

"Our kids understand how to work and what it takes. They're willing to pay that price, and that's where I see it in Early."

The adjustment to wide receiver was "new" rather than "hard," Doucet said. There was more to it than he had ever imagined, even though, as a prep quarterback, he had some insight into what a receiver

*See* **LSU,** *page C-8*

# Officials bristle at 'small town' description

*San Antonio aiming to boost NFL reputation*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio officials took umbrage at some comments made by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue during an interview with The Times-Picayune on Monday, suggesting that the city is a "small market" by league standards.

In a front-page article in the San Antonio Express-News on Wednesday, Mayor Phil Hardberger said, "Our market is becoming larger every day. But I can understand that people that don't live here, that live all the way across the United States, may not know that.

"The feeling the commissioner voiced, with due respect, is that of people who live a long way away and are not on the ground seeing what is happening here."

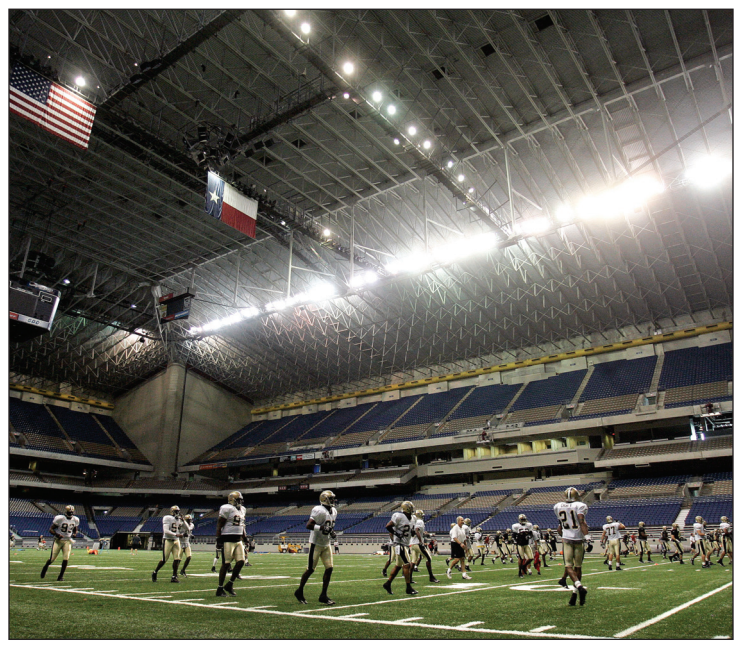
Unlike some other city leaders, Hardberger has not been openly campaigning to bring the Saints here permanently.

But the mayor, like most every government and business leader in the community, is hoping to improve San Antonio's reputation in the NFL's eyes this season. The Saints will play three home games in the 65,000-seat Alamodome, beginning with an Oct. 2 date against the Buffalo Bills.

Even before those games were officially announced, corporate leaders rallied to offer sponsorships and buy suites and seats.

The general public followed suit when tickets went on sale last week, buying more than 50,000 tickets on the first day and more than 100,000 by

*See* **SAN ANTONIO,** *page C-8*



AP PHOTO

The Alamodome will host three Saints game this season. City officials are hoping it will be an opportunity for San Antonio to show that it's worthy of landing an NFL franchise, but NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue gave the city little encouragement.

# Lewis to miss rest of season

*Left-knee injury sidelines N.O. native*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints lost return specialist Michael Lewis for the season after he injured his left knee in the fourth quarter of Monday's 27-10 loss to the New York Giants.

Lewis, a New Orleans native and a fan favorite during his five seasons with the Saints, tore the medial collateral ligament and the posterior cruciate ligament in his knee and was placed on injured reserve Wednesday. He will have surgery next week once the swelling goes down.

Lewis, 33, was receiving treatment on the knee Wednesday afternoon at the Alamodome. He had no comment.

Saints coach Jim Haslett said what happened was a "shame, because there are not a lot of people who work harder than Michael does."

AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
**SAINTS VS. VIKINGS**
noon
Sunday FOX

The Saints replaced Lewis on the roster by signing fourth-year receiver Nate Poole, who spent training camp with the Saints and performed well before being released on the final cutdown day.

Donte' Stallworth will return punts for the Saints this week,

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-8*

# Toms cleared to play in Presidents Cup

*Surgery to correct heart malfunction set after event*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Golf columnist

No one is more thankful to be playing the game he loves than David Toms, who one week ago had to be rushed by helicopter to a Pennsylvania hospital with his heart racing dangerously out of control.

Toms and 11 other members of the U.S. team open play Friday against an International team in the Presidents Cup at Robert Trent Jones Golf Course in Prince Williams County, Va.

A series of tests revealed an electrical malfunction in the upper chamber of Toms' heart, a condition that will require him to undergo a six-hour operation to correct the problem.

He will take medicine in order to play in the Presidents Cup and has assured U.S. captain Jack Nicklaus that he is ready to play and win points for the team.

"I really didn't know what was going on," said Toms, a former LSU All-American. "It obviously got kind of hairy there for about 45 minutes. I knew right away my vitals weren't very good. I was hurting real bad in my chest. At that point they don't know if you're having a heart attack. I didn't know what was going to happen to me really."

Toms, 38, has suffered a half-dozen heart-related incidents in the past four years, including one at the NEC Invitational last month.

The latest incident occurred last Thursday midway through the opening round of the 84 Lumber Classic. With his heart beating more than 180 times per minute, he suddenly dropped to his knees on the first tee, his 10th hole of the first round. He was carried off the course by stretcher to a waiting ambulance and transported to a nearby hospital.

The medical people actually stopped his heart and started it again with an electrical jolt. From that hospital in Uniontown, Pa., he was taken by helicopter to a Pittsburgh hospital.



AP PHOTO

David Toms said he is healthy enough to play in the Presidents Cup, beginning Friday. Following the Cup matches he is scheduled to undergo a six-hour operation to correct an electrical malfunction in his heart.

"It's become more frequent and that's why the doctors want me to go ahead and take care of it," Toms said. "I'm more at risk to wreck a car or pass out on an airplane or something like that."

Adam Young, director of the Shreveport-based David Toms Foundation, which has raised approximately $600,000 for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, said Toms could resume playing competitive golf within two weeks after the surgery.

"If he has any repercussions he probably would do it immediately,'' Young said. "Even though the surgery apparently is a lengthy procedure it's not that evasive. He could be out of the hospital the next day. So it's nothing that would table him for too long."

Toms, a former PGA Championship champion and winner of the Accenture Match Play Championship earlier this year, is enjoying another banner season. He currently ranks fourth on the money list, behind Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Phil Mickelson, with $3,656,213 in 22 events.

How Toms will be used has not been determined. Nicklaus has been tight-lipped about his lineup, although there has been speculation that Woods and Fred Couples will be paired and Mickelson and Toms will be paired in two of Friday's six opening-round foursome matches. International captain Gary Player also has kept his lineup under wraps.

Toms played in the 2003 Presidents Cup at George, South Africa, where he compiled a 1-4 overall record (0-2 in fourball, 1-1 in foursomes and 0-1 in singles).

That competition ended in an historic 17-17 tie at The Links at Fancourt when Woods and Ernie Els finished tied after three holes of a sudden death playoff called because of darkness. Nicklaus and then-International captain Gary Player agreed to a deadlock after it was determined that the U.S. would not retain the cup as a result of the tie.

After the Presidents Cup, Toms is scheduled to play in three more events - the WGC-American Express Championship (Oct. 6-9), the Chrysler Championship (Oct. 27-30) and Tour Championship (Nov. 3-6).

"David's doing fine now that he knows what it is and what causes it and how it can be treated and cured," Young said. "He's OK both mentally and physically. We're just not sure when he's going to have surgery. He's going to see how he does this week with the medication and then make a decision next week."

# North shore schools resume volleyball season

*Bulldogs open with victory; coaches scramble to fill teams*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

Everything seemed in order earlier this week inside Fontainebleau's gym.

There were players hustling for loose balls, diving to the hardwood for digs and making a few high-swinging kills.

It seemed like a typical fall week for Fontainebleau's volleyball team - about as normal as things could be given the circumstances

Most of the players evacuated for Hurricane Katrina, none had been in school in September because of the storm, and the team hadn't been together in nearly three weeks.

That all changed with the Bulldogs' first practice Monday morning and the first match Tuesday night. The Bulldogs made the most of it, beginning their season with a 25-17, 25-13, 25-6 victory at home against Hammond. Fontainebleau is the only team in St. Tammany Parish that resumed its schedule.

"Our service receive was not good and that was a little concerning, but that comes with practice," Bulldogs coach Judy Tyrl said. "It was all a little rusty, but I think they were excited to get out there, have fun, and have a little competition."

Northlake Christian will resume its schedule today by hosting Fontainebleau at 5 p.m.

Many of the West St. Tammany teams are trying to locate players who have scattered across the country because of the storm. Though athletics were given the approval to begin this week, school doesn't start until Oct. 3.

St. Scholastica coach Danny Davis said he picked up six volleyball players, including senior Mount Carmel outside hitter Dana Leblanc.

Leblanc is awaiting medical clearance on an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

# Fisher's opener marks the return of Jefferson Parish football

*Gators play host to Holy Cross*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Fisher, located in the tiny fishing village of Lafitte, has the second-smallest enrollment of nine senior high schools in the Jefferson Parish Public Schools System. The Gators, however, carry the distinction of being the first Jefferson school to return to the football field following Hurricane Katrina's devastating strike Aug. 29.

Fisher opens its season today at 7:30 p.m. at home against Holy Cross in a hastily arranged game in which each team has had less than a week of practice. The game was scheduled for Saturday, but was moved up because of the threat of storm surge in the Lafitte area created by Hurricane Rita's churn through the Gulf of Mexico.

The timetable for Fisher's return was set on a fast track Monday when approximately 30 players showed up for a voluntary meeting called by Coach Duane Foret. Another five players arrived for an informal workout Tuesday, with still another six calling Foret to say they also are returning.

The Gators expect to dress out 36 players from the original 72-man roster that one month ago was expected to contend with Newman for the District 11-2A championship.

"We're going to be the first ones back on the field only because we were the first ones back," said Foret, referring to Jefferson's initial re-entry plan that began with the re-opening of Lafitte, Gretna and Westwego. "We were just fortunate that that storm passed 20 miles to the east of us."

The sudden return of players initially surprised Foret, who had returned Sept. 14 to assist Principal George Hebert with the cleanup of Fisher's campus.

"As we were working on Thursday and Friday, kids started showing up,'' Foret said. "They were helping us pick up, picking up trees and stuff."

It was then that Foret decided to accelerate his team's return to the field by posting a sign detailing Monday's gathering. Foret also met separately with his seniors Monday, informing them of a revised seven-game schedule.

"We're giving our seniors a chance to have a senior year after thinking a few weeks ago that our season was devastated," Foret said.

# Football a welcome respite from Katrina aftermath

*Slidell to top Lions in battle of district favorites*

**By Marty Mule**
Staff writer

Hurricane Katrina made us realize football, or anything as trivial as sports, is not all that important in the grand scheme.

Homes are gone, families are separated and lost loved ones - people's lives are forever altered.

There is no comparison, obviously, with the temporary euphoria of victories - or the disenchantment of losses.

But football has its place. Getting involved with a game can clear the mind, ease the stress of real-life problems, and provide a two-hour escape for folks who need something else to think about.

In a season that essentially opens on what should be the fourth playing date of the regular season, there is a game with potential league-title ramifications: District 4-5A favorite Slidell at Covington, the defending district champion. It's the kind of big-game scenario Tigers coach Wayne Grubb is comfortable with.

"For four weeks,'' Grubb said, "I've been sitting down watching CNN and getting more and more depressed.

"Yesterday I had two hours of happiness (at practice). I got into it. For a little period there, my mind was at ease."

It's like starting from scratch for Covington and Slidell. Neither could be the team they were expected to be at this juncture. Both teams are missing key players and have coaches and players with other concerns in the backs of their minds.

"It's a situation none of us have ever been in before,'' Grubb said. "All of us will just have to do our best. To tell you the truth, I'm looking forward to it. We've all been reminded football is not the most important thing in the world. But when they turn on those lights on Friday nights, we're into it."

**SLIDELL 21, COVINGTON 14:** Based on what was expected before the interruption of Katrina, Stephen Liuzza was the ignition to District 4-5A's best offense. He's missing the receiving corps of last season, but Liuzza will put up points for the Tigers.

**FONTAINEBLEAU 20, HAMMOND 13:** The Bulldogs lost a lot, and the Tors have excellent individual talent. This is a hunch that Fontainebleau coach Larry Favre isn't in nearly as dire straits as he would have us believe.

**ST. PAUL'S 24, MANDEVILLE 7:** The Wolves might have the best defense on the north shore with end David Boyce and linebacker Scott Ward. The Skippers' capable offensive line will open holes for tailback Timmy DeMelo, but not enough of them.

**PONCHATOULA 17, NORTHSHORE 10:** In a game between two ascending programs, Greenies linebacker Casey Waddell could make the play that makes the difference for Ponchatoula. On the other hand, the Panthers' Jeremy Wise is going to be a major weapon. The pick is based on the theory that the home field is an advantage.

**GUEYDAN 21, NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN 14:** It would make a great story if the Wolverines win its first game, and quarterback Andrew Sherwood gives them a chance. However, the fact that Gueydan has played three games makes this improbable.

**LORANGER 17, PEARL RIVER 14:** Ricky James spurs the Wolves, though Pearl River middle linebacker Ben Galiano and his defensive sidekicks keep the Rebels close enough to possibly steal the win at the end.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II 21, LIVE OAK 17:** Jaguars coach Chris Lachney has numbers and talent now. Jaguars running back Chad Hindman and quarterback Richard Guillot would light up the scoreboard - if it were functioning.

# Curtis salvages seven-game schedule; opens with road contest

**By Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writer

For a team that was set to begin the season with seven games, Hurricane Katrina has sent John Curtis coach J.T. Curtis back to his cell phone time and time again, trying to supplement a schedule and salvage the season. The results have the Patriots opening a makeshift seven-game schedule Friday with the first of three consecutive non-district road games.

The Patriots, who were set to open the season against Cottonwood High of Salt Lake City, and Daphne High School of Daphne, Ala., will journey to Ferriday in east central Louisiana for a 7 p.m. game.

The Patriots will play at East St. John on Sept. 30 before winding up non-district play at Choctawhatchee High in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Curtis will open league play against St. Charles. Curtis, who met Ferriday in a state championship game in the early 1980s, began practice Monday.

"We had about 65 to 70 players," Curtis said. "We had some schedule problems with Ferriday at one time but all has been worked out and everything has settled down."

The Patriots' standout running back-defensive back-return specialist Joe McKnight played for Evangel in a game against Longview, Texas, this past Friday, but he is expected to be in the Patriots lineup against Ferriday. McKnight could wind up with the distinction of playing with two state championship teams in the same season.

"Mentally we did not know what to expect Monday," Curtis said. "They were really not into it (practice). They were not a team. They were just there. And it was very awkward.

"But Tuesday, the players were totally different. They were ready to get rolling."

Now, Curtis has to address one last problem - finding enough buses to get his players to Ferriday.

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

### RICE, HOUSTON POSTPONE GAMES

Rice and Houston postponed home football games scheduled for Saturday, and Texas A&M has pushed up its game against Texas State, in anticipation of Hurricane Rita's reaching the Texas Gulf Coast this weekend. The Aggies will play Texas State tonight instead of Saturday. Rice was scheduled to play Navy, but on Wednesday the game was rescheduled for Oct. 22. Houston was to play Southern Mississippi on Saturday. No makeup date was announced, but school officials said they were looking at Nov. 12 or 13. To make room, the SMU-Houston game originally scheduled for Nov. 12 was postponed to Nov. 19, when both teams have an open date. The Golden Eagles play at Marshall on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The Division I-AA game between Northwestern Oklahoma and McNeese State scheduled to be played in Lake Charles, was canceled.

## NFL

**TWO VIKINGS OUT:** Minnesota will likely be without two starters for Sunday's home game against the Saints, wide receiver Nate Burleson and linebacker E.J. Henderson. Burleson, the Vikings' top receiver, sprained his left knee in last week's loss at Cincinnati, and is listed as doubtful. Henderson sprained his right ankle, and he's also doubtful despite playing the entire second half with the injury against the Bengals. But middle linebacker Sam Cowart should return from a strained left calf that kept him out against Cincinnati.

**VICK QUESTIONABLE:** Michael Vick was held out of practice Wednesday with a sore left hamstring, but the Atlanta quarterback said he may play Sunday at Buffalo even if he can't practice the rest of the week. "As long as I'm getting mental reps, I think I'll be able to go out there and execute the game plan," Vick said. "It's possible I may not practice all week. Who knows? I'm just playing it by ear right now. I just have to be able to be me." Second-year quarterback Matt Schaub, who made one start last season, ran the first-team offense Wednesday.

**PANTHERS DB AILING:** Carolina safety Mike Minter missed practice Wednesday because of a strained calf, an injury that could end his streak of playing in 64 consecutive regular-season games. "I hate being on the sideline," Minter said. "If we're out there playing, I want to be out there playing. I don't want to be over there watching. That's the worst feeling in the world. Even in practice, I hate that." Minter, who's in his ninth season with the Panthers, has not missed a game since he sat out the first two contests of the 2001 season with a knee injury. He's Carolina's all-time leader in tackles. If he can't play against the Miami Dolphins on Sunday, free-agent pickup Idrees Bashir probably will replace him.

**BROWNS CUT QB:** Veteran quarterback Doug Johnson, signed in the offseason to give Cleveland protection behind starter Trent Dilfer, has been released by the Browns. The club claimed rookie quarterback Derek Anderson on waivers from Baltimore. Johnson, who made 11 career NFL starts for Atlanta from 2000-03, was beaten out for Cleveland's No. 2 quarterback job by rookie Charlie Frye. Johnson, 27, started eight games in 2003 for the Falcons when Michael Vick got hurt.

**LEFTWICH MISSES PRACTICE:** Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich missed practice with a sore groin and was listed as questionable. But Leftwich insisted he will play Sunday at the New York Jets. "I'm fine. I'll be ready to play Sunday," he said.

**BILLS DB QUESTIONABLE:** Safety Lawyer Milloy had surgery to repair an injured right thumb, leaving his status uncertain for Buffalo's game against Atlanta on Sunday. Wearing a cast on his right hand, Milloy did not practice Wednesday and was one of three Buffalo starters listed as questionable.

**PAIR MISSES WORKOUT:** Quarterback Donovan McNabb and wide receiver Terrell Owens missed practice with injuries, but it's likely both will play in Philadelphia's game against Oakland on Sunday. McNabb, who sat out one practice last week with a bruised chest, hurt his groin right before halftime against the 49ers. Owens has a nagging abdominal/groin injury.

## ETC.

**SERENA BEATEN:** Serena Williams was upset in the second round of the China Open in Beijing, losing to Sun Tiantian 6-2, 7-6 (7). Sun, ranked 127th in the world and fourth among Chinese players, took advantage of numerous errors by Williams, who said she was bothered by an ailing left knee.

**F1 TO RETURN TO INDY:** Formula One will return to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway next year despite the fiasco surrounding June's boycotted race. Speedway officials announced that the U.S. Grand Prix will be July 2, making it the seventh year the race has been run at the track. The race's future had been in question after only six drivers competed in the June 19 race as seven F1 teams pulled their cars off the track to protest safety concerns with Michelin tires.

# UNO feeling at home in Texas

*Privateers basketball teams face uncertainty*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Bo McCalebb doesn't consider himself a Texan yet.

But a few more weeks, perhaps months, in the Lone Star State might change his mind-set.

McCalebb, with his fellow UNO basketball teammates, relocated to the University of Texas at Tyler because of Hurricane Katrina and could be there for the rest of the school year.

"It's been pretty much OK here," McCalebb said Wednesday. "The people have been very nice to us and are giving us a place to play. I'm ready to come back home, though."

That may not happen soon.

UNO plans to reopen its main campus for the spring semester in January, but the playing status of Lakefront Arena is unclear.

Privateers men's coach Monte Towe has told his team to be prepared to spend the entire season in Tyler.

"A couple of them didn't like hearing it," Towe said. "But that's got to be our mind-set right now. Where would our kids live? My home has been destroyed, so where would I live? There are just a lot of unknowns."

The Privateers already have set two "home" games for UT-Tyler, Nov. 19 against Belhaven and Nov. 26 against Louisiana Tech.

A Dec. 3 game against Southern Miss will be played at Hattiesburg. The Dec. 10 game against Loyola likely will be canceled, although Towe said he hopes to schedule another game in Tyler for that date.

The status of the Dec. 31 game against Tulane is undetermined, although Towe said he understands that the Nov. 22 date against the Green Wave will be played at Texas A&M, where the Tulane teams are housed.

Previously, a Dec. 29 home game against Norfolk State was swapped for a game at Kansas that will air on ESPN2.

The Privateers begin Sun Belt Conference play Jan. 5 at Denver, with the home league opener set Jan. 12 against Troy.

Although UNO athletic director Jim Miller is working to schedule the team's home conference games at the Pontchartrain Center or the Alario Center, Towe said he would prefer to play them in Tyler if the team is still headquartered there. The women's team has two "home" games set for Tyler, Nov. 29 against Nicholls State and Dec. 15 against Tulane.

A Dec. 3-4 tournament has been shifted to Kansas, and a Dec. 19 game against Mercer will be played in Macon, Ga.

The Lady Privateers open conference play with a Jan. 5 home game against North Texas.

"We're looking forward to getting back and playing in the city this season," Coach Amy Champion said. "We have a lot of pride in our program and want to represent our school and the city of New Orleans.

"Plus, our players really miss being at home, especially the ones from New Orleans who have friends and family they're away from."

Towe said the relocation has had an adverse effect on recruiting.

"It's going to be a real tough sell for a couple of years," he said.

Towe also said that one 2005 signee, junior college transfer Jeremie Davis, has not joined the team after a stressful evacuation during Katrina.

But the NCAA has said that basketball players who transfer from UNO and Tulane must still sit out a season, so Davis would be ineligible at other Division I schools this year.

# Hornets' players bracing for the long road ahead

*They'll be out of their routine even for home games*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

Hornets backup point guard Speedy Claxton is preparing for a long season, one he says will have him practically living out of a suitcase every day for the next six months.

On Wednesday morning, the Hornets announced their temporary relocation agreement with Oklahoma City, where they will play 35 of their 41 home games at the 19,675-seat Ford Center because of the damages New Orleans Arena suffered from Hurricane Katrina.

The team's home schedule includes six games to be played in Baton Rouge at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, and there is a possibility in March the Hornets could return to the Arena for three games if repairs are complete and the recovery process in the city has made enough progress for a number of businesses and hotels to return to regular operations.

Regardless, Claxton is ready for an unusual season, starting with next month's training camp.

"It's going to feel like we're on the road for all 82 games," said Claxton, reached by telephone from New York City on Wednesday. "Even when we come home, we're going to be living out of a suitcase. I definitely know it's going to be a hard year.

"I've never been there (Oklahoma City) before and I don't know anything about the place or what the weather situation is going to be like there."

Claxton, who is expected to contend for playing time with top draft pick Chris Paul, was obtained in a midseason trade last season from the Golden State Warriors in exchange for point guard Baron Davis.

Claxton said he rented an apartment in New Orleans but has been unable to contact his landlord since Katrina.

He's unsure what type of housing arrangements the team will provide for the players in Oklahoma City. Most of the Hornets' players already have homes in the New Orleans area.

"This is new territory, new ground for everybody," said veteran forward P.J. Brown, whose home in Slidell

was damage by Katrina and who has remained in Houston with his family for nearly three weeks.

"It's going to be a challenging year, no doubt about it. We're all professionals and these are tough circumstances, but we'll have to manage them and do the best job we can do. We are thankful to the state of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City to be able to take care of us at this tough time in everybody's life."

For the first time in his 12-year career, Brown said his family won't accompany him for the entire regular season. Brown said his children will remain enrolled in Houston-area schools.

Brown was anxiously awaiting word Wednesday afternoon regarding a possible mandatory evacuation of Houston because of the threat of Hurricane Rita, now in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There are going to be times when my mind and heart is going to be with my family,'' Brown said. "That's my foundation, my backbone. There are going to be some tough days ahead, but when it's time for that ball to go up, I'll be ready and prepared to give my best like I've always done. I just keep praying and hoping for the best for everybody (affected by Katrina)."

# Hornets committed to N.O.?

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

somewhere else. It's temporary. But we don't have a choice."

Stern, in a league press release, said the decision to play a half-dozen games in Louisiana was made by the team and the NBA, "in anticipation of a return to New Orleans next season."

Yet the Hornets have an option, as a fall back, for a second year at the Ford Center for next season. "It's the league's hope and expectation that the team will be back in New Orleans next year," Litvin said at Wednesday's press conference. "But to protect against the unforeseen, we want to protect ourselves against the possibility that (New Orleans) wouldn't be ready. We know the Hornets would have a home for a second year, but it's our hope and expectation that this is a one-year, temporary move."

The lease agreement, approved by the Oklahoma City city council in a special meeting Wednesday morning,

calls for the city, the state and a consortium of Oklahoma City businessmen to assume the financial risk

if the Hornets' revenue drops this season. If the Hornets fail to earn 5 percent more than they made in New Orleans last year, that group would be required to pay the Hornets up to $10 million.

If the team exceeds last season's revenue by more than 5 percent, Oklahoma City would receive 80 percent of the proceeds to cover its expenses. If the overage covers all of the city's costs, the team and the city would split equally the remaining funds.

Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett said the agreement is complex but he said the city, state and businessmen involved felt the risk could be worth the potential reward.

"The ancillary impact of the NBA is incredibly large," Cornett said. "It's difficult to quantify, but undeniably strong."

The Ford Center, which opened in downtown Oklahoma City in 2002, seats 19,675 for basketball. It features more

than 3,000 premium club seats and 49 private box suites.

The PMAC wasn't as attractive to the NBA because of its smaller (13,000) seating capacity and lack of any club seats or suites.

"As we've always been, we offered our facility for whatever they figured would be most advantageous to them," said LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich. "We're looking forward to having them here for those six games."

Shinn said some form of Oklahoma City identification with the team was necessary because of the way the city and its business and political leaders stepped forward to extend a helping hand.

"These people deserve something with the money they're guaranteeing," Shinn said. "They're stepping up with office space, housing, the arena. . . . we've got to show some enthusiasm. Everybody has got to understand the league is a business entity. They're trying to protect our interests and theirs so they wanted to have an extra year (on the lease) for safety's sake. The league did that. I didn't.

"If I don't generate money, I'm in trouble. These people have stepped up to try to keep us whole. I couldn't ask for anything else. I was seeing myself going to the bank borrowing lots of money. I don't see that happening now. It's bittersweet. We've got a place to land and a lot of support, which is positive. But you know, I don't know how the hell to explain it. It's not home. We've got to come back home to help with all the suffering there. . . . it's just hard to describe."

No decision has been made on where the team will hold training camp, team president Paul Mott said, and parts of the preseason schedule could be modified.

Mott said he hoped to have a decision on where the Hornets will train by the end of the week.

## NEW ORLEANS/OKLAHOMA CITY HORNETS

*2005-06 schedule*

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|---|---|---|
| Nov. 1 | Sacramento | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 2 | at Cleveland | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 5 | at Houston | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 9 | Orlando | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 12 | Dallas | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | at Miami | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 16 | Denver | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 18 | atlanta | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 19 | at Orlando | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 | at Philadelphia | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 23 | Minnesota | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 | at Seattle | 12:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 28 | at Golden State | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 30 | at Denver | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 2 | Philadelphia | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 3 | at Dallas | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | at Memphis | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 7 | Boston | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 9 | at Portland | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 11 | at Sacramento | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 12 | at Phoenix | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 14 | L.A. Clippers | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 16 | Phoenix (BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 18 | San Antonio | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 21 | at Minnesota | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 23 | at Milwaukee | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 28 | Houston | 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 29 | at San Antonio | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 31 | Dallas | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 2 | Charlotte | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 4 | Miami | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 6 | Portland | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 7 | at Atlanta | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 10 | Detroit | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 13 | Sacramento (BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 14 | at Houston | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 16 | at Charlotte | 1 p.m. |
| Jan. 18 | Memphis (BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | at Washington | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 21 | at New York | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 | at Boston | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 25 | San Antonio | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 28 | at Memphis | 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 30 | Milwaukee | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 1 | Chicago | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 4 | L.A. Lakers | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 6 | at New Jersey | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 8 | Seattle | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 10 | New York | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 11 | at Minnesota | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 13 | Washington | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 15 | Portland | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 21 | at Indiana | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 22 | Utah | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 25 | at Utah | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 26 | at Portland | 6 p.m. |
| Feb. 28 | at Seattle | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 1 | at L.A. Clippers | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 6 | Phoenix | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 8 | L.A. Lakers (BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 10 | Indiana | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 12 | New Jersey | 6 p.m. |
| Mar. 14 | at San Antonio | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 18 | Denver (BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 21 | L.A.Clippers(BR) | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 23 | Houston | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 24 | at Chicago | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 26 | at L.A. Lakers | 6:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 27 | at Utah | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 29 | at Golden State | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 31 | Memphis | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 02 | at Toronto | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 04 | at Detroit | 7:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 05 | Golden State | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 07 | Toronto | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 08 | at Dallas | 7:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 10 | Cleveland | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 12 | Seattle | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 14 | Utah | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 16 | at Sacramento | 6 p.m. |
| Apr. 17 | at Phoenix | 7 p.m. |
| Apr. 19 | at L.A. Lakers | 7:30 p.m. |

**Note:** All home games played at Oklahoma City unless noted
(BR) Home game played at Baton Rouge




AP PHOTO

The Ford Center in Oklahoma City will be the Hornets' home away from home.

# Hornets should have fought for more games in La.

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

jerseys will feature an Oklahoma City patch.

That won't look like a team attempting to repay a favor. It'll look like one searching for, and having found, a place to land if or when the New Orleans economy doesn't rebound to the liking of the league and franchise.

This season, the people who want to see the Hornets in person the most will see them so little, the franchise best will be described by the title of an old Phil Collins album — "Hello, I Must Be Going" — than regarded as the team that fans faithfully, if not overwhelmingly, supported last season, the worst (18-64) in franchise history.

The money concern is understood. Every fan understands that operating a franchise is a business, employees must be paid, goods and services aren't free.

It's understood that the opportunity to make money and play in an NBA-type facility best is presented by playing in Oklahoma City, at a 19,675-seat facility that has more than 3,000 club seats and nearly 50 private suites, rather than in a 13,000-seat college arena that has a lack of premium club seats and box suites.

There aren't any date conflicts to play at the Ford Center, whereas LSU's weeknight home games overwhelmingly are played on Wednesday nights, which is the same night the Hornets play many of their weeknight home games.

And Oklahoma City is providing money to help pay for the Hornets' relocation and providing cash guarantees in case the team's revenues dip.

But even with all those pluses tilted in one direction and the negatives galloping toward the other, and the fact that it'll be 10 times the hassle to play at the PMAC than at the Ford Center, the franchise still should have fought like hell to play as often as possible in Baton Rouge, to show more allegiance, to reward the fans from the city that have embraced it.

More than ever, its fans need the team, not speculation or name-sharing. The displaced still will need to feel an attachment to something when the New Orleans Hornets begin playing, just as they do now.

And for those who were working their rear ends off in an effort to transform New Orleans into basketball country and to sell the Hornets as a viable entertainment option, who weathered last season and were looking forward to this one, the almost complete and total move to Oklahoma City is an insult to their injury.

None of us want to be inconvenienced, but those who "have" certainly are inconvenienced to a lesser degree than most, and are in better position to absorb the sacrifice that now must be made.

Six games isn't a sacrifice. It isn't even much of an inconvenience.

It's almost nothing, which is what the season will feel like for Hornets fans that were hoping - against hope, we now know - for the franchise to provide for them a needed escape.

It'll seem like a loss worse than nothing if it turns out that it's the franchise that's looking for an escape.




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SPORTS

# Dates, times finalized for Saints' home games

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints announced the dates and times of their seven home games in Baton Rouge and San Antonio this year.

All seven games will be played on the days they were originally scheduled. The only change is that the Sunday, Oct. 30 game against Miami and the Sunday, Nov. 6 game against Chicago, both in Tiger Stadium, will kick off at 3:05 p.m. - in part to give LSU ample time to prepare the field following Saturday night Tigers games.

The other two games in Baton Rouge (Sunday, Dec. 4 against Tampa Bay and Sunday, Dec. 18 against Carolina) are scheduled for noon kickoffs. All three games in San Antonio's Alamodome (Sunday, Oct. 2 vs. Buffalo, Sunday, Oct. 16 vs. Atlanta and Saturday, Dec. 24 vs. Detroit) are scheduled for noon kickoffs, as well.

As announced earlier this week, an Internet-only pre-sale for Tiger Stadium four-pack tickets will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday at www.neworleans-saints.com. Single-game Tiger Stadium tickets will be available by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-877-0898 or by visiting the Saints' website or www.ticketmaster.com .

Tickets for the games in San Antonio are on sale now by calling the Saints at 210-208-9520, by calling Ticketmaster or by visiting either the team or Ticketmaster Web sites.

# Stallworth to return kicks

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

and Stallworth and Aaron Stecker will return kickoffs. Veteran receiver Az-Zahir Hakim is also an experienced return man, but he is sidelined with a hamstring injury.

"(Lewis) has the all-time record for total return yards in a season," Haslett said, "so it is a shame it happened to him, and it was unfortunate. But we have guys who can pick up the slack, and we won't miss a beat."

Lewis became the Saints' all-time leader in punt returns last season and ranks second in career kickoff return yardage, behind Tyrone Hughes.

His path to the NFL has become almost legendary. He did not attend college and worked several odd jobs to support his family, including driving a beer truck. He played in the Indoor Professional Football League, the Arena Football League and NFL Europe before joining the Saints in 2001.

Then, in 2002, Lewis set an NFL record with 2,432 combined yards on kickoff and punt returns, was named an All-Pro and earned a trip to the Pro Bowl.

Lewis, 5 feet 8, 173 pounds, has 28 career receptions for 553 yards and a touchdown, mostly as a No. 4 or No. 5 receiver.

This past month has been particularly hard on Lewis, who had many close family members living in the New Orleans area when Hurricane Katrina struck. Everyone made it through safely, but Lewis spent several tense days trying to get in touch with everyone back home.

Poole said it was unfortunate what happened to Lewis, whom he said became a close friend during training camp. But Poole said he is ready to step up.

The former Arizona Cardinals receiver spent the past two weeks with his family in Charlotte, N.C., where he attended the Saints' season-opening victory against the Panthers. He said he also watched Monday night's game with great interest.

"I mean, I've been with them, except for two weeks. So I felt like I was still part of the family," Poole said.

**MOORE OR LESS:** Minnesota Vikings tailback Mewelde Moore, a former Tulane standout, is not sure what his role will be against the Saints on Sunday at the Metrodome. Part of an unsettled backfield, the second-year player did not carry the ball in Week 1, then ran eight times for 29 yards last week against Cincinnati.

The entire Vikings offense is unsettled at this point, with the team off to an unexpected 0-2 start.

"My concern is just doing the things I need to do to help contribute and help this team out," said Moore, who also has returned four kickoffs this year. "That's the main thing I'm focused on, and whatever is asked of me, that's what I'm going to do 100 percent."

Moore, a native of Baton Rouge, said all of his family and friends made it through Hurricane Katrina safely, but many people he knows were affected by the storm.

**ETC.:** The Saints are 200 miles inland in San Antonio, but Hurricane Rita seems to be headed right for them again. The team is scheduled to fly to Minnesota on Saturday afternoon, and the hurricane is scheduled to touch land Saturday evening. The team has not changed its travel plans. ... The Saints went through an hour-long walk-through Wednesday without pads. They will return to a full practice today. ... Cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee), Hakim (hamstring), defensive end Charles Grant (toe), safety Dwight Smith (toe), tight end Shad Meier (knee), cornerback Jason Craft (ankle), defensive tackle Brian Young (foot) and linebacker James Allen (knee) are listed as questionable for Sunday's game.

# Tagliabue says no move to San Antonio

**SAN ANTONIO,** *from C-5*

week's end.

According to the Saints, there are still approximately 19,000 tickets available for the Buffalo game, 7,000 for an Oct. 16 game against the Atlanta Falcons and 40,000 for a Dec. 24 game against the Detroit Lions.

However, Tagliabue's concerns about San Antonio won't likely be assuaged by ticket sales alone. Although San Antonio ranks eighth in total population, the total metropolitan area ranks 30th. The all-important television market ranks 37th. And there are already NFL teams in Houston and Dallas.

One of the city's counter-arguments is that nearby Austin, another growing area, should be counted as part of the San Antonio market.

Saints owner Tom Benson has longstanding business and personal ties to San Antonio, where he keeps a second home.

He has not announced any desire to move his team to Texas permanently. But he also has done nothing to quiet reports and speculation that he is interested in a move to San Antonio.

Still, even if that is Benson's intention, Tagliabue made it clear that the Saints' owner would meet with resistance.

When asked Monday if the three Saints games might offer San Antonio an opportunity to prove itself NFL-worthy, the commissioner said: "Ever since we approved the move of the Raiders and the Rams, I've been saying that our goal is to get a team back to L.A., either through expansion or whatever, and we're not going to be moving any teams into small markets. We're going to be moving up in market size, not either down or flat. That's our goal.

"So if - if - any teams are relocated in the future, the objective is going to be to concentrate them, put it this way, in markets that can really support them."

# Tulane to host Houston at Cajun Field

*Green Wave will face SMU at 1 p.m. Saturday*

By Benjamin Hochman
Staff writer

RUSTON - Tulane's home football game against Houston on Oct. 8 will be played at Louisiana-Lafayette's Cajun Field. The game, originally scheduled for the Superdome, will kick off at 5 p.m.

"It just made the most sense, based on availability," Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said. "We know that many of our fans have relocated along the I-10 corridor from Baton Rouge to Houston, and, with its central location in that region, Lafayette will be a great site."

Dickson said this Saturday's game at SMU, scheduled for 7 p.m., will be moved to 1 p.m. Hurricane Rita is expected to make landfall in Texas Saturday night.

Following the SMU game in Dallas, Tulane will play Oct. 1 against Southeastern Louisiana at Tiger Stadium. The game against Houston game will be Tulane's third home game played in Louisiana - the 21-14 season-opening loss to Mississippi State was played in Shreveport.

Tulane will receive all ticket profits from the game at Cajun Field. Tickets will go on sale Monday and will be available on Ticketmaster. The Ragin' Cajuns have a game at Florida Atlantic on Oct. 8.

**CONTINGENCY PLANS:** Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, is home to six Tulane teams, and classes have been canceled for Friday because of the Rita. The Green Wave will play a soccer game Wednesday. The women's volleyball team, originally set to fly to East Carolina via Houston, is making plans to fly out of Dallas today. If the team can depart, it will play the Pirates on Friday, then host Marshall at East Carolina on Sunday. Marshall was originally going to fly to College Station to play Tulane.

The remaining Tulane athletes, along with Texas A&M athletes, will be housed under Kyle Field, the football stadium, in the locker rooms.

"They are built like bomb shelters," Dickson said. "They are providing a safe haven."

• • • • • •

Benjamin Hochman can be reached at BenjaminHochman@aol.com.

# Wave's Terranova has new attitude for senior season

*Receiver gaining confidence while becoming a leader*

By Benjamin Hochman
Staff writer

RUSTON — While the final minute ticked off the game clock, Tulane was 64 yards and a few dramatic catches away from tying Mississippi State.

And Tulane's oldest receiver was on the sideline.

Bubba Terranova seethed. The senior found Tulane receivers coach Darryl Mason. He told the coach that

he wanted to play - and that he wanted the football.

"I heard it in his voice and saw it in his eyes," Mason said.

And on fourth-and-nine on its 48, Green Wave quarterback Lester Ricard completed a 13-yard pass to Terranova.

First down.

But the clocked had painfully ticked down to eight seconds, and Ricard's next pass was his last – a 39-yard heave, which fell incomplete.

While Tulane lost, Terranova grew up last Saturday. He emerged as a confident receiver and leader.

"I think last Saturday was the best game he's played since I've been here," said Mason, whose first season was Terranova's junior year. "He had a good year his sophomore year - before I got here - but on Saturday he was very competitive, he had a leadership role out there and he pushed himself.

"I just think his attitude came out in that game. He was vocal on the sideline, and I was kind of surprised."

Mason admitted that the 6-foot-3, 205-pound Terranova didn't push himself during the offseason as much as the coach expected. Then, Tulane's lone senior receiver injured his left knee, and missed the bulk of August practice while recovering from surgery.

"So I didn't know what to expect," Mason said. "I didn't think he was in great shape when we were about to start the season. But when the hurricane came, he had an opportunity (with time off), and I think he took advantage of it to get in shape. And then, when the game came, he stepped up."

Terranova said Hurricane Katrina demolishing his mother's home and his car in Slidell put his priorities straight. He talks to his mother, Patti, daily.

**AT DALLAS, TEXAS**
**TULANE VS. SMU**
1 p.m.
Saturday

"As long as I know she's all right, it helps me get through the day," Terranova said.

And he cherishes his opportunities.

"(Dealing with the hurricane) definitely helped me as a man and as a football player. ... It just hurts you when you hear someone say, 'I still have one more year.' Or, 'I have three more years.' "

In his final 10 regular-season games, Terranova is expected to shift around the line of scrimmage. He is not a starter, but he is second string at both wideout and slot receiver.

In the opener, he made five catches - only Preston Brown, with nine catches, had more for Tulane. One of them was a nine-yard bullet from Ricard, one of the evening's highlights in the Green Wave's 21-14 loss.

"It was an out route," Terranova said. "I was fighting with the defender, and as soon as I turned around, the ball was two feet away from me."

"He provided leadership," said left guard Matt Traina, also a senior. "No matter how much you practice for game speed, there's nothing to prepare you for an actual game. He can provide leadership for younger guys who haven't been there yet."

TICKETS AVAILABLE: Tickets for the Tulane-Southeastern Louisiana game, scheduled for Oct. 1 at LSU's Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, are on sale through Ticketmaster.

Tickets are $30 for sideline general admission seats and $10 for end zone general admission, and can be purchased at Ticketmaster outlets in Louisiana and Mississippi, at www.Ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 488-5252. There will be no charge for parking. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m.

Tulane football season-ticket holders who have purchased their 2005 season tickets will be able to pick up tickets for the Southeastern Louisiana game in advance at a location to be announced.

All Tulane, LSU and Southeastern Louisiana students with a school identification card will be admitted free.

Tulane athletics will receive all ticket proceeds for the game against Southeastern Louisiana. Tulane homecoming activities originally scheduled for that weekend have been postponed.

# Doucet understanding role as wide receiver

**LSU,** *from C-5*

does.

In the Arizona State game, Doucet dropped three passes in the first half.

But Doucet rallied and combined all his learning with his unshakable confidence to make a play that lifted his team to victory and lifted the spirits of a hurricane-ravaged state. When the play broke down, the 6-foot, 206-pound sophomore reacted the way he was coached to in practice.

"We worked on the scramble drill in practice," said Doucet, who caught three balls for 62 yards. "(You) keep coming and get into the vision of the quarterback. We were in the same zone and we just connected on the play."

Said LSU coach Les Miles: "He came open late across the field and extended that route based on the scramble, and Ja-Marcus knew he was going to be in that area.

"Early made a great catch, a very difficult catch. He caught it with his hands in an awkward way at a high speed and he comes down with a foot in bounds. That was a big-time play."

Doucet savored the moment, but not for long. He came out of it with a bruised chest, which kept him out of practice last week, though he returned to action Monday. That's when he set out to rectify the drops, which he chalked up to first-game jitters and a lack of concentration.



AP PHOTO

LSU coach Les Miles said wide receiver Early Doucet made a 'big-time play' when he caught the winning touchdown pass against Arizona State.

"I don't think the drops were me not being able to catch the ball," he said. "It was lack of concentration. I was overexcited trying to do too much. Once I got relaxed, I looked the ball in and made some plays at the end. Being able to not get down and bounce back says a lot about the person. My teammates having confidence in me helped me shake it off."

"Being able to read coverages, getting off the press and knowing what to do in certain situations, each day I'm getting a little better. People think it's just running routes and catching balls, but there's a whole lot more to it."

As Doucet's knowledge and experience grow, it will only make him tougher for defenses to deal with. As a freshman, he caught 18 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns, and he appears to have the size and tools to succeed at the next level.

"Early Doucet is going to be a really fine football player here for the entire time," said Miles. "He is dangerous with the ball in his hands. He has a natural ability to catch it. He's a big, strong physical wide receiver with fine speed. I expect the best football from Early Doucet, you're about to see."

# STATE CAPSULE

**LOUISIANA-MONROE AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC (6:30 p.m. at Boca Raton, Fla., ESPNU):** This Sun Belt game matches 0-3 teams coming off blowout losses against big-time programs.

The Indians lost to Georgia 44-7. A two-yard run by ULM quarterback Steven Jyles capped a 53-yard, third-quarter drive that made the score 17-7 before Georgia pulled away. The Indians, who began the drive by recovering an onside kick on the second-half kickoff, scored for the first time since the second quarter of their opener against Northwestern State.

Georgia outgained ULM 543 yards to 211. Jyles accounted for much of the ULM offense. He completed 17 of 32 passes for 119 yards with one interception and rushed for 32 yards on 18 carries, including three sacks. ULM's Joel Stelly, a Ray Guy Award candidate, averaged 45.3 yards on seven punts.

Florida Atlantic trailed Minnesota 40-0 at halftime before the Gophers eased up on the way to a 46-7 victory. Coach Howard Schnellenberger can't be accused of looking for soft opposition for the Owls, whose other losses were to Kansas 30-19 and Oklahoma State 23-3. Florida Atlantic, in its first season in Division I-A football, allowed a school-record 579 yards against Minnesota.

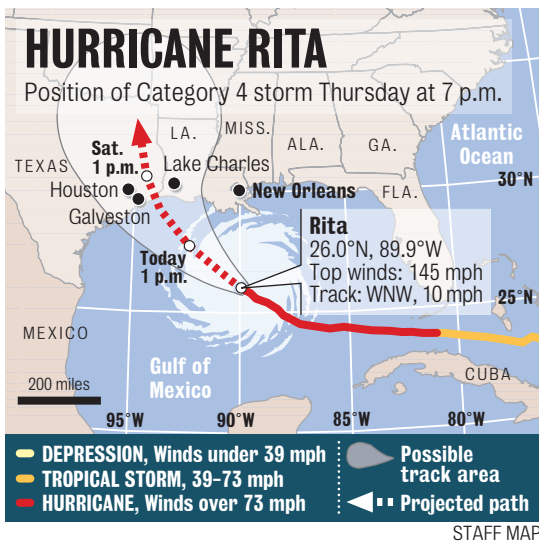
Eight freshmen are among the Owls' 22 starters. The offense relies on senior quarterback Danny Embick, who has completed 38 of 68 passes for 521 yards and three touchdowns, with one interception.

— Bob Fortus

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STAFF MAP

# RITA JOGS TOWARD LA.

## Gov. Blanco urges half-million residents to leave




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

New Orleans resident Tracy Johnson, 35, thought he was headed for safety a few weeks ago when he evacuated to Hackberry, in Cameron Parish. On Thursday, as Hurricane Rita approached, with its 150-mph winds, Johnson found himself fleeing again, this time with a new tactic: Head north.

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans:
**832**

nola.com
Complete hurricane coverage at nola.com

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Hurricane Rita churned closer to shore Thursday, downgraded to a Category 4 storm but still fierce enough to prompt the evacuation of about 1.8 million Gulf Coast residents and make officials and engineers in the New Orleans area order evacuations of low-lying areas and scramble to shore up levees weakened by Hurricane Katrina.

Rita, packing 150-mph winds, followed a west-northwest path in the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday but was expected to turn to the northwest today, poised to strike early Saturday somewhere between Galveston, Texas, and southwest Louisiana.

The storm's progress motivated Gov. Kathleen Blanco to urge about 500,000 residents of southwest Louisiana, especially people living south of Interstate 10, to head north as soon as possible.

"We feel it is very, very important that everyone leave now," she said at a briefing in Baton Rouge. "Everything is fragile. … Rita has Louisiana in her sights, and we must move."

When asked what people should do if they are determined to ride out the storm, Blanco replied, "Perhaps they should write their Social Security number on their arms in indelible ink."

Some people needed no persuasion.

In Texas, interstate highways became virtual parking lots Thursday, prompting state officials to set up the largest contraflow effort in the state's history to get drivers out of harm's way. Traffic crept at 2 mph, and some cars began to stall and run out of fuel.

"Stay calm. Stay patient," Gov. Rick Perry said in a televised news conference. "You've done the right thing. You will get out of the coastal region on time. … I would rather you be sitting in traffic for eight to 12 hours moving

See RITA, A-11

# Prison became island of fear

*Inmates and guards were in it together*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

When New Orleans plunged into darkness and spiraling chaos in the days after Katrina passed, Orleans Parish Prison, a 6,400-inmate city-within-a-city, plunged even deeper, bringing the complex of concrete lockups perilously close to a security and humanitarian meltdown.



**Attorney General Charles Foti**
He stepped in to quell panic

Interviews with more than a dozen deputies and employees, many of whom didn't want to reveal their names for fear of losing their jobs, depict a five-day struggle to keep destructive and desperate inmates at bay. The ordeal was marked by escapes by inmates and wholesale job walk-offs by deputies. But when officers in charge finally went over the head of Criminal Sheriff Marlin

See JAIL, A-4




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Orleans Parish Prison inmates hang out an SOS flag after Katrina. Rumors of jail breaks and riots after the storm have proved false, but the facility did collapse into chaos.

# Internet connects loved ones

*E-mail, Web sites keep people in touch*

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

A few days after Hurricane Katrina, the phone rang at the home of a retired Air Force officer in Valdosta, Ga. The caller admitted she couldn't be sure the man she met at a barbecue for evacuees in West Monroe was the cousin Bob Jabon had been searching for on the Internet.

But she described a heavyset man, 72 years old, who liked to talk about his days as a New Orleans police detective. Well, frankly, he just liked to talk, she said. He'd fled with his girlfriend, who was a bit younger, and his son, a man of about 30, who

See INTERNET, A-11

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# Tax relief proposed for N.O. businesses

*$250 billion plan is unveiled by La. senators*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – Having just approved $6.1 billion in immediate tax relief for Hurricane Katrina victims, lawmakers began drawing up a package of longer-term incentives to revive the decimated New Orleans economy and draw employers to the region.

The legislation appears to be on a fast track as Congress and the Bush administration race to avoid a protracted economic slowdown in an important national commercial center during the long process of cleaning up and rebuilding after the Aug. 29 storm.

"We will have another tax bill, and I expect it will be very soon," said Rep. Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee. "I think people realize this is truly an unprecedented emergency."

Louisiana's two U.S. senators were looking well beyond tax breaks Thursday when they unveiled a 500-page redevelopment package proposal touching on every sector of the state's economy and estimated to cost of $250 billion, more than the price tag for the war in Iraq.

Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and David Vitter, R-La., said they don't expect to win approval for the long list of requests, but hope that it will serve as a guide to Congress as it formulates legislation to respond to the hurricane.

Among the more controversial items is a proposal to set aside half of the $5 billion in federal offshore oil and gas royalties for hurricane protection and coastal restoration. The delegation has for years pushed the idea, but has met resistance to steering so much money to a single state. Now, the delegation hopes to use the damage wrought by Katrina to strengthen its claim to the money.

Another proposal would create $4,000 vouchers for displaced public school students to use in private and parochial schools. National school vouchers have been strongly opposed by Democrats and teachers unions, who fear they will trigger an exodus from the public school system. But Landrieu said that with the displacement of 372,000 students along the Gulf Coast, extreme measures are needed.

"This government should step up and support students wherever they are," she said.

The so-called Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief and Economic Recovery Act also calls for $50 billion for housing grants, $5 billion for six months of mortgage relief, $10 billion in economic develop grants to revitalize New Orleans, and $40 billion for hurricane protection projects proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers. It would have the federal government pick up 100 percent of the relief and recovery costs for two years, instead of the two months already in place. The bill also calls on the president to appoint someone to coordinate the multifaceted federal response with the power to "waive regulatory impediments" that may get in the way of speedy recovery.

"The person would have no authority the government doesn't already have," Vitter said. "It would be someone who could cut through the red tape."

Landrieu and Vitter will push to include some of their requests into the newest tax relief package being drawn up by Congress, which could get a vote before a weeklong recess begins Oct. 10.

Interviews with key members of the House and Senate indicate that Congress is likely to create a special class of tax-exempt bonds, similar to the Liberty Bonds authorized after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to speed redevelopment of lower Manhattan. The bonds would allow developers speedy access to low-cost financing in the Gulf Coast region.

Also under discussion is exempting businesses from paying taxes on insurance payouts connected to the storm. A Senate Finance Committee aide said that the current plan is to give businesses five years to rebuild without being taxed on the insurance proceeds.

The package, the aide said, would likely include tax code changes, such as those proposed by President Bush, to liberalize depreciation and expensing rules to make capital readily available for investment. The administration has proposed its own array of targeted tax breaks, a $2 billion Gulf Coast Opportunity Zone designed to attract business to the region.

Among other things, the recently passed tax relief bill gives tax credits to businesses with fewer than 200 employees that retain workers. Larger employers were excluded from the legislation at the insistence of House tax writers, who figured big companies already had incentives to hold onto workers and that some firms had business interruption insurance to cushion the blow of the hurricane.

A Senate tax aide said extending the benefit to large employers is "on the table." McCrery said the House may be willing to accept such a provision, but that he is still trying to assess the needs among large employers in the New Orleans area.

"I'm trying to understand it, because I have to explain it to my colleagues," McCrery said. "We reached the compromise (in the first tax relief bill) with the understanding that this issue would remain open."

# Five FEMA teams continue search and rescue missions

*New leaks halt work near Industrial Canal*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

The federal search and rescue effort continued Thursday in New Orleans, where five teams of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue unit scoured storm-scarred neighborhoods for survivors or victims.

But water seeping from new leaks in the levee along the Industrial Canal caused a search and rescue team to order evacuation of the Lower 9th Ward, cutting short the daily search, a second sweep of the area.

In Lakeview, crews found only two dogs by Thursday afternoon, said spokesman Mark Stone, a firefighter from Fairfax County in Virginia, who worked alongside about 80 rescue workers. They covered much ground, he said, and more than half of the entire city has been checked twice by rescue experts.

It is unusual for FEMA teams to still be in a search and rescue mode three weeks after the disaster, Stone said, but the work isn't finished yet. In Lakeview, the rescuers have found a few survivors in the past days, Stone said.

FEMA works under a rule, approved by city officials: If the flood water levels had reached 5 1/2 feet, the team would break into the house to search for people. Homes that had lower levels were only forced into if signs of life appeared from outside.

The new leaks complicated matters. The levee hurriedly rebuilt with riprap and gravel after Katrina to stop the flooding of the Industrial Canal into the Lower 9th Ward is punctured in several spots, with clear water running into the ravaged streets.

Caffin Avenue, right along the canal at St. Claude Avenue, had 1 1/2 feet of water in some places early Thursday afternoon. Water built up to several inches on nearby Jourdan Avenue.

A day earlier, those same streets had been dry.

On Thursday afternoon, the water level in the Industrial Canal had risen, experts said, and anyone walking along the shredded steel levee wall, ripped apart by the disastrous flooding a month ago, could spot several modest leaks in the new levee.

"Any drop of rain that falls is going to stay," said Chad Rachel, a civil engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers.

But he cautioned that the leaks have not grown to a crisis. "Don't expect a catastrophic failure," Rachel said Thursday. "It's localized seepage."

Pump station No. 5 in the Lower 9th Ward remains broken, and federal officials said they could do nothing else to stop the leaks in the gravel-topped levee that spans several hundred yards between the ruined historic neighborhood and the rising canal.

The area remained a sight of absolute ruin Thursday. Scores of homes off St. Claude Avenue near the canal were blown to bits by the hurricane and subsequent floodwaters. Other houses were knocked off their foundations and debris, from children's toys to appliances and cars, littered every square foot of the area.

Off Jourdan Avenue by the bridge, a red barge sat on top of a house.

Yet another part of the city blown apart by Katrina, the vast and mostly suburban eastern New Orleans also still held water in places Thursday. The Michoud Boulevard exit was impassable, filled with water and sludge.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A small waterfall is created on Thursday by seepage through the breach repairs to the Industrial Canal. 'Don't expect a catastrophic failure,' said Chad Rachel, a civil engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Relief center misidentified:** A story in Thursday's edition misidentified the site where Kenner is distributing Hurricane Katrina relief supplies. It is the Woodword Playground gymnasium, 2001 34th St.

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**"Food is the biggest morale booster of any camp. If food's good, morale's up. It's the only highlight of their day."**

JOE PIOTROWSKI, Port-A-Pit catering

# Just like summer camp, only hot, not fun

## *Workers try to make bunks more homey*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

The parking lot at Zephyr Field is covered with tents that hold workers in town for the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. Some refer to it as 'life in the BoO,' which stands for base of operations. It's a makeshift home that offers food and warm showers and a place to sleep.



Army National Guard Sgt. HollyAnn Nicom and Sgt. John Laczkowski, both from Pattstown, Pa., toss a football at the Saints' practice field.

Inside the insulated tent where Jackie McCammon will sleep for the next few weeks, the air was thick and damp.

A standing fan provided little relief but McCammon, who is from Bangor, Pa., made the best of it for a few seconds, standing directly in front of the noisy machine and spreading her arms to catch the streams of air.

Tucked in a corner, her green Army cot was strewn with odds and ends: a walkie-talkie, Juicy Fruit gum, a pair of work gloves. A few practical colleagues had looped a laundry cord through the metal tent rods, and a collection of soggy towels hung from the line.

Even in the heat and the tight, cluttered quarters, McCammon found it difficult to complain.

"It's actually a pleasure to be here," she said, noting that a combination of edible food, reliable showers and laundry service was rare in base camps such as these. "And the camaraderie," she added. "You can talk with everyone."

Relief workers like McCammon, a hazardous materials specialist, are accustomed to this lifestyle after years in the search and rescue field.

Some refer to it as "life in the 'BoO,'" which stands for base of operations. It's a haven, a makeshift home that offers food and warm showers and a place to sleep, albeit briefly, before the demanding daily cycle begins anew.

In the past few weeks as many as 1,200 relief workers, military and civilian, have been eating, sleeping and regrouping at the Katrina Saints Camp, a search-and-rescue base located in the Saints' training facility and covering the Zephyr Field parking lot in Metairie.

Most relief workers are on rotation and people shift in and out at whim. This accounts for the constantly fluctuating population, according to Bernie Pineda, spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is overseeing operations.

The camp had its first full day on Aug. 30. Daily responsibilities are varied. Some relief workers go out in the field and break down doors in the 9th Ward, tramping through muck and sludge, searching for survivors. Others stay behind and staff the portable showers, which are open for workers from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Federal officials estimated that between the military and civilian presence, representatives are on hand from nearly every state in the union, including California, Missouri, Nebraska, Florida, Oregon, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

Many relief workers have been in makeshift camps with portable toilets and green cots before. The locations differ, but those there take pleasure in the details, which seem mundane but can make a difference at the end of the tough day.

"Regular Coca-Cola is a big deal, believe it or not," said Alex Pellon, a member of the search-and-rescue crew from Miami-Dade, Fla. Generic sodas tend to be a camp staple, so "a good Coca-Cola goes a long way," he said.

Showers and food are also critical; both are provided by outside contractors who stay on the site and sleep in trailers on the grounds.

"Food is the biggest morale booster of any camp," said Joe Piotrowski, the director of operations for Port-A-Pit catering, which provides 3,700 meals in an average day. "If food's good, morale's up. It's the only highlight of their day."

A formal curfew is not in place, but some workers are expected to be back at their individual camps around 10 p.m. Army campers can leave the grounds only in pairs. Drugs are prohibited, and camp rules also forbid alcohol.

"I did it for a year in Baghdad so it's not going to kill me," Sgt. Haled Saleh said of the no-alcohol policy. "But it's not the best thing when you've got a daiquiri shop across the street."

Saleh, who is from Baton Rouge, sat on the sidewalk just outside the Saints' indoor practice area; he leaned against the building and chatted with Army buddies, trading stories from the day and passing cell phone photographs back and forth.

"What do we do at night? What you see right now, just with a little more profanity," he said. "There's not a lot we can do, per se. It's a fight against boredom."

Others pass evening hours playing spades in the Saints field house, hunched over small folding tables and gathered at card tables around the perimeter, near the glow of the weak lights. Paper and other ordinary amenities are rare, and the players at one table kept score on a piece of cardboard ripped off a box they found.

In the center of the field house, workers lined up cots in rows. The field is kept perpetually dark to allow people to sleep at all hours, so workers identify their beds by the marks on the turf and by a smattering of personal effects, such as Gatorade, foot powder or books that they keep on the cots or nearby.

"I'm right on the 20-yard line," said one man.

Pearl Davis, who cleans the training facility as part of a job she recently acquired through the forestry service, blocked off her bed and her friend's with the cots, creating a makeshift barricade.

This is her first time in a camp like this, she said.

The women, both from St. Gabriel, tried to upgrade the dormitory-like conditions with colorful comforters, photographs of their children, a box of Krispy Kreme donuts and plastic jars of peanuts and cashews.

Despite their initial worries about sleeping in a room filled primarily with men, Davis said she has rested easily the past few nights. Besides, sleep is welcome after the 12-hour cleaning shifts.

"I'll probably be asleep in 20, 25 minutes," Davis said wearily, resting for a moment on her inflatable bed. "And then, I'll be up again at 6."

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# 'We must have done some good things

Inmates from Orleans Parish Prison wait to be rescued from the floodwaters after Hurricane Katrina swamped their neighborhood. 'Typical panic, that's what it was,' longtime deputy Monte Davis said. 'People just get disturbed when they don't know what's going on. It was a mess.'



AP PHOTO

JAIL, *from A-1*

Gusman and called Attorney General Charles Foti for state reinforcements, the ensuing rescue operation was nothing short of heroic. Everyone escaped by boat as nearly every Sheriff's Office vehicle had been quickly and completely submerged.

Signs of the pandemonium can be seen throughout the sprawling complex of 10 concrete lockups, all of which took on 6 to 10 feet of water in the low-lying wedge of land off Broad Street between Interstate 10 and Tulane Avenue: tied-together blankets hanging from broken cell windows, scorch marks from fires, rescue boats scattered on streets and sidewalks.

Next to one smashed jail cell window, taped to the outside of the building, is a sign scrawled by an inmate, "We Need Help." On the perimeter of the same building, slung over razor-wire atop a 16-foot fence, a cluster of thick blankets marks an apparent escape.

Chief Deputy Bill Short said Thursday he could confirm only four escapes, but the Sheriff's Office computer system was fished out of floodwaters just a couple of days ago and a full head count by the state Department of Corrections is still under way. The four escapees were transfers from the St. Bernard lockup, Short said, and they bolted shortly after the storm by breaching the roof of the Intake Processing Center.

"They made it to the roof and decided they had to get out. As far as others, I just don't know," said Short, who was promoted to his new position a week ago in acknowledgment of his steely command of the 800-inmate House of Detention during the storm and its aftermath.

Other deputies said they knew of more than a dozen escape attempts. One inmate, an Australian tourist who rode out the storm in Parish Prison after getting arrested on Bourbon Street for criminal trespassing, said he saw some inmates get away from once-secure areas, although he didn't know how far they made it.

"We had no food, no power, no air-conditioning, no toilets," Ashley McDonald, the Australian tourist, said in earlier published reports. "A lot of people started breaking out and escaping and that's when attention was brought to the jail."

One thing Short said he knows for certain is that there were no deaths, not among the inmates, not among the 900 or so employees who reported to work, not among the scores of residents who floated or waded in from the surrounding neighborhood to the relative safety of the veranda of the high-rise Community Correctional Center. One group from the area, a woman and two men, used 2-by-6-foor boards to row a hot tub to the impromptu gathering point, Short said. Others who were stranded were fished out by deputies.

"Did we know exactly what to do?" Short asked. "Nobody did. It was a wild ride, but we must have done some good things because nobody died."

Separating fact from storm-spawned fiction about the prison's inundation has been difficult, especially since the prison complex was plunged into a virtual communications blackout and each of the 10 lockups became islands surrounded by toxic water. Rumors of massive jail breaks, Gusman being taken hostage and large-scale riots have proved false. Gusman was not available for comment for the past two days because of meetings, a spokeswoman said.

But first-hand accounts from three of the largest facilities – Community Correctional Center, the House of Detention and Old Parish Prison – revealed a harrowing five days before everybody was evacuated. All of the sources told about multiple resignations, deputies who tossed their badges to the ground and turned their shirts inside out, only to find themselves in the awkward position of being stuck by floodwaters alongside their former colleagues. Short estimated that if he tried today to reassemble the agency's 900 sworn deputies, he could probably scrounge up 700.

The shrinking security presence made it only more difficult to deal with the prison's most pressing problems: keeping order and ferrying people to dry ground. Deputies said the mission was carried out despite losing power the day after the storm passed, running out of food the following day and finding nearly all entrances blocked by water when help finally arrived.

"Typical panic, that's what it was, longtime deputy Monte Davis said. "People just get disturbed when they don't know what's going on. It was a mess."

The earliest sign of inmate unrest was heard, not seen, deputies said: the sound of splintering glass as prisoners smashed the buildings' narrow exterior windows.

"They were hungry, they were thirsty and most of all, they were hot," a Community Correctional Center deputy said. "We saw them just hanging from the windows."

Short said deputies eventually sanctioned the destruction.

"The inmates did break out windows," he said. "In some cases, our staff helped them. If you didn't break the windows, you

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# because nobody died,' chief deputy says

didn't breathe."

Deputies said they repeatedly calmed inmates by telling them that food, water and rescue were on the way, but the message began wearing thin. In the Community Correctional Center, two commanders and a deputy said, inmates breached several layers of security, smashing visitor center security windows and breaking through stairwell doors.

The worst damage was done by inmates who broke off metal shower rods and dayroom benches, then used them as battering rams, they said.

"The knocked out some cinder blocks and breached some visitation booths," the deputy said. "It was like the movie 'Attica.'"

Until the cavalry showed up Wednesday in the form of SWAT teams from the state Department of Corrections, the deputies said they were forced to scare inmates back into cells by brandishing their pistols and occasionally firing off beanbags.

Several deputies and commanders said there were periodic reports throughout the complex that sounded like gunfire, but Short said he didn't hear much about the use of lethal force.

"I used my shotgun a couple of times to break a window," Short said. "At first I tried my flashlight, but I broke it."

One deputy with military experience rigged up makeshift hot water bombs by using the heating element in the prefab military meals distributed by the National Guard. "We threw the water bombs through the broken windows to keep them back," the deputy said.

While the security situation was growing more and more tense, rising waters forced deputies to move inmates from lower floors to higher floors, in some cases mixing hard-core inmates with municipal offenders, teenagers with career criminals. Short said deputies gave in to agitated inmates by giving them full access to the sixth-floor rooftop.




STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Orleans Parish Prison doors are held closed with a pair of handcuffs. Watermarks are about waist-high. Deputies said they repeatedly calmed inmates by telling them that food, water and rescue were on the way, but the message began wearing thin.

Short said his staff was able to quell most of the inmate unrest, and in some cases, older inmates stepped in to calm the more volatile prisoners.

"I hate to use the word babysat, but they stayed with them and kept them calm," Short said. "There were some inmates who acted out, but I'd say 99 percent acted responsibly."

Even in the areas where the inmates were calm, stress among deputies was rising with each passing hour because the Sheriff's Office had only five boats, not nearly enough to evacuate thousands of inmates and a growing population of civilians. On the Community Correctional Center veranda, the scene resembled a smaller-scale version of the notorious evacuation crises at the Superdome and Convention Center, with hundreds of people living and sleeping on prison cots and chairs, trash and other debris rising in piles around them.

When one of the larger boats was idled with a fried motor, Short said he and his deputies crossed a rooftop and broke into an adjacent parking garage at police headquarters so they could "scavenge" car batteries for the boat's electric trolling motor. During a tour of the jail Thursday, Short showed how they used a downed utility line to lower the batteries to the boat bobbing in the water below.

Still, Short and others said, it took a call to Foti to regain complete security and get everbody out. Foti, Orleans Parish criminal sheriff for 30 years, responded quickly and forcefully by sending state Department of Corrections guards and SWAT teams. They were joined by a flotilla of 20 boats from the state Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

"DOC was a savior," Davis said. "When things weren't going fast enough, the attorney general lit a fire under people and got a lot of things going."

"One of the captains called Foti and said, "We're losing the battle," a deputy said. "They (DOC) showed up with all the things we didn't have: shotguns with beanbag rounds, tasers, rubber bullets, riot gear, bullet-proof shields."

Once the inmate outbreaks were quelled and enough boats were on hand to carry people out, one of the storm's last and most massive waterborne evacuations began to unfold over three days, from Wednesday until the last employees were fished out of the prison complex Friday.

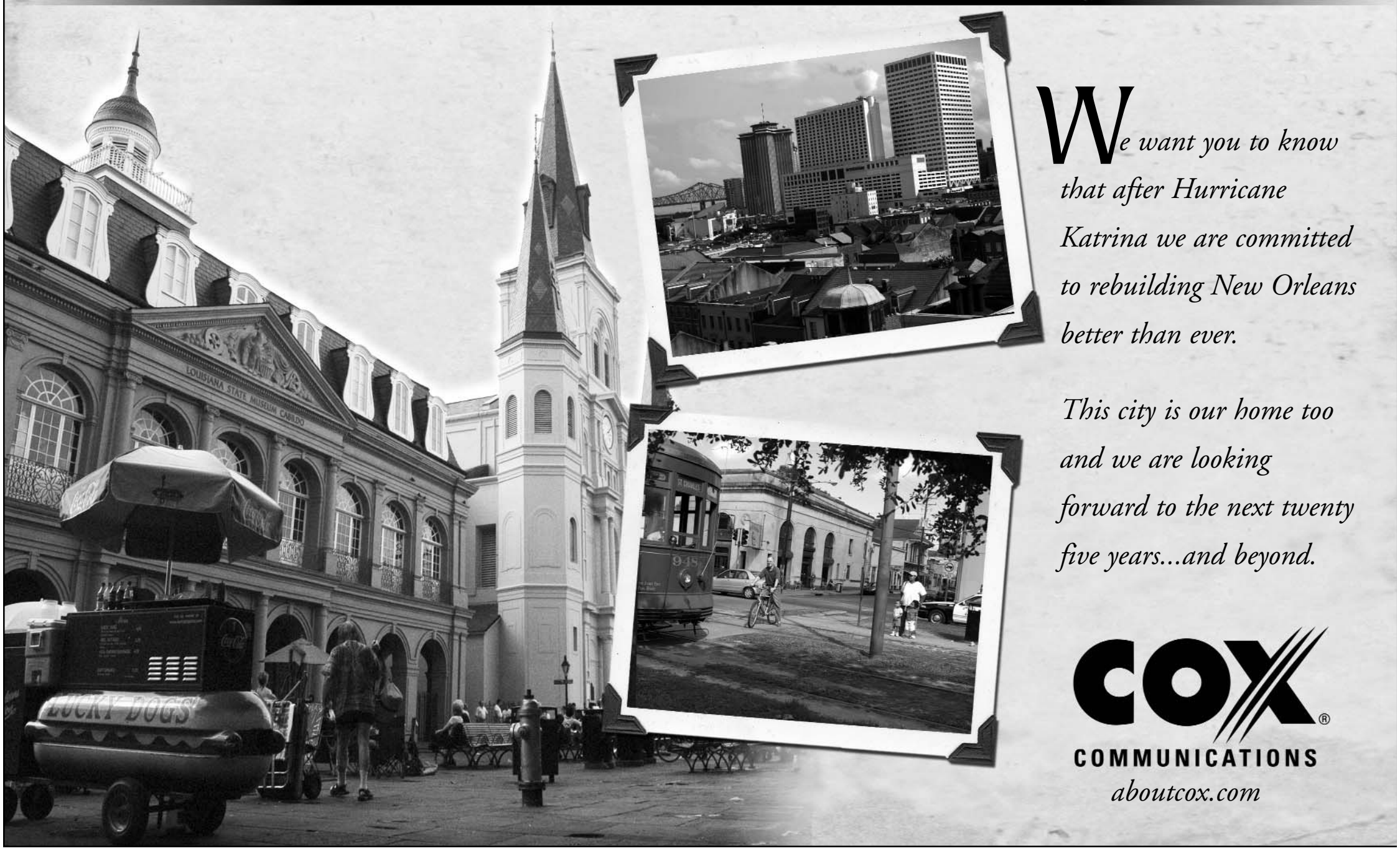
Most of the civilians were dropped off on the Broad Street overpass, where military helicopters flew them to evacuation points. The inmates were either flown or boated to an elevated portion of Interstate 10, where they were assembled until DOC buses could take them to other prisons around the state.

During the building-by-building rescues, the lines between inmates and deputies, deputies and commanders, commanders and civilians grew invisible, Davis said.

"Position doesn't mean much in those situations," Davis said. "I worked side-by-side with the sheriff and, other than him being my boss, everybody was in the same boat. It was just regular people trying to survive."

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# Official says he warned of Katrina's punch

## *Mayfield: Devastation like nothing I have witnessed before*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center, told a congressional committee Thursday that "devastation along the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina is like nothing I have witnessed before."

Mayfield said that the National Weather Service worked hard before the storm to let federal, state and local officials and Gulf Coast residents know the storm would pack deadly strength. Twenty-four hours before the storm struck land, the Slidell office of the Weather Service issued an advisory that said: "Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer" and that "at least one half of well constructed homes will have room and wall failure."

Mayfield said he gave a frightening appraisal of likely damage to Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco 36 hours before the storm made landfall Aug. 29, and that she urged him to give the same briefing to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. Mayfield said he repeated the warning to Nagin about 45 minutes later.

The committee was set up by Republican House leaders to investigate what went wrong with the government's response to the killer storm. House Democrats called for a boycott of the panel, but allowed Reps. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, and Gene Taylor, D-Miss., whose Gulf Coast districts were decimated by the hurricane, to attend Thursday as non-voting members.

As Melancon joined other panel members in questioning Mayfield, he released a letter he sent to President Bush asking that a bipartisan commission be appointed. Its task, he said, should be to ensure that the process of determining "the failures that compounded the Katrina tragedy" is taken out of the hands of politicians and partisan committees."

"For that reason, as the representative of the homeless, the inundated, the destroyed and the dead, we ask you to give your full support to the formation of an independent, non-partisan commission," Melancon said.

President Bush, who is scheduled to fly to Texas today to review preparations for Hurricane Rita, has already appointed his national security adviser to review the performance of the government in the immediate aftermath of Katrina.

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., appointed by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, to oversee the House investigation, said he hopes that House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will drop her opposition and eventually appoint Democratic members to make the probe truly bipartisan. He promised that the panel's investigation would continue with or without them would "investigate aggressively what went wrong and what went right."

``Even armed with solid, advance information on Katrina's severity, the response of local, state, and federal officials was largely abysmal,'' Davis said. He was deferential to both Melancon and Taylor, allowing them to ask the first questions, although they won't have voting status because they are not formal Democratic appointees.

Pelosi said that she encouraged Melancon and Taylor to participate in the hearings.

"They should be there," Pelosi said. "It is their responsibility to find whatever venue they can to speak for their constituents."

But she said that as the Democratic leader she won't appoint members to participate in a process "I consider to be a whitewash."

"There is nothing in the performance of this Congress in its four years since President Bush has been president that says that they will exercise proper oversight," Pelosi said.

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, was also invited by Davis to participate in the hearings as a non-voting member of the investigatory panel. He did not attend Thursday's hearing. Spokeswoman Melanie Roussell said Jefferson is focusing on helping pass legislation to provide immediate relief to his constituents, although he supports a full investigation.

The House panel is scheduled to next question Michael Brown, who resigned as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency after FEMA was roundly criticized for its slow response to the Katrina disaster.


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# Legislative committees to probe disaster procedures

*They will study rebuilding effort*

**Capital bureau**

BATON ROUGE – The state House and Senate have named special committees on disaster planning, crisis management, recovery and long-term revitalization in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The purpose is to study and review issues related to the state's rescue, recovery and rebuilding.

The panels can make recommendations for policies and legislation and conduct investigations to try to find solutions to problems related to disaster preparation and response.

The steering committee on the House side is led by Rep. John Alario, D-Westwego, with Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, D-New Orleans, serving as vice chairwoman. The Senate executive committee is led by Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, and the co-chairman is Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans.

The House steering committee includes Reps. Glenn Ansardi, D-Kenner; Austin Badon, D-New Orleans; Karen Carter, D-New Orleans; Don Cazayoux Jr.; D-New Roads; Charles DeWitt Jr., D-Lecompte; Michael Jackson, D-Baton Rouge; Charlie Lancaster Jr., R-Metairie; Danny Martiny, R-Kenner; Billy Montgomery, D-Haughton; Henry "Tank" Powell, R-Ponchatoula; Jim Tucker, R-Algiers; Diane Winston, R-Covington; and Ernest Wooton, D-Belle Chasse.

The Senate executive committee includes Sens. Robert Adley, D-Benton; Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge; Butch Gautreaux, D-Morgan City; Nick Gautreaux, D-Abbeville; Ken Hollis, R-Metairie; Ben Nevers, R-Bogalusa; and Tom Schedler, R-Mandeville.

Subcommittees of other legislators will focus on individual parishes and regions of state. Meeting schedules have not been set.

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# Despite 'secession,' defiant Uptowner arrested

*Media darling booked with drunkenness*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

An Uptown man who gained national attention by publicly defying New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's mandatory evacuation order and boasting of living a "Lord of the Flies/Robinson Crusoe" post-Hurricane Katrina existence at his spacious home on St. Charles Avenue was arrested this week for public intoxication, police said.

A Louisiana State trooper arrested Ashton O'Dwyer on Tuesday at 12:10 a.m. in the 6000 block of St. Charles Avenue, said Officer Garry Flot, a New Orleans Police Department spokesman. The 57-year-old lawyer was booked at the Amtrak Station, which temporarily has replaced the Orleans Parish Prison. O'Dwyer was released later that day, Flot said.

In a relatively short span after Katrina hit Aug. 29, O'Dwyer appeared on ABC News' Good Morning America, CNN and the CBS Early Show. He was featured in articles published by Newhouse News Service, The Baltimore Sun, The Wall Street Journal, the Houston Chronicle and USA Today, which quoted him as saying: "This is the highest ground in the city. That's why the rich white men who built this city put their homes here."

In other articles, O'Dwyer described Nagin as "incompetent."

He showed reporters his weapons – a pistol and a shotgun – and declared his willingness to use them. At one point, according to The Houston Chronicle, he announced "that I have seceded from the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana and the United States."

"I am now an independent nation," he continued.

In a CNN Newsnight piece, O'Dwyer put his situation in perspective for a national television audience.

"I will leave when I'm dead. OK? Let them be warned, they come to my house, they try to evict me, they try to take my guns, there will be gunfire."

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[1] Interest will continue to accrue during deferment period.

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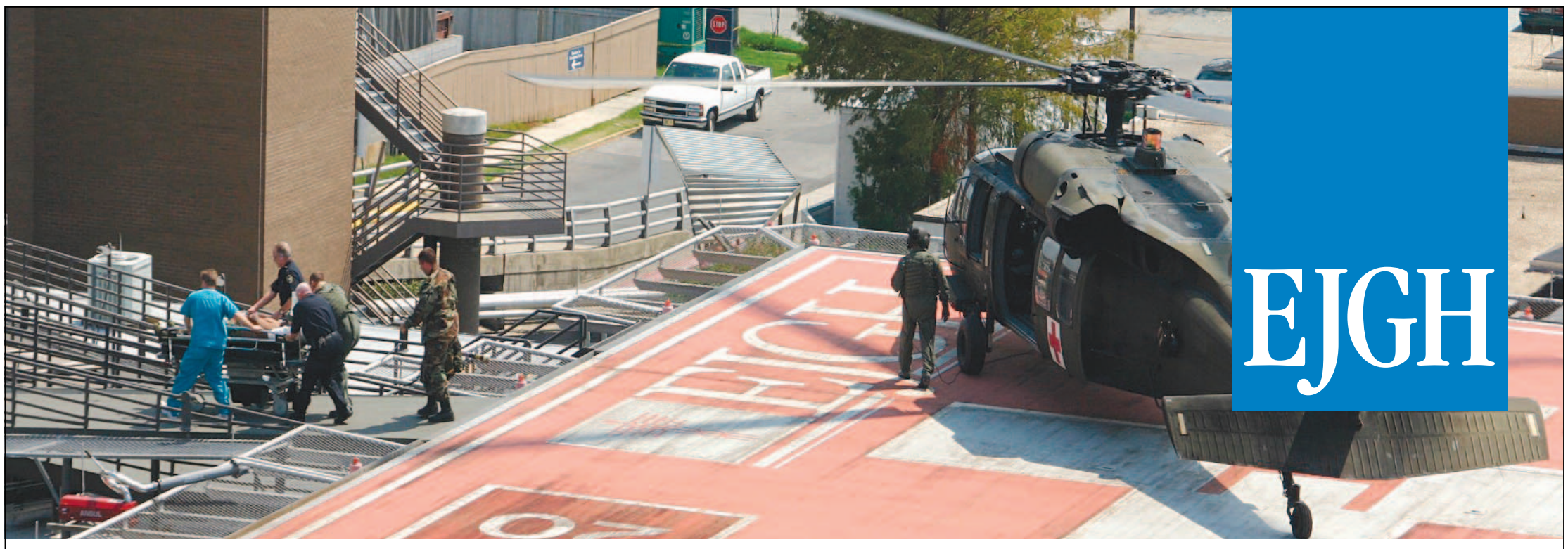
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# when actions counted more than words



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STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

After seeing what Hurricane Katrina did three weeks ago to New Orleans, the owners of NeNe's Kitchen in downtown Cameron turned to a higher power Thursday as Hurricane Rita approached. Officials expect the storm to make landfall Saturday morning somewhere between southwest Louisiana and Galveston, Texas.

# Web sites can be difficult to search

**INTERNET,** *from A-1*

seemed to have a learning disability.

"It's kind of hard to miss somebody like that," Jabon said, adding that even before he dialed the number the woman gave him for a north Louisiana motel, he was sure he'd found his cousin, Angelo, one of 70 or so members of the Saladino/DiBernarda/Maiaro family cast out of New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina swept in Aug. 29.

Most of them already had checked in, sending e-mail or calling the phone number Jabon posted on four of the dozens of Web sites that have sprouted since Katrina's frenetic emptying of New Orleans left families without their relatives' out-of-town contact numbers and with cell phone service largely disrupted.

Across the World Wide Web, queries have continued cropping up a full three weeks after the hurricane on sites listing pleas for sightings of cousins and grandchildren and neighbors or information where they might have fled, or whether they made it out at all. Elsewhere in cyberspace, e-mails and instant messages kept flying among those who'd already found each other, helping classmates and neighbors feel close to home despite an evacuation that left them hundreds of miles apart.

The indispensable nature of new media after Katrina has been evident at East Baton Rouge Parish's main public library, where the number of daily visitors ballooned from 1,500 to 3,600 after Katrina, with most heading straight to the computers to check digital mail, surf person-locator sites or chat over instant messaging programs, which provide real-time text-based conferences.

"The Internet has been a godsend," said Mary Stein, the library's assistant director. "In the first couple of weeks, land lines and cell phones aren't working right. But people can e-mail."

Mac Young, a junior at Jesuit High School in New Orleans, has located most of the 80 friends on his instant messaging contact list during his evacuation jaunts to Covington, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and finally Houston, where he and about 400 other boys from the Mid-City Catholic school have enrolled at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory.

Even before Katrina hit, Young said, he was in touch with his buddies, many also Jesuit students. Beginning Aug. 28, they figured out where everyone planned to evacuate and whether any were following a similar path.

"I was online Sunday night, then Monday night the power's out, then I was basically online everywhere," he said, adding that his computer chats have linked friends as far away as Orlando and in cities throughout Louisiana.

Now, many of the guys are joining digital forces to persuade their parents to let them return to New Orleans to restart school at other local Catholic high schools until their own flooded campus is restored. "I know a couple of my friends are going to, and I want to go too because I just want to sleep in my own bed," he said.

Making such connections, however, has proven elusive for evacuees unfamiliar with the Internet or for those searching for friends whom they wouldn't expect to go online. Jackie Lewis, holed up since Katrina at the La Quinta Inn near Alabama's Huntsville Space Center, posted a message to two of her sisters, who rode out the storm with a dozen children in a pair of shotgun doubles on Myrtle Street in Gentilly.

But Lewis had little hope this week that Brenda Strong and Teresina Toledano ever would see the note at neworleans.craigslist.org. "They're not computer-savvy," she said. "They wouldn't know how to even start."

And if they did somehow get a Web connection, their chances of actually hitting upon Lewis' message probably would be slim, Stein said. Huge depositories of online information have bred as much aggravation as success, with many databases that list missing New Orleanians difficult or impossible to navigate by keyword or phrase.

"It's hard to search," Stein said. "After about the seven-thousandth entry, you don't see them so well, and maybe you miss that 2-year-old that you're searching for. They search by name, age, destination, medical condition, institution. We're seeing that there's a great need for standardization in these things."

At katrina.im-ok.org, users could be linked only by primary phone number. At katrinasafe.com, the American Red Cross's site, searchers could look for individuals by first and last name but could not scroll through lists of evacuees who had registered their location outside the storm-ravaged area. At the Hurricane Katrina Survivor Locator, a blog site, 447 Web pages about lost loved ones were viewable one at a time.

At the person locator at nola.com, a Web site affiliated with The Times-Picayune, some people searched for loved ones by street address, some by height and weight and others by physical traits such as a missing front tooth, a surgical scar or an eagle tattoo. Others beckoned relatives by their nicknames – "Tootsie" and "Too Short" and "Hammer" and "Cookie" – and ended their notes with a simple request: "If you are out there … please call."

For Keith Dabonne, just knowing his message about a loved one had been posted at the site provide solace as he waited for some nugget of news.

Dabonne, who lives in New York, first heard his grandfather was dead, swept away through the Lower 9th Ward by a surge too powerful for an elderly man to control. Then came reports that Eldridge "Mr. Eddie" Gabriel, an entertainer for more than six decades at Pat O'Brien's famous French Quarter bar, had been spotted at refugee shelters, maybe in Houston, maybe in Shreveport.

"I couldn't get any information speaking to (people at) the numbers that were given by the organizations, the Red Cross and all," Dabonne said. "At that point, I was as frustrated as I could possibly be. We decided to go to the Internet."

Hours after the winds died down, the photograph appeared online: a bald, mustachioed man dressed in a black sport jacket and a black satin tie grinned at the camera, a mole apparent on his left cheek. "We have not been able to speak with him since the night before Hurricane Katrina," read a note below the picture. "He has not been seen since. He takes heart medication and medication for high blood pressure."

"Then the floodgates opened," Dabonne said, "pardon my pun."

The calls and e-mails arrived from evacuees everywhere. Few had real answers; indeed, three weeks after the storm, the search for Gabriel trudged on. But every response to his Internet message stoked Dabonne's hope that he would find his grandfather.

"Without it," he said, "I wouldn't be nowhere."

# State readies for blow from storm

**RITA,** *from A-1*

out of that storm's path than taking a chance on staying."

On Thursday morning in Cameron Parish, about 40 miles east of the Texas-Louisiana line, fewer than 500 of the 9,000 residents remained, and the National Guard was working with sheriff's deputies to round up stragglers and urge them to flee.

"This is going to be worse than Audrey," Sheriff Theos Duhon said, referring to the 1957 storm that killed about 530 people when it struck that part of the state.

### 'A massive storm'

Rita is expected to dump up to 10 inches of rain, Blanco said, and send out hurricane-force winds across western Louisiana.

"This is a massive storm, a powerful storm," she said.

Because of Rita's size, with storm surges and tropical-storm-force winds that could extend as far as 160 miles from the center, officials on the other side of the state issued evacuation orders for Grand Isle, Crown Point, Barataria and low-lying parts of Plaquemines Parish.

In New Orleans, evacuation efforts continued, said Mayor Ray Nagin, who had scrapped his plan to let residents return home earlier this week because of Rita's approach.

Stressing what individuals can do to mitigate the storm's effects, Jefferson Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella urged everyone to check storm drains near their home to make sure they are free of debris that could clog the drain and make water rise.

"It's something that only takes five minutes but really can make a huge difference, especially with all the debris already on the streets," he said.

At his news conference Thursday afternoon, Nagin said New Orleans stands a 50 percent to 60 percent chance of receiving tropical-storm-force winds up to 75 mph, as well as storm surges as high as 5 feet.

But citing information from the Army Corps of Engineers, he said, "They can handle that type of storm surge."

To protect the New Orleans area from recurrences of levee breaches that inundated much of the city after Hurricane Katrina swept through last month, the Corps of Engineers put down 60-foot sheets of steel piling to block Lake Pontchartrain's tidal surge from the 17th Street and London Avenue canals. The Orleans Canal is not blocked.

"Metropolitan New Orleans can take about 6 inches of rain," corps spokeswoman Susan Jackson said. "Though a concern, it's not our main concern. . . . Storm surge is the real issue because it stresses the levee repairs and some areas that we haven't had time to assess and repair."

While New Orleans can withstand a 10- to 12-foot surge from the lake, St. Bernard Parish can take only a 5- to 6-foot surge, she said, because its pumps are working at 60 percent capacity.

At the 17th Street Canal levee on Thursday afternoon, workers used a bulldozer to load sandbags around the sheet pilings to seal up any leaks.

"I'm pretty confident that, based on current predictions, we will weather this storm just fine," said Duane Gatinski, who leads the corps task force charged with getting floodwater out of the city.

### Water returns

Despite his confidence, a levee hurriedly rebuilt with riprap and gravel after Katrina to stop the flooding of the Industrial

*See* **RITA,** *A-18*

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# NOT A DROP TO DRINK



The terrible conditions in New Orleans take their toll on even the hardiest of men and women.

*At times amid the soupy sludge we once called home, those who were called in to protect and serve faced battles of their own. Punishing midday heat, heavy fatigues and the stress of the task at hand made soldiers vulnerable to dehydration. Their ailments were treated in crude environs, like those who were victims of Hurricane Katrina.*



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

Sgt. Stephen Mueller is treated by fellow National Guardsmen Sgt. Terry Sargeant and Pvt. Robert Lewis, right, in a makeshift medical center in a classroom of Frederick Douglass High School on St. Claude Avenue in New Orleans.



ABOVE, Sgt. Greg Procter with the National Guard pours water over his head, attempting to cool off in the 90-degree heat.

RIGHT, Pvt. Robert Lewis, left, and Sgt. Terry Sargeant of the National Guard treat Sgt. Stephen Mueller for dehydration, which occurs when a person loses more fluids than he or she takes in.



# Rita chases evacuees out of Lake Charles

## *Masses uprooted again as hurricane approaches*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

ALEXANDRIA — Starting over is becoming a habit for Michael Brown.

After four years living on the streets of New Orleans, Brown, 50, had just finished a five-month stint in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center and found steady work as a drywall finisher when Hurricane Katrina slammed into his adopted city Aug. 29.

With his landlord, a friend and three dogs, Brown rode out the storm at a Baton Rouge truck stop before ending up in a Red Cross shelter at the Lake Charles Civic Center. That's where Brown, and hundreds of other displaced New Orleanians, had spent three weeks trying to rebuild their lives.

"People were getting homes, jobs — everybody was getting served one way or another," Brown said.

Then word came down that a new storm, Hurricane Rita, was heading their way, and once again Brown was uprooted, this time as part of a giant caravan of cars and buses that got a police escort to the Rapides Parish Coliseum.

Nearly 500 evacuees arrived at their new temporary home early Wednesday evening. They are part of an estimated 3,000 Katrina victims in Calcasieu Parish to be transplanted to Alexandria, Monroe and Shreveport as the second major hurricane in a month threatened Louisiana's coast.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Cybil Menard, 5, daughter of Brian and Parry Menard of Houston, is stuffed into the back seat of the family car Thursday, headed east. Three weeks ago, it was Louisiana residents stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic as they tried to evacuate from Hurricane Katrina. Now itís Houston residents fleeing Rita.

Dick Gremillion, director of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said he expects the evacuation to last about a week — or as long as it takes to restore electric power to the region. "This is a temporary relocation," he said. "They're going to stay there until the storm has passed."

Sitting on picnic benches in a grove of shade trees outside the Coliseum, about two dozen evacuees interviewed Thursday expressed a mixture of weariness and frustration along with gratitude for the American Red Cross during a period that has forced all of them to rethink where and how they plan to spend their lives.

With their homes in New Orleans either destroyed or uninhabitable, the evacuees expressed the common goal of returning to Lake Charles, which for many had already begun to feel like home, as soon as possible.

"They've done everything possible to make people feel at home," said McKinley Guillory, 48, who was a FedEx driver before Katrina washed away his eastern New Orleans home and livelihood. A native of Lake Charles, Guillory was already contemplating moving there before the storm, in part so his children could escape the beleaguered Orleans Parish public schools.

Katrina merely moved up the timetable. "I was planning to move," Guillory said. "I just had to wait for God to move me. He don't work on my time. He works on his time."

After three weeks in Lake Charles, Guillory's children were enrolled in school and he was making plans: applying for loans, driving again for FedEx, buying a home, possibly starting a pressure-washing business on the side. Now his plans are on hold once again.

While many evacuees were thinking of starting over permanently in Lake Charles, no one appeared to have the same thoughts about Alexandria, where a bulletin board inside the Coliseum advertising jobs at Wal-Mart and nursing homes were all but ignored.

Nearly all of the two dozen evacuees sitting on shaded benches outside had kind words for their hosts in Lake Charles. "I wanted to stay in Lake Charles. I don't ever want to go back to New Orleans," said Hillard Hollerman, 57, of Harvey, who was evacuated to the Lake Charles Civic Center with about 15 members of his extended family.

Others are postponing a decision on their future until they have a clearer idea of what will become of New Orleans. Roland Handy, 56, has spent 31 years caring for research animals at Tulane University Hospital, including four harrowing days after Katrina until an evacuation helicopter arrived, and would like to go back to his job.

After several days of trying, he managed to get in touch with the university, but his efforts to get his paycheck forwarded to Lake Charles were postponed by Hurricane Rita. His daughter and grandchildren have already left New Orleans for good and made a permanent home in St. Louis, where the Red Cross helped set them up with a home and enroll the children in school, he said.

If Tulane doesn't reopen by Christmas, Handy said, he will likely join his daughter in St. Louis.

As for Brown, who had already found part-time work hanging drywall in Lake Charles before Rita forced another evacuation, he said he's determined to take the latest disruption in stride. "I've lived off and on the street all my life," he said. "But I've got the good Lord with me."

• • • • • •

Jan Moller can be reached at TpicBr@aol.com.

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# FEMA sends La. $457 million for repairs

*Federal money goes to state agencies*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana state government has received $457 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be channeled to about 50 local entities or state agencies that are cleaning up after Hurricane Katrina, according to a document provided Thursday by state Treasurer John Kennedy's office.

Kennedy said that except for about $16.5 million in state advances that were sent to the sheriff's offices in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes Wednesday, he did not know whether any of the money had been paid out. He said the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is in charge of sending out the federal payments.

Many of the local governments in the New Orleans area are slated to receive some money, probably in installments, as they figure out how much damage was inflicted by the storm, according to documents provided by Kennedy's office.

For example, the city of Kenner is scheduled to receive $5.4 million, while St. Charles Parish public schools have earmarked $4 million.

It is unclear whether those allotments have been finalized.

According to the document, $352 million is slated for the state Department of Health & Hospitals. The undersecretary for that agency, Charles Castille, said that so far his agency needs about $10 million to recoup the money spent during the hurricane on special-needs shelters, medical triages for evacuees and other emergency expenses. Castille did not know what the other $342 million would be for.

The state Office of Emergency Preparedness has not responded to written requests for more documentation about how the money will be allotted.

# Evacuee from Metairie killed in Chattanooga

**By Bill Poovey**
Associated Press writer

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. — A restaurant cook and dishwasher from Metairie has become the first Katrina refugee to be killed in a host community.

Don Maurice Airline, 24, was found dead on a secluded road with five gunshots to the head. Chattanooga police were considering the possibility that someone killed him to steal relief money the Red Cross gave him.

Detective R. Kenneth Freeman said he was sorry the shooting Saturday happened in Chattanooga, a city where the Red Cross, churches and social agencies are helping hundreds of Katrina refugees.

Freeman said Airline was the only homicide victim he knew of among the hundreds of thousands of Katrina evacuees. Another 1 million people were fleeing ahead of Hurricane Rita.

Airline's mother, Sheila Airline, 41, described the killing as "just senseless."

"For someone to take my child's life, they robbed him. I know they robbed him, because the Red Cross gave him money and the detective can't find it," she said Thursday in a telephone interview from Kenner.

Sheila Airline said she stayed with relatives in Louisiana when she evacuated Aug. 28.

"This is how God had it planned," she said. "He was evacuated out of the storm, and out of the storm he gets killed."

Airline said her son's funeral was set for Saturday in River Ridge.

Investigators found five handgun shell casings next to Airline's body, less than a mile from a Red Cross shelter where he had stayed.

Airline left a Chattanooga nightclub with at least two men and a woman hours before his body was spotted early Saturday on a roadside, Freeman said.

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NATION

# Roberts nomination is sent to full Senate

## *Judiciary Committee approves appointment*

By Jesse J. Holland
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved John Roberts' nomination as the next Supreme Court chief justice, virtually assuring his confirmation by the Senate next week.

The official tally of 13-5 was anticlimatic, with the committee's 10 majority Republicans lined up solidly behind the conservative judge's nomination to the full Senate weeks in advance.

But the decision by three Democrats to join Republican efforts to make Roberts the nation's 109th Supreme Court justice outlined the division in the minority caucus over whether Democrats can, or should, mount even symbolic opposition to Roberts to send President Bush a message on his next Supreme Court nomination.

Five Democrats — Sens. Dianne Feinstein of California, Joseph Biden of Delaware, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Charles Schumer of New York and Dick Durbin of Illinois — opposed Roberts in the final vote, and many of the arguments merged with senators' worries about the upcoming replacement for the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor.



**John Roberts**
Panel's vote virtually assures confirmation

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., told reporters after the vote that he thinks Bush may name a replacement for O'Connor within days of the final vote on Roberts.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan commended the committee "for moving forward in a civil and dignified way," noting the White House hopes this sets an example for considering Bush's second nomination to the court.

Liberal groups that had opposed Roberts expressed disappointment with the committee vote, with Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way, singling out Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis.

He said the Wisconsin Democrat was the only member of his party on the committee who voted in favor of both John Ashcroft to become Bush's first attorney general and now Roberts. Neas said Feingold's vote was a "tremendous mistake and a tremendous disappointment."

But Leonard Leo of the conservative Federalist Society said the fact that only three of eight committee Democrats supported Roberts was evidence of partisanship. "We're supposed to think the Democrats are being magnanimous? Give me a break," Leo said.

### Easy confirmation expected

Roberts' confirmation as the 109th Supreme Court justice is all but assured because most of the Senate's 55 Republicans support him and Democrats have decided not to filibuster his nomination.

But Democrats who oppose his nomination said they can't take the risk that Roberts will prove a conservative ideologue on the court.

Feinstein told a packed Judiciary Committee hearing room that her vote was decided after Roberts refused to answer fully some questions from her and other Democrats in his confirmation hearing last week.

"I knew as little about what Judge Roberts really thought about issues after the hearings as I did before the hearing. This makes it very hard for me," said Feinstein, an abortion rights supporter.

"I cannot in good conscience cast a 'yea' vote," she said. "I will cast a 'no' vote."

Biden said his vote was a close call but that Roberts "does not appear to share the same expansive view of fundamental rights of previous nominees I have supported. I'm unwilling to take the constitutional risk at this moment in the court's history."

Feingold and Sen. Herb Kohl, both Wisconsin Democrats, and the committee's top Democrat, Patrick Leahy of Vermont, decided to support making the conservative judge the nation's 17th chief justice.

"I will vote my hopes today and not my fears," Kohl said.

Kohl said Roberts made it clear to him that he will be a modest judge, not an activist, and will approach arguments with an open mind.

"I take him at his word that he will steer the court to serve as an appropriate check on potential abuses of presidential power," Leahy told the committee and former Sen. Fred Thompson — Roberts' escort through the confirmation process — who watched from the crowd.

### Looking to the future

Those statements likely are directed at the president, who is expected to soon make public his choice to replace O'Connor, who has been a swing vote on issues including affirmative action, abortion, discrimination and death penalty cases.

Replacing her could give the president a chance to swing the court to the right on many issues.

Widely mentioned candidates include judges Edith Brown Clements and Emilio Garza, both of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Others widely mentioned candidates federal appellate judges Janice Rogers Brown, Edith Hollan Jones, Alice Batchelder, Karen Williams, J. Michael Luttig, J. Harvie Wilkinson, Michael McConnell and Samuel Alito.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, former deputy attorney general Larry Thompson, lawyer Miguel Estrada and Maura Corrigan, a member of the Michigan Supreme Court, are also considered possibilities.

"We're already talking about the next nominee in code," noted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "Senator Kohl, who voted yes, is talking about the balance of the court with O'Connor. Senator Feingold is mentioning that he may not be receptive to Justice Brown. I can understand it. That's the way this situation is in 2005."

Democratic Sens. Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Tim Johnson of South Dakota, Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Max Baucus of Montana have announced their support for Roberts for when his nomination goes to the full Senate. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana has indicated she is leaning toward voting for him as well. Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota is also viewed as a possible vote for him.

Senate Democrats opposing Roberts so far include Democratic leader Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer of California, John Kerry of Massachusetts and New Jersey Sens. Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg.

The White House wants Roberts to be in place as the nation's 17th chief justice when the Supreme Court begins its new term Oct. 3.


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**PHYSICIANS:** We are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the best of small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides, NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team! Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

Employment

4120 Medical

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Hanahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Hanahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**THERAPISTS** - Tandem Rehab has openings throughout FL, VA, MD, PA, OH and Michigan for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists. Will assist with license and relocation! Excellent pay and benefits. Call Laura Nobles at 866-400-4557 or email at rehabrecruiter@aol.com

4140 Professional/ Technical

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 108

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**Graphic Artist** - Pensacola Magazine Full time. $30-35K. Must have Bachelor's degree and 3-5 years experience designing magazines. See www.bellingerpublishing.com for more information.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS needed** for Smiling School Photographers, no experience necessary, reliable vehicle, able to lift 40 lbs. Seasonal part-time, 504-669-8044, 225-265-1900

**Tech Needed** in N.O. area to work on CCTV & Access Control Systems. Strong computer & database skills a plus. Fax resume to 508-733-0006 Attn Sherry

4147 Security

**ARMED SECURITY** OFFICERS Openings in New Orleans and Baton Rouge area, $12-$15 hour DOE, Call 1-800-738-6827

**SECURITY AlliedBarton** Security Services, the largest American-owned security services company, is now hiring SECURITY OFFICERS. Must be 18 yrs. of age; must be able to pass criminal background check and drug screen, and possess a H.S. diploma, GED, or 10 years' verifiable employment history. Interested candidates please email resume to: john.kobel@alliedsecurity.com or call: 225-761-7234 for more information. EOE, M/F/D/V

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina, F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits. Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0345

4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

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Employment

4160 Trades/Skills

**ALARM INSTALLER** & TECHNICIAN Experience, Benefits Provided, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-6888 or 504-460-3417

**Allstate Fence** Co looking for Fence Mechanics & Helpers, plenty of work! Call 504-737-5219

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET MAKERS** needed. MUST have three years cabinet shop experience. 985-386-2711

**CARPENTERS with** tools. Also need helpers. St. Tammany. 985-875-0424 hs256@housedoctors.com

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**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Brannighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbisle@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS/ ELECTRICIANS/HELPERS** LABORERS & INSTRUMENT FITTERS/HELPERS at MWR Group, Inc for various assignments, Extensive Overtime. Please apply at 15961 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA or call (225)756-3046 or fax resume to (225)756-5391 or email to personnel@mwrgrp.com or Mail resume to PO Box 84210, Baton Rouge, LA 70817 EOE

**ELECTRICIANS Needed,** 2 yrs min exp, all work on the North Shore. Please call 985-845-8056

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** To help clean up. Starting pay $15/hour. Contact April 225-614-0899

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**Experienced Service** Mechanic needed. Apply at Mayeux's AC & Heating, Inc. 650 St.Charles Street, Norco LA 70079.

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**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

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**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Rez and Com, all surfaces, exp a must! Call 504-466-9724 9a-4p

**General contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, & Cement Finishers in the New Orleans area. 504-915-7415

**GLASS/ALUMINUMS MIRROR** & SHOWER DOOR MECHANICS Good pay, Paid Holidays, Vacations and other benefits for long term employment of experienced installers of persons willing to learn the trade. (561)655-1309 West Palm Beach FL

# Vatican document may ban all gay seminarians

## *Clergy demoralized; some vow to quit*

**By Rachel Zoll**
AP Religion writer

Word that a soon-to-be-released Vatican document will signal that homosexuals are unwelcome in Roman Catholic seminaries even if they are celibate has devastated gay clergy and raised doubts among conservatives about whether an outright ban can be enforced.

A Vatican official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the document has not been released, said Thursday that the upcoming "instruction" from the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education will reaffirm the church's belief that homosexuals should not be ordained.

In recent decades, Vatican officials have stated several times that gays should not become priests because their sexual orientation is "intrinsically disordered" and makes them unsuitable for ministry.

The latest document is scheduled to be distributed within weeks, just as an evaluation of all 229 American seminaries gets under way under the direction of the same Vatican agency developing the seminary statement. The review, called an Apostolic Visitation, was ordered by Pope John Paul II in response to the U.S. clergy sex abuse crisis that erupted in 2002. Among the questions the evaluators will ask is whether "there is evidence of homosexuality in the seminary," according to the agency's guide for the inspections.

The Rev. Thomas Krenik, who taught for 10 years in St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota and wrote the guidebook "Formation for Priestly Celibacy," worries that a blanket ban on gay priest candidates will recreate the very conditions the Vatican wants to eradicate.

"For some men who happened to be homosexually oriented, they would go further in the closet," Krenik said. "That would be my fear, that this could become an even worse problem."

A gay American priest, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared reprisals from church leaders, said he and other gay clergy and seminarians felt "absolute horror" when they heard about the anticipated ban.

"I've spoken to gay priests who feel demoralized. I've heard straight priests say that they're embarrassed by it. I've heard priests both straight and gay seriously considering leaving," he said. "They couldn't believe that after centuries of either explicit or implicit welcoming of celibate gay clergy that the church would turn its back on them."

James Hitchcock, a church historian at St. Louis University and conservative commentator on contemporary Catholicism, said he thinks the ban is necessary considering that a study the U.S. bishops commissioned from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that most of the alleged abuse victims since 1950 were adolescent boys. But he conceded that the policy will be difficult to enforce, since candidates for the priesthood can hide their sexual orientation. He's also concerned that gays truly dedicated to remaining celibate will be unfairly excluded.

"In theory, one might say judge each case on its individual merits, but some doubt whether it would be done in a proper way," Hitchcock said. "There isn't going to be an easy solution. I think if you have a policy statement that homosexuals ought not to be studying for the priesthood at least it gives seminaries a way to act."

Estimates of the number of gay seminarians and priests vary from 25 percent to 50 percent out of about 42,500 priests in the United States. Whatever the percentage, many Catholics are worried that the priesthood is becoming a homosexual profession. As the abuse crisis intensified, church officials discussed their concerns more openly and more urgently, even though experts on sex offenders said that homosexuals were no more likely than heterosexuals to abuse children.

Critics ranging from gay rights groups to advocates for victims have accused the Vatican of scapegoating homosexuals to divert attention from the church's failure to protect children.

Other seminary leaders have said a ban is pointless, since many clergy candidates do not realize they are gay until after they are enrolled or even ordained. And Krenik questioned whether the problem of subcultures of sexually active gays was as acute as the Vatican believes.

# On a wing and a prayer — and in-flight TV

## *Crippled flight's passengers tuned in to their own drama*

**By Tim Molloy**
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Letting customers watch TV at their seats has been a JetBlue calling card since the airline took flight in 1999.

But the frill made for a bizarre experience as passengers aboard an airliner with crippled landing gear watched news reports about their own flight even as they prepared for an emergency landing.

Some of those aboard Flight 292, which landed safely Wednesday at Los Angeles International Airport, said later that they appreciated seeing news reports on what was happening. Others were horrified.

"It was absolutely terrifying, actually. Seeing the events broadcast made it completely surreal and detached me from the event," said Zachary Mastoon, a musician heading home on the Burbank-to-New York flight. "It became this television show I was inextricably linked to. It was no longer my situation, it was broadcast for everyone to see. It only exacerbated the situation and my fear."

Mastoon said the JetBlue employees kept passengers informed but that he heard worst-case scenarios from TV news reports. Realizing the risks, he started taking swigs from another passenger's vodka tonic.

"They were telling us there could be a crash landing, the landing gear could be torn off, and that there could be a fire. The gravity of the situation was much worse than any of us assumed," Mastoon said.

Some passengers, though, said they appreciated knowing as much as possible about their situation.

"I think on balance people were not upset," said Howard Averill, chief financial officer for NBC-Universal Television, who was traveling to a meeting in New York.

The airline said Thursday it had no plans to get rid of in-flight television during emergencies.

"It's far more valuable to customers who choose to watch, and customers who choose not to watch can turn their unit off," company spokeswoman Jenny Dervin said.

The Times-Picayune

# CLASSIFIED

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**GLASSMAN Experienced,** needed in Picayune Mississippi, full-time permanent position. Contact Mark 601-798-9640

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T manufacturing maintenance mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time manufacturing equipment operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Hydraulic Press** Brake Operator, Experienced. Excellent Benefits. 985-385-2324; Radtke Construction - Morgan City

**INTERIOR DEMO** CREW LEAD PERSON - Permanent work, excellent chance to make a lot of money. Call 985-845-3322

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks Cabinet Sales Person having at least 5 years experience, including 20/20 experience. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LAWN CARE** Professional experienced and general laborer for storm cleanup. Call Grass Masters. 985-249-9881

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**Looking for** Structural Steel Fitters and Welders. Pay DOE. Insurance benefits, 401(k), dental. Tyler, TX area. Fax resume w/history: 903-595-4554

**Louisiana-based firm** looking for electricians experienced in HiVolt, 5 KV & up cable testing, splicing & termin. H2S safety training preferred. Pre-employ and random drug screenings required. $18.hr/hlth ins provided. Send resumes and queries to Human Resources; 78070 Koogie Rd.; Covington, LA 70435.

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**PAINTERS, experienced,** must have own transportation, full time work, 985-966-6011

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**SKILLED LABOR-** framers, trim carpenters, sheetrock hangers & finishers, painters. Must have tools & transportation. Min. 5 yrs. exp. (504) 382-8493.

**SUPERVISOR for** job site, Jackson MS Company seeks industrial floor coatings job site supervisor, 3 years experience, travel required. 1-800-794-4237

**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

### 4165 Warehouse

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE Lumpers** needed in Hammond, LA. Warehouse and forklift experience a plus. Earnings $400-$600 + weekly with opportunity for advancement. Early morning start; benefits after 30 days. MUST pass background check and drug screen. Please call 985-419-0821 if interested.

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**ATTENTION. LOCAL** WORKFORCE AREAS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES. Displaced citizens, who were forced from their homes because of Hurricane Katrina, can now find temporary work through the One-Stop Workforce Center of Tangipahoa and its satellite offices. Applications are currently being taken for temporary jobs in public and non-profit agencies that provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. These jobs will pay $9.00 per hour and are currently limited to individuals who lived or worked in St.Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.Tammany, and Washington parishes. Applicants should be able to show proof of residency or employment in the affected areas. Funding for the temporary jobs is through a National Emergency Grand (NEG) from the United States Departments of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Applications will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you are an evacuee from the affected areas and currently reside in: -East Baton Rouge Parish contact: East Baton Rouge Workforce Center (225)358-4579. -Ascension Parish contact: Ascension Parish Workforce Centers. 54 Veterans Avenue, Suite B. Donaldsonville LA (225)473-5712 or 1715 South Burnside, Gonzales LA (225)647-7394. -East and West Feliciana Parishes contact: East and West Feliciana Parishes Workforce Center, 5681 Commerce Street, St.Francisville LA. (225)635-6635. -Iberville Parish contact: Iberville Parish Workforce Center. 23425 Railroad Ave, Suite 1, Plaquemine, LA. (225)687-0969. -Livingston Parish Contact: Livingston Parish Workforce Center. 9384 Florida Blvd-Suite B, Walker LA. (225)667-1874. -Pointe Coupee Parish contact: Pointe Coupee Parish Workforce Center. 305 East Main Street. New Roads LA. (225)638-6852. -St.Helena Parish contact: St.Helena Parish WIA Office/Youth Center. 1011 NW Central RR Ave. Hammond LA. (985)748-7718. -Tangipahoa Parish contact: Tangipahoa Parish Workforce Center. 1745 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond LA. (985)345-4465/(985)902-4200. -West Baton Rouge Parish contact: West Baton Rouge Parish Workforce Center. 149 North Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA. (225)343-5915. -Washington Parish contact: Washington Parish Workforce Center. 438 Avenue B. Bogalusa,LA. (985)732-6630. -St.Tammany Parish contact: St.Tammany Parish Workforce Center. 19376 N.Third Street. Covington, LA. (985)893-6254. Displaced workers may be eligible for occupational training.

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more.*Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. Call 504-416-9633

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

**Full Time** Position for Vet Sales Clerc. Computer skills req. Call 225-875-7533

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Janitorial -** If you are seeking employment, Mr Sparkle janitorial service is now hiring honest, qualified, experienced people. We offer the best pay and working conditions, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. We clean commercial buildings, restaurants and schools. If you can pass our drug test, you will have a job! For more information, call 504-737-6061

**JANITORIAL Help** wanted, Seeking part time cleaning crew to work in large retail store. Cleaning and/or floor care experience is a plus, but not required. Please call 1-800-860-8057 Job reference # 7010.

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multi-task while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

### 4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/Paralegal. 901-240-7724

## RECREATION

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### 6550 Campers/Motor Homes

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**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

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**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

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**Mandeville lg** home, 5br, 4ba, 3965 Living. 1 yr old, 1 acre, top quality, wind damage, Ready in 4 wks. 985-626-9000

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

### 7580 Slidell

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**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

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**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

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**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlaceHomes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

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**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

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**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

**OLD MATAIRIE** No flooding. Vacant, ready to move in. 1608 Ellis. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Big lot. Low $300's. Owner/Agent. 985-727-1002 or 504-812-1700

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** brick, with 1-6 acres, exc cond. 15 min north of covington, 45 min north of slidell. $110,000 or $150,000. 985-735-6575

**MADISONVILLE 3** br, 2 full ba, 2 1/2 ba, 3800 SF home. Pool & deck, $410,000. 985-845-7890

**MANDEVILLE 2** bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, near Causeway. Community pool, balcony, 1000 square feet. $145,000. Please call 985-869-8691

**MANDEVILLE Beautiful** Acadian, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, approx 2800 sq ft w/550 sq ft studio. No storm damage. Large corner lot on cul de sac. 3 minutes from Causeway in best school district. 985-674-2899 or 985-789-0190 or 281-350-8384

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be compl in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** 1700 sq.ft, 7 mo old, 1/2 acre lot, wood and ceramic tile floors. $168,000. 504-427-8310

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**Amite Homes** 900 W. Oak St. Drive a little save a lot. Quality homes at reasonable prices. Single and Double wide. 985-748-3700

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA/ SOUTH** MISSISSIPPI. 35-40 ACRES In pasture w/small house. 859-312-0200

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. Call for more 1-877-893-1799

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**SANDESTIN GOLF** & BEACH RESORT Executive Villa 4 bed, 4 bath. Spacious, chef's kitchen, library, 7 ft deep pool. Dream home! $1,450,000 Sandra Padgett, Coldwell Banker JME Realty. 850-859-2257 or 974-3271

**TALLAHASSEE FL** Warehouse/apartment, 9000 square foot warehouse with 3100 square foot apartment. $699,000. Please call Russell Doster, South Land Commercial at 850-566-6203

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**COTTONNILL Condos,** 1 bedroom for rent, furnished, 600 square feet, fitness center included, pool, $1200/mo. 504-583-2997

### 7917 Below Canal

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### 7930Eastern New Orleans

**FRENCH QUARTER** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath condo with pool. $3000/Mo, util included. 337-276-7025

### 7960 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**CHATEAU ESTATES** 4 Bedroom, 3 full bath home, fully furnished, Minimum 1 year lease, $3600/month. Call 504-712-9020

### 7965 West Bank

**BELLE CHASSE,** 2 br furnished or unfurnished duplex. Right next to Air Base. 504-393-9264.

### 7970Mandeville/Covington

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

**COVINGTON near** I12/190, month-to-month, $975 plus deposit. Call 504-495-4495/985-875-0810

### 8005 Gulf Coast

**San Destin,** FL Sale or Rent. New home for permanent residence. 4-2 1/2. 285 Loblolly Bay Road. 2,000 sq. ft. Available 10/12. Call M. Bass 850-384-0116.

### 8045 Miscellaneous

**ORLANDO AREA** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, semi furnished house. Golf/lake view, gated, active adult community. 1st month free with 6 month lease, Royal Club Spa membership and cable included! $1500 + util. 503-577-8522

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

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**UPTOWN Apt,** No hurricane damage, forced to relocate to Houston for 4 mos, willing to sublease for 4 mos. $1500/mo. 254-716-8950

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### 8106Mandeville/Covington

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### 8125 Mobile Homes

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**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

### 8560 Cadillac

**'92 Deville** New AC unit, 4 new tires, new battery, NEVER FLOODED. $3500 obo. 504-341-7491

### 8630 Honda

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'90 Accord,** Only $900, For Listings 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

### 8690 Mazda

**02' Protege,** 40,000 miles, sunroof, 6-Disc CD, $10,000. (985)951-9775

### 8732 Mitsubishi

**'05 Eclipse** RMX 6 disc, lthr, sunroof, 4cyl. 3K mi, $18,000/negotiable. 504-912-1888

### 8740 Nissan

**'00 Maxima** SE, Loaded, 74000 Miles. Like New $11000. Call 303-842-2878

### 8870 Under $2,000

**'94 Jeep** Cherokee, Only $600. For Listings 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

### 8880 Miscellaneous

**'01 BOUNDER** 36', 22K, 2 slides, pet and smoke free, manual satellite, 2 TV's, VCR, double fridge,

# Official says he warned of Katrina's punch

## *Mayfield: Devastation like nothing I have witnessed before*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center, told a congressional committee Thursday that "devastation along the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina is like nothing I have witnessed before."

Mayfield said that the National Weather Service worked hard before the storm to let federal, state and local officials and Gulf Coast residents know the storm would pack deadly strength. Twenty-four hours before the storm struck land, the Slidell office of the Weather Service issued an advisory that said: "Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer" and that "at least one half of well constructed homes will have room and wall failure."

Mayfield said he gave a frightening appraisal of likely damage to Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco 36 hours before the storm made landfall Aug. 29, and that she urged him to give the same briefing to New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. Mayfield said he repeated the warning to Nagin about 45 minutes later.

The committee was set up by Republican House leaders to investigate what went wrong with the government's response to the killer storm. House Democrats called for a boycott of the panel, but allowed Reps. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, and Gene Taylor, D-Miss., whose Gulf Coast districts were decimated by the hurricane, to attend Thursday as non-voting members.

As Melancon joined other panel members in questioning Mayfield, he released a letter he sent to President Bush asking that a bipartisan commission be appointed. Its task, he said, should be to ensure that the process of determining "the failures that compounded the Katrina tragedy" is taken out of the hands of politicians and partisan committees.

"For that reason, as the representative of the homeless, the inundated, the destroyed and the dead, we ask you to give your full support to the formation of an independent, non-partisan commission," Melancon said.

President Bush, who is scheduled to fly to Texas today to review preparations for Hurricane Rita, has already appointed his national security adviser to review the performance of the government in the immediate aftermath of Katrina.

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., appointed by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, to oversee the House investigation, said he hopes that House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will drop her opposition and eventually appoint Democratic members to make the probe truly bipartisan. He promised that the panel's investigation would continue with or without them would "investigate aggressively what went wrong and what went right."

``Even armed with solid, advance information on Katrina's severity, the response of local, state, and federal officials was largely abysmal,'' Davis said. He was deferential to both Melancon and Taylor, allowing them to ask the first questions, although they won't have voting status because they are not formal Democratic appointees.

Pelosi said that she encouraged Melancon and Taylor to participate in the hearings.

"They should be there," Pelosi said. "It is their responsibility to find whatever venue they can to speak for their constituents."

But she said that as the Democratic leader she won't appoint members to participate in a process "I consider to be a whitewash."

"There is nothing in the performance of this Congress in its four years since President Bush has been president that says that they will exercise proper oversight," Pelosi said.

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, was also invited by Davis to participate in the hearings as a non-voting member of the investigatory panel. He did not attend Thursday's hearing. Spokeswoman Melanie Roussell said Jefferson is focusing on helping pass legislation to provide immediate relief to his constituents, although he supports a full investigation.

The House panel is scheduled to next question Michael Brown, who resigned as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency after FEMA was roundly criticized for its slow response to the Katrina disaster.


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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Friday
September 23, 2005

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LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Bush's mind a world away from home

While President Bush was holding his news conference Thursday afternoon to discuss progress in the war on terror, the bottom right-hand side of the television screen communicated the following information about the approaching hurricane:

"Rita. Cat 5. Winds: 165 mph."

"Now the terrorists are testing our will and resolve in Iraq," the president said. "If we fail that test, the consequences for the safety and security of the American people would be enormous."

The text at the bottom of the screen read, "462 miles from the coast," referring to the Gulf Coast of the American homeland.

"What's a priority for me is to win this war on terror and secure the country, and to help the people down there to the extent that the law allows," President Bush said.

It seemed that the reporters at the news conference didn't share the president's priority, however. Most of their questions revolved around menacing hurricanes, past and pending.

### Terror at home

I thought then of the stories I've heard and read in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I thought of all of those terrified people who called 9-1-1 in the early hours of the hurricane in the hope that someone would be sent to rescue them from their flooding homes.

I thought of my friend whose Algiers home survived the winds and the rains but whose will to stay in that place was shattered when looters threatened to return to his neighborhood and gun him down if he thwarted their efforts to rob his neighbors.

I thought of east bank evacuees who managed to get to the Crescent City Connection only to be met by the sound of gunfire from Gretna police. I thought about the similarities in the enforcement tactics of the Gretna police and the looters.

I thought of the people huddled in the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, hot, hungry and thirsty, scared to travel in the darkness to the bathroom for fear or being robbed or raped.

I tried to imagine what Osama bin Laden or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi could do to us that would be more terrible than what many Americans have already endured in the past few weeks.

### A deadly history

During one brief span of the president's speech, he made clear what we have to fear. He used the word "kill" six times.

"See, they don't care who they kill; they just kill. They kill innocent people. They kill women. They kill children. They kill election workers. And they've had a history of this before," the president said.

I assumed he was talking about Katrina and Rita. Hurricanes have a deadly history.

• • • • • •

Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com.

# Corps: West Bank levees should hold

*Concrete slopes cracked by Katrina*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Damage to some West Bank levees, which were hit by barges and a dry dock Hurricane Katrina tossed from the Mississippi River, embedding them in the concrete barriers, should not pose a threat to Algiers and neighboring communities during Hurricane Rita, the Army Corps of Engineers said Thursday.

The corps said it is focusing on New Orleans' east bank canals in preparation for Rita, on Thursday a Category 4 storm barreling through the Gulf of Mexico, and that the West Bank levees will be repaired before high water season.

Three barges, lashed together and broken from their moorings elsewhere, were thrown onto the levee in the 6100 block of Patterson Street in Algiers. The stern of one barge broke into the slope paving, the concrete pad that lines the levee's river side.

Bollinger Shipyards' dry dock was yanked from its moorings at Algiers Point by Katrina and was pushed two miles upstream, where it cracked the slope paving at the foot of Lafayette Street in Gretna, Police Chief Arthur Lawson said.

"That was a big concern during (Katrina), because we didn't know how that was going to play out," Lawson said of fears that the levee would break and the river would spill into Gretna.

The Corps of Engineers said the river's water level is low and is not in danger of topping the levees.

"We're not worried about the Mississippi River levee," spokeswoman Susan Jackson said. "Is it a concern? Yes, it is a concern, but it is not a top concern."

The corps' focus this week has been to shore up New Orleans canals that had walls breached during Katrina,

*See* **LEVEE,** *B-2*

# Rummel, Chapelle plan platoons, coed classes



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Michael Begg, president of Archbishop Rummel High School, talks to parents and students Thursday about the school's new configuration. Begg sought to assure parents that the transitional school will be able to complete a full semester, ending in January, because the month lost to Katrina is manageable, he said.

*Metairie schools will take in displaced students*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Catholic education officials are rushing to transform two Metairie schools into a kind not seen in Jefferson Parish since the population boom and crowded classrooms of the 1960s and 1970s: Platoons are returning to Archbishop Chapelle and Archbishop Rummel High schools.

Previously enrolled students at those schools, all girls at Chapelle and all boys at Rummel, will resume classes Oct. 3 from about 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Beginning around Oct. 5, from about 1:30 to 6:10 p.m., the two campuses will host a second, coeducational shift of students from as many as 16 other Catholic high schools that remain closed because of Hurricane Katrina damage in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans already is running one such "transitional" site for Katrina-displaced students, at

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *B-2*



Yolanda Winter, left, and Janet Pananos, both parents of Mount Carmel Academy students, chat during a meeting about the school.

# Warrant issued for aide's arrest

*Floyd faces charge of malfeasance*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Kenner police obtained a warrant Thursday to arrest the city's chief administrative officer, Cedric Floyd, on a charge of malfeasance in office for allegedly diverting truckloads of hurricane relief supplies to his home.

His pending arrest not only subjects Floyd to prosecution but seems likely to fuel longstanding political differences between Police Chief Nick Congemi and Floyd's boss, Mayor Phil Capitano, who defeated Congemi in the 2004 mayoral election.

Police said they retrieved several truckloads of donated supplies from Floyd's home while executing a search warrant Tuesday night. They said they hauled off new clothing, tools and cases of food and medicine. Capitano suspended Floyd without pay the next day.

Until then, Floyd had been one of Capitano's top two aides, managing the daily government operations of Louisiana's sixth-largest city and supervising

*See* **FLOYD,** *B-2*

# St. Charles to open RV park for teachers

*FEMA to finance temporary housing*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

A recreational vehicle park will serve as temporary housing for 50 displaced teachers who work for the St. Charles Parish public school district, the School Board said Wednesday night.

But getting the project up and running might be tricky.

The park is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but it is not known how long FEMA will take to determine whether the displaced teachers qualify for the temporary housing.

"It's being handled in an appropriate time," promised Larry Sesser, executive director of physical plant services for the district. "We're patiently waiting. Hopefully (construction will

*See* **RV PARK,** *B-2*

# Stranded Navy ship becomes lifeline for area

HURRICANE HEROES

*Ship captain delivers diesel fuel to hospitals, emergency vehicles*

*Fuel, makeshift dialysis unit provided*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

The captain of the USNS Pollux stood on his vessel's platform 95 feet above the Mississippi River and gazed at his hometown brought to its knees. From his vantage point near the Harvey Canal, Capt. Robert Lansden, 38, could see the stripped roof of the Superdome and roads strewn with trees limbs and power lines, upended tractor-trailers and toppled radio towers.

He wondered if the roof had clung to the Covington home he shared with his wife and five children

*See* **SHIP,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, left, thanks Capt. Robert Landsden for helping the parish.

# METRO BRIEFS

**ST. TAMMANY**

## OMNI to clean up St. Tammany, Orleans

Long before weather forecasters uttered the name Katrina, a Slidell firm secured contracts to clean up the wreckage of any natural disaster to strike Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. Now more than three weeks into two debris-hauling projects, the contractor predicts those agreements will bring in $100 million before the last piece of trash is buried or burned. Brian Reine, managing member of OMNI Pinnacle LLC, runs the two massive operations from tent cities in Algiers and Pearl River. With an estimated 2,000 workers filling the ranks of his company and about 30 subcontractors, OMNI Pinnacle crews handle countless piles of tree branches, abandoned refrigerators, shattered plywood and ripped-out Sheetrock – all within an exacting protocol set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "You can't just go out and pick up a stump anymore, put it in your truck and get paid for it," Reine said. "They want to know exactly where the stump came from and if you back-filled the hole." OMNI Pinnacle trucks started pushing through St. Tammany Parish roads covered with mangled trees and power lines as soon as Hurricane Katrina's fiercest winds ceased on Aug. 29. Meanwhile, wheel loaders and other heavy equipment lined up at the Mandeville side of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. "We were getting ready to cross, and they told us to stop," Reine said. "The levees broke. So we weren't able to start until the next Monday." The workforce grew by the day, as Reine made contact with local subcontractors and out-of-towners when New Orleans-area crews couldn't be reached. Reine said this week that 60 percent of subcontractors are local, and more than half are minority-owned.

## Storm closes schools in parish — again

Today's classes are canceled for all Catholic schools in St. Tammany Parish, as well as for Cedarwood School in Mandeville, and Christ Episcopal School and Kehoe-France Northshore in Covington, because of bad weather expected from Hurricane Rita. Northlake Christian School near Covington and Our Lady of the Lake School in Mandeville are set to reopen Monday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit, and the parish's public schools tentatively plan to reopen Oct. 3. In addition, the St. Tammany Parish public school system has canceled its high school football games scheduled for tonight.

## Businesses ready, but lack workers

With displaced families taking over relatives' spare bedrooms and out-of-town work crews settling in for months-long building projects, St. Tammany Parish's booming population has almost all the makings of a boon for many local industries.
Yet the missing piece – workers – could hinder north shore businesses for weeks or months to come, a state Department of Labor official said Thursday. Jim Heap, the department's business service representative for western St. Tammany, said the parish had the lowest unemployment rate in the state before Hurricane Katrina. Now, several results of the storm have exacerbated the difficulty of finding workers, including the chunk of the St. Tammany work force that didn't return from evacuation sites and the surging population of new residents needing supplies and services.
"If you have a skill, your 'hireability' is better, but right now they're just looking for warm bodies to fill their ranks," said Heap, who said his office had logged Web postings for 1,000 job openings in St. Tammany. "The employer community is at the point of desperation."

From staff reports

## 'This is not a tutoring service'

**SCHOOLS,** *from B-1*

St. Michael the Archangel School in Baton Rouge. New Orleans area students who remain there could be merged into the regular St. Michael student body, and others could move to Rummel and Chapelle, said the Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of archdiocese schools.

Maestri also said three West Bank schools — Archbishop Blenk, Immaculata and Archbishop Shaw — will reopen in October, and one of them could take on a second shift of displaced students, if needed.

"That is in play," Maestri said. "These things are very fluid. We just have to make sure we are flexible as we can be."

The archdiocese lists 15 Catholic high schools in New Orleans and one in St. Bernard Parish. Some of these schools, notably Jesuit in New Orleans, are working up their own plans for educating students elsewhere.

Still, a huge increase of students seems likely for Chapelle, which enrolled 1,089 students in 2004-05, and Rummel, which counted 1,345 in middle and high school grades. Joe Serio, admissions and public information director at Rummel, said a recent Internet announcement to gauge interest in the Rummel-Chapelle transitional plan yielded 4,000 responses, crippling his electronic mail account.

Catholic schools in St. Tammany Parish already have enrolled an extra 2,000 students since Katrina struck Aug. 29, a one-third increase in St. Tammany's Catholic school enrollment, Maestri said. Schools in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes also are reporting more students.

At Rummel on Thursday, crowds of parents and students gathered in the reception room to hear announcements from officials and sign up for the transitional school.

Nancy Hernandez, principal of the storm-closed Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, will serve as principal of the Rummel transitional school. She sought to assure parents that it will be a solid educational program.

"This is not a tutoring service," she said. "This is going to be six classes that they will be taking."

She also said the educators running the school will be sensitive to the myriad traumas the displaced students have experienced.

"It's going to be rough for many students," she said. "We will be worried and taking care of their emotional side as well as their academic side. You have our word on that."

Rummel President Michael Begg sought to assure parents that the transitional school will be able to complete a full semester, ending in January, because the month lost to Katrina is manageable, he said.

For students such as Matt Johnson, a sophomore from Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, the new setting at Rummel means a continuation of unusual circumstances.

Johnson and his parents have lived with his aunt in Baton Rouge and then in an apartment in Baton Rouge, all within the past four weeks. His father, Master Sgt. Gerald Johnson of the 1192nd U.S. Army Reserves, normally based in New Orleans but now operating from Baton Rouge, received orders to spend most of the past two weeks searching Louisiana for Katrina-displaced members of the military or their families.

With the family's house in Kenner in good shape and a possible return there by next week, Johnson now faces the prospect of attending Rummel, a longtime, fierce rival of his own Brother Martin on the playing fields and courts.

Still, he kept a positive outlook.

"At this time, we can't worry about that," he said.

Johnson said there could be some pluses to attending the transitional school. Particularly, it will be the first time since seventh grade that he has studied alongside girls.

"It's going to be different, now that we're older," he said.

## Ship provides doctors showers

**SHIP,** *from B-1*

and whether his alma mater, Benjamin Franklin Senior High School, still stood.

Lansden and his crew of 22 – all but four from the New Orleans area – had weathered Katrina inside the merchant marine vessel, docked at Port Marrero to have its broken engines repaired. The monstrous fast sealift ship had been stranded, unable to move out of the path of the storm.

But despite all the fatal punches Katrina threw Aug. 29, the electric light bulbs still glowed that night on the self-sustaining Navy craft. Freezers stayed cold. Drinking water spewed from spigots. Television and radio stations transmitted clearly.

And beneath Lansden, in Pollux's massive fuel tank, sloshed 771,000 gallons of diesel fuel. All around him, a floating city with showers and food and medical supplies endured without pause.

"God had spared us from the storm," Lansden said days later. "We were on a 946-foot vessel with no engine power, and we passed through his storm undamaged. We had this blessing, and it was our duty to reach out and help those that had been hurt, who were stuck on a roof, who had been medevaced and needed help from the hospitals."

The captain found his cellular phone, with a 617 area code from the ship's Massachusetts origin. With local telephone service severed and satellite communication inoperable, that cell phone worked, and Lansden asked his commanding officer for permission to use his ship as an emergency platform.

"I am from this area, and these are my people," he said. "I grew up knowing what their needs would be."

The response: Sit tight; wait for approval.

The sun set. Darkness cloaked the metropolitan area. But about a mile from the Pollux, a single beacon cut the black: West Jefferson Medical Center. "You could see the helicopters were coming in from the Chalmette area and landing at the West Jeff heliport," Lansden said.

Hours passed, and there was still no written authorization from the Navy. But Lansden's Buick LaSabre had survived the hurricane parked on the river levee. He called his port engineer, Chris Keefe. The pair waited for daylight.

Maneuvering the sedan around a maze of electrical lines and aluminum siding cleaved off giant oil field silos, they headed to the hospital, where 425 patients, more than 1,000 staff members and 500 of their relatives struggled with a dwindling stash of supplies, no water to flush the toilets and generators too weak to power the air conditioning.

"We had two days of fuel left," said Gary Muller, the public hospital's president, "and we didn't know if we would have a fuel truck coming."

The crew staffing the dialysis unit had its own problem: More than 40 patients in varying degrees of kidney failure needed toxins artificially cleared from their blood. The process requires potable water, said Dr. Craig Thompson, who was assigned to the unit that day. But the public water system was broken.

The Pollux, able to cruise at nearly 38 miles per hour and carry 55,350 tons when fully loaded, was not designed to distribute fuel. So Lansden left West Jefferson with engineers from the Louisiana National Guard and headed to the Kinder Morgan pipeline field in Harvey, where workers got started rigging an outflow device that would siphon his ship's diesel into tanker trucks.

Meanwhile, a team of doctors went to the Pollux to survey its labyrinthine interior for any space that might accommodate a pair of 200-pound machines to service patients who had gone four or five days without dialysis. One man, Thompson said, had gained 16 pounds in water since his last treatment.

The doctors needed plenty of water to pump through the devices and enough space for grown men too weak to stand to receive their remedy: the laundry room. They went to work turning it into a medical facility.

Hours later, outside the ship, tankers started lining up along River Road to receive, at no cost, diesel fuel for generators that would sustain emergency workers through the first tenuous hours of rebuilding a region torn asunder by nature's deadly force. Ten thousand gallons left the Pollux that day.

The first trucks carried extra diesel to West Jefferson hospital. The queue was joined by Jefferson Parish Volunteer Fire Department trucks, including the ones that would be called upon in the coming days to save Oakwood Shopping Center in Gretna from vandals' flames.

As word spread of the gasoline cache, Jefferson government vehicles lined up behind the firetrucks. "We were desperate for fuel," Parish President Aaron Broussard said. The gas powered the parish's Emergency Operations Center in Marrero and East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie.

With tankers lined up for blocks and the Navy's official approval of Lansden's request finally sent by fax, doctors and nurses pushed two wheelchair-bound men to the curb at West Jefferson, Thompson said.

They were set up by 4 p.m. Four hours later, the treatment was complete. The men shed more than a dozen pounds of water in the Pollux's laundry room, according to Thompson, and narrowly escaped having to be hooked up to ventilators to push oxygen into their increasingly poisoned blood.

"I don't know that they would have made it to the next day," the surgeon said.

The following morning, buses arrived to transfer the remaining dialysis patients to fully equipped medical facilities outside the storm zone. That Wednesday, another 25,000 gallons of fuel were turned out.

As the days progressed, Lansden kept close track of his fuel's destination, feeding only medical facilities, government vehicles and essential military outposts, including Naval Support Activity in Algiers and the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base at Belle Chasse.

Federal Emergency Management Agency trucks showed up at the Pollux Sept. 4, nearly a week after Katrina. "They showed up and, no kidding, they nudged in front and said, 'We're FEMA,'" said Air Force Maj. Sean Conroy of the 159th Fighter Wing and the Louisiana Air National Guard's liaison officer in Jefferson Parish.

"Robert said, 'Nope. My ship,' and sent them to the end of the line," Conroy said. A FEMA spokeswoman could not comment on the events of Sept. 4 except to say her agency arrived that day in Jefferson to support state relief efforts.

The Pollux continued to fuel an untold number of tankers and opened a deck with showers, beds and hot meals to West Jefferson doctors, nurses and other staffers, according to Lansden, Jefferson government officials and hospital personnel.

As its diesel supplies dwindled in the three weeks after the storm, two merchant marine ships cruised down the Mississippi to reload the 1.2 million-gallon tank with 336,000 more gallons. As of Thursday, the Pollux had distributed 880,000 gallons of free diesel, the captain said.

Across the New Orleans area, word spread of the Pollux, the giant diesel lifeline sitting on engines so crippled they could not push the ship out of Katrina's path. Broussard called Lansden a "real military hero" and invited a network television crew to film his visit to the vessel to thank the captain.

Lansden promised to keep pumping fuel as long as recovery teams work to resurrect the city that was blown apart just outside his ship.

"When these lights went out and it was dark, there was nothing to do but try to make a difference out there," he said. "Tonight, when it gets dark, you're going to look out and see the lights on."

## Arrest pending for Kenner aide

**FLOYD,** *from B-1*

all personnel except for the Legal, Fire and Police departments. His annual salary is $82,522.

Capt. Steve Caraway, a Police Department spokesman, said officers informed Floyd's attorney of the arrest warrant and were told Floyd would turn himself in for booking. Malfeasance in office, a felony, occurs when a public official uses the power of his office to commit a crime.

Earlier Thursday, Floyd disputed allegations that he usurped loads of supplies intended for Hurricane Katrina victims, saying he was merely a conduit for moving the supplies from a city-run relief site to a Kenner church that would later distribute them to needy people in the Susan Park neighborhood.

"We gave stuff in bulk," he said. "What is too much?"

Floyd said the items were destined for Mark Mitchell, pastor of New Hope Community Church, and Mitchell agreed.

"We just kept missing each other to get these goods," Mitchell said Thursday.

On two earlier occasions, Floyd took donated goods to Mitchell instead of requiring the pastor to go to the city distribution center at 25th Street and Williams Boulevard, both men said.

Military officials who had been working at the distribution site initiated the complaint against Floyd.

State Attorney General Charles Foti's office is assisting Kenner police in the investigation.

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com

## West Bank floods not expected

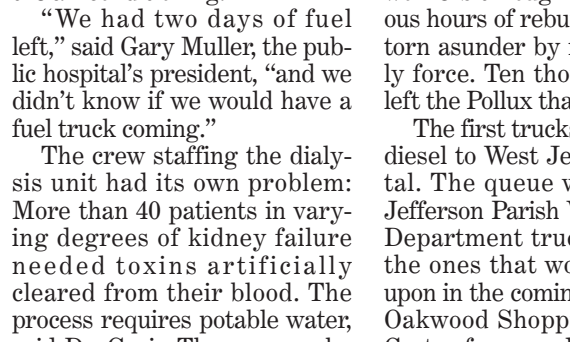
**LEVEE,** *from B-1*

Jackson said.

The West Bank levees will be repaired before high water season, typically starting in December, corps spokesman John Hall said.

"The issue is to get the job done before high water season," Hall said. "That's when it would become a concern."

Charlie Conrad, whose Algiers home is a block from the broken levee, said he was concerned about storm surge from Rita. Katrina's surge and wind left a debris line about four feet from the top of the levee, well above where the barges punched through the slope paving, he said.



Three barges lashed together were thrown by Hurricane Katrina into the Mississippi River levee near Lennox Drive in Algiers.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

"That worries me that the concrete's broken, that if we get another storm and get a surge, it would undermine the levee," Conrad said.

Jerry Spohrer, executive director of the West Jefferson Levee District, said Rita was not expected to create surge in the Mississippi like Katrina did. Slope paving, he said, serves as a hardened surface that prevents erosion, river debris and vessels from damaging the earthen levee underneath during high water seasons and worked as intended during Katrina.

"The slope paving in and of itself doesn't provide flood protection," Spohrer said. "The levee itself provides the flood protection."

Conrad, who returned home Sunday, saw the barges standing out above the levee and another one four blocks away that sat atop the levee.

The barges were among numerous river vessels that were tossed by Katrina, including the two ferries that were grounded just downstream from the Algiers ferry landing.

The Coast Guard did not have a count of vessels that were tossed ashore during Katrina.

"There are so many of them," Petty Officer 1st Class Michael O'Berry said, adding that Coast Guard salvage teams would notify vessel owners about moving them.

None of the grounded vessels threatened Mississippi River traffic, but the Coast Guard has been keeping an eye on Hurricane Rita and any surge that could come with it.

"Right now, we're not anticipating that, but that could change with Rita," O'Berry said.

Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net

## Park to be built at Hahnville site

**RV PARK,** *from B-1*

begin) in a few days."

The park will be built at Eual J. Landry Alternative Center in Hahnville and will accommodate as many as 68 RVs.

The park is scheduled to be opened for six months, with a possible three-month extension. All costs for the setup, utilities and eventual removal of the units will be picked up by FEMA. FEMA also will provide security and maintenance for the trailers and grounds for the duration of the project.

With little temporary housing in the parish to begin with and an influx of thousands of residents displaced from the New Orleans area, the park seemingly was an inevitable solution for the district.

Many teachers extended a hand to colleagues who had lost their homes, but it was not enough, said Assistant Superintendent Felecia Gomez. "There were still 50 displaced teachers," Gomez said.

Now those 50 displaced teachers and their families will be allowed to live in the trailers.

Each unit is built to house up to four people, Sesser said.

"They are self-contained," Sesser said. "Each has a bedroom, bathroom and living area."

Completion of the project should take about seven days, Sesser said.

"I'm just pleased this is happening for our teachers that had no place to go," said board member Cindy Brasher. "I wish they were bigger, but you have to work with what they give you."

# Bucktown took it on the chin, but many say they'll rebuild

*Wind took Sid-Mar's, tops of some homes*

By Bob Ross
East Jefferson bureau

Frank Schwartz sits on a barstool inside Daiquiri & Creams Deli in Bucktown, nursing a beer and staring at the television. He is in no rush to finish the beer. He has no place in particular to go.

"I lost everything I own," he said, with no trace of emotion. "I live day by day."

Schwartz, 58, was smacked with a double blow by Hurricane Katrina, which pounded Bucktown with ferocious winds and mostly minor flooding.

Like the landmark Sid-Mar's restaurant, which was blown off its pilings on Lake Pontchartrain and swept away to parts unknown, Schwartzís nearby apartment bore the brunt of the storm's fury. Katrina blew the roof off the Carrollton Avenue building and destroyed all his possessions.

He stayed at a friend's house to ride out the rest of the big blow on Aug. 29, likening his adventure to the Three Little Pigs: "I left the straw house and went straight to the brick house, man."

Later that day, with 40 mph winds still blowing at 11 a.m., he went out to the 17th Street Canal to check on his 30-foot Lafitte skiff.

"But it was gone, brother. Just nothing but a big pile of debris up against the bridge."

Standing on the levee with a friend looking at the debris in the canal, Schwartz said, one thought immediately came to mind: "Life as I know it is gone."

Now, 3 weeks later, Schwartz said he still hasn't seen even a piece of debris that he recognizes as part of the boat he used for commercial fishing. His other job, at Schaeffer's seafood restaurant, is also on hold because of storm damage.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Pilings and rubble are all that remain of Sid-Mar's restaurant, a Bucktown landmark. Wind proved to be more of a threat to the fishing village than water.

There are plenty of other people dealing with serious damage in Bucktown, the fishing village that has grown up where the lake meets the canal.

While the breach from the canal poured water east into New Orleans, not west into Bucktown, many Bucktown homes still took on anywhere from one inch to two feet of water. And the wind damage, particularly close to the lake, was fierce in spots. Several apartment buildings lost all or most of their top floor.

Trees and limbs were littered everywhere, and some older slate roofs were peeled off in spots.

Edward Lestrade, 84, said he was surprised by the damage to the slate roof on his Seminole Avenue home. The big, brown brick corner house had two different tarps to cover up exposed portions of the roof on Thursday, as Lestrade walked barefooted around his property to ensure he was ready for Hurricane Ritaís rain.

"Right now, I kind of wish the storm had just taken it out completely," he said of Katrina. "There's so much to do."

Closer to West Esplanade Avenue, water was often a bigger problem than wind.

Kim Wilkerson had about three inches of water inside her Nursery Avenue home. Her daughter, whose home two blocks away had two feet of water, tried to describe the damage in the neighborhood while Wilkerson was in Tennessee. But Wilkerson said she was still shocked when she arrived back in Bucktown earlier this week.

"You just look around, and you keep wanting to come across a block you know, that you recognize," she said. "But as you keep driving, that block never comes."

Jefferson Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella said Bucktown fared pretty well from a flooding perspective but was hit harder than many east bank neighborhoods by the wind. Sid-Marís, for example..

"That's kind of like a symbol of the area," Capella said. "But there's just no sign of it anymore. It is just gone."

But Capella said residents he has talked to are rebuilding, and those still evacuated are ready to return.

"No disrespect to these other areas, but people say they want to eat their crawfish here."

Capella said he has also heard, through back channels, that the folks at Sid-Mar's plan to rebuild in Bucktown.

That's also the plan for Malik Masood, owner of Seminole Convenience Store. Masood and his daughter were cleaning the front of the business on Thursday, getting ready for a health department inspection. Despite roof damage to the rear of the business, he is ready and eager to open.

Operating the 10-year-old store will keep his mind off his other store (destroyed) on Fleur de Lis just across the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans and his Metairie home (flooded).

He even manages to joke about the looters who took virtually all of the $26,000 to $28,000 in stock inside the Bucktown shop: "Everyone has a profession to do, so they just do their profession, which is stealing things," he said.

And although it might be easy to give up, Masood said, he refuses to do that.

Resiliency also is a part of Frank Schwartz, who said he was born in a fishing camp on the 17th Street Canal and will do what it takes to rebuild his life in Bucktown.

"There's a lot of work, and I'm getting old," he said, as his eyes started to twinkle just a bit. "But I'll do it."

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# Lafitte mayor's father dies

## *Storms force funeral to be delayed*

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank bureau

With damage caused by Hurricane Katrina yet to be repaired and the threat of Hurricane Rita on the horizon, Jean Lafitte Mayor Tim Kerner has had his hands full trying to take care of the 1,500 people living in the bayou town.

But Kerner has the added burden of grieving for his father, Leo Kerner Jr., the founder and first mayor of Jean Lafitte, who died Sunday in Baton Rouge. Leo Kerner, 81, had heart disease.

Tim Kerner has been so busy trying to deal with the storms that he delayed funeral services for his father. Services are set for Monday, barring further complications from Rita.

Kerner recently cut his work day from 18 hours to 16 or 17 hours. He has been sleeping on a cot in his office.

"He's an extraordinary person, dealing with the hurricanes while suffering the loss of his dad," said Yvette Crain, the mayor's secretary at Town Hall. "He's been worrying about everybody else, whether they have electricity and things like that."

Police Chief Mary Jo Hargis, who like Kerner has worked long days since Katrina, said that under similar circumstances, she doesn't know whether she could function as well as the mayor has.

Ironically, Kerner said, he got to see his father before he died because of hurricane-related duties.

"I'd gone to see him earlier for a couple of hours at the Baton Rouge General (Hospital), and I wanted to go back, but everybody needed me here," Kerner said. "Then Congressman William Jefferson's office had arranged for the town to get the use of a Dodge truck. It had to be picked up in Baton Rouge, so me and my wife made the trip up there, and I went to see Dad. Just before we got there he had fallen across his bed. He was in and out of consciousness, and he died 14 hours later."

Leo Kerner was a justice of the peace from 1960 to 1981 and was instrumental in incorporating the fishing village into the town of Jean Lafitte. He was elected its first mayor in 1974 and served until 1991, when his son took over. The elder Kerner served as a member of the Town Council from 1991 until his death.



**Leo Kerner Jr.**
First mayor of Jean Lafitte died Sunday

"Before the creation of the town, we had gravel roads here, people got their water from cisterns, and the schools were terrible," Tim Kerner said. "There wouldn't be a Jean Lafitte without my dad."

Their town was battered by Katrina, and officials were preparing Thursday for what Rita might bring.

On Thursday, Kerner called for a voluntary evacuation, although he said he's cautiously optimistic that Jean Lafitte will not be severely impacted if Rita hits far enough west.

"They're expecting 3- to 5-foot tides, and we could handle that, although there might be some flooding in the low-lying areas outside the levees," he said. "But we're working to sandbag any gaps in the levees right now, we've got four 12-inch pumps ready to go, and we're picking up debris along the side streets. We've done a good job on picking up the debris so far."

Even though 30 residents were left homeless by Katrina, the town has been able to get supplies of water, food and ice from outside agencies, he said. "I know there are people a lost worse off than us."

In addition to his son Tim, Leo Kerner is survived by four other sons, Charles, Larry, Willie and Leo Kerner III; a daughter, Thelma Judice; a sister, Ida Mae Zar; and a companion, Amy Thompson.

A Mass will be said Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Anthonyís Church, 2653 Jean Lafitte Blvd., Lafitte. Visitation will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, and Monday beginning at 9 a.m. at St. Anthony's Church. Burial will be at Westlawn Memorial Park, 1225 Whitney Ave., Terrytown.

# 73-year-old evacuee is freed from jail

## *Grandmother laughs at looting allegation*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

When Merlene Maten left her Kenner hotel room Aug. 30, she claims she was hoping just to grab clothes and food from her car before rising floodwaters made it inaccessible.

But instead of a quick trip to the car, Maten took a 17-day odyssey to various jails and a state penitentiary after a Kenner police officer accused the 73-year old, diabetic grandmother of looting a nearby grocery store for beer and sausages.

**"In this particular case when the law is broken and witnessed by police, we have a duty to uphold the law. We have a duty to enforce the law (against) looting."**
CAPT. STEVE CARAWAY
Kenner Police Department spokesman

Now free on her own recognizance after national news organizations brought attention to her plight, she awaits an Oct. 14 trial date for the looting charge. Maten, who evacuated from her New Orleans home, is staying with relatives in Breaux Bridge.

Attorney Daniel Becnel III of LaPlace said his client has several witnesses who will say she had her own food and had no need to steal from a store. He said his focus is on getting the charges against Maten dismissed.

Maten's journey, which included mandatory tours of the Kenner and Gretna jails, as well as a stop at a temporary New Orleans jail at the Greyhound bus terminal, began at about 9:30 a.m. on the Tuesday after Katrina hit.

Maten said a Kenner police officer demanded that she come to his car after he spotted her rooting through her car for supplies she took with her when she and her ill, 80-year-old husband evacuated on Sunday. After wading to the squad car, Maten said the officer accused her of kicking in the glass of a nearby store and looting it along with several other individuals earlier that morning.

Kenner Police Department spokesman Capt. Steve Caraway said officers saw Maten leave a store near the Kenner police station with beer and sausages. The officers applied the same looting laws that were used for others, he said.

"In this particular case when the law is broken and witnessed by police, we have a duty to uphold the law," Caraway said. "We have a duty to enforce the law (against) looting."

But Maten firmly denies ever leaving the hotel with her husband after they arrived. Although she admits to picking up a package of sausage she saw floating by her car along with other debris, she said she also brought her own sausage and other food when she evacuated.

Maten, a church deaconess, said she doesn't even drink alcohol.

"I don't even know where no store or nothing is around here," said Maten, who laughed at the idea of her 5-foot-2, 154-pound frame breaking down anyone's door.

Maten was placed in a holding cell at the Kenner; bail was set at $50,000. She said officers never allowed her to notify her husband that she was being taken into custody and that he sat in their room convinced something horrible had happened to her.

Maten said she was transferred to the Gretna jail and then to the temporary New Orleans jail. She ended up at the St. Gabriel Correctional Facility for Women, where she spent 11 days housed with about 40 to 50 other alleged looters.

At St. Gabriel, Maten said she and other inmates had regular prayer service and that she served as a de-facto counselor to many of the women, who referred to her as "grandma" or "mother" when they asked her to pray for them. She said her advice seemed to soothe some inmates.

# Kenner seeking trailers to house workers

## *Lottery system to be used to distribute homes*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Kenner is trying to secure 100 trailers for city employees and will allocate them through a lottery system, Mayor Phil Capitano's chief of staff Phil Ramon told the Kenner City Council Thursday.

Ramon said the city expects to receive $2 million from FEMA to buy trailers, as well as reimbursement for the 26 that the city has already purchased from a Baton Rouge company.

The first city-purchased trailers were distributed mainly to police officers and government workers who didn't evacuate and had available space for a trailer, deputy Chief Administrative Officer Carol Luna said.

Now, the city will begin a lottery that distributes temporary homes to police officers first, then firefighters, then city workers.

Ramon added that the city has opted to join Jefferson Parish in asking for a total of 4,000 trailers and is working to secure sites to locate trailers.

Kenner City Councilman Dominic Weilbaecher asked if city workers would be penalized if they can't return to work soon.

Ramon said all but 50 city workers returned when asked last Wednesday. Ramon said workers who have not returned can use vacation or comp time, but won't get paid if they don't have any of that time left.

"As for penalties, it hasn't even been discussed," Ramon said. "Our position is we want them to return to work as quickly and as safely as they possibly can."

He said employees should report to supervisors and can be put on a list if they need a trailer.

• • • •

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com.

# Federal aid, teacher retention is called key in Plaquemines

## *6 of parish's 9 schools damaged by Katrina*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer

The fate of Plaquemines Parish's public education system depends on retaining the school district's employees and getting financial aid from the federal government, Superintendent Jim Hoyle said.

Hurricane Katrina damaged six of the parish's nine schools, possibly beyond repair, but plans are to resume classes Oct. 17 at Belle Chasse Primary, Belle Chasse Middle and Belle Chasse High schools, Hoyle said Wednesday.

Plaquemines students, including those displaced from schools in Phoenix, Port Sulphur, Buras and Boothville, and those who have relocated to the parish, will be welcomed to the three Belle Chasse campuses, Hoyle said.

Belle Chasse Middle School also sustained damage, but if its roof is not repaired by Oct. 17, those students will be temporarily relocated to the high school, Hoyle said.

The district may also platoon students, he said. Platooning involves having students and staff use a school in a morning and an afternoon shift, basically doubling a school's capacity.

"I think people will have to understand: In Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and maybe parts of Jefferson, it's a survival game right now," Hoyle said. "We're fighting for our lives."

Critical to survival is financial aid, Hoyle said. "What kind of a sales tax is there? What kind of property tax? Essentially, they are nonexistent right now," he said.

"We need state help, we need federal help," he said. "We will not make it without the federal government."

State education officials have been supportive, but the district is looking to the federal government for major financial aid, which is needed quickly, Hoyle said.

"We'd like our answers yesterday, but we know it's a legislative process," he said, adding that money is needed to pay the district's employees and to provide benefits.

"What complicates that is most of these people lost everything," he said.

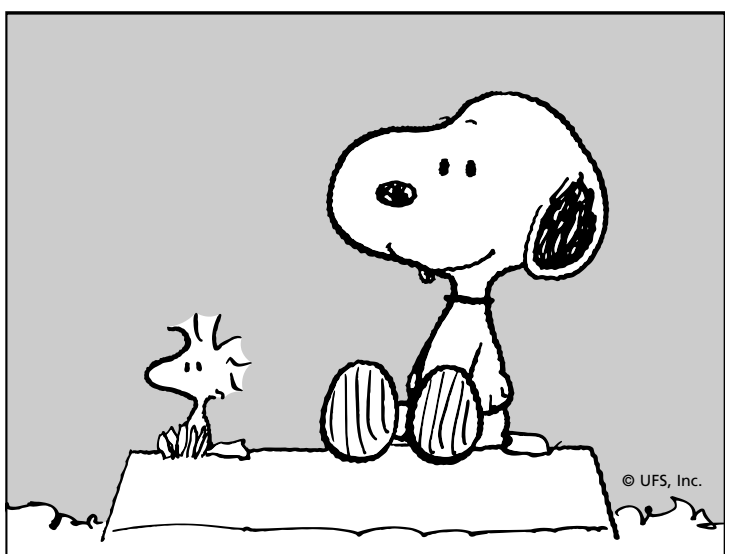
About half the district's employees lived in the southern half of the parish, which was the first part of the state hit by Katrina, he said. The loss included several apartment buildings operated by the Plaquemines Parish School Board for teachers, one of the devices the district used to attract and retain teachers in remote areas.

"We had great academics," Hoyle said, adding that the district's test scores were in the state's upper ranks and improving. "That's why I want to retain our people."

Buildings will be the next concern, he said. Three weeks after the storm, Phoenix High School still has water. Boothville-Venice High School, built on concrete pilings 18 feet off the ground after the old building was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy, still had 16 feet of water from a storm surge that entered the first floor, he said.

But Hoyle said school and parish officials learned from mistakes made after Betsy in 1965. Schools were slow to reopen and they lost their professional staffs.

"We've got to retain our teachers," he said.




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# Levee Board chief got thousands in back pay

## *Opinions differ on his eligibility*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Less than a month before Hurricane Katrina wrecked the Orleans Levee Board's finances and left the levees it maintains in shambles, board President Jim Huey requested and got nearly $100,000 in back pay that the agency's hired legal advisers — one of whom is a relative of his wife -- determined he was entitled to receive.

The payment for about $96,000, which was made without approval from the board or its staff attorney, came on the advice of Gerard Metzger and George Carmouche, two contract lawyers with close ties to Huey, who was originally appointed by former Gov. Edwin Edwards in 1992 and reappointed by Govs. Mike Foster and Kathleen Blanco. Carmouche, of Baton Rouge, is a first cousin of Huey's wife, Becky Metzger of Metairie, and has been a close friend of Huey's since the two attended high school together at Holy Cross.

After cursory research, board officials indicated several months ago that Huey, who has no formal administrative duties, was not eligible for any compensation beyond the $75 per diem that board members can receive for each day they work on agency business.

State lawmakers also rejected the extra pay for Huey. In the waning hours of the Legislature's 2005 session, state Sen. Francis Heitmeier, a Huey ally, tried unsuccessfully to make Huey eligible for a $60,000 annual salary by inserting the pay provision into an unrelated piece of legislation.

In a memo obtained by The Times-Picayune that was sent to Levee Board managing director Max Hearn about two weeks after the Legislature adjourned, Huey wrote that he had been informed that an earlier legal interpretation of state law rejecting his efforts to be paid a salary "was misconstrued."

Huey noted in the July 8 memo that while the agency "has a huge staff and an executive director who deals with day-to-day operations, I still spend a great deal of time discussing policy matters, signing contracts and holding meetings dealing with levee district operations."

Huey has also said that the job of president had gotten increasingly time-consuming since he took the helm, with the board taking on a variety of initiatives, ranging from the now-dormant effort to privatize Lakefront Airport, the construction of a new administration building and the rebuilding of Lakeshore Drive.

In the memo, Huey said, "the functions that I perform are administrative and clearly fall within the purview" of a state law that permits the presidents of other levee boards to collect a $1,000-a-month salary.

"I elect to draw the salary," Huey wrote, retroactive to June 19, 1996, the day he was chosen board president. Huey instructed Hearn to deduct all per-diem payments he had received through that date and to halt the per-diem pay immediately and initiate a regular monthly payment of $1,000 beginning July 19.

Contacted in Baton Rouge, where board officials have relocated temporarily and were preparing Thursday to hold their first post-Katrina meeting, Huey expressed anger and disbelief that The Times-Picayune would inquire about such a "minimal" issue while his agency and the entire state were scrambling to recover from a disaster and bracing for the approach of Hurricane Rita.

Huey, who labeled the payment "legitimate," charged that his board has been subjected to "horrible news coverage" in the weeks after Katrina laid waste to Lakefront Airport, the Belle of Orleans casino boat and much of the agency's other sources of revenue. Huey said he "probably" would resign after the payments become public.

"My heart has dropped. I've devoted so much of my time, effort and life to this place and now in the middle of a crisis when I haven't slept in days, I can't believe I have to deal with an issue like this when I've got all this going on," Huey said. "Look, I know it has to be addressed, and it would have been addressed at the proper time."

While he doesn't believe the salary requires approval from the full board, Huey said he had planned to seek ratification from his colleagues at a future meeting. Huey said he couldn't remember the exact amount of money he had received, but recalled that he netted about $57,000 after taxes.

Lacking paperwork, Hearn couldn't cite a specific figure, but said that $96,000 "was in the ballpark." He confirmed that Huey was paid the $1,000 salary in July, August and September.

Carmouche could not provide a copy of his legal opinion, but said he prepared the document after consulting face-to-face with state Attorney General Charles Foti. Carmouche said Foti, who could not be reached for comment, agreed there was legal precedent for Huey to collect the salary.

A key factor in his recommendation, Carmouche said, was his belief that Huey had earned the money over the past decade.

"He did the work without compensation," Carmouche said. "He was entitled to it.'


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# Congregants once were lost, but now are found

## *Churches locate scattered members*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

The same winds that shattered New Orleans neighborhoods scattered its faith communities, and in the weeks following the storm, once-solid New Orleans churches are struggling to reconstitute themselves worshipping in new, unfamiliar cities.

The rebuilding presents enormous challenges to displaced pastors struggling to find hundreds of church members scattered across the country. For those pastors, the stake is material as well as pastoral; most relied on their congregations for a significant part of their personal income.

In places such as Baton Rouge, Houston and Atlanta, displaced New Orleans pastors are locating a few score of their former church members and holding worship services in borrowed churches or university student centers.

Many are making plans to put down temporary roots in new cities, usually with an eye toward re-entering New Orleans as soon as possible.

"This is going to be a Herculean task. I've got people in 34 states: Denver, Oklahoma, Washington, you name it," said the Rev. Willie Gable of Progressive Baptist Church, once a Central City church of about 400 members.

In Houston, New Light Christian Center has devoted a portion of its Web site, www.newlight.org, to a listing of New Orleans pastorsí cell phone numbers so congregants can find them.

But that has proved to be a tool of limited usefulness.

Instead, pastors have found that the dense, thickly textured social networks that held their church members together is largely self-healing. Scattered church members are finding each other and their pastors by word of mouth, facilitated by cell phones and text messaging, many said.

"Church networks are very, very powerful. I think politicians don't understand just how efficient they are," said the Rev. Antoine Barriere of Household of Faith Full Gospel Baptist Church.

With Hurricane Katrina approaching Aug. 27, Barriere urged all the 1,000 members of his church to leave New Orleans. He launched word by cell phone that he and his family were headed for Houston.

When he arrived, he began to locate nearby church members and they began to locate him, he said. Word spread among church members hunkered down in Houston hotel rooms, relativesí homes and shelters that Barriere would conduct a worship service the following Sunday.

"The first couple of days, it was all text messaging," he said.

The first Sunday after the storm, about 80 members showed up for the first post-Katrina meeting of Household of Faith-in-exile, Barriere said. They prayed and sang together in Houston in the borrowed Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

By last week, the service had grown to 300, he said.

Some pastors have found themselves holding services for small bands of dispersed members in different cities every week since the storm.

Like some other pastors in the National Baptist Convention USA, the Rev. Charles Southall of First Emanuel Baptist Church kept a date to attend that denomination's annual convention in Atlanta the week after the storm. He located 50 or more First Emanuel members in Atlanta and worshipped with them, then returned to Houston to minister to First Emanuel members surfacing there, he said.

Bishop Paul S. Morton of Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, the largest congregation in New Orleans, is steering church members in Baton Rouge, Houston and Atlanta to nearby churches affiliated with the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship that Morton launched in the early 1990s.

At present, Morton or his wife, co-pastor Debra Morton, plan to provide weekend services in each city for Greater St. Stephen members, spokeswoman Angela Young said.

"I tell them we may not be able to come together in a church building but we're still a church," said the Rev. C.S. Gordon, who traveled from Dallas to Baton Rouge to hold a service last week with members of his New Zion Baptist Church. They met in the student center at Southern University, he said.

For all, the larger question is: Now what? What will these scattered communities look like in 30, 60 or 90 days?

Most pastors, such as Southall, Gordon and Gable, hope to stabilize their remnant churches close to New Orleans, often in Baton Rouge, building around a core of displaced members from New Orleans.

Southall said that, psychologically, the remnant church he hopes to nourish in Baton Rouge is merely a satellite location of his First Emanuel in New Orleans, until the congregation can return.

Some already have enrolled their children in schools in Houston or Atlanta, and will have to reconstitute their churches as best they can while anchored where they are.

Financially, the pastors are sometimes in as much economic trouble as their displaced flocks.

"I'm poor, but not broke yet," said Gable, who left New Orleans with one suit and a few changes of casual clothes. "I thought I'd be gone just a few days," he said.

Yet by many standards, Gable is lucky. His wife's job with a nonprofit foundation can be done from Baton Rouge as well as New Orleans. And Gable also pastors Macedonia Baptist Church in Hammond, which was unaffected by the storm.

Even so, Gable is digging deep into his credit card reserves, he said.

Ahead is nothing but uncertainty, many pastors said.

It was not clear when hundreds of small and mid-sized churches, and their neighborhoods, might be ready to be reoccupied. Nor does anyone know how many families who fled will come back, and how many will make new lives elsewhere.

"None of really know who we've lost," Gordon said. "We may not know until sometime next year.

"I'm starting all over," he said. "I know most of us are."

# 3 looting arrests made in St. Bernard

**By Bob Warren**
Staff Writer

Three people were arrested Wednesday for looting in St. Bernard Parish, the first looting arrests in the parish since Hurricane Katrina tore through Aug. 29, authorities said.

The three were booked after deputies stopped them on Paris Road Wednesday night and spotted dirty tools in their vehicle, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Steve Cannizaro said.

Cannizaro said deputies had earlier received reports of a vehicle seen driving through the Lexington Place subdivision in Meraux. Cannizaro said no one should be in the parish, which is closed to residents due to the threat of Hurricane Rita in the Gulf of Mexico.

The vehicle, a Chevrolet truck pulling a trailer carrying lawn care equipment, was stopped on Paris Road, and the trio inside could not explain why they had been driving through Lexington Place, Cannizaro said.

One of the three inside the truck, Paul Taylor, 33, 2708 Nunez Drive, Meraux, owns a lawn care business.

But in addition to the lawn care equipment, deputies noticed a laundry basket full of messy tools that appeared to have been taken from areas that flooded, Cannizaro said. During a search, deputies also found 3 ounces of cocaine.

Cannizaro said deputies believe the trio stole the tools from area residences.

Taylor, and Louis Jones, 38, and Temikia Jones, 31, both of 2609 Guerra Drive, Violet, were booked with looting and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Nearly all of St. Bernard Parish flooded during Hurricane Katrina, and parish officials have worked tirelessly to drain the parish and clear the streets to enable residents to return to view their homes and salvage valuables. A plan to allow residents back to certain sections of the parish was put on hold this week after Hurricane Rita entered the Gulf.

"People shouldn't think we're not enforcing the law right now because we're in emergency mode," St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack Stephens said.

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# Some students must get to school on their own

## *St. Charles lacks enough buses for all*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Displaced students who attend private schools in St. Charles Parish will have to find their own ride to school for the time being, according to the transportation operations coordinator for the public school district.

With a projected influx of more than 1,600 displaced students, the district will have its hands full transporting the new students to school and currently does not have enough buses or drivers to provide service to the almost 400 displaced students that now attend private schools in St. Charles Parish.

St. Charles Parish Public School District currently provides daily transportation to 300 students attending Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Norco, St. Charles Borromeo School in Destrehan and Boutte Christian Academy, said Gary Martin, transportation operations coordinator for the school system.

The district is reimbursed the cost of transporting private-school students by the state, Martin explained, and it will continue to provide transportation to the private-school students who were enrolled before the hurricane. But, he said, the district cannot handle additional students at those schools.

St. Charles Borromeo reported to St. Charles that it received more than 300 new students.

"I'm sure the other schools have more students, too,î Martin said. "We don't have enough buses in our fleet (to accommodate the extra students)."

The districtís fleet of 150 buses provides transportation to 8,500 students daily, Martin said.

St. Charles ordered 18 additional buses.

"So far we've only received two," Martin explained. "Every district in the state has an influx of new students and has ordered more buses."

And even if St. Charles gets the additional buses, it does not have enough people to operate them.

"So far I have only been able to recruit two new drivers," Martin said. "I have tried to contact Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes in an attempt to hire new drivers."

Martin said he was encouraged that only about 400 students registered for district schools on the first official day of formal registration Wednesday.

"Only one-third registered," Martin said. "Friday afternoon Iíll have a firm understanding of what we are facing next week."

Kim Babineaux, administrator at Boutte Christian Academy, said she was unaware of the district's decision not to provide bus service to the new students.

"That hasn't impacted us as of yet," said Babineaux. The school currently has 11 new displaced students in addition to the 264 students who attended the school before Katrina.

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The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

B-7
Friday
September 23, 2005

# You have been warned: Watch out for fraud

*Contractors may prey on storm victims*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

With at least 360,0000 residences in the metro New Orleans area suffering "extreme to moderate" damage from Hurricane Katrina, building experts and insurance investigators are urging consumers to beware of rip-off contractors who may try to take advantage of storm victims.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau has established a Baton Rouge office and, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police, is investigating complaints of both unscrupulous contractors and consumers who may turn in bogus claims, said Fred Stadtler, a special agent with the NICB, an association representing more than 1,000 auto, homeowner and commercial insurance companies.

"A major portion of the population is going to get fleeced," said Philip Hoffman, president of the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans and owner of Hoffman Custom Built Homes of LaPlace.

Hoffman said that after a disaster like Katrina, unlicensed workers often move into the area and go door to door trying to line up jobs with desperate homeowners.

One problem is that the massive reconstruction effort will require more builders than Louisiana has. Hoffman said reconstruction could require as many as 100,000 workers to get the job done. But members of the Home Builders Association normally employ just 10,000. And many licensed contractors in the metro area are now shorthanded because crew members have evacuated, lost their homes, or are out of contact.

The labor shortage could worsen if Hurricane Rita introduces a new round of devastation.

Local and state governments are establishing new policies and procedures to prevent rip-off contractors.Some parishes and the state are setting up streamlined licensing processes so all out-of-state workers will be checked out before they begin work, Hoffman said.

And recently passed legislation means more contractors must obtain a state license. Until 2003, only general contractors performing work valued at $50,000 or more were required to have a state general contractor license. But that year, the Legislature passed a law requiring contractors performing jobs valued at $7,500 or more to have a license through the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. The board also licenses mold remediation contractors and includes on its Web site, www.lslbc.state.la.us, information on state licensing requirements.

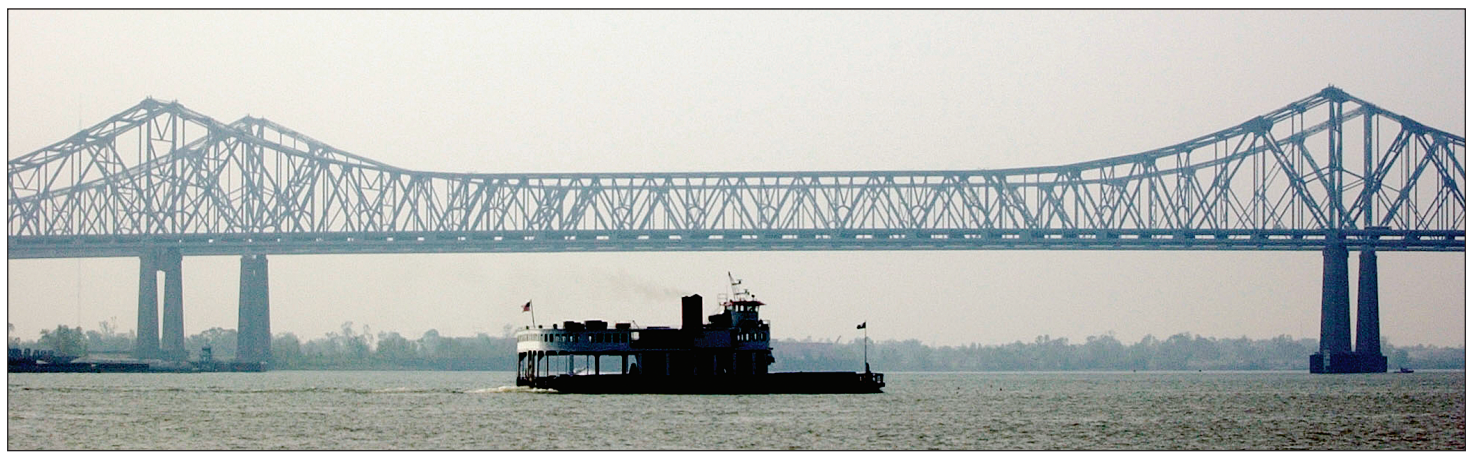
Stadtler recommends that consumers demand to see a contractor's state license, check references, even if the contractor is from out of state, read contracts carefully, pay invoices for work completed and never give a down payment of more than 10 percent for materials. He also advised to carefully watch out for the theft of delivered buildings materials.

Consumers with contractor problems should call (866) 310-7879 or send e-mail to complaints@lslbc.louisiana.gov. Consumers can verify a contractor's license at the same phone number.

# Dock Board assesses port's future

*30% of facilities wiped out by storm*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Across an empty river, the Algiers ferry makes its way to Canal Street on Tuesday. The Port of New Orleans terminals along the Mississippi River were largely spared damage from Katrina.

The Port of New Orleans is operating at 15 to 20 percent of its capacity, the port's president and chief executive, Gary LaGrange, said Thursday during the first Dock Board meeting since Hurricane Katrina halted activity at the port.

The meeting is one sign that the port is attempting to return to business.

"The day after the storm, everybody was telling us it would take six months to start up again," LaGrange said.

Instead, the port has set six months from now as its goal to return to 100 percent capacity. Seventy percent capacity could be reached in three months, he said.

In a sign of recovery, five ships were docked at the port Thursday waiting to be unloaded. Already a container ship, steel ship and several barges have been worked at the port by crews living on military ships docked at an Uptown wharf.

Unfortunately, the ships in port Thursday could not be unloaded because of the threat of Hurricane Rita. They had to be tied down and instead will be unloaded Monday.

There are other challenges. For starters, about 30 percent of port's operating facilities were wiped out by the storm. Although terminals on the Mississippi River were largely spared, including the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal, facilities downriver and especially on the Industrial Canal were all but destroyed. Among them are the Maersk Sealand terminal and the New Orleans Cold Storage dockside warehouse on Jourdan Road.

"I would say that France Road and Jourdan Road are close to being a total loss," LaGrange said.

About 52 million pounds of chicken leg quarters were frozen in the cold storage warehouse when Katrina struck. The chicken parts, which normally are shipped frozen to countries around the world, are rotting in the New Orleans heat and have been condemned by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, said Mark Blanchard, the company's vice president. It will take three to four weeks to remove the chicken and clean the massive warehouse that housed it. The chicken will be taken to a landfill, Blanchard said.

"Business is certainly interrupted," he said.

New Orleans Cold Storage now is operating from its other offices in Houston and North Carolina, though the Houston office has been evacuated for Hurricane Rita.

Blanchard said his business could operate again in some fashion in November from another New Orleans warehouse on Alvar Street, which is smaller and has minimal damage. Since it is not a dockside facility, chicken stored there would have to be taken by truck to ships.

Meanwhile, nearly one month after Hurricane Katrina slammed ashore, there still are not enough truck drivers working at the port to haul cargo in and out. That is worrisome because truck drivers for the most part are mobile and can work from anywhere. LaGrange said some truck drivers might have permanently relocated.

"Truck drivers were hard to find before," LaGrange said. "That's a very vulnerable area now. Without trucks there are no ships. Without ships there are no jobs."

What's more, rail lines have been even slower than trucks to return.

Some, however, would say that the biggest obstacle will be in attracting customers back to the port whose cargo had been diverted to competing cities.

# State Farm assistance may require payback

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

If you got a $2,500 check from State Farm Insurance for living expenses incurred in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, you might not want to spend it all.

Unlike Allstate Insurance and other major insurers doing business in Louisiana, State Farm will be applying its standard deductible to such payments. That means most of the company's policyholders could wind up being asked to pay back a big chunk of the money.

In fact, a State Farm spokesman acknowledged that is the reason some of its customers have refused the assistance. With 35 percent of the market, State Farm is the largest residential insurer in Louisiana. The $2,500 payment is the only help many of the insurer's customers will get from State Farm for Katrina-related losses.

"Technically, if you have this advance, you are going to have to substantiate what your additional living expenses were, and if your only (covered) loss is the loss of use of your home, your deductible does come into play," said John Wiscaver, a spokesman for State Farm's catastrophe team.

State Sen. James David Cain, chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, said State Farm is making a "terrible decision.

"It is really not fair to the people of Louisiana to do that," said Cain, who has been sharply critical of the way insurers have responded to the catastrophic storm. "If that happens, we are going to hold some hearings to bring them to task. We may not be able to do anything to them, but maybe we can shame them to death."

# NuStart scouts Miss., La. for new nuclear plant

**Mary Judice**
Business writer

Entergy Corp. plants in Mississippi and Louisiana could be potential locations for the first nuclear power plant built in the United States in more than 30 years.

A consortium of utilities called NuStart, which includes Entergy, said Thursday that it will develop an application for advanced approval of two potential nuclear sites: Entergy's Grand Gulf site in Port Gibson, Miss., and a Tennessee Valley Authority property in Alabama.

Entergy, meanwhile, said separately Thursday that it will develop a similar application for its River Bend Station in St. Francisville.

A decision has not been made on whether to seek an actual license for the construction of any of the reactors. The applications for advanced approval simply would allow for quicker completion of the project if a go-ahead is given. A decision on whether to build any of these plants will be made later.

"A new nuclear unit would also mean greater diversity of fuel, and that means more stable electric rates for our 2.7 million electricity customers," said Gary Taylor, chief executive of Entergy Nuclear.

Entergy has built and operated nuclear plants for many years, but five years ago the company embarked on a program of expanding its nuclear-generating capacity by purchasing operating plants. Today Entergy operates 10 reactors in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and the Northeast and is the second-largest nuclear generator in the United States.

## DEATHS

**Leon "Pat" Belsom**
**Rosa Solito Davis**
**Larry F. Falcon**
**Stanley Francis Fast**
**Daniel Webster Parker Jr.**
**Virginia Catalanoto Pillittere**
**Derek Francis Ridge, Sr.**
**Norman John Robinson**
**Jerrol Lee White**

### BELSOM

Leon "Pat" Belsom at Lincoln General Hospital, Ruston, LA on Sunday, September 18, 2005 at 9:00 AM. Beloved husband of the late Selma (NeNe) Ponthieux Belsom. Loving father of Patrick Joseph Belsom, Janice Belsom Corb and Elaine Belsom Craig. Father-in-law of Rita Belsom, John Corb and Michael Craig. Devoted grandfather of David Belsom, Lisa Belsom, Janene Goebel, Jennifer Zanca, Jonathan Corb, Jessica Corb, Adam Corb, Rebecca Goodwin and Jeffrey Craig. Great grandfather of Natasha Corb, Amber Corb, Bronson Belsom Goebel and Heather Goodwin. Son of the late Elizabeth O'Brien and Leon Charles Belsom. Brother of the late Herbert F., Henry P., Gerard P., Elaine R., and Iris E. Belsom. Retires Sargent NOPD from 1946 til 1978. Member of Ed Brauner American Legion Post #307, Fraternal Order of Police Crescent City Lodge #2, AARP St. Charles-Napoleon Chapter 1965, Municipal Police Officers Assoc. of Louisiana, Police Mutual Benevolent Association, Verterans Police Office Association and VFW Metry Post #6640. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie, LA for several years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Chapel of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Friday, September 23, 2005 at 2:00PM followed by interment in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA. Visitation on Friday, September 23, from 10:00AM until funeral time. In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions to St. Jude Children Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, Alzheimers Disease Assoc. of Greater N.O., 1040 Calhoun St., New Orleans, LA 70118 or to the Charity of your choice. Sign On-Line Guest Book at www.legacy.com

### DAVIS

Rosa Solito Davis, on Thursday, September 15, 2005. Age 75. Born in New Orleans and lived in Metairie for 40 years. Survivors include four sons, Glen, Harold, Donald, and Ronald Davis; and one grandchild. A Mass will be held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, on Friday, September 23, 2005 at 10:00am. Visitation will begin at 8:00am. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories, final resting place will be in Lake Lawn Mausoleum.

### FALCON

Larry F. Falcon. October 16,1935-September 19,2005. As Hurricane Katrina bore down on New Orleans, our dad evacuated to the Emerald Coast. Unfortunately, the destruction of his beloved city was more than his heart could handle. On Monday, September 19, 2005, he died suddenly here in Florida at Twin Cities Hospital after suffering two heart attacks. He leaves behind his daughter Jo Ann Falcom Toups and her husband Byron of Metairie, LA, his son Roger F. Falcon of Metairie, and daughter Mary Beth Mizell and her husband Chris of Niceville. He also had two wonderful granddaughters, Kayla Dufrene of New Orleans and Hannah Christianne Mizell of Niceville. His beloved wife Mary Jane Newell Falcon passed away just three years ago. Dad was born on October 16, 1935 in Norco, LA to the late Katherine and Leonce Falcon. He was a lifelong resident of Louisiana and lived in Metairie for over forty years. A graduate of Destrehan High School and Tulane University, he proudly served his country in the Army for two years. After his service, he taught history for 27 years, primarily at T.H. Harris Junior High in Metairie. Upon retirement he began a new career at the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles. He was loved by both colleagues and customers at the Kenner Driver's License Office. He really enjoyed all the people he met there until his second retirement several years ago. Dad will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor. He almost always had a smile on his face and could make anyone laugh with his wry wit. He was also a devoted supporter of Tulane University athletics. He loved all Tulane sports but especially his beloved Tulane Green Wave football team. He approached each season with enthusiasm and optimism and was a season ticket holder for many years. We've entrusted Heritage Gardens Funeral Home with local arrangements in Florida but due to the circumstances in New Orleans we will be having a memorial for him there at at later date so that his colleagues, friends, and family can properly honor his inspired life. We'll miss you dad.

### FAST

Stanley Francis Fast, 76, Sunday, September 18, 2005. Beloved husband of Doris Hotard-Fast; Father of Stanley Jacob Fast and Lorraine Fast-Vieira. Four grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 2 nieces, and 1 nephew. Mr.Fast died of heart failure in a hospital in Bossier City, Louisiana. Surviving sister, Doris Fast-Niette. Retired from Boh Brothers Construction Company in 1982. A memorial mass will be said at Christ The King Catholic Church in Terrytown on Sunday September 24th at 11:00 AM

### PARKER

Daniel Webster Parker Jr. (Pa Pa) ascended into eternal life on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 11:00 PM. Husband of the late Carolyn Weir; he is survived by his second wife Billie Bullock. Also survived by three children; James Parker, Danny Parker, Patricia Blue; two step-children, Freddie Herrin and Linda Schneider; 18 Grandchildren, 30 Great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jenny Parker and a step-son, Charles Perrin. Age 93, a longtime resident of Jefferson Parish and member of the Electrical Local 130 and 60 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services on Friday, September 23, 2005 at 12:00 PM from the Chapel at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W.21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433. Visiting hours will begin on Friday at 10:00 AM. Interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens Covington, LA. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### PILLITTERE

Virginia Catalanoto Pillittere at East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, LA., on Sunday, September 18, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Joseph V. Pillittere. Mother of Philip J. Pillittere, Sr., and Bernadine Pillittere Smith. Grandmother of Teena Pillittere Costales, Kerri Smith Dominique, Gregory J. Smith and Philip J. Pillittere, Jr. Sister of Camille C Fremin, Angelina C.Jacobs, Elizabeth C. Sprouse, and the late Anthony, Vincent and Jake Catalanotto. Daughter of the late Camilla Cuttanaro and Joseph Catalanotto. Also survived by 7 great grandchildren. Age 83 years. A native of New Orleans, LA., and resident of Metairie, LA., for the past 52 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St.Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 12:00 Noon followed by internment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA. Visitation will be at the Metairie Funeral Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Saturday, September 24, 2005 from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Sign on-line guest book at www.legacy.com.

### RIDGE

Derek Francis Ridge, Sr., a New Orleans native died Monday, September 19, 2005 in Villa Rica, Ga. He was 49, born August 15, 1956, the son of the late Blanche Picou Ridge and Robert Ridge. He was a devoted, loving and caring husband to Carolyn Despenza Ridge, father of Danielle F. and Derek F. Ridge; brother of Etheldreda Guion, Henrietta Ridge Celestin, Gerald Ridge and Francesca Ridge- Robinson; nephew of Mrs. Mercedes Muse, Hazel and Alfred Picou, Sr., and Mrs. Janice Picou; son-in-law of Mrs. Rose Despenza. Surviving are a host of neices, nephews, cousins, brothers, and sister-in-law, friends, and business associates. Preceded in death by brothers Jules and Robert (Bobby) Ridge, grandfather Jules Alexander Picou and grandmother Henrietta Aubert Picou, aunt Marie Picou, and uncle Emile Muse. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM with viewing at 10:00 AM at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Atlanta, Ga

### ROBINSON

Norman John Robinson, M.D. died Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at the age of 87, at his home in Covington, LA. He was a graduate of University of Missouri, and received his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Robinson served as a Naval Medical Officer in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was a Resident of Pediatrics at Methodist Hospital and Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, and taught Pediatrics at University of Oklahoma and at Tulane University. Dr. Robinson was in private practice of Pediatrics in New Orleans for 22 years, and an Emergency Physician at Mercy Hospital for 10 years. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, past member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He was a member of the Orleans Parish and Louisiana State Medical Societies. Dr. Robinson was a past President of the Medical Staff of Mercy Hospital and Past President and a founding member of the New Orleans Pediatric Society. He served on the staff of Mercy, Baptist, Touro, and Charity Hospitals. He was a member of Metairie Country, Southern Yacht Club, and New Orleans Athletic Club, and a parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church in New Orleans and St. Anselm's Catholic Church in Covington. He was the son of the late Norman John Robinson and Mary Genevieve O'Mara of Potosi, Mo. He had two sisters, Norma Robinson Naiden and the late Mary Robinson Steger. Beloved husband of more than 50 years of Betty Cocke Robinson, and father of Mary Susan Martin (Randy) of Cleveland, OH., Norman John Robinson, Jr. (Suzanne) of Slidell, and James Michael Robinson, M.D. (Jane) of Covington. He had nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Visitation was held Wednesday, September 21 at St. Joseph's Abbey, followed by a funeral Mass. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

### WHITE

Jerrol Lee White 1939-2005. Jerrol Lee White, 66, died Sunday, September 18, 2005 of cancer surrounded by family and loved ones at the home of his daughter and son in law, Lisa and Will Clark in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jerrol was a resident of Metairie, Louisiana where he lived with his loving wife of 43 years, Mary Helen White. He is preceded in death by his parents, George P. White and Nadine Olive White of St.Joseph, Missouri. Jerry, as everyone called him, graduated from Savannah High School, and Missouri Western College, and received his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Missouri State in Warrensburg, Missouri. He was formerly the owner of "Don and Jerry's" Barber Shop on Frederick Boulevard, and after college went on to become a Federal Probation and Parole Officer in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Biloxi, Mississippi totaling 24 years. He was an avid golfer and former member of the Fairview Golf Course and Broadwater Country Club in Gulfport, Mississippi. Jerry is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Helen, his daughter, Lisa Clark, son in law, Will Clark, and his sister, Marlene Willis, of Olathe, Kansas. He also leaves behind his two precious grandchildren, Trey and Ella Clark. Services will be held 10:00am Friday, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. Interment Mount Olivet Cemetery. The family will receive friends 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Thursday, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be a reception 11:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M. Friday, following the service at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory Community Room.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.

Express your condolences by signing a guest book on nola.com/obits

To place a death notice in The Times-Picayune, please call 866-420-3227 toll free or send an e-mail to tpdeathnotices@classifiedsplus.net

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# YOUR OPINIONS




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

The flotsam and jetsam left behind by Hurricane Katrina included these textbooks, which ended up in mud near a rusted fence at Abramson High School in eastern New Orleans.

## How better schools could save you

As I watched the most vulnerable suffer and die in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, several thoughts crossed my mind.

1. No education leads to no job, which leads to poverty and no car, which leads to - you guessed it — you ain't getting out.

2. No populace with marketable job skills leads to no corporations worth their salt willing to locate in or near New Orleans, which leads to no tax revenue and you guessed it — no schools or police force worth their salt.

3. The continued reliance on the Saints, Mardi Gras, tourism and low-income, dead-end jobs is short-sighted and produces a very unstable tax base.

In the rebuilding of New Orleans, I hope and pray that we will do the following:

1. Rebuild the schools from the inside out with achievement and discipline the rule rather than the exception. Sixty percent attendance on the first day of school is not a success.

2. Redevelop housing for New Orleans' poorest in the manner of the St. Thomas area. The poor must see success to achieve success.

3. The housing codes and levees must be rebuilt to withstand the worst, as we know the warming of the Gulf of Mexico only encourages more storms of the devastating strength of Katrina. Put federal money towards this rather than spending it all on patting down and frisking Amish ladies at the airport, as the Transportation Security Administration does now.

4. Develop trade schools in partnership with manufacturing industries spun off from the massive amounts of raw materials that come through the Port of Orleans.

5. Develop a climate of personal responsibility and achievement. This starts at the top.

In my 20 years in New Orleans, all I have seen is chicanery, shenanigans, greed and graft. This has got to change.

**Matthew McCann**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Atlanta*

## Don't wait for 'cavalry'

If Hurricane Katrina didn't prove the ineptitude of government in general and of our governor and the New Orleans mayor in particular, nothing ever will.

Our brilliant governor blamed President Bush and told everyone to pray. Mayor Ray Nagin blamed Bush and went on television and cursed and of course talked about the "cavalry" not showing up. Obviously he has watched too many John Wayne movies. He is the one who let many thousands of people fend for themselves during the evacuation. Many had depended on the government their whole lives for everything, and they just stayed and waited for the government to solve their problems one more time.

Of course Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton had to show up and spew their vile racial comments. I don't remember them or the NAACP sending one boat for rescue or one ounce of food for the stranded folks in New Orleans. Anyone with half a brain knows the problem is poverty, not race. Maybe Jackson and Sharpton should have been in New Orleans for the last 40 years asking the poor why they don't finish high school or have babies they can't afford and out of wedlock. The Advocate in Baton Rouge had a picture of one evacuee who had no money or place to go but had a 7-month-old baby and was five months pregnant! Could this be part of the poverty problem?

The feds couldn't find $17 billion to prevent the devastation in New Orleans, but are quick to spend $200 billion to rebuild the city: very typical.

For all the folks who have spent their lives waiting for the "cavalry" to solve their problems, I am here to tell you that John Wayne is dead. Get off your butt, get an education, get a job, don't have children you expect others to support, stay off drugs. And you can buy your own horses.

**Tommy Wilkinson**
*Baton Rouge*

## Is West Jefferson next?

The same floodwalls that failed at the 17th Street Canal and other areas of New Orleans are being built right here in West Jefferson, along the Harvey Canal. This design is now proven to be a failure. Who builds a wall that cannot withstand the water level to its full height? A floodwall does not know the difference between a Category 3 or 4 storm. It only knows water pressure, based on the height of the water. Do we want the same false sense of protection in our back yard?

We must demand that a thorough investigation is conducted to determine the failure of these walls. All new construction must be stopped and the floodwall design must be corrected before West Jefferson suffers the same fate that New Orleans did. It appears the Army Corps of Engineers is not qualified to handle floodwall design and construction. Would you hire a company with such a poor record?

**Lynn C. Folse**
*Harvey*

## Keep up the good work, Mr. Mayor

One of my sisters who lived Uptown near Loyola University evacuated and is staying with me in Mississippi. Although I am sad that she could not go back to check on her apartment and belongings, I wholly support most of the decisions New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has been making.

As a New Orleans native, it kills me to hear others bashing the city. Now the mayor is getting flak about "flip-flopping," or allowing people into the city and then ordering them out as Hurricane Rita approached. It's easy for some people to talk: those who haven't been through a devastating situation, or those who have been in and out of the city, against orders.

I hope the mayor keeps up the good work and continues keeping the citizens of New Orleans and their best interests at heart. I think my husband said it best: "Not enough people in this country understand the concept of pride in and love of their home, because they don't stay in one place anymore. They just go where the money and easier life is." But those who stay and want to make their home better will make the best contributions to a community.

The mayor is right in thinking that pride and love will rebuild the city and bring back the culture, the essence of New Orleans.

**Cindi Fox**
*Ridgecrest, Miss.*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Scouring for answers

As public officials and average citizens contemplate how to reclaim New Orleans from the wreckage caused by Hurricane Katrina, no question is more fundamental than how to protect the city better against future storms.

While the storm surge in some places may have exceeded the floodwalls' design standards, there are indications that at least some floodwalls failed in the face of conditions the system was expected to withstand. If so, New Orleans is surrounded by a hurricane-protection system that is more vulnerable to storms than metro area residents previously thought.

The eventual goal presumably will be a levee system that keeps storm surge out of Lake Pontchartrain and well away from the populated areas. That will take years. Protecting New Orleanians in the meantime, given the state of the current hurricane-protection system, will be a challenge.

The city's current hurricane-protection system includes earthen levees and concrete floodwalls, and the Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees the system, says it was designed to withstand a fast-moving Category 3 hurricane. Katrina came ashore as a Category 4 storm. But because its center passed east of the city, New Orleans was spared the hurricane's harshest winds.

After floodwalls gave in along the 17th Street, London Avenue and Industrial canals, the Corps' initial working theory was that the water in the 17th Street Canal topped the floodwall, scouring away enough of the earthen levee behind the wall that the concrete structure eventually gave way. But the Corps now says there is no evidence of scouring along that canal.

Furthermore, Ivor van Heerden, an engineering professor at Louisiana State University, says scouring was not the cause of the London Avenue levee breach, either, although the phenomenon could well be responsible for the failure of the Industrial Canal floodwall. While the walls of the latter canal did receive Category 3 stresses, he says, the walls of the 17th Street Canal did not. For their part, Corps officials and the Orleans Levee Board both maintain that Katrina was simply too strong a storm for the hurricane-protection system.

Separating hurricanes by category may be the wrong way to think about the problem, engineers say, because a slow-moving Category 3 storm could do more damage than a stronger, faster-moving storm that follows a different path.

Plenty of other variables also factor into how badly the metro area will fare during a hurricane. For example, a different (and more expensive) design for concrete floodwalls might have withstood Katrina better than the current one. Another source of uncertainty is the flood-protection system itself; computer models suggest that the configuration of certain levees east of the Industrial Canal could force any storm surge pushing toward that canal to rise more than it otherwise might. Also, some parts of the metro area, such as the eastern edge of St. Bernard Parish, are more flood-prone than other areas, and according to one study done for The Times-Picayune, are more flood-prone than estimates by the Corps would suggest.

Corps officials say that they aren't allowed to adjust for variations in the landscape. Doing so, they say, would exceed the agency's mandate from Congress. But if the levee system was built according to standards that don't take all the complexities of the problem into account, those standards are inadequate and need to be changed. Indeed, the entire system may well need to be rethought; a levee breach in one spot shouldn't mean near-certain inundation for much of the rest of New Orleans.

Any effective inquiry into the causes of the Katrina breaches, and into potential solutions, needs to incorporate knowledgeable voices from inside and outside the Corps. This debate is bound to get even more abstruse, and under those circumstances it's easy for average citizens to tune out.

But the future of New Orleans rests on resolving the technical problems that compromised the levee system when Katrina hit. And as the presence of another powerful hurricane in the Gulf reminds all of us, we need to address those problems quickly.

## In the alphabet soup

The race through the list of names this hurricane season was alarming even before Katrina made landfall. Now, though, we've arrived at the letter R, with more than two months to go.

Since the list skips the letters q, u, x, y and z, the World Meteorological Organization, which is in charge of naming storms, is facing the very real prospect of running out of names. If that happens, the WMO plans to begin using the Greek alphabet, providing another 24 names, beginning with Alpha and ending with Omega.

That's a dreadful prospect, not only for the ravaged Gulf Coast but for anyone who lives where a hurricane might strike. The last year with 21 storms was 1933, before names were regularly used, and we certainly don't need to break any more records this season.

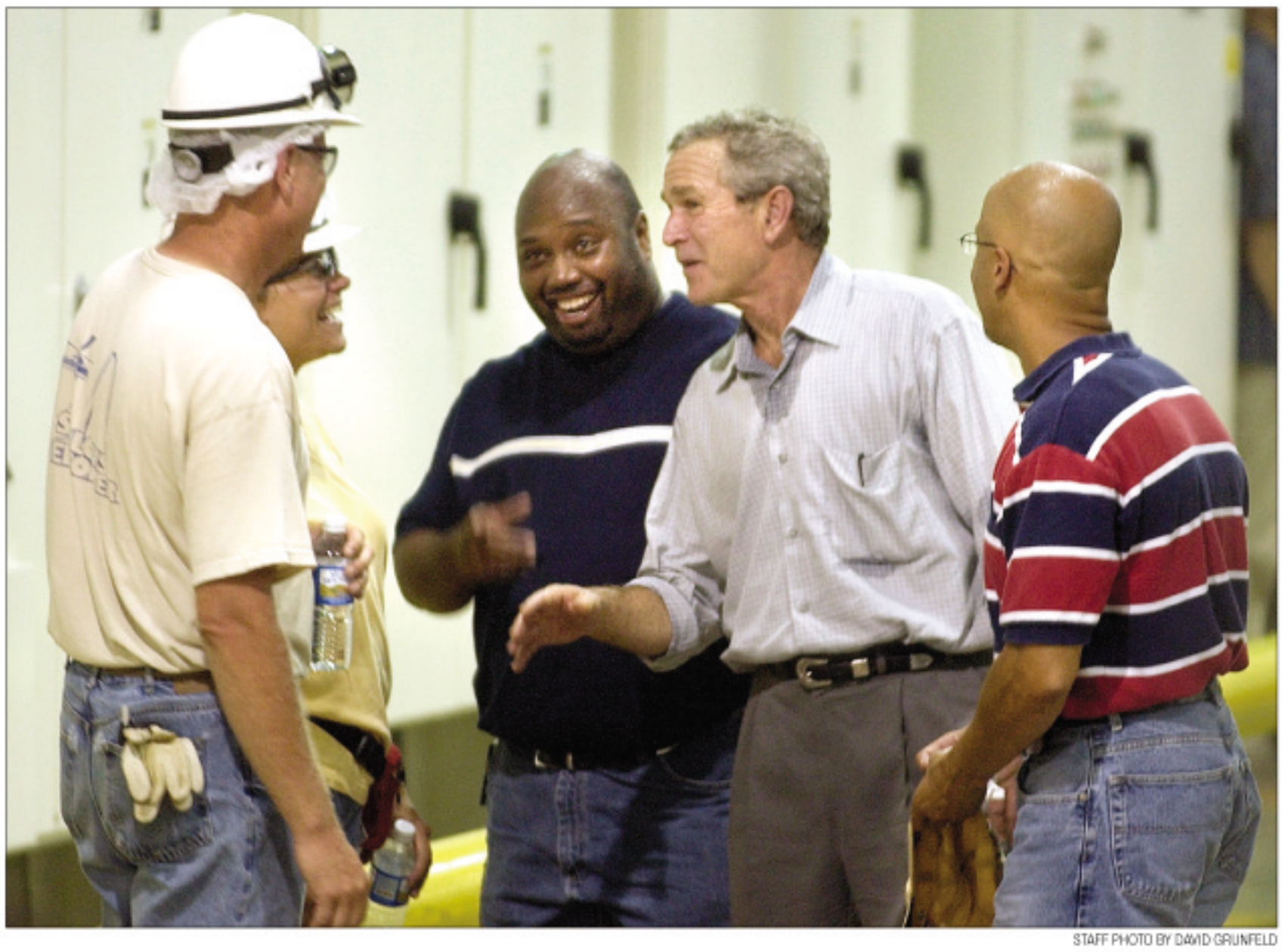
A killer storm can come during a relatively inactive season, of course. Consider Hurricane Andrew. The Category 5 storm was the first of the 1992 season, which saw six named storms in all, and Andrew didn't hit until Aug. 24. The 2005 season, by contrast, has the unfortunate distinction of being an early and active season, with an unprecedented seven named storms in June and July. That would have made the season noteworthy even without a catastrophic storm such as Katrina.

And the 2005 season looks like it's going to have staying power. As people in Louisiana and Texas keep an anxious eye on Rita, we can only hope that the updated forecast, which calls for 18 to 21 named storms, turns out to be wrong and that we'll stop right now at 17 named storms.

A Hurricane Alpha would be more than our battered coast and psyches can bear.

OTHER OPINIONS

# CAN'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT SEEING BUSH



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Employees of the Folger's Coffee plant on Almonaster Boulevard in eastern New Orleans share a chuckle with President Bush.



JAMES GILL

President Bush has been turning up in New Orleans so often lately that he brings to mind the reproof Dr. Johnson directed at Lord Chesterfield, whose offer of patronage came too late to do any good.

A patron, Johnson wrote, is one who ignores a drowning man's cries and then, when he is safely ashore, "encumbers him with help."

Bush descends repeatedly on a stricken coast that could really have used federal help long before Katrina. We had been warning for years that our flood protection could not handle The Big One.

But Bush was paying little attention. Even as the floodwaters covered almost the entire city, and FEMA floundered, he could make an ass of himself by asserting that nobody had anticipated the levees would fail.

The analogy with Johnson's drowning man goes only so far. We will appreciate every bit of help we can get now that the drowning's done.

There is a new aura of know-how about the federal relief effort, if only because it could hardly be as inept as it was when Michael Brown was in charge during the crucial early days. Government and private money will cascade in to help the recovery, regardless of any Gulf Coast missions Bush chooses to undertake.

Those missions may have helped morale, and there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his concern for our plight. But it is not in nature for presidents to be oblivious to political considerations, and Bush keeps turning up just when his ratings could really use a boost.

The mess in Iraq was taking its toll before the bungled response to Katrina plunged Bush to new depths in the polls. This would be even more alarming for a president eligible to stand for re-election, but diminishing support is no small matter for Bush, since it will likely jeopardize his second-term agenda. It is not easy to wreck the economy, mollycoddle the rich, dismantle Social Security and promote creationist superstition if voters get the impression you are not such a great leader after all.

So it naturally became more or less impossible hereabouts to turn around without bumping into the president. He needed to make a success of reconstruction to compensate for the twin fiascos that brought him low.

At the same time, he evidently saw a chance to advance his second-term agenda after all. With the cost of reconstruction estimated at $200 billion, Bush should be even more confident of bequeathing the country historic deficits.

Finding a spare $200 billion in Washington should be easy. There is plenty of pork to be cut — the nation could survive without that bridge to nowhere in Alaska, for example — and fat-cat tax relief, if it ever was defensible, certainly isn't now. But neither Congress nor the administration shows any inclination to fiscal probity, and all that talk of offsetting reconstruction costs will fool nobody. Putting New Orleans and the Gulf Coast straight will leave the country further in debt, because government would rather be cursed by posterity than alienate a live voter.

And now comes Rita to bring not only another huge bill but a shot at political redemption. This time, wherever the storm strikes, we may be sure that the feds will be ready to swoop in as soon as soon as the recovery begins. Bush may not be far behind the vanguard, brimming with religious sentiment and trying to erase the images of abandoned masses in New Orleans.

Perhaps he will personally usher refugees into limousines that will take them to safety, and return later to bask in the adulation.

That is assuming Rita doesn't hit here, where there's hardly anyone left to rescue. If New Orleans should take another hit, Bush could not decently forbear to show up again, although he may have milked all the political rehabilitation to be had from hanging around and looking sympathetic.

It seems that we will be spared this time, however, and we will have to get used to fewer Bush sightings as he moves to pastures new.

James Gill is a staff writer. He can be reached at (318)346-6353 or gill-james@bellsouth.net.

# Katrina reveals need for change of course



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Following President Bush's speech in New Orleans, many U.S. papers carried the same basic headline: "Bush rules out raising taxes for Gulf relief." The president is planning to rely on "spending cuts" instead to pay for rebuilding New Orleans. Yeah, right — and if you believe that, I have some beachfront property in Biloxi I'd like to sell you. The underlying message of all these stories is that the Bush team sees no reason to change course in response to Katrina.

I beg to differ. Katrina deprived the Bush team of the energy source that propelled it forward for the past four years: Sept. 11 and the halo over the presidency that came with it. The events of Sept. 11, 2001, created a deference in the U.S. public, and media, for the administration, which exploited it to the hilt to push an uncompassionate conservative agenda on tax cuts and runaway spending, on which it never could have gotten elected. That deference is over.

If Bush wants to make anything of his second term, he'll have to do his own Nixon-to-China turnaround, reframe the debate and recast the priorities of his presidency. He seems to think that by offering to spend billions of dollars to rebuild one city, New Orleans, he'll get his leadership halo back. Wrong. Just throwing more borrowed money at New Orleans is not leadership. Bush needs to frame a new agenda for rebuilding all our cities and strengthening the nation as a whole. And what should be the centerpiece of a policy of American renewal is blindingly obvious: making a quest for energy independence the moon shot of our generation.

The president should have done that on the morning of Sept. 12, 2001. The country was ready. But the president whiffed. Katrina — nature's Sept. 11 — has given him a rare do-over. Imagine — I know it is a stretch — that the president announced tomorrow that he wanted an immediate 50-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax — the "American Renewal Tax," to be used to rebuild New Orleans, pay down the deficit, fund tax breaks for Americans to convert their cars to hybrid technology or biofuels, fund a Manhattan Project to develop alternatives for energy independence, and subsidize mass transit systems for our major cities.

And imagine if he tied this to an appeal to young people to go into science, math and engineering for the great national purpose of making us the greenest nation on the planet, to help liberate us from dependence on the worst regimes in the world for our oil, and to help ease the global warming that is heating up the oceans, making our hurricanes more intense and our lowlands more vulnerable. America's kids are hungry to be challenged for some larger purpose, which has been utterly absent in this presidency.

Americans will change their long-term energy habits and companies will develop green products only if they are certain the price of gasoline will not go back down. A gasoline tax — Americans have already shown they'll tolerate higher prices — and stronger regulation would force U.S. companies to innovate in what is going to be one of the most important global industries in the 21st century: green technologies. By coddling our auto and industrial companies when it comes to mileage standards and the environment, all the Bush team is doing is ensuring that they will be dinosaurs and that Chinese, Japanese and Indian companies will take the lead in green technologies — because they have to and ours don't.

Look at what Jeff Immelt, the CEO of GE, said: "America should strive to make energy and environmental practices a national core competency and by doing so, create exports in jobs. America is the leading consumer of energy. However, we are not the technical leader. Europe today is the major force for environmental innovation. European governments have encouraged their companies to invest (in) and produce clean power technologies. The same is true for nuclear power. And government policy that encourages this with subsidies and other incentives is giving European companies a leg up. While Europe has been a driver for innovation, China promises to be its market."

Setting the goal of energy independence, along with a gasoline tax, could help to solve so many of our problems today — from the deficit to climate change and national security. And Americans would pay it if they thought the extra money was going to renew America, not Iran, and not just New Orleans. And if the Texas oilman president became the energy independence president — now, that would snap heads and make this a truly relevant presidency.

No way, you say. Probably right. But either Bush does a Nixon-to-China or his next three years are going to be a Bush-to-Nowhere.

Thomas L. Friedman is a New York Times columnist.



JARVIS DEBERRY

# Saved by the Xbox

When P.J. Borne and his family needed a place to stay after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their Chalmette home, he got invitations from as far away as Louisville, Ky., and Jacksonville, Fla. He said there was even somebody in Connecticut who welcomed him and his family.

Borne didn't even know these people. At least not in the traditional sense. He didn't even know Jody Adams, the Grenada, Miss., man who took in the family from St. Bernard Parish. But Borne felt comfortable enough to move in, because he and Adams had fought together, along with the folks in Florida, Kentucky and Connecticut. They're part of a team of about 50 people who compete against others they've never seen on a video game called Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon 2.

"We met at a gas station for him to bring me to his house," Borne said of Adams. "That was the first time we physically met him besides seeing pictures of him on the Internet."

Video gamers have a reputation for being antisocial. They're recluses. Freaks. Losers. There are many stereotypes that have been applied to them, and the overwhelming majority of them are negative. However, Borne has nothing but wonderful things to say about his Xbox Live community. They're the network of people who saved him.

We should all be grateful that Hurricane Katrina struck during this technologically advanced era. It was bad enough in 2005, but imagine how disoriented and alone we would all be feeling if we hadn't been able to use our cellular phones and their text messaging functions. Imagine a storm of this magnitude striking us before we had e-mail accounts and Internet message boards to visit. Granted, the storm killed and displaced many people who didn't have such technology. Maybe they couldn't afford it. But for those of us who had become proficient with computers and mobile phones, that knowledge proved invaluable.

So, too, did P.J. Borne's hobby. He and his family evacuated to Baton Rouge before the storm, and he made sure to take his laptop computer with him. From a hotel room in Baton Rouge he accessed his team's Web site and let them know that, with their home destroyed, his family didn't have anywhere to go. Nor do they have jobs.

Borne, 25, had been working as a deputy at the Plaquemines Parish jail, but he told me he has been laid off since the storm. A friend has a computer company in Jackson, 115 miles south on Interstate 55, and he thinks he'll be able to work there. If that happens there's a chance he could eventually be transferred to New Orleans. Back home.

Borne said he'd been impressed by the hospitality of the people in Grenada, the Adamses in particular. The family of four not only hosted his family of five and their dog for almost a week, but they helped find the Bornes an apartment.

Meanwhile, his fellow gamers have also stepped up. They didn't stop offering to help just because the Bornes found a place to stay. Borne said the folks on his team had gotten together and raised money and bought his family gift cards for Wal-Mart and a gas card they can use at Shell stations.

Borne said the members of his team come from all walks of life. There are some teenagers, but most of them are adults. Some are former military, he said, but the only thing they all really have in common is team membership. They've competed together for about four years and have been quite successful, he said, but the team has always been more about camaraderie than winning.

"We're pretty open to just about anybody," he said. "It doesn't matter if you're good or not. We're basically just looking for somebody to have fun."

That fun paid off. "If it wasn't for them," Borne said of his Xbox Live community, "me and my family wouldn't have a place to be. We would be in a shelter."

Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

Ochsner

# Healthcare that's always here

## Ochsner is here

Throughout Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, we stayed open to help everyone from the tiniest of newborns to the frailest of elderly.

## Ochsner answers the call

We continue to provide uninterrupted healthcare for Ochsner patients and others in need of medical assistance:

- **We deployed close to 100 doctors to areas closest to you in Baton Rouge and the outlying regions**
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## Ochsner is everywhere you are

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An Ochsner healthcare professional is waiting to answer your call.

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**Ochsner Tangipahoa**
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**Ochsner Destrehan**
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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

COMICS • C-2

PAGE C
Friday
September 23, 2005

# ‘United in a bond of pure tragedy’

## *Stars fall all over themselves to show their love for New Orleans music and to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief*



Dave Matthews, who drew record crowds at Jazzfest, hugs Jimmy Buffett, whose French Quarter bar Margaritaville is closed due to the hurricane damage. They were among the heavy hitters who performed Tuesday at ‘From the Big Easy to the Big Apple,’ a benefit in New York.




AP PHOTOS BY JEFF CHRISTENSEN

Art Garfunkel, who sang the Simon & Garfunkel hit ‘Bridge Over Troubled Water’ with Aaron Neville, said: ‘As many times as I’ve sung this song. I don’t think it’s ever meant as much as it does tonight.’

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

NEW YORK — The distance between the Mid-City Lanes and Madison Square Garden isn’t so great after all.

On Tuesday, the night after the New Orleans Saints staged a “home” game at nearby Giants Stadium, homegrown musicians and some famous friends joined forces for “From the Big Apple to the Big Easy,” a star-studded, sold-out, five-hour fund-raiser at Madison Square Garden for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The result?

Lafayette slide guitar ace Sonny Landreth worked his six-string magic behind Jimmy Buffett and Dave Matthews as they harmonized on Neil Young’s “Heart of Gold.”

Irma Thomas sat side-by-side with Lenny Kravitz, slide guitar shaman Ry Cooder and accordionist Buckwheat Zydeco for a tour-de-force “Backwater Blues.”

Paul Simon — wearing a Jazzfest baseball cap — and partner Art Garfunkel ceded much of “Bridge Over Troubled Water” to Aaron Neville, whose own cap identified him as an “Evacuee.”

“As many times as I’ve sung this song,” Garfunkel said, “I don’t think it’s ever meant as much as it does tonight.”

Throughout “From the Big Easy to the Big Apple,” New Yorkers — and more than a few displaced New Orleanians — celebrated the music of the Crescent City. Quint Davis, producer of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, teamed with TV producer Ken Ehrlich as co-executive producer of the event, which multiple cable channels broadcast as a pay-per-view special.

A simultaneous show at Radio City Music Hall featured an acoustic set from Dave Matthews and Trey Anastasio, plus Galactic and multiple Mardi Gras Indians.

But the main event was at Madison Square Garden, the self-proclaimed “most famous arena in the world.” Headliners were mostly icons of the baby boomers who could afford ticket prices

*See* **CONCERT,** *page C-4*

# GONE WITH THE WIND

## *Fall movie season offers a respite from reality*

**By Michael H. Kleinschrodt**
Movie writer

So... Have you seen any good movies lately?

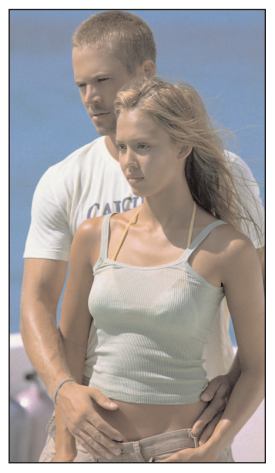
In a New Orleans area devastated by Hurricane Katrina, it’s a safe bet that the answer is “no.” Area residents lucky enough to still have homes have been busy picking up the pieces of disrupted lives. Exiled New Orleanians wait in cities around the country for some sign that they can return home.

No matter where one’s current home is, there’s bound to be a movie theater nearby, offering the promise of air conditioning, iced beverages and a brief diversion from an all-too-real disaster that required no Hollywood effects.

It might seem frivolous to be talking about the movies at such a time, but, at their best, movies take audiences away from their troubles and remind them of their shared humanity.

As Tom Cruise’s Oscar telecast speechwriter said just after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, “Should we celebrate the joy and magic the movies bring? Dare I say it? More than ever. A small scene, a gesture, even a glance between characters can cross lines, break through barriers, melt prejudice or just plain make us laugh.” (You know Cruise didn’t come up with that on his own.)

The movies have been taking Americans’ minds off their worries ever since an impossibly elegant Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced the Depression away during the 1930s.



Paul Walker and Jessica Alba star in the underwater action, adventure ‘Into the Blue,’ which is set to open Sept. 30.

The fall movie lineup, or what remains of it, might not offer such swell hoofers, but it does offer hooves in “Dreamer,” a horse-racing tale filmed in the New Orleans area and expected to open Oct. 21. The movie is one of several inspired by true stories.

The calendar also includes a number of literary adaptations, many films with women in leading roles, and, surprisingly, two stop-motion animated films that buck the trend toward computer animation.

Just remember: All release dates are subject to change.

### FRIDAY

**Flightplan**

Recently widowed Jodie Foster is plunged into a nightmare when her 6-year-old

*See* **MOVIES,** *page C-4*

# City slicker

## *A little rain goes a long way in emptied-out New Orleans*



CHRIS ROSE

The slightest rain fell here Thursday afternoon.

You know, the kind of New Orleans rain that just gives everything a light coat and sheen, that tamps down the dust of the old shell roads and washes down the oyster stink in the French Quarter gutters and slicks up all the playground equipment and makes New Orleans smell — is it possible? — so fresh. So Southern.

The kind of rain that falls even though the sun is shining. Does that happen in other places?

New Orleans rain has always been like drops of clarity in an otherwise murky habitat, sometimes too much, sometimes too little, but always a marvel to behold.

There’s always something that needs to be washed down here.

In “A Streetcar Named Desire,” Blanche Dubois said it best: “Don’t you just love those long rainy afternoons in New Orleans when an hour isn’t just an hour, but a little piece of eternity dropped into our hands — and who knows what to do with it?”

Indeed, what to do?

That’s was the rain that fell Thursday. And we needed it. Because the oyster stink is at noxious levels and the city is stacked with an Apocalyptic vision of dry kindling that requires only one dummy with a discarded cigarette to torch an entire block.

That’s one of the things that most catches the eye here — the trees. Or the lack thereof. I don’t know that anyone will ever be able to count how many trees fell or just plain withered and died under Katrina’s fierce hot breath, but I’m sure some expert will tell us in due time. Whatever the raw number, it won’t match the impact on the senses.

I can’t remember where I read it now, but someone interviewed a New Orleans artist who had returned home last week and this guy — whose very living hinges upon his interpretations of shadow, nuance and color — said the problem with New Orleans now is that there is too much sunlight on the ground.

That changes everything. Because if there was ever a town that couldn’t afford to surrender shade, it is this one, where a walk on a summer afternoon can be like sauntering through a blast furnace.

It had been three weeks since it rained — since you know when — and that’s as unfathomable a notion here as a September without fresh oysters.

Of course, by the time you read this, Friday, rain might not be such a charming enterprise here. And Blanche Dubois’ notion of eternity may not be so romantic.

Rita swirls out in the Gulf of Mexico, capriciously choosing its path of destruction and even the slightest brush of wind could take out so many more trees and the slightest rain — the kind that tourists with their Big Ass Beers in hand used to stand under French Quarter balconies and watch with a sense of comic wonder - could wind the clock back three weeks to that piece of eternity we don’t ever want to live again.

Under one of those French Quarter balconies, those famous mannequin legs at Big Daddy’s strip club improbably swing in and out of a window, an alluring, optimistic or delusional signal that the libertine times will once again return to the Old City. That les bons temps will rouler again some day.

Swinging in the rain. Drinking a hurricane instead of dodging one. Living in a place where the past and present and future have never collided so chaotically and without rational analysis.

There is no one who can tell us what tomorrow will bring. But, personally, I consider it a very bad sign that the killer hurricane that dances on our television screens and toys with our collective psyche is named after a meter maid.

That can’t be good.

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

# COMICS

## ZITS



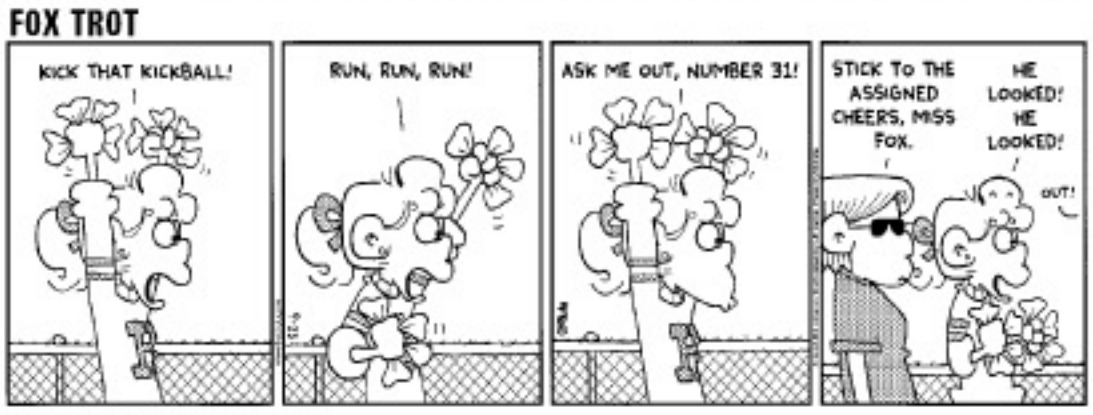

## GET FUZZY



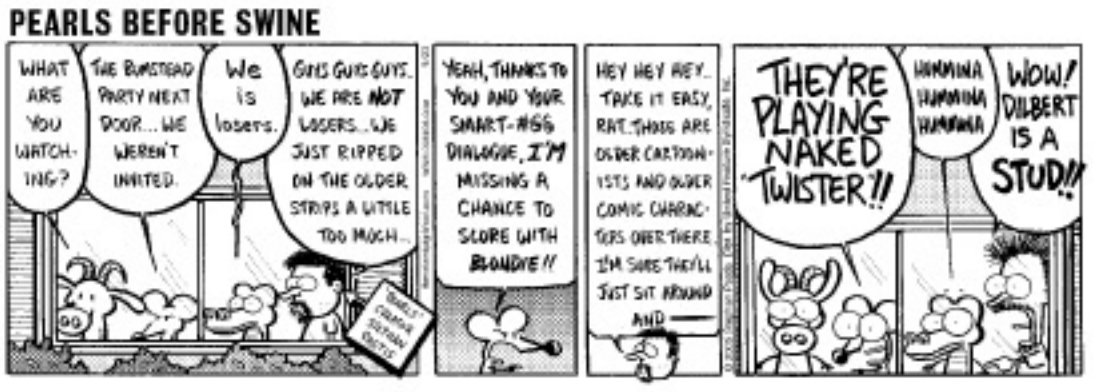

## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HARAJ

KNOTE

WELLOY

LOTTEB

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "○○○○○○○○○○"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGENT PRIOR TOTTER NIBBLE
Answer: The estimate for braces left her with — TOO BIG A "BITE"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| A1 | I1 | G2 | D2 | H4 | R1 | S1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| E1 | I1 | P3 | D2 | N1 | M3 | D2 | 2nd Letter Triple | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | O1 | O1 | L1 | N1 | C3 | G2 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | H4 | N1 | P3 | R1 | Double Word Score | |

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 213

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

ANSWER KEY

| | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 150-160 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = | P3 | I1 | R1 | A1 | N1 | H4 | A1 | | 74 |
| RACK 3 = | C3 | O1 | L1 | O1 | G2 | N1 | E1 | | 60 |
| RACK 2 = | I1 | M3 | P3 | E1 | N1 | D2 | | | 17 |
| RACK 1 = | D2 | I1 | S1 | H4 | R1 | A1 | G2 | | 62 |

TOTAL 213

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | S | C | I | S | Y | H | P | Y | P | M | K | I | F | D |
| B | T | Y | N | W | D | T | L | U | S | Q | O | E | M | K |
| I | E | F | Q | N | D | A | F | B | Z | X | U | W | U | S |
| Q | L | O | U | N | T | M | 2 | L | L | G | J | H | F | D |
| G | E | O | I | I | C | A | U | 4 | O | Y | W | V | T | S |
| R | S | Y | S | E | R | E | H | L | 6 | R | Q | P | N | L |
| A | C | K | I | I | H | F | A | E | U | 1 | E | C | B | Z |
| V | O | Y | T | N | O | 1 | T | O | M | D | 4 | N | W | V |
| I | P | U | I | S | D | R | Q | P | N | M | N | 6 | C | L |
| T | E | P | O | C | S | O | R | C | I | M | J | E | 5 | E |
| Y | M | O | N | O | R | T | S | A | I | A | S | I | P | I |

Thursday's unlisted clue: ROY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: BORN IN —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1564-1642 | Gravity | Microscope | Pisa |
| Astronomy | Heresy | Motion | Sound |
| Dialogue | Inquisition | Pendulum | Telescope |
| Florence | Math | Physics | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| B | P | C | M | Y | A | O | E | P | K | H | E | E |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| R | O | R | W | S | U | A | O | C | I | A | M | O |
| 7 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| N | N | A | H | N | O | N | P | S | U | E | E | L |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| C | P | G | N | F | L | U | I | L | E | C | A | N |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| D | T | E | L | V | T | E | D | H | L | E | P | O |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| N | V | W | E | I | R | O | O | I | N | J | T | H |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| U | E | C | R | R | E | E | E | E | C | S | T | S |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CLASSIC PEANUTS




## BLONDIE




## ROSE IS ROSE



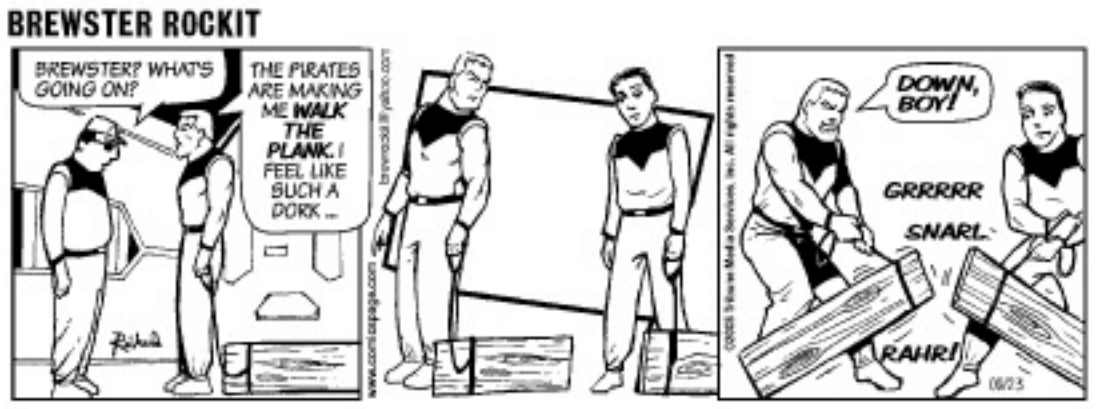

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR




## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



# COMICS

## GARFIELD




## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




## HI & LOIS




## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

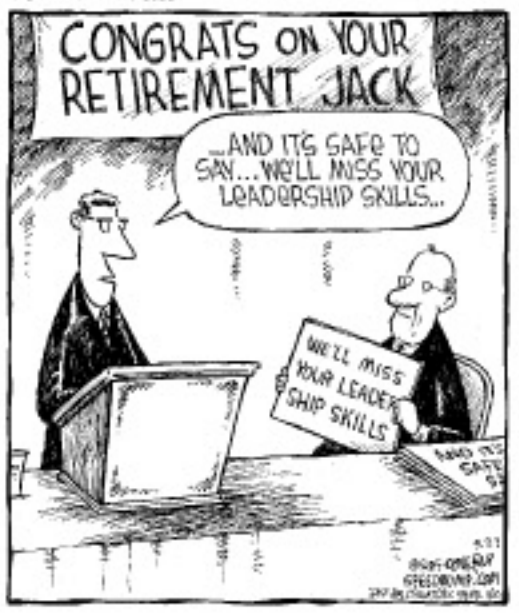



## LOOSE PARTS




"I'm afraid your husband wasn't just killed, he was ... gulp ... julienned."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE

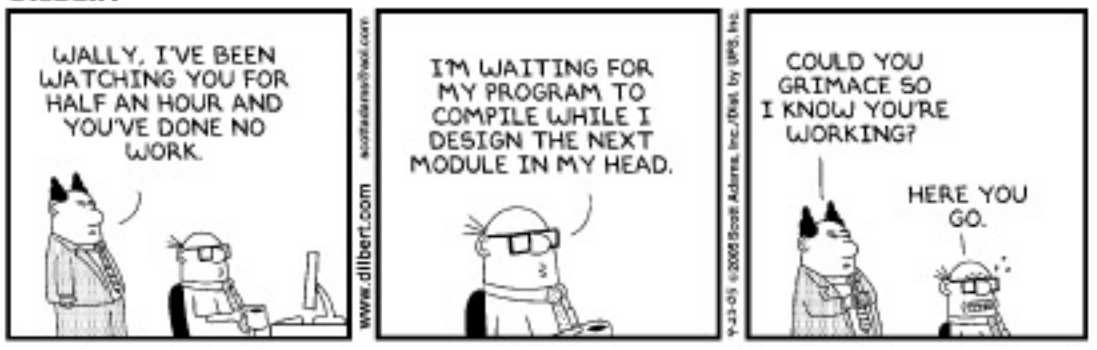


"Talk about a homebody."

## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"He's listening to my Goldilocks tape."

## CLOSE TO HOME




Apprehensive about leaving the baby with a sitter for the first time, Michelle scales back her romantic dinner with Al.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"DO YA THINK IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE I'M NOT GETTING ENOUGH COOKIES IN MY DIET?"

## WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOME BUYING — Solutions: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | U | R | T | K | E | Y | S | R | E | C | O | R | D |
| S | A | L | E | G | S | C | S | H | C | R | O | P | O | I |
| T | C | E | P | S | N | I | E | S | R | O | L | O | C | S |
| U | (U) | S | T | H | G | I | L | H | E | I | H | E | A | T |
| R | (N) | O | I | T | I | D | N | O | C | R | I | A | B | A |
| D | (I) | R | E | Y | O | F | P | I | O | E | D | E | L | N |
| Y | (T) | E | I | U | Q | A | I | B | D | T | C | D | E | C |
| D | O | O | W | D | R | A | H | R | R | N | L | T | A | E |
| S | H | O | P | K | R | G | E | A | E | I | E | H | E | X |
| S | T | T | I | E | I | A | F | R | V | P | C | C | Z | T |
| R | E | N | A | E | M | F | E | I | R | R | L | K | I | R |
| E | G | S | N | B | I | F | N | A | A | O | E | A | S | A |
| S | T | S | O | C | E | G | C | E | S | Y | T | I | C | S |
| S | U | B | U | R | B | S | S | E | T | Y | A | R | D | E |
| E | M | A | N | E | H | C | T | I | K | O | D | N | O | C |

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Address, Air-condition, Areas, Bath, Bricks, Cable, Carpet, Check, City, Closet, Colors, Condo, Costs, Court, Date, Dining, Distance, Dream, Extras, Fireplace, Foyer, Hardwood, Heat, Inspect, Interior, Keys, Kitchen, Lights, List, Living, Name, Neighborhood, Parking, Porch, Quiet, Record, Reference, Sale, Search, Shop, Size, Sturdy, Suburbs, Traffic, Unit, Yard

**Yesterday's Answer: Translations**

CONTINUED

# THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

## Can this refrigerator be saved?

De-stinking your fridge and freezer will require more than one wipe-down. Here are some tips for eliminating those lingering odors.

**REMOVE ALL PARTS OF THE REFRIGERATOR** and scrub them separately. As you wash the interior, pay particular attention to cleaning the rubber gaskets on the doors.

**REPEATEDLY HEAT AND VENTILATE THE INSIDE WALLS,** warming them with a hair dryer, hot air popcorn popper or portable convection heater that blows warm air. (Don't use anything that can damage the walls.) Then, ventilate with a portable fan until the inside walls are cool. Repeat for several hours, or until the odor is almost gone.



**ABSORB ODERS WITH ACTIVATED CHARCOAL FILTERS** or a tray of loose activated carbon, which can be found at pet stores, drugstores, appliance service companies and hardware stores. Spread about three ounces on a sheet of foil or in a shallow pan, and place inside. After six hours, heat the charcoal at 350 degrees in an oven to reactivate it, and put it back in the refrigerator and freezer. Repeat until the odors are gone. If possible, run the freezer with nothing but the carbon in it for two days.




**APPLY STRONG CHEMICAL DEODORIZERS** from service companies and home stores, or scrub the refrigerator with an all-purpose cleaner such as Spic and Span or Soilax.

**LOOK FOR ENZYME PRODUCTS THAT REMOVE PET ODORS.** Wet the freezer interior with the product, and let dry. Re-apply if needed.



**CRUMPLE NEWSPAPERS AND MIST THE PAPER WITH WATER.** Stuff the fridge with big balls of damp newspaper until it is full. Every other day, replace the newspaper with new freshly moistened balls. After four or five times, the odors should be gone.



**RUB THE INTERIOR WITH CUT, SMASHED, JUICY LEMON HALVES.** No, we're not kidding.

**IF THE REFRIGERATOR STILL SMELLS DESPITE ALL YOUR EFFORTS,** seepage may have gotten into the refrigerator or freezer's insulation, and you may need to throw it away.

**– Compiled by Judy Walker, Food editor**

STAFF ILLUSTRATIONS BY KENNETH HARRISON

# Concert for N.O.

**CONCERT,** *from C-1*

ranging from $50 to $500.

Cross-cultural symbolism abounded. Before the show, Curtis Sliwa, the founder of New York's famed Guardian Angels, barreled down West 31st Street outside the arena, clad in his trademark beret and red satin jacket, cell phone clamped to his ear. He nearly collided with a guy in a red, white and blue Mid-City Lanes bowling shirt.

Inside, fans in souvenir Jazzfest and Tipitina's shirts mingled beneath banners trumpeting the New York Knicks and the New York Rangers. Concession stands peddled 20-ounce Abita beers — for the very New York price of $7.50.

Ushers handed out Mardi Gras beads. Purple, green and gold balloons and foil decorated the lobby, where C.J. Chenier's zydeco band greeted attendees and the nonprofit Tipitina's Foundation promoted its new Katrina relief efforts.

In the main arena, pianist Allen Toussaint and his horn-heavy New Orleans band backed a quick succession of guest stars in the first hour: Lenny Kravitz, Elvis Costello, Jimmy Buffett — who sang Toussaint's "Fortune Teller" — and Paul Simon, who reprised Baton Rouge singer Jimmy Clanton's 1958 hit "Just a Dream." Clarence "Frogman" Henry's comic croaks and falsettos on "Ain't Got No Home" earned one of the night's first standing ovations.

More than a few New Orleanians had no homes to which to return. The three Dixie Cups lived in either eastern New Orleans or the 9th Ward, both devastated by Katrina's floods. "We lost everything," Athelgra Neville said backstage.

Still, they presided over a radiant "Chapel of Love," then teamed up with Irma Thomas and Cyndi Lauper for a joyous "Brother John"/"Iko, Iko" medley.

"It felt good to be onstage with so many great people," Barbara Hawkins said afterward. "I'm glad they included us."

Not surprisingly, Cyril Neville and Bette Midler made the evening's most overtly political statements. Neville's T-shirt decried the alleged "Ethnic Cleansing in New Orleans."

And the sharp-tongued Divine Miss M augmented her single song with a long anti-Bush tirade. "Ineptitude. Stupidity. Inequality. Global warming. The destruction of the wetlands. These are not just dangerous times...they are disastrous," Midler said. "The war, the hurricanes, Fox News...."

The more diplomatic U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said that New Orleans and New York are "united in a bond of pure tragedy. When the Crescent City called for help, the Big Apple answered. I am here tonight to say thank you."

During a brief set change, former presidents Bush and Clinton appeared on the Garden's jumbo screens, asking for donations. They were followed by a segment about New Orleans piano legend Professor Longhair, one of several scenes from filmmaker Michael Murphy's new "Make It Funky" documentary that aired during breaks.

Against background footage of flooding, fires and helicopter rescues in New Orleans, Elton John and his band rocked the dramatic "Funeral for a Friend." John reveled in meeting some of his New Orleans musical heroes backstage.

"Certainly it's one of the most privileged (nights) of my career to be onstage with people who have influenced me my entire career," he said.

Jimmy Buffett wore a "New Orleans" T-shirt early in the night, then changed into a "Pascagoula" shirt later, showing off his allegiance to, and affinity for, multiple points along the Gulf Coast. Given his star power and ties to the affected areas, Buffett received the night's longest set. To cap it off, Paul Simon joined him for Frankie Ford's "Sea Cruise."

Fats Domino, who was billed for the event but perhaps still had not recovered from the trauma of a rescue from his flooded home, did not perform. And a rumored Rolling Stones appearance did not materialize.

But there were surprises. Clinton strolled onstage to a thunderous ovation from the partisan crowd. He introduced John Fogerty, "my perk," Clinton said, "for all the fund-raising I've been doing."

An amped Fogerty then tore through a succession of Creedence Clearwater Revival anthems that took on a fresh resonance, given the setting: "Born on the Bayou." "Have You Ever Seen the Rain." "Bad Moon Risin'," and "Proud Mary."

Ed Bradley introduced Elvis Costello, a "true but unlikely member of the New Orleans music family," and Costello's "soul sister" wife, Diana Krall. With his wife on piano and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band backing him, Costello teamed with Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame producer Dave Bartholomew for the social commentary "The Monkey Speaks His Mind."

Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, looking sharp in a charcoal pinstripe suit, jazzed "I'm Walkin" with trumpet fireworks. Kermit Ruffins sparked "St. James Infirmary," muting his trumpet bell with his hand. The New Yorkers immediately followed his lead on the "hi-de-hi-de-hi-de-ho" call and response.

With the show running late - New York, it seems, is not immune to "Big Easy time" - much of the audience trickled out after Simon & Garfunkel's three-song set. Those that remained witnessed the first-ever joint performance by the Neville Brothers and the original Meters, who share keyboardist Art Neville, and much history.

On side-by-side drum kits, the Nevilles' "Mean" Willie Green and the Meters' Zigaboo Modeliste locked into the "Hey Pocky Way" groove. Meters guitarist Leo Nocentelli applauded long and loud for Aaron Neville's "Amazing Grace" benediction.

For the all-star finale after midnight, the combined Dirty Dozen and Rebirth brass bands led a "When the Saints Go Marching In" second-line that included Buffett, Bartholomew, the Dixie Cups, Thomas and more. Rebirth then paraded across the floor of the arena with "Do Whatcha Wanna."

Earlier, Cyril Neville had led the Toussaint band for a loose-limbed, tenor sax-powered, strutting "Big Chief," bragging about the funk's pedigree: "We don't do this nowhere else but New Orleans."

New Orleans, and now New York.

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Music critic Keith Spera can be reached at keithspera@yahoo.com.

# *Fall movie season offers a respite from reality*

**MOVIES,** *from C-1*

daughter disappears halfway through a trans-Atlantic flight and neither the flight crew nor the other passengers believe that her daughter was ever onboard. Peter Sarsgaard, Erika Christensen and Sean Bean co-star in Robert Schwentke's thriller. *(Touchstone)*

### Roll Bounce

Bow Wow stars in Malcolm D. Lee's coming-of-age tale, set against the backdrop of the roller skating craze in 1970s Chicago. Chi McBride, Brandon T. Jackson, Jurnee Smollett, Meagan Good, Wesley Jonathan, Mike Epps and Nick Cannon co-star. *(Fox Searchlight)*



Helen Bonham Carter gives voice to Victoria in the stop-motion animated fantasy 'Tim Burton's Corpse Bride,' which opened today, and also features the voices of Johnny Depp and Emily Watson.

### Tim Burton's Corpse Bride

In a 19th-century European village, a young man discovers the importance of true love after he's whisked away to the underworld and wed to the mysterious Corpse Bride. Voices include Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter and Emily Watson. Michael Johnson and Tim Burton direct the stop-motion animated tale. *(Warner Bros.)*

## SEPT. 30

### The Greatest Game Ever Played

Shia LaBeouf stars in the true story of Francis Ouimet, the working-class golfer who took on champion Harry Vardon (Stephen Dillane) at the 1913 U.S. Open. Bill Paxton directs the sports drama. *(Walt Disney)*

### A History of Violence

Family man Viggo Mortensen thwarts a robbery and attracts the unwanted attention of mobsters William Hurt and Ed Harris. Maria Bello co-stars in David Cronenberg's thriller. *(New Line Cinema)*

### Into the Blue

Four divers' joy at the discovery of a legendary shipwreck is tempered when dangerous drug smugglers are lured to the site by the nearby crash of a plane carrying illegal cargo. Paul Walker, Jessica Alba, Scott Caan, Ashley Scott, Josh Brolin and James Frain star in John Stockwell's action film. *(Columbia/MGM)*

### Oliver Twist

Ben Kingsley and Barney Clark co-star in Roman Polanski's new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel about an orphan who gets involved with a gang of pickpockets in Victorian London. *(TriStar)*

### The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio

In the 1950s, housewife Julianne Moore uses her wit to win jingle contests and keep a roof over her family's heads. Jane Anderson directs an adaptation of Terry Ryan's memoir about her mother. Woody Harrelson and Laura Dern co-star. *(Go Fish Pictures)*

### Serenity

Writer-director Joss Whedon reunites the cast of his short-lived television series "Firefly" for one more adventure. After taking on two new passengers, Capt. Malcolm Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) finds that he and the crew of the spaceship Serenity are sought both by the galactic coalition and by cannibalistic savages who prowl the depths of space. Co-stars include Alan Tudyk, Adam Baldwin, Summer Glau and Chiwetel Ejiofor. *(Universal)*



Barney Clark and Harry Eden as Oliver Twist and Artful Dodger in 'Oliver Twist,' directed by Roman Polanski and set to open Sept. 30.

## OCT. 7

### The Gospel

Prodigal son Boris Kodjoe, now a successful rhythm-and-blues singer, returns home to visit ailing father Clifton Powell, a bishop, and discovers his father's church in shambles. Rob Hardy writes and directs. *(TriStar)*

### In Her Shoes

Party girl Cameron Diaz clashes with straight-laced sister Toni Collette in Curtis Hanson's adaptation of the novel by Jennifer Weiner. Shirley MacLaine and Mark Feuerstein co-star *(Fox)*

### Separate Lies

Emily Watson and Tom Wilkinson's idyllic marriage is threatened by the arrival of Rupert Everett and a tragic accident in their country village. Julian Fellowes writes and directs. *(Fox Searchlight)*

### Two for the Money

Sports score prognosticator Matthew McConaughey begins to lose his touch and runs afoul of mentor Al Pacino in a drama directed by D.J. Caruso. Rene Russo, Armand Assante and Jeremy Piven co-star. (Universal)

### Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

The cheese-loving Wallace and his faithful dog are on the trail of a huge rabbit that's been raiding local gardens in advance of the annual Giant Vegetable Competition. Voices include Peter Sallis, Helena Bonham-Carter and Ralph Fiennes. Nick Park ("Chicken Run") and Steve Box direct the stop-motion animated tale. *(DreamWorks)*

## OCT. 14

### Domino

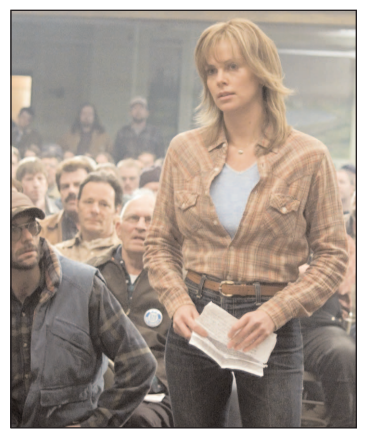
Keira Knightley stars as Domino Harvey, daughter of actor Laurence Harvey and a former model who decided to become a bounty hunter. The ensemble cast includes Mickey Rourke, Edgar Ramirez, Delroy Lindo, Mena Suvari, Lucy Liu, Christopher Walken, Jacqueline Bisset, Mo'Nique and Macy Gray. Tony Scott directs the action-thriller. *(New Line Cinema)*

### Elizabethtown

In writer-director Cameron Crowe's new comedy, romance develops unexpectedly during a Kentucky patriarch's elaborate memorial. The cast includes Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst, Susan Sarandon, Alec Baldwin, Bruce McGill, Judy Greer, Jessica Biel and celebrity chef Paula Deen. *(Paramount)*

### The Fog

A hundred years after a shipwreck off the northern California coast, the sailors' ghosts return to exact their revenge on a quiet seaside town. Tom Welling, Maggie Grace and Selma Blair star in Rupert Wainwright's remake of the classic John Carpenter film. (Columbia/Revolution)



Charlize Theron portrays Josey Aimes who battles sexual harassment among mine workers in 'North Country,' set to open Oct. 14.

### North Country

In a movie inspired by a true story, Charlize Theron plays a miner who leads a battle against sexual harassment and unfair treatment in the male-dominated workplace. Woody Harrelson, Frances McDormand and Sissy Spacek co-star in Niki Caro's drama. *(Warner Bros.)*

### Stay

Psychiatrist Ewan McGregor tries desperately to prevent Ryan Gosling's intended suicide. Naomi Watts co-stars in a thriller directed by Marc Forster. *(Fox)*

## OCT. 21

### Derailed

A violent criminal blackmails two married business executives who are having an affair, but he finds that his marks will do anything to save their families. Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston, Vincent Cassel, Melissa George, RZA, Xzibit and Giancarlo Esposito star in Mikael Hafstrom's film. *(Weinstein Co.)*

### Doom

Scientists at a research facility on Mars accidentally unleash a legion of demons fighting to make their way to the station's portal to Earth. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Karl Urban are among the Marines sent to stop the demons. Andrzej Bartkowiak directs an adaptation of the popular video game. *(Universal)*

### Dreamer

Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning star in the true story of a father who, for the love of his daughter, sacrifices almost everything to save an injured racehorse. Kris Kristofferson and Elisabeth Shue co-star in writer-director John Gatins' film, which was shot in the New Orleans area. *(DreamWorks)*

### Shopgirl

Saks Fifth Avenue clerk and aspiring artist Claire Danes is pursued by older and wealthier Steve Martin as well as struggling young musician Jason Schwartzman, all of whom are in search of the same thing. Bridgette Wilson-Sampras co-stars in Anand Tucker's adaptation of Martin's novel. *(Touchstone)*

## OCT. 28

### The Legend of Zorro

The masked swordsman's attempt to live a normal life is scuttled when forces plot to unleash a threat that has been 500 years in the making. Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones reunite with director Martin Campbell for the sequel to "The Mask of Zorro." *(Columbia)*

### Prime

Therapist Meryl Streep encourages Manhattan divorcee Uma Thurman to enjoy a fling with a younger man - until she accidentally discovers that the younger man is her own son, Bryan Greenberg. Jon Abrahams co-stars in a comedy from writer-director Ben Younger. *(Universal)*

### Saw II

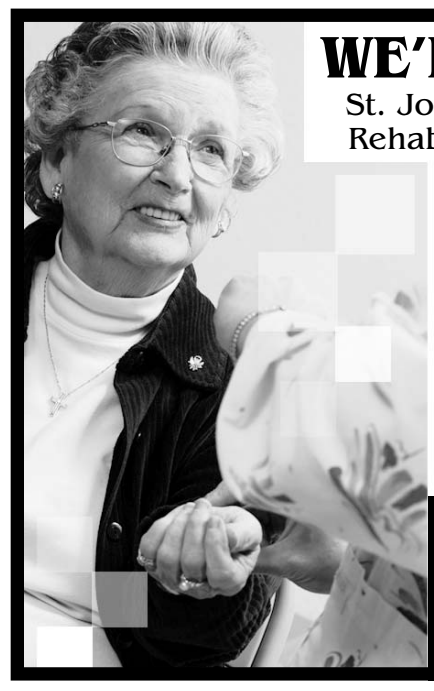
Police detective Donnie Wahlberg suspects that a grisly murder is the work of serial killer Jigsaw. Franky G., Glenn Plummer, Dina Meyer and Tobin Bell co-star in Darren Lynn Bousman's horror sequel. *(Lions Gate)*

### The Weather Man

A painful divorce, an ailing father and troubled children have made forecaster Nicolas Cage's life as unpredictable as the weather. Gore Verbinski's cast includes Michael Caine, Hope Davis, Michael Rispoli and Gil Bellows. *(Paramount)*

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Movie critic Michael Kleinschrodt can be reached at mhkleinschrodt@yahoo.com.

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The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Friday
September 23, 2005

## Record in hand, McAllister sets sights on Vikings

*Minnesota has worst run defense*

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — It didn't feel much like a historical moment, lost in the chaos of the Saints' loss to the New York Giants on Monday night.

But early in the first quarter, on the Saints' first drive, tailback Deuce McAllister became the team's all-time rushing leader.

He now has 4,305 yards. Not bad for a 26-year-old back in his fifth season, who could still have another 10,000 yards or so in the tank.

"What Deuce has accomplished in just three years, I don't know if it says a lot about him or if there's been a lot of bad football going on for a long time," Saints coach Jim Haslett joked. "But he's a special running back and a special kid."

**SAINTS AT VIKINGS**
noon Sunday
4D

Still, McAllister said he didn't ask for any special recognition after breaking the record. He didn't keep any souvenirs such as the game ball or his game jersey.

"It wasn't a big deal. It's something that was expected to happen going into the season," McAllister said. "It will be something that we celebrate later on."

For now, McAllister is focused on some short-term goals - running roughshod Sunday over the Minnesota Vikings, the league's 32nd-ranked rushing defense.

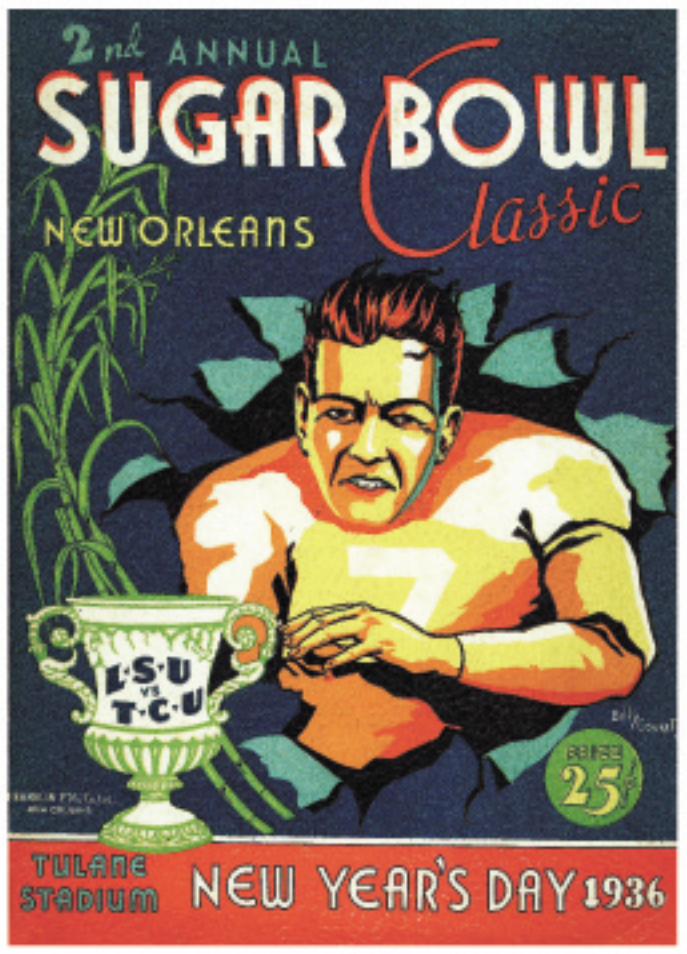
McAllister is still waiting for his first breakout game this season. He ran for 64 yards and two touchdowns in a workmanlike Week 1 victory at Carolina. Last week he gained just 47 yards on 15 carries, and the Saints had to abandon the running game in the second half.

But McAllister said he is staying patient for now. He doesn't mind pounding the ball into the middle and chipping away at a defense.

"I know big plays are going

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-6*




LSU SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

The Sugar Bowl began during the Great Depression at a Tulane Stadium that then seated 20,000.

## Sugar Bowl needs to do what it takes to stay in La.

History lesson: Before there was a Super Bowl, there was a Sugar Bowl.

Before there was a Superdome, there was a Tulane Stadium.

Which is why, before the Saints played their first football game in the Big Easy, circa 1967, the Tulane Green Wave had played many, many football games, beginning in 1893.

Let's be clear on this. New Orleans would never have landed an NFL franchise had Tulane not made a sizable home available - a home with 80,000 seats.



PETER FINNEY

I bring this up because the site of this season's Sugar Bowl has come down to either LSU's Tiger Stadium or Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

And let's be even clearer on this: If it winds up at the Georgia Dome, it will be strictly on an interim basis, no more than one year.

How do I know?

Because I know Paul Hoolahan, the Sugar Bowl's executive director, someone who knows better than anyone that the Sugar Bowl belongs to Louisiana. And in Louisiana.

So why not play it in Baton Rouge this season?



LSU SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT PHOTO

LSU's Gaynell Tinsley gets ready to air it out against TCU during the second Sugar Bowl in 1936.

Because Hurricane Katrina's fallout, for at least the next six months, has eaten up the kind of hotel space required for New Orleans, not to mention Baton Rouge, to handle a Sugar Bowl crowd.

Available rooms are now being occupied, wisely, in New Orleans and elsewhere by thousands of workers involved in bringing the city back to life.

A No. 1 priority.

Question: If the Georgia Dome lands this season's Sugar Bowl, where would next season's Sugar Bowl be played?

Answer: At Tiger Stadium, a 90,000-seat facility with mucho suites. And it would be played there until there is a restored Superdome or a new Superdome.

All right, but supposed that takes two,

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-7*

## LSU-UT showdown moved to Monday

*Third Tigers game altered by storm*

By Jim Kleinpeter
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — The LSU-Tennessee football game scheduled for Saturday has been moved to 6:30 p.m. Monday at Tiger Stadium because of Hurricane Rita, the SEC announced Thursday.

The game will be televised by ESPN2.

SEC commissioner Mike Slive made the decision to move the game between the No. 3 Tigers and No. 10 Vols to insure the safety of the visitors traveling to the game. Tennessee was scheduled to fly into Baton Rouge on Saturday at about noon, but Hurricane Rita, a category 4 storm as of late Thursday, was expected to make landfall near the Lousiana-Texas border late Friday or early Saturday morning.

"After reviewing all of the information, I felt this was the best decision for the game," Slive said. "The safety of our student-athletes, coaches and fans is our priority. I understand this puts a burden on LSU and its administration, however the travel safety issues necessitate this decision."

**TENN. AT LSU**
6:30 p.m. Monday
ESPN2

LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said he lobbied for the game to be played Sunday night, but he said the commissioner felt the strong winds might not have subsided by then to allow Tennessee to fly in.

"He wanted to err on the side of safety," Bertman said. "It's his decision per SEC rules. We've got our night game, but it won't be Saturday night."

It's the third consecutive scheduled game affected by hurricanes this season. LSU postponed its season-opener with North Texas to Oct. 29 and moved it's second game with Arizona State to Tempe, Ariz., two weeks ago.

The rescheduling will give the Tigers only four days of preparation for the Mississippi State game Oct. 1. Tennessee has a home game against Ole Miss that day.

## Hornets mull plans for ticket holders

*Lack of computer system is slowing the process*

By Jimmy Smith
Staff writer

The Hornets, hampered without their computers and server, are still formulating plans on how season-ticket holders who purchased them before Hurricane Katrina can receive refunds or go about applying those funds to next season.

The team, left homeless when New Orleans Arena was damaged in the storm, announced plans to temporarily relocate to Oklahoma City, where it will play 35 of its 41 home games at the 19,675-seat Ford Center. The Hornets' home schedule includes six games to be played in Baton Rouge at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.




AP PHOTO

The Ford Center in Oklahoma City will be the Hornets' home for 35 games during the 2005-06 season.

Team president Paul Mott said Thursday he hopes the team's computer system will be functional in the next day or so and that the team will be able to access records of sales made before the hurricane.

"We will then reach out to our ticket holders as soon as we can and ask them if they'd like us to hold their money on account as a deposit on tickets for our 2006-07 return to New Orleans," Mott said. "And we'd certainly make an offer of some sort to make it financially worth their while, perhaps interest paid on the money, for example.

"We'd hope those people would do that. That would be best for us as a company. If it

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-6*

## Belle Chasse QB lands in Alexandria

*Roy wins the starting job for 4A's 5th-ranked team*

By Mike Strom
Staff writer

Belle Chasse senior quarterback Adam Roy was riding in a school bus, returning from a victorious effort in the Plaquemines Parish Jamboree, when he learned that Hurricane Katrina was bearing down on southeast Louisiana.

Less than three days later, Belle Chasse's senior quarterback and his family were in Hammond at his father's automotive repair shop, where they safely rode out the deadly storm. The Roys soon were headed to Alexandria to stay with relatives.

"Nobody had an idea it was going to be this bad," Roy said. "So we packed a few things in our bags thinking it was just going to be a couple of days and then we'd return. Then we found out the Gulf of Mexico was a lot closer to us than it was before."

Unlike many of his less fortunate peers, Roy has found safe refuge in a return to football at Alexandria Senior High, and the Trojans, who own the state's No. 5 ranking in Class 4A, have found themselves the quarterback that they previously lacked.

"Adam has been a good addition," ASH coach Butch Stoker said. "He's still learning our offense and we kind of overloaded

*See* **ROY,** *C-8*

# All remaining Saints-Bills tickets available to public

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints owner Tom Benson made a plea for more than 18,000 remaining tickets to be sold in time for the Saints' Oct. 2 game against the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome.

With only 10 days remaining before the game, the Saints opened all remaining tickets to the general public Thursday.

"As the first regular-season NFL game ever in San Antonio, the Oct. 2 Saints-Bills matchup is the most important to sell out - selling out the first game sets the tone for the rest of the schedule," Benson said in a statement. "The NFL-imposed television blackout deadline to guarantee a sellout for the game against Buffalo is Sept. 29. So, for all intents and purposes, we have one week to get the Alamodome opener against the Bills sold out."

The Saints will play three games in San Antonio this season, including an Oct. 16 date against the Atlanta Falcons and a Dec. 24 matchup against the Detroit Lions. The Alamodome seats 65,000 for football.

When tickets for all three games went on sale last week, the San Antonio fan base quickly bought more than 50,000 tickets on the first day and more than 100,000 in the first week. But ticket sales have slowed since then.

The game against Atlanta has been the most popular, with only about 7,000 tickets remaining — likely because of the appeal of Falcons quarterback Michael Vick.

City leaders believe a lot hinges on the show of support from the San Antonio community during these three games.

The NFL has not regarded San Antonio as an NFL-caliber town, but city leaders would like to change that opinion in hopes of one day luring an NFL franchise, perhaps the Saints, as early as next season.

**LIGHTENING UP:** The Saints practiced in shorts and shells instead of full pads Thursday, giving their bodies a chance to make the quick turnaround from a Monday night road game to another trip the following Sunday at Minnesota.

The mood was lightened, too, when strength and conditioning coaches Rock Gullickson and Adam Bailey rode onto the Alamodome turf during practice on a motorcycle, honking the horn and wearing Viking horns and a Vikings foam finger.

One of the goalposts was also decorated with Vikings pennants and foam fingers. And, as the team pumped in simulated crowd noise during practice, there was the added sound of a Viking horn on every play, a computer-generated effect added by team employee Carter Sheridan.

**ETC.:** With Hurricane Rita approaching landfall, the Saints still had no plans to alter their travel schedule. The team is planning to fly to Minnesota on Saturday afternoon unless things change. ... Guard Jermane Mayberry injured his right shoulder later in practice. The extent of the injury is unknown. He is listed as questionable. Receiver Az-Zahir Hakim (hamstring) and cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee) did not practice.

# Deuce patiently awaits breakout

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

to come. I know I'm capable of having a 60-, 70-yard run," McAllister said. "Right now it's two or three yards and a cloud of dust. But that's how we're approaching it.

"I think that fits us with a power attack. Because come the fourth quarter, you know your big runs are going to come. People are going to get tired of tackling a 235-pound back."

McAllister said even when he gains just two or three yards per carry, he prides himself on making the defense work for it.

"You want to obviously make that first guy miss, or if you have to lower shoulder into him, then that's what you have to do," McAllister said. "But no one defender should ever tackle you one on one."

And this year, McAllister feels great every time he comes out of that "cloud of dust" - at least compared to last season, when he fought through a lingering ankle injury for his third consecutive 1,000-yard season.

Healthy and rejuvenated, McAllister had a terrific offseason. The team centered its offensive philosophy around him, promising to attack teams with a clock-controlling power run game.

"It's not just lip service," said McAllister, who signed a six-year contract extension at the start of training camp. "We're going out and doing it. The first 10, 12 plays, probably six of them are going to be runs. So teams know that they're going to have to stop the run."

The philosophy worked great in Week 1, when McAllister scored touchdowns in the first and second quarters against Carolina.



Deuce McAllister was held to 47 yards on 15 carries by the Gaints on Monday night.

AP PHOTO

Last week was an all-around disaster. The Saints' running game was OK, but they were taken out of their game plan early by a slew of turnovers and penalties.

The Saints hope to overcome that performance quickly Sunday in the Metrodome by setting the tone early. The team is confident that it can impose its will at the line of scrimmage because McAllister is such a splendid back.

"He's a dream back for an offensive lineman," center LeCharles Bentley said. "There will be times when there's nothing there, and he's going to create something."

Veteran guard Jermane Mayberry, who signed with the Saints in free agency this winter because of that power running philosophy, said McAllister has been even better than advertised.

"I'm very impressed with him," Mayberry said. "As an athlete, he's physical, big, fast. He has all the tools you want, and he's a smart player. As a person, he's a great guy, a real genuine guy.

"You'd have to search this league real hard to find a back more complete than he is."

The Vikings defensive front is supposed to be better than the early statistics indicate, with burly tackle Frank Williams and versatile lineman Kevin Williams leading the charge.

The Vikings allowed 167 rushing yards last week in a 37-8 loss to Cincinnati, and 146 yards to Tampa Bay in a 24-13 loss in Week 1.

"They're a team to be accounted for, especially up front," Bentley said.

# Before Katrina, Hornets tickets were selling fast

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

doesn't work for them, and they need that money back, and many people may, we'd refund their money in some fashion."

Mott stressed that no plans have been finalized either way.

"I'm waiting for proposals," he said. "But we are going to play games in Louisiana as well, and fans can certainly use money on their account to pay for those games."

One additional game, an Oct. 25 preseason game against Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat, has been moved to the Pete Maravich Assembly Center from its originally scheduled venue in Bossier City.

Mott said the Hornets plan to donate all of their proceeds from that preseason game to hurricane relief. Talks are scheduled with other sponsors and partnership entities to see if they will do the same.

The Hornets, Mott said, were well on their way to establishing record levels in season and group ticket sales in New Orleans this year before the storm halted those advances.

"I find it easy to get over any disappointments because of the bigger issues facing everybody's lives," Mott said. "But the (New Orleans) marketplace had embraced this team.

"We were having terrific sales. We'd more than doubled our full season ticket sales from last year and were steaming toward tripling it. When the league released group ticket sales at mid-July, we were No. 1 in the league in group sales deposits. This team has not been above the average in its time in New Orleans. People knew it was a great entertainment option. We were excited. And a lot of people in the marketplace were, too."

Mott stressed that the Hornets' New Orleans community outreach, a major part of the team's identity in the Crescent City, would not diminish this season, even though they would be stretched into the Oklahoma City area, as well.

"I'm committed to having a presence in Louisiana this season. What form that takes, I'm not sure," Mott said. "The place where we made one of our biggest splashes in the community was in community relations. So we're writing a business plan in that area for two locations.

"We're going to take our resources and spread them across a wider reach. We'll repay the citizens of Oklahoma City and provide them with their best NBA experience, because this might be their only one. But we'll try not to lose step with what we were doing in the New Orleans marketplace. We don't want people (in New Orleans) to ask, 'Where were you?' These are our fans. And our fellow citizens."

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## GOLF

**HOUSTON MAN WINS SENIOR AMATEUR:** Mike Rice rallied to win the 17th and 18th holes for a 1-up victory over defending champion Mark Bemowski in the finals at Rocky Face, Ga. Rice, 65, of Houston, was down two before he birdied the 12th hole to close within one. Bemowski, of Mukwonago, Wis., hit an approach shot into a hazard on the 14th and conceded the hole, evening the match. Bemowski took the lead again on the 16th when Rice conceded his 1-foot birdie putt, but Rice evened it again on the 17th when Bemowski left himself a 30-footer for par and missed it. Rice won it on the 18th with a 2 1/2-foot par putt; Bemowski missed a 4-footer.

**LANG WINS SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR:** Diane Lang won the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship, beating four-time champion Carol Semple Thompson 1-up at Rye, N.Y. Lang, 50, from Weston, Fla., was playing in her second U.S. Golf Association event and first Senior Amateur. Semple Thompson, 56, a seven-time USGA champion, was playing in her record 102nd USGA event.

## NFL

**49ERS LOSE TE:** Tight end Eric Johnson, the San Francisco 49ers' leading receiver last season, was placed on injured reserve Thursday because of a torn muscle in his left foot. Johnson, who hasn't been healthy since before training camp, will miss his second full season in three years. He sat out all of the 2003 season after breaking his collarbone in the 49ers' first exhibition game. But he rebounded to catch 82 passes for 825 yards last season. The 49ers used veteran Steve Bush and rookie Billy Bajema at tight end in the first two games, but waiver acquisition Trent Smith might get his first chance to play for the 49ers on Sunday.

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** Jets running back Curtis Martin practiced and was upgraded to probable on the injury report. Martin has a bruised right knee. ... Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich (injured groin) returned to practice and remained optimistic he would play against the New York Jets. ... The Arizona Cardinals placed tight end John Bronson on injured reserve, ending his season. The Cardinals promoted cornerback Lamont Reid from the practice squad and re-signed wide receiver Carlyle Holiday to the practice squad. ... Carolina safety Mike Minter returned to practice and said he is confident his strained right calf won't prevent him from playing against the Miami Dolphins. "There's no pain; that's a great sign," said Minter, who has played in 68 consecutive games. "I went full speed, and I was able to break on the ball and do things I normally do. So I feel like I will play." Cornerback Ken Lucas missed his second straight day of practice with a shoulder injury and said he doesn't know if he will play Sunday in Miami. ... Quarterback Donovan McNabb and wide receiver Terrell Owens both practiced for the Philadelphia Eagles after sitting out a day because of injuries. McNabb, who sat out one practice last week with a bruised chest, hurt his groin right before halftime against San Francisco. Owens has a nagging abdominal/groin injury. ... The Washington Redskins placed defensive tackle Brandon Noble on injured reserve. Noble, who missed the 2003 season after reconstructive surgery on his left knee, underwent arthroscopic surgery on the same knee last week. The Redskins moved Aki Jones from the practice squad to take Noble's roster spot and signed linebacker Nick McNeil to the practice squad.

## BASKETBALL

**NAILON AGREES TO TERMS WITH 76ERS:** Former Hornets forward Lee Nailon agreed to terms with the Philadelphia 76ers. Nailon, 6 feet 9, 238 pounds, averaged a career-high 14.2 points and 4.4 rebounds in 68 games last season for New Orleans. "Lee will give us some added offense and experience," 76ers president Billy King said. Nailon has averaged 8.9 points and 3.1 rebounds in five seasons.

**PAYTON JOINS HEAT:** Point guard Gary Payton has signed a $1.1 million, one-year deal with Miami. Payton and Jason Williams - another new Heat addition - will be the team's primary point guards entering training camp, which opens in less than two weeks. Miami lost starting point guard Damon Jones to Cleveland this summer as a free agent. Payton averaged 11.3 points and 6.1 assists for Boston last season.

**PROSECUTOR TO RECOMMEND PROBATION:** Community service and probation will be recommended for four Indiana Pacers players charged in a brawl with fans that broke out during a game last season, a Detroit prosecutor said, provided the players "take responsibility" by pleading guilty or no contest at pretrial hearings. Hearings for Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson are scheduled for today in district court. David Harrison faces an Oct. 3 hearing.

## BASEBALL

**PALMEIRO MIGHT NOT RETURN:** Rafael Palmeiro's season with the Baltimore Orioles might be over. Orioles interim manager Sam Perlozzo said that if the first baseman had disclosed the name of a teammate who supplied him with the substance that led to Palmeiro's suspension for steroid use, it probably would be best that Palmeiro not return to the team. The Sun in Baltimore, citing unidentified sources, reported Thursday that Palmeiro had identified a teammate by name. "If in fact that was true, then it probably would not be a good idea" for Palmeiro to return, Perlozzo said. "It's all speculation as far as I know."

**GRIFFEY TO HAVE TWO OPERATIONS:** Ken Griffey Jr. will have surgery on his left knee and right hamstring Monday, presumably ending a stellar comeback season for the oft-injured Cincinnati Reds star. Griffey, 35, is expected to be ready for spring training. He will have arthroscopic surgery to clean out his left knee and treat scar tissue around his hamstring.

## ETC.

**NASCAR PROMISES PENALTIES:** If NASCAR has its way, the road rage that has erupted in recent Nextel Cup races is over. NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said that Mike Helton, the sanctioning organization's president, will tell the drivers before Sunday's race at Dover International Speedway that such behavior will no longer be tolerated and that they will risk being suspended if there is more on-track retaliation. "With what Mike is planning to do at the drivers' meetings on Saturday, prior to the Busch race, and on Sunday is going to sort of give our guys, I don't want to say a final warning, but I think they'll clearly understand that we're going to do what we need to," Hunter said. "If we need to suspend people, then, starting at Dover, that's a possibility."

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# Decision upcoming on Bayou Classic's new site

*Officials to decide between Houston, Shreveport*

By Ted Lewis
Staff writer

Grambling and Southern officials are expected to decide next week where to relocate the Bayou Classic, with the top two choices coming down to Houston and Shreveport, sources say.

The decision likely would have been made Friday, but the approach of Hurricane Rita prevented communication with officials in Houston.

"For planning purposes, we need to know something in order to move forward," said Angelia Weaver, Grambling's Bayou Classic coordinator and executive assistant to the school's president. "But things seem like they're changing overnight, so you never know."

Ralph Slaughter, vice-president for the Southern University system and Weaver's counterpart at his school, said that, while a decision about the Nov. 26 game was close, he still was trying to gather information.

"We've still got stuff coming in and then we have to reach a consensus decision with Grambling," he said. "This is a major event that has been around for a long time, and we want to do it right."

The Bayou Classic annually draws a sellout crowd of 72,000 in the Superdome and thousands of more come to New Orleans for related activities.

That would seemingly make Houston, which has offered its Reliant Stadium and would have more than adequate hotel space and other amenities, the most logical site.

But Shreveport has put in a strong bid as well.

"We are doing everything it takes to get the Bayou Classic here," said Brandy Evans, vice-president for communications for the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. "The Bayou Classic should remain in the Bayou State."

Ken Antee, chief administrative officer for the City of Shreveport, said that Independence Stadium was being offered rent-free and that the game day costs would be covered as well.

Also, blocks of hotel rooms were being set aside at reasonable rates.

Shreveport's problem, however, is that Independence Stadium seats 52,000, some 20,000 less than Reliant, and that there are only about 8,000 hotel rooms in the area. The Bayou Classic usually occupies 10,000 hotel rooms in New Orleans, Weaver said.

"Our stadium size is what it is," Antee said. "Same thing with the hotels.

"But we still feel like we can accommodate this game and we can make this financially feasible to both schools. What we've presented to them can make this successful for everyone."

Weaver said that all things being equal, Shreveport was her first choice.

"Both universities would like nothing more than to keep the game in Louisiana," she said. "But we're just not sure, especially with so many displaced citizens still living there."

Houston officials could not be contacted on Thursday. But last week, Shea Guinn, vice-president and general manager of Reliant Stadium called Houston the ideal site.

"We are the nearest large city with all of the amenities and a stadium to play host to the event," he said. "Plus, we have many thousands of Louisiana residents living here who would be able to participate in the activities."

Those activities over Thanksgiving weekend, besides the game itself, including a battle of the bands on the night before, include a job fair and numerous alumni and private parties.

LSU's Tiger Stadium was considered, but the lack of hotel rooms in Baton Rouge and the unavailability of rooms in New Orleans made that idea not feasible.

Weaver said that, regardless of where the game is played this year, the Bayou Classic will return to New Orleans in 2006, if the Superdome is playable. If not, it likely would be played at LSU.

"We don't have any intention of moving the Bayou Classic," she said. "Everybody understands this an alternative for just one year."

# Green Wave kickoff moved to 1 p.m.

By Fred Robinson
Staff writer

RUSTON — Southern Methodist University athletic officials, keeping a close eye on Hurricane Rita, are confident the time change for Saturday's game with Tulane will avoid any problems the storm may cause in the Dallas area.

The Tulane-SMU game, scheduled for 7 p.m. at Ford Stadium, was moved to a 1 p.m. kickoff.

SMU athletic director Jim Copeland said the school is continuing to monitor the hurricane's projected path "and will take additional action" if it is necessary.

The weather forecast has Hurricane Rita moving into the Texas gulf coast near Houston early Saturday. It has already forced the postponement of Southern Miss' game Saturday at Houston. Southern Miss' game with Tulane on Sept. 4 was postponed until late November by Hurricane Katrina. The storm also forced the Green Wave to relocate its football team at Louisiana Tech and send its others athletes to three universities in Texas.

Hurricane Rita also forced Tulane's women's soccer team to call off a Wednesday match with Sam Houston State and a Sunday's match at Trinity. The volleyball team's Thursday flights out of Houston were cancelled and the team was forced to postpone its Conference USA road matches with East Carolina and Marshall.

Meanwhile, Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson, after conferring with associate athletics director Vince Granito in College State, Texas, has decided to leave six of the Tulane's athletic teams, 90 athletes in all, at Texas A&M. The school is about 250 miles from Houston.

The men's basketball and tennis teams, the women's tennis and soccer teams, along with the volleyball and swimming and diving teams, will spend Friday night in a locker room at Kyle Field, A&M's football stadium, according to a Tulane official.

Tulane's football team is scheduled to leave for Dallas at 9 a.m. today.

Also, the site of Tulane's Oct. 14 C-USA contest against Texas-El Paso has not been decided. A decision probably will not come until next week, Dickson said.

# Tigers' Russell feeling more secure

*LSU QB not worried about being pulled*

By William Kalec
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Loaded with talent, absent of an identity, LSU is beginning to resemble its laidback quarterback, seemingly unfazed by the surplus of adversity gathered less than a month into this stuttered season. The Tigers are beginning to follow the tall guy with the tilted brim, trusting in a previously hidden confidence.

"Last year I was in and out," sophomore JaMarcus Russell said. "This year, hopefully I'll be in more than out."

If Russell comes anywhere close to mimicking his first wire-to-wire collegiate start against Arizona State, Matt Flynn and Ryan Perrilloux will likely remain on the shelf until the end of November - especially if LSU's receivers cut Russell some slack and hang on to a few more balls. Overlooked because of Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller's video-game-like statistics, Russell went 16-of-29 for 232 yards and a watershed touchdown pass in the Tigers' 35-31 victory over the Sun Devils.



APPHOTO

LSU's JaMarcus Russell was sacked on this play, but he was upright enough to complete 16 of 29 passes for 232 yards and the winning touchdown against Arizona State.

A popular pawn in the mind games Nick Saban loved to play, Russell spent much of last season lamenting his fragile, pass-to-pass status. In one series, out the next, back in, back out until it's over. Forget getting into a flow.

And even though Coach Les Miles decided to keep competition between the quarterbacks open right up until game day, offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher assured Russell he stood on much more stable ground before kickoff.

"It's kind of hard. Because every time you do something wrong, you're always peeking to the sideline and see if he's coming to get you," Russell said Wednesday, just days before the No. 3-ranked Tigers' game against No. 10 Tennessee on Monday at 6:30 p.m.. "But you know, even if you do it right, you're still looking to see. But now, it's not like that. Coach says. 'Play like you're the only guy we have at that position.' Like nothing is going to happen.

"It gave me a great energy boost, confidence boost," Russell said, later. "Play like you have nothing to lose."

Teammates raved about Russell's offseason dedication, how he was almost reborn in the huddle, practicing with a sense of purpose. After ballooning a bit when seen at a summer passing camp, Russell dropped close to 15 pounds before August.

"When you are so much more gifted than everybody, you get away with bad habits," Fisher said. "Now, they're not bad habits at the (high school) level, because you're gifted. Physically, you can do whatever. And you're so much bigger than everybody. You can see things and do things that most guys can't.

"It's a testament to him that he's willing to go back to the basics and be a hard-working guy and do it from the ground up instead of just relying on his ability. And it's hard to do."

Russell admitted there were instances last season where he stepped to the line unclear exactly what route his receivers were going to run. Compare that to now, when Fisher said Russell checks off and makes adjustments freely.

"Ability is one thing. Then, you have to apply the knowledge with ability at the proper situation in the proper moment," Fisher said. "I mean, there's a lot more to being a great football player than being a great athlete.

"That's why there are only a few great ones. ... The guys that can maximize their ability with the situation and knowledge of the game, those are the ones ya'll write about."

# Rita may cause more woes for N.O. Bowl

*Official says storm 'changes the equation'*

By Ted Lewis
Staff writer

Hurricane Katrina already has forced the New Orleans Bowl to move from the Superdome. Now, Hurricane Rita may alter plans to play the game in Lafayette, officials' first choice as an alternate site.

Depending on Rita's effects, the storm could mean a lack of hotel rooms in Lafayette for the Dec. 20 game between the Sun Belt Conference champion and a team from Conference USA.

"We're close, but Rita changes the equation," said Billy Ferrante, the bowl's executive director. "We could see one group of people moving out but then bringing in another. We just don't know."

If the game can't be played in Lafayette, Shreveport would be the most likely destination. Several other cities, including Orlando, Fla., and Memphis, Tenn., have expressed interest in the game, but the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation prefers to keep the game in Louisiana.

"We'd like to make a decision next week, but we've just got to wait and see what happens with Rita," Ferrante said.

Ferrante and Sports Foundation executive director Jay Cicero met with officials from Louisiana-Lafayette, a Sun Belt member, and the city earlier this week. Ferrante said the need for about 3,500 hotel rooms in a city that has about 4,800 is a sticking point in finalizing the deal.

Most of the rooms are currently occupied by evacuees and recovery workers. If Rita strikes southwestern Louisiana, the demand would grow.

However, ULL president Ray Authement has said that, since the game would fall during a holiday period, university housing could be used.

Ferrante said there's great enthusiasm in a city whose only previous bowl experience was the 1948 Camellia Bowl between Hardin-Simmons and Wichita State.

"The important thing to us is that they really want to take local ownership of the game," Ferrante said. "They look on this as a big event and it's a priority for the community to get behind it.

"They've basically told us that, whatever we need to make this work, they'll do it."

Ferrante also said Lafayette offers many of the amenities of New Orleans, albeit on a smaller scale. "The culture is a little different, but the entertainment, food and so forth are very much like they are in New Orleans," he said. "Fans would not lack for things to do."

If the Superdome is not operating in 2006, Lafayette again would be the likely site for the game, Ferrante said, hopefully without the hotel problem.

"We've talked about the possibility of not being in the Superdome next year," he said. "They said they'd love to have us."

# Atlanta makes sense for Sugar, but just for one year

**FINNEY,** *from C-5*

three, four years?

So what.

During that time, you simply invite Sugar Bowl fans to make New Orleans their destination and, come game day, you encourage them to make a 90-minute trip to Tiger Stadium.

Here's the picture: Barring another disaster, God forbid, by bowl time in late 2006, New Orleans would be able to house, and entertain, a bowl crowd of approximately 30,000. And Tulane and the Saints would be ready to afford practice facilities to the teams, a couple of necessary items Katrina put off the charts. Temporarily.

Let's not fool ourselves. There are many cities out there ready to jump at the chance to replace New Orleans on the Bowl Championship Series calendar.

Include Atlanta in that number.

Given existing circumstances, however, since you want your event to go off smoothly, since you want New Orleans ready to welcome Sugar Bowl crowds in its customary fashion, the time line suggests Atlanta may make more sense than Baton Rouge as a site for a Jan. 2, 2006 Sugar Bowl.

But for one year only.

The key to all future Sugar Bowls comes down to one word: Superdome.

At the moment, no one knows whether Katrina damaged Dave Dixon's dream house beyond repair, whether it will make more sense to build a new one or restore the old one.

Make no mistake, since the French Quarter escaped a lethal blow, a Superdome, in some form, will be a telling showcase of the revival.

And let's not forget, when it comes to sports, what the Big Easy's bible tells us about a 72-year-old fixture.

On Jan. 1, 1935, a cozy Tulane Stadium of 20,000 begat the Sugar Bowl.

Sugar Bowl success begat a bigger home, a Tulane Stadium expansion, from 20,000 to 60,000 to 80,000.

A bigger home begat the Saints.

Which begat, with an assist from a unique city, Super Bowls IV, VI and IX.

Which begat the Superdome.

And Super Bowls XII, XV, XX, XXIV, XXXI and XXXVI.

So take a time out.

When you talk Sugar Bowl, a gift to a River City that helped heal some of the scars left by the Great Depression, you're talking about a story that takes you back to your childhood.

The Sugar Bowl was "The Little Engine That Could."




SPORTS

**"It's been hard on everyone. No one around here has had an easy time. I was pretty easy on them for the first practice or two because they needed some time to vent, some time to getting back being teenagers."**

SANDY BLANCHER, Panthers' coach

# Northshore players happy to get back to work

*Panthers to open season Tuesday vs. Covington*

**By Marty Mule'**
Staff writer

Northshore volleyball players spent the first part of Monday's practice catching up on the past three weeks. They were happy to see each other again. Sixteen members of the team gathered at Clearwood Junior High to pick up where they left off and resume the season interrupted by Hurricane Katrina three weeks ago.

"They were excited and happy," Panthers coach Sandy Blancher said of the team's first get-together since the storm, which scattered evacuating team members from Virginia to Texas.

Two members of the squad did not return. Thirteen players had severe flooding in their homes. The families of every one of the 16 have either taken in people needing shelter or been taken in by others.

"It's been hard on everyone," Blancher said. "No one around here has had an easy time. I was pretty easy on them for the first practice or two because they needed some time to vent, some time to getting back being teenagers."

The Panthers' first match is Tuesday against District 4-5A's Covington. The question is, where? Covington's gym is a medical relief center, and Northshore's gym is an evacuation center.

"At the moment, we don't know where we'll play," Blancher said. "We only know we will."

She was glad to see her players, but Blancher could also see her team wasn't in volleyball shape. "You could see them gasping early," Blancher said, "and their passing was rusty, and, after a month without working out, their strength was not what it normally would be."

Blancher didn't care. She was overjoyed to see her team.

After a couple of practices, the Panthers have settled into what they were expected to be: a district championship contender.

Angele Hooks has picked up where she left off as an exceptional setter. Outside hitters Tiffany Aidoo and Heather Doiron seem better than they were, Blancher said.

Now Blancher said the team is ready for a match.

"I can't wait," Blancher said. "Neither can the girls."

# More games canceled by hurricane threat

**From staff reports**

The threat of Hurricane Rita has canceled some metro-area football games scheduled for Friday night and postponed others until Sunday and Monday. North shore-based District 4-5A canceled its four-game Friday night schedule, though Covington coach Darryl Graham said the Lions' game with Slidell could be played Monday. According to Louisiana High School Athletic Association rules, all games must be played by midnight Monday.

Northlake Christian, playing in its first varsity season, must wait another week for its debut. The Wolverines were scheduled to play at Gueydan on Friday. However, Gueydan is located in southwest Louisiana, which could have severe weather from Rita.

Three River Parishes games have been moved to Sunday, including Hahnville at Lutcher (5 p.m.) and Varnado at St. James (3 p.m.) and East St. John at East Ascension (6 p.m.). South Lafourche at Destrehan will be played Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Riverside will play at West St. John on Monday at 7 p.m. Holy Cross at Fisher, scheduled to be played Thursday night, was postponed and will be made up either Sunday or Monday, Fisher coach Duane Foret said.

This weekend's prep football schedule: Friday's games - John Curtis at Ferriday at 7 p.m., Live Oak at Pope John Paul II at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday's games - Varnado at St. James at 3 p.m., Hahnville at Lutcher at 5 p.m., East St. John at East Ascension at 6 p.m.; Monday's games - South Lafourche at Destrehan at 6:30 p.m., Riverside at West St. John at 7 p.m.

# Higgins, Cox getting organized for opener

*Coaches don't know how many players will return*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Higgins and Helen Cox high schools, like several other West Bank schools, both are scrambling to resurrect their football programs.

The two schools are set to resume practice Monday, their first work since Hurricane Katrina struck. Then on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m., they are scheduled to play each other at Hoss Memtsas Stadium in their first game.

"I think we're like all the other schools that have been affected by the storm," said Higgins coach Wayne Meyers, who returned home this week to begin cleaning the Marrero school. "We have gotten in touch with a lot of our players, who said that they are going to be back next week to start practice. It's important to start practicing because then word starts to get out that we're back."

Higgins expects to have back 15 starters, including nine on defense. Jefferson Parish Public Schools are scheduled to resume classes Oct. 3. Besides Higgins and Cox, Bonnabel, King, Ehret,

West Jefferson and Fisher also are expected to resume playing football.

Cox coach Willie Brooks also has spent countless hours on his cell phone trying to stay in touch with his players while he was evacuated in Atlanta, but he is uncertain how many players to expect Monday.

**"I'm an eternal optimist, but I'm looking at the West Bank and it's wrecked I don't know what these kids are going to have to come back to."**

WILLIE BROOKS
Cox coach

"I'm an eternal optimist, but I'm looking at the West Bank and it's wrecked," said Brooks, whose program is in its first season of varsity competition. "I don't know what these kids are going to have to come back to. I'm talking to my kids, and, virtually to a man, they all want to come back. But will they be able to come back? It's up to the parents."

Cox's top player, receiver Ed Scott, is returning, Brooks said, but the status of quarterback Rudy Chattman remains in question.

"Rudy wants to come back," Brooks said, "but his grandmother's house is damaged and may have mold in it. He's been calling me every day. He is passionate about wanting to come back. He just doesn't know if he's going to return."

One of the big questions for Higgins is whether standout tailback Josh Brumfield can return.

Brumfield and his family evacuated to Texas. "Josh might be back," Meyers said. "We're not sure about a few people. Every day things are changing."

Cox players looking to contact Brooks should call him at (504) 975-6873. Higgins players can call Wayne Meyers at (504) 669-1758, Stephen Meyers at (504) 912-0573 or Higgins' football office at (504) 349-3371.

Higgins' coaches said only a few players have said they won't be returning.

"If the players have houses to come home to, they'll be coming back," Wayne Meyers said.

**NOTES:** Former Karr running back Jeremy McGee is enrolled and playing for McKinley in Baton Rouge,

McKinley coach Bruce Swinton confirmed Wednesday. McGee had 117 yards on 17 carries in McKinley's 18-6 loss to Glen Oaks last weekend. McGee is a member of The Times-Picayune's blue-chip list and committed to UCLA. McKinley is 0-2. ... Landry coach Skip LaMothe said he is considering assistant coaching job offers from Cox, Baton Rouge-Capitol and Scotlandville. Brooks confirmed his discussions with LaMothe to serve as Cox's quarterbacks coach. "I haven't made a decision yet only because I haven't decided where my two younger daughters are going to go to school," said LaMothe, who returned to his West Bank home this week. "The job I'd prefer to have is at L.B. Landry. This was our year." . . . East Jefferson's football program will resume practice Monday at the school. The Warriors first game will be Oct. 7 against Grace King at a time and site to be determined. Players should contact East Jefferson coach Henry Rando at (504) 888-7486 or (504) 469-5790.



AP PHOTO

Former President Bush, right, and the U.S. team applaud International captain Gary Player during opening ceremonies for the Presidents Cup on Thursday. The International team took a 3 1/2-2 1/2 lead on the first day of the event.

# International team leads early at Presidents Cup

**By Doug Ferguson**
AP Golf Writer

GAINESVILLE, VA. — The International team was in foreign territory Thursday at the Presidents Cup. It was in the lead.

Retief Goosen and Adam Scott turned in a tag-team performance that buried Tiger Woods and Fred Couples in the opening match. Bringing up the rear were Mike Weir and Trevor Immelman, who birdied four of their first five holes in alternate shot for a dominant victory over David Toms and Stewart Cink.

When the first day of matches ended, the International team had a 3 1/2-2 1/2 lead.

One point isn't much, especially with 28 matches left. But considering how the International team typically starts at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, it was cause for celebration.

In three previous trips to this golf course on the shores of Lake Manassas, the Americans have twice led 5-0 and once led 4-1 after the opening day.

"Some places it could have been worse," U.S. captain Jack Nicklaus said. "Some places it could have been better. Tomorrow is another day."

Scott and Goosen got this day off to a resounding start. It started with a simple halve on the third hole, when Goosen hit a 60-foot putt to a hole that was just below a steep ridge. The putt settled 16 inches for the cup. Then it was a matter of waiting for Woods and Couples to self-destruct.

A poor chip by Woods cost them the fourth hole. Couples missed a 4-foot birdie putt so badly that it never touched the hole, as they fell two behind on the sixth. And when Scott made a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-3 seventh that juts out into the lake, the International team already was 3-up.

"The first match out is always important, no matter who you're playing," Scott said. "Gary (Player) wanted Retief and I to go out and give the guys something to see."

# QB Roy resumes season in Alexandria

**ROY,** *from C-5*

him a bit at first, but he's doing a phenomenal job of picking everything up. He probably only knows about 40 percent of what we're doing, so we're staying with that 40 percent. But, he's a sharp kid. He's been taught well. He's a good player. Within a week or two, he'll have mastered everything we do."

Stoker, in his 30th season at ASH, is known for his affinity for the passing game. This year's Trojans, however, lacked a true dropback passer and were relying on receiver-turned-quarterback Keith Mills.

The Trojans also possess one of the top running back prospects in the nation in Chris Brown, a slashing 5-foot-10, 200-pound senior whose top prospective colleges, Stoker said, are Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi State and Florida State.

Adding Roy was akin to finding the missing piece to a puzzle, with Mills being allowed to return to his natural position at receiver.

"It made us a better football team because it lets us play more good football players," Stoker said.

As a junior, Roy, who is 6 feet 3, 190 pounds, passed for 18 touchdowns and 1,085 yards while being intercepted twice in 114 attempts out of Belle Chasse's run-oriented wing-T offense.

"We've probably got one of the top five running backs in the nation," Stoker said. "But we're still going to throw it 25 to 30 times a game. We're not afraid of the forward pass. We think it's a great weapon. Adam is an accurate passer. He picks up reads well. He's got a chance to be a good player."

Roy made his first start for the Trojans last Friday in a 45-15 nondistrict victory against Bolton in which he completed eight of 12 passes, including one for a touchdown, while Brown rushed for 274 yards and three scores.

Stoker made the switch from Mills to Roy in the first quarter of the previous game, a 32-28 victory against West Ouachita. Roy did not play in a season-opening 21-17 loss to Bastrop, the top ranked team in Class 4A.

In seven quarters, Roy has completed 13 of 20 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for a third score.

"Our offense is a lot different than what he's used to running," Stoker said. "We do a lot of dropback passing and play action, too. So it's a lot different for him.

"But he's adapted well. We're just teaching him the reads and where to go with the football because he can get it there. I think the guy can play college football."

Green Bay Packers quarterback Craig Nall and Northwestern State coach Scott Stoker, Butch's son and a Division I-AA All-American quarterback at Northwestern State, are among the passers produced by Stoker.

Continuing his dream of playing college football was another factor in Roy enrolling at ASH, as was his parents' desire to find a school with a strong academic curriculum. Mike and Jane Roy also considered St. Thomas Aquinas in Hammond.

Roy said Ole Miss, Southern Mississippi, Indiana, Army, Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, Northwestern State, Southeastern Louisiana and Nicholls State are colleges that have shown interest in him.

"I knew they had a good football team here because I'm a football fan," Roy said. "I had looked on the Internet when I was trying to make a decision. I knew that they usually go deep into the playoffs.

"When we visited here, the thing Coach Stoker told me was that, if I was looking for exposure, I'd get it here. I just hope that I can supply some extra drive to this team to make it to the Dome or Tiger Stadium or wherever they're playing the state championships."

Roy and ASH are not playing this weekend because of the threat of Hurricane Rita. The Trojans were scheduled to play at LaGrange, but that game was canceled Wednesday. A replacement game against North

Vermilion that Stoker arranged Wednesday afternoon was canceled Thursday morning, leaving Roy and the Trojans sidelined until next week's trip to Marksville. ASH opens District 3-4A play one week later by hosting Tioga.

Roy is joined on the ASH team by three other displaced metro-area players - his brother Taylor, a junior receiver; former Belle Chasse linebacker Shawn Coloudrivich; and former O. Perry Walker defensive back Ryan Allen. The stark reality that Belle Chasse's season was wiped out and that his senior year was forever changed took time for Roy to come to grips with.

"I kind of had to pinch myself at first," Roy said. "It was disappointing to have lost our season. I kind of felt like a traitor (leaving Belle Chasse for Alexandria). But then you realize that it's a situation that you can't do anything about. You've got to go on with life. My mom and dad are really big on academics and having me keep my head on straight. They wanted to put me in school right away. "I'm doing all right now. I'm OK. I've come to liking it here a lot, so I think I'm going to finish the (school) year here."

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HURRICANE RITA

# FLOODED AGAIN

## Breach in Industrial Canal inundates Lower 9th Ward, Arabi

### WATER SEEPING INTO GENTILLY FROM LONDON AVENUE CANAL

### SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA, TEXAS PREPARE FOR HURRICANE RITA'S WRATH TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Water surges through patched levee breach into the Lower 9th Ward after repairs to the Industrial Canal levee erode on Friday, as Hurricane Rita adds to Hurricane Katrina's destruction.

## Latest hurricane washes away signs of renewal

**By Gwen Filosa and Michelle Krupa**
Staff writers

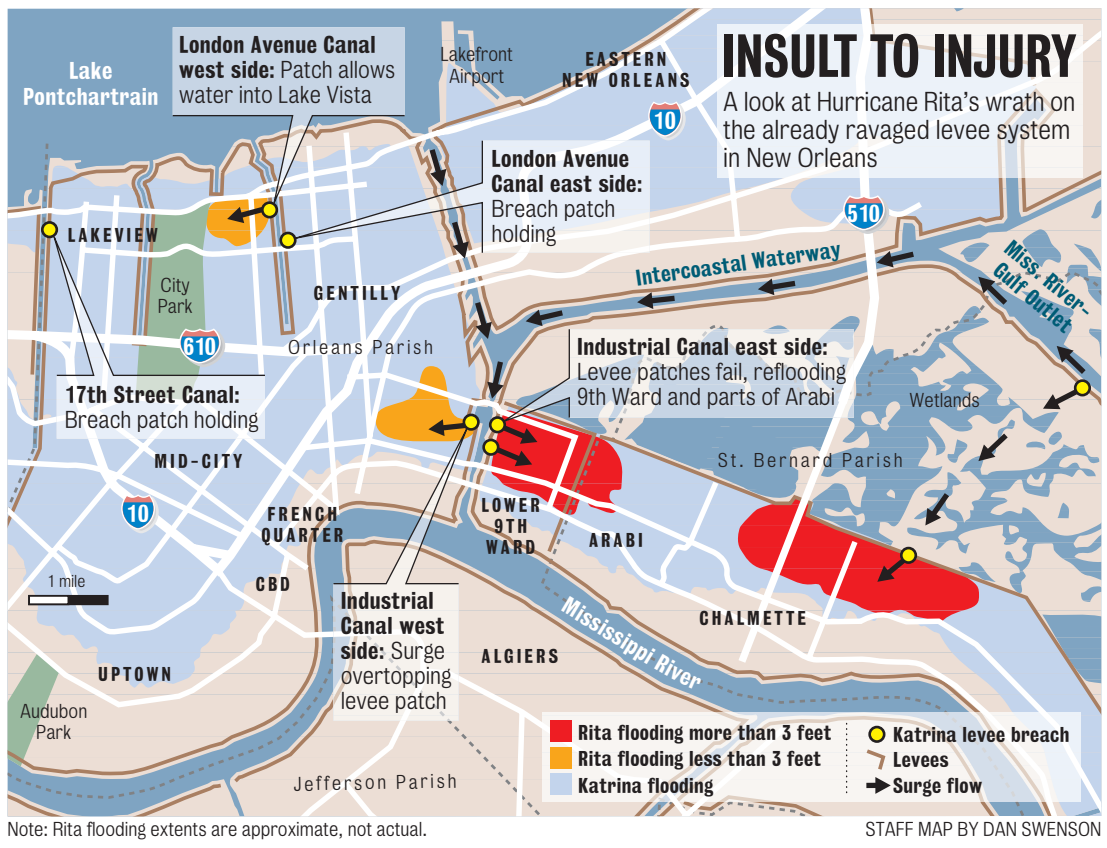
Water rushed over levees on both sides of the Industrial Canal on Friday, threatening the 9th Ward, just drained from Katrina.

But the breaches threatened few lives, as New Orleans, from Lakeview to Uptown and from the Bywater to Mid-City, remained a vacant and scarred place, most residents waiting in exile as the second storm in less than a month bore down on Louisiana.

It was a respite interrupted by a new wave of fear. New Orleans, along with St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, took water in familiar places, clearly unprepared for a grazing by Category 3 storm aimed for the Texas-Louisiana border. About 150,000 people had been evacuated from southwest Louisiana, with about 35,000 at in-state shelters, authorities said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Task Force Rita was staged on the edge of the storm to provide relief after the hurricane

*See* **NEW ORLEANS,** *A-9*




Note: Rita flooding extents are approximate, not actual.

STAFF MAP BY DAN SWENSON

## Weakened Rita heads for Texas, Louisiana border

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Hurricane Rita bore down on the Texas-Louisiana border late Friday with winds of 125 mph, driving millions of evacuees ahead of its 15- to-20-foot storm surge and taking dozens of lives even before landfall.

Slicing northwestward across the Gulf of Mexico, Rita merely sideswiped metropolitan New Orleans. But her storm surge, accompanied by gusting winds and lashing rain, blew out a freshly repaired levee along the Industrial Canal and once again sent water coursing into the Lower 9th Ward.

There were also reports of significant seepage from the walls of the London Avenue Canal, which was breached by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29.

The National Hurricane Center said it expected Rita to hit the Texas coast in the vicinity of Port Arthur about daybreak today.

At 4 p.m. the center said Rita was about

*See* **RITA,** *page A-10*

**DAY 26** DEATH TOLL 841 • Voodoo music fest moving to Memphis, A-2 • Bus carrying seniors evacuating for Rita bursts into flames, A-5 • Entergy files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, Metro

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CLOUDY, RAIN
HIGH 88 | LOW 76

# Displaced Voodoo Fest in Memphis this year

*Proceeds will go to restoring N.O.*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

The Voodoo Music Experience, an annual rock festival held in New Orleans since its 1999 inception, is relocating to Memphis, Tenn., because Hurricane Katrina wrecked plans to hold the concert at its scheduled venue in City Park.

Voodoo Fest, to be held at Memphis' Tom Lee Park on Halloween weekend, Oct. 29-30, is being recast as a fund-raiser to aid victims of Katrina and New Orleans itself. Proceeds will benefit the New Orleans Restoration Fund, an arm of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, according to concert organizers.

"Since our home base is New Orleans, it's been an especially difficult time for us, with staff losing homes and offices," said Stephan Rehage, the event's founder, in a statement released under the heading "Restore. Rebuild. Rebirth."

"Moving a festival of this magnitude has been no easy task," Rehage said. He expressed gratitude "to all the artists dedicating their time and energy to support the cause and to our incredible fans for their dedication and support." Asked why he chose Memphis, Rehage said, "The vibe of the city is very similar to New Orleans," and he planned to "turn Beale Street into Bourbon Street."

The event's profits will be allocated to national humanitarian organizations such as Mercy Corps and Habitat for Humanity and to local grass-roots organizations and cultural institutions such as WWOZ radio and Young Artists/Young Aspirations Inc.

To boost fund-raising, VH1 will broadcast highlights from the performances Nov. 5 in a primetime showcase. Its broadband Internet channel, Vspot, will also feature portions of the event.

Nine Inch Nails is the first confirmed act from the concert's original lineup of more than 40 acts, including New Orleans favorites Dr. John, the Neville Brothers, Kermit Ruffins, Big Sam's Funky Nation, Bonerama and World Leader Pretend.

Organizers are working to confirm or reshape the bill, which also featured national acts such as the Foo Fighters, Queens of the Stone Age, The Flaming Lips, Social Distortion, Cake, Ryan Adams and Billy Idol.

Former New Orleans resident Trent Reznor, frontman for Nine Inch Nails, told MTV he would support the festival.

"I look forward to being a part of this amazing New Orleans tradition," he said. "It's great that other cities have opened their doors to this year's event, and the New Orleans spirit will definitely remain in the air ñ that's something the floods cannot wash away.

"We are going to be part of the rebuilding process, and we are asking the entire music community to join us."

Rehage, who is from New Orleans, said it has been heartbreaking to see the coverage of Katrina, and the decision to make the concert a fund-raiser was virtually automatic. He said he plans to donate all the proceeds.

He said he is asking bands to "join in for the cause" and perform for free. Local acts Cowboy Mouth and Better Than Ezra have agreed to play.

• • • • • •

For information, visit the festival's Web site at www.voodoomusicfest.com.

# Federal payroll offices vow to reopen

*Timeline unclear, officials say*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — They can't say when, but federal officials are promising that two major federal employers will return to the New Orleans area as soon as conditions allow.

Agriculture Department spokesman Ed Loyd said that the National Finance Center in New Orleans, which processes payroll for 564,000 federal employees, didn't appear to be significantly damaged by Hurricane Katrina, although assessments of necessary repairs are ongoing. He said the department is committed to reopening the facility, which employs about 1,400 people.

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, which processes payroll for the Navy and has more than 200 civilian employees, also is planning a return to the University of New Orleans Technology Center, where it is a major tenant. Capt. Fred Mingo, the center's commanding officer, said that cleanup already is under way, although he could not give a time estimate for reopening.

Both Mingo and Loyd praised their New Orleans employees for working overtime to ensure that none of the scheduled payrolls were delayed after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on Aug. 29.

Some of the employees have been working at other federal facilities to oversee the payroll operations, Mingo and Loyd said.

Mingo said that many civilian contract employees were working at temporary offices in Baton Rouge. Loyd said several hundred Finance Center workers were at Department of Agriculture sites in Dallas and Philadelphia.

"Clearly, the processing of payroll for our federal workers is critical to enable government workers to do their jobs," Loyd said. "And we're very impressed with what the National Finance Center workers accomplished. Before the hurricane struck, they worked hard to ensure that the next payroll was ready to go. And then many of them, with just a single suitcase, knowing that their homes had been destroyed, went to work in Philadelphia and Dallas to handle the payroll. We appreciate their commitment. It was truly remarkable."

He said that workers at the Finance Center who have not returned to work are guaranteed paychecks until Oct. 1. After that, a decision on how to accommodate workers who can't get to work will be made, Loyd said.

# Mississippi worries charm won't return to coast

*Rebuilding to take history into account*

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, MISS. — As Mississippi recovers from Hurricane Katrina's destruction, many fear the development to come could erase the charm and diversity of the state's eclectic Gulf Coast communities.

The 80-mile coastline has been the home of fishing hamlets, seaside arts communities and, for the past 13 years, neon-lit casinos. Now, with about two-thirds of the homes in the state's southern counties destroyed or severely damaged, residents and officials hope the new landscape that emerges from the rubble won't be dominated by high-rise condos and tacky strip malls.

Even before Katrina, proposed condo developments prompted heated debate among locals who worried that concrete towers would block beach views.

"I hope we can preserve the historical ambiance that the beach in Mississippi has possessed over the years and not let it look like every other coastline in America," said former Gov. William Winter, longtime president of the state's archives and history board.

The scope of Katrina's destruction puts the Mississippi coast in an unusual position, said Robert Deyle, an urban and regional planning professor at Florida State University. Entire neighborhoods were flattened for a quarter-mile or more back from the beach.

"In most disasters, structures that have been destroyed are interspersed with structures that are still standing," Deyle said.

Though much of the coastline is still strewn shoulder-high with lumber and twisted metal, Deyle said cities soon will have a "clean slate" for rebuilding — and wealthy developers, from casino companies to condo builders, could buy land from homeowners who don't want to rebuild.

Katrina was indiscriminate in its destruction, obliterating or damaging trailers, middle-class brick houses, tin-roofed fishermen's cottages, Sen. Trent Lott's beachside home, concrete condominiums, century-old shore mansions, vacation bungalows and businesses large and small.

Charles Sullivan, who has written histories of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and of hurricanes, said Katrina wiped away much of the region's architectural character.

"Whatever it will be, it won't be what it was," Sullivan said. "As far as I know, Beauvoir is the only antebellum structure still standing between New Orleans and Mobile."

And even Beauvoir, the Biloxi beachfront home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, was severely battered by Katrina.

Mississippi's coastline has 26 miles of manmade white sand beach in Harrison County, the center and most populous of the state's three coastal counties. The county is also home to the bustling state port in Gulfport, shrimp industry in Biloxi and 13 casinos.

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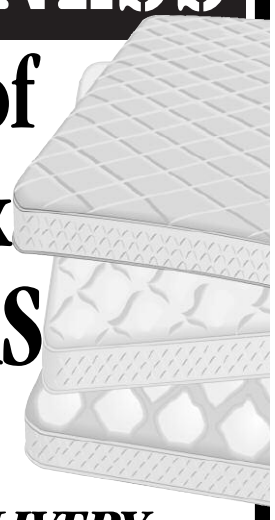
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# Police ordered to stop disarming residents

## *Post-storm confiscations off target, judge says*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Gun rights groups won a temporary restraining order Friday preventing police in New Orleans and St. Tammany Parish from confiscating residents' firearms in the flooded parishes.

U.S. District Court Judge Jay Zainey ordered the New Orleans Police Department and St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office to stop taking weapons from law-abiding people and to return any they already took.

In documents filed in federal court in Baton Rouge, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Police Chief Eddie Compass and St. Tammany Sheriff Jack Strain deny ever ordering the confiscation of firearms.

But news reports quoted Compass as saying only law enforcement officials can have firearms, and Deputy Chief Warren Riley as saying, "We are going to take all the weapons."

Wayne LaPierre, president of the National Rifle Association, said his group documented 30 to 40 cases of people having their weapons taken away.

"In many cases, it was from their homes at gunpoint. There were no receipts given or anything else at a time when there was no 911 response and these citizens were out there on their own protecting their families," LaPierre said. "The worst thing about it is that it was at a time of complete collapse of the government's ability to protect people and they were trying to protect themselves."

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29, there were widespread reports of looting throughout New Orleans, sometimes involving local police. Some of those who didn't evacuate described hiding in their homes for fear of being victimized. At the outset, the city ordered police officers to ignore looters and focus instead on search and rescue. But within days, crime spiraled out of control and police were directed to restore order.

**"The city should be held liable because people weren't allowed to protect their property. We feel extremely confident we will win suits for damages against the city."**

ALLEN GOTTLIEB
president of the Second Amendment Foundation, which teamed up with the NRA to file the suit

To gain control of the situation, Gov. Kathleen Blanco issued emergency power orders, which allow authorities to regulate firearms. But the suit alleged that law enforcement officials overstepped their bounds by taking guns away in violation of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and violating due process by failing to give people receipts.

Police sometimes found themselves in confrontations with law-abiding citizens after Nagin ordered a mandatory evacuation of the city. Some residents insisted on staying, and police and National Guard troops forcibly removed them. According to the lawsuit, soldiers from one guard unit in Oklahoma were caught on tape handcuffing residents, confiscating their weapons and then letting the people go.

Allen Gottlieb, president of the Second Amendment Foundation, which teamed up with the NRA to file the suit, said Friday's court victory could pave the way for future monetary damages. Gottlieb said that if residents who had their guns taken away can prove any financial losses, such as from looting, they might have a case to win compensation from the city.

"The city should be held liable because people weren't allowed to protect their property," Gottlieb said. "We feel extremely confident we will win suits for damages against the city."

Zainey is a judge assigned to the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans. He was nominated to the seat by President Bush. The Eastern District court was evacuated in the flooding, and all the cases from the Eastern District were transferred to Baton Rouge.

# FEMA hotel contracts tied up

## *Other groups already are booking rooms*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — As New Orleans attempts to bring in workers to rebuild the city, hotel owners with vacant rooms say they are frustrated with a federal bureaucracy that for two weeks has held up contracts that could put thousands of people into hotels almost immediately.

On behalf of the city and state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is trying to book long-term leases for 10,000 hotel rooms in the New Orleans area, including many downtown.

FEMA spokesman James McIntyre agreed that hotels have been waiting for the contracts to be signed, but he said federal attorneys in Washington are trying to make sure the contracts are legal before moving forward.

One of the problems appears to be the federal law on FEMA operations, which stipulates that the agency cannot renovate private property. Some of the hotels have requested assistance getting rooms in shape for occupants after the storm.

McIntyre said leases are "moving forward" on rooms that are ready and that do not need renovation assistance from FEMA. He said FEMA officials are concerned about the intense financial scrutiny they will receive after all the deals are done.

Bill Langkopp, executive director of the New Orleans regional hotel association, said some hotels have decided not to wait for FEMA and have signed leases with other contractors.

Hotels have received requests for rooms from the Army Corps of Engineers, private contractors, insurance companies and claims adjusters. A number of major institutions want six-month leases for large blocks of rooms.

"We realize there are other offers coming" to the hotels, McIntyre said. But he said the agency hopes FEMA will still be able to book a substantial number of rooms.

Patrick Quinn, a hotel developer and owner of several properties in New Orleans, including the Astor Crowne Plaza, said he has spent $3 million to $4 million to fix storm-damaged facilities and has about 1,400 rooms ready to lease. But he has been waiting two weeks for FEMA to finish the contracts and is trying to decide whether to sign a lease with other contractors, he said.

Quinn said FEMA personnel in Louisiana have been cooperative and that he realizes they are dealing with many issues.

"I'm sure it's more complicated than I know," Quinn said.

Quinn pieced together his own army of renovation and construction specialists to get his rooms back in shape after Katrina, and has housed many of them in his hotel rooms.

"We haven't been able to execute the contracts," Quinn said. "There are rooms sitting vacant right now."

Marriott regional manager Mark Sanders said FEMA had initial talks with the hotel about long-term leases, but has not come back with the contracts in hand.

McIntyre said FEMA has a contract with Sheraton.

There appeared Friday to be some confusion among the various state, local and federal agencies about who would be placed in the rooms if FEMA acquired them. McIntyre said FEMA would follow the direction of the city and state to determine who would go into the rooms.

Of the 10,000 rooms, the first 1,000 would go to essential personnel and people involved in the recovery effort.

Beyond that, he said, FEMA has been told that the state's first priority for hotel rooms in New Orleans would be for evacuees, not necessarily people who would take jobs to assist in the near-term recovery effort. The elderly, sick and single parents would have priority among the evacuees.

But state officials said the city's infrastructure is not ready to handle evacuees with special needs, and that the rooms would be used for workers and others to carry on the rehabilitation of New Orleans.

FEMA has already secured cruise ships and some hotel rooms for essential personnel. The request for 10,000 rooms would be in addition to those.

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# Texas can use lesson in evacuating a city

## *Louisiana plan called more efficient, orderly*

**By Bob Marshall**
Staff writer

It certainly goes against the current trend among the nation's punditry, but Larry and Monica Ponoroff would like to suggest Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco as models for hurricane planning. Well, at least for the evacuation stage.

The New Orleans couple came to that conclusion about halfway through a 17-hour attempt to evacuate Houston on Thursday as Hurricane Rita headed for the Texas coast.

After about seven hours of baking inside their rental car in 95 degree heat on Interstate 45, they were out of food and water and had watched as their once-filled gas tank hit the "half" mark. Yet they were still inside metro Houston, no more than 35 miles from their starting point, and stuck in a line of traffic that appeared to stretch the entire 250 miles to Dallas - but was moving at inches-per-hour.

So they couldn't help thinking about their evacuation from New Orleans before Katrina whacked their home: 11 comfortable, orderly hours from the Big Easy to Houston.

"I think they could have taken page from Louisiana's book on this one," Monica Ponoroff said. "They should have called Kathleen Blanco and Ray Nagin and asked them 'How do we evacuate a city?' because they sure didn't have a clue.

"Eventually we gave up. We turned around and went back to the apartment. And that took us three hours. What a mess."

The Ponoroffs' ordeal is one of millions that will be told about what could be the greatest traffic jam in American history. They never saw it coming.

### Best laid plans

Larry Ponoroff, dean of the Tulane University Law School, had been living in Houston since the end of August, when Katrina closed the New Orleans campus. He is part of a senior leadership group working to reopen the university.

Monica Ponoroff had recently returned to Houston from Chicago because the couple expected to reenter New Orleans this week. But on Wednesday, Rita intervened by aiming its fury at Houston. City and state authorities urged residents to evacuate, so the Ponoroffs made preparation Wednesday evening, and left their apartment Thursday at 5 a.m.

"Dallas is about 250 miles away and the drive normally takes about four to four-and-a-half hours, but we expected it might take up to eight with the traffic," Larry Ponoroff said. "So, we packed four bottles of water and a bag of clothes each. The Tulane group had arranged places to stay in Dallas. We didn't think we'd be on the road long."

The found out differently as soon as they turned onto I-45 in Houston.

"From the very start, it was bumper to bumper and just a crawl — when it moved at all," he said.

Like most other evacuees, the Ponoroffs turned off the car's air conditioning to preserve fuel. Unfortunately, the Texas sun decided to bake the concrete with 96 degree heat, a record for that day. Within a few hours, the trip had turned into an ordeal. By noon, it had become a scene out of a disaster movie.

"In very short order, it was just one huge parking lot, and it was obvious that the city had encouraged everyone to evacuate but had no idea how to handle the enormous number of cars," he said. "And I could see an even bigger problem developing, because they would soon have to find a way of caring for all the people who were falling out."




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

As Hurricane Rita threatens, Houston is in the rear-view mirror of Texas residents and Louisiana residents who had evacuated to the city for Hurricane Katrina. Many ran out of gas as they sat in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

### Contraflow flaws

By Thursday, the Texas Department of Transportation had initiated the largest contraflow effort in the state's history and enlisted help from the private sector in Dallas and San Antonio to acquire gasoline to fill tankers they planned to position at rest stops along the evacuation route.

But even after the contraflow plan was initiated, traffic along northbound I-45 continued to crawl. Many drivers, gas tanks long drained, were unable to reach rest stops for help, prompting officials to find ways to reach them. Under the contraflow plan, the southbound lanes of I-45 were opened to northbound traffic and the eastbound lanes of Interstate 10 were opened to westbound traffic.

People were running out of gas, their cars were over-heating and breaking down — and so were they. By noon, after baking in the car for seven hours, the Ponoroffs began thinking of turning around. Authorities warned journalists during radio reports that there was no fuel, food or lodging along I-45 all the way into Dallas.

"We were trying to decide what would be safe: Going back and facing this very big hurricane, or staying on the road and possibly running out of gas, with no food or water ñ and still getting the hurricane," Larry Ponoroff said.

"Our one hope was that they had set up contra lanes somewhere north of The Woodlands, on the outer reaches of suburban Houston. We kept thinking once we got there, things would speed up, and we would be able to make to Dallas."

They reached the contraflow lanes around 7 p.m., about 14 hours and 35 miles after starting their journey. But very little had changed.

"We picked up some speed for a mile or so, then we were back in the crawl," Monica Ponoroff said. "We came up to a cop, and asked him what was ahead. He said, 'No gas, no water, no restrooms, no place to stay, just solid traffic.' We asked him if we should turn around. He said, 'That's what I'd do.'

"We were out of there."

### Homeward bound

The scenes on the way back were almost heartbreaking, she said.

"The sides of I-45 and the service roads were just lined with people who had run out of gas or broken down. They were just walking around, milling around, hoping for help. They were stranded. I felt especially bad for the elderly and the kids. They'd been baking in this heat all day. And they didn't get anywhere. Now they were stranded."

Likewise, Minerva Martinez was back at her home Thursday afternoon with her family after taking the I-10 evacuation route, only to find herself stuck in traffic for nine hours. Martinez said her family made it to Katy, normally about a 20-minute trip from Houston.

"It took all that time," Martinez said. "There was no gas when you stopped to fill up."

Three hours later, the Ponoroffs made it back to their apartment, 17 hours after they had left. On the way back, they found a store open and purchased some hurricane supplies ñ flashlights, water, food. By then Rita had changed course away from a direct hit on Houston and was also losing strength. But it didn't matter. The Ponoroffs had had enough.

"The episode definitely changed my mind about evacuating from Houston, but not from New Orleans," Larry said. "Everyone in Houston has been wonderful to all of us since Katrina. They just need some lessons on ho to evacuate."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Tara Young contributed to this report.

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Holy Eucharist, 8:30 am

ON THE EASTBANK IN JEFFERSON PARISH
All Saints in River Ridge,
100 Rex Dr., Holy Eucharist, 8 am, 10 am
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# Bus carrying elderly evacuees rocked by explosions

*As many as 24 residents are killed near Dallas*

**By Sheila Flynn**
Associated Press writer

WILMER, TEXAS — A bus carrying nursing home residents fleeing Hurricane Rita caught fire and was rocked by explosions Friday on a gridlocked highway near Dallas, killing as many as 24 people, authorities said.

"Deputies were unable to get everyone off the bus," Dallas County Sheriff's Department spokesman Don Peritz said. He said he believed 24 people were killed, but that number could change.

The Dallas County medical examiner was still working to determine the number of fatalities, officials said.

The bus was carrying 38 residents and six employees of the Brighton Gardens nursing home in Bellaire, Texas, according to Sunrise Senior Living Inc., the McLean, Va., company that owns the center. The bus was en route to another home owned by the same company, according to a Baylor University Medical Center spokeswoman.

Early indications were that the bus caught fire because of mechanical problems, then passengers' oxygen tanks started exploding, Peritz said. He said the brakes may have been on fire. The bus was engulfed with flames, causing a lengthy backup on Interstate 45, which was already congested with evacuees from the Gulf Coast.

Sunrise said it was contacting family members.

"Our primary concern is for the safety of our residents, and we are shocked and saddened that this event occurred during our evacuation," Sunrise Chairman and Chief Executive Paul Klaasen said in a statement.




AP PHOTO

Emergency crews investigate the scene of a bus fire near Dallas. The interstate was shut down for about four hours after the fire but reopened after authorities made the unusual decision to move the burned-out shell of the bus quickly so hurricane evacuees could get through. As many as 24 people were killed in the fire, which officials said ignited the oxygen tanks of ailing passengers and sparked a series of explosions.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of specialists and investigators to the scene.

The interstate was shut down for about four hours but reopened after authorities made the unusual decision to move the blackened, burned-out shell of the bus quickly so hurricane evacuees could get through.

"You have thousands of people who are in their vehicles trying to escape," Peritz said.

Tina Jones, a nurse from Ennis, Texas, was driving behind the bus when she saw it start to smoke and pull to the side of the road.

"I saw the smoke, and then there was an explosion," said Jones, who pulled over and helped treat cuts and bruises. She said she saw at least six bodies.

"I'll probably go home and have a good cry," she said.

Fred Witte, 74, said he heard three explosions from his property about 150 yards from where the bus caught fire.

"I was right there at the corner, and I felt the pressure," he said of the first explosion.

Peritz said the driver survived and helped emergency workers try to save people but that there wasn't much time before explosions ended rescue efforts.

"It's my understanding he went back on the bus several times to try to evacuate people," he said.

No emergency workers suffered major injuries.

Dr. Paul Pepe, the chairman of emergency services for Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, said one woman was in critical condition and being treated for smoke inhalation but that most injuries were minor. A Parkland spokeswoman said the hospital was treating nine patients.

Baylor spokeswoman Maria Carpenter said the hospital had treated and released four patients, including two elderly sisters.

Interstate 45 stretches more than 250 miles, from Galveston through Houston to Dallas. The crash site is about 17 miles southeast of downtown Dallas.

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# Evacuation calls in Jeff were a false alarm

*Phone program was meant for Jeff Davis Parish*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

Some Jefferson Parish residents got a telephone call from Gov. Kathleen Blanco urging them to evacuate for Hurricane Rita on Friday, but the automated calls turned out to be wrong numbers.

The company distributing Blanco's message, Voicetouch Communications, which has completed similar notification programs in Florida, inadvertently included Jefferson Parish in calls telling residents to get out of coastal parishes farther west in Louisiana.

"They pulled the Jefferson Parish phone numbers along with the Jefferson Davis Parish numbers," Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said. "Once they realized their mistake, they stopped the calls in Jefferson."

Jefferson Davis Parish is about 170 miles west of Jefferson Parish.

Almost 300,000 Blanco calls were delivered. Bottcher said she did not know how many calls were mistakenly made to Jefferson Parish.

The call program is designed to ensure that residents who may not be watching television or listening to the radio get the word to get out, Bottcher said.

In the future, she said, the message will be customized for individual parishes.

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# WATER RETURNS TO N.O.

**NEW ORLEANS,** *from A-1*

passes, with main bases in Oakdale, Ville Platte and Lafayette. Some National Guard troops would ride out the storm in affected areas to be ready immediately to provide help, she said.

In New Orleans, the Army Corps of Engineers kept watch over the city's vulnerable levee system, but was hamstrung by high winds that prevented planes and helicopters from plugging breaches sprung during and after Katrina.

"It's not the rain we're worried about. The storm surge is our biggest enemy," said corps spokesman Mitch Frazier at the 17th Street Canal, which broke open Aug. 30, spilling devastating flood waters across Lakeview and parts of Metairie.

Sandbags were on hand, and steel plates were in place at the mouth of the canal to hold back Lake Pontchartrain. The water level in Lake Pontchartrain had risen from 4 feet at midday to 4.5 feet above sea level by early evening, said David Wurtzel, project engineer of the 17th Street Canal for the corps.

"We're ready to move," Frazier said at about midday. "We're just waiting on Mother Nature to cooperate."

With only two major pump stations functioning, New Orleans was prepared to handle 6 inches of rainwater from Rita before major flooding. Officials planned to store runoff in 144 miles of underground canals, said Brenda Thornton, spokeswoman for the Sewerage & Water Board.

The subterranean reservoir would serve as a makeshift drainage system until metal sheeting, installed after Katrina, could be removed from breached canals at London Avenue and 17th Street, she said. Then the water would be pumped out.

"We just need to wait it out," Thornton said. "This is something we've never gone through before."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

New Orleans Police Department 5th District Capt. John Bryson watches as water streams across Alvar Street near the Poland Avenue bridge, into the 9th Ward and the rebuilt Florida housing complex.

## Rising waters

Many eyes also were on the Lower 9th Ward, where National Guard troops turned away drivers headed to the St. Claude Avenue bridge, directing hordes of reporters and photographers to the nearby Claiborne Avenue bridge to view flooding over the levees.

There, water coursed over a long, low spot on a levee, at a site damaged by Hurricane Katrina weeks before. White waves poured into already flood-ravaged neighborhoods to the east.

At midday, soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division described 2.5 feet of water in the streets beyond the breach, flowing south to North Villere Street and east to Lemanch Street.

St. Bernard Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez, standing atop the Claiborne Avenue bridge, said the rising water posed little human threat to residents of the parish, which he said was virtually empty.

Two bodies an elderly woman and her son found Friday in an Arabi home, were deemed Katrina victims, authorities said.

The water rushing through the damaged levee was not the only concern. Hurricane Katrina damaged the locks dividing different water levels between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River. "They are not functional," Rodriguez said of the locks. "You can't open or close them, and right now they're open."

Lower portions of Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, submerged by Katrina, also flooded again Friday, and officials there said the new storm's punch was likely to knock the air out of their fledgling recovery efforts.

"It sets us back another month," Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle said. "Looks like we'll be starting all over again."

Hundreds of emergency workers in both parishes evacuated ahead of the storm. Contractors hired to clean streets, as well as workers for private industries trying to restart their operations, also left the area and remove their equipment.

The storm also delayed some federal aid efforts. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were waiting for Rita to pass to begin setting up a camp for 500 emergency workers in Belle Chasse, agency spokesman Earl Armstrong said.

While less dramatic than the Lower 9th Ward flooding, water also topped the west Industrial Canal levee, invading the industrial flats between a Florida Avenue warehouse and the New Orleans Cold Storage warehouse, then surging over France Street into newly built homes near Gentilly.

Stephen Browning, an Army Corps of Engineers director of programming, said the gap in the Industrial Canal levee that was flooding the 9th Ward was an "overtopping," not a break.




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Water begins to fill the dip on Interstate 10 at the railroad tracks early in the afternoon on Friday.

Speaking about the Gentilly flooding, Browning said he didn't expect the water to rise past Almonaster Street. "It appears to be high ground," he said. "I don't see any additional danger to individuals and property. It's very dramatic, but not an emergency situation."

A section near the Lakefront, once dried out from Katrina, was taking water once again. The London Avenue Canal, also fortified by sheet piles, was seeping water into the Vista Park neighborhood, on the west side of the canal, which had several inches of street and lawn flooding in places. A day before it had been bone dry. In Vista Park, at the Edgewater Baptist Church at the corner of Pressburg Street and Paris Avenue, water bubbled up through the sewer.

One family, just home from evacuation before Katrina, was confident the bolstered levee system would keep them safe from the brewing storm. Mike Whelan had planned to ride out Rita with his wife and sons, ages 8 and 11, in their Bucktown home, three blocks west of the 17th Street Canal.

"We're glad to see these sheet piles," said Whelan, who still had electricity and running water Friday afternoon. "That's what kept us in town. Otherwise we would have evacuated."

## Lone holdouts

Elsewhere, inside shuttered buildings where faucets still ran dry and electric lamps remained dark, other residents who weathered Katrina braced again for more wind and rain that three weeks ago drove off most of their neighbors, leaving them as hermits in a ruined city.

To his fifth-floor apartment on North Johnson Street, 67-year-old Jesse Vaughn welcomed a pair of special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, who brought vacuum-sealed tuna, bottled water and yet another plea for Vaughn to abandon his stronghold.

"We could still take you someplace to get you some medical attention, get your $2,000 from FEMA, three hot meals a day," Special Agent David Millen said, kneeling next to the frail man to whom he had delivered provisions since the last storm, a job military personnel deserted last week. Millen and Special Agent Charlie Smith tried gently to coax him away from a building whose first floor reeked of urine and filthy floodwater. The effort failed.

"I think we will get some nice weather next week," Vaughn said. "We might get some stores opening up on Broad Street."

Vaughn could not leave, he said. He had promised his neighbors, the ones who escaped from the roof by helicopter after Katrina, that he would protect the stuffed backpacks and suitcases they could not carry with them to safety. He and another man were the lone holdouts in a dark building, where starving kittens prowled hallways strewn with soiled T-shirts and children's toys.

"You know we could get you some medical attention," Millen said.

"Somebody will be coming this way," Vaughn replied.

"I'm here now," Millen said.

"We got peace and quiet out here," the man told him.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Water seeps through the repair to the breach in the London Avenue canal on the Vista Park side of Pratt Drive near Robert E. Lee Boulevard.

Down St. Claude Avenue, the economy struggled to life not far from the breached levee at the Industrial Canal. Joseph Peters ran his tire repair shop at 3101 St. Claude and said he wasn't budging from Rita. Customers kept coming into his 9th Ward business, where Peters has been patching rubber on rescue vehicles since Katrina hit.

"We got one limping in," Peters said, watching a New Orleans Police Department cruiser. "We got a police car limping in with a flat."

Peters, a barrel-chested, gray-haired man with a teddy bear smile, said, "I'll be open through Rita. I'll do what I can."

Dale Stainbrook, a Bywater resident who said he shot at looters in his neighborhood eight times since Katrina. He planned to stay vigilant through the coming storm. "I'm sitting on a gold mine with my property," he said. "We never did take water."

*See* **NEW ORLEANS,** *A-10*

# Rain jabs Orleans levee; evacuees die on bus

**RITA,** *from A-1*

140 miles southeast of Port Arthur, headed northwest at about 12 mph.

Hurricane-force winds were expected as far as 100 miles inland, the hurricane center said.

Rita seemed poised to arrive as a Category 3 storm, having diminished from a top-of-the-chart Category 5 on Wednesday.

The storm was expected to plow through a region thickly planted with 12 percent of the nation's gasoline refinery capacity.

Industry analysts said it probably would disrupt regional supplies and further batter price-sensitive industries such as airlines.

More than 2.5 million Texans and residents of southwest Louisiana watched Rita's approach for days. Forecasters targeted the Texas coast even as the storm entered the eastern Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday.

Houston largely cleared itself Friday of a 100-mile-long traffic jam stretching from Galveston in the south, through the city and out its northbound arteries.

Outside the city, however, traffic was still bumper-to-bumper on highways leading to Austin and Dallas, officials said.

National Guard trucks ferried gasoline to stranded drivers up and down the interstates.

Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, the chief

*See* **RITA,** *A-12*



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Debra Lyons comforts her daughter, Lakosho, aboard an Air Force plane in Lake Charles. Dozens of patients from Lake Charles Memorial Hospital were flown Friday to Nashville, Tenn., to be out of the way of Hurricane Rita.

# Water over the levees creates fear

**NEW ORLEANS,** *from A-9*

Stainbrook, 59, a contractor originally from Iowa, said arson and squatters staking claim in abandoned homes were his worries. "I'm protecting nine houses," he said. "We're higher-end here. They're going to come back and act like they live in these properties and go in the doors and take the jewelry."

It was clear from the littered neutral ground nearby that residents had emptied homes of ruined items and trash that nobody wanted. "Toxic Art," a handmade sign announced at the neutral ground between France and Mazant streets. "This exhibition will kill you!" Among the objects were 16 handmade wooden crosses, a hot-water heater, storm windows and paintings that included a bleeding valentine-type heart on a black canvas.

The city had tell-tale signs of potential disaster.

Lakeview was a haunted, sludge-coated scene of ruin. And homes that appeared spared along Grand Route St. John had parked cars with soaking floorboards.

Gentilly Boulevard at Florida Street, beneath the Interstate 610 overpass, was impassable due to standing water. Debris, so many tree limbs and battered buildings, piled upon street corners.

The sight of people who were not with law enforcement or news media was a rarity.

One young man pushed a load of antiques through a brief rainstorm across Esplanade Avenue, at North Johnson Street, explaining to a passerby that he was saving his grandfather's heirlooms before fading into the 7th Ward.

City officials appeared passive in the face of Rita.

Mayor Ray Nagin had nothing to say Friday. "No briefing today. Just watching the levees," said Brenda Hatfield, chief administrative officer, in an e-mail.

In Kenner, Mayor Phil Capitano urged residents to stay off the streets until Saturday afternoon, saying power lines were coming down in some sections of the city.

In St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, officials said the full impact of the storm would depend on flood levels. They knew the storm's surge would threaten levees damaged by Katrina and in various states of repair late Thursday. But in Plaquemines, they were surprised when flooding by late morning, indicating some of the levee repairs were not holding. "It's a little earlier than we anticipated," said Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle.

By mid-afternoon on Friday, floodwaters arriving from a spillage on the Industrial Canal waters were restricted to parts of Arabi. St. Bernard levees seemed to be doing their job, holding a surge that began pounding the area late Thursday night, said Col. Richard Baumy, a Sheriff's Office spokesman.

Floodwaters reached at least 2 feet on Claiborne Avenue and neighboring streets and got into northern Arabi by early afternoon. There, a raised railroad tract contained the attack, and parish officials hoped Rita's winds would shift and the flood would stop rising before it advanced further east.

Meanwhile, what passes for regular life after Katrina continued in the northern parts of Plaquemines that stayed dry during Katrina and seemed to be faring well under Rita. Even as winds picked up by midday, cars buzzed around gas stations, video stores were hoping, and at DeSalvo's Seafood, along Belle Chasse Highway, residents lined up for the post-Katrina special: shrimp spaghetti.

Yet even those businesses were feeling Rita's impact. Watching caravans of repair trucks heading north, a DeSalvo's waitress commented: "There go our customers."

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Staff writers Brett Anderson, Jeff Duncan, Bruce Hamilton, Doug MacCash, Gordon Russell and Manuel Torres contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

In Hurricane Rita's storm surge, water from Bayou Bienvenue overtakes a car parked alongside Paris Road in Chalmette.

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It is time to turn on the electricity in cleared areas of the city including the French Quarter and major parts of Treme, Marigny and Uptown. There is no gas on in the quarter, so an excuse of gas generated fires is yet another myth. The continuing use of candles and generators are the real risk - fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

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# Thousands fill shelters in La.

**RITA,** *from A-10*

executive for the county surrounding Houston, told residents who had not left yet to stay where they were for the storm.

The evacuation itself became a lethal event.

As many as 24 elderly evacuees were killed when a bus carrying 45 clients from an assisted living center caught fire and exploded on Interstate 45 en route to Dallas.

The bus may have caught fire because of a mechanical problem, then blew up when flames reached patients' oxygen tanks, said Don Peritz, a spokesman for the Dallas County sheriff's office.

Two communities that stood to bear the brunt of the storm were Port Arthur, a city of about 58,000 that is home to industries that include oil, shrimping and crawfishing, and Beaumont, a petrochemical, shipbuilding and port city of about 114,000.

Lake Charles, another petrochemical center with about 72,000 residents, lay 50 miles to the east and well within Rita's damage zone.

Rita's strength, plus the example of the miseries Hurricane Katrina inflicted on New Orleans Aug. 29, flushed more than 2.5 million Texans and Louisianians out of their homes.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said 98 percent of the residents of coastal Cameron Parish were gone by Friday. Although hurricanes in southwest Louisiana are rare, in 1957 Hurricane Audrey killed more than 400 people in Cameron Parish.

Overall, about 50,000 people have evacuated from southwest Louisiana, said Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of emergency management for the state's office of homeland security.

By Friday evening, 44,000 Louisiana residents filled 315 emergency shelters. Authorities

*See* **RITA,** *A-13*



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

A stranded Texas family, including a dad reading the Bible while his children and wife rest, waits out Hurricane Rita on the edge of Interstate 10 in Lake Charles. The family's car ran out of gas, and none was available for miles.


The Times-Picayune

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**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Experienced Dental Assistant needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**HYGIENE COOR/FRONT** DESK, Westbank Dental Office. Exp'd only. 504-491-5505 or 504-491-7314

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** Experienced Nuclear Tech-Cardiology. Monroe/West Monroe LA. Excellent salary with no nights or weekend calls. Fax resume to 318-338-3542. Email: margon@jam.rr.com or call 318-348-8844

**Jackson Parish** Hospital seeks full time RNs & LPNs for acute care. Must have current license & CPR Certification. For additional information contact: Administration, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd, Jonesboro LA 71251. Ph 318-259-4435. Fax 318-395-4259

**MEDICAL- Concerned** Home Health has openings for a comptroller and biller in our Covington office, RNs, LPNs and CNAs in Metairie, Westbank and Slidell. Please fax resume to 866-536-6094 or call 888-698-2302

**OPTICIANS AND** OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANTS - Busy Ophthalmology practice in Hickory, NC, seeking experienced Opticians & Ophthalmic Assistants. Relocation assistance avail for qualified candidates. Apply online at www.graystone-eye.com or send resume to Human Resources, P.O. Box 2588, Hickory, NC 28603

**4120 Medical**

**PHYSICIAN Rural** hospital seeking a family practice Physician to relocate to Jonesboro, LA., and assume an existing F/T practice. For additional information please call or respond to: Administrator, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd, Jonesboro LA 71251. Ph 318-395-4221. Fax 318-395-4259

**PHYSICIANS: We** are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the best of small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides, NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team!Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**PRE-ADMIT TESTING** COORDINATOR Must be LA Lic. Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. Need FT employee to perform Pre-admit testing for Parish Anesthesia Associates in Metairie, LA. M-F 9am-5:30pm. No Calls. No Holidays. CPR needed. Benefits included. Generous salary package. Please send all inquires to Jennifer@paacorporate.com or fax to 985-651-3627.

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**SEEKING TOP** HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS for the following: Controller, Director of Finance, Director NICU, Pediatric Pharmacist, Director of Case Management, Physical Therapist, ER Director, Director of Imaging, COO, Director of Surgical Services, Director of Supply Chain & Logistics, Chief Information Officer, Director of Marketing. Send resume & contact info to: healthcare@whelessassociates.com or call 800-448-0926

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**THERAPISTS** - Tandem Rehab has openings throughout FL, VA, MD, PA, OH and Michigan for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists. Will assist with license and relocation! Excellent pay and benefits. Call Laura Nobles at 866-400-4557 or email at rehabrecruiter@aol.com

**4130 Part Time**

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Needed for Health Food Store with Lunch Counter. Will Train, but must be a willing worker. work 3-4 days/week. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**LUNCH COUNTER** HELP Needed for Health Food Store. 4 days/ week. Great hours. Includes food prep and cooking. Will train. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**4140 Professional/Technical**

**ACCOUNT OFFICERS** National Corporation located in Baton Rouge seeking experienced Account officers. Working Knowledge of Real Estate loans, collecting, and REO sales. Workout ability and negotiation skills a plus. Fax resume to (916)231-2491 or e-mail to dcambre@snsc.com

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**Architect/Technician. Well** established Architectural firm seeks a Project Manager/Architect and an Architectural CAD technician to relocate to Columbus Georgia. Each must have 3-5 yrs experience in all phases of architecture. Salary negotiable with excellent benefits. Visit our website; www.hbjkc.com or email: vstorey@hbjkc.com

**FIELD TECHNICIAN** Environmental Testing Laboratory is seeking Field Technician for sample collections and field services. Benefits and training. Send resume to: EASI 2501 Lexington Ave., Kenner, LA 70062.

**Tech Needed** in N.O. area to work on CCTV & Access Control Systems. Strong computer & database skills a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attn Sherry

**4147 Security**

**ARMED SECURITY** OFFICERS Openings in New Orleans and Baton Rouge area, $12-$15 hour DOE, Call 1-800-738-4827

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**4160 Trades/Skills**

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**ALARM INSTALLER** & TECHNICIAN Experience, Benefits Provided, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**Allstate Fence** Co looking for Fence Mechanics & Helpers, plenty of work! Call 504-737-5219

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET MAKERS** needed. MUST have three years cabinet shop experience. 985-386-2711

**CARPENTERS with** tools. Also need helpers. St. Tammany. 985-875-0424 hd256@housedoctors.com

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION POSITIONS** *Pipe Foremen & Crew *Survey Party Chief *Heavy Equipment Operators. Experience required for established site contractor in Central Florida. Top Pay & benefits. DFWP. Call 407-865-7600 or visit our site, www.JMHC.CC

**Direct TV** Installers needed. Top dollar & gas money

# National Guard is ready

**RITA,** *from A-12*

were looking for out-of-state shelters to handle any additional evacuees from the storm-threatened areas.

"We're stretched to the limit," Smith said.

The evacuations affected communities well inland. Louisiana's Jefferson Davis Parish — separated from the Gulf of Mexico by coastal Cameron Parish —was 60 percent evacuated, said Sheriff Ricky Edwards.

Blanco said the state's relief operation, called Task Force Rita, is staged on the edge of the storm in Oakdale, Ville Platte and Lafayette.

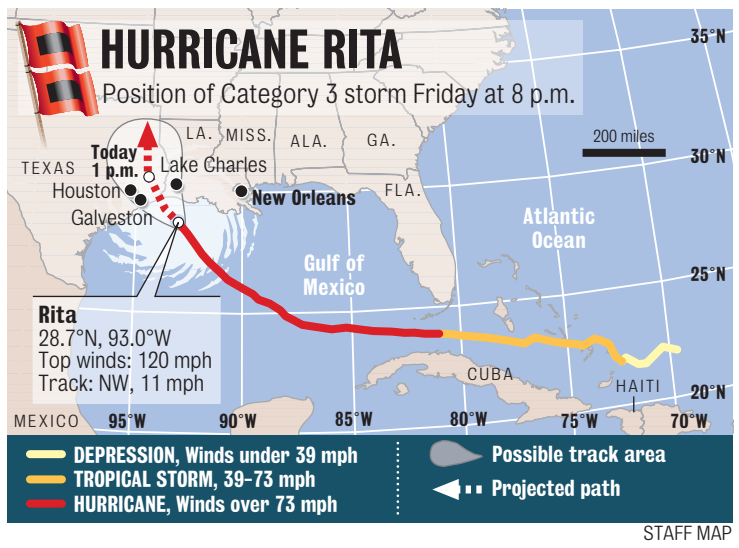
Some National Guard soldiers will ride out the storm in the affected areas and be ready immediately to provide help, she said.

In addition to the National Guard presence, Louisiana has 10,000 federal military personnel in Louisiana, and Blanco has asked Bush for 15,000 federal soldiers.

The state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is standing by with 135 boats and personnel at the edge of the storm, officials said.

Vice Adm. Thad Allen, director of the federal response, said FEMA has ready enough food and supplies for 500,000 people for three days in Louisiana. He said all buses had been moved above Interstate 10. Most were based near Alexandria and prepared to move when needed.

Five Navy ships with the ability to deploy 800 Marines ashore are standing by in the Gulf of Mexico, Allen said.




STAFF MAP

President Bush canceled plans to travel to Texas to watch the coordination of state and federal storm relief efforts. He said he would monitor the storm, as well as the relief response, from a military facility in Colorado.

"We're now facing another big storm," he said. "Our job is to prepare for and assist state and local people to save lives and help these people get back on their feet. There will be no risk of me getting in the way. What I will do is observe."

Meanwhile, the Red Cross asked for more donations to help victims of Hurricane Katrina – and anticipated victims of Hurricane Rita as well. It said the $853 million it collected so far will meet less than half the need.

"We have a long way to go in our fund-raising to meet the needs of people from Katrina, let alone what we need to do for people from Rita," Red Cross Vice President Joe Becker told the Associated Press.

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With reporting by Mary Judice, Jan Moller and Robert Travis Scott. The Associated Press contributed to this report.




The Times-Picayune

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunnday | 5pm THURSDAY |

GENERAL INFORMATION
ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LAWN CARE** Professional experienced and general laborer for storm cleanup. Call Grass Masters. 985-249-9881

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**Louisiana-based firm** looking for electricians experienced in HiVolt, 5 KV & up cable testing, splicing & termin. H2S safety training preferred. Pre-employ and random drug screenings required. $18.hr/hlth ins provided. Send resumes and queries to Human Resources; 78070 Koogie Rd.; Covington, LA 70435.

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**Pacorini USA** Needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators, & Laborers for maritime work in the Port Of New Orleans. Plenty work with lots of overtime. Apply at Alabo Street Wharf or Call 504-416-7967 or 504-382-1566 for information.

**PAINTERS, experienced,** must have own transportation, full time work, 985-966-6011

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**PLUMBER/PLUMBERS HELPER** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800) 709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Plumbing experience desired but not not required. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SKILLED LABOR-** framers, trim carpenters, sheetrock hangers & finishers, painters. Must have tools & transportation. Min. 5 yrs. exp. (504) 382-8493.

**SUPERVISOR for** job site, Jackson MS Company seeks industrial floor coatings job site supervisor, 3 years experience, travel required. 1-800-794-4237

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

### 4165 Warehouse

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE Lumpers** needed in Hammond, LA. Warehouse and forklift experience a plus. Earnings $400-$600 + weekly with opportunity for advancement. Early morning start; benefits after 30 days. MUST pass background check and drug screen. Please call 985-419-0821 if interested.

## Employment

### 4165 Warehouse

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**ATTENTION. LOCAL** WORKFORCE AREAS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES. Displaced citizens, who were forced from their homes because of Hurricane Katrina, can now find temporary work through the One-Stop Workforce Center of Tangipahoa and its satellite offices. Applications are currently being taken for temporary jobs in public and non-profit agencies that provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. These jobs will pay $9.00 per hour and are currently limited to individuals who lived or worked in St.Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.Tammany, and Washington parishes. Applicants should be able to show proof of residency or employment in the affected areas. Funding for the temporary jobs is through a National Emergency Grand (NEG) from the United States Departments of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Applications will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you are an evacuee from the affected areas and currently reside in: -East Baton Rouge Parish contact: East Baton Rouge Workforce Center (225)358-4579. -Ascension Parish contact: Ascension Parish Workforce Centers. 54 Veterans Avenue, Suite B. Donaldsonville LA (225)473-5712 or 1715 South Burnside, Gonzales LA (225)647-7394. -East and West Feliciana Parishes contact: East and West Feliciana Parishes Workforce Center, 5681 Commerce Street, St.Francisville LA. (225)635-6635. -Iberville Parish contact: Iberville Parish Workforce Center. 23425 Railroad Ave, Suite 1, Plaquemine, LA. (225)687-0969. -Livingston Parish Contact: Livingston Parish Workforce Center. 9384 Florida Blvd-Suite B, Walker LA. (225)667-1874. -Pointe Coupee Parish contact: Pointe Coupee Parish Workforce Center. 305 East Main Street. New Roads LA. (225)638-6852. -St.Helena Parish contact: St.Helena Parish WIA Office/Youth Center. 1011 NW Central RR Ave. Hammond LA. (985)748-7718. -Tangipahoa Parish contact: Tangipahoa Parish Workforce Center. 1745 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond LA. (985)345-4465/(985)902-4200. -West Baton Rouge Parish contact: West Baton Rouge Parish Workforce Center. 149 North Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA. (225)343-5915. -Washington Parish contact: Washington Parish Workforce Center. 438 Avenue B. Bogalusa,LA. (985)732-6630. -St.Tammany Parish contact: St.Tammany Parish Workforce Center. 19376 N.Third Street. Covington, LA. (985)893-6254. Displaced workers may be eligible for occupational training.

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more. *Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

**Full Time** Position for Vet Sales Clerc. Computer skills req. Call 225-875-7533

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Janitorial -** If you are seeking employment, Mr Sparkle janitorial service is now hiring honest, qualified, experienced people. We offer the best pay and working conditions, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. We clean commercial buildings, restaurants and schools. If you can pass our drug test, you will have a job! For more information, call 504-737-6061

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**JANITORIAL Help** wanted, Seeking part time cleaning crew to work in large retail store. Cleaning and/or floor care experience is a plus, but not required. Please call 1-800-860-8057 Job reference # 7010.

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**NIGHT TIME** BAKERS - Experience in bread helpful. Apply in person, Mandeville Bake Shop, 2203 Florida Ave. Or call 985-626-1952, for more information

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multitask while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

### 4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/Paralegal. 901-240-7724

## MERCHANDISE

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

## RECREATION

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**HOUSEBOAT -** 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'01 Shasta** 21 foot, Ford engine, low miles, $26,500. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Motorhome, 34 foot, new tires, only 13,000 miles, take over payments, $55,448 or best offer. 813-672-4493

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

### 7525Eastern New Orleans

**La Place,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large family room, kitchen/diningg room, office room, 2 car garage, covered patio. 120x110 corner lot, large freezer/refrigerator, 1 bed, dresser, couch, washer and dryer, 2 lounge chairs, they all stay. $180,000 Firm. 985-652-2519

## Residences for Sale

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**Beautiful Old** Metairie neighborhood, brick home, 3BR, 2 full bath, great room, gas fireplace, large corner lot, 700 Ridgelake Dr. No flooding! Ready to move in, $435,000. By owner 504-733-1965 or 504-458-2116

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

**7555 Metairie** Jefferson/Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

### 7560 West Bank

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

**TERRY TOWN** All Brick 3/2 Home, 6 minutes from CBD, 2250 SQ. FT., Great School District, Never Flooded! Must Relocate to TX, $268,500. 504-452-7560 or 985-871-7493

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Bush, New** construction, Whippoorwill Grove, 3029 sf living, 3805 sf under beam, 3/4 Br, 3 Bath, 2.2 acres, $389,000. 985-966-5412 or 985-845-0070

## Residences for Sale

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

**Mande, Green** Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2570 sf, great cond/location, moving new job! New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**Mandeville lg** home, 5br, 4ba, 3965 Living. 1 yr old, 1 acre, top quality, wind damage, Ready in 4 wks. 985-626-9000

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

**SLIDELL 3** BR/2 BA, 2000 SF on 1 AC lot in Brier Lake Sub-Division, no damage, nice front porch, on quiet street, kit/living/Din. Rm. recently renovated, hand painted mural in children's room, nr shopping, $299,000. 504-481-9158/985-210-3098

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

## Residences for Sale

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**Furnished 1** BR, Util. Included, $125 wkly. $200 Deposit. References Checked. 985-863-9915

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

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**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**MANY, LA.** Immediate Office Space Available. Resort Hotel located 4 hours North of Baton Rouge and 1.5 hours South of Shreveport has immediate space available for a 5 month period. 11,000 square feet of space could easily be converted to office space - 90 guest rooms available for long-term housing. For additional information contact laresort@yahoo.com or call 281-384-7905

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

## Commercial Offices

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735Investment Property

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

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**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarrealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

### 7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** brick, with 1-6 acres, exc cond. 15 min north of covington, 45 min north of slidell. $110,000 or $150,000. 985-735-6575

**MADISONVILLE 3** br, 2 full ba, 2 1/2 ba, 3800 SF home. Pool & deck, $410,000. 985-845-7890

**MADISONVILLE 3/4** Acre, cleared with clay, new SubDiv, must sell! Call 985-969-8295

**MANDEVILLE 2** bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, near Causeway. Community pool, balcony, 1000 square feet. $145,000. Please call 985-869-8691/985-788-7754

**MANDEVILLE Beautiful** Acadian, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, approx 2800 sq ft w/550 sq ft studio. No storm damage. Large corner lot on cul de sac. 3 minutes from Causeway in best school district. 985-674-2899 or 985-789-0190 or 281-350-8384

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### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** 1700 sq.ft, 7 mo old, 1/2 acre lot, wood and ceramic tile floors. $168,000. 504-427-8310

## Real Estate for Sale

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**Amite Homes** 900 W. Oak St. Drive a little save a lot. Quality homes at reasonable prices. Single and Double wide. 985-748-3700

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA/ SOUTH** MISSISSIPPI. 35-40 ACRES In pasture w/small house. 859-312-0200

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### 7860 Other States

**AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL** EQUITIES Has a number of homes available for temporary housing for displaced families. Homes are located throughout the United States and are available for immediate occupancy. If you or your family are in need of housing please call us at: 305-577-1011. We look forward to assisting you in this time of need!

**E OKLAHOMA** Beautiful log home, 4300 sq ft, 6BR/5Ba, View of river valley in Flint Ridge Resort. www.flintridge.homestead.com, $345,000. 918-597-2242

**SANDESTIN GOLF** & BEACH RESORT Executive Villa 4 bed, 4 bath. Spacious, chef's kitchen, library, 7 ft deep pool. Dream home! $1,450,000 Sandra Padgett, Coldwell Banker JME Realty. 850-859-2257 or 974-3271

**TALLAHASSEE FL** Warehouse/apartment, 9000 square foot warehouse with 3100 square foot apartment. $699,000. Please call Russell Doster, South Land Commercial at 850-566-6203

## RENTALS FURNISHED

### 7916 Warehouse/CBD

**COTTONNILL Condos,** 1 bedroom for rent, furnished, 600 square feet, fitness center included, pool, $1200/mo. 504-583-2997

### 7917 Below Canal

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**Furnished Luxury** FQ Apartment with balcony, 505 Barracks, 1300 sq ft. $2600. 615-483-8674

### 7930Eastern New Orleans

**FRENCH QUARTER** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath condo with pool. $3000/Mo, util included. 337-276-7025

### 7960 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**CHATEAU ESTATES** 4 Bedroom, 3 full bath home, fully furnished, Minimum 1 year lease, $3600/month. Call 504-712-9020

### 7965 West Bank

**BELLE CHASSE,** 2 br furnished or unfurnished duplex. Right next to Air Base. 504-393-9264.

### 7970Mandeville/Covington

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**COVINGTON near** I12/190, month-to-month, $975 plus deposit. Call 504-495-4495/985-875-0810

### 8005 Gulf Coast

**San Destin,** FL Sale or Rent. New home for permanent residence. 4-2 1/2. 285 Loblolly Bay Road. 2,000 sq. ft. Available 10/12. Call M. Bass 850-384-0116.

### 8045 Miscellaneous

**ORLANDO AREA** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, semi furnished house. Golf/lake view, gated, active adult community. 1st month free with 6 month lease, Royal Club Spa membership and cable included! $1500 + util. 503-577-8522

## ROOMMATES

### 8050 Rentals to Share

**Slidell, furnished,** Roommate wanted, mature working adult, non-smoking home, no pets, all utilities paid, $450/month + $250/dep. 985-640-1607

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8062 Above Canal

**IRISH CHANNEL** 2 Bedroom Court Yard Cottage, Central Air/Heat. 2527 Constance St. $2000/monthly. 504-833-2928

**UPTOWN Apt,** No hurricane damage, forced to relocate to Houston for 4 mos, willing to sublease for 4 mos. $1500/mo. 254-716-8950

### 8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**Metairie FSBO,** 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1350 sq.ft., w/ detached rear apt. 600 sq.ft. 504-828-6622, 504-715-7807

### 8102 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**KENNER,4100 St** Blase Dr, House for rent, 4BR, 3BA, Furn, pool, exc cond, no flooding,

# Rita still expected to pack a wallop

## *Landfall forecast near Texas border*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

A weakened but still dangerous Hurricane Rita was expected to make landfall near the Texas-Louisiana border today, with a combination of high winds and storm surge pushing up the Calcasieu River through Lake Charles, threatening thousands of homes and dozens of petrochemical plants.

The hurricane, once a ferocious Category 5 with sustained wings of 175 mph, had diminished to a Category 3 on Friday. But that is still a major storm, strong enough to inflict pain on a region still reeling from the impact of Hurricane Katrina last month.

Easterly winds from Rita pumped water through Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Industrial Canal, where it topped repaired levee breaches Friday, flooding a large section of New Orleans' 9th Ward for the second time in 26 days.

Rita was expected to go ashore just west of Sabine Pass in Texas, near the Louisiana border, as a Category 3 hurricane with winds of 120 mph.

Rita had the potential to mirror the path of Hurricane Audrey, which slammed into Cameron Parish and Lake Charles on June 27, 1957, as a Category 4 storm, killing more than 500 people in Louisiana and east Texas.

Audrey pushed a 10½-foot storm surge ashore along a path very similar to that predicted to be followed by Rita. The surge was topped by waves that were another 10 feet high.

At Lake Charles, where a maximum sustained wind of 105 mph was measured, the surge reached 7 feet, very similar to what was predicted from Rita.

With hurricane-force winds stretching 85 miles from its center and tropical storm-force winds stretching 205 miles, Rita was expected to batter most of Louisiana's coastline before pushing north-northeast through Texas today.

Even inland areas faced the threat of extensive flooding. Forecasters said the storm was expected to slow almost to a standstill over the next three days, threatening to drop as much as 25 inches of rain over east Texas and northwestern Louisiana before being picked up by a passing frontal system and moving northeast.

There is a chance that after three days, the remnants of the hurricane could dip south into Louisiana again before leaving the area, said Mark McInerney, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Center in Florida.

As the storm comes ashore, it could drop 20 inches of rain on some communities on the western side of the state. The New Orleans area could get as much as 6 inches of rain through today.

Friday by 8 a.m., Rita's surge water had reached about 7 feet, 9 inches in the Industrial Canal at its lock with the Mississippi River, and began topping several repaired areas where Hurricane Katrina toppled levee walls three weeks ago, said Col. Richard Wagenaar, New Orleans District engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers.

On the east side, the water ate deeply into the limestone gravel repair area, creating a new wall of water that began flowing toward St. Bernard Parish.

Corps officials hoping to plug the break were stymied by near tropical storm-force winds that forced the abandonment of a plan to reinforce the breaches with huge sandbags lifted in place by helicopters, Wagenaar said.

On the west side of the canal, corps officials were attempting to repair the breaks using other methods, he said.

Sewerage & Water Board and corps officials said the 44 percent of pumps working in the city could handle an estimated 6 inches of rain before renewed flooding began.

Wagenaar said additional topping of drainage canals was less likely from Rita, as the storm surge wasn't expected to raise the water in Lake Pontchartrain much higher than the 4-foot level it was Friday at midday.

With sheet piling closing the mouths of the failed 17th Street and London Avenue canals, Wagenaar said, the lakefront levee system looked like it could contain Rita's threat.

Eastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana, however, remained very much in harm's way.

LSU civil and environmental engineering associate professor Ivor van Heerden said a storm surge model shared with emergency planners by his staff Friday indicated that southeasterly and easterly winds in advance of Rita would pump water through Mississippi Sound into Lake Borgne, raising the lake's surface as high as 5 to 6 feet above sea level.

Water is expected to push up the Calcasieu River into Lake Charles and reach heights of 7 to 8 feet in areas above Interstate 10, he said.

That's bad news for a series of refineries and chemical plants along the river and the lake's shoreline, van Heerden said.

"We're seeing all the agencies are really getting geared up to conduct search and rescue missions after the storm passes," he said. "In a briefing with Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and State Police officials, we warned them that there may be chemicals in the air and in the water."

Similar problems may face Port Arthur and Orange, Texas, both petrochemical centers on the shores of Sabine Lake. At Sabine Pass entering the lake, water could reach 17 feet or higher, and could still be 13 feet above sea level at the top of the lake.

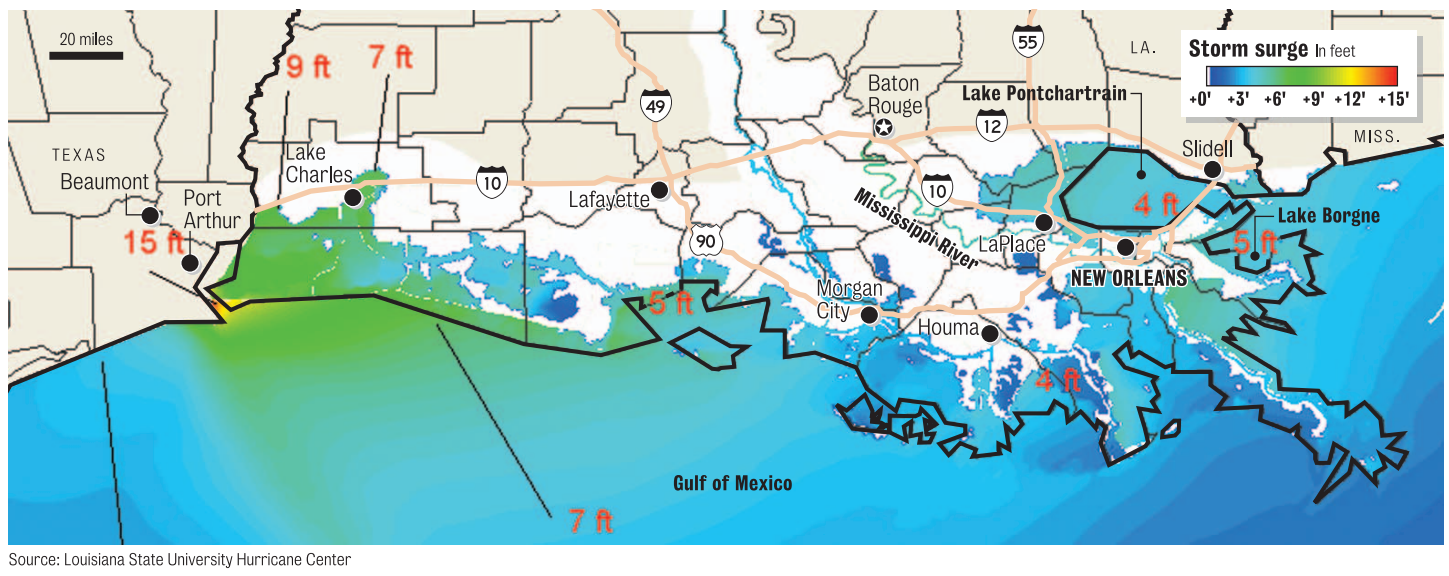
"All of those chemical plants have the potential to be flooded, especially those at Port Arthur, where the levees are only 14 feet above sea level," van Heerden said. "Those are going to be virtually on the edge of the eye wall. You could see significant wind damage from those facilities, too, and you could see chemical releases."

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Staff writer Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.

## RITA'S PREDICTED STORM SURGE

Storm surge pushed toward the Louisiana coast by Hurricane Rita this morning is expected to cause widespread flooding along the Louisiana-Texas border and as far north as Interstate 10 in Lake Charles. In New Orleans on Friday, the surge topped levee repairs along the Industrial Canal and reflooded parts of New Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.




Source: Louisiana State University Hurricane Center

STAFF GRAPHIC


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CHRIS ROSE

# A ghost town gets more ghostly

It's hard to imagine that it could have felt any lonelier in New Orleans than it has for the past three weeks. But Friday, everything just disappeared.

What little life there was seemed to dissipate into the not-so-thin air of a colossal barometer drop. The Furies, it seems, are aroused.

The wind buffeted cars and put the heavy hand on already weakened trees. Magazine Street boutique signs – most hanging askew by only one chain after Katrina – spun in place like pinwheels. Loose power lines whipped and flapped across Uptown and Lakeview streets like fly fishing rods.

The rain came, misting one minute, blinding the next. Outside of the CBD emergency operations center, anywhere you drove, you saw . . . nobody.

The folks who had been trickling into town for the past week or so, checking on homes and businesses, simply ghosted. Police on the outskirts of town blocked all entry. The big National Guard camps in Audubon Park disappeared overnight without a sign that they were ever there.

So much for the repopulation plan. A TV station reported that there were only 500 civilians left in the city as Hurricane Rita set aim on the Cajun Riviera, all those miles away to the West, and you were hard pressed to find any of them.

A passing truck stopped me, and the guys inside asked for directions to the Nashville Wharf and it was good just to talk to someone.

The isolation can be maddening. The car radio just tells you bad things. You just want to find someone, anyone, and say: "How 'bout dem Saints?"

You know those classic New Orleans characters – the cab drivers, bartenders and bitter poets - who buttonhole you and natter on and on forever about tedious and mundane topics that date back to Mayor Schiro's term and when the Pelicans played out on Tulane Avenue? Usually when you're in a hurry somewhere?

I'd give anything to run into one of those guys right now. Go ahead and tell me about the fishing in Crown Point; I'll listen to just about anything you have to say.

I went to Walgreen's on Tchoupitoulas, which had been open most of the week, figuring there would be life there, but it had shuttered at noon. There was a sign on the door that said, "Now Hiring," and that's funny.

I guess.

The day before, the store's public address system was stuck in a time warp, a perky female voice reminding shoppers (both of them): "Don't let Halloween sneak up on you; stock up on candy early. You'll find great savings now . . . at Walgreen's!"

Truth is, there sure was a hell of a lot of candy there. Trick or treat.

As I drove around, the gray sheets of rain pushed around all the stuff in the street and, trust me, there's a lot of stuff in the street. For as far as you looked up and down every avenue, the same blank vistas.

Across town, the water was rising. Again. I suppose there were people there, trying to save our city again, though the cynical might ask: What's to save?

On dry land, the only place I found people gathered was at the fire station on Magazine Street in the Garden District. I went by to drop off some copies of the newspaper for the local guys and found about 60 firefighters from all over the country hanging out in a rec room watching TV and frying burgers.

That was perhaps the strangest sight of all, these guys just sitting around. Stranger in some ways than the desolation.

Because for once, with all this rain soaking the downed trees and rooftops, and nobody around to do something stupid like start a fire, they had nothing to do.

Just sit and watch TV in a haunted city.

• • • • • • •

Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net

I, William Burris, DOC #464641 born November 8, 1984 currently residing in Orleans Parish, LA, has applied for clemency for my conviction of unauthorized entry-business which occurred on or about September 23, 2002 in Orleans Parish, LA. If you have any comments or wish to communicate with the Board of Pardons, please call 225-342-5421.



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***It takes a community to recover from a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina. We thank our medical community, our doctors at West Jefferson Medical Center. We are stronger now than ever. We share a proud history and look forward to a bright future...for the West Bank, the region, the entire Gulf South, and America.***

***Thank you to the physicians who worked tirelessly at West Jefferson during Katrina and through her aftermath. We were able to offer critical medical and surgical care to patients and storm victims under the most severe conditions because of you. We understand that you made personal sacrifices to be here with us. We appreciate your humanity, your dedication and commitment to our patients, your love and skill for the art and practice of Medicine. Thank you for being here with us despite your personal concerns.***

***Although many of you were dispersed afar, we appreciate the many members of the Medical Staff who have been able to return to West Jefferson Medical Center and our community. Many doctors' offices are now open; others plan to open soon. We are thankful that your staffs are also here and reflect the same love of community and devotion to the region. Today, West Jefferson is fully operational.***

***As we all know, having access to medical and surgical care is critical; this recent crisis served as a palpable reminder lest we forget. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to the community to provide quality care to our patients as we all begin the arduous healing process. And together, we welcome back more returning doctors each and every day and wish physicians, as well as their staffs and hospital staff on the way back to our community, a safe journey home.***

***West Jefferson Medical Center Hospital and Health System. We're family. Our Hospital Family. Thank you, West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff Members!***

The following departments and programs acknowledge their appreciation for the Medical Staff's Commitment during Hurricane Katri na:

*Accounting*
*Administration*
*Air Care*
*Ambulatory Surgery Center*
*Auxiliary and Volunteer Services*
*Behavioral Medicine Center*
*Breast Care Center*
*Cancer Center*
*Cardiac Cath Laboratory*
*Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab*
*Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine*
*Cart Supply*
*Case Management*
*Child Care Center*
*Community Relations and Elder Plus*
*Critical Care Nursing Units*
*Diabetes Services*
*EEG and EKG*
*EMS/Ambulance Transport*
*Emergency Department/Pediatric ER*
*Employee Health*
*Environmental Services and Linen Room*
*Food and Nutritional Services*
*Gift Shop and Guest Services*
*Health Information Management*
*Home Health and Hospice*
*Human Resources*
*Hyperbaric Medicine Center*
*Infection Control*
*Information Technology*
*Infusion Therapy*
*MRI*
*Maintenance*
*Materials Management*
*Medical Laboratory*
*Medical Staff Office*
*Medical/Surgical Nursing Units*
*Neuroscience Center and Stroke Unit*
*Nursing Services*
*PBX Operators*
*Patient Access*
*Patient Business Services*
*Pediatrics*
*Performance Improvement*
*Pharmacy*
*Pulmonary Medicine*
*Radiation Oncology*
*Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging*
*Rehabilitation Services*
*Safety and Security*
*Sleep Disorders Center*
*Social Services*
*Surgery and Special Procedures*
*Telecommunications*
*The Family Doctors*
*Transport*
*West Jeff Fitness Centers*
*Women's Imaging Center*
*Wound Care*
*....and all other services*

The following physicians are seeing patients in their offices in the Physicians Center and/or the hospital: *

*Candice Abuso, M.D.*
*Tamer Acikalin, M.D.*
*Amit Ahuja, M.D.*
*Robert Applebaum, M.D.*
*Steven Atkins, M.D.*
*Robert Batson, M.D.*
*Thomas Boos, M.D.*
*Jonathan Boraski, M.D.*
*William Borron, M.D.*
*Robert Bostick, III, M.D.*
*Alan Bowers, M.D.*
*Wesley Bryan, M.D.*
*Brian Cain, D.P.M.*
*David Caletri, M.D.*
*R. Fridge Cameron, M.D.*
*Thomas Cashio, M.D.*
*Stacey Clasen, M.D.*
*Meda Colvin, M.D.*
*Maria Cortez, M.D.*
*Brian Cospolich, M.D.*
*James Craven, M.D.*
*Elizabeth Cressy, M.D.*
*Culicchia Neurological Clinic*
*Frank Culicchia, M.D.*
*Bertha Daniels, M.D.*
*Robert Dawson, M.D.*
*Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.*
*Charles Dupin, M.D.*
*Dean Edell, M.D.*
*Libby Ellent, M.D.*
*Juan Escobar, M.D.*
*Patricia Estrada, M.D.*
*Charles Everson, M.D.*
*Eye Associates of West Jefferson*
*Chester Falterman, M.D.*
*Samuel Ferris, M.D.*
*Ronald Fiore, M.D.*
*Robert Alan Frank, M.D.*
*John Freiberg, M.D.*
*Louis Glade, M.D.*
*Clay Gould, M.D.*
*Matthew Grimm, M.D.*
*Thomas Grimstad, M.D.*
*Joseph Guarnieri, M.D.*
*Michael Haydel, M.D.*
*Richard Helman, M.D.*
*David Hutchinson, M.D.*
*Thomas Irwin, M.D.*
*Shaunda Jones, M.D.*
*Mark Juneau, Jr., M.D.*
*Judy Kang, M.D.*
*Mark Kappelman, M.D.*
*Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.*
*E. Kenneth Kerut, M.D.*
*Robert Kessler, M.D.*
*John Kimble, M.D.*
*John Klees, M.D.*
*Douglas Koppel, M.D.*
*Rene Koppel, M.D.*
*Robert Koppel, M.D.*
*Patrick Krake, M.D.*
*Rhonda Kroll, M.D.*
*Scott Kurzer, M.D.*
*Frederick Kushner, M.D.*
*E.C. Labadie, M.D.*
*Juan Labadie, M.D.*
*Maria Labadie, M.D.*
*Pablo Labadie, M.D.*
*Elaine LaNasa, M.D.*
*Glenn Landry, M.D.*
*Dinh Le, M.D.*
*Michel LeBrun, M.D.*
*Leslie Levenson, M.D.*
*Daniel Lucio, M.D.*
*Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.*
*Jose Marina, M.D.*
*Robert Matheney, M.D.*
*Emery Minnard, M.D.*
*Guy Mioton, M.D.*
*Scott Nicholson, M.D.*
*Hong Nguyen, M.D.*
*Richard Paddock, M.D.*
*Michael Puente, M.D.*
*Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.*
*Chris Richards, M.D.*
*Gabriel Rivera, M.D.*
*Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro, M.D.*
*Stephen Rynick, M.D.*
*Charles Schibler, M.D.*
*Milton Seiler, Jr., M.D.*
*N.C. Sekar, M.D.*
*Sandra Spedale, M.D.*
*John Steck, M.D.*
*Patrick Stumpf, M.D.*
*Rian Tanenbaum, M.D.*
*Charles Thomas, M.D.*
*Craig Thompson, M.D.*
*David Treen, Jr., M.D.*
*Ivo Tremont, M.D.*
*Walter Truax, M.D.*
*Steve Venturatos, M.D.*
*Alfredo Vichot, M.D.*
*Mark Workman, M.D.*
*West Bank Nephrology*

The following off campus physicians' offices are open and seeing patients: *

*James Bellina, M.D.*
*Kenneth Coignet, M.D.*
*Steven Deloach, M.D.*
*Jeffrey Guillmette, M.D.*
*Michael Friley, M.D.*
*Susan Hemelt, M.D.*
*Joseph Imseis, M.D.*
*Patty Jackson, M.D.*
*Dwight Landry, D.D.S.*
*William Long, M.D.*
*Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.*
*Rebecca Nguyen, M.D.*
*William Procell, M.D.*
*Lilibeth Rochon, M.D.*
*David Sampognaro, M.D.*
*The Bone and Joint Clinic*
*J. Brent Wallis, M.D.*
*Brigetta Yancy, M.D.*
*Westside Orthopaedic Clinic*
*Westside Clinics*
*Womens Medical Centers*

Thank you, doctors who saw patients or were with us at West Jefferson Medical Center during Hurricane Katrina or the first days following her wrath:

*Steven Atkins, M.D.*
*Richard Bagnetto, M.D.*
*Imelda Bautista, M.D.*
*Elizabeth Blanton, M.D.*
*Thomas Boos, M.D.*
*Jonathan Boraski, M.D.*
*William Borron, M.D.*
*Brian Cain, D.P.M.*
*David Caletri, M.D.*
*Wayne Celentano, M.D.*
*Robert Chugden, M.D.*
*Kenneth Coignet, M.D.*
*Brian Cospolich, M.D.*
*James Craven, M.D.*
*Karen Crotty, M.D.*
*Frank Culicchia, M.D.*
*Brian DeHart, M.D.*
*Arlette Delcham, M.D.*
*Steven Deloach, M.D.*
*Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.*
*Sam Edelman, D.O.*
*Libby Ellent, M.D.*
*K. Barton Farris, M.D.*
*Rodney Florek, M.D.*
*Michael Friley, M.D.*
*Mohammed Fustok, M.D.*
*Daniel Gallagher, M.D.*
*Matthew Grimm, M.D.*
*Mark Grise, M.D.*
*Robert Gruner, M.D.*
*Scott Habetz, M.D.*
*Paul Harch, M.D.*
*George Harris, M.D.*
*Richard Helman, M.D.*
*David Hunter, M.D.*
*David Hutchinson, M.D.*
*Jeanne Hutchinson, M.D.*
*Shaunda Jones, M.D.*
*David Joseph, M.D.*
*Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.*
*John Kimble, M.D.*
*Rhonda Kroll, M.D.*
*E.C. Labadie, M.D.*
*Pablo Labadie, M.D.*
*Elaine LaNasa, M.D.*
*Keit Le, M.D.*
*Trac Le, M.D.*
*Michel LeBrun, M.D.*
*Henry Liu, M.D.*
*Daniel Lucio, M.D.*
*William Luer, M.D.*
*Ralph Lupin, M.D.*
*Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.*
*Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.*
*Kenneth Malmstrom, M.D.*
*Robert Matheney, M.D.*
*Andrew Mayer, M.D.*
*Timothy McGowan, M.D.*
*Emery Minnard, M.D.*
*Scott Nicholson, M.D.*
*William Procell, M.D.*
*Michael Puente, M.D.*
*Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.*
*John Reilly, M.D.*
*Chris Richards, M.D.*
*Todd Roberts, M.D.*
*N.C. Sekar, M.D.*
*Robert Shackleton, M.D.*
*Paul Staab, M.D.*
*John Steck, M.D.*
*Robert Swanton, M.D.*
*Oliver Thelin, M.D.*
*Charles Thomas, M.D.*
*Aaron Thompson, M.D.*
*Craig Thompson, M.D.*
*James Todd, III, M.D.*
*Walter Truax, M.D.*
*Laura Winkeler, M.D.*
*Mark Workman, M.D.*

** We're working to update the "doctors' offices open" list every day on our web site at www.wjmc.org. If you are a member of the West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff and your office is open and you are not featured in the above applicable lists, please contact Shannon Hebert in the Medical Staff Office at (504) 349-1119 or Carol Hatchett, Physician Liaison in Community Relations at (504) 349-6023.*

*If you are a community member and do not see your doctor's office in our lists, please continue to call your physician's office to learn his or her availability. To check further, go to www.wjmc.org or call the previously listed numbers for assistance.*

*For a physician referral, call (505) 349-2054.*

**West Jefferson Medical Center**
Hospital and Health System

1101 Medical Center Boulevard ✦ Marrero, Louisiana 70072 ✦ (504) 347-5511 ✦ www.wjmc.org

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Saturday
September 24, 2005

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# Jeff coroner helps Orleans families

*City overwhelmed with task of removing bodies*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

For 16 days, Bessie Grover's body lay in her bed, in her house on Rocheblave Street in New Orleans, as floodwaters rose around her, then fell, and temperatures soared past 90 degrees.

Her son and his wife and her daughters became increasingly despondent after getting little help from the Katrina-beseiged Orleans Parish coroner's office, which was underwater; the Police Department, which was busy trying to save the living; and other disaster agencies that weren't in the business of body retrieval.

"We didn't know what kind of condition she would be in," son Fird Grover said. "We thought she might wash out into the street and just become a number. Nobody would know who she was."

But Bessie Grover was buried last weekend in Woodville, Miss., where she was born and raised. The Grovers were able to take their mother home after the Jefferson Parish coroner's office made a trip into New Orleans on Sept. 13 at the family's request.

The Jefferson coroner's office, which remained open throughout Hurricane Katrina and afterwards, made several "humanitarian excursions" into Orleans and surrounding parishes in addition to serving its own constituents, said Dr. Charles Eckert, the chief deputy coroner.

Eckert has been acting coroner since Aug. 28. The elected coroner, Dr. Robert Treuting, said Friday that he evacuated for Katrina because he is recovering from therapy after a recent illness.

Since the storm, the coroner's office has collected 170 bodies, 30 of them confirmed deaths related to the hurricane, Eckert said. The others died of natural causes at hospices, hospitals and nursing homes during the storm.

It's possible that 20 to 30 more Jefferson deaths could be

*See* **CORONER,** *B-2*

# Grand Isle dusting itself off



The 400-foot fishing pier in Grand Isle State Park, repaired after recent damage from Tropical Storm Cindy, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

*Barrier island's residents determined to rebuild*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson Bureau

GRAND ISLE — Donnie Willard of Grand Isle has spent the past few years on the downdraft of fate. The shrimper has watched as cheap seafood from Asia slowly eroded his income, and the stress of it has given him a haggard and rangy look older than his 48 years.

Hurricane Katrina, which shellacked his house with a thick layer of grime and washed the radar equipment from his boats, was just another cheap trick of fate. As he swung a hammer at the walls of his cousin's storm-ravaged house last week, Willard said he was determined to rebuild.

He forged on with a hangdog courage that moves forward because it knows nowhere else to go.

"The shrimping's done. Our houses are gone. My house is torn to lunch meat inside," Willard said. "But we keep going. This is all we know."

Three weeks after the hurricane, residents of Grand Isle have begun coming home to shredded fishing camps and trailers. The shrimp docks, the island's economic keystone, are gone. The campers that hugged every space in front of Bridge Side Cabins and Marina were vaporized.

The storm warped the bridge that connects the island to the mainland, preventing many locals from checking on their houses until the damage was repaired last week. Those who returned — only a fraction of the 1,500 year-round residents — have found that help comes slowly to the hinterlands.

*See* **GRAND,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

RIGHT, Jerry Worsham, a central Louisiana resident who has been coming to Grand Isle since 1949, stands near a row of trailer camps destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Worsham said his own camp had little damage.



ABOVE, A painted face expresses Grand Isle sentiments toward the wreckage on Pete's Wharf Road, where camps were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

# Entergy New Orleans seeking shelter

*Subsidiary files for bankruptcy protection*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Entergy New Orleans Inc., a subsidiary of New Orleans' only Fortune 500 company, filed a petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization Friday after facing staggering repair costs from Hurricane Katrina and with few customers to provide revenue.

Entergy Corp. had warned earlier this week that its New Orleans subsidiary was considering bankruptcy as an option after Moody's Investors Service downgraded the company's debt to junk status. Entergy New Orleans will continue operating while it is re-organizing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, which is temporarily based in Baton Rouge instead of New Orleans because of the hurricane.

Dan Packer, the chief executive officer of Entergy New Orleans, said the step will enable the electricity and natural gas utility to move forward on essential storm repairs while shielding customers from the bulk of rate hikes.

"We thought it was critical to continue our restoration efforts," Packer said. "We really needed to be able to do something that would avoid severe rate shock. That's what we're trying to do."

In tandem with the filing, Entergy New Orleans asked the court to approve as much as $200 million in "debtor in possession" financing, or "DIP" loans from Entergy Corp. The company's board has approved that financing package.

Entergy New Orleans hopes to get $150 million of that money immediately to cover employee wages and benefits, pay for power purchase and gas supply agreements, and continue to repair its power grid to serve its gas and electricity customers. A court hearing is set for Monday.

Entergy New Orleans officials estimated that repairing damage from Hurricane Katrina could cost the company $325 million to $475 million, though those numbers could change once utility

*See* **ENTERGY,** *B-2*

# SHARING MOTHERLY LOVE

*Amid chaos, instincts take over, and a baby's life is saved*

HURRICANE HEROES

*Guard member helps save life of New Orleans infant*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

Staff Sgt. Rikki Hurston knew that the cold, wet baby was in trouble the moment she saw her.

"I'd seen people pass away before," she said. "She had a look on her face."

Hurston, 32, is a wife and mother of four who works as a nurse practitioner in a Baton Rouge nursing home. She's also a Louisiana National Guard medic who, three days after Hurricane Katrina's wind and floodwater laid New Orleans low, was helping keep the chaos at bay in the Louisiana Superdome, a titanic pressure cooker of frustrated refugees.

The long days and nights had begun to blur together, Hurston said, as she helped guide traumatized, elderly survivors from the makeshift helicopter pad atop the Dome parking lot to the medical services in New Orleans Arena, a pistol on her hip to ward off possible assailants in those early, uncertain times.

*See* **HERO,** *B-2*



**Staff Sgt. Rikki Hurston** Medic pumped breast milk to share with young survivors

# Kenner official booked in theft of relief supplies

*Some say Floyd case politically motivated*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

Kenner Chief Administrative Officer Cedric Floyd surrendered to authorities Friday afternoon and was booked with one count of malfeasance in office for allegedly stealing donated Hurricane Katrina relief supplies.

Kenner police who served a search warrant on Floyd's Kenner home Tuesday night said they removed several truckloads of food, clothing, tools and medicine meant for storm victims.

But some city officials have said Floyd's arrest is just another skirmish in the upcoming battle for the mayor's office.

"This is just politics," Kenner City Councilman Marc Johnson said at a news conference Friday afternoon at New Hope Community Church in Kenner just before Floyd surrendered. "This is all about the race to City Hall."

Johnson, flanked by his predecessor, former Kenner Councilwoman Wilma Irvin, alluded to next year's possible rematch between Mayor Phil Capitano and Police Chief Nick Congemi for

*See* **THEFT,** *B-2*

# Lack of water, food did in some victims

**CORONER,** *from B-1*

blamed on Katrina once records, not yet submitted because of hasty evacuations, come in, Eckert said.

At least 80 bodies, including Grover's, have been released to relatives. Five have been sent to the makeshift federal morgue in St. Gabriel for identification, Eckert said.

With the retrieval of storm victims in Jefferson Parish thought to be over, Eckert said the coroner's office is now focused on finding families of those whose bodies remain at the morgue, so they can be released for burial.

Of the 30 storm-related deaths, seven were from carbon monoxide poisonings, including four in one Marrero house, Eckert said.

Two people were electrocuted.

Another case was that of an unidentified 16-year-old who was hit by a car at the Causeway Boulevard-Interstate 10 interchange in Metairie, a way station for evacuation of New Orleans residents in the days after Katrina blasted the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, Eckert said.

The coroner's office also picked up three unidentified bodies at those staging grounds.

Two drowning deaths were reported, Eckert said. One man was found near the Metairie-New Orleans line around Metairie Country Club. Another was found in a canal on the West Bank.

Most of the other 15 storm-related deaths were bodies found in private homes after the person was reported missing, usually by a neighbor or relative who had returned and had not seen the person, Eckert said.

"On a number of occasions, we did find a person deceased in the house," he said.

The deaths were declared storm-related because there was some physical evidence the person made an effort to survive after the storm, Eckert said. But lack of water, food, or medication or the heat caused them to succumb.

No cause of death was sought in Grover's case, her son said. It was his wife, Juanita Grover, a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office correctional officer, who contacted the coroner's office.

Hers was one of several calls for aid in other parishes, Jefferson coroner's investigator Anthony Buras said. At first, the staff tried to direct them to Orleans authorities. But when the people continued to call after receiving no help, the staff held a roundtable discussion.

"We asked ourselves, 'What should we do? Should we leave the body there? Or do we make an attempt to help these people?'" Buras said. "It was the right thing to do."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

A bathhouse at Grand Isle State Park was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. With the bridge repaired before Hurricane Rita struck, residents began coming to the island temporarily to check on their homes.

# 'We intend to pay everybody,' official says

**ENTERGY,** *from B-1*

crews can more accurately assess damage after gaining access to areas flooded by the storm.

At the same time, Entergy New Orleans lost between 100,000 and 130,000 customers, so it has little revenue. Entergy New Orleans normally serves 190,000 electricity customers and 145,000 gas customers in New Orleans. The district is made up mostly of residential customers, which are less profitable than business customers.

"It's a timing issue for us as much as anything," Packer said. "We just needed a cash infusion to pay our bills immediately. We intend to pay everybody."

In the meantime, Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter introduced a bill Friday to provide $250 billion in aid to Louisiana. The bill includes $2.5 billion for utility restoration costs. Packer said he's optimistic the utility portion of the bill will pass because there are precedents – such as after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — of helping out companies with extraordinary expenses from a disaster.

"I feel pretty comfortable that we'll get there," Packer said.

But even with the prospect of federal aid, Packer said Entergy couldn't count on that money, or upon when it would show up. In borrowing as much as $200 million from Entergy Corp., Entergy New Orleans needed to go through bankruptcy court to protect shareholders. "We thought after a lot of deliberations that this was the way to go," Packer said.

Analysts were unfazed by the bankruptcy filing.

Clint Vince, special counsel to the city of New Orleans for utility regulatory matters, said the bankruptcy filing was done with the knowledge and support of the City Council.

"I think it was an essential step for them to get a DIP loan from their parent company," Vince said. "It's a very positive step. It allowed Entergy New Orleans to stay in business and continue the rebuilding efforts until we can get some federal funding.

Given the extraordinary circumstances, it's not surprising," said Debra Bromberg, a utilities analyst with Jefferies & Co. in New York. Entergy New Orleans not only faces a huge drop in revenue, "the company is going to be incurring substantial costs to restore its system," she said.

Still, it is fairly rare for a regulated electric utility to file for Chapter 11 protection. The most recent major example came in April 2001 when Pacific Gas & Electric Co. of San Francisco filed for protection because of a huge run-up in costs of wholesale electricity, which it could not pass on to its customers. It emerged from bankruptcy in April 2004.

Entergy New Orleans is the smallest of Entergy's five utilities and is the only Entergy subsidiary included in the bankruptcy filing. Entergy New Orleans represented about 7 percent of consolidated revenues and 3 percent of consolidated earnings last year, according to the company. Entergy New Orleans has about 400 employees.

The law firm of Jones Walker is representing Entergy New Orleans in the bankruptcy filing.

Entergy Corp.'s stock increased 97 cents Friday to close at $72 a share. However, the stock was down for the week; it closed at $74.77 the previous Friday.

# Shrimping business may be slow to come back

**GRAND,** *from B-1*

Insurance adjusters have been largely missing in action on this tiny island, known for its sport fishing and birding. Some National Guard troops arrived from Memphis, and a police and fire department from South Carolina adopted the island for a few days. But the visitors were all gone by Tuesday, leaving the mayor and a few others to piece together the wreckage. And, of course, Hurricane Rita was on the horizon.

"The only thing I got from FEMA was some gas," Mayor David Camardelle said.

But this is an insular place where people take pride in their resilience and self-sufficiency. And in the midst of so much loss, they are determined that the island will rebuild, a sentiment echoed by elected officials.

In the midst of so much loss, leaders from the mayor on up to the island's congressman said they are determined to reconstruct the island's shattered infrastructure.

As Louisiana's only inhabited barrier island, Grand Isle plays a role in preventing coastal erosion in the Barataria Bay. "It's a protective measure," said U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, whose district includes the island.

The island also deserves reconstruction because of its location near Port Fourchon and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, which are tied to 25 percent of the nation's oil production, Melancon said.

"With all this money this government gets (from oil production), what it costs to fix Grand Isle should be a pittance," he said. "They're glad to take it, but they don't seem to want to give it back."

## Back to basics

After Katrina, the first to person to return was Aubrey "T-Black" Chaisson, the fire chief and public works director, who rode there on a wave-runner as soon as the wind and rain began to die down. The storm had pulled down power lines and tossed heaps of debris into the streets, but he plowed through in the island's oldest fire truck. The right front tire was in tatters by the time Chaisson reached the bridge at the other end of the island.

The mayor and other town workers were inching in trucks over the damaged bridge. When they finally crossed to safety, communications were primitive. Camardelle said he became so frustrated that he chucked a cell phone over the bridge. City workers ran handwritten notes between the mayor and the fire chief, who likened the service to the Pony Express.

Grand Isle, unlike concave New Orleans, has a higher elevation in the center than around the edges. While water covered the entire island during the storm, it drained quickly off the turtle-shaped land. Three weeks later, the streets are clear, and power and water are mostly restored.

The island's lone school hopes to join Jefferson Parish public schools in re-opening Oct. 3. Despite the progress, masses of furniture, plywood and waterlogged appliances were still wait along curbs for sanitation trucks to cart them off.

As reconstruction progresses, Camardelle said he wishes the federal government would trust local officials with money if it cannot provide them with workers. The town coffers are nearly empty, and the mayor says Grand Isle needs an infusion of federal cash to keep paying its workers.

"Why don't they just trust someone — say, here, Mr. Mayor, you know what your people need?" Camardelle asked. "I didn't get elected for nothing."

Jefferson Parish Councilman at Large John Young said that FEMA, in the wake of Katrina, has been "difficult to deal with across the board."

"David's frustration is shared by a lot of people in terms of FEMA," the councilman said.

## Holding on

During the storm, seven people stayed.

Among the amphibious is Mike Santiny, otherwise known as Mike the Monkey, who earned his nickname as a boy when he fled police by climbing trees. Lounging last week at the fire station, adapted into a food distribution center, Santiny lit a cigarette and said he didn't leave because he had no better place to go.

"I didn't want to stay in no shelter," he said.

Santiny slept through the early hours of Katrina in his house but fled with his nephew and their small black dog when the wind started making a fearsome howl. He huddled on a neighbor's porch wearing a garbage bag as a rain slicker and could feel debris lashing against him when it was too dark to see what was happening around him. His house is gone, but he is one of many who said he will survive.

Dean Blanchard, who took in 80,000 pounds of shrimp a day at his docks, surveyed the damage last week from the buckled concrete dock where his office used to stand. The marauding wind and water dumped his equipment into the water, threw his storage tankers in a nearby yard and washed away several docks. He estimates he sustained $2 million in damage.

Thousands of shrimpers are now waiting for him to resurrect his operation. He estimates he can have a rudimentary system up in a week, but it will be months or longer before he is back at full strength. Even when more shrimp is coming in, many of the New Orleans restaurants that used to buy the harvest will be closed.

"It took me all my life to get to this point," Blanchard, 46, said. "What are my options? Even if I have to build back smaller, I have to start somewhere."

The island's oil operations did not fare much better. Camardelle said Exxon and BP both lost buildings and equipment, though their storage tanks are intact. He expects the companies to resume work and said Exxon donated $250,000 to the town.

With so much work to ahead, residents looked to the future.

"The shock is over. It's all work now," said Rene Gaspard, one of the owners of the Bridge Side marina, which lost its dry storage sheds, store and deli, and the trailers on one side of the motel. "We've got to rebuild and make it nice."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Paul Purpura contributed to this report. Kate Moran can be reached at katherine_moran@yahoo.com.

# Guard member mothers masses

**HERO,** *from B-1*

A police officer appeared at a Superdome entrance, struggling to resuscitate a nearly drowned infant.

A family, including a 1-month-old, had been taken aboard a rescue boat. The boat had capsized and the baby was lost in the confusion. When the officer recovered the infant from the water, he had rushed immediately to the Dome.

"He was screaming, 'She's not breathing!' " Hurston said.

Hurston took over the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. With every breath, the baby vomited "formula, mucus and toxic water."

But she began breathing. Before an evacuation helicopter arrived, the mother was reunited with her almost-lost child.

"She was in shock," Hurston said. "She asked, 'Can I touch her?' "

Hurston said the resuscitation is the saving grace of her Superdome experience.

"I'd put it right up there with giving birth," she said. "I never prayed so hard."

Hurston's most recent memory of childbirth was only 3 months old, when her son Burdon Drake Hurston was born. When she was deployed to the hurricane site, she took along her breast pump, intending to express milk for her son and refrigerate the bottles until she could return home. But it soon became clear that her stay would be longer than expected.

At first, Hurston threw away the surplus milk, but then, at the suggestion of a friend, she began offering bottles of milk to stranded mothers, one of whom had nothing but water for her child, another with a baby intolerant of formula.

"How do you offer a stranger your bodily fluids?" she said. "I told them I was healthy, had my shots and took my vitamins. I knew it would be better for them than formula."

Every time she offered milk, the mother accepted.

# Clothes, medicine seized by police

**THEFT,** *from B-1*

the Kenner mayor post. Capitano defeated Congemi in the 2004 election.

"He may be a lot of things, but he is not a thief," Irvin said of Floyd, whom she called a political animal. "The only person I know who is more political than him is Nick Congemi. And that is what Cedric is suffering from now."

Floyd, instructed by his attorney not to comment, watched the press conference from the pews of the church, which he has said was to have received the donations stored at his home. Floyd had been appointed to head up the city's donation distribution effort. He has been suspended without pay.

New Hope pastor Mark Mitchell said the church intended to distribute the supplies to residents of the Susan Park subdivision and members of the church-affiliated drug rehabilitation program. Floyd took the donations to his home, which is near the church.

Mitchell said he made arrangements to pick them up, but because of the storm, "we kept missing one another."

Before the church could get the donations, Mitchell said, police had seized them.

Kenner police had no comment on the case.

"That's something for the courts to decide," said Capt. Steve Caraway, a police spokesman.

Richard Bates, Floyd's attorney, said his client surrendered to authorities at Kenner police headquarters. Bates said he had arranged with state District Judge Hans Liljeberg for Floyd to be released on his own recognizance.

The case is being handled by the state attorney general's office.

Once officials in Baton Rouge investigate the case, Bates said, "they will conclude that they do not have a prosecutable case. No crime has been committed."

# WET RECEPTION



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Danny Fussell of Mandeville loses his protection from the elements Friday outside the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 198 in Baton Rouge. Hundreds of people withstood rain and wind to stand in line for Red Cross assistance.

# Parish may build insurance center

*Adjusters would have base at port*

**From staff reports**

St. Bernard Parish officials are discussing a proposal to build an insurance-adjusting compound on land at the Port of St. Bernard, which would serve as a first stop for residents returning to the flood-stricken parish.

The center, which would include office space and temporary housing for insurance adjusters, would provide a central location for residents to make contact with their insurance companies and get the ball rolling on settling their claims.

Parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro said Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez has pushed the idea as a method to help "begin the recovery of St. Bernard."

St. Bernard Parish, devastated by the flooding from Hurricane Katrina, had begun this week allowing residents to return to view their homes to see whether they could salvage anything. That plan was postponed when Hurricane Rita entered the Gulf of Mexico, but Cannizaro said officials plan to start it again when the latest storm threat passes.

"The faster we can get adjusters in here, the faster we can get the recovery started," Cannizaro said, adding the Rodriguez and Sheriff Jack Stephens are committed to getting as many residents as possible to rebuild their homes and lives in St. Bernard Parish. "We want people to rebuild and the sooner folks can talk to their insurance companies the better."

"We'd like to have them (insurance adjusters) here to answer questions when residents return," he said. "Then they could move on to the phase of deciding how to handle claims."

Cannizaro said the land at the port could accommodate office trailers and temporary housing where insurance company representatives could live to make access to their clients easier.

He said Rodriguez, Stephens, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle and several others joined in a conference call with state Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley and insurance company representatives Thursday, and planned to discuss the issue again Monday.

# Jeff schools poised to begin reopening

*Rapid progress made to facilities*

**By Sandra Barbier and Mark Waller**
Staff writers

George Cox Elementary School's treasured butterfly garden has barely a tree standing, and every classroom had rain leak through the roof where air conditioners were shoved a few inches out of place by Hurricane Katrina's winds nearly four weeks ago.

But the rooms now clean and dry, and the garden and school playground have been raked smooth. Begonias are blooming by the front door.

"We could open tomorrow," Assistant Principal Liz Gurtner said Thursday.

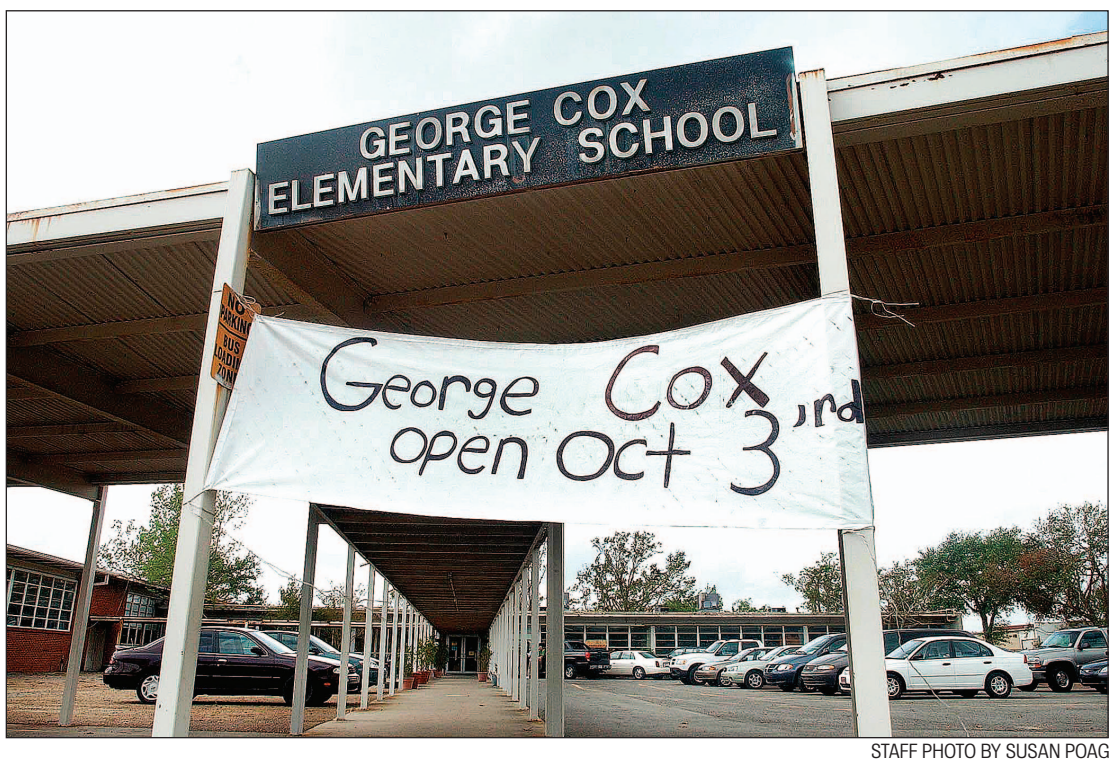
For the past week, teachers, counselors, social workers, secretaries, custodians, contractors and National Guard troops have been working to prepare the Gretna school and others around Jefferson Parish for reopening Oct. 3.

Parishwide, the outlook has been steadily improving. Early assessments placed several schools on an iffy, or "B" list as far as being ready to open, and a few others were listed as closed.

Cox was on the "B" list, Gurtner said, but "we moved to an A-plus level in just five days."

A succession of assessments by the Jefferson Parish School Board, principals and staff refined a list of problems and necessary repairs.

Besides the leaks, three of the school's 10 portable buildings, several of which are decades old, were too damaged to use. But crews have made repairs and sanitized other rooms, and teachers picked up debris and combed the grounds around the school's play equipment for sharp objects.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

George Cox Elementary School was considered to be in 'iffy' condition in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but repairs and cleaning of the facility have progressed quickly. 'We could open tomorrow,' Assistant Principal Liz Gurtner said.

Green Park Elementary School in Metairie was spared the worst, with downed trees missing buildings and some spoiled food that had to be removed from the cafeteria, Principal Vic Castillo said this week.

"We were blessed," Castillo said. "I think that's a sign for us to get up and going for these kids."

Stephanie Sara, principal at Bridgedale Elementary in Metairie, also reported a campus in good condition, ready to take back an uncertain number of its 380 students. Soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division helped clear trees from the grounds. A few windowpanes still needed replacing Friday.

In addition to cleanup, the Cox staff spent Thursday morning trying to contact students' parents to let them know the school will reopen. With students and staff scattered across the country, it's an issue that has Gurtner concerned.

"We're worried that they don't know to come back," she said.

About 80 percent of the school's 512 students lived in apartment complexes in the Gretna area. Two of those complexes are still closed, Gurtner said.

However, all but three of Cox's teachers have or will return, she said.

Castillo said there is no telling how many of Green Park's 450 students will return, but he has heard from several families that said they will. The school might welcome a few displaced students.

"We lost some children and families from the community, but we will be in great shape here at Green Park," he said, adding that most of the faculty is returning.

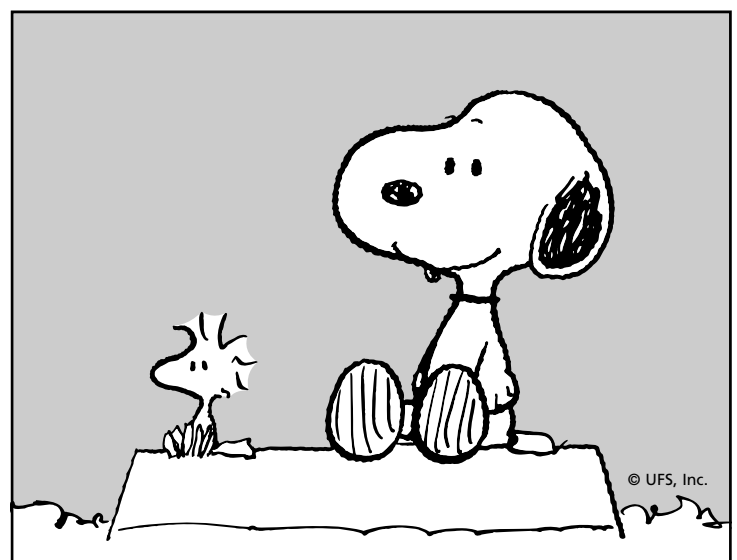
The entire Bridgedale faculty is returning, Sara said, even employees without homes. The school has been working on finding places for them to stay.

After a Bridgedale student enrolled in school in Georgia, Sara said, that school contacted her offering help. "They're going to send backpacks for students that might have lost theirs in all the transition, filled with school supplies," Sara said.

For Cox, the next step working on its curriculum plans.

"That's what we want to do next week," Gurtner said. "And we have to plan activities, to get back the fun things kids do … back to some normalcy."

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# Gretna to shuffle cash to ride out slowdown

## *Hurricane withered revenue sources*

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank bureau

Like all cities in the New Orleans area, Gretna faces a sharp drop in tax revenue, but the city will try to tighten its belt and shift money from improvement projects to daily operations until the economy returns to normal.

The Westwego City Council this week gave Mayor Robert Billiot authority to seek permission from the State Bond Commission to borrow up to $10 million and to participate in a $100 million loan made by Jefferson Parish. But Gretna Finance Director Rudy DuSaules said Gretna officials would put the city in debt "only as a last resort."

Almost all of Gretna's tax revenue, except property taxes, is being affected by Hurricane Katrina. Many stores remain closed and therefore are not generating sales tax, which provides Gretna with about $6 million a year.

DuSaules presented the city's financial picture to Mayor Ronnie Harris and members of the City Council on Wednesday night. Tax revenue from Boomtown Casino in Harvey is another major source of money for Gretna, adding about $1.9 million annually to the city's coffers. Boomtown has been closed, but DuSaules said he has been told the casino might reopen in a week or two.

Gretna officials hope casino money can play a key role in keeping the city solvent until its economy revives, DuSaules said. Normally, Gretna budgets money from Boomtown only to finance capital projects, such as canal improvements and a new police evidence room. But officials expect to use the Boomtown revenue to help pay for daily operations for a while, he said.

DuSaules said elected officials have not decided which improvement projects would be delayed.

DuSaules expressed frustration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The city submitted an application for a $750,000 grant, but FEMA questioned an expenditure of $20,000 for guns and ammunition for the Police Department. Instead of rejecting that one item, FEMA rejected the entire application, meaning it will be 10 more days or so before Gretna can receive money, he said.

The city soon will submit a second application of "well over a million dollars" for reimbursement of additional storm-related expenses.

# River Parishes seek FEMA green to avoid going in red

## *Finances OK for now, but storm costs loom*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

While officials in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes say they have enough money to operate despite unexpected Hurricane Katrina-related expenses, they still anxiously await a combined $18 million in federal assistance to ease the burden.

Both parishes avoided the brunt of Katrina, but they incurred significant expenses assembling staff and resources for the storm and dealing with its aftermath, officials say.

The St. Charles Parish government, hospital, Sheriff's Office and School Board have requested about $16 million, and that number is expected to grow, parish spokesman Steve Sirmon said.

St. John has requested slightly more than $1 million for its government and Sheriff's Office, but the parish School Board has not finalized the amount it needs, said schools Superintendent Mike Coburn.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has already approved more than $700 million in public assistance for several Louisiana parishes, cities and governmental offices.

Sirmon said St. Charles made its request about two weeks ago, and Jeff Clement, the St. John finance director, said the parish made its request a little more than a week ago.

Sirmon said he understands that St. Charles is perceived to be a wealthy parish that can fend for itself, but he said Katrina severely reduced the parish's ability to collect revenue, while also causing millions in unexpected expenses.

Sirmon said the parish has had significant overtime, transportation, fuel and infrastructure expenses that were not included in the annual budget. Although St. Charles isn't destitute, it could be without help soon, he said.

Clement said St. John has been able to make its payroll but noted that the parish government has spent about $840,000 on equipment rentals, overtime pay and debris cleanup.

St. John Sheriff's Chief Deputy Harold Klibert said the Sheriff's Office has spent almost $400,000 on storm-related expenses.

# In Jefferson Parish, a familiar scene

## *Shelters again open for local evacuees*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Francisco Anncola came from out of town to do what he could to help the New Orleans area recover from Hurricane Katrina. But on Friday, he found himself in a shelter at Stella Worley Junior High School in Westwego, along with a handful of other out-of-towners assisting in the cleanup, as Hurricane Rita lashed at the region.

Clarence Creppel, 75, of Lafitte evacuated on a bus for Hurricane Katrina and stayed at three shelters over 14 days.

On Friday, Creppel found himself in yet another shelter, this time to ride out Hurricane Rita. Residents of Lafitte, Crown Point, Barataria and Grand Isle were under a mandatory evacuation order, and Jefferson Parish for the second time in four weeks opened a refuge at Stella Worley Junior High School in Westwego.

Steve Muth, shelter coordinator for Jefferson Parish, said that during Katrina and its aftermath, there were about 800 people at Worley, which served as a shelter for two weeks. "We kept them fed, and we had a roof over our heads," he said.

In contrast, the school was mostly empty Friday, except for parish and Red Cross volunteers, a handful of evacuees and about 45 people who had been working to clean storm-damaged buildings.

Ulises de Los Santos of Chattanooga, Tenn., who was staying in a warehouse near the Harvey Canal, said his supervisor at Industrial Craft Service Inc. had promised to move about 150 workers to a more secure place Friday morning.

But de Los Santos said he and several other workers were frightened by the worsening weather and decided to leave. About 50 of the workers stopped to talk to police, who then took them to the shelter, he said. Others in the shelter were veteran evacuees who considered themselves lucky to have a place to go.

Creppel said he had arrived back from his Katrina evacuation on Sept. 11 to find the roof of his house ruined. "I'm alive," he said. "I can always get my house straightened."

His neighbor, Allen LeBlanc, 68, said he was frustrated by having to leave home again so soon, but with "this one (Hurricane Rita) here, I'm afraid we're going to have more water."

Mercele Trudeaux, 54, of Barataria said the nurse who cares for her arranged for someone to drive her to the shelter. Trudeaux said she has seizures and other problems. "I'm worried about my little dog and my two cats," she said.

Among those running the shelter were Joseph Anastasio, a mental health worker from Baltimore, and Ken Stanyon, a volunteer from Modesto, Calif.

Anastasio said he spent the past two weeks delivering meals and "doing what we call 'compassionate conversation' with people."

Stanyon said he and his brother Neil had always wanted to volunteer in a crisis and decided they could help this time. "It's been phenomenal," he said. "It's wonderful to see people at their best on both sides of the line, people who are helping and people who are being helped."

# Kenner suspends ban on trailers in driveways

## *Mounting overtime strains city budget*

**By Matt Scallan and Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Parking trailers at Kenner homes is normally illegal, but Hurricane Katrina has led the city to bend the normal rules.

City officials say they can accommodate residents who want to park trailers in their driveways while overseeing repairs to damaged houses. Phil Ramon, the administration's chief of staff, advised residents with trailers to obtain a permit from the Code Enforcement Department and ensure that water, sewer and electrical services are correctly connected.

"Our Code Enforcement Department is working with people on this," he told the City Council on Thursday.

City Hall likely will give trailer permits to residents for limited periods, which can be renewed.

"I know that when you're dealing with contractors … three weeks can turn into three months, and a month can turn into a half a year," Councilwoman Michele Branigan said.

Some municipal employees already have trailers provided by the city in their driveways, and officials hope to get more soon. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is looking for sites to set up trailers for displaced residents and for its own workers, and Kenner plans to fast-track the permitting process, which normally takes 60 to 90 days, Ramon said.

Katrina is taking its toll on Kenner's budget as well as its landscape.

Finance Director Duke McConnell said city employees have earned $2.2 million in overtime since Katrina, which struck Aug. 29. The Police Department alone accounts for $1.5 million, and the Fire Department incurred $450,000.

He said the Fire Department and other administration employees are back on regular schedules. But he said he had asked for a report from the Police Department, which is run by elected Chief Nick Congemi.

The discussion was prompted by City Councilman Dominic Weilbaecher, who asked how much Hurricane Katrina is costing the city: "At what time are we going to sit down and revisit financially where we are?"

McConnell said it's difficult to project how the city's revenue stream will be affected because not all tax-paying businesses have opened. He said the balance in the general fund, which Mayor Phil Capitano fought to keep in the budget for emergencies, is invaluable. Ramon said the fund balance was about $4.6 million before Katrina hit.

"If we didn't have the fund balance, we wouldn't be able to operate right now," McConnell said.

He expects FEMA to cover the $4 million in bills for collecting debris as well as the $18,000 to $24,000 that Kenner is spending on trailers for city employees.

"We're working with them on a regular basis (to ensure) that what we're doing is going to be reimbursed," he said, adding that FEMA will reimburse 100 percent of the city's expenses for the first 60 days. "We feel the expenses we're incurring do meet the guidelines."

Weilbaecher suggested that the council might move money around in the budget to make sure "there's always something in the bank."

But city attorney Michael Power said that if money is needed, the administration should find another way to obtain it, such as getting money from the state, rather than redrawing the municipal budget.

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# MONEY

B-5
Saturday
September 24, 2005



STAFF PHOTO BY MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN

Hurricane Katrina sent retail gas prices higher as oil facilities in Louisiana were shut down or sustained damage, such as storage tanks at Sundown Energy in Empire that were leaking oil Sept. 9. Four refineries in New Orleans and Mississippi remained closed Friday because of damage.

## Rita could fuel gas price increase

*Refineries shut down, but may be spared*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Hurricane Rita could cause retail gasoline prices to jump, possibly to as high as a national average of $3.75 a gallon next week, just as they did after Hurricane Katrina, analysts said Friday.

"There will likely be a brief (post-hurricane) spike as with Katrina," said Marshall Steeves, an analyst at Refco Inc. in New York. "Hopefully it will not be prolonged."

Gasoline prices were expected to climb even higher when the storm's projected track took it closer to the Houston area. But by midday Friday it appeared the area, which has a number of major oil refineries, would escape the full brunt of the storm.

However, the closure of many Gulf Coast refineries in anticipation of the storm, which was a Category 3 hurricane Friday afternoon, means gas prices will likely climb next week even if those facilities are not damaged, analysts said.

The Houston and Galveston areas are home to 12 percent of the nation's refining capacity, and most of those refineries shut down in anticipation of Rita. Clusters of refineries in Beaumont and Port Arthur, both in Texas, and in Lake Charles also closed. Four refineries in New Orleans and Mississippi remained closed Friday because of damage related to Hurricane Katrina, meaning that collectively, approximately 20 percent of the country's oil refining capacity was shut down along the Gulf Coast.

Long lines formed at gas stations in the Baton Rouge area Friday, where the average price of regular unleaded gasoline was $2.55 a gallon, according to AAA.

At the same time, crude oil and gasoline futures fell on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday, even as Gulf Coast evacuees were making their way north to escape Hurricane Rita. Crude for October delivery closed at $64.19 a barrel, down $2.31, and gasoline prices closed at $2.09 per gallon, down 5.4 cents.

"The market has effectively discounted most of the risk of the situation already," said Peter Beutel, president of Cameron Hanover Inc. in New Canaan, Conn., an energy consulting firm.

"We see a relief sell-off," Steeves said of the move downward Friday.

Oil platforms damaged by Hurricane Katrina also remained closed. The Minerals Management Service said Thursday 92 percent of the daily oil production from the Gulf was shut down.

## State Farm relaxes rules on checks for living expenses

*Policyholders won't need to document*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

Keep the money. No strings attached.

That was the message Friday from State Farm Insurance, which issued 90,000 checks worth $2,500 apiece in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to help displaced policyholders pay their living expenses.

As long as those customers don't seek additional money from the company for Katrina-related expenses, State Farm will not ask its policyholders to document how they spent the money or return any of it – even if they didn't spend it on hurricane-related living expenses, State Farm spokesman Dick Luedke said Friday.

"It's basically the right thing to do," Luedke said. "We don't see a need to go back to pursue them and said, 'OK, We gave you $2,500 and you only spent $2,200. Where is our $300?' That seems somewhat ridiculous."

Luedke's comments mark a sharp reverse for the company, which drew scathing reviews from state lawmakers earlier this week for announcing that the $2,500 payments would be subject to a policyholder's standard deductible. With a typical deductible running $1,000 to $2,000, that means many policyholders could have been asked to give most of the money back.

But State Farm now is following the course set by Allstate Insurance and Louisiana's other big insurers, which handed out millions of dollars for living expenses without such conditions.

However, if customers want to collect more than $2,500 for living expenses under the so-called civil authority clause, they'll have to provide receipts – and the deductible will apply, Luedke said. Under the civil authority clause, policyholders can collect up to 14 days of living expenses because local officials ordered them out of their homes.

State Farm policyholders can get reimbursed for up to two years of living expenses if wind made their home uninhabitable, but most of the homes wrecked by Katrina sustained water damage, not wind damage.

• • • • •

Jeffrey Meitrodt can be reached at meitrodt@cox.net.

## Shortages in store for retailers

*As Rita nears, generators, water sell out fast*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Shortages of cleaning supplies, which were common about a week ago when New Orleanians were thinking of returning home, have largely dissipated, retailers reported Friday. But that's not to say stores are free of shortages.

Face masks, for example, are still in short supply at several home improvement and hardware stores, as are rubber boots – items desired by people cleaning up flooded and reeking homes.

"We definitely keep having a run on those items," said Tammy Patton, owner of Patton Ace Hardware on Bluebonnet Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

And generators were nearly impossible to find Friday as Hurricane Rita closed in.

A Pep Boys Automotive Supercenter on Airline Highway in Baton Rouge received a shipment of 80 generators Friday at 10 a.m. and sold out in three hours, employee Avery Duplissey said. The store had to call police and locked doors to allow only a few customers to enter at a time, regardless of whether they were shopping for windshield wipers or the coveted generators.

Last week, rubber gloves, bleach, antibacterial soaps and other cleaning supplies were in short supply after New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announced that he was going to allow nearly 180,000 residents to return to parts of the city that were not flooded, a decision rescinded amid pressure from federal authorities and cinched by the threat of Rita.

Several stores said they have recovered from that run. For example, a Baton Rouge Wal-Mart Supercenter on Friday appeared to have large supplies of basic cleaning supplies, such as bleach, mops, and the standard stock of soaps and detergents.

But with the approach of Rita, the store was swamped with customers buying a new round of storm supplies, such as nonperishable groceries, diapers and beer. The store was out of bottled water and had only one large box of baking soda, something New Orleanians will desperately want once they get refrigerators cleaned out.

Air fresheners were in great demand, the shoe department was out of adult-sized rubber boots, and the store had only one package of face masks. "We just can't keep them in," an employee in the paint department said.

The Home Depot operations manager on Airline Highway in Baton Rouge said he was fully stocked with cleaning supplies, but had sold his last generator at 11 a.m.

But he insisted he had most everything else. "I've got mops, buckets, garbage bags, gloves, dust pans, extension cords, spotlights, rags, paper towels, Shop Vacs," Byron Comeaux said.

But he was running short on face masks, too. "The U.S. Army came and in and took two big shipments of masks. ... They were cleaning up in New Orleans," he said.

## DEATHS

**Robert Benson Jr.**
**Marie Woods Blouin**
**Katherine Jemison Bacon Chadwick**
**Rosa Solito Davis**
**Ellen Puderer Deffner**
**Earl Sebastian Esteves II**
**Stanley Francis Fast**
**Olivia Hughes**
**Robert Emmett Roussel**
**Leonard C. Thibodeaux**

### BENSON

Robert Benson Jr. a former executive with Benson Automotive World and consultant for the New Orleans Saints, died Thursday September 15, 2005 at his home. A native of New Orleans and longtime resident of Metairie, he last resided in Ponchatoula. He earned a bachelors degree in pharmacy from Loyola University of New Orleans with honors in 1947, received Loyola's Most Outstanding Athlete Award at age 19, and was a member of Loyola's Sports Hall of Fame. He retired from management in pharmaceutical sales with Parke Davis after 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Helen Leaumont Benson; four sons, Robert William Benson of Ponchatoula, Mark Benson of Metairie, Patrick Benson of New York City, and James Benson of Kenner; two daughters, Paula Benson of Dallas and Karen Ramsay of Fairfax, VA; three sisters, Miriam B. Whitman, Valierie B. Hogan, and Carol B. Hogan; brother Joseph Benson; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Tuesday September 20. Interment at Hope Mausoleum in New Orleans will be scheduled for a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Catholic Charities USA, PO Box 25168, Alexandria, VA 22313; National Parkinson Foundation Inc, 1501 NW 9th Ave, Bob Hope Road, Miami FL, 33136; Richard N. Murphy Hospice Foundation, 200 S. Monteplier Ave, Albany LA 70711; or The American Cancer Siciety, (800) ACS-2345

### BLOUIN

Marie Woods Blouin, 84, died Thursday, September 15, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital. Mrs.Blouin was born and raised in New Orleans, LA. She was a dedicated member on the Usher Board of the LaHarpe United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband John A. Blouin, Jr. Four daughters: Joycelyn Marsh, Cecelia Prevost, Cynthia Jones, and Judy Morris. Four sons: John Blouin, III., Herbert Blouin, Alton Blouin, Harold Blouin. One sister; Ernestine Woods Blouin, 18 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. Funeral Services will be held Monday, September 26, 2005 at 11:00AM. Visitation will be held from 8:00AM-11:00AM, the Greater Greene Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1232 N.32nd Street, Baton Rouge, LA., 70811. Winnfeild Funeral Home

### CHADWICK

Katherine Jemison Bacon Chadwick, a retired Parts Department Manager at Mossy Oldsmobile in New Orleans, died on Friday, September 16, 2005 from complications of Pneumonia at Lifecare Hospitals of Shreveport-Pierremont. She was 90. Born in New Orleans and lived in Jefferson Parish for 48 years. She was a graduate of Sophie B. Wright High School, a member of the Golden Age Club of Jefferson Parish, and also was one of the first female parts managers in New Orleans. Beloved wife of Carroll Chadwick. Mother of Roger A. Bacon, Sr. Mother-in-law of Betty J. Bacon. Step-mother of the late Bobby Chadwick and Karen Chadwick. Daughter of the late John Jemison and Katie Joerger Jemison. Sister of the late Frederick Lay, Jr. Also survived by 20 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will begin at 12:00 PM. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories, final resting place will be Greenwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Red Cross Katrina Relief Fun preferred.

### DAVIS

Rosa Solito Davis, on Thursday, September 15, 2005. Age 75. Born in New Orleans and lived in Metairie for 40 years. Survivors include four sons, Glen, Harold, Donald, and Ronald Davis; and one grandchild. A Mass will be held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, on Friday, September 23, 2005 at 10:00am. Visitation will begin at 8:00am. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories, final resting place will be in Lake Lawn Mausoleum.

### DEFFNER

Ellen Puderer Deffner, on Thursday Sept 1, 2005 in Ponchatoula. Daughter of the late Edward Puderer & Ellen McCloskey Puderer. Wife of the late Clarence E. Deffner, Sr.. Mother of Clarence E. Deffner, Jr., Peggy Deffner, Robert Deffner, David Deffner, and Charles Deffner. Mother-in-law of Pamela Deffner, Jennifer Deffner, Vicki Deffner, and Wendye Deffner. Grandmother of 8, Great grandmother of 6. Sister of Anton Puderer, Joseph Puderer, Rita Parks, Mary Adams, Agnes Lewis, the late Edward Puderer, the late Bernard Puderer, the late Joseph Puderer, and the late Annie Dell Adams. Mrs. Deffner was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 6640, and the Metairie Senior Center. She was also a board member for the Metairie Community Committee on Aging Jefferson Council on Aging. Mrs. Deffner was 81 years young. Mrs. Deffner was a member of the St. Catherine of Siena Parish for over 50 years. She served as a room mother, and worked the concession stands when her children attended the school. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services on Friday, September 22, 2005 at 10:00 A.M - 12:00 at the Tharp Sontheimer Tharp 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. Metairie. Services will follow in the chapel. Interment in Garden of Memories in Metairie. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted for the Cancer Aid and Research project sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 6640 mail c/o Emma Savoie 734 Homestead Avenue Metairie, LA 70005

### ESTEVES

Earl Sebastian Esteves II Died of lung cancer on Sunday, September 18, 2005 in Baton Rouge, LA. Born in New Orleans, LA on 8/19/1956, and a lifelong resident of Chalmette, LA. Beloved father of Meridith E. Mangiaracina and Earl S. Esteves III. Beloved son of Earl S. Esteves Sr. and Loyce Lewis Esteves. Brother of Brenda C. Harms, Debra E. Guthans, and Cheryl E Romeo. Father-in-law of Jason A Mangiaracina, brother-in-law of Geoff Harms, Anthony Guthans and Jack Romeo. Ex-husband of Jerrilee Odinet. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A graduate of Chalmette High School and a member of The Pipefitters and Steamfitters Local #60. Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service for 11am on Saturday September 24, 2005 at St. John's United Methodist Church, 9375 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Hospice of Baton Rouge, 9063 Siengen Lane, Suite A Baton Rouge, LA 70810-1951.

### FAST

Stanley Francis Fast, 76, Sunday, September 18, 2005. Beloved husband of Doris Hotard-Fast; Father of Stanley Jacob Fast and Lorraine Fast-Vieira. Four grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 2 nieces, and 1 nephew. Mr.Fast died of heart failure in a hospital in Bossier City, Louisiana. Surviving sister, Doris Fast-Niette. Retired from Boh Brothers Construction Company in 1982. A memorial mass will be said at Christ The King Catholic Church in Terrytown on Sunday September 24th at 11:00 AM

### HUGHES

Olivia "Ollie" Hughes, a New Orleans native and a resident of Harahan for 48 years, died on Monday, September 12, 2005 at Lexington House in Alexandria, LA. She was 80. Mrs. Hughes was very involved parishioner at St. Rita's Church in Harahan where she was a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Mary Group, the 3rd Order of Carmelites and the St. Rita's School Mother's Club. She was also involved with the Girl Scouts and Brownies. Mrs. Hughes was a resident at the St. Joseph Nursing Home in Harahan. She was the beloved wife of the late James A. Hughes. Mother of Mary Beth Sadowski, James, Gary, Thomas and Stephen Hughes. Step-mother of the late Avery Hughes. Also survived by 9 grand children and 3 great grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Rita's Church, 7100 Jefferson Hwy. Harahan, on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM at the church. There will be no burial services. In lieu of flowers, Masses preferred.

### ROUSSEL

Robert Emmett Roussel, age 82, died at 2:45p. m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, He was a native and a lifetime resident of Paulina, La. Mr. Roussel was a veteran of World War II. He is survived by three brothers, Shirley Lee Roussel of Kenner, La, Francis Roussel and Charles Roussel of Paulina, La, one sister Grace Roussel Taylor also of Paulina, and thirteen nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Eleonore St. Pierre Roussel. Visitation was on Friday, September 16, 2005 at Rose Lynn Funeral Services, Lutcher, La from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. and at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Paulina, La on Saturday, September 17th, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. until funeral time. A Mass of Christian burial was at 10:00 a.m in St. Joseph Catholic Church conducted by Fr. Frank Uter; followed by interment in St. Joseph Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice. Rose Lynn Funeral Services of Lutcher, La was in charge of arrangements.

### THIBODEAUX

Leonard C. Thibodeaux on September 1, 2005. Beloved husband of Peggy Ehret Thibodeaux. Father of Jeffrey Thibodeaux, Jeremy Thibodeaux, Tobie Thibodeaux-Lamy and Lauren Thibodeaux-Lamy. Son of the late Anita Schexnayder Thibodeaux and George J. Thibodeaux, Jr. Brother of Lynette Thibodeaux, Laurie Thibodeaux and Larry Thibodeaux. Grandfather of Allee Lamy and Jacob Lamy. Age 55 years, and a resident of Gretna, LA. Relatives and Friends of the family also employees of Jefferson Parish are invited to attend a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open Saturday morning at 10:00 AM.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.

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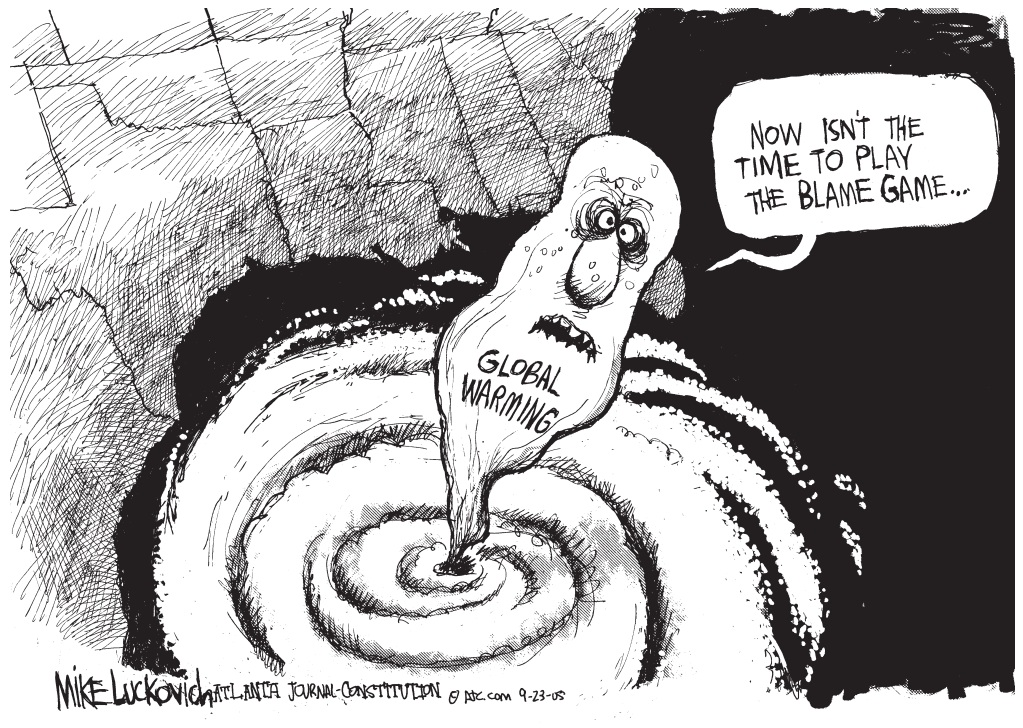
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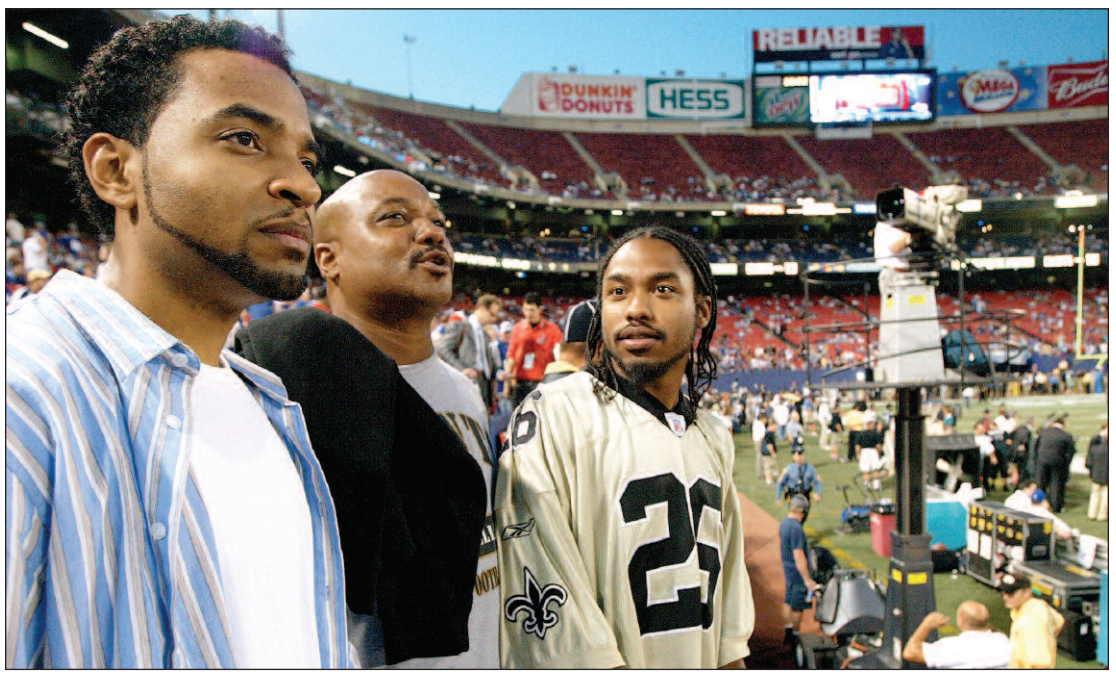
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# YOUR OPINIONS




AP PHOTO

New Orleans natives and evacuees Sean Vappie, left, John Barquet, center, and his son Jonathan Barquet check out the scene Monday at Giants Stadium in New York.

## Football fans turn cruel

As a New Orleans homeowner currently in the New York area, I was thrilled to snag great seats for the Saints' so-called home opener at the Giants' stadium, and I'm not even a football fan. I simply wanted to be there to support the Crescent City, and I eagerly anticipated attending the game as an escape from the horrors witnessed on the news for the past three weeks.

However, at the conclusion of Monday night's game I left the stadium stunned and in shock, and no, it wasn't because the Saints lost; it was due to the verbal assault spewed forth by Giants fans toward the people of New Orleans.

It was easy for New Orleanians to recognize one another even without their Saints gear on, for they had the pained, glazed look in their eyes that perhaps the people of the New York area remember from looking in the mirror on Sept. 11, 2001. Very subdued, we approached each other quietly, relating our tales, sharing information on neighborhoods, families and friends. Sometimes no words were required, our shared suffering was acknowledged with a simple smile, thumbs-up or peace sign.

But as I mingled with the Big Easy crowd, every conversation concluded with a discussion of the animals in Giants jerseys that surrounded us. "You won't believe what they said to me," one hysterical young girl announced. In disbelief, I thought surely these must be isolated instances; Americans couldn't possibly be so deliberately cruel to their fellow citizens as images of Hurricane Katrina's devastation flickered across the large television monitors.

Reality slapped me in the face when I became a victim of this abuse. I was taunted by Giants fans spitting venom like "the people of New Orleans are stupid," "you deserved what you got" and "hope you know how to swim," along with attacks that are far too vulgar for The Times-Picayune to print. I have been to other sporting events and never witnessed such vicious attacks on the opposing team's fans. Perhaps these imbeciles were oblivious to the fact that evacuee families and their children were present, or maybe they simply didn't care. It was one of the most disgusting displays of inhumanity I have ever seen.

Hopefully the Saints themselves received the warm welcome the New York press announced, but it is painfully clear the fans did not.

I expected a much better reception from a city that so recently experienced a catastrophic loss of its own. I would rather go sit in the muck and mire of the Superdome and get E. coli than enter the Meadowlands again.

**Diane Dias**
*New Orleans*
*Now in New Milford, Conn.*

## Police stood up for West Jeff

As I sit here in central Mississippi, displaced from the home where I have lived my entire life, I am completely disheartened at the criticism of the actions of the Gretna and Westwego police chiefs.

Yes, I know New Orleans was ill-prepared for what occurred, but why should it be the responsibility of small municipalities such as Gretna to care for people whom the most populous parish in the state could not accommodate?

Gretna was a line of defense in a time of total chaos. I was there for the storm. I experienced first-hand the fear of not knowing what was happening because we lacked phone or television. We heard scattered reports that there were hordes of looters and angry mobs headed for us in West Jefferson. We heard that they burned our mall to the ground and were marching for the hospital. We had little water or electricity and were running low on supplies, but I now realize that these were minor inconveniences in the grand scheme of things.

Though we were doing better than New Orleans, neither Gretna nor West Jefferson was capable of caring for a city whose people shot at rescuers. We had people hurt and stranded, yet they did not try to harm those who risked their own lives to save them.

What happened in New Orleans would have happened on a wider scale if it were not for people such as Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson, who stood up and said "no." He knew that we were not going to be able to care for these individuals. And allowing them into the parish would only have scattered them farther from rescue.

Race is such an easy card to play at a time like this. Orleans Parish is predominately African-American, so it makes sense that those would be the individuals trying to flee. Ethnicity doesn't matter. What mattered was the lack of supplies or ability to care for thousands of people who would have had nowhere to go even upon entering Jefferson Parish.

The chief of police in Westwego said it all when he was quoted in The Times-Picayune: "If you wasn't here, shut your mouth, because you don't know."

To the police chiefs in Westwego and Gretna, all I can say is thank you. Thank you for protecting our homes and the hospital where I worked 24 hours a day for 17 out of 21 days. Thank you for protecting me so that when I could finally leave I was safe and could find my children and family. Thank you for standing up for us and what you thought was right. I couldn't agree with you more.

**Stacie Lynne Smith**
*Gretna*
*Now in central Mississippi*

## Blood on their hands

As a native of New Orleans, I have one simple question. When will Arthur Lawson, chief of the Gretna Police Department, be arrested along with the others who assisted him in trapping New Orleans residents trying to evacuate the city by foot — the only means they had — during a living hell that was not of their making? Why has no one called for the arrest of these heartless people?

OK, that's two questions.

Trapping starving, thirsty, sick and elderly people in rising floodwaters because of hype about alleged looters, most of whom were trying to feed themselves and others, is absolutely criminal.

Nothing, in my opinion, gives anyone the right to block public roads in a tragic situation from which tens of thousands of non-criminal residents were desperate to escape to save their lives.

These people have blood on their hands, and I hope it haunts them the rest of their lives.

**Jolie Preau**
*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# OUR OPINIONS

## Too close for comfort

Hurricane Rita didn't need to make a direct hit to cause big trouble for southeast Louisiana: A brush from the storm was more than sufficient to bring floods of water back into New Orleans and put evacuees — from Texas as well as Louisiana — onto highways.

Storm surge from Rita was stronger than anticipated, and it proved too much for the patch job on the Industrial Canal levee. It suffered several breaks Friday morning, bringing more flooding to the hard-hit Lower 9th Ward of Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish. The breaches proved that dire warnings about the levee system's fragility were not exaggerations. It also proved the wisdom of Mayor Nagin's order to halt the return of residents and evacuate those who had come back.

Areas that had begun the process of recovery were plunged back into crisis mode. St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis ordered a mandatory evacuation for those south of U.S. 190 and Louisiana 22. Others didn't wait to be told to leave; they formed long lines at gas stations and stores as they prepared to flee.

Victims of Katrina are jittery, plain and simple, and it's no wonder. If a hurricane were to threaten metro New Orleans a year from now, people would suffer Katrina flashbacks. The emergence of another big, powerful storm before we've even been able to dry out would try the nerves of the catatonic. Parts of our state that were spared Katrina and had been harboring the displaced from that storm are now in the bull's-eye.

Katrina evacuees now have plenty of company — about 2 million people in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana were advised to flee — but this kind of misery doesn't love company. The sight of gridlocked highways full of Texans trying to get out of Houston before their tanks were emptied or their engines overheated were too freshly familiar.

Anyone who thought evacuation was something Louisiana bungled now should understand that emptying an entire city or region is no simple matter. The bus accident near Dallas that claimed the lives of at least 24 elderly evacuees should make clear the peril that's involved in moving so many people, including the most vulnerable. Poor people without transportation complained of being stuck in Galveston and Houston as the storm approached.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry asked people to say a prayer for Texas. His hope for divine intervention certainly resonates with Louisianans, who found the Lone Star state to be a strong and compassionate neighbor after Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana is facing a double hit, though, and that will prove much harder for a smaller and poorer state to withstand. Rita has already added to our suffering. Today will tell us how much more.

## Coming to whose relief?

The dreadful 2005 hurricane season has put thousands upon thousands of New Orleans area residents in dire need of aid. And in this environment there's no excuse for letting relief supplies go to waste or be used for private gain.

That's why the malfeasance in office charge against Kenner Chief Administrative Officer Cedric Floyd is so disturbing. Police in that city obtained an arrest warrant for him after raiding his home Tuesday and retrieving, they say, truckloads of donated clothing, tools, food and medicine. Military officials had initiated the complaint against Mr. Floyd.

Mayor Phil Capitano suspended him without pay Wednesday. If indeed Mr. Floyd used his public position to obtain supplies that he then hoarded for private use, he should be fired and subjected to appropriate criminal penalties.

Unfortunately, the political climate in Kenner has been so toxic lately — and the rivalry between Mayor Capitano and Police Chief Nick Congemi so intense — that it's hard to assess how strong the case against Mr. Floyd might be.

Mr. Floyd has served as one of two top mayoral aides during a polarizing time, and the former Jefferson Parish School Board member has proved to be a controversial figure in his own right. Most recently, he got into an embarrassing shouting match with Mr. Congemi in front of a Times-Picayune photographer and a CNN crew that arrived in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Floyd says he was merely helping to move supplies from a city-run relief site to a Kenner church that planned to distribute them, and the pastor of that church concurs with that account.

In any case, Mr. Floyd deserves his day in court. And given the political significance of the matter, it's crucial that outside law enforcement bodies be involved in the investigation. Attorney General Charles Foti's office is assisting, and Mr. Congemi would be wise to let that agency or some other impartial investigators take the lead.

The charge against Mr. Floyd is serious, and any proceedings against him need to be beyond reproach.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# THE BIG UNEASY



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

With the Industrial Canal levee break in the background, twisted cars and empty foundations are all that is left after torrents of water flooded New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward.

Although Hurricane Katrina drowned much of New Orleans, the damage to America's economic infrastructure actually fell short of early predictions. Of course, Hurricane Rita may make up for that.

But Katrina did more than physical damage; it was a blow to our self-image as a nation. Maybe people will quickly forget the horrible scenes from the Superdome, and the frustration of wondering why no help had arrived, once cable TV returns to nonstop coverage of missing white women. But my guess is that Katrina's shock to our sense of ourselves will persist for years.



PAUL KRUGMAN

America's current state of mind reminds me of the demoralized mood of late 1979, when a confluence of events — double-digit inflation, gas lines and the Iranian hostage crisis — led to a national crisis of confidence.

Start with economic confidence. The available measures say consumer confidence, which was already declining before Katrina hit, has now fallen off a cliff. One well-respected survey, from the University of Michigan, says consumer sentiment is at its lowest level since George Bush the elder was president and "America: What Went Wrong?" was a national best seller.

It's true that gasoline prices have receded from their post-Katrina peaks. But even if Rita spares the refineries, a full recovery of economic confidence seems unlikely. For one thing, it looks as if we're in for a long, cold winter: Natural gas and fuel oil are still near their price peaks. Anyway, most families were already struggling before Katrina. A few weeks ago, the Census Bureau reported that in 2004, while Washington and Wall Street were hailing a "Bush boom," poverty increased and median family income failed to keep up with inflation. And it's safe to assume that most families did even worse this year.

Then there's the war in Iraq, which is rapidly becoming impossible to spin positively: The purple fingers have come and gone, and there are no more corners to turn. As a result, views for which people such as Howard Dean were once derided are becoming the majority opinion. Most Americans say the war was a mistake; a majority says the administration deliberately misled the country into war; almost 4 in 10 say Iraq will turn into another Vietnam.

And many people are outraged by the war's cost. The general public doesn't closely follow economists' arguments about the risks of budget deficits, or try to decide between competing budget projections. But people do know that there's a big deficit, that politicians keep calling for cuts in spending and that rebuilding after Katrina will cost a lot of money. They resent the idea that large sums are being spent in a faraway country, where we're waging a war whose purpose seems increasingly obscure.

Finally, fragmentary evidence — such as a sharp drop in the fraction of Americans who approve of President Bush's performance in handling terrorism and the failure of large crowds to show up for the Pentagon's "America Supports You" march and country music concert — suggests that the confluence of Katrina and the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has caused something to snap in public perceptions about the "war on terror."

In the early months after Sept. 11, 2001, America's self-confidence actually seemed to have been bolstered by the attack: The Taliban regime was quickly overthrown, and President Bush looked like an effective leader. The positive perception of what happened after Sept. 11 has, needless to say, been a mainstay of Bush's political stature.

But now that more time has elapsed since Sept. 11 than the whole stretch from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day, people are losing faith. Bin Laden, it turns out, could both run and hide. It's obvious from the evening news that al-Qaida and violent Islamic extremism in general are flourishing.

And the hapless response to Katrina, which should have been easier to deal with than a terrorist attack, has shown that our leaders have done virtually nothing to make us safer.

And here's the important point: These blows to our national self-image are mutually reinforcing. The sense that we're caught in an unwinnable war reinforces the sense that the economy is getting worse, and vice versa. So we're having a general crisis of confidence.

It's the kind of crisis that opens the door for dramatic political changes — possibly, but not necessarily, in a good direction. But who will provide leadership, now that Bush is damaged goods?

Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

# The atmosphere isn't the place to deal with storms

Like a bad horror movie in which the villain keeps coming back, Hurricane Rita, the 18th storm of the season, is spinning toward an inevitable rendezvous with the Gulf Coast. We've already seen more death and destruction than the past 35 hurricane seasons combined. And many people, including some European and U.S. politicians, are hoping the carnage — represented most poignantly by the destruction in New Orleans — will help bring this country to its senses on dealing with global warming.

But understanding what this hurricane season is really telling us about why we're so vulnerable to climate-related catastrophes means facing up to an unavoidable fact: Efforts to slow global warming will have no discernible effect on hurricanes for the foreseeable future. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adequately preparing for future disasters are essentially separate problems.

ROGER A. PIELKE JR. & DANIEL SAREWITZ

Reducing emissions is a crucial environmental, economic and geopolitical goal. But if we are concerned about hurricanes, then we need to manage what is within our control on the ground, not what is proving to be beyond our control in the atmosphere.

The truth is, the number and scale of disasters worldwide has been rising rapidly in recent decades because of changes in society, not global warming. In the case of hurricanes, the continuing development and urbanization of coastal regions around the world accounts for all of the increases in economic and human losses we have experienced.

Even if tomorrow we could somehow magically put an end to global warming, the frequency and magnitude of climate-related disasters would continue to rise unabated into the indefinite future as more people inhabit vulnerable locations around the world. Our research suggests that for every $1 of future hurricane damage that scientists expect in 2050 related to climate change, we should expect an additional $22 to $60 in damage resulting from putting more people and property in harm's way.

None of this means we should not pursue reducing greenhouse gas emissions, or that mitigating climate change is a bad idea. But we simply cannot expect to control the climate's behavior through energy policies aimed at lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

The current international policy framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions — the Kyoto Protocol — is far too modest to have any meaningful effect on the behavior of the climate system. And even the modest agreements reached under Kyoto are failing.

For example, the European Environment Agency reported in 2004 that 11 of the 15 European Union signatories to Kyoto "are heading toward overshooting their emission targets, some by a substantial margin." To make matters much worse, most of the growth in emissions in coming decades will occur in rapidly industrializing nations such as China and India, which are exempt from Kyoto targets.

To make matters still worse, because of the way that greenhouse gases behave in the atmosphere, even emissions reductions far more rapid and radical than those mandated under Kyoto would have little or no effect on the behavior of the climate for decades.

The implications are clear: More storms like Katrina are inevitable. And the effects of future Katrinas and Ritas will be determined not by our efforts to manage changes in the climate but by the decisions we make now about where and how to build and rebuild in vulnerable locations.

Do we have the will to pay the upfront economic and political costs of strict building-code enforcement and prudent land-use restrictions? Will we have the imagination to build resilience into the local economy, rewarding companies that find ways to preserve jobs after a disaster and contribute to a faster recovery? Do we have the decency to counter the market forces that cause poor people to live in the most vulnerable areas?

As we learn the lessons of this terrible hurricane season, the answers we give to these kinds of questions will create the conditions that determine the effects of future hurricanes. We are, that is, about to begin the process of managing the next disaster. What kind of disaster do we want it to be?

Roger Pielke Jr., director of the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Daniel Sarewitz, director of the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University, wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



DAVID BROOKS

# Katrina separates Kerry and Edwards

John Kerry and John Edwards ran for office together and they lost together, and they both gave major speeches about Katrina this week, but there the similarity ends. The two men might as well live in different worlds.

Kerry began his speech by making the point that Bush and his crew are rotten. He then went on to make the point that Bush and his crew are loathsome. In the third section of the speech, Kerry left the impression that Bush and his crew are evil.

Now we all know people so consumed by hatred for George Bush that they haven't had an unpredictable thought in five years, but in Kerry's speech one sees this anger in almost clinical form.

In the first place, not even Karl Rove's worldview is so obsessively Bush-centric as John Kerry's. There are many interesting issues raised by Katrina, but for Senator Ahab it all goes back to the great white monster, Bush. Bush and his crew should have known the levees in New Orleans were weak. Bush and his crew should have known thousands in the city would be trapped. (Did I miss Kerry's own warnings on these subjects?)

All reality flows back to Bush. All begins with Bush, ends with Bush, is explained by Bush and is polluted by Bush, cursed be thy name.

And as the speech stretches on, a second thought occurs: Doesn't this guy ever get bored? If Kerry ever makes an anti-Bush jab, he makes it again. The old DeLay jibes, he makes them again. The Wolfowitz attacks, he makes them again. Porn movies have less repetition than this, and yet the "Mission Accomplished" carrier deck scene gets hauled out again, for one feels this is not a normal speech designed to persuade or inform, but a primitive rite designed to channel group outrage.

John Edwards' speech had a different feel. Edwards took some hard shots at Bush, some of them deserved, but having left Washington after the election, Edwards is not so obsessed with power struggles. In his talk he roamed outward and spoke about the complexities of actual life.

He mentioned that the typical white family has about $80,000 in assets, while the typical Hispanic family has about $8,000, and the typical African-American family has about $6,000. That's an astonishing gap.

Edwards mentioned a woman in Kansas City who makes $9.50 an hour and can't pay her utility bills. He mentioned a boy in Chicago who designed a T-shirt about his absent father. It reads: "You won't be there. Should have, could have, would have." The T-shirt has a hole cut out in the shape of a heart.

Edwards weaved a story about the gnarly complexities of poverty in this country, about the tangled and reinforcing feedback loops that run between family breakdowns and economic insecurity. He concluded with a series of policy recommendations fit for the post-welfare-reform world.

No conservative would agree with all of them, but nobody could fail to find them interesting. While the old welfare policies allowed people to evade the world of work and enabled people to drop out of school and have children, Edwards proposed a series of policies designed to encourage work, to encourage responsibility, to help the poor build assets.

The Kerry-Edwards contrast is characteristic of the argument that divides the Democratic Party. On one side are those who believe that the party's essential problem is with its political style. The Republicans win because they are simply rougher, so the Democrats must be just as tough in response. They must match Karl Rove blow for blow. Democrats in this camp are voting against John Roberts just to show the world, and their donors above all, that they are willing to give no quarter.

On the other side are those who believe that the Democratic defeats flow from policy problems, not from campaign style or message framing. They don't believe that Democrats can win wrapped in their own rage, or kowtowing endlessly to their psychologically aggrieved donor base. For them, the crucial challenge is to come up with policies more in tune with voters.

Kerry speaks for the first group, which believes in more partisanship, and Edwards for the second, which believes in less.

I have discussions with my Democratic friends over whether the party will snap back to Clintonite centrism after the polarizing Bush leaves town. Some think yes. I suspect no. As Kerry's speech shows, the emotional tenor of the party has changed. The donors are aroused. Bush may end up changing the Democratic Party more than his own.

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times.

# In many areas, it's back to square one

## *Rita 'sets us back another month'*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

For St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, both hit hard by Hurricane Katrina last month, this week had started well. Residents were returning to some areas, federal aid was flowing in, and businesses were reopening or planning repairs.

Then came Rita.

The storm pushed floodwaters across most of lower Plaquemines and into some parts of St. Bernard, both of which had been submerged by Katrina on Aug. 29, and officials in both parishes said Friday that Rita's punch will likely knock the air out of recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, authorities also announced Friday that the bodies of two Arabi residents, victims of Katrina, had been found, bringing to 96 the number of St. Bernard Parish residents killed by the storm.

The areas that had been washed out by Katrina were virtual ghost towns this week. And officials said they will have to repeat their draining and cleanup efforts, forcing them to delay further the return of residents.

"It sets us back another month," Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle said, rubbing his eyebrows as he told of Rita's storm surge sending floodwaters into communities south of Port Sulphur and parts of the parish's east bank. "Looks like we'll be starting all over again."

St. Bernard Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said Rita will require renewed cleanup efforts but that the full impact of the storm will depend on how much of the parish floods. By mid-afternoon Friday, floodwaters arriving from the Industrial Canal were restricted to parts of Arabi.

"We'll have to reclean the streets, remove debris and basically start again in those areas," DiFatta said.

### Bad breaks

Officials in both parishes knew the storm's surge would threaten levees that had been heavily damaged by Katrina and were still being repaired late Thursday.

But in Plaquemines, authorities were surprised when the flooding began by late morning, indicating some of the levee repairs were not holding.

"It's a little earlier than we anticipated," Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle said.

But regular life, or what passes for it in the aftermath of Katrina, continued in the northern portion of the parish, which remained dry during Katrina and seemed to be faring well under Rita. Even as winds picked up by midday, cars buzzed around gas stations, video stores were hopping, and at DeSalvo's Seafood on Belle Chasse Highway, residents lined up for the post-Katrina special: shrimp spaghetti.

Yet even those businesses were feeling Rita's impact.

"There go our customers," a waitress at DeSalvo's commented as she watched caravans of repair trucks heading north.

In St. Bernard, the levees seemed to be doing their job, holding back a surge that began pounding the area late Thursday night, said Col. Richard Baumy, a Sheriff's Office spokesman. But Rita's waters sneaked in as the storm topped levee repairs along the Industrial Canal in New Orleans, pouring into the city's Lower 9th Ward.

Like an army heading for St. Bernard's gates, floodwaters reaching at least 2 feet marched down Claiborne Avenue and neighboring streets and got into northern Arabi by early afternoon. There, a raised set of railroad tracks was containing the attack, and parish officials hoped Rita's winds would shift and the water would stop rising before it advanced further east.

### The waiting game

Officials in both parishes said they would not know the full extent of the flooding until the worst of Rita passes southeast Louisiana, sometime today. But they said Rita's effect in slowing down recovery efforts had begun even before the storm arrived.

Hundreds of emergency workers in both St. Bernard and Plaquemines evacuated ahead of the storm. Contractors hired to clean streets, as well as workers for private industries trying to restart their operations, also left the area and removed their equipment. Officials estimated it would take days for those crews to return.

The storm also delayed some federal aid efforts. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were waiting for Rita to pass in order to begin setting up a camp in Belle Chasse for 500 emergency workers, agency spokesman Earl Armstrong said. He said the mini-town of air-conditioned tents will allow the workers to vacate a makeshift camp at Belle Chasse High School, where teachers need to start preparing to reopen the school to students next month.

In St. Bernard, the storm forced officials to halt the re-entry of residents. It was unclear Friday when the process may resume.

"We're not going to bring people back until it's safe again," DiFatta said, adding, "Whenever that is."

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

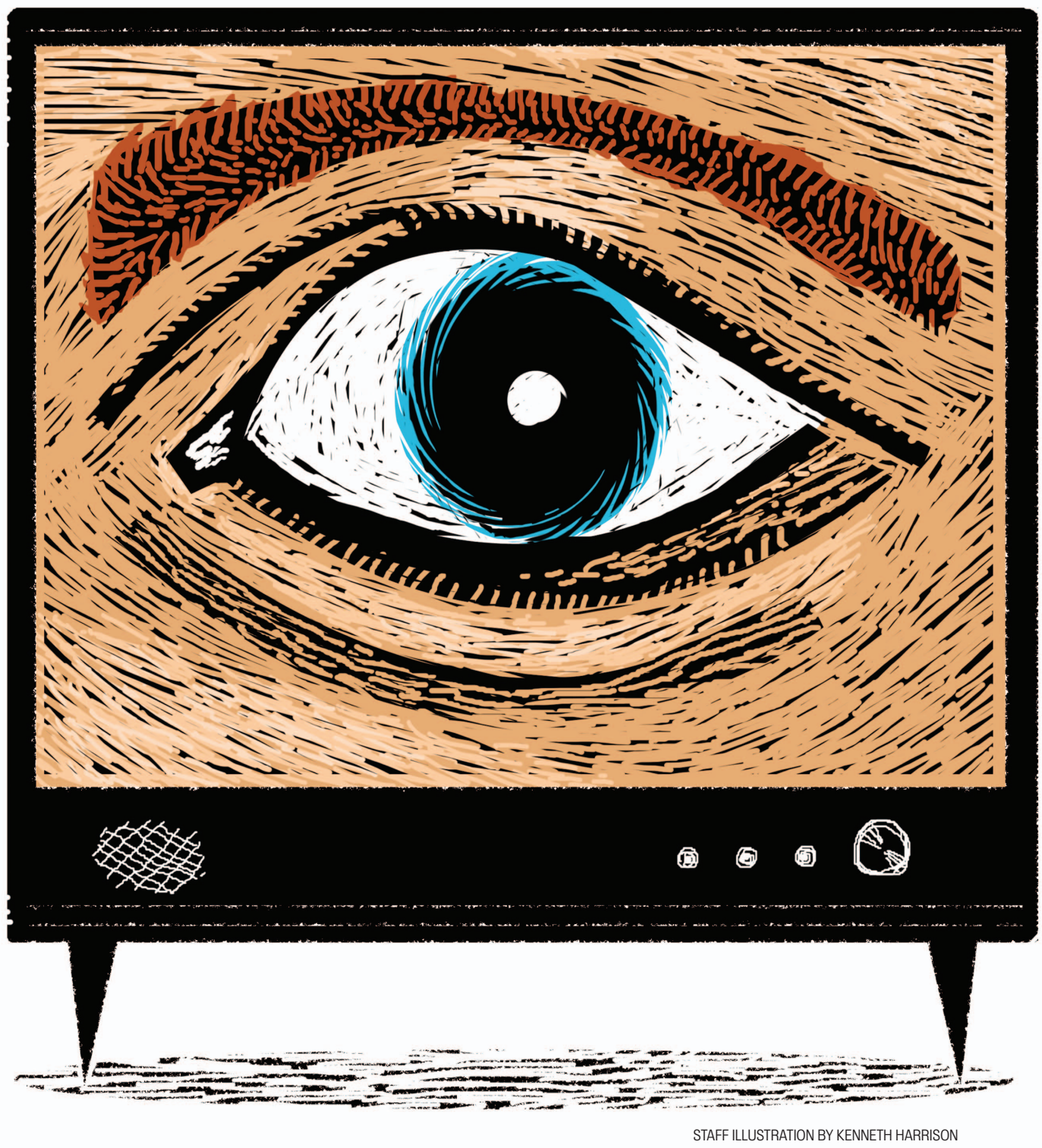
SECTION C

Saturday
September 24, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

# THE ELECTRONIC EYE OF THE STORM

## *Broadcasters shine during New Orleans' darkest days*



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

I CAME HOME from a "Wheel of Fortune" taping at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to discover that Hurricane Katrina's course had suddenly shifted toward New Orleans.

Turning on the TV at 9 p.m. that Friday night, I made a note that three stations were running on-screen graphics tracking the storm's coordinates.

One had the storm's center 540 miles from New Orleans.

Another, 590.

Another, 561.

Swell, I thought. Coverage of this storm will be as carefully synchronized as the Delta House's disruption of the Faber College homecoming parade.

I was wrong.



**DAVE WALKER**
*On the Air*

One of New Orleans' darkest hours has been the brightest for many local newscasters on both TV and radio.

Displaced by the storm, their own families dispersed in its aftermath and burdened by the crushing realization that many of their own homes had been damaged or maybe even totaled, countless New Orleans broadcast journalists have delivered lifeline, and sometimes life-saving, coverage of the immense disaster.

Peabodys for (almost) everybody, I say.

CBS affiliate WWL-Channel 4 kept its broadcast signal on the air to offer continuous comprehensive reporting and analysis.

NBC affiliate WDSU-Channel 6 lost its transmitter and split its news operation in two, departing New Orleans for Jackson, Miss., and Orlando, Fla.

ABC affiliate WGNO-Channel 26 evacuated early to WBRZ-TV, the Baton Rouge ABC affiliate also owned by WGNO corporate parent Tribune Broadcasting. In the early hours and days post-Katrina, the combined staffs did continuous coverage to give evacuees familiar faces to deliver all the bad news from home.

All three of the above have exploited multiple distribution outlets — including cable, satellite, broadcast digital subchannels in various cities and even signal sharing with a PBS affiliate (as was the case with WLPB, which has run an hour-long WWL newscast in late afternoon) — to get their coverage to viewers.

All three also employed Internet simulcasts.

Almost completely missing in action post-Katrina has been Fox affiliate WVUE-Channel 8, whose Jefferson Davis Parkway studios took on 5 to 6 feet of water. WVUE staffers were dispersed from Dallas (where meteorologist Bob Breck contributed to the post-storm coverage) to Baton Rouge (where anchor Nancy Parker appeared on a local station) to Mobile, Ala. (where anchor John Snell did reports for station WALA-TV and cable's Fox News Channel).

Nearly four weeks after landfall — has it been just four weeks? — interview notes and screen-and-speaker observations cram my notebooks as usual, but they're side-by-side with FEMA's phone number, insurance claim codes and the addresses of Baton Rouge apartment complexes and RV sales lots.

Reading my notes from watching the pre-storm weekend coverage seems downright spooky in light of the horror that hit.

The first entry for that Saturday morning has WDSU's Margaret Orr saying, "Dallas is looking good at this time."

Then there's a note from my first Walter Maestri sighting. "This is a bad lady," he said, speaking ill of the deadly Katrina.

Minor relief came when Jim Cantore popped up on the beach in Biloxi, Miss. The Weather Channel's rover is a catastrophe magnet, and I took his positioning as a positive omen that the storm would land a little east of New Orleans.

A little deeper still in the notebook, I've got WWL anchor Eric Paulsen interrupting meteorologist John Gumm and asking, on behalf of the audience, "Would you go ahead and leave now?"

Paulsen was rock solid every time I caught him

*See* **WALKER,** *page C-4*

# VALERIE DOUSE, 59

RETIRED

**HOME:** *Lakeview*
**HAVEN:** *St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center on the Nicholls State University campus in Thibodaux*

**MY STORM STORY**



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"The main thing I want to do is let my neighbor Yolanda Jenkins know that I have her dog, Pepper, here with us in Thibodaux. She's a twin and is with the New Orleans Police Department.

"I don't have a home. My girlfriend and I are here together with the dogs. If we would have stayed in the house, we would have drowned. We've got a double, and Marion's brother, Roosevelt, has an apartment in another part of the house. He's mentally ill and retarded, and he can't walk. We talked about getting to the attic, but we couldn't get him up there.

"The water was up to my neck. By the time we got to Roosevelt, we had to float him and his mattress to the stairs of the apartment behind the house. And I said, 'Brother, I want you to listen to me real good: You sit on these steps, or you're going to drown.'

"We all stayed in the upstairs apartment until Wednesday when the helicopter came. We were waving shirts and all sorts of things at the helicopters, but they were busy getting people off of roofs. They were in and out all night. You could hear the helicopters and see them.

"We couldn't get to any food or water, and Roosevelt is a diabetic. He's 50-something, but he's like he's a 9-year-old. I think it was Tuesday that someone on a boat gave us half of a half-gallon of water. When the helicopters came to get us, the man who rescued us had a hammer and made the window like a door so we could get out.

"All we had were the clothes on our backs. They took me first, then Roosevelt. I think he knows his first name, but I don't know if he knows his last one. We don't know where he is.

"The people who rescued us were angels. I wish I knew who they were. They took us over to the interstate. The bus was going to Baton Rouge, but I didn't get on it because I was waiting for Marion. And when she came, the next bus was going to



Thibodaux. We're here in the house of the Lord. Our Father led us to his place and to Father Jim's house. Father Jim (Morris) let all of us with pets come here. We're going to stay for now.

"I would like to go back home, but my house is under water. I have insurance. I'm going to get me a new house. Who knows? If I get my money, I might come back here to Thibodaux and build a house. They are angels here."

*— As told to Millie Ball on Friday, Sept. 16, 2005*

# PIANO MAN PLAYS ON

## *Phil Melancon, who performs at the Pontchartrain Hotel, is taking his music into the streets of the city*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

It's 9 o'clock on a beautiful mid-September night in darkened, depopulated New Orleans. Phil Melancon, the Pontchartrain Hotel's cabaret-style piano man, is wrapping up his makeshift USO-style show with a wistful rendition of Randy Newman's "Louisiana 1927."

"They're trying to wash us away, they're trying to wash us away," he sings in a hoarse voice to the 22 members of the Oklahoma National Guard seated along the Napoleon Street wharf, all of whom seem far too young to have ever heard Newman's lamentation of a long-ago flood.

The chiming sound of his electric piano drifts over the moonlit Mississippi River, the mess truck that served supper earlier in the evening and the brightly lighted S.S. Pililaau supply ship anchored nearby.

It was the fourth of Melancon's post-Katrina shows. Although the audience was light and the band was set up a bit too far from the cement curb seating, the sound was good, some of the jokes seemed to have found their mark and the soldiers who drifted by clearly welcomed the distraction.

Melancon, 53, had spent the day arranging that night's event, driving to urban military encampments to gain permission

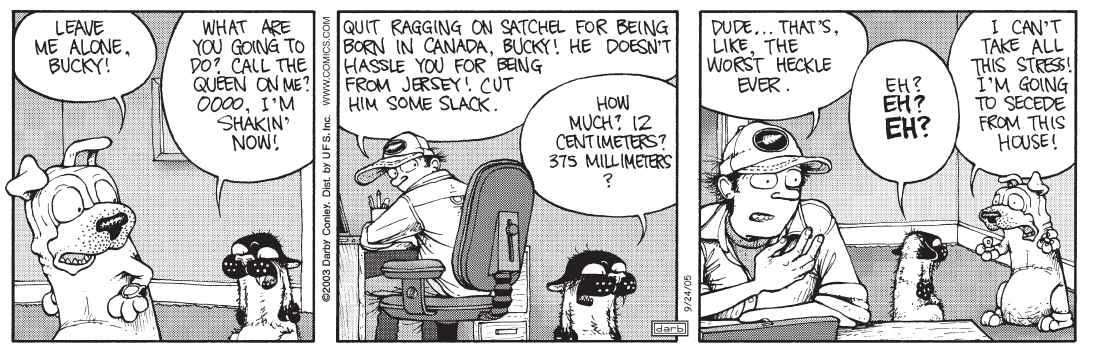
*See* **PIANO MAN,** *page C-4*

# COMICS

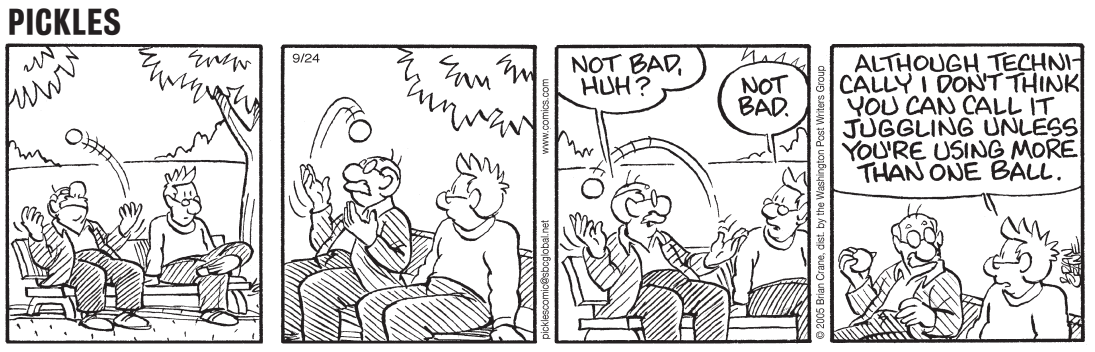
## ZITS



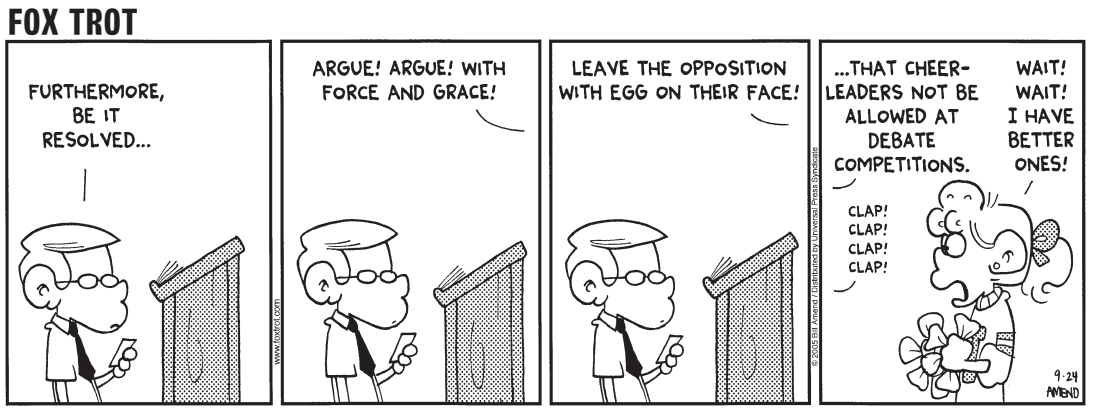

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



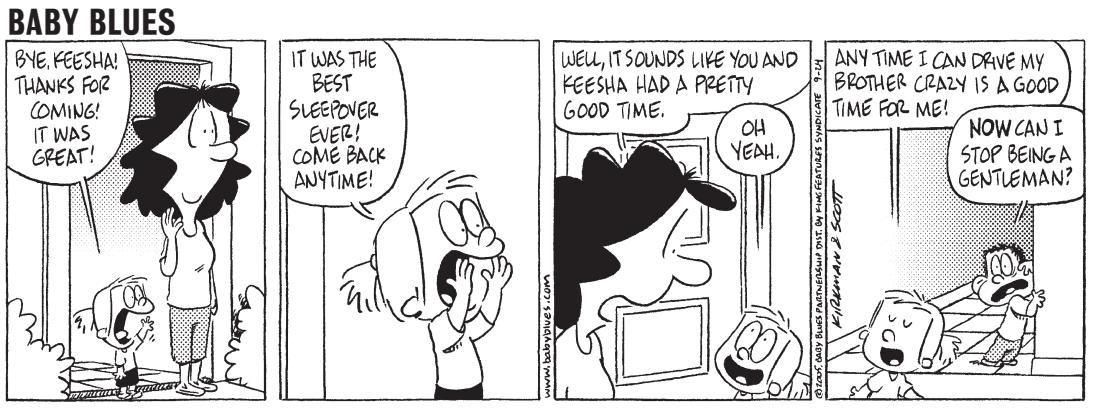

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

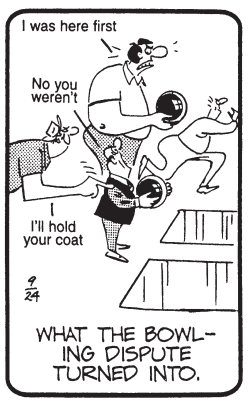
LIFUD

FLEAY

THAILG

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www.jumble.com




WHAT THE BOWLING DISPUTE TURNED INTO.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: AN "_____" _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAJAH TOKEN YELLOW BOTTLE
Answer: When the famed composer wrote a new score, it was — "NOTEWORTHY"

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## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | E1 | U1 | T1 | R1 | S1 | G2 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| E1 | O1 | P3 | N1 | L1 | P3 | T1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | O1 | D2 | W4 | L1 | P3 | R1 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | E1 | I1 | N1 | C3 | M3 | H4 | 2nd Letter Double |

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 145-155 | 222 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |
| M3 | A1 | C3 | H4 | I1 | N1 | E1 | | | | | | | RACK 4 = | 65 |
| P3 | R1 | O1 | W4 | L1 | E1 | D2 | | | | | | | RACK 3 = | 89 |
| T1 | O1 | P3 | L1 | E1 | | | | | | | | | RACK 2 = | 10 |
| G2 | E1 | S1 | T1 | U1 | R1 | E1 | | | | | | | RACK 1 = | 58 |

## WORD SLEUTH

Q S P L I E B Y V R O L I F C
Z R W T Q N K I F C Z W U R P
M J E H E C Z X U S Q N L R J
G E C T Z X V T R P N D L E J
H M E C A A Y W A V B Y N T T
R P O N L W K I E A F L O A T
G E C T B T H E S Z X F M W H
T U O R T R N S P E A R L T G
W U S R (C O M M E R C I A L) I
P O M L G P B J E R I I S A N
G E D B A S Y X D W F U T S S

Friday's unlisted clue: ITALY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Saturday's unlisted clue hint: FOUND IN MOUNTAIN STREAMS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bass | Float | Hand | Saltwater |
| Bottom | Fly | Ice | Spear |
| Commercial | Fresh-water | Night | Sport |
| Deep-sea | Gone | Salmon | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| C | O | B | W | B | I | A | Y | P | R | U | O | E |
| 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| S | E | D | S | E | T | T | E | R | O | O | A | F |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| M | L | U | I | C | O | I | E | U | N | R | O | N |
| 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| L | S | I | K | Y | F | F | I | L | O | I | E | D |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| A | U | G | S | N | P | E | O | B | V | R | E | E |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| I | M | U | G | S | P | H | E | R | T | L | M | N |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| E | T | L | D | S | N | E | T | N | I | T | F | E |

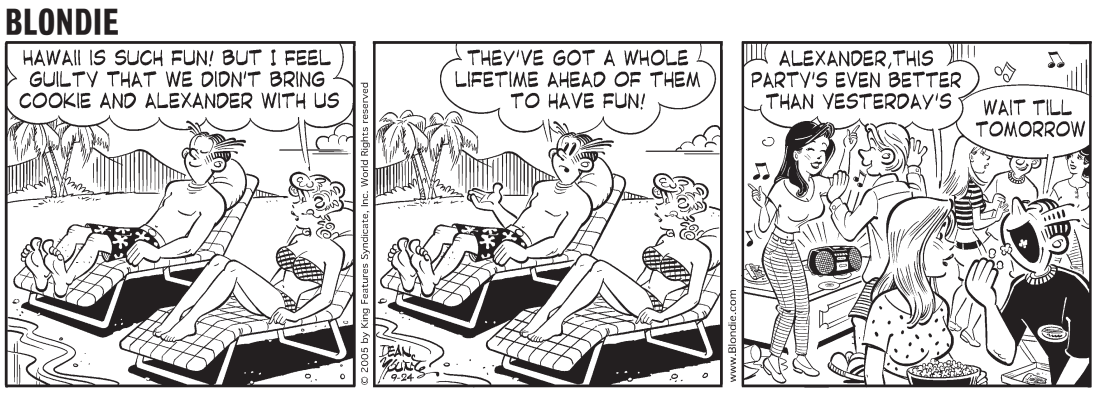
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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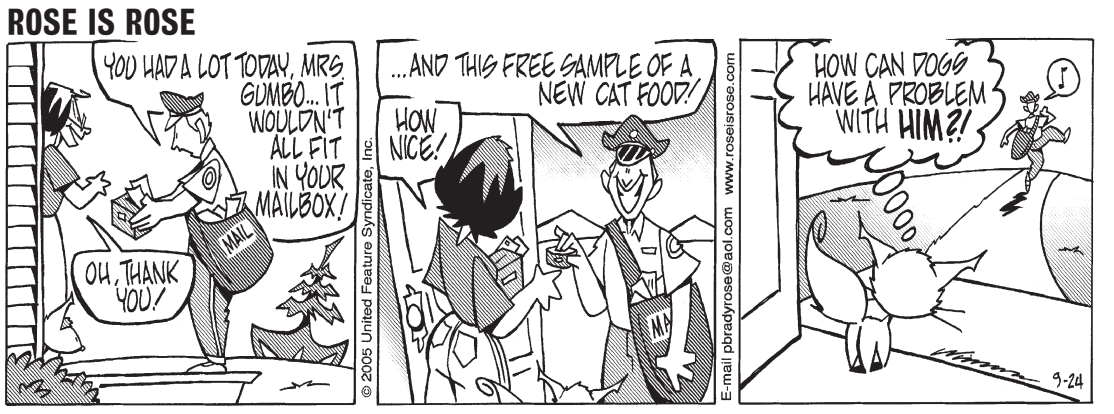
## CLASSIC PEANUTS




## BLONDIE



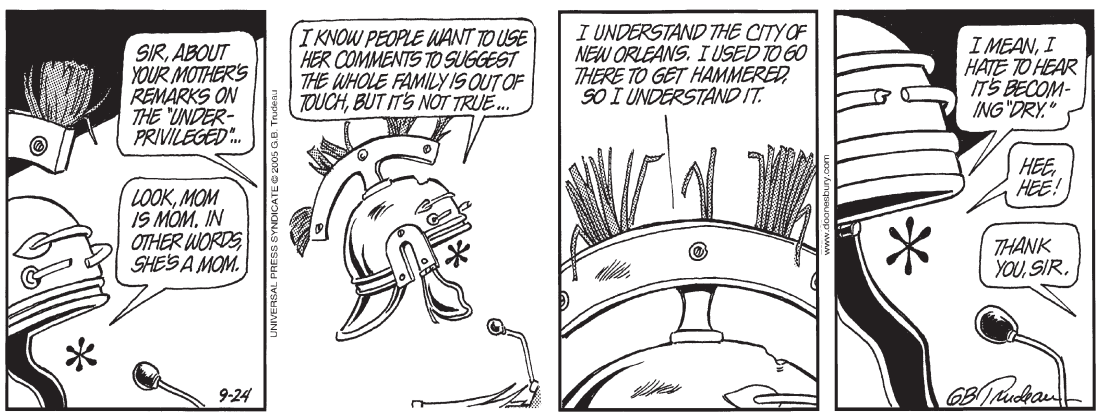

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID



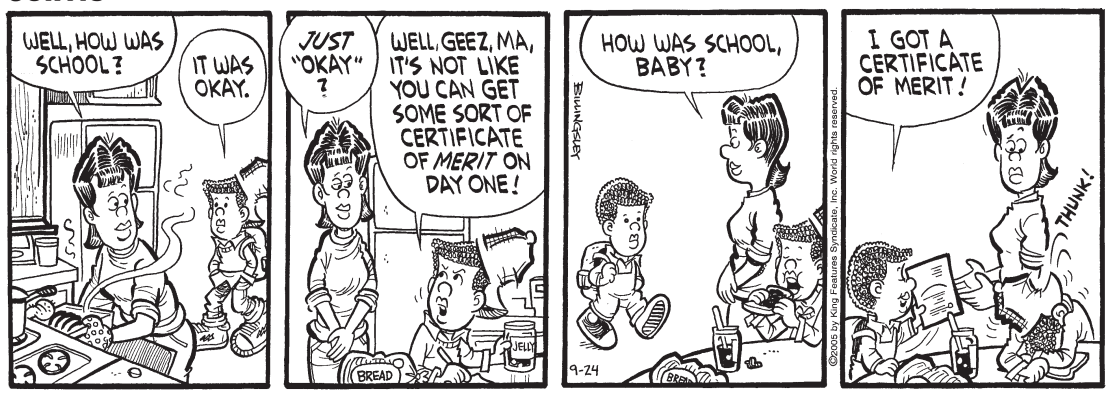

## DOONESBURY



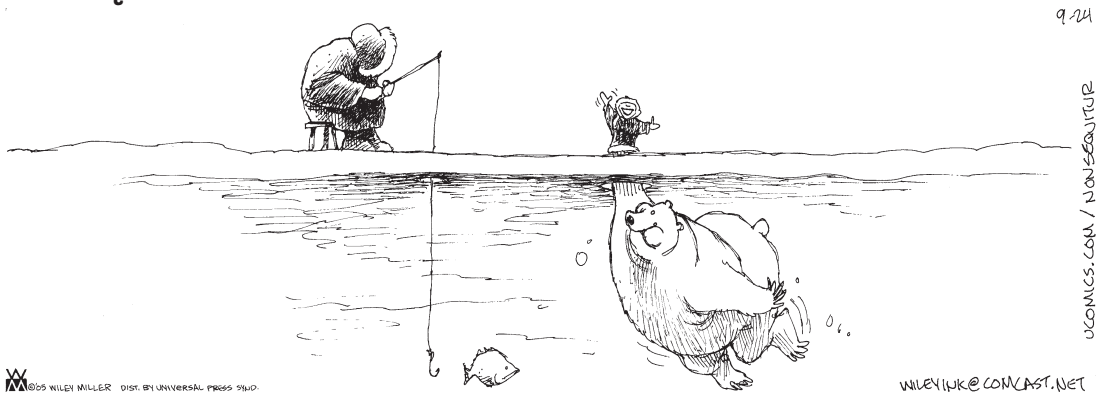

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



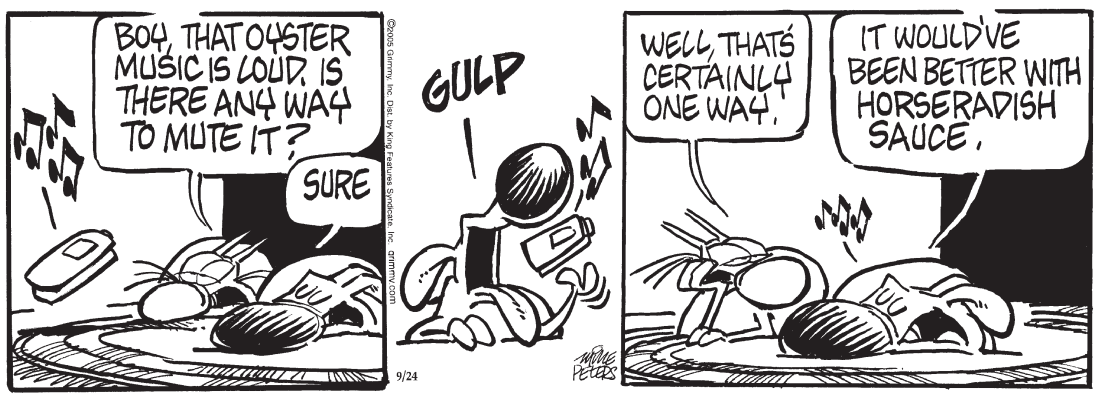

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

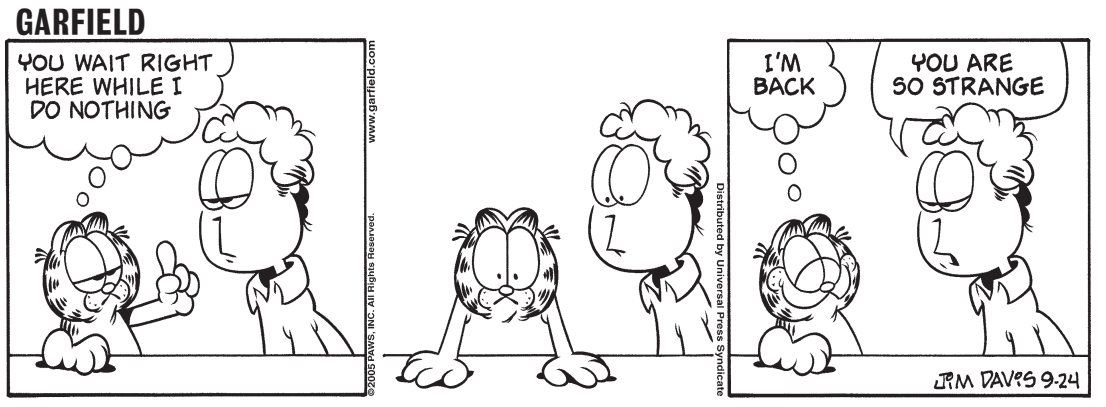



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

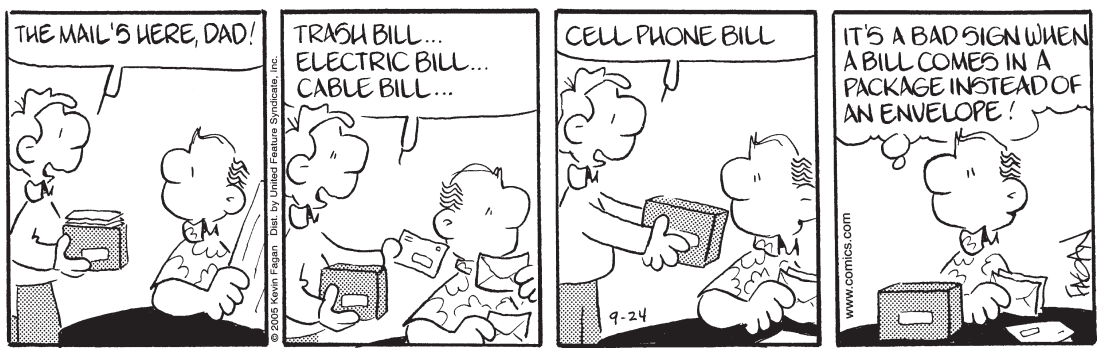


# COMICS

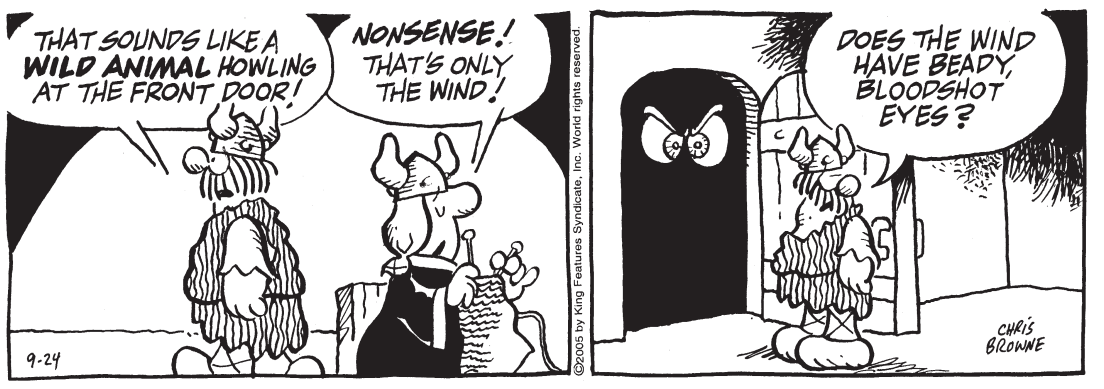
## GARFIELD



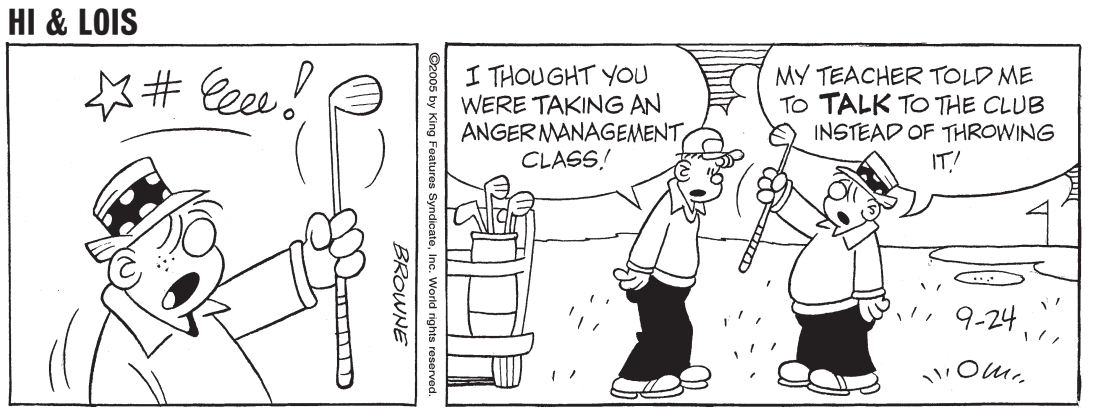

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



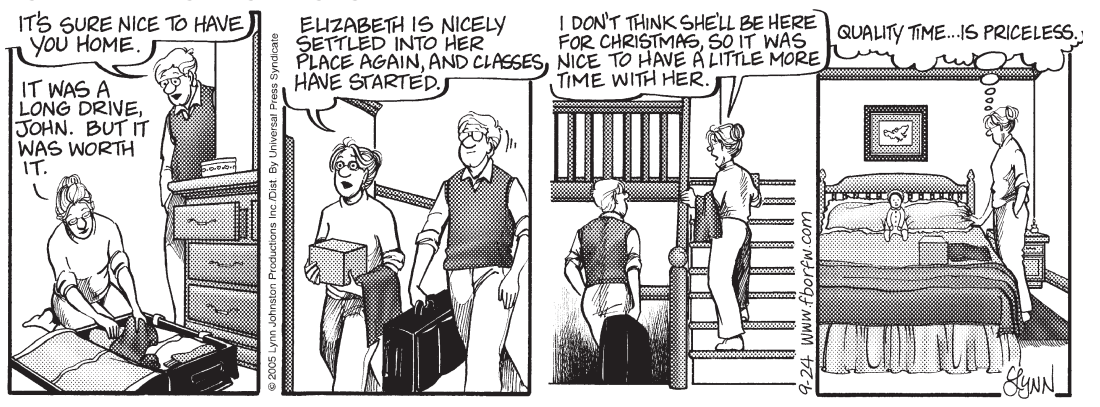

## HI & LOIS



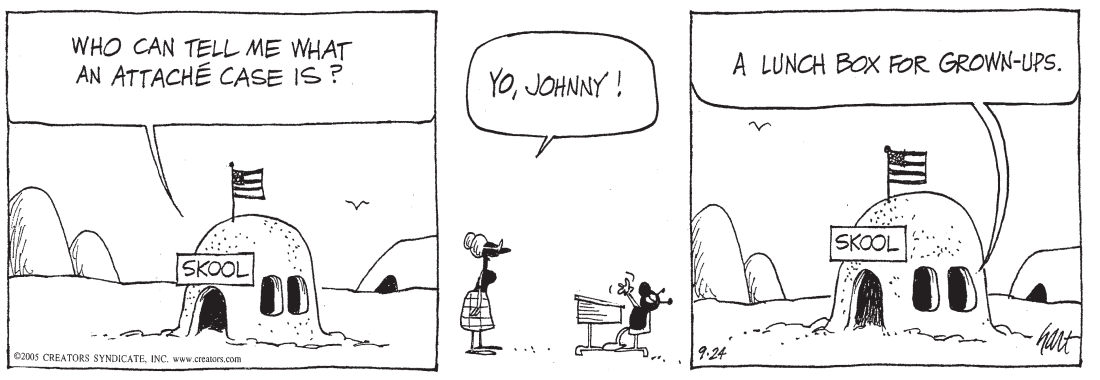

## BEETLE BAILEY



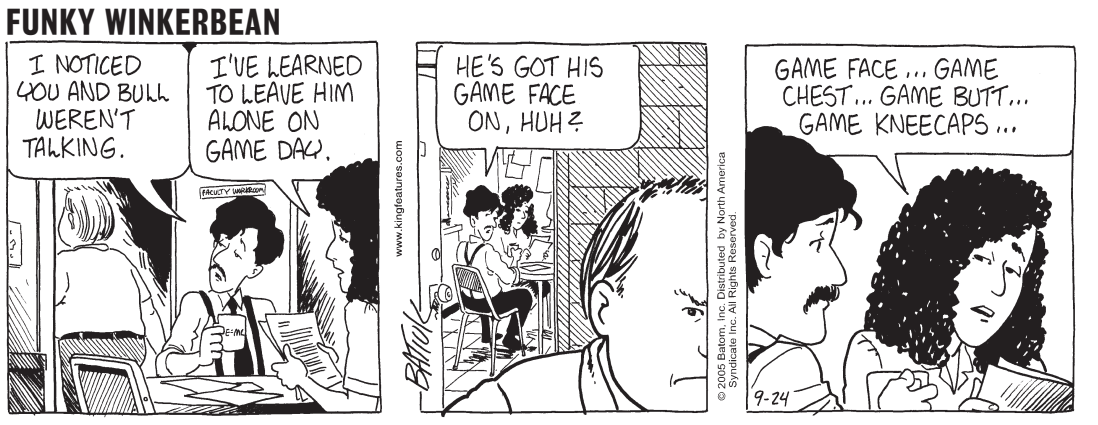

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



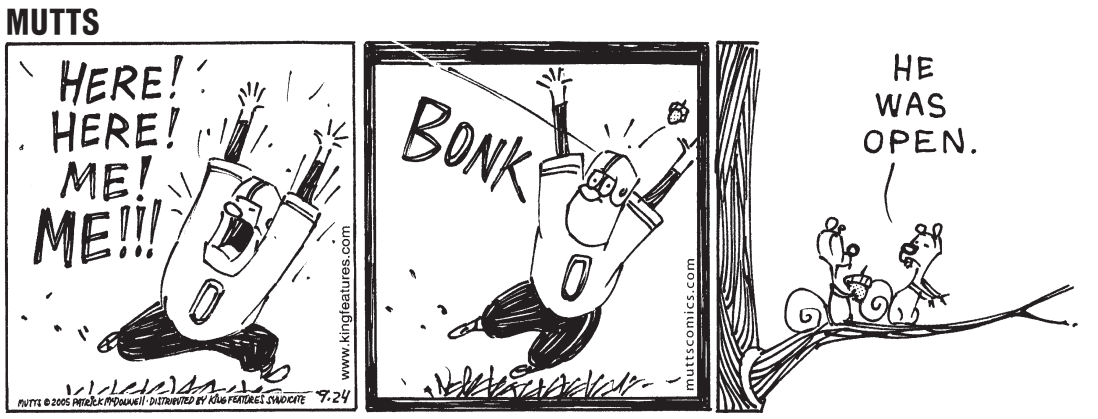

## B.C.



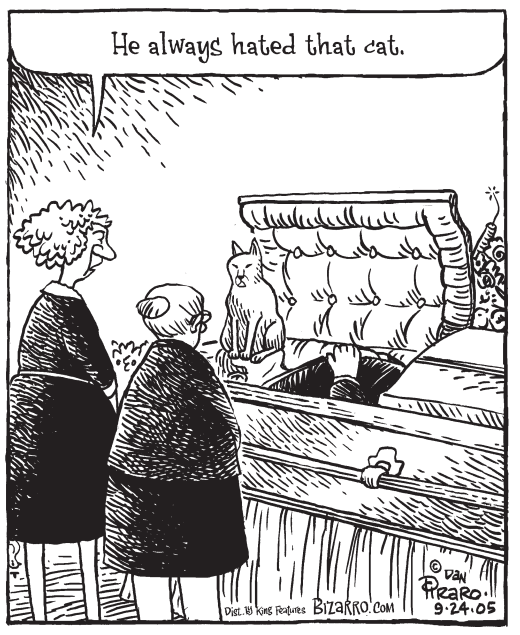

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



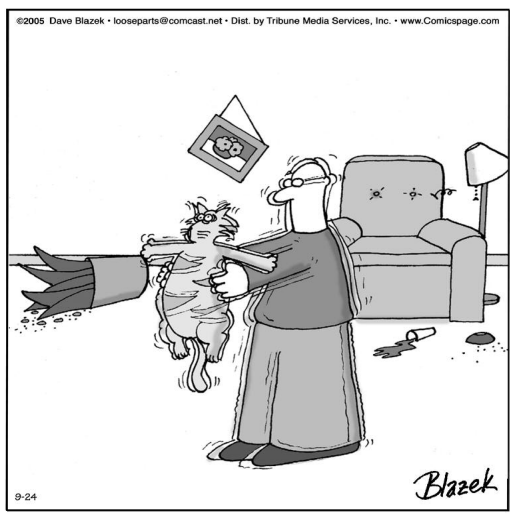

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS




The perils of hyperpurrosis

## SPEED BUMP

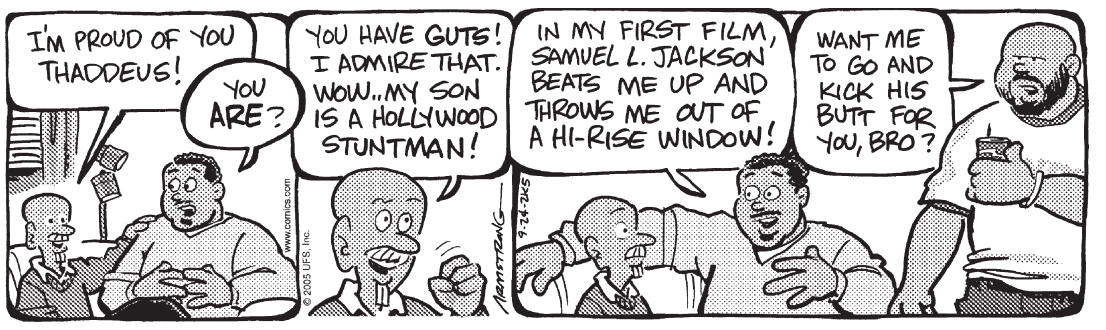



## MARMADUKE

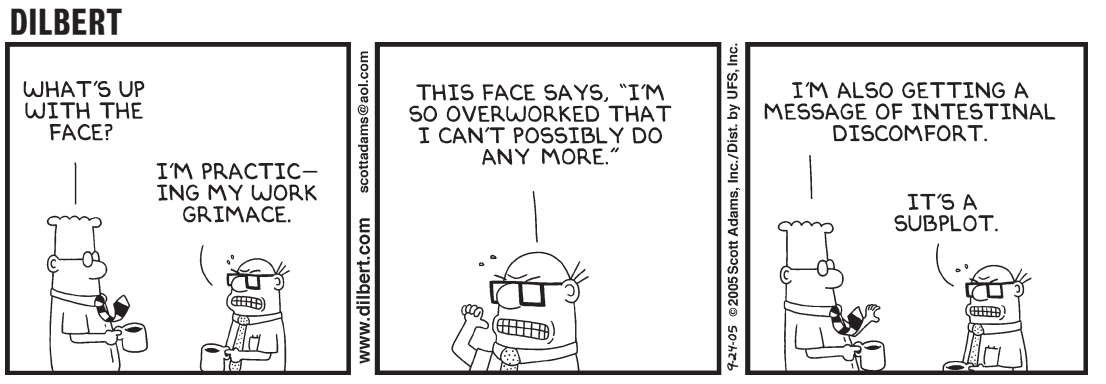



"Thanks, but I know the way to your house."

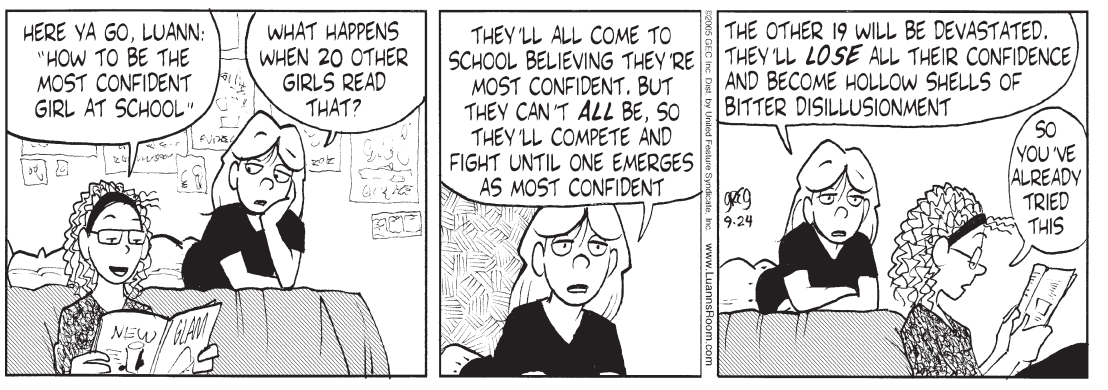
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN

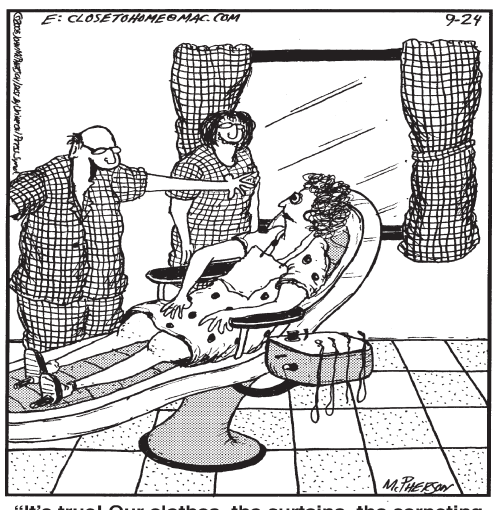



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



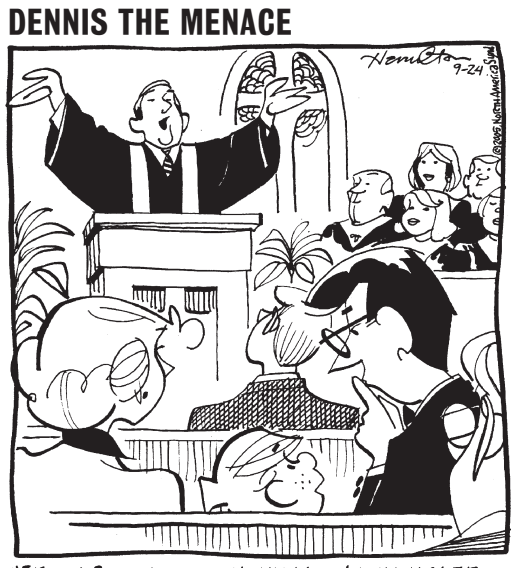

"She already sang 'The Star-Spangled Banner' before the game."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"It's true! Our clothes, the curtains, the carpeting in the waiting room . . . they're all made out of recycled dental floss!"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"IF WE GIVE HIM HIS MONEY NOW, WILL HE LET US GO HOME EARLY?"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**HOTELS WORLDWIDE** **Solution: 11 letters**

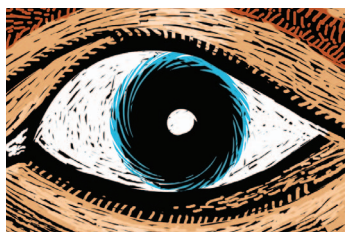
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| A | T | T | E | N | T | I | O | N | R | F | A | C | P | G |
| D | A | R | A | D | B | T | S | D | A | R | F | R | I | I |
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| E | P | R | S | C | A | G | G | I | O | G | L | M | L | E |
| S | O | R | P | L | S | A | I | T | N | A | I | A | E | L |
| H | R | I | A | E | R | R | E | R | R | E | N | L | V | L |
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Alarm, Attention, Bars, Bath, Bellhop, Blankets, Business, Cable, Calls, Closet, Coffee, Computer, Cream, Dry-cleaning, Elevator, Foyer, Home, Iron, Jacuzzi, Keys, Knock, Lamp, Laundry, Lights, Mini, Mint, Mirror, Operator, Radio, Rates, Refrigerator, Remote, Room, Shower, Signs, Soap, Soda, Spa, Staff, Stool, Sugar, Television, Tips, Towel, Video

**Yesterday's Answer: Street**

CONTINUED



# Broadcasters shine during New Orleans' darkest days

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

before and after the storm. Same goes for WWL's Mike Hoss. During the run-up to the storm, WVUE's John Snell conveyed the perfect mixture of gravity and grace under pressure. I've missed him ever since.

Later still, with various traffic cameras showing the evacuation exodus picking up, WVUE's Breck suggested viewers confiscate cell phones from their teenagers to free up airspace for important calls.

By early evening Saturday, CNN was airing a prepared piece spelling out the well-known worst-case scenario for poor New Orleans and its even poorer below-sea-level citizens.

Said the anchor, coming out of the piece, "That'll make you sit up and take notice, won't it?"

If you're in charge of FEMA, evidently not.

Meanwhile, all the cable networks were getting correspondents into position and into costume.

A TV rule of thumb: When the reporter is wearing a ball cap, wherever he or she is standing is going to get clobbered.

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**The news, and storm track,** didn't improve overnight.

My family evacuated. I stayed to watch as much coverage as I could for as long as I could.

WDSU's Ed Reams did a melancholy stand-up somewhere Sunday morning during which he observed, "What you love about New Orleans may not exist 24 hours from now."

Reams did some great work during this storm. His live Monday morning report from inside the Louisiana Superdome was the first time I heard that New Orleans' refuge of last resort was coming apart at the seams.

By late Sunday afternoon, the storm track was looking solidly dreadful.

Cable's Fox News Channel had dispatched anchor Shepard Smith to Bourbon Street to ask the predictable partiers there why they hadn't left.

Said one: "It's none of your f- - - - - business."

Fearing that Fox News might send Shep looking for me, I left town.

I was somewhere outside of Baton Rouge in stop-and-go traffic on Highway 61 on Sunday night when I heard WVUE's Breck and Snell, somehow talking on the radio, say that the storm track was tightening on a slightly east-of-New Orleans path.

Jim Cantore. Wearing a ball cap. Catastrophe magnet.

• • • • • • • •

**My notes from Monday** reflect the story arc of the day:

New Orleans pounded.

New Orleans dodges bullet.

New Orleans swamped.

WDSU's Roop Raj filed the first report I heard about window blowouts in downtown high-rises. Reams filed live from the Superdome, rainwater dripping on him from the failing roof.

Later in the day, WWL's Jill Hezeau had the first report I saw of a waterborne rescue team. There would be a lot more of those.

And Monday at dusk, WBRZ had the first helicopter tour of the flooded city.

WGNO meteorologist Bruce Katz narrated the live feed as it went on the air, spotting submerged landmarks near his house and realizing, in real time, that his house was probably flooded, too.

Shattering pictures. Shattering words.

Katz also did voice-over beneath the first looting footage I saw, and his unbridled outrage was righteous and so relatable.

Thereafter, my notes get fuzzy. We evacuated to a sainted friend's home in Prairieville, where the two most dependable antenna-delivered signals came from Baton Rouge stations WBRZ (to which WGNO retreated) and CBS affiliate WAFB-TV.

WWL's News Orleans signal faded in and out.

Also a fuzzy option was WDSU's faint signal, which came in on its usual channel number until Monday afternoon and then, once I discovered it later in the week, from the WPXL transmitter.

We had satellite-delivered cable news, though storm winds jarred the dish and I never quite figured out the array of clickers required to make it all work.

Internet access was also iffy, so I wasn't able to glue my eyes to the streaming Webcasts offered by WWL, WDSU and WBRZ/WGNO.

Several long days spent waiting for the cable guy to show up at our new Baton Rouge apartment were lived in a near-total media blackout.

So I'm delighted to not have an opinion on whether CNN's Anderson Cooper or NBC's Brian Williams gets the bigger bounce from Katrina.

I've been guilty of railbird writing about local news figures after past hurricane scares, but the career trajectories of bigfoot network news anchors, apparently an obsession in cities that weren't inundated with toxic sludge, seem comparatively trivial today. And probably will tomorrow. Given what they've seen, both Anderson and Williams likely agree.

Also trivial is the debate over the word "refugee," used for a while to describe the likes of me. It's not even my favorite new addition to the crisis lexicon. Those would be, in a tie, "dewatering" — as in removing water from my street - and "civil unrest" — as in civilians pillaging a defenseless city.

That last one I think I heard on a WWL Webcast during a rare moment of broadband connectivity.

As noted above, I wasn't in a position to monitor this impromptu experiment in worldwide new-media distribution of our local news.

Aaron Barnhart, the TV critic for the Kansas City Star, watched everything and wrote that WWL's Webcast was "indispensable," even when judged alongside the coverage that emerged from the muscled-up network and cable news forces.

Based on the pieces of it I saw, I couldn't agree more.

Katrina was clearly a watershed moment — pardon the soggy imagery — in the digital distribution of local TV news. Thousands of far-flung New Orleans residents were grateful for the high-tech tether.

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**Without easy access** to visual electronic media, I, like thousands of New Orleanians trapped either in attics or Baton Rouge traffic, leaned heavily on radio for news from home.

There's where my most indelible coverage memories were made, first on WWL AM-870, then on a Baton Rouge station carrying the camelback-shotgun marriage of New Orleans stations owned by the competing station groups Entercom and Clear Channel Communications.

Dubbed the United Radio Broadcasters of New Orleans, the experiment combined the air staffs of the competing companies. Though some of the oil-and-water host pairings were uncomfortable to listen to, others were pure magic.

Not to suggest breaking up a winning team at Clear Channel's WQUE FM-93.3, but somehow somebody's got to make the dream-team pairing of Monica Pierre and WWL's John "Spud" McConnell a steady thing once their respective companies get back to competing instead of cooperating.

About those memories: Nobody who heard New Orleans City Council President Oliver Thomas describe the bodies he'd seen in the water to WWL's Dave Cohen will ever forget it.

Same for Garland Robinette's interview with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, the one that produced such an angry and despairing reaction from Nagin, and for Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard's call for succession.

Same for the live calls from people trapped in their homes, or calls from people looking for friends and loved ones.

Same, for that matter, for WWL's live interview with Antoinette K-Doe, widow of Ernie, who described her weeklong stand in the city, her evacuation to Georgia, her recovery by friends and her will to rebuild the iconic, flooded Mother-in-Law Lounge.

Unforgettable.

• • • • • • • •

**And, in case you were wondering,** the "Wheel of Fortune" cast and crew made it out of the Convention Center in the nick of time. Episodes were taped all day Saturday before the storm, though audiences dwindled as the day wore on and official calls for evacuation grew more urgent.

The show's set, including the big wheel and bigger letter-board, was then struck and loaded onto trucks for return to Los Angeles.

Pat Sajak and Vanna White fled by air that night, but about 100 Los Angeles-based "Wheel" staffers stayed overnight to find that their Sunday flights had been canceled, so they bused it to Texas, then flew home.

The two weeks of New Orleans-themed episodes shot during the two days the show was here are scheduled to air starting Nov. 7.

Details aren't confirmed, but a show spokeswoman said that the episodes may not air as shot, but instead with inserted segments about Katrina's impact.

The tapings will show White visiting many local landmarks — perhaps some of the last footage ever captured of some of them.

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TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# MIXED SIGNALS

## TV stations in various stages of recovery after Katrina

**WWL–CHANNEL 4**
Based from multiple locations early on, the WWL-TV news staff finally settled in Baton Rouge's PBS affiliate WLPB-TV. Before the approach of Hurricane Rita, the station had been planning a move back to its Rampart Street headquarters, putting a giant generator into place to power the building. "We want to be where the story is," said Bud Brown, general manager. The station has returned some CBS network programming to its airwaves, but expanded news coverage continues.

**WDSU–CHANNEL 6**
Working out of stations also owned by corporate parent Hearst-Argyle Broadcasting, WDSU's vigorous coverage has been carried in New Orleans by WPXL-Channel 49. A Baton Rouge signal was recently added on station WBTR-Channel 41. A bureau of reporters has been working out of WDSU's Central Business District home, which last week got Entergy power. This week, the station was beginning to pull its staffers out of its Jackson satellite office, but, pending Rita's path, planned to continue splitting its coverage between Orlando and New Orleans. Also this week, WDSU's WPXL signal began carrying some NBC prime-time programming.

**WGNO–CHANNEL 26**
WGNO's main transmitter was disabled by Katrina, but a reduced-power Channel 26 signal has been emanating from the station's old transmitter atop the World Trade Center at the foot of Canal Street. Earlier this week, plans were in the works for a full-power temporary transmitter. WGNO has recently been broadcasting a combination of its own news coverage, WBRZ newscasts and some ABC network programming, including the "Monday Night Football" game between the New Orleans Saints and the New York Giants. A transmitter failure just minutes before kickoff prompted Larry Delia, WGNO's general manager, to call WWL, which quickly switched to the game. WGNO's signal was eventually restored, and the game was simulcast in New Orleans. "I decided it was more important for viewers to see the game any way they could," Delia said.

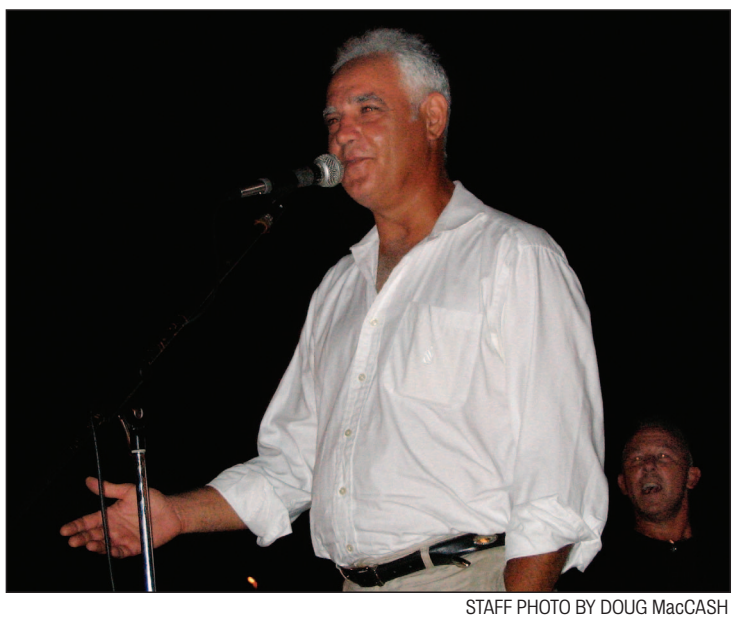
**WVUE–CHANNEL 8**
Katrina crippled the local Fox affiliate. Footage shot by staffer Jeff Kent on the Tuesday after landfall showed the station's studios and offices on Jefferson Davis Parkway inundated by several feet of floodwater. "We're sending an environmental cleanup crew in before any of us go in," general manager Jeff West said. "It was under 5 to 6 feet of water." The station's transmitter, once thought ruined, is repairable and could be operating in a few weeks, West said. Meanwhile, the low-power WVUE signal which started operating Sept. 12, has been full power since Sept. 19. A looped 15-minute newscast, updated every two hours, aired via internet webcast starting Sept. 9, and over the air starting Sept. 12. Key news staffers, who evacuated to several different cities, have assembled at Mobile, Ala., station WALA-TV, from where WVUE will operate until temporary quarters can be arranged closer to home.

Not returning: Morning meteorologist Crystal Wicker, who took a weekend weathercasting job with Indianapolis ABC affiliate WRTV-TV shortly after Katrina hit town, West said. WVUE began broadcasting its full regular schedule — including live newscasts, Fox prime time and the relocated "Jeopardy!" and Wheel of Fortune" — airing Monday-Saturday at 6 and 6:30, respectively, on Sept. 19.

*— Dave Walker*

# Katrina on his keyboard

**PIANO MAN,** *from C-1*



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MacCASH

Phil Melancon, who plays piano regularly at the Pontchartrain Hotel, rode out the storm in New Orleans and has remained to perform curbside shows for National Guardsmen.

and assistance. At Audubon Park, where he'd earlier loaned his golf clubs to guardsmen so they could break up their day by playing a few holes, he posed for photos with new fans, thanking them again for helping tote his baby grand piano to an earlier show.

At De La Salle High School, soldiers servicing Humvees paused to compliment him on the show they'd seen the night before. "You're a very funny man," a passing camouflaged soldier called out.

As he drove from place to place through the fractured trees and limp power lines, he rehearsed jokes, some of which were far too Big Easy-oriented to be understood by his audiences from Oklahoma, Texas and Puerto Rico.

"Did you hear Chris Owens stayed during the hurricane? Yeah, she got caught looting. She was stealing a new coat ... from Sherwin Williams."

"You know water was a problem after the hurricane, so a lot of us started bathing in bourbon. One guy tried tequila, but he woke up and his worm showed no signs of life."

"You know President Bush is popular down here. We can relate to him. We both find ourselves in disasters we weren't really prepared for."

"They call it the eye of the hurricane, but they should call it the ass. I mean, it sits over you for a while, blows out the levees and leaves a bad smell."

Melancon admits not all of his jokes are funny, but, "You need the bad ones too."

Melancon didn't flee the city as Katrina bore down. Instead, he sat tight in the Uptown condominiums he manages, which the storm left battered and leaking, but unflooded. Even though chaos reigned in the streets in those early days, Melancon felt relatively secure.

"I wasn't scared the first week," he said. "I didn't go out at night. A cop friend of mine offered me a gun. I said, 'No, man, I'd shoot the wrong guy, like my foot or something.' "

He learned to enjoy MREs, the now-familiar packaged military meals. A long time vegetarian, Melancon found the veggie-burger meal especially agreeable.

He took occasional tours of the city. "My favorite scene was driving by the Rite-Aid on Carrollton. I was looking for a camera. So I looked in the front door and saw three girls inside wearing bikinis and nice shoes. So I said, 'You got any cameras in there? They said, 'No, we're out of cameras, you want some cigarettes?' I said, 'No thanks.' "

His evenings were spent sharing wine and conversation on his neighbor Marie's balcony. During daylight hours, he fed a friend's dog, repaired the condos as best he could and visited his business, The Neutral Ground Coffee House, an Uptown bohemian touchstone flooded with 3 inches of water.

Most importantly to him, by the time the National Guard restored order to the city, he'd spent much of the time interpreting the disaster irreverently in song.

"I wrote a whole album," he said, "a whole show. So I said to myself, 'Why am I sitting on this? I'll do shows for the soldiers.' "

Melancon had assembled a pick-up band to flesh out the show: Darrell Mayeur on banjo, Kenny Gaines on piano and James Naylor on drums. In the hour before the Napoleon Street wharf show, they set up the lights, amplifiers and instruments, as the National Guardsmen watched from a distance and Melancon visited with welcoming officers.

At 8 p.m., the show began, Melancon trying out a few of his new hurricane compositions on a crowd that knew the results of the storm well.

"Lootin' in the morning, lootin' in the evening, looting in the summertime," he sang to twitters of muffled giggling among the co-ed troops.

His re-write of the show tune Oklahoma elicited less guarded guffaws. "Oh, the aromas that linger after hurricanes ..."

Melancon sprinkled jokes between songs, predictably producing more groans than laughs. He turned the stage over to the band that ran through some bluegrass pieces, including "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" and a pickin-and-grinnin' pastiche of the rock group Queen's "Fat Bottom Girls," which set combat boots tapping.

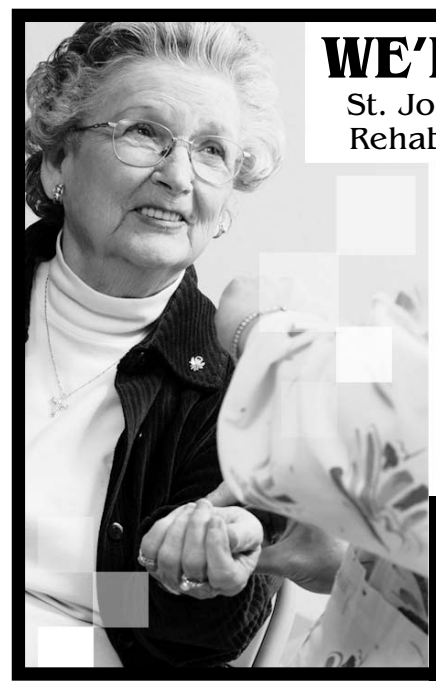
"I think I'm going to cry," said one young Oklahoman, when the band launched into "Foggy Mountain Breakdown."

Melancon returned to the cement stage to finish up with respectful readings of "Just a Gigolo," "Louisiana 1927" and an encore of "New York, New York."

"If you come back to New Orleans in the next couple of years," Melancon called at the end of the show, "come over to the Pontchartrain Hotel and I'll get you drunk."

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Doug MacCash can be reached at dougmaccash@yahoo.com.



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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Saturday
September 24, 2005

# LSU officials busy with change

*Monday game vs. Vols to tax resources, routine*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — This season, LSU has played more moving games than football games.

They've moved one game back on the schedule, moved another out of town, and this week the school administration gets to try moving one back two days.

It's easier said than done.

Moving the game between No. 3-ranked LSU and No. 10 Tennessee to Monday night will have officials scrambling through the weekend to get ticket-takers, security, emergency personnel and other workers in place, along with trying to solve traffic and parking problems. That's not to mention anything else that might pop up.

"This is the first Monday night game in the modern era of LSU football, so it is hard to know what to expect from a weekday game," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said. "Some of our normal procedures will change for this game because we have to be mindful of the local community. So I am hopeful our fans will be tolerant of these special circumstances."

"We feel like we have the running of a football game down pretty good, but this one has a lot of unknowns," associate athletic director Herb Vincent said. "We're going in blind, not knowing exactly what challenges a weekday game presents us. We think we know, but there's got to be something we're not thinking of."

**TENN. AT LSU**
6:30 p.m.
Monday
ESPN2

Classes will not be in session at LSU on Monday, with the possibility of post-hurricane cleanup and the possible use of the campus as an evacuation center again. Then there is traffic and parking. Baton Rouge residents will be working Monday, and with the added traffic from the Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees, there will be many more cars on the road just before the 6:30 p.m. kickoff.

School officials are asking fans not to arrive until mid-afternoon or later. Usually roads coming into the campus are made into one-way streets up to kickoff, but Vincent said the school will not do that Monday. After the game, Dalrymple Drive, Highland Road and St. Phillip Street will be available for one-way traffic.

Rita also threatens to dump a significant amount of rain on the city, which could force LSU to close many of the grass parking lots. But the school has canceled classes Monday, which Vincent said should "streamline a lot of things for us."

"We have to make sure all the student vehicles are moved out of the football parking areas, and that should help," he said.

A typical Saturday night also requires about

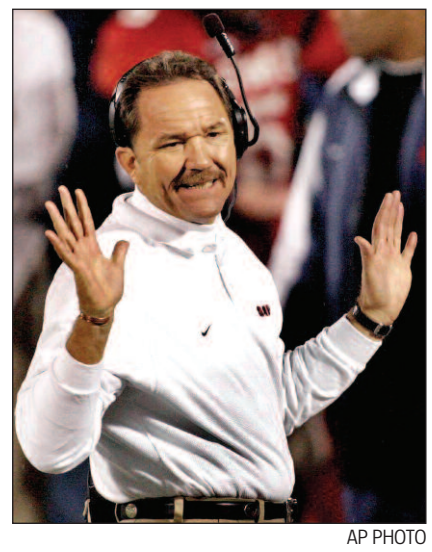
*See* **LSU,** *C-7*

# Green Wave trying to focus as Rita moves in



AP PHOTO

SMU's players and students were excited after the Mustangs defeated TCU 21-10 in Dallas on Sept. 10.



AP PHOTO

SMU coach Phil Bennett will be coaching against a Tulane team that has seen its share of misery this season. The Green Wave has relocated to Ruston because of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and faced more travel headaches this week because of the advance of Hurricane Rita.

*After game in Dallas vs. SMU, Wave will try heading to Ruston*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

DALLAS — Tulane saw its Sept. 4 season opener postponed by Hurricane Katrina. Now the Green Wave is trying to stay focused for Saturday's game with Southern Methodist as Hurricane Rita bears down on the Texas/Louisiana border, about 300 miles from Dallas.

Katrina forced Tulane to postpone a game and find a new home. So far, Rita only has caused a time change. On Wednesday, SMU officials moved kickoff from 7 p.m. to 1 p.m. to avoid the brunt of inclement weather the hurricane is expected to bring the Dallas area.

The Green Wave left Ruston for Dallas at 9 a.m. Friday, and Athletic Director Rick Dickson said he's confident the team will be in good shape.

"This group has been through a lot, and I think, for the most part, we've pretty much insulated the kids from all that's going on and avoided unnecessarily alarming them," Dickson said.

He said because Hurricane Rita's path is expected to take it closer to Shreveport, he believes the game will go on without a hitch. It's what comes

*See* **TULANE,** *C-8*

## Green Wave poised to rebound vs. SMU



JOHN DESHAZIER

Tulane was right there at the end. That's the amazing thing.

Against a team (Mississippi State) that had played two games and was pretty well oiled, and in spite of displaying enough rust and kinks to have warranted a need for WD-40 more than for Gatorade, Tulane was right there at the end, a snafu or two away from upsetting the Bulldogs, which considering the circumstances, what would have been the most impressive victory in school history.

"There's more pride (than disappointment)," Coach Chris Scelfo said, the 21-14 loss last Saturday still fresh in his memory. "I was very disappointed that we lost the game, but I was so proud of our coaches and players. The character of this football team is so evident."

So evident that, entering today's game against SMU, you have to believe that the Green Wave (0-1) is ready to post a win against the Mustangs, who haven't had much to talk about since the days of Eric Dickerson and Craig James, days that contributed to the program receiving the death penalty because of an avalanche of NCAA violations.

For Tulane, the worst of the preparation period is over. Barring injury to a significant player or two, games won't get much more difficult than the season opener, because there won't be another time this season that the Wave will be similarly disadvantaged as far as game action, having not a single down of it while playing an opponent that had two games' worth.

"We have no complaints," Scelfo said, repeating the words that have become Tulane's mantra this season. "We're not going to use that as an excuse. We're glad to be playing, glad to be carrying the face and the

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *C-8*

# Tagliabue offers mayor his thanks

*Earlier remarks by commissioner upset Hardberger*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger received what he considered a "peace offering" from NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue on Thursday.

Tagliabue sent the mayor a fax, thanking Hardberger and the San Antonio community for "your unstinting and generous efforts in hosting the New Orleans Saints and affording the team a place to practice and play the three games now scheduled for the Alamodome."

Earlier in the week, Hardberger and other city officials took umbrage at comments made by Tagliabue in an interview with The Times-Picayune. Tagliabue referred to San Antonio as a "small market" and suggested the NFL would not be interested in relocating a franchise to the Alamo City.

"It was well received," Hardberger said of Tagliabue's fax. "I was glad to get the letter, and I intend to respond to it in kind. And hopefully he will come down and see what we have going for us down here."

Hardberger said earlier this week that, "The feeling the commissioner voiced, with due respect, is that of people who live a long way away and are not on the ground seeing what is

*See* **SAN ANTONIO,** *C-6*



AP PHOTO

Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper has no touchdown passes and eight interceptions in the first two games. As a result the Vikings have started the season 0-2.

# Vikings working to right the ship

*Culpepper's miscues contribute to 0-2 start*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The early season struggles of the Minnesota Vikings can be attributed to a lot more than just the loss of Randy Moss.

But make no mistake, the often-controversial, yet game-breaking receiver has been missed.

For the first time in eight years, the high-powered Vikings offense is without one of the league's most dynamic threats. And quarterback Daunte Culpepper, among others, has struggled to adjust, throwing eight interceptions without a touchdown pass this season.

The Vikings are 0-2 as they prepare to host the Saints (1-1) on Sunday.

Moss was traded to Oakland in the offseason, partly to improve team chemistry, but Coach Mike Tice said his departure has "absolutely" changed the dynamic of Minnesota's offense.

**SAINTS AT VIKINGS**
noon
Sunday
FOX

"You don't have that threat," Tice said. "You don't have that consistent threat, respect if you will, for the deep threat. So teams play us the way we see

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-6*

# Jockey Albarado insists he did nothing wrong

*Indictment says he was allowed to carry too much weight*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

Louisiana jockey Robby Albarado, one of five riders named in an indictment charging two former New York Racing Association officials with conspiring to allow jockeys to carry too much weight in races, said he did nothing wrong.

"I don't know nothing about it," Albarado, who has won six Fair Grounds riding titles, said Friday. "They throw my name in there, and I don't know why. They throw my name in there that I was overweight on certain days, and I don't know why."

The indictment, issued Wednesday by a grand jury in Saratoga County, N.Y., charges former NYRA clerk of scales Mario Sclafani and former assistant clerk of scales Braulio Baeza with 291 criminal counts in an alleged conspiracy. Felonies allegedly committed by Sclafani and Baeza include grand larceny and falsifying business records. The two men also are accused of defrauding horse owners, defrauding bettors and tampering with sports contests.

The indictment refers to the jockeys ñ Albarado, Jose Santos, Cornelio Velasquez, Herberto Castillo Jr. and Ariel Smith ñ as "co-conspirator jockeys." They weren't charged with any crimes.

"How are you a co-conspirator if you're not charged?" said Lenny Pike, Albarado's agent. "I've represented Robby Albarado for the last 10 years. For the last five years, his weight has been between 114 and 116 (pounds). Ö He's got nothing to hide. He's never been over 116."

The races in question took place between June 23, 2004, and Dec. 15, 2004, at New York tracks.

Albarado said investigators told him that they had evidence that he rode overweight at Aqueduct. "I've never even been to Aqueduct," he said.

The indictment alleges that Albarado rode overweight in several races at Saratoga.

In January, NYRA suspended Sclafani and Baeza, who was a Hall of Fame jockey. NYRA fired them Wednesday.

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board is investigating the matter. Neither NYRA nor the board has taken any action against the jockeys.

# Woods breaks through for win

*His first better-ball victory keeps Americans in hunt*

**From wire reports**

GAINESVILLE, VA. — Tiger Woods finally found the secret to winning a better-ball match in the Presidents Cup.

Despite a sore back that had to be iced between shots, Woods carried along Jim Furyk and his sore ribs by making seven birdies on his first 12 holes for his first victory in this format. But when the second session of matches ended Friday, all that did was help the American team stay close.

Adam Scott and Retief Goosen again proved to be an International juggernaut, defeating David Toms and Fred Couples, and Vijay Singh came through with a clutch shot on the 17th hole that allowed him and Tim Clark to earn a halve and take a 6 1/2-5 1/2 lead into the weekend.

The six matches on a stormy afternoon ended 3-3, making Saturday a pivotal round. There will be five alternate-shot matches in the morning and five better-ball matches in the afternoon.

And if it is anything like the second round, it could come down to the final holes.

U.S. Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand was poised to deliver a dramatic victory until his approach struck the flag and rolled back into the rough. Then, he used the blade of his sand wedge to roll the ball toward the cup, and it spun all the way around the hole and popped out.

He and Angel Cabrera had to settle for a halve against Phil Mickelson and Chris DiMarco.

Singh hit a wedge that stopped three feet away for birdie on the 17th to square the match against Fred Funk and Stewart Cink, and the Fijian had a chance to win the match. But his 15-footer for birdie on the 18th never had a chance.

Scott Verplank and Justin Leonard also won their second match, combining for five birdies in a six-hole stretch and closing out Trevor Immelman and Mike Weir when Verplank's approach to the 17th stopped three feet away.

In the other match, Peter Lonard and Nick O'Hern of Australia rolled to a 3-and-2 victory over Davis Love III and Kenny Perry, leaving the American duo winless the first two days.

Woods was 0-6 in better ball during his three previous trips to the Presidents Cup, and he was paired with Furyk, who wasn't sure he would be able to play.

But it was Woods who was in the most pain, suffering what appeared to be back spasms on the sixth hole. A therapist pressed a cup of ice on his upper back between shots - one of those a 6-iron that nearly went into the cup for an ace on the peninsula-green seventh hole.

# Cowboys are still San Antonio's team

**SAN ANTONIO,** *from C-5*

happening here."

The mayor said Friday that his defense of San Antonio was not part of an active pursuit of the Saints or any other NFL franchise. Instead, it was part of a larger sense of civic pride in a town that he feels is undervalued.

"For a long time, people thought of us as kind of a sleepy village," Hardberger said. "But for the last 10 years, this city has been growing and doing so well. I think people might not know that if they haven't seen it for themselves."

Tagliabue also thanked Hardberger for the city's "extraordinary outreach and generosity" in helping thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. And the commissioner concluded by saying: "We will continue to work with the Saints, your administration and the Alamodome authorities to seek to ensure that the three games to be played in the Dome are successful in all respects. If I can be of assistance on any aspect of this, please do not hesitate to be directly in touch with me."

**A COWBOYS TOWN:** San Antonio's fan base and business community has shown strong support for hosting the Saints this year. But the majority of folks in San Antonio are still die-hard followers of the Dallas Cowboys.

As a result, the local Fox affiliate will show the Cowboys' game at San Francisco on Sunday instead of the Saints-Vikings game. That decision is made by the NFL office, but KABB general manager John Seabers told the San Antonio Express-News, "Our preference is we carry Cowboys games. The ratings are substantially higher."

The city did add a nice welcoming touch this week, painting "Saints" in large letters, along with the team's logo, outside of several windows surrounding the Alamodome. The Saints' first game in San Antonio is Oct. 2 against the Buffalo Bills.

**INJURY REPORT:** Guard Jermane Mayberry did not practice Friday after spraining his right shoulder at the end of Thursday's practice. Saints coach Jim Haslett said he did not know if Mayberry will be able to play Sunday against the Vikings.

Mayberry's backup, Montrae Holland, also missed practice. But Haslett said he was just being given a day of rest for a lingering knee problem. Holland is expected to be ready to play Sunday. Receiver Az-Zahir Hakim (hamstring) and cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee) did not practice all week. They are both listed as questionable but are more likely doubtful.

# Haslett knows better than to take Vikings lightly

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

them on tape. Normally, that wasn't the case. We'd have to wait a quarter and a half to figure out how we'd play this particular week. It all started with how you play Randy Moss.

"But we have plenty of playmakers. We have to stop the turnovers and make sure that we can get some consistency about ourselves on the offensive side of the ball."

After two weeks, Moss leads the NFL in receiving yards with 257 and has caught two touchdown passes. The Vikings, meanwhile, have been woeful in a 37-8 loss at Cincinnati last week and a 24-13 loss to Tampa Bay in Week 1.

Culpepper threw five interceptions against the Bengals. He threw three against the Buccaneers, and also lost two fumbles in that game.

The three-time Pro Bowl quarterback will no doubt turn things around - perhaps Sunday. After all, Culpepper threw for a whopping five touchdowns and 425 yards last year in a 38-31 victory over the Saints at the Superdome.

But this has been a tumultuous year for Culpepper and the Vikings. Before Moss was traded, former offensive coordinator Scott Linehan left to take a job with the Miami Dolphins.

Then in the summer, Onterrio Smith, one of the team's top tailbacks, was suspended for the season for violating the league's substance-abuse policy. And Pro Bowl center Matt Birk elected to have season-ending surgery on his hip.

The Vikings also changed ownership in the offseason when Red McCombs sold the team to a group headed by New Jersey real estate developer Zygi Wolf.

"Nobody can really put their finger on one thing," Culpepper said. "It's a combination of a lot of different things. I look at myself and watch the film and say, ëYou know, I probably shouldn't have made that throw. I should have run it.'

"That's the thing I'm focusing on. I'm ready to get out there and get in the flow of things." Culpepper added, "It is tough. It's hard. I have been down before, and I am going to get up."

Tice and teammates have complimented Culpepper for still leading the team and not getting too down on himself or his teammates.

"He's not a Pro Bowler for nothing," said tailback Mewelde Moore, a former Tulane standout. "He's always encouraging everyone. He's still the leader and does what a leader is supposed to do in good times and bad times. And unfortunately, this is one of our down times, and he's definitely sticking up for everyone.

"He's definitely sticking up for himself, and that's all you can ask for."

Culpepper is not alone in his struggles. The running game has been grounded, with a total of 110 yards in two weeks.

Starting tailback Michael Bennett has gained 35 yards on nine carries and fumbled twice against the Bengals. Tice turned to Moore in the second half last week, and veteran Moe Williams also is in the mix.

Nate Burleson was expected to be the team's top receiver with Moss gone. He has six catches for 93 yards and is listed as doubtful for Sunday's game because of a knee injury.

The defense, with six new starters, also has underachieved - though it's tough to play shut-down defense when the offense turns the ball over 12 times in two weeks. The Vikings' defense ranks 30th overall and last against the run.

"First off, we've got to stop the turnovers," Tice said, running through the laundry list of things that need fixing, touching upon the running game, the defensive chemistry, the team's "swagger," and communication both on the field and from the field to the sideline.

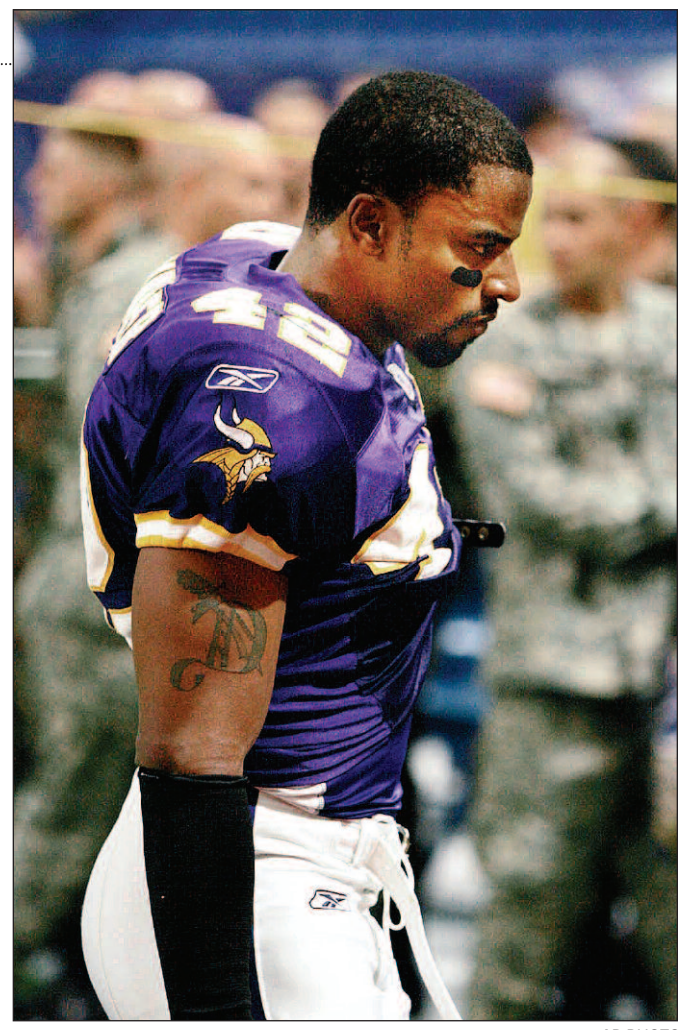
"We've got our work cut out for us," Tice said. "Our punter's punting well. That's good news. But we've got our work cut out for us."

Still, Saints coach Jim Haslett knows better than to take lightly a team that reached the second round of the playoffs last year.

All of the Saints likely remember that Oct. 17 game last season, in which Minnesota's offense gained 605 yards ñ the most yards surrendered in Saints history.

"They're a dangerous football team. We know that," Haslett said. "They got a lot of yards on us last year. They've got a lot of players. We know that they have great personnel and that they can put a lot of points on the board with their offense.

"Hopefully we won't get caught off guard based off the last two games, because we know they're a better team than that."



AP PHOTO

Darren Sharper, formerly of Green Bay, is one of six new starters on Minnesota's defense. The unit has yet to mesh, ranking 30th overall and last against the run.

# Mahelona catches eyes of Tigers offense

*Standout DT is 'going to be a load'*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — You don't have to wait for the game to sample Tennessee defensive tackle Jesse Mahelona's intensity.

Just pick up the Vols media guide and glance at the cover.

You'll see the last thing opposing quarterbacks see before Mahelona sacks them: a closeup of Mahelona's piercing brown eyes.

In a little more than a year, Maheloha has gone from an out-of-place Samoan in Dixie to the heart and soul of the Vols' defense, not to mention cover boy.

Mahelona, a 6-foot-2, 297-pound All-SEC tackle and co-captain, will be the focus of LSU's offensive game plan against Saturday.

His numbers are as scary as his looks. Last year, he had a league high 18Ω tackles for losses, among them five sacks, despite being double-teamed during the latter part of the season. Last week, he led the charge against Florida, getting one of the Vols' five sacks and generally making it a miserable day for Gators quarterback Chris Leak, although Florida won 16-7.

LSU offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher wants Maheloha accounted for on every play.

"He's going to be a load for us," Fisher said. "You can look at the film from last year. He was all over the field. When he didn't make tackles, he made the other guys make tackles because people had to double-team him, or he was forcing people to run in big loops because he was penetrating. He's a heck of a football player."

Tennessee defensive coordinator John Chavis said Mahelona was the best defensive tackle in the country last season, in which The Sporting News tabbed him as an All-American.

He almost didn't come to Tennessee. And, after he got there, he almost didn't stay.

Mahelona is a native of Kailua-Kona, where, in addition to football, he played basketball and soccer and was a member of the outrigger canoe team. He played two years at Orange Coast Junior College in Costa Mesa, Calif., and was set to sign with Oklahoma before he accepted an official visit to Tennessee ñ admittedly just to visit his brother, Steve, who was a running back at nearby Tusculum College.

"When I came here, I fell in love with it," Mahelona said. "I can't explain it. I just knew this was the place for me.

"I came here and saw the impact, the quickness of the game and never thought I could adjust as quickly and successfully as I have. The coaches let me do what I had to do and get comfortable. I look back on my choices and decisions. If I had not come here, I would not have been as happy as I am."

Happiness didn't come overnight. Mahelona was raw and struggled to learn the technical aspects of his position. Fortunately for the Vols, he made his transition during the spring of 2004.

"It took me that whole spring, and at times it was very frustrating," said Mahelona. "(Defensive line) Coach (Dan) Brooks was very patient with me. During two-a-days, I remember one practice in particular where ... I couldn't pick up a play. Coach (Dan) Brooks got on me, and I started to walk off the field, and Coach (Phillip) Fulmer grabbed me and talked to me and eased me. Ever since then, I took it upon myself to not miss an assignment, to know every play."

After getting the technique down, Mahelona was turned loose, and he progressed swiftly, an uncommon trait for junior college players, who often struggle in their first major-college season.

"He progressed very fast as a player, learning the system and the techniques," said Fulmer. "He's got a great motor, great intensity, a kid we feel is one of the leaders on our defensive team. In a short time, he's found a way to be one of those special guys in the conference."

It wasn't just the football that was hard. Being far from home and his Polynesian culture was difficult for Mahelona. At Orange Coast JC, he lived in a house with 10 Polynesians, next door to a house with 10 more. But that was a long way from Knoxville. Luckily, Tennessee has another Samoan on the roster, offensive tackle Albert Toeaina.

"We counted on each other to get through the adversity," Mahelona said.

Last March, Mahelona ran into some off-field adversity when his apartment burned down, and he reacted in anger by tearing a handrail off the fire truck fighting the fire. He paid for the damage and apologized to the fire department to avoid criminal charges.

Then, a local furniture store let Mahelona and his roommate use furniture for a month until they could get the items lost in the fire replaced. It turned out to be a violation of NCAA rules, and the two players had to reimburse the store $95.84 each to maintain eligibility.

Mahelona has brought some of his culture to the east. And his friends have some Volunteer mojo working to the west. Mahelona said friends back home have taken to flying orange and white Tennessee flags on game day, and they watch him play on a nine-foot television a friend bought a few weeks ago.

Certainly, they will be watching Saturday when the Vols play at LSU with their backs against the wall. One loss doesn't end a season, but two put a team out of the national championship picture. Mahelona is counting on coming back strong.

"I think that will judge the character of our team, how we bounce back," he said. "So far, I've been very happy with our last two practices. Everybody is flying around. Nobody is pointing fingers, and everybody is supporting each other. That's mainly because of the maturity of our team."

# Miles rolls with storms' punches

*LSU coach enduring season like no other*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer



AP PHOTO

LSU coach Les Miles finally will make his Tiger Stadium debut Monday night as his third-ranked Tigers take on No. 10 Tennessee.

BATON ROUGE — It' s Saturday night in Death Valley and here comes' Öanother quiet evening at the Miles' household, secluded from the fabled lights often left on to burn aimlessly through the darkness as if to tease the new guy from high above.

Wait, fans said in New Orleans, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Lafayette, Covington, Texas and Mississippi, until you run past the goal posts beneath a gigantic blinding flash and a collective yell escorts the Tigers toward the sideline. It' s heaven with a hellish nickname, Miles was told repeatedly.

So he waited, excitedly, saying all the right things, never downplaying the significance of leading those 85 or so white jerseys out of that cramped tunnel. Looking forward to it, Miles always said. And as September slowly fades, he still does envision it, helplessly.

With twice as many hurricanes than wins on his abbreviated LSU resume, Miles again directed his anxious Tigers through what seems like suspended preparation Friday for a Tiger Stadium debut nearly nine months in the making, three weeks behind schedule. After this unscheduled shortened workout, LSU will practice Saturday and have a walk-through Sunday, and will be lodging in the on-campus Lod Cook Alumni Center on Sunday night.

Tennessee, which was supposed to fly to Baton Rouge on Saturday, still intends to arrive on game day since the local hotel situation hasn't improved drastically.

"It's interesting," Miles said. "Those teams that have to handle adversity and have to handle bumps in the road, they learn, hopefully, some great lessons not only in football but the rest of your life."

Preferring to keep kickoff on Saturday or Sunday, LSU officials were overruled Thursday evening by SEC commissioner Mike Slive, who decided to move the game to Monday for the welfare of those involved. According to The Associated Press, Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton was prepared to forfeit the victory to LSU to insure the well being of the Volunteers' players and staff scheduled to arrive approximately when Hurricane Rita was predicted to make landfall.

"(A forfeit) is a little better than kissing your sister," Miles said. "I think it would've been a real shallow victory. We certainly wouldn't have taken any credit for it."

"Naturally our strong preference would have been to play during the weekend," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said, "but safety for student-athletes, fans and everyone else involved in a football game was the overriding factor for the commissioner."

The unforeseeable herky-jerky beginning of the Miles tenure has only escalated the pressure placed on Bertman's hire to replace Nick Saban. This skeptical fandom has picked at LSU' s lone game - a thrilling 35-31 escape from No. 15 Arizona State — more than a Thanksgiving carcass.

For two weeks and two more days, Miles has calmly addressed worn issues such as the Tigers' defensive woes, receivers dropping the ball, even his sideline fashion preferences. Funny, no one seems to call in and compliment the running game or JaMarcus Russell's arrival as a legitimate starter but they' ll gladly hold to bust on Miles' headset or morph Bo Pelini' s name with Lou Tepper's - Tepperlini or Pelpper.

Throughout the criticism and dire circumstances, Miles has been the cowboy in the browning white hat with plenty of real estate between the top of his head and the dome of his cap. Unexpectedly piled on top of the burden to replace a here-today-gone tomorrow legend in' Saban, Miles had to help players maintain focus while they uncomfortably housed relatives and passed armed guards as they drove away from practice - responsibilities surely not mentioned in his contract.

"The schedule throws you some curves now and then," Miles said. "Life does as well. It's not a big deal. People respond. This is a real mature team. I think they are handling it real well looking forward to monday night football."

Certainly, no coach in LSU history has dealt with a September comparable to this, and some serious library research is needed to find a first-year coach forced to scale this many hurdles so soon.

Just check out the list of obstacles circa August:

▶ Top offensive threat, Alley Broussard, suffered a season-ending knee injury
▶ Amp Hill transferred weeks before Dwayne Bowe and Craig Davis get hurt.
▶ Original home opener was pushed to October.
▶ Relocated "home" opener took place in a stadium built into the side of a mountain against a top 15 team' coming off a cupcake warmup.
▶ His makeshift home opener will compete for Neilson Ratings with the Chiefs-Broncos on Monday Night.
▶ Tiger Stadium might not be completely full considering the weekday kickoff.
▶ The midseason bye week is now filled with a game.
▶ LSU has a short week before its first conference road game.

And somehow, the guy still smiles on occasion. Earlier in the week, he even half-seriously, half-jokingly suggested the government dump dry ice into the Gulf of Mexico to quell the power source of these hurricanes.

"The decision of how you respond to things is personal choice, period," Miles said. "I've never found a way to respond negatively that made it better. If it made it better, I would. No, I can tell you, the time benefits us in certain regards — two more days to prepare certain aspects of our football (team) will be welcomed."

**"The rest will be determined by what happens (Friday night) and (Saturday) with Hurricane Rita. This is our first game in new Baton Rouge with the new population. It doesn't necessarily affect traffic right here on campus, but it affects traffic everywhere else as you try to come to campus."**

HERB VINCENT, associate athletic director

# LSU wanted game to be played Saturday or Sunday

**LSU,** *from C-5*

450 uniformed police from various agencies to provide security and traffic control. Vincent said there won't be as many available, and some could be called away for duties related to Hurricane Rita.

"We will have officers and intersections directing traffic," he said.

Vincent said there might be a shortage of game marshals and ticket-takers, jobs performed part time by people with full-time jobs. Many will not be able to get away from their full-time jobs, so the school plans to use student-athletes in those roles.

"The rest will be determined by what happens (Friday night) and (Saturday) with Hurricane Rita," Vincent said. "This is our first game in new Baton Rouge with the new population. It doesn't necessarily affect traffic right here on campus, but it affects traffic everywhere else as you try to come to campus."

The LSU ticket office will be closed today but will reopen from noon until 6 p.m. Sunday, and Monday from 8 a.m. until halftime of the game. Motor homes are asked to depart campus by 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, as classes will be back in session.

*TAILGATING*

# Site of Sugar Bowl emotional debate

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Chuck Zatarain is as Sugar Bowl as you can get.

His grandfather, Charles Zatarain Sr., was among the bowl's founding fathers, serving as its president in 1950-51.

His father, Charles Zatarain Jr., had a long-time involvement as well.

Chuck Zatarain was president from 1994-95 and rotated off the executive committee this year after a 17-year stint.

So it's enlightening to hear his thoughts on the idea of playing this year's game in Atlanta as opposed to staging it at LSU with most of the fans staying in New Orleans.

"I want to play the game in Louisiana,"he said. "But I just don't see where you are going to put all of the people.

"Atlanta is our best alternative. If we don't play the game at all, somebody else will take our spot in the BCS and nobody in New Orleans wants that to happen."

The debate regarding where to play the game is an emotional one, especially for those with ties to the game like Zatarain. The Sugar Bowl is a New Orleans event dating to 1935, and many think playing the game in Baton Rouge this season would be a powerful symbol of the area's determination to recovery.

It's also important to those who want to see New Orleans return to some semblance of normalcy as soon as possible primarily for financial reasons.

Among those is Steve Perry, president of the Greater New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau.

On Wednesday, he stood side-by-side with other state tourism officials encouraging people who have made New Orleans one of their favorite destinations to make plans to return as soon as possible.

But Perry recognizes that a typical influx of Sugar Bowl fans filling more than 30,000 of the city's 38,000 hotel rooms is not the same as small groups of tourists.

"We've got to make sure we can provide the experience that is appropriate and consistent with the history of the Sugar Bowl,"he said. "When New Orleans reopens for events like this, it's got to be the right time to be there. If it is possible this year, we'll do it. If not, we'll have to loan the game for one year to another city."

Playing the game in Baton Rouge is not a problem. Getting fans in and out of New Orleans plus to Baton Rouge for the game would be difficult.

The big obstacle is hotel rooms.

The Sugar Bowl may be thought of as a local event, but unless LSU is in the game 90 percent of those in attendance are from out of the area.

Most wind up in the large downtown hotels within walking distance or a short cab ride of the French Quarter, the Superdome and the other sites for bowl-related activities.

It's a big part of what has given New Orleans a major edge as a host not only for the Sugar Bowl, but Super Bowls, Final Fours and the Bayou Classic.

Perry is among those determining how many rooms might be available in New Orleans for the Jan. 2 game. He has about 10 days to do so.

But he may already know the answer. Mayor Ray Nagin in a Friday morning TV appearance said that the hotel operators in the city are going to be happy - because their rooms are going to be filled for months with recovery workers.

Displacing them for football fans would be inappropriate.

That's why when the Sugar Bowl's Board of Directors convenes by teleconference in a few days, they will vote to play the game in the Georgia Dome.

Due diligence will be made in trying to make things work for Baton Rouge. But they just don't.

"These are extraordinary times, and we all have to make sacrifices,"Zatarain said. "In the big scheme of things, the Sugar Bowl is small potatoes. Most people are just trying to survive and get their lives back together."

This is not the first time bowl games have had to be shifted because of an unexpected event.

In 1941, a week after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the Army declared that there could be no large crowd gatherings on the West Coast.

The Rose Bowl was moved to Durham, N.C., where Duke, already invited to the game, hosted Washington State.

The East-West Shrine game was moved to Tulane Stadium two days after the Sugar Bowl.

Both events returned to their home bases the following year.

And that's what would happen to the Sugar Bowl, although it's probable that next year's game would have to be played at LSU. Hotels in New Orleans should not be an issue then.

"The Sugar Bowl is going to be part of the rebuilding of New Orleans,"Zatarain said. "I don't know what's going to happen with the Saints and the Hornets, but we're not going anywhere. We're all having to make adjustments this year. But if we wind up in Atlanta instead of Baton Rouge, I think everybody will understand."

## It's Harris time

If any organization has less credibility than FEMA these days, it's the BCS.

So it goes to reason that the BCS honchos are crossing their fingers and toes this weekend hoping that nothing goes wrong with the first release of the Harris Interactive Poll on Sunday.

For those who might not remember (and since Katrina we're all a little fuzzy on some things), the Harris Poll is replacing The Associated Press rankings in the BCS formula.

Because of complaints that there was too much prejudice in the AP and coaches' rankings, which remain part of the formula, because they begin with a preseason poll, placing teams who don't start out at the top at a disadvantage, the first release was delayed until after the fourth week of the season.

For this Harris voter, that was a good thing. Spending the last month dealing with Katrina tends to give one an unvarnished look at things when it does come time to actually cast a ballot.

For the Harris folks, that was a good thing, too. It took them several weeks to compile the panel of 114 voters, only to find out that four were working for ESPN, which is not allowing its employees to vote.

More embarrassing, one nominated voter, Jason Rash, did not meet the criteria of being a former coach, administrator or player or current media member. He was the son-in-law of Troy coach Larry Blakeley and basically was just an interested fan.

Replacements for those five plus two other dropouts have been found and everything is good to go for Sunday.

In fact, Harris did a test run last week and while they're not reporting any glitches, voters at least have not been made aware of any of the infamous "tweaks"that was routine with the BCS.

The Harris folks are determined to keep things aboveboard. One admonition to voters is not discuss rankings or voting patterns with anyone else on the panel. Sort of like Fight Club.

No matter how it goes, the Harris Poll isn't likely to be more flawed than the AP or coaches poll.

For example, just this week Michigan State is ranked behind Notre Dame, which it beat last week while in turn the Fighting Irish are ranked behind Michigan, which it beat the week before.

But if that's the only thing that's wrong with the first Harris Poll, the BCS honchos should be grateful.

When the BCS is involved, it can only get worse — and usually does.

## QUICK PICKS

**Tennessee at LSU**

6:30 p.m. Monday, ESPN2
At least that's when they're saying they'll play. Just two days ago Skip Bertman was saying Rita would pose no problem for the game at all. Let's hope we're a better football prognosticator than Skip is a hurricane forecaster.
**Spread:** LSU by 7; Pick: LSU 21-17

**Tulane at SMU**

1 p.m.
And what about the poor Green Wave? If they want to avoid any more hurricanes we suggest that they play their next game in Alaska.
**Spread:** Tulane by 3 ½; Pick: Tulane, 14-6

**Southern California at Oregon**

2:30 p.m., ABC
OK, we get it. The Trojans are scary good. Playing four of the next five on the road, starting at noisy Autzen Stadium is a test, but USC should be more than up for it.
Spread: USC by 21; Pick: USC, 47-24

**Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech**

2:30 p.m., ABC
If the "GameDay"crew couldn't be in Baton Rouge, they picked the second best game of the weekend. The Hokies haven't allowed a touchdown for the past 10 quarters and with Yellow Jackets quarterback Reggie Ball coming off a bout with viral meningitis, the streak could be extended.
**Spread:** Virginia Tech by 11 1/2; Pick: Virginia Tech, 17-3

**Purdue at Minnesota**

11 a.m., ESPN
With Michigan and Ohio State not on the schedule and Iowa apparently not as formidable as believed, this could be the Boilermakers' toughest test. And it's one they'll fail.
**Spread:** Minnesota by 4; Pick: Minnesota, 33-27

**Arkansas at Alabama**

11 a.m., ESPN
It's not giving up 70 points to USC that has Razorbacks fans after Houston Nutt's hide. They just can't get over losing to Vanderbilt.
Spread: Alabama by 15 ½; Pick: Alabama, 36-14

Notre Dame at Washington
2:30 p.m., ABC
New Fighting Irish coach Charlie Weis shows ex-Fighting Irish coach Tyrone Willingham how you succeed at the nation's most storied program.
**Spread:** Notre Dame by 13 1/2; Pick: Notre Dame, 27-10

**Boston College at Clemson**

11 a.m.
Both teams are coming off tough losses to Florida State and Miami respectively. New offensive coordinator Rob Spence has Tigers quarterback Charlie Whitehurst operating at a high level.
**Spread:** Clemson by 3; Pick: Clemson, 30-21

**Iowa at Ohio State**

11 a.m., ABC
The stars of these two slipped considerably when they lost to Iowa State and Texas, respectively, two weeks ago. The Buckeyes are still the better team.
**Spread:** Ohio State by 7; Pick: Ohio State, 20-13

**New Mexico at UTEP**

8 p.m., CSTV
Along with Toledo, the Lobos and the Miners are the only remaining undefeated Coalition teams. UTEP wins one for Conference USA pride.
**Spread:** UTEP by 2 1/2; Pick; UTEP 35-30
**Last week;** 6-4, 5-5 vs. spread; To date: 20-10; 15-12 vs. spread

## CRESCENT CITY CONNECTION

Chris Brown, Tennessee, TE, So. (Jesuit)
Brown, the Volunteers' starting tight end, has caught four passes, two in each game, for 35 yards, going into Monday's game at LSU.

"Chris is first and foremost a football player,"said Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer. "He can play a lot of different positions and we can do a lot of things with him. He's a really good athlete who really understands football and has a knack of finding a way doing what you ask. I am sure his emotions are going to be sky high going to back to Louisiana."

## COACH'S CORNER

*"I apologize to all of the people who have worn those uniforms and have supported us. I thought that was a very poor performance, especially on offense and the kicking game. We stunk it up. All I can do is tell them that we'll work hard to try to get it right."*

— Stanford coach Walt Harris after the Cardinal's 20-17 loss to Division I-AA Cal-Davis.

# INSIDE GAME

*Tulane vs. Southern Methodist*

## THE VITALS

**Kickoff:** 1 p.m. at Ford Stadium in Dallas.
**Records:** Tulane 0-1; SMU 1-2.
**Coaches:** Tulane's Chris Scelfo (31-41, seventh season); SMU's Phil Bennett (7-31, fourth season).
**Radio:** North shore 104.7-FM and Baton Rouge 1210-AM; not broadcast in New Orleans.

## KEEP AN EYE ON

**TULANE WIDE RECEIVERS:** Four receivers played for the first time last week, including Preston Brown, who led the team with nine catches for 117 yards. But Tulane wasn't too successful going deep. In fact, punter Chris Beckman threw the longest reception against Mississippi State, a 27-yarder to Brown on a fake punt. It will be interesting to see which receivers emerge in the next few weeks while quarterback Lester Ricard seeks comfort with some sure-handed teammates.

**SMU'S RUNNING BACK DEMYRON MARTIN:** In the Mustangs' thrilling 21-10 victory against Texas Christian, Martin ran for 118 yards on 26 carries (4.5 yards per carry), and scored two touchdowns. Seven days later at Texas A&M he had eight carries for eight yards. Sure, quarterback Jerad Romo is a scrambler, but for SMU to be successful, its running back must be a threat.

**GAMEPLAN:** Tulane's defense, which had a stellar showing against Mississippi State, will have a vastly different challenge against SMU. The Bulldogs played a lot of two-back offensive sets, where the Mustangs will be running a one-back, option-style offense ñ with a quarterback who is a confident passer. The key will be rattling Romo early. Even though the Mustangs were shellacked 66-8 by Texas A&M last week, Romo gained confidence after the first half. Tulane's veteran linebackers will be asked to contain the elusive quarterback.
On offense, Tulane will try to take advantage of SMU's adequate run defense. Last week, Tulane running back Matt Forte' ran for 66 yards and averaged 3.3 yards, but his backup Jovon Jackson, who had a couple of good practices this week, averaged 4.8 yards on six carries for 29 yards. Both backs are expected to contribute against the Mustangs.

## KEY MATCHUP

**TULANE QUARTERBACK LESTER RICARD VS. SMU'S SECONDARY:** In 2004, Lester Ricard had one of the better second halves of any quarterback in the country. But in the 2005 opener, he looked eerily similar to the inexperienced quarterback in Tulane's 2004 opener. Ricard will have to make better decisions against an SMU secondary, which has shown some signs of success. The Mustangs have picked off five passes, and though it allows 245.7 pass yards per game, that number was skewed by the 405 yards thrown by Texas A&M last Saturday.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Tulane senior linebacker Anthony Cannon led the team with 12 tackles last weekend, the 16th time he reached double figures in his career. With seven more tackles, he will crack Tulane's all-time top 10. ÖTulane does not have one senior on its defensive line. Ö In three games, SMU made only three touchdown receptions ñ one by running back DeMyron Martin and two by Bobby Chase, its leading receiver with 10 catches.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** The Green Wave traveled to Dallas on Friday afternoon. Ö SMU will play its first game against a Conference USA team since joining the conference this season. Ö Tulane spent 13 days in Dallas after evacuating New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina, and the Green Wave spent a lot of time at SMU. The Green Wave ate in the Mustangs' cafeteria, SMU coach Phil Bennett spoke to the Wave, Tulane coach Chris Scelfo spoke to the Mustangs and the Green Wave attended SMU's opener against Baylor (the NCAA waived scouting rules for Tulane during the extenuating circumstances). Also, Bennett shared recruiting lists and evaluations with Tulane.

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** "Anything we can do to help Tulane, we're going to do it ñ other than from (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) on Saturday." — SMU coach Phil Bennett.

**— Compiled by Benjamin Hochman**

# Resilient Wave faces another challenging week

**TULANE,** *from C-5*

after the game that has him worried.

"The concern is not so much Dallas, but between Dallas and Ruston on the bus ride back," Dickson said. "My whole thing is making certain all of the kids are OK and maintaining a stable situation. In the event we do run into some problems after the game, we've got some contingency plans."

Dickson said a Louisiana state trooper will accompany the team to Dallas and will be in contact with Texas law enforcement that will monitor weather and advise the team. If necessary, Dickson said the Wave will spend the night at a facility at SMU.

Many of Tulane's players have grown accustomed to dealing with hurricanes. In 2002, the Green Wave had to alter its practice week before playing host to Texas because of Tropical Storm Isidore. Last season, Tulane's home game with Louisville was postponed until the end of the season because of Hurricane Ivan.

While Dickson is dealing with the possible problems the weather will cause, Scelfo is trying to make sure his players have their minds on their assignments.

"We're excited about playing. Obviously, the weather is going to be a factor for both teams," Scelfo said. "It's the first time we're going to be in the rain plan."

After seeing its first game postponed and being idle the second week of the season, Tulane opened the season last week with a 21-14 loss to Mississippi State.

However, there were encouraging signs. Tulane's defense played well the entire game, and the offense and special teams had their moments in the second half. Tulane held Mississippi State to 225 yards, its fewest allowed since 1997.

"Our guys have had a nice week of practice and are looking forward to it," Scelfo said. "We've got to do a nice job of throwing and catching, and we've got to eliminate mistakes and play as hard as week can."



AP PHOTO

SMU offensive lineman Ben Poynter (66) celebrates after the Mustangs scored a touchdown in a 21-10 win over TCU on Sept. 10.

# Scelfo must try to avoid Wave letdown

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

torch for Tulane University."

They almost carried them across the finish line first against the Bulldogs. The danger, of course, will be if the Wave is willing to settle for being close.

Can't blame the team if it would be, and it'd certainly be logical if Tulane experiences an emotional letdown sometime soon. The team understandably was jacked up for its delayed opener, undoubtedly was hyped at the prospect of hitting and being hit by players other than teammates, undeniably rode some of that emotion to a near victory over a team that probably was bigger and faster and stronger across the board.

But the chance of that lessens or, if it happens, the rebound occurs more quickly as the team settles into a routine. And now they have, because the routine couldn't be complete for players until they actually played a game. Until then, even the seniors still were experiencing something they never dreamed of having to deal with, having been moved and shuffled and postponed until those have become words they won't want to hear anytime soon.

"We're almost as close to normal as we can be," Scelfo said. "A lot of things are not like home, but Louisiana Tech (in Ruston, which is where the Wave currently is housed) has done a tremendous job making us feel welcome. We're the lucky group."

That Tulane is, considering the world of football into which they can withdraw daily, a time when they can concern themselves with something other than hurricanes and evacuations and disrupted lives.

Coaches actively are recruiting players, even without a home facility or campus to show them.

"Recruits can see what Tulane was before the storm," Scelfo said. "They've got to have confidence that it will be rebuilt better than before, like we do."

After the opener, you don't doubt that he can help instill that confidence. After that kind of effort, against a team that had such a significant head start, you get the feeling that this will be Scelfo's best coaching job.

Maybe, it already has been.

# Curtis among many area teams Rita has impacted

*Storm cancels or postpones games*

**From staff reports**

John Curtis and north shore-based District 4-5A teams probably will have to wait another week to open their football seasons.

Their games scheduled for this weekend were canceled Friday by the threat of Hurricane Rita, though Curtis could possibly play Sunday. The storm canceled or postponed all games in the metro area Friday. Curtis was to travel Friday to play Ferriday, located in east central Louisiana. But Patriots coach J.T. Curtis said he was concerned about returning home in bad weather Friday night.

"Getting there was OK," Curtis said. "Getting back was the problem. So we decided against (playing Friday). There is a very remote chance we could play Sunday, but I doubt it. I'll know sometime Saturday."

Instead of making up their games Sunday or Monday, teams in District 4-5A opted instead to cancel this weekend.

This was to be not only the season opener for the eight-team district but also the first week of league play.

Pope John Paul II moved back its season opener against Live Oak to 2 p.m. Sunday. The game was scheduled for Friday night.

Metro-area teams are scheduled to play four games Sunday and two Monday. Two other games ñ St. Charles at Pine and Holy Cross at Fisher ñ might be rescheduled for this weekend.

According to Louisiana High School Athletic Association rules, all games in a given week must be completed by Monday at midnight.

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**Sunday's games**
Live Oak at Pope John Paul II, 2 p.m.
Varnado at St. James, 3 p.m.
Hahnville at Lutcher, 5 p.m.
East St. John at East Ascension, 6 p.m.

**Monday's games**
South Lafourche at Destrehan, 6:30 p.m.
Riverside at West St. John, 7 p.m.

**Games in limbo**
St. Charles at Pine
Holy Cross at Fisher
John Curtis at Ferriday

**Canceled games**
Northshore at Ponchatoula
Slidell at Covington
St. Paul's at Mandeville
Fontainebleau at Hammond
Northlake Christian at Gueydan

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## BOXING

**ETIENNE INDICTED:** A Baton Rouge grand jury indicted former heavyweight boxer Clifford Etienne on charges including attempted first-degree murder, armed robbery, attempted carjacking and kidnapping, stemming from an Aug. 10 incident. According to an affidavit from the Baton Rouge police, Etienne fired a shot and forced his way into a check-cashing business and took more than $1,900. He ran out of the building and was spotted by police. The affidavit said Etienne jumped in a car with two children inside, but could not get it started. He got out of the car and pointed the gun at the police chasing him and attempted to fire, but the gun malfunctioned. Etienne got into a second car and pointed the gun at the driver. When the man asked Etienne for mercy because two children were in the back seat, Etienne pointed the gun at the man and attempted to shoot him, but again the gun jammed. While Etienne tried to clear the jammed gun, the driver got out of the car, and Etienne drove off. He wrecked the car and was caught by police.

## NFL

**HARRISON, WAYNE EXPECTED TO PLAY:** Wide receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne are both expected to be in the starting lineup Sunday when the Indianapolis Colts host the Cleveland Browns. Harrison sat out Thursday's practice after injuring his wrist in Wednesday's workout. Wayne, an Ehret alum, dislocated a finger on his right hand Thursday but returned to practice.

**AROUND THE NFL:** Philadelphia Eagles running back Brian Westbrook missed practice with a knee injury, but is expected to start Philadelphia's game against Oakland on Sunday. Coach Andy Reid held the Pro Bowl running back out as a precaution, just as he did with Donovan McNabb and Terrell Owens earlier in the week. Reid said Westbrook was hit above the knee in Sunday's win against San Francisco. ìI gave him the day off just to let that thing rest up and have him ready for Sunday,î Reid said. McNabb, Owens and kicker David Akers practiced and will play against the Raiders. . . . ESPN.com reported Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan has been fined $20,000 by the NFL for his public criticism of officials following last Sunday's 20-17 victory over San Diego. Shanahan was critical of officials for negating a 61-yard punt return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, flagging Denver for having too many players on the field. At least two players left the Broncos sideline to celebrate the return once Williams broke into the clear but before he reached the end zone. . . . Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich and defensive end Reggie Hayward were upgraded to probable for Sundayís game against the New York Jets. . . . Carolina Panthers safety Mike Minter returned to practice and said his strained right calf won't prevent him from playing against the Miami Dolphins. . . . The Arizona Cardinals placed undrafted rookie tight end John Bronson on injured reserve with a knee injury, promoted cornerback Lamont Reid from the practice squad and re-signed wide receiver Carlyle Holiday to the practice squad.

## BASKETBALL

**ARTEST, O'NEAL, JACKSON PLEAD NO CONTEST:** Indiana Pacers players Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson were sentenced to a year of probation, community service and a fine for their roles in one of the worst brawls in sports history. They pleaded no contest earlier in the day to misdemeanor assault charges stemming from the Nov. 19 brawl with fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills.
AROUND THE WORLD: The Chicago Bulls signed free-agent Darius Songaila to a two-year contract that will reportedly pay him $2.2 million next season. Songaila spent two seasons with the Sacramento Kings, averaging 7.5 points and 4.2 rebounds last season. . . . Lithuania beat Russia 89-78 in a consolation game at the European Championship to qualify for next year's world championship in Japan. The victory assured Lithuania of finishing fifth or sixth, good enough to clinch a spot in Japan. The top six qualify for the worlds.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**PALMEIRO'S SEASON ENDED BY ORIOLES:** Rafael Palmeiro's baseball season is over, the result of a positive test for steroids that proved to be too big a distraction for his teammates to ignore. ìHe won't be dressing for the rest of the year,î Baltimore Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie said. ìWe felt it wouldn't be appropriate for the organization.î The abrupt end to Palmeiro's season came one day after it was learned that he cited a vitamin B-12 he received from teammate Miguel Tejada as possibly causing the positive steroid test. The Orioles said Major League Baseball absolved Tejada of wrongdoing.
**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Astros starter Roger Clemens will miss his scheduled start today because of a sore left hamstring when wild-card leader Houston plays the Chicago Cubs. Clemens injured the hamstring Sept. 3. Astros manager Phil Garner said he doesn't expect him to miss any other scheduled starts. Clemens, who won a record seventh Cy Young Award last year at 42, strained his hamstring while batting in the second inning, and left the game against St. Louis three innings later. He made his next three starts, but didn't look like his usual dominating self. . . . Cubs second baseman Todd Walker, an LSU alum, strained his right knee running the bases in the first inning Friday. Walker spent more than a month on the disabled list after injuring his other knee. He sprained a ligament in his left knee in an April 10 collision with Milwaukee's Carlos Lee. Walker is batting .305 with 12 homers and 39 RBIs. . . . Former Cleveland outfielder Ellis Burks was hired by the Indians as a special assistant to baseball operations. Burks will help instruct and develop players during spring training and will assist Indians general manager Mark Shapiro and his staff with personnel decisions, primarily involving outfielders. . . . The Arizona Diamondbacksí Bank One Ballpark has been renamed Chase Field. Bank One and JP Morgan Chase merged in January 2004.

## AUTO RACING

**NEWMAN SWEEPS DOVER POLES:** Ryan Newman won two poles at Dover International Speedway, taking the top spot for the Nextel Cup race after qualifying first for his start in a Busch series event. Newman drove his Dodge around The Monster Mile at 158.102 mph to easily claim his series-leading sixth pole in NASCAR's top circuit. He'll start first Sunday in the MBNA 400, a pole winner for the 33rd time in his fifth year in Cup racing.

## COLLEGES

**GEORGIA-MISSISSIPPI STATE CHANGED:** Game time for the Mississippi State-Georgia football game today has been changed to 6:45 p.m., the Southeastern Conference announced Friday. The SEC said the game will be televised on ESPN. The change came after the LSU-Tennessee game was moved from today to Monday, the league said.

**AROUND THE NATION:** When Bob Knight leaves the school, associate head coach Pat Knight will take over the Texas Tech program, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and ESPN.com reported. Texas Tech hired Bob Knight in March 2001, six months after he was fired by Indiana. His contract runs through May 2009. . . . UCLA sophomore forward Josh Shipp will seek a second opinion before having surgery on his right hip to repair cartilage. The outpatient procedure was scheduled for Friday at UCLA Medical Center. Shipp, one of four returning starters for the Bruins, was expected to need eight to 12 weeks for recovery.

## HORSE RACING

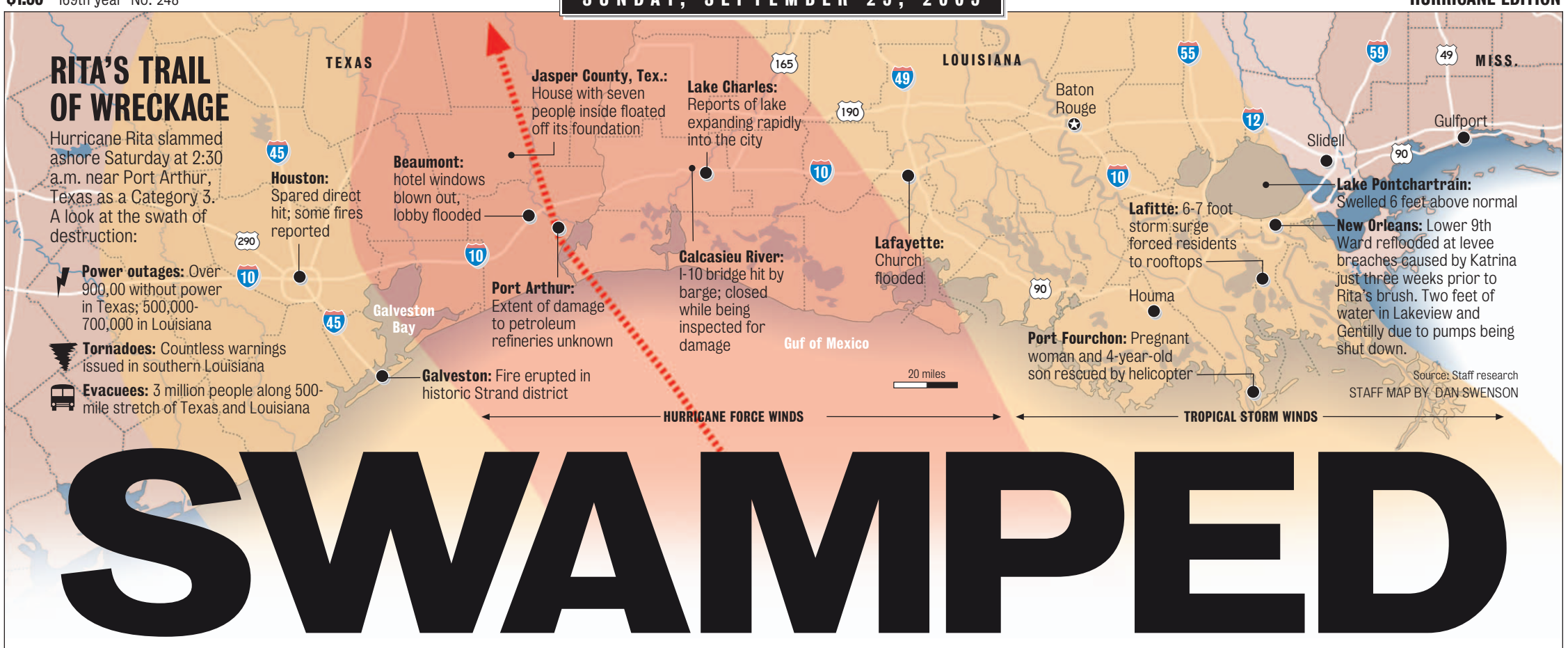
**CHURCHILL COMPLETES SALE:** Churchill Downs Inc. completed its sale of Hollywood Park in Inglewood, Calif., for $257.5 million to a subsidiary of Bay Meadows Land Company and said it would use proceeds to pay down debt. Churchill Downs Inc. is the parent company of the Fair Grounds. Churchill acquired Hollywood in 1999 for $140 million. Churchill will distribute simulcasts for Hollywood and Bay Meadows, and holds an option to reinvest in Hollywood Park if ìsubstantial gaming activities become availableî at the track.

## TENNIS

**RODDICK FINDS HIS GAME AT DAVIS CUP:** Andy Roddick delivered an overpowering 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Christophe Rochus to leave the United States tied 1-1 with Belgium in a Davis Cup consolation in Leuven, Belgium. James Blake lost the opening match of the playoff. Earlier, brother Olivier Rochus opened the best-of-five series with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Blake. In todayís doubles, twins Bob and Mike Bryan play Olivier Rochus and Kristof Vliegen. Sunday's reverse singles pits Roddick against Olivier Rochus and Blake against Christophe. The winner of the series remains in the 16-nation World Group and the loser drops to zonal play next year.
**AROUND THE DAVIS CUP:** Argentina, trying to reach its first Davis Cup final since 1981, got a victory by David Nalbandian over Dominik Hrbaty to even its semifinal series with Slovakia at 1-1 on the first day of the best-of-five series. Argentina is playing in its third semifinal in four years. Slovakia reached the semifinals for the first time after beating last year's champion, Spain, and the Netherlands. At Bratislava, Slovakia, Karol Beck sent the home country to an early lead by defeating eighth-ranked Guillermo Coria 7-5, 6-4, 6-4. Nalbandian tied the series by downing Hrbaty, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3.
**AROUND THE WORLD:** Top-seeded Anastasia Myskina and second-seeded Elena Likhovtseva advanced to the semifinals of the Sunfeast Open in Calcutta, India. Myskina defeated Shikha Uberoi 6-4, 6-2, and Likhovtseva beat Sofia Arvidsson 6-1, 7-5.

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# SWAMPED

## FLOODWATERS SET BACK 9TH WARD, ST. BERNARD RECOVERY

## TEXAS, SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA DRENCHED, BUT DAMAGE FAR LESS THAN EXPECTED




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Police Superintendent Eddie Compass surveys the damage Saturday in the Lower 9th Ward, which includes a submerged school bus. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said Lower 9th Ward flooding rose to as high as 12 feet.

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

Flood waters from Hurricane Rita continued to pour into New Orleans' 9th Ward on Saturday, overwhelming the beleaguered Army Corps of Engineers and threatening to inundate St. Bernard Parish while delaying recovery efforts in the already crippled city.

New levee breaches also swamped parts of Myrtle Grove in south Plaquemines Parish and Jean Lafitte in south Jefferson Parish, areas that were generally dry from Katrina.

In addition to the canal breaches, Rita's 5-foot storm surge and heavy rains flooded parts of Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. Rising water in Lake Pontchartrain also flooded low-lying parts of St. Tammany Parish, from Madisonville to Eden Isles.

Areas of Lakeview and Gentilly were under 1 to 2 feet of water, mainly because the pump stations that normally drain the areas are temporarily shut down to lighten the load on the Corps' makeshift dams on the 17th Street and London Avenue canals. Both dams held strong against the storm surge and were not in danger of flooding, officials said.

"We are working as hard and as fast as we can," said Lt. Col. Richard Waggenaar, the New Orleans district commander for the Army Corps of Engineers. "There's only so much we can do against the forces of Mother Nature. At some point, it just

*See* **NEW ORLEANS,** *A-26*

# In Lafitte, Rita does what Katrina couldn't

**By Paul Purpura and Kate Moran**
Staff writers

After ignoring a mandatory call to evacuate, hundreds of Lafitte residents were plucked from their homes by boat and helicopter Saturday after Hurricane Rita's winds pushed the waters of Bayou Barataria into the low-lying community.

"We misjudged it," said Paul Bailey, who fled his home with cousin George Bailey in a 16-foot flatboat.

"It's rising tremendously," George Bailey added.

Lafitte and the Harvey Canal, the so-called Achilles' heel of the West Bank, kept Jefferson Parish officials on edge throughout the day as crews rushed to the industrial

*See* **LAFITTE,** *A-28*



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**NEW IBERIA:** Jace Marceaux, front, Juan Migues, center, and Toby Provost collect items including hunting bows, guns and paper towels from Migues' mother's flooded house on Avery Island Road.

# Battered border area cautiously exhales

**By Jan Moller and Steve Ritea**
Staff writers

Hurricane Rita slammed ashore early Saturday along the Texas-Louisiana border, dumping several feet of water into the southwest corner of the state and driving some residents to their rooftops to await rescue, although officials said widespread evacuations undoubtedly saved many lives.

"We don't anticipate a large number of deaths" in Louisiana from Rita, said Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. "Most people chose to heed the governor's call to evacuate."

Aides to Gov. Kathleen Blanco cautioned that it was difficult to

*See* **RITA,** *A-25*

**DAY 27** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **841** • New federal program to put cash in evacuees' pockets, A-2 • Rescuers find looted items by the truckload, A-8 • **FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM**


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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Rent payments offered for Katrina evacuees

## *But Blanco wants them to have La. housing*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Launching a new program to provide temporary living assistance and to clear shelters nationwide of people displaced by Hurricane Katrina, the federal government in the next few days will begin making lump-sum payments of $2,358 toward three months rent for each qualified evacuee who obtains housing anywhere in the country.

The news Friday took Gov. Kathleen Blanco by surprise and opened a new rift between her administration and President Bush on the critical issue of how Louisiana will lure back its citizens from the dramatic New Orleans diaspora caused by the storm. It also placed Blanco and Bush at odds over the option of erecting large trailer parks in Louisiana for evacuees.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the lump-sum payments, made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will cover temporary housing costs for "several hundred thousand" homeowners and renters whose homes were destroyed or are uninhabitable. After the initial lump-sum payment, further assistance will be available for up to 18 months depending on the circumstances, he said.

Low-income evacuees who before the storm received federal housing vouchers through the Department of Housing and Urban Development will continue to get financial support through local public housing authorities wherever they choose to live across the country.

"We're going to make sure that victims of this disaster, whatever their economic circumstances, get the necessary financial assistance to ensure that they can obtain a temporary residence for the time being," Chertoff said. "These programs have been designed to give families the maximum amount of flexibility and freedom to decide where they want to relocate and what they want to do over the next few months."

The issue of interim housing has become one of the most controversial among the debates on post-Katrina government policy. Federal and state officials want to get evacuees out of shelters and uncomfortable living conditions as soon as possible, but there is disagreement on where to place them until they can find permanent housing.

The longer evacuees become integrated in places outside Louisiana, state officials say, the less likely they are to return. If they find some form of housing in the New Orleans area, even temporarily, they can fill jobs and help restart the region's economy, the officials say.

Blanco has been pushing for a program to place evacuees in hotels and newly established trailer parks with community services in Louisiana, but she learned of the new federal initiative late Friday morning, just before Chertoff and HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson made the announcement in Washington, D.C.

"The announcement today from HUD and Homeland Security about rental assistance and housing vouchers may certainly address the needs of our friends in Alabama and Mississippi," Blanco said. "But it does little for Louisiana citizens who want to come home, and we'd like our citizens to be able to come to Louisiana for this interim period."

The FEMA rent payments will be a further inducement to keep Louisiana citizens out of state because, practically speaking, few of the payments can be used locally, Blanco said. Hurricane Katrina decimated the housing stock in the New Orleans region, and what was left there and across southern Louisiana has been bought or rented, she said.

Blanco on Friday asked FEMA to accelerate the purchase of blocks of hotel and motel rooms and to "dramatically speed the delivery of trailers for our transitional communities." These would be supplemented nearby with services for health care, education, child care and transportation.

"The path that I've outlined – moving our people from shelters or the homes of in-laws or friends and into hotels and transitional trailer communities here in Louisiana – gives our people hope," Blanco said. "It gives them a clear path that they can see, a path that will help them get their lives together and get them home to Louisiana."

Trailer and mobile home communities have been slow in coming, partly because of the complicated logistics of finding suitable sites that can handle the temporary villages.

Chertoff said FEMA continues to move forward to establish trailer villages in Louisiana and acknowledged that some towns and parishes want them because of the labor force they will provide. But if people decide to live in a FEMA-supplied trailer or mobile home, Chertoff said, they will not be eligible for the new rent subsidy.

"So it's not meant to substitute for the trailers, but it's meant to recognize the fact that as we speak not everybody can or necessarily wants to get into trailers," Chertoff said.

Establishing trailer villages with economic and social support services will require a complex government effort. Chertoff said the lump-sum payment program will reduce red tape.

Sen. David Vitter said no temporary housing solution is ideal, but the key to getting people back to Louisiana is to develop economic opportunities for them to return. He said he needed to learn more about Blanco's and FEMA's proposals to form an opinion on them. But whatever the solution, he said, he does not want the government to make evacuees' lives so uncomfortable that they use their poor conditions as the reason to come back.

FEMA relief programs can give an evacuee up to $26,200 for the emergency needs of food, shelter, clothing, personal items and medical conditions. The agency has sought ways to get initial payments of that cash quickly to the Katrina victims without requiring extensive paperwork and proof of need.

Soon after Katrina, FEMA expedited evacuee checks of $2,000 as an initial emergency payment. More than 747,000 households have qualified for some kind of assistance through FEMA on an immediate basis, and 648,000 of those have received more than $1.5 billion in expedited funds, according to the agency. The new rent program probably will cost about $2 billion for the three-month period, Chertoff said.

To receive the lump-sum payment by check or electronic transfer, evacuees from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana must have registered through FEMA by calling (800) 621-FEMA or applying online at www.fema.gov. Applicants need to register only once, but should update their registration if their address has changed. The initial payment is calculated based on the national average fair market rent rate for a two-bedroom unit. The payment is portable and may be applied to temporary housing costs "for any location an evacuee determines," FEMA says.

**"We're going to make sure that victims of this disaster, whatever their economic circumstances, get the necessary financial assistance to ensure that they can obtain a temporary residence for the time being."**
MICHAEL CHERTOFF
Homeland Security Secretary

Eligible households will receive a letter describing specific rules and guidelines on the eligible use of the funds. Eventually, the submission of rental receipts and other documentation will be required.

Chertoff said the lump-sum checks and bank transfers would start flowing this week, but that people should anticipate it will take a few days to receive them. Those evacuees who have registered for direct deposit will get the money sooner, he said.

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Staff writer Laura Maggi contributed to this story.
Robert Travis Scott can be reached at 225-342-4197 or roberttravisscott@yahoo.com.


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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Passenger ship from Europe will house medical students

*LSU school faced threat to survival*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — In a move to keep a major medical school in operation until it can reopen in storm-ravaged New Orleans, state and federal officials have secured a large passenger ship that will dock on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge to house displaced students and faculty.

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, which usually operates from its building off Tulane Avenue in downtown New Orleans, is the state's leading school for medicine, dentistry, nursing and public health. But like other local facilities it had to close when Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29.

School officials found new locations for classes and clinical training at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center and other sites in the state capital, but faced a more serious challenge finding accommodations for the center's faculty, students and staff.

Baton Rouge has been filled to the brim with evacuees scooping up all the available housing, making it impossible to find rooms for more than 1,700 students and personnel from the center who requested a place to live.

LSU attorney Ray Lamonica said the situation was so dire that the center's future was at stake.

"Housing was just critical to survival,î Lamonica said. Unless LSU found a solution quickly, many students and faculty would have moved to other states, the school might have had to shut down for the year and it could have lost its accreditation.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco's office worked with the Port of Baton Rouge to secure a dock on the west bank of the river at Port Allen. LSU officials, led by medical school Dean Larry Hollier and Associate Dean Keith Schroth, got agreement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use federal money to bring a passenger vessel into Baton Rouge to act as a dormitory.




The 712-foot ferry cruiser Finnjet will dock on the west bank of the Mississippi River at Port Allen and house 1,000 to 1,400 displaced students and faculty of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

FEMA officials quickly recognized the gravity of the problem and acted expeditiously, Lamonica said.

A 712-foot ferry cruiser called the Finnjet is now sailing across the Atlantic from its Baltic Sea home to Baton Rouge at a speed of 22 knots and is due to arrive Oct. 2, Lamonica said. From 1,000 to 1,400 people will live on the ship, which is operated by the Silja Line, a division of Sea Containers Limited.

Parking is available at the dock, and buses will shuttle people from the ship to the Pennington center. The school will provide additional housing in mobile homes on LSU property.

Lamonica said Health Sciences Center classes will begin this week.

Silja has a fleet of 12 passenger ships offering service between Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Germany and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Finnjet was built in Finland in 1977 and renovated in 2004. According to the company's ship profile, the Finnjet has 493 cabins with 1,556 berths, a pool, sauna and cinema. It can hold 395 cars, but will not be used for that purpose while in Port Allen.

Recently the ship has been making regular runs between Germany and St. Petersburg.

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Robert Travis Scott can be reached at (225) 342-4197 or roberttravisscott@yahoo.com.

# Conference to focus on Katrina recovery

*Louisiana planners to discuss strategy*

**Capital bureau**

BATON ROUGE — Several of the world's leading strategists on community catastrophe recovery will discuss "Opportunities in Post-Katrina Louisiana" as part of a recently revised Oct. 6-8 annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association in Shreveport.

With assistance from the national association, the state chapter has set a new theme and brought in a new slate of speakers for its previously scheduled meeting at the Hollywood Hotel & Casino on the riverfront downtown.

An Oct. 7 session will focus on disaster planning and recovery with national experts who will address the challenges to long-term planning amid the overwhelming and immediate needs of disaster victims and the public pressures to rebuild quickly.

Speakers include Jim Schwab, senior research associate of the American Planning Association; Kenneth C. Topping, president of Topping Associates International; Edward J. Blakely, professor of urban planning and policy at the University of Sydney, Australia; and Frederick J. May, a project planner with Advanced Technology Consultancy Services who has worked on disaster recovery projects with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For information, call Juanita Fowler at (318) 357-3840 or visit the Web site at www.planning.org/katrina/chapterworkshop.htm.

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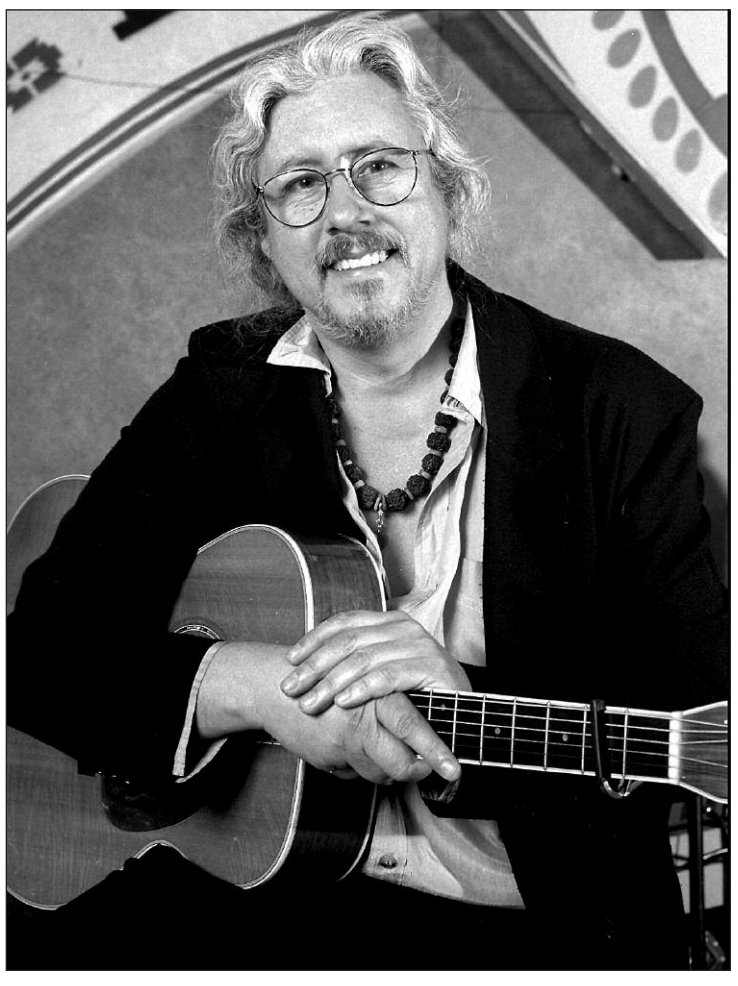
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# Cavalry is coming for New Orleans music



CHRIS ROSE



Folk singer and '60s icon Arlo Guthrie is planning a road trip to help New Orleans' music industry recover from two devastating hurricanes. Sound gear and music equipment will be loaded into the City of New Orleans train to arrive in the city Dec. 17.

Help arrives in many ways these days, and one mission is coming on a train bound for glory: Folk singer and '60s icon Arlo Guthrie has announced a plan to charter the famed City of New Orleans Amtrak rail line to deliver sound gear and musical equipment to the city's ravaged music community.

The journey from Chicago to the Crescent City is intended to help the city's smaller nightclubs and music halls to get back into business and let the good times roll again; the presumption being that many venues have lost their fundamental operating infrastructure due to flooding, looting or just the random disappearance that seems so pervasive in the aftermath of Katrina.

On Dec. 5, the train loaded with lights, cables, soundboards, guitars and amps will embark on a 12-day trek, stopping at small towns and big cities along the way to pick up donations and host benefit concerts, arriving in New Orleans on Dec. 17. A legion of guest stars are expected to join the effort, though a list of prospects is unavailable at this early date.

Of the scores of classic songs written about this beautiful and poetic city, few strike such a wistful and longing chord as the rambling travel epic "The City of New Orleans," written by Steve Goodman but elevated into the public consciousness when Guthrie released it in 1972.

It's not really a song about New Orleans, per se, but about the vastness, isolation and sense of community of the American heartland. And its lyrics and melody have no doubt embedded themselves into the national consciousness as the images of this city's trauma and devastation have played out on TV stations day after day, night after night.

Guthrie's record company was closed Saturday and he was unavailable for comment, but in a statement released on his Web site this week, he said:

"When I think of New Orleans, I think of music. The city of New Orleans is America's first music city. New Orleans is the city that truly began America's contribution to the history of music worldwide. Without it, there'd be no popular music as we know it today.

"When I wonder what they might need in New Orleans to get back on their feet, the stuff that gets ruined under water, I think of all the sound boards, the cables, the lighting, the microphones, the instruments; I think of the stuff you need in the hundreds of little clubs and bars that bring the music to the street — the street that brings the people to the city. And I think of the many thousands of people who depend on those people for their livelihoods.

"I am determined to help restore all of those little places and bring the music back as soon as possible."

Nothing could be better news to a city that has lost its music, its rhythm, its vibe; a city that has virtually lost its way.

Of the vital elements necessary to get this city back on its feet, to help regain its identity, the neighborhood music club business — those dank, smoky, crazy juke joints are certainly at the top of the list.

New Orleans without music is not New Orleans. It's just another place on the map. And that simply won't do.

The day you hear the sound of Kermit Ruffins' trumpet bleeding out of the walls of Vaughn's nightclub in the Bywater and Jumpin' Johnny's Blues Party shaking the walls of the Maple Leaf, that is the day you know we're on our way back.

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MERCK

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Battered UNO plots comeback from 'war room'

*Officials keep tabs on students, shift courses to Internet*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Laptop computers and notepads crowd the top of a rectangular table laced with power and connection cables. A bulletin board crowded with cell phone numbers bears a simple proclamation: "The Urban Flagship Hasn't Sunk." A dozen or so administrators move about, edgy, a little bedraggled, trading bits of information, giving orders, apologizing for occasional profane outbursts.

Another morning in the "war room" of the University of New Orleans races by.

"That's Meg's office, that's Tim's office and this is my office," UNO Provost Rick Barton said, pointing to nearby chairs arranged around the table. He was referring to Chancellor Timothy Ryan and Ryan's executive assistant, Meg Cahill.

Private office space disappeared in Hurricane Katrina, which severely damaged about one-third of UNO's Lakefront campus in New Orleans and sent many of its students and staff members fleeing for shelter.

Now top administrators, many of whom lost homes and vehicles in the storm, are holed up in makeshift offices in the Louisiana State

University System headquarters at LSU's Baton Rouge campus. There, they are employing a Web site, phone bank, laptops and cell phones in a furious bid to keep UNO alive.

"Welcome to UNO; this is their new home," LSU System President William Jenkins said as he darted through the hall. "They're going to be OK."

The remote command center took shape within 48 hours of Katrina's arrival, pulling together people who had evacuated to Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Florida and Tennessee. The crisis-management effort is symptomatic of unprecedented challenges faced by leaders of several New Orleans-area colleges and universities as they try to assess water and wind damage, find alternate course offerings for students and persuade top faculty members not to move away for good.

"Our students need this educational vehicle, so it was important for us to get back" in operation, Barton said late Wednesday morning, as he awaited Ryan's return from a meeting about requests for emergency federal aid.

## Sticking with it

The administrators draw hope from efforts by displaced students to reconnect and keep their academic training on track. About 800 displaced students showed up for a rally and informational meeting more than a week ago at the Baton Rouge campus, and about 9,000 of UNO's 17,300 enrolled students have made contact with staff members, officials said.

Barton was choked up by an e-mail from Wendy Desroché, a student who was scheduled to graduate in December, now taking refuge in

Florida. She was thrilled to find new information on a revamped UNO Web site and that she was able to reach an academic counselor about her courses.

"I will not graduate from any other school other than UNO," Desroché wrote. "It is my home and UNO stands for everything that represents New Orleans. Regardless, I 'will' walk across that stage in my blue cap and gown. I will hold my head high, as I will be a part of the new and everlasting city that is in my blood."

## Classes go online

Rapid-fire decisions have streamed from the war room since the hurricane, with Ryan typically acting after seeking consensus among his top subordinates.

Among the decisions: UNO isn't suspending academics this semester, opting instead to offer, beginning Oct. 10, hundreds of courses online and at UNO's Jefferson Center on Causeway Boulevard in Metairie, after the roof there is repaired. Mandeville High and Slidell High in St. Tammany Parish and John Ehret High on the west bank of Jefferson Parish also will serve as satellite course locations.

The quick shift to offering courses will allow UNO to continue employing nearly all of its 550 full-time professors, although hundreds of part-time instructors have lost their positions because of the storm, Barton said.

UNO officials hope to offer a mini-session of classes in December at the Lakefront campus and then resume full operations in January, even as they seek $103 million for repair or replacement of damaged buildings, along with

*See* **UNO,** *page A-7*


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STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

A boat lies in a Meraux yard where Hurricane Katrina abandoned it. The Coast Guard is conducting an assessment to begin saving vessels and tracking down boat owners so they can file a salvage plan with the agency.

# Boats are next target for search and rescue

*Vessels stranded on land, tangled in marinas*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff writer

A search and rescue mission of another sort is unfolding throughout the New Orleans area as officials begin surveying and salvaging boats and vessels battered by Hurricane Katrina.

Both the Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers are helping with the effort, targeting damaged or sunken vessels and eventually clearing the smaller, private boats abandoned in streets throughout the region.

The Coast Guard is conducting an assessment to begin saving vessels and tracking down boat owners so they can file a salvage plan with the agency, said Lt. Kris Szczechowicz, a spokesman for the Coast Guard.

The location of vessels will be critical as recovery efforts continue, officials said. While the Coast Guard will handle commercial and recreational boats in waterways, the Army Corps of Engineers probably will handle those boats blown onto levees or trapped in hard-hit marinas.

No plans are yet in place for clearing the smaller boats scattered in cities and towns throughout the region. Dana Finney, a spokeswoman for the Corps, said those boats are not covered under a citywide contract for debris cleanup with the Slidell-based Omni Pinnacle company.

The boats, probably used for travel or rescue efforts in the days after Katrina struck, are "not part of the debris mission at this point," Finney said. In recent weeks, the main goal has been to clear streets, often pushing debris to the side of the road or onto medians.

Along with marine vehicles, more than 200,000 abandoned cars remain in New Orleans and will have to be removed, according to reports.

Finney said it's likely that some of the smaller boats might never be claimed and, in that case, the corps eventually will have to make plans to haul them away.

Local leaders might also take the reins with such cleanup efforts, Finney said, adding that the Corps does not automatically take over debris removal.

"If (parish leaders) have another method, that's up to them," she said, adding that the benefit of a Corps cleanup is that it's free.

According to a recent Coast Guard bulletin, vessels and barges must submit salvage plans.

Salvage plans should be faxed to Coast Guard Incident Command Post (ICP) in Alexandria at (318) 443-2573, Attention: Salvage Group. Contact the Salvage Operations Department at the ICP at (318) 443-2565 for more information.

# Students sometimes desperate for help

**UNO,** *from A-6*

$100 million for losses related to personnel. The money will be sought as part of a storm-related federal aid package for Louisiana colleges that will total in the billions of dollars.

Everything is on a fast track because UNO wants thousands of students who have enrolled in other schools across Louisiana and out of state — including about 2,000 at LSU in Baton Rouge — to return home, the provost said.

"Our people are on campus now," he said. "They're replacing windows."

### Doing what it can

The scramble to get UNO back on its feet is laced with bitter personal stories of loss and upheaval. Referring to "Surviving Katrina 2005" T-shirts handed out to UNO students at the Baton Rouge gathering, Norma Grace, a vice chancellor, said, "As we gave these out to students as sort of a rallying thing, so many of them said, 'Thank you, now I have a change of clothes.'"

Business professor Ken Walsh, who was handed the task of managing a phone bank where five lines are lit up almost constantly on weekdays, said most students who call in "breathe a sigh of relief" learning that UNO is still a working entity. But every now and then a caller is distraught, needing mental health counseling or financial help of the sort that a wounded university can't furnish, he said.

"They'll be saying, 'I don't have a car. I lost my car. How do I get a new car?'"

After losing his house to the storm, Bob Cashner, dean of graduate studies at UNO, fretted over the fate of a priceless butterfly collection, one in need of strict environmental controls, on the second floor of a biology building.

Plans were being made to rush a refrigerated truck to the Lakefront campus Wednesday when Cashner got word that, despite weeks spent in sweltering conditions, the rare collection had escaped damage.

"The collection is in very good shape," he said. "We've got time."

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Truckloads of loot recovered in homes

New Orleans Police Sgt. Dan Anderson of the 6th District on Saturday opens a trailer full of recovered looted items, most of which were found in the drier areas of Uptown and Central City. The merchandise included an ATM, a metal detector, a meat smoker and a deluxe aquarium stand.




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

## *Many items still bear bar codes*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

Just as Katrina's receding waters revealed acres of ruined houses, flooded cars and pockets of bodies, the post-storm cleanup also raised the curtain on a trail of mass looting that left even the most jaded New Orleans police officers awestruck.

As search and rescue crews staged house-to-house searches for survivors during the past two weeks, they repeatedly stumbled upon stacks of merchandise -- from large appliances still in the box to knotted tangles of hastily pilfered jewelry.

Much of the loot is being recovered from the drier areas of Uptown and Central City in the 6th Police District.

"At first, we stored the stuff in the garage and locked the metal gate, but the stack grew too big, so we commandeered the trailer from the side of the road and started storing it there," said Capt. Anthony Cannatella, 6th District commander.

That 20-foot trailer rig was quickly filled back-to-front, floor-to-ceiling, so officers began putting everything into a 60-foot trailer until that was packed, too. They're now easily on their way to filling a 40-footer.

A peek inside the trailers revealed the scope of the mass theft: Bicycles, TVs, computers, printers, cameras, lamps, beer, wine, liquor, stereos, toys, clothes, bedding, diapers, power tools, vacuum cleaners, VCRs, DVDs, CDs, CD racks, clocks, an ATM, a digital metal detector, a meat smoker and a deluxe aquarium stand, for starters.

"C'mon," Cannatella said. "Why would anyone take a deluxe aquarium stand? Some of this is just ridiculous."

In normal times, the recovered goods would be methodically tagged and stored in the evidence and property room in the basement of police headquarters, but that storehouse and everything in it was ruined by water that reached the ceiling.

"We can't just allow thousands of dollars of stuff to stay out in the weather or sit in houses where we found it," Cannatella said. "I know it's crazy times, but we're trying to do things by the book here."

A large percentage of the items are still tagged with bar codes from the Tchoupitoulas Street Wal-Mart, a store that was all but cleaned out during six hours of utter pandemonium the day after Katrina hit.

"That's what shocked me most: the total devastation of Wal-Mart," Cannatella said. "We had people who destroyed stuff just out of meanness. Bottles of mustard and mayonnaise, wine, just smashed up against the walls and floors. They cleaned out the building and they destroyed it. The only things left on the shelves were the books and the educational materials."

The Wal-Mart was by no means the only store cleaned out. The Winn-Dixie grocery on Claiborne Avenue, the NAPA Auto Parts on Toledano Street and the Cash America pawn-

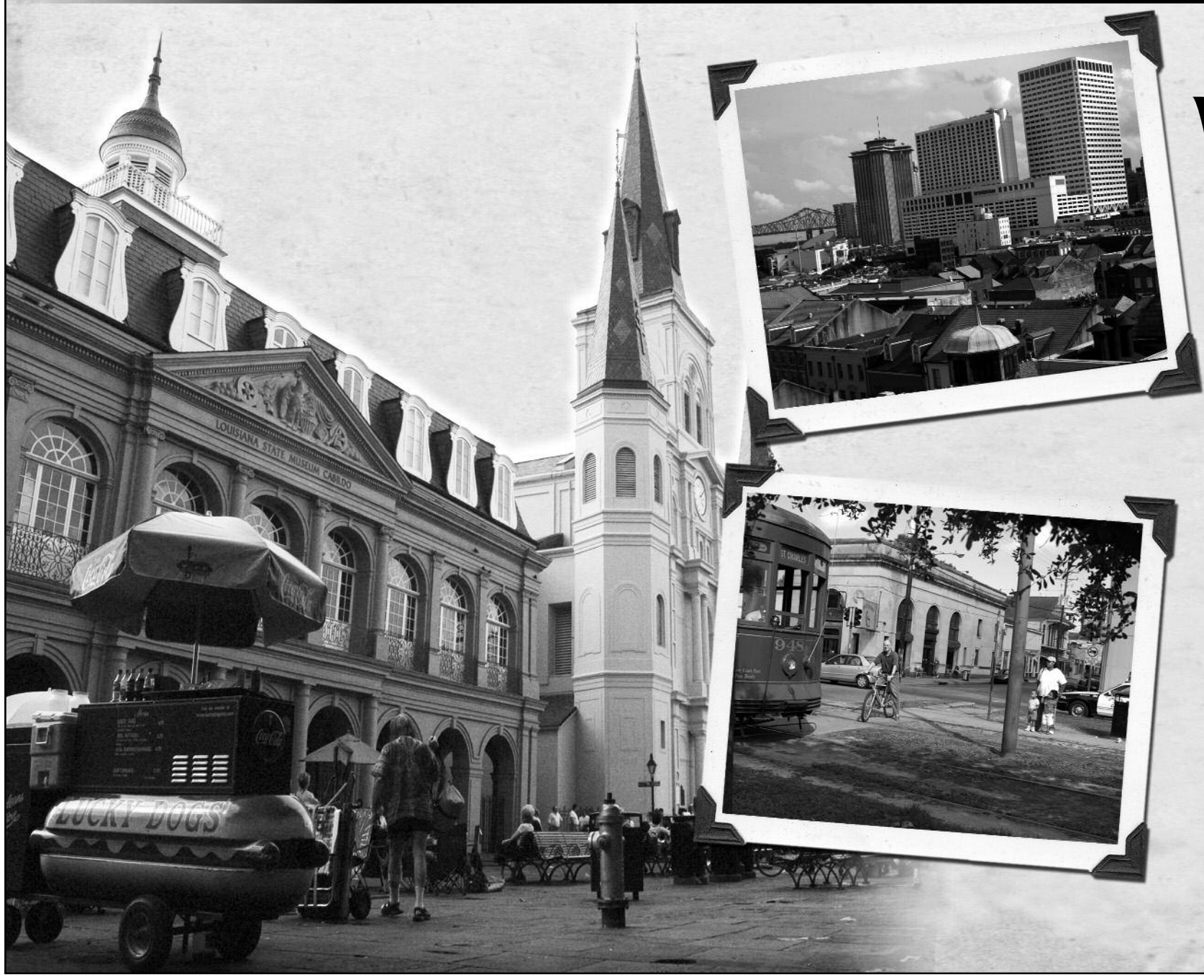
*See* **LOOT,** *page A-9*

**To Whom It May Concern**

**Christopher Reed Morgan is not responsible for the debts incurred by Erin Larissa Morgan as of September 7, 2005. We are in the processs of divorce proceedings.**

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

New Orleans Police Sgt. Terry Wilson holds a fake bomb made from PVC pipes, electrical tape, wires and a desk clock, constructed by a looter to protect merchandise. "It kept my cops at bay for two hours. You can't take a chance that it might be real, so we called the bomb squad," said Capt. Anthony Cannatella, 6th District commander.

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# Wal-Mart could donate pilfered goods to cops

**LOOT,** *from A-8*

shop also were gutted, Cannatella said. Some smaller stores were set afire after they were pilfered. At the now half-emptied Rite-Aid on Carrolton Avenue at Oak Street, a commandeered forklift was used to peel back the metal security gate. At a credit union near Memorial-Baptist hospital, looters smashed through the flooded building in a boat.

"They got almost every store in the district," veteran officer Skip Daughtry said. "All the little corner stores, the grocery stores, they hit them all."

Sgt. Dan Anderson said he still can't get over the futility of the lawlessness. People carted off electronics when there was no electricity, furniture for houses that ended up under water and some piles of goods so unwieldy they were simply abandoned on the street.

"Talk about a lot of effort for nothing," Anderson said. "When that (17th Street Canal) levee broke, they had to leave it all behind."

Some looters, however, went to great lengths to try to protect their stash, Cannatella said. One group posted an armed lookout. A couple of others left their haul in abandoned houses guarded by chained pit bulls, one of which was shot by National Guard troops because the animal had gone berserk. While dozens of looters caught in the act were arrested, no one has been arrested in connection with the recovered goods.

Cannatella said one clever looter rigged a fake bomb using PVC pipes, electrical tape, wires and a desk clock. The realistic-looking device was sitting atop a pile of computers and other boxed items, Cannatella said.

"It kept my cops at bay for two hours. You can't take a chance that it might be real, so we called the bomb squad," he said.

Cannatella said he has spoken with Wal-Mart's loss-prevention managers on what to do with that store's recouped merchandise. One idea in the works is a plan to donate the items to officers who lost everything to the storm. In the 6th Police District alone, Cannatella said 52 of his 132 cops would qualify.

**"That's what shocked me most: the total devastation of Wal-Mart. We had people who destroyed stuff just out of meanness. Bottles of mustard and mayonnaise, wine, just smashed up against the walls and floors. They cleaned out the building and they destroyed it. The only things left on the shelves were the books and the educational materials."**

CAPT. ANTHONY CANNATELLA
6th District commander

WHITNEY BANK ANNOUNCES

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Helping our communities is a Whitney tradition. In order to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in affected areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, The Whitney is offering a special Hurricane Assistance Loan, as well as a Payment Relief Program for victims of the storm:

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- No credit reporting will occur during this period.

**MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS**

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**SMALL BUSINESS CUSTOMERS**

- Updated hurricane relief details may be viewed at **whitneybank.com**.

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- Whitney's BillPay service is operational at **whitneybank.com**. Consumer clients not currently using our online bill payment service can sign up by clicking the Personal BillPay link on **whitneybank.com**.
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- Checks, deposits, and other transactions, including Automated Clearing House (ACH) files used by some business clients to pay their employees, are being processed through our Houston processing center.

Please visit **whitneybank.com** for updated information and other ways Whitney Bankers are assisting our clients and communities to recover from the storm.

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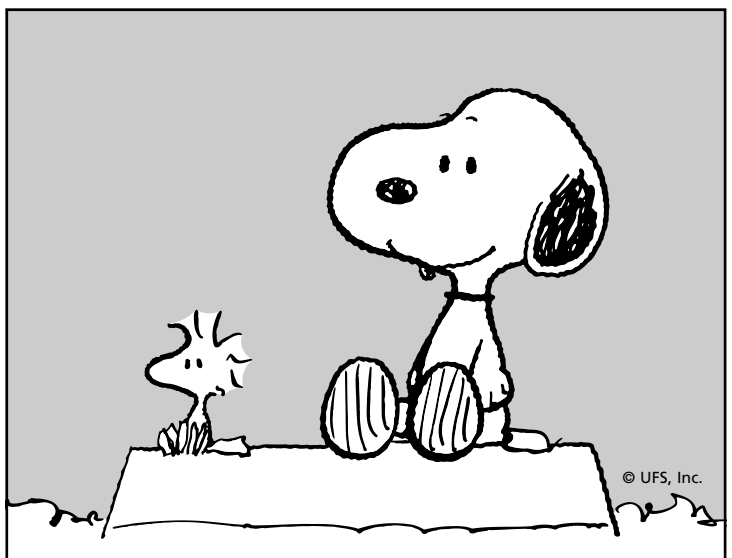
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Entergy New Orleans (ENO), Entergy Corporation's smallest utility subsidiary, is facing nearly half of the more than $1 billion in restoration costs associated with this destructive storm at a time when most of its 190,000 customers are displaced or unable to accept power. Everyone should know, however, that we have a plan to address this situation. The first part for ENO was to file for bankruptcy protection in federal court. We believe this filing permits Entergy Corporation — which remains financially strong — to fund ENO's restoration efforts in advance of receiving other forms of assistance. This is critical.

In addition, ENO, along with Entergy Corporation, is working diligently with the Louisiana congressional delegation, including Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, to obtain direct assistance from the federal government to help rebuild the city's utility infrastructure. This aid will help ensure that our restoration efforts can continue at the same time that ENO's customers are assured they will not be burdened with unaffordable rates in the future.

ENO and Entergy Corporation are committed to the City of New Orleans. Our best efforts to rebuild the electric and gas infrastructure in the city are in the best interests of everyone involved and the most obvious actions we can take to show that commitment.

Meanwhile, we appreciate the tremendous support being shown to us as we work through this difficult situation.

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THE POWER OF PEOPLE℠

# Mississippi reports minor flooding

*Rita brings in 30-mph winds*

**By The Associated Press**

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS. — Flooding was reported in low areas of Hancock County but Hurricane Rita spared most of the heavily damaged Mississippi Gulf Coast more misery, officials said Saturday.

In Hancock County, where a voluntary evacuation order was issued Friday, officials said search teams had been dispatched to flooded areas but there were no reports of injuries or major problems. Most of the flooding, which began Friday, occurred in low areas that normally flood during periods of high water or heavy rain.

At least one medical-relief center for victims of Hurricane Katrina reopened in the county on Saturday.

Rita made landfall early Saturday as a Category 3 storm just east of Sabine Pass, on the Texas-Louisiana line, bringing top winds of 120 mph and warnings of flooding rains.

Though winds continued to buffet Gulfport on Saturday afternoon, Harrison County Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Spraggins said the only damage reported was to trees and roofs already weakened by Katrina on Aug. 29.

"It wasn't nothing that we didn't expect, with 30 to 45 mph winds," he said.

Nor was flooding as bad as some had feared.

Amy Carruth of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said there were no immediate reports of significant Rita-related damage from other parts of south Mississippi.

However, much of the state remained under a tornado watch until Saturday night. A number of tornado warnings were issued during the day Saturday.

Paul Reese, a spokesman for the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center, said a Bay St. Louis radio station lost its transmitter in the latest foul weather.

The low-power FM station WQRZ was being operated by a couple from Bay St. Louis and moved into the emergency operations center after Katrina. With a temporary license from the Federal Communications System to boost power, EOC officials have used the station to provide emergency information to all of Hancock County, Reese said.

Reese said FEMA has arranged to distribute 3,000 battery-operated radios so residents could hear any additional reports of tornado watches or warnings.

The station should be back on the air once more fuel can be delivered to the transmitter site, he said.

# Insured losses from Katrina are likely to dwarf Rita losses

*$6 billion in damages are expected*

**By The Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Insured losses from Hurricane Rita likely will be lower than those from Hurricane Katrina, according to two firms that track costs associated with disasters.

Eqecat Inc. of Oakland, Calif., estimated Rita's cost to insurers will be $3 billion to $6 billion. AIR Worldwide Corp., a risk modeling company based in Boston, forecast insured losses of $2.5 billion to $5 billion.

AIR Worldwide said it expects Beaumont and Port Arthur, both in Texas, and Lake Charles to sustain the most significant damage. Insured losses were expected to extend as far south as Galveston, Texas, and as far east as New Orleans.

Friday, before the storm took a turn to the northeast, Eqecat had estimated that losses from Rita could total $9 billion to $18 billion.

Total industry insured losses related to Katrina are estimated to range from $40 billion to $60 billion.

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For our friends and clients who have been displaced by this storm, please provide us with updated contact information so that we may contact you with information you may need.

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## A MESSAGE TO OUR AFFILIATED PHYSICIANS AT MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER AND LINDY BOGGS MEDICAL CENTER

The last three weeks have been incredibly difficult for everyone in the Gulf Coast Region. I want to express my deep appreciation to all of you who worked side by side with our staff during and after the storm, under what were extremely challenging conditions.

With that intense effort now behind us, I know you are anxious to recover patient medical records and other equipment and belongings that are currently housed in our medical office buildings and hospitals. I want to assure you that we are working to facilitate the safe recovery of those items as quickly as possible.

### Facilities Update

As you may be aware, the only Tenet hospitals currently operating in the Gulf Coast area, on a limited basis, are NorthShore Regional Medical Center in Slidell, and Gulf Coast Medical Center in Biloxi. Kenner Regional Medical Center recently began to reopen a few services on a very limited basis. Meadowcrest Hospital in Gretna remains closed and under the control of Jefferson Parish officials. Over time, we hope to restore additional services at these four facilities.

### Hazardous Conditions

We have completed a preliminary evaluation of our most severely damaged hospitals, Memorial Medical Center and Lindy Boggs Medical Center, and based on initial damage assessments we have quarantined those facilities until we do further testing or remediation and can be assured that the air quality and other internal conditions do not pose a serious health risk. To minimize the danger, security fencing and private security officers will protect these facilities. We expect to have more definitive information about the environmental danger in the next few weeks. At this time, Memorial and Lindy Boggs will be closed indefinitely while we complete the damage assessment and remediation of these facilities.

Once it is safe to enter the facilities, we do not know what kind of condition the records, equipment and other materials may be in. The lowest floors of these buildings were flooded for an extended period of time, and the contents have been sitting in high heat and humidity, without air conditioning or free air circulation for several weeks. There is still no electrical power in the facilities. It is possible that some of the building contents will have to be handled as hazardous materials in order to be removed safely, and will have to undergo some form of hygienic treatment before they may be returned to you.

### Process for Retrieving Records and Property

We have a dedicated team working on this project to help you to retrieve your records and possessions as soon as it is safe to do so. Here is the process we are establishing to ensure that you will be able to recover your items:

• We have put together a team, led by Dave Goodson, which will manage the coordinated efforts of the retrieval process. Beginning the week of Sept. 26 you should contact Dave at 504-329-0304 and provide your name, information about your practice, the property you would like retrieved from the facility, the priority for removal of these items, and your personal contact information. This information will be shared with the teams organizing the recovery of items from our buildings.

• Dave Goodson will contact you directly as we are able to re-enter the facilities and recover records and other items.

### Affiliating with other Tenet Facilities

Our physicians are important business partners, and we want to do everything we can to support you, help you recover from Katrina and keep you within the Tenet system. We will do as much as we can to support you in resuming your practice. If you are interested in affiliating with another Tenet facility in the Gulf Coast region on a temporary or permanent basis, please contact the facility CEOs directly:

NorthShore Regional Medical Center
Mike O'Bryan Phone: 985-646-5051
Email: mike.o'bryan@tenethealth.com

Gulf Coast Medical Center
Michael Terry Phone: 228-388-0570
Email: mike.terry@tenethealth.com

Kenner Regional Medical Center
Paolo Zambito Phone: 504-464-8058
Email: paolo.zambito@tenethealth.com

Meadowcrest Hospital
Phil Sowa Phone: 214-505-4741
Email: phillip.sowa@tenethealth.com

If you are interested in affiliating with another Tenet facility outside of Louisiana and Mississippi, please go to www.tenethealth.com. Click on the "For Physicians" tab, then click the "For Opportunities" link. This will take you to a location that asks for information about your specialty, and the market(s) in which you are interested.

### Office Rental Status

If you currently lease office space from Tenet in a medical office building at Memorial Medical Center or Lindy Boggs Medical Center, we have already abated your rent for a 90-day period from the date of the hurricane. This allows us more than sufficient time to do the necessary testing and inspections to assess the condition of the building and its contents, and make decisions about its future.

### Information Updates

As we move forward, we will keep you informed of developments as frequently as possible. Because of impaired communication capabilities and our lack of contact information for many of our physicians, the most reliable source of information for you is our website. Please go to www.tenethealth.com or to the Lindy Boggs website, www.lindyboggsmedctr.com or Memorial's website, www.memmedctr.com to receive the most current information.

All of us are dealing with a human calamity. We pledge to you that we are focused and working intensely to recover from this disaster, keeping the best interest of our patients, physicians, employees and our communities foremost in our minds at all times. We applaud your courage, determination and professionalism during this ordeal.

Sincerely,

Bob Smith
Senior Vice President
Tenet Texas-Gulf Coast Region

Tenet Texas-Gulf Coast

# AFTER THE STORM

## DEATH TOLL

**LOUISIANA**
**841** (no update on Saturday)
**MISSISSIPPI**
**220**

## POWER

**ENTERGY OUTAGES**
Louisiana: 495,000
Texas: 279,000
Mississippi: 12,000
Arkansas: 2,000

▶ Before Rita struck, Louisiana had restored all but about 212,000 customers. About 170,000 of those are unable to accept electric or gas service, many requiring major repairs or reconstruction.

**CLECO CUSTOMERS**

▶▶As of Friday, Cleco had restored power to 97 percent of Cleco customers affected by Hurricane Katrina whose homes and businesses could take power.

## FOR HELP

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**
(800) 975-7585
**FEMA**
www.fema.gov or
(800) 621-3362
**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS**
Toll-free hotline for people seeking information about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393

▶ Find Family National Call Center, 1-866-326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on persons missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## PARISH-BY-PARISH

**ORLEANS**

▶ The city's previously planned announcement for reopening the least-ravaged parts has been postponed indefinitely.

▶ Algiers residents were allowed to return home Monday but were told they'll need to leave again.

**JEFFERSON**

▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.

▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

▶ Parish is open

▶ 911 phone system is back on line

▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323

▶ FEMA office opens Monday in Slidell. Office is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week at John Slidell Municipal Park, 105 Robert Road

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**

▶ Street cleaning crews worked throughout the weekend.

▶ Gas, food not available; no utility services

▶ Plan to allow residents back into the parish postponed until threat of Hurricane Rita passes.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**

▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line

▶ Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

▶ Parish is open

▶ Utilities are working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**

▶ Parish is open

▶ Utilities are working

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS PARISH**

▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year

▶ Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**

▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools

▶ Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call (225) 819-2846 to register

▶ Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3

▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge to open Sept. 26

**T ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date

▶ Catholic: Several schools are already open. Our Lady of the Lake in Mandeville, Sept. 26.

**ST. BERNARD**

▶ Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**

▶ Public: January target date

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

▶ Public: Open

▶ Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**

▶ Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin the week of Sept. 26.

▶ Catholic: Open.

# Blanco wants to create hurricane aid program

## *La. victims would get help in applying for it*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Saturday that she wants to create a "Family Recovery Corps" to help victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita get the federal and state benefits to which they are entitled.

"Our folks are getting frustrated" in shelters trying to call toll-free numbers and apply for benefits on Web sites, she said. "We want to help people navigate the system. They may be put on hold (on the telephone). It is frustrating."

Blanco called for a joint federal-state effort, but Vice Adm. Thad Allen, the chief federal officer coordinating the hurricane relief efforts, said he would have to review the proposal and consult with officials in Washington, D.C., before deciding whether to endorse it.

She said she would like to deploy 400 to 500 people to help Louisiana hurricane victims – in and out of state – get about $1 billion in personal and business help.

Blanco's chief of staff, Andy Kopplin, said the program is estimated to cost between $15 million and $20 million.

Blanco did not say whether the program would be staffed by existing employees or new hires.



**Gov. Kathleen Blanco**
'This will connect the benefits to the families'

"This will connect the benefits to the families," Blanco said. "Hopefully, we can do that more quickly and efficiently" than the prolonged process of applying for federal, state or private aid.

"It won't be easy," she said. "It will certainly not be inexpensive ... We want our families to know what benefits are available and how to access those benefits."

She said she will contact President Bush to seek his blessing to get the program running.

She said the program is designed to "solve the problems that have arisen" and defuse the frustration of hurricane victims. "People are not connecting with the aid (available)."

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If never before had we had an extraordinary reason to be proud of our community hospital and health system, the time is now. Because of the present circumstance, I feel compelled to offer my thanks and praise. I join my Board Members of West Jefferson hospital in commending you for your brilliant and compassionate work before, during and following Katrina.

August and September 2005 will be a time we will, all, remember. Your deeds to prepare for the critically injured and seriously ill during and following Katrina are with exceptional merit. Your outstanding teamwork and humanitarian spirit was noted not just by us. The country and the world have come to know of West Jefferson Medical Center and your response to Katrina in her horrific wake. While the disaster cry of Katrina was heartless, your response was heartfelt and, at every turn, you made a difference to our patients and their loved ones.

I appreciate your effort and sacrifices during a time when our community was soaked in sadness. We know that many of you worked the 20-hour days and that your courage in the face of potential adversity was stronger than ever. Many of you were touched personally by Katrina. We are so very sorry for your losses.

I will be forever grateful for Mr. Muller's extraordinary leadership and your presence and dedication. You stayed the course to care for the vulnerable and you made decisions based on a fast-changing environment in Jefferson and the region. I also appreciate that Mr. Muller has provided vision for the entire healthcare system during these difficult circumstances. It is testament to his and the hospital family's relationships, that offers of help for our hospital and supplies came in from around the nation.

Thank you, West Jefferson, for keeping us informed through the hospital's web site and local, regional and national correspondents and the press. We've learned of West Jeff's amazing response to Katrina through stories near and afar as well as personal accounts. We are thankful for the military, the National Guard, the faith community, Sheriff's deputies, firemen, medical suppliers and businesses across the land who lent a hand. This was, no doubt, due to a positive outcome of your work and the leadership of our Parish President and the Council. You were offered every protection possible under the circumstances. This effort was multiplied by departments across the hospital and health system resulting in an unprecedented response to an unprecedented situation in our and our country's history.

With admiration for your work and leadership, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charlotte Roussel
West Jefferson Medical Center
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# Rita victims generally wealthier than Katrina's

## *Most people in path had means to leave*

**By Stephen Ohlemacher**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Hurricane Rita smashed into a region that is wealthier, more mobile and much less densely populated than the one devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Most of Rita's victims are by no means wealthy. But they are less likely to live in poverty, more likely to own a car, and less likely to be members of a minority group than Katrina's victims, according to an Associated Press analysis of census data.

Experts said the wealth and mobility of people in Rita's path — combined with a new sense of urgency following Katrina — led to a more thorough evacuation.

"They have cars," said Carnot Nelson, a psychology professor at the University of South Florida. "They have a way to leave. It's as simple as that."

Money and transportation were in short supply for many people affected by Katrina.

In densely populated New Orleans, more than 27 percent of the households had no access to an automobile, according to 2000 census data. The median family income, at $32,300, is nearly $20,000 below the national average.

Fred Medway, a psychology professor at the University of South Carolina, said Katrina's destruction provided incentive for people to flee Rita.

"They have seen what a hurricane can do," Medway said. "That's a very powerful motivator."

Rita made landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border and worked its way north, bringing floodwaters inland.

On the Texas side is Jefferson County, home to Port Arthur and Beaumont, two oil refining towns. To the north are Orange, Jasper and Newton counties.

On the Louisiana side is Calcasieu Parish, home to Lake Charles, and Beauregard Parish to the north.

The AP analysis of 2000 census data showed:

▶ A majority of residents in all six counties and parishes at the center of Rita's wrath were white. Jefferson County, where about 34 percent of the residents are black, had the largest minority population. Orleans Parish, by comparison, was 67 percent black.

▶ Rita's eye tracked over mostly rural areas. The most densely populated county or parish hit by Rita was Jefferson, with 279 residents per square mile. Jasper, Newton and Beauregard all had fewer than 50 people per square mile.

Orleans Parish had 2,684 residents per square mile.

▶ None of the counties or parishes had median family incomes above the national median of $50,000, but all had incomes above the median in New Orleans.

▶ All six counties and parishes had higher poverty rates than the national average of 9.2 percent. But none were close the 24 percent of families in New Orleans living below the poverty level.

▶ Relatively few people in the six counties and parishes did not have access to a car. About 10 percent of the households in tiny Newton County did not have a vehicle, the highest percentage among the counties. In New Orleans, 27 percent of the households did not have a car or truck.

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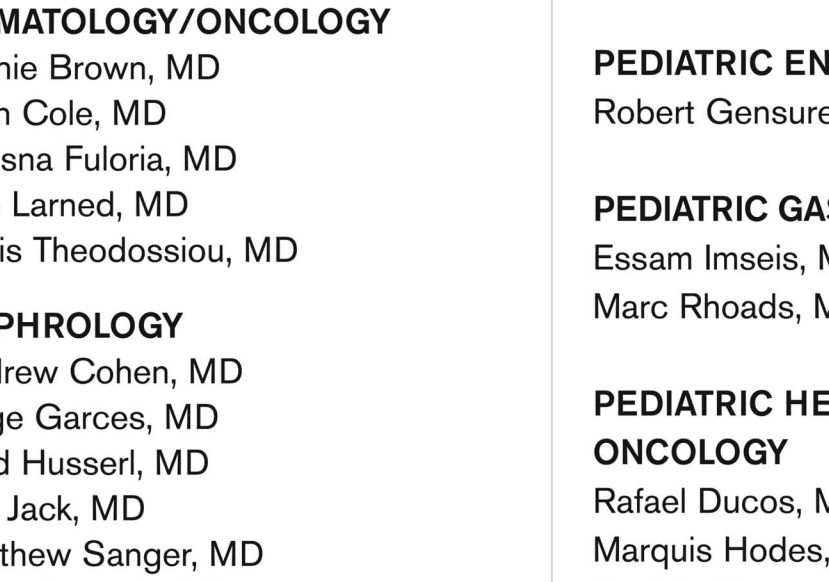
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# Israel strikes back at Hamas, shakes cautious truce

*Gaza incursion is set to begin today*

**By Ibrahim Barzak**
Associated Press writer

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP — Israel launched a "crushing" retaliation Saturday against Hamas in Gaza with deadly air strikes, troops massed at the border and a planned ground incursion after militants fired 35 rockets at Israeli towns, their first major attack since the Gaza pullout.

The escalation threatened to derail a shaky seven-month-old truce and quashed hopes that Israel's ceding the coastal strip to the Palestinians would invigorate peacemaking. Israel's reprisals drew fresh Hamas threats of vengeance. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas came under growing Israeli pressure to confront the militants.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told security chiefs in a meeting that "the ground of Gaza should shake" and that he wanted to exact a high price from Palestinians everywhere, not just Hamas.

He promised a "crushing" response, including air strikes, targeted killings and arrest raids, participants said afterward.

Later, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Security Cabinet authorized a Gaza ground incursion that would begin by today, with artillery fire from the border, and grow in intensity until troops enter the strip later in the week.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicize details of the plan, said the operation would stop only if the Palestinian Authority asserted control over Gaza or Hamas declared an end to rocket attacks.

Israel also sealed the West Bank and Gaza, barring thousands of Palestinians from reaching jobs in the Jewish state.

The crisis erupted amid a major challenge to Sharon's leadership in his hard-line Likud Party and could strengthen the hand of his main rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, who warned the Gaza pullout endangered Israel.

A Likud vote Monday could determine whether Sharon quits the party, a move that probably would bring early elections and prompt him to form a new centrist party to capture mainstream voters.

The heightened violence followed a chain of events starting Friday with an explosion at a Hamas rally in Gaza's Jebaliya refugee camp. At least 15 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded.

Hamas blamed Israel, claiming it fired missiles into the crowd, and said its rocket attacks were in retaliation. Israel denied involvement, and the Palestinian Authority said Islamic militants apparently caused the blast themselves by mishandling explosives.

A senior Palestinian security official confirmed Saturday that friction caused a rocket-propelled grenade in a truck to explode, which then ignited about 10 other grenades. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation.

In a speech Saturday, Abbas also blamed Hamas and renewed demands that armed groups stop flaunting weapons in public. "We are required more than ever before to end this frequent tragedy that resulted from chaos and military parades in residential areas," he said.

Islamic militants took center stage in Gaza after Israel's withdrawal, holding military-style victory parades. Many Palestinians endorsed the militants' claim that they drove Israel out by force.

But the latest bloodshed appeared to put Hamas on the defensive.

The group called Abbas' position "a stab in the back of the martyrs" and a blow to efforts to work out differences between militant factions. Abbas has been trying to co-opt Hamas, mainly through the lure of parliament elections, and has rejected calls by Israel and the international community to confront and disarm militants.

In a nod to Hamas, Abbas reiterated Saturday that elections would be held in January as scheduled and that he would not let outsiders dictate who can participate. Israel has demanded that Hamas be barred.

Under an informal agreement between Abbas and the militants, a ban on displaying weapons was to take effect later Saturday, though it was unclear whether Hamas would honor the deal after the Israeli strikes.

On Saturday afternoon, Israeli aircraft fired five missiles at two cars carrying Hamas militants in Gaza City, killing at least two militants and wounding nine people, officials said. Other officials put the death toll at four.

The strikes meant Israel has resumed targeted killings of Palestinian militants, a practice suspended during the truce. During more than four years of fighting, Israel has killed scores of militants and bystanders in such attacks.

Hamas identified two of the dead as Nafez Abu Hussein and Rwad Farhad, local field commanders. Several hundred gunmen, some firing into the air, joined a funeral procession for Farhad, who was 17.

Farhad's mother, known as Um Nidal, said all three of her sons have been killed in fighting with the Israelis. "I am so proud," she said. "I wish I had more sons to offer."

Vowing revenge, Hamas called on followers in a statement to strike Israel "in every spot of our occupied land." At least three more rockets fell in Israel after the air strike.

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Shaath denounced the strike as an "act of criminal aggression" and accused Israel of trying to destroy the cease-fire that had largely held since February.

On the other side of the border, Eli Moyal, the mayor of Sderot, the Israeli town hit by most of the rockets, criticized the Israeli response as "minimal and insulting." Israeli newscasts showed hysterical residents in Sderot crying and running for cover during an air-raid alarm.

Mofaz also ordered large numbers of ground forces to deploy near northern Gaza, the launching area for most Hamas rocket attacks. At one location, four armored personnel carriers, five tanks and four bulldozers joined a fleet of about 30 armored vehicles regularly deployed there.

Israel also set up five artillery cannons elsewhere on the border, an unprecedented step.

Past Israeli retaliation for Palestinian rocket fire has involved air strikes or ground incursions. Artillery fire is less precise than missiles, and artillery shells fired into densely populated Gaza could cause many casualties.

Army aircraft also dropped fliers throughout Gaza saying that Hamas had sparked the escalation. Hamas' lies are "driving you to destruction and despair," the flier said. It also said the Palestinian Authority must "act immediately" to stop the violence and threatened a harsh response to further attacks.

Despite the violence, several thousand Israelis and Palestinians participated in twin peace rallies Saturday night in Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah. Participants said the tensions in Gaza underscored the need to resume peace talks.

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NATIONAL

# Navy office contracted planes in 'renditions'

## *Terror suspects allege torture after flights*

**By Seth Hettena**
Associated Press writer

SAN DIEGO — A branch of the U.S. Navy secretly contracted a 33-airplane fleet that included two Gulfstream jets reportedly used to fly terrorist suspects to countries known to practice torture, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

At least 10 U.S. aviation companies were issued classified contracts in 2001 and 2002 by the obscure Navy Engineering Logistics Office for the "occasional airlift of USN (Navy) cargo worldwide," according to Defense Department documents the AP obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Two of the companies, Richmor Aviation Inc. and Premier Executive Transport Services Inc., chartered luxury Gulfstreams that flew terrorist suspects captured in Europe to Egypt, according to U.S. and European media reports. Once there, the men told family members, they were tortured. Authorities in Italy and Sweden have expressed outrage over flights they say were illegal and orchestrated by the U.S. government.

The Gulfstreams came under scrutiny in 2001, but the Navy's role in contracting planes involved in operations the CIA terms "rendition" and what Italian prosecutors call kidnapping has not been determined.

"A lot of us have been focusing on the role of the CIA but also suspecting that certain parts of the armed forces are involved," said Margaret Satterthwaite, a New York University School of Law researcher who has investigated renditions.

The Navy contracts involve more planes than previously reported; other news outlets counted 26 planes; the AP identified 33 planes.

Italian judges have issued arrest warrants for 19 purported CIA operatives who allegedly snatched a Muslim cleric from Milan in 2003 and flew him to Cairo, according to FAA records cited by the Chicago Tribune, aboard Richmor's Gulfstream IV. The jet belongs to an owner of the Boston Red Sox who told The Boston Globe that the team's logo was covered when the CIA leased the plane. Another case involves two men taken from Sweden to Egypt in 2001 aboard Premier's Gulfstream V.

**"A lot of us have been focusing on the role of the CIA but also suspecting that certain parts of the armed forces are involved."**

MARGARET SATTERTHWAITE
New York University School of Law researcher who has investigated renditions

Neither the CIA nor a Navy spokeswoman at the Pentagon would comment for this story. Officials at the Navy Engineering Logistics Office, or NELO, in Arlington, Va., didn't respond to messages requesting comment.

Joseph Duenas, counsel for the logistics office, declined to provide the contracts, saying they "involve national security information that is classified."

The secrecy surrounding the deals makes it unclear why NELO issued them, but one reason may be the office's anonymity — the agency is so buried within the Pentagon bureaucracy that some career Navy officials have never heard of it.

The office has been around since the mid-1970s, according to a former employee who spoke on condition of anonymity because NELO's activities are secret. NELO operates under different names: it's also known as the Navy's Office of Special Projects, and its San Diego location is called the Navy Regional Plant Equipment Office.

The AP learned of the airplane contracts through a Freedom of Information Act request that focused on a different subject: permits granted to all 10 aviation companies that let them land at any Navy base worldwide.


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NATIONAL

# Demonstrators demand troops come home

*Thousands march in D.C. day of protest*

**By Jennifer C. Kerr**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON – Opponents of the war in Iraq marched by the tens of thousands Saturday in a clamorous day of protest, song and remembrance of the dead, some showing surprisingly diverse political views even as they spoke with one loud voice in wanting U.S. troops home.

The surging crowd, shouting "Bush out now" and "Peace now," marched in front of the White House and then toward the Washington Monument in an 11-hour marathon of dissent.

They were young people with green hair, nuns whose anti-war activism dates to Vietnam, parents mourning their children in uniform lost in Iraq, and uncountable families motivated for the first time to protest.

President Bush himself was out of town, monitoring hurricane recovery efforts from Colorado and Texas. The protesters shouted for his impeachment.

"We have to get involved," said Erika McCroskey, 27, who came from Des Moines, Iowa, with her younger sister and mother for her first demonstration, traveling in just one of the buses that poured into the capital from far-flung places.

"Bush Lied, Thousands Died," said one sign. "End the Occupation," said another.

While united against the war, political beliefs varied in the Washington crowd. Paul Rutherford, 60, of Vandalia, Mich., said he is a Republican who supported Bush in the last election and still does _ except for the war.

"President Bush needs to admit he made a mistake in the war and bring the troops home, and let's move on," Rutherford said. His wife, Judy, 58, called the removal of Saddam Hussein "a noble mission" but said U.S. troops should have left when claims that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction proved unfounded.

"We found that there were none and yet we still stay there and innocent people are dying daily," she said.

Arthur Pollock, 47, of Cecil County, Md., said he was against the war from the beginning. He wants the soldiers out, but not all at once.

"They've got to leave slowly," said Pollock, attending his first protest. "It will be utter chaos in that country if we pull them out all at once."

From the stage, though, the speeches were hard-edged and critical of Bush on far more fronts than Iraq. Groups representing a bazaar of causes attacked administration policies on the poor, on hurricane response, on the Cuban embargo and much more.

The protest in the capital showcased a series of demonstrations in foreign and other U.S. cities. A crowd in London, estimated by police at 10,000, marched in support of withdrawing British troops from Iraq. Highlighting the need to get out, protesters said, were violent clashes between insurgents and British troops in the southern Iraq city of Basra.

Cindy Sheehan, the California mother who drew thousands of demonstrators to her 26-day vigil outside Bush's Texas ranch last month, won a roar of approval when she took the stage before the march. Her 24-year-old son, Casey, was killed in Iraq last year.

"Shame on you," Sheehan admonished, directing that portion of her remarks to members of Congress who backed Bush on the war. "How many more of other people's children are you willing to sacrifice?

She led the crowd in chanting, "Not one more."

Supporters of Bush's policy in Iraq assembled in smaller numbers to get their voice heard in the day's anti-war din. About 150 of them rallied at the U.S. Navy Memorial.

# Aneurysms patched in Cheney's knees

*Vice president is in good condition*

**By Tom Raum**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON – Vice President Dick Cheney had successful surgery on Saturday to repair aneurysms on the back of both knees and was alert and comfortable after the six-hour procedure, his spokesman said.

Cheney, who has a history of heart problems, was under local anesthesia during the surgery at George Washington University Hospital.

"He will remain in the hospital for up to 48 hours to monitor his recovery. He is expected to resume a regular schedule when he is released to home," said Steve Schmidt, counselor to the vice president.

After the operation, Cheney was "awake, alert, comfortable," Schmidt said.

An aneurysm is a ballooning weak spot in an artery that, as blood pulses through, eventually can burst if left untreated. Cheney's aneurysms, known as popliteal aneurysms, were discovered during his annual physical in July.

Cheney had been scheduled to have only the right knee operated on Saturday but during the surgery his doctors decided to do both at once, Schmidt said. There were no complications.

Cheney had flexible stent grafts put in his knee arteries. During the procedure, the stent graft is threaded through a catheter inserted in the femoral artery at the groin down to the aneurysm site. Fully opened, it's like a little tube inside the artery, keeping the rushing blood from touching the weakened artery walls.

This is a newer technique for patching aneurysms, and an alternative to rerouting blood flow around the weak spot with a vein bypass.

Dr. Bernadette Aulivola, assistant professor of surgery at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., said about 60 percent of patients with this type of aneurysm in one knee also have it in the other. She said the surgery usually is performed on one knee at a time to avoid complications but that if both procedures went smoothly Cheney should recover quickly.

"When he goes home he should be back to normal, basically back to his baseline activity," Aulivola said.

Cheney, 64, has had four heart attacks, quadruple bypass surgery, two artery-clearing angioplasties and an operation to implant a special pacemaker in his chest.




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# Same-sex civil unions coming to Connecticut

*But officials not sure how to handle new law*

**By The Associated Press**

MIDDLETOWN, CONN. – Connecticut's new law allowing same-sex civil unions takes effect next weekend, and justices of the peace are still learning how to handle the new ceremonies.

"On Oct. 1, civil unions become law in Connecticut, but there is not a JP in that room who knows what to do with it," said Saul Haffner, president of Justices of the Peace of Connecticut, which held a conference Saturday on the law. "It's going to be a mess."

**"This has nothing to do with religion. It's a contract. I will definitely encourage other people to think of it like that."**

CARMELA APUZZO
justice of the peace in Orange, Conn.

Connecticut is the first state to pass a civil union law, which will confer the same rights as marriage, without court pressure. Vermont is the only other state that allows civil unions and Massachusetts is the only state that allows same-sex marriages.

The Connecticut law does not require justices and clergy to perform civil unions and some said they won't because of their religious beliefs.

Carmela Apuzzo, a justice of the peace in Orange, did not plan to perform civil unions until a priest told her she would simply be performing civil ceremonies.

"This has nothing to do with religion," she said. "It's a contract. I will definitely encourage other people to think of it like that."

Among the questions faced by justices is what they should say at the end of a ceremony. They were advised to pronounce couples "partners in life" rather than "husband and wife."

Civil union applications will have spaces for "party 1" and "party 2" rather than "bride" and "groom." And the seals cities and towns use to make licenses official will be changed to say "vital statistics" rather than "marriage, birth or death."

Haffner said justices of the peace expect a rush of couples who want to have civil union ceremonies on the day the law takes effect, or soon after. The 2000 census found 7,400 same-sex couples in Connecticut.

But Carol Buckheit of Love Makes a Family, the state's major gay rights advocacy group, said many couples did not schedule civil unions then because Oct 1 is a Saturday and it's not clear whether city and town halls would be open to issue licenses. Only a few town clerks have regular Saturday hours, although a handful will open on Oct. 1 just to issue civil union licenses.

Connecticut will recognize civil unions from Vermont and domestic partnerships from California, but not same-sex marriages from Massachusetts. Connecticut lawmakers who passed the civil unions law also defined marriage as between a man and a woman. Same-sex couples married in Massachusetts can have civil unions in Connecticut.

# Lesbian settles with schools over banned yearbook photo

*She wore a tux, not the traditional drape*

**By The Associated Press**

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.. – A lesbian student has reached an out-of-court agreement about six months after her senior portrait was banned from the yearbook because she was dressed in a tuxedo.

Kelli Davis, now a freshman at the University of South Florida in Tampa, said she hopes the settlement will prevent future discrimination against students.

"It wasn't a gender-identity issue," Davis said. "I'm obviously a female; I don't try and be a guy. But I was being discriminated on because of my gender."

The dispute began earlier this year when Fleming Island principal Sam Ward pulled Davis' yearbook photo because it violated the dress code for senior portraits.

Davis said she wore a tux for her senior photo because it made her feel more comfortable than the traditional female attire, a fabric drape that looks like a dress in the photo. Those were the two options given to students.

The Clay County School Board approved the mediated settlement Sept. 15. It alters the way senior portraits are handled and forces the school system to provide faculty and staff with "sexual orientation" training.

The district entered mediation after Davis threatened to file a federal lawsuit.

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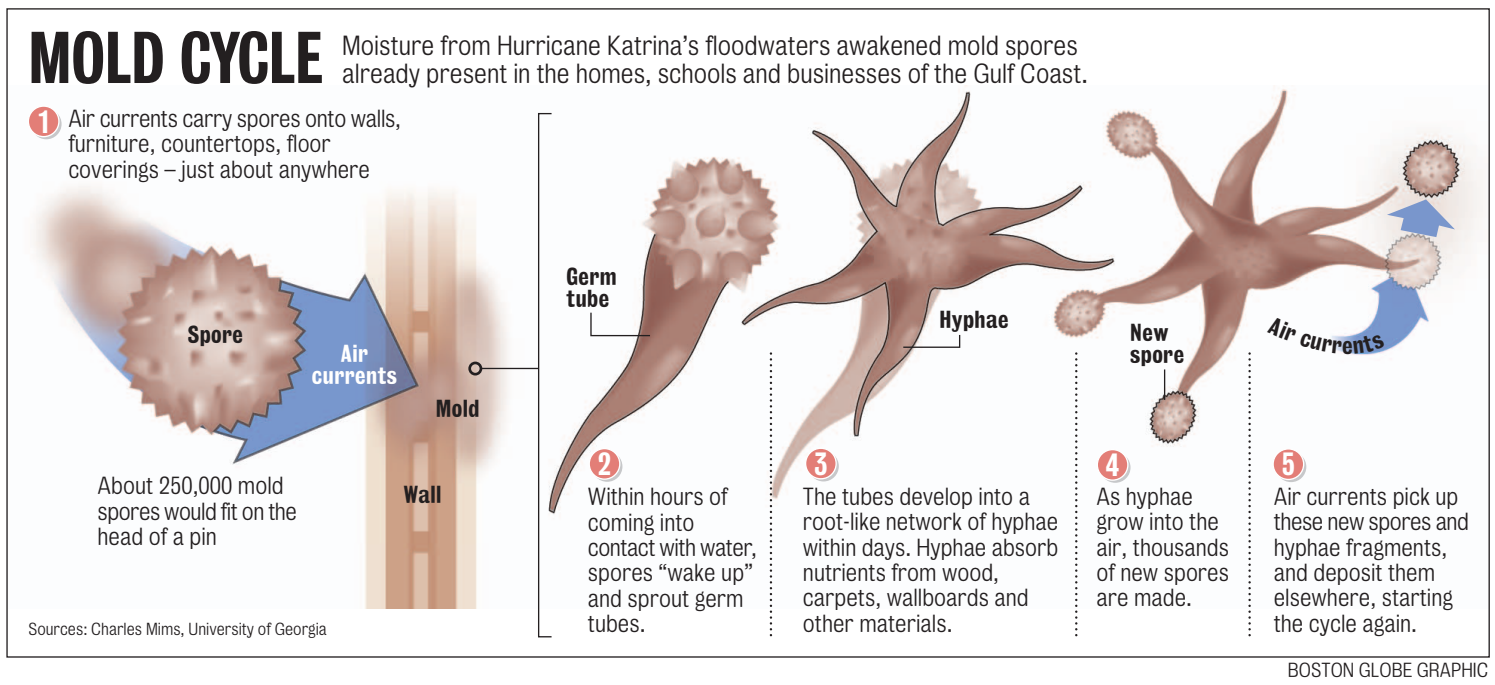
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# When floodwater moves out, mold moves in




BOSTON GLOBE GRAPHIC

*Spores more a threat to structures than people*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

Among the problems New Orleans residents and business owners confront when they return is an often misunderstood, pervasive menace that can eat walls and invade lungs: mold.

As floodwater recedes, it leaves buildings moist and the air humid, an environment ripe for the fungi that disintegrate all things organic. The colorful colonies are festering, but they're not extremely dangerous.

"I don't think it's going to be a major problem," said Dr. Raoult Ratard, Louisiana state epidemiologist. "It's going to be very unpleasant."

Ratard said a few people will be allergic, but their allergies will be no worse than those for pets, ants or bee stings. He pointed out that blue cheese is full of mold, "and I love to eat blue cheese."

He said the problem also is aesthetic, because mold looks and smells bad. In flood-damaged homes, walls and other surfaces are stippled with dalmatianlike patches of black and green; fuzzy networks bloom on couches and along baseboards. The aroma is awful.

There are myriad forms of mold, virtually omnipresent in the air and on surfaces, and they affect people differently. Some can produce toxins, but experts dismiss the term "toxic mold" as an alarmist misnomer.

"The thing to do is take the word toxic out of this," said Dr. Jim Aiken, emergency preparedness director of the Louisiana State University Health Services Center.

The phrase is inaccurate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although certain molds are toxigenic, they are not themselves toxic or poisonous.

Nevertheless, the term inspires litigation and press releases such as one a contractor, www.startremodeling.com, issued Sept. 20, which warns "New Orleans toxic black mold victims" of a "disaster of epidemic proportions."

Although mold can make certain people sick, severe illness is rare, according to the CDC. Common reactions involve allergic, hay feverlike symptoms. Those who suffer

*See* **MOLD,** *A-23*



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

**METAIRIE:** A top hat spotted with mold is on its way out the door of John's Tuxedos, where owner Joseph Hunter was tossing out damaged merchandise Wednesday. Although mold can make certain people sick, severe illness is rare, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


## A NOTE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

**From: Toledano, Herrin & Lopez, A.P.L.C.**
**Attorneys and Counselors at Law**

Dear clients, colleagues, friends and neighbors:

The attorneys and staff of Toledano, Herrin & Lopez express our sincerest sympathy for everyone who suffered losses. We received an outpouring of concern and gestures of support after this tragedy. We especially thank those who expressed their concern for us and our families.

We suffered minimal damage to our offices and are able to offer comprehensive legal representation to individuals and businesses needing services in litigation, insurance claims, construction issues, contractual matters, personal injury claims, real estate issues and criminal matters.

Below is some helpful information and strategies for protecting your family's interests during reconstruction:

1. Check your parish permit office to find out whether out-of-town contractors have registered.
2. Review estimates and read all contracts.
3. Certain parishes are offering construction related permits at no charge.
4. Make copies or record your contractor's license number, insurance information, driver's license number and state of issue.
5. Take pictures before, during and after construction.
6. Generally, construction contracts are not paid in full up front. Pay your contractor on a schedule of completion.
7. When a contractual dispute arises, contact an attorney for advice.
8. Public libraries are temporarily offering free internet and copying services.

Toledano, Herrin & Lopez is located on the North Shore with thirty-five years in the community and serving the greater New Orleans area.

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# Fast response important in fighting mold

MOLD, *from A-22*

from chronic respiratory diseases such as emphysema should avoid exposure to large infestations, which may trigger asthma attacks or breathing trouble.

People who are already sick or have suppressed immune systems, as well as the elderly and children, also should avoid moldy environments.

"All mold should be considered a potential health hazard," said Claudette Reichel, a housing specialist at the LSU AgCenter. "It's a matter of level of exposure, combined with sensitivity, as well as the type of mold and the toxin it might produce."

For those returning to affected buildings, it's best to be prepared. A respirator is recommended, or a mask rated "N95" or higher, meaning its pores are small enough to stop spores, as well as nonporous gloves and eyewear.

Aside from health risks, mold poses structural problems in buildings because it attacks moist materials such as insulation, porous wall board, carpet, rugs or floor pads and paper-covered gypsum board.

"People who are going back to their homes after they have been wet are going to have a problem," Reichel said. "Structurally, decay fungi are a greater concern."

**"People who are going back to their homes after they have been wet are going to have a problem,"**
CLAUDETTE REICHEL
LSU AgCenter housing specialist

Unfortunately for some, a fast response is crucial to prevent or quell infestation. Some businesses already have begun remediation.

Fliers advertising "Biodecon: We spray for biohazard mold and mildew" are posted on Decatur Street, and massive ventilation tubes can be seen connected to the Marriott Hotel on Canal Street, coming out through the roof.

Kevin Phelan, founder of Biodecon, based in Richmond, Va., said his firm garnered $100,000 worth of contracts, including residences and businesses, in about three days. The mold problem, he said, becomes more significant as is left unchecked.

Once it's safe to enter a building, the affected areas should be ventilated.

All moldy materials should be torn out and removed. Because disturbing colonies can release spores, it's best to encapsulate mold, Reichel said, as in plastic bags, before moving it.

Once the materials are removed, residents can clean what's cleanable. A solution of bleach and water kills mold, but dead mold spores can have the same effect. "People think once you bleach, the mold is gone," Reichel said.

A bleach solution can be used on most surfaces, but it's corrosive; don't use it on metal or leather. After cleaning, use a disinfectant, then dry the area as quickly as possible. Air conditioning then helps to pull the moisture away.

Reichel warns residents to be patient and avoid the temptation to replace materials too quickly. Wicking moisture is easily trapped behind walls and in invisible areas.

"Make sure it's dry before you reinstall drywall or insulation," she said.

For information on mold remediation and hazards, visit the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/mold or the AgCenter at lsuagcenter.com, then click on "disaster recovery."

Staff writer Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com

# Rebuilding inches on in small Miss. towns

## *Thousands of homes have roof damage*

**By Holbrook Mohr**
Associated Press writer

PETAL, MISS. — It was the wind, not a wall of water, that Katrina sent into this tiny town about 70 miles north of Mississippi's hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast. But the wounds are deep, and some people wonder if they will ever fully heal.

Almost every home in the town of about 10,000 was damaged, from torn roofs to collapsed carports. Even Petal's municipal buildings, from City Hall to the Fire Department, remained scarred almost four weeks after the hurricane.

"It's going to take months to rebuild, but it'll never be the same," said Elaine Freeman, 31, who was hanging clothes to dry on lines outside her damaged wood-framed home. "We're just trying to be patient. We'll have to get a new roof put on the house."

Throughout the town, blue tarps and clear sheets of plastic covered gaping holes in homes and businesses, and piles of tree limbs, siding and roofing still lined streets.

"We had so many trees down and power outages, it covered every street in the city," said Maj. Shawn Ellis of the Petal Police Department. "We were without power for weeks, and cable is still out in places, but the biggest complaint I'm hearing is that people feel like they're not receiving a response from the insurance companies."

The scene is a familiar one for many small inland communities in southern Mississippi, said Lea Stokes, spokeswoman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

"The eye of that storm went directly through our state," Stokes said. "We have received heavy damage reports from across south Mississippi. And several central and even some northern counties that usually don't see any type of hurricane damage are reporting damage."

In the area around Petal and nearby Hattiesburg to the northeast, more than 3,200 people have requested temporary repairs through Operation Blue Roof, in which tarps are used to protect damaged roofs, said Michael Logue, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers. He said as many as 32,000 roofs could need repairs throughout south Mississippi.

Gary Napoleon sat next to a stack of plywood on the porch of his small, uninsured home and said he had no idea when his repairs would be completed.

"They won't turn the power back on because the roof is gone," he said. "I've been staying in here, but the mosquitoes are tearing me up and it gets so hot at night that you can hardly breathe."

Jim Faulk, a FEMA contractor from Pensacola, Fla., working in the Hattiesburg area, said it could be a year or longer before roofers are able to make permanent repairs to all homes.

So-called blue roofs are still a common sight in the Florida Panhandle nearly a year after Hurricane Ivan ravaged that area, he said.

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- Direct Internet access provided to the American Red Cross and FEMA.
- Meals from an on-site Dining Hall.
- Clothing and other appropriate items from the resort's retail warehouses.

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- A special Recovery Fund has been established as part of the company's employee-funded Voice Foundation.
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AP PHOTO

**LAFITTE:** Rosa Machado, left, walks through waist-high water as her neighbor's trailer burns behind her Saturday.

# 'Now fighting on two fronts'

**RITA,** *from A-1*

make broad assessments because waters were still rising and officials could not get into most areas. Smith said early reports suggested there will be extensive flooding and power outages.

"We are now fighting on two fronts," Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, spokesman for the Louisiana National Guard, said of the Katrina mop-up in New Orleans and the relief efforts for Rita victims in southwest Louisiana.

Officials said they were cautiously optimistic about the condition of oil refineries in the region, although it was too early to survey the damage.

Rita made landfall around 3 a.m. between Sabine Pass, Texas, and Johnson Bayou in Louisiana as a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm headed northwest, directly over Orange and Beaumont, Texas, doing most of its damage to the east in Cameron Parish, where 112 mph gusts were recorded. Storm surge along the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles was up to 8 feet as the storm headed north.

By Saturday afternoon, Rita had been downgraded to a tropical storm and was expected to become a tropical depression by the evening, stalling around Texarkana, where it is expected to dump 20 inches of rain over the next several days, forecaster Sam Shamburger said.

By late morning in New Iberia, a citizen flotilla of airboats and flat-bottomed watercraft was staging in the parking lot of a Lowe's home improvement store, preparing to rescue people who might have been stranded. They fanned out west and south, where Rita's winds brought Gulf of Mexico waters rising up to 15 feet in some places. Among the hardest-hit was the town of Delcambre, which was deluged to levels that longtime residents had never before seen.

Gabe Sigue and Glenn Bernard of New Iberia, who launched their boat at the edge of the floodwaters on Jefferson Island Road, set off in search of friends they feared were missing as a Coast Guard helicopter hovered above. With their friends Quinn and Amy Delcambre, they steered through water that reached the second story of several homes and businesses.

While the wind spared most structures, the floods overturned headstones at the local cemetery and left coffins bobbing nearby.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Waters roil in Lake Charles as the eye of Hurricane Rita makes landfall early Saturday. The storm hit around 3 a.m. between Sabine Pass, Texas, and Johnson Bayou in Louisiana as a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

By mid-afternoon, however, it became clear that most residents managed to escape the storm safely. Mitchell Lancour of Delcambre said he set out in his boat around 10 a.m., when the waters began rising quickly, to search for people to rescue. By 2 p.m., his search had turned up only a few animals left behind by their evacuated owners. "We came to look for people and we found five dogs," Lancour said.

Others spent the day trying to rescue prized possessions. On Avery Island Road southwest of New Iberia, two lanes of asphalt was the only dry ground as houses on both sides of the road sat in waist-deep water that was still rising by early afternoon amid intermittent rain and high gusts.

That's where Jace Marceaux, Juan Migues and two of their friends packed their pickup trucks and waded into Migues' mother's house to retrieve some favorite possessions. They carried crawfish pots, guns and hunting bows into Marceaux's truck before heading back to New Iberia.

In Vermilion Parish, rescue workers spent most of the day retrieving up to 100 stranded residents from rooftops.

"Water is coming up and we are just dealing with it," said Major Ron Sonnier of the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office.

Forty-one of the state's 64 parishes have partially or completely lost power, the governor said. Entergy reported about 495,000 customers without power in Louisiana on Saturday afternoon.

State adjutant general Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau said an additional 4,000 Guard troops from other states have been sent to Louisiana, part of the 15,000 more Blanco requested earlier in the week.

He said he expects more National Guard troops will be on the ground in the next day or two but could not say how many more.

In Lake Charles, Mayor Randy Roach has told citizens not to return home for at least two days because of widespread flooding, and transportation officials said that the Interstate 10 bridge over the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles was struck by barges and had to be closed. The city suffered wind damage and what was described as mostly minor flooding.

In that city, citizens were breathing a guarded sigh of relief early Saturday after the storm blew down thousands of trees and power lines but spared the city from the kind of flooding that officials had originally predicted.

"Really, it was less than I thought it would be," said Rita White, who rode out the storm at The Zone, a bar she owns on the east side of Lake Charles. Except for a few leaks and some tiles that tore off the roof, the bar was dry as of 11 a.m.

The city's downtown was virtually deserted by 9 a.m., when a group of seven nurses and medical technicians who had worked the overnight shift at Christus Hospital were surveying downed limbs and power lines beside the tony houses along River Road on the city's east side.

Kristi Abshire, who manages the hospital's catheter lab, said all but five of the hospital's 150 patients were evacuated in advance of the storm. Three more arrived in the early morning hours on Saturday as Rita was rolling in, she said.

But other communities were not as vigilant in heeding Blanco's call for a mandatory evacuation. Although Blanco said 90 percent of residents evacuated from parishes where it was mandatory, the mayor of Lake Arthur in Jefferson Davis Parish said Friday evening that about 80 percent of the town's 3,200 residents stayed put during the storm.

Giles himself was planning to endure the storm with a half-dozen family members at the Red Rose bar, which he owns. He said he wasn't worried about warnings from parish officials who said the storm could cause widespread flooding in the town, about 10 miles south of Jennings.

"They do that to scare people half to death," Giles said.

To the west, Houston was a virtual ghost town Saturday after 2.5 million residents fled the region in search of higher ground, but the devastation that everyone feared would match Hurricane Katrina never came.

Although some storm damage was reported downtown and the storm left hundreds of thousands without power, the city fared far better than officials expected, although communities to the east were more hard-hit by Rita.

Eighty miles away in Beaumont, trees were ripped up from the earth and the roof of the Hampton Inn had been peeled away by the storm.

By Saturday afternoon, many Texans who had evacuated to San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth began to come home.

Hoping to avoid the gridlock that clogged the region's main arteries, Houston Mayor Bill White and Texas Gov. Rick Perry took to the airwaves and asked residents not to come back immediately. Earlier in the week, hundreds of evacuees found themselves stranded along the highways after drivers drained area gas stations of fuel. State and local officials said they were working to make sure fuel would be available for drivers for the trip home.

Blanco likewise called on residents to conserve gasoline as some of the refineries in southwest Louisiana have been shut down by Rita and some in the New Orleans area have not come on line from Katrina's hit to southeast Louisiana three weeks ago.

"Don't just do idle driving," Blanco urged citizens.

Ed Anderson, Tara Young and John-John Williams IV contributed to this report.

# Rita hampers Nagin plan to repopulate

NEW ORLEANS, *from A-1*

exceeds the capability of man."

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin toured the Lower 9th Ward and said the flooding in the area rose to as high as 12 feet to the top of roofs.

Rita's destruction delayed his re-entry plan by about three to five days. He said residents and business owners in Algiers could possibly return either Monday or Tuesday. He said he hopes to re-populate dry areas of Uptown in the 70115 and 70118 ZIP codes after that.

"Hopefully we won't have another event," Nagin said. "It's like your washing machine. First, Katrina was kind of the wash cycle. Rita seems to be the rinse cycle. I hope we get the opportunity to hang on the line and dry and not go through the spin cycle."

New Orleans Homeland Security Director Terry Ebbert estimated that less than 1,000 civilians remained in the city, not including relief workers and journalists. He said only about 70 people were evacuated for Rita.

The recent flooding postponed search and recovery efforts in the heavily flooded areas of the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish, Ebbert said.

More than 400 first responders were ready to resume missions when the called upon, said Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, who has been put in charge of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said there were no arrests in the city the past two days.

Dan Packer, CEO for Entergy New Orleans, said more than 800,000 homes were without power in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and west Texas. About 200,000 of those were in southeast Louisiana and New Orleans.

Nagin said the re-entry plan is contingent upon officials' ability to restore the area's power and sewage systems and to get the hospitals on line. He said the Touro Infirmary emergency room recently opened. A military hospital with surgical capabilities has also been started in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

A retail operation, which was expected to include Lowe's, Home Depot, Sears and Rite-Aid, also was ready to open in the Convention Center once Nagin's plan is enacted. Goods are ready to be hauled in 18-wheel trucks.

Nagin said his plan to systematically repopulate the area during the next six months would provide a footprint that could support 250,000 to 300,000 people.

Despite the positive news, Nagin said he remains cautious.

"I'm always concerned about it because of our levee being so battered and beaten," Nagin said. "But with the Corps working the way they're working I'm getting more comfortable every day."

The biggest concern remains the Industrial Canal, where an avalanche of whitewater rushed through and over a wide breach that opened Friday morning along the waterway's east side and flooded largely uninhabited areas of the 9th Ward and the St. Bernard communities of Arabi and Chalmette.



A Chinook helicopter works to plug the breach in the Industrial Canal on Saturday. The Industrial Canal's size and depth up to 40 feet prevented the use of sheet metal – used on the 17th Street and London Avenue canals.

STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The water flowed into some parts of Chalmette, flooding north Buccaneer Villa and other neighborhoods north of Judge Perez Drive with as much as 8 feet of water, St. Bernard Parish officials said.

Some areas south of Judge Perez Drive had as much as 3 feet of water. In some areas, the flooding extended as far south as St. Bernard Highway.

As of 11:30 a.m., officials said water had advanced eastward to Packenham Drive, but they hoped that ongoing pumping and low tide this afternoon would slow or stop the flow.

At mid-day, the levees along the 40-Arpent Canal were holding and there was no flooding reported east of Packenham Drive, officials said.

Paris Road outside the parish levee system remained flooded, but that water was receding.

Rita's strong easterly winds created a 5- to 7-foot storm surge that arrived earlier and at higher than expected levels, compromising the repaired breaches, Corps officials said. The breaches were stacked 8 feet high with rocks and small stones but water levels in the canal were already about three feet higher than normal.

"We did not expect the surge to occur (Friday morning)," Waggenaar said. "We expected it this morning (Saturday)."

Waggenaar said officials wanted would more time to build the dam higher but had to work on breaches in other areas of the levee.

"Obviously, it's disappointing," Waggenaar said. "Hindsight is always 20-20. Shoulda, coulda, woulda."

The high winds, with gusts as high as 40 mph, delayed the Corps' efforts to repair the east-side breach using helicopters to drop 3,000- and 7,000-pound sandbags into the openings. The operation, using Army Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters to drop the 1,000 available bags, finally started around 2 p.m.

Repair work started earlier on the west side, where large flatbed trucks and heavy machinery deposited large rocks into the scour hole behind the levee. Sandbags and crushed stone were also piled on top to a height of 10 feet.

Waggenaar said the flooding on the west side of the canal was largely contained to the Desire-Florida area of the Ninth Ward. He said he hoped to have the west-side breach filled by Saturday night.

The other breach, though, will take longer. Even with auxiliary pumps and St. Bernard pumping stations running full time, he said it could take about two to three more weeks to completely drain the lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard areas.

Pumping Station 19 in Orleans Parish, which is capable of pumping 2,000 cubic feet per second, will also be used to drain the area. The main pump station that serves the 9th Ward was rendered inoperable by Katrina.

"It's very disappointing," Waggenaar said. "There were people that wanted to get back in there. We've got to get that water out of there so these people can get back to their homes."

St. Bernard Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez criticized Corps engineers Friday, saying the repair job on the Industrial Canal levee was shoddy and accusing the Corps of exerting more effort to repair a breach on the 17th Street Canal at the Orleans-Jefferson parish line because it protects wealthier neighborhoods than those in the 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

"We are working as hard as we can with the resources we have to repair all areas as fast as we can," Waggenaar said. "He has his opinion. The amount of work that we have done in three weeks across this region is a miracle."

Waggenaar also defended the Corps' repairs job, which also drew criticism Friday from state Sen. Walter Boasso of Arabi. He said the should have blocked the breaches in the Industrial Canal with sheet piling like it did at the 17th Street and London Avenue canals.

The Industrial Canal's size and depth up to 40 feet prevented the use of sheet metal, Waggenaar said. The sheet metal pilings that were driven into the ground at the 17th Street Canal were 50- and 60-feet deep and were supported by the Old Hammond Highway bridge, said David Wurtzel, the Corps' project engineer for the site. He said the water in the canal was about 20 feet deep.

"Those are very narrow and very shallow canals," said Stephen Browning, the director of programs for the Corps' South Pacific region. "The Industrial Canal is very wide and very deep and is also influenced by the river."

The temporary dams on the London Avenue and 17th Street canals will remain in place until water levels in Lake Pontchartrain drop. On Saturday afternoon, the lake was still about 3 feet higher than the water in the canal. Ideally, Waggenaar said the corps would wait until the differentials were within a foot before starting the six-to-eight-hour job of removing the sheet metal dams.

*See* NEW ORLEANS, *A-27*

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# 'It looks like a lake'

**NEW ORLEANS,** *from A-26*

Until then, the standing water in Lakeview and Gentilly will remain because the pumping stations can't start.

"We want to start pumping as soon as we can," Waggenaar said. "That's all dependent on Mother Nature and the weather."

Stray dogs outnumbered people in city streets across Mid-City, the 9th Ward and the 7th Ward. The Lower 9th Ward was inaccessible, as flooding from the levee breach of the Industrial Canal turned the 5000 block of St. Claude and, as far as the eye could see, into a lake.

The wind and rain made air travel in the city difficult at best, and boating was too risky.

"It looks like a lake, but you know there are houses down there," said Ted Reine, 22, of Marrero who Saturday signed a contract with CBS News to chauffer producers around the Lower Nine in his 18-foot flat boat. But the weather forced them to quit early. Hurricane Rita had stopped his dad's contractor business after 16 days of solid work.

A warm, sometimes gusting breeze rippled across the flood waters on St. Claude Avenue near Tennessee. Six-foot high flood waters again gulped the front yards of homes in the neighborhood, which had dried up following weeks of submersion.

Power lines whipped in the wind, licking at now moldy wooden frames and weatherboards.

Shawn Johnson, 30, also a contracted boater, said Friday's storm finished off many of the Lower 9th Ward homes that Katrina had already damaged.

"Katrina knocked a lot of homes off their foundations," Johnson said. "Now they're just falling apart."

From the near desolate and destroyed block of Lesseps and North Roman streets, military helicopters with several large sandbags dangling beneath could be seen headed toward the breached-again 17th Street levee.

A few volunteers from Food Not Bombs, a national grassroots relief organization, spent Saturday cleaning up a swatch of a 7th Ward neighborhood. The group drove its old blue bus into the city a week ago, from Hartford, Conn., to cook vegetarian meals for anyone who needed one. But the military checkpoint system slowed them down.

"It's hard to get through the city," said Ross Harmon, 26, who wore a face mask and dirty boots as he helped haul debris and garbage from the 1700 block of North Dorgenois Street. He pulled up a pant leg to show what National Guardsmen have named the "Creole Crabs," which Harmon insisted would clear up with no side effects in a week or so.

Further east, widespread flooding in north St. Bernard Parish unrelated to the breach in the Industrial Canal swamped the area. Rita's storm surge gouged Lake Borgne and swept more than four feet of water through low-lying areas.

"This is devastating," said B.C. Weinstein, a St. George fireman who tried to wade through the 3-foot deep water to inspect his shrimp boat that was moored along Bayou Bienvenue south of Highway 47. "I lost my home in Katrina and now I might have lost my livelihood. This damn storm messed everything up."

• • • • • •

Staff writers Richard Boyd, Frank Donze, Gwen Filosa, Meghan Gordon, Bruce Hamilton, Michelle Krupa, Trymaine Lee, Gordon Russell and Manuel Torres contributed to this report.

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# Hundreds of holdouts rescued

**LAFITTE,** *from A-1*

dor to plug three levee breaches. Nonetheless, an evacuation of neighborhoods surrounding the canal had not been ordered as of late Saturday afternoon.

The parish closed Peters Road while workers tried to contain the breaches with sandbags, and later Saturday the Army Corps of Engineers opened the canal's locks to allow water to flow into the Mississippi River.

Parish officials will continue to monitor the canals as long as Rita's gusts continue. Walter Maestri, the parish's director of emergency preparedness, said the winds likely will remain a threat through late today.

Anxiety over the Harvey Canal followed a frantic morning in which Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies and National Guard troops had rushed to Lafitte to rescue residents by boat and high-water vehicles. Cost Guard and Navy helicopters also rescued residents. Those pulled from the quickly rising waters were taken to a shelter in Westwego.

Earl Bel stood beside Jean Lafitte Town Hall, soaked to the bone and wearing only black cut-off denim shorts. Moments earlier, he and four family members had been rescued from a raging Bayou Barataria, where the boat they had used to flee to higher ground capsized after striking the Kerner Bridge. Bel said he had expected a 3- to 4-foot storm surge, which would not have been high enough to affect his mobile home, which sits 4 1/2 feet off the ground.

But the last time he saw his home, it had a foot of water inside and his two dogs had drowned, he said.

"This is what I own, what you see," Bel said. "My boots, my clothes are somewhere down the bayou."

## Caught by surprise

Jefferson Parish had ordered residents of low-lying Lafitte, Crown Point and Barataria to evacuate on Thursday at 6 p.m. Parish buses had been dispatched to the area to take residents to a shelter.

Parish Councilman Chris Roberts said hundreds of people ignored the order. Areas south of Goose Bayou received as much as 9 feet of water, Roberts said at midmorning, as water spilled over Jean Lafitte Boulevard and filled the front lawn at Town Hall, consuming Hurricane Katrina relief supplies.

"Some left, most didn't," Lafitte Police Chief Mary Jo Hargis said. "We knew we'd get water, but we didn't expect this amount."

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee said about midday Saturday that his office had pulled about 10 truckloads of people out of flooded areas. About 20 people, many carrying pets and few personal possessions, were crammed into the back of the truck he was in, and still, he said, there were some holdouts left behind.

"A lot of people don't want to leave," Lee said.

At a shelter at Stella Worley Junior High School in Westwego, Andrew Perrin Sr., 82, said he and his wife, Theresa, 76, had evacuated for Katrina but decided to ride out Rita in their Lafitte home.

But when the water began to rise over the banks of Bayou Barataria, they moved to a friend's shrimp boat. When their son told them to leave the village, they waded through knee-deep water to Jean Lafitte Boulevard, where a military truck picked them up.

## Counting on gravity

At Town Hall, Mayor Tim Kerner camped out in his office, looking grim. He had ventured into the flood earlier Saturday morning, and what he saw broke his heart: The Victoria Inn was submerged, and scores of homes were flooded and would likely have to be condemned, he said.

Only the newer homes, built seven to 11 feet above sea level to comply with new building codes were dry. Parts of the town, he said, will be uninhabitable for several days.

"When you think it's going to Texas, you don't expect to get much water," Kerner said.

Kerner said Hurricane Katrina left 30 Lafitte residents homeless. Rita, he said, will doubtless leave at least as many homeless.

The surge was caused by Rita's southerly winds as the hurricane headed for landfall near the Texas-Louisiana coastline. Winds were expected to remain out of the south through today, though the speed is expected to decrease during low tide, possibly allowing water to flow back out, National Weather Service meteorologist Fred Zeigler said. "Hopefully, gravity will overcome the winds."

Tommy Gates fled his home about 7 a.m. in his boat, the only way he could flee. About 3 feet of water inundated his home in four hours.

"I wasn't expecting that," Gates said. "We should have left. We really should have."




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Water boils up from the cracks in the concrete Saturday as employees of the East Jefferson Levee District work to hold back water rising through a storm drain along the Harvey Canal.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Emergency personnel help Claudette and Jerry Perrin carry their belongings to dry land Saturday after the couple was evacuated by boat from Barataria. Hundreds of people in low-lying Jefferson Parish were rescued from rising floodwaters.

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**"Poverty didn't happen overnight, but now it's as if someone lifted up a rock and, wow, there they are, all those poor people!"**

REESE FAYDE, CEO of Living Cities, a New York-based nonprofit group

# American poverty laid bare by Katrina

## *Some see opportunity for drastic changes*

**By Martha Mendoza**
AP national writer

SAN FRANCISCO — "Let me tell you about abandoned people," whispered J.R., his voice rising above the sighs and soft snores of people curled on the church pews around him.

"Those people who were abandoned in New Orleans," he said, "they were abandoned long before that hurricane hit. We all were."

J.R., who gave no other name, spends his days with 100 others, embraced in the holy warmth of a magnificent edifice, 103-year-old St. Boniface Church. Sunlight streams through stained glass, and gilded saints smile down upon them from the domed ceilings. The smells of sour, acrid clothes and bodies mix with the lingering scent of incense.

This looks like an evacuation center: row after row of desperate people and their sparse belongings, a backpack here, a blanket there.

But this roomful of displaced people is neither an emergency shelter nor a temporary situation.

This is an ongoing, daily, chronic disaster.

Ordinarily, the faces of America's poor are as hidden as their stories. But Hurricane Katrina has spotlighted the deep poverty that this country has failed to solve, a world of people who live without Social Security numbers and without running water, people who are too poor to shop at Wal-Mart and whose children go hungry.

Even as the economy strengthened in 2004, Census Bureau figures show that 37 million Americans lived under the poverty line, a jump of 1.1 million from 2003. People living in poverty have, in fact, been increasing steadily in this country since 2001.

For years, advocacy groups and researchers have been shouting the frightening statistics: 45.8 million people don't have health insurance; 25 percent of African-Americans (and 44 percent of Houston's black residents) live in poverty; 36 million Americans are hungry or at risk of hunger.

But before Hurricane Katrina exposed raw poverty and its consequences, no one has wanted to hear this, said Reese Fayde, CEO of Living Cities, a New York-based nonprofit group.

"You are made to feel you are detracting from something good, that you're not patriotic, that you're trying to focus on a niche issue," she said. "Poverty didn't happen overnight, but now it's as if someone lifted up a rock and wow, there they are, all those poor people!"

### An 'invisible' epidemic

The Rev. Cecil Williams, a veteran social activist who leads San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church, said he keeps getting calls from people who say: "'Not only did we not know there was so much poverty, but also that so many of these poor people were black.'"

It's frustrating, Williams said: "We've been there all along, we've been saying the problem is not solved."

But in many cases, poverty is "invisible," said Rosemary Cubas, who lives in one of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods. She said that on her block, four or five families live together in one-bedroom apartments.

"You don't see our poor because we don't let them sleep on park benches or homeless shelters. We just squeeze in, and everyone is overcrowded and underfed."

Living on a very limited income, she said the problem is incredibly complex.

"Where do we go? Poverty is not only in the economics and the food, but also in the ability to see opportunity and take advantage of it. Poverty is also psychological and that leads you to either have hope or no hope, and if you have no hope you are truly, truly poor because you have no way out."

For those who have been living in poverty, and those who have been trying to fight it, the current air of surprise about this chronic disaster is both frustrating and amusing. For some it's also, perhaps, a glimmer of hope.

"I do wonder whether this is one of those moments where, as this country reflects on its values, there's an opportunity for change, for movement," said Olivia Golden, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute in Washington D.C.

"This country has options," said Omowale Satterwhite of the Oakland, Calif.-based National Community Development Institute.

One option, he said, is to put the storm and the shock behind us and move forward as if it didn't happen.

"The other possibility is that the soul of the country gets touched and the entire country is in a dialogue, trying to discover a common truth about who we are and who we want to be," he said.

### Opening eyes

Many who live in poverty now welcome the chance to further expose what their lives are really like.

"I think the normal person would be shocked at what our daily existence is like," said Norman DePover, 50, who spends his days sleeping in the San Francisco church. "Just trying to find a bathroom, something to eat, to get a shower and stay warm, those are my problems."

A few pews away, Brian McDougal, 48, said it's much cheaper to buy secondhand clothes than to use a coin-operated laundry. He replaces his entire wardrobe — the clothes he is wearing — a few times a year.

Denita Jacox, a social worker at the Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis, Ill., said the general public has no idea what her clients are up against.

"East Saint Louis is poverty-stricken," she said. "This is a depressed community. Our families can't afford to shop at Wal-Mart. In the winter they can't pay their utility bills and they are very, very cold."

Nancy Cantor of Scottsdale, Ariz., who lives on about $12,000 a year, said rationing food is a way of life.

"Peanut butter and jelly is good. A can of soup. At the end of the month you cross your fingers and hold your breath," she said. "We hurried up and made room in the shelters for all of the people who were made homeless by Katrina, yet we have people in this country who have lived for years not knowing if they are going to survive the heat and cold."

### No faith

At St. Boniface Church, J.R. pulled a knit blanket tight around his shoulders and considered his role in this country. Is he hidden? How did he get here? Why does he stay?

"This is a capitalist society," he said with all of the pedantic patience of a social scientist. "Capitalism means some people get richer and some people get poorer. In order for this system to work, for there to be really wealthy folks, you've got to have me at the bottom."

He pulled a knit blanket onto his lap and prepared to curl back up on his pew.

"This abandoning," he said, looking around the quiet church, "it was planned from the beginning."

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AP PHOTO

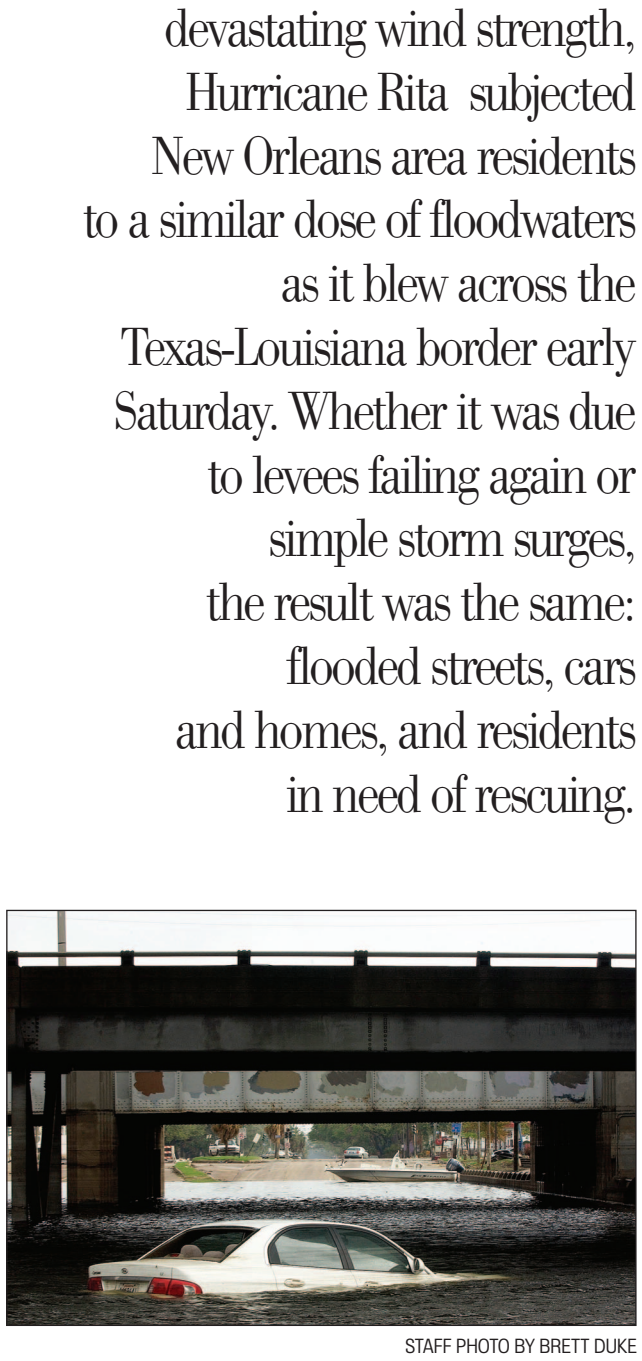
**JEAN LAFITTE:** C.J. Rojas looks over his family's tomb as he wades through a flooded cemetery on Saturday.




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

# SOGGY SEQUEL

While it didn't pack Hurricane Katrina's devastating wind strength, Hurricane Rita subjected New Orleans area residents to a similar dose of floodwaters as it blew across the Texas-Louisiana border early Saturday. Whether it was due to levees failing again or simple storm surges, the result was the same: flooded streets, cars and homes, and residents in need of rescuing.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** A car sits in the shadow of the Interstate 10 overpass on Carrollton Avenue on Saturday, after Rita's floodwaters filled parts of New Orleans again.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** A Coast Guard helicopter flies over a flooded street in the 9th Ward Saturday after a recently repaired section of the Industrial Canal levee failed on Friday.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**DELCAMBRE:** The cemetery behind Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, near New Iberia, is submerged in floodwaters from Hurricane Rita's tidal surge.

# THE WRATH OF RITA

Rita struck near the Texas-Louisiana border on Saturday with a powerful surge that swamped coastal communities. The Lake Charles area in southwestern Louisiana suffered a prolonged pounding as the storm's center passed nearby. Rita weakened as it passed and was later downgraded to a tropical storm, but not before leaving millions without power.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**ST. CHARLES:** John Lawrence Jr., ABOVE, of St. Charles tries to keep his balance, his hat and his emotions as he surveys the damage left behind by the Category 3 hurricane.

**LAKE CHARLES:** Barges are jammed against a railroad bridge across Lake Charles, LEFT, during the height of the storm on Saturday. Rita also knocked loose a barge that slammed into the Interstate 10 bridge spanning the Calcasieu River.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**DELCAMBRE:** A pony, ABOVE, is stranded in floodwater on Jefferson Island Road near Delcambre.

**LAKE CHARLES:** A sailboat, RIGHT, washes up against a railroad bridge near downtown Lake Charles during Hurricane Rita's high winds.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

# Frist got trust updates that he denied receiving

*Shares of HCA sold near 52-week peak*

By Jonathan M. Katz
AP writer

The updates included stock transactions involving HCA Inc., the hospital operating company founded by Frist's family.

Frist's sale of HCA stock is under scrutiny by the federal government. Nashville, Tenn.-based HCA said Friday that it had received a subpoena from prosecutors for the Southern District of New York, asking for documents the company believes are related to Frist's sale of company stock this past summer.

Prosecutors also have contacted the senator's office, Frist spokesman Bob Stevenson said Friday. He said neither the senator nor his office had received a subpoena.

Frist's office confirmed the Securities and Exchange Commission was looking into the sale.

"Senator Frist had no information about the company or its performance that was not available to the public when he directed the trustees to sell the HCA stock," Stevenson said in a statement.

Frist sold his HCA stock from several blind trusts this summer, at a time when insiders in the company also were selling off shares worth $112 million from January through June. Frist aides say he sold his stock to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

Frist, asked in a television interview in January 2003 whether he should sell his HCA stock, responded: "Well, I think really for our viewers it should be understood that I put this into a blind trust. So as far as I know, I own no HCA stock."

Frist, referring to his trust and those of his family, also said in the interview, "I have no control. It is illegal right now for me to know what the composition of those trusts are. So I have no idea."

Documents filed with the Senate showed that just two weeks before those comments, the trustee of the senator's trust, Kirk Scobey Jr., wrote to Frist that HCA stock was contributed to the trust. It was valued at $15,000 and $50,000.

The documents filed by the trustees of Frist's blind trusts were obtained by The Associated Press on Friday.

On Nov. 20, 2002, Scobey wrote Frist that 14,781 shares of HCA were sold, along with three other investments. The same day, Scobey wrote that four other investments were sold, none of them HCA stock.

On May 16, 2002, Scobey advised Frist that four investments were contributed to a Frist blind trust, including HCA stock valued at $500,000 to $1 million. A second letter the same day mentions the same four investments going into a different trust, but with different valuations, including HCA stock valued at $250,000 to $500,000.

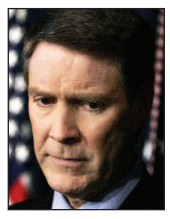
On Jan. 14, 2002, a trustee for Frist's children notified the secretary of the Senate that two investments were added to the blind trusts of Frist's sons Jonathan and Bryan — including HCA stock valued at $5,000 to $10,000. It was not clear whether Frist received a copy of the letter.

Stevenson, the Frist spokesman, said he could not comment on the updates received by the senator. He added that Frist properly notified the Senate Ethics Committee this summer that he was initiating the sale of all remaining HCA shares, a requirement under Senate rules. All the stock was sold by July 1, including shares owned by his wife and children.

"As with the SEC, the majority leader will provide the U.S. attorney's office with any information that it needs with respect to this matter," Stevenson said.

The SEC also contacted HCA on Friday to informally request copies of the subpoenaed documents, said company spokesman Jeff Prescott. "We of course will comply with that request," he said.

Herb Haddad, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, said the office had no comment on the matter. SEC spokesman John Nester declined to say whether the agency had contacted Frist's office.



**Sen. Bill Frist**
Majority leader holds investments in blind trusts

David Becker, who was general counsel at the SEC from 2000 to 2002, noted that both Frist and HCA were being put under scrutiny.

In insider trading cases, "you connect the dots not by simply going from one dot to another but by starting at both dots and working toward the middle," Becker said. "The facts that are public don't come close to demonstrating wrongdoing. It's way too premature to have any judgment."

HCA, the nation's largest for-profit hospital company, was founded by Frist's father, the late Thomas Frist Sr. His brother, Thomas Jr., was formerly its CEO and chairman and remains on the board of directors. Frist is a heart surgeon by training.

Frist asked a trustee to sell all his HCA stock in June, near a 52-week price peak of $58.40 a share. Reports to the SEC showed HCA insiders sold about 2.3 million shares.

Frist's sale came about two weeks before the company issued a disappointing earnings forecast that drove its stock price down almost 16 percent by mid-July and still have not recovered. HCA rose $1.70 Friday, closing at $47.60.

The value of Frist's stock at the time of the sale was not disclosed. Earlier this year, he reported blind trusts with all holdings valued at $7 million to $35 million.


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# Shiites urge constitution support

*U.S. soldier, 5 Iraqis die in bombings*

**By Qassim Abdul-Zahra**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — The leader of Iraq's largest Shiite political organization joined the country's most revered and powerful Shiite cleric Saturday in a strong public push for voter support of a new constitution, three weeks ahead of a national referendum.

Meanwhile, suicide car bombers killed five Iraqis in or near the capital, and the U.S. military said a soldier died in a roadside bombing Friday night in southeast Baghdad. The death raised to 1,913 the number of U.S. service members who have died in Iraq since the war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

In Basra, the country's southern oil hub and headquarters for Britain's 8,500 troops, an Iraqi judge said he had renewed homicide arrest warrants for two undercover British soldiers who allegedly killed an Iraqi policeman trying to detain them.

The Britons were rescued from jail last week by British troops using armor to crash through prison walls. In a sign of continuing tensions and Iraqi fury over the British operation, Katyusha rockets were fired at U.S. and British facilities in the city Saturday, causing no casualties.

The major political development surrounded Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, the head of the Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. His appeal to voters added a key voice of support two days after Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani also directed followers to endorse the charter.

"It is our religious duty to say 'yes' to the constitution and to go to the ballot boxes," al-Hakim told more than 2,000 supporters gathered in Baghdad to mark a 1991 Shiite uprising brutally crushed by then-President Saddam Hussein.

Al-Hakim said militants and former regime supporters were trying to undermine Iraqis' hopes for security — but that they would fail. His SCIRI organization has strong ties to Shiite Iran and controls a powerful bloc in parliament. Al-Hakim took refuge in Iran during Saddam's rule.

Al-Sistani, meeting with aides Thursday in the holy city of Najaf, was the first major Shiite religious figure to urge voters to back the new basic law, according to two top officials in his entourage. The reclusive cleric issues statements only through his office and makes no public appearances.

In January, millions of Shiites heeded al-Sistani's call to vote in Iraq's first democratic elections in nearly half a century. The ballot gave the Muslim sect a majority in the new parliament and government.

Shiite solidarity is essential if the constitution is to pass in the Oct. 15 vote. If two-thirds of voters in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces reject the document, a new government must be formed and the process of writing the constitution started over.

Minority Sunni Arabs are dominant in four provinces and could defeat the new charter if they vote "no" as a bloc in three of them. On Saturday, Sunni clerics and tribal leaders expressed optimism that they could do just that while gathered at a meeting organized to scuttle the charter.

The three-day meeting, held in Amman, Jordan, for security reasons, ended with a communique urging a 'no' vote "if the constitution's main points on Iraq's unity and Arab identity are not rectified, as well as articles related to political and racial segregation."

Meeting organizer and prominent cleric Sheik Abdul-Latif Himayem told The Associated Press he expected at least 51 percent of Iraq's electorate to vote "no" in the referendum.

Sunnis have sharply opposed the draft constitution, largely because it would give Shiites in the south the right to form a mini-state that Sunnis fear will deprive them of oil wealth and ultimately lead to Iraq's fragmentation.

Meanwhile, seething anger resurfaced in Basra, where rockets were fired at the U.S. and British consulates but fell harmlessly in a nearby field, police Capt. Mushtaq Khazim said.

Three more rockets were fired at the Shat al-Arab Hotel, headquarters of the British army, he said. One rocket hit the building without causing casualties. The two others hit nearby homes, wounding a resident, Khazim said.

Also, Judge Raghib al-Mudhafar, chief of the Basra Anti-Terrorism Court, said Saturday that he had reissued homicide arrest warrants for the two soldiers, rekindling hard feelings despite attempts by Iraqi and British officials to cool tempers.

The British government said the warrants had not been delivered and, regardless, were not legal.

"Iraqi law is very clear: British personnel are immune from the Iraqi legal process. They remain subject to British law. Even if such a warrant was issued, it would therefore be of no legal effect," Defense Secretary John Reid said.


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Thank you to the physicians who worked tirelessly at West Jefferson during Katrina and through her aftermath. We were able to offer critical medical and surgical care to patients and storm victims under the most severe conditions because of you. We understand that you made personal sacrifices to be here with us. We appreciate your humanity, your dedication and commitment to our patients, your love and skill for the art and practice of Medicine. Thank you for being here with us despite your personal concerns.

Although many of you were dispersed afar, we appreciate the many members of the Medical Staff who have been able to return to West Jefferson Medical Center and our community. Many doctors' offices are now open; others plan to open soon. We are thankful that your staffs are also here and reflect the same love of community and devotion to the region. Today, West Jefferson is fully operational.

As we all know, having access to medical and surgical care is critical; this recent crisis served as a palpable reminder lest we forget. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to the community to provide quality care to our patients as we all begin the arduous healing process. And together, we welcome back more returning doctors each and every day and wish physicians, as well as their staffs and hospital staff on the way back to our community, a safe journey home.

West Jefferson Medical Center Hospital and Health System. We're family. Our Hospital Family. Thank you, West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff Members!

***The following departments and programs acknowledge their appreciation for the Medical Staff's Commitment during Hurricane Katrina:***

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Amit Ahuja, M.D.
Robert Applebaum, M.D.
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Juan Labadie, M.D.
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Pablo Labadie, M.D.
Elaine LaNasa, M.D.
Glenn Landry, M.D.
Dinh Le, M.D.
Michel LeBrun, M.D.
Leslie Levenson, M.D.
Daniel Lucio, M.D.
Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.
Jose Marina, M.D.
Robert Matheney, M.D.
Emery Minnard, M.D.
Guy Mioton, M.D.
Scott Nicholson, M.D.
Hong Nguyen, M.D.
Richard Paddock, M.D.
Michael Puente, M.D.
Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.
Chris Richards, M.D.
Gabriel Rivera, M.D.
Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro, M.D.
Stephen Rynick, M.D.
Charles Schibler, M.D.
Milton Seiler, Jr., M.D.
N.C. Sekar, M.D.
Sandra Spedale, M.D.
John Steck, M.D.
Patrick Stumpf, M.D.
Rian Tanenbaum, M.D.
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Ivo Tremont, M.D.
Walter Truax, M.D.
Steve Venturatos, M.D.
Alfredo Vichot, M.D.
Mark Workman, M.D.
West Bank Nephrology

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Kenneth Coignet, M.D.
Steven Deloach, M.D.
Jeffrey Guillmette, M.D.
Michael Friley, M.D.
Susan Hemelt, M.D.
Joseph Imseis, M.D.
Patty Jackson, M.D.
Dwight Landry, D.D.S.
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***Thank you, doctors who saw patients or were with us at West Jefferson Medical Center during Hurricane Katrina or the first days following her wrath:***

Steven Atkins, M.D.
Richard Bagnetto, M.D.
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* We're working to update the "doctors' offices open" list every day on our web site at *www.wjmc.org*. If you are a member of the West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff and your office is open and you are not featured in the above applicable lists, please contact Shannon Hebert in the Medical Staff Office at (504) 349-1119 or Carol Hatchett, Physician Liaison in Community Relations at (504) 349-6023.

If you are a community member and do not see your doctor's office in our lists, please continue to call your physician's office to learn his or her availability. To check further, go to *www.wjmc.org* or call the previously listed numbers for assistance.

For a physician referral, call (505) 349-2054.

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WORLD

# Diary of papal conclave reveals surprise runner-up

## *Cardinal breaks vow of secrecy*

**By Nicole Winfield**
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY – A cardinal has broken his vow of secrecy and released his diary describing the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI, revealing in an exceedingly rare account that a cardinal from Argentina was the main challenger and almost blocked Benedict's election.

Excerpts of the diary, published Friday, show Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger led in each of the four ballots cast in the Sistine Chapel during the mystery-shrouded April 18-19 conclave. But, in a surprise, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a Jesuit, was in second place the whole time.

Most accounts of the conclave have said retired Milan archbishop Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini was the main challenger to Ratzinger, who became Benedict XVI after his election, and that a Third World pope was never realistically in the running.

While Bergoglio never threatened Ratzinger's lead — and made clear he didn't want the job, according to the diary published in the respected Italian foreign affairs magazine Limes — his runner-up status could signal the next conclave might elect a pope from Latin America, home to half the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

The diary of the anonymous cardinal is also significant because it shows that Ratzinger didn't garner a huge margin: He had 84 of the 115 votes in the final ballot, seven more than the required two-thirds majority.

His two immediate predecessors, Pope John Paul II and Pope John Paul I, are believed to have garnered 99 and 98 votes respectively, and that was when there were only 111 voting cardinals.

"It does seem that somebody wants to indicate that the conclave was a more complex process than was being depicted and that Benedict's mandate was not a slam dunk," said David Gibson, a former Vatican Radio journalist who is writing a biography of Benedict.

Finally, the diary includes a few surprises, including a vote in the final ballot for Cardinal Bernard Law, forced to resign as Boston archbishop because of the church sex abuse scandal.

And it offers other colorful insights of what went on behind the scenes during the two days the 115 red-hatted princes of the church were sequestered in the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican's Santa Marta hotel to select the 265th leader of the Catholic Church.

Because the hotel prohibits smoking, Portuguese Cardinal Jose Policarpo da Crux would sneak outside for an after-dinner cigar, the diary says. And Cardinal Walter Kasper shunned the minibuses that shuttled cardinals to the Sistine Chapel, preferring to walk by the Vatican gardens instead.

"Sunday, April 17: In the afternoon I took over my room at the Casa Santa Marta. I put down my bags and tried to open the blinds because the room was dark. I wasn't able to. One of my fellow brothers asked a nun working there, thinking it was a technical problem. She explained they were sealed. Closure of the conclave..." the diary begins.

**"It does seem that somebody wants to indicate that the conclave was a more complex process than was being depicted and that Benedict's mandate was not a slam dunk."**
DAVID GIBSON
journalist writing biography of Pope Benedict XVI

The published diary entries were interspersed with commentary from Vatican journalist Lucio Brunelli, who says he obtained the diary through a trusted source he had known for years. He told The Associated Press he spoke in Italian to his source — a hint the cardinal in question was Italian.

Brunelli says he couldn't identify the author because of the vow of secrecy each cardinal took before entering the conclave. Punishment for violating the vow is excommunication.

In Buenos Aires, a spokesman for the archdiocese, Enzo Paoletta, said Bergoglio had no comment on the report.

Nothing official is ever recorded from conclaves and the ballots are burned in the Sistine Chapel stove — ashes that signal to the world through white smoke or black whether a pope has been elected.

As a result, the diary's tallies are unusual, although previously tallies have leaked out piecemeal.

According to the diary, Ratzinger won 47 votes and Bergoglio 10 on the first round of balloting, while Martini got nine and some 30 others got a few votes.

In round two, Ratzinger edged up to 65 and Bergoglio 35.

By the third ballot, Ratzinger had 72 votes, just five shy of the two-thirds majority needed to win. But Bergoglio got 40, just over the threshold needed to stall the conclave if his supporters wanted to.

However, the diary says Bergoglio made it clear he might not have accepted the job. The cardinal recalls watching Bergoglio cast his ballot: "The suffering face, as if he were begging: 'God don't do this to me.' "


# ATTENTION

Parents or Guardians of students *returning* to the Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School System has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of students in the system. Some schools, which were not significantly damaged, will open the week of October 3 to receive students.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Same School**
JPPSS students who can return to their homes in their previous school boundary areas will attend his/her previous school. Bus transportation is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Different School**
JPPSS students who cannot return to their homes and are living in a different part of Jefferson Parish will have to register at the sites listed below during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**East Bank:**
Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. Schhol, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

**West Bank:**
Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**



# ATTENTION

Parents or Guardians of students *new* to Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of students who will be enrolling in the system for the first time.
JPPSS will begin registering new students to attend school from Tuesday, September 27 through Saturday, October 1 in anticipation of reopening some schools on October 3.

Students New To Jefferson Parish Public School System
Students now living in Jefferson Parish who have been displaced from public, private, or parochial schools in other school systems wanting to attend Jefferson Parish public schools will need to register as new students.
JPPSS will staff multiple registration sites throughout the parish during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The sites are:

East Bank:
Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. Schhol, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

West Bank:
Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

Bus transportation for new students is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.



# ATTENTION

Parents or Guardians of students at
Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools
or John Martyn school in the Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important **RELOCATION** information for parents or guardians of students who previously attended Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools or the John Martyn school.

Students of these schools should report to the new location and time listed below.

**Alexander students** are to report at 9:00 a.m. to Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner

**Lincoln students** are to report at 9:00 a.m. to Butler Elem. School, 300 Fourth St., Marrero

**Terrytown students** are to report at 8:40 a.m. to Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown (Boudreaux students report to Boudreaux at 9:00 a.m.)

**Woodmere students** are to report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elem. School, 2500 Bent Tree Ln., Marrero (C.T. Janet students report to C.T. Janet at 9:00 a.m.)

**John Matryn students** are to report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Dr., Jefferson

Students who previously walked to Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere will be assigned to a designated bus stop.

Parents should drop off and pick up their child the first day.

Bus transportation for all other students is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**





# Iran one step from being referred to Security Council

## *Tehran may retaliate, official warns*

**By George Jahn**
Associated Press writer

VIENNA, AUSTRIA — The U.N. atomic watchdog agency Saturday put Iran just one step away from referral to the Security Council unless Tehran eases suspicions about its nuclear activities in coming months — a move the United States has been pushing for years.

The chief U.S. delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency hailed the decision, describing it as a wake-up call for Tehran "to come clean" or face the consequences.

But his Iranian counterpart blasted the approval of the resolution and warned of retaliation. Tehran maintains its nuclear program is for generating electricity.

The decision by the 35-nation board represented a victory for Washington, which says Iran has nuclear weapons ambitions. For more than two years, it has failed to enlist board support to haul Iran before the council for allegedly violating commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"The international community is ... not satisfied with the level of confidence-building measures Iran has so far taken," IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said.

Saturday's decision was far from unanimous, though. Only 22 of the 35 board nations voted for the U.S.-backed European Union motion.

Twelve nations abstained, including Russia and China, which are veto-wielding members of the Security Council, diplomats said. The others were developing nations.

Those supporting the resolution included the United States, European countries, Canada, Australia and Japan. They were joined by India, Peru, Singapore and Ecuador, reflecting support among developing nations.

Javier Solana, the chief EU foreign policy official, welcomed the board's "broad support" and said it left the door open to negotiations with Tehran.

Venezuela cast the only vote against. On Friday, Foreign Integration Minister Gustavo Marquez told the state-run Bolivarian News Agency that powerful countries with nuclear energy programs were unfairly keeping others from developing their own.

The resolution called on the board to consider reporting Iran at a future meeting. As grounds, it mentioned noncompliance with the nuclear arms control treaty and suspicions that Iran's nuclear activities could threaten international peace and security.

Diplomats from countries backing the resolution said it set Iran up for referral as soon as November, when the board next will meet in regular session, unless it dispels international concerns.

Outlining what Iran must do to avoid such action, the draft called on it to give IAEA experts access to nuclear-related documents and sites, suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and ratify an inspection agreement with the IAEA.

Iran last month resumed uranium conversion — a precursor of uranium enrichment, which can make material for either nuclear fuel or the fissile core of warheads.

The chief U.S. representative to the meeting, Gregory Schulte, said the approval reflected board concern over Iran's "long history of concealment and deception."

In opting for referral, the board is "concerned that Iran's activities pose an increasing threat to international peace and security," Schulte said. "The IAEA has called on Iran to ... come clean."

But Iran's delegation head, Javad Vaeidi, said the vote was evidence "there is no consensus on the way forward." He also said, "Threat invokes threat."

Tehran already warned Friday that if the resolution was approved, it could respond by starting uranium enrichment — a possible path to nuclear arms — and by reducing IAEA powers to inspect its activities under the additional agreement it signed but had not yet ratified.

Both threats were contained in unsigned letters and shown by a member of the Iranian delegation to ElBaradei, diplomats accredited to the agency said on condition of anonymity because their information was confidential.

The Security Council could impose sanctions if it determines that Iran violated the treaty, but the draft did not mention sanctions in recognition of Russian and Chinese opposition.


# It's time to stay connected.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we are working hard to restore services and provide communication resources to evacuees and relief workers.

Each day, we deploy hundreds of technicians who are maintaining dozens of temporary generators and mobile cell towers from Lafayette to Gulfport. To help evacuees contact loved ones, we have donated thousands of cell phones to area shelters. And to help support relief efforts, we're providing BroadbandAccess capable laptop computers to public and private agencies across the region.

You can support the relief efforts of the American Red Cross with your cell phone. To make a $5 donation, simply send the word "HELP" as a text message to the address 24357 (2HELP). For more information, call 1.800.HELP.NOW or visit www.redcross.org.

At times like these, it's important that we help any way we can. And stay connected to the things that matter most. One another.

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Sunday
September 25, 2005

DEATHS • B-2
EDITORIALS • B-6



SHEILA STROUP

## Rebuilding a region, one home at a time

When Kevin Buckel returned to Long Beach, Miss., after Katrina came calling, all that was left of his house was a slab.

"It looked like the house just exploded," he said. "The only thing I found was one of my trophies from East Jefferson High School."

But instead of focusing on his own problems, Kevin is thinking about children in Louisiana and Mississippi whose parents are starting over because of the hurricane.

"Kids don't understand why everything they had is gone," he said.

Kevin is determined to make the world a little brighter for those kids through his nonprofit Adopt-a-Family program, which matches families in need with those who can help them.

"Since Katrina, people have been finding my Web site and e-mailing me from all over the country, wanting to adopt a family," he said.

### The personal side of giving

Kevin, 42, started Adopt-a-Family 14 years ago when he was living in Metairie and working in New Orleans.

He saw "a wall of charities" separating needy families from people who wanted to help them. His program breaks down that wall. It lets people see who they're helping. The back-to-school uniform program I write about every August is an offshoot of Kevin's people-helping-people project.

Those who donate money to buy uniforms for a student get a personal thank-you from the child they've helped. And when you get a note that says, "It feels like you are my guardian angel," you know your money was well spent.

Of course, this year Katrina canceled school for New Orleans public school students, and Kevin wants

everyone who contributed to know their checks will be returned or destroyed.

"Little did we know what was just around the corner when we started up the 2005 uniform program," he said.

### Reassembling a household

What was just around the corner turned countless families' lives upside-down, and that's where Adopt-a-Family can help.

It doesn't involve writing a check. Instead, your family or group will gather household items for the people you adopt: dishes, pots and pans, toys, clothing — whatever that particular family needs.

They can be secondhand items in good condition, and you can also buy such things as school supplies, towels and sheets.

"I think it means more when you put some thought and effort into giving," Kevin said.

He is looking for more groups who want to adopt families, and he needs families for them to adopt. He hopes churches, shelters and relief organizations can help with that.

Usually, families and those who adopt them get to meet each other, though that may not be possible if adopters live far away.

But if boxes have to be shipped, you can exchange letters and photos. You can include notes that say, "We care about you." You can make the world a little brighter for someone starting over.

• • • • • •

If you'd like to adopt a family, or if your relief group has identified families in need of help, call (504)831-4312 or e-mail Kevin at kbuckel@cableone.net. For information, go to www.la-adoptafamily.com.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net.

# Low-lying St. Tammany floods again

## *Power goes out in 8,000 homes*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Winds from Hurricane Rita caused widespread flooding across low-lying areas of St. Tammany Parish from Madisonville to Eden Isles.

The winds left about 8,000 homes without power, but officials said Saturday it appeared the structures that flooded were those that had taken on water during Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29. Cleco workers were crisscrossing the parish trying to restore power, and Cleco spokeswoman Susan Broussard said no prolonged outages are anticipated.

Within Slidell, flowing was widespread, as anticipated, in the Palm Lake subdivision sandwiched between Bayou Liberty and Lake Pontchartrain. As they had during Katrina, floodwaters flowed across much of Eden Isles and Oak Harbor subdivisions south of Slidell.

"We have flooded homes in those areas but we have no reports of any homes getting water this time that were not already wiped out by Katrina," said parish spokeswoman Suzanne Parsons-Stymiest.

In Mandeville, clusters of residents who ignored a mandatory evacuation order for flood-prone areas gawked at rising floodwaters Saturday.

"The surge exceeded our expectations," said Mayor Eddie Price, out early Saturday walking every street of old Mandeville for a visual inspection.

Across the city's lakefront, water pushed up every north-south street for almost two

*See* **TAMMANY,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Nick Chronis, left, pulls a raft of supplies down Lafitte Street in Mandeville with help from his wife, Diane, and neighbor Scott Olson. The trio, who ignored evacuation orders for flood-prone areas, was heading to the Chronis' condo.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA

Before leaving for school, 10-year-old Timothy Martin, left, changes his nephew's diaper with help from his brother Taman, 9, and sister Kennisha, 14. The 9th Ward family living at the Baton Rouge River Center has finally started to settle back into routines that education officials say give children stability. 'They adapt well,' Odetta Martin said of her children.

# CHILDREN *of the* STORM

## *Communities opening schools for evacuees*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

Jarvis McKnight has always been a heavy sleeper.

Even though the 7-year-old's entire family has been bunking on cots beside strangers for the past few weeks, that small quirk of family life has not changed.

"You've got to fight him," said his mother, Joann, eyeballing her son as he pulled his new school uniform, a donated green polo shirt, over his head at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales.

*See* **CHILDREN,** *B-2*



At the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, Jarvis McKnight, 7, heads for the school bus with his father, Melvin McKnight. McKnight, whose Harvey home received minimal damage, hopes his boys will return to school in Jefferson Parish soon.

# SCRAMBLING TO THE RESCUE

## *Slidell man ditches his house for a boat, saves neighbors on the way*

HURRICANE HEROES

*With floodwaters rising, Chris Daniel gave his neighbors a lift*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

A recent widower and two-year resident of Spring Hill in Slidell, Chris Daniel thought the 13-foot-high levee that surrounded his neighborhood would protect him from Hurricane Katrina.

The Chalmette native opted to stay put even though his mother, who had evacuated from Chalmette, begged him to leave.

"I was stubborn and I didn't do it," he said. "Yeah, I was stupid."

Daniel, 28, fell asleep as the hurricane's eye passed over. He woke to the sound of water splashing in through his front and back doors.

The floodwaters were several feet deep outside his house. "There was no way of getting in my truck and getting out," he said. But his 4-month-old chocolate Labrador, Sammy, was getting frantic. When the water reached his chest level,

*See* **HERO,** *B-3*



**Chris Daniel:** Rescued several people in his boat after Katrina flooded his Slidell neighborhood

# St. Bernard ponders re-entry

## *But Rita forces repeat of levee fixes*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Even though Hurricane Rita flooded parts of Arabi and Chalmette with as much as 7 feet of water, St. Bernard Parish officials said Saturday they plan to reopen most of the parish, which remained dry, possibly as soon as this week.

Meanwhile, in Plaquemines Parish officials made preparations to repeat repairs in parish levees completed after Hurricane Katrina less than a month ago. Those repairs gave way to Rita's surge this week, flooding about half of the parish below Myrtle Grove and other parts in the east bank.

The flooding affected areas that had remained unpopulated since Katrina practically wiped them out Aug. 29. But officials lamented that the new waters might force them to restart the cleanup process and possibly delay the return of residents.

Repeating an exercise completed just a few weeks ago after

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *B-3*

# Office space in Jefferson limited

## *Many buildings in need of repairs*

**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

Jefferson Parish officials predict the parish will become the staging area for the recovery of New Orleans and other areas battered by Hurricane Katrina, but at the moment, there's no room at office buildings for companies wanting to set up shop close to the city.

Much of the parish's Class A office space was damaged in the storm.

Dottie Stephenson, the interim CEO of the Jefferson Economic

*See* **JEFFERSON,** *B-4*

# Textbooks scarce in makeshift classrooms

**CHILDREN,** *from B-1*

"Hit him with a pillow, kick him awake," his father, Melvin McKnight, quipped. "It's a full-time job."

In shelters all across the state and nation, many students displaced from their schools in the New Orleans area have finally started to settle back into morning routines that education officials say give children structure and stability at a time when those things are in such short supply.

"I'm making school kind of secondary," said teacher Randy Crump, who was dean of students at McDonogh 32 Elementary School in New Orleans until a few weeks ago, when he took a job instructing displaced students at Scotlandville Middle School in Baton Rouge. "I'm just trying to get them into a routine."

But as much as Red Cross volunteers try to make the thousands of New Orleans area residents staying in shelters feel comfortable, shelters are not homes and some key parts of a daily school routine, like homework, are not part of shelter life.

"It's hard to do homework here," said Jarvis' mother, noting the myriad distractions as 500 strangers bunk together in one room. Instead, the Red Cross shows children's videos in the evenings and has stacks of games available for students to play.

At the Baton Rouge River Center, which has become a shelter for about 1,100, parent Odetta Martin said she worries the lack of homework will slow progress for her six children, particularly those who will soon have to take the state's LEAP test.

"All they get now is coloring books," she said.

## Back to school

Although piles of donated backpacks and school supplies have been pouring into many schools, teachers often lack the textbooks they need – 4th-grade reading books for his 5th-grade class are the best Crump could find – and are struggling to determine their students' reading and math levels.

"I don't think they're going to get every kid back to the level they were at, but you've got to keep them in that routine and, who knows? Hopefully they'll learn something," Melvin McKnight said.

Getting students back into a school-day schedule after evacuating — and after running around shelters unsupervised and sleeping in as late as they want — has proved an additional challenge.

"The first day when they had to be here at 7 o'clock, all the heads were down on the desk," said Eva Bourgeois, principal at Ascension Elementary, where Jarivs attends school. "We had to just tell them, 'No. That's not acceptable.' "

Meanwhile, students continue to register at schools wherever displaced students are being accepted. Last Tuesday alone, five new students walked into Crump's classroom at Scotlandville as he struggled to update his list of students, while busying them with writing an essay called "The Best Time I Ever Had."

Several students wrote about trips to Six Flags, the amusement park that suffered severe flooding, along with the rest of eastern New Orleans. Martin's 10-year-old son, Timothy, wrote about vomiting after he rode the Batman roller coaster, eating junk food, watching his mother vomit and then laughing with her and the rest of his family on the way home.

"Very nice work," Crump said as he added Martin's paper to a stack on his desk.

## Enormous needs

Before Katrina hit, Scotlandville Middle School had been closed indefinitely until it could be renovated.

Two weeks ago, Clara Joseph, an assistant principal elsewhere in the district, was asked to act as principal to hundreds of displaced students from the New Orleans area.

By last week, she had 379 students and the district had received 7,700 new registrations, on top of the 46,000 they had before Katrina.

In Ascension Parish, more than 2,200 new students have registered on top of about 16,000 they had before.

Statewide, 186,000 students have been displaced by Katrina, officials said.

"They have emotional needs, physical needs, psychological needs," Joseph said of the displaced students. "Their needs are just enormous. They're numerous."

Since the school opened about two weeks ago, she and her staff have been struggling with children acting up after bring forced from their homes and cut off from their routines.

"We just came from New Orleans. We've been through enough," a mother yelled at her son outside Joseph's office Tuesday. "Listen to what the principal tells you to do."

At Ascension Elementary, Bourgeois told how a kindergartener who heard the grinding of a pencil sharpener and leapt from his seat crying, "It's a storm."

How long Joseph or Bourgeois' jobs will last is anyone's guess.

## Learning to adapt

Melvin McKnight expects to move his family back to their home in Harvey – it took minimal wind damage, he said – within the week, depending on how the region fared after Hurricane Rita.

If all goes well, McKnight was hoping his four boys can get back in their schools in Jefferson Parish as well.

"My home is New Orleans," he said. "I'm not going to let Katrina, Rita or whoever change where I live. It's all I know."

Back at the River Center, Odetta Martin has no idea how the 9th Ward home she shared with her six children and 1-year-old grandson fared. She's looking for an apartment in Baton Rouge, unsure whether they'll ever return.

Still, just as she said her family was among "the blessed ones," referring to how they escaped New Orleans a day after the storm and arrived at the shelter before things went from bad to terrifying back home, she said she has faith they'll make the transition here.

By last Tuesday, Martin's children appeared to have fallen back in line, with 10-year-old Timothy leading the charge. He helped rouse his brothers and sisters, changed his 1-year-old nephew Ty'Drick's diaper, and fed the infant Frosted Flakes on the way to the school buses that pull up outside the shelter under the watchful eyes of armed military police.

Whatever his family does, Timothy said he's sure he can be happy anywhere.

"Kids here," he said, "they're just like my old friends."

# Cleco says power outages will be brief

**TAMMANY,** *from B-1*

blocks, pushing into at least three houses, Price said. But he said the houses in old Mandeville that took on water had already been ravaged by Katrina and were unoccupied.

For Roy and Susie Hardin, who live in an elevated house in the 200 block of Marigny Avenue just south of Jefferson Street, the scene Saturday gave him a feeling of deja vu.

"This is just like what we had with the floodwater in 2002 with back-to-back tropical storms Isidore and Lili," Roy Hardin said.

"Except there is a lot more debris floating around this time," Susie Hardin said.

Price said cleaning up from Katrina has been put on hold until the floodwaters go down.

Parsons-Stymiest said officials were waiting for the wind to shift to relieve the tidal flooding. "That wind is still pushing water up out of the Rigolets across the lake and onto the north shore. We are hopeful for a wind shift later today, so the water will start flowing southeast, back into the Rigolets and out in the Gulf of Mexico," she said.

She said there was heavy flooding in the low-lying areas south of Slidell near the Rigolets and water was pushed up Lake Road in Lacombe near the Tammany Trace, flooding scores of homes in those areas already destroyed by Katrina.

"We had no emergency evacuations during the night as Rita came ashore and we have had no reports of any deaths or injuries in the parish resulting from Rita," she said.

Other than Palm Lake, most of Slidell stayed relatively high and dry during Rita. Rainfall was light and intermittent, and wind gusts were about 20 to 30 mph.

Price said there was only one brief outage in Mandeville, in the Old Golden Shores subdivision after a tree fell and ripped down a power line. "But Cleco was out there fast, and they had it back on in about 45 minutes," he said.

Parson-Stymiest said the evacuation order for areas south of U.S. 190 and Louisiana 22 would remain in effect until winds shift and water recedes, hopefully later Saturday.

She said only a handful of residents went to any of the six shelters the parish opened.

# DEATHS

**Elizabeth Bender**
**Robert Benson Jr.**
**Marie Woods Blouin**
**Daniel W. Bonin, Sr.**
**Elrita Gomez Glockner**
**Beverly June Hughes**
**John Stewart Neville**
**Mrs. Gladys J. Phipps**

### BENDER

Elizabeth "Betty" Bender, a retired X-ray technician died on September 15, 2005 at the age of 73. Daughter of the late Charles J. Bender, Sr. and Hazel Vanderbrook Bender. Sister of Patricia B. Fortmayer and the late Charles J. Bender, Jr. Also survived by 2 nieces and 3 nephews. A native and life-long resident of New Orleans. Private services were arranged by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### BENSON

Robert Benson Jr. a former executive with Benson Automotive World and consultant for the New Orleans Saints, died Thursday September 15, 2005 at his home. A native of New Orleans and longtime resident of Metairie, he last resided in Ponchatoula. He earned a bachelors degree in pharmacy from Loyola University of New Orleans with honors in 1947, received Loyola's Most Outstanding Athlete Award at age 19, and was a member of Loyola's Sports Hall of Fame. He retired from management in pharmaceutical sales with Parke Davis after 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Helen Leaumont Benson; four sons, Robert William Benson of Ponchatoula, Mark Benson of Metairie, Patrick Benson of New York City, and James Benson of Kenner; two daughters, Paula Benson of Dallas and Karen Ramsay of Fairfax, VA; three sisters, Miriam B. Whitman, Valierie B. Hogan, and Carol B. Hogan; brother Joseph Benson; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Tuesday September 20!
. Interment at Hope Mausoleum in New Orleans will be scheduled for a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Catholic Charities USA, PO Box 25168, Alexandria, VA 22313; National Parkinson Foundation Inc, 1501 NW 9th Ave, Bob Hope Road, Miami FL, 33136; Richard N. Murphy Hospice Foundation, 200 S. Monteplier Ave, Albany LA 70711; or The American Cancer Siciety, (800) ACS-2345

### BLOUIN

Marie Woods Blouin, 84, died Thursday, September 15, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital. Mrs.Blouin was born and raised in New Orleans, LA. She was a dedicated member on the Usher Board of the LaHarpe United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband John A. Blouin, Jr. Four daughters: Joycelyn Marsh, Cecelia Prevost, Cynthia Jones, and Judy Morris. Four sons: John Blouin, III., Herbert Blouin, Alton Blouin, Harold Blouin. One sister; Ernestine Woods Blouin, 18 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. Funeral Services will be held Monday, September 26, 2005 at 11:00AM. Visitation will be held from 8:00AM-11:00AM, the Greater Greene Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1232 N.32nd Street, Baton Rouge, LA., 70811. Winnfeild Funeral Home

### BONIN

Daniel W. Bonin, Sr., 72, of Metairie, LA died Monday, September 19, 2005, of heart failure at Northshore Regional Medical Center. Beloved husband of June G. Bonin (married 52 years). Father of three sons; Daniel W. Bonin, Jr., Ronald J. Bonin, Sr., Wayne M. Bonin. Two Daughters; Cynthia B. Blache, Renee B. Hall. Son of the late Lawrence J. And Pauline V. Bonin. Brother of Claire B. Katner, Suzanne B. Wallace and the late Dr. Curtis G. Bonin. Also survived by nine grandchildren: Nicole Traina, Ronald J.Bonin, Jr., Jennifer Traina, Joseph Traina, Derek Bonin, Andrew Hall, Matthew Bonin, Lavana Bonin, and the late Spencer D. Bonin. A native of St.Martinville, LA., and resident of Jefferson Parish for 50 years. A U.S. Army Veteran serving during the Korean War. He was a Claims Adjuster in the insurance industry and partner/Co-Owner of New Orleans Rosenbush Claims Service Inc., for 43 years. Lifetime member of the New Orleans Claims Association and National Association of Indepe!
ndent Insurance Adjusters. Member ofThe Jordan River Community Club, Kiln, MS. He was known by his family as "GRANDMA'S FAVORITE". Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at St.Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 1050 Robert Blvd., Slidell, LA on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Rev. Antone Lynch, celebant. Temporary Interment in Pinecrest Cemetary, Covington, LA. with final interment in Lakelawn Park Mausoleum at a later date. All visitation at the church on Tuesday after 8:30AM until funeral time. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Salvation Army in his name. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc. Slidell, LA

### GLOCKNER

Elrita Gomez Glockner on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Beloved wife of Wilfred John Glockner. Mother of Ronald Wilfred Glockner of Leonardtown, MD; David Philip Glockner of Allentown, PA; and Deborah Glockner Ferrari of Covington, LA. Sister of Evangeline Gomez of Lafayette and the late Juanita Gomez Boudreaux of New Orleans. Also survived by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Age 90, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Covington for the past 60 years. A beautiful mother, homemaker, bookkeeper, co-founder of the Sew and Sews, and active member of St. Peter's Grammar School, St. Paul's High School and St. Scholastica's Academy parent-teacher associations, she was a devout Catholic and member of the congregation of Our Lady of the Lake Church. Services were held on September 22, 2005 at St. Anselm Church in Madisonville, LA. Interment in Garden of the Pines Mausoleum. Donations can be made to Caritas of Birmingham, AL. Offer condolences online at www.ejfie!
ldingfuneralhome.com

### NEVILLE

John Stewart Neville, an account executive in the medical services field, died Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at Schumpert Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was fifty-three years old. Mr.Neville was born in New Orleans and lived in New Orleans and Metairie. He graduated from Jesuit High School and the University of New Orleans. Survivors include three sons, Jason Stewart Neville, Jarret Conner Neville, and Jordan Paul Neville. Also his parents, Marilyn Krieger Neville and John Stewart Neville, two sisters, Cecily Neville Boudreaux and Allison Neville Gifford, and two brothers, William J.Neville and James E.Neville. A funeral mass will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2005, 1:00pm at St.Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie. Visitation will be from 10:00am until 1:00pm at the church. Burial will be at St.Patrick Cemetery Number 2 in New Orleans. Arrangements: Lake Lawn, Metairie.

### HUGHES

Beverly June Hughes on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 in Houma, LA. Age 84 years. Sister of the late Shirley Hughes Smith. Daughter of the late Josephine Schulz. Survived by brother-in-law Clyde W.Smith. Also survived by nieces and nephews: Susan Smith Francis, Claudia Smith Gifford, Jennifer Smith Bollinger and Skip Smith and grand nieces and nephews: Matthew and Lauren Francis, Roth Walsh, Casey Gifford, Jennifer and Katherine Bollinger, Chris and Matt Smith. Miss Hughes was a former employee of Port Distributing Company and a lifetime member of First English Lutheran Church. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services at E.J.Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA 70433 on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 3:00pm. Visitation will begin at 2:00pm until time of service. Interment will follow in Pine Crest Cemetery. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### PHIPPS

Mrs. Gladys J. Phipps entered into eternal rest on Monday August 22, 2005 at Kenner Regional Hospital. She was 73 years old. She was a member of Historic Second Baptist Church where she served on the Pastor's anniversary committee, Christian missionary and education department, Pastor's aide committee, radio choir, and a member of dramatic arts E.L. Moore and Gaza Prayer Circle. She was the beloved wife of the late Lois T. Phipps. Mother of Fred C. Scott, Lloyd Phipps, Ella S. and Mary S. Webber, and Catherine D. Gordon. Sister of Katherine J. Garrison, Audrey Young, Esther Burnes, Ella J. Harris, Willie L., James L., Albert and Melvin H. Jones. Also survived by (16) Grandchildren, (10) Great-Grandchildren a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held on Saturday September 24, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at Oakland Baptist Church 1400 Third Street, Kenner, LA. Rev. Robert Jackson-Officiating. Interment: Providence Memorial Park Cemetery. Arrangements by Estelle J. Wilson Funeral Home, Inc. 2715 Danneel Street. Information 504-895-4903

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# Man uses boat to help rescue neighbors

**HERO,** *from B-1*

he decided to get out. "That was the point when I was most fearful," he said.

Daniel forced his back door open and deposited Sammy in his 18-foot Bayliner boat, which was floating, still attached to its trailer. He rushed back into the house for dog food and a box of important papers, then fought to free the boat from its trailer winch, and fired up his four-cylinder engine.

Daniel knew one of his neighbors, Royce, had also stayed behind. He already was in his attic, and Daniel called him out. Royce climbed onto his garage door, which had blown in on top of his vehicle.

The two of them rode around the subdivision, searching for residents. Some people declined help; Daniel's and Royce's houses are one-story high, others were two. Daniel carried three couples to the levee, where the group remained until Tuesday morning.

One couple, Shane and Katrina, recently had moved from Ohio. The Tuesday after the storm, a truck driver took the rescued residents to area shelters. Daniel wound up at Slidell Memorial Hospital, then stood by the road with a sign that read, "West to Baton Rouge, please." A Samaritan took him to Opelousas. There, he got in touch with his mother, who was in Lafayette. He stayed with his family for about a week.

When he was able to return to his house, he found it was a muddy disaster. "I'm 6 feet tall, and the water level was about eye level," he said. Bedroom furniture was in the living room; living room items were in the office.

A friend, Peter "Mitch" Danos, drove in from Houma to help him retrieve his boat, which was aground and tied to the levee. Its anchor and ropes were missing. They wrestled it back onto the trailer; it was one of the few items Daniel salvaged.

Danos called Daniel an "unsung hero," praising his "courage and going on in spite of what he has been through," including the loss of his wife, who died in May from leukemia.

Daniel now is staying in Abita Springs with friends. He hopes to return to his job; he was an assistant parts manager at the Slidell Toyota dealership. And he doesn't plan to move.

"I'm definitely going to rebuild," he said. "That's where my wife lived. It's got sentimental value."

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The Times-Picayune would like to hear the extraordinary tales of heroic acts performed by you, your family or friends. Please e-mail a synopsis of your tale, along with your phone number and e-mail address, to tpkatrinaheroes@yahoo.com.

# Corps defends levee repair methods

**BERNARD,** *from B-1*

Katrina, St. Bernard Parish crews began pumping out waters that began flowing in Friday after they topped a temporary levee repair along the Industrial Canal in New Orleans.

The water spread through Arabi north of St. Bernard Highway and reached as far east as Packenham Drive in Chalmette, submerging some of the same neighborhoods that had seen the most severe flooding during Katrina.

Parish officials lashed out at the Army Corps of Engineers for shoring up the 17th Street and London Avenue canals along the New Orleans lakefront with sheet piling ahead of Rita, but not placing the same protection along the Industrial Canal, which was repaired with giant sand bags, large rocks and gravel.

"The difference I see is that over there along the 17th Street Canal there are wealthy people, and over here is the mostly poor black people of the 9th Ward and the people of St. Bernard," Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said.

But Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, said the Industrial Canal is too wide and deep to use sheet piling, and also is a navigational channel that cannot be closed. He said repairs on the Industrial Canal breach were actually higher than the same fixes along the other two canals, and that the barriers would have been even higher if Rita had come a week later.

"There is no consideration of race or class," Crear said. "It was trying to get the most effective protection within the time that we had."

St. Bernard on Saturday looked like a shipwreck that had been submerged again by a high tide. Water flowed over streets and into homes, mixing with the dried muck left over from Katrina's flood to create what Rodriguez sarcastically called "a nice gumbo."

But parish levees were holding Rita's surge from the east, with waters rising just 20 inches short of topping the levee along the 40-Arpent Canal before starting to retreat back into the Gulf of Mexico.

"It came close, but the levees are holding," said Bob Turner, executive director of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District.

Meanwhile, Plaquemines Parish officials began assessing the damage of an estimated 8-foot surge that once again covered many communities in the southern portions of the parish.

Unlike Katrina, which flooded the entire lower Plaquemines area, Rita left some communities dry. On the west bank, floodwaters covered Myrtle Grove and all areas from Port Sulphur to Buras, said Parish President Benny Rousselle. But Diamond City and communities from Fort Jackson to Venice were dry. In the east bank, only Scottsdale and Braithwaite flooded.

Rousselle said the parish is staging crews and working with the Corps of Engineers to begin levee repairs as soon as Monday. Rousselle said the entire east bank and all areas south of the Alliance Refinery will remain closed, and it may be three weeks before they open to residents.

But in St. Bernard, officials said they want to reopen the dry areas of the parish as soon as possible. The parish last week had begun a staggered re-entry process that divided the parish and reopened it a section at a time. The plan was suspended Tuesday ahead of Rita.

But Rodriguez and Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said they are considering reopening all dry areas at once when residents are once again allowed to return. Streets in areas that did not flood are clear, officials said, and Sheriff Jack Stephens said his office has the personnel and equipment to handle a fast influx of residents.

Residents, however, would still be encouraged to leave at the end of each day and to come prepared to deal with the muck and stink that permeates the place, DiFatta said. Officials said the new re-entry plan would be announced once they make a decision.

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# 'Everybody's looking for a roofer'

**JEFFERSON,** *from B-1*

Development Corp., said the organization's efforts are focused on getting the parish's existing businesses up and running.

"We're working with them to see what they need, to get them housing for their employees, to help them get through the SBA (Small Business Administration) loan process," she said.

Office space in Jefferson is likely to be ready before office space in New Orleans, but many buildings suffered significant storm damage.

"Everybody's looking for a roofer," said longtime real estate investor Jack Stumpf, who said he's been spending much of his time finding space for the thousands of relief workers in the parish.

The Jefferson Economic Development Corp.'s east bank headquarters on Causeway Boulevard had its roof damaged by the Aug. 29 storm, and the agency's offices sustained water damage as well. It has been working out of temporary quarters in Baton Rouge.

The corporation's enterprise center at 5201 West Bank Expressway in Marrero had office space available last week, but the space is best suited to a one- or two-person operation, said Kim Perret, who manages the center.

The Galleria, a Metairie office complex at the intersection of Causeway Boulevard and Interstate 10, sustained significant damage, but John Panico, who is supervising the repairs, said he hopes to have some of the building's 466,000 square feet of leasable space ready for occupancy by mid-October.

"We've ordered the glass," said Panico, referring to the many damaged panels on the mirror-sheathed building. "We're going through an orderly process to make the repairs as quickly as possible."

The building's lobby and elevator were covered with plastic sheeting Saturday, and dehumidifiers were pulling moist air out of the windows through plastic tubing.

Still, Panico said he's optimistic.

"We're in much better shape than they are in New Orleans, where police are stopping people at the border."

The building was purchased in February by The Feil Organization of New York. The company also owns Lakeside Shopping Center, several strip shopping centers in the area and The Gatehouse Apartments.

The Lakeway Center, located about two miles south of the Galleria on Causeway, also was damaged by the storm. The building's blue facade is checked with tan plywood panels used to cover more than 200 broken windows, most on the lower levels of the three-building complex, which has more than 1 million square feet of office space.

The buildings' owner, Equity Office Properties Trust, hopes to reopen all three buildings by the end of November, company spokeswoman Terri Holt said.

Heritage Plaza on Veterans Memorial Boulevard also was damaged in the storm.

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano has sent people asking about leasing property in the city to Tim Rada, a travel agency owner who is chairman of the Kenner Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We've gotten a few calls, but most of them were from government agencies," Rada said. "As for everyone else, people are just trying to get back. Most of the people I know who are in business aren't in business right now. They're more concerned about getting their private lives together."

# Rita wrecks small town of Vinton

*75 percent buildings damaged*

**By The Associated Press**

VINTON – This Calcasieu Parish town, population about 3,600, was a tangled mess of downed trees and power lines Saturday. Two light stanchions at the local football stadium lay across the field. Flames shot from a broken gas line at a house that burned to the ground overnight, leaving only the brick chimney and the front steps.

Police Chief Rick Fox said it was one of two serious overnight fires in the town.

"Rita got the best of us," Fox said. "We took quite a beating. It's going to take a while to come back from this."

Fox estimated 75 percent of the town's buildings were substantially damaged and no building was unscathed; the new City Hall, occupied only a week, had damage to its green metal roof.

The town was largely deserted and Fox said residents should stay away for a week to 10 days because the town is not safe.

One person who did remain in town was staying two doors down from the ruptured gas line. James Fee said he was awakened at around 3 a.m. by the orange glow in his window from the house fire.

His phone was out when he tried to call in the fire. He spent most of the night on his front porch, shielding himself from the wind and watching the fire.

"I just kept an eye on it. I knew there was a curfew, but I figured if the fire gets over here, I'm getting out," Fee said.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Keith Neidlinger flips through a photo album Wednesday with Jason Robards, right, as the two New Orleans firefighters take a break from combing through the wreckage of a house owned by the mother of Neidlinger's girlfriend. The home is near the breach in the 17th Street Canal and saw significant damage from Hurricane Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

# EYES OF THE STORM

Peering up from the wreckage of Hurricane Katrina are the faces of countless photographs, some of them bound in albums or yearbooks, many of them loose and blowing in the wind, and all of them offering silent testimony to the legions of memories lost all over Louisiana.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

TOP: Lakeview resident Dawn Scurria knew that little would remain of her Colbert Street home when floodwaters receded. Among the items she recovered was a water-damaged picture of daughter Rachel.

ABOVE: A yearbook from Mount Carmel Academy dries out among the wreckage of a Lakeview home.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

TOP: A faded family photo lies in the middle of a debris-covered street in Lakeview near the 17th Street Canal.

LEFT: A Bible, a casket flag and a handful of photos are among the few items Betty Brown was able to salvage from her eastern New Orleans home near Morrison Road and Bullard Avenue.

The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

This aerial shot of the Delacroix area of lower St. Bernard Parish shows the state of coastal Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## Erosion can no longer be ignored

Recently, due to poor judgment and shortsightedness, our federal government neglected to approve $2 billion requested by the Army Corps of Engineers to continue projects to protect our Gulf of Mexico lowlands. The $2 billion was needed for flood control and containment of delta wetlands. The funding could not have prevented damage from Hurricane Katrina but would have lessened its destruction.

The Mississippi River delta is disappearing at an alarming rate. Every year a land mass nearly as big as Manhattan crumbles and washes into the Gulf of Mexico. This erosion not only threatens one of the country's most abundant fisheries and a vital home for wildlife, but it imperils the nation's energy supply.

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the surrounding areas with huge loss of life and property. We are now forced to enter another war of sorts. This time, it is Mother Nature we must deal with. The crisis in the delta, with its far-reaching environmental, human and economic consequences, can no longer be ignored.

**Ben Kaplan**
*Northbrook, Ill.*

## A new perspective on government

In every tragedy, even during our current hurricane agonies, there are moments of levity. One is reminded of Bill Mauldin's Stars and Stripes cartoon showing a sad World War II GI administering a coup de gras to his worn-out Jeep with his 45-caliber sidearm.

I've been surprised, gratified and more than a little amused by the leftward lurch of The Times-Picayune since the storm. I was humored by the irony of the excellent editorial, "An open letter to President Bush," addressed to a leader whom the paper normally is not quick to criticize.

I experienced side-splitting gales of laughter when I read of state Rep. Peppi Bruneau's socialist views on the "responsibility" of insurance companies to pay claims not covered by the policies they'd written. I welcome the march toward a liberal viewpoint on the chicanery of corporate America and our Republican-led national government.

Keep up the good work.

**Bob Crowley**
*Baton Rouge*

## A role for solar power

As the United States holds its collective breath and watches Hurricane Rita bear down on the Texas-Louisiana coastline, we need to continue to think about ways to help prevent the impact of these storms and how to quicken the recovery once they've hit.

One idea came to my mind while watching New Orleans' tragedy after Katrina: we need more solar energy.

I don't mean as a replacement for oil (though we do need more clean alternative fuel sources). What we need are small, portable solar power panels that can be set up instantly in emergencies to provide power for devices that are critical in the wake of a catastrophic power failure: cell phone chargers, lights, fans and cooling systems, computers and many others.

The solar-panel power generators should be small and easy to carry. They ought to have battery capacity so energy can be stored, and they should be plentiful, so we can create a decentralized energy source independent of the power grid in the crucial hours following a major catastrophe.

As we review the energy sources we've devised over the past 150 years, here's an obvious application for an existing technology that can be developed now, is appropriate and is in high demand when it will be needed most. Let's just hope it's not anytime soon.

**Sam Seidel**
*Cambridge, Mass.*

## Welfare, big government to blame

The shameful post-Katrina demagoguery persists: The Republican president is criminally liable for the misery brought by wind and water Aug. 29.

In her Sept. 20 letter to the editor, Vicki Lancaster, while assailing President Bush on Katrina, called for an "independent commission to investigate what went wrong." I.e., we need more bureaucracy to ferret out the mistakes and flaws peculiar to bureaucracy.

That's a nonsensical approach. There are relevant questions and painfully obvious answers that can be advanced, sans "independent commission," in response to Ms. Lancaster's indictment of everything Republican.

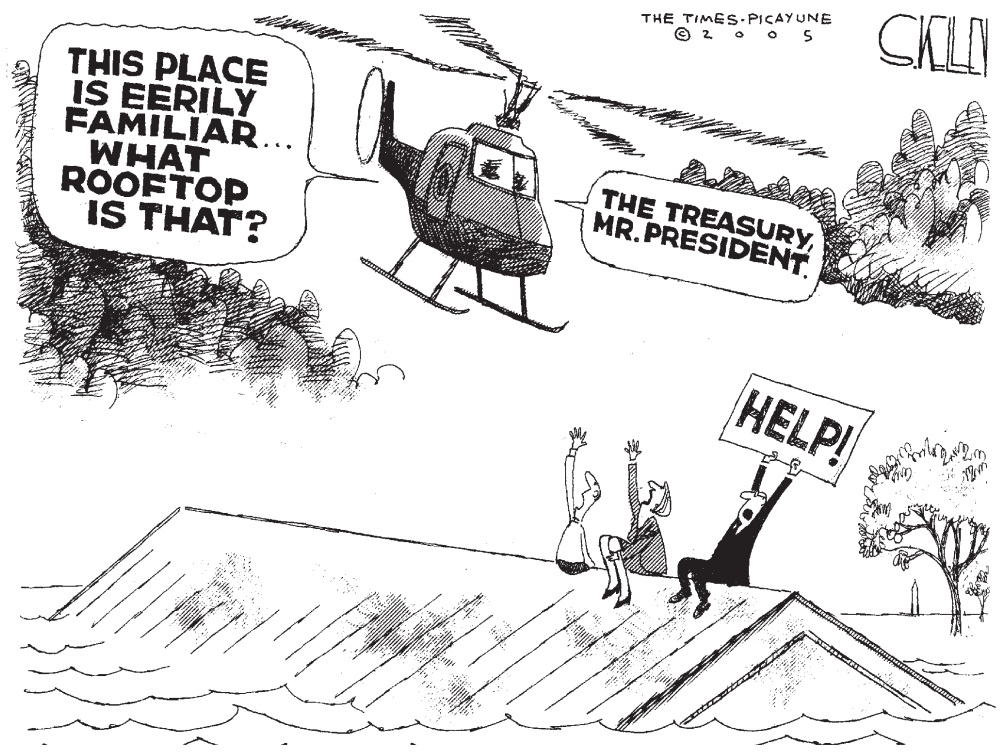
What ultimately has caused the plight of Katrina's black casualties? Poverty. What effected and what has perpetuated that poverty? The decimation of the black family and a pathetic public education system. What's behind these maladies? Respectively, the welfare state and those who run New Orleans public schools. Who caused the levee failures? Ms. Lancaster's friend, bureaucracy. From where does bureaucracy emanate? From big government.

Who is responsible for big government and the joint destruction of the black family and public education in the Big Easy? Those who are exploiting Katrina to foster a specious political agenda and to defame President Bush.

They're the left wingers who call themselves, quite euphemistically, "progressives."

**Jon Gegenheimer**
*Clerk of Court*
*Jefferson Parish*
*Gretna*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## No mercy at the bridge

New Orleans residents who fled their city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have found sanctuary in communities across the country. Just across the Mississippi River, though, the reception was far different. Under the pretense of protecting West Bank residents, some law-enforcement officials were more than willing to abandon desperate evacuees to their fate.

Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson ordered his officers to stop people from walking across the Crescent City Connection. Officers fired shots over the heads of pedestrians and used bullhorns to urge them to turn around.

The chief, in short, decided that suffering New Orleanians were worthy of suspicion rather than mercy, and he denied them passage over a public roadway that was one of the only ways out of New Orleans during the flood. His actions were appalling.

Sadly, Mr. Lawson wasn't alone in his lack of compassion. Westwego gave evacuees who arrived there the choice of leaving immediately or jamming into an overcrowded shelter, which no one was allowed to leave. Meanwhile, Plaquemines Parish sheriff's deputies raised their guns to stop a convoy of school buses that were supposed to bring evacuees to the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse.

Sheriff Jiff Hingle later argued that "all they were going to do was end up destroying my community." Nonsense. How much destruction can anyone unleash from the confines of a federal military base?

Defenders of Mr. Lawson and Mr. Hingle have pointed to an Aug. 30 fire at the Oakwood Shopping Center as reason to bar the door to New Orleans evacuees. But how does an as-yet-unsolved arson case prove that all evacuees from New Orleans pose a danger to Gretna and other communities? The actions of these law-enforcement agencies make sense only if you think New Orleanians — and particularly the city's African-American majority — represent a vast, undifferentiated mass of evildoers.

Mr. Lawson maintains that he would have done what he did "if it had been any ethnic group." If he is telling the truth, he is heartless. But the reality was that most of the people fleeing New Orleans were black and that most of the officials making decisions were white. The suggestion that the race of the evacuees did not register for a moment with Gretna police is simply not plausible.

At best, the racial difference made it easier for white officials, in a tense situation, to treat evacuees as a malign alien presence rather than as suffering human beings.

The West Bank leaders responsible may not pay a political price for their actions. Signs praising Mr. Lawson's department and his supposed courage have gone up around the city. But a view can be both popular and deeply misguided, and playing to the public's worst fears during a cataclysm takes no courage at all.

Nevertheless, these officials insist that people who criticize their actions don't know what they're talking about. "If you wasn't there, shut your mouth," Westwego Police Chief Dwayne "Poncho" Munch said, "because you don't know."

Mr. Munch clearly wasn't there in New Orleans, where people were wading through floodwaters or barely clinging to life on their rooftops or dying out on the street. Or maybe he and other West Bank politicians knew full well that most evacuees had suffered greatly. But these officials simply didn't care.

No decent human being would dispute another human being's right to escape a burning building or a sinking ship. Forcing people back into a drowning city is just as inexcusable.

## No room on the ark

Hurricane Katrina's fury laid bare many shortcomings in emergency preparedness and response, and the flaws that affected human safety and health must be the focus of storm post-mortems.

But criticism by the National Humane Society, which took state and federal government officials to task for not having an animal rescue plan, is not as off-point as it may sound. Wayne Pacelle, president of the organization, estimated that 50,000 animals were left behind by New Orleans area residents who evacuated. That's a lot of animals left to face perilous conditions. People are affected by their plight, from those who are worried about their pets to those who are taking risks to rescue them.

Animals left behind also pose a risk to people working on the recovery. Those that died present a health hazard, and those that survived are likely to be hungry and traumatized.

In many cases, survivors who managed to save the lives of their pets during the storm and flooding faced the prospect of saying goodbye as they were taken to safety. It's not necessary to be a pet owner or animal lover to recognize the pain caused by such separations.

It's impossible to know how many people chose to stay in harm's way because they couldn't make provisions for their pets during an evacuation, but there are numerous anecdotal accounts of those who did exactly that. Mr. Pacelle says that 65 percent of all American households have pets, and that means the issue is bound to arise in future disasters in the country.

Figuring out how to evacuate animals and how to rescue them may not top the list of things that need to change in this country's disaster planning, but it clearly needs to be on the list.

## OTHER OPINIONS

*With federal prosecutors investigating official wrongdoing at all levels with unprecedented vigor, you've got to at least hope that the politicians will be on their best behavior*

# DON'T GIVE CYNICS THE CHANCE TO CROW

With untold millions of dollars in relief and reconstruction aid heading Louisiana's way, there's considerable concern, out there in the rest of the country and also here at home, over how such a notoriously corrupt state will handle the influx of money.

It's hard to blame the handwringers, considering our scandal-ridden history.

Now-imprisoned former Gov. Edwin Edwards and ex-judge Ronald Bodenheimer are among the latest in a long, storied line of officials who've violated the public trust. In the weeks before Hurricane Katrina, news broke that U.S. Rep. William Jefferson is the focus of a yet another major federal corruption probe.

The irony is that, before Katrina, there were signs that we were starting to turn a corner.



STEPHANIE GRACE

Say what you will about Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's actions just before and after the hurricane struck, but remember this: Both chief executives will both play a major role in the area's reconstruction, and both have made a top priority of changing the way business is done around here. Neither Blanco nor Nagin has ever faced a major scandal. There's no evidence that either administration is being run by cronies, for cronies.

Whether Blanco and Nagin are equipped to handle the massive job is a question for another day, and there are plenty of other politicians we need to keep an eye on. With federal prosecutors investigating official wrongdoing at all levels with unprecedented vigor, you've got to at least hope that the politicians will be on their best behavior, even if it's not for the best of reasons.

And that brings us to Kenner.

With the nation's attention firmly fixed upon Louisiana, petty bickering between Mayor Phil Capitano's administration and Police Chief Nick Congemi's department reached an embarrassing crescendo. The two sides had already been warring over their apparently mutually exclusive hurricane plans. Then, Capitano's chief administrative officer, Cedric Floyd, got into an outright shouting match with Congemi over which one cared more for the city's minorities — all while CNN's cameras were rolling.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi, left, and Chief Administrative Officer Cedric Floyd, right, have a heated argument in the parking lot of the Redwood Apartments Sept. 16.

As if the sight of such needless chaos weren't bad enough, now we get word that Floyd had piles of donated relief supplies at his home. Based on a complaint from military officials working a distribution site, Kenner police raided Floyd's house Tuesday night and carted off several truckloads of clothes, tools, food and medicine.

One day later, Capitano suspended Floyd without pay. Two days later, police, with the backing of Attorney General Charles Foti, issued an arrest warrant, charging Floyd with malfeasance in office.

Floyd claims it's all a misunderstanding, that the merchandise was destined for needy people in the Susan Park area of the city. But no matter the case's outcome, the damage is done. Those inclined to think the worst of Louisiana will say, "I told you so."

And the timing couldn't have been worse. Louisiana had barely begun to change its well-earned reputation as a cauldron of corruption before Katrina thrust the state into the spotlight.

Unfortunately, the Floyd case sends a message that local leaders can't be trusted to take care of their constituents without lining their own pockets. And the harm done by that message extends way beyond the city's borders.

Stephanie Grace is a staff writer. She can be reached at sgracenola@yahoo.com

# Jefferson went from a sure thing to a man without a base

If, as Mayor Ray Nagin predicts, New Orleans initially emerges at half its pre-Katrina size, it will also presumably undergo a demographic shift. That could be one more blow for Congressman Bill Jefferson.

Only a couple of months ago, Jefferson seemed to have a lifetime lock on his seat, the only one in Louisiana firmly in the grasp of the Democrats.

If only the most cock-eyed Republican optimist could dream of representing New Orleans in Congress, Jefferson, in his eighth term, was more or less immune to challenge from within his own party too.



JAMES GILL

**Jefferson's African jaunts must have provided a prima facie justification for his nickname, Dollar Bill.**

Indeed, he appeared to retain the affections of his constituents even after the FBI raided his car and his homes in Washington and New Orleans, reportedly confiscating a large amount of cash from a freezer.

The feds have kept officially mum about the focus of the investigation, meaning they have limited themselves to feeding unattributable snippets to the media. It seems Jefferson is under investigation for parlaying congressional clout into private pelf via telecommunications deals in Nigeria, where he is particularly fond of visiting.

The feds do not lightly go busting into a congressman's digs, and they need approval from way up high to do so. Securing the necessary warrants from a judge presumably also requires super probable cause, so Jefferson's African jaunts must have provided a prima facie justification for his nickname, Dollar Bill.

But his constituents, at least a largely black and elderly group of them who went to hear Jefferson speak at an Uptown union hall shortly after the raids, were more than happy to accord him the presumption of innocence. Indeed, some of them fiercely maintained he was being set up by The Man.

So many black politicians have been targeted by the feds lately that conspiracy theories abound, and Jefferson might well take an indictment in stride. The wheels of justice would have to grind at record pace for his case to be resolved before next year's election, and maybe only a plea bargain could keep him from running and, maybe, winning.

When Jefferson did turn up on national television to defend his honor, and deny misusing the power of his office, it had nothing to do with shady deals in Lagos. The rap this time came from National Guardsmen, who complained that they accompanied Jefferson on a post-Katrina tour of his district only to be kept waiting for an hour while he retrieved personal effects from his home.

Suggestions that Jefferson was seeking to hide incriminating evidence were a slander on the FBI, which had spent several hours going through his stuff. Even if the feds might have missed some juicy documents, Jefferson had access to his house for weeks after the raids, so it seems unlikely that he needed Katrina to cover his tracks.

The worst that can be alleged, and Jefferson denies it, is that, for the sake of his own convenience, he kept guardsmen cooling their heels while citizens who had neglected to get elected to high office stood on rooftops awaiting deliverance. The episode, at worst, was a minor embarrassment, and nobody will be greatly shocked at the idea that politicians are sometimes arrogant and self-serving.

Although Hurricane Rita has forced Nagin to suspend his plans to re-open the city in stages, no doubt he will remain keen to resume once the danger is past. He plans to begin with the driest ZIP codes, while what will happen to the devastated lower-lying areas, nobody will know for a while.

But it is a fair bet that the racial composition of the city will change, possibly for quite a while. Those evacuees who vow never to return are not the children of privilege.

They are, more than likely, supporters of Jefferson, however. Life has suddenly changed for lots of people, but Jefferson must be wondering what hit him.

James Gill is a staff writer.

# If someone is sinking, offer a helping hand

My uncle tells a story about being at his grandmother's house in the late 1950s when some white people walked into the yard.

This was Mississippi. The arrival of white people could mean trouble. For many black people it had meant death. As it turns out, though, these particular people were hungry. They asked if my great-grandmother would give them food.

My uncle was still a boy. But in 1955 a boy slightly older than he had been lynched. His name was Emmett Till. For the alleged crime of whistling at a white woman, he'd been beaten and shot in the head. His attackers then fastened his body to a large metal weight and threw it into the Tallahatchie River.

Maybe it was simmering anger over what had happened to Emmett and the understanding that he was just as vulnerable that prompted my uncle to tell his grandmother that she ought not give those "crackers" any food. Martha Ellen McEwen saw her grandson's angry outburst as a teaching opportunity. When people are hungry, she told the young Roy DeBerry Jr., feed them. She didn't care if they looked like those terrorizing her people.



JARVIS DEBERRY

There are always excuses not to help. If you want to justify letting people starve, die of thirst or fall victim to certain violence, you can create a long list of reasons. The justifications become especially easy if those needing rescue belong to a group you despise or fear. Still, there ought to be some floor to our humanity below which we refuse to descend. We ought never let our fear or our xenophobia drag us down to such a point that we're unrecognizable as humans.

At this point, though, it's difficult to recognize the Gretna Police Department and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office as anything other than two cruelly racist and mean-spirited law enforcement agencies. After Hurricane Katrina, when New Orleans appeared destined to collapse into anarchy, officers from Gretna and Plaquemines turned away those overwhelmingly black crowds trying to flee to safety.

Gretna police fired shots over the heads of pedestrians who were walking away from New Orleans on the Crescent City Connection. Deputies from Plaquemines brandished shotguns and pistols to turn away school buses filled with people trying to flee a city that was simultaneously burning and flooding.

Apparently their consciences allow for that.

Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle insist that they and their subordinates aren't heartless bigots. They were simply overwhelmed by the number of people seeking refuge. Lawson told a reporter that those leaving New Orleans the days after the storm "actually would have been better off where they were, because we didn't have anything for them."

In fact, they had plenty. They had an area that was safer than the city across the bridge. They had the opportunity to see the people on the bridge as victims, to embrace them as human beings. Yet they saw them only as potential plunderers of their town or as a drain on their meager resources. Hingle said he stopped the buses headed to the Naval Air Station for the same reason: "All they were going to end up doing was destroying my community."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency failed the entire region, so I don't doubt that the jurisdictions on the West Bank were struggling to maintain provisions for their own residents. But this isn't about limited resources. It's about racism. It's about a comment Lorrie Beth Slonsky told National Public Radio she heard from Gretna officers. "You are not crossing the bridge. We are not turning the West Bank into another Superdome," Slonsky reported.

She said she and her husband, Larry Bradshaw, both paramedics from San Francisco and both white, recognized the code language. Everyone else trying to cross the bridge with them was black.

Did Lawson, Hingle and their officers stop to consider that the people crossing the parish lines were fleeing the madness of the Superdome? No. They assumed the people were bringing the Superdome with them.

Now matter how much they defend their refusal to help as necessary to maintain law and order, the truth is they acted immorally. They saw people fleeing danger and sent them back into harm's way.

Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

SECTION C
Sunday
September 25, 2005



LIVING
For complete Living section, see PAGE C-7



PETER FINNEY

## Tigers had brush with nature in 1964

His team has played only one game and already Les Miles owns a record that figures to stand the test of time.

In later years, the trivia question would go like this: What LSU coach had his home debut rescheduled three times?

Of course, you'd be giving it away if you mentioned the rescheduling was because of a couple of "female hurricanes."

So let's don't mention what we know.

That Katrina knocked a Sept. 3 Tiger Stadium date with North Texas into October.

That Katrina sent a Sept. 10 date with Arizona State from Baton Rouge to Tempe, Ariz.

That Rita bounced a Sept. 24 date with Tennessee from Saturday to Monday.

And that is only part of the Hurricane Rita story.

There were reports Tennessee was prepared to forfeit the game had LSU not agreed to a two-day delay.

There also were reports the SEC looked into the possibility of moving the game to the end of the season, a change tied into shifting the conference championship game from Dec. 3 to Dec. 10.

All of which recalls another "female" force of nature.

Remember Hurricane Hilda?

In LSU football, Hilda, Katrina and Rita are now part of an unholy trinity.

Hilda roared out of the Gulf in October of '64. She not only roared. The eye came closer to Tiger Stadium than any hurricane in history.

With Charley McClendon's Tigers preparing to take on Florida in a battle of unbeaten ballclubs, Hilda's approach forced an 11th-hour postponement, moving the game from Oct. 3 to Dec. 5, two weeks after the Tigers' traditional regular-season finale against Tulane.

By that time, the Tigers were 7-1-1, the lone loss a 17-9 defeat in Birmingham to an Alabama team that went on to win the national championship. By that time, the Tigers also had accepted an invitation to play Syracuse in the Sugar Bowl.

In '64, LSU rode the place-kicking foot of Doug Moreau,

See FINNEY, page C-4

1-1 TULANE 31 ¥ SMU 10 1-3

# DEFENSIVE IN BIG D



AP PHOTO

Tulane s Matt Forte scored two touchdowns against Southern Methodist on Saturday in the Green Wave s 31-10 C-USA win.

## Stingy Green Wave holds down SMU

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

DALLAS — The Tulane Green Wave wasn't very polite to host Southern Methodist on Saturday afternoon. In fact, the Wave was downright rude.

Tulane, which spent time as SMU's guest three weeks ago after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina, used a dominating defense and an opportunistic offense in getting its first win of the season, 31-10, over the Mustangs at Gerald J. Ford Stadium in its opening Conference USA game.

"I came here and felt like I was at home again," Tulane quarterback Lester Ricard said. "I got here (Friday) and enjoyed eating in the cafeteria."

On Saturday, Ricard and the Green Wave's offense feasted on SMU's defense. Ricard threw for 213 yards and a pair of touchdowns, completing 22 of 34 passes. The Wave's offense compiled 357 yards.

See TULANE, page C-5



AP PHOTO

Matt Forte rushed for 80 yards and two touchdowns Saturday. His second touchdown just before halftime was a boost for Tulane, which had blown two scoring opportunities.

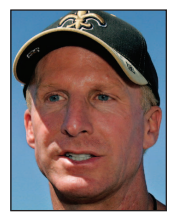
## Haslett cool in eye of storm

*Players laud coach's handling of situation*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Over the past four years, Saints coach Jim Haslett has been measured by his win-loss record.

His 32-32 mark has landed him on the coaching bubble, if not the chopping block in recent seasons. An unspoken, "Playoffs or bust" threat hanging over his head.



**Jim Haslett**
Has been the steadying force for the Saints this season

But 14 weeks before the playoffs begin this year, extraordinary circumstances have shed light on an extraordinary coaching effort by Haslett – holding his team together in the face of unprecedented distractions.

"I think you have to take your hat off to him," Saints offensive tackle Wayne Gandy said. "He's been under a lot of pressure. He's the one manning the ship, and the ship seems that it could float anywhere at this moment.

"When he came into the season, a lot of people probably had doubts about him. But he's showing great leadership right now, trying to handle 60 guys, a coaching staff, be concerned about his family, the millions of interviews, all that kind of stuff."

The Saints (1-1) play at Minnesota (0-2) today, their fourth consecutive week on the road, dating to the preseason.

In between, the players, staff and entire organization have relocated to San Antonio, while dealing with personal and family upheaval in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's destruction.

Through it all, Haslett has "handled this with as much class and poise as anybody you could imagine," said tight end Ernie Conwell.

"There's a tremendous amount of strain, pressure and demand on a head coach when the circumstances are perfect," Conwell said. "And now imagine the kind of things that he's dealing with. And then to have the kind of class that he's had toward

See SAINTS, page C-6

## Rita delivers crushing blow to SW coast

*Storms threaten state's wildlife seasons*

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

As they completed their initial surveys last week of the terrible toll Hurricane Katrina had taken on delicate coastal ecosystems, state and federal wildlife officials frequently repeated the one hope they had left: At least it can't get any worse.

Then along came Rita — and the state now faces a potential knockout punch to fish, wildlife and hunting seasons along the entire coast.

By Friday administrators knew Katrina had sent a sweeping blow across a half-million acres of publicly owned wetland and coastal forest ecosystems, a prized ring of some 20 state and federal refuges surrounding New Orleans. Those lands are not only critical habitat to a wide range of flora and fauna, but represent fully one-third of the public hunting grounds in the state.

Yet any comfort managers took from the fact Katrina's damage was limited to the southeastern corner of the state vanished Thursday when it became clear the monster known as Hurricane Rita was aiming much of its fury toward southwest

See OUTDOORS, page C-3



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita, almost every wetland habitat on the southeast coast suffered a severe loss of submerged aquatic vegetation.

## Oklahoma City joins big leagues

*Mayor says Hornets can help city change image*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett wants his city to become known as a destination with all the amenities of a major metropolis, including a big-league sports franchise.

But not until last week's announcement that the Hurricane Katrina-displaced Hornets would play 35 of their 41 home games in Oklahoma City at the 19,675-seat Ford Center, had Cornett's big-league dreams taken a positive step.

Cornett said he met with NBA commissioner David Stern in April but didn't come away with any assurances.

"I walked out of there with the clear perception that there was really nothing in the city's future concerning the NBA," Cornett said by telephone Friday night. "I've been trying all

See HORNETS, page C-2




AP PHOTO

Ryan Newman, who is on the pole for today s NASCAR race at Dover International Speedway, won Saturday s Busch race.

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

**NEWMAN AGAIN DOMINATES BUSCH:** Now Ryan Newman will return his attention to trying to win the NASCAR Nextel Cup. He has the pole today at Dover International Speedway, where he tied a record Saturday by winning his fourth consecutive Busch series start. Before he set a track record by leading 193 of 200 laps in that race, Newman talked about his dream for the MBNA 400. I think every driver wants to lead 400 laps, said Newman, who moved within 40 points of leader Tony Stewart with a victory last Sunday at New Hampshire International Speedway. We d love to lead the first one to get those bonus points, and lead 399 more after that. Newman s pursuit of Jeff Gordon s four-year-old mark of 381 might not be so unbelievable considering his record of three victories in the past four races on The Monster Mile. You have to be careful, Newman said. You never know what the balance is going to be like. Hopefully, we can keep this car in one piece.

**CASTRONEVES WINS POLE:** Helio Castroneves won the pole for the inaugural Watkins Glen Indy Grand Prix on Saturday, posting the fastest lap in a 10-minute shootout among the top six cars. Castroneves covered the 3.37-mile, 11-turn Watkins Glen International road course at a record 133.806 mph, edging IRL newcomer Giorgio Pantano (133.774 mph) and knocking Scott Dixon (133.497 mph) from first to fourth. Patrick Carpentier qualified third (133.629 mph). The IRL established a unique qualifying format for the three street/road courses on this year s schedule. After all 20 drivers finished their single-lap qualifying runs, positions seven through 20 were locked in and the top six drivers ran an extra 10 minutes on new tires in an effort to improve their positions.

## TENNIS

**BRYAN BROTHERS PUT U.S. AHEAD:** The Bryan twins brought the United States within one win of staying in the elite group of Davis Cup. Now it s up to Andy Roddick, or James Blake, to complete the job against Belgium. Bob and Mike Bryan won Saturday s doubles match 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-3 against Olivier Rochus and the outmatched Kristof Vliegen, giving the Americans a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series entering reverse singles in Leuven, Belgium. Today, Roddick will face 31st-ranked Rochus as he goes for his second singles victory. Rochus will be playing his third match in three days. Andy is going to be very motivated to finish it off, U.S. captain Patrick McEnroe said. I feel good about our chances. If Roddick fails, the series will come down to Blake against Olivier s older brother, Christophe Rochus. The Americans will be relegated from the World Group for the first time in 17 years if they lose both matches.

**MORE DAVIS CUP:** Slovakia and Croatia took 2-1 leads in their Davis Cup semifinals with doubles victories, leaving each country one win from a first appearance in the final. Slovakia s Karol Beck and Michal Mertinak beat Argentina s David Nalbandian and Mariano Puerta 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) in Bratislava. We played well as a team, Beck said. Michal s serve was excellent and we deserved to win. Argentina is in its third semifinal in four years and trying to reach its first final since 1981. Slovakia reached the semis for the first time after beating Spain, last year s champion, and the Netherlands. . . . In Split, Croatia, the home country took the lead when Ivan Ljubicic and Mario Ancic defeated Russia s Igor Andreev and Dmitry Tursunov 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-4. For the millionth time, we showed we are strong in the mind when it counts, said Ljubicic.

**OTHER TENNIS:** Karlina Sprem defeated second-seeded Elena Likhovtseva 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in the semifinals of the Sunfeast Open in Calcutta. Sprem, seeded seventh, will play for the title against top-seeded Anastasia Myskina, who defeated Kaia Kanepi 6-3, 6-1. . . . Maria Sharapova quit because of a chest injury, sending Maria Kirilenko into the title match against Anna-Lena Groenefeld in the China Open at Beijing.

## BASEBALL

**SOSA RETURN DOUBTFUL :** Sammy Sosa s unproductive season with the Baltimore Orioles is apparently over. Orioles vice president Jim Beattie said it s doubtful Sosa will return to the team from his Miami home, where the outfielder has been rehabilitating a toe injury since Sept. 7. Obviously the further along it gets, the harder it is to bring him back, Beattie said. We ve been calling and talking to him, and we just have to see where he is the next day or so. Sosa hit .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs this season, and hasn t played since Aug. 25.

**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Nationals outfielder Jose Guillen dropped his appeal of a one-game suspension for an equipment-throwing tantrum after an ejection and was to serve his penalty Saturday night.

## NFL

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** Steelers running back Duce Staley has been upgraded from questionable to probable after practicing all week, and is expected to play today against the New England Patriots. Staley has not played since the Steelers 41-27 loss to New England in the AFC championship game in January. He practiced only the first day of training camp before needing knee surgery Aug. 8, and practiced little until last week.

## GOLF

**BRITAIN AND IRELAND LEAD:** Britain and Ireland pulled one point ahead of Continental Europe on the third day of the Seve Trophy at The Wynyard Club in Billingham, England. The home team won the greensomes 3-1 and the foursomes 2½ to 1½ for an overall lead of 9½ to 8½. Today s 10 singles matches will decide the Ryder Cup-style contest. From 4-1 down on opening day, we lead into the singles. That s a great effort from everyone on the team and a lot of credit goes to the young guns, said Britain and Ireland captain Colin Montgomerie. Of eight matches today, we lost only one. Three matches this afternoon went to the last hole. That shows how close it is.

## HORSE RACING

**BRIGHT ABUNDANCE WINS:** Bright Abundance closed strongly to score a half-length victory over My Lordship in the Grade III $150,000 Noble Damsel Handicap for fillies and mares 3 and older at Belmont Park. Asti was third, another length back in the field of 12. The win was the third in seven races this year for the 4-year-old Quiet American filly, and her first graded stakes win in 18 career starts. Bright Abundance, ridden by Richard Migliore, covered 1 mile in 1:33:93 over the firm turf to earn $90,000 and return $15.60.

# Mayor says city not trying to steal Hornets

**HORNETS,** *from C-1*

along to get a tenant for our sports arena. It was built for an NBA or NHL team."

In the late 1990s, Oklahoma City failed in a bid to land an NHL expansion team. Currently, the NBA has no plans for expansion and when Cornett met with Stern he was told no franchises were considering relocating.

Although Oklahoma City residents will get to see all 29 NBA teams and stars like Shaquille O'Neal, Tracy McGrady and Tim Duncan, the league and owner George Shinn both insist the team eventually will return to New Orleans.

"It's the league's hope and expectation that we'll be in New Orleans next year," NBA attorney Joel Litvin said last week. "This is New Orleans' team."

Still, under the terms of their contract, the Hornets have the option to play at the Ford Center next season. At last week's news conference, Shinn said he had some concerns about his fan base in New Orleans because so many residents have been displaced.

"It's not just the arena (being) in playing condition, but will there be any fans there," Shinn said. "I don't know how many will come back, how quickly they'll come back. I'm convinced New Orleans will rebuild. With the dollars that the federal government is putting in, I can see it rebuilding and even being stronger. But how long is it going to take? This option (for a possible second year in Oklahoma City) was just a cushion just to make sure if it got to that point."

Cornett said he's not trying to steal the Hornets from New Orleans, despite his city's obvious desire to land an NBA team. The city has given the Hornets a sweetheart deal for this season - if the Hornets fall short of earning $40 million then the state, city and a group of local investors will make up the shortfall not to exceed $10 million.

The Hornets are also getting a relocation allowance that includes temporary housing for up to 100 employees. The city will furnish 25,000 square feet of office space for the Hornets within walking distance of the Ford Center.

"I've said all along, no way we would be in any competition with Louisiana," Cornett said. "If the games can be played there (New Orleans), that's where they should be played. But if they couldn't be played there, I was very interested in trying to be a temporary relocation center for the team. This team is absolutely going back to New Orleans."

Cornett said the city's primary attraction in having the Hornets is to show it can support a professional team, which could help it land an NBA or NHL franchise later on.

Cornett said for too long, the national image of his city of 528,042 residents has been that of a minor league city, not capable of supporting a major professional sports franchise. Oklahoma City has a Triple-A baseball team and a minor league hockey team.

For most of the past 10 years, the city has mostly been known for one of the worst tragedies in U.S. history when the Murrah Federal Building was bombed in 1995, killing 168 people.

"We're growing, we've prospered and all we needed was just a chance," Cornett said. "The old image of Oklahoma City being a minor-league city is outdated. We've always been a great place to live with low-cost housing, virtually no traffic congestion, fresh water and clear air. But we've never been perceived as a great place to vacation. All our positives started to mushroom up in the last 18 months."

In an effort to improve the quality of life in the city, a capital improvement project for upgraded sports, recreational, entertainment, cultural and convention facilities was approved by Oklahoma City residents in 1993.

Under the plan, a temporary one cent sales tax was approved to build facilities such as the Ford Center and SBC Bricktown Ballpark, which is the home of the city's Triple-A team. The Ford Center cost $87.7 million and was completed in June 2002.

"There are only 30 cities with NBA teams, so it's a little bit of an elite group," city manager Jim Couch said. "I know it's only for a short time for us, but now we can be considered among those other (NBA) cities for the first time."

Fans in Oklahoma City have shown interest in the Hornets, who announced last week that 5,000 season-ticket deposits had been collected after the first two days of sales.

"We are real optimistic that this is going to work," Litvin said. "Mr. Stern has committed to pour as many resources into this market as needed to assist the Hornets' staff. The way the contract is structured there are incentives I think for all parties to drive revenues as high as possible. The league has an incentive to make this work; we don't want to have games being played in half-empty buildings. We will do whatever it takes."

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# One-two punch could require years to repair

By Bob Marshall
Outdoors editor

I was nearing the end of a 30-minute radio interview about a week after Hurricane Katrina had savaged New Orleans when the host had one last question: "Do you think there will be a duck season this year?"

Part of my brain was repulsed and outraged by the question: How could anyone think about hunting at a time like this? My house still had four feet of water on the first floor, hundreds of people had died, hundreds of thousands were homeless, and this chucklehead wanted to know about hunting season?

But another part of my brain (OK, so maybe it's the largest part) understood the query. Homeless hunters were probably thinking about their favorite season for the same reason storm-tossed football fans couldn't wait for the Saints, LSU or Tulane to kick off.

And before I knew what was happening, these words came spilling out of my mouth: "You know, anytime a duck and a Cajun meet in the winter, there's going to be a duck season."

The host laughed, but it wasn't a joke. I was trying to explain the deep roots the tradition has in south Louisiana. It was another way of expressing the old adage: Where there's a will, there's a way - and the will of coastal Louisiana duck hunters is legendary, if not notorious.

But since then I've seen and learned things that make me wonder if that storied determination will really matter this year or in future seasons. That's because hurricanes Katrina and Rita may well have delivered a one-two punch to our coastal wetlands that could require years to repair.

By last week state and federal wildlife managers were beginning to realize Katrina had hammered wintering waterfowl habitat from the Pearl River to the eastern edges of the Atchafalaya Basin. Before Katrina the delta of the Mississippi River as well as the marshes in the Lake Pontchartrain and the Barataria basins were thick, green and brimming with the kind of aquatic vegetation that attracts and holds wintering waterfowl. And it looked like there would be plenty of waterfowl to hold, because duck production on the northern prairies had been termed excellent.

The potential was there for the first good season in years, biologists agreed, barring one event: A major tropical storm.

We've now had two. The first turned the green Mississippi delta brown and wiped away most of the submerged (floating) vegetation along the entire southeast coast. The DWF said early on-the-ground tests show submergents were gone from the Pearl Basin westward through Salvador and Pointe-au-Chien wildlife management areas.

My flight over those areas a week after the storm didn't show the tell-tale line of drying vegetation on the marsh grass that typically signals a loss of duck foods after a storm. But the DWF now says the line was missing because Katrina's storm surge was so high, the submergents were simply carried miles away.

Finally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported its national wildlife refuges had lost an estimated 150,000 acres of coastal wetlands, much of that duck habitat.

Yet there were still a few windows of opportunity open for a decent season. The bulk of the migration wouldn't be arriving for another six to eight weeks, and some marshes would show new growth by then. Just as important, the central and western Louisiana coast had been largely untouched by Katrina. We could still head west for a hunt.

Rita slammed shut those windows over the weekend.

Our second hurricane sent the same kind of saltwater storm surges rolling across waterfowl habitat in the southwest and central coasts that turned the southeastern marshes brown. There's little doubt critical waterfowl food was destroyed in place or removed.

And Rita also sent a second wave of salty water and punishing waves over the southeastern coast. Any comebacks under way were certainly stopped. Ducks that find their traditional wintering areas devoid of food will be forced to look for groceries somewhere else.

There have been years in the past when a late storm rolled up wetlands in one area of our coast, but I can't remember when the entire Louisiana coast was hammered so severely, and almost simultaneously. These events don't just portend a poor season this year, they could have serious impacts on a significant portion of the continent's migratory waterfowl, which winter in coastal Louisiana and Texas.

If that habitat can't provide the sustenance required to build energy reserves for the long flight home in the spring, what kind of shape will the birds be in for nesting season? How will that affect next summer's production? And how will that impact future seasons?

As I told the radio host, I don't doubt some south Louisianans will take a break from rebuilding to make a hunt. Like football, this tradition is too deeply ingrained into the culture of the region.

In fact, I was proven correct the next weekend when the DWF reported seven hunters showed up at Manchac WMA for the teal opener and averaged two birds each.

But that was before Rita added a punctuation mark to Katrina's devastation. Now I'm not sure just how much can be left

.

# Rita makes it hard to assess Katrina damage

**OUTDOORS,** *from C-1*

Louisiana — imperiling another 1 million acres of public fish and wildlife habitat on 23 additional refuges.

Famous coastal areas such as Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge and the state-owned Rockefeller Refuge as well as upland areas such as Clear Creek and Peason Ridge wildlife management areas all were expected to feel the impacts of a hurricane carrying winds up to 145 mph and a storm surge of more than 20 feet. A worst-case scenario could find more than half of the state's public wildlife areas damaged and closed to use.

The state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries last week estimated the damage to wildlife habitat in the affected area at $50 million, while fisheries losses were placed at almost $2 billion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, meanwhile, said the damage to its infrastructure on federal refuges in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama was $94 million.

Those agencies realized Friday their bills would be much higher by the end of this week.

"We really were just starting to get a handle on what Katrina had done, finally beginning to get a little sleep, and now it's starting all over again," said Dwight Landreneau, DWF secretary. "We were saying we couldn't afford another hit like Katrina, but here it comes."

The job of assessing impacts of Katrina on fish and wildlife resources had been delayed for more than a week as DWF and USFWS personnel continued to help with research and rescue operations in the affected parishes. But the effort gained steam last week as those rescue operations ended and high tides left by the storm finally began receding. With few exceptions the news was not good.

Almost every wetland habitat on the southeast coast suffered a severe loss of submerged aquatic vegetation, important for attracting and sustaining millions of wintering waterfowl, said Parke Moore, DWF assistant secretary Office of Wildlife. Other major impacts included heavy losses of timber on state areas, damage to roads serving management areas, and losses to fresh, brackish and saltwater marshes.

"We lost $20 million in hardwood timber on Pearl River (WMA) alone, and we suffered $12 million in damage to our infrastructure — roads, buildings and equipment," Moore said.

The loss of submerged vegetation, which floated in the water column, initially was not thought to be severe, but on-the-ground inspections last week showed another picture. While most areas still have plenty of emergent vegetation — plants that have roots in the soil — the submerged vegetation had largely been washed away, Moore said.

**"We really were just starting to get a handle on what Katrina had done, finally beginning to get a little sleep, and now it's starting all over again We were saying we couldn't afford another hit like Katrina, but here it comes."**

DWIGHT LANDRENEAU
DWF secretary

"We had a very high storm surge, and it apparently just carried submerged aquatics away when it ran out," Moore said. "This is a major food component for domestic wildlife, but also for migratory waterfowl.

"Our initial checks on the ground in places like Salvador (WMA), Pass a Loutre (state refuge) and Biloxi (WMA) indicate that most of those plants are gone."

The greatest post-storm concern was a large-scale loss of coastal marshes to the hammering of Katrina's winds and tides. The fragile deltas on which the marshes grow are the platform for the state's rich commercial and recreational fisheries, the winter home for as many as 5 million migratory birds, and the major storm buffer for communities like New Orleans. Because levees on the Mississippi River prevent spring floods from delivering the silt that rebuilds the deltas, marshes lost to storms cannot be replaced.

The USFWS said its refuges had lost approximately 150,000 acres of coastal bottomland wetland habitat mainly in Louisiana. State officials said their final analysis on land loss will take weeks and months, initial inspections indicate marsh losses were not as great as feared, said Moore and John Roussel, DWF assistant secretary office of fisheries.

"It looks like because those marshes were covered by such a deep volume of water from the storm surge, they didn't get chewed up by the pounding of waves," Moore said. "So, right now, we're not seeing a lot of obvious losses."

But there were impacts. Many of those marshes float on a layer of plant detritus and soil and were moved around by the storm surge. St. Bernard, Plaquemines and St. Tammany parish wetlands all showed signs of re-engineering courtesy of Katrina. Lagoons that once were clear of marsh are dotted with lumps of grass moved by the storm surge. Some canals and bayous that were open waterways before the storm now are clogged with grasses.

The West Pearl River just south of U.S. 90 is completely choked with marsh moved into the riverbed by the storm surge.

"That spot where Upper Black Bayou meets the West Pearl is just jammed with grass, it's impassable," said David Moreland, wildlife administrator for the DWF.

"The storm rearranged the landscape in a lot of ways. It moved marsh, dropped timber that blocks trails and roads. Veteran hunters probably won't recognize huge areas of the Pearl River Basin."

Fisheries also were suffering. While initial concerns about pollution to lakes caused by storm runoff from surrounding communities is easing, Roussel said impacts from the storm surge are now beginning to show up in fresh and brackish habitat across southeast Louisiana. Plants and other organic matter washed into rivers and swamps by the storm have begun to decompose, robbing the water of oxygen needed to support fish and plant life.

"We know the first tests being done in Lake Pontchartrain show the water quality isn't too bad away from the south shoreline and that's real good news," he said. "But we're finding some problems with oxygen levels in the rivers off the lakes (Pontchartrain and Maurepas).

"We're trying to keep an eye on that with our sampling crews, but there's really nothing we can do. This is the same type of thing that happened to the Atchafalaya Basin after Hurricane Andrew. There's just so much organic matter in the water column, and there are such warm temperatures, it's almost a certainty."

There have been no large fish kills detected yet, but Roussel said that does not mean fish have not died.

"We're not doing any shocking yet to look for fish, because fish naturally leave these areas of low oxygen," he said. "And we may have had some large fish kills early on, but because we were so heavily involved in search and rescue, we may have missed them. Those dead fish may already have sunk or been washed out."

Roussel said the extent of the impact on fisheries would not be know until comprehensive shocking and samplings efforts could be completed, an effort that could take weeks or months.




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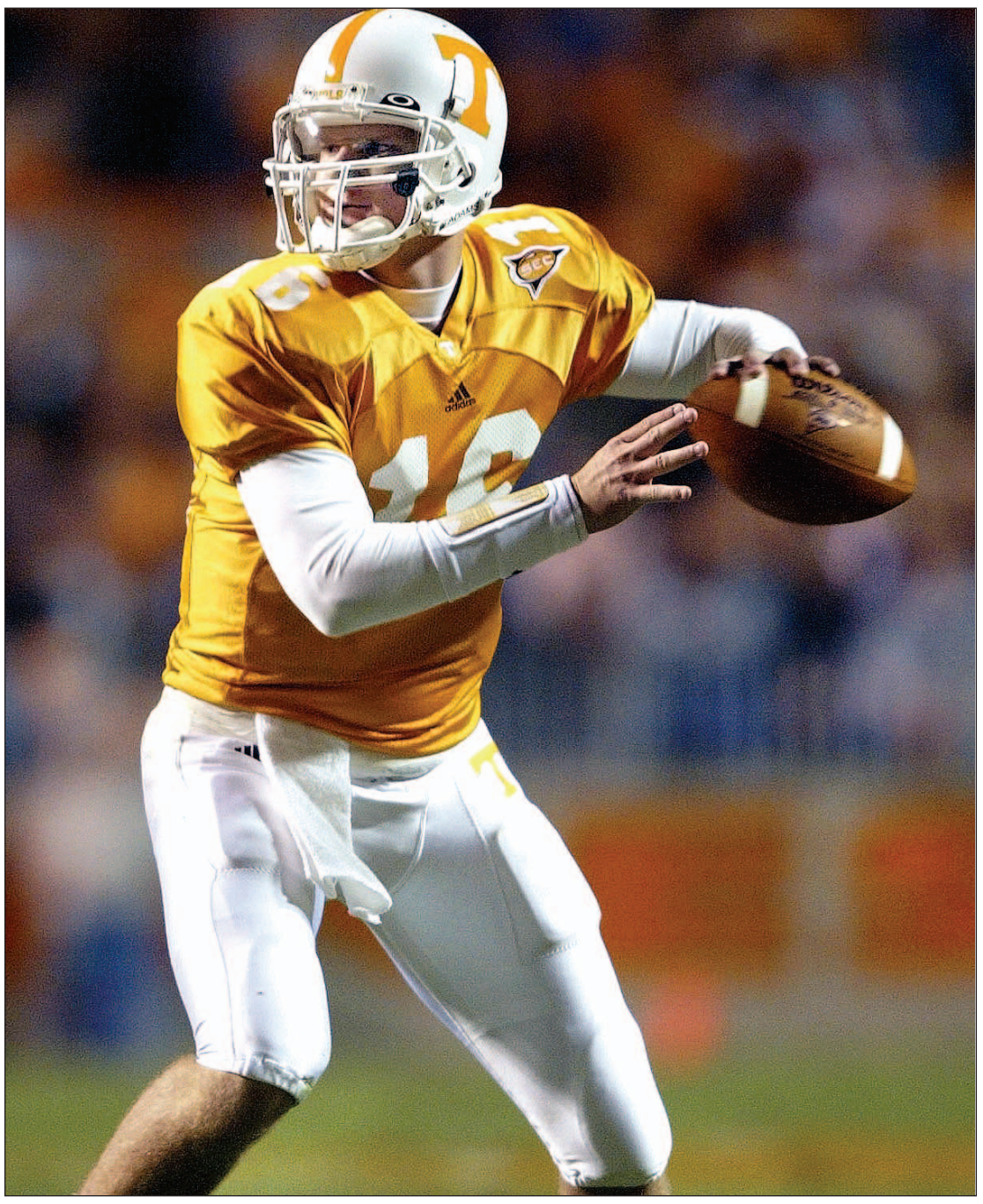
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SPORTS



AP PHOTO

Tennessee quarterback Rick Clausen began his collegiate career at LSU before transferring. Clausen completed five passes for 35 yards with one interception with the Tigers.

# WAITING IN WINGS

## *Vols QB Clausen returns to LSU 4 years later in same role*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Welcome back, Rick Clausen.

Remember this guy?

He's the fuzzy-haired distant backup who left the conscience of Tigerland citizens three years ago, when his only claim to fame was being Casey's younger brother. Without his mother, Cathy, whose dual-sided LSU/Tennessee jersey TV producers milked incessantly for cutaway shots during the 2001 SEC title game, Rick wouldn't have received any air time throughout his forgettable stay in Baton Rouge.

During a blink-and-you-miss-it LSU career, Clausen threw 12 passes, completed six (five to Tigers receivers, one to a defender for an interception) for 35 yards.

So, without fanfare, he transferred to Tennessee.

On Monday night, the departed senior returns to Tiger Stadium — a game he was eager to play back in July when he was one of Tennessee's representatives for SEC Media Days — and will resume a familiar role, just on the opposite sideline.

In less than a week, Clausen went from the King of Rocky Top — in charge of a top five team, headed into the Swamp against SEC rival Florida for a made-for-national-TV matchup — to indefinite backup to Erik Ainge in the sequence of five attempts. Now, cruelly, his claim to fame is being the older brother of prep phenom, Jimmy, as the opportunity to shine underneath Louisiana's most glorified row of lights ticks away beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

"All I am asking for is an opportunity," Clausen said.

Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer gave Clausen a chance, albeit brief.

After bailing out the Vols in 2004 when Ainge separated his shoulder midway through a loss to Notre Dame (Clausen directed Tennessee to the SEC title game and a Cotton Bowl blowout), Fulmer opened the starting job for competition in the spring and fall.

"I talked to Ainge down at the Manning (Passing Academy) camp, and just looking at his physical ability, I thought it was going to be tough for Rick," said Tulane quarterback Lester Ricard, who like Clausen opted out of the cluttered situation in Baton Rouge in 2003. "But I think Rick is one of the smartest quarterbacks I've seen. That's the reason why he started at Tennessee. ... And, he's a fighter. It doesn't matter how weak his arm is or how inaccurate he is at times — his knowledge, and how hard he fights, is amazing."

Ainge eventually filled the vacancy ... for one week. Clausen donned the rescuer's cape again and replaced Ainge (5 of 14, 57 yards and two interceptions) in Tennessee's 17-10 non-conference squeaker over UAB. With an extra week to think, Fulmer gave Clausen the nod.

Then, following two unimpressive series, Fulmer yanked Clausen. He was given the chance to direct a first-half-ending, two-minute drill and then spent the rest of the soupy evening watching Ainge command the Vols' offense to just seven points. Apparently, that was enough to convince Fulmer to stop the revolving door.

Despite his noticeable progression, Clausen isn't expected to dirty his uniform unless Ainge is injured.

"Knowledge and size," Jimbo Fisher answered when asked the differences between then and now. "The knowledge of playing more and Rick grew. When Rick came here he was 160 pounds, now he's 200, 205 or whatever. He was a young guy when he came. I think his body just caught up. He's gotten bigger and stronger and it's allowed him to play and have success ... We're guilty as coaches. Sometimes, you got to have patience."

# SATURDAY S COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCORES

**SEC**
Alabama 24, Arkansas 13
Auburn 37, W. Kentucky 14
Florida 49, Kentucky 28

**C-USA**
West Virginia 20, East Carolina 15
Tulane 31, SMU 10
Navy at Rice, ppd.
Southern Miss. at Houston, ppd.

**EAST**
Alfred 23, Springfield 22, OT
Amherst 28, Hamilton 3
Bloomsburg 27, Indiana, Pa. 0
Bowdoin 22, Middlebury 21
Bridgewater, Mass. 57, Framingham St. 0
Brockport 19, Frostburg St. 14
Bryant 20, Pace 19
Buffalo St. 27, Cortland St. 20
C.W. Post 73, St. Anselm 17
Cent. Connecticut St. 14, Albany, N.Y. 13
Charleston, W.Va. 17, W. Virginia St. 14
Colby 35, Williams 9
Columbia 23, Duquesne 13
Curry 34, Mass.-Dartmouth 6
Delaware Valley 31, Lycoming 13
Denison 49, Gettysburg 21
East Stroudsburg 17, Millersville 13
Edinboro 16, Shippensburg 0
Endicott 24, W. New England 14
Fitchburg St. 6, Westfield St. 0, 3OT
Gannon 26, N. Michigan 23, OT
Georgetown, D.C. 10, Stony Brook 7
Glenville St. 82, WVU Tech 7
Grove City 16, Muhlenberg 6
Hartwick 54, Husson 28
Harvard 38, Brown 35, 2OT
Hobart 56, RPI 48, 3OT
Iona 16, Stonehill 7
Ithaca 41, St. John Fisher 35
Kutztown 45, Mansfield 18
La Salle 29, St. Francis, Pa. 27
Lafayette 27, Fordham 10
Maine Maritime 41, Mass. Maritime 28
Marist 38, Wagner 21
Massachusetts 14, Rhode Island 6
Montclair St. 31, Salisbury St. 27
Moravian 49, Juniata 14
New Hampshire 49, Dartmouth 20
Northeastern 56, Towson 41
Norwich 18, Plymouth St. 14
Pittsburgh 41, Youngstown St. 0
Princeton 20, San Diego 17
Rowan 35, Robert Morris 28, OT
Shepherd 14, Fairmont St. 11
St. Lawrence 21, Coast Guard 7
Thiel 41, Bethany, W.Va. 7
Trinity, Conn. 47, Bates 0
Tufts 16, Wesleyan, Conn. 6
Union, N.Y. 41, Rochester 28
W. Michigan 19, Temple 16
W. Va. Wesleyan 23, Concord 14
WPI 28, Kings Point 21
Waynesburg 34, Hanover 17
Wesley 49, Kean 19
West Liberty 35, Seton Hill 10
Widener 41, Lebanon Valley 38
Wilkes 37, FDU-Florham 21
Worcester St. 49, MIT 6
Yale 37, Cornell 17

**SOUTH**
Appalachian St. 45, The Citadel 13
Apprentice 28, Chowan 14
Bethune-Cookman 63, Norfolk St. 61, OT
Boston College 16, Clemson 13, OT
Bridgewater, Va. 45, George Mason 0
Catholic 28, Randolph-Macon 24
Centre 35, Washington & Lee 26
Charleston Southern 35, North Greenville 28
Clark Atlanta 52, Lane 20
Cumberland, Ky. 44, Kentucky Wesleyan 7
Cumberland, Tenn. 34, Virginia-Wise 22
E. Kentucky 52, Tennessee Tech 3
Elon 12, N. Carolina A&T 9
Florida A&M 12, Tennessee St. 7
Furman 44, Hofstra 41, OT
Hampden-Sydney 47, Guilford 45
Hampton 44, Morgan St. 14
Hardin-Simmons 14, Mississippi College 0
Huntingdon 16, Rhodes 12
Jackson St. 33, MVSU 14
Jacksonville 55, Butler 21
Mars Hill 14, Carson-Newman 7
Maryland 22, Wake Forest 12
Methodist 31, N.C. Wesleyan 20
Miami 23, Colorado 3
N.C. Central 38, Bowie St. 19
NW Oklahoma at McNeese St., ccd.
North Carolina 31, N.C. State 24
Pikeville 38, Campbellsville 28
Presbyterian 37, Catawba 7
S. Virginia 35, Greensboro 7
Shaw 49, Livingstone 27
Shorter 52, Lambuth 20
Tenn.-Martin 31, Gardner-Webb 28
Thomas More 17, Westminster, Pa. 3
VMI 26, Lehigh 18
Virginia 38, Duke 7
Virginia Tech 51, Georgia Tech 7
W. Carolina at Nicholls St., ccd.
Washington & Jefferson 50, Emory & Henry 0
William & Mary 56, Liberty 0
Wingate 10, Tusculum 7

**MIDWEST**
Adrian 45, Bluffton 21
Augustana, Ill. 45, Wis.-Platteville 14
Bethel, Minn. 27, Hamline 0
Black Hills St. 33, Dickinson St. 19
Buena Vista 33, Cornell, Iowa 13
Capital 66, Heidelberg 0
Colorado Mines 27, Chadron St. 26
Concordia, Moor. 38, Carleton 31
Concordia, St.P. 55, Bemidji St. 48, OT
Culver-Stockton 34, William Jewell 10
Davidson 48, Valparaiso 17
Drake 54, Austin Peay 0
E. Illinois 43, Samford 14
E. Michigan 23, Cent. Michigan 20, OT
Eureka 32, Concordia, Ill. 13
Ferris St. 33, Mercyhurst 27
Fort Hays St. 18, Adams St. 15
Franklin 50, Tri-State 6
Indianapolis 23, Wayne, Mich. 16
Jamestown 44, Mayville St. 6
Kalamazoo 38, Kenyon 26
Kansas St. 54, North Texas 7
Lawrence 38, Carroll, Wis. 36
Luther 33, Wartburg 24
Maranatha Baptist 27, Blackburn 24
Martin Luther 6, Westminster, Mo. 0
Mary 40, S. Dakota Tech 14
McPherson 33, Ottawa, Kan. 27
Michigan St. 61, Illinois 14
Michigan Tech 17, Ashland 14
Midland Lutheran 40, Dakota Wesleyan 27
Millikin 21, Albion 20
Minn. Duluth 18, Upper Iowa 7
Minnesota 42, Purdue 35, OT
Minot St. 24, Dakota St. 18
Missouri Western 24, Truman St. 2
Monmouth, Ill. 56, Beloit 30
Morningside 49, Doane 7
NW Missouri St. 38, Missouri Southern 13
North Dakota 52, Augustana, S.D. 3
Northern St., S.D. 17, Minn. St., Moorhead 12
Northwestern, Iowa 41, Nebraska Wesleyan 38
Northwood, Mich. 34, Findlay 17
Ohio 35, Kent St. 32
Ohio Northern 34, Muskingum 10
Ohio St. 31, Iowa 6
Olivet 40, Manchester 7
Penn St. 34, Northwestern 29
Ripon 21, Lake Forest 14
Rockford 82, Principia 12
Rose-Hulman 45, Oberlin 13
Simpson, Iowa 40, Dubuque 7
Sioux Falls 53, Dana 22
South Dakota 59, Nebraska-Omaha 14
St. Ambrose 56, Taylor 7
St. Francis, Ind. 35, Wis.-Eau Claire 10
St. John s, Minn. 41, Gustavus 14
St. Joseph s, Ind. 28, Missouri-Rolla 23
St. Norbert 48, Knox 13
St. Olaf 71, Macalester 10
St. Thomas, Minn. 53, Augsburg 17
St. Xavier 35, Geneva 20
Tiffin 56, Alma 23
Urbana 19, Olivet Nazarene 17
Wabash 50, Earlham 2
Walsh 31, Trinity, Ill. 3
Washburn 56, SW Baptist 21
Wayne, Neb. 45, Minn.-Crookston 14
Wheaton, Ill. 48, Hope 7
Winona St. 42, SW Minnesota St. 14
Wis.-River Falls 45, Pacific Lutheran 14
Wis.-Stevens Pt. 42, Waldorf 13
Wooster 38, Case Reserve 21

**SOUTHWEST**
Arkansas St. 66, Fla. International 24
Arkansas Tech 27, West Alabama 21, OT
Delta St. 21, Henderson St. 17
E. New Mexico 33, Abilene Christian 30
E. Texas Baptist 16, Austin 6
Howard Payne 38, Sul Ross St. 16
Navy at Rice, ppd.
S. Nazarene 46, Peru St. 7
SE Oklahoma 35, Panhandle St. 3
Texas A&M Commerce 17, Cent. Oklahoma 3
Tuskegee 13, Ark.-Pine Bluff 9

**WEST**
Carroll, Mont. 37, Montana-Western 7
E. Oregon 24, Montana Tech 10
Fort Lewis 28, Western St.,Colo. 17
Idaho St. 34, E. Washington 30
Montana St. 20, N. Dakota St. 17
Montana St.-Northern 21, Rocky Mountain 16
Nebraska-Kearney 59, N.M Highlands 21
Notre Dame 36, Washington 17
TCU 51, BYU 50, OT
UC Davis 37, Sacramento St. 7

# Game doesn't seem as significant as it once did

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

who doubled as a wide receiver. Three Moreau field goals defeated Texas A&M 9-6 in the opener. One decided a 3-0 victory over Rice. One tied Tennessee 3-3. In the loss to Alabama, Moreau was responsible for all of LSU's points.

When Florida showed up at Tiger Stadium, it was the same story. Moreau kicked two field goals, but they were not near enough to tilt the scales in a 20-6 Gators' victory featuring the passing of quarterback Steve Spurrier.

In the Sugar Bowl, the Tigers made amends with a 13-10 win over Syracuse. This time it was Moreau catching a 57-yard touchdown pass and later kicking his 14th field goal of the season to break a 10-10 tie.

That's how Hurricane Hilda played into the season of '64.

We'll learn Monday about the effects of Rita and Katrina on a football game that seemed a lot more significant about a month ago.

This weekend you'd have Tigers fans talking about that 38-31 overtime victory over the Vols in 2000, the time Rohan Davey threw a touchdown pass to Robert Royal in OT to give the Tigers the lead, and Damien James coming up with a fourth-down deflection to foil Tennessee's bid to play on.

You'd have Tigers fans going back to the SEC championship game of 2001, the time second-ranked Tennessee was poised to play for the BCS championship. They'd be talking about LSU ending the dream with a 30-21 upset in Atlanta, when Matt Mauck made his first impression, coming off the bench to replace an injured Davey in the second half and stirring things up.

On Monday, with a crowd of 90,000 expected at LSU's football home, they'll be talking of other topics, more about life-and-death topics than football.

About Katrina turning Tigertown into a city of 700,000.

About rooftop rescues.

About helicopters using Bernie Moore Track Stadium as a landing pad.

More about real-life heroism than touchdowns.

As for Les Miles, who has watched and waited, he'll finally discover how it feels coaching the Tigers at Tiger Stadium.

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SPORTS

# Tulane defense sacks it to 'em

*Green Wave drops SMU QBs nine times*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS — Often on Saturday, they waltzed past offensive linemen like celebs would past a dance club bouncer. One by one, they slipped into a defensive player's equivalent to the VIP room — the quarterback pocket.

Sacks were on the house.

Tulane defensive players tallied nine sacks against Southern Methodist in the Green Wave's 31-10 win Saturday.

Four of thesacks came onthird down, and another two on fourth as Tulane physically and psychologically dominated SMU's offensive linemen, and it rattled the quarterbacks.

"Offensively, we were inept," SMU coach Phil Bennett said. "It's a tribute to Tulane when you can rush four and get pressure on the quarterback. Ô We were a step slow in everything we tried to do."

Before the game, Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo said he was worried about SMU quarterback Jerad Romo, saying hewas elusive and has shown hecan throw on the run. Tulane wasn't able to blitz with its linebackers too often, because coverage was essential. And the Wave defensive line didn't have any seniors ormarquee players; Tulane rotates two lines of players, a combination of four of juniors and four sophomores.

But Tulane's front four was more than efficient. They were overwhelming.

"We put a lot of pressure on Romo — he's such a competitor and we had to do that," said Scelfo, whose teamlimited Romo to 4-of-11 passing and11 yards rushing. "When you can put pressure on a quarterback with four guys, you're going to have a tough day at the office."

Scelfo also pointed out the toughness of his secondary, which kept SMU's receivers from breaking open. But the day belonged to the boys in the trenches.

"I haven't seen the D-line play like that since my freshman year," said senior linebacker Anthony Cannon, who was a freshman on the Hawaii Bowl team in 2002. "We have a great defensive coordinator (Eric Schumann), and we're finally coming around, being experienced after playing together for a while. It's starting to show."

Tulane had 16 tackles for losses of 60 yards. Defensive end Craig Morris, who also had a sack, made consecutive tackles behind the line of scrimmage in the first quarter, forcing a third-and-16. Romo threw incomplete, SMU punted and Tulane scored its first touchdown on the following drive.

In the second quarter, Morris prowled into the backfield onsecond down for his sack. On the following play — third-and-10 from SMU's 35 — Cannon stormed around the side of the line and pulled down Romo for a sack. SMU punted, and five plays later Tulane doubled the score.

On SMU's next possession, down 14-0, Cannon and tackle Antonio Harris teamedfor a third down sack of Romo. On Tulane's 37, SMU went for it on fourth down. This time, Harris flew solo, sacking Romo.

Tulane tallied four of its sacks in the fourth quarter, including two by tackle Alvin Johnson.

A week after Tulane did not get one sack, Tulane recorded its most since an 11-sack onslaught of Florida A&M a year ago.

"We've been through so much," Wave tackle Avery Williams said. "And that is our payoff."

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# Tulane gets defensive in 31-10 rout

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

The defense, meanwhile, was dominating, holding the Mustangs (1-3, 0-1 in C-USA) to 127 total yards. It is the second straight stellar performance for the defense. Last week, Tulane held Mississippi State to 225 yards.

"We really appreciate their hospitality and everything they did for us, but when we stepped out on the field, I don't think (SMU) would have wanted us to do anything else but play to win," linebacker Anthony Cannon said.

Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo said the play of the defensive front and the linebackers was the key to the game.

"I can't say enough about our defense," said Scelfo, who with 32 victories is the fourth-winningest coach in Tulane history. "We've been taking a lot of pride (over the years) in our offense. But if we play like this defensively all year, it's going to keep us in games."

Southern Methodist quarterback Jerad Romo spent more time getting off the turf as he did completing passes. He was 4-of-10 for 25 yards and was sacked seven times. Altogether, the Green Wave (1-1, 1-0) had nine sacks, the second-highest number by Tulane in more than 16 seasons.

The pressure from Tulane's line proved to be the difference. SMU coach Phil Bennett said there was no hiding that fact.

"Physically, up front, we got whipped," Bennett said. "They won the line of scrimmage, and everybody at the game could see that. I thought Tulane's defense played well. (Tulane defensive coordinator) Eric (Schumann) did a good job."

Schumann, SMU's defensive coordinator when Tulane beat the Mustangs on their home field in 2000, was satisfied with the way the defense played. Coming back to Dallas and leaving with a victory was especially pleasing.

"I thought we played well today," said Schumann, who was unable to suppress a smile.



AP PHOTO

SMU cornerback Rolando Humphrey tries to knock down a pass intended for Tulane wide receiver Damarcus Davis. Davis had five catches for 58 yards and a touchdown.

On the Mustangs' first series, the Green Wave was caught off guard by an end-around by Reynaldo Pellerin that gained 34 yards.

SMU was able to break a couple of other big running plays, but not enough to offset the pass rush. After Pellerin's run, the Mustangs netted one yard the rest of the half.

Last week, the Wave linebackers led the team in tackles. Against SMU the defensive line, led by end Craig Morris, made a contribution. Morris had five tackles, 4 for lost yardage.

The Wave's offense got off to a slow start, but running back Matt Forte's second 12-yard touchdown run just before halftime gave Tulane a 14-0 lead. It was a huge boost because the Wave had blown two earlier scoring chances. Place-kicker Jacob Hartgroves' 26-yard field goal attempt on Tulane's third possession hit the left upright.

Late in the second quarter, after Tulane reached SMU's 10, Ricard's pass into the end zone was intercepted.

SMU's Chris McMurtray's 24-yard field goal late in the third quarter cut into Tulane's lead, but the Wave countered with a 24-yard field goal by Hartgroves, and capitalized on a fumble by SMU on the ensuing kickoff. On the next play, Ricard hit Damarcus Davis with a 16-yard touchdown pass.

SMU's only touchdown came on an 88-yard kickoff return by Jessie Henderson early in the fourth quarter.

"Obviously I had some emotions before the game," Scelfo said. "You don't forget people when they reach out to you in need. I feel bad for the way the game turned out for everybody associated with SMU, but for three hours we knew it was going to be a slugfest."

# Tulane's Lucas leaves game with injury

*Senior injures left quadriceps during the third quarter*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

DALLAS — Tulane safety and punt returner Sean Lucas bruised his left quadriceps in the third quarter Saturday, which forced the senior out of the lineup for most of the second half.

"I don't want to speculate, but hopefully I'll be ready for next Saturday," said Lucas, who was on crutches after the Green Wave's 31-10 victory at Southern Methodist.

Before the injury with 12:08 left in the third, Lucas was a keyondefense, tallying two tackles and a pass breakup. And he returned three punts for a 24.6-yard average.

Onhis firstreturn, Lucas caught a wind-aided punt while running backward, then eluded a defender to turn a probable no gain into a 16-yard return.

On a second-quarter return, Lucas sped down the left sideline and, just as it seemedhe could only go out of bounds, two Tulane players made simultaneous blocks to open up a lane. Lucas darted for 47 yardsbefore Johnnie Fitzgerald pulled him down at the SMU 24.

"It all happened so fast," Lucas said of the longest punt return of his career. "I actually should have been in the end zone."

**STILL NO SITE:** Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said "it's not necessarily the case" that Tulane will play its Oct. 14 game against UTEP in Mobile, Ala.

"We've had discussions - that's all there's been," Dickson said. "We haven't ruled out anything."

The city of Mobile has offered Ladd-Peebles Stadium to the Green Wave for any ofits home games this season. Earlier in the month, Dickson said Tulane would play one of its six home games in Mobile. But Dickson won't decide until early next week where thegame against UTEP will be. Dickson was hoping to have a decision this past week, but logistical issues because of Hurricane Rita put planning on hold.

Dickson said he would still consider Shreveport's Independence Stadium, where Tulane played its opener against Mississippi State. Tulane will play its Oct. 1 game against Southeastern Louisiana in Baton Rouge and the Oct. 8 game against Houston in Lafayette.

**TIME ON TULANE'S SIDE:** For the second straight Saturday, Tulane had possession of the football for a significant amount of time. Against SMU, Tulane had the ball for 40:36 to SMU's 19:24. And in last week's lost to Mississippi State, the Wave had the ball for 36:06 to the Bulldogs' 23:54.

**WORTH A CHEER:** The Lake Highlands High varsity cheerleaders were Tulane's cheerleaders Saturday, wearing green T-shirts and white skirts. The group, which volunteered to cheer for the game, had raised about $10,000 to attend an out-of-state competition, but decided to donate the money to the Red Cross instead.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Tulane had 24 first downs - SMU had 10, includingthree in the first half. ... Tulane was 2-for-2 on fourth downs against the Mustangs. The Wave is5-for-5 this season; twice in the Mississippi State game the Wave faked a punt. ... Tulane safety Tra Boger led the team with seven tackles. ... For the second straight week, Tulane shut out its opponent in the first half. ... Tulane kicker Jacob Hartgroves missed his first field-goal attempt of the season, hitting the left upright on a 26-yarder. The freshman made his second attempt, a 24-yarder in the fourth quarter. ... Tulane left guard Chris McGee started after resting his left ankle during the week. McGee rolled the ankle on the first play against SMU ñ and was helped off the field - but returned during the same series and played the rest of the game.

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Benjamin Hochman can be reached at BenjaminHochman@aol.com.



AP PHOTO

SMU running back DeMyron Martin had one catch for seven yards against Tulane on Saturday. Green Wave cornerback Brandon Spincer moves in for the coverage.

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# INSIDE THE GAME

*SAINTS at VIKINGS*

**Kickoff:** Noon at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis.
**Coaches:** Saints Jim Haslett (43-39 sixth season, all with Saints); Vikings coach Mike Tice (23-27, fourth season, all with Vikings)
**TV:** Fox
**Radio:** 870-AM, 101.9-FM

**KEEP AN EYE ON DAUNTE CULPEPPER:** There might not be a more compelling player in the league right now than the Vikings' dynamic quarterback. A three-time Pro Bowler and one of the league's true superstars, Culpepper is off to a miserable start with no touchdown passes, eight interceptions and two lost fumbles. The 28-year-old is obviously struggling to adjust this year without his former superstar receiver Randy Moss (traded to Oakland), without former offensive coordinator Scott Linehan (took a job with the Dolphins) and without Pro Bowl center Matt Birk (season-ending hip surgery). But the Saints had better not underestimate Culpepper, who threw 39 touchdown passes last year. And they probably won't — he threw for five of those touchdown passes and 425 yards against the Saints in the Superdome last year.

**JOE HORN:** Rarely is the Saints' magnetic receiver lacking for attention. But with so much swirling around the team this year, his outstanding efforts both on and off the field probably have not received their due recognition. Horn has 14 receptions for 209 yards and a touchdown in two games, and he has been setting the emotional tone on offense, clearly driven and inspired by the plight of Hurricane Katrina's victims. If there was any doubt that the 33-year-old Horn was still a difference-maker worthy of the six-year contract extension he signed in May, he is quickly putting them to rest.

## GAMEPLAN

Get used to reading this here every week: The Saints will try to establish the run. It's one of the basic tenets of football, but it has become this particular team's mantra. After middling results in the first two weeks, the Saints and tailback Deuce McAllister are overdue for a breakout rushing performance. And there's no time better than this week, against a struggling Vikings team that ranks last in the NFL against the run. The Saints might be without offensive guard Jermane Mayberry, who injured his shoulder in practice, but they have experienced backup guards who can fill in (Montrae Holland and Jamar Nesbit). Expect the Saints to stubbornly stick to their rushing attack, even if Minnesota commits to stopping it. And expect quarterback Aaron Brooks to punish the Vikings on occasion with the play-action pass. The key will be to avoid getting down early in the game, like the Saints did last week against New York, in which they turned over the ball six times and trailed by 14 points for most of the night.

## KEY MATCHUP

**VIKINGS RECEIVERS vs. SAINTS CORNERS:** Each unit is down a man — the Vikings without injured starter Nate Burleson and the Saints without injured starter Fakhir Brown. Brown's replacement, Jason Craft, has been inconsistent and gave too much of a cushion to Giants receiver Plaxico Burress last week. He needs to be better against a quarterback like Culpepper, who isn't afraid to take shots down the field. The Saints' other corner, Mike McKenzie, has been solid so far this year and is very familiar with Culpepper and the Vikings, having spent 5 1/2 seasons with division-rival Green Bay. The Saints should be able to keep the Vikings' spotty running game in check. They need to put the clamps on receivers Travis Taylor and Marcus Robinson, as well.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** This will be the fifth meeting between the Saints and Vikings in the last six years. Minnesota has a 3-1 edge during that stretch, including a 34-16 playoff victory in January 2001. ... The Vikings gained 605 yards of total offense against the Saints last year, the most ever allowed by the Saints in a single game. ... The Vikings have turned over the ball 12 times in 24 offensive possessions this year. ... Under Coach Jim Haslett, the Saints are still 25-16 on the road in the past five seasons. Last week's loss to the New York Giants officially counted against their home record. ... Horn needs two more touchdown receptions to match Eric Martin with the team record of 48.

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** "(The team's focus) is good. You always worry about it because of everything going around you, but for the most part they've been good. They were good in practice again (this week) just like last week. We got to take it to the field better on Sunday than we did last week." — Haslett.

**— compiled by Mike Triplett**

# Cone of uncertainty in NFL stretches leaguewide

**Brian Allee-Walsh**
*NFL columnist*

The recent month of closely monitoring the development, path and widespread devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita has increased my meteorological knowledge exponentially.

For instance, I have come to appreciate the significance of upper level highs, lows, stationary fronts, ridges and computer models.

I have a better respect for the wet and destructive northeast side of a hurricane, storm surge, tidal waves, breached levees, Cat 3 and 4 storms, mandatory evacuations and shelters of last resort.

The words homeless and displaced have spawned new working relationships with former strangers from FEMA and the Red Cross.

However, after spending 18 grueling hours in a car Thursday, evacuating from Houston to Lafayette to supposedly escape Rita, a drive that typically takes 3 hours, I still don't understand the meaning of contra flow. Probably because I've never seen it successfully implemented in New Orleans or Houston.

But my favorite new piece of knowledge is the cone of uncertainty, that area of landfall where a hurricane potentially will strike. Meteorologists can even determine the percentages of probability where it will strike within the cone.

Fascinating.

So how does the cone of uncertainty apply to the 2005 NFL season?

After two weeks, the cone appears to stretch leaguewide, meaning 12 to 15 teams conceivably could reach Super Bowl XL in Detroit.

Three unlikely suspects - Tampa Bay, the New York Giants and Washington — are the only undefeated teams in the NFC. Don't look for any of them to emerge as champion, although the Buccaneers have played well.

The AFC appears to be going according to form, with Indianapolis, Kansas City, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh all at 2-0. The two-time defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots are lurking at 1-1.

The cone of uncertainty applies elsewhere around the NFL. Consider:

▶ The upside-down NFC North is up for grabs, based on the early uninspired play of preseason favorites Green Bay (0-2) and Minnesota (0-2). Brett Favre seems to have lost his edge and the Vikings are downright awful. Yet Detroit (1-1) and Chicago (1-1) don't appear to have the staying power needed to win the division, suggesting a 7-9 team might win it all.

▶ Mike Tice in Minnesota and Dom Capers in Houston appear to be dead coaches walking at 0-2. Unless Tice guides the Vikings deep into the playoffs, look for rookie owner Zygi Wilf to make a change, possibly before season's end. On Monday, with a gentle nudge from Texans general manager Charlie Casserly and owner Bob McNair, Capers dismissed Chris Palmer and promoted offensive line coach Joe "I can drive this train" Pendry to offensive coordinator.

▶ Can Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden ride his new Cadillac all the way to Detroit?

▶ The biggest loss for quarterback Daunte Culpepper may not be wide receiver Randy Moss (traded to Oakland) but offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Scott Linehan (now with the Miami Dolphins).

▶ The Indianapolis Colts and Kansas City Chiefs may now find out if defense truly wins championships.

▶ Suddenly, the Baltimore Ravens (0-2) are lacking the swagger without a healthy and productive quarterback. The Bengals appear to be the real deal although Pittsburgh remains the team to beat in the AFC North, and the San Diego Chargers join Minnesota, Baltimore and Green Bay as the league's biggest early-season busts.

## BRIAN ALLEE-WALSH'S NFL PICKS

### WEEK THREE

*(home team in caps)*

**VIKINGS (0-2) over Saints (1-1):** The Saints always seem to bring out the best in quarterback Daunte Culpepper.

**Carolina (1-1) over MIAMI (1-1):** Fresh off a victory against New England and with one eye on Hurricane Rita in Cajun country, Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme leads his team into a potential ambush against the Fish.

**Atlanta (1-1) over BUFFALO (1-1):** Falcons can ill-afford to lose their second consecutive road game.

**Cincinnati (2-0) over CHICAGO (1-1):** Marvin Lewis' team keeps pace with Pittsburgh in the AFC North.

**INDIANAPOLIS (2-0) over Cleveland (1-1):** Back to reality for rookie coach Romeo Crennel, who picked up his first NFL victory last week at Green Bay.

**ST. LOUIS (1-1) over Tennessee (1-1):** Which Titans' team will show up this week?

**NEW YORK JETS (1-1) over Jacksonville (1-1):** Both teams need this game; give home edge to J-E-T-S.

**Tampa Bay (2-0) over GREEN BAY (0-2):** Undefeated Buccaneers keep winless Packers at bay.

**PHILADELPHIA (1-1) over Oakland (0-2):** After their season-opening hiccup against Atlanta, the Eagles win second straight as Terrell Owens upstages Randy Moss.

**SEATTLE (1-1) over Arizona (0-2):** I might take the Cardinals at home against the erratic Seahawks but not in the Pacific Northwest.

**Dallas (1-1) over SAN FRANCISCO (1-1):** Dallas coach Bill Parcells said Monday night's 14-13 loss to Washington, a game in which the Cowboys blew a 13-0 lead in the fourth quarter, could have a lingering effect. Time will tell.

**PITTSBURGH (2-0) over New England (1-1):** After losing at Carolina, the Patriots suddenly find themselves in a must-win situation in Week 3. The Patriots at 1-2? Who'd have thunk it?

**SAN DIEGO (0-2) over New York Giants (2-0):** Chargers finally get into the win column and drop the over-achieving Giants into the loss column.

**Kansas City (2-0) over DENVER (1-1) (Monday night):** It's hard to pick against the Broncos at home in prime time but I will.

**Byes:** Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Washington.

Last week, straight up: 8-8. Season, 19-13.

**— Brian Allee-Walsh, NFL columnist**

# Haslett's job made tougher by Katrina

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

the guys. After the (loss to the New York Giants), he was obviously upset. But I guarantee he's going to be positive all week. He's going to keep this group of men together and believing in one another.

"I think all it does when you see a coach who's handled all of the situations as well as he has, it just endears you to him more as a player."

At times during this tumultuous month, Haslett has worn his emotions on his sleeve.

He became choked up on the eve of the Saints' opener while reading a heartfelt letter from New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin. He became a little salty while griping about the league's decision to play the team's first home game in New York.

But players said those type of reactions make them relate to their coach even more — that he's not like some other distant, "stoic" coaches.

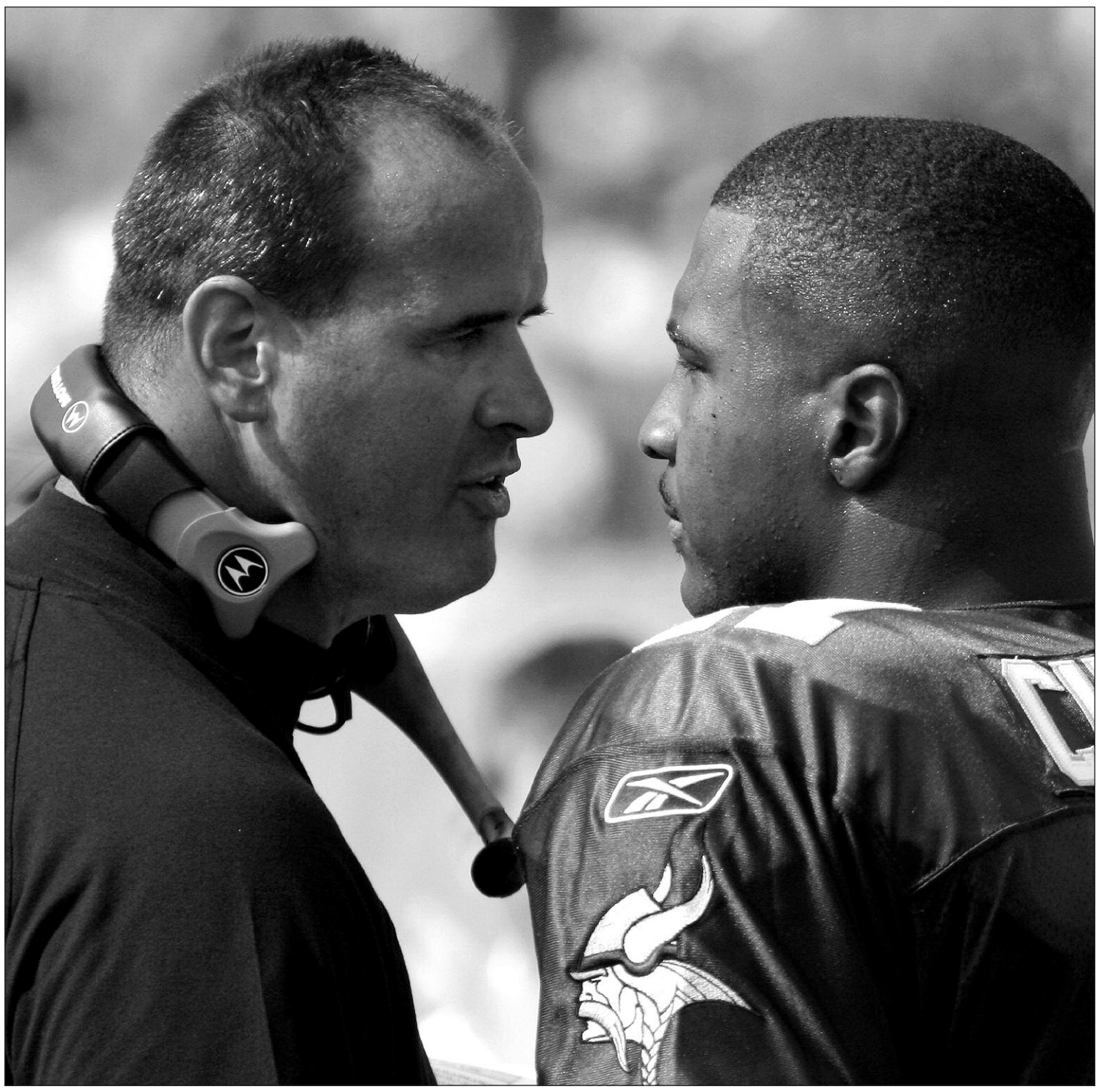
Haslett played in the NFL for nine years, a fiery linebacker who spent most of his career with the Buffalo Bills. Many players said they think that makes a difference, that he knows what they are going through.

"There's a difference between sympathy and empathy," Conwell said. "He can empathize with the guys. And I think he understands what guys are going through. But sometimes I wonder if we know. We can't empathize with him. I don't think sometimes that we understand all that he has to do and go through."

Players said Haslett has shown a good sense for when to push them and when to back off. They never practiced in full pads this week, trying to recover between the Monday night game in New York and a game at Minnesota six days later.

They were especially proud of the way Haslett stuck up for them when they campaigned to play as many games as possible in San Antonio this season, so they could stay closer to their families and temporary homes or apartments.

"He supported us and we stuck together," safety Steve Gleason said. "That's what we're going to need this season. We have some obstacles in store for us, and you need a guy who's going to do that for you."



AP PHOTO

Minnesota coach Mike Tice, left, is on the hot seat with the Vikings off to an 0-2 start. That start is partly because quarterback Daunte Culpepper hasn't thrown a touchdown pass, and has eight interceptions.

Even before Hurricane Katrina blew the Saints into this predicament, the 49-year-old Haslett tried to create an aura of "we're all in this together" with his players.

"I think that's the way you have to be in this league, based on the way the NFL is structured now," Haslett said. "If the coaches and the players aren't close and they don't have a good relationship, I think you have problems. In this group, I think we have a good relationship."

That bond has become stronger now that they're all spending so much more time together on and off the field.

Dozens of players are living in the same apartment complexes, car-pooling together, hanging out together at night. Many of them are away from their families, curious about their homes.

Gleason said players come to Haslett every day with non-football questions, like: "Hey, when are we going to get our cars back?" or "Hey, can I stay in the hotel for an extra week?" or "Hey, do we have to leave early because of Hurricane Rita?"

"Other people are around," Gleason said, "but there's just so much chaos, so he's the one we go to."

The team bounced around at several makeshift facilities in San Antonio before finally getting everything set up inside the Alamodome this past week.

Haslett has had his own personal distractions, too, finding a condo to rent in San Antonio. His family joined him at first, and his three children planned to enroll in local schools. But now they will return to Destrehan in October.

"I've got to leave a little earlier, I drive a little further," Haslett said. "I'm doing a lot of things different other than football, but it's OK. Sometimes you have to adapt, coaches also."

Haslett said he doesn't have any superstitions, like some coaches do. And he said he has been able to adapt without some of the computer equipment and facilities he had back in Metairie. Coaches are doing a lot more work by hand.

But deep down, it must be driving him nuts. There's nothing NFL coaches enjoy more than structure and routine. They covet stability.

Nevertheless, Haslett just keeps on manning this ship.

It's especially impressive, Conwell said, for a coach like Haslett who is so "hands on."

"He's involved. He's not just a figurehead," Conwell said. "He's involved in every phase of this team - offense, defense, special teams, our strength and conditioning, our weigh-ins. He's involved in everything. You see him around everything, he's talking about everything.

"I don't know how the guy sleeps, if he does sleep."

## SAINTS SCHEDULE

Sept. 11 at Carolina W, 23-20
Sept. 19 vs. New York Giants, L, 27-10
Today at Minnesota, noon
Oct. 2 vs. Buffalo at San Antonio, noon
Oct. 9 at Green Bay, noon
Oct. 16 vs. Atlanta at San Antonio, noon
Oct. 23 at St. Louis, noon
Oct. 30 vs. Miami at Baton Rouge, noon
Nov. 6 vs. Chicago at Baton Rouge, noon
Nov. 13 Bye
Nov. 20 at New England, noon
Nov. 27 at New York Jets, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 vs. Tampa Bay at Baton Rouge, noon
Dec. 12 at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Dec. 18 vs. Carolina at Baton Rouge, noon
Dec. 24 vs. Detroit at San Antonio, noon
Jan. 1 at Tampa Bay, noon
(Times subject to change)

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

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September 25, 2005

INSIDE

The state of the N.O. arts scene, see PAGE C-8




# SHELTER SHIP

## New Orleans cops and rescue workers take refuge on a Carnival cruise liner

By Maria Montoya
Staff Writer




STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

More than 600 New Orleans police officers, rescue workers and their families have moved aboard the Carnival cruise line's Ecstasy, docked at the port of New Orleans. Herman Cade, a New Orleans policeman, folds his clothes in the laundry aboard the cruise ship Ecstasy, TOP, while his stepdaughter Jannine Coxen, right, waits for the rest of the laundry to dry.

The passengers wear camouflage pants, carry rifles and glower at security guards upon entering the belly of Carnival's Ecstasy. There are no zealous photographers or smiling cruise ship directors awaiting their entry.

These cruisers have no itinerary.

Many of the guests head for the buffets, bunks and baths that await them. There are no excursions in the works, or cute drink umbrellas to collect. The ship never leaves. But for the more than 600 police officers, rescue workers and their families on board, the Ecstasy isn't a voyage to nowhere. For now, it's home.

"I never thought I'd be sailing like this," said Det. Herman Cade, a 28-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department's third district. "I was planning to go on a cruise in December, but not now."

Cade and his wife, Virgie Coxen, his stepdaughter, Jeannine Coxen and mother-in-law, Josephine Glass, crowd into their dorm-size digs. The four adults and all of their belongings are comfortably squeezed into every inch of space the guest room offers them.

The small room suits the family just fine.

Two weeks ago, the three women were in a Houston hotel room contemplating their uncertain futures. The family's Laurel Street home Uptown suffered only roof damage, but Cade, who was still in New Orleans sleeping in a commandeered car, had warned the women the city was unsafe and otherwise unlivable.

"This ship is our home away from home," Cade said. "A place where we know we have a next meal and safe place to sleep each night."

The owners of the "fun ships" don't mind providing shelter, at least temporarily. Miami-based Carnival Corp. worked out an unprecedented $192 million deal with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to house Katrina relief workers and evacuees aboard three of their ships (Ecstasy, Sensation and Holiday) for the next six months in New Orleans and Mobile, Ala.

FEMA officials initially planned to place just evacuees on the three ships. For several days, upon returning from their last trip to Cozumel, Calica and Yucatan, the staff of the Ecstasy waited to greet some of those who escaped to Houston.

Not one evacuee boarded.

In Houston, those who were offered housing included evacuees 60 years or older, single parents and couples with children younger than 12. According to James McIntyre, a spokesman for FEMA, the evacuees expressed concerns about the ship's location in Galveston and being separated from the other families. Some were even frightened by the idea of being housed on water.

"Under these circumstances, many of the victims didn't feel comfortable with the idea of leaving the security of the Astrodome to come onto a ship they had questions about," McIntyre said. "We weren't going to force them to do anything they didn't want to do. The rescue workers, on the other hand, were open to such an idea and we knew without a doubt they and their families could fill up the ships."

On Sept. 11, when the Ecstasy arrived in New Orleans, word of the ship's arrival had officers excited and awaiting the drop of the gangplank. The Carnival staff was slightly overwhelmed with the greeting that awaited them at the Julia Street cruise terminal.

"You could tell they were all tired, they had serious looks on their faces and uniforms that looked tattered and in some cases destroyed," said Miles Willis, hotel director for the Ec-

*See* **SHIP,** *page C-10*

## CHRIS MANDRY

NOPD SWAT TEAM LIEUTENANT

**HOME:** *New Orleans*
**HAVEN:** *Paul B. Habans Elementary, West Bank*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"We're with the NOPD Special Operations Division, so on Sunday we staged out of the downtown Hampton Inn. We had rooms there, and weathered the storm there. The windows blew, and we could feel the whole building swaying.

"On Monday about 1 p.m. we heard the 9th Ward was flooding. We thought the rest of the city was OK. We had two Zodiacs and two flatboats, so we headed out right after the storm. We staged from the St. Claude bridge, and just started rescuing people. We went till 1 a.m. and only quit then because we ran out of fuel. We probably saved 600 people that day. A picture of another officer and me in wet suits rescuing an old man from his doorway ran on the front page the day after the storm.

"At dawn on Tuesday we refueled and went right back out. There was this one woman who weighed maybe 200 pounds and was paralyzed from the waist down. She had floated on her air mattress into the attic. We used a chain saw and cut a hole in the roof, but still couldn't get her out, so we went across the street and found an ironing board and put her on that.

"By Wednesday other people had started helping, and Thursday was the first day that was totally lawless. So we went from rescue work to security mode. You know, there are 5 percent sociopaths and predators in any society, and when the social structure is gone, that 5 percent runs amok. That's what we were dealing with.

"Our biggest problem was lack of fuel. The first few days we were pretty much on our own. Once the radio batteries died, we had no communication. The Hampton Inn had about 18 inches of water in it, so we went across the river, which we heard hadn't flooded. We found Habans Elementary School, and that became our center of operations. It still is. Now we have a makeshift shower with a hose and a washing machine outdoors, where we have a schedule for who can wash clothes when.




"By the third day, the downtown casino had become the unofficial 'official' NOPD headquarters, so we'd go there every morning to get orders. The main problem was lack of fuel to keep our cars and boats going. We siphoned what we could. We made a list of what we wished for the most, and it was fuel, then water, then food, then communication. We valued fuel over food and water at that point.

"We're still out here patrolling, and Habans is still home to us."

*— As told to staff writer Renee Peck on Sept. 17*

## Going Green to beat the blues

### *Even in defeat, Tulane football provides a tonic for displaced alums*



ANGUS LIND

SHREVEPORT — It was another historic moment in a storied football program that dates back to 1893.

But this Tulane University milestone was not about having a perfect 13-0 season. Or upsetting heavily-favored LSU in Baton Rouge. Or going to the Rose Bowl or the Sugar Bowl. Or saving the athletic program. Or watching the heroics of any Green Wave gridiron star, from Bullet Joe Bullard, Bobby Duhon and Rick Kingrea to Rodney Holman, Shaun King and J.P. Losman.

When Tulane beat LSU 14-0 in 1973 to end a string of 24 years without a victory over the Tigers, a Tulane law student named Jim Minge wrote a song about it called "The Ballad of the Green Wave." It began: "It happened on December first, 1-9-7-3, the dreaded Bayou Bengals headed down to New Or-leenz. The Tigers they were hungry, and as big as they were mean, but what they hadn't counted on was mighty men in green!"

This historic moment here at Independence Stadium happened on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2-0-0-5, and was not about big and mean Tigers or mighty men in green.

*See* **LIND,** *page C-10*

CONTINUED

# THE STATE OF THE ARTS



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Dennis Assaf, executive and artistic director of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, stands inside the Westwego Performing Arts Theatre, which suffered heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina. Assaf is confident, however, that he can stage a scaled-down version of JPAS' ambitious season.

## THE SHOW WILL GO ON

*Area theaters face an uncertain future in the short run, but nearly all say they'll be back to stay*

**THEATER**

**By David Cuthbert**
Theater writer

New Orleans' theatrical and cultural community is scattered like confetti across America, but many plan to return as soon as possible, brightly colored bits of talent coalescing into paper lanterns to light up the city's stages.

"As soon as we have electricity and an audience, we'll be back in business," said Sonny Borey, the artistic/executive director of Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre. "We suffered some roof damage, but everything else seems OK."

Derek Franklin, the theater's managing director, said, "Le Petit is the oldest continuously operating community theater in the United States and we are committed to having at least a partial season, which will be our 90th."

Borey, who was in Galveston, Texas, on Tuesday and preparing to evacuate again as Hurricane Rita took aim, still hopes to open with "Cabaret," which was in rehearsal when Katrina struck.

On the banks of the Mississippi River, Southern Rep, that adventurous theater in Canal Place, is raising money to secure its future.

Southern Rep is on the third floor of Canal Place, where a fire broke out on Sept. 3, damaging the first floor of Saks 5th Avenue.

"The flames didn't reach us," said artistic director Ryan Rilette, "but we really don't know yet what damage we suffered from smoke or looters."

Rilette said numerous theater companies around the country have started fund-raisers, among them the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, one of the nation's major regional stages, as well as the New Theater in Coral Gables and two theaters in Atlanta: the Actors' Express and the Push-Push Theater.

Some are doing readings of "Callie's Tally," the play by Betsy Howie based on her best-selling book on the (literal) price of motherhood that was going to be Southern Rep's first show of the season.

Rilette is in New York "trying to raise money in as many ways possible for the theater. That's my job right now," he said. "We've already hosted a fund-raiser at a club here called Opaline."

The Jefferson Performing Arts Society season will go on, but will have to be scaled down, said Dennis Assaf, executive and artistic director.

JPAS had announced an ambitious season of more than a dozen productions to be held at East Jefferson High School's auditorium and at the 1-year-old Westwego Performing Arts Theatre and the adjacent Teatro Wego!

The Westwego theater suffered major damage. Interim repairs have already been made at the East Bank auditorium, however, and Assaf hopes it may be useable this season.

"We can't do anything in Westwego," he said, "as the north and east walls were skinned to the point where you can see the white insulation and metal studs. There are also two large holes over the fly loft. Trash and debris are prevalent as well.

Assaf, who suffered serious flooding in his home due to the hurricane, said that the plan for now is to produce shows at the Treato Wego!, which is next to the Westwego theater and suffered little damage.

"In this space we had originally planned two productions," Assaf said in an e-mail to supporters. "I believe there may be a way to move some of the six other productions originally scheduled in the Westwego theater to Teatro Wego!,"

He said he hopes to have that space up and running in a few months and to stage "Cabaret," "Amadeus," "Urinetown" and other musicals there.

"Obviously all can't be done, but some can," he said. "It will depend on which cast members and crew are available."

It is too early to make a call on other bigger productions that were planned, such as "Fiddler on the Roof" or "Cats," he said. "Depending on Westwego issues, the level of interest, support and availability of cast and crews, we'll decide on which shows if any to do this season in EJ."

"My greatest fear is that our $20 million in funding for our new arts center will be pulled and spent elsewhere," he said.

But, Assaf said, he knows the theater community – as a whole –will be revived.

"We need the awesome resources of the arts now more than ever … to create havens for hope and renewal," he said. "We as artists should find a way to put something on the stage or on exhibit that give us release from our pain and inspiration to continue."

Theater writer David Cuthbert can be reached at cuthber@bellsouth.net.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Saenger Theatre's tattered marquee watches over Canal Street. At press time, the theater personnel were unreachable. The theater's Web site states: 'We hope to have an assessment of the current condition and future of the theatre soon.'

### THE SHOW MUST GO ON ... EVENTUALLY A post-Katrina status report on local theaters

**LE PETIT THEATRE**
The French Quarter theater had some roof damage, but will reopen later this year or early next, in time to salvage at least a partial season.

**SOUTHERN REP**
Theater space affected by fire and looting at Canal Place, but the extent of the damage is unknown.

**LE CHAT NOIR**
The St. Charles Avenue theater received no major damage from the storm, owner-proprietor Barbara Motley said. "I have released all contracts with acts that were scheduled to play Le Chat through the end of the year," Motley said. "I want Le Chat open, but uncommitted, so local groups could use us as a stage for fund-raisers."

**JPAS**
Jefferson Performing Arts Society's theater in Westwego sustained serious damage, but repairs are under way at the East Bank theater in Metairie. A scaled-down season is being planned at the Treato Wego!, next to the Westwego theater. Executive director Dennis Assaf is seeking donations and volunteers. Donations can be sent to 177 A Sala Ave., Westwego, LA 70094. To volunteer, e-mail dennisassaf@jpas.org.

**RIVERTOWN REPERTORY THEATRE**
Kenner building sustained minimal water damage, said producer Charlie Ward. The tentative plan for the season is to open in December with "Disney's Cinderella," a family musical, followed by "Nunsense II" in January, "Disney's Jungle Book," and finish the season with Rodgers & Hammerstein's "South Pacific," which was to be the season-opener.

**RUNNING WITH SCISSORS**
The madcap theater company has gone off in all directions, said co-founder Richard Read, adding "but I'm going back to New Orleans the second they let us in."

**DRAMA!**
"Our future is uncertain," said Charlie Hayes, co-founder with Blake Balu of the gay and lesbian theater group that built the Marigny Theater space in the back of the Cowpoke's Bar. The space was used by many theater organizations, both straight and gay. "We have heard that Cowpoke's was looted," Hayes said. "And we had leaks in the roof before the storm. There are also rumors that the complex is going to be sold. But we are all committed to returning to the work we started." Two projects are tentatively lined up: Richard Greenberg's "The Violet Hour" in December and Tennessee Williams' 'A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur" in March.

— David Cuthbert

CONTINUED

# *Actors, musicians, producers and directors are working hard to get back under the stage lights*

## A MATTER OF TIME

*Robert Lyall, artistic director of the New Orleans Opera, holds out hope that the season can be saved*

OPERA

By Doug MacCash
Art writer

It's becoming a New Orleans rite of passage, the post-Katrina return to the places we love. So it was last weekend for Robert Lyall, artistic director for the New Orleans Opera Association, as he entered the Mahalia Jackson Theater of Performing Arts in Armstrong Park.

At first the homecoming seemed comparatively bright, but like so many tragic plots played out on that well-worn stage, things took a darker turn before the final curtain.

As the Manhattan-born Lyall, 55, stepped from the Entergy SUV that had brought him through the highway checkpoints to New Orleans and past the paratroopers guarding the gates to Armstrong Park, his crisp, white, long-sleeved shirt was immediately plastered to his skin by the September heat and humidity. The patches of his face not covered with a carefully shaped silver beard and moustache were beaded with sweat.

He was pleased to discover that the glass doors to the building were unlocked. Once a flashlight was found, he eagerly began inspecting the interior. The upholstered seats in the hall were a bit moldy in spots.

"But they fight that every summer anyway," said Lyall, who has been general and artistic director for seven years.

And there were the shallowest puddles of water on the stage: rain that had found its way through the skylights high above, he concluded.

"This is wonderful, this is fantastic," he said. "There are a few damp spots here and there, but it's largely complete. Somebody actually said they thought we'd be on stage by November. That was optimistic, but there doesn't seem to be any structural damage. The stage, seats and the loft appear undamaged.

"This hall is unique, since it was one of the first to be hydraulically powered in the country, back in the 1970s. I'm sure that machinery is going to require maintenance, but the loading area is intact. ... The tricky area is downstairs. It's the orchestra pit that would have collected water."

In the hall leading to the basement steps, Lyall tugged on the doorknob to an unmarked room, joking that as long as his dressing room was still locked, everything would be all right.

His mood plunged as the flashlight beam ping-ponged around the cement stairs leading down to the pit. There on the first landing was the water he'd feared, filling the basement.

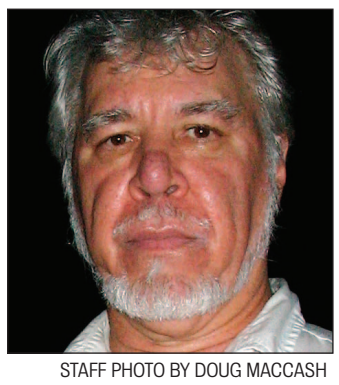
"It's got to be 10 feet, maybe 12," he said. "That's the orchestra pit, the hydraulics for the pit, some stage machinery ... God, I hope they didn't have the piano and the percussion instruments in there."

Lyall, who has a reputation for unflagging optimism, seemed to bounce back from the watery revelation as soon as he reached the sunlight outside of the building.

"I was feeling elated until I saw the basement, but the fact that the theater has not been ripped apart by wind and water is the important thing.

"In not too long, art will be the most important expression of recovery. At the right time, a wonderful event like a symphony or an opera can be the most powerful statement that we've moved beyond the need for food and shelter. If it's too early we won't be in the right frame of mind to appreciate art — and we never want to lose that."

Anticipating the right time to reintroduce New Orleans, which has hosted opera performances since 1796, is one of Lyall's principal challenges, as is the selection of the remaining repertoire.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG MACCASH

Robert Lyall, artistic director of the New Orleans Opera Association, recently surveyed the damage at the Mahalia Jackson Theater of the Performing Arts.

The NOOA canceled Verdi's "Otello," which was to be the first performance of the 2005-2006 season.

"And oh, what irony, 'Otello' begins with a hurricane," Lyall said.

The comedic nature of the second offering, Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," in November might have been a good tonic for storm-torn New Orleans, but it too has been canceled.

The NOOA expects to have its offices open by mid-October, and will then notify subscribers and single-ticket holders of their options for the remainder of the season.

Lyall muses that the opera association's grand gala, planned for Feb. 3 and 4, may be the perfect time to reintroduce opera to the culturally starved post-Katrina city, with the customary blow-out blend of full orchestra, chorus and string of soloists.

"It likely will be one of the first major fine arts events," he said.

After that, on March 23 and 25, Lyall had planned to present the powerful yet dour opera 'Jenufa' by Czech composer Leos Janacek, but a plot detail made performing the piece impossible.

"That is one in which an infant drowns ... which is singularly inappropriate. So I've substituted 'The Barber of Seville.' "

The season is expected to end with "Madame Butterfly," Puccini's classic tragedy, which Lyall says he may modify. "Who knows, maybe I'll give it a happy ending," he said.

Besides the condition of the theater, Lyall was concerned with the fate of the opera's scenic studio near Airline Drive in Metairie, where backdrops, props and costumes are created and stored. The scenic studio was of particular importance, since the rental of props to other opera companies provides the New Orleans Opera Association with $200,000 in yearly income.

"Thankfully, there was no major flooding, just 6 inches of water on the floor. The productions were largely undamaged. They'll require some touch-up work, but that's all.... We'll be able to continue there as soon as the city allows trucks through."

Lyall made one other stop in New Orleans, at his Uptown home, where he retrieved his tuxedo, baton and the scores for the production of Puccini's "Turnadot" on Oct. 21 and 22, which he will conduct at the cooler, drier Opera Grand Rapids in Michigan, where he is also director.

He also has been meeting with opera companies in Jackson, Miss., and other cities to explore the possibilities of putting on productions there.

"They say an army travels on its stomach. I'm not sure what an opera company travels on," Lyall said.

Rebuilding the New Orleans Opera's lost season will be one daunting challenge among many in the rebuilding of New Orleans, but Lyall views it as a duty.

"It's not heroism in the classic sense," he said, "but it's a chance to make a bold statement of our resilience."

• • • • •

Art writer Doug MacCash can be reached at dougmaccash@yahoo.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Kent Jensen, a cellist, and Babs Mollere, managing director of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, are among the displaced who have found a temporary home with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra offices at The Shaw Center for the Arts in Baton Rouge. The LPO will play a benefit concert on Oct. 4 in Nashville.

## STAYING TUNED

*The LPO will play its first benefit concert since the hurricane in Nashville, but New Orleanians — wherever they are — can listen in on the radio*

By David Cuthbert, Doug MacCash and Judy Walker
Staff writers

Members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra will gather in Nashville in October to perform a concert for the first time since the musicians and staff evacuated to cities around the country.

"Thank God for the Internet and telephone conferencing," said Sharon Litwin, senior vice president of the LPO, who is staying in Chicago. "We've set up a temporary office in Baton Rouge, where Babs Mollere, our managing director, and Hugh Long, the president of our board of trustees, who's in Sarasota, Fla., have managed to remain in constant touch."

The LPO will play Oct. 4 with the Nashville Symphony. The concert will be broadcast live on National Public Radio and streamed on the NPR.org Web site.

Net proceeds from the concert will go directly to the LPO.

The event, presented and organized by the Nashville Symphony, will be in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Andrew Jackson Hall. LPO principal guest conductor Klauspeter Seibel and music director designate Carlos Miguel Prieto will lead the majority of the 68-member LPO in a program that includes violinist Mark O'Connor.

"Nothing heals the soul more than seeing our colleagues, our friends, and playing music with them again," said Seibel, who recently retired after nine years as music director and will remain principal guest conductor.

Prieto, 39, an accomplished violinist and member of a renowned Mexican family of classical musicians, was named music director in June. He was scheduled to begin his tenure in the fall of 2006.

Prieto is music director of Mexico's oldest orchestra, the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, associate conductor of the Houston Symphony, and music director of the Huntsville Symphony (Alabama).

The LPO was set to open its concert season on Sept. 15 in New Orleans at the Orpheum Theater, one block off of Canal Street. It remains unclear when the LPO will be able to perform again in New Orleans.

LPO

"I heard this morning there were sump pumps working at the Orpheum," Mollere said Monday. "As of last week, we heard from the manager that the basement was flooded and the entire bottom floor was flooded over the seats up to the edge of the stage."

LPO's goal is to be back in Louisiana by the spring in time to stage much of its 2006 season, including the Branford Marsalis Gala Concert, which was scheduled for March 11 at the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts.

"We are very committed to returning to Louisiana and are 100 percent committed to the 2006-2007 season, where we will introduce our new music director (Prieto)," she said.

The LPO is planning to get in touch with subscribers in the next few weeks when the offices on Baronne Street reopen, and the LPO has had time to determine whether some of the concerts schedule this year can be rescheduled in 2006, Mollere said.

Along with its own concerts, the LPO provides music for the New Orleans Opera Association.

"We have a truly symbiotic relationship with the LPO," said Robert Lyall, artistic director for the NOOA. "We cannot be a great opera company without a great orchestra.

"Needless to say, anything the opera company can do to play a role in revitalizing the philharmonic, we will do," he said. "Their well being is our well being."

Live classical music has been a part of the New Orleans cultural scene since the city's first orchestra made its debut in December 1805. For now, Mollere said, the orchestra is raising money to keep that 200-year tradition alive.

The LPO is the only musician-owned, collaboratively managed orchestra in the United States. The orchestra, which was born 15 years ago out the bankruptcy of the New Orleans Symphony, is raising money for its members through a hurricane relief fund based in Baton Rouge.

"The first donations were from other musicians," Mollere said, from her base at the Baton Rouge Symphony offices in The Shaw Center for the Arts. "There has just been this outpouring of concern, everything from housing to opportunities for playing gigs. They're desperate to think of ways to help us and we're desperate for help."

### THE BAND PLAYS ON

**What:** The first post-hurricane performance of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 4, 8 p.m.

**Where:** Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Andrew Jackson Hall in Nashville, Tenn. (The concert will be offered to National Public Radio affiliates nationwide and streamed live on www.npr.org.)

**Tickets:** $30-$70 and can be purchased by calling 255-2787 or by visiting www.nashvillesymphony.org.

**Donations:** A relief fund has been set up to help continue health and instrument insurance for LPO musicians and staff. Send all donations to: LPO, c/o Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 14209, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898

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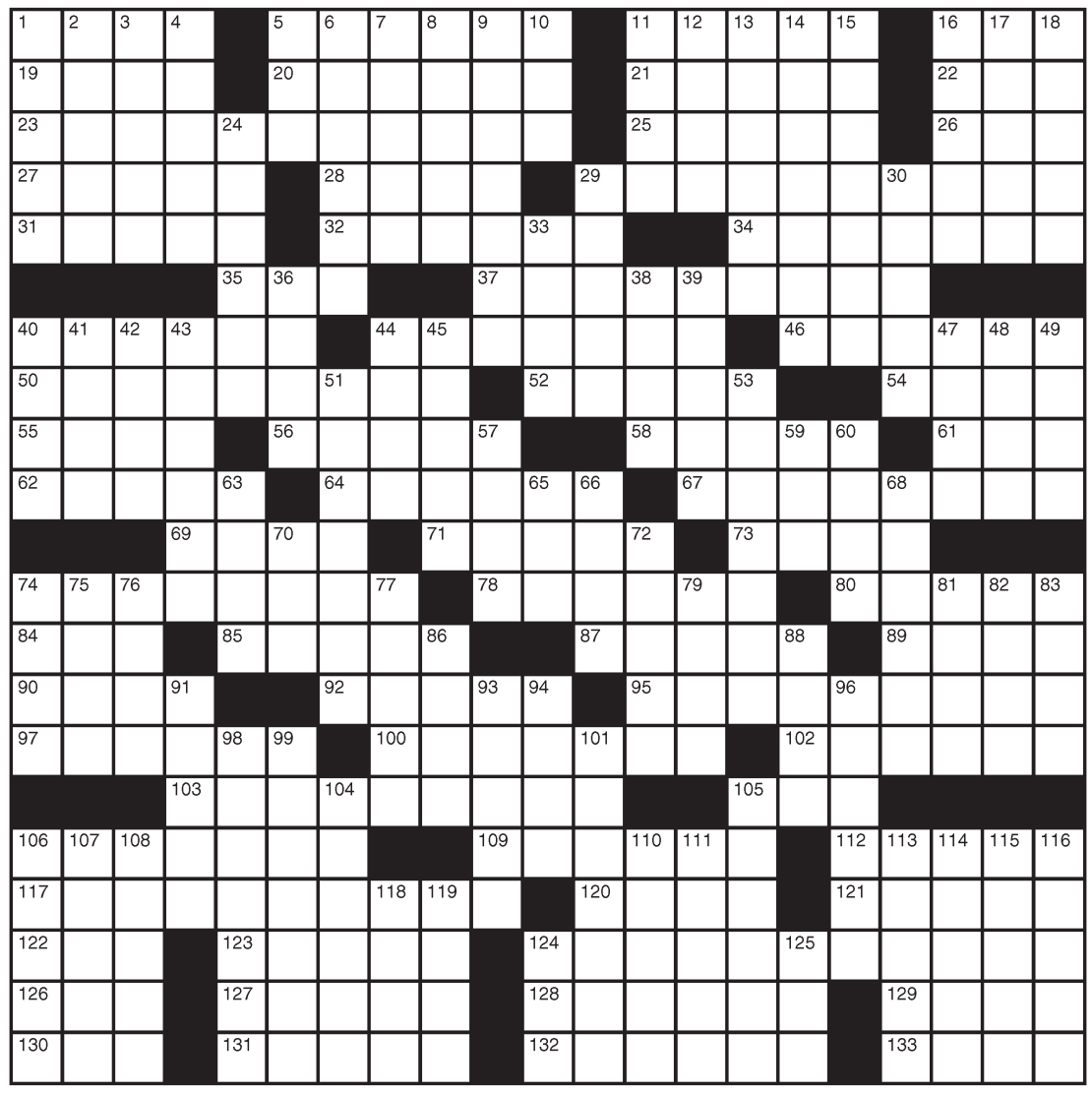
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**Answers Monday in Living**



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9/25/05

# Cops and rescue workers take refuge on a cruise liner

**SHIP,** *from C-7*

stasy. "As we went through the registration process, handed them their room keys and ship IDs, you could just see their moods lift."

Some of the men and women, like Cade, had spent days living on the streets. His only "showers" were provided by water bottles poured over himself. His "meals" came from vending machines or shared cans of packaged meat. Upon boarding the ship, many families were reunited with their loved ones for the first time in weeks.

"I don't really know who approached who on making this happen," Willis said. "It's a different sort of operation for us and it's been a good challenge. We, the staff and myself, are incredibly proud of being a part of providing these officers some relief."

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**On Monday,** as Cade and his family sifted through their laundry in the ship's wash facilities, they joked that they have never been so happy to wash their own clothes.

"The ship staff will wash your clothes for you if you place them in a bag and leave them on the door," Virgie said. "But I don't know, I just want to do things, normal every day chores. I don't need someone to wash my clothes for me when they are already doing so much for us."

Cade doesn't like to dwell on the details of what took place in those days following Hurricane Katrina's wake. For 2-1/2 days, he and more than 100 officers and EMS workers sat trapped in their offices just off Bayou St. John. Then, when they finally escaped via boats, Cade and his unit worked night shifts patrolling the Morial Convention Center.

"This ship to these police officers is providing a type of stability that they haven't experienced in weeks," said Don Higgins, a chaplain from Tracy, Calif., who is on the Ecstasy to provide counseling.

Another chaplain, Darrin McGrew of Charlotte, N.C., said finding jambalaya or fresh seafood on the buffet bar provide an important sense of normalcy to the workers.

"What we're hearing from most of them is there was a personal low point that they went through out there, but it never had anything to do with their commitment to their jobs," McGrew said. "In almost every case, they feel helpless in what was happening in their own personal situations. They had spouses and children they'd left, homes they lost and there just wasn't anything they could do to attend to those matters while they were working their jobs."

Such was the case for Dave Hunter, a 26-year veteran of NOPD's Mounted Force, who evacuated to Franklinton Arena in Gonzales with all of the police department's horses. As the storm passed through Louisiana, Hunter worked to calm the animals. Once they were stable, Hunter reported back to the city to perform search and rescue operations.




New Orleans policemen hold a meeting in the Society Bar aboard the cruise ship Ecstasy.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

All the while he worried about his wife, Lori, who is due to have another child in the next week. He knew their Lakeview home was under water and had doubts he would be able to leave the city for the birth of his fourth child.

"I am not going anywhere anytime soon," said Hunter, who used his personal fishing boat to rescue people trapped on rooftops all around the city. "I am here to help."

• • • • • • • •

**Ecstasy purser** Shae Dillion doesn't get many cash tips these days. She said her reward is hearing stories such as Cade's and Hunter's.

Her duties now include manning the 24-hour information desk where guests can call in with questions, report facilities problems or get help finding a fellow guest. Dillion is one of at least 1,200 Carnival employees working the Ecstasy. The tales they'd heard about the rescue workers inspired the staff to organize a clothing and toiletry drive before they pulled into port.

"I am from Australia where we don't have hurricanes, so this is all new to me," Dillion said. "You hear these men and women talk about what happened and you can't help but want to help them."

Guests aboard the ship are offered three meals and one cleaning service a day. There's no live entertainment, but many families have been coming together in the ship's library and entertainment lounges for informational meetings and church services.

"Over here in the Blue Sapphire we normally hold large, lavish Las Vegas style shows," Willis said. "Now we're working on having movies shown for the families' and on Sundays the devotional hour is held in here. It's different, but we're trying to accommodate to the needs of our new guests."

Though these customers may not tip or know when their voyage may end, Dillion and Willis say they are still treated as guests.

"It may be a voyage to nowhere, but it's actually been a really lovely change of pace for us," Dillion said. "Everyone aboard this ship is just so happy to be here. It's just turned into one big hugfest."

Back in their rooms, laundry folded and put away, Herman, Virgie, Jeannine and Glass rated the amenities on their "cruise."

"Now, the food here is just delicious, can't tell you one thing I don't like about it," Herman said. "I'd love to get me a paper to read about the Saints, but other than that I am just perfect."

"Every morning I wake up and I say to myself, 'Ooh, I am on a cruise I should go lay by the pool, get a massage or get my hair done and have one of those cute mint juleps with an umbrella,' " Virgie said. "Not this trip, though. This here is a place for food, shelter and safety."

Herman shook his head in agreement.

"That's what we need right now," Herman said. "We are so blessed to have this much."

The women eyed one another. What they'd really like is a place to get their hair done. They haven't had the chance since Katrina hit on Aug. 29.

"Blessed we are, yes," Virgie said. "But Shae, it would be nice to have some beauty in here, too."

Headed toward her post, Dillion turned to the family and said, "I'll get right on that."

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Staff writer Maria Montoya can be reached at montmaria@aol.com

# Greenies cure his blues

**LIND,** *from C-7*

This one was all about a reunion — and not the Class of '66 or '74 or '98 reunion. This was the reunion of the Class of Displaced Diehards 2005 — loyal Wave fans traveling from points east, west, north and yes, even south of New Orleans, heading to Captain Shreve's town. They came from everywhere, as much, probably more, to see the friendly faces of friends and pals they tailgate and sit with than to check out Coach Chris Scelfo's 2005 version of the Green Wave.

In the tailgating area, there were hugs and kisses . . . and tears. Which eventually gave way to smiles and laughter. Friends who see each other regularly hadn't viewed the faces so much a part of their lives since Aug. 29 so the emotions were understandable and expected. The conversations were more about the condition of houses and the state of the beloved city and surrounding area they left behind and where folks relocated than anything to do with football.

But the game was a tonic for the soul, a diversion from death and destruction, an exciting elixir that for, at least one evening, provided an escape from reality. Losing to Mississippi State's Bulldogs was a disappointment but hardly ruined the outing. Perspective prevailed over points on the scoreboard. And there were plenty enough big plays to excite Wave fans and no one had forgotten how to do "Hullaballoos!"

Quite possibly one of the loudest cheers of the night occurred before the game. As it came time to enter the stadium, a large group of TU fans who had been tailgating intensely, employed some devious tactics to sneak adult beverages into the stadium. As they turned toward the north end, one spotted an enormous Budweiser banner inside the stadium, pointed to it and let out a whoop. You would have thought someone had just scored.

Well, they did.

A fan walking behind and wearing a Louisiana Tech T-shirt said, "This is north Louisiana, y'all, but it's 21st century north Louisiana."

It was great to look out on the impeccably-groomed emerald green field and see the Tulane and C-USA logos and listen to the Parkview High band play the Tulane fight song. No, the number of fans was far from staggering but considering the other more serious distractions ...

"It's a great turnout. It's a wonderful thing, a great showing for displaced people," said Sam Traina¸ father of Tulane starting center Joe Traina and starting offensive guard Matt Traina. Indeed, the Tulane crowd outnumbered the Bulldog faithful, but many of those Mississippians were also impacted by Katrina.

The Traina twins, both fifth-year academic All-Americans in the A.B. Freeman School of Business, told their dad and mom Lorraine (who both traveled from Coral Gables, Fla.) that they and the team were doing OK despite the circumstances and the nomadic travel that took them from New Orleans to Jackson, La., to Dallas and SMU and to Ruston and the campus of Louisiana Tech, where they are enrolled in school under an agreement with the NCAA. They were to be back in Dallas for a September 24 engagement with SMU.

"They were worried because there were teammates who hadn't heard from all their families," said Traina, the chief financial officer of a Miami law firm. Now they have.

But the Traina twins and offensive tackle Chris McGee, he said, have "all been there five years. They don't seem to get too high or too low. In fact, I think they're upbeat, making the best of a bad situation. Then again, they might be telling me what they want me to hear."

Traina said that those three are all "kindhearted, honorable kids."

At which point his wife interrupted him. "Quit telling people how sweet they are — offensive linemen are not supposed to be sweet."

No, they're not.

His sons had just gotten an apartment on Sycamore Street near Claiborne and Carrollton avenues and had not been able to assess the damage, he said. They left their car in a parking garage on Tulane's campus and weren't aware how high the water might have gotten there. "It's a 15-year-old car with 150,000 miles on it," said Traina, "so . . ."

After the game, the Trainas and other parents who came to Shreveport were going to see their sons for the first time since the second week in July. Lorraine Traina made them home-made chocolate chip cookies and brought them some new flip-flops to wear. The Trainas had spent a good deal of time making travel arrangements to all the games. Since six were scheduled to be at home in New Orleans, all those arrangements will now be revamped.

"We'll make all the games," he said. "I'm just glad to see that people are excited about going back."

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Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.


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**CDL DRIVERS** Haynes Motor Lines needs drivers for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, CDL class A, home every night, 1-800-349-3833 for more information.

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**DRIVER needed,** Class A, Great Benefits. Apply at Hattiesburg Beverage Company, 1000 West 63rd St, Hattiesburg or fax resume to (601) 545-7513

## Employment

### 4045 Drivers

**DRIVER/WAREHOUSE No** CDL needed. Full time permanent position. Call 504-712-9020

**DRIVERS Immediate** openings, CDL-AB, Metairie area, Please Call 504-468-7782

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**DRIVERS ROLL** OFF Needed ASAP. Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**LARGE Trucking/contracting** firm working in Louisiana/Mississippi area is looking for drivers, mechanics, and operators. Pay: $20.00/hour. Supervisors pay to be determined based on experience. Please call Janine Eischen at Riccelli Enterprises. (M-F) 7:30-4:00 PM Central Standard Time. 1-800-863-2732

**MOTORCOACH OPERATORS** Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

**NEW ORLEANS** AREA OPPORTUNITIES Medical Gas Driver LifeGas, LLC, a leader in medical gases, needs a driver for our Harahan location. The ideal candidate Will have a Class B CDL with the HazMat endorsement, H.S. degree or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clear criminal background, and a clean MVR. You Will be working out of Baton Rouge until our Harahan facility is ready. This position requires someone with excellent customer service skills. Previous experience in the medical gas industry is preferred. CYLINDER FILL TECHNICIAN Fill high-pressure cylinders, perform pre-fill inspections, load and unload trucks, pallets and trailers. Requirements: H.S. degree or equivalent, must be able to lift 50 lbs., be forklift certifiable, have good writing skills and able to work flexible hours and overtime required. We Will not be able to hire into this position until our Harahan facility is ready, which Willl hopefully be within several weeks. LifeGas offers a competitive compensation and benefit package with tremendous career growth potential. Please respond for either position by emailing hr@lifegas.com or by submitting a fax to (770)931-2735. Please state salary requirements, and for which position you are submitting your information. www.lifegas.com EOE

## Employment

### 4045 Drivers

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

**OWNER OPERATORS** Needed immed. w/pickups, 1 ton flat beds, & goosenecks. Call 504-392-8022

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS CDL License required. $12/hour. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**ROLL-OFF DRIVERS,** Experienced. Please Call For More Information: 901-854-8865

**TRACTOR TRAILER** DRIVERS Join Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation, the industry leader in the rental & leased equipment field. Right now, we seek exp'd Tractor Trailer Drivers to deliver construction equipment from our Baton Rouge & Kenner branches to job sites. Requires a Class A CDL, good motor vehicle record & exp with general construction equipment. Competitive compensation & benefits including a 401(k) plan & company contributed pension plan. For Baton Rouge, apply in person at HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 8080 Airline Hwy Baton Rouge, LA 70815. For Kenner, apply at: HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 141 W. Airline Drive Kenner, LA 70062. EOE, drug free env. Hertz Equipment Rental Corp. www.hertz-equip.com

**TRACTOR TRAILER** DRIVERS Join Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation, the industry leader in the rental & leased equipment field. Right now, we seek exp'd Tractor Trailer Drivers to deliver construction equipment from our Baton Rouge & Kenner branches to job sites. Requires a Class A CDL, good motor vehicle record & exp with general construction equipment. Competitive compensation & benefits including a 401(k) plan & company contributed pension plan. For Baton Rouge, apply in person at HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 8080 Airline Hwy Baton Rouge, LA 70815. For Kenner, apply at: HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 141 W. Airline Drive Kenner, LA 70062. EOE, drug free env. Hertz Equipment Rental Corp. www.hertz-equip.com

## Employment

### 4060 Engineering

**ATS-Chester Engineers,** a leading environmental engineering firm since 1910, has the following positions immediately available in our New Orleans office: PROJECT ENGINEER Assist Project Manager in project budgeting and scheduling with emphasis on management and coordination of field related activities and construction contractors. Requirements include B.S. in civil or chemical engineering with 5 years experience in water & wastewater design projects with supervisory responsibilities. PE Preferred. ENGINEER: Provide technical support for studies, designs and construction management of water, wastewater & civil engineering projects. Responsible for field data collection, engineering calculations, design layouts, development of written reports, construction overview and supervision of technicians. B.S in civil, chemical, structural, electrical, or mechanical engineering is required. ATS-Chester Engineers offers highly competitive salaries, comprehensive benefits, and the opportunity to advance your career in an environment which promotes personal and professional growth. For consideration, e-mail your resume to Careers@atschester.com or mail to: ATS-Chester Engineers, Human Resources-Staffing. 260 Airside Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108. EOE

**CDM is** a global, full service consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm helping public and private clients improve the environment and infrastructure. Since 1947, we have been providing innovative solutions developed through strong client relationships of mutual trust and respect and a commitment to quality and integrity. From a three-person firm in Cambridge, MA to today's staff of more than 3,600 worldwide, CDM has grown and diversified with our clients' needs in mind. Our mission is the reach one goal-yours-by providing the right total solutions. In response to the needs of the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, CDM is currently seeking qualified candidates to provide support for our disaster relief efforts. CDM has active FEMA assignments and has numerous local clients in the affected areas that need immediate assistance. In the wake of the most devastating natural disaster in US history, CDM is looking for engineers, architects, planners, constructors, scientists, technicians and other support staff with a variety of levels, skills and expertise. These assignments are related to the clean upand long-term rebuilding effors in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Some of the positions we are actively interviewing for are: ENGINEERS - Civil, Structural, Geotechnical, Coastal, Sanitary, Mechanical, and Environmental. ARCHITECTS. PLANNERS. CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS/ INSPECTORS. GEOLOGISTS/HYDROLOGISTS. O&M(operations and maintenance). ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS. Various support functions - Administrative, clerical, information management. For the mid to senior level engineer positions, individuals who have their Professional Engineer (PE) license are preferred. Selected candidates for the FEMA assignments must be able to mobilize in 24-48 hours and be able to commit to a minimum of a 90-day assignment; assignments for non-federal sector clients may be less. The initial work for FEMA is expected to be 12 hours per day and 7 days per! week, moving to 6 days per week after the intial phase. If you are interested in joining CDM, a firm dedicated to excellence, please submit your resume to: cdm@rpc.webhire.com and type the wore KATRINA in the subject line or your email. You may also submit your resume via mail to: CDM, 50 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 ATTN - Lauren Courtemanche EOE/M/F/D/V

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ELECTRICAL UTILITIES** WORKERS Benchmark International Inc. appreciates your hard work and sacrifice in restoring power to our fellow citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina. We are a management and technology consulting firm with extensive contacts in the public and private sector. We would like to offer you a future opportunity as your current projects come to a close. We will be hiring Distribution System Engineers, Project Managers, Line foremen, Linesmen, and Office Managers for full-time and part-time work in the southeastern United States. Resumes can be sent to rleturno@adelphia.net or by fax to (719)622-1736. Don't worry about format as we are interested in content.

**ENGINEERS-DRAFTERS &** DESIGNERS All Disciplines, Positions in Houston, Austin, B.R. & N.O. SKANSI STAFFING PH 504-394-9868 FAX 394-2527 SkansiStaff@bellsouth.net

**Equipment manufacturer** located in the Stennis Space Center is seeking a Mechanical Engineer and a Cad Designer. Entry level positions will be considered for this position. We offer top wages and an exceptional benefits package. Fax resume' to: Attn: Employment @ 228-689-8570 or email to: eng@pdi-entech.com.

**King Engineering** Associates Inc., a full service civil engineering firm, has several open positions for engineering professionals that have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. King has openings in the Jacksonville, Sarasota and Tampa offices. We can accommodate either temporary or permanent positions. King will assist with finding temporary housing, assistance with enrolling children in schools, transportation, etc. A sample of open positions across all of our service lines (civil, survey, planning, environmental, ecological, transportation); Sr. Project Engineer, Project Engineer, Designer, Sr. Designer, ACAD Technician, Party Chief, Instrument person, Engineer, Transportation Planner, Environmental Scientist, Project Manager, Construction Field Rep. To see a full list of open positions, see our website - www.kingengineering.com. Please contact Cathy McDonald, Recruiting Coordinator at 813-880-8881 to inquire about the opportunities we have and to assist with your current needs.




AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT.

# Waste Management Is Rolling Back into New Orleans.

Our thoughts are with the great city of New Orleans and all of those who have been affected by Katrina. To help the city — and its people — begin rebuilding, we are launching WM Works. WM Works is a call for drivers, mechanics, and other transportation professionals to take the lead in rebuilding New Orleans. From hurricane clean-up efforts to regular trash removal services, WM Works will help New Orleans feel like home again.

We are currently looking for people to join WM Works in the following roles:

## Drivers

***Immediate opportunities exist for CDL drivers to help with debris removal and trash removal routes. WM drivers earn competitive salaries and some of the industry's best benefits. Join us on the front lines of rebuilding New Orleans.***

## Mechanics

***Immediate opportunities exist for mechanics with heavy-duty truck and equipment experience. Earn a competitive salary, incredible benefits and use your technical skills to keep WM moving forward in this critical time.***

WM WORKS®

*Look for our mobile recruiting stations around town.*

Call **877-283-WORK** (877-283-9675) to learn more about **WM Works** today. Waste Management has competitive pay and will offer a daily bonus and per diem. Join Waste Management in making New Orleans great once again.

WM® WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management is proud to be an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

The Times-Picayune
# CLASSIFIED

## Employment

### 4065 Financial

**ACCOUNT OFFICERS** National Corporation located in Baton Rouge seeking experienced Account officers. Working Knowledge of Real Estate loans, collecting, and REO sales. Workout ability and negotiation skills a plus. Fax resume to (916)231-2491 or e-mail to dcambre@snsc.com

**ACCOUNT OFFICERS** National Corporation located in Baton Rouge seeking experienced Account officers. Working Knowledge of Real Estate loans, collecting, and REO sales. Workout ability and negotiation skills a plus. Fax resume to (916)231-2491 or e-mail to dcambre@snsc.com

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**FINANCIAL REPORTING** MANGER Delta and Pine Land Company, NYSE listed Company, Located in Scott, MS(near Greenville,MS) seeks to fill the position of Financial Reporting Manager. This position is Full Time with opportunity for benefits such as insurance, paid vacation leave, paid sick leave, paid holidays, and 401(k)participation. The person filling this position will be responsible for coordination of preparation and filing of SEC financial reports and internal financial reports and ensuring Company compliance with SEC and GAAP reporting requirements. Will also be responsible for coordination of preparation and filing of required documents(audit reports and tax filings) for Company's retirement and savings plans. Requirements: -Master of Accountancy degree desired -CPA designation -4-7 years of accounting experience -Public Accounting experience preferred -Strong understanding of US GAAP and SEC reporting requirements - Strong analytical and reconciliation skills, as well as attention to detail -Proficient with Microsoft Office package and Adobe -Ability to manage multiple priorities -Strong communication and problem-solving skills -Willingness to take on responsibility and challenging work assignments Send resume to Delta and Pine Land Company, PO Box 157, Scott, MS 38772(please refer to job title on resume) Equal Opportunity Employer Drug Testing Required

**SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR,** Small Business Liaison ECC is seeking strong candidates to support the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Experienced: 10 yrs of exp, small business subcontracting, Stafford Act and CPSR procurement processes, FAR/DFAR/AFAR. Plus: USACE, CACM, CPCM, CFCM. Prefer local candidates. Location: New Orleans/Baton Rouge. Email: jsladky@ecc.net

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

***NOW HIRING** Front desk staff, restaurant staff, & housekeeping. Apply online at greatjobs.marriott.com or 985-871-0244

**BARTENDERS Needed** immediately for the Iron Horse Saloon in Gretna. Call 504-382-1880

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

**CHURCH'S CHICKEN:** Reloc Help-CA. Call (949)631-4337 Fax(949)631-0425, westlandben@aol.com

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**Mother's Restaurant** is now hiring Dishwashers, Short order cooks, & wait staff. Apply Monday-Friday, 131 Huey P. Long Ave, Gretna.

### 4080 Household

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

### 4090 Insurance

**Greg Thomas** Insurance Agency Inc one of Nation Wides Largest Florida Agencies is hiring Customer Service Reps, Associate Agents and Managing Producers for temporary and permanent positions. Call 1-800-755-2650

### 4095 Legal

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY** position with Degan, Blanchard, and Nash. 2 to 5 years experience preferred. 225/610-1110 or fax resume to 225/610-1220.

**BECKY BROWN** Legal 1 since 1981. Here to help & assist after Katrina. Start your new career through us! Legal staffing personnel needed with experience only to fill new job openings in the Metairie & Baton Rouge areas. Solid Word Processing skills & minimum 1 year+ litigation experience. Openings range from Support staff to Paralegal. Salary depending on exp. beckybrownlegal1@aol.com. 504-250-2842. Success to us all!

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT PROPERTY** MANAGERS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Strong customer service & sales background. Competitive pay + commissions. Vacation, insurance, 401K Match. Fax resumes to 225-383-41862

**BEST BUY** Slidell and Veteren's Blvd Locations. Now hiring General Managers. Plan, manage and control operations of a Best Buy retail store. Experience in retail sales management, planning and cost analysis, along w/the ability to lead and inspire a team of assistant managers and non-exempt employees. Best Buy offers competitive pay, employee discounts, great benefits and excellent career opportunities. Apply online at careers.bestbuy.com EOE DFWP

**GLOBAL INDUSTRIES** OFFSHORE, L.L.C. A leader in the marine construction is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following positions in our Carlyss, LA office, located near Lake Charles. * Accountants, * Buyers, * IT Specialists, * Communications Engineers, * Human Resources Professionals and HSE Professionals. We offer career growth opportunities, competitive wages and a wide range of benefits including Health, Life, Dental, Vision, Short and Long Term Disability, 401(k), Long Term Care, Employee Assistance Program, Credit Union, plus more... Interested candidates should call (888)728-0000 an on line resume at www.globalind.com: fax resume to (337)583-5030 or mail a resume to: Global Industries Offshore, L.L.C., 8000 Global Drive, Carlyss, LA 70665

### 4100 Management

**NEW ORLEANS** based company seeks a computer savvy controller for the New Orleans office. Currently in Jackson and moving back to New Orleans on 10/15/05. Must be proficient with Microsoft Excel and have at least three years of experience. Please apply via fax to (601)354-4345 or by e-mail to OHVHNEWORLEANS@YAHOO.COM.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie & Kenner apts. 3 years exp req. Strong customer srvc. & comm skills. Salary + bonus, vac, ins, 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**SALON MANAGER,** Planet Beach, Is seeking a Mgr for the New Orleans-Uptown Location. The #1 Location in the US. Base Salary, Commission, Bonuses and Overrides. Health Insurance and cell phone paid. Opportunity for Executive Advancement. Membership Sales and Cosmetic Sales Exp Desired. Email Resumes To: jodie.mateu@planetbeach.com

### 4105 Marine

**OPENINGS AVAILABLE** For the following positions: Experienced Deck Hand, AB/OS With STCW 95. QMED. Licensed/unlicensed Engineer. Tankerman. Captains. Mates & Pilots. Call Marie at 800-676-2706 between 8am-4pm or email: mpresley@longshrs.com. EOE

**PHARMACIST Robotic** Pharmacy located in Baldwin County, AL. is looking for a Pharmacist. Competitive Salary & Benefits. Housing Provided! Call Sue @251-928-3422 or email sladd@longshrs.com or Call Judy @251-943-8725. Drug screen rqd. EOE

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Phone, 504-466-8190

### 4110 Mechanical

**DIESEL MECHANIC** Needed ASAP with own tools, Hahnville Area. 504-812-9847 or 985-783-1817

**ELEVATOR TECHNICIANS** We are a fast growing but mature elevator company based in Naples Florida. Seeking skilled, Construction Mechanics to install, modernize, hydraulic and traction elevators and Service Route Mechanics, to perform quality maintenance and troubleshooting. Prior elevator industry is desirable. Excellent starting hourly rate ($25-$31 per hour) plus overtime. Bonus potential, fringe benefits and a company vehicle. Also, mechanical and electronics experience will be considered for hiring into our training program. Our backlog and current rate of orders has created fast compensation growth opportunities to the highly motivated individuals. Please fax your resume to 239-598-9236 or Email: wcec4@earthlink.net.

**LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP** MANAGER Needed for 25 Vehicle diesel truck shop. Uniforms, vacations, medical, 401K. Fax resume or apply at Neuman Transport, LLC. 63336 Old Military Road, Pearl River LA. Fax 985-863-9095

**MECHANICS Your** skills keep us on the move! Hertz Equipment Rental Corp (HERC), on e of the nation's top equipment rental companies, has openings for Mechanics for our Baton Rouge and Kenner locations. to be successful, you'll need in-depth knowledge of hydraulics, electronics, gas and diesel machinery as well as own your own tools and have a valid driver's license. Must be able to effectively interact with customers on-site. Competitive compensation & benefits including a 401(k) plan & company contributed pension plan. For Baton Rouge, apply in person at HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 8080 Airline Hwy Baton Rouge, LA 70815. For Kenner, apply at: HERC, Attn. Branch Manager, 141 W. Airline Drive Kenner, LA 70062. EOE drug free env. Hertz Equipment Rental Corp. www.hertzequip.com

### 4110 Mechanical

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

### 4120 Medical

**AUDIOLOGIST Needed** in Slidell ENT clinic. Please fax resume to: 985-690-8301 Attention: Scott Or call 985-707-4067

**CERTIFIED MEDICAL** CODER - Family practice, permanent/Full Time with benefits. Apply at Instant Care Family Medical Center 901 Gause Blvd, Slidell or fax resume to 985-646-1160

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Experienced Dental Assistant needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**DRIVERS Shift** into High Gear... Get in gear with Praxair Distribution Inc! As a leader in industrial, medical, & specialty gas distribution, we seek qualified professional drivers to work in the Hahnville/Taft, LA area. Duties include loading/unloading trucks, making deliveries, picking up empty cylinders from customers, & completing paper work. Current LA Class A CDL with HazMat endorsements required. Must be able to lift & manipulate very heavy objects. Candidates must have a minimum of 3 years commercial driving experience, clean driving record & the ability to pass drug screening/background check. We offer excellent pay & benefits! For immediate consideration, call toll free (7 days/week, 24 hours/day) 1-888-314-0948 x1000 - Loc. 586. EOE M/F/D/V. PRAXAIR www.praxaire.com

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**HEART OF** CARING At Solara Hospital/Advance Care Hospital of New Orleans we believe our employees are the heart of our hospital. During Katrina, their dedication and resourcefulness ensured that all patients received continuous quality, compassionate care. To our extraordinary team members we'd like to say, THANK YOU. Current openings located within West Jefferson Medical Center in Merrero, LA: Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants. 12-Hour shifts, FT and PRN available, acute care experience required. If you'd like to join our extraordinary team, please email resume to: NewOrleansCareers@solarahc.com or fax to 682-831-9625. EOE

**HYGIENE COOR/FRONT** DESK, Westbank Dental Office. Exp'd only. 504-491-5505 or 504-491-7314

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** Experienced Nuclear Tech-Cardiology. Monroe/West Monroe LA. Excellent salary with no nights or weekend calls. Fax resume to 318-338-3542. Email: margon@jam.rr.com or call 318-348-8844

**Jackson Parish** Hospital seeks full time RNs & LPNs for acute care. Must have current license & CPR Certification. For additional information contact: Administration, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd, Jonesboro LA 71251. Ph 318-259-4435. Fax 318-395-4259

**MEDICAL- Concerned** Home Health has openings for a comptroller and biller in our Covington office, RNs, LPNs and CNAs in Metairie, Westbank and Slidell. Please fax resume to 866-536-6094 or call 888-698-2302

**NURSING RNs/LPNs** Nexion a leading provider of skilled nursing & rehabilitation services, seeks dedicated care givers. Long term care experience is desired. New graduates welcome! All shifts available as well as regular PT & PRN positions. For immediate consideration, please contact: Barbara Ziesing, Regional Clinical Specialist - PH: 337-380-9918 or email: bziesing@nexion-health.com. EOE. NEXION

**OPTICIANS AND** OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANTS - Busy Ophthalmology practice in Hickory, NC, seeking experienced Opticians & Ophthalmic Assistants. Relocation assistance avail for qualified candidates. Apply online at www.graystone-eye.com or send resume to Human Resources, P.O. Box 2588, Hickory, NC 28603

**PHYSICIAN Rural** hospital seeking a family practice Physician to relocate to Jonesboro, LA., and assume an existing F/T practice. For additional information please call or respond to: Administrator, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd, Jonesboro LA 71251. Ph 318-395-4221. Fax 318-395-4259

### 4120 Medical

**PHYSICIANS: We** are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the best of small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides, NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team!Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**PRE-ADMIT TESTING** COORDINATOR Must be LA Lic. Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. Need FT employee to perform Pre-admit testing for Parish Anesthesia Associates in Metairie, LA. M-F 9am-5:30pm. No Calls. No Holidays. CPR needed. Benefits included. Generous salary package. Please send all inquires to Jennifer@paacorporate.com or fax to 985-651-3627.

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**REGISTERED NURSES** The entire nation has seen the work of New Orleans' dedicated nurses over the course of the hurricane crisis - and been deeply moved by your passion and skill in helping the community. Now we want to help you. Recognized as one of "America's Best Hospitals" by US News & World Report, YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL is a 944-bed tertiary care facility located on the Connecticut shore. We take great pride in the quality of care we deliver - and we would be proud to welcome you to our team. Openings are available in many practice areas, and we're ready to help you take the next step with: Relocation Assistance, Temporary housing, Sign-on bonus - up to $8000, Excellent benefits & growth opportunities. To learn more, please call us toll-free at (866)811-7797 or apply online at www.ynhh.org. EOE

**RN/RAD TECHS/PT** Jobs Available Nationwide. Relocation Assistance. Call HSHCR 866-460-9391.

**SEEKING TOP** HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS for the following: Controller, Director of Finance, Director NICU, Pediatric Pharmacist, Director of Case Management, Physical Therapist, ER Director, Director of Imaging, COO, Director of Surgical Services, Director of Supply Chain & Logistics, Chief Information Officer, Director of Marketing. Send resume & contact info to: healthcare@whelessassociates.com or call 800-448-0926

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**SYNERGY Snergy** Home Care immediate openings for Psych RNS and Home Health Aides to make home visits in Metairie, Kenner, River Parishes and the Westbank. Psych position requires current state license and must be able to meet Medicare requirements for home health visits. We offer competitive per visit rates and an employee centered environment. Fax resumes to: 504-464-3859 or email to jillL@synergygrp.net

### 4120 Medical

**THERAPISTS** - Tandem Rehab has openings throughout FL, VA, MD, PA, OH and Michigan for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists. Will assist with license and relocation! Excellent pay and benefits. Call Laura Nobles at 866-400-4557 or email at rehabrecruiter@aol.com

### 4130 Part Time

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Needed for Health Food Store with Lunch Counter. Will Train, but must be a willing worker. work 3-4 days/week. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**LUNCH COUNTER** HELP Needed for Health Food Store. 4 days/week. Great hours. Includes food prep and cooking. Will train. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**ACCOUNT OFFICERS** National Corporation located in Baton Rouge seeking experienced Account officers. Working Knowledge of Real Estate loans, collecting, and REO sales. Workout ability and negotiation skills a plus. Fax resume to (916)231-2491 or e-mail to dcambre@snsc.com

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**Architect/Technician. Well** established Architectural firm seeks a Project Manager/Architect and an Architectural CAD technician to relocate to Columbus Georgia. Each must have 3-5 yrs experience in all phases of architecture. Salary negotiable with excellent benefits. Visit our website; www.hbjkc.com or email: vstorey@hbjkc.com

**Database Administrator/Web** Developer with Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon. This position requires a BS in computer science and a minimum of 3 years work experience in Database Administration/Web Development. Experience with MS SQL server system, ASP, NET/ASP with MS SQL server 2000, strong data replication, architecture/design experience, strong technical writing and design documentation for specifications experience. Salary range: $50K-$60K/per year. This position is eligible for health, dental, vision insurance as well as a generous pension/disability contribution of 14%. For full position description and application instructions please visit the college website at: www.nwcc.edu/news/employment.html

**FIELD TECHNICIAN** Environmental Testing Laboratory is seeking Field Technician for sample collections and field services. Benefits and training. Send resume to: EASI 2501 Lexington Ave., Kenner, LA 70062.

**Tech Needed** in N.O. area to work on CCTV & Access Control Systems. Strong computer & database skills a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attn Sherry

**Webmaster needed** to assume helm of Straus Newspapers' Websites. Candidate will design and create pages, forms and ads, sell advertising and have vision for leading fast growing community news sites. Email resume to hrdept@strausnews.com or via fax to Jeanine Straus at (845)782-1711. Also includes an apartment for employee and immediate family & transportation to Monroe, NY

### 4145 Retail

**SHOE CARNIVAL** Looking to immediately fill a variety of positions from Sales Associate to Store Management. Seeking individuals with an outgoing personality and exceptional customer service skills. Footwear experience a plus. Apply at one of the following store locations during the following dates from 10:00am to 5:00pm each day. Stirling Slidell Shopping Center. 61111 Airport Road. Slidell, LA 70460. [Mon.9/26 & Tues.9/27]. Stirling Mandeville Shopping Center. 69330 Highway 21. Covington, LA 70433. [Wed.9/28 to Fri.9/30]. We honor Red Cross Vouchers! www.shoecarnival.com. EOE

### 4147 Security

**ARMED SECURITY** OFFICERS Openings in New Orleans and Baton Rouge area, $12-$15 hour DOE, Call 1-800-738-4827

**SECURITY AlliedBarton** Security Services, the largest American-owned security services company, is now hiring SECURITY OFFICERS. Must be 18 yrs. of age; must be able to pass criminal background check and drug screen, and possess a H.S. diploma, GED, or 10 years' verifiable employment history. Interested candidates please email resume to: john.kobe@alliedsecurity.com or call: 225-761-7234 for more information EOE, M/F/D/V

### 4147 Security

**SECURITY OFFICERS** needed for Picayune, Ms project. Prior security, military or law enforcement exp preferred. 7 & 7 work schedule, starting pay $15.00 per hour. 800-759-3660

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**ALARM INSTALLER** & TECHNICIAN Experience, Benefits Provided, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**Allstate Fence** Co looking for Fence Mechanics & Helpers, plenty of work! Call 504-737-5219

**BE&K Government** Group is assisting in recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that affected parts of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. We have employment opportunities in the following crafts with residential/commercial experience preferred: Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, and Helpers are also needed in these crafts. Please call 1-866-235-9675 or 281-479-9811- Houston for more information and application procedure. BE&K is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET MAKERS** needed. MUST have three years cabinet shop experience. 985-386-2711

**CARPENTERS with** tools. Also need helpers. St. Tammany. 985-875-0424 hd256@housedoctors.com

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION POSITIONS** *Pipe Foremen & Crew *Survey Party Chief *Heavy Equipment Operators. Experience required for established site contractor in Central Florida. Top Pay & benefits. DFWP. Call 407-865-7600 or visit our site, www.JMHC.CC

**Direct TV** Installers needed. Top dollar & gas money paid. Call Jay now 985-643-3292

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS/ ELECTRICIANS/HELPERS** LABORERS & INSTRUMENT FITTERS/HELPERS at MMR Group, Inc for various assignments, Extensive Overtime. Please apply at 15961 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA or call (225)756-3046 or fax resume to (225)756-5391 or email to personnel@mmrgrp.com or Mail resume to PO Box 84210, Baton Rouge, La. 70817 EOE

**ELECTRICIANS Needed,** 2 yrs min exp, all work on the North Shore. Please call 985-845-8056

**Electricians/Helpers &** Instrument Fitters/Helpers Needed for a project in the New Orleans/St.Charles Parish area. Please fax resume to (225)687-3802 or E-mail to henryv@aeiconstruction.com. Or mail to 24215 Eden Street, Plaquemine, LA., 70764. Call (225)-687-3808. EOE

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** To help clean up. Starting pay $15/hour. Contact April 225-614-0899

**EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL** FOREMEN & PLUMBERS for immediate employment in Maryland and Virginia. Call Mark for prompt consideration: Page Mechanical Systems, Inc. (301)948-9680 x10. or toll free 1-866-990-0606 between 8:00AM to 4:00PM

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**Experienced Service** Mechanic needed. Apply at Mayeux's AC & Heating, Inc. 650 St.Charles Street, Norco LA 70079.

**FAMILIA CONSTRUCTION** Exp Frame Crews, Carpenters, & Helpers needed. Call 601-942-0174

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS, 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIOORING INSTALLERS** Res and Com, all surfaces, exp a must! Call 504-466-9724 9a-4p

**General contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, & Cement Finishers in the New Orleans area. 504-915-7415

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**GLASS$/ALUMINUM$ MIRROR** & SHOWER DOOR MECHANICS Good pay, Paid Holidays, Vacations and other benefits for long term employment of experienced installers of persons willing to learn the trade. (561)655-1309 West Palm Beach FL.

**GLASSMAN Experienced,** needed in Picayune Mississippi, full-time permanent position. Contact Mark 601-798-9640

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T manufacturing maintenance mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time manufacturing equipment operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**HURRICANE RESTORATION** GLASS AND GLAZING Experienced Glaziers hiring immediately. Must be willing to travel to Gulf Coast area. Office located in Baton Rouge. Call Lawrence at 225-751-8889 Fax resume 225-756-2352 or email slcorts@agminc.org

**Hydraulic Press** Brake Operator, Experienced. Excellent Benefits. 985-385-2324; Radtke Construction - Morgan City

**INTERIOR DEMO** CREW LEAD PERSON - Permanent work, excellent chance to make a lot of money. Call 985-845-3322

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks Cabinet Sales Person having at least 5 years experience, including 20/20 experience. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LAWN CARE** Professional experienced and general laborer for storm cleanup. Call Grass Masters. 985-249-9881

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**Louisiana-based firm** looking for electricians experienced in HiVolt, 5 KV & up cable testing, splicing & termin. H2S safety training preferred. Pre-employ and random drug screenings required. $18.hr/hlth ins provided. Send resumes and queries to Human Resources; 78070 Koogie Rd.; Covington, LA 70435.

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**MARINE TRADESMEN** WANTED Luxury yacht shipyard in Savannah Georgia: seeking experienced applicants (min of 4 yrs) for Full Time permanent work in the following trades: Welder, Pipe Fitter, Marine Electrician, Machinist, Airless Painters, GRP Fiberglass Laminators. Negative Drug Screen Required EEO/M/F/V/D. Global Ship Systems, 301 N. Lathrop Avenue, Savannah, GA 31415 or fax to HR (912) 443-0720. www.globalshipsystems.com

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**Pacorini USA** Needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators, & Laborers for maritime work in the Port Of New Orleans. Plenty work with lots of overtime. Apply at Alabo Street Wharf or Call 504-416-7967 or 504-382-1566 for information.

**PAINTERS, experienced,** must have own transportation, full time work, 985-966-6011

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**PLUMBER/PLUMBERS HELPER** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800) 709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**PLUMBERS: Need** a hand to restart your business? Roto Rooter, with locations throughout the U.S., wants to help professional Plumbers affected by the hurricane. If you are a seasoned Manager/Owner, become a Roto Rooter Authorized Service Provider and we'll help get you all the tools and support you need to begin again. You must have significant plumbing and business management experience, including successfully training and developing a team of quality-focused professionals. We're here to help. Call 1-800-543-7745 for details. EOE

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Plumbing experience desired but not not required. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SKILLED LABOR-** framers, trim carpenters, sheetrock hangers & finishers, painters. Must have tools & transportation. Min. 5 yrs. exp. (504) 382-8493.

**SUPERVISOR for** job site, Jackson MS Company seeks industrial floor coatings job site supervisor, 3 years experience, travel required. 1-800-794-4237

**WELDERS/FITTERS. Marine** Carpenters & Electricians. SKILLED LABORERS. Must have own tools & safety gear. Tech Serv, 3820 LaPalco, Harvey LA. 504-341-8550 or 800-477-9026

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

### 4165 Warehouse

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**Excellent Opportunity** in HARAHAN. HVAC Wholesaler seeking WAREHOUSEPERSON. Busy warehouse requires a self-motivated individual. Previous warehouse and computer experience. ABOVE AVERAGE BENEFITS. Candidates must pass pre-employment skills test and Drug screening test. Apply at: Johnstone Supply, 1400 Edwards Avenue, Harahan, Louisiana 70123 or 11030 Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816 M-F 10am-3pm EOE

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE Lumpers** needed in Hammond, LA. Warehouse and forklift experience a plus. Earnings $400-$600 + weekly with opportunity for advancement. Early morning start; benefits after 30 days. MUST pass background check and drug screen. Please call 985-419-0821 if interested.

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more. *Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

**Dollar Thrifty** Automotive Group, Inc. is hiring in Baton Rouge and New Orleans! A fortune 1000 company and leader in the rental car industry, has multiple opportunities in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. We respect and value our employees, and recognize that they are the key to our Success. We strive to provide a positive work environment and recognize and celebrate our achievements. Positions available: Rental Sales Agents, customer service, inside sales and basic computer skills needed. Greeters, greeting returning customers and basic computer skills needed. Also Service Agents for servicing and cleaning rental cars. We offer: Competitive pay, incentive plan, benefits and flexible scheduling. Please apply in person at: Thrifty Car Rental at Baton Rouge Airport Car Rental Center on Tuesday, Sept 27th between 1-4pm or Thrifty Car Rental in Kenner at 1675 Airline Drive on Wednesday, Sept 28th between 9am-4pm. EOE/M/F/D/V

**EVACUEES: Attorneys,** paralegal, spanish translators, all required immediately! Mobile, AL. 5 years minimum experience for paralegals & translators. Dynamic interesting work. Full benefits, relocation & housing assistance available. EOE. Fax resume to: 251-343-5554

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

**Full Time** Position for

## Residences for Sale

### 7515 St. Bernard Parish

**LA PLACE** 3BR/2BA, ready for move in, hdwd/ceramic/porcelin throughout, must see. $230,000. 985-651-7104, 504-508-2002

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

### 7545Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**Beautiful Old** Metairie neighborhood, brick home, 3BR, 2 full bath, great room, gas fireplace, large corner lot, 700 Ridgelake Dr. No flooding! Ready to move in, $435,000. By owner 504-733-1965 or 504-458-2116

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN Cute** Little House, 333 Wainwright Dr. 2 BR, 1 Bath, Big Lot, Call 423-753-0672

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

### 7560 West Bank

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO,LA. 3BR/2BA, 2000 square feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**MARRERO House,** undamaged from Katrina, 1850 square feet, 6 years old, 15 minutes from Canal St. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, office. $190,000. Please call 504-328-4922 or 504-329-3057

**TERRY TOWN** All Brick 3/2 Home, 6 minutes from CBD, 2250 SQ. FT., Great School District, Never Flooded! Must Relocate to TX, $268,500. 504-452-7560 or 985-871-7493

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Bush, New** construction, Whippoorwill Grove, 3029 sf living, 3805 sf under beam, 3/4 Br, 3 Bath, 2.2 acres, $389,000. 985-966-5412 or 985-845-0070

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $187,500. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

**Mande, Green** Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2570 sf, great cond/location, moving new job! New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**Mandeville lg** home, 5br, 4ba, 3965 Living. 1 yr old, 1 acre, top quality, wind damage, Ready in 4 wks. 985-626-9000

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**BEL AIR** Subdivision, 6532 Lauren Dr. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 story, 1871 square foot living + 2 car garage. Great schools and shopping. $169,000/obo. 985-646-1388

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**NEW COUNTRY** CLUB-Transferred to Texas. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded, has minor wind damage from Katrina. Updated in 2004-new paint/kitchen/tile in all wet areas, carpeted bedrooms/laminate wood, covered patio, landscaped front and back. $193,000. 985-649-5470

## Residences for Sale

### 7580 Slidell

**SLIDELL 3** BR/2 BA, 2000 SF on 1 AC lot in Brier Lake Sub-Division, no damage, nice front porch, on quiet street, kit/living/Din. Rm. recently renovated, hand painted mural in children's room, nr shopping, $299,000. 504-481-9158/985-210-3098

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**PICAYUNE,MS. 3** Bedroom, 2.5 bath, fireplace, large gameroom. James 601-749-0572

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**AUCTION 25+/-** Acre Luxury Estate Near Gulf Shores/Fairhope, AL 10798 US Hwy 98, Fairhope Wednesday, October 5, 1:00PM *Country French home with guest cottage, LSU football field, basketball court, golf green & much more Virtual Tour on website gtauctions.com 800-996-2877 Granger, Thagard & Assoc, Inc. Jack F. Granger #873

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

### 7625 Country

**INCLUDES ALL** - Just finished but owner moving, 3 private acres just off I-59. Well decorated and furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bath. High ceilings, porcelain tile, open den and game room, metal roof. $269,500.

PICK COLORS - 10 New homes under construction. 3 or 4 bedrooms, .7 to 1 plus acre, from $160's.

LIKE PRIVATE - 10 Acres with large horse barn and equipment shed on 10 woodsy acres. Great for kids with riding and biking trails. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, PRC schools, $155,000 fully furnished. NEW AND ROOMY - 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, has ceramic tile, fireplace, pretty design on 1.46 acres on Dixie Lakes , over 3,000 feet, $249,000.

COUNTRY - 2 acres, in-ground pool, several outbuildings for shop and RV, close to I-59. $114,900.

END OF ROAD - Private Setting!

**under Live** Oaks for large 3 bed, 2 bath brick home. Big den, huge kitchen, 1 private acre, large detached workshop, $98,500. BUILD

- ? We have plenty of lots and can assist with having a builder construct your dream home. Lots from $11,900.

BARGAIN BUY - 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Good condition on .6 acre site, $34,900.

20 WOODED ACRES - Priced to sell quick at $1995 per acre. We have many new and existing homes for sale with little or no damage, Call Toll-free, see our website or come by. Professional Realty, Picayune, MS 39466, 1-800-545-0837. www.msforsale.com

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**Furnished 1** BR, Util. Included, $125 wkly. $200 Deposit. References Checked. 985-863-9915

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

**COMMERCIAL-OFFICES**

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509


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## Prudential Gardner Realtors, the # 1 Real Estate Company in Metro New Orleans & Southern Mississippi Is Here and Ready to Help You With All Your Real Estate Needs.

Thousands of residents of the New Orleans suburbs and the Mississippi Gulf Coast are coming home to a massive cleanup. Many will be coming home to devastated homes and few conveniences -- like electricity or working sewers. But in some neighborhoods, the rebuilding has begun and some businesses have already opened their doors.

Prudential Gardner Realtors has opened 18 of it's 27 offices and should be able to open another four very soon. Many Prudential Gardner sales associates are already hard at work helping some of those who lost their homes find new ones. Many of these dedicated sales associates lost their own homes but need an income to survive so the act of rebuilding becomes secondary to earning a living. Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi have a long road to recovery but already there is a feeling, by many, that we can and will come back stronger and better than before the disaster of Hurricane Katrina!

Metairie
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Metairie, LA 7006
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Kenner, LA 70065
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Long Beach, MS 39560
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Gulfport, MS 39503
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ABOVE CAUSEWAY
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**GRANDEUR HOME $799,000**
Gorgeous custom home 5900 sf v, 5bdrm 5ba, 30ft ceilings. Lot '0 x 210 total. Tile flrs 1200 sf naster. For more info call Diane Rosenbach 417-8787

**5313 HARING CT**
Traditional 3600+ sq.ft. liv Balconies, porches, renovated nove in cond. 4bdrm, 2 story oyer, playrm, etc ... call Diane Rosenbach 417-8787

**NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MET**
805 Richland, 4 bdrms 2.5 ba, 0ft ceilings, triple crown moldng, frpl, wet bar, whirl pool tub. Granite & hdwd flrs. For more nfo call Jeff Miller 813-8510

**1813 RICHLAND AVE**
New const 2 story & 2 car gar. bdrm 2.5ba, fireplace & wet ar. Hardwood floors. Glass ncased shower. 3029 sf liv. 498K. Jeff Miller 813-8510

**WALK ON THE LEVEE**
Beautiful 4bd, 3.5ba home. Gourmet kitchen, hardwood flrs & ceramic tile. Sep liv rm & huge lining rm. Dbl crpt -rear yd ccess. Karen 813-0614

**4528 FOLSE DR $405K**
1 story 4 bdrms 2.5 bath home. Marble flr in foyer, 16' ceil, oversized bdrms, corner lot. Dbl garage. Patio & lge yd. For info call Randie Leggio 236-8540

**5104 ALPHONSE**
Impressive w/beautiful open fl plan & exquisite mill wk. One block to Lake. 5 bdrm, 3.5 ba 3219 sq ft liv. For details Shanon Helffrich 421-6995

**4720 BEAU LAC**
4 bdmrs 2 full/2 half ba. Cust blt, quality const. Mstr bdrm w/sep shower/jetted tub. Spac kit w/2 cooktops. $399,900 Sharron Demarest 250-6497

**5221 ELMWOOD PK $259K**
High & dry home w/wonderful renovation! 3 bdrms 2 ba, ceramic & pergo flrs, cath ceil, frpl, oversized lot. End of blk. For info call Susan Gray 261-9338

**ONE LOOK WILL DO!**
Lge home in Met. 4 bdrms 2.5 ba, kit is very large, home is great for entertaining. All new windows & carpeting. $239K Terez Harris 975-1033

**700 N. CAUSEWAY $238,900**
Open your own business. Zoned G02 & R1A, located on busy intersection, approx 1229 liv incl. kit, liv rm & 3 bdrms For info call L. Wise 241-8527

**2016 RIVIERE**
Beautiful 2 story home in Met. 4bdrms 2.5ba w/rear yd access. Landscaped back yard w/carport 2026 sf liv. $232,000. Call Randie Leggio 236-8540

**4500 JEANNETTE**
Attactive hm w/open flr plan, lg den w/wd burn frpl, fml din, 3 bd, 2 ba, 15 x 11 bonus rm or 4bd. Both baths updated. For more info call Karen 813-0614.

**2812 JUDITH ST**
Walk to park & country club. 4bdrm 2ba w/2 mstrs. Shaded yd Upstairs has wd flrs under carpet awaiting their debut! $226,900 J Renton 452-9500

**1717 CARNATION**
Btfl updated home 3bdrms 2ba, open flr plan. Wd, tile & crpt flrs. New ba & kit w/ granite counters. Many updates. Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**PERFECT IN EVERY WAY!**
4809 Sanford fabulous home w/ gorgeous amen. 3bdrm 2ba liv/din, study, screened porch big yard, gazebo, carport wood flr only $214K Cynthia 891-4663

**56 BIMINI $205K**
Walk to playground & swim club Open floor plan, kit/bkfst den liv/din 3bdrms 2ba & bonus rm. Call Laura Thames 365-4241 or Marilyn Jarreau 813-7123



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Carolyn Talbert 504 455-9351 504 887-7878

**4909 CLEARLAKE**
Lovely 4bdrm 1 blk from Lake! Pontch Shores! Formal living, formal dining, lg kit, lg den & 2nd flen. L.Thames 782-7755 or Natalie Kiefer 259-6585

**703 N WOODLAWN $349K**
Beautiful 3 bedroom 2.5 ba home. Lge den w/wd flrs, high ceil, sgl garage, mint condition! Call today to see, Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**3716 ROMAN**
Yes this townhouse is top of the line! 3 bdrms 2.5 baths. Single gar w/car parking pad. Wd flrs, crpt & porcelain. For more info call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**4901 GREGOIRE $324,000**
Only 1 blk to the lake! 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths, office, lge sun rm, circle driveway, on corner. For more info call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**4708 LAKEWOOD**
4 bdrms 3.5 baths. Wood flrs, new carpet & tile. Recently renovated. Heated pool and cabana. Call Evelyn Cohn 884-3458

**3963 PEOPLE ST $299,000**
Priced to sell. Lot 51 x 200. Access to back yard. 5 bdrms 3.5 ba. Possible apartment. For more information, simply call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**3001 VERNA**
Great area. 2020 sq ft liv. 4bdrm 2ba, wood flrs in bdrms, Great closets, upd. 3yrs.Good flow in liv area, bright kit, sep din rm. C.Larsen 887-9126

**HIGH & DRY $199,900**
Large 3bd, 2.5ba, carport, party rm, formal liv rm. 9 x 9 laundry, ceramic tile, lovely terrazo flrs-2200sf approx. For more info call Bp Lana 712-4228.

**4805 GARDEN ST**
Bridgedale, 3 bdrms 2 baths, great rm, wet bar, frpl, cath ceiling, frml din, gar. $198K Wonderful neighborhood. Call Melanie O'Neill 452-8774

**1604 STANFORD**
3 bdrm 2 ba, formal dining, eat-in updated kitchen, large den, great storage, garage, cv patio & nice yard. For info call Sandra Green 259-8107

**3804 JAMES DR $189,900**
Lovely home w/exce curb appeal 3 bdrms 2 ba, 1750 sq ft liv w/btfl deck & yd. New crpt, ample stg. Faye 339-9722 Pattie 491-6732

**5501 ARLENE $188,000**
3 bdrms 2.5 ba, renovated kit w/stainless appl, new mstr ba, wood & ceramic tile flrs. 2 car gar. High & Dry! Call Melanie O'Neill 452-8774 **HW**

**3505 PURDUE $169,900**
3 bdrms 1.5 ba, rear yd access, 1 car garage, updated kit & baths. Nice lge yd w/new driveway. Patti Gracianette 250-8572

**INVESTOR'S DREAM**
Zoned R3 to add units! Lot 50 x 150. 3 bdrms/ 2 ba, liv-din frpl, cent A/H, move-in cond. Near Clrvw & Vets. $169,900. For more info call 669-1495

**721 N TURNBULL DR**
Great area, new homes & TNH popping up all over. 50'x110' lot, build the house of your dreams. Bring reasonable offers. $165K J North 400-0274

**6104 MORTON**
Priced right! Great 3bdrm 2ba in Willowdale with many new features. Gar/carport open to back. Move in cond. $159,900. Call Claire Ward 495-0298

**HIGH & DRY**
Cute home w/lots of updates & neutral colors. Lg den, liv rm, & kitchen. Kitchen has white cabinets and new range. For more info call Margaret 512-1086.

**8704 FULTON**
Precious ranch, 3 bdrms 2 ba, cath ceil in liv/din & kit. CA&H, parquet flrs. Lge mstr bdrm, carport, sec syst, patio $139,900 S Demarest 250-6497

**ADORABLE HOME IN AIRLINE**
Park. Freshly painted with new carpet. Move right in. Lg fenced yd. Walk to shopping g. For more info call Lyn 985-703-1122.

**3320 N ARNOULT #332**
High & Dry! Precious condo in Yorkshire Ct. 2 bdrms 2 ba, ceramic & berber flrs. Conve to shopping I-10 & CBD. $85K. Sharron Demarest 250-6497

RIVER RIDGE
HARAHAN
JEFFERSON
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**ON THE LEVEE $449,500**
Renovated 4 bdrms + office, 3 full baths. 2 master suites , on quiet cul de sac in dema nd area. Sun deck, gazebo, & hot tub. Kathleen @ 616-6630

**2 ERIN CT $369K**
Lge 4 bdrm 2.5 bath home, mstr bdrm down. wd floors in den w/ fireplace, wet bar. Alarm syst. Inground pool. For more info call Heidi Dazet 458-5353

**RIVER RIDGE $219,900**
Renovated 3 bdrm, 2 bath. 10021 Joel Ave. Open plan w/ vaulted ceilings, wood flrs, & fireplace. Cute!!! For more info call Kathleen 616-6630

**604 JULIUS STREET**
Old Jeff 5bdrm 2ba cott. Needs some updating. Could be a gem. Carport, fenced yd, cen a/h. Vinyl repl. windows. For info call Robin Roussel 837-1739

**HIGH & DRY**
3 bdrm, 2ba home near River Rd levee in area of expensive homes. Kitchen has updated cab & appliances. Dbl garage. Call Margaret 466-1086

BELOW CAUSEWAY
455-5500/443-6464
887-7878/468-9555

**1205 RIDGELAKE**
New const 4bdrms w/3 full & 2 half baths plus office. Pool and large patio in back of house. Many extras. For info, Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**530 DORRINGTON $599,000**
Lovely 4 bdrm 3.5 ba home in Old Metairie, corner lot with access to back yard. Bricked courtyard and much more! Call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**529 MELODY**
New const by Mark Fuselier! 3200 sf liv area, 4 bdrms 3.5 ba. 22x20 great rm w/blt ins. Gourmet kit, plenty upgrades. $598K Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**206 HECTOR HIGH & DRY**
Metairie Club Gardens, split level cottage w/rear yd access on side st. Lots of charm. 4 bdrms 2.5 ba. 2766 sf liv. Pool. Faye Kindl 339-9722

**736 HESPER AVE METAIRIE**
New const, 4 bdrms 2.5 ba, 10' ceil, 3 piece crown molding, granite and hdwd flrs, frpl, wet bar, whirlpool tub. For more info call Jeff Miller 813-8510

**2608 MET RD**
Comm. potential 2 equal size lots with a total of 82.6ft front. 1375 sf liv. Home with garage on 1 lot. For more info call Charlotte Rivet 256-6755

**213 E. WM DAVID $339,000**
Priced to sell in a hurry. 2 bdrm 1 ba, 60 x 91 lot. Cute cottage. Wood flrs in liv/din, hall & one bdrm. For more info call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**900 BEV GARDEN**
Something special 4bdrm 3ba turnkey home w/open flr plan. Cherrywood cabs, gran counters hardwood flrs, frizze carpet, ceramic tile. For more info call E. Cohn 884-3458

**1616 NERO $309,000**
Close to Bonnabel, lake, boat launch & bike path. 3 bedrooms 3 baths. Great rm, parking for 4+ cars. For more info call Doris Hebert 231-7017

**1100 ROSA AVE $226,000**
Just a walk to the playground, library. Pretty home w/new vinyl & carpet. Open fl plan. Updated kit, 2 bdrms. For more info call Marilyn Jarreau 813-7123

**222 E MAPLE RIDGE $225K**
Adorable cottage, just move in! New kit, new carpet, fresh paint, and nice hardwood floors. 2 bdrms 2 baths. Call Gloria Buisson 565-2784 **HW**

**12 SAN CARLOS**
12 San Carlos 3 bdrms 2 baths, well maintained, 9ft ceil, wd flrs, 3 car gar & plenty of room for boat or rv stg. Call Tim & Kim Armstrong 256-0692

**1031 W WILLIAM DAVID PKWY**
3 bdrs 2 ba, needs TLC. Lge rear shed connected by breeze way to home carport. Inside laundry, good stg space. Call Robin Roussel 837-1739

ABOVE WILLIAMS
443-6464/455-5500
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**FABULOUS IN CHATEAU**
Prestigious location-5bd/3.5 ba, office, game rm, 10' ceil frpl, pool, 100 x 130 lot, wood flr, granite cntrs,3 car garage $665K Pg Lana 712-4228

**4409 RUE ST. PETER**
Beautiful custom built home only 15 mos old. 72 x 143 lot. Access to back yard. 3 bdrms 4.5 ba. $539,000. For info, call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**GORGEOUS FAMILY HOME**
In Southlake Village. 5 bdrm/ 3 bath. Crown molding, recess lighting, soaring ceilings, kit w/ 42in cab & island. $459, 500. Sharon Young 919-8926.

**#2 OLYMPIC**
4 bdrm 3.5 ba+bonus rm. Mstr ste down, huge great rm w/frpl, gleaming hdwd flrs. Kit w/ corian counters. Lge back yd. Call Terez Harris 975-1033

**48 DRIFTWOOD BLVD. KNNER**
2 story, lg den, sunroom, & many extras. 2 bdrms up, 2 bd down, guest rm, plus screen patio, new central A/H. Park for 3 cars. Frieda 259-1714.

**CHATEAU ESTATES $249K**
3 bdrms, 2 baths. High ceil, marble flrs, 1865 sq ft. liv area. Dbl attached garage. Bring offers. For more info call Mayra Chavarria 442-8500.

**21 TRAPAGNIER $239,900**
Precious home with 3 bdrms 2 baths. Office, many updates. For a private showing call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**13 NORMANDY DR**
Lovely updated 4 bdrm 2 ba home in Chateau Estates $235K, formal liv/din, big den w/ vaul ceil, game rm, 2 car gar. For more info call Flo & Steve Lanier 487-8847

**4157 COGNAC $222K**
Lovely home, great curb appeal & btfl yd, huge mstr bdrm w/ walk in clt, frml din area. Den w/frpl, dbl gar. 4 bdrms 2 ba. Natalie Kiefer 259-6585

**#3 CADDO CT. $189,900**
Btfl 3 bdrm 2 ba home w/many extras. Den w/frpl, lge walk in closet in mstr. Wonderful back yd w/rear access. Att gar. Mary St Romain 259-7600

**#9 SABINE CT $184,000**
Mint cond, many, many updates. Cherry cabs in kit, open flr plan, 2 car garage, Patio. 3 bdrms 2 ba. For more info call Carolyn Talbert 455-9351

**2210 DELAWARE HIGH & DRY!**
Complete renovation 3 yrs ago! Colonial styling, rear yd access. Great area! Liv, din, 2 bdrms, could be 3, big cov patio. For info call Doris Hebert 231-7017

**3800 TULANE MOVE IN!**
Great corner lot w/rear yd access, new appl, a/c, flrs, & roof. Lge den. Priced @ $144,900. A must see! For more info call Patti Gracianette 250-8572

**UNIVERSITY CITY $139K**
3732 E. Loyola Dr. 4 bdrms, 2 baths. Ceramic flrs, new carpet, interior freshly painted, near transportation. For more info call Mayra @ 442-8500.

**PRECIOUS 4 BDRM 2 BATH**
Updated home! Young designer roof, dbl insulated windows Laminate wd flrs in den. Lge back yd. 132 Georgetown. $138,000 Terez Harris 975-1033

**INVESTORS SPECIAL $98,500**
Just reduced 1328 31st Street in Kenner. 3bdrm, 1.5ba & off. Like new. New owner completes. Cen ac/heat. Near Espl Mall. & bus line. Evelyn 884-3458

MANDEVILLE
COVINGTON
626-3156/889-9760
626-8589/889-7700

**BEAUTY ON 1.3 ACRES**
4Bedrooms/2.5 baths, 3000sf, wood & ceramic flrs, soaring ceilings. Gorgeous- Must See! Call Kelly 985-320-5302 or Jennifer 504-559-9575

**BEAUTIFUL 5BED/5.2 BA**
Home on 3.29ac on river. Lg open flr plan, private drive, 3 fpl. Huge deck, custom cabinets. See this hidden treasure. For info call Leslie V. 727-1221

**OVERLKING TCHEFUNCTE RVR**
Madisonville zoned commercial or residential. Large lot 121x189, 3000 ALA, 3/2.5 2 ponds, guest hse, and workshop. $959K. Charlotte B. 630-3340

**ELEGANCE DEFINED**
Circular stamped concrete driveway leads to elegant marble foyer, movie theater w/ 8' screen, pool w/waterfall. Call Darlene G. 626-9468

**ELEGANT FRENCH COUNTRY**
New 4/3 2973sf, 2 bonus rms. 4th br or guest ste, stainless appl's granite counters, lavish mste, cov'd brick porch. Corner lot. Darlene 626-9468

**PARC DU LAC SUB**
Great Mand schools. 4bd/2.5ba wd flrs & blinds, Faux paint- ed walls, carpet allowance. Close to Causeway bridge. Call Cynthia S. 985-960-2141.

**LAKEWOOD HTS BEAUTY!**
225 S Laura Dr. $294,250 4bd/2.5ba, din, fab kit, new roof, heated inground pool, new cpt, garage. Next to park, new windows! Cynthia 504-891-4663

**ACADIAN ON 3.66 ACRES**
Bright open flr plan, custom cab thru-out. Wood & tile flrs, perfect for child/pet, wheel chair accessible, gorgeous home. Peggy O. 985-630-9668

**COVINGTON ACADIAN**
Enjoy the good life in this lovely spacious home. Huge lot w/ pool, sunrm. gamerm, Tile & wood flrs. New GE pofile. For more info call Marsha 630-6701

**RED OAK ESTATES**
Elegant 4br/2.5ba home on 1.5 acres. Triple crown molding, granite cnts, lg. patio, cov. porch, dbl garage & more. Call Richard Tanner 985-373-8508

**EXCLUSIVE WATER**
Community 3bd/2ba Acadian on corner lot! Mature landscpaing & peacful living in Covington's Lake Ramsey. Plenty rm for RV or boat. Kim 504-236-8863

**LAKE RAMSEY PRIVATE...**
Community. Beautiful homw with 10' ceilings, crown molding. Lookout your back windows to enjoy the views of the lake. 4br/2. Terez 504-975-1033

**DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH**
Old Mandeville Ranch w/lovely guest house only 2 blocks from lake. PRice to sell $199,900 lot 75x200. For more info call Renate or Cyrill 504-583-4342.

**MADISONVILLE BEAUTY**
Charming Acadian sitting on .71 acres. 2bd/1.5ba. Lovely old oaks, Pergo flrs, stainless steel appl's. A Must See! For more info call Betty 985-373-2238

**1.74 ACRES-WATERFRONT**
204 ft o Little Tchefuncte River. Build your own home or perfect for a get-away retreat. Call Kimberly H. 504-236-8863

FOLSOM
796-5959
800 229-6868

**MANICURED TO PERFECTION**
Magnificent 60 acs rolling hills, trees, ponds. Bks, creeks for itself, Cabin, Res, campground, anything. Call Bob 985-373-8759/Tammy 264-1831

SLIDELL
641-1488/889-9750
641-1201/889-7790

**CUSTOM WATERFRNT HOME**
On 2 lots. 3 bdrms w/private bthrms, sunken spa in mstr ba. w/sep shower & vanities. Lg. Kit. w/island, wet bar. Ingrnd pool & dock. Cathy Drolla 985-290-1313

**BRECKENRIDGE $205K**
Won't last at this price! Spread out in this 4brm/2.5ba lovely home, kitchen with Cherry caibnets, ceramic & wood floors, master bath with hydro tub. BETH S. GILPIN 285-6999

**LOOK NO FURTHER !!**
Immaculate 3/2 in HUNTWYCK. New disposal and water heater, fresh paint, cov.d deck, fenced yard, & storage shed. Beautiful! CALL THE ROCKWELLS today to view.**HW** 985-788-5679

**NEW LISTING $110,000**
37628 Lopez. Great price, nice curb appeal, excellent condition. Call 985-643-4081 and ask for Frank or Sue Vise. 606985

**PRESTIGIOUS TURTLE CK**
Only 6 yrs old, frml liv, din & den w/hardwd flr, kit w/isle, hugh breakfast area $370'S, 4/2. Call Debbie Vititoe 707-5170, 596725

**EAGLE POINT $204,900**
Custom 4/2 w/2car gar, 5 y/o, all brick, stucco front, open flrpln, split bdrms, Whirlpool gold fridge, commty pool. David Binder 643-6128, 607553

**STOP RENTING PRICED...**
LOW, New const, 3/2, 1304 liv, dbl insul window, custom kit cab's, open flrpln, nice size lot, near mall, $114K. Debbie Vititoe 985-707-5170, 607942

**GORGEOUS ACADIA ON**
Acre lot, 4000 liv, 4/3, 2hb lg den w/fp, snrm, custom cabs, 16x12 gmrm, jacuzzi,new carp. & paint Call Debbie Vititoe 707-5170, 591330, **HW**

**GREAT VIEW OF...**
18TH FAIRWAY. Oak Harbor 4/3, 10' & 12' ceil's, gourmet kit, 2 master suites w/cov brick patios. $320K's. Beth S. Gilpin 985-285-6999, 604239

**ELEGANT CUSTOM BUILT**
Acre lot, spacious den, all hardwood flrs, 1.5 story, fm liv/din, 4/2.5, cypress ceil, corian counters. Call Debb

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## ABOVE CANAL UPTOWN 866-2785 GARDEN DISTRICT 888-4585

**5422 LAUREL**
Exquisitely renovated 489K 4BR/3½BA. Open Gourmet Kitchen. Off Street Parking. Tracie 782-0887 #603497
**427 ARABELLA**
New Price! $495k. Architect reno w/3BR/3BA. Cook's kit, open living area. Rear courtyd. Patsy Phipps 450-5221 #600354
**6233 LASALLE**
4BR/3½BA, pkg 4-5 cars. $849k Judie Oudt 524-0385 #595645
**331 BROADWAY**
Open FlrPlan - 3BR/2½BA, hi ceils, wd flrs, Chic Kit, Gated Pking, $565k John Weaver 232-1962 #603845
**FEATURED IN "NO MAG":**
2 hms, dp.lot, 2/2 & 1/1, cust. kit. & bths, hi-ceil, wd flrs, skylts, dk & patio. Fab. Cl. Margaret 616-4154 #606726
**4852 CONSTANCE**
Victorian charm 2129 s.f. Gourmet Kit. 3BR/2BA. Master suite 12' ceil. Helen Katz 236-6825 #607469
**7407 ST. CHARLES AVE.**
Finest raised Center Hall cottage. Cherry wd panelling, 140x140 Lot. $1,495k Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #591791
**4209 VENDOME PL**
Lg 4BR/3½BA (2BR stes) on 65x169 fruit tree filled lot;10' cove clngs;wd flrs ;sep study;cust drapes; Kern 899-4466
**5023 PRYTANIA**
New Price $395k. Charming 2 story Vict. 11 ft. ceilings, beau pine flrs. 3/2.5, big yd. Letty Rosenfeld 236-6834 #598183
**1019 GENERAL TAYLOR**
Finest Quality new construction. Gorgeous Greek revival. 4 BR $728K Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #597979
**932 VALENCE**
$699K O/A. Toni 416-7936 #608486
**3006 LAUREL**
$299,900 Shelley 296-6087. #592750
**2334 MARENGO**
$325K John 214-2806. #607208
**4611 BARONNE**
3BR/2½BA, Lg master, many updates, off-st parking, security gate. Mary 256-6119. #595794
**624 TOLEDANO**
2BR/1BA, Hrd Wd flrs, Huge Kit, Frml/Liv, Prkg, Crtyrd w/pond, wsh/dry Brett Kline 957-6736. #607887
**1821 SOPHIE WRIGHT**
$339K. Reno'd 3-plex 1 blk fr Coliseum Sq. 2/1+2 rentals w/$1100 mo income. Yd & pkng. Caroline 251-0385. #603577
**69 VERSAILLES**
Beautiful raised bsmnt w/wd flrs, lg BRs, lots of storage, prkng. 3BR/2½BA. $395K. James 343-9737 #605710
**6017 PATTON**
$695K Wonderful New Const. 3 BR/2½BA. 12 ft ceils, crown molding, great kit & mstr bath, prkng. Erin 250-8668. #606702
**1601 FIRST**
Beautiful 3BR/3½BA no fee townhome in Garden Dist w/private ctyd & off-st pkng. $560K. James 343-9737. #607546
**921 SIXTH ST.**
3BR/2BA Reno $365k Laura Geddes 583-7057

**LUXURY $250,000 PLUS:**

**3536 CALHOUN**
Non Conforming Use. Great Open Space w/Workshop. 3,350 Appx. SqFt. Ample Off-street Parking. Tracie 782-0887 #588121
**1312 OCTAVIA $430K**
Chance to renovate great cottage in great location--lots of potential Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #589129
**99 FONTAINEBLEAU**
Park-like grounds. 4 br 2.5 ba, Den w/wood burning firepl & 14-ft ceilings. $565K Mat Berenson 895-4336 #589138
**NEW CONDO ON DANTE**
3BR/2½BA 1657SqFt One of Two on 40x90 Lot. 1111 Dante $330k. Call Lane 581-5263 #591010
**EASY CONDO CONVERT**
5 Units w/sep. utilities. Prime property to convert to condos or great invst. Jeanie 504-891-3101 #594827
**PENTHOUSE 2/2 CONDO**
On vibrant Magazine - $264,900 Great Loc, large unit. Renovated - Big Great Room. Carol Caplan 861-3753 #598475
**1303 NAPOLEON**
4BR/2BA 3263Ft Waiting renovation 35x120 lot Off St Parking from Perrier $499k Call 581-5263 #599245
**1835 NAPOLEON**
Lg 3sty owner's unit + rentals! Hi ceil, Fab kit w marble flr, balcony, off st pkg for 2 cars w gate. Brooke 259-8311 #599463
**COTTAGE BY THE PARK**
3BR/2½BA 2350Ft Pristine cottage HI Ceilings wood flrs 6315 Constance $598k Call Lane 581-5263 #600201
**NEW CONSTRUCTION!**
Splendid 4BR/3½BA 2832Ft on Deep 30x162 lot Offst. Pk available August $525k Call 581-5263 #600321
**NEW CONSTRUCTION!**
Fabulous 4BR/3½BA 3150SqFt Well appointed on 45x126 lot Offst. Pk, Available Aug. $599k 581-5263 #600326
**CHARMING COTTAGE**
3BR/2½BA 2247Ft Renov. Off St Park, $475k. 1718 Peniston Call Lane 581-5263 #602858

**LARGE LOT TCHOUP**
Unique property w/huge lot 66x150 Duplex exc.cond 2 car garage. Kim 2661-5486 #597399
**1604 THIRD $478K**
3 story 2872 SF Brick Townhouse 3BR/3½BA, Patio, Parking. Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #603512
**916 JENA DARLING**
Cottage off Camp. 3/2 Beau. pine floors, $349k Letty Rosenfeld 236-6834 #606188
**8138-40 BURTHE**
Great 3-plex: Two 1BR & One 2BR -Renovated- Great help w/note. $348k Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #597039
**RAISED HOME - 280K**
On State St Dr. 3BR/2BA Plus apt for $600 rent. Wood floors, nice yard, lrg rms, parking. 861-9340 #597396
**JUST OFF ST. CHARLES**
Fab renovation! Custom kit & baths, Viking app. Apt & storage, Porch, Prkng. $595k 1506 Jena 861-9340 #600130
**1808 BORDEAUX $495K**
Contemporary Home, 1 story, 2 blocks off Ave. Appx 2008 sq.ft. 3BR/2½BA, 2 Car Garage Laura Geddes 583-7057 #602889
**5529 S. JOHNSON**
3424 SF Brick 2-story w/pool 3 BR/3BA Big den Great buy $439k Brooke Arthurs 259-8311
**1750 ST. CHARLES**
Renovated condos. Rooftop terrace, fitness ctr, parking. $269K-$449K. www.JohnSchaff.com 523-5042. #601520
**TREE-LINED NERON PLACE**
Chic, Wd flrs, great windows, fab master BR/BA Pool-Jacuz, off st prk. cov. 3 or 4BR/2½BA, $650K. Mat Berenson 895-4336 #606699
**GARDEN DIST. BEAUTY**
Victorian 3BR 1/1BA+Crg Hse Apt.Arch details Wd fl, pkg 45x160Lot 589k Mat Berenson 895-4336 #607479
**7720 ZIMPLE $228K**
Rustic cottage Look -1292 sqsf 2BR/2BA - Great rm Vaulted ceiling Brooke Arthurs 259-8311 #607721
**1216-18 DUBLIN $285K**
Terri 442-6729 #605073
**UPPERLINE CONDO**
Spacious 2BR/2½BA w/wd flrs, hi ceils, huge windows, granite & stainless kit, parking. Judy 417-6683. #607468
**8227 ZIMPEL**
New Construction! Fab 4Br 3½BA, 3150SqFt. on 45x126 lot Offst. Pk, 8227 Zimpel $599k 581-5263 #600326
**1119 DANTE**
New Construction! Splendid 4BR/3½BA 2832Ft, on 30x162 lot Offst. Pk .$525k Call 581-5263 #600321

**$150,000-$250,000:**

**1530 BORDEAUX #E**
Just steps to St.Charles, walk to shops & restaurants! Wd Flrs, 1 BR/1BA, $175k Jeannie 891-3101 #600987
**UPTOWN BEAUTY $229K**
Low Maintenance cottage in Exec. condition. 2BR/2BA. Total Renov. in 99. Call Allison 722-5597. #605378

**$100,000-$150,000:**

**$115,000 SHOTGUN**
2 or 3 Bedrooms Shotgun at a great price in the Uptown area. Call Maude 296-0745 #605643
**1114 DUBLIN**
Beautiful updated 3BR/2BA Gourmet kit. Wd Flr, new roof, private deck/patio $284,900 Tracie Epstein 782-0887
**7444 ST. CHARLES**
Super 2BR condo near universities & park. New Paint & appliances, low fee, pkg. Lolita 220-8654

## CBD/WAREHOUSE DISTRICT 888-4585

**1111 S. PETERS #111**
Condo! Wd flrs, marble baths, brick walls, cherry cabs. Patio w/French drs. Prkg. $270K. Terry 460-9414 #604331
**628 BARONNE**
Greek Revival w/balcony. Great comm oppor. B&B or condo conversion. 12,000 sf w/6 meters. Terry 460-9414 #605118
**633 TCHOUP. #6**
Beautiful 2 BR/2BA condo-great loc. Open kit w/stainless & granite, Wd flrs, Jacuzzi tub, Garage. Terry 460-9414 #605726

## BELOW CANAL Historic Districts 888-4585

**2615-17 DAUPHINE**
Private 3BR/2BA home set back from st w/off-street parking. Rental @ front. Call 650-9844. #597093
**3111 ST CLAUDE**
2 story-6BR/5BA-2 car garg. 2 C A/H units. new roof-alarm-beautiful wood flrs, hi grade appli. Patricia 450-7865 #597801
**1023 BARTHOLOMEW**
Top Renov! 2-3 br-2 custom baths-lr-dr-kit (granite/stainless) fenced yard. Mike 756-3662 #599229
**1934 BURGUNDY**
Marigny Triangle, 1 & 2 BR's, 1-2 ba, top renov! granite/stainless kitchens-off-st park. 4.5 blks to Fr Qtr. Joe 481-0799 #599625
**927 ST. FERDINAND**
1870's Greek Revival. Move-in condition. All you want and more. Call David 615-0905 #600542

**521-23 S. RENDON**
JoAnn 450-1477 #602520
**4219 ROYAL**
Bywater sgl, 3015 s/f, 3 br, 3 ba, huge lr, dr, country kit w/appl, 45x157 lot, parking, big yard! Lisa 723-9910 #601648
**2215 DAUPHINE**
3 bd, 2.5 ba. Cen A/H-wood flrs, beautiful lg kit 4 blks to Qtr. Fenced Lg deck-closed garg. Shelby 421-6454 #604251
**931 MONTEGUT**
Call Joe 481-0799 #603544
**908 MONTEGUT**
Renov. shotgun-wood flrs, high ceilings, mantels, 995 sq ft. 2 br, 1 ba. 908 Montegut. Art 491-9700 #603873
**2625 N. RAMPART**
Call Jimmie 940-0070 #604835
**1125 FRENCHMEN**
Call Mary Lind 874-4905 #605085
**2329-31 DAUPHINE**
Call Stephen 251-6620 #605596
**620 GALLIER**
Wood flrs & ceil, parking, appliances, covered porch, nice yard, 1853 s/f. Lane 957-5116 #605856
**1061 CAMP UNIT B**
Call Nicholas 621-6881 #606584
**1309 BURGUNDY #9**
Rita Rans 319-3299 #607058
**1240 MONTEGUT**
Lloyd 874-4839 #607539
**2725 ESPLANADE**
John Weaver 232-1962
**2320 N. RAMPART**
3 units w/many updates-slate roof, newer appls. Brett Kline 957-6736 #600630
**933 FRANCE**
Carol-Jean 812-8481 #606355
**FABULOUS FQ CONDO**
Elegance at its finest. 3BR/2½ BA, 2000+ sqft, gourmet kitchen, private entrance. Art 491-9700 #587465
**FABULOUS MARIGNY**
LOCATION! 3BR/2BA pool/hot tub-wd flors-open entertaining spaces-2 mstr suites. Berenson 895-4336 #589582
**FABULOUS QTR CONDO**
French Qtr (2BR/2BA) Private ctyd, wd flrs, stainless/granite, luxury! Call Toni 416-7936 #596849
**1629 FRENCHMEN ST.**
3BR/2BA, parking for many cars. Everett 948-4541 #597659
**FIRST TIME OFFERED**
2BR wood flrs condo-great Marigny location-landscaped ctyd w/pond & deck Brigitte Fredy, CRS 616-4044 #598883
**DRAMATIC HISTORIC 1934's**
Arched portico, rosettes, quarter sawn/ mahogony flrs, modern kit appli. 5890 sqft. Brigitte Fredy, CRS 616-4044 #602839
**HOT QUARTER CONDO!**
2 levels, balcony, exposed wd/brick, 1 BR, 1 ba, appli., Lane 957-5116 #603047
**EXCLUSIVE-PLEX**
French Qtr. hist Victorian-3 apts. main hse & dependency apt. rear of ctyd, Brigitte Fredy, CRS 616-4044 #607844

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**PARTY HOUSE OUT BACK!**
4BR/2BA on 3 acres w/custom kitchen, landscaping & all the extras! Call Betty @ 985-748-3604 #584592

## KENNER 443-3300 888-4585

**102 AVANT GARDE**
2/2 unit, skylights, screened patio! Lynn Hall 554-5483 #606069
**421 PELLERIN**
Meticulously maintained 3BR/2BA, 60 x 100 lot, 1 car grg, cov patio, frplc, 1403sqft. Debbie 650-7433 #606168
**1930 20TH.**
Spacious, Affordable & Renovated. Have it your way! 4/2, frpl, new A/C, heat, roof,etc. Sheilia 382-1979 #607947
**1635 NEWPORT PL #8**
Immaculate 2½ condo. Rose Fogarty 338-2717 #608156
**PRETTY 7YR OLD**
3BR/2BA, 2000+sqft, vaulted clgs, lrg den w/sur sound, alarm, 6 parking spots! Anne 621-3909 #602864
**AUDUBON SUBDIVISION**
Meticulously maintained 3BR/2BA, 60 x 100 lot, 1 car grg, cov patio, frplc, 1403sqft. Debbie 650-7433 #606168

## LAKEFRONT 888-4585

**4059 FAIRMONT**
2/2. Ceramic / wood flrs. 1629 sqft. Lr, Dr, Kit & appl. Big yd. 50x120 Lot. Lane Lacoy 957-5116 #586183
**1444 CABRINI CT.**
Chris 427-0689 #594600
**5351 CHAMBERLAIN**
excel 3/2. wd flrs. Huy 606-1146 #594709
**15 FINCH**
Lake Vista 3/3 Lg den w/cath ceil & frpl, wet bar. Susan Aviles 232-6841 #594853
**858 MOUTON**
Jhn 383-7095 #595137
**5901 GENERAL DIAZ**
Lakeview, Muriel 250-0906 #600235
**411 38TH ST.**
Big 60 x 135 lot with rear yard access. Liv, din. + den. 5/2 Affordable. Barbara 909-2612 #600334
**80 N. WREN**
Lake Vista, New kit w/granite, Jenn-air appl., vaulted ceil. 5+Bd, 3.5 ba. patio. Kim Carleton 380-6633 #605716
**5401 CHARLOTTE**
2/2. Yvonne 909-2222 #607880
**6650 AVENUE A**
Madonna 430-3667 #608217
**LAKEWOOD SOUTH**
5586 Jacqualyn Crt. Master suite addition. 4 Bdrm, 3.5 ba. Yvonne Perry 909-2222 #588038
**ON THE BAYOU**
1100 sqft den w/wet bar overlooks pool & Bayou. Muriel Cassibry 282-0912 #606354
**440 SPENCER**
10 yr old. 3 BR/2½BA.Yd w/patio. Fab. mster ba w/Jacuzzi. Judy 417-6683 #605805

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Live Oak Subd 3bd/2.5 ba lg gameroom lg mstr bd formal dining/study gorgeous cabinets Ched 985-652-5556 #598286
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New berber crpt wd flrs & tile fresh paint great split floor plan w/ frplc only 10 yrs old Laquita 504-512-1867 #599414
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in neighborhood park Big 4 bd home frml lvg & dining rooms lucious backyard w/ fountain Fran 504-559-4046 #600152

## MANDEVILLE 581-7419/ 626-5695

**SAVANNAHS**
New 3BR cottage, open living plan inspired by Historic Covington. Louise Brady at 985-951-9328. #583328
**NEW HOME FOLSOM**
Located off Hwy. 40, 4BR, 1916 sq ft living, 1.21 acre wooded lot. Danny 985-630-4703. #591936
**QUALITY HOME!**
3 bdrm, 2 bath stained and scored flooring, approx. liv area 1132, call to preview! Lisa 985-373-8993. #593777
**QUALITY NEW HOME!**
3BR/2BA, stained and scored flooring, brick & stucco front, approx 1680 liv. area. Lisa 985-373-8993. #593780
**STUNNING HOME!**
Hurry to preview house plans and pick colors. This is a home with character. Lisa Gracia 985-373-8993. #593788
**ONE LOOK WILL DO!**
Lots of character. 3BR/2BA, approx. liv. area 1630. Lisa Gracia 985-373-8993. #593793
**CHARMING COTTAGE!**
3BR/2BA approx. liv. area 1630, cov. porch, stained/scored flooring, large lot. Lisa Gracia 985-373-8993. #593796

**OLD MANDEVILLE 4/1**
Cottage near lake, ren. kit. w/gas stove, tile flr, brk frpl, hi ceilgs, wd flrs, lg scr. porch, fen yd. Ann 630-1849. #594042
**COUNTRY ELEGANCE**
home on 2.5 acres of rolling land, open floor plan, 4 br/3 ba. For a showing call Kathy Vedros at 705-2050. #596556
**COVINGTON ACADIAN 3/2.5,**
Acadian w/wrap around porches, deck pond, lg workshop, 2 add'l acres avail. Ann 630-1849. #596928
**(W) GREENLEAVES 4/5,**
12 ft. ceilgs, crwn mldg, open flr plan, mstr bath w/hydrotub, frml din rm, lg wd deck, cul-de-sac. Ann 630-1849. #598335
**FINE WATERFRONT**
Panoramic views and top quality highlight this superb one-story home. Tammy 985-502-1459. #601468
**SOUTHDOWN SUBD. 4/3,**
French style w/granite cntrs, wd flrs, gamerm up, separate guest ste, sec sys, wired for sursound. Ann 630-1849. #601860
**(W) 1 BLOCK TO LAKE**
Quality - main + guest homes on 1.6 acres, 1 block to lake, old Mandeville. Joe 504-782-5200. #602131
**GATED GOLF & SWIM**
Community. 2 dens, formal liv/din rm, 4 bdrm/2.5 bath, .74 acre, 1 yr new, great price. Lynne 985-502-5556. #602503
**SIMPLY ADORABLE**
Well kept, lots of extras, cathedral ceilgs, ceramic tile, 3 BR/2 BA, $136,000. Call Maureen 504-905-3946. #604210
**(W) THE PORT CONDOS 3/3.5**
condo on Bayou Castine, access to lake & trace, boat slip, courtyd & gazebo, sec sys. Ann 630-1849. #604622
**ARBOR WALK 4/3.5,**
granite cntrs, stnls appl, keeping rm, dbl sided frpl in mstr, butler pantry, sec sys, wd flrs. Ann 630-1849. #604613
**LOVELY IN COVINGTON**
Spacious 4 bdrm/2 bath home in River Forest. Beautiful wd & brick flrs $169,900. Susan Kagan 504-812-3060. #605193
**BETTER THAN NEW**
and only $184,900 Tallowcreek Subd. 4/2 with formal floorplan, includes washer & dryer. Louise 951-9328. #605613

**ABUNDANT AMENITIES**
Cypress cabinets, Heart of Pine floors, granite counters, appl, oversized gar & more! $339,500. Irene 778-3084. #606775
**FABULOUS FARM**
A must see farm, priced right, 142 acres, precious house, 3 bdrm, 1st story has all possibilities. Jan L. 394-8392. #607438
**MEADOWBROOK GEM**
Don't miss open 2 story floorplan, with formal dinrm too, wood floors, custom closets. Louise 951-9328. #607823
**(W) COUNTRY COMFORT**
Cute Acadian on 1.5 acres, some still wooded, cathedral ceilgs, fireplace in mstr. Jay 502-6913. #608063
**LAURELWOOD**
Custom built dream home, wood floors, shutters, formal, sunroom, 4 bdrm/2.5 bath. Denyse 630-4726. #609602

## N. ST. TAMMANY WASHINGTON Parish 581-7419/626-5695

**23 ACRES**
Raised cedar home just minutes from Folsom with board fencing for horses. Brenda Breeding 504-512-6097. #594443
**FABULOUS FARM**
A must see farm, priced right, 142 acres, precious house, 3 bdrm, 1st story has all possibilities. Jan L. 394-8392. #607438

## METAIRIE ABOVE CAUSEWAY 888-4585/443-3300

**102 AVANT GARDE**
2/2 unit, skylights, screened patio! Lynn Hall 554-5483 #606069
**421 PELLERIN**
Meticulously maintained 3bdrm/2ba, 60 x 100 lot, 1 car grg, cov. patio, frplc, 1403sqft. Debbie 650-7433 #606168
**1930 20TH**
Spacious, Affordable & Renovated. Have it your way! 4/2, frpl, new A/C, heat, roof,etc. Sheilia 382-1979 #607947

**1635 NEWPORT PL #8**
Immaculate 2/1.5 condo. Rose Fogarty 338-2717 #608156
**PRETTY 7YR OLD**
Traditional, 3bd/2ba, 2000+sqft, vaulted clgs, lrg den w/sur sound, alarm, 6 parking spots! Anne 621-3909 #602864
**AUDUBON SUBDIVISION**
Meticulously maintained 3bdrm/2ba, 60 x 100 lot, 1 car grg, cov patio, frplc, 1403sqft. Debbie 650-7433
**7716 NORTON ST.**
Great, quiet location, 3/2, $229,000. Eileen Traficante 236-5699 #586579
**718 JEFFERSON PK. W.**
3/2, beau home, spacious yrd! Ryan Enk 621-8771 #607799
**513 DILTON**
$400K Beau 4/2.5, lush lndscping, beau master! Eileen Traficante 236-5699 #598353
**60 OAKLAND DR.**
Move in! Reno'd kit, close to everything! Brian Smith 583-3127 #607990
**3 RUFIN PL.**
Great 3/2, repainted interior! Larry Brown 452-6010 #605409

## MET-JEFFERSON RIVER RIDGE 888-4585/443-3300

**7716 NORTON ST.**
Great, quiet location, 3/2, $229,000. Eileen Traficante 236-5699 #586579
**718 JEFFERSON PK. W.**
3/2, beau home, spacious yrd! Ryan Enk 621-8771 #607799
**513 DILTON**
$400K Beau 4/2.5, lush lndscping, beau master! Eileen Traficante 236-5699 #598353
**60 OAKLAND DR.**
Move in! Reno'd kit, close to everything! Brian Smith 583-3127 #607990
**3 RUFIN PL.**
Great 3/2, repainted interior! Larry Brown 452-6010 #605409

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## METAIRIE BELOW CAUSEWAY 888-4585/443-3300

**612 RIDGELAKE**
Cottage, open flr pln, 2/3BR/2BA, lg kit w/cypress cabs & marble tops, patio. Appx 1340 sqft. Suzanne 891-1362 #597658
**711 RIDGELAKE**
Dwnstrs master, dbl garage, 4bd,3.5ba. Jennifer Johnsen 460-5983 #599166
**3113 39TH ST.**
60 x 120 lt, cute ranch w/3bd/1ba, det grg, 1600sqft, cov patio. Debbie Ferrante 650-7433 #604626
**39 BEVERLY GARDEN**
Curb appeal galore! 3bd/2ba, fireplace, 9ft ceilings, open flr plan. Renovated! Lynn Hall 554-5483 #600879
**309 CUDDIHY DR.**
Completely reno'd 3/2, so many features! Fran 430-3131/Mary 256-6119 #607093
**2727 VARDEN AVE.**
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**548 BONNABEL BLVD.**
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**3705 N. LABARRE**
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SPORTS

# METRO-AREA PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## TODAY'S GAMES

**LIVE OAK (1-1) at POPE JOHN PAUL II (0-0)**
Time: 2 p.m.
Last week: Live Oak defeated Albany 20-6.
Last year: Live Oak defeated PJP II 12-9.
Notes: The Jaguars unveil their new spread offense, featuring quarterback Richard Guillot. For the first time in Coach Chris Lachneyís two-year career, the Jaguars will platoon on offense and defense.

**VARNADO (0-0) at ST. JAMES (2-0)**
Time: 3 p.m.
Last week: St. James defeated South Lafourche 41-6.
Notes: St. James, which is ranked No. 1 in Class 2A, gained 441 yards against South Lafourche. St. James running back Tremaine Dapremont rushed for 114 yards on 15 carries. The Wildcats never punted.

**HAHNVILLE (2-0) at LUTCHER (1-1)**
Time: 5 p.m.
Last week: Hahnville defeated East St. John 28-27. Lutcher defeated Thibodaux 20-14.
Notes: The last time these teams met was in the 1999 and 2000 River Parishes Jamborees. Lutcher won 27-14 in 1999. Hahnville won 12-0 in 2000. Hahnville rushed for 190 yards and passed for 144 last week. Running back Terrance Isaac carried 26 times for 151 yards. Lutcher rushed for 121 yards and passed for 91. Running back Wayne Albert carried 17 times for 108 yards.

**EAST ST. JOHN (0-1) at EAST ASCENSION (1-1)**
Time: 6 p.m.
Last week: East St. John lost to Hahnville 28-27. East Ascension lost to Istrouma 35-20.
Notes: These teams last played in 1992 with East Ascension winning 41-6. East St. John quarterback Johnnie Thiel completed all three of his passes for 152 yards and two touchdowns in the first half of last weekís game against Hahnville. He was 0-for-3 in the second half. East Ascension, which had given up 56 yards against Dutchtown, allowed 308 yards rushing and 443 total last Sunday against Istrouma.

## MONDAY'S GAMES

**SOUTH LAFOURCHE (0-1) at DESTREHAN (2-0)**
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Last week: South Lafourche lost to St. James 41-6. Destrehan defeated Terrebonne 35-13.
Last year: Destrehan won 46-21.
Notes: Destrehan has won the past nine meetings. Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene completed 16 of 30 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns last week and had 305 all-purpose yards. South Lafourche was held to 192 yards by St. James.

**RIVERSIDE (2-0) at WEST ST. JOHN (0-2)**
Time: 7 p.m.
Last week: Riverside defeated St. Thomas Aquinas 27-0. West St. John lost to Patterson 40-18.
Last year: West St. John won 46-7.
Notes: West St. John has won the past four meetings, including a 2001 playoff game. This is the first time since 1996 that Riverside and West St. John are not in the same district. Riverside running back Jarid Caesar rushed for 190 yards on 17 carries, scoring three touchdowns and a two-point conversion last week. West St. John gained 352 yards against Patterson. Quarterback Blaine Gauthier was 11-of-22 for 189 yards.

## PREP RESULTS

### Football

Loranger 42, Pearl River 6: Ricky James helped make Loranger's debut in District 9-3A a uccess, rushing for 151 yards on 12 carries as the Wolves defeated Pearl River on Thursday at Loranger. The Wolves scored in every quarter and had 366 yards on offense and 21 first downs. The Rebels had 217 total yards, 106 rushing and 111 passing. Loranger, which played in 2A last season, is 1-1 overall, 1-0 in district. Pearl River was playing its first game of the season.

### Volleyball

Fontainebleau def. Northlake Christian 3-1: Jamie Guttierrez served nine consecutive points to start the match and Shannon King had nine kills as the Bulldogs (2-0) defeated Northlake (0-1) 25-7, 29-27, 18-25, 25-12 on Thursday. Alise Doubt had 22 digs and Heather Hughes 10. Quinn Barney served four aces and Guttierrez two.

# FIT TO BE TIED

## *DiMarco, Woods, Furyk comebacks get U.S. back in Presidents Cup*

**By DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

GAINESVILLE, VA. — Two years later and halfway across the world, the Presidents Cup is as close as ever.

Chris DiMarco came up aces, Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk came through with clutch comebacks and Retief Goosen and Adam Scott proved as formidable as ever Saturday, all of them turning in solid performances that left the matches tied going into a final round of 12 singles matches.

Each team had 11 points, the first time the Presidents Cup has been tied going into Sunday since it began in 1994

"I think tomorrow is a toss-up," Phil Mickelson said. "The International team is very strong, 12 of the best players in the game. They are extremely tough and are playing some extremely good golf. I feel the American team is playing exceptional golf, as well. I have faith in my team. But we have a lot of work ahead of us."

The Americans had a chance to take the outright lead in the final better-ball match of the afternoon.

Fred Couples, who has provided some of the most dramatic images from Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, hit a wedge into 8 feet on the 18th hole and was poised to score a 1-up victory. But his putt stayed above the cup as he and Davis Love III had to settle for a halve with Michael Campbell and Angel Cabrera.



AP PHOTO

Phil Mickelson, right, and Chris DiMarco of the United States, celebrate on the 13th green after beating Peter Lonard and Nick O'Hern of Australia, 6 and 5 in their afternoon better-ball match of the Presidents Cup Saturday.

No one had to work harder than Woods and Furyk, who birdied the last two holes in alternate shot Saturday morning to earn a halve against Vijay Singh and Stuart Appleby, then went the distance against them in the afternoon. It was just as tight, just as tense as Furyk carried the load and kept the Americans in the match.

Woods finally delivered, making an 18-foot birdie on the 16th hole that barely caught the left edge of the cup for a 1-up lead. Appleby hit a wedge into 10 feet on the last hole, but missed the putt.

"I didn't really do much except for read puts and have the pompoms out," Woods said. "Finally, I was able to help him out on 16 and I made a putt there."

The star was DiMarco, who has only three PGA Tour victories in his 10-year career, but plays like a major champion in these team events. He made only the second hole-in-one in the Presidents Cup in the morning, holed just about every putt that mattered and joined Mickelson in two victories the Americans needed.

DiMarco and Mickelson were so dominant that neither of their matches Saturday reached the 16th hole.

The International side got more strong play from Scott and Goosen, who battled Scott Verplank and Justin Leonard to a draw in the morning, and buried them in a better-ball match with 10 birdies in 14 holes.

As close as these matches have been, the Americans might have history on their side. They have never lost at RTJ, and they have never lost a singles session in five previous Presidents Cup matches.

The Times-Picayune

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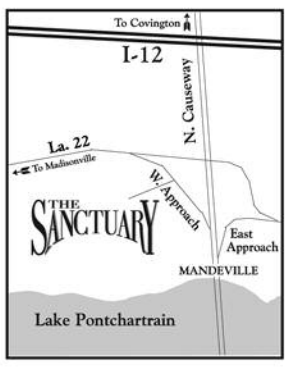
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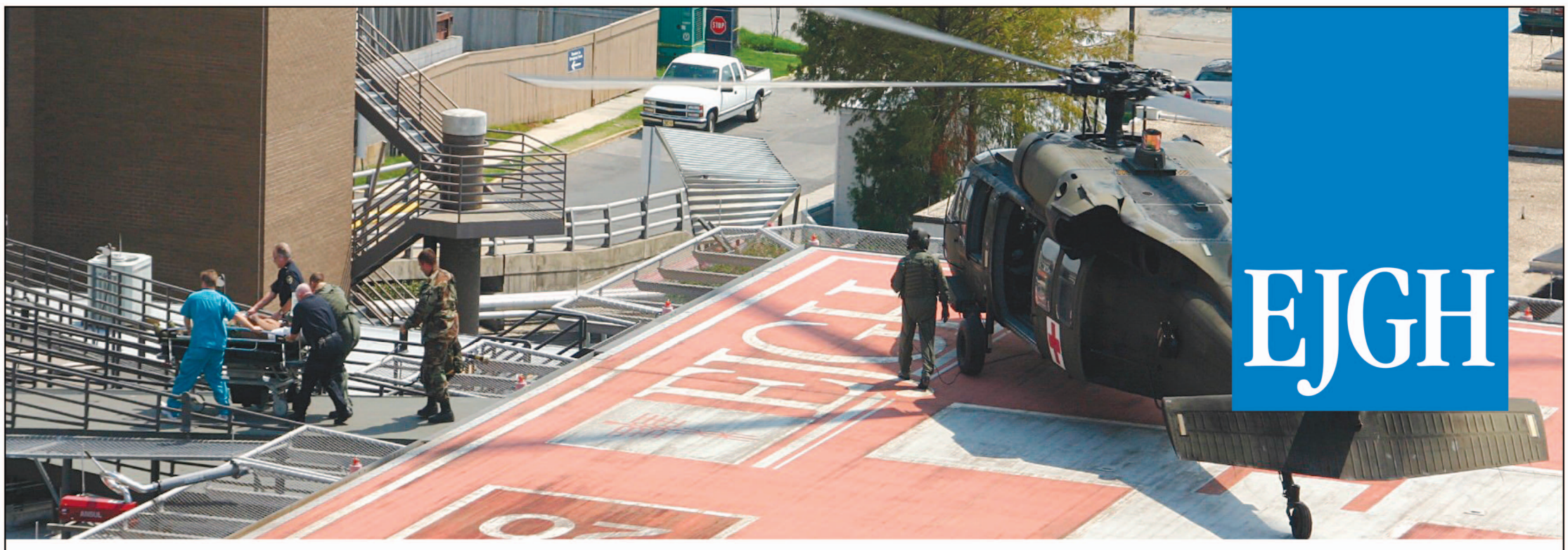
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# when actions counted more than words



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AP PHOTO

Houston Astros' relief pitcher Mike Burns, left, is congratulated by Lance Berkman after winning the game against the Chicago Cubs on Saturday. The Astros beat the Cubs 8-3.

# Astros' home park spared by storm

## *Red Sox tie Yanks for lead in AL East*

**From staff, wire reports**

The Houston Astros will have their home field for the playoff run, after all.

The Astros, who at 51-26 have the best home record in the National League, will be able to finish the regular season at Minute Maid Park as scheduled, general manager Tim Purpura said Saturday. Houston was largely spared by Hurricane Rita, and Purpura said the ballpark wasn't damaged in the storm.

"It really came through well," Purpura said before the Astros played the Chicago Cubs. "We never even lost power and all of our systems are working. So we really came through better than we could have expected."

The Astros lead the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League wild-card race by 1½ games after beating the Chicago Cubs 8-3 Saturday. They travel to St. Louis for games Tuesday and Wednesday, and are scheduled to host the Cubs for a four-game series to end the regular season.

They also expect to have ace starter Roger Clemens back this week. Clemens did not pitch Saturday because of a hamstring injury.

The Phillies finish the weekend at Cincinnati, play Monday through Wednesday at home against the New York Mets, and finish with a three-game series at the Washington Nationals.

The Florida Marlins, 4½ games behind the Astros, finish the weekend at Atlanta, play host to the Nationals on Monday through Wednesday and host the NL-East leading Braves next weekend.

In other races:

**NL EAST:** The Braves lead the Phillies by four games, and play the next five at home — this weekend against Florida, and Monday through Wednesday against the Colorado Rockies — before finishing with three at Florida. Atlanta is 50-26 at home this season.



AP PHOTO

Los Angeles' Bartolo Colon is the league's only 20-game winner, and has the league's fourth-best ERA at 3.34. The Angels lead the Oakland Athletics by 3½ games in the American League West.

**NL CENTRAL:** At 96-59, the Cardinals have clinched the best record in the National League and home-field advantage throughout the National League playoffs.

**NL WEST:** The San Diego Padres lead the San Francisco Giants by five games, but are only one game better than .500. The teams meet in a four-game series in San Diego beginning Monday. The Giants are 7-1 since Barry Bonds returned to the lineup; Bonds has 707 career home runs, seven shy of Babe Ruth for second all-time.

**AL EAST:** With a 4-3 victory Saturday at Baltimore, the Boston Red Sox pulled into a tie with the New York Yankees for the division lead. But New York, which lost 7-4 to Toronto on Saturday, has won 12 of the past 15. The Yankees and Red Sox meet each other at Fenway Park in the final three games of the season. The Yankees play four games at Baltimore next week, and Boston plays a four-game series at home vs. Toronto. And the Red Sox may be shorthanded; closer Keith Foulke was sent to a specialist in Arizona on Friday for further examination of his injured knees. Though manager Terry Francona would not declare Foulke out for the year, he did say "signs are pointing to that he may not pitch again."

**AL CENTRAL:** The Chicago White Sox, who once held a 15-game lead, now lead the Cleveland Indians by a game, but the Indians have won 16 of the past 18. The Indians may have the schedule advantage; they host Tampa Bay on Tuesday through Thursday, and host the White Sox for the final three games. The White Sox play four games at Detroit next week.

**AL WEST:** The Los Angeles Angels have won seven consecutive games and lead the Oakland Athletics by 3½ games. The A's defeated the Texas Rangers 7-6 Saturday. The Angels and A's square off in a four-game series Monday through Thursday in Oakland.

**AL WILD CARD:** The Indians lead the Red Sox and Yankees by 1½ games in the wild-card race.



AP PHOTO

Boston designated hitter David Ortiz, right, leads the major leagues with 140 RBIs, and leads the American League with 46 home runs. He is 17th in the league in batting average at .298, and has two walk-off homers this season.

# Who's the AL MVP? Debate heating up

## *Red Sox's Ortiz, Yankees' A-Rod having big years; Pujols, Jones battling in NL*

**From staff, wire reports**

Baseball's postseason awards are always cause for debate, and this season is no different.

At issue this season: Can a designated hitter be picked as a league MVP? What about a batting champ with 44 homers, but no impact in the playoff race?

Can a starting pitcher who finishes third on his team in wins be awarded a Cy Young? What about a reliever?

The American League MVP award has the added dimension of the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry. Boston designated hitter David Ortiz leads the major leagues with 140 RBIs, and leads the American League with 46 home runs. He is 17th in the league in batting average at .298, and has a flair for the dramatic walk-off homer (two this season).

But New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez also has a strong argument for the award. On Saturday he tied Ortiz in homers, has 124 RBIs, is fourth in the league in batting at .317 ñ and he also plays in the field.

The fact that Ortiz doesn't play defense should not be a deterrent, said Boston teammate David Wells.

"David (Ortiz) right now is in a league all by himself," Wells told the Boston Herald on Thursday. "There's no (expletive) question what he means to this team. (The MVP) is David Ortiz. The guy's as humble as (expletive). . . . if we're going to talk about defense, let's talk about (clubhouse contributions), too. He's not going to say that he's working out before everyone else wakes up in the morning. If they're going to do that and personality comes into play, he's got it unanimously."

The AL Cy Young Award may be easier to pick. Anaheim's Bartolo Colon is the league's only 20-game winner, and has the league's fourth-best ERA at 3.34. Yankees closer Mariano Rivera has a 1.32 ERA and 41 saves in 45 opportunities. But since 1974, only nine relievers have won Cy Young Awards.

Their top competition may be Minnesota's Johan Santana, second in ERA at 2.98 but six wins behind Colon, or Chicago's Mark Buehrle, who has 15 wins and a slightly better ERA than Colon at 3.24. But the Angels are close to clinching the AL West title, and the White Sox are locked in a battle with the Indians in the Central and may not make the playoffs. The Twins have not been a factor.



AP PHOTO

St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols is batting .335, trailing only the Chicago Cubs' Derrek Lee (.341) in the batting race. He has hit 39 homers and 109 RBIs this season.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia is speaking up for his ace. "He's a special pitcher," Scioscia said of Colon. "If you look at what he's accomplished from the middle of last year 'til now, I don't think there's a pitcher who can match what he's done."

The NL MVP award is a toss-up. Atlanta Braves center fielder Andruw Jones leads in homers with 50 and leads the league with 126 RBIs. He's won seven consecutive gold gloves in center field ñ but he's hitting .267.

St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols may be a more complete choice. At .335, he trails only Chicago's Derrek Lee (.341) in the batting race. His power numbers don't match Jones, but they are impressive ñ 39 homers and 109 RBIs. And the Cardinals haven't been challenged; they clinched the division title with two weeks to play, and have the NL's best record with more than a week remaining.

Chicago's Lee leads the NL in hitting and has 44 homers, but the Cubs have not threatened this season, making Jones and Pujols more likely choices.

Cardinals shortstop David Eckstein spoke up for Pujols this week with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "When you have a guy like (Pujols) who every single night comes out and . . . has the average he has, the homers he has, the RBIs he has . . . and plays defense the way he plays defense, that's (the MVP)," Eckstein said. "It's not even a question."

Houston's Roger Clemens, who won his record seventh Cy Young Award last season, would seem like a logical choice for his eighth this season. He leads the majors with a 1.89 ERA, the best mark since Pedro Martinez's 1.74 mark in 2000. But he has only 12 victories; teammate Roy Oswalt has 18, and Andy Pettitte has 17.

If Clemens doesn't win the award, Florida's Dontrelle Willis would be a popular choice. The 2003 NL Rookie of the Year is second in the majors with a 2.44 ERA, and leads the majors with 22 wins.

St. Louis' Chris Carpenter has also had an outstanding season, with 21 wins and a 2.71 ERA. But after a 21-4 start, Carpenter is 0-1 with a 9.77 ERA in his past three starts. "I don't care about the award, if I come to the end of the season and I win it, I win it," Carpenter told SI.com. "I just have to get myself ready for the playoffs and accomplish the ultimate goal of a championship."

Willis isn't campaigning for the honor. "If I did have a vote, I wouldn't vote for myself," Willis told SI.com this week. "I never thought I'd be mentioned in the same sentence. Chris Carpenter, Roger Clemens . . . Dontrelle Willis? It kind of sounds like a bad joke.

"Clemens is bar none the best pitcher in the history of baseball. He's definitely changed the game and is a face of our game. But I'd have to vote for Carpenter. He hasn't given up a homer in like a year and a half. No offense, Roger, I love you, but you can give up one."

# Minnesota upsets No. 11 Boilermakers

## *Ohio State bounces back, rips Iowa*

**From wire reports**



AP PHOTO

Minnesota tight end Matt Spaeth celebrates his eight-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter that tied the Golden Gophersí game against Purdue, sending the game to overtime. Minnesota then won 42-35, in the second overtime.

Gary Russell scored three touchdowns, the last a three-yard run in the second overtime to lift host Minnesota to a 42-35 victory over No. 11 Purdue.

Laurence Maroney rushed for a career-high 217 yards on 46 carries for the Gophers (4-0, 1-0 Big Ten), who held on in another thrilling back-and-forth game between these rivals.

Purdue had a chance to tie the game in the second overtime, but Jerod Void was stuffed on third-and-one from the Minnesota 17, and Brandon Kirsch's fourth-down pass glanced off Charles Davis' hands. The Gophers to charged the field in celebration of Glen Mason's first victory over Purdue in seven tries as Minnesota coach.

Kory Sheets rushed for 101 yards for Purdue (2-1, 0-1), and his five-yard touchdown gave the Boilermakers a 35-28 lead in the first overtime.

But the Gophers came right back and tied the game on an eight-yard touchdown pass from Bryan Cupito to Logan Payne.

The Gophers took the ball to start the second overtime, and Cupito hit Payne on a 15-yard pass to set up Russell's game-winning score two plays later.

It was vindication for Mason and the Gophers, who have been criticized in the past for scheduling weak opponents in non-conference play, then folding against superior competition in the Big Ten.

They nearly let this one slip away, too, during a wild fourth quarter.

Russell also had a 1-yard scoring run in the first and a five-yard touchdown reception in the third to help the Gophers stake a 17-7 lead, but it was all Maroney for the first three quarters.

Purdue came into the game with the No. 1 ranked rushing defense in the nation after yielding 16 yards a game to Akron and Arizona.

The Boilermakers found out quickly that they were facing a much more difficult task against Minnesota's top-ranked rushing offense.

The Gophers dominated the opening quarter, outgaining Purdue 204-29 and holding the ball for 12:11 of the first 15 minutes. Maroney ran for 96 yards in the first alone and 147 yards in the first half as Minnesota's superb offensive line opened huge holes and manhandled Purdue's experienced defensive front.

Russell's scoring reception in the third seemed to put the Gophers in control, but the Purdue defense stiffened and Maroney began to wear down as Purdue clawed its way back.

Kirsch was shaky early, but rebounded to throw for 246 yards and two touchdowns, including an 8-yard strike to Andre Chattams with 6:39 to go in the fourth that gave the Boilermakers their first lead of the game, 21-20.

Purdue snatched the momentum on the Gophers' next possession, when linebacker Dan Bick picked off Cupito and returned it 29 yards for a touchdown that gave Purdue a 28-20 lead.

The Gophers came right back after Ben Jones kicked the ball out of bounds. They drove 65 yards in 12 plays, culminating with an 8-yard scoring pass from Cupito to Matt Spaeth. Cupito then kept the ball on an option play to the right and plunged in for the two-point conversion to tie the score with 1:34 to play.

**No. 8 OHIO STATE 31 vs. No. 21 IOWA 6:** A.J. Hawk and the Ohio State defense stuffed Iowaís running game, and kept Hawkeyes quarterback Drew Tate on the run all day.

Troy Smith threw two touchdown passes to Anthony Gonzalez and ran for two scores to support a dominant defensive performance by the eighth-ranked Buckeyes.

"The key was when they started out trying to run the ball and we were able to stop them," Ohio State defensive coordinator Jim Heacock said. "Once that happened, that gave us some flexibility to turn those guys loose.

"We put our ears back. We've got some guys who can go."

Iowa (2-2, 0-1 Big Ten) finished with 18 rushes for minus-nine yards as Hawk and Mike Kudla each were credited with 1 1/2 sacks for 15 yards in losses. The Buckeyes constantly harassed Tate, sacking him five times for minus 43 yards.

"I couldn't get outside," Tate said. "I couldn't do anything."

The Hawkeyes, averaging 428 yards per game, mustered 70 through the first three quarters and ended up with 137. They were forced to punt on their first seven possessions, running one play in Ohio State territory - and by that time the Buckeyes were in control 24-0.

"It was pretty much a one-sided football game both ways," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said.

Antonio Pittman rushed for 171 yards on 28 carries for the Buckeyes (3-1, 1-0), with Smith adding 127 yards on 18 carries and touchdowns of 16 and four yards. They became the first Ohio State quarterback-tailback tandem to top 100 yards in the same game since 1976 when Jeff Logan had 112 yards rushing and quarterback Rod Gerald added 104 in a 49-21 over Michigan State.

Smith also completed 13-of-19 passes for 191 yards without an interception, although he fumbled three times and had another erased by a penalty.

**No. 12 MIAMI 23 vs. COLORADO 3:** Kyle Wright was drilled on Miami's first play and lost a toenail on his lone touchdown pass.

Other than that, he came away unscathed and victorious in his first Orange Bowl start.

Wright threw for 264 yards, plus ran for another touchdown, as Miami's defense frustrated Colorado.

"Once you get a couple positive plays, the offense really gets in a rhythm," Wright said. "Today, with the University of Colorado down here, we wanted to get them huffin' and puffin' and runnin' in that nice hot, humid weather we had out there. Our guys felt great, and you could see they were subbing in and out."

Wright completed 20-of-39 passes for Miami (2-1), wasn't sacked once - he was dropped 14 times in the first two games - and ran a two-yard bootleg into the end zone for the game's final score.

Only Mason Crosby's 58-yard field goal - the second longest of his career - with 11:57 left kept the Buffaloes (2-1) from being shut out for the first time in nearly two decades. Colorado got 120 of its 331 yards in the fourth quarter with the game decided, plus was penalized 16 times for 104 yards.

"We shot ourselves in the foot too many times," said Colorado coach Gary Barnett, who was on the Orange Bowl sidelines for the first time since the Buffs beat Notre Dame for the 1990 national title. "Miami's a good physical team and they have great speed, but I thought we matched up decently. They just didn't make the mistakes."

Sinorice Moss had 111 yards receiving, including a 53-yard score for Miami. Jon Peattie kicked three field goals, and Quadtrine Hill and Tyrone Moss combined for 99 yards rushing for Miami.

Safety Brandon Meriweather made 12 tackles and had an interception for the Hurricanes, and Marcus Maxey intercepted a pass.

**No. 16 NOTRE DAME 36 at WASHINGTON 17:** New coaches, same result. Charlie Weis led Notre Dame to the same kind of lopsided romp over Washington that Tyrone Willingham did a year ago when he was coaching Fighting Irish.

The 16th-ranked Irish, clicking in the air and on the ground after a sluggish start, beat the Huskies in a game that had little to do with coaches matching wits and everything to do with slick execution by Notre Dame (3-1) and huge blunders by Washington (1-3).

A year after Notre Dame won 38-3 in South Bend, Ind., against Washington, they took their show on the road to do virtually the same thing against their former coach on a brilliant fall afternoon before 71,473 fans in Husky Stadium.

Quarterback Brady Quinn, who threw four touchdown passes last year, threw only one this time but compiled 327 yards passing in a more balanced attack that saw sophomore halfback Darius Walker rush for a career-high 128 yards on 21 carries. Walker became the first running back in Notre Dame history to rush for more than 100 yards in each of his first four games.

Quinn, who also ran for 29 yards, spread the wealth of passes around to his targets, with wide receiver Jeff Samardzija leading them all and gaining a career-high 164 yards.

Notre Dame's dominating offense controlled the game, and the Irish never punted until 11 seconds were left. They held possession of the ball for 36:56, breaking open the game with 24 points in the second half. Rashon Powers-Neal had a two-yard touchdown run, Samardzija scored on a 52-yard pass and Travis Thomas scored on an 11-yard run.

Washington, down 29-3 in the fourth quarter, scored on two late touchdowns, the first on a 1-yard run by Mark Palaita, and the second with 2:26 left on a 41-yard pass from reserve quarterback Johnny Durocher.

**No. 17 MICHIGAN STATE 61 at ILLINOIS 14:** Michigan Stateís record book needs updating.

Drew Stanton set a school record with five touchdown passes and the 17th-ranked Spartans set marks with 705 yards of offense and seven touchdowns in a romp over Illinois in the Big Ten opener for both.

Stanton tied the record by halftime, doing whatever he pleased during a 28-point second quarter that turned a 10-7 game into a rout. Illinois (2-2) gave up 318 yards in the first half.

"It was a pretty good outing. He had a good day," Michigan State coach John L. Smith said.

The Spartans (4-0) entered the game with the fourth-ranked offense in the nation and likely will move up after increasing their average to 594 yards per game.

Michigan State last opened a season with four wins in 1999.

"I apologize to all the Illini fans," Illinois coach Ron Zook said. "We didn't coach very well and we didn't play very well."

Stanton's second pass of the day was a 75-yard touchdown strike to Kyle Brown, and he hit Dwayne Holmes, Jerramy Scott and Matt Trannon in the second quarter to tie the record held by seven others, most recently by Jeff Smoker in a 41-10 win over Penn State on Nov. 22, 2003.

Stanton broke the record with a two-yard toss to Kellen Davis on the Spartans' first possession of the second half.

"It's a nice thing to have," he said, "but it's a tribute to our wide receivers getting open. It kind of looked easy out there at times. Those guys worked getting open."

Stanton left the game early in the third quarter, finishing 20-of-26 for 259 yards. He was 11-of-14 for 107 yards in the deciding second quarter.

Javon Ringer led the Spartans' rushing attack with 194 yards on 13 carries. He also had two tackles on kick coverage.

**No. 23 VIRGINIA 38 vs. DUKE 7:** Marques Hagans threw for four touchdowns and Virginia's defense forced four turnovers to lift the Cavaliers.

Hagans' first three touchdown passes came on third and long, including a 46-yarder to tight end Tom Santi on third-and-24 that gave Virginia (3-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) a 17-0 third quarter lead.

Deyon Williams caught two touchdowns, and backup tight end J.M. Phillips scored on a 12-yard pass, carrying two Duke defenders on his back the final 3 yards.

Hagans finished 13 for 21 with 174 yards and no interceptions, a fine day despite numerous dropped passes in the first half.

The Cavaliers' offense struggled early, with tailback Wali Lundy finding little running room and receivers dropping balls.

Their first touchdown came on an early second-half drive, with eight straight runs by backup tailback Michael Johnson to move the ball from midfield inside the 10. Hagans capped the drive with a 10-yard TD pass to Williams to make it 10-0.

In the second half, though, Virginia scored touchdowns on its first four possessions to put the game out of reach.

Duke did not score until the fourth quarter, and managed only 11 first downs and 215 yards from scrimmage, much of which came after the game was out of reach. The Blue Devils (1-3, 0-2) sent three different quarterbacks out in the first quarter alone, none of whom could move the offense.



AP PHOTOS

Alabama running back Tim Castille had just 18 yards rushing, but he scored on a dive at the goalline in the Crimson Tideís 24-13 win against Arkansas.

# Crimson Tide rolls to 4-0

**From wire reports**

It was supposed to be a draw play, but then Alabamaís Brodie Croyle saw receiver D.J. Hall standing by himself at the line and changed his mind.

Hall slipped into the end zone with no Arkansas defender anywhere near him and caught a five-yard touchdown pass from Croyle in the final minutes of the Crimson Tideís 24-13 victory Saturday in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"I tried not to get too excited and give it away," said Hall, who also had a 43-yard touchdown catch. "I looked at Brodie and gave him a little signal. He looked at me and just nodded his head.

All I was thinking was, 'Don't drop it.'" He didn't drop it and No. 20 Alabama (4-0, 2-0) didn't fumble away its first 4-0 start since 1996. The Razorbacks (1-3, 0-2), who came into the game as 15 1/2-point underdogs, hardly resembled the team manhandled for 70 points and 736 yards by No. 1 Southern California a week earlier.

It was their third straight loss.

"We didn't get the win, so we can't be too satisfied," Arkansas defensive tackle Keith Jackson said. "But we showed people we're better than what we were (last week) and we showed teams they'd better get ready for us."

Juwan Simpson's interception at the Arkansas 40 set up the late scoring drive capped by Hall's touchdown catch on third-and-goal.

"We had a draw play called," Alabama coach Mike Shula said, "which probably wouldn't have worked."

The Razorbacks had battled back from a 17-3 deficit in the fourth quarter on two big plays after Tim Castille's one-yard touchdown run with 14:15 left gave Alabama the two-touchdown lead.

**AUBURN 37 vs. WESTERN KENTUCKY 14:** Blake Field did not find out he would be making his first career start as Auburn's quarterback until less than an hour before the Tigers took the field against Western Kentucky.

He said offensive coordinator Al Borges told him that starter Brandon Cox had come down with a stomach virus and would be unable to play.

Field showed few jitters in his first start. He completed 13-of-20 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns to lead Auburn to a 37-14 victory over I-AA Western Kentucky. The freshman completed passes to 10 receivers and had no interceptions.

Field would only rate his performance as a 5 on a 10-point scale.

"I'm a big perfectionist. I always believe that I'm never perfect," Field said.

Auburn Coach Tommy Tuberville had nothing but praise for Field's performance.

"We are proud of Blake Field," Tuberville said. "He became our starter with an hour's notice. He did a great job handling the football."

Cox is expected to be back in the lineup when Auburn plays South Carolina next week.

Auburn (3-1) took control of the game early, jumping out to a 24-0 halftime lead and holding the Hilltoppers to 98 yards total offense in the first half.



West Virginia Brandon Myles had six catches for 81 yards and scored a touchdown on a 76-yard kickoff return as the Mountaineers held off East Carolina 20-15.

But Western Kentucky (2-1), the top ranked team in I-AA, fought back with two fourth quarter touchdowns.

## C-USA

**WEST VIRGINIA 20 vs. EAST CAROLINA 15:** Adam Bednarik and Pat White each threw a touchdown pass and Antonio Lewis returned a punt 76 yards for a score to carry West Virginia.

The Mountaineers (4-0) scored all their points in the first half, and then held off the Pirates, who were inside the West Virginia 20 four times in the first three quarters but unable to score a touchdown.

West Virginia, which plays No. 4 Virginia Tech next week, managed to total 102 yards after halftime.

West Virginia had the nation's seventh-best rushing attack and had averaged 458 yards on the ground against the Pirates over the past three seasons, but was limited to 127 this time.

The Mountaineers failed to score in the second half for the first time since Oct. 25, 2001.

West Virginia's quarterback tandem had its worst outing, combining for three interceptions and a fumble. West Virginia freshman Pat McAfee missed two field goals and an extra point.

Except for Robert Lee's three field goals, East Carolina (1-2) was equally inept in the first three quarters.

The Pirates made it interesting in the final minutes.

A poor punt gave East Carolina the ball at the West Virginia 48 and the Pirates needed just 44 seconds to score on James Pinkney's 11-yard touchdown pass to Aundrae Allison with five minutes left. A two-point conversion pass attempt failed.

East Carolina got the ball back two more times, including at its 38-yard line with 19 seconds left. Pinkney hit Chris Johnson with a 10-yard pass but was sacked by Keilen Dykes on the next play to end the game.

On the game's first series, Pinkney fumbled as Marc Magro hit him. Jeff Noechel recovered for the Mountaineers at the ECU 44. Six plays later, Bednarik hit Darius Reynaud with a 15-yard touchdown pass.

But Bednarik was intercepted and fumbled the ball away on the next two series. Bednarik strained his knee on the fumble and did not return until the third quarter.

INSIDE • MISTAKE-PRONE SAINTS LOSE TO VIKINGS, 33-16 SEE SPORTS

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 249 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION



**BOURG:** O'Neil Sevin, 44, tows his wife and neighbors down the main street in his subdivision after Hurricane Rita.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

# La. governor seeks nearly $32 billion in hurricane aid

*No deaths reported from Rita*

**Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Skies cleared Sunday, search-and-rescue helicopters rose overhead and relief workers poured into coastal lowlands hard-hit by Hurricane Rita 24 hours earlier. From Port Arthur, Texas, eastward into the empty marshes of southwest Louisiana, they found heavy structural damage and the inevitable post-hurricane flooding – but no deaths.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco flew over the area and asked thousands of evacuees — mostly from small, low-lying towns in the region – not to return to their homes until storm officials give the all-clear.

She said she has asked President Bush for two federal aid packages totaling almost $32 billion for Louisiana, now reeling from the effects of two major hurricanes in a month.

*See* **RITA,** *A-11*

# N.O. moves past setback from Rita

*Power restored briefly in the French Quarter*

**By Coleman Warner and Doug MacCash**
Staff writers

New Orleans struggled to regain its footing in the wake of Hurricane Rita on Sunday as Corps of Engineers workers repaired a breach in an Industrial Canal levee, street flooding receded in neighborhoods near the lakefront, and Entergy workers restored power to the French Quarter.

As business owners and residents await word from Mayor Ray Nagin on when and how they can return to a city that has faced two hurricanes in the past month, law enforcement officials said there should be enough of a security presence when people return. But there were conflicting reports on the size of the military presence Sunday.

Nagin on Sunday didn't elaborate on his earlier plan to begin opening up Algiers and parts of Uptown to residents this week. A spokeswoman said Nagin is assessing conditions and should give a briefing today.

*See* **NEW ORLEANS,** *A-12*

# Thin line separates hope from hell

*Jeff getting back on its feet, but Orleans flat on its back*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

Paramedic Chris Keller puffed on a cigarette as he followed his nose to the twisted pile of trees and debris.

"Do you smell that?" he said. "I keep getting a hit here."

Certain he had detected a rotting corpse or refrigerator full of spoiled meat, Keller pulled back some branches and leaned in. But the debris was too thick. If a body were there, it would have to wait for the bulldozers, he said.

It was 23 days after Hurricane Katrina struck and four days before the rains

*See* **PARISHES,** *A-14*

# RAPE. MURDER. GUNFIGHTS.

**For three anguished days the world's headlines blared that the Superdome and Convention Center had descended into anarchy. But the truth is that while conditions were squalid for the thousands stuck there, much of the violence NEVER HAPPENED.**

CONVENTION CENTER

DEATHS REPORTED BY MEDIA
30-40

ACTUAL BODY COUNT
4

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE
1



Evacuees await buses on Sept. 1.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**By Brian Thevenot and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

After five days managing near-riots, medical horrors and unspeakable living conditions inside the Superdome, Louisiana National Guard Col. Thomas Beron prepared to hand over the dead to representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Following days of internationally reported killings, rapes and gang violence inside the Dome, the doctor from FEMA – Beron doesn't remember his name – came prepared for a grisly scene: He brought a refrigerated 18-wheeler and three doctors to process bodies.

"I've got a report of 200 bodies in the Dome," Beron recalls the doctor saying.

The real total was six, Beron said.

Of those, four died of natural causes, one overdosed and another jumped to his death in an apparent suicide, said Beron, who personally oversaw the turning over of bodies from a Dome freezer, where they lay atop melting bags of ice. State health department officials in charge of body recovery put the official death count at the Dome at 10, but

*See* **RUMORS,** *A-4*



SUPERDOME

DEATHS REPORTED BY MEDIA
10 TO "NUMEROUS"

ACTUAL BODY COUNT
6

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE
0

A worker clad in an anti-contamination suit surveys damage on Sept. 9.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

DAY 28 • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: 841 • Orleans judge dispenses justice in state prison, A-2 • Lafitte area hit hard by Rita, B-1 • Paramedic wades for miles to aid hospital, B-1 • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM

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# AFTER THE STORM

**LA. DEATH TOLL**
**841** (no update on Sunday)

**POWER**
**ENTERGY OUTAGES**
LOUISIANA: 436,000*
TEXAS: 273,000
MISSISSIPPI: 26,000
ARKANSAS: 43,000
*Including 156,000 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.
**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
STATEWIDE
40 percent of customers, or 106,000, are without service, including 987 in St. Tammany Parish.

**FOR HELP**
- ▶ American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- ▶ FEMA
  15 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. Visit www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362
- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
  Toll-free hotline for people seeking information about family members who are missing and feared dead: (866) 326-9393
- ▶ Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on persons missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**PARISH-BY-PARISH**
**ORLEANS**
- ▶ The city's previously planned reopening of the least-ravaged parts has been postponed indefinitely.
- ▶ There is a boil water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.

**JEFFERSON**
- ▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- ▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- ▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. Call the department at 736-6100, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., for more information.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ 911 phone system is back on line
- ▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- ▶ A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- ▶ St. Bernard Parish residents who live in areas that were not flooded by Hurricane Rita will be allowed back into the parish today. Residents will be allowed to enter beginning at dawn, but they must have identification to prove they live in St. Bernard. Residents living north of Judge Perez Drive between the Orleans Parish line and Packenham Drive and areas east of the Verret Canal will not be allowed to enter, officials said.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- ▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line
- ▶ Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ Utilities are working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ Utilities are working

**SCHOOL OPENINGS**
**ORLEANS PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
- ▶ Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools
- ▶ Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call (225) 819-2846 to register
- ▶ Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3
- ▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge to open today

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date
- ▶ Catholic: Several schools are already open. Our Lady of the Lake in Mandeville, today.

**ST. BERNARD**
- ▶ Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- ▶ The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen the Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Open
- ▶ Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin this week.
- ▶ Catholic: Open.

# Orleans judge holds court in Gonzales

## *Prosecutors work in borrowed space*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

GONZALES — The charges ranged from the routine to the exceptional. One fellow was arrested for possessing a crack cocaine pipe and resisting arrest by trying to hide the contraband from the cops. Another man, who declared that he'd rescued hundreds of Hurricane Katrina victims in Chalmette, was hauled in after allegedly brandishing a gun at people he feared might be about to loot his house.

Those were just two of more than 20 cases that landed on Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Raymond Bigelow's plate last week at Hunt Correctional Center, where he's been setting bail every Wednesday for people arrested in New Orleans since Katrina knocked his court's headquarters out of service.

The courts in areas affected by the hurricane will remain closed until Oct. 3. At that time, individual courts will make a determination on whether to reopen and could stay closed depending on when they can get their systems operational again, said Val Solino, a supervisor in Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan's office.

The court and district attorney's office will then review all cases in which the court dates were set and start to set dates for future proceedings, Solino said.

Katrina's floodwaters invaded most of the first floor of Jordan's office building, and some employees lost everything. The damage has not been assessed, but Jordan estimates restoration costs may rise into the hundred-thousands.

Although there were reports of flooding in some of the evidence rooms, prosecutors have not been in those areas to make an assessment, Solino said. As soon as they can gain access to the area again, they will begin reviewing evidence and files on a case-by-case basis.

Not every case will become unprosecutable because evidence was damaged, he said.

In the meantime, the district attorney's office is operating out of borrowed space at the Louisiana attorney general's office in Baton Rouge. Effective Sept. 23, 54 percent of nonessential, nonlegal staff members were laid off. The layoffs so far do not include assistant district attorneys.

"We have been advised by city officials that the city of New Orleans is facing a financial hardship, and although they are seeking financial assistance, they must downsize and advised that we do the same," Jordan said. "As of this date, we have not received our quarterly appropriation from the city of New Orleans. Further layoffs may be required without additional funding."

Meanwhile, New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and his staff raised more than $12,000 through employee contributions and subsidized funds to help Jordan and his staff rebuild their lives.

The money was deposited into a special fund established by the New Orleans Police Foundation to assist employees with living expenses including, among other things, food, clothing and shelter.

For the judges of Criminal Distinct Court, the last Monday in August was to have been the start of a two-day retreat in Baton Rouge to talk about a wide range of items, including this one: improving their hulking headquarters at Tulane Avenue and South Broad Street to make it a better hurricane evacuation shelter, Chief Judge Calvin Johnson said Sunday.

Hurricane Katrina not only scotched that meeting but, worse, left 100 or so people trapped inside the building until they were finally helicoptered to safety the Friday after the storm, Johnson said.

Before Katrina, the fortress-like court building — capable of withstanding winds of 125 mph or better — served well as a storm refuge, Johnson said. "But no one ever anticipated the idea that the 17th Street Canal would break," he said, referring to the event that left much of the city flooded.

Yet the wheels of justice still turn.

The crop of arrestees who paraded into Bigelow's makeshift courtroom recently included two city employees.

Veteran Sewerage & Water Board employee Preston Johnson, 53, landed there after, police claim, he pulled a gun on another man during an argument over the man's girlfriend at a West Bank house where both men were living.

The Sept. 19 scuffle unfolded after Johnson returned from San Antonio, where he had been living in a shelter.

Bigelow set Johnson's bail at $10,000, then allowed him to go free without posting any of the money – but with orders to steer clear of guns and the man he argued with.

Lucien Barbarin Jr., the other city employee, was booked on theft and looting charges by cops who say they caught him with property belonging to Radio Shack and Footlocker. He's a city firefighter, but Bigelow didn't learn so until moments after he set bail totaling $40,000.

"If I'd known that, I'd have set a higher bond," Bigelow said.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Lynne Jensen contributed to this report.

# Teacher takes on a new job finding homes for colleagues

## *'It's really more who you know'*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Diane Brown, director of special education for the St. John the Baptist Parish school district, might have missed her true calling in life.

For the past three weeks, Brown has worked almost around the clock to find displaced teachers and new hires in her district a place to live.

St. John has experienced an unprecedented enrollment surge since Hurricane Katrina hit. Located thirty minutes from New Orleans, the parish has attracted many displaced residents from the metropolitan area. More than 1,400 displaced students enrolled in the district and 35 teachers were hired.

Brown has found housing for more than half of them.

"I didn't want anyone to think that they didn't have a job because they didn't have a place to live," Brown said. "I wanted our teachers to know that they had a job to come back to."

Initially Brown started finding housing for newly hired special education teachers and those from the Teach for America program. After repeated success she became the go-to house-hunter for the district. As the news of her success spread, principals and other displaced teachers began to call.

"I used her as the reference for anyone who called me that wanted a job and had no place to live," said Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services in the district. LaBorde said Brown was instrumental in securing housing for a displaced teacher living in Memphis.

Brown, who has been with the district for 23 years and director of special education for 17 years, said she's worked 14-hour days since Katrina hit, balancing her duties with special education and finding housing for displaced staff.

"It's been really crazy," said Brown. "I know things are tough but people are really excited about having a house."

Brown said the key to finding housing for the displaced teachers and new hires has been using long-time contacts within the parish.

"Most of it (housing) isn't listed," said Brown, who has used a real estate expert at times and other contacts within the parish. "It's people in the community. It's really more who you know."

Brown also struck gold when she sent out a mass e-mail to district employees asking for assistance.

Board member Russ Wise offered a space in his home after the e-mail went out.

Brown got in touch with school board member Clarence Triche and matched him with three teachers who are currently living in one of his homes.

Brown has also opened her home to East St. John High School earth science teacher John Ellis, his wife, Judy, and their dog, a red, white and black Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Maggie. The Ellis family home in Metairie sustained heavy damage from 2 feet of water and is uninhabitable.

**"I didn't want anyone to think that they didn't have a job because they didn't have a place to live. I wanted our teachers to know that they had a job to come back to."**
DIANE BROWN
Director of special education for the St. John the Baptist Parish school district

"John cooks, that is the arrangement," Brown said about the tradeoff. "John's a wonderful cook."

John Ellis, a 19-year-veteran at East St. John High School who is known for his interactive experiments and good rapport with his students, cannot say enough good things about Brown.

"Diane has done a great job," he said. "I buy the groceries and do the cooking. It's kind of like living in a fraternity house. I'm blessed living here with the Browns."

Brown's husband of 18 years, Robert, isn't surprised by the work his wife has done.

"She's a very hard worker," he said. "Once she's given an assignment to do she puts her all in it. She also feels for them. We can't afford to lose any teachers."

What keeps Brown going?

"Chocolate," she said with a laugh. "Lots of chocolate and John's good cooking."

Does Brown have a future in real estate?

"I don't know," she said, laughing. "My husband talks about it. I guess I could."

# Rita leaves Arkansas wet and powerless

## *'It could have been a lot worse'*

**By The Associated Press**

LITTLE ROCK — Flash flood warnings continued Sunday in east Arkansas as remnants of Hurricane Rita spun away, and the sun began to shine in west and central parts of the state.

Tornadoes generated by the storm did damage Saturday in Conway, Lonoke and White Counties, and trees and utility lines were felled elsewhere as heavy rain and some stiff winds did their work.

A storm assessment team from the National Weather Service in Little Rock was in the Searcy area Sunday to scope out damage from an apparent tornado that damaged a home and a church.

"That was the storm of the day," weather service forecaster Joe Goudsward said Sunday.

No serious injuries were reported in the heavy weather, although trailer homes were destroyed in Lonoke and Conway counties.

Despite rain of 5 to 6 inches that was widespread, rivers did not rise to dangerous levels. Goudsward said the ground was parched from the absence of rain for weeks before Rita, so the soil was able to absorb much of the rain that fell and thus reduce flooding chances.

"It could have been a lot worse," Goudsward said.

Entergy Arkansas had a peak of 60,000 outages on Saturday, but that number was down to 30,000 by 2 p.m. Sunday, Entergy spokesman David Lewis said.

"The outages were all over Arkansas but they were concentrated mostly in the southern half of the state," Lewis said.

Communities with 1,000 or more customers without power included El Dorado, Hot Springs, Jacksonville, Lake Village, Little Rock, Magnolia, Monticello and Pine Bluff, Lewis said.

Extra linemen went on duty on Saturday to help restore power, the utility said.

In its territory in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, Entergy had 620,000 outages on Sunday, not including about 150,000 customers removed from the list because power cannot be provided.

The weather service said temperatures will drop to near normal in the days ahead as a cold front is forecast to arrive in Arkansas on Thursday. Highs in the low 80s will stand in contrast to highs more than 10 degrees higher that were the case before Rita.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Downtown hotels an island of commerce

*Most have power, plenty of guests*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

As the feeder bands and storm surge of Hurricane Rita drenched buildings and flooded streets Friday night in the darkness outside, guests at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel carried on virtually undisturbed.

The film "Anchor Man" played in the lobby, projected on a large screen for bar patrons' viewing pleasure, followed by "Caddyshack." Dinner again was served buffet-style, and members of the international press corps sipped drinks at the second-floor "press club." The satellite signal on the TV cut out frequently, but the wireless Internet connection was unbroken.

While the Sheraton at 500 Canal St., with nearly all of its 1,100 rooms in use, is the biggest downtown hotel to remain in service following Hurricane Katrina, it has been joined by several others in the area, all are catering mostly to government, media and emergency workers.

The W New Orleans in the business district closed for only a day and has filled 150 of its 423 rooms, while the W French Quarter never fully closed and is using all of its 98 rooms, said Bruce Hicks, spokesman for Starwood Hotels and Resorts, owner of the Sheraton and the two W hotels, on Sunday.

The Ambassador Hotel in the Warehouse District reopened Sept. 16 and is using all but 12 of its 165 rooms, a desk worker said. Among other hotels that have managed to open and serve emergency officials are Le Cirque Hotel at Lee Circle and the Royal Sonesta and Omni Royal Orleans hotels in the Quarter.

"I have the mayor's office and I have homeland security and I have a TV station," said Magda Chappetta, manager of the Le Cirque, which on Sunday was using 105 of its 138 rooms.

The Sheraton is eager to see other hotels open to breathe life into the downtown area, Hicks said.

"We're really in a unique situation where we're cheering on our competitors. We need all the big hotels in this town up and running," he said.

Starwood hired one of the world's largest emergency response contractors, BMS Catastrophe, which responded immediately and brought in a small army of workers. The firm has been hired to remediate several downtown hotels.

"We hired them before the hurricane hit, and by Wednesday morning (Aug. 31), they had the place locked down," said Dan King, general manager. "They acted so fast, before the mold could start growing," Clayton said.

BMS Catastrophe has 13 global response centers, and the company boasts a range of services including remediation of damage from hurricane, earthquake, mudslide, fire, water and bombing. It can remove debris, retrieve data and restore industrial equipment. It was one of the companies that responded to the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Sheraton had about 500 customers and 500 employees at the hotel when Katrina struck, and the majority of those drove away or were taken out by bus Aug. 31, according to King. A few key staff members were brought in, as was an insurance adjuster, to secure the generators and information technology systems.

The hotel brought in shipments of food and 5,000-gallon water tankers from LaPlace and Algiers, using as much as 200,000 gallons daily to supplement the city water. A fleet of ten trucks has been making multiple trips daily. The hotel set up a sanitation station to inject extra chlorine in the water but guests have been advised to drink bottled water.

After a brief period on its backup 350-kilowatt generator, the Sheraton brought in two truck-size, 2.5-megawatt generators, then switched to city power when it was restored weeks ago. Contractors set up dehumidifiers and filtration devices. Once the building was sealed, workers began to dry it with low-humidity air through ventilators.

By Sept. 3, the hotel was taking in guests, including a police force from the 5th District, federal marshals and officers from Immigrations and Customs as well as the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control and the Salvation Army. Doctors helped at a medical clinic set up in the gift shop. The police presence helped safeguard the building, and King said the presence of so much city personnel helped to secure incoming deliveries, although at least one shipment was commandeered.

Groups of reporters and photographers, including a team from The Times-Picayune, camera operators and producers from media outlets such as the BBC, have set up shop. The Sheraton became a kind of nerve center, encircled by chain-link fence with restricted access guarded by security firm Blackwater USA.

King said the hotel's Louis Armstrong Ballroom received the most damage from Katrina; its retractable skylight and glass wall were shattered. He said a corner suite window also was broken, and corner stairwells had wind damage but only three rooms of 1,100 were unusable.

BMS planned to turn over 886 of those 1,100 rooms by Sunday and have the rest ready by mid-October. Plans changed when a Carnival Cruise Line ship housing about 1,400 police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and other rescue workers left Thursday, and those workers came to the Sheraton ahead of schedule.

"We had to scramble," King said




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Sheraton and other downtown New Orleans hotels have many of their rooms filled with government, media and emergency workers.

# Pope offers prayer for Hurricane Rita victims

*Blessing includes rescue workers*

**By The Associated Press**

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI called Sunday for special prayers for the victims of Hurricane Rita and the rescue workers trying to help them.

"Our thoughts go especially to those who are affected by the natural disasters in the United States and other parts of the world," Benedict said during his Sunday blessing from his balcony at the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo south of Rome.

"I invite you to join me in prayer to the Lord for all who suffer, for the victims and their loved ones, and for the rescue workers."

Rita slammed into the southern United States on Saturday, just weeks after Hurricane Katrina flooded parts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Rita downed trees, sparked fires and swamped Louisiana towns with a 15-foot storm surge.

It was Benedict's final Sunday blessing from the hillside town before returning to the Vatican after about two months of vacation. He has a busy few weeks ahead, including a major meeting of the world's bishops starting next Sunday.

"On this last Sunday that I spend at Castel Gandolfo, I want to cordially greet the entire community, renewing my thanks for the welcome that you gave me," Benedict told the crowd.

On Saturday evening, Benedict met privately with the families of the people who work at the papal palace, saying he would return to Rome with "great memories" of his vacation.

"Certainly, this place will be a 'Vatican II' also for me," he said.

# Economist says impact from storms to be mild

**The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The president's top economist said Sunday that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will have a modest impact on the U.S. economy.

Ben Bernanke, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, gave his assessment in a speech to the Institute of International Finance.

He expressed optimism the economy would weather the double blow and that the fallout would be temporary.

That hope is consistent with the message of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his central bank colleagues. Last week they said damage from Hurricane Katrina did not pose a "persistent threat" to the nation's economic health. Given that, the Fed went ahead and raised short-term interest rates to keep inflation in check.

"I remain pretty optimistic about the economy," Bernanke said.

Bernanke and private economists expect jobs to take a hit in the short term. Job losses for September could be heavy and the unemployment rate, now at a four-year low of 4.9 percent, would rise.

The employment report for September is released by the government in October.

# Those who stay endanger their own lives and others

*Rescues made from Abbeville rooftops*

**By Ann M. Simmons and Scott Gold**
Los Angeles Times

ABBEVILLE, LA. — This is a land awash in water.

From the marshy lowlands of Cajun country to the flat country south of the industrial city of Lake Charles, water covered the roads and stranded people atop their homes and killed cattle by the hundreds.

So intense was the rescue effort Saturday that even Vermilion Parish Sheriff Michael Couvillon had been unable to check on his property on Cow Island and said he feared he might have lost his 90 head of cattle and four horses.

He said Saturday that he was both angry and frustrated people had ignored warnings to leave the lowlands and seek higher ground. This for a hurricane that produced widespread flooding and rains that the National Hurricane Center had said could measure as much as 25 inches over the area.

"The people chose not to leave after we advised them three times," he said. "Now they are putting other people's lives in danger."

He also said throughout the day, boats were unable to navigate the waters because of floating debris that hit propellers.

"If you go fast, you can hit a log or a fence," he said. "You can't direct your boat. If you go slow, the current will take you."

Jimmy Domingues, a retired parish registrar of voters, and his son were among several community members who showed up with boats to look for those stranded by the flood. He said the number of dead animals was staggering.

"Carcasses are scattered all over," he said.

By nightfall, at least 400 people had been rescued by boats from attics and rooftops near Abbeville, a town of 11,600.

But the sheriff said by Saturday evening, at least 25 residents in the immediate area remained to be rescued. Most of them were on their roofs, where they would have to spend the night, he said. As the day wore on, those who were rescued from homes were brought to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Abbeville, south of Lafayette. Each had stories to tell about what had happened to them as Hurricane Rita blew ashore in the early-morning hours.

Karen Pommier and her family failed to obey the mandatory evacuation order in the tiny town of Henry, south of Abbeville. Pommier said the water started rising and was a foot deep in their house before a rescue boat arrived. They managed to grab food, medicine and clothes, all of which they stuffed into black garbage bags.

"We're on high ground. We could have stayed. But we didn't want to take the chance," Pommier said.

"We never panicked. That's why people get killed — by panicking," said Pommier's father, Jesse Labit.

Diana Toucket, 52, a mother of three, also was picked up by a boat at a trailer park.

Toucket said she and her husband were staying in her daughter's trailer when water started rising in the early-morning hours. Though the trailer was elevated 4 feet above the ground, they were waist-deep in water when the rescue boat arrived, Toucket said.

**"The people chose not to leave after we advised them three times. Now they are putting other people's lives in danger."**
MICHAEL COUVILLON
Vermilion Parish Sheriff

Like so many others, the couple had only a few minutes to grab some clothes, a cell phone and food.

Mark Simon, 50, a farmer whose family has been raising rice and crawfish for generations in the area, said he expected to lose almost everything.

"We'll lose it, most definitely," Simon said of his rice crop. "It likes water, but it can't take 3 feet of it."

Simon's eyes welled up in tears as he explained that he had no flood insurance. And he said his crawfish would die because the floodwaters would bring fish into the crawfish ponds, and the fish would use up all the oxygen.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Rumors of deaths at Superdome,

**RUMORS,** *from A-1*

Beron said the other four bodies were found in the street near the Dome, not inside it. Both sources said no one had been killed inside.

At the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, just four bodies were recovered, despites reports of corpses piled inside the building. Only one of the dead appeared to have been slain, said health and law enforcement officials.

That the nation's front-line emergency management believed the body count would resemble that of a bloody battle in a war is but one of scores of examples of myths about the Dome and the Convention Center treated as fact by evacuees, the media and even some of New Orleans' top officials, including the mayor and police superintendent. As the fog of war-like conditions in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath has cleared, the vast majority of reported atrocities committed by evacuees have turned out to be false, or at least unsupported by any evidence, according to key military, law enforcement, medical and civilian officials in positions to know.

"I think 99 percent of it is bulls—-," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lachney, who played a key role in security and humanitarian work inside the Dome. "Don't get me wrong, bad things happened, but I didn't see any killing and raping and cutting of throats or anything. … Ninety-nine percent of the people in the Dome were very well-behaved."

Dr. Louis Cataldie, the state Health and Human Services Department administrator overseeing the body recovery operation, said his teams were inundated with false reports about the Dome and Convention Center.

"We swept both buildings several times, because we kept getting reports of more bodies there," Cataldie said. "But it just wasn't the case."

Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan said authorities had confirmed only four murders in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina – making it a typical week in a city that anticipated more than 200 homicides this year. Jordan expressed outrage at reports from many national media outlets that suffering flood victims had turned into mobs of unchecked savages.

"I had the impression that at least 40 or 50 murders had occurred at the two sites," he said. "It's unfortunate we saw these kinds of stories saying crime had taken place on a massive scale when that wasn't the case. And they (national media outlets) have done nothing to follow up on any of these cases, they just accepted what people (on the street) told them. … It's not consistent with the highest standards of journalism."

As floodwaters forced tens of thousands of evacuees into the Dome and Convention Center, news of unspeakable acts poured out of the nation's media: evacuees firing at helicopters trying to save them; women, children and even babies raped with abandon; people killed for food and water; a 7-year-old raped and killed at the Convention Center. Police, according to their chief, Eddie Compass, found themselves in multiple shootouts inside both shelters, and were forced to race toward muzzle flashes through the dark to disarm the criminals; snipers supposedly fired at doctors and soldiers from downtown high-rises.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**"It reminded me of the liberation of France in World War II. There were people cheering; one boy even saluted. We never — never once — encountered any hostility."**

LT. COL. JOHN EDWARDS, of the Arkansas National Guard, which was at the Convention Center to help secure it

In interviews with Oprah Winfrey, Compass reported rapes of "babies," and Mayor Ray Nagin spoke of "hundreds of armed gang members" killing and raping people inside the Dome. Unidentified evacuees told of children stepping over so many bodies, "we couldn't count."

The picture that emerged was one of the impoverished, masses of flood victims resorting to utter depravity, randomly attacking each other, as well as the police trying to protect them and the rescue workers trying to save them. Nagin told Winfrey the crowd has descended to an "almost animalistic state."

Four weeks after the storm, few of the widely reported atrocities have been backed with evidence. The piles of bodies never materialized, and soldiers, police officers and rescue personnel on the front lines say that although anarchy reigned at times and people suffered unimaginable indignities, most of the worst crimes reported at the time never happened.

Military, law enforcement and medical workers agree that the flood of evacuees – about 30,000 at the Dome and an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 at the Convention Center — overwhelmed their security personnel. The 400 to 500 soldiers in the Dome could have been easily overrun by increasingly agitated crowds, but that never happened, said Col. James Knotts, a midlevel commander there. Security was nonexistent at the Convention Center, which was never designated as a shelter. Authorities provided no food, water or medical care until troops secured the building the Friday after the storm.

While the Convention Center saw plenty of mischief, including massive looting and isolated gunfire, and many inside cowered in fear, the hordes of evacuees for the most part did not resort to violence, as legend has it.

"Everything was embellished, everything was exaggerated," said Deputy Police Superintendent Warren Riley. "If one guy said he saw six bodies, then another guy the same six, and another guy saw them – then that became 18."

## Soldier shot — by himself

Inside the Dome, where National Guardsmen performed rigorous security checks before allowing anyone inside, only one shooting has been verified. Even that incident, in which Louisiana Guardsman Chris Watt of the 527th Engineer Battalion was injured, has been widely misreported, said Maj. David Baldwin, who led the team of soldiers who arrested a suspect.

Watt was attacked inside one of the Dome's locker rooms, which he entered with another soldier. In the darkness, as he walked through about six inches of water, Watt was attacked with a metal rod, a piece of a cot. But the bullet that penetrated Watt's leg came from his own gun – he accidentally shot himself in the commotion. The attacker never took his gun from him, Baldwin said. New Orleans police investigated the matter fully and sent the suspect to jail in Breaux Bridge, Baldwin said.

As for other shootings, Baldwin said, "We actively patrolled 24 hours a day, and nobody heard another shot."

Doug Thornton, regional vice president of SMG, which manages the Dome, walked the complex from before the storm until the final evacuation and kept a meticulous journal. In a Sept. 9 interview, he said he heard reports of rapes and killings, but they were unconfirmed and came from evacuees and security officials.

"We walked through the facility every day, and we didn't see all this that was being reported," said Thornton, one of about 35 Dome employees who rode out Katrina in the building and lived there in the days after the storm hit. "We never felt threatened. It's hard to determine what's real and what's not real."

## No victims

Inside the Convention Center, the rumors of widespread violence have proved hard to substantiate, as well, though the masses of evacuees endured terrifying and inhumane conditions.

Jimmie Fore, vice president of the state authority that runs the Convention Center, stayed in the building with a core group of 35 employees until Sept. 1, the Thursday after Katrina. He was appalled by what he saw. Thugs hotwired 75 forklifts and electric carts and looted food and booze from every room in the building, but he said he never saw any violent crimes committed, and neither did any of his employees. Some, however, did report seeing armed men roaming the building, and Fore said he heard gunshots in the distance on at about six occasions.

NOPD Capt. Jeff Winn's 20-member SWAT team responded on about 10 occasions to calls from the Convention Center, usually after reports of shots being fired. The group found people huddled in the fetal position, lying flat on the ground to avoid bullets or running for the exits. They also heard stories of gang rapes, armed robberies and other violent crimes, but no victims ever came forward while his officers were in the building, he said.

"What's true and what's not, we don't really know," he said.

Rumors of rampant violence at the Convention Center prompted Louisiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jacques Thibodeaux put together a 1,000-man force of soldiers and police in full battle gear to secure the center Sept. 2 at about noon.

It took only 20 minutes to take control, and soldiers met no resistance, Thibodeaux said. What the soldiers found – elderly people and infants near death without food, water and medicine; crowds living in filth – shocked them more than anything they'd seen in combat zones overseas. But they found no evidence, witnesses or victims of any killings, rapes or beatings, Thibodeaux said.

Another commander at the scene, Lt. Col. John Edwards of the Arkansas National Guard, said the crowd welcomed the soldiers. "It reminded me of the liberation of France in World War II. There were people cheering; one boy even saluted," he said. "We never – never once – encountered any hostility."

One widely circulated tale, told to The Times-Picayune by a slew of evacuees and two Arkansas National Guardsmen, held that "30 or 40 bodies" were stored in a Convention Center freezer. But a formal Arkansas Guard review of the matter later found that no soldier had actually seen the corpses, and that the information came from rumors in the food line for military, police and rescue workers in front of Harrah's New Orleans Casino, said Edwards, who conducted the review.

It's possible more than four people died at the Convention Center. Fore, the center's vice president, said he saw another body outside the building early in the first week after the storm, covered in a shroud on the pavement along Julia Street, near the back of the Convention Center. It's unclear whether that body ended up in the nearby food service entrance, where the four confirmed bodies were found later.

Also, several news organizations reported the body of 91-year-old Booker T. Harris, which sat covered in a chair on Convention Center Boulevard for several days after he died on the back of a truck while being evacuated.

Just one of the dead appeared to be the victim of foul play, said Winn, one of few law enforcement officers who spent any time patrolling the Convention Center before it was secured. Winn, who did the final sweep of the building, said one body appeared to have stab wounds, but he could not be sure. Baldwin also said only one of the dead appeared to have been slain, apparently referring to the same body as Winn de-

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# Convention Center exaggerated

scribed. Bob Johannessen, spokesman for the Department of Health and Hospitals, also confirmed just one suspected homicide at the Convention Center, though he said the victim had been shot, not stabbed.

A Washington Post report quoted another soldier who concluded that three of the four people appeared to have been beaten to death, including an older woman in a wheelchair.

But Spc. Mikel Brooks, an Arkansas Guardsman who said he wheeled the woman's dead body into the food service entrance, said she appeared to have died of natural causes. Brooks went on to say that the woman had expired sitting next to her husband, who shocked him by asking him to bring the wheelchair back.

The Post also cited evacuee Tony Cash and three other unnamed sources saying a young boy died of an asthma attack, but multiple officials could not confirm that death.

## One attack thwarted

Reports of dozens of rapes at both facilities – many allegedly involving small children – may forever remain a question mark. Rape is a notoriously underreported crime under ideal circumstances, and tracking down evidence at this point, with evacuees spread all over the country, would be nearly impossible. The same goes for reports of armed robberies at both sites.

Numerous people told The Times-Picayune that they had witnessed rapes, in particular attacks on two young girls in the Superdome ladies room and the killing of one of them, but police and military officials said they know nothing of such an incident.

Soldiers and police did confirm at least one attempted rape of a child. Riley said a man tried to sexually assault a young girl, but was "beaten up" by civilians and apprehended by police. It was unclear if that incident was the one that gained wide currency among evacuees.

Baldwin, the National Guard commander of a special reaction team patrolling the Dome, also said he knew of only one attempted sexual assault of a child – but the details of his story, while similar, differed somewhat from that of Riley. It was unclear last week whether the two men spoke about the same incident.

Soldiers apprehended the assailant after a "commotion" in the bathroom exposed him, Baldwin said, but he knew nothing about the man being beaten. Furthermore, in a detail that raises questions about whether officials have full knowledge of any sex crimes, Baldwin said his men turned over one alleged child molester to New Orleans police – only to find him again inside the Dome two days later, reportedly attempting to molest other children.

"We ran into the same guy a couple days later," he said. "The crowd came to us and said, 'You better do something with this guy or we're going to do something with him.' … That kind of re-confirmed (the first allegation), when the crowd came to us saying he was putting his hands on kids."

But other accusations that have gained wide currency are more demonstrably false. For instance, no one found the body of a girl – whose age was estimated at anywhere from 7 to 13 – who, according to multiple reports, was raped and killed with a knife to the throat at the Convention Center.

Many evacuees at the Convention Center the morning of Sept. 3 treated the story as gospel, and ticked off further




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**"Don't get me wrong, bad things happened, but I didn't see any killing and raping and cutting of throats or anything. … Ninety-nine percent of the people in the Dome were very well-behaved."**

Sgt. 1st Class JASON LACHNEY, who played a key role in security and humanitarian work inside the Dome

atrocities: a baby trampled to death, multiple child rapes.

Salvatore Hall, standing on the corner of Julia Street and Convention Center Boulevard that day, just before the evacuation, said, "They raped and killed a 10-year-old in the bathroom."

Neither he nor the many people around him who corroborated the killing had seen it themselves.

Talk of rape and killing inside the Dome was so pervasive that it prompted a steady stream of evacuees to begin leaving Aug. 31, braving thigh-high foul waters on Poydras Street. Many said they were headed back to homes in flooded neighborhoods.

"There's people getting raped and killed in there," said Lisa Washington of Algiers, who had come to the Dome with about 25 relatives and friends. "People are getting diseases. It's like we're in Afghanistan. We're fighting for our lives right now."

One of her relatives nodded. "They've had about 14 rapes in there," he said.

## The official word

In many cases, authorities gave credibility to portraits of violence broadcast around the world.

Compass told Winfrey on Sept. 6 that "some of the little babies (are) getting raped" in the Dome. Nagin backed it with his own tale of horrors: "They have people standing out there, have been in that frickin' Superdome for five days watching dead bodies, watching hooligans killing people, raping people."

But both men have since pulled back to a degree.

"The information I had at the time, I thought it was credible," Compass said, conceding his earlier statements were false. Asked for the source of the information, Compass said he didn't remember.

Nagin frankly acknowledged that he doesn't know the extent of the mayhem that occurred inside the Dome and the Convention Center – and may never.

"I'm having a hard time getting a good body count," he said.

Compass said rumors had often crippled authorities' response to reported lawlessness, sending badly needed resources to respond to situations that turned out not to exist. He offered his own intensely personal example: The day after the storm, he heard "some civilians" talking about how a band of armed thugs had invaded the Ritz-Carlton hotel and started raping women – including his 24-year-old daughter, who stayed there through the storm. He rushed to the scene only to find that although a group of men had tried to enter the hotel, they weren't armed and were easily turned back by police.

Compass, however, promulgated some of the unfounded rumors himself, in interviews in which he characterized himself and his officers as outgunned warriors taking out armed bands of thugs at every turn.

"People would be shooting at us, and we couldn't shoot back because of the families," Compass told a reporter from the (Bridgeport) Connecticut Post who interviewed him at the Saints' Monday Night Football game in New York, where he was the guest of NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue. "All we could do is rush toward the flash."

Compass added that he and his officers succeeded in wrestling 30 weapons from criminals using the follow-the-muzzle-flash technique, the story said.

"We got 30 that way," Compass was quoted as saying.

Asked about the muzzle-flash story last week, Compass said, "That really happened" to Winn's SWAT team at the Convention Center.

But Winn, when asked about alleged shootouts in a separate interview, said his unit saw muzzle flashes and heard gunshots only one time. Despite aggressively frisking a number of suspects, the team recovered no weapons. His unit never found anyone who had been shot.

Many soldiers and humanitarian workers now agree that although a number of bad actors committed violent or criminal acts, the evacuees responded well considering the hell they endured.

"These people – our people – did nothing wrong," said Sherry Watters of the state Department of Social Services, who was working with the medical unit at the Dome and noted the crowd's mounting frustration. "No human should have to live like that for even a minute."

## Crowds pitch in

As the authorities finally mobilized buses to evacuate the Dome on Sept. 2, many evacuees were nearing the breaking point. Baldwin said soldiers could not have controlled the crowd much longer. They ejected a handful of people attempting to start a riot, screaming at soldiers and pushing crowds to revolt.

"We're not prisoners of war – y'all are treating us like evacuees and detainees!" he recalled one of them shouting.

But many others sought to quiet such voices. On the deck outside the Dome on Sept. 1, the day before buses arrived, preachers took it upon themselves to lead the agitated crowd in prayer and song.

"Everybody needs to help the soldiers," Baldwin recalled one of them saying. "We're all family here."

About 15 others joined the medical operation, as people collapsed from heat and exhaustion every few minutes, Baldwin said.

"Some of these guys look like thugs, with pants hanging down around their asses," he said. "But they were working their asses off, grabbing litters and running with people to the (New Orleans) Arena" next door, which housed the medical operation.

As the Dome cleared out Sept. 3, Beron, the National Guard commander, fashioned a plan to deal with the dead. He knew of the six bodies in the freezer, but expected far more. He and an Ohio National Guard commander sent 450 Ohio troops to search every nook of the Dome, top to bottom. They told them to mark locations of bodies on a map of the Dome, to rope off suspected crime scenes, and leave a chemical light sticks next to each one so they could be retrieved later.

"I fully expected to find more bodies, both homicides and natural causes," he said.

They found nothing.

• • • • • •

Staff writers Jeff Duncan and Gwen Filosa contributed to this report.

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# Waiver allowed operation of bus that burned in Texas

## *Governor wanted evacuation vehicles*

**By Rick Lyman**
New York Times



AP PHOTO

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board expect to spend 12 to 18 months finding out why this bus caught fire on the side of Interstate 45 near Wilmer, Texas, early Friday, killing 24 of its 38 elderly passengers.

HOUSTON — Federal investigators on Saturday were poring over the skeletal frame of the charred bus in which 24 residents of a living center for the elderly had died while trying to escape from Hurricane Rita. As they looked into the fire, fresh details were emerging about the vehicle and the company that operated it.

The bus, run by Global Limo of McAllen, Texas, burst into flames and exploded on the side of Interstate 45 early Friday. It was carrying 38 frail residents of the Brighton Gardens home in Bellaire, Texas, away from the expected path of Hurricane Rita to a facility in Dallas.

Mark Cross, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation, said Saturday morning that the bus's registration expired in July and that the vehicle had been taken out of service. But it was allowed back on the road because of a waiver signed last week by Gov. Rick Perry of Texas intended to get as many vehicles as possible involved in the hurricane evacuation and relief effort.

"I direct that all requirements concerning motor carrier registration, single-state registration, and international registration plan, and international fuel tax agreement be suspended for motor carriers traveling within or into Texas to assist with relief efforts," the governor wrote in a letter to Richard Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission.

The waiver — for all commercial vehicles, not just buses — also temporarily suspended limits on the number of hours those vehicles could be operated. The bus that exploded had been on the road for more than 14 hours, traveling from Bellaire, a few miles southwest of downtown Houston, to within 15 miles of its destination when the accident occurred at 6:30 a.m. near Wilmer, Texas.

"I ask all Texas law enforcement and other federal and state officials to honor this letter as a blanket permit," Perry wrote.

There were no indications of safety problems with the bus, only that its registration had expired, Cross said.

On Sunday morning, in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Perry said the waiver of registration that he ordered for buses was not a waiver of safety standards. "That type of registration didn't have anything to do with the safety standards that are required," he said. "So if we had to all do it again, probably do the same thing because it's important to get people out of harm's way."

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said that drivers for Global had been ordered to stop driving five times in the past 33 months, mostly for infractions regarding bus logs. In its most recent federal inspection, in 2004, the company was rated as "satisfactory," with no evidence of major safety problems in recent years.

Global filed for bankruptcy in February, although a lawyer for an owner said Friday that this had not affected the safety of the vehicles.

Global's offices are in a white, flat-topped structure with green trim, with a mobile home parked to one side, on a commercial strip separating McAllen from the southern suburb of Pharr. On Saturday afternoon, a man identifying himself as Mark Cooper, a San Antonio lawyer for Global and its president, James Maples, emerged from the business and declined to answer questions.

"We're not going to comment on the bus or anything else at this moment, until this investigation is further along," Cooper said.

Then, he offered a written statement, the second the company has released, in which Global expressed sorrow for the loss of life and promised to cooperate with investigators.

Johnny Partain, a former oil industry engineer who now runs a company that installs generators in McAllen, has been embroiled for years in a lawsuit with Maples over a 1997 investment he made in Global. Partain said he warned a judge more than a year ago that Global's buses were dangerous and ill-maintained.

"I told them this was going to happen," Partain said. "I've personally driven those buses. I know what condition they're in."

Keith Holloway, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, said a dozen investigators arrived in Dallas on Friday and were beginning to sift through the wreckage on Saturday morning. It was just the beginning of what is expected to be a 12- to 18-month effort to discover the cause of the accident.

The explosion stopped traffic on I-45 during the evacuation of Houston and the Gulf Coast, creating a 20-mile traffic jam that worsened what had already been a chaotic endeavor.

The authorities have not yet released the names of either the dead or the bus driver, who was released from the hospital Friday.

"We're still interviewing survivors," said Don Pertiz, a sheriff's spokesman. "We want to be as precise and painstaking as possible. It's going to take a while."

Brighton Gardens had dispatched two buses to the Dallas area on Thursday. The other one got through without incident. Ten of those who survived the crash were taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital. By Saturday, seven had been released. Two of the others were in stable condition, and the third in good condition. A spokeswoman for the Baylor University Medical Center said four survivors were treated and released to a nursing home on Friday afternoon.

Eyewitnesses and at least one surviving passenger said that smoke began pouring from a wheel well of the bus shortly after the driver changed a tire. The driver pulled the smoke-filled vehicle over to the roadside, and was struggling to evacuate the passengers when the explosions occurred, presumably from oxygen canisters some occupants used.

There are no specific federal regulations for buses or for training bus drivers on how to transport oxygen canisters. On Friday, the federal Transportation Department issued new guidelines restricting the number of canisters in passenger compartments to one per passenger, and only when medically necessary.

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Ginger Thompson contributed reporting from McAllen, Texas, for this article, and Laura Griffin from Dallas.

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# Katrina took homes, but the mail still comes

## *Carriers deliver along Miss. coast*

**By Vicki Smith**
Associated Press writer

BILOXI, MISS. — To most folks, the mountains of rubble along U.S. 90 look the same. But Deborah Johnson knows what the splintered boards, ruined furniture and tumbled bricks once were.

"That was a pawn shop. That was a waffle shop," she says, pointing over the steering wheel, then pulling out of the parking lot of the Edgewater Inn. "And this is the only hotel left on the beach."

Johnson, 42, has delivered the mail in Biloxi for 12 years. Since Hurricane Katrina, though, some of her route is barely recognizable. The postal worker lost at least 200 of 1,100 customers.

Near the Edgewater sits a battered barge decked out like a pirate ship, the skeletal remains of Treasure Bay casino. A half-mile away, on the wrong side of the road, sits The President casino.

But it's the ancient oaks that really get to her.

"You look at the trees and you see everybody's clothes," Johnson says. "It just gives me chills."

Especially the purple clothes, a color favored by one of her elderly customers. Johnson does not know what became of her.

A month after Katrina, the Postal Service is still struggling to connect customers with their mail, storing as much as they deliver on some routes and hoping for more change-of-address cards. They've received more than 25,000 so far, but manager Jerry Wiecks says he is still running out of places to stash the backlog.

In some southern Mississippi neighborhoods, carriers were back on their beats two days after the storm, says Postal Service spokeswoman Beth Barnett.

In Biloxi, though, workers emptied mud-soaked mail from collection boxes, dried it on the floor over several days and put as much as possible back into circulation. A little more than two weeks later, they started delivering.

The first day, Johnson sat in her truck and cried.

"You know who's just built a new home," she says. "You know who's got a job and who doesn't."

She drives past a low-rent apartment complex whose tenants had little money and no transportation.

"A lot of them probably stayed," she says. "You just wonder, are they alive?"

She drops a bundle of mail at Beauvoir, the badly damaged Civil War-era home of Jefferson Davis, the only president of the Confederacy. She leaves a package on Brady Drive for Terrence Young, whose home is nothing more than beams and lattice.

"It's weird delivering where there's no structure," she says.

But the moment passes.

"Everybody's just so happy to be alive. We're all just so thankful," she says. "Who cares about structures?"

Across town, carrier Ronnie Kostmayer walks up Trafalgar Street, past boarded-up, tarp-covered homes and piles of debris that get smaller by the day. At 2374, he wades past ruined recliners and appliances to reach a mailbox leaning against a tree.

"If the house is gone and the box is there, we're going to deliver it," says Kostmayer, 54, who has carried the mail for 32 years. "We'll watch for a few days, and if they don't pick it up, we'll bring it back in, but we're going to give them service."

At the next house, 57-year-old Dan Shearin rushes out.

"I'm getting to really love and appreciate the postman," he says. "I grew up in the country, and the thing we looked forward to was the mailman showing up. He always had some apple pie and a cup of coffee, and he was our friend. He was our only way to communicate."

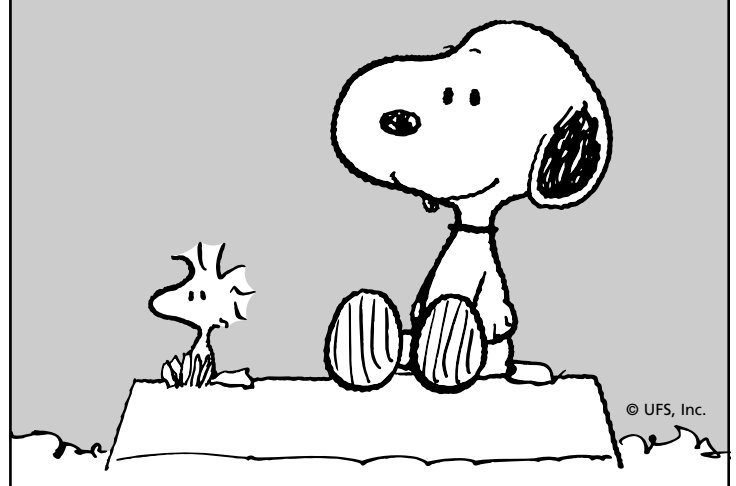
After Katrina, Shearin lost all high-tech ways of talking to people, including e-mail and his $150 cell phone.

"The mail is the most reliable communication system we ever had and ever will have," he says.

The first post-Katrina mail Shearin got was a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency telling him he wouldn't get any money. That, and a telephone bill.

Kostmayer laughs.

"Sometimes we bring bad news, too."




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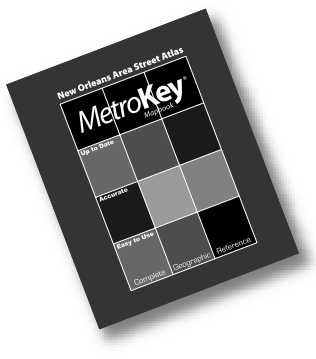
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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Rita shows flaws in evacuation process

## *Terrorist strike could be deadly*

**By Nedra Pickler**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The 14-hour lines of traffic fleeing Houston, complete with cars that ran out of gas, show that four years after the Sept. 11 attacks, it is difficult to evacuate a major metropolitan area.

Experts say the consequences could be far more deadly in the event of a radiological or other terrorist strike.

"The nightmare that we all have is that, God forbid, there's a terrorist attack of some kind on a major American city that requires evacuation without warning," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn.

"We need to be better prepared," said Lieberman, the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, on CNN's "Late Edition."

President Bush has ordered the Homeland Security Department to review disaster plans for every major metropolitan area. Experts say the slow pace of evacuations in Houston and New Orleans shows the need for changes to get people out of harm's way in a more urgent emergency.

"You have to accept the possibility that a major portion of the people will be left behind," said Roger Cressey, a former antiterrorism official in the Clinton and Bush administrations. "You may have to write some of them off in far larger numbers than people realize."

Cressey said the answer is not simply giving local governments more money to improve emergency operation plans.

Lawmakers said they plan to address the issue.

"You would think four years after 9/11, with billions of dollars spent to improve our emergency preparedness, that the response to Katrina would be far crisper, far better coordinated and not marred by failures at all levels of government," said Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who heads the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

Cressey said there must be plans in place to move the poor and disadvantaged. Thousands of them were left behind in New Orleans after Katrina.

There have been no reports yet of deaths directly caused by Rita. But in the evacuation, a bus carrying nursing home evacuees caught fire, killing two dozen.

Experts said authorities must be prepared to turn two-way streets and highways into one-way evacuation routes with maximum traffic flowing out of the city. Many people fleeing New Orleans and Houston were stuck in traffic jams while the side of the highways leading into the city went virtually unused until the end of the evacuation.

"I think we need to fine-tune the planning so that contra-lanes are open earlier so that all the outgoing traffic can go on both sides of a freeway earlier than was done in Rita," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

"I think that will be our added lesson for Rita from Katrina," she said on ABC's "This Week."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan on Saturday rejected the notion that there were problems with Houston's evacuation and said the president was told it had gone well. He also stressed that states are responsible for evacuations, although the federal government has a role to assist local officials.

"This was an unprecedented number of people who were being evacuated," McClellan said Sunday. "And they got a large number of people out of there.

"Obviously from situations like this you learn lessons and you look at ways to improve in the future. Everybody understands the importance of assessing how things worked and taking steps to improve in the future."

**"The nightmare that we all have is that, God forbid, there's a terrorist attack of some kind on a major American city that requires evacuation without warning."**
SEN. JOE LIEBERMAN
D-Conn

Local preparations vary and in some cases are nonexistent:

▶ New York City officials plan to rely heavily on mass transit to get people out of the city.

▶ Los Angeles officials concede they don't have proper plans for a mass evacuation or shelter for those who are left homeless by an earthquake or terrorist attack.

▶ Washington had a mass evacuation drill after this year's Independence Day fireworks on the National Mall, which revealed glitches that officials say they are working to fix.

▶ Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has ordered officials in her state to identify by name everyone likely to be bypassed in an evacuation.

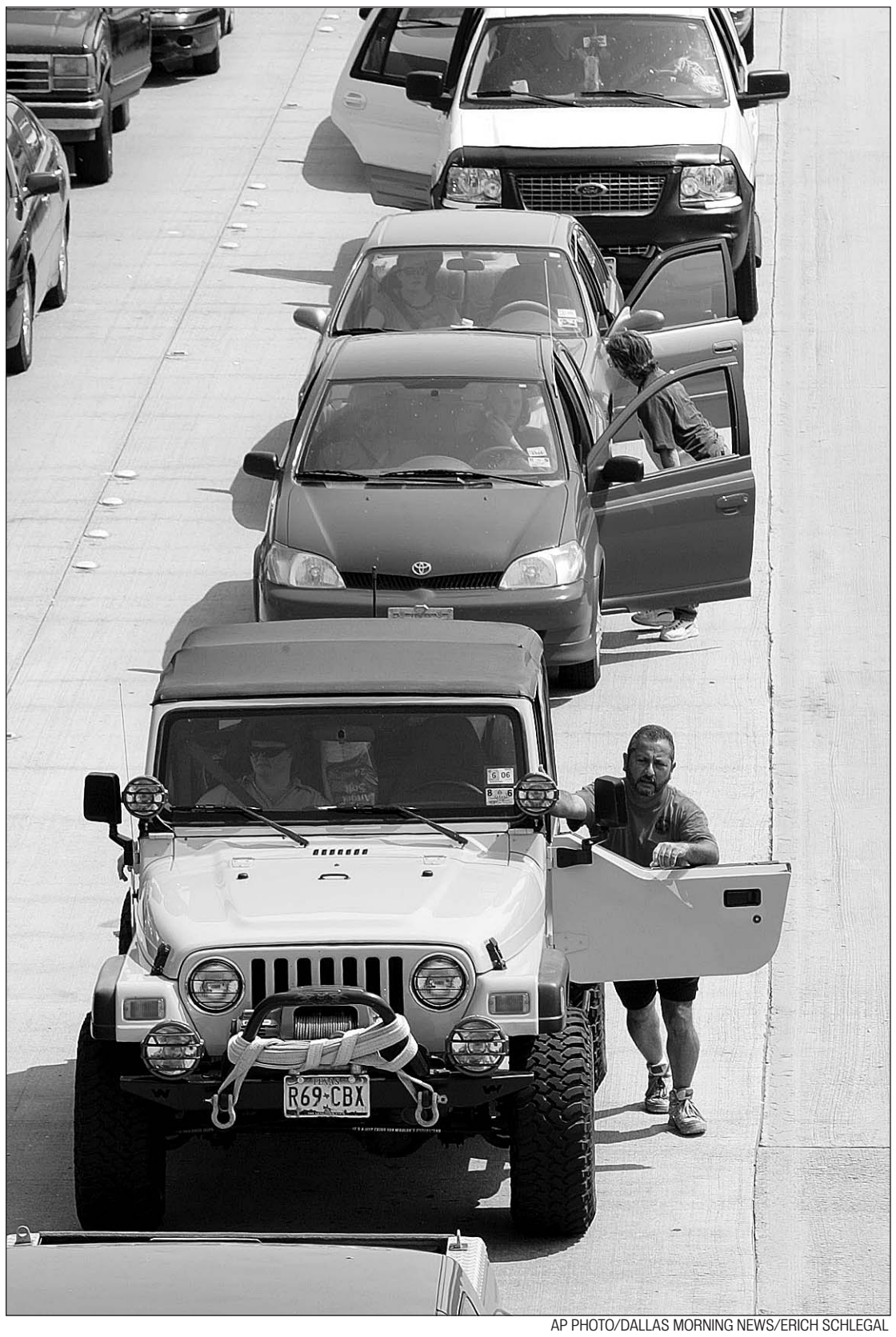
▶ Milwaukee leaders realized they have misplaced their evacuation plan, devised during the Cold War.

"If this isn't a wake up call for real disaster planning, I don't know what will be," Cressey said.

The evacuation before Rita was much more successful than it was in Mississippi and Louisiana as Katrina approached — in large part because citizens seemed to take the danger more seriously after seeing so many people stranded in flooded New Orleans.

"The fact is, we've never had an evacuation this size before: 2.7 million people," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

"Maybe that should have been handled on a different time basis, but the good news is that people ultimately did get out," he said. "And fortunately Rita did the rest by taking a right-hand turn and avoiding the major population centers in our state."




AP PHOTO/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/ERICH SCHLEGAL
Joel Hernandez, 47, of Houston pushes his Jeep to save gas as he and thousands of others creep slowly west on Interstate 10 Thursday to escape Hurricane Rita. The 14-hour wait to get out of the city showed how vulnerable metropolitan areas would be in the event of a terrorist strike.

# Houston reawakening after Rita

## *Flights resume; businesses reopening*

**By Kristen Hays**
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — Airlines resumed service and cars flowed easily over freeways as Houston flickered back to life Sunday, avoiding at least for now a repeat of the gridlock that plagued the evacuation before Hurricane Rita.

There were signs the eerie emptiness was lifting in the nation's fourth-largest city: More gas stations offered fuel, and supermarkets, drug stores and restaurants opened their doors.

At Pappas Seafood, a sign read, "Come on in, open at 11. Incredible!" The marquee at Kenneally's Irish Pub read: "Rita who?"

A supermarket near downtown was open, even though no produce was expected to arrive until Tuesday, and the packaged meat and dairy aisles were depleted. Still, the store was bustling within 15 minutes.

"I was without power yesterday for about five hours, but now that it's back on, I'm hungry and need some beef," said Yvette Gatling, a 34-year-old lawyer.

It was the first day of a staggered re-entry plan drawn up by authorities in hopes of avoiding a recurrence of the massive gridlock that stalled freeways and temporarily stranded some Houstonians as they fled days before Rita.

On Sunday, only the northwest quadrant of the city was encouraged to return, but cars were streaming back to other parts of the metropolis as well. Traffic appeared to be moving smoothly.

Meanwhile, the city's two main airports, Bush Intercontinental and the smaller Hobby, resumed service Sunday morning. They were shut down Friday as Rita bore down on the Gulf Coast.

Continental Airlines, based in Houston, was operating 249 flights out of the city, with plans to restore its smaller Continental Express and Continental Connection branches today.

More gas stations opened, with lines of motorists eager to fill up snaking around blocks.

Groundskeeper Frank Mendoza, 64, was mowing grass in front of a building next to a Citgo station where lines were getting longer as a tanker truck resupplied the pumps with fuel.

"We've got the gas. People just need to be patient," Mendoza said. "I'm thinking of filling up myself, but all I need to do is top off, because I planned ahead."

Fuel shortages posed perhaps the biggest challenge to the massive exodus ahead of the storm. Cars were marooned on the main freeways out of town, and buses had to deliver evacuees to shelters.

On Sunday, Houston Mayor Bill White urged essential employees to return to work in the city, including people who work at grocery stores and gas stations.

"There is some fuel available in tankers, but they can't deliver it if you're not there," he said.

CenterPoint Energy, the main power provider for greater Houston, reported 300,000 customers without electricity Sunday, down from 600,000 a day earlier.

Some residents who were still without power found cool sanctuary at a movie multiplex, where employees geared up to open the 24 screens at noon with popcorn popping, hot dogs heating and soda machines stocked with ice.

The upscale Galleria mall was open. Armani's doors were closed, but J. Crew and Kate Spade did brisk business. Fast-food establishments started opening, too — and some had drive-through lines that rivaled the gas stations.

The lawns of mansions in River Oaks, the city's glitziest neighborhood, by midmorning were dotted with groundskeepers picking up branches and blowing leaves.

A day after Rita spared Houston severe damage by veering east toward the Louisiana-Texas state line, skies were clear and temperatures soared to nearly 100 degrees.

"The city is half open right now. It's kind of unusual," said Ewing King, 46, making his way around a jogging path at Rice University.

Some businesses used Sunday to prepare to reopen later. Starbucks barista Andrew Soliz, 23, attracted attention as he carried small black tables out of a Starbucks — only to disappoint anyone craving a frappuccino.

"But the minute you open the doors, people start coming," he said.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Mississippi charities see donations dwindle

## *Hurricane relief is on front burner*

**By Valerie Bauman**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, Miss. — This past week Tina Dyess had to do something she hates: She turned away nine children seeking help.

She runs Hope Village for Children, a Meridian charity that provides foster children with shelter, food and psychological care. But she's frustrated that more children are in need since Hurricane Katrina devastated coastal towns 170 miles to the south, yet there's less money to meet those needs.

"You're not sure where else that child will go," Dyess said. "The feeling is that there's not another bed, and you try not to wonder what's happening to the kids. You just have to know you are doing all you can."

People across the nation are reaching deep into their pockets to help victims of Hurricane Katrina, but in the meantime, other Mississippi charities are forgotten. Donations that normally would go to nonprofits are being funneled into hurricane relief, even though the same charities are also trying to help victims.

Many nonprofits have temporarily halted their fundraising activities, both out of respect for hurricane victims, and because it's difficult to be heard among the many voices of need.

The Mississippi chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has delayed several fundraising events, including its annual bike tour.

"We have heard from several individuals that they are having trouble raising money," said Becky Traweek, the chapter's regional manager. "We are concerned for the MS Society and the clients we support."

The organization has worked to help coastal residents living with MS move to safe locations. While the charity supports the hurricane relief effort, people living with multiple sclerosis and other debilitating diseases continue with daily struggles that accompany chronic illness.

"These diseases are not going to go away," Traweek said.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi is also postponing several fundraising events because of the hurricane, said T.J. McSparrin, president and CEO of the foundation, which grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

That's money lost as Make-A-Wish has struggles of its own. It lost a Gulf Coast office to the storm and it's having a hard time contacting many of its volunteers and benefactors.

"It's a little overwhelming when you think about it," McSparrin said. "Not only has our staff been impacted, our volunteers have been impacted, our children have been displaced. Some of them have had to delay their wish."

Charities may have cause for hope. Although Mississippi is the poorest state in the nation, it's also the most generous, according to the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

Mississippians give more of their income to charities than any other state, ranking No. 1 on the generosity index generated by the catalogue.

Charities across the state know that, and are optimistic that Mississippians will remember them.

"We are working as fast and as furious as we can to make sure that the kids are taken care of," Dyess said. "And there's going to be a time when we come back and ask for help."

## Evacuee kicked out of shelter

**The Associated Press**

BOURNE, MASS. – One of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees staying at a military base on Cape Cod was asked to leave because of "repeated disruptive behavior," an official said.

Allen "Tattoo" Gubser, 39, of New Orleans, was asked to leave Camp Edwards on the sprawling Massachusetts Military Reservation on Friday, said Katie Ford, a spokeswoman for the Office of Public Safety.

Ford said Gubser violated several rules at the reservation, which also houses Otis Air National Guard Base. She said he was frequently drunk, got into arguments and threatened others with his dog.

"While we want to be welcoming to the guests who are here, we also have to respect the fact that Otis is an active military base," Ford said.




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# Group calls 13 lawmakers 'most corrupt' in Congress

*Jefferson on ethics violation list*

**By Chuck Neubauer**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A watchdog group, naming what it calls "the 13 most corrupt members of Congress," is calling for ethics investigations of some of the most prominent leaders on Capitol Hill in a report to be released today.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington says in its report that the 13 members, among them Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), might have violated a variety of congressional ethics rules.

The bipartisan list includes New Orleanian, Rep. William Jefferson.

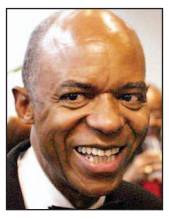
Jefferson is one of two House members whose residences have been searched as part of separate federal criminal investigations. The other, Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.), also is named on the watchdog group's list.

Three of those named on the list — Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Reps. Bob Ney (R-Ohio) and Tom Feeney (R-Fla.) — were cited for their dealings with onetime super-lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who is the subject of congressional and federal grand jury investigations. Abramoff was indicted last month on fraud charges relating to a Florida business deal. He has pleaded not guilty.

"They all violated ethics rules," Melanie Sloan, the watchdog group's executive director, said of the 13 members of Congress on its list. She criticized both political parties for what she said was a failure to police ethics.

James Pendleton, a spokesman for Burns, dismissed the group's report as "pure politics." Ney's press secretary, Brian Walsh, said: "We don't give Melanie Sloan and her liberal organization an ounce of credibility."

Its report, titled "Beyond DeLay: The 13 Most Corrupt Members of Congress," is based on news articles and other documents, the watchdog group said. It made the report available to the Los Angeles Times.



**Rep. William Jefferson**
Louisiana congressman scrutinized for his role in overseas business deal

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington "was compelled to research and release a report on these corrupt members because the ethics committees in both the House and Senate are completely inert," Sloan said. "The report calls for the House and Senate to act to investigate and take appropriate action against them for these violations of the rules."

The 13 members of Congress recommended for investigation by the watchdog group are:

▶ **Sen. Bill Frist:** The report accuses him of violating federal campaign finance laws in how he disclosed a campaign loan. It also calls for an inquiry over his recent sale of stock in HCA Inc., his family's hospital corporation. The sale has raised questions about possible insider dealing.

▶ **Rep. Roy Blunt:** The report criticizes him for trying to insert provisions into bills that would have benefited, in one case, a client of his lobbyist son and in another case, the employer of his lobbyist girlfriend, now his wife.

▶ **Sen. Conrad Burns:** The report says that questions arose over $3 million in appropriations he earmarked for an Indian tribe in Michigan that was a client of lobbyist Abramoff. The senator received substantial campaign contributions from Abramoff and various clients.

▶ **Rep. Bob Ney:** The report says the chairman of the House Administration Committee went on a golf outing to Scotland in 2002, arranged by Abramoff, at a time when the congressman was trying to insert a provision into legislation to benefit one of Abramoff's tribal clients.

▶ **Rep. Tom Feeney:** The report says he incorrectly reported that a golf trip to Scotland with Abramoff in 2003 was paid for by the National Center for Public Policy Research, which denied it. A Feeney aide said the congressman had been misled.

▶ **Rep. Richard Pombo, R.-Calif.:** He paid his wife and brother $357,325 in campaign funds in the last four years, the report says.

▶ **Rep. Maxine Waters, D.-Calif.:** The report cites a December 2004 Los Angeles Times investigation disclosing how members of the congresswoman's family have made more than $1 million in the last eight years by doing business with companies, candidates and causes that Waters has helped.

▶ **Sen. Rick Santorum, R.-Pa.:** The report says he encountered controversy over disclosures that Pennsylvania taxpayers paid for his children's schooling while they lived in Virginia.

▶ **Reps. Randy Cunningham, R.-Calif.** and **William Jefferson, D-New Orleans:** Both congressional veterans are under federal investigation. Cunningham, who has announced that he will not run for reelection, faces questions over his dealings with a defense contractor who allegedly overpaid him when he purchased Cunningham's house. Jefferson is under scrutiny for his role in an overseas business deal.

▶ **Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C.:** The report says that questions have been raised about his private business interests.

▶ **Rep. Marilyn N. Musgrave, R-Colo.,** and **Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz.):** Both second-term House members encountered criticisms tied to campaign activities, the report says. Musgrave was accused of misusing her congressional office for campaign purposes. Renzi was accused of financing portions of his 2002 campaign with improper loans.

# Crime rate for 2004 stays at 30-year low

*Inundated prisons, more cops helping*

**By Mark Sherman**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – The nation's crime rate was unchanged last year, holding at the lowest levels since the government began surveying crime victims in 1973, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

Since 1993, violent crime as measured by victim surveys has fallen by 57 percent and property crime by 50 percent. That includes a 9 percent drop in violent crime from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004.

The 2004 violent crime rate — assault, sexual assault and armed robbery — was 21.4 victims for every 1,000 people age 12 and older. That amounts to about one violent crime victim for every 47 U.S. residents.

By comparison, there were 22.6 violent crime victims per 1,000 people in 2003. The Bureau of Justice Statistics said the difference between the rates in 2003 and 2004 was statistically insignificant.

Murder is not counted because the bureau's study is based on statements by crime victims. In a separate report based on preliminary police data, the FBI found a 3.6 percent drop between 2003 and 2004 — from 16,500 to 15,910. Chicago was largely responsible for the decrease.

The survey put the rate for property crimes of burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft in 2004 at 161 for every 1,000 people, compared with 163 the year before.

Many explanations have been advanced for decline in violent crime, including the record prison population of more than 2 million people, the addition of 100,000 police officers since the mid-1990s and even a deterrent effect that terrorism might have had on street crime.

"Success has 1,000 fathers," said Mark Kleiman, an expert on crime control policy who teaches at UCLA.

Kleiman said the victim survey probably does not take sufficient account of a growing problem with gang violence that has been widely reported across the country. The leveling off of the crime rate also should be viewed as disappointing, he said.

"My sense is that complacency is not justified. This rate means we're down to about twice the level of crime when I was growing up in the 1950s," he said.

The Justice Policy Institute, which advocates alternatives to incarceration, said the report offered good news and further reason to "begin investing in community-based policing and local organizations that succeed in increasing public safety."

The National Crime Victimization Survey is based on annual interviews by Census Bureau personnel with about 150,000 people at least 12 years old. The FBI does a separate crime study based on reports it receives from thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide.

# Bush high court nominee must walk a narrow line

*Supreme Court jurist to be under scrutiny*

**By David D. Kirkpatrick**
New York Times

WASHINGTON — As President Bush moves to fill the second vacancy on the Supreme Court, he faces a new challenge in finding a jurist who can not only withstand Democratic scrutiny but hold together the support of Senate Republicans as well.

Polls have shown Bush's approval ratings near the lowest levels of his presidency. And Senate Republican strategists say that since his nomination of Judge John Roberts to the court, members of their conference have grown increasingly willing to disagree with the White House, notably on matters such as stem cell research, Bush's choice for ambassador to the United Nations and the war in Iraq.

Some, including Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, the majority leader, and Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, a member of the Judiciary Committee, are considering their own bids for the presidency.

Now, both socially conservative and more liberal Republican senators say they may vote against confirmation of the next nominee if the pick leans too far to the left or the right on prominent issues such as abortion rights.

Any Republican defection could provide cover for Democrats who want to oppose confirmation, protecting them politically in Republican-leaning states. Democrats have vowed to dig in for a tough fight over the nominee to succeed Justice Sandra Day O'Connor because she was a pivotal swing vote on the court.

"It is going to be different," said Sen. Lincoln Chafee, R.-R.I., who is socially liberal and has said he will vote to confirm Roberts.

Chafee said he would apply a more skeptical standard to the next nominee because of the balance of the court and might even oppose a jurist similar to Roberts. "I will be looking very carefully" at the next nominee's views on privacy rights, "separation of church and state," and the scope of federal power, he said.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, a Republican who supports abortion rights and has said she will vote to confirm Roberts, took a similar view. She previously voted to confirm some of Bush's appeals court nominees who met stiff liberal opposition, such as Judge Priscilla Owen and Judge Janice Rogers Brown, two people said to be on Bush's short list. But Snowe said she might not support either one for the Supreme Court.

"This is certainly a different level of evaluation," Snowe said, "especially because of the balance of power on the court."

On the conservative side of the party, Brownback and Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, another member of the Judiciary Committee, devoted much of their time for questioning Roberts to delivering messages to the White House about the importance of overturning precedents supporting abortion rights.

In an interview last week, Brownback said he would vote against a nominee who was not "solid and known" on cultural issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage and religion in public life.

"I think you are going to see a contentious battle regardless of who is nominated," he said, "even if it is Judge Roberts' twin brother."

Underscoring the fine line the nominee must walk, Coburn said he would vote against someone who spoke in agreement or disagreement with the major abortion rights precedents in the next confirmation hearings because that would constitute a prejudging of the issue. "I think if somebody is foolish enough to say that to me," Coburn said, "they are not going to be a good judge."

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STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Little was left for the Louisiana National Guard 41st Brigade to examine Sunday during its reconnaissance flyovers in Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion parishes. Hurricane Rita wiped away many structures in already-lightly populated southwestern areas of the state.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**DELCAMBRE:** The flooded state of Louisiana 89 on Sunday doesn't bode well for some residents, who were trying to get back to their homes to assess damage from Rita's tidal surge.

**BOURG:** Mitzi Nelton squeezes water out of clothing from her father's dresser in her parents' bedroom Sunday. Water got up to about 4 feet in the home.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

# Fishing communities 'just obliterated'

**RITA,** *from A-1*

Bush visited Texas and Baton Rouge on Sunday to monitor relief efforts but made no public appearances.

Blanco said she told him that Louisiana needs $11.5 billion to repair and rebuild bridges and highways shattered Aug. 29 by Hurricane Katrina, and now by Rita.

She also asked for $20.2 billion to upgrade levees and improve hurricane protection systems from Morgan City to Slidell, she said.

Energy officials are assessing Rita's damage to the concentration of gasoline refineries in the area. Early reports indicated that facilities in Houston fared well, but there were no clear damage reports yet for refineries in Port Arthur and Lake Charles.

Rita's powerful eastern side roared over relatively lightly populated marshes of southwestern Louisiana early Saturday. By Sunday, it was clear that while the storm had had few targets, it crushed and drowned the few small settlements scattered before it.

After a flyover, Blanco reported that fishing communities in lower Cameron Parish were swept away.

"Everything is just obliterated," Blanco told a roomful of workers at the emergency operations center in Lake Charles. Only whitecaps marked the place where Holly Beach, a fishing and resort spot, once stood.

"I could not tell where the Gulf started and ended," she said.

Cameron and Vermilion parishes were hit hardest.

To the east, an estimated 40 percent of Terrebonne Parish was underwater, said Kenneth Smith, president and chief executive officer of T.B. Smith Inc., an engineering and environmental firm familiar with the parish.

Smith estimated that 25,000 people were displaced in Terrebonne, with 10,000 homes and businesses flooded.

"It's kind of scary, because it's a Category 3 that hit 300 miles to the west of us," he said.

Nearly 4,000 National Guard members followed the storm into southwest Louisiana early Saturday equipped with helicopters, boats, high-water vehicles and chainsaws for search-and-rescue efforts, damage assessments, debris removal and road clearing, a spokesman for the Office of Emergency Preparedness said Sunday.

National Guard Lt. Col. Bill Doran said the Guard also was busy setting up several sites to distribute water, ice and military rations.

In Lake Charles, Interstate 10 was closed at the Calcasieu Bridge, officials said. The bridge was struck by two barges during Rita.

In more heavily populated Texas cities to the west of Rita's landfall, officials reported widespread property damage, roofless homes and businesses, and flooded streets.

But there were no deaths reported from weather effects in Louisiana or Texas.

Only one death was attributed directly to weather from Rita: A man was killed when a tornado destroyed his mobile home in Mississippi. On Thursday, 24 elderly evacuees were killed in a bus fire near Dallas.

"Even though people right here in Beaumont and Port Arthur and this part of Orange County really got whacked, the rest of the state missed a bullet," Texas Gov. Rick Perry told the Associated Press before a flyover of the Beaumont area.

Though Harris County Tax Collector-Assessor Paul Bettencourt said Rita caused "tens of millions of dollars" in structural damage in the Houston area, officials still were spared the task of managing a seriously storm-ravaged city. But they were left with another daunting challenge: managing the return of more than 2 million evacuees whose flights from the city Thursday created a history-making traffic jam.

Perry and Houston Mayor Bill White pleaded with residents to heed their instructions to return in phases, which might minimize the crush. The city closed its public schools until Wednesday.

But it was not clear if this would help.

"I'm not going to wait for our good neighbors to the north to get home and take a nap before I ask our good people to come home," said John Willy, the top elected official in Brazoria County, southwest of Houston. "Our people are tired of the state's plan. They have a plan too, and it's real simple: They plan to come home when they want."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in charge of helping storm-tossed Louisiana residents get their lives back in order, had processed 910,383 applications for financial help as of Sunday morning, FEMA spokeswoman Rosemarie Hunter said.

Most of the $1.504 billion paid out to individuals and households has gone to victims of Hurricane Katrina, Hunter said. $9.6 million of it went to pay for things such as medical and funeral expenses, she said.

Payments are going out to hurricane victims four times a day in the form of checks or electronic funds transfers into their bank accounts. Post office boxes are being set up to receive checks for people living in shelters, and banks will establish accounts for individual storm victims to get their FEMA money electronically, she said.

On another front, Hunter said 100,000 housing units are en route to the state for Louisianans whose homes were destroyed by Katrina or Rita.

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Additional reporting provided by Susan Finch, Jenny Hurwitz and Mary Swerczek. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# NOPD takes over for Guard



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Sandbags were dropped into an Industrial Canal levee breach that opened during Hurricane Rita. At right is a barge that crashed through the levee during Hurricane Katrina.

**NEW ORLEANS,** *from A-1*

A pent-up desire to return was evident in the flurry of moving vans seen in the business district and in a few residents who managed to slip past military checkpoints en route to their homes.

At dawn Sunday, registered nurse Jessica Rodney, a California resident who bought a house recently in eastern New Orleans — an area mostly overrun by floodwaters after Hurricane Katrina — was halted at a checkpoint where Veterans Memorial Boulevard crosses the 17th Street Canal.

She said police wouldn't let her drive into New Orleans, so she parked and, when officers weren't looking, started walking. Taping plastic garbage bags over her feet at times when she walked through wet stretches, Rodney was last seen on Robert E. Lee Boulevard near Franklin Avenue in Gentilly.

"I have to check on my house," she said.

Rainwater that had collected in depths of one to two feet through much of Lakeview, a new dash of flooding officials attributed to the shutdown of pumps on the 17th Street Canal after a major floodwall breach there, was steadily receding Sunday. Waters that reached nearly from Robert E. Lee to Harrison Avenue now covered only a portion of the area's streets.

Corps of Engineers spokesman Brigadier Gen. William Grizoli announced during a Baton Rouge briefing that the storm surge that sent waters streaming across the Lower 9th Ward for a second time Friday had dropped sharply and that the latest levee breach had been sealed. Two to six feet of water remained in the residential area west of the Industrial Canal, he said.

From the Upper 9th Ward side of the Claiborne Avenue bridge over the canal, a twin-rotor Chinook helicopter could be seen dropping giant sandbags at the site of the levee breach early Sunday afternoon.

The Chinook wavered slightly in sporadic winds that whipped beneath its blades. Receding canal waters in the near-decimated area exposed bellied-up cars and window frames and sopping wood siding.

Moments after the Chinook's drop, a smaller, orange Sikorsky helicopter hovered close to the sealed breech and dropped a smaller load of sandbags.

A French Quarter that remained eerily dark Saturday night was powered up by Entergy workers at midday Sunday.

"Lights are on in the Quarter," one obviously pleased crew member, Tony Laborde, said as he stood at a corner on Bourbon Street. "Just turned them on. First time in a month."

The resumption of one facet of normalcy in the historic district faced a setback, however, when Entergy was notified of a fire on Burgundy Street and the utility shut down power again. Officials said there would be new efforts today to fully restore power to the district.

Some Quarter businesses were making do without power.

Diners chose from smoked-sausage sandwiches and hamburgers at Stella's restaurant at 1000 Decatur St. on Sunday afternoon. Air conditioning provided by a diesel generator, flowers on the tables, live music and $4 Bloody Marys added to a tenuous sense of regular business in the restaurant.

"People say, 'Thank you, thank you,'" said co-owner Pat Boswell. Asked where the restaurant acquired supplies, Boswell said, "anywhere we can." The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. until a fluid evening closing time that "gets later every night," according to Boswell.

At the Royal Sonesta Hotel in the Quarter, General Manager Hans Wandfluh said that the hotel has stayed open almost continuously since Hurricane Katrina, mostly serving emergency workers, and that he was growing agitated at the reluctance of many business owners he knows to get back into New Orleans and open their doors again. He

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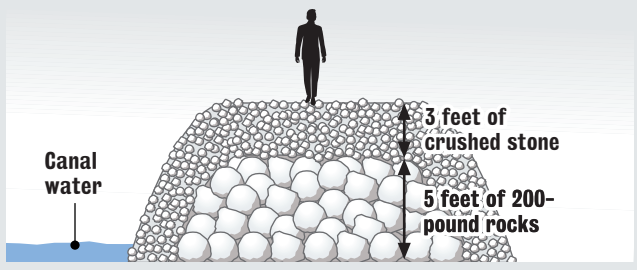
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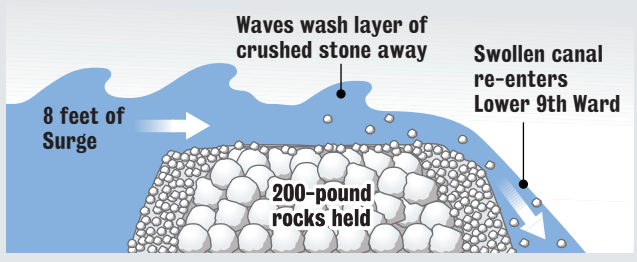
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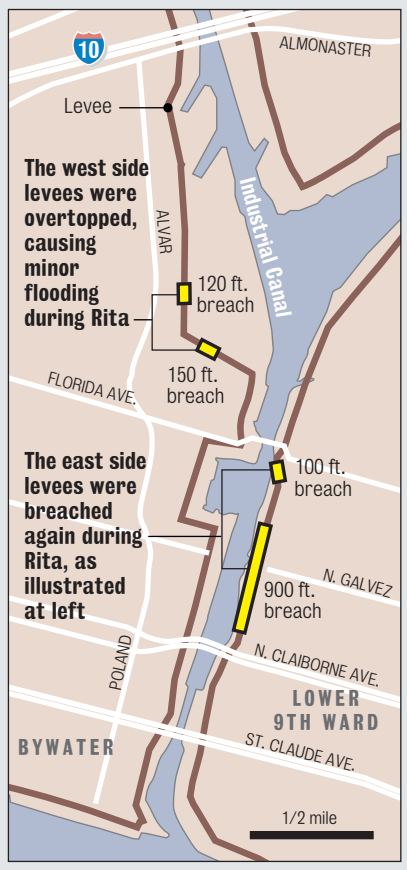
Following Hurricane Katrina's multiple levee breaches, the Army Corps of Engineers scrambled to create temporary breach closures. Four of the seven New Orleans breaches, along the Industrial Canal, were overwhelmed when Hurricane Rita's 8-foot storm surge entered the canal on Friday and Saturday. A look at what happened:

### POST KATRINA/PRE-RITA TEMPORARY BREACH CLOSURE




### TEMPORARY BREACH CLOSURE DURING HURRICANE RITA




Source: Army Corps of Engineers

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

said many people seem "television-drunk" from watching scary hurricane reports and are "so overloaded with information that they have lost focus."

Wandfluh said it is critical that people get back to work quickly, so that the business infrastructure of the city doesn't break down.

"We need clear, concise information for businesses, residents … what to do, what to expect," he said.

Many displaced New Orleanians are nervous about the possibility of looting and other crimes in a city that, thanks to floodwaters and evacuation orders, has become a virtual ghost town.

Law enforcement officials concede that the size of the National Guard presence has been reduced sharply in recent days as federal officials shifted resources toward the Louisiana-Texas border in preparation for Hurricane Rita, but they said the protective force remains strong.

A changing of the guard is obvious in the streets of Orleans Parish as white and blue New Orleans police patrol cars largely replace camouflaged Humvees. Only 1,966 National Guardsmen remained in the city on Sunday, according to Task Force Pelican public affairs officer Maj. Pat Simon. Some troops have followed the path of Hurricane Rita west, performing search and rescue missions. Others have rotated out, replaced by civilian police. Capt. Marlon DeFillo, the New Orleans Police Department spokesman, said 1,450 officers are on duty, working 12-hour shifts.

There were conflicting reports about whether thousands of soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division of the Army were staying in New Orleans or shipping out.

Capt. Kevin Anderson, commander of the police department's 8th District, based in the Quarter, said he isn't concerned about police staffing in coming days, noting that, in addition to soldiers, as many as 1,000 offices from outside agencies are supplementing the city force. But he conceded that police work is about to get more complicated.

"As more people start coming in, it's obviously going to strain our calls for service," Anderson said on St. Louis Street, near a boarded-up corner shop with a spray-painted sign: "Welcome to the thin blue line."

• • • • • •

Reporters Frank Donze and Trymaine Lee contributed to this report.

# Cameron Parish deluged by waters from the Gulf

## *Homes, businesses get a historic pounding*

**By Jan Moller and Leslie Williams**
Staff writers

CAMERON — From several hundred feet above the devastation in Cameron Parish, the rubble from homes and businesses looks like Canal Street at the end of a long and rainy Carnival.

Bits and pieces of homes peek above the murky floodwaters, parts of walls roost in trees.

Hundreds of homes and businesses deconstructed by storm surge and brutal winds mark a trail of misery near the part of the parish not far from the Gulf of Mexio. Homes have been shoved off their foundations, others crushed with only slabs remaining in a brown soup of floodwaters just north of a now relatively calm Gulf.

Such scenes were repeated throughout southwestern Louisiana, where wind damage wasn't as bad as expected but floodwaters from the Gulf rushed into bays and towns.

The storm surge brought saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico north through Vermilion Bay and into the Delcambre Canal. From there, it had nowhere to go but into the homes and businesses of this town of 2,168 residents that straddles the Iberia-Vermilion parish border.

Iberia Parish Sheriff Sid Hebert estimated that one-third of the parish was deluged by storm surge, affecting about 3,000 homes that sit south of U.S. 90 That made it the worst flood that anyone around here could remember. "I've never seen a third of this parish flooded under any conditions," Hebert said.

From the air, it looked as if Erath had been picked up and placed in a shallow lake. Only the goalpost and the highest tier of bleachers of a football stadium could be seen above the water line. In Vermilion Parish, much of the parish remained flooded Sunday. Flooding also plagued Calcasieu Parish, including Lake Charles.

"But we only had moderate damage, mainly confined to roofs and tree loss," said Richard "Dick" Gremillion, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness for Calcasieu Parish.

The best news: "Nobody was hurt," said Gremillion, who estimated about 15 to 20 percent of Calcasieu Parish was flooded by Rita.

As of late Sunday afternoon, it appeared as though everyone emerged physically unscathed. Hebert said

there were no deaths and only a few minor injuries - mostly to rescue workers - associated with the hurricane. By that time, more than 90 percent of the homes in the area had been checked by sheriff's deputies and Marines.

Hebert estimated that 65 percent of the parish population, which was ordered to evacuate, followed those instructions. But in Delcambre, which took the worst flood damage, only 35 percent of residents left before the storm, Hebert said.

Coast Guard officials at the Naval Air Station estimate that they have rescued about 70 people from southwestern Louisiana in the Hurricane Rita rescue efforts.

Hebert said about 700 parish residents displaced by the storm were in local shelters Saturday night. But by Sunday afternoon, more than half of them had left, either to return home or to stay with friends or relatives.

In Delcambre, nearly every building received some flood damage as the water began rising at a rate of one foot every half-hour starting in Saturday's early morning hours. When it crested some 12 hours later, some homes were left with minor damage while others were almost completely submerged. A person's luck depended largely on the proximity to the canal.

Johnny Segura, 44, an offshore dispatcher, lives only a few short blocks from the canal but decided not to heed the mandatory evacuation order for areas south of U.S. 90. He quickly changed his mind about 7:30 a.m. Saturday, when the water in his house got knee-deep. He escaped to his father-in-law's house, which sits on higher ground a few blocks away, but quickly left when the water began rising in that driveway.

On Sunday morning, he was among dozens of local residents who launched boats off Jefferson Island Road at the edge of the floodwaters to check on his home. What he saw confirmed his worst fears. "We lost everything. Everything's floating around. Nothing could be saved," he said, choking back tears.

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# Neighbors now look nothing alike

**PARISHES,** *from A-1*

from Hurricane Rita slammed through, and first responders like Keller were making their initial rounds down Bellaire Drive, now a dead zone that backs up directly to the 17th Street Canal on the Orleans Parish side. Standing on top of the remains of homes that were wiped completely off their slabs when a floodwall collapsed, Keller surveyed what he described as the worst damage he has seen: cars slammed up against trees, walls torn away, houses twisted until they collapsed.

"I can't believe the devastation," he said. "I knew it would be bad, but I didn't know it would be this bad."

Just a block away, on the Jefferson Parish side of the 17th Street Canal, Ronnie Blanchard, 71, chatted with the mailman in front of his modest blue cottage. His dog barked in the yard. His light blue Buick was parked in front of his neatly manicured lawn. An American flag flapped on the flagpole.

Inside Blanchard's bone-dry house, the electricity was back on, clean water was flowing from the tap and the toilets flushed just fine. The day before, he bought groceries at the Winn-Dixie just a short drive from his house. That night, he cooked noodles and red gravy for supper. He and his wife are now home for good.

"I guess God had something to do with it," said Blanchard. "We were spared."

Once symbiotic communities that shared an economy and culture, Orleans and Jefferson parishes are now worlds apart, with residents and businesses returning to the heavily populated suburb, while officials in the city struggle to restore basic services to a ghost town. Hurricane Rita only complicated matters.

The bizarre contrast is the constant topic of conversation among the small cadre of emergency workers, public officials, contractors and journalists who are allowed to move freely between the two hurricane-ravaged areas.

"It's like life as usual over there," said Keller, who has been searching for survivors



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Orleans Parish homes lie devastated Thursday in the shell-shocked Lakeview neighborhood. But just a block away across the 17th Street Canal, Jefferson Parish homeowners can open their mail and order a pizza.


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**TREE DEBRIS** REMOVAL Trees/Debris/Stumps. Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. Sub Contracting, 504-416-5534

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREES &** DEBRIS REMOVAL. Fast response. Insured. Free Estimates. Call 504-712-9024

**Service Directory**

**2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees**

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

**2350 Medical**

**OPEN FOR** PATIENTS Kenner Dermatology, Plastic Surgery and Allergy Clinic. Walk-ins Welcome! Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. 504-471-3100 at 3705 Florida Ave, Kenner, LA. Also 985-892-5497 at 600 N Highway 190, Suite 201, Covington LA. Dr. Samuel Parry, Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, available in our Kenner Clinic

**Schween Chiropractic** & Medical Wellness Complex is now open and offering free Spinal Examinations & Message Therapy for anyone donating to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina. 985-641-2222 Referred by Donna Penny

**2380 Painting/ Paperhanging**

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

**2430 Professional**

**For Start** Up & Technical Service, Training, Documentation, Consulting, Call 256-627-9240

**2445 Remodeling/ Renovations**

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**2450 Roofing & Guttering**

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFING &** TREE REMOVAL Free Estimates. Call anytime 985-768-7407, ask for David

**2460 Siding**

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

**2495 Telephones**

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

**2496 Transportation**

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**2500 Miscellaneous**

**Complete mold** remediation, let us kill it before it gets worse, insured. 1-877-893-1799

**Debris removal/tree** removal, house repairs/demolition, fast & dependable, licensed & insured, no job too big or small. 1-877-893-1799

**Est Restaurant** for sale, xlnt location, turn key operation, clean, new equip. 985-626-0141

**For a** FAST and FAIR insurance settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants. 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**LOWRY-DUNHAM, CASE** AND VIVIEN INSURANCE AGENCY. Temporary location, CPB Plaza 2053 East Gause Blvd Suite 250 Slidell, LA 70461. 985-641-4148 or fax 985-641-4155. Mailing address: Po Box 430 Slidell, LA 70459

**EMPLOYMENT**

**4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping**

**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT** Looking for someone with A/R, cash application, and invoice verification experience to support accounting department. Ideal person must have excellent communication skills, be detail oriented, and be self-motivated. Computer background required. Full benefits. Fax resume to 985-898-0594 Attn: T.Giraud or email to: tgiraud@ensembleltd.com. Must include phone number.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Growing Co seeks ind. w/the ability to work in a fast paced environment, candidate must be a self starter, detail oriented, organized & capable of multi tasking. Familiarity w/Quick Books & Excel a +. Min 1 yr exp in Accounts Payable & computer skills req. Fax resume: 985-727-7281

**BUSINESS OFFICE** MANAGER Slidell Company seeks energetic, organized and detail oriented office manager with computer, bookkeeping and analytical skills; QBook a +. Duties include A/P, A/R, payroll and cost control. Casual office, flexible hrs and benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: 159 Country Club Dr, Covington, LA 70433 Attn: Manager position

**4020 Agents & Sales**

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** SPECIALIST needed. Hackbarth Delivery Service is seeking an experienced outside salesperson to develop new accounts and service our existing client base. Experience in outside sales is required as is a clean MVR and background check. Please call 504-468-6468 or apply in person at 180 East James Drive St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**Sales Agents** - Customer Service Reps, and telephone operators. Apply at PROTOCOL 19323 N 4th St. in Covington, M-F 9am-3pm, or Call 985-867-1662. EOE

**Sales Career** Opportunities: Baton Rouge to New Orleans. PFG, National Food Service Distributor. Sales or food service experience required 985-872-1483

**SALES PROFESSIONALS** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Sales Organization Opportunity to make $100,000/ Year In Home Sale/ One Call Closers/ Pre-set appointments. Job Growth potential! Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**TELEMARKETERS** - Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee against Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**4021 Apartment Personnel**

**Reliable, reasonable** Handyman needed long term, Kenner. 985-373-2631 or harinisri@aol.com

**4030 Clerical**

**CLERICAL/DATA ENTRY** positions available, file room/clerical positions for insurance agency. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-736-0652

**RECEPTIONIST/FILE CLERK** North Shore Real Estate company needs receptionist/file clerk. Experience preferred, excellent benefits. Please fax resume to: 985-542-4464

**Employment**

**4030 Clerical**

**SECRETARY Small** Law Office needs Part Time Secretary, $8.00 per Hour. Email resume to fskimin@cox.net

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/TYPIST For** small law firm, temporarily in La Place, later New Orleans. Must have auto. Start $9/hr. Send resume to Attn: Charlotte, 2810 West Airline Hwy, La Place, 70068

**4045 Drivers**

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**CDL DRIVERS** Haynes Motor Lines needs drivers for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, CDL class A, home every night, 1-800-349-3833 for more information.

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**DRIVER needed,** Class A, Great Benefits. Apply at Hattiesburg Beverage Company, 1000 West 63rd St, Hattiesburg or fax resume to (601) 545-7513

**DRIVER/WAREHOUSE No** CDL needed. Full time permanent position. Call 504-712-9020

**DRIVERS Immediate** openings, CDL-AB, Metairie area, Please Call 504-468-7782

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**MOTORCOACH OPERATORS** Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS CDL License required. $12/hour. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**4060 Engineering**

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**4060 Engineering**

**ELECTRICAL UTILITIES** WORKERS Benchmark International Inc. appreciates your hard work and sacrifice in restoring power to our fellow citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina. We are a management and technology consulting firm with extensive contacts in the public and private sector. We would like to offer you a future opportunity as your current projects come to a close. We will be hiring Distribution System Engineers, Project Managers, Line foremen, Linesmen, and Office Managers for full-time and part-time work in the southeastern United States. Resumes can be sent to rleturno@adelphia.net or by fax to (719)622-1736. Don't worry about format as we are interested in content.

**ENGINEERS-DRAFTERS &** DESIGNERS All Disciplines, Positions in Houston, Austin, B.R. & N.O. SKANSI STAFFING PH 504-394-9868 FAX 394-2527 SkansiStaff@bellsouth.net

**King Engineering** Associates Inc., a full service civil engineering firm, has several open positions for engineering professionals that have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. King has openings in the Jacksonville, Sarasota and Tampa offices. We can accommodate either temporary or permanent positions. King will assist with finding temporary housing, assistance with enrolling children in schools, transportation, etc. A sample of open positions across all of our service lines (civil, survey, planning, environmental, ecological, transportation); Sr. Project Engineer, Project Engineer, Designer, Sr. Designer, ACAD Technician, Party Chief, Instrument person, Engineer, Transportation Planner, Environmental Scientist, Project Manager, Construction Field Rep. To see a full list of open positions, see our website - www.kingengineering.com. Please contact Cathy McDonald, Recruiting Coordinator at 813-880-8881 to inquire about the opportunities we have and to assist with your current needs.

**4065 Financial**

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR,** Small Business Liaison ECC is seeking strong candidates to support the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Experienced: 10 yrs of exp, small business subcontracting, Stafford Act and CPSR procurement processes, FAR/DFAR/AFAR. Plus: USACE, CACM, CPCM, CFCM. Prefer local candidates. Location: New Orleans/Baton Rouge. Email: jsladky@ecc.net

**4068 Hair & Nail Salon**

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges**

**BARTENDERS Needed** immediately for the Iron Horse Saloon in Gretna. Call 504-382-1880

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges**

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**Mother's Restaurant** is now hiring Dishwashers, Short order cooks, & wait staff. Apply Monday-Friday, 131 Huey P. Long Ave, Gretna.

**4080 Household**

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**4095 Legal**

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY** position with Degan, Blanchard, and Nash. 2 to 5 years experience preferred. 225/610-1110 or fax resume to 225/610-1220.

**4100 Management**

**ASSISTANT PROPERTY** MANAGERS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Strong customer service & sales background. Competitive pay + commissions. Vacation, insurance, 401K Match. Fax resumes to 225-383-41862

**BEST BUY** Slidell and Veteren's Blvd Locations. Now hiring General Managers. Plan, manage and control operations of a Best Buy retail store. Experience in retail sales management, planning and cost analysis, along w/the ability to lead and inspire a team of assistant managers and non-exempt employees. Best Buy offers competitive pay, employee discounts, great benefits and excellent career opportunities. Apply online at careers.bestbuy.com EOE DFWP

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie & Kenner apts. 3 years exp req. Strong customer srvc. & comm skills. Salary + bonus, vac, ins, 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**SALON MANAGER,** Planet Beach, Is seeking a Mgr for the New Orleans-Uptown Location. The #1 Location in the US. Base Salary, Commission, Bonuses and Overrides. Health Insurance and cell phone paid. Opportunity for Executive Advancement. Membership Sales and Cosmetic Sales Exp Desired. Email Resumes To: jodie.mateu@planetbeach.com

**4105 Marine**

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

**4110 Mechanical**

**ELEVATOR TECHNICIANS** We are a fast growing but mature elevator company based in Naples Florida. Seeking skilled, Construction Mechanics to install, modernize, hydraulic and traction elevators and Service Route Mechanics, to perform quality maintenance and troubleshooting. Prior elevator industry is desirable. Excellent starting hourly rate ($25-$31 per hour) plus overtime. Bonus potential, fringe benefits and a company vehicle. Also, mechanical and electronics experience will be considered for hiring into our training program. Our backlog and current rate of orders has created fast compensation growth opportunities to the highly motivated individuals. Please fax your resume to 239-598-9236 or Email: wcec4@earthlink.net.

**LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP** MANAGER Needed for 25 Vehicle diesel truck shop. Uniforms, vacations, medical, 401K. Fax resume or apply at Neuman Transport, LLC. 63336 Old Military Road, Pearl River LA. Fax 985-863-9095

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**4120 Medical**

**AUDIOLOGIST Needed** in Slidell ENT clinic. Please fax resume to: 985-690-8301 Attention: Scott Or call 985-707-4067

**CERTIFIED MEDICAL** CODER - Family practice, permanent/Full Time with benefits. Apply at Instant Care Family Medical Center 901 Gause Blvd, Slidell or fax resume to 985-646-1160

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Experienced Dental Assistant needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**HYGIENE COOR/FRONT** DESK, Westbank Dental Office. Exp'd only. 504-491-5505 or 504-491-7314

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** Experienced Nuclear Tech-Cardiology. Monroe/West Monroe LA. Excellent salary with no nights or weekend calls. Fax resume to 318-338-3542. Email: margon@jam.rr.com or call 318-348-8844

**MEDICAL- Concerned** Home Health has openings for a comptroller and biller in our Covington office, RNs, LPNs and CNAs in Metairie, Westbank and Slidell. Please fax resume to 866-536-6094 or call 888-698-2302

**PHYSICIANS: We** are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the be!

**st of** small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides, NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team!Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**4120 Medical**

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**4130 Part Time**

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Needed for Health Food Store with Lunch Counter. Will Train, but must be a willing worker. work 3-4 days/week. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**LUNCH COUNTER** HELP Needed for Health Food Store. 4 days/week. Great hours. Includes food prep and cooking. Will train. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**4140 Professional/ Technical**

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**4147 Security**

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**4150 Teachers & Instructors**

**Musical School** in La Place is seeking a Music Instructor(s) w/2 yrs of music/teaching exp. 504-237-9674 or 985-653-7232

**4160 Trades/Skills**

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIANS For Metairie & Kenner apts. Must be CFC cert. Some gen. plumbing & elec. repairs. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, ins. & 401K match. Fax resumes to 225-383-4186

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**ALARM INSTALLER** & TECHNICIAN Experience, Benefits Provided, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**Allstate Fence** Co looking for Fence Mechanics & Helpers, plenty of work! Call 504-737-5219

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET MAKERS** needed. MUST have three years cabinet shop experience. 985-386-2711

**CARPENTERS with** tools. Also need helpers. St. Tammany. 985-875-0424 hd256@housedoctors.com

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION POSITIONS** *Pipe Foremen & Crew *Survey Party Chief *Heavy Equipment Operators. Experience required for established site contractor in Central Florida. Top Pay & benefits. DFWP. Call 407-865-7600 or visit our site, www.JMHC.CC

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**4160 Trades/Skills**

**ELECTRICIANS Needed,** 2 yrs min exp, all work on the North Shore. Please call 985-845-8056

**EXPERIENCED COMMERCIAL** FOREMEN & PLUMBERS for immediate employment in Maryland and Virginia. Call Mark for prompt consideration: Page Mechanical Systems, Inc. (301)948-9680 x10. or toll free 1-866-990-0606 between 8:00AM to 4:00PM

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**Experienced Service** Mechanic needed. Apply at Mayeux's AC & Heating, Inc. 650 St.Charles Street, Norco LA 70079.

**FAMILIA CONSTRUCTION** Exp Frame Crews, Carpenters, & Helpers needed. Call 601-942-0174

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS, 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIOORING INSTALLERS** Res and Com, all surfaces, exp a must! Call 504-466-9724 9a-4p

**GLASS$/ALUMINUM$ MIRROR** & SHOWER DOOR MECHANICS Good pay, Paid Holidays, Vacations and other benefits for long term employment of experienced installers of persons willing to learn the trade. (561)655-1309 West Palm Beach FL.

**GLASSMAN Experienced,** needed in Picayune Mississippi, full-time permanent position. Contact Mark 601-798-9640

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T manufacturing maintenance mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time manufacturing equipment operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Hydraulic Press** Brake Operator, Experienced. Excellent Benefits. 985-385-2324; Radtke Construction - Morgan City

**INTERIOR DEMO** CREW LEAD PERSON - Permanent work, excellent chance to make a lot of money. Call 985-845-3322

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks Cabinet Sales Person having at least 5 years experience, including 20/20 experience. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**4160 Trades/Skills**

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LAWN CARE** Professional experienced and general laborer for storm cleanup. Call Grass Masters. 985-249-9881

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**Louisiana-based firm** looking for electricians experienced in HiVolt, 5 KV & up cable testing, splicing & termin. H2S safety training preferred. Pre-employ and random drug screenings required. $18.hr/hlth ins provided. Send resumes and queries to Human Resources; 78070 Koogie Rd.; Covington, LA 70435.

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**Pacorini USA** Needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators, & Laborers for maritime work in the Port Of New Orleans. Plenty work with lots of overtime. Apply at Alabo Street Wharf or Call 504-416-7967 or 504-382-1566 for information.

**PAINTERS, experienced,** must have own transportation, full time work, 985-966-6011

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**PLUMBER/PLUMBERS HELPER** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800) 709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Plumbing experience desired but not not required. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SKILLED LABOR-** framers, trim carpenters, sheetrock hangers & finishers, painters. Must have tools & transportation. Min. 5 yrs. exp. (504) 382-8493.

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**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

since the storm hit. "They've got Burger Kings open over there, grocery stores. It's just weird."

## Tale of two parishes

Weird, it is.

In Jefferson Parish, which lies just west of the city, water and sewer services have been fully restored on both sides of the river. More than 94 percent of residents now have power, and stores and restaurants are reopening, spray-painting the news that they're back in business on sheets of plywood that once boarded windows and now are propped up at the curb.

At night, residents, who were allowed to return en masse after the first storm, can be seen drinking beer and playing video poker at Laketown Grill on Williams Boulevard. In the mornings, they stand in line to buy lattes at the PJ's at Clearview Mall.

But in New Orleans, most people haven't been allowed back to see their homes, let alone live in them, because of polluted floodwaters that engulfed many neighborhoods.

The tap water on the east bank remains untreated, and Sewerage & Water Board officials say it could take up to two more months before the pipes and mains are fully repaired. The West Bank system had far less damage, and residents have been assured the water there is potable.

Although toilets flush, the city's only sewer treatment plant on the east bank was decimated by 20-foot floodwaters, and S&WB officials say it could take at least nine months to rebuild. Until then, raw sewage will have to be dumped directly into the Mississippi River, and perhaps Lake Pontchartrain.

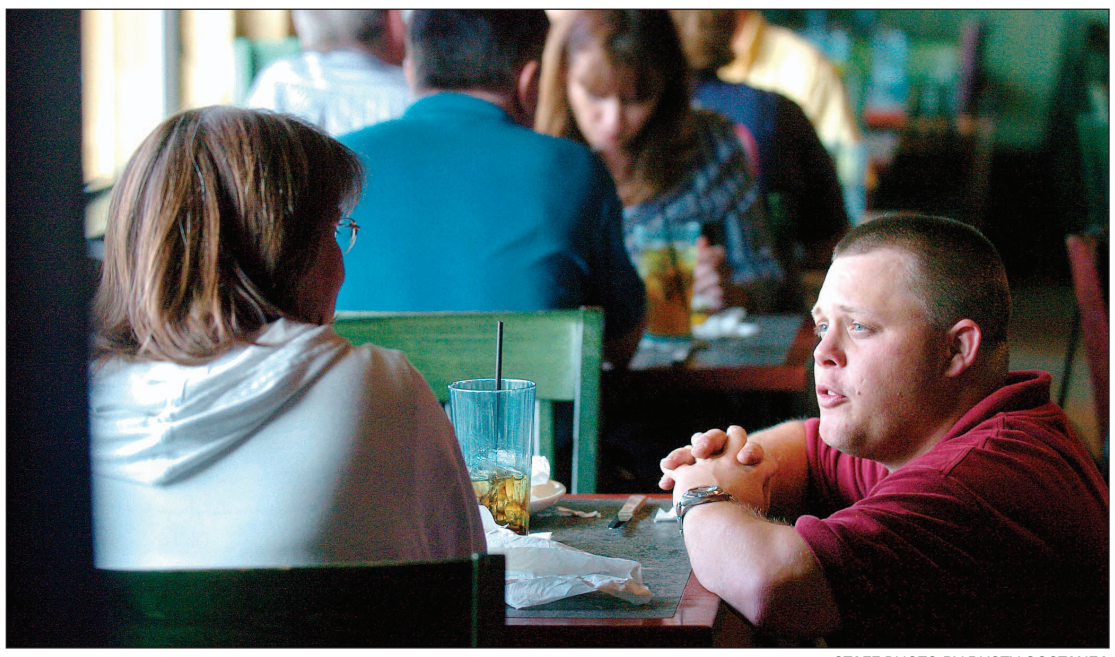
Electric power remains iffy, with only about 18 percent of customers back online.

As for business owners, many have been issued permits to re-enter the city to inspect their offices and begin cleaning up. But that effort, as well as Mayor Ray Nagin's plans to bring people back to Algiers and unflooded Uptown neighborhoods and, eventually, the French Quarter, was stalled last week when Hurricane Rita entered the Gulf.

On Tuesday, the mayor called for an evacuation of the already desolate city, fearing that heavy rainfall or even a slight storm surge could trigger widespread flooding.

By Thursday, one of the only remaining centers of activity was the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street, which served as an outpost for government officials, law enforcement and news organizations intending to stay through whatever Rita might bring.

But in Jefferson, Parish President Aaron Broussard issued no evacuation orders except for several coastal communities, including Grand Isle and Lafitte. So residents, determined to piece back together their homes and businesses, went about the messy process of ripping out soggy Sheetrock and carpeting and hauling moldy furniture to the curb.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Darryl Morrissey, service manager at Chevy's Fresh Mex, waits tables Wednesday at the Metairie restaurant. Life in Jefferson Parish is slowly getting back to normal, while neighboring New Orleans struggles to restore basic services.

## Cleanups worlds apart

Despite the smelly pile of debris piled on their lawn, Linda and Danny Deichmann are living fairly comfortably in their house on North Turnbull Drive in Metairie. The fence is still in shambles and the pool is filled with tainted water, but they've scrubbed down the refrigerator, mopped the floors, pulled out carpet and treated the mold. The air conditioning repairman is due any day.

They even have roast beef po-boys in the refrigerator from the Come Back Inn in Kenner.

"Now all I need is to get my dog back," Linda Deichmann said.

Stories like theirs abound in Jefferson Parish, where floodwaters devastated thousands of homes, but where the cleanup is in full swing, thanks to quick restoration of water, sewer and electrical services.

Provisions are still scarce, but more stores are opening every day. Insurance adjusters are beginning to make their rounds, and scores of public and private schools are preparing to open Oct 3.

Debris remains a problem, but the place is coming back, no question about it.

"Jefferson seems almost normal," said Steven Taylor, who reopened his Domino's pizza outlet in Bucktown on Tuesday. "I finally understand the meaning of the word surreal."

But walk across the Hammond Highway Bridge from Taylor's store, and it feels like a war zone. Search and rescue teams are still climbing through windows, searching for bodies.

Helicopters buzz overhead, while private contractors try to move downed trees so they can fix key water mains. Occasionally, a resident, like Beth LeBlanc, will maneuver around a military checkpoint for the agonizing pilgrimage to a destroyed home. Digging through crusted muck at the corner of Bellaire and 40th Street to retrieve a vial of toothpicks and ceramic frog, LeBlanc blamed everyone from the Red Cross to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for failing to help her and her teenage daughter recover from the devastation.

"Where do you go from here?" she said.

While Nagin continues to assert the city is making good progress and that he hopes to begin repopulating the least affected neighborhoods soon, many who have been working in the trenches say much of New Orleans is far from habitable.

Aside from the water problems, there are virtually no working hospitals, police and fire services are depleted, and a new 911 system is just coming online.

That means that the chasm between life in the city and its oldest suburb could be a reality for weeks, if not months to come.

"I wouldn't send my wife in here to live," said New Orleans resident Jack Huerkamp, S&WB operations chief. "Not right now."

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Martha Carr can be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.

The Times-Picayune

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**Employment**

**4165 Warehouse**

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

**4170 Miscellaneous**

**ATTENTION. LOCAL** WORKFORCE AREAS WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES. Displaced citizens, who were forced from their homes because of Hurricane Katrina, can now find temporary work through the One-Stop Workforce Center of Tangipahoa and its satellite offices. Applications are currently being taken for temporary jobs in public and non-profit agencies that provide humanitarian assistance to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina. These jobs will pay $9.00 per hour and are currently limited to individuals who lived or worked in St.Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.Tammany, and Washington parishes. Applicants should be able to show proof of residency or employment in the affected areas. Funding for the temporary jobs is through a National Emergency Grand (NEG) from the United States Departments of Labor and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Applications will be taken from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you are an evacuee from the affected areas and currently reside in: -East Baton Rouge Parish contact: East Baton Rouge Workforce Center (225)358-4579. -Ascension Parish contact: Ascension Parish Workforce Centers. 54 Veterans Avenue, Suite B. Donaldsonville LA (225)473-5712 or 1715 South Burnside, Gonzales LA (225)647-7394. -East and West Feliciana Parishes contact: East and West Feliciana Parishes Workforce Center, 5681 Commerce Street, St.Francisville LA. (225)635-6635. -Iberville Parish contact: Iberville Parish Workforce Center. 23425 Railroad Ave, Suite 1, Plaquemine, LA. (225)687-0969. -Livingston Parish Contact: Livingston Parish Workforce Center. 9384 Florida Blvd-Suite B, Walker LA. (225)667-1874. -Pointe Coupee Parish contact: Pointe Coupee Parish Workforce Center. 305 East Main Street. New Roads LA. (225)638-6852. -St.Helena Parish contact: St.Helena Parish WIA Office/Youth Center. 1011 NW Central RR Ave. Hammond LA. (985)748-7718. -Tangipahoa Parish contact: Tangipahoa Parish Workforce Center. 1745 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond LA. (985)345-4465/(985)902-4200. -West Baton Rouge Parish contact: West Baton Rouge Parish Workforce Center. 149 North Jefferson Ave. Port Allen, LA. (225)343-5915. -Washington Parish contact: Washington Parish Workforce Center. 438 Avenue B. Bogalusa,LA. (985)732-6630. -St.Tammany Parish contact: St.Tammany Parish Workforce Center. 19376 N.Third Street. Covington, LA. (985)893-6254. Displaced workers may be eligible for occupational training.

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more. *Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

**Employment**

**4170 Miscellaneous**

**Dollar Thrifty** Automotive Group, Inc. is hiring in Baton Rouge and New Orleans! A fortune 1000 company and leader in the rental car industry, has multiple opportunities in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. We respect and value our employees, and recognize that they are the key to our Success. We strive to provide a positive work environment and recognize and celebrate our achievements. Positions available: Rental Sales Agents, customer service, inside sales and basic computer skills needed. Greeters, greeting returning customers and basic computer skills needed. Also Service Agents for servicing and cleaning rental cars. We offer: Competitive pay, incentive plan, benefits and flexible scheduling. Please apply in person at: Thrifty Car Rental at Baton Rouge Airport Car Rental Center on Tuesday, Sept 27th between 1-4pm or Thrifty Car Rental in Kenner at 1675 Airline Drive on Wednesday, Sept 28th between 9am-4pm. EOE/M/F/D/V

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

**Full Time** Position for Vet Sales Clerc. Computer skills req. Call 225-875-7533

**GROUNDSKEEPERS Needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartment communities. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Janitorial** - If you are seeking employment, Mr Sparkle janitorial service is now hiring honest, qualified, experienced people. We offer the best pay and working conditions, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. We clean commercial buildings, restaurants and schools. If you can pass our drug test, you will have a job! For more information, call 504-737-6061

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY For** Metairie Construction/Architect firm. Must have MS Office exp. & must be able to multitask while working for multiple people. Heavy phs & filing. Fax resume: 225-383-4186.

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

**4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous**

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/Paralegal. 901-240-7724

**MERCHANDISE**

**5010 Antique/Collectibles**

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

**RECREATION**

**6530 Boats/Accessories/Services**

**HOUSEBOAT** - 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

**6550 Campers/Motor Homes**

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'01 Shasta** 21 foot, Ford engine, low miles, $26,500. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Motorhome, 34 foot, new tires, only 13,000 miles, take over payments, $55,448 or best offer. 813-672-4493

**RESIDENCES FOR SALE**

**7505 Above Canal**

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

**7540 Lakeview-Lakefront**

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

**7545 Metairie Jefferson/Above Causeway (Kenner)**

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

**7550 Metairie Jefferson/Below Causeway**

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**Beautiful Old** Metairie neighborhood, brick home, 3BR, 2 full bath, great room, gas fireplace, large corner lot, 700 Ridgelake Dr. No flooding! Ready to move in, $435,000. By owner 504-733-1965 or 504-458-2116

**Residences for Sale**

**7550 Metairie Jefferson/Below Causeway**

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

**7555 Metairie Jefferson/Above Williams (Kenner)**

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**7560 West Bank**

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**TERRY TOWN** All Brick 3/2 Home, 6 minutes from CBD, 2250 SQ. FT., Great School District, Never Flooded! Must Relocate to TX, $268,500. 504-452-7560 or 985-871-7493

**7570 Mandeville/Covington**

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Bush, New** construction, Whippoorwill Grove, 3029 sf living, 3805 sf under beam, 3/4 Br, 3 Bath, 2.2 acres, $389,000. 985-966-5412 or 985-845-0070

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

**Mande, Green** Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2570 sf, great cond/location, moving new job! New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**Mandeville lg** home, 5br, 4ba, 3965 Living. 1 yr old, 1 acre, top quality, wind damage, Ready in 4 wks. 985-626-9000

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**7580 Slidell**

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**Residences for Sale**

**7580 Slidell**

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

**7590 River Parish East Bank**

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlaceHomes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

**7600 River Parish West Bank**

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

**7615 Mississippi**

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Tylertown, MS.** 5BR/2BA, pond, greenhouse, & much more, $99,500. Call 225-335-3102

**7620 Gulf Coast**

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

**7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes**

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

**7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate**

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

**COMMERCIAL-OFFICES**

**7670 For Sale/Comm./Offices**

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**Commercial-Offices**

**7670 For Sale/Comm./Offices**

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.**

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

**7690 Rent/Lease/Comm./Offices**

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Corporate Headquarters or Residence. Avail. 225-926-5301

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1,500 mo. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**MANY, LA.** Immediate Office Space Available. Resort Hotel located 4 hours North of Baton Rouge and 1.5 hours South of Shreveport has immediate space available for a 5 month period. 11,000 square feet of space could easily be converted to office space - 90 guest rooms available for long-term housing. For additional information contact laresort@yahoo.com or call 281-384-7905

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

**7730 Miscellaneous**

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

**7735 Investment Property**

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarrealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

**7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland**

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

**Real Estate for Sale**

**7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots**

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

**7770 Jefferson Lots**

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

**7780 West Bank Lots**

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

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# Gun battle, two bombings slam Baghdad

## *At least 8 killed in Sadr City fight*

**By Tarek El-Tablawy**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Gunmen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr ambushed an Iraqi patrol in an eastern Baghdad slum Sunday, and U.S. forces joined the 90-minute battle, killing as many as eight attackers in the first significant violence in the neighborhood in nearly a year.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, armed men pulled off a daring armored car robbery, killing two guards and escaping with $850,000, and a suicide car bomber slammed into a convoy carrying Interior Ministry commandos, killing seven of them and two civilians. South of the capital, two separate bicycle bombings in town markets killed at least seven people and wounded dozens. The ominous resurgence of violence in the poor Sadr City region began about 1:30 a.m. when an Iraqi patrol searching for three insurgents came under attack. U.S. forces in the neighborhood joined the battle and reported killing between five and eight of the attackers. Iraqi police said eight were killed. "I am concerned about the events early this morning, but I do not believe this action reflects a pattern of change leading to more violence," said Col. Joseph DiSalvo, commander of U.S. forces in east Baghdad.

Al-Sadr's militia, the al-Mahdi Army, was a repeated problem for American forces until a truce was negotiated about a year ago that allowed some U.S. troops to pull out of Sadr City to join the November assault on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of the capital. Before the truce, al-Sadr's forces had led unsuccessful but bloody uprisings against coalition forces in Kut and the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, all south of Baghdad. With a referendum on Iraq's new constitution less than three weeks away, violence in the poor Shiite district could deepen opposition among al-Sadr's supporters who are bucking mainstream Shiite support for the constitution. Shiite unity has been seen as critical for passage of the basic law, which minority Sunni Muslims by and large oppose.

A statement read to reporters by an official with al-Sadr's office accused U.S. forces of trying to draw them into a battle "aimed at destroying Iraqi towns, particularly those in pro-Sadr areas and ... to prevent al-Sadr followers from voting" in the referendum. The two bicycle bombs hit marketplaces in Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, where one person was killed and 48 wounded. The second, more deadly, bomb went off in Musayyib, about 40 miles south of Baghdad. It killed at least six and wounded 17, including the city police chief, according to police Capt. Muthanna Khalid Ali. Police also reported finding at least seven bodies in four separate locations in Baghdad: six men who had been bound and shot, including one identified as a policeman, and a woman in her 20s who appeared to have been strangled and tortured. Authorities said assailants kidnapped a Baghdad school principal on his way to work, and a mortar shell targeting a western Baghdad Iraqi army checkpoint wounded four Iraqi soldiers. In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, three mortar shells landed in a residential district. One shell hit a house, killing seven members of one family, including children, according to police Capt. Laith Muhammed. A U.S. soldier also died Sunday and two others were injured when their vehicle rolled over while on patrol near the Jordanian border, the military reported. The death raised to 1,914 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair gave no ground in the continuing dispute with Iraqi officials in the southern oil hub of Basra, saying Sunday an arrest warrant against two British soldiers had no legal standing.

"We will do whatever is necessary to protect our troops in any situation," Blair told the BBC. Basra authorities issued the warrants after the two soldiers, working undercover, were arrested Sept. 19, prompting rioting when British armored vehicles surrounded the prison where the soldiers were detained. That night the armored vehicles crashed through the prison wall and freed the men. British authorities said they were in the hands of militiamen loyal to al-Sadr, not the police.



AP PHOTO

Emergency workers carry the body of a civilian killed in a car explosion Sunday in Baghdad. A suicide bomber struck an Interior Ministry convoy.

In the meantime, the Basra governor has demanded Britain apologize for the incident, in which five Iraqis reportedly died. Gov. Mohammed al-Waili also said Britain must pay compensation to victims, and he ordered government officials to end cooperation with the British. Blair, in rejecting the warrants, said he had been surprised by the strength of the insurgency that has been tearing at Iraq since the late summer of 2003.

"No, I didn't expect quite the same sort of ferocity from every single element in the Middle East that came in and is doing their best to disrupt the political process. But I have absolutely no doubt as to what we should do. We should stick with it," he said.

The Basra mayhem and subsequent bad blood between the British and residents in the predominantly Shiite region appeared to have its origins earlier this month when British forces arrested local al-Mahdi Army boss Sheikh Ahmed Fartosi. The al-Mahdi Army and another Shiite militia, the Badr Brigade, are believed to have heavily infiltrated the police force in the south, taking orders from religious leaders rather than government officials. The Badr Brigade is the armed wing of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, whose powerful leader has just issued a call for Shiites to support the constitution. The split between the followers of al-Sadr and SCIRI leader Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim could produce a division under which the more radical al-Sadr followers join Iraq's Sunni majority in a voting bloc to reject the new charter.

Adoption of the new constitution is viewed in Washington as a vital step in transforming Iraq into a democratic bastion in the Middle East. Rejection of the charter would be a major setback for the U.S. strategy in Iraq.

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AP PHOTO

Charlotte and Doug Smette of Makoti, N.D., whose son Keith, seen in photo, was killed in Iraq, comfort each other Sunday during a rally supporting the war in Iraq. Sunday's gathering on the National Mall in Washington came a day after a massive anti-war protest was staged in the nation's capital.

# Supporters of Iraq war take their turn on national stage

*They praise troops, criticize protesters at rally on Mall*

**By Elisabeth Goodridge**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Support for U.S. troops fighting abroad mixed with anger toward anti-war demonstrators at home as hundreds of people, far fewer than organizers had expected, rallied Sunday on the National Mall just a day after tens of thousands protested against the war in Iraq.

"No matter what your ideals are, our sons and daughters are fighting for our freedom," said Marilyn Faatz, who drove from New Jersey to attend the rally. "We are making a mockery out of this. And we need to stand united, but we are not."

About 400 people gathered near a stage on an eastern segment of the mall, a large patchwork American flag serving as a backdrop. Amid banners and signs proclaiming support for U.S. troops, several speakers hailed the effort to bring democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan and denounced people who protest it.

Many demonstrators focused their ire at Cindy Sheehan, the California woman whose protest near President Bush's Texas home last summer galvanized the anti-war movement. Sheehan was among the speakers at Saturday's rally near the Washington Monument on the western part of the mall, an event that attracted an estimated 100,000 people.

"The group who spoke here the other day did not represent the American ideals of freedom, liberty and spreading that around the world," Sen. Jeff Sessions, an Alabama Republican, told the crowd. "I frankly don't know what they represent, other than to blame America first."

One sign on the mall read "Cindy Sheehan doesn't speak for me" and another "Arrest the traitors"; it listed Sheehan's name first among several people who have spoken against the war.

Melody Vigna, 44, of Linden, Calif., said she wants nothing to do with Sheehan and others at nearby Camp Casey, an anti-war site set up to honor her son, Casey, who was killed in Iraq.

**"I know how much my husband does and how hard he works, and I feel like they don't even recognize that and give him the respect he deserves. I want him to know and I want his unit to know that America is behind them, Cindy doesn't speak for us, and that we believe in what they are doing."**

SHERRI FRANCESCON, wife of Marine serving in Iraq

"Our troops are over there fighting for our rights, and if she was in one of those countries she would not be able to do that," Vigna said.

The husband of Sherri Francescon, 24, of Camp Lejeune, N.C., serves in the Marine Corps in Iraq. One of the many military wives who spoke during the rally, Francescon said the anti-war demonstration has left her frustrated.

"I know how much my husband does and how hard he works, and I feel like they don't even recognize that and give him the respect he deserves," Francescon said. "I want him to know and I want his unit to know that America is behind them, Cindy doesn't speak for us, and that we believe in what they are doing."

Organizers of Sunday's demonstration acknowledged that their rally would be much smaller than the anti-war protest but had hoped that as many as 20,000 people would turn out.

On Saturday, demonstrators opposed to the war in Iraq surged past the White House in the largest anti-war protest in the nation's capital since the U.S. invasion. The rally stretched through the night, a marathon of music, speechmaking and dissent on the mall.

National polls have found steadily declining support for the war in Iraq, with a majority of Americans now believing the war was a mistake.

In an AP-Ipsos poll this month, only 37 percent approved or leaned toward approval of how Bush has handled the situation in Iraq; strong disapproval outweighed strong approval by 2-1, 46 percent to 22 percent.

# IRA says farewell to arms

*Destruction of weapons reported*

**By Shawn Pogatchnik**
Associated Press writer

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND – International weapons inspectors have supervised the full disarmament of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, a long-sought goal of Northern Ireland's peace process, an aide to the process' monitor said Sunday.

The IRA permitted two independent witnesses, including a Methodist minister and a Roman Catholic priest close to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, to view the secret disarmament work conducted by officials from Canada, Finland and the United States, the aide to retired Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain said on condition of anonymity.

The office of de Chastelain, who in recent weeks has been in secret locations overseeing the weapons destruction, scheduled a news conference for today in Belfast.

The aide said the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning news conference would detail the scrapping of many tons of IRA weaponry this month at a confidential location in the Republic of Ireland. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Both witnesses — the Rev. Harold Good, a former president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Rev. Alex Reid, a Catholic priest — also will state what they saw.

The breakthrough should smash the biggest stumbling block in Northern Ireland's peace process since Britain opened negotiations with Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party, in December 1994.

On Saturday, Adams told thousands of supporters in Dublin that IRA disarmament would have "a huge impact" on peace efforts.

Adams, a veteran IRA commander, also said Sinn Fein stood ready to make major electoral and diplomatic gains once the IRA disarmed.

Unfortunately, most politicians and analysts agree, the IRA move is coming years too late to kick-start the revival of a Roman Catholic-Protestant administration, the central dream of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. That complex, landmark agreement required the IRA to disarm by May 2000.

Years of denial and delay have sharpened Protestant distrust of Sinn Fein. Moderates willing to take risks were trounced in elections by hard-liners.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, whose uncompromising Democratic Unionist Party represents most Protestants today, has dismissed the coming IRA moves as inadequate. Paisley insists on photographs, a detailed record and a Paisley-approved Protestant clergyman to serve as an independent witness.

A senior Democratic Unionist, Jeffrey Donaldson, said the IRA's apparent refusal to provide any photos and its refusal to use a Protestant minister nominated by his party as a witness meant that many Protestants would not fully believe the IRA moves.

"I don't think we're going to get that level of transparency tomorrow, and I think that's most unfortunate," Donaldson said. "People want to see what has happened.

"The witnesses have been appointed by the IRA," he said. "It does diminish the credibility of whatever is going to happen tomorrow."

The IRA said in July that its 35-year campaign to overthrow British rule of Northern Ireland by force, which claimed nearly 1,800 lives before its 1997 suspension, was officially over.

The IRA said it had commanded members to "dump arms," but it was vague about whether this meant every single one. This left wiggle room to retain firearms for crime, intimidation and self-protection.

Britain first demanded IRA arms decommissioning, a deliberately vague term designed to give the IRA maximum flexibility to decide how weapons should be discarded, in December 1993.

The IRA's stockpile, particularly tons of Semtex plastic explosive, gave it the ability to bomb London for decades if desired. Only if the IRA gave up the weapons, Britain insisted, would Sinn Fein gain a place in negotiations on Northern Ireland's future.

The IRA did not budge and abandoned a 1994 cease-fire with a 2-ton truck bomb in London's financial district in February 1996. When Prime Minister Tony Blair assumed power in 1997, he allowed Sinn Fein into talks with a renewed cease-fire but no disarmament.

Ever since, it's proved a never-ending battle to keep Protestant politicians on the road to compromise with Sinn Fein.

# U.S. copter crashes, killing 5

**By Carlotta Gall**
New York Times

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — A U.S. military Chinook helicopter crashed Sunday in the mountains of southern Afghanistan, killing all five crew members on board, the U.S. military said in a statement. There were no indications of enemy fire involved in the crash, the statement said.

A Taliban spokesman, Abdul Latif Hakimi, in comments to news agencies, claimed that Taliban fighters had shot the helicopter down, using "modern weapons." But the chief spokesman for American-led forces in Afghanistan, Col. James Yonts, said there had been no reports from the scene of hostile fire.

Yonts said troops had reached the crash site and an investigation would begin. The crash follows several other helicopter crashes this year, some from bad weather or technical problems.

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We hope no other such storm ever comes our way, but if it does, we are here to serve you, our community and the Gulf South.

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Monday
September 26, 2005

EDITORIALS • B-6



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## *Rebuilding effort should be localized*

It's early yet, but the clean up of New Orleans has begun, and the rebuilding is being openly discussed.

And we are already moving quickly and boldly in the wrong direction.

That's what Russell Kelly told Mayor Ray Nagin and various state and local officials during the mayor's briefing session in Baton Rouge last week.

Kelly, a real estate developer specializing in affordable housing, said he has driven the city streets in the weeks since Hurricane Katrina's rampage. And what he found was a clean up effort manned by people who certainly weren't from New Orleans and may not have been from the United States.

"They are foreign. They are Latin," he said. "It's disheartening to see people come from other countries and make the money that they they're making. We are in the FEMA assistance lines and they are in employment lines."

### Work for locals

It is entirely possible that these workers are full-fledged American citizens. But even if they are, it is unlikely they are from Louisiana. Kelly said he looked at the company names on the workers' matching t-shirts.

"I didn't recognize a single company. That's why I don't remember the names. None of them were local companies," Kelly said.

If these men were engaged in some highly specialized work, perhaps it could be argued that finding New Orleanians to do such work would be difficult. But that seems not to be the case in many instances.

"It appears that they are just laborers, nonskilled laborers," Kelly said.

Blair Boutte, a New Orleans bail bondsman who evacuated to Baton Rouge, echoed Kelly's concern.

Boutte, who is black, said he would have welcomed the sight of white workers from other parts of the metro area. But he was upset that people from out of state and possibly out of the country were being hired to do work New Orleanians could be hired to do.

### Former ceiling crumbling

It will be impossible to get every New Orleanian to move back to the city. Some are making better lives for themselves elsewhere and can hardly be faulted for staying where they are.

But there are plenty of residents who are longing to get home and have yet to make lives for themselves in other cities. These are the people who should be at the top of the list of prospective workers in the rebuilding effort.

Of course, you can hardly entice them back if you're only willing to pay poverty level wages.

But in the wake of the disaster, President Bush suspended the Davis-Bacon Act that required employers to pay locally prevailing wages to construction workers on federally financed projects. The declaration applies to parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

At the same time, many contracts being given to corporations are not subjected to competitive bidding.

In essence, there's no ceiling preventing sky-high profits for these corporations and not much of a floor to ensure that wages to workers are not abysmally low.

There is an intelligent way to rebuild our city.

This, however, isn't it.




STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Gary Pizani of Crown Point paddles by his family's home Sunday. Members of the Lafitte-Barataria-Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department have rescued 15 people from flooded homes.

# Lafitte area submerges under Rita's downpour

## *Rising water in canal had West Jeff scared, Broussard says*

**By Matt Scallan and Rob Nelson**
Staff writers

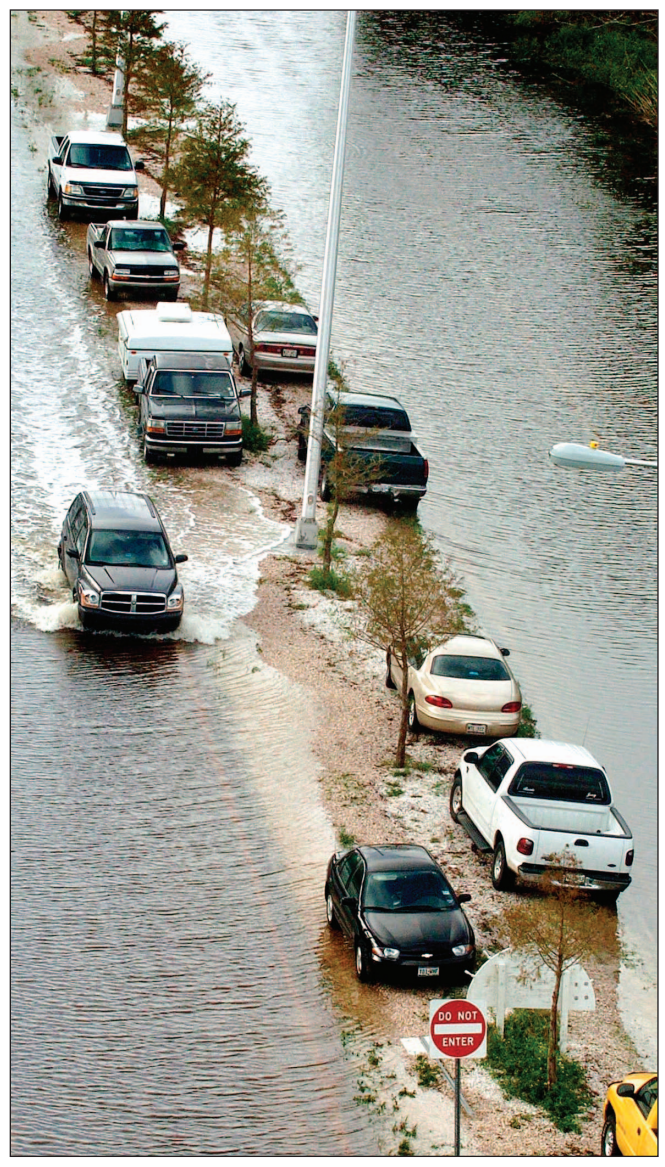
Strong south winds pushed more water into Jean Lafitte and neighboring communities along Bayou Barataria on Sunday, but by day's end, the wind and water began to subside.

Hit hardest were unincorporated Barataria and Lafitte, which are closer to Barataria Bay than the town of Jean Lafitte. But Jean Lafitte's mayor, Tim Kerner, who called it the worst flooding since Hurricane Juan in 1985, said residents on the back streets of his town of 2,200 had water just as deep.

"We got wind damage from Katrina, then we got water from a storm that made landfall 190 miles away," he said. "The people here have gone through a lot."

Rita's southerly winds also drove water from the Gulf of Mexico into the Harvey Canal, raising water levels above the level of the Mississippi River and threatening to flood West Jefferson, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard said Sunday. Crews quickly worked

*See* **LAFITTE,** *B-3*




A sport utility vehicle pushes through high water Sunday off the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge in Lafitte. Several cars were parked on the neutral ground to try to avoid flooding.

# Letten won't let probe expire

## *Federal case involves Morial's allies, uncle*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

While the double whammy of monster hurricanes will slow the federal probe of corruption in former Mayor Marc Morial's administration and other government agencies, the multi-layered investigation is alive and well, according to U.S. Attorney Jim Letten.



**U.S. Attorney Jim Letten** Also will watch the billions of dollars flowing into N.O.

"A lot of New Orleans' present woes are due, to a significant degree, to corruption over generations," Letten said during a recent interview. "Therefore, we recognize that at this time, pursuing corruption cases is more important than ever."

Not surprisingly, the Hurricane Katrina evacuation wreaked havoc on the prosecutor's operation, scattering staffers across parts of Texas and the southeastern United States.

But by the first week of September, Letten said he had accounted for each of his 112 employees and established a beachhead in Baton Rouge.

With the assistance of David Dugas, the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, Letten said he has found office space for about half of his 59 assistant U.S. attorneys. Those aides who haven't been able to find temporary housing in Baton Rouge are in regular contact, working from federal offices in Lafayette, Houma and other cities throughout the region.

To ensure that no pending cases grind to a halt, Letten said retrieved computer records, evidence and files from the Hale Boggs federal building in New Orleans, Letten said he thinks any losses will be minimal.

*See* **LETTEN,** *B-2*

# Dry parts of St. Bernard will open to residents

## *Those in areas hit by Rita must wait*

**From staff reports**

St. Bernard Parish residents who live in areas that were not flooded by Hurricane Rita will be allowed back into the parish today, officials said.

Residents will be allowed to enter beginning at dawn, but they must possess identification to prove they live in St. Bernard. A strict dawn-to-dusk curfew will be in place, parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro said.

The parish will be open to all residents, except those living in areas that took on water as a result of Rita. Those areas include

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *B-2*

# NO SHOES, BUT LOTS OF SOUL

## *Bootless paramedic wades miles to give generator to hospital*

HURRICANE HEROES

*Ex-Marine's mission was to save cut-off hospital*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

Paramedic Thomas Jordan didn't intend to wade miles from Mid-City to the Central Business District and back bare-footed; it just worked out that way.

On the Monday morning after Hurricane Katrina blew through New Orleans, Jordan and two fellow paramedics awaited assignment at the Emergency Medical Services headquarters at 1700 Moss St., beside Bayou St. John. As the floodwaters began rising, Jordan and the others hauled a generator, fans and television set to the second floor of their quarters, intending to wait out the water in relative comfort.

But as the hours passed, without word from his superiors, Jordan, 42, an ex-Marine, became restless. So he began wading along the bank of the bayou, heading toward Lindy Boggs Medical Center, a quarter-mile away, to check out conditions

*See* **HERO,** *B-2*




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**Thomas Jordan:** New Orleans paramedic slogged through the city for four days rescuing people. 'It was a major disaster. I've never been to a war, so I can't say it was like a war zone,' he said

# Paramedics towed 120-lb. machine down bayou

**HERO,** *from B-1*

there. He decided to wade barefooted.

"I knew the water was horrendous," he said, "and I only had one pair of boots. I guess I was in denial, like the water was a temporary thing, like the water was going to go down right away."

Little did he know he was embarking on a four-day odyssey.

The hospital was without power. Cell phones were useless. The staff attended patients as rising water forced people from the surrounding neighborhood to the entrances. The question was: Did anyone know their situation? Jordan assured doctors he would get the word out.

He began a three-hour trek through the tree littered, thigh-deep floodwater up Canal Street to Loyola Avenue and the New Orleans Health Department at City Hall, where he delivered the news of the cut-off hospital. He found his superiors to be as helpless as the hospital he hoped to save.

Jordan was told to go to the Superdome and wait, but he couldn't face more waiting. He wrapped his feet in sheets to protect them from the broken glass littering the streets and waded to Tulane University Hospital, where he spent the night.

On Tuesday, Jordan helped transport hospitalized babies to the roof for evacuation. He felt compelled to return to Lindy Boggs. So he slogged his way back to the Mid-City hospital. He had no good news to report.

"I told them, City Hall wasn't coming," he said. "Everybody's in a bind. You're on your own."

But after delivering the grim message, he asked whether there was any way he could help. The hospital needed a generator. Jordon, of course, knew where to get one. All he needed was a boat.

Bill Lavender, 53, a poet and teacher from a nearby neighborhood, had borrowed a rowboat earlier in the day. Jordan spotted him as he delivered a stranded neighbor to the crowded hospital.

"He gave me the hard-sell to row him down Moss Street to get this 500-watt generator," Lavender said by phone from Pennsylvania. "He was barefoot. I was telling him I already knew somebody who'd stepped on a rusty nail. This guy was truly a hero. He was working so hard to do something for this hospital."

It took some convincing to get his paramedic colleagues to give up the generator, but eventually Jordan and the others were towing the 120-pound machine down the bayou toward the hospital on a plastic raft.

"I told them, 'You'll be heroes. People will write songs about you.'"

In addition to the generator, Jordan had retrieved his boots.

His adventures continued for two more days. He borrowed a canoe and ferried people to a drop-off point at Delgado Community College, then took a frightening after-sundown trip through the flooded streets to a police station where he hoped, but failed to find his wife Jean, a New Orleans police officer. He returned to Tulane hospital, then rowed back to Mid-City again to pick up a stranded ambulance driver. He paddled doctors from hospital to hospital and before he bicycled – on an abandoned bicycle – to the dry safety of an Algiers fire station Thursday, he even found time to rescue a woman's wedding ring from a flooded car.

Jordan struggled to sum up his experience.

"I don't know how to describe it," he said. "It was a major disaster. I've never been to a war, so I can't say it was like a war zone."

**SEND US YOUR HERO STORIES**

The Times-Picayune would like to hear the extraordinary tales of heroic acts performed by you, your family or friends. Please e-mail a synopsis of your tale, along with your phone number and e-mail address, to tpkatrinaheroes@yahoo.com.

**The temporary holding center, as of Sunday morning, has booked almost 400 people on various allegations since it opened a week after Hurricane Katrina.**



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

A suspect has his mug shot taken on Sunday after being booked at Camp Greyhound, located in the Union Passenger Terminal in New Orleans. The bus and train depot has become a temporary jail for suspects arrested in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

# N.O. bus depot becomes city's hottest set of bars

*But this is definitely no place to hang out*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

The passenger terminal off Loyola Avenue has long been closed to Greyhound buses and Amtrak trains, but the station's newest business – locking up arrestees in the wake of two deadly hurricanes – rolls.

Louisiana prison officials happily turned the place into a temporary jail after the demise of the region's parish prisons and other holding tanks, dubbing it Camp Greyhound. And with aluminum fencing, razor wire, some out-of-town volunteers and computers, they built a temporary door for the criminal justice system.

Rodney C. Lewis Sr., stuck it out in the New Orleans region for Hurricane Rita, only to find himself booked with a domestic violence charge and waiting in an open-air chain link and razor wire holding cell for his transfer to a state prison in Baton Rouge.

Lewis, 43, was hauled into Camp Greyhound in the wee hours of Sunday morning. Before noon, he was en route to prison, where showers and a bed awaited him, along with the possibility of formal charges. He was one of two suspects locked up early Sunday morning, but there were more where he came from.

As Lewis and his cellmate waited for a lift to prison, Jefferson Parish deputies dropped off a small vanload of new arrestees, including three women, a barefoot man with a fresh black eye and a young man with a huge black T-shirt falling off one shoulder and dirty socks.

The small group reflected desperation, poverty and loneliness, just as it did for the people that were locked up there almost a month ago. An officer asked one woman if she had a chance to evacuate. "Yes, I did but I stayed," she replied. "In Kenner."

The woman's hands were bound by the plastic handcuff-type bindings used in such harried times. She posed for her mug shot in front of a white wall with handwritten measurements scrawled in black marker.

They joined an odd club: People busted during the havoc of back-to-back hurricanes in a region largely ruined by wind, floodwaters and fires.

Looting remains the No. 1 crime of the post-Katrina and Rita ravages. The temporary jail's logbook included a few recent arrestees booked with looting in St. Bernard Parish.

The temporary holding center, as of Sunday morning, has booked almost 400 people on various allegations since it opened a week after Hurricane Katrina.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's deputies continued to lead in arrests, taking in 219 people – more than twice the number of the New Orleans Police Department, the second leading arrest agency, which had 85. Kenner Police brought in 56 arrests since the storm, while the rest of the region's law enforcement units, from the National Guard and State Police to the St. Bernard Sheriff's Department, contributed in single-digit numbers of the newly arrested. Sixty of those arrested to date have been women.

"It's for whoever is in need of a jail," Poret said.

With Criminal District Court and Central Lockup rendered uninhabitable by floodwaters, Camp Greyhound has become a slow-paced, yet efficient picture of law enforcement. State prison inmates dressed in their drab green uniforms, locked up long before the storms, swept and mopped Sunday. A handmade sign hanging on one entrance announced, "We're taking New Orleans back."

Inside, police officers, federal agents, prosecutors and soldiers strode about. District Attorney Eddie Jordan's office was established in the gift shop, next to souvenir shot glasses. A cot was there for one of Jordan's assistants, who worked a 24-hour shift.

The population at Camp Greyhound, now being called Camp Amtrak and formerly "Angola South," according to paperwork, changes rapidly, since most inmates are shuttled up to the Hunt Correctional Center near Baton Rouge within 24 hours.

"We don't house them that long," said Troy Poret, a major with the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, who has worked at the makeshift jail from the beginning. "I try my best to get rid of them."

Illicit drugs racked up some 50 arrests, along with 21 cases of public intoxication. One person was booked with self-mutilation. While violent cases were few and far between – one second-degree murder, two rapes, nine attempted murder charges and 16 aggravated assaults on police officers – they included grim acts of terror.

"We had the guy in here who the little girl at the airport identified as raping her," Poret said.

Many of the suspects were booked with multiple counts of various violations. Curfew violations littered the arrest logbook, along with 33 people for resisting arrest.

What passes for a crime trend in New Orleans these days reflects the city's slow but sure return to a fragile normalcy.

"It got busy one night, the night they opened up a bar," Poret said, referring to a strip club that resumed operations within the past week and the few bars in the French Quarter that never seemed to close. "They was coming in drunk."

Gwen Filosa can be reached at gwen.filosa@gmail.com.

# Letten warns those thinking of fleeing

**LETTEN,** *from B-1*

On the Wednesday after Katrina made landfall, Letten said U.S. District Court Judge Ginger Berrigan signed paperwork that continues for 90 days all matters before the court.

"We had no choice," he said. "We recognized that due to the unavailability of personnel and facilities, there had to be an interruption of the process.

"Without question, our ability to run down leads and do interviews will be impacted. But none of the work we have done is destroyed or permanently degraded. We have every confidence that in the long run, our ability to investigate will remain intact."

Among the high-profile cases in the works before Katrina effectively shut down the city are:

▶The grand jury indictment in June of three Morial allies — restaurateur Stan "Pampy" Barre, former city property management director Kerry DeCay and businessman Reginald Walker — for allegedly skimming hundreds of thousands of dollars from an $81 million energy-management contract with Johnson Controls of Milwaukee. A fourth major player, Johnson Controls project manager Terry Songy, also has been charged but is cooperating with the government. Six subcontractors also face charges in the scheme.

▶The indictment in August of Morial's uncle, Glenn Haydel, on charges of theft, wire fraud and money laundering. Haydel, who enjoyed a lucrative contract to manage the Regional Transit Authority during his nephew's years at City Hall, is accused of orchestrating a scheme to fleece the RTA of more than a half-million dollars. Barre, DeCay, Walker and Haydel all have pleaded innocent, pledging to defend themselves vigorously.

Others who have been touched by the far-ranging probe include Morial's former sanitation director Lynn Wiltz and several Morial insiders, including the former mayor's brother, Jacques Morial; lawyer Roy Rodney; longtime political consultant Bill Schultz; Sam Kogos, a fixture on many of the city's and School Board's lucrative insurance committees; and Ray Valdes, a financier who handled several large-scale lease deals for the Morial administration.

Letten declined to speculate on how soon after the 90-day continuance pre-trial conferences on the indictments or grand jury proceedings on any of the other cases may begin.

But privately, lawyers familiar with the situation say major developments in the corruption probe are unlikely before next year.

"How soon we get cranked up depends on a number of factors," Letten said. Those include judges' schedules, courtroom availability and the ability of grand jurors, defense attorneys and their clients to return to New Orleans.

"I don't want to paint myself into a corner," he said. "The accused are equally as displaced as we are. Each case is distinct. But it's in the interest of justice to move forward as soon as it is practical."

Asked whether he is concerned that any targets might flee the state or the country to escape prosecution, Letten acknowledged that possibility exists.

"Anyone who is free on bond possesses the physical ability to abscond," he said. "But we rely on the knowledge of these individuals that we have the resources, the energy and the time to locate them. And I hope and believe that all of them will think twice before they decide to go anywhere.

"I know this much for certain. The courts will take a very dim view of anyone who takes advantage of this situation."

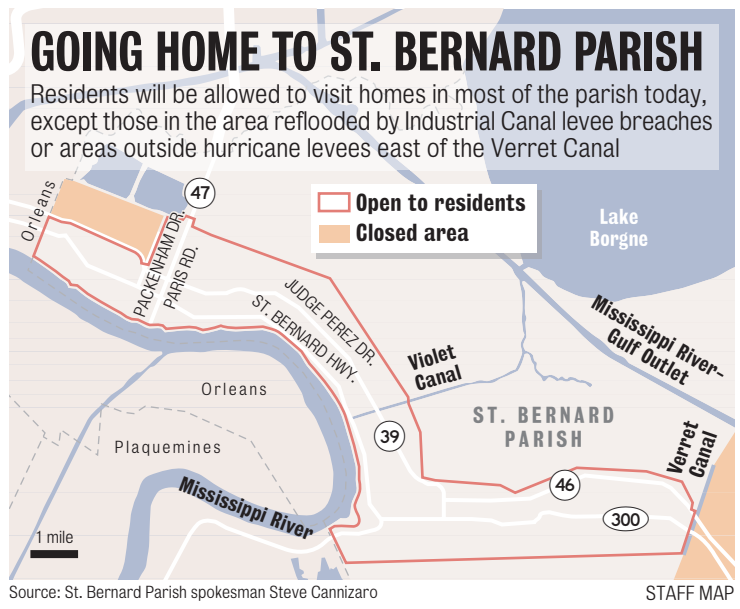
As for the ability of his office to break new ground on cases still under investigation, Letten said that may be difficult in the short term.

"But if that's true, it won't be for long." he said. "If there are leads out there, we have the resources to follow them."

And Letten said his staff will keep a close eye on the billions of federal dollars that will be flowing into New Orleans and surrounding communities as the massive, post-Katrina restoration effort begins in earnest.

"Whether it's FEMA fraud or predator fraud, we know there are some who will seek to exploit and take advantage of the money flowing in for rebuilding contracts, loans, grants or whatever," he said.

"We are going to be keenly focused on any and all activities related to funding. And we will relentlessly pursue anyone who tries to enrich themselves at the expense of taxpayers or victims of this tragedy."




Source: St. Bernard Parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro STAFF MAP

# Rita won't delay Jeff schools opening

**From staff reports**

Despite Hurricane Rita, Jefferson Parish Public Schools are pressing forward with their plan to open most schools in the district on Oct. 3, officials said.

School spokesman Jeff Nowakowski maintained that parish schools were not "any more damaged than they were by Katrina" and that registration for all new students will still begin, as scheduled, on Tuesday.

"There are no changes," he said. "We are set to go."

As of last week, seven schools still had severe enough damage to probably put off an Oct. 3 opening, school officials reported. Those are A.C. Alexander Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Terrytown Elementary, Woodmere Elementary, the independently operated Jefferson Community School and the John Martyn and Thomas Jefferson schools.

Officials had deemed 52 schools to be in ready condition, while 28 were listed as having some damages, but in most cases not enough to prevent an Oct. 3 reopening.

Nowakowski said that those Jefferson Parish school students who were forced to move to a different part of the parish post-Katrina must re-register with the school system.

However, those students who can return to their homes in their original school boundary areas are not required to register, he said.

Registration begins Tuesday and continues through Saturday, Oct. 1.

For additional information, call 1-866-563-6559 or visit www.jppss.k12.la.us.

# Safety is top priority for those returning

**ST. BERNARD,** *from B-1*

the section north of Judge Perez Drive between the Orleans Parish line and Packenham Drive and areas east of the Verret Canal, officials said.

Water in those areas is receding and officials expect the entire parish will be relatively dry by mid-week.

Hundreds of St. Bernard residents began streaming into the parish on Sept. 17, part of a two-week plan to let people access the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the parish. But the plan was halted last week when Rita turned into the Gulf of Mexico and an evacuation order was issued for the entire parish.

With area levees damaged by the first storm, Rita sent water rushing through a wide breach along the Industrial Canal and into the lower 9th Ward, Arabi and sections of Chalmette.

Now, instead of the phased-in plan that was aborted last week, parish officials decided to allow residents in all areas not flooded during Rita to return to their homes.

Cannizaro said residents planning to enter their homes should bring boots, gloves and masks and should be mindful of dangers such as nails, slippery walkways and debris. He said at least 10 people who entered the parish during the first phase suffered cuts and other injuries.

# Rita seems reluctant to leave St. Tammany

## *Water slow to drain in Madisonville*

**By Christine Harvey**
St. Tammany bureau

Jonathan and Monica Sherman consider themselves lucky that Hurricane Rita didn't cause water to rise higher than the first step leading to the second-floor entrance of their Madisonville home.

A few weeks earlier, the water was waist-deep on Bordeaux Court and a foot high inside their home. Theirs was only part of the damage Hurricane Katrina inflicted on roughly 40 percent of the town's homes.

Up to 6 feet of water flooded the Madisonville area when Katrina blew into town, only to be followed shortly thereafter by Rita, which caused flooding as high as 5 feet in some parts of town, said Mayor Peter Gitz.

The older homes south of Louisiana 22, as well as the neighborhoods near Louisiana 1077 and Johnson Street, received the worst of the water on both occasions, Gitz said.

However, unlike the flooding associated with Katrina, which Gitz said came in fast and left just as quickly, the water brought by Rita is receding at a much slower pace.

Water remained along Main and Pine streets south of Jahncke Street on Sunday afternoon, although a few pickup trucks managed to cross the pools without much trouble. The Joseph S. Koepp Complex on Pine Street resembled a lagoon, but the blocks approaching Louisiana 22 were dry.

Debra Baker and her husband, Pat Fanning, have been staying at the Pine Street home of a friend for the past couple of weeks. Katrina destroyed their house in the Lakeview section of New Orleans, as well as most of their possessions.

Baker said she considered evacuating again this weekend when Rita's waters appeared on the verge of flooding her new home. Luckily, the water fell short of entering, coming to the top step of the raised home's front porch.

"It was really frightening," she said, noting that alligators appeared in both the front and back yards following the storm. "You kept seeing it gradually increasing. You just wake up every 20 minutes to make sure you won't be carried off floating."

Standing water continued to cause problems Sunday afternoon in the low-lying areas of St. Tammany Parish. In Mandeville, waves continued to wash across Lakeshore Drive, leaving about a foot and a half of standing water, said Rodney Hart, deputy director of the parish's office of homeland security and emergency preparedness.

Water as deep as 4 feet remained in Lacombe at the southernmost end of Lake Drive, Hart said. In Slidell, the Palm Lake subdivision remained under water Sunday, with Palm and Camellia drives and Canulette Road particularly hard-hit, said Rob Callahan, spokesman for the Slidell Police Department.

Hart attributed the slow draining of water to west and southwest winds holding water in Lake Pontchartrain. He said he expects the water to recede fully by mid-week, when a cold front is expected to bring northerly winds to the area and allow the water to move out faster.

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Christine Harvey can be reached at charve1@lsu.edu.

# 'The mosquitoes just about ate us up'



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

The town of Lafitte, ABOVE, was one of the hardest hit by flooding spawned by Hurricane Rita. The flooding, which one local official called the worst the area has seen in two decades, forced people to get around by boat, TOP, to flee their homes or rescue stranded residents.

**LAFITTE,** *from B-1*

to contain the threat, sandbagging weak spots on the canal's banks.

"Had we gotten 4 or 5 inches of rain along with this wind, we would have been in serious trouble," Broussard said. "Because there wasn't much rain, we were able to pump the drainage canals down to the mud to protect us."

### 'I'm staying'

The Harvey Canal and the flooding of the Lafitte, Crown Point and Barataria areas consumed parish officials Saturday, who were forced to rescue hundreds of residents who ignored a mandatory evacuation order issued Thursday.

Wearing shorts and sandals as he slogged through the little lake that surrounded Town Hall in Jean Lafitte, Kerner tried to talk a constituent into leaving Sunday.

The man, who would identify himself only as "Rock 'n Roll Rod," his girlfriend and several other friends had found high ground near the town's senior center and had spent the night there after their homes flooded.

"The mosquitoes just about ate us up," he said. Still, the man had no intention of leaving. "My mother and my kids are out of here, but I'm staying," he said.

"Well, I wish you could leave, but take care of yourself," Kerner replied.

Reserve police officer Ronald Dufrene helped people tack tarps onto roofs and has spent weeks handing out MREs and supplies to Katrina's victims. On Sunday, he was using a pirogue to pull supplies out of his now-flooded house.

"First it was wind, then it was water," he said.

Members of the Lafitte-Barataria-Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department pulled 15 people out of homes.

"I think everybody who wants to go has been evacuated," said Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-large John Young. Young was discussing the town's needs with Kerner: specifically, pumps and drinking water.

### Community jells

Even in the chaos and confusion as water rushed through the Lafitte area, a sense of community came through, said Lt. j.g. Aaron Green of the Coast Guard.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Dale Dehart of Crown Point leaves her home Sunday for higher ground on Lafitte-Larose Highway to try to catch a ride to her job at West Jefferson Medical Center. Her neighbor, Cliff Faggard, uses a four-wheeler on the other side of the road to move his belongings.

The pilot, who has been stationed at the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse for two years, and a rescue swimmer flew to the flooded area Saturday, responding to reports of three women and an infant trapped in their house.

Under Green's steady hand, the swimmer plucked the infant and its mother from the waterlogged mess and placed them in a metal basket that lifted them up to a helicopter. A second woman was also saved through the basket, and a third was pulled up while strapped to the swimmer.

The operation took less than 30 minutes, Green said. But he noticed a small army of rescue boats, including those operated by Lafitte residents, that was already in the trenches when the Coast Guard arrived.

"Everybody was down there trying to get people out of those houses," he said.

Green took the four people to Belle Chasse, where relatives picked them up.

Green described residents' efforts to save neighbors as well as groups of residents huddled at homes on higher ground.

"You could see the community coming together and seeking that higher ground," he said.




STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**BOURG:** With more than 18 inches of water in his house, Farel Carlos, RIGHT, decided it was time to put the "For Sale" sign in front of his house. "Waterfront property," he says of his home in Bourg, as his granddaughter Caitlin Boudreaux plays in the water.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**CHAUVIN:** On a cat-rescue mission near his Terrebonne Parish home, Larry White, ABOVE, dumps water from his boots after wading through waist-high floodwaters. His cat Sugar also got wet in the rescue when she jumped from his pirogue.

**CHAUVIN:** A major flood did not keep the U.S. Postal Service, BELOW, from delivering mail on Saturday, much to the surprise of Terrebonne Parish resident April Lecompte, who returned to her flooded home on Sunday.




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

# UP ON THE BAYOU

Hurricane Rita brought high water to the bayous of Terrebonne, engulfing homes and leaving people and animals stranded. As Rita passed on Saturday, its winds shoved water from the Gulf of Mexico through the low-lying lands, topping levees unequipped for hurricane protection. Faced with as much as 9 feet of water, residents treated the disaster with humor and aplomb.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**BOURG:** Karen McCoy, center, gets a hug from her friend Tina Robichaux in a boat outside McCoy's house, which was flooded after Hurricane Rita in Terrebonne Parish.

**CHAUVIN:** Cabrita the goat, RIGHT, at first stayed afloat with three empty plastic milk jugs, until owner Lynn Theroit gave him his life jacket. Theroit, a shrimper living near Chauvin, must live on his boat after he and his family lost their home to the hurricane.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

# SOAKED BY RITA



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**DELCAMBRE:** All that remains from a mobile home are the steps Sunday. After swirling in the Gulf as a terrifying Category 5, Hurricane Rita made landfall as a Category 3 in tiny, evacuated Sabine Pass, Texas.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

**CAMERON:** The city of Cameron on the southwest border of Louisiana was devastated by Hurricane Rita. In 1957, Hurricane Audrey nearly destroyed Cameron.

Everyone's saying it: It could have been so much worse. Hurricane Rita ignored populous, flood-prone Houston. The petroleum industry avoided a direct hit. But those sentiments are little consolation to Louisiana's southwest coast, now underwater.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**DELCAMBRE:** A Mercedes-Benz is submerged near Delcambre on Sunday. The water in the tiny Cajun town is slowly receding from the storm surge.




STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

**NEW IBERIA:** David Copell and his son, Tristan, 7, check out the water covering part of Lake Peigneur Road near New Iberia on Sunday. They were trying to determine whether residents at the end of the road needed to be evacuated.

The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS

## Missing our customers and co-workers, too




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

As floodwaters from Katrina subsided, Navy Seabees made a parking lot of flooded cars at the vacant Wal-Mart in Chalmette.

This letter is to focus on all those who lost their jobs or who have been separated from their family because of a job. My husband was a pharmacist in St. Bernard Parish. He has worked at the same pharmacy for 27 years. Not only were his employees his second family, but so were the generations of customers he served. During the holidays he would come home with homemade pies, candy and other gifts from his customers. He would be given home-grown vegetables and fruit. My husband's customers loved him. He was their family too.

In that first week after Hurricane Katrina when you could finally reach someone, and my husband was able to contact employees or they got through to him, they would cry together.

Then came the time to go see the store on East Judge Perez Drive. His boss had the opportunity to go. He called Frank and said that what the oil, water and mud didn't destroy, the looters did. Frank asked his boss about going back and retrieving personal belongings. His boss told Frank he wouldn't go back to the store, even with hip boots on. The thought of never going back there has my husband depressed.

I am writing this letter to comfort those who are in the same situation. We all have been through surreal times since Aug. 29. You are not alone in the way you feel, and as time goes on, healing will occur. Focus on what you're grateful for, not what you've lost. Take one day at a time, one moment, if you have to.

As a family, we have separated to accommodate my job. It used to take me five minutes to get to work in Kenner; now it takes 40 minutes. I am now at a different location. I dare not complain. I am so thankful to have a job.

To get us through these awful times, you need a thankful heart and to pray for others.

**Inez Olasin**
*Metairie*
*Now in LaPlace*

## Restoring the Gulf South

In these weeks after Katrina, it seems like an impossible task to restore the health and infrastructure of the Gulf South without breaking the back of the U.S. economy. However, the solution really boils down to 4 simple steps:

1. Appoint three "reconstruction czars," one each for Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Do we really think that Colin Powell or Rudy Giuliani knows anything about the character of New Orleans? Shouldn't someone native to the area decide what is best for each state? For Louisiana, I would nominate U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, who after narrowly losing the governor's race, currently represents the New Orleans area and is known for logical ideas and planning.

2. Earmark federal offshore oil and gas revenue for coastal restoration. This idea was pushed by the Louisiana congressional delegation before Katrina hit. It is time to repair the damage done to the coastline from oil and gas exploration, the Mississippi River levee system and loss of the barrier islands. A comprehensive plan is in place; all that is left is to finance it.

3. Return FEMA to a Cabinet-level organization and staff it with the best disaster relief people available. The Department of Homeland Security is welcome to include FEMA as part of its response plan to terrorist attacks, but it is clear that another massive level of beauracracy only hinders FEMA's ability to work efficiently. As part of the reorganization, FEMA should be given access to the necessary military resources to provide the quickest response possible. Half of the existing National Guard units should be outfitted as disaster SWAT teams, able to mobilize quickly, and only half of those units should ever be called to foreign service at any given time.

4. Repeal the Medicare prescription drug benefit. This entitlement is reportedly going to cost $720 billion over 10 years. It is hard to find anyone, Republican or Democrat, who does not think that there are serious and potentially disastrous fiscal flaws with this legislation. The good news is that it hasn't taken effect yet; the bad news is that prescription drug costs are a serious matter, and we will have to find some way to get these drugs to those in need without ruining America's financial stability. However, repealing this legislation now would pay for the entire hurricane relief effort and re-establish fiscal responsibility in the federal government.

These steps don't amount to micromanagement or a one-size-fits-all solution. They simply would put the right people in the right place and provide long -term funding for the solutions, something that is foreign to many federal initiatives. With enough pressure from the voters, both sides of the aisle can tolerate and even embrace the compromises involved with these solutions.

**Chad Harper**
*Baton Rouge*

## Charity's workers waiting for answers

As an employee of LSU working in Charity Hospital, I patiently wait for information as to the status of our employment and the thousands of other workers of the Medical Center of Louisiana.

All we hear from the LSU side is that Charity is condemned. All we hear from the politicians is that Charity is a total loss. We also hear that the CEO and LSU officials are attempting to lobby for federal funds to build a new hospital in New Orleans. What about the employees?

I find it hard to believe that Charity is a total loss. I walked into the building and talked to faithful doctors trying to clean the emergency room and get it up and running. The building looked great. It looked like it does every other day, except a little disorganized. The first floor even had power. With effort and proactive thinking, I believe the hospital could be up and running again within months.

We read in the paper that the governor wants to keep as many people as possible in the state, that the mayor wants to repopulate the city soon and start building business again. I could not agree more. But not addressing Charity Hospital/MCLNO and leaving employees' employment status in limbo is not the way to do this.

Charity is the cornerstone of the medical district in New Orleans, like it or not. Medical schools, nursing schools, allied health schools and much of the population of greater New Orleans rely on Charity's services. Other hospitals in the city will not provide this to the population. Take away Charity, even for a short period of time, and you lose the most important part of the medical community.

I love my job at Charity, I love the patients and staff, and I love the city I work in. I want to stay. I hope the state and city will give employees answers about their status. Hopefully, it will be the right answer, and it will keep the people here.

**Todd Danos**
*Gretna*

## Steak house move burns reader up

I am terribly angry about the decision that Ruth's Chris Corp. has made to move its headquarters to Florida. New Orleanians have been incredibly loyal to this restaurant since its beginning, and for the company to choose to desert its Metairie headquarters after the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina is beyond my conception of decency.

I have frequented Ruth's Chris as a private patron and hosted dinner programs there for my company. I can assure the company that I will never again enter its restaurant and will discourage everyone I know from doing so.

I am sure that if Miss Ruth were alive she would never leave the city she loved, the city that supported her in her quest to become a successful businesswoman.

I sincerely hope that other companies will realize that New Orleans needs their help and support at this time and that we, as New Orleanians, will support them in turn.

**Patricia Watermeier**
*Metairie*

# OUR OPINIONS

## Don't stew about the lake

With all the talk of toxic stew, the possibility that Lake Pontchartrain could remain healthy after an influx of floodwater seems too good to be true, but initial tests by the state and federal government, as well as the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, point in that direction.

The lake doesn't have a clean bill of health yet. Agencies have yet to test rangia clams or other aquatic life for contamination. What's more, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Quality say that they'll have to continue to monitor for environmental problems, perhaps for as long as three to five years. That caution is appropriate.

But water tests taken so far show surprisingly little impact, considering that 4 percent of the lake's volume spent some time sloshing around New Orleans' streets and buildings after Hurricane Katrina.

While there were some areas of low oxygen in the lake, those were caused by decaying plant matter. Fecal coliform levels, which indicate sewage contamination, were not high in water samples taken at the Duncan, Suburban, 17th Street and Industrial canals and at Little Woods in eastern New Orleans.

While one plume of water pumped from the 17th Street Canal did show fecal coliform levels too high for swimming, it met the state's standards for boating and fishing. Counts were higher in Bayou Bonfouca and Bayou Liberty in the Slidell area, but they were fairly typical for this time of year.

With all the work that's gone into restoring the lake in recent decades, a major setback would be a blow and one more loss for an area that has suffered more than its share. If the lake has weathered the storm without major problems, it will be good news for fishers as well as those who use the lake for recreational purposes.

Rebuilding the state's $3 billion-per-year fishing industry is going to be a struggle no matter what. The area's 4,800 commercial fishers lost their own property as well as facilities that support fishing, from fuel docks to restaurants, in Hurricane Katrina. The condition of the fisheries themselves is an even larger issue.

Deep-water species such as tuna and red snapper were able to get away from Katrina's wrath, and shrimp and crabs can come back in a year's time. But oysters have taken a big hit, with 81,200 acres of reef affected. The state estimates that damage at $860 million.

The Food and Drug Administration was also talking about banning fishing in the lake, something that the seafood industry fears will shake consumer confidence in all Louisiana seafood. If the early signs of health from the lake are followed up by more good news, though, perhaps that won't be necessary.

It's a safe bet that for some, Hurricane Katrina will mean the end of a way of life that stretches back for generations. But Louisiana without fish, shrimp, crabs and oysters would be a much poorer place. The sooner fishers can start bringing in the catch of the day, the happier we'll be.

## Be careful out there

The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina sparked an awe-inspiring outpouring of generosity for South Louisianians in the past month. Unfortunately, it also brought out the unscrupulous instincts in some people.

It is always this way. Good-hearted people inevitably respond when others are in need, and scam artists surface to try to take advantage. The good far outnumber the bad in such times, but it is wise to beware.

Most of us have been busy trying to regain our footing since Katrina swamped the metro area four weeks ago. But others are looking for ways to enrich themselves and cheat people who have suffered great losses.

In Kenner, for instance, Mayor Phil Capitano warned this weekend that someone is going door to door pretending to be a friend of the mayor and offering to help file insurance claims for a piece of the payoff.

As more residents return to the metro area, other such scams will no doubt surface. The simplest advice is to be wary. If someone shows up at your door asking for a fee to help you fill out insurance or federal relief paperwork, donít be fooled. Con artists are adept at pretending to be on official business.

There are scams on the other side of this disaster as well. Instant charities will pop up whose mission is to enrich a few people. Or con artists will pretend to be raising money for legitimate charities with no intention of passing donations along. For instance, three people were arrested this weekend in Georgia on charges of scamming residents by selling $1 raffle tickets under the guise of the American Red Cross.

The Better Business Bureau warns against making cash contributions. The bureau also advises people to beware of anyone who presses for an immediate contribution or who offers to send someone over to collect money.

Hurricane Katrina left more than a million people to find temporary shelter, replace lost possessions and rebuild their lives. No one should have to worry about being cheated at a time like this.

But the sad truth is that we do. Donít let that keep you from embracing all the genuine offers of help. Just be careful.

# OTHER OPINIONS



LEONARD PITTS JR.

# Poverty knows no color

*'George Bush doesn't care about black people.'* — Kanye West

I think Kanye West is wrong.

George Bush ranks at 43 — and dropping fast — on my list of most-admired presidents. And yes, it can be fairly argued that some of his policies have been detrimental to black interests. But the same is true of virtually every president, and, in any case, that's not what West said. Rather, in his appearance on a hurricane relief telethon earlier this month, the young rapper, apparently frustrated by the laggard pace with which help was being sent to New Orleans, essentially accused the president of being a bigot.

It was a dumb accusation. Inaccurate too, I think. Say what you will about him or them, Bush's closeness to Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell suggests an ease around blacks — OK, conservative blacks — greater than virtually every president from his father on back. If he's a racist, he's not very good at it.

Still, West's outburst has proven one of the signature moments of the month-long debate over why so many black people were left alone to fend against Hurricane Katrina.

Not that the propensity for saying dumb things on the subject was limited to black rappers. Some white conservatives have said New Orleans blacks were left behind because of a 'welfare state mentality.' This supposed mentality, argued Rush Limbaugh on his radio program earlier this month, eroded their self-reliance, inducing them to wait for government help instead of saving themselves.

Which is a callous libel even by Limbaugh's standards. I've seen white folks pleading for help a hundred times in the wake of earthquakes, mudslides, fires, floods and storms. I have yet to see that need cited as evidence of their lack of moral fiber.

Take the rapper and the right-winger as proof: Americans will never pass up a chance to falsely conflate race and class.

So it bears repeating: black people with means were able to escape New Orleans, just the same as their white counterparts. The people who were left behind were stranded not because they were black, but because they were poor.

You might call that a distinction without a difference, given that the poor are disproportionately black. I call it the basis for a fundamental realignment of American politics if ever the poor of all races and tribes finally realize they have more in common than they do in contention.

Not to give short shrift to the forces that have led black people to be overrepresented among the nation's have-nots. My only point is that at the end of the day, poor is poor, color notwithstanding. And the poor in this country are ignored because they are ignorable, forgotten because they are forgettable. Where is their advocate? Who raises their issues and concerns? Where is their voice?

Not since Lyndon Johnson 40 years ago has a U.S. president made alleviating poverty the centerpiece of his domestic agenda. Argue all you want about the effectiveness of his Great Society, give Johnson this much credit: He knew the poor were there. He saw them.

They have grown less visible since. Nowadays, people in Kanye West's field sell the lie that materialism is a virtue, while those in Rush Limbaugh's field sell the lie that poverty is a vice. And many of us simply forget that poverty is there, that American children hunger and American women need and American men lack and American people die for want of basic necessities. Were some of us not more aghast than we should have been at Katrina's reminder that poverty endures? Was there not a let-them-eat-cake cluelessness in Barbara Bush's suggestion that the poor are better off, homes destroyed, sleeping in a sports arena?

Better question: how long before we stop asking questions that pain conscience? How long before we move on and pretend we didn't see what we did?

Forgive my cynicism, but I suspect it won't be long at all before the forgettable are forgotten again.

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Leonard Pitts is a Miami Herald columnist. He can be reached at lpitts@herald.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Hurricane Katrina destroyed the new Hard Rock Casino in Biloxi, Miss., before it could even open for business.

# Everyone pays for waterfront development

*"Out of the rubbles of Trent Lott's house — he's lost his entire house — there's going to be a fantastic house. And I'm looking forward to sitting on the porch."* — President Bush, Sept. 2

ANNE APPLEBAUM

Now that a suitable interval has passed, perhaps it's time to return to the question of Sen. Trent Lott's house. What interests me is not the now-tired question of whether the president ought to have promised to rebuild the Mississippi senator's family home on the Pascagoula beachfront before mentioning the lost homes of thousands of much poorer, less notorious people. What interests me is why his house was built on the beach in the first place.

At first glance, the answer appears simple. Although I haven't had the pleasure of visiting the senator's home, it's pretty safe to guess that he wanted to live by the water because it's psychologically soothing and aesthetically pleasing. It's quieter too, having seagulls instead of neighbors. It's nicer to sit on the porch.

But it's also true that many people build houses along the water because it makes economic sense to do so. Houses or apartments with ocean views command higher prices. Beachfront property owners can demand higher rents. Beachside businesses — casinos, hotels, restaurants — spin money. And, best of all, the risks of owning beachfront property — risks from floods, hurricanes and erosion — are covered by other people. Federally subsidized flood insurance programs and state-subsidized beach "re-nourishment" programs ensure that taxpayers — rich, poor, local, national — pay for damage to property built close to the water. To put it differently, Lott's house was on the beach because you and I paid for it.

Barring an unforeseen dose of political sanity, we're about to subsidize the reconstruction and even the expansion of more susceptible beachfront communities, too. Leave aside New Orleans for a moment, with its special history and its peculiar geography. Focus instead on the rest of the Gulf Coast, much of which was wiped out no less thoroughly. Just like other hurricane-prone, flood-prone, erosion-prone parts of the country — the Florida Keys, the Outer Banks, the Texas and California coasts — the Gulf Coast recently has experienced an extraordinary building boom. In 2003 approximately 153 million people lived in U.S. coastal counties, an increase of 33 million people since 1980. By 2008, 7 million more will probably have moved there, too.

As a result of this success, beach developers tend to be disproportionately wealthy and politically influential, and therefore unusually good at fighting zoning laws and grabbing subsidies. Even after Hurricane Andrew forced Florida to establish stricter building codes, the owners of hot Florida Panhandle real estate managed to get a raft of exemptions for their region. One North Carolina beach community, Emerald Isle, has collected millions of dollars in state and federal money to combat erosion — even though some 80 percent of Emerald Isle's new artificial beach is privately owned and inaccessible to the public, which paid for it. As The Washington Post's Michael Grunwald recently pointed out, Lott himself used his political clout to force an Army engineer out of his job after the man had the temerity to suggest that Mississippi stop building casinos along the flood-prone coast. Twenty of those casinos were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, and the 16,000 people who worked in them have lost their jobs and probably their homes as well.

The pattern doesn't hold across the country, away from the ocean: Entire towns happily moved uphill after catastrophic flooding in the Midwest in the 1990s, when the government paid them to leave. But with a few exceptions, coastal victims of hurricanes and floods have not only refused to move inland, they've also used post-disaster government funding to build more and higher buildings, with fewer restrictions then ever before.

To reverse this trend, politicians would have to do a lot more than write checks and come up with neat new names for old housing programs. Instead, they would have to force coastal property owners to pay the real cost of the risk they incur by building in dangerous places. They would not only have to stop subsidizing flood insurance; they also would have to require developers to pay heavier taxes and higher insurance premiums. They would have to alter incentives to encourage building farther inland. They would have to enforce stricter building codes. In barrier islands and other truly unstable places, zoning laws should prevent any new construction at all.

Such proposals would, of course, be the kiss of death for almost any politician. After all, they go against two important American principles: property owners' right to build what they want, and the government's obligation to bail them out afterward. Those are the principles supported by the rugged inhabitants of Denver and Los Angeles, who build houses ever closer to forests that periodically burn, and those are the principles supported by the denizens of seaside Pascagoula. At least when President Bush finally gets around to drinking his alcohol-free mint julep on Lott's new porch, we can hope that he raises a glass to those of us who made it all possible.

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Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist.

# To learn from disaster, look to London

RUTHERFORD H. PLATT

With a million people displaced, a major city drying out after weeks under water, and incalculable damage along the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina is the nation's worst natural disaster ever. Expert predictions that it could occur were not taken seriously. Now that it has, we must quickly learn how to keep it from happening again.

As the wrenching process of counting the dead and helping the living continues, it is critical to conduct a prompt, rigorous, nonpolitical assessment of Katrina's effects — and on how the recovery process can make New Orleans and the region safer.

There are many precedents for post-disaster investigations. For example, President Clinton established a special Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee to review the causes and impacts of the 1993 Midwest Floods. The committee's 1994 report helped to guide public policies on levees, wetlands restoration, and disaster assistance.

Perhaps the world's most successful exercise in "learning from disaster" came after the Great Fire of London of 1666.

Before the fire, London was a medieval wooden labyrinth housing some 400,000 souls. In the previous year, 56,000 Londoners had succumbed to the plague — grim testimony to the crowded and unsanitary conditions of the city. After a prolonged drought and fanned by high winds, the Great Fire began on Sept. 1, 1666. Over the next several days, most of the old city within the Roman walls burned, including St. Paul's Cathedral, more than 80 churches, many guildhalls, and warehouses, and countless dwellings. London's terrified population fled to open fields outside the city. Samuel Pepys recorded the pandemonium in his diary: "I saw a fire as one entire arch of fire above a mile long: it made me weep to see it. The churches and houses are all on fire and flaming at once, and a horrid noise the flames made . . ."

London was a disaster waiting to happen. Private structures clogged and overhung the narrow lanes, encroached on market spaces, and blocked access to the Thames River. With no regulation of building size, location or construction materials, the fire was inevitable. And without access to water, it could not be halted.

At the urging of architect Christopher Wren and other leading citizens, Charles II issued an astounding proclamation a week after the disaster calling for restraint and foresight in the rebuilding process, pending a full investigation of the causes of the disaster. Like a modern chief executive, the king then appointed a royal commission, including Wren, to study the causes of the disaster and to draft a Parliamentary law to codify rules for rebuilding.

The resulting "Act for Rebuilding London," adopted on Feb. 8, 1667, was London's first modern building code. It regulated street widths and building heights, banned overhanging upper floors, required stone or brick facades and opened up access to the Thames River and other water sources for firefighting. London's West End, built under that law and its successors, would survive World War II without a total conflagration (in contrast to the firestorms that engulfed Dresden and Tokyo).

London's Great Fire was the "Big One" of its day, an epic natural calamity compounded by human neglect. The 1667 act addressed that neglect and applied the best thinking of the time to creating a safer and healthier London.

We must do the same for the Gulf Coast. A nonpolitical expert panel, in collaboration with community representatives, must examine the levee failures, the bungled evacuation, the communication break-down, inadequate care for those stranded in the city, and, above all, how and where to rebuild more safely.

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Rutherford H. Platt is a professor of geography at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the author of "Disasters and Democracy: The Politics of Extreme Natural Events."

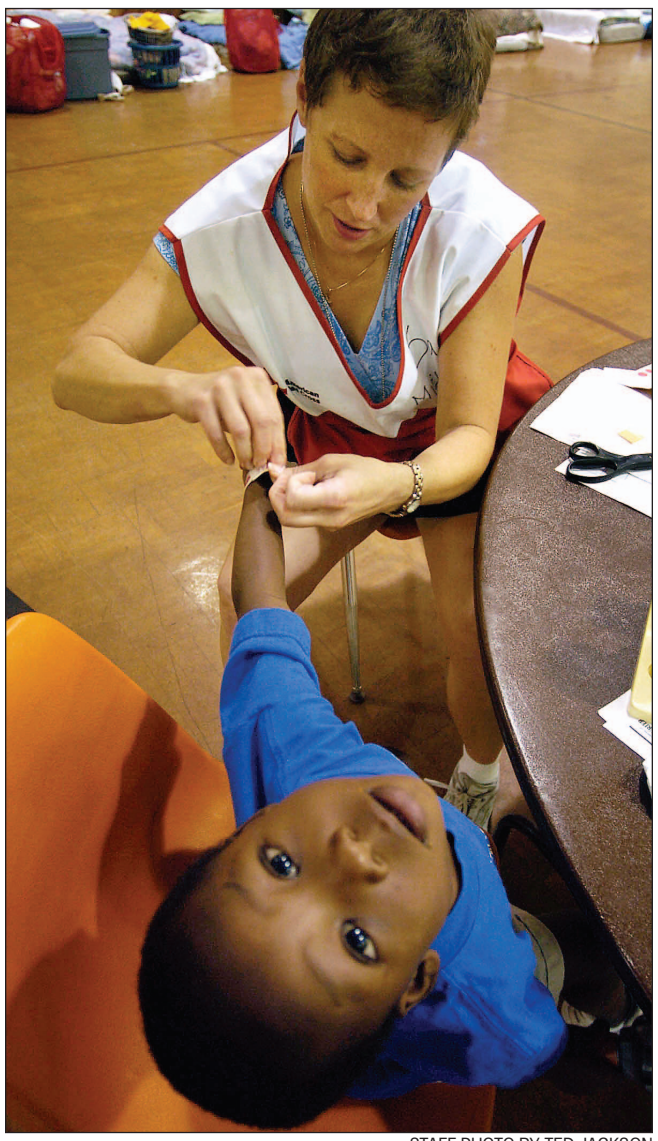
# After the storm

**Shelters in Louisiana were once again inundated with hurricane evacuees in the aftermath Hurricane Rita on Sunday. The Category 3 storm was especially hard on the bayous of Terrebonne Parish, which experienced major flooding. But in New Orleans, it was almost business as usual on Magazine Street, where relief workers and the few remaining residents could enjoy breakfast in an outdoor café.**




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**TERREBONNE PARISH:** Neighbors gather in the floodwaters that rose following Hurricane Rita's surge through south Terrebonne Parish.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**LAROSE:** Joseph Elzy, 4, known around the Larose Civic Center shelter as 'Little Joe,' gets fitted for a new arm-band. Volunteer Sarah Baltzer re-registered everyone at the shelter after the influx of Hurricane Rita evacuees.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**LAROSE:** Although children at the Larose Civic Center keep the noise level high, especially after Hurricane Rita increased the shelter's population, Dale LeBlanc of Golden Meadows is able to get some rest.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**LAROSE:** (ABOVE) Red Cross volunteer Terry Peroutka, from Illinois, tries to lighten the load for Bonnie Domingue, 7, one of the hurricane evacuees staying in the Larose Civic Center. People escaping Hurricane Rita recently joined the Hurricane Katrina evacuees in the shelter.

**UPTOWN:** (LEFT) With Hurricane Rita in the past, New Orleans police officer Russell Philibert enjoys a meal at Slim Goodies on Magazine Street, which owner Kappa Horn, left, and waitress Kathy Davis opened on Sunday.

The Times-Picayune

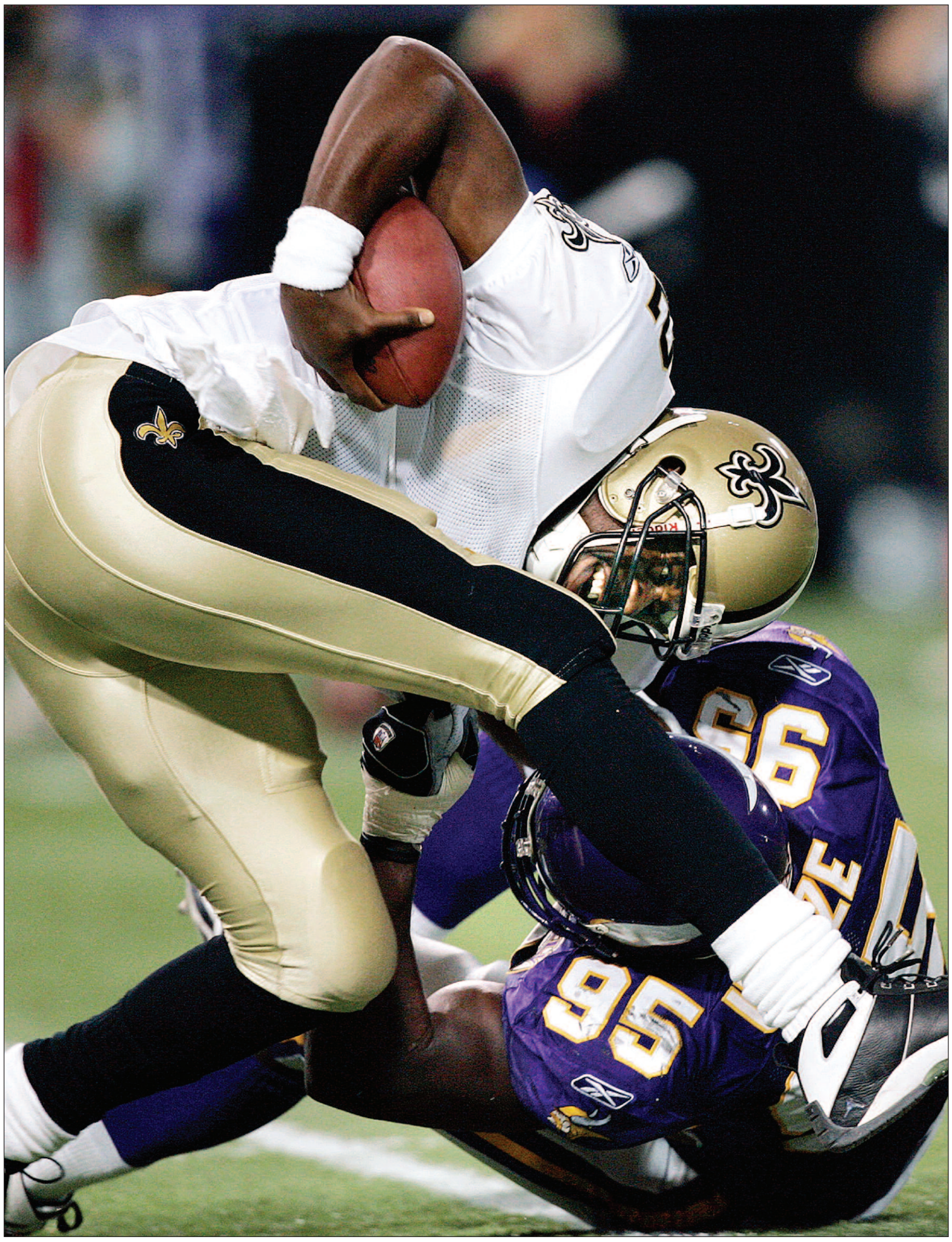
# SPORTS

SECTION C
Monday, September 26, 2005

LIVING
For complete Living section, see PAGE C-7

1-2 VIKINGS 33 • SAINTS 16 1-2

# BAD FROM THE START



AP PHOTO

Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks is pulled down by the Vikings' Kenechi Udeze in the fourth quarter Sunday in Minneapolis. Brooks finished with 199 yards passing, one touchdown pass and two interceptions for a quarterback rating of 43.6 — his lowest since 2002.

## *Vikings strike fast as turnovers, penalties again plague Saints*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

MINNEAPOLIS — A turbulent ride of emotion and momentum that began this Saints season crashed with a sudden jolt this past week.

Two losses in the past seven days — ugly losses, rife with turnovers and mental errors — have erased any romantic notions about this team's plight.

The Saints clawed their way back in the third quarter of Sunday's 33-16 loss to the Minnesota Vikings to make things interesting for a while. And certainly, there is plenty of time to do the same with this season.

But with a combined 10 turnovers and 27 penalties in the past two games, the Saints (1-2) have looked like a team as completely out of sorts as their circumstances would suggest.

"We continued to do the same things we did last week," Saints coach Jim Haslett said, referring to last Monday night's 27-10 loss to the New York Giants. "We turned the ball over way too many times. Too many penalties. We got behind early.

"They outplayed us. They outcoached us, and we didn't do a very good job today. I don't know if we are a catch-up team. We haven't shown that we are."

This dreary performance was so reminiscent of that painful Monday night loss that Saints veteran Aaron Stecker fumbled away the game's opening kickoff — just as veteran Fred McAfee did against the Giants.

And it didn't take long for the Vikings to take advantage. Daunte Culpepper threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to receiver Travis Taylor on the next play and took a 7-0 lead in 13 seconds, the quickest score in Vikings' history.

So much for Culpepper's early season struggles. He threw for 300 yards and his first three touchdowns of the season in a dominant performance.

"They made a play," said Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie, who was beaten to the corner on that first touchdown.

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-4*



▶ **Saints game was over almost as soon as it started, C-4**

# Wave showing signs of road turnaround

## *Victory marks "first" for Scelfo*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON – Winning on the road has been very difficult for Tulane during Coach Chris Scelfo's first six seasons. His teams have won eight times on the road.

**ANALYSIS**

With Tulane's 31-10 victory at Southern Methodist on Saturday, the Green Wave accomplished a first under Scelfo: It won consecutive Conference USA road games, having beaten Texas Christian in the final road game last season.

This was a critical victory for the Wave. Tulane needed a win to show it is truly making gains.

*See* **TULANE,** *page C-3*

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# Tigers ready to pounce against Vols

## *No. 3 LSU grows weary of playing waiting game*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — For all their patience, hospitality, and political correctness, the LSU Tigers are still a bunch of 18- to 23-year-olds. Cabin fever (or indoor practice facility fever, if we're going to be technical) was destined to seep in.

*BOOM! BOOM! CLANK!*

"One more," Skyler Green pleaded to an LSU equipment manager desperately scrambling to gather loose footballs before another wide receiver blasted them rugby-style into the field-goal netting.

**TENNESSEE AT LSU**
6:30 p.m. today
**TV/Radio:** ESPN2; WLMG-FM (101.9)

Such was the scene when "Wednesday practice: The Sequel" concluded around 6 p.m. Friday. Understandably antsy, several straggling players began kicking balls toward the suspended goalposts for no apparent reason other than to vent some frustration after conference officials placed another speed bump in the path of a surreal season already sputtering like a GEO in the mud.

*BOOM! BOOM! One more, come on. Here ya go. CLANK!*

Loud, hollow thuds echoed off the warehouse-style walls - harmonic, really, if not for the occasional shank and subsequent crash into the metallic siding. One of these bush-league punters had a ball ricochet and land within 10 yards of a cocoon of reporters surrounding Les Miles as the first-year coach discussed the benefits of the No. 3-ranked Tigers hosting No. 10 Tennessee at 6:30 p.m. today. The game was originally

*See* **LSU,** *page C-3*

# DiMarco's Golden putt gives U.S. Presidents Cup win

## He birdies 18th to send Nicklaus out as winning captain

**From wire reports**

GAINESVILLE, VA. — Fred Couples delivered another magical moment. Chris DiMarco provided the clinching point with a dramatic birdie. Best of all, the Americans sent captain Jack Nicklaus into retirement as a winner.

Right when it looked like the Presidents Cup might end in another tie, DiMarco holed a 15-foot putt on the 18th hole to outlast Stuart Appleby for a 1-up victory Sunday, giving the Americans an 18 1/2-15 1/2 victory at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club and keeping their record perfect on home soil.

DiMarco knew it was good in the final few feet, and he charged toward the cup and then into the arms of Nicklaus.

"All I thought about was to get him a win," DiMarco said.

Nicklaus, who already said farewell to the majors and might not play another PGA Tour event, was captain for the third time. His team got hammered in Australia in 1998, and the matches ended in a tie two years ago in South Africa.

This time, he went out a winner.

"It feels a lot better to have a win, there's no question about that," Nicklaus said. "As far as being something special, I may never captain another team, I may never play another round of golf, and if I end my career this way, it's a pretty good way to end it."

Under new rules this year, every match had to go extra holes until one team had enough points to claim the cup.

Someone apparently forgot to tell Phil Mickelson.

With the Americans already at 17 points, Mickelson thought he clinched the Presidents Cup when he stuffed a wedge into 4 feet and made the birdie on No. 18 to square his match with Angel Cabrera. Lefty pounded his fist, removed his cap to shake hands and was about to celebrate when European tour rules official Andy McFee broke the news.

The look on his face was utter shock, and he headed to the first tee.

Mickelson never had to finish the extra hole. A massive roar behind him told him all he needed to know.

And he shouldn't have been surprised that DiMarco delivered the decisive blow. Despite only three victories in his 10 years on the PGA Tour, DiMarco was the star of this U.S. team by going 4-0-1. He spent the back nine matching Appleby putt-for-putt, none of them easy, until they reached the 18th green all square.

The crowd shouted "USA," then "MVP" for DiMarco after the biggest moment of his career.

The only other match that reached the 18th hole produced the loudest cheer, from a usual source.

Couples already has made his own highlight reel from the Presidents Cups, having won the cup in 1996 with a 35-foot birdie putt to beat Vijay Singh for a one-point victory.

Couples got Singh again under different circumstances. He is an aging star at 45, while Singh is the No. 2 player in the world who has won more on tour than anyone in the last three years.

Tied coming to the 18th, Couples summoned one more piece of magic by rolling in a 20-foot putt. He turned as it fell, dropping his putter and raising his arms and screaming toward the gray skies in utter elation.

"I figure if I beat him, there might be a small, golden rainbow out there, and I did," Couples said. "I hope my point means something."

Davis Love III closed out an easy victory behind him, assuring the Americans at least a tie and turning the stage over to DiMarco and Mickelson, who never lost a match all week.

Tiger Woods lost for the first time in a Presidents Cup singles match, falling to Retief Goosen on the 17th hole. Goosen also went unbeaten for the week at 4-0-1. But the Americans got loads of help, from Jim Furyk (3-0-2) beating Adam Scott, and Kenny Perry and David Toms getting their first points of the week.

It was another tough loss for the Internationals, who battled the Americans to a tie in team matches the first three days and fought back from early deficits throughout the 12 singles matches.

Appleby, now 0-4 in singles, bogeyed the 17th hole to lose control of the match, and could only watch as DiMarco made his birdie on the 18th.



AP PHOTO

Chris DiMarco celebrates after rolling in a 15-foot birdie putt to clinch the Presidents Cup for the United States on Sunday in Gainesville, Va. DiMarco's putt clinched a 1up victory over Stuart Appleby and gave the U.S. an 18-15 victory.

## PREP FOOTBALL

Today's games

### VARNADO (0–0) at ST. JAMES (2–0)

**Time:** 6 p.m.
**Last week:** Varnado did not play. St. James defeated South Lafourche 41-6.
**Notes:** St. James, ranked No. 1 in Class 2A, gained 441 yards against South Lafourche. St. James running back Tremaine Dapremont rushed for 114 yards on 15 carries. The Wildcats didn't punt.

### SOUTH LAFOURCHE (0–1) at DESTREHAN (2–0)

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.
**Last week:** South Lafourche lost to St. James 41-6. Destrehan defeated Terrebonne 35-13.
**Last year:** Destrehan won 46-21.
**Notes:** Destrehan has won the past nine meetings. Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene completed 16 of 30 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns last week and had 305 all-purpose yards. South Lafourche was held to 192 yards by St. James.

### RIVERSIDE (2–0) at WEST ST. JOHN (0–2)

**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Riverside defeated St. Thomas Aquinas 27-0. West St. John lost to Patterson 40-18.
**Last year:** West St. John won 46-7.
**Notes:** West St. John has won the past four meetings, including a 2001 playoff game. This is the first time since 1996 that Riverside and West St. John are not in the same district. Riverside running back Jarid Caesar rushed for 190 yards on 17 carries, scoring three touchdowns and a two-point conversion last week. West St. John gained 352 yards against Patterson. Quarterback Blaine Gauthier was 11-of-22 for 189 yards.

## PREP RESULTS

**FOOTBALL**

**Loranger 42, Pearl River 6:** Ricky James helped make Loranger's debut in District 9-3A a success, rushing for 151 yards on 12 carries Thursday at Loranger. The Wolves scored in every quarter and had 366 yards and 21 first downs. The Rebels had 217 yards —106 rushing and 111 passing. Loranger, which played in 2A last season, is 1-1, 1-0 in†district. Pearl River is 0-1 overall and in district.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Fontainebleau defeated Northlake Christian 3-1:** Jamie Guttierrez served nine consecutive points to start the match and Shannon King had nine kills, as the Bulldogs (2-0) defeated Northlake (0-1) 25-7, 29-27, 18-25, 25-12 Thursday. Alise Doubt had 22 digsand Heather Hughes 10. Quinn Barney served four aces and Guttierrez two.

## WORLD OF SPORTS

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**TULANE TICKETS IN BATON ROUGE:** Tulane season-ticket holders can pick up their tickets at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center this week for Tulaneís next two games. The Green Wave will play Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday in Tiger Stadium, and will meet Houston on Oct. 8 in Lafayette. Tickets will be available at noon Tuesday at the Tulane ticket window in the southwest corner of the PMAC. The office will be open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Tickets can also be purchased then.

**IRISH PLAY CAME FROM BOY: Char**lie Weis doesn't usually let anyone else call plays. He made an exception for 10-year-old Montana Mazurkiewicz. The Notre Dame coach met last week with Montana, who had been told by doctors weeks earlier that he has an inoperable brain tumor. ìHe was a big Notre Dame fan in general, but football especially,î said his mother, Cathy Mazurkiewicz. Weis showed up at the Mazurkiewicz home just east of South Bend, and talked with Montana about his tumor. Weis said the meeting was touching. ìHe told me about his love for Notre Dame football and how he just wanted to make it through this game this week,î Weis said. ìHe just wanted to be able to live through this game because he knew he wasn't going to live very much longer.î Weis agreed to let Montana call the first play against Washington on Saturday. He called "pass right." Montana never got to see the play. He died Friday at his home. Weis heard about the death and called Mazurkiewicz on Friday night to assure her he would still call Montana's play.

**AP POLL:** Michigan fell out of The Associated Press Top, ending its streak of 114 consecutive weeks in the rankings, which was the longest in the nation. The last poll that didn't include the Wolverines was Oct. 18, 1998. Southern Cal extended its streak of No. 1 rankings to 23 in the latest media poll. The Trojans picked up two first place-votes after wiping out an early 13-point deficit and blowing out Oregon 45-13 Saturday, a win that knocked the Ducks out of the rankings.

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**YANKEES, RED SOX STAY TIED: Ro**binson Cano hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, Gary Sheffield added a three-run shot in the eighth and the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-4 Sunday, keeping the Yankees tied with the Boston Red Sox for first place in the American League East. The Red Sox completed a three-game sweep of Baltimore with a 9-3 victory, behind home runs from Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon. The Red Sox finish the season with seven home games, the last three against the Yankees.

**ASTROS LEAD DOWN TO ONE:** Jeromy Burnitz hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, leading the Chicago Cubs to a 3-2 victory against Houston. The Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Cincinnati Reds 6-3, cutting the Astrosí lead in the NL Wild Card race to one game.

**INDIANS DROP ONE:** Cleveland Indians center fielder Grady Sizemore lost Paul Phillipsí popup in the sunlight in the ninth inning, allowing the Kansas City Royals a 5-4 victory. The loss cut the Indiansí lead in the AL wild card over Boston and New York to a half-game. The Indians, who lost for only the third time in 20 games, trail the Chicago White Sox in the AL Central by two games.

**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins led off Sundayís game in Cincinnati with a home run, extending his hitting streak to 30 games. . . . With their playoff hopes fading, the San Francisco Giants put Barry Bonds in the lineup for Sunday afternoon's game against the Rockies, veering from their routine of using him only for pinch-hitting on day games after night games. Bonds went hitless in three at-bats, but the Giants won 6-2. . . . Florida Marlins pitcher A.J. Burnett, a free agent after this season, indicated his start this week would be his last with the team.

# Harris follows others, puts Trojans at No. 1

*Texas is No. 2; LSU placed fifth in initial rankings*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

The first Harris Interactive College Football Poll was released Sunday, and it doesn't look much different from the other rankings.

As in the USA Today coaches' poll, which remains in the BCS formula, and The Associated Press rankings, which were withdrawn from the BCS this year, Southern California is the overwhelming choice†as the No. 1 team.

The Trojans received 110 of 113 first-place votes in the Harris Poll, 60 of 62 in the coaches' poll and 57 of 65 in the AP.

Texas was No. 2 in all three.

But there were variations after that. Most notably LSU came in fourth in the coaches' and AP polls and fifth in the Harris.

The Tigers, whose game against Tennessee was delayed until today because of Hurricane Rita, were third in the coaches and AP polls last week. But this week voters dropped them behind Virginia Tech in the coaches' and AP polls and both the Hokies and Florida in the Harris.

Otherwise, there was only one difference in the teams in the top 10: Michigan State is No. 10 in the Harris Poll and No. 12 in the coaches' poll. And Tennessee is No. 9 in the coaches' ranking and No. 12 in the Harris.

Only one of the 114 panelists in the Harris poll didn't vote, and that was because he was† displaced by Hurricane Rita.

"We felt it went well," said BCS spokesman Bob Burda. "We didn't expect the Harris poll to be much different than the others because people tend to use them as resources.

"You certainly don't see anything in our poll that's out of line."

That's not quite true.

Winless Idaho received five points from one voter.

"I guess we've got an Idaho fan out there somewhere," Burda said. "We'll have to look into it."

The first release of the BCS standings, which also include six computer rankings, will be made following the games of Oct. 22.

Lewis' vote: Ted Lewis is a voter on the Harris Interactive poll. Here is his ballot for this week: 1. Southern California; 2. Texas; 3. Virginia Tech; 4. Florida; 5. LSU; 6. Ohio State; 7. Michigan State; 8. Georgia; 9. Tennessee; 10. Notre Dame; 11. Florida State; 12. Miami; 13. Alabama; 14. Minnesota; 15. Arizona State; 16. Wisconsin; 17. UCLA; 18. Purdue; 19. Iowa State; 20. California; 21. Texas Tech; 22. Michigan; 23. West Virginia; 24. Louisville; 25. UTEP

# TENNESSEE (2-1, 0-1) vs. LSU (1-0, 0-0)

**THE VITALS**
**Kickoff:** 6:45 p.m. at Tiger Stadium.
**Coaches:** LSU's Les Miles (29-21, 1-0, sixth season, first at LSU); Tennessee's Phillip Fulmer (124-32, 15th year, all at Tennessee).
**TV/Radio:** ESPN2/101.9-FM

## KEEP AN EYE ON

**LSU CORNERBACKS:** Torched two weeks ago by Arizona State's Sam Keller, Chevis Jackson and Ronnie Prude might be viewed as inviting targets for Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge. Sun Devil receivers appeared to have plenty of room to make catches as LSU allowed 461 passing yards. Miles hinted the Tigers might play more man-to-man defense than two weeks ago to keep a few more players in the box to combat the Vols' hard-running Gerald Riggs. Tennessee likes to attack man coverage by getting vertical with the passing game. Any LSU cornerback is probably in for a busy night.
**TENNESSEE QUARTERBACK ERIK AINGE:** The Vols coaching staff may have given Ainge the boost of confidence he needs by naming him the starter early in the week, ahead of former LSU quarterback Rick Clausen. Ainge had one good drive against Florida last week but was unable to hit enough passes to give Tennessee any offensive momentum. Expect a rededicated Tennessee offensive attack, which may have been hampered by WR Robert Meachem's bad ankle last week. Ainge may also try to exploit the height advantage of his receivers Meachem (6-3) Chris Hannon (6-4) and C.J. Fayton (6-2) over Prude and Jackson, who are both 6 feet.

## GAMEPLAN

Unlike Arizona State, Tennessee is a run-first kind of team. LSU will first have to stop Riggs, who rushed for 196 yards on 40 carries and had 1,107 last year. Any problems there and it will be a long night for the Tigers. "He's big, strong and physical," said LSU coach Les Miles. "You have to tackle him with your whole body. He's going to run through some arm tackles."
On the other hand, Tennessee longest play from scrimmage this season is 19 yards. Against the pass, LSU will have to continue to mix it up and disguise its defense and get the right personnel matchups. The LSU offensive line must keep the Vols front line out of the backfield and give the running backs room to run and JaMarcus Russell time to pass. Russell looked good last week but is certain to get more heat. He can't afford to have his receivers drop six passes as they did last week. The wild card in the gameplan is the weather. Rain coming off Hurricane Rita could play a big part in play-calling and decision making.

## KEY MATCHUP: TENNESSEE DEFENSIVE LINE VS. LSU OFFENSIVE LINE

Jesse Mahelona and his line mates blew right through Florida's offensive line last week for five sacks and disrupted Urban Meyer's highly touted spread option attack. The LSU offensive line gave a good account of itself in its opener as the LSU offense showed a good run-pass yardage balance, but Arizona State did sack Russell four times. Brett Helms and Will Arnold will continue to alternate at the left guard spot and will have their hands full, as will center Rudy Niswanger and right guard Nate Livings. Expect some draw plays, screen passes and bubble screens to take the charge out of the Vols.
**BY THE NUMBERS:** LSU has won two of the past three meetings with SEC East powers Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. ... Tennessee has won seven of 12 games vs. LSU in Baton Rouge. ... Vols coach Phillip Fulmer is the winningest active coach with at least 10 years in Division I-A (124-32, .795). ... LSU carries a 10-game home wining streak dating back to a 19-7 loss to Florida in 2003. ... LSU has a streak of 38 games with at least one sack.

## ODDS AND ENDS

The game will mark the first since the renovation of the upper deck, which includes a 3,200-seat club section and a new press box. The new capacity is 92,400. ... After allowing 461 yards passing to Arizona State, LSU is ranked last among the 117 Division I-A schools in pass defense.... LSU's Chris Jackson is ranked first in the nation in punting, averaging 55 yards, and teammate Patrick Fisher is No. 2, averaging 49 yards. Each has punted twice. ... It will be LSU's first meeting with a top 10 team at Tiger Stadium since 2003 when No. 10 LSU beat No. 7 Georgia, 17-10. ... It's the latest home opener for LSU since the 1977 Tigers beat Rice, 77-0 on Sept. 24. ... This is the first time since 1999 the SEC has had four teams ranked in the AP top 10.

## NOTE

Tennessee's visit marks the return of quarterback Rick Clausen, though he will play a backup role to Erik Ainge after starting against Florida last week. Clausen, a former Tiger, owns a ring from LSU's 2001 SEC Championship Game victory against the Vols, then quarterbacked by his brother Casey. Rick was redshirted that year but came back to start the Ole Miss game in 2002 for LSU before transferring to Tennessee. Clausen has added 30-40 pounds since his playing days and was the Vols starting quarterback the last four games of last year, including a Cotton Bowl victory against Texas A&M in which he was named MVP. Few LSU players have kept in touch with Clausen, who roomed with defensive tackle Kyle Williams for a time. "I haven't spoken to him in a couple of year," said Williams. "I think David Jones might speak to him a little bit, but I don't think any body does. When he turned evil, he went all the way I guess."

## FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"The idea our team gets to play at home, I don't think it can ever be anticlimactic (because of the hurricane). We're excited we can look forward to the new stadium, being at home in front of our friends and family. I can't imagine that will ever be just a game." LSU coach Les Miles.

Jim Kleinpeter



GETTY IMAGES

LSU wide receiver Skyler Green (5) was one of several Tigers participating in post-practice stress relief Friday evening. The players let out the frustration brought on by playing only one game this season by kicking balls toward the suspended goal posts at the team's indoor practice facility.

# Finally, season starts in Baton Rouge

**LSU,** *from C-1*

scheduled for this past Saturday but was moved to today because of Hurricane Rita.

Judging by the somewhat bizarre steam-releaser witnessed on the original Tennessee Eve, energy and emotion should be in surplus.

"The kids are practicing. They're ready to play, again," LSU offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher said. "I mean, it's just like we're practicing, practicing, doing good, ready to roll and then you hold off a week and we're ready to go, again. Now that I think about it, to tell kids, 'Hey keep (practicing) hard. We're going to play.' Then to only play one game, it's hard on them."

Check your now worthless schedule magnets or posters. It's Sept. 26. LSU should be three games deep into Miles' inaugural campaign, every one of them a predictable icky and muggy contest played under the lights of Tiger Stadium.

By now, Tigerland should know what Miles thinks of the much-hyped atmosphere, his take on SEC-style football and whether or not his drive-thru headset can withstand 92,000 fans determined to abuse their vocal cords.

Instead, the home video tapes of the LSU-Arizona State opener are beginning to fray because of constant rewinding. It's all they've got, all they've seen.

"Certainly, I looked forward to playing this Saturday night," Miles said. "But if I can't control my emotions and I can't pull myself back then I'd be a poor example for anyone else."

Miles was then asked if he'd be able to maintain that level of calmness if he still had eligibility left from his playing days.

"There'd be some anxious moments in a number of areas," he admitted, slightly laughing.

While LSU's infant season is still waiting to bloom, the Vols' campaign is on the brink of disaster prior to October. A closer-than-needed victory over perennial free-win UAB was followed with a bye week, then a sluggish 16-7 loss to Florida in which starter Rick Clausen was replaced by sophomore Erik Ainge. In danger of dropping two games behind SEC East foes Florida, Vanderbilt and Georgia in the loss column, Coach Phillip Fulmer labeled Ainge the starter for the game in Death Valley, perhaps hoping the more permanent tag would spark confidence and stability in a lackluster offense.

Ainge has thrown for a modest 204 yards in abbreviated duty in two games, completing fewer than 50 percent of his passes.

"We've got to get on the same page from a timing standpoint, with nobody looking over their shoulder all the time," Fulmer said. "I've addressed the team about it; I've addressed the seniors and the leadership. And we're looking forward to going on about our business and being a better team."

Rain or no rain, look for Tennessee to be generous in the amount of carries given to senior Gerald Riggs Jr. The multiple postseason award candidate is averaging close to five yards a carry and 100 yards per game.

"Tennessee is a much more physical team than Arizona State," Miles said. "Tennessee has a dominant front rush. But our offensive line matches up pretty well with them. Arizona State was physical but it's not the same style as Tennessee.

"Gerald Riggs is a big, strong physical back. You have to tackle him with your whole body. There can be no arm tackles."

With the forecast calling for wet conditions, LSU might finally miss injured tailback Alley Broussard whose north-south style befits a sloppy field. Miles said he was interested to see which back - Joseph Addai, Justin Vincent or Shyrone Carey - would be his token "mudder" tonight.

That is, of course, if plans don't change, again.

"Shoot, they may postpone it a couple more days. Who knows?" Miles said facetiously before reiterating, "we'll be ready."

# SATURDAY'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCORES

**SEC**
Alabama 24, Arkansas 13
Auburn 37, W. Kentucky 14
Florida 49, Kentucky 28
Georgia 23, Mississippi St. 10
Vanderbilt 37, Richmond 13
Wyoming 24, Mississippi 14
Conference USA
UCF 23, Marshall 13
Navy at Rice, ppd.
Tulane 31, SMU 10
Tulsa 37, Memphis 31, OT
UTEP 21, New Mexico 13
West Virginia 20, East Carolina 15

## Around the nation

**EAST**
Delaware 35, Holy Cross 23
Harvard 38, Brown 35, 2OT
Iona 16, Stonehill 7
Ithaca 41, St. John Fisher 35
Lafayette 27, Fordham 10
Marist 38, Wagner 21
Massachusetts 14, Rhode Island 6
Montclair St. 31, Salisbury St. 27
Moravian 49, Juniata 14
New Hampshire 49, Dartmouth 20
Northeastern 56, Towson 41
Norwich 18, Plymouth St. 14
Pittsburgh 41, Youngstown St. 0
Princeton 20, San Diego 17
Rowan 35, Robert Morris 28, OT
Salve Regina 23, Nichols 13
Shepherd 14, Fairmont St. 11
St. Lawrence 21, Coast Guard 7
Villanova 28, Penn 24
W. Michigan 19, Temple 16
W. Va. Wesleyan 23, Concord 14
WPI 28, Merchant Marine 21
Waynesburg 34, Hanover 17
Wesley 49, Kean 19
West Chester 64, Cheyney 0
West Liberty 35, Seton Hill 10
Widener 41, Lebanon Valley 38
Wilkes 37, FDU-Florham 21
Worcester St. 49, MIT 6
Yale 37, Cornell 17

**SOUTH**
Alabama A&M 42, Allen 0
Alabama St. 38, Alcorn St. 3
Albany St., Ga. at Southern U., ppd.
Appalachian St. 45, The Citadel 13
Apprentice 28, Chowan 14
Belhaven 30, Millsaps 13
Bethune-Cookman 63, Norfolk St. 61, OT
Boston College 16, Clemson 13, OT
Bridgewater, Va. 45, George Mason 0
Catholic 28, Randolph-Macon 24
Centre 35, Washington & Lee 26
Charleston Southern 35, North Greenville 28
Clark Atlanta 52, Lane 20
Coastal Carolina 24, Delaware St. 6
Cumberland, Ky. 44, Kentucky Wesleyan 7
Cumberland, Tenn. 34, Virginia-Wise 22
Dayton 42, Morehead St. 7
E. Kentucky 52, Tennessee Tech 3
Elon 12, N. Carolina A&T 9
Ferrum 34, Shenandoah 13
Florida A&M 12, Tennessee St. 7
Fort Valley St. 35, Benedict 24
Furman 44, Hofstra 41, OT
Georgia Southern 48, Chattanooga 10
Hampden-Sydney 47, Guilford 45
Hampton 44, Morgan St. 14
Hardin-Simmons 14, Mississippi College 0
Howard 39, Savannah St. 21
Huntingdon 16, Rhodes 12
Jackson St. 33, MVSU 14
Jacksonville 55, Butler 21
Kentucky St. 34, Morehouse 22
Lehigh 28, VMI 26
Lenoir-Rhyne 27, Newberry 24, OT
Mars Hill 14, Carson-Newman 7
Maryland 22, Wake Forest 12
Methodist 31, N.C. Wesleyan 20
Miami 23, Colorado 3
N.C. Central 38, Bowie St. 19
NW Oklahoma at McNeese St., ccd.
North Alabama 35, Harding 6
North Carolina 31, N.C. State 24
Pikeville 38, Campbellsville 28
Presbyterian 37, Catawba 7
S. Virginia 35, Greensboro 7
Shaw 49, Livingstone 27
Shorter 52, Lambuth 20
South Carolina 45, Troy 20
South Florida 45, Louisville 14
St. Augustine's 7, Elizabeth City St. 0
St. Paul's 27, Johnson C. Smith 7
Tenn.-Martin 31, Gardner-Webb 28
Texas Southern at Northwestern St., ppd.
Thomas More 17, Westminster, Pa. 3
Valdosta St. 12, Cent. Arkansas 7
Virginia 38, Duke 7
Virginia St. 22, Fayetteville St. 14
Virginia Tech 51, Georgia Tech 7
W. Carolina at Nicholls St., ccd.
Washington & Jefferson 50, Emory & Henry 0
West Georgia 58, Ark.-Monticello 21
William & Mary 56, Liberty 0
Wingate 10, Tusculum 7
Winston-Salem 31, Virginia Union 0

**MIDWEST**
Adrian 45, Bluffton 21
Akron 48, N. Illinois 42, OT
Augustana, Ill. 45, Wis.-Platteville 14
Baldwin-Wallace 28, Wilmington, Ohio 6
Bethany, Kan. 26, Southwestern, Kan. 22
Bethel, Minn. 27, Hamline 0
Black Hills St. 33, Dickinson St. 19
Buena Vista 33, Cornell, Iowa 13
Davidson 48, Valparaiso 17
Drake 54, Austin Peay 0
E. Illinois 43, Samford 14
E. Michigan 23, Cent. Michigan 20, OT
Illinois St. 42, Murray St. 0
Illinois Wesleyan 20, Chicago 13
Indianapolis 23, Wayne, Mich. 16
Jacksonville St. 24, SE Missouri 10
Jamestown 44, Mayville St. 6
Kansas St. 54, North Texas 7
Michigan St. 61, Illinois 14
Minnesota 42, Purdue 35, OT
Minot St. 24, Dakota St. 18
NW Missouri St. 38, Missouri So. 13
Ohio 35, Kent St. 32
Ohio Northern 34, Muskingum 10
Ohio St. 31, Iowa 6
Penn St. 34, Northwestern 29
Pittsburg St. 52, Emporia St. 17
Ripon 21, Lake Forest 14
Rockford 82, Principia 12
Rose-Hulman 45, Oberlin 13
Saginaw Valley St. 24, Hillsdale 3
Simpson, Iowa 40, Dubuque 7
Sioux Falls 53, Dana 22
South Dakota 59, Nebraska-Omaha 14
St. Ambrose 56, Taylor 7
St. Cloud St. 18, Minn. St., Mankato 14
St. Francis, Ind. 35, Wis.-Eau Claire 10
St. John's, Minn. 41, Gustavus 14
St. Joseph's, Ind. 28, Missouri-Rolla 23
St. Norbert 48, Knox 13
St. Olaf 71, Macalester 10
St. Thomas, Minn. 53, Augsburg 17
St. Xavier 35, Geneva 20
Tabor 60, Bethel, Kan. 10
Tiffin 56, Alma 23
Urbana 19, Olivet Nazarene 17
W. Illinois 70, Iowa Wesleyan 7
Wabash 50, Earlham 2
Walsh 31, Trinity, Ill. 3
Washburn 56, SW Baptist 21
Wayne, Neb. 45, Minn.-Crookston 14
Wheaton, Ill. 48, Hope 7
Winona St. 42, SW Minnesota St. 14
Wis.-River Falls 45, Pacific Lutheran 14
Wis.-Stevens Pt. 42, Waldorf 13
Wisconsin 23, Michigan 20
Wooster 38, Case Reserve 21

**SOUTHWEST**
Angelo St. 30, Midwestern St. 29
Arkansas St. 66, Fla. International 24
Arkansas Tech 27, West Alabama 21, OT
Delta St. 21, Henderson St. 17
E. New Mexico 33, Abilene Christian 30
E. Texas Baptist 16, Austin 6
Howard Payne 38, Sul Ross St. 16
Langston 49, Paul Quinn 13
Missouri St. at Sam Houston St., ppd.
Northeastern St. 16, East Central 14
S. Nazarene 46, Peru St. 7
SE Oklahoma 35, Panhandle St. 3
Southern Miss. at Houston, ppd.
Tarleton St. 16, SW Oklahoma 9
Texas A&M Commerce 17, Cent. Oklahoma 3
Texas Lutheran 41, McMurry 20
Texas Tech 63, Indiana St. 7
Tuskegee 13, Ark.-Pine Bluff 9
W. Texas A&M 28, Texas A&M-Kingsville 20

**FAR WEST**
Arizona St. 42, Oregon St. 24
Carroll, Mont. 37, Montana-Western 7
Colorado St. 42, Nevada 21
E. Oregon 24, Montana Tech 10
Fort Lewis 28, Western St.,Colo. 17
Hawaii 24, Idaho 0
Idaho St. 34, E. Washington 30
Mesa, Colo. 26, W. New Mexico 7
Montana St. 20, N. Dakota St. 17
Montana St.-Northern 21, Rocky Mountain 16
Nebraska-Kearney 59, N.M Highlands 21
Notre Dame 36, Washington 17
Portland St. 41, N. Colorado 17
Redlands 31, Chapman 14
San Diego St. 52, San Jose St. 21
Southern Cal 45, Oregon 13
Stephen F.Austin 40, S. Utah 17
TCU 51, BYU 50, OT
UC Davis 37, Sacramento St. 7
Utah St. 31, UNLV 24
Weber St. 31, N. Arizona 23

# Wave's maturing defense a dominant unit

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

But just as important was the way the Wave won. It dominated the Mustangs, who, two weeks earlier had upset TCU, which knocked off Oklahoma in its season opener.

Tulane not only showed more sharpness on offense and special teams than last week's loss to Mississippi State, but when the Green Wave made a mistake, it came right back and made up for it. The Wave remained in control despite its mistakes.

Tulane, which won't have a true home-field advantage this season, cut its penalties from 10 in its previous game to five Saturday. If that continues, it should help this week against Southeastern Louisiana and in "home games" the following two weeks against tough West Division opponents Houston and Texas-El Paso.

## OFFENSE – A

This could have been a 41-10 victory had the offense capitalized on opportunities in the red zone. Quarterback Lester Ricard missed a coupled of reads and tried to force passes into tight coverage, but he seemed a lot sharper on his short throws, and his receivers only dropped a couple of passes.

When Tulane really needed to make something happen, it responded with scoring drives. For the second consecutive week, the Wave offense outplayed the opposing defense. In its first two games, Tulane has a 43-20 advantage in first downs and has controlled the clock, holding the ball for more than 76 of the 120 minutes played.

The running game still isn't where the coaches would like it to be, Matt Forte (20 carries for 87 yards) and Jovon Jackson (16 for 52 yards) were impressive in wearing down SMU's defense. When Forte's slashing running style wasn't effective, Jackson's bullish, more powerful running was.

In controlling the game, Tulane ran 81 plays to SMU's 49 and had five drives of at least seven plays. Two of those series were 15- and 16-play drives.

## DEFENSE – A+

The defense has gotten the job done in consecutive weeks. This time, it allowed three points and forced SMU to settle for a field goal after having a first-and-goal at the 3.

What has been evident the first two games is that Tulane's defense is showing signs of maturity. The scary part is the defense is still fine-tuning. If it stays healthy, it definitely will be the best defense Scelfo has fielded and the best Tulane has had in a long time.

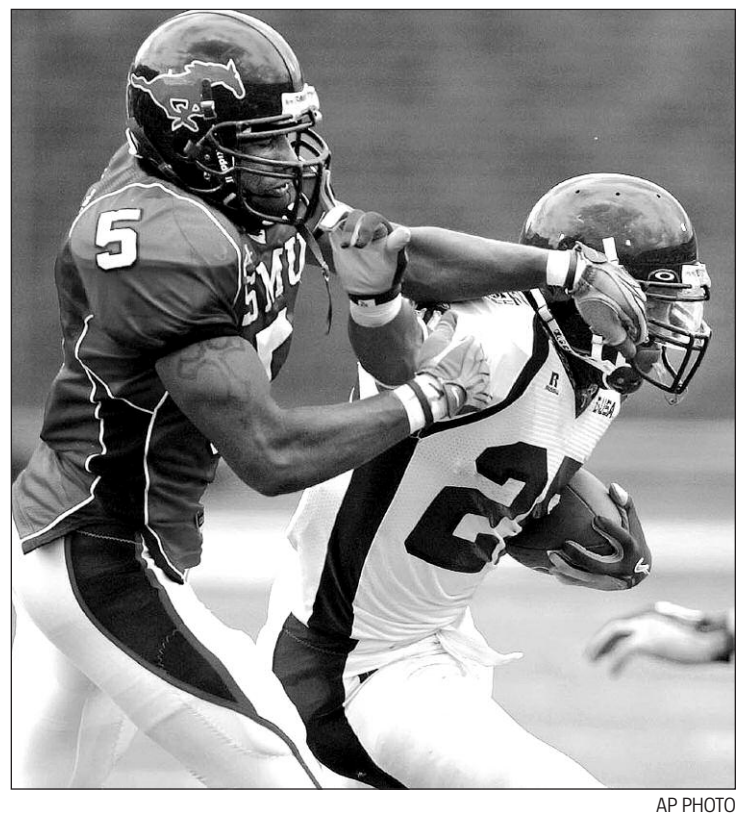
In the first two weeks, opponents have found little running room, gaining 150 yards rushing. Tulane's defense is the No. 1 defense in the country, surrendering 176 yards of offense a game.

## SPECIAL TEAMS – B+

Its only major blunder was allowing an 88-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. If you remove that return and Wave kicker Jacob Hartgroves' field-goal attempt that hit the left upright, there wasn't much more to ask of this group.

It allowed 190 yards on five kickoffs, but its coverage was solid on punts (22 yards on three returns), and it made big plays. A 47-yard punt return by safety Sean Lucas set up the Wave's second touchdown. The kickoff-coverage team helped put the game out of reach when it recovered a fumble at SMU's 16, setting up a quick touchdown pass from Ricard to Damarcus Davis that pushed Tulane's lead to 24-3.

Punter Chris Beckman bounced back with an outstanding performance. He averaged 41.2 yards on five punts while often kicking into a strong wind. Now that Tulane will play every game outdoors, Beckman, first-team all-conference last season, will face a new obstacle. He's averaging 39.9 yards a kick.



AP PHOTO

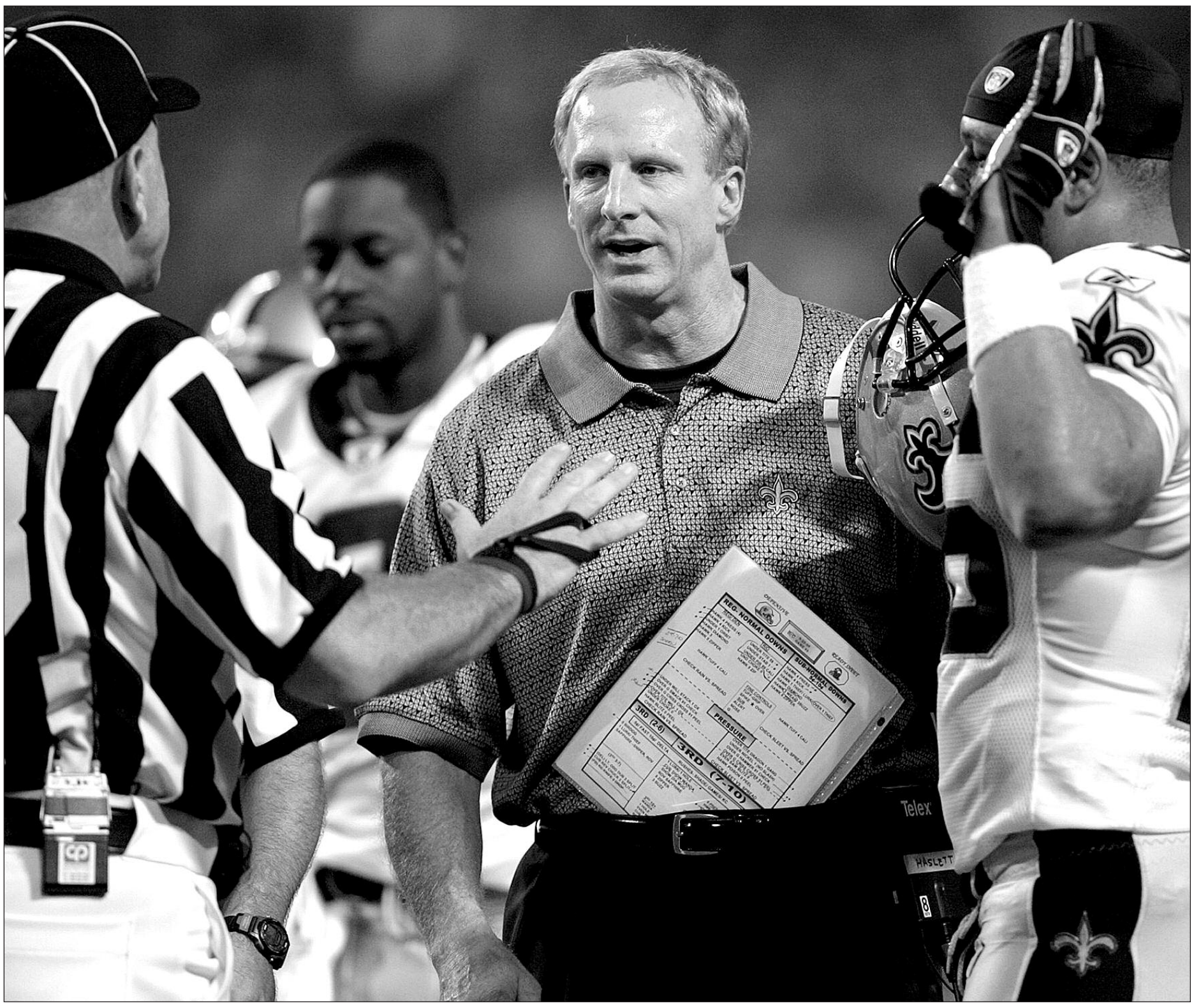
Tulane running back Matt Forte, right, ran for 87 yards on 20 carries and helped wear down SMU's defense in the Green Wave's 31-10 victory Saturday.

SPORTS

# Vikings hit stride at worst time for N.O.



PETER FINNEY




AP PHOTO

Before the Saints played Minnesota, Coach Jim Haslett knew that Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper was ready to have a breakout game.

Let's paint the scene Sunday in the Metrodome.

After a feel-good upset of the Panthers on the road, the vagabond Saints were coming off a six-turnover, 13-penalty loss to the Giants in the Giants' back yard, and you had the feeling the visiting team was catching the Vikings at the worst possible time. Why?

Because the sky was falling in Minneapolis.

Because the Vikings went into the season surrounded by Super Bowl hype, and suddenly, everything seemed to be coming apart.

The 0-2 Vikes couldn't be as bad as they looked, could they?

Fans were calling for the head of Coach Mike Tice. Here's a guy, in the option year of his contract, who was fined $100,000 by the league for scalping Super Bowl tickets. Tice is working for a new owner who last week gave his coach a vote of confidence. In the NFL, that can be a death knell.

Then you had the quarterback.

Seldom had a Pro Bowler gotten off to the kind of start experienced by Daunte Culpepper, who threw three interceptions and lost two fumbles in an opening loss to Tampa Bay. And followed that by throwing five picks in an embarrassing loss to Cincinnati.

You don't expect someone who threw 39 touchdown passes a year ago to throw for zero TDs and lead the league with 10 turnovers in your first two games.

That's what had Jim Haslett worried sick.

Better than anyone, the Saints coach realized Culpepper was a time bomb waiting to explode; only hoping it would not be Sunday.

Haslett had seen Culpepper at work in his first season as Saints coach, the 2000 season, the week after his team won the first playoff game in franchise history. He watched Culpepper take over the game, throwing for three touchdowns and running for crucial yardage in a 34-16 victory.

Two years later, he watched Culpepper beat the Saints 32-31 with a gambling two-point charge up the gut on the final play of the game, a defeat that triggered an 0-3 finish for a team that started 9-4 and seemed to be headed for the playoffs.

Last year he watched the 260-pound quarterback throw for 425 yards and five TDs in a 38-31 win in the Superdome.

"I know all about that guy," Haslett said before the game. "He's not going to stay in a slump for long."

As for Tice, Haslett said, "I know he's going to turn things around. The question is when."

Earlier in the week, Tice was suggesting the real challenge for a head coach arrives "when your team is in rough waters," not when the sun is out and the coach is "drinking a pina colada and smoking a Cuban cigar."

Well, on Sunday, at the end of the first quarter, Tice could have been sipping, and puffing on a victory cigar.

By that time, it was 17-0 Vikings, with the home team holding a 196-15 edge in yardage.

By that time, Culpepper, who threw his first touchdown pass of the season on the first play of the game, was on the way to a three-touchdown afternoon, and ex-Tulane Greenie Mewelde Moore was on his way to 101 rushing yards.

The crazy thing is, even after falling behind 24-0, the Saints were not out of a game they would wind up losing 33-16.

In the third quarter, they made it 24-9 (it would have been 24-10 had Haslett not foolishly gone for two points after a second-quarter touchdown). And after Donte' Stallworth's 67-yard punt return that would have made it 24-16 was rubbed out by a flag, the Saints still came back to make it an eight-point game early in the final period.

But that was it.

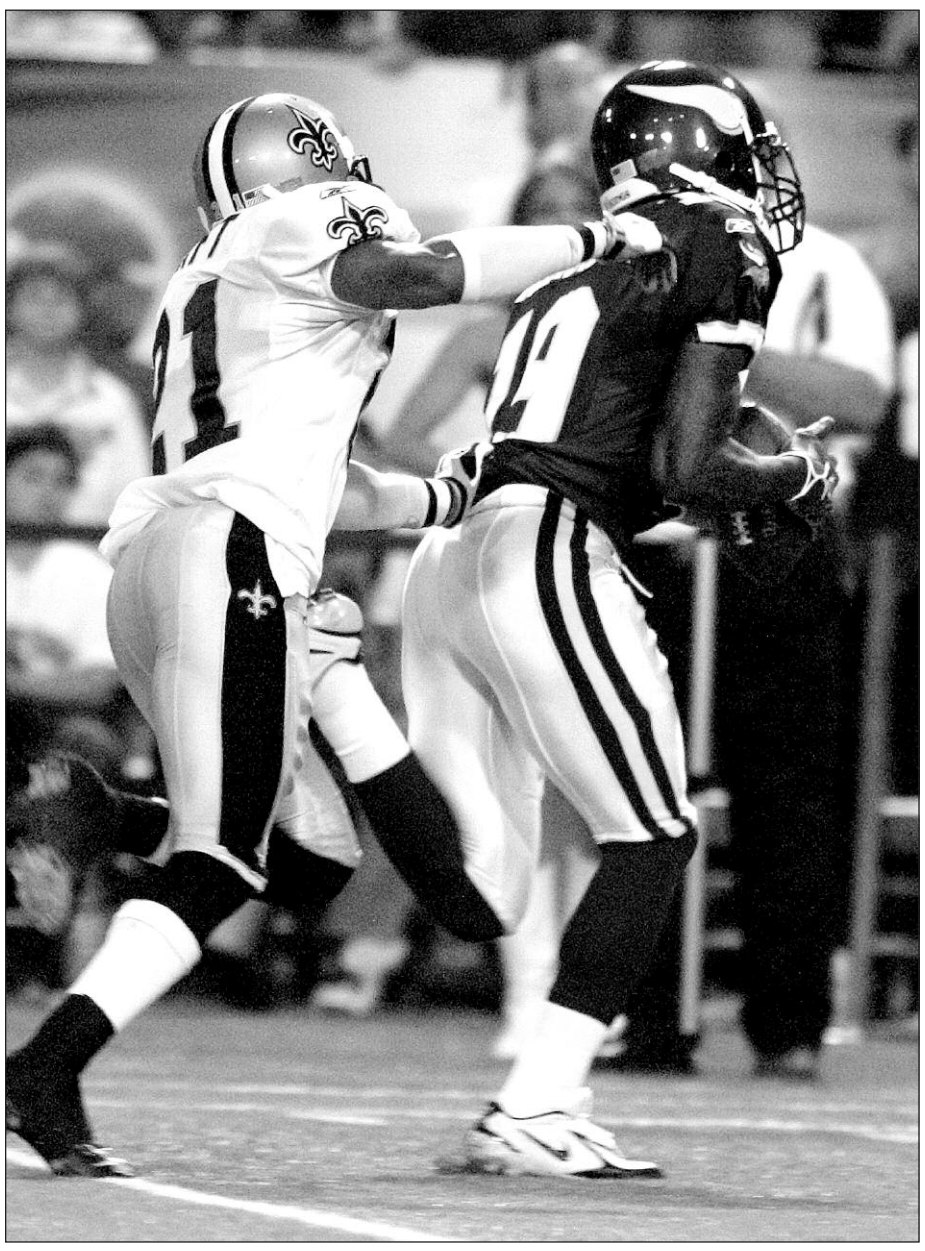
This one wasn't a case of the Vikings playing sensational football. It was more a matter of the Saints not being able to overcome Aaron Brooks' 12-for-32 (two interceptions) passing day, 14 penalties, and a defense that allowed Culpepper and company to control the ball for 38 minutes.

The bright side: It was a coming-out party for Devery Henderson, who came close to 100 yards catching passes, this on a day when Joe Horn had one grab. Horn would have grabbed more than one had more balls been catchable.

But that's how it goes.

The New Orleans Saints will play on this season as America's Team, a team without a home, a team that will play its first game closest to home Sunday when it welcomes the Buffalo Bills to San Antonio.

By now, the Saints realize, once they kick it off, the home team gets no favors.



AP PHOTO

Vikings wide receiver Troy Williamson, right, beats Saints cornerback Jason Craft on a 53-yard touchdown reception Sunday. The Vikings led 24-0 in the second quarter.

# Miscues again Saints downfall

SAINTS, *from C-1*

"I was looking for the post, and he bent it off to the corner. He made a good play, Daunte made a great play. Touchdown. They made a play early on, and it gave them an opportunity to build the momentum for the game."

But it didn't stop there.

The Saints' next six offensive possessions ended in five punts and an interception thrown by quarterback Aaron Brooks.

Culpepper completed a 68-yard pass to Marcus Robinson between cornerback Jason Craft and safety Dwight Smith, a 13-yard touchdown pass to Taylor against linebacker Courtney Watson and a 53-yard touchdown pass to Troy Williamson against Craft.

The Vikings led 24-0 in the second quarter. At one point, Culpepper had a quarterback rating of 151.4, while Brooks' rating was 4.9.

"This is one team you don't want to get behind because they have too much offense, and we just couldn't catch up," Haslett said.

It didn't help that Brooks had one of the worst performances of his career.

After starting the game 1-of-12, Brooks finished with 199 yards, one touchdown pass and two interceptions for a final rating of 43.6 ñ his lowest since 2002.

Playing from deep in the hole and having to abandon the running game made matters worse.

"We were forced to go to a hurry-up offense in the second quarter," Brooks said. "That is almost unheard of in this league."

And the Vikings — a desperate team after starting the season 0-2 ñ tried something new on defense, bringing their safeties and cornerbacks on blitzes all afternoon, throwing the Saints' offense out of whack.

"On film, we ain't seen them blitz at all," Saints guard Kendyl Jacox said. "They sure damn brought a lot of them today."

A disappointed Jacox insisted that if the Saints could have stuck to their game plan all day and "continued to pound them, the Vikings wouldn't have held up."

But for the second week in a row, that game plan was tossed out the window early.

The Saints fought back and came within eight points with a late first-half touchdown and a solid third-quarter performance.

But after they crept to 24-16 on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Brooks to Ernie Conwell and a one-yard touchdown run by Deuce McAllister, Culpepper quickly marched the Vikings to another field goal.

"We were just about at that point when we got to that 16 mark, then they took the ball, went down and scored and put us back in the two-minute mode," Jacox said. "We were just getting back there, just getting ready to get back in our game plan."

The Saints crashed back down to earth. And afterward it was a flight back to San Antonio.

Maybe this week will be different, with a full week to recover between games and the first real home date of the year against Buffalo at the Alamodome next Sunday.

Haslett and several players said the practices have been great over the past two weeks, but it simply has not translated into victories.

Tight end Ernie Conwell said he believes the Saints' unusual circumstances have had an effect on the team, but not because of mental or physical fatigue. But he suggested that the team is trying to make things happen, trying to force the issue rather than playing free and having fun ñ like they did in the final four weeks of last season and in Week 1 at Carolina this year.

Receiver Joe Horn ñ who caught one pass for 11 yards, his lowest ouput in more than 30 games ñ said he hopes his team will avoid falling into excuse mode.

"Don't hang our heads. ëWoe is us.' (Forget) that," Horn said. "I haven't heard anybody say that. I haven't seen that. But that's what we have to avoid."

Brooks warned against signing off on the Saints early, like the media has done in the past, his voice rising as he referred to last year's 4-0 finish.

"If you've been keeping up with this team, you know we're a very resilient football team. We've had worse situations than we're in right now," Brooks said. "So we don't need to get down in the dumps. We're not going to get down in the dumps.

"We're going to go out here and fight, practice and play our butts off and look forward to next week's game."

John Blancher, owner of the Rock 'n' Bowl, keeps on rockin'

Tuesday in Living

*Instant schools are popping up wherever hurricane evacuees congregate, proving that with a roof, teachers and meager supplies, education can continue in this topsy-turvy world*



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Megan Neelis, a second-grade teacher at Lusher Elementary School, helps Abby Collins and Adam Poche, both 4, with math, while Harry Neelis and Callie Huston, 3, nap at the 'Sugar Cane Academy,' a temporary school opened in New Iberia by Lusher parents and teachers.

# *Just add* STUDENTS

BY A VOTE of the kids, they dubbed their new school Sugar Cane Academy.

The single classroom, located in the heart of New Iberia, is cold and drab, but as students begin putting paint to paper, the space is slowly becoming a school.

Just ask Lusher Elementary School parent Kiki Huston, who along with first-grade teacher Paul Reynaud, has worked feverishly to set up a learning environment for Lusher students now living with their families in Cajun country.

For now, cardboard boxes are being used as desks and chairs as parents shop yard sales to pick up whatever else they can find to use. They also got their hands on two outdated, but working, computers.

"We are home-school status right now," said Huston, whose two children Olivia and Walker are among the school's seven students. "With everything being so topsy-turvy right now, we're trying to keep some of our community intact. We were hoping for up to 25 kids, but some people got cold feet."

Call it "Instant School," an effort by parents and teachers displaced by Hurricane Katrina to salvage as much of the school year as possible while providing children with some sense of normalcy when their lives are anything but normal.

**By Barri Bronston**
Staff writer

While the bulk of students from the New Orleans area are scattered among school systems throughout the country, many are maintaining ties with old classmates, either in home-school settings such as that of Sugar Cane Academy or in evening programs at already-established schools.

More than 400 students from Jesuit High School, which took in several feet of water after Katrina, have their own school on the campus of

*See* **STUDENTS,** *page C-10*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Brother Martin High School students eat supper together at 6:30 p.m., their meal break during night classes on the Catholic High School campus in Baton Rouge.

# WILLIAM FERGUSON, 63

**HOME:** *A house off Transcontinental in Metairie*
**HAVEN:** *A cot in the Red Cross shelter at Riverside Centroplex, downtown Baton Rouge*

**MY STORM STORY**



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"I walked (to Baton Rouge) from Metairie. From Transcontinental to LaPlace to Hondo to here. It's what, about 70 miles?

"It took about two and a half days. I walked to where Denny's is, on the up ramp, and got on I-10.

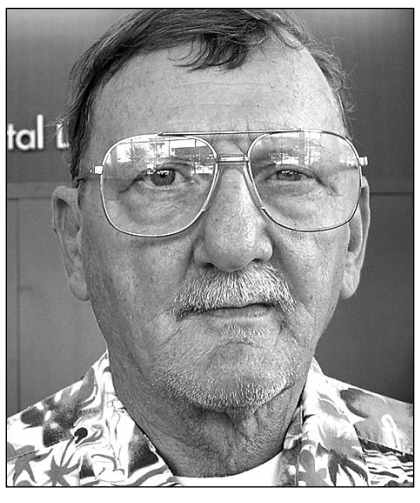
"I had a stroke operation about two months ago. I was living in a house there, by myself, and I was working nights at the Morning Call, a 130-year-old business. I went to work the night before the hurricane. I had just enough money to buy my medication and pay rent until this happened.

"I didn't get much water until the day after the hurricane. I only got a few inches, but it still was bad enough that I didn't want to stay there. A big tree came down in the back yard, and toppled on a power line. I had to walk around that.

"I walked only at night because I had enough money to be able to stop and eat at restaurants. I slept out during the day, and I got the ant bites to prove it.

"The day before the hurricane, they said they had just opened a relief shelter in Hondo. When I got there, it was all filled up, less than a day after the hurricane. So I had no other choice than to come here.

"I got a ride at the last exit from Baton Rouge to here. Some guy saw me walking and yelled at me to pick me up. It was the last three or four miles. I came in here and they were full. I explained how I got here, and they said go see the Red Cross, and they put me here in the shelter.



"I want to go back and see if the Morning Call is still working. They don't need electricity for their old-fashioned cash register."

*— As told to Judy Walker on Sept. 14*

# 'Meaningful delight'

## *Public broadcasting facing daunting challenges and counting on the public for support*

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans' public broadcasters as hard as it hit the city's commercial radio and TV stations.

Perhaps harder, given the comparatively meager money the television and radio stations have to rebuild.

Studios and offices for WYES-Channel 12 were swamped by floodwaters.

WLAE-Channel 32's new transmitter appears to be ruined.



**DAVE WALKER**
*On the Air*

Local National Public Radio affiliate WWNO 89.9 FM got a low-power signal back on the air last week (a feed delivered by satellite from Georgia, actually), and jazz-and-heritage WWOZ 90.7 FM is doing a "WWOZ in Exile" Web cast, but both stations face daunting rebuilding challenges.

Tulane University's student-run WTUL 91.5 FM is off the air, but reportedly suffered little significant damage.

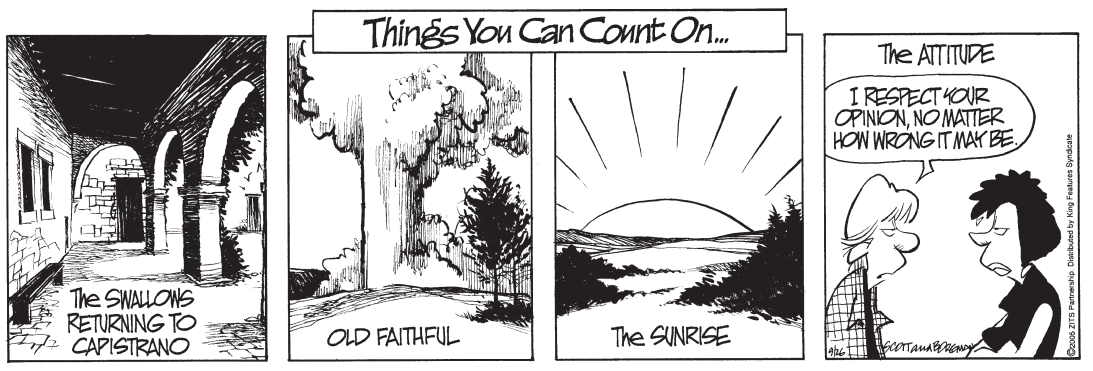
The building that housed the transmitter for WRBH 88.3 FM, New Orleans' volunteer-staffed outlet for the blind and print-handicapped, was knocked off its foundation, silencing the station for an impossible-to-determine period of time.

Getting WRBH back on the air will be "an overwhelming task," said Natalia Gonzalez, the station's executive

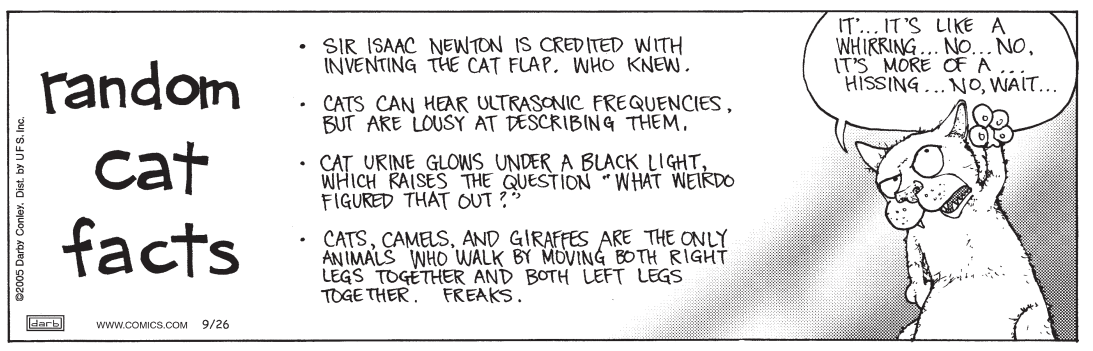
*See* **WALKER,** *page C-10*

# COMICS

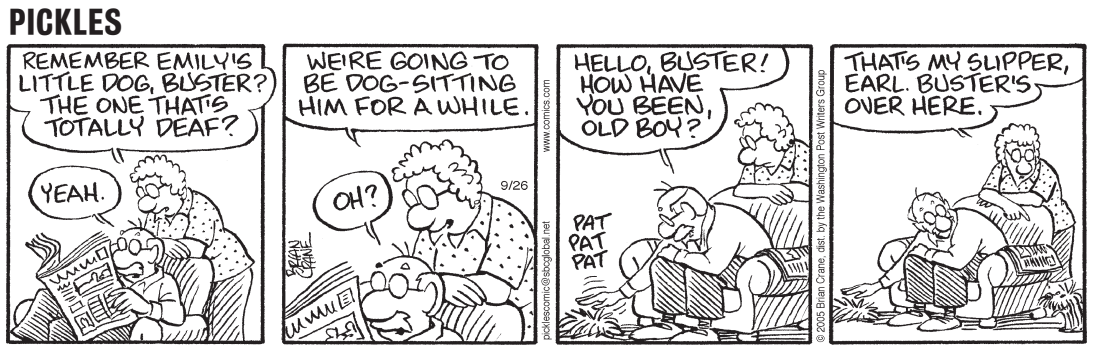
## ZITS



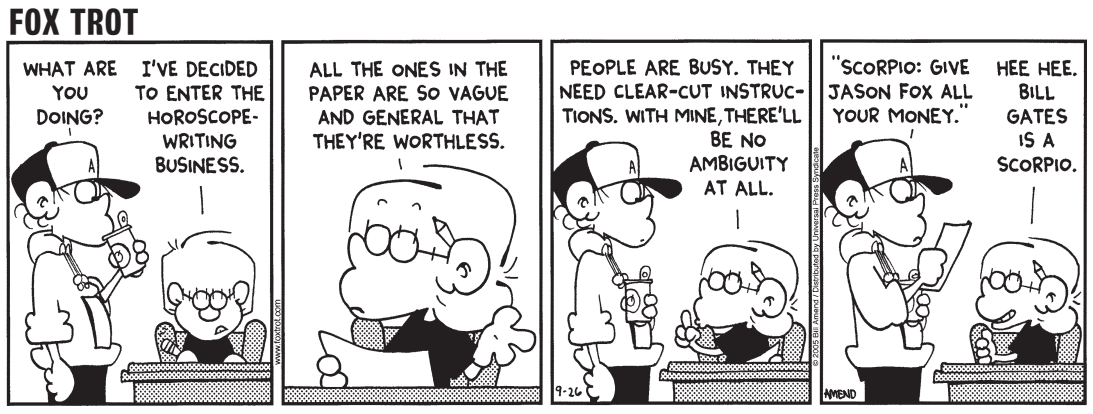

## GET FUZZY



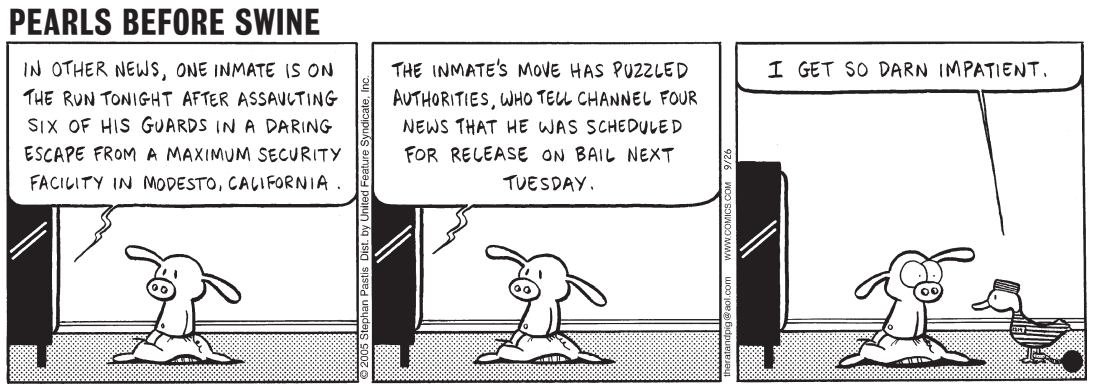

## PICKLES



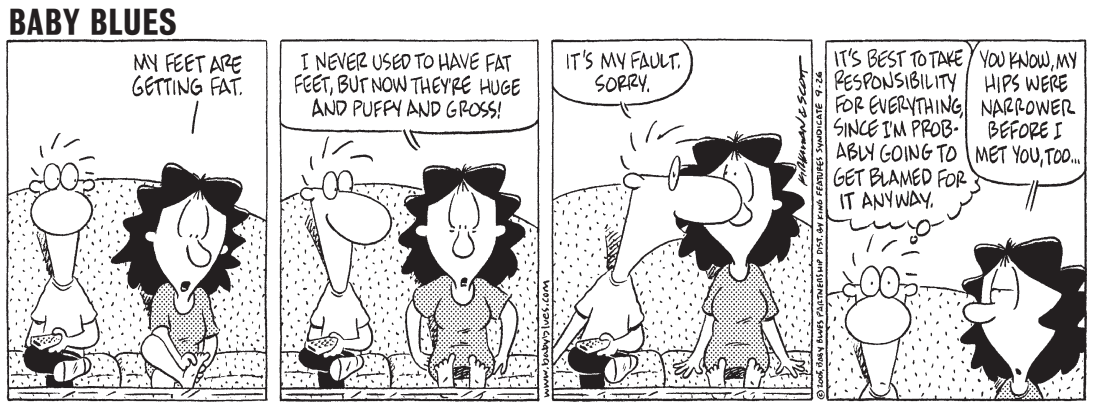

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUNEL

NEFTO

TRIOGE

ENCHIL

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: FOR " " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FLUID LEAFY ALIGHT STYLUS
Answer: What the bowling dispute turned into — AN "ALLEY" FIGHT

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | E1 | E1 | D2 | W4 | R1 | L1 | 3rd Letter Triple | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | U1 | R1 | C3 | C3 | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| E1 | E1 | O1 | D2 | D2 | T1 | N1 | Double Word Score | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| E1 | E1 | I1 | O1 | H4 | R1 | C3 | | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 203

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 145-155

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C3 | H4 | E1 | E1 | R1 | I1 | O1 | RACK 4 = | 62 |
| D2 | E1 | N1 | O1 | T1 | E1 | D2 | RACK 3 = | 68 |
| A1 | C3 | C3 | R1 | U1 | E1 | | RACK 2 = | 10 |
| L1 | E1 | E1 | W4 | A1 | R1 | D2 | RACK 1 = | 63 |

TOTAL 203

## WORD SLEUTH

H D B Y W T R P M K I F D B Y
W U S Q O M K I O F D B Z X R
W U S Q O N L J U H F Y D G E
C E S E N I H C T A Y T N W P
R V S T L (V A U D E V I L L E)
A E S T E T Q P O R T N N A R
L P N M R K T I O A E U H C T
F E O N I E V I R D C M B I O
Z H Y L I W E E L V U M M S R
S R Q P L D P T E I V O M U Y
N M L J I O H S L O B C I M S

Saturday's unlisted clue: TROUT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: GRAUMAN'S — THEATER

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apollo | Drive-in | Musical | Street |
| Bolshoi | Home | Operating | Summer |
| Community | Little | Outdoor | Vaudeville |
| Dinner | Movie | Repertory | |

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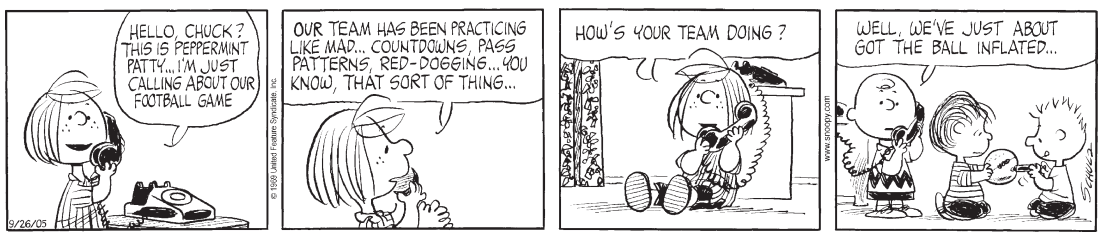
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| S | L | L | M | E | A | B | A | O | S | V | E | K |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| E | T | O | I | L | P | B | A | E | S | E | E | C |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| I | T | E | S | W | N | Y | N | G | T | E | F | O |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| L | A | U | O | O | R | O | C | C | E | H | R | A |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| H | P | E | N | A | G | T | E | I | T | V | H | E |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| W | L | R | V | D | E | H | L | A | I | I | P | F |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| T | T | P | H | Y | C | E | A | I | R | D | E | Y |

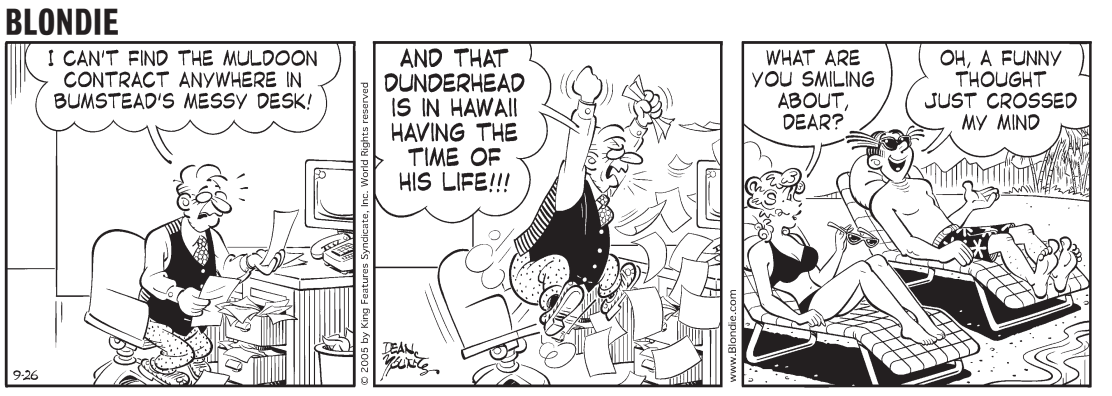
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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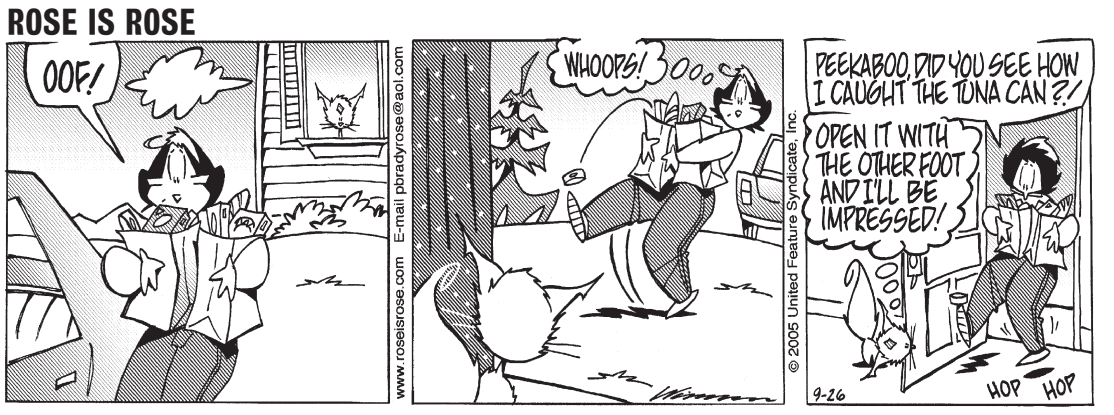
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



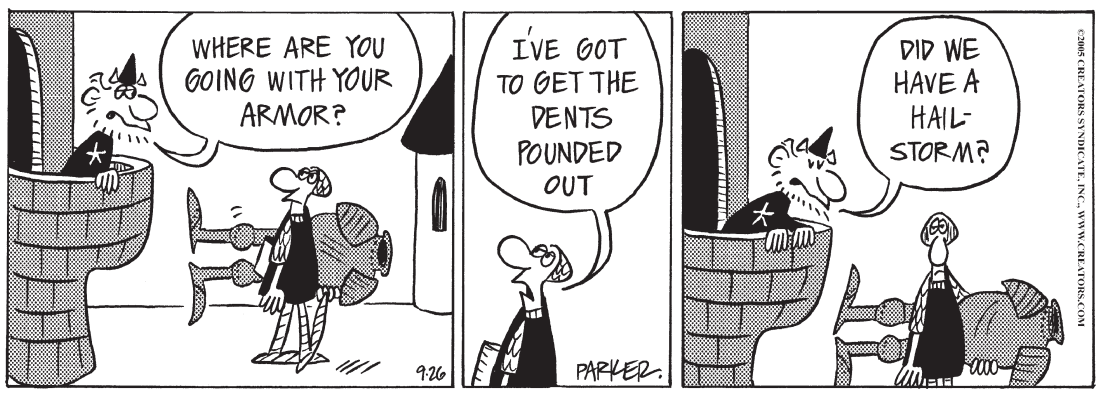

## BLONDIE



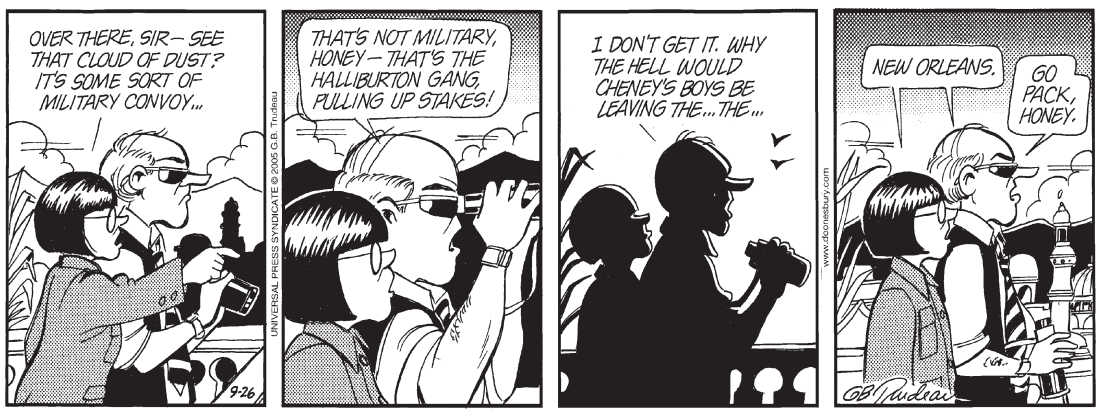

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



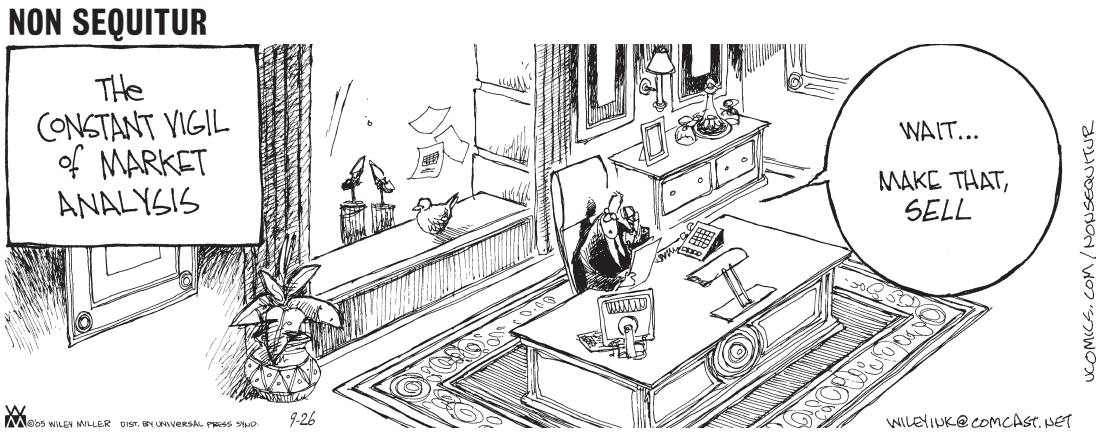

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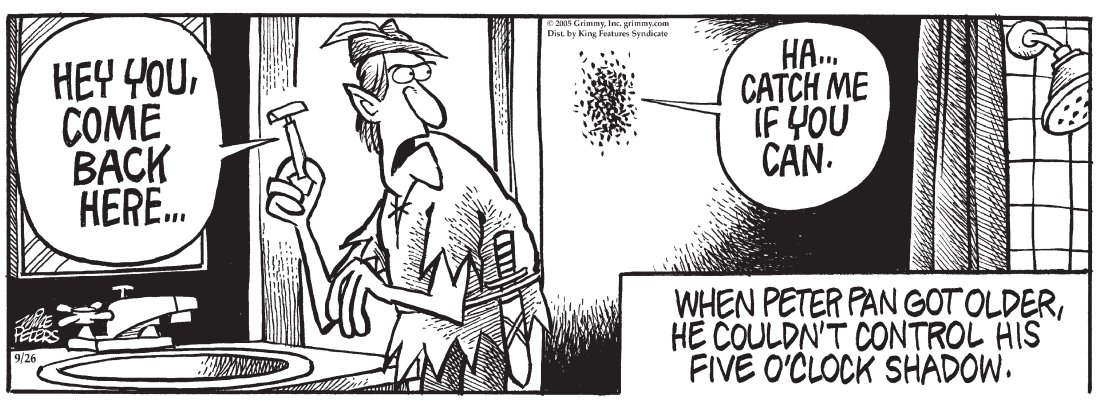

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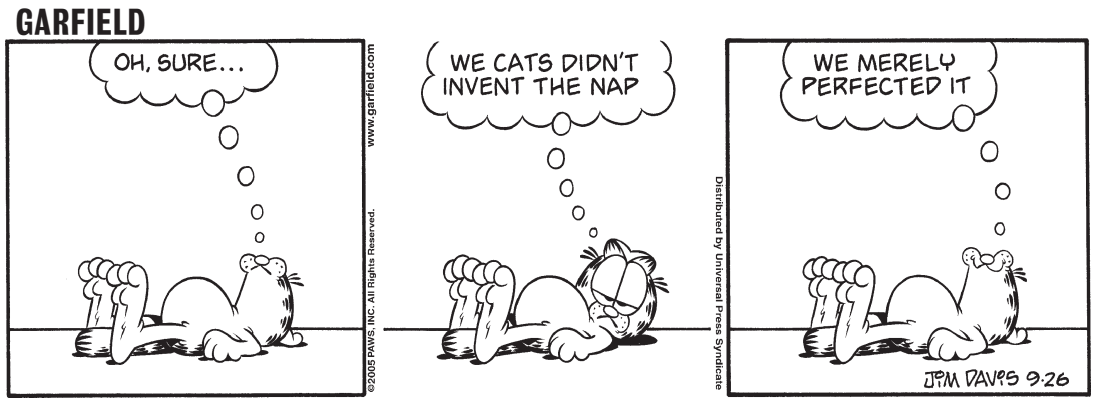



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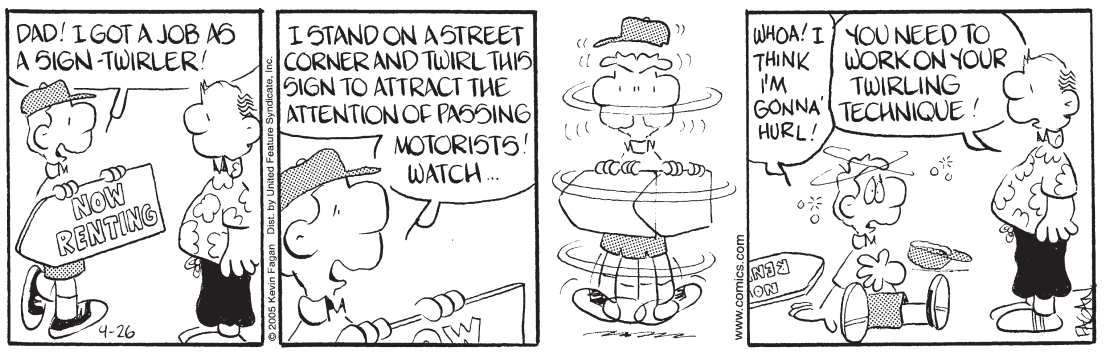


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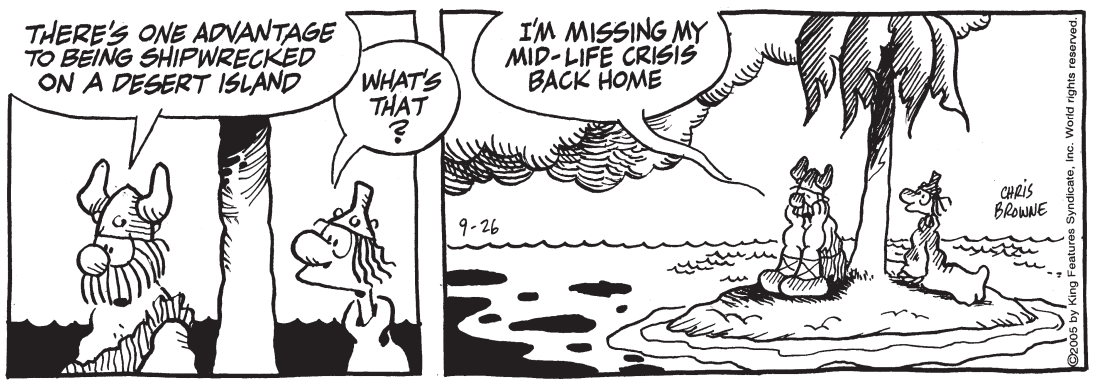
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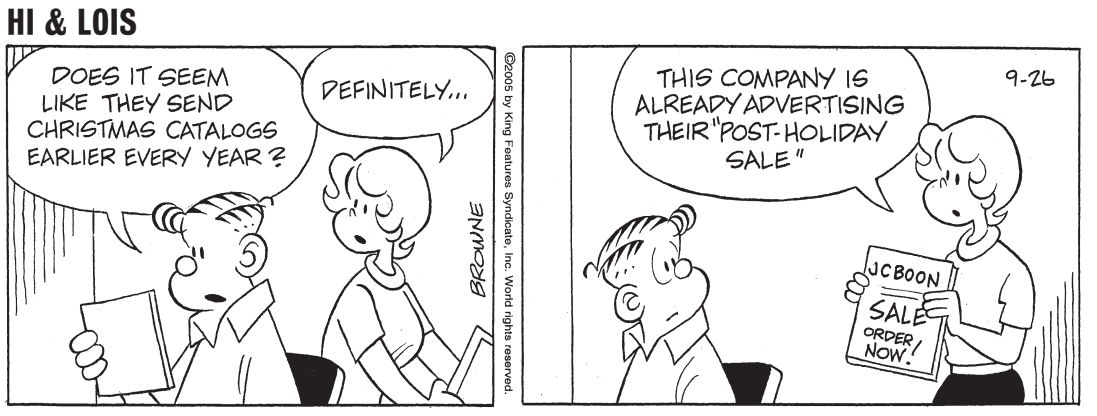

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## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



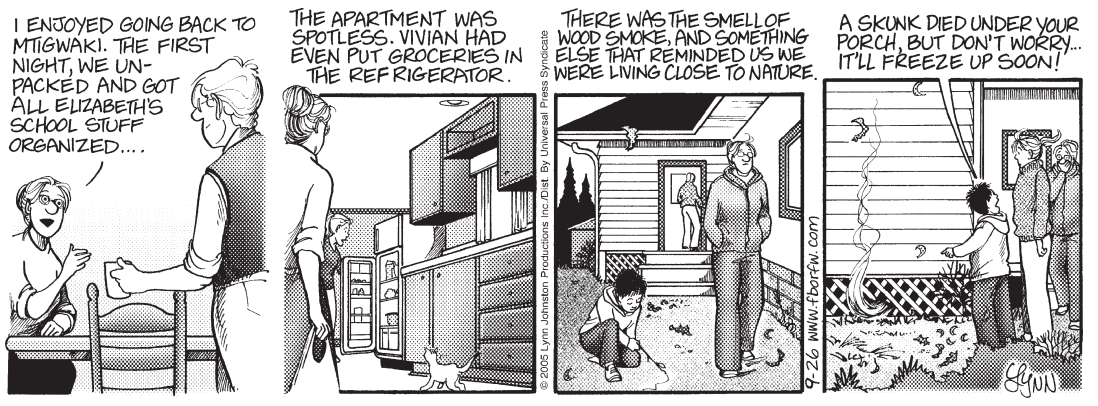

## HI & LOIS



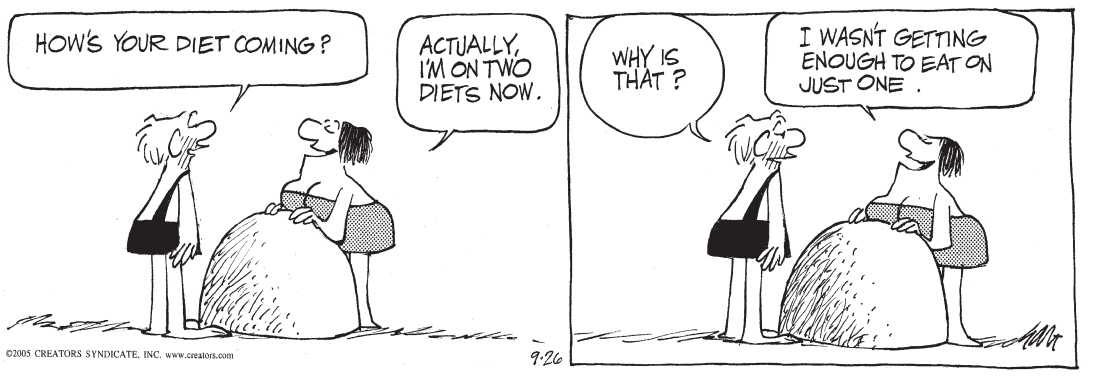

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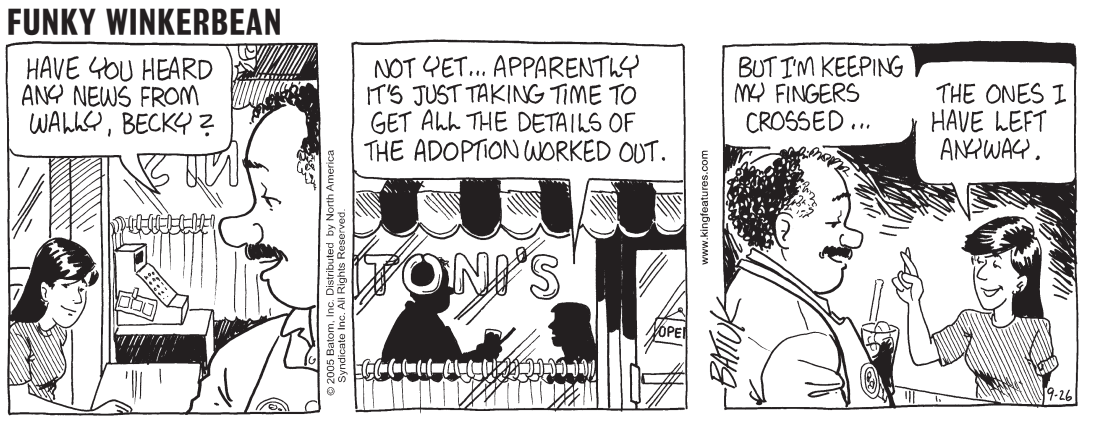

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



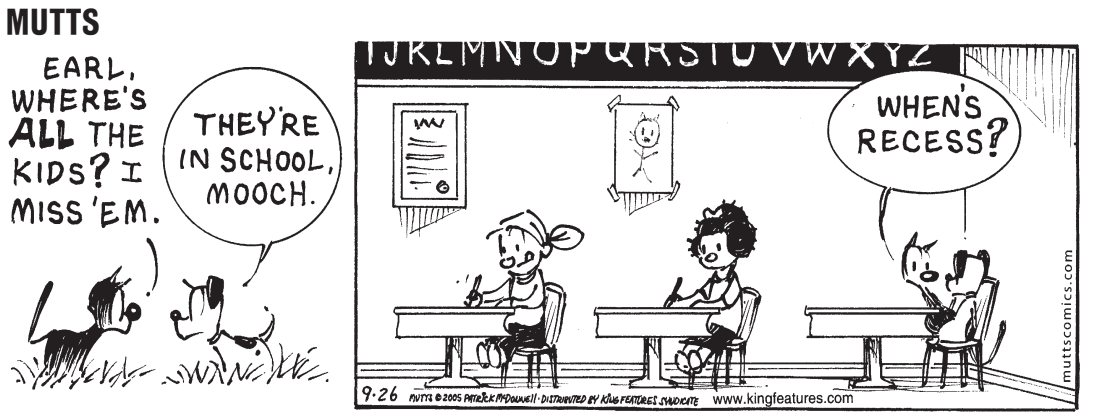

## B.C.



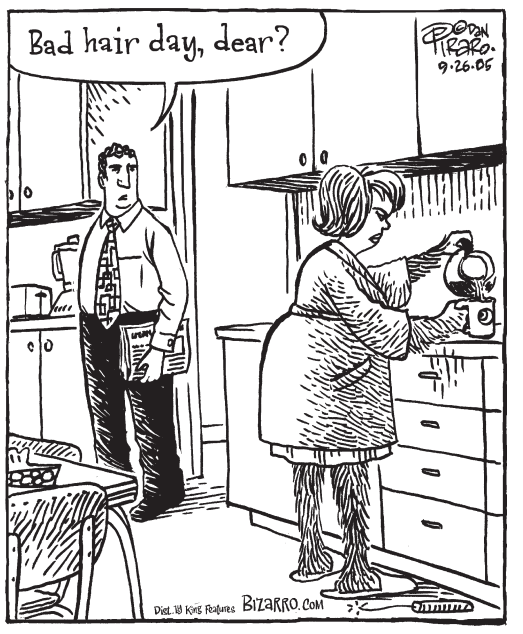

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

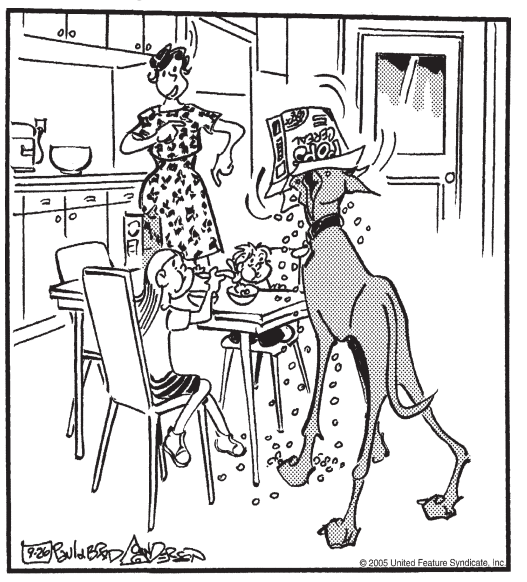



"Well, gentlemen, we've sucessfully removed his giblets. Surprisingly, they're in this little bag."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Marm! What if someone else wants more cereal?"

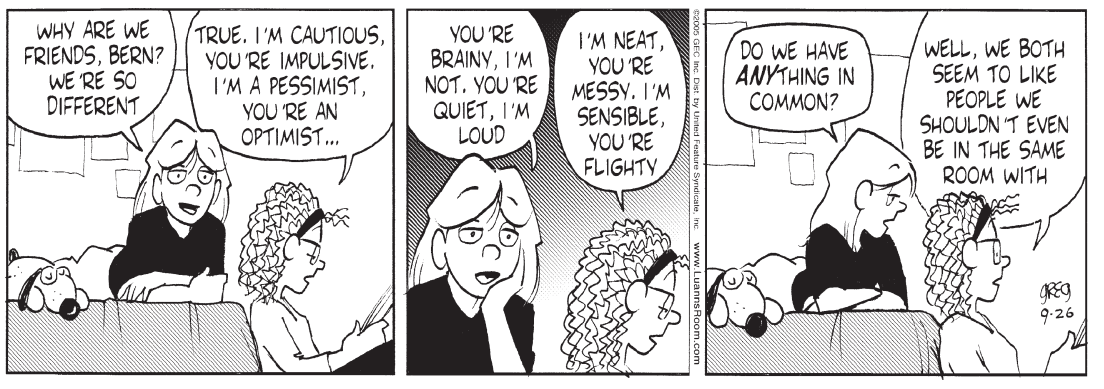
## JUMP START



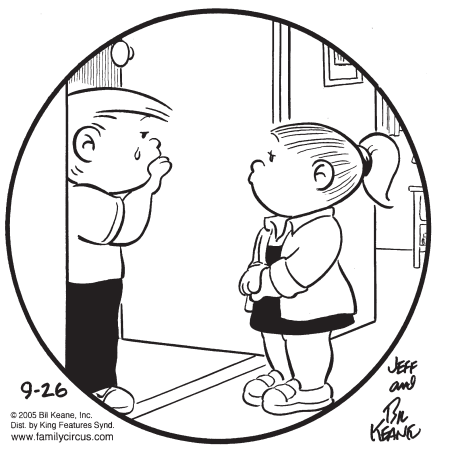

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



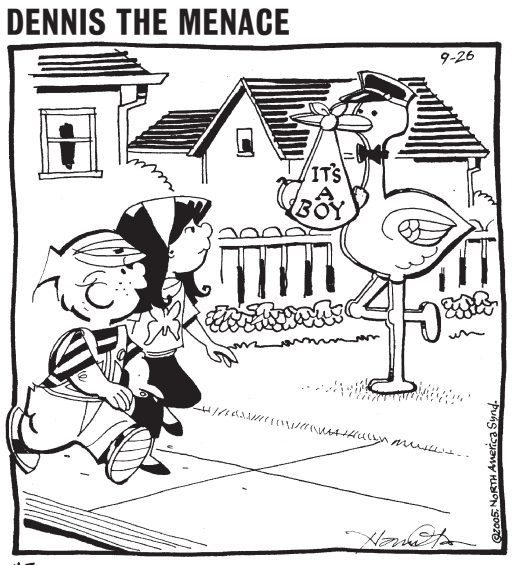

"You can tell the guys I got in trouble. Just don't say I was crying."

## CLOSE TO HOME




Although she wrote in her online dating profile that she wanted a guy with a sense of humor, this was not what Mindy had envisioned.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"IF THE STORK HAD LANDED ONE BLOCK OVER, I COULDA HAD A BABY BROTHER."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**IT'S OVER MY HEAD** **Solution: 9 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | I | A | T | N | U | O | M | E | R | C | U | R | Y | B |
| R | O | O | F | V | H | A | T | S | T | L | P | W | S | U |
| S | H | O | W | E | R | F | B | U | I | L | D | I | N | G |
| A | S | G | L | I | D | E | R | E | L | U | A | G | U | S |
| S | T | M | E | L | S | B | D | A | S | P | R | S | B | E |
| A | E | S | U | N | A | R | U | G | C | K | A | L | E | S |
| T | N | I | O | N | U | B | S | L | A | S | I | S | L | S |
| E | A | W | L | E | E | T | T | E | Ⓜ | M | T | E | I | A |
| L | L | R | U | F | S | M | P | Ⓞ | P | E | S | W | S | L |
| L | P | Q | R | A | T | S | Ⓞ | E | J | U | E | R | S | G |
| I | O | B | A | N | A | Ⓝ | A | D | N | A | B | A | I | N |
| T | R | E | E | S | C | O | M | E | T | D | T | P | M | U |
| E | S | R | A | M | K | C | V | H | D | U | O | L | C | S |
| N | H | E | R | O | C | K | E | T | R | U | B | O | S | S |
| T | T | T | N | W | O | R | C | N | S | L | L | I | H | E |

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Balloon, Bandana, Beret, Blimp, Boss, Bugs, Building, Buns, Cloud, Comet, Crown, Dome, Dust, Eagle, Fans, Flies, Glider, Hats, Helmet, Hills, Hood, Jets, Mars, Mercury, Missile, Moon, Mountain, Neptune, Peak, Planets, Pluto, Pull, Rocket, Roof, Satellite, Saturn, Scarf, Shower, Skies, Snow, Stack, Star, Sunglasses, Tent, Tiara, Toque, Trees, Turban, Uranus, Veil, Venus, Weather, Wigs, Wrap

**Last Saturday's Answer: Reservation**

CONTINUED

# THIS MOLD HOUSE *More tips for mending your broken home*

## Don't pitch granny's sideboard just yet

Furniture damaged by floodwater can be restored, but, first, ask yourself: Is it worth it?

The first step in restoring flood-soaked furniture is deciding whether the pieces are worth the effort and expense of salvaging, disaster experts at the LSU AgCenter advise. Decisions should be made on each piece based on the extent of damage, the cost of the article, the sentimental value and the cost of restoration.

The bottom line: Solid hardwood furniture sometimes can be salvaged by slow drying and careful repair. Unless it's extremely valuable, wooden furniture with veneer finishes is usually not worth the cost. Grandmother's 1940s waterfall style cedar chest might not be salvageable, but great-grandmother's solid oak or mahogany dining table may be.

Antiques are often worth the time, effort and expense of restoration. Unless damage is severe, the pieces can be cleaned and refinished at home.

Upholstered furnishings, however, soak up contaminants from floodwaters and should be thrown away unless they are antiques or especially expensive or well-made. In any case, they should be cleaned by a professional. Get an estimate to see if the furniture is worth saving.

If your upholstered recliner or dining room chairs have wooden legs and only a bottom few inches of the legs were in floodwater, they may be salvageable.

Wet furniture should be moved outside for initial cleaning. Hose off or wipe away dirt and mud. Don't let furniture dry in the sun because it will warp. Store the piece where it will dry completely in a shady, well-ventilated place, until you have time to repair it.

If possible, open cabinet doors and drawers, but do not force them open. You may be able to open stuck drawers after they dry. Remove as many parts as possible. Gently pry off the back of the piece, if possible, with a screwdriver or chisel.




Once dry, furniture may be reglued using clamps, sanded and refinished. Contact an experienced carpenter or consult books on furniture repair.

Even if furniture has not been submerged in water, white spots or a cloudy film may develop on damp furniture. Wear rubber gloves to try these solutions:

• If the entire surface is affected, rub with a damp cloth dipped in either turpentine or camphorated oil, or a solution of 1/2 cup household ammonia and 1/2 cup water. Wipe dry at once and polish with wax or furniture polish.

• If color is not restored, dip 3/0 steel wool in oil (olive, mineral, lemon or boiled linseed) and rub lightly in the direction of the wood grain. Wipe with a soft cloth and re-wax. For deep spots, try a drop or two of ammonia on a damp cloth, then rub at once with a dry cloth and polish.

• Rubbing cigarette ashes, a piece of walnut or powdered pumice on white spots may help remove them. If spots remain, the piece should be sanded and refinished.

**— By Judy Walker, Staff writer**

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# INSTANT SCHOOLS *are popping up wherever hurricane evacuees congregate*

**STUDENTS,** *from C-7*

Strake Jesuit in Houston. In Baton Rouge and LaPlace, Catholic students from New Orleans are attending new satellite night schools at St. Michael the Archangel and St. Charles Catholic high schools. And Brother Martin High School has established an evening program on the campus of Catholic High School, also in Baton Rouge.

Though not all from the same school in New Orleans, evacuees who until Hurricane Rita's threat were sheltered at the Astrodome, Reliant Center and the George Brown Convention Center in Houston are being schooled together at buildings that were closed at the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

"This room (the library) was empty a couple of days ago," said Sue Ann Payne, a former Houston principal who agreed to come out of retirement to head up Frederick Douglass Elementary School in downtown Houston. "The whole school was empty."

But within a couple of days, books were back on the library shelves, desks and chairs back in the classrooms and colorful cut-outs and slogans back on the bulletin boards. A job fair was held to lure retired teachers back to the classroom and help displaced teachers from New Orleans maintain employment.

Danyell Schulze of Harvey, a social-worker-turned-teacher at Alice Harte Elementary School in Algiers, said she never felt more welcomed in a job than when she stepped foot at Douglass.

"I knew the children needed me," said Schulze, who is teaching a fourth grade class of mostly boys. "They needed stability. They've been through such devastation – things that most adults will never experience. They all have stories to tell, and I listen. We want them to know that they can come here and feel safe."

At the same time, she doesn't let the kids stray from their real purpose of being at Douglass – catching up and keeping up with academics. "I've tried to stroke their intelligence. I emphasize the importance of their education, which gives them another outlet to focus on."



Kirstin Dornan and Anna Giorlando, both 17 and students at Dominican High School in New Orleans, share a laugh with Raymond Yakelis, 18, a student from Brother Martin in New Orleans at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, where boys and girls are sharing the campus for the first time.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

For Schulze and her pupils, a typical day begins with story time followed by a question-and-answer session. Then it's on to math, where kids are learning basic geometry. In English, kids are mastering sentence structure. And through hands-on science experiments, they are learning about predictions and measurements.

Across town, more than 400 students from Jesuit High School have resumed their education at Strake Jesuit, with more than 30 of their teachers from New Orleans among the faculty. Students attend school from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, which allows them to attend football games and other school functions on Fridays.

"Initially, the idea was to work the kids into our own class schedules," said the Rev. Daniel K. Lahard, president of Strake Jesuit. "We could accommodate 200 extra people, but as the numbers grew, we realized that the only feasible way to do it was after the regular school day."

The Rev. Anthony McGinn, Lahard's counterpart in New Orleans, said that through www.nola.com, he was able to get word out to parents via The Times-Picayune affiliated Web site, nola.com, about Strake Jesuit's involvement, prompting many families to leave where they had initially settled and relocate to Houston.

McGinn said he is grateful for the hospitality shown to Jesuit families and students by the Strake Jesuit community as well as Jesuit schools throughout the country.

That doesn't mean students have accepted their new learning environment with ease.

"They're disappointed that they are not in their usual routines," McGinn said. "But they also realize that so many people are working together to salvage their school year."

As he headed to class, Brian Adorno, 16, couldn't help but think about what he would be doing if he were back in New Orleans. "I'd be at football practice right now," he said. "And I don't have that to look forward to anymore. It's also hard because most of my close friends are scattered around the country."

Other students are trying to look at the bright side of being displaced. "The down side is that we can't play sports right now," said John Love, 15. "But the up side is that we can sleep late. And we don't have to go to school on Fridays."

In Baton Rouge, students at the Brother Martin night school echoed the same points as they waited for their classes to start at at 3:45 p.m. The 550 enrollees include about one-third of the 2005-2006 student body, plus evacuees from just about every other New Orleans area Catholic school, including Jesuit, St. Augustine, Holy Cross, De La Salle and Redeemer-Seton.

As of last Thursday, due to demand, the school went co-ed for the first time in its history, enrolling girls from Mt. Carmel Academy, St. Mary's Dominican, and Ursuline Academy, said Gabrielle Macaluso, assistant principal of admissions at Brother Martin. Many students are the sisters of boys who were already attending.

"At first, it was like the worst thing that could happen," said Alex Juneau of his disrupted senior year at Brother Martin in New Orleans. "I have friends on the football team who say they love Brother Martin so much they would come back next year to repeat (their senior year). They weren't going to miss out because of the hurricane."

But, now, Juneau said he likes the night school, noting that a teacher explained that teenagers learn better later in the day.

Because of its home-school status, the Lusher families who formed Sugar Cane Academy are able to maintain a more flexible learning environment. Students have already taken a field trip to Bayou Teche, are working on science projects that involve the planting of seeds and writing in journals about their hurricane experience. They plan on making regular visits to the library, which is only two blocks away, and arrangements are in the works for Cajun musicians to perform for kids.

"The kids are doing great," Huston said. "They love their teacher and they love each other. But they also know that they will eventually be going home. Their only fear is alligators being in their back yard when they get there."

Staff writer Judy Walker contributed to this article. You can reach Barri Bronston at tpbarri@aol.com. You can reach Judy Walker at judywla@yahoo.com.

# Public stations hit hard

**WALKER,** *from C-7*

director. "I don't know if six months is optimistic or pessimistic. I just don't know."

Randy Feldman, WYES' general manager, said the station's studios near City Park held about 5 feet of water at the peak of flooding.

Losses include the station's video library, artwork collected for the fall fund-raising auction, one mobile unit and office equipment.

WYES' transmitter and tower survived the storm and flood, and Feldman said his first goal is to get a satellite-delivered PBS network feed on the air as soon as possible.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has sent grant money to help the station meet its near-term payroll, Feldman said.

There's no way of predicting when local programming will air again, but PBS programming will be a sign "that the region is regenerating and will rebuild," Feldman said. "We will be a symbol of that.

"The broadcast service is something that can, especially the children's shows, bring tremendous comfort to people. Kids and families (need) some delight in their lives. Some meaningful delight, as I would call it."

Roof failure at WLAE's Causeway Boulevard headquarters in Metairie caused some interior water damage, said Mark Coudrain, the station's general manager, but the facility may be usable within a few weeks.

But the station's newly installed transmitter equipment, including the building that housed it, is a total loss.

"It's really just a disaster," said Coudrain, adding that plans are under way for WYES to share some of its transmitter time with WLAE.

The only possible bright side of this disaster scenario is that Katrina may accelerate a new, state-of-the-art facility for WYES, WLAE and WWNO to share.

"We were supposed to get a major chunk of construction money from the state," said Feldman. "I don't think the state is going to be doing a lot of that."

Federal relief money may be available to replace the expected state money, Feldman added, though that route could reopen the Teleplex's site-selection process. The structure has long been projected for the University of New Orleans campus.

"That was one of the options" for the Teleplex, said Feldman. "But that was pretty well hit (by Katrina) as well, from what I understand.

"It's a new ballgame. We're going to do whatever seems to be the best avenue for our community."

Pre-Katrina, WWNO had operated from an upper floor of UNO's library.

Working from the offices of Georgia Public Broadcasting – where he was employed until being hired earlier this summer as WWNO's general manager – Chuck Miller oversaw the return of WWNO's signal last week.

Currently airing there is a mix of NPR network programming and classical and jazz shows assembled by WWNO staffers.

Meanwhile, the WWNO Web site (www.WWNO.org) features a link to another site offering relief help for displaced Louisiana Philharmonic musicians.

Similarly, the WWOZ Web site (www.WWOZ.org) has been tracking the whereabouts and welfare of New Orleans roots-music performers.

Also archived there — the site has been guest-hosted by New Jersey freeform radio station WFMU-FM — are compelling Web log postings by David Freedman, WWOZ's general manager.

In addition to reporting on the condition of WWOZ's studios and transmitter, the blog contains provocative thinking-out-loud posts from Freedman about Katrina's impact on New Orleans culture.

"What's going to happen to the city when it's rebuilt?" asked Freedman during an interview. "Who's going to live here?

"I was realizing how much was lost, and how much more could be lost."

WWOZ has technical challenges to meet to get back on the air. Both its studios and transmitter are salvageable, though, and a signal could be up as soon as this week, Freedman said.

Meanwhile, continuous stream of New Orleans music, including archived shows and new shows produced by the station's volunteer hosts scattered across the country, is available on the station's Web site.

Contacted by e-mail late last week, Rob Rioux, music director at Tulane's student-run WTUL, said the station is hoping to get a Web site stream of archived shows activated shortly.

"We'll find out in the next day or so about the condition of the studio," wrote Rioux. "But early indications are that the damage was minimal.

"So I take it to mean our (record and CD) collection is intact."

WRBH's Gonzalez said the estimated repair cost for her station's transmitter – $300,000 – exceeds the station's annual budget.

Last week, Gonzalez didn't know the condition of her station's Magazine Street studios, but was more concerned for the welfare of the 100-plus volunteers who provide programming for the station by reading aloud from newspapers, magazines and books.

"I'd like to know how our volunteers are, and how our listeners are," she said. "Without them, we're just another talk-radio station."

Accordingly, Gonzalez said she'd like the station's volunteer readers to contact her via e mail – at npgonz@aol.com – in anticipation of a comeback.

"I'd like to get the word out that we're here, and that we're determined to come back," she said. "We want all of our volunteers to be safe and come back and help us."

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

## Sunday's crossword solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | C | E | S | ■ | A | L | K | A | L | I | ■ | A | G | A | R | S | ■ | S | E | W |
| N | A | S | H | ■ | D | E | N | S | E | R | ■ | M | A | R | A | T | ■ | P | L | O |
| C | U | T | A | N | D | P | A | S | T | E | ■ | I | R | I | N | A | ■ | A | I | R |
| A | L | E | R | O | ■ | E | V | E | S | ■ | B | R | O | A | D | B | A | N | D | S |
| S | K | E | E | T | ■ | R | E | S | O | L | E | ■ | ■ | N | A | I | L | S | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | D | S | ■ | ■ | F | I | R | E | W | A | L | L | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | F | F | A | C | E | ■ | O | F | F | E | N | S | E | ■ | L | E | O | N | E | S |
| M | O | U | S | E | P | A | D | S | ■ | R | E | S | I | N | ■ | ■ | P | E | A | S |
| M | E | N | S | ■ | T | R | O | T | S | ■ | ■ | O | R | E | O | S | ■ | M | R | T |
| A | S | K | E | W | ■ | G | R | A | T | I | N | ■ | D | E | S | K | T | O | P | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | H | R | U | ■ | R | A | D | A | R | ■ | D | A | Y | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| W | E | B | S | I | T | E | S | ■ | N | O | R | E | E | N | ■ | E | M | M | E | T |
| A | M | I | ■ | T | E | R | P | S | ■ | ■ | C | A | R | O | B | ■ | L | A | V | E |
| D | I | E | T | ■ | ■ | S | O | A | K | S | ■ | D | A | T | A | F | I | L | E | S |
| S | T | R | I | C | T | ■ | I | G | N | I | T | E | S | ■ | T | U | N | E | R | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | D | O | W | N | L | O | A | D | S | ■ | ■ | F | E | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | H | E | E | R | I | O | ■ | ■ | P | E | A | R | C | E | ■ | N | E | P | A | L |
| H | A | R | D | D | R | I | V | E | S | ■ | R | I | O | T | ■ | E | L | E | N | A |
| A | L | I | ■ | A | L | D | E | R | ■ | R | I | G | H | T | C | L | I | C | K | S |
| I | L | K | ■ | T | E | E | N | S | ■ | A | N | G | O | L | A | ■ | H | O | L | E |
| R | E | A | ■ | E | D | A | T | E | ■ | N | A | S | S | E | R | ■ | U | S | E | R |

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**INSIDE** • SAINTS SAFETY JAY BELLAMY OUT FOR THE SEASON WITH SHOULDER INJURY, SEE SPORTS

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 250 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# City tries again to bring life to shattered area

## Algiers residents back, but most of N.O. unlivable



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

New Orleans Police Officer Len Major looks at IDs Monday at a checkpoint on Behrman Highway and Holmes Boulevard in Algiers. While drinking water, sewerage and power have been restored to Algiers, most of the city's east bank remains without electricity and clean water, which officials now say could be restored in two to three weeks.

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

With many parts of New Orleans largely unscathed by Hurricane Rita, Mayor Ray Nagin began allowing some residents and business owners to re-enter the city Monday, a move that he hopes will jump-start a stalled effort to rebuild.

Starting at 10 a.m., Algiers residents began moving back into their homes, while business owners in the CBD, the French Quarter and parts of Uptown poured in to begin the arduous task of cleaning up.

Yet despite the eagerness of residents to return and city officials to rebuild, serious questions remain about whether New Orleans' shattered infrastructure is ready to handle a substantial influx, even in the sections least damaged.

While drinking water, sewerage and power have been restored to Algiers, most of the city's east bank remains without electricity and clean water, which officials now say could be restored in two to three weeks.

Nagin also warned of potentially serious public health risks, including illness from bacteria-laden tap water, limited police and fire services, and only a single military hospital to provide emergency services.

Food, medicine and gas also are in short supply, with only a handful of businesses open.

While the toilets are flushing, only one of the city's 65 sewer lift stations on the east bank was operating as of late last week. Sewerage and Water board officials did not provide an update on the sewerage system Monday.

The city's east bank wastewater treatment plant also was decimated. As a result, raw sewage probably will have to be pumped into the Mississippi River and possibly Lake Pontchartrain for at least nine months while it is rebuilt, water board officials have said.

To help manage a risky situation,

*See* **RETURN,** *A-6*



AP PHOTO

Danny Newchurch carries clothes from his car after returning to his Algiers home. New Orleans Mayor Nagin warned of potentially serious public health risks and limited emergency services.

# 249 cops went AWOL

*Tribunal will weigh each case in N.O.*

**By Michael Perlstein and Frank Donze**
Staff writers

The New Orleans Police Department has identified 249 officers who left their posts without permission during Hurricane Katrina and the storm's chaotic aftermath, and is now trying to distinguish out-and-out deserters from those who had compelling reasons to be AWOL.

The announcement puts a number to a phenomenon that was of uncertain magnitude when first revealed by angry police brass as looters swept through New Orleans in Katrina's wake.

Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said he will assemble a tribunal of his four assistant chiefs to hear the circumstances

*See* **COPS,** *A-8*

# Engineers examining floodwall failures

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

Reconstructing exactly how and why a structure failed is one of the most formidable engineering challenges. Investigators do it after plane crashes. They did it after the World Trade Center collapsed. Now, it's going to be done with New Orleans' canal floodwalls, some of which burst during Hurricane Katrina, flooding large portions of the city.

▶ **Task force aims to restore levees but not upgrade them, A-9**

The floodwall failures will spark one or more CSI-type investigations, with engineers poring over design specs, studying broken concrete and twisted

*See* **CONCRETE,** *A-9*

# FEMA hands out rent aid checks

▶ **Rental check questions and answers, A-5**

*253,000 in La. eligible for money*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — With the help of satellites spotting storm-damaged areas in New Orleans, the federal government has determined that 253,000 applicants for federal aid in Louisiana are eligible for a newly announced $2,358 cash advance toward three months rent to assist people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Ron Sherman, the housing coordinator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Louisiana, said Monday the agency is expecting to shell out $600 million of rental assistance in the next two weeks to people across the nation who left the New Orleans area because they

*See* **RENTAL,** *A-5*

# Response tapes show plans unraveling

*Parishes didn't expect trouble getting supplies*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson Bureau

Eleven days after Hurricane Katrina pounded the New Orleans area, Walter Maestri erupted in frustration that Jefferson Parish was without basic supplies such as food and generators. In conference calls before the storm, state leaders had assured him that the parish could get provisions fast by requesting them through a computer system. But after an initial influx, the supplies had disappeared into bureaucratic limbo.

"In the beginning, food and water were pouring in. Now it's trickling," Maestri, the parish's emergency management director, bellowed in a Sept. 9 conference call with state and parish officials. "We have no supermarkets

▶ **Transcripts of the conversations among emergency officals during and after the storm, A-7**

*See* **TAPES,** *A-7*

**DAY 29** • Katrina death toll: **1,084,** In Louisiana: **864** • Utility trucks head to aid Rita cleanup, A-10 • Confusion continues over FEMA's role, A-2 • SAT testing sites outside N.O., A-15 • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM

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# AFTER THE STORM

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MISSISSIPPI: 6,531
ARKANSAS: 43,000
*Including 156,000 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.

Power has been restored to the French Quarter, the Central Business District and Algiers Point.

Power is expected to be restored by Friday to a portion of Uptown bounded by St. Charles Avenue south to the Mississippi River, and South Carrollton Avenue east to Market Street.

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- ▶ FEMA
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- ▶ Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day.

**PARISH-BY-PARISH**
**ORLEANS**
- ▶ Beginning Monday, residents of Algiers and business owners in the French Quarter, Uptown, the Central Business District and Algiers were allowed to return to do inspections and clean up. Other areas of the city remain under mandatory evacuation order.
- ▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.

**JEFFERSON**
- ▶ Parish is open.
- ▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- ▶ Parish is open.
- ▶ 911 phone system is back on line.
- ▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
- ▶ A curfew is from 11 p.m to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- ▶ Residents who were not flooded by Hurricane Rita were allowed back into the parish Monday Residents who cannot yet return are those living north of Judge Perez Drive between the Orleans Parish line and Packenham Drive and areas east of the Verret Canal, officials said.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- ▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line.
- ▶ Some parts of parish still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- ▶ Parish open; utilities working.

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- ▶ Parish open; utilities working.

**SCHOOL OPENINGS**
**ORLEANS PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools
- ▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge to open Sept. 26

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date
- ▶ Catholic: Several schools already open. Our Lady of the Lake in Mandeville opened Monday.

**ST. BERNARD**
- ▶ Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- ▶ Belle Chasse schools to open Oct. 17.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- ▶ Public and Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- ▶ Public and Catholic: Open.

# La. agency gives back much of FEMA money

*Health department. used only about $10 million*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Health and Hospitals has declined the bulk of $352 million in disaster assistance handed to the state by the Federal Emergency Management Agency late last week, with agency officials saying that they spent only about $10 million during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The $352 million showed up in a list of projects approved by FEMA totaling $457 million, which was deposited by the federal government last week in the state of Louisiana's bank account. But the state health department has taken only the roughly $10 million that it is entitled to so far, said Bob Johannessen, the spokesman for the agency.

"We are obligated under federal law to return that money. That is what we did," said Johannessen, who noted that the agency is supposed to take only what it has actually spent.

He said that the health department eventually expects to spend about $60 million in dealing with Katrina, including such costs as the shelters and triage centers set up to evaluate people evacuated from the flooded New Orleans area. Agency officials expect to request that FEMA eventually pick up the whole tab for such items, Johannessen said.

The mixup over the money delineates the confusion over the precise nature of FEMA's public assistance program, which is set up to reimburse state and local agencies for the extra costs they incur because of a major disaster. This can range from debris removal to overtime pay for police and firefighters to the setting up of emergency shelters.

Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot said his staff is encouraging FEMA and the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness — the agency that all of the disaster money will flow through — to coordinate their requests for federal dollars with each agency's fiscal director. This way when FEMA staff start to figure out how much a local or state agency needs to recoup their expenses, they will have the best possible figures.

In the case of the DHH money, when the money arrived nobody at the agency knew anything about a request for that much cash, Theriot said. His understanding is that a FEMA staffer spoke with somebody at the agency and made a guess about how much they would need.

"It was a guesstimate and not even a best guesstimate," he said.

One of the concerns that Theriot said he has is that while FEMA will advance a local government or state agency money after a disaster, the federal government eventually will require extensive documentation to justify the payments. So if a city gets more federal dollars than it spends, it could get in trouble down the line, Theriot said.

The state has received a total of $674.7 million in public assistance money from FEMA in recent weeks, according to documentation provided by state Treasurer John Kennedy's office.

A good deal of that money has been earmarked for local governments, including $102.8 million sent to the city of New Orleans. But of the most recent batch of local money —about $165.5 million received last week — only about half has been disbursed, said Mark Smith, a spokesman for the state emergency preparedness office.

Local governments got approval for a number of expenditures, including reimbursement for rescue work and shelter costs. The city of Kenner, for example, has requested that the federal government cover the cost of purchasing 50 trailers to house city employees whose homes were destroyed by the storm.

On the state level, the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry has received approval for $3 million the agency said was spent on providing state and local agencies with emergency fuel during the crisis after Hurricane Katrina. Meanwhile, the LSU Health Sciences Center will get $61.6 million to pay for the relocation of the medical school to Baton Rouge.

The medical school has relocated to the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, but needed help housing students in the Baton Rouge area. The federal money will pay for a cruise ship that will be docked in the Mississippi River and up to 400 mobile homes that will be located in the city, according to the FEMA worksheet for the project.

While the federal dollars are beginning to pour in, some agencies are still waiting for help. Officials with the Louisiana State University Health Services Division, which runs the Charity Hospital System, expect that they will eventually be asking the federal government to pick up about $625 million of their interim costs as they try to rebuild the public hospital system in New Orleans after the storm.

CEO Don Smithburg said that the hospital system is not yet sure what exactly FEMA will cover, saying that they are asking for temporary buildings for hospitals around the state that have been inundated with patients because of New Orleans evacuees. They also need mobile medical equipment that can be used at these busy hospitals and eventually moved to New Orleans, where much of their equipment was damaged during the storm.

# Lawmakers worry incentives might keep evacuees away

*Law rewards firms that hire them*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Even as New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin encourages people to return to his hurricane-battered city, Congress passed a tax-relief bill last week that could provide a strong incentive for some evacuees to stay away, some lawmakers say.

Racing to deliver assistance to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina, Congress passed and President Bush last week signed a new law giving an estimated $82 million in incentives to companies that hire evacuees outside the states hardest hit by the Aug. 29 storm: Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The effect, according to Louisiana lawmakers, may be to encourage people who fled to Houston; Memphis, Tenn.; Atlanta; or other locales to stay where they are — making it more difficult for Nagin and other state and local officials to entice them back to the region's work force.

"It could have that effect," said Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who along with Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., last week proposed a broad array of bills designed to boost the state's decimated economy. "Our (legislation) would provide an incentive for people to come back."

The difference is that the hiring bonus is law while Vitter's and Landrieu's proposed package of bills is only now being discussed in Congress.

The "work opportunity tax credit" is worth as much as $2,400 to companies hiring people displaced by Katrina. Those pushing hardest to get it enacted were restaurant owners.

"We weighed in early on in the process," said Rob Green, vice president of federal affairs for the National Restaurant Association. "It is an important provision for the restaurant industry."

Restaurateurs are familiar with government-subsidized hiring incentives. They long have been able to take advantage of tax credits when hiring people moving off welfare. Green said that those most likely to use the Katrina-related credit are chain restaurants already familiar with the paperwork-filing requirements.

Green said the National Restaurant Association is interested in rebuilding New Orleans' famed restaurants. But in the meantime, he said, restaurant owners nationwide should be able to take advantage of the financial benefits associated with hiring new workers.

In its version of the tax-relief bill, the House of Representatives limited the tax incentives to companies in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But the Senate extended it to employers nationwide and made it good for a full year.

The provision was retained but watered down in House-Senate negotiations. The compromise that Bush signed last week gives companies throughout the country until Dec. 31 to take advantage of the tax credit.

"My hope is that it isn't powerful enough to do the damage it could do if it were open-ended," said Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans.

Landrieu said she supported the three-month out-of-state hiring incentive because it will help people displaced by the storm. She said that another provision – a tax credit lasting two years aimed solely at businesses in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama – will encourage them to come back.

# Democrats fight repeal of prevailing-wage law

*Recovery contractors can reduce salaries*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – President Bush's decision to exempt companies engaged in Hurricane Katrina recovery work from a law that requires federal contractors to pay workers the local "prevailing wages" is producing a heated debate about whether the move will help or hurt storm victims.

The Bush administration says that waiving the 74-year-old law for the recovery effort will enable companies to hire more displaced workers, reduce costs to taxpayers and ensure that more critical work is completed quickly.

But Democrats and labor unions say that companies winning federal contracts, often without competitive bidding, will simply pay workers less, increasing their profits but doing little to help displaced Gulf Coast residents rebuild their lives.

"The rebuilding of the Gulf Coast should create economic opportunities for its residents, not an opportunity to take advantage of people desperate to rebuild their lives," said Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y.

But Claude Allen, assistant to the president for domestic policy, said that suspending the wage law, known as the Davis-Bacon Act, would produce opportunities for small businesses that often can't afford to pay the prevailing wage.

The prevailing wage law for government contracts can make a big difference in what construction workers are paid. While the prevailing wages in Louisiana and Mississippi are often less than half of what they are in high-pay markets such as New York and Chicago, they are still significantly higher than the $5.15-an-hour minimum wage.

For example, the prevailing wage established by the U.S. Labor Department in metropolitan New Orleans is $18.05 an hour for an ironworker, $12.28 for a concrete finisher and $9.32 for a common laborer.

The Labor Department last week issued a directive reminding federal contractors that they still must pay the minimum wage and provide overtime pay of 1½ times the normal hourly salary for employees who work more than 40 hours in a week. But it said that for the time being, at least, they don't have to pay the prevailing wage for Hurricane Katrina recovery contracts.

As with so many contentious issues, the Bush administration and congressional Democrats, along with their supporters, can't agree on what would happen if the other side prevails.

Timothy Kane, a labor specialist at the conservative Heritage Foundation, sides with the Bush administration, arguing that any government attempt to mandate minimum salaries generally hurts the employment prospects of low-wage workers.

But Bill Samuel, legislative director of the AFL-CIO, said if contractors are allowed to pay as "low a wage as they can get away with, it only means that they will be making bigger profits." There is no requirement, he said, that they pass along labor savings to the federal taxpayers.

The impact of "low wages for this redevelopment work" on workers and their hometown communities in Louisiana and Mississippi can be devastating, he said. "If the wages are too low, workers won't be able to support their families and rebuild their lives," Samuel said.

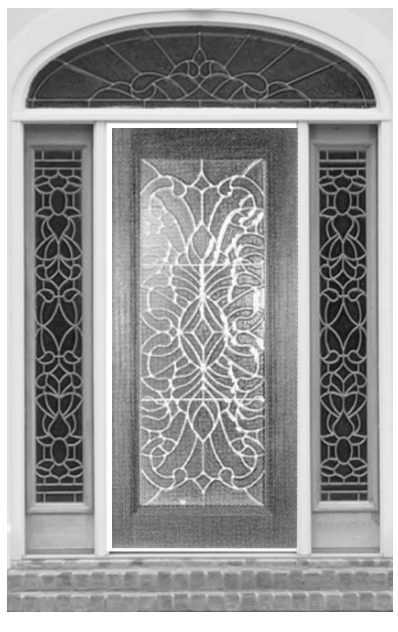
The issue is likely to be debated on Capitol Hill in the next several weeks. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, have signed on to Democratic legislation that would force a reversal of President Bush's moratorium on enforcement of Davis-Bacon for hurricane relief work. Even a short-term lapse in enforcement, Jefferson said, will mean that New Orleans area workers will be forced to compete for low-wage employment, making it harder for them to rebuild their homes and lives.

But the Democratic legislation is meeting strong opposition in the GOP-led Senate, where many Republicans have been trying for years to repeal the Davis-Bacon law.

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# Mississippi coastal variety in jeopardy

## *Big developers hatch big ideas*

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**
Associated Press writer

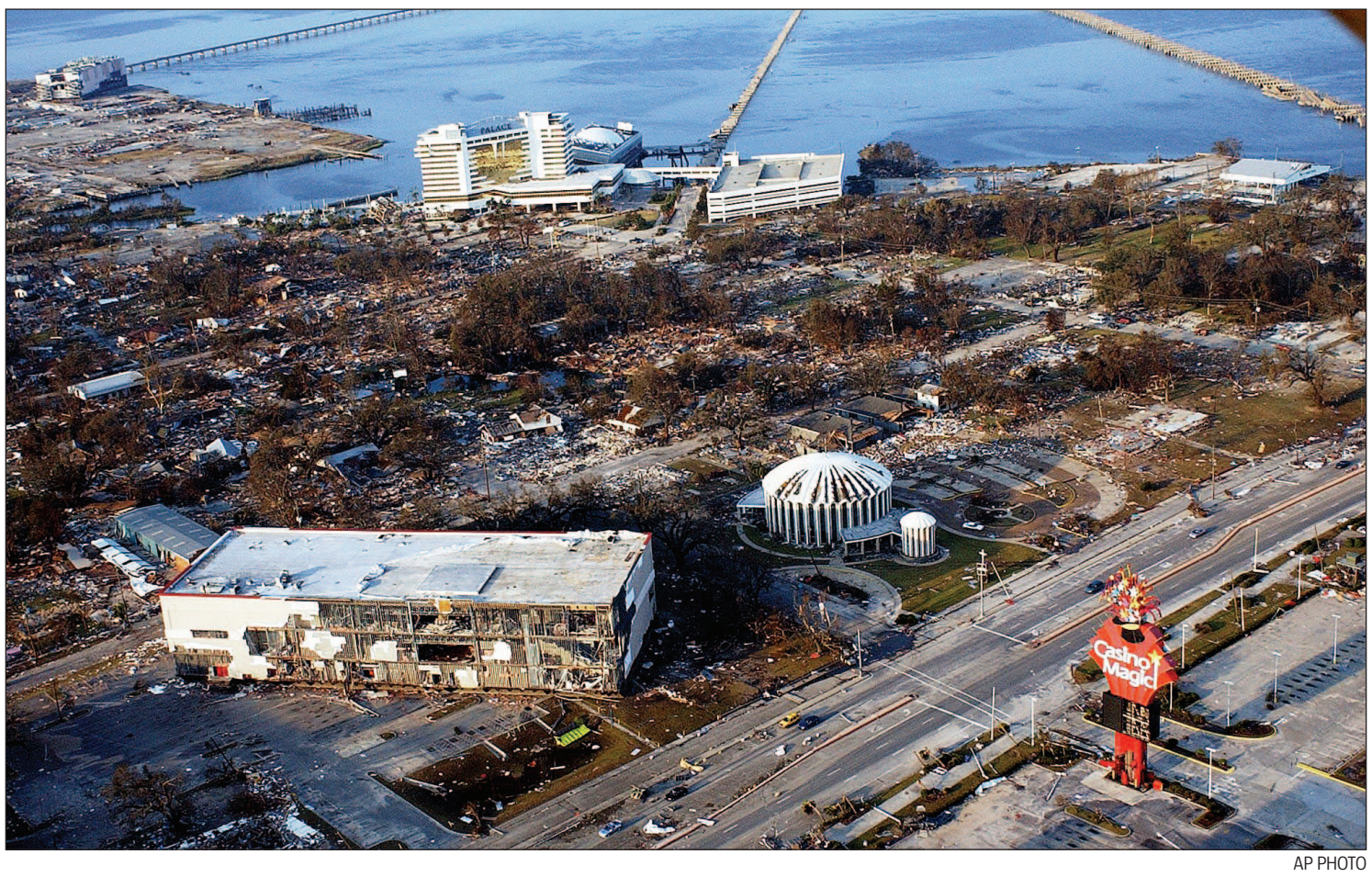
JACKSON, MISS. — A month after Hurricane Katrina smashed fishing shacks, casinos and historic mansions alike, civic leaders in Mississippi are turning their attention to rebuilding, and are wondering this: Will the coast be restored in all its variety? Or will it give way to strip malls and walls of high-rise condos?

The disaster represents an opportunity for big developers. For one thing, many homeowners and small-business owners may decide to sell out rather than rebuild. Also, Katrina flattened entire neighborhoods instead of, say, a house here and a house there, meaning big developers could have a blank canvas on which to work.

Even before Katrina, proposed condo developments prompted heated debate among locals who worried concrete towers would block beach views and rob the coast of its charm and variety.

"I hope we can preserve the historical ambiance that the beach in Mississippi has possessed over the years and not let it look like every other coastline in America," said former Gov. William Winter, longtime president of the state's archives and history board.

Gov. Haley Barbour has appointed a commission, headed by former Netscape chief executive Jim Barksdale of Jackson, to shape the coast redevelopment discussion.




AP PHOTO

The Casino Magic Biloxi barge rests on the north side of U.S. 90 in Biloxi, Miss., on the day after Hurricane Katrina roared through. State legislators are considering changing the law that allows casinos to be built only over navigable waters of the Mississippi River or the Gulf of Mexico.

David Stockman, director of real estate for Florida-based Davis Co., said Biloxi was a prime spot for development before the storm and is even more so now. His company is building four 22-story condo towers that were in the works before Katrina.

"Now that the storm has passed and rebuilding will restart, the future is even brighter for Biloxi," Stockman said. "Any of us that are in the marketplace now are looking for more opportunities."

While many people oppose the high-rises, he sees them as bringing money into the community. In any case, he said, local planners will probably try to achieve a mix of projects, including badly needed affordable housing for the relatively low-paid public employees and hotel and casino workers, and may even try to re-create the classic Southern architecture lost to Katrina.

Katrina smashed businesses large and small Aug. 29. Early estimates show that the hurricane also destroyed or severely damaged two out of three homes along the Mississippi coast: trailers, middle-class brick houses, tin-roofed fishing cottages, concrete condominiums, vacation bungalows and century-old mansions.

"Whatever it will be, it won't be what it was," said Charles Sullivan, who has written histories of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and of hurricanes.

It is clear most of the casinos will rebuild. They are crucial to the state's economy, employing 14,000 and generating $73 million this past year for state coffers.

There is still a question, though, of whether they will be allowed to build on land. State law allows casinos to be built only over navigable waters of the Mississippi River or the Gulf of Mexico. Legislators are considering changing the law.

"If they decide to allow the casinos on land, which from a public safety standpoint would make more sense, then instead of having beautiful mansions looking out at floating casinos, you'll just have casinos," said Robert Deyle, a professor of urban and regional planning at Florida State University.

Government officials also want large employers back on their feet soon to prevent the workforce from scattering. South Mississippi is home to a sprawling NASA center that tests space-shuttle engines and the state's largest private employer, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, where about 12,000 welders, pipefitters and electricians make Navy ships.

While big industry has the wherewithal to go on — the shipyard this week is restoring full operations — some smaller businesses are not so sure.

Gerald Fayard had hoped to sell his business and retire soon, until Katrina changed his plans. The storm flattened his Gulfport mill, which manufactures woodwork and trim.

Fayard, 58, wants to rebuild, if he can find the money, and then work a few more years. He had no insurance and is counting on a Small Business Administration loan.

"You've got to run or rebuild," he said as friends helped him clear debris. "You can't just sit on the porch."

# Fading Rita triggers a tornado at Mississippi State, hurting 4

## *Classes canceled; homes damaged*

**By The Associated Press**

STARKVILLE, MISS. — A tornado spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Rita ripped through Mississippi State University's campus, injuring four people and forcing cancellation of Monday's classes.

The tornado was one of at least 14 twisters that touched down Sunday in Mississippi, meteorologists said. More than 100 homes were damaged, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said. At least three tornadoes struck in Arkansas on Saturday.

By dawn Monday, the fading remnants of Rita were centered 80 miles north-northwest of Indianapolis and moving to the north-northeast at 30 mph.

The university cafeteria and some tennis courts were damaged as the tornado plucked trees, telephone and power lines from the ground.

"We have many trees and power lines affected," university President Charles Lee said. "And to allow campus crews to work safely, we are asking students and nonessential personnel to remain at home Monday morning."

The four people injured were treated and released, the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Office said. No details were available.

At the nearby University Hills trailer park, at least five mobile homes were severely damaged, an RV was rolled on its side, and some minor injuries were reported.

"They sounded the sirens, but it was pretty much too late," said Glenn Palmer, the park's weekend manager. "I looked outside and saw the funnel cloud coming and knew we were in trouble."

In central Arkansas, a tornado with 155 mph winds stayed on the ground for nearly 10 miles, damaging homes and a church. The church's steeple was sheared off and blown across a highway, meteorologist John Robinson said.

Tornadoes were among the deadliest elements of Hurricane Rita, which made landfall Saturday on the Texas-Louisiana line. Two deaths have been directly attributed to the storm: one person died Saturday in north-central Mississippi when a tornado overturned a mobile home, and an east Texas man was struck by a fallen tree.

# Cattle feared dead in coastal parishes

## *Rescue continues in flooded areas*

**By Stacey Plaisance**
Associated Press writer

BATON ROUGE – The Army used Blackhawk helicopters to search for stranded cattle in flooded sections of southern Louisiana on Monday, amid reports that more than 4,000 may have been killed in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita. Thousands more may be at risk.

"Take all the coastal parishes, they all had cattle," said Bob Felknor, spokesman for the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association. "My guess is we could be looking at least 15,000. It could be more than 30,000 in trouble."

Many dead cattle will not be seen because they were "washed out" by the floodwaters, emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, said Ashley Rodrigue, spokeswoman for the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

The storm flattened towns and swamped fields in Cameron and Vermilion parishes, just east of the Texas line. Reporters saw scores of cattle swimming in the murky brown floodwaters and others perched on virtual islands.

"The big thing now is the focus on keeping the cattle alive," said Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, commander of the military task force handling hurricane fallout. He said there are reports that 4,000 cattle died in Cameron Parish alone, where ranchers on horseback were herding the animals into mobile corrals attached to pickup trucks.

The military may use satellite positioning systems to help spot surviving animals, Honore said.

Authorities were trying to clear roads to tiny Pecan Island to rescue roughly 5,000 head of cattle there, said Robert LeBlanc, director of the Vermilion Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. He said helicopters may be called in to help.

Louisiana had some 860,000 head of cattle as of Jan. 1. With most of coastal Louisiana's residents out of harm's way, officials turned some of their attention to trying to save thousands of cattle.

Any high ground — levees, highways, even parking lots — was being used to hold the thousands of rescued cattle, Felknor said. Roughly a third of the state's cattle are raised in coastal areas now under water.

A herd of about 600 cattle was being driven along a highway out of Vermilion Parish to higher ground. But getting them to dry land is only half the battle.

"We have to feed them," Felknor said. Hay was being brought down from central and northern parts of the state, as well as from Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.

"The problem we're having is transportation," Felknor said. "We have to get more trucks."

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# Louisiana picks up pieces after Rita

## *Five bodies found in Texas apartment*

**By April Castro**
Associated Press writer

BEAUMONT, TEXAS — Rescuers used skiffs to take flooded-out residents to safety Monday as Hurricane Rita's waters began to recede along the Texas-Louisiana coast. The death toll climbed to seven when the bodies of five people were discovered in an apartment in Beaumont, Texas.

The five — a man, a woman and three children — apparently were overcome by carbon monoxide from a generator they were using after the hurricane knocked out the electricity over the weekend, authorities said. The children's aunt discovered the bodies after going to check on the group.

Rita roared ashore Saturday morning, slamming the refinery towns of Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas, as well as Lake Charles, La., after an epic evacuation that emptied out a large swath of coastline and saved countless lives. About 3 million people fled from Rita's path after seeing what Katrina did to New Orleans a month ago.

As of Sunday night, only two deaths had been blamed directly on Rita.

"As bad as it could have been, we came out of this in pretty good shape," said Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who called the absence of widespread fatalities "miraculous."

Hard-hit towns along the Texas-Louisiana coast began to pick up the pieces Monday. Rescuers pushed their way into once-inaccessible neighborhoods as the floodwaters dropped. Crews worked to clear roads of fallen trees and other debris so that utility workers could restore power to hundreds of thousands of people. And authorities struggled to reach 5,000 stranded cattle in Louisiana.

Authorities began tallying up the damage to sugar cane fields, shrimp boats and refineries.

In Lake Charles, National Guardsmen patrolled the town and handed out bottled water, ice and food to hundreds of people left without power. Scores of cars wrapped around the parking lot of the city civic center.

Mike Deroche, director of the Terrebonne Parish, La., Office of Emergency Preparedness, said that the floodwaters were going down in most areas and that the parish had nearly 9,900 homes that were severely damaged.

"We're just starting to get back into some areas that we haven't been able to get to," Deroche said.

### Livelihoods lost

In Chauvin, steady streams of people were brought by small boats from the flooded sections of Terrebonne Parish. Some cried as they hauled plastic bags filled with their possessions out of the skiffs that carried them to dry land.

Others cursed.

"This is the worst thing I've ever been through," said Danny Hunter, 56. "I called FEMA this morning, and they said they couldn't help us because this hasn't been declared a disaster area."

"Texas is a disaster area!" Jenny Reading shouted. "I guess the president made sure of that, and everyone just forgot about us."



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Like many in Terrebonne Parish, the Duplantis family spent Monday cleaning up the destruction Hurricane Rita left behind. The house took in 4.5 feet of water. From left are Clarke Duplantis, Tommy Higginbotham and Pagne Duplantis.



Pagne Duplantis of Grand Caillou shovels mud left in her home by the storm surge of Hurricane Rita.



Tommy Higginbotham, right, helps Clarke Duplantis remove furniture from the Duplantises' home in the wake of Hurricane Rita.



Philip Romeo, owner of Bridgeside Seafood in Delcambre, drains his boots after assessing the damage to his business on Sunday. The family-run seafood business has been a mainstay in the area, and he plans to reopen.

Robert LeBlanc, director of the Vermilion Parish, La., Office of Emergency Preparedness, said just about everyone who needed to be rescued had been taken care of, and the focus instead turned to clearing the roads to Pecan Island and rescuing about 5,000 cattle there.

"These people's livelihood depends on this," he said.

LeBlanc said the parish has about 500 livestock farmers. He said that the storm also wiped out hunting camps that bring in tourists, and that shrimp boats in Delcambre had been thrown up onto the land.

### Water receding

Authorities had trouble keeping people from southern Louisiana from traveling through floodwaters in their own boats to discover whether Rita wrecked their homes and livelihoods. Hundreds went home to save what they could and begin rebuilding.

"Knowing these people — most of them are hunters, trappers, farmers — they're not going to wait on FEMA or anyone else," LeBlanc said. "They're going to do what they need to do."

People checking their hurricane-hit homes and towns found floodwaters up to the rooftops, coffins and refrigerators bobbing in the water, and stilts where their houses once stood.

"I've been through quite a few of them, and we've never had water like this," said L.E. Nix, whose home on the edge of a bayou in Louisiana's Calcasieu Parish was swamped with 3 feet of water. "I had a little piece of paradise, and now I guess it's gone."

Yet it was clear that the misery wrought by Rita was not as bad as what Katrina inflicted.

Randy Roach, mayor of Lake Charles, told CBS's "The Early Show" his hard-hit seaport city of oil refineries and casinos would bounce back.

"The good news is that the water is going down, it's kind of back in the banks of the lake and our recovery process is well under way," he said. "The response has been tremendous. I really appreciate everything that the federal government has done to help us."

### Take me back to Texas

The more than 110,000 people living in Beaumont were urged not to return home, though, because water, electricity and sewer services will not be restored for weeks. Police blocked exits off interstate highways leading to the city.

In Houston, which was spared the brunt of Rita, officials set up a voluntary, staggered plan for an "orderly migration," with different areas going home Sunday, Monday and today to avoid the monumental gridlock of the exodus last week.

By Sunday night, a seemingly endless stream of charter buses, cars and sport utility vehicles clogged the southbound lanes of Interstate 45 into Houston.

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# FEMA may ask for proof of rental

**RENTAL,** *from A-1*

no longer can live in their homes.

The money is supposed to be mailed or electronically transferred automatically to qualified evacuees who have registered with FEMA. However, agency letters being sent to applicants warn that they must complete and return an additional FEMA form within 14 days or they will not be eligible for additional benefits.

FEMA Form 90-69B, a document called a Declaration and Release that is supposed to be included with the agency letter, must be sent to FEMA or the applicant may be required to return the money already received, according to the agency. The form is a declaration that the person receiving the benefit is telling the truth.

FEMA relief programs can give an evacuee up to $26,200 for the emergency needs of food, shelter, clothing, personal items and medical conditions. Soon after Katrina, FEMA expedited evacuee checks of $2,000 as an initial emergency payment. Most of the people who received the $2,000 checks also will get the new rent payment, Sherman said.

The FEMA transitional rent program, announced Friday afternoon by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, has caught the attention of evacuated citizens nationwide, some of whom already have received wire transfers to their bank accounts. The payment covers three months of rent, but people who need more can get additional increments of three months, up to 18 months total.

People who apply for rental assistance beyond the initial lump-sum payment must provide documentation that they are "making efforts toward a permanent housing solution." The letter does not say what type of information would demonstrate such a motive.

Using satellite-based imaging, FEMA has determined the areas in southeast Louisiana where homes were seriously damaged or where people are unable to return because of conditions, Sherman said. People in those areas are eligible for the rent payments.

To receive the lump-sum payment, evacuees from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana must have registered through FEMA by calling (800) 621-FEMA or applying online at

www.fema.gov. Applicants need to register only once, but should update their registration if their address has changed.

FEMA estimates that 8,000 people in Mississippi are eligible for the rent program. The agency used the rental payment system in 1994 after an earthquake struck Northridge, Calif.

The initial payment is calculated based on the national average fair-market rent rate for a two-bedroom and may be applied to temporary housing costs "for any location an evacuee determines," FEMA says. The submission of rental receipts and other documentation could be required later.

The FEMA letter says the money is for "transitional housing needs" to be used "to rent a different place to live."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has set up its own program to help Katrina victims who need temporary housing. Families who used Section 8 vouchers in New Orleans or other public housing would be able to continue getting federal housing assistance, said Donna White, a spokeswoman for the agency.

For example, the agency has started placing former residents of public housing in New Orleans in open facilities in other cities. For families who used Section 8 vouchers in New Orleans to rent private apartments, the difference is that for 18 months the agency will pick up the full rent – not just the portion of the rent that is typically paid by the federal government under the voucher program.

HUD also will pay the rent for 18 months for families who didn't participate in federal housing programs before, White said. But she said she didn't know who those families would be or how many, saying that the agency will have to wait to see how many people are not eligible for FEMA housing assistance and need to turn to HUD.

"We don't know how many families will need to be a part of this program," White said. This will not constitute an expansion of the Section 8 voucher program because after 18 months the assistance will end, she said.

## FEMA RENT PAYMENTS

FEMA has launched a program for transitional housing payments to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Here are some common questions and answers:

**Q: How much is it, and what's it for?**
**A:** The lump-sum payment is $2,358 and is supposed to be used toward three months worth of rent for people who cannot live in their damaged homes or inaccessible neighborhoods.

**Q: What if I rent for more than three months?**
**A:** You may be eligible for extensions in payments up to 18 months. FEMA will want to adjust the payment level according to your needs.

**Q: What must I do to get it?**
**A:** You must register with FEMA, by calling (800) 621-FEMA or visiting the Web site at fema.gov. People who previously registered do not have to register again, unless their address, bank account or some other important information has changed.

**Q: How do I know if I qualify?**
**A:** FEMA has determined the areas and addresses seriously damaged by the storm, so if you live in one of those areas and you have registered, you're supposed to get the money automatically mailed or wire transferred to your bank.

**Q: I got the $2,000 payment that FEMA sent out under a separate program earlier this month, but I haven't gotten the $2,358 rental award yet. What gives?**
**A:** Your rental payment might be on the way and just hasn't arrived yet, or FEMA might have determined that you are not actually eligible for the payment. You'll have to ask FEMA what happened.

**Q: Do I have to keep rental records?**
**A:** FEMA has two answers to this question. If you intend to get transitional rental assistance beyond the initial three-month period, then absolutely you will need documentation proving you're actually renting a place. FEMA is fuzzy in its answer about the payment for the first three months, saying that if you do not use the money for rent, you could use it for other needs that qualify for state and federal assistance programs.

**Q: Can I take the FEMA rent payment and still use the money from my insurance company compensating me for accommodations while I'm out of my house?**
**A:** No. FEMA does not allow duplication of benefits.

**Q: I'm living with Aunt Betsy. Can I give her the rent money?**
**A:** Maybe. Check with a FEMA representative to see if your situation would qualify for that kind of rent payment.

**Q: What if I lie on my applications for disaster aid?**
**A:** You'd be violating federal and state laws, which carry severe criminal and civil penalties, including a fine up to $250,000, imprisonment, or both.

**Q: If I'm receiving federal housing assistance through HUD, will this new rent payment program help me?**
**A:** Yes. Your HUD benefit is portable and can be used outside the New Orleans area, plus the new FEMA program can piggy-back on to that to cover all your rent payment, not just a portion of it covered by the usual HUD system. Check with the local housing authority of the city you are now living in.

# Military role in disaster relief debated in wake of hurricanes

*States' rights are a concern*

**By Lolita C. Baldor**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Military units have been battling the ravages of hurricane winds and flooding for nearly four weeks along the Gulf Coast. Now their leaders must navigate a different turbulent path: Congress.

Political leaders led by President Bush are considering how and when the military should take greater control of relief efforts during national disasters. And one answer may be to ensure that the president has the authority to bring in the armed forces during extraordinary circumstances.

The White House said Monday that Congress should considering setting the circumstances — some level of significant natural disaster or terrorist attack — that would designate the military as the lead agency in the response.

"We're going to look back at Katrina as a turning point," Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said Sunday. "We need the military, because of its extraordinary capabilities, to be ready to play a much more active role. I don't think it's going to be that difficult from a congressional point of view."

Lieberman said Congress must make it clear that the president is authorized to use the federal military in a crisis, although that may not require legislation.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, sounded a sharp dissent.

"I don't want the federal government to take over disaster response, believe me," DeLay said in a telephone interview from his home in suburban Houston.

DeLay said he could not support a system that did not allow local first responders to remain in charge during a catastrophe. Asked why, he said: "Bureaucracy. Bureaucracy. Bureaucracy."

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., sounded a note of caution as well.

Landrieu told CNN that while the military has a strong role to play, "we do have a democracy and a citizenship that has elected mayors, county commissioners and governors, particularly. I'm not sure the governors association or all the mayors in America would be willing to sort of step aside."

But Landrieu's Louisiana colleague, Republican Sen. David Vitter, said the military was best equipped to respond to emergencies as massive as Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Others, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, R-Va., have said that Congress may review the Posse Comitatus Act, a post-Civil War law that prohibits the military from performing law enforcement duties.

Changing the law would require congressional action, which would trigger debate over how to do it without treading on states' rights.

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Livingston
Orleans
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St. Charles
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St. James
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# 'I'm ready for everybody to come back that can'

**RETURN,** *from A-1*

Nagin issued a 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. curfew and discouraged any elderly residents or families with children from returning.

He also urged residents to travel only within their zip codes.

The rest of the city remains under a mandatory evacuation order.

"With Hurricane Rita behind us, the task at hand is to bring New Orleans back," Nagin said. "We want people to return and help us rebuild the city. However, we want everyone to assess the risks and make an informed decision about re-entry plans."

To that end, the city on Monday set up an information hotline at (504) 658-2299.

## Some good signs

While water and electrical service remain sketchy, a month after Katrina there are clear signs of progress. Monday's prediction that tap water will be potable on the east bank in two to three weeks was a distinct improvement on a warning several days ago that it could be two to three months before the service was fully restored. The problem has been the large number of breaks in the infrastructure of pipes and mains that now undercut pressure and leave water leaking into the ground.

"A lot depends on how fast we can get the major breaks contained," said S&WB spokesman Robert Jackson.

Electrical service in Algiers and the CBD was almost completely restored, with the exception of those customers whose homes and businesses were damaged and can't receive power, Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

The French Quarter regained electrical service on Monday. And Uptown, most major circuits also had been restored. But individual customers still did not have power because of the extent of damage to some homes, Lagarde said. The company is currently discussing whether it will have to reconnect the area house by house to avoid potential electrical fires.

"Our primary concern is safety," Lagarde said.

Nonetheless, Lagarde said, Entergy was aiming by Friday to have service restored to the large Uptown area between St. Charles Avenue and the river, and from South Carrollton Avenue to Market Street.

Firefighters said they worry about people returning to homes without power and then using candles or generators that could touch off accidental fires. Another firefighter, who declined to give his name, said the fires might not be accidental. Residents without flood insurance could become desperate after seeing how much damage they have sustained. "You might have some people who start burning their houses," he said.

Norman Woodridge, spokesman for the New Orleans Fire Department, said arson is not a major concern, but that parts of the city don't have adequate water pressure. "Some areas of town, you just don't have water coming out of the hydrants," he said.

Natural gas service also has been interrupted because of broken and waterlogged lines, Lagarde said. While gas service in Algiers is fine, residents should expect that their water heaters and stoves in parts of Uptown, the CBD and the French Quarter may not be operable for a while.

City rules dictate that homeowners have their property inspected by a licensed electrician if they experienced flooding or had electrical damage. Before Hurricane Katrina, the city was required to issue a permit before power could be restored. Lagarde said he did not know whether that would remain the procedure.

## Hospitals limited

Access to medical services is also a lingering concern.

Although Ochsner, East Jefferson and West Jefferson hospitals are within driving distance of New Orleans, only one emergency room is in service within the city limits.

The 14th Combat Support Hospital, known as CASH, is a cluster of green tents occupying an area as big as a city block within the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Equipped with everything from operating rooms to dental services, the hospital is a stopgap measure until New Orleans hospitals are reopened.

The portable hospital, normally based at Fort Benning, Ga., was in operation at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport from Sept. 11 to 20 before moving downtown.

Although the 250 CASH staffers could treat up to 140 intensive-care patients, it's currently set up only to treat temporary patients, a dozen at a time, who are then evacuated from the area.

Ambulance teams also expressed misgivings about the return of large numbers of New Orleanians. "All of us are anticipating that when the people start cleaning up, that's when things will heat up," one paramedic said, envisioning falls from ladders and chainsaw accidents. The faulty traffic signals are sure to increase the number of collisions, another said.

Few retail establishments are open Uptown, but isolated signs of commercial life were evident Monday. In the Riverside Market on Tchoupitoulas Street, Walgreens is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, offering free cell phone charging in the photo department and an ATM.

"Somebody's got to be open," said manager Warren Breaux, as he restocked dehydrated soups. "The problem we have right now is staffing."

The nearby Winn-Dixie had electricity, but manager Marla Hubble said the store would not be open until next week at the earliest. Kappa Horn, owner of Slim Goodies Diner on Magazine Street, has been serving customers for about a week.

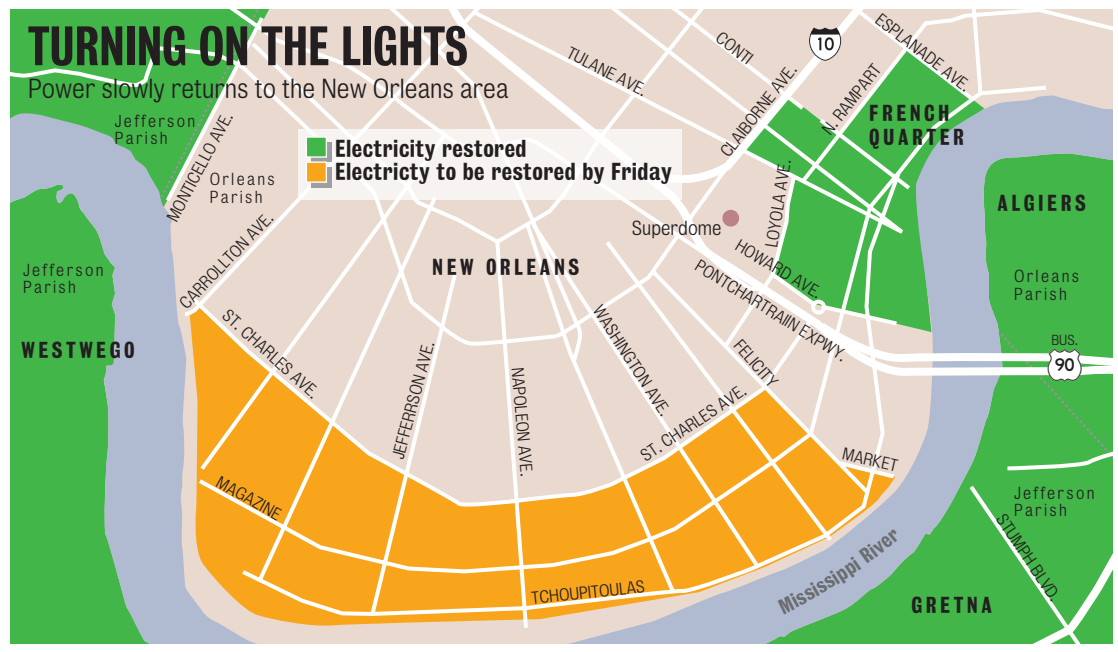
On Monday, "We ran out of food," she said, but she planned to resume flipping burgers today.

"I'm ready for everybody to come back that can," she said. "Why stay away? Are we waiting for the president? Are we going to wait for Halliburton to clean up our streets?"

Cleaning up and drawing customers will not be the only challenges. The state Department of Health and Hospitals must greenlight businesses before their cash registers can ring again.

Any business that serves food or drinks must be checked to make sure they're up to snuff with the state sanitation code, DHH spokesman Kristen Meyer said.

Businesses ready for inspection should contact their parish health unit.




Source: Entegy

STAFF MAP

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Reporters Gwen Filosa, Bruce Hamilton, Michelle Krupa, Doug MacCash and Rob Nelson contributed to this story.

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# TROUBLED TIMES

As the storm raged, parish officials detail their problems via conference calls. But those calls stopped after the storm when communication was cut off, then started again Sept. 9. Walter Maestri, Jefferson Parish's emergency management director, recorded the calls.

**AUG. 29, 7:30 A.M.**

**WALTER MAESTRI, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, JEFFERSON PARISH:**
"Jefferson is experiencing now pretty constant 70- to 80-mph winds, gusts over 100. We have unconfirmed reports of building collapses on the West Bank. We have unconfirmed reports of significant flooding on the East Bank around the hospital. The entire metro area is out of power right now. We have completely lost electric power, but that's basically to be expected. We're unable to confirm any of these reports because of the 70-mile-per-hour constant winds. We cannot get to the streets."

**FROM ORLEANS PARISH:**
"We've got major problems at Charity. There are five floors with the windows blown out and flooding on the bottom floors. We've knocked down that pedestrian bridge between the hospitals. University seems to be pretty good in the complex, but we're going to have some major problems, and we've already got them at Charity. We know we've got a number of people — 25 calls for service with people trying to survive in their roofs or who didn't evacuate. We're prioritizing those, and basically we'll deal with those when we can get out and about. We need to look at the medical assistance, especially for the force that came over from Houston. Charity is going to have major problems."

**FROM ST. BERNARD PARISH:**
"Our power is down. All communication is down. Our 911 center has been evacuated. There is structural damage on major buildings we're using as temporary shelters. There are 300 to 400 people in some shelters that we're moving from one hallway to another as the roofs come off. We can't rescue these people because winds are 80 to 90 mph."

**FROM ST. CHARLES PARISH:**
"We have widespread power outages. We think that we're going to have significant storm surge flooding on our east bank. We should have many homes that either go under from storm surge or rainfall. We do think we're going to be in a pretty bad fix on East Bank, Airline Highway. We're certainly going to be under water and impassible. We believe our water distribution system on the east bank is just about out of water. Everything's fine on the west bank."

**SEPT. 9, 7:30 A.M.**

**Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director, state Office of Emergency Preparedness:** The right hand is not always knowing what the left hand is doing. … Each day the FEMA rep liaison is calling into the joint field office and is giving a report on issues and how the parishes stand. Are you aware that started to happen?

**St. Tammany Parish Chief Administrative Bill Oiler:** We are aware of that ... we've got a coordination problem here. We thought we were going to have a meeting with Baton Rouge people, FEMA people, yesterday. They canceled that one, so I don't know where we are other than its creating downright chaos. We have a temporary housing issue.

**Smith:** FEMA is looking at using a regional team, rather than a Louisiana team, and they haven't even had reps here even for Louisiana yet. They're just not moving on this at all, so we're turning up the heat pretty high on that, Bill.

**Oiler:** They need to let us know. They made a commitment to the city of Slidell for 400 trailers.

**Smith:** All I regret is that we're not able to do more. We're up here doing the best we possibly can.

**Maestri:** We have that same problem with the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. I don't know how we share with these people what our plans are and how the parish plans meld with the state plans. … People are bypassing the system, and different resources and assets are being sent to places we know nothing about. ... We've got resources all over the place that aren't being used where they should be, and nobody knows about it. First and foremost, we have still not received since the storm any of our gasoline and diesel shipments. If it wasn't for a ship in port that's been helping us get diesel and gas, we would have nothing. I don't know where our gas and diesel shipments are going. I don't know who's getting them. But that's atrocious. The second issue: generators for our sewer system. As you recall on the last conference call before the storm hit, we requested the gen. packs. They are still not here. I'm about to have a medical catastrophe in this parish because of the lack of a sewer system. The lift stations are not working. The matter is going into the streets, and we're going to have a medical disaster. FEMA tells me and has told me since they arrived on the scene three days ago that they're coming. I don't know what's going on, but not one generator through that system has arrived here. The other problem: Next door, where FEMA is billeted, there are 50 or 60 firemen from Kansas. ... My Fire Department is screaming for help because we can't get all the firemen back into the parish, and these guys are available. Fire's a real hazard here ... as we start turning on the electricity.

**Smith:** So the (FEMA) liaison is aware of this, but nothing is happening?

**Maestri:** That's right. We've got some food issues as well, both quantities and distribution. In the beginning, food and water were pouring in. Now it's trickling. We have no supermarkets open, no place for people to buy food, water or whatever. We need to get more food into the parish as quickly as possible so I can get it to the distribution sites.

**Smith:** I assume you are talking about the emergency food, the water the MRES and the ice. Has that been requested and turned down, or are you just requesting it now?

**Maestri:** We requested it, have requested it, been requesting it, and nothing's come. According to the commodities guy, once they started it wouldn't stop. He told us it would never stop. ... But now it's stopped.

**Oiler:** I can certainly agree with Dr. Maestri, we set up a list of priorities. ... I'd like to know where the generators are.

**Maestri:** I tell you, Bill, somebody must be selling those things on the side of the road, because they keep telling me they coming. They've had three evaluation teams in here from the corps and other groups to evaluate the situation. … They said it's coming, it's coming, but nothing's arrived.... They are supposedly pre-positioned across the country and can be flown in at a moment's notice. They ballyhooed that to us in PAM and all these other exercises. Now when we are on our knees, nothing's available.

**Smith:** At this point, what we're trying to do is make things better from this point. There will be plenty of time for all this rhetoric later. We need to do what we can do to improve the situation day by day.

# Computer system failed to summon help

**TAPES,** *from A-1*

open, no place for people to buy food, water or whatever. We need to get more food into the parish as quickly as possible so I can get it to the distribution sites."

Three days before Hurricane Katrina, Maestri logged the government's preparation and response to the storm by recording the four daily conference calls of parish, state and federal leaders as they coordinated how they would evacuate residents, ensconce them in shelters and truck in supplies afterward. The calls, which the parish taped as a matter of policy, ended the morning of the storm and resumed on Sept. 9, after communications were restored.

While the calls presage some of the confusion that would arise after the hurricane hit, particularly in New Orleans, they give little inkling that Jefferson, St. Tammany and other parishes would find themselves making unrequited calls for generators and other supplies in the aftermath of the storm. The recordings also reveal that Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were nearly mute, offering little input other than that they were "monitoring the situation."

The discussions were calm and even plodding in tone, beginning with forecasts from the National Weather Service that were packed with esoteric details and ending with a roll call of questions from the parishes. Not until the night before the Aug. 29 storm did the parishes show a sense of urgency that some of their plans might come unraveled.

Even on the morning of the storm, as the National Weather Service warned that Katrina's wingspan was expanding, Maestri and others took confidence that relief agencies seemed ready to move in with supplies when the rough weather broke. Other sections of that same tape give an eerie first impression of the calamities that would unfold later in the day at the hospitals in New Orleans and in the shelters in St. Bernard.

"We've got major problems at Charity," a New Orleans representative who could not be identified reported Aug. 29 at 7:30 a.m. "We have five floors with the windows blown out and flooding on the bottom floors. We've knocked down the pedestrian bridge between the hospitals."

"We've responded to 25 calls for service from people trying to survive on their roofs or who didn't evacuate," the Orleans representative continued. "We're prioritizing those, and basically we'll deal with those when we can get out and about. We need to look at the medical assistance, especially for the force that came over from Houston. Charity is going to have major problems."

The conference calls began the afternoon of Aug. 26, when the National Weather Service cautioned Louisiana that Katrina had shifted west from the Florida Panhandle. The weather service was still unsure where it would land but warned that Plaquemines Parish could be vulnerable.

By the next evening, the hurricane was headed on an unmistakable westerly track. With people away from their televisions over the weekend, Gov. Kathleen Blanco was uneasy that many did not know the storm was barreling in their direction. She urged leaders to spread the word among pastors who could prod their congregations to leave Sunday morning.

"I'm asking all of you to do your very best to get as many people to safe ground as possible. It occurs to me that a lot of people went to bed last night thinking that hurricane was going to Florida," Blanco said Saturday night. "I got a report at 7 o'clock that there were about 700 people doing Little League ball in the New Orleans area."

That day, Louisiana State Police had reversed inbound lanes of traffic to ease congestion for motorists headed north or east to Baton Rouge. However, only a handful of parishes had given mandatory evacuation orders by then. The tapes show that Jefferson had mandatory evacuations in place only for Grand Isle, Jean Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point, while the entirety of New Orleans was under a recommended evacuation. St. Bernard had "strongly" advised its residents to leave.

"I've just announced at a press conference that we're probably going to lose all services over night: sewage, drainage, water, etc.," President Aaron Broussard of Jefferson Parish said at noon the day before the storm. "I cannot issue a mandatory. I do not have the resources to enforce it. However, I've just made the strongest message possible, and we will have police vehicles and fire vehicles going throughout Jefferson Parish with broadcasting advising people to leave now."

That Sunday, the parishes shuttled stranded residents and even some of their own employees into shelters. New Orleans, which had told the state throughout the weekend that it was using an internal plan to help residents without cars, acknowledged for the first time that it anticipated foul conditions at the Superdome, its shelter of last resort. The city's representative, who is not identified on the tapes, asked for help tending 45 to 50 gravely ill patients.

"I can't wait to have oxygen," the New Orleans representative said in the call at 4:30 p.m. Sunday. "I have a definite need."

The official hoped the hospitals could take on a few more patients. "The heat and lack of air conditioning and the nightmare we're going to face in the Dome is not something that these 45 people will probably be willing to endure and make it through," he said.

While the parishes were beginning to enter requests for aid, the conference calls do not indicate that leaders were worried about shortages. The American Red Cross reported Sunday night that it had meals ready in Baton Rouge and a dozen kitchen units lined up through a Baptist church group. On the morning the hurricane struck, Maestri verified that he could get the materials his parish needed by placing a request through a computer system called the E-Team.

"Jefferson has a couple of issues. No. 1, we're going to need to make some requests for commodities and/or fuel," Maestri said. "We want to handle that through E-Team, Colonel?"

He continued, "Medical resources and requests of FEMA assistance from the FEMA stockpile again through E-Team?"

"Absolutely," said Col. Jeff Smith, deputy director of the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness. "We've got FEMA shoulder to shoulder with us. We'll turn and we'll act on it just as soon as we get the request."

But that computer system failed for roughly six days after the storm. When it was finally operating again, Maestri said the requests sent through the system "went nowhere."

In the frantic conference call Sept. 9, almost two weeks after the storm, Maestri lamented the shortages in gas, diesel and generators that threatened to shut down the parish sewage system, sending waste into the streets that could create a "medical catastrophe."

He also blasted the federal government for bumbling the delivery of supplies after it had supposedly rehearsed for natural disasters.

"Whatever happened to the FEMA gen packs we talked about, these pallets of generators that are supposedly pre-positioned across the country and can be flown in at a moment's notice?" Maestri asked Smith. "Now when we are on our knees, nothing's available."

• • • • • •

Kate Moran can be reached at katherine_moran@yahoo.com.

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# Missing officers were nearly 15% of force

COPS, *from A-1*

of each officer unaccounted for during the first weeks after the storm and now seeking to return.

The 249 officers will be judged on a case-by-case basis. "We have a penalty schedule for each violation, and when that process takes place, individuals will have the right to appeal the decisions made by the bureau chiefs," Compass said, adding that "the final decision and recommendation will be by me as superintendent of police."

Mayor Ray Nagin said the city attorney's office will review Compass' plan to ensure that it falls within Civil Service regulations that cover all classified city employees.

Legal issues aside, the AWOL officers raise a host of challenges to the department. The NOPD already had difficulty recruiting and retaining officers before Katrina, and the 249 officers who left the job make up nearly 15 percent of the nearly 1,700-member force. Compass did not say how many of the 249 are asking to return.

Compass has said that nearly all of his top commanders rode out the storm and worked superhuman hours during the challenging days that followed. His implication was that the no-shows were younger patrol officers, most of whom are assigned to perennially understaffed front-line patrols.

Then there is the issue of appropriate penalties. Many officers who worked during the storm's most hellacious days already have been privately expressing misgivings about accepting back any colleagues who didn't stand with them when they were needed most.

Lt. David Benelli, president of the Police Association of New Orleans, said true deserters should be fired.

"For those who left because of cowardice, they don't need to be here," Benelli said. "If you're a deserter and you deserted your post for no other reason than you were scared, then you left the department and I don't see any need for you to come back."

However, Benelli said that once accounts of individual officers are heard, only a small fraction will be exposed as deserters. He didn't give examples of legitimate reasons for not being on the job, but several officers have talked about colleagues who were on leave or vacation when the storm hit and were unable to quickly return to the city.

Benelli said the "vast majority of officers stood at their posts despite having to brave the elements and work in very extreme conditions."

"We know there were people who flat-out deserted," he said. "But we also know there were officers who had to make critical decisions about what to do with their families. We are confident that Superintendent Compass is going to give everyone due process and look at the circumstances of each case individually. They shouldn't just throw a blanket over everyone."

# President calls for fuel conservation

## *Refinery towns to get visit from Bush today*

**By Nedra Pickler**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush urged Americans on Monday to cut back on unnecessary travel to make up for fuel shortages caused by Hurricane Rita. He prepared to take his seventh trip to the Gulf Coast.

Bush said the government was ready to release fuel from its emergency oil stockpile to alleviate high prices. And he suggested he would name a federal official to oversee the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast — after local officials first produce a vision for their rebuilt communities.

The president spoke after he attended a meeting at the Energy Department in which officials told him they still were trying to assess the damage to oil production and refineries in Rita's path.

Bush said he would get a personal report from local officials today when he visits the area around the refinery towns of Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas.

Meanwhile, he encouraged motorists to conserve energy and said he has directed federal agencies to do the same.

"If it makes sense for the citizen out there to curtail nonessential travel, it darn sure makes sense for federal employees," Bush said. "We can encourage employees to car pool or use mass transit, and we can shift peak electricity use to off-peak hours. There's ways for the federal government to lead when it comes to conservation."

The White House also will be looking at ways to conserve, press secretary Scott McClellan said, although that doesn't include curtailing the president's plans to return to the region this week.

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STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**LOOKING FOR ANSWERS:** Engineers are studying broken concrete and twisted steel for clues as to why floodwalls at the 17th Street, London Avenue and Industrial canals were breached. Their construction may have been deficient, or they may have simply been overwhelmed by forces they weren't designed to handle.

# Time is of the essence while evidence remains

**CONCRETE,** *from A-1*

steel for clues. The Army Corps of Engineers says it has begun to investigate the collapses. Scientists from Louisiana State University also are examining the damage, and the American Society of Civil Engineers will soon dispatch its own experts to the breach sites.

"There will be on-the-ground investigation where they will try to piece this thing together, as when they do an autopsy on a body. They will decide what muscles collapsed, what caused death. They will look for bullet holes," said William Marcuson, a former Corps geotechnical engineer and president-elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"There is some sense of urgency here, because if you go in and cover it with sandbags, you will still have to get in there and to look at what happened," he said. "You need to get it dried out."

The floodwalls are relatively simple structures, but engineers say the challenge is still formidable. A vertical wall can fail in many different ways, whether overwhelmed by forces beyond its capabilities or done in by design or construction deficiencies.

In some places, it will be a relatively easy call. In the Industrial Canal, evidence shows that high water flowed over the tops of floodwalls and through sandbagged gaps, creating breaches and extensive flooding. In one spot on the east side of the canal, a barge appears to have struck the floodwall, contributing to a large breach and accelerating the flooding of the Lower 9th Ward. That breach was temporarily patched but reopened last weekend when Hurricane Rita's storm surge raised water levels again.

But it's not clear whether water topped some of floodwalls in the 17th Street and London Avenue canal systems. If it didn't, that means the stresses from high water may not have exceeded a given wall's designed capabilities — but it failed anyway, raising serious questions about long-term issues.

Ivor Van Heerden, deputy director of the LSU Hurricane Center, believes the walls at the 17th Street Canal, and possibly in the London Avenue Canal, failed without being topped. The Corps says it's too early to draw conclusions.

Van Heerden said he and his colleagues measured a maximum storm surge height of 10.2 feet near the opening to the 17th Street Canal, and about 11 feet adjacent to the London Avenue canal. The original design specifications call for walls high enough to stop a storm surge of 11.2 feet at the lakefront.

It's helpful to think of the levee floodwalls not as stiff, immovable objects, but as somewhat flexible structures embedded in another, still more flexible structure: the Mississippi delta's muck. The floodwalls consist of a length of corrugated steel sheet piling driven into the earth. A concrete wall is built on top of that, and low, compacted earthen berms are built around it.

Lake Pontchartrain rose as Katrina pumped in surge water from the Gulf of Mexico. As Katrina moved east of New Orleans, its winds shifted to the north and pushed the high water south, where it pushed levels to among the highest ever recorded in that area.

Water rising in the canals would have put tremendous pressure on the floodwalls on both sides. Water is heavy; it weighs about 62.4 pounds per cubic foot. Pile up 10 cubic feet of water and the pressure will be more than 600 pounds per square foot near the bottom of the concrete portion of the wall, even higher at points down near the bottom of the sheet piling base.

"That is a lot," said Tom Eager, an engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who analyzed the collapse of the World Trade Center. "You design industrial buildings for 300 pounds per square foot of pressure. It's enough to have forklifts driving around on the upper floors."

That water would have put pressure on all points in the structure. But one focus will likely be the soil. In wet soil, water is always moving slowly deep underneath such a structure, engineers say. But when pressure quickly rises on one side, that can push earth as well as water underneath a floodwall or similar structure.

"Almost anything leaks, and you can have water seeping through the bottom of the levee, though the material. As long as it's clean, it's no problem. But if it's dirty water, then it's exporting soil from one side to the other," Marcuson said.

If the pressure difference is extreme, he said, "it creates pressure which creates velocity, and the higher the velocity, the bigger the particles it will pick up."

Van Heerden said his survey of the levees showed that some broken walls had sheet pile bases extending only 2 or 3 feet down. Dan Hitchings, director of the Corps Mississippi Valley Division forward team working in New Orleans, said that the corps is examining the sheet piling depth as a possible issue in the failures.

Al Naomi, the Corps project manager who oversees the levee system, said he did not believe that water and soil were seeping from one side of levee walls to the other.

If that does happen, several engineers said, it can begin to destabilize an entire structure at its strongest point: the base where it is anchored to the soil.

"If you have a foundation that has given in to water pressure, not only are you allowing the structure to slide, you are changing the way it's carrying the load," said Guillermo Ramirez, an assistant engineering professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. "It changes its ability to take the force. All the force has to be transmitted sideways to the other points on the base where the structure is still working."

Whether destabilized from below or not, engineers say that other trouble spots are relatively weaker points higher up in the wall, such as the area where the sheet pile is embedded about two feet into the concrete, or the rubberized gaskets between the wall panels.

Water pressing against almost the entire height of the structure would be looking for an entry points — and it will inevitably find some. If the structure was moving even slightly, and being pummeled by waves and the weight of water, then tiny cracks may have formed. A gap may have been created between the panels.

"It was fast — it happened in a matter of hours. But it probably was a gradual degradation of your structural system," Ramirez said. "You started increasing the pressure. For a concrete all, it could be cracks growing, water finding its way through crack. That increases rate of growth of the cracks. Add that to your possible sheet piling failure. It just keeps progressing through the structure."

The steel reinforcing bars built into the concrete will be another target for investigators. Eagar said that in recent years a number of structural failures in buildings have been traced to faulty welding in such bars. In the floodwalls, the reinforcing rods appear to have been attached to the sheet piling, a photograph Van Heerden took shows, though it's not clear exactly how.

A big question underlying all of this is, if the walls were not topped by flood water, and engineers had built a significant safety factor in, how could the walls have failed? Van Heerden says his documents show the walls were designed to withstand 2.5 times the force that a Katrina-like hurricane could dish out.

Eagar said that even small design problems can compound one another, however. If five elements were off by 20 percent each, he said, statistically that would account for the 2.5 times safety factor.

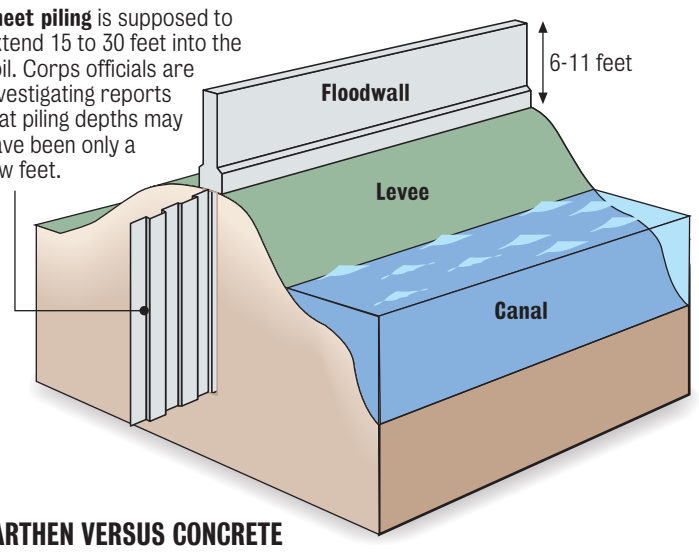
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## WHY DID THE FLOODWALLS FAIL?

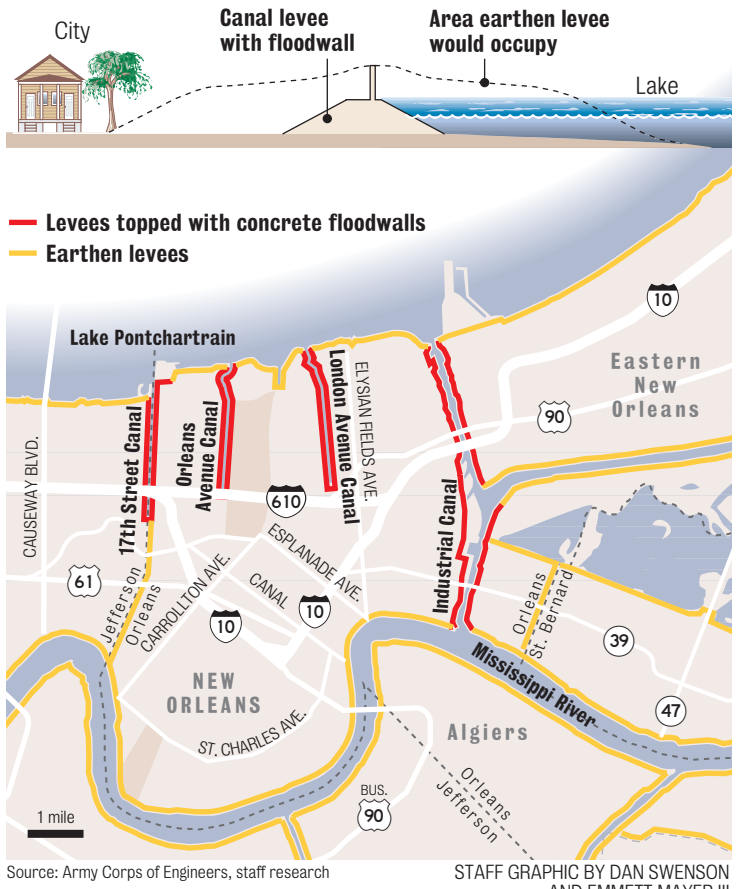
The Army Corps of Engineers is investigating why the 17th Street Canal and the London Avenue floodwalls failed. Some evidence shows that water did not top the walls, raising serious questions about how they became destabilized.

**Sheet piling** is supposed to extend 15 to 30 feet into the soil. Corps officials are investigating reports that piling depths may have been only a few feet.




### EARTHEN VERSUS CONCRETE

Canal floodwalls feature a concrete wall extending above an earthen levee. This design uses a minimum of real estate, preserving homes and streets that otherwise would have to be destroyed to create sprawling, gently sloping earthen levees like those along the river and Lake Pontchartrain.




Source: Army Corps of Engineers, staff research

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON AND EMMETT MAYER III

# Levees to be restored to pre-Katrina strength

*Corps task force sets June 1 deadline*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

A special Army Corps of Engineers task force has been assembled to bring New Orleans area levees back to pre-storm conditions, but not protect the area from the strongest of hurricanes like Katrina.

The corps has created a new Task Force Guardian to assist in making interim repairs to New Orleans area levees and help in planning how to restore the levee system to its pre-Katrina level of protection, said Dan Hitchings, director of the corps' Mississippi Valley Division Forward operations, which is overseeing levee reconstruction.

The levees would be able to again protect the city from a slow-moving Category 3 hurricane.

Corps spokesman Mitch Frazier said there are no immediate plans to increase the levee protection to protect from a Category 4 or 5 storm, which has been proposed by engineers within the corps, state officials and members of the state's congressional delegation.

"Currently, the corps only has authority to restore the levees to pre-Katrina conditions," he said.

The new task force is made up of corps employees supplemented by contractors, Hitchings said.

"Their role is limited to the reconstruction of the existing protection to the original standards and the original level of protection," he said. The goal is to bring the levees back up to pre-Katrina strength by June 1, 2006, the beginning of the next hurricane season.

But the task force will be kept informed by a separate group of corps and independent engineers studying the causes of various levee failures, and will use that information in rebuilding the levees, Hitchings said.

"If they determine the cause of the failure was its design, they'll make sure our folks putting up the new sections are aware of it," he said.

The task force itself will be looking at the design of the levee walls to determine if a more stable design should be used. Critics of the existing levee walls contend they don't comply with a recommendation in the corps' own levee construction handbook that warns against using I-shaped walls in areas where inverted T-shaped walls might be more stable.

Hitchings said corps workers also were attempting to determine how sheet piling was used in the construction of the existing levee walls.

Hitchings said there are no plans at the moment to reinforce repairs at the Industrial Canal with sheet piling, but that the metal wall material may be used in some repairs of the 17th Street and London Avenue canals where access might be limited.

Corps officials ruled out blocking the entrance of the Industrial Canal at Lake Pontchartrain with sheet piling because the canal is 40 feet deep and 300 feet wide at that point.

"Even if you wanted to, you would have to build a mammoth reinforcing structure to give it the strength to resist the water pressure," he said.

He said there has also been no discussion about using sheet piling or other means to dam off the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet below the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway as a way of reducing storm surge into the Industrial Canal.

Hitchings said the interim repair effort will include all levees in the New Orleans area, including the levee along the MR-GO in St. Bernard Parish that was eroded from 17 feet to about 4 feet, and levees in eastern New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish.

All will be raised to at least 10 feet, a process that had begun before Hurricane Rita struck this weekend.

"There were actually three phases," he said. "The first was to get the breaches blocked up. Some were at grade or below, where they eroded a notch or we had to come in and notch them to let the water back out.

"The first step was to close them so normal tides wouldn't come back in," he said. "We had just gotten that fixed and were within a few days of starting the process of raising the protection up to 10 feet.

"We were not quite able to

*See* **LEVEES,** *page A-15*

The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

PAGE A-10
Tuesday
September 27, 2005

## Repairs may keep high-rises closed

*Poydras buildings lost many windows*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

It could take weeks, in some cases months, for some office buildings in New Orleans to reopen, building owners and landlords said Monday.

The time frame for opening most of the city's most modern office buildings will depend on the level of damage each sustained.

The Texaco Center and Poydras Center, both of which are owned by Hertz Investment Group, along with 1340 Poydras St., managed by Regis Management Group, are among the most severely damaged buildings along the city's Poydras Street high-rise corridor. Texaco Center lost all of the widows that created its signature sloped roof, while the roof of Poydras Center was ripped away by Katrina's winds. Well over a hundred windows blew out at 1340 Poydras St. during Hurricane Katrina, according to Regis Property Management head Jane Upshaw. Replacement windows are readily available, but the workers needed to install them are not.

"We have just two (window) sizes and they're readily available … the problem is getting people back into town to do the work," Upshaw said.

The Dominion Tower and the adjoining New Orleans Shopping Centre were also hard-hit and could take as long as five months to be fully repaired, said Gary Horwitz, chief operating officer for Hertz Investment, which owns the two buildings.

Dominion, 1340 Poydras, and the Hyatt Hotel New Orleans, which lost every window on the side facing Poydras, probably were hit by a tornado, said Hertz Investment Group head Judah Hertz. Initially, many thought that the flying foam debris ripped from the roof of the Superdome caused much of the damage, but Hertz, who walked through the area Thursday, said the damage was too severe to be caused by debris from the stadium.

Yet another New Orleans high-rise owned by Hertz, the LL&E building, received roof and air-conditioning chiller damage but will be the first of

*See* **BUILDINGS,** *page A-15*

## Word of refinery damage pushes energy prices up

*Gasoline prices may approach $3 a gallon*

**By Mary Judice**
Business Writer

Energy prices closed higher Monday as reports on damage to oil

refineries at the Texas-Louisiana border from Hurricane Rita trickled in.

In early trading Monday, crude oil futures and gasoline futures traded

lower. But as the extent of refinery damage became clearer, prices increased by afternoon and closed higher, pointing to higher gasoline prices in the near future.

The biggest gains Monday were registered in heating oil,

where prices rose almost 11 cents per gallon to close at $2.06. Gasoline futures were 4.4 cents higher at $2.13 per gallon, and crude oil prices were up $1.26 a barrel to $65.35 for West Texas crude.



AP PHOTO

A crew works to limit flood damage to the Henry Hub natural gas facility in Erath on Monday, in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

Gasoline prices in the Baton Rouge area moved higher after

Hurricane Rita made landfall at the Louisiana Texas border early Saturday.

On Monday, prices at the pump were nine cents a gallon higher for regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA fuel gauge survey. The average price was $2.64 a gallon, which is just six cents below its all-time high for Baton Rouge, recorded a week after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the New Orleans area.

Gasoline prices may move up around $3 a gallon in some markets, said

Tom Kloza, an analyst with Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J.

Kloza said between now and October, motorists can expect to pay between $2.80 and $3.10 per gallon, depending on the market. Analysts said

prices should decline later in the fall as the driving season winds down.

## Energy industry assessing Rita damage

*Eight refineries report some operating problems*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business Writer

The energy industry began the task of assessing damage to refineries and offshore production platforms Monday, three days after Hurricane Rita — the second of two destructive storms in a month — tore through the Gulf of Mexico.

Much of the concern in advance of Hurricane Rita had been for oil refineries in the Houston-Galveston area, where about a quarter of the crude oil in the United States is refined and which for a time appeared to be directly in the path of the storm. Rita instead came ashore near the Louisiana-Texas border, but the storm still dealt a powerful blow to refineries.

A number of refineries lost power this weekend and a couple were damaged, said Andrew Lebow, a broker with Man Financial Inc., a Chicago futures brokerage firm. He said eight refineries have some operating troubles, but none seems to have long-lasting damage.

Lebow estimated that an additional 1.5 million barrels per day of refining capacity was taken down by Hurricane Rita and will be out for the next couple weeks. This is on top of the 900,000 barrels per day of refining that have been out of operation since Hurricane Katrina.

"I think everyone was underestimating the impact of Rita on refineries," said Tom Kloza, an analyst with Oil Price Information Service in Wall, New Jersey. "It wasn't a Howitzer blow, but we took a bunch of bullets."

Oil and gas producers were also assessing Rita's impact on offshore production platforms Monday.

All of the more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil produced daily in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut down Monday, according to the Minerals Management Service, the federal agency that regulates offshore oil and gas operations in the gulf. About 78 percent of the daily production of natural gas remained shut down. And about 93 percent of manned platforms and 75 percent of the rigs operating in the Gulf remained evacuated.

However, there were few early reports of platform and rig damage, and companies have begun returning workers to their offshore facilities.

"I know that there were a number of deepwater rigs that were directly in the path, and when they conducted flyovers they did not appear to have damage," said Sara Banaszak, senior economist for the American Petroleum Institute. Some mobile drilling rigs, however, were dislocated, Banaszak said.

Dominion Resources and other energy companies in the Gulf began transporting workers over the weekend, said David Auchter, a company spokesman. Dominion's

*See* **GAS,** *page A-11*

## N.O. loses utility trucks to Rita cleanup

*But Entergy says city has enough to finish work*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Long lines of utility trucks departed New Orleans on Monday on their way to areas in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas that were ravaged by Hurricane Rita during the weekend.

But managers from the local utility, Entergy New Orleans, said the exodus wouldn't leave the city short on workers to continue restoring power and natural gas service to areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina four weeks ago.

In fact, some utility tree-trimming trucks moved the opposite direction — toward New Orleans — Sunday night, Entergy New Orleans spokeswoman Amy Stallings said.

"I don't know who is moving where, but I do know that the resources we need to complete the restoration (in metropolitan New Orleans) will be there," Entergy New Orleans Chief Executive Officer Dan Packer said Monday.

Packer said he didn't know how many utility workers had moved out of the New Orleans area to work on Rita damage or how many remained behind.

However, Entergy's pool of in-house line workers and contracted workers who trim trees remains around 9,000, Packer said. That's as high as it's been since the storm. Normally, Entergy has about 1,100 line workers, and it employs others as needed.

Crews moving to regions damaged by Rita were facing the earliest phases of restoring power, such as repairing downed transmission lines, while their counterparts in New Orleans were performing later phases of restoration work, such as checking connections between homes and neighborhood electricity feeder lines for damage.

Stallings noted that the 766,000 outages in areas damaged by Rita were below the 1.1 million outages that hit the company's utilities in southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi after Katrina.

"People shouldn't be alarmed when they see crews moving around," she said.

Jeff Wilkerson, an attorney for the New Orleans City Council on utility matters, said the movements aren't raising any red flags. "We talked to (Entergy New Orleans) yesterday, and it wasn't an issue," he said.

• • • • • •

Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

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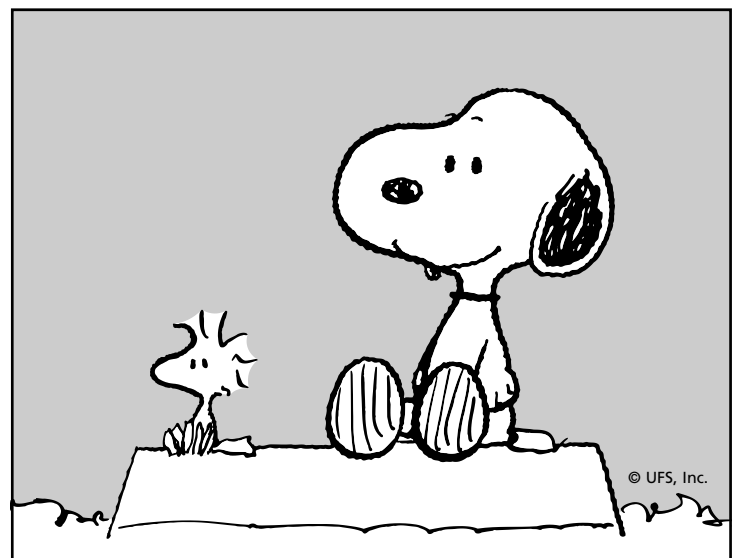
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MONEY

# Entergy gets boost from parent company

*Now utility can pay suppliers and employees*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Entergy New Orleans, which filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Friday under the weight of Hurricane Katrina expenses, received a much-needed shot of cash Monday when a court in Baton Rouge approved $100 million in financing from the company's parent, Entergy Corp.

Senior utility executives said the emergency funding mechanism was critical to restoring utility services that are needed to repopulate the city and other heavily damaged areas, and to continue reviving the region's comatose economy.

The company, which continues to operate, sought the interim funding from its New Orleans-based parent because bank financing isn't available now that Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the company's debt to junk status, utility attorneys said.

The first $60 million tapped from the pool of cash will go to contracted utility crews who have been working to restore services, to the utility's two natural gas suppliers, and to the company's 394 employees to avoid an interruption in paychecks and benefits.

Utility executives and lawyers described a company entrenched in a financial and physical crisis, its cash and bank credit lines dry, its customers displaced, its revenue flow nearly depleted and its power grid in the city severely damaged or destroyed.

The cash infusion, known in bankruptcy parlance as debtor in possession financing, or DIP, was needed immediately.

The company began wiring payments to contractors within an hour of receiving court approval for the financial arrangement.

*See* **ENTERGY,** *page A-15*

# Underwater pipeline damage could be most troubling

**GAS,** *from A-10*

properties received "minimal surface damage," Auchter said.

But Dominion, like others, still has not started producing again. The company is conducting assessments.

Likewise, BP has said that it will not recommence production until it has done full assessment of its facilities as well as its infrastructure.

"Some of the company's onshore locations have been shut-in because plants and other infrastructure were impacted by the storm," the company said on its Web site.

It is infrastructure damage — specifically damage to underwater pipelines designed to carry oil and gas away from platforms — that could prove most troubling.

At least one company has said that it sustained pipeline damage. Marathon Oil's web site says the company is developing plans to address storm damage and begin starting up pipelines.

Last year, Hurricane Ivan significantly damaged some underwater pipelines, forcing companies that otherwise were able to produce to remain shut down because they had no means of transporting oil and gas.

That could be what's behind the high percentage of continued shutdowns in the gulf, Banaszak said. But it will be days before the extent of pipeline damage can be determined.

"The offshore pipelines are one of the last things we tend to get full assessments on because it requires some underwater assessment," Banaszak said.

Already companies have talked about temporarily bringing oil to shore by ship instead of pipeline if damage is severe, Banaszak said.

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ATTENTION
Parents or Guardians of students *returning* to the Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School System has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of students in the system. Some schools, which were not significantly damaged, will open the week of October 3 to receive students.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Same School**
JPPSS students who can return to their homes in their previous school boundary areas will attend his/her previous school. Bus transportation is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Different School**
JPPSS students who cannot return to their homes and are living in a different part of Jefferson Parish will have to register at the sites listed below during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**East Bank:** Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. Schhol, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

**West Bank:** Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**

ATTENTION
Parents or Guardians of students *new* to Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of new students who will be enrolling in the system for the first time.
JPPSS will begin registering new students to attend school from Tuesday, September 27 through Saturday, October 1 in anticipation of reopening some schools on October 3.

Students New To Jefferson Parish Public School System
Students now living in Jefferson Parish who have been displaced from public, private, or parochial schools in other school systems wanting to attend Jefferson Parish public schools will need to register as new students.
JPPSS will staff multiple registration sites throughout the parish during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The sites are:
East Bank: Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. Schhol, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

West Bank: Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

Bus transportation for new students is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.

ATTENTION
Parents or Guardians of students at
Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools
or John Martyn school in the Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important **RELOCATION** information for parents or guardians of students who previously attended Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools or the John Martyn school.

Students of these schools should report to the new location and time listed below.

**Alexander students** are to report at 9:00 a.m. to Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner

**Lincoln students** are to report at 9:00 a.m. to Butler Elem. School, 300 Fourth St., Marrero

**Terrytown students** are to report at 8:40 a.m. to Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown (Boudreaux students report to Boudreaux at 9:00 a.m.)

**Woodmere students** are to report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elem. School, 2500 Bent Tree Ln., Marrero (C.T. Janet students report to C.T. Janet at 9:00 a.m.)

**John Matryn students** are to report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Dr., Jefferson

Students who previously walked to Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere will be assigned to a designated bus stop.

Parents should drop off and pick up their child the first day.

Bus transportation for all other students is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**

The Times-Picayune

# OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF KENNER

## CITY OF KENNER LEGALS

### Kenner City Officials

Mayor
Philip Capitano

Council President
John T. Lavarine, III

Council Members
At-Large: Dominic O. Weilbaecher
District 1: Marc E. Johnson
District 2: MichaeI McMyne
District 3: Jeannie M. Black
District 4: Michele P. Branigan
District 5: Kent Denapolis
Chief of Police
Nick A. Congemi

Justice of the Peace
District 6: Kevin Centanni

City Hall
1801 Williams Blvd.
Kenner, LA 70062
Telephone (504) 468-7200

Kenner Police
500 Veterans Blvd.
Kenner, LA 70062
Telephone (504) 712-2200

## Council Minutes

PUBLIC NOTICE

DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA, THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL (THE TIMES PICAYUNE NEWSPAPER) FOR THE CITY OF KENNER IS UNABLE TO PUBLISH THE LEGAL MINUTES FOR THE CITY OF KENNER. THEREFORE, IN AN EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH CITY SERVICES AND MAINTAIN OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND ORDINANCES IN SUMMARY ARE HEREBY POSTED TO FULFILL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AS IF INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL:

Results of the Council Meeting of August 18, 2005
Resolution Nos. B-14967 through B-14978
Ordinance No. 9185 through 9212
All Ordinances & Resolutions Shall Become Effective on October 1, 2005

Summary Ordinance Nos. 10085 through 10090
Resolution First Reading
Summary Ordinances & Resolutions in First Reading shall be submitted for Council consideration on October 6, 2005

The Council for the City of Kenner, Louisiana, met in regular session on Thursday, August 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana, with the following results:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John T. Lavarine, III | Council President | Present |
| Dominic O. Weilbaecher | Councilman at Large, Div. B | Present |
| Marc E. Johnson | Councilmember, District 1 | Present |
| Michael McMyne | Councilmember, District 2 | Present |
| Jeannie M. Black | Councilmember District 3 | Present |
| Michele P. Branigan | Councilmember District 4 | Present |
| Kent Denapolis | Councilmember, District 5 | Present |
| Michelle Sheeren | Clerk of the Council | Present |
| Ann Cardwell | Assistant Council Clerk | Present |

* * *

After the meeting had been called to order with the above results, pursuant to motions duly made and carried, the following ordinances, resolutions and ordinance(s)/resolution(s) in summary were adopted:

On joint motion by all Councilmembers present, the following ordinances/resolutions were introduced in summary for publication and public hearing(s) to be held on October 6, 2005 at 6:00 .m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the Clerk of the Council between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Holidays excepted.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,085, an ordinance accepting the lowest responsive bid received from Luhr Bros., DBA Construction Aggregate Supply for an annual contract to supply limestone aggregate delivered and self-hauled on an as-needed basis not to exceed $25,000.00 per year for the Department of Public Works.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,086, an ordinance requiring persons or entities who enter into professional service contracts with the City to furnish certain information and to provide penalties for failure to do so.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,087, an ordinance amending Section 15-21 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances to add additional stop sign locations on Vintage Drive at its intersection with Toby Lane facing east and west.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,088, an ordinance amending portions of Chapter 15, Section 29 of the City of Kenner Code of Ordinances, regulating taxi-cab rates

Summary Ordinance No. 10,089, an ordinance amending Chapter 16, Sections 16-96, 16-100, 16-203 (A) and (C) of the City of Kenner Code of Ordinances, regarding driver's permit fees and renewal requirements for vehicles for hire.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,090, an ordinance approving the erection of a 188.37 square foot high-rise sign 50 feet above grade and a 100 square foot pole sign 35 feet above grade on Lot B-1-A, Square 111B, University City Subdivision, bearing the municipal address of 3012 Loyola Drive. Case P-35-05

A resolution amending the rules of Organization, Business, Order, and Procedure of the Council of the City of Kenner to provide for additional decorum by the Mayor and his/her Administration.

Posted On September 21, 2005

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following resolution was offered.

RESOLUTION NO. B-14967

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GAME LIVE EVENTS TO HOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING FOR A VIDEOGAME TOURNAMENT AT THE ESPLANADE MALL PARKING LOT AT 1401 W. ESPLANADE AVE. ON NOVEMBER 20, 2005 FROM 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM.

WHEREAS, Game Live Events wishes to hold a public gathering; and

WHEREAS, the event will be held on Sunday November 20, 2005, for a Videogame Tournament between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, approval has been obtained by all appropriate departments of the City of Kenner.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That Game Live Events is hereby granted a permit to hold a public gathering on Sunday November 20, 2005, for a Videogame Tournament between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

SECTION TWO: The applicant shall comply with all conditions and requirements listed on the attached application and routing sheets by the City of Kenner Administrative Directors.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following resolution was offered.

RESOLUTION NO. B-14968

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR WILLIAMS BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH TO HOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING FOR A BLOCK PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2005 FROM NOON TO 8:00 P.M. IN THE 3000 BLOCK OF GEORGIA BETWEEN BRUIN AND I-10.

WHEREAS, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church wishes to hold a public gathering for a block party; and

WHEREAS, the event will be held on Saturday September 24, 2005 between the hours of Noon and 8:00 p.m. in the 3000 block of Georgia between Bruin and I-10; and

WHEREAS, approval has been obtained by all appropriate departments of the City of Kenner.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That Williams Boulevard Baptist Church is hereby granted a permit to hold a public gathering for a block party on Saturday September 24, 2005, between the hours of Noon and 8:00 p.m. in the 3000 block of Georgia between Bruin and I-10; and

SECTION TWO: The applicant shall comply with all conditions and requirements listed on the attached application and routing sheets by the City of Kenner Administrative Directors.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14969

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR WILLIAMS BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH TO HOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING FOR A FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2005 FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. IN THE 3000 BLOCK OF GEORGIA BETWEEN BRUIN AND I-10.

WHEREAS, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church wishes to hold a public gathering for a festival; and

WHEREAS, the event will be held on Saturday September 10, 2003 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the 3000 block of Georgia between Bruin and I-10; and

WHEREAS, approval has been obtained by all appropriate departments of the City of Kenner.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That Williams Boulevard Baptist Church is hereby granted a permit to hold a public gathering for a festival on Saturday September 10, 2005, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the 3000 block of Georgia between Bruin and I-10; and

SECTION TWO: The applicant shall comply with all conditions and requirements listed on the attached application and routing sheets by the City of Kenner Administrative Directors.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14970

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ONLY RESPONSIVE BID RECEIVED FROM PIONEER SALES COMPANY, INCORPORATED IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,837.00 TO FURNISH AND INSTALL ONE SINGLE BAY SWING SET AT ROSEMARY MINOR PARK FOR THE CITY OF KENNER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, letter bids were received and tabulated by the Purchasing Department to furnish and install one single bay swing set at Rosemary Minor Park for the Department of Public Works on June 17, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account numbers 350-001 for the amount of $2,837.00; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director is recommending acceptance of the only responsive bid received from Pioneer Sales Company, Incorporated in the amount of $2,837.00 to furnish and install one single bay swing set at Rosemary Minor Park for the City of Kenner Department of Public Works; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is authorized to issue a purchase order in the amount of $2,837.00 to Pioneer Sales Company, Incorporated to furnish and install one single bay swing set at Rosemary Minor Park for the City of Kenner Department of Public Works per specifications contained in Letter Bid No: 05-1304.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District I

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14971

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY OF KENNER TO DEDICATE THE TENNIS COURT AT ARTHUR P. CLAY RESOURCE CENTER IN MEMORY OF HARRY PERCY JENNINGS.

WHEREAS, Mr. Harry Percy Jennings was born on May 16, 1931, in Pontchatoula, Louisiana to the late Mr. and Mrs. John and Bertha Jennings. He was married to the late Theresa Stewart Jennings and of their marriage two children were born, namely Gregory T. Jennings and Carla J. Jennings Drakes; and

WHEREAS, He received his Bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1958. He furthered his study at Tulane University, University of New Orleans, University of Oklahoma, Xavier University and Southern University of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, From 1958 -1973 he was a teacher in the Jefferson Parish School System, grades sixth through ninth. He served as the Assistant Director for Jeff Capp and later on promoted to Executive Director. He promoted many programs for the underprivileged youth and Senior Citizens in the community. In the 70's he started a tennis program in Kenner teaching tennis to the youths in the community; and

WHEREAS, In 1977 he opened Photo Images Studio in Kenner where he was a photographer that was well known and widely used by many families, friends, public official and famous people (Jesse Jackson). Some of his works can be seen around the Kenner area today; and

WHEREAS, His affiliations were aligned with the Kenner Tourist Commission Board, Rivertown Association, Omega PSI PHI Fraternity, Black History Commission Board, La Salle Economic Development Corporation, Jefferson Parish Vocational Tech. School Advisory Board. He was a member of Nineveh Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the City of Kenner wish to memorialize Harry Percy Jennings by dedicating the tennis court at Arthur P. Clay Resource Center in his memory.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1: That the tennis court at Arthur P. Clay Resource Center is dedicated in memory of Harry Percy Jennings.

SECTION 2: That the City Council hereby request a memorial plaque to be installed on the tennis court at Arthur P. Clay Resource Center in memory of Harry Percy Jennings.

This resolution was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: Councilmember McMyne
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCILMAN MARC E. JOHNSON

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14972

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY OF KENNER TO DEDICATE THE BASKETBALL FACILITY AT BERTHA LEE JACKSON PARK IN MEMORY OF CHARLES TEAGUE, JR.

WHEREAS, Charles Teague, Jr. was born on October 25, 1979, he was the beloved son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Glenda Teague, Sr. He had one brother Robert K. Teague; and

WHEREAS, He was a devout Christian and active in the community and church. He was president of the Annie B. Norfin Choir. As an obedient and faithful servant for God he enjoyed singing and giving words of encouragement to his peers. He is most remembered singing "You're the Center of my Joy" and "I'm Looking for My Jesus"; and

WHEREAS, He attended St. Joan of Arc in New Orleans (grades 1 through 8) and St. Augustine High School where he graduated in 1997. He went on to further his education at the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale, Illinois, he majored in Architect. He was on his way home to Kenner when he and a teammate were in a car accident whereby God called him home on May 14, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Charles loved playing all sports, he began playing sports at Buddy Lawson Playground where he participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. He also played sports at St. Joan of Arc, St. Augustine High School and University of Southern Illinois where he was a wide receiver on the football team; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the City of Kenner wishes to memorialize Charles Teague, Jr. by dedicating the basketball facility at Bertha Lee Jackson Park in his memory. He has touched many people's lives. He will always be remembered as a good and kindhearted person. He always strived for the best and encouraged others to do the same.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1: That the basketball facility at Bertha Lee Jackson Park is dedicated in memory of Charles Teague, Jr.

SECTION 2: That the City Council hereby requests a memorial plaque to be installed on the basketball facility at Bertha Lee Jackson Park in memory of Charles Teague Jr.

This resolution was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide
\\server\documents\Kenner\Resolutions\Request for Mayor to Remain until End of Council Meetings.doc

On motion of Councilmember McMyne, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14974

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN ALLOWING THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO COUNCILMAN MCMYNE CONCERNING DISTRICT TWO ISSUES

WHEREAS, Councilman McMyne has attempted to meet with the Director of the Department of Planning to discuss issues related to District Two; and,

WHEREAS, Councilman McMyne has been informed that, in accordance with Section 3.12 of the Kenner City Charter, he is prohibited from dealing directly with City employees without explicit permission of the Mayor; and,

WHEREAS, the ability to timely address issues affecting District Two would be greatly enhanced if Councilman McMyne could communicate directly with those individuals whose responsibilities include such issues; and,

WHEREAS, to continue to deny direct communication in this manner can only be detrimental to the residents of District Two; and,

WHEREAS, multiple memorandums were sent to the Mayor requesting his permission for Councilman McMyne to meet with department heads regarding District Two issues and numerous memorandums were ignored.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That the Administration is hereby urged to permit direct communication between Councilman McMyne and the Director of Planning, and such other Administration employees as may be necessary to address issues related to District Two.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 4
NAYS: Councilmembers Branigan, Denapolis and Johnson
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2
SUBMITTED BY: Councilman Michael McMyne
\\server\documents\Kenner\Resolutions\McMyne Highway Park.wpd

On motion of Councilmember Weilbaecher, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14975

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON MITIGATION PLANNING PROCESS AND ADOPTION OF THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish Council has received grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, for the preparation of a hazard mitigation plan and;

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, specifically Section 322, addresses local mitigation planning and it requires local governments to develop and submit plans as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds, and;

WHEREAS, post-disaster mitigation funds are only available to those communities with an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, and;

WHEREAS, the State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Prepardness focuses local mitigation planning at the parish level and they encourage local governments to participate in the parish mitigation planning process.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: The City of Kenner approves participation in the parish mitigation planning process in developing a city-wide hazard mitigation plan and adoption of the final Federal Emergency Management Agency approved plan.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

Submitted by Councilwoman Branigan

**ON MOTION** of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following Resolution was introduced:

**RESOLUTION NO. B-14976**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE THE PUBLIC NECESSITY FOR THE CONTINUED OWNERSHIP OF LOTS 21, 22 & 23, SQUARE 422, HIGHWAY PARK SUBDIVISION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kenner, is the owner of Lots 21, 22 & 23, Square 422, Highway Park Subdivision, which lots form a part of the Public Works yard; and

**WHEREAS**, the said property is adjacent to a tract owned by an individual who has expressed interest in acquiring said property for additional parking; and

**WHEREAS**, it may be in the best interests of the City of Kenner to sell the subject property if it is no longer needed for a public purpose.

**FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:**

**SECTION ONE**: That the Administration is hereby requested to study and determine the future public necessity for the continued ownership of Lots 21, 22 & 23, Square 422, Highway Park Subdivision.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** 7
**NAYS:** 0
**ABSENT:** 0
**ABSTAINED:** 0

This Resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2
SUBMITTED BY: Councilman John T. Lavarine, III
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On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14978

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE BUILDING (S) LOCATED AT 330 TAYLOR STREET, KENNER, LOUISIANA, SHOULD NOT BE REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED

WHEREAS, on the 9th day of November 2004, the Mayor for the City of Kenner received a report from the Chief of the Inspection and Code Enforcement Department that a certain structure located at 330 Taylor Street was in a dilapidated condition; and,

WHEREAS, the owner (s) of the said building (s), Thomas J. Brady, Angela D. Brady and Patricia B. Cayette, has refused to comply with all notices and/or orders to demolish the said structure (s); and,

WHEREAS, Derrick Shepherd has been appointed by Mayor Congemi as Curator for the owner (s) in connection with this matter; and,

WHEREAS, the building(s) constitutes a danger and hazard to the health and welfare of the City of Kenner; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the owner of the said building (s) be ordered to appear before this Council to show cause why this building(s) should not be repaired or demolished.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That Thomas J. Brady, Angela Brady and Patricia B. Cayette, through their attorney ad hoc, Derrick Shepherd, show cause before this Council on the 15th day of September 2005, why this building (s) located at 330 Taylor Street should not be repaired or demolished.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 1

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCILMAN MARC E. JOHNSON

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,072 ORDINANCE NO. 9185

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PLAN OF RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS R-2 AND Z-1, OAKLAND PLANTATION, KENNER, JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA, INTO LOTS R-2-A AND Z-1-A, OAKLAND PLANTATION, KENNER, JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND AMENDING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 8044 AFFECTING LOT R-2, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SURVEY BY GANDOLFO KUHN, L.L.C., WALTER J. STONE, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MARCH 17, 2005, WHICH LOTS ARE OWNED BY MANUFAB, INC.

WHEREAS, Manufab, Inc. is the owner of Lots R-2 and Z-1, Oakland Plantation Subdivision, Kenner, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, the said Lot Z-1 having been acquired by Manufab, Inc., by an Act passed before Paul F. Rogyom, Notary Public, dated May 14, 1985, registered in COB 1243, folio 170; and the said Lot R-2, having been acquired by Manufab, Inc., by an Act before John H. Norman, Notary Public, dated August 16, 1978, registered in COB 936, folio 424 in the conveyance records for the Parish of Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, said owners desire to resubdivide said Lots into Lot R-2-A and Z-1-A, Oakland Plantation Subdivision, Kenner, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the plan of Gandolfo Kuhn, L.L.C., Walter J. Stone, Registered Professional Land Surveyor, dated March 17, 2005, showing the resubdivision of Lot R-2 and Z-1, Oakland Plantation Subdivision, Kenner, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, into Lots R-2-A and Z-1-A, Oakland Plantation Subdivision, Kenner, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, and the resubdivision of said lots in accordance with said plan are hereby approved and accepted.

SECTION TWO: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance, including, but not limited to Ordinance No. 8044, are hereby amended or expressly repealed and rescinded only insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, and no further.

SECTION THREE: That the Director of the Department of Planning of the City of Kenner, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to make any changes necessary to all official maps of the City of Kenner to reflect this ordinance.

SECTION FOUR: That the Council President be and is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any plans or documents which may be necessary to carry into effect the foregoing.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 1

PUD-11-05

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,069 ORDINANCE NO. 9186

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9025 APPROVING A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHURCH AS SHOWN ON THE SITE PLAN OF ROZAS-WARD ARCHITECTS, DATED MAY 6, 2005, ON LOT A, CITY OF KENNER, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA, SAID PROPERTY BEING SHOWN ON A SURVEY OF GILBERT, KELLY, AND COUTURIE, INC., DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2003.

WHEREAS, Oakland Baptist Church is the owner of Lot A, City of Kenner, Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana, said property having been acquired by Oakland Baptist Church on August 17, 2001, by virtue of an Act of Sale recorded in the conveyance records of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, at COB 3058, Folio 928; and,

WHEREAS, Oakland Baptist Church has proposed the development of a church facility, all as more fully shown on the Site Plan of Rozas-Ward Architects, dated May 6, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intention of Oakland Baptist Church to construct said church facility as shown on the Site Plan, on Lot A, City of Kenner, Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Kenner has reviewed said plans and has transmitted its comments and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council; and,

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Council of the City of Kenner, State of Louisiana, that it is in the best interest of the orderly development of the City of Kenner that the proposed amended Planned Unit Development be approved, implemented, and adopted.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Planned Unit Development of a church facility to be located on Lot A, City of Kenner, Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana, all as more fully shown on the Site Plan of Rozas-Ward Architects, dated May 6, 2005, copies of which are attached hereto and made a part here of, be and the same are hereby approved, except that only the front façade of the building will be initially bricked, and further that Oakland Baptist Church will brick the remaining three sides of the building when funds become available.

SECTION TWO: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed and rescinded only in so far as they conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION THREE: That the Council President of the City of Kenner be and is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to sign and execute all acts, plans, or documents necessary or proper in the premises to give full force and effect to this ordinance.

This ordinance was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 1

PUD-9-05

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember Denapolis, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,071 ORDINANCE NO. 9187

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2154, WHICH AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 1469, APPROVING A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ON PARCEL A-1, CANNES-BRULEES SUBDIVISION, TO APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF A SIGN, TO BE 4' BY 8' IN SIZE

WHEREAS, Christ the King Lutheran Church is the owner of Parcel A-1, Cannes-Brulees Subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2154, adopted on September 26, 1977, the Kenner City Council approved a Planned Unit Development for church and ecclesiastical purposes; and,

WHEREAS, church would like to relocate its existing sign and replace it with a new sign 4' by 8' in size.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Ordinance No. 2154, which approved that Planned Unit Development for Parcel A-1, Cannes-Brulees Subdivision for church and ecclesiastical purposes, be and the same is hereby amended to authorize the relocation of the sign, with the new sign to be 4'x8' in size, and the new sign shall be no closer to West Esplanade Avenue than the existing sign.

SECTION TWO: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed and rescinded but only insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, and no further.

SECTION THREE: That the Department of Regulatory Inspection and Code Enforcement of the City of Kenner is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to grant a building permit to erect a sign as approved herein.

SECTION FOUR: That the Council President is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any plans which may be deemed necessary to carry into effect the foregoing.

This ordinance was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 4

**ON MOTION** of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following Resolution was offered:

**RESOLUTION NO. B-14977**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 3857 MARTINIQUE AVENUE, KENNER, LOUISIANA, SHOULD BE DECLARED A PUBLIC NUISANCE.**

**WHEREAS,** in August 2005, the Kenner Inspections and Code Enforcement Department inspected a certain structure located at 3857 Martinique Avenue, Kenner, Louisiana and found it to be unfit for human habitation; and

**WHEREAS,** the owners of the said building, Placide Jumonville and/or Jan Jumonville, 1139 Crepe Myrtle Drive, Covington, Louisiana 70433, have refused through the years to repair the said structure; and

**WHEREAS,** no one has lived in said building in over 15 years; and

**WHEREAS,** the owners have gutted and then abandoned this building; and

**WHEREAS,** the building constitutes a danger and hazard to the health and welfare of the City of Kenner; and

**WHEREAS,** the building has been inadequately maintained and abandoned by its owners Placide Jumonville and Jan Jumonville; and

**WHEREAS,** the building should be declared a public nuisance; and

**WHEREAS,** it is necessary that the owners of the said building be ordered to appear before this Council to show cause why this building should not be repaired or rehabilitated or be penalized in accordance with the law.

**THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:**

**SECTION ONE**: That Placide Jumonville and Jan Jumonville show cause before this Council on the 15th day of September, 2005, why this building located at 3857 Martinique Avenue, Kenner, Louisiana should not be declared to be a public nuisance and therefore be ordered to repair or rehabilitate the building or be penalized in accordance with the law.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

**YEAS:** 7
**NAYS:** 0
**ABSENT:** 0
**ABSTAINED:** 0

This Resolution was declared adopted on this the 18th day of August 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,051 ORDINANCE NO. 9189

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE ONE HP DESIGNJET 4000 PRINTER FOR $11,846 AND A THREE-YEAR SERVICE CONTRACT FOR $1,565 FOR A TOTAL OF $13,411 FROM COMP USA, INC. UNDER STATE CONTRACT FOR THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Planning Department is in need of one (1) HP 4000 Designjet printer to replace its obsolete plotter; and

WHEREAS, Comp USA, Inc. is the state contract distributor for this computer equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Director for the City of Kenner has ascertained that this equipment supplied by Comp USA, Inc. meets the specifications needed without incurring additional cost and recommends said purchase; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number 353-133.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue the necessary purchase order to Comp USA, Inc. in the amount of $13,411 for the purchase of one (1) HP 4000 Designjet printer at $11,846 and one (1) three (3) year service contract at $1,565.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilman Branigan, seconded by Councilman Black, the following Ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,052 ORDINANCE NO. 9190

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REPAIRS TO ENGINE 378 FOR THE SUM OF $6,388.22 FOR THE CITY OF KENNER FIRE DEPARTMENT,KENNER, LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, Engine 378 was brought to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for annual preventive maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, mechanical problems on Engine 378 found are required to be repaired for the safe use of this apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc., located in Kenner, is a factory authorized dealer; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief reviewed estimate submitted by Fire Apparatus Specialist, Inc. and recommends that repairs are made; and,

WHEREAS, funding for said repairs has been made available in Account #2526-860 in the amount of $6,388.22 (Repairs & Maintenance); and,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for the repairs for Engine 378 for the sum of $6,388.22 for the City of Kenner Fire Department.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

The foregoing Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

WHEREAS, mechanical problems on Engine 386 found are required to be repaired for the safe use of this apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc., located in Kenner, is a factory authorized dealer; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief reviewed estimate submitted by Fire Apparatus Specialist, Inc. and recommends that repairs are made; and,

WHEREAS, funding for said repairs has been made available in Account #2526-860 in the amount of $7,328.57 (Repairs & Maintenance); and,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for the repairs for Engine 386 for the sum of $7,328.57 for the City of Kenner Fire Department.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

The foregoing Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilman Lavarine, seconded by Councilman Black, the following Ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,054 ORDINANCE NO. 9192

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REPAIRS TO ENGINE 359 FOR THE SUM OF $6,451.64 FOR THE CITY OF KENNER FIRE DEPARTMENT,KENNER, LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, Engine 359 was brought to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for annual preventive maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, mechanical problems on Engine 359 found are required to be repaired for the safe use of this apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc., located in Kenner, is a factory authorized dealer; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief reviewed estimate submitted by Fire Apparatus Specialist, Inc. and recommends that repairs are made; and,

WHEREAS, funding for said repairs has been made available in Account #2526-860 in the amount of $6,451.64 (Repairs & Maintenance); and,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for the repairs for Engine 359 for the sum of $6,451.64 for the City of Kenner Fire Department.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

The foregoing Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

**On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:**

**Summary No. 10,056 Ordinance No. 9193**

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BID RECEIVED FROM EBE FENCE COMPANY, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $7,321.04 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF GALVANIZED CHAIN LINK FENCING FOR THE KENNER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT THAT WILL BE INSTALLED AT GALATAS PLAYGROUND.**

**WHEREAS, The Kenner Parks and Recreation Department requires the acquisition and installation of galvanized chain link fencing that will installed at Galatas Playground; and,**

**WHEREAS, letter bids have been solicited and tabulated by the Purchasing Department; and,**

**WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Programs Division Director of the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department that the lowest responsive bid received from EBE Fence Company, Inc., in the amount of $7,321.04 be accepted; and**

**WHEREAS, funding for said purchase is budgeted and available in account number #350-0003 in the amount of $7,321.04 for the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department; and,**

**THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:**

**SECTION ONE: That the City of Kenner Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to EBE Fence Company, Inc., in the amount of $7,321.04.40 for the acquisition and installation of galvanized chain link fencing regarding letter Bid No. 05-1306.**

**This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:**

**YEAS:** 7
**NAYS:** 0
**ABSENT:** 0
**ABSTAINED:** 0

**This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.**

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

**DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE**

On Motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following Ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,057 ORDINANCE NO. 9194

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5-64 OF THE KENNER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE OWNERS AS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IN MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Kenner is concerned with the proliferation of garbage on rental property throughout the City of Kenner; and,

WHEREAS, Section 5-64 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances grants an exception to owners of dwellings which has occupants; and,

WHEREAS, these owners have no incentive to maintain their rental properties; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Kenner that Section 5-64 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances be amended.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Section 5-64 of the Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5-64. Maintenance; responsibility of owners and occupants.

All buildings or structures, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards which are required by this article in a building when erected, altered, or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order.

Every owner of a dwelling or dwelling unit shall be responsible for all of the requirements of this article, ~~except those requirements specifically enumerated below as the responsibilities of occupants~~.

Every owner of a dwelling containing two (2) or more dwelling units shall be responsible for maintaining a clean and sanitary condition of the shared or public areas of the dwelling and premises thereof.

Every occupant and owner of a dwelling or dwelling unit shall be responsible for:

(1) Keeping in a clean and sanitary condition that part of the dwelling, dwelling unit, and premises which he or she occupies and controls;

(2) Disposing of his or her rubbish, garbage, and any other organic waste in a clean and sanitary manner. Occupants and owners shall be responsible for the availability of such containers as may be required for the handling and storage of rubbish, garbage or other disposable matter; and

(3) Keeping all plumbing fixtures in a clean and sanitary condition, and for exercising reasonable care in the proper use and operation thereof.

No occupant shall willfully destroy, deface, or impair any of the facilities, equipment, or any part of the structure of a dwelling or dwelling unit.
This Ordinance was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF COUNCIL — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

Submitted by: Councilman Jeannie Black and Councilman Michele Branigan
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On motion of Councilman Black, seconded by Councilman Branigan, the following Ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,053 ORDINANCE NO. 9191

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REPAIRS TO ENGINE 386 FOR THE SUM OF $7,328.57 FOR THE CITY OF KENNER FIRE DEPARTMENT,KENNER, LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, Engine 386 was brought to Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for annual preventive maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, mechanical problems on Engine 386 found are required to be repaired for the safe use of this apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc., located in Kenner, is a factory authorized dealer; and,

WHEREAS, K-9 Concepts, INC., has been determined to be the only responsive bidder; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Kenner Police Department has reviewed the bid and recommends that the bid from K-9 Concepts, INC., in the amount of eleven thousand five hundred dollars ($11,500.00) be accepted as the only responsive bid; and,

WHEREAS, funds for this purchase are available under Account Number 794-8000-250-945.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a Purchase Order to K-9 Concepts, INC., in the amount of eleven thousand five hundred dollars, ($11,500.00) for the purchase of one (1) trained Police Canine including a handler training course for the purpose of patrol duties and narcotics detection for the Kenner Police Department.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

REQUESTED BY: NICK A. CONGEMI, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBMITTED BY: DOMINIC WEILBAECHER, COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

On motion of Councilmember Weilbaecher, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,059 ORDINANCE NO. 9196

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REPAIR OF A 2000 FORD CROWN VICTORIA POLICE INTERCEPTOR (UNIT #769),VIN: 2FAFP71WOYX205368 AT A COST OF $6,359.00, FOR THE KENNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Kenner Police Department requires the repair of a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (Unit # 769), VIN: 2FAFP71WOYX205368; and,

WHEREAS, proposals have been obtained by the Kenner Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Lenny's Body Shop submitted the lowest proposal; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Kenner Police Department has reviewed said proposals and recommends that the proposal submitted by Lenny's Body Shop, in the amount of six thousand three hundred fifty-nine dollars ($6,359.00) be accepted; and,

WHEREAS, funds for these repairs are budgeted and available under Account Number 001-2116-230-866.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a Purchase Order to Lenny's Body Shop in the amount of six thousand three hundred fifty-nine dollars ($6,359.00), for repairs to a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (Unit # 769), VIN: 2FAFP71WOYX205368, for the Kenner Police Department.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: Councilmember Denapolis
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY: DOMINIC WEILBAECHER, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE
REQUESTED BY: NICK A. CONGEMI, CHIEF OF POLICE

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember Black, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,060 ORDINANCE NO. 9197

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BID RECEIVED FROM PIONEER SALES COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF $20,514.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) SETS OF NATIONAL RECREATION SYSTEM BLEACHERS FOR MUSS BERTOLINO FOOTBALL COMPLEX FOR THE KENNER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, The Kenner Parks and Recreation Department requires the acquisition and installation of two (2) sets of National Recreation System Bleachers for Muss Bertolino Football complex; and,

WHEREAS, sealed bids have been solicited and tabulated by the Purchasing Department; and,

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Programs Division Director of the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department that the lowest responsive bid received from Pioneer Sales Company in the amount of $20,514.00 be accepted; and

WHEREAS, funding for said purchase is budgeted and available in account number #350-004 in the total amount of $20,514.00 for the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the City of Kenner Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to Pioneer Sales Company in the amount of $20,514.00 for the acquisition and installation of two (2) sets of National Recreation System Bleachers relative to Sealed Bid No. 05-5580.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,061 ORDINANCE NO. 9198

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ONLY RESPONSIVE BID RECEIVED FROM HY-TECH ROOFING SERVICES INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $4,500.00 FOR THE ROOFING REPAIRS AT MUSS BERTOLINO GYMNASIUM FOR THE KENNER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, The Kenner Parks and Recreation Department requires roofing repairs at Muss Bertolino Gymnasium; and,

WHEREAS, letter bids have been solicited and tabulated by the Purchasing Department; and,

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Programs Division Director of the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department that the only responsive bid received from Hy-Tech Roofing Services, Inc., in the amount of $4,500.00 be accepted; and

WHEREAS, funding for said repairs is budgeted and available in account number #350-004 in the total amount of $4,500.00 for the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: that the City of Kenner Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a Purchase Order to Hy-Tech Roofing Services, Inc., in the amount of $4,500.00 for the roofing repairs at Muss Bertolino Gymnasium regarding Telephone Bid No. 05-1308.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember McMyne, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,063 ORDINANCE NO. 9199

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-21 OF THE KENNER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD ADDITIONAL STOP SIGN LOCATIONS ON IDAHO AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH 22ND STREET FACING EAST AND WEST.

WHEREAS, citizens living in the vicinity of Idaho Street and 22nd Street have complained of excessive speeding and potentially dangerous conditions in their area; and

WHEREAS, the installation of the "stop" signs on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22ND Street facing east and west, has been deemed necessary and essential to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kenner and the public in general by Urban Systems, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, a traffic study by the Urban Systems, Incorporated recommends the installation of "stop" signs at specific locations, a copy of which report is annexed hereto.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Section 15-21 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows and to include additional "stop" signs as indicated, to wit;

Section 15-21. Location for "stop" signs established; Failure to obey signs prohibited.

The following locations are hereby established for "stop" Signs in the City. When such signs are located as indicated, it shall be unlawful for any person driving a motor vehicle to fail to stop such vehicle as indicated by the sign before proceeding. Signs shall be located as follows:

... on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22nd Street facing east.

... on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22nd Street facing west.

SECTION TWO: That the Traffic Division be and it is hereby authorized to install the above authorized "stop" signs and the additional warning devices as are outlined in the attached traffic report.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2

On motion of Councilmember McMyne, seconded by Councilmember Lavarine, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,063 ORDINANCE NO. 9199

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-21 OF THE KENNER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD ADDITIONAL STOP SIGN LOCATIONS ON IDAHO AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH 22ND STREET FACING EAST AND WEST.

WHEREAS, citizens living in the vicinity of Idaho Street and 22nd Street have complained of excessive speeding and potentially dangerous conditions in their area; and

WHEREAS, the installation of the "stop" signs on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22ND Street facing east and west, has been deemed necessary and essential to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kenner and the public in general by Urban Systems, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, a traffic study by the Urban Systems, Incorporated recommends the installation of "stop" signs at specific locations, a copy of which report is annexed hereto.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Section 15-21 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows and to include additional "stop" signs as indicated, to wit;

Section 15-21. Location for "stop" signs established; Failure to obey signs prohibited.

The following locations are hereby established for "stop" Signs in the City. When such signs are located as indicated, it shall be unlawful for any person driving a motor vehicle to fail to stop such vehicle as indicated by the sign before proceeding. Signs shall be located as follows:

... on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22nd Street facing east.

... on Idaho Avenue at its intersection with 22nd Street facing west.

SECTION TWO: That the Traffic Division be and it is hereby authorized to install the above authorized "stop" signs and the additional warning devices as are outlined in the attached traffic report.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,064 ORDINANCE NO. 9200

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING JEFFERSON PARISH ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR ALL STAR ELECTRIC, INCORPORATED FOR VEHICLE DETECTION INDUCTIVE LOOP INSTALLATION OR REPLACEMENT NOT TO EXCEED $25,000.00 PER YEAR FOR THE CITY OF KENNER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing between political subdivisions is authorized pursuant to R.S. 39:170101 et seq; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish Council by Resolution No. 66974 adopted July 21, 1990, authorizes the City of Kenner to purchase materials and services, as needed, under Jefferson Parish's approved contract and blanket purchase order; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number 2900-732; and,

WHEREAS, THE Jefferson Parish Council authorized the Parish to enter into a contract for vehicle detection inductive loop installation or replacement for the parish; and,

WHEREAS, said contract was awarded to All Star Electric, Incorporated, as the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with the specifications advertised for said contract, Jefferson Parish Resolution No. 102214; and,

WHEREAS, All Star Electric, Incorporated, will honor the same prices and same conditions as those furnished to the Parish of Jefferson under the said Parish contract; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Administration is hereby authorized to procure materials and services in accordance with the pricing from All Star Electric, Incorporated per current Jefferson Parish Contract No. 55-7288 until expiration on April 18, 2007 or renewal or extension thereof.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember McMyne, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,065 ORDINANCE NO. 9201

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-21 OF THE KENNER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD ADDITIONAL STOP SIGN LOCATIONS ON GEORGIA AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH I-10 SERVICE ROAD FACING EAST

WHEREAS, citizens living in the vicinity of Georgia Avenue and I-10 Service Road have complained of limited sign distance and potentially dangerous conditions in their area; and

WHEREAS, the installation of the "stop" signs on Georgia Avenue at its intersection with I-10 Service Road facing east, has been deemed necessary and essential to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kenner and the public in general by Urban Systems, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, a traffic study by the Urban Systems, Incorporated recommends the installation of "stop" signs at specific locations, a copy of which report is annexed hereto.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Section 15-21 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows and to include additional "stop" signs as indicated, to wit;

Section 15-21. Location for "stop" signs established; Failure to obey signs prohibited.

The following locations are hereby established for "stop" Signs in the City. When such signs are located as indicated, it shall be unlawful for any person driving a motor vehicle to fail to stop such vehicle as indicated by the sign before proceeding. Signs shall be located as follows:

... on Georgia Avenue at its intersection with I-10 Service Road facing east.

SECTION TWO: That the Traffic Division be and it is hereby authorized to install the above authorized "stop" signs and the additional warning devices as are outlined in the attached traffic report.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 2

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Black, the following ordinance was offered:

SUMMARY NO. 10,067 ORDINANCE NO. 9202

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM J. H. WRIGHT & ASSOCIATES AS A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF SIX (6) SEWER MANHOLE MONITORING UNITS WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED ON VARIOUS MANHOLES THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOR THE CITY OF KENNER

WHEREAS, a proposal was received from J. H. Wright & Associates a sole source provider for the purchase of six (6) sewer manhole monitoring units in the amount of $9,666.00 for the City of Kenner; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number 352-451; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director is recommending acceptance of the proposal received from J. H. Wright & Associates a sole source provider for said purchase of six (6) sewer manhole monitoring units for the City of Kenner; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is authorized to issue a purchase order in the amount of $9,666.00 to J. H. Wright & Associates for the purchase of six (6) sewer manhole monitoring units for the City of Kenner.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,077 ORDINANCE NO. 9203

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2006 ½ TON FORD F-150 PICK-UP TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THREE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS ($13,773.00), FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE EXISTING JEFFERSON PARISH CONTRACT.

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing between political subdivisions is authorized pursuant to R.S. 39:1701 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish Council authorized the Parish to enter into a contract for purchase of vehicles for the Parish under Resolution No. 94817; and,

WHEREAS, Item No. 9 of the said contract was awarded to Lamarque Ford, Inc. as the lowest most responsive bidder in accordance with the specifications advertised for said contract; and,

WHEREAS, Lamarque Ford, Inc. has agreed to furnish this vehicle to the City of Kenner at the price of $13,773.00 and upon the same conditions as those furnished to the Parish of Jefferson under the said Parish contract; and,

WHEREAS, the funds are available in account number 353-111.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue a purchase order to obtain one (1) 2006 ½ Ton Ford F-150 Pick-up Truck for the Department of Inspection & Code Enforcement for $13,773.00 in accordance with the pricing from Lamarque Ford, Inc. within the current Jefferson Parish contract.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,078 ORDINANCE NO. 9204

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING STATE CONTRACT WITH DELL COMPUTER CORPORATION TO PROVIDE MICROCOMPUTERS, PERIPHERALS, SOFTWARE, AND RELATED SERVICES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS NOT TO EXCEED $150,000.00 PER YEAR FOR THE CITY OF KENNER.

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing between political subdivisions is authorized pursuant to R.S. 39:1701 et seq; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number: 353-133; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana entered into a contract with Dell Computer Corporation as a result of a competitive Bid Request for Proposal (RFP) for microcomputers, peripherals, software and related services; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative Officer has reviewed the contract and recommends purchases through said contract; and,

WHEREAS, Dell Computer Corporation will honor the same prices and same conditions as those furnished to the State of Louisiana under said State contract; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue purchase orders to procure microcomputers, peripherals, software and related services from Dell Computer Corporation on an as needed basis not to exceed $150,000.00 per year as per current pricing under State of Louisiana Contract No. 403834, Dell WSCA Contract #A63307 until expiration on December 31, 2005 or renewal or extension thereof.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember Denapolis, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,079 ORDINANCE NO. 9205

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING STATE CONTRACT WITH KODAK, INC. AND CANON, INC. TO PROVIDE SCANNING EQUIPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS NOT TO EXCEED $50,000.00 FOR THE CITY OF KENNER.

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing between political subdivisions is authorized pursuant to R.S. 39:1701 et seq; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number: 353-133; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana entered into a contract with Kodak, Inc. and Canon, Inc. to provide scanning equipment and related services; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative Officer has reviewed the contract and recommends purchases through said contract; and,

WHEREAS, Kodak, Inc. and Canon, Inc. will honor the same prices and same conditions as those furnished to the State of Louisiana under said State contract; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is hereby authorized to issue purchase orders to procure scanning equipment and related services on an as needed basis not to exceed $50,000.00 per year as per current pricing under State of Louisiana Contract No. 405542 for Kodak, Inc. and Contract No. 406020 for Canon, Inc.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Branigan, seconded by Councilmember McMyne, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,080 ORDINANCE NO. 9206

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING LAFOURCHE PARISH CONTRACT WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. – MUNIS DIVISION FOR COMPUTER SOFTWARE SYSTEMS, IMPLEMENTATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED $330,000.00, PLUS ANNUAL SUPPORT/MAINTENANCE NOT TO EXCEED $36,000.00 PER YEAR FOR THE CITY OF KENNER

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing between political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana is authorized pursuant to L.S.A.-R.S. 39:1701, et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, Lafourche Parish has authorized the City of Kenner to purchase computer software systems, implementation, and training services plus annual support/maintenance, as needed, under Lafourche Parish's approved contract and blanket purchase order; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in Account Numbers: 352-133 and 353-133; and,

WHEREAS, Lafourche Parish authorized the City of Kenner to enter into a contract for computer software systems, implementation, and training services plus annual support/maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in Account Numbers: 352-133 and 353-133; and,

WHEREAS, Lafourche Parish authorized the City of Kenner to enter into a contract for computer software systems, implementation, and training services plus annual support/maintenance under said State contract; and,

WHEREAS, Lafourche Parish authorized the City of Kenner to enter into a contract for computer software systems, implementation, and training services plus annual support/maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, Game Live Events wishes to hold a public gathering; and

WHEREAS, the event will be held on Sunday November 20, 2005, for a Videogame Tournament between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, approval has been obtained by all appropriate departments of the City of Kenner.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That Game Live Events is hereby granted a permit to hold a public gathering on Sunday November 20, 2005, for a Videogame Tournament between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

SECTION TWO: The applicant shall comply with all conditions and requirements listed on the attached application and routing sheets by the City of Kenner Administrative Directors.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: District 4

Results of the Council Meeting of September 15, 2005
Resolution Nos. B-14979 through B-14982
Emergency Ordinance No. 9213
All Ordinances & Resolutions Shall Become Effective on October 1, 2005

Summary Ordinance Nos. 10091 through 10093
Summary Ordinance Nos. 10096 through 10098
Summary Ordinances shall be submitted for Council consideration on October 6, 2005

Summary Ordinance Nos. 10094 through 10095
Summary Ordinances shall be submitted for Council consideration on October 20, 2005

The Council for the City of Kenner, Louisiana, met in regular session on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 4:25 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana, with the following results:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John T. Lavarine, III | Council President | Present |
| Dominic O. Weilbaecher | Councilman at Large, Div. B | Present |
| Marc E. Johnson | Councilmember, District 1 | Present |
| Michael McMyne | Councilmember, District 2 | Present |
| Jeannie M. Black | Councilmember District 3 | Present |
| Michele P. Branigan | Councilmember District 4 | Present |
| Kent Denapolis | Councilmember, District 5 | Present |
| Michelle Sheeren | Clerk of the Council | Present |
| Ann Cardwell | Assistant Council Clerk | Present |

* * *

After the meeting had been called to order with the above results, pursuant to motions duly made and carried, the following ordinances, resolutions and ordinance(s)/resolution(s) in summary were adopted:

On joint motion by all Councilmembers present, the following ordinances/resolutions were introduced in summary for publication and public hearing(s) to be held on October 6, 2005 at 6:00 .m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the Clerk of the Council between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Holidays excepted.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,091, an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of the immovable property bearing municipal number 400-402 Williams Boulevard and the movable property contained in Bank One Account Number 000000110678716 with a balance of $47,446.69.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,092, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6245 and approving the authorization of an existing double faced general advertising sign, located on Lot 17-A, Square 119, Kenner Heights Subdivision, to be raised from an overall height of the existing sign from 21.6 feet to 28.0 feet. PUD-7-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10,093, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 7602, amending the Planned Unit Development for the existing Summerville At Kenner facility and approving an addition thereto on Parcel D5-1, Highway Park Subdivision (WWL Tract), PUD-13-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10,096, an ordinance authorizing the Administration to purchase one (1) Skag Turf Tiger with a fifty-two inch advantage deck from B & B Distributing Company in the amount of $7,077.00 for Kenner City Park under the existing State contract.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,097, an ordinance authorizing the Administration to purchase one (1) Exmark Lazer Mower with a sixty inch cutting deck from R. W. Distributors, Inc., in the amount of $8,007.23 for Kenner City Park under the existing State contract.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,098, an ordinance accepting the only responsive bid received from Lumber Products, Inc. for an annual contract to supply building materials on an as-needed basis not to exceed $50,000.00 per year throughout the City of Kenner for the Department of Public Works.

Posted On September 21, 2005

WHEREAS, funding is available in Account Numbers: 352-133 and 353-133; and,

WHEREAS, Lafourche Parish authorized the City of Kenner to enter into a contract for computer software systems, implementation, and training services plus annual support/maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, said contract was awarded to Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Muniz Division as the successful proposer in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued by the Parish of Lafourche dated October 27, 2004 pursuant to purchase order dated December 20, 2004; and,

WHEREAS, Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Munis Division will honor the same pricing scale, terms, and conditions as those furnished to the Parish of Lafourche under the Lafourche Parish contract.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Administration is hereby authorized to procure computer software systems, implementation, and training services in accordance with the pricing scale of Tyler Technologies, Inc./Munis Division on an as-needed basis and not to exceed $330,000.00 plus annual support/maintenance not to exceed $36,000.00 per year in accordance with the Request for Proposals issued by the Parish of Lafourche dated October 27, 2004, and the purchase order issued on December 20, 2004.

SECTION TWO: That the Administration shall forward to the Clerk of the Council all available information on the computer software system by the close of business on Monday, August 22, 2005.

This ordinance was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

The ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August 2005

CLERK OF COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Denapolis, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,082 ORDINANCE NO. 9207

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE KENNER CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 2-90, REGARDING JOB ACTIONS BECAUSE OF EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

WHEREAS, there continues to be concern raised regarding the issue of Kenner employees being coerced to work in elections and other political activities; and,

WHEREAS, it would in the best interest of the City of Kenner if the existing law were strengthened to include additional prohibitions.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That Chapter 2 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances, Section 2-90, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 2-90 Job actions prohibited because of employee political activity.

No elected official, director, supervisor, or other employee of the City of Kenner shall hire, fire, promote, refuse to promote, or take any other job action against any City of Kenner employee or job applicant because of that employee's participation, or refusal to participate, in any election or other political activities.

No elected official, director, supervisor, or other employee of the City of Kenner shall coerce or threaten any employee with any job action because of that employee's participation, or refusal to participate, in any election or other political activities.

(a) For purposes of this section, political activities includes but is not limited to support or non-support of any candidate for public office, fundraising activities, support or non-support of any candidate for public office, support or non-support, of any referendum or millage or similar proposition, or participation in the activities of any political party.

(b) Provided, however, that no employee is allowed to engage in political activity while performing their job duties for the City of Kenner during regular employment hours.

SECTION TWO: That a copy of this ordinance be placed in every City employee's pay envelope with the first pay period following the effective date hereof.

This ordinance was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

The ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August 2005

CLERK OF COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Kenner City Council

On motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,083 ORDINANCE NO. 9208

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ORGANIZATION OF AND THE DESIGNATION OF KENNER INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF LSA- R.S. 33:9020-9037

WHEREAS, the Kenner City Council finds that in some areas of the City of Kenner there exists the condition of substantial and persistent unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress; and,

WHEREAS, Kenner Investment and Development Corporation, a proposed Louisiana nonprofit corporation, seeks permission to organize itself and to be designated as an economic development corporation pursuant to the provisions of LSA- R.S. 33:9020-9037 for the purpose of undertaking economic development activities in the City of Kenner to alleviate the conditions of substantial and persistent unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress existing therein; and,

WHEREAS, LSA-R.S. 33:9020-9037 authorize the Kenner City Council to permit the organization of and the designation of Kenner Investment and Development Corporation as an economic development corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: It is hereby found and declared that:

1.) There exists in some areas of the City of Kenner a condition of substantial and persistent unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress.

2.) Such unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress are causing hardships to many citizens of the City of Kenner and their families, wastes valuable human resources, and adversely affects the welfare and prosperity of the people.

3.) The maintenance and stimulation of the economy of the City of Kenner are necessary to overcome these problems and are vital to the best interest of the State of Louisiana and the City of Kenner.

4.) The maintenance and stimulation of the economy of the City of Kenner are a matter of public policy and the cooperative economic development activities and powers prescribed and conferred by LSA- R.S. 33:9020-9037 are public purposes for which public money may be expended.

5.) Due to the fact that the maintenance and stimulation of the economy of the City of Kenner at a high level are found and declared to be a public purpose, federal, state and local government assistance to areas and regions of substantial and persistent unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress are necessary for the employment of effective steps in the planning, promotion, and financing of local economic development.

6.) Federal and state assistance to local governmental subdivisions, public corporations, and public benefit corporations to engage in cooperative endeavors with each other, the State of Louisiana, the United States of America or its agencies, or with any public or private associations, corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies or individuals for the purpose of economic development would help the City of Kenner to alleviate the conditions of unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress presently existing therein, and as such, is in the public interest.

SECTION 2: There is hereby declared a need for an economic development corporation in the City of Kenner to address and alleviate the persistent unemployment, underemployment, and other forms of economic distress in some areas therein.

SECTION 3: The application of Kenner Investment and Development Corporation for permission to organize itself and to be designated as an economic development corporation is hereby approved, and, accordingly, Kenner Investment and Development Corporation is hereby authorized to be organized and designated as an economic development corporation pursuant to LSA- R.S. 33:9020-9037 with all of the rights, powers, privileges and authorities conferred therein for economic development corporations.

This Ordinance was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This Ordinance was declared adopted on this 18th day of August 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK — COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY: Councilman Marc E. Johnson

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,062 ORDINANCE NO. 9209

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ONLY RESPONSIVE BID RECEIVED FROM HY-TECH ROOFING SERVICES INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $9,350.00 FOR THE ROOFING REPAIRS AT BUTCH DUHE GYMNASIUM FOR THE KENNER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, The Kenner Parks and Recreation Department requires roofing repairs at Butch Duhe Gymnasium; and,

WHEREAS, letter bids have been solicited and tabulated by the Purchasing Department; and,

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Programs Division Director of the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department that the only responsive bid received from Hy-Tech Roofing Services, Inc., in the amount of $9,350.00 be accepted; and

WHEREAS, funding for said repairs is budgeted and available in account number #350-002 in the total amount of $9,350.00 for the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: That the Mayor of the City of Kenner is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Hy-Tech Roofing Services Inc., in the amount of $9,350.00 for the roofing repairs at Butch Duhe Gymnasium regarding Telephone Bid No. 05-1307.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Black, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,073 ORDINANCE NO. 9211

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO CONVERT THE BUILDING NEXT TO WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A GYMNASIUM THAT WILL BE UTILIZED BY BOTH THE CITY AND THE SCHOOL BOARD

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish School Board is the owner of property next to Washington Elementary School at 700 Clay Street, Kenner, LA 70062; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner and the School Board desire to convert the building to a gymnasium for the use and enjoyment of both parties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner and the School Board will share the cost of conversion equally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner has committed $100,000.00 of CDBG money to the renovation and the School Board has committed $100,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City and the School Board desire to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement to accomplish this mutually beneficial project.

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: The Mayor is authorized to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Jefferson Parish School Board to convert and renovate the property owned by the Board at 700 Clay Street, Kenner, LA 70062 next to Washington Elementary School for use as a gymnasium.

SECTION TWO: The cost of this project will be borne equally by the City of Kenner and the Jefferson Parish School Board with the parties sharing the use of and supervision over the facilities at the agreed upon times.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August 2005

CLERK OF COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following ordinance was introduced:

SUMMARY NO. 10,074 ORDINANCE NO. 9212

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A COVERED BASKETBALL COURT ON PART OF THE PROPERTY OF THE MAGGIORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OWNED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Parish School Board is the owner of property upon which the Maggiore Elementary School and facilities are located; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner desires to construct a covered basketball court on part of the property of Maggiore Elementary School to be utilized by the citizens of Kenner for a recreational program at Westgate Playground; and

WHEREAS, the School Board will allow an area to be set aside as a basketball court for the construction of a cover over said court and the Board will have use of the court during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner will pay for the improvements to install and build the covered basketball court and the City shall have primary use of said covered court between 3:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, funding for said construction is available in Account No. 352-002

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: The Mayor is authorized to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Jefferson Parish School Board to construct a covered basketball court on part of the property of the Maggiore Elementary School.

SECTION TWO: The cost of this project will be borne by the City with both parties having mutual use of and supervision over the facilities at the agreed upon times.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 18th day of August, 2005.

CLERK OF COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following resolution was offered.

RESOLUTION NO. B-14967

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GAME LIVE EVENTS TO HOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING FOR A VIDEOGAME TOURNAMENT AT THE ESPLANADE MALL PARKING LOT AT 1401 W. ESPLANADE AVE. ON NOVEMBER 20, 2005 FROM 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM.

On joint motion by all Councilmembers present, the following ordinances/resolutions were introduced in summary for publication and public hearing(s) to be held on October 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the Clerk of the Council between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Holidays excepted.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,094, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2427, more particularly amending Article 20.04, Supplementary Use Regulations, by including the use of temporary buildings, trailers and storage containers. Z-6-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10,095, an ordinance adding Section 14.03, Paragraph (40) to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow food processing, not to exceed 25,000 square feet, in a S-I, Special Industrial Zoning District on approval of the City Council per Section 23.02 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Z-7-05

Posted on September 21, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF KENNER CITY HALL, 1801 WILLIAMS BOULEVARD, BUILDING A, KENNER, LOUISIANA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING:

Summary Ordinance No. 10.092, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6245 and approving the authorization of an existing double faced general advertising sign, located on Lot 17-A, Square 119, Kenner Heights Subdivision, to be raised from an overall height of the existing sign from 21.6 feet to 28.0 feet. PUD-7-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10.093, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 7602, amending the Planned Unit Development for the existing Summerville At Kenner facility and approving an addition thereto on Parcel D5-1, Highway Park Subdivision (WWL Tract), PUD-13-05

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OBJECTIONS, ETC.

/S/ MICHELLE SHEEREN, COUNCIL CLERK — /S/ JOHN T. LAVARINE, III, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF KENNER CITY HALL, 1801 WILLIAMS BOULEVARD, BUILDING A, KENNER, LOUISIANA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING:

Summary Ordinance No. 10,094, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2427, more particularly amending Article 20.04, Supplementary Use Regulations, by including the use of temporary buildings, trailers and storage containers. Z-6-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10,095, an ordinance adding Section 14.03, Paragraph (40) to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow food processing, not to exceed 25,000 square feet, in a S-I, Special Industrial Zoning District on approval of the City Council per Section 23.02 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Z-7-05

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OBJECTIONS, ETC.

/S/ MICHELLE SHEEREN, COUNCIL CLERK — /S/ JOHN T. LAVARINE, III, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14979

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM CRESCENT FORD TRUCKS AN AUTHORIZED DEALER TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL ONE COMPLETE CYLINDER HEAD REPLACEMENT FOR UNIT PWDR196 THE WASHOUT TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF KENNER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

WHEREAS, a proposal was received from Crescent Ford Trucks an authorized dealer for the purchase and installation of one complete cylinder head replacement for Unit PWDR196 the washout truck in the amount of $4,752.12 for the Department of Public Works; and,

WHEREAS, funding is available in account number 3038-860; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director is recommending acceptance of the proposal received from Crescent Ford Trucks an Authorized Dealer for the purchase and installation of a complete cylinder head replacement for the Department of Public Works Vehicle Maintenance section; and,

THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION ONE: That the Purchasing Department is authorized to issue a purchase order in the amount of $4,752.12 to Crescent Ford Trucks to furnish and install a complete cylinder head replacement on Unit PWDR196 the washout truck for the Department of Public Works Vehicle Maintenance section.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 15th day of September, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: Citywide

On motion of Councilmember Black, seconded by Councilmember Weilbaecher, the following Resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14980

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KENNER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY TO INSTITUTE AN URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner has applied to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry for a Grant for the 2005 Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Grant will assist Kenner in developing a new Landscape Ordinance including tree protection and preservation measures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENNER CITY COUNCIL:

SECTION ONE: That the Mayor for the City of Kenner be and he is hereby authorized to negotiate a contract or contracts with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, and to execute said document on behalf of the City of Kenner, for the purpose of applying for the 2005 Urban & Community Forestry Grant, a copy which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The foregoing Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 15th day of September, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL — PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

DESIGNATED AREA: CITYWIDE

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. B-14981

A RESOLUTION DEFERRING ALL ITEMS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2005, AND THOSE ITEMS WHICH WERE NOT PROPERLY ADVERTISED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2005.

WHEREAS, the regularly scheduled Council meeting of September 1, 2005 was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina; and,

WHEREAS, due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the Official Journal was unable to publish certain advertisements required by the City of Kenner Home Rule Charter and the Rules of Organization, Business, Order and Procedure of the Council of the City of Kenner for the September 15, 2005 Council meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENNER CITY COUNCIL:

SECTION ONE: In an effort to maintain open communication with the general public and to conform with requirements set forth in the City of Kenner Home Rule Charter and the Rules of Organization, Business, Order and Procedure of the Council of the City of Kenner, all items submitted for consideration during the September 1, 2005 Council meeting, and those items which were not properly advertised in the Official Journal for consideration during the September 15, 2005 Council meeting are hereby deferred until the regularly scheduled Council meeting of October 6, 2005.

SECTION TWO: For appropriate publication in the Official Journal, the following ordinances/resolutions were introduced in summary for publication and public hearing(s) to be held on October 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the Clerk of the Council between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Holidays excepted.

A public hearing regarding Summary Ordinance No. 10,050, an ordinance amending the 2005/2006 Capital Budget to rebudget funds to the security system for administrative buildings from the five Councilmanic districts' recreation improvement accounts.

A public hearing regarding Summary Ordinance No. 10068, an ordinance amending Section 12.02(A) of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow funeral homes in C-1, Neighborhood Commercial Zoning Districts, on approval of the City Council per Section 23.02 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, by adding paragraph (10A), provided that no cremations are allowed. Z-2-05

A public hearing regarding Summary Ordinance No. 10070, an ordinance approving an amendment to Ordinance No. 8045, pertaining to the Wal-Mart Supercenter located at 300 West Esplanade Avenue on Parcel F-2, Loyola Tract, which amendment provides for the expansion of certain storage facilities on the site. PUD-8-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10075, an ordinance establishing a $1,000.00 fee for a right of entry on City of Kenner property to perform environmental and transmission testing for future cell towers and/or antennas.

Summary Ordinance No. 10076, an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a right of entry agreement with Cook Inlet/VS GSM IV PCS, LLC, known as T-Mobile, to determine the viability and feasibility of locating a cell tower on the roof of Building C of the City Hall complex.

# Blanco's chief of staff to head Katrina recovery effort

## *Andy Kopplin to keep title in reorganization*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco has named her chief of staff to lead the state's post-Katrina recovery effort as part of a reorganization of her administration to deal with the hurricane's aftermath and set a path for the future.

Andy Kopplin will keep his chief of staff title but will take on administrative duties dealing with the recovery, the governor said Monday.

"It is the most important job I have right now," Blanco said.

Jimmy Clarke, 54, a state Board of Regents official who helped lead Blanco's transition team after her 2003 election, will act as her chief of staff for non-Katrina matters, taking the reins of day-to-day operations.

"We're no longer a typical governor's office," Blanco said. "I need Andy to help me with this whole rebuilding, coordinating effort. This is a huge responsibility."



**Andy Kopplin**
Blanco's chief of staff to take on 'a huge responsibility'

Blanco said she considered naming someone from outside the administration for the Katrina position, but decided to place her confidence in Kopplin, 39, who already had been deeply involved with storm recovery matters. Kopplin was chief of staff for former Gov. Mike Foster before joining the Blanco administration at the beginning of her term.

Blanco, Kopplin and Clarke will operate as a three-person executive summit team for an undetermined period, the governor said. The details still are being worked out. Officials said Kopplin's office will remain next to Blanco's on the fourth floor of the State Capitol.

"We don't know if it's a permanent new structure or will have to last the rest of my administration," Blanco said.

Blanco's core team dealing with Katrina recovery will be Kopplin; her policy director, Kim Hunter Reed; and consultant James Lee Witt, Federal Emergency Management Agency director during the Clinton administration. Witt's main role is to act as a liaison between the state and FEMA.

Blanco has identified a small, core group of people outside the administration to advise her on recovery issues. The group was supposed to meet with Blanco for the first time Friday, but the arrival of Hurricane Rita postponed that session.

The state has a full-time lobbyist in Washington, but the administration also plans to use lobbying firms devoted to particular issues as the governor pursues her post-Katrina agenda in the nation's capital. Blanco has not announced the names of these firms.

Blanco has realigned duties in all branches of her administration so that each agency has staff and a new mission focused on Katrina recovery. Each agency also has components to maintain normal functions.

Executive branch staff members have not taken a full day off since the storm, and her ranks are feeling the stress, Blanco said, adding that she has been so pressed for time that she was unable to attend Sunday mass Sept. 18, and asked a priest to come in to offer services.

"And I need that, for my own being," she said.

The restructuring decision was reached Thursday night, as Hurricane Rita was moving toward Texas and southwest Louisiana.

# Damage was minimal to many high-rises

**BUILDINGS,** *from A-10*

the group's major downtown office buildings to open for tenants, Horwitz said.

Canal Place, managed and leased by Corporate Realty, sustained roof damage, primarily to a chiller unit, but other chillers were providing heating and air conditioning to the building. In addition, Energy Centre, which is also leased by Corporate Realty, came through the storm reasonably well, Siegel said.

Meanwhile, Place St. Charles was virtually unscathed in the storm, had power for several days before losing it recently, and could be ready for tenants within a few weeks.

"I plan to be back in my office in two to three weeks," said Mike Siegel of Corporate Realty, the real estate company that manages and handles leasing for the high-rise and whose company is headquartered in the building.

The Entergy Corp. building on Loyola Avenue came through the storm relatively unscathed and 1250 Poydras, where Entergy Corp. leases more than 150,000 square feet, lost several windows to the storm. "At 1250 Poydras, we're making progress and when the city is ready we'll be ready," said Bill Moody, who handles leasing and management for the two properties.

He said 1250 Poydras did sustain some glass damage but the air conditioning was operating, containing moisture problems. "That's the good news," Moody said. "We're managing the moisture" problems that all landlords fear.

One Shell Square, the city's largest office building, reportedly sustained minimal damage in Hurricane Katrina, and the 1,000 employees of Shell Corp. are scattered at work sites in Houston, Baton Rouge and Robert, Shell spokeswoman Chris Bozman said.

"Shell intends to return to New Orleans. We believe certain teams should be located in New Orleans to support our ongoing operations in the Gulf of Mexico," Bozman said. "We will reoccupy One Shell Square only when it becomes habitable. We are working hard toward that goal, but right now there is no way we can predict when that might happen."

The building at 1010 Common St., meanwhile, "is in great shape as far as storm damage," said Sandra Corrigan, senior vice president of the Regis Realty Group, but the building was having electrical problems. Freight elevators were working but Entergy had asked Regis to hold off on running air conditioning at full capacity.

Entergy Corp. spokeswoman Amy Stallings said the power grid for most of the Central Business District was energized and that most power problems buildings might experience were on the building side of the equation. She said that when buildings were ready for power, Entergy was ready to supply it.

# SAT seats available outside N.O. area

## *Location change fees are waived*

**From staff reports**

Students unable to take the SAT in the New Orleans area can take the test in other areas of Louisiana, including Baton Rouge, Houma and Lafayette, according to The College Board, which administers the exam to college-bound high school seniors.

Any student scheduled to take the test Oct. 8 should call (609) 771-7600 to arrange to take it in another city. The College Board has added spots for additional test-takers at all of those locations but has not created any new testing sites.

"No one will be turned away," said College Board spokesperson Caren Scorapanos. No matter how many students show up at any given site, "they will absolutely, positively be able to take the test."

All testing sites in New Orleans and Metairie as well as Bay St. Louis and Hattiesburg in Mississippi have been closed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. A site in Lake Charles was also closed following Hurricane Rita this past weekend. All sites in Texas are open.

All fees normally associated with such changes will be waived, Scoropanos said.

High school students not applying for early college admission can take the test for free in November and December if they were displaced by the storm. Students who want to delay their testing date beyond October can do so without any additional fees, she said.

All high school sophomores and juniors in storm-affected areas can also take the PSAT at no cost. Those students or their parents should call (609) 771-7070.

**SAT CENTER STATUS**

A look at SAT test centers affected by Hurricane Katrina

| City | Test center | Test center number | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| **LOUISIANA** | | | |
| Alexandria | Bolton High School | 19-100 | Open |
| Baton Rouge | Baton Rouge High School | 19-110 | Open |
| Houma | Vandebilt Catholic High School | 19-177 | Open |
| Lafayette | Acadiana High School | 19-134 | Open |
| **Lake Charles** | **Lake Charles Boston High School** | **19-140** | **Closed** |
| Leesville | Pickering High School | 19-152 | Open |
| **Metairie** | **Archbishop Rummel High School** | **19-155** | **Closed** |
| **Metairie** | **Metairie Park CDS** | **19-160** | **Closed** |
| Monroe | Neville High School | 19-170 | Open |
| Natchitoches | Northwestern State University | 19-171 | Open |
| **New Orleans** | **De La Salle High School** | **19-175** | **Closed** |
| **New Orleans** | **Jesuit High School** | **19-180** | **Closed** |
| **New Orleans** | **Newman School** | **19-185** | **Closed** |
| **New Orleans** | **University of New Orleans** | **19-178** | **Closed** |
| Shreveport | Centenary College | 19-205 | Open |
| Shreveport | Southern University | 19-210 | Open |
| Sulphur | Sulphur High School | 19-213 | Open |

**OTHER STATES**

All test centers in Alabama and Florida are open for the October SAT. The following two centers are closed in Mississippi: St. Stanislaus College Prep High School in Bay St. Louis and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Source: CollgeBoard.com STAFF GRAPHIC

# Entergy contractors to be paid

**ENTERGY,** *from A-11*

"Time is of the essence," Entergy New Orleans Chief Executive Officer Dan Packer told Judge Jerry Brown of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. The court normally operates in downtown New Orleans but has moved temporarily to Baton Rouge.

"We need to move to get as much fixed as we can. To go out and look for new vendors would delay that," Packer said.

Jeff Wilkerson, an attorney representing the New Orleans City Council at Monday's court proceeding, said the company's municipal regulators approved of the lending conditions spelled out in the agreement. "We see this as the only way to keep the company going and to continue restoring the city," he said.

The first payments are going to 68 "critical" contractors, companies that supply the equipment and services needed to repair the utility's networks of electricity wires and gas pipelines that energize the city.

John H. Carter Co. Inc., a piping supplier, was in line to receive $478,632 for replacing underground gas lines that corroded after filling with floodwater.

New York electricity utility ConEdison Inc. was on the list for helping Entergy New Orleans repair flooded underground power lines and substations in the Central Business District and the French Quarter. ConEdison operates one of the largest underground power grids in the world in Manhattan.

Entergy New Orleans might seek $100 million more from the parent company before the interim financing agreement is made permanent by the court in November, said Patrick Vance, an attorney who represents Entergy New Orleans. Entergy Corp., however, is under no obligation to honor the requests. More cash could be needed by the utility beyond November if the federal government fails to act on requests for emergency grants for the company similar to those given to companies that were hobbled by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Entergy New Orleans also expects to receive compensation from insurance companies for some of its recovery costs, but that money won't arrive "for months," Entergy Treasurer Steve McNeal told the court.

Entergy Corp. is advancing the money to Entergy New Orleans at the same rates of interest that the parent company obtains for its own financing in lending markets.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

# Engineers leery of a quick fix

**LEVEES,** *from A-9*

get there before the next storm came," he said.

Meanwhile, concern remains that the temporary repairs could result in a repeat of the Rita flooding of the 9th Ward.

Guillermo Ramirez, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, University of Texas at Arlington, said of the corps use of limestone gravel and boulders to fill in levee breaches, "You go in there as fast as it can and try to get it fixed," he said. "As a patch, you always have the propensity of missing something, or not taking care of all the requirements."

He said the quick fix is limited in its effectiveness by its design.

"When you are piling things on top of each other, by nature you will have a pyramid shape," Ramirez said. "Your mass will be bigger at the bottom, smaller than what you have up higher. When you have wave action, if it is going close to the top, it will start working its way through the structure, which can erode it and create a failure."

Meanwhile, the corps pulled temporary sheet piling from the 17th Street and London Avenue canals on Monday afternoon, as the water level in Lake Pontchartrain dropped to near the same level as the canals, allowing the canals to be used to pump water out of the city.

The mouths of both canals were blocked on Wednesday in anticipation of storm surge pushed into the lake by Hurricane Rita.

At the 17th Street Canal, water rose to 6 feet as Rita moved west of the city. By Monday afternoon, the water had dropped to 2½ feet, no longer threatening the emergency repairs in breached flood walls made after Hurricane Katrina, said Col. Duane Gapinski, commander of the corps' Unwatering Task Force.

The six-hour removal leaves a 40-foot gap in the sheet piling at the mouth of each canal, small enough to allow it to be easily plugged in the event of a new storm, but large enough to allow the canals to assist in removing up to 6 inches of rain from thunderstorms.

Opening the 17th Street Canal will allow Metairie to resume using the canal to pump water from portions of Old Metairie during rainstorms.

Contractors also continued to make temporary repairs to the Industrial Canal levee on Monday, where surge water pushed up the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on Friday washed out earlier repairs, reflooding a large portion of the Ninth Ward.

Water in that canal had dropped more than 5 feet from a high of 7.8 feet on Friday in advance of Rita.

The corps is barging in a set of small pumps that will be installed at Pump Station 5 on Florida Boulevard to assist in removing water from the 9th Ward.

"We are working around the clock to once again dry the area," Gapinski said.

Frazier said the reflooded area should be dry within seven days.

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Staff writers John McQuaid and Michael Montalbano contributed to this report.

Summary Ordinance No. 10081, an ordinance levying the annual tax millage rates for the year 2005 totaling twenty-three and ninety-three hundredths (23.93) mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Kenner on the 2005 tax rolls.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,085, an ordinance accepting the lowest responsive bid received from Luhr Bros., DBA Construction Aggregate Supply for an annual contract to supply limestone aggregate delivered and self-hauled on an as-needed basis not to exceed $25,000.00 per year for the Department of Public Works.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,086, an ordinance requiring persons or entities who enter into professional service contracts with the City to furnish certain information and to provide penalties for failure to do so.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,087, an ordinance amending Section 15-21 of the Kenner Code of Ordinances to add additional stop sign locations on Vintage Drive at its intersection with Toby Lane facing east and west.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,088, an ordinance amending portions of Chapter 15, Section 29 of the City of Kenner Code of Ordinances, regulating taxi-cab rates.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,089, an ordinance amending Chapter 16, Sections 16-96, 16-100, 16-203 (A) and (C) of the City of Kenner Code of Ordinances, regarding driver's permit fees and renewal requirements for vehicles for hire.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,090, an ordinance approving the erection of a 188.37 square foot high-rise sign 50 feet above grade and a 100 square foot pole sign 35 feet above grade on Lot B-1-A, Square 111B, University City Subdivision, bearing the municipal address of 3012 Loyola Drive. Case P-35-05

A resolution amending the rules of Organization, Business, Order, and Procedure of the Council of the City of Kenner to provide for additional decorum by the Mayor and his/her Administration.

This resolution was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on the 15th day of September, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

SUBMITTED BY: Kenner City Council

On motion of Councilmember Lavarine, seconded by Councilmember Branigan, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. R-14982

A RESOLUTION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING COUNCIL RULE NO. 7, AND RESCHEDULING THE SECOND COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER, 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 AT 4:00 P.M.

WHEREAS, due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the Council meeting scheduled on September 1, 2005 was cancelled; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.10 of the City of Kenner Home Rule Charter, Section 2.10 requires the Council hold at least two (2) regular meetings a month; and,,

WHEREAS, City of Kenner Council Rule No. 7 states "The Council of the City of Kenner shall hold regular meetings in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, which shall commence at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month; and,

WHEREAS, Council Rule No. 39 provides for the suspension of the Council Rules; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the provisions of Rule No. 7 of the Council Rules of the City of Kenner be temporarily suspended so as to accommodate this rescheduling.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1: That Rule 7 of the Council Rules of the Council of the City of Kenner be and the same is hereby temporarily suspended under the provisions of Rule 39 of the said Rules.

SECTION 2: That the second meeting to be held by the Kenner City Council in accordance with Section 2.10 of the City of Kenner Home Rule Charter shall be scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on September 22, 2005

This resolution was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

This resolution was declared adopted on this, the 15th day of September, 2005.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

MAYOR

On motion of Councilman Denapolis, seconded by Councilman Black, the following ordinance was introduced:

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 9213

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REGARDING THE CITY OF KENNER IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner has gone through the path of one of the most devastating hurricanes in our nation's history; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner, its citizens and business owners have suffered extensive property damage; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kenner has suffered extensive damage to its infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, immediate action must be taken preserve public peace, health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, on the 28th of August, 2005, the Mayor of the City of Kenner declared a state of emergency to exist in the City of Kenner and has activated all emergency management plans; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.24 of the City of Kenner Home Rule Charter allows the City Council to waive procedural requirements in cases of emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 29:737 allows the chief executive of a municipality to take immediate action to preserve the public peace, property, health, or safety within the municipality or to provide for continued operation of the municipal government; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the City of Kenner that an emergency ordinance be adopted to allow the Mayor of the City of Kenner to take any and all action in accordance with the law to preserve the public peace, health and safety.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNER HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION ONE: Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 29:737, the Mayor of the City of Kenner has the authority to take immediate emergency response measures to preserve the public peace, property, health, or safety within the City of Kenner, including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Suspending the provisions of any ordinance regulating the conduct of local businesses, or the orders, rules or regulation of any municipal agency, including the fire and police departments;

(2) Utilizing all available resources;

(3) Transferring the direction of all personnel or functions of all municipal departments and agencies, including the fire and police departments;

(4) Controlling ingress and egress and the movement of people within the City of Kenner; and,

(5) Suspending or limiting the sale, transporting, or dispensing alcoholic beverages, firearms or combustibles.

SECTION TWO: The Mayor of the City of Kenner shall have the authority to take immediate emergency response measures to provide for the continued operation of the government of the City of Kenner.

SECTION THREE: In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 29:737, the Mayor of the City of Kenner shall notify the Parish President of Jefferson Parish to advise him of the emergency and his response measures.

SECTION FOUR: This emergency ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

SECTION FIVE: This emergency ordinance shall be effective for a period of thirty (30) days.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

The foregoing ordinance was declared adopted on this 15th day of September, 2005.

COUNCIL CLERK COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MAYOR

Designated Area: Citywide
Submitted By: Councilman Denapolis, Councilman Lavarine, Councilman Weilbaecher, Councilman Johnson, Councilman McMyne, Councilwoman Black, Councilman Branigan

A:\Hurricane Ordinance.wpd

# Healing. Caring. Leading.



Now that Hurricane Katrina has passed, the healing must begin. As your community hospital, West Jefferson Medical Center and its entire staff are committed to the healing process.

Because of the dedicated group of doctors, nurses and staff, and Jefferson Parish Officials, we are able to care for your medical and surgical needs. Not only did West Jefferson Medical Center continue to care for our inpatients during Hurricane Katrina, our staff reached out to the community and provided necessary critical and life-saving care for all. Over the last couple of weeks, West Jefferson and our DMAT partners gave tens-of-thousands of immunizations to the people of this community. The people in need. We understand the importance of being able to care for our patients during these difficult times and West Jefferson is leading the way.

We hope no other such storm ever comes our way, but if it does, we are here to serve you, our community and the Gulf South.

West Jefferson Medical Center, You Can Count On Us!

West Jefferson Medical Center
Hospital and Health System

1101 Medical Center Boulevard, Marrero, LA 70072 • (504) 347-5511 • www.wjmc.org

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Tuesday
September 27, 2005

DEATHS • B-2
EDITORIALS • B-6



SHEILA STROUP

## *Even pets fear 'great darkness'*

Some people say dogs have poor memories, but I don't believe it.

Friday afternoon, when the wind picked up, the Weather Channel flickered to nothing, and all the little whirrs and hums in our house suddenly stopped, Rosy and Harry came running.

"It's OK, It's OK," I said, while Rosy tried to climb into my lap and Harry, resting his head against my leg, began to shake.

They remembered when this had happened nearly four weeks ago — the time of the great darkness, when Stroup and I wandered around with flashlights and lived on cheese and crackers, when they lay on the floor panting for days, begging us with their eyes to make the cool air float down on them from the ceiling.

As I sat on the couch comforting them, I started to panic. What if the great darkness was beginning all over again?

"I'm going to Abita to buy some ice," I told Stroup.

### Sky threatens to fall

Three hours later, still without electricity, we and our dogs sat on the porch that overlooks our pond, listening to the hot wind blow and watching our still-standing trees sway against a yellow sky.

Off to our left we could see the large tulip poplar that had draped itself across our chicken pens during Hurricane Katrina. Two of its branches poked down into the first pen, making me bump my head every time I went to gather the eggs.

While we were sitting there, we heard a creaking sound and then another one. The dogs jumped to attention, sensing something was wrong.

"What was that?" I asked.

"I think it was the tulip poplar," Stroup said.

The next creak was followed by a crack, and a 2 by 6 board that braced the top of the first pen broke in half from the weight of the tree.

At that, the chickens began a great chorus of squacking, making me think of Chicken Little when the acorn fell on his head. "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" they seemed to say.

### A bittersweet stroll

The sky did not fall Friday night. The tulip poplar droops even lower now, but our ancient pens still stand, and the chickens go about their work, scratching and clucking and presenting us with a few perfect eggs every day.

Our electricity came back on eventually, and I promised myself I would never again take for granted a hot shower, a cold beer, or my first mug of Community Coffee in the morning.

Rosy and Harry keep me going. At first, after Katrina, our walks made me feel dismal. The 2-mile stretch I loved was piled so high with tree trunks, light poles and debris that sometimes I'd look up and have no idea where I was.

But for the dogs, every morning is a new smell — each branch hauled out to the ditch, each bulldozed pile a cause for excitement.

"Get a whiff of this," they tell each other. "We have never peed on this limb before."

Yesterday, among the fragrant fallen pines, I saw a patch of black-eyed susans blooming, lifting their heads to the sun and new beginnings.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# Homecomings, heartbreaks blanket West Bank in bustle




STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Residents of Barataria pedal through high water Monday on Privateer Boulevard. The men said they were going to check on relatives' homes. Although water levels have dropped about 1 1/2 feet from their peak, much of the area remained flooded Monday.

## *Algiers reopens, Lafitte area aches, and areas in between start to breathe*

**By Paul Purpura and Sandra Barbier**
Staff writers

Monday was a study in contrasts across the West Bank, with Algiers reopening for residents to return home a month after Hurricane Katrina came ashore while lower Jefferson Parish was pumping out the flooding left during the weekend by an unprecedented tidal surge caused by Hurricane Rita.

And in between, in Gretna, Harvey and Marrero, heavy traffic on the roadways suggested that the West Bank is rising. Public schools in Jefferson are accepting registration today through Saturday in preparation for Monday's reopening. In Plaquemines Parish, public school registration begins Thursday.

It was just a week ago that parts of the West Bank were struggling to return to a routine when New Orleans City Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson hailed the reopening of Algiers, the first New Orleans neighborhood to do so after Katrina.

But by day's end Sept. 19, with Rita lurking in the Gulf of Mexico, Mayor Ray Nagin rescinded the move, and Algiers was locked down with police officers monitoring checkpoints at entryways.

On Monday morning, police waved motorists through checkpoints, emergency 911 service was restored and Clarkson laid out the welcome mat anew.

"This is the second time to open Algiers, and this time it's for good," she said. "Welcome home, Algiers. Let's lead the rebuilding of New Orleans."



Algiers resident Gary Ruiz navigates debris from his shed, where tools for Ruiz's drywall business as well as family belongings had been stored. His wife and children returned to the neighborhood Monday for the first time since Katrina.

But in the Lafitte, Crown Point and Barataria areas, hundreds of residents who did not heed Thursday's mandatory evacuation and were forced from their homes Saturday remained away. Few people expected the water to get as high as it did, residents and officials said.

The surge was "the highest-

See **WEST,** *B-2*

# School reopenings bring welcome routine

## *More are expected to open doors Oct. 3*

**By Michelle Hunter**
Staff writer

It didn't take her mother's usual up-and-at-'em-or-else threats to get 7th-grader Megan Bright out of bed and ready for her first day of classes at John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge Monday.

That was fortunate, because Megan and her parents had to wake early for the commute from Baton Rouge to get the 12-year-old to school on time. Like so many New Orleanians, the Brights lost almost everything when floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina swept through their Palm Street home.

But the start of school meant an end to weeks of shuffling from place to place for Megan, who has been out of contact with her classmates.

"I get to see my friends," she said with a touch of timidity that quickly faded as familiar faces began to pop up in the hallway outside her homeroom.

Thousands of students like Megan got a desperately needed dose of normality Monday when a handful of Jefferson Parish Catholic and private schools opened their doors on the east bank. Administrators reported slight dips in enrollment balanced out by the arrival of displaced students from other schools.

Minimal damage allowed Ridgewood Preparatory School, St. Christopher's School and St. Edward the Confessor, all in Metairie, to reopen Monday along with John Curtis.

Jefferson Parish's public schools and the remainder of the parochial and private institutions are scheduled to open on or after Oct. 3.

The first school to ring its bell was actually St. Rita, in Harahan, which opened Sept. 21.

"We were very excited about that," Principal Melanie Verges said.

About 95 percent of the school's 553 students returned. And St. Rita has enrolled about 71 students from Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Jefferson parishes.




STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Senior Ryan Wetzel greets school counselor Kathy Rickner as classes resume at John Curtis Christian School.

All of the schools reported taking in displaced students. And enrollment numbers are expected to remain in flux for weeks as families make their way back or give notice that they will not return.

M.J. Montgomery Jr., headmaster at Ridgewood Preparatory, said he's gotten word that many of his students have already enrolled in schools in Miami, Atlanta, Cleveland, New York, Dallas, San Antonio and

See **SCHOOLS,** *B-3*

# Doctor helps hospitals evacuate

## *He passed up chance to leave by helicopter*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

For Dave Yu, the nightmare of Hurricane Katrina could have ended Thursday night, when nearly all of his hospital's roughly 160 patients and 450 medical staff had been evacuated by helicopter to dry land and safety.

HURRICANE HEROES

*Patients stranded without power, medical supplies*

But Yu, 29, a second-year surgery resident at Tulane University Hospital, opted to stay and help two nearby hospitals that were in more desperate straits: Charity and University hospitals, both with hundreds of patients and encircled by deep foul water, were marooned with few supplies, no power and no easy way out.

It would be a harrowing few days, with doctors providing emergency care using the most rudimentary instruments and

See **HERO,** *B-3*

# U.S. 51 was raised, but still flooded

## *Still, evacuation not a concern for LaPlace*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

Despite a recent state project that raised U.S. 51 in LaPlace to more than four feet above sea level, the roadway flooded after both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, which made returning to St. John the Baptist Parish along Interstate 55 difficult for many residents.

But while parish officials have expressed concern at the road's condition, they don't see the flooding as a major concern for evacuation or relief efforts for future storms.

U.S. 51 has been plagued with flooding since its construction, and after heavy rains, entrance and exit ramps to Interstate 55 – a major evacuation route - and parts of the roadway are often under water. The roadway, which is maintained by the state, can also receive excess water from either Lake Maurepas or Lake Pontchartrain, depending on which way the wind is blowing at high tide.

In 2002, the state began to increase the height of a mile of the roadway by about 12 to 15 inches and increase the height of entrance and exit ramps to Interstate 55. That project, which cost about $1.5 million, was completed in June 2004, said Cleo Allen, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation and Develop-

See **ROAD,** *B-2*

# Algiers businesses are reopening slowly

WEST, *from B-1*

ever in my lifetime," Jean Lafitte Mayor Tim Kerner said.

"We could have sandbagged for six months and we wouldn't have been ready for it," he said.

While the surge crested Sunday and the level had dropped about 1 1/2 feet from its peak by Monday morning, much of the area remained flooded, including low spots on roads.

Lafitte resident Jeremy Smith sloshed through what used to be the lawn near his mobile home, which sits between Bayou Barataria and Jean Lafitte Boulevard. His mobile home got the double whammy from back-to-back storms.

"The hurricane (Katrina) came, tore the roof off and knocked it off its blocks," Smith said. "Then Rita came and flooded it out."

Officials are using pumps to remove the water. "We're getting pumps everywhere," said Chip Cahill, president of the West Jefferson Levee District. "We're working as hard as we can as long as we can so that people can get back in and get their lives in order again."

## Fridges moving fast

In more populated areas of the West Bank, heavy traffic suggested that more people have returned. Consumers are flocking to businesses, packing the few open restaurants and buying items for their homes.

At Lowe's home improvement store in Harvey, sales manager Keith Yaeger said business "is definitely picking up," with customers buying roofing materials, drywall board and "lots of cleaning supplies."

"We're only open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., but we're doing almost twice the normal business," Yaeger said.

A-1 Appliance and Electronics, whose headquarters is in Harvey, also is seeing an increase in sales on the West Bank and elsewhere in the New Orleans area, particularly in refrigerators, which are selling at a rate of about 200 a day, marketing director Terry Toppino said.

"Literally, as we take the refrigerators off the truck, they're already sold," he said.

Businesses in Algiers are slowly reopening, and on Monday morning, the Sav-a-Center on Gen. de Gaulle Drive opened for the first time since Katrina – even with its front plate-glass windows boarded up from looters who drove a car inside to gain entry.

"They made a drive-through," an employee said.

The Winn-Dixie on Holiday Drive reopened last week, and the Wal-Mart Supercenter on Behrman Highway is expected to reopen Monday, Clarkson said.

The Algiers Economic Development District is trying to gauge the number of businesses that have reopened and get a handle on when others will follow suit, said Kathy Lynn Honaker, the group's executive director.

"I think it's going to be slow this week because people are coming in and taking care of their properties first," she said. "Next week it will pick up and go from there."

## Back in the classroom

Honaker said she expects that more residents will return once Orleans Parish public schools in Algiers reopen, tentatively Nov. 1. Clarkson said, however, that residents can enroll their children in schools in neighboring parishes.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

A passing truck sends ripples of water toward a flooded graveyard Monday on Privateer Boulevard in Barataria. Homes in the West Bank community saw as much as 8 feet of water from storm surge from Hurricane Rita.

Jefferson Parish public schools, which are slated to open Monday, will welcome all students, said spokesman Jeff Nowakowski. Registration is from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at nine sites. Parents will be required to provide only a name and address to register, he said.

Plaquemines hopes to follow Oct. 17, and officials are hoping to get back as many of their former students as they can, no matter where they live. After that, schools will accept displaced students who have moved to the parish as well as those from outside Plaquemines, Superintendent Jim Hoyle said, adding that with only three schools operational, enrollment might be limited.

"We'll do what we can for every student," he said. If a student is homeless, the district is required by law to admit them, he said. "If they have no school to attend …we'll do what we can," he said.

Registration for first-time students will be at Belle Chasse Primary School beginning Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Parents should bring as many school records as possible, school officials said.

For more information, parents can call (504) 392-4970 or (504) 393-1542.

# Roads flooded, but still passable

ROAD, *from B-1*

ment. Allen said the road could not be raised much more because of overhead clearance levels underneath the interstate overpass.

However, in both recent storms the increased height did not prevent flooding, although St. John civil defense director Paul Oncale said that the road and ramps were still passable.

Oncale and several other officials said the flooding of the roadway is fairly inevitable, but called the situation "manageable" if not optimal.

"Some things you really can't do nothing about," Oncale said.

Parish Chief Administrative Officer Natalie Robottom echoed Oncale's sentiments and said that the parish administration does not have plans to ask the state to increase the height of the roadway again. Robottom noted that the road typically does not flood until after storms have passed, which means it does not present any problems for evacuations.

Although standing water along a major highway could hamper relief efforts to the parish, Robottom said there are several other routes in and out of the parish that can be used, such as Interstate 10 and Airline Highway.

"Clearly it's a concern to us but we have other areas that are a concern to us," Robottom said. "We need to take a step back and don't try to fix one little area at a time."

Councilman Sean Roussel, whose district includes U.S. 51, said he thinks it's unlikely that the state would agree to spend millions to raise U.S. 51 again, and noted that the problems could be solved in other ways.

Roussel said better drainage along the road could be installed, or a natural location for the water to be pumped out to could be included in plans for a hurricane protection levee the parish is discussing with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

However, Roussel admitted that the flooding is almost a guarantee because of the roadway's precarious location.

"When the lake backs up like that … it's not much you can do about flooding," he said. "When that occurs people should have evacuated already."

## LET THERE BE LIGHT



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Bartender Heidi Ochs reaches to switch off a gas lantern that has illuminated Molly's on the Market since Hurricane Katrina knocked out power to the French Quarter bar. People in the bar were surprised Monday morning when the neon lights and jukebox suddenly sprang to life after being out of commission for nearly a month.

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nola.com

## DEATHS

**Julie Marie Landry Becnel**
**Manuel John Decker, Jr.**
**John Louis Dufrechou**
**Paul Edward Ellison Sr.**
**John Edward Glenn**
**Beverly June Hughes**
**Jeremy Scott Juneau**
**G. Michael Lala**
**Gilbert Ledger, Sr.**
**James John Marse, Jr.**
**Rosary Truxillo McLeod**
**John Stewart Neville**
**Elizabeth Rush Riehm**

### BECNEL

Died: On September 22, 2005 at 2:25 PM, Julie Marie Landry Becnel, 91, of Reserve, LA. Julie died of complications from a stroke after an extended illness. She will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard J. Becnel, Sr. of Reserve, LA, and her son Ronald R. Becnel. Julie's life was dedicated to her Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. She was lovingly devoted to her husband, and she loved and cherished every member of her large and extended family. She was known for her exemplary kindness and love for all. It is with sadness that we mourn our loss, but yet we are filled with the joy of knowing that this wonderful lady joined her husband and son in peace with the Lord Jesus. We, her children, with much love and admiration, lift her up to the waiting arms of the Lord Jesus. Good bye Mom, we love you dearly! Julie is survived by 11 children, 34 grandchildren, and 44 great grandchildren. Her children are: Doris Rachel Becnel Credeur of Lafayette, LA, married to the late Clifton Credeur; Richard J. Becnel, Jr. of Austin, TX, married to Jan Falls; Ellery J. Becnel of LaPlace, LA, married to Joanie Rodrigue; Walter A. Becnel of Norco, LA, married to GayNell Matherne; Robert H. Becnel of Reserve, LA, married to Betty Simon; Joycelyn Becnel Bourgeois of Paulina, LA, married to Mike Bourgeois; Jude Ann Becnel Deroche of Lutcher, LA, married to Paul Deroche; Geraldine Becnel Samrow of Gramercy, LA, married to Joe Samrow; Kay Becnel Lear of Lutcher, LA, married to Bobby Lear Sr.; Candy Becnel Pollet of Metairie, LA; and Gayle Becnel LeBoeuf of LaPlace, LA, married to Wayne LeBoeuf. She will also be missed by Doris Braud Becnel, Sandra Stein Becnel Cortez, and Greg Pollet.Julie was the youngest child of Ferdinand Landry and Ernestine Parr of Convent, LA. Her siblings, all deceased, were: Phillip, Clement, Emile, Dennis, Ernest, Justine, and Emily

### DECKER

Manuel John Decker, Jr., entered into rest on Tuesday, September 13, 2005. Beloved husband of Ethel Fava Decker. Father of Manuel John Decker, III, Donald Earl Decker and Jan Decker Callaghan. Brother of Elroy Decker and the late Allen Decker. Son of the late Manuel John Decker, Sr. and Hazel Schmaltz Decker. Also survived by grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great grandchildren of step-great-grandchildren. Mr. Decker was a WWII Army Veteran and was a member of St. Johns Episcopal Church in Kenner, LA. Age 86 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for 35 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview Pkwy, in Metairie on Friday morning, September 30, 2005 at 10:00AM. Interment in Garden of Memories. Visitation will be on Friday from 9:00AM until 10:00AM.

### DUFRECHOU

John Louis Dufrechou, a retired construction representative with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, died on Thursday, September 8, 2005 of a heart attack at his home. He was 59. Mr. Dufrechou was born and raised in New Orleans but had made his home in Madisonville for the last 18 years. He was a graduate of Rugby Academy in New Orleans. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 6 years. He was retired four years from the Corp of Engineers where he gave 35 years of dedicated service. Mr. Dufrechou was the beloved son of Delia P. Dufrechou and the late Elmer M. Dufrechou. Survivors include a loving wife Edie H. Dufrechou, his daughter Michelle Dufrechou Weber and husband John, his son Paul John Dufrechou and wife Jennifer, his five grandchildren Dylan, Drew and Emma Dufrechou; Katie And Josh Weber, his two brothers Michael and Don Dufrechou and one sister Suzanne McCarthy and a host of brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005 in the chapel of E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA. Interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Covington, LA. In lieu of flowers, we ask to please make donations to the American Heart Association. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### ELLISON

Paul Edward Ellison Sr., on Tuesday, September 20, 2005. Beloved husband of Joan Dussor Ellison. Father or Linda E. Meeker, Faith Ellison, Paul E. Ellison, Jr., Brian Ellison and Wade Ellison. Also survived by 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Son of the late George W. and Lillian L. Ellison. Brother of Lillian E. Lytell, John and Leroy Ellison. Age 71 years, a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Mandeville/Abita Springs area for the past 36 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 11:00AM from St. Jane de Chantal Catholic Church, 72040 Maple Street, Abita Springs, LA 72040. Visitation on Monday, September 26, 2005 from 6:00PM until 9:00PM From E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave. Covington, LA 70433 and Tuesday at the Church from 9:30AM until Mass. Interment will be at Abita Springs Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of St. Tammany, 1202 S. Tyler, Covington, LA 70433 or Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, 39 Starbrush Circle, Covington, LA 70433. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### GLENN

John Edward Glenn at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont, TX on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 8:23 PM. Beloved husband of Dorothy Martinez Glenn. Father of Robert M. Glenn and Donna Glenn Judice. Grandfather of Ryan Finney, Matthew Finney, Robert M. Glenn II and Jonathon Glenn. Son of the late Mary Strickmiller Glenn and John J. Glenn. Preceded in death by 8 brothers and sisters. Age 83 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 38 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 12:30 PM followed by interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA. Visitation at the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, September 26, 2005 from 10:00 AM until Noon. Sign On-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com.

### HUGHES

Beverly June Hughes on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 in Houma, LA. Age 84 years. Sister of the late Shirley Hughes Smith. Daughter of the late Josephine Schulz. Survived by brother-in-law Clyde W.Smith. Also survived by nieces and nephews: Susan Smith Francis, Claudia Smith Gifford, Jennifer Smith Bollinger and Skip Smith and grand nieces and nephews: Matthew and Lauren Francis, Roth Walsh, Casey Gifford, Jennifer and Katherine Bollinger, Chris and Matt Smith. Miss Hughes was a former employee of Port Distributing Company and a lifetime member of First English Lutheran Church. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services at E.J.Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA 70433 on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 3:00pm. Visitation will begin at 2:00pm until time of service. Interment will follow in Pine Crest Cemetery. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### JUNEAU

Jeremy Scott Juneau on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Beloved son of Lisa Vicknair Juneau and Jeffery Juneau. Brother of Lauren Marie Juneau. Grandson of Dolores Juneau, Earl Juneau, Sheryl Vicknair and the late Carol Vicknair. Great grandson of Fay Rabalais and Lorena Juneau Dupuy. Nephew of Joannn Vicknair Ashbey and Kevin Asheby, Don L. Juneau and Robin Juneau. Cousin of Allison and Carly Juneau and Alannh Ashbey. Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Age 15, a resident of Harvey, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also Faculty and Student of Archbishop Shaw High School, St. Cletus School and Parish, Employees of Lowe's-Harvey and Tulane Univ. Hospital are invited to attend Funeral Services from Mothe Funeral Homes, Inc, 2100 Westbank Expy, Harvey LA on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 10:30am. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Cletus Catholic Church for 11:00am. Interment at Westlawn Memorial Park, parlors will be open Tuesday from 6pm to 10pm and Wednesday from 8am to 10:30am. Donations in his memory may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 4621 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001.

### LALA

G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

### LEDGER

Gilbert Ledger, Sr. passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2005. Beloved husband of Catherine Monteleone Ledger for 64 years. Father of Gilbert Ledger, Jr. Brother of Vivian L. McKenna, Rita L. Joubert, the late Gorham Ledger, and Delores L. Golemi. Son of the late Letcher G. and Gladys Laurent Ledger. Also survived by a host of nieces and nephews. Mr. Ledger was a graduate of Fortier High School (Class of 1934) and a member of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (Local 37). Age 89 years; a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Service from the Chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc. 2260 W. 21st Ave. in Covington, LA on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Temporary interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens. Friends may visit from 1:00 PM until service time.

### MARSE

James John Marse, Jr. at Our Lady of the Lake hospital, Baton Rouge, LA. on Saturday September 24th, 2005 at 12:25 PM.

### MCLEOD

Rosary Truxillo McLeod, a lifelong resident of Jefferson Parish died in Covington on Friday, September 23, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Edward W. McLeod; mother of Jean McLeod Orcutt and her husband Allen, and grandmother of Amy Orcutt Fielding and her husband Reginald. She is also survived by many relatives and dear friends. She was a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1527 and a past member of numerous other organizations which kept her and her friends busy around New Orleans and Metairie. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 10:30 am from the Chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA 70433. Visitation will begin Wednesday at 10:00 am. The family would like to express it's gratitude to the staff at Forest Manor Nursing Home for their outstanding care and genuine concern for our mother's quality of life during this difficu! It time and would also like to thank the staff and residents at Ville Ste Marie Senor Living Center in Jefferson for all the good times. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Offer condolences at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### NEVILLE

John Stewart Neville, an account executive in the medical services field, died Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at Schumpert Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was fifty-three years old. Mr.Neville was born in New Orleans and lived in New Orleans and Metairie. He graduated from Jesuit High School and the University of New Orleans. Survivors include three sons, Jason Stewart Neville, Jarret Conner Neville, and Jordan Paul Neville. Also his parents, Marilyn Krieger Neville and John Stewart Neville, two sisters, Cecily Neville Boudreaux and Allison Neville Gifford, and two brothers, William J.Neville and James E.Neville. A funeral mass will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2005, 1:00pm at St.Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie. Visitation will be from 10:00am until 1:00pm at the church. Burial will be at St.Patrick Cemetery Number 2 in New Orleans. Arrangements: Lake Lawn, Metairie.

### RIEHM

Elizabeth Rush Riehm on Thursday September 22, 2005. Beloved wife of John Riehm. Mother of Marcia Lee and John Riehm, Jr. Survived by 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Harahan. Mrs. Riehm was a member of First Baptist Church of Harahan. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Monday Sept. 26, 2005 at 12:00pm. Interment in Garden Of Memories Cemetery. Visitation from 10:00am until 12:00pm

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# Hospitals mostly escaped violence

**HERO,** *from B-1*

unnerved by nearby sounds of gunfire.

On that Monday afternoon, no one knew what a wild ride lay ahead. Katrina had passed, doing minimal damage to Tulane Hospital. The streets of downtown New Orleans were dry. But by dawn Tuesday, water was rising rapidly. Doctors had already moved the emergency room and medical equipment to the second floor, and the hospital soon became an island. Later in the day, the generators ran out of gas.

Tulane's evacuation plan was put into motion, and the first helicopters landed on the hospital roof Tuesday afternoon to take out the sickest patients. The airlifts were called off before nightfall because security officials believed gunfire had been directed at the helicopters.

The next morning, doctors triaged patients, and the mass evacuation began. By the end of the day, all but about 20 patients and a few doctors had been flown to safety. The Tulane evacuation was sufficiently speedy that no patients were lost, Yu said.

Soon, an influx of patients from Charity began arriving at Tulane in trucks, taking the hospital staff by surprise.

"It was reasonably controversial, based on the fact that to my knowledge, there had been no agreement that Charity patients would be evacuated through Tulane," Yu said. An agreement was soon struck, and Charity began sending a few patients at a time to Tulane to be airlifted from that hospital's heliport.

Both University and Charity were in dire straits. At Charity, there were about 900 people, including 300 patients, plus staffers and families. University was worse off, with about 1,100 people trapped, including perhaps 400 patients. Yu and a few other doctors went by airboat to the two hospitals to see how they could help.

Medical work was a challenge, with minimal power supplied by a couple of garden-variety backyard generators to run essential equipment.

Doctors at Charity ran a few ventilators that use compressed gas. Improvisation became the rule.

"I saw doctors at Charity and University hooking two patients up to same respirator," Yu said. "It was cool to see some of the solutions. Charity ER residents were hanging out the windows to swing wires down to the generators. They were pulling wires out of walls."

Modern medical practice was impossible.

"There was very little medical work that went on after Tuesday night," Yu said. "We had no labs, no CAT scans. We took vital signs, blood pressure, listened to our stethoscopes and gave medicine. It was like practicing medicine 50 years ago. You do your best — look at their wounds, ask them how they're doing. You're very limited. Most doctors were reduced to organizers, problem solvers and manual laborers."

Evacuation was also a challenge. At University, the hospital ramps were flooded, making it hard or impossible to take people out with trucks. "We started taking a few very sick people from University and taking them in boats to Tulane," Yu said.

The threat of violence also lurked. During one trip, he said, a gunman fired at the military truck they were riding in; everyone on the truck lay flat to take cover.

Eventually, officials decided to evacuate University first, because it was deemed to be in worse shape than Charity. On Friday morning, the decision was made to begin landing helicopters on University's roof, though the roof had not been built for that use. Helicopters began to arrive in force, while boats took staffers to dry land near Loyola Avenue and Gravier Street, where buses waited. The effort went quickly: The entire hospital was emptied in seven hours, he said.

Next, Yu and his peers began the evacuation of Charity's patients through Tulane's heliport.

"We started taking patients on tabletops, cubicle walls, anything flat," Yu said. "We were putting patients two at a time on pickups, driving them to the roof and loading them onto military helicopters. We evacuated every stretcher patient that way."

Patients not needing stretchers were taken on boats to the bus staging area. The Charity evacuation, once under way in earnest, was likewise speedy.

"By 7 o'clock Friday evening, every patient, except the psychiatric patients, was out of Charity," Yu said. "By nightfall, Charity was empty too."

Soon, Yu was on a bus to Baton Rouge, where he was dropped at a shelter and then picked up by friends.

In hindsight, Yu said he believes things went remarkably well, considering what, in his view, appeared to be a failure of planning at Charity and University hospitals.

"I don't know if it was because it was a bad plan, or there wasn't enough communication to execute the plan. But at Charity and University, the water came up Tuesday night, and nothing happened to evacuate them until Friday morning."

Still, he said, "I'm very impressed with fact that so few people died at those three hospitals. People did die at both University and Charity. But they were all sick people. It would be hard to say whether anyone died because of the storm or not. The people who died were all really sick."

The hospitals mostly escaped violence and looting reported in the storm's aftermath.

"There no attempt to my knowledge to ever take the hospitals by force," he said. "None of the pharmacies were looted. The SWAT teams were called in a few teams because of reports of people with guns. They never found anybody, so I don't know if the reports were true."

Inside the hospitals, people banded together to make the best of the situation.

"I was unbelievably impressed with staff and the doctors, and even the patients and their families," Yu said. "Pretty much everyone was calm. They did what they were told. There weren't any riots. People were given a cup of green beans and it was called dinner."

# Schools are seen as key to reviving communities



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Prayer starts class at John Curtis Christian School, which reopened Monday after Hurricane Katrina; from left are Rayshel Croissant, Priscilla Burns, Hailey Heard and Megan Bright.

**SCHOOLS,** *from B-1*

Los Angeles. On Monday, about one-half of the usual 400-student enrollment arrived for classes. But Montgomery was positive.

"It's beyond what I expected," he said.

The school has received calls from students who intend to return next week and others who have made plans to re-enroll in January.

Reopening quickly wasn't an extraordinary act to Montgomery.

"It's our duty," he said.

But J.T. Curtis, a football coach at John Curtis School and son of its namesake, said reopening schools is a vital step in bringing residents back to not only Jefferson Parish, but also the New Orleans area.

"Could we have been more comfortable if we had waited two weeks until everything thing was taken care of? Sure. But if we could open now, we needed to," he said.

And that was beacon that signaled the Bright family back home. As Megan's mother, Dedra Bright, stood in line waiting to replace school shirts and PE uniforms, she said she never considered enrolling her daughter in any other school. Megan wanted to return to John Curtis, the school she had attended since first grade.

"We've been trying to get her back here," Dedra Bright said. "This is what she wanted."

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STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

The dry side of the 17th Street Canal near Metairie has become a reviewing stand for people to watch the repairs to the levee wall, where a breach caused massive destruction in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Four weeks after the hurricane, work continues on the city's protection system.

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4120 Medical

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4120 Medical

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4160 Trades/Skills

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Employment

4160 Trades/Skills

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4160 Trades/Skills

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# St. Bernard residents return to mangled homes

## *Most are shocked by extent of damage*

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

About 5,000 St. Bernard residents returned to their homes Monday as officials re-opened the parish after Hurricane Rita stalled efforts to bring life back to the storm-ravaged area.

Most residents were shocked by the condition of their homes. Virtually all of the parish's approximately 27,000 homes were flooded by Hurricane Katrina and will have to be torn down, officials said. Hurricane Rita brought floodwaters back to a smaller section of the parish, although officials said all water should be pumped out by midweek.

On Monday, parish streets were once again filled with traffic, the first signs of life in St. Bernard in a month. A gas station on Paris Road near Judge Perez Drive was being readied to open, possibly as early as this week.

Several restaurants and other businesses also prepared to open, hoping to provide much-needed services to the beleaguered property owners. The parish has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew, but officials are not forcing people to leave, even though most homes are uninhabitable and surrounded by a sea of muck.

"It's not incumbent upon us to push people out," Councilman Joey DiFatta said. "This is their home, no matter what condition it's in."

Meanwhile, the Parish Council met for the second time since Katrina hit, passing a resolution to seek more money for operating expenses from FEMA.

Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said the parish has enough money to meet payroll for 45 days, but will need federal help beyond that period.

"Our tax collections for the next 6 to 12 months are going to be about zero," he said. "If we don't get some money soon, we're going to be in big trouble."

The parish already has received $32 million from FEMA. After initially being critical of the slow federal response to Katrina, parish officials have warmed to the national emergency agency, affectionately calling the local representative "FEMA Phil."

"We tell him what we want and he finds a way to get it for us – legally," said Larry Ingargiola, the parish's emergency preparedness director. "Despite what you might be hearing, there's money out there for cleanup and rebuilding."

The council also announced it received a letter from Murphy Oil in Meraux pledging $2 million for the "relief and rebuilding" of the parish.

**"It's not incumbent upon us to push people out. This is their home, no matter what condition it's in."**
JOEY DIFATTA
parish councilman

The council meeting, held at Chalmette Refining, attracted about 15 people, who were crammed into a tiny office. Council members huddled around a small conference table, a large bottle of hand sanitizer positioned in the middle of them. Fly strips dangled from the ceiling, swaying in the breeze of a portable fan humming at the back of the room.

Dr. Paul Verrette, who is in charge of the parish's medical response efforts, said initial results of EPA testing on soil samples are encouraging. They were traces of e-coli and mold, but no hepatitis or cholera.

"The EPA said there were no hazards from short-term exposure but they were pretty noncommittal about the effects of long-term exposure," Verrette said.

In talking with returning residents, council members received mixed reports on how many plan to return to the parish permanently.

Councilwoman Judy Hoffmeister said about 75 percent of the people on her block in Arabi don't plan to return.

"I hope it's just the initial shock of seeing their homes for the first time," she said.

But in the eastern part of the parish, which was the hardest-hit, the signs were more encouraging.

Councilman Ricky Melerine estimated that three-quarters of the people he spoke to from his eastern St. Bernard district said they plan to live in the parish again.

"They say, "'I'm gonna come back and be your neighbor … don't worry about it,'" Melerine said.

Despite warnings of massive destruction from parish officials, some residents still hoped to salvage items from their homes. Many left disappointed.

"I saw one man who came with a big trailer and left with a few odds and ends – an old clock that probably won't run and about about 50 feet of garden hose," Rodriguez said.

While many residents found little to reclaim, a few came away with pieces of their shattered lives.

Joe and Stacey Constance filled a small trailer with boxes of china, photo albums and several statuettes of children and angels from their parents' homes in Chalmette.

"You've got to get in the muck and run your fingers through it and see what you can find," Stacey Constance said.

# Tulane law professor dies on Fla. beach

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

Longtime Tulane Law School professor David Gelfand died Sunday afternoon on Pensacola Beach in Florida according to the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. He was 56.


**David Gelfand**
Teacher
wanted to aid
storm victims

Witnesses saw Gelfand walking toward the beach through shallow water, then turn and walk back toward the Gulf a moment before falling face-first into the water, according to the Pensacola News-Journal.

An autopsy was done Monday to determine whether Gelfand died from drowning or a medical condition. Results were not immediately available, Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Ted Roy said.

Gelfand, a world-renowned scholar in constitutional law, and his wife, Mary, had gone to Pensacola to visit Gelfand's 91-year-old mother, said Bryan Mauldin, a longtime Gelfand friend, former student and fellow law professor.

Gelfand's death came the same day as a public announcement in New Orleans that he and other Tulane Law School faculty, alumni and friends had formed a nonprofit foundation called From the Lake to the River to marshal law students, law professors and law firms from across the nation to provide legal aid and disaster relief to Hurricane Katrina victims.

"We have lost an extraordinary legal mind," said Mauldin, who was working with Gelfand

Mauldin said that when she and Gelfand chatted on the phone Sunday afternoon about what they hoped the foundation could accomplish, he was "upbeat and energized. We were discussing the right of return of New Orleans evacuees and how to provide housing and jobs and reconstruction."

Gelfand, born in Buffalo, N.Y., was a magna cum laude graduate of Columbia University in political science who earned a master's degree in politics and jurisprudence at England's Oxford University and a law degree from Columbia Law School.

Except for a year teaching at the University of Miami, Gelfand spent his entire career on the Tulane Law School faculty, where he held the Ashton Phelps chair of constitutional law.

He taught at schools around the world, including those in Japan, Germany, Liberia, Kenya, Finland, and Holland.

Tulane Law School Dean Larry Ponoroff informed school students and faculty of Gelfand's death on Monday by e-mail.

Gelfand is survived by his wife; their 23-year-old daughter, Katie; and Gelfand's mother.

Funeral arrangements for Gelfand were pending Monday.

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**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

**Warehouse Workers** Needed. Transportation company in St Rose needs workers to unload trucks and move appliances. Must be able to lift 70+ lbs, pass a drug test, and have a clean criminal background. $8/hr Please apply in person at 180 e james dr, st rose or call 468-9468 for more info

### 4170 Miscellaneous

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**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** & LABORERS Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of hurricane Katrina. Hazmat & Oil Spill work experience a plus. Possible short & long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

**Experienced Groomer** needed. Full or part time available. Call 504-837-1730 or Apply in person at 604 Veterans Blvd.

**Fire Protection** Helper Needed for New Orleans area. Call J. Walker 504-915-2931

**Full Time** Position for fast paced Vet Clinic. Call 225-875-7533

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## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

### 4320Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/Paralegal. 901-240-7724

## MERCHANDISE

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

### 5330 Miscellaneous

**CLOSEOUT BUSINESS,** SELLING FOLLOWING ITEMS AT COST: Store Fixtures, gift and Christmas inventory and antiques. Call 662-627-5184 or 662-901-1671

## RECREATION

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**HOUSEBOAT** - 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'01 Shasta** 21 foot, Ford engine, low miles, $26,500. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Motorhome, 34 foot, new tires, only 13,000 miles, take over payments, $55,448 or best offer. 813-672-4493

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

### 7560 West Bank

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

## Residences for Sale

### 7560 West Bank

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**TERRY TOWN** All Brick 3/2 Home, 6 minutes from CBD, 2250 SQ. FT., Great School District, Never Flooded! Must Relocate to TX, $268,500. 504-452-7560 or 985-871-7493

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Bush, New** construction, Whippoorwill Grove, 3029 sf living, 3805 sf under beam, 3/4 Br, 3 Bath, 2.2 acres, $389,000. 985-966-5412 or 985-845-0070

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

**Mande, Green** Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2570 sf, great cond/location, moving new job! New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**MANDEVILLE 2** bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, near Causeway. Community pool, balcony, 1000 square feet. $145,000. Please call 985-869-8691/985-788-7754

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlaceHomes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

## Residences for Sale

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

## Commercial-Offices

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1,500 mo. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Kenner Warehouse,** 4000 square feet, $2500. Borngesser Realty. 504-454-0800

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735Investment Property

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarrealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

### 7740 Acreage/ Farm & Timberland

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

## Real Estate for Sale

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**MADISONVILLE 3** br, 2 full ba, 2 1/2 ba, 3800 SF home. Pool & deck, $410,000. 985-845-7890

**MADISONVILLE 3/4** Acre, cleared with clay, new SubDiv, must sell! Call 985-969-8295

**MANDEVILLE Beautiful** Acadian, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, approx 2800 sq ft w/550 sq ft studio. No storm damage. Large corner lot on cul de sac. 3 minutes from Causeway in best school district. 985-674-2899 or 985-789-0190 or 281-350-8384

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. Call for more 1-877-893-1799

### 7860 Other States

**AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL** EQUITIES Has a number of homes available for temporary housing for displaced families. Homes are located throughout the United States and are available for immediate occupancy. If you or your family are in need of housing please call us at: 305-577-1011. We look forward to assisting you in this time of need!

**E OKLAHOMA** Beautiful log home, 4300 sq ft, 6BR/5Ba, View of river valley in Flint Ridge Resort. www.flintridge.homestead.com, $345,000. 918-597-2242

**SANDESTIN GOLF** & BEACH RESORT Executive Villa 4 bed, 4 bath. Spacious, chef's kitchen, library, 7 ft deep pool. Dream home! $1,450,000 Sandra Padgett, Coldwell Banker JME Realty. 850-859-2257 or 974-3271

## RENTALS FURNISHED

### 7917 Below Canal

**French Quarter** 5 star luxury 1 and 2 bedroom suites, pool, spa, Internet, business services. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717/www.ruedumaine.com

**Furnished Luxury** FQ Apartment with balcony, 505 Barracks, 1300 sq ft. $2600. 615-483-8674

## Rentals Furnished

### 7930Eastern New Orleans

**FRENCH QUARTER** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath condo with pool. $3000/Mo, util included. 337-276-7025

### 7960 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**CHATEAU ESTATES** 4 Bedroom, 3 full bath home, fully furnished, Minimum 1 year lease, $3600/month. Call 504-712-9020

### 7965 West Bank

**ALGIERS, bed** & breakfast, 1-4 BR's avail for rent, top security, $125/per night. Beautiful home, all luxury conveniences, owner/agent. 504-442-3324

### 7970Mandeville/Covington

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

**COVINGTON near** I12/190, month-to-month, $975 plus deposit. Call 504-495-4495/985-875-0810

### 8005 Gulf Coast

**San Destin,** FL Sale or Rent. New home for permanent residence. 4-2 1/2. 285 Loblolly Bay Road. 2,000 sq. ft. Available 10/12. Call M. Bass 850-384-0116.

### 8045 Miscellaneous

**ORLANDO AREA** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, semi furnished house. Golf/lake view, gated, active adult community. 1st month free with 6 month lease, Royal Club Spa membership and cable included! $1500 + util. 503-577-8522

## ROOMMATES

### 8050 Rentals to Share

**Slidell, furnished,** Roommate wanted, mature working adult, non-smoking home, no pets, all utilities paid, $450/month + $250/dep. 985-640-1607

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8062 Above Canal

**IRISH CHANNEL** 2 Bedroom Court Yard Cottage, Central Air/Heat. 2527 Constance St. $2000/monthly. 504-833-2928

### 8090 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**SALES, RENTALS** & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, Properties Preferred. Call 504-887-2328

### 8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**Metairie FSBO,** 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1350 sq.ft., w/ detached rear apt. 600 sq.ft. 504-828-6622, 504-715-7807

**Old Metairie** 500 square foot apartment, 1BR, 1BA, never flooded, $850/month. 512-306-8262

### 8102 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**KENNER,4100 St** Blase Dr, House for rent, 4BR, 3BA, Furn, pool, exc cond, no flooding. Corporations welcome! Immed occupancy. Call for details: 504-452-0885

**Kenner,80-84 Antigua,** 8 apartments for rent single or whole, 2 BR/1.5BA, FP, no flooding, immediate occupancy. Corporations welcome. Call for details: 504-452-0885

## Rentals Unfurnished

### 8104 West Bank

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. Call 740-264-7531

**RHONE PROPERTIES** Marrero 3 BR, 2 bath, 2008 James Dr, $650. Gretna, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2531 Huey P Long, $900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1711 Weyer St, $850. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2413 Claire Ave, $600. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2801 Huey P Long, $475. NO PETS. VISA & M/C. 504-366-2604

**WEST BANK** 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

### 8106Mandeville/Covington

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves subdivision, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

### 8110 River Parish East Bank

**ORMOND -** 2 BEDROOM, 1.5 BATH, Townhouse apartment with fireplace, $650 Value. 228-323-7015

### 8125 Mobile Homes

**Ascension Parish,** 30 miles from Kenner, For rent Travel Trlr spaces, Please Call 225-978-9612 or 1-800-759-1002

### 8135 Miscellaneous

**8334 Forshey** St. Large 2BD/1Ba, $600/Mo, 504-304-1318

**Atlanta NW** - 20 min., Needs handyman $200K, in country area 3 bedroom/2 bath 1ACRE, Many Jobs! $800, pets ok, 407-579-7747

**FORECLOSURE! 3/2** Only $12,900. For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension 1076

### 8150 Rentals Wanted

**MATURE, financially** secure, single professional. women looking for upscale condo or home to rent, prefer remodeled prop in Tulane/Loyola Garden district area, own 1 small cat, monthly rental $1000-$2000 month ok, 337-654-4687 or E-mail: annesonnier@yahoo.com

## AUTOMOTIVE

### 8540 BMW

**'00, 323C1,** Premium Package, Excellent Condition, Garage Kept, 71,000 miles. No Water Damage. $15,900. 504-834-7373

### 8550 Buick

**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

### 8560 Cadillac

**'92 Deville** New AC unit, 4 new tires, new battery, NEVER FLOODED. $3500 obo. 504-341-7491

### 8570 Chevrolet

**'02 Suburban.** Pewter, leather seats, CD player, new tires. Under retail price 985-892-8809

**'98 Chevy** S-10, 4-cyl, extra cab, tow package, 124,000 miles, $3,100. Call Ryan at 985-643-0383.

### 8630 Honda

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'90 Accord,** Only $900, For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

## Automotive

### 8690 Mazda

**03' Protege,** 40,000 miles, sunroof, 6-Disc CD, $11,000. (985)951-9775

### 8732 Mitsubishi

**'05 Eclipse** RMX 6 disc, lthr, sunroof, 4cyl. 3K mi, $18,000/negotiable. 504-912-1888

### 8740 Nissan

**'00 Maxima** SE, Loaded, 74000 Miles. Like New $11000. Call 303-842-2878

### 8870 Under $2,000

**'94 Jeep** Cherokee, Only $600. For Listings Please Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

**POLICE IMPOUNDS** from $500! For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension 2172

### 8880 Miscellaneous

**'01 BOUNDER** 36', 22K, 2 slides, pet and smoke free, manual satellite, 2 TV's, VCR, double fridge, $63,000. 303-870-3926

**'87 Winnebago** Chieftan 27', only 43K mi. Sleeps 4+, Nice. $12,500. 319-230-2034

**'89 Carriage** Callista 24' MH, Ford 460, fuel injected EFI, sleeps 5, $9500. 985-876-0676

**'95 32** ft Motor Home by Fleetwood, generator, exc cond. $26,500, will trade. 985-735-6575

**'95 BOUNDER** 34J Motor home, 57,000 miles, $25,000. Cell 916-207-0376

**'96 Dutchstar** 37 ft, diesel pusher, 55K miles, lrg. Liv. Rm. slide-out, gen., twin rf. air, queen bed, large BA, Spartan Chassis, Cummins Diesel with Allison 6 spd., hyd. levelers, $64,500. 612-749-1999

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 306-403-9873

**'97 Newmar** Mtn Air Motor Home, 38ft w/ Liv Rm. slide, 2 air, 2 TVs, 31,600 mi., clean, exc. $10,000 below NADA, $45,000, 828-891-2583 will deliver

**100 PORTABLE** Storage units, length: 28 foot x height 13'6" x width 102". $1995 each. FOB Nashville, TN: 615-256-2929 Birmingham, AL: 205-680-0924

**2000 Jaguar** XJ8, Brugundy. 51000 miles. Loaded, sunroof, premium sound w/CD changer, leather interior, wood trim, 4.0L engine, new tires, $17600, Call 985-789-1380

**KATRINA SURVIVOR** HOME '91 B

The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Luis Vellez sweeps up in front of his bed and breakfast in the Lower Garden District on Sept. 18.

## Homesick and tired of waiting

After three weeks, the mayor announced on national television that people living in my ZIP code would be allowed to go back into the city. I returned to a friend's house in Metairie, poised to re-enter the city and take back my and my daughter's life. I spent four days going into the city by day to clean up my stinky refrigerator and just be there.

It felt good to be home, even though it was hot as you-know-what. Then I would return to the 'burbs to the comfort of my friends and air conditioning.

Then came Hurricane Rita. Now that it's behind us, I want to go home. I have lived Uptown near Audubon Park since I moved to New Orleans in the late 1970s. I've talked bad about our city at times: the politics, the crime, the schools. I've said numerous times that if I could, I would live elsewhere. I'm eating those words. I want to go home. Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans? Please turn the power on.

I work for Touro Infirmary, and I live right down the street. My daughter attends Louise S. McGehee School. Touro has asked when I can return to work, and I've told them as soon as the mayor will let me return to my home. McGehee has decided not to reopen until next year, so I have enrolled my daughter in St. Rita's in Harahan until it reopens. She asks me daily when we can go home.

I'm sorry there was a fire in the French Quarter when the power was restored this weekend, but I ask you: If we flip the switch today or a month from now, what will be any different? We have to try to go home.

I don't want anyone's property to burn. But we have to start trying to get home or people will establish themselves elsewhere. I have to work and I need to live in my home, since I have to pay for it anyway.

Please, let us go home. We've imposed on our friends and family long enough. Let's give it a try.

**Billie Sloss**
*New Orleans*

## Lower 9 as spillway?

I am 50 years old and have lived in the 9th Ward for 47 of those years. I have witnessed much flooding, from regular rain storms to hurricanes. I now live in the historic Holy Cross area, one block from the Mississippi River. The flooding and re-flooding of the Lower 9th Ward should be investigated. A barge boat was found sitting on houses near the levee breach. I ask The Times-Picayune and its readers, what are the odds of a barge being found so close to a breach if it's not the reason for the breach? It does not take CSI to figure this out.

I would also like to give you some more food for thought. A little over a year ago, maybe two, the Army Corps of Engineers wanted to buy out the homes along Jourdan Avenue (the breach area) to build a larger lock for larger ships. Remember that story? The breach being fixed in a speedy manner the way it was, with gravel and riprap covering the area, was a recipe for disaster. Couldn't metal pilings have been installed?

Keep in mind I still respect the men and women involved in sealing the breach. They worked hard. It's just my opinion that it could have been done better.

Well, I guess the people who wanted to build that large lock might be able to buy out homeowners and former homeowners now. It almost makes you wonder, is all this by design? Is the Lower 9th Ward being used as a spillway?

**Terrence Butler Sr.**
*New Orleans*

## Slidell is forgotten city

It has been one month since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore and changed everyone's lives. The news media seem to be reporting on New Orleans but have forgotten the surrounding cities, which have been devastated as well.

Slidell looks the same as it did a month ago. LIttle of the debris has been picked up, nor is there any sign of help being brought in to handle this monumental task. I was livid when I read an article in Saturday's Times-Picayune titled "Debris dumped at prestressed site." Mandeville and Covington were bringing their debris to Slidell to be disposed of.

I was also upset to see tombs and coffins in a ditch on Old Spanish Trail, carried from a cemetery 100 yards away. It's one month later, and they are still there.

Please help Slidell. We are the forgotten city.

**Cindy Gray**
*Slidell*

## Slick need not apply

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin is a terrible politician. That's what I've heard. We know! That's why we love him so much!

**Sam Parry**
*New Orleans*

## Middle-class folks in limbo

What happens to middle-class working people affected by Katrina? Well, let me enlighten you.

We have been in Florida for over three weeks, and the only help has been a $2,000 FEMA check for a family of four. This does not go far when one is, or should I say was, self-employed (St. Bernard Parish was my primary area of business). The business was occupational fitness and wellness, and there certainly is no need for this now with this area in such disarray.

It appalls me that there is no help for people in my predicament. I applied for food stamps, but I was turned down because I had a few thousand dollars in the bank, which is needed to pay†bills that are mounting, car notes and such.

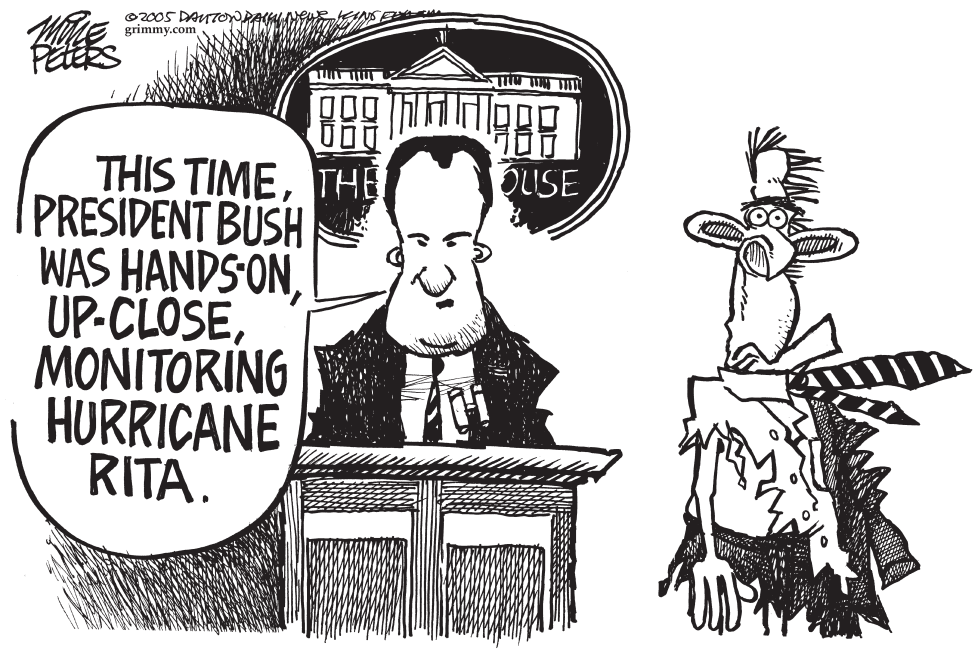
Electricity is not free and neither is the telephone. Feeding a family of four — well, how far does $2,000 go? Not very. Luckily my family is not staying in a shelter, but that won't be out of the question when I am unable to find employment. The $200 weekly unemployment check, which hasn't begun arriving yet, doesn't touch my former income.

All these donations from celebrities and business — who receives the benefits? Only the destitute! I guess I will just have to wait until I am on the street because of foreclosure — my car repossessed and my electricity cut off.

Never in my life have I benefited from a government handout. Now I can't even get a food stamp. Go figure. My heart goes out to those who suffered loss, but where is the help for those in limbo?

**Christine Appe**
*Mandeville*
*Now in Fort Walton, Fla.*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Hurricane-force rumors

During Hurricane Betsy, then-Mayor Vic Schiro famously said, "Don't believe any false rumors unless you hear them from me." Unfortunately, during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, some of the most lurid rumors of violence in the Superdome and the New Orleans Convention Center came from those in charge: Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Superintendent Eddie Compass. And now it appears they were mostly false.

Nearly a month after the storm, officials have come up with no hard evidence to back up stories of murder, rape and other violence that supposedly happened among those who took shelter in those places. No matter how convincing the eye witness accounts, the bodies that back up their stories aren't there.

The toll, after careful inspection, is as follows: four dead in the Convention Center, one by violence: six dead in the Superdome, none by violence. While there were reports of 30 to 40 dead in the Convention Center and 10 to numerous in the Dome, the actual tally has to be given more credibility than unconfirmed reports by traumatized people. During the chaotic week that followed Hurricane Katrina, four confirmed murders took place in New Orleans, a number that's not at all surprising or even unusual for a city that expected to see as many as 200 homicides this year.

Debunking widespread reports of rape, including rapes of children, is more difficult since people have scattered across the country, making it a challenge to collect evidence or information. But police, military and rescue personnel who were on the scene say that most of what's been widely reported in the Dome and Convention Center simply didn't happen.

"Don't get me wrong, bad things happened, but I didn't see any killing and raping and cutting of throats or anything," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lachney, who played a key role in security and humanitarian efforts in the Superdome. According to Sgt. Lachney, 99 percent of the people sheltering in the Superdome — and there were 30,000 of them — were very well-behaved.

Bad things certainly happened. That many people jammed together with inadequate food, water, medicine and toilet facilities and a growing sense of abandonment and desperation suffered enormously. But they shouldn't also be maligned as lawless or even, to use Mayor Nagin's unfortunate word, animalistic.

Contrast Sgt. Lachney's comments with those of Superintendent Compass. During an interview with Oprah Winfrey, he said that babies were being raped. Mayor Nagin said that hundreds of armed gang members were killing and raping people inside the Dome.

Thank God it didn't happen. Everyone in south Louisiana — in the entire country — should feel a tremendous sense of relief that New Orleans didn't descend into some kind of post-apocolyptic orgy of violence following Katrina. But that doesn't mean damage wasn't done. Rumors, widely reported as fact, can live on even after they are debunked, and the tales from the Dome and the Convention Center are more compelling than most urban myths.

These frightening stories can continue to hurt us by discouraging people from returning to this region and by marring New Orleans' image with tourists. Rumors of violence may have hampered rescue efforts in some cases. We can't afford to allow them to hamper our recovery. It's bad enough that the Superdome will be associated with squalor and misery; far worse to have it associated with murder and mayhem.

It's understandable that in the tense and fractured days after Katrina frightened people reported rumor as fact and soldiers, police and even elected officials believed what they heard and passed it on. In the hell that descended after Katrina, almost anything, no matter how horrific, seemed possible.

But now that we know better, it's essential that people like Mayor Nagin and Superintendent Compass set the record straight, just as forcefully. That might mean saying, "I spoke too soon" or even, "I exaggerated." The latter certainly seems to be true of Superintendent Compass' claim that he and other officers wrestled 30 weapons away from criminals by using the follow-the-muzzle flash technique. Last week, the superintendent insisted that such an incident had happened to Capt. Jeff Winn's 20-member SWAT team, but in a separate interview Capt. Winn said that his unit saw flashes and heard gunshots only once and recovered no weapons.

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath has more than enough human drama, from heroism to depravity, without embellishment. The people of Louisiana need solid information and credible leaders as we move toward recovery. Katrina inflicted a lot of damage on the truth, and that's just one more mess we need to clean up.

## Strike two for Louisiana

Hurricane Rita could have been worse, no question about it. The storm could have been stronger. It could have hit another major metropolitan area. It could have crippled refineries on the Texas and Louisiana coasts. It could have dropped more rain.

But from Louisiana's perspective, the Category 3 storm was plenty bad enough. Rita delivered the second punch to a state that was already reeling, and while it's a lesser blow, Louisiana now has to deal with disasters in the southwest as well as the southeast parts of the state.

Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, Terrebonne and Calcasieu parishes all experienced flooding because of Rita's storm surge. In Cameron Parish, entire fishing communities were wiped away. Iberia Parish Sheriff Sid Hebert estimates that one-third of that parish flooded, and one estimate put flooding in Terrebonne Parish at 40 percent.

Areas of the state that suffered through Katrina felt Rita, too. Orleans Parish's Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish were inundated again because of Rita's pressure on patched levees. Low-lying parts of St. Tammany Parish saw the waters rise again. In Jefferson Parish, Rita caused Bayou Barataria to spill over its banks, flooding Lafitte and forcing the rescue of hundreds who had stayed behind.

No direct weather casualties occurred in Louisiana or Texas, and that's a mercy. While rescuers had to pluck people from rooftops and pull them out of flooded homes, there are no throngs left to fend for themselves in dangerous circumstances. Widespread evacuation and a more nimble response clearly saved lives, and that's one saving grace from Hurricane Katrina.

But Louisiana's plight has been worsened by this second storm. The number of people left homeless, jobless and directionless has grown. The recovery has not only been slowed, it's also been expanded. That's a point that Louisiana's leaders will need to stress as we begin, once again, to dry out.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# TEXANS FIND OUT IT'S NOT SO EASY TO FLEE



AP PHOTO

Traffic inches north in all four lanes along U.S. 96 north of Jasper, Texas, early Friday morning as people flee the approaching Hurricane Rita.

Watching the miserable experience of Texans evacuating in advance of Hurricane Rita last weekend, I couldn't help but sympathize. But there also was a little voice inside my head whispering something else: Good, I thought. At least we're not the only ones capable of getting things so wrong.

There's been lots of talk about what New Orleans and Louisiana could have done differently to save lives before Hurricane Katrina struck, starting with help for those without resources to get out of harm's way.

That's true. But it's not the whole story.



STEPHANIE GRACE

New Orleans' evacuation offered two separate and distinct plotlines. The one that's gotten all the attention, and rightly so, concerns the tragic fate of those who didn't have the transportation to evacuate, and were left to drown, starve or endure terrifying conditions for days before being rescued.

The happier story, though, is that the people who did heed warnings had a decent time of it. The lesson, overlooked in the human heartbreak that followed Katrina, is that Louisiana's traffic flow plan, honed by a succession of irritatingly false starts, was a success.

Contraflow — the fancy name for pointing all major traffic lanes out of town — was enacted smoothly and at the right time. Alternate routes were publicized. To the credit of state officials who've spent years learning from previous mistakes, traffic was heavy but manageable right up until the day before the storm, when too many stragglers who should have gone earlier finally decided to get out of Dodge. The upshot, it's safe to presume, was that some who otherwise might have turned back in frustration stuck it out.

All this despite the fact that Katrina didn't paint a bullseye on New Orleans until the Friday before a Monday morning landfall.

Contrast that with Houston's partial evacuation last week in advance of Hurricane Rita. Early on, some Texas officials spoke with confidence of their ability to handle a grand-scale departure from the densely populated area, in unspoken contrast to Louisiana. But reality soon intervened.

The highways around the city, traffic-clogged on an average day, became hopelessly jammed. Backup gasoline supplies were nowhere to be found, and frustrated drivers found themselves pushing overheated cars or simply stalling out on the road, causing still more backups. People spent 15 or 20 hours on the road with little mileage to show for it. And most horrifyingly of all, some evacuees didn't survive the trip, including the nursing home residents whose bus blew up en route.

To deal with the problem, Texas officials who had never drawn up a contraflow plan were forced to invent one on the fly. It took 10 hours from inception to implementation, according to the Houston Chronicle — far too much time to ease the strain on the system.

While state and local officials across the border were clearly ill-prepared, there was at least one contributing factor that they couldn't control, and that was Katrina itself.

Beforehand, there might have been concern that too many residents of vulnerable areas would try to ride out the storm.

With New Orleans still fresh in everyone's minds — both the storm's deadliness and the impression that victims can't count on the cavalry, as Mayor Ray Nagin so memorably put it — Houston faced an unexpected complication: a surge in evacuees who weren't deemed at high risk, but who bolted nonetheless.

The point of drawing the comparison between the two metro areas' experiences isn't to gloat. It's to underline the fact that evacuation is a seriously difficult business.

And that goes not just for New Orleans and Houston but for cities across the country. Los Angeles has no large-scale disaster plan in place, despite its vulnerability to earthquakes, according to a sampling by The New York Times. Philadelphia, which like New Orleans must exit via bridges, hasn't updated a plan since early in the Cold War. And all three of these larger cities, like New Orleans, have their share of low-income people without cars.

No matter the failings and successes of local and state officials here or elsewhere, the truth is that nobody's in a position to feel smug, or worse, to use local failings as an excuse not to offer help now.

Instead, the legacy of Houston's brush with Rita should be a little less finger-pointing and a lot more attention to planning for catastrophes, wherever they may strike. That, in my book, would certainly qualify as a silver lining.

Stephanie Grace is a staff writer.

# Katrina creates a waking nightmare

When I asked Gail Siles how the whole thing had affected her psychologically, she said, "Don't ask me now. It's too early." But in a later conversation, during which she seemed on the verge of tears, she said, "Listen, everybody's depressed and kind of still in shock. Everybody who's been through this thing. It's hard to believe it happened."



BOB HERBERT

Siles, a nurse, and her husband, Earl, a machinist, thought they had done a pretty good job preparing for the future. They expected, in a few years, to settle into the kind of comfortable, late-middle-age existence in which the heaviest lifting is picking up the grandkids.

That changed a few weeks ago when, as Siles put it, "All of a sudden water started coming through the living room."

Unannounced, the nightmarish flood that followed Hurricane Katrina arrived at the Siles' residence about 10 o'clock on a Monday morning.

The couple lived in a brick one-story home in Chalmette, a suburb of New Orleans. The water rushed into their home so fast they couldn't even open the front door to get out. Within minutes it was up to their waists. "We had to climb through a window," Siles said.

Chalmette is a community of about 32,000 in St. Bernard Parish and many of its residents, including the Sileses, have boats, which are used for fishing, crabbing and other recreational activities. After climbing through the window, the Sileses slogged through the onrushing floodwaters and a pouring rain to their 17-foot Sunbird, which was parked in the carport. Only then did they realize they had left the keys in the house. Earl Siles swam back for them.

While he was in the house getting the keys, the water kept rising. "The boat was just about touching the roof of the carport," Ms. Siles said. "I'm screaming for him to hurry up. Because if we got stuck under there, you know, we would have died.

"He got the keys and we got the boat going. By the time we got out of there the water was already even with the gutters on the roof. It was rainy and windy and we got about two blocks in the boat and got under the roof of the bank's drive-through. We were there about an hour and a half, then had to leave because the boat started touching the roof."

Eventually the rain eased and the Sileses began driving their motorboat through the submerged neighborhood. Street signs and gas stations were underwater. Cars and trucks were floating by. Utility poles attached to streaming electrical wires seemed to be everywhere.

"That's when we started hearing the people hollering and screaming," Siles said. "They were on their roofs, or leaning out their second-story windows, waving and screaming for help. So we just started rescuing people."

The Sileses would haul as many people into the boat as it could hold and take them to the local high school, which had been designated as a shelter for hurricane victims. After awhile they saw that other civilians, and some police officers and firefighters, were out in boats doing the same thing.

"We kept it up all day," Siles said. "There were massive amounts of people, and we couldn't just leave them there. So we'd load them up. The boat was filled to capacity on each trip."

For two days the Sileses carried people to safety in their little boat, perhaps as many as 150 people in all. Finally, exhausted and filthy, the Sileses themselves were evacuated to a shelter in Baton Rouge, where they stayed for two days. Eventually they made their way to Brooksville, Fla., where they are staying with relatives and trying, as the reality of their own dismal situation becomes clearer and clearer, to formulate the next chapter in their lives.

Their home is ruined. Their jobs are gone. Gail Siles' car and Earl Siles' truck have been destroyed.

"If we did not have family," said Gail Siles, "we'd be living under a bridge."

Still traumatized, and uncertain about the future, Siles is nevertheless sure of at least one thing: She will never settle again in an area that might be threatened by a hurricane or flood.

"I mean, I'm a nurse, and I deal with life and death every day," she said. "But once you go through something like that, you don't want to go through it again. It was like a bomb went off in your hometown."

Bob Herbert is a columnist for The New York Times.



JARVIS DEBERRY

# Honor among thieves

Not the New Orleans Police Department. Not the United States Army. Not the U.S. Coast Guard or the Louisiana National Guard. Not the New Orleans Fire Department or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. And certainly not the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

When Vivian Buckner, her mother, Jessie Richardson, and dozens of others huddled at the Lafon Nursing Home needed relief after Hurricane Katrina, the items they needed to sustain them arrived on a mail carrier's truck. But the occupants were not affiliated with the United States Postal Service.

They were thieves. They had stolen the postal truck and were using it not only to deliver needed supplies to people along Chef Menteur Highway, but also to offer rides to the Superdome for those who wanted to go.

I know Buckner and her 94-year-old mother. We all attend the same church. When I called Buckner in Houston Saturday I teased her for missing the service we had at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 28. By that Sunday morning, though, most people had either fled, were fleeing or had picked the spot where they'd ride out the storm. Buckner had already arrived at the nursing home. She expected to ride out of New Orleans on the same bus that would drive her mother and the other nursing home residents to safety.

Buckner had attended four meetings since April explaining what would be done during an evacuation, she told me. The nursing home had had a practice evacuation. Yet, the buses Buckner was waiting for never came. According to The Washington Post, they weren't requested.

Sister Augustine McDaniel, who runs the Sisters of the Holy Family facility, reportedly decided that it would be better to stay put than to try to leave. Because the state attorney general is investigating how McDaniel handled the crisis, the nun has been advised by an attorney not to talk. Because she witnessed what went on that week, investigators have told Buckner to expect a subpoena.

She told me she witnessed death and despair, a dedicated staff of employees and volunteers trying to save everyone they could and then a stolen mail truck pulling up outside Tuesday.

"First when they came we were really afraid of them," Buckner told me. "We knew the Post Office wasn't open."

But the people on the truck didn't menace them. Instead, "They said, 'Y'all need anything?' "

Buckner said she and the rest of the ad hoc staff could look through the open door and see what was on the truck: water, juice, potato chips, cookies, peanut butter and crackers. So that became the list of things they needed.

The thieves promised to return, and Wednesday they brought back baby wipes and adult diapers, nightgowns and Gatorade. They also brought back chicken and red beans and rice they'd taken from Popeyes. Buckner told me she didn't know how or when the food had been cooked, but the residents hadn't eaten since Monday, so they had no choice but to serve it. "Everybody ate it," she told me, "and nobody got sick."

The thieves were also good stewards of their loot. "They told us, 'Take whatever you need, but you gotta give us back the rest.'"

She had used the word "they" so often that I finally asked Buckner how many men were on the truck.

"They weren't men," she corrected me. "They were boys."

"Boys?!"

"I don't guess they were over 18," she said. "That's how we knew they didn't work for the postal service." She paused. "They didn't work for nobody."

I tried in vain Monday to reach a spokesperson with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. I wanted to know whether the boys who had stolen the truck had been arrested. If so, I wanted to know if the agency was aware that they had used the truck to save lives. Buckner said she saw a car from the postal inspection service drive past on Chef Menteur Wednesday — after the boys had made their delivery. Like almost every other official vehicle she saw that week, that car zoomed by without stopping.

"Everybody passed," she said. "Even the Army trucks passed."

Everybody except two thieves who provided aid when the government did not.

Jarvis DeBerry is a Times-Picayune editorial writer.

**"Last Friday set us back a day. By (this) Friday, they will all be in school."**

ROCHELLE CANCIENNE, director of public information for the district

# St. Charles schools extend registration

## *New pupils will be in class by Friday*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Aside from the sporadic tree branch in the street, flicker of electricity throughout the night and tornado sirens blaring during the day, St. Charles Parish did not feel much from Hurricane Rita. But the storm certainly did a number on the school district's plan to absorb more than 1,600 displaced students into its classrooms in an organized fashion on Monday.

The bump in the road was evident Monday when the district officially registered 58 students at three different sites in the first hour, with more filing in. Before Rita, about 400 students who lived in St. Charles but attended school elsewhere had been enrolled and started classes last week. An additional 445 students who lived outside the parish had registered and were scheduled to start classes Monday.

The district cancelled school Friday due to the imminent threat of Rita. But in doing so it also cancelled the final day of registration for displaced students. The district extended registration to Monday.

"Last Friday set us back a day," said Rochelle Cancienne, director of public information for the district. "By (this) Friday, they will all be in school."

The district allowed students who registered last week to attend class Monday.

Adrien Young and Austin Moody settled right in at Luling Elementary School on Monday morning. By lunchtime both fourth-graders said they had made friends.

"They're nice," said Adrien, who attended the International School of Louisiana in New Orleans prior to Katrina. "I like it. My teachers are nice."

Adrien said he recognized some of his Luling classmates through religion classes and soccer league.

Austin, who attended Little Oak Middle School before Katrina, struck up conversations with his new classmates.

"I just made friends with them," he explained.

Tresa Webre, principal at Luling Elementary, said 28 new students started classes Monday.

"I'm seeing a lot of positive students," Webre said.

Adrien said he didn't want to go back to his old school.

"I didn't like it," Adrien explained. "Today I had fun doing science stuff."

Monday was the second time in less than two weeks that students began classes in St. Charles. Students who were enrolled in the district prior to Hurricane Katrina were allowed to start classes on Sept. 16. District officials said they needed a plan in place before displaced students could be allowed to enroll.

Students who lived in St. Charles prior to the storm but attended schools outside the parish were allowed to start classes on Sept. 20, Cancienne said.

"There were three phases," Cancienne explained. "Those students who attended school prior to Katrina, those students who lived within the parish and attended other schools, and those displaced students from Orleans and Jefferson parishes."

Marylen Burbank showed up to Harry Hurst Middle School in Destrehan on Monday morning to sign up her daughter, Frankie, for 12th grade at Destrehan High School. St. Charles designated three schools as registration sites for displaced students: Hurst, Albert Cammon Middle School in St. Rose, and Raymond K. Smith Middle School in Luling.

"She's not doing good mentally," Burbank said of her daughter, who attended John McDonogh Senior High School in New Orleans. "It's a big change … one minute going to school. Hopefully they (school) can help her with her work."

Burbank and her family spent five days on top of a roof with no food before being airlifted to safety and eventually wound up in San Antonio. Burbank and her family then trekked back to another daughter's Destrehan home on Friday.

"It's been hard," she said. "I thought I was going to have a nervous breakdown. It was too much; we left. I'd like to be close to my home."


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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

SECTION C

Tuesday
September 27, 2005

LIVING
For the complete section, see PAGE C-5

2-1 TENNESSEE 30 • LSU 27 1-1

# ROCKY BOTTOM



Tennessee running back Gerald Riggs fights his way past LSU linebacker Cameron Vaughn to score the winning touchdown from a yard out. Riggs accounted for all 25 yards the Vols gained in overtime.

## *Ex-Tiger Clausen rallies Vols from 21-point deficit to overtime victory*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Truth is, he didn't want to be here.

Not like this, he told his famous older brother, Casey. Not on a different bench on the opposite side of Tiger Stadium, he said to his soon-to-be-famous younger brother, Jimmy.

The sullen pregame expression quarterback Rick Clausen wore beneath his backward baseball cap mirrored the tone of game-week phone conversations back home to California in which his disappointment over the prospect of spending Monday's game on the bench spilled into loving ears. His night as Tennessee captain was scheduled to end before the darkness fell - a short jaunt to midfield for the coin toss.

"The Lord works in mysterious ways, apparently," Clausen said, unexpectedly sweaty and dirty.

Four hours later, the evening concluded with the forgotten prodigal son handing off the ball to Gerald Riggs, who ran for a one-yard touchdown, capping an improbable 30-

*See* **LSU,** *C-9*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Tennessee coach Philip Fulmer celebrates with running backs coach Trooper Taylor after beating LSU. Had the Vols lost, Fulmer would have fallen to 0-2 in the SEC for the first time.

# Shoulder injury sidelines Saints safety Bellamy for rest of year

## *Rookie Bullocks expected to get his first start Sunday vs. Bills*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — On top of everything else the Saints are dealing with, injuries are starting to pile up early in the season.

Starting strong safety Jay Bellamy will be out for the season after injuring his right rotator cuff in Sunday's 33-16 loss at Minnesota. He will have surgery on the shoulder this week and be placed on injured reserve.

That's two season-ending injuries in one week for the Saints, who lost veteran return specialist Michael Lewis last Monday night in New York.

"Obviously, he's our team captain, first of all, and he's kind of the leader of the back end, and we'll lose a lot of experience," Saints coach Jim Haslett said of Bellamy, a 12th-year veteran who had started 122 consecutive games during the past nine seasons with the Saints and his previous team, the Seattle Seahawks. "He's been in the league a long time. It's going to be hard to replace him."

Haslett said the Saints are going to try with a far-less experienced option, rookie second-round draft pick Josh Bullocks, who will make his first career start Sunday against the Buffalo Bills in the Saints' Alamodome debut.

"We're going to try to replace him with a rookie to start," Haslett said, "and see how he handles it."

The bigger short-term concern is overall depth in the secondary. Starting cornerback Fakhir Brown has missed the past two games with a knee injury and remains day to day.

Haslett says those two injuries put "a little stress" on the secondary, especially when it comes to all the different substitutions and packages.

The Saints still have four safeties on the roster, however, with veterans Mel Mitchell and Steve Gleason in backup roles.

Haslett said he does not yet know who'll be signed to replace Bellamy on the roster, but it won't necessarily be a defensive back. It will be the best available player, he said.

Bullocks, 22, will start at free safety, with veteran starter Dwight Smith sliding over from free

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-3*



AP PHOTO

Saints running back Deuce McAllister runs for a 13-yard gain during the fourth quarter Sunday against Minnesota. McAllister rushed for 63 yards and one touchdown.

# Two games in, Wave is defensive

## *Tulane has the top-ranked defense in the country*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Tulane coach Chris Scelfo isn't a bit surprised the Green Wave's defense has played so well the first two games of the season. But he can't say he hasn't been taken aback by his defense being ranked No. 1 in the nation.

But in this case, Scelfo says, two games do not make a season.

"We're only two weeks into the season," Scelfo said. "We haven't played an offensive juggernaut, but I do know this, the way those guys are flying around, getting off their blocks and improving every week, we've got a chance of maintaining that consistency."

At this point, keeping the defense playing well is the most important item on Scelfo's agenda, not necessarily leading the NCAA.

In its first two games, the Green Wave has allowed just 352 yards, a 170 per game average. In the Wave's first three games last season, the defense allowed no fewer than 310 yards, and six of its 11 opponents finished with more than

*See* **TULANE,** *C-4*




AP PHOTO

Happy Ticket, trained by New Orleanian Andy Leggio, will run in the Beldame on Oct. 1 at Belmont. A good performance there and Leggio said Happy Ticket, who won the Ballerina at Saratoga on Aug. 28 (above), will run in the Breeders' Cup Distaff on Oct. 29

# La.-bred Happy Ticket ready for Beldame

## *4-year-old ran 'heck of a race' in Ballerina*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

The day before Hurricane Katrina blew through New Orleans, the Louisiana-bred filly Happy Ticket blew away her opposition in the Ballerina at Saratoga.

With three children and 10 grandchildren back home in New Orleans, trainer Andy Leggio said his attention was divided that day.

"I wasn't thinking so much about the hurricane," Leggio said. "I was thinking about them. I was worried about all my kids getting out. They listened to their dad this one time."

*See* **TICKET,** *C-3*

# East St. John, Hahnville win; PJP II drops season opener

From staff reports

**EAST ST. JOHN 49, EAST ASCENSION 7:** East St. John quarterback Johnnie Thiel passed for 224 yards and three touchdowns and ran for two touchdowns — all in the first half — to lead the Wildcats (1-1) to a 49-7 against the East Ascension (1-2) in Gonzales on Sunday.

Thiel, who transferred to East St. John from John Curtis last spring, completed nine of nine passes in the first half.

Thiel's performance was the difference, East St. John coach Larry Dauterive said.

"He's a guy that's not real fast, but he's shifty," Dauterive said. "He was well-coached in the two years (at Curtis) before I got him."

East St. John, which will host John Curtis on Friday, scored on its first series of the game. Thiel capped a 53-yard, five-play drive with a three-yard touchdown run.

Less than a minute later, the Wildcats scored on the first play of their next drive. Thiel threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to Louis Lee, who also caught scoring passes of nine and 56 yards.

Thiel rushed for 29 yards and accounted for all five East St. John touchdowns in the half. The Wildcats' defense allowed 14 yards rushing and 15 passing in the first half.

Ricky Dixon's 79-yard touchdown catch from Thiel gave the Wildcats a 35-7 halftime edge.

Dixon played most of the second half at quarterback, and accounted for the two East St. John second-half touchdowns. He scored on a one-yard run with 6:25 remaining in the third quarter and threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Lee.

— Tammy Nunez

**HAHNVILLE 35, LUTCHER 21:** Hahnville converted a fourth-quarter fumble and interception into touchdowns to key the Tigers' victory against Lutcher (1-2) on Sunday at Lutcher.

After the Bulldogs took a 21-20 lead with 10:49 remaining, Hahnville (3-0) converted the turnovers into scores — all in the span of one minute, 41 seconds.

"I think we were very fortunate," said Hahnville coach Lou Valdin. "Lutcher is a good program with good players. And the (classifications) don't mean nothing when it's two River Parishes teams playing each other.

"Whether it's 3A or 5A, it don't matter. We got a win we probably didn't deserve."

Lutcher had the ball at its 46 and a 21-20 lead with less than 10 minutes to play. But the Bulldogs fumbled on a reverse and Hahnville's Shaine Boyle recovered at the Lutcher 38. Three plays later, Hahnville quarterback Early James connected with Ben Pierre on a 22-yard touchdown pass that put the Tigers ahead for good.

Then, with 5:58 remaining, Hahnville's Kemon Jacobs intercepted Lutcher quarterback Cade Fontenot's pass and returned the ball 35 yards for the final touchdown.

"They're Hahnville," Detillier said. "You can't give them anything. And we gave them a lot."

Hahnville running back Terrance Isaac scored on a one-yard run on the Tigers' first possession of the game and Robbie Broach, a transfer student from Rummel who lives in Luling, added 44- and 38-yard field goals to give Hahnville a 13-7 lead midway through the second quarter. Late in the half, Brian Singleton caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from James to put the Tigers ahead 20-7.

Lutcher trimmed the lead to 20-14 before halftime when Juan Johnson scored on a three-yard run. Less than two minutes into the fourth quarter, Lutcher took the lead when Jordan Gant stole a handoff and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown. Terrence Jeffrey's extra point gave the Bulldogs a 21-20 lead.

— Lori Lyons

**LIVE OAK 14, POPE JOHN PAUL II 9:** Live Oak wide receiver Kardaryl Watson's 30-yard fourth-quarter touchdown reception from quarterback Michael Scarbrough gave the Eagles (2-1) the victory against Pope John Paul II (0-1) in Slidell on Sunday.

The play put Live Oak in front 14-9, but the Jaguars threatened to regain the lead.

Quarterback Richard Guillot took the Jags on a 12-play drive, converting two third-down situations and one on fourth down that carried Pope John Paul II past midfield. But four plays later, on fourth-and-six at the Live Oak 45, Guillot was brought down for a two-yard loss by Live Oak's Derek Gann.

"They ought to be commended," Eagles coach Donnie Bozeman said of the Jaguars. "Under the circumstances they played well, executed very well."

Live Oak accumulated 13 first downs to PJP's 12, and 212 yards of total offense — 147 on the ground — to the Jaguars' 193. Eagles fullback Darren LeBlanc had 86 yards, the same as Jaguars running back Chad Hindman, who ran the ball 23 times. Guillot was 9-of-24 passing for 110 yards and one interception.

The Eagles scored on their second possession of the game on a 15-yard Scarbrough-to Shawn Mullen pass after getting the ball at the PJP II 37.

From then on, the Jaguars dictated the tempo, though they were unable to punch the ball into the end zone. Andrew Birkoff kicked 26- and 21-yard field goals in the second quarter, then a 33-yarder in the third to put PJP in front 9-7.

Perhaps the deciding play came when Gann punted inside the PJP II five in the fourth quarter. Unable to move past their seven, the Jaguars punted back to the Live Oak 47. In three plays, including the 30-yarder to Watson, the Eagles were back in front for good.

"We're all dealing with adversity," PJP II coach Chris Lachney said, "Live Oak as well as us. But it's tough to call on an offense to drive 95 yards when they've been practicing so sporadically. We played well enough to win. But we kind of ran out of things in our trickbag. It's disappointing, I won't say it's not, but you know what, that's football."

— Marty Mule

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**Friday's games**
**District 4-5A**
Covington at Ponchatoula, 7 p.m.
Northshore at Fontainebleau, 7 p.m.
Hammond at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.
Mandeville at Slidell, 7 p.m.
**District 9-3A**
Albany at Pearl River, 7 p.m.
**Non-district**
St. James at Destrehan, 7 p.m.
Curtis at East St. John, 7 p.m.
West St. John at St. Charles, 7 p.m.
Riverside at St. John, 7 p.m.
Northlake Christian vs. St. Thomas Aquinas at Southeastern Louisiana University's Strawberry Stadium, 7 p.m.



AP PHOTO

The U.S. team celebrates after Chris DiMarco made a 15-foot putt on the 18th hole to clinch the Presidents Cup against the International team.

# Americans' victory emotional for Nicklaus

*Captain says winning putt crucial for DiMarco's career*

From wire reports

GAINESVILLE, VA. — A dozen American players took turns telling stories about their captain, Jack Nicklaus, before the team meeting turned emotional as they looked ahead to the final round. More than anything, they wanted golf's greatest champion to go out a winner at the Presidents Cup.

When it was over, Nicklaus saw a greater victory.

"I don't know why in the world they want to care about winning one for an old man," the 65-year-old Nicklaus said. "They need to win one for themselves. American golf has not won in international competition for a few years. And they proved that they are pretty good."

Since they lasted hoisted a trophy that belonged only to them, at the Presidents Cup five years ago, the U.S. teams have featured 11 major champions and gaudy world rankings that did them little good.

They were narrowly beaten by the Europeans at The Belfry and pounded by them at Oakland Hills in the Ryder Cup. In between, they had to rally in South Africa to scratch out a tie against the Internationals in the last Presidents Cup.

This one looked as though it might not determine a winner, either.

Phil Mickelson trailed by one as he stood on the 18th tee. Chris DiMarco was one behind as he walked up the 17th fairway in the final match. If both lost their matches, the Presidents Cup would end in another tie.

But this team learned to finish strong, and Nicklaus could not have been more proud.

Mickelson's wedge spun back toward the cup and settled 4 feet away for a birdie that sent his match against Angel Cabrera to extra holes. DiMarco squared his match with Stuart Appleby on the 17th hole, but again was on the ropes with a tee shot that left him a difficult approach to the 18th - his feet in a bunker, the ball nestled in the rough above.

"The lie wasn't bad, it was the stance that was not real good," DiMarco said. "I tried to stay real still and hit a good, solid shot and get right of the hole and give me a putt at it, at least have a chance. And it came out perfect."

His 9-iron settled 15 feet to the right of the cup to set up one of the most dramatic putts in these competitions.

It was the first time in the Presidents Cup - or in the 77-year history of the Ryder Cup, for that matter - that a player from the last match in the lineup made a birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the cup.

"Jack's the best, the best of all time, and to make that putt for him is what it's all about," DiMarco said. "We wanted to get a win for him so much. Last night, we had a great, emotional dinner. Everybody got up and talked, and I think everybody said they wanted to go out and win this for Jack. And to do that is unbelievable."

For Nicklaus, it brought back memories of another captaincy.

He brought the Ryder Cup to his home course at Muirfield Village in 1987, only to see the Americans lose on home soil for the first time. Europe built a formidable lead in team matches, 10 1/2-5 1/2, by closing strong. Of the six matches that reached the 18th hole, Europe won five and halved the other.

"I had good guys, good players, but they never won the 18th hole," Nicklaus said. "The 18th hole this week won us the matches. You've got to be able to play the last hole and finish the event, and believe in yourself, and believe that when you get to the next level as an individual, that you can do it again.

"That's why I'm so happy about it," he said. "It really elevated every one of these guys so that the next time out, they will believe in what they can do."

The Americans were clutch on the 18th hole at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club - not just on Sunday, but all week. They never lost on the final hole, going 5-0-7 in the matches that went the distance.

But what mattered was the final day.

## 2006 RYDER CUP

| | |
|---|---|
| **United States** | |
| 1. Tiger Woods | 1,812.500 |
| 2. Phil Mickelson | 766.875 |
| 3. Chris DiMarco | 462.500 |
| 4. Davis Love III | 421.875 |
| 5. David Toms | 348.916 |
| 6. Kenny Perry | 258.000 |
| 7. Jim Furyk | 256.000 |
| 8. Fred Couples | 247.727 |
| 9. Fred Funk | 233.333 |
| 10. Vaughn Taylor | 230.833 |
| 11. Stewart Cink | 225.227 |
| 12. Ben Crane | 221.250 |
| 13. Tom Lehman | 201.250 |
| 14. Pat Perez | 197.500 |
| 15. Ryan Palmer | 192.500 |
| **Europe** | |
| *World Points (Top five qualify)* | |
| 1. Jose Maria Olazabal, Spn | 24.73 |
| 2. Sergio Garcia, Spn | 24.00 |
| 3. Paul McGinley, Ire | 21.60 |
| 4. Henrik Stenson, Swe | 20.23 |
| 5. David Lynn, Eng | 17.71 |
| 6. Nick Dougherty, Eng | 17.71 |
| 7. Paul Casey, Eng | 17.42 |
| 8. Peter Gustafsson, Swe | 14.40 |
| 9. Luke Donald, Eng | 13.50 |
| 10. David Howell, Eng | 13.41 |
| **European Points** | |
| *(Next five qualify if not in World Points top 10)* | |
| 1. Paul McGinley, Ire | 401,223.82 |
| 2. J.M. Olazabal ,Spn | 319,107.57 |
| 3. Sergio Garcia ,Spn | 283,330.00 |
| 4. Henrik Stenson, Swe | 226,272.50 |
| 5. Nick Dougherty, Eng | 199,582.50 |
| 5. David Lynn, Eng | 199,582.50 |
| 7. Luke Donald, Eng | 198,065.07 |
| 8. Paul Casey, Eng | 188,920.00 |
| 9. Peter Gustafsson, Swe | 188,880.00 |
| 10. David Howell, Eng | 167,380.53 |

# THE WORLD OF SPORTS

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**FBI INVESTIGATING HATE MAIL:** Yankees star Derek Jeter has received a threatening letter reportedly warning him to stop dating white women or ìhe'll be shot or set on fire.î FBI special agent Scott Wilson in Cleveland confirmed the bureau's probe. The Daily News reported Monday that the hate mail to the Yankees' 31-year-old captain called him a ìtraitor to his raceî for dating white women. The Daily News reported that others received similar threats, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Miami Dolphins defensive lineman Jason Taylor, and the parents of tennis star James Blake. The NYPD's hate crimes unit recently completed a four-month investigation into the letter to Jeter, mailed to Yankee Stadium earlier this season, according to Detective Brian Sessa. The department has not made public the investigation's outcome.



**Derek Jeter**
Not only celebrity to receive threats

**UNION AGREES TO DOUBLE PENALTY:** Baseball players would accept a stiffer penalty for first-time steroid offenders, 20 games instead of 10 days, and agree to amphetamine tests, but the union's offer fell short of what Commissioner Bud Selig wants. In an April 25 letter to the union, Selig called for a 50-game suspension for an initial positive test, a 100-game ban for second-time offenders and a lifetime ban for a third violation.

**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Cincinnati Reds outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. had surgery Monday to clean his knee and close a year-old incision that hasn't healed properly, procedures expected to set him back no more than four weeks. Griffey, 35, batted .301 with 35 homers and 92 RBIs in 128 games, his highest total since he joined his hometown team in a 2000 trade with Seattle.

## NBA

**WIZARDS DRAFTEE SHOT:** Washington Wizards rookie forward Andray Blatche was shot during an attempted carjacking and remained hospitalized Monday. Blatche's mother, Angela Oliver, told The Post-Standard of Syracuse, N.Y., that her son was shot once in the chest while riding in a car near his home in Alexandria, Va., but that the bullet did not hit vital organs. He is being treated at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Va. Police said the shooting happened Sunday morning after two men in masks approached from a van that had been following the car in which Blatche was a passenger.



**Andray Blatche**
Mother says bullet didn't hit vital organs

**AROUND THE NBA:** The Minnesota Timberwolves signed former Gonzaga guard Richie Frahm, who averaged 3.8 points in 43 games for Portland last season. . . . First-round draft pick Yaroslav Korolev signed a contract with the Los Angeles Clippers. Selected 12th overall, Korolev is the highest Russian draft pick in NBA history.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

**ARIZONA PLAYER DIES:** Shawntinice Polk, a top women's basketball player at Arizona, collapsed at the McKale Center on Monday and died, university officials said. Polk wasn't working out or practicing when she collapsed about midmorning and was taken to University Medical Center, officials said. Athletic Director Jim Livengood said Polk wasn't feeling well when she arrived at the Center, but said the circumstances surrounding Polk's death were being reviewed. Polk was an All-Pac-10 player three years in a row.



**Shawntinice Polk**
Circumstances of her death being reviewed

**AROUND THE NATION:** New Mexico coach Ritchie McKay dismissed transfer forward Aaron Johnson from the program, citing an undisclosed violation of team policy. Johnson transferred from Penn State in May. He led the Big Ten last season with 9.9 rebounds per game.

## GOLF

**MASTERS WINNER ARCHER DIES:** George Archer, who won the 1969 Masters and 11 other titles on the PGA Tour, died Sunday at his home in Incline Village, Nev., after a yearlong battle with Burkitts Lymphoma. He was 65.
Archer won the Masters in 1969 by making key putts to close with a par 72 and hold off Billy Casper, Tom Weiskopf and George Knudson. Despite a lifetime exemption, Archer stopped playing the Masters in 1992 at age 52 because of numerous injuries. Archer had seven surgeries, but still managed a solid career with 12 PGA Tour victories and 19 on the Champions Tour, the last one coming in 2000 at the MasterCard Championship. He earned more than $10 million in his 40 years of pro golf, playing in 999 tournaments on the regular and senior tours.

**MORE GOLF:** A judge upheld his order for a shipbuilder to stop using Tiger Woods' name and a photograph of the golfer's luxury yacht ìPrivacyî for financial gain. U.S. District Judge William Zloch ruled that his preliminary injunction from November against Christensen Shipyards Ltd. should stand. He also denied the shipbuilder's request that Woods' lawsuit against the company be moved from Florida to its home state of Washington.

## MORE SPORTS

**HORSE RACING:** Keeneland's September Yearling Sale ended as the highest-grossing thoroughbred auction. During the 14-day auction, buyers spent $384,349,900, eclipsing the industry record of $324,904,300, set last year. The 3,545 horses sold was also an industry record, topping the 3,461 horses sold during Keeneland's 1999 November Breeding Stock Sale. The average price of $108,240 and the median price of $40,000 were records. Forty horses sold for $1 million or more, and the highest-priced horse in the sale was sired by Storm Cat, a Lexington-based stallion that commands a stud fee of $500,000, the world's highest. The colt, out of the broodmare Tranquility Lake, brought $9.7 million, the third-highest price paid for a horse at auction. John Ferguson purchased the colt on behalf of Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai. . . . A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit by a thoroughbred owner who sued to name one of his fillies after Sally Hemings, the slave who was reputed to be Thomas Jefferson's mistress. In a ruling dated Sept. 16, U.S. District Senior Judge Karl Forester sided with The Jockey Club and the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority, two groups that had asked that the suit be thrown out. Garrett Redmond, a Paris, Ky., farmer, sued the racing authority and The Jockey Club in May after a request to name the horse for Hemings was denied. The Jockey Club regulates the naming of thoroughbred racehorses.

**TENNIS:** Fifth-seeded Robin Soderling reached the second round of the Thailand Open, beating Robin Vik 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Monday night. Top-seeded and defending champion Roger Federer and second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt begin play Wednesday. Third-seeded Robby Ginepri faces Danai Udomchoke today. . . . Vera Douchevina and Marion Bartoli won in straight sets to reach the second round of the Korea Open. Douchevina, seeded sixth, defeated Abigail Spears 6-4, 6-2. Bartoli, seeded eighth, downed Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-0, 6-1. Meghann Shaughnessy had a tougher time but ousted Tatiana Panova 6-1, 7-6 (4).

# Penalties, turnovers are again Saints' undoing

## *N.O. had 27 flags, 10 giveaways in past two games*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Penalties and turnovers are the ultimate sins in the NFL. And through three weeks this season, the Saints rank worst in the NFL in both categories.

They are tied with the Oakland Raiders with 36 penalties, and committed 27 in the past two weeks.

And they are tied with the Minnesota Vikings with 12 turnovers - 10 in the past two weeks.

Not surprisingly, the Saints lost those two games in convincing fashion.

"It's attention to detail. It's the focus," Saints coach Jim Haslett said in his Monday press conference, the day after a 33-16 loss at Minnesota. "Our attention to detail is not very good the last couple of games at every position. The first three plays of the game were a fumble, then we got beat for a touchdown because we didn't play with the right leverage from a corner, then we get a pre-snap penalty (on offense).

"That's the first three things that we tried to correct from the week before. And we started off doing it that way. So for us to be a successful football team, we've got to cut those things out."

Penalties are hardly a new concern for the Saints, who were the second-most penalized team last season with 129 - five fewer than the Raiders.

The Saints have committed more than 100 penalties in each of Haslett's five seasons - they ranked third with 124 in 2000 despite their 10-6 record. They were flagged 119 times in both 2001 and 2002 and 103 times in 2003.

A breakdown of the penalties this season shows no specific trend, aside from the overall mental focus. Fourteen penalties have come on offense, 13 on defense and nine on special teams.

Rookie offensive tackle Jammal Brown has been whistled for four false starts. Quarterback Aaron Brooks has been called for three delay-of-game penalties. And defensive end Charles Grant has been the most frequent culprit on defense with two offsides penalties and a roughing-the-passer penalty.

"Those guys have got to know if we're doing a hard count on three, we're not trying to draw ourselves offsides. We're trying to draw them offsides," Haslett said. "Last week, the first play, we had a dummy audible and it kind of changed. Jammal jumped on the set. So it's just something, he's a young kid. We need to focus in on what we're trying to get done."



AP PHOTO

Saints tight end Ernie Conwell heads for the end zone on a 13-yard touchdown reception during the first half of Sundayís 33-16 loss to the Minnesota Vikings.

Crowd noise in three road games, most notably in New York last Monday night, has been a small part of the problem. A more prevalent reason for struggles is that the Saints have been playing from behind the past couple of games, taking them out of their comfort zone and into a press mode.

But Haslett said he wouldn't blame the mental errors on the team's circumstances, being away from home and distracted. The coach and players have lauded the practices for being crisp and high-tempo the past two weeks.

"Let's not make excuses," Haslett said. "Us traveling the last few weeks really doesn't have anything to do with our play on the field."

**TICKET UPDATE:** There were still 15,590 tickets remaining as of Monday afternoon for Sunday's game against the Buffalo Bills, the first of three home dates the Saints will play in San Antonio's 65,000-seat Alamodome this season.

Saints officials said good seats are still available in many locations. They are available through Ticketmaster, the Alamodome box office and the team's web site, www.neworleanssaints.com.

The Saints have sold approximately 10,000 more tickets to their Oct. 16 game in the Alamodome against the more high-profile Atlanta Falcons.

**HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE?** Haslett said he doesn't know what to expect from the Alamodome crowd Sunday.

"I'm hoping there's 65,000 people that are cheering the Saints on, and it's loud. I don't know. I don't know what to expect," Haslett said. "I would think, if they were coming to the game, they would root for us, but I'm not really sure. I know we sold more tickets to the Atlanta game because they want to see Michael Vick."

Haslett said the bigger "home-field" advantage will come from spending the entire week in one place without having to travel for the first time in more than a month.

**ETC.:** In addition to safety Jay Bellamy's season-ending shoulder injury, the Saints also lost tailback/kickoff returner Aaron Stecker for a few weeks with a high ankle sprain, and receiver Joe Horn is day to day with a hamstring injury. ... Saints safety Steve Gleason and several staff members made another visit to the KellyUSA evacuee shelter in San Antonio on Monday night, bringing an $8,000 check (in conjunction with the Burger Boat Company) for the Red Cross of San Antonio. The Saints have raised nearly $300,000 through the New Orleans Saints Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

# Bullocks to start at free safety

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

safety into Bellamy's position.

The coaching staff was very high on Bullocks this summer after the 6-foot-1, 207-pounder from Nebraska made a terrific first impression with his speed, athleticism and instinct for finding the ball.

There were even whispers that he might push Bellamy for his starting job. But once training camp started, Bullocks' head was swimming a bit.

"He's still a young kid and everything's new to him," Haslett said. "But I think once he gets out there and once he gets all the reps, he'll be fine. It's going to be sort of a learning curve for him, but I think he's going to be OK."

Bellamy came to the Saints in 2001 and established himself as one of the most consistent and dependable players on a defense that has had a tremendous amount of turnover.

He led the team in tackles in each of the past two seasons, with a career-high 116 last year. Bellamy, 33, has 449 tackles, nine interceptions, six forced fumbles and five fumble recoveries in four-plus seasons with the team.

# Titans' back suspended for substance abuse

## *Henry out four games for violating policy*

**From wire reports**

Tennessee Titans running back Travis Henry was suspended for four games by the NFL on Monday for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Henry's suspension begins immediately. He will miss Sunday's game against AFC South rival Indianapolis and won't be back until Oct. 24 before the game with Oakland.

CBS reported Sunday on its pregame show that Henry would be disciplined. That was news to the Titans, and Coach Jeff Fisher declined to comment after a 31-27 loss in St. Louis. Henry called it a league issue and said, "No comment."

Fisher said the league notified the Titans of the suspension Monday, but he didn't have any specifics about the violation or Henry's appeal.

"Travis is extremely regretful for his actions, for his choices, for his decisions. It has affected him personally, his family and obviously has hurt this football team," Fisher said.

Henry's agent, Hadley Engelhard, did not respond to phone messages left Sunday and Monday. The running back was not in the Titans' locker room Monday.

**SPIKES OUT FOR SEASON:** Buffalo linebacker Takeo Spikes, who has never missed a game because of an injury in his seven-plus NFL seasons, is out for the year with a torn right Achilles' tendon.

The injury happened in Buffalo's 24-16 loss to Atlanta on Sunday and leaves the Bills without their top defensive player and the unit's inspirational and physical leader.

"It's a big blow for our defense," linebacker London Fletcher said Monday. "However, we will still play football on Sunday. Injuries happen all the time. We've got some other guys that have to take up the slack."

The Bills (1-2) are preparing to play the Saints in San Antonio on Sunday.

Coach Mike Mularkey said Spikes will have surgery. He added team doctors informed him Spikes is expected to fully recover.

**TWO VIKINGS ARRESTED:** Two Minnesota linemen, Bryant McKinnie and rookie Marcus Johnson, were arrested in connection with a scuffle at a gas station early Monday.

McKinnie, an offensive tackle, was held on suspicion of disorderly conduct and obstructing the legal process, according to jail documents. He was freed on $50 bail.

Johnson, a guard, was arrested on the same charges. The Vikings drafted him from Mississippi with the 49th pick this year.

The team had no immediate comment. McKinnie's agent, Ben Dogra, did not immediately return a call.

The arrests came after officers were called to clear out a large gathering near downtown Minneapolis, police spokesman Ron Reier said.

The Vikings played at home Sunday and beat the Saints 33-16.

**EAGLES' AKERS LIKELY OUT:** Eagles place-kicker David Akers probably will miss Philadelphia's game at Kansas City this week because of a torn hamstring, while quarterback Donovan McNabb's status is uncertain.



AP PHOTO

Buffalo linebacker Takeo Spikes is helped off the field during Sunday's game against Atlanta with a torn right Achilles' tendon. Spikes will miss the rest of the season.

Akers, who collapsed in pain after the opening kickoff, fought through the injury to make a 23-yard field goal with nine seconds left to lead the Eagles to a 23-20 victory over Oakland on Sunday.

"He is going to most likely miss this week and we will see how it heals up," Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday.

McNabb played with a sore chest, strained lower abdomen and a shin contusion. He finished with 365 yards passing and two touchdowns while throwing a career-high 52 passes.

**JETS' QUARTERBACKS AILING:** Brooks Bollinger is confident he can shoulder the task of being the New York Jets' starting quarterback.

The third-stringer will likely get the chance Sunday against a tough Baltimore defense because of shoulder injuries to starter Chad Pennington and backup Jay Fiedler. The two were injured in the Jets' 26-20 overtime loss to Jacksonville on Sunday, and both were scheduled for MRI exams Monday.

"I'll know more probably (Tuesday) on the status of both guys," Coach Herman Edwards said Monday. "At this point, I'm preparing Brooks Bollinger to be our starting quarterback."

**CLOCK ERROR AIDS PATRIOTS:** A clock error added 52 seconds to the fourth quarter of the Patriots-Steelers game Sunday. The extra time aided the Patriots during a winning drive that ended with Adam Vinatieri's 43-yard field goal with one second remaining.

The Patriots won 23-20, their fourth victory against the Steelers in five games since 2001, including AFC championship game victories during the 2001 and 2004 seasons.

The NFL acknowledged the mistake Monday, with director of officiating Mike Pereira issuing a statement: "The on-field officiating crew, which oversees the official game clock operated in the press box, failed to recognize that the clock was improperly reset."

The mistake occurred after the second play of the fourth quarter, a reverse by Steelers wide receiver Cedrick Wilson for no gain on second-and-10 from the Pittsburgh 30 with the Steelers ahead 13-10.

There were 14 minutes, 51 seconds remaining when the play started and, by the time a false start penalty was called on Steelers guard Kendall Simmons, the Heinz Field clock had run down to 13:59.

**PACKERS' ROSSLEY HAS TESTS:** Green Bay offensive coordinator Tom Rossley underwent heart tests Monday after spending the night at a hospital following a recurrence of warning signs that had sent him to the emergency room.

Rossley, 59, was hospitalized before kickoff Sunday, but he checked himself out of the hospital and returned to Lambeau Field in the second quarter of Green Bay's 17-16 loss to Tampa Bay.

Rossley, who underwent an emergency heart operation last year, still wasn't feeling well after the game, so the Packers sent him to back to Bellin Hospital in Green Bay for an overnight stay. He was cleared Monday to return to work.

### Sunday's late game

**CHARGERS 45 vs. GIANTS 23:** LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 192 yards and three touchdowns, and threw for another score to lead San Diego. Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes for the Chargers (1-2).

Eli Manning threw for a career-high 352 yards and two touchdowns for the Giants (2-1).

# Happy Ticket to face top fillies

**TICKET,** *from C-1*

The family drove across the state to his apartment in Bossier City, where Leggio lives while competing during the Louisiana Downs season.

Happy Ticket, who has won 10 of 11 races, also won the race with her trainer back to Bossier City.

"She got back the next morning," Leggio said. "I should have rode with her. She was in the stall at 2 o'clock."

Leggio and his wife, Joyce, didn't get back to Bossier City until 2 a.m. Aug. 30, the morning after the storm. An announced three-hour delay in Atlantic City turned into an eight-hour delay because of the hurricane, Leggio said. "I was whipped out after that."

Everyone arrived safe and sound. "We had a full house," Leggio said. "It was fun."

Thanks to Happy Ticket, Leggio, a 71-year-old New Orleanian, saddled a horse at Saratoga for the first time in his long training career. Soon, Leggio will be headed to another prestigious track, Belmont Park.

On Thursday, Happy Ticket was flown back to New York to run in the Beldame on Oct. 1 at Belmont, Leggio said. If she performs well — wins or isn't beaten by more than three or four lengths — she'll stay there and run in the Breeders' Cup Distaff on Oct. 29, he said.

The Ballerina was Happy Ticket's first Grade I race, and she passed the test easily. She ran seven furlongs on a muddy track in 1:24.53 to win by 5 1/2 lengths.

"She ran a heck of a race," Leggio said. "I though she could outrun those horses. I didn't know about the mud."

The Grade I Beldame is a mile-and-an-eighth race. Some of America's best fillies and mares, including Ashado, Society Selection, Shadow Cast, Island Sand and Sweet Symphony, are possibilities for the $750,000 race.

"We're going to take a shot at it," Leggio said. "I think she deserves it. She hasn't run with that caliber of horse. We're going to give her a chance to prove herself. ... She's won every distance I've run her."

Happy Ticket, a 4-year-old daughter of Anet and the mare Love and Happiness, is owned and was bred by Stewart Madison. He's a part-owner of Malaco Records, a gospel and blues record company in Jackson, Miss., that has scored big with New Orleans artists.

"Mr. Big Stuff," recorded by Gene Knight, and "Groove Me," recorded by King Floyd, sold a couple of million copies each, Madison said.

Now, Madison is cashing in on a Louisiana filly. Happy Ticket has earned $632,260, and with a Grade I victory, she'll be valuable as a broodmare some day.

But there's more racing to be done. In the Beldame, Happy Ticket will be racing farther than she ever has, but Madison and Leggio say they're not concerned about the distance.

"She's won three times at a mile-and-a-sixteenth, certainly not against this type of competition," Madison said. "But when she runs her race, it doesn't really matter who the competition is.

"She's rate-able. She'll do pretty much what the jock wants her to do."

Leggio points to Happy Ticket's victory last fall in the mile-and-a-sixteenth Champions Day Ladies at the Fair Grounds as evidence that the filly can handle a longer distance. Happy Ticket was blocked on the inside in that race before powering clear in the stretch to beat Destiny Calls — "a pretty nice filly," Leggio said — by four lengths.

"We'll see if she can do the job again," he said. "If she does this, she's a super horse.

"She won't make you ashamed. She'll run hard."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Brian Mosley from Alexandria has a difficult decision to make as he surveys a spread of food during one of the many tailgating parties Monday prior to the LSU-Tennessee kickoff.

# LSU football a friend to displaced fans

**FANS,** *from C-1*

Friend."

Four weeks to the day after Hurricane Katrina rearranged the Tigers' football calendar, just as she destroyed the geographic landscape of the Gulf Coast and the lives of countless thousands, and just two days after Hurricane Rita washed ashore causing similar havoc in southwest Louisiana, the folks who came here had found a friend.

LSU football.

Minds that had been numbed by back-to-back natural catastrophes could, for a few hours at least, rest and recreate the atmosphere LSU football fans know best.

Generators that had been, in some cases, life-sustaining tools days before were being put to other uses: powering portable stoves cooking Louisiana comfort food or chilling refrigerators filled with mind-numbing nectars.

"This has been tough," said Metairie resident Mark Hocke, formerly a student at Tulane and an assistant football coach at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. Hocke - who relocated to Baton Rouge to stay with friends and enroll at LSU, which gave students the day off Monday so that the campus could be cleaned of debris left by Rita - was enjoying the free time leading up to the Tigers' game against Tennessee.

"This is nice to have a chance to go to the game. But, other than that, it's crazy. I guess we've just got to keep a smile on our faces," he said.

After Hurricane Katrina pushed the Sept. 3 season opener against North Texas into November and this past weekend's storm delayed the game against Tennessee to Monday, football-starved party-goers are more eager than ever to uncork their pent-up frustrations.

Recreational vehicles began arriving in surrounding parking lots Sunday, about 25 hours before Monday night's scheduled 6:30, nationally televised kickoff.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Tigers fans gathered hours before the start of the LSU-Tennessee game on Monday to enjoy good company, beverages and, perhaps most importantly, food. Baton Rouge resident Gary Glackletter, left, who played at LSU from 1973-77, and Darren Campbell took care of the food end on large barbecue pits that held a wide sampling of Louisiana delicacies.

Former Saints cornerback Vince Buck was walking through campus with a friend, Kernell Goudia, of Marrero. Buck was on his way to meet former Saints teammate and ex-Tennessee Volunteer J.J. McCleskey, who now owns a construction business in New Orleans called 44 Builders, after McCleskey's old professional jersey number.

Buck, who spent two weeks after Katrina living in powerless East Jefferson Hospital where his wife is an employment specialist, was arranging a business meeting with Goudia and McCleskey. Goudia lost the roof on his home.

"But this is nice to be able to relax," said Buck, whose Kenner home was unaffected, though his Veterans Boulevard transmission business was flooded. "This is my first time here, and it's wild already, and we haven't even gotten to the party yet. This will be great for a whole lot of people."

Even the few Tennessee fans who trekked here from Knoxville were sympathetic to the plight of Louisianians who had been doubly affected by the wicked hand of Mother Nature.

Sitting alone outside his RV in a parking lot across from the southeast corner of the stadium, Knoxville resident George Luallan sipped a cold beverage, shaking his head at what he witnessed on his 800-mile journey that took him through some of the hardest hit areas in Mississippi.

"I couldn't believe what I saw," he said, the orange-and-white Tennessee flag on his vehicle looking starkly out of place, swallowed by purple and gold. "I didn't want to see New Orleans.

"And you know, if they weren't playing Tennessee, I'd hope they'd win. But I didn't drive 800 miles to pull for the other team. But I wish these folks a lot of good luck. Whatever happens, they deserve it."

# Southern Miss eager to begin C-USA play

*Tulane senior is top special teams player*

**From wire reports**

Two hurricanes forced two postponements and led to lots of idle time for Southern Miss. Now, the Golden Eagles are looking forward to getting back to football.

"There's not much you can do about it. You just adjust your plans and you keep a positive attitude," Southern Miss coach Jeff Bower said Monday. "We've prepared for two games that we didn't play, but you know that we'll eventually play those games. I think the players have handled it well, and we gave them some time off to keep them mentally fresh."

Southern Miss (1-1) is preparing for its twice-delayed Conference USA opener. Hurricane Katrina forced the postponement of the Golden Eagles' game Sept. 4 against Tulane, and last week's trip to Houston was rescheduled when Hurricane Rita approached the Louisiana-Texas Gulf Coast. Southern Miss plays East Carolina (1-2) this week.

**TULANE'S LUCAS HONORED:** Tulane senior Sean Lucas was selected Conference USA Special Teams Player of the Week after helping the Green Wave to a 31-10 victory over SMU in both team's C-USA opener.

In his first game as Tulane's primary punt-returner, Lucas gained 74 yards on three returns. His biggest play came with 3:52 remaining in the second quarter when he returned a punt 47 yards to the SMU 24. Five plays later, Matt Forte ran it home from 12 yards out for a 14-0 Green Wave advantage.

Lucas, however, suffered a bruised thigh and did not return. He is questionable for this weekend's game.

**VANDY PLAYER SHOT:** Vanderbilt wide receiver George Smith was shot in the arm and two teammates were injured last weekend at a party at a university apartment building, a school spokeswoman said.

Smith, a redshirt freshman, was shot in the arm early Sunday by someone who is not a university student, school spokeswoman Melanie Moran said. He was taken to Vanderbilt Hospital, was treated and released.

Nashville and university police are investigating the incident and no arrests have been made.

The shooting came hours after Vanderbilt beat Division I-AA Richmond 37-13 and improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1984.

Smith has seven catches for 48 yards and a touchdown this season.

Freshman defensive end Derrius Dowell and redshirt freshman safety Reshard Langford sustained minor cuts and were also treated and released from Vanderbilt Hospital, Moran said.

**MCNEESE GAME POSTPONED:** Southern Utah's game at McNeese State on Saturday in Lake Charles has been postponed indefinitely because of the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

The schools were hoping to reschedule the Division I-AA game, Southern Utah sports information director Neil Gardner said.

Southern Utah and McNeese State both are scheduled to be off Oct. 8, so that is a possibility if the schools can agree on a place to play.

**MEMPHIS QB HURT:** Memphis quarterback Will Hudgens broke his right leg in last weekend's game at Tulsa, three weeks after the Tigers' original starter broke his leg in the opener.

Hudgens broke his fibula and damaged a ligament late in the fourth quarter in the 37-31 overtime loss Saturday night, a team official said. Hudgens became the starter after Patrick Byrne broke his right fibula and tibia in the Tigers' first series against Mississippi on Sept. 5.

## AP TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 24, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

| | Rec. | Pts | Pvs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Southern Cal (59) | 3-0 | 1,619 | 1 |
| 2. Texas (6) | 3-0 | 1,560 | 2 |
| 3. Virginia Tech | 4-0 | 1,448 | 4 |
| 4. LSU | 1-0 | 1,424 | 3 |
| 5. Florida | 4-0 | 1,367 | 5 |
| 6. Florida St. | 3-0 | 1,249 | 6 |
| 7. Georgia | 4-0 | 1,242 | 7 |
| 8. Ohio St. | 3-1 | 1,200 | 8 |
| 9. Miami | 2-1 | 1,028 | 12 |
| 10. Tennessee | 1-1 | 995 | 10 |
| 11. Michigan St. | 4-0 | 905 | 17 |
| 12. California | 4-0 | 892 | 13 |
| 13. Notre Dame | 3-1 | 800 | 16 |
| 14. Arizona St. | 3-1 | 690 | 18 |
| 15. Alabama | 4-0 | 608 | 20 |
| 16. Texas Tech | 3-0 | 512 | 19 |
| 17. Wisconsin | 4-0 | 493 | — |
| 18. Minnesota | 4-0 | 439 | — |
| 19. Virginia | 3-0 | 396 | 23 |
| 20. UCLA | 3-0 | 331 | 25 |
| 21. Boston College | 3-1 | 326 | — |
| 22. Purdue | 2-1 | 322 | 11 |
| 23. Iowa St. | 3-0 | 297 | 22 |
| 24. Louisville | 2-1 | 222 | 9 |
| 25. Georgia Tech | 3-1 | 169 | 15 |

**Others receiving votes:** Auburn 128, Michigan 119, Texas A&M 71, Penn St. 70, West Virginia 57, Oregon 55, Clemson 23, UTEP 15, Vanderbilt 14, Toledo 10, Utah 8, South Florida 7, Colorado 6, Fresno St. 5 1-1, Iowa 2, Wyoming 1.

# Defense carrying Green Wave

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

350 yards. Tulane has gone from near-worst (93rd in the NCAA in total defense last season) to first. It is 21st in rushing defense (75 yards per game) and first in passing defense (86.0).

Scelfo said the defense, which entered the season with high expectations, now has more to play for.

"It's a level of expectation that the defensive team has accepted," Scelfo said. "That's the challenge every week. They put the bar out there in the first game and they went above the bar (against Southern Methodist) and they're going to have to continue their level of play."

With six seniors starting on defense, Scelfo said he won't have to say or do anything to motivate the players.

"I don't think there's any question they know what's at stake. There's some good leadership on defense and the linebackers have a lot of pride," Scelfo said. "They've seen some bad days (in past seasons), but overall, I think they're going to get the defensive line to raise their level of play.

"When you put a goal out there like that, I think it's going to challenge them every day in practice to become better game players."

While it has been some time since Tulane's defense has provided Scelfo with sterling back-to-back performances, the seventh-year Green Wave coach said it isn't the first time one of his teams has played so well. He said the 2002 team, which won the Hawaii Bowl in Honolulu, was the last one to turn in the kind of effort he has witnessed the past two weeks. That team was also filled with seniors.

The play of the defense definitely stuck out in Saturday's 31-10 victory over SMU, but Scelfo said it wasn't the only area that left him feeling good.

"The lack of penalties and mistakes we made in the first two games was very encouraging," he said. "I think we took care of the football on offense."

He dismissed the 20-minute edge in time of possession the Green Wave held over SMU, but said the 24-10 advantage in first downs was another matter.

"That's a stat that's very, very important," he said of the first downs. "Getting first downs, keeping the chains moving, that's what our offense is all about."

Scelfo said the offense is still a concern, but believes it is making progress.

"I think it's a little bit farther along in the passing game than I thought it would be, but we haven't been healthy on the offensive line," he said.

Left tackle Chris McGee and left guard Matt Traina have been banged up a little bit, limiting their effectiveness when they're in the game. McGee suffered an ankle sprain in the season opener against Mississippi State, and reinjured it on the first offensive play against SMU.

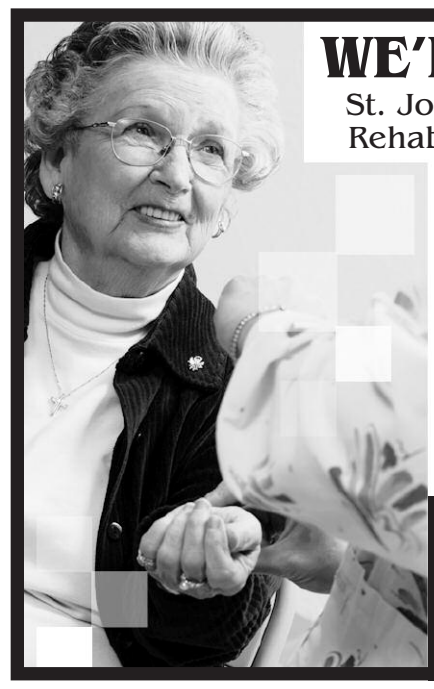
"McGee played at probably 60 percent Saturday," Scelfo said.

The Wave's running game, which netted 87 yards against Mississippi State, was a much more productive against SMU, finishing with 144 yards. As Tulane gets deeper into the season, Scelfo said, opponents will realize the Wave's passing game is capable of inflicting as much damage as its running game and will back off.

"We don't have the big-play capabilities right now, but I think we'll have it as the season progresses," Scelfo said. "(Mississippi State) knew we were young at receiver and hadn't had any breakout guys. Now, when people look at the tape and see Preston (Brown), Damarcus (Davis) and Bubba (Terranova) out there, they're not going to be able to do that. I think that's going to help the running game."

## TULANE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 17, Mississippi State at Shreveport L, 21-14
Sept 24, at SMU, W, 31-10
Oct. 1, SE Louisiana at Baton Rouge, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 8 Houston at Lafayette, 5 p.m.
Oct. 14, UTEP at TBA, ESPN, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22, at UCF, 5 p.m.
Oct. 29, Marshall at TBA, 6 p.m.
Nov. 5, at Navy, 12:30 p.m.
Nov. 12 at Rice, 2 p.m.
Nov. 19, Tulsa at TBA, 6 p.m.
Nov. 26, at Southern Miss, ESPN2, 3 p.m.

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

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Tuesday
September 27, 2005

MREs make the grade with undiscriminating diners.

**Wednesday in Living**

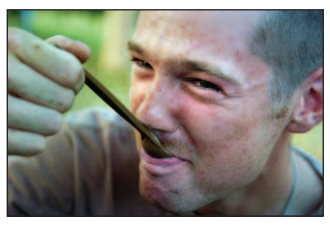




PHOTO BY JOHN ROWLAND/THE DAILY ADVERTISER

John Blancher, far right, owner of the Mid-City Lanes Rock 'n' Bowl, and his son, Johnny Blancher, far left, talk with Buddy Palmer of the Acadiana Arts Council and Russell Palmer of Corporate Realty about options for opening a club in Lafayette.

# Keep on rockin'

## Rock 'n' Bowl's Johnny Blancher *hunkers down in Lafayette, making plans for the future*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

If you called up the Mid-City Lanes Rock 'n' Bowl Web site in Katrina's immediate aftermath, it was barren. No schedule, no online store, no accolades, no photos of pretty young bartenders in cropped pink, 1950s-style roller girl tops.

Just a simple, defiant declaration, an old slogan now more meaningful than ever: Rock 'n' Bowl will never die.

On Sept. 13, proprietor John Blancher paid his first post-Katrina visit to the bowling alley at the corner of Tulane and Carrollton, which opened in 1941 in an area that was a virtual ghost town until he transformed it into one of New Orleans' most beloved music venues.

A foot of water still stood in the parking lot; he spotted a minnow, and had seen dead mullets on the nearby interstate. The floodwaters had topped out at 8 feet, not enough to reach up the stairs to the second-floor bowling alley.

Humans, however, had wreaked more havoc than the storm.

"I was looted," Blancher said. "They busted the front door, then busted the jukebox, the video poker machines, all the video games. They busted the office door down."

He salvaged computer and payroll records from the office. When he left, he propped a life-size cut-out of the late zydeco giant Beau Jocque at the top of the stairs. Should looters return and peep in the door, the hulking silhouette may at least give them pause.

"I've got Beau Jocque watching over Rock 'n' Bowl," he said.

*See* **BOWL**, *C-8*

# An amazing evacuation

## *New Orleans family stars in* 'The Amazing Race,' *then comes home to Katrina*



**DAVE WALKER**
*On the Air*

To the Schroeder family of New Orleans, the amazing experience of participating in "The Amazing Race," the Emmy Award-winning CBS reality series that launches its new season with a two-hour premiere at 8 tonight, seems like a long, long time ago.

After completing taping of the competitive globe-trot, which this season tweaks its formula by pitting 10 families in a race for a $1 million, the Schroeders returned to their lives in New Orleans to await their prime-time debut.

Dad Mark is an architect. Wife and stepmom Char is a hotel public relations director. Daughter Stassi, a senior at Mount Carmel Academy. Son Hunter, a freshman at Brother Martin.

Enter Katrina.

After loading a few things in their "Amazing Race" luggage, the Schroeders evacuated toward Shreveport, where they'd planned to ride out the storm with new friends - and "Amazing Race" foes - the Rogers family.

"We stuffed our bags with a couple of changes of clothes like everybody else and started heading

*See* **AMAZING**, *C-8*



The Schroeder family of New Orleans, including Mark, his wife Char, and children Stassi and Hunter, thought that their first appearance on national TV would be tonight's 'The Amazing Race' season premiere. Instead, this morning, CBS' 'The Early Show' is set to broadcast a segment of them getting a first look at their damaged home.



**CHRIS ROSE**

# Where nudity meets normalcy

## *The strippers are back on Bourbon, and we can all be thankful for that*

Even at the End of Days, there will be lap-dancing.

Over the weekend, while a desolate, desperate city plunged into darkness and the waters rose again in the Rita Aftermath, and while a population spread across the nation watched new horrors with churning guts on TV, a strip club opened on Bourbon Street.

The symbolism of this event can hardly be overstated.

The Saints are gone. The Hornets are gone. Zephyr Field is a staging area for choppers to go find dead people.

No college hoops. No movie theaters, no Swamp Fest, no Voodoo Fest. No horses running at the Fairgrounds. No line for Friday lunch at Galatoire's.

But there are topless women hanging upside down from brass poles at a place called Deja Vu. Gaudiness, flesh, neon and bad recorded music have returned to one small outpost on the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, and if that's not one small step towards normalcy — at least as that term is defined in the Big Uneasy — then I don't know what is.

There were about 100 guys in there Saturday night, all of them with very, very short hair, which is basically what everyone around here who's not a journalist has these days.

Exactly how a posse of exotic dancers were smuggled into town during the most severe lockdown in this city since the hurricane crises began, well, I don't know.

Inexplicable things seem to be the norm around here these days.

When I walk down the street one day and some rumpled grifter tells me he knows where I got my shoes, then I guess I'll know we're fully on our way home. (Of course, I could be cynical and tasteless and tell the guy: I got them at Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas like everyone else, but that would be cynical and tasteless.)

And speaking of tasteless: This is not a topic I want to delve to deeply into, but someone has to call out the demagogic ministers who have used Katrina's destruction to preach the message that God was tired of this city's libertine ways and decided to clean house.

Let me roll at you some snippets of wisdom that have been widely distributed on the Internet from Rev. Bill Shanks, pastor of New Covenant Fellowship in Metairie: "New Orleans now is Mardi Gras free. New Orleans now is free of Southern Decadence and the sodomites, the witchcraft workers, false religion — it's free of all of those things now. God simply, I believe, in His mercy purged all of that stuff out of there — and now we're going to start over again."

Well, almost. It's an interesting interpretation, to be sure, and Shanks is not the only man of the cloth to make such claims. No doubt, it's a good message for the evangelical business.

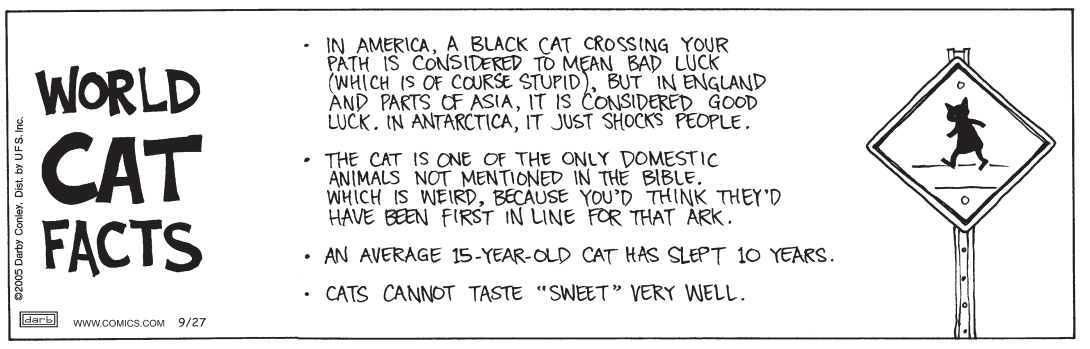
*See* **ROSE**, *C-8*

# COMICS

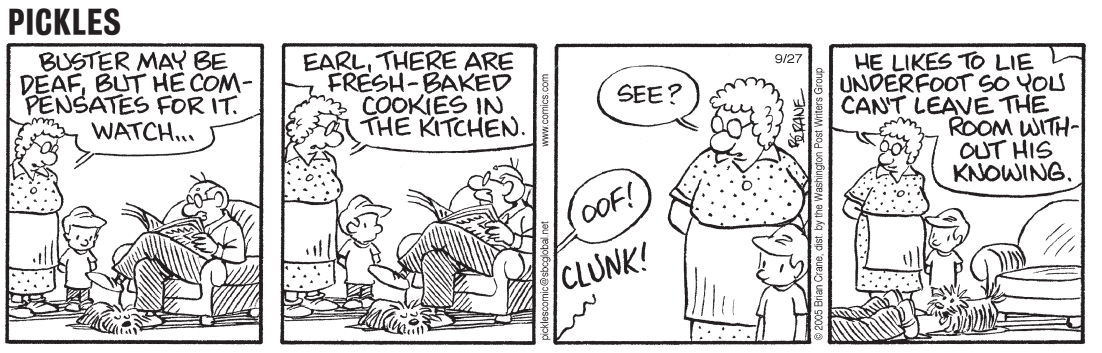
## ZITS




## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



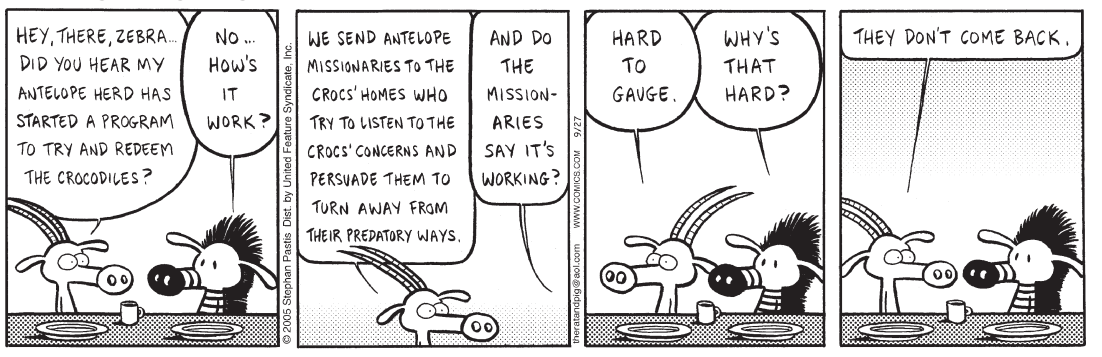

## FOX TROT




### JASON'S HOROSCOPES

Aries: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Taurus: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Gemini: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Cancer: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Leo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Virgo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Libra: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Scorpio: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Sagittarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Capricorn: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Aquarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Pisces: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

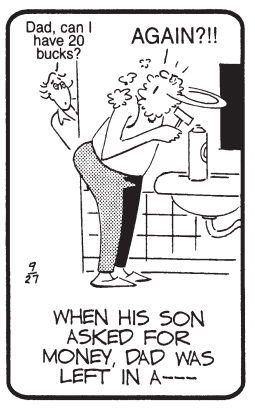
BITUC

SBAAH

BEWOLB

LARPIL

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Print answer here:*** "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNCLE OFTEN GOITER LICHEN
Answer: Why the spies went to the university — FOR "INTELLIGENCE"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | E1 | N1 | R1 | L1 | T1 | C3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | I1 | O1 | H4 | P3 | L1 | C3 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | O1 | D2 | M3 | S1 | R1 | T1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| E1 | E1 | I1 | I1 | S1 | T1 | P3 | 2nd Letter Double |

PAR SCORE 165-175
BEST SCORE 218

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

| | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 165-175 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = | L1 | E1 | C3 | T1 | E1 | R1 | N1 | 59 |
| RACK 2 = | C3 | A1 | L1 | I1 | P3 | H4 | | 39 |
| RACK 3 = | S1 | T1 | O1 | R1 | M3 | E1 | D2 | 60 |
| RACK 4 = | P3 | I1 | E1 | T1 | I1 | E1 | S1 | 60 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | 218 |

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | B | Y | W | U | R | H | P | N | K | I | G | M | D |
| B | Z | X | C | V | S | C | O | Q | O | M | K | A | I | G |
| D | L | U | O | G | I | T | E | C | A | Y | R | W | U | S |
| Q | P | N | R | L | N | D | L | N | J | S | K | H | F | E |
| C | A | Y | I | E | N | I | R | A | A | X | I | V | B | U |
| S | Q | W | G | A | N | E | T | L | P | M | B | N | M | M |
| K | Z | R | L | J | K | H | I | T | H | F | U | E | U | C |
| B | A | P | I | L | Z | S | C | A | O | Y | K | H | R | X |
| V | O | N | A | M | K | C | U | R | D | N | U | T | C | R |
| C | Q | W | N | O | T | S | I | P | I | P | E | O | M | S |
| L | K | N | O | S | N | A | H | S | I | K | H | M | G | E |

Monday's unlisted clue: CHINESE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: TRUMPETER WYNTON —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Argento | Druckman | Kubik | Spratlan |
| Copland | Gould | Menotti | Walker |
| Corigliano | Hanson | Piston | Zwilich |
| Crumb | Kirchner | Schuman | |

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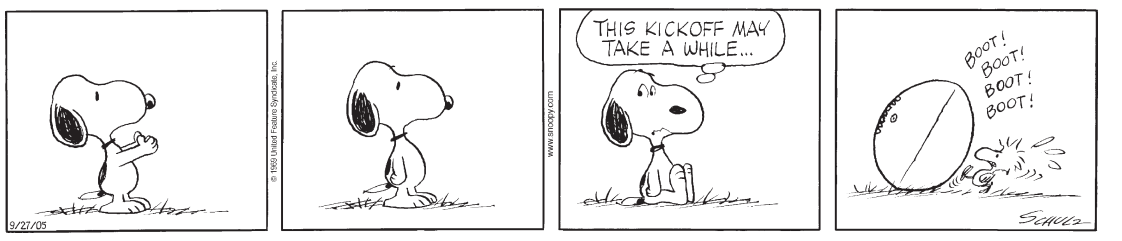
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | |
| C | P | O | E | J | R | A | N | O | S | T | H | E | |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | |
| H | Y | A | F | O | R | U | E | R | T | T | R | A | |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | |
| I | S | O | O | G | E | J | M | O | R | N | E | H | |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | |
| Y | S | A | U | A | E | M | U | I | D | S | V | E | |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 | |
| I | R | N | S | N | E | E | O | V | Y | I | T | S | |
| 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | |
| O | D | U | O | Y | Y | R | R | H | Y | E | M | O | |
| 8 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | |
| E | U | R | N | I | S | E | N | W | R | E | D | D | |

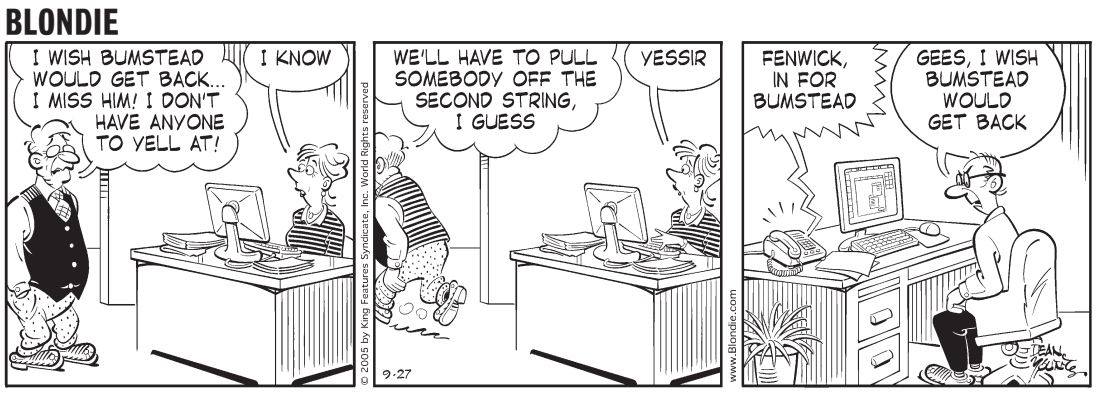
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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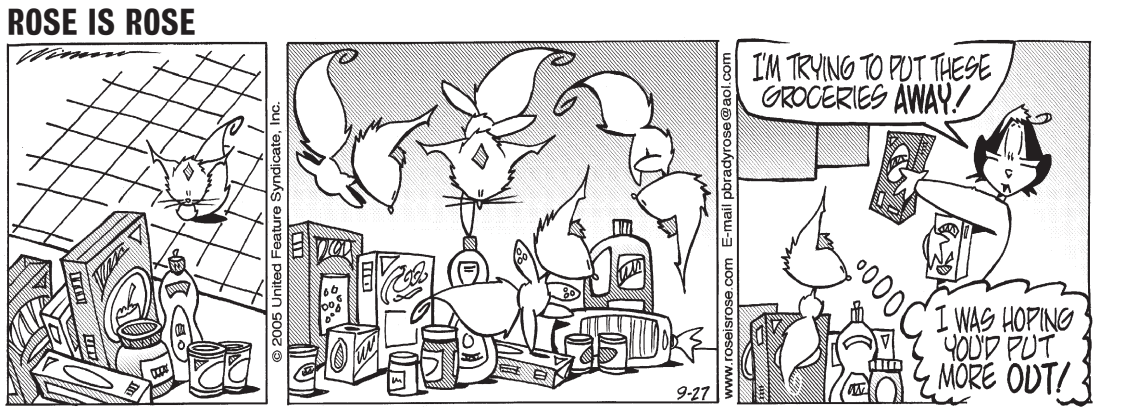
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



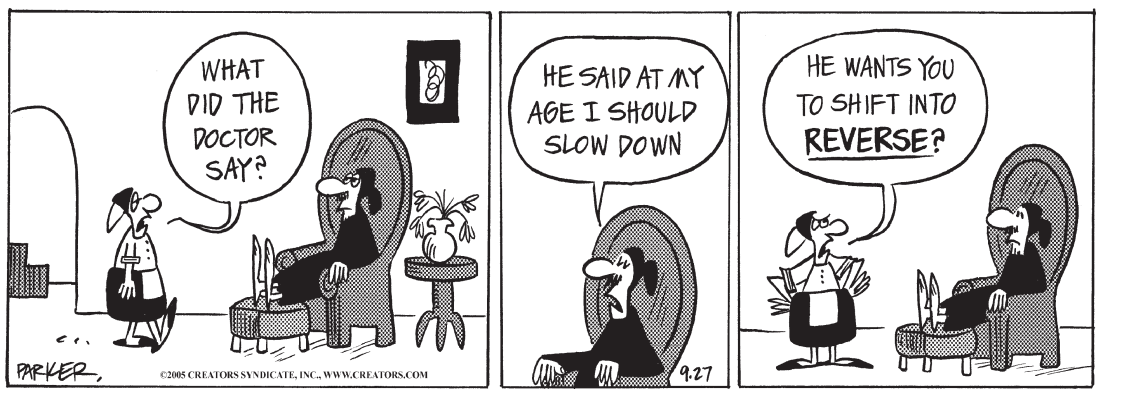

## BLONDIE



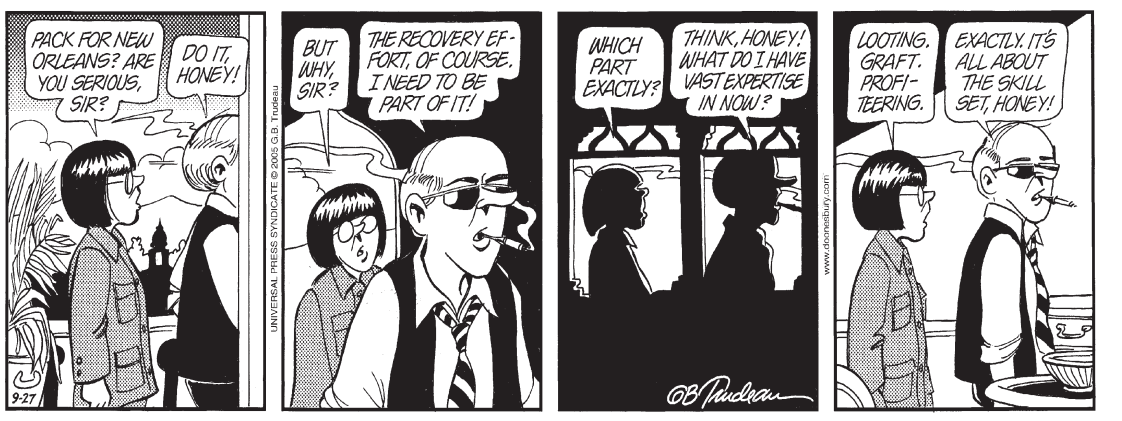

## ROSE IS ROSE



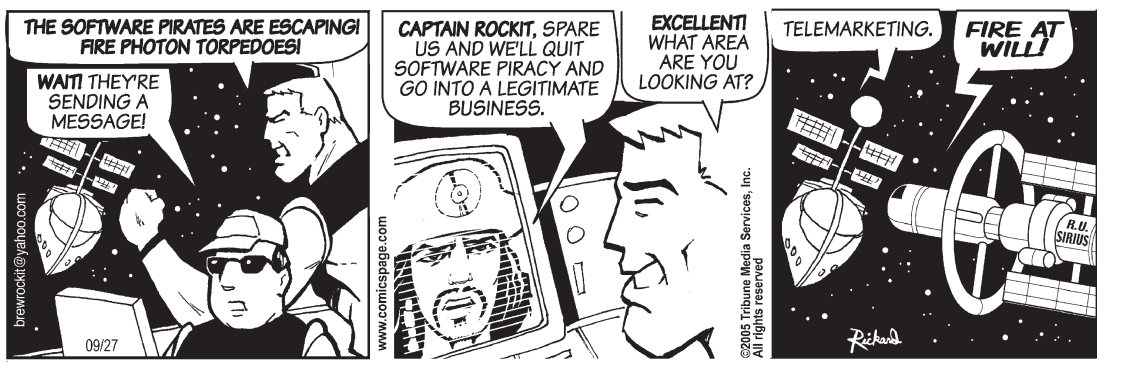

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



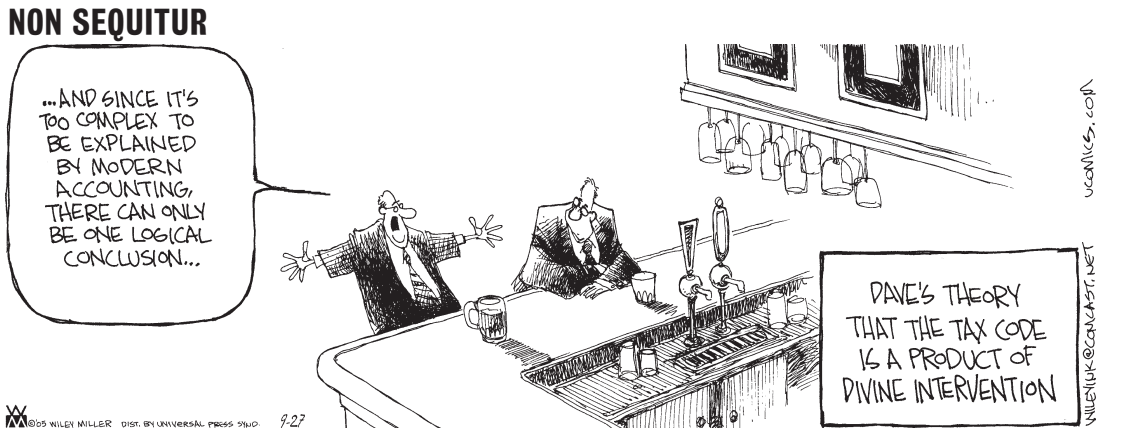

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



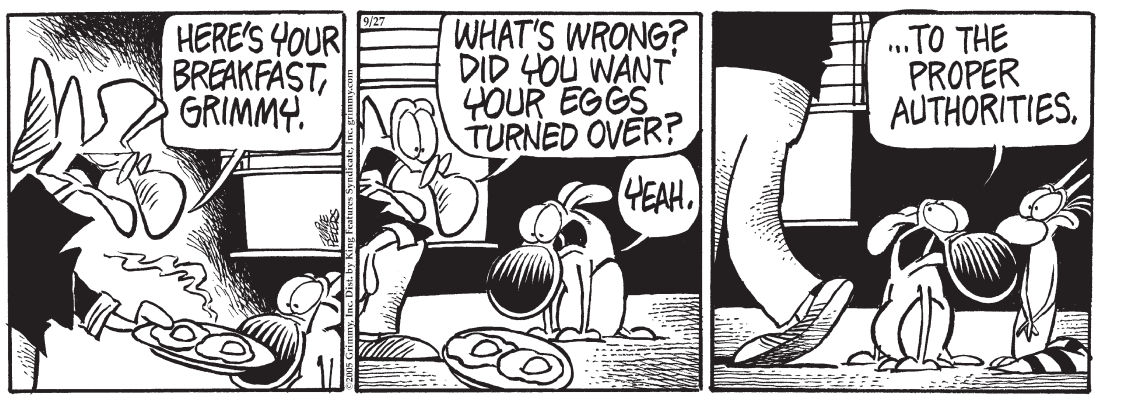

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

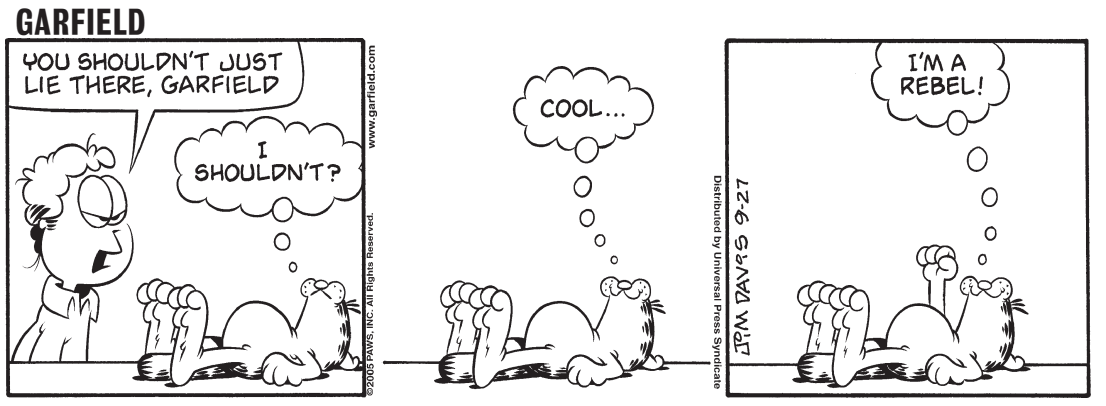



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

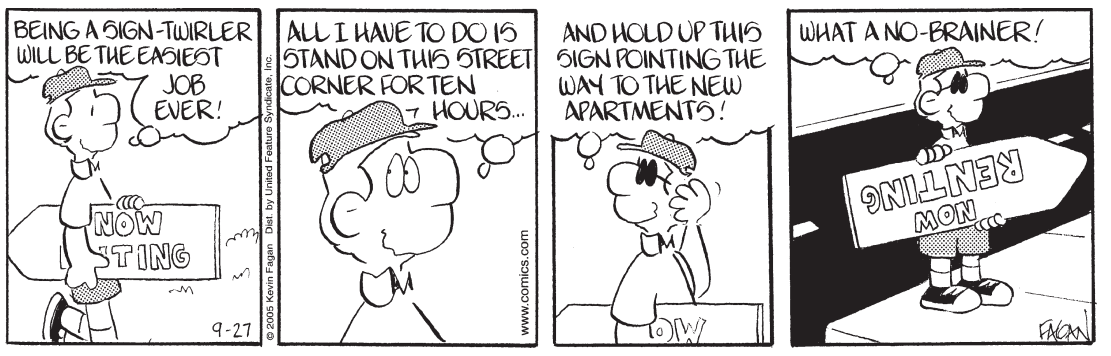


# COMICS

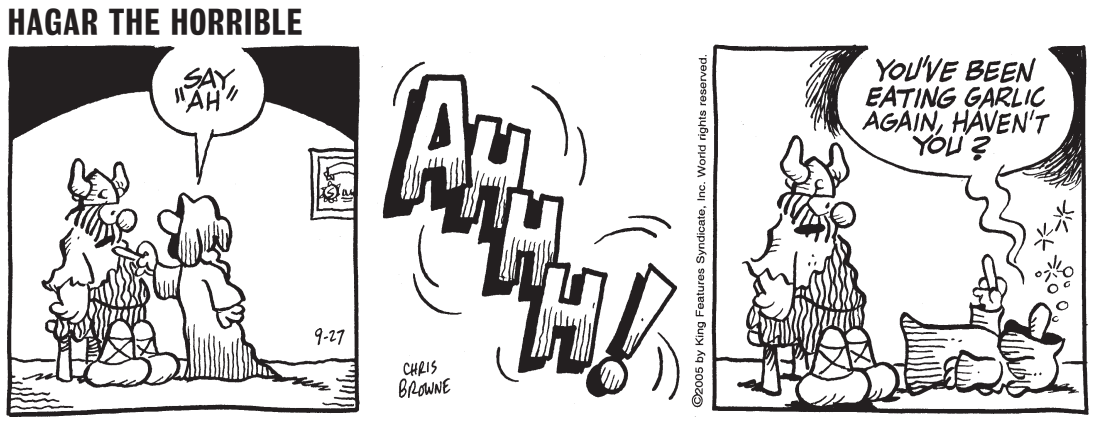
## GARFIELD



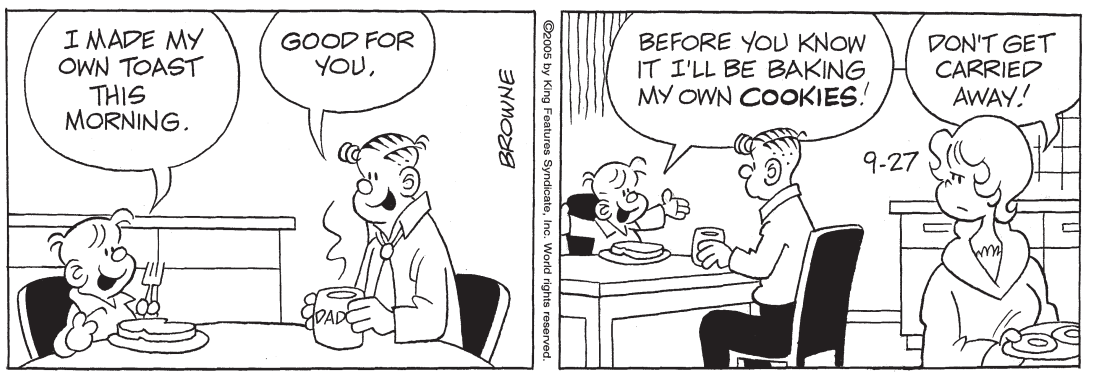

## DRABBLE



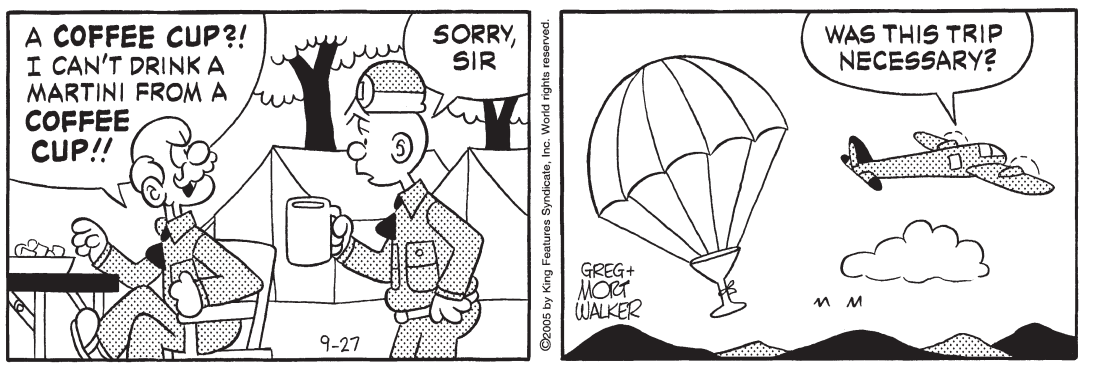

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



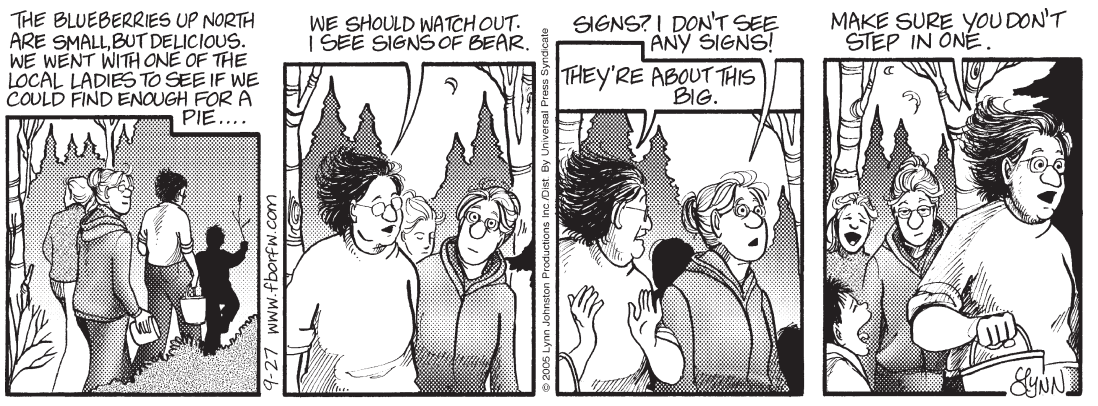

## HI & LOIS



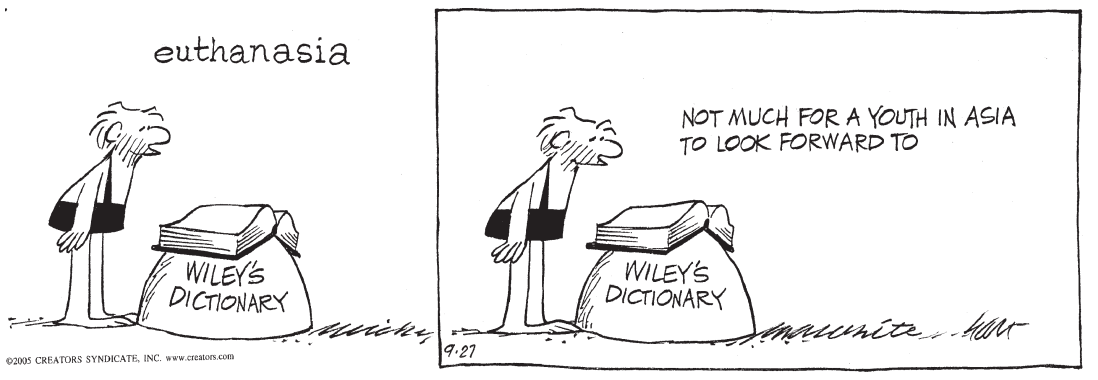

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



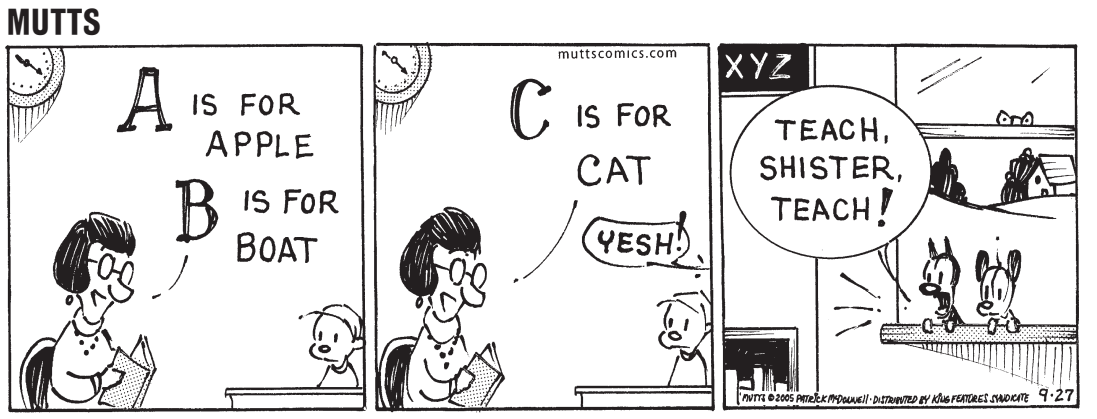

## B.C.



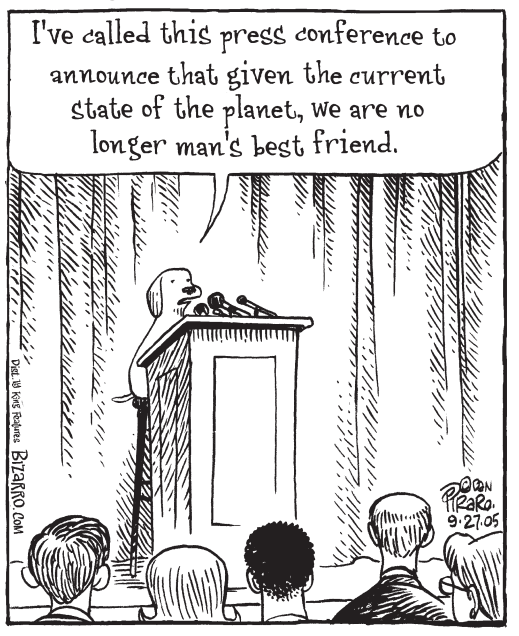

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



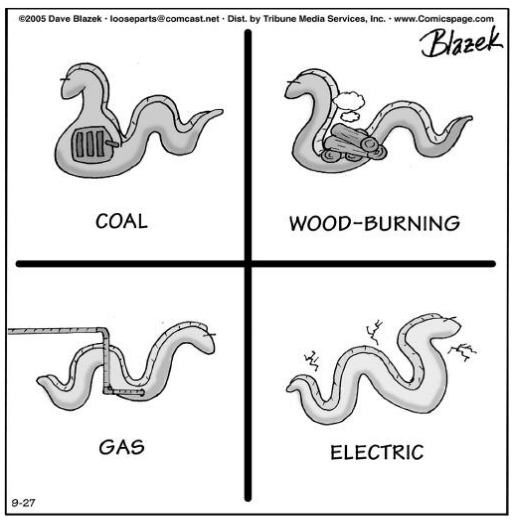

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

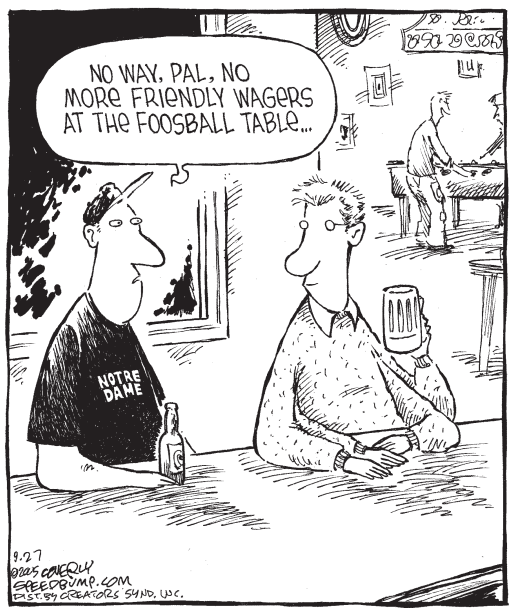



## LOOSE PARTS




The four major categories of eels

## SPEED BUMP

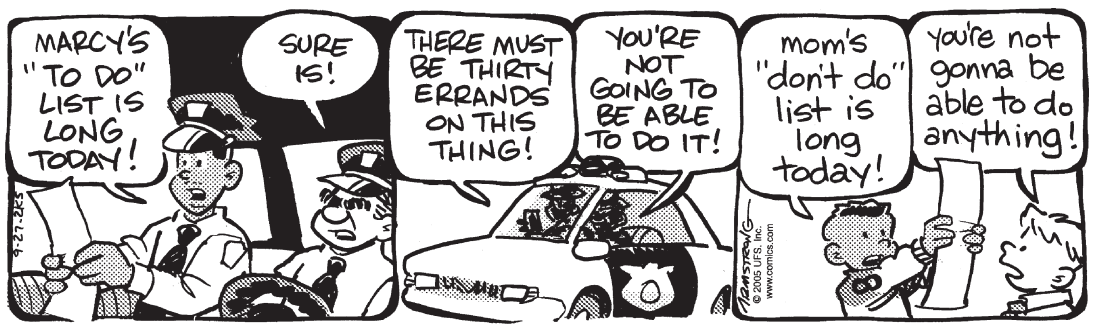



## MARMADUKE

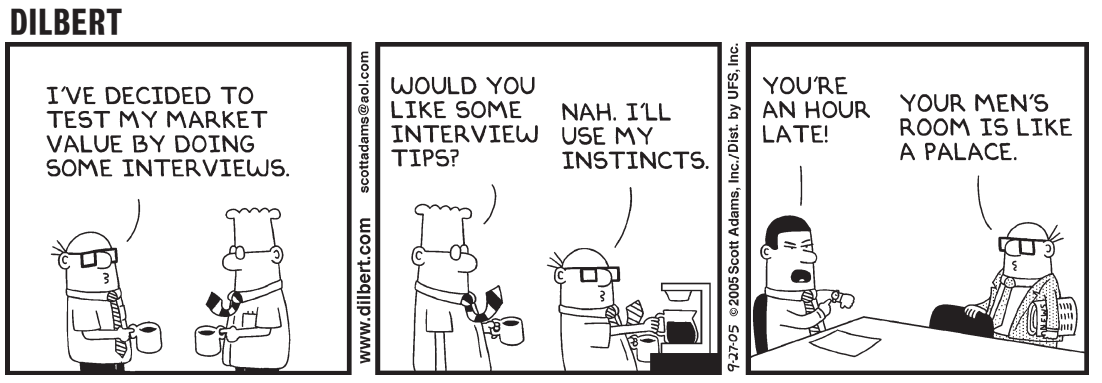



"When he dug the smaller hole he was just warming up."

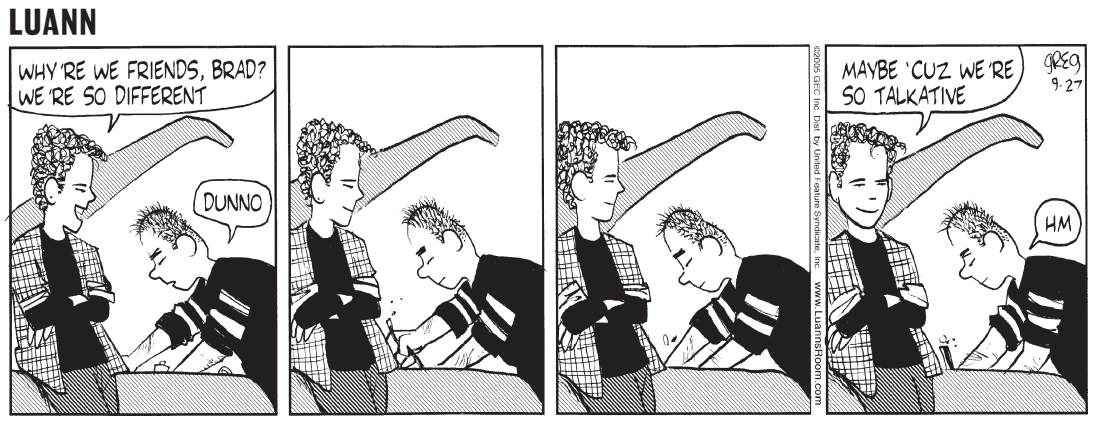
## JUMP START



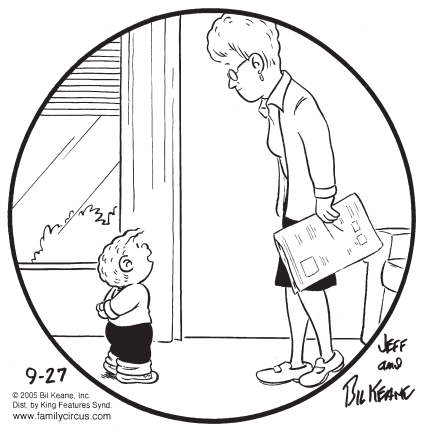

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



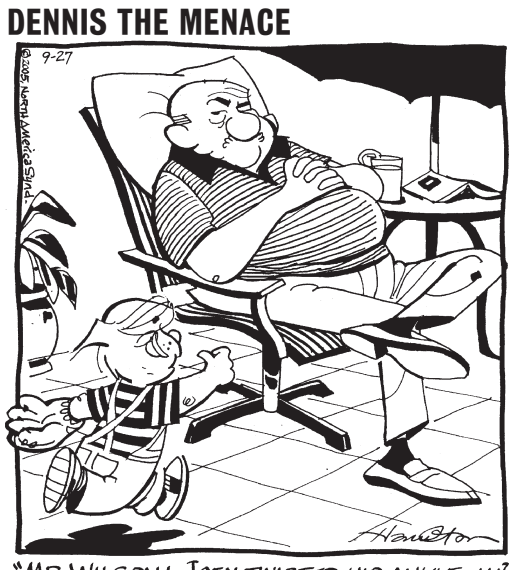

"If you decide to go to the pet store for anything, Grandma, I'll be happy to go with you."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Are the fish safe to EAT?! Heck, yeah! Me and Leon been eatin' 'em for 30 years!"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"MR. WILSON! JOEY TWISTED HIS ANKLE, AN' WE NEED YOU TO RUN THE BASES FOR HIM."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING** — **Solution: 8 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | C | B | N | S | T | I | C | I | F | E | D | F | C | B |
| O | L | R | O | F | P | R | O | F | I | T | I | O | O | U |
| I | L | E | I | S | U | P | P | L | Y | R | N | N | R | Y |
| T | E | S | T | S | K | N | A | B | M | S | O | E | P | E |
| I | S | T | A | E | I | W | D | A | U | I | C | N | O | R |
| T | I | I | L | D | S | S | R | M | T | N | R | O | R | D |
| E | R | M | U | E | N | K | E | A | A | T | E | I | A | E |
| P | P | A | C | B | E | R | I | N | S | E | D | T | T | T |
| M | R | T | L | T | S | R | I | S | T | R | I | P | I | R |
| O | E | I | A | S | A | F | E | M | N | E | T | O | O | O |
| C | T | O | C | V | I | N | E | O | E | S | S | D | N | P |
| O | N | N | G | S | I | F | I | N | M | T | S | E | T | X |
| S | E | A | C | S | H | A | R | E | Y | O | O | A | S | E |
| T | I | A | U | R | A | T | E | Y | A | C | L | L | I | B |
| N | L | B | D | E | M | A | N | D | P | K | H | S | A | C |

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Bank, Bill, Business, Buyer, Calculation, Cash, Competition, Consumers, Corporation, Cost, Credit, Crisis, Deal, Debts, Deficits, Demand, Enterprise, Estimation, Exported, Finance, Firm, Fiscal, Fund, Gain, Interest, Laws, Loss, Market, Money, Option, Payment, Profit, Rate, Sell, Share, Stock, Supply, Variation

**Yesterday's Answer: Parachute**

WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

# KREWE OF KATRINA

Someday we will have our lives back. Then what will we wear for our Mardi Gras costumes?

There's some therapeutic value in taking a break from day-to-day reality to think ahead to the normal times around the calendar corner, when we can get together again with friends at the drop of a phone call. When we can have birthday bashes and crawfish boils and tailgate parties.

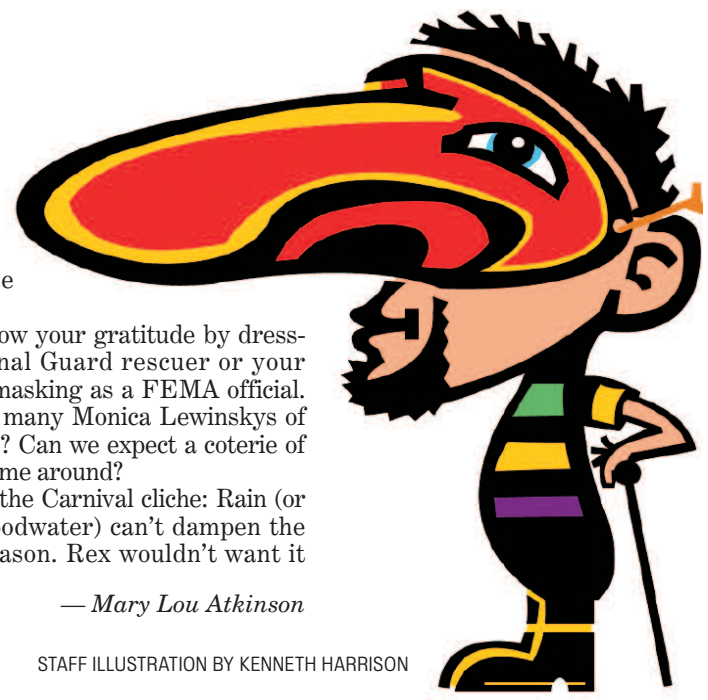
But the biggest party of all is Mardi Gras — and everyone agrees There Must Be a Mardi Gras 2006. By then, these dirge days, as President Bush called them, will be behind us and we can show that we still have a sense of humor as well as pride in our ability to overcome — even thumb our noses at — adversity.

So take a few moments to mentally fast-forward a few months and consider how you would costume for Carnival as a family of water bottles and MREs. For an individual statement, you might don a helicopter headpiece and a purple, green and gold life vest and put a rhinestone-studded inner tube around your waist. Accessorize with the traditional white rubber boots.

You could show your gratitude by dressing as a National Guard rescuer or your frustration by masking as a FEMA official. Remember the many Monica Lewinskys of a few years ago? Can we expect a coterie of Katrinas next time around?

Don't forget the Carnival cliche: Rain (or in this case, floodwater) can't dampen the spirit of the season. Rex wouldn't want it any other way.

*— Mary Lou Atkinson*



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# 'Amazing' generosity





The Schroeder family home before Hurricane Katrina (ABOVE); and after.

**AMAZING,** *from C-1*

north," Char said.

But then the Schroeders accidentally bumped their vehicles together in Covington.

Both cars disabled, the family hunkered down in a nearby home till Katrina passed, then proceeded to Shreveport for 10 days (in a newly purchased cheapo van). They then headed back to Baton Rouge, where they've since struggled to settle school situations for Stassi and Hunter.

Char, meanwhile, has been working at a satellite office for her employer.

"Helping to find employees, guests, luggage, you name it," she said. "Working around the clock."

They'd seen all the terrible helicopter footage on TV in Shreveport, so they knew their house near Lake Pontchartrain was swamped by floodwater.

A crew from CBS's "The Early Show" recently followed them into the city for their first look at the wreckage, a segment that is scheduled to air this morning.

It should make for great TV, at least for everybody watching who can't relate too intimately to the Schroeders' situation.

"Hundreds of dead fish on our lawn," said Char. "Mud filled everything. It's a complete loss."

On the brighter side, Mark's downtown office was undamaged by Katrina and Char's expects the hotel industry to thrive during the city's recovery. The Schroeders already have an apartment lined up in Uptown.

"It's an awful thing to say, but this is really going to make New Orleans much better," Mark said. "It's going to make people really appreciate the city and really want to be part of the city.



Mark, Sassi, Char and Hunter Schroeder of New Orleans race toward a new clue in the family-themed season premiere of 'The Amazing Race' at 8 tonight on CBS and WWL-Channel 4.

"Six months from now, I think the people of New Orleans will be New Orleans' greatest generation."

Not long after the Schroeders arrived in Baton Rouge, a delivery driver arrived at Char's temporary office.

The Rogers family of Shreveport — Denny, Renee, Brittney and Brock — had called ahead to say that there had been a collection taken among the other "Amazing Race" families.

"So we walked outside and met the man," said Char. "It was a car full of gift baskets, cards, letters, clothes and checks from the other families. A carload, an absolute carload."

The family's fierce competition with the people who sent the relief gifts "seems like a long time ago," said Char, who added that the grueling experience of filming the TV show has prepared the family to rough it back in New Orleans, with no water, no electricity.

"What (the show) also created was an extended family," she said of her competitors on the reality TV show.

"I never thought (that) was even possible," Char said. "If they're not calling every day, they're e-mailing."

Char said she has held herself together during most of this Katrina-Rita ordeal, but lost it when the gift-mobile pulled up.

It's a feeling that's probably familiar to anybody who has experienced unexpected kindness from afar during the past few weeks.

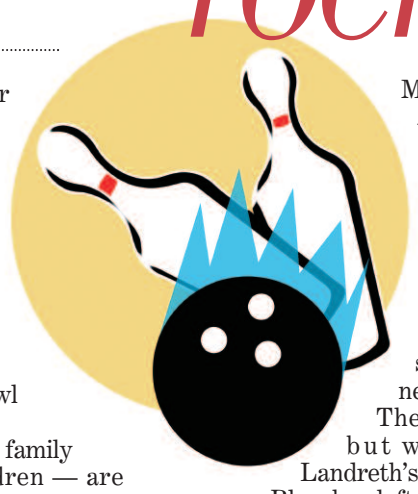
"I just broke down in tears," she said. "That was one of the very few times I've felt extremely overwhelmed. Overwhelmed in a very wonderful sense."

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TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# Rock 'n' Bowl *rocks on*

**BOWL,** *from C-1*



To anyone who has ever observed Blancher drinking and dancing and stripping off his shirt to sing with the band, this much is clear: He enjoys his work more than most. Katrina accomplished what his wife never could: It forced him to take off an entire weekend for the first time since he opened Rock 'n' Bowl 17 years ago.

He and 11 members of his family — kids, in-laws, grandchildren — are staying with his wife's sister in Lafayette. In the past two weeks, he's scouted locations for a new Rock 'n' Bowl along the I-10 corridor. He envisions it as the anchor of a New Orleans-themed complex of iconic restaurants and nightclubs, a haven for expatriates and locals in whatever burg is fortunate enough to land it. A bit of Big Easy fun on the bayou, perhaps.

Not that Blancher has given up on New Orleans. He thinks he could reopen the original location next spring, especially if the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is staged. "If Jazzfest can pull it off in New Orleans, then Rock 'n' Bowl could open at that time, too," he said.

But Katrina and its aftermath revealed serious flaws in the city's infrastructure, deeper and more profound than he had imagined. New Orleans, he fervently believes, must be completely rebuilt, starting with "super-levees" and a revitalized port, airport and road system. Schools, too.

"God's given us the opportunity to do it better," he said.

On Sept. 10, he announced as much in front of 5,000 people gathered at Lafayette's Parc International for "Band Together," a benefit concert for the Red Cross. The best of Acadiana – Michael and David Doucet, Zachary Richard, Sonny Landreth, Roddie Romero – performed.

After Richard's set, Blancher – wearing a monogrammed, peach Rock 'n' Bowl bowling shirt – commandeered the microphone. With his son Johnny at his side, he preached about the need for new levees and schools. The audience applauded politely, but was clearly eager to hear Landreth's slide guitar.

Blancher left the stage. He swept up a Rock 'n' Bowl bartender, a Lafayette native, for a dance as Romero crooned Randy Newman's "Louisiana 1927." They're trying to wash us away, indeed.

When not working in exile, Blancher has better acquainted himself with southwest Louisiana, home to the zydeco bands he's long championed. He finally visited the Whiskey River dancehall on the Atchafalaya Basin. "I'm getting to see all these places I've always heard about," he said.

And he's running into New Orleans expatriates and Rock 'n' Bowl fans everywhere in Lafayette. Well, almost everywhere.

"I go to the bank, I go to a restaurant, I go to a supermarket, I go to a bar, and people know me," he said. "On Sunday, I went to church. It was packed – and I didn't know a soul. No one."

He laughs.

"I don't know what that says about my friends, or me."

Regardless, he is Rock 'n' Bowl wherever he goes. Now more than ever.

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Keith Spera, music writer, can be reached at keithspera@yahoo.com.

# The naked truth

**ROSE,** *from C-1*

Of course, try telling some poor guy down in St. Bernard Parish who has never heard of Southern Decadence and who goes to Bible study every Wednesday night that he lost his house and his job and his grandmother died in a flooded nursing home because God was angry at a bunch of bearded guys in dresses over on Dumaine Street.

Collateral damage, I guess. The question that arises, of course, is that if Shanks' prophecy is true, how come Plaquemines, St. Bernard, the East and Lakeview are gone, but the French Quarter is still standing?

I'd suggest that there are those who have confused meteorology with mythology, global warming with just plain hot air, but that might be cynical and tasteless.

And I'll try to leave that stuff where it belongs — in the French Quarter, where the craziest patchwork of people ever gathered on this planet are cobbling back together a strange and mind-boggling Twilight Zone of what it once was.

File that one under: Only in New Orleans.

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SPORTS: WEB EDITION

# Clausen's second half much better than Pelini's



PETER FINNEY

The first half belonged to Bo Pelini.

The game belonged to Rick Clausen.

In the final 30 minutes, as Clausen, LSU's gift to the Tennessee Vols, began throwing strike after strike, you could almost see the blood drain from Les Miles, not to mention the 91,986 on hand to welcome the start of a new football era.

For anyone with no rooting interest, this was a great story.

A quarterback who started one game during his only season in purple and gold came out of the bullpen to turn Tiger Stadium into the quietest place in the U.S.

It was as if Clausen spotted his former team a 21-0 lead, then dinked the Tigers to a slow death on the way to a 30-27 overtime victory Monday night.

For the home team, it was torture.

For the winning quarterback, it was kismet.

This was really a story in two parts, two halves actually.

When Hurricane Katrina forced the Tigers to play Miles' opening game as LSU coach at Arizona State, and Miles' team responded with a dramatic 35-31 win, the thrill of victory was tempered by a defense that gave up 560 yards, the biggest chunk in the air.

Pelini, the defensive coordinator Miles brought in to handle the defense, was a man on the spot.

Could the Tigers defend more effectively against a Tennessee team in the hands of "super sophomore" Erik Ainge?

For 30 minutes, Pelini's defense was close to outstanding, pressuring Ainge, forcing him into bad decisions, eventually chasing him to the bench when he went brain dead and threw an interception to give LSU a three-touchdown lead.

It all began when cornerback Jesse Daniels ran down Ainge from behind and forced a fumble. After one play, a 19-yard run by Joseph Addai, it was 7-0.

It was 14-0 in the second quarter when the Tigers went 70 yards in four plays. And it was 21-0 when Ainge was pressured in the end zone and threw a wild interception into the hands of linebacker Kenneth Hollis.

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-10*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Tennessee starting quarterback Erik Ainge's poor performance in the first half got him pulled after going 7-of-19 with an interception, and a lost fumble after being tackled by LSU's Jessie Daniels.

# Tigers fall flat in the second half

**LSU,** *from C-1*

27 Tennessee comeback in overtime.

The stunning win keeps the 2-1 Vols' SEC title aspirations alive into October, at least.

Finally, Clausen, the former LSU depth-chart casualty turned transfer, shined underneath Tiger Stadium's elusive lights, filling his fairy tale with 196 yards and a touchdown pass.

"I don't know if there has ever been a better story than Rick Clausen," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said. "I really don't, in all of college football. He's a tough-minded guy. He obviously had to handle the disappointment at the beginning of the week, and he handled it with toughness and class.

"His teammates rallied around him, and obviously him coming in and getting done what he got done was just unbelievable."

Hoping to establish some sort of stability for his 10th-ranked Vols at the quarterback position, Fulmer gave Erik Ainge the nod of approval after his clean-up work in a 16-7 loss to Florida. He was the guy. No doubt about it.

But all it took was a couple of glances at a tilted, 21-0 scoreboard for Fulmer to change his tune. Enter Clausen.

Ainge's final completion landed in the welcoming hands of LSU linebacker Kenneth Hollis - an ill-advised, safety-avoiding heave that Hollis escorted across the goal line with 6:55 remaining until halftime. As the ball fluttered, Cameron Vaughn tossed Ainge wrestling-style into the upright padding. Though not injured, Ainge was replaced on the ensuing possession.

In hindsight, LSU wasted a critical opportunity to add to its huge lead as quarterback JaMarcus Russell failed to get out of bounds on a second-down scramble deep in Tennessee territory, allowing the first-half clock to expire.

"I was in the mode of playing," Russell said. "I really wasn't thinking about getting out of bounds."

Clausen chipped into LSU's comfortable advantage, connecting with Brent Smith on an eight-yard slant midway through the third quarter. Conversely, LSU's offense - occasionally explosive in the first half - hibernated for the remaining 30 minutes-plus, compiling a meager 56 yards, leaving the stage clear for Clausen's heroics.

"It was a freaking joke," defensive tackle Kyle Williams said after the fourth-ranked Tigers fell to 1-1. "It wasn't anything they did. Total breakdown. To have a 21-point lead on a team like that and to come out and be as complacent as we were in the beginning (of the second half). ... In the beginning we were fired up, ready to go. I don't know what happened. ...We played like a joke."

Clausen directed scoring drives of 13, two and nine plays in the fourth quarter to force overtime and another coin toss.

LSU's lone extra possession stalled after one first down. Colt David - the Tigers' extra-point specialist - kicked his first collegiate field goal (31 yards), providing a temporary 27-24 lead. Clausen completed his only overtime attempt, a 10-yard pass to Riggs good for a first down to the Tigers' 15.

From there, Fulmer stayed simple, handing off to Riggs (89 yards on 27 carries) three consecutive plays, moving to the one. After a failed quarterback sneak, Riggs overpowered Tigers defenders for the winning touchdown.

"(My family) said, 'You got to stay. You never know what might happen,' " Clausen recalled. "I'm so thankful to those guys and the 70 guys in the locker room. Those are the guys that kept me going and their faith in me. I will always be indebted to those guys."



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU linebacker Kenneth Hollis returns an interception three yards for a touchdown to put the Tigers ahead 21-0 in the second quarter.



Tigers quarterback JaMarcus Russell scrambles out of the pocket during the second quarter against the Volunteers on Monday night.

# Game takes horror-story turn

BATON ROUGE — Somewhere around the middle of the feel-good tale, the outcome drastically changed — like Stephen King yanked the pen from Dr. Seuss and took over the writing.

Right there on Easy Street, with the sun shining and birds harmonizing and nary a vehicle present to impede progress, LSU drove into a Hummer-sized pothole. Then the Tigers exited the vehicle, limping, and promptly slipped on a banana peel, wrenched their backs and ended up in traction.



JOHN DESHAZIER

At least, that must be what Monday night felt like for Les Miles.

LSU's first-year coach watched his team look helpless in his long-awaited, long-anticipated debut at Tiger Stadium, where magic routinely is conjured at night but couldn't be hocus-pocused when LSU needed it most against Tennessee.

From a 21-0 first-half lead to a 30-27 overtime loss, the Tigers unraveled in Miles' home opener.

"We needed to be on the field," Miles said when asked about coaching his first game at Death Valley. "We need games. We looked like we were playing our second game."

Tennessee, for the better part of three quarters, looked like it was playing its first game in about three years. LSU was headed for a romp and Miles was poised to have accolades heaped upon him so thoroughly, he'd have needed a U-Haul to carry them home.

And still, he does deserve some credit for managing to help put his team in such a position after the upheaval it has endured this month.

It's impossible to overstate how unsettling, distracting and discombobulated the season has been for the Tigers (1-1). Games have been rescheduled and postponed, played in venues and on nights they weren't supposed to be played, forcing the Tigers to become experts at revving and tempering their enthusiasm, often on the same day.

It's not the way anyone wants to operate a program, especially not in his first season, especially not when continuity is such a staple of coaching and the growth of a program.

But that said, these Tigers have exhibited warts, even in victory. Monday night they idled when they should have been on the move. Started, but didn't finish the job.

"We're all disappointed," Miles said. "We're all miserable. More than anything, I think it was a loss of poise."

And if that was the case - and there certainly appeared to be no reason to debate the coach's word on that - then there's no pretty way to spin it.

A 2-0 start, with both victories over ranked teams, fell to the ground and slithered away before LSU could grasp it. The No. 4 ranking goes with it. LSU must claw its way back up the poll, victory by victory.

"We played well to a point," Miles said. "We came out the second half and lost our push. We couldn't stop them and did not move the football on offense.

"When you're into your second game, you wish you would have played with the ability to finish. And we didn't. And that's why we lost that game."

Now they must deal with a short week. Saturday is another game, this one against Mississippi State on the road - and not like against Arizona State, where the Tigers were named the "home" team because they'd been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Mississippi State isn't a powerhouse team by any means. But then, Tennessee didn't appear to be, either.

"The thing that we have to do is not dwell on this game," Miles said.

He won't have to. LSU fans will do that for him.

And the way they're feeling today, after a 21-point lead became a three-point loss, is a lot more Stephen King than Dr. Seuss.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU running back Joseph Addai gets hit by Tennessee defensive back Jason Allen during the second quarter Monday night.

# LSU buried under pile of mistakes

*Tennessee takes advantage to rally in second half*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — In a season without the stomach punch of twin hurricanes, maybe the multitude of mistakes LSU made Monday night are blown away in the early season wind.

But there they were, a pair of first-half fumbles that killed potential scoring drives, a mental error that cost LSU at least three points, some untimely penalties that kept Tennessee breathing and a killer interception that ignited the Vols to a stunning 30-27 victory in overtime.

While building a 21-0 lead, LSU looked so in control that it seemed the first half mistakes could be weathered.

The Tigers only added to them.

LSU coach Les Miles said the scattering of the first three games, all of which have been rescheduled in some manner, may have taken a toll.

"We needed to be on the field," Miles said in his postgame address. "We needed to play games. We looked like we were playing our second game. We're not playing very sharply."

Quarterback JaMarcus Russell, the hero of LSU's last-minute victory at Arizona State, made three crucial mistakes. His fumble at the Tennessee 28-yard line cost the Tigers a chance to add to an early lead and knock the Vols out early. Teammate Joseph Addai did the same thing in the second quarter, fumbling the ball away to Tennessee at the Vols' 35-yard line.

Just before the half, the clock ran out on LSU when Russell tried to scramble and was tackled at the Tennessee five-yard line. LSU had no timeouts left but would have had a shot at a short field-goal attempt had Russell run out of bounds or thrown an incompletion.

"I think he understood an incompletion there and we kick a three-pointer," Miles said. "A young quarterback, two-minute drill, it's unfortunate when these things happen."

Russell said he wasn't thinking about running out of bounds, just making a play.

"I was trying to make something happen," he said.

Russell's interception on third-and-eight from the LSU 22-yard line came with the Tigers clinging to a 24-14 lead. In search of Early Doucet on a corner route, Russell fired a pass right into the hands of Tennessee's Jonathan Hefney, who returned the ball 22 yards to the LSU two-yard line.

"He was down in my vision and he dropped back, jumped up and got it," Russell said. "I didn't see him."

It wasn't just the offense, which was ineffective throughout the second half. The defense allowed the Vols to stay alive with an excruciating performance on Tennessee's second touchdown drive. On two consecutive third-down plays, the Tigers handed the Vols a first down with a penalty. Chevis Jackson interfered with a Tennessee receiver on third-and-seven, and Claude Wroten lined up offsides on third-and-five. Later in the drive, Tennessee quarterback Rick Clausen converted a third-and-15. The Vols finally scored on fourth-and-goal from the one.

"I think it's still early," said offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth. "The second game is a tough game to say we shouldn't be making those mistakes, especially against a tough opponent. We've struggled even later than this.

"Against Western Illinois in the national championship season, it was 13-7 in the third quarter. It's going to happen. It's something a mature team with poise is going to take care of and I think if we're a game later in the season, maybe this doesn't happen. We've got to put it on ourselves."

# LSU acknowledges four stricken states

*Tigers-Vandy game set for ESPN2 slot*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE — Four LSU athletes representing four states affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita carried their state flags on the field Monday during pregame ceremonies.

Public address announcer Dan Borne then told the crowd, "For over a century LSU football has brought together every walk of life, from every corner of Louisiana and from across our great Gulf Coast.

"Tonight, in Tiger Stadium, is one of the most significant gatherings of Louisianians in the history of our state. This evening, we reflect on the loss of life and the devastation we have suffered.

"But we also look with pride to our future, for it is through our prayerful determination and our perseverance that we will rebuild and we will prosper again.

"Tonight, this historic stadium is lit in gold and stands as a beacon of promise for our state and for its people. Because this evening we vow to move forward under a common flag, because this is LSU football. And this is Tiger Stadium. And this is Louisiana!"

The athletes representing the states were Alexis Rather of Mississippi (women's golf), Matt Guy of Alabama (men's track), April Burkholder of Texas (gymnastics) and Khalilah Mitchell of Louisiana (women's basketball).

**MISSED OPPORTUNITY:** LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell violated a basic axiom of: When you have the ball in field goal range and are out of time outs at the end of the half, don't tuck the ball and run.

The Tigers were at the Tennessee 14 with eight seconds left when Russell, forced to scramble, chose to keep the ball rather than throw it away. He was tackled at the Tennessee five, short of a first down and far from getting out of bounds, costing LSU a short field-goal attempt.

**TV UPDATE:** LSU's Oct. 8 game against Vanderbilt will air on ESPN2 with a 6 p.m. kickoff. CBS exercised its option to televise the Georgia-Tennessee game on that date.

LSU's game Saturday against Mississippi State will be shown only on TigerVision with a 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

Cox Sports will replay Monday's game at 7 p.m. Wednesday and noon Thursday.

**ALL THINGS CONSIDERED:** Playing the Tennessee game on Monday night after Hurricane Rita postponed the Saturday kickoff was the best course of action, according to LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich.

"We could have played on Sunday night, but nobody knew that on Thursday when the decision had to be made," he said. "So the extra day was the best thing to do."

The cleanup on campus was still ongoing Monday, but Radakovich said the efforts could have been concentrated around Tiger Stadium on Sunday.

The only alternative to playing Monday was Dec. 3, which would have pushed the SEC Championship game a week later.

But that would have created a conflict with a convention in Atlanta, which already has been moved from New Orleans. It also would have forced a week's delay in determining the BCS bowls.

**DID YOU NOTICE?** SEC commissioner Mike Slive, who made the call on playing the game on Monday, was in attendance. . . . Ali Highsmith started ahead of Jason Spadoni at linebacker. . . . Kicker Colt David had said he was going to change numbers after the Arizona State game instead of sharing No. 6 with linebacker Mario Stevenson. However, David was again wearing No. 6 Monday. . . . Tennessee quarterback Eric Ainge's first four passes were incomplete. . . . Russell's one-yard touchdown sneak in the second quarter was the second scoring run of his career. The first came a year and a day earlier against Mississippi State. . . . Chris Jackson's 42-yard field goal in the third quarter was his sixth consecutive successful kick, a personal best. . . . Skyler Green, the NCAA's punt return leader, returned five for a 22.6-yard average. Green averaged only 9.7 yards per return in 2004 after getting 18.5 per return in 2003. . . . For the second consecutive game, LSU was penalized 11 times. Three of the penalties came during Tennessee's second touchdown drive, two of which gave the Vols' first downs.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Monday's game was the latest LSU home opener since Sept. 30, 1961, when the Tigers defeated Texas A&M 16-7. LSU's latest home opener came in the national championship season of 1958, when LSU defeated Hardin-Simmons 20-6 on Oct. 4. . . . This was the first night game not on a Saturday at Tigers Stadium since Nov. 22, 1973, when LSU lost to Alabama, 21-7. LSU traditionally plays Arkansas on the Friday afternoon after Thanksgiving. . . . The game was the first between Top 10 teams in Tiger Stadium since No. 10 LSU played No. 7 Georgia in 2003. Prior to that, in 1987, No. 4 LSU met No. 7 Ohio State. . . . After playing next year in Knoxville, LSU and Tennessee will not meet again until 2010.

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Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

# Tigers must weather collapse in second half

**FINNEY,** *from C-9*

For Tennessee, it was the turning point of the game.

In came Clausen and, eventually, out came your latest purple-and-gold crying towels.

Clausen, whose lone start at LSU was a brief one against Ole Miss in 2002, not only fueled life into a dormant offense, he lit a fire under a Tennessee defense that began pressuring JaMarcus Russell into errant throws and bad decisions.

In the second half, Clausen got an assist from a Tigers defense that kept breaking down with a series of mental errors. Had wide open receivers not dropped a pass here, a pass there, Tennessee could have won this one in regulation, not sudden death.

It was anything but a memorable evening for Russell, after his dramatic winning, fourth-down throw against Arizona State.

In the first half, Russell killed a drive with a fumble at the Vols' 30. In the fourth quarter, he threw an interception that quickly cut LSU's lead to three points, in this case, an obvious death knell.

Could blowing a 21-point lead be any kind of death knell for a devastated Miles?

Of course not.

Miles has blown leads before, every coach has, that is, if he's been around long enough.

Yes, Pelini's defense is still a problem.

And, yes, an offense in the hands of Miles and coordinator Jimbo Fisher needs some kind of confidence boost after second-half miseries.

Just as football is a 60-miniute game, the SEC is not a one-game season.

For the moment, though, Rick Clausen, who has been in and out of the starting lineup throughout his college career, had one game Monday night, it happened to be a 30-minute game, to last him a lifetime.

SPORTS: WEB EDITION

# Volunteers' tradition, teamwork spark rally

## *Experienced Tennessee responds to pressure*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Referee Penn Wagers checks on Tennessee Erik Ainge after Ainge was hit and threw an interception that resulted in an LSU touchdown in the second quarter.

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — There's a reason why Tennessee has been the SEC's most consistent winner the past 15 years.

And there's another reason why the Volunteers' always-lofty goals, which seemed shattered at halftime Monday night, are alive today.

They both start with a "T."

"That's what the 'T' stands for — tradition," senior cornerback Jason Allen said during Tennessee's celebration of its 30-27, come-from-behind overtime victory against LSU. "It's stands for teamwork.

"We showed everybody what we're about tonight — and that's teamwork."

Tennessee, which started the season ranked No. 3, lost 16-7 at Florida last week. Another defeat would all but end the Vols' hopes of winning the SEC's Eastern Division and certainly put them out of contention for the national championship.

"We didn't play as well at Florida as we should have," said Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer. "We helped them a lot down there.

"This game puts us back to having a chance in the league. We took a step towards that tonight."

Down 21-0 at halftime, the Vols didn't panic. In fact, Gerald Riggs Jr., who scored the winning touchdown, said there was little emotion in the locker room.

"Nothing much was said," he said. "We've been down before, but this is an experienced team.

"We knew we just had to settle down, execute our plays and not get too caught up in what the score was."

That enabled Tennessee to score on four of its first five possessions of the second half while holding LSU to 45 yards and a single field goal over the final two quarters of regulation.

Then, after holding LSU to another field goal in the Tigers' overtime possession, the Vols punched the ball across the goal line in six plays — five of which featured Riggs catching or carrying the ball.

"We knew when we got the ball back we were going to score," Riggs said. "Somehow, some way, we were going to make a play.

"After we had come back like that, we weren't going to be denied."

As effective as the Tennessee offense was in the second half, it got a huge lift from the defense in the third quarter when Jonathan Hefney picked off a pass by JaMarcus Russell at the LSU 28, returning to the 2-yard line.

Riggs scored two plays later to make it 24-21 with 7:15 left.

"I saw the quarterback looking at his man, and I was just standing there with my mouth wide open," Hefney said. "I still couldn't believe he threw the ball.

"You talk about fighting and never giving up and all that, but sometimes you're just in the right place at the right time."

Getting into an offensive rhythm was vital in the second half, Fulmer said, along with a stronger defensive effort.

"They bowed their necks there several times," he said. "Our defense said on Monday they were going to put the team on their shoulders and carry us.

"And darned if they didn't."

Losing Monday would have put Tennessee at 1-2 for the first time since 1994. The Vols lost their next game that season as well but won seven of their final eight.

However, 8-4 is not considered a successful season by Volunteer standards any more. This is a program used to winning at least 10 games and playing in January bowls.

Both would have been difficult to attain had Monday's outcome been different.

Riggs acknowledged that the stakes were high, but he said the team would not suffer a mental letdown Saturday against Ole Miss.

"You're not going to win or lose the whole season in one night," he said. "You go out there, make your plays and just take them one game at a time.

"That's what makes us Tennessee."

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## SCORING SUMMARY

**First quarter**
**LSU 7, Tennessee 0**
Scoring play: Joseph Addai 19-yard run (Colt David kick); Time: 12:44; Drive: 19 yards, one play; Time of possession: 0:06; Key play: Ken Hollis recovered a Tennessee fumble at the Vols 19-yard line.
**Second quarter**
**LSU 14, Tennessee 0**
Scoring play: JaMarcus Russell one-yard run (David kick); Time: 13:31; Drive: 70 yards, four plays; Time of possession: 1:20; Key play: Craig Davis 47-yard pass from Russell.
LSU 21, Tennessee 0
Scoring play: Kenneth Hollis three-yard interception return (David kick); Time: 6:55.
**Third quarter**
**LSU 21, Tennessee 7**
Scoring play: Bret Smith eight-yard pass from Rick Clausen (James Wilhoit kick); Time: 7:54; Drive: 61 yards, 11 plays; Time of possession: 3:30; Key play: Clausen completes a six-yard pass to C.J. Fayton on third-and-three.
**LSU 24, Tennessee 7**
Scoring play: Chris Jackson 42-yard field goal good; Time: 1:37; Drive: Six plays, 25 yards; Time of possession: 1:51; Key play: Addai consecutive runs of 10 and 11 yards.
**Fourth quarter**
**LSU 24, Tennessee 14**
Scoring play: Clausen one-yard run (Wilhoit kick); Time: 9:35; Drive: 75 yards, 13 plays; Time of possession: 5:31; Key play: Clausen completed a 15-yard pass to Fayton on third-and-10 from the Tennessee 40-yard line.
**LSU 24, Tennessee 21**
Scoring play: Riggs one-yard run (Wilhoit kick); Time: 7:15; Drive: Two yards, two plays; Time of possession: 0:42; Key play: Jonathan Hefney 26-yard interception return to the LSU two-yard line.
**LSU 24, Tennessee 24**
Scoring play: Wilhoit 28-yard field goal; Time: 2:02; Drive: 52 yards, nine plays; Time of possession: 3:22; Key play: Riggs ran 22 yards on a draw play to start the drive.
**LSU 27, Tennessee 24**
Scoring play: David 31-yard field goal. Drive: 12 yards, five plays. Key play: Russell's incompete pass intended for David Jones and third-and-nine on the Tennessee 13.
**Tennessee 30, LSU 27**
Scoring play: Riggs one-yard run. Drive: 25 yards, six plays. Key play: Riggs catches a 10-yard pass from Claussen to give the Vols a first down at the LSU 15, then gains 12 yards rushing on the next two plays.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU tailback Joseph Addai leaves Tennessee's Antwan Stewart behind as he scores on a 19-yard run early in the first quarter of Monday's game at Tiger Stadium. The Volunteers won in overtime, 30-27.

SPORTS: WEB EDITION

# Broncos overpower Chiefs' revamped defense 30-10

*Kansas City can't get going on offense against Denver*

**By Eddie Pells**
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Rod Smith, Mike Anderson and the Denver Broncos made the newfangled Kansas City defense seem a lot like the old one. And the vaunted Chiefs offense looked pretty lame, too.

Anderson ran for a 44-yard touchdown, and Smith became the first undrafted player in NFL history to reach 10,000 yards receiving Monday night as the Broncos handled Kansas City from start to finish in a 30-10 victory.

Jake Plummer went 13-of-18 for 152 yards — including a 12-yard touchdown pass to Smith — and ran for a score on fourth-and-goal from the 1, an efficient performance that was more than enough to blow out Trent Green and the Chiefs.

Green finally threw his first touchdown pass of the season with two minutes left, a 21-yard pass to Samie Parker. But the touchdown just helped Dick Vermeil avoid his worst loss as an NFL coach and the Chiefs avoid matching their worst loss in the 46-year history of this AFC West series.

Green had 27 touchdown passes last year for the NFL's most productive offense. The Chiefs (2-1) were anything but productive Monday night.

Priest Holmes rushed for 61 yards, and backfield mate Larry Johnson had 13 yards on eight carries.

Harassed by Gerard Warren and Courtney Brown — two members of Denver's revamped defensive line — Green finished 23-of-44 for 221 yards.

When the Broncos (2-1) weren't making Kansas City look bad, the Chiefs were doing it themselves. They finished with 118 yards in penalties, including eight infractions in the first half while the Broncos were cruising to a 20-0 lead.

The perennially soft Kansas City defense added players this season — most notably defensive backs Patrick Surtain and Sammy Knight and linebacker Kendrell Bell — and when the Chiefs allowed a total of 24 points in the first two games, it looked as if the fixes were working.

They took a big step backward against the Broncos, who finally started clicking after two rugged games to start the season.

Anderson, who has struggled since hurting his ribs in the first half of the opener against Miami, went through a huge hole untouched in the first quarter for his long score and a 10-0 lead.

The Broncos used Anderson to work the clock in the second half, and he finished with 98 yards on 20 carries.

Three plays after Anderson's touchdown, Brown recovered his second fumble of the season, and the Broncos scored right away, as Plummer threw to Smith at the back of the end zone for the 12-yard score.

Smith caught seven passes for 80 yards. He hit his milestone with a 19-yard catch in the third quarter, making him the 24th player to reach 10,000 yards. Five plays later, Plummer bootlegged in from a yard to give the Broncos a 27-3 lead.

Early in the fourth quarter, Smith took a rough hit from Knight after catching an 11-yard pass, but he walked off the field. He was diagnosed with a concussion and did not return. The Broncos also lost cornerback Champ Bailey to a hamstring injury in the second quarter.



AP PHOTO

Denver quarterback Jake Plummer rushed for one touchdown, threw for one and had 152 yards passing.

# Eugene, Destrehan shine in prime time

*Wildcats score 38 points in first half, top South Lafourche*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

Destrehan found Monday night football much to its liking.

The unbeaten Wildcats rode the running and passing of Jai Eugene to score all of their points in the first half of a 38-7 non-district victory against South Lafourche at Destrehan.

Destrehan (3-0) and South Lafourche (0-2) were playing a rare Monday night game because of Saturday's strike of Hurricane Rita.

South Lafouche had not practiced since Wednesday because of a Rita-imposed evacuation of Lafourche Parish, and it showed. Destrehan led 14-0 after six plays from scrimmage, and 21-0 after 12 plays.

Eugene passed for two touchdowns and ran for two, and accounted for 208 yards in six series. The senior completed nine of 11 passes for 114 yards, with touchdowns covering 14 and 17 yards to Edwin Reed and Joshua Martin. Eugene also ran for scores of three and 79 yards and finished with 94 rushing yards on three carries.

"We played a great game," Eugene said. "We came out and put them away early. My offensive line was tremendous; they just did a hell of a job.

The coaches called great plays and we jelled together.

"I'd like to thank South Lafourche for playing. I know they've been through a lot. The hurricanes have been messing everything up, but I'm trying to keep my teammates focused."

Destrehan's defense, too, was focused, smothering the Tarpons in the first half, when South Lafourche gained 21 yards and committed three turnovers. The Wildcats forced four fumbles, recovered two and intercepted a pass. Defensive back Jerico Nelson scooped up an errant pitch by quarterback Korte Cheramie and returned the ball 10 yards for Destrehan's second touchdown on the game's sixth play. Defensive back Brandon Brexton also returned a first-quarter interception of a tipped pass 45 yards to set up Eugene's short scoring run.

Destrehan's Travis Brignac made all five extra-point attempts and a 25-yard field goal as time expired in the first half that gave the Wildcats a 38-0 lead.

Cheramie scored South Lafourche's lone touchdown on a seven-yard run against Destrehan reserves in the third quarter.

"My hat's off to these kids," said Destrehan coach Steve Robicheaux, whose team did not practice Friday or Saturday before a Sunday walk-through session. "It's a coach's nightmare not being able to prepare for a game. On Sunday night we still didn't know if we were going to play football. So there have been a lot of distractions. Our kids have been great through all of this. We just want to play football. (South Lafourche) took a big hit this week, but they wanted to play football, too."

# Rebels get rare win over Rams

*Riverside's Caesar runs for 257 yards, scores four TDs*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

For the first time in a long time, the annual meeting of River Parish rivals Riverside and West St. John was competitive.

And for the first time since 2001, the Rebels won, taking a 51-20 non-district victory Monday night in Edgard.

It was the first non-district contest between the teams since 1996. West St. John, the defending Class 2A state champion that is competing in Class 1A this year, had won the past four meetings by a combined score of 161-27. And Monday night's game, postponed from Friday because of Hurricane Rita, went head-to-head against LSU's home game against Tennessee. That might have accounted for the sparse crowd at what is normally a standing-room-only event in the River Parishes.

The Rebels (3-0) had 440 yards, nearly all of it on the ground. Sophomore Jarid Caesar ran for 257 yards and four touchdowns on 22 carries. He scored on runs of nine, 29, 43, and 10 yards, and he had another run that covered 58 yards. He had 172 yards on 14 carries in the first half.

Riverside quarterback A.J. Delaneuville completed five of seven passes for 80 yards and one touchdown, to Lee Haydel — all in the first half. Andrew Herring ran for 49 yards and two touchdowns. Jordan Poirrer added a 26-yard field goal and converted four extra-points.

West St. John was hampered by turnovers. The Rams (0-3) lost four fumbles — three recovered by Riverside's Colling Yeargin. Jordan Poirrier and Tad Brack intercepted pases for the Rebels.

Rams quarterbacks Olajuwon Hall and Blaine Gautier combined to pass for 214 yards — Hall had 107 in the first half, and Gautier had 107 in the second. But Hall threw the Rams' only passing touchdown, a 12-yard strike to Tiarus Jenkins on the Rams' first possession.

But after that, Riverside took over. The Rebels scored 15 consecutive points and, after a nine-yard scoring run by West St. John's Tyren Johnson, the Rebels scored another 15 consecutive points to take a 30-14 halftime lead.

Riverside added a pair of touchdowns in the third quarter — a 21-yard run by Herring and a 43-yard run by Caesar.

After Josh Johnson scored to start the fourth quarter, Caesar scored on his final run of the game from 10-yards out.

# Delay doesn't slow Wildcats in rout of Varnado

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

St. James had a rare Monday night football game on its home field because of Hurricane Rita, which passed through Louisiana this past weekend.

Even with the extra days off the Wildcats, the top-ranked team in Class 2A, gained 454 yards, including 363 rushing, in a 42-6 victory against Varnado.

The game was scheduled for Friday, but was postponed to Sunday and later moved to Monday because of Rita.

Four St. James running backs rushed for more than 40 yards. Tramaine Charles led the team with 99 yards and one touchdown on six carries.

"We did a lot of good things tonight," St. James coach Rick Gaille said. "I thought we ran the ball pretty good inside and outside, and we spread the ball enough to where they couldn't key on one person."

St. James led 7-0 after it drove 64 yards on 10 plays on its first possession. The key play came when Varnado senior William Bellamy was penalized for running into St. James punter Terry Isom on fourth-and-six. Running back Tramaine Dapremont kept the drive alive with a three-yard run on the fourth-and-one play after the penalty. Four plays later, Dapremont scored on a four-yard run.

St. James increased its lead to 14-0 with 8:57 left in the first half when running back Luther Ambrose took an option pitch from quarterback Antonio Phillips and scampered around right end for a four-yard run. The play capped an eight-play, 44-yard drive.

The Wildcats increased their lead to 21-0 with 2:42 remaining when running back Jason Zeno scored on an 11-yard run. St. James drove 65 yards on eight plays for the score.

St. James finished its first-half scoring when Dapremont muscled to a four-yard touchdown run, which made the score 28-0 with three seconds left in the half. Dapremont's run came one play after Phillips threw a 57-yard pass to Zeno, who zigzagged his way through the Varnado secondary to set up the score. The drive covered 78 yards on four plays.

"We practice hard every day, and it didn't matter when we played," right guard Quincy Allen said. "(Varnado was) getting tired after the first quarter."

Varnado (0-1) cut St. James' lead to 35-6 when running back Otha Foster scored on an eight-yard run in the third quarter.

St. James scored its last touchdown when backup quarterback Marcus Dumas threw a five-yard touchdown pass to receiver Chase Green to make the score 42-6 with 5:13 left in the game.

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# COMPASS RESIGNS

## Abrupt departure comes as NOPD Katrina response is questioned



AP PHOTO

New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass, right, announces his retirement at a news conference with Mayor Ray Nagin at the Sheraton Hotel. Neither Compass nor Nagin provided any background or explanation as to why the chief chose this moment, when New Orleans is enduring its greatest crisis, to depart.

**By James Varney and Michael Perlstein**
Staff writers

New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass, whose emotional media appearances since Hurricane Katrina made him one of the city's most recognizable figures nationwide, abruptly announced his retirement Tuesday.

The stunning departure of the city's top cop roiled New Orleans leaders, and raised questions of whether Mayor Ray Nagin forced Compass from his job. Earlier this month, on Sept. 9, Compass said, "I want to be police chief here as long as I can and as long as Mayor Nagin will have me."

Compass made the announcement at an afternoon news conference. Neither Compass nor Nagin provided any background or explanation as to why the chief chose this moment, when New Orleans is enduring its greatest crisis, to depart. Nagin said, when asked, that he did not ask for Compass' resignation.

Although Compass' performance during Katrina has brought forth some criticism, his three-and-a-half year tenure as superintendent had its rocky moments before Katrina, most notably as the city witnessed a resurgence in its infamously high murder rate. Nagin picked him as chief, but he and Compass were not particularly close, according to people who know both men.

Compass appeared at the news conference at the Sheraton Hotel, flanked by Nagin, his three assistant superintendents and a handful of commanders and bodyguards, to announce his retirement. Deputy Superintendent Warren Riley has been announced as interim chief.

"Since I was a little boy, my whole life, I wanted to be the superintendent of police," Compass said Tuesday, appearing to fight back tears. "In the life of every leader the time comes to reflect on his life, and I'm

*See* **COMPASS,** *A-14*

**3** Number of years as police chief

**26** Number of years on the force

**249** N.O. police officers who left their posts without permission

**1,700** Number of officers on the force

### IN HIS WORDS

*N.O. Police Superintendant Eddie Compass was emotional and hyperbolic in the days after Katrina; many comments were unsubstantiated.*

"We had little babies in there (in the Convention Center), little babies getting raped. ... You know how frustrating it is to be the chief of police knowing inside these things are being done and you don't have enough manpower to go in there?"

***Sept. 6** interview with Oprah Winfrey*

"We have individuals who are getting raped, we have individuals who are getting beaten. ... Tourists are walking in that direction, and they are getting preyed upon."

***Sept. 1** on reports of violence at the Convention Center*

"Those cowards, those individuals that left us hanging, they will pay."

***Sept. 8** on 'Nightline' on desertions by police*

"The criminal element had raided every gun store in the city. We were fighting in conditions where we couldn't fire back because they were firing around civilians. So we had to physically take guns from these individuals with our hands."

***Sept. 8** interview on Canada's CTV*

"I'm still standin' baby! I'm the ultimate warrior! ... I'm going to be the last person to leave the battlefield!"

***Sept. 13**, in the St. Petersburg Times*

# Hastily built dams remain in Jeff roads

*Some officials want them kept in place for now*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Soon after Hurricane Katrina ripped a hole in the 17th Street Canal's eastern wall and began flooding New Orleans, the water poured back west across the Jefferson Parish line into Old Metairie and Old Jefferson. Jefferson Parish officials and Louisiana National Guard crews rushed to erect rock dams at four locations, in hopes of stemming the tide before it inundated even more homes and streets on their side of the parish line.

Almost a month later, the dams remained largely intact, blocking most traffic on four roads, including a pair of six-lane thoroughfares: Airline Drive and Jefferson Highway.

But that's likely to change soon, perhaps by the weekend.

*See* **AIRLINE,** *A-16*

# Ex-FEMA chief pins blame on La.

*Late evacuation order led to mess, he tells Congress*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency took responsibility Tuesday for mistakes in responding to Hurricane Katrina, but he cast most of the blame on a "dysfunctional" emergency management team in Louisiana and New Orleans, cuts in his agency's budget and a "hysterical" news media that he said exaggerated problems.



**Michael Brown**
Says he failed to see state was 'dysfunctional'

Michael Brown told a special House investigatory committee that a good deal of the problems in New

*See* **BROWN,** *A-19*

## Candy may be dandy, and liquor may be quicker, but on Monday, when the juice again began flowing in the French Quarter, it was the power that re-energized happy hour

# BOURBON BUZZ




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Lance Lewis sips a cold beer Monday in Molly's at the Market. The Decatur Street bar has been open ever since Hurricane Katrina passed through, but on Monday, patrons saw a few cherished luxuries return, including lights and the jukebox.

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

For the first time since Katrina, the streets of the French Quarter didn't go dark Monday as night fell.

Streetlamps and neon signs glowed, loud bars stayed open past midnight, and carousing patrons cheered the LSU Tigers on television. Local eccentrics were back in their element. And there were tourists, even if most of them were relief workers or law enforcement personnel.

What was strangest about the scene was that it was so strangely normal. But in the wake of two hurricanes, restoration of electricity in the city's oldest and most cherished neighborhood was like finding a pulse on a patient who was thought to have flat-lined.

"When the power came on, I said, 'Yea!'" said Bonnibel Byars, a part-time Ursulines Street resident who had just returned from her other home in Minnesota. She was impressed by the activity in the Quarter, the lodestone of New Orleans' tourism industry.

"I was skeptical," she said, having expected things to be "kind of desolate."

*See* **BOURBON,** *A-13*

**DAY 30** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **885** • N.O. civil courts to reopen in Gonzales, A-2 • Work on twin spans resumes, A-4 • Survivor enjoys having the 9th Ward to himself, B-1 • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM

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# GET READY FOR LA. FOOTBALL WEATHER

## *Cool, dry weather coming Thursday*

By Lynne Jensen
Staff writer

By the weekend, following a long, hot summer and two disastrous hurricanes in Louisiana, folks in the New Orleans area will be hunting for sweaters at night, according to the National Weather Service.

A front is set to arrive Thursday and is expected to last into Sunday, bringing "our first significant cold front" of the fall season, meteorologist Phil Grigsby said Tuesday.

Daytime temperatures will drop into the low 80s on the north shore and mid-80s on the south shore, Grigsby said. Nighttime temperatures will drop into the upper 50s and low 60s on the north shore and the mid-60s on the south shore, he said.

**"Mother Nature, she does what she wants to do. We can't control it, yet."**
PHIL GRIGSBY
meteorologist

Residents also will catch a break when it comes to humidity, Grigsby said.

"It will be dry as well," he said.

It is possible an increase in winds out of the east Monday and Tuesday "could make the tides go up," Grigsby said.

Winds of 15 to 20 mph could cause coastal flooding in areas that are not protected by levees, he said.

In Lake Pontchartrain, for example, high tides at this time of year generally are 1 to 2 feet above sea level, Grigsby said. If the easterly winds pick up, the tides could go a foot or two higher than normal, he said.

"It's a pretty typical pattern for this time of year and has no bearing on the tropical wave now in the Caribbean, he said.

Hurricane season ends Nov. 30.

Because the possibility of easterly winds and rising tides is five to seven days away, the forecast could change, he said.

"Mother Nature, she does what she wants to do," Grigsby said. "We can't control it, yet."

# Schools in Algiers, Uptown may get to reopen this year

## *FEMA will replace badly damaged ones*

By Leslie Williams
Staff writer

At least 15 New Orleans public schools could be operating in November or December based on a recent review of school buildings by engineers and architects, state Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard said Tuesday.

Whether to do so will be a local decision made by the School Board, Mayor Ray Nagin and others, Picard said.

New Orleans interim School Superintendent Ora Watson and officials with Alvarez & Marsal, the company working to right the school system's finances, plan to meet Thursday with Nagin to discuss both short- and long-term plans for the school district, including opening between eight and 16 schools in the next few months, said Bill Roberti of Alvarez & Marsal.

Picard said the schools that could be opened – eight in Algiers and at least seven Uptown – could serve about 12,000 students.

In regard to the other schools in the city, assessments are under way. William Quade, who is overseeing Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance to school systems in Louisiana, said Tuesday that it's already clear the cost of repairing some New Orleans public schools is greater than 50 percent of their value, so those schools will be replaced.

"A lot" of city schools fall in this category, Quade said, adding "FEMA's going to give you a brand new school when it's damaged beyond economical repair."

The new schools may be smaller or larger and configured in different ways, said Quade, who spoke at a Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting at which Picard provided an overview of 68 school systems in the state, at least 40 of which desperately need money.

Picard said that based on the latest educational research, the city could improve its odds of having successful schools by configuring new schools as follows: pre-kindergarten centers, kindergarten through eighth-grade schools, and high schools that include only grades nine through 12.

"That would be my recommendation," he said.

At the meeting, Picard announced changes that occurred this week at the headquarters of the state Department of Education in Baton Rouge that should, he said, expedite efforts to get federal money to local school systems, including the one in New Orleans, which had about 55,000 students the week before Katrina hit.

"We've got a FEMA office here now," Picard boasted. "We don't have to stand in line with the municipalities, parish governments and the quasi-government entities."

And the state education agency has assigned Grover Austin, a retired legislative auditor for the state, to work with FEMA and local school districts to coordinate requests.

Austin will function as a troubleshooter, making sure delays are minimal, Picard said.

The state superintendent said he has a verbal agreement with Art Jones, the disaster recovery chief for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, that money for all permanent work in local school systems – roads, utilities, recreational facilities, equipment and buildings – will be funneled and monitored through the State Department of Education.

FEMA will pay school systems directly for debris removal and emergency protective measures, according to the verbal plan.

Of the state's 701,000 public students, 185,000 became displaced after Katrina, he said. The hurricane forced 52,000 of the 140,000 nonpublic students out of the state.

In all, Louisiana students are scattered among 47 states, including Alaska, Picard said.

Texas, he said, has the largest number of Louisiana student evacuees, 48,000, mostly in Houston, Austin and Dallas.

Staff writer Steve Ritea contributed to this report.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**185,000**
The number of Louisiana's 701,000 public students displaced after Hurricane Katrina.

**52,000**
The number of the state's 140,000 nonpublic students out of state.

**47**
The number of states, including Alaska, where Louisiana students are scattered.

**48,000**
The number of Louisiana students in Texas, the state with the largest number of Louisiana student evacuees.

# New Orleans courts to open in Gonzales

## *But no jury trials planned for while*

By Susan Finch
Staff writer

New Orleans civil courts and related offices, closed because of flooding after Hurricane Katrina, will reopen early next month in temporary quarters in Gonzales, chief Judge Ethel Sims Julien said Tuesday.

Civil District Court and First and Second City Courts, along with the offices of the civil sheriff and the First and Second City Courts' constables, will be back in business starting Oct. 3 at 1056 East Worthy St.

The facility, directly across the street from the Ascension Parish courthouse, will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., she said.

"The judges will be available to sign pleadings, conduct hearings and hold conferences on non-jury matters," Julien said. Jury trials, though, will have to wait. "I'm not sure we'd be able to do that at this time because we would not be able to give residents of New Orleans juries of their peers."

**"The judges will be available to sign pleadings, conduct hearings and hold conferences on non-jury matters."**
JUDGE ETHEL SIMS JULIEN

Aside from that, Julien said, the judges will be equipped to tackle some unique legal issues left in the storm's wake: "We have custody issues that arose as a result of the hurricane, relocation issues as it relates to custody," she said.

Meanwhile, Julien announced that real estate records formerly housed by the Register of Conveyances and Recorder of Mortgages' offices in the Civil Court basement at 421 Loyola Ave. will be available for inspection starting Oct. 10, after they are moved to a New Orleans office building.

"We are now looking at space in the Amoco building to relocate the records," Julien said.

Court spokesman Walt Pierce said that contrary to earlier reports, none of the mortgage and conveyance records were destroyed in the flooding, though some may have sustained damage. "They just haven't been accessible to people who need access because we haven't been able to operate," he said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has ordered court filing deadlines suspended until Oct .25 "so lawyers and others wouldn't be penalized by the fact that the courts haven't been ableto operate," Julien said.

New Orleans Criminal District Court is closed until further notice.

Anyone with questions about the operations of the court and related offices can call 1 (225) 342-1687.

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AP PHOTOS

Staff Sgt. Jose Jaramillo tends to Linda Chargois of Beaumont, Texas, top bunk, and Gene Thomas of Buna, Texas, after the two arrived by Army helicopter Tuesday at Houston's Ellington Field.

# Rita recovery hindered by storm of red tape

## *Survivors in Texas living 'like cavemen'*

**By Abe Levy**
Associated Press writer

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS — Nearly four days after Hurricane Rita hit, many of the storm's sweltering victims along the Gulf Coast of Texas were still waiting for electricity, gasoline, water and other relief Tuesday, prompting one top emergency official to complain that people are "living like cavemen."

In the hard-hit refinery towns of Port Arthur and Beaumont, crews struggled to cross debris-clogged streets to deliver generators and water to people stranded by Rita. They predicted it could be a month before power is restored, and said water and sewer systems can't function until more generators arrived.

Red tape was also blamed for the delays.

Port Arthur Mayor Oscar Ortiz, whose home was destroyed by fire after the hurricane, said "we've had 101 promises" for aid, "but it's all bureaucracy."

John Owens, emergency management coordinator and deputy police chief in the town of 57,000, said pleas for state and federal relief were met with requests for paperwork.

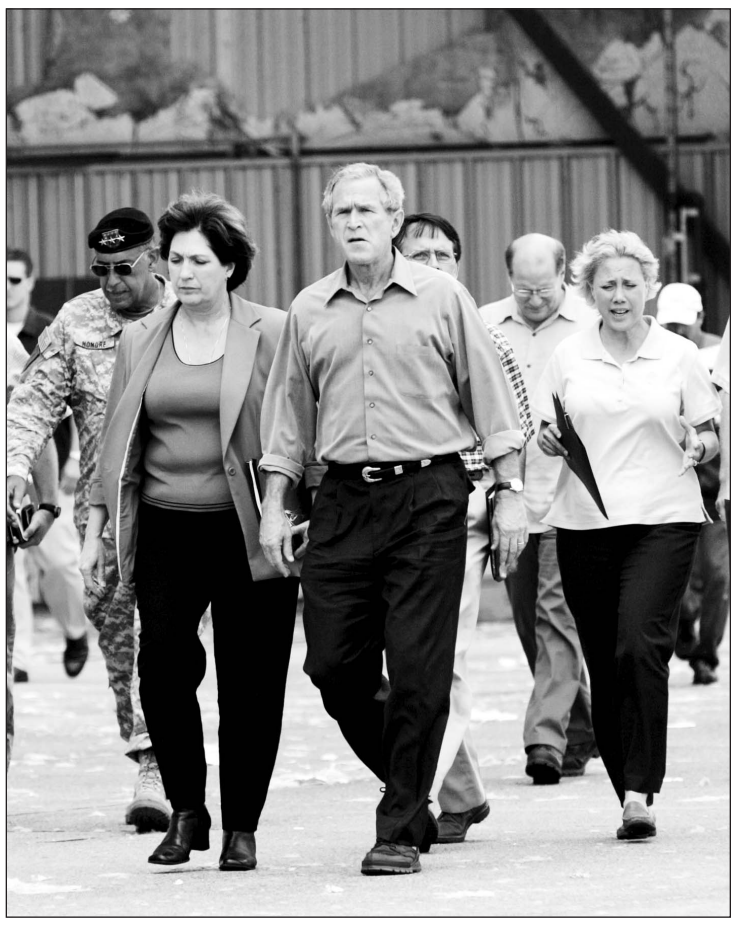
"We have been living like cavemen, sleeping in cars, doing bodily functions outside," he said.

Temperatures climbed into the upper 90s, and officials worried that swarms of mosquitoes might spread disease.

In Beaumont, officials briefed President Bush, Texas Gov. Rick Perry at his side, on relief efforts. Perry cautioned against criticism.

"There's always going to be those discombobulations, but the fact is, everyone is doing everything possible to restore power back to this area," Perry said.

About 476,000 people remained without electricity in Texas, in addition to about 285,000 in Louisiana. About 15,000 out-of-state utility workers were being brought to the region to help restore power.



President Bush, flanked by Gov. Kathleen Blanco, left, and U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, prepares to make a statement in front of a damaged hangar at Northrop Grumman in Lake Charles on Tuesday. Bush was in the region to get a first-hand look at the effect Hurricane Rita had on the nation's energy resources.

Residents of some hard-hit towns were allowed to check on their homes but were not allowed to stay because of a lack of generators and ice.

About 2,000 Port Arthur residents who stayed through the storm were advised to find other places to live until utilities are restored. Ortiz said it could be two weeks before people are allowed back into Port Arthur.

After seeing a swarm of ravenous mosquitoes around his storm-battered home in Vidor, Harry Smith and his family decided to leave. They hitchhiked 10 miles to an emergency staging area and got on a bus to San Antonio.

"It can't be any worse than here," said Smith, 49, a pipefitter. "This is the worst storm I've seen in the 46 years I've lived here."

In Louisiana, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury President Hal McMillin said residents who come back would be without air conditioning and that they risk insect bites and the mosquito-borne West Nile virus. A mandatory evacuation remained in effect for 10 southwestern Louisiana parishes.

"There's a good chance we could have an outbreak or something," McMillin said.

There were some signs of hope. In Orange, Texas, people converged in cars and trucks outside a shopping strip for water, food and ice supplied by the private disaster group the Compassion Alliance.

"I know it's going to take some time, but we really appreciate this," Dorothy Landry, 66, said after waiting in the line. "I can't thank them enough."

# Legislature could meet twice before March session

## *Lawmakers may report as early as October*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The legal and financial aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita might take two special legislative sessions to sort out, House Speaker Joe Salter, D-Florien, said Tuesday.

He said the latest start date he has heard bandied for the two-week meeting is Oct. 23, but he cautioned that "nothing is definite at this point."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco or lawmakers themselves can call a special session, but the latter has not been done in modern times.

Blanco spokesman Roderick Hawkins said a decision to call one or more session has not been made.

"It is too early to tell at this time" how many sessions will be needed, Hawkins said. "It is hard to say what tomorrow is going to bring. We don't want to limit ourselves" now as to the subject matters to be debated.

Senate President Don Hines, D-Bunkie, said he has heard "through the grapevine" that Blanco will call lawmakers into session for two weeks in late October.

Salter and Hines, Blanco's chief legislative floor leaders, said because of the complexity of the issues to be discussed, lawmakers could be called back into a special session in January.

Salter said the October session should be limited to legal issues, such as the deadline to file or dispose of lawsuits, which has been interrupted by the hurricanes.

Salter said he has asked Rep. Glenn Ansardi, D-Kenner, a lawyer who is chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, to start looking at legal issues that could be addressed in a special session.

The second session, he said, should deal with the financial impact of the hurricanes, such as lost tax revenue from the stricken area and what money is available to spend.

Salter said he didn't think the information needed to deal with a financial session could be put together until January.

Other lawmakers have said a special January session might be devoted to tax breaks for businesses and individuals looking to move back into the state.

The Legislature is scheduled to meet in a 60-day general session starting March 27 and through June 19. In a general session, most subjects, except taxes, can be taken up.

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A NOTE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

From: Toledano, Herrin & Lopez, A.P.L.C.
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Dear clients, colleagues, friends and neighbors:

The attorneys and staff of Toledano, Herrin & Lopez express our sincerest sympathy for everyone who suffered losses. We received an outpouring of concern and gestures of support after this tragedy. We especially thank those who expressed their concern for us and our families.

We suffered minimal damage to our offices and are able to offer comprehensive legal representation to individuals and businesses needing services in litigation, insurance claims, construction issues, contractual matters, personal injury claims, real estate issues and criminal matters.

Below is some helpful information and strategies for protecting your family's interests during reconstruction:

1. Check your parish permit office to find out whether out-of-town contractors have registered.
2. Review estimates and read all contracts.
3. Certain parishes are offering construction related permits at no charge.
4. Make copies or record your contractor's license number, insurance information, driver's license number and state of issue.
5. Take pictures before, during and after construction.
6. Generally, construction contracts are not paid in full up front. Pay your contractor on a schedule of completion.
7. When a contractual dispute arises, contact an attorney for advice.
8. Public libraries are temporarily offering free internet and copying services.

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AP PHOTO

Wayne Mack of the Georgia Department of Labor provides introductory information to thousands of participants in a United Way job fair at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. More than 8,000 jobs were offered by 300 local employers.

# Locals join evacuees at job fair in Atlanta

*Overwhelming response brings promise of repeat*

**By Giovanna Dell'orto**
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — At one of the nation's largest job fairs set up for hurricane evacuees, thousands of people — some driven by stormy weather as far away as Galveston, Texas, others driven by unemployment just blocks away — competed Tuesday for more than 8,000 jobs.

The response was so overwhelming that organizers closed the doors within two hours and promised to set up another fair next month. The United Way, which set up the event, had estimated a turnout of 15,000 job applicants.

About 30 percent of applicants were hurricane evacuees from Louisiana and Texas, while the rest were local residents taking advantage of what the state Department of Labor called the largest job fair in Georgia and perhaps the biggest in the country.

The job seekers looped across and around downtown Atlanta's gigantic Georgia World Congress Center, carrying laptops and resumes in Kinko's sacks, wearing everything from black suits and stiletto heels to do-rags and sports jerseys. They thronged booths staffed by 300 local employers, offering jobs ranging from clerks at Home Depot to officers with the suburban Gwinnett County police.

A 19-year-old construction worker from Galveston who fled Hurricane Rita with his wife, 2-year-old son and 8-month-old daughter, and needed the help of a Spanish-language translator lined up next to a 60-year-old woman who spent 33 years teaching in Atlanta schools.

"We're not the special unemployed," said Deborah Watts, a 47-year-old Atlantan who was looking for a retail management position.

She and others complained about the long lines and the lack of on-site interviews. Most job applicants had to fill out online forms at computers lined up along an entire wall of the central hall.

But most of the displaced workers were simply grateful for the throbbing job market, free child care and Cokes and pizza offered by their new state.

"You've got to think somebody is always worse off than you," said Angela Lassere, a medical assistant who lost her New Orleans home to 10 feet of water.

Lassere and 20 of her family members fled the city just as the levees were breached following Hurricane Katrina nearly a month ago. It took them 20 hours to reach Atlanta, where they had relatives to stay with.

Audrey Morgan-Martin and 28 of her family members also left New Orleans in a caravan right before the flooding. On the job, Morgan-Martin used to handle a different kind of hurricane: She chopped fruit for the signature Hurricane drinks at Pat O'Brien's Bar in the heart of the French Quarter.

Even though she said she didn't know what, if anything, she would find when she returns, she was planning to go back and was looking for any job in Atlanta that would support her until then.

"I can sweep streets, I can pick leaves, I can wash dishes till I can go home," Morgan-Martin said. "I don't have a problem."

# The people v. Hurricane Katrina

*Storm-related lawsuits spring up in courts*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Class-action lawsuits stemming from Hurricane Katrina are beginning to pile up in U.S. District Court in New Orleans, as lawyers jockey to stake a claim in what could be a years-long series of legal battles over who to blame for damages stemming from the storm.

Plaintiff's attorney Daniel Becnel Jr. of Reserve has filed what amounts to a placeholder suit aimed at assigning blame for the failure of the 17th Street Canal levee wall, initially naming Boh Bros. Construction Co. of New Orleans and a small Florida construction company as defendants.

In a class action, lawyers file suit on behalf of a group of individuals who are representative of those injured by an action. Such suits ask the court to include all others who are similarly affected.

Becnel said there's a good chance Boh Bros. will be dropped from the canal levee lawsuit, as company officials have said it was hired only to dredge the bottom of the 17th Street Canal. The company that built the east levee wall along the canal will be added to the suit when it is identified, Becnel said.

Becnel's suit, filed on behalf of residents of Orleans and Jefferson parishes, names Gulf Coast Inc. as a defendant, but the company described in the lawsuit actually is Gulf Group Inc. of Panama City, Fla., which built a "hurricane-proof" bridge on Old Hammond Highway across the canal.

The lawsuit contends that during construction of the bridge, the company "placed construction vehicles and other heavy equipment on the levee, which eventually failed, while constructing the bridge. It is believed that the placement of these heavy vehicles and/or other heavy construction equipment on the 17th Street Canal levee caused and/or contributed (to) the above-mentioned breach in the levee and/or floodwall."

Becnel said the lawsuit may be expanded to include other levee wall collapses in the city that occurred during and after Katrina.

Becnel also has filed suit against Murphy Oil Co., asking for damages resulting from the leaking of oil from a storage tank on its Chalmette refinery site into neighboring homes. Appended to the lawsuit is a request that a federal Oil Pollution Act trust fund reimburse residents $1 billion for damages caused by the spill.

That trust fund, paid for with a tax on oil production, was set up after the huge Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska in 1989.

Murphy spokeswoman Mindy West said 85 percent of the oil released in the spill has been either removed or evaporated and that the company's cleanup efforts will continue.

"Class action lawsuits involving this are almost inappropriate, given the enormity of the storm that hit us and this area," she said.

West said the company has neither offered to buy the homes from those affected by the oil spill nor offered cash settlements to homeowners. She said rumors of both actions by the company have spread through St. Bernard Parish in recent days.

A group of lawyers led by Philip Bohrer of Baton Rouge also has filed a class action lawsuit against Shell Pipeline LLC and Shell Pipeline Co. LLC for damages associated with the rupture of a crude oil pipeline in lower Plaquemines Parish.

Shell Pipeline officials could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Staff writer Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@cox.net.




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# Work resumes on twin spans

*Repairs were halted as Rita neared*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — After having to halt temporarily because of Hurricane Rita's high winds, crews resumed work late Monday rebuilding one of the Interstate 10 twin spans.

Gordon Nelson, assistant secretary of operations for the state Department of Transportation and Development, said Rita forced workers to abandon repairs and reconstruction of a 5.8-mile segment of the 8-mile span knocked out of service about a month ago by Hurricane Katrina.

Several sections of the span,linking Orleans and St. Tammany parishes, were either knocked out or skewed out of alignment by Katrina.

Nelson said Rita took out "another two or three sections" of the span that had been left "just hanging" as a result of Katrina.

Despite a four-day shutdown of work — from Thursday through Sunday – Nelson said the project is still on schedule.

Agency spokesman Mark Lambert said the eastbound span should be back in operation by about Halloween under the terms of the 45-day work agreement. He said the plans are to open one lane of the span eastbound and the other lane westbound.

The $30.9 million contract, awarded to Boh Bros. Construction Co., also calls for repairing the less-damaged westbound span as a one-lane bridge.

Lambert said that although crews are working on the parallel spans simultaneously, they are devoting more effort to getting the eastbound span back first and are using good sections of the westbound bridge to repair it.

The westbound span will be open as a one-lane bridge by mid-January, Lambert said.

Lambert said the contract calls for a $75,000-a-day penalty for each day the project runs over the 45-day limit to have the eastbound span open. Conversely, the contract also calls for a $75,000-a-day incentive – up to 15 days — for each day the work is completed ahead of schedule.

Lambert said the department will take bids on a $500 million to $600 million new, higher twin span in the first quarter of 2006.

Meanwhile, he said DOTD engineers have given a clean bill of health to the I-10 bridge over the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles that was hit by a pair of barges during Hurricane Rita.

On Tuesday, more than 150 roads along coastal Louisiana from Texas to Mississippi remained closed because of hurricane damage, downed trees or flooding, said State Police spokesman Johnnie Brown.


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TEXAS: 248,000
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- ▶ Power has been restored to the French Quarter, the Central Business District and Algiers Point.
- ▶ Power is expected to be restored by Friday to a portion of Uptown bounded by St. Charles Avenue south to the Mississippi River, and South Carrollton Avenue east to Market Street.

**CLECO CUSTOMERS**
- ▶ Power has been restored to all Cleco customers in St. Tammany and Washington parishes.

### SHELTERS
- ▶ 78,500 still in shelters
- ▶ 47,407 in 355 shelters in Louisiana

### POSTAL SERVICE
- ▶ Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
- ▶ For harder-hit Plaquemines Parish, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse, where residents can pick up their mail.
- ▶ Service already is up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. P.artial delivery began last week for zip codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

### PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- ▶ Beginning Monday, residents of Algiers and business owners in the French Quarter, Uptown, the Central Business District and Algiers were allowed to return to do inspections and clean up. Other areas of the city remain under mandatory evacuation until further notice.
- ▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.

**JEFFERSON**
- ▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- ▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.

**ST. TAMMANY**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ 911 phone system is back on line
- ▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- ▶ A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD**
- ▶ Parish officials said Tuesday the parish had recorded its 100th storm-related death.
- ▶ As of today, all areas of the parish were to have been reopened. People are required to carry identification. A dawn-to-dusk curfew also is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES**
- ▶ Parish is open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- ▶ Some areas still are without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ Utilities are working

**ST. CHARLES**
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ Utilities are working

### SCHOOL OPENINGS
**ORLEANS**
- ▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
- ▶ Teachers and other employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office.

**JEFFERSON**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 is the target opening date for some schools
- ▶ Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call (225) 819-2846 to register
- ▶ Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3
- ▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge opened Sept. 26

**ST. TAMMANY**
- ▶ Public: Oct. 3 target date
- ▶ Catholic: Several schools already open. Our Lady of the Lake in Mandeville opened Monday.

**ST. BERNARD**
- ▶ Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES**
- ▶ The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen the Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17..

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- ▶ Public: Open
- ▶ Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES**
- ▶ Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students are expected to begin this week.
- ▶ Catholic: Open.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

Kelly Knepper of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 leaves a home on St. Roch Avenue as he looks for victims Monday.



Herb Berger of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 takes a water break Monday on St. Roch Avenue in New Orleans. The smiley face on the tree trunk was made by rescue workers using the same paint they mark houses with.

# ONE LAST LOOK

Nearly a month after the New Orleans area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, residents are returning to some neighborhoods and the power is being restored. And as signs of life slowly return to the city, the search for storm victims is winding down.

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# Computer chips track morgue cases

## *Coroner is trying to reduce errors*

**By David Dishneau**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. - As body counts mounted and missing-person reports multiplied in the days after Hurricane Katrina, morgue workers began using a new technology to keep track of unidentified remains recovered in two Mississippi counties.

Radio frequency identification chips — slender red cylinders about half an inch long — were implanted under the corpses' skin or placed inside body bags. Each VeriChip, donated by a subsidiary of Applied Digital Solutions Inc., emits a specific radio signal, enabling morgue workers to quickly locate and catalog the remains.

With 48 of the 133 bodies recovered in Harrison and Hancock counties still unidentified as of Sunday, Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove said the chips have been a boon to the Disaster Mortuary Operational Recovery Team he oversees.

"It's better enabled me to do my job as the coroner, tracking and getting people's loved ones back to them quickly," he said.

Besides tagging the storm victims, which are kept in refrigerated trucks at Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport, the chips are helping Hargrove catalog other human remains that the floodwaters released from damaged caskets and burial vaults in cemeteries.

Product manufacturers and retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. use similar RFID technology to monitor the movement of goods. VeriChips, which were approved by the Food and Drug Administration for human implantation in 2004, have been used for tagging pets and identifying high-security workers, but not for managing morgue cases before, Applied Digital spokesman John Procter said.

While acknowledging that some may shudder at the idea, Procter said the chips can speed the morgue-management process and reduce errors.

Applied Digital, of Delray Beach, Fla., said it sent 360 VeriChips to Gulfport, along with five handheld scanners that read the radio signals and a 40-foot mobile clinic outfitted for chip injections. The company is talking with officials in Louisiana about using the technology at a DMORT site in St. Gabriel, La., that also is handling Katrina victims.

The RFID chips are being used only with remains from Harrison and Hancock counties. Their combined death toll represents more than half of the 220 people killed by Katrina in Mississippi. At least 1,079 deaths have been attributed to Katrina in five states.

Each chip comes packaged in a white plastic injector that looks like a bulky pen attached to a thick hypodermic needle. Hargrove said the chips are implanted in the corpse's shoulder or placed inside the body bag, depending on the condition of the remains.

While officials in Mississippi are using the technology for free, Applied Digital recommends doctors charge a total of about $200 for the chip, the injector to place it under a person's skin and for performing the procedure.

The beige plastic scanners, which resemble TV remote controls, have screens that display a 16-digit number when passed within six inches of a chip. The same number is preprinted on bar-code stickers attached to each injector package. Hargrove said the stickers go on the outside of the bag, on the case file and on any DNA samples taken from the remains.

Conventional morgue case management involves ankle bracelets, which must be checked to ensure that the remains match their file numbers.

"The VeriChip allows the technicians to accurately and quickly identify the remains inside the body bag without having to open the body bag at each step along the process," Procter said. Some privacy advocates fear that implantable RFID chips could lead to unwanted tracking of humans.

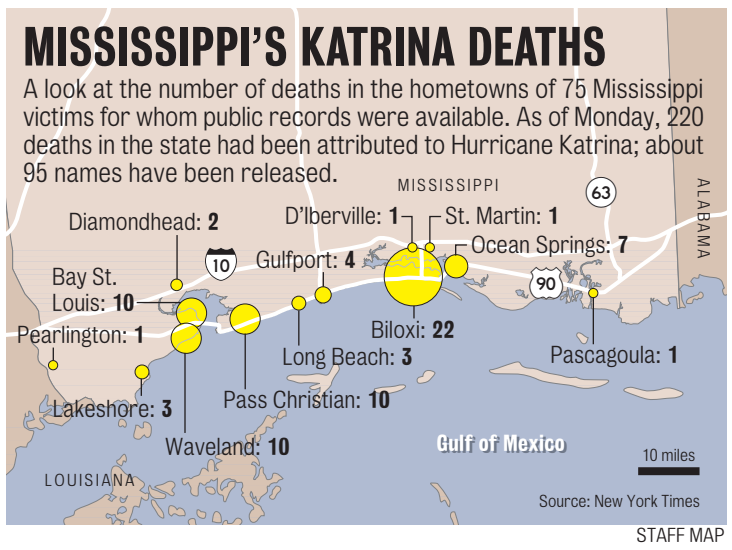
But Chuck Kerr, a Murfreesboro, Tenn., businessman whose parents' bodies were at the DMORT site in Gulfport for nearly two weeks after the Aug. 29 storm, doesn't object to the technology's use in disaster recovery.

"If it helps the families find their loved ones, then I think it's a good thing," he said.

He said his parents, Charlie, 79, and Betty, 75, had moved from St. Louis to Pass Christian in 1994 to enjoy the warm Gulf Coast weather. As Katrina neared, they chose to stay in their house less than a mile from the beach because they didn't think Betty's recently replaced hip joint could tolerate hurricane-shelter conditions. The last time the Kerrs went to a shelter, they slept on the floor for four or five days, their son said.

"I think they would rather have been dead than sat in a shelter anywhere," he said.

A memorial service for the Kerrs was held Thursday in Orange Grove. Their son wasn't sure where their final resting place will be, since their prearranged funeral paperwork apparently was lost in the storm.



STAFF MAP

# Schools reopening along Miss. coast

## *Students given time to discuss Katrina*

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — When elementary students in Biloxi and Ocean Springs returned to school Monday, they spent time sharing stories about their lives since Hurricane Katrina.

Principals and teachers are giving students the chance to talk about their feelings while gradually returning to a normal schedule.

Christa Hode, a third-grade teacher at Oak Park Elementary in Ocean Springs, said her students have adjusted well to being back in the classroom.

"They're so resilient," Hode said.

Eight-year-old Journee Hyde said she was relieved to be back at Oak Park after Katrina's powerful blow to her family.

"It makes me feel like home because I lost my home," she said.

Not every school district on the Mississippi coast was ready to reopen Monday. The projected start date for students in the Pascagoula School District is Oct. 6.

Because of the damage from Katrina, some classes have been transferred to other schools within the district.

Superintendent Wayne Rodolfich said new textbooks had to be ordered and other details, including clothing for students, need to be worked out before the schools reopen.

"We are pulling together uniforms for students who lost their uniforms in the storm," Rodolfich said.

The Moss Point School Board got an update Monday on the restoration and cleanup process and confirmed today as the target start date for schools.

At N.E. Taconi Elementary in Ocean Springs, students were back at school Monday and talking about their experiences. They completed questionnaires to help the faculty and administrators better understand how each student is progressing.

Principal Susan Dollar said school officials also met with the 30 faculty and staff members before classes started to help them as they deal with their own struggles.

In Biloxi, students at Beauvoir Elementary gathered in dark classrooms and tried to avoid slipping on floors slick from humidity. A power pole went down Monday, and the school had no electricity or phone service.

Beauvoir principal Susan Brand said teachers remained enthusiastic and made every attempt to "muster up excitement for the children."

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# Seafood industry losses may be felt nationwide

## *Hurricane Rita damaged what survived Katrina*

**By Janet McConnaughey**
Associated Press writer

BATON ROUGE – It may be months before officials know the extent of hurricane damage to Louisiana's seafood and aquaculture industries, but to some shrimpers, it seems Hurricane Rita picked up right where Katrina left off.

Flooding or power outages caused by Hurricane Rita put nearly every shrimp dock and processing facility out of business, at least temporarily, said Martin Bourgeois, shrimp program manager for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

"I'm not sure of any port anywhere along the Louisiana coast, or for that matter from Galveston (Texas) to Bayou La-Batre, Ala., where a fisherman could land a pound of shrimp," he said Tuesday. "Gee whiz, we were enjoying a very productive white shrimp season before these storms."

The hurricanes also damaged about two-thirds of the oyster industry in the state, and ruined some alligator, turtle and crawfish farms.

On Tuesday, some 500,000 people in Louisiana were still without power and 350,000 people had no telephone service. Six of the major oil refineries in Louisiana were shut down and mandatory evacuation remained in effect for 10 southwest Louisiana parishes. Fifty-three parishes were declared a state of emergency from Rita.

"There is not one single part of the coastline that has not been affected negatively," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. "I don't think we've ever seen anything like it. ... Our fisheries are threatened. All of our agricultural assets are threatened. Oil and gas are threatened."

After Katrina, shrimpers were able to work without problems west of Bayou Lafourche. But Rita flooded docks and knocked out power across the rest of the coast.

"There was a lot of frozen inventory lost because of this," said shrimper James Cheramie of Galliano. He said that even though the fleet survived: "The problem is most of these shrimpers have had personal impacts. Their homes may have flooded. Their families are displaced. In order for them to proceed, (they) have to put their lives in order."

The oyster industry was also affected. Greg Lutz, an aquaculture specialist at Louisiana State University, said Hurricane Katrina wiped out an estimated two-thirds of the oyster harvest, while the impact from Rita was still being estimated.

"It's difficult to get a good handle on a lot of the commodities we work with, because you can't just drive around or fly around and see them. It's all under the water anyway," he said.

Louisiana provides about 35 percent of the nation's oysters and harvests about 40 percent of the nation's shrimp, according to John Roussel, assistant secretary of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

David Bushek, treasurer and president elect of the National Shellfisheries Association, said oyster farmers elsewhere are already seeing an increase in demand. For example, oyster farmers in Delaware Bay in New Jersey are now getting higher prices for their oysters at the dock.

"Demand will be increased throughout the Atlantic Coast ... I don't know that there will be a critical shortage of supply or anything, but there will be a sufficient shortage that prices will probably go up in the short term."

Prices for purses and alligator skin shoes could also increase.Pelts & Skins, LLC, which has four farms in southern Louisiana and Florida and owns more than 200,000 alligators, said 30 percent of this year's alligator production was lost because of Katrina. The number was expected to grow after Hurricane Rita. Pelts & Skins Chief Executive Zachary Casey said it will take at least five years to recover the losses.

Alligator farmers collect eggs from nests in the wild, then hatch them indoors. Alligators usually hatch in August, and a number of buildings were damaged or without power.

Crawfish farms seemed to escape Katrina's wrath, but not Rita's. Normally, crawfish ponds aren't flooded until mid-October, and filling the ponds too early lets dead plants decompose, reducing the amount of oxygen in the water.

Crabbers lost traps and couldn't get bait for those that remained because the menhaden fishery was at least at a temporary standstill, said Bourgeois, with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



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AP PHOTO

## SHOW OF PATIENCE

Five-year-old Samantha McClelland awaits a doctor Tuesday in a medical tent in Fort Chaffee, Ark. McClelland and her family, of Derrider, La., were displaced by Hurricane Rita. In Texas, one emergency official complained Tuesday about the pace of relief in the storm-ravaged Gulf region.

# GOP to focus on retaining budget cuts, not spending

*But hurricanes may affect negotiations*

**By Andrew Taylor**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Despite chest-thumping by conservatives, upcoming battles over the federal budget will center less on new spending cuts to defray the costs of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and more on salvaging promises made earlier this year to trim the growth of government programs.

The roster of spending cuts put forth by conservatives contains few new ideas that seem likely to pass and many oft-rejected old ones.

Instead, the White House and Republican leaders are focused on preserving a budget plan that Congress passed in April calling for a modest $35 billion cut over five years in the growth of programs for the poor including food stamps and Medicaid.

Under Congress' arcane budget process, though, it's a lot easier to pass a budget blueprint in the spring — which only sets an outline for future bills to follow — than it is to adopt subsequent legislation to actually impose the cuts.

Some GOP moderates are resisting carrying out the $35 billion in promised cuts in the wake of hardships placed on tens of thousands of low-income families by the hurricanes.

"It's very hard to reduce the rate of growth of spending around here," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H.

Already, $62 billion has been approved for hurricane aid, with much more on the way. The Pentagon's open tab for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan soon will top $300 billion, so whatever cuts Congress finds will barely make a dent.

House and Senate GOP leaders are determined to go ahead with the planned budget cuts, though they've delayed acting on them until next month. They are enlisting conservatives to push back against the balky moderates.

Conservatives and the White House are likely to have greater success at a separate effort to draw the line against efforts by longtime senators to slip a few extra billion dollars to domestic agencies as part of the normal gamesmanship played during the annual budget process.

That won't actually save money. Instead, conservatives will have to fight to make sure that more generous colleagues don't bust the budget with accounting tricks or by borrowing from the Pentagon to bulk up the budgets for domestic agencies such as the Education and Health and Human Services departments.

The Senate Appropriations panel, led by Chairman Thad Cochran, R-Miss., has shifted $8 billion from the defense and foreign aid budgets to domestic agencies whose budgets President Bush proposed to cut by about 1 percent on average. It's an open secret that the Pentagon cuts would probably be restored through emergency funding that's supposed to pay for the war in Iraq.

Another $3 billion in budget trickery was used by Senate appropriators to free up funds for health research, medical training programs, home heating subsidies for the poor and myriad other programs.

The budget tricks have earned veto threats from the White House and scorn from the House.

"We're going to have to stick to this budget. We're going to have to reduce the defense transfer, and we're going to have to drop the gimmicks," said House Appropriations Committee spokesman John Scofield. "That's our starting point and ending point."

Congress is supposed to have finished the annual appropriations process — which involves passing 11 bills through House and Senate and shipping them to Bush — by the start of the 2006 fiscal year Saturday.

It won't even come close. Only two of the 11 bills have been signed by Bush, and the Senate hasn't even considered four of its spending bills, including the largest two bills; one funds the military, the other health and education programs.

Instead, later this week — probably Thursday — lawmakers will vote themselves a six-week extension and fund most federal agencies on a stopgap basis at or just below current levels.

# Evacuees in family home learn ways to get along

*'I love you' and 'I'm sorry' help*

**By Sharon Cohen**
AP national writer

BATON ROUGE — It's just past 5 p.m. and rush hour has begun inside the big brick house on Hanks Drive.

Auntie Deborah breezes in after a long day at school. Little Jasmine rushes out the front door with a squeal to hug her daddy. Great-grandma Audrey Mae is folding laundry. Jamal is at the kitchen counter, helping his younger sister, Kayla, with her homework, gently but firmly telling her she's not going anywhere until it's done.

This is a family reunion. Hurricane Katrina brought everyone together, and nearly a month later, no one knows when they'll part. For now, four generations are learning that life under one roof may be chaotic and cramped, but it's comforting, too.

"The thing that pulls you through a tragedy is not to be alone," says Emelda Jackson, surrounded by her mother, daughters and grandkids. "A couple of heads thinking is better than one. We've all had to stop and console each other. We all lift each other's spirits up. It works when you decide you're going to pull together, respect each other's space and respect each other's thoughts."

That can be a tall order when an extended family of 15, ages 5 to 81, is sharing meals and one another's breathing and sleeping space. But Jackson insists communal living works because everyone abides by one unwritten house rule:

"You have to say I AM sorry and I DO love you," she says, leaning in to be heard above the din from four other conversations going on in the living room.

Everyone living here fled New Orleans before Katrina struck. Some family members already know they've lost everything; others aren't sure. But no one is rushing to return to a city that faces a long cleanup.

"I refuse to rough it," says the 59-year-old Jackson, who hankers for her pre-hurricane life of college, vacations and everyday creature comforts. "I don't want to be a pioneer. ... I don't want to put up with inconveniences. When they make it convenient, then I'll go back."

For now, she and others are staying put.

But forget about sticking a nifty new label on the mailbox. The 15 people who now call this home include Riddles (three), Robertsons (three), Jacksons (two), Meades (two) and one Lutcher, Richardson, Chaney, Martin and Lewis. Five others have moved on, but two more Riddles may be coming.

And then there's Deborah Daniels, who invited her extended family to take refuge in her spacious five-bedroom home, then moved out, along with her mother, to make more room for them.

Daniels, who has an easy laugh and an unflappable spirit, remains a constant, soothing presence here.

"I just worry about them," she says. "I hope they don't get depressed."

It was Daniels who calmed her niece Monique Jackson, who doesn't like crowds, when she became overwhelmed by living in a place where someone is always underfoot. She erupted one day and said, "Auntie, I can't stand it!"

"I let her have her screaming fit," Daniels said with a serene smile that suggested she knows this territory well, being in charge of hundreds of children as principal of a Baton Rouge elementary school.

And it was Auntie Deborah who helped another niece, Debra Robertson (at one time there were three Deborahs and one Debra in this house), an assistant principal in New Orleans, find work as a third-grader teacher here.

"Some people won't let you sit on your butt and mourn," Robertson teases her.

She hasn't had much time for that. Robertson, who is divorced, has enrolled her two kids, 5 and 14, in Baton Rouge schools and now must drive them to see their father, whose job has been relocated to Houston.

In her new school, Robertson says she found herself poring over the roster checking for the names of former students who may have relocated here. She's trying to look ahead, though she can't help reflecting about the past month.

"You go from having a house, a job and everything to nothing," she said. "It's hard for me. I did what I was supposed to do. I went to college. I've always been a provider. It's hard for me to be on the receiving end from everyone else."

They still celebrate family milestones. A few weeks ago, Audrey Mae Riddle blew out a candle celebrating her 81st birthday — about the same time as she saw her 5-year-old great-granddaughter, Mia, head off to kindergarten.

But life also has new rhythms and routines: Grocery shopping means buying the 20-pound bag of rice. Cooking means stirring a pot big enough to feed a platoon. Showering and bathing means plotting a schedule that starts at dinnertime and ends the next morning.

Family members say there haven't been any fights, just good-natured disagreements. About what? Everything, they say, quickly ticking off examples:

Who's going to take care of the kids? Where's everyone going to sleep? Who's going to have a bed? (There are three beds and three air mattresses.)

One thing they all agree on, Robertson says, is food.

As dinnertime approaches, Jamal Richardson, a 19-year-old who has had to temporarily abandon college studies in New Orleans, is preparing to work the late shift at Wal-Mart.

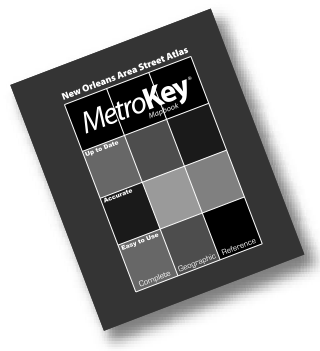
Living together with so many relatives "is hectic," he said. "Sometimes it might give you a headache. Everybody has something to say and everybody wants to be heard. But we all stick together, and when it's all said and done, we're family."

The time will come when they'll all move on, Emelda Jackson says.

"Everybody eventually has to go their separate ways," she says. "We're not sick of each other. We just don't want to live together forever."


New Orleans Area Street Atlas

Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St Bernard, St Charles, St John, Terrebonne, LaFourche




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NATIONAL

# Courthouse shooting suspect's hostage says she gave him drugs

## *In book, she admits she provided meth*

**By Greg Bluestein**
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — Ashley Smith, the woman who says she persuaded suspected courthouse gunman Brian Nichols to release her by talking about her faith in God, discloses in a new book that she gave him methamphetamine during the hostage ordeal.

Smith did not share that detail with authorities after she talked her way out of captivity.

In her book, "Unlikely Angel," released Tuesday, the 27-year-old Smith says Nichols had her bound on her bed with masking tape and an extension cord. She says he asked for marijuana, but she did not have any, so she dug into her illegal stash of crystal meth instead.

Smith, who has been in a mental hospital and has flunked out of drug rehab programs, says the seven-hour hostage ordeal led her to stop using drugs. She says she has not touched drugs since the night before she was taken hostage.

"If I did die, I wasn't going to heaven and say, 'Oh, excuse me, God. Let me wipe my nose, because I just did some drugs before I got here,' " Smith told the Augusta Chronicle.

Police said Nichols took Smith hostage in her apartment March 11 after a shooting rampage at the Atlanta courthouse.

During the ordeal, Smith said, she pulled out Rick Warren's book "The Purpose-Driven Life" and read to Nichols a chapter called "Using What God Gave Me" to gain his trust. Nichols later released her, and she called 911 and told authorities where to find him.

Nichols is accused of killing four people, including a judge, and could get the death penalty.

Since Nichols' arrest, Smith has received $70,000 in rewards and has been bombarded with offers for books, movies and speaking engagements. Her ordeal has been held up as an example of the redemptive power of faith.

"It's hard for people to understand the miracle of the story," she said. "This was totally a God thing, to me in my life. This was God getting my attention, going, 'I'm going to give you one more chance.' "

Financial details of the book have not been released, but Smith pledged to donate an undisclosed portion of the book's proceeds to a memorial fund for the victims.

Calls to Nichols' attorneys were not immediately returned Tuesday. Prosecution spokesman Erik Friedly would not comment on the case.

Smith says in her book that as the night wore on — after Nichols had snorted some of Smith's meth — she tried to win Nichols' trust by talking about her faith in God and relating to him her personal stories.

She says she told him how her husband had died in her arms four years earlier after being stabbed during a brawl.

She writes that she asked Nichols if he wanted to see the danger of drugs and lifted up her tank top several inches to reveal a five-inch scar down the center of her torso — the aftermath of a car wreck caused by drug-induced psychosis.

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# Cholesterol drug may be just what heart doctor ordered

## *Broader use of Lipitor wins FDA approval*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration has approved widening the pool of people who can take the popular cholesterol drug Lipitor to reduce the risk of stroke and heart attack to many diabetics who have risk factors for heart disease, the drug's manufacturer announced Tuesday.

Pfizer also said the FDA approved Lipitor to reduce the chance of stroke in people without diabetes but who have multiple other risk factors.

People considered at higher risk for stroke include those who are 55 or older, smoke, are obese or have high cholesterol, high blood pressure, a family history of stroke, or diabetes.

A study of 2,800 patients with Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the condition, near normal cholesterol, and at least one other risk factor for stroke showed that patients on Lipitor suffered 50 percent fewer strokes than those taking a placebo, Pfizer said.

Another study of people with multiple risk factors for stroke found that Lipitor reduced the risk of stroke by 26 percent compared to those taking a placebo, the company said.

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THE WAR IN IRAQ

# Al-Zarqawi lieutenant reportedly killed in Iraq

## *Separately, U.S. Marine killed by roadside bomb*

**By Thomas Wagner**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ - U.S. and Iraqi authorities said Tuesday their forces had killed the No. 2 official in the al-Qaida in Iraq organization in a weekend raid in Baghdad, claiming to have struck a "painful blow" to the country's most feared insurgent group.

Abdullah Abu Azzam led al-Qaida's operations in Baghdad, planning a brutal wave of suicide bombings in the capital since April, killing hundreds of people, including police, army recruits and day laborers, officials said. According to an Associated Press tally, 698 people have been killed and 1,579 wounded since April 1 in suicide attacks in Baghdad. Abu Azzam also controlled the finances for foreign fighters that flowed into Iraq to join the insurgency.

Abu Azzam, who a government spokesman said was an Iraqi, was the top deputy to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Abu Azzam was on a list of Iraq's 29 most-wanted insurgents issued by the U.S. military in February and had a bounty of $50,000 on his head.

Al-Qaida in Iraq denied that Abu Azzam was the No. 2 leader of the organization and said "it was not confirmed" that he was killed. "Abu Azzam was one of al-Qaida's many soldiers and is the leader of one of its battalions operating in Baghdad," the group said in an Internet statement by its spokesman, Abu Maysara al-Iraqi.

It called the U.S. and Iraqi claims that he was the group's top deputy "a futile attempt ... to raise the morale of their troops."

### Violence continues

Elsewhere, a suicide bomber attacked Iraqis applying for jobs as policemen Tuesday in Baqouba, 30 miles north of Baghdad, killing nine and wounding 21.

The U.S. military also said a Marine was killed Monday by a roadside bomb in the town of Khaldiyah, west of Baghdad. The death brought to 1,918 the number of U.S. troops who have died since the Iraq war started in 2003, according to an AP count.

Police found the bodies of 22 Iraqi men who had been shot to death in southern Iraq, many of them bound and blindfolded, said Maj. Felah Al-Mohammedawi of the Interior Ministry. Their identities were not immediately known, but the district – northeast of Kut, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad – is mostly Shiite.

It was not immediately clear what effect Abu Azzam's death would have on al-Qaida in Iraq, which has been one of the deadliest militant groups, carrying out suicide attacks that targeted the country's Shiite majority. The U.S. military has claimed to have killed or captured leading al-Zarqawi aides in the past and attacks have continued unabated, although Abu Azzam appeared to be a more significant figure.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the killing of Abu Azzam would force insurgents "to go to the bench and find somebody that is probably less knowledgeable and less qualified."

Iraqi government spokesman Laith Kubba called the killing of Abu Azzam a "painful blow" to al-Qaida but warned that the group would likely carry out revenge attacks.

### Tip prompted raid

Abu Azzam was killed early Sunday when U.S. and Iraqi forces raided a high-rise apartment building in Baghdad, Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, a U.S. military spokesman, told the AP.

The Iraqi and U.S. forces targeted the building after a tip from an Iraqi citizen, Kubba said. During the raid, the troops captured another militant in the apartment with Abu Azzam, Kubba said.

Abu Azzam, whose real name is Abdullah Najim Abdullah Mohamed Al-Jawari, was the No. 2 figure in al-Qaida in Iraq, Kubba and Boylan said.

He had claimed responsibility for the assassinations of a number of top politicians, including a car bomb in May 2004 that killed Izzadine Saleem, the president of the U.S.-appointed Governing Council, and a July 2004 attack that killed the governor of Nineveh province, the military said. He was the group's "amir" or leader in Anbar, the vast western province that is the heartland of the insurgency, until spring, when he became the amir in Baghdad and led operations in and around the capital. He was "responsible for the recent upsurge in violent attacks in the city since April 2005," the military said.


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Lights line the streets of the French Quarter on Monday night for the first time since Hurricane Katrina flooded much of New Orleans.

# CURFEW? WHAT CURFEW?

**BOURBON,** *from A-1*

Byars was enjoying a cold beer with a friend at Stella, a Decatur Street establishment that was serving up smoked sausage sandwiches, cheeseburgers, salads – and blessed air conditioning.

On the upriver end of Bourbon Street, music, strobes and barkers lured passersby into several fleshpots and honkytonks that were back in business.

Rock reverberated from the Famous Door, where Deborah Richard, Heineken in hand, was one of a handful of patrons. "I'm surprised. I didn't think anything was open," said Richard, an off-duty corporal with the Department of Homeland Security. She had just arrived in the city from Philadelphia and had yet to learn her assignment.

Richard said she got the mistaken impression from TV media that New Orleans was flooded throughout. "The way the news explained it, I thought it was all under sea level," she said.

Famous Door manager Art Irons said the bar opened a week ago, only to be quickly shuttered by city officials and Hurricane Rita. "We had people. We had cold beers. We decided to see if we couldn't get back to normal," he said.

Irons said he wanted to give people something to do "besides looking at damage."

A block away, at Bourbon Street Blues Company, a female bartender climbed on top of the bar and gyrated to music before an enthusiastic crowd of about 18.

Another bartender, Bridgett Derdin, sang the praises of local residents. "During the summer, the local people pay our bills," she said. "We're trying to get Bourbon Street going again. New Orleans takes care of New Orleans."

Customer Wayne Williamson was happy to lend himself to the cause. "It wasn't a whole lot of fun until power today," said Williamson, a credit union manager who returned late last week to his French Quarter apartment. "The place has been dead," he said. "We can start the comeback now."

Along the Quarter's largely car-free streets, many storefronts and homes remained darkened, but streetlamps gleamed throughout the district.

Sidewalk trash bins had been emptied, but the stink of piled garbage was still inescapable. Closed pubs and boarded-up shops far outnumbered bustling businesses, but some, such as The Original Dungeon at 738 Toulouse St., posted signs promising a Tuesday reopening.

A small crowd gathered around the Royal Street Grocery, apparently the only store in the area selling staples such as cigarettes, aspirin, batteries and insect repellent.

Owner Robert Buras, wearing a Saints cap and a T-shirt with an alligator on it over the words "Cajun yard dog," said he left only briefly about four days after Katrina hit, when looting and lawlessness were at their peak.

"We had separation anxiety," Buras said.

After numerous trips in and out of the city to restock his wares, Buras was back in business within a week of Katrina, serving crawfish etouffee as well as red beans and rice.

On Monday, his wife, Fahreena, worked the kitchen and the counter, and their 3-year-old daughter, Ava, dashed around customers' legs and played drums on a plastic can.

One of his most loyal customers, James Stephan, 58, pronounced the chicken "delicious," then washed it down with a Coke.

The shop's inventory offered long-deprived locals such surprises as Starbucks coffee, lemons and peaches, postcards, and pints of Wild Turkey.

"I'm going to be resettled in the first place that's a community again," Buras said of the French Quarter, crossing himself as an expression of gratitude that the electricity was back on.

On Decatur Street near the Quarter's downriver boundary, laughter and conversation spilled from Molly's at the Market, a watering hole that, like Buras' grocery, had been operating even without electricity.

Before the power came on, Molly's honored the official curfew and closed at 6 p.m. On Monday, the bar stayed open until a more civilized 2 a.m.

"It's a regular Monday night crowd," said Uptown resident Greg Ensslen, who rode his bicycle to the bar with two friends and dined on donated burgers.

Ensslen said the bleak state of the city had been depressing. "It felt like when you break up with a girlfriend because you've done something wrong."

Shortly after 9 p.m., two New Orleans police officers pulled up to Molly's in a motorized cart. The crowd of about 18 grew hushed, and the jukebox stopped playing a Van Morrison song. Whether the bar was being shut down seemed an open question.

A moment later, the jukebox cranked up again and the officers were mingling in the crowd. Asked what time the curfew kicked in, officer S.M. Smith exhaled a cloud of cigarette smoke, shrugged and said, "Whatever."

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.




Microphone in hand, Peter Territo does his best to draw customers into the Famous Door on Bourbon Street on Tuesday. With power restored to the French Quarter on Monday, the neighborhood took on a much more spirited feel. Famous Door manager Art Irons said he wanted to give people something to do 'besides looking at damage.'

STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

# Mayor calls Compass a hero

COMPASS, *from A-1*

very, very thankful God gave me the wisdom and discernment to make tough decisions.

"Over the next 30 to 45 days of a transition period, I will be retiring as superintendent of police," he said. "I ask you to respect my privacy and my decision, and my right to be by myself."

Nagin characterized Compass' retirement as "a sad day in the city of New Orleans," and hailed the chief as a hero. He added, somewhat cryptically, that he thought Compass would make a lot of money and asked him to send the occasional Christmas card.

"My heart goes out to the chief and his family," he said. "I wish him nothing but the best."

The news conference ended abruptly, with Nagin and Compass quickly parting and leaving through separate exits. In response to a shouted question about whether he asked for Compass' resignation, Nagin said, "No." The mayor also declined to elaborate in an email Tuesday afternoon.

"No comment," Nagin wrote. "The chief asks everyone to respect his privacy. He requested the press conference be held the way it was handled. He is a good man. Don't mess with him!"

But several sources said the sudden retirement came after a private meeting between Compass, 47, and the mayor not long before the announcement.

The announcement came two days after several comments Compass had made repeatedly about the alleged violence that had engulfed emergency shelters at the Superdome and Ernest N.Morial Convention Center were countered by others to be hyperbolic and based on faulty intelligence.

Compass had come under fire for a variety of other reasons after Katrina. At first, he seemed invisible, holed up in the Hyatt Hotel with Nagin and other city leaders. As anarchy threatened to overwhelm the city, cops on the street said they "had no chief."

Widespread looting, some of it conducted by police officers, branded New Orleans worldwide as lawless, and almost 249 officers left their posts without permission.

After that first week, however, Compass became a seemingly omnipresent fixture in media accounts, and was feted by broadcast news stars. After the crisis was in full swing, Compass was a virtual quote machine, offering a down-home mix of empathy and bravado.

"I'm still standing. I'm the ultimate warrior," Compass was quoted two weeks after the storm. "I'm going to be the last person to leave the battlefield."

While his tearful interviews made him a compelling local face of the horrors of the storm, his decision to leave the city and flip the coin at a New Orleans Saints game in Giants Stadium on Monday Night Football on Sept. 19 was criticized by some of his rank and file.




AP PHOTO

Deputy Superintendent Warren Riley, left, has been named interim police chief by Mayor Ray Nagin. Riley is a favorite at City Hall whom Nagin supported in an unsuccessful bid for criminal sheriff last year.

Then, on Friday, Nagin's press office issued an unusually tart news release that rescinded statements Compass had made to media outlets about taking guns from residents coming back to New Orleans, comments that prompted a lawsuit from the National Rifle Association. What's more, Nagin's staff made clear, Compass' statements "were made without the knowledge or the approval of the mayor."

After Tuesday's news conference, as the brass got into their tinted-window SUVs and rolled away, Riley, a favorite at City Hall whom Nagin supported in an unsuccessful bid for criminal sheriff last year, eluded a question about whether he has been tapped as a replacement.

But just a few minutes after Compass quit, Riley leaned up against the hood of a black SUV, next to department spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo, smiling and talking into a cell phone. As he hung up, another colleague walked up to him and slapped his hand.

"Congratulations, bro!" the officer said. Riley smiled and thanked him.

In less than an hour, Nagin's office released a statement announcing Riley's appointment as acting chief.

The new head of the department declined any comment on his ascension to power or his boss's exit, but said he would address the topic today at an 11 a.m. news conference.

Top brass and patrol officers were jolted by the news.

"It was a little shocking," said Capt. Kevin Anderson, commander of the 8th District. "There was no indication earlier, but I'm sure he had his reasons. I can tell you this much: This has been the most trying incident anyone could go through in their lifetime," referring to Katrina.

Anderson praised Compass as an "outstanding" superintendent, who had been "a friend to me and a friend to the entire city."

Several district captains said they heard about Compass' sudden retirement through the media or by telephone as the news rippled through the department. They said they were surprised that Compass didn't follow the typical protocol of informing his officers before any public announcement.

"I'm extremely surprised by this, but these have been surprising times," said Police Association of New Orleans President David Benelli.

Two captains said they met with the chief Monday and nothing seemed amiss.

Capt. Timothy Bayard, the vice and narcotics chief who has commanded boat rescues since Katrina, said the timing of Compass' retirement was unfortunate, whether it was voluntary or forced.

"The timing is not good, man, not good at all," Bayard said. "We're in the middle of a crisis and now this? He was driving the ship. I have a lot of young officers with their heads cocked sideways, looking to someone for leadership, wondering which way they're going. It's going to have a trickle-down effect and it's not the right trickle-down effect."

Compass is the latest in a series of high-profile members of the Nagin administration to resign during the mayor's first term. Those who preceded him out the door included two chief administrative officers, an intergovernmental aide, the economic development director and a communications director.

Benelli heaped praise on a man he considered both a boss and a friend.

"The men and women of this department had a real friend in Eddie Compass. He was a cop's cop. He rose through the ranks and he experienced the department at every level," Benelli said. "He was the one who really brought the family tradition back to the New Orleans Police Department. He represented the spirit of this department and during the darkest hours of the hurricane, it was the spirit of the men and women of this department that kept this city afloat."

Other city politicians were also taken aback by the news.

"This is a big loss. He gave a damn," City Council President Oliver Thomas said. Thomas declined to speculate on whether Compass' handling of the Katrina crisis precipitated his departure.

"I have not had time to rate his performance," he said. "All I know is he managed to keep together as much of his department as possible."

Council member Jackie Clarkson said she, too, had no clue this was coming, and praised Compass for "the masterful job the police did in the saving of so many citizens of New Orleans."

On the choice of a permanent successor for Compass, Benelli said his only preference is someone from within the department.

"The next chief should be someone within the ranks of the NOPD. No outsider need apply," Benelli said. "If it's Chief (Warren) Riley or any of the deputy chiefs, I'm sure they'd serve the city well."

• • • • • •

Staff writers Martha Carr, Meghan Gordon, Trymaine Lee, David Meeks, Bruce Nolan and Gordon Russell contributed to this report.

### A CLOSER LOOK: EDDIE COMPASS

- 47 years old
- 26 years of service on the New Orleans police force
- Appointed police superintendent in May 2002 by Mayor Ray Nagin, after serving a short stint as acting deputy chief.
- Married for the second time with one child and one on the way; two grown children from a previous marriage
- As a lieutenant, served as the first commander of COPS, a Community policing program in public housing
- As a captain, Compass commanded the 1st District

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Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro, M.D.
Ned Valen, M.D.

Daniel Clayton, PAC Mary Feagans, PAC

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MURPHY
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September 28, 2005

# Dear St. Bernard Parish Friends and Neighbors:

I write this letter as many of you are returning to the parish for your first view of the unbelievable destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina. If your experience is like mine, you will be stunned by the destructive force of the storm and the devastation left in its wake.

On the day after the storm, I went to the parish to see what the storm had done to our refinery and to the community. Murphy's Meraux Refinery sustained damage, but what was really heart-breaking was seeing what Katrina had done to St. Bernard Parish.

Two weeks ago, as I drove through the community seeing one street after another of broken windows, twisted roofs, battered buildings and water-ravaged homes, three things became obvious to me. First, Katrina had not only devastated the community, it had also devastated lives. Second, we all owe a huge debt to the brave men and women who stood on the front lines and battled this terrible tragedy on that first day and remain there today slowly but surely regaining ground. Third, **Murphy Oil needs to help our neighbors and make a major commitment to bringing St. Bernard Parish back to life.**

In the days since then, all of us at Murphy have committed ourselves to those two tasks and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what we are doing, or plan on doing, to address both of these challenges.

As you might expect, in the days immediately after the disaster, Murphy's first priority was to do what we could to help local relief efforts, to contact our employees to ensure that they and their families had survived the disaster, and to make sure the refinery was secure. In those first dark days, Murphy did what we could to help the local relief effort by providing fuel for, and assistance to, all emergency relief vehicles in the area and cooperating as fully as possible with all relief officials. We also set out to find our employees and I am happy to tell you that we have now succeeded in locating all of them. Like you, many of them have homes that have been damaged or destroyed, but they all survived and many are working with us to bring the refinery back on line as soon as possible. On a less positive note, as many of you know, the storm damaged one of our storage tanks which leaked oil into some of the areas surrounding the refinery. All appropriate authorities were immediately notified and more than 100 spill response and recovery experts were deployed. Some oil did get off refinery property; however, much of the off-site spill has already evaporated or been recovered from public areas.

We also used this time to gain a better understanding of what we could do to help people, businesses and response organizations get through these difficult times and on to the road to recovery. We are still working on some of the questions and issues, but let me tell you about some of the things Murphy is committed to doing right now.

First, we want to help refinery employees get back on their feet. We've provided them with an extra month's pay to help them cover emergency expenses and have continued to pay salaries to all workers. Furthermore, we intend to announce some additional financial measures to help those refinery employees who are displaced from their homes by the storm until the plant is back up and running. We're also providing them with information about progress at the refinery and plans for getting people back to work.

Second, **we are committing $5 million to community relief and rebuilding efforts, including:**

- **a $2 million gift to St. Bernard Parish to help fund relief efforts in the parish;**
- **a $1 million gift to the St. Bernard Parish United Way;**
- **a $1 million gift to the St. Bernard Parish Public Schools System; and**
- **creation of a $1 million program to help local businesses re-open and get people back to work.**

We sincerely hope and believe that these contributions will benefit all of our neighbors.

We understand that some of you have questions about whether or not your homes and property may have been affected by the oil leak caused by the storm. At the moment it is our understanding that all final determinations about the safety and habitability and future of property in St. Bernard Parish have to be made by local, state and federal governmental agencies. Residents who believe they may have been impacted are encouraged to call 1-877-511-1006.

There is no doubt that Hurricane Katrina tremendously impacted St. Bernard Parish, but my travels in the parish and conversations with the brave people of the community have reassured me that it didn't damage our spirit or willingness to help each other. It is clear to me that the families and businesses of St. Bernard Parish intend to rebuild their lives and their community, and I want you to know that Murphy will help you with both.

Thank you for your courage and determination.

Sincerely,

W. Michael Hulse
President, Murphy Oil USA, Inc.




STAFF MAP



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

A car in Orleans Parish turns around after finding Airline Drive still blocked by a rock levee on Tuesday. The dam was built in a race against the clock after floodwaters from the breached 17th Street Canal began pouring out of New Orleans along Airline and into East Jefferson. The dike stands about seven feet tall and runs about 500 feet across Airline at the Jefferson-Orleans line.

# Materials may be kept near dam sites

**AIRLINE,** *from A-1*

"It's not feasible to leave an eight-foot hump in the middle of a primary business route. We need Airline open," said Assistant Secretary Gordon Nelson of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. "I haven't had a chance yet to talk with local officials — which I will do — but I would think that with the cool front moving in, water levels will drop in the next few days, and we'll be able to go ahead and remove the levee."

The rock dams were built in a race against the clock after floodwaters from the breached 17th Street Canal began pouring out of New Orleans along Airline and into East Jefferson. The largest of the dikes stands about seven feet tall and runs about 500 feet across Airline at the Jefferson-Orleans line. Others blocked Jefferson Highway, Palmetto Street and Northline.

Some Jefferson Parish officials want the structures to remain in place, to stop the possibility of more flooding during the two months that remain in the hurricane season. And the dams did win a temporary reprieve because Hurricane Rita barreled into the Gulf of Mexico and threatened Louisiana last week.

But now that the water level in Lake Pontchartrain and the canal is falling dramatically, state highway officials say, the dams must fall as well.

Nelson said materials used to build the Airline levee, which included three sizes of rock stacked from largest to smallest, can be stockpiled near the site so they are handy if the dikes need to be rebuilt in a pinch.

Jefferson Parish Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez said someone already has removed part of the Jefferson Highway dike so that one lane is available for travel. The Palmetto and Northline dams remained in place Tuesday, but Gonzalez said he knows those eventually will have to go.

"I can tell you that eventually, the state will require removal of all of them, but I can't help you with when," he said. "I've not been given any marching orders from Jefferson Parish officials to remove them, but it would make sense that when that happens for the materials to be maintained on the site."

When asked whether the dams could be rebuilt quickly enough to save Jefferson Parish from flooding if another breach occurs in the New Orleans side of the canal, Gonzalez said it's all a matter of timing.

"If we were to have a problem in the middle of the night, and there was too little communication with New Orleans and we wouldn't know about a breach until the next morning, it could be difficult," he said.

"But there's a lot of eyes out there now, with the (Army) Corps of Engineers and all the contractors, so I suspect if something happened again, we'd know pretty soon," Gonzalez said. "Then we'd get busy mobilizing our people."

That's cold comfort to other parish officials who aren't comfortable with the idea of removing their makeshift dikes until the damaged canal bank is in better shape. Parish Councilman John Young, for example, said he understands the state's desire to reopen Airline, but he's wary of seeing the dike removed with the levee system in Orleans so battered.

"I'm not trying to be insensitive to other parishes, but I was elected to represent the residents of Jefferson Parish," Young said. "And as long as hurricane season is still open, we have to protect this parish."

Young said he's concerned it might not be possible to protect East Jefferson without the makeshift levee.

"We're really on the horns of a dilemma," Young said. "And it seems to me that the levee needs to be preserved until … everybody sits down together and comes up with a global solution to this problem."

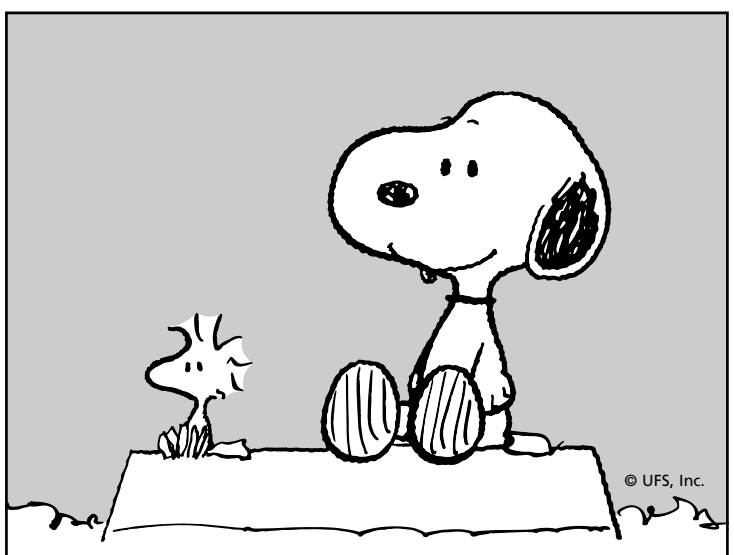
East Jefferson Levee District President Patrick Bossetta suggested leaving the Airline dam in place and building a temporary asphalt road over it, so that Airline could accommodate some traffic until the canal levee on the New Orleans side is fully restored.

"I wasn't consulted because it's not my bailiwick," Bossetta said. "But my opinion is now that it's there, it needs to stay until somebody can assure Jefferson Parish that the Orleans levee system won't have another breach," he said.

"Had that levee been in place when the breach in the 17th Street Canal occurred, these homes off Airline and in Old Metairie wouldn't have flooded."

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NATION

# Laura Bush joins filming on Mississippi coast

*'Extreme Makeover' brings in donations*

**By Jay Reeves**
Associated Press writer

BILOXI, MISS. — Laura Bush made her reality TV debut Tuesday, helping with a filming of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" in a sweltering community building as she toured hurricane relief sites on the Mississippi coast.

With hundreds of people crowded into the Biloxi Community Center, where a mountain of donated clothes covered a stage, Bush and Preston Sharp, a designer on the ABC-TV show, greeted storm victims and handed out donated items from big plastic bins.

"Extreme Makeover" usually remodels homes for needy people with compelling stories. It came to the coast to help distribute items donated for victims of Katrina, which displaced as many as 1 million people in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Later, with sweat beading on her forehead under the blazing sun, Bush said she was encouraged by the way governments, private organizations, faith-based groups and individuals were helping ease the suffering after the Aug. 29 hurricane that killed at least 220 Mississippians and left major damage along the state's 90-mile coast.

"It's going to take all of these working together to help people rebuild their lives," she said.

Bush previously visited the Mississippi town of Poplarville with the president to view damage. On Tuesday, she was struck by the extent of the devastation in Biloxi, where virtually every building was damaged and mounds of rubble lined streets waiting to be picked up.

"It really is heartbreaking," she said.

As she spoke, the president toured areas along the Louisiana-Texas border where Hurricane Rita came ashore last weekend.

A spokeswoman for Laura Bush, Susan Whitson, said the "Extreme Makeover" segment would likely air in early December.

Before Bush entered the community center where the show was filming, a director shooed away both victims and volunteers from the doorway, instructing them how to react as her entourage entered.

"Act surprised!" he said above the din.

A clinic offering free treatment and medicine at the community center had to shut down briefly during Bush's visit. Some of the people who came to see her had the mistaken belief that there was going to be a drawing for free appliances donated by Sears, Roebuck & Co., which has a tie-in with the show.

"That's why people are here. We don't need clothes. We're not walking around naked," said Susie Hightower, 53.

Afterward, Bush handed out meals to storm victims and volunteers at a Salvation Army assistance center set up in an old football stadium.

Displaced residents and workers are living in about two dozen tents set up under the goal post in an end zone, and dozens of people stood in line awaiting assistance beside a concrete bleacher.

Les Burroughs, a Salvation Army captain from Canada, said as many as 500 people a day receive gift cards at the center to use for merchandise. Hundreds more are getting meals, medical help or shade under the big red-and-white awning set up on the field, he said.

"A lot of people come here because it's become home sort of," Burroughs said.



AP PHOTO

Laura Bush helps Cayla Obillo, 4, of Long Beach, Miss., select some clothing during a give-away at the Biloxi Community Center. At left is Preston Sharp, a designer on 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,' which was filming and distributing donations at the center.

# Katrina sticks lawmaker into dad's shoes

*Father gave speech after Camille in '69*

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, MISS. — Rep. Jim Simpson Sr. stood before the Mississippi House in 1969 to thank the state and the nation for helping the Gulf Coast after a horrific hurricane.

On Tuesday, his son did the same.

Rep. Jim Simpson Jr., R-Long Beach, first apologized to his colleagues for breaking the House chamber's coat-and-tie dress code.

"The fact is, I don't own a suit and I don't own a coat and I don't own a tie and I don't own a home," he said. "I am no different than 90 percent of my constituents and my neighbors."

The younger Simpson choked back tears as he read the speech his father delivered on Aug. 27, 1969 — just 10 days after Hurricane Camille flattened the Simpsons' hometown of Pass Christian.

Jim Simpson Sr., a Democrat, served from January 1964 to January 1992 and died in 1994. He said in 1969 that he saw a new light on the Mississippi coast in the dark days after Camille.

"'This light comes from the north, the east and the west and every point in this great state and generous nation,'" his son read. "'This light is called hope.'

"'It comes from every place in the United States of America, in the form of medical supplies, food, water, clothing and the essentials that are necessary to sustain life,'" he read. "'But even more important, it has come in your faith and your prayers and your love, and these are essentials to sustain not our bodies but our spirits — and sustain them it has.'"

Camille was one of the most intense hurricanes ever to hit the United States, but its band of destruction was narrower than that of Hurricane Katrina, which wiped out tens of thousands of homes and business across Mississippi's 80-mile coastline when it hit last month.

Several coast legislators lost their homes in Katrina. The House and Senate are in special session to respond to the hurricane.

Like his father 36 years ago, Jim Simpson Jr. thanked fellow Mississippians and Americans for their help and their prayers.

"We call upon you again individually and collectively to help us stand proudly in our communities again," he said, choking back tears. "We need you to help our fathers to go back to work. We need you to help our mothers return to making our homes proud and places where we can raise our children again. We need you to help our children laugh and have a place to go to school and a place to come home to again."

# Virginia to open oyster season early to help harvest

**By The Associated Press**

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. — Virginia marine regulators took steps Tuesday to prop up the oyster industry ravaged by Gulf Coast hurricanes by opening the state's harvesting season early and increasing the daily catch permitted.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted to open the season Oct. 1 for most areas and to increase the daily limit from eight to 12 bushels.

However, the commission granted a request from Tangier Island watermen to delay the start of their season until Dec. 1 and to retain an eight-bushel limit.

Tim Wesson, director of oyster replenishment for the commission, said the increase in the daily catch means that Virginia's beds will be depleted faster.

"It will definitely shorten the season," Wesson said.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOT EXCEEDING $47,500,000**
**LOUISIANA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY**
**ADJUSTABLE RATE DEMAND REVENUE AND REFUNDING BONDS**
**(COMM-CARE LOUISIANA PROJECT)**
**SERIES 2005D**

Notice is hereby given that the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (the "Authority") will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the Authority, Suite 650, 2237 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with respect to the captioned refunding revenue bonds (the "Bonds"). The Bonds are proposed to be issued by the Authority in an aggregate face amount not exceeding $47,500,000, and the proceeds of the Bonds are to be loaned by the Authority to Comm-Care Louisiana, A Non-Profit Corporation (the "Corporation"), a Louisiana nonprofit corporation which is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Code (the "Corporation") for the purpose of providing funds to (i) acquire two existing nursing home facilities located in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (the "Jefferson Parish Homes") and pay the costs of construction and equipping of a replacement nursing home facility located in Baton Rouge Louisiana (the "Replacement Facility"), (ii) refund all or a portion of the Authority's outstanding Revenue Bonds (Comm-Care Louisiana Project) issued in three series in the original aggregate principal amounts of $4,675,000 Series 2005A, $2,075,000 Series 2005B and $750,000 Series 2005C (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds"), and (iii) pay a portion of the costs of issuance of the Bonds. The Refunded Bonds were issued for the purpose of providing funds to the Corporation to acquire an existing nursing home facility known as Baton Rouge Health Care Center, located at 5550 Thomas Road, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The address of the Corporation is 197 East Oakridge Park Metairie, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The exclusive owner of the foregoing Jefferson Parish Homes and the Replacement Facility will be the Corporation.

The Jefferson Parish Homes are comprised of (i) Chateau Living Center, a 300-bed nursing home facility located at 716 Village Road, Kenner, Louisiana, and (ii) Meadowcrest Living Center, a 146-bed nursing home facility located at 535 Commerce Drive, Gretna, Louisiana.

The Authority shall conduct the public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on and hearing any objections (verbal or written) to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. All interested parties are invited to attend such public hearing to express their views. Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to Long Law Firm, L.L.P., 4041 Essen Lane, Suite 500, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809 (225) 922-5110.

Persons who intend to appear at the hearing and express their view are invited to contact Stacye Bradford, Administrative Assistant, at the Authority's offices, either in writing or by telephone (225) 923-0020, in advance of the hearing. Any interested persons unable to attend the hearing may submit their views in writing to Ms. Bradford prior to the date scheduled for the hearing. The location and time of the hearing may be changed or an additional hearing will be scheduled if requested to do so in written requests submitted to Ms. Bradford prior to the aforementioned date of the hearing by a significant number of interested parties.

The Bonds will be secured solely by payments made by the Corporation, will not be payable from any other revenues of the Authority or the State of Louisiana, and will not constitute an indebtedness of the Authority or the State of Louisiana, within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation of indebtedness.

This notice is published and the aforementioned public hearing is to be held in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, regarding the public hearing prerequisite to the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of the interest on the Bonds.

Louisiana Public Facilities Authority

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- Call 1-800-SF-CLAIM (1-800-732-5246) to reach our catastrophe operators; or
- Visit statefarm.com® to initiate your claim online.

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It takes a community to recover from a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina. We thank our medical community, our doctors at West Jefferson Medical Center. We are stronger now than ever. We share a proud history and look forward to a bright future...for the West Bank, the region, the entire Gulf South, and America.

Thank you to the physicians who worked tirelessly at West Jefferson during Katrina and through her aftermath. We were able to offer critical medical and surgical care to patients and storm victims under the most severe conditions because of you. We understand that you made personal sacrifices to be here with us. We appreciate your humanity, your dedication and commitment to our patients, your love and skill for the art and practice of Medicine. Thank you for being here with us despite your personal concerns.

Although many of you were dispersed afar, we appreciate the many members of the Medical Staff who have been able to return to West Jefferson Medical Center and our community. Many doctors' offices are now open; others plan to open soon. We are thankful that your staffs are also here and reflect the same love of community and devotion to the region. Today, West Jefferson is fully operational.

As we all know, having access to medical and surgical care is critical; this recent crisis served as a palpable reminder lest we forget. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to the community to provide quality care to our patients as we all begin the arduous healing process. And together, we welcome back more returning doctors each and every day and wish physicians, as well as their staffs and hospital staff on the way back to our community, a safe journey home.

West Jefferson Medical Center Hospital and Health System. We're family. Our Hospital Family. Thank you, West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff Members!

***The following departments and programs acknowledge their appreciation for the Medical Staff's Commitment during Hurricane Katrina:***

Accounting
Administration
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Ambulatory Surgery Center
Auxiliary and Volunteer Services
Behavioral Medicine Center
Breast Care Center
Cancer Center
Cardiac Cath Laboratory
Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab
Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine
Cart Supply
Case Management
Child Care Center
Community Relations and Elder Plus
Critical Care Nursing Units
Diabetes Services
EEG and EKG
EMS/Ambulance Transport
Emergency Department/Pediatric ER
Employee Health
Environmental Services and Linen Room
Food and Nutritional Services
Gift Shop and Guest Services
Health Information Management
Home Health and Hospice
Human Resources
Hyperbaric Medicine Center
Infection Control
Information Technology
Infusion Therapy
MRI
Maintenance
Materials Management
Medical Laboratory
Medical Staff Office
Medical/Surgical Nursing Units
Neuroscience Center and Stroke Unit
Nursing Services
PBX Operators
Patient Access
Patient Business Services
Pediatrics
Performance Improvement
Pharmacy
Pulmonary Medicine
Radiation Oncology
Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging
Rehabilitation Services
Safety and Security
Sleep Disorders Center
Social Services
Surgery and Special Procedures
Telecommunications
The Family Doctors
Transport
West Jeff Fitness Centers
Women's Imaging Center
Wound Care
....and all other services

***The following physicians are seeing patients in their offices in the Physicians Center and/or the hospital:****

Candice Abuso, M.D.
Tamer Acikalin, M.D.
Amit Ahuja, M.D.
Robert Applebaum, M.D.
Steven Atkins, M.D.
Robert Batson, M.D.
Thomas Boos, M.D.
Jonathan Boraski, M.D.
William Borron, M.D.
Robert Bostick, III, M.D.
Alan Bowers, M.D.
Wesley Bryan, M.D.
Brian Cain, D.P.M.
David Caletri, M.D.
R. Fridge Cameron, M.D.
Thomas Cashio, M.D.
Stacey Clasen, M.D.
Meda Colvin, M.D.
Maria Cortez, M.D.
Brian Cospolich, M.D.
James Craven, M.D.
Elizabeth Cressy, M.D.
Culicchia Neurological Clinic
Frank Culicchia, M.D.
Bertha Daniels, M.D.
Robert Dawson, M.D.
Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.
Charles Dupin, M.D.
Dean Edell, M.D.
Libby Ellent, M.D.
Juan Escobar, M.D.
Patricia Estrada, M.D.
Charles Everson, M.D.
Eye Associates of West Jefferson
Chester Falterman, M.D.
Samuel Ferris, M.D.
Ronald Fiore, M.D.
Robert Alan Frank, M.D.
John Freiberg, M.D.
Louis Glade, M.D.
Clay Gould, M.D.
Matthew Grimm, M.D.
Thomas Grimstad, M.D.
Joseph Guarnieri, M.D.
Michael Haydel, M.D.
Richard Helman, M.D.
David Hutchinson, M.D.
Thomas Irwin, M.D.
Shaunda Jones, M.D.
Mark Juneau, Jr., M.D.
Judy Kang, M.D.
Mark Kappelman, M.D.
Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.
E. Kenneth Kerut, M.D.
Robert Kessler, M.D.
John Kimble, M.D.
John Klees, M.D.
Douglas Koppel, M.D.
Rene Koppel, M.D.
Robert Koppel, M.D.
Patrick Krake, M.D.
Rhonda Kroll, M.D.
Scott Kurzer, M.D.
Frederick Kushner, M.D.
E.C. Labadie, M.D.
Juan Labadie, M.D.
Maria Labadie, M.D.
Pablo Labadie, M.D.
Elaine LaNasa, M.D.
Glenn Landry, M.D.
Dinh Le, M.D.
Michel LeBrun, M.D.
Leslie Levenson, M.D.
Daniel Lucio, M.D.
Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.
Jose Marina, M.D.
Robert Matheney, M.D.
Emery Minnard, M.D.
Guy Mioton, M.D.
Scott Nicholson, M.D.
Hong Nguyen, M.D.
Richard Paddock, M.D.
Michael Puente, M.D.
Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.
Chris Richards, M.D.
Gabriel Rivera, M.D.
Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro, M.D.
Stephen Rynick, M.D.
Charles Schibler, M.D.
Milton Seiler, Jr., M.D.
N.C. Sekar, M.D.
Sandra Spedale, M.D.
John Steck, M.D.
Patrick Stumpf, M.D.
Rian Tanenbaum, M.D.
Charles Thomas, M.D.
Craig Thompson, M.D.
David Treen, Jr., M.D.
Ivo Tremont, M.D.
Walter Truax, M.D.
Steve Venturatos, M.D.
Alfredo Vichot, M.D.
Mark Workman, M.D.
West Bank Nephrology

***The following off campus physicians' offices are open and seeing patients:****

James Bellina, M.D.
Kenneth Coignet, M.D.
Steven Deloach, M.D.
Jeffrey Guillmette, M.D.
Michael Friley, M.D.
Susan Hemelt, M.D.
Joseph Imseis, M.D.
Patty Jackson, M.D.
Dwight Landry, D.D.S.
William Long, M.D.
Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.
Rebecca Nguyen, M.D.
William Procell, M.D.
Lilibeth Rochon, M.D.
David Sampognaro, M.D.
The Bone and Joint Clinic
J. Brent Wallis, M.D.
Brigetta Yancy, M.D.
Westside Orthopaedic Clinic
Westside Clinics
Womens Medical Centers

***Thank you, doctors who saw patients or were with us at West Jefferson Medical Center during Hurricane Katrina or the first*** several ***days following her wrath:***

Steven Atkins, M.D.
Richard Bagnetto, M.D.
Imelda Bautista, M.D.
Elizabeth Blanton, M.D.
Thomas Boos, M.D.
Jonathan Boraski, M.D.
William Borron, M.D.
Brian Cain, D.P.M.
David Caletri, M.D.
Wayne Celentano, M.D.
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Karen Crotty, M.D.
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Brian DeHart, M.D.
Arlette Delcham, M.D.
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Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.
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Rodney Florek, M.D.
Michael Friley, M.D.
Mohammed Fustok, M.D.
Daniel Gallagher, M.D.
Matthew Grimm, M.D.
Mark Grise, M.D.
Robert Gruner, M.D.
Scott Habetz, M.D.
Paul Harch, M.D.
George Harris, M.D.
Richard Helman, M.D.
David Hunter, M.D.
David Hutchinson, M.D.
Jeanne Hutchinson, M.D.
Shaunda Jones, M.D.
David Joseph, M.D.
Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.
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Pablo Labadie, M.D.
Elaine LaNasa, M.D.
Keit Le, M.D.
Trac Le, M.D.
Michel LeBrun, M.D.
Henry Liu, M.D.
Daniel Lucio, M.D.
William Luer, M.D.
Ralph Lupin, M.D.
Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.
Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.
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Scott Nicholson, M.D.
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Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.
John Reilly, M.D.
Chris Richards, M.D.
Todd Roberts, M.D.
N.C. Sekar, M.D.
Robert Shackleton, M.D.
Paul Staab, M.D.
John Steck, M.D.
Robert Swanton, M.D.
Oliver Thelin, M.D.
Charles Thomas, M.D.
Aaron Thompson, M.D.
Craig Thompson, M.D.
James Todd, III, M.D.
Walter Truax, M.D.
Laura Winkeler, M.D.
Mark Workman, M.D.

***** We're working to update the "doctors' offices open" list every day on our web site at *www.wjmc.org*. If you are a member of the West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff and your office is open and you are not featured in the above applicable lists, please contact Shannon Hebert in the Medical Staff Office at (504) 349-1119 or Carol Hatchett, Physician Liaison in Community Relations at (504) 349-6023.

If you are a community member and do not see your doctor's office in our lists, please continue to call your physician's office to learn his or her availability. To check further, go to *www.wjmc.org* or call the previously listed numbers for assistance.

For a physician referral, call (505) 349-2054.

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Hospital and Health System

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CONTINUED

# Brown is lambasted by both parties

**BROWN,** *from A-1*

Orleans can be attributed to the refusal of Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin to order a mandatory evacuation until the day before Hurricane Katrina hit. By then, he said, it was too late to evacuate all of the city's nearly 500,000 residents, including thousands without transportation.

Brown said his two biggest mistakes were not holding regular briefings for the media and his failure "to persuade Gov. Blanco and Mayor Nagin to sit down, get over their differences and work together. I just couldn't pull that off."

Under questioning, Brown said another mistake was not recognizing by the Saturday before the hurricane made landfall that "Louisiana was dysfunctional," describing the state's command center as in a constant state of confusion.

Nagin called it "unfortunate" for Brown "to be up there in Washington trying to deflect attention away from his own performance. I'm not up there, so I really can't defend myself. But at the proper time I will."

Blanco pointed out that Brown had wrongly characterized the area covered by her emergency order and the timing of her evacuation order.

"Such falsehoods and misleading statements, made under oath before Congress, are shocking," Blanco said in a written statement. "It clearly demonstrates the appalling degree to which Mr. Brown is either out of touch with the truth or reality."

Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, called it "absolutely stunning" that Brown would blame Blanco and Nagin. Even if the criticism was valid, and Jefferson said it wasn't, FEMA's own study showed a Category 4 hurricane in New Orleans, like Katrina, would overwhelm local and state officials. The burden clearly was on the federal government, and it didn't respond adequately in the days after the hurricane, Jefferson said.

Others members were harder on Brown than they were on former Attorney General Janet Reno after the botched attempt to rescue children from the Branch Davidian compound in Texas, and the closed-door questioning of former Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet over the failed intelligence that led the United States to claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction before the invasion of Iraq in 2003.



AP PHOTO

Michael Brown, former chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, defends his response to Hurricane Katrina before Congress on Tuesday. Brown said he is happy to take responsibility for post-storm failures if it causes FEMA to get more resources.

### 'You get an F-minus'

The criticism didn't just come from Democrats. Republicans also sharply criticized Brown, who resigned as FEMA head three days after the Bush administration replaced him as the coordinator of the federal government's Katrina relief efforts.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said Blanco and Nagin clearly carry an "incredible black mark" for not ordering a mandatory evacuation sooner than 24 hours before the hurricane struck. But he said Brown failed to exercise the kind of leadership to respond to such a huge emergency. Coordinating an emergency response, he said, meant doing more than trying to persuade Nagin and Blanco to evacuate New Orleans.

"And that's why I'm happy you left," Shays said. "That kind of look in the lights like a deer tells me you weren't capable of doing that job."

Gene Taylor, D-Miss., one of three Democrats from hurricane-ravaged communities participating in the hearing despite a boycott declared by Democratic leaders who questioned its impartiality, said the recovery effort failed outside of Louisiana as well.

He said local residents and first responders in coastal Mississippi were left with little choice but to loot stores for food and clothing because promised food water and supplies from FEMA never arrived.

"Now, again, you can try to throw as much as you can on the backs of Louisianians, but I'm a witness as to what happened in Mississippi. You folks fell on your face. You get an F-minus in my book," Taylor said.

Some Republicans on the panel tried to shift some of the blame from Brown to Nagin and Blanco. Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., for example, asked Brown whether he found it "stunning" that Blanco, in her initial request for disaster status before the hurricane struck, had not included Orleans and Jefferson parishes in the initial request for federal assistance.

Jefferson later presented copies of the governor's request for an emergency declaration, which included all "the southeastern parishes including the New Orleans metropolitan area."

### Budget cuts blamed

Brown, who for many became the symbol of the government's failure to help thousands of people in New Orleans who were trapped without water and food for the days, called some of the criticism unfair. He angrily disputed Shays' suggestion that he should have done more to force an earlier mandatory evacuation.

"So, I guess you want me to be the superhero, to step in there and take everyone out of New Orleans," Brown said.

Shays responded: "What I wanted you to do is do your job and coordinate."

Brown said he is happy to be the scapegoat if it means that FEMA will get the resources it needs.

He said he probably should have resigned long before the hurricane to indicate his dissatisfaction with budget cuts that at one point left his agency 500 workers short of its normal staff of 2,500. The agency became part of the Department of Homeland Security after the 2001 terrorist attacks, and some members of Congress are now proposing to make it an independent agency again.

At one point after the hurricane struck, Brown said he met with Nagin outside the Superdome and got a detailed list with priorities of what the city needed to help people stranded in the Superdome, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and on rooftops and attics.

Brown said he wanted to help Nagin and delivered the requests to the state emergency coordinator who was supposed to coordinate all requests for help.

But to this day, he said, he doesn't know whether the requests were acted upon.


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As part of New Orleans for over 150 years,
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We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us take this important first step.

For news of future progress and developments, please visit our website:
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-10

SECTION B
Wednesday
September 28, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## It's not all bad out there for evacuees

I don't know all my cousins in Maringouin.

I don't even pretend to know all the cousins of cousins and the many people who are "just like family" in this small town, now a refuge to Hurricane Katrina evacuees like me.

My first couple of weeks here, this proved to be confusing. As I drove by, people waved at me from their yards and front porches.

Was I supposed to know them? Were these the cousins who owned the unfamiliar names my mother had mentioned?

Maybe, maybe not.

I've come to learn that, in at least one respect, Maringouin – a few highway exits west of Baton Rouge — is the way New Orleans used to be. People speak and wave to each other, even if they haven't met.

You earn a "Hello" or a "How're feeling?" just because you are a human being. No other criteria need be met.

### Civility was rationed

I have often lamented the decline of this sort of civility in my home town.

In recent years, you can't be sure that an adult will respond to a "Good morning."

**I've come to learn that, in at least one respect, Maringouin – a few highway exits west of Baton Rouge — is the way New Orleans used to be. People speak and wave to each other, even if they haven't met.**

For the younger generation, kids raised on the angry lyrics of rap and heavy metal, smiles and greetings seem to be precious commodities to be dispensed sparingly or privately.

Even the cashiers in most of the check out lines at home, say "thank you" begrudgingly. You get the impression that they are only saying it because the training manual demands it. They do not wish to feign any sort of warmth or familiarity with someone as lowly as a mere customer.

### A learning experience

Now that the New Orleans diaspora has been cast into the various regions of this country, no doubt many of us are seeing things, new things, that are very different from the things we are used to at home.

We evacuees spend a lot of time complaining about the difficulty of finding the good restaurants in Baton Rouge, or the impossibility of finding good smoked sausage or pickled meat of any caliber in Vermont.

These complaints have their place.

But, perhaps by the time we return home, we will have left something of ourselves in these far flung locales and helped to make them better.

Perhaps when we return, we will have learned something about civility or dressing for cold weather that can be useful in the construction of a better New Orleans.

## Clarence Rodriguez's neighborhood is now barren, silent and dirty. But he confounds the cliché that no man is an island by finding peace amid the 9th Ward ruins



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

"This is what life is all about. Peace and quiet," says Clarence Rodriguez, who spends his days cleaning up his 9th Ward shotgun double. He removes debris, works on stripping the floors and dumps his home's moldy guts on the curb. At night he paces the block, taking in the now quiet nights.

By Trymaine D. Lee
Staff writer

As a young man growing up in New Orleans and neighboring Jefferson Parish, Clarence Rodriguez always dreamed of life in the wild, on the bayou, in a water world free of the slings and arrows of city life.

He yearned for solitude and peace.

After decades in the city, Rodriquez said his dreams of sweet loneliness are now his reality, thanks to the catastrophe named Katrina.

For nearly a month – since the big one rumbled through the city and

floodwaters swallowed most neighborhoods whole – he has been an

island unto himself, living a post-hurricane fantasy from his water-logged home on Lesseps Street, in the upper reaches of the city's devastated 9th Ward.



"This is what life is all about. Peace and quiet," he said Tuesday, sitting on a glider bench in front of his baby-blue shotgun double and tinkering with a radio he'd rigged to a 9-volt battery.

During the day he works to clean up his house. He removes debris, works

on stripping the floors and dumps his home's moldy guts on the curb.

At night he paces the block, taking in the now quiet nights of the

**"I was built for this. I got those survival instincts. I'm like Robinson Crusoe, a neighborhood MacGyver."**

CLARENCE RODRIGUEZ

9th Ward. The silence is golden, he said. No more gunshots in the darkness. No car stereos blaring and no neighborly chatter.

Most mornings he rises when he feels moved to do so. He strips off his clothes and steps into his backyard. He unrolls the shower curtain that

once hung in his bathroom and spreads it across the ground, using the

rain water collected from a cracked drain jutting from his roof to soap up and rinse off.

"I finally feel free," Rodriguez said. "I ain't going nowhere."

For 12 days following the hurricane, Rodriguez lived inside his

flooded domain, water on the first night having crested just a foot or

so from his ceiling.

Rodriquez's neighborhood, not far from the breached Industrial Canal, is now barren, silent and dirty. Dark flood lines ring the battered homes on his block, between Roman and Derbigny streets, like black eyes on prizefighters

See **LONER,** B-2

## St. Bernard death toll grows

### *Grandmother, diabetic man are new victims*

By Manuel Torres and Paul Rioux
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

A woman found dead by her grandson inside her Meraux mobile home and a school janitor who suffered a heart attack following treatment for a Hurricane Katrina-related injury have pushed the storm's official body count in St. Bernard Parish to 100, officials said Tuesday.

St. Bernard Parish Coroner Bryan Bertucci said the two latest victims were added to the storm's grim tally even though an autopsy is pending on the janitor, a diabetic man who injured a leg during the storm. Bertucci said the injury got infected, possibly aggravating the man's heart problems. Officials have not publicly identified any of the storm's victims. The body of the elderly woman was found Monday morning after officials reopened most of the parish to residents.

Bertucci said a Kenner Police officer who is the woman's grandson went by

See **BODIES,** B-2

## Road to recovery starts with gridlock

### *Slidell in traffic 'nightmare'*

By Paul Bartels
St. Tammany bureau

Traffic on several major roadways in Slidell ground to a near-halt this week as thousands of anxious St. Bernard Parish residents struggled to return to what's left of their homes by routes through a city whose population has almost doubled in recent weeks.

Although traffic has been unusually heavy on many roads in St. Tammany Parish's densely populated suburban areas in recent weeks, the worst chokepoint Tuesday was through south Slidell along Pontchartrain Drive and southbound U.S. 11.

Police posted along the road in front of First Baptist Church monitored the situation to be on the lookout for road-rage incidents and to respond to accidents more quickly than other units whose movements were

See **TRAFFIC,** B-2

## 9 N.O. firefighters central to Katrina rescues

### *They took 911 calls, patrolled for days*

By Meghan Gordon
Staff writer

The nine men of New Orleans Fire Engine Company No. 18 who rode out Katrina in the Lake Marina Tower could see water rising around them as the storm pushed across the city. They climbed to the building's 18th floor and peered out through the rain and flying debris.

At first suspecting the city had missed another "big one," they knew differently when they spotted the scene about a half-mile away along the 17th Street Canal.

"Once we saw the levee breach, my heart just dropped," Capt. Paul Hellmers said. "We knew it was all over, that the entire city was going to flood."

Hellmers and his colleagues started scanning the surrounding neighborhoods with binoculars, searching for boats floating in now-flooded back yards and driveways.

When the winds finally died down to 40 mph, Hellmers went out with firefighter Gabe King to retrieve the first vessel – a key to the engine company's rescue efforts that would play out for the better part of the week.

The pair reached the boat by swimming through blocks of floating debris. They cut it loose from its trailer, which was still attached as it floated.

HURRICANE HEROES



*Firefighters searched block by block for survivors*

"We were able to get it across the street and up into a fallen tree to keep (the wind) from sweeping us away," Hellmers said.

They held onto a downed power line until they were able to safely head back to the tower. One in the group made quick repairs to the boat and returned to find more boats, while Hellmers patched up two large gashes on his foot from sheet metal and glass in the floodwaters.

Hellmers stayed behind to stop the bleeding, but continued to coordinate the crew's new fleet of rescue boats. He hopped back into a boat a day and a half later.

The first call the team received from the still-working 911 system was from an elderly man in Lakeview.

"The old man was standing on his bathtub with the water up to his neck, and the water was rising about six inches every 15 minutes," Hellmers said. "A few minutes later might have been too late."

The 911 calls and shouts from houses continued, and the faces of survivors blurred together as the number of rescues mounted, Hellmers said.

"It was almost impossible to go through the streets, because you were trying to go through an oak tree," Hellmers said. "You had to go through front yards."

By Tuesday afternoon, the boat crews had started to patrol methodically, moving from block to block, sometimes docking on a roof and hollering into an attic

See **HERO,** B-2

# No more sounds of gunshots, car stereos

LONER, *from B-1*

homes seem to have reached the end of the line. Some are crumbling or have heavy debris – yard ornamentation, even cars — tossed across their lawns or through their windows and doors.

His neighbors long since vanished into the ether. Most were evacuated. Some were rescued. All are gone.

Except for a friend of his who's a state trooper and the occasional National Guard patrols who stop by to check on him, he's had very little human contact.

But there are the animals: three dogs, two birds and a gaggle of homeless cats he keeps alive with foraged pet food and water.

The animals aren't like most of the people in his life. They're not like his brother, sister or buddies who ran off and got married and are now too caught up in their own lives to bother with him.

The animals, he said, "know how to show you that they love you."

"They're always so happy to see me," he said, sticking his tongue out, panting and shaking his behind the way the dogs do when they see him coming.

"People ain't like that," he said, "they always want to ask 'what you want, can I borrow this, or what did you do now.'"

Instead of fleeing in the face of possibly toxic, tainted waters, Rodriguez decided to defy mandatory evacuation orders and stay put.

"I was built for this," Rodriguez said, striding barefoot across exposed floorboards. "I got those survival instincts. I'm like Robinson Crusoe, a neighborhood MacGyver."

Going to a shelter wasn't an option. Too many people. Too much negative energy.

"Living like a gypsy wasn't going to work for me," Rodriguez said. "I'm too much of a loner."

Before hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the pressures of life were closing in on him.

"Just some personal problems," he said. "I just wanted a change. I needed some time away."

Katrina stormed through New Orleans that Monday. The floodwaters came on her heels, spilling from several breaks in the city's levee system.

Rodriguez's home, a shotgun double, appeared structurally sound, but on its way to the ceiling the water had damaged much of his personal property.

"This whole hurricane brought on a whole new perspective.... Before this I think we all took so much for granted," Rodriguez said as he ducked clothes hanging from a rope across his bedroom and walked into the kitchen. He pointed to the counter where he slept for several days when his home was a reservoir.

His prized audio system and television set: destroyed. His record collection: wilted but drying on the mildewed, buckling floorboards. The record sleeves are faded and folding. All his favorites were destroyed, sand in their grooves: Richard Pryor, Morris Day and the Time, Earth Wind and Fire, The Commodores, Rick James, Grover Washington, Jr., all lost.

The tools of his trade as a "fix-it man" — a brand new miter saw, an air compressor and various mechanized tools — were also damaged in the flood.

In the corner of the living room, plastered against a backdrop of peeling beige wallpaper is what he calls his "bachelor's shrine," a collage of Jet magazine Beauty of the Week centerfolds and buck-naked pictures of curvaceous women, circa the late 1980s.

Rodriquez spread his arms wide, took a deep breath and smiled.

"Just a little bit out of place," he said, surveying soiled furniture scattered cockeyed and catty-corner around and about. "You know. Just a little bit out of place."

He said he can live without the material comforts he'd grown somewhat attached to over the years, but two losses hit him especially hard, he said: "The companionship of a fine woman and some cold Heineken" – as distinguished from the warm Heineken he squirreled away for emergency use.

Before the hurricane tore away the neighborhood's power lines, Rodriguez said he barely used his telephone, besides his weekly call to his mother, and rarely watched television or used the air conditioner.

"I never really aspired to be rich," he said. "Just happy."

He sipped from a warm can of Heineken, recalling the moment he realized his home was filling with water.

The night of the hurricane, Rodriguez said he was laid up in bed with a girlfriend from the neighborhood. A beer buzz had carried him into a deep sleep.

Then he heard water, lots of it, lapping in what he thought was the alley next to his home. He stumbled from his bed, and found himself standing in water, waist-high and rising.

Everything began to float. The box spring rose to the top of the door frame and got wedged on top of a bookshelf. He hoisted his lady onto the mattress and then followed her up there. They slept like logs that night.

The next day the water had fallen to chest high levels and Rodriquez's survival instincts kicked in.

"I had to be strong," he said. "I had to take care of me, my lady and some of my neighbors."

Food was a first consideration. His refrigerator had flipped over and opened. He plunged into the bayou that was now his kitchen and emerged with eight pieces of chicken, a bag of cooked jambalaya and some macaroni and cheese in a plastic container.

Escaping neighbors handed off more meat: pork chops, chicken wings and hot dogs. Rodriguez grabbed a square foil pan, the rack from his oven and some charcoal. He took his makeshift grill to the top of his pick up truck, the driest place he could find, and started barbecuing.

"I thought it was brilliant," he said of his improvised cookout. "Just brilliant. We ate good. Real good."

For his efforts, Rodriguez said he got an ear infection and lost hearing on one side for three days.

"But I proved to myself what I already knew, that I'm a survivor," he said, adjusting the wad of toilet paper he'd jammed in his left ear.

His neighbors were the first to go; the 30-something twins and their elderly father, then the man and woman across the street. As for his woman friend, she left to be with her family on the West Bank and didn't come back.

Two days into the hurricane's aftermath, Rodriquez was alone. And a month later he's still alone and loving it.

He finally has the time to gut that old 1975 Camaro in his driveway.

And while he's at it, maybe finish rehabbing his rusted 1968 Ford pickup as well.

"This suits me just fine," he said. "All I got to do now is sit on my porch and watch the grass grow. Just sit back, wait and watch everybody else come back."

# Woman's home may have been overlooked

BODIES, *from B-1*

her home at the Myrtle Grove trailer park, in the shadow of the Murphy Oil Refinery in Meraux. Hurricane Katrina, however, had pushed the mobile home off its foundation, carried it about half a block and over a fence before dumping it in the backyard of a nearby home. That's where the officer found the home, Bertucci said, and inside it the body of his grandmother.

Bertucci said recovery teams searching every home in the parish "may have overlooked" the woman's home, perhaps believing it was an uninhabited work shed because of its location in the backyard of another home.

"The trailer . . . wasn't where it was supposed to be," Bertucci said. "The family was very angry at first. After we explained what had happened they became very depressed."

The finding came almost a month after Katrina roared through the parish, lashing it with fierce winds and a tidal surge that put much of it under 22 feet of water. Since nearly all of the parish's homes have been searched for victims, some on several occasions, St. Bernard Council members were surprised Monday when Bertucci announced the discovery of the woman's body's during a regular Parish Council meeting.

"Jesus!" exclaimed Councilwoman Judy Hoffmeister.

News of the second victim came shortly after. The man, a janitor at Chalmette High School, was working in the same building where the meeting was taking place when he collapsed. Emergency personnel rushed to his aid, but their efforts to keep him alive were in vain. After the meeting adjourned, it was announced that he had died, and the Lord's Prayer was said for him.

"He was our No. 100," Bertucci said.

The figure includes 34 people found dead at St. Rita's Nursing Home near Poydras. The couple who owns the home has been booked with 34 counts of negligent homicide for failing to evacuate the victims ahead of the storm.

But in spite of the rising body count, officials found a bit of good news. Bertucci said the final tally of victims will be much lower than officials' initial forecast of several hundred.

And on Tuesday he confirmed that no bodies have been found related to reports that the storm had drowned as many as 22 people in the Jumonville Estates subdivision in Meraux. In the days following Katrina, officials said they had received reports that the bodies had been seen tied to one another, suggesting the victims had tried to save themselves from Katrina's rage. That detail and the large number of potential victims made the reports one of the most chilling facts in the chaotic aftermath of the storm.

But Bertucci on Tuesday said multiple recovery teams, including himself, have searched the subdivision and nearby areas and found no bodies.

"Not one," he said. "And that many bodies, you would have been able to smell them."

It's likely, he said, that those who called in the report saw something that looked like bodies and were not.

"You learn pretty early that until you pick up a body you don't record anything," Bertucci said.

# Team didn't complain despite discomfort

HERO, *from B-1*

vent to search for survivors.

They kept at it for two more days, exhausted, hot and sunburned. Besides Hellmers and King, the team was Capt. Gordon Case; Capt. Joe Fincher; firefighters Pat Ball, Lee Beba and Michael Byrne; and operators Steve Condon and Stanley Harris.

After three nights of little sleep on Lake Marina Tower's concrete pool deck, as helicopters buzzed overhead, the fire company made it to the New Orleans Saints' training facility in Metairie for a bit of well-deserved rest.

Hellmers praised his colleagues' efforts during that grueling first week and said none of them complained, despite the many discomforts and traumatic scenes.

"It really couldn't have gone any better," he said. "Everyone did what they had to do."

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Meghan Gordon can be reached at meghangordon@hotmail.com

# Tragedy takes a human face

## *3 bodies identified in St. Tammany*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

A falling tree killed Gary Hingle, and it wasn't until the next day that firefighters could retrieve his body from his traumatized relatives. Ralph Rutledge's sport utility vehicle floated off Interstate 10 as floodwaters swallowed half of Slidell. And Tommy Kikendall's body ended up near a heap of debris days after he struggled to survive in his flooded home, where he wrote a goodbye letter to his wife.

Though the bodies represent only a fraction of the dead pulled from Hurricane Katrina, the three identifications made public by the St. Tammany Parish coroner this week put some of the first faces on southeast Louisiana's death toll. As hundreds of corpses plucked from floodwaters and unearthed from debris piles lay unidentified at the St. Gabriel morgue, families of the three men who died in Slidell became part of the initial wave of relatives to have certainty about their loved ones' fates.

But the knowledge hasn't amounted to an endpoint for most of them, as their grieving stretches on while the routine processes for handling the dead are re-established. Two families will wait five weeks to hold funerals, and one expects to wait many months longer for a burial.

David Hingle knew hours before Katrina's winds even ceased that his brother's tombstone would read Aug. 29.

Gary Hingle, 51, stayed for the storm at his house on Hunter's Creek Road north of Slidell with his fiancee, her two children and his brother. When water began seeping into his enclosed patio at 5 a.m., Hingle woke up his brother and asked him for help rigging two pumps to bail out the room. They alternately worked on the equipment and tried to pull large branches away from the house in the moments they thought it was safe to step outside.

"I got about 15 feet away, and I felt the ground tearing all around me. I stepped to the side, and the tree just missed me."

The uprooted white oak crashed down on Gary Hingle, its mass of branches and 3-foot trunk obscuring him. David Hingle spent almost 10 minutes pulling tree limbs from the pile and eventually found his brother's face. He tried desperately to drag him to level ground and start chest compressions to revive him.

"He was twisted really bad, but I was able to get his chest down a little bit," he said. "I put my hand under the top of his head to tilt his head to clear his airways. When I put my hand around the back, I felt the top of his head open."

# 'You just have to be patient'

TRAFFIC, *from B-1*

hampered by traffic elsewhere in the city.

Throughout the day, progress along a 2.5-mile stretch on Pontchartrain was measured by feet instead of blocks as motorists waited to get onto the U.S. 11 bridge across the lake to Interstate 10, then I-510 in eastern New Orleans and finally into St. Bernard.

Already-heavy traffic that developed within two weeks of Hurricane Katrina's Aug. 29 devastation of the New Orleans area became a "nightmare," in the words of several officials, during the weekend.

Many St. Bernard residents who fled the nasty weather visited upon them a second time by Saturday's Hurricane Rita began traveling back to their home parish for a Monday morning re-entrance.

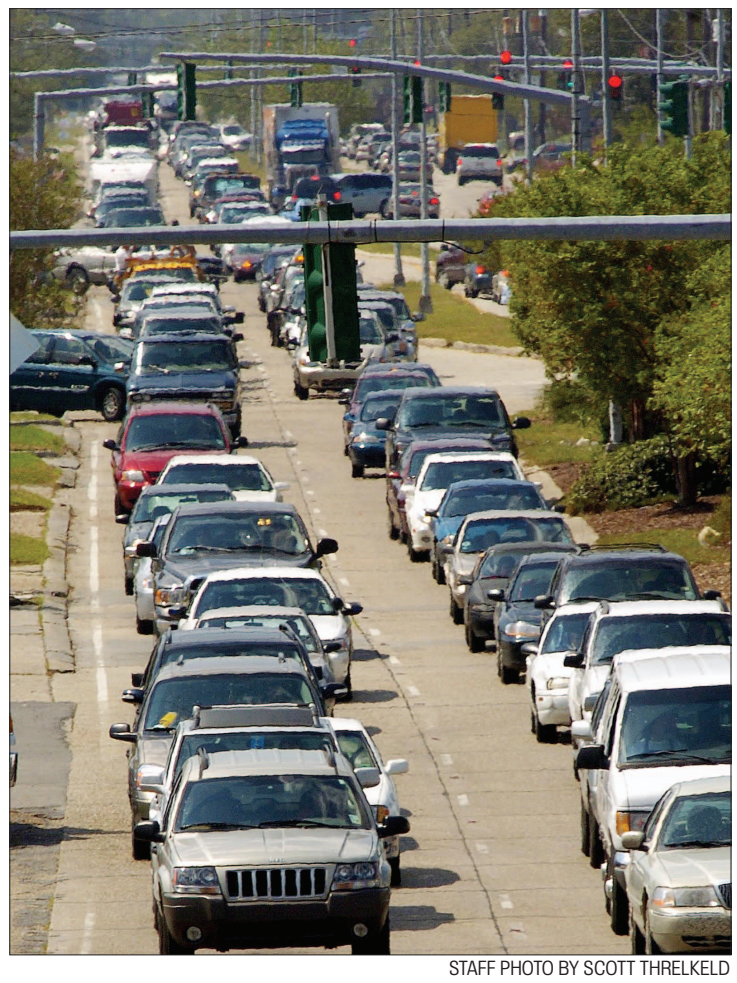
The mix of anxiety, jangled nerves, heat and gridlock resulted in a spate of accidents and road-rage incidents, Slidell police and the St. Tammany Sheriff's Office said.

"If there are incidents and we can get our hands on, we are going to arrest them," Slidell Police Chief Freddy Drennan said. "We're not going to tolerate it."

Police Capt. Rob Callahan said there have been no road rage-related arrests thus far. As most municipal and parish officials have been doing for weeks, he urged Slidell area residents and motorists through the area to be patient.

"I've heard a couple of complaints about people exchanging words, shouting, giving gestures and the like, but nothing physical – at least not yet," Callahan said. "People are really agitated about the situation, but there's nothing we can do about it."

St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman James Hartman said there have been "very few" road rage complaints reported to deputies. "What we have had has been relatively minor" and resulted in no arrests, he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Traffic is backed up Tuesday on Gause Boulevard at Interstate 10 in Slidell. Since Hurricane Katrina hit the region, congestion has been severe on Gause, at times extending from the interstate all the way to Northshore Boulevard.

**"I've heard a couple of complaints about people exchanging words, shouting, giving gestures and the like, but nothing physical – at least not yet. People are really agitated about the situation, but there's nothing we can do about it.**

Police Capt. ROB CALLAHAN

Although deputies haven't been posted at specific sites, Hartman said, south Slidell and further toward the lake on U.S. 11 have been the "area of primary gridlock" in the parish. "We've made an extraordinary effort to maintain a presence in that area," Hartman said.

Accidents before and after the drive-throughs to St. Bernard have been the worst problem, Callahan said.

"It's incredible," he said. "It's an average of about 20 a day" between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Most are rear-end accidents in which damage or injuries are minor.

There were two accidents involving 18-wheelers within a short time Tuesday in south Slidell.

One was a late-morning hit-and-run in which a rig scraped across the side of a woman's car at Pontchartrain and Third Street, followed by a more serious one in which "moderate to severe injuries" were reported further south.

Police said the car was "totaled" and that the axle of the tractor-trailer was broken in the accident, leaving the 18-wheeler blocking half the roadway until it could be towed away.

With many vehicles getting onto I-10 a the Gause Boulevard interchange to head toward eastern New Orleans and St. Bernard, authorities reported the traffic was heaviest from about 7 to 9 a.m. and from about 3:30 to 7 p.m.

"There's no way to put enough police officers out there to move that traffic," Slidell Mayor Ben Morris said. "You just have to go with the traffic lights. … The road system just wasn't designed to handle this many people. You just have to be patient, patient, patient."

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# Jeff Council to consider loan

**West Bank bureau**

Meeting at home for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, the Jefferson Parish Council today will consider borrowing up to $30 million to keep the government running.

"It's a safety net," said Parish Finance Director Nancy Cassagne. "It is just to prevent a cash flow crunch, to keep us flowing to pay bills and the employees."

The parish received its first payment of $12 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday morning, but until then, parish officials were unsure when the money would come and are seeking the line of credit as a precaution, Cassagne said.

The council also will consider a resolution giving businesses a 30-day extension to remit their sales taxes due Sept. 1 and Saturday without penalties and interest.

"We understand everybody went through a rough time" because of the storm, Cassagne said.

When the council convenes today at 10 a.m. in the General Government Building on Derbigny Street in Gretna, it will mark the first meeting in a month. Council members met in an emergency session Aug. 31 in Baton Rouge, where they also set up a temporary office. A meeting slated in East Jefferson on Sept. 14 was canceled because of power outages, damage to the east bank government building and other problems.

By ordinance, the council is required to meet at least once a month.

Council Chairman Tom Capella said that today's meeting is important because it shows that Jefferson is open for business as residents return home.

"I am very proud of where the parish has come in less than a month," Capella said Tuesday. Referring to residents of the parish, Capella said, "Their council is up and running.'

# Team spirit may rally Kenner's University City

## *Floods damaged homes, but neighbors have hope*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

The front lawns of many of the houses in Kenner's largest subdivision are pockmarked by mounds of trash, most taller than an adult, with items once treasured inside homes.

Mattresses, books, dining room tables, strollers, stuffed animals, couches and comfy armchairs line the curbs and neutral grounds of University City's streets.

"All of these streets are the same thing," Doyle "Ray" Patrick said, swatting flies attracted by the growing piles of garbage. "It's devastation everywhere."

But the refuse heaps are a good sign, some residents say: They mean people are returning to clean up, and stay.

"I think everybody's coming back," said Sal Scott, sweeping his Tulane Drive driveway. "There are already a lot of people cleaning their houses."

A close-knit, quiet community of modest homes on streets named after colleges, University City is a neighborhood where parents and their grown children often live nearby.

Parts of the subdivision, especially near the canals, have had flooding problems in the past, but the damage from Hurricane Katrina was on a much larger scale.

Two-thirds of the neighborhood – about 2,000 homes – took in water, said Kenner City Councilman Kent Denapolis, who represents the area.

"It's big numbers, not smaller numbers," he said. The storm put 18 inches to four feet of water in homes, he said.

But some residents returned to the area to clean up worry their neighbors may settle elsewhere if they don't have jobs in the area.

Joan S. Patrick used her savings to buy a trailer for her and her husband, and one each for their grown daughter and son, and all were parked in their driveways on West Loyola Drive.

"Where are they going to get jobs?" Joan Patrick asked, estimating that it will take four to five years for the neighborhood to return to normal. "Some of them are not going to rebuild. They're not going to come back."

Data from Census tracts which include University City show a number of area residents earn up to $6,000 less than Kenner's median income of $45,866.

Arthur Williams, who lives nearby on West Louisiana State Drive, said he will stay because he's on a fixed income.

"I will come back as soon as we can get it livable," he said, as his daughter, Fannie Rogers, and two granddaughters, Chicola Williams and Michele Hackett, cleaned up around his property. "I can't buy anywhere else because there's nothing to buy with."

Nearby, at the corner of Stanford and West Louisiana State drives, Rueben Guerra said the floods washed away his job as an outfitter for a marine company in eastern New Orleans. Forced into an earlier-than-planned retirement at 66, he said he would like to stay in the neighborhood as he cleaned up after the 18 inches of water that got inside his house.

"I still would like to stay here," he said. "I have roots here. Kenner's been my place."

But if any Kenner neighborhood rebounds quickly, residents say, it will be University City.

"These people are very resilient," Denapolis said. "They've got a lot of heart."

Resident Linda Robinson said Hurricane Katrina's floods that left four feet of water in her West Louisiana State Drive home is the first time the house has flooded in its 34 years.

Already armed with a housekeeping job, Robinson predicted that the subdivision's landscape will change, but that most residents will return.

"It's a nice neighborhood to live, very quiet," she said. "They've been here so many years. It's their home."

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSY COSTANZA

A row of flood-damaged appliances – including a clothes dryer that bears a Kenner resident's clearly stated feelings about Hurricane Katrina – line a street in Kenner's University City subdivision. Some residents say the piles of trash at curbs in the subdivision are a good sign: They mean people are returning.



Warren Cox of New Orleans lugs a sheet of paneling out of the home of Joan and Doyle 'Ray' Patrick, who have taken up temporary residence in a camper on their front lawn in Kenner's University City subdivision. 'All of these streets are the same thing: It's devastation everywhere,' Ray Patrick said of the subdivision, Kenner's largest.

Zurich claims reporting information

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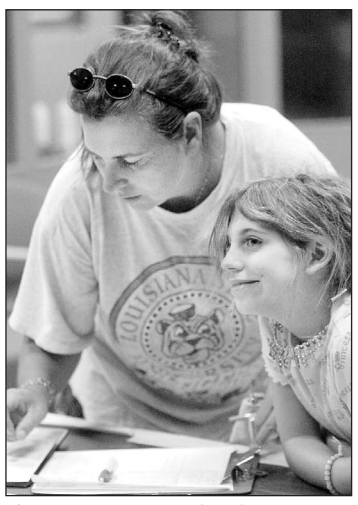
STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

Belle Chasse Primary School secretary Maxine Cormier gathers textbooks for a waiting parent Tuesday as part of a home-schooling program. Parents can borrow textbooks at Belle Chasse Primary School for a deposit.

# Minus schools, some parents learn to teach

## *Home is substitute for closed school*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer



Chelsea Adams, 9, of Belle Chasse smiles as her mother, Diane Adams, registers her for home-schooling Tuesday. Classes in Plaquemines Parish will resume Oct. 17, and home-schooling will reduce the number of days a student is counted absent from school.

Kristen Stifflemier's family evacuated to Ville Platte for Hurricane Katrina, but had to split up soon afterward when her husband returned to Plaquemines Parish to work.

The Belle Chasse family stayed behind so that their boys, Cameron Miller, 12, and Austin Miller, 11, could go to Chicot Bayou Elementary School. But the separation was tough.

"We were in Ville Platte, and we were extremely homesick," Stifflemier said.

Though Chicot Bayou school officials were nice, Stifflemier said, "it just wasn't home. They didn't give them homework."

So when the family returned home, Stifflemier decided to teach her sons herself until classes resume at Belle Chasse Middle School on Oct. 17.

Other parents also are home-schooling as they wait for the Plaquemines Parish public schools to reopen.

School officials began offering free assistance to parents Sept. 19. About 700 students had registered with the state Department of Education for the state's home-schooling program by Monday. At least 100 register daily, said teacher Jemi Carlone, one of the volunteers at a registration table set up in the primary school office.

School officials forward parents' forms to the state. Parents also can borrow textbooks and get curriculum guides at Belle Chasse Primary School. They even can get help covering tough topics from volunteer teachers working at a church in Belle Chasse.

"It's a great program," Plaquemines schools Superintendent Jim Hoyle said. "It's an opportunity for kids to continue getting their education."

Anissa Casbon and her family evacuated to Mississippi. Then they moved on to Abbeville, and when Hurricane Rita threatened that town, they returned to Mississippi.

"It was a month yesterday. We were so stir-crazy," she said.

She registered her daughter, Megan, for home-schooling Monday. She plans to enroll her at Belle Chasse High School next month.

"I know that it's going to be all right," said Megan, 14. "I know where I'm at now."

Home-schooling has other advantages for students and the district. It will reduce the number of days a student is counted absent from school, Plaquemines Parish secondary education director Carol Roberts said.

It also supports families who want to move back to the parish, something Hoyle has said is vital to maintaining the district's employee force.

"I know people want to come back, even people who don't have a home," said Belle Chasse Primary Principal Cindy Hoyle, who is married to the superintendent. "I hope we have at least 80 percent of our (pre-Katrina) enrollment."

School officials are asking parents to put their children's schoolwork in a folder for when they return to school. It is unlikely there will be time for parents to give any tests that the state may require for students who are home-schooled, Cindy Hoyle said.

A group of 30 volunteer teachers are staffing a tutoring program from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Belle Chasse Church of Christ, 105 Kimable St.

Parents in the program agree to be the teachers, teacher Nancy Fussell said. They and their children can get help, but parents must remain during the tutoring, she said.

**"We can accommodate as many parents and students who show up. We are here to meet their needs. We'll take them all."**

ROSALIND MATHES, system administrator overseeing registration at the Riverdale Middle site

# Students sign up for Jeff schools

## *Registration ends Saturday; classes begin Monday*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank bureau




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Gina Anderson of Algiers waits in line to register Nia, 9, left, and Ryan, 11, on Tuesday morning at Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary. Parents packed the school, with about 260 registering by 4 p.m.

Jefferson Parish public schools took a step toward normalcy Tuesday, launching a weeklong registration of students ahead of next week's opening of school.

On Tuesday by 2 p.m., 689 students had signed up, school system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said, adding that most sites reported light crowds.

Registration, which will run through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., is designed to enroll students who are coming to Jefferson from other parishes or who have relocated within Jefferson in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

At Riverdale Middle School in Metairie, Brian Walker, a rising senior at Alcee Fortier High School in New Orleans, spent about 20 minutes in the registration process.

Although worried that changing schools might jeopardize a football scholarship to Louisiana State University, Walker, 17, said he is anxious to complete high school and that signing up for a new school was the first step.

"I have to handle my business and get out," he said. "I don't care what school it is."

Rosalind Mathes, a system administrator overseeing the Riverdale Middle site, said about 60 students had registered by early afternoon.

"We can accommodate as many parents and students who show up," she said. "We are here to meet their needs. We'll take them all."

Nearby, a Riverdale Middle School Spanish teacher helped a Hispanic woman who couldn't speak English register her three young children. Registration is quick, Mathes said, with parents filling out a few forms and the information then going into the system's computer files. Before they leave, registrants have in hand the name and location of their new school and tentative transportation details, Mathes said.

Meanwhile, at Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary in Terrytown, parents packed the school early, with about 260 registering by 4 p.m.

"When we opened at 7:30 a.m., this hall was full," said Marjorie King, the administrator running the Boudreaux site, which drew the largest crowd Tuesday.

Anxious to have their children back into a school day routine, the parents didn't mind the slight wait or the paperwork, King said. "It's a load off their minds," she said.

Officials at both sites said they have seen students from across the region, including many from Orleans and Plaquemines parishes, two areas devastated by Katrina.

Jefferson's enrollment will remain unclear until next week, officials said. In the meantime, the system is trying hard to make new parents and students feel as welcome and secure as possible, officials said.

"We'll be their source of strength and help get them over the hump," Assistant Superintendent Richard Carpenter said.

The nine locations for registration are:

- Riverdale Middle, 3900 Jefferson Highway, Jefferson, 828-2706.
- Ella Dolhonde Elementary, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie, 837-5370.
- Hazel Park Elementary, 8809 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge, 737-6163.
- Bissonet Elementary, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie, 887-0470.
- Greenlawn Elementary, 1500 38th St., Kenner, 468-1016.
- Boudreaux Elementary, 950 Behrman Highway, Terrytown, 393-8732.
- Estelle Elementary, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, 340-4014.
- Butler Elementary, 400 Fourth St., Westwego, 341-1351.
- Waggaman Elementary, 6801 River Road, Waggaman, 436-1304.

For more information, visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call 1-866-563-6559.

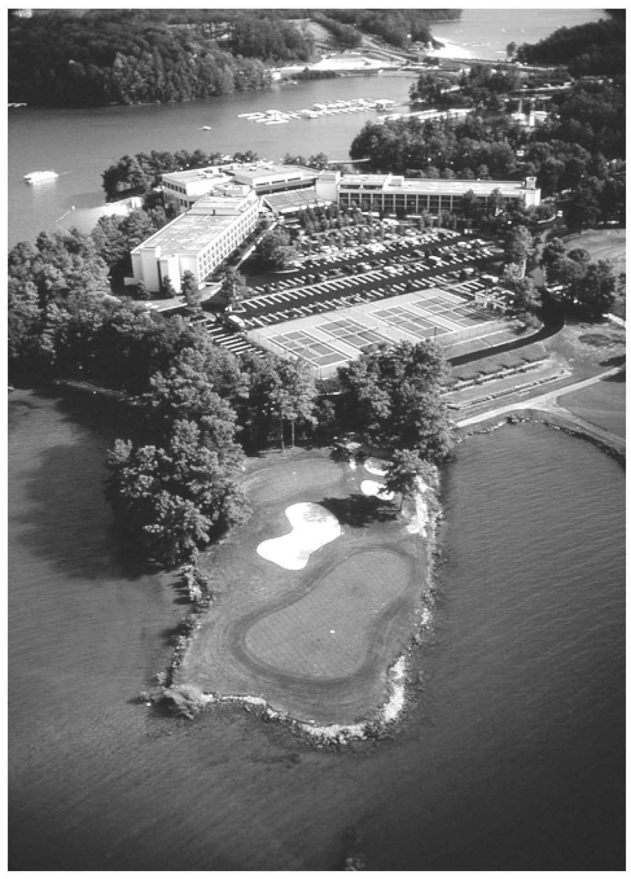
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# Environmental agency reports no leaks at DuPont facility

**By The Associated Press**

DELISLE, MISS. — Despite some damaged facilities, no hazardous material leaks have been found at the DuPont facility in this coastal town that was slammed by Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality officials said Tuesday.

A jury last month awarded Bay St. Louis oyster fisherman Glenn Strong $14 million in damages after finding chemicals from the plant responsible for causing Strong's multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer.

Strong's wife, Connie, received $1.5 million for loss of "love and companionship."

The same jury deadlocked over a request for $225 million in punitive damages.

DEQ officials said inspections at the facility in Harrison County since Hurricane Katrina have revealed that the plant site was inundated with water and railcars were pushed off their tracks and onto their sides but no hazardous material releases or leaks were observed.

The onsite landfill for waste disposal remained intact and was not overcome by the storm surge.

"We were pleased to learn that DuPont's landfill, which is a series of impoundments constructed with levees and berms, worked as it was designed and did prevent the inflow of water," said Phil Bass, Director of MDEQ's Office of Pollution Control. "EPA and MDEQ will begin monitoring at the facility and the Bay, but our visits to the site assure us there have been no leaks or releases."

# Council to Nagin: We need to talk

## *Communication feud spills over onto radio talk show*

**By Martha Carr and Frank Donze**
Staff writers

Even as the city fights for its very survival, it's politics as usual in New Orleans.

A rift between Mayor Ray Nagin and four of the City Council's seven members grew into a gaping chasm early Tuesday, when members vented during a day-long series of meetings about the mayor's failure to provide them with critical information regarding his plans to repopulate and rebuild the city.

The mayor defended himself by calling in to a radio talk show early in the day, then making a personal appearance that afternoon before the council, which was meeting at Armstrong International Airport. On WWL radio, Nagin said he was doing his best to keep everyone in the loop, but indicated that he has been dealing primarily with three council members, all of whom were politically aligned with him prior to the storm.

Nagin said he was funneling information to the entire council through longtime ally Oliver Thomas, the council president. He also said he was "really paying attention to the folks who are on the ground," naming Thomas, and Council Members Cynthia Morrell and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

Nagin's insinuation was that the complainers are council members who fled the city and have been hard to find. "Sometimes when you don't have a good position, you go on offense so you don't have to go on defense. My question is, where were they," Nagin said on WWL.

The council members who complain of being left out of the loop, a majority faction comprised of Eddie Sapir, Renee Gill Pratt, Cynthia Willard Lewis and Jay Batt, say it has hampered their ability to communicate with constituents, most of whom have not yet been allowed to return to their homes.

They accuse Nagin of ignoring repeated requests to provide information about their districts. E-mails aren't answered, they said, and phone calls are not returned.

Morrell, by contrast, said she has spoken several times with the mayor and Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield, and has had no problem getting her phone calls or questions answered. Clarkson also described her communications with the mayor as "good."

"When I need help, I demand it," Clarkson said. "When I don't, I do it on my own."

But all things aren't equal in politics.

Batt, who has been extremely vocal about the lack of information coming from the mayor's office, told WWL radio early Tuesday that Nagin has yet to share with him any information about the eventual return of his constituents in District A. Later, outside the council meeting at the airport, Batt cornered Nagin's Intergovernmental Affairs director Kenya Smith and demanded a face-to-face meeting with the mayor.

"I'm getting 100 calls a day from my constituents who want to know when they can come back," he said. "I'm going to forward every one of them to you and the mayor unless you all tell me something."

Sapir echoed Batt's concerns.

"Communication?" he said. "What communication?"

Even the council members who have had contact with the mayor's office joined with their colleagues on some issues, such as the failure of the Nagin administration to provide them with daily "situation reports" being issued to the media and to inform them of daily briefings for public officials at the Hyatt Regency.

Nagin staffers said that's because they were still without critical contact information for many council members. Smith spent part of the day gathering e-mail addresses and fax numbers.

Council members also said virtually no information had been passed along concerning contracts being doled out to companies involved in the cleanup.

After listening, Hatfield, viewed as the most talented peacemaker on Nagin's staff, conceded that "communication could be better."

When Nagin finally appeared about 4:30 p.m., tensions appeared to cool considerably, with the mayor pledging to step up his effort to keep in touch with the council. Nagin's conciliatory tone prompted Batt to leave his seat, place his baseball cap on

# Police investigate death in Luling

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes Bureau

St. Charles Parish authorities are investigating the death of a Luling man found in his apartment six days ago. Investigators think the man was stabbed in an apparent homicide.

The body of James E. Underwood, 41, was discovered by deputies in an apartment at 324 River Oaks Drive on Thursday, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Pat Yoes said.

The body, which authorities think had been in the apartment for eight to 10 days, was badly decomposed, Yoes said. An autopsy performed by the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office on Monday verified Underwood's identity and found stabbing to be the cause of death, he said.

Police were tipped off after a neighbor, Regina Gautreaux, called because she had not seen Underwood in several days.

Gautreaux, who said she last saw Underwood on Sept. 6, said she thought it odd that he had left his dog in the yard for several days. A deputy entered the apartment through an unlocked rear door and found the body inside, Yoes said.

The victim's vehicle, a 1996 black Dodge pickup with license number V-539389, is missing, Yoes said.

Authorities are following up on several leads, and Yoes declined to discuss suspected motives or additional details of the incident.

Gautreaux, who has known Underwood since he moved to her neighborhood five years ago, said he lived alone. She and her family often would invite him over for dinner, along with other neighbors in their Luling neighborhood, she said.

"He was a good neighbor," she said. "He wasn't rowdy; he never had wild parties or anything liked that. He was just a nice person."

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office at (985) 783-6807 or Crimestoppers at 1 (877) 903-7867. Callers do not have to give their names or testify and can receive as much as $2,500 for tips that lead to an indictment.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

**"Obviously there was a lot of water covering southwest Louisiana below I-10 but wind damage covers almost the entire state."**

BOB ODOM, Commissioner of Agriculture

# Agriculture in Louisiana hit hard by Rita

## *Sugar cane, cotton fields flattened*

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — From sugar cane fields in the south to cotton fields in the north, Hurricane Rita devastated Louisiana agriculture, the state's agriculture commissioner said Tuesday.

Winds flattened cane across south central and southwest Louisiana, and rains and storm surge left thousands of acres standing in water below Highway 90, Commissioner Bob Odom said. "If it's salt water from the storm surge then that cane is gone. It can't tolerate salt water," he said.

He said it's only one of many crops facing problems across Louisiana, with cattle, poultry and some specialty crop producers hurt worst. "Obviously there was a lot of water covering southwest Louisiana below I-10 but wind damage covers almost the entire state," Odom said.

Wind caused great damage to pecan orchards, one of the state's most popular specialty crops, he said. "Little Eva Plantation near Natchitoches lost 75 to 80 percent of its crop. Limbs are twisted or down and green pecans were blown to the ground," Odom said.

The storm's winds also flattened cotton fields in the north, where only about 40 percent of the crop had been harvested. The remaining 60 percent was knocked to the ground and soaked.

Cotton is sprayed with defoliants so mechanical pickers can harvest it. "Without any foliation to protect it, the crop just blew to the ground and it can't be harvested when it's on the ground. It's a major loss," Odom said.

State Veterinarian Maxwell Lea is coordinating efforts with USDA's Veterinary Services and the Louisiana Catttleman's Association to move cattle to higher ground so they may be fed and watered, Odom said. In Cameron Parish alone, as many as 4,000 cattle may have been killed by floodwater, and LCA officials believe up to 30,000 cattle in the coastal parishes may be in trouble.

"At this point the cattle are standing in floodwaters and there is no dry place to drop food and water. We're hoping to use airboats to drive them to higher ground," Odom said.

With power out in much of south Louisiana, poultry producers had to use generators to keep their chicken houses cool and operations running properly, adding to expenses for Louisiana's second largest agriculture business.

Odom said farmers need federal grants, not loans. "Low-interest loans aren't going to cut it. You can't borrow yourself out of debt. These people need real relief, real help not more debt," he said.

Odom was to meet later this week with USDA Secretary Mike Johanns week when Johanns is touring areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He said he will ask the secretary to have his department forgive federal farm loans and pay back loans made through banks.


The Times-Picayune

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Employment

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METRO

# Nearly a month after storm, FEMA opens in St. John

## *Many residents blame Monica for delay*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

Nearly a month after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc upon southeast Louisiana and amid heavy grumbling by parish residents, the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened its first disaster relief center in St. John the Baptist Parish on Tuesday.

The disaster center, which is one of 18 in the state, is at 160 Belle Terre Blvd. in LaPlace. It is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. FEMA staffers are on hand to answer residents' questions about financial, housing and insurance assistance from the federal government. In addition, residents can register for assistance at telephone banks at the office, although they are encouraged to register for assistance before they come to the office, FEMA spokesman Dean Cushman said. Residents affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita can register www.fema.gov or (800) 621-FEMA.

The opening came weeks after disaster centers in St. Charles and St. James parishes began operations, and the delay angered many parish residents. Although very few homes in St. John Parish sustained serious storm-related damage, many residents were without power for some time or lost jobs in hurricane-affected areas. In addition, many St. John residents have been housing people from areas that had substantial hurricane damage.

However, instead of directing their ire toward the federal government, many residents have blamed Parish President Nickie Monica for the delay. Some said Monica denied offers of assistance from FEMA and the American Red Cross, charges his chief administrative officer, Natalie Robottom, denied.

"There is no basis for that," said Robottom, who attributed the rumors to people's frustration and a lack of information. "Mr. Monica went to Baton Rouge twice to request aid from FEMA."

Robottom said that when FEMA made its first forays into St. John Parish, the agency's workers came with ice bags and meals-ready-to-eat, despite the fact that most parish residents no longer needed those supplies because power already had been restored. She said parish officials have been working with FEMA representatives for weeks to establish a disaster relief center in St. John, and provided the agency with a list of possible of sites shortly after the storm. However, she said FEMA has repeatedly given the parish a variety of reasons for the delay in opening of the center.

"For whatever reason, they haven't been holding true to the dates and time frames," Robottom said. "Everybody's (been) looking for a reason why FEMA's not here, and the reason is they're just not."

FEMA spokesman Dean Cushman said it often takes time for the agency to locate and lease space for the disaster relief centers, as well as find staffers. Cushman said it was unlikely that FEMA reneged on any assurances given to the parish, although he could not speak about specific discussions.

"I'm not sure it really took so long (to open a center). We've been opening them as soon as we can," Cushman said. "It's a fairly intricate process, and we try to work things out. ...Things don't always go as smoothly as we like."

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Allen Powell II can be reached at (985) 652-0950.


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**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**OVERHEAD GARAGE** DOOR INSTALLER Experienced preferred. Paid Holidays & Benefits. Immediate Full Time Position. North Lake Garage Door Company, Ponchatoula. 985-386-8650

**PAINTERS, experienced,** must have own transportation, full time work, 985-966-6011

## Employment
### 4160 Trades/Skills

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**PLUMBER/PLUMBERS HELPER** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800) 709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**Porsche Technician** for new Porsche Dealership. Porsche experience a must. Will pay moving and lodging. 256-536-3800

**PRESS OPERATOR** AB Dick 9810/9870/9820. 2214 Williams Blvd, Kenner. 504-467-3620

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFERS New** Orleans Roofers needed in Baton Rouge or New Orleans Experienced in Slate or Asbestos. Call 225-761-4309

**Roofers! New** roof needed, Bent-tree sub in Marrero. Call 504-328-7905

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**Roofing Crews,** Roofers, and Laborers Needed. Pay DOE. Call Scott at 504-338-5398

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** Needed. Great pay. No experience needed. 985-249-4409

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Organization. Applicant must possess good people skills. Plumbing experience desired but not not required. Job growth potential! Salary and benefits. Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SKILLED LABOR-** framers, trim carpenters, sheetrock hangers & finishers, painters. Must have tools & transportation. Min. 5 yrs. exp. (504) 382-8493.

**SUPERVISOR for** job site, Jackson MS Company seeks industrial floor coatings job site supervisor, 3 years experience, travel required. 1-800-794-4237

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

### 4165 Warehouse

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

**WAREHOUSE WORKERS** - Compass Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**Warehouse Workers** Needed. Transportation company in St Rose needs workers to unload trucks and move appliances. Must be able to lift 70+ lbs, pass a drug test, and have a clean criminal background. $8/hr Please apply in person at 180 e james dr, st rose or call 468-9468 for more info

**WAREHOUSEMAN -** Exp in food distribution warehousing, F. Christiana & Co, apply in person, 7251 River Rd, Morarro, Great benefits, Night positions avail.

### 4170 Miscellaneous

***NOW HIRING*** Industrial Supervisor. Maintenance Mechanic, CDL Drivers A, B and chauffeurs, Warehouse workers/Supervisor, Laborers. Applications taken Mon-Fri between 1-3pm. Willstaff Worldwide, 513 West Airline Hwy, La Place. 985-651-8000

**BABYSITTER Needed** 3 to 4 days per week. Kenner Area for 1 Child. Salary dependent on experience. L. Howard 504-469-9857

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more. *Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

## Employment
### 4170 Miscellaneous

**CARQUEST Auto** Parts is growing and we are now accepting applications for the counter pro and customer delivery rep positions in the Metairie, Marrero, Hammond, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations. Knowledge of automotive parts applications, trouble shooting, counter sales and customer service skills are a plus. Must have good driving record. CARQUEST offers outstanding benefits and competitive pay. If you are hard working, willing to learn and want a career in a fast-paced, ever-changing, exciting business, this is the career opportunity you have been looking for. Please apply in person at the nearest location. EOE

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** & LABORERS Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of hurricane Katrina. Hazmat & Oil Spill work experience a plus. Possible short & long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

**Inspection helper** needed for Govt. Contract. Fax resumes 504-227-9455, email: corp.office@access-logic.com

**Inventory Manager,** experience needed, Coburn Supply, Hammond. Call Jim 985-542-0774

**Janitorial -** If you are seeking employment, Mr Sparkle janitorial service is now hiring honest, qualified, experienced people. We offer the best pay and working conditions, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. We clean commercial buildings, restaurants and schools. If you can pass our drug test, you will have a job! For more information, call 504-737-6061

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**Laborers. Landscape** Company seeks workers. Call 504-455-8258 or 504-450-0374

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

**MERCHANDISE**

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**TRADITIONAL COUCH** & 2 large wingback matching chairs, $300. 2 end tables, 1 coffee table, & 1 sofa table, $150. Beveled glass insert tops, by Thomasville, all in good cond. Will sell separately. 985-649-1335

### 5290 Tools, Equipment, Machinery

**MARINE CARGO** CONTAINERS, 8 by 20 foot and 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

### 5315 Utility Trailers

**DUMP TRAILERS,** 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740

### 5330 Miscellaneous

**CLOSEOUT BUSINESS,** SELLING FOLLOWING ITEMS AT COST: Store Fixtures, gift and Christmas inventory and antiques. Call 662-627-5184 or 662-901-1671

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** computer desk with hutch, solid oak with white wash finish, 36 inch color TV, $1200 for all. Call 985-875-7970

**PETS/LIVESTOCK**

### 6000 Dogs

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**RECREATION**

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**HOUSEBOAT -** 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

## Recreation
### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'01 Shasta** 21 foot, Ford engine, low miles, $26,500. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'96 Tioga** Montara, Class C Motor Home, 24', 45,000 miles, excellent condition. $17,000. 985-536-2249 or 985-817-1255

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $50,000, 207-626-7519

**'98 Winnebago** Motorhome, 34 foot, new tires, only 13,000 miles, take over payments, $55,448 or best offer. 813-672-4493

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

**RESIDENCES FOR SALE**

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**MOVIE IN** READY nr. EJ & GH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**NEVER FLOODED!** PRICED RIGHT! 4BR/2BA, DR & LR, lrg den w/fp, gar, workshop, covrd patio, lrg yard w/storage bldng, $299K. 504-913-6061 or 504-554-6850

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**RIVER RIDGE** Never Flooded, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, 509 LaSalle Dr. $370,000. 504-738-2939 or 225-603-5759

## Residences for Sale
### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**NO FLOODING!** Double 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, central air, 1650 SF each side, 1 side rents for $850/mo. Includes furniture & appliances. Move in condition! Good business opportunity. FSBO, $265,000. 504-214-7669

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**FSBO 2** story Kenner townhouse, NO HURRICANE/FLOOD DAMAGE, beautifully decorated, well maintained, quiet neighborhood, 2BR/2BA, approx 1250 sq. ft., $197,500. Furniture included. 4131A Loire Dr. HOME: 504-469-2751, CELL: 504-329-2099, or EMAIL: bartyl@msn.com

### 7560 West Bank

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO, LA. 3 Br/2 Ba, 2000 Square Feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**TERRY TOWN** All Brick 3/2 Home, 6 minutes from CBD, 2250 SQ. FT., Great School District, Never Flooded! Must Relocate to TX, $268,500. 504-452-7560 or 985-871-7493

**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY, CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

### 7560 West Bank

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Bush, New** construction, Whippoorwill Grove, 3029 sf living, 3805 sf under beam, 3/4 Br, 3 Bath, 2.2 acres, $389,000. 985-966-5412 or 985-845-0070

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $185,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Covington, Savannah's** New Construction, 3/2, Premium Lot, Ready in 6 Weeks. Madisonville, Black River Forest, New Construction, 4/3, Bonus Room, 3112 Living, 3/4 Acre Lot, Ready in 6 Weeks. Spring Hill Homes LLC, 985-827-3805

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

## Residences for Sale
### 7560 West Bank

**Madisonville 4** bedroom, 2.5 bath, + loft, townhouse, riverfront w/boat slip, & lift, pool, deck, screened porch, $395,000. 404-667-5508

**MANDEVILLE 2** bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, near Causeway. Community pool, balcony, 1000 square feet. $145,000. Please call 985-869-8691/985-788-7754

**Mandeville Beau** Rivage Beauty. Best Schools. 4/2.5, large yard. Open, Sun. 10/2, 4-6pm, 235 Lotus Dr. S. 985-626-8386

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

### 7612 Washington Parish

**IN BOGALUSA,** Beautifully restored Victorian, 3600 Sq. Ft. $135,000. 985-516-3997

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**CARRIERE Stone** Bridge Subdiv 20 min to Slidell, 3 yrs new upgraded & spacious, 3/2.5/2, PRC schls. $398,000 601-799-3398

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

## Residences for Sale
### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

**COMMERCIAL-OFFICES**

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Kenner Warehouse,** 4000 square feet, $2500. Borngesser Realty. 504-454-0800

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

### 7735 Investment Property

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarrealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7740 Acreage/ Farm & Timberland

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

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### 7780 West Bank Lots

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### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985

# METRO BRIEFS

## Nagin to announce plan to speed repopulation

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin promises a "major announcement" today about "loosening restrictions" so residents can begin returning to the city in larger numbers.

He also said the city was "close to making a major breakthrough" on utility issues, such as power and water.

In preparation for people re-entering the target zones — the French Quarter, the Central Business District and parts of Uptown — structural engineers have put red signs on homes and businesses that are structurally unsound.

"As people come in, they now have a much safer environment to walk around in," Nagin said.

For more devastated parts of the city, particularly areas that were heavily flooded, the mayor envisions a plan that would allow residents back in to "look and leave." After that, structural engineers will go through and examine the neighborhoods, structure by structure.

To date, Algiers is the only New Orleans neighborhood that is fully habitable. In addition to the aftereffects of flooding and power outages, resettling the east bank has been bedeviled bv extensive damage to water and sewer lines.

## Franklinton man sentenced in 2001 rape

A Franklinton man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to the forcible rape of a woman near Abita Springs in 2001.

Danny L. Trotter pleaded guilty Sept. 12 and was sentenced by state Judge William R. Knight.

Rick Wood, spokesman for the district attorney's office, said Trotter was booked with forcible rape by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office shortly after he pulled a gun on the woman, who was visiting a friend, and forced her from the front steps of a house and assaulted her in October 2001.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leigh Ann Wall.

In announcing the conviction and sentencing on Tuesday, Wood said District Attorney Walter Reed anticipates increased caseloads in state courts in Covington and Franklinton over the next 60 days as the court system rebounds from Hurricane Katrina.

Reed said that anyone who missed a court date in Franklinton or Covington because of the storm should contact his offices at (985) 809-8363 in Covington and (985) 893-6711 in Franklinton for rescheduling.

## Slidell workshops aim to help local businesses

The first of five workshops designed to help businesses apply for disaster loans from the Small Business Administration will be held Friday in Slidell.

The workshops will be held at the Slidell Library, 555 Robert Blvd., from 9 a.m. to noon each Friday through Oct. 28.

Presented by Southeastern Louisiana University's Small Business Development Center, the workshops are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants should bring information regarding their business, including income tax returns, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, descriptions of damage and proof of insurance.

For more information, contact the business center at (985) 549-3831 or send an e-mail to sbdc@selu.edu.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Jacquelyn Marie Roth of Reserve, the driver of this 1988 Ford LTD, was killed Tuesday after she apparently lost control of the car on Airline Drive in Norco and crossed the median into oncoming traffic.

# Woman dies, 3 hurt in Norco accident

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

An unidentified woman was killed and three others were injured in a four-vehicle accident Tuesday on Airline Drive in Norco.

State Police say the driver of a 1988 Ford LTD, who died at the scene, was headed north on Airline Drive in St. Charles Parish shortly before 1 p.m. when she apparently lost control of the car, veering across the median and into the path of oncoming traffic. Authorities say the car struck two Cox Communications utility trucks that were in the right, southbound lane before hitting a 1988 Chevrolet pickup truck that was in the left lane.

Harvey resident Alex Green, 55, said he was driving south on Airline Drive near Shell Oil with his niece and sister-in-law at 12:53 p.m. when the accident happened.

"'They were screaming," Green said about his family members. "They said, 'Look out, look out,' and then, bam.

"I thought I was gone, man; I thought I was gone," Green said while waiting to give a statement to police.

Green's niece, Lily Scott, and sister-in-law, Mona Green, were taken to River Parishes Hospital in LaPlace with leg and arm injuries, Green said. The driver of one of the utility trucks also was taken to the hospital.

State Police said all three sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

Trooper Omar Landrum, spokesman for the State Police, said the driver's identity would not be released until notification of her next of kin.

Landrum said it was too early to determine if either alcohol or speed was a factor in the crash. Authorities don't know what caused the woman to lose control of the vehicle.

The accident closed Airline Drive and backed up traffic for several hours.

**"We're trying to do it right and as quickly as we can."**
BEN MORRIS, Slidell Mayor

# Slidell mayor requests residents to be patient

*It could take 4 or 5 weeks to collect debris*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

Although the city has promised to absorb any extra costs for picking up the mega-tons of curbside debris from Hurricane Katrina, Slidell Mayor Ben Morris cautioned residents Tuesday that it will take many weeks to get the job done.

Morris, irked by what he considered minor complaints from "whiners" who otherwise are now living in relative comfort, urged citizens to be patient and to avoid unnecessary trips on Slidell's crowded streets.

"We're trying to do it right and as quickly as we can," he said from his office at the Department of Public Operations headquarters, serving as a temporary City Hall while crews work to repair the badly flooded old one on Second Street.

"If you're getting impatient, it's not going to do you any good," he said. "The (Army Corps of Engineers) may bring in some additional contractors, but it may be four or five weeks before it's picked up. You just have to wait. ... Quit whining."

Those who expect a total or near-total return to normalcy, while thousands of people have suffered serious damage to their homes from flooding or fallen trees, "have to realize that this is the greatest national disaster in the history of the United States."

Cleaning up the mountains of tree chunks and limbs, soggy carpets and bedding, ruined appliances and the like "is not going to happen overnight. People have to understand this. ... You're talking thousands of tons, thousands of truckloads."

The City Council, meeting in emergency session Sept. 2 only days after Katrina devastated the New Orleans area, approved an amendment to the city's contract with Coastal Waste Management for regular garbage and trash pickup to cover the additional cleanup of storm debris.

But Morris said Tuesday that administration of that contract has been taken over primarily by the corps, as has another one awarded Sept. 13 to McDonald Construction Inc. to clean out debris impeding the flow of city drainage channels.

Morris does not approve.

"We could've had it (the work) done by now," he said about what he called nitpicky regulations forced on storm-ravaged areas by corps and Federal Emergency Management Agency bureaucrats.

As for repeated requests to FEMA for house trailers or other mobile residences for the city's displaced employees — at least 40 percent of Slidell's work force is among the ranks of hurricane homeless — the mayor again leveled criticism at the agency.

"We don't have a clue," he said. "FEMA does not have an answer. FEMA can't provide an answer. I know (St. Tammany Parish President) Kevin Davis is in the same boat."



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# Electrical work draws criticism

*FEMA pledges to send inspectors to N.O.*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Members of the New Orleans City Council complained Tuesday that Mayor Ray Nagin's administration isn't moving quickly enough to devise a plan for restoring electricity to homes and businesses whose wiring was damaged by wind or flooding from Hurricane Katrina.

The city's power utility, Entergy New Orleans, has been re-energizing electricity distribution wires in neighborhoods along the Mississippi River that were untouched by floodwaters.

But for most New Orleans residents and business owners, even some in unflooded neighborhoods, power won't be coming on for weeks if not months because storm damage to buildings' wiring and circuit boxes makes it too dangerous to reconnect the structures.

Getting the damage fixed will require hiring a licensed electrician and getting an inspection from a city building code enforcer, but none of that will be easy in a city that has been shut down and virtually empty for more than a month.

Some council members at a meeting of the panel's utility regulatory committee were running low on patience with the mayor's administration for its master plan for repopulating the city, which will include a plan for getting electricians and inspectors into the city to do the work.

"We have no information about the progression of (restoring) utilities," said Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. "People want to have an idea of when they can come back."

Later in the day, city Department of Safety and Permits Director Michael Centineo told council members that his office already has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to supply extra electricians and at least 75 inspectors to the city.

A FEMA representative at the meeting said his agency would supply the inspectors, just as it did last year in Florida after that state was ravaged by a series of hurricanes.

But Councilman Oliver Thomas questioned whether the plan was adequate. "How are you going to get enough electricians into the city, and inspectors? Seventy-five inspectors from FEMA are not going to be enough," he said.

Power should be back on by the weekend in much of Uptown between St. Charles Ave. and the river, said Rod West, regional manger for electric distribution for Entergy New Orleans.

Electricity already has been restored in the Central Business District, the Warehouse District and parts of the French Quarter. And power is back in isolated pockets around some Uptown hospitals and municipal facilities, as well as at a handful of manufacturing plants in eastern New Orleans.

Electricity also is flowing in most suburban communities except for St. Bernard and lower Plaquemine parishes, which sustained massive destruction from storm surge flooding.

Utility workers have been scouring neighborhoods, going building to building looking for signs of damage. When they find it, they cut the power line connecting the structure to neighborhood distribution lines and transformers.

# Floating casinos may be rebuilt on land

*La. losing $500,000 a day on closed boats*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

While Mississippi is moving forward on a proposal to allow the floating casinos damaged by hurricanes to rebuild on land, Louisiana is starting to think about the same thing.

But the prospects are more uncertain in Louisiana.

The Mississippi Legislature convened a special legislative session Tuesday that will consider, among other things, whether to allow Gulf Coast casino barges to rebuild on nearby land. Most Mississippi Gulf Coast casinos were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, taking with them thousands of jobs, millions in tax revenue for the state, and a key driver of the coast's tourism business.

In Louisiana, casino damage wasn't nearly as bad. During Katrina, the Belle of Orleans vessel, formerly known as Bally's, was ripped from its terminal at Southshore Harbor on Lake Pontchartrain and left listing at the water's edge, its marina destroyed and buffet and nightclub building seriously damaged. During Hurricane Rita on Saturday, the two-boat riverboat complex of Harrah's Lake Charles broke free from its moorings and drifted about 150 yards to a beach.

But the question of economic vulnerability is the same. Louisiana is losing about $500,000 a day in tax revenues while the three New Orleans area riverboats and five Lake Charles riverboats remain closed, according to the riverboat lobbying group the Casino Association of Louisiana.

Louisiana originally created casinos on riverboats in its experiment with gambling so that the boats could sail away if things didn't work out. But with gambling apparently here to stay, some say the state's vulnerability to hurricanes makes it a good time to re-consider having casinos on water.

"Absolutely. When you look at a natural disaster that would cause the kind of destruction that's happened in Lake Charles, everyone should pause and take a look at why we do the things we do," said Anthony Sanfilippo, president of Harrah's Central Division. "The whole reason that gaming was brought into Louisiana was to promote economic development."

Rep. John Alario, D- Westwego, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, said several legislative colleagues have been asking the same question.

"There doesn't seem to be anything that makes gambling more sinful on land than on water," Alario said. "If Mississippi in particular goes on land, we ought to give our people the ability to compete."

But the Casino Association, whose members do not include Harrah's, the largest casino operator in the state, does not plan to lobby for land-based casinos. "I would not look for a similar move in Louisiana," said Executive Director Wade Duty.

Duty said casino companies other than Harrah's that have operable buildings may have trouble justifying the expense of building new land-based facilities.

Taxes are also part of the equation, Duty said. Casino companies in Mississippi can more easily afford to invest millions in land-based facilities because they only pay 12 percent in state and local taxes, but riverboat casinos in Louisiana pay 21.5 in state taxes, plus local taxes.

But Alario said most concerns can be resolved. For example, riverboat casinos could have the opportunity to rebuild on land, but would not be required to do so. However, if casino companies wanted to rebuild on land, Alario said, they may be required to build such amenities as hotels, restaurants and golf courses.

Sen. Francis Heitmeier, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, worries that state law allows for only one land-based casino – Harrah's New Orleans – and deviating from that would require a statewide vote to amend the constitution.

Other state lawmakers say that nothing is off the table after Katrina and Rita because the state needs money and it needs to help businesses restart.

"I could tell you if there were casinos at the airport we'd have one up and functioning right now," said Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, who had sponsored legislation which failed earlier this year about installing slot machines at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Rep. Danny Martiny, R-Kenner, said that he is mainly concerned about video poker operators, because they're mostly small businesses, many of them were likely permanently wiped out by the flooding, and the state depends heavily on video poker revenue.

# Entergy starts rolling blackouts in Texas

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Entergy Texas, struggling to supply power despite severe damage to its transmission network, has been forced to implement rolling blackouts this week in areas north of Houston, the utility said.

"The transmission system is so severely damaged we can't use the system to bring power into the area," said Chanel Lagarde, a spokesman for Entergy. Only two of the 14 power plants that serve the area are operating, Lagarde said.

Rolling blackouts are used to prevent more damage to the transmission system. The utility said about 301 transmission lines and 301 substations are out of service, including key transmission lines that must be restored before enabling service.

The utility said 142,000 homes and businesses are experiencing the rolling outages, which last for about an hour at a time. The outages are imposed most often during the afternoon and evening when air conditioner use increases power demand.

Tuesday morning, 417,000 Entergy customers in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi remained without power, including seven oil refineries in Texas and Louisiana. Almost 349,000 customers from those four states have had their power restored since Hurricane Katrina moved through a month ago.

Lagarde said repairing the transmission lines to the refineries is a priority.

Oil refineries near the Louisiana-Texas border might be down for a month because of damage from Hurricane Rita, Bloomberg News said Tuesday. Several plants reported flooding and wind damage, but managers said lack of power was the sole problem at some plants.

The Times-Picayune
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# DEATHS

**William James Armstrong**
**Raymond W.Beron**
**Marie Reibel Brinkman**
**John Louis Dufrechou**
**Rhea J. Douse**
**Leona Landry Falgoust**
**John Edward Glenn**
**Ruth Riviere Grush**
**Beverly June Hughes**
**Thomas Lee Kikendall**
**G. Michael Lala**
**Cynthia Golden Martin**
**Elizabeth Rush Riehm**
**Della Mae Parks Roussel**
**Francisca Mercedes Fletes Trigueros**
**Lawrence A. White, Sr.**

### ARMSTRONG
William "Billy" James Armstrong III reunited with God at the age of 47 on September 24, 2005. Beloved son of William J. Armstrong Jr. and Georgia R. Armstrong. Brother of Rebecca J. Norton, Kathrine S. Meyer, Gregory L. Armstrong, Karen L. Sork, Sherman G. Armstrong, Julie L. Mason and Jennifer A. Jeansonne. Brother-in-law of Daniel T. Norton Sr., the late Keith Meyer, Vicki Armstrong, Michael Sork and Daniel Jeansonne. Also survived by 8 nieces, 8 nephews, 2 great nephews, 1 great niece and many loyal friends. Private family service. Please send your donations to LSU Schools of Medicine or your favorite charity.

### BERON
Raymond W.Beron, born on November 21, 1925, died of natural causes on September 22, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn McKee Beron; sons, Greg and Tim Beron; daughter; Barbara Julie Beron Tranchina; son-in-law, Robert P. Tranchina and his sister, Gilda Beron Hines. He is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond W. Beron and Isabella Poole Beron. He graduated from Southwestern University and is a U.S. Marine Corps. veteran serving his country during World War II. An employee of Shell Oil Metairie Plant for 33 years, he was a life member of the Boy Scouts of America and was a member of American Legion Post 218. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services at the Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd. (corner Westwood Dr.), Marrero, LA on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 1:30 PM. Interment will follow at Westlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will be on Friday from 11AM until service time. Donations in his memory may be made to the Boy Scouts of America (4200 S. I-10 Service Rd-West, Metairie, LA 70001) or American Legion Post No. 218 (P.O. Box 6303, New Orleans, LA 70174).

### BRINKMAN
On Sunday, September 25, Marie Reibel Brinkman re-re left this earth, but not the hearts of the hundreds that she touched throughout her life. Marie will be deeply missed by her two children, Nicole and Andrew, and her two beautiful grandbabies, Colin and Max, as well as her two sisters, Rusty and Jeanne, and her baby brother John, and her best friend, Arthur. Born in New Orleans, Marie has lived in Oak Cliff for over 25 years. During those years, she worked as a corporate secretary, controller and den mother for Eisenberg, Inc. Memorial services will be held for family and friends at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 600 South Jupiter Richardson, Texas 75081 on Thursday, 29th of September, at 1:00pm. Marie has requested that in lieu of flowers, thoughts of remembrance be made to the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas or the Scottish Rite Hospital. May she rest in peace.

### DOUSE
Rhea J. (Honey) Douse died on Sunday, September 4, 2005 at Brookwood Medical Center in Birmingham, AL. She was age 83. Beloved daughter of the late Sidney Justin Sr., and the late Olivia Justin. Wife of the late George P. DouseSr. Mother of Rhea Bartholomew (Dave), Denise Salvant (Glenn Sr.), Elliot Douse (Joan), Frank Douse (Marcia),Veleria Douse, Norman Douse, and George Douse Jr, and the late John, Vernell, and Marion Douse. Sister of Sidney and Clifton Justin, and the late Manuel, Joe, and Antione Justin. Also survived by 26 grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA. Mrs. Douse was retired from Rhea's Grocery, 1977, She was also a dedicated member of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. Service were held on Thursday, September 15th, 2005 at 1:00 pm at Greenoaks Memorial Park, Baton Rouge, LA. Celebrant Rev. Michael Jacques, Interment Greenoaks memorial Park, Baton Rouge, LA. Gertrude Gedded Willis Funeral Home in charge. 504-522-2525 or 985-872-6934

### DUFRECHOU
John Louis Dufrechou, a retired construction representative with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, died on Thursday, September 8, 2005 of a heart attack at his home. He was 59. Mr. Dufrechou was born and raised in New Orleans but had made his home in Madisonville for the last 18 years. He was a graduate of Rugby Academy in New Orleans. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 6 years. He was retired four years from the Corp of Engineers where he gave 35 years of dedicated service. Mr. Dufrechou was the beloved son of Delia P. Dufrechou and the late Elmer M. Dufrechou. Survivors include a loving wife Edie H. Dufrechou, his daughter Michelle Dufrechou Weber and husband John, his son Paul John Dufrechou and wife Jennifer, his five grandchildren Dylan, Drew and Emma Dufrechou; Katie And Josh Weber, his two brothers Michael and Don Dufrechou and one sister Suzanne McCarthy and a host of brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005 in the chapel of E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA. Interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Covington, LA. In lieu of flowers, we ask to please make donations to the American Heart Association. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### FALGOUST
Leona Landry Falgoust, wife of the late Kurt J. Falgoust on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Born in Convent on February 14, 1908 and a resident of New Orleans for the past 84 years. Daughter of the late Joseph N. Landry and Armantine Bourgeois. Sister of Cecile L. Fontenot, Louise L. DiFulco, Marie L. Bernard and the late Edvige Landry, Andrew J. Landry, Lucille L. Margot, Rene J. Landry and Anna L. Graci. Mother of Earl J. Falgoust, Earline F. Bergeron, Rosemary F. Marshall, Janet F. Vicknair and the late Gerald Falgoust. Grandmother of Cindi F. Mullet, Lynette F. Judge, Gary J. Vicknair, II, Steven M. Vicknair, Patti Falgoust, Michelle V. Gaillot, Michael G. Marshall, Keith J. Bergeron and the late Kevin J. Bergeron. Also survived by nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Schoen Funeral Home Chapel Of Covington, 1414 S. Tyler St., Covington, LA on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Temporary burial was in Pinecrest Cemetery in Covington and the final resting place will be in St. Patricks Cemetery #3 in New Orleans.

### GLENN
John Edward Glenn, 83, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont, TX on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 8:23 PM. Beloved husband of Dorothy Martinez Glenn. Father of Robert M. Glenn and Donna Glenn Judice. Grandfather of Ryan Finney, Matthew Finney, Robert M. Glenn II and Jonathan Glenn. Son of the late Mary Strickmiller Glenn and John J. Glenn. Preceded in death by 8 brothers and sisters. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 38 years. Relatives and friends were invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 12:30 PM. Followed by interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA. Visitation at the Metairie Home of Lamana-Panno-Fallo, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, September 26, 2005 from 10:00 AM until Noon. Sign On-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com

### GRUSH
Ruth Riviere Grush, wife of John L. Grush, Sr. Also survived by four sons and their wives, John Lee Grush, Jr. (Gail Sones Grush) of River Ridge, R. Brink Grush (Charlene Johnson Grush) of Mandeville, David Allen Grush (Linda Reiss Grush) of River Ridge and Gene R. Grush (Joyce Seriale-Grush) of Friendswood, TX; eight grandchildren, Jill Grush Stradley, Julie, Eric, Ryan, Alex, Loren, Christina and Johnny grush. Daughter of the late Clair Lasseigne and Roland L. Riviere, Sr. Mrs. Grush was a native of Thibodaux and lived in Hammond where she graduated from Hammond High School and Southeastern Louisiana University. She has resided in River Ridge since 1957. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass on Thursday, September 29, 2005, 1:00pm at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN & SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit from 11:00 am until time of service.

### HUGHES
Beverly June Hughes on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 in Houma, LA. Age 84 years. Sister of the late Shirley Hughes Smith. Daughter of the late Josephine Schulz Hughes. Survived by brother-in-law Clyde W.Smith. Also survived by nieces and nephews: Susan Smith Francis, Claudia Smith Gifford, Jennifer Smith Bollinger and Skip Smith and grand nieces and nephews: Matthew and Lauren Francis, Roth Walsh, Casey Gifford, Jennifer and Katherine Bollinger, Chris and Matt Smith. Miss Hughes was a former employee of Port Distributing Company and a lifetime member of First English Lutheran Church. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services at E.J.Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA 70433 on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 3:00pm. Visitation will begin at 2:00pm until time of service. Interment will follow in Pine Crest Cemetery. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### KIKENDALL
Thomas Lee Kikendall is survived by his beloved wife, Ida P. Kikendall of Slidell, LA. A son, Jason L. Kikendall of Milton, FL. Two daughters: Ashley E. Kikendall of Baton Rouge, LA and Bailey A. Kikendall of Slidell, LA. Parents Jerold and Helen S. Kikendall of Hattiesburg, MS. One brother, Randall A. Kikendall of Baton Rouge, LA. And many uncles, aunts, and cousins. A native and life long resident of Slidell, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Services on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 2:00PM at Calvary Baptist Church, 1615 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell, LA. E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Inc., 2260 W.21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433 in charge of arrangements. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### LALA
G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

### MARTIN
Cynthia Golden Martin, formerly of Algiers, La, passed away Friday, September 23, 2005, at the Atlanta Medical Center. She was a resident of Louisiana for more than 40 years, and had recently moved to Atlanta to continue her nursing profession, which she had practiced for more than 30 years,. Mrs. Martin was a graduate of the Master School of Nursing in New Orleans, and was a critical care nurse at Atlanta Medical Center . She was a member of the Oak Park Baptist Church in New Orleans, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Mrs. Martin is survived her daughter, Anne Marie Martin of Decatur; son, David Arthur Martin and his wife Deborah of Fredericksburg, VA; sister, Margaret Ann Miller and her husband William of New Orleans, LA; brother, David henry Golden and his wife Melanie of Covington, LA; and nieces & nephews, David Wayne Golden, Genevieve Theresa Miller, and Danielle Renee Miller. Funeral services will be held on Monday, September 26, at 7:30 pm in the chapel of A.S. Turner & Sons. Rev. Russell Holmes will officiate. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, ATTN: National Call Center; 1701 North Beauregard Street; Alexandria, VA 22311. A.S. Turner & Sons, Decatur, GA.

### RIEHM
Elizabeth Rush Riehm on Thursday September 22, 2005. Beloved wife of John Riehm. Mother of Marcia Lee and John Riehm, Jr. Survived by 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Harahan. Mrs. Riehm was a member of First Baptist Church of Harahan. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Monday Sept. 26, 2005 at 12:00pm. Interment in Garden Of Memories Cemetery. Visitation from 10:00am until 12:00pm

### ROUSSEL
Della Mae Parks Roussel, 76, on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 7:25 A.M. in Luling, LA. Beloved mother of Wayne Roussel and his wife Cynthia, Pamela Wattigney and her husband Stephen Sr., Paulette Angrisano Milan and her husband Rick, Patti Sigur and her husband Billy. Grandmother of Donnie Roussel, Chante' Fletcher, Joleen Roussel, Stephen Wattigney Jr., Daniel Wattigney, Jamie Wattigney Walker, Amy Angrisano, Stacy Angrisano Barrios, Michael Angrisano Jr., Gerren Sigur and Colin Sigur. Great Grandmother of Travis Fletcher, Tyler Fletcher, Daniel Wattigney, Emily Wattigney, Brandon Barrios, Kelsey Sigur and Katie Walker. Daughter of the late Ivy and Agnes Guidry Parks. Sister of the late Roland Parks, Ivy Parks Jr., and Delta Barthelemy. A native of Marrero, LA., and a resident of Belle Chasse, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Mary Catholic Church, Raceland, LA. Interment St. Mary Cemetery, Visitation from 8:00 A.M. until funeral time Wednesday at Falgout Funeral Homes, 3838 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. Falgout Funeral Homes in charge of arrangements.

### TRIGUEROS
Francisca Mercedes Fletes Trigueros on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at age 95. Wife of the late Juan Angel Trigueros. Mother of Jose A. and Juan A. Trigueros. Daughter of the late Maria Mercedes Erazo and Vincente Fletes. Sister of Gustavo and Augusto Garcia and the late Conception Fletes, Adela Fletes, Otilia Espinal, Amanda Erazo and Fausto Fletes. Grandmother of Jose A., Jr., Johnny P., Petra M., Stephanie E., and Jennifer D. Trigueros. Also survived by 3 great-grandchildren. A Native of Juticalpa, Olancho, Honduras and a resident of the New Orleans area for the past 40 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 10:00 am. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens. Friends may visit from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. on Tuesday and after 9:00 am on Wednesday.

### WHITE
Lawrence A. White, Sr. a retired Cargo Agent of Taca International Airlines passed away on Monday, August 29, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital. Age 78 years. Beloved husband of Ray Aprill White. Father of Lynette A. White, Lawrence A. White, Jr. and Glenn J. White. Grandfather of Lauren Elizabeth White. Mr. White was a past Commander of American Legion Post 267 and a member of 40 and 8th Voiture 201. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Services at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 448 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA., on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 10:00AM. In lieu of flowers donations to charity of your choice, preferred. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA MCCOY

Ann Rodrigue and her daughter Lisa Cuiffi look at a set of photos that survived the damage done by Hurricane Katrina to Venetian Isles.

## Eastern New Orleans residents wait, worry

The abandonment of the citizens of our city continues for those of us who have homes in eastern New Orleans. We have yet to be informed of when we can see our homes and possibly salvage what little may remain.

Our elected officials and representatives have done and said little to ease the tensions. It is shameful that the citizens of St. Bernard Parish, bless their souls, have been allowed to view their homes while we have to sit in the dark or sneak into our property.

I offer a simple proposal. Coordinate with homeowners to see our homes on a two- or three-day rotation by ZIP code and bring a small amount of closure and peace to the hearts and minds of citizens.

**Ray Duplessis**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Jackson, Miss.*

## Rumor-mongers hurt the city

One has to wonder what the residents of the city of New Orleans must think of Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Chief Eddie Compass, after it was revealed that the two of them were among the most vocal spreaders of false information about the conditions at the Superdome and the Convention Center.

The mayor demonstrated hysteria ("10,000 dead!") not befitting a leader who should have been helping people stay calm and offering hope. Then there are the multitude of media who spread the rumors of mayhem, rape, murder and general pillage while not once offering, that I saw, an interview with anyone who actually saw these scenes.

When there were camera shots of the crowds at the Dome, Iíd see people standing about looking bored, hot and miserable, but not out of control, even as the report might be mentioning atrocities that were supposedly going on inside.

One poor elderly lady dead in a wheelchair became "bodies in wheelchairs." The fact that the media showed the same body over and over indicated there was a scarcity of bodies to be found lying around to stumble over in the streets.

The mayor has done a sorry job, and I hope his career in politics is soon over. The man has done more than anyone to harm the image of New Orleans.

**L.G. Murray**
*Stone Mountain, Ga.*

## Plan ahead to save pets

It is painfully real that in a hurricane evacuation thousands of animals are left behind to starve to death in our streets and vacant homes.

The letter to the editor from a woman who faulted humane workers for not locating a sick 15-year-old cat rescued from her home was one of those painfully real stories. She never mentioned why she had to leave her cat behind. There are numerous logical reasons why pets were left behind, but I know of one person who did not leave his friends behind.

Mike Lala, founder of the Lala Foundation for Animals, was one who would not leave his animals; he stayed with them at his restaurant, The Olde N'Awlins Cookery. The heat and stress must have been too much because he died there.

Thankfully, humane groups across our nation came to help us rescue our animals. Although there are still animal rescues going on and many volunteers are feeding the ones left behind, now is the time to determine that we will never let this happen again.

Plenty of crates have been donated to house animals; let us find a way to store these crates so that we can house the animals along with the caretakers who have to evacuate. If we have to pass a law, let's do it. Our companion animals who love us unconditionally deserve nothing less than our full support every day, but especially in time of disaster.

**Donna L. Nassar**
*St. Charles Parish Humane Society*
*Destrehan*

## Odds are in insurance company's favor

My husband and I live a few miles north of Picayune, Miss., about 45 miles from the coast. If I were depending only on the media for information about the storm, I'd conclude that Katrina stopped dead after passing Biloxi, Gulfport, New Orleans and Slidell.

This is not the case, but because we are high enough to have been spared the storm surge and flooding, areas like ours and Bogalusa are being ignored.

The western eyewall of the storm moved right over this area. It must be obvious to anyone who cared to fly overhead that we also had more than one tornado. We are lucky that our power was restored after only 15 days, but we still have no phone.

More than 40 large trees came down just in our yards, hitting our workshop, carport, tractor shed, the front porch of our guest house and many fences, but sparing our house.

Because we didn't suffer flooding and we have a roof over our heads, we are much better off than thousands more, and we are very thankful. Nonetheless, we have to deal with damage caused by the storm, and find that our insurance company does not cover removal of downed trees "not on buildings" or repair of fences "not attached to the house."

Insurance companies gamble when they write a policy. Just like casinos, they manipulate the odds in their favor. Sometimes they have to pay off, but they rely on the majority of other policyholders to keep paying and paying to cover their losses.

We would have been better off to have put the money spent on insurance premiums over the last 30 years into a savings account so that we would now have cash available to pay for the removal of the trees (assuming we are able to find somebody to do the work). In the future, we'll insure ourselves — the only people upon whom we can depend.

**L. Davies McCammon**
*Carriere, Miss.*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Looking for a leader

Eddie Compass, the brash street cop who ran his department largely by force of personality, is stepping down as superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department. He and Mayor Ray Nagin are calling the chief's abrupt departure a retirement, and that may be true.

But it is difficult to believe that Superintendent Compass is leaving entirely of his own choice. Despite the chief's firm belief that he and his department performed valiantly in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the failings have been painfully obvious.

The Police Department was in virtual chaos after the storm, with dedicated street officers left to organize themselves to try to curb looting and violence. Mr. Compass himself acknowledged this week that 249 officers were missing in action after the storm, and many of them abandoned residents in their most vulnerable hours. Some officers even took part in looting the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street.

Mayor Nagin characterized the chief's departure as a sad day for New Orleans, but in truth, the move is a positive step for the city. If the mayor hastened Superintendent Compass' exit, he did the right thing.

This is a crucial time for New Orleans, and the rebuilding and recovery of the city depends to a great degree on how secure it is. As businesses and residents move back into the city, they need to be able to have complete confidence in the Police Department and its chief.

Mr. Compass' performance in the past four weeks has made it impossible to trust his ability to lead the department. Even before Katrina blew through the city and left much of it full of water, this was a department in some trouble. Five days before Katrina hit, a two-year veteran of the force was booked with aggravated rape, kidnapping and malfeasance in office after a woman accused him of assault. That brought the total to 11 officers who were arrested in 2004 and 2005 on criminal charges ranging from shoplifting to conspiracy to rob a bank. Violence in the city was a stubborn problem as well, with the murder rate rising week by week compared with the year before.

This is not the best time to be searching for a new police chief. It would be better to have stability in such a crucial job. But New Orleans does not have the luxury of waiting for a more convenient time to replace Superintendent Compass. As Mayor Nagin looks for a new police chief, there are certain qualities that are essential.

The new chief must have a zero tolerance for misbehavior among officers and must make sure the department is set up to ferret out those officers and to respond promptly to residents' complaints. The new chief must understand law enforcement from the streets upward. Superintendent Compass' strength was his intimate, street-level knowledge of New Orleans. The department's nitty-gritty managerial duties, however, were not his forte. That has become undeniable in the weeks since Katrina hit.

Superintendent Compass' love of his city is not in doubt. Neither is his love of police work. "Every man in a leadership position must know when it's time to hand over the reins," he said Tuesday. Sadly, that time came for Eddie Compass.

Now Mayor Nagin must find a stellar leader to replace him.

## Do you promise?

New Orleans was the reason the United States bought Louisiana in 1803, and it served as the capital of the state for much of the 19th century. The state and federal governments have maintained a significant presence in the metro area ever since.

And they ought to maintain that same presence now and in the future. In the metro area's hour of need, New Orleans area residents need to know that these state and federal agencies' plan on sticking around. We need to hear firm, clear, emphatic promises — from President Bush and the U.S. Congress, from Gov. Kathleen Blanco and the Louisiana Legislature — that the federal and state governments will not disinvest from our region.

By contrast, unequivocal state and federal commitments would be a sign of confidence in the New Orleans area's ability to rebuild. If the public sector pulls back from New Orleans, it would send a worrisome signal to all employers.

In the past, officials at a number of state agencies have concluded that some activities are best situated in New Orleans. While two of the three branches of the state government are headquartered in Baton Rouge, the Supreme Court building is in the French Quarter. The medical school at Louisiana State University is also located in New Orleans, even though LSU's flagship campus is in the capital. These institutions are a crucial part of the fabric of the metro area. Their presence is a boon to the local legal and health care communities.

Likewise, the metro area also plays host to any number of federal installations — from military bases to a district office of the Materials Management Service to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, a high-profile stomping ground of potential Supreme Court nominees.

During the crisis that followed Hurricane Katrina, public employees who had been living and working in greater New Orleans have been scattered far and wide. The federal court for the Eastern District of Louisiana is operating out of Baton Rouge, Houma and Lafayette, and the LSU Health Sciences Center is operating in Baton Rouge.

New Orleanians need to be reassured that all such moves are only temporary.

At this point there is no specific evidence that state or federal officials are planning to cut back on their commitments to the New Orleans area. But when hundreds of thousands of people have been forced for weeks from what is normally Louisiana's largest city, the danger of disinvestment is not merely theoretical. Regrettably, some private businesses have already announced plans to leave. Ruth's Chris Steak House, the famous chain founded in the city by devoted New Orleanian Ruth Fertel, relocated its headquarters from Metairie to the Orlando area because of the hurricane. The company recently announced that the relocation will be permanent.

Losing public institutions would be a harsh blow for a stricken metro region. In dealing with Washington and Baton Rouge during the recovery process, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard and other local leaders should seek assurance that the federal and state governments will stand by our metro area.

A commitment to New Orleans doesn't just mean a steady flow of relief supplies and recovery dollars — although both are essential. It also means that the public institutions that have been integral to the development of the metro area will still be doing business here when Katrina is just a distant, miserable memory.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# DISPLACED SEEK A PLACE TO CALL HOME




STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

FEMA-supplied trailers head toward Belle Chasse Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base along Interstate 10 in Metairie on Sept. 16.

A little more than a week ago, the citizens of Lake Charles were generously opening their homes, churches and civic center to New Orleanians displaced by Hurricane Katrina. By last weekend, locals and evacuees alike were on the road running from Hurricane Rita.

When Katrina hit, residents along the southwestern and south-central coast watched on TV people being plucked from their rooftops in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish. On Saturday, many in coastal areas were waiting on their own rooftops and porches to be rescued from rising floodwaters.



JOHN MAGINNIS

While Rita was far less deadly than Katrina, the new storm increased the numbers of temporarily displaced citizens, who now face the disheartening challenge of finding new homes if they can't reclaim their old ones.

Yet government officials still are struggling and disagreeing on how and where to resettle them.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's initial plan was to move most from transient quarters to temporary ones in the form of vast new communities of trailer homes spread across Louisiana. To do so would require not only leasing vacant land but also developing transportation and utility infrastructure, sewage treatment, security and, not the least consideration, something for people to do with their lives for the next 12 to 18 months.

FEMA soon found out that local communities willing to accommodate storm victims for weeks drew the line at having large numbers of them around for months in trailer parks at the edge of town. Residents packed police jury and town council meetings across Louisiana to challenge and protest putting up new temporary cities that would, in some places, nearly double the population and overwhelm public services.

The complications, expense and local opposition have caused federal planners to devise an alternate relocation strategy that relies more on what our government does best: cut checks. The federal Office of Homeland Security announced over the weekend that FEMA would make lump-sum payments of up to $2,358 to cover three months of rent to hundreds of thousands of displaced homeowners, wherever they find to live, even if out of state. Further assistance could be extended for up to 18 months.

The new plan tracks the trend in federal policy toward subsidizing rent payments to private landlords instead of building and maintaining large public housing complexes.

Yet, according to the report in The Times-Picayune, the new federal plan surprised Gov. Kathleen Blanco, whose objective has been to resettle as many people as possible back in Louisiana, if not in the New Orleans area.

Locally, elected officials already are clamoring to bring their voters home. The rent assistance plan also will raise concerns among local business owners who are struggling to find enough workers to get the economy going again. They face having to limit hours and services, even turn away customers, for the lack of employees.

Despite those concerns, the federal government is onto something. It will be far more cost-effective for the overtaxed recovery effort to simply pay the people and let them decide where and how to live. The feds' storm response has been criticized so much they would be wise not to plunge headlong into a new adventure in public housing trailer parks.

More importantly, it is fairer for American citizens to be able to make their own life choices instead of being assigned to a trailer in a space where only cows lived before. If a good many of them want to seek a new life in another state, government should not restrict their options.

Temporary housing can still be provided on a limited scale, especially in the New Orleans area. Many will choose to live in a trailer for 18 months if it keeps them closer to their families, jobs and the city they love.

The new federal payment plan will mean more people will start a new life elsewhere and stay there. But for many, the emotional ties to New Orleans will remain so strong that if we rebuild it, they will come home.

John Maginnis is an independent journalist covering Louisiana politics. He can be contacted at www.LaPolitics.com.

# Higher education out of reach for lower class

Especially in these days after Katrina, everybody laments poverty and inequality. But what are you doing about it? For example, let's say you work at a university or a college. You are a cog in the one of the great inequality producing machines America has known. What are you doing to change that?

As you doubtless know, as the information age matures, a new sort of stratification is setting in, between those with higher education and those without. College graduates earn nearly twice as much people with only a high school diploma, and people with professional degrees earn nearly twice as much as those with college degrees.



DAVID BROOKS

But worse, this economic stratification is translating into social stratification. Only 28 percent of American adults have a college degree, but most of us in this group find ourselves in workplaces and in social milieus where almost everybody has been to college. A social chasm is opening up between those in educated society and those in noneducated society, and you are beginning to see vast behavioral differences between the two groups.

For example, divorce rates for college grads are plummeting, but they are not for everyone else. The divorce rate for high school grads is now twice as high as that of college grads.

There are other behavioral differences, large and small, that reflect the different social norms in the two classes. High school grads are twice as likely to smoke as college grads. They are much less likely to exercise. College grads are nearly twice as likely to vote. They are more than twice as likely to do voluntary work. They are much more likely to give blood. These behavioral gaps are widening.

We once had a society stratified by bloodlines, in which the Protestant Establishment was in one class, immigrants were in another and African-Americans were in another. Now we live in a society stratified by education. In many ways this system is fairer, but as the information economy matures, we are learning it comes with its own brutal barriers to opportunity and ascent.

In an agricultural or industrial society, you might grow up in a poor or disorganized family, but you could get a job in a factory and with some grit and determination work your way to respectability. But in an information society, college is the gateway to opportunity. Crucial life paths are set at age 18, which means family and upbringing matter more.

Educated parents not only pass down economic resources to their children, but they pass down expectations, habits, knowledge and cognitive abilities. Pretty soon you end up with a hereditary meritocratic class that reinforces itself generation after generation.

You see the results in college graduation data. In the 1970s, when the information age was young, children from poorer, less educated families were catching up to children from more affluent families when it came to earning college degrees. But now the gap between rich and poor is widening. Students in the poorest quarter of the population have an 8.6 percent chance of getting a college degree. Students in the top quarter have a 74.9 percent chance.

The most damning indictment of our university system is that these poorer kids are graduating from high school in greater numbers. It's when they get to college that they begin failing and dropping out.

Thomas Mortenson of the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education has collected a mountain of data on growing educational inequality. As he points out, universities have done a wonderful job educating affluent kids since 1980. But they "have done a terrible job of including those from the bottom half of the family income distribution. In this respect, higher education is now causing most of the growing inequality and strengthening class structure of the United States."

Part of the problem is that children from poorer families have trouble affording higher education. But given the rising flow of aid money, financial barriers are not the main issue. A lot of it has to do with being academically prepared, psychologically prepared and culturally prepared for college.

I'm going to come back to this subject and write about what some colleges are doing to help these students and how most colleges are neglecting them. But let me conclude with the thought that while we have big political debates in America about equality of results, all those on the left and right say they believe in equality of opportunity.

This is where America is failing most.

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times.



JAMES GILL

# The truth is grim enough

Those who remember the dynamiting of the levees during Betsy are convinced it happened again as the waters rose after Katrina.

Of course, those who remember the dynamiting of the levees during Betsy will believe most anything. It didn't happen then and it didn't happen this time. But the story of unscrupulous fat cats preserving their property by drowning the poor is too rooted in the New Orleans consciousness to brook contradiction.

The levee was blown up at Caernarvon during the great flood of 1927 on the theory that New Orleans was worth the sacrifice of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. With the approach of each hurricane ever since, it seems, rumors circulate that the dastardly sons of privilege are dusting off their plans to do it again.

Now that the worst has happened, official reasons for the levee breaches evoke the deepest suspicions, at least among the credulous souls who confide their thoughts to the Internet. Shortly after Katrina they either heard explosions or saw a barge deliberately punch a hole in the levee, in order, they believe, to save the French Quarter and Uptown.

One displaced homeowner reports that the levee was dynamited "to prevent Uptown (the rich part of town) from being flooded." Unfortunately the dynamiters were as incompetent as they were nefarious: "Apparently they "used too much, thus flooding part of the Bywater. So now I know who is responsible for flooding my house — not Katrina but our government."

There is much to blame on local, state and federal government, but not this. The natural elevation of the terrain ensured that, with or without explosives, parts of the city would remain more or less dry. Besides, if the objective was to spare the rich inconvenience, the inhabitants of Old Metairie, one of the flossiest neighborhoods in the entire state, should be scratching their heads in puzzlement.

If the masses traduced government with tales of levee sabotage, government, in the persons of Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Chief Eddie Compass, turned the tables with highly sensationalized accounts of civilization's breakdown in the Superdome and the Convention Center in the days after the storm.

Certainly the truth was horrifying enough; conditions were unspeakable and no crowd that big is without its criminal element. Yet the picture that emerged worldwide of a city overrun by savages was a calumny as Nagin and Compass gave an official imprimatur to the grisliest rumors.

In the end, where there were supposed to be piles of corpses, only a handful were found. There was no evidence of children raped and murdered by marauding gangs. The gunfights between police and criminals in the dark recesses of the Superdome appeared to be figments of overheated imaginations.

No doubt Nagin, Compass and others who spread the tall tales believed them at the time, and it is only natural in times of crisis for the most outlandish rumors to take on ever more ghoulish details as they spread.In the confusion, the media swallowed it all since the stories appeared to be coming from eyewitnesses or officials who had interviewed them. Such is the respectable world's disdain for the underclass that not even the most horrific reports greatly taxed the credulity.

In fact, it appears that, amid all the squalor and terror, the most vulnerable evacuees were more likely to encounter a helping hand than the threat of harm. It was hell nevertheless, and the unvarnished truth, if it ever emerges, will be shocking enough.

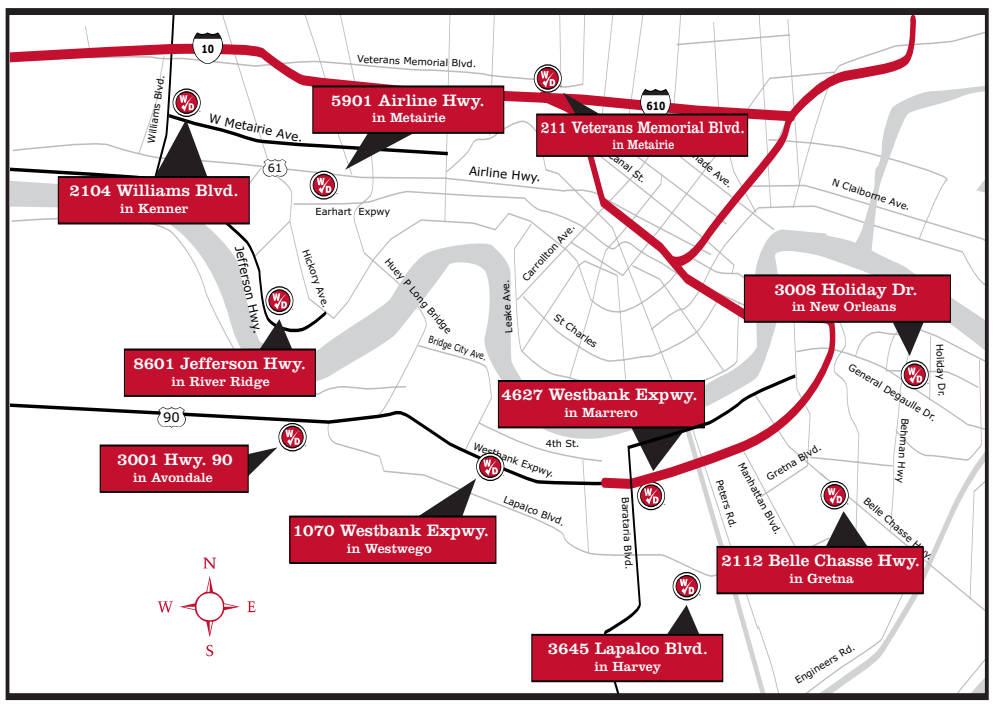
The version of events that the world accepted is a slander on the citizens that can only retard the recovery. The wisdom of rebuilding New Orleans is being questioned in many quarters, and public support will not be aided by the perception that we are not only below sea level but outside the law. "Good riddance to the parasites of New Orleans," wrote one of the well-wishers who favor me with their thoughts via e-mail.

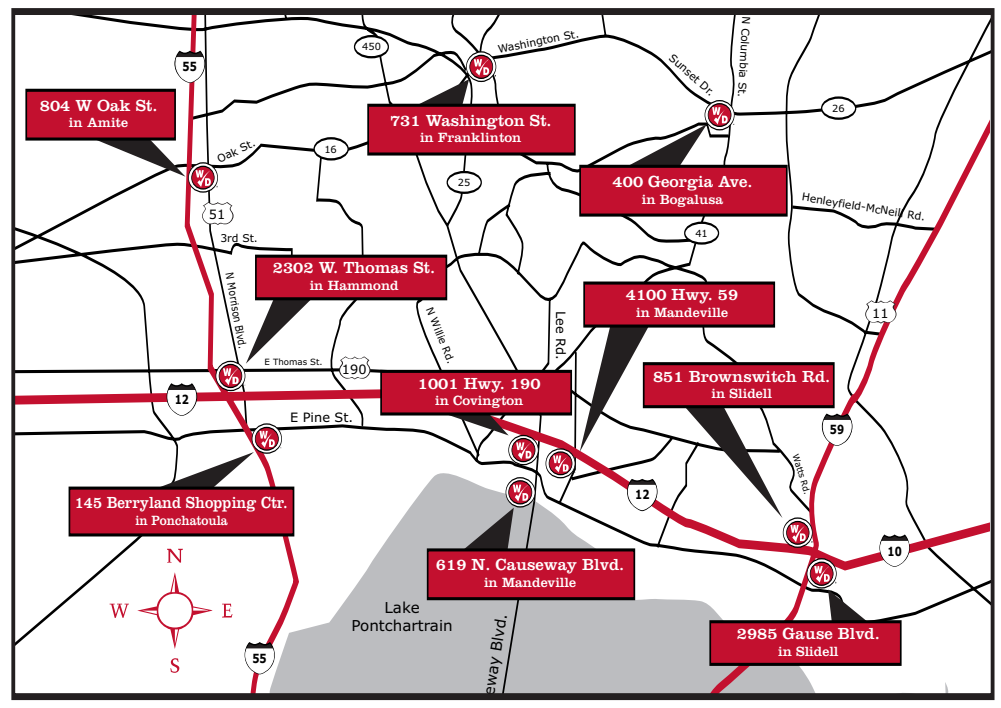
Decades hence, old timers will remember the child rapes of the Superdome just as clearly as they remember the dynamiting of the levees.

James Gill is a staff writer.

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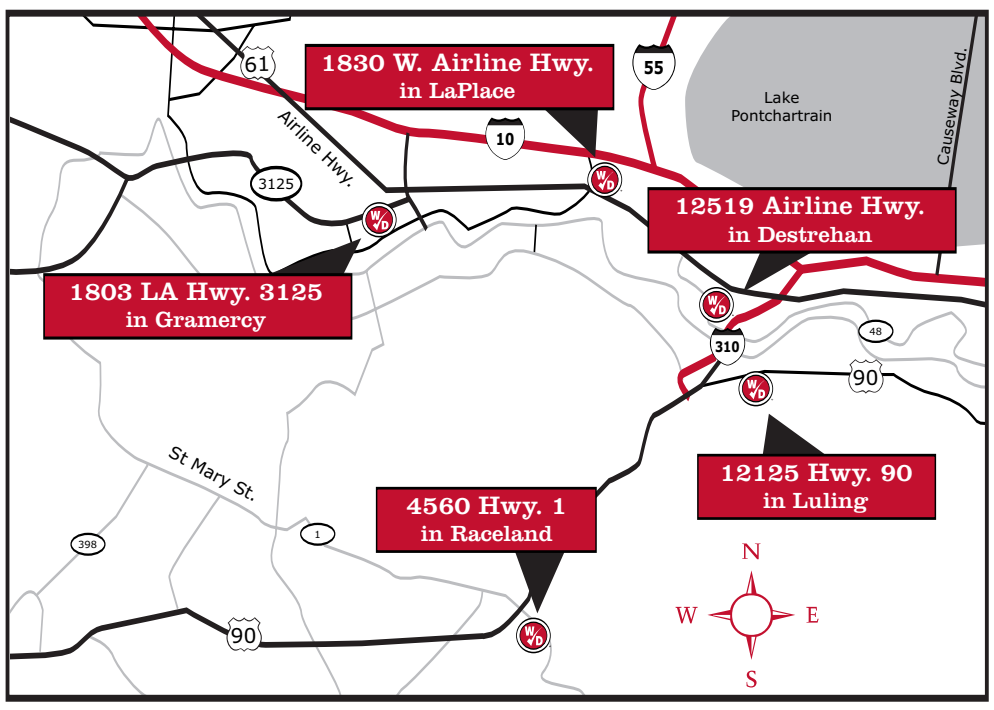
400 Georgia Ave. • Bogalusa, LA • (985) 732-9458

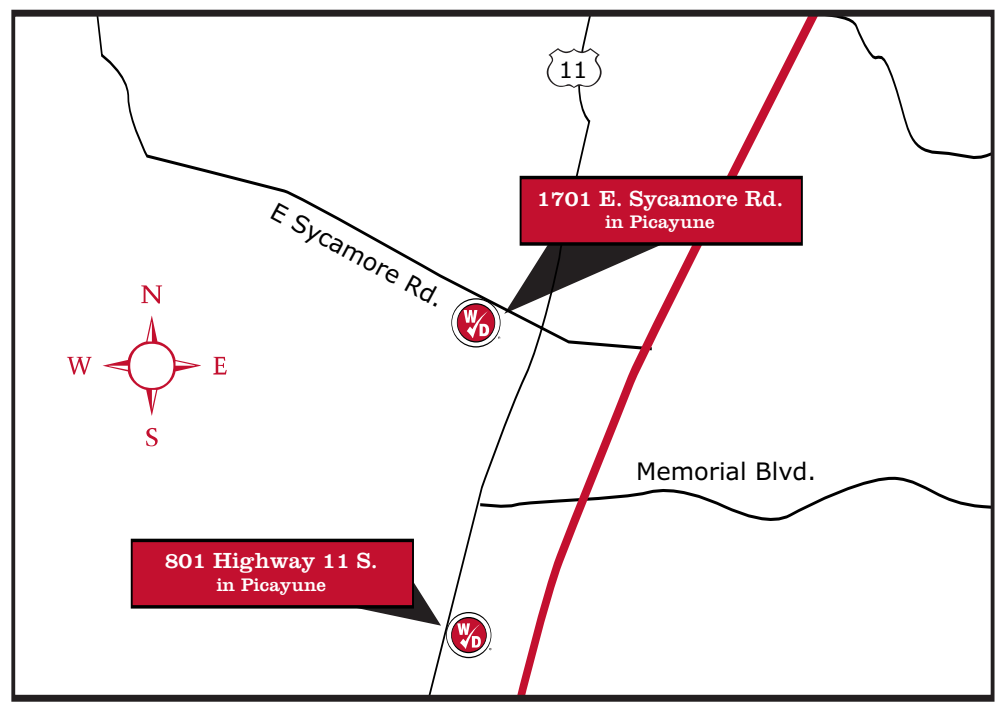
731 Washington St. • Franklinton, LA • (985) 839-5525

2302 W. Thomas St. • Hammond, LA • (985) 542-8901

145 Berryland Shopping Ctr. • Ponchatoula, LA • (985) 386-6540

804 W. Oak St. • Amite, LA • (985) 748-7144




1830 W. Airline Hwy. • LaPlace, LA • (985) 653-0860

12519 Airline Hwy. • Destrehan, LA • (985) 764-3196

12125 Highway 90 • Luling, LA • (985) 785-0610

1803 LA Highway 3125 • Gramercy, LA • (225) 869-8090

4560 Highway 1 • Raceland, LA • (985) 537-6884

1701 E. Sycamore Rd. • Picayune, MS • (601) 798-7696

801 Highway 11 S. • Picayune, MS • (601) 798-5880

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

PAGE C

Wednesday
September 28, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

*They say an army travels on its stomach. So do evacuees, and some are finding that the military's Meals, Ready to Eat aren't bad.*



'Personally, I like them,' said Sgt. Derek Sturtevant of Quincy, Ill., who is stationed in Belle Chasse with his National Guard unit.

# Mmm-Mmm . . . MREs!



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

A spoonful of hot beef stew in minutes: That's the promise of MREs, in which the main entree is slipped inside a pouch that, with a little water, heats up, creating a hot meal on the run.

**By Judy Walker**
Food editor

In a city known world-wide for its cuisine, the manna that dropped from heaven during the hell after Hurricane Katrina came in a khaki plastic bag.

Helicopters dropped MREs — military jargon for meals, ready to eat — to residents stranded on rooftops who had not eaten for days. As Red Cross shelters were set up, MREs and military "heater meals" were served until catering operations got up and running. On the north shore, just off I-12 in front of a Target store, National Guardsmen tossed bags of ice, cases of water, and cartons of MREs into waiting cars. And, as usual, the military troops brought MREs as their own rations.

"They're not too bad," said Maj. Matt Kelly of the 192nd Military Police Detachment out of Omaha, Neb., who was stationed at the main Red Cross shelter at the Riverside Centroplex in Baton Rouge. He said the MREs are an improvement on the older versions of Army rations, and he should know. He ate MREs for 60 days in Iraq last year.

"I like the cheese tortellini," he said.

But soldiers with no choice in the matter aren't the only ones developing a taste for MREs.

Brenda Nolan, whose Gentilly home flooded, said her husband swears by MREs. When she told her husband she wasn't going to eat one, she recalled, her husband told her, "You don't know what you're missing." So she tried one, and liked it.

*See* **MRE,** *C-4*

"You don't know what you're missing."

# DR. AMY GRAYSON, 37, VETERINARIAN

**HOME:** *Mid-City*
**HAVEN:** *Baton Rouge*

## MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"I left on Saturday morning (before the storm). In the cab of my small pickup truck, I carried my eight cats, an old beagle and my ornery one-wing dove. In the back of the truck, I threw in a bicycle I was bringing home for my mother's birthday, and a small bag of clothes. I, like everyone else, thought I would be home again in a couple of days.

"On Sunday (Sept. 4), I rode with the Humane Society into New Orleans to rescue animals. The intention was to go to Lindy Boggs (Medical Center) in Mid-City, where numerous pets had been abandoned. Unfortunately, the water was too high and there was no way to make it there. We ended up at the Superdome. It was worse than any nightmare imaginable. However, out of the stench and filth, about 40 animals were rescued. I heard the next day they got 35 more. Some of the rescued included a momma pit bull and her 11 pups, a cockatiel, a cat with a broken leg (quickly named 'Fema Katrina'), many dehydrated dogs and a cute little fuzzy black kitten.

"For some reason the story that struck me the hardest occurred after we left the Dome. The trucks were full of animals heading down St. Charles Avenue. On an Uptown street corner was a well-dressed middle-age woman with three cat carriers. Extremely distraught, she waved the LASPCA trucks down and begged them to take her cats.

"That was all she had left — those three cats. Tearfully, she kissed each cat goodbye as it was loaded onto the truck. We left her on the street corner with a bottle of water and the promise that her cats would be well cared for. I will never forget watching that woman as we drove away. She just stood on that street corner sobbing. Behind her you could see the downed trees and smoke from the city fires and hear the constant droning of the helicopters overhead. She looked so small and forsaken.

"I couldn't help but think that last week this woman's life was good. Now she has nothing, not even her feline companions. I can only hope that somewhere down the line they will be reunited."

*As told to staff writer Chris Bynum on Sept. 16, 2005*



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER



ANGUS LIND

# Benny Grunch's hunch

*Song satirist thinks his New Orleans nostalgia is more relevant now than ever*

I know I'm not the only New Orleans area resident who has thought about Benny Grunch's catchy tune, "Ain't Dere No More."

If you're not familiar with Benny, he's the talented New Orleans musician who has produced satirical Christmas songs for years and years, songs that include "The 12 Yats of Christmas," "Santa and His Reindeer Used to Live Right Here" and "O Little Town of Destrehan." He has some non-Yuletide numbers that are also favorites with his legion of fans.

Perhaps no one appreciates the city's past more than he does. That's reflected in several versions of "Ain't Dere No More," in which he humorously cites the litany of landmarks, icons and institutions that no longer exist:

*"A&G's ain't there no more*
*"McCrory's ain't there no more*
*"Waterbury's ain't there no more*
*"Dailey's ain't there no more*
*"Red Goose — ain't there no more*
*"Them biddies' shoes — ain't there no more*
*"Godchaux's Men's . . . on the second floor*
*"That's the one! Ain't there no more."*

In another version, he visits various sections of the city in his songs, naming many once-familiar places that "ain't there no more." The Lakeview list includes the Rockery Inn, the Velvet Swing, Lenfant's and Studio A record store. The St. Bernard version cites Jerry LaVie's, Cow Town, the Broom Factory and Atlantic Thrift. Metairie's disappearing act includes JC's, the House of Lee, "Metry" Ford on "Metry" Road, Pelican Bowl and the Real Superstore — ain't there no more.

*"Krauss is gone so you can't try on*
*"No queen-size lingerie*
*"But, whatcha gonna do with K&B*
*"And Schwegmann's gone away."*

Like a lot of other post-Katrina residents, there's one more thing that ain't there no more for Benny — his home on Pontalba Street behind the Plantation Coffee House on Canal Boulevard at the railroad overpass. That's also where WWL-TV shot the "Santa and His Reindeer Used to Live Right Here" video that airs every holiday season.

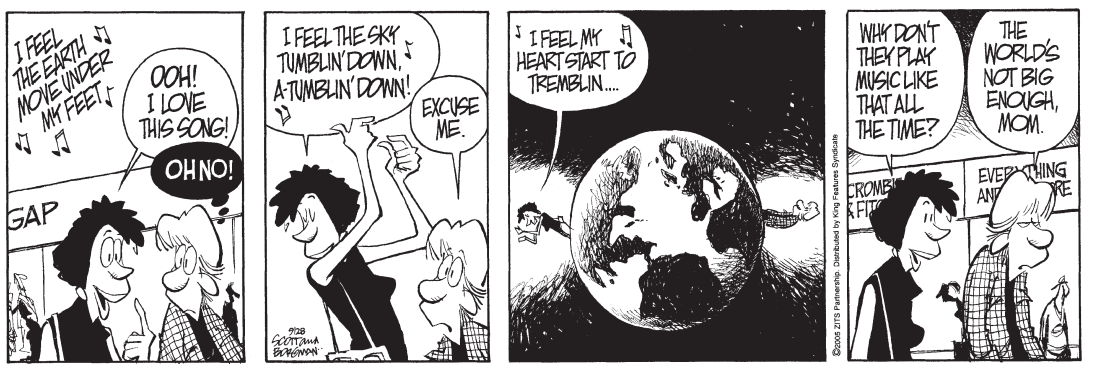
"I'm wiped out — business and home — but I'm still gonna get ready for Christmas," said Grunch, who is staying with his daughter Angel in Denver.

"All my inventory is gone, my two-inch master tapes, my multi-tracks, copyrights for music, my Yatwear T-shirts and sweatshirts, and my

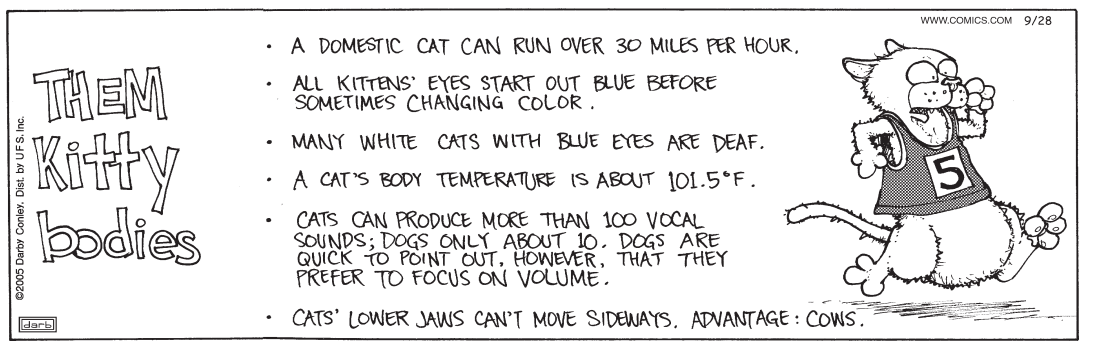
*See* **LIND,** *C-4*

# COMICS

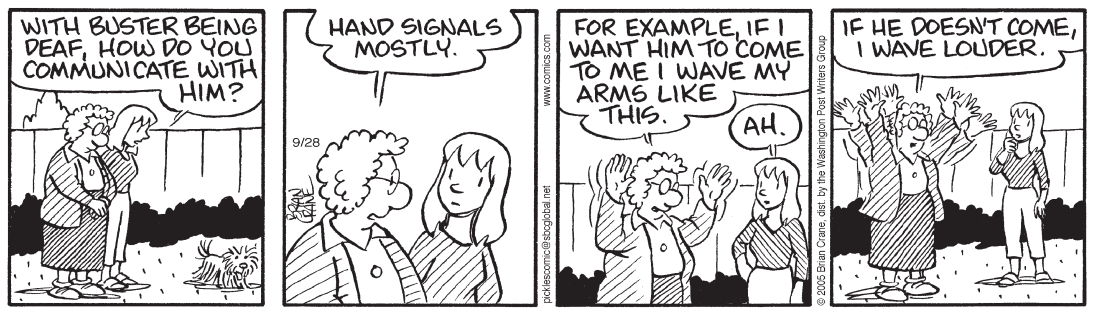
## ZITS




## GET FUZZY

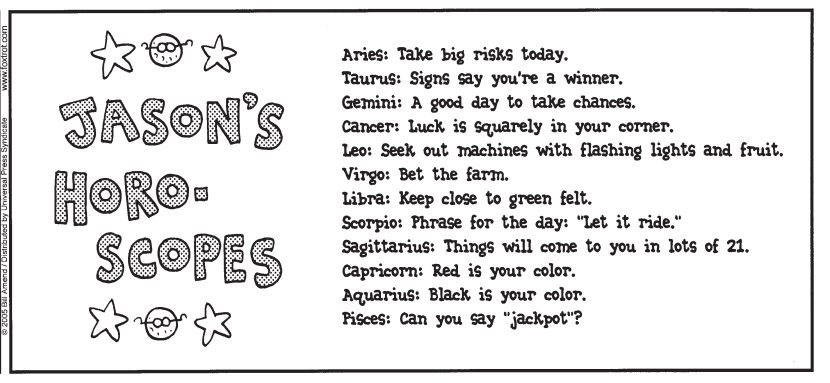



## PICKLES

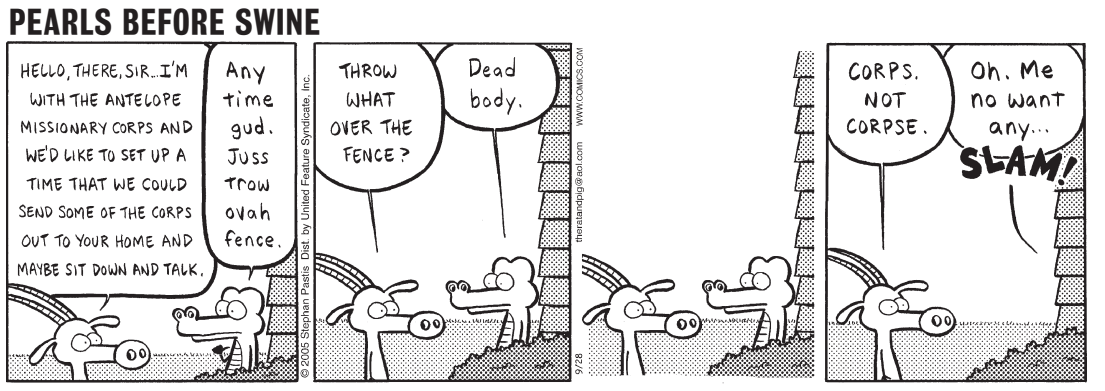



## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DRYIT

BASUQ

CLIFEK

RAJAUG

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Ans:*** THE "_____" _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CUBIT ABASH WOBBLE PILLAR
Answer: When his son asked for money, Dad was left in a — "LATHER"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $D_2$ | $M_3$ | $B_3$ | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $T_1$ | $L_1$ | $M_3$ | $T_1$ | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $S_1$ | $D_2$ | $V_4$ | 2nd Letter Double | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $U_1$ | $D_2$ | $H_4$ | $T_1$ | $N_1$ | | RACK 4 |

**PAR SCORE 140-150**
**BEST SCORE 217**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 140-150 — TOTAL 217

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_4$ | $A_1$ | $U_1$ | $N_1$ | $T_1$ | $E_1$ | $D_2$ | RACK 4 = | 61 |
| $D_2$ | $E_1$ | $V_4$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $S_1$ | RACK 3 = | 62 |
| $M_3$ | $O_1$ | $T_1$ | $L_1$ | $T_1$ | $E_1$ | | RACK 2 = | 8 |
| $A_1$ | $M_3$ | $E_1$ | $B_3$ | $O_1$ | $I_1$ | $D_2$ | RACK 1 = | 86 |

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | V | R | O | L | H | E | B | X | U | Y | R | O | L | I |
| E | B | Y | V | S | Q | N | B | K | L | H | E | H | B | Y |
| W | T | H | R | O | L | J | L | L | G | E | B | C | Y | W |
| N | U | R | E | K | P | L | U | N | K | I | R | N | G | D |
| B | W | Z | X | R | I | G | N | N | V | A | S | I | Q | O |
| M | K | O | C | A | O | N | T | R | V | I | G | L | E | C |
| A | Y | W | R | L | U | I | I | E | L | S | Q | F | P | N |
| L | J | T | O | C | H | F | N | T | R | W | F | E | C | A |
| Y | X | G | W | V | U | F | G | S | R | G | O | S | Q | P |
| N | O | M | D | K | J | U | E | L | G | A | E | B | H | F |
| N | E | C | B | Z | Y | P | X | V | U | T | M | R | R | Q |

Tuesday's unlisted clue: MARSALIS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: REFLEX RESPONSE TO PAIN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beagle | Craven | Heroin | Regret |
| Blunting | Crowd | Logon | Stern |
| Bowl | Crown | Martini | Trail |
| Clark | Gully | Puffing | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| L | G | I | O | E | S | G | Y | E | O | O | T | A |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| C | H | T | O | D | U | N | E | G | S | A | A | B |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| G | N | O | E | I | Y | R | T | N | G | O | I | T |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| A | I | L | S | A | G | O | N | F | O | R | T | J |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| I | S | U | T | N | H | R | I | E | I | M | E | P |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| N | I | R | R | Z | G | E | E | T | D | H | G | O |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| M | D | E | S | N | V | N | E | T | N | D | G | S |

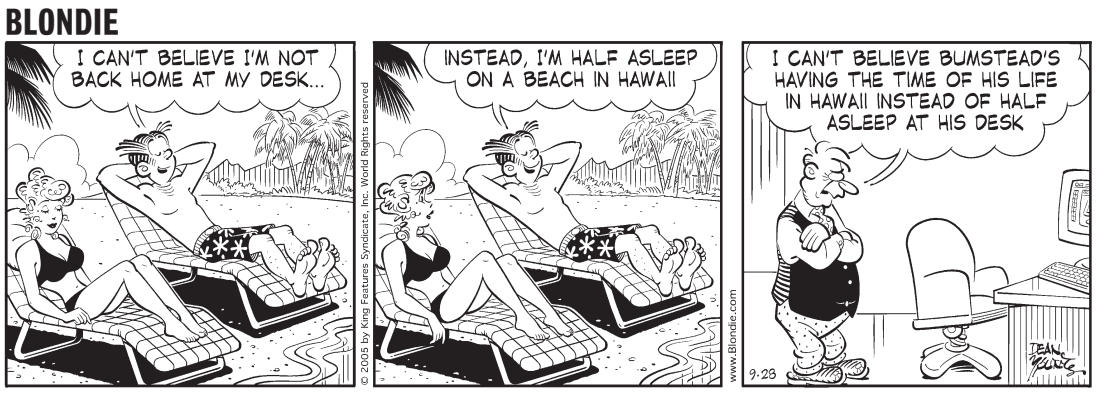
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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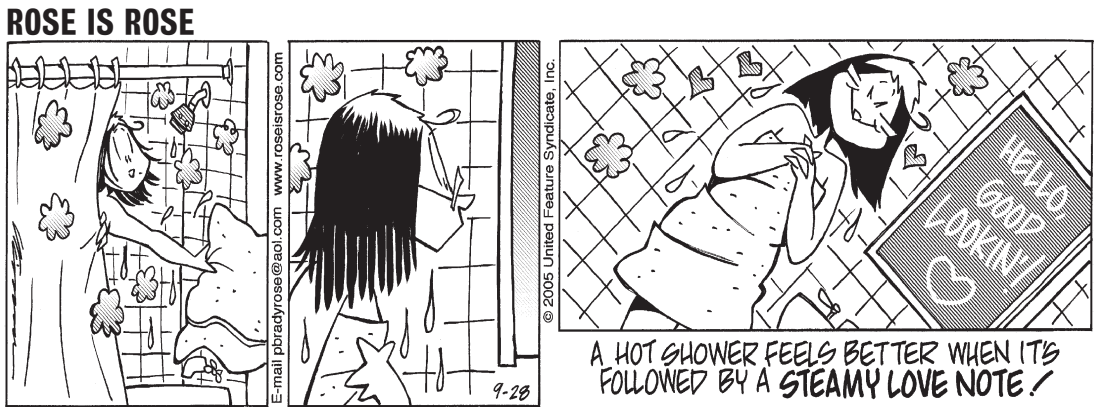
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



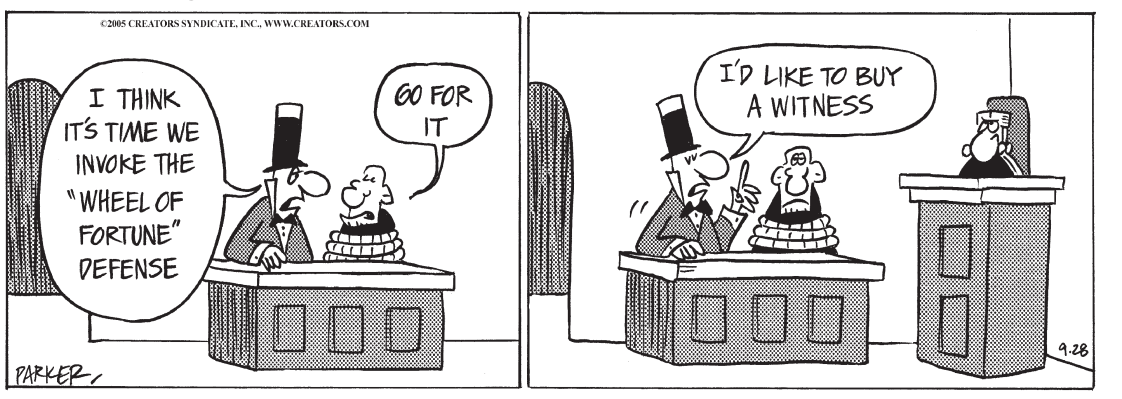

## BLONDIE



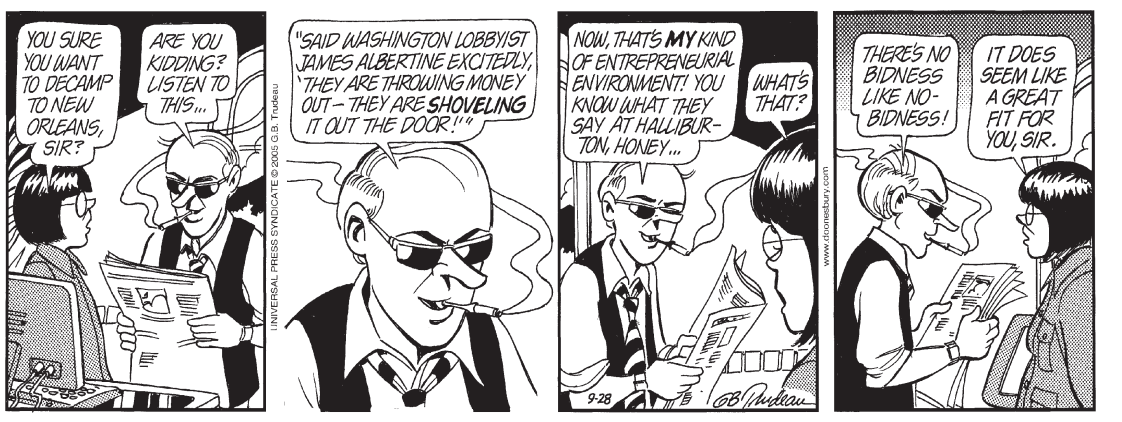

## ROSE IS ROSE



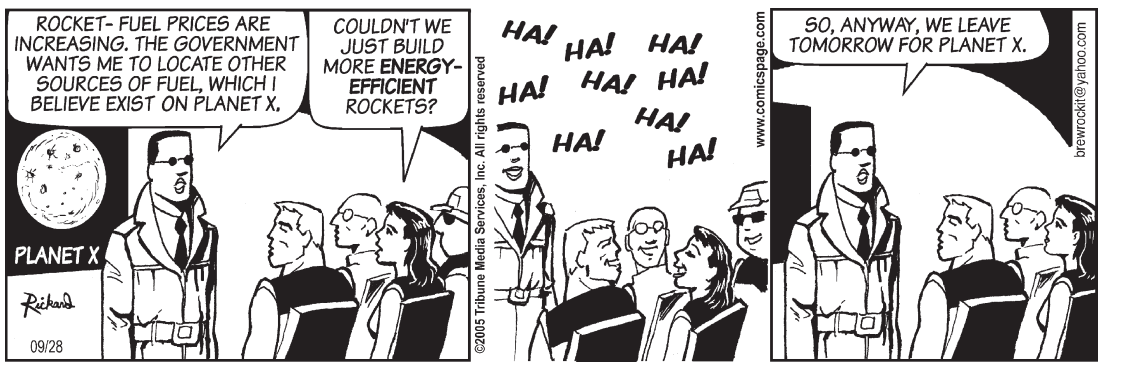

## THE WIZARD OF ID



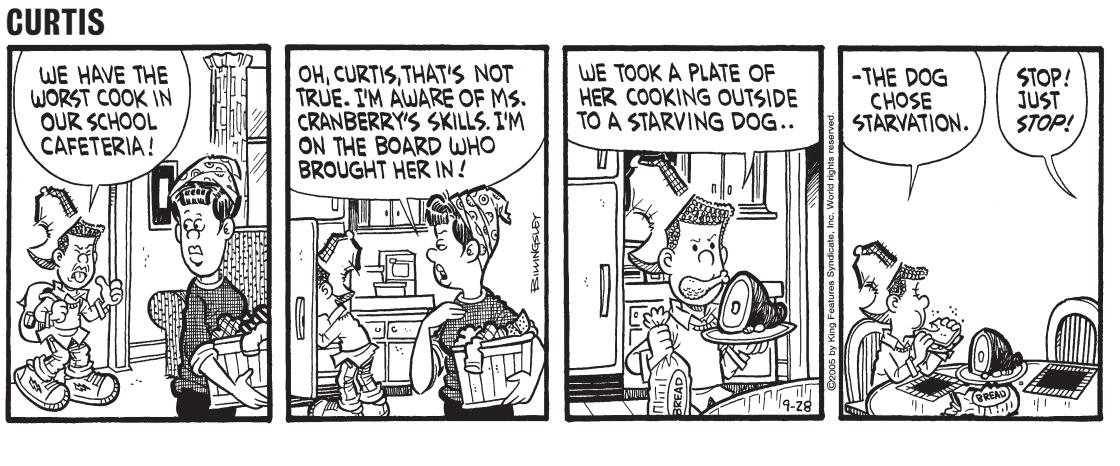

## DOONESBURY



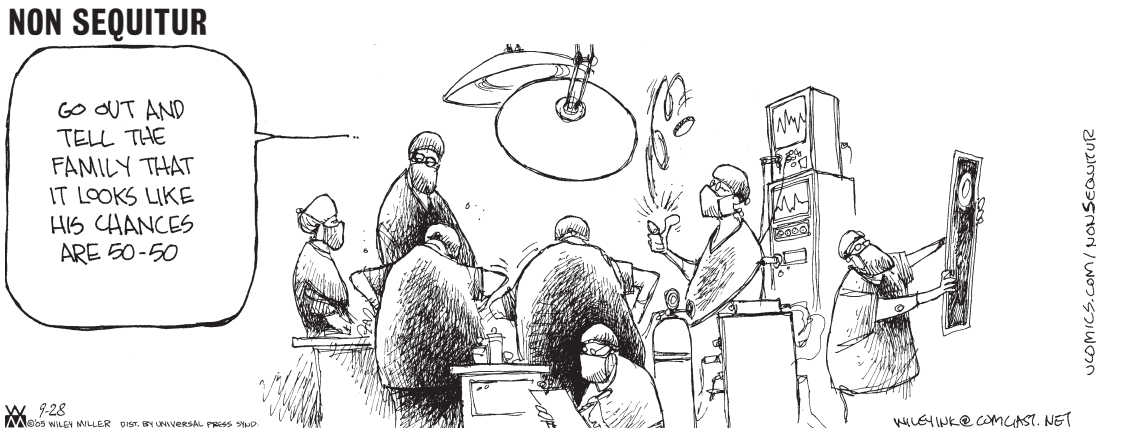

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



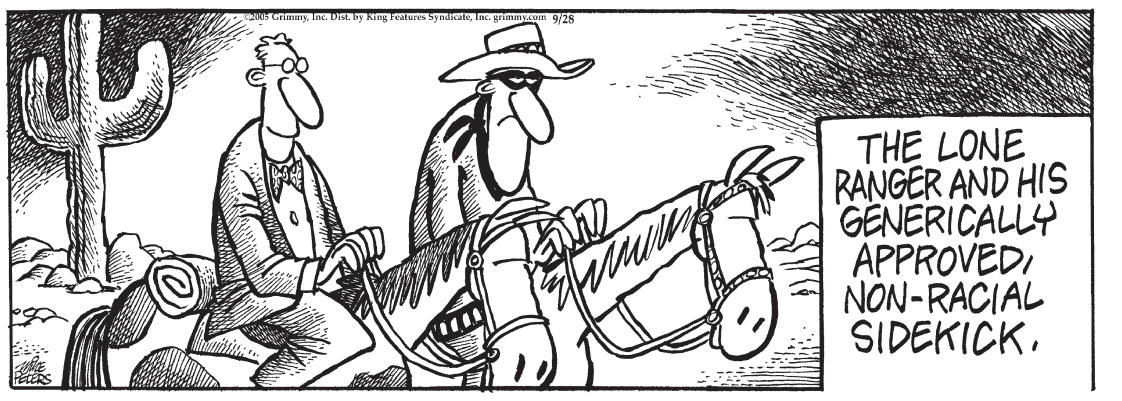

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR




## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

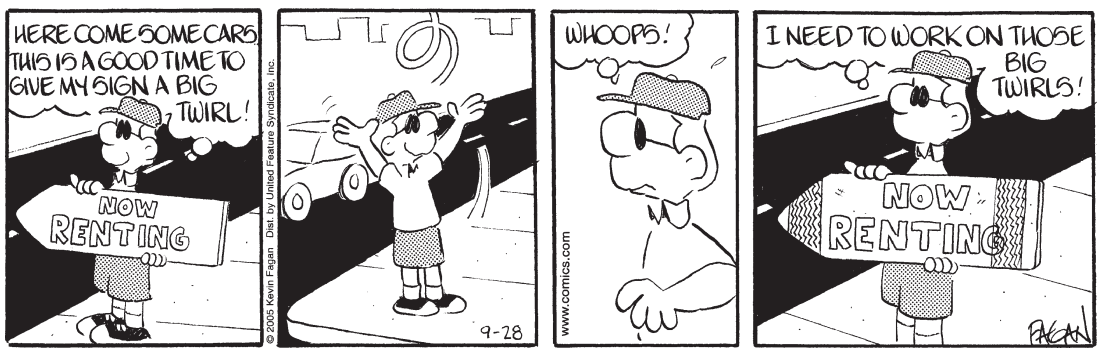


# COMICS

## GARFIELD




## DRABBLE



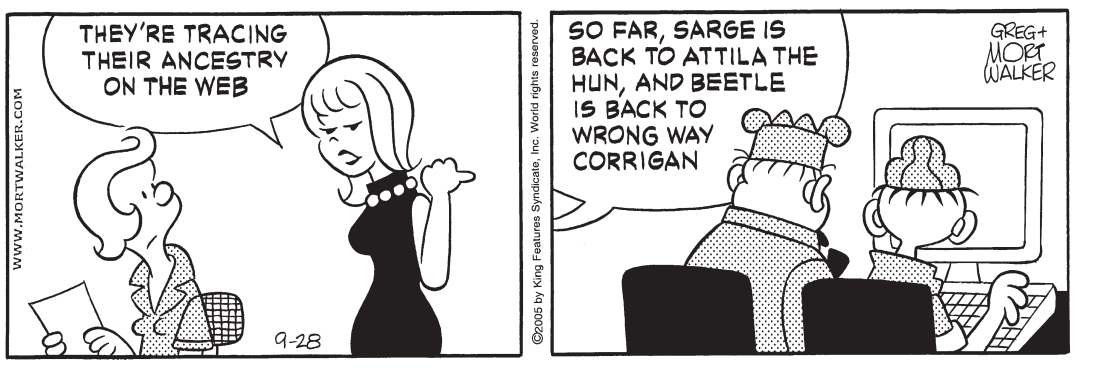

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



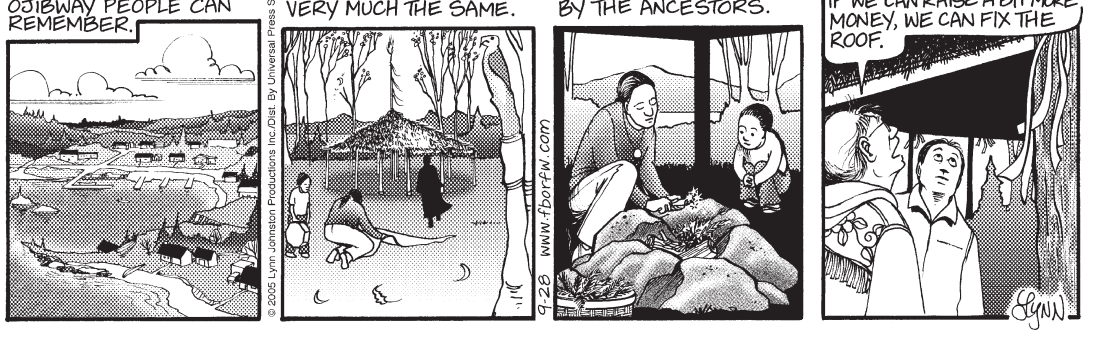

## HI & LOIS



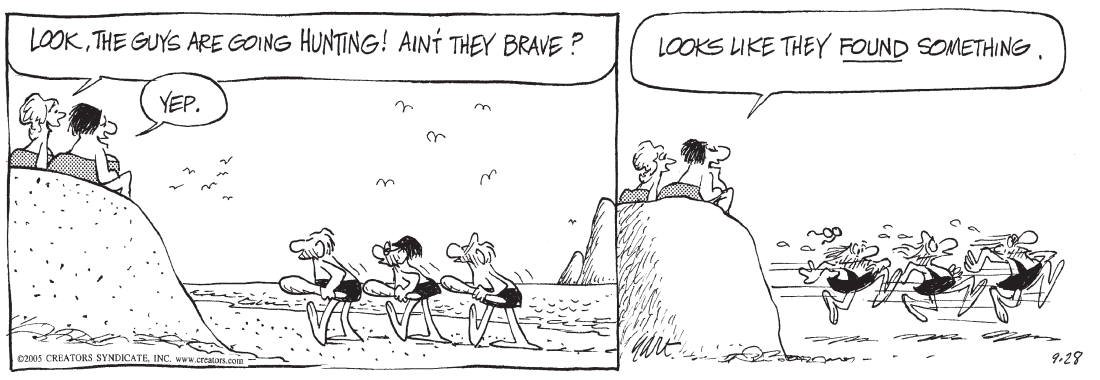

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



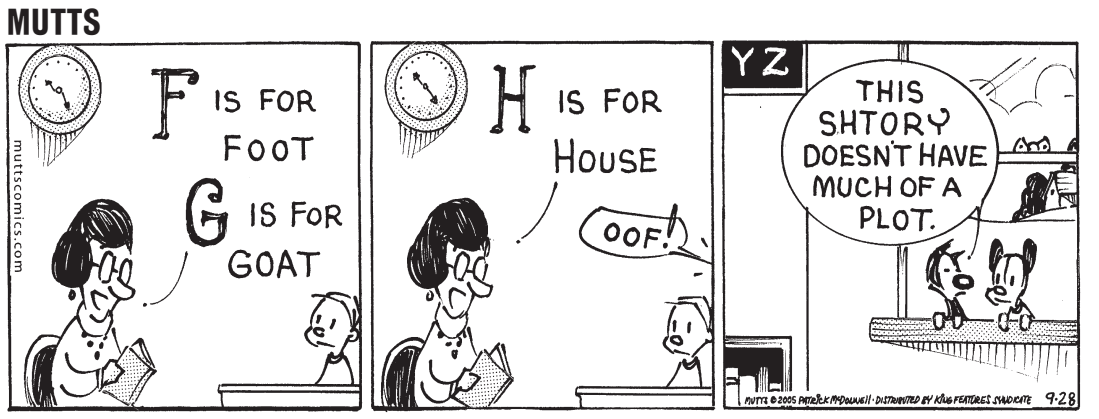

## B.C.



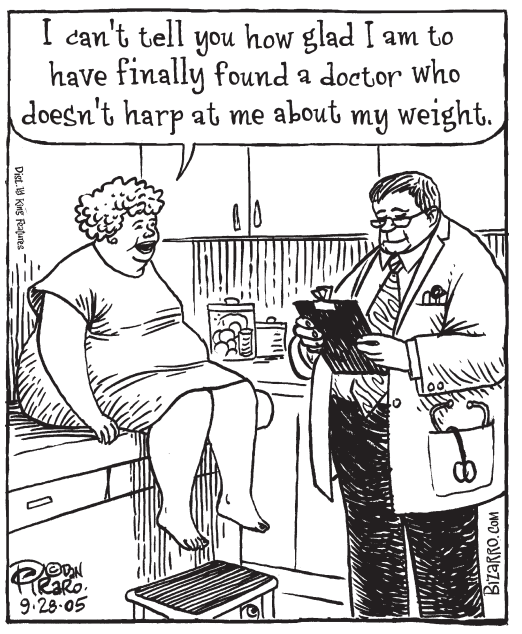

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

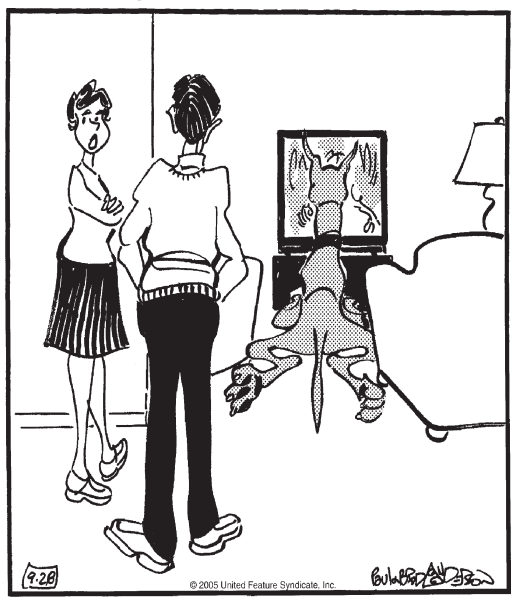



Discount cranial surgery

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"It's either Animal Planet or a cooking show."

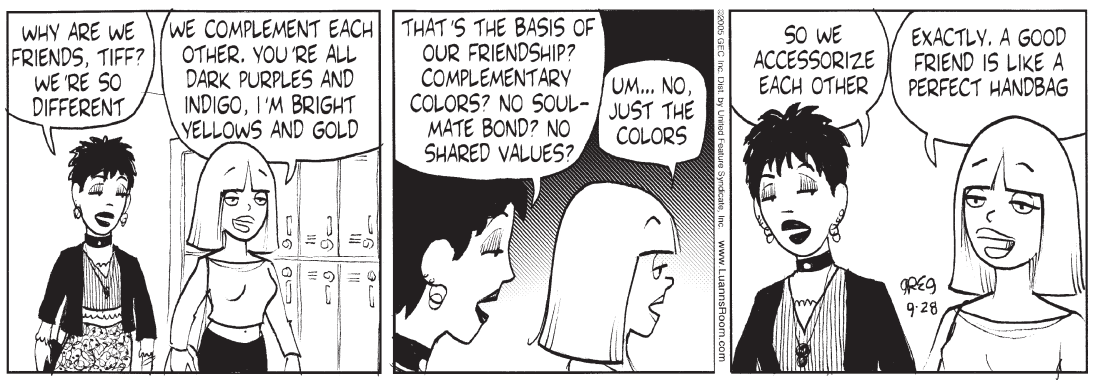
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"Cool! Then I'll have someplace else to keep my stuff."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Oh, brother! There's that jerk Howie Kramer with his new trophy wife!"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"MY MOM SAYS I HAFTA PLAY INDOORS TODAY 'CAUSE I'VE RUN OUT OF KNEES."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FRECKLE FACE** — **Solution: 4 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | O | L | O | C | O | M | P | L | E | X | I | O | N | G |
| E | D | I | H | A | N | D | S | U | N | S | H | I | N | E |
| Y | S | E | R | R | E | G | N | A | H | C | N | I | E | N |
| T | S | M | E | R | E | T | C | A | R | A | H | C | T | E |
| T | S | I | F | C | N | B | P | H | L | S | N | H | H | T |
| E | H | M | A | E | N | E | M | E | I | A | K | E | G | I |
| R | T | A | M | Y | N | A | M | U | R | L | R | E | I | C |
| P | R | G | I | Y | D | O | G | A | N | E | D | K | L | Y |
| S | I | E | L | N | N | N | E | E | D | I | T | S | T | T |
| P | B | T | Y | I | I | P | U | I | L | F | Q | U | Ⓒ | I |
| O | K | R | E | T | P | K | T | O | A | E | A | Ⓤ | O | T |
| T | R | A | S | A | C | A | K | C | R | E | Ⓣ | I | E | N |
| T | A | I | O | E | R | O | I | C | B | Ⓔ | I | N | R | E |
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Appearance, Arms, Back, Beauty, Birth, Body, Brown, Change, Character, Cheeks, Chest, Child, Color, Complexion, Cute, Dark, Distinguishing, Elegance, Facial, Fair, Family, Feature, Genetic, Hands, Hereditary, Hide, Identity, Image, Lemon, Lighten, Look, Many, Melanin, Neck, Nose, Number, Outer, Pigment, Pretty, Round, Shape, Small, Spotted, Sunshine, Tiny, Trait, Unique

**Yesterday's Answer: Benefits**

"I wouldn't eat them because they're *stanky*."




STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Inside each MRE bag are sealed, individual packets that hold everything from the entree to dessert, all ready to eat.

# *Mmm-Mmm*... HOT MEALS IN A PLASTIC POUCH

**MRE,** *from C-1*

"Several people are saying the lasagna is better than their own home-cooking," Nolan said.

MREs are proving particularly popular among teenage boys, perhaps as much for their nifty self-heating elements as for their taste. They showed up in the lunchboxes of numerous private school students who returned to school in St. Tammany Parish earlier this month.

But not everybody finds them appetizing.

"I wouldn't eat them because they're *stanky,*" said Yolanda Hilbert, who evacuated from Uptown to the Riverside Centroplex in Baton Rouge. "I got one (chicken pasta) and I opened it up and I didn't like the smell."

Natasha White said she tried them when they were first served, but she didn't like them and neither did her four children, Christina, 15; Melshika, 14; Earl, 2; and Isaiah, 1.

"I tried to taste it," White said, "but the smell turned me off."

MREs come in dazzling varieties: beef steak with mushroom gravy, chili with macaroni, chicken fajitas, spaghetti with meat sauce and beef ravioli. For vegetarians, there are cheese omelets and veggie burgers with barbecue sauce. Kosher MREs are available, too.

Jambalaya and Cajun rice and vegetables are the Louisiana flavors in the mix. Meal No. 18 is Cajun sausage, beans and rice. (Consensus after a taste test of the jambalaya and Cajun rice by several New Orleanians: Not bad!)

The packages are designed to be complete nutrition for a day, enough food to sustain a soldier while doing heavy work. For example, the vegetarian burger meal contains two pieces of wheat snack bread, the veggie burger in barbecue sauce, sliced dried cranberries, a brownie with chocolate chips, a sturdy brown spoon, a packet of condiments with iced tea drink mix, matches designed for damp climates, gum, a napkin, a moist towelette, and a tiny ⅛ ounce individual bottle of Tabasco sauce.

Other MREs include snacks, such as M&Ms and Skittles, shortbread cookies, pumpkin pound cake and crackers with a whiz-like cheese spread.

So just how do you get a hot meal from a plastic pouch? Inside each brown bag is a green pouch with detailed instructions printed on the outside. Stuff the main entree into that pouch, add a little water, and the thing heats the food in minutes.

Food preservation has always had a military history: Canning was invented to feed Napoleon's army.

Today's MRE is a miracle of modern retort packaging, a type of food preservation method that is basically canning in laminated plastic packets instead of metal cans. The complete MRE is lightweight, fits into the pocket of a field jacket, and can withstand temperature extremes and rough handling. The military and their contractors have been working on MREs since the 1980s, constantly refining and improving them.

"Personally, I like them," said Sgt. Derek Sturtevant of Quincy, Ill., of a National Guard unit stationed in Belle Chasse. Serving in New Orleans, he's eating three MREs a day, including his favorites beef stew and chicken tetrazini. "But they're totally different from home-cooked meals, and once I get home, I never eat them."

In the line of cars at the Belk Shopping Center just off I-12 in Covington, Carmen Dozier brought 10 dozen doughnuts for the guardsmen who were piling MREs into her green Suburban for distribution to families stranded in Mandeville.

"My husband and I have eaten them about four times," Dozier said. "They're good, but they're also loaded with sodium.

"My husband and I, and other people, especially enjoy the snacks. The fig cookies are the best I've ever eaten."

Food editor Judy Walker can be reached at judywla@yahoo.com.

# Ain't there no more

**LIND,** *from C-1*

equipment. I brought one bass guitar, some jeans and T-shirts with me, and my 1994 Honda Civic, and that's all I've got."

As the senior member of his family, he also had most of the family memorabilia, the photos and mementos of happy moments — that ain't there no more. He also lost two antique Vespa motor scooters, a couple of new motorcycles and a restored antique T-Bird.

"A couple of CDs might have survived, but I think that's about it," he said.

So, the obvious question: How does a guy who has spent his life making people laugh because of his songs about the city he so dearly loves continue to play a song named "Ain't Dere No More" after Hurricane Katrina?

"I might take a look at the house and just walk away from everything," he said. "But I doubt it. I think what we'll do is take 'Ain't Dere No More' and make it a little more uplifting. We're gonna pick up all the dirt and say, 'Ain't dere no more.' Same with the sludge and the debris — ain't dere no more. Sure, it's tough to make a funny song about something so serious and tragic, but I'm gonna try. I think we'll all need a laugh by then."

His Ultrasonics recording studio on Washington Avenue near Xavier University, he said, "is gone. But I'll find another one. And my manufacturers are in Nashville, so that's OK."

On this year's Christmas CD, Benny also plans to re-work "Over By Your Mom 'N' Nem," a haunting, nostalgic song which, unlike most of his stuff, is on the melancholy side. But he thinks it needs to be done. The old version is a song with a message we've all heard: You can't go back; things have changed. In that one, the chorus says, "You wish you could go, but you can't, now you know, over by your mom 'n' nem."

He sings about, "You used to see parades from the front porch . . . there's a place you should go, but you can't, now you know, over by your mom 'n' nem."

He says he's going to change all the references to "you" to "we" and see how it goes from there. It's going to be sad, he said, but he thinks it's something we all need to hear. It'll be a purging, a cleansing for the soul.

He's not just feeling bad for his own losses, he said, but for those of colleagues.

"A lot of musicians lost their stuff. A lot of guys I know lived between Lake Pontchartrain and Jeff Davis Parkway," not to mention many other low-lying areas.

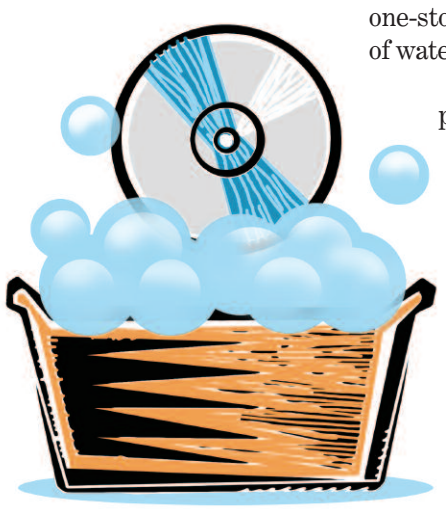
Lakeview Harbor Bar & Restaurant on Harrison Avenue, a spot Benny Grunch & the Bunch plays gigs from time to time, took on 18 feet of water, the co-owner told Benny. But Mark Schenk told Benny that when he re-opens, he will book him for the grand opening.

"Count on it," Grunch said. "I'll be there."

Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*



## Digital indestructible

### Don't throw away those flood-damaged DVDs and CDs

I arrived at my rented refugee house the other night where four adults, three children and three dogs reside in a small space — we're an American Katrina family — and found everyone watching "Four Weddings and a Funeral," the Hugh Grant-Andie McDowell romantic comedy.

It made me cry.

Oh, I'm not that much of a softy. It's just that this particular DVD had been rescued just two days earlier from my shattered one-story home in Lakeview, after spending two weeks under 8 feet of water.

Like thousands of you, my family lost almost all our worldly possessions in the storm's aftermath. Among those items I thought lost was a collection of 260 DVDs, built up over many years of being a movie buff.

But strike a note of hope for the digital age: Many of your DVDs, and even more of your store-bought CDs, can be saved, even after weeks spent under black, contaminated water.

So far in my own recovery efforts, about three out of four DVDs, and probably five out of six factory-made CDs, made it out of the floodwaters intact. One note of pessimism: If it's a CD-R, or a DVD-R that you recorded yourself, chances are excellent that it's gone for good.

**Here's how to do it:**

Plastic cases and paper inserts are heavily contaminated with flood waters that I did not want to transport, so you might want to remove all of the DVDs and CDs from their cases and put them in a plastic bag.

Set up an assembly line consisting of two buckets, several bath towels and a roll of soft paper towels. Fill one bucket with water and dish soap. Fill the second with fresh rinse water. Spread the towels on a flat surface.

Place several of the discs in the soapy water, then pick them up one at a time and use your thumbs to remove any debris or film from both sides of the disc. You can use a cloth if you'd prefer, but make sure it is very soft and free of any abrasives, as scratching the plastic coating of the disc can render it unplayable.

Also, as you clean, move from the center of the disc out toward the edges as suggested by disc manufacturers when cleaning.

You can examine the disc and can often tell whether it has emerged unscathed. Look for variable colors, a darkened spot where water has seeped beneath the plastic seal, or bubbles under the surface of the plastic. Don't go by color alone, as discs come in a surprisingly wide range of shades, from silver to gold to grey.

Once you're confident the disc is clean, place it in the rinse water, and then place it label-side-up on the towel. When you have filled up your towel space, pick up each disc individually and towel dry it further with a soft paper towel or soft, dry cloth. Layer the discs on a firm surface on pieces of letter-sized plain paper, two discs to a page, followed by a layer of paper, followed by two more discs, etc. In this way, we made sure the discs were completely dewatered, and didn't stick together.

Test each disc in a DVD or CD player.

You'll find some that are gone. But there is very little discernible pattern. Some old discs and some new discs will be good, just as some old and new will be bad.

In my own collection, Miramax films seem to be the most rugged by far. Every Miramax disc I've recovered so far has been pristine.

And one more odd thing: I noticed that every movie we have with a nautical theme, from "Master and Commander" to "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" to "Dead Calm" survived the flood waters intact. Even "Titanic," unlike my house, proved unsinkable.

Go figure.

**— James O'Byrne, features editor**

The Times-Picayune

SECTION C-5
Wednesday
September 28, 2005

# SPORTS

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# BLAME GAME



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU coach Les Miles leads the Tigers out of the tunnel before his first game at Tiger Stadium on Monday night. Miles lost his home and SEC opener to Tennessee, which rallied from a 21-0 halftime deficit.

## *Tigers fans have already begun pointing fingers after SEC-opening loss to Tennessee*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Warning to parents: The verbal onslaught from a growing number of frothing armchair Sabans might not be suitable for young audiences, please keep them away from sports bars, Internet chat rooms and every diner from here to Opelousas.

Go ahead and cringe - but with one eye open. This could get real ugly, real soon and it's going to be hard to turn away.

ANALYSIS

As if talk around town wasn't already prickly enough, thanks to a passive defensive showing out West, Les Miles tossed a figurative thick T-bone in the middle of this ravenous pack.

Leave it to Miles the Magician, who pulled a miraculous win from his awkwardly-adjust-

*See* **LSU,** *C-8*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Tigers' defense listens to linebacker Cameron Vaughn during its game Monday night at Tiger Stadium. LSU coach Les Miles says the team already is looking forward to Mississippi State, putting its loss to the Vols behind it.

# VooDoo suspends play for upcoming season

## *Cites N.O. Arena damage, hopes to return in 2007*

**By Jim Derry**
Staff writer

Add the New Orleans VooDoo to the list of sports teams which have been impacted severely by Hurricane Katrina.

The future of the VooDoo was left in doubt Tuesday, when owner Tom Benson announced the team will not compete in the upcoming Arena Football League season.

"The decision has been made to suspend play of the New Orleans VooDoo in New Orleans for the 2006 season," Benson said in a statement. "Factors beyond our control are forcing us to make this decision. We will not have a facility available to us to play our games, we will not be able to house players and staff, and we will not be able to utilize our practice facility, as it is being used by the government for Hurricane Katrina operations."

Executive Vice President/ General Manager Mickey Loomis said Tuesday there is no alternative, as the staff is burdened with working from San Antonio and trying to concentrate on the remainder of the Saintsí season.

"We thought about everything before we made this decision. We would love (for the VooDoo) to be competing this season, but ultimately, what it comes down to is that we don't have a place to play, we don't have a place to practice, and we don't have a place to house our players," Loomis said. "Right now, there are just too many questions and not enough answers. Something we have to deal with and focus on right now is that, as a staff, we have 13 remaining games with the Saints, so we'll have to deal with the VooDoo the best way we can."

The VooDoo's staff, other than the coaches, is made up of Saints personnel, and there hasn't been time to think about what will happen beyond this season.

"I don't think there's an answer for that right now," Loomis

*See* **VOODOO,** *C-7*

# Bayou Classic to be played in Houston

## *Stadium, hotel rooms give it nod over Shreveport*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Houston's Reliant Stadium will be the site of this year's Bayou Classic, beating out Shreveport for the game between Southern and Grambling, sources said Tuesday.

The official announcement will be made today.

The Nov. 26 game had to be moved from New Orleans because the Superdome is unplayable.

Houston appeared to be the favorite of officials from both schools, but a strong bid by Shreveport and uncertainty over conditions in Houston because of the approach of Hurricane Rita delayed the decision.

However, when Houston escaped the worst effects of Rita, the decision was finalized.

The Bayou Classic has been played in New Orleans since 1974, the first year at Tulane Stadium and since then in the Superdome.

Besides the football game, which annually drew sellout crowds in excess of 70,000, the weekend festivities that included the battle of the bands on Friday night, a job fair and several alumni gatherings attracted thousands of others for Thanksgiving weekend who never at-

*See* **BAYOU,** *C-8*

# SLU head football coach cancer-free

## *Roland had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

HAMMOND — Southeastern Louisiana football coach Dennis Roland learned Tuesday he was cancer-free, four months after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.



**Dennis Roland**
'Mentally prepared' for final two chemo treatments

"I've got two more rounds of treatment that I had been mentally putting off," said Roland, whose team plays Tulane on Saturday at Tiger Stadium. "But now I know I can go in and knock them off.

"Right now, I can tell you I am truly blessed."

Roland, 49, learned of his disease in mid-May.

Treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, is considered

*See* **ROLAND,** *C-8*

# SCOUTING REPORT

*BUFFALO BILLS (1-2) vs. SAINTS (1-2)*
*at San Antonio (Alamodome)*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

The Saints play their first game in the Alamodome on Sunday against the Buffalo Bills, who in a lot of ways are a mirror image of the Saints, minus hurricane displacement.

The Saints and the Bills have lost two games since impressive season-opening victories. The Saints defeated the Carolina Panthers then lost to the New York Giants and Minnesota Vikings. The Bills beat the Houston Texans then fell to Tampa Bay and Atlanta.

Both the Saints and the Bills lost key defensive players in losses on Sunday.

Saints safety Jay Bellamy is out for the season after injuring his right rotator cuff. Coach Jim Haslett said the rookie second-round draft pick Josh Bullocks will start in place of Bellamy.

Bills linebacker Takeo Spikes, the team's top defensive player, is out for the season with a torn right Achilles tendon.

Both teams have had mistake-filled performances that have played key roles in their losses.

The Saints are tied with the Oakland Raiders for most penalties in the NFL (36) and have had 27 penalties in the past two games.

The Bills, who ranked 29th in the NFL in touchdowns in the red zone last year, have two touchdowns in nine red-zone possessions this season.

**LAST MEETING:** Saints won at Buffalo 24-6 on Sept. 9, 2001.

**BILLS ON OFFENSE:** Losman hasn't conjured up any memories of Jim Kelly, or Drew Bledsoe for that matter. Losman has completed 38 of 79 passes (48.1 percent) for 358 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Running back Willis McGahee is the team's top rusher, and is showing some of the form that characterized his career at the University of Miami. McGahee has rushed for 291 yards and one touchdown on 62 carries and is averaging 4.7 yards per carry. The top receivers are former LSU wideout Josh Reed, who has nine catches for 101 yards, and veteran standout Eric Moulds, who has eight catches for 66 yards. Lee Evans is the deep threat.

**BILLS ON DEFENSE:** The unit is formidable, with plenty of big-name players, despite the absence of Spikes. London Fletcher is a tough middle linebacker who knocks down everything in reach and leads the team with 26 tackles, including 12 assists. He also has a fumble recovery. Safety Lawyer Milloy is a big hitter with good range, who has 20 tackles, including seven assists, one sack and one fumble recovery. Troy Vincent, once a solid cornerback, now roams at safety.

**BILLS ON SPECIAL TEAMS:** Place-kicker Rian Lindell has been the team's most consistent offensive threat, making all six of his field-goal attempts, including 3-for-3 between 40 and 49 yards. Brian Moorman is averaging 43.3 yards per punt, with a net average of 33.3 yards. Former Northwestern State player Terrence McGee is averaging 29.3 yards per kickoff return.

**BILLS BY THE NUMBERS:** 60 — Losman's quarterback rating. 19 — points scored by the Bills in their past two games. 17 — tackles this season by Spikes. 2 — consecutive losses the Bills have this season against teams in the NFC South. 0 — touchdown receptions by Reed and Moulds.



AP PHOTO

Wide receiver Eric Moulds (80) is the Buffalo Bills' biggest threat in the passing game.

**INJURY REPORT:** Bills - Spikes (Achilles) is out. Coy Wire (thigh) is listed as day to day. Saints — Bellamy (shoulder), Aaron Stecker (ankle) are out. Joe Horn is listed as day-to-day with a hamstring injury.

# St. Martin's, Crescent City announce schedules

*Pioneers to play without star receiver Sobalvarro*

**By Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writer

St. Martin's and Crescent City have announced they will play abbreviated football schedules this season.

Crescent City will open its season Oct. 7 against Menard of Alexandria at St. Martin's at 6 p.m. St. Martin's, which will play a four-game schedule, will meet Ridgewood at St. Martin's on Oct. 14 in its season opener.

Crescent City, however, will be without star receiver Luis Sobalvarro, Pioneers coach Steve Ceravolo said. Sobalvarro, a Class 1A All-State receiver last season, has transferred to a school in the Miami area, and Ceravolo said he doesn't expect him to return. Crescent City quarterback Jared Mesa is expected back, Ceravolo said.

Crescent City will play at Fisher on Oct. 14, against Ridgewood on Oct. 22, at St. Martin's on Oct. 28 and against either Ecole Classique or Riverdale on Nov. 4.

If Crescent City plays Ecole, it would give the Pioneers two District 10-1A games - against Ecole and Ridgewood. However, Ecole has still not decided if it will play this season.

St. Martin's will play its lone District 11-2A game against Fisher on Nov. 4 at St. Martin's for the district championship. Those are the only two schools in the league that will field teams this season.

After the Ridgewood game, St. Martin's will play Ecole Classique on Oct. 21, if Ecole is able to field a team, then against Crescent City on Oct. 28. All four of St. Martin's games will be at St. Martin's.

# Weary Gators look forward to finally playing a game

*Fisher will open storm-ravaged season Friday*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

Fisher receiver Brandon Troulliet has waited three years to play his senior season. But Troulliet, like many of his teammates, can't help but wonder what Mother Nature is going to do next to spoil this special season.

The small town of Jean Lafitte, where Fisher is located, avoided major damage when Hurricane Katrina swept through the area last month. Although Hurricane Rita sideswiped the area this past weekend, it caused major water damage, forcing the Gators to cancel their first game of the season against Holy Cross.

Weary but undaunted, Fisher will play Friday at Springfield.

"I'm very determined to play," Troulliet said. "I'd do anything to play in all 10 games this season."

So would Fisher coach Duane Foret.

"I'm going to do everything I can do in my power to help these kids play in as many games as I can," Foret said.

Whether or not that happens the 2005 hurricane season has been a memorable one for Fisher for all of the wrong reasons.

Like most of his teammates, Troulliet and his family have evacuated Lafitte twice because of hurricanes.

The Troulliets went to Houston to avoid Katrina. Troulliet didn't go to school during his stay in Texas because he wanted to go back to his home school.

The Troulliets then fled Rita by traveling to Panama City, Fla.

The ironic part about both hurricanes is that Fisher and Troulliet's family fared better against Katrina, which hit close to Lafitte, than they did against Rita, which slammed into the Texas-Louisiana border.

The storm surge from Rita partially flooded the Fisher practice field and playing field. The school only had slight damage from Katrina.

The same thing happened with Troulliet and his family during the hurricanes.

"We had a little wind damage with Hurricane Katrina," he said. "We had three feet of water with Hurricane Rita."

Still, the football season will go on now that the hurricanes have passed.

"I talked to the Springfield coach, and we're going to play no matter what," said Foret, a 1990 Fisher graduate and former football player. "I'm so concerned with these kids having a senior year that it's unbelievable. We're just trying to make it right for them."

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY'S GAMES**

**District 4-5A**
- Covington at Ponchatoula, 7 p.m.
- Northshore at Fontainebleau, 7 p.m.
- Hammond at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.
- Mandeville at Slidell, 7 p.m.

**District 9-3A**
- Albany at Pearl River, 7 p.m.

**Non-district**
- Northlake Christian vs. St. Thomas Aquinas at SLU's Strawberry Stadium, 7 p.m.
- Curtis at East St. John, 7 p.m.
- St. James at Destrehan, 7 p.m.
- Riverside at St. John, 7 p.m.
- West St. John at St. Charles, 7 p.m.
- Salmen vs. West Jefferson at Hoss Memtsas, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY'S GAME**

**Non-district**
- Patterson at Hahnville, 7 p.m.

# Eugene propels Destrehan past South Lafourche

*St. James rolls; Caesar carries Riverside*

**From staff reports**

Destrehan found Monday night football much to its liking.

The unbeaten Wildcats (3-0) combined a ferocious defensive charge with the running and passing of quarterback Jai Eugene to score all of their points in the first half of a 38-7 nondistrict victory against South Lafourche (0-2) at Destrehan.

South Lafouche had not practiced since Wednesday because of a Hurricane Rita-imposed evacuation of Lafourche Parish and it showed against one of the state's top Class 5A teams. Destrehan led 14-0 after six plays from scrimmage and 21-0 after 12 plays.

Eugene passed for two touchdowns and ran for two more while totaling 208 yards in six series. The 6-foot, 185-pound senior completed nine of 11 passes for 114 yards with touchdowns covering 14 and 17 yards to Edwin Reed and Joshua Martin. Eugene also ran for scores of 3 and 79 yards, totaling 94 yards on three carries.

"We played a great game," Eugene said. "We came out and put them away early. My offensive line was tremendous. They just did a hell of a job. The coaches call great plays, and we jelled together.

"I'd like to thank South Lafourche for playing. I know they've been through a lot. The hurricanes have been messing everything up, but I'm trying to keep my teammates focused."

Destrehan's defense, too, was focused, smothering the Tarpons in the first half. South Lafourche gained only 21 yards and committed three turnovers. The Wildcats forced four fumbles, recovered two and recorded an interception.

Additionally, defensive back Jerico Nelson scooped up an errant pitch by quarterback Korte Cheramie returned the turnover 10 yards for Destrehan's second touchdown on the game's sixth snap. Defensive back Brandon Brexton also returned a first-quarter interception of a tipped pass 45 yards to set up Eugene's short scoring run.

**- Mike Strom**

### St. James 42, Varnado 6:

St. James, the top-ranked team in Class 2A, gained 454 yards, including 363 rushing against Varnado (0-1) at St. James on Monday.

St. James had four running backs rush for more than 40 yards. Tramaine Charles led the team with 99 yards and one touchdown on six carries.

"We did a lot of good things tonight," St. James coach Rick Gaille said. "I thought we ran the ball pretty good inside and outside, and we spread the ball enough to where they couldn't key on one person."

St. James (3-0) led 7-0 when it drove 64 yards on 10 plays for a touchdown on its first possession of the game. Running back Tremayne Dapremont capped the drive with a 4-yard touchdown run. St. James increased its lead to 14-0 with 8:57 left in the first half when running back Luther Ambrose took an option pitch from quarterback Antonio Phillips and scampered around right end for a 4 yard touchdown run. The play capped an eight-play, 44-yard drive.

The Wildcats increased their lead to 21-0 with 2:42 remaining when running back Jason Zeno ran around right end for an 11-yard touchdown. St. James drove for 65 yards on eight plays for the score.

St. James finished its first-half scoring when Dapremont muscled his way through the Varnado defense for a 4-yard touchdown run, which made the score 28-0 with three seconds left in the half. Dapremont's run came one play after Phillips threw a 57-yard pass to Zenon, who zigzagged his way through the Varnado secondary to set up the late score.

St. James scored its last touchdown in the game when backup quarterback Marcus Dumas threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to receiver Chase Green to make the score 42-6 with 5:13 left in the game.

**- Pierce W. Huff**

### Riverside 51, West St. John 20:

Riverside sophomore running back Jarid Caesar ran for 257 yards and four touchdowns on 22 carries to lead the Class 2A Rebels (3-0) to victory Monday in Edgard.

It was Riverside's first victory against its River Parish rival since 2001. It was the first nondistrict contest between the teams since 1996. West St. John (0-3), last year's Class 2A state champion now competing in Class 1A, had won the past four meetings by a combined score of 161-27.

The Rebels (3-0) had 440 yards, nearly all of it on the ground. Caesar scored on runs of 9, 29, 43, and 10 yards, and he had another run that covered 58 yards. He had 172 yards on 14 carries in the first half.

Riverside quarterback A.J. Delaneuville completed five of seven passes for 80 yards and one touchdown, to Lee Haydel, all in the first half. Andrew Herring ran for 49 yards and two touchdowns. Jordan Poirrer added a 26-yard field goal and converted four extra-point attempts.

West St. John was hampered by turnovers. The Rams (0-3) lost four fumbles — three recovered by Riverside's Colling Yeargin. Jordan Poirrier and Tad Brack had interceptions for the Rebels.

Rams quarterbacks Olajuwon Hall and Blaine Gautier combined to pass for 214 yards — Hall had 107 in the first half, and Gautier had 107 in the second. Hall threw the Rams' only passing touchdown, a 12-yard strike to Tiarus Jenkins on the Rams' first possession.

**- Lori Lyons**

# BASEBALL SCORES

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Monday's games**
Toronto at Boston, ppd., rain
N.Y. Yankees 11, Baltimore 3
Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Kansas City 5, Minnesota 0
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 3

**Tuesday's games**
Boston 3, Toronto 1, 1st game
Toronto at Boston, late, 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, late
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, late
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, late
Kansas City at Minnesota, late
Texas at Seattle, late
L.A. Angels at Oakland, late

**Today's games**
Toronto at Boston, 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 6:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 6:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 9:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 9:05 p.m.

**Thursday's games**
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 12:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 2:35 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 5:35 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 6:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Monday's games**
Washington 4, Florida 0
N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 5
Colorado 6, Atlanta 5
Milwaukee 12, Cincinnati 9
San Francisco 3, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 9, Pittsburgh 4

**Tuesday's games**
Washington at Florida, late
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, late
Colorado at Atlanta, late
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, late
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, late
Houston at St. Louis, late
San Francisco at San Diego, late
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, late

**Today's games**
Colorado at Atlanta, 6:05 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 6:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:05 p.m.
Houston at St. Louis, 7:10 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:05 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.

**Thursday's games**
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 1:05 p.m.
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Houston, 7:05 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:05 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## NFL

**SAINTS, KB OFFER TICKETS TO VICTIMS:** The Saints are teaming up with the San Antonio division of KB Home to reach out to Hurricane Katrina evacuees, volunteers and support workers in the greater San Antonio and Austin areas for the Saints' first home game at the Alamodome at noon Sunday against the Buffalo Bills. Team owner Tom Benson and KB Home will provide 4,000 tickets apiece — 8,000 total — to Hurricane Katrina evacuees, volunteers and support workers. Tickets will be distributed through civic leaders in San Antonio and Austin, as well as through volunteer and relief organizations in the region, including the American Red Cross.

## NBA

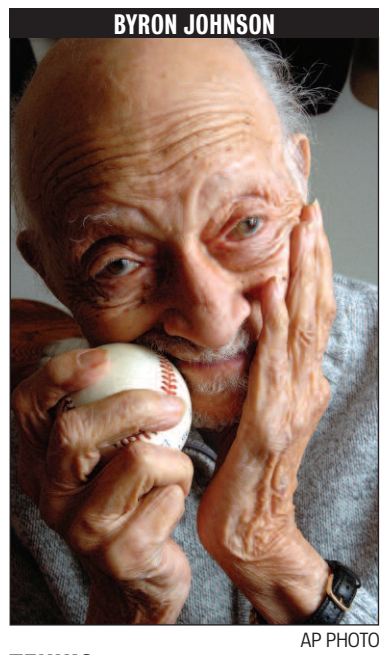
**BROWN RE-HIRES ASSISTANTS:** Phil Ford and Dave Hanners rejoined coach Larry Brown on Tuesday when they were hired as New York Knicks assistants. Ford spent last season as an assistant under Brown at Detroit. He served 12 years as a North Carolina assistant, including the 1993 NCAA championship season. Ford was the 1979 NBA Rookie of the Year. Hanners was an assistant the past two seasons with the Pistons. He has 17 years of coaching experience, including three with the Philadelphia 76ers under Brown. He also worked for 12 seasons on the North Carolina staff. They join Herb Williams, Mark Aguirre and George Glymph on the Knicks staff.


Dave Hanners


Phil Ford


Gerald Wallace

**BOBCATS RE-SIGN WALLACE:** The Charlotte Bobcats re-signed forward Gerald Wallace to a three-year contract. Wallace averaged 11.1 points and 5.5 rebounds last season while starting 68 of the 70 games he played. His average of 1.6 steals a game ranked ninth in the NBA. Wallace was drafted by Sacramento with the 25th overall pick in 2001 and spent three seasons with the Kings. The Bobcats selected him in the expansion draft last season.



AP PHOTO

## BASEBALL

**JOHNSON OF NEGRO LEAGUE DIES:** Byron "Mex" Johnson, a shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro leagues and Satchel Paige's traveling team, died at 94. Johnson died Saturday, and daughter Jacquelyn Benton said he had prostate cancer. Johnson played for the Monarchs in 1937-38, when blacks were barred from the National and American leagues. He joined the traveling team of the legendary pitcher Satchel Paige in 1939 and stayed through 1940. "He never complained about how hard it was being a black baseball player, and he was never bitter that he didn't get to play" in the majors, said baseball researcher Jay Sanford, who knew Johnson for 20 years.

## TENNIS

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN AWARD INCREASED:** The Australian Open will award $905,000 to the men's and women's champions next year, up from about $865,000 this year. Tennis Australia also said the men's final for the Jan. 16-29 tournament at Melbourne Park will again be held Sunday night. Officials will add a night session to the middle Sunday for the first time. Tournament officials also announced a $4.5 million refurbishment to the main Rod Laver Arena.

## GOLF

**GOLF RULES AMENDED:** The rule that got Mark Roe disqualified from the British Open two years ago when he forgot to swap scorecards with Jesper Parnevik has been revised to allow officials to correct the mistake without penalty. That was among the 111 amendments to the "Decisions on the Rules of Golf," which take effect Jan. 1. Other changes allow for measuring devices, such as GPS systems or rangefinders, to be used at the discretion of tournament organizers. The Tight Lies Tour began using a GPS system this year for players who can't afford caddies, hoping it would speed play. The PGA and European tours, among other top circuits, allow caddies or players to use rangefinders only during practice rounds. The U.S. Golf Association and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club also agreed to add a decision that would allow players to stand square to the hole if their intent is to stay out of another player's line. That got Brian Davis of England disqualified from a European tour event, and Tiger Woods was investigated - and cleared - when it appeared he did that on the 14th hole of the first round at this year's Masters. For Roe, the scorecard revision comes two years too late. He shot 67 in the third round at Royal St. George's that left him in a tie for fourth with Woods, two shots out of the lead. He played with Parnevik that day, but they forgot to swap scorecards on the first tee. When the round was over, Parnevik's score (81) was posted on Roe's card while Roe's 67 was under Parnevik's name. Under strict interpretation of the rules, they were disqualified. "I think it's a great move," Roe said. "I'm really, really pleased that something good has come from my mistake, really. I'd like to think that the way I handled it at the time, and what I went through, was probably a small factor in their decision to look at it."

**WIE TO DEBUT ON MEN'S TOUR IN JAPAN:** American teenager Michelle Wie will play in a top-tier Japanese men's tour event in November, organizers said. Wie, who will turn 16 next month, will play in the Nov. 24-27 Casio World Open, one of the richest events on Japan's men's tour. She will be the second woman to play in a JGTO tour event and the first since Sophie Gustafson teed off in the 2003 Casio World Open, where the Swedish pro failed to make the cut. Wie is an amateur but is expected to turn pro next month.

## AUTO RACING

**AIKMAN, STAUBACH MAKE FIRST HIRE:** Hall of Fame Racing made its first hire when it tabbed Philippe Lopez to build the NASCAR team owned by former Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman. Lopez was hired as a crew chief, and will be in charge of getting the Nextel Cup team ready to debut next season. "My first priority is to get the shop up and running," Lopez said. "We are working very closely with Joe Gibbs Racing. That will give us a great advantage right from the start." The team has yet to hire a driver for the car that will be sponsored by Texas Instruments.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**KANSAS STATE RB CHARGED:** Kansas State running back Thomas Clayton was charged with almost hitting a university official with his car while driving away to avoid having a boot put on the vehicle for parking violations. Clayton, a junior, was charged with misdemeanor battery. He was arrested Sept. 16 on a complaint of aggravated battery. Parking services officials said employee James A. Seymour was almost hit by Clayton. The player was arrested a short time later and released on $1,000 bond. According to the police report, Seymour, 44, was not injured. "I obviously shouldn't have left the scene, but the accusations of the aggravated battery, in my opinion, was inaccurate," said Clayton, adding he was certain he did not hit anybody.

## TENNIS

**TOP SEED OUSTED IN PALERMO:** Top-seeded David Ferrer lost 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the Palermo International to Francesco Aldi, a wild-card ranked 164th playing before hometown fans. Ferrer, ranked 13th, reached the quarterfinals of the French Open and was runner-up this season in Valencia, Spain. Third-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero beat Florian Mayer 6-3, 6-3 in the first round. Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion, is ranked 20th and has not won a title this year. Eighth-seeded Davide Sanguinetti defeated Florent Serra 6-7 (10), 6-1, 6-2. Serra was coming off his first tournament win in the BCR Open in Romania this month. Also, Alberto Martin upset seventh-seeded Gael Monfils 1-6, 6-1, 6-4; second-seeded Tommy Robredo beat Albert Portas 6-3, 7-5; and fifth-seeded Fernando Verdasco eliminated Tomas Zib 6-2, 6-2.

# Jets have series of unfortunate events

## *Pennington, Fiedler out, Testaverde in for New York*

**From wire reports**

Vinny Testaverde was plopped on his couch, watching his beloved New York Jets and, like millions of other fans, could hardly believe his eyes.

In a span of seven plays Sunday, not one but two quarterbacks went down, starter Chad Pennington and backup Jay Fiedler. Out for the season. Both of them, with shoulder injuries.

There was only one thing to do.

"I called Herm and said, 'I am here in whatever capacity you need me,'" Testaverde said, referring to Jets coach Herman Edwards. "To be a teacher ... or to play, to be a starter or a backup. I want to get this team back on track to where everybody expects it to be. Whatever that role is ... I feel in a good enough position to do that."

Suddenly, the 41-year-old Testaverde is back in the NFL.

"I'm excited, happy, nervous, anxious, all those feelings about playing for the Jets again," he said.

With Pennington and Fiedler gone with shoulder injuries, Testaverde likely was signed to back up untested Brooks Bollinger. Considering Bollinger's inexperience and the way Pennington and Fiedler were battered in Sunday's 26-20 overtime loss to Jacksonville, seeing Testaverde behind center soon isn't farfetched at all.

"Right now, Vinny is not starting, he is not running out of the tunnel in Baltimore being the starter," Edwards said. "He is going to be standing next to me. Brooks is starting. From there, we will see."

What Edwards and Testaverde saw Sunday was something they may never see again in the NFL.

Pennington came out of the game late in the third quarter with a tender right shoulder, but went back in when Fiedler dislocated his right shoulder after six plays. Pennington, who underwent surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff in February, had little on his throws, and an MRI exam Monday revealed another tear in the rotator cuff.

Pennington and Fiedler were on the same flight to Alabama to see Dr. James Andrews, the noted orthopedist who repaired Pennington's shoulder earlier this year.

"It's tough. I anticipate he will be out for the season," Edwards said of Pennington. "I've never been in the situation where you lose the No. 1 and 2 quarterbacks in a span of seven plays."

That means it's Bollinger and Testaverde against the Baltimore Ravens' rugged defense on Sunday. Bollinger has thrown nine passes in his career, all against Arizona in a victory last season when Pennington sat out.

**HARRISON OUT FOR SEASON:** New England Patriots safety Rodney Harrison will miss the rest of the season with torn ligaments in his left knee, the team confirmed.

The Patriots placed Harrison on injured reserve, and agent Steve Feldman said the 32-year-old strong safety is expected to undergo surgery in four to six weeks for a torn anterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament and posterior cruciate ligament.

Coach Bill Belichick did not disclose the extent of Harrison's injury after he went down in the first quarter of New England's 23-20 win over Pittsburgh on Sunday.

**BAILEY AWAITS MRI RESULTS:** Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey had an MRI exam on his injured left hamstring Tuesday, results of which were not immediately released.

Bailey hurt himself in the second quarter of Denver's 30-10 win over Kansas City on Monday night, aggravating an injury that forced him out of the entire preseason.

Broncos players were off Tuesday and coaches were working on the game plan for next week's game against Jacksonville. Team officials did not immediately respond to requests from The Associated Press for updated information on Bailey's tests.

"It's sore," Bailey said after the game. "But I'm not really worried. I just want to know what's wrong so I can start taking care of it."

**NINERS PLACE WOODS ON IR:** The San Francisco 49ers placed wide receiver Rashaun Woods on injured reserve with a thumb injury, ending a second consecutive disappointing season for the team's former No. 1 draft pick.

Woods, who was inactive the first three games this season, injured ligaments in his left thumb late last week. He practiced despite the injury, but further tests determined that he needed surgery, which he underwent Monday.

Woods was the 31st overall pick in 2004, parlaying his stellar college career at Oklahoma State into a high draft selection and the accompanying $3.85 million in guaranteed money from the 49ers.

But he has struggled from the start in the NFL. He missed three weeks of his first training camp with a hamstring injury, and he never caught up to his teammates during San Francisco's 2-14 season. Woods caught only seven passes for 160 yards and a touchdown last season.

He missed time in training camp this year with a strained quadriceps muscle and fell behind undrafted free agent Otis Amey on the depth chart.



AP PHOTO

New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington, right, who underwent surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff in February, had an MRI exam Monday that revealed another tear in the rotator cuff. With Pennington and backup Jay Fiedler both out for the season, the Jets called upon Vinny Testaverde to backup new starter Brooks Bollinger.

# Hornets to hold camp at Oklahoma school

## *Team to train at NAIA Southern Nazarene*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

After an extensive search to find a suitable facility to hold training camp and regular-season practices, Hornets general manager Allan Bristow said Tuesday the team has reached an agreement with Southern Nazarene (Okla.) University.

The Hornets will hold their practices, starting with training camp next Tuesday, at the Sawyer Center, a 98,000 square-foot facility built in 1998 at the small, NAIA school. The Sawyer Center has three levels, which includes a first-floor gymnasium, a second-floor weight room and jogging track, and athletic training facilities housed on the third floor.

"We researched the area, and it's really a first-class practice facility," Bristow said.

The Hornets will play 35 regular-season games in Oklahoma City and six in Baton Rouge because of damages to New Orleans Arena.

Southern Nazarene is located in Bethany, Okla., just outside Oklahoma City. The Hornets will share the facility with the school's men's and women's basketball teams and women's volleyball team.

"We will be able to provide them with their own training room, locker room and equipment room," said Bobby Martin, Southern Nazarene's athletic director. "We'll be able to carry on our own programs because their practice times fit perfectly with ours. They'll practice early, and our programs will go after them.

"We know that they would prefer to be in New Orleans and have the comfort of doing things the way they did last year. But, basically when Allan came in, I just said, 'We will try to make this as smooth as possible, and we'll help you any way we can.' Our athletes and students are getting excited already to be able to see professionals walking in the gym. It will be something totally new and different for all of us."

A few days after Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans area, Bristow made contingency plans for the team to conduct training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. But eventually team executives, including Bristow, thought the best plan would be to have training camp in the city where the team will play the majority of its games this season.

For the past three seasons, the Hornets have held training camp and practices at the Alario Center on the West Bank, now being used by the Louisiana National Guard in the recovery efforts for the New Orleans area.

**GEARING FOR CAMP:** The Hornets are expected to sign three players before Tuesday's start of training camp, Bristow said. Currently, the Hornets have 15 players under contract.

"We'll probably get it up to 18 players," Bristow said. "We've got some young players (already on the roster), and hopefully they'll shine and show their potential that they belong."

**MEET THE PRESS:** The Hornets will hold media day Monday at the Ford Center. Most of the Hornets' players are expected arrive in Oklahoma City by Sunday.

"Certainly, one of my main focuses was to try and get the basketball operations up and running and get all our gear here," Bristow said. "It seems like we've got that going."

# VooDoo's season canceled

**VOODOO,** *from C-5*

said. "New Orleans has been a great market for the AFL. We've had the third-highest attendance in the league the past two seasons, and we've had the best TV ratings. We have a strong fan base, and obviously, we'd like to recapture that.

"It's just not something we can be definitive on right now. We're logistically in the same situation as the Hornets. We don't know when the Arena is going to be ready, and we have to have a place to play."

AFL commissioner David Baker said his heart goes out to the people of the city, and that's all anyone should be concerned about right now.

"At this point, I respectfully say that there are more important things than arena football," he said. "It's tough when you have to find businesses to sponsor the team. You don't know if you'll have fans to come to the games, and to try and assess a schedule is just real tough right now.

"We looked at a number of alternatives, including the possibility of relocating them to somewhere else. There were a lot of issues that needed to be decided, but our biggest concern is the people of New Orleans. When all the dust settled, the (AFL) board (of governors) decided that the best thing to do was to allow New Orleans to suspend operations for the 2006 season."

If the VooDoo comes back in two seasons, the league likely will reward the city with its championship game.

"We love New Orleans, and the second thing the board decided was to move the city to the top of the list for ArenaBowl XXI (in 2007), if it's logistically and economically possible," Baker said. "Frankly, we just don't know what's going to happen, but if we can do it, we will."

Another unanswered question for the team is what happens to the 11 players who signed contracts three months ago to play in New Orleans. Three players — quarterback Andy Kelly and starting linemen B.J. Cohen and Mike Landry — signed two-year contracts.

Baker said he will discuss options with AFLPA executive director Gene Upshaw today, and that a decision should be made "within 24 to 48 hours."

One of the possibilities is the players could be exposed to a dispersement draft, in which they may be selected by the league's other 17 teams. If that happens, it is unknown whether they would be allowed to return to the VooDoo if the team resumes play.

According to Loomis, the organization will continue to employ Coach Mike Neu and his staff and, "hopefully prepare for 2007."

Neu did not immediately return phone calls Tuesday.

"I have spoken to him, and there's no question he is disappointed, because he, and we all, thought that we were going to be extremely competitive this season," Loomis said. "He understands the situation we're in right now. It hurts because we've won the second-most games to Colorado during the regular season over the past two years."

The VooDoo has an overall record of 20-12 in its two seasons in the AFL. In 2004, the team made the playoffs in its inaugural campaign, losing in the opening round to Colorado. Its record of 11-5 was the best mark for an expansion team in league history.

Last season, New Orleans remained in the playoff chase heading into the final week, before losing on the road to Orlando and being eliminated from the playoff race.

The VooDoo is 12-4 in the regular season overall at New Orleans Arena, including 7-1 at home in 2004.

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# Green Wave's King proves quite the catch

*Freshman out of Slidell tied for 3rd in receptions*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Brian King is the latest Tulane freshman to make an impact before his first midterm.

In recent years, numerous freshmen have seen the field, notably linebacker Anthony Cannon — who led the team in tackles in 2002 — and running back Matt Forte — who earned the starting job late last year.

King, a receiver out of Slidell, played in both of Tulane's games this year, notching a start last Saturday at SMU. Playing primarily as a slot receiver, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound King has six catches, including a clutch 27-yard grab against the Mustangs, a season-long for the Green Wave.

"He worked out every day in the summer," Tulane coach Chris Scelfo said. "He drove from Slidell to there and back. I have tremendous respect. He comes from a great family. He's just a tremendous person. As he gets bigger and stronger over the next years, you'll be excited to watch him play."

King is tied for third-most catches among Tulane receivers with Damarcus Davis. Preston Brown has 11 but only two last weekend, and Bubba Terranova has eight. Davis, a wideout, leads Tulane with two touchdowns and an 11.5 average yards per reception.

"Damarcus quietly gets the job done," said Scelfo, whose team is 1-1. "He just needs to get a little stronger where he can get off press coverage — that's the thing that gets him in a little bit trouble. As far as catching the ball, he'll make the plays."

**LUCAS QUESTIONABLE:** Tulane free safety Sean Lucas is questionable for Saturday's game against Southeastern Louisiana, because of a bruised left quadriceps suffered in last Saturday's game at Southern Methodist.

"I want to play," said the senior Lucas, who rested during Tuesday's practice. "It's a matter of, can I run? I have come a long way since Saturday."

Senior Darren Sapp and sophomore Carlis Jackson are two projected replacements if Lucas cannot play.

Prior to the injury with 12:08 left in the third, Lucas returned three punts for a 24.6 average. His efforts earned him Conference USA special teams player of the week honors. With 3:52 remaining in the second quarter, he returned an SMU punt 47 yards to the SMU 24-yard line. Five plays later, Forte scored a touchdown to double the lead, 14-0.

"I just learned to trust my teammates," Lucas said. "I had some good blocks. I did make some people missed, but my teammates were there. It gave us momentum, and we scored on two drives that I returned punts."

**RACKING UP TACKLES:** Linebacker Anthony Cannon leads Tulane in tackles. The senior who led Tulane in tackles as a freshman and junior has 17 tackles on the season, including his game-high 12 in the opener against Mississippi State. He has 340 career tackles, just two from cracking Tulane's all-time top 10.

In three seasons, Cannon averaged 107 tackles, which would hypothetically give Cannon 430 career tackles, fourth all-time. Tulane's tackle leader is Burnell Dent, who made 492 tackles from 1982-85.

**NO PLACE TO SLEEP:** Tulane still does not have a place to sleep Friday night in Baton Rouge. The Green Wave will host Southeastern Louisiana at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Tiger Stadium. With hotels filled with hurricane evacuees, Tulane is still searching for rooms, and the team may have to stay in the greater New Orleans area. Tulane is looking into staying at English Turn in the West Bank, where the team would have air mattresses in the clubhouse.

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Benjamin Hochman can be reached at BenjaminHochman@aol.com.

# C-USA, N.O. Bowl extend agreement

*SEC to have a team play in Liberty Bowl*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff Writer

Conference USA announced an extension through 2009 of its partnership with five bowls Tuesday, including the New Orleans Bowl.

"It's a good partnership that's only going to get better," said New Orleans Bowl executive director Billy Ferrante. "With the conference's new alignment, we are right in the middle of the footprint, which means we should always have regional representation."

The New Orleans Bowl, which will most likely be played in Lafayette this year because of damage to the Superdome, pits a C-USA team against the Sun Belt Conference champion.

In addition to the New Orleans Bowl, C-USA extended its contract with the Liberty, GMAC, Hawaii and Fort Worth bowls.

The Liberty Bowl deal is the most significant because gives the game first pick among C-USA's bowl-eligible teams against an SEC team.

The Liberty Bowl had been courting the SEC, but commissioner Mike Slive said last month that conference members did not want a bowl tie-in against a conference that did not have an automatic BCS berth.

Those objections apparently have disappeared, and the SEC will send one of its mid-level bowl qualifiers to Memphis, Tenn.

"This is definitely a red-letter day for the Liberty Bowl," said Steve Ehrhart, the game's executive director. "We have a rich history with the SEC that dates back to our first game. "And we've hosted the Conference USA champion since the league's inception. This enables us to build our partnership with both leagues."

The Liberty Bowl-SEC tie-in begins next year. With the bowl's contract with the Mountain West Conference expired, this year's game will pair the C-USA champion against an at-large team.

The Liberty Bowl replaces the Houston Bowl in the SEC's bowl lineup. However, during its two-year relationship with the Houston Bowl, the SEC never was able to fill its berth because it did not have enough bowl-eligible teams.

The SEC's other tie-ins are with the Sugar, Capitol One, Outback, Cotton, Peach, Music City and Independence bowls.

While the Liberty Bowl gets the first pick among C-USA teams, it is not obligated to take the conference champion. The GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Ala., will continue to have the second pick of C-USA teams.

Ferrante said Hurricane Rita has delayed finalization of a deal with Lafayette to play host to this year's New Orleans Bowl, but that he did not expect any problems finding enough hotel rooms in the city for the Dec. 20 game.

"We'll have to wait a week or two to be sure," Ferrante said. "But we've been told that we can use university housing at Louisiana-Lafayette for things like the bands, so that will help."

This will be the fifth year for the Liberty Bowl. The tie with C-USA has been in place since 2001.

**LSU MEN'S GOLF TOPS VOLS:** Sophomore Beck Troutman fired a 2-under-par 70 in the final round to lead the Tigers' men's golf team to a one-stroke victory over SEC rival Tennessee at the Shoal Creek Intercollegiate on Tuesday.

Troutman finished the three-round tournament at 5-under 211, good enough for a fourth-place tie. LSU's Chris Wells, who shared the tournament lead with Troutman after one round of play, finished in a tie for eighth place at 2-under 214. The Tigers won the tournament with a team total of 1-under 863.

**TU HEADS FOR COVER AGAIN:** Mother Nature again sent Tulane running for cover this past weekend.

The Green Wave student-athletes who have relocated to Texas A&M because of Hurricane Katrina again were forced to head for shelter, spending Friday night in the underbelly of Kyle Field in College Station, Texas, because of Hurricane Rita.

Because of the impending storm, two volleyball matches and two soccer matches were canceled. The volleyball team was to open Conference USA play at East Carolina on Friday and take on Marshall on Sunday. The conference is working to reschedule them.

Both soccer matches, however, were against non-conference opponents, and the games will not be rescheduled. The Green Wave will open Conference USA play against Memphis on Friday. Tulane has not played a match since Sept. 4 against Kennesaw State at the UAB/Nike Tournament.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have forced the cancellation or postponement of 18 events - nine soccer and nine volleyball.

**WAVE WOMEN FINISH 10TH:** Taking the course for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, the Green Wave women's golf team finished 10th at the Mason Rudolph Women's Championship on Sunday afternoon at the par-72-6,217-yard Vanderbilt Legends

Club in Franklin, Tenn. Senior Liliana Alvarez led the Green Wave with a six-over par 222 (72-76-74) to finish tied for 14th among 80 individual participants.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE:** Tulane season-ticket holders can pick up their tickets for Tulane's next two "home" games this week at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center. The Green Wave will take on Southeastern Louisiana on Oct. 1 in Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, and will meet Houston on Oct. 8 at Cajun Field in Lafayette.

# Southern Miss dominant over East Carolina

*Golden Eagles have won eight of past nine*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — No current East Carolina player has defeated Southern Mississippi. East Carolina's last victory in the series was a 14-9 win in Hattiesburg in 2000, which also was the only time in the past 21 meetings the Golden Eagles (1-1, 0-0) were held to a single-digit point total. Southern Miss has won eight of the past nine games in the series, including the past five in Greenville. Last season, the Golden Eagles won 51-10 in Hattiesburg.

**NEW QB — AGAIN:** Where art thou Danny Wimprine? Memphis (1-2, 0-1) has started two quarterbacks since the River Ridge native graduated — Patrick Byrne and Will Hudgens are out for the season, each with right fibula injuries. Freshman Billy Barefield, straight out of Shreveport's Evangel Academy, will make the start against UTEP (3-0, 1-0).

Barefield, 5 feet 10 and 175 pounds, is a legitimate running threat who has rushed for 78 yards and passed for 73 in his two appearances. He has directed the Tigers to scores on five of his eight series.

**WHAT A CATCH:** The C-USA player with the most receptions is a tight end. Tulsa senior Garrett Mills has 33 receptions in the first four games, the third-most catches in Division I-A. His 439 receiving yards are fifth nationally.

In Tulsa's 37-31 overtime win against Memphis, Mills caught the game-winning 25-yard pass. He posted his third consecutive 100-yard receiving game, finishing with seven catches for 106 yards and two touchdowns. He was selected the C-USA offensive player of the week.

Tulsa (2-2, 1-0) plays at Houston (1-2, 0-1) on Saturday. The Cougars have the worst pass defense in C-USA, allowing 302 yards per game.

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** All 12 C-USA teams will be in action on the same weekend for the first time this season. ... Marshall (1-2, 0-1), which hosts Southern Methodist (1-3, 0-1), has not lost two home games in a row since 1990. Marshall lost to Kansas State, 21-19, in its most recent home game Sept. 10. ... East Carolina receiver Aundrae Allison ranked second nationally with 148 receiving yards per game.

# Classic moves for one year

**BAYOU,** *from C-5*

tended the game.

For those reasons, Houston, with its ample hotel rooms and other amenities, held a distinct advantage over Shreveport, which would have been hard-pressed to provide the minimum 10,000 hotel rooms required and whose stadium has 20,000 fewer seats than Houston's.

Still, Shreveport offered rent-free use of Independence Stadium along with most game-day costs and had guaranteed reasonable hotel rates, often a sore point when the game was played in New Orleans.

"It's disappointing because we wanted to keep the event in the state," said Brandy Evans, vice president for communications for the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. "But I am sure they had good reasons for choosing Houston.

"We made our best effort, but we don't have a domed stadium or as many hotel rooms. Shreveport did show it wants the event. So we just have to thank them for their consideration and wish them the best."

Houston and Shreveport were not the only cities vying to land the game. Jacksonville, Fla., Jackson, Miss., Birmingham, Ala., Orlando, Fla., Detroit and Los Angeles all submitted bids.

Officials from Southern and Grambling said they look on the move to Houston as a one-year disruption, and that even if the Superdome remains unplayable next year, the game likely would be played in Baton Rouge at LSU's Tiger Stadium, with most of the fans staying in New Orleans.



AP PHOTO

Grambling State's marching band will take the field at Reliant Stadium in Houston for the Tigers' annual showdown against Southern in the Bayou Classic.

# Clock management, coaching hot topics

**LSU,** *from C-5*

ed hat for an opening act, to make a 21-point advantage vanish into the soupy Monday night air. POOF! Gone. Check the sleeves. Nothing. No smoke. No mirrors. Quite a trick.

No coach in LSU history has ever pulled off such an impossible stunt - surrendering a three-touchdown advantage in the normally friendly confines of Tiger Stadium. Not Gerry DiNardo. Not Curley Hallman. Not Gus Tinsley. Certainly, not Nick Saban. Nobody.

"For all intents and purposes, it's Tuesday and we'll prepare for Mississippi State," Miles said, after the scoreboard seesawed the other direction, 30-27. "As much as we'd like to mull it over and recoach and get it fixed, we have to prepare to play the next game."

Wishful thinking. But much like that forgotten leftover pushed back, out of sight, to the rear of the fridge, the stinging memory of this loss isn't getting tossed anytime soon. LSU could post triple digits in Starkville, Miss., this weekend and all it would get is a sarcastic roll of the eyes from those drooling to dissect the Tennessee debacle.

Where to begin?

Well, since the public apparently can't get enough Bo Pelini criticism, let's start by breaking down the defense.

It was like someone broke open a 2003 time capsule for the entire first half, then LSU's defense proved to be nothing more than a desert mirage. Safety Travis Daniels set the tone early, blindsiding Erik Ainge and stripping the ball free for Kenneth Hollis to fall on and for Joseph Addai to convert into six points a play later. Using 11 defensive backs throughout the evening, Pelini dared Ainge to throw deep, letting fresh legs run with Tennessee's receivers regardless of their depth chart residence.

But once Rick Clausen replaced Ainge, LSU reverted to its previous cautious scheme, allowing the Vols adequate-armed senior to dink his way into Tennessee lore. Evidenced in the final play of overtime when Gerald Riggs bulled through Cameron Vaughn's attempted tackle, the Tigers' defense was completely spent, partially because of a 10-minute differential in time of possession.

Still, Pelini's group forced four turnovers, had four sacks and held Riggs to 3.7 yards per carry. They weren't dominant, but the popular punching bag shouldn't receive all the blows this abbreviated week.

Expect several fingers to be pointed at Miles for questionable decisions. Perhaps most embarrassing, ESPN replays captured Miles frantically signaling to use his final timeout following a fourth-quarter interception by LaRon Landry that put the Tigers near field-goal/Hail Mary range with less than 20 seconds left. Of course, the clock stops after a change of possession, but officials still could have granted Miles' unnecessary timeout had an LSU assistant coach not pushed him put of the ref's view, preserving the Tigers' final stoppage.

Clock management issues also arose in the dying seconds of the first half. LSU tossed away a field-goal chance when JaMarcus Russell failed to get out of bounds on a second-down scramble. Instead of having the offense try to spike the ball, Miles hurried on the special teams unit but not before time expired.

When those topics grow old, fans could reach for a bevy of fresh topics — Jimbo Fisher's conservative play-calling in the second-half, Russell's key fourth-quarter interception, the late-game love affair with getting Jacob Hester touches, Miles' original decision sit on the ball and settle for overtime, crucial penalties on Skyler Green kick returns.

For nine months, Miles waited for his inaugural run beneath Tiger Stadium's split goal posts.

But maybe someone should have informed him he needed to meet a recently established standard.

"We're all disappointed about it," Miles said. "We're all miserable."

# Roland never gave thought to retiring

**ROLAND,** *from C-5*

curable 75 percent of the time, especially if the patient has no other serious health problems.

The first three chemotherapy sessions reduced the cancer by 80 percent and the second three, the last of which was completed last week, finished the process. They were performed in Hammond by local oncologist Dr. David Oubre.

"It leaves my feet numb and just feeling beat down and weak in general," Roland said of the treatments. "It's not a cakewalk for anybody. It beats the alternative, though."

Another side effect is that Roland has been losing his hair. Prior to his diagnosis, Roland had a full head of hair with little gray.

"I'm anxious for it to grow back," he said. "But I am afraid of what color it's going to be."

Roland, in his first year as the Lions' head coach, said at no time did he seriously consider relinquishing his duties.

"There are always a lot of things that go through your mind when you're in the hospital," he said. "But I was always encouraged to stay on.

"Plus, my staff and players have been tremendous in taking a lot of the load off me."

Southeastern athletic director Frank Peregolizzi said he and school president Randy Moffett encouraged Roland to slow down.

"We had to keep an eye on him," Peregolizzi said. "When you are responsible for a lot of people, you always feel like you've got to be doing this or doing that instead of taking care of yourself.

"We are so happy for Dennis and his family. This is a great day for Southeastern."

• • • • • •

Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

**INSIDE** • CAT LADY, 34 FELINES RIDE OUT STORM LIVING | DAMAGE WORSE THAN THOUGHT AT FAIR GROUNDS SPORTS

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 252 | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# Storms shutter all Gulf oil output

*One third of U.S. drilling halted*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Hurricanes Rita and Katrina have damaged more offshore drilling rigs than any storm in recent times, and one report Wednesday said all oil production in the Gulf of Mexico has temporarily ceased.

The Minerals Management Service said Wednesday that its survey indicated that 100 percent of oil production in the Gulf is shut down as well as more than 80 percent of natural gas production.

The Gulf supplies 29 percent of the nation's oil and 21 percent of the gas.

Rita, which came ashore Saturday morning, hit the western Gulf. Hurricane Katrina, which came ashore Aug. 29, struck the central Gulf. Both areas are rich with offshore production platforms and drilling rigs.

"We've never experienced the amount of damage to the rig fleet we've experienced from these two storms," said Tom Marsh, U.S. editor of the energy information firm, ODS-Petrodata.

Damage is not the only reason that production has stopped, or what the industry calls shut in.

Gary Strasburg, spokesman for the MMS, which is an agency of the U.S. Interior Department, said some production has stopped because of Federal Aviation Administration restrictions on overflights, which oil producers need to do to assess damage before sending crews out. Also, the oil industry is still attempting to locate its

*See* **OIL,** *A-15*

# Nagin forced Compass out

*Police chief fired after heated confrontation*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
**And Walt Philbin**
Staff writers

After announcing his retirement Tuesday, New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass told several high-ranking officers that he had been forced out by Mayor Ray Nagin, the officers said Wednesday.

They said Compass told them the decision came on the heels of a heated confrontation with the mayor. The officers spoke only on condition that they not be named.

Reached Wednesday by e-mail, Nagin said that those accounts were "inaccurate."



**Eddie Compass**
Chief told officers, 'This was not my decision'

Compass could not be reached for comment.

At a hastily called news conference Tuesday with Nagin in attendance, Compass announced that he was retiring. When asked by a reporter whether Compass was being forced out, Nagin said no.

But after the announcement, Compass returned to a cruise ship where he and other displaced officers had been living, where they say he told them he had been forced to resign.

"He was going around telling officers, including myself, it wasn't his doing, that he would've never quit," said a high-ranking officer who asked not to be named. "He had tears in his eyes. He didn't want to go."

Another officer said Compass told him, "You work at the pleasure of the mayor. This was not my decision."

Nagin later named Assistant Superintendent Warren Riley as acting superintendent.

Officers said Compass told them that he and Nagin had an angry confrontation Tuesday morning, hours before Compass announced his retirement, which he said would begin after a transition period of up to 45 days.

Compass has come under increasing fire because of the Police Department's response

*See* **COMPASS,** *A-14*

# Mayor again puts out welcome mat



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

**A WORLD OF HURT:** Laura Dixon Nelson, surveying her mold-filled living room on Warrington Drive in Gentilly on Wednesday, is among thousands conducting salvage operations. Beyond the obvious health hazards, such as mold, there are others less evident, such as eating from an uninspected food vendor. **See story, Metro**

**GREEN LIGHT TO RETURN**

In ZIP codes 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131, here is a timetable for returning:

**TODAY**

Businesses in those ZIP codes will have full access.

**FRIDAY**

Residents in those ZIP codes can return home.

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announced a three-stage re-entry plan for city residents and businesses Wednesday, saying the West Bank and pockets of the east bank are safe for return but also cautioning citizens about limited infrastructure and potential health risks.

Re-entry begins today, with businesses receiving full access to their properties in the approved ZIP codes. The second phase will be Friday, when residents in those same codes will be allowed to return permanently.

The approved ZIP codes are 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. Security checkpoints will be repositioned to allow entry.

"New Orleans is back open," Nagin told a meeting of state lawmakers, parish council members and residents at the state Capitol on Wednesday afternoon. "If you want to stay, you're free to stay" in those designated areas as of Friday, Nagin said.

The final phase will come Oct. 5, when residents in all other areas of the city, except the Lower 9th Ward, will be allowed to visit their properties, though they won't be allowed to stay. The Lower 9th Ward will remain closed until further notice because it is flooded.

"This is strictly look and leave" in the

*See* **RETURN,** *A-19*

# Katrina tragedy becomes personal

*32 bodies identified, but many may stay unknown*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The names of the first of Louisiana's Hurricane Katrina victims to be identified were released Wednesday, but scores of victims may never be identified, the chief medical officer in charge of the task said.

The 32 were the first of the 896 victims recovered so far to be identified by the state.

The process has been difficult because many of the bodies underwent prolonged exposure to the elements, said Dr. Louis Cataldie, former East Baton Rouge Parish coroner who is now the chief medical officer charged with identifying the dead.

"Each person is a worst-case scenario," Cataldie said. "There is nothing worse than somebody dying like this."

Crews are still working their way through New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward as well as St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes to retrieve bodies. Cataldie refused to speculate on how many more bodies would be found.

Most of the dead at a makeshift morgue in St. Gabriel so far have been recovered from Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, he said.

Autopsies have been conducted on 100 of the bodies. The causes of death for most of the victims has been drowning or from pre-existing conditions, such as heart problems, worsened by the stress of the evacuation from the storm, or from loss of power for ventilators or other life-sustaining devices, said Department of Health and Hospitals spokesman Bob Johannessen, whose agency is working with Cataldie.

About six or seven of the deaths were homicides that occurred after Hurricane Katrina, mostly in the New Orleans area, though none occurred at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center or the Superdome, Cataldie said. Ten people died at the Dome and another four at

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-15*




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

In the Rosen House on Tulane University's campus, workers toiled to secure the building. The campus is preparing to house students for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 17.

# Tulane prepares to open its doors again in January

*Some students may get tuition-free term*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

Tulane University, the region's largest academic institution and one of its biggest employers, on Wednesday announced that classes will resume Jan. 17 and an extra tuition-free semester will be offered in May and June for students who need to catch up.

University President Scott Cowen, who will return to campus today for the first time since the week Hurricane Katrina hit, said the university anticipates at least 90 percent of students will return for the spring semester.

Although it is unclear how many of the schools' 13,000 students are taking classes at other universities, getting most of those students to return is essential to

*See* **TULANE,** *A-16*

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RAIN POSSIBLE
HIGH 89 | LOW 71



AP PHOTO

During her appearance before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, Gov. Kathleen Blanco endorsed a proposal to provide more than $9 billion in health-care assistance to hurricane-battered states.

# Blanco visits Senate as money worries mount

*Health-care bid meets resistance*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — With hat in hand and emotions in check, Gov. Kathleen Blanco traveled to Capitol Hill on Wednesday seeking to keep the flow of post-hurricane financial assistance coming amid signs that policymakers are getting antsy about the escalating cost.

Blanco carefully avoided responding to the biting criticism leveled at her a day earlier by Michael Brown, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who in testimony characterized Louisiana's response to Hurricane Katrina as "dysfunctional."

"I have come here to talk about job creation," Blanco told the Senate Finance Committee when invited to fire back at Brown, who resigned after becoming the focus of public dissatisfaction with the slow federal effort.

Blanco later told reporters, "The facts will speak for themselves. We will tell our story when the time is appropriate."

Blanco's studied restraint was likely intended to soothe a rift that has opened in Washington over the size and scope of hurricane relief. In response to Katrina, Congress and the Bush administration quickly approved $62.3 billion in emergency spending and last week passed $6 billion in tax incentives designed to encourage rebuilding in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

But now, senators and the Bush administration are at odds over $9 billion in proposed health-care assistance for the hurricane-battered states. In areas hit hardest by the storms, the bill would provide health insurance coverage through Medicaid to uninsured people, loosen welfare work requirements, extend unemployment insurance and pay $800 million to doctors and hospitals that have treated patients since the Aug. 29 storm, frequently with little compensation.

Blanco heartily endorsed the plan. So did Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour and Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, who testified by video conference. They especially liked a provision calling for the federal government to pay 100 percent of Medicaid costs through 2006. Exploding Medicaid costs were straining state budgets even before hurricanes Katrina and Rita stripped thousands of people of their jobs and health insurance.

"States are not in a position to absorb additional costs of this magnitude," Blanco said.

But U.S. Health Secretary Michael Leavitt said the legislation is unnecessary because hurricane victims can already apply for enhanced Medicaid benefits and states have the power temporarily to ease welfare requirements. He also said the bill was too broad, extending benefits to regions declared major disasters even though some people living in those areas may not have been harmed.

"We believe that ... federal resources should be targeted to meeting the needs of those harmed by Hurricane Katrina," Leavitt said in a letter to Congress.

The administration's wariness drew rebukes from senators on both sides of the aisle.

"It's just ludicrous this bill can't move," Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said.

"Here we are fretting and arguing over the details when these people are in need," Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., said.

Blanco left the expressions of outrage to the senators. Before and after the hearing, she met with congressional leaders of both parties to press her case for more aid. In her testimony, she painted a harrowing picture of economic devastation wrought by back-to-back natural disasters in Louisiana.

About 81,000 businesses were wiped out or severely handicapped by Katrina, about a quarter of the state's total, officials said. Nearly half were in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

After Rita blew through last week, she said, a third of the businesses in Louisiana were out of commission. The vast majority were small companies with little means of rebuilding without some government support.

Congress is in the process of writing a new economic stimulus package designed to attract businesses back to the Gulf Coast. A bill could be ready for a vote by mid-October.

Blanco estimated that small businesses in Louisiana need $150 million in loans to recover from Katrina. But so far, they have been slow in coming. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said that of more than 1 million applications to the Small Business Administration, only six have been approved: four in Alabama and two in Mississippi.

Kerry called for direct federal grants for businesses to get them on their feet quickly. Blanco agreed, calling for the creation of a $10 billion grant program to encourage businesses to return to their previous locales, much as was done after 9/11 to revive lower Manhattan.

"By comparison to New York's economic recovery challenges, Louisiana's situation is vaster, more complex and will be more protracted," Blanco said.

The governor said she is eager to get help – and fast. If, for no other reason, political support may soon erode.

A month after Katrina, there is still a deep wellspring of sympathy in Congress for helping the Gulf Coast states. But some lawmakers were taken back last week when Louisiana Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter unveiled a $250 billion request for federal aid, more than the United States has spent in rebuilding Iraq.

Just as Blanco steered clear of any mention of former FEMA Director Brown in her testimony, she also didn't mention the controversial legislation by her state's two senators.

"We still have great needs in our state," Blanco said. "I do believe Congress will respond to the issue at hand."

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# Students get break from LEAP this year

## *Passing not required for 5th, 9th grades*

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — The state education board revised its high stakes testing policy Tuesday because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, deciding that public school students won't have to pass the LEAP exam this school year to move to the fifth and ninth grades.

Education officials said they needed to consider the hardships many children face after being displaced by the back-to-back storms, with thousands of students dealing with classes in different school districts and living away from home, many in shelters.

The changes "are in no way a retreat from accountability or a pursuit of excellence in Louisiana education," said James Stafford, a member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. "It does represent a compassionate, common sense approach to guiding students and school systems through our most difficult year."

The LEAP test, taken in the spring, officially is known as the Louisiana Education Assessment Program exam. It measures fourth- and eighth-graders' abilities in English, math, science and social studies, but only students' performance in the English and math portions determine whether they pass.

Fourth- and eighth-graders in Louisiana's public schools will have to take the LEAP test even though the results won't be held against them during the current school year.

High school students still must pass the Graduate Exit Exam, however, to receive a high school diploma. And BESE agreed to allow Louisiana high school students who were scattered to other states by Katrina and Rita to receive a Louisiana diploma even if they are going to school out-of-state. They must take the required courses and pass the GEE to get the Louisiana diploma.

In other action at the emergency meeting, BESE agreed:

▶ To give state Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard the ability to change school calendars for districts rather than force them to make up large portions of the year when their schools were shut down by either hurricane. The Legislature also must approve this change.

▶ To boost the maximum class size requirements so that schools can fit the evacuated students without violating education policies.

▶ To support the state education department's push to get a partial waiver of federal accountability requirements. Louisiana is asking that only students enrolled in schools or districts for two years be included in grading calculations that determine whether schools are sanctioned and that no schools or districts be moved into a higher level of sanctions based on testing results for this year.

# Military could head up future disaster relief

## *President backs idea; others call it 'terrible'*

**By Donna Cassata**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military, built for manmade battles, could end up leading fights against Mother Nature.

In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita — and the federal government's sluggish response to the first — President Bush is raising the possibility of putting the Pentagon in charge of search-and-rescue efforts for catastrophic natural disasters.

Such a precedent-setting shift would require not only some change in law but a greater degree of consensus. Congress is divided over the prospect of troops massed in U.S. cities and increasing the power of the federal government at the expense of the states.

And there's the question of what would be left for the recently created Homeland Security Department to do.

Bush has described the armed forces as "the institution of our government most capable of massive logistical operations on a moment's notice," and defense analysts echo that assessment.

With its wealth of all-terrain vehicles, helicopters, boats, satellites, and coordination and control operations, the military can quickly dispatch what a lot of people need in a hurry after a disaster, whether that means 1,000 choppers to pluck residents from rooftops or shallow-water vessels to navigate flooded streets.

Still, the Pentagon seems lukewarm about taking control and providing the core of disaster relief. "It's something we've thought about," Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday. But he said there is a long way to go before "you ... decide you want to give active forces law enforcement authority."

Retired Gen. Charles Wilhelm, who accompanied the Army general in charge of the military's hurricane response, said civilian agencies, not the Pentagon, should continue to lead the response.

Turning the military into first responders risks making it "a jack-of-all-trades, master of none," he said.

In response to Rita, Navy and Air Force teams, flying from the deck of the USS Iwo Jima and Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, conducted rescue missions into Texas and Louisiana. During the weekend, they transported several thousand people to safety, including 1,300 patients.

Four Navy ships were off the Gulf Coast on Tuesday, providing hurricane relief, including the salvage ship USS Grapple, which was beginning survey operations. About 600 members of the 82nd Airborne Division were sent from New Orleans to southwestern Louisiana late Monday to assist in rescue and recovery.

"The military has more plans on the shelves that you can kick a stick at, and that's a good thing," said retired Adm. James Loy, a senior counselor at the Cohen Group who was commandant of the Coast Guard and deputy in the Homeland Security Department for two years.

The U.S. Northern Command, which began operations in October 2002 as the first command with the United States in its area of responsibility, assists the Federal Emergency Management Agency in disaster relief and has the organizational skills.

"In some disaster unforeseen, you need somebody right away, and the active-duty military is, of course, organized and together on one installation where you can move them quickly," said Robert Gard, a senior military fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

This unique ability comes at a price: more than $400 billion a year.

"Do we want to have that mobilization capability in non-defense agencies?" asked Clark Murdoch, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. With Katrina, "we had the 82nd Airborne on alert for 24 hours, and no one pulled the trigger on them for three or four days."

The all-volunteer force also is stretched thin by fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and an added role would require an influx of troops. Plus, the armed forces' unique chain of command could prove difficult to impose on elected civilian officials.

"It's a terrible idea to put the military in charge because they still have a day job," said James Jay Carafano, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation who taught at West Point and co-authored a book on homeland security. "What happens if the Iraq invasion had coincided with Hurricane Katrina? Does (Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld stop the war to do Hurricane Katrina?"

The military's purpose, and its training and exercises are not geared to domestic operations or law enforcement.

"The military as an institution is not too fond of this thing," said retired Air Force Gen. Charles Boyd, president and CEO of Business Executives for National Security. "They're the lethal arm of American foreign policy. They fight the nation's enemies."

The military is prohibited from performing law enforcement duties by the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, enacted after the Civil War. But the Insurrection Act does allow the president to call troops into federal action inside the United States when there is a threat to authority.

President Eisenhower sent troops from the 101st Airborne to Little Rock, Ark., and also federalized the Arkansas National Guard in 1957 to ensure the integration of Central High School. President Kennedy ordered federal troops to Oxford, Miss., to stop the riots precipitated by James Meredith's enrollment at the University of Mississippi in 1962.

Making the military the lead agency and sending troops after a hurricane could upset local officials.

"The federal government does not lightly put troops into states, particularly Southern states, without the request of the governor," Richard Falkenwrath, a former deputy homeland security adviser, said at a recent conference. "It's a very big deal, if the government were to do that unilaterally."

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said his panel would review a specific proposal from the president.

In a letter to Bush on Tuesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she was disturbed by the notion of rewriting laws that could result in active-duty military operating as "police officers in America." She asked the president to clarify his comments.

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# Legislature looking into barring of escape routes

*Attorney general's staff to talk with witnesses*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Attorney General Charles Foti agreed Wednesday to conduct what he described as a "fact-finding mission" into reports about New Orleans evacuees being denied entrance to neighboring parishes in the days after Hurricane Katrina.

Members of the Senate Local and Municipal Affairs Committee asked Foti to investigate incidents of law enforcement officers turning back evacuees as they tried to get out of New Orleans. In particular, lawmakers expressed outrage at reports of people being blocked from entering Jefferson Parish after crossing the Crescent City Connection.

State Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, said the panel agreed to have the attorney general do a "thorough investigation" of any instances when people were not allowed to leave Orleans Parish.

Foti said he would look at what happened, but added during the committee meeting that emergency officials can limit who is allowed to leave or enter a municipality. After the meeting, Foti noted that the situation in the days after the storm was chaotic and that his investigators would have to talk to witnesses to find out exactly what happened.

Fields said that even though the state had declared emergencies in the New Orleans area that didn't give law enforcement the authority to "take away people's constitutional rights." Several officials have noted the racial dimension of the incidents, saying that largely white law enforcement officers were turning away poor, African-American evacuees.

Lawmakers had asked Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson to attend the committee meeting to explain his statements in a newspaper article that he believed he acted properly when blocking evacuees trying to escape New Orleans by walking across the Crescent City Connection.

But Lawson informed the panel in a "two-line letter" that he could not attend the meeting, said state Sen. Ann Duplessis, D-New Orleans, who initially suggested that the committee subpoena the police chief to make him appear before legislators. "We gave him every consideration," Duplessis said. "There was no consideration given to those people."

Lawson said the committee "is welcome to look into anything they like, and I will cooperate with any investigation by the attorney general, because I know I did nothing wrong. I stand behind my decision and I would invite the committee to look into what happened in New Orleans that caused that situation to reach the boiling point."

Lawson said he received a letter from Fields inviting him to attend the meeting but he had duties at home. "We're still trying to get Gretna going. We're serving food and doing other things, and I elected to stay here," he said.

After an objection from one lawmaker, the committee members decided not to subpoena Lawson. Fields said after the meeting that he will be turning over the results of the attorney general's investigation to the special "steering committee" set up by the Legislature to help guide the recovery process in the New Orleans area.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Joe Darby contributed to this report.

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# Crowds overwhelm Houston FEMA site

*About 1,500 line up as center reopens*

**By Juan A. Lozano**
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — Saying they were caught off-guard by the number of people in need, FEMA officials closed a relief center early Wednesday after some of the hundreds of hurricane victims in line began fainting in triple-digit heat.

The midday closing of the Houston disaster relief center came as officials in areas hit hardest by Hurricane Rita criticized FEMA's response to the storm, with one calling for a commission to examine the emergency response.

Across southeastern Texas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency delivered ice, water and packaged meals to residents who rode out last week's hurricane, which blew ashore early Saturday at Sabine Pass in East Texas.

But the agency was not ready for the roughly 1,500 people displaced by hurricanes Rita and Katrina who sought help at the Houston center when it reopened Wednesday.

The center, offering help from a variety of government and private organizations, initially opened for Katrina refugees. It closed last week when Houston was evacuated before Rita.

The line started forming Tuesday night, and as temperatures reached record highs, some people fainted and had to be carried off by police and other refugees.

FEMA spokesman Justin Dombrowski said the agency closed the center for the day because of the heat and the unexpectedly large crowds. Those already in line were allowed to enter.

Frances Deculus, 65, of Beaumont got in line at 3 a.m. and emerged shortly before the center shut down. She said that all she was able to do was register for FEMA assistance, and that she will have to return to actually get any help.

"We don't know what to do. It's frustrating. We have five small children," said Deculus, who is staying in a Houston hotel with 12 other relatives.

**"I don't know what could have been done better, since the materials were in place before the hurricane. We're doing everything we can to get water and ice to whomever remains."**
ROSS FREDENBURG
FEMA spokesman

Dombrowski said FEMA is asking refugees who do not need help right away to wait a few days. He also encouraged refugees to register with FEMA by telephone or the Internet.

Local officials, including Port Arthur Mayor Oscar Ortiz and Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith, whose county includes Beaumont, said FEMA's response has been inadequate.

Griffith said he has asked Gov. Rick Perry to set up a commission to study the emergency response to Rita. Congress is holding hearings this week on the federal government's response to Katrina.

FEMA spokesman Ross Fredenburg in Austin said communications between Austin and rural East Texas have been troubled, in part because of power problems. But he said FEMA had set up 27 distribution points in 27 southeastern Texas cities.

"I don't know what could have been done better, since the materials were in place before the hurricane," Fredenburg said. "We're doing everything we can to get water and ice to whomever remains."

In rural Tyler County, north of Beaumont, volunteer firefighters distributed food, water and ice to hundreds of residents trapped in their homes by fuel shortages or by huge fallen trees blocking the one-lane, dirt roads out.

Firefighters are climbing over the trees to get to stranded residents until crews can cut the debris away, said Roger McGee, a firefighter.

McGee said the firefighters had been collecting the supplies on their own until Tuesday, when FEMA showed up to give them meals, water and ice to distribute.

"We're tired. We're wore out, but we ain't giving up," McGee said.

Ortiz said he expects to allow residents back into Port Arthur by the weekend, even though as of Wednesday, the industrial town of about 58,000 had no power, water or sewer service. Ortiz said it could take three to five weeks to fully restore electricity.

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# Corps determined to provide answers to levee questions

## *'Thorough and transparent' investigation is promised*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Top Army Corps of Engineers officials Tuesday promised Congress a "thorough and transparent" investigation into whether design, maintenance or construction problems caused levees to breach in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and said that restoring the levees to pre-storm conditions will take about nine months.

Pressed by some members of the House Energy and Water Subcommittee, who raised questions about rebuilding neighborhoods in the city's most flood-prone areas, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock said it isn't the corps' role to dictate development decisions. But he promised to make agency engineers available to help city, state and federal planners understand the risks associated with redevelopment in vulnerable neighborhoods.

Rep. Michael Simpson R-Idaho, told Strock many in Congress are concerned that billons of dollars will be funneled into New Orleans and other communities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina before a comprehensive plan for sustainable development is completed.

"What I'm afraid of is that we're going to spend a whole lot of money before we know what we're doing," Simpson said.

He said he would like to see the city and state, along with federal agencies, develop a plan to rebuild New Orleans in a way that makes it less vulnerable to catastrophic flooding. In Grand Forks., N.D., he noted, a decision was made to turn devastated neighborhoods near the flooded Red River into parkland, creating a natural buffer against flooding.

Some members wanted to know whether it made sense to spend more than $200 million to restore the damaged New Orleans levees to pre-Katrina conditions when they were designed to handle only a Category 3 hurricane. Would it not make more sense, some members asked, to proceed with development of levees that could protect the city against Category 4 and Category 5 hurricanes?

Strock said he saw no way to avoid the design and planning process for the more advanced levees, which normally takes 24 months to 30 months. It would take another five years to build a Category 5 levee protection system, he said, adding that the city can't wait that long for levee protection.

John Paul Woodley, the assistant Army secretary who oversees the corps, said the breaches of the 17th Street Canal and London Street Canal levees were a major disappointment to the corps and that the agency would conduct a thorough investigation that would fully disclose any problems in design, maintenance or construction. Strock said "it's important to remember" that the levees were never intended to protect against the Category 4 hurricane such as Katrina.

However, category strength is a generalization that doesn't accurately describe the varying

**"What I'm afraid of is that we're going to spend a whole lot of money before we know what we're doing."**
REP. MICHAEL SIMPSON
R-Idaho

forces that hit New Orleans. Katrina passed east of New Orleans, so some parts of the city were struck by winds and storm surge waters equivalent to those of a direct hit by a weaker storm.

Surge measurements taken near the 17th Street and London Avenues canals indicate the water height may not have exceeded the corps' design for a Category 3 storm, raising questions about possible flaws in the floodwalls' design or construction.

Rep. David Hobson, R-Ohio, chairman of the water and energy subcommittee, said the failure of the levees in New Orleans revealed a systematic failure in the way the federal government sets its priorities for critical infrastructure.

"For the corps to persuade people that it is part of the solution and not part of the problem, it will have to change its behavior," Hobson said. "Continuing the practice of spreading funding across a wide range of projects in the hopes of growing the corps program will not be an acceptable answer. We have to return to a situation where the Corps of Engineers is respected for its professional engineering judgment."

He said that he is asking the corps to provide a list of the 10 most critical projects so Congress can provide financing based on objective standards.

# Hotel manager accused of fraud

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — A night manager at a Holiday Inn has been accused of stealing money from Hurricane Katrina evacuees who had been put up at the hotel for free by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Simone Harrell James, 34, was being sought on an arrest warrant alleging credit card fraud and theft over $10,000, said Fred Raiford, a spokesman for the East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff.

The Holiday Inn was working with FEMA to provide 14 days of free lodging for evacuees, according to an affidavit filed by investigators. But James told patrons they would have to pay cash for the first two days of their stay before the federal agency would pick up the tab, according to investigators.

Harrell also charged at least seven credit cards to cover room costs for which she had taken cash, the affidavit said.

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Because of severe damage to sugarcane fields in south Louisiana, harvesting that was supposed to start this week has been pushed back until early October at many of the state's 13 raw sugar mills. 'It appears like the cane has been hit with a freeze,' said Ben Legendre, a sugarcane expert with the Louisiana State University AgCenter.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

# Sugar cane future looking bleak

## *Hurricanes wreak havoc on industry*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Sugarcane fields in south Louisiana that were already damaged by the winds of Hurricane Katrina now are soaking in saltwater surges from the Gulf of Mexico caused by Hurricane Rita, contributing to losses that could top $200 million this year, industry experts said this week.

"The industry is in a position it hasn't been in for a long, long time," said Jim Simon, president of the American Sugar Cane League in Thibodaux. "It is a dire time for us."

Experts said they already were anticipating losses of about $140 million to $160 million after Katrina hit Aug. 29, when winds bent the stalks of sugar cane down to the ground. Ben Legendre, a sugar cane expert with the Louisiana State University AgCenter, said cane that is simply blown over is damaged; its ability to produce sucrose is limited as it tries to stand back up.

But when Hurricane Rita floodwaters soaked particularly St. Mary, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes, the cane was hurt further. Many of the stalks in those areas have soaked up saltwater, turning them brown and limiting the amount of sugar that will be recovered from the cane, Legendre said.

"It appears like the cane has been hit with a freeze," he said, adding that in areas where tidal surges deposited grass from the coastal marshes on the cane fields could also be lost.

With all of the physical damage to the sugar cane, the stalks that can be processed will yield less raw sugar than in a good year, experts said. On top of this, much of the seed cane that was planted in the past month probably has been damaged, hindering crops in future harvest years.

Legislation recently filed in Congress by the Louisiana delegation included a proposal that $165 million be allocated to sugar cane farmers to help with the losses inflicted by Hurricane Katrina, Simon said.

With the additional problems caused by Rita, he said, more money will need to be directed to the industry, including direct finance assistance to farmers to compensate them for lost production. A good cane crop can be valued as high as $700 million, Simon said.

For Ronald Gonsoulin, a farmer in New Iberia, the storm wasn't as bad as with some of his neighbors; he didn't get any water in his house. But he still expects to take some losses in his flooded fields, where the cane is turning brown because of the salt water intrusion.

With sugar prices static and costs of production going up, farmers across south Louisiana have said in recent years it is harder to stay in business. Gonsoulin said this fall's storms could hasten the exodus of producers from farming.

"Many of the growers that were financially leveraged are asking themselves if they should continue," he said.

Harvesting was supposed to start in much of south Louisiana this week, but that will be pushed back until early October at many of the state's 13 raw sugar mills.

In Lacassine, where Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odom has been building a $45 million syrup plant for growers in southwest Louisiana, Hurricane Rita has pushed back the potential starting date until mid-November, said Jackie Theriot, the facility's general manager.

The mill, which is still in the finishing stages of construction, did not sustain significant wind damage during the storm, but electricity is out, Theriot said. It is unclear how much of the crop in this part of the state, which took a direct hit from Rita, has been damaged by the storm, he said.

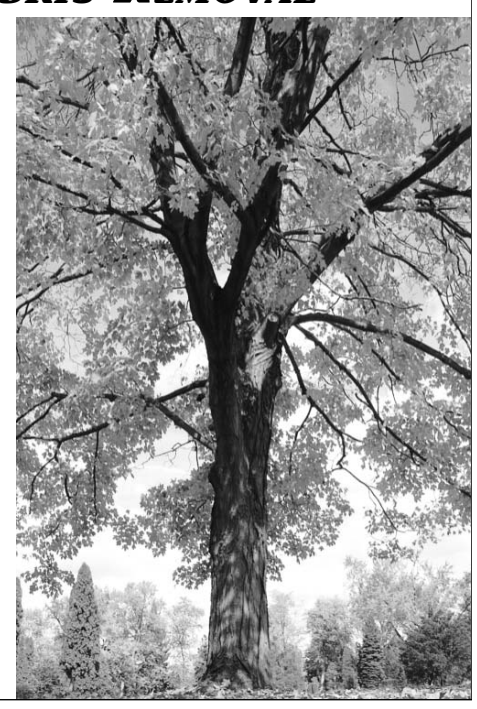
The syrup mill, which has been criticized by several state officials as a misuse of public money, was supposed to be ready by the beginning of November. Theriot said he is hoping to have a two-week delay before they can begin processing sugar cane.

Any syrup produced at Lacassine will have to be shipped to traditional sugar mills along Bayou Teche to be processed into raw sugar.

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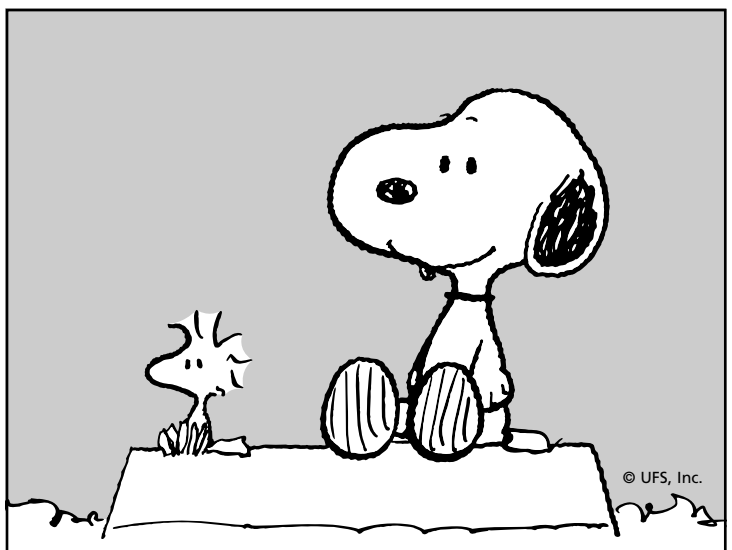

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WAR IN IRAQ

# Woman suicide bomber kills six recruits

## *Seven U.S. troops killed since Sunday*

**By Lee Keath**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — A woman disguised in a man's robes and headdress slipped into a line of Iraqi army recruits Wednesday and detonated explosives strapped to her body, killing at least six recruits and wounding 35 — the first known suicide attack by a woman in Iraq's insurgency.

The attack in Tal Afar near the Syrian border appeared aimed at showing that militants could still strike in a town where U.S. and Iraqi offensives drove out insurgents only two weeks ago. A female suicide bomber may have been chosen because she could get through checkpoints, at which women are rarely searched, then don her disguise to join the line of men, Iraqi officials said.

Iraq's most notorious insurgent group, al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attack in an Internet statement, saying it was carried out by a "blessed sister."

The bombing came a day after U.S. and Iraqi officials announced their forces killed the second-in-command of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abdullah Abu Azzam, in a weekend raid in Baghdad. His death has not slowed insurgent violence, with at least 84 people — including seven U.S. service members — killed in attacks since Sunday.

President Bush warned violence will increase in the days leading up to a key Oct. 15 referendum on a new constitution, a document that has sharply divided Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority and the Sunni minority that forms the backbone of the insurgency.

"We can expect they'll do everything in their power to try to stop the march of freedom," Bush said. "And our troops are ready for it."

The U.S. military announced Wednesday that two more American soldiers and an airman were killed in violence and a Marine was killed by a noncombat gunshot. The deaths brought to 1,922 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

In the holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad, an attacker set off an explosion in the home of a bodyguard of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Wednesday, killing two people and wounding five, al-Sadr aides and a hospital official said.

In the attack at the Tal Afar army recruitment center, the female suicide bomber was wearing a traditional white "dishdasha" robe and a checkered kaffiya headscarf, both worn only by men, to blend in with the line of Iraqi applicants, Maj. Jamil Mohammed Saleh said.

She detonated explosives packed with metal balls and hidden under her clothes, Saleh said. Six recruits were killed and 35 wounded, said hospital officials in Tal Afar, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad.

In a photo of the attacker's head taken by Saleh and shown to AP, the woman appeared to be in her early 20s with dark eyes, light skin and brownish hair. Saleh said it was not known whether she was Iraqi.

U.S. and Iraqi troops swept through Tal Afar in a Sept. 8-12 offensive, with Iraqi authorities claiming nearly 200 suspected militants were killed and 315 captured, though many of the insurgents in the town escaped. Since then the bulk of the forces participating in the offensive withdrew, though a U.S. base remains.

It was the first known time that a woman has succeeded in carrying out a suicide bombing in Iraq since the insurgency began, though it was not the first attempt.

In March, four women, reportedly sent by the insurgent group Islamic Army in Iraq, were caught in a town south of the capital before they could set off explosives belts they were wearing. In the last days of Saddam Hussein's regime, just before the April 2003 fall of Baghdad, two women detonated their car near the city of Haditha, killing three American soldiers.

Gen. Ahmed Mohammed Khalaf, the regional police chief, said insurgents were exploiting the fact that women are not searched at checkpoints "because of religious and social traditions."

Women and children will now be searched at Tal Afar checkpoints, he said.

Still, the attack raised the prospect of more women bombers being used by the insurgency, a tactic difficult to defend against, especially during the referendum. Men and women turned out in large numbers to vote in parts of Iraq during January parliamentary elections, and images of veiled women flashing their ink-stained fingers after voting became an iconic symbol of hopes for democracy.

Maj. Gen. Hussein Ali Kamal, intelligence head at the Iraqi Interior Ministry, said the Tal Afar attack "rings danger alarms" and requires new techniques, including increased searches of women at sensitive locations.

"But this will be a problem, because women are taking part in our new political life and finding large numbers of female security officers to search them is not an easy process," he said.

In the past, women have played only a supportive role in the insurgency, helping smuggle equipment or feed, shelter and give medical treatment to fighters, said Nora Bensahel, an insurgency expert with Rand Corp., a nonprofit research group based in Santa Monica, Calif.

"This could be a sign that the insurgency is getting greater support among a larger segment of the population, that women are getting more militant and willing to take on a greater role," Bensahel said. "It could also be a sign that the insurgents are having trouble finding male recruits."



AP PHOTO

U.S. soldiers secure the area after a suicide attack in Tal Afar, Iraq. A woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside an Iraqi army recruitment center Wednesday in the first known attack by a female suicide bomber in the country's bloody insurgency.

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# Army reservist gets three years

## *She was pictured with Iraqi prisoners*

**By T.A. Badger**
Associated Press writer

FORT HOOD, TEXAS — Army Pfc. Lynndie England apologized for appearing in some of the most infamous pictures of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib prison, saying she did so at the behest of a boyfriend who took advantage of her love and trust.

England, speaking in response to questions from a defense lawyer, said she was embarrassed by the pictures.



**Pfc. Lynndie England**
Says she was duped by boyfriend 14 years older

"I heard attacks were made on coalition forces because of the photos," she said Tuesday before the jury of five Army officers sentenced England to three years behind bars.

The charges against the 22-year-old reservist from rural West Virginia carried up to nine years, but prosecutor Capt. Chris Graveline asked the jury to imprison her for four to six years. The defense asked for no time behind bars.

Neither prosecutors nor defense lawyers spoke with reporters after the sentence was announced.

England, who was convicted Monday on six of seven counts involving prisoner mistreatment, spent time with her 11-month-old son, Carter, before being escorted out of the Fort Hood courthouse. Her reddened eyes stared straight ahead as she made her way to a waiting van.

England was the most recognizable of the nine low-ranking reservists charged in the scandal that severely damaged America's image in the Muslim world and tarnished the U.S. military at home and abroad.

In some of the pictures, England is shown holding a naked prisoner on a leash, posing with a pyramid of naked detainees and pointing at the genitals of a prisoner while a cigarette hangs from the corner of her mouth.

England's defense contended she is a compliant person who took part in the detainee maltreatment to please Pvt. Charles Graner Jr., who prosecutors said was the ringleader of the abuse by a group of U.S. troops.

She calmly recounted how her relationship with Graner, 14 years her senior, developed as they prepared for deployment to Iraq with the 372nd Military Police Company in 2003.

"He was very charming, funny and at the time it looked to me like he was interested in the same things I was. ... He made me feel good about myself," she said. "I trusted him and I loved him. ... Now I know it was just an act to lure me in."

England has said that Graner fathered her son.

Graner and another former guard also were convicted at trial, while six other soldiers struck plea bargains. Graner was sentenced to 10 years.

No officers have gone to trial, though several received administrative punishment.

Graner's testimony Tuesday supported that of a defense expert witness who said officers in charge at Abu Ghraib failed to control the guards, creating stressful conditions that disoriented England and led her to take part in the mistreatment.

Graner said he, England and others who worked the overnight shift in a high-security section of Abu Ghraib had scant supervision.

"It seems like the junior soldiers were on their own," he said. "We had little leadership."

"I nearly beat an MI detainee to death with MI there," he said before Col. James Pohl, the judge, interrupted his testimony.

Stjepan Mestrovic, a sociology professor at Texas A&M University called as an expert witness by the defense, testified that England should be punished lightly because of the "poisonous environment" that existed at Abu Ghraib.

"She was caught up in this chaotic situation like everyone else," said Mestrovic, who also testified that officers at Abu Ghraib "knew or should have known what was going on."

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NATIONAL

# Texans indict DeLay in campaign finance case

## *House leader cedes post temporarily*

**By Larry Margasak**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A Texas grand jury on Wednesday indicted Rep. Tom DeLay and two political associates on charges of conspiracy in a campaign finance scheme, forcing the House majority leader to temporarily relinquish his post. A defiant DeLay insisted he was innocent and called the prosecutor a "partisan fanatic."

"I have done nothing wrong. ... I am innocent," DeLay said at a Capitol Hill news conference during which he criticized the Texas prosecutor, Ronnie Earle, repeatedly. DeLay said the charges amounted to "one of the weakest and most baseless indictments in American history."

In Austin, Earle told reporters, "Our job is to prosecute abuses of power and to bring those abuses to the public." He has noted previously that he has prosecuted many Democrats in the past.

Republicans at the Capitol selected Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., the current Republican whip — No. 3 in the leadership ranks — to fill the vacancy temporarily.

Reps. David Dreier of California, the chairman of the House Rules Committee, and Eric Cantor of Virginia, the chief deputy whip, will assist Blunt with some of the majority leader duties.

Republicans expressed their backing for DeLay, the first House leader to be indicted in office in at least a century.

"He will fight this and we give him our utmost support," said Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois following a private GOP meeting.

DeLay said he was certain the indictment would be dismissed and shrugged off the charges as a "political witch hunt" designed to drive a wedge in the Republican ranks.



AP PHOTO

During a news conference on Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas called the case against him and two political associates 'one of the weakest and most baseless indictments in American history.'

"If the Democrats think we're going to go crawl in a hole and not accomplish our agenda, I wish they could have been a fly on the wall" of the closed-door meeting, DeLay said after the session.

The indictment accused DeLay, 58, of a conspiracy to violate Texas election law, which prohibits the use of corporate donations to advocate the election or defeat of political candidates. Prosecutors say the alleged scheme worked in a roundabout way, with the donations going to a DeLay-founded political committee, then to the Republican National Committee and eventually to GOP candidates in Texas.

The indictment stems from a plan DeLay helped set in motion in 2001 to help Republicans win control of the Texas House in the 2002 elections for the first time since Reconstruction.

Indicted with DeLay were two of his associates, John Colyandro, former executive director of a Texas political action committee formed by DeLay, and Jim Ellis, who heads DeLay's national political committee.

The grand jury's foreman, William Gibson, told The Associated Press that Earle didn't pressure members one way or the other. "Ronnie Earle didn't indict him. The grand jury indicted him," Gibson told The Associated Press in an interview at his home.

Gibson, 76, a retired sheriff's deputy in Austin, said of DeLay: "He's probably doing a good job. I don't have anything against him. Just something happened."

The Texas Republican temporarily stepped down from the No. 2 leadership post that he had held since 2002, as required by House rules.

Criminal conspiracy is a state felony punishable by six months to two years in a state jail and a fine of up to $10,000.

At the White House, press secretary Scott McClellan said the president still considered DeLay, a fellow Texan, to be a friend and an effective leader in Congress.

"Congressman DeLay is a good ally, a leader who we have worked closely with to get things done for the American people," McClellan said. "I think the president's view is that we need to let the legal process work."

The indictment puts the Republicans — who control the White House, Senate and House — on the defensive. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., also is fending off questions of ethical improprieties. And less than a week ago, a former White House official was arrested in the investigation of Jack Abramoff, a high-powered lobbyist and fundraiser.

The indictment accused DeLay of a conspiracy to "knowingly make a political contribution" in violation of Texas law outlawing corporate contributions. It alleged that DeLay's Texans for a Republican Majority political action committee accepted $155,000 from companies, including Sears Roebuck, and placed the money in an account.

The PAC then wrote a $190,000 check to an arm of the Republican National Committee and provided the committee a document with the names of Texas State House candidates and the amounts they were supposed to received in donations, the indictment said.

DeLay's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said he preferred a trial as soon as possible, at least by the end of the year. Asked when DeLay would turn himself in, DeGuerin said, "I'm going to keep from having Tom DeLay taken down in handcuffs, photographed and fingerprinted. That's uncalled for."

The grand jury action is expected to have immediate consequences in the House, where DeLay is largely responsible for winning passage of the Republican legislative program.

Democrats have kept up a crescendo of criticism of DeLay's ethics, citing three times last year that the House ethics committee admonished DeLay for his conduct.

Democratic Chairman Howard Dean cited the problems of DeLay, Frist and Karl Rove, the White House deputy chief of staff at the center of questions about the leak of a CIA operative's name.

"The Republican leadership in Washington is now spending more time answering questions about ethical misconduct than doing the people's business," Dean said.


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- Be cautious of solicitations from companies with names similar to those of well-known charities. Legitimate charity Web addresses typically end with **.org**, not **.com**.

**If you suspect a disaster-related fraud, report it to *ic3.gov* or 1-877-FTC-HELP.**

A message from the United States Postal Inspection Service in cooperation with the Department of Justice Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**ST. TAMMANY:** Books rest in ruin atop the drying mud recently at the Pontchartrain branch of the St. Tammany Parish library.

# MOSAICS IN MUD

As the waters recede, what's left behind is a drying layer of muck – think of it as the toxic roux that helped form the city's so-called 'toxic stew' – showcasing Mother Nature's tragically artistic bent.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**NEW ORLEANS:** Brittle bits of dried mud resembling pottery shards are scattered throughout the streets of New Orleans. To those with an artistic eye, they boast a weirdly artistic appeal. To others, they are just a mess.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**9TH WARD:** The twice-flooded streets of the Lower 9th Ward are getting drier, but there's still an intimidating layer of muck with which to contend.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## FEMA -1601-DR-LA; FEMA -3212-EM-LA; and FEMA -1603-DR-LA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by Tropical Storm Cindy occurring from July 5 to July 6, 2005 and Hurricane Katrina beginning August 26, 2005 and continuing. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) programs implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206.

Under a major disaster declaration (FEMA-1601-DR-LA) signed by the President on August 23, 2005, the following parishes have been designated as adversely affected by Tropical Storm Cindy and are eligible for both PA and HMGP: Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles.

Under an emergency disaster declaration (FEMA-3212-EM-LA) signed by the President on August 27, 2005 and Amendment No. 1, signed August 29, 2005, the following parishes have been designated as adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina and are eligible for PA under Categories A and B (debris removal and emergency protective measures): Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafourche, La Salle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn. The following parishes are eligible for PA under Category B (emergency protective measures) only: Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermillion, and West Baton Rouge.

Under a major disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) signed by the President on August 29, 2005 , Amendment No. 1, signed September 1, 2005, and Amendment No. 2, signed September 4, 2005, the following parishes have been designated as adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina and are eligible for both PA under Categories A-G (emergency protective measures and permanent work) and IA: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, and West Baton Rouge. Additional counties may be designated at a later date. The following parishes are eligible for both PA under Categories A and B (debris removal and emergency protective measures) for a period of 60 days and IA: Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Feliciana, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, Vermillion, and West Feliciana. The following parishes are eligible for PA under Category B (emergency protective measures) only: Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Landry, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn. Additionally, the following parishes are also eligible to apply for HMGP: Ouachita, St. Mary, and St. Tammany. Additional counties may be designated for HMGP at a later date.

This public notice concerns activities that may affect historic properties, activities that are located in or affect wetland areas or the 100-year floodplain, and critical actions within the 500-year floodplain. Such activities may adversely affect the historic property, floodplain or wetland, or may result in continuing vulnerability to flood damage.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate, and evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal and safety considerations. Where there is no opportunity to relocate, FEMA is required to undertake a detailed review to determine what measures can be taken to minimize future damages. The public is invited to participate in the process of identifying alternatives and analyzing their impacts.

FEMA has determined that for certain types of facilities there are normally no alternatives to restoration in the floodplain/wetland. These are facilities that meet all of the following criteria: 1) FEMA's estimate of the cost of repairs is less than 50% of the cost to replace the entire facility, and is less than $100,000; 2) the facility is not located in a floodway; 3) the facility has not sustained major structural damage in a previous Presidentially declared flooding disaster or emergency; and 4) the facility is not critical (e.g., the facility is not a hospital, generating plant, emergency operations center, or a facility that contains dangerous materials). FEMA intends to provide assistance for the restoration of these facilities to their pre-disaster condition, except that certain measures to mitigate the effects of future flooding or other hazards may be included in the work. For example, a bridge or culvert restoration may include a larger waterway opening to decrease the risk of future washouts.

For routine activities, this will be the only public notice provided. Other activities and those involving facilities that do not meet the four criteria are required to undergo more detailed review, including study of alternate locations. Subsequent public notices regarding such projects will be published if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

In many cases, an applicant may have started facility restoration before federal involvement. Even if the facility must undergo detailed review and analysis of alternate locations, FEMA will fund eligible restoration at the original location if the facility is functionally dependent on its floodplain location (e.g., bridges and flood control facilities), or the project facilitates an open space use, or the facility is an integral part of a larger network that is impractical or uneconomical to relocate, such as a road. In such cases, FEMA must also examine the possible effects of not restoring the facility, minimize floodplain/wetland impacts, and determine both that an overriding public need for the facility clearly outweighs the Executive Order requirements to avoid the floodplain/wetland, and that the site is the only practicable alternative. State of Louisiana and local officials will confirm to FEMA that proposed actions comply with all applicable State and local floodplain management and wetland protection requirements.

FEMA intends to provide IA program funding for disaster-related emergency housing. These actions may adversely affect a floodplain/wetland, or may result in continuing vulnerability to floods. These actions may include repair, restoration or construction of housing or private bridges, purchase and placement of travel trailers or manufactured housing units, or repair of structures as minimum protective measures. This will be the only public notice concerning these actions.

FEMA also intends to provide HMGP funding to the State of Louisiana to mitigate future disaster damages. These projects may include construction of new facilities, modification of existing, undamaged facilities, relocation of facilities out of floodplains, demolition of structures, or other types of projects to mitigate future disaster damages. In the course of developing project proposals, subsequent public notices will be published if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Those actions or activities affecting buildings, structures, districts or objects 50 years or older or that affect archeological sites or undisturbed ground will require further review to determine if the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Register). If the property is determined to be eligible for the Register, and FEMA's undertaking will adversely affect it, FEMA will provide additional public notices. For historic properties not adversely affected by FEMA's undertaking, this will be the only public notice.

As noted, this may be the only public notice regarding the above-described actions under the PA, IA, and HMGP programs. Interested persons may obtain information about these actions or a specific project, by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Field Office, 1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70802, or by calling (225) 389-7274. Comments should be sent in writing to William Lokey, Federal Coordinating Officer, at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.



AP PHOTO

New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass shakes hands with NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue on Sept. 19 in East Rutherford, N.J. Compass was invited to participate in the coin flip before the New Orleans Saints' matchup with the New York Giants, garnering criticism from officials who said his presence was more important in his still-reeling hometown.

# 'He had tears in his eyes. He didn't want to go.'

**COMPASS,** *from A-1*

to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in which some officers were seen looting a store and 249 officers left their posts.

At the news conference, the two men were amicable, with Nagin calling Compass' retirement, after 26 years on the force, good for his family and bad for the city.

Nagin wished Compass well, calling him a hero and saying that he hoped Compass would at least send him a Christmas card during the holidays.

Compass seemed to fight back tears. Handlers shuffled Nagin off in one direction, Compass in another.

Even before Katrina, both Nagin and Compass had come under pressure, dealing with controversies over alleged underreporting of crime statistics in the 1st District, the enforcement of the residency rule for officers, and Compass' hiring of members of the Nation of Islam to do sensitivity training for the Police Department. The city also had seen a substantial rise in the murder rate in 2005.

• • • • • •

Martha Carr and David Meeks contributed to this report.

# Alabama legislator says Katrina was God's wrath on sinful coast

## *'Wickedness' brought punishment, he says*

**By The Associated Press**

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — A state senator in Alabama says Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment on a sinful part of America.

State Sen. Hank Erwin, R-Montevallo, wrote in a weekly column for news outlets: "New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast have always been known for gambling, sin and wickedness. It is the kind of behavior that ultimately brings the judgment of God."

Erwin, a former conservative talk-radio host and now a media consultant, wrote the column after a tour of hurricane-wrecked Gulfport and Biloxi, Miss., and Bayou La Batre on the Alabama coast.

"Warnings year after year by godly evangelists and preachers went unheeded. So why were we surprised when finally the hand of judgment fell?" Erwin wrote. "Sadly, innocents suffered along with the guilty. Sin always brings suffering to good people as well as the bad."

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was flooded by Katrina. Erwin said the Baptists knew they had put themselves on the front lines ministering in a sinful place that could be targeted.

He said he didn't think the hard-hit residents of the low-income Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans were singled out for especially harsh punishment but were merely in the way, as were the shrimpers in Bayou La Batre.

William Willimon, bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, said Erwin is "sure no theologian."

"I'm certainly against gambling and its hold on state government in Mississippi, but I expect there is as much sin, of possibly a different order, in Montevallo as on the Gulf Coast. If God punished all of us for our sin, who could stand?" Willimon said.

The bishop said 300 United Methodist clergy from Alabama will be on the Gulf Coast next week to help hurricane victims.

"That seems to me a much more appropriate Christian response than that of the senator," he said.

A member of Shades Mountain Independent Church, Erwin said, "As harsh as it may sound, those hurricanes do say that God is real, and we have to realize sin has consequences."

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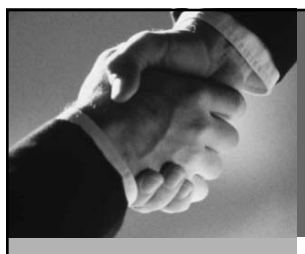
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# Rigs, platforms wash up elsewhere

**OIL,** *from A-1*

employees, and even when oil is produced, refineries and pipelines cannot always accept the oil.

But damage is a main cause.

"There is a tremendous amount of damage out there," said Jefferson Parker, president of the energy investment firm Howard Weil, which has moved its New Orleans headquarters temporarily to Houston. The two storms each reached a Category 5 status at one time and that Rita "left the Gulf in shambles."

Marsh's rig report showed that six jack-up rigs, which are used for shallow water drilling, may have been lost in the wake of Hurricane Rita, including one rig that probably sank.

One hard-hit drilling company, Rowan Cos. Inc. of Houston, has not been able to locate one of its rigs and found that two others were no longer in their pre-storm locations. The hull of another rig, the Rowan Louisiana, was sheared from it legs and was found beached in Louisiana.

Deep water drilling platforms, known as semisubmersibles, also sustained damage. Diamond Offshore found two semis about 100 miles away from pre-storm locations and two others grounded.

Marsh said the survey of mobile rigs had accounted for all but one of the rigs and that early surveys showed that the fixed platforms had fared better than the mobile rigs.

Another segment of the industry, refining, also was damaged. A quarter of U.S. refining capacity was knocked out for a time, and much of that capacity is in refineries that still lack a firm schedule for restarting. The fallout from Hurricane Rita included 1.5 million barrels per day of refining capacity out of service in addition to the 800,000 barrels per day that had not been restarted after Hurricane Katrina.

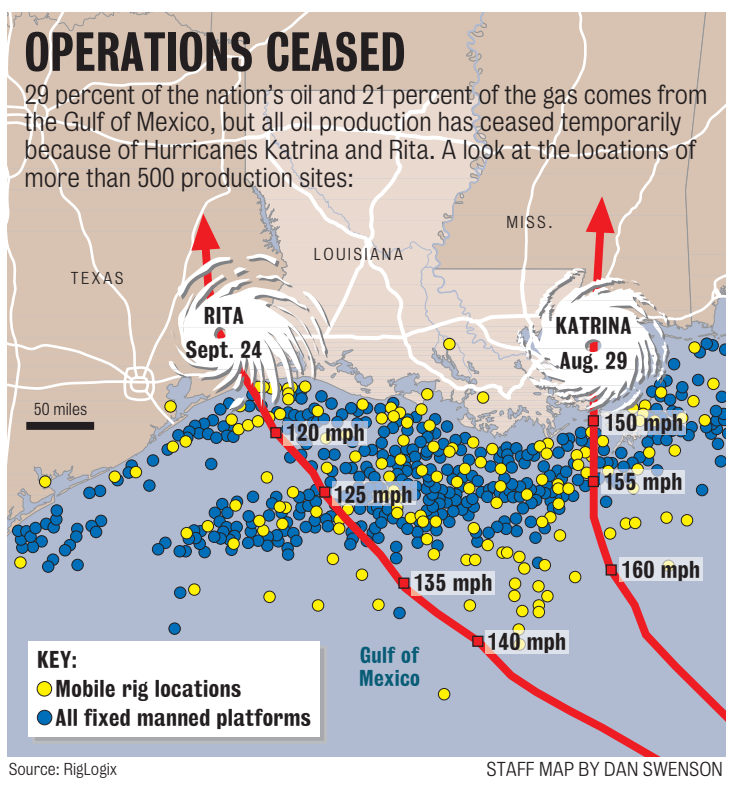
But the damage to refineries was not as severe as it could have been, Parker said, and several refineries sustained minimal damage. A number of refineries have not restarted because they do not have power.

Gene Gillespie, research director at Howard Weil, said that although the Gulf is shut in, several refineries are able to operate by running imported crude and domestic crude from sources other than the Gulf.

He also said the real amount shut in may not be as great as reported. On Wednesday, Kerr McGee and Nexen reported their deep water oil wells in the Gulf had begun producing. The MMS survey is based on a sampling.

Gillespie said within two to four weeks he expected that the shut-in oil figures would fall by as much as 50 percent.

Futures prices for November light, sweet crude rose $1.28 a barrel to settle at $66.35 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.




Source: RigLogix

STAFF MAP BY DAN SWENSON

## Identification of dead is slow, painstaking work

**DEATHS,** *from A-1*

the Convention Center from other causes, he said.

As of Wednesday, he said, the St. Gabriel morgue held 783 Katrina victims. The rest were scattered among coroners' offices in 13 parishes.

Until three experts verify a deceased's identity, a body will not be released to the funeral home picked by the survivors for burial.

In some cases, Cataldie said, it may take one to two months to make a positive ID. "Speeding up the process would compromise the process" of making valid identification, Cataldie said. "These are hard times. I wish I could speed up the process. I am sorry we have to do that. I want to make sure the process is as pure as possible."

Those who are never identified or claimed will be buried at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, where there is vacant land and a chapel.

"I am hoping we won't have that (many unidentified bodies), but I think we will," Cataldie said.

To help identify bodies, workers from the Find Family National Call Center contact and interview family members of the deceased, looking for information about scars, birthmarks or other features that may make identifying a person's body easier, Cataldie said. The staff also can collect DNA samples. A fingerprint analysis can also be done, but many bodies do not have good prints because they have been degraded after being in the water for weeks, he said.

Cataldie said the St. Gabriel operation also uses "full-body X-rays" to detect possible serial numbers of a prosthetic device or artificial heart valve and trace the number back to the manufacturer to determine for whom it was ordered.

Once a positive ID is made at the morgue, a funeral home will pick up the remains and a death certificate after it has been signed by a coroner.

Cataldie said families should call local police if they return home and detect a stench emanating for their homes or an infestation of flies.

"I am extremely concerned about what people will find when they go back home," he said.

## STORM CASUALTIES

32 victims of Hurricane Katrina have been identified:

- Jose Ares
- Justin Babin
- Della Badeaux
- Edith I. Bennett
- Bulah Boss
- Danny Brumfield
- Wessie Crutchfield
- Maggie Dennis
- Ruby Frazier
- Gulda Haines
- Carrie Hall
- Mary Hamilton
- Isabelle Hebert
- James Jackson Sr.
- Myrtle Jackson
- Aleria M. Jefferson
- Preston Johnson
- Ella W. Jones
- Ruby Joseph
- Elias Kaprissis
- Willie Martinez
- Reba Massey
- Arthur Mason
- Jessie May
- Rose Migllore
- Helen Olivier
- Peter Pelitere
- Eva Rodrigue
- Alma Ryburn
- Onita Stewart
- Ronald Lee Taylor
- Jason Zito

September 22, 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT due to Hurricane Katrina, the regular meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana, scheduled for September 7, 2005 was not held. It has been postponed and will be held at their regular meeting place, the City Hall, Harahan, Louisiana, on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 7:30 pm for the following casee(s):

1. An ordinance to resubdivide Lots 36 and 37, Square J, Harahan City Subdivision into Lot 37-A, Square J, Harahan City Subdivision. (432 Hickory Avenue)

THIS NOTICE IS TO ADVISE CITIZENS OF HARAHAN OF THE PUBLIC MEETING. YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

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David
For directions or more information call 1-800-366-7711.
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# Tulane prepares for January reopening

TULANE, *from A-1*

the university's fiscal health, he said.

"Even if 80 percent came back, we would be able to maneuver to financial viability," he said. "Sixty percent would be difficult."

The university's $810 million endowment is smaller than most schools its size and it collects an additional $700 million in annual revenue.

But Cowen said there is good reason to be encouraged, noting that only 78 students have officially withdrawn from Tulane.

To that end, the university is offering a number of incentives. It is reimbursing tuition for students who enrolled at other campuses and is offering the intensive "lagniappe semester" in late spring and early summer.

Students can earn up to 12 hours of credit tuition-free during the semester, assuming they've already paid regular fall and spring tuition. Undergraduate seniors who cannot attend the lagniappe semester can receive $5,000 tuition credit toward an advanced degree at Tulane.

University College, the continuing education wing of Tulane, is starting courses Oct. 24 at Elmwood and Biloxi sites, as well as online.

Amid Tulane's announcement, other major universities are gearing up to allow students' return in the coming months. Loyola also plans to reopen in January, although an exact date has not been set, and the University of New Orleans' lakefront campus is also expecting to resume classes in January. UNO also announced Wednesday the opening of enrollment for classes at satellite campuses in Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes that begin Oct. 10.

Dillard University sustained severe flooding after Katrina and is not expected to reopen during this academic year, its president said, although some classes could be offered at other sites in January. Xavier University officials could not be reached for comment.

The Saturday before Katrina hit, Cowen said some 1,700 students and their parents were moving into campus residence halls when news of the approaching storm prompted Cowen to call a town-hall meeting. There, everyone was told to evacuate on their own or was promised a spot on one of more than 15 buses the university chartered to take students to Jackson State University in Mississippi, where about 600 rode out the storm.

Cowen and some core staff stayed behind in the university's Reily Center, where they waited out Katrina. On Monday afternoon, Cowen said he took a walk around campus and was encouraged, finding mostly broken windows and debris littering lawns and walkways.

"My feeling was, 'We can get this fixed in a month,' " he recalled.

Later that night, however, after news came out that several of the city's levees had been breached, water began to rise around campus, with up to 3 feet in some areas.



Employees of a private contactor hired by Tulane University remove refrigerators from flooded Rosen House.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Although the campus still fared exceedingly well, Cowen said there were some casualties, not the least of which were a collection of government documents in the basement of the campus library, which was soaked with floodwaters.

The university also lost a number of laboratory animals, although some survived a trip to the university's primate center on the north shore, along with 33 years of blood samples, part of a study of adolescent heart disease in Bogalusa, after 27 large freezers on campus lost generator power.

By Thursday, Cowen and the last few staff remaining on campus hopped into a motorboat, which took them to dry land on Freret Street, where one of his aides hotwired a golf cart. They then drove to Gibson Hall, where they found a university dump truck that could get them through deeper waters and into Audubon Park, where a helicopter retrieved them.

Cowen has been in Texas since then, working with his staff to prepare for the spring semester out of an office park in Houston.

Meantime, the university is still paying its 6,000 employees, except for some part-timers, for the entire fall semester – a commitment, Cowen said, that so far has prevented any faculty from being poached by other universities.

Besides, he said, "I think the vast majority of universities will not actively recruit unless they felt we weren't going to reopen, which of course we are."

So far, he said, only four staff members have said they're taking jobs elsewhere.

As for displaced students, a number of universities are allowing them to enroll in classes tuition-free, letting Tulane keep the roughly $13,500 charged each semester. While students at those schools typically have to pay for room and board, Cowen said those costs will be reimbursed to all students. Students who had to pay tuition at other universities will be reimbursed for those costs, he said, either by the university or Tulane.

Meantime, there is reason to be encouraged about the future of the student body, Cowen said, noting that applications for the fall 2006 semester are up 50 percent over the same time last year.

"We're clawing our way back and that is attracting a lot of attention," he said, "particularly among kids interested in community service."

Cowen said he does not expect the university's academic standards to change. Even if fewer students were to apply, he said, "if anything, we'll accept fewer students."

The university accepted about 40 percent of the 18,000 freshman applications for this fall. The vast majority of those students graduated in the top 10 percent of their class and had an average SAT score of 1355 out of a possible 1600.

The university has also blocked student athletes from transferring their scholarships to other campuses, Cowen said. Faculty have also been asked to postpone sabbaticals.

Because the campus' dormitories only have space for 3,300 students and homes of staff and students flooded, the university is considering ways to provide temporary housing, everything from leasing a cruise ship to constructing temporary housing, he said.

Cowen declined to say where that temporary housing would be located or whether it could be in nearby Audubon Park.

At The Boot, a popular campus hangout on Broadway, doors were swung wide for ventilation, and a lone worker inspected the inside the bar at the edge of campus. The dark interior looked relatively clean. Another worker outside of a Plum Street dorm said, "I think we're going to make the January date."

Guards had cut off campus access points such as the entrance to Ben Weiner Drive, but most buildings appeared to have weathered both storms well. Swaths of green grass were visible around the campus' interior.

Trailer-size generators and Belfor restoration trucks were parked along Freret Street, where chairs and bags of trash were piled outside the university library. Workers wearing decontamination suits gathered at the entrance.

At the main entrance to Tulane on Wednesday, three professors and their friends were turned away by armed security guards. They were trying to retrieve manuscripts and teaching materials, said French and Italian professor Hope Glidden, but "not the way they've got it locked up at the moment."

"We came from all over the Eastern Seaboard to be here today," said Jane Carter, a classical studies professor. "We thought we had permission." She said the group — coming from Chicago, Boston and Austin, Texas — had called Monday for passes and received them.

Carter, who is working as a visiting professor in Austin, said the students she has talked to are eager to return in winter. One told her, "I'm coming back to campus next term," she said.

• • • • • •

Bruce Hamilton contributed to this report.

Steve Ritea can be reached at sritea@hotmail.com

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# Where bayou lives were built, only bayou remains

## *Brutal Rita stripped away La. marsh towns*

**By Manuel Roig-Franzia**
The Washington Post

It's gone. Plain gone.

That's what they'll say when they finally get in, when the people who love Louisiana's bayous and marshes get into the towns where hardly anyone can go now.

That's what they'll say when they get to Holly Beach, where a forest of stilts is all Hurricane Rita left of a resort town that once had houses stacked six-deep up to the sand. That's what they'll say in whole neighborhoods of Cameron and Grand Chenier and Oak Grove and the other little towns where there was much more to life than the hunting and fishing that made these places diamonds to sportsmen; there were also churches and schools and offices and homes.

At its worst, Rita behaved like a viciously effective bulldozer, scraping away everything it met, scraping away places such as Holly Beach. The full scope of the storm's brutality can be comprehended only from the air, and from the air the images are heartbreaking: 200 miles of Louisiana coastal life broken apart or left to steep in the brownest, dankest water imaginable. The destruction stretches west from the wobbly levees that flooded New Orleans for a second time to the shattered levee whose waters submerged more than 10,000 homes near Houma; westward along the coast, where the lowest-lying parts of Louisiana were wrecked; and inland to Lake Charles, a major city so battered that each highway exit is blocked to keep residents out.

Row after row of gray foundations — laid out like tombstones in a monster-size graveyard — are the only clues that some coastal neighborhoods, some towns, once existed. In other places, subdivisions are ringed by moats and houses are transformed into islands. Cows push against one another for comfort on tiny patches of dry land in deep bayou-country pastures, stranded three football fields of water away from the high road. Their determined human keepers patrol by horseback, hoping to save a few, while elsewhere the most intrepid residents float flatboats up to their roofs and hack through, hoping to salvage something.

On the ground, the scene is a still life. Most of the bayou towns are empty; even repair crews cannot get in. And in the places where people have managed to cajole or sneak or power their way in, the plastering that Rita administered is so complete that there is seldom anything to do but stand in awe. They would clean up if there were something there to clean up. But there isn't.

"It's hard to believe what water can do," Jerry Melancon said, standing on the empty ground where his dream pad used to be in Pecan Island, below the expanse of White Lake. "Unbelievable."

Looking down from above, it's clear what functions in Louisiana and what doesn't. The places where the marsh — run through with brilliant patches of orange amid seas of browns and green — was allowed to thrive without development are vibrant. The marsh wears a storm well, wrapping water around it like a shawl, guzzling the excess. But the places where people pushed themselves into the marsh — where houses and businesses sprouted in place of marsh grass and lilies — are apocalyptic, smashed and eerie zones where the few things left standing are in tatters.



PHOTO BY SARAH L. VOISIN/WASHINGTON POST

Arriving by flatboat, Pecan Island residents try to salvage belongings by hacking through the roof . Hurricane Rita decimated Louisiana's bayou towns, blowing away home after home and flooding what remained.

The coastal carnage begins as far east as Houma — a Terrebonne Parish town devastated by the loss on a single day earlier this year of six local National Guardsmen in Iraq. Now the town must endure the fallibility of its outer levee, where concrete flood walls that once topped an earthen mound now lie in deep water, tossed aside like dominoes by storm surge that burst through, forcing the evacuation of a hospital.

To the west, upriver in Vermilion Parish, the little Cajun towns are underwater. Erath and Delcambre are still filled with the water that consumed half their houses. In Erath, a police sport-utility vehicle is tipped onto its side in a roadside ditch. If the police couldn't navigate the streets, who could?

At the sunken bottom of the parish, boats glide into the town of Pecan Island. Down below on the soggy soil, Melancon and his friends watch crabs and shrimp flitting through the high water that covers what once was open ground behind their houses. "That," said Jackie Abshire, first pointing at the salty water behind his house, then at the Gulf 200 yards away, "used to be over there."

But no place is worse than Cameron, a town of 1,900 clinging to a narrow strip of land between Calcasieu Lake and the Gulf of Mexico. Rita came ashore just west of Cameron, exposing the town that once advertised its "Cajun cabins" to the most ferocious winds a hurricane carries, the winds in its northeast quadrant.

Rita abused Cameron's dead as much as its living. The town cemetery is macabre. Coffins float in fetid water, mausoleums are in shards, and human bones lie blanching in the sunlight next to disintegrating burial vestments. Not far away, a church sags beneath a steeple that once pointed to the skies. It points west now, almost accusatorily, to the place where Rita came ashore.

From above, the town's amphitheater appears to have transformed into a convertible, its roof stripped off, exposing the bright-red seats where people once sat for school and community events. Cameron had been poised to become a big thing, a really big thing. When Hurricane Katrina pounded the port in New Orleans, the people in Cameron thought their own little port would pick up a lot of the business, which would have meant millions. "Now it's all headed to Texas," said Billy Gibson, an electrical cooperative representative who was one of the few people on the ground there Tuesday.

Gibson let out a laugh, a sad kind of laugh, when the conversation snaked around to getting Cameron lighted again. "There's nothing salvageable here," he said.

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- Power has been restored to the French Quarter, the Central Business District and Algiers Point.
- Power is expected to be restored by Friday to a portion of Uptown bounded by St. Charles Avenue south to the Mississippi River, and South Carrollton Avenue east to Market Street.

## POSTAL SERVICE
- Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
- For harder hit Plaquemines Parish, the postal servicewill dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse where residents can pick up their mail.
- Services are already up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened and partial delivery began last week for zip codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- Beginning Monday, residents of Algiers and business owners in the French Quarter, Uptown, the Central Business District and Algiers were allowed to return to do inspections and clean up. Other areas of the city remain under mandatory evacuation until further notice.
- There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
- Sewer system is working on the west bank and in the French Quarter and the Central Business District
- Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital, Oshsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at the Ernest A. Morial Convention Center and Kindred Hospital
- Health Department must evaluate before all food establishments can re-open for service
- In most areas, the 911 system will be operational by Friday

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Parish is open
- 911 phone system is back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Parish officials said Tuesday the parish had recorded its 100th storm related death.
- As of today, all areas of the parish were to have been re-opened. Residents will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dawn to dusk curfew also is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities are working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities are working

## SCHOOL OPENINGS
**ORLEANS PARISH**
- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
- Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country

**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date for some schools
- Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call (225) 819-2846 to register
- Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3
- John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge to open Sept. 26

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date
- Catholic: Several schools already open. Our Lady of the Lake in Mandeville opened Monday.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen the Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. New students should register in person at Belle Chasse Primary School, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Public: Open
- Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin this week.
- Catholic: Open.

## FOR HELP
- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA
  15 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. For more information, log onto www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362.
- Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Drs. Guzzetta, Decorte and Sassard
504-885-4833

ST. CHARLES PARISH HOSPITAL

*With so many uncertainties following the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, your healthcare shouldn't be one of them.*

*Our physicians are here to meet the medical needs of you and your family.*

**St. Charles Parish Hospital Medical Offices Serving the East and West Bank**

**1057 Paul Maillard Road • Luling**

***Dermatology*** ....985-785-5610
Douglas Koppel, M.D.

***Ear, Nose & Throat*** ....985-785-5610
Russell Cecola, M.D.

***General Surgery/Thoracic-Vascular Surgery*** ....985-785-2218
W. Kenneth Mann, Jr., D.D.S., M.D.

***General Surgery*** ....985-785-4260
R. Alexander Wynn, M.D.

***Gynecology*** ....985-785-9910
Robert Deck, M.D.

***Internal Medicine*** ....985-785-5610
Sujata Chava, M.D.
Kiran Chava, M.D.

***Neurology*** ....985-785-3701
L. Jay Turkewitz, M.D.

***Oncology*** ....985-785-5610
James Ellis, M.D.
John Kennedy, M.D.

***Podiatry*** ....985-785-5610
Yacara Tabb, M.D.

***Psychology*** ....985-785-8200
Diane C. Kilpatrick, Ph.D.

***Thoracic/Vascular Surgery*** ....985-785-5610
Henry Pretus, M.D.

***Urology*** ....985-785-5620
Brian Brogle, M.D.
Stephen LaCour, M.D.

**105 Plantation Road • Destrehan**

***Gynecology*** ....985-764-2316
John Guillory, M.D.

***Internal Medicine*** ....985-764-3051
Sujata Chava, M.D.
Kiran Chava, M.D.

***Orthopedics*** ....985-764-3001
John Burvant, M.D.
Charles Hadad, M.D.
Kurt J. Kitziger, M.D.
John R. Montz, M.D.
Jeffrey J. Sketchler, M.D.

**Affiliated Medical Offices**

***Cardiology/Internal Medicine***
C. Jayakrishnan, M.D.
853 Milling Ave.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-2045
12604 River Rd.
Destrehan, LA 70047 ....985-764-0439

***Dermatology***
William Burroughs, M.D.
126 Post Dr.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-6204

***General Adult Medicine***
Monica V. Benson, M.D.
126 Post Dr.
Luling, La 70070 ....985-785-6204

***Nephrology/Internal Medicine***
V. N. Devarajan, M.D.
853 Milling Ave.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-2045
12604 River Rd.
Destrehan, LA 70047 ....985-764-0439

***Ophthalmology***
W. Lee Terrell, M.D.
910 Paul Maillard Rd.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-8444

Ronald Aslett, M.D.
Philip Kurica, M.D.
425 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. D
LaPlace, LA 70069 ....985-652-6066

***Orthopedics***
Walter H. Brent, M.D.
Ralph Gessner, M.D.
625 Paul Maillard Rd.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-1060

***Pediatrics***
Neela J. Shukla, M.D.
1019 Paul Maillard Rd.
Luling, LA 70070 ....985-785-9881

Edattukaran Stanley, M.D.
#3 Storehouse Lane, Ste. B
Destrehan, LA 70047 ....985-764-6556

**St. Charles Community Health Care**

**843 Milling Ave • Luling**

***Family Practice*** ....985-785-2314
Kevin Joseph, M.D.
Juan Fukuda, M.D.
Sudha Mardia, M.D.

***Pediatrics*** ....985-785-2314
Kelly Davillier, M.D.
Bahram Sadeghpour, M.D.

**St. Charles Parish Hospital Based Physicians**

***Anesthesiology***
Manjit Wadhwa, M.D.
Mohinder Oberoi, M.D.
Firas Hijazi, M.D.

***Emergency Medicine***
Brent Giuffre, M.D.
Cris Mandry, M.D.

***Psychiatry***
Erik Whitfield, M.D.

***Radiology***
Martin A. Belanger, M.D.
David Johnson, M.D.

*Heals like Home*

nola.com
Check out nola.com for full coverage from **The Times-Picayune**

# STATUS REPORT Many New Orleans neighborhoods still lacking basic services

## CITYWIDE

▶ Algiers residents and business owners, along with business owners in the French Quarter, Central Business District and Uptown, may enter the city.

▶ The mandatory evacuation order remains in effect for other parts of New Orleans.

▶ All federal, state and local agencies, including authorized nonprofit service agencies, will receive yellow access placards Contractors and subcontractors employed by public service agencies will have purple access placards.

▶ Red Cross has set up feeding and bulk distribution of water and ice in Algiers at Cut-Off Playground and at Fox Playground.

▶ 911: New system fully operational Sept 26

▶ Contractors will be credentialed at 601 Loyola Ave. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

▶ About 536 food establishments have been inspected and approved. Three more food permits were issued in Algiers ZIP codes 70114 and 70130. Inspections continue this week with the local staff and FDA assistance. Open restaurants with bright pink posters in the windows have been deemed safe by health and safety inspectors.

▶ For defective equipment concerning electronic food stamp device, business owners should call (800) 230-0179.

**Schools**

▶ Because schools will be out of service for the foreseeable future, parents should enroll their children in schools outside Orleans Parish.

**Housing**

▶ The Army Corps of Engineers, as part of its FEMA-assigned mission of providing temporary repairs to roofs damaged by Hurricane Katrina, has a toll-free number for affected victims to call for information: 1 (888) ROOF-BLU (766-3258).

▶ For the latest information on locations, dates and hours to sign a right of entry, please call. If residents qualify, corps contractors will install the temporary roof covering at no cost.

**City employees**

▶ New Orleans city employees received direct deposit payments as usual Sept. 2 and 16. Payroll cards will be sent to employees who normally receive a paper check; however, employees must call (866) 795-2427 to register for the cards.

▶ In addition, New Orleans city employees are being asked to register with a tracking service by calling (877) 751-2415. Sewerage & Water Board employees are asked to call (877) 863-9405.

## OVERVIEW BY ZIP CODE

### 70114

**Sewer:** Operational
**Water:** Never interrupted
**Trash/debris:** Household garbage pickup initiated
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 50 percent; temporary stop signs, 100 percent; limited bus service anticipated soon; some gas stations open
**Medical:** West Jefferson Medical Center open; Touro Infirmary: Work in progress. Algiers/Fischer and Ida Hymel clinics opened Sept. 19. Kindred Hospital open for immunizations and some emergency care
**Fire:** Fire coverage from three fire stations
**Housing/building inspection:** Assembled four teams

### 70131

**Sewer:** Operational.
**Water:** Never interrupted
**Trash/debris:** Household garbage pick-up in progress
**Transportation:** Roads inspected 100 percent; signals operational 50 percent; temporary stop signs 100 percent; limited bus service anticipated soon; some gas stations open
**Medical:** West Jefferson Medical Center open; Touro Infirmary: Work in progress. Algiers/Fischer and Ida Hymel clinics opened Sept. 19. Kindred Hospital open for immunizations and some emergency care.
**Fire:** Fire coverage from one fire station (Woodland)
**Housing/building inspection:** Assembled four teams

### 70115 and 70118

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water to be used for fire protection only
**Electricity:** Power supply is operative from St. Charles Avenue to the Mississippi River
**Gas:** Working on water removal from low pressure gas system
**Trash/debris:** Household garbage pickup not started
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 75 percent; Signals operational 0 percent; Temporary stop signs 50 percent; No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch basin cleaning, 10 percent; Storm Sewer Assessment zero percent
**Sewer:** Storm sewer operations, TBD
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Fire:** Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection:** began Sept. 27

### 70116

**Sewer:** Operative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only
**Electricity:** Power supply is operative
**Gas:** Working on water removal from low pressure gas system
**Trash/debris:** Household garbage pickup not started
**Transportation:** Roads inspected 100 percent; signals operational, 0 percent; temporary stop signs 100 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 0 percent; storm sewer assessment, 0 percent; storm sewer operations, TBD
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Fire:** Low water pressure
Housing/building inspection: In progress

### 70112

**Sewer:** CBD is operative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only
**Electricity:** Working out user detail and process with S&P
**Gas:** Working on water removal from low pressure gas system
**Trash/debris:** Incidental debris removal
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 5 percent; temporary stop signs, 75 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 10 percent; storm sewer assessment, 0 percent; storm sewer operations, TBD
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Fire:** Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection:** began Sept. 27

### 70113

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only
**Electricity:** Waiting on results from assessment
**Gas:** Working on water removal from low pressure gas system.
**Trash/debris:** In progress
Transportation: Roads passable; signals inoperative; temporary signage in place; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 10 percent; storm sewer assessment 0 percent, storm sewer operations 0 percent
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Fire:** Low water pressure
Housing/building inspection: completed

### 70130

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only; 52 days until potable water
**Electricity:** Working out user detail and process with Safety and Permit
**Trash/debris:** In progress
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 5 percent; temporary stop signs, 50 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 0 percent; storm sewer assessment, 0 percent; storm sewer operations
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Fire:** Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection:** Complete: placards placed on 200 unsafe structures

### 70124

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only no potable water
**Electricity:** Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas:** Assessment complete, system 70 percent secure
**Debris:** In progress
**EMS:** Green with Mutual Aid
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 10 percent; signals operational, 0 percent; temporary stop signs, 0 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire:** Delgado to be partially in place in about one week
**Housing/building inspection:** In progress

### 70125

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only 52 days until potable water
**Electricity:** Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas:** Complete; system 90 percent secure
**Debris:** In progress
**EMS:** Green with mutual aid
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Transportation:** Roads inspected, 25 percent; signals operational, 0 percent; temporary stop signs, 0 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire:** Low water pressure; delayed response
**Housing/building inspection:** Began Sept. 2

### 70119, 70122

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only;not potable
**Electricity:** Assessment 75 percent complete
**Gas:** Assessment 100 percent complete
**Debris:** In progress
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Transportation:** Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage yet in place. no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire:** No water pressure
**Housing/building inspection:** In progress

### 70126, 70127, 70128

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only ñ not potable
**Electricity:** Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas:** Assessment 100 percent complete
**Debris:** In progress
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Transportation:** Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage yet in place. no bus service; no gas stations open
**Housing/building inspection:** In progress

### 70129 and 70117

**Sewer:** Inoperative
**Water:** Water for fire protection only; not potable
**Electricity:** Assessment complete
**Gas:** Assessment secure
**Debris:** In progress
**Medical:** East Jefferson, Ochsner and West Jefferson hospitals open; Touro emergency room, in progress; Convention Center and Kindred open for immunizations and emergency care
**Transportation:** Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage in place. no bus service; no gas stations open
**Housing/building inspection:** In progress

### 70148

▶ UNO Lakefront Arena status the same as ZIP code 70122

▶ No bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 10 percent

# 'Algiers is alive and well and breathing'

**RETURN,** *from A-1*

phase 3 areas, Nagin said.

Nagin cautioned that if a home in any area is uninhabitable, the resident must leave the city by sunset. The city has posted red stickers on homes that inspectors say pose a structural hazard. Nagin recommended that residents not try to enter homes that have been marked with a red sticker.

He said some homes are damaged and that people who return do so "at your own risk." He advised residents to be especially cautious about access to upper floors of homes if they have been damaged.

The mayor said the city's reentry plan for the West Bank, which started Monday, is going well.

"Algiers is alive and well and breathing," Nagin said.

## Conditions primitive

Power is on in 75 percent to 85 percent of the targeted ZIP codes, Nagin said. Water on the east bank must be boiled before drinking, and Nagin suggested people drink bottled water. Nagin said people could shower in the water on the east bank, but Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Fred Cerise, who spoke at the meeting, recommended that people use bottled or boiled water for showers and washing dishes.

Residents who return should run their hot and cold water faucets for 15 minutes to clear the pipes. The water temporarily might have a chlorine odor, Nagin said, because the Orleans Parish Sewerage & Water Board has added disinfectant.

New Orleans School Board President Torin Sanders, who spoke at the meeting, set a Nov. 1 target date to reopen nine schools on the West Bank and said some schools Uptown might also open around that time if enough students return to make it necessary. "That's what we're shooting for," Sanders said.

Nagin's comments came as Cerise warned in a news release that those who return to the east bank of New Orleans are doing so at their own risk. "The two things that are absolutely necessary to public health – clean drinking water and proper sewage systems – simply are not available in the east bank area of New Orleans at this time," he said in the new release.

The release, which warned that returnees are at risk of diseases such as E. coli, salmonella or diarrhea, infuriated legislators who said displaced residents are getting mixed messages from authorities about whether it's safe to return.

"Either get on board or get off," state Sen. Derrick Shepherd, D-Marrero, told Cerise, echoing several of his colleagues.

Nagin accused state officials of trying to put a negative spin on New Orleans while being more positive about other parishes in storm-damaged areas.

"Every time we talk about re-entry into the city, some official pops up and says we're not ready," Nagin said. "We are not rowing in the same direction in the same boat."

## 'At your own risk'

Cerise, who was not originally scheduled to testify but was asked to come to the meeting and clarify his remarks, said he simply wanted returning residents to take proper precautions until the water has been deemed safe.

"We don't recommend people washing dishes, washing their hands (with tap water)," he said. "If it's on your hands, there's still a risk there."

Although Cerise said many healthy adults could bathe or wash dishes in the contaminated water without getting sick, he advised residents to boil water or treat it with bleach before using it to wash. All officials agreed that residents should drink only bottled water until the tap water has been decontaminated.

The Health and Hospitals document was nearly identical in tone and message to a news release posted Wednesday on the city's official Web site, in which returning residents are warned that they are "entering the city of New Orleans at your own risk," because "there are still many health and safety issues."

Farther down, the city's news release warns east bank residents against drinking, bathing or washing one's hands in untreated tap water.

• • • • • •

Jan Moller contributed to this report.

# Hot damn! Sauce plant doesn't flood

**By The Associated Press**

AVERY ISLAND — On a salt dome that rises from the Cajun flatlands like an island from the sea, the plant that makes Tabasco sauce was safe from floods caused by Hurricane Rita. And it had enough stock on hand to ship out until the factory regained power.

Many of its workers weren't so lucky.

"We've got a lot of employees that live in Delcambre and Erath and Lydia and low-lying areas around Avery Island," Paul McIlhenny, chief executive of McIlhenny Co., said Wednesday.

Their houses flooded, so the company is trying to find them rooms in New Iberia and Lafayette — sometimes hotel rooms, sometimes rooms in someone's house.

Power had been out since Friday night, when the storm was still offshore.

"I don't think the flow of Tabasco sauce will be interrupted because we had a good supply on hand," McIlhenny said.

It was the company's second hit by a hurricane. "We had a kind of double whammy," McIlhenny said.

Hurricane Katrina did wind damage to the company's office and museum in a part of New Orleans still under evacuation orders. The bricks recently had been re-mortared, and appeared to have held up under the storm. People apparently broke in to take shelter, but there was little other damage, McIlhenny said.

Eight or nine New Orleans workers and their spouses were working and living at Avery Island when Rita hit.




The Times-Picayune

## OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF KENNER

CITY OF KENNER LEGALS

### Kenner City Officials

**Mayor**
Philip Capitano

**Council President**
John T. Lavarine III
**Council Members**
At-Large: Dominic O Weilbeaecher
District 1: Marc E. Johnson
District 2: Michael McMyne
District 3: Jeannie M. Black
District 4: Michele P. Branigan
District 5: Kent Denapolis
**Chief of Police**
Nick A. Congemi

**Justice of the Peace**
District 6: Kevin Centanni

**City Hall**
1801 Williams Blvd.
Kenner, LA 70062
Telephone (504) 468-7200

**Kenner Police**
500 Veterans Blvd.
Kenner, LA 70062
Telephone (504) 712-2200

On joint motion by all Councilmembers present, the following ordinances/resolutions were introduced in summary for publication and public hearing(s) to be held on October 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the Clerk of the Council between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Holidays excepted.

Summary Ordinance No. 10,094, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2427, more particularly amending Article 20.04, Supplementary Use Regulations, by including the use of temporary buildings, trailers and storage containers. Z-6-05

Summary Ordinance No. 10,095, an ordinance adding Section 14.03, Paragraph (40) to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow food processing, not to exceed 25,000 square feet, in a S-I, Special Industrial Zoning District on approval of the City Council per Section 23.02 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Z-7-05

Posted on September 21, 2005

The Council for the City of Kenner, Louisiana, met in regular session on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 4:25 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Kenner City Hall, 1801 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana, with the following results:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John T. Lavarine, III | Council President | Present |
| Dominic O. Weilbaecher | Councilman at Large, Div. B | Present |
| Marc E. Johnson | Councilmember, District 1 | Present |
| Michael McMyne | Councilmember, District 2 | Present |
| Jeannie M. Black | Councilmember District 3 | Present |
| Michele P. Branigan | Councilmember District 4 | Present |
| Kent Denapolis | Councilmember, District 5 | Present |
| Michelle Sheeren | Clerk of the Council | Present |
| Ann Cardwell | Assistant Council Clerk | Present |

* * *

After the meeting had been called to order with the above results, pursuant to motions duly made and carried, the following ordinances, resolutions and ordinance(s)/resolution(s) in summary were adopted:

# City Council requires information on rebuilding contracts

## *Officials want priority given to local firms*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Hoping to keep close eye tabs on how New Orleans spends what may be billions of dollars in post-Katrina federal and state aid, the City Council wants Mayor Ray Nagin's administration to require contractors to disclose the identities of everyone sharing in the profits, down to the penny.

Under a proposal approved late Tuesday night by council members, companies hired to participate in a massive recovery effort likely to last years would have to certify by affidavit all individuals and entities with a financial interest in the contracts "no matter how minimal."

The disclosure information being sought includes "subcontractors, consultants and finder's fees billed, paid or promised in furtherance of landing a contract."

The guidelines, spelled out in a resolution that does not have the force of law, would require certification of firms handling the work before a contract can be executed.

While provisions of the City Charter give the council the authority to conduct after-the-fact investigations into how municipal contracts are handed out, the executive branch would have to enforce the recommended disclosure procedures.

Administration officials said Wednesday that they will supply the council with a list of all contractors. But they said they were not certain whether they can provide the level of detail being requested as the city struggles to recover from the disaster.

With the eyes of the nation fixed firmly on a city preparing to partner with the federal government in an unprecedented rebuilding program, officials across the region have said that the process must be scandal-free.

In the resolution authored by Eddie Sapir, the council echoed that sentiment, saying "it is of vital importance to the citizens of New Orleans to maintain integrity in the process of distributing contracts, and such integrity is best achieved by promoting a transparent process."

In addition to ensuring accountability, council members said, the disclosure requirements will help track how much of the rebuilding money goes to Louisiana firms and individuals.

During a series of meetings Tuesday that lasted more than 10 hours, local participation in the recovery from the devastation wrought by Katrina was a dominant theme.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Treme activist Dyan French Cole and prominent businessmen including John Casbon and Erik Johnsen urged the council to recycle as much of the financial assistance as possible inside the region.

"The world is watching New Orleans," said Jackson, who read from recent newspaper accounts that the federal government had hired a Danish company to prepare food for relief workers and that large American conglomerates were earning significantly higher fees to remove storm debris than small local firms.

"Disaster survivors should have the preference to return here," Jackson said "And they should have the preference on jobs, job training and contracts."

During an emotional, profanity-laced tirade, Cole, a fixture at council meetings for years, berated local law enforcement officials and the military for forcibly removing her from her neighborhood, where she said she oversaw her own private relief effort.

Cole also said she was aghast that workers who she described as "illegal aliens" had been brought in to New Orleans to assist in the hurricane cleanup even as residents were being prevented from returning. "Why aren't able-bodied black men being allowed back in the city to rebuild their homes?" she asked.

Council President Oliver Thomas urged Nagin administration officials to go the extra mile to funnel federal and state dollars to local companies and workers.

Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield said Nagin has been emphatic with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers about the importance of hiring local vendors and contractors, "because they know our city."

But because the city is scrambling to replace big-ticket items such as garbage trucks and firetrucks, it is sometimes forced to make purchases from companies outside the region, officials said.

"This is equipment we need desperately," said Chief Deputy City Attorney Evelyn Pugh. "And we can't get that locally."


# Important information from Entergy as you return home.



## Entergy New Orleans Electric Customers

Wind, rain and flood damage to homes and businesses from Hurricane Katrina will likely prohibit customers from receiving power from Entergy despite our success in restoring the electric distribution system.

**Electric Customers with Property Damage - You May Need a Licensed Electrician**
If your property has any water damage, please turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician for advice when necessary. Don't step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker.

A licensed electrician may need to inspect your property's electric wiring before Entergy can restore power to a home or business which has water damage from rain or flood waters.

**Please do the following:**
**1) Have repairs made by a licensed plumber**
**2) Have repairs certified by a city inspector**
**3) Call Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) when the repairs are completed**

**Electric Customers without Property Damage**
Property owners without hurricane damage should still be cautious. Look for electrical system damage once power is restored. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or the smell of hot insulation is noticeable, turn off the electricity at either the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician for advice when necessary. Don't step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker.

Restoration crews have been working to repair the infrastructure of the electrical distribution system in order to be prepared to provide power to customers once their property is safely able to receive our services.

## IF YOUR NATURAL GAS IS TURNED OFF, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, LEAVE IT OFF

***If you have pipe damage, you'll need a licensed plumber***



## Entergy New Orleans Gas Customers

To help ensure your personal safety and the safety of your property, Entergy has likely turned your natural gas service off. Please do not attempt to turn it on yourself. This could cause a safety hazard for you and your property.

If your home was flooded or sustained structural damage, you should contact a licensed plumber to inspect gas piping and make repairs.

**Please do the following:**
**1) Have repairs made by a licensed plumber**
**2) Have repairs certified by a city inspector**
**3) Call Entergy at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) when the repairs are completed**

We will arrange to have gas service turned on at your home as soon as you have had a certified plumber and city inspector confirm that gas service is safe to turn on. Someone must be present for your gas to be turned on.

**SAFETY REMINDER**
If you smell gas at your home or in any other building, you should leave the area immediately and go to a safe area and call us at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) to report the location of the suspected leak.

If you see a downed power line, please call Entergy immediately at 1-800-ENTERGY.

For more important safety information – go to www.entergy.com and click on Returning Home Safely.

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THE POWER OF PEOPLE℠

# Pollution limits eased as refineries restart

*Some plants were shut as much as two weeks*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

In a move intended to restore gasoline production in the wake of Hurricane Katrina-related shutdowns, three St. Charles Parish refineries were granted permission to disregard certain emissions standards for the month of September, according to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

The Norco refineries asked the state to ease emissions standards limiting the amount of pollution released into the air. The variances came at a time when energy analysts feared that the refinery shutdowns would result in gasoline shortages and soaring prices at the pump.

Most variances will remain in effect through Friday, said Chris Roberie, an air quality administrator with the DEQ.

While emissions ramped up once the refineries regained full operation, Roberie said that the area likely saw an overall net decrease in monthly emissions due to the fact that some plants had shut down entirely for up to two weeks.

"We don't anticipate any major emissions or air quality problems as a result," he said of the variances.

Valero Norco Refinery applied for emissions waivers to allow for increased flaring that came as part of the start-up sequence, said Valero spokesman Ron Guillory.

Rob Martin, Valero's environmental engineering manager, said that the increase in emissions for the month of September represents less than 3 percent of the total emissions produced by the refinery in a year.

Motiva St. Charles Refining and Shell Chemical requested waivers to allow for start-up flares as well, Roberie said.

Flaring allows refineries to burn off excess fuel. Motiva has a 240,000 barrel-per-day capacity; Valero Norco Refinery has a 260,000 barrel-per-day capacity.

Additionally, Motiva requested permission to vent vapors into the atmosphere while loading fuel into vessels, which expedites the loading process, Roberie said. Motiva also received authorization to empty fuel storage tanks, allowing more gasoline to be distributed and resulting in increased emissions, he said.

The DEQ could not specify the extent of the emissions increases at the Motiva and Shell plants.

In St. John the Baptist Parish, Marathon Petroleum's Garyville plant, which produces 245,000 barrels per day, did not submit requests for emissions variances, according to the DEQ.

"We started up with no problem," said Linda Casey, a Marathon spokeswoman. "We were back up and running by the end of the weekend, when the hurricane had passed."

# St. John tries to pave way for parish welcome wagon

*Meeting to focus on housing storm victims*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council will hold a public workshop and special meeting today in an effort to create a comprehensive plan for temporary housing for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The decision to hold the workshop and special meeting came during the council's regular council meeting Tuesday. The move came after almost an hour of discussion among council members and residents about what the parish has done to help individuals stranded by the storms and whether the parish has a workable plan for providing housing.

The workshop and meeting, which will be open to the public, are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at the Percy Hebert building in LaPlace.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has contacted several parishes about hosting storm victims in temporary housing, and it held a meeting this month to discuss those plans. The agency has said it wants to put temporary housing only in communities that welcome the idea and have the infrastructure to handle the new structures, said Natalie Robottom, St. John Parish's chief administrator. Although FEMA can build new infrastructure to handle temporary housing, it would prefer not to, she said.

On Tuesday, Councilman Richard "Dale" Wolfe and a resident chastised Parish President Nickie Monica for not doing more to provide housing for the estimated 15,000 displaced people now living in the parish.

Wolfe and Raydell Morris of Reserve said Monica has been unfairly selective in who he allows to place travel trailers or mobile homes on their property. Wolfe also criticized the council, including himself, for not being more involved in finding housing for evacuees.

Wolfe complained that the parish administration has met with FEMA officials about temporary housing in the parish but did not notify council members about the meeting.

"We should know what's going on, but we don't," Wolfe said. "Administration has ignored us to the hilt."

Robottom bristled at comments that the council was not invited to the FEMA meeting, noting that Council Chairman Cleveland Farlough attended the meeting. Robottom also said the parish has not made any secret plans with FEMA and only has provided the agency with a map of the parish that shows which areas allow mobile homes.

"I've had one visit from two FEMA representatives, and they have not come back," Robottom said.

On Sept. 23, Monica issued an executive order relaxing restrictions on using travel trailers to house industrial, commercial and construction workers. The move was an effort to jump-start St. John's economy and help other parishes. In addition, the executive order allowed the placement of travel trailers on private property on any residential lot on a non-rental basis with the receipt of a special permit from the parish.

Such permits will be valid for three months with an option for an additional year. The housing units are required to have their own sewage containment and disposal capabilities. The permits will be issued through Oct. 7, according to the executive order.

The executive order did not allow for more permanent mobile homes to be placed on property unless residents went through the parish's formal permitting process with the Planning and Zoning Board. In addition, mobile homes are allowed only in specially zoned areas of the parish unless there is a zoning variance.

Morris, who is a member of the St. John Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners, said FEMA has approached the housing authority about renovating some of its units and also placing travel trailer on some of its property. However, he said those efforts have been thwarted because they have had to stick to the parish's normal zoning process, while other trailers have been placed without the need for formal approval by the council. Morris said that if Monica is making exceptions for some people, he needs to make exceptions for all residents.

However, Robottom said, the administration has applied the guidelines of the executive order evenly to all residents, and the only dispute seems to be attached to whether mobile homes should be approved without the regular zoning process. Robottom said the administration is willing to allow mobile homes in properly zoned areas and is working to expedite all requests.

# Planetarium first of attractions to reopen in historic Rivertown

*Other museums still need major repairs*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

While most museums in Kenner's historic Rivertown need major repairs before they can reopen, the popular Louis J. Roussel Planetarium could open next week, officials said.

"We're on target to possibly reopen the planetarium within a week," said Phil Ramon, chief of staff for Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano. "The new show is called ëDolphins.' "

The planetarium building suffered one minor leak and possible damage to the projection equipment, possibly from the hot, humid conditions while power was out, but "fared best of all the buildings," Ramon said.

Most buildings received roof damage and flooding. For example, the roof caved in on the KTV, Kenner's cable television station, located in the Wildlife and Fisheries building, Ramon said.

"We've got the roof put on but we don't know how much damage was actually done," Ramon said. "Water was just pouring down. A lot of things are just going to have to be rebuilt."

Wind whipped the Cannes Brulees Indian Village, stripping a tepee and an artists' shack. Nearby, a wall of bricks fell at the Freeport McMoRan Daily Living Science Center, flooding the entire science museum and the Saints Hall of Fame.

Ramon didn't have an estimate of when the most heavily damaged buildings would reopen. "Some of them will need some major (repair)," Ramon said.

The 23 or 24 city employees who worked in Rivertown museums have been reassigned to storm-related jobs ranging from handling the overflow of telephone calls to doling out goods at the city's hurricane-relief distribution center at Woodward gym, Ramon said.

"We're doing everything to keep our employees and utilize them in the most productive manner in an effort to have our community return to the way it was," Ramon said.

The same is true in other departments. For instance, about 10 recreation employees have been reassigned to public works to help with grass-cutting or debris removal.

Kenner spokeswoman Karen Boudrie said officials would like the city to hold a Halloween event in Rivertown.

"I bet we can pull that off," Boudrie said, adding that the feature would be good for children who can't go house to house because of work on their homes or other difficulties. "It just might be the one thing we can do."

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The Times-Picayune

MONEY

PAGE A-22
Thursday
September 29, 2005

# State Farm customers angry over change

*Company now applying deductible to checks*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

Franki LaRocca didn't waste any time. The Metairie resident, who has been living in Houston since she was forced to evacuate four weeks ago, called her State Farm agent the day after Hurricane Katrina clobbered the New Orleans area on Aug. 29.

At first, she was delighted by what the insurer had to tell her. Because civil authorities ordered the evacuation, she said, State Farm offered to cut her a check for $2,500 to help cover the family's living expenses for 14 days. But between work and lining up a new school for her 16-year-old son, LaRocca wasn't able to make it to a State Farm office until this week. By then, she said, the offer had been retracted.

"I am totally floored," said LaRocca, whose home sustained no flood or wind damage. "It's like because we have a home to return to that this company is changing the way they're responding. It shouldn't be that way."

LaRocca isn't the only State Farm customer scratching her head these days. Though the company shelled out $225 million to its policyholders for living expenses immediately following the catastrophic storm, the rules for handing out that kind of assistance have changed, State Farm spokesman Dick Luedke said Wednesday.

Previously, the company was willing to relax its rules for living expenses, which means State Farm did not apply its standard deductible to the $2,500 checks it sent to about 90,000 policyholders in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Customers also were told that they didn't have to provide receipts or return any unspent cash as long as they don't seek any additional money from the company for Katrina-related expenses.

But any policyholder who was left out of the company's initial burst of largesse cannot expect such treatment. Any claims for living expenses now are subject to the standard deductible — which typically ranges from $1,000 to $2,000 — and receipts will be required for payment, Luedke said.

He said policyholders shouldn't be disappointed, as State Farm is simply abiding by the terms of its homeowners policy. He said this policy will apply to anyone who sought assistance for living expenses more than two weeks after the storm passed.

"We are sacrificing absolute uniformity in the application of the deductible, but we are still making sure that everybody gets — at the very least — what they are entitled to," Luedke said.

So why did State Farm treat the first wave of claims differently?

"We took this action in response to a horrific event at a time when the need among

*See* **INSURANCE,** *A-23*

# Hasty deal leads to $236 million cruise

*Lack of preparation is costly, critics say*

**By Jonathan Weisman**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On Sept. 1, as tens of thousands of desperate Louisianans packed the New Orleans Superdome and convention center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency pleaded with the U.S. Military Sealift Command: The government needed 10,000 berths on full-service cruise ships, FEMA said, and it needed the deal done by noon the next day.

The hasty appeal yielded one of the most controversial contracts of the Hurricane Katrina relief operation: a $236 million agreement with Carnival Cruise Lines for three ships that now bob more than half empty in the Mississippi River and Mobile Bay. The six-month contract — staunchly defended by Carnival but castigated by politicians from both parties — has come to exemplify the cost of haste that followed Katrina's strike and FEMA's lack of preparation.




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

St. Bernard Parish emergency officials gather on the slip beside the Scotia Prince, a ferry that landed one of four FEMA contracts for Hurricane Katrina housing. The ships have been housing many emergency workers, but many evacuee see them as a dead end, far away from any job or potential new life.

To critics, the price is exorbitant. If the ships were at capacity, with 7,116 evacuees, for six months, the price per evacuee would total $1,275 a week, according to calculations by aides to Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. A seven-day western Caribbean cruise out of Galveston can be had for $599 a person, and that would include entertainment and the cost of actually making the ship move.

Carnival's bid totaled $192 million over six months, plus $44 million in reimbursable expenses, such as port charges, fuel, food and docking costs. To Carnival executives, the contract will ensure only that the company breaks even when it pulls three ships from holiday operations. About 100,000 passengers had their vacations canceled to accommodate the government's needs, said Michael Crye, president of the International Council of Cruise Lines, who has been answering questions about the deal for Carnival.

``In the end, we will make no additional money on this deal versus what we would have made by keeping these ships in service," said Jennifer de la Cruz, a Carnival spokeswoman. ``That has been our position from the outset, and it has not changed."

Government contracting officials defended the deal. ``They were the market," Capt. Joe Manna, director of contracts at the Sealift Command, said of Carnival. ``Under the circumstances, I'd say we're getting a pretty good value."

Coburn and Obama disagreed. ``Finding out after the fact that we're spending taxpayer money on no-bid contracts and sweetheart deals for cruise lines is no way to run a recovery effort," they said in the statement.

But the Carnival deal has come under particular scrutiny. Not only are questions being raised over the contract's cost, but congressional investigators are examining the company's tax status. Carnival, which is headquartered in Miami but incorporated for tax purposes in Panama, paid just $3 million in income tax benefits on $1.9 billion in pretax income last year, according to company documents. ``That's not even a tip," said Robert McIntyre of Citizens for Tax Justice. U.S. companies in general pay an effective income tax rate of about 25 percent, analysts say. That would have left Carnival with a $475 million tax bill.

Carnival's public records boast ``that substantially all of our income in fiscal 2004, 2003 and 2002 ... is exempt from U.S. federal income taxes," largely because the company maintains that its operations are not in the United States but on the high seas.

Carnival does not want to see that tax status jeopardized just because three major ships are clearly operating in the United States.

Cruise line council President Crye said the company will reduce its billings under the contract by the amount of income taxes forgiven. The waiver would spare Carnival and its employees the paperwork of filing tax returns.

But Congress's main focus remains on cost and just how the Carnival contract came to pass. After a one-day competition, Sealift Command had bids from 13 ships, but only four of them met FEMA's requirements for providing accommodations, which included full meal service, between-meal snacks, linen and maid service, medical support, even prescription refills. Four ships — the Ecstasy, Sensation and Holiday, all owned by Carnival, as well as a ferry called the Scotia Prince — landed the contracts.

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Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we pray for a safe, expedient recovery from the devastation.

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MONEY

# Flooding freezes real estate deals in N.O.

## *Rescued records need to dry out*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

It's still impossible to close on a real estate transaction in Orleans Parish because mortgage and conveyance records remain in 18 refrigerated trucks outside the once-flooded basement of Civil District Court on Poydras Street.

But after rescuing and freeze-drying them from the flooded basement weeks ago and with experts assuring that the 12 million pages of documents are OK, the problem has been finding and establishing a place where the drying process can be completed and abstractors can access them to do the necessary research for the closing of real estate transactions.

Finally, according to New Orleans' Custodian of Archives Steven Bruno and Recorder of Mortgages Gasper Schiro, a temporary solution has been reached to establish temporary operations at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. That decision has been approved by Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Ethel Simms Julien.

Bruno said he hopes that by Oct. 10, the records should be open to the public. "By Oct. 10, the records, which are intact, will be out of boxes. It's going to be rough, but we're going to do our best to make these records available to the public," Bruno said.

Munters, a Swedish-based records restoration firm, rescued the documents from the basement of the 56-year-old courthouse, where the Recorder of Mortgages and Register of Conveyances have worked since 1951.

Gasper has sworn — and Wednesday, Chief Judge Simms Julien backed him up — that the records will never be returned to the basement of the courthouse.

While access will be made to the records at the Convention Center through the Julia Street entrance, a permanent deal is being sealed to locate both the Recorder of Mortgages and the Register of Conveyances to the fifth floor of 1340 Poydras St., the office tower opposite the courthouse. It was long known as the Amoco building. That move should remain in place until a new Civil District Court complex, long planned but a long way from fruition, happens, Julien said.

The critical need for re-establishing both offices, along with the restrictions on commerce caused by the unavailability of the records, was brought to the attention of New Orleans City Council members by John Casbon at the council's meeting Tuesday, the second meeting since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city.

Casbon said Wednesday that he told council members, who seemed unaware of the seriousness of the issue, "that you can't have commerce in this town until we have a conveyance office" in Orleans Parish.

He sharply criticized a preliminary plan to open a mortgage and conveyance intake office in Gonzales, where Civil District Court and Civil District Clerk of Court Dale Atkins will relocate. While the office would allow for filings, it would not have allowed for abstractors — the researchers who conduct title searches and check documents critical to land and property records — to do the necessary work to move a real estate deal to closing.

He said that Councilmen-at-large Eddie Sapir said council members were "clueless" to the critical need for the operation.

Casbon added that there were numerous pending real estate transactions in the city, from speculators looking to snap up properties to home buyers looking to replace flooded or wind-destroyed homes in hopes of returning to their city.

Casbon and Bruno said that they expected to be swamped once the offices are up and running and real estate transactions can be completed.

Meanwhile, land records and abstract work have continued operating in Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes, where courthouse operations were not affected by the storm.

Land records in River Parishes were unaffected by Hurricane Katrina.

In St. Bernard Parish, title attorney Sidney Torres III, whose mother is the long-time St. Bernard Parish Clerk of Court, said land records were moved from the basement of the St. Bernard Highway courthouse as the storm approached and secured on higher floors. Torres said his mother, Lena Torres, said that all St. Bernard Parish officials would meet today to discuss reopening government offices, including access to land records.

No word on the status of Plaquemines Parish land records was available late Wednesday.

Archivist Bruno said that he has told Munters to begin slowly warming the refrigeration trucks from their maintained 42 degrees, where workers have checked the books three times daily. The trucks contain 60,000 boxes holding 20,000 containers with two to three conveyance or mortgage inside books each. It will take three days to unload the trucks and shelving already ordered should arrive in time to allow access to the books. The books still need to sit in a climate-controlled atmosphere for a few days once offloaded to the Convention Center, Bruno said. Some of the documents will need "remediation," Munters officials told Bruno, but officials call the survival of the documents "a miracle."

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## Critics: Carnival getting special treatment

**INSURANCE,** *from A-22*

many of our policyholders was great," Luedke said. "I know there will be some cases where someone received more money than they were entitled to. But that is a business risk we decided to take."

With 33 percent of the market, State Farm is the largest provider of homeowners insurance in Louisiana. Based on a survey of other companies, it also appears to be the only major insurer in the state to apply the deductible to living expenses under the so-called civil authority clause, which was triggered when local officials ordered residents out of their homes and didn't let them immediately return.

At Allstate Insurance Co., which has about 20 percent of the Louisiana market, no deductible will apply to such payment requests, no matter when the claim was filed, Allstate spokesman Mike Trevino said.

"The timing doesn't matter; no deductible applies," Trevino said.

Such unequal treatment is infuriating many State Farm customers. In fact, some policyholders say State Farm agents warned that their deductible probably would offset any help they could get for living expenses, even if they contacted the company immediately after the storm passed.

"My deductible is $1,000, and my (State Farm) agent kind of convinced me not to file a claim," said Paul Perque, a LaPlace resident who spent about $1,200 to move his family to a hotel near Marksville for about 10 days. "They said these checks are for people who lost everything and had total destruction of their homes. But that's not what I read in the newspaper."

Luedke said it's possible some State Farm agents gave bad information to their policyholders in the immediate aftermath of the storm, probably because communication was fouled up. He urged the company's customers to look at the "declarations" page of their policies, which he said spells out how the deductible applies to "loss of use" claims related to actions taken by a civil authority, such as a mandatory evacuation.

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Jeffrey Meitrodt can be reached at Meitrodt@cox.net

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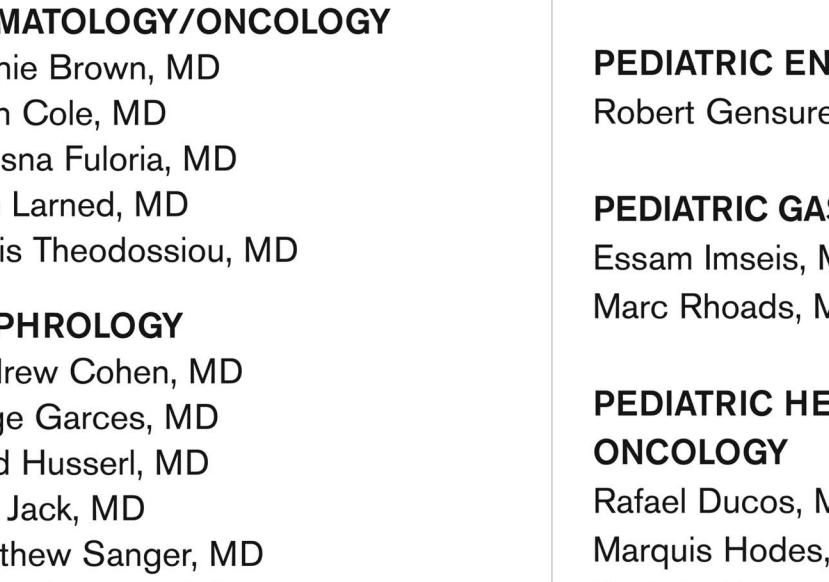
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Thursday
September 29, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Outreach group seeks people with answers

Anita Gilford is looking for her children and their families. "We have over 100," she said.

When I talked to the founder of Angels' Place on Tuesday, she had been making phone calls and getting few answers.

"We have children from New Orleans, Belle Chasse, Algiers, Covington, Chalmette, everywhere," she said. "I hope they know Angels' Place is trying to find them."

Angels' Place Inc. is a nonprofit outreach group that provides support and assistance to families of children with life-threatening illnesses. When Anita started Angels' Place in 1994, her ultimate goal was to build a respite and hospice home for seriously ill children in southeast Louisiana, a dream that seemed in reach until Hurricane Katrina.

"Now, we're going to put our trust in God and just keep working until all the money runs out," she said.

### Future blown away

Anita and her two staff members, Barbara Lane and Charlotte Ward, are operating out of their office on Division Street near West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie.

"I'm completely amazed that we even have phones and can use our computer," Anita said. "The right half of the building was blown away."

Much of the future of Angels' Place seems to have blown away, too: Three fall fund-raisers had to be canceled, and the group's staunchest financial supporters have suffered personal Katrina-related tragedies.

"We're hoping to get some money through the Governor's office to keep us going. Surely, there's something we qualify for," Anita said.

She sees the survival of their office as a sign that they mustn't give up. Every morning since Katrina, she has said the same little prayer: "Jesus, I trust in you. Please tell us what to do."

"The answer is always the same," she said. "'Love one another and help our children.'"

### Better than Oprah calling

Angels' Place was featured in the April 25 issue of People magazine, and when I called to congratulate Anita after the story came out, she said she hoped "someone like Oprah" would read it and want to help with her special mission.

The next time I talked to her, she said no, Oprah hadn't called, but something better had happened: She had received dozens of phone calls and e-mails from people around the country.

"Everyone wants to know how we got started because they desperately need something like Angels' Place in their communities," she said.

She knows that now, when so many have lost homes, livelihoods, everything, her families need Angels' Place more than ever. And she'd also like to hear from other parents with ill or disabled children who have special needs because of Katrina.

"It's a magical thing we're still here," she said, "and I know we're meant to be here to help our kids."

To reach Angels' Place, call (504) 455-2621, or e-mail apgilford123@bellsouth.net. For information about Angels' Place, go to www.angelsplace.org.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# With storm damage comes risk of fraud



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Workers from Roofing Specialist of Opelousas put a new roof on a Metairie home Wednesday. While many contracting companies responding to catastrophic damage are legitimate, experts say, the influx of money also brings scam artists.

## *Experts warn of predatory contractors*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

First came the hurricanes. Now another type of storm threatens New Orleans area homeowners: unscrupulous contractors.

In the wake of Katrina and Rita, waves of home builders have descended on the region. But not all of them have good intentions, experts say.

Desperate, disillusioned homeowners might be tempted to take the first offer they receive from a contractor as they begin the laborious process of rebuilding their homes. But be wary, experts say — and if possible, be patient.

Scam artists habitually follow natural disasters, taking advantage of disaster victims by swindling them out of their precious and often limited resources. It's not a question of if unscrupulous contractors will scam people after Hurricane Katrina but when, experts say, and how many victims will they claim.

"Unfortunately, these kinds of storms not only bring out the best in people but also the worst in people," said Jerry Howard, CEO of the National Association of Home Builders. "The people down there in New Orleans are going to be depressed, and they are going to be easy prey for a lot of these scoundrels."

Already, signs for home builders and subcontractors such as roofers, plumbers and landscapers have mushroomed on neutral grounds and street corners around town. Contractors have swarmed the French Quarter and Central Business District since Mayor Ray Nagin opened them to business owners this week. The sound of hammers, circular saws and drills filled the air as the city buzzed back to life.

"They're already here," said Phil Huffman, president of the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans, about the out-of-town contractors. "Most of these guys are legitimate, but there's always opportunists out there that see that there is plenty of money to be made."

Randy Noel, president of Reve Inc., a building company in LaPlace, said he's already heard reports of contractors charging $8 a square foot for debris removal in some parts of Jefferson Parish. The typical rate, he said,

*See* **CONTRACTOR,** *B-2*

# Want Red Cross aid? Get in line

## *Thousands wait for hours to get debit cards*

**By Paul Bartels and Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Thousands of people displaced by hurricanes waited in a 3-mile line of cars in Slidell or stood in a shorter line in Mandeville for the American Red Cross' first on-site, direct financial aid giveaway in Louisiana.

Residents from throughout the Gulf Coast region waited in their cars for as long as five hours to get into the Red Cross site in the parking lot of the former Slidell factory outlets at Interstate 10 and Old Spanish Trail. The line in Mandeville reported a wait of about 3 hours.

The payoff for the patient: a laminated plastic Red Cross debit card good for several hundred dollars – up to $1,565, depending on family size and needs.

"You have to give your name, address, the number in your family and a driver's license number – not even a Society Security number," said Jennifer Gomez, who stood in line for 2½ hours in Mandeville and emerged with four cards worth $1,200. "They told me there are no restrictions. I can get medication with the card, and I have

*See* **RED CROSS,** *B-2*

# Storm-related illnesses not major threat

## *Two steps to take: Wash hands often, avoid impure water*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

With thousands of New Orleanians poised to re-enter their city and inspect their homes, health officials Wednesday said that the potential of disease exists but that storm-related illnesses should not be life-threatening.

"People need a lot of common sense" on these visits, said state epidemiologist Raoult Ratard, adding the two of the most important disease-prevention measures people can take are washing their hands frequently with safe water and not drinking impure water.

But people intent on resuming their lives in New Orleans are risking exposure to foodborne illnesses if they return before health inspections conclude whether water can be used without boiling and whether food establishments can reopen, the state health department said.

Businesses that haven't received placards from the department do not meet sanitary-code standards and are not allowed to reopen, department officials said.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Lakeview resident Lindsey Smith inspects her kitchen on Argonne Boulevard in Lakeview on Wednesday. She shared the duplex with her father and found little to salvage.

In surveying the area where Hurricane Katrina struck, officials said in a telephone news conference Wednesday that they are looking for long- and short-term health hazards.

In the former category is mold, a rampant feature in waterlogged homes. It can pose problems for people with suppressed immune systems because it can spur infections, and for people with allergies because it can trigger hay-fever symptoms, said Dr. Stephen Redd, a respiratory-health expert at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although a homeowner probably can take care of mold covering less than 10 square feet, a professional should be hired to remove mold covering a bigger area, Begg said.

The CDC and the Environmental Protection Agency are

*See* **ILLNESS,** *B-2*

# N.O. cops reported to take Cadillacs from dealership

## *Foti investigating looting allegation*

**By James Varney**
Staff writers

Louisiana Attorney General Charles Foti's office confirmed Wednesday that it is investigating the alleged looting of a New Orleans car dealership by city police officers.

More than 200 vehicles were taken from the Sewell Cadillac Chevrolet dealership in the Central Business District, and in the most chaotic hours after Hurricane Katrina, some New Orleans Police Department officers reportedly pulled up outside the mobile command center at Harrah's casino in bright, shiny Cadillac SUVs.

The cars allegedly still had "2004" stickers in their windshields and "Sewell" medallions on the back. The fancy rides appeared at a time when a desperate force, having already lost scores of its marked units to floodwaters, was siphoning gas from abandoned vehicles scattered throughout the city, and officers claimed to be operating under emergency orders that allowed them to commandeer necessary supplies. Now, however, that tactic has drawn the atten-

*See* **CARS,** *B-2*

# Police say no cars taken from showroom, lot

**CARS,** *from B-1*

tion of investigators.

"Yes, we are investigating although there have been no arrests so far," said Kris Wartelle, a spokeswoman for Foti. "The investigation involves the activities at Sewell of both the New Orleans Police Department and another sort of city official whom I can't identify right now."

NOPD spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said the force "welcomes any review" of its actions. At no time did any officer remove a car from the Sewell lot or showroom, he said.

"There were a number of vehicles stolen by individuals from that dealership, and the police department recovered more than 100 of those vehicles," Defillo said. "A small fraction of those recovered were then used for essential purposes by officers whose vehicles had been damaged in the hurricane."

Defillo said late Wednesday the recovered vehicles were warehoused and returned to Sewell. Yet in an interview Wednesday morning, Sewell President Doug Stead did not mention those arrangements. He said the dealership had recovered a handful of cars – some from as far away as Baton Rouge – by working with its insurance companies.

The investigation into alleged looting comes at a time the NOPD is reeling from the resignation of Superintendent Eddie Compass on Tuesday and reports in The Times-Picayune that Compass and Mayor Ray Nagin repeated exaggerated tales of cruelty and violence in a New Orleans shattered by Katrina.

The tale of purloined Cadillacs is not the first allegation of improper confiscation of goods by NOPD officers. In Katrina's immediate aftermath, The Times-Picayune published photographs online of NOPD officers taking items such as DVDs from the Wal-Mart on Tchoupitoulas Street. Officers said at the time that police were either obtaining critical supplies for their own efforts or removing attractive targets for looters.

There have been other allegations as well. CNN aired a story recently that said some officers stored stolen goods in a suite of rooms at the American Suites Hotel on Canal Street. And Chad Clayton of Clarence M. Kelley, a firm that has handled security at Children's Hospital since shortly after the storm, said he stopped a couple of officers who were attempting to take a car from the hospital lots.

Whether Compass or Nagin ever issued an order that allowed officers to commandeer supplies remained unclear Wednesday. Wartelle said the city has not furnished investigators with a copy of any such document, and lawyers described the issue as "a legal gray area."

The orders, if they were issued, may have come not from the top but from district commanders, according to one source who has reviewed the matter, but Defillo declined to address the issue.

"I don't want to get into the specifics of authorization," he said. "That will all come out in the review which, as I said, we welcome."

Stead's own review began when he returned to the dealership eight days after the storm. He had heard while evacuated in Lafayette that police officers were patrolling the city in Cadillacs that carried $60,000 sticker prices. But the destruction of his dealership did not become apparent until he arrived back in New Orleans eight days after the storm.

"Someone had told me, 'We saw the police driving your cars,' and then when we got here the dealership was in total disarray, totally smashed up, every door was kicked in and we were looted," he said.

Nevertheless, Stead stressed that neither he nor any other Sewell employee requested a formal investigation from any law enforcement agency.

"The attorney general's office contacted us, we did not contact them," he said. "Please make that clear because I have to live here, you know."

All told, Stead said more than 200 vehicles were taken. Some of them were new, some were used; some were part of the dealership's inventory, some were customers' cars in for service.

Cadillacs were not the only high-end vehicles that vanished. A handful of Sewell Corvettes were also gone, and as recently as last week an NOPD officer at Harrah's was seen driving a black Corvette with a dealer's sticker in the windshield.

"They took anything that was drivable – they even hotwired a tractor we use to move cars around, a thing that can't go any faster than 12 miles per hour," Stead said of the looters.

It was Sewell's location – relatively high and completely dry at 701 Baronne St. – that made it a victim, Stead believes. Other dealerships, even those of high-end vehicles on Tulane Avenue, were engulfed by quickly rising.

Staff writer Gordon Russell contributed to this report.

# All contractors must be licensed by the state

**CONTRACTOR,** *from B-1*

should be closer to $2 to $3 a square foot.

He's also heard of some companies charging as much as $2,500 to put tarps on roofs, a job that usually costs $150 to $1,000.

"That's obscene," said Noel, the state representative for the National Association of Home Builders. "In people's mind, insurance is going to pay for it. But they're going to be in for the shock of their lives when the (insurance) adjuster comes around."

This isn't a new phenomenon.

Thousands of people complained about being swindled by con artists after Hurricane Betsy ripped through New Orleans 40 years ago.

A plague of unscrupulous contractors also swooped into south Florida after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Officials received more than 4,000 complaints from homeowners about shoddy repairs, ignored construction codes and uncompleted work in the first year after Andrew.

Depending on the offense and the location, unlicensed contractors can be booked for fraud, misappropriation of funds or federal profiteering, Howard said. But he admitted that policing such illegal activities is difficult, especially since resources and manpower are stressed because of the storms.

In response to the growing problem, some Florida municipalities have formed agencies to protect consumers from scams by verifying contractors' credentials and questioning repair workers.

No such agencies are in place in Louisiana, so residents are going to have to perform due diligence on their own as the area begins the massive rebuilding project which could take years, or even decades.

It took south Florida contractors more than a decade to rebuild the 28,000 homes that were destroyed by Andrew. That storm appears minor compared to Katrina, which damaged an estimated 360,000 homes in New Orleans' seven-parish metropolitan area. Experts say as many as half of those homes could need to be completely rebuilt.

"No one has ever seen anything of this scale," Howard said.

All out-of-town contractors must be licensed by the state to do business in Louisiana. The Louisiana State Licensing Board requires any contractor who performs services for more than $7,500 to be licensed. Jefferson Parish regulations are more stringent, requiring licenses for $2,500 or more of work.

Just because a contractor is from out of town doesn't mean they can't be trusted. However, they're more likely to pull scams in areas where they have no history of bad references or dealings with the local Better Business Bureau.

"The out-of-town contractors are a double-edged sword," Noel said. "They are here to help us get back up and running. The other side is they don't have to ties to the area, so they don't have to be as diligent.

Huffman said disaster victims are particularly vulnerable to scams because of their unstable living conditions. Many of them are displaced and eager to get back in their homes as quickly as possible. Officials estimated that more than a half a million people along the Gulf Coast were displaced from their homes by Katrina and Rita.

"People get real emotional," Huffman said. "The first construction guy that knocks on their door and tells them he can get them back in their home in four or five weeks, they go ahead and sign the contract. That's music to their ears. Then the next thing you know they can't get in touch with the guy, and he's run off with their deposit.

Jeff Duncan can be reached at jdunk@mindspring.com or (504) 826-3405.

## HOW TO AVOID GETTING SCAMMED

Local and national experts offer the following tips for consumers on how to avoid being scammed by unscrupulous contractors:

1. Make sure your contractor is licensed. Search for licensed contractors at the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors at 1 (866) 310-7819 or online at www.lslbc.state.la.us/findcontractor.asp.
2. Make sure that the name of the company, the name on the license and the name on insurance certificates are the same. Some contractors borrow someone else's license number.
3. Get a written estimate.
4. Get at least three bids for the project costs.
5. Require a written contract.
6. Require proof of general liability and worker's compensation insurance.
7. Ask for references. Contractors should be willing to provide names of previous customers. Call them and ask whether they would hire the contractor again.
8. Never pay more than a 10 percent down payment.
9. Never pay cash.
10. Pay invoices for actual work completed.
11. Don't agree to obtain an owner-builder permit. It can be a signal that your contractor isn't licensed and can't get his own permit.
12. Don't pay extra because a contractor says materials have increased in price. Pay only what is spelled out in the contract for materials and labor.

### WHERE TO REPORT COMPLAINTS

**FEMA fraud hotline:** 1 (800) 323-8603.
**Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors:** 1 (866) 310-7879 or e-mail complaints@lslbc.louisiana.gov
**New Orleans Better Business Bureau:** (504) 581-6222 or www.neworleans.bbb.org
**Louisiana Home Builders Association:** (800) 272-9912 or www.lhba.org
**Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans:** (504)837-2700 or www.home-builders.org

Source: National Association of Home Builers STAFF GRAPHIC

# Red Cross says sites to be open for weeks

**RED CROSS,** *from B-1*

one year to use it all up."

Armed with ZIP code lists to try to prevent fraud, agency officials were processing evacuees and others from Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Florida who suffered losses from Katrina, Rita or both hurricanes. Most people processed by closing time Wednesday appeared to be St. Tammany Parish residents.

The sites for Red Cross disaster relief money were just what local officials and their constituents have been demanding for weeks, since storm victims have been frustrated by long waits as they attempt to contact the agency via its toll-free assistance line.

The distribution points will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until all hurricane victims who need Red Cross assistance have been helped, Red Cross Slidell site spokesman Peter Teahan said.

That will take "weeks and weeks and weeks," said Sarah Shogren, a Red Cross spokeswoman. "This is not a one-day operation. This is not a two-day operation."

Shogren and Teahan said other debit card distribution points are scheduled to be set up soon along the stricken Gulf Coast.

By Wednesday at 1:15 p.m., police in Slidell began turning back vehicles halfway between the end of Old Spanish Trail at Third Street and the Caruso Boulevard entrance to the site because the dozens of volunteers knew they would be unable to process them by 7 p.m.

On the west end of the parish, things moved a little faster at the Red Cross debit card site along East Causeway Approach in Mandeville.

The crowd was much smaller — the waits averaged 2½ to 3 hours — but people had to wait outside in the blazing heat before they could get inside the DonahueFavret Contractors building, where the Red Cross set up.

With 300 still in line, police cut off the line at noon but said everyone still in it at that point would be handled until about 4 p.m. Late-comers were told to return today at 9 a.m. at the Paul Spitzfaden Community Center next door.

Richard Broglin and Theresa Galvis, both of Mandeville, were the last two in line before the cutoff.

"We can wait for 3 hours if necessary," Galvis said. "We survived two hurricanes; we can survive a long wait in a line.

# Injury, not disease, bigger post-storm problem

**ILLNESS,** *from B-1*

sampling the air for potentially dangerous chemicals, but results so far have been inconsistent, said Barnes Johnson, deputy director of the EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air.

Reports on the monitoring would not be helpful to the general public because no level has been established at which such substances can cause problems, Johnson said.

So far, a survey of three major local hospitals – Ochsner Foundation Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and West Jefferson Medical Center – has shown no spike in storm-related diseases such as respiratory infections and diarrheal problems, Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Fred Cerise said.

The main reason people have been going to those hospitals is that they have injured themselves working on their homes, he said, although some people with coughs, colds and allergy symptoms gone to emergency rooms, too.

According to information the city of New Orleans released Wednesday, about one-third of all people who visited New Orleans area hospitals and clinics reported injuries. Most of the unintentional injuries were due to insect stings, fall, cuts, and blunt trauma.

Hospitals are more likely to see patients who have been injured due to falls and blunt trauma, while clinics are more likely to see injuries due to cuts and insect bites and stings. Also, the city said, injuries due to motor vehicle crashes have increased steadily since surveillance data collection began.

A small percentage of the injuries seen in hospitals and clinics are due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Flyers on prevention of carbon monoxide exposure have been delivered to local home improvement stores for posting and distribution to educate users of generators, pressure washers, and other gasoline powered devices, the city said. There has been an increase of carbon monoxide in the air due to generator usage.

Potential problems with asbestos and lead that surging waters may have pried loose will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, doctors said. Both can pose health hazards, especially to younger children.

Lead would have to be eaten to cause a problem, and asbestos shouldn't be a problem if it is behind another wall, said Dr. Joseph Bocchini of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.

Parents should work with experts to eliminate such possibilities, he said.

Although New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said Wednesday that children probably shouldn't be brought back into certain areas of the city yet, they should be all right as long as their parents follow basic precautions, such as treating injuries promptly, keeping them away from strange animals, tossing spoiled food and washing their hands frequently, said Bocchini, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' infectious-diseases committee.

Before taking children back home, Bocchini said parents should ensure that it is as stable as possible.

More information on cleaning up after Katrina is available at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp.




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# Jefferson lines up credit as backup for FEMA aid

## *Officials weigh response to trash-collection woes*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

With $12 million in federal money already in hand to help Jefferson Parish pay for emergency response to Hurricane Katrina, the Parish Council voted Wednesday to tap a secondary line of credit to support further relief efforts and sketched out other plans to help residents rebuild.

Meeting at its Gretna chambers for the first time since Katrina and Hurricane Rita delivered their one-two punch, the council gave the parish permission to borrow as much as $30 million through the state's Hurricane Katrina Relief Program, though officials said they expect the Federal Emergency Management Agency to shoulder the cost of recovery, negating their need for a loan.

"It's our safety net in the event that FEMA doesn't" come though, Finance Director Nancy Cassagne said of the state loan contingency. "I hope I don't have to access it."

Jefferson's municipalities also would be allowed to borrow money under the plan, though council members agreed that cities and towns not paralyzed by the storms should request reimbursement or loans for themselves, following state and federal rules. Officials did not estimate how much it might cost to resurrect the parish from the hurricanes' destruction.

Meanwhile, the council voted to suspend garbage collection fees for September and promised to withhold all payments from its trash hauler, Waste Management, until the parish attorney can examine the terms of the $11 million annual contract, one of the parish's largest service deals, and possibly issue a default notice.

Officials have complained in recent weeks about Waste Management's slow response in gathering tons of storm debris. Even before the hurricanes, the parish announced in early August that it intended to levy $1.1 million in fines against the company because it had not collected recyclables and for other reasons that officials did not detail.

A Waste Management spokesman said that his company initiated once-weekly collection of garbage and recyclable goods in Jefferson three weeks ago and that in light of one of the biggest natural disasters in the nation's history, "we're mustering all the resources we can."

"We feel like the action is unfair," spokesman Tim Hawkins said, adding that the company had been in "constant communication" with parish officials. "Our employees evacuated the area at the urging of the leaders of the community. It had been something of a challenge to get our employees back. We had our fuel commandeered by FEMA, and the housing situation's been a challenge for us, but we feel like we're working that out."

Council members also voted Wednesday to let each of its seven members name one engineer and one architect as temporary building code inspectors to review plans for refurbishing storm-damaged structures.

Councilman Chris Roberts, who authored the proposal, said he aimed to prevent residents' and business owners' renovation plans from stalling if the parish's regular staff of code enforcement officers and inspectors cannot handle the spate of building requests sure to arise in the coming year. The political appointees, expected to serve until Oct. 1, 2006, would not be allowed to survey plans submitted by their own firms and would be paid by the hour.

"I do believe it's going to be a backlog," he said. "There are going to be so many commercial permits (requests) coming through that they're going to need the help."

Extending a hand to its hardest-hit towns, the council also voted to advance as much as $100,000 each to Grand Isle and Jean Lafitte to purchase emergency vehicles to aid with restoration efforts.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**GRETNA:** The Jefferson Parish Council met Wednesday for the first time since hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit, to sketch out plans to help residents rebuild. From left are council members Chris Roberts, Louis Congemi and Jennifer Sneed.

# DEATHS

Donald L. Ambeau
Meryl Marionneaux Asbury
Claylia (Claire) Sellers Bauer
Shirley Elizabeth Belcher
Cecile Dickinson Brown
Marion Bush
Hector Raul Chacon
Gerard Keith "Jerry" Chaix
Blake Aron Chelette
Ellen Mary Buchan Clemmer
Mary Arnone Congemi
Shirley Jeff
Floris LoCour Jusselin
Karl Louis Koster, Jr.
Dorothy Krauss
Vincent James Labruzzo
G. Michael Lala
Betty Frederick Lambert
Ruth Smith Lobre
Sibylla Baessler McFarland
Lucille Schmidt Morgan
Mrs. Gladys J. Phipps
Hilton Stennis Pickett, Sr.
Herman Clifford Richard, Sr.
Natalie Margaret Rosen
Edward Fulton Selser, Sr.
Katherine T. Spahr Ward
Frank Dominick Zito

### AMBEAU

Donald L. Ambeau, New Orleans resident died Monday September 19, 2005 at a Fort Worth Texas hospital, funeral services for Mr. Ambeau will be Saturday October 1st, 2005, 12:00 at Winnfield Funeral Home of Baton Rouge. 7221 Plank Rd Baton Rouge, LA 70811. Mr. Ambeau was a long time licensed LA state contractor. In late 70's he was Executive Director of ABCO, an organization to help minority contractors, he was also affiliated with Robinson Electrical of New Orleans as head of construction projects. He is survived by his devoted wife Jean Ambeau, a son Louis L. Ambeau, daughters Donna Elise Harden, his other daughter Schantalyn Jacobs and Kemberalyn Jacobs, a son-in-law Earl Harden Senior, a sister Arah A. Jackson and a brother Percival Ambeau, Brother in law, James Brown, Reverent Anthony Pierce Senior, sister in laws, Lozelia Pierce and Sally Brown. 9 Grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Employees of Avayla Company, Bell South, and CWA are invited to attend to the services.

### ASBURY

Meryl Marionneaux Asbury on Friday, September 23, 2005. Mother of Robert and Gary Asbury. Daughter of the late Elvie Noel and Charles Marionneaux. Sister of Wendell Marionneaux. Also survived by 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Asbury was a parishioner of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Aged 80 years, a native of Donaldsonville, LA and a resident of Jefferson for the past 43 years.Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Friends may visit from 5:00 p.m. until time of service.

### BAUER

Claylia (Claire) Sellers Bauer, wife of Dr. George (Gary) H. Bauer, Jr., died on Saturday, September 24, 2005. She was 62. Mother of Gary Michael Bauer, Jeanne Claire Bauer and Eric Christian Bauer. Daughter of Clayia Perrin Sellers and the late John T. Sellers. Sister of John Sellers, Jr. and Beverly Sellers Fuchs. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Claylia loved world history, New Orleans history, jazz music, jazz funerals and the Jazz Fest. She loved to dance, travel and was an avid gardener. She traveled to countries such as Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Nairobi, Ethiopia, Latvia, Turkey, Spain, Hawaii and Mexico and also lived in Iran for two years. Claire was a kind and loving person who will be truly missed by all who knew and loved her. She resided in Destrehan, LA for the past 27 years. A Memorial Mass will be said on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 10:30 am at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Destrehan. Family and friends will gather at the family's home following the Mass. Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

### BELCHER

SHIRLEY ELIZABETH BELCHER on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 1:30 pm. Mother of Andrew Thomas Belcher. Grandmother of Avery Evelyn Belcher. Daughter of the late Mark E. Belcher and Shirley Archer Belcher. Sister of Margaret B. Breaux, Jean B. Reese and Barbara B. Dubret. Age 52 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview, on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 2:00pm. Interment will temporary in the Garden of Memories and later permanent in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation on Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 1:00pm until Funeral Mass. Family guest book may be signed on line under Current Family Services at: www.leitzeaganfuneralhome.com

### BROWN

Cecile Dickinson Brown, 91, a longtime resident of New Orleans, residing in Mandeville for the past ten years, passed away on Sunday, September 25, 2005, in Grapevine, Texas. She was the beloved wife of the late Storm McGoughey Brown, daughter of the late Harry E. Dickinson and Blanche Lorio; mother of Cecile Brown Diehl, Ethel Brown Ganucheau, Joyce Brown Steimle, Marilyn Brown Villarrubia, Malcolm S. Brown Sr., and Charles P. Brown Sr.; sister of Lloyd D. Dickinson, Claire Baiamonte, Marion Oldenburg; also survived by 17 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of THARP-SONTHEIMER-THARP FUNERAL HOME, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd St., Metairie, on Friday, September 30, 2005, at 12:00 noon. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am. Burial will be in Hope Mausoleum, 4841 Canal St., New Orleans.

### BUSH

Marion Bush, on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 7:45 a.m. Beloved husband of Grace D. Bush. Father of Tommy E. Bush, Debra A. Smith and Elaine A. Bush. Father-in-law of Bobbi J. Bush. Grandfather of Thomas E. Bush, Robert T. Bush John "J.D." Smith, Andrew J. Smith and Anthony J. Smith. Son of the late Evander and Thelma Bush. Brother of Lou Nell Buffington, E B Bush, and the late Leroy "Frank" Bush, Lester Bush and Lawrence Bush. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Age 57 years. A native of McGee, MS and a resident of Kenner for 20 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview Parkway, on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 2:00PM. Visitation will begin at 9:00AM. Interment in Garden of Memories.

### CHACON

Hector Raul Chacon passed away on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at the age of 31. Beloved son of Miguel Angel Chacon, Sr. and Martha Coello Chacon. Brother of Miguel Angel Chacon, Jr. and Karla Chacon Castillo. Uncle of Kayla Ann Chacon, Jose and Alex Reyes, Diego, Steban and Tony Castillo. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Avondale, LA for the past 24 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend A Funeral Mass in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Homes, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 11:00 am. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA. Parlors will be open Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 6:00 pm till 10:00pm.

### CHAIX

Gerard Keith "Jerry" Chaix on Tuesday, August 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Lucille Attenhofer Chaix. Father of Julie Ann and Michael Joseph Chaix. Son of Althea Heausler Chaix and the late Ronald Joseph Chaix. Brother of Gregory J. Chaix, Lana C. Rigney and Connie C. Kallivretakis. Aged 51 years, a native of New Orleans and a resident of River Ridge for the past 26 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of LA Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 1st, 2005 at 10:00 am. Visitation from 9:00 am until 10:00 am. in lieu of flowers, donations to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, 55 W. 125th Street, New York, NY 10027, preferred.

### CHELETTE

Blake Aron Chelette, at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, September 26, 2005 at 11:15pm. He was born September 28, 1977 in Marrero, LA and resided in Baton Rouge the past 11 years. Beloved husband of Sabrina Creppel Chelette, adoring father of Blake, Jr., and Alyssa Blake Chelette; Son of Celeste Apostalo Chelette of LaPlace and Gary Chelette of New Roads. Surviving grandparents Clem Chelette of Baton Rouge and Paul and Sara Apostalo of Port O'Conner, TX. Brother of Murphy Gauthreaux and Jarod Chelette. Preceded in death by his grandparents Joe Chelette and Lucy Laborde. Surviving are a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. He loved and lived life to the fullest. He was an avid football fan of the Saints and the LSU Tigers. He was very outgoing and never met a stranger; he will be sadly missed by many. Rest in peace our handsome, devoted and loving husband, daddy, son, brother and grandson. Friends, family and employees of Architectural Glass and Metal and Dr. Nelson Daly are invited to attend funeral services at Green Oaks Funeral Home, 9595 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Friday, September 30 at 9:00am with a prayer service following at 12:00am.

### CLEMMER

Ellen Mary Buchan Clemmer passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 7:00 A.M. Age 61 years. Beloved wife of the late Erik Patrick Clemmer Sr. Loving mother of Erik P. Clemmer Jr., Christopher S. Clemmer and Trina M. Clemmer Turnbull. Mother-in-law of Donna M. Clemmer and Glenn P. Turnbull Sr. Grandmother of Glenn P. Turnbull Jr. and Denise M. Turnbull. Sister-in-law of Trina Parker of Covington. Daughter-in-law of John Clemmer of New Orleans. She is also survived by one niece, two nephews and many close friends and extended family. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 6851 River Rd., Waggaman on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. Visitation will be at the church from 10:00 A.M. until time of Mass. LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements.

### CONGEMI

Mary Arnone Congemi at Baptist Memorial Hospital of Memphis, TN on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at age 93 years old. Wife of the late Sam Congemi. Mother of Josephine Schneider, Rose Mary Tobey, Nick A. Congemi, Sr., Catherine Davis, Cynthia Congemi, and Louis J. Congemi, Sr. Daughter of the late Anthony Arnone and Josephine Salande. Sister of Frank Arnone, Michael Angelo Arnone, Maggie McMichael and Rose Ditta and the late Joe, Felix, Alphonse and Grace Arnone. Grandmother of Kelly Tobey, Angela C. Glaser, Nick A. Congemi, Jr., Shane and Damon Davis, Jeanne Broussard, and Deborah and Louis J. Congemi, Jr. Great-grandmother of Nicole Lynn and Michael Glaser, Isabella Congemi, Corinn, Kaitlin and Eve Davis, and Gavin and Allie Broussard. Age 93 Years, a native of Amite, LA and a resident of Kenner for the past 70 years. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in the chapel of L.A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd., on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 11:00 am. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. The children of Mrs. Congemi are very proud of their mother. While her entire life's story cannot be told here, the children wanted everyone to know a little about her. She was the daughter of Italian immigrant farmers and spent her pre-marital years working in the fields with her eight siblings near Independence, LA. In 1938, she married Sam Congemi, a poor shoemaker from Kenner. She was married to Sam for 57 years. Together struggled to raise six children, living in a house with one bedroom and no indoor plumbing. Meals were cooked on a kerosene stove which was also used to heat water for baths taken in a washtub. She was a proud woman and kept her home spotless. She believed it was bad luck to put your shoes on the bed. And playing cards during thunderstorms was prohibited. For her children, she worked hard getting up at 5 a.m., catching the bus to work, sometimes in the cold and rain, then standing for eight hours as a box-catch In a Harahan box manufacturing plant. For a small woman, barely five feet
tall, she was strong. At age 80 she endured open heart surgery, recovered, and proved her strength by living beyond the doctor's expectations to age 93. She believed in God and loved life. She loved her family, her home, flowers, the color blue, shopping, and taking rides to visit her daughter in Memphis and her brothers and sister that still live near Independence, LA. The Congemi family wants to thank everyone that has offered their sympathies.

### JEFF

Shirley Jeff died on Tuesday September 20, 2005 at Duke Raleigh Medical Center, Durham-Raleigh, North Carolina at age 100 yrs old. Beloved daughter of the late Littand and Louis Beloney. Wife of the late Lemond Jeff. Mother of Lee Jr., Herbert, and Freddie Jeff, Ruth Hubbard Celestin, Delores Jeff, Lillian Bates, Juanita Pounds, and Shirley Mae Williams and the late Catherine Clark, and Mildred Perkins. Sister of the late Clifford, Louis, Frank, Stanley, and Washington Baloney, Olivia Ruffin, Rosie Mack, Louise Harris, Bertha Baloney, and Darcus Taylor. Grandmother of the late Keith Jeff. Also survived by 10 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, 110 great great-grandchildren and host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. A native of Houma, LA and resident of New Orleans, LA for many years. Mrs. Jeff was mother of the church. Relatives and friends of the family, Also Pastor, Officers, and members of St. Luke Baptist Church in Houma, LA., Amazon Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA., members of the Usher Board, The Deconess Board, and the Eastern Star are invited to attend the visitation on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at St. Luke Baptist Church Houma, LA from 10:00 AM until 11:00 Am. Followed by a funeral service at 11:00 Am. Rev. Cyreal Chapman Officating. Interment St. Luke Baptist Church Cemetery in Houma, LA. No Wake. Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home, Inc in charge Phone #504-522-2525 or 985-872-6934

### JUSSELIN

Floris LoCour Jusselin died on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 7:20PM. Beloved wife of the late Gilroy Paul Jusselin. Mother of Gail Boudreaux, Steven Jusselin and the late Sylvia Fitzmorris. Mother-in-law of Carl Boudreaux and Carleen Ryan. Grandmother of Wynne Cloy, LeeAnn Martin, FloAnn Fitzmorris, Paul Fitzmorris and Candy Martino. Great grandmother of Payton Welch, Micah Martino, Marcella Martino, Devin Fitzmorris and Brandon Fitzmorris. Sister of Donnie LoCour and the late Narcille Mayeaux and Eugene LoCour. Daughter of the late Winnie LoCour and Neva LoCour. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Aged 78 years. A native of Plaucheville, LA, a former resident of Metairie, LA and a resident of Covington, LA for the past 4 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy., in Metairie on Saturday morning October 1, 2005 at 10:00AM. Interment in Garden of Memories. Visitation will be on Saturday from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM.

### KOSTER

KARL LOUIS KOSTER, JR. on September 12, 2005 in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Beloved husband of Virginia Liberto Koster. Father of Karl Louis Koster, III. Father in-law of Ellen Koster. Grandfather of Michelle Koster Blow & Kevin Koster. Step-grandfather of Sunni Anderson and Kassi Guerra. Great-grandfather of Justice Gambino, Joshua Guerra, Kaleigh Koster. Aged 89 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie. A graduate of Jesuit High School, Mr. Koster attended LSU and Loyola University. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in Garden of Memories. Visitation on Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 11:00am until Funeral Mass. Family guest book may be signed on line under Current family Service: at www.leitzeaganfuneralhome.com

### KRAUSS

DOROTHY KRAUSS, 69 years old of Loranger, LA., died Monday, September 26, 2005 at her residence. She was born Sunday, April 26, 1936 in New Orleans. Surviving are 2 daughters, Cynthia Esler of Loranger and Donna Harper of Pearl River; 4 Sons, George Krauss of Mandeville, Thomas Krauss of Loranger, Donald Krauss of Pearl River and Glenn Krauss of Baton Rouge; Brother, Conley Smith, TENN.; 3 Sisters, Joyce Dolese of Slidell, Patricia Gromlovits of New York State and Mary Richardson of Metairie; 1 Grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Parents: Conley James Smith and Ida Claus Smith; 1 Son, Stephen Krauss; 1 Brother, Ronald Smith. Friends will be recieved Friday, September 30 at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home in Hammond from 10:00am until services at 1:00pm at the Harry McKneely & son Funeral Home, Hammond, Louisiana. Services will be held at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home, Friday, September 30, 2005 at 1:00pm. Interment will follow in the Loranger Community Cemetery, Loranger, Louisiana 70446. Email Condolences to: hmckneely@i-55.com/ Subject line: Krauss.

### LABRUZZO

Vincent James Labruzzo, born in Independence, LA. and a resident of Metairie for the past 35 years, died Friday, September 23, 2005. He was a member of St. Clement of Rome, a veteran of World War II, a member of St. Joseph's Society, and a member of American Legion Post No. 0267. Vincent was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Theresa and by three sisters Josie Voigt, Bertha Labruzzo, and Annie Levatino and his parents Vincent and Josephine Labruzzo. Survivors include a daughter and her husband, Josephine & Tommy Tisdale of Grapevine, TX, a son and his wife, Vincent & Pam Labruzzo of Mobile, AL., grandchildren Sheri & Tom Tisdale II, Tara & Greg Coronado, Freddy & Travis Tisdale, Justin & Jessica Labruzzo, and four great grandchildren, Tyler & Audrey Ann Tisdale and Taylor & Chase Coronado. Also survived by two brothers, Guy & Sam, and three sisters, Mary Salverino of Dallas, TX, Carmelite Mitchell, Carrie Labruzzo of New Orleans, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Religious services will be held at 10AM on Thursday September 29, 2005 at Schoen Funeral Home Chapel of Covington, 1414 S. Tyler St., Covington, LA with visitation beginning at 8:30AM.

### LALA

G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

### LAMBERT

Betty Frederick Lambert of Algiers, LA died on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Beloved wife of Andrew J. Lambert. Mother of Ronald J. Lambert. Daughter of the late Emile J. and Hazel Mary Frederick, sister of Gloria Heikamp amd the late Bruce A. Frederick. Mother-in-law of the late Joy Ann Lambert, age 75 years. She was a lifelong resident of Algiers, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend funeral services at Mothe Funeral Home, 1300 Vallette Street, Algiers, LA on Thursday September, 29 2005 at 1:00 pm. Interment McDonoughville Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Thursday morning from 9:00 am until 1:00pm.

### LOBRE

Ruth Smith Lobre passed away at Lakeview Hospital, Covington, LA on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 6:45pm. Private funeral services were held from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 12:00 noon, followed by interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA.

### MCFARLAND

Sibylla Baessler McFarland went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 23, 2005, at 7:05 pm at her home in Metairie, Louisiana at the age of 92 years old. A native of New Orleans, Mrs. McFarland lived in Letairie for 50 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Price McFarland, her parents, Ida Rotge and Charles A. Baessler, Sr., her daughter, Ida McFarland Rabb, her siblings, Catherine Eudora, and Charles A. Baessler, Jr. and Urania B. Callouette and a great-grandson, Jason Dupre. She is survived by her children, Nola M. O'Conner, Sterling P. McFarland, Jr., L. Clarence M. Farbe, and Kathleen M. Torroll. She is also survived by her cousin, Veva Descant, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was a joy to all who knew her. Family and Friends are invited to a viewing from 12 noon until services at 2:00 pm at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy. in Metairie, LA. Interment in Gardens of Memories on Airline Drive. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to Fellowship Bible Church, 4600 N. Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006, or your favorite charity. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com

### MORGAN

Lucille Schmidt Morgan, 92, passed away on Wednesday, September 22, 2005 at Holly Hill Nursing Home in Sulphur, Louisiana. Lucille was a life-long resident of New Orleans and made her home in Lake Vista prior to living at St. Anna's Residence in the Garden District. She was a parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church in New Orleans and a member of the Lake Vista Garden Club. The daughter of the late Barbara Schoen Schmidt and Charles William Schmidt, Jr., she was proceeded in death by her beloved husband, James W. "Bob" Morgan, her sister Barbara Schmidt and her brothers Charles and Clifford Schmidt. Mrs. Morgan is survived by her brother Robert Schmidt, and her children, James Walker Morgan, Jr. of Houston, TX, Carolyn Morgan Perez and Ronald Schmidt , of New Orleans, seven grandchildren. six great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 12:00 noon at the Chapel at Lamanna Panno Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA. Visitation preceding the service at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Anna's Residence, 1823 Prytania, New Orleans, Louisiana or the American Red Cross. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home, The family's guest book may be signed online at www.legacy.com

### PHIPPS

Mrs. Gladys J. Phipps entered into eternal rest on Monday August 22, 2005 at Kenner Regional Hospital. She was 73 years old. She was a member of Historic Second Baptist Church where she served on the Pastor's anniversary committee, Christian missionary and education department, Pastor's aide committee, radio choir, and a member of dramatic arts E.L. Moore and Gaza Prayer Circle. She was the beloved wife of the late Lois T. Phipps. Mother of Fred C. Scott, Lloyd Phipps, Ella S. and Mary S. Webber, and Catherine D. Gordon. Sister of Katherine J. Garrison, Audrey Young, Esther Burnes, Ella J. Harris, Willie L., James L., Albert and Melvin H. Jones. Also survived by (16) Grandchildren, (10) Great-Grandchildren a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday September 27, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at Oakland Baptist Church 1400 Third Street, Kenner, LA. Rev. Robert Jackson-Officiating. Interment: Providence Memorial Park Cemetery. Arrangements by Estelle J. Wilson Funeral Home, Inc. 2715 Danneel Street. Information 504-895-4903

### PICKETT

Hilton Stennis Pickett, Sr., 78, was called by the Supreme Commander to Eternal Patrol on the morning of September 14, 2005 in Covington, LA. Beloved husband of Gloria Sicuro Pickett for the past 51 years. Most beloved father of Jesse O. Pickett and wife Deborah of 29 Palms, CA, and Sherryl L. Robinson and husband A.E. Gene, Sr. of Harvey LA. Beloved grandfather "Boo Boo" of 12 grandchildren: Rodger A. Gainey and wife Michelle, Justin C. and Rachael J. Bishop; Michael O. Pickett, Michele R. Gates, Stormy G., LCPL Jessie M. and Thomas M. Pickett; Lisa M. Wissing and husband SGT. Raymond L., Jr., A.E. Gene Robinson, Jr.; Monique M. and Betsy A. Pickett; and 8 great-grandchildren and sister JoMary Pickett. He was preceded in death by his parents Hilton Rice Pickett and Jewel Long Pickett, oldest daughter Barbara L. Olney, youngest son Hilton S. Pickett, Jr. and wife Pamela and granddaughter Amanda and stepson Richard "Dickie" Pickett. Mr. Pickett graduated from Warren Easton High School. He joined the United States Navy in 1942. He retired as Chief of the Boat (COB) after 30 years in the submarine service. He then joined the U.S. Marshal Service and was a Deputy U.S. Marshal and retired in 1990 with 20 years of service. Mr. Pickett also worked as a lineman for New Orleans Public Service. He was a member of the U.S. Navy Submarine Veterans of WWII, the Holland Club, Sub Vets, Inc., Redfish Base, Fleet Reserve Association Unit 162, American Legion Post 64, and a member of CAR (Carrollton Avenue Reunion) group. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Gretna, LA for the past 38 years. All members of the Fleet Reserve Branch 162, Sub Vets of WWII, Sub Vets Redfish Base, the United States Marshal Service, relatives, and friends are invited to attend a visitation on September 30, 2005 at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA from 10:00am to 1:00pm. A funeral service will be held at 1:00pm. Burial will follow at Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. "Sailor, rest your oar".

### RICHARD

Herman Clifford Richard, Sr., on Tuesday August 30, 2005 @ 4:30 PM @ West Jefferson Medical Center. Beloved husband of Betty L. Richard. Father of Janice R. Johnson Whitney, Ramona R. Lewis both of Marrero and Herman C. Richard, Jr., of Houston, TX. Son of the late Alfred Joseph Richard and Celeste Wilson Richard. Father-in-law of Rodney Whitney, Sr., and Angela N. Richard. Grandfather of Devin Lewis and Jarrett Richard. Brother-in-law of Carrie Richard and Inez Richard. Godfather of Lawrence Washington, Sr., Normand Castille. Also survived by step-grandchildren, a devoted nephew Ernest Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A native of Vacherie, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA. for 80 years. Age 83. Preceded in death by brothers Joseph, Hardy, Stanley, Alfred, Dutley, Sr., and Paul Richard; sisters Corinne R. Simon, Leola R. Washington, Ethel R. Jones and Esper R. Osborne; and son-in-law Otis E. Johnson. Relatives and friends of the family; also!

Pastors, Officers and Members of St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, St. Joseph Baptist Church (Marrero), Second Zion Baptist Church, Lakewood Church (Houston, TX) and all neighboring churches, Employees of AIG-American General Insurance Company and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Houston, TX); students, staff and employees of Xavier University of Louisiana; and retired employees of Johns-Manville Corporation are invited to attend the religious services @ St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church 6223 6th Ave. Marrero, LA on Saturday October 1, 2005 @ 10:00 AM. Visitation will begin @ 8:00 AM. Rev. Edward Joseph, III, officiating Reg. Dr. Wilbert Tross, Jr., Pastor. Interment in Restlawn Cemetery Avondale, LA. MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME IN CHARGE

### ROSEN

Natalie Margaret Rosen on September 21, 2005 at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas. Natalie had recently retired from Hibernia Homestead in New Orleans where she served as President. She is survived by her brother, Edmund L. Hukill, III of Metairie, LA and her father, Edmund L. Hukill, Jr. of Greenwood, SC in addition to many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Natalie was born in 1939 in Buffalo, NY, but had resided in Louisiana for many years. She was a graduate of Crowley High School and attended Southwestern Louisiana University in Lafayette, LA. Visiting hours will be held on Saturday October 1, 2005 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home 2260 West 21st Ave. Covington, LA 70433. Graveside services will follow at Pinecrest Memorial Gardens at 3:00 PM where she will be laid to rest next to her mother, Sophie Killmer Hukill. A Memorial Service for Natalie will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a donation to one of the many Hurricane Katrin!
a Relief Funds would be appreciated.

### SELSER

Edward Fulton Selser, Sr. At West Jefferson Medical Center on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Mr. Selser started his career path in Dental Technology by taking a job as a delivery boy for Pfisterer Dental Laboratory, where he progressed to become a dental technician. During World War II, Mr. Selser joined the Navy and was put in charge of the dental lab at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Upon completion of his service, he managed Stern Dental Laboratory in Beaumont, TX., eventually returning home to New Orleans to own and operate his own laboratory. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Hazel Strange Selser. Father of Edward F. Selser, Jr. of Gretna, LA., Charles M. Selser and Robert K. Selser of Algiers, LA. Also survived by 8 grandchildren, 1 step-grandson and 1 great grandson. Age 88 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a current resident of Terrytown, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also the congregation of Gretna First Baptist Church and Officers and Members of the Indivisible Friends Lodge No. 404 F & AM are invited to attend a funeral service in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 11:00AM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA Parlors will be open on Friday, Sept. 30, 2005 from 6:30 PM until 10:00 PM.

### WARD

Katherine T. Spahr Ward, a lifelong resident of Gretna, LA, passed away on August 31, 2005 at the age of 77. She was preceded in death by her parents, Katherine Thompson Spahr and Charles E. Spahr, Sr., as well as her brother and sister, Charles E. Spahr, Jr. and Nellie Spahr Jason. She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Lawton Ward, her daughter, Anne Ward Dangle, and her beloved grandchildren, Nicholas Ward Caldarera, Kristin Anne Caldarera, Julie Elizabeth Ward, and numerous nieces and nephews. Mrs. Ward graduated form Sacred Heart Academy in 1944, attended Loyola University, and graduated from Soule' Business College. She was an alternate delegate to the Democratic Presidential Convention in Miami in 1972. She worked in the office of Jefferson Parish Presidents Tim Coulon and Aaron Broussard. She was a member of the Jury Commission, appointed by the Judges of the 24th Judicial District Court. She was a board member of the Children's Advocacy Center and a member of the Harvey Canal Industrial Association. For several years, she received a service award from the Chambers of Commerce of New Orleans and the River Region. Mrs. Ward was a devoted Mother and Grandmother with a strong connection to her extended family, to her friends, her Faith, her Church, and her Prayer Group. She will be greatly missed. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Gretna, LA on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 1:30 pm. Visitation from Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Thursday morning from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park. In Lieu of flowers, send donations to the American Lung Association of Louisiana, 2325Severn Avenue, Suite 8, Metairie, LA 70001.

### ZITO

Frank Dominick Zito at Baton Rouge General Hospital on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 5:25 am. Husband of the late Josephine Palmere Zito. Father of James J. and Josephine Chappitta, Mary mumphrey and the late Rosalie (Lilly) Centanni, Virginia Rudolph, Frances Rutan, Katherine Huber, Joseph, Nick, Philip and Charley Zito. Grandfather of Donna Z. Rieder and Jeannette Z. Grand. Great-grandfather of Wade and Alan Rieder and Sean Grand. Great-great-grandfather of Wade Jr., Paula, Kevin and Kyle Rieder. Aged 102 years, a native of Kenner and a resident of Metairie for the past 50 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of LA Muhleisen & Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 1:00 pm. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit after 9:00 am on Friday.

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**CATASTROPHE RECONSTRUCTION** STC CONSTRUCTION, Fully Insured, Licensed, Specializing in Water and Wind Restoration, 513 10th Ave. Franklinton, LA. 70438. 985-201-1125

**Commercial Contractors** demolition or rebuild. 985-637-8765 or 985-696-8952

**ELITE disaster** relief/renovations, lic./insured, no job too big/small, locally owned/operated. 985-707-4445/985-710-4947

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Residential Wooden Fences, Firefighters. 504-452-3913

**GENERAL CLEAN** UP Homes, mold, carpets, dry wall, debris. Call 504-450-1356/504-905-4472

**HURRICANE KATRINA** Clean Up & Contractor Services. Tree Removal, Roofing and Home Repairs, Yard Cleaning. No Job to Big or Small! Compassionate Rates/Senior Citizen Discounts. Locally Owned by Louis J Ruffino. Also Hiring Chainsaw Operators and Carpenters. Contact Louis Ruffino 985-969-1795

**KATRINA CLEAN-UP,** Removal of carpeting and drywall. Rewiring of Electrical Sockets, Installation of Air Conditioning and Appliances by a Licensed Electrician. Call 504-352-4989

**Katrina clean-up,** tree and debris removal, tractor service, northshore. call 504-231-4803 or 985-845-9055

**LICENSED CONSTRUCTION** COMPANY Qualified for home demolition & construction debris removal. Call J.P. & Sons at 504-431-9631 for free estimate!

**LOCAL residential** & comm'l gen. contractor for repairing, renovating/remodeling. Local/State lic./fully insured. NO INFLATED PRICES! MCCI 504-341-1546

**LOSSHELP Public** Adjusters Serving Gulf Coast since 1983, www.losshelp.com or 888-537-6278

**MOLD ABATEMENT** Air duct cleaning, insurance claims welcome. Call 504-392-6906 or 1-800-494-2468

**ROOFING Drywall,** Louisiana general contractor. Licensed and insured. 35 years experience. 69438 Highway 59, Abita Springs LA 70420. Call: 318-381-5865 or 318-381-6994 Office: 318-766-3188

**ST LISC** & INS Contractors avail for flood and hurricane work. 40 years experience locally. 504-512-4572 or 504-554-2377

**ST TAMMANY** MAINT, LLC Hurricane debris rem, house cleaning, tractor/Bobcat svc, expert tree rem, boat rescue, water pumping. 225-338-6999

**STORM CLEAN** OUT Wet Carpet, Drywall Strip, Average $1.10/SF removal. Free Estimates. 504-884-1009

**STORM DAMAGE** REMOVAL And renovation, Please Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

### 2240 Electrical

**LESLIE ELECTRICAL** SVC LLC, residential & comm'l, lic & insured. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

### 2250 Fencing

**Richardson Fencing** Company, Specializing in sm or lrg jobs. 504-669-0242/504-469-2834/985-652-8945 or fax 985-651-1646

### 2255 Furniture Cleaning & Repairs

**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

### 2265 Hauling

**20, 30yd** dumpster rental. Please call 504-431-8383

### 2320 Lawn/Gardening/Trees

**ALL IN** ONE Tree Service, low rates. Free estimates. Call 504-621-5003 or 225-664-0674

**Bubba's Stump** Grinding Local; Insured. (985)974-9896 or (985)386-8417

**David's Stump** Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

**HELPING HANDS** TREE & SHEET ROCK REMOVAL Pressure Washing, low rates, free estimates. 504-888-4627/610-4545/957-7324

**TIP TOP** CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercard accepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

**TREE &** DEBRIS REMOVAL Trees/Debris/Stumps. Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. Sub Contracting, 504-416-5534

## Service Directory

### 2320 Lawn/Gardening/Trees

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE SERVICE.** Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

**TREES &** DEBRIS REMOVAL. Fast response. Insured. Free Estimates. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**Ganucheau Dental** Grp open for business 504-468-1675. 2825 Houma Blvd, Metairie Mon-Fri 8-5

**OPEN FOR** PATIENTS Kenner Dermatology, Plastic Surgery and Allergy Clinic. Walk-ins Welcome! Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. 504-471-3100 at 3705 Florida Ave, Kenner, LA. Also 985-892-5497 at 600 N Highway 190, Suite 201, Covington LA. Dr. Samuel Parry, Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, available in our Kenner Clinic

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

**Schween Chiropractic** & Medical Wellness Complex is now open and offering free Spinal Examinations & Message Therapy for anyone donating to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina. 985-641-2222 Referred by Donna Penny

### 2380 Painting/Paperhanging

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

### 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**For Start** Up & Technical Service, Training, Documentation, Consulting, Call 256-627-9240

### 2445 Remodeling/Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFING &** TREE REMOVAL Free Estimates. Call anytime 985-768-7407, ask for David

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

### 2460 Siding

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Complete mold** remediation, let us kill it before it gets worse, insured. 1-877-893-1799

**Debris removal/tree** removal, house repairs/demolition, fast & dependable, licensed & insured, no job too big or small. 1-877-893-1799

**Est Restaurant** for sale, xlnt location, turn key operation, clean, new equip. 985-626-0141

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST and FAIR insurance settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants. 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Growing Co seeks ind. w/the ability to work in a fast paced environment, candidate must be a self starter, detail oriented, organized & capable of multi tasking. Familiarity w/Quick Books & Excel a +. Min 1 yr exp in Accounts Payable & computer skills req. Fax resume: 985-727-7281

**BUSINESS OFFICE** MANAGER Slidell Company seeks energetic, organized and detail oriented office manager with computer, bookkeeping and analytical skills; QBook a +. Duties include A/P, A/R, payroll and cost control. Casual office, flexible hrs and benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: 159 Country Club Dr, Covington, LA 70433 Attn: Manager position

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE** Cox Radio, Richmond, VA. Outside Sale Position for the best company in radio. Excellent training, tools, benefits and earning potential. Resume to kevin.meek@cox.com or call (804)327-0874 EOE

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** SPECIALIST needed. Hackbarth Delivery Service is seeking an experienced outside salesperson to develop new accounts and service our existing client base. Experience in outside sales is required as is a clean MVR and background check. Please call 504-468-6468 or apply in person at 180 East James Drive St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**Sales Agents** - Customer Service Reps, and telephone operators. Apply at PROTOCOL 19323 N 4th St. in Covington, M-F 9am-3pm, or Call 985-867-1662. EOE

**SALES PROFESSIONALS** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Sales Organization Opportunity to make $100,000/Year In Home Sale/ One Call Closers/ Pre-set appointments. Job Growth potential! Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**TELEMARKETERS -** Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee against Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**WELCOME TO** THE FUTURE Revenue Assurance Partners, LLC is seeking highly motivated sales professionals to join their exciting new team on the North Shore. We offer base +top comm & benefits in a professional atmosphere that is conducive to YOUR Success. Our progressive, technology based agency services nat'l clients in the commercial receivables mgmt industry. Phil Weaver 985-626-1963 or fax resume to 985-626-1964.

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Aply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Reliable, reasonable** Handyman needed long term, Kenner. 985-373-2631 or harinisri@aol.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4023 Banking

**LOAN SECRETARY** Experience with Laser Pro Loan System preferred. Knowledge of consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan processing. Teller Position for experienced bank teller. Will consider part time employment. These positions offer competitive salary. Full time positions offer an excellent benefit package. Please send resume by mail, email or fax to: American Bank and Trust Company Attn: CFO 1819 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 Email: info@abtinc.us Fax: 985-809-9297

### 4030 Clerical

**CLERIC/BOOKKEEPING A/R,** A/P, & phone services for Landry Tile Inc. Fax resume 504-734-1014

**Clerical Help,** FT Quick Books & Access, Reliable/Self Starter. Mandeville 985-674-0111

**CLERICAL/DATA ENTRY** positions available, file room/clerical positions for insurance agency. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-736-0652

**SECRETARY -** Small West Bank law office needs full time Secretary. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word, knowledge of Time Slips a plus, but not necessary. $9/hour. No benefits. Please e-mail resume to: KEMatherne@aol.com

**SECRETARY Small** Law Office needs Part Time Secretary, $8.00 per Hour. Email resume to fskimin@cox.net

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/TYPIST For** small law firm, temporarily in La Place, later New Orleans. Must have auto. Start $9/hr. Send resume to Attn: Charlotte, 2810 West Airline Hwy, La Place, 70068

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

### 4045 Drivers

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**BORDEN'S -** ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

### 4045 Drivers

**CDL DRIVERS** Haynes Motor Lines needs drivers for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, CDL class A, home every night, 1-800-349-3833 for more information.

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Experienced Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Morarro, F. Christiana and Company

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**DRIVER/WAREHOUSE No** CDL needed. Full time permanent position. Call 504-712-9020

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS Immediate** openings, CDL-AB, Metairie area, Please Call 504-468-7782

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**MOTORCOACH OPERATORS** Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

**OTR DRIVERS** NEEDED. Call Gainey Transportation 800-968-7575 for more information

### 4060 Engineering

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**Engineers, designers,** CADD techs needed, experienced, for Stuart, Florida civil eng. firm. DFWP. Email resume: captec1@aol.com, fax to 772.692.4341 or call 772.692.4344

**HARRIS has** been committed to serving the needs of public & institutional clients since 1974. This longevity is due to the talent & professionalism of our employees. Harris knows the value of each member of the firm & makes every effort to help employees succeed professionally & personally. We are seeking applicants for the following positions: Opportunities Throughout the Western States: Construction Inspectors Construction Managers Project Engineers Check out our website for details on these positions & more www.harris-assoc.com Please submit your resume to hr@harris-assoc.com or fax to (925)671-8935 (ad #52nola) AA/EEO.

**King Engineering** Associates Inc., a full service civil engineering firm, has several open positions for engineering professionals that have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. King has openings in the Jacksonville, Sarasota and Tampa offices. We can accommodate either temporary or permanent positions. King will assist with finding temporary housing, assistance with enrolling children in schools, transportation, etc. A sample of open positions across all of our service lines (civil, survey, planning, environmental, ecological, transportation); Sr. Project Engineer, Project Engineer, Designer, Sr. Designer, ACAD Technician, Party Chief, Instrument person, Engineer, Transportation Planner, Environmental Scientist, Project Manager, Construction Field Rep. To see a full list of open positions, see our website - www.kingengineering.com. Please contact Cathy McDonald, Recruiting Coordinator at 813-880-8881 to inquire about the opportunities we have and to assist with your current needs.

**TRINITY YACHTS** ENGINEERING Is currently seeking positions in the following areas: Naval Architects, Project Engineers, Marine Engineers, Piping Designers, & Structural Designers. Trinity Yachts Engineering is currently operating in Covington, LA and will be relocating to Gulfport, MS. If interested please send resumes to: Trinity Yachts, LLC. 1501 N.Highway 190, Covington, LA 70433. Or visit www.trinityyachtsusa.com

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR,** Small Business Liaison ECC is seeking strong candidates to support the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Experienced: 10 yrs of exp, small business subcontracting, Stafford Act and CPSR procurement processes, FAR/DFAR/AFAR. Plus: USACE, CACM, CPCM, CFCM. Prefer local candidates. Location: New Orleans/Baton Rouge. Email: jsladky@ecc.net

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279/ 504-813-4106.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/Lounges

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**COOKS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS VooDoo Barbecue. 504-464-1880 or Fax resume to 225-926-6002

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen Positions now available. Applicants must be friendly, professional, out-going, and team oriented. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9 am - 11 am.

**KITCHEN HELP** Piccadilly Cafeteria NOW HIRING Kitchen Help at our Covington location!!! Starting at $12/hour. Apply in person at Piccadilly 69008 Highway 190 Service Rd, Covington, LA

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**SHIMMY SHACK** Now Hiring Working Chef, Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

### 4080 Household

**Housekeeper Live-in.** English and Spanish speaking. Call 504-393-0752

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

### 4095 Legal

**LEGAL SECRETARY** AND ASSISTANT Needed for our Gretna Law Office. Please call 504-368-6500

### 4100 Management

**OFFICE MGR** For scrap metal recycling facility in Kenner. Phone/computer/people skills. Veronica @costanzaproperties.com

**REAL ESTATE** OFC MGR With people, phone & computer skills. Veronica@costanzaproperties.com

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

### 4110 Mechanical

**LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP** MANAGER Needed for 25 Vehicle diesel truck shop. Uniforms, vacations, medical, 401K. Fax resume or apply at Neuman Transport, LLC. 63336 Old Military Road, Pearl River LA. Fax 985-863-9095

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC looking** for good Mechanic for work on truck/tailer/heavy equip., will pay top dollar, must have own tools. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday 504-436-7777

### 4110 Mechanical

**MECHANIC WANTED** Uniforms/benefits. Apply within or call: 985-536-1719 or 504-416-7385. 122 Power Blvd. Reserve, LA 70084

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

### 4120 Medical

**AUDIOLOGIST Needed** in Slidell ENT clinic. Please fax resume to: 985-690-8301 Attention: Scott Or call 985-707-4067

**CERTIFIED LAB** TECH F/T for West Bank Cardiology Office, exp preferred. Linda 504-349-6365; Fax Resume to: 504-349-6355

**CERTIFIED MEDICAL** CODER - Family practice, permanent/Full Time with benefits. Apply at Instant Care Family Medical Center 901 Gause Blvd, Slidell or fax resume to 985-646-1160

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Experienced Dental Assistant needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** Experienced Nuclear Tech-Cardiology. Monroe/West Monroe LA. Excellent salary with no nights or weekend calls. Fax resume to 318-338-3542. Email: margon@jam.rr.com or call 318-348-8844

**IMMEDIATE OPENING-Busy** Medical Practice seeks experienced F/T Front Desk Person (excellent benefits). Check in/out, Ins verif, Appts, data entry, filing. Fax resume to 985-781-4850

**LPC/CNA Private** Duty, Part Time to work with Quadriplegic, Pivot Transfer required. Call 504-888-8600

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPN Private** duty home care. River Ridge. 2 positions open. Day and night shifts. License and references required. 504-756-9678 Leave message.

**MA &** Front Desk Clerk needed in WB Office. Must be proficient in Word Processing. Fax resume (504)391-6009

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, We're coming home! Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of Woodland Village, please contact us or return to the facility. If you are a displaced New Orleans resident and are ready to return home, we are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**PHYSICIANS: We** are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the best of small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**PONTCHARTRAIN Health** Care Centre RN's, LPN's Cert. Aides NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Great Pay Rates and Benefits. Join A Winning Team!Fax, Email, Mail resumes, Or Apply In Person. Contact: Dale Cooney, Administrator, Tel: 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 Email: dale@pontcare.com, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 EEOC

### 4120 Medical

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

### 4130 Part Time

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Needed for Health Food Store with Lunch Counter. Will Train, but must be a willing worker. work 3-4 days/week. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LUNCH COUNTER** HELP Needed for Health Food Store. 4 days/week. Great hours. Includes food prep and cooking. Will train. Apply in person, 1709 North Causeway, Mandeville.

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**Human Resources** Director For the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Administers all aspects of a comprehensive human resource division to support the mission and vision of the Department of Environmental Quality. Programs include recruitment/selection and placement, employee administration/payroll, classification and pay, organizational analysis/workforce planning, policy development and coordination, employee relations, employee assistance, employee benefits, and Worker's Compensation. Job requires a baccalaureate degree plus 7 years of professional level personnel experience, including 3 years at the advanced journeyman level or above. Salary from $43,618 - $79,622 commensurate with education and experience. The Louisiana State Civil Service application form SF-10 can be located at www.civilservice.louisiana.gov. Completed applications may be mailed to: LA Department of Environmental Quality Human Resources Office P.O. Box 4303 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303 Attn: !

**Amelie Haydel.** The Department of Environmental Quality is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**TECHNICIANS Richards** Honda has an immediate opening for experienced technicians - dealership and import expereience a plus - fair and friendly work environment - all benefits. Email resume to aaronm@richardshonda.com or contact Aaron at 225-928-6120.

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**Security Officer,** armed, $18/hour. Call 281-820-5700 or fax resume to 281-820-5757

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed both full & part time. Armed & unarmed. Applicants can apply in person from 8am-6pm at Clearview Mall or call 504-837-7772 for more information

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**Believers Life** Christian Academy, 501 Lapalco Blvd., Gretna, LA is currently hiring Certified Elementary and Secondary Teachers for the 2005/2006 School Year. Please bring a resume to the above address or you may email your resume to kjdaniel@familychurch.us

**Musical School** in La Place is seeking a Music Instructor(s) w/2 yrs of music/teaching exp. 504-237-9674 or 985-653-7232

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** & APPLIANCE Exp'd Tech, Must be CFC Certified, Must have own Tools, Minor Electrical & Plumbing Exp., Local Company. Competitive pay w/ benefits. Call 504-887-1416

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C TECHNICIAN &** HELPER, If you are looking for a career not a job in HVAC we have Technicians that earn $50,000 plus per year and have advancement opportunities. Must be well groomed, drug free, and dependable. Full Benefits. Year Round Work. Please call Stephanie to set your future in motion at 985-871-9020

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET MAKERS** needed. MUST have three years cabinet shop experience. 985-386-2711

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**Carpenters/Roofers/Helpers in** Slidell/Lacombe area, excellent pay. Lee 985-882-3879

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS/HELPERS Exp req'd for installers only. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or wo

# St. John gives bonus to school employees

*Extra check isn't due to Katrina, spokesman says*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Employees of the St. John the Baptist Parish public schools system received a $750 check on top of their regular pay this month, just in time to help defray costs associated with Hurricane Katrina.

About 950 people who worked for the district on Aug. 20 received the one-time bonus as a result of months of union negotiations for additional pay for employees, school and union officials say.

In addition, the date paychecks were issued was Sept. 16 instead of Sept. 20, so that employees could have money to use immediately.

"Our School Board is so wonderful in making accommodations for us in anticipation for problems," said Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services for the district.

The $750 payment cost the district $825,000, with $390,000 coming from the district's reserve fund and the remaining $435,000 taken from money gathered during July and August sales tax collection, an official said.

Although St. John has enjoyed recent fiscal success, it hasn't always been that way. In the summer of 2003, the district had to make $2.7 million in budget cuts that affected textbook purchases and eliminated field trips.

The district has $5 million remaining in its general fund balance, LaBorde said.

The St. John Association of Educators, the employee's union, said the money was the result of months of negotiation and not because of Katrina, as some employees may think because of the timing.

LaBorde said that it was never the board's intention to lead others to believe that the additional money was the result of Katrina.

"That was talked about for a long time," LaBorde explained. "This wasn't just the result of just Katrina. This was a good time. It was a matter of when and how much."

LaBorde said she could not comment on whether or not additional money would be issued to employees in the near future.

"That's a negotiated item, and I couldn't address it," LaBorde said.

# Hurricanes have Harahan rethinking city's budget

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

The Harahan City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight to reshuffle its budget after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and to set the 2005 property tax rate at 15.81 mills. The 2004 rate was 14.72 mills.

The tax will generate $295,000 per year at the city's current property valuation, up from $234,000 before the renewal.

Also on the agenda is the introduction of a measure to move $140,000 into the city's payroll account to cover unbudgeted expenses, such as increased overtime, due to the hurricanes. The money will come from the city's surplus and other areas of the budget, Mayor Paul Johnston said.

Johnston said he will ask the council to consider putting off action on a measure that would rezone property behind an office building at the intersection of Jefferson Highway and Oak Avenue from the R-2 classification to the C-1 light commercial classification. Neighbors oppose the plan, and Johnston said he would prefer to put off a vote until October, when the majority of the city's residents have returned home from storm-related evacuations.

The meeting will he held at City Hall.

The Times-Picayune

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**ZINSEL Glass** and Capital Glass. Looking for Experienced Office Staff, Estimators, and Glaziers. Great Benefits. Any Glass Glazing Experience Please Call 504-367-2330 or 504-669-5530 or 225-293-8440

### 4165 Warehouse

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**LABORERS 50** needed (warehouse/construction) of Metairie area. 504-712-1133

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE POSITIONS** - 0300am & 0600am PT Receiving shifts and 12pm, 2pm and 3pm PT Loaders and Order Pickers shifts. Apply in Person at 150 Riverbend Blvd St. Rose, LA or APPLY on LINE @ http://www.officedepot.com/companyinfo/careers/frames.jsp; CurrentOpenings are listed for Office Depot in Job Categories: Warehouse -Operation for State:LA or Call 504 463 1701. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

**WAREHOUSE WORKERS** - Compass Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**Warehouse Workers** Needed. Transportation company in St Rose needs workers to unload trucks and move appliances. Must be able to lift 70+ lbs, pass a drug test, and have a clean criminal background. $8/hr Please apply in person at 180 e james dr, st rose or call 468-9468 for more info

**WAREHOUSEMAN** - Exp in food distribution warehousing, F. Christiana & Co, apply in person, 7251 River Rd, Morarro, Great benefits, Night positions avail.

### 4170 Miscellaneous

***NOW HIRING*** Industrial Supervisor. Maintenance Mechanic, CDL Drivers A, B and chauffeurs, Warehouse workers/Supervisor, Laborers. Applications taken Mon-Fri between 1-3pm. Willstaff Worldwide, 513 West Airline Hwy, La Place. 985-651-8000

**BABYSITTER Needed** 3 to 4 days per week. Kenner Area for 1 Child. Salary dependent on experience. L. Howard 504-469-9857

**BUILDING MATERIAL** EXPERIENCE WANTED - If you have worked in the building material industry we want to talk to you. Top Pay, Benefits, Bonuses, and more. *Inside Sales *Counter Personnel *Purchasing Agents *Outside Sales Personnel *Forklift Operators *CDL Drivers Apply in person 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or Call 504-733-8200

**CARQUEST Auto** Parts is growing and we are now accepting applications for the counter pro and customer delivery rep positions in the Metairie, Marrero, Hammond, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations. Knowledge of automotive parts applications, trouble shooting, counter sales and customer service skills are a plus. Must have good driving record. CARQUEST offers outstanding benefits and competitive pay. If you are hard working, willing to learn and want a career in a fast-paced, ever-changing, exciting business, this is the career opportunity you have been looking for. Please apply in person at the nearest location. EOE

**Construction Laborers** Wanted! Experience Helpful. Please call 504-458-5173

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** & LABORERS Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of hurricane Katrina. Hazmat & Oil Spill work experience a plus. Possible short & long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

**Five Collision** Centers in the Metairie, Kenner, Westbank and Northshore areas are seeking employees for all positions. Please call: 504-465-5680 or apply in person at 1801 Veterans Blvd, Kenner 70062

**Home Inspectors** - $500 -$2500/wk. Will train 504-466-8222 or 888-776-7743

**Inspection helper** needed for Govt. Contract. Fax resumes 504-227-9455, email: corp.office@access-logic.com

**Inventory Manager,** experience needed, Coburn Supply, Hammond. Call Jim 985-542-0774

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**Janitorial -** If you are reliable, honest and hard-working, we have a job for you! Day and evening shifts, full and part time available - competitive pay. Please call Bywater Building Svc. 504-885-5449.

**Janitorial -** If you are seeking employment, Mr Sparkle janitorial service is now hiring honest, qualified, experienced people. We offer the best pay and working conditions, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. We clean commercial buildings, restaurants and schools. If you can pass our drug test, you will have a job! For more information, call 504-737-6061

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**Laborers. Landscape** Company seeks workers. Call 504-455-8258 or 504-450-0374

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**LOCAL MOVIE** THEATER Hiring immediately. Projectionist, box office, concession, floor. Good salary/benefits. 504-915-9087

**Lube Tech./Car** Wash Attendant, Northpark Car Wash, Slidell and Covington is hiring for Car Wash Attendants and Oil Change Technicians, apply in person at Covington location. 985-898-2126/Slidell 985-639-0931

**Outdoor work,** no heavy lifting, no experience necessary, $10-$15/per hr. Call 985-893-2845

**Permanent position** available for full time Parking Lot Sweeper/Driver. Night work, 9:30pm-6:00am. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record & able to pass drug test. Starting pay $60/night. Call 504-469-4633

**Production Line** Operators & Supervisors: Packing line experience. Please email resume to: HR@taeng.com or fax: 229-435-2826 Immediate needs lodging in N.O. provided!

**TREE CLIMBER** $30 per hour. Call Joe at 504-468-9898

**WORKERS NEEDED** Shrimp Processing. Apply in person Only: Mon - Fri at Lafitte Frozen Foods, 5165 Caroline St. Highway 45 STH. No Phone Calls! Apply 9-11am and 1-4pm.

**MERCHANDISE**

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

### 5050 Baby Items

**BREAST PUMP** Medela Pump In Style, $125. Graco Double Stroller, $150. Graco Highchair, $40. MOVING MUST SELL! Please Call 985-781-6525

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**BED full** size, $500. 3 drawer dresser, $200. Papsan chair, $65. Call 985-807-5216

**DINING ROOM** Round Oval Table, 6 Windsor Style Chairs, $600. Matching China Cabinet, $300. 2 Piece Sectional Sleeper Sofa's, Queen, $500. All in very good condition. 985-792-4025

**TRADITIONAL COUCH** & 2 large wingback matching chairs, $300. 2 end tables, 1 coffee table, & 1 sofa table, $150. Beveled glass insert tops, by Thomasville, all in good cond. Will sell separately. 985-649-1335

### 5290 Tools, Equipment, Machinery

**MARINE CARGO** CONTAINERS, 8 by 20 foot and 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

**Stump Grinder;** 35 hp Vermeer 630B. (985)974-9896, (985)386-8417

### 5315 Utility Trailers

**DUMP TRAILERS,** 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740

### 5330 Miscellaneous

**CLOSEOUT BUSINESS,** SELLING FOLLOWING ITEMS AT COST: Store Fixtures, gift and Christmas inventory and antiques. Call 662-627-5184 or 662-901-1671

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** computer desk with hutch, solid oak with white wash finish, 36 inch color TV, $1200 for all. Call 985-875-7970

**GENERATORS, new,** 1400 watts, $300. Free shipping. 716-773-3008

**PETS/LIVESTOCK**

### 6000 Dogs

**German Shepherd** Puppies, AKC, 8 weeks old. Please call 985-735-5915 or 985-807-6157

## Pets/Livestock

### 6000 Dogs

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Masher Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**Pomeranian Puppies,** 1 Male, Black, $400. 1 Female, Multi-Colored, $450. 985-778-1885

**Toy Party** Poodle, M, Blk/Wht, Pit Bull M, Wht/Brindle, blue eyes. Both 9 wks, Both have Shots. $300 each. 504-256-7716

**RECREATION**

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**HOUSEBOAT** - 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'01 Shasta** 21 foot, Ford engine, low miles, $26,500. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Coachman** Travel Trailer, 38 foot, 2 bedroom, big slide out, lots of storage, $17,000. 985-845-2094 or 985-778-9501

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'96 Dutchstar** 33', exc cond, way below book: $30K. Call FL Priv owner for pix 321-537-1416

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 360-403-9873

**'96 Tioga** Montara, Class C Motor Home, 24', 45,000 miles, excellent condition. $17,000. 985-536-2249 or 985-817-1255

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $50,000, 207-626-7519

**'98 Winnebago** Motorhome, 34 foot, new tires, only 13,000 miles, take over payments, $55,448 or best offer. 813-672-4493

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

**RESIDENCES FOR SALE**

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3br/2ba, 1350** living, attached one car garage, no flooding, 4424 ware ave, Jefferson. 205,000. (504)452-3132

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**KENNER 1939** ROOSEVELT No damage from Katrina. 3BR/2BA, new construction, large living room, full size jacuzzi, w/burning frpl. $245,000. Very close to Veterans and Williams. Call Alan 504-214-3248, 504-469-4887

## Residences for Sale

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE CLUB** GARDENS 111 Friedrichs. Beautiful 5BR/5.5BA home with new roof & paint, pool, ready to move in! DID NOT FLOOD. Call Kent Ozborn, 504-261-5368. French Quarter Realty. Visit www.fqr.com

**METAIRIE Great** Loc-No Flood 3BR,2Ba, Garage, DR/LR, Gr Rm, 1800sf, liv. $235,000. H:5044552270 C:3379623722

**MOVIE IN** READY nr. EJ & GH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**NEVER FLOODED!** PRICED RIGHT! 4BR/2BA, DR & LR, lrg den w/fp, gar, workshop, covrd patio, lrg yard w/storage bldng, $299K. 504-913-6061 or 504-554-6850

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**RIVER RIDGE** Flood free home in executive area, Lg 3 BR, 2.5 B, seperate dining room, great room with log burning frpl, 14x31 foot sunroom, double garage, back covered patio overlooking large fish pond w/waterfall, motorhome covering, + mother in law cottage which has 2nd story that could be developed into 3 extra rms, room for pool & tennis court on 3/4 acre, asking $799,000. Call for appt: 504-737-0111/504-812-5784

**STUNNING METAIRIE** - Never flooded. 3bd/2ba. Granite cntrtps, Italian tile, hrdwd flrs, Move-in cond. 504-780-7680

**7550 Metairie** Jefferson/Below Causeway

**4720 SOUTHSHORE** DR, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2850 sq ft, pool, new w/d & fridge, $670,000. Immed occupancy! Furn, high, dry, & cool. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**AIRLINE PARK** 1 bl to St. Mary Magdalen, 6813 Merle. 3 bed 2 bath NO Flooding. Asking $179,900. 504-736- 0904

**BEAUTIFUL OLD** MET. HOME 4-SALE; 155 W. Oakridge PK., Lg corner lot, ready to move-in, No flooding $885,000. Contact 318-366-3717/3661413 -- video upon request

**FOR SALE** Metairie Club Gardens LUXURY HOME 401 Iona Street NO FLOOD OR WIND DAMAGE 7500 SQ. FT., Pool, 50KW Generator, 120' x 120' Corner Lot. Ray (504)6288855. Email: chefcreole1@aol.com

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE 4509** Calumet. Not Flooded! 1 Block off Clearview. Call 504-975-3231

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**NO FLOODING!** Double 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, central air, 1650 SF each side, 1 side rents for $850/mo. Includes furniture & appliances. Move in condition! Good business opportunity. FSBO, $265,000. 504-214-7669

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**FSBO 2** story Kenner townhouse, NO HURRICANE/FLOOD DAMAGE, beautifully decorated, well maintained, quiet neighborhood, 2BR/2BA, approx 1250 sq. ft., $197,500. Furniture included. 4131A Loire Dr. HOME: 504-469-2751, CELL: 504-329-2099, or EMAIL: bartyl@msn.com

**KENNER** - 4132 St. Elizabeth, across from St. Elizabeth School. 3 bedroom, 2B bath, swimming pool, newly updated kitchen, NO FLOODING, Call 337-332-4946 or 504-491-4946

### 7560 West Bank

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

## Residences for Sale

### 7560 West Bank

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

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**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY, CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

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**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

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**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

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**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

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**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

## Residences for Sale

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**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

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**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

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**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

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### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

**COMMERCIAL-OFFICES**

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Columbia, MS.** Building for sale or lease, 6000 square feet, home & business combined. See at www.southernjewelry.com. Call 601-270-9052

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

## Commercial-Offices

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**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Abita 1700sqft** Office Space Available. $1000/month. Please Call 985-789-5571

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

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### 7730 Miscellaneous

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**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarrealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland

**LAFAYETTE AREA** Land 9.07 Ac & 4.8 Ac, mins from Lafayette, no restrictions. 985-542-4618

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

## Real Estate for Sale

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**AVITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**MADISONVILLE 3** br, 2 full ba, 2 1/2 ba, 3800 SF home. Pool & deck, $410,000. 985-845-7890

**MADISONVILLE 3/4** Acre, cleared with clay, new SubDiv, must sell! Call 985-969-8295

**MANDEVILLE Beautiful** Acadian, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, approx 2800 sq ft w/550 sq ft studio. No storm damage. Large corner lot on cul de sac. 3 minutes from Causeway in best school district. 985-674-2899 or 985-789-0190 or 281-350-8384

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**LOTS FOR** RENT! NEW PARK - WESTBANK. Please Call (504)362-4640

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**I BUY** FLOODED HOMES AS IS IN JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, AND ST. TAMMANY PARISH. CALL 985-674-5363, 504-908-6635

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. Call for more 1-877-893-1799

### 7860 Other States

**AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL** EQUITIES Has a number of homes available for temporary housing for displaced families.

The Times-Picayune

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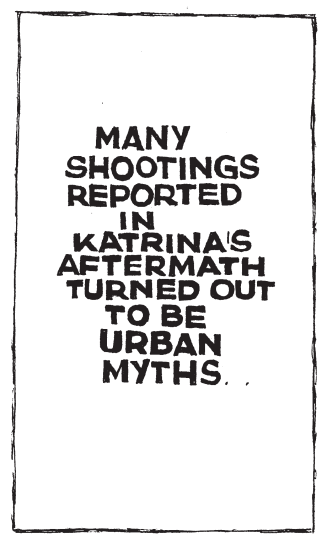
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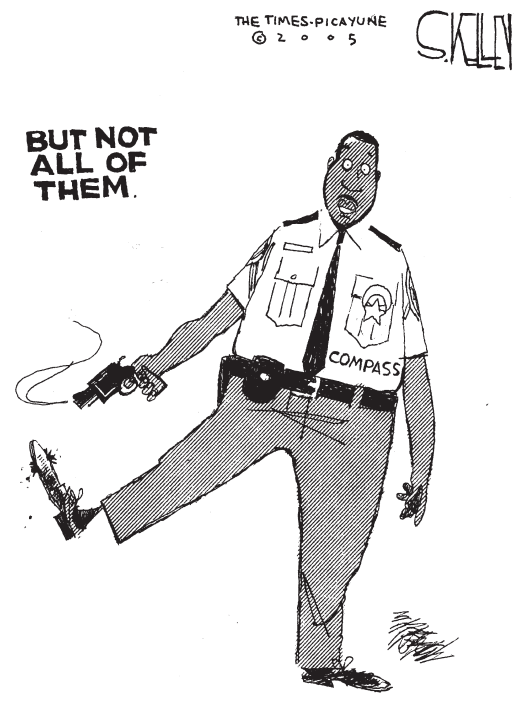
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# YOUR OPINIONS



Kenner police officer John Cusimano, far left, sits with a group of patients being transported Aug. 30 from Kenner Regional Hospital to a shelter.

STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

## Who benefits from drowned Jeff Parish?

I am 67 years old and have lived in Kenner for 35 years. I rode out Hurricane Katrina here. I might add that this is not my first hurricane. I rode out Betsy in New Orleans and Camille on the Gulf Coast, along with several others right here in Kenner. But this hurricane presented a problem that I have never witnessed anywhere before: drainage pumps not running before, during or for days after the storm.

During all the other hurricanes I have had the bad fortune to be a part of, pumping continued through the storm or until power to operate them was lost. During Betsy, one pumping station continued operation until it was demolished. Not so with this storm. Pumping was stopped before the storm had even arrived.

The worst of the storm passed in less than eight hours, but the pumps were not turned on for three days. By this time Kenner was drowned by rain water. There were no levee breaks here.

Then after the water was pumped down and the streets were dry, residents were kept from trying to dry out their flooded homes. People were kept out of town for weeks, while everything they had worked for and owned rotted. Let's see, the bigger the disaster, the more bucks the parish and city get from the feds. Hmm. I wonder who controls those federal dollars?

It's now weeks since the storm in which wind damage was minimal, but flood damage was maximal and compounded by asinine decisions by Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard and Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano. I hope the parish president and the mayor are proud of themselves.

**Gene P. Inman**
*Kenner*

## Keep those photos coming

As a former resident of New Orleans, it is my routine to check nola.com several times daily to get an idea about life after Katrina. I have viewed all of the photo galleries in attempts to get visual pieces of information about my hometown.

I still have many friends who call the Big Easy home; my father lives there as well. I wish there were more photos of the people who are returning to the area, to St. Charles Parish, West Jefferson, etc. I hear tales from my friends of shopping with armed military, standing in long lines to get into stores, neighborhoods that have become hotels for displaced natives, etc. Photos of people would be vital and interesting to me.

On another note, I was anguished by one of the photos in a recent gallery. A man had his Social Security number marked on his arm. Was it necessary to publish this on the Web? Leave it to some lowlife to steal his number and create a new identity.

Thanks again for your invaluable service. I am amazed how The Times-Picayune has continued to run from Day One. Please keep the photos coming.

**Kelli Wallace**
*Florence, S.C.*

## Did barges shatter floodwalls?

Re: "Why did the floodwalls fail?", Sept. 27. While The Times-Picayune's reporting has been generally outstanding, I am wondering why the role of the pontoon construction barges that were moored alongside the Old Hammond Highway bridge before Hurricane Katrina hit one month ago weren't mentioned as a potential cause of the breaches in the 17th Street Canal floodwall.

Ironically, these barges were in the canal to help hurricane-proof the bridge crossing the canal at Bucktown. Your paper did raise the possibility of their role in a Sept. 8 report ("Barge may have caused breach in floodwall") but nothing has been mentioned about them since. Their possible role in causing the massive flooding needs to be investigated – as well as why they weren't removed as part of preparations for Hurricane Katrina's landfall.

**K. Brad Ott**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

## Thanks to animal lovers everywhere

In the past 3 1/2 weeks, all of our lives have been touched by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The Louisiana SPCA lost its shelter on Japonica Street during the flood that devastated the Lower 9th Ward community of New Orleans. In the following days and weeks, our lives were also touched dramatically by another wave: a wave of love and support.

Volunteers around the world poured into the streets of New Orleans to help in our animal rescue efforts. Animal lovers all across the country opened their hearts and wallets to help rebuild our shelter for the animals we love and work to protect.

The wonderful people of Chicago are among those who have touched us with their compassion. The Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, Steve Dale of Pet Central and WGN radio reached out to us with the recently held Mardi Growl Benefit. We throw beads of thanks for their outpouring of generosity. It's people like this that keep us sustained in an otherwise dismal landscape of loss. They are our heroes.

Such generosity serves as a testament to the companion animals who teach us every day the true meaning of unconditional love. These acts of kindness honor all the animals so deeply affected by the impact of Hurricane Katrina. Thank you.

**Laura Maloney**
*Executive Director*
*Louisiana SPCA*
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

## Levees before bombs

Please pray for Louisiana and that New Orleans may be truly renewed in hope and grace, not as a museum or worse, a mausoleum – and not as Disneyland or Las Vegas, but as a living city with room for all to live in dignity.

The culture of New Orleans is too strong for the rains and wind of Hurricane Katrina to destroy. Now is the time to insist on levees in Louisiana before bombs in Baghdad. Now is the time to demand that decent homes be built at fair wages by those displaced by this storm, rather than settling for McJobs importing doublewides for the profit of Halliburton.

**Lydia Elliott Hopkins**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Houston*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# OUR OPINIONS

## The bad old days

The presidency of the Orleans Levee Board is an unpaid position, or at least it was until just before Hurricane Katrina struck. In August, board President Jim Huey concluded that he was entitled to $1,000 a month for his work at the agency, retroactive to when he took the post in 1996. He came to this decision after consulting with two of the board's contract lawyers, one of whom was his wife's cousin, but without seeking approval from the other board members or the agency's staff attorney. The payment worked out to about $96,000.

This move was appalling but hardly surprising, because the levee district has never been an icon of governmental probity. That ought to sadden all of us. When the agency responsible for keeping the water out is known more for various hijinks, it's a sign that New Orleanians need to demand better from our public bodies.

The board was already in bad financial shape when Hurricane Katrina broke through the levees and shut down Lakefront Airport, a casino boat and other tenant businesses that provide the board with much of its revenue. When questioned about his own $96,000 payment, Mr. Huey said he has put an enormous amount of time and effort into his position. And he expressed disbelief that, amid the crisis enveloping the area, this newspaper would concern itself with what he deemed a "minimal" issue.

He even said he would probably resign once the payment became public.

Go right ahead, Mr. Huey.

And if the board president doesn't make good on his "threat," Gov. Kathleen Blanco should remove him.

The way levee district officials spent their time and taxpayers' money in the months and years before the hurricane is clearly a matter of grave public concern. Instead of focusing on the levee district's actual mission, members got caught up in petty politicking and a host of foolish projects, including a floating hotel, a fiber-optic network and an artificial island. For his part, Mr. Huey once ordered a private investigation of a meddlesome radio host. And he has worked hard to convert his own unpaid position into a salaried one, even though the board had a substantial paid staff.

Given all these circumstances, is it any coincidence that the levee board finds itself in such a parlous state now?

Until Katrina struck, there wasn't much clamor among New Orleanians for a levee system capable of handling a Category 5 hurricane. Perhaps people assumed that if the Orleans Levee Board, whose members are appointed by the governor, had time to talk about building islands in the lake, the levees surrounding the city were more or less secure.

Obviously, they weren't. It's high time to examine whether the present fragmented set-up – a plethora of levee districts stacked with political appointees of uneven quality – is really the best way to protect the metro area from future storms. At this point any approach that might work better, such as a unified levee system under federal supervision, ought to be on the table.

For years, New Orleanians have footed the bill for numerous redundancies and inefficiencies built into the structure of government: multiple police departments, seven tax assessors instead of one, elections for virtually every public position beyond dogcatcher. Perhaps New Orleans could afford such nuisances at the height of the oil boom, but now the city is fighting for its life. It cannot keep tending to a vast class of political hangers-on.

In these circumstances, Mr. Huey's exasperation over being questioned is doubly disturbing. He acts as though the tragedy befalling the metro area somehow excuses public officials from ever having to explain themselves. In fact, the need for accountability is greater than ever.

In the old New Orleans, $100,000 was a lot of money to waste. And under the harsh new sun of the post-Katrina era, such abuses are unforgivable.

## Is there a doctor in the house?

Doctors were among the heroes in the days following Hurricane Katrina, caring for patients under nearly impossible conditions. Without their dedication and professionalism, many more people would have died in those days after the storm.

But this metro area doesn't need doctors only during a disaster. The medical sector is extremely important to the health of the city's economy as well as the health of its inhabitants. That's why it's crucial to get displaced doctors back.

A study by University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill indicates that close to 6,000 doctors have left the Gulf Coast following Katrina – the biggest displacement of physicians in this country's history. That number reflects doctors involved in direct patient care, not administrative duties or research.

What the study doesn't reflect is how many of those doctors are gone for good, but like anyone else whose future is uncertain following Katrina, doctors are considering their options. Even those who never left are wondering what will happen if their patients don't return.

"Physicians are no different than you or me," said Dr. Mark Peters, chief executive and president of East Jefferson General Hospital, in an interview with The Associated Press. "They have a mortgage payment. They have tuition payments."

The loss of doctors would hurt hospitals, which will have to pay more to recruit new doctors than to try to retain old ones. To that end, Dr. Peters said he wants the federal government to relax rules that prohibit hospitals from offering doctors office space rent-free.

That is worth exploring, at least on a short-term basis, to help hospitals that are trying to remain viable and doctors who want to stay and help in the healing of this region.

Returning home is going to be a challenge for everyone. People who are under stress, making repairs to their homes, businesses and lives, are going to need help staying healthy. If they have to find a new doctor, that's one more hurdle to climb and one more loss to absorb.

We need our doctors back, and finding ways to help them return and stay ought to be a high priority for state and local officials who are engineering southern Louisiana's comeback.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Talking to each other would be nice start



STEPHANIE GRACE

The New Orleans City Council's marathon meeting Tuesday covered lots of ground, but the council's general sentiment could be summed up in just one emblematic resolution: Sewerage & Water Board Executive Director Marcia St. Martin, the council unanimously declared, needs to "immediately conduct a press conference and immediately provide information regarding the status and timetable of its restoration efforts in each section of the city."

In other words, just tell us what's going on – and don't skimp on the details.

Throughout the busy day, which opened with meetings of the utility and budget committees before the full council session, communication – specifically, the lack of it – was the recurrent theme.

And the main target of criticism wasn't St. Martin, the steward of the city's decimated water, sewer and drainage systems, and thus a very busy woman indeed. It was Mayor Ray Nagin and his staff, who, truth be told, weren't exactly experts on the subject of communication before Hurricane Katrina struck.

In the month since the hurricane, city government clearly hasn't gotten to the point of even compiling a contact list, let alone setting up a central clearinghouse for information. When Intergovernmental Affairs Director Kenya Smith said during the budget meeting that he'd been sending, via e-mail, summaries of daily briefings to council members, several announced they didn't have working Internet access. When Smith offered to fax instead, some said they didn't have fax machines. Finally, Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield came up with the idea of gathering preferred contact information from each of the seven council offices.

Throughout the early part of the day, council members didn't hold back their fury at being out of the loop over whether their constituents can come back to their homes, and which services will be available when they do. That applied not just to water suitable for bathing and drinking, but to electricity, gas, phone service and cable TV, as well as the knowledge that residents won't be turned away by military, National Guard or police.

"I'm getting 100 calls a day from my constituents who want to know when they can come back," Councilman Jay Batt told Smith outside the meeting. "I'm going to forward every one of them to you and the mayor unless you all tell me something."

Councilwoman Renee Gill Pratt told Hatfield that in the weeks since the hurricane, she has had to constantly plead ignorance.

"What's the plan for re-entry? I don't know. What's the plan for repopulation? I don't know," said Pratt, adding that she first heard the city would organize the process by ZIP codes "on the news."

Even the Nagin allies who've had more contact with the mayor's team than Batt and Pratt voiced frustration, if in milder terms.

As the day went on, there were signs of progress.

The council's irritation at Safety and Permits Director Mike Centineo, who didn't attend the utility briefing, later turned to pleasure – not just because Centineo came to the afternoon session to explain how the city would let people know the status of their electrical service, but because council members finally got their hands on a working phone number for him.

Even Nagin showed up to make nice, despite an earlier radio interview insinuating that those council members he hasn't spoken to regularly haven't been around. Over and over, members said in exaggerated tones that they were happy to see the mayor, and Batt even left the podium to pose for an arm-in-arm joint photo.

The fact is that Nagin has never paid much heed to politicians whose demands for information sometimes reeked of ego or opportunism, rather than actual need. What's different now is that their mutual constituents really are desperate to know.

If he and the council can put aside all that negative history and figure out a way to regularly talk to one another, and to everyone else, it might help convince people that they're ready to take on the much, much more demanding challenges that lie ahead. It would be nice a start, anyway.

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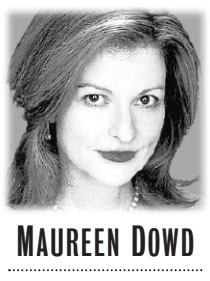
Stephanie Grace is a staff writer. She can be reached at sgracenola@yahoo.com.




AP PHOTO

Former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown appears before a House select committee to defend his response to Hurricane Katrina.

# Administration is dancing in the dark



MAUREEN DOWD

I can't wait to see what's next.

Dick Cheney carpooling downtown with Brownie? Rummy Rollerblading down the bike path to the Pentagon? Condi huddling by a Watergate fireplace in a gray cardigan?

Maybe our new conservation president will downgrade from Air Force One to a solar-powered Piper Cub as he continues to stalk the Gulf Coast towns and oil rigs like Banquo's ghost.

The once disciplined and swaggering Bush administration has descended into slapstick, more comical even than having Clarence Thomas et al. sit in judgment as Anna Nicole Smith attempts to get more of the moolah of her late oil tycoon husband.

We've got the clownish Brownie still on FEMA's payroll, giving advice on cleaning up the mess he made. (Let's hope the White House is paying him only long enough to buy his good will, not to take any of his bad advice.)

We've got two oilmen in the White House whose administration was built on urging us to consume and buy as much oil and energy as possible. Now they're suddenly urging us to conserve. (Since Cheney considers conservation a "personal virtue," at least he'll get some virtue.)

The president called on Americans to drive less, and told White House staff members to turn off their computers at night, turn down the air-conditioning, form carpools and take the bus.

At the same time, he set a fine example by wasting gazillions of gallons of fuel with all the planes and Secret Service vans and press motorcades and police escorts that follow him around every time he goes on one of his inane photo-ops from the Colorado bunker to what's left of the Mississippi Delta and the bayou. He did his part by knocking off a few cars from his motorcade on his seventh trip to the Gulf Tuesday — but if residents had hoped he'd bring them some water, they went thirsty.

"Even so," as The New York Times' Elisabeth Bumiller wrote, "security dictated that Bush's still-impressive caravan pick him up at the base of Air Force One in Lake Charles — and drop him off just yards away for a meeting with local officials at an airport terminal."

Noting that the Bush administration has proposed new fuel economy standards that critics say could make huge SUVs and pickups even more popular, Reuters published some arithmetic about the president's notorious fuel inefficiency.

Air Force One costs $83,200 to fill up and more than $6,000 per hour to fly. Then there's the cost of helicopters and a 2006 Cadillac DTS limo that gets less than 22 miles per gallon.

Karen Hughes, the Bush nanny who knows nothing about the Muslim world and yet is charged with selling the U.S. to it, wasted even more fuel this week flying to Saudi Arabia to tell women in black abayas how much she likes driving even though they can't.

She knows so little about the Middle East that she looked taken aback when some Saudi women told her that just because they could not vote or drive did not mean that they felt they were treated unfairly.

One thing Saudi women like even less than not having certain rights is to have hypocritical Americans patronize them.

The moment when America should have used its influence to help Saudi women came on Nov. 6, 1990, as U.S. forces gathered in the kingdom to go to war in Iraq the first time. Inspired by the U.S. troops, including female soldiers, 47 women from the Saudi intelligentsia took the wheels from their brothers and husbands and drove a short way until the police stopped them.

They were branded "whores" and "harlots" by Saudi clerics, had their passports revoked and were ostracized from society for a dozen years. Even their husbands suffered.

The experience made them more angry at the U.S. than at their own rulers. They feel that the Bushes play up the repression of women in the Middle East when it suits their desire to bang the war drums, but do not care what happens to women once the ideological agenda has been achieved.

They feel the administration and the American media have emphasized the repression of Saudi women post-9/11 as a way to demonize Saudi Arabia and paint Saudi men as bullies and terrorists.

When Hughes goes to Saudi Arabia to introduce herself as "a mom" and to talk about Americans as people of faith, guzzling fuel all the way in a country getting flush selling us oil, I think we can consider it taxpayer money well spent.

W. doesn't really need to worry about turning down the lights in the White House. The place is already totally in the dark.

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Maureen Dowd is a New York Times columnist.



DAVID BRODER

# A way to work together

However hapless he appeared at the congressional hearing Tuesday on Hurricane Katrina, former Federal Emergency Management Agency head Michael Brown was right about one thing.

The failure to respond to that disaster exposed one of the few real structural weaknesses in our Constitution: a mechanism to coordinate the work of local, state and national governments.

The federal system of divided power and responsibility is one of the glories of our founding fathers' work, a scheme that has helped preserve individual liberty and the flexibility needed to run a continent-sized nation.

But when a task requires those separate governments to work together, there is no ready forum in which they can meet.

This is a problem that urgently requires presidential attention. Before the United States spends $60 billion, or $200 billion, or whatever the final bill for storm recovery may be, there needs to be a coordinated federal response, not a dictated Washington plan.

President Bush wisely has rejected calls to appoint a Washington czar to issue orders to Gulf Coast officials. But he has yet to enlist the ideas of the people who could make this a new model of federal-state-local cooperation. Instead of repeating his flying photo-ops to the region, he ought to be on the phone inviting people to a summit on how to fill this gap in our constitutional structure.

Who to invite? Because the president is more comfortable with fellow Republicans, I'd start with someone he knows well, a member of his own Cabinet: Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt. As governor of Utah and chairman of the National Governors Association, Leavitt was probably the most creative thinker on federalism issues among a talented cohort of state executives.

Next, another man he knows well, former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Before he entered government, Powell founded America's Promise, the largest consortium of faith-based and secular nonprofit and private organizations working on urban and human service problems. Those groups have a vital role to play in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Then, Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, unique in his background as mayor of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County commissioner, state legislator and governor. When I talked to Voinovich this week, he said the president should be in touch with all the organizations representing local and state governments. Like the others, he's yet to hear from the White House.

As it happens, the president could reach all those groups through another Republican, Rep. Michael Turner of Ohio, the head of the House speaker's urban working group. Turner, the former mayor of Dayton, and his colleagues have enlisted a strong advisory panel, including National Urban League President and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, and have established liaison on a bipartisan basis with all the major organizations, public and private, with a stake in housing and economic development.

But Turner, like the others, has heard nothing yet from the White House. Last Friday, a presidential aide made a conference call to 220 groups, briefing them for an hour and answering questions about the response to Katrina and the preparations for Rita. But participants said there was little opportunity, or appetite, for them to offer ideas.

If the president were smart, he'd invite Jack Kemp, who is on Turner's advisory panel, and two other dynamic former housing and urban development secretaries, Carla Hills and Henry Cisneros, to brainstorm with him.

He should include Dick Moe, the head of the National Trust for Historical Preservation, who could remind him of the contributions that the craftsmen of New Orleans – plasterers, ironworkers and the rest – can make to refurbishing their city.

If Bush wanted to make this effort really bipartisan, he could also usefully tap the minds of Harry McPherson, the wise old man of Lyndon Johnson's domestic staff, and his new law partner Dick Gephardt, who before he came to Congress was an energetic and imaginative alderman in New Orleans' sister city on the Mississippi, St. Louis.

Bush definitely should call former Gov. William Winter of Mississippi, now head of the University of Mississippi's Institute for Racial Reconciliation. If Bush is serious about tackling the problems of race and poverty, a repository of knowledge awaits him there, and Winter is eager to help.

And, finally, he should call William Gray III, the Philadelphia preacher and former congressman who for years headed the United Negro College Fund – the group whose slogan, famously mangled by Dan Quayle, could well be paraphrased as advice to this president: These minds are a terrible thing to waste.

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David Broder is a Washington Post columnist. His e-mail address is davidbroder@washpost.com.

# Northrop Grumman

## update






Northrop Grumman Ship Systems has resumed shipbuilding production work at all of its Gulf Coast Shipyards. The New Orleans Operations is operating on the 4 day by 10 hour work week with hours of 6:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

### NOW HIRING

**for the following positions:**

Pipefitters • Pipewelders • Pipe Flusher Testers • Electricians • Welders
• Shipfitters/Outfitters • Electronic Techs • Sheetmetal Installers
• Abrasive Blaster Painters • Scaffold Mechanics

Apply in person at the Northrop Grumman Ship Systems
Avondale Operations Employment Office, 5100 River Road, Avondale, LA,
6:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Thursday. For information call 800-690-4862.
An Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/D/V.

### EMPLOYEE BUS TRANSPORTATION

**is being provided from the following locations until further notice:**

**Thibodaux**
Winn Dixie, 375 North Canal Blvd. The bus departs at 4:45 a.m.

**Raceland**
Winn Dixie Shopping Center, 4560 Hwy 1. The bus departs at 4:45 a.m.

**Baton Rouge**
Target, 6885 Siegen Lane. The bus departs at 4:15 a.m.

**Slidell**
Target, 61121 Airport Road. The bus departs at 4:15 a.m.

**Hammond**
Harvest World Wide Ministries, 17197 North I-12 Service Rd.
The bus departs at 4:15 a.m.

Employees that have not already made contact with the company should do so immediately by calling the HR Service Center at 504–654–3100 or the corporate assistance number at 1–877–744–7642.

Throughout the recovery, there is nothing in this world more important than your personal safety. Please pay close attention to the advice of our local government and law enforcement authorities with regard to access, travel and other issues.

Updates can also be found on the Northrop Grumman website at www.northropgrumman.com

www.northropgrumman.com

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NORTHROP GRUMMAN

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

PAGE C

Thursday
September 29, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

# *Why the* cat lady stayed



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

Ellen Montgomery's new art project is painting slate roofing tiles that were blown off the roofs of her neighborsí homes into the street.



*She loves her 'babies' . . . all 34 of them. So nothing — not the NOPD, not the National Guard, not the Storm of the Century — could convince* **Ellen Montgomery** *to abandon her Uptown house and her feline family.*



CHRIS ROSE

Ellen Montgomery's house near Audubon Park was almost invisible from the street before Hurricane Katrina shattered the massive cedar tree in her front yard and left a tangled, camouflaged mess that now obliterates the view of just about everything.

If anything, that helped her hide from the National Guard during the tense days — now ancient weeks ago — when word came that they were forcing those who had remained in New Orleans to leave.

"If I was out walking in the neighborhood and I heard the Hummers coming, I would duck down behind a porch or some broken shutters," she said. "I felt like a Confederate spy in enemy territory."

Montgomery was a holdout. A straggler. The resistance.

She stayed behind without power or running water or even a generator. The simple reason: "My babies," she says. Thirty-four cats. (It was 33 for several weeks, until one that had gone missing returned home last Saturday night, "to say hello," Montgomery says.)

She knows what you're thinking. It used to bug her but not anymore.

"Years ago, I said to my vet: 'But I don't WANT to be a cat lady!'" Montgomery recalls. "And he says to me: 'But you ARE a cat lady.' So there you are."

And so, for 30 days, what has she done?

"Well," she pauses. "I sleep late. Let's see . . . and then I feed the cats. I read 'The Journal of Beatrix Potter.' It's a lovely book. And then I have my cup of coffee. And that usually lasts a couple of hours. And then I paint and — I don't know. The days just fly by.

"I'm in another world here. I don't feel the heat. I don't feel anything. I am very able to exist on my own. I just paint and that's what keeps me from going bonkers. That's my therapy."

Montgomery has been painting since 1977, when she read the book of Vincent Van Gogh's correspondence, "Letters to Theo."

"I read it and I said: I want to do that," she says "so I

*See* **CAT,** *C-4*



'I'm in another world here,' says Ellen Montgomery, sitting on the porch of the Uptown house that she refused to evacuate for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

MY STORM STORY

*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

## MICHAEL BUCALO, 50

### PRESIDENT AND TRUMPETER, LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

**HOME:** *Slidell* **HAVEN:** *Louisville, Ky.*



"I'M living with my brother in Louisville, with my two golden retrievers, Samson and Mercedes (like the Bible and the car) and his cat, Whiskers (I'm afraid there's a failure of creativity there).

"I haven't met any other evacuees in Louisville. I'm kind of a celebrity here. People are very anxious to hear my story and then to be helpful if they can. People try to give you stuff and not let you pay. It's a little overwhelming. I don't always know how to react.

"I'm spending a good deal of my time working with the senior leadership of the LPO trying to keep the organization together, trying to craft a short-term and mid-term plan for survival. There's no lack of energy or will to get it going. The LPO will return to New Orleans absolutely as soon as possible.

"We've got to be realistic here. We will be dependent on the re-emergence of a healthy New Orleans civic and economic life. As New Orleans goes, so goes the LPO. But I want to send a message that we're doing everything we can to keep this organization together.

"I'll be going to Nashville soon for the LPO benefit concert on October 4. The concert will be broadcast on NPR, so people can call their local NPR station and find out when it will be on. I think we have 100 percent of our musicians showing up in Nashville. That's because of the good will of American Airlines. We've got people coast to coast —Seattle, Boston, Florida — and they're flying everybody in.

"We're doing Shostakovich's fifth symphony. It's a good choice because it has three principal emotional components: The first is conflict and struggle; the second is reflection and, I think, sadness; and the final element is triumph. Listeners will hear this on a gut level; this is not difficult music to understand.

"I hadn't thought of it this way until now and I don't know if this was deliberate or not, but it strikes me as extraordinarily appropriate. One can certainly say that this is exactly what we're all going through. So far, collectively, we've experienced the first two aspects. For God's sake, we've lost our city here. The third, hopefully, is in the near future."

*As told to staff writer Elizabeth Mullener on Sept. 20*

# Transmission accomplished

*WWL's super-duper West Bank signal carried the station through Katrina and Rita*

ELECTRONIC EYE OF THE STORM



*How New Orleans broadcasters covered Katrina.*
TODAY: **WWL** NEXT WEEK: **WDSU**

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

The star of WWL-Channel 4's Hurricane Katrina coverage was its transmitter.

A high-tech fortress raised more than a dozen feet in the air on reinforced concrete legs, WWL's West Bank transmission blockhouse allowed WWL to keep its own broadcast signal on the air before, during and after Katrina while competitors scrambled to patch together far-flung distribution schemes for their news crews' work.

Working in the worst possible conditions on the worst possible story, WWL's news team derived a sense of destiny from its station's undimmed signal, which carried them through Katrina's aftermath and on into the crack-back devastation of Rita.

The station's nonstop news programming was distributed via multiple media, including an Internet stream viewed by millions, but when Katrina didn't knock WWL off the air, "That sort of said, 'This is our mission,' " said WWL News Director Sandy Breland.

Over the past month, WWL's newscasts have originated from the station's Rampart Street headquarters, LSU's Manship School of Communications, the studios of

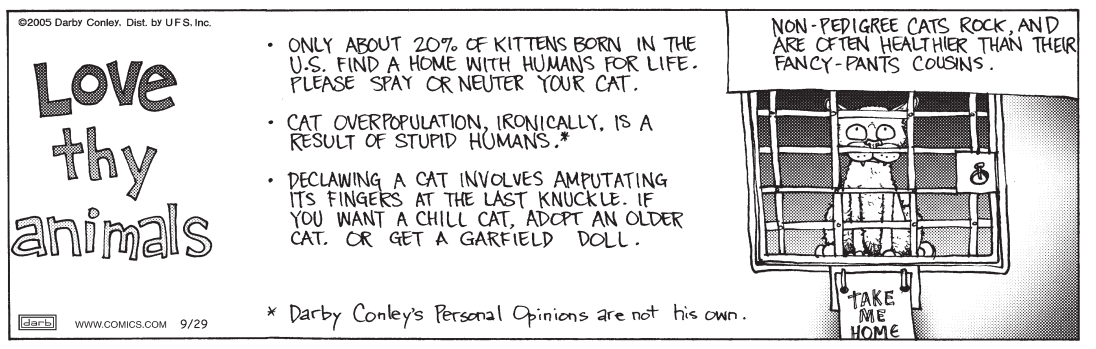
*See* **WALKER,** *C-4*

# COMICS

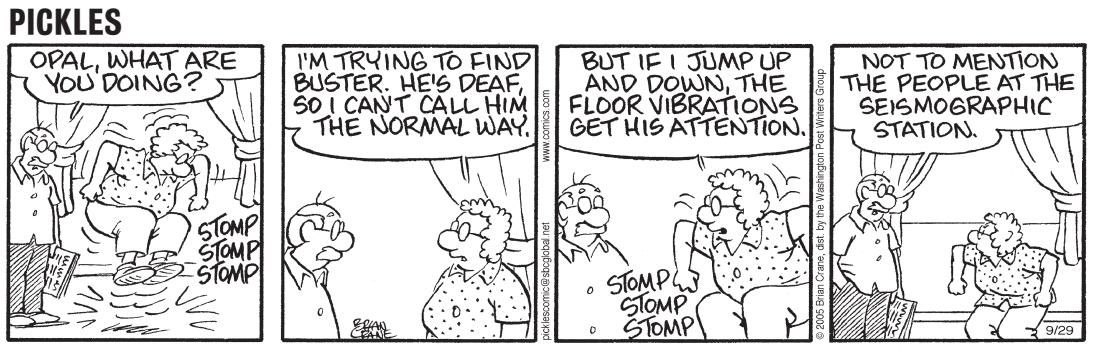
## ZITS




## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



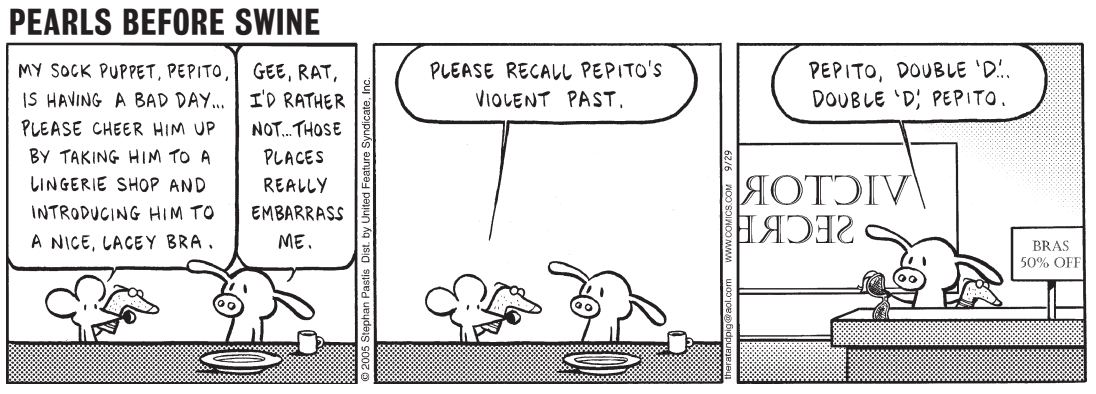

## FOX TROT



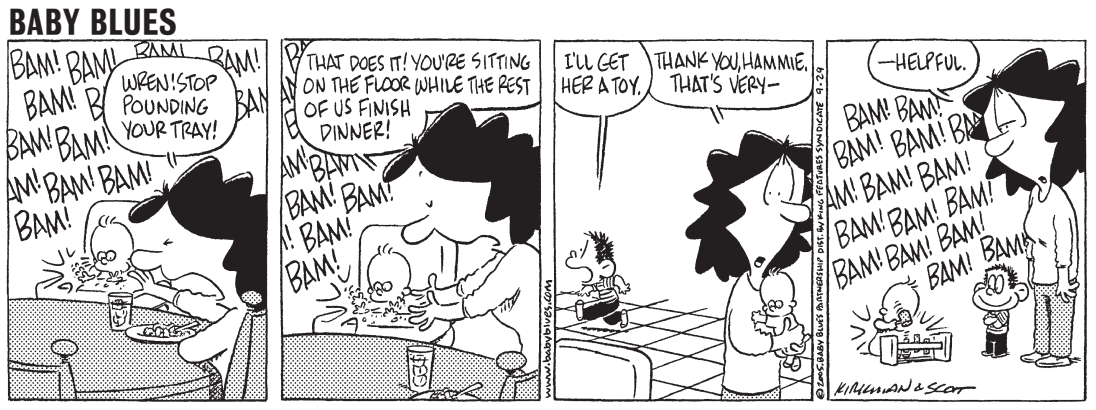

### JASON'S HORO-SCOPES

Aries: Enjoy a refreshing Coca-Cola!
Taurus: See your local Ford dealer about the new Explorer!
Gemini: Get high-speed Internet with SBC Yahoo DSL!
Cancer: Try the new Angus Steak Burger at Burger King!
Leo: Be all that you can be in today's Army!
Virgo: Don't leave home without American Express!
Libra: Catch "Serenity," opening in theaters today!
Scorpio: Visit Apple.com to see the impossibly small iPod nano!
Sagittarius: Plan your next vacation with Expedia!
Capricorn: Beef! It's what's for dinner!
Aquarius: Ask your doctor if Levitra is right for you!
Pisces: Purchase an ad in this feature!

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VINGY

TOCET

HIRCUN

GORCED

www.jumble.com

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer here:** "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DIRTY SQUAB FICKLE JAGUAR
Answer: Who was called when the neighbor's party got too noisy? — THE "RACKET" SQUAD

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | E1 | E1 | U1 | V4 | R1 | L1 | 2nd Letter Double | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | I1 | U1 | T1 | N1 | N1 | F4 | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| E1 | O1 | U1 | G2 | L1 | N1 | D2 | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | A1 | O1 | U1 | L1 | R1 | S1 | | RACK 4 |

**PAR SCORE 135-145**
**BEST SCORE 204**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

| | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 135-145 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = | L1 | A1 | S1 | U1 | O1 | R1 | A1 | | 57 |
| RACK 3 = | D2 | E1 | G2 | N1 | U1 | O1 | L1 | | 77 |
| RACK 2 = | | T1 | N1 | A1 | F4 | N1 | I1 | | 9 |
| RACK 1 = | E1 | L1 | U1 | A1 | V4 | E1 | R1 | | 61 |

## WORD SLEUTH

B V R O L I T F C Z T W T Q N
K I F C Z W U N R R P M J H E
C Z X U S Q S N E L E J G E C
Z X V T R P R L E G N C L J H
E C A Y S C A M E R A S A S W
V T R P N E E L K C A T I R G
E C B Z X W G U S R N L S E R
P O M L M J T N E M R A G N I
G E D B A L Y M A X W O M R O
U T S Q P O A E N R L G K O J
H G F D C G T C E N O L A C R

Wednesday's unlisted clue: FLINCH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: **Reached His — of 7 Tour Victories**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agent | Cameras | Gears | Racer |
| Alert | Corners | Glare | Romance |
| Alone | Gamer | Onstage | Team |
| Calm | Garment | Oranges | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| C | I | L | A | I | B | N | A | N | I | A | E | L |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| N | T | S | S | H | I | Y | P | I | Z | D | G | Y |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| E | R | O | A | U | E | T | T | I | H | E | E | G |
| 8 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| O | A | U | R | V | A | G | C | W | I | I | N | D |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| E | H | V | S | A | E | M | L | T | C | S | I | H |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| T | A | O | S | E | M | L | K | F | E | I | E | O |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| T | S | T | V | I | E | N | L | R | E | R | T | E |

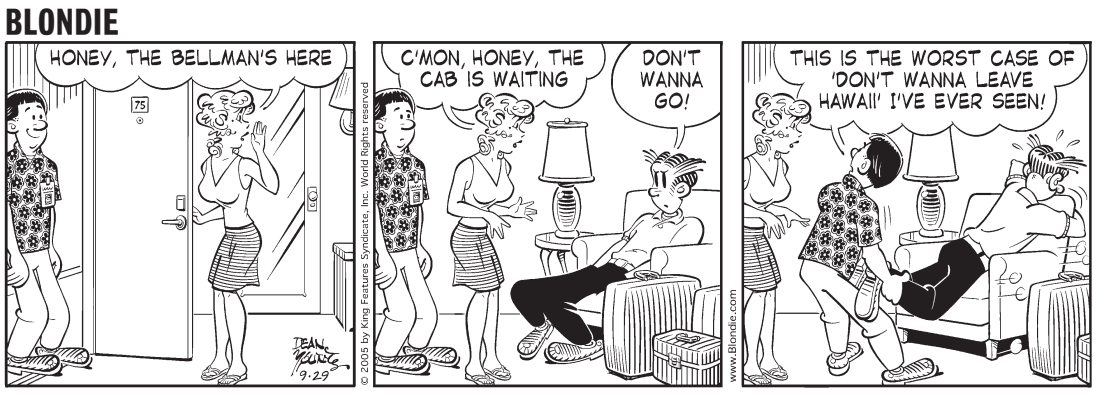
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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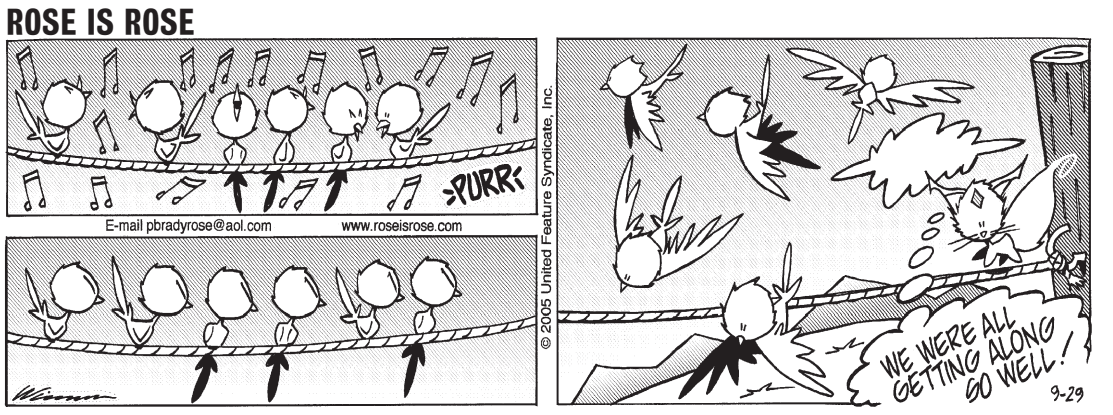
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



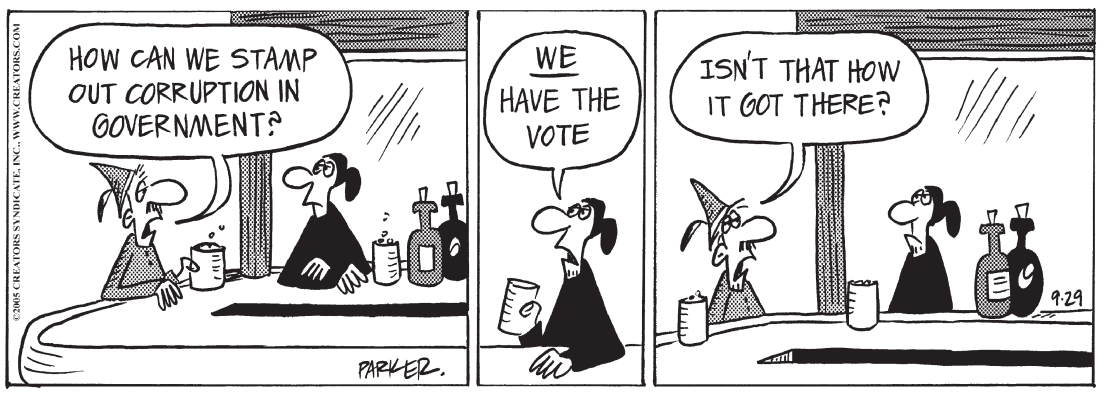

## BLONDIE



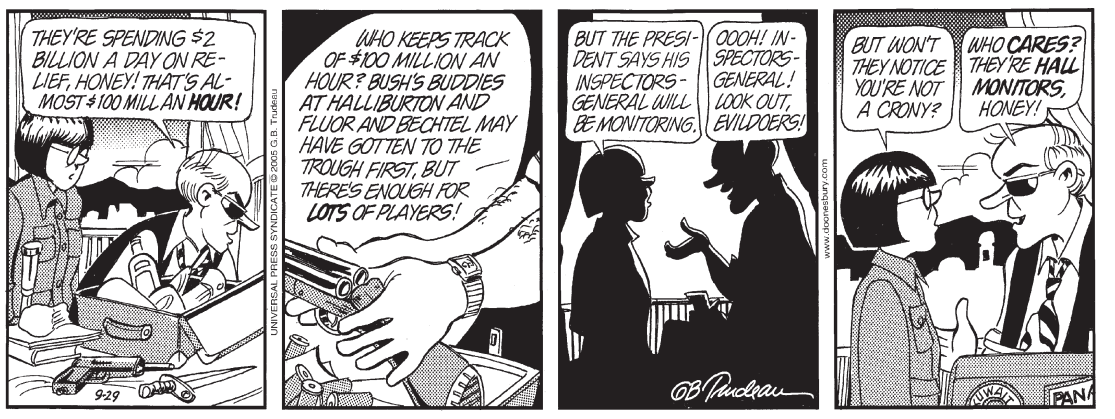

## ROSE IS ROSE



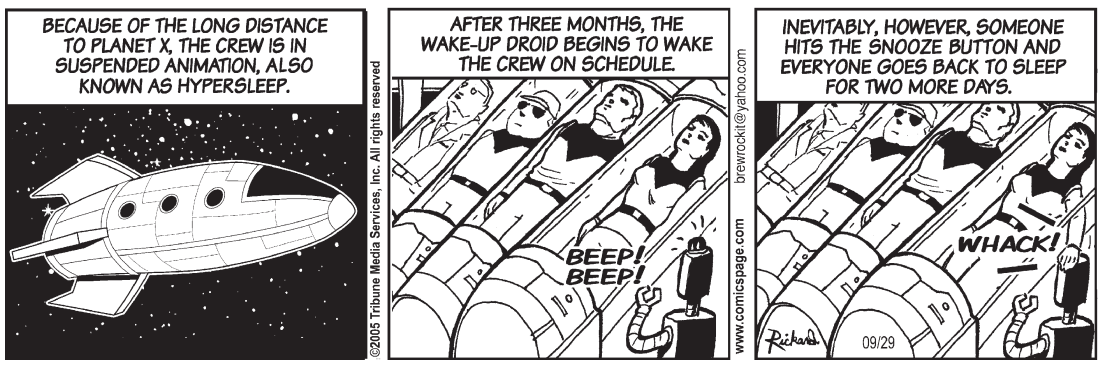

## THE WIZARD OF ID



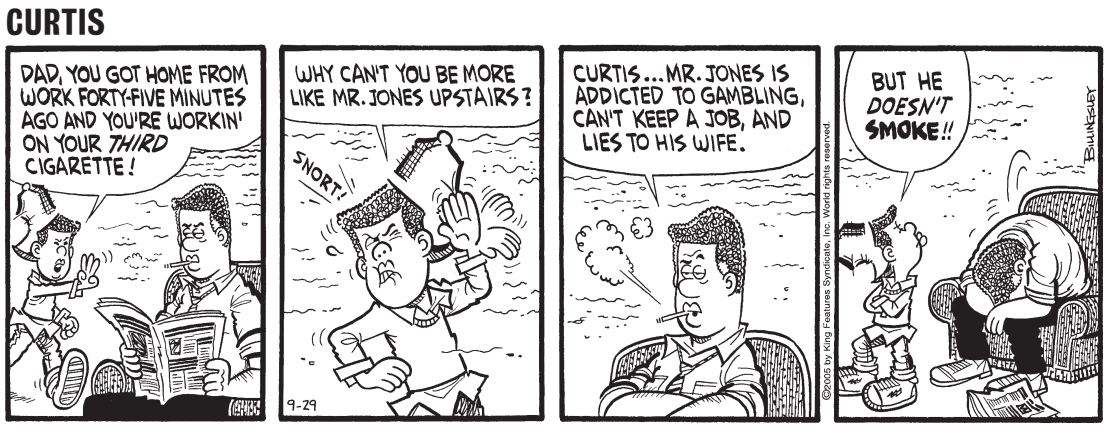

## DOONESBURY



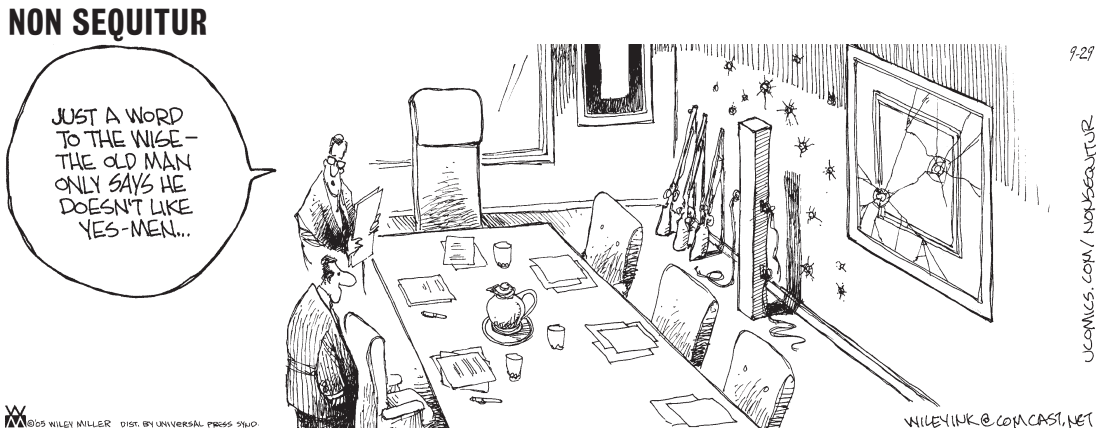

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



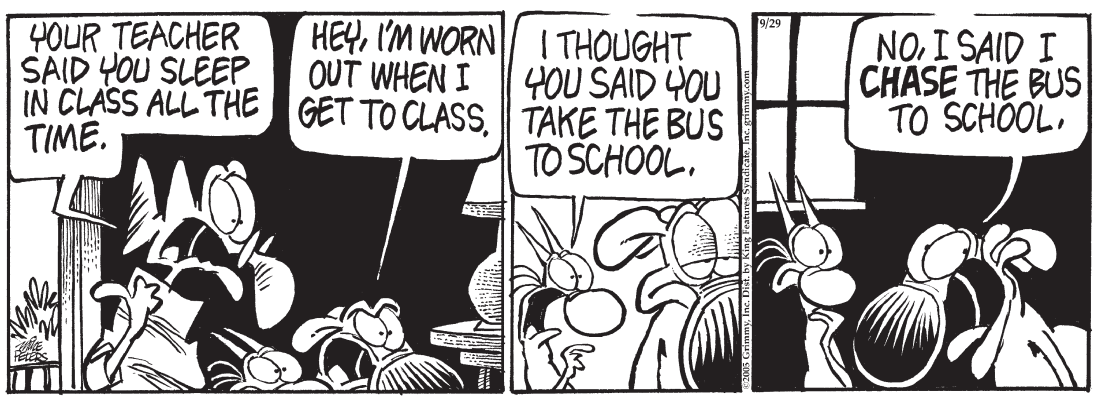

## CURTIS




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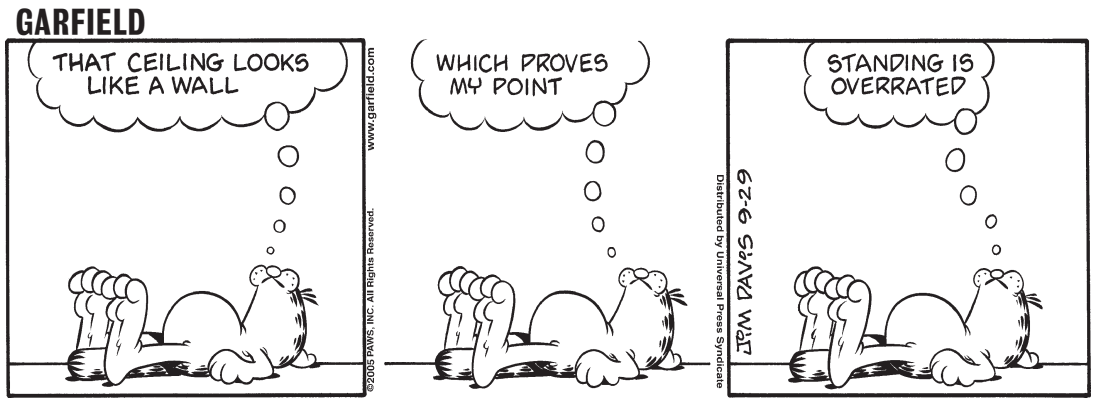



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

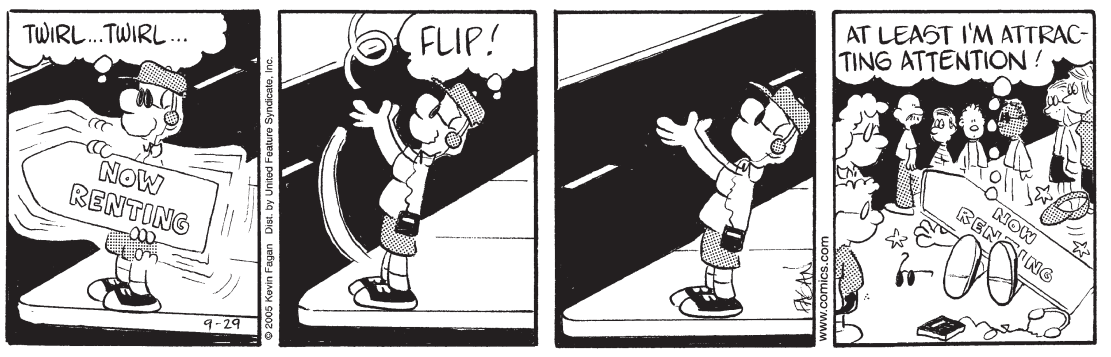


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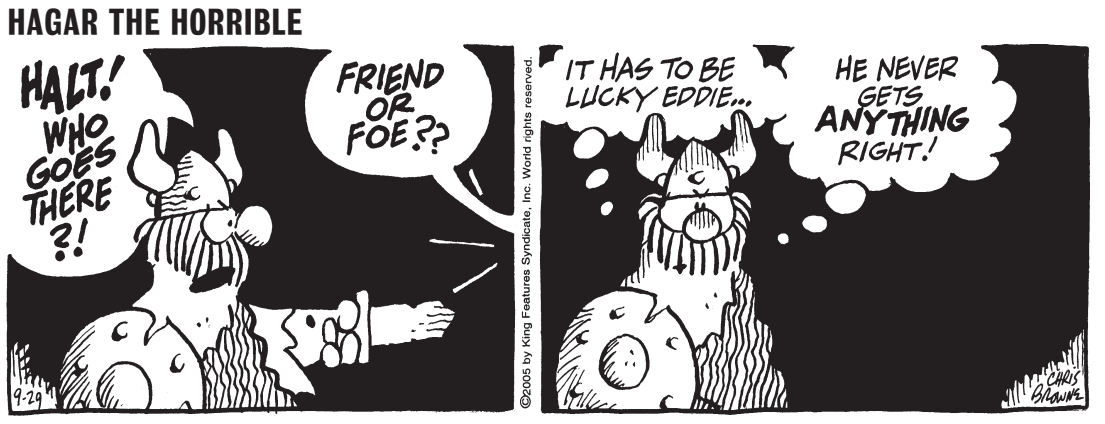
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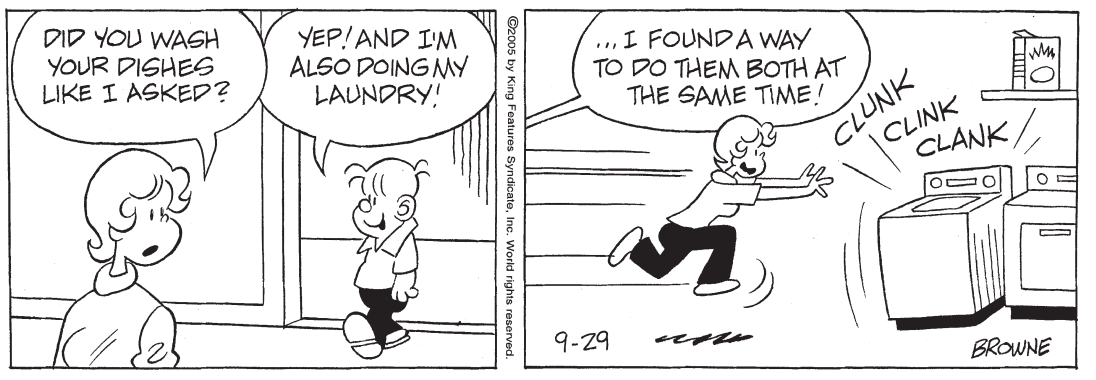

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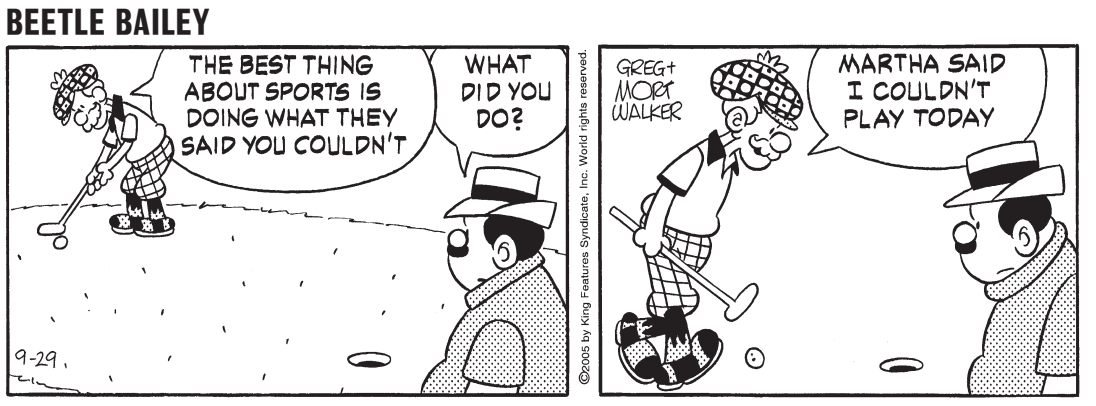

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




## HI & LOIS



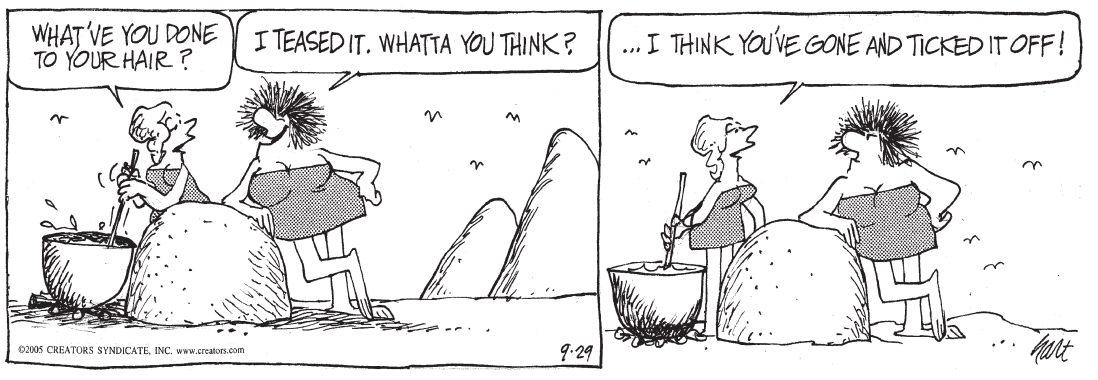

## BEETLE BAILEY



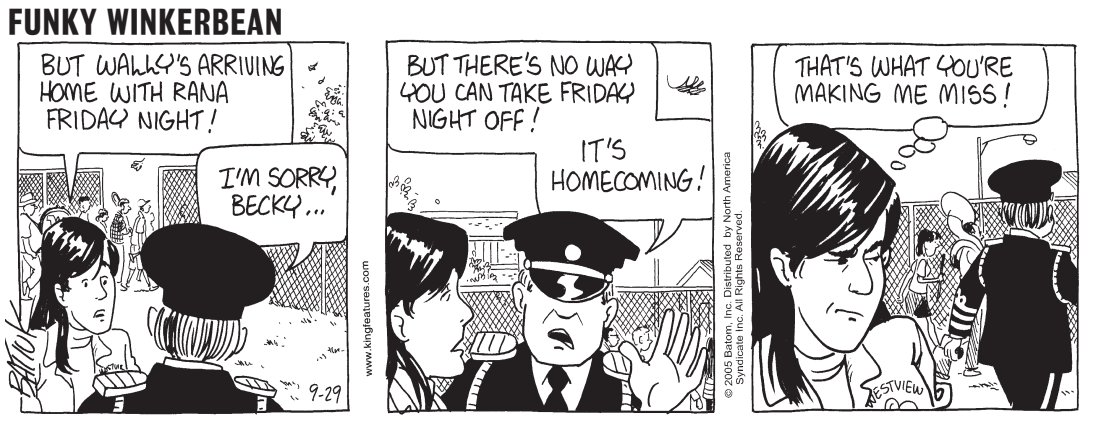

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



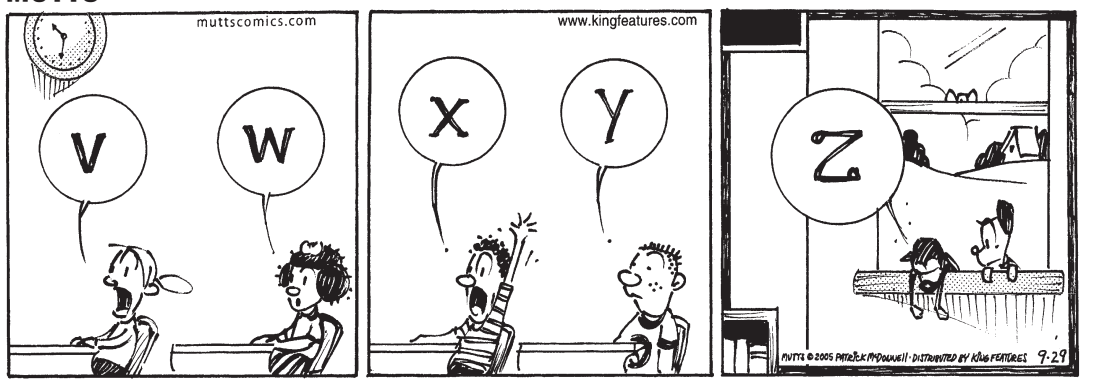

## B.C.



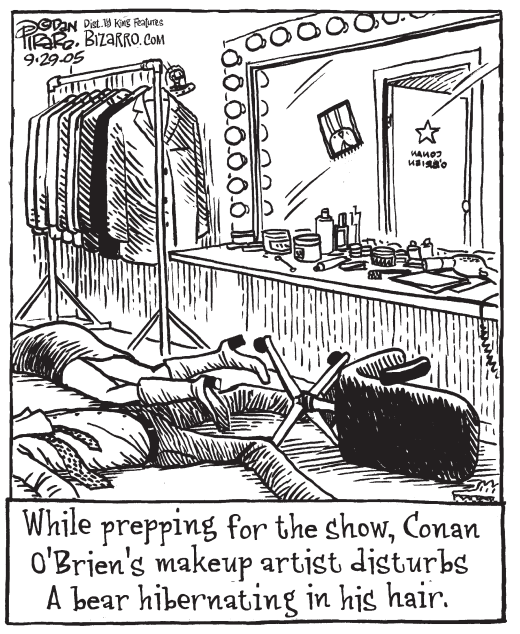

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS

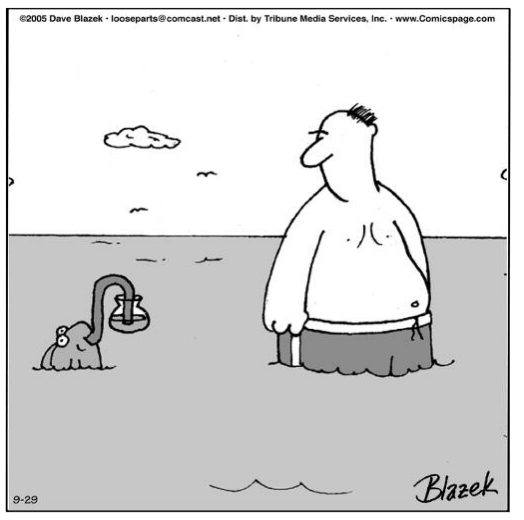



## BIZARRO




While prepping for the show, Conan O'Brien's makeup artist disturbs A bear hibernating in his hair.

## LOOSE PARTS




Fish snorkeling

## SPEED BUMP

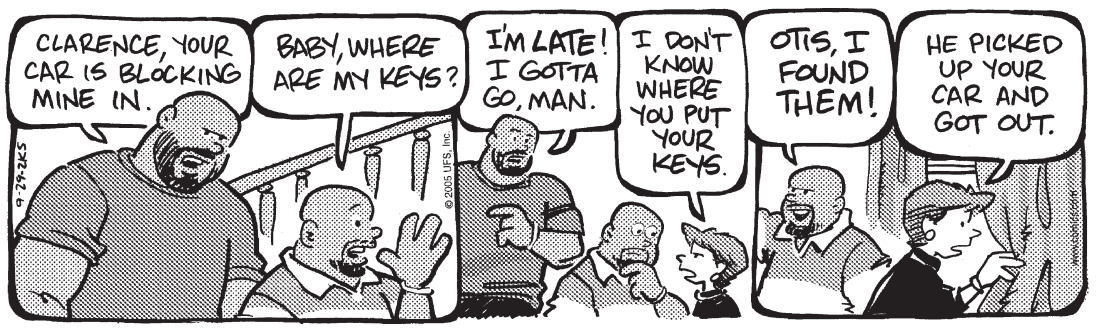



## MARMADUKE




"He's trying to hypnotize me into dropping my cheese snacks."

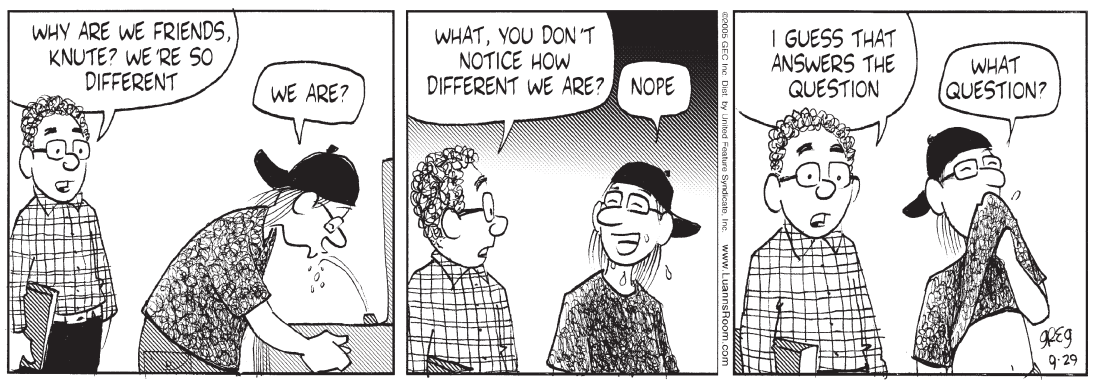
## JUMP START



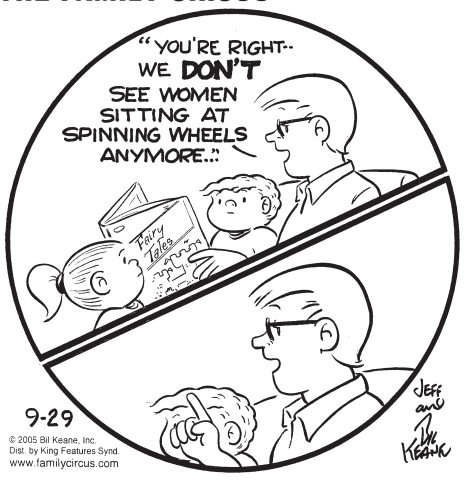

## DILBERT




## LUANN

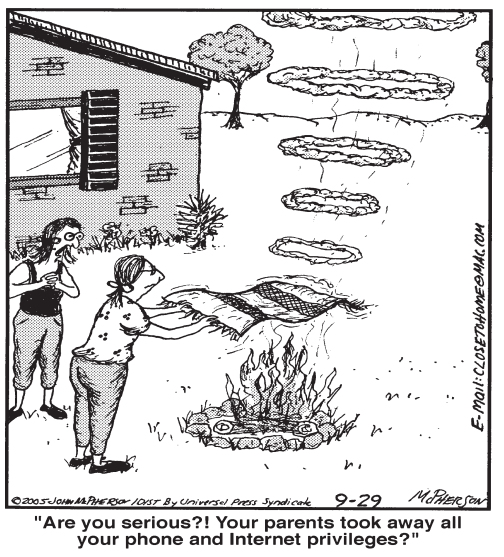



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"... unless they're in casinos."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Are you serious?! Your parents took away all your phone and Internet privileges?"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"NO COWS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, RUFF. I GUESS WE'LL HAFTA ROUND UP CATS."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**GARBAGE DAY** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | T | Y | T | E | F | A | S | E | V | E | N | I | N | G |
| V | E | H | I | C | L | E | T | S | E | T | S | A | W | D |
| G | E | S | M | E | L | L | A | N | A | U | E | R | R | K |
| S | R | P | I | Y | E | S | G | I | R | L | B | A | C | K |
| C | T | O | L | D | T | R | S | B | C | D | G | U | C | Y |
| H | S | I | C | W | E | C | A | O | I | T | R | A | S | H |
| E | A | L | A | E | G | N | E | R | T | T | E | O | T | A |
| D | C | T | N | E | R | H | T | L | A | W | N | H | P | N |
| U | K | I | S | K | O | Y | F | I | L | L | R | C | S | D |
| L | R | M | T | L | F | G | K | S | A | O | O | S | E | L |
| E | I | E | I | Y | H | I | A | L | W | L | C | C | R | E |
| D | N | D | P | I | L | E | Y | D | U | A | A | R | V | M |
| A | A | O | S | A | R | N | A | L | A | B | L | A | I | O |
| Y | E | O | Z | A | P | I | R | V | I | O | E | P | C | H |
| S | F | F | U | T | S | C | D | N | Y | L | Ⓡ | Ⓐ | Ⓔ | Ⓣ |

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Area, Back, Bins, Bulky, Cabin, Cans, City, Clean, Collect, Corner, Daily, Days, Dirty, Drag, Drop, Evening, Fill, Food, Forget, Glass, Green, Grocery, Handle, Heavy, Holiday, Home, Hygienic, Lawn, Laws, Leave, Lids, Paper, Pile, Residential, Road, Sack, Safety, Schedule, Scrap, Service, Smell, Spoil, Street, Stuff, Tags, Tear, Throw, Time, Toss, Trash, Truck, Urban, Vehicle, Waste, Weekly, Yard, Zone

**Yesterday's Answer: Skin**

# Cat lady rode out the storms

**CAT,** *from C-1*

got down and did that and have been doing it ever since."

Indeed. She sits on the floor in the front room of her house — it would be a stretch to call it a "studio" — and she fills canvas after canvas, board after board, paper after paper. If you stood still in front of her for long enough, she'd probably paint you.

Her home is filled with thousands of paintings she has made over the past three decades. She admittedly has sold few works, so mostly they line her walls, floor-to-ceiling in every room, and then they fill stacks and piles randomly assigned through her cluttered 1890s cottage.

And, having recently run out of canvases to work on, she is now working a medium that only a hurricane could provide: She has gathered scores of slate roofing tiles that were scattered off the roofs of her neighbors' homes into the street, and now she paints them.

"They're so beautiful," she says. "I couldn't bear the thought of the National Guardsmen or some contractors trampling over them, so I collected them. I won't have enough time in my life to paint them all."

Over the years, she has painted various abstracts and florals and faces and landscapes, but now her work is fairly dark and muddied and swirly, work clearly influenced by the monstrous forces that have visited upon her life this past month.

Funny thing is, in the beginning, she didn't really know what had happened.

Montgomery has been living the consummate, isolated cat lady existence for years and she was only vaguely aware that a storm was even coming.

The shattered cedar tree and the loss of power, water and phone — and the disappearance of all her neighbors — told her it was something big.

"I went to church that Sunday morning before the storm and a sign on the door said, 'Services canceled,' so I bought a paper and that was the last news I heard," she says.

"There were four or five days where I had absolutely no idea what had happened. But I was safe, the cats were safe, so I thought: why be scared? I firmly believe in God and prayer. I knew I would just ride it out. I am probably more prepared than anyone else in the world to spend time alone."



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

'I am very able to exist on my own,' Ellen Montgomery says.

It wasn't until several days later, when a neighbor returning to retrieve some items loaned her a radio — and stocked her with food and water before leaving again — that the magnitude of the event settled upon her.

"I try to listen to the news a couple of hours a day and it's unimaginable, really," she says. But she has seen no images of it all; has not seen that more than half the city was underwater and has not seen the human misery that filled the Superdome and Convention Center, sights that are now burned into the American consciousness.

"At first, actually, it was kind of nice around here," she says. "The birds came back and the squirrels would come deliver me the news. It's all been so peaceful, really. But it's nice to have the thought of people coming back. I suppose there'll be lots of chainsaws and hammers and all that, so I might miss the silence. But, the truth is, I'm just about out of candles."

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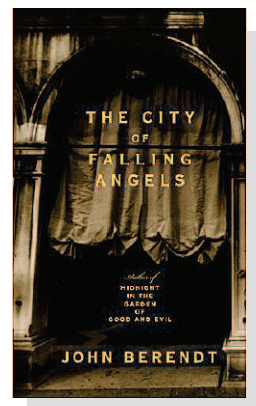
Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

**WELCOME DISTRACTIONS**




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

# WONDROUS 'ANGELS'




After the phenomenal success of his 1994 bestseller "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," many New Orleanians hoped John Berendt would take the Crescent City as a topic for his next book. But Berendt found his muse in Venice, that city that has lured writers from Henry James to Ezra Pound into its fabled landscape of canals and bridges and water and sinking architecture. "The City of Falling Angels" (The Penguin Press, $25.95), which takes its title from a cautionary note found in a church under restoration, is the wondrous result.

The framing event is the 1996 fire at the Venice Opera House, which made headlines around the world. Interspersed with tales of the search for the culprits and the restoration of the historic building, Berendt weaves a tale of Venetian eccentricities and rivalries, touching on Carnival (the costumes in Venice are really fabulous, and on occasion, memorably licentious), the literary legacy there (particularly fascinating are the chapters about Ezra Pound and the rivaling constituencies of the Ezra Pound Foundation), still other rivalries between restoration organizations, the legacy of Peggy Guggenheim, a man who makes his fortune by creating rat poison customized for the taste buds of rats in different countries, a feuding family of glassblowers, expatriates, and a renegade poet of heartbreak and loneliness.

New Orleans readers will feel very at home in this fragile, beloved, mystical landscape, which so resembles ours in the mysterious fascination it exerts for the artist. The lore of great families, of great houses, the stark demand of present realities against the long shadow of history and tradition, the passion that place can inspire in the heart — they are all here.

"Venetians never tell the truth," a friend tells Berendt as he sets out on his literary journey. But there is a kind of truth in all these stories, and Berendt proves himself, once again, to be a modern Scheherezade, seducing us, making us long for more. In one memorable moment, Count Giovanni Volpi, a member of the Venetian aristocracy, mocks the restorationists even as he allows them to use his palazzo for a ball. "The 'dying Venice' is all a big myth," he tells Berendt. "That's what I mean about Save Venice. Forget it. Venice will save itself. Go save Paris!" To which we could only add, "or New Orleans."

*Susan Larson, book editor*

# 'This is what local television was meant to be'

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

Baton Rouge PBS affiliate WLPB-TV and even, at the height of the post-Katrina chaos, from the transmitter structure itself.

"It was an office turned into a studio area," news anchor Mike Hoss said. "A white wall and two chairs."

And, behind the anchors, a Channel 4 logo borrowed from one of the station's vehicles.

As Katrina approached, Hoss, his family already evacuated to Jackson, Miss., did a nine-hour anchoring stint from Aug. 27 into the next day, the Saturday and Sunday before the storm hit.

WWL's news workers were still stationed on Rampart at that time, but Breland began to split her team in two as landfall approached.

Hoss was in the group that stayed in the French Quarter. A second team shifted to LSU, and took over the broadcast late Sunday night while Hoss and the other stay-behinds rode out Katrina's attack in the Hyatt Regency New Orleans ballroom.

Hoss said that when he and meteorologist Carl Arredondo went outside for a look at about 3 a.m. Monday, phoning in a report to the Baton Rouge anchors, "It was raining hard and blowing hard."

Hoss said he went out for another look at 6 a.m. and heard shattering glass, destruction he wouldn't fully comprehend until he took a vehicle out into the diminishing storm later in the day.

"That's when we got the shot of the Hyatt with no glass in it," he said.

On that first rolling reporting trip outside, Hoss also discovered that the Rampart Street studios hadn't taken any water and appeared usable.

Hearing that news, the Hyatt group "bugged out" for the studio, and newscasts were being broadcast from there by mid-afternoon.

Communications were poor, but Monday concluded with a sense that the city of New Orleans had "dodged a bullet," Hoss said. "We were in such a vacuum in our little world right there, it didn't look too bad."

• • • • • •

**Hoss awoke Tuesday** to the bark of an assignment editor saying, "Get everybody up. The water's rising."

"I said, 'What are you talking about? The water's rising?'"

Reporter Dave McNamara had tried to drive to City Hall from the French Quarter but was turned back by flooding.

The afternoon before, Hoss had made the same drive on dry streets.

Levees had been breeched. The bowl-shaped city was filling with water.

A group of about 50 evacuated to the transmitter, the rest to Baton Rouge.

Running on generator power, the transmitter gave many staffers the first opportunity to contact family and friends since Katrina's onslaught.

Text messaging seemed to work hand-held BlackBerry devices, generally an annoying electronic tether in a daily business setting, have never been so greatly appreciated — but normal telephone communication had been impossible in the city.

From the transmitter, e-mails were funneled out and back via the Dallas headquarters of WWL's parent, Belo Corp.

Constructed when WWL began the transition to digital TV, the 4,400-square-foot transmitter structure can run for more than two weeks on generator power without a fuel refill.

"When we know we are headed into a long run time, we move into a fuel-conservation mode, kind of like driving 55 mph on the highway instead of 75," said Rick Barber, WWL's director of technology. "We begin to turn off non-critical equipment to conserve."

The transmitter team stayed in place, with reporters moving out then returning with stories, for a day and a night and into Wednesday, Aug. 31.

The group was provisioned for a long stay. Security guards had been moved in to protect them and their equipment.

But reports from the field — rampant looting, gun battles in the city's streets, Oakwood Mall torched by arsonists — prompted Bud Brown, WWL's general manager for just a few weeks prior to Katrina, to evacuate the group again, this time to Baton Rouge.

There, Brown quickly arranged for a staff-reunion gathering at the Baton Rouge restaurant Chimes.

"It was an emotional feeling I'll never forget," said Hoss, who's kept a daily personal Katrina journal. "I think about that today when there are low times and bad times. It was hugs. It was, 'You're OK. We're OK.'

"The other people at the restaurant must have been wondering, 'What is going on?'

"We hadn't seen each other, you'd think, for six months, but it had only been three days. We knew what they had been through in Baton Rouge and they knew what we'd been through in New Orleans and at the transmitter.

"I told the GM, 'You will never have a station more united than you have at this point right here.'"

• • • • • •

**WWL eventually settled** its base of operations at WLPB, where last week hallways were crammed with computer shipping boxes and studios were crammed with people working at the computers that came inside them.

For the WWL staff, living conditions in Baton Rouge have been expedient at best.

"We've been living six to seven people to an apartment," Breland said. "Not one person complained, but it was like going back to college days."

Meanwhile, the work has literally been shirtsleeve tele-journalism.

"It was basically rudimentary television, passing on information as we got it," Hoss said. "This is what local television was meant to be. We have been the messengers of information. It hasn't been pretty. It hasn't been stylish. It's been, 'Here's what we know. Here's what your neighborhood looks like.'

"The reporters did an amazing job."

The homes of many WWL staffers, including Breland's, were totaled by Katrina.

Covering that storm and its aftermath, then Rita, have been obvious preoccupations, but the impact of the storms on the lives of WWL's staffers, and on the life of their city, occasionally overrides the adrenaline.

Hoss said it didn't hit him until he was driving to Baton Rouge from the transmitter.

"We didn't talk about it until we got out of the area," he said. "Then the enormity of it really started to set in.

"My worst moment was pre-storm, the Sunday before the storm. I wasn't on the air, but there was a big meeting and everybody was standing around talking about 'the plan.'

"I was like, 'Wow. This is the big one. It's not veering.' There was a sense of, 'Oh, my God. What's going to happen to my life? What's going to happen to my city?' "

Said Brown: "Everybody has had their moment. I've never hugged so many people in my life."

If you could hug a transmitter, WWL's would get a few, too.

While WWL's multimillion-dollar broadcast engine was under construction, Barber sent daily digital photo updates to all of WWL's staffers.

"Many have said, 'Rick, I never understood why I was getting those, or why you were building the place the way you did. But now I understand, and thank you,' " Barber said via e-mail. "Almost everyone that did stay here that night or two has thanked me for the construction of the site.

"They felt safe here."

• • • • • •

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# ANCHOR'S AWAY

## *Angela Hill was up an Alaskan creek without a paddle when the big story blew in*



While her WWL-Channel 4 colleagues were covering the biggest bad-news story in modern New Orleans history not involving the Saints, Angela Hill was lost at sea.

Hill departed on an Alaskan cruise when Hurricane Katrina appeared to be headed for the Florida panhandle. The trip was a reprise of a favorite vacation Hill had taken with her husband 10 years ago.

"Alaska is the last frontier," she said. "It's nothing but glorious beauty."

Memories of her latest trip won't be so beautiful.

As Katrina did its damage, Hill, the station's venerable evening news anchor, was "trapped" on the boat with no practical way to get off and get back into action, said WWL News Director Sandy Breland.

Not by seaplane, not by dogsled, not by snowshoe.

Trapped, albeit in a setting with round-the-clock bingo.

"It was painful, I'm telling you," Hill said. "That is the word.

"We stayed stuck on CNN, then we'd stick our head out the window to look at a glacier. That's how I would make my way through the day.

"We found five other people from our area, and as the days went on we became more and more emotional at dinner. We couldn't make it through.

"I would look at them and lose it."

As agonized as Hill was observing the plight of her New Orleans neighbors via satellite-delivered cable news, she was equally tormented to be missing the story as reported by her WWL colleagues. She finally made it to WWL's makeshift Baton Rouge newsroom a week after the story broke.

"Helpless," she said. "Horrible. This is our city. These are our friends.

"You know what you're in this business for, knowing what this team of people does on a regular basis, much less when they go into major-story mode.

"I was sick."

**— Dave Walker**

The Times-Picayune

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

# McGee played with his home on mind

*Tulane lineman's native Beaumont hit by Rita*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Last Friday night, Tulane offensive line coach Don Mahoney peeked into the room of his left tackle.

"How's everything at home?" Mahoney asked Chris McGee, a native of Beaumont, Texas.

McGee looked up and calmly said, "I'll be fine, Coach."

"He's always been a tough person," Mahoney said. "And I believe mentally, as well."

**TULANE vs. SLU**
2:30 p.m. Saturday at Tiger Stadium
**Radio:** 690-AM

McGee knew Hurricane Rita was heading toward Beaumont on Saturday. But he woke up early and didn't see much footage. He had a game to play.

"That's the best thing about football," McGee said. "For three hours, that's the only thing that matters."

Looking back on Sept. 24, McGee now can discuss the damage to his hometown, smacked around by the hurricane.

"Some parts look like what you see in New Orleans," McGee said. "(My dad's) home is fine, but there is a lot of damage."

McGee's sister, Cassandra, also has a home in Beaumont. She left Friday for Dallas, where Tulane would play Southern Methodist at 1 p.m. McGee's mother, Carolyn, moved to Dallas from Beaumont earlier this year. Numerous family members united in the haven of Ford Stadium.

But McGee's dad was trapped on the highway.

Willie Spears was in his Suburban on Saturday, gridlocked near Irving, Texas. Spears survived, but missed Tulane's 31-10 victory. He ultimately turned around and headed south to Beaumont.

"I was glad to hear from him," said McGee, who didn't talk to his dad until Sunday because Spears' cell phone lost power. "Mostly, my family was

*See* **TULANE,** *C-10*



Dead fish can be seen on the backstretch of the Fair Grounds and well into the stable area. A large tree also fell into one of the stables.

# ANOTHER REBUILDING PROCESS



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Hurricane Katrina ripped off a large section of the roof at the Fair Grounds, and some of what survived Katrina did not make it through Hurricane Rita.

*Fair Grounds to rise after Katrina, but what does future hold?*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

A stone figure of a jockey painted in the colors of Peace Rules, winner of the New Orleans Handicap in 2004, sits undamaged along the track apron at the Fair Grounds.

But the statue isn't where it was before Hurricane Katrina hit.

An impression made in the ground by the base shows that Katrina moved the statue several feet closer to the track. She also turned it 180 degrees.

On the backstretch, brought to life every fall and winter by horses, fish lie dead.

The paddock, the Fair Grounds' focal point, where horses are saddled while fans eye them before placing bets, is strewn with red metal and white insulation from the roof.

Two months before Thanksgiving, the traditional opening day of racing in New Orleans, the Fair Grounds is an eerie place. It's mostly quiet, except for the purr of a generator used by National Guard troops based at the track.

The Fair Grounds won't be home to racing for at least a year. Churchill Downs Inc., which owns the track, has canceled the 2005-06 season, though Louisiana horsemen and Churchill Downs have reached a preliminary agreement to shift 37 New Orleans racing days to Louisiana Downs in Bossier City.

Because of Katrina, Churchill has major reconstruction to do at the Fair Grounds. The company already had begun making renovations in the barn area ñ work promised in the track's bankruptcy settlement. Also, work had begun on an extension of the main Fair Grounds building to create an area for slot machines.

*See* **FAIR GROUNDS,** *C-8*

# Saints disappointing in hurricane's wake



**JOHN DESHAZIER**

We've been changed in so many ways that there isn't room to log all the transformation.

Stretched, twisted, moved, shifted, pulled and pushed until, in hundreds of thousands of cases, we barely resemble the creatures who occupied our skin before experiencing the most destructive natural disaster in American history.

Not so, however, when it comes to the on-field product presented by the Saints.

Sadly, the team that all of America wants desperately to hug and console has been embraceable only because of the ordeal it is going through, not at all because of what it's doing on the field. There, the Saints so far have been disappointingly familiar for the first three weeks of the NFL season, having mastered the art of the slow start, littered with bonehead play and inexplicable penalties.

Sadly, the olive branch that has been extended by fans, who probably would be satisfied with

*See* **DeSHAZIER,** *C-7*



AP PHOTO

Buffalo Bills quarterback J.P. Losman, left, a former Tulane standout, was given the reins of the offense this past offseason, when the team cut Drew Bledsoe.

# Bills trying to keep pressure off Losman

*Team shows potential, but QB feeling his way*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — To a man, Buffalo Bills officials say they do not expect second-year quarterback J.P. Losman to lead the franchise back to glory.

And they say it with a straight face, too.

"J.P. does not have to win games," Bills coach Mike Mularkey said. "We have to win games as a team. If we're smart as coaches, we'll put him in a position to have success, then I think everything will fall into place. But I think he realizes he does not have to win games for us. That's not what we're asking him to do."

**SAINTS vs. BILLS**
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They're simply asking Losman, a former Tulane standout from Venice, Calif., to justify a huge investment. In April 2004, the Bills gave up first-, second- and fifth-round draft picks to acquire Losman in the 22nd slot of the first round. After the 2004 season, they released Drew

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-7*

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**ANGELS CLINCH WEST:** With several players having quiet offensive seasons, the Los Angeles Angels depended on their reliable defense and deep pitching staff to get them back to the playoffs. The Angels became the first American League team to clinch a postseason berth Tuesday night with their second consecutive victory over the second-place Oakland Athletics. "One thing that kept us afloat and kept our sanity was the way we were pitching and playing defense," Scioscia said. "We were able to stay positive and optimistic because it wasn't going to take a lot of offense." The Angels are in the playoffs in consecutive years for the first time in franchise history. They entered play Wednesday having won 10 of their past 11. "The expectations are high here in this room with these guys," Scioscia said. "We knew we had the type of team to get to the playoffs and hopefully further. They were in grind mode all year and got this first step done."



AP PHOTO

The Los Angeles Angels are the first American League team to clinch a division title. The Angels beat Oakland 4-3 Tuesday night to win the American League West.

**OTHER RACES:** Entering play Wednesday, the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees were tied atop the AL East, and the Chicago White Sox led the Cleveland Indians by two games in the AL Central. The Indians, Red Sox and Yankees were all tied for the wild card spot. In the National League, San Diego leads San Francisco by four games in the West. Atlanta and St. Louis have clinched division titles, and Houston leads Philadelphia by 2✪ games in the wild card race.

**WHITE SOX WIN FLIP:** The White Sox won coin flips Wednesday and would host the Boston Red Sox or New York Yankees if Chicago finishes with the same record as the AL East second-place team and a playoff is needed to determine the wild-card winner.

**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki sued a Taiwanese advertising company for unauthorized use of his image. The company, Chuanghsin, used pictures of Suzuki in advertisements on buses, in department stores and in a magazine, Suzuki's representative said. . . . The San Diego Padres and baseball officials planned to announce today that the semifinals and finals of the World Baseball Classic will be played at Petco Park in March. The World Baseball Classic will be the first international tournament to feature major league players.

## BASKETBALL

**BLATCHE OUT FOR CAMP:** Washington Wizards rookie Andray Blatche will miss training camp while he recovers from gunshot wounds from an attempted carjacking. Blatche walked under his own power as he visited with teammates at the MCI Center on Wednesday, three days after the shooting and one day after being released from the hospital. He was shot Sunday morning while riding in a car near his home in Alexandria, Va. The bullet hit him in the right forearm and on the left side of his chest.

**AROUND THE NBA:** The Memphis Grizzlies signed rookie free agent Kennedy Winston on Wednesday. Winston, a 6-foot-6, 230-pound guard, averaged 16.2 points, 5.3 rebounds and 2.2 assists in 82 games at Alabama.

## OTHER SPORTS

**TENNIS:** Top-seeded Kim Clijsters defeated Klara Koukalova 6-3 6-0 to reach the quarterfinals of the Fortis Championships in Luxembourg. "Itís always tough to adjust to the conditions after playing outdoors the whole summer, but I got used to the court pretty quickly today," Clijsters said. Clijsters, a four-time champion in this event, is 23-1 in Luxembourg. . . . Top-seeded Mariano Puerta, Thomas Johansson and Radek Stepanek advanced to the second round of the Vietnam Open in Ho Chi Minh City.

**BOXING:** American Lamon Brewster stopped German challenger Luan Krasniqi in the ninth round of a bruising defense of the WBO heavyweight title in Luxembourg. Brewster was struggling until he landed a hard left in the eighth round that sent Krasniqi (28-2-1) to the canvas stiff-legged. Brewster then landed a right that sent Krasniqi sprawling into the ropes with 12 seconds left in the ninth round. Brewster (33-2, 29 knockouts) was staggered by lefts and was behind on the cards in the third defense of his belt until two successive lefts turned the bout around. "It was just my willpower, my determination. I had to wait a long time," Brewster said.

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The Times-Picayune

# McCain to Fehr: Patience is at end

*Senate considering a two-year ban for first offense*

**By Howard Fendrich**
AP sports writer



AP PHOTO

Major League Baseball players' union chief Donald Fehr, middle,told senators at a Senate hearing on Wednesday a new drug-testing agreement could be reached by next month.

WASHINGTON — One by one, Hank Aaron and other members of the Hall of Fame told Congress they back Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig's bid for tougher steroid penalties.

Then, one by one, lawmakers told players' union chief Donald Fehr that he needs to act soon - a stance punctuated by Sen. John McCain's admonishment, "Don't you get it?"

Commissioners and union leaders from the NFL, NBA and NHL also testified Wednesday at a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on legislation that would standardize steroid policies in professional sports. But the focus was squarely on baseball, and more precisely on Fehr, who told senators he thinks a new drug-testing agreement could be reached next month.

"I particularly single out baseball. And in baseball, I particularly single out the players," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., "because they have negotiated reluctantly, if at all."

Lawmakers investigating steroid use by athletes have concentrated on baseball since March 17, when Mark McGwire, Rafael Palmeiro, Selig and Fehr testified before the House Government Reform Committee. Palmeiro emphatically told Congress he never used steroids; he was suspended Aug. 1 after failing a drug test.

"We're at the end of the line," said McCain, R-Ariz. "How many more Rafael Palmeiros is there going to be?"

Five weeks after that March hearing, Selig proposed increasing the ban for a positive test from 10 days to 50 games for a first violation, from 30 days to 100 games for a second, and from 60 days to a lifetime ban for a third.

Fehr this week outlined an approach that would increase the first penalty to 20 games and wouldn't mandate a lifetime ban. He stressed Wednesday the need for case-by-case examination of players who fail drug tests.

"Don't you get it that this is an issue that's greater than the issue of collective bargaining? Don't you understand that this is an issue of such transcendent importance that you should have acted months ago?" McCain asked Fehr. "The patience of this body . . . is at an end."

Pressed to say when there will be a new steroids agreement, Fehr said: "Can I give you a precise date? No. Do I expect to know within the reasonably near future whether that will be done? Yes. Would I expect it to be by the end of the World Series? I would certainly hope so."

The World Series is scheduled to begin Oct. 22 and end no later than Oct. 30. Asked whether that's a workable deadline, Selig said, "I don't see that we have a choice."

Selig received more criticism in past congressional appearances. But now he's advised by former White House spokesman Ari Fleischer and has received praise for proposing changes to baseball's drug policy. On Wednesday, he brought along former stars Ryne Sandberg, Phil Niekro, Robin Roberts, Lou Brock and Aaron.

"I want to applaud the commissioner, and I also just want to make sure that whatever we do, we make sure that we clean up baseball," said Aaron, whose lifetime record of 755 homers is being approached by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants.

Asked by McCain what should be done about records tainted by steroid use, Aaron said: "That's going to be left up to the commissioner and the rules committee. They would probably have to go back and look at some of those things that happened."

Later, Sen. George Allen, R-Va., made a not-so-veiled reference to Bonds, who has denied using steroids: "As far as Hank Aaron is concerned, if a certain player breaks his home run record, it's not a question of an asterisk. . . . There probably ought to be an 'RX' next to it."

The Senate is considering two bills that call for a two-year suspension for a first positive drug test and a lifetime ban for a second. McCain sponsored the Clean Sports Act; Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., a member of baseball's Hall of Fame, sponsored the Professional Sports and Integrity Act. There are three similar House measures.

NBA, NFL and NHL officials raised some complaints about the bills, saying a "one size fits all" proposal isn't fair; U.S. law couldn't be applied to Canadian teams; and the two-year ban for a first offense is too harsh.

McCain and Bunning said they'd prefer not to legislate but warned that Congress is prepared to do so.

"For whatever reason, you just can't get it done, and you can't get your act together," Bunning said. "I and millions of fans think that's pathetic."

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SCORES

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Tuesday's games**
Boston 3, Toronto 1, 1st game
Toronto 7, Boston 5, 2nd game
Baltimore 17, N.Y. Yankees 9
Tampa Bay 5, Cleveland 4
Detroit 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Minnesota 3, Kansas City 1
Texas 3, Seattle 2, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 3

**Wednesday's games**
Toronto at Boston, Late
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, Late
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, Late
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, Late
Kansas City at Minnesota, Late
Texas at Seattle, Late
L.A. Angels at Oakland, Late

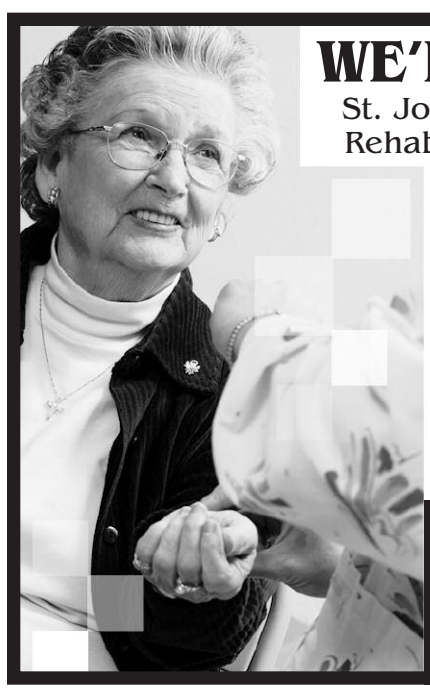
**Today's games**
Chicago White Sox at Detroit 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 3:35 p.m.
Texas at Seattle 6:35 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Tuesday's games**
Washington 11, Florida 1
N.Y. Mets 3, Philadelphia 2
Atlanta 12, Colorado 3
Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 3
Houston 3, St. Louis 1
San Diego 9, San Francisco 6
Arizona 2, L.A. Dodgers 0

**Wednesday's games**
Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Colorado at Atlanta, late
Washington at Florida, late
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, late
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, late
Houston at St. Louis, late
San Francisco at San Diego, late
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, late

**Today's games**
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 2:05 p.m.
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.



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AROUND THE NFL



AP PHOTO

Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb likely will need surgery after the season for his abdominal strain, but he is cleared to play as long as he can handle the pain.

# McNabb to play through the pain

## *Eagles QB is battling abdominal strain*

**From wire reports**

The Eagles' Donovan McNabb tossed touchdown passes on a broken ankle and played an NFC title game with an agonizing rib injury.

Now McNabb is taking his biggest health risk yet: playing with a severe abdominal strain that likely will need surgery and definitely will leave the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback in discomfort and pain all season.

"Fortunately for me, I haven't got to the point where you just can't go," said McNabb, who practiced Wednesday. "Once that happens, then I think the best way of handling this is not being out there. But I don't think that would ever happen."

Trainer Rick Burkholder said rest will not fix the problem and McNabb can play if he can handle the pain.

"We're hoping it's something we'll be able to manage," Burkholder said. "The plan with Donovan is to allow him to participate, continue to rehabilitate him and we're going to take it on a day-by-day, game-by-game situation."

McNabb is expected to start Sunday against Kansas City and is willing to play through his various injuries. McNabb also is playing with soreness in his chest and a shin contusion.

"I'm ready to go," he said. "I don't have any concerns right now. ... It's just something you have to deal with and realize some days you'll feel great and some days you won't."

**PATRIOTS SIGN ZEREOUE:** New England signed running back Amos Zereoue as their injuries continued to mount with the announcement that Kevin Faulk would miss Sunday's game with a foot injury. Zereoue, a six-year veteran who spent last season with Oakland, became a free agent after the season. He spent his first five seasons with Pittsburgh.

Faulk, who played at LSU, caught a pass on the final drive that led to the winning field goal last Sunday in New England's 23-20 win at Pittsburgh. He and offensive tackle Matt Light, who hurt his right leg, were listed Wednesday as being out of the Patriots' next game against San Diego.

Safety Rodney Harrison was lost for the season when he tore ligaments in his left knee against the Steelers.

Earlier Wednesday, the Patriots signed safety Michael Stone and offensive lineman Gene Mruczkowski. They also released wide receiver Andre Davis, who was inactive for the first three games, and made two practice squad moves by adding guard Ryan Krug and releasing linebacker Jared Newberry.

The 5-foot-8-inch Zereoue has rushed for 2,123 yards and 10 touchdowns since being drafted by Pittsburgh in the third round in 1999. He has 136 catches for 1,106 yards and a touchdown. His best season came in 2002 when he had 762 yards rushing and 42 catches for 341 yards while starting five games. With Oakland last season, he rushed for 425 yards and three touchdown with 39 receptions for 284 yards.

**DAVEY TO JOIN CARDINALS:** Free-agent quarterback Rohan Davey has agreed to terms with Arizona, providing insurance in case Kurt Warner's groin strain proves more serious than expected.

Davey's agent, Joel Segal, said the 6-foot-2, 245-pounder from LSU was in Arizona and would have a physical before signing a one-year contract.

Cardinals spokesman Mark Dalton said the team would need to make a roster move to sign Davey, but such a move would not involve putting Warner on the injured list, a season-ending designation.

In Warner's absence, fourth-year pro Josh McCown was promoted to the first unit to prepare for Sunday's game against San Francisco in Mexico City. John Navarre, who started one game last year as a rookie, is his backup. Davey, released by New England on Aug. 29, is in his fourth season.

**49ERS RE-SIGN PAIR:** Receiver Jason McAddley and cornerback Willie Middlebrooks re-signed with San Francisco, which waived both players before the regular season.

McAddley and Middlebrooks were among the 49ers' final cuts, but receiver Rashaun Woods and tight end Eric Johnson went on injured reserve in the past week, opening two roster spots.

**SEAU'S INJURY NOT SERIOUS:** Miami Dolphins linebacker Junior Seau's calf injury has been diagnosed as a strain, and he might be able to play in the team's next game Oct. 9 at Buffalo.

An MRI determined the injury suffered in Sunday's win over Carolina wasn't serious, Coach Nick Saban said.

Safety Tebucky Jones, who played with the Saints last season, is nursing a strained hamstring, and his status is also day to day, Saban said. Running back Ronnie Brown has recovered from a strained hamstring and practiced Wednesday.

# Saints think blackout to be lifted

## *Haslett high on receiver Henderson*

**By Mike Triplett and Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writers

SAN ANTONIO — More than 12,000 tickets remain for the Saints' Alamodome opener on Sunday against the Buffalo Bills.

But the team is confident that some local San Antonio businesses will agree to guarantee the remaining tickets in order to avoid a local television blackout. The NFL mandates that teams must sell out their games 48 hours in advance of kickoff in order to avoid a blackout.

Saints owner/executive Rita Benson LeBlanc stressed that tickets will still be available for purchase to both the general public and potential sponsors.

But she and Christian Archer, special assistant to San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger, said they were confident that one or more local businesses would agree to pick up the tab if the game is not sold out.

They did not identify the businesses by name but expected an announcement on Thursday. The practice of guarantees is common in the NFL. The Saints have often worked out similar agreements with the local Fox television affiliate and with Harrah's Casino, among other New Orleans business.

"It's small-market teams. It's what you have to do to make sure your game is on television," said Benson LeBlanc, who also said that she believed the San Antonio area would have sold out the game sooner if not for the short time window and some logistical problems during the past week, including the arrival of Hurricane Rita.

Benson LeBlanc was in Austin on Wednesday as part of the team's efforts to drum up support in San Antonio's neighbor 75 miles to the north.

She joined Austin mayor Will Wynn in a press conference to announce that the Saints, in conjunction with KB Home, would be donating tickets to city employees, volunteers and evacuees in Austin and San Antonio. The Saints and KB Home purchased and donated a combined 8,000 tickets.

**ETC.:** Former Saints quarterback Kliff Kingsbury signed on with the New York Jets as their third quarterback. The Jets plucked Kingsbury from the Denver Broncos' practice squad.

**INJURY REPORT:** Eleven players are listed on Wednesday's weekly injury report submitted to the league office, including safety Jay Bellamy who is expected to undergo season-ending surgery next week to repair a torn rotator cuff, according to Coach Jim Haslett. Besides Bellamy, cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee), guard Jermane Mayberry (shoulder), running back Aaron Stecker (ankle) and wide receiver Joe Horn (hamstring) did not practice Wednesday. They are listed as questionable. Wide receiver Az-Zahir Hakim (hamstring), guard Montrae Holland (knee), safety Dwight Smith (toe), defensive end Darren Howard (ankle), cornerback Mike McKenzie (neck) and defensive tackle Bryan Young (foot) also are questionable.

**PERSONNEL UPDATE:** Haslett said there is a chance cornerback Fred Booker (LSU) could be promoted to the active roster from the practice squad if the team places Bellamy on injured reserve by Sunday.

**WORTH REPEATING:** "Devery (Henderson) is doing a great job. He has really surprised me the last couple of weeks. He's getting better and better. You can feel it. He's gaining confidence in what he's doing." — Haslett on the team's second-round draft pick in 2004 from LSU. Henderson has six catches for 137 yards, including a long of 66 yards against Minnesota.

# Losman has been inconsistent so far

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

Bledsoe, who had thrown for nearly 40,000 yards with New England and Buffalo, and handed the ball to Losman, who had thrown for 32 yards during an abbreviated rookie season.

No pressure there.

Losman, 24, is the first quarterback to be drafted by the Bills in the first round since Jim Kelly in 1983.

All Kelly did was lead the Bills to four consecutive Super Bowls on his way to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

No pressure there, either.

"I think he's got everything you need to succeed in this league," Kelly said. "I think the only thing he really lacks is experience. The Bills made the right decision letting Drew go when they did. That's given J.P. an entire offseason to get his reps and start establishing himself as a leader to his teammates.

"Most of the pieces already are there for J.P. They have a hellacious defense that can give him the ball in good field position and can cover up his mistakes. In Willis (McGahee), he has an excellent running back he can really count on to carry the load. And he has some excellent wide receivers in Eric Moulds and Lee Evans."

The winning formula worked to perfection in Game 1, a 22-7 victory against the Houston Texans, a game in which Losman led the Bills on five consecutive scoring drives.

But the Bills struggled in subsequent losses to Tampa Bay (19-3) and Atlanta (24-16), meaning Losman will bring a team on a mission into Sunday's game against the Saints (1-2) at the Alamodome.

"We started off on a high note, and we've just kind of gotten into a funk here," said Losman, who missed all but five games last season after his leg was broken in training camp. "There are still lots of games, and we got to come out of it."



AP PHOTO

With a steady running game and speedy receivers, J.P. Losman has weapons around him to succeed in the Bills' offense.

Since completing 60.7 percent of his passes in the season-opening win against Houston, Losman has had trouble finding his target. He is 21-of-51 (41.1 percent) for 188 yards, no touchdowns and one interception.

Despite the inconsistencies, Saints players see a talented quarterback who also can run.

"He ain't no Donovan McNabb, or Michael Vick, or Daunte Culpepper," Saints defensive end Charles Grant said. "Once he sees people in his face, he wants to get the ball out of his hands. So we got to keep that pressure on him. We got to come at him full force with the blitzes and schemes that we have."

"He's not a real running threat," Saints cornerback Fakhir Brown said. "They like to roll him out and let him throw it. His best ball is a deep ball, like throwing a fade. I think we can put pressure on him because he's not a really good drop-back passer. He can get the ball to the slot receiver pretty good, but when he throws to the outside, they got to roll him out."

Saints coach Jim Haslett said the Bills have designed several running plays for Losman, much like Mularkey did for Kordell Stewart when Mularkey was offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"They're trying to protect J.P. a little bit because he's a young kid and hasn't played very much," Haslett said. "Mike's doing a nice job with him and not putting him in a tough position. They rely on their running game and play great defense. So J.P. is kind of feeling his way along."

One NFL defensive assistant compared Losman to former Bills quarterback Rob Johnson, describing him as "very athletic with a big arm and can make big plays but is a little skittish in the pocket."

Losman, 6 feet 2, 217 pounds, has never lacked confidence. That was never more evident than at Tulane, where he finished in the school's career top 10 in 18 categories, including third in touchdown passes (60), completions (570) and passing efficiency (129.81).

Although twice named team captain, he apparently lacked the necessary leadership skills to take the Green Wave to success, according to former teammate Mewelde Moore, now a running back with the Minnesota Vikings.

"We could have been a great team our senior year and reaped the benefits," Moore said. "But he kind of took a big turn, and he just kind of tanked it. I didn't like that."

Losman took the high road Wednesday when informed of Moore's comments in Sunday's editions of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

"Did he really say that?" Losman said. "I didn't ever hear that. It might have come out wrong or something like that. I don't think he would have said something like that."

True or not, all eyes are on Losman in Buffalo as he intimated during the preseason.

"I have so many older men counting on me to do my job and make sure I lead them to victory," Losman said.

"I'm just starting to feel pressure, all this anxiety and suspense, like I don't know what's going to happen with my life right now.

"I should know more after week three or four. I'm going to look back and either go, 'This football thing is going to happen for me,' Or I'm going to look back and say, 'Man, this is going to be really tough.' "

Losman appears to have reached that fork in the road.

# Saints' feel-good story now sour

**DeSHAZIER,** *from C-5*

anything approaching a professional effort during this Katrina-shadowed season, has lost a great deal of leaves the past two games. The Saints were undressed by the Giants and Vikings, neither of whom suddenly morphed into the Patriots, but looked against the Saints as if they had.

In three games, the Saints have two losses, 12 turnovers and 36 penalties.

With numbers like that (ridiculous numbers that have nothing to do with displacement and hurricane stress) the miracle is that the Saints aren't winless.

True, the team won't be able to play a single home game in its home city or facility the entire season, literally having to live out of a suitcase.

But that doesn't provide license for them to play as if lost, to execute as if brain waves are displaced.

One mistake-filled game, such as what the Saints offered up against the Giants, is forgivable under ordinary circumstances, definitely absolvable under the current ones. Two in a row make you wonder if it's the extension of a trend for a team that has several similar chapters in its history.

The team doesn't want to be viewed as a charity case. But it cannot play this way - aimless, clueless, sloppy - and expect to be seen as more.

If it's going to live under the "no excuses" mantra, then it would be nice for it to play like it wants to be taken seriously. Because, comparatively speaking, everyone knows the Saints are making out pretty well in San Antonio, the team's accommodations a few light years better than a shelter, its grub evolutions better than MREs.

Whatever issues the Saints have with regard to concentration, or the obvious lack thereof, stem from something other than oppressive conditions and growling tummies. And whatever is the origin, it should have been rooted out and disposed of, instead of allowed to grow potent enough to infect a pro team on consecutive Sundays.

Obviously, there's plenty of time to right the wrongs.

And, fortunately, the Saints aren't alone among teams needing to dig themselves out. Consecutive victories against the next two opponents, beatable Buffalo and declining Green Bay, and suddenly the Saints are a winning team.

But talking and doing aren't the same thing. The two don't even resemble each other.

Very few things resemble what they used to.

Few, that is, except the Saints. And in this case, the resemblance hasn't been a very good thing at all.

**"We remain committed to it (Fair Grounds). Itís just, whatís that business going to look like? How is it going to evolve in the next couple of years? We just have to be patient."**

ANDY SKEHAN, Fair Grounds chief operating officer

# Track's damage worse than originally thought

**FAIR GROUNDS,** *from C-5*

But after the hurricane, the big question is, what's going to happen to the Fair Grounds?

Has the hurricane changed Churchill's plans for the Fair Grounds? Has Katrina created an opportunity for Churchill to build a better Fair Grounds, or has the storm created motivation for the company to bow out of racing in New Orleans?

For the long haul, Churchill remains committed to racing in New Orleans, Andy Skehan, the company's chief operating officer, said Tuesday.

"There's so many reasons that it's just a strategic location for us," Skehan said. "It remains strategic. We just have to be patient."

But for now, Churchill can't give a timetable for reopening the Fair Grounds, Skehan said. "It's just a lot of things we don't know right now," he said.

Insurance adjusters were at the Fair Grounds last week, but Skehan said he hadn't heard an estimate of the amount of the damage. "It was more extensive than we originally thought," he said.

The Fair Grounds has 11 off-track betting parlors, including one at the track. The St. Bernard parlor was destroyed, but most of the others "are in pretty good shape," Skehan said. "They're in better shape than we anticipated."

Churchill has $200 million in insurance, with a $500,000 deductible, on the Fair Grounds.

A tour of the track Monday with Fair Grounds director of security Dave Martin and his assistant, Jimmy Schanbien, showed extensive damage to some parts of the facility and little damage to others.

"What amazed us is all those windows in the front stayed (unbroken)," Martin said of the large windows through which spectators in the grandstand and clubhouse watch the races.

Schanbien, who was among a small group of Fair Grounds employees and firemen who rode out the storm at the track, said of those windows: "They looked like sails. They were bulging."

Katrina destroyed the roof of the main building. Schanbien said pieces flew onto Fortin Street.

When Hurricane Rita hit last weekend, strips of the roof that were hanging after Katrina struck were blown into windows facing the paddock. "Rita took out more glass than Katrina did," Schanbien said.

A fake owl, mounted on the roof to frighten away pigeons during the filming of a movie, remains there.

Pieces of the roof and broken light fixtures litter the clubhouse. "All the suites have skylights now," Schanbien joked as he looked up from a suite.

Katrina blew stucco off both sides of the grandstand-clubhouse building, ripped most of a protective metal covering off the tote board and scattered sections of the green safety rail around the track.

Most of the light standards weathered the storm, but one was blown down near the half-mile pole.

On the backstretch, some barns appeared unscathed, but others received water or wind damage.

When Churchill bought the Fair Grounds in the fall of 2004, the company committed to make $4 million in backstretch improvements, many focusing on living conditions of backstretch workers, within two years. The commitment to such improvements remains, though thanks to Katrina, the time frame likely needs adjusting, Skehan said.

Doors were blown out of some barns. On others, roofs were destroyed.

Marks on the sides of barns showed how high water rose. A mark on the Belfort Street guard shack showed water reached chest-high, perhaps four feet. A tree was leaning on a barn near that shack.

Schanbien, who went to the backstretch the day after Katrina hit, said water on the backstretch was flowing from Lakeview. "You could see it coming from that way," he said.

When the water receded, many fish died in the barn area.

Water also covered the turf course and main track, Schanbien said.

The turf is green from the finish line to about midway on the backstretch of the course. A small green section is on the final turn entering the stretch. The rest of the course is brown, with a few green blades of grass poking through on the backstretch.

Churchill bought the Fair Grounds out of bankruptcy for $47 million in the fall of 2004. Churchill officials have said that the company would be investing about $90 million in the Fair Grounds. The total includes the purchase price and the cost of renovations and improvements, which would include the slots facility. Katrina has added rebuilding to the equation.

The first priority is to "buttoning everything up" to make sure there's no more damage to the property until a game plan on how to proceed is formulated, Skehan said.

The second priority is "get in a position where we're confident what will happen with the rebuilding of the city," he said.

Churchill will work with all levels of government while rebuilding the Fair Grounds, Skehan said. "So much of what we do is going to be predicated on what the city and state and federal governments do," he said.

Government officials have contacted Churchill about "wish lists" for the Fair Grounds, Skehan said.

"How do we build a better city and look at this as an opportunity instead of a tragedy? That process is taking place right now. What we're sort of waiting to see is how is that process going to evolve?

"We remain committed to it (Fair Grounds). It's just, what's that business going to look like? How is it going to evolve in the next couple of years?"

How New Orleans re-populates is important to the Fair Grounds, which would need people to work there and to play there.

†"It appears most of the tourist sector is relatively intact," Skehan said. "That's a very good thing. You hope there's enough housing areas that you'll be able to staff all those activities.

"The Fair Grounds is not really a tourist business. The race meet is mainly locals. It's just a matter of how quickly do we move? We don't want to hold a party that nobody comes to."

Without racing at the Fair Grounds, workers at the track theoretically could move quickly, because they would be unimpeded by people and horses.

A problem with that theory might be "availability of contractors," Skehan said. "Should they be rebuilding housing before they're rebuilding racetracks?"

Another of Churchill's concerns is how quickly neighborhoods bounce back from the storm. "The encouraging thing is so much of the city is intact," Skehan said.

But the neighborhood east of the track in Gentilly, which flooded, "may be a different story," he said. "What impact does that have, if any? We don't feel we have enough information right now. If we did, then resources are a question."

Churchill eventually will need to decide how quickly to rebuild the Fair Grounds, Skehan said.

†"Do we move aggressively? Do we take our time? Our intent and commitment is there. We just need to do it in a way to minimize our risk. We don't want to invest tens of millions of dollars, then be idle for a few years."

On the other hand, he said, Churchill doesn't want the Fair Ground idle if businesses around it are thriving.

Could the track be ready for racing on Thanksgiving Day in 2006?

"If some very clear decisions are made Ö EPA says everything's great Ö then racing next year should be eminently doable," Skehan said. "Are we going to be a high enough priority to get people over there to fix everything? I hope the conditions will be present to have us up and operating by Thanksgiving of next year."



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Jim Schanbien, assistant director of security at the Fair Grounds, surveys the extensive damage inside the clubhouse. Parts of the roof and insulation are scattered throughout the seating area.



A jockey statue, one of Fair Grounds icons, was moved about two feet and turned around from its original site during Hurricane Katrina. Dave Martin, director of security, surveys damage to the statue, which normally takes at least two men to move.

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# Delta Downs damage complicates situation

## *Commission to meet Friday to consider shift of 37 FG days*

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

The Louisiana State Racing Commission will meet Friday at Evangeline Downs to consider possible changes in racing dates and locations, including the proposed shift of 37 Fair Grounds racing days to Louisiana Downs in Bossier City.

On Sept. 13, Churchill Downs officials and Louisiana horsemen reached a preliminary agreement on the shift of Fair Grounds days. The transferred Fair Grounds season would begin Nov. 19 and run through Jan. 22. Hurricane Katrina wiped out an 83-day Fair Grounds season that was to run from Nov. 24 through March 26.

But the commission can't approve the shift without approving other changes in the Louisiana racing schedule. Hurricane Rita, which damaged Delta Downs in Vinton, has complicated the situation.

With Louisiana Downs adding thoroughbred dates, that track would have to move its quarter-horse season, scheduled from Oct. 28 to Nov. 27, to another track. When the agreement between Churchill and the horsemen was announced, Sean Alfortish, president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, said that Evangeline Downs would add Louisiana Downs' quarter-horse days. If that happens, Evangeline, which will begin its own fall quarter-horse season Saturday, would be running quarter horses into December.

As of Wednesday, Evangeline hadn't agreed to take Louisiana Downs' quarter-horse season, said David Yount, Evangeline's director of racing operations. "It's still on the table," he said.

Because of Rita, racing people are concerned that Delta Downs won't be able to hold its thoroughbred season, scheduled from Oct. 21 to March 25.

Delta Downs received wind and water damage from the storm, according to a press release from Boyd Gaming, which owns the track.

"Most apparent is roof damage that allowed water to enter the buildings," the release says. "The building structures appear to have suffered little to no damage except for the horse barns."

Boyd spokesperson Rob Stillwell said Wednesday: "We're working with contractors right now to determine the extent of the damage."

Concerning the possibility that Delta would be able to run a thoroughbred season, Stillwell said: "We're hopeful, but exactly when that might be, we can't say."

Louisiana horsemen met Wednesday at Evangeline Downs. Alfortish said he updated them about the Delta situation. A question that came up in the meeting was whether the Delta Downs thoroughbred season could be moved to Evangeline Downs, Alfortish said.

He said he wouldn't comment on that until getting "concrete information" from Delta Downs on its intentions for the thoroughbred season.

Racing commission executive director Charlie Gardiner said the commission hasn't heard anything from Delta Downs on its intentions. "The Delta damage is the X-factor now," Gardiner said. "It might complicate things."

Young said: "No one has been in contact with Delta."

Yount also said that it would be impossible for Evangeline Downs to run both Louisiana Downs' quarter-horse season and Delta Downs' thoroughbred season.

On Thursday, representatives from all parties - the racing commission, tracks and horsemen - will meet in an effort to solve the scheduling problems.

"I have a feeling that a lot of things will be decided at that time," Yount said. "Evangeline Downs wants to do what's best for the racing industry in the state of Louisiana."

Racing commission chairman Bob Wright said he hopes a solution is reached: "That's so much better than some outside influence (the commission) deciding to do what they have to do. I'm hopeful they can get together."

Meanwhile, Louisiana Downs and Churchill officials are laying the groundwork for the Fair Grounds season.

"All the details are being worked out with attorneys representing both companies and accountants representing both companies," Fair Grounds president Randy Soth said Wednesday.

Also, the LHBPA is finding stalls for horses that were going to stabled at Delta Downs.

The LHBPA is paying the stall rent for about 800 horses, at $4.50 per day, per horse, Alfortish said.

# Cooper leads ESJ past Destrehan

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer

Having only played three volleyball matches, East St. John wasn't near ready to begin District 7-I play Tuesday. But the Wildcats were readier than Destrehan, which was playing its second match of the season.

East St. John opened district play with a 25-21, 19-25, 25-7, 25-22 victory against Destrehan in Reserve.

Ashlee Cooper, a 6-foot-5 senior who has committed to Baylor, led the East St. John attack with 15 kills, three blocks and eight digs. Darielle Sanders had five kills and seven digs, Diana Lainez had four aces and Ashley Given had four aces and four kills.

"I think we really got into it as a team," Cooper said. "I think we all really clicked. And a lot of people contributed. Everybody had input."

"It was extra incentive because it's Destrehan and because it's district," said East St. John coach Sandi Stein. "I was nervous going in because I didn't feel like we had enough competition to prepare for them."

But Destrehan has had even less prep time. St. Charles Parish schools opened four days later than St. John the Baptist Parish schools. Even then, Destrehan's gym was still being used to house relief and law enforcement agency workers. Now, the gym is unsuitable for play because of a water leak which caused part of the floor to buckle. Destrehan was able to play only one match, a victory against Thibodaux, before Tuesday.

"The bright side is, it's the end of September and we're undefeated," said Destrehan coach Calvin Ike before Tuesday's loss.

Ike is still tinkering with his lineup, which now includes senior Robynette Hargrave, who transferred in from Xavier Prep.

"She has talent," Ike said. "I put a new rotation in to try and utilize some of the new people we have. But we were just out of it."

Ariel Hunt led Destrehan with four kills. Sabrina Clement had 11 digs.

After splitting the first two games, which were close, East St. John got an advantage in game three. A flurry of return errors by Destrehan helped East St. John take a 25-7 victory. East St. John then carried the momentum into the final game.

East St. John will play at St. Charles Catholic in a non-district match Thursday at 4 p.m. Destrehan travels to Hahnville for a District 7-I match at 4 p.m. Thursday.

**HAHNVILLE DEF. LUTCHER 3-0:** The Tigers took a 25-11, 25-16, 25-21 victory in a non-district match Tuesday. Megan Waters led with 12 kills and Ashante Pryer had 11. Trashan Glenn had five aces.

**ST. JOSEPH'S DEF. FONTAINEBLEAU 3-0:** Abbie Legendre and Meredith Downing combined for 14 kills to lead St. Joseph's to a 25-9, 25-13, 25-17 victory against Fontainebleau in Baton Rouge on Tuesday.

St. Joseph's (10-1) got seven kills, four aces, four blocks and three digs from Legendre, a sophomore. Downing had seven kills and seven digs.

Alise Doubt had eight digs for Fontainebleau (2-1) and Tricia Greenwalt led the Bulldogs with four kills. Shannon King had five blocks and Blakeney McRaney and Sara Fradella had one ace apiece for Fontainebleau.

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY'S GAME

▶ Holy Cross at Ouachita, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

**District 4-5A**
▶ Covington at Ponchatoula, 7 p.m.
▶ Northshore at Fontainebleau, 7 p.m.
▶ Hammond at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.
▶ Mandeville at Slidell, 7 p.m.

**District 9-3A**
▶ Albany at Pearl River, 7 p.m.

**Non-district**
▶ Northlake Christian vs. St. Thomas Aquinas at SLU's Strawberry Stadium, 7 p.m.
▶ John Curtis at East St. John, 7 p.m.
▶ St. James at Destrehan, 7 p.m.
▶ Riverside at St. John, 7 p.m.
▶ West St. John at St. Charles, 7 p.m.
▶ Salmen vs. West Jefferson at Hoss Memtsas Stadium, 7 p.m.
▶ Pope John Paul II at Live Oak, 7 p.m.
▶ Catholic-New Iberia at Lutcher, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY'S GAMES

**Non-district**
▶ Patterson at Hahnville, 7 p.m.
▶ Ehret vs. Higgins at Hoss Memtsas Stadium, 7 p.m.

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# Bayou Classic switch put on hold for now

*SU, Grambling boards to meet on matter*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Officials at Southern University said Wednesday that no announcement would be forthcoming about the possible switch of this year's Bayou Classic game from New Orleans to Houston's Reliant Stadium.

Southern athletic director Greg LeFleur referred questions about the potential site switch to sports information director Kevin Manns, who said approval for the move had not yet been acquired from the boards of Southern and Grambling State.

"The two boards still have to get together," Manns said at Southern's weekly media luncheon. "This is not just Southern University and Grambling making the decision. Grambling is part of the University of Louisiana system, and we are run by the Southern board.

"We hope to have an announcement in the next couple of days. But I haven't been given any information from my superiors. We hope to get some word in the next few days."

It's likely, apparently, this will be a one-year shift because the Superdome is unusable for the foreseeable future.

The city of Shreveport also bid on the game, but officials say Houston would be a better venue because it has a bigger stadium and more hotel rooms.

On another matter, LeFleur said the Southern athletic department is attempting to schedule a game for the Jaguars' open date on Oct. 29 to make up for last Saturday's cancellation of the scheduled home game against Albany State. The game was canceled because of Hurricane Rita.

He urged Southern ticketholders to be patient and said he hoped to have something worked out by Friday.

# Green Wave gets 'home' game

*Ruston to host TU-UTEP game*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Tulane's Oct. 14 home game will actually be at the Green Wave's home.

The football team, based in Ruston this semester, will host UTEP at Louisiana Tech's Joe Aillet Stadium that Friday at 7 p.m.

The game, originally scheduled for the Louisiana Superdome, will be aired on ESPN.

"(Louisiana Tech) has offered the opportunity for our student-athletes to attend classes, live in the dorms and to continue this season from their campus," said Rick Dickson, Tulane's athletic director. "Now, they have stepped forward and have given our team the chance to play a game on-campus, saving our team the wear and tear of another weekend on the road."

The decision is a delightful one for the football team, which has traveled to every game thus far — and heads to Baton Rouge on Saturday and Lafayette on Oct. 8.

Dickson initially considered playing the UTEP game in Mobile, Ala. Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile is a strong candidate for the next available Tulane home — Oct. 29 against Marshall. A decision is expected on Monday.

UTEP offered its home stadium to Tulane, and said the school could collect all the ticket money. Tulane seriously considered the option, but the football team did not want to play a home game at an opponent's stadium.

Tulane is working with ESPN to bring supplemental lighting to Joe Alliet Stadium for the UTEP game, The stadium's lighting is not conducive for televised games.

The Green Wave program will receive all ticket proceeds on Oct. 14. A limited number of $30 premium sideline seats will be sold, while the majority of the stadium seats will be sold for $10. Tickets will be sold via Ticketmaster at www.Ticketmaster.com, by calling 800-488-5252 or at Ticketmaster outlets in Louisiana and Mississippi.

# NCAA rejects North Dakota appeal of nickname

*Hawkeyes want foes seeing pink*

**From wire reports**

The North Dakota Fighting Sioux will remain on the list of college nicknames the NCAA doesn't want used in postseason play.

The university's appeal was rejected by an NCAA review committee because it did not have the support of the three federally recognized Sioux tribes of North Dakota, the association said Wednesday.

"Although the University of North Dakota maintained that its logo and nickname are used with consummate respect, the position of the namesake tribes and those affected by the hostile or abusive environment that the nickname and logo create take precedence," NCAA vice president Bernard Franklin said.

North Dakota President Charles Kupchella said he would appeal the decision to the NCAA's executive committee and, if that fails, seek legal action against the NCAA.

North Dakota was among 18 schools barred last month from using Native American mascots, logos and nicknames in postseason tournaments. Florida State, Central Michigan and Utah were later exempted because of their support by local tribes.

"It is not at all obvious to us why the NCAA finds the nicknames Chippewas, Seminoles and Utes worthy of exceptions, but somehow Sioux is deemed hostile and abusive," Kupchella said. "We must press our case, because to let the charge of hostile and abusive stand would have a chilling effect to prospective faculty, staff, and most importantly, prospective American Indian students we are here to serve."

In North Dakota, however, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe opposed the Fighting Sioux nickname and imagery, and the Spirit Lake tribe did not respond to an NCAA request to clarify its position, Franklin said.

North Dakota will be allowed to host the Men's Division I ice hockey regional in March because of its prior contract but will be barred from hosting future NCAA events.

"This decision was made because it is not reasonable to cover up or remove all of the Native American imagery in the arena," Franklin said.



AP PHOTO

The use of pink paint in Iowa's visiting locker room has caused a bit of a commotion around Iowa City.

Kupchella said the university has "no choice but to pursue an appeal."

"Even those here opposed to the use of the nickname on campus recognize that UND offers perhaps the best opportunity for many American Indian students to get an education," he said. "I would also note that the schools exempted thus far have been exempted on the basis of a 'special relationship' with American Indian tribes, yet our proportionate number of American Indian students and the number of substantive programs in support of American Indian students exceeds that of all of the exempted schools combined."

**SEEING PINK:** The use of pink paint in Iowa's visiting locker room has caused a bit of a commotion around Iowa City.

First, some background. Soft pink hues were added to the visiting locker room at Iowa's Kinnick Stadium by former coach Hayden Fry in the late 1970s. Fry believed the color had a calming effect on people.

As part of a new $88 million remodeling job at the stadium, designers retained that color motif, splashing pink across the walls, carpet, showers, sinks, metal lockers and even the urinals.

Last week, an Iowa law school professor received death threats after criticizing the university for using pink paint. The professor, now joined by others across campus, says using pink demeans women and perpetuates negative stereotypes of women and homosexuality.

Football coach Kirk Ferentz wanted nothing to do with the controversy.

"I mean this with all due respect, but it's not really on my laundry list right now," said Ferentz, whose Hawkeyes fell to 2-2 after losing to Ohio State last weekend. "I've got other things that have moved in front of it."

**BULLISH SCHEDULE:** For South Florida coach Jim Leavitt, the afterglow of the Bulls' 45-14 upset of Louisville lasted about as long as it took him to get from the field to the podium for the postgame news conference.

"I stood with some of our police officers and said let's pause here for a moment," Leavitt said. "Because that's all we get."

This week the Bulls get ninth-ranked Miami in the Orange Bowl. So much for good vibes.

"I don't sleep at night after games and I get back and look at film and really started watching Miami," Leavitt said. "I just turned off the film, looked down on the floor and thought `My gosh, they're good.'"

It's the first meeting between the perennially powerful Hurricanes and the Bulls, who have already played two teams from Florida this season (Florida A&M and Central Florida), winning both games.

# McGee's father caught in gridlock

**TULANE,** *from C-5*

mad at him for waiting so long to leave."

At the time of the first snap at Southern Methodist, television footage was showing reporters in rain jackets, blitzed by rain and whipping winds.

McGee, who has started 36 consecutive games for the Green Wave, was on the field when the game began Saturday. But, after the first play against SMU, McGee remained on the ground. He had rolled his ankle, the same one he hurt in the season opener.

"I've never missed a game, and I wanted to go out there," McGee said about watching the next snap from the sideline. "If I can help the team, and I'm a little hurt, then I want to do that. ... After a while, the pain went away. I think it's mental. After a while, you get used to it."

McGee played at 60 percent, Wave coach Chris Scelfo said. But he played and played hard, bullying Mustang defensive ends as Tulane's offense marched toward the end zone.

"He's one of those guys who says, "I'm a survivor,' " Mahoney said. "No matter what's thrown at him, he's going to work through it. And that's the way he's always been."

McGee spent time with his family after the game, the first victory of the season. Hugs, these days, are tighter.

The news from Beaumont came slowly to McGee. His sister's home was safe, but numerous trees were down. His buddies were safe. But the town took a beating.

"New Orleans is home for college," said McGee, who is unsure how his Uptown apartment handled Hurricane Katrina. "But Beaumont is were I grew up. Beaumont's home. O My dad is back there now, and he said it looked pretty bad.

"But I think (the hurricanes) taught me and everyone on our team about character."

McGee is questionable for Tulane's next game, Saturday in Baton Rouge against Southeastern Louisiana.

"We'll see," he said about playing the Lions. "But I never want to miss a game."

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Vanderbilt senior QB Jay Cutler, the school's all-time leader in touchdown passes, is a big reason why the Commodores are 4-0 and closing in on a bowl bid.

AP PHOTO

# Vanderbilt enters foreign territory

*Longtime doormat taking SEC by surprise*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Vanderbilt is a perfect four and 0, and we're not talking about grade-point average.

The longtime SEC football doormat and academically prestigious school is making positive sports headlines with its first 4-0 start since 1984.

The Commodores need a victory against nearby Middle Tennessee State for a 5-0 record going into the Oct. 8 game with LSU. Vanderbilt last started 5-0 in 1943, when the school played only five games because of World War II.

Had hurricanes not ravaged Louisiana, the Commodores would be the feel-good story of the season in the SEC. Let's count the ways:

▶ The two SEC victories against Arkansas and Ole Miss this season equal the number of SEC victories recorded by Vandy over the past four seasons combined.

▶ The 'Dores have received votes in the USA Today, AP and Harris Interactive polls, getting 47 points in the latter for a No. 32 ranking among BCS schools.

▶ Fifth-year senior quarterback Jay Cutler leads the SEC in per-game averages for passing yards (282.2) and total offense (322.8 yards). He is the school's all-time leader in touchdown passes (44) and total offense.

▶ Cutler has been has been mentioned in prestigious publications such as Sports Illustrated and the New York Times.

▶ This season, Vandy players have been selected SEC Offensive (Cutler) and Defensive (Moses Osemwegie) Player of the Week.

▶ The school's largest crowd of the season, 38,446, watched the 37-13 victory against Richmond, 1,300 short of a sellout.

"It still amazes me," Osemwegie told The Tennessean. "I have to pinch myself sometimes."

That's because Vandy has long set the standard for inept football. In the previous 22 years, Vandy is 23-143-1 in SEC games. Included in that span was a 23-game conference losing streak and seven seasons without a league victory.

The last time Vanderbilt had a winning record was 1982, when the Commodores went 8-4, including victories against Florida and Tennessee. The school also made it's last bowl appearance that season, a 36-28 Hall of Fame bowl loss to Air Force.

Now, Vandy is two victories away from a winning record and bowl eligibility. But Coach Bobby Johnson said, even though Middle Tennessee State is from the weaker Sun Belt Conference, "We're not good enough to take anybody lightly."

Indeed, Vandy has lost its last two meetings with MTSU, in 2001 and 2002.

**ALABAMA:** The Tide is ranked No. 15, its highest ranking since ending the 2002 season at No. 11. But Alabama, which plays No. 5 Florida on Saturday, is 0-5 against top five teams at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

**AUBURN:** Tigers running back Kenny Irons will face his former team when Auburn plays South Carolina. Irons, who leads Auburn with 292 yards rushing on 43 carries, signed with the Gamecocks and played as a freshman. But he played less as a sophomore when Demetrius Summers came in as a highly touted freshman. Irons was not alone in leaving the school. Nineteen members of the 2002 South Carolina recruiting class are no longer there.

**FLORIDA:** Chris Leak is only eight attempts short of breaking Danny Wuerffel's school record of 121 consecutive throws without an interception. He has thrown 114 passes this season. Despite playing only one half at Kentucky, Leak leads the SEC with nine touchdown passes.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The Gamecocks' 45-20 victory against Troy was a run-of-mill nonconference win, but with a remarkable footnote. Tim Frisby, a 40-year-old Army veteran and walk-on, caught a short pass in the fading moments. Frisby, affectionately called "Pops" by teammates, caught a 9-yard pass with 3:16 remaining, pumped his fist and waved to his wife and two of his six kids in the stands. "It's something I always wanted to do and I did it," he said. "This is a start. Hopefully, I'll get more this season."

Frisby served in the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq during Desert Storm and in Kosovo.

**OLE MISS:** The Rebels' offense has scored five touchdowns and committed seven turnovers through three games.

**TENNESSEE:** Rick Clausen cashed in on his big performance in Tiger Stadium by earning SEC Player of the Week honors. Clausen came off the bench to spark the Vols in their shocking comeback over LSU by completing 21 of 32 passes for 196 yards and one touchdown.

# Improved Connor looks to atone

*Last season's LSU game painful memory*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — For Mississippi State quarterback Omarr Conner, the physical pain from last year's loss to LSU was nothing compared to the mental anguish of watching it on film.

"I made a lot of crazy plays," Conner said of Mississippi State's 51-0 loss at Tiger Stadium. "I was impatient and trying to make stuff happen that wasn't there."

At the end, neither was Conner. He left the game with a knee injury suffered on the first possession of the second half and didn't return. That was after being sacked twice, hit several other times and repeatedly harassed by the LSU defense. He completed just four of 12 passes for 44 yards and threw three interceptions.

It's much easier now for Conner, a junior from Macon, Miss., to see the game as a learning experience, and he'd like to show LSU how much he has improved when the Tigers visit Davis-Wade Stadium for Saturday's 1:30 p.m. game.

Last season gave Conner a running start in guiding the West Coast offense favored by second-year coach Sylvester Croom and offensive coordinator Woody McCorvey. A shotgun quarterback throughout high school, Conner had to make the adjustment last season to the three- and five-step drop-back passing format and throwing on rhythm. It didn't help that Conner played wide receiver as a freshman, costing him valuable development time, but he's improved.

Conner has completed 59 of 101 passes (58.4) percent for 662 yards and seven touchdowns and thrown only three interceptions. Those numbers might be even better if Conner could get off to a better start. Against Tulane he was two for eight for 14 yards and an interception in the first half before going 11 of 18 with two touchdowns in the second. Against Georgia, he was three for 13 for 42 yards in the first half and 13 of 19 for 163 in the second, with one touchdown.

"He's a lot better than last year, a lot better three-step and five-step drop-back passer," Croom said. "He's got a lot better command of the offense, he knows where people are and his mechanics are a lot better. He's playing with a lot of courage and has stepped up and shown some leadership. Right now he's way ahead of where he was last year.

For proof, Croom pointed out that against Georgia, Conner on one play checked down to his fourth receiver and completed a pass to Jerious Norwood, something he could never have done last season.

Conner credits his coaches' perseverance and the support of his teammates in helping him along.

"The guys look at me as a leader now," he said. "You feel totally different when your guys are believing in you. I've learned a lot since last year and I try to learn a little more every day from Coach Croom and Coach McCorvey.

"I've got to try and stay more consistent in the first half. Early in the game I'm too pumped up. It takes me some time to settle down."



AP PHOTO

Mississippi State quarterback Omarr Connor is making strides in his second year running the Bulldogs' West Coast offense.

Given the performance of the Bulldogs offensive line, Conner still has to fight the urge to run with the ball instead of staying in pocket on passing plays. In SEC games against Auburn and Georgia, he has been sacked nine times. And he still fumbles a snap now and then while getting used to being under center. But overall he said he finally has a feel for his position.

"I feel a lot more in control, a lot more like a quarterback," he said.

BAD MEMORIES: Croom said last year's game wasn't just bad for Conner. It was one of the lowest of low points in his first year. LSU limited Mississippi State to 130 net yards and seven first downs. The Tigers also lost four fumbles and the Bulldogs still couldn't score.

"Basically, we should have just walked out there and conceded and come on home," Croom said. "Because it was that bad, we had no confidence, nobody played with any enthusiasm; we basically conceded the game before we got there. I was thoroughly disappointed that our guys didn't compete."

Mississippi State went on to finish the season with a 3-8 record, but upset Florida in Starkville.

**FAMILY TIES:** Croom told reporters Tuesday he discovered he is distantly related to LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell. Croom said Russell's father called him about it last summer and they discovered they knew a lot of the same people.

"It's on my grandmother's side," said Croom, who was born and raised in Tuscaloosa. Russell is from Mobile, Ala.

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# Greensboro trying to retain spot on PGA Tour

## *Tournament could be victim of reduced schedule*

**From wire reports**

GREENSOBORO, N.C. - The PGA Tour is in Greensboro again, continuing a storied history that dates to Sam Snead's victory in the inaugural tournament in 1938. And Roy Williams' memory of this event goes back nearly as far.

"I can remember sitting in Spanish class, wondering why Arnold Palmer tried to hit it out of a creek on the 15th hole to make a double bogey and lose the tournament," said the University of North Carolina basketball coach, who played in the pro-am on Wednesday. "That's how far back I go."

Now, the question is whether the tour's reorganized schedule in 2007 has room for the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro. Nothing is finalized, but the tour is moving toward a season that would end in the middle of September with the Tour Championship, preceded by three tournaments that would be part of a points-chase toward a $10 million prize for the winner.

The tournament in Greensboro currently is part of the Fall Finish, a group of 11 events beginning Labor Day weekend that completes the 47-week season.

"The Fall Finish, it is important to all of us, there's no doubt about it," Sergio Garcia said. "There's some really good events in the fall. I try to give it the best shot I can."

Garcia is the top player from the World Golf Ranking here this week, with Adam Scott the only other from the top 10. For Garcia, he has a tough time fitting tournaments in the United States into his itinerary, which includes many stops in Europe.

This is the first time he's played in Greensboro.

"I like to play a bit more in Europe, because I have some nice events around my country that I enjoy playing, that I can get some friends to come and watch me, things like that," the Spaniard said. "But I still try to come and play two, three, four events in the fall."

Until 2003, this event was played in the spring, and for a time occupied the spot on the schedule just before the Masters. Now, it competes against football, both college and the NFL, and the playoff-style Chase for the championship in NASCAR.

This weekend, three of the state's Atlantic Coast Conference schools have home games, and the Champions Tour also has its annual event in Cary, N.C., a suburb of Raleigh about 90 miles east of Greensboro.

"The PGA Tour schedule was set for 2002 through 2006," said Tim Crosby, director of tournament business affairs for the tour. "They were obviously aware of when we were playing when the Champions Tour decided to schedule their tournament in Cary."

Ideally, the tour would like to keep tournaments such as this one on the schedule, where they possibly would be broadcast by The Golf Channel for a much smaller sponsorship fee than Chrysler already pays. But would a title sponsor support an event that likely would be without Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson or other top stars? And one shown on a niche cable network during the middle of football season.

Mark Brazil hopes so. He has been the tournament director in Greensboro for four years, and he believes the tournament is stronger than ever. Davis Love III, who withdrew Tuesday because of a sore neck and shoulder, renovated Forest Oaks two years ago, and most of the field raves about the changes.

Garcia mentioned the reputation the course has in the locker room as one of the reasons he's here.

"This is a great old event that is about to get much better," Brazil said. "I think the tour is starting to realize what we have to offer, and that we are very serious and committed to being a serious player on the PGA Tour schedule."

While Woods has never played here, the tournament does hold an attraction to the majority of the tour members, who try to earn as much money as possible down the stretch to secure a spot in the top 125 to secure their status for the next season.

John Maginnes is running out of time. He is 256th on the money list, thanks to 14 missed cuts in 15 starts, and he wonders where someone in his position fits in the new schedule.

"From a player's standpoint, particularly the guys who aren't in the top 20 or top 30 in the world, they're nervous because they're worried that money is going to be taken out of their pockets," Maginnes said. "We have no idea what's going to happen."

One option for helping Greensboro would be making each exempt player enter every tournament at least once in a five-year span. For obvious reasons, that doesn't sit well with many of the stars of the tour.

"It's a very difficult thing to do, because for me, there's obligations I have in Europe, too," Garcia said. "It puts a lot of pressure on the player to try to get away from those to be able to play a different tournament here in the U.S.

"Probably not the best thing to do for the players."

For now, all Brazil can do is wait for the tour to decide on its plan for the future. He thinks he and other tournament officials have done all they can.

"I don't know where this thing stands," Brazil said. "I would think the PGA Tour is making some progress, but some slow progress. It's going to take some time. I'm sure they're doing the right things."

# Champ Car cancels Korean event

## *Officials concede setback but remain optimistic about future*

**From wire reports**

The Champ Car World Series called off its Grand Prix of Ansan, scheduled for Oct. 16 in South Korea, a blow for a series struggling to regain its place in the top echelon of racing.

But series executive vice president Joe Chrnelich said Wednesday that dropping the race, even two weeks before the race, is not a big setback for the American-based open-wheel series.

"At first blush it would appear to be a step backward, but what it really demonstrates is that we are going to do whatever it takes to ensure that every Champ Car race is a world-class event," he said. "It sends a message to our future promoter prospects that we will not settle for anything less than their best effort, which long term will make Champ Car even stronger."

A year ago, another race scheduled for Seoul, South Korea, also was called off two weeks before it was to be run. That race was organized by a different promoter, and Chrnelich said there is no comparison between the two canceled races.

"The situations are very, very different," he said. "It was a different location and a different set of dynamics. I can tell you in hindsight, it was much less far along than where we are this year."

The open-wheel series now will finish its 2005 season with races Oct. 23 in Queensland, Australia, and Nov. 6 in Mexico City. Chrnelich said the Ansan race will be held as part of the 2006 season.

Sebastien Bourdais, the reigning series champion and this year's points leader, said the loss of the race shouldn't make much difference to the competitors.

Champ Car, which in January 2004 bought the assets of the bankrupt CART organization, managed to get through that first season without losing any ground. This year, it has been doing well, adding successful street races in Edmonton, Alberta, and San Jose, Calif., generally improving attendance and TV ratings throughout the season and perking up the interest of some big-time sponsors.

Chrnelich insisted that putting off the inaugural race in Korea for yet another year is not a serious blow to Champ Car's resurgence.


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The Times-Picayune

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# Cleanup could take at least a year

## *More than half La. debris in N.O.*

**By James Varney and Jan Moller**
Staff writers

It is not, officials handling the task frankly concede, the sexiest task in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. But someone's got to clean up.

And it will take a year. At least.

"Trash hauling may not sound that exciting, but it's very, very important," Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, who heads the federal relief effort in those areas of Louisiana and Mississippi nearly annihilated by both Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

The scope of the cleanup is staggering, a job five times the size of that faced by the Miami area after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The mess is so huge that local, state and federal agencies faced with it provided varying estimates of the amounts involved and a likely timetable. Allen estimated the hard-hit areas in the two states are cluttered with 40 million cubic yards of debris, two-thirds of it in Louisiana. So far, only 4 million cubic yards have been removed, with just 1 million of that total in Louisiana.

The target date to complete the job in Louisiana, officials said, is October 2006.

But state environmental officials said Thursday that it could take up to two years to clean up what they said were 22 million tons of debris Katrina left behind in southeast Louisiana. More than half of that total – 12 million tons – is in Orleans Parish, said Chuck Brown, assistant administrator for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

By comparison, state officials expect the total amount of debris left behind by Hurricane Rita to be a comparably modest 500,000 tons – or about 4 percent of the total amount in New Orleans alone.

*See* **DEBRIS,** *A-17*

NEW ORLEANS RETURN BEGINS



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Steve Peterson, left, covers his nose to avoid the stench as he and Abdul Idrissou move a container of rotting garbage from in front of the Nile Café at Magazine and Eighth streets Uptown. 'I have 10 employees,' Idrissou said. 'None of them want to come back. They won't even talk to me.'

# Hobbled city opens its doors to some

THIS MOLD HOUSE

▶ **Preparing to visit a deluged house, C-8**

▶ **Don't rely on temporary fixes, architects say, A-20**




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

K.C. Cornell brings shipments to The Wine Seller on Prytania Street. A few doors down, the Creole Creamery was waiting for its frozen products so it could reopen.

## *There won't be much to eat, drink or do*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

As thousands of residents return to New Orleans today, one month after Hurricane Katrina, they will find a city that is recovering but still short of adequate goods and services. For much of what they need, they will have to leave again.

Although a handful of retail operations were open or trying to open in the city Thursday, including a smattering of drug stores, banks and a hardware store, most businesses

*See* **RETURN,** *A-13*

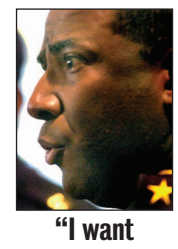
# Acting chief suspends 4 cops

## *Looting is focus of one investigation*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

Making a forceful first appearance as acting New Orleans police chief and attempting to deflect growing criticism of the New Orleans Police Department's behavior after Hurricane Katrina, acting Superintendent Warren Riley announced Thursday he has suspended four officers without pay and put more than a dozen others under investigation.

The investigations stem from a handful of events during which the officers were accused of looting, or failed to combat looting, Riley said. He declined to name the locations at which the officers' alleged activity or inaction occurred, except for the Sewell Cadillac Chevrolet dealership in the Central Business District.



**"I want to reaffirm my position that there is zero tolerance for misconduct and unprofessionalism by any member of this department."**
WARREN RILEY
Acting New Orleans police superintendent

"I want to reaffirm my position that there is zero tolerance for misconduct and unprofessionalism by any member of this department," he said. "If the investigation determines the member violated department policy or any laws, swift and decisive action will be taken."

The press conference was the first for Riley since Mayor Ray Nagin named him acting chief after Eddie Compass announced his retirement Tuesday afternoon. Riley, who ran for criminal sheriff in Orleans Parish last

*See* **RILEY,** *A-16*

# Blanco unveils state recovery team

## *Nagin to introduce his version today*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco brought a group of business, education and community leaders to the state Capitol on Thursday to seek their help as the state tries to recover from Hurricane Katrina.

The meeting came the day before New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was to announce the composition of his commission on rebuilding the city, and some key figures that Nagin wanted on his team were drafted instead by the governor.

Blanco asked her new advisory group to assist her in bringing small and large businesses back to life in the storm-damaged areas, and she outlined a legislative package that she pitched Wednesday on Capitol Hill. After a meeting with the media, she met with the group behind closed doors.

Nagin is scheduled to announce his panel and his initiative to rebuild the city at a news conference today at 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel. He is expected to name a core leadership team of about 14 people that will network with a large number of subcommittees with as many as 200 people.

The mayor has emphasized that the group will be balanced racially as well as by talent pool and areas of expertise.

The core group is expected to include Joe Canizaro, head of First Bank & Trust and one of the city's most prominent real estate

*See* **BLANCO,** *A-14*



**Gov. Kathleen Blanco**
Advisory panel includes some being considered by Mayor Ray Nagin

# N.O. still in the dark about Web, phones

## *Companies don't know when service will be back*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

As New Orleanians begin to re-enter their neighborhoods, telephone and Internet service remains spotty at best, and the major service providers say they don't know when connections will be restored.

Neither BellSouth Corp., the local telephone giant that also offers high-speed Internet service, nor Cox Communications, the region's biggest cable television service, have been willing to say how many of their New Orleans area customers have high-speed Internet service or how many are still waiting for it to be restored. Their behavior contrasts with Entergy, which

*See* **COMMUNICATION,** *A-16*

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# Roberts sworn in as chief justice

*He becomes youngest in position since 1801*

**Jesse J. Holland**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON - John Roberts was sworn in as the 17th chief justice of the United States on Thursday, taking his oath at a White House ceremony attended by President Bush and other justices of the Supreme Court.

Bush said it was "a very meaningful event in the life of our nation," almost 19 years to the day since former Chief Justice William Rehnquist took his oath in the same room at the White House, the East Room.

The 50-year-old Roberts was sworn in a little more than three hours after he was confirmed by the Senate on a vote of 78-22. The oath was delivered by Justice John Paul Stevens, the court's senior member and acting chief justice since Rehnquist's death early this month.

"The Senate has confirmed a man with an astute mind and kind heart," Bush said. "All Americans can be confident that the 17th chief justice of the United States will be prudent in exercising judicial power, firm in defending judicial independence and above all a faithful guardian of the Constitution."

Roberts spoke briefly, saying the bipartisan vote for his nomination was "confirmation of what is for me a bedrock principle: that judging is different from politics."

He said he would try to "pass on to my children's generation a charter of self-government as strong and as vibrant as the one that Chief Justice Rehnquist passed on to us."

"What Daniel Webster termed the miracle of our Constitution is not something that happens in every generation, but every generation in its turn must accept the responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution and bearing true faith and allegiance to it," Roberts said.



AP PHOTO

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts takes the oath of office Thursday, administered by Justice John Paul Stevens as Roberts' wife, Jane Roberts, holds the Bible. Roberts was sworn in a little more than three hours after being confirmed by the Senate, 78-22.

"My vote today was cast on John Roberts' superior qualifications, his appreciation for the role of a justice and his expressed commitment to the rule of law and the Constitution," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., one of 22 Democrats who supported his nomination. "While his record of legal argument and opinion is not one that I would fully agree with, on balance, I believe that he is an appropriate choice to succeed Chief Justice Rehnquist."

Landrieu said she hopes that President Bush will look for a nominee to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who shares her qualities of fairness.

"Throughout 24 years of service, Justice O'Connor has demonstrated her commitment to law over politics," Landrieu said. "I implore the president to look to her as the model for his next nominee."

"In today's vote we got back to the proper traditions of the Senate in terms of advice and consent with the proper sort of criteria and considerations," said Sen. David Vitter, R-La. who called Roberts a "highly qualified" nominee.

He expressed hope that a similar process will occur when Bush nominates a replacement for O'Connor.

The audience included Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and White House counsel Harriet Miers, both of whom have been mentioned as candidates for the Supreme Court seat of retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Bush is expected to announce that nomination within days.

Roberts also took a separate oath during a private White House ceremony attended by the other justices and the chief justice's family.

A formal Supreme court ceremony was scheduled for Monday morning, before the opening of the term.

Roberts is the first new Supreme Court justice since 1994. Before becoming a federal judge, he was one of the nation's best appellate lawyers, arguing 39 cases — many in front of the same eight justices he will now lead as chief justice.

He won 25 of those cases.

Bush joined Roberts, former Sen. Fred Thompson and White House staff in the Roosevelt Room to watch the vote.

Under Roberts, justices this year will tackle issues such as assisted suicide, campaign finance law and abortion, with questions about religion, same-sex marriage, the government's war on terrorism and human cloning looming in the future.

Roberts has the potential of leading the Supreme Court for decades. Not since John Marshall, confirmed in 1801 at 45, has there been a younger chief justice.


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# First FEMA trailer town to open Monday

## *Baker will be home for 580 families*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE – The first of the state's trailer park communities for victims of Hurricane Katrina should be ready for families by Monday, state and federal officials said this week.

The complex of 580 small travel trailers will be set up in Baker, just north of Baton Rouge, said James McIntyre, a spokesman with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The state will decide who should be moved to the trailers, which can hold up to five people, he said. A spokeswoman for the Department of Social Services indicated on Thursday that the first priority will be shelter residents, although she could not say exactly where they would be coming from.

There are 47,870 people in 345 shelters statewide, including 5,889 people in East Baton Rouge Parish.

While there are 108 families currently living in FEMA-supplied trailers across the state, this would be the first large community for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration has been pushing for more of these communities to be set up across the state, with officials saying it is important to get people out of shelters and into more private living spaces. But the idea of placing large groups of people displaced by the storm into the complexes has been criticized by some housing experts, who say it would make more sense to get them into an apartment or house in established communities, even if out of state.




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

The state's first trailer community for Hurricane Katrina victims, in Baker, should be ready for families on Monday. It will include 580 small travel trailers.

In the past week, FEMA has established a rent program that will give each displaced family a lump sum of $2,358 to cover rent for three months. And people who can't move back to the New Orleans area because their homes were damaged could qualify for rental assistance for as long as 18 months.

**State officials have said that they plan to make available a number of services to trailer communities to help assure that people can start to get their lives back together by getting a job or going to school.**

But rental assistance doesn't help when there is a scarcity of housing, as is the case in many communities.

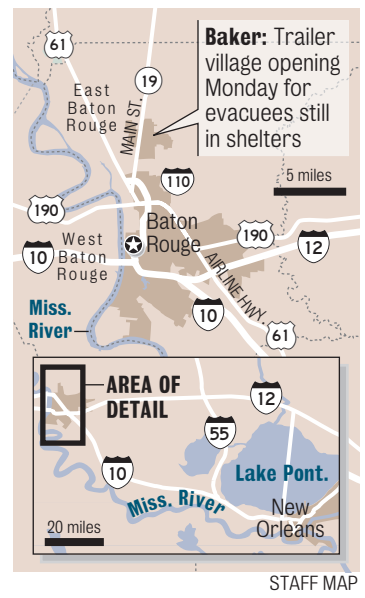
Instead, the state is looking to solutions such as trailer communities to keep people in Louisiana while the infrastructure is rebuilt in New Orleans. Smaller sites are being established in the southeast part of the state, providing 393 travel trailers and mobile homes for evacuees, McIntyre said.

The travel trailers are relatively small at 22 feet wide by 30 feet long. In comparison, 274 mobile homes being installed in places like New Iberia and Pearl River are more spacious, having two or three bedrooms as well as communal spaces.

State officials have said that they plan to make available a number of services to trailer communities to help assure that people can start to get their lives back together by getting a job or going to school.

FEMA has also been in the process of signing contracts with hotels in New Orleans to provide up to 10,000 rooms, many of which would likely house workers needed to help with rebuilding of the city.

But McIntyre said that they have not yet signed those contracts because they are waiting to hear from city and state officials about who they want to be housed in those hotel rooms.




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# Corps critics want probe to be independent

*Investigators seeking reasons for levee breaches*

**By John McQuaid and Bob Marshall**
Staff writers

As the Army Corps of Engineers begins an investigation into the causes of concrete floodwall breaches that swamped large portions of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, the stakes could not be higher.

If the failures are ultimately traced to flaws in design or construction, it would mean that a significant portion of Katrina's flooding could be blamed on human error. That could in turn spark a rush to hold individuals, institutions, and companies accountable; to file multibillion-dollar lawsuits from affected residents and businesses; and to make political recriminations.

Some Corps critics already are questioning whether the Corps – with its reputation and billions of dollars in financing on the line – has a conflict of interest in investigating itself.

"It will have no credibility. If I were the Corps of Engineers I wouldn't want the job. You would want to have the best and most independent analysis of something like this," said Steve Ellis, vice president for programs at Taxpayers for Common Sense, an advocacy group that has often criticized the Corps' big projects as wasteful.

Ivor van Heerden, the deputy director of the LSU Hurricane Center who is studying the levee breaches with other LSU scientists, says the Corps already has compromised some evidence with its temporary fixes and should not conduct a completely internal investigation. "That would be the worst thing they could do," he said.

Hurricane Katrina's storm surge overwhelmed hurricane levees to the east of the city and in the Industrial Canal. But further west along the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, the floodwaters were lower. It's not clear whether the surge topped floodwalls in the 17th Street and London Avenue areas. If the walls were not topped but failed anyway, engineers say that could point to a problem in the design, construction or maintenance of the structures.

The only way to conclusively determine what happened is to conduct a forensic investigation, which involves collecting evidence and documents and making a detailed analysis of what led to the failures. The Corps has announced it's doing that, but has offered no details. Corps officials did not respond Thursday to requests for more information on the probe.

The investigation has been slow to start. Corps officials have been dealing with more urgent problems, such as pumping water out of the city and repairing the breaches. Some of those activities could pose problems for the investigation, LSU researchers say.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

If levee walls were not topped but failed anyway, engineers say that could point to a problem in the design, construction or maintenance of the structures.

Temporary berms built by the Corps at the sites of levee breaks have covered, and may have destroyed, evidence crucial to the investigation, Van Heerden said.

"Some of the critical evidence to finding out what went wrong so we can make sure this doesn't happen again – evidence we saw on our first inspections – is under that berm, or it may already have been taken away," van Heerden said after inspecting the levee breaks this week. He said he has inspected the breaks 10 times since Katrina, including five trips on foot.

Engineers say such an investigation of the levee failures probably will try to reconstruct the history of the affected floodwalls from the choice of design through the construction process and the rise of Katrina's storm surge. That will entail examining documents, and the deployment of engineering experts in soil compaction, steel and concrete construction and fluid dynamics.

"It's a terribly interesting, difficult forensic enterprise," said Gerald Galloway, a professor of engineering at the University of Maryland and former Corps brigadier general. "They will need to look at all the remainder of the walls that were there, doing a complete analysis of everything that could have been a factor or compounding this ... They will build some hypotheses and test them. It's a question of patience."

Galloway, who chaired a commission that investigated the causes of the 1993 Midwest floods, said such an investigation might take six to eight months.

But critics say if the evidence points to human error, it may be difficult for the Corps to point the finger at itself or contractors it employed. The Corps and its contractors can be sued under the Federal Tort Claims Act, said Mark Dombroff, a Washington lawyer and former chief of the torts branch of the Justice Department who defended the Corps in court actions.

The Corps also has often been criticized by a number of impartial government studies for tweaking the numbers in economic impact studies to facilitate its projects.

"They found the corps manipulated data, used outdated engineering and economic tools, and one colonel ordered a subordinate to change a number he didn't like," said Scott Faber, a lawyer with the group Environmental Defense, who monitors the Corps. "There is no doubt in my mind that the Corps will not find itself at all responsible for the failure of the levees. It is ludicrous for the administration or Congress to expect the agency to review its own conduct."

The Corps may not be completely alone.

Already, a number of investigations are under way, but it's not clear how detailed some will be. A House select committee on the Katrina disasters intends to investigate the breaches, a spokesman said. The Senate Homeland Security Committee will dispatch investigators to the city next week to examine the levee breaches and other issues. The American Society of Civil Engineers is assembling a team of forensic experts to inspect the affected sites.

Faber said that congressional committees – whose members may have Corps projects in their districts – may also be reluctant to make the agency look bad.

"This investigation should include the Corps, but it also must be totally independent to ensure there is accountability but also public acceptance for whatever it discovers and recommends," van Heerden said.




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# Schools are blue despite winning academic honor

*4 win recognition for excellence*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

In normal times, news of a school winning a Blue Ribbon award from the U.S. Department of Education would set off a celebration. Everyone would wear blue, eat blue snowballs and decorate the halls with blue streamers.

Instead, when the federal government announced last week that St. Clement of Rome in Metairie was one of four New Orleans area schools to receive the 2005 honor, Principal Susan Perry was the only person around, and the scene was far from normal.

Perry visited the deserted campus Friday to see if Hurricane Rita's wind and rain added more damage to Hurricane Katrina's fallout. Water from the first storm had rendered unusable the Catholic school's kindergarten-through-third-grade building and a pre-kindergarten building.

"I happened to be at the school and the phone rang, and it was the Department of Education," she said Thursday. "Here I am alone at St. Clement, and I can't even tell anybody."

Christian Brothers School, Edna Karr School and Stuart Hall School, all in New Orleans and, like St. Clement, all closed since Katrina, also won the honor.

In total, 295 U.S. schools won the award this year.

The Blue Ribbon program recognizes schools for showing strong improvement in the achievement of disadvantaged students, scoring in the top 10 percent on state tests regardless of students' backgrounds in public schools or scoring in the top 10 percent on national tests in private schools.

"Our hearts and thoughts go out to the students and educators at these schools," Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said in a statement commending the storm-disrupted winners.open Monday, using its library, music room and other spaces for displaced classes.

It was unclear Thursday when Edna Karr, a public magnet school in Algiers, would reopen, but Orleans Parish school officials have said some Algiers schools could return in November.

Christian Brothers, a Catholic school run by a religious order at a campus in City Park, will operate beginning next week at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, said the Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of Archdiocese of New Orleans schools.

He said it is still unknown when Christian Brothers and Stuart Hall, an archdiocese-affiliated school on Carrollton Avenue, will reopen at their home addresses. Maestri said he didn't know the status of the Christian Brothers campus. Some floodwater invaded Stuart Hall, but the school does not appear to have structural damage, he said.

Also at Rummel next week, the archdiocese will launch a transitional, afternoon school for students displaced from any Catholic school. Archbishop Chapelle High School in Metairie had planned a second shift of displaced students, too, but instead it will absorb the students into its regular student body, maintaining its all-girls status for now, Maestri said.

When the Blue Ribbon-winning schools finally come back, Maestri said, they will celebrate their accomplishment.

Without the hurricanes, the celebration likely would have been livelier at St. Clement a week ago, when Perry visited the campus after sending administrators home for the day because of Rita.

"We'd probably be putting signs and blue ribbons all over the place," she said. "We probably would have worn blue for the day. Maybe we would've had blue food."

After St. Clement reopens Monday, Perry said, it will be able to celebrate — with a little help.

Perry said she received an electronic mail from a principal of a Catholic school in North Carolina offering to send 500 blue ribbons.

"I cried, and I e-mailed her back," Perry said.

### BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Four in N.O. area among 295 receiving U.S. honor

- Christian Brothers School, New Orleans
- Edna Karr Magnet School, New Orleans
- St. Clement of Rome School, Metairie
- Stuart Hall School for Boys, New Orleans

# B.R. to N.O. commuter train proposed

*Plan aims to help get residents back to work*

**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

A group of rail and mass transit organizations hopes to begin twice-daily rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

The proposal, which involves asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to subsidize the service to the tune of at least $25 million over three years, is intended to allow New Orleans residents who have relocated to Baton Rouge to get back to work, as well as ease gridlock on Interstate 10, said Cleo Allen, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation and Development.

"We believe that this is a way to help the people from New Orleans who moved to Baton Rouge get back to work while the housing situation works itself out," Allen said.

An estimated 200,000 New Orleans area residents have moved to the Baton Rouge area since Aug. 29, when Hurricane Katrina caused massive damage to tens of thousands of homes. Many people lost their cars in the storm, as well.

The initial plan involves running two commuter trains per day between the cities, starting at the Kansas City Southern rail depot near Memorial Stadium in Baton Rouge and running to the Union Passenger Terminal in downtown New Orleans, Allen said.

Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita damaged some of the track that runs across the LaBranche Wetlands in St. Charles Parish, but railroad officials say repairs should be finished soon.

The group making the proposal includes Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans; Amtrak; the Capital Area Transit System, which operates the bus system in Baton Rouge; the KCS railroad; and the Department of Transportation and Development. RTA spokeswoman Rosiland Blanco Cook said the agency is "very interested" in the concept and has been holding discussions with all parties.

Dwight Brashear, director of Capital Area Transit, said the idea is "a great opportunity to provide a needed service."

Ridership has risen 30 percent on the Baton Rouge bus system since Katrina.

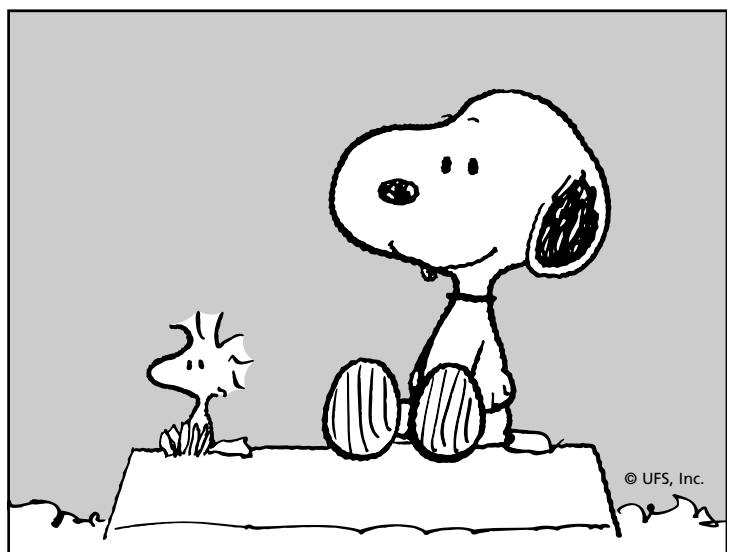
Allen said the trains could be scheduled around scheduled freight runs on existing tracks. The RTA and Capital Area Transit would reroute buses to bring passengers to the terminals.

"This is something that we could put into place very quickly," she said.

Each train would have a capacity of 600 passengers.

Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said the railroad has been involved in discussions about the idea and is interested in helping the area.

Allen said stops in Gonzales and Reserve are being considered.




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# Energy bill has some hurdles

*More coasts could open to oil drilling*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – Energy legislation that would give Louisiana and other coastal states a 50 percent share of federal off-shore oil and gas royalty payments could pass the House as early as next week, but several controversial provisions could doom the bill's chances in the Senate.

The legislative package, prompted by rising gasoline prices and spot shortages caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, would open the Florida and California coasts to oil drilling, although the two states would have to approve exploration before it could begin. The bill also would authorize development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, a proposal that continues to garner intense opposition from environmentalists.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said the revenue-sharing provisions could ensure Louisiana has the resources to stem the continued destruction of the state's coastline and wetlands – which the Louisiana congressional delegation cite as a significant factors in the level of devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Barrier islands and wetlands absorb some of the force of storms as they come ashore.

The revenue-sharing provision would generate more than a $1 billion a year for the state, far more generous than an earlier energy bill that would produce $135 million annually for the state from 2007 through 2010. Bush signed that bill into law last summer.

The new energy legislation, which has been put on the fast track by House GOP leaders, would ease environmental regulations, including provisions that require refineries and coal-fired power plants to install new anti-pollution equipment when they expand or upgrade operations.

In addition, the bill gives the federal government more say over the location of refineries and pipelines, limiting the regulatory authority of states and local governments. It would also roll back some Clean Air Act standards that require communities with high ozone levels to use specially formulated gasoline that causes less pollution.

The bill cleared two House committees this week.

"There can be only one explanation for this rush to markup and then to the floor, and it is the desire of the Republican leadership of the House to use the hardships and devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to push various parts of their agenda," Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said. "But poorly thought out and poorly vetted efforts to pass industrial and ideological wish lists are not the way to respond to the actual energy issues raised by Katrina."

Supporters said the recent hurricanes show how vulnerable the United States is for relying primarily on one region for its domestic oil and gas resources. Jindal said he senses the recent spike in gasoline prices, along with spot shortages attributed to Katrina and Rita, has made members of Congress more receptive to expanded drilling options.

Jindal said he would hope that opponents of expanded drilling in the Senate would not filibuster the bill, given that states retain their ability to veto any new gas and oil exploration off their shores.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., said that the first energy bill, adopted in July, was a good first step but that the oil and gas distribution problems associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrate more changes are needed.

"The recent hurricanes in the Gulf Coast underscore just how precious our limited refining and production efforts are," Gibbons said. "It is time to act responsibility and allow our nation to meet its energy needs."

# Bush gets better marks for Rita response

*Polls show jump over post-Katrina numbers*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON – Different storm, different results for President Bush.

A poll released Thursday found the president is getting much better marks from the public for his handling of the response to Hurricane Rita than he did for Katrina late last month.

Katrina swept through Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in late August. The Bush administration and state and local officials have been criticized for a sluggish response.

Seventy percent of respondents said they approve of Bush's response to Rita, while 22 percent disapprove, a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll found. Only 40 percent said they approve of his handling of Katrina, while 54 percent said they disapprove.

Bush's overall job approval, which has hovered at about 40 percent in various polls taken in the middle of September, rose slightly, from 40 percent to 45 percent, in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll and from 41 percent to 45 percent in a Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll also released Thursday.

The Gallup poll of 1,007 adults was conducted Sept. 26 to 28, and the Fox News poll of 900 registered voters was conducted Sept. 27 and 28. Both polls have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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# REELING FROM RITA



Rita's floodwaters remain formidable Thursday in lower Lafitte, even to this lone dog.

Inundated by Hurricane Rita last week, the low-lying town of Lafitte, on Bayou Barataria, remains submerged in some areas, but is emerging in others. Though the waters linger, residents are working to save their belongings — and gather the remainders of their swamped lives.

Staff photos by Michael DeMocker



Ronald Christian, 12, paddles his pirogue through floodwaters as his dog, Gigi, serves as a lookout.



Shrimper Norman Bouisse manages to salvage some family photographs Thursday from his home in lower Lafitte, which Hurricane Rita flooded with more than four feet of water. He will be living on his shrimp boat for the foreseeable future, but says, 'I still got my life.'



Many lower Lafitte residents were removing belongings from their flooded homes Thursday.



Floodwaters push up a casket Thursday on Cemetery Street. Rita's water and wind disturbed or displaced many of lower Lafitte's dead.

# Many voices should be heard in rebuilding, coalition agrees

*Hope is for better jobs, schools, homes*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Ordinary New Orleanians, not just politicians and planners, should have a voice in shaping the future of their hurricane-ravaged city, members of a budding coalition of New Orleans social service, civic, political and other organizations agreed here Thursday.

"We can't continue to have a city which is run by patronage and special interests," Keith Hardy, president of the Preservation Resource Center neighborhood council, told the Rebuild Louisiana/New Orleans session. Too often, Hardy said, city leaders "go around the law and make provisos."

What's important, one after another speaker argued, is to focus on rebuilding the city in ways that offer returning New Orleanians better jobs, schools and neighborhoods than they had before the storm.

Baton Rouge resident Kurt Hellmann, who formerly worked with the National Association of Manufacturers, was one of the few, if not the only, non-New Orleans residents at the meeting.

Expanding the city's job market, he said, will make residents less vulnerable the next time hurricanes threatens: "Number one, they'll have jobs, and number two, they'll have cars (in which) they can get their families out of the city," he said.

Several speakers advised that residents be asked what they want and need. "What about the public housing residents?" one man asked. "Is their housing going to be knocked down? We should be in New Orleans talking about rebuilding."

A Lower Ninth Ward woman who said several relatives suffered greatly in Katrina called for concentrating the rebuilding effort on "the people who needed the jobs pre-Katrina, the people who needed the homes pre-Katrina."

Ron McClain, president of the Family Service of Greater New Orleans, said he wonders what kind of reception will be accorded returning New Orleanians who, unable to afford living in the city, settle in neighboring parishes.

**"We can't continue to have a city which is run by patronage and special interests."**
KEITH HARDY
President of the Preservation Resource Center neighborhood council

That some New Orleans evacuees who fled the city on foot after Katrina were stopped just outside the city by armed police makes those concerns real, he said.

# Meteorologists plead for more research money

*Increase in storms prompts call for action*

**By John Pain**
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Hurricanes are barreling across the Atlantic Ocean with greater frequency, a trend expected to continue for at least the next decade. But some meteorologists worry that federal spending on storm research is not keeping up.

The federal Hurricane Research Division has a staff of about 30 scientists, down from about 50 in the 1980s. It has an annual budget of $5.1 million, a nearly 60 percent increase since 1998. But some researchers say they need more money _ perhaps a budget of $10 million _ to hire more staff and modernize equipment.

"We aren't talking about a whole lot of money," said Hugh Willoughby, a researcher at the division from 1975 to 1996 and its director from 1996 to 2002.

The division's work helps meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center forecast a storm's track and intensity. The research division is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which decides how much money it gets from NOAA's budget.

NOAA's budget director, Steve Gallagher, denied that the research division is under funded. He said financing is reviewed every year but that the agency will take a harder look at research spending because of Hurricane Katrina.

He also pointed out that the federal government is not alone in doing hurricane research. Universities and private companies also are making important advances.

NOAA's budget grew to an estimated $3.83 billion this year from $3.44 billion in 2004. The agency's budget is supposed to drop to an estimated $3.78 billion next year, but Gallagher said the research division should not see any cuts.

An increase in the research division budget would allow the hiring of more workers to analyze the mountains of data gathered by aircraft that fly through hurricanes and to improve computer models that predict hurricane movement and strength, said Michael Black, a meteorologist and union steward at the division who has pushed for extra money.

A bigger budget also would provide money to replace aging radar and hurricane hunter planes, some of which were built in the 1970s and '80s, he said.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Cost to repair state's ports, roads, bridges could soar

## *Rita added to damage in state*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Repairs to the state's highways, ports and bridges will cost significantly more than the $31.7 billion previously estimated, state Department of Transportation and Development officials said Thursday.

Department Communications Director Mark Lambert said agency officials do not have a new figure but said there has been more damage found in the New Orleans area from Hurricane Katrina, and damage from Hurricane Rita has not been factored in because crews still are assessing the impact.

"We know the figures will go up" from original Katrina assessments, Lambert said. "We are not certain how high up they will go. We know we also suffered a significant amount of damage from Hurricane Rita."

Lambert said there has been damage to roads and bridges as far north as Vernon Parish on the Louisiana-Texas border as a result of Rita. He added that Rita also washed out half of the roadway along sections of Louisiana 82 from Pecan Island to the Texas border.

Since the documents were submitted to congressional leaders last week estimating the $31.7 billion in damages, Lambert said, crews have taken more detailed looks at roads, bridges and other infrastructure in the New Orleans area and discovered "some damages we were not aware of" — such as possible deeper roadbed damage caused by floodwaters along southeast Louisiana highways that went undetected originally.

When the request was drafted, Department Secretary Johnny Bradberry estimated the state needed $20.2 billion to improve flood protection; $7 billion to replace roads and bridges and repair ports and airports; and $4.5 billion to improve evacuation routes in the future.

Based on the $31.7 billion figure, these are the preliminary estimates of the costs of some of the major items DOTD is asking to finance with federal dollars:

▶ $2.8 billion for levee repairs and debris cleanup including shoring up weak spots in the levee systems in the New Orleans area.

▶ $20 billion to "complete and improve coastal Louisiana levee systems" to withstand a Category 5 hurricane from Morgan City to Slidell.

▶ $200 million to repair and improve the pumping capacity of the New Orleans area to include "waterproofing the equipment and providing backup power" since many of the pumps were under water or failed during the most recent two hurricanes.

▶ $1.5 billion for repairs to interstates and roads financed by the federal government, including replacement of the I-10 twin span linking St. Tammany and Orleans parishes, estimated to cost at least $500 million. The present four-lane span is being temporarily repaired, but the agency is seeking money to build a new six-lane span.

▶ $775 million for repairs to rural roads and bridges not normally funded by the federal government.

▶ $80 million for damages to the Port of New Orleans, the Greater Lafourche Port, the Port of St. Bernard, the Plaquemines Parish Port and the Port of South Louisiana.

▶ $275 million to repair the airports of the state, including $127 million for New Orleans' Louis Armstrong International Airport and $32 million to expand the Baton Rouge Metro Airport to handle increased traffic.

▶ $450 million for repairs to the rail service to New Orleans and for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad equipment and tracks damaged by the hurricanes.

▶ $25 million for a three-year program to operate two 600-passenger trains between New Orleans and Baton Rouge to "provide transportation daily for displaced evacuees to commute to their jobs from the greater Baton Rouge area while their homes are rebuilt in the greater New Orleans area."

▶ $770 million to repair public transit infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

▶ $1.7 billion to repair damages to the "federal navigation system" including repairs to locks, removing sunken vessels and fixing navigation aids.

▶ $120 million to replace the Leeville Bridge on Louisiana 1 and $15 million to replace the Caminada Bay Bridge near Grand Isle.

▶ $176 million for Baton Rouge traffic control to handle the sudden population explosion of at least 50,000 New Orleans area residents in the area.

▶ $650 million for widening of the I-10 and I-12 in Baton Rouge to handle increased traffic and for future evacuations.

▶ $550 million to build I-10 and I-610 at a higher level to avert flooding.

▶ $400 million to widen I-10 from I-310 to La. 22 as an evacuation route, and widening of the 11-mile bridge over the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

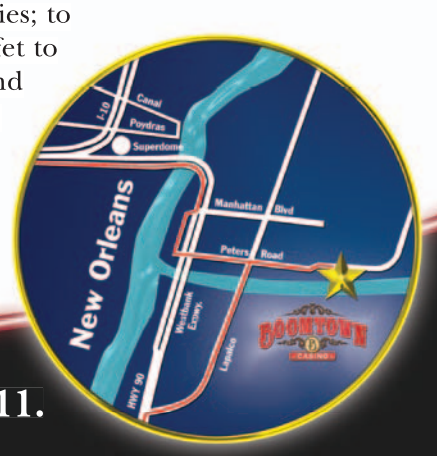
▶ $50 million to replace the Belle Chasse Tunnel in Plaquemines Parish with a "midlevel bridge." The tunnel flooded during the hurricanes.

▶ $1.575 billion for an elevated U.S. 90 – the future corridor of I-49 south – from the Westbank Expressway to Raceland.

▶ $475 million for improvements to highways on the north shore, including $75 million to widen I-12 from Louisiana 447 to I-55; $150 million to widen I-12 from I-55 to Louisiana 21; $150 million to widen I-12 from Louisiana 21 to the I-10/I-59 intersection; and $100 million to widen U.S. 190 from the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway to U.S. Highway 11.

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David


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## POSTAL SERVICE
- Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
- For harder-hit Plaquemines Parish, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse, where residents can pick up their mail.
- In New Orleans, outgoing mail will be accepted at a temporary post office in the parking lot between JAX brewery and Canal Place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Postage is available.
- Services are up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened, and partial delivery began last week for zip codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- Beginning today at 8 a.m., residents are allowed to re-enter the city in these zip codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. On Wednesday residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
- There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
- Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital, and Ochsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred Hospital.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Parish is open
- 911 phone system is back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Parish officials said Tuesday the parish had recorded its 100th storm-related death.
- As of today, all areas of the parish are to have been re-opened. Residents will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dawn to dusk curfew also is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- Some parts of parish still without power

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
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**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
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- Utilities are working.

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- Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Two crisis hotlines are open: (800) 273-TALK and (800) 749-COPE.

# Second Jefferson staffer subpoenaed

*Nigerian deal focus of probe*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The chief of staff for Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, has been called to testify before the federal grand jury conducting a criminal probe involving the eight-term congressman.

Nicole Venable is the second Jefferson congressional staffer to be subpoenaed by the grand jury meeting in northern Virginia. Angelle Kwemo, a legislative aide hired this summer in Jefferson's Washington office, was subpoenaed to testify two weeks ago.

According to those familiar with the yearlong probe, federal investigators are focusing on a telecommunications deal Jefferson was attempting to broker in Nigeria for a U.S. firm, iGate Corp. The FBI raided Jefferson's home Aug. 4 and, according to published reports, removed a substantial amount of cash.

Authorities also searched the Maryland home of Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar, seeking information related to Jefferson's business dealings.

Jefferson has said he is cooperating with the investigation. The Nigerian press has reported that the FBI took correspondence between Jefferson and Nigerian officials, a calendar and other documents when it raided the Maryland house owned by Abubakar's wife.

At a news conference last week, FBI Director Robert Mueller declined to discuss the Jefferson case. But he said that damage to the first two floors of the agency's building in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina had not harmed evidence in any ongoing investigations.

"I would say Katrina has not substantially impacted our ability to conduct any investigation," Mueller said.

# HUD grants being used to rebuild Mississippi

*Housing top need in Pascagoula*

**By The Associated Press**

PASCAGOULA, MISS. — The cities of Pascagoula and Moss Point will use annual grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address infrastructure, housing and public safety projects in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The Community Development Block Grants are administered annually through HUD. Both cities will use those grants and other funding sources to help rebuild their communities.

Federal assessment teams visited both cities this week to get an idea of how the agency's money will be spent over the next fiscal year.

"They're being kind enough to come down and see for themselves the destruction Katrina brought to the Pascagoula-Moss Point area," Pascagoula Community Development Director Betty Bensey said.

In addition to preapproved funding, both cities will get additional funding from the federal government, officials said.

Bensey said the nearly $1 million in Pascagoula could be applied to creating new neighborhoods and help qualified residents go from temporary housing to permanent homeownership.

Building a new senior center to replace one that was heavily flooded will also be on Pascagoula's wish list, in addition to some smaller projects, Bensey said.

Moss Point Mayor Xavier Bishop said the nearly $750,000 the city will receive will go toward building a new fire station and road and infrastructure projects, all of which were in the works before Katrina. Addressing housing will also be a priority, he said.

"The need for housing has changed dramatically since the storm. We still don't have our arms around the magnitude of that problem. We're gonna take a step back ... and see what all our needs are," Bishop said.

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# Bus company no stranger to complaints

## *Disrepair, gas smell had been reported*

**By Matt Curry**
Associated Press writer

DALLAS – The company whose bus caught fire last week, killing 23 nursing-home patients fleeing Hurricane Rita, was the subject of complaints by three people in 2002 who said its vehicles reeked of fuel and were in disrepair, according to Texas records.

The complaints against Global Tours and Charters, now Global Limo Inc., preceded a state investigation that found several violations, including a failure to keep records of vehicle inspections and maintenance.

The state told the company to comply with regulations but did not impose any penalties against it, according to records released Wednesday by the Texas Department of Public Safety. A month after the 2002 review, Global owner James Maples told the state Transportation Department he had made the necessary changes.

On Sept. 23, a group of 37 nursing home residents was being moved from the Houston area because of Rita's approach when their Global bus caught fire while struck in traffic near Dallas. A series of explosions, believed to be the results of medical oxygen canisters igniting, fueled the flames and trapped most of the occupants.

Investigators have said the fire could have been caused by mechanical problems, possibly involving the brakes.

The bus had been pressed into service to carry residents of the Brighton Gardens nursing home out of Rita's path. It had gone out of service in July after its registration expired but was allowed back on the road because of a waiver signed by Gov. Rick Perry to aid relief efforts.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the tragedy. Since the explosion, the Transportation Department has issued an advisory to the bus industry about the safe transport of oxygen containers.

No one answered the phone at the bus company's offices Thursday morning. Mark Cooper, an attorney for Global, did not immediately return calls.

One of the 2002 complaints was written by Donald Spotts of Weslaco, Texas, and sent to the Texas attorney general and other state officials. Spotts wrote that there was a "very strong odor of diesel fumes" on a Global bus that was carrying 48 senior citizens from Weslaco to Corpus Christi, Texas. Many of the passengers were coughing and wheezing both ways on the 320-mile round trip, he wrote.

In another complaint, a man named Ross Gunning claimed that one of Global's buses was "swaying all over the road." Another complainant identified as Sara Martinez wrote that most of the company's buses had oil and air leaks.

A 2002 state inspection found several violations, including failure to implement an alcohol or drug testing program, failure to retain inspection and maintenance records for the proper period of time and failure to retain evidence of a brake inspector's qualifications.

According to federal records, drivers for Global Limo were ordered to stop driving five times in the past three years, mostly for infractions regarding bus logs. In 2004, the company was rated as "satisfactory," with no evidence of major safety problems in recent years, records show.

The driver of the bus that caught fire before Rita, Juan Robles Gutierrez, 37, was arrested Tuesday and jailed on immigration charges, the Houston Chronicle reported Thursday. Gutierrez is from Mexico.

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# STATUS REPORT

## Many New Orleans neighborhoods still lacking basic services

### CITYWIDE

▶ Residents and business owners in 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131 can return beginning today. These areas include Algiers, the Central Business District, the French Quarter and Uptown.

▶ The mandatory evacuation order remains in effect for other parts of New Orleans.

▶ All federal, state and local agencies, including authorized nonprofit service agencies, will receive yellow access placards. Contractors and subcontractors employed by public service agencies will have purple access placards.

▶ Red Cross has set up feeding stations and bulk distribution of water and ice in Algiers at Cut-Off Playground and Fox Playground.

▶ 911: New system fully operational

▶ Contractors will be credentialed at 601 Loyola Ave. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

▶ About 540 food establishments have been inspected and approved. Inspections continue this week with the local staff and FDA assistance. Open restaurants with bright pink posters in the windows have been deemed safe by health and safety inspectors.

▶ For defective equipment concerning electronic food stamp devices, business owners should call (800) 230-0179.

**Schools**

▶ Because schools will be out of service for the foreseeable future, parents should enroll their children in schools outside Orleans Parish

**Medical**

▶ West Jefferson Medical Center open; Touro Infirmary: Work in progress

▶ Algiers/Fischer and Ida Hymel clinics open.

▶ Convention Center and Kindred Hospital open for immunizations and some emergency care.

▶ Two crisis hotlines are operational: 1-800-273-TALK and 1-800-749-COPE.

**Housing**

▶ The Army Corps of Engineers, as part of its FEMA-assigned mission of providing temporary repairs to roofs damaged by Hurricane Katrina, has a toll-free number for the latest information on locations, dates and hours to sign a right of entry: 1 (888) ROOF-BLU (766-3258). If residents qualify, corps contractors will install the temporary roof covering at no cost.

**City employees**

▶ New Orleans city employees received direct deposit payments as usual Sept. 2 and Sept. 16. Payroll cards will be sent to employees who normally receive a paper check; however, employees must call (866) 795-2427 to register.

▶ In addition, New Orleans city employees are being asked to register with a tracking service by calling (877) 751-2415. Sewerage & Water Board employees are asked to call (877) 863-9405.

### OVERVIEW BY ZIP CODE

#### 70114

**Sewer**: Operational
**Water**: Never interrupted
**Trash/debris**: Household garbage pickup initiated
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 50 percent; temporary stop signs, 100 percent; limited bus service anticipated soon; some gas stations open
**Fire**: Fire coverage from three fire stations
**Housing/building inspection**: Assembled four teams

#### 70131

**Sewer**: Operational
**Water**: Never interrupted
**Trash/debris**: Household garbage pickup in progress
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 50 percent; temporary stop signs, 100 percent; limited bus service anticipated soon; some gas stations open
**Fire**: Fire coverage from one fire station (Woodland)
**Housing/building inspection**: Assembled four teams

#### 70115, 70116 and 70118

**Sewer**: Operational
**Water**: Never interrupted
**Trash/debris**: Household garbage pickup in progress
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational 50 percent; temporary stop signs up; limited bus service to begin Oct.3; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 10 percent
**Fire**: Coverage from one station
**Housing/building inspection**: Assembled four teams

#### 70112

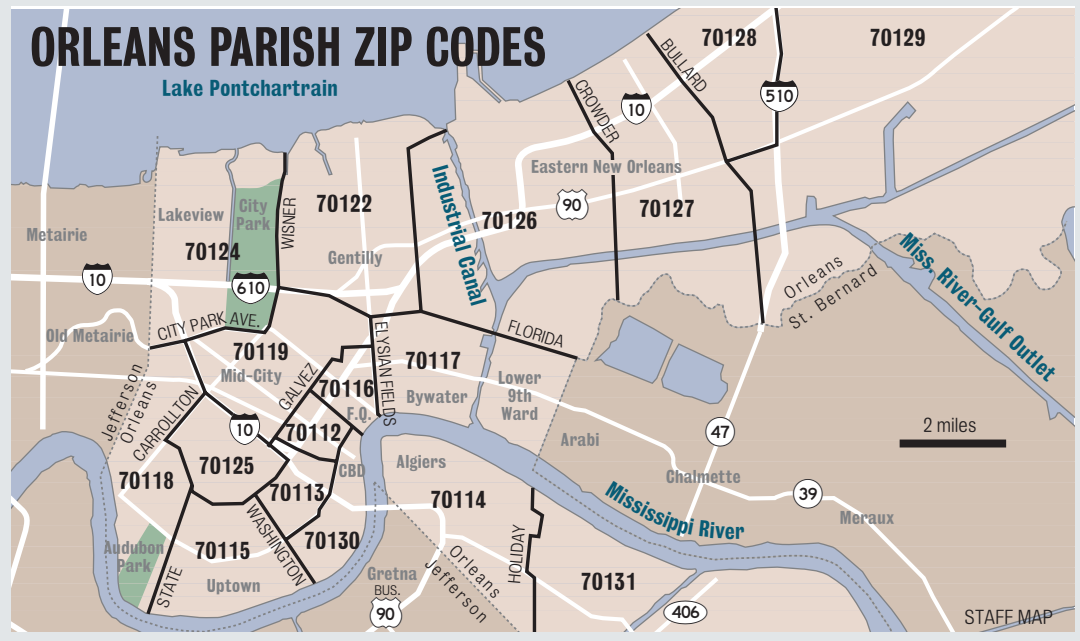
**Sewer**: CBD is operative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only
**Trash/debris**: Incidental debris removal
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 100 percent; signals operational, 5 percent; temporary stop signs, 80 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 10 percent; storm sewer assessment, 0 percent; storm sewer operations, TBD
**Fire**: Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection**: Began Sept. 27

#### 70113

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only
**Electricity**: Waiting on results from assessment
**Gas**: Working on water removal from low-pressure gas system
**Trash/debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads passable; signals inoperative; temporary signage in place; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 10 percent; storm sewer assessment, 10 percent; storm sewer operations, 0 percent
**Fire**: Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection**: Completed

#### 70130

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only
**Trash/debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads passable; signals operational, 5 percent; temporary stop signs, 50 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open; catch basin cleaning, 0 percent; storm sewer assessment, 0 percent; storm sewer operations 0 percent
**Fire**: Low water pressure
**Housing/building inspection**: 100 percent complete; 83 structures unsuitable for occupation




#### 70124

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only; no potable water
**Electricity**: Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas**: 48 percent service available because of water intrusion
**Debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 15 percent; signals operational, 0 percent; temporary stop signs, 0 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire**: Delgado to be partially in place in about one week
**Housing/building inspection**: In progress

#### 70125

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only; 51 days until potable water
**Electricity**: Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas**: Complete; system 90 percent secure
**Debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads inspected, 25 percent; signals operational, 0 percent; temporary stop signs, 0 percent; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire**: Low water pressure; delayed response
**Housing/building inspection**: Began Sept. 2

#### 70119, 70122, 70148

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only; no potable water
**Electricity**: Assessment 75 percent complete
**Gas**: 20 percent service available
**Debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage yet in place. no bus service; no gas stations open
**Fire**: No water pressure in 70119; low pressure and delayed response in 70122
**Housing/building inspection**: In progress

#### 70126, 70127, 70128

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only; no potable water
**Electricity**: Assessment 85 percent complete
**Gas**: 5 percent available
**Debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage yet in place; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Housing/building inspection**: In progress

#### 70129 and 70117

**Sewer**: Inoperative
**Water**: Water for fire protection only; no potable water
**Electricity**: Assessment complete
**Gas**: Assessment secure
**Debris**: In progress
**Transportation**: Roads passable; signals inoperative; no temporary signage in place; no bus service; no gas stations open
**Housing/building inspection**: In progress

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# Termites present unique problem



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

The joint is jumpin' at Slim Goodies Diner on Magazine Street, where Arthur Sitdikov slips a French fry to three-legged pug Oil (pronounced Earl). Oil and Danger are diner owner Kappa Horn's pets. Slim's has been open for 10 days, serving cheeseburgers and fries only.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Johnathon Rodriguez takes a load of garbage from the Winn-Dixie on Tchoupitoulas Street. Marla Hubble, store director, said she hoped to open by Thursday, barring any further disasters.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Mayor Ray Nagin talks with Utopia managing partner Madeline Schwartz as he walks down Bourbon Street on Thursday. Behind them the store's sign is being restored.

**RETURN,** *from A-1*

remained empty and unattended. Formerly busy commercial corridors remained desolate strands of debris boarded with plywood. In the short term, New Orleans' consumer economy will be based mostly in East Jefferson or on the West Bank.

While utility crews worked feverishly to get the electricity on in the neighborhoods being reopened, a number of areas are likely to be without power. Water on the east bank of New Orleans remains undrinkable, and some residents might discover their water service has been turned off because of damaged pipes.

Residents who live in the reopened zip codes can enter the city at 8 a.m. Residents will need a driver's license or utility bill to prove they live in one of the specified ZIP codes, while business owners must show a business license or card. No special credentials are required.

"This is somewhat of an honor system. We are asking people to stay in those ZIP codes and be conscious of the fact that other areas of the city are not ready for re-entry," said Sally Forman, a spokesperson for Mayor Ray Nagin.

Nagin toured the city Thursday on the eve of its reopening, saying that Algiers businesses are bouncing back and he expects the same on the east bank "once we can get a few businesses open."

Some residents will no doubt arrive with plans to stay, while others want to take a look at their homes before deciding.

"We're probably going to stay in Metairie until we can get the house cleaned up," said Uptown resident John Mullen, who stopped in the CVS at Prytania and Upperline streets with his wife, Lori, and their three children.

The Mullens had evacuated to Little Rock, Ark., and Lori Mullen said she was considering taking her children back there.

As one CVS employee said moments before the family walked in, "you can't bring your kids back to this." Residents were "traveling back and forth," he said, "but they can't live here."

The drugstore was using generator power to open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "We anticipate people coming in," the manager said. "But if there's no power and the water's not safe, people won't stay."

The Walgreens on Tchoupitoulas Street Uptown is open and was crowded with customers.

Grocery stores, many of which had looting damage, were struggling to replace inventories, clean up and dispose of spoilage. Some stores expect to reopen within the next week, while workers at others, such as the Whole Foods Market on Magazine Street Uptown, said they could be closed up to another month. Marla Hubble, store director of the Winn-Dixie at the Riverside Market, said she hoped to open by Thursday, barring any further disasters.

The Winn-Dixie at Toledano Street and Claiborne Avenue was closed, its doors broken and its interior dark. The parking lot outside was ghostly, and a hearse was parked on the neutral ground out front.

Workers were busy cleaning Uptown institution Langenstein's at Pitt and Arabella streets, but co-owner Michael Lanaux said the grocery store won't be open for another 10 to 14 days. "I think a lot of businesses will see things get back to normal close to the Christmas holidays," he said.

Until that time, Lanaux said, business owners should be happy to get half of their previous customer base back.

Sav-A-Center on Royal Street in the French Quarter is expected to open Saturday morning, said Glen Dickson, the company's regional vice president of operations. The chain hopes to open the Sav-A-Center on Tchoupitoulas Street by Thursday and perhaps as early as Wednesday night, Dickson said. Oct. 8 is the targeted opening day for the A&P Sav-A-Center on Magazine Street, he said.

Dickson said all of his stores in Orleans Parish are facing staffing shortages and in the process of hiring part-time and full-time employees. He said the Uptown stores on Tchoupitoulas and Magazine streets suffered

*See* **RETURN,** *A-14*

# ‘I know what people need,’ hardware store owner says

**RETURN,** *from A-13*

extensive looting and had to replace 250 to 300 shopping carts that were stolen.

At 6000 Magazine Street, Clement Hardware opened Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Owner Leon Clement said the store had been looted, “but all they took was batteries.” His shelves were stocked, but he ordered brooms, mops and buckets. “I know what people need,” he said.

Across the street, Uptown Shell owner Mark McAdams said he has gas, power and a plan to open today. The Tchoup Shop gas station wasn’t so lucky. Manager Jerry Butler said he needed power to open. “They told us three days ago, three days ago,” he said.

The Lee Circle Shell station at 919 St. Charles Ave. was selling only “Plus” fuel on Thursday, at $3.11 per gallon.

Hibernia vice president Kyle Waters waved from the open door of the bank branch on St. Charles Avenue, which was open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The branch’s ATM is working, and Waters said the branch is offering basic banking services, including small-business loans.

“I just made a payment on my loans,” said Metairie resident Wayne Zeringue, who visited the branch with his wife.

Other banks referred customers to Metairie branches.

At 4924 Poydras St., David Bergeron was waiting for a shipment so he could open his Creole Creamery. The store had been clean for more than a week, his power had just been restored, and he was waiting for product.

“When word gets out that people can get ice cream, that will be a good day,” he said.

On the West Bank, lunch business boomed at Dry Dock Café in Algiers Point, where owner Maureen Pignona said she hoped an influx of residents, coupled with the dearth of other open shops, would bring more customers to her restaurant. “Yeah, I think it will be great for business,” she said.

The crowd was upbeat despite waits of up to a half-hour. Jim Ballard, 75, with beer in hand, was grateful that the establishment reopened about two weeks ago.

*See* **RETURN,** *A-15*

# Heavy-hitting Republicans likely to be on Nagin panel

**BLANCO,** *from A-11*

developers; Barbara Major, executive director of the St. Thomas Health Clinic; Dan Packer, head of the local power company Entergy New Orleans; Alden McDonald, chief executive of Liberty Bank; Donald “Boysie” Bollinger, head of Bollinger Shipyards; Scott Cowen, Tulane University president; and Jimmy Reiss, a New Orleans businessman who is the chief of the city’s Regional Transit Authority.

Canizaro and Major helped lead a broad-based community effort that combined the Committee for a Better New Orleans with the Metropolitan Area Committee. The groups produced a Blueprint for a Better New Orleans in 2001 and asked the mayoral candidates at the time to adopt its strategy.

Nagin has implemented some of its recommendations, and his new initiative for a post-Katrina recovery was based in part by the methods used to create the blueprint report, according to people familiar with the mayor’s plan.

Canizaro and Bollinger are both Republicans with strong ties to the White House. Canizaro said he has not talked with President Bush since the storm hit Aug. 29 but has had conversations with White House staff and hopes his connections will be useful to the community. The federal government will be providing the lion’s share of money to rebuild the city.

The governor’s group includes Xavier University Chancellor Norman Francis and University of New Orleans Chancellor Tim Ryan, both of whom served as top leaders of the Committee for a Better New Orleans with the Metropolitan Area Committee program. Francis said he was asked by Nagin to join his team but had to decline because he had already been asked by the governor and did not have enough time for both initiatives.

Francis also is occupied getting Xavier back up and running by January.

The group attending the governor’s meeting included Audubon Nature Institute chief Ron Forman; Whitney Bank chief executive King Milling; state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi; and north Louisiana businessman James Davison.

**Employees Who Have Not Contacted the La. Office of Youth Development**

In accordance with the requirements of C.S. Rule 17.4(a), notice is hereby given of an impending furlough (a layoff avoidance measure consisting of a period of leave without pay) to be implemented by OYD for those employees who have not contacted us since Hurricane Katrina. A written plan to effect this furlough will be submitted to C.S. for its approval.

OYD is proposing to effect this furlough beginning 10-1-05 until cob on 10-15-05. Once approved by C.S., it will be made available to employees through the OYD website: www.oyd.louisiana.gov.

Any questions should be directed to Trudy E. Gautreau,
OYD HR Director @ **(225) 287-7977**
or e-mail: TGautreaux@oyd.louisiana.gov.

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We thank you for your patience and look forward to providing you service as we rebuild Greater New Orleans together.

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# Jeff stores may be closest

**RETURN,** *from A-14*

"I helped them myself get back in action a couple of weeks ago," Ballard said. "This place is like family."

At the nearby Tout de Suite coffee shop and restaurant, Algiers resident Bruce Elliott said the business, which reopened Sept. 21, was a safe haven and a piece of home.

"We are a close community, and we look out for each other," he said. "It's been amazing, but I'm not really surprised," Elliott said.

Owner Jill Marshall was skeptical about business prospects for her small shop, but predicted a sales surge for the supermarkets and big-box stores on the West Bank.

Uptown residents heading west on Jefferson Highway in search of goods will have to drive four miles before they reach an open supermarket, passing a Winn-Dixie set to open Saturday and a Wal-Mart that doesn't expect to open at least until Oct. 10.

Huge bundles of flattened cardboard in front of the doorway sent potential Wal-Mart shoppers away with the spray-painted message: "STORE CLOSED."

"We have absolutely nothing fresh or cold or frozen at all," supervisor Jason Bain said as he pressure-washed carts in the parking lot.

Workers at other open stores just inside the Jefferson Parish line from New Orleans said they expect a whirlwind of shoppers from the Uptown and Carrollton neighborhoods on top of the Jefferson Parish crowds they've already witnessed.

"With Winn-Dixie closed and Wal-Mart closed, we're it over here, so we've been really, really busy," said Sheila Fortier, manager of Rite Aid at 4115 Jefferson Highway, where beer, milk and ice have been flying out the door.

Residents looking to escape the drudgery for a little while can kick up their heels at Cooter Brown's, the Uptown landmark at the corner of St. Charles and Carrollton avenues. Owner Larry Berestitzky said the store received little damage from the two storms and that he hopes to open the bar today with a limited menu in the kitchen.

Berestitzky said the bar is fully stocked and its extensive satellite television system is operable. He plans to have a full slate of football this weekend, including the LSU-Mississippi State game and Saints-Bills game.

"We're ready to go," Berestitzky said. "There might not be a lot of people around but there's thousands of military, law enforcement and relief workers that need a place to go. Tell everyone to come on in."

• • • • • •

Staff writers James Varney, Meghan Gordon, Jeff Duncan, Frank Donze and Mike Montalbano contributed to this story.

## TIPS FOR GOING HOME

City cautions returning residents about health, safety risks

### URBAN HAZARDS

▶ You are entering at your own risk. New Orleans remains a hazardous site and ongoing health and safety issues are being assessed. The city of New Orleans is still undergoing testing and recommends that you take great caution before entering the city and your premises, whether business or residential.

▶ Police and fire services are limited. For police, fire and other emergencies call (504) 552-4830.

▶ Traffic lights are out throughout the city. Observe a citywide speed limit of 35 mph, even if the posted limit is faster, and treat all intersections as four-way stops Some roads may be blocked. Proceed with extreme caution, especially around downed power lines. Report any down power lines directly to ENTERGY, (800) 368-3749 (800-ENTERGY).

▶ You are not permitted to go beyond your designated ZIP code area; travel within your ZIP code area only when absolutely necessary.

▶ The sewerage system has been compromised. Except for Algiers, do not drink, bathe in or wash your hands in tap water. Use bottled water for all personal needs until further notice. You may flush toilets.

▶ Standing water and soil may be seriously contaminated. If you come in contact with standing water and material or supplies compromised by floodwater, wash with soap and clean water as soon as possible. Limit your exposure to airborne mold and use gloves, masks and other protective materials.

▶ Apply mosquito repellent and sunscreen. The use of waterless, alcohol-based hand sanitizing rubs is also recommended.

▶ Food and water will not be available. Bring sufficient food, water, gas and any medical supplies required to sustain you and your family, keeping in mind the curfew and store inventories may limit access to supplies. Gas stations are not fully operational. Fuel is limited.

▶ To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, do not use gasoline or diesel generators, equipment or grills indoors. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide build-up. Do not connect electrical power generators to the electrical panel of your home or business.

▶ You are at your own risk to determine whether your home or business is structurally sound enough to enter. Use extra care when navigating upper floors and attic space.

### WEATHERING THE STORM CLEANUP

**Debris and refuse removal**

▶ Exercise caution. Steel-toed boots, work gloves and goggles or safety glasses are recommended when working around debris.

▶ Open all windows when entering a building. If you smell natural gas or hear the sound of escaping gas, leave the premises and contact Entergy immediately at (800) 368-3749 or (800) 968-8243.

▶ Avoid creating any source of ignition. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak, get to fresh air right away.

▶ To speed up trash and debris collection, separate debris into curbside piles using the following categories:

- Household garbage (dispose of as usual)
- Tree debris and clean wood
- Carpet, drywall, insulation, flooring and furniture
- Roofing materials
- Appliances, including refrigerators, emptied of contents; stoves; and air conditioners

▶ A program to handle household hazardous waste – including pesticides, paint, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaning products – will be available. In the meantime, store such items in a safe place.

**Standing water, mold and bacteria**

▶ Contaminated flood water contains micro-organisms that penetrate deep into porous material and that can be released into the air or water. Remove standing water as quickly as possible.

▶ Limit contact with flood water, including breathing water vapor or mist coming from pumps and dehumidifiers.

▶ To reduce the risk of mold and bacteria, remove wet materials, wood, paper and clothing, and discard those that cannot be thoroughly cleaned or dried.

▶ Illness can result if flood water comes in contact with an open wound. Clean wounds thoroughly with soap and drinkable water and apply antibiotic ointment. Wash hands and body with soap and warm, drinkable water.

▶ Avoid putting your hands in your mouth or on objects that could go in your mouth, such as cigarettes or water bottles.

▶ If you know you are immuno-compromised or have underlying respiratory problems, such as asthma or allergies, consider not returning until further environmental and health assessments are complete.

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# 'Deserters' may have been working in other precincts

RILEY, *from A-1*

year with Nagin's backing, has never made a secret of his thirst to run a law enforcement agency in the city.

His confidence Thursday was despite police department scandals that have begun to accrue since Hurricane Katrina struck. In addition to growing allegations of looting, tribunals are in the works for 249 officers who were allegedly not on active duty during the storm or immediately after it. Compass came under fire this week for hyping reports of crime and violence among desperate survivors stranded throughout New Orleans after the storm, reports that were believable at the time but were subsequently shown to be overblown.

Riley on Thursday emphasized that not all of the officers who left their posts were deserters. The NOPD orders before the storm required officers who lost their vehicles or were otherwise unable to report to their normal posts to instead get to the nearest district. Consequently, Riley said, some of the 249 officers who failed to make their slated roll calls may have been working in other areas.

In addition, Riley noted that some cops missed roll calls after the storm because they, like thousands of other residents, were trapped. Those officers should not be branded quitters or cowards either, Riley said.

"To ensure fairness to every member, I have assembled a committee to review each matter on a case-by-case basis," he said.

At the same time, Riley confirmed that officers patrolled the city after the storm in Cadillacs, a case that is being reviewed by the Louisiana attorney general. Most of those cases were legitimate, officers using radical tactics during chaotic times, he said. Nevertheless, there are reports that some of the officers may have taken cars without authorization and those will be investigated.

"There were some officers who did use Cadillacs, they actually patrolled the city in Cadillacs," Riley said. "It was done with the greatest intent."

Those investigations are separate from those of the dozen cops who Riley said were "either in a place where looting occurred or involved in looting."

Neither the assigned district nor the identity of those officers - or the four suspended and another reassigned - were released.

The NOPD was amassing video and other evidence, Riley said, rather than rushing ahead on "innuendos and rumors."

The chief smiled when asked whether the layers of scandal reflected a department that had lost its grip.

"This department is not dysfunctional," he said. "The more than 2,000 men and women of this agency stand united in not letting a very small segment of members tarnish the great reputation of their department."

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# Retailers may be cash-only

COMMUNICATIONS, *from A-1*

has provided daily updates on power restoration since the storm.

BellSouth and Cox compete intensely for customers under normal circumstances. Since Hurricane Katrina moved through the region, disrupting service and decimating the local customer base, that rivalry has only increased.

Internet service, while not as important as water and electricity, is an important means of communicating. People depend on Web pages, e-mail and instant messaging to connect with customers, bank, pay bills, conduct research and shop. With phone service shaky throughout the area, consumers have been relying even more on Internet-based communication, New Orleans Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson said.

"This is a horrible barrier. What else do they have?" Clarkson said of her constituents.

And as businesses reopen, they too will find that not having a reliable Internet connection is a hardship. They may be unable to run credit card transactions or update customer databases, said Gabriel Venturi, a telecommunications industry consultant and director of strategic accounts for Global Internetworking Inc., a telecommunications company in McClain, Va.

"You are going to see many signs saying 'cash only,'" Venturi said.

Resolving the problem could take a while. Even as BellSouth and Cox repair local fiber-optic cables, overhead wires and network routers, their high-speed digital pipelines have continued to break because of the swarms of storm repair crews digging underground and moving equipment under overhead lines.

The problem is so bad that some BellSouth workers have been patrolling network lines not for storm damage but for other repair crews that might cut a line accidentally, said Bill Smith, chief technology officer for BellSouth in Atlanta.

"That's one of our biggest concerns right now. We're trying to make sure we don't get additional damage from the crews working in the area," he said.

Another problem is that local and state regulators have little authority over the region's broadband networks.

The backbone of BellSouth's Internet service, a web of underground high-capacity fiber-optic cables, weathered the storm fairly well, and the company's central Internet hub in a bunkerlike building on Poydras Street never went down, Smith said. But flooded communications switches and broken copper wires that carry Internet and phone signals to neighborhoods and buildings caused many of the company's customers in the region to lose services, he said.

Snapped wires are the biggest problem facing Cox, whose network primarily runs along utility poles in the air, said Olin Kropog, vice president of sales for the company in metropolitan New Orleans.

"Downed trees caused a lot of outages. What we are doing is literally walking house to house and business to business" looking for damaged lines, he said. "It's going to take a long time to do that."

There are pockets where services have been restored or never failed.

In the Central Business District, French Quarter and Lower Garden District, most phone and DSL services from BellSouth remained on during and after the storm, Smith said. Both services should be restored in the coming days in other unflooded areas of Uptown between St. Charles Avenue and the Mississippi River, he said.

Cox, meanwhile, has restored most services in St. Charles Parish and parts of Kenner, Kropog said.

Some cable modem service has been restored in parishes north of Lake Pontchartrain by Charter Communications, said Anita Lamont, spokeswoman for the cable television company based in St. Louis.

A longer-term issue is whether companies will fully rebuild networks in areas that sustained the most destruction, such as eastern New Orleans, the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

Cox, for its part, plans to restore its local network "bigger and better than before," said Cox New Orleans spokesman Steve Sawyer. "Our commitment is to rebuild."

But don't bet on that panning out, said Venturi, the telecommunications consultant.

"Do you spend millions of dollars fixing infrastructure that might be underutilized?" Venturi said. "They all are talking about it, but until they do it you won't know. There could be huge losses if New Orleans is a smaller size.

The problems facing BellSouth and Cox are unprecedented, he said. "There hasn't been a situation like Katrina affecting a telecommunications network."

• • • • • •

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# It may be Christmas before things are humming again

**DEBRIS,** *from A-1*

Converting tons into cubic yards isn't easy because one is a weight measure; the other describes area. Different categories of debris will vary greatly by weight.

The City of New Orleans has its own estimate: 50 million cubic yards of debris in the New Orleans area alone, including trees, demolition materials, appliances and household hazardous waste. So far, the city says, 22,000 cubic yards of material have been removed.

Even a cursory glance at the landscape in New Orleans, St. Bernard Parish or eastern St. Tammany Parish shows how daunting the task will be. In many areas back roads remain impassable, and in some neighborhoods bags of rotting food and other foul-smelling materials are piled indiscriminately. Cars are smashed, waterlogged, and left everywhere. Businesses are without windows, with glass shards scattered about parking lots and sidewalks.

Given their military backgrounds, Allen and Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, who heads the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers effort here, don't talk like glorified garbage men when discussing their work. Instead, they speak of "debris management plans for the life cycle of the debris," and, "their mission."

The cost of that mission stands at about $500 million, Crear said. That money will be divided between four main contractors and scores of smaller subcontractors, most with roots in the local communities, he said.

"Our mission is to pick it up, segregate it, reduce it, and get it to the final disposition site," Crear said.

At first, Crear said his crews will focus on "vegetative debris," – the branches and trunks that coat the ground. Those materials will likely be chipped and possibly incinerated. Non-organic trash, such as ruined refrigerators and appliances, will likely be taken to landfills, Crear said.

The first priority will be to clear emergency facilities, then roadways. Curbside trash will be the last priority, Crear said.

On public property, the Corps' contractors can do what needs to be done, but they must get a "right of entry agreement" squared away with parish officials before doing the same thing. Such an agreement has been signed with Orleans Parish, Allen said.

Although clean-up crews have made progress in the last month clearing roads of tree limbs and other obstructions, they have not yet begun the delicate and time-consuming task of clearing debris from private property that was destroyed by wind or floodwaters, Brown said.

"At this point we've got so much to do that we don't need to deal with private property," Brown said. He said the agency has sought an opinion from state Attorney General Charles Foti on what can be done to remove debris from private property, but that parish officials will also have a say in the matter.

"We are very sensitive that every (damaged) structure there belongs to somebody," Brown said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has contracted with four private companies to spearhead the clean-up effort. They, in turn, will pass much of the work to about 23,000 different subcontractors, Brown said.

In addition to the wood debris, state officials predicted that 140,000 to 160,000 homes and businesses containing 1 million pieces of "white goods" such as refrigerators, stoves and freezers will require disposal. An estimated 350,000 cars and 60,000 boats will need to be demolished and disposed of as a result of Katrina.

Much of that material will be recycled. "We have got to find end-uses for everything – ash, concrete, everything," Brown said.

"It's almost unimaginable the magnitude of the different things we're going to deal with," said DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel.

Brown said the New Orleans area presents a unique problem to debris removers because of its Formosan termite infestation. Because officials don't want the problem to spread to parishes where it doesn't exist, wood that's removed from the area will have to be processed there before going elsewhere.

"You really can't take that particular waste stream out of the affected parish," Brown said.

In New Orleans, the cleanup teams will follow the geography that Mayor Ray Nagin does while opening up neighborhoods to returning residents, Crear said.

On the West Bank, debris has been pushed to the side on all streets. On the East Bank, work is progressing on major streets, such as Carrollton, Louisiana, Jefferson and Napoleon. Canal Street, the French Quarter and the Convention Center have been cleaned. Street sweeping, the city said, is under way in the French Quarter and Central Business District.

Also, waste is being hauled away from areas that include Uptown, Carrollton, City Hall, the Superdome, parts of the CBD and parts of eastern New Orleans – the Michoud area, near Joe Brown Park, Dwyer Road and Mayo Road.

Not every parish has chosen let FEMA take the lead on trash pickup. St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Washington parishes have chosen to undertake the job themselves and then get the cost reimbursed by FEMA, Crear said. It wasn't clear Thursday why those parishes had opted out of the federal cleanup plan or what the estimated costs would be.

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# When Rita hit, FEMA shelters sat unused

*Many rode out storm in tents*

**By The Associated Press**

GULFPORT, MISS. – While some storm-weary Mississippi Gulf Coast residents braced against Hurricane Rita's rain and wind in tents pitched in front of uninhabitable homes last weekend, more than 1,400 trailers intended for use as temporary shelters sat unused throughout south Mississippi.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency brought the trailers down to provide shelter for people with no place to live. At a trailer distribution center in western Harrison County, 350 to 400 trailers sat on the lot Saturday, providing no shelter from the Gulf Coast's most recent hurricane.

Though about 500 new trailers are being delivered to Mississippi and Louisiana every day, FEMA has not been able to house homeless people at the same rate as the shelters arrive.

Figures released by FEMA and the American Red Cross show a staggering need for shelter by residents in both states. James McIntyre, a FEMA spokesman in Louisiana, said that Hurricane Katrina alone displaced about 300,000 households in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Of that number, 200,000 will need FEMA housing assistance.

"You can't drop 30,000 trailers on the Gulf Coast and just let people take them," said FEMA's Mississippi spokesman, Gene Romano. "There is a process here. We've got over 1,900 trailers placed. The people in those trailers are pretty pleased."

The extent of Katrina's damage exceeds any inflicted on the U.S. to date. There were more than 200,000 housing units in Mississippi's six coastal counties, according to 2004 Census Bureau estimates. The latest American Red Cross assessment estimates that 103,000 homes, more than 50 percent, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast were either destroyed or received major damage.

So far, FEMA has either placed or is ready to distribute 3,335 temporary units in Mississippi. That leaves a deficit of more than 99,000 units statewide. The response plan does not require bringing 100,000 travel trailers to the state. Instead, FEMA plans to use several different housing options for displaced residents, including cruise ships, rental reimbursement and tent cities.

Dallas Trammell was still waiting to hear from FEMA officials Thursday. The Pearlington resident makes $724 a month on government disability and could not afford to insure her home.

"It's been 13 days since I called them," she said as she stood in front of the brightly colored dome tent pitched in front of her rotting former home. "I'm supposed to have a trailer coming, and I got a place cleared off to put it. It's got all the connections, but for some reason, they still have a hold on it."

Others with more means have decided to take matters into their own hands.

"FEMA told us it would be 60 to 90 days, so we went and got our own trailer," said Geneva Bordelon, a Pearlington resident.

The wait has to do with having a clear, level spot to put the trailer, and water, sewage and electrical connections ready to attach to it. When the trailer is going on a homeowner's land, inspectors must first go out to make sure everything is ready.

The west Harrison County distribution center sends between 80 and 100 trailers out every day. Emergency services personnel and people living in shelters get higher priority for the trailers and manufactured homes.

McIntyre, the FEMA spokesman in Louisiana, said 4,245 temporary housing units are ready for occupancy in the area affected by Katrina, while 7,829 are in the area and waiting to be placed.

In Mississippi, almost 1,500 units are at a staging point in Purvis waiting to be deployed, and more than 1,900 have already been placed.

The waiting list for housing continues to grow. As of Saturday, the west Harrison County distribution center had 6,000 to 7,000 trailer applications. It had moved 600 to 700 trailers, or 10 percent of the backlog. Distribution center personnel said that at that rate, it could take two months to set up trailers for everyone who had requested them.

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# Accounting sought on $236 million ship deal

*Greece had offered 2 vessels for free*

**By Hope Yen**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON – Two senators on Thursday asked federal officials to explain their decision to sign a $236 million deal with Carnival Cruise Lines for Hurricane Katrina housing, saying Greece was ready to provide two ships for free.

In a letter, Sens. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., asked Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to explain why Federal Emergency Management Agency officials chose Carnival and turned down the Greek offer.

The six-month deal with Carnival for three full-service cruise ships _ which now sit mostly empty in the Gulf Coast _ has been criticized by lawmakers of both parties as a prime example of wasted spending in Hurricane Katrina-related contracts.

"Even if the Carnival contract were a good one — and it almost certainly is not — it is inexplicable why FEMA would fail to implement the Greek government's offer of free cruise ships," the senators wrote.

Greece on Sept. 4 offered to donate two cruise ships to the United States as part of humanitarian aid for Katrina evacuees, according to the European Union.

Butch Kinerney, a spokesman for FEMA, said the agency signed an initial deal with Carnival by Sept. 3 — before the Greek offer. He said he did not know when FEMA officials subsequently became aware of it.

Once FEMA officials did find out, they chose to move forward with the Carnival deal because it was not known how quickly Greece could provide the ships, Kinerney said.

John Hart, a spokesman for Coburn, said the senators want to know exactly when FEMA became aware of Greece's offer and why the agency hasn't tried to back out of the Carnival deal, particularly since the ships are hardly being used.

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**"We're selling what we've got, but it is frustrating not getting stuff in here."**
GREG SIBLEY, R.J. Marchand's hardware store

# Tools getting hard to come by

## *Hardware retailer runs short on stock*

**By Dana Hedgpeth**
The Washington Post

Greg Sibley rummaged through a cardboard box in the hardware store he runs with his father in Metairie, looking for 2,000 metal screws.

"All's I got is 375," he finally told the customer looking for screws to replace a blown-off grocery store roof.

"And when I'll get more I don't know," Sibley said. "I'm at the mercy of getting freight in."

Such is life at Sibley's store, R.J. Marchand's, three weeks after Hurricane Katrina ripped through. With traffic snarls making it a two- to three-hour trip in and out of the city, gas in short supply and few goods to sell, small businesses are having a hard time rebuilding and reopening.

"I'm happy to be up and running," said Sibley, 42, who operates the store with his father, Frank. "We're selling what we've got, but it is frustrating not getting stuff in here."

When The Washington Post first chronicled Katrina's impact on Sibley's business two weeks ago, the storm had shut down the store, costing it $15,000 to $18,000 in daily sales. The store also suffered water damage, and looters later broke in and took $30,000 worth of goods. The owners still are trying to determine how much inventory is gone.

Since reopening on Sept. 12, the store has been waiting for goods such as drills, saws, routers and Shop Vacs that were supposed to arrive before Katrina.



AP PHOTO

Greg Sibley is trying to operate R.J. Marchand's hardware store in Metairie while lacking both supplies and workers. 'When I get more, I don't know,' Sibley said.

"What supplies were on their way to us they sent back to the warehouses and put back because they couldn't get it through to us," Sibley said.

Usually, up to three delivery trucks each day reach R.J. Marchand's, where customers include home builders, steel manufacturers and general contractors. In the last month, only three trucks have arrived. All Sibley's suppliers — as close as Tennessee and Georgia, and as far away as Illinois and California — seem to be having problems getting materials to Marchand's.

For example, the store still is waiting on a $40,000 order of drill presses from a manufacturer in Jackson, Tenn. The presses, which will go on a Navy boat in a nearby shipyard, were supposed to be delivered the week Katrina struck, but Sibley was unable to track them down until the trucking company contacted him Tuesday.

"They asked us when are we coming to pick it up," Sibley said. "I asked where was it and they told me it's at a port in Dallas. I said, 'Well, I'm waiting for it here in Metairie, outside of New Orleans.' " Sibley said he's waiting on roughly $100,000 worth of material. Where is it all? "I don't know," he said.

Just as R.J. Marchand's was reopening after Katrina, Hurricane Rita hit, but caused only minor tree damage and blew around debris left on the roads from the first storm, local business owners said.

Sibley still lacks four employees out of a staff of 19 who haven't come back because their houses are flooded or lack electricity and were further delayed by Rita.

"If they can't get to their house, they're not coming back (to work) yet," Sibley said. "I've got people all over the place, in Houston and in Baton Rouge. I'm short-handed."

Drivers haven't returned to work, so R.J. Marchand's is having a hard time delivering equipment to construction jobs in New Orleans. In any case, much of the city is blocked off as cleanup crews work.

The three employees who handle billing, supplies and payroll returned a week ago. One is commuting 70 miles every day from a Motel 6 in Baton Route because her house in Chalmette, east of New Orleans, was filled to the ceiling with water.

"It feels good to come back to work because you feel productive," said a teary-eyed Ginger Trapani, who orders supplies for the store.

The store is beginning to do business again, selling out of small drills, hand saws, crowbars and utility knives. Other hot items have been knee-high plastic boots, gloves, face masks and $2 white paper suits to protect from the fat, black flies buzzing around. Blue tarps haven't been selling — the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been giving them away.

Customer David Roussel bought a few blades and plastic gloves to tear out drywall in about 20 homes. "I'm in the hole for $70,000 worth of labor and materials, and I'm unsure when and how much I'll get back," said Roussel, who has been building houses in the area for 25 years. "I have no clue of what to charge people because the insurance adjusters haven't been able to get around to everyone.

"I got my neck stuck out pretty far right now," Roussel said.

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# Storms force railroads to take detours

*Tracks, bridges heavily damaged*

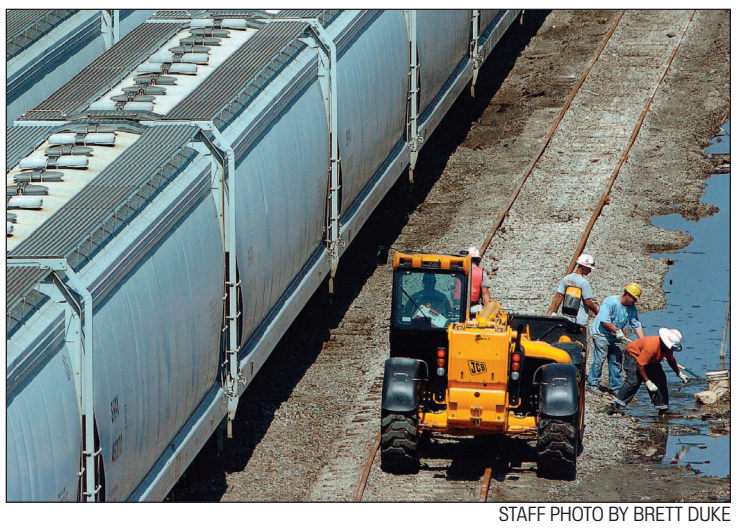
**By Matt Scallan**
Staff writer

Nearly a third of the nation's east-west rail freight normally crosses the Mississippi River on the Huey P. Long Bridge, but damage to railroad tracks by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita has forced a major route change.

"It's going to take awhile for it to come back," said Jim Bridger, the chief executive of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, which owns the bridge.

The primary alternate crossings are in Memphis and St. Louis, Bridger said.

Though a 100-mile section of track owned by the CSX railroad, which is based in Jacksonville, Fla., was heavily damaged in Katrina, other rail lines, such as those owned by Kansas City Southern and the Illinois Central Gulf railroads, are operating.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Workers clear debris Wednesday from the tracks of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad near the Industrial Canal. Hurricane Katrina caused as much as $8 million in damage to the railroad's tracks.

The Public Belt Railroad also was hurt by the storm. About 10 miles of track between Poland Avenue and Gentilly are damaged. Repairs will take four to six weeks and cost as much as $8 million.

Still, the temporary loss of CSX's coast-hugging rail route is the main reason that the flow of rail cars through New Orleans is stifled. Before the storms, about 17,000 cars a month crossed the Huey, Bridger said. Traffic is down to about a third of that.

"We're not really going to be back until the CSX tracks are repaired," Bridger said.

CSX spokeswoman Meg Scheu said six bridges and 39 miles of track between New Orleans and Pascagoula, Miss., were damaged and will cost an estimated $250 million and six months to repair.

Work has begun to repair the railroad's Gentilly yard, and to move the locomotives and cars out of the area so they can be used elsewhere in the system, she said.

Another major rail route into the city is owned by the Canadian National Railway. The segment that runs across the LaBranche Wetlands in St. Charles Parish was damaged first by Katrina, then by Rita.

Waves from the storms washed out the road bed beneath the tracks where they cross the wetlands, but repairs should be complete "in a matter of days," said Jim Kvedaras, a spokesman for Canadian National.

"We had some washouts during the two storms, but had no bridge damage. We consider ourselves very fortunate," he said.

# Energy production creeps up

*Experts dispute output level*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Energy companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico started bringing more oil and gas wells into production Thursday, and refiners in the Houston area began to restart their plants after hurricanes Katrina and Rita roared through the Gulf, roughing up refineries and offshore platforms.

On Thursday, 98.6 percent of the oil produced in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, or 1.5 million barrels, remained shut down, the Minerals Management Service reported. That was a slight improvement from the previous day, when 100 percent was shut down.

Operators also reported that 80 percent of the natural gas normally produced was also shut in, or eight billion cubic feet per day, due to storm related damage. That was a very slight improvement from the day before.

MMS, a federal agency, gathers data from companies that operate in the Gulf. A total of 76 companies reported, which represents the majority. MMS spokesman Gary Strasburg said there may be a few small companies that do not report, but the data represents MMS's best guess.

However, analysts in contact with oil companies said there was some production that apparently was not reported.

Gene Gillespie, research director for the energy investment firm of Howard Weil in Houston, said that since Monday, such operators as Pioneer Resources, Kerr-McGee Corp. and Nexin have brought oil fields back into production, which represents more than the production the government reported Thursday.

The government report also showed that companies were returning workers to platforms in the Gulf. The number of platforms evacuated stood at 491 Thursday, down from 593 the day before.

Gillespie said the production would rise slowly until major platforms were brought into operation. The production figures will rise sharply, he said, when such platforms as Shell's deep water Augur are brought back on stream. The company expects to be producing in a week.

Meanwhile, oil refiners began the complex process of bringing their plants back into operation. The American Petroleum Institute reported that close to 23 percent of the nation's refineries were still down after plants in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, both in Texas, had returned to full operation.

Citgo, which operates a 324,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Lake Charles, said it would partially restart the plant on Monday.

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Bergeron Chrysler-Jeep-Volvo wants to express their concern for all victims of Hurricane Katrina. In our tradition of service for over 4 decades, we are pleased to announce that we are open and ready to serve you with all of your transportation needs.

We have a large inventory of undamaged new and used vehicles. Our parts and service departments are functioning, and we even have a special cash incentive on many models for hurricane victims.

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*Certain zip codes. See dealer for details. ** Interest accrues from date of sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ST. PAUL TRAVELERS CUSTOMERS

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

We're responding to the impact of Hurricane Rita as we continue to assist policyholders affected by Katrina. If you have suffered a loss from either storm, please call us as soon as your family and property are safe from further harm.

Our claim services representatives are standing by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take your claim.

For Travelers Home and Auto claims, please call
800.CLAIM33
(800.252.4633)

For Travelers Flood claims, please call
800.356.6663

For St. Paul Travelers and Travelers Business claims, please call
800.238.6225

For St. Paul Business claims, please call
800.STPAUL1
(800.787.2851)

**Report your claim in person at these Travelers' Mobile Claim Headquarters:**
**Hammond, LA:** Lowe's parking lot at 3007 Highway 190 W
**Covington, LA:** Sav-A-Center parking lot next to Home Depot, 50 Park Place
**Slidell, LA:** Wal-Mart parking lot at 167 North Shore Blvd.
**Metairie, LA:** Lakeside Shopping Center near Pottery Barn at 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on corner of North Causeway Blvd.

We're here for you when you need us most.

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The Travelers Indemnity Company and its property casualty affiliates
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| Tuesday | 5pm FRIDAY |
| Wednesday | 5pm MONDAY |
| Thursday | 5pm TUESDAY |
| Friday | 5pm WEDNESDAY |
| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**
ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## GARAGE SALES

### 1405 Covington/Mandeville

**68411 Nosworthy** Drive. Moving Sale! Saturday 7am-12pm. Household items, tools, hunting items, furniture, and lots more!

**71096 Village** Des Bois, Sat. 10/1, 7am. Between Highways 21 & 1077. Follow signs. Furniture, clothes, bikes.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### 2020 Air Conditioning/ Heating

**NO SERVICE** CHARGE, SAVE! Repairs, freon, swap outs, 24hr. East or West Bank. 504-460-7359

### 2045 Appliance Repair

**Rick's Appliance** sales and service. Reasonable rates. Call 504-220-0773/504-828-1500

### 2060 Carpet/Flooring

**General Contractor,** roofing/ tree-trimming/renovation/flooring. Kenny, 504-837-7868 or 504-913-4130

**MODERN FLOORING** AND INTERIORS Continuing to build LA from the floor up. (Full service flooring store) New location. 5512 S Lambert. 504-488-1364

**RESIDENTIAL &** COMMERCIAL CLEANING & Oriental Rugs. 225-337-1549 or 225-337-1558

**WET ORIENTAL** RUGS? For information, call Sarouk's Shop. 504-522-3260

### 2195 Computers, Etc.

**Computer Disaster** Hotline 504-888-0408. Recovery, even if flooded. Contact us now.

### 2210 Contractors

**AFFORDABLE RELIABLE** Louisiana Contractor! Sheet rock, flooring, and tree removal. General cleanup & fence repairs. Fully insured. Call Jericho of LA LLC: 504-416-5533 or email: Darren@jerichola.com

**AUTHEMENT GLASS** COMPANY IS OPEN! Replacement Glass & Mirrors. Shower Doors-Table tops. Call Randy: 1-504-616-9015 or call Cathy: 1-504-616-9016 Local Co. 40 years exp! Email: catetching@aol.com

**Banaster construction,** tree service and complete reconstruction, licensed and insured. We protect your investment. Jessie Banaster 985-246-4258/985-246-4257 John Banaster.

**BULLDOG CONSTRUCTION** LLC. For All Your Construction Needs. *Masonry, *Concrete, *Carpentry, *Sheet Rock and *Painting. Licensed and Insured. Please Call 985-867-5351 or Call Cell 832-865-1000

**CATASTROPHE RECONSTRUCTION** STC CONSTRUCTION, Fully Insured, Licensed, Specializing in Water and Wind Restoration, 513 10th Ave. Franklinton, LA. 70438. 985-201-1125

**Commercial Contractors** demolition or rebuild. 985-637-8765 or 985-696-8952

**ELITE disaster** relief/renovations, lic./insured, no job too big/small, locally owned/operated. 985-707-4445/985-710-4947

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Residential Wooden Fences, Firefighters. 504-452-3913

**GENERAL CLEAN** UP Homes, mold, carpets, dry wall, debris. Call 504-450-1356/504-905-4472

**HURRICANE CLEANUP** insured, Joey's Demolition and Debris Removal Service, Hauling and removal of Sheetrock, carpet, trees, sheds and other yard debris. 504-234-3559

**HURRICANE KATRINA** Clean Up & Contractor Services. Tree Removal, Roofing and Home Repairs, Yard Cleaning. No Job to Big or Small! Compassionate Rates/Senior Citizen Discounts. Locally Owned by Louis J Ruffino. Also Hiring Chainsaw Operators and Carpenters. Contact Louis Ruffino 985-969-1795

**KATRINA CLEAN-UP,** Removal of carpeting and drywall. Rewiring of Electrical Sockets, Installation of Air Conditioning and Appliances by a Licensed Electrician. Call 504-352-4989

**Katrina clean-up,** tree and debris removal, tractor service, northshore. call 504-231-4803 or 985-845-9055

**LICENSED CONSTRUCTION** COMPANY Qualified for home demolition & construction debris removal. Call J.P. & Sons at 504-431-9631 for free estimate!

**LOCAL residential** & comm'l gen. contractor for repairing, renovating/remodeling. Local/State lic./fully insured. NO INFLATED PRICES! MCCI 504-341-1546

**LOSSHELP Public** Adjusters Serving Gulf Coast since 1983, www.losshelp.com or 888-537-6278

**McGee Truck/Dozer** Service. Dump truck, dozer, backhoe, & front end loader. Need work! 504-352-0765 or 985-725-1870

**MOLD ABATEMENT** Air duct cleaning, insurance claims welcome. Call 504-392-6906 or 1-800-494-2468

**ROOFING Drywall,** Louisiana general contractor. Licensed and insured. 35 years experience. 69438 Highway 59, Abita Springs LA 70420. Call: 318-381-5865 or 318-381-6994 Office: 318-766-3188

**SHEET ROCK** Removal, house gutting, & debris clean up. Call 985-359-1961 or 504-329-3592

**ST LISC** & INS Contractors avail for flood and hurricane work. 40 years experience locally. 504-512-4572 or 504-554-2377

## Service Directory

### 2210 Contractors

**ST TAMMANY** MAINT, LLC Hurricane debris rem, house cleaning, tractor/Bobcat svc, expert tree rem, boat rescue, water pumping. 225-338-6999

**STORM CLEAN** OUT Wet Carpet, Drywall Strip, Average $1.10/SF removal. Free Estimates. 504-884-1009

**STORM DAMAGE** REMOVAL And renovation, Please Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

### 2240 Electrical

**LESLIE ELECTRICAL** SVC LLC, residential & comm'l, lic & insured. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

### 2250 Fencing

**Richardson Fencing** Company, Specializing in sm or lrg jobs. 504-669-0242/504-469-2834/985-652-8945 or fax 985-651-1646

### 2255 Furniture Cleaning & Repairs

**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

### 2265 Hauling

**20, 30yd** dumpster rental. Please call 504-431-8383

### 2320 Lawn/Gardening/ Trees

**ALL IN** ONE Tree Service, low rates. Free estimates. Call 504-621-5003 or 225-664-0674

**Bubba's Stump** Grinding Local; Insured. (985)974-9896 or (985)386-8417

**David's Stump** Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

**DEBRIS AND** TREE REMOVAL Free estimates. Contact Jerry at 504-393-1517 or 504-338-3128

**HELPING HANDS** TREE & SHEET ROCK REMOVAL Pressure Washing, low rates, free estimates. 504-888-4627/610-4545/957-7324

**TIP TOP** CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercard accepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

**TREE &** DEBRIS REMOVAL Trees/ Debris/Stumps. Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. Sub Contracting, 504-416-5534

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE SERVICE.** Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

**TREES &** DEBRIS REMOVAL. Fast response. Insured. Free Estimates. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**Ganucheau Dental** Grp open for business 504-468-1675. 2825 Houma Blvd, Metairie Mon-Fri 8-5

**OPEN FOR** PATIENTS Kenner Dermatology, Plastic Surgery and Allergy Clinic. Walk-ins Welcome! Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. 504-471-3100 at 3705 Florida Ave, Kenner, LA. Also 985-892-5497 at 600 N Highway 190, Suite 201, Covington LA. Dr. Samuel Parry, Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, available in our Kenner Clinic

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

**Schween Chiropractic** & Medical Wellness Complex is now open and offering free Spinal Examinations & Message Therapy for anyone donating to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina. 985-641-2222 Referred by Donna Penny

### 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

**WEST BANK** FLOOD VICTIMS: Sheet rock finishing & Painting. Call 504-723-9725

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

### 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**For Start** Up & Technical Service, Training, Documentation, Consulting, Call 256-627-9240

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

## Service Directory

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Yd Clean Up. Sheet rock & carpet removal. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Complete mold** remediation, let us kill it before it gets worse, insured. 1-877-893-1799

**Debris removal/tree** removal, house repairs/demolition, fast & dependable, licensed & insured, no job too big or small. 1-877-893-1799

**Est Restaurant** for sale, xlnt location, turn key operation, clean, new equip. 985-626-0141

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST and FAIR insurance settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants. 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**BUSINESS OFFICE** MANAGER Slidell Company seeks energetic, organized and detail oriented office manager with computer, bookkeeping and analytical skills; QBook a +. Duties include A/P, A/R, payroll and cost control. Casual office, flexible hrs and benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: 159 Country Club Dr, Covington, LA 70433 Attn: Manager position

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE** Cox Radio, Richmond, VA. Outside Sale Position for the best company in radio. Excellent training, tools, benefits and earning potential. Resume to kevin.meek@cox.com or call (804)327-0874 EOE

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** SPECIALIST needed. Hackbarth Delivery Service is seeking an experienced outside salesperson to develop new accounts and service our existing client base. Experience in outside sales is required as is a clean MVR and background check. Please call 504-468-6468 or apply in person at 180 East James Drive St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**Sales Agents** - Customer Service Reps, and telephone operators. Apply at PROTOCOL 19323 N 4th St. in Covington, M-F 9am-3pm, or Call 985-867-1662. EOE

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

## Employment

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**SALES PROFESSIONALS** Immediate opening with a Dynamic Growing Sales Organization Opportunity to make $100,000/ Year In Home Sale/ One Call Closers/ Pre-set appointments. Job Growth potential! Office (800)709-3426 or Fax 850-864-5090

**Sales West** Bank Sales office, looking for experienced, reliable sales person. Must have experience in Cathodic Protection field. Mail resume to: 181 Grefer Lane, Harvey LA, 70058.

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**TELEMARKETERS -** Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee against Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**WELCOME TO** THE FUTURE Revenue Assurance Partners, LLC is seeking highly motivated sales professionals to join their exciting new team on the North Shore. We offer base +top comm & benefits in a professional atmosphere that is conducive to YOUR Success. Our progressive, technology based agency services nat'l clients in the commercial receivables mgmt industry. Phil Weaver 985-626-1963 or fax resume to 985-626-1964.

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Reliable, reasonable** Handyman needed long term, Kenner. 985-373-2631 or harinisri@aol.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4023 Banking

**LOAN SECRETARY** Experience with Laser Pro Loan System preferred. Knowledge of consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan processing. Teller Position for experienced bank teller. Will consider part time employment. These positions offer competitive salary. Full time positions offer an excellent benefit package. Please send resume by mail, email or fax to: American Bank and Trust Company Attn: CFO 1819 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 Email: info@abtinc.us Fax: 985-809-9297

### 4030 Clerical

**CLERIC/BOOKKEEPING A/R,** A/P, & phone services for Landry Tile Inc. Fax resume 504-734-1014

**Clerical Help,** FT Quick Books & Access, Reliable/Self Starter. Mandeville 985-674-0111

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**CLERICAL/DATA ENTRY** positions available, file room/clerical positions for insurance agency. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-736-0652

**SECRETARY Small** Law Office needs Part Time Secretary, $8.00 per Hour. Email resume to fskimin@cox.net

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST Full** Time - Covington CPA firm is seeking dependable person with professional attitude to perform various clerical duties in busy office. Please send resume and salary requirements to PO Box 1303, Covington, LA 70434

**SECRETARY/TYPIST For** small law firm, temporarily in La Place, later New Orleans. Must have auto. Start $9/hr. Send resume to Attn: Charlotte, 2810 West Airline Hwy, La Place, 70068

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

## Employment

### 4045 Drivers

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**BORDEN'S -** ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL DRIVERS** Haynes Motor Lines needs drivers for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, CDL class A, home every night, 1-800-349-3833 for more information.

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Experienced Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Morarro, F. Christiana and Company

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVER/WAREHOUSE No** CDL needed. Full time permanent position. Call 504-712-9020

**DRIVERS** - CDL A B Drivers needed now. Warehouse & forklift labor, Call 504-828-7343

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**MOTORCOACH OPERATORS** Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

**OTR DRIVERS** NEEDED. Call Gainey Transportation 800-968-7575 for more information

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

### 4060 Engineering

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**Engineers, designers,** CADD techs needed, experienced, for Stuart, Florida civil eng. firm. DFWP. Email resume: captec1@aol.com, fax to 772.692.4341 or call 772.692.4344

**King Engineering** Associates Inc., a full service civil engineering firm, has several open positions for engineering professionals that have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. King has openings in the Jacksonville, Sarasota and Tampa offices. We can accommodate either temporary or permanent positions. King will assist with finding temporary housing, assistance with enrolling children in schools, transportation, etc. A sample of open positions across all of our service lines (civil, survey, planning, environmental, ecological, transportation); Sr. Project Engineer, Project Engineer, Designer, Sr. Designer, ACAD Technician, Party Chief, Instrument person, Engineer, Transportation Planner, Environmental Scientist, Project Manager, Construction Field Rep. To see a full list of open positions, see our website - www.kingengineering.com. Please contact Cathy McDonald, Recruiting Coordinator at 813-880-8881 to inquire about the opportunities we have and to assist with your current needs.

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

**TRINITY YACHTS** ENGINEERING Is currently seeking positions in the following areas: Naval Architects, Project Engineers, Marine Engineers, Piping Designers, & Structural Designers. Trinity Yachts Engineering is currently operating in Covington, LA and will be relocating to Gulfport, MS. If interested please send resumes to: Trinity Yachts, LLC. 1501 N.Highway 190, Covington, LA 70433. Or visit www.trinityyachtsusa.com

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR,** Small Business Liaison ECC is seeking strong candidates to support the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Experienced: 10 yrs of exp, small business subcontracting, Stafford Act and CPSR procurement processes, FAR/DFAR/AFAR. Plus: USACE, CACM, CPCM, CFCM. Prefer local candidates. Location: New Orleans/Baton Rouge. Email: jsladky@ecc.net

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**Belle Chasse** Hair cutter with barber exp. 3 day week. Call 504-393-1687 or 504-392-1766

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279/ 504-813-4106.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**Mark Anthony** Salon is now Hiring 8 F/T & P/T stylists to join our team in our Mandeville & Covington location. We offer booth rental, employee or apprenticeship. Also needed 1 Massage Therapist w/ experience. We are an upscale Redken based salon w/ a strong emphasis on education. Come join our team w/ perks! 985-727-3332

**MASSAGE THERAPIST** Immediate opening for Licensed Massage Therapist. Call 985-845-1703

**Massage Therapist** needed in La Place Area. Please call 985-651-0999.

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

### 4070 Hotels/Restaurants/ Lounges

**COOKS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS VooDoo Barbecue. 504-464-1880 or Fax resume to 225-926-6002

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen Positions now available. Applicants must be friendly, professional, out-going, and team oriented. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9 am - 11 am.

**KITCHEN HELP** Piccadilly Cafeteria NOW HIRING Kitchen Help at our Covington location!!! Starting at $12/hour. Apply in person at Piccadilly 69008 Highway 190 Service Rd, Covington, LA

**KITCHEN HELP,** servers in Algiers, must have exp., $10/hr, 2 shifts 3am-1pm/1pm-11pm, 5 on/2 off, 50 + hrs, paid wkly., long term. Jeni@hiregoodpeople.com or fax to 225-291-5032

**LINE COOKS,** Production Cooks & all other positions. Olive Garden in Kenner now hiring! Come see the difference we're making at Olive Garden with great benefits packages. We offer day one benefits which include flexible schedules, excellent training, meal discounts, paid vacation, medical/dental insurance, 401K savings plan and management career advancement opportunities. Please apply anytime at 1325 West Espanade Ave., Kenner. EOE, M/F/D/V, www.olivegarden.com

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**SHIMMY SHACK** Now Hiring Working Chef, Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

### 4080 Household

**DOMESTIC ASSISTANT** Needed for Busy Attorney in New Orleans/Metairie Area. Must have own transportation for various job assignments. Caring for 3 Teenage Boys. Compensation is negotiable and car related expenses will be reimbursed. Please Fax resumes with references to 337-233-6215 Attention Linda Forte.

**Housekeeper Live-in.** English and Spanish speaking. Call 504-393-0752

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER** - P/T, references required, Covington. Please call 985-502-8181

**SITTERS Needed** for Elderly Care, must have recent references, transportation, for Covington/Mandeville/Slidell area. Call 985-796-6195

### 4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**LEGAL SECRETARY** AND ASSISTANT Needed for our Gretna Law Office. Please call 504-368-6500

**LEGAL SECRETARY:** and file clerk wanted for New Orleans Law office. Good salary, all benefits. Call 504-522-3287

### 4100 Management

**OFFICE MGR** For scrap metal recycling facility in Kenner. Phone/computer/people skills. Veronica @costanzaproperties.com

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

**REAL ESTATE** OFC MGR With people, phone & computer skills. Veronica@costanzaproperties.com

## Employment

### 4100 Management

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

### 4110 Mechanical

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELL EST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**BODY SHOP** PAINTERS HELPER, Experience only. Apply within. Rainbow Northshore. 985-892-2000

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please send resume to PO Box 1450, Gray, LA 70359 Attention: Human Resources

**GOODYEAR AUTO** SERVICE CENTERS - Metairie and Kenner, New Orleans & Gretna locations. We are currently hiring the following positions... Auto Technicians, General Maintenance Technicians, & Tire Techs. This is a great opportunity! Top Pay and Paid uniforms. Please call Lubin at 504-837-7226 or Kevin at 504-464-0244.

**LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP** MANAGER Needed for 25 Vehicle diesel truck shop. Uniforms, vacations, medical, 401K. Fax resume or apply at Neuman Transport, LLC. 63336 Old Military Road, Pearl River LA. Fax 985-863-9095

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC looking** for good Mechanic for work on truck/tailer/heavy equip., will pay top dollar, must have own tools. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday 504-436-7777

**MECHANIC St.** Tammany, Napa Car Care Center needs certified mechanic. Immediate opening. Top salary and good benefits. Call 985-882-3125.

**MECHANIC WANTED** Uniforms/benefits. Apply within or call: 985-536-1719 or 504-416-7385. 122 Power Blvd. Reserve, LA 70084

**NEED EXP** TRANSMISSION MECH, ALLISON KNOWLEDGE & CDL'S A +, GOOD BENEFITS. CALL 504-904-0050

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

### 4120 Medical

**AUDIOLOGIST Needed** in Slidell ENT clinic. Please fax resume to: 985-690-8301 Attention: Scott Or call 985-707-4067

**CERTIFIED LAB** TECH F/T for West Bank Cardiology Office, exp preferred. Linda 504-349-6365; Fax Resume to: 504-349-6355

**CERTIFIED MEDICAL** CODER - Family practice, permanent/Full Time with benefits. Apply at Instant Care Family Medical Center 901 Gause Blvd, Slidell or fax resume to 985-646-1160

**CHIROPRACTIC/MEDICAL OFFICE** ASSISTANT Needed. Previous experience required. Send resume to Attention Office Manager, 655 Asbury Dr. Mandeville, LA 70471 or Fax resume 985-626-7465

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Experienced Dental Assistant needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** needed for Metairie Office. Part Time position for Mondays and Tuesdays, available immediately. Experience or Training a Must. Fax Resume to 504-456-8471

### 4120 Medical

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST** needed for Metairie Office. Part Time position for Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Experience with Dental related software preferred. Fax Resume to 504-456-8471

**DENTAL SCHEDULING** COORDINATOR Experience required. High quality office in NW Arkansas. Fax resume to 479-751-7769 or Email to drduck1@hotmail.com or call 479-750-0333

**EXPERIENCED CNA** With references for elderly woman in Mandeville. Monday-Thursday 7am-7pm. Must be able to use Hoyer Lift. Call 985-373-2172 after 4pm

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**IMMEDIATE OPENING-Busy** Medical Practice seeks experienced F/T Front Desk Person (excellent benefits). Check in/out, Ins verif, Appts, data entry, filing. Fax resume to 985-781-4850

**Jackson Parish** Hospital seeks full time RNs & LPNs for acute care. Must have current license & CPR Certification. For additional information contact:

The Times-Picayune

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**ARCHITECT Wanted,** Retired, retiring or in full swing-- to partner with a dynamic Residential autoCAD Team. Let's help rebuild the gulf coast with expertise and excellence. Please call Ray Spencer Sr. 239-593-3777 x 134

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Seeking Personnel** with general knowledge of construction who are capable of performing visual inspections and completing forms. Work is in N.O. Area, $15-$20/hour with 7-10 hour days. Send resume to 225-756-5903

**TAX PROFESSIONAL** - Northshore CPA firm is seeking a tax professional (CPA preferred) with 4-6 years tax experience. must also have experience with Quickbooks. Please send resume and salary requirements to PO Box 1303, Covington, LA 70434

**TECHNICIANS Richards** Honda has an immediate opening for experienced technicians - dealership and import expereince a plus - fair and friendly work environment - all benefits. Email resume to aaronm@richardshonda.com or contact Aaron at 225-928-6120.

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4145 Retail

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**INNER PARISH** SECURITY Is now taking applications for Security Guards. Paid weekly. Retirees welcome! Pay based on exp. You may contact us by phone at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**Security Officer,** armed, $18/hour. Call 281-820-5700 or fax resume to 281-820-5757

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed both full & part time. Armed & unarmed. Applicants can apply in person from 8am-6pm at Clearview Mall or call 504-837-7772 for more information

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**Believers Life** Christian Academy, 501 Lapalco Blvd., Gretna, LA is currently hiring Certified Elementary and Secondary Teachers for the 2005/2006 School Year. Please bring a resume to the above address or you may email your resume to kjdaniel@familychurch.us

**Musical School** in La Place is seeking a Music Instructor(s) w/2 yrs of music/teaching exp. 504-237-9674 or 985-653-7232

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C MAINTENANCE** & APPLIANCE Exp'd Tech, Must be CFC Certified, Must have own Tools, Minor Electrical & Plumbing Exp., Local Company. Competitive pay w/ benefits. Call 504-887-1416

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECH/INSTALLER** 5 years experience minimum. Murry's A/C. La Place. 985-651-0442

**A/C TECHNICIAN** & HELPER, If you are looking for a career not a job in HVAC we have Technicians that earn $50,000 plus per year and have advancement opportunities. Must be well groomed, drug free, and dependable. Full Benefits. Year Round Work. Please call Stephanie to set your future in motion at 985-871-9020

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**Cabinet Builders** and finishers needed. Experience Preferred. 985-758-7014

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**Carpenters, Helpers,** Painters, Sheet Rockers, Needed. Trans needed. Call Kent 504-289-2638

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**Carpenters/Roofers/Helpers in** Slidell/Lacombe area, excellent pay. Lee 985-882-3879

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS/HELPERS Exp req'd for installers only. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION POSITIONS** *Pipe Foremen & Crew *Survey Party Chief *Heavy Equipment Operators. Experience required for established site contractor in Central Florida. Top Pay & benefits. DFWP. Call 407-865-7600 or visit our site, www.JMHC.CC

**COPIER/PRINTER REPAIR** TECHNICIAN. Experience with Xerox/Tektronix equipment preferred. Call Tom at 985-307-0105 or Doug at 504-231-9570.

**Craftsmen/Laborers, all** fields of construction. exp. info to (504)834-5594 or JJCOSTACOMPANY@aol.com

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DISH INSTALLERS** Immediate need for experienced DISH Network installers to work in hurricane damaged areas of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Great pay scales and plenty of work. Earn $2500-$4000 per week! Must have DISH Network experience. Must have truck or van and all required tools. Call Debra at: 251-662-3174 or email: Dgamble05@bellsouth.net

**DOG GROOMER** Experienced needed in Gramercy Area. Phone 225-869-1902

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRICIANS Needed,** 2 yrs min exp, all work on the North Shore. Please call 985-845-8056

**ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS** Hearing aid manufacturer needs hearing aid or microscopic assembly technicians. Salary commensurates with experience. Fax resume to 504-733-3799. Phone: 504-733-3767

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**Experienced Framing** Carpenter. Must have transportation. Call 504-473-8797

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**Experienced Service** Mechanic needed. Apply at Mayeux's AC & Heating, Inc. 650 St.Charles Street, Norco LA 70079.

**FAMILIA CONSTRUCTION** Exp Frame Crews, Carpenters, & Helpers needed. Call 601-942-0174

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS, 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIOORING INSTALLERS** Res and Com, all surfaces, exp a must! Call 504-466-9724 9a-4p

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Hard Workers, Must have own tools, Firefighters Please Apply, 504-452-3913

**General contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, & Cement Finishers in the New Orleans area. Call 504-915-5795/504-915-7666

**GLASS$/ALUMINUM$ MIRROR** & SHOWER DOOR MECHANICS Good pay, Paid Holidays, Vacations and other benefits for long term employment of experienced installers of persons willing to learn the trade. (561)655-1309 West Palm Beach FL.

**GRANITE SHOP** Experienced Employees needed. Fabrication & Installation. Mandeville Area. 985-264-1741

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING NOW** Welders/Fitters, Qualified for Pipe and Structural. Barge Crane Operators, Qualified Riggers, Experienced Welder Helpers, Sand Blaster/Painter, On Shore and Off Shore Positions. Please Apply in person: French's Welding and Marine Services, 1112 Engineers Road, Belle Chase, LA 70037

**Hydraulic Press** Brake Operator, Experienced. Excellent Benefits. 985-385-2324; Radtke Construction - Morgan City

**INSTALLERS AND** SERVICE TECHNICIANS Immediate positions available. Great pay. Call 985-626-7852 to apply

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks Cabinet Sales Person having at least 5 years experience, including 20/20 experience. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**LABORERS AND** PLASTERERS, Must have own transportation, Stucco, Call 504-258-4509

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** CREW. $8-$12/hourly depending on experience. Call 504-442-5394

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**LICENSED SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Needed. Must Have own Truck & Tools. Now Accepting Applications, Mon-Friday 9am-5pm. 1300 Gause Blvd, Suite B2, Slidell.

**Louisiana-based firm** looking for electricians experienced in HiVolt, 5 KV & up cable testing, splicing & termin. H2S safety training preferred. Pre-employ and random drug screenings required. $18.hr/hlth ins provided. Send resumes and queries to Human Resources; 78070 Koogie Rd.; Covington, LA 70435.

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**NORTHSHORE Fab** Shop looking for full time helper, must be dependable. Ability to use power tools is a plus. 985-893-9277

**OVERHEAD GARAGE** DOOR INSTALLER Experienced preferred. Paid Holidays & Benefits. Immediate Full Time Position. North Lake Garage Door Company, Ponchatoula. 985-386-8650

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

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## Merchandise

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**"There's no shortage of adjusters. What there is a shortage of is a place for them to stay. It's a logistical problem."**

ROBERT WOOLEY
Louisiana insurance commissioner

# Wait for adjusters can drag on

*Manpower shortage, accessing damage among problems*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

Returning New Orleans residents face longer waits than the usual one to three days to meet with an insurance adjuster. But just how long is uncertain.

"It is likely that it is going to take a little bit longer than what you usually expect to see your adjuster," said Bill Mellander, a spokesman for Allstate Insurance Co.'s national catastrophe team. "That is the reality of working in this post-catastrophe environment."

There are two reasons for the delay. First, there just aren't enough adjusters to go around. And those on the ground can't get access to many of the most damaged areas.

"Certainly, the biggest problem that we're facing right now, at least in the South and the southeastern parts of the United States, is a manpower shortage," said Johnny Michalek, a regional vice president for the National Association of Independent Insurance Adjusters and president of the Houston-based independent adjusting firm Gulf Coast Claims Service.

Michalek said the shortage stems from last year, when four hurricanes struck Florida, and from Hurricane Ophelia, which banged along the Carolinas earlier this month.

"That in itself sort of taxed the industry in terms of manpower — at least for adjusters in our region," Michalek said. "And just when it seemed that the industry had a handle on the situation in Florida, these other events crept up with (Hurricane) Katrina, certainly, and then with Hurricane Rita."

About 10,000 primary adjusters from companies represented by the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America have been deployed to the areas ravaged by Katrina and Rita. That's half the number that were deployed to Florida last year, said John Eager, director of claims for the association. The association represents such companies as Allstate, Geico and Progressive, which together write 41 percent of insurance policies in the country.

But with adjusters still working cases in Florida, the shortage now is more acute.

"We really can't put a calendar on it," Mellander said. "What I can say is that if you are a customer and you feel that it has been too long and you haven't seen or spoken to your adjuster yet, call them. Ask the adjuster where they are physically located, how many people are in front of you. An adjuster should be able to give you a fairly accurate timetable."

Mellander, however, downplayed the idea that a workforce shortage is causing the delays. Instead, he said, the problem is with access to the affected areas.

"Allstate, as has been the case with other insurers, has been experiencing challenges with getting people back into the areas of the danger zone," Mellander said. "We as adjusters are dealing with and living in the same environment as many of our customers."

Some have to set up shop two or three hours away from the ravaged areas, so they simply can't service as many customers, he said.

Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley agreed.

"There's no shortage of adjusters," he said. "What there is a shortage of is a place for them to stay. It's a logistical problem."

Allstate began inserting its "disaster specialists," which include adjusters, into the Gulf Coast region 48 to 72 hours before Hurricane Katrina made landfall, Mellander said. The number of specialists on the ground now numbers 4,000, he said.

"From Allstate's perspective, we haven't had issues with staffing," Mellander said. "Right now, from our perspective, we have what we need. When you talk about the appropriate staffing, what it is not possible to do is provide one adjuster for each customer."

Tom Crawford, who heads Atlanta-based Crawford and Co., the world's largest independent adjuster, estimates an adjuster's case load is about 10 percent higher with this catastrophe than usual. But there was no way to increase staff numbers ahead of time, he said.

"The interesting thing about this event is, you would never be able to handle an event of this size," Crawford said. "You could not prepare for an event of this size and remain a profitable company."

Crawford's company usually deploys 100 to 150 adjusters for a "normal" Category 3 hurricane, he said. It now has about 320 adjusters and plans to increase that to about 400 soon. The number easily could grow to last year's Florida level: about 500 adjusters.

The company has hired some contract workers for the job.

Crawford has increased the number of three-week training classes it offers to would-be adjusters and plans to allow the beginners to hit the ground running instead of being phased in slowly.

"There is great need for adjusters on the ground," Crawford said. "And I don't think the industry can be prepared for what this type of need requires."

Likewise, Harold Anderson, president of the Culver City, Calif.-based Adjuster Academy, which typically does not train property adjusters, said he is considering offering those classes now — perhaps to displaced New Orleanians looking for work. The idea is in the very early stages and would need funding from insurance companies interested in hiring the people who complete the program. He's hopeful the idea will find takers.

"The reconstruction program is going to be very elongated," Anderson said. "If it would take two to three weeks to train folks, it would be a worthwhile investment for the companies."




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**Mandeville. 649** Sweet Bay Dr. 4BR/2.5BA, 2350 +/- sqft. No storm damage. Near I12/Causeway. New paint/carpet/wd floors. 985-624-3358 or 985-373-2966

**NEW AD:** Mandeville, Green Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2750 sf, great cond/location. New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL brick** home, 3 BR/2 BA, $130,000, high and dry in city. 985-646-1863/504-450-9218

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

### 7590 River Parish – East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

**LAPLACE On** Old Hwy 51, 4BR, 2.5BA, 2300 Liv, Double Car Gar w/ 18x36 Gunite In-Ground Pool w/ spacious 90x235 Lot. $269,000. 985-652-1433/985-212-9060

### 7600 River Parish – West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

## Residences for Sale

### 7610 Tangipahoa Parish

**Between Kentwood** & Amite, LA, 4 bdrm, 3 bth, 3,000 sq ft, 28 acres country. 1 hr from BR, 1.5 hr from NO. Call 225-791-2921

### 7612 Washington Parish

**4BR, 3** bath, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg, $450,000 985-516-0237

**IN BOGALUSA,** Beautifully restored Victorian, 3600 Sq. Ft. $135,000. 985-516-3997

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**CARRIERE Stone** Bridge Subdiv 20 min to Slidell, 3 yrs new upgraded & spacious, 3/2.5/2, PRC schls. $398,000 601-799-3398

**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Purvis, MS** land for sale: 152 acres, rolling hills, mostly pasture. 10 minutes from town, 20 minutes from Hattiesburg. $4000.00/acre. ph#601-270-9713

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Smith Co,** MS Beautiful 4000 Sq. Ft. Home, 7 Ac, Walk Out Basement, $300,000. Additional 150 Ac Land/Timber. 601-382-3347

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

## Residences for Sale

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**SPRINGER DISCOUNT** Mobile homes. A licensed dealer for over 19 years has 3 bedroom single wides (wind zone II), now ready for delivery. Cash discounts! Financing available. Will work with insurance companies to lease a manufactured home until a new home is built. We also move & re-level damaged homes. 662-456-9833

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**1332 Aris** Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Houma, LA.** Newly renovated 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath For Sale! 205 Roselawn Ave., $68,950. Contact Marilyn 985-856-2837 or Vivian 985-498-0612

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

### COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**Hammond 4,255** sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

**7680 For** Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

## Commercial-Offices

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Abita 1700sqft** Office Space Available. $1000/month. Please Call 985-789-5571

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. Highway 190 (Collins Blvd). Long term lease. Available 11/01/05. Call 985-871-0771 or 985-264-0620

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**JEFFERSON NEAR** OCHSNER HOSP. - 2 pvt offices, library, reception, parking. $1000. 833-1957

**Kenner Williams** Blvd. corner 39th St, 1150sf building, no water. Terms negot. 504-251-2105

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

**ST. CHARLES** - Office space in Luling, 1,000 sq ft, previously used as a doctors office, 1 mile from I-310, 985-785-6221

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Kenner Warehouse,** 4000 square feet, $2500. Borngesser Realty. 504-454-0800

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735 Investment Property

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**DEMAND REALTY** We have investors with Cash Looking to buy now! We can help you relocate. Large construction crew available also. For more info please call Heather 5049318404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** Grand Home ibn French Quarter ready for condo conv. or single dwell. For more info or other inv. prop. Please call Heather 504-931-8404 nolarealestate@hotmail.com

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7737 Waterfront Property

**10 Acres** on Silver Creek. Hill Top View, Lots of Trees, Unbelievable site and location. 12 miles from Franklinton and 30 miles North of Covington. 1000 feet of Road Frontage and 600 feet of Creek Frontage. Must See To Believe! Make Offer. 985-839-0046 or 225-278-2374

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**4 DUPLEXES** $750,000. 6-2 bd, 2-3 bd, cent AC, Grenta-Marrero. Good cond. 760-828-7366

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**5 ACRE** Wooded lot with rolling hills, approx 200 feet above sea level, $9500 per acre. Call 504-975-5292

## Real Estate for Sale

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**AVITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**MADISONVILLE 3** br, 2 full ba, 2 1/2 ba, 3800 SF home. Pool & deck, $410,000. 985-845-7890

**MADISONVILLE 3/4** Acre, cleared with clay, new SubDiv, must sell! Call 985-969-8295

**MANDEVILLE Beautiful** Acadian, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, approx 2800 sq ft w/550 sq ft studio. No storm damage. Large corner lot on cul de sac. 3 minutes from Causeway in best school district. 985-674-2899 or 985-789-0190 or 281-350-8384

**MANDEVILLE/COVINGTON 3** homes, move-in condition, 5 minutes to Causeway. 3BR, 2BA. 1709 sq. ft. living, $240,000. 5BR, 3BA, 3720 sq. ft. living, golf-course view, furnished, awesome, $599,900. 5BR, 3.5BA, 3475 sq. ft. living, $359,900. Ownr/agt. 985-809-9568

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**LOTS FOR** RENT! NEW PARK - WESTBANK. Please Call (504)362-4640

### 7840 Wanted to Purchase

**I BUY** FLOODED HOMES AS IS IN JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, AND ST. TAMMANY PARISH. CALL 985-674-5363, 504-908-6635

### 7860 Other States

**E OKLAHOMA** Beautiful log home, 4300 sq ft, 6BR/5Ba, View of river valley in Flint Ridge Resort. www.flintridge.homestead.com, $345,000. 918-597-2242

**SANDESTIN GOLF** & BEACH RESORT Executive Villa 4 bed, 4 bath. Spacious, chef's kitchen, library, 7 ft deep pool. Dream home! $1,450,000 Sandra Padgett, Coldwell Banker JME Realty. 850-859-2257 or 974-3271

### RENTALS FURNISHED

### 7915 Above Canal

**UPTOWN dbl,** great nghbrhd. Flood survivor! 1,900 sf. Hardwood flrs, shed, near streetcar, $300K. 917-501-8915.

### 7917 Below Canal

**French Quarter** 5 star luxury 1 and 2 bedroom suites, pool, spa, Internet, business services. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717/www.ruedumaine.com

## Rentals Furnished

### 7917 Below Canal

**Furnished Luxury** FQ Apartment with balcony, 505 Barracks, 1300 sq ft. $2600. 615-483-8674

### 7930 Eastern New Orleans

**FRENCH QUARTER** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath condo with pool. $3000/Mo, util included. 337-276-7025

### 7960 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**ALGIERS 2** BR, 2 Ba Condo. Gated with pool, loft, wood floors, ceramic tiles and stainless steel appliances! By the month or 6 Mo. lease. 225-268-0566

### 7965 West Bank

**ALGIERS, bed** & breakfast, 1-4 BR's avail for rent, top security, $125/per night. Beautiful home, all luxury conveniences, owner/agent. 504-442-3324

**LAFITTE Furnished,** 1 Bedroom, Newly Renovated House Boat, Air/Heat, Lafitte Harbor, 28 miles from Downtown NO. $900 plus utilities. 504-220-1834

### 7970 Mandeville/ Covington

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

### 8005 Gulf Coast

**San Destin,** FL Sale or Rent. New home for permanent residence. 4-2 1/2. 285 Loblolly Bay Road. 2,000 sq. ft. Available 10/12. Call M. Bass 850-384-0116.

### 8015 Country

**NORTHSHORE 1500** square feet, fully furnished, 1 hour, 50 minutes from New Orleans, non-smoking, no inside pets. $1600/month. 504-702-9024

### 8045 Miscellaneous

**ORLANDO AREA** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, semi furnished house. Golf/lake view, gated, active adult community. 1st month free with 6 month lease, Royal Club Spa membership and cable included! $1500 + util. 503-577-8522

### ROOMMATES

### 8050 Rentals to Share

**Covington Furnished.** roommate wanted. Call after 5pm 504-329-3588

**Slidell, furnished,** Roommate wanted, mature working adult, non-smoking home, no pets, all utilities paid, $450/month + $250/dep. 985-640-1607

### RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8062 Above Canal

**IRISH CHANNEL** 2 Bedroom Court Yard Cottage, Central Air/Heat. 2527 Constance St. $2000/monthly. 504-833-2928

## Rentals Unfurnished

### 8063 Warehouse/CBD

**Warehouse District** 1800 SF House for rent. Warehouse District, Zoned Commercial. 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, Live upstairs work downstairs. $2600 per month. Call (504)391-6000 Tues., Thurs., Fri. 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

### 8090 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**SALES, RENTALS** & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, Properties Preferred. Call 504-887-2328

**8100 Metairie** – Jefferson/Below Causeway

**Metairie 1br,** stove, refrig, inside utils hook-ups, off-street prkng, $600. 504-834-4290

**Metairie FSBO,** 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1350 sq.ft., w/ detached rear apt. 600 sq.ft. 504-828-6622, 504-715-7807

**Old Metairie** 500 square foot apartment, 1BR, 1BA, never flooded, $850/month. 512-306-8262

### 8102 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**KENNER,4100 St** Blase Dr, House for rent, 4BR, 3BA, Furn, pool, exc cond, no flooding. Corporations welcome! Immed occupancy. Call for details: 504-452-0885

**Kenner,80-84 Antigua,** 8 apartments for rent single or whole, 2 BR/1.5BA, FP, no flooding, immediate occupancy. Corporations welcome. Call for details: 504-452-0885

### 8104 West Bank

**RHONE PROPERTIES** Marrero 3 BR, 2 bath, 2008 James Dr, $650. Gretna, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2531 Huey P Long, $900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1711 Weyer St, $850. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2413 Claire Ave, $600. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2801 Huey P Long, $475. NO PETS. VISA & M/C. 504-366-2604

**WEST BANK** 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

### 8106 Mandeville/Covington

**MANDEVILLE 3** bedrooms, newly renovated, ceramic floors, bar, washer, dryer, fridge. $900/mo. Call Pam 985-727-7277

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves sub-division, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

**MANDEVILLE Mark** Anthony Salon has a 12X12 room for rent with a private hall and bathroom. Perfect for massage setting or a business that would compliment a salon atmosphere, Please Call 985-727-3332

### 8116 Gulf Coast

**RENTALS! Pensacola** & Portofino Avail NOW! AMERICAS TOP REALTY 850-572-2615 or 888-934-3830

### 8125 Mobile Homes

**Ascension Parish,** 30 miles from Kenner, For rent Travel Trlr spaces, Please Call 225-978-9612 or 1-800-759-1002

## Rentals Unfurnished

### 8135 Miscellaneous

**Atlanta NW** - 20 min., Needs handyman $200K, in country area 3 bedroom/2 bath 1ACRE, Many Jobs! $800, pets ok, 407-579-7747

**FORECLOSURE! 3/2** Only $12,900. For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension 1076

**FORECLOSURE! 3/2** Only $12,900. For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension 1076

### AUTOMOTIVE

### 8540 BMW

**'00, 323C1,** Premium Package, Excellent Condition, Garage Kept, 71,000 miles. No Water Damage. $15,900. 504-834-7373

### 8550 Buick

**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

### 8560 Cadillac

**'92 Deville** New AC unit, 4 new tires, new battery, NEVER FLOODED. $3500 obo. 504-341-7491

### 8570 Chevrolet

**'00 Silverado** 5.3 extended cab, $13,350, Call for information 985-783-2165

**'02 Suburban.** Pewter, leather seats, CD player, new tires. Under retail price 985-892-8809

### 8580 Chrysler

**1999 CONCORDE** Lxi 88K, White, tan leather, loaded, clean. $8000. 318-388-2719

### 8630 Honda

**'00 Insight,** $9918, Wisconsin car, 5 speed, air, excellent condition. 608-784-6433

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'90 Accord,** Only $900, For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

### 8650 Jaguar

**'01 S** TYPE 4.0 Jaguar, 54,000 miles, Dark Red, $20,000. Call 504-736-0690 ext 114

### 8690 Mazda

**03' Protege,** 40,000 miles, sunroof, 6-Disc CD, $11,000. (985)951-9775

### 8720 Mercury

**'95 COUGAR** A/C, Automatic, V8, did not flood. Good Cond 94,000 miles. $3495. 504-908-6635

### 8732 Mitsubishi

**'05 Eclipse** RMX 6 disc, lthr, sunroof, 4cyl. 3K mi, $18,000/negotiable. 504-912-1888

### 8740 Nissan

**'00 Maxima** SE, Loaded, 74000 Miles. Like New $11000. Call 303-842-2878

## Automotive

### 8840 Toyota

**'00 Camry,** good condition, 85,000 miles, no flood damage! $8000. 985-960-0656

**'95 AVALON** 65,000 miles, automatic, excellent shape, $6500 or best offer. 504-756-6425

### 8870 Under $2,000

**'77 GMC** Pickup Well Maintained. $500. Please call 985-893-5433

**'94 Jeep** Cherokee, Only $600. For Listings Please Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

**POLICE IMPOUNDS** from $500! For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension 2172

### 8880 Miscellaneous

**'06 Jayco** Jay Flight 31 BHDS, Loaded, Travel Trailer, $24,000/Firm. 504-382-8556

**'87 Winnebago** Chieftan 27', only 43K mi. Sleeps 4+, Nice. $12,500. 319-230-2034

**'89 Carriage** Callista 24' MH, Ford 460, fuel injected EFI, sleeps 5, $9500. 985-876-0676

**'95 BOUNDER** 34J Motor home, 57,000 miles, $25,000. Cell 916-207-0376

**'97 Newmar** Mtn Air Motor Home, 38ft w/ Liv Rm. slide, 2 air, 2 TVs, 31,600 mi., clean, exc. $10,000 below NADA, $45,000, 828-891-2583 will deliver

**100 PORTABLE** Storage units, length: 28 foot x height 13'6" x width 102". $1995 each. FOB Nashville, TN: 615-256-2929 Birmingham, AL: 205-680-0924

**2000 Jaguar** XJ8, Brugundy. 51000 miles. Loaded, sunroof, premium sound w/CD changer, leather interior, wood trim, 4.0L engine, new tires, $17600, Call 985-789-1380

**45 New** & used Travel Trailers, ready to deliver. Atwood Trailer Service: 1-800-310-4994

**Shasta RV** 1997, 36,000 miles. Self contained. Sleeps 6. 4kw generator. $23,000. In South Carolina, will deliver. Phone 803-429-9423

### 8915 Pickup Trucks

**'01 F250** Diesel 2WD Auto Supercab, Exc. cond, 8400K, $20,250. 303-842-2878

**'03 Chevy** Avalanche white 68000 miles, runs great, $18000 OBO, 225-673-9609

### 8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers

**'94 Dodge** 3500, 5 yard dump truck for lease, $150/per day. Call: 504-905-2951

**'95 Volvo** Dump truck, tri-axle, $35,000. Call for more information 504-915-1721

**'99 Freightliner** 24' Flat Bed, Low Mileage. Please call 504-416-5141 or 504-347-6000

**2 EXCELLENT** Dump Trucks, Already Core-Engineered Certified for Hurricane Clean-Up. Please Call For More Information: 504-416-1293

**Used and** New Dump trucks and roll off trucks for immediate delivery. 714-357-0024 or E-mail@jb4trucks.com

# Don't botch this chance to rebuild, group warns

## *N.O. revival gaining national attention*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

The American Institute of Architects is warning New Orleanians against relying on a series of temporary fixes to rebuild the city. Those emergency measures could become permanent, and without proper planning and cooperation, the city's unique culture and architecture very well many not be preserved.

"New Orleans is a city unlike any other in the country. In the world, I guess," said Norman Koonce, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the AIA in Washington, D.C.

Koonce and a host of national and local AIA members met with Lt. Gov Mitch Landrieu earlier this month to offer their assistance in planning the city's revival. Landrieu has appointed AIA national president Douglas Steidl of Akron, Ohio, to head an advisory board that will govern the post-Katrina rebuilding effort. The board will be part of Landrieu's Louisina Rebirth Initiative Plan for post-Katrina rebuilding.

Jim Dinegar, AIA's chief operating officer, said the group has also volunteered to bring teams of planners and architects from across the nation to New Orleans. The teams, given the name Regional/Design Urban Assistant Teams, will make detailed restoration proposals for various neighborhoods, according to New Orleans architect Steve Dumez of Eskew+Dumez+Ripple Associates. Dumez is immediate past president of the Louisiana AIA chapter and a past president of the New Orleans chapter.

Pres Kabacoff, Chief Executive Officer of HRI Properties Inc., said AIA's involvement is critical, but that time is of the essence.

"Planning is essential,'' Kabacof said, who has relocated his operations temporarily to Houma. "But we need far more than architects. We need planners, financial people, and we must be cautious and not let it take an extraordinary amount of time. We need to send a message out that the city is going to be rebuilt and be rebuilt in a better way then it was before…And they need to include a lot of social organizations, not just government."

Kabacoff thinks other national organizations, such as the Urban Land Institute and the Brookings Institute, should be consulted. But so far, government groups haven't officially brought AIA or any other national urban planning organization on board.

That's because agencies such as the lieutenant governor's office and the Louisiana Economic Development department are being overwhelmed with "pro bono" offers from organizations across the nation and are reeling from the nation's most devastating natural disaster to strike an American city. Scott Shalett, Landrieu's chief of staff, said the lieutenant governor told AIA officials not to wait for an official go-ahead from specific government agencies.

"What (Landrieu) intended to convey was that as experts and stakeholders in the architecture (and culture) of the city and its rebuilding they should be part of the strategic thinking. If they have a vision they should go take it and put it into a plan," Shalett said. "Everybody needs to come and be part of what we're doing," Shalett said.

Lana Sonnier, press secretary for the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, said that AIA's involvement fits what Secretary Michael Olivier "has talked about repeatedly… the opportunity to plan the region for smart growth using sustainable growth principles, such as residential areas with health care facilities, good schools, feature attractions…so (rebuilding) is not just suburban sprawl. This is an opportunity for smart planning with smart growth," Sonnier said.

Both Landrieu and the AIA are concerned about restoring the city while at the same time addressing the socio-economic injustices that have segregated portions of the city, according to the New Orleans AIA Chapter President Angela O'Byrne.

O'Byrne said that one local community already demonstrates how a diverse and functional neighborhood can look and work. "It's Algiers. It's diverse, functional" with a blend of African-American middle class, de-centralized poor, affluent and blue collar whites, families living and working together.

Another major concern is the construction of vast blocks of temporary housing — trailers, normally — which in past disasters have remained full for years after the events without proper social services, Dumez said.

As AIA Chief Executive Officer Koonce puts it, the fear is that with the billions of federal dollars expected to pour into New Orleans, the rebuilding will be improperly done, and perhaps millions misspent. "If we don't have time to do it right now, then when will we ever have time to do it over?"

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

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Friday
September 30, 2005

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LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Same old mind-set threatens New Orleans

Who has Mayor Ray Nagin been listening to? Who is helping him shape his vision of what a rebuilt New Orleans should be?

If I could answer those questions, I could make a fairly accurate prediction about what vision will emerge.

We do know this: Nagin is a very conservative man. Which is not to say that his instincts are more closely in synch with the Democratic or Republican party. Rather, it is to say that in his three-plus years in office, little about the way he has conducted city business has been surprising.

In his major bond issue, he asked to fund the same sorts of projects his predecessors had funded. He chants the same "economic development" mantra that every other mainstream politician in America chants.

Almost without exception he has favored demolition over rehabilitation, developers over communities and management over labor. His conservatism also has been reflected in the men and women he has appointed to the various offices and boards under his control.

### 'Warts and all'

One example is damningly illustrative of the point.

When it came time to appoint someone to chair the Regional Transit Authority, the agency in charge of transporting our poorest citizens to school, work and home, Nagin chose James Reiss, a man so rich and out of synch with the city that he imported a security force from Israel to protect his neighborhood during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Thanks to an unflattering article in the Sept. 8 edition of the Wall Street Journal, Reiss has become a symbol of everything that's been wrong with the Nagin administration's approach to dealing with poor New Orleanians.

Yet in that same article, Reiss said he was on his way to Dallas to meet with the mayor and others to plot the future of our city. The danger of Nagin's conservatism was brought home to me during a recent interview with Bob Yaro, who runs the New York-based Regional Plan Association.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Yaro worked on the rebuilding effort. He also taught a course at the University of Pennsylvania on how cities rebuild after catastrophes.

"One of the things we learned was that in almost every case, cities tend to rebuild what they had before, warts and all," Yaro said. "If things weren't working beforehand, they still rebuild them the way they were before."

### Citizens are key

In his information session at the state Capitol last week, Nagin promised to discuss the design of a new New Orleans in a series of meetings in the various cities where our people have gathered in the aftermath of Katrina. But unless the voices and ideas of our dispersed citizens guide the rebuilding, these discussions will be little more than a hollow gesture.

If Nagin clings to his conservatism, and rounds up the usual suspects to shape his vision, we can be assured of this: Our rebuilt city will be nothing more than a pale, flawed reflection of many of the problems that have put us in this current mess.

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Columnist Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com.

# Jeff says Waste Management not managing waste

*Parish suspends pay of trash hauling firm*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

If the Jefferson Parish Council was disgruntled with the services of its garbage hauler before Hurricane Katrina, the storm has served to inflate that dissatisfaction many times over.

The Parish Council disciplined Waste Management this week for its lethargic pace in resuming service after the hurricane. It suspended the company's September pay, relieved residents of their garbage fees for this month and notified the firm's bond company that the hauler was at risk of defaulting on its contract.

Waste Management collected garbage twice a week before the storm, but it is now visiting houses only once per week. Council members said they have been bombarded with calls from residents grousing about the odor of garbage and the debris that gives entire streets the look of a landfill. Some complaints have come in about power outages, but the lion's share has concerned the trash.

Deano Bonano, the parish administrator who oversees garbage collection, said Waste Management took about two weeks to resume collection after the storm. The company told the parish its employees had fled the hurricane and could not return to the area quickly enough to do pickup immediately.

In the days just after the hurricane, Bonano said, "we had parish employees driving Waste Management trucks so we could try to get some of this garbage out. We commandeered some of the trucks to get garbage away from where we had our employees housed."

Tim Hawkins, the market area vice president for Waste Management, said the company could not call the trucks into service right away because

*See* **GARBAGE,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Carroll Judice of Harvey throws away flood-damaged carpeting Thursday in Marrero. The Jefferson Parish Council disciplined the contractor that hauls its trash this week for not resuming service quickly enough after Hurricane Katrina.

# Tulane president goes back to school



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Tulane University President Scott Cowen gave members of the media a tour of the damaged Uptown campus Thursday. The largest private employer in Orleans Parish plans to resume classes Jan. 17.

*Wave of optimism prevails on campus*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

The Wall Street Journal and Chronicle of Higher Education already had made a splash out of Tulane University's post-Katrina predicament.

Camera people for Good Morning America and CNBC joined an Associated Press reporter Thursday afternoon as Tulane President Scott Cowen led his first media tour of the water-damaged campus, riding the kind of national exposure that only disaster can provide.

Stepping over bulging yellow pipes that force dry air into moist buildings and ducking under a clothesline holding military fatigues, socks and men's underwear, the crisply dressed Cowen told visiting journalists how he helped break into buildings to forage for food and hot-wired a golf cart as he and a handful of other Tulane workers escaped the campus after Hurricane Katrina.

Cowen said it wasn't his first brush with hard conditions. "I did serve in the Army infantry in the 1960s," he said.

After weeks of running Tulane from temporary offices in Houston, Cowen is presiding over a rapid cleanup at the 13,000-student university, the only Louisiana research institution ranked among the nation's top 50. Tapping extraordinary media exposure, he is using

*See* **TULANE,** *B-3*

# Lines remain long for Red Cross assistance

*Police stop people after 1,200 arrive*

**By Paul Bartels and Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Several thousand hurricane victims throughout the Gulf South began lining up early Thursday at sites in St. Tammany Parish for the second day of on-ground financial aid distributed by the American Red Cross.

Thanks in part to the juncture of three interstates just north of the city, the longest line of cars and the longest waits were in Slidell as word spread that debit cards worth up to $1,565 were available.

Cars began pulling up to the Slidell site, the parking lot of the former factory outlets mall

*See* **RED CROSS,** *B-2*

# Parishes hope to get insurance firms moving

*Delays on claims may soon be over*

**Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Thousands of residents in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes have been unable to get the ball rolling on their insurance claims because adjusters have had little or no access to evaluate damage since Katrina devastated the area. But that may be about to change.

Officials in the two parishes and state Commissioner of Insurance Robert Wooley said they have set up insurance-adjusting compounds in each parish and that insurance companies are expected to begin setting up shop there as early as this weekend, creating a first stop for residents returning to the flood-stricken areas.

*See* **INSURANCE,** *B-2*

# Chef Austin Leslie is dead at 71

*N.O. chef brought 'Creole soul food' to prominence*

**By Brett Anderson**
Restaurant critic

Chef Austin Leslie, the internationally recognized face of "Creole soul food" whose cooking laid bare the debt New Orleans cuisine owes the African-American kitchen, died early Thursday morning in Atlanta, where he and his wife evacuated after Hurricane Katrina.

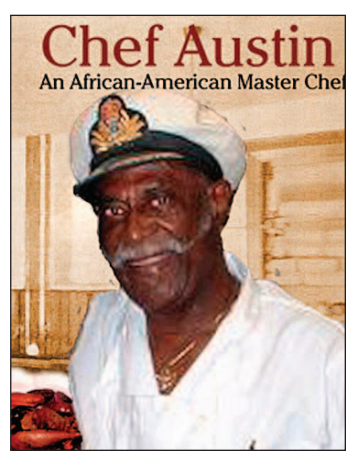
Leslie suffered a heart attack, family spokeswoman Julie Sardia said. He was 71.

Leslie stayed in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and lived in the attic of his home for two days after the water rose, Sardia said. He was rescued by neighbors and taken to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, where he remained for four days. He was then evacuated to Arkansas where he called his family. He went to Dallas and then, finally, Atlanta.

In a city known for its elegant, white tablecloth Creole restaurants heavily influenced by the fine dining traditions of Europe, Leslie rose to national prominence with his homier style of cooking beginning in the 1970s, when he took over Chez Helene, his family's restaurant on North Robertson Street.

"He was considered by many to be the black analogue to Paul Prudhomme," said John T. Edge, who devoted a

*See* **LESLIE,** *B-2*




Chef Austin Leslie, an icon of Creole cooking in New Orleans, died in Atlanta of a heart attack nearly a month after Hurricane Katrina.

# Firm says its workers returned as soon as possible

**GARBAGE,** *from B-1*

streets were impassible and downed power lines threatened the safety of employees. The company did not resume curbside pickup until two weeks after the storm, but Hawkins said it operated 13 sites around the parish where residents could deposit their own debris.

"We were up and running quickly. Within a couple of days after being able to return, we were assisting the parish in this cleanup," Hawkins said. "I would maintain that the response of the parish is unfair. Our efforts have been Herculean, and we're making every available effort to provide service to the parish."

Kenner also put Waste Management on notice this week, saying the company had picked up trash sporadically or not at all since the hurricane. Kenner officials said they were forced to turn to a New Orleans company for help.

Waste Management is not responsible for clearing away storm debris, including downed branches and ruined furniture. That task falls to the Army Corp of Engineers, which awarded three contracts worth $500 million each to contractors who can remove the detritus.

But Jefferson Parish Council members are complaining that the presence of regular, bagged garbage that Waste Management has failed to cart away exacerbates the condition of neighborhoods already awash in storm debris.




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Trash collection sites have been set up for Jefferson Parish residents at the intersection of Lapalco and Ames boulevards in Marrero and at David Drive between Airline Drive and West Metairie Avenue in Metairie.

"You have people who have seen millions of bags of garden-variety trash that came out of their refrigerators," Councilman Byron Lee said. "It has been a bad situation. Waste was a bit in slow mobilizing their people down here. You compound the fact that there was no garbage pickup before the storm with the food and debris, carpet, and spoiled food, and you have a toxic stew on your hands."

After Wednesday's council meeting, Councilwoman Jennifer Sneed said she said she went to the hardware store to buy three more cans to hold the refuse mounting on her curb.

"Someone's entire life is in a pile of rubble on the front yard," said Sneed, who lives in Metairie. Her husband owns River Birch, which runs two West Bank landfills and has expressed an interest in working with the parish. "Beds, yearbooks and wedding photos are waiting to be picked up."

Council members said they expected more from Waste Management, which is based in Houston and has branches throughout the United States and Canada. If the utility companies could truck in workers and house them in tent camps, they asked, why couldn't Waste Management do the same?

"They're claiming the majority of employees are displaced. Waste Management is a large enough company that if they really valued the ability to do work in Jefferson Parish, they would have been able to maintain service here. They had the ability to bring trailers in," Councilman Chris Roberts said. "To me, Waste Management has absolutely zero planning for these types of disasters."

The contract the parish signed with its garbage hauler does not require an emergency plan, but parish officials said it would have been prudent for the company to have one in place because hurricanes pose a threat along the Gulf Coast.

Hawkins said the company had an emergency plan that worked.

"Our goal is to protect our employees, our equipment and our assets," Hawkins said. "We complied with all the requests of the leaders of the area in evacuating. This storm was of such magnitude that we're facing the exact same issues that every other business is facing."

Representatives from Waste Management met Thursday with parish officials, but they did not resolve their disagreements. They had been at loggerheads before the storm over the hauler's alleged failure to collect recycling, and the parish threatened in August to levy a $1 million fine – slightly more than the average monthly payment of $985,000.

Bonano said the fine had been deducted from the company's payment, but Hawkins said the issue had not been resolved.

Lynn Brown, a spokeswoman for Waste Management, said the company has set up mobile recruiting stations in the New Orleans area to hire more workers to help with garbage removal. The company also dispatched workers from other parts of the country and will bring in additional trucks to eliminate the garbage more quickly.

"On an ordinary day, they use 35 trucks to pick up garbage in Jefferson Parish," Bonano said. "Our volume is three times what it normally is. They need to bring in 60 trucks to get caught up."

Bonano said the parish asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for money to help with garbage removal because the parish was having problems with its hauler. The government contractor handling storm debris, Ceres Environmental, is trying to identify available trucks. Bonano said he expects more to arrive by today.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency will pick up refrigerators, air conditioners and other appliances containing hazardous materials. A pickup schedule has not been determined.

Residents can drop off their own debris at the intersection of Lapalco and Ames boulevards in Marrero and at David Drive between Airline Drive and West Metairie Avenue in Metairie.

# 'Trailer city' may spring up at site of old Wal-Mart store

**INSURANCE,** *from A-1*

The centers will give the companies a location to set up temporary office space and housing for adjusters so residents can make contact with their insurance representatives and make progress on their claims. Wooley said they are also working to get adjusters to evaluate entire areas at a time, instead of the usual home-by-home evaluations. That would speed up the settling of claims in areas where entire neighborhoods are likely to be deemed a total loss.

"This is an unusual circumstance, so we're trying to work on a different solution," Wooley said.

St. Bernard Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez agreed. "Once they're out there, they're going to see everything is destroyed. This is not your regular hurricane damage," he said.

The St. Bernard center will be located in the parking lot of the new Wal-Mart store along West Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette, parish spokesman Steve Canizaro said. The location of the Plaquemines center was not available Thursday.

Officials in both parishes have been pushing for the centers as a way to accelerate their recovery. The program marks the first time the state is setting up centralized insurance locations as a way to launch a neighborhood-by-neighborhood evaluation process. Wooley said he did not know how many companies will set up shop at the centers and use a fast-track assessment process. But he said Allstate and State Farm, which combined insure more than half of Louisiana's homes, have expressed interest and may be among the first to set up at the centers.

He said his office is also working with insurance trade groups to get them to set up offices in the two parishes for other insurance companies. If the program works in St. Bernard and Plaquemines, it could then be launched in Orleans Parish, officials said.

Wooley said that under the proposed fast-track process for evaluating losses, a schedule would be set up for adjusters to review damage in areas extending from a few blocks to entire subdivisions. Usually, adjusters meet with homeowners when they assess damage on an individual home. But Wooley said owners would not be required to be present if the entire neighborhood is being evaluated, though his office would announce the schedules so homeowners can be there when adjusters review their property.

Rodriguez said that in areas deemed a total loss and set for demolition, homeowners would be given a period of time to recover items from the house before the bulldozers are let loose.

Meanwhile, St. Bernard officials on Thursday said the Federal Emergency Management Agency is close to inking leasing contracts for the first temporary "trailer cities" inside the parish. Officials said they hope the sites would be the first effort to repopulate an area in which an estimated 70 percent of homes are now unlivable.

Parish Council member Craig Taffaro said FEMA has identified the parking lot of the old Wal-Mart store on Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette as one of the potential sites, saying the agency is negotiating a lease with the company. Rodriguez said FEMA is also working on leases for sites at the St. Claude Plantation in Meraux and in the community of St. Bernard in the eastern part of the parish, among other locations.

Once the agency secures the sites, the infrastructure to fill them with travel trailers could be installed in as little as a month, Rodriguez said. He said the parish is seeking 5,000 trailers initially, with hundreds of them set up in centralized sites, but many others distributed to homeowners who could park them in their driveways while their homes are being rebuilt.

# Car-less wait in Mandeville much shorter

**RED CROSS,** *from B-1*

off Old Spanish Trail near Interstate 10, at 1 a.m. for the three-checkpoint procedure to get their cards.

By 7 a.m., police began turning back the hundreds of vehicles still in line.

"That's all they (the Red Cross volunteers) can handle," Slidell police Capt. Rob Callahan said. "We don't want people just sitting there for nothing."

During Wednesday's grueling but generally orderly delays, police began turning away cars at about 1:15 p.m. Red Cross spokeswoman Sarah Shogren said an estimated 1,000 storm victims were served.

Based on the first day's experience, agency officials estimated they could handle no more than 1,200 people from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and asked Slidell police to stop vehicles from driving any further once that number was reached.

That's what police did Thursday, using a new traffic routing system that Callahan said worked better than the plan Wednesday in which cars attempted to get onto Old Spanish Trail by any route imaginable.

Taking advantage of the fact that the I-10 twin spans across Lake Pontchartrain are closed for major hurricane-related repairs, police Thursday diverted westbound traffic on I-10 to the Oak Harbor Boulevard exit.

From there, vehicles were turned around and double-stacked eastbound on the interstate until they were flagged into two lanes on the Old Spanish Trail (Louisiana 433) exit.

Some vehicles also drove along Eden Isles Boulevard to the Oak Harbor exit and then headed westbound to Old Spanish Trail, the only way to reach the Caruso Boulevard entrance to the old mall.

Once 1,200 vehicles had been counted, that was the end of the line for Thursday. "For the most part, it's working as well as it possibly can the way things are now," Callahan said. "We're very pleased with it."

Authorities and Red Cross officials reminded motorists seeking the cards worth up to $1,565 - mostly in $300 a person amounts - that the centers in Slidell are serving thousands of storm victims from five states, not just St. Tammany Parish.

They also noted the centers will remain open seven days a week for at least two weeks - and maybe longer - until everyone possible from the designated declared disaster area ZIP codes can be helped.

Callahan said there were no major incidents, no "road rage" and only a handful of mostly minor fender-bender accidents. He urged everyone not to try to come at once but to wait a few days, when the lines may begin to thin out.

Also, officials said, the Red Cross hopes to open a much larger distribution site as soon as it can in hurricane-battered Jefferson Parish to take some of the load off the north shore.

The car-less, stand-in-line scene in Mandeville, at Paul Spitzfaden Community Center on East Causeway Approach, was more serene and the waits were much shorter Thursday.

By late afternoon, several people leaving the center with cards in hand said the wait averaged about an hour compared to the two and a half to three hours the day before at the DonahueFavret Contractors building next door.

Police set up barricades to create a more orderly system for those who began showing up before 9 a.m. and the center was scheduled to close at 5 p.m. It reopens today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"This is not such a bad wait," Lafrenchie Stonom said as she filled out the form needed to receive her money card.

A volunteer walked along offering cold water and granola bars to those in line.

National Guard units helped local police handle traffic control. Mandeville police Lt. Ron Ruple said the lines were orderly all day. No incidents were reported, but City Councilman Jerry Coogan said he saw several elderly women in tears as the sun beat down during the wait to get inside.

# 'You couldn't fry a chicken better than Austin'

**LESLIE,** *from B-1*

chapter of his book "Fried Chicken: An American Story" to Leslie. "When you were looking for a way to portray what New Orleans cooking was, those two were the guys."

Leslie was born in New Orleans on July 2, 1934. His career extends back a half-century, when as a teenager he took a job delivering fried chicken by bicycle for Portia's Fountain on Rampart Street. His career took off in 1975 when he bought Chez Helene from his aunt, Helen Pollack.

The restaurant was notable for its lack of pretentiousness – Leslie famously served oysters Rockefeller on bent tin platters – and for the chef's soulfully delicious cooking.

"It was just good old Creole food, good old-time New Orleans food," said Leah Chase, a longtime friend and colleague. "And he was good, damn good. You couldn't fry a chicken better than Austin. You couldn't stuff a pepper better than Austin Leslie."

With his broad smile, bushy mutton chops and omnipresent captain's hat, Leslie's persona proved as irresistible as his fried chicken livers and cornbread, which tasted as if it was made predominantly of butter.

Chez Helene's popularity was such that it became an inspiration for a 1987 network television show, "Frank's Place." It featured a chef decked out in Leslie's signature garb.

"Austin always had that dumb old hat on," Chase said. "I always wished he'd get a new one, but he kept the old one. I don't know if it was a good luck charm or what."

Leslie was a celebrity chef who didn't enjoy the material fruits of celebrity chefdom. Branches of Chez Helene opened in Chicago and the French Quarter, but the success didn't last. Leslie closed the last Chez Helene in 1994, five years after declaring bankruptcy.

"Seems like everyone wanted to use my name to sell this, my face to sell that," Leslie told Edge. "I made the mistake of listening."

After working for a while in Europe, Leslie returned to New Orleans in 1996. He was working at the Bottom Line on North Claiborne Avenue when he answered a newspaper ad placed by Jacques-Imo's owner Jack Leonardi. Leslie took the job – a fry cook – and helped open Jacques-Imo's in the Riverbend, which became wildly popular. It was at Jacques-Imo's where Leslie turned a new generation on to his cooking, particularly his unforgettable fried chicken: cooked to a crisp, caramel brown, Leslie finished the chicken with a paste of raw garlic and parsley. Sliced pickles completed the picture.

"I would have never really done the Creole-soul thing and the fried chicken if it hadn't been for Austin," Leonardi said last fall. "He also just taught me a lot about things, not just running a restaurant. He had such a big menu at Chez Helene. It was like a Chinese restaurant menu. He taught me how you could do that, how to incorporate sauces and stuffings in all sorts of different ways."

"I didn't move away from Jack because of money. I moved away from Jacques-Imo's because I wanted to get away from frying," Leslie said last fall. "I'm going to die. But I'm not going to die over that fryer."

Pampy's owner Stan "Pampy" Barre said Leslie was eager to get back to work, despite the fact that Pampy's was destroyed by floodwater and looters.

"Austin called me two days ago, and we had an extensive conversation," Barre said on Thursday. "He wanted to go back to work. He wanted to get back in the kitchen."

Chase called Leslie's death "another huge loss for New Orleans. You think you lose big when you lose your house, but here we lose a person, a person that could help us uplift everything."

Leslie is survived by his wife, Victoria S. Leslie; his daughter, Tracy Leslie Quinn; two stepdaughters, Tanya Rainey and Shannon Rainey; and two stepsons, Felix Rainey, and Gerald and Gary Emell.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

# 237 arrested on looting charges

*Authorities expect uptick in white-collar crime*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

Nearly a month after the airwaves were flooded with footage of desperate residents pillaging homes and stores, federal authorities say 237 people have been arrested in Orleans and Jefferson parishes on looting charges, and another 230 have been booked with other crimes.

The numbers were released this week as New Orleans began reopening to residents and shopkeepers in the least ravaged parts of town. Jefferson Parish, responsible for most of the looting arrests, has been open for business for on the east bank since Sept. 18. The West Bank opened shortly after the storm.

According to statistics provided by the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office, the vast majority of looters – 199 – were arrested in the week after the Sept. 4 opening of a temporary jail at Union Passenger Terminal on Loyola Avenue.

That's because arrests were virtually impossible in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when 80 percent of the city was engulfed by floodwaters, anarchy had taken hold, and most jail facilities were rendered useless, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said.

"In the early days, you didn't have the National Guard, the NOPD was stretched thin, and federal resources had not been brought to bear, not to mention that so much of the focus of law enforcement was search-and-rescue missions," said Letten, whose office compiled the statistics. "Civil order had to be established before traditional law enforcement could take hold."

It took five days after Hurricane Katrina for authorities to establish the temporary jail, where they continue to process offenders before shipping them out of town to other holding facilities, Letten said.

While looting arrests have dropped dramatically in recent weeks, the region is not crime-free, FBI Special Agent in Charge Jim Bernazzani said. For example, authorities picked up seven armed looting suspects Tuesday night at one location. That same night, authorities arrested three people in a carjacking.

"I think overall, the city is much safer than it was before the storm," he said. "That's not to say we won't have some unique challenges as the criminal element tries to return."

Both Letten and Bernazzani said they anticipate an upswing in white collar fraud and corruption as millions of dollars in federal aid starts streaming into the area. Both offices are temporarily headquartered in Baton Rouge.

To report fraud related to Hurricane Katrina, call 1 (800) CALL-FBI. If you receive unsolicited e-mail requests for donations or have information about false Web sites requesting money or personal information, you can report it via the Internet at www.IC3.gov.

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Martha Carr may be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.

# Slidell to allow temporary homes

*Trailers, RVs OK for up to a year*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

Despite concerns that some areas of Slidell could become "trailer-park cities," the City Council agreed Wednesday night to allow hurricane victims to live in temporary housing on their property while their homes are being repaired or rebuilt.

The vote was 6-0, with three members absent, as the council met in the emergency operations center on Bayou Lane. The center is serving as government headquarters because City Hall in Olde Towne was flooded.

The ordinance permits travel trailers, recreational vehicles and temporary housing provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on private residential property for as long as a year.

That time period may be extended by council resolutions as need and circumstances dictate. About 4,000 of the estimated 10,000 homes in Slidell had flood or tree damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The waivers for trailers and campers aren't open-ended. They will expire once the Department of Building Safety and Permits determines the permanent dwellings are "habitable."

The temporary housing must have appropriate hookups to city water and sewerage. The council is expected soon to approve additional requirements for permitting.

Planning Director Martin Bruno had reservations about expansion of what was introduced earlier this month as a six-month law for temporary housing on private residential property.

Bruno said he feared longer periods would "open the door that we closed about three years ago" with the ban of mobile homes in the city. The city could "wind up in court trying to get these things off the lots," he said. "It's going to become an enforcement nightmare."

With the exception of those grandfathered in before the law was changed, mobile homes are banned under Slidell's zoning code. The new law suspends that section of the code.

Mayor Ben Morris had similar concerns, although he said he's certain that 90 percent of people affected will work to get their homes back in livable condition as soon as possible.

As for the other 10 percent, he said, "I don't want to see someone move in a trailer and live there for three years and then just say they didn't get around to it (repairing their houses). I just don't want somebody squatting."

# Tulane concerned about retaining staff, students

**TULANE,** *from B-1*

the Uptown campus as a symbol of New Orleans' determination to rebound, noting its plans to resume classes Jan. 17 and its hopes to lose no more than a tiny slice of its students.

"It's not only important for Tulane to come back, it's important for the city of New Orleans to come back," Cowen said as he strolled across a quadrangle near St. Charles Avenue that was dotted with piles of brush and buzzing with lawn mowers. "We don't want to be an oasis in an otherwise desolate land."

Tulane looked nothing like the limb-strewn place that Cowen left after the storm. Loose bricks that broke off one corner of a historic building and showered the lawn during Katrina were in a neat pile. Blown-out windows on Gibson Hall, the administration building, had been replaced. Sheetrock walls inside the bottom floor of Goldring/Woldenberg Hall, home to the business school, were torn out, awaiting new moisture tests. The campus was crawling with disaster recovery workers, giving it a lively, hopeful image in stark contrast to the vacant, waterlogged look it carried a couple of weeks earlier, even after waters receded on the lake side of Freret Street.

Damage estimates haven't yet been calculated at Tulane, but with an $810 million endowment, insurance and enviable reputation in academic research, Tulane officials are bullish about the future. But they are concerned about holding on to professors and students dispersed by the storm.

"The long-term effect that everybody's worried about is retention of students and retention of faculty," said spokeswoman Debbie Grant.

With 6,000 staff members, including about 2,000 faculty members, Tulane is critical to recovery in the city's economy, and national media attention will help the badly suffering wider community, Tulane officials said.

Tulane is laying off some of its staff members in stages, but so far school officials say job losses will be modest.

"We're the single largest private employer (in Orleans Parish)," Cowen said. "What does it say if the single largest employer doesn't get up?"

# Orleans schools want to hear from parents

*System hopes to open on West Bank in Nov.*

**From staff reports**

Orleans Parish public schools are asking parents whether they plan to send their children to school and employees whether they plan to return to work so they can plan for a partial reopening of West Bank schools in November.

Parents and employees should contact the district as soon as possible, officials said, at www.alvarezandmarsalnops.com or (877) 771-5800.

The information gathered will be used to determine how many schools will be reopened. Registration details and a start date have not been announced.

Officials from the district and Alvarez & Marsal, the turnaround firm hired this year to right the district's finances, met with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin on Thursday to outline plans for opening as many as eight Algiers schools in November.

"The mayor was very supportive," said Sajan George, the district's chief operating officer and an Alvarez & Marsal employee. "He said Algiers is fine and encouraged and supported us in opening schools. We said we'd target November, and he's OK with that."

Each West Bank school is subject to inspection by the Environmental Protection Agency, George said.

It is possible several undamaged schools on the east bank can reopen later in the school year, but Nagin "cautioned us against opening any schools other than on the West Bank," George said.

Nagin has discouraged parents from bringing their children back to the east bank, citing possible health risks.

Any student who returns to New Orleans, however, will be allowed to attend school on the West Bank, regardless of where they live in the city, George said.

Students who start school in November can still have an entire academic year in New Orleans, George said, adding that the school term likely will be extended through June.

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# Kenner signs new garbage contract

*Companies will split pickup duties*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Spurred by complaints that household garbage has been picked up sporadically – and sometimes not at all – since Hurricane Katrina, Kenner contracted with a New Orleans company Thursday to speed collection.

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano also fired off a warning letter to Waste Management of Louisiana, the city's garbage contractor, warning it to shape up or face losing Kenner business.

"It was bad all over," Capitano said, after he signed a contract with Ramelli Janitorial Service Inc. "They have missed areas all over."

Capitano said two weeks ago Waste Management came up with its own plan to pick up garbage at least once a week, rather than the normal twice-a-week schedule, but he said the company didn't stick to it.

"They were not able to meet the plan," Capitano said.

But a Waste Management representative responded that all residents should have had their Waste Management cans emptied at least three times, once per week, since the storm. If that didn't happen on a street it could have been because utility crews were working on it, there was too much debris or because it was unsafe, said Tim Hawkins, a vice president. He also pointed out that Waste Management is handling much more trash than usual.

"It's between two to three times greater than a normal week," Hawkins said.

Under Kenner's new garbage pick-up arrangement, Waste Management will continue to pick up garbage in half the city and Ramelli will pick up the other half, Capitano said.

Ramelli started cruising Kenner streets Thursday with four trucks and expects to supplement that with another four trucks by next week, President Robert C. Ramelli said. Kenner residents can expect twice-a-week garbage pickup to be back to normal within two weeks, Capitano said.

The contract obliges the city to pay Ramelli $145 per ton to pick up and dispose of garbage. Residents pay a per-unit fee to Waste Management for pickup.

Capitano said he expects the money for Ramelli to be reimbursed by FEMA because of the sheer volume of garbage. Also, he said, Kenner will try to recoup some of the money with fines against Waste Management.

Capitano also pointed out that Ramelli and Waste Management only pick up garbage. Another company is contracted to pick up debris.

Residents from all over the city complained about slow garbage pickup in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"They've been pretty slow," said Kansas Avenue resident Eddie Madrid. "I've been here since last Sunday, and everything's still out here."

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

An animal rescue center has been operating out the Belle Chasse Council on Aging building at 3712 Main St. About 52 animals have been returned to their owners.

# Animal shelter seeks donations

**From staff reports**

A Belle Chasse emergency animal shelter that has rescued 300 dogs and cats and is working to save horses and cattle in the southern end of Plaquemines Parish is seeking donations.

Belle Chasse veterinarian Stephen Hebert is working with volunteers, parish workers and National Guard troops to care for the animals. About 52 have been returned to their owners.

Donations of vaccines, heartworm test kits and preventative medicine, food and sturdy fencing are needed, Hebert said. Most of the supplies and equipment being used have been donated by veterinarians and supply companies, he said.

Herbert can be reached at (504) 231-1854, or contact the shelter, located at the Belle Chasse Council on Aging, 3712 Main St., at (504) 392-7154.

As floodwaters from Hurricane Rita recede in areas south of Jesuit Bend, Hebert said he expects more animals to be rescued.

National Guard troops are assisting by delivering hay and tubs of fresh water by airboat to stranded livestock.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **In re:** | : | **Jointly Administered** |
| | : | **Case No. 02-10429 (JKF)** |
| **KAISER ALUMINUM CORPORATION,** | : | **Chapter 11** |
| **a Delaware corporation, et al.,** | : | **Hearing Date: Jan. 9-10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.** |
| | : | **Voting Deadline: 11/14/05 at 5:00 p.m.** |
| **Debtors.** | : | **Objection Deadline: 11/14/05 at 5:00 p.m.** |

**NOTICE OF (A) DEADLINE FOR CASTING VOTES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT PROPOSED JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION, (B) HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND (C) RELATED MATTERS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On September 7, 2005, Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, Akron Holding Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Investment, Inc., Kaiser Aluminium International, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum Properties, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum Technical Services, Inc., Kaiser Bellwood Corporation, Kaiser Micromill Holdings, LLC, Kaiser Texas Micromill Holdings, LLC, Kaiser Sierra Micromills, LLC, Kaiser Texas Sierra Micromills, LLC, Oxnard Forge Die Company, Inc., Alwis Leasing LLC, Kaiser Center, Inc., KAE Trading, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Investment Limited (Canada), Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical of Canada Limited (Canada), Kaiser Center Properties, Kaiser Export Company and Texada Mines Ltd. (Canada) (collectively, the "Reorganizing Debtors"), twenty-one of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), filed: the Second Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation and Certain of Their Debtor Affiliates (as it may be modified, the "Plan") and a related disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement"). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Plan.
2. On September 8, 2005, the Court entered an order (the "Disclosure Statement Order") approving the Disclosure Statement and certain related materials (collectively, the "Solicitation Materials") for the solicitation of votes to accept or reject the Plan. All Plan-related documents that have been filed with the Court, including the Disclosure Statement, are available via the Internet at www.deb.uscourts.gov, www.kaiseraluminum.com and www.loganandco.com. If you do not own or have access to a computer or the Internet, you may obtain a paper copy of the Solicitation Materials by sending a request, in writing, to Logan & Company, Inc., 546 Valley Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 (Attn: Kaiser Aluminum Voting Department); facsimile: 973-509-3191; e-mail: kaiser@loganandco.com.
3. A hearing to consider the confirmation of the Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") will be held before the Honorable Judith K. Fitzgerald, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the Judge's courtroom at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 5414 U.S. Steel Tower, 600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 at 9:00 a.m. on January 9, 2006, to be continued on January 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., if necessary.
4. Pursuant to the Disclosure Statement Order, the Court approved certain procedures for tabulation of votes to accept or reject the Plan, which are attached to the Disclosure Statement as Exhibit III. Holders of claims against one of the Reorganizing Debtors as of August 29, 2005 (the voting record date as established in the Disclosure Statement Order) in a class entitled to vote on the Plan are entitled to receive a ballot for casting a vote on the Plan (a "Ballot"). For a vote to accept or reject the Plan to be counted, a Ballot must be completed and returned to the address indicated on the Ballot so that it is received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 14, 2005.
5. **The Plan proposes four channeling injunctions, applicable to all persons and entities, that permanently channel to one of four different trusts for resolution and payment all claims, remedies, liabilities or demands against one or more of the Debtors or certain other protected parties for death or personal injuries caused directly or indirectly by the presence of, or exposure to, asbestos, silica, noise or coal tar pitch volatiles, including any claims or demands for reimbursement, indemnification, subrogation or contribution. In addition, the Plan proposes an insurance entity injunction applicable to all persons and entities that, with certain exceptions set forth in the Plan, permanently enjoins the pursuit of any claim, demand or cause of action based upon, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any claim or demand channeled to a trust pursuant to the channeling injunctions referenced above against any insurance company or other entity that may have liability under an insurance policy that will provide funding for the resolution and payment of channeled claims and demands. Finally, the Plan proposes (i) an injunction that permanently enjoins the pursuit of any Claim against or Interest in the Reorganizing Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors or any of their respective property to the extent that such Claim or Interest has been discharged, released, waived, settled or deemed satisfied in accordance with the Plan (other than the enforcement of any right pursuant to the Plan to a distribution); and (ii) an injunction, applicable to all persons or entities, that permanently enjoins the pursuit of any claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action or liabilities that are released pursuant to the Plan against any released entity or its property. For the specific terms and conditions of these injunctions and the precise scope of the claims and demands to be channeled, please refer to the specific terms of the Plan, which can be obtained as described above.**
6. The deadline for filing and serving objections, if any, to the confirmation of the Plan is 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 14, 2005. All objections must comply with the requirements set forth in paragraph 6 of the notice of the Confirmation Hearing appended to the front of the Disclosure Statement.

Dated: September 9, 2005 — Daniel J. DeFranceschi (DE 2732), Kimberly D. Newmarch (DE 4340), RICHARDS, LAYTON & FINGER, One Rodney Square, P.O. Box 551, Wilmington, Delaware 19899, Telephone: (302) 651-7700, Facsimile: (302) 651-7701; *and* — Gregory M. Gordon (TX 08435300), Daniel P. Winikka (TX 00794873), Debra K. Simpson (TX 24027986), JONES DAY, 2727 North Harwood Street, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone: (214) 220-3939, Facsimile: (214) 969-5100.

ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION.

**ATTENTION**

**Parents or Guardians of students Jefferson Parish Public School System**

JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM — EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Jefferson Parish Public School System has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of students in the system. Some schools, which were not significantly damaged, will open the week of October 3 to receive students.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Same School**
JPPSS students who can return to their homes in their previous school boundary areas will attend his/her previous school. Bus transportation is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Different School**
JPPSS students who cannot return to their homes and are living in a different part of Jefferson Parish will have to register at the sites listed below during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Students New To Jefferson Parish Public School System**
Students now living in Jefferson Parish who have been displaced from public, private, or parochial schools in other school systems wanting to attend Jefferson Parish public schools will need to register as new students. JPPSS will staff multiple registration sites throughout the parish during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**East Bank:** Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. School, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

**West Bank:** Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important **RELOCATION** information for parents or guardians of students who previously attended Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools or the John Martyn school.

Students of these schools should report to the new location and time listed below.

- **Alexander students** are to report at 9 a.m. to Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner
- **Lincoln students** are to report at 9 a.m. to Butler Elem. School, 300 Fourth St., Marrero
- **Terrytown students** are to report at 8:40 a.m. to Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown (Boudreaux students report to Boudreaux at 9 a.m.)
- **Woodmere students** are to report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elem. School, 2500 Bent Tree Ln., Marrero (C.T. Janet students report to C.T. Janet at 9 a.m.)
- **John Matryn students** are to report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Dr., Jefferson

Students who previously walked to Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere will be assigned to a designated bus stop.

Parents should drop off and pick up their child the first day.

Bus transportation for all other students is limited but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Jefferson Parish students will get less sleep

## *School bell to ring an hour earlier*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank bureau

Attention students returning to Jefferson Parish public schools: Get ready to change your alarm clocks.

In its last emergency meeting before the reopening of schools on Monday, the School Board approved a revised calendar Thursday that adds one hour to the daily schedule, beginning Oct. 10. The additional hour will make up for lost instructional time since Hurricane Katrina shuttered the system more than a month ago.

Once the extended schedule begins, all schools will begin an hour earlier, with high schools facing the earliest start time, at 6:15 a.m., officials said. The extended schedule will last until the end of the school year.

Parents should note, however, that for the first week of class, Oct. 3-7, the length of the school day will remain as it was in August to give students and teachers time to get into new routines, officials said.

A committee of parents, teachers, administrators and business leaders who crafted the revised calendar chose extending the school day instead of chipping away at holidays.

Students new to the parish or those who have relocated to Jefferson will receive their schedules when they register. Students returning to the school they attended before the storm should contact the school to confirm the start time.

The calendar also includes the following changes:

uThere will be four marking periods, each averaging about 38 days. Exams scheduled for the end of the nine-week marking period have been canceled, and report cards will be tabulated using test grades, homework and class participation. The days initially scheduled for those exams will become full days instead of half-days.

uApril 18, the last day of spring vacation, is now a full day of school. All other holidays, graduation dates and the end of school year remain the same.

uAll remaining days of school will be full days, except for two half-days for parent conferences. For a full calendar, go to www.jppss.k12.la.us.

While some School Board members complained that they had no input into the calendar and would have preferred more than one version on which to vote, Superintendent Diane Roussel said the calendar had to be created relatively quickly before Monday's reopening.

"These kids need as much school as they can get," board member Libby Moran said.

The school calendar likely will be adjusted because state education officials have not yet decided how much of the missed time students must make up. Jefferson will have lost 24 school days.

In other business, the School Board approved seeking a $50 million line of credit with its bank to be used if necessary. The loan, which would have to be repaid by June, must be approved by the state bond commission.

Katrina has rattled the system's finances, taking away sales taxes that bring in about $12 million monthly. Overall, those taxes represent 41 percent of the system's revenue. In addition, with enrollment largely unclear, the amount of state financing remains a daunting uncertainty.

The district also is in talks with its insurance adjusters and the Federal Emergency Management Agency about recouping some of its expenses. That money would have to be used solely for capital projects, Chief Financial Officer Raylyn Stevens said, adding that the $50 million loan could be used for items such as payroll and benefits.

Currently, she said, the system's reserves are almost dry, but the district is still meeting all financial obligations. Several School Board members complained that they have not seen any of the federal relief money.

"It's unbelievable to me, 30 days later and not one penny," board member Mark Morgan said. "It's disgusting to me."

The School Board also approved a move seeking a construction management company to help oversee damage assessment and renovation work. Roussel said the task is simply too much for the system's facilities department to handle by itself.

Most Jefferson schools will open Monday, but five remain out of commission: John Martyn, Lincoln Elementary, Terrytown Elementary, Alexander Elementary and Woodmere Elementary, as well as Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, a magnet school that was slated to open in 2006.

Two other schools, Grand Isle School and Lafitte Elementary, remain shaky for the Monday opening. Floodwaters from Hurricane Rita devoured the small village of Lafitte, and Grand Isle took a beating in the dual storms. Except for Lafitte and Grand Isle, students at the schools damaged by Katrina have been shifted into other schools, where they will share the building and run on a different schedule than the existing school.

# DEATHS

**Cecile Dickinson Brown**
**Charles Walter Burdett, Jr.**
**Marion Bush**
**John Phillip Carpenter, Jr.**
**Gerard Keith "Jerry" Chaix**
**Blake Aron Chelette**
**Aubert Raymond Craig, Jr.**
**Malcom J. Faber, Sr.**
**Leona Landry Falgoust**
**Chad Ferrand**
**Thelma Pertuit Garcia**
**Vivian Badon Greene**
**Wilbur "Bill" Grueninger**
**Alice Beverly Hertz**
**Sylvan Heyman**
**Gary Lee Hingle**
**Rosalie Girgenti Hodges**
**Julius Winfred (Jay) Hohenstein**
**Dorothy Krause**
**G. Michael Lala**
**Anna Lee Vedros Martin**
**Louis D. Matherne, Jr.**
**Sibylla Baessler Mc-Farland**
**Lillie Franklin Melton**
**Bernice Lacoste Mulé**
**Hilton Stennis Pickett, Sr.**
**Herman Clifford Richard, Sr.**
**Kaleigh Arielle Sotelo**

### BROWN

Cecile Dickinson Brown, 91, a longtime resident of New Orleans, residing in Mandeville for the past ten years, passed away on Sunday, September 25, 2005, in Grapevine, Texas. She was the beloved wife of the late Storm McGoughey Brown, daughter of the late Harry E. Dickinson and Blanche Lorio; mother of Cecile Brown Diehl, Ethel Brown Ganucheau, Joyce Brown Steimle, Marilyn Brown Villarrubia, Malcolm S. Brown Sr., and Charles P. Brown Sr.; sister of Lloyd D. Dickinson, Claire Baiamonte, Marion Oldenburg; also survived by 17 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of THARP-SONTHEIMER-THARP FUNERAL HOME, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd St., Matairie, on Friday, September 30, 2005, at 12:00 noon. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am. Burial will be in Hope Mausoleum, 4841 Canal St., New Orleans.

### BURDETT

Charles Walter Burdett, Jr., on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 1:22 a.m. Beloved husband of Helena Venezia Burdett. Father of Charles W. Burdett, III and wife Pamela Folse Burdett; and Donald M. Burdett. Grandfather of Crystal Burdett Hirstius and husband Brian; Charles W. Burdett, IV and wife Kelly Henson; Nicole E. Burdett, Bradley F. Burdett and Christian M. Burdett. Son of the late Edith Howard Burdett and Charles W. Burdett, Sr. Brother of Doris Burdett Bannon, Geraldine Burdett Monnier, Linda Burdett Mara, Edith Burdett and the late Marion Burdett Joseph, Walter Burdett, Carol Burdett Bujol and Jean Ann Burdett Wolf. Brother-in-law of Tommy Bannon, William Monnier, Gus Mara, John Joseph, Yvelle Burdett, Lydon Bujol and Ronald Wolf. Age 74 Years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie. Mr. Burdett was a U.S. Navy Veteran - United States Naval Airman - Fighter Squadron 33, a member of Teamster Local No. 270 and the American Legion 267. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Kidney Foundation preferred.

### BUSH

Marion Bush, on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at 7:45 a.m. Beloved husband of Grace D. Bush. Father of Tommy E. Bush, Debra A. Smith and Elaine A. Bush. Father-in-law of Bobbi J. Bush. Grandfather of Thomas E. Bush, Robert T. Bush John "J.D." Smith, Andrew J. Smith and Anthony J. Bush. Son of the late Evander and Thelma Bush. Brother of Lou Nell Buffington, E B Bush, and the late Leroy "Frank" Bush, Lester Bush and Lawrence Bush. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Age 57 years. A native of McGee, MS and a resident of Kenner for 20 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 2:00PM. Visitation will begin at 9:00AM. Interment in Garden of Memories.

### CARPENTER

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 pm in Magnolia City Cemetery in Magnolia, Arkansas for John Phillip Carpenter, Jr. who died Monday, September 26, 2005 at Lincoln General Hospital in Ruston, LA. Visiting hours will be observed from 10:00 am until service time at A.O. Smith Funeral Home, Stamps, Arkansas. A memorial service will be held monday, October 3, 2005 at 4:00 pmm in the Delhomme Chapel of the Flowers, Lafayette, LA. Big John was born February 4, 1924 in El Dorado, Arkansas. He resided in New Orleans, LA from 1961-1996, then later settled in Breaux Bridge, LA. Big John was a graduate of the University of Arkansas and a Razorback Football Letterman. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946. For 37 years, he was a veteran in the Offshore Drilling Industry. He retired as President of Fluor Drilling Services. He served as region president of the International Association of Drilling Contractors in New Orleans, LA. He was awarded the Silver Beaver from the Southeast Louisiana Council, Boy Scouts of America. Big John was a member of the Boston Club West in New Orleans, Acadian Hills Country Club and the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. Survivors include his sons, Phil Carpenter and wife Kaylynn of Lafayette, LA and Mark Carpenter of Gladewater, TX; Grandson, Chase Carpenter; his former wife and companion, Mary McIntyre Carpenter of Ruston, LA; step sons George Dewey McIntyre of Cutoff, LA, Daniel P. McIntyre of Florida, Barney A. McIntyre and wife Jane of Madisonville, LA, and Shaun Lapleau McIntyre and wife Melinda of Ruston, LA; and 8 step grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Phillip Carpenter, Sr. and Myrtle Wingfield Carpenter. Donations can be made to the Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 80115, Lafayette, LA 70598. A.O. Smith Funeral Home, 805 Thomas Street, Stamps, Arkansas 71860; 870-533-2555 are funeral directors in charge of all Arkansas funeral arragements. Magnolia City Cemetery, 700 South Washington, Magnolia, Arkansas 71754; 870-234-1375. Delhomme Funeral Home 1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA 337-235-9449 are funeral directors in charge of Memorial Service.

### CHAIX

Gerard Keith "Jerry" Chaix on Tuesday, August 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Lucille Attenhofer Chaix. Father of Julie Ann and Michael Joseph Chaix. Son of Althea Heausler Chaix and the late Ronald Joseph Chaix. Brother of Gregory J. Chaix, Lana C. Rigney and Connie C. Kallivretakis. Aged 51 years, a native of New Orleans and a resident of River Ridge for the past 26 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, 55 W. 125th Street, New York, NY 10027, preferred.

### CHELETTE

Blake Aron Chelette, at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, September 26, 2005 at 11:15pm. He was born September 28, 1977 in Marrero, LA and resided in Baton Rouge the past 11 years. Beloved husband of Sabrina Creppel Chelette, adoring father of Blake, Jr., and Alyssa Blake Chelette; Son of Celeste Apostalo Chelette of LaPlace and Gary Chelette of New Roads. Surviving grandparents Clem Chelette of Baton Rouge and Paul and Sara Apostalo of Port O'Conner, TX. Brother of Murphy Gauthreaux and Jarod Chelette. Preceded in death by his grandparents Joe Chelette and Lucy Laborde. Surviving are a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. He loved and lived life to the fullest. He was an avid football fan of the Saints and the LSU Tigers. He was very outgoing and never met a stranger; he will be sadly missed by many. Rest in peace our handsome, devoted and loving husband, daddy, son, brother and grandson. Friends, family and employees of Architectural Glass and Metal and Dr. Nelson Daly are invited to attend funeral services at Green Oaks Funeral Home, 9595 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Friday, September 30 at 9:00am with a prayer service following at 12:00am.

### CRAIG

Aubert Raymond Craig, Jr., on September 15, 2005. Husband of Sharon Craig. Father of Trennesa (Dwayne) Butler, Sherell Clayton, Alethea Craig and Tasha (Lester) Dyer. Step-father of Shandell Simmons and Jermaine Poree. Son of the late Aubert Raymond Craig, Sr. and Rosa Catherine Butler. Brother of Eugene Craig, Keith Sanders, Hollis Paten, Sharon Craig, Bernadette Ross, Kerry Ann Vinning, Ruth Hughes, Lisa Craig and the late Bernard Ross, Sr.. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. Relatives and friends of the family, also Pastors, Officers and Members of Greater Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Employees of Avondale Shipyards are invited to attend Funeral Services on Saturday October 1, 2005 at 11:00am at Greater Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 6941 Sayers St Marrero, LA. Visitation will begin at 10:00am. Interment in Providence Park Cemetery Metairie, LA. MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME IN CHARGE.

### FABER

Malcom J. Faber, Sr. passed away at his residence in the presence of his family on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 88, a native of Metairie and a resident of Kenner for the past 28 years. Mr. Faber was the owner of Malcolm Faber Trophies and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Beloved husband of Linda Bass Faber. Father of Malcolm J. Jr., Marvin J., Melvin J. and Michael J. Faber. Son of the late Exilda Helwick and Clarence Faber. Brother of the late Edith Cashen. Grandfather of Jason, Jessica, Amanda, Ryan, Ashley, Austin, Melvin Jr., Michaela, Matthew, Megan, David and Howard Faber. Great-grandfather of Hayden Faber. Relatives and friends of the family, also all employees of Malcolm Faber Trophies are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 11:00am Interment Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit from 2:00pm until 5:00pm on Sunday and after 9:00am on Monday.

### FALGOUST

Leona Landry Falgoust, wife of the late Kurt J. Falgoust on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Born in Convent on February 14, 1908 and a resident of New Orleans for the past 84 years. Daughter of the late Joseph N. Landry and Armantine Bourgeois. Sister of Cecile L. Fontenot, Louise L. DiFulco, Marie L. Bernard and the late Edvige Landry, Andrew J. Landry, Lucille L. Margot, Rene J. Landry and Anna L. Graci. Mother of Earl J. Falgoust, Earline F. Bergeron, Rosemary F. Marshall, Janet F. Vicknair and the late Gerald Falgoust. Grandmother of Cindi F. Mullet, Lynette F. Judge, Gary J. Vicknair, II, Steven M. Vicknair, Patti Falgoust, Michelle V. Gaillot, Michael G. Marshall, Janelle V. Prechter, Melissa A. Marshall, Keith J. Bergeron and the late Kevin J. Bergeron. Also survived by nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Schoen Funeral Home Chapel Of Covington, 1414 S. Tyler St., Covington, LA on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Temporary burial was in Pinecrest Cemetery in Covington and the final resting place will be in St. Patricks Cemetery #3 in New Orleans.

### FERRAND

Chad Ferrand died Monday September 26, 2005 at the age of 25 years old at Baton Rouge General Mid City. Survivors include his father and stepmother Rod and Gail Ferrand, mother Melaine Palmer. Paternal grandmother Maudry Ferrand. Maternal grandfather Edwin M. Palmer, Jr. Two sisters, Lauren Marie Ferrand and Ashley Elizabeth Ferrand. His dog and companion Hayden. Also survived by Aunts and Uncles; Glenn and Susie Ferrand, Brian and Priscila Ferrand, Janell and Jesie Berman, Mickey and Diana Palmer, Mark and Leslie Palmer, Matt and Susie Palmer and Maureen and Greg Favret. Also survived by cousins, Brad and Kelly Ferrand, Jonah, Jake and Jennica Berman, Amy Leigh, Matt, Andrew and Justin Palmer, Michael, Palmer, June, Mary, Maureen and Katie Richard. Preceded in death by Paternal grandfather: Elmer L. Ferrand, Maternal grandmother; June W. Palmer. A resident of New Orleans and a Native of Metairie. A Graduate of LSU and Metairie Park Country Day High School, member of Harahan Police Reserve, candidate for city council, former of Colonial Golf and Country Club. Relative and friends my visit Rabenhorst Funeral Homes East 11000 Florida Blvd., Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Chad's favorite charity Paws for a Cause 1-800-253-PAWS.

### GARCIA

Thelma Pertuit Garcia at East Jefferson Hospital on Thursday September 22, 2005 at 6:15pm. Beloved wife of Lionel Joseph Garcia. Loving mother of Susan Garcia Schwander. Mother-in-law of Jacob Schwander. Grandmother of Melissa Schwander Doyle and her husband Jason Doyle. Great Grandmother of Jacob Doyle. Sister of Clement Pertuit. Daughter of the late Rose and Oscar Pertuit. Aunt of Karen Pertuit Anderson and Richard Pertuit. Lifelong friend of Irma Donnelly. Mrs. Garcia was a book keeper for Greenwood Insurance Agency and Norris Tire and Supply. Aged 89 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Colonial Oaks Living Center for the past few years. Relative and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Saturday October 1, 2005 at 3:00pm. Visitation from 1:00pm until 3:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Alzheimers Association, 1035 Calhoun St, New Orleans, 70118.

### GREENE

Vivian Badon Greene. Graveside services will be held Thursday, September 15 at 1:00 PM at the Lafayette Memorial Park for Vivian Badon Greene. Vivian was a resident of New Orleans, formerly of Thibodeaux, LA. Survivors include her husband, Hal M. Greene; one daughter, Linda Dyess of Baton Rouge, LA; one son, Mark Puckett and wife Teri of Colorado Springs, CO; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters, Monia Joyner of Monroe, LA and Jessica Balavich of New Orleans, LA and two brothers, Maurice Badon of Hammond, LA and Houston Badon and wife Joan of Lafayette, LA. She was preceded in death by her parents; Maurice Badon and Mary Lavergne Badon; one sister, Cora Ward and one brother, Calvin Badon. In lieu of flowers donations to Hospice of Acadiana, 2600 Johnston Street, Lafayette, LA 70503 or a charity of your choice. Personal condolences may be sent to the Greene family at www.delhommefuneralhome.com Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Drive, is in charge of all funeral arrangements.

### GRUENINGER

Wilbur "Bill" Grueninger, a resident of Chalmette, LA, passed away on Monday September 26, 2005 at 9:45 AM at the Medical Center of the Southwest in Lafayette after a brief illness. Beloved husband of Mrs Helen Lafrantz Grueninger of Chalmette. Survived by his son Wayne William Grueninger and his wife Julie and his grandchildren Troy William Grueninger and Erika Nicole Grueninger of Chalmette, LA. Also survived by his brother Paul Grueninger of Sanford, FL. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Mr. Grueninger was a veteran of the Navy in World War II. He was an air traffic controller and a retired U.S. Customs agent with the U.S. Federal Government. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the service at 3 PM on Saturday October 1, 2005 at St. Bernard Memorial Gardens in Chalmette LA. Mr. Grueninger will be available for viewing from 11AM until the time of service.

### HERTZ

Alice Beverly Hertz at West Jefferson Medical Center on Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 9:15 PM. Age 73. A local grower of Orchids and a member of the Jefferson and Orleans Orchid Societies. Wife of Carroll Francis Hertz. Mother of Jock Hertz and wife Laurie, Joseph Hertz, Cheryl Pregeant and husband Larry, Elda Trombatore and husband Joseph, Danja McGuire and husband Jeffrey and Keith Porche. Daughter of the late Ledee Landry and Edward Chequette. Sister of Walter Chequette, Vera Foresyte, Helen Brinkle and the late Doris Cheramie. Grandmother of 12 and a Great Grandmother of 11. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, on Saturday, October 1, 2005, at 2:00 PM. Interment will be private. Visitation at the funeral home on Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 11:00 AM until service time. Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Info 504-341-9421

### HEYMAN

Sylvan Heyman, age 86, died on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. He was a New Orleans native and lived in Jefferson Parish for most of his life. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was married to the late Noemie Cook Heyman for 58 years. Survivors include a son, Cleve Heyman and two daughters, Sharon Bernard and Linda Morris. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Leslie Bernard Becker, Brett Bernard, Chris Morris and Craig Morris, five great-grandchildren: Kyle, Kody, Natalie, Abigail and Blaine and two step great-grandchildren: Josh and Evan. A private service will be held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral home, 4747 Veterans Blvd, in Metairie on Friday, September 30, 2005. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

### HINGLE

Gary Lee Hingle Passed Away Monday August 29, 2005, A Victim of Hurricane Katrina at the age of 51. Beloved Fiance of Ana C. Fradera, Son of Irvin J Hingle and the late Doris Triay Hingle, Brother of David M Hingle and the late Ronald J Hingle. Loving father to Eric Joseph Hingle (wife Amy)and Lisa Marie Hingle, Devoted Grandfather of Angelle Elizabeth Hingle and Madison Alexis Hingle and loved by many others. Born in New Orleans, La, Graduate of Holy Cross High School and a resident of Slidell, La for 15 years. He was the Co-Owner of D & G Body Shop in New Orleans, La for over 25 years and a Lieutenant of the Krewe of Endymion for over 20 years. Visitation will be Friday from 10 AM-12:00 PM at Schoen Funeral Home in Covington. A Funeral Mass will begin at 12 from the Funeral Home. Interment will be at Pincrest Memorial Park. Arrangements By Schoen Funeral Home, Covington, La.

### HODGES

Rosalie Girgenti Hodges age 87 died Monday September 26, 2005 at Pine Hill Nursing Home, Quitman, LA. Know as "Bam", beloved wife of the late John Aloysius Hodges, mother of Rosalie Ann Swanson of Covington, LA; John A. Hodges Jr. of New Orleans, LA; James Michael Hodges of Atlanta GA; and the late Mary Clare Hodges. Survived by 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Daughter of the late Anna Catalanotto and Giovanni Girgenti. Sister of Antoinette Jones of Tampa, FL, and the late Joseph Girgenti, Sarah DiBuono, Mary Hodges, John Anthony Girgenti, Jimmy Girgenti, and Michael "Mickey" Girgenti. Rosalie Hodges was born in Amite, LA, was a resident of New Orleans, LA, for 63 years and a resident of Colonial Oaks Nursing Home, Metarie, for the past 6 years. She was a parishioner of St. Dominic Catholic Church for 50 years, and a member of The Bereavement Committee, Ladies Altar Society and Legion of Mary. A funeral mass will be held at St. Helena Catholic Church 122 South 1st. St. Amite, LA at 11AM Monday October 3, 2005. Visitation at 10AM at St. Helena. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Southern Dominican Province 1421 North Causeway Blvd. Suite 200, Metarie, LA, 70001. Phone (504)837-2129.

### HOHENSTEIN

Julius Winfred (Jay) Hohenstein of Atlanta, Georgia passed away September 27th. He was 83 years of age. Surviving is his wife of 55 years Joan Heaney-Hohenstein and his four children; Karen Hohenstein of Irvine, CA, Eric Hohenstein of Los Angeles, CA, Margaret Hollis of Flowery Branch, GA and John Hohenstein of Atlanta, Georgia. Jay and Joan graduated from Tulane University in 1949 and were married a year later. J.W. was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and a veteran of WWII. The funeral will be in Atlanta, Georgia September 30th at 1:00pm H.M. Patterson & Son Oglethorpe Hill, 404-261-3510

### KRAUSE

DOROTHY KRAUSE, 69 years old of Loranger, LA., died Monday, September 26, 2005 at her residence. She was born Sunday, April 26, 1936 in New Orleans. Surviving are 2 daughters, Cynthia Esler of Loranger and Donna Harper of Pearl River; 4 Sons, George Krause of Mandeville, Thomas Krause of Loranger, Donald Krause of Pearl River and Glenn Krause of Baton Rouge; Brother, Conley Smith, TENN.; 3 Sisters, Joyce Dolese of Slidell, Patricia Gromlovits of New York State and Mary Richardson of Metairie; 1 Grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Parents: Conley James Smith and Ida Claus Smith; 1 Son, Stephen Krause; 1 Brother, Ronald Smith. Friends will be received Friday, September 30 at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home in Hammond from 10:00am until services at 1:00pm at the Harry McKneely & son Funeral Home, Hammond, Louisiana. Services will be held at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home, Friday, September 30, 2005 at 1:00pm. Interment will follow in the Loranger Community Cemetery, Loranger, Louisiana 70446. Email Condolences to: hmckneely@i-55.com/ Subject line: Krause.

### LALA

G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

### MARTIN

Anna Lee Vedros Martin, A native of Lutcher and a resident of LaPlace for the past 50 years, she died Monday, September 12, 2005, at 9:13 PM. She was 81, a retired proof reader for teh L'Observateur newspaper and a retired secretary for H. Martin Oil Co. She was the beloved wife of O'Neil Martin, mother of Charlotte Petersen and Debbie Martin, grandmoether of Beth Surmik Fountain, Mark Andrew Surmik and the late Robbie Englade, great-grandmother of Amber Englade and Ashley Chenier, sister of Eula V. Lucia, Jamsel "Jimmy" Vedros and the late Doris V. Bernard, Ione V. Bourgeois and Percy Vedros, daughter of the late Ellis C. and Laura Comeaux Vedros, and godmother of Ellis Lucia, Jackie Bourgeois, Carolyn V. Hyeart and Dennis Arceneaux. She also is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Relatives and friends of the family were invited to attend visitation at Millet-Guldry Funeral Home, 2806 W. Airline Highway, LaPlace, on Friday, September 16 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM and on Saturday, September 17 from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM, and was followed by religious service at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, LaPlace, at 10:00 AM. Burial in St. John Memorial Gardens, LaPlace.

### MATHERNE

Louis D. Matherne, Jr. on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at age 79 years. Beloved husband 59 years to Lucille Slyve Matherne. Father of Louis D. Matherne III, Charles "Steamboat" Matherne and Yancy D. Matherne. Father-in-law of Susan, Patti, and Dotti Matherne. Brother of Betty Celestin and Janet LaBlanc. Also survived by 9 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 4 Sister-in-laws, 5 Brother-in-laws and many nieces and nephews. Son of the late Louis D. Matherne, Sr. and Frances Valenti Matherne. A life long resident of New Orleans, LA. Mr. Matherne was a graduate of Jesuit High School; and a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in New Orlean, LA. He was employed by The United States Government for 33 years. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday September 28, 2005 at 12:00 pm from the Chapel of E. J. fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433. Temporary Interment in Pinecrest Mausoleum. Final interment in St. Louis Cemetery #3, New Orleans, LA.

### MCFARLAND

Sibylla Baessler McFarland went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 23, 2005, at 7:05 pm at her home in Metairie, Louisiana at the age of 92 years old. A native of New Orleans, Mrs. McFarland lived in Letairie for 50 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Price McFarland, her parents, Ida Rotge and Charles A. Baessler, Sr., her daughter, Ida McFarland Rabb, her siblings, Catherine Eudora, and Charles A. Baessler, Jr. and Urania B. Caillouette and a great-grandson, Jason Dupre. She is survived by her children, Nola M. O'Connor, Sterling P. McFarland, Jr., L. Charlene M. Farbe, and Kathleen M. Torroll. She is also survived by her cousin, Veva Descant, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was a joy to all who knew her. Family and friends are invited to a viewing from 12 noon until services at 2:00 pm at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy. in Metairie, LA. Interment in Gardens of Memories on Airline Drive. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to Fellowship Bible Church, 4600 N. Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006, or your favorite charity. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com

### MELTON

Lillie Franklin Melton. On Thursday, September 22nd at 4:00pm in LaGrange, TX Lillie Franklin Melton departed this life but not the hearts of the many whose lives she touched. Lillie will be deeply missed by her two children, Shirley Judge and Vivian Doris, her granddaughter Cynthia Fontenette, great-granddaughter Ainsleigh D. Fontenette, two nephews Walter T. Lacox and George Chappel, and one niece, Joyce R Lewis, all of Englewood, CA. She is also survived by 4 godchildren, a loving, supportive church family and relatives and friends. Lillie lived in Bridge City for 59 years and was the mother of her church. Memorial services will be held at Second Salvation Baptist Church on Saturday, October 1st, 212 Marrero Avenue, Bridge City. The Reverend Herbert Green Sr., pastor. Interment will follow at Providence Memorial Park in Kenner, LA. Officiating at the service will be the reverend Dr. Cornelius Bailey Sr., Lillie's pastor. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastor, officers and members of area churches are invited to attend funeral services on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00am.

### MULÉ

Bernice Lacoste Mulé, a retired sales representative of D.H. Holmes Company on August 26, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital. Age 88 years. Mother of John Joseph Mulé of New Orleans and André John Mulé of Roswell, Georgia. Sister of the late Jeanne Lacoste D'Herete of New Orleans. Daughter of the late John Lacoste and Katie Graff Lacoste. Also survived by 2 grandchildren: Christopher Scott Mule' of New Orleans and Michael André Mulé of Nashville, Tenn. A native and life-long resident of New Orleans and a parishioner of St. Dominic's Church in Lakeview. A beautiful mother, homemaker, and mentor for life. Private services were arranged by Jacob Schoen & Son Funeral Home.

### PICKETT

Hilton Stennis Pickett, Sr., 78, was called by the Supreme Commander to Eternal Patrol on the morning of September 14, 2005 in Covington, LA. Beloved husband of Gloria Sicuro Pickett for the past 51 years. Most beloved father of Jesse O. Pickett and wife Deborah of 29 Palms, CA, and Sherryl L. Robinson and husband A.E. Gene, Sr. of Harvey LA. Beloved grandfather "Boo Boo" of 12 grandchildren: Rodger A. Gainey and wife Michelle, Justin C. and Rachel J. Bishop; Michael O. Pickett, Michele R. Gates, Stormy G., LCPL Jessie M. and Thomas M. Pickett; Lisa M. Wissing and husband SGT. Raymond L., Jr., A.E. Gene Robinson, Jr.; Monique M. and Betsy A. Pickett; and 8 great-grandchildren and sister JoMary Pickett. He was precede in death by his parents Hilton Rice Pickett and Jewel Long Pickett, oldest daughter Barbara L. Olney, youngest son Hilton S. Pickett, Jr. and wife Pamela and granddaughter Amanda and stepson Richard "Dickie" Pickett. Mr. Pickett graduated from Warren Easton High School. He joined the United-States Navy in 1942. He retired as Chief of the Boat (COB) after 30 years in the submarine service. He then joined the U.S. Marshal Service and was Deputy U.S. Marshal and retired in 1990 with 20 years of service. Mr. Pickett also worked as a lineman for New Orleans Public Service. He was a member of the U.S. Navy Submarine Veterans of WWII, the Holland Club, Sub Vets, Inc., Redfish Base, Fleet Reserve Association Unit 162, American Legion Post 64, and a member of CAR (Carrollton Avenue Reunion) group. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Gretna, LA for the past 38 years. All members of the Fleet Reserve Branch 162, Sub Vets of WWII, Sub Vets Redfish Base, the United Marshal Service, relatives, and friends are invited to attend a visitation on September 30, 2005 at Mothe's Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA from 10am to 1pm. A funeral service will be held at 1:00pm. Burial will follow at Westlawn M

### RICHARD

Herman Clifford Richard, Sr., on Tuesday August 30, 2005 @ 4:30 PM @ West Jefferson Medical Center. Beloved husband of Betty L. Richard. Father of Janice R. Johnson Whitney, Ramona R. Lewis both of Marrero and Herman C. Richard, Jr., of Houston, TX. Son of the late Alfred Joseph Richard and Celeste Wilson Richard. Father-in-law of Rodney Whitney, Sr., and Angela N. Richard. Grandfather of Devin Lewis and Jarrett Richard. Brother-in-law of Carrie Richard and Inez Richard. Godfather of Lawrence Washington, Sr., Normand Castille. Also survived by step-grandchildren, a devoted nephew Ernest Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A native of Vacherie, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA. for 80 years. Age 83. Preceded in death by brothers Joseph, Hardy, Stanley, Alfred, Dutley, Sr., and Paul Richard; sisters Corinne R. Simon, Leola R. Washington, Ethel R. Jones and Esper R. Osborne; and son-in-law Otis E. Johnson. Relatives and friends of the family; also Pastors, Officers and Members of St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, St. Joseph Baptist Church (Marrero), Second Zion Baptist Church, Lakewood Church (Houston, TX) and all neighboring churches, Employees of AIG-American General Insurance Company and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Houston, TX); students, staff and employees of Xavier University of Louisiana; and retired employees of Johns-Manville Corporation are invited to attend the religious services @ St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church 6223 6th Ave. Marrero, LA on Saturday October 1, 2005 @ 10:00 AM. Visitation will begin @ 8:00 AM. Rev. Edward Joseph, III, officiating Reg. Dr. Wilbert Tross, Jr., Pastor. Interment in Restlawn Cemetery Avondale, LA. MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME IN CHARGE

### SOTELO

Kaleigh Arielle Sotelo born August 16, 2003 in Metairie, LA, passed away September 25, 2005 in Irving TX. She is sruvived by parents Joel and Dennell Lynn Gros Sotelo; sister Gabriela Kayla Loup; paternal grandparents Ramon and Victoria Sotelo; maternal grandparents Leroy P. and Sonja B. Gros; paternal great-grandparents Manuel Guzman and Margarita Navarette; maternal great-grandparents Jessie L. and Bernice H Bourgeois; uncles Danny Sotelo and Dale P. Gros; aunts Jessica Sotelo, Evangelina Ontiveros, Melissa Bryan, Doreen Gros Lentz, and Jacinda Ontiveros; cousins Jessica Brady, Stephanie Lentz, Calah Lentz, Cheyanne Lentz, Daylan Bryan, Matthew P. Gros, and Samual P. Gros; and a host of great aunts, uncles and cousins. Family visitation will be 6:00-10:00 PM Friday September 30 at Schoen Funeral Home, 1414 S. Tyler, Covington, LA. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday October 1, 2005 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Mandeville, LA. Interment will follow at Mandeville Cemetery in Mandeville.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.
Express your condolences by signing a guest book on nola.com/obits
To place a death notice in The Times-Picayune, please call 866-420-3227 toll free or send an e-mail to
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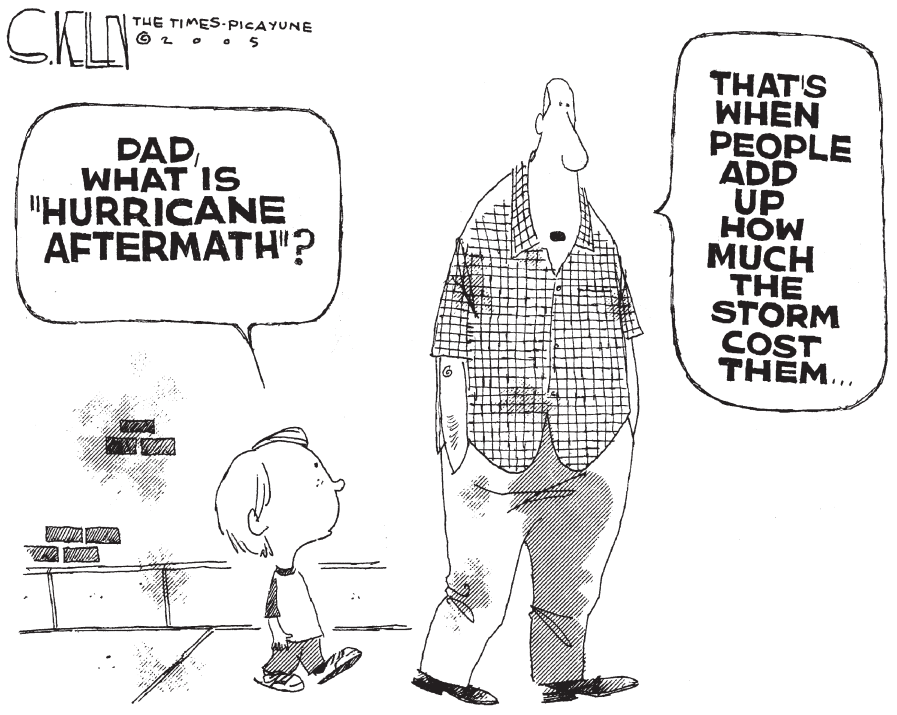
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# YOUR OPINIONS




STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Michael Harb of Mandeville walks down Lakeshore Drive on Sept. 24 in the high water from Hurricane Rita.

## Mandeville knocked flat

The one-two punch this hurricane season has highlighted the fact that for some time, Old Mandeville has been stalled at a crossroads.

Each year several tropical events assault the city, causing flooding and property damage.

Each year this taxes the bank accounts and tries the patience of homeowners and business investors alike. But we count the costs, make our claims, clean up debris and move on.

But this year came Katrina, the big one we hoped never to see. Even with a protection levee and floodgates, we would have lost our beautiful canopy of trees and suffered heavy flooding. However, far fewer homes and businesses would have been battered with catastrophic losses. With levee protection and floodgates Rita would have been far less intimidating: just a breezy day with rain, a respite from September's withering heat.

We must think creatively and consider a levee and floodgates. This hard reality stares us in the face up and down these now-tragic streets in this once-lovely old town.

Can we allow this historic old city to become a town on stilts and the beautiful lakefront a condo row as our historic buildings become too expensive to insure and regularly repair?

In the aftermath of all calamities, opportunities abound. Do we have the foresight to seize ours?

**Ren and Nancy Clark**
*Mandeville*

## 9/11, Katrina don't compare

Is anyone else sick of hearing about former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and what a great leader he is and how he should be sent to Louisiana to lead us out of the Katrina debacle?

OK, he was a great cheerleader after 9/11 in New York, but may I remind everyone that Giuliani was able to go home to a comfortable chair and sip on martinis every night after the crisis? That he was able to depend on functional police and fire departments whose members had comfortable precinct houses and personal homes to retreat to?

He was also able to pick up a phone and communicate with city and federal leaders without hearing the constant "beep-beep-beep" of a communication system in complete disarray.

To compare Giuliani's success in leadership to the failure of any local official, including New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco, is to have an unrealistic understanding of what happened in New Orleans.

**Jerry King**
*Gretna*

## Pump operators needed in Jefferson

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard and emergency management chief Walter Maestri created an emergency plan that included evacuating the only parish employees capable of operating our pumping stations to a "bunker" 60 miles away among countless north shore pines.

On the afternoon of the storm, Mr. Broussard told the media that he was on his way to round up a few parish mechanics "to see if they could figure this thing out." Although I am confident these individuals gave a heroic effort in their attempt to save our homes, they simply were not trained to operate these stations. Evidence of this is the fact that it was not until Tuesday (the day after Katrina) at 8 p.m. that the Kenner/St. Charles pumping station began to operate — far too late to save countless homes, especially in East Jefferson.

I agree with Broussard when he says he wouldn't risk the lives of the pumping station operators, but does that require shipping them to the north shore? Couldn't they have gone to a building in the parish, such as one of the public hospitals? If buildings such as East and West Jefferson hospitals perish in any storm, we'll be worrying about more things than the pumping stations. Those are just two locations that I could think of after five minutes of contemplation. Broussard and Maestri had years to develop a plan that sent these vital individuals nearly out of the state.

When asked what was responsible for the flooding, Broussard said it was Katrina. But Katrina left rainfall amounts easily within the capabilities of our pumps, provided they were operating. Mr. Broussard's plan is responsible for the majority of this parish's devastation.

If it is our parish leaders' job to protect the property and lives of its parishioners, Mr. Broussard and Mr. Maestri have let us down.

**Chris Villanueva**
*Metairie*
*Now in Denver*

## Dredge the lake to rebuild wetlands

I am a native of New Orleans, and although I have lived in Baton Rouge for nearly 20 years, I always refer to New Orleans as my home because I love it dearly.

I'm no expert on environmental engineering, but since "experts" have failed to protect New Orleans, I might as well offer a suggestion for rebuilding the wetlands and raising the city:

We should dredge Lake Pontchartrain and use the soil to recover the wetlands and barrier islands and also to raise the levees and flood-prone areas of the city that will probably have to be bulldozed now. Since the lake has shown a surprising ability to recover from man's mistreatment, such as decades of shell dredging, the environmental damage would not be permanent.

Again, I'm no expert. But it does seem like a cheap, simple way to accomplish on our own what our national leaders seem unwilling to do.

Also, as a subscriber to The Times-Picayune, I want to say thank you so very much for continuing to publish. I was profoundly happy when I found a copy of the paper delivered to my doorstep not long after the Katrina catastrophe. That first issue was small and to the point and has since undergone its own rebuilding. I have no doubt that the city I love will come back as well.

**Russell Vaughan**
*Baton Rouge*

## An ex-communicator

In the column "Talking to each other would be a nice start," Stephanie Grace cites a lack of communication between New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and the New Orleans City Council as an impediment to progress in the city. I have noticed a common change that takes place when people become politicians. They seem to lose their common sense and logic.

Ray Nagin was general manager of Cox Communications before he was elected mayor. When he became Mayor Nagin, he forgot the value of and need for communication.

How does that happen to people?

**Greg duTreil**
*Kenner*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# OUR OPINIONS

## Casting stones

Good-hearted people from across the world are grieving for those of us in Louisiana and along the Gulf Coast who have lost so much in the past month.

Any other reaction is hard to fathom given the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Yet there are those who are trying to blame the victims of this terrible force of nature. What sort of person would do that? Who could be so callous?

State Sen. Hank Erwin of Montevallo, Ala., for one. "New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast have always been known for gambling, sin and wickedness," he wrote in a weekly column he distributes to media outlets. "It is the kind of behavior that ultimately brings the judgment of God."

The innocent, he said, unfortunately were caught up with the guilty. But they would have survived if they had only heeded the warnings of "godly evangelists and preachers," he said.

It is bad enough that an elected official two states away would say something so ignorant. Sadly, though, the Kenner priest who gave the invocation at the New Orleans City Council meeting Tuesday offered similar sentiments.

As Monsignor Robert Guste of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Kenner talked about the sins of the metro area — from gambling to Mardi Gras to the Southern Decadence festival — people in the audience groaned.

There is a talent in knowing your audience. But the truth is, these comments by Sen. Erwin and Father Guste have no proper place in a time of such tragedy and loss.

Each man talks as if he is that most difficult of all creatures to find: one who is without transgression.

William Willimon, bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, had something to say about that: "I expect there is as much sin, of possibly a different order, in Montevallo as on the Gulf Coast.

"If God punished all of us for our sin, who could stand?" he asked.

Amen to that.

## Build them better

Homesick New Orleanians can think of many things they want to have back exactly as they were before Hurricane Katrina flooded the metro area: their favorite restaurant; the canopy of live oaks on St. Charles Avenue, Mardi Gras, their homes. One thing that surely isn't on the list, though, is the area's levee system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has appointed a task force to restore the levees to their pre-Katrina state by June 1, 2006 — the start of hurricane season. But Katrina victims aren't likely to find that terribly reassuring, and state and local officials who are trying to rebuild from this disaster should loudly insist that the Corps work swiftly toward building a better system than the one that clearly was not good enough.

Engineers and other experts will determine exactly why the levees failed to hold back Lake Pontchartrain, and that information will be factored into repair work. But no matter what conclusions are drawn from their analysis, the fact remains that the levees were designed to protect New Orleans from a slow-moving Category 3 storm. Katrina was a Category 4 storm, and in the long run, we can't be satisfied with a levee system that isn't equal to what we just experienced.

That's the message New Orleans City Council members delivered at a meeting Tuesday. "Pre-Katrina is not going to work for us," said Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morrell. "We need to go one step above." The ultimate goal for the Corps and the metro area should be a levee system that keeps storm surge out of Lake Pontchartrain and away from populated areas.

New Orleanians who lost loved ones, homes, workplaces, schools, places of worship and their peace of mind to Katrina's waters need to feel safe again if they are to come back to rebuild this place. The levee system of the past isn't going to give them that comfort level. Attracting new investment and business to a place that now seems far riskier will be next to impossible if all the Corps can offer is protection from a lesser storm.

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock of the Corps told Congress Wednesday that it will take 24 to 30 months to design and plan a more advanced levee system and another five years to build a levee that can withstand a Category 5 storm. If so, the sooner the Corps gets started, the better.

New Orleans has been lucky for many, many years. Four decades passed between Hurricane Betsy and Hurricane Katrina. But that doesn't mean we're going to get another 40 years of breathing room. We are in a far more active weather cycle, experts say, and it's bringing stronger storms and more of them. This year is not an anomaly: 2004 and 2003 were very active, very destructive seasons, too.

Just two weeks ago, President Bush stood in Jackson Square and talked boldly about the future of New Orleans. "We will not just rebuild," he said, "we will rebuild higher and better."

The metro New Orleans area takes the president at his word, and higher and better is exactly what we want to see for our new flood protection system. If we fail to build that system better, all other efforts being poured into rebuilding New Orleans could very well be washed away by another Katrina.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# You may not know what you think you know



CAL THOMAS

What do you "know" about the recent hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast, and how did you come by the information?

If your knowledge was acquired from watching the broadcast and cable networks, as it was for most people, you "know" only what their reporters and anchors told you. What they told you initially was that as many as 10,000 people probably died in New Orleans after the city was hit by Hurricane Katrina. They also reported on roving gangs who looted and terrorized survivors. And they claimed people were being raped in a darkened Superdome due to lack of security.

You also "know" that emergency relief efforts were either nonexistent or ineffective and that it was the federal government that was largely responsible because it is incompetent and its white leaders don't like poor black people.

President Bush's approval ratings are at a record low due, in part, to the public's disapproval of how the media characterized his performance in the aftermath of Katrina and the largely unrebutted assault by some Democrats who engaged in political opportunism.

Cable TV reporters and anchors made their own kind of news by screaming for help and accusing the government of not sending any. Some newspapers lauded them for becoming involved in their stories and for demonstrating a moral conscience.

Weeks after these "facts" have been deeply implanted in the public consciousness, we are now learning that much of what we "know" is incorrect.

On Monday, The Times-Picayune reported the body count numbers had been inflated. The paper also described the reported sniper attacks on civilians and fire and rescue personnel as some of the "scores of examples of myths about the (Super)dome and the Convention Center treated as fact by evacuees, the media and even some of New Orleans' top officials."

Ten bodies were recovered from the Superdome and four from the Convention Center, according to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and among the 841 storm-related deaths recorded up to that point, just four were identified as gunshot victims. National Guard spokesman Major Ed Bush was inside the Superdome and told the Los Angeles Times, "What I saw in the Superdome was just tremendous amounts of people helping people." He noted that most of those stories never made it into the newspapers or on TV.

It is dangerous in chaotic situations for journalists to accept as truth accounts of distressed "witnesses" who repeat rumors as if they have actually seen what they describe.

The mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, didn't help when he told Oprah Winfrey's vast TV audience about people "in that frickin' Superdome for five days watching dead bodies, watching hooligans killing people, raping people." Police Chief Eddie Compass told Oprah about "little babies getting raped" at the Superdome. Not true, but it made a riveting story and the public rewarded cable networks with high ratings.

A Los Angeles Times story Tuesday on the media's failure to report truthfully and accurately noted that journalists blame the breakdown of telephone service for the inaccuracies and says that race may also have been a factor.

Bad telephone service is not a sufficient excuse for putting anything and everything on the air without fact-checking. Waiting until you can get it right is always preferable to whatever ratings advantage one gets from allowing the journalistic equivalent of polluted water to pour into the public mind. The media should have acted as a levee in keeping out the bad stuff, but in too many cases it failed to do so.

Journalists like stories about the black poor because it allows them to beat up on a supposedly "uncaring" Republican administration, though they mostly seem to ignore such people when a Democrat is in the White House.

Few white reporters want to question or imply anything negative when it comes from a poor black person for fear they might be tarred with the "racist" label. It didn't help that some of New Orleans' top officials confirmed many of the accounts of lawlessness. But did they "know" these things, or were they repeating rumors? Did journalists bother to ask them, or was the story too good to be hurt by facts?

The Los Angeles Times story noted, "The media inaccuracies had consequences in the disaster zone." They also had unwarranted consequences on the president's approval ratings and may have caused Congress to throw too much money at the recovery effort without sufficient accountability.

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Cal Thomas is a Tribune Media Services columnist.




NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Eddie Compass makes his way around Giants Stadium prior to the start of the Saints-Giants game Sept. 20. Compass, who was at the game for the coin toss, resigned Tuesday as superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department.

# Compass is out, but No.1 fan still adores him



JAMES GILL

No matter what, there is one person who will always believe Eddie Compass is just the most wonderful guy in the world.

When Compass announced his resignation as police chief, his No. 1 fan was on hand to remind us that we were losing a paragon.

That fan is always on hand, being none other than Compass himself, who observed, "In the life of every leader the time comes to reflect on his life, and I'm very, very thankful God gave me the wisdom and discernment to make tough decisions."

The toughest decision that ever faces Compass is which of his many alleged virtues to brag about first. God failed to give him the wisdom and discernment to hold his vainglorious tongue.

His predecessor, Richard Pennington, was a phlegmatic soul who left it to others to praise the huge improvements he wrought. Nobody praises the police department these days, but Compass is too much in love with himself to require any support.

"When you look at my résumé, I stack up against anybody in the country," Compass claimed a couple of years ago. He characterized himself as "a free spirit, a wild bronco." You got the wrong equine, chief. Everyone else is thinking jackass.

While Compass was preening himself on his résumé, and his heroic status as a force of nature, a lot of other wild men got busy, pushing the city's murder rate, greatly moderated under Pennington, back to the top of the league. Compass, however, remained proof against self-doubt.

Katrina couldn't shake his confidence either, and he was soon heaping bouquets on himself again. "I'm still standing. I'm the ultimate warrior. I'm going to be the last person to leave the battlefield," he declared a couple of weeks ago, while most of his officers quietly went about their duties in the most appalling conditions.

Not all of them, however; 249 were insufficiently inspired by their great leader to show up for duty. Some of those who did were caught by TV cameras looting.

Compass himself was hard to find in the beginning, but finally emerged from Mayor Ray Nagin's quarters in the Hyatt Hotel to hog the television cameras blubbering and peddling misinformation. He was under great strain, but it was still a little embarrassing to see a wild bronco sobbing its little heart out.

His performances made him popular with TV interviewers, but what the city needed was a police chief who could stay on an even keel. Compass has criticized Pennington for his distant manner, but, in times of crisis, we'll take the cold fish over the hysterical rumormonger every time.

In the end our ultimate warrior left the battlefield so suddenly that he did not even give a heads-up to the officers he left behind. Since Compass had just held a powwow with Nagin, it seemed obvious that he had been given the heave-ho. Only three weeks ago he said he wanted to be police chief so long as Nagin would have him.

Nagin said Compass left of his own accord, although he also said that this was a sad day for the city and Compass was a hero, so maybe he was giving himself a little license. Several police officers said Compass told them he had been forced out. They added that he was weeping at the time, so their accounts had the ring of truth.

Nagin continues to deny firing Compass, but this would have been a most unpropitious time for Compass to capitulate. It would have been out of character too, if, as Compass' supporters aver, he cares deeply for the welfare of the city.

Whatever his concerns for the city, there is no doubt that Compass cares deeply about the kind of figure he cuts. It is impossible to believe that he would up and depart of his own accord in the middle of a crisis, if only because he would not care to be remembered as a blowhard and a quitter.

Of course, being asked to resign is not exactly a feather in the cap either. We can only hope that Compass' self-esteem is not seriously damaged.

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James Gill is a staff writer. He can be reached at (318) 346-6353 or at gilljames@bellsouth.net.



JARVIS DEBERRY

# Wake up and smell home

Robert Muir had gone through a lot by the time he made it to the Astrodome. He'd been on a rooftop in his community of St. Bernard. He'd been on a confiscated school bus that was pulled over by deputies in or around Baton Rouge. He'd lost his trailer home and his dentures, and he'd been separated from a man named Leslie Creek who asked Muir to hold his wallet before going off to help an elderly man struggling with a boat.

But Muir didn't complain about all that. What he did complain about were the days he went without coffee.

How could anybody expect him to endure that silently?

Generally speaking, the New Orleans area is a carefree place. We don't take ourselves all that seriously. But there are some things we'll fight you over if you don't do them right. They include gumbo, jazz, parades and, yes, coffee.

Some outsiders might think Muir a malcontent — many of us have probably come across that way since our displacement — but he deserves credit for turning aggravation into accomplishment. He set out from the Astrodome in search of his beloved Community Coffee. When he found some at the Fiesta Mart, he refused to keep such a treasure to himself.

He bought a small coffee maker and started serving it up to fellow evacuees. Gratis.

"I wasn't about to buy it just for myself," he said from a phone in Corpus Christi. Muir paid out of his pocket for the coffee and the equipment he used to make it. He was able to do that because he still had an active bank account from an earlier stint in Texas. So unlike others who had been brought to the sports arena on buses, he had access to his money.

It's also obvious that he had a generosity of spirit. It took him about $40 a day when he first started brewing with the residential machine, but the long line of people thirsty for a taste of home compelled him to buy larger and spend more. He bought a commercial machine that could output coffee at three times the rate of the old machine. Soon, he was serving 525 cups a day and spending more than $82 a day to do so.

He told me about one of his first "customers." She told him that the smell of coffee had awakened her. "Smells delicious." She sipped. "Oh, my God. Community Coffee."

When he talked about it Wednesday, Muir sounded like he was still beaming over the woman's reaction. "It was beautiful, you know?"

He was also boasting.

"When I first started, we weren't getting any coffee at all." But then the "Red Cross started serving coffee in the morning. People weren't getting their coffee. They were coming for mine. That made me feel even better."

He refused money.

"Twice, somebody put a tip jar up," he said, but he got rid of it. "I wasn't doing it for money, you know what I mean?"

He did it "because we all had one thing behind our name: survivor. We was all family."

Muir's lasting regret is that he hasn't been able to find Creek, the man whose wallet he accepted in St. Bernard. They had planned to meet in Houston, but Muir never found him in or around the Astrodome. Muir's not in Houston anymore, but he said he left Creek's wallet behind at "property holding" at the arena.

He left Houston because of Hurricane Rita's threat. As the storm drew closer to the Texas coast, large numbers of Louisiana evacuees left Houston heading north. Muir headed south to Corpus Christi, where he had lived before.

He claims the poor quality of the coffee in Arkansas factored into his decision. According to Muir, that state's brew is so weak you can pour it in a clear glass and read a newspaper through it. Why, it's worse than California's coffee. After contemplating the severity of that insult, he rethought the comparison. Arkansas coffee isn't worse, but "It's about as bad."

And for a 66-year-old with strong ties to New Orleans, that's just not acceptable.

He's adamant. "I'm too old to drink coffee like tea."

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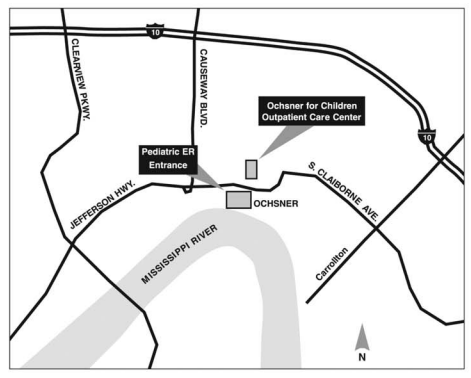
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Opening Oct. 3

# All those in favor of new emergency care for kids say "O"!

## "O" for the new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service in New Orleans

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service was designed to be just what your child would need if he or she needed urgent medical help. We considered the kind of things parents like you would want – state-of-the-art equipment sized just to fit kids, a staff of pediatric emergency specialists, 7-day-a-week service, an intensive care unit, and a 24-hour emergency transport service – and we made sure we have those things all in one friendly and convenient setting. Best of all, this service is from Ochsner, where family-focused care is at the heart of all we do. So when your child needs emergency care, Ochsner is the place to go.




The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is located in the Ochsner Emergency Room at 1514 Jefferson Highway.
And for routine pediatric appointments, call **1-504-842-3900.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is just one of the many initiatives Ochsner is taking to make an ongoing difference in communities in and around New Orleans. To find out more, visit www.ochsner.org

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The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C
*Friday, September 30, 2005*

# Horn focused on sub-par play

## *Saints receiver looking to rebound from last game*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — No one is more disappointed and frustrated by Sunday's performance against the Minnesota Vikings than Saints wide receiver Joe Horn.

One catch for 11 yards, this coming six days after grabbing seven passes for 143 yards and one touchdown in primetime against the New York Giants.

**SAINTS vs. BILLS**
noon Sunday
at San Antonio
**TV/Radio:** Fox; 870-AM

Only twice before, in five-plus seasons with New Orleans, has Horn caught as few as one pass in a game (against Minnesota in 2001 and Tennessee in '03.

"I gotta give credit to Minnesota," Horn said Thursday sitting in front of his locker at the Alamodome. "Regardless if I had eight balls or two balls thrown to me, they found a way to stop me. Yeah, they blitzed us and I saw double teams, so what? We saw it in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and last year and we found ways to beat it."

Horn paused to check an incoming text message on his cell phone, and smiled.

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-2*

# Saints fail to sell out Alamodome

## *But league gives team a break on TV rules*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints fell 10,800 tickets short of their goal of selling out their Alamodome debut against the Buffalo Bills by Thursday at noon.

The deadline became a moot point Thursday when the NFL announced that local television blackout rules would not apply to the three Saints games played in San Antonio this year.

Nevertheless, there was a mixture of disappointment and pride after a whirlwind two weeks of marketing and sales efforts reached the initial deadline.

"I was hopeful it would be a sellout," San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger said Thursday afternoon.

*See* **SAN ANTONIO,** *C-2*

# DISTANT CONNECTION




PHOTOS BY CARRIE ROSEMA/THE PRESS ENTERPRISE

After playing quarterback for several years at Kennedy High School in New Orleans, Melvin Lee, left, is learning how to play running back and defensive back for Temecula Valley High School in California.

## *Kennedy High teammates and cousins, Melvin Lee and Courtney Smith, are adjusting to new schools, new teams and being separated*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

It was a night to remember, even though the victory didn't count.

A New Orleans public school, Kennedy High, defeated private school and Catholic League member, Brother Martin, in the Tad Gormley Jamboree. The victory — public over private — was a rare event in New Orleans, even though it came in a contest that, in reality, was no more than a glorified scrimmage.

But don't tell that to seniors Melvin Lee and Courtney Smith, cousins and starters for Kennedy in the game. That night, Lee, Kennedy's quarterback, and Smith, a wide receiver, felt like rulers of the local prep football scene.

Two days later, they were chased from their homes and school by Hurricane Katrina.

The cousins, who say they're as close as

*See* **KENNEDY,** *C-4*




Kennedy High School quarterback Melvin Lee, right, accepts donated clothes at the Let's Get Personal store in Temecula Valley, Calif., after he evacuated New Orleans with limited supplies.

# Miles on very short leash with LSU fans



PETER FINNEY

No sooner had Tennessee running back Gerald Riggs bulled into the end zone with the winning points Monday night in Tiger Stadium, there was a new Web site: firelsucoaches.com.

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Les Miles.

In the wee hours of Tuesday, fans were busy flooding the LSU message boards.

12:51 a.m.: "I never thought I'd be afraid of Vandy."

1:13 a.m.: "What's the date of the Independence Bowl?"

2:17 a.m.: "There are some positive things about Miles. He can coach his baby to sing the fight song."

7:51 a.m.: "I think I just saw one of our DBs running around my neighborhood. He said he was in a soft zone, playing 15 yards off the ball."

On and on it went.

Was this the shortest honeymoon in NCAA history, shorter than the one Ron Zook had in Gainesville, Fla.?

I guess it happens when this happens: In your first home

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU's defense is having a difficult time transferring coordinator Bo Pelini's schemes from the practice field to games.

# Tigers confident defense will improve

## *Frustrated players working to grasp Pelini's system*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU players used a number of buzzwords to try to explain the team's defensive troubles in Monday night's 30-27 overtime loss to Tennessee.

Missed keys, poor alignments, breakdowns. A favorite explanation was communication, or lack thereof.

**LSU at MISS. STATE**
1:30 p.m. Saturday
**Radio:** 870-AM

But senior defensive tackle Kyle Williams had his own terminology. Williams was fuming after the game, calling the loss during which the Tigers blew a 21-0 halftime lead, "a freaking joke." On Wednesday, there was some leftover emotion with the added perspective of having graded the game tape.

"We had an opportunity to put a good football team away," he said. "We couldn't get anything going, on either side of the ball in the second half. We got

*See* **LSU,** *C-3*

# Reed says Hornets can be quite a story

By Jimmy Smith
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — While conceding there are many more important issues to deal with as the Crescent City and the Gulf Coast recovers from Hurricane Katrina, Willis Reed says he believes Hornets fans will continue to embrace the team, despite its likely yearlong absence from New Orleans.

And Reed, the team's vice president of basketball operations, said the team might pick up a few fans from other parts of the world, as well.

"This is a story," Reed, a native of Bernice, La., said Thursday as he and former NBA players Artis Gilmore, Bob Love and Dan Roundfield toured three evacuation centers in the area, bringing supplies and good cheer to those still displaced.

"The Hornets will be a story behind the story. You can talk about Chris Paul or J.R. Smith or P.J. Brown or Byron Scott and the team, or Mr. (George) Shinn. But the fact that we were part of a tragic situation, the most devastating natural disaster ever to happen to America in our lifetime, for sure, it will make a lot of people have some sympathy for us.

"There are a lot of people who know about the Hornets now that probably never knew about them before. Or people who never knew about the state of Louisiana. Or New Orleans and Metairie, and Kenner and the 9th Ward."

Last week, the NBA announced that the Hornets, whose home at New Orleans Arena was damaged by Katrina's floodwaters, would play 35 home games at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City and six at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at LSU.

There's a slim possibility that three games scheduled in Baton Rouge toward the end of the season could be played back in the Arena, if it, and the rest of the city, are prepared to host NBA teams.

But Gilmore said where the Hornets play this season is insignificant.

"The overall situation here is very difficult," Gilmore said. "First of all, the concern is for the people of New Orleans. The Hornets are concerned. But the priorities are to the people just trying to reestablish themselves as citizens of the community.

"And I think those thoughts are certainly in focus. That's something that will take time. This is a very uncomfortable situation for the Hornets and even for the Saints, who are already out of the city. But when the Hornets come back, I'm sure the fans will be back, too."

Reed, who was in the New York Knicks' front office at the time of the 9/11 terrorists attacks, said the scope of the tragedy in New Orleans is far greater.

"Our fans are getting their lives back in order, trying to do things with their homes. This has just been a major catastrophe," Reed said. "When 9/11 occurred, there was a loss of a lot of lives and very devastating. But it was in a little area, and the rest of the world went on. But you look at how much water consumed so many people's property, personal items, things they'll never see again.

"We want to come back. Anything we can do to help lift the spirits of the fans and the people in Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, we'll try to do it."

# Ready or not, Bullocks to get first start

*Saints rookie to move in for injured Bellamy at safety against Bills*

By Mike Triplett and Brian Allee-Walsh
Staff writers

SAN ANTONIO — Before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury last Sunday, Saints safety Jay Bellamy had started 122 consecutive games in the NFL.

This Sunday, Saints rookie Josh Bullocks will start his streak at one.

Bullocks, a second-round draft pick from Nebraska, will replace Bellamy in the starting lineup. What the 6-foot-1, 207-pounder lacks in experience, the Saints are hoping he can make up for in pure natural ability.

"It's a very exciting opportunity. It's just sad it had to turn out the way it did. But I've got to be prepared," said Bullocks, who spouted off the old football cliche' about being ready at all times because you never know when your turn will come.

It didn't take long for that to ring true for Bullocks, who left Nebraska after his junior season with 13 career interceptions — second in school history.

Bullocks dazzled the coaches early this past offseason and seemed to possibly be pushing Bellamy for his starting job. But Bullocks took a step back in training camp, a little overloaded with the dizzying amounts of installations.

"Training camp was just a lot of stuff thrown at you," Bullocks said. "Learning the system as you go on, there's going to be little kinks and adjustments. It's a lot more detail in training camp.

"Once training camp really got going for me, like midway, that's when things really started to click for me."

Bullocks said the biggest difference between college and the NFL is that, in college, you had time limitations set by the NCAA for things like film study and school work. Now, football is a full-time job.

It's "all you do."

The other major difference for Bullocks is that he is not playing alongside his twin brother, Daniel, a senior safety with the Cornhuskers. The two of them had never been apart in their football careers.

Bullocks will line up at free safety Sunday against the Buffalo Bills, with veteran Dwight Smith moving over to Bellamy's strong safety spot.

Smith, a first-year Saint who signed in free agency, said he doesn't expect to play the role of supervisor on the field.

"No, I'm looking for him to help me out," Smith said. "We've both played the same amount of games here in New Orleans. That rookie stuff, all that went out the door in training camp.

"He looks good to me. He's well on pace to be a great player in this league. Sometimes you get pushed into that role a little earlier than you thought. But in this league, you're always one play away."

# Horn ready to shed mistakes

SAINTS, *from C-1*

"Now where was I? Oh yeah, you can make all the excuses you want," he said. "Hey, I lined up in the wrong spot a couple of times. Those were mental mistakes on my part. And we got down by 24 points, but I'm a receiver and I want the rock. Deuce (McAllister) wants it, Donte' (Stallworth) wants it, we all want it. One frickin' ball, so yeah I'm pissed."

Horn did not practice Thursday for a second consecutive day because of an injured left hamstring and remains questionable for Sunday's "home" opener against the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome.

But Horn is not expected to miss the game. The four-time Pro Bowler has proven to be an iron man since signing with the Saints a free agent in 2000, playing in all but one regular-season game of a possible 93.

"He usually shows up,'' Saints coach Jim Haslett said.

Horn said he anticipated the Bills and future opponents would employ a similar defensive strategy against him and Stallworth, who had no catches against the Vikings after catching eight for 141 yards against the Giants.

"Teams blitz Michael Vick a lot, so I'd be stupid to think that teams wouldn't treat Aaron (Brooks) the same, especially when they see how much success Minnesota had," Horn said. "Of course, we're trying to put a plug in that. We want to invite teams to blitz us so we can beat it."

The Vikings were successful getting to Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks with a variety of blitzes and playing cover 2 in the secondary.

"They rolled up their coverage to Joe and tried to take him out of the game and they stopped our running game," Haslett said. "We didn't make enough attempts to get the ball to Joe or Donte'. The week before they had 18 catches for almost 300 yards. Last week they had one catch, so obviously we didn't do a good enough job. We got to get Joe the ball early and get him in the swing of things."

"Maybe it was the defensive scheme,'' Horn said. "They seemed to know what down I was getting the ball on. They blitzed a lot on third down. Aaron got pressure that we didn't think he'd get. So if Aaron was supposed to get me the ball or Donte' the ball or whoever, he would have to be real quick with his decision making. It was a great defensive game plan, and remember they were playing with a lead."

Horn said he feels no different than other elite NFL receivers when it comes to his role in a game plan each week.

"I want the ball 20 times a game," he said. "I want the ball like T.O. and the rest of those guys. But I also know that our offense is built on the running game and we catch balls off play action. Against Minnesota, we didn't play our parts. But I'm always frustrated when I don't get the ball. That doesn't change."

Horn said he was particularly frustrated for Saints fans everywhere who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and he encouraged them to keep the faith during these difficult times.

"I don't have to tell Saints fans to stay with us because they are going to love us regardless," he said. "But wherever they are, I want them to know we care about them and we'll never forget what happened. We'll carry them on our back each game. But just because we lose a game doesn't mean we don't love them or that we don't care about their situations. I want them to know that wherever they are.

"It's our responsibility as men and players to carry their burden. This is a job but it's still a game and it's supposed to be fun. We're doing stuff we'd do even if we weren't getting paid for it, so why not carry their burden? Katrina has put things in perspective."

Although the Saints' have been forced to move their base of operations to San Antonio and Katrina wreaked havoc with their schedule, Horn said there is no excuse for the way the team has played the past two weeks.

After all, this is the same team that upset the Carolina Panthers on the road in the season opener.

"I think the team that played against Carolina is going to show up Sunday against Buffalo," Horn said. "That team came out with an attitude and spunk. We all want to win around here. If I felt like guys have slacked off or acted like they don't want to play, I'd tell you that. I may get scolded for it and Has might fine me but I'm going to say what I feel. This football team is preparing the right way. We're 1-2 but we got a lot of football left to play. Don't count us out yet. Be sure of that.

# TV rules won't apply in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, *from C-1*

"But I was not really disappointed, because I thought that was a very difficult thing to do. There was very little advertisement of this. It's something that we had a very short lead time in. It wasn't as if the people of San Antonio had known all year, like they would if you had a team here, that these games were going to be here.

"Just the marketing and selling of those tickets in a very short time, I actually think they did a pretty good job."

Several local businesses had discussed guaranteeing the remaining tickets in order to avoid the television blackout. But that became unnecessary with the league's announcement.

The remaining tickets are still available, and the game might sell out by Sunday's noon kickoff. Also, the Saints' Oct. 16 game against the more-marketable Atlanta Falcons is fewer than 5,000 tickets away from being sold out.

But expectations were high that the Bills game would sell out more quickly when more than 50,000 tickets were sold the day they went on sale two weeks ago for the three dates in San Antonio this season.

That number rose to 100,000 by the end of the first week before ticket sales slowed. Early technical difficulties and last week's arrival of Hurricane Rita certainly didn't help.

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**WHITE SOX CLINCH AL CENTRAL:** Paul Konerko homered to back Freddy Garcia and lead the White Sox over the Detroit Tigers 4-2 on Thursday in Detroit for Chicago's first AL Central title since 2000. Chicago built a 15-game lead in the division on Aug. 1, then saw it dwindle to 1½ games as Cleveland closed. The White Sox survived a shaky ninth inning to win their AL-best 96th game and will start the playoffs at home next week.

**PADRES WRAP UP NL WEST:** The San Diego Padres clinched the fourth division crown in their 37-year history with a 9-1 win over the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night and will return to the postseason for the first time since being swept in the 1998 World Series by the New York Yankees.

**REDS EXTEND NARRON'S CONTRACT:** Cincinnati extended the contract of Manager Jerry Narron another year through the 2006 season with a mutual option for 2007. Narron began the season as the Reds bench coach and was appointed interim manager when Dave Miley was fired June 21 after the team's 27-43 start. Cincinnati is 46-43 under Narron.

**RED SOX ACQUIRE STANTON:** Boston acquired left-hander Mike Stanton from the Washington Nationals for right-handers Rhys Taylor and Yader Peralta. If the Red Sox advance to the playoffs, Stanton would not be eligible for the postseason roster.

## NFL

**RAMS SIGN THIRD-ROUND PICK:** Three weeks into the season and more than five months after the draft, Richie Incognito became the last player picked to sign when he agreed to a four-year contract with St. Louis. Incognito, a guard from Nebraska, was the second of the Rams' two third-round picks, and the 81st overall pick.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**GATORS DB SIDELINED:** Florida defensive back Nick Brooks had surgery to repair cartilage damage in his left knee and will miss at least four weeks. Brooks, a 6-foot, 197-pound junior, had played in all four games this season. He had five tackles, including a sack in the opener against Wyoming.

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SCORES

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Thursday's games**
Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 0
Colorado at New York
Chicago at Houston
San Francisco at San Diego
Arizona at Los Angeles

**Wednesday's games**
Pittsburgh 3, Chicago 2
Colorado 10, Atlanta 5
Washington 11, Florida 7
Philadelphia 16, New York 6
Cincinnati 11, Milwaukee 4
Houston 7, St. Louis 6
San Diego 9, San Francisco 1
Arizona 4, Los Angeles 3

**Today's games**
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 6:05 p.m.
Colorado at New York, 6:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Florida, 6:35 p.m.
Chicago at Houston, 7:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 7:10 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Diego, 9:05 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 9:15 p.m.

**Saturday's games**
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago at Houston, 3:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 3:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Florida, 5:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.
Colorado at New York, 6:10 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Diego, 9:05 p.m.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Thursday's games**
Chicago 4, Detroit 2
Los Angeles 7, Oakland 1
Texas at Seattle
Toronto at Boston
New York at Baltimore
Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Kansas City at Minnesota

**Wednesday's games**
Toronto 7, Boston 2
New York 2, Baltimore 1
Tampa Bay 1, Cleveland 0
Chicago 8, Detroit 2
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 3
Texas 7, Seattle 3
Oakland 6, Los Angeles 1

**Today's games**
New York at Boston, 6:05 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 6:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Toronto, 6:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:15 p.m.
Los Angeles at Texas, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 9:05 p.m.

**Saturday's games**
New York at Boston, 12:25 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 12:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Toronto, 3:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 5:15 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 6:10 p.m.
Los Angeles at Texas, 7:05 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 9:05 p.m.

# Miles can't escape comparisons to Saban

FINNEY, *from C-1*

game, you become the first LSU coach to blow a three-touchdown lead in Tiger Stadium.

If you went to Washington, D.C., and hired one of those spinmasters' to help the Les Miles cause, what would you be hearing?

Probably:

Didn't Nick Saban start out 2-2 in his first season?

Didn't he lose to Alabama-Birmingham, not to be confused with Alabama-Tuscaloosa?

Didn't Saban, in his third season, get drilled by Auburn, 31-7, on the road, and by Alabama, 31-0, in Tiger Stadium?

That same year, didn't his defense allow Arkansas to drive the length of the field in the final seconds to win, 21-20, and knock the Tigers out of the SEC title game?

Didn't Saban, in his final season, get drummed by Georgia, 45-16?

And, in his last game, didn't a defensive breakdown on the final play hand Iowa a 30-25 victory?

Sure, sure, sure.

But here's the rest of the story.

The team Nick Saban inherited from Gerry DiNardo in 2000 was not nearly as talent-wealthy as the one Les Miles inherited from Saban.

Yes, Saban did not have his team ready to play UAB in 2000 (when Josh Booty threw an interception that wasn't in the playbook).

Yes, Saban had poor preparation, and inspiration, for Auburn and for Bama in '02. Yes, he was roundly outcoached in the '04 loss to Georgia. And, yes, in the area Saban personally coached, the secondary, Corey Webster blew coverage big time in the loss to Arkansas, and Ronnie Prude did the same against Iowa.

Stuff happens.

But let's get something crystal clear.

When it came to winning BIG games, Saban was the best hire LSU has made since the championship seasons of Paul Dietzel, going back to the late '50s into the early '60s.

For comparison's sake, Saban was a more effective package as a coach than Bill Arnsparger because Saban, unlike Arnsparger, not only loved recruiting but enjoyed enormous success. Saban rebuilt the LSU program like no one had since Dietzel.

So what about Les Miles?

Say this: Les has miles and miles to go to approach what Saban achieved in the most highly competitive conference going.

You were reminded, once Monday night's 21-0 lead turned into a 30-27 defeat, it was not a first, that last year Miles' Oklahoma State Cowboys turned a 35-0 lead against Texas into a 56-35 loss.

There was a difference in the two turnarounds, however. Texas had far superior personnel, and when the 'Horns got rolling, they rolled. Personnel-wise, LSU and Tennessee are even. What happened in the second half on Monday is simple: Miles was outcoached.

After limiting the Vols to 17 rushing yards in the first half, after pressuring the quarterback, his defense had no answer to get the Vols off the field.

Meanwhile, LSU's offense was 1-for-7 in converting third downs.

"We lost our poise,'' explained Miles. You could translate that this way: "We did a lousy job adjusting to what they were doing."

Coaching is more than Xs-and-Os. It's also knowing your personnel. With only one game to work on, Monday night proved Miles is still learning.

Obviously, other than the head coach, no one is under the gun more than defensive coordinator Bo Pelini.

Unlike Saban, Miles' expertise is offense, making Pelini the key hire in a revamped staff. It came as no surprise, after Tennessee receivers ran free because of broken coverage, Pelini was being compared to Lou Tepper, the defensive coordinator whose schemes helped pave the way to Gerry DiNardo's departure.

Saban was ruthless in hiring assistants. And cutting them loose. He knew the buck stopped at his desk. He knew, even though he called a timeout in the '02 Arkansas game and told Corey Webster, "Stay back, keep the receiver in front of you," when Webster failed to do this, it was Saban's fault, not the player's.

Which takes you to the final seconds of halftime on Monday when the Tigers were knocking on the door, but without timeouts. Did the head coach tell his quarterback, JaMarcus Russell, "If you can't throw or run for a cinch touchdown, throw an incompletion so we can kick a field goal?"

Whatever happened, what Russell did - he was stopped on the five trying to run it in - put the burden on the head coach, not the quarterback. In this case, a heavy burden, a precious three points.

If, as they say, adversity builds character, we'll soon learn how Miles handles a short honeymoon, how he handles his staff, mostly how he handles players who'll be hearing, over and over how Saban would never have blown a 21-point lead, especially in Tiger Stadium.

"First Katrina, then Rita, now this," moaned one message. "Does somebody up there hate us?"

We'll see.

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# Heavy rotation in LSU secondary questioned

LSU, *from C-1*

complacent."

Complacency is a little harder to spot than an open receiver or a missed tackle, of which there were plenty, but all played a part. During halftime, the Tennessee offense went from a team that couldn't seem to throw or catch to one that chipped its way downfield with suddenly startling efficiency behind quarterback Rick Clausen.

Many critics want to blame new defensive coordinator Bo Pelini's scheme, especially after watching former LSU coach Nick Saban's complex sets dominate for the past few years. Pelini was not available for comment, but the players agree the Tigers simply aren't bringing it from the practice field to the games.

"Our scheme is sound. It just has to be executed the way it's supposed to be," Williams said. "They coach us to correct (breakdowns) in Arizona, and it was corrected, and we got back there and were playing not to lose. We were not attacking and getting after the guys to win, and it seems like everything broke down again.

"Whatever hand you're dealt, you have to learn to play it. What we did last year blitzing all the time, that's not going to be played all the time. You have to learn to play what you're taught to play and what your game plan is, no matter who the coaching staff is or who you're playing. These coaches know what they are doing, and they know how to beat football teams. They've all been to places where they've won a lot of games. And, because we're not handling our business in whatever phase, it looks bad defensively."

Said senior cornerback Ronnie Prude: "We still have confidence in what we're doing. If it's played right, the defense is going to be great."

So what happened?

First of all, the Tigers faced two Tennessee offenses Monday night.

In the first half, LSU shut down Tennessee's running game. And, when a rattled Vols quarterback Erik Ainge wasn't missing open receivers, they were dropping passes. That contributed a great deal to the Tigers' big halftime lead.

Clausen calmed things down and patiently worked the Vols down the field in the second half. On Tennessee's first touchdown drive, he completed six of seven passes, none of them longer than nine yards. He used the same type of short passing game that netted Arizona State 461 yards passing in the Tigers' first game.

At the same time, LSU was struggling with personnel.

Eleven defensive backs played, which put some on the field who were lacking in game experience. LSU coach Les Miles said he went into the game planning to play a lot of players. But, because so many players were having problems cramps, they had to continue shuttling players and using a variety of combinations.

"We got some cramps late in the game, especially in those skilled kids that were running all the time," Miles said. "They (Tennessee) had the ball 10 more minutes than we did in the second half. The defense was on the field a long time, and we wanted to give those guys some fresh legs when possible."

With so many new and inexperienced faces, there were bound to be breakdowns. On one play, Tennessee missed on an 87-yard touchdown only because wide-open Brett Smith had to make a diving catch of a Clausen pass. In the fourth quarter, Cory Anderson was running down the sideline all alone but dropped a sure touchdown pass.

"It's not that they shouldn't have been playing, but there were some people who get a lot of mental reps in practice instead of (actually) getting in practice and knowing the reps," said safety Jessie Daniels. "I have no doubt they knew what to do but it was a first time situation for them and they probably were nervous. They knew what to do, but, at the time, they didn't (do it) because they were so nervous. We can't blame (the loss) on that."

Miles said the lack of routine because of the hurricanes has slowed the team's overall development. Playing games 16 days apart made for ragged play Monday night, a game Miles said looked like a "rusty first game."

Miles also said he saw improvement in the secondary between the two games, despite the breakdowns. He said he doesn't anticipate using as many defensive backs Saturday at Mississippi State and said he has a better idea of which ones can play.

If there is a blessing in the shorter week, the players get a chance to make amends quicker and retain some of the lessons learned in defeat.

"We're very anxious to prove to everybody we've regained our confidence in the team we are," said Daniels. "If we keep playing like we're playing ,with less mistakes, we're going to win a lot of games."

# Horror story? UNO hoping to play some games on campus

## *Health & P.E. Center a strong possibility as site for basketball*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

It could be back to the future for UNO basketball.

The school's Human Performance Center, formerly the Health & P.E. Center and better known as The Chamber of Horrors during the early days of the program, is the likely home for the Privateers until hurricane-damaged Lakefront Arena can be repaired.

"The HPC wasn't damaged at all," UNO athletic director Jim Miller said Thursday. "And we were already renovating it before Katrina.

"It would be mostly a matter of installing the new floor, which had already been delivered. We're not counting out Lakefront Arena yet, but this is an exciting option for us."

The HPC was the original home of UNO basketball from 1969-83. The Privateers were 131-37 at home during those 14 seasons. It can seat about 2,000.

UNO men's coach Monte Towe applauded the idea of playing at the HPC.

"That's wonderful news," he said. "A lot of our tradition is right there in that building, and I think we could create a great atmosphere.

"The important thing is that we're back playing in New Orleans."

Both the men's and women's basketball teams have been relocated to the University of Texas at Tyler and will play their early non-conference games home games there.

Playing at either the HPC or Lakefront Arena is dependent on classes at UNO's main campus resuming for the spring semester in January.

School officials have said that is their intention but no definitive word has been given.

Miller said the Pontchartrain Center and Alario Center had been considered for the basketball teams if neither on-campus arena can be repaired, but the Pontchartrain Center did not have enough available dates, and the Alario Center is being used as a staging area for National Guard troops.

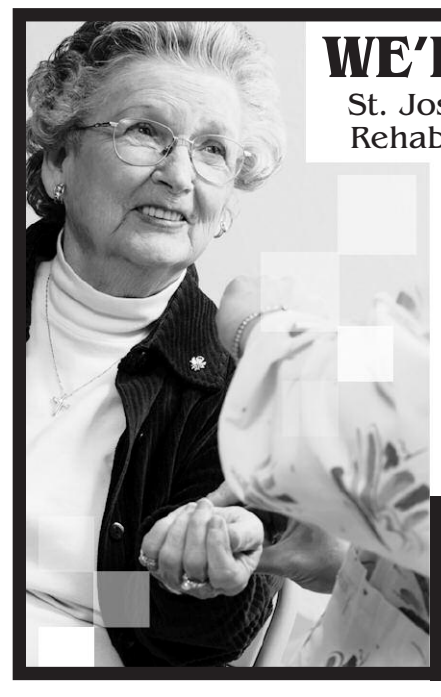
After a New Year's Eve game against Tulane, UNO's next home game would be Jan. 12 against Troy. The UNO women would play their first on-campus game Jan. 5 against North Texas.

One problem with returning to play at UNO could be the lack of available housing. Privateer Place, the primary residence for the teams, was heavily damaged during Katrina, but Miller said his information is that enough of the units could be repaired for the players and coaching staff to live there.

"It won't be perfect," he said. "But if things are put on a priority basis, we can accomplish want we want to do.

"Everybody wants answers on when we can do this or that. But it's impossible to put a deadline on things because there are changes daily."

Miller also said that, while Privateer Park suffered damage to the press box, fences and light poles, he believed repairs could be made in time for baseball season, which begins in late February.

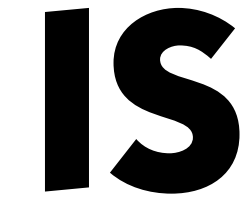
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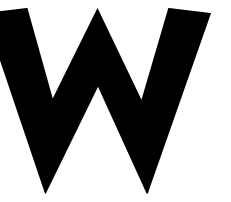
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# Storms produce matchup of Cats

By Lori Lyons
Staff writer

Normal.

In the wake of recent events that have turned many of our lives upside down, everyone is trying to get back there. In the River Parishes, at least, life is about as close to normal as it can be — except for the traffic. Most of our homes were only a little dented.

We have power, we have water, we even have cable.

And we have football.

For River Parishes football fans, the silver lining to the destruction hurricanes Katrina and Rita have wrought is the new and improved football schedule.

Local fans have been rewarded for their perseverance with a couple of extra all-River matchups like Hahnville vs. Lutcher and a double dose of Hahnville vs. East St. John.

This week's lineup is no exception. This week we get to see the undefeated St. James Wildcats take on the undefeated Destrehan Wildcats. We get to see undefeated St. Charles take on defending Class 2A state champion West St. John, which, unbelievably, is looking for its first win. And we get to see John Curtis start its season against its former quarterback Johnnie Thiel, who is now playing for East St. John.

Fans with good memories might recall a time when Destrehan and St. James played in the same district or even a time when both teams ran the wing-T. The last time these teams met was in 1996. St. James won 13-7.

Tonight they will meet in a Katrina-arranged pickup game. Both were scheduled to play Orleans Parish opponents. Destrehan is the fourth-ranked team in Class 5A. St. James is the No. 1 team in Class 3A.

Destrehan's multiple attack has defeated former district foes Thibodaux, Terrebonne and South Lafourche this season, allowing them a collective 21 points. St. James's wing-T has already rolled over 5A opponents Terrebonne and South Lafourche, plus 2A opponent Varnado. The Wildcats have outscored those opponents 117-19. This game has all the makings of a River Parishes classic, pulled out by one team in the end. The bigger, stronger Destrehan Wildcats should prevail.

**Destrehan 27, St. James 24.**

### THE OTHER PICKS

**East St. John 35, Curtis 20:** Curtis may be last year's Class 4A champion, but size-wise, it's a 2A team. And with more than a dozen football players missing the Patriots' first game of the season, they have holes. That doesn't bode well for any team going against the high-powered Wildcats.

**St. Charles 34, West St. John 20:** Granted, St. Charles isn't exactly playing the toughest schedule, but the Comets are pounding their opponents. The Rams struggled mightily against Riverside last week.

**Riverside 30, St. John 17:** The way he reverses field, Riverside running back Jarid Caesar ought to be given an extra 10 yards on every long run. He was unstoppable against West St. John last week. He'll likely be again in this one.

**Lutcher 20, Catholic-New Iberia 12:** Lutcher coach Tim Detiller fought as hard to find an opponent as his team did last week against Hahnville.

**Hahnville 27, Patterson 24:** Hahnville's offense needs to play better than it did against Lutcher. But the Tigers have a new weapon in Rummel transfer Robbie Broach.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Former John Curtis quarterback Johnny Theil is adapting well to East St. John's pass-oriented offense.

# Thiel eager to show Patriots why he left

By Lori Lyons
Staff writer

For Johnnie Thiel, choosing his most memorable game is difficult.

Last December, Thiel's sophomore season ended with his team winning the Class 4A state championship in the Superdome. Thiel, then the quarterback of the John Curtis Patriots, was chosen Most Outstanding Player after rushing for 77 yards on nine carries with one touchdown.

It was a game Thiel said he will never forget.

"That will always be special to me," he said.

But this season, Thiel is the quarterback of the East St. John Wildcats. And Sunday he completed nine of 12 passes for 225 yards and three touchdowns and ran for two more scores as East St. John defeated East Ascension 49-7. He said that might have been a little bit sweeter.

Thiel, a junior, decided in January to transfer from Curtis to East St. John.

"I felt like I wanted to come to a place where I could stand out more," said Thiel, who had attended Curtis since he was a third-grader. "At Curtis, we only threw the ball two or three times per game. I wanted to throw the ball more. (Curtis coach J.T. Curtis) just didn't want to change his style."

Tonight, Thiel is hoping he will get to show his former coach and teammates what he can do when East St. John hosts the Patriots at 7 p.m. at Joe Keller Stadium in Reserve. It is the third game and the final tune-up before District 5-5A play begins for East St. John, which missed seven days of school because of Hurricane Katrina. For Curtis, which resumed classes on Monday, it is the season-opener.

"I'm ready," Thiel said.

That's how Thiel said he felt last January when he decided to walk away from Curtis to transfer to the school that is walking distance from his house. He knew that Ryan Perrilloux, East St. John's quarterback last year, was graduating. Theil felt he had the arm to step into Perrilloux's spot. All he had to do was beat out heir apparent Ricky Dixon, Perrilloux's backup last season, who also is a stand-out wide receiver.

"I talked to Coach (Larry) Dauterive, and he told me, if I can produce, he would leave Ricky at receiver," Thiel said.

That's just how it worked out. Dixon, who ran for 333 yards and seven touchdowns last season, remained at receiver, and Thiel took over at quarterback.

Dauterive said Thiel's January transfer was fortuitous for both of them.

"It was very prudent that he did come when he did," Dauterive said. "He had to learn our offense, and it isn't very easy to learn. And Ricky is a better receiver. That's what he's going to go to college as."

Dauterive said he had some doubts about a quarterback coming from Curtis' veer offense to East St. John's wide-open passing attack. But Thiel is proving his worth. Against Hahnville, he completed his first three passes, a 70-yarder to Stanley Jackson, a 32-yarder

to Joshuelle Tuesno and a 30-yarder to Louis Lee. But he was 0-for-3 in the second half. Against East Ascension, he was 9-of-9 for 225 yards and three touchdowns in the first half. After going 0-for-3 in the second half, he was replaced by Dixon, who Dauterive said, "needed some reps."

"He's learning to pass," Dauterive said of Thiel. "He's real fun to coach. He's very shifty. He needs to work on his pitches on the option - which you wouldn't expect with him coming from Curtis. When you think about Curtis, you think option."

J.T. Curtis said he has no hard feelings toward Thiel.

"That's a decision he and his parents made," Curtis said. "Obviously, he did what he felt he needed to do. I hope he has a nice career. He's done a nice job so far. When I saw him play (for East St. John), he played real well."

# Family concerns weigh heavy

**KENNEDY,** *from C-1*

brothers, were split apart. Lee wound up in Temecula Valley, Calif., located north of San Diego. Smith is in Prattville, Ala., about 10 minutes north of Montgomery.

Both are enrolled in school and playing football but carry the burden of concern about their homes and family.

Smith doesn't know the whereabouts of his 7-year-old brother, Jonte, who fled Katrina with his father. Smith has yet to hear from them.

Smith and Lee say two things keep the anxiety they feel from overwhelming them — phone calls to each other and football.

Every night at 10 p.m. CST, they talk by phone. Lee and Smith talk about their families. They talk about what's going on back home. They talk about their new schools and teams. They talk about when they'll be reunited and play together again.

That, they say, will happen.

But the reunion will not happen any time soon. Since floodwaters decimated Kennedy and many other Orleans Parish schools, football season is canceled for this year.

### A new position in a new place

Melvin Lee doesn't want to make a fuss about it, but, judging by the tone of his voice, playing running back and defensive back isn't something he wanted, thought or dreamed he would be doing in his senior season.

Lee was Kennedy's quarterback for three years. But the move to California necessitated a move in position.

Lee, 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds, found the quarterback position occupied at Temecula Valley High School, his new school. But the need to play outweighed the need to be a quarterback. So, he accepted being a back-up running back and defensive back at his new school.

"This has been a big adjustment for me," he said.

But Lee said if he can survive Katrina, certainly, he can survive this.

Two days after the jamboree victory, as Katrina approached, Lee evacuated with a friend to Missouri City, Texas. He stayed there for about 10 days before he decided he wanted to go to high school again. He called his aunt, who lives in Temecula Valley, Calif. She enrolled him in school, told the counselors he wanted to play football and had him introduced to Temecula Valley coach Bud Kane.

It's taken Lee a while to get adjusted to playing running back and defensive back, but he thinks things will get better with time. He rushed for 36 yards on 10 carries and had four solo tackles and one assisted tackle on 10 defensive plays in Temecula Valley's 21-11 victory against Yucaipa last Friday.

"Eventually, he's going to be a starter for us at cornerback," Kane said. "He's a very good athlete."

Lee said he likes his new school and his new classmates. He's also made the adjustment from the party atmosphere of New Orleans to the laid-back ways of Southern California.

But Lee said he will always long for what could have been at Kennedy this season, not only in terms of football but the entire school year, his senior year.

"To me, there ain't nothing like Kennedy," he said. "There ain't nothing like my old school."

### A new game in a strange place

Courtney Smith just wants to play in a high school football game again, but he has to wait. Prattville High School, which lost in the Class 6A state finals to Hoover last season, has a bye this week and won't play again until Oct. 7, against Montgomery Carver.

Smith fits in well with his new team, his new school and his new coaches, he said. But this is an adjustment he wished he didn't have to make.

Katrina brought chaos to Smith's life, his family and his senior season.

One day before the storm hit, Smith and his little sister, Boncilla, left the rest of his family, which stayed in town to ride out the storm. Smith and his sister rode in his white 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix and followed friend, Lantz Mathers to Mathers' relatives' house outside of Baton Rouge.

Smith and his sister stayed there for two days, then left and joined his cousin and her family in Houston. Two weeks later, he and his former Kennedy teammate, Brandon Norton, moved to Prattville to stay with some of the former Kennedy football coaches.

Smith began the search for the rest of his family right after he arrived in Prattville. Last week, he posted a notice on the Internet and got a call from his mother and father, who were placed with other New Orleans evacuees in Arkansas. It was his first contact with his parents since Katrina.

Now, Smith's primary concern is Jonte.

"I don't want to think about Jonte not being alive," Smith said. "He's alright somewhere. I miss my little brother."

Playing at Prattville has taken a back seat to what's going on in Smith's life, but he couldn't wait to get back to the refuge of the football field.

Smith has had to adjust on the football field, too. Kennedy operated out of a spread offense, but Smith has found Pratville's wide-open, four-receiver offense more complicated, and it has taken him a while to learn the plays.

But Prattville coach Bill Clark said he's been impressed with Smith since he started practicing with the team. He's eager to see how the 6-foot-4, 220-pound receiver plays in a game.

"Courtney has done a good job of fitting in, and he has good hands," Clark said.

Smith said he likes Prattville, and having Norton and other Kennedy coaches around makes things easier for him, but he misses his old school.

He misses Lee and the chemistry the two developed on the field.

While he and Lee realize they won't be together for their senior seasons, they do look to the future.

Their new coaches think Lee and Smith could play in college. So do the players. In fact, they're planning on it. It's something they talk about almost every night during their phone calls.

"Courtney and I planned on doing it big this year, and I can't wait until next year," Lee said.

Just a pipe dream? Maybe not.

After all, no one thought Kennedy could defeat Brother Martin.

# METRO AREA FOOTBALL CAPSULES

## TODAY'S GAMES

**ST. JAMES (3-0) at DESTREHAN (3-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** St. James defeated Varnado 42-6. Destrehan defeated South Lafourche 38-7.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. The last time these teams played was in 1996. St. James won 13-7. Destrehan is ranked No. 4 in Class 5A. St. James is the No. 1 team in Class 2A. Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene passed for two touchdowns and ran for two last week. St. James gained 454 yards with four running backs rushing for 40 yards or more.

**JOHN CURTIS (0-0) at EAST ST. JOHN (1-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** East St. John defeated East Ascension 49-7. Curtis did not play.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. East St. John is ranked No. 7 in Class 5A. Curtis is unranked since the Patriots have not played a game. The Patriots had their first day of practice Sept. 19. Coach J.T. Curtis said his team is missing about 15 players, including several starters. East St. John quarterback Johnnie Thiel, who transferred from Curtis at mid-term last year, was 9-of-12 for 225 yards and three touchdowns last week. He also ran for two touchdowns.

**RIVERSIDE (3-0) at ST. JOHN (2-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Riverside defeated West St. John 51-20. St. John's game against Hanson was canceled.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Riverside is ranked eighth in Class 2A. St. John is ranked ninth in Class 1A. St. John rushed for 224 yards in a 42-13 victory against Dunham on Sept. 15 and forced seven turnovers. Riverside gained 440 yards last week. Running back Jarid Caesar rushed for 257 and four touchdowns.

**WEST ST. JOHN (0-3) at ST. CHARLES (3-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** West St. John lost to Riverside 51-20. St. Charles defeated Pine 49-6.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. These teams last met in 2003. West St. John won 37-27. St. Charles receiver Casey Robottom returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and caught two touchdown passes last week. The Comets intercepted three passes. West St. John alternated quarterbacks Olajuwon Hall, who was five-of-10 for 105 yards and two touchdowns, and Blaine Gautier, who was six-of-12 for 107 yards with no touchdowns. Both threw interceptions.

**COVINGTON (0-0) at PONCHATOULA (0-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Covington won 34-0.
**Notes:** District 4-5A game. Ponchatoula lost to South Terrebonne 38-0 in the only game it played. Though the Lions missed the first four weeks of the season, the time off helped two of its stars heal. Patrick Henry had a groin injury and off-season shoulder surgery and is now healed, Lions coaches said. Blake Ramsey, a defensive lineman, also had some nagging injuries and is 100 percent. But the squad was still getting in condition after last week's first full week of training since Hurricane Katrana. "We're out of shape," Covington coach Darryl Graham said.

**NORTHSHORE (0-0) at FONTAINEBLEAU (0-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Fontainebleau won 39-0.
**Notes:** District 4-5A game. Fontainebleau got back two players who had transferred to Nevillein the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. All-Metro left tackle Cameron Zipp and defensive tackle Chris Johnson returned after playing a few weeks at Neville. The team is still missing players who were displaced by the storm. But most of the starters are back.

**HAMMOND (1-0) at ST. PAUL'S (0-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Hammond won 12-7.
**Notes:** District 4-5A game. Hammond looked impressive Sept. 16 in a 14-0 victory against Franklinton. These teams are probably the most prepared of the district. Both teams have been in session for a few weeks and had normal practice routines - unlike St. Tammany public schools, which do not resume classes until Monday. The key will be how Hammond fares against the Wolves defensive line, which includes Division I recruits David Boyce and Scott Ward.

**MANDEVILLE (0-0) at SLIDELL (0-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Slidell won 26-2.
**Notes:** District 4-5A game. The Mandeville defense is inexperienced and will have to grapple with preseason All-Metro quarterback Stephen Liuzza and sophomore running back Ryan Tott. But Slidell coach Wayne Grubb said his line is thin because some players have yet to return.

**NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN (0-0) vs. ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (0-3)**
**Time/place:** 7 p.m. at SLU's Strawberry Stadium.
**Last week:** Northlake Christian did not play. St. Thomas Aquinas lost to Dunham on Monday 19-13.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Wolverines coach Mark Robert liked the prospect of playing the Falcons before the hurricanes, and St. Thomas Aquinas picked up several transfers from New Orleans-area Catholic schools. But now the Falcons look a lot tougher and have played the past two opponents close. The Wolverines, on the other hand, have yet to play their first varsity game.

**ALBANY (0-1) at PEARL RIVER (0-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Albany did not play. Pearl River lost to Loranger 42-6.
**Last year:** Pearl River beat Albany 33-14.
**Notables:** Albany has 18 returning starters, including quarterback Brennan Sessons. Seven defensive starters return to the Rebels, but Pearl River allowed 366 yards in its first outing.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II (0-1) at LIVE OAK (2-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** PJP II lost to Live Oak 14-9.
**Last year:** Live Oak defeated PJP II 12-9.
**Notables:** The Jaguars and Eagles go at it again a week after playing the first time. Live Oak fullback Darren LeBlanc and PJP II tailback Chad Hindman each rushed for 86 yards last week.

**CATHOLIC-NEW IBERIA (2-1) at LUTCHER (1-2)**
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.
**Last week:** Lutcher lost to Hahnville 35-21. Catholic did not play.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Arrangements for tonight's game were not confirmed until Wednesday morning. These teams last played in the 2001 playoffs. Lutcher won 46-16. Catholic's loss was to Notre Dame, 14-13, two weeks ago.

## SATURDAY'S GAMES

**SALMEN (0-0) at WEST JEFFERSON (0-0)**
**Time:** 2 p.m.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Neither has played since the jamborees of the weekend of Aug. 26-28. West Jefferson quarterback Ryan Jackson has returned and will start. West Jefferson had about 30 players for practice this week.

**PATTERSON (3-0) at HAHNVILLE (3-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Patterson defeated Assumption 46-12. Hahnville defeated Lutcher 35-21.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Patterson is ranked ninth in Class 3A. Hahnville is ranked No. 3 in Class 5A. Patterson quarterback Corey Hilliard completed eight of 11 passes for 205 yards and four touchdowns last week. Running back William Griffin ran 16 times for 138 yards and one touchdown. Hahnville running back Terrance Isaac was held to 64 yards on 19 carries last week.

**HIGGINS (0-0) vs. EHRET (0-0)**
**Time/place:** 7 p.m. at Hoss Memtsas Stadium.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Ehret won 14-6.
**Notes:** Both teams returned to practice this week following a four-week layoff. The game originally was scheduled for the second week of the regular season. Ehret expects 20 to 25 players, including quarterback Chris Mitchell and receiver Jywin Caesar. Higgins expects approximately 30 players, including quarterback Aldaro Russell and running back Corey McCann. Standout tailback Joshua Brumfield has not returned.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-6

PAGE C-5

Friday
September 30, 2005

Crowded homes can put stress on couples.
**Saturday in Living**





STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

Andy Antippas, owner of Barrister's Gallery, hangs Sallie Ann Glassman's work for his Art for Art's Sake opening on Saturday. The annual coordinated gallery openings traditionally mark the start of visual arts season, but this year Barrister's is likely the only gallery participating.

# The art of survival

## While most gallery owners are still pondering their immediate and long-term future in New Orleans, a determined gallery owner forges ahead with the not-so-gala opening of the visual arts season.



Kenny Champagne's painting of soldiers in Vietnam is part of an exhibit of artwork by mentally ill artists at Barrister's Gallery.

### ART FOR ART'S SAKE

**What:** A gallery reception — where normally there would be dozens — to ring in the opening of the visual arts season.
**Where:** Barrister's Gallery, 1724 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
**When:** Saturday, 11 a.m. to dusk

**By Doug MacCash**
Art critic

This weekend marks the first Saturday in October. Under ordinary circumstances that would mean artists, gallery owners and thousands of art lovers descending upon Art For Art's Sake, the opening of the visual art season, celebrated with dozens of simultaneous gallery receptions on Julia, Magazine, Royal streets and other scattered locations.

But hurricane Katrina blew out the party lights.

It remains to be seen to what extent the storm hurts the New Orleans commercial art community, where many galleries were thriving enterprises offering art to regional collectors and tourists. But just as many galleries are labors of love, with little financial cushion to carry them through tough times. Though most galleries did not flood, they may eventually go under due to the economics of a recovering city.

In the shadowy, humid interior of Barrister's Gallery on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, owner Andy Antippas insisted that in his corner of the art world, Art for Art's Sake will go on, despite a lack of electricity, despite a drastically reduced population, despite everything.

He realized, of course, that his daylight opening reception, from 11 a.m. until dusk, was a symbolic gesture.

"Everybody's got to understand how important it is to do this," he said. "We really don't expect anyone to come, but we're keeping the gears moving. Reopening the Winn Dixie, the Wal-Mart and the Home Depot is all fine, but that's not what New Orleans is all about. The artists need the galleries. They need to be reminded of what they do, what they are, that their lives have not been swallowed up."

Antippas and his fiancee Trisha Moss, who'd escaped the hurricane in Galveston and returned to New Orleans two weeks ago, planned to alter the times on the already-printed exhibit invitations, which they would then distribute by hand to gathering

*See* **ART,** *C-8*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

## ELAINE BROWN, 48, COUNTRY CLUB BEVERAGE MANAGER

**Home:** *An apartment in Pontchartrain Gardens, Slidell* **Haven:** *A friend's home in Slidell*

"When we woke up, there was maybe an inch of water on the ground, and I thought, 'This will be OK, we can deal with this.' We put everything we could up high, and then I went upstairs to ride it out.

"The next thing I know, as fast as I'm telling you this story, water just came in everywhere. It was the big surge, I guess. The water was ripping the sliding glass doors out of their cases, just rolling in, a strong current through the front door. Carl had left his truck right by the front door of the apartment, and he said, 'Let's go now!' We grabbed our bag and tried to get in the truck and the truck started floating away. The water was up to his waist, and he's 6-4.

"He told me to run across the street to where my car was. By that time water was literally raging down the street and I got pulled under in the current. Then he jumped out of the truck, which was floating down the street, and he grabbed me and we stayed out in the middle of Westchester Street, hanging on the sign for Our Lady of Lourdes church. We stayed there for a while then got swept to the gas station across the street.

"By that time I was hysterical. The water was over my head. We kind of strategically swam from point to point, grabbed hold of a post, then a school sign, and made it to the apartment, where we swam up our steps. We have 13 steps and the water was up to the very top steps.

"When we got back upstairs we didn't realize all our provisions were floating away.



It was like a river out front, just raging away. The wind wasn't really an issue the way the water was. The Walgreen's behind us apparently had windows ripped out. Here came some Milky Way bars floating by. Carl went to get his fishing pole and caught the Milky Way bars out the window. We ate them and some cheese crackers for a day and a half.

"(Tuesday afternoon), here came my sister and her friend trudging through water trying to find us. We left with them and stayed the night at their house in Slidell. Carl, my personal chef, made me the best meal I think I've ever had."

*As told to Judy Walker on Sept. 28*

# A Greenie out of water

## *Katrina forces a beer-starved Tulane fan to go undercover at a purple-and-gold sports bar*

COTTONPORT — It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how Cottonport got its name. You can still see cotton fields in and around this area but it's no longer the bustling center of commerce it once was, so the name is more a reminder of the past more than what goes on here today.



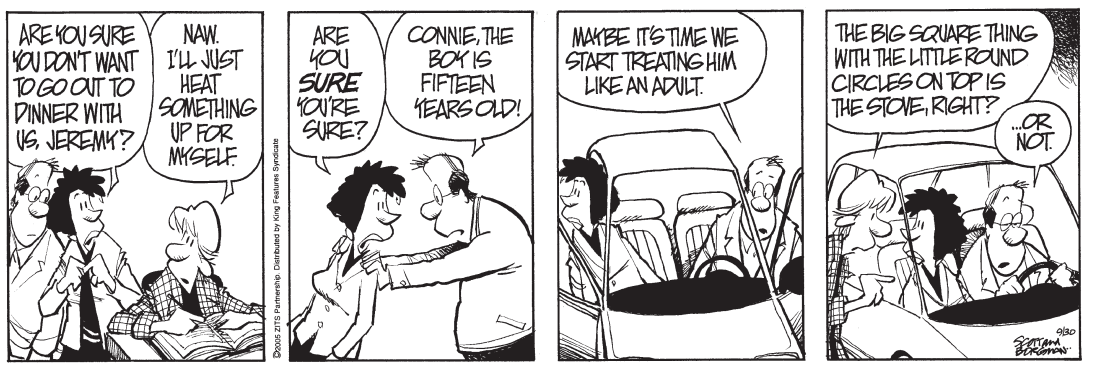
ANGUS LIND

When it was settled in 1808, this confluence of two bayous — Bayou Rouge and Bayou des Glaises — became a convenient transportation hub. Steamboats and other vessels

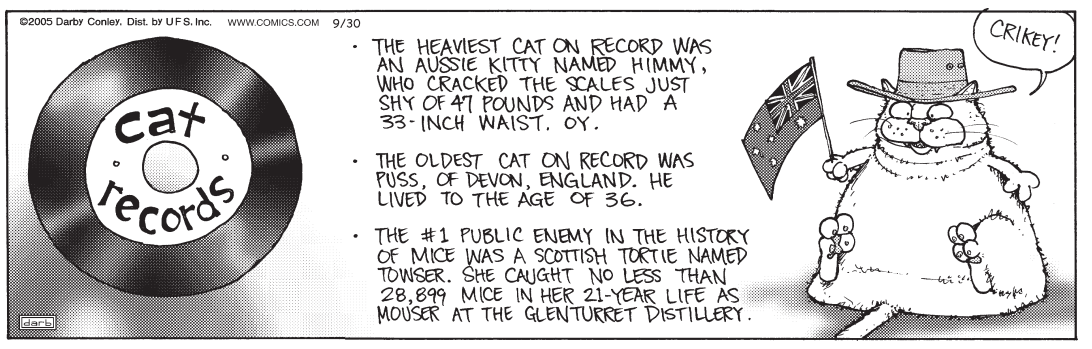
*See* **LIND,** *C-8*

# COMICS

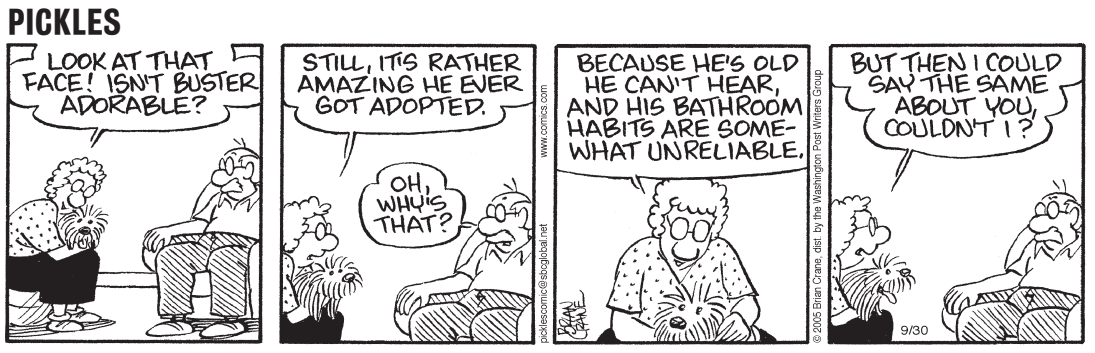
## ZITS



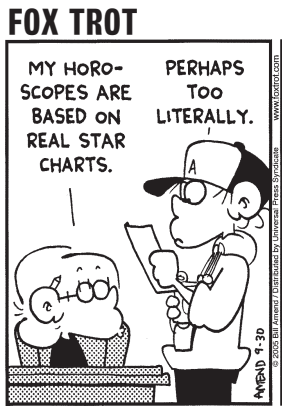

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES




## FOX TROT



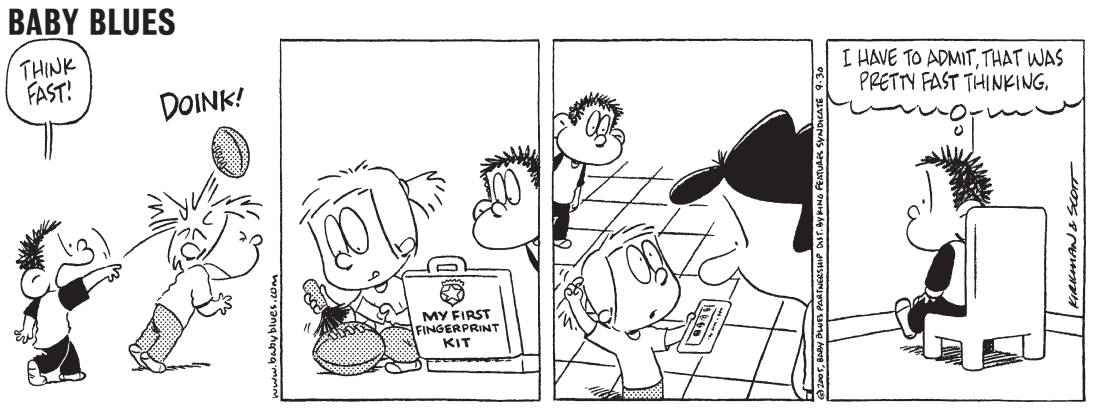

### JASON'S HORO-SCOPES

**Aries:** You will vanish into the horizon at 10:00 a.m.
**Taurus:** You will vanish into the horizon at 11:30 a.m.
**Gemini:** You will vanish into the horizon at 3:00 p.m.
**Cancer:** You will vanish into the horizon at 4:30 p.m.
**Leo:** You will vanish into the horizon at 6:30 p.m.
**Virgo:** You will vanish into the horizon at 7:30 p.m.
**Libra:** You will vanish into the horizon at 8:00 p.m.
**Scorpio:** You will vanish into the horizon at 8:30 p.m.
**Sagittarius:** You will vanish into the horizon at 11:00 p.m.
**Capricorn:** You will vanish into the horizon at 1:30 a.m.
**Aquarius:** You will vanish into the horizon at 4:30 a.m.
**Pisces:** You will vanish into the horizon at 8:00 a.m.

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SURUP

VELCO

SOOMER

STONEX

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Answer:*** "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VYING OCTET URCHIN CODGER
Answer: What the introvert wanted to be when he was stuck at the boring party — "OUTGOING"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | E1 | I1 | U1 | S1 | T1 | C3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | P3 | M3 | B3 | D2 | Double Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | E1 | I1 | U1 | R1 | L1 | P3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | I1 | O1 | X8 | F4 | T1 | L1 | 3rd Letter Triple |

**PAR SCORE 150-160**
**BEST SCORE 223**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL _____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 150-160

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = 59 | C3 | U1 | T1 | E1 | S1 | I1 | E1 | |
| RACK 2 = 22 | P3 | O1 | M3 | A1 | D2 | E1 | | |
| RACK 3 = 59 | P3 | U1 | E1 | R1 | I1 | L1 | E1 | |
| RACK 4 = 83 | F4 | O1 | X8 | T1 | A1 | I1 | L1 | |

TOTAL 223

## WORD SLEUTH

X D Z W T Q P N V K H O D A X
U R P M A J G I D A X T V S Q
N K I F N D B A A F X S V T Q
O O M J D R H C F N O E T O C
A T Y W A U C R P N O R L R J
H F A T N A D B Z X E P T G V
T (F O R T I S S I M O) T N E L
R Q O T E N U T O T A G E L M
K I A H F D D L B Z Y W R L V
T R Q O N L O I G G E P R A K
I H F D A T A M R E F C A Z L

Thursday's unlisted clue: GOAL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: QUICKLY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Allegro | Fermata | Legato | Tenuto |
| Andante | Forte | Lento | Tremolo |
| Arpeggio | Fortissimo | Moderato | Vibrato |
| Attacca | Largo | Piano | |

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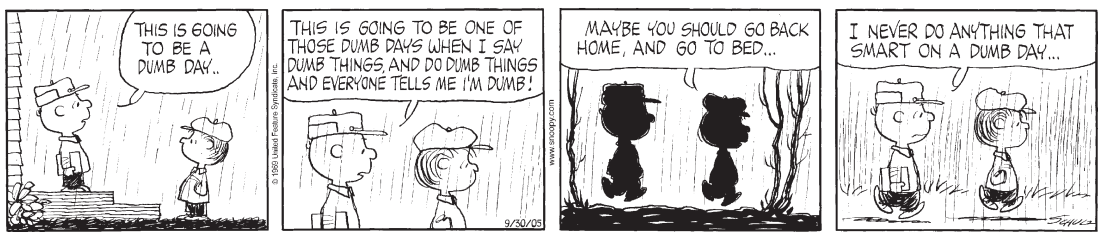
## WISHING WELL

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| E | O | T | C | E | T | E | O | K | I | R | H | A |
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| A | O | M | S | V | S | T | I | A | N | C | A | C |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
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| E | E | C | V | O | E | S | T | R | H | F | D | G |
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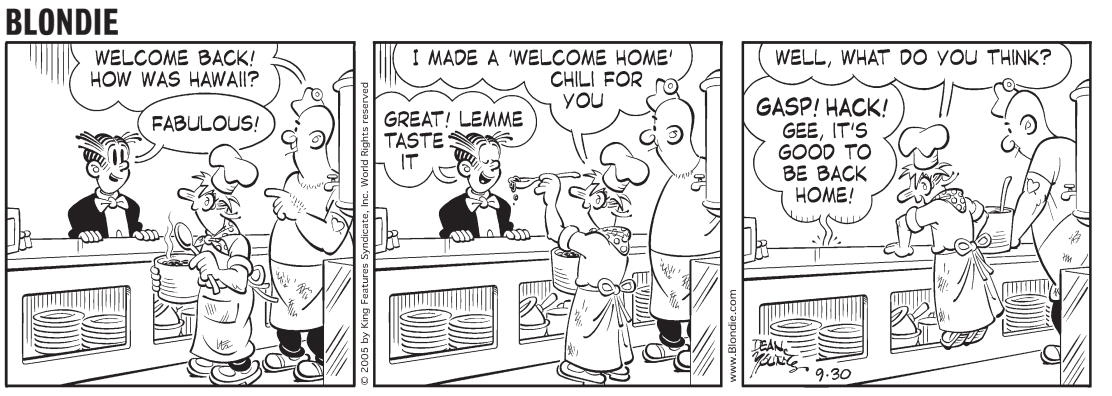
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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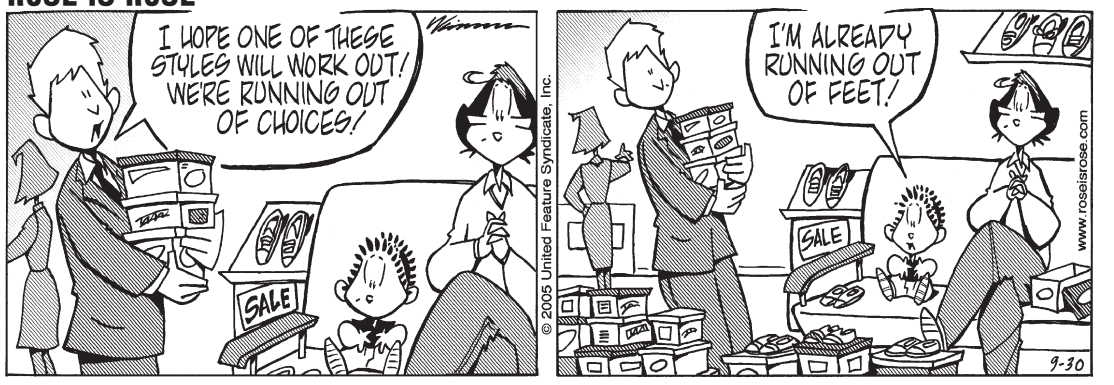
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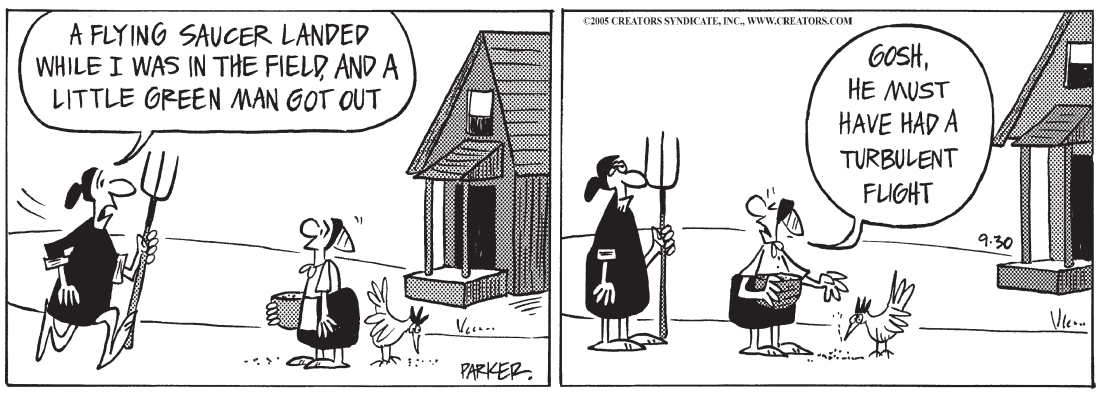

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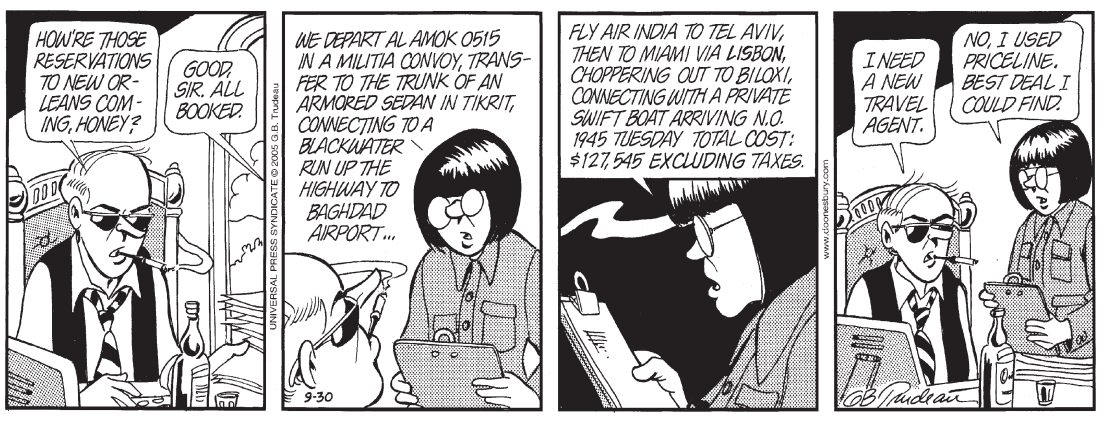

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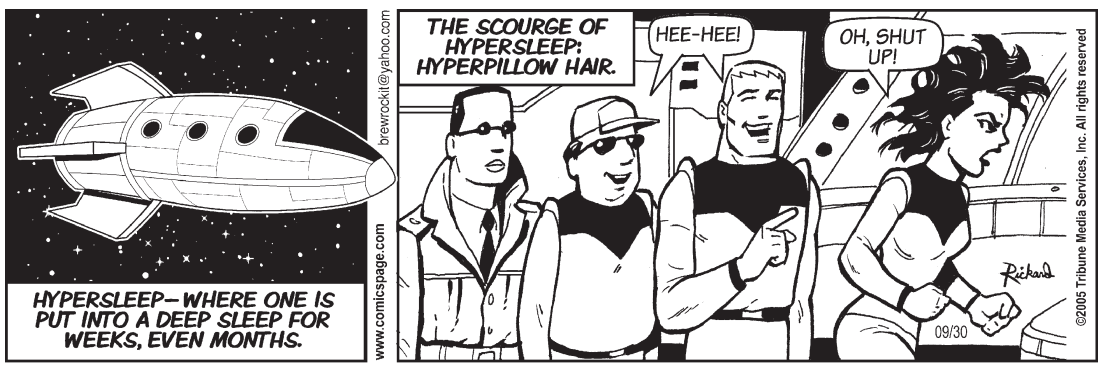

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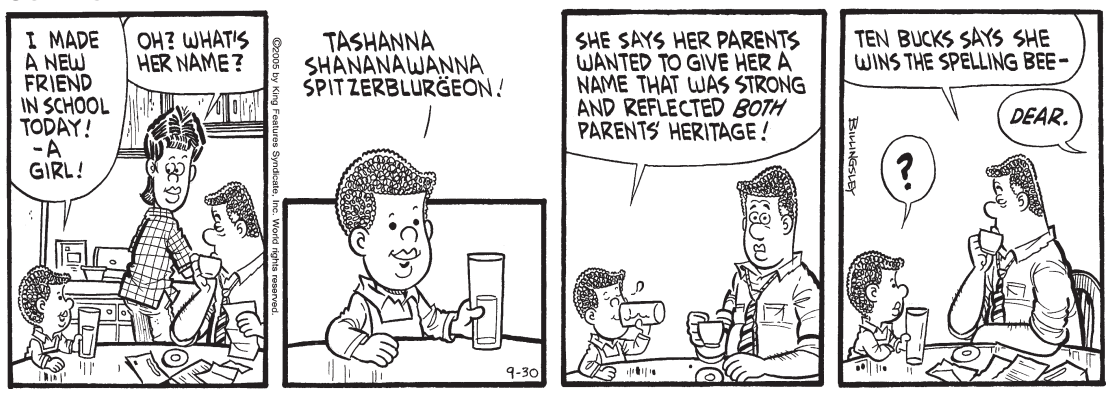

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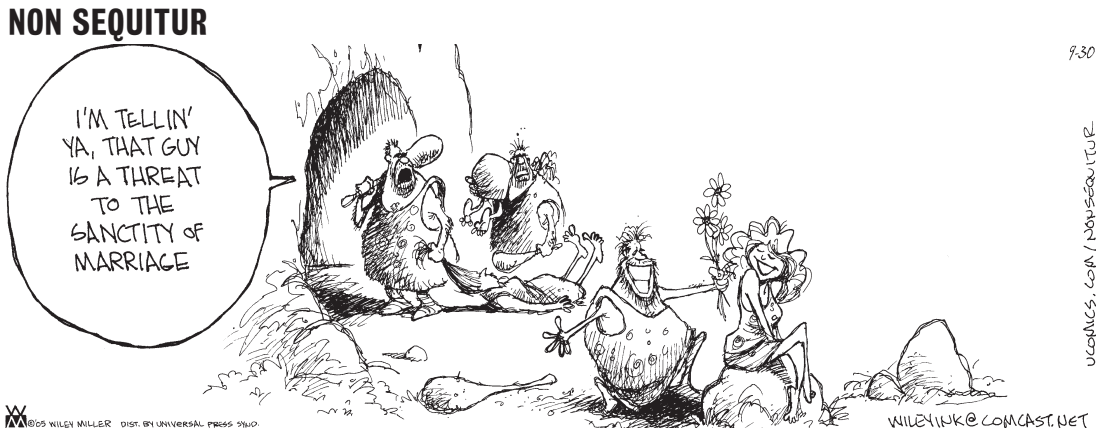

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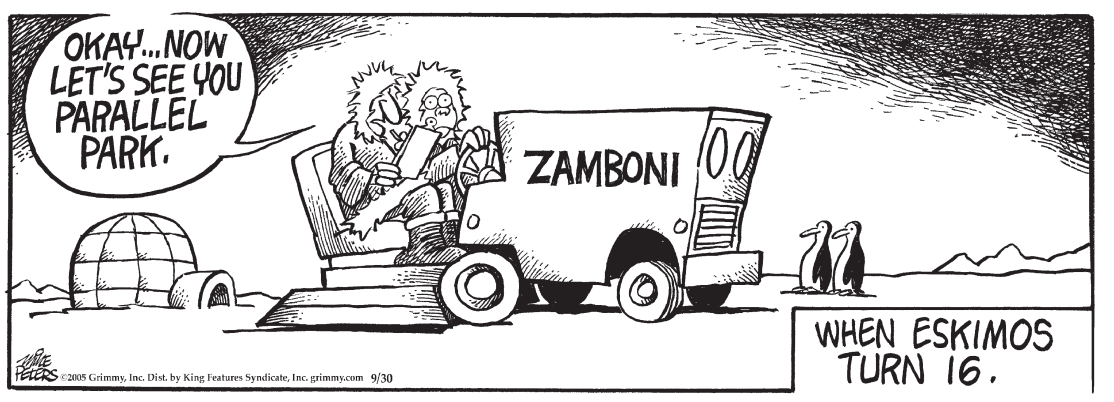

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR




## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

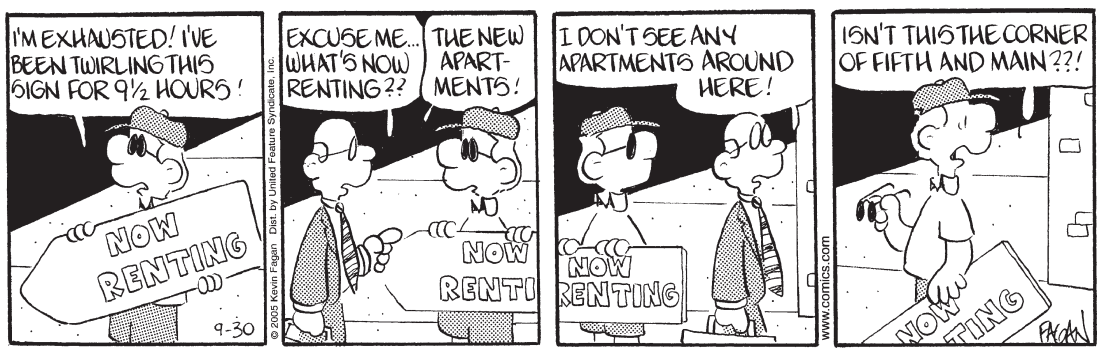


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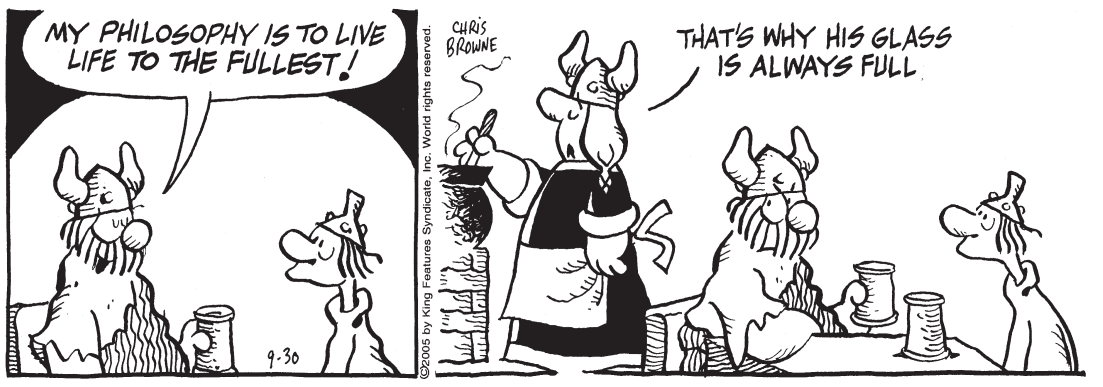
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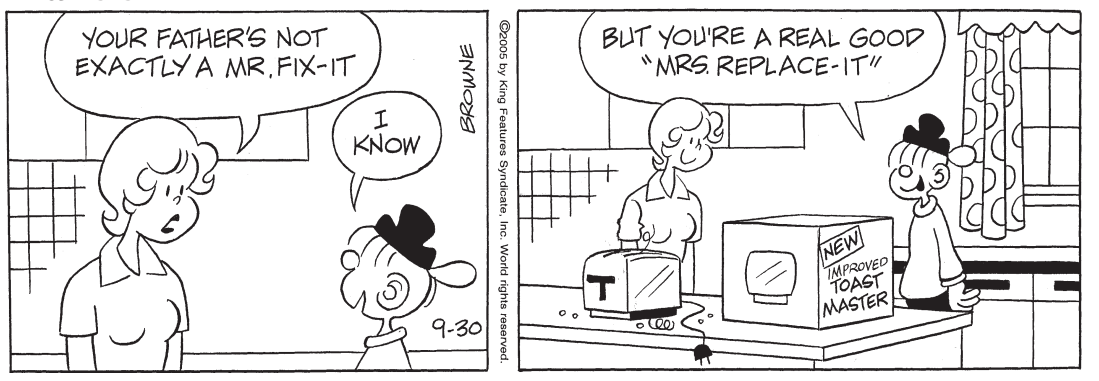

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



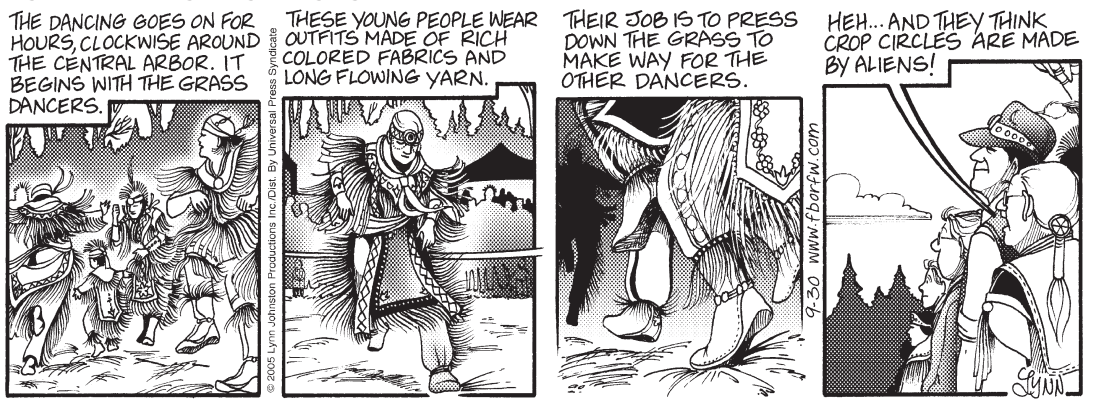

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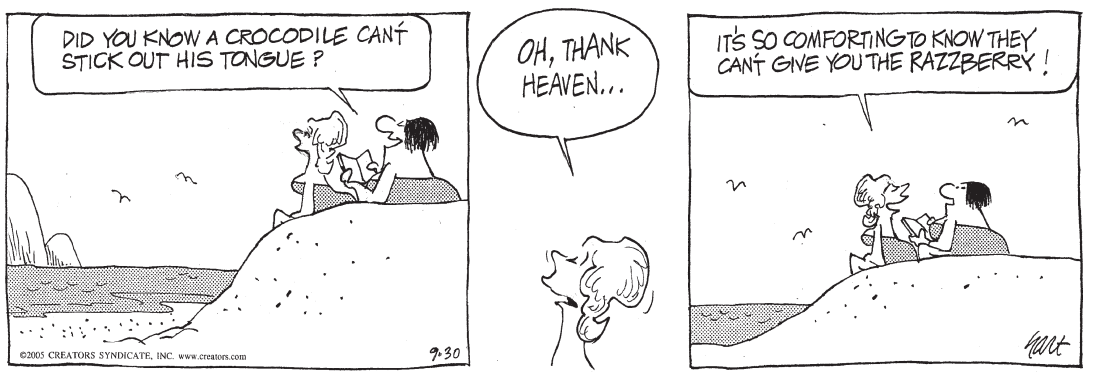

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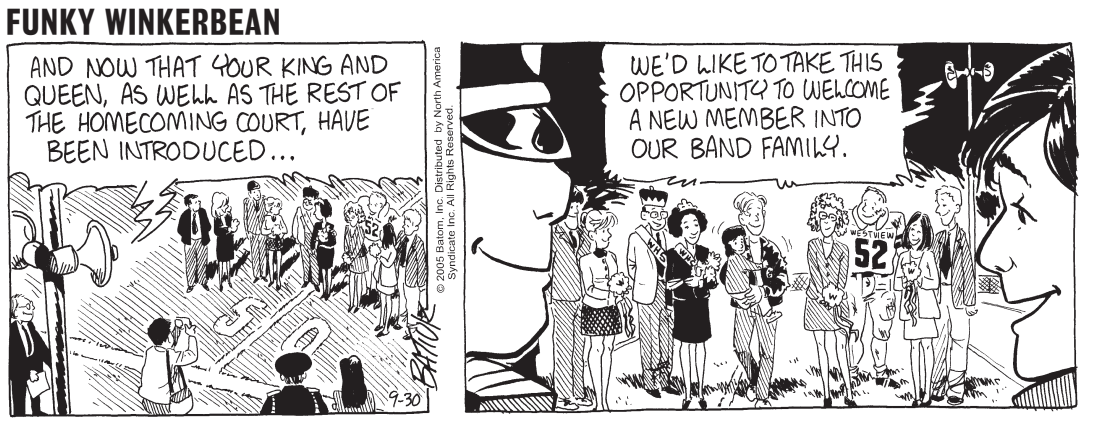

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



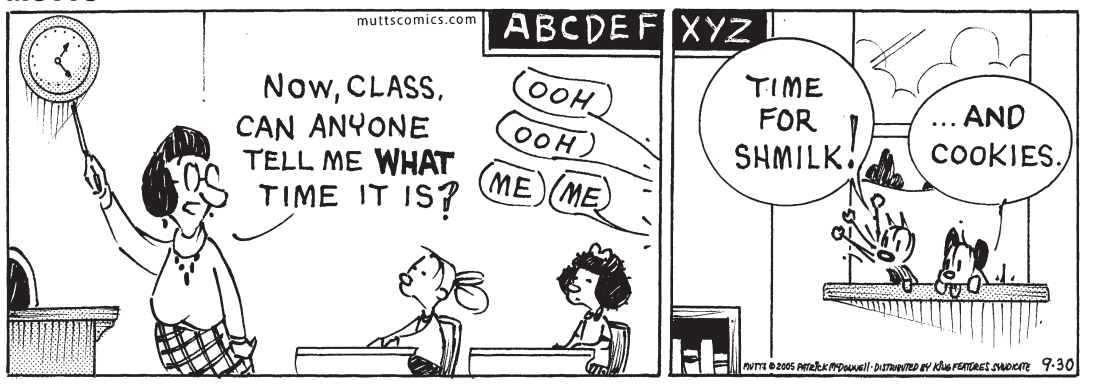

## B.C.



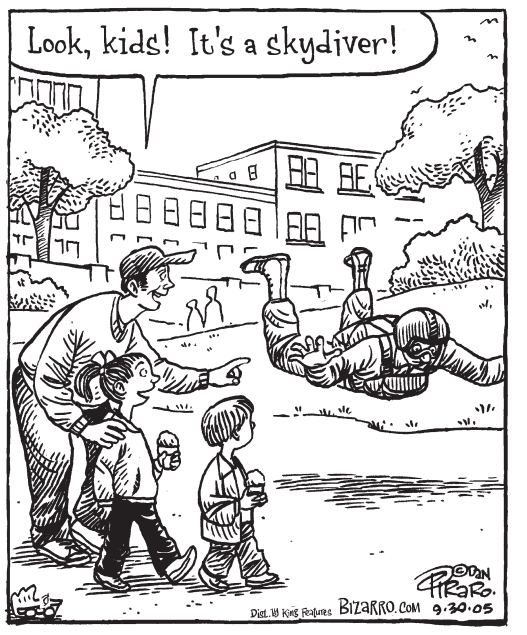

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

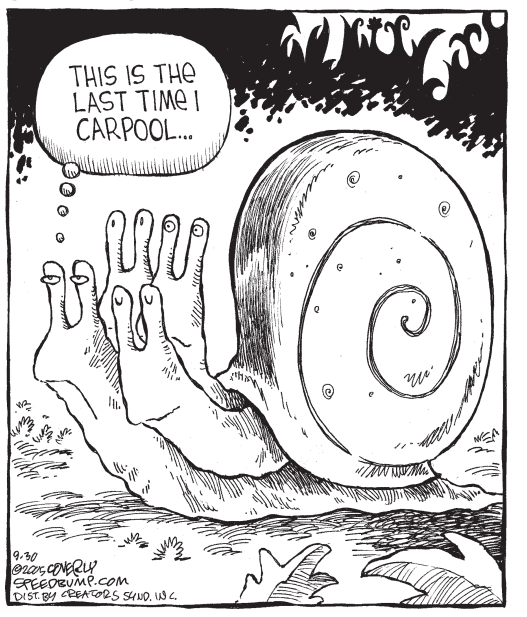



## LOOSE PARTS

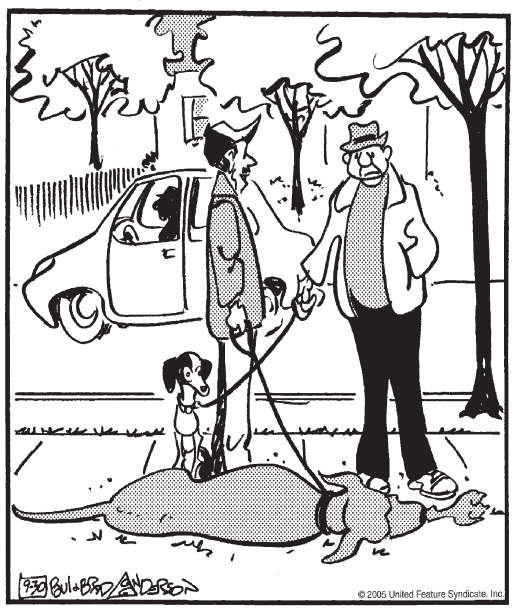



"Let's see *Men Seeking Women*
*Women Seeking Men*
nope, no *Men Seeking Whales*."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE

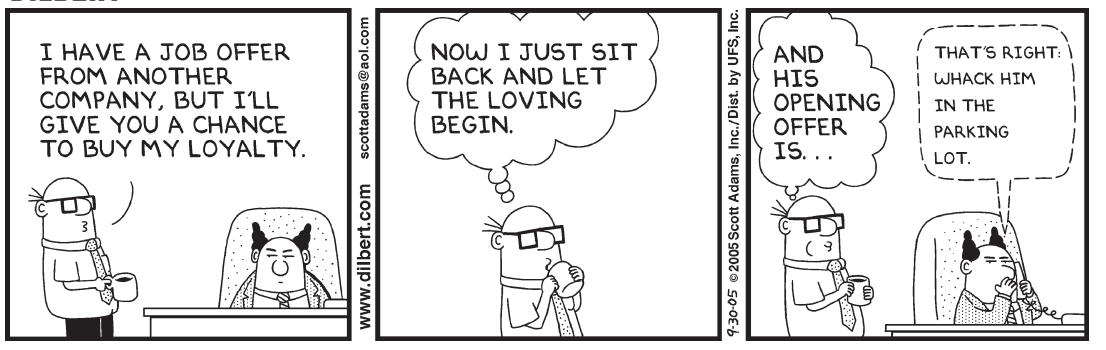



"I never have to tell him to relax."

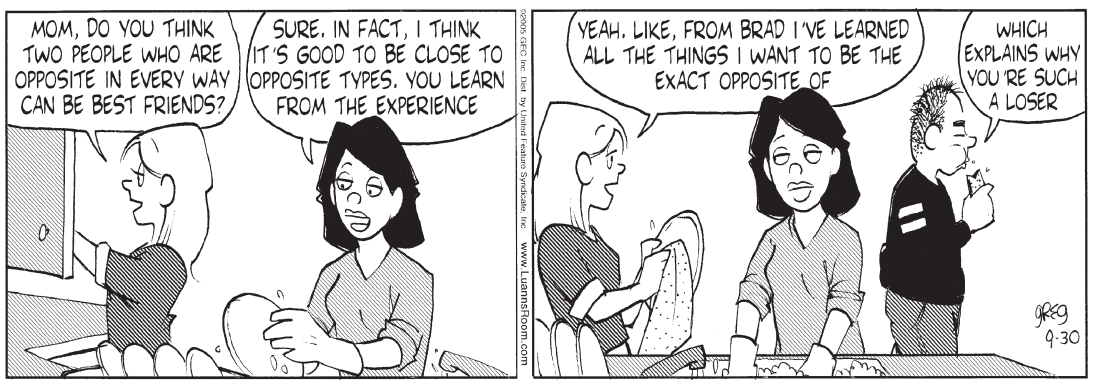
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN

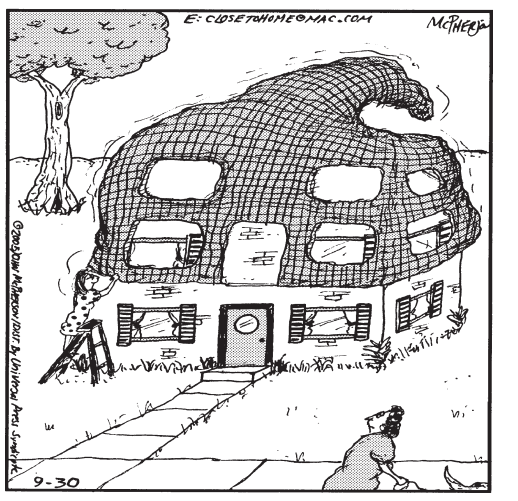



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



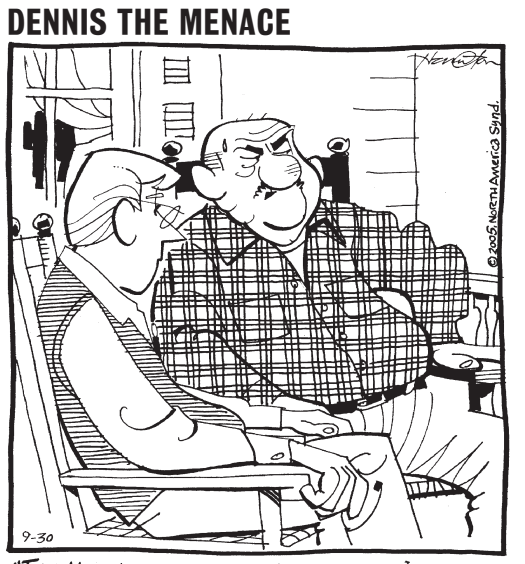

**"Never put a cookie in your back pocket if you're planning to sit down."**

## CLOSE TO HOME




**Concerned about soaring energy costs, Connie embarks on her biggest craft project ever and knits a wool sweater for their house.**

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"THE MITCHELL KID LIVES JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY... AS WE FOUND OUT SEVERAL TIMES."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FIRE HYDRANT** — **Solution: 11 letters**

C A P A C I T Y R L I N E T F
G O U K S L O O T K L D C N L
J U N C T I O N O U A E R L O
Y A L V E T C O D E R N U A W
B U R P E I (H) E N I G N O T W
R P R D L N V (O) D I E S S E M
A M A B C L I E (S) H O O T M R
E U U S A K T E K (E) S J G N E
N P Y V S N D R N O F P E M T
N E L N I A R D I T L P U U A
O S P A N T G E L R O L D R W
Z T P I G P R E N R O C I S T
Z L U S P O U T M V D L L P E
L O S B T A L L N I A M O A S
E B S S E C C A L N T D S C T

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Access, Bank, Bolts, Capacity, Caps, Casing, Color, Convenient, Corner, Design, Direct, Drain, Draw, Emit, Flood, Flow, Hook, Hose, Join, Junction, Large, Line, Link, Main, Mess, Metal, Nearby, Nozzle, Open, Painted, Passage, Pipe, Plug, Public, Pull, Pump, Rooted, Shoot, Solid, Source, Spout, Spurt, Steel, Store, Supply, Tall, Tank, Test, Tools, Tube, Turn, Urban, Valve, Volume, Water

**Yesterday's Answer: Recycle**

CONTINUED

# TO VISIT HARDEST-HIT HOMES, BRING SUPPLIES AND COURAGE TO SPARE

Soon, many whose homes were the most devastated by Katrina, people whose property and worldly possessions stayed under water for two weeks or more, will be allowed back in to recover what they might from their ravaged houses — to "look and leave," as officials are so gently putting it.

As a credentialed journalist, I have had access to the city since the storm passed, which has given me the opportunity to check my home in Lakeview on three occasions. The first was in a canoe, and I was not able to get into my home — but I was able to climb easily from the boat onto my roof. The second was unexpected, only hours after the streets had been finally pumped of standing water, and I was utterly unprepared, physically and emotionally, to deal with what I found. The third was a recovery effort, and that time I was ready.

Many whose homes were completely inundated have asked me what to take, and what to expect. Here's my personal rundown:

## THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

### WHAT TO PACK

**BRING WHAT YOU NEED WITH YOU,** because obviously you won't be able to find it in town. You need boots, several pairs of gloves, both rubber and leather, a good-quality mask and clothing that you don't mind getting ruined. You might want to bring a change of clothes for your return trip, sealed in plastic. Also consider goggles and a sweatband to keep the sweat out of your eyes.

**BRING BASIC TOOLS,** including a hammer, a couple of screwdrivers, and probably a pry bar or crowbar to get in, and to open windows. Water will have swelled doors and windows, and you may have to break into your own home to gain entry, if the National Guard didn't do it for you. Bring more than one flashlight. The first thing that happened to the flashlight I had was that the bulb burned out. You can't run down to the hardware store and get another one.

**BRING PLENTY OF DRINKING WATER,** more than you think, because you'll sweat a lot, and you also might need to use bottled water to rinse something. Bring food as well, preferably food you can eat from a wrapper without touching it with your hands. The work you will do in your house is physical, dangerous and slow. Don't underestimate how much energy you'll expend.

**BRING ROLLS OF PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS** for your recovered stuff, because it's going to be wet and will smell like nothing you've smelled before.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

**TRY TO PREPARE YOURSELF** for the level of destruction. It is probably worse than you have imagined. Furniture will be toppled, destroyed, or in a different room — and in many cases, all three. Many pieces of wood furniture simply come apart in the flood waters. Wood glue dissolves. Furniture with veneer over particleboard collapses. Cupboards may have pulled away from walls. Refrigerators are almost universally upended. Very few pieces of furniture will be upright and where you left them. It will look more like a tornado hit it than a flood — if you don't count the sludge and the smell.

**TAKE IT SLOW.** Getting around your flooded home is hazardous. I was extremely cautious, yet I fell twice in the muck, and had a heavy oak sideboard fall on my foot when it shifted in the debris. The floors will be covered with ice-slick sludge. They are likely to be buckled and uneven. Furniture will block doorways, and may even block entry into rooms. Check your footing, and move slowly.

**MAKE A WRITTEN LIST OF THINGS YOU WANT TO RECOVER** before you go in, and take it with you, because your brain is likely to go to mush at the sight and smell of your once-prized home. Don't expect anything to be where you left it. Expect to have to look around a little bit to find specific items. Take a friend, both for help and for safety. If you fall, and nobody is there, you can't call 911.

**TRY TO SAVE YOUR GRIEVING UNTIL AFTER YOU'RE GONE.** You will be able to recover some things from the flood zone, particularly things that don't absorb water — prized dishes, crystal, silver, DVDs and CDs among them — but it takes fortitude and determination. Be mission-driven: Take your pictures, find your stuff, get out safely.

**LEAVE SOME WINDOWS OPEN A CRACK** to air things out when you leave, in case you have to go in again for something you forgot or couldn't carry.

**GIVE YOURSELF SOME TIME AFTERWARD TO REGROUP,** and to grieve. No matter how much you've tried to prepare yourself, seeing it in person is a grueling experience, physically and emotionally, and it will stay with you. I'm familiar with the traditional stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. After three trips to my house, I think I've reached the acceptance phase, and I'm ready to see it all hauled away so I can build anew. Of course, that could just be the denial talking.

Features Editor James O'Byrne can be reached at timesjob@cox.net

# One man's show

*Artist creates curbside exhibit from the ruins of his home*

**By Doug MacCash**
Art critic

A dozen black mannequin heads atop wooden stakes stood on the grassy median in the 4100 block of St. Claude Avenue on Monday, like a scene from "Apocalypse Now" rendered in Styrofoam.

Nearby rested a sheet metal coffin filled with floodwater amid wooden crosses, a mirror marked with the words "9th Ward RIP" and piles of moldering rugs, furniture, paintings and other works of once-submerged art.

Everything was webbed with orange caution tape, draped with carnival beads and touched with spray-painted graffiti. Although in many ways the detritus blended in with the endless roadside debris in the 9th Ward, this debris was different: It was an art display, perhaps the first of post-Katrina era New Orleans.

Hand-made flyers distributed in the French Quarter announced the "Toxic Art" display in the 4100 block of St. Claude Avenue, with a reception scheduled for Monday afternoon.

The National Guard checkpoint at St. Claude and Elysian Fields no doubt contributed to the low attendance at that outdoor opening, but artist Jeffrey Holmes felt the exhibit was a worthy endeavor nonetheless.

"In New Orleans, there's always something beautiful in the desperation and the trash," he said. "That's where the culture comes from.

"Even if only five people show up," he said, "we should still do it."

More than five attendees showed up in the exhibit's first intensely hot, humid hour: a friend from the neighborhood, an insurance adjuster, three nurses from San Francisco, three of the army of journalists still swarming the city, and a man on a bicycle. Some helped themselves to the iced beers and bottles of liquor in a small blue cooler.

Holmes, a slight, raw-boned man of 40, with gothic-style tattoos coursing up his forearms, explained that the exhibit was made of the furniture and artwork that was submerged in the flood that followed the hurricane.

"Everything's toxic because it's been in the water," he said. "The art has to be thrown away. It's my collection and my wife's collection. I wanted to see it one more time."

In the 1950s, artists such as Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns turned away from conventional paint-on-canvas art. Instead, they created artwork assembled from discarded junk. To them, it seemed more real than illusionist paintings and sculpture. Holmes' "Toxic Art," made from the remnants of his shattered and soaked life, is realer still. If Holmes' were to receive a review, that would be it.




STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Jeffrey Holmes is reflected in his piece 'Toxic Art,' which he created outside of his home in the 4100 block of St. Claude Avenue, using items he and his wife lost during the flood in the 9th Ward that followed

However, not all reviews of this impromptu art exhibit have been glowing.

At approximately 4 a.m. Tuesday morning, Holmes said he woke to the sound of vehicles in the street below his second-floor home. A National Guardsman exited a Humvee and removed the mannequin heads from the sticks in his outdoor exhibit. When he asked what the soldiers were doing, he was told that some of the guardsmen found the installation offensive, believing that the black foam head had negative racial overtones.

Holmes argued that he meant no such thing and that it was his right to freely express himself anyway. After further quarreling, the guardsmen departed, replaced in a few minutes by New Orleans police officers who called Holmes to the street and arrested him for drunkenness and disturbing the peace.

He was released from the makeshift jail at the Union Passenger Terminal later in the morning. The show is still there, but Holmes let the mannequin heads stay on the ground where the guardsmen had tossed them.

# Galleries hang on

**ART,** *from C-5*

spots in the French Quarter.

"Maybe we can get a Black Hawk to drop some from the sky," he said.

The two-part exhibit features symbol-laden paintings by artist/spiritualist Sallie Ann Glassman and a group show of works by self-declared mentally-ill artists such as Gus Fink, Kenny Champagne and William A. Kelly. The luridness of much of Glassman's work and the inspired eccentricity of the other artists' works seems somehow to fit Antippas' ghostly opening reception gambit.

Asked if he expects the art community to bounce back from the catastrophe, Antippas hovered between pessimism and hope.

"I don't know about the future economy," he said. "I can only hope that new construction will need new art. I expect to see everybody (artists and art dealers) back because everybody who runs a gallery is doing it because they love it."

Gallery owner Jonathan Ferrara may love the art trade, but he's a realist. In a phone conversation from his storm-scoured Uptown home, he said he didn't expect his Carondelet Street gallery to reopen anytime soon. Instead he plans to rent the undamaged show space to a construction company, while promoting his stable of New Orleans artists in national art fairs.

"First and foremost," Ferrara said, "it's a time for reality. Those of us who own our (gallery) spaces have to pay the mortgage. Locally, I don't think there's anybody to walk off the street and buy art . . . unless construction workers are going to buy art.

"I don't think there will be a New Orleans art scene for a year, but there will be more of a market for New Orleans artwork outside of the city. Like it or not, but Katrina has provided an awareness factor we need to capitalize on it."

Though the new Gallerie Bienvenu, which opened only one month before the storm, was untouched by Katrina, gallery owner Cathy Bienvenu, standing in the Julia Street twilight pointed out that the condition of the city did not bode well for the future of the art scene.

"How can I open up my gallery? What am I going to do? From what I've seen of the 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish, it looks like Armageddon.

"Of course, I'm speculating about the gallery. I just opened and I wanted to do it first-class. I don't know if a lot of people know what went into it. There were so many promising things, so much coming on board for the art community.



'Lola's Great Soul,' by artist and spiritualist Sallie Ann Glassman, is part of the exhibit at Barrister's.

Your balloon is this big and now it's all taken down."

Gallery owners Jean Bragg and Jim Blanchard said they would set up a table in front of their neighboring galleries at the corner of Camp and Julia Streets and open a bottle of champagne on Art For Art's Sake evening, even if they were the only ones to drink it.

Blanchard pointed out that other businesses, such as restaurants, require a much longer chain of support — food suppliers, waiters, cooks, etc. — to be in business.

"We're lucky," he said, "we can just open our door."

Bragg agreed, though she tempered Blanchard's optimism.

"We're not really open to the public," she said. "There is no public."

Arthur Roger, owner of the oldest, highest profile contemporary art gallery, had no plans to celebrate Art For Art's Sake. In fact he'd forgotten about it entirely.

"There have been sort of collective moods and experiences among people from New Orleans," he said. "One of those is not knowing what day it is."

The well-known gallery is crowded with art rescued from the gallery's flooded mid-city warehouse, some speckled with mold. Roger had rented the adjacent storefront as a new storage site and expected to open the gallery on Saturday. He's confident that Arthur Roger Gallery will survive, owing to the very successful sales year he'd had in 2005 and his large out-of-town clientele. He scheduled the first show, the "Come Back Exhibition," for Nov. 15.

Though the French Quarter seems to be rebounding faster than any other neighborhood, none of the galleries appeared to be occupied earlier this week. A sign in the world-renowned Rodrigue Gallery included a new painting by George Rodrigue titled "We Will Rise Again," featuring the blue dog backed by an American flag, submerged in flood water.

"Its eyes, normally yellow," the message read, "are red with a broken heart."

Art critic Doug MacCash can be reached at dougmaccash@yahoo.com.

# Greenie in a Tiger's den

**LIND,** *from C-5*

plied these waters. The city bustled.

Today, at another hub — the confluence of Front Street and the Subway sandwich shop — is located an establishment of the sort I have not patronized since Katrina. That would be an emporium of drink. Even evacuees need an attitude adjustment hour, and this one evacuee had waited far too long.

So off I headed to Fritz's Sports Bar in downtown Cottonport.

Nearly a month had passed since I heard a jukebox or inhaled secondhand smoke. Hard to fathom. There are times in New Orleans when I may go a few days without venturing into my home-away-from-home on Maple Street, which inevitably prompts a phone call from Bruno's owner David Melius complaining that his business is failing without my presence.

Now, I could tell you that I searched every corner of this 50-mile bayou loop to find a tavern frequented by locals, and I could tell you that I drove back road after back road looking for a Budweiser neon sign illuminating a window. Or that I followed a trail of dead soldiers (aka empty beer cans) to its source.

But I won't. Fritz's Sports Bar is the only bar in the Cottonport Yellow Pages.

So there wasn't much choice but for this devoted, life-long Tulane fan who bleeds green and blue to find himself standing in front of a bar that was painted purple-and-gold inside and out.

There were two entrances. The sign on the first door read, "Fritz's Sports Bar." The sign on the second door read, "Death Valley." I chose Door No. 1

Not to worry. Shazam! Presto change-o! For cold beer and good company, I can swallow my Greenie pride and talk Bayou Bengalese with the best of them, I told myself.

My wife and I had dined earlier at Bernard's Cajun Sea-Fry, also in Cottonport. My wife's new hairdresser in Marksville, Lisa, had told her it doesn't look like much, but you can't beat the food. I guess not — all-you-can-eat fried catfish done the right way, in cornmeal and black iron skillets, fried crawfish balls, creamy cole slaw, crisp French fries, crawfish etouffee and a roll — all for $7.95.

We swapped New Orleans evacuation stories with some nouveau evacuees from Beaumont, Texas, who dodged Rita's bullet, filling them in on what it's been like to be gone from home for a month with four pairs of underwear and how we've handled socializing in our new country club, Wal-Mart.

Filled to the gills, we drove to nearby Fritz's Sports Bar, which is owned not by someone named Fritz but by Brady Berthelot. We found a couple of stools in front of a TV that was showing the Saints-Vikings debacle. Luckily, it was the second half, the jukebox was turned up loud, and Rodney Crowell was singing, "Stars on the Water."

I'm assuming those stars would be us.

I overheard a conversation and the name Ray Wylie Hubbard was mentioned. Only hard-core country fans mention that name. Ray Wylie Hubbard wrote "Up Against the Wall, Redneck Mother," popularized by Jerry Jeff Walker, and just hearing the title of that song made me feel better, much better, despite all the purple and gold.

Shortly, the engaging owner of this fine watering hole spots us for strangers. Not a tough call — we were the only ones not wearing jeans. He ventures over to say hello.

"How you like my tiger?" he asks.

On the purple wall behind me had been painted - quite impressively, I must admit — an enormous charging Bengal tiger with "LSU 2003 National Champions" painted overhead.

"It's pretty cool," I tell him.

On the other wall is a work-in-progress. A gold Tiger football helmet, equally as large, is having the letters LSU painted on by a woman wearing tight jeans and a visible pink thong — visible because she is stretching her body to paint the letters. My wife notices what I am staring at and I give her that age-old husbands' line:

"When I quit looking, you better start worrying," I tell her.

We find out that Brady Berthelot sold cars for 30 years and had an Isuzu car dealership that was a huge moneymaker. He retired from the auto rat race and in five months he was totally bored. So, he bought himself a bar.

"It's great, don'tcha think?" he said. "Tomorrow night we're showing the LSU-Tennessee game and NO Monday night pro football. Well, we might put it on a little screen. Y'all gotta come back — we got free food and everything."

We watch the Saints game come to its dismal conclusion. I hear someone at the bar repeat a line I've already heard. "The people in Baton Rouge been sufferin' a lot. They got the evacuees, there's gridlock, they got hit by Rita and now they got the Saints for four games. What did they do to deserve that?"

We take one more look around the vastness of purple and gold on this two-sided bar. I think about all my Tiger buddies who would kill to be here. And I figure we're going to get out of Fritz's without blowing our cover, without revealing our dirty little secret, without getting harassed.

And then my wife blurts out to Brady: "Where's the Tulane side?"

Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com

INSIDE | *A flood of 1927 memories* LIVING | Tulane aims to get defensive against SLU SPORTS


# The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 254 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION


THE RETURN OF NEW ORLEANS

# BITTERSWEET HOMECOMING



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHUCK COOK

Lavinia Lundy, 103, cries after seeing her home for the first time since the storm. The Uptown home was knocked from its foundation and the entire downstairs flooded. Lundy was able to retrieve some valuables from the home with the help of her nephew, Norman Bailey.

## Local hospitals in critical condition

*Only handful in area back up and running*

**By Ronette King and John Pope**
Staff writers

Hurricane Katrina closed half of the hospitals in the seven-parish area, including all of those based in New Orleans, and some may not reopen.

Several hospitals — most notably the Charity and University hospital campuses operated by a branch of LSU — will have to undergo intense structural studies before anyone can even talk about reopening them, said John J. "Jack" Finn, president of the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans.

Of the approximately 4,000 employees both campuses had before Katrina, about 2,500 haven't checked in since the storm, spokesman Marvin McGraw said, adding that he does not know whether Charity will reopen.

"It would take pretty close to a miracle for a hospital with a badly damaged electrical and mechanical system" to reopen, Finn said. "I can't imagine anyone spending $50 million to $100 million to put it in the condition that it was in before."

The potential loss of Charity, compounded by the diminished capacity of private health-care providers, is a double whammy for the area.

"What we have in New Orleans is the loss of the huge public hospital and the capacity that was relied on for the city's and the state's large uninsured population for their care," said Diane Rowland, executive director at the Kaiser Family Foundation. "Plus we have a loss of private-hospital capacity.

"There's no way I can imagine how other hospitals with reduced capacity and far more limited outpatient capacity can absorb what Charity was doing."

Charity, the 66-year-old state-owned colossus on Tulane Avenue, is the principal teaching hospital for Louisiana's doctors, and it

*See* **HOSPITAL,** *A-15*

## *Some parts of city seem almost normal*

**By Brian Thevenot, Doug MacCash and Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writers

New Orleanians returned to the city Friday with a mix of joy at their return, sadness at their losses and speculation about the uncertain future of the city.

Although many residents had already returned to the city – and some never left – neighborhoods in the approved ZIP codes returned Friday, visiting their houses and the few businesses that had opened.

Residents came in smaller numbers than many had anticipated. Checkpoints did not overflow with traffic in the morning.

*See* **RETURN,** *A-13*



Michael Usey consoles his fiancee, Kim Kuster, after she sees the damage to the den of their home on Jefferson Avenue.

## Experts want dirt on floodwall failure

*Soft, soggy soil a challenge to work with*

**By John McQuaid and Bob Marshall**
Staff writers

As engineers analyze why some New Orleans canal floodwalls broke during Hurricane Katrina, a central focus will be Louisiana's notoriously soft, wet Mississippi Delta soil.

The floodwalls are hard structures embedded in soft material. As Katrina's storm surge filled up the 17th Street and London Avenue canals, it put high pressure on the walls and soil. If the surrounding soil is already unstable or the structure is not properly lodged in it – it can move and bring the wall down.

"The Mississippi gumbo is awfully challenging. It's soft. It's got organisms in it, they generate gas. It's a very screwball material," said Robert Bea, a geotechnical engineer at the University of California at Berkeley who is part of a team sponsored by the National Science Foundation that will survey the levee breaks next week along with teams from the American Association of Civil Engineers and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Bea said he intends to take soil samples and test them in his lab to see what kind of stresses they can take while wet and dry, in hopes of finding some clues about what happened.

The Corps and outside engineers say it's too early to tell what went wrong, and that walls probably failed for different reasons in different places. In eastern areas of the city, where the Industrial Canal is located, floodwalls were clearly overwhelmed by high water beyond their design specs. Engineers are focusing much of their attention on the 17th Street and London Avenue drainage canals, where storm surge was lower

*See* **LEVEES,** *A-19*

# Nagin introduces his own rebuilding team for city

*Move comes day after governor unveils her version*

**By Frank Donze and James Varney**
Staff writers

With much of New Orleans still in shambles and a national debate growing about the cost of rebuilding the city, Mayor Ray Nagin on Friday introduced a panel of movers and shakers who he hopes will be the architects of a new and better Crescent City.

The 17-member group faces the gargantuan and unprecedented task of returning parts of the city nearly annihilated by Hurricane Katrina to their pre-storm condition, while simultaneously addressing chronic problems such as New Orleans' deplorable public school system.

Nagin's team includes attorneys, academics, business people and church figures, many of them lifelong residents. As he unveiled the group, Nagin acknowledged that New Orleans' reconstruction has come under increased scrutiny in Washington, where lawmakers are questioning the amount of money being discussed for recovery, and Louisiana's storied reputation for political corruption.

"I know there is this great debate about whether New Orleans should be rebuilt," he said.

His team was picked with that in mind, the mayor noted, praising the members as "authentic" and with "high integrity." His administration's own track record should also set some minds at ease, he suggested.

"Google me," he said. "We've been about anti-corruption,

*See* **NAGIN,** *A-16*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Community activist Barbara Major, along with 16 others, has been charged with the task of reconstructing New Orleans. Mayor Ray Nagin, left, called the group 'authentic' and with 'high integrity.'

**DAY 33** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **929** • FEMA's $2,000 checks are history, A-2 • Red Cross opens two B.R. area aid stations, A-12 • Storm brings families together, like it or not, LIVING • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM


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AFTERNOON RAIN
HIGH 88 | LOW 76

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# FEMA not giving $2,000 checks to victims anymore

## *Deadline passes, other aid offered*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – The federal government has stopped giving out the $2,000 checks for emergency assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina, saying the program is no longer necessary, prompting complaints from those who missed the application deadline or got snarled in red tape.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Thursday that the stop-gap assistance was ending after $1.2 billion in cash assistance had been sent to 579,721 Louisiana residents displaced by the Aug. 29 hurricane and subsequent flooding.

"It was a program that was offered for a limited period of time until other forms of assistance were available to address long-term needs of disaster victims," FEMA spokeswoman Barbara Ellis said.

In its place, FEMA is offering victims of Katrina and Hurricane Rita financial assistance for up to three months of rent.

Reps. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, and Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville, said that while thousands of hurricane evacuees need rental assistance, many people eligible for the $2,000 emergency assistance grants still have not received them because of bureaucratic foul-ups and difficulties getting through to the agency.

"For FEMA to cut off funds now is unacceptable," Jefferson said. "These monies are used for food, diapers, medicines and other essential items. ... Every day my office fields complaints from constituents who applied for assistance and still have yet to receive any FEMA funds."

The congressmen, whose districts were hit hard by Katrina and then Rita a week ago, questioned whether all of the checks FEMA sent out actually arrived in the hands of evacuees who applied for them. Jefferson's aides said some checks arrived at emergency shelters after evacuees had been relocated.

"It's important to call back and update the information," FEMA's Ellis said.

When asked about complaints about getting through to FEMA on the agency's toll-free line, Ellis acknowledged it's been a problem. She advised people to call during off-peak hours.

"They need to keep calling back," she said.

Jefferson and Melancon said that a month after Katrina made landfall, they are still being deluged with requests from people seeking help in getting so-called expedited assistance grants. One such complaint came from Stanley Fajkowski of New Orleans. He applied over the Internet on Sept. 6.

The form he filled out asked about the condition of his home on Claiborne Avenue. He assumed that like much of New Orleans, it was under water, but since he hadn't seen it, he checked the box, "I don't know."

FEMA soon sent him a letter rejecting his application.

Fajkowski, 70, estimates he subsequently called the toll-free FEMA number "200 times" over the next 20 days. Sometimes he was put on hold and then abruptly told he was being disconnected because of the volume of calls.

He finally got through the other day only to be told that he could appeal in writing. As for getting the $2,000, the deadline had passed, he was told.

"This is a nightmare," Fajkowski said when reached by telephone in suburban Atlanta, where he is staying with relatives. "I guess I should have just lied on the application."

FEMA spokesman Butch Kinerney said that Fajkowski's "I don't know" could have disqualified from the expedited assistance. The problem, he said, is that the computer program wasn't prepared to cope with a disaster like Katrina that dislodged people for such a long period of time.

"In most situations, people usually do return within a few days to check their damage," Kinerney said in an e-mail. "In the case of Katrina, where neighborhoods are still off-limits, many can't."

He said the computer glitch is being fixed.

Dale Benoit of Belle Chasse also quickly filled out a FEMA application when he heard $2,000 was available to hurricane evacuees. He and his wife fled to Minden, where he received a copy of his application back from FEMA. It said that his application had expired Feb. 28, 2003.

Benoit went to his local FEMA office and was told that despite the baffling notation, he was eligible for assistance. When no check showed up, he said he called the toll-free number six to eight times only to be abruptly disconnected as Fajkowski had been.

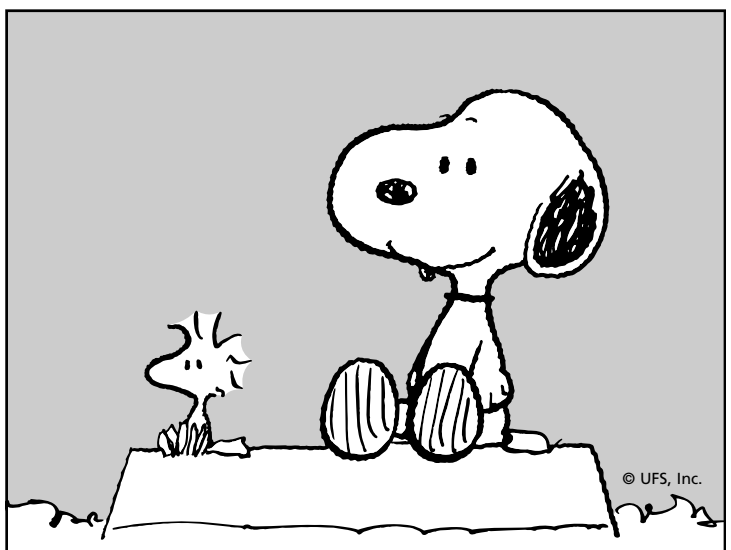
He said he finally got through last Sunday and was assured the money would be put directly in his bank account. As of Friday afternoon, he said, it hadn't been.

"When we really needed this assistance to get us through the crunch after evacuating, we got nothing because of FEMA bureaucracy," Benoit said.

## CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

**Church no longer serving meals:** A story in some editions Thursday stated incorrectly that First Baptist Church of Mandeville was providing meals in conjunction with the Red Cross. That service had ended by the time of publication.

**St. Clement opening clarified:** The story in Friday's edition about the 2005 Blue Ribbon schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education contained a garbled sentence. It should have said that St. Clement of Rome Catholic School in Metairie plans to reopen Monday, using its library, music room and other spaces for classes displaced by Hurricane Katrina.


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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Rescued pets to move from Gonzales

*They will be sent to other shelters*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer

The state's biggest emergency animal shelter at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales planned Friday to stop accepting rescued animals at 8 p.m., and to transfer all the animals remaining at the center to shelters in other states by Oct. 15.

"We're getting back to normal," said state veterinarian Maxwell Lea of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

"We are winding down to normal with the hurricane response," as are animal control agencies in the state, he said. In particular, he said, the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was planning to reopen a shelter in New Orleans.

The LSPCA has been among the principal agencies rescuing trapped animals and picking up strays in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Maloney said the group has leased a warehouse on the West Bank of the city at 701 Thayer St. in Algiers, which it will open as a shelter on Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

A truck full of dogs arrives at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, where the animals were being cared for by volunteers. They soon will be sent to shelters in other states.

The shelter was made possible with donations of $275,000 from the ASPCA of New York, and $75,000 from United Animal Nation, she said.

Until the facility opens in Algiers, rescue workers are feeding and watering stray animals on the streets, she said.

"Because (New Orleans) residents can come back today, hopefully, for many animals in homes, their owners will get them," she said Friday.

Animal rescue workers will focus on finding animals in zip codes where residents won't be allowed to return until Wednesday, she said.

Every day animals "are in worse shape," she said. "I'm still amazed a month after this we are still finding animals alive."

Maloney said about 62 percent of the animals taken to Lamar-Dixon were pit bull dogs, and about 95 percent of the animals were not neutered.

She cautioned returning homeowners not to approach dogs, some of which have formed packs, but to put out food and water. The LSPCA will begin picking up strays on Friday, she said.

Lea said emergency shelters in Lafayette, Monroe, Shreveport and Lake Charles are following the same shutdown schedule as the Lamar-Dixon center. The John M. Parker Coliseum on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge also will close Oct. 15. The coliseum has been used to house the pets of evacuees.

Owners were asked to pick up their animals by 8 p.m. Friday, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine spokeswoman Ginger Guttner said Friday. After that, plans were to begin transferring animals to shelters in other states, with the provision that any Louisiana animal adopted from those shelters would have to be returned to their original owner before Dec. 31, Guttner said.

Owners can search for their pets at www.petfinder.com, a Web site that has been a clearinghouse for photos and descriptions of found and rescued pets.

# Reporter agrees to discuss Plame leak

*Cheney aide ID'd as confidential source*

**By Pete Yost**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Out of jail after 85 days, New York Times reporter Judith Miller testified before a grand jury Friday, setting the stage for prosecutors to decide whether to charge anyone in the Bush administration in the leak of a CIA operative's name.

Miller, who had been in jail for refusing to testify, was the final holdout witness whose testimony Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald said he needed before concluding the probe into who leaked the identity of Valerie Plame.

Miller said she got assurances from her source and from Fitzgerald that enabled her to testify.



**Judith Miller**
New York Times reporter spent 85 days behind bars for keeping silent

Before she agreed to talk to the grand jury, Miller's source — Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby — gave her assurances she could reveal the contents of their conversations.

Fitzgerald has characterized Miller's testimony as key to completing his investigation into the White House role in the disclosure of Plame's identity. The grand jury expires Oct. 28.

Fitzgerald exited the courthouse without commenting.

Until a few months ago, the White House maintained that Libby and presidential aide Karl Rove were not involved in leaking the identity of Plame, whose husband had publicly suggested in July 2003 that the Bush administration twisted intelligence in the run-up to the war in Iraq.

When former Ambassador Joseph Wilson made his allegation, the White House was already on the defensive as it sought fruitlessly to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The president's claims of such weapons had been the main justification for going to war.


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NATIONAL

# Hundreds return home as wildfire controlled



AP PHOTO

A California Department of Forestry firefighter sets a back fire Friday to combat a blaze in Simi Valley, Calif.

## *Blaze triggers health warnings*

**By Jeff Wilson**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of people were allowed to return home Friday as firefighters gained ground against a 20,000-acre wildfire that cast such a smoky haze over the city that drivers turned on their headlights in the middle of the day.

The blaze on the Los Angeles-Ventura county line was 20 percent contained, and was expected to be 35 percent surrounded by day's end, said Los Angeles County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant.

"We're really happy with the weather today. This is a good opportunity for us," Bryant said. "It is a very, very important day for us in fighting this fire."

Firefighters were aided by fading desert winds that let more humid ocean air move back inland. But the shift also pushed smoke over parts of Los Angeles and neighboring valleys, triggering health warnings.

At one point on Thursday afternoon, motorists drove through the San Fernando Valley with their headlights on. On Friday, health officials urged residents to restrict outdoor activities and advised people with heart and lung diseases to take precautions.

Downtown Los Angeles bank employee Jolie Gorchov, 40, said the bad air was giving her headaches. "I don't close my windows because it doesn't make a difference," she said. "The air is so thick and smoky you can taste it."

Evacuation orders were lifted in all areas. By Friday afternoon, 40 people remained in one of the two evacuation centers that still were open.

Despite the fire's furious pace over the previous two days, the flames destroyed only two single-family homes, three outbuildings, one storage building and one detached garage, authorities said.

**"We're really happy with the weather today. This is a good opportunity for us. It is a very, very important day for us in fighting this fire."**

MIKE BRYANT
Los Angeles County
Deputy fire chief

Some 3,000 firefighters from agencies throughout the state were on the lines, aided by six fire-retardant bombers and 11 water-dropping helicopters.

The fire erupted Wednesday afternoon in the Chatsworth area of northwest Los Angeles and was rapidly spread by strong winds.

Elsewhere, 1,200 people were evacuated from mountain communities 70 miles east of Los Angeles because of a 450-acre blaze in the San Bernardino National Forest. Containment was estimated at 10 percent. A small fire slumbering in hills above suburban Burbank also awakened, sending up a towering plume at midday.

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# Prey may be scarce for state's hunters this year

## *Habitat damage alters seasons*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Roughly 60 to 65 percent of the state's coastal and inland wildlife management areas and refuges were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, but the cost of the damages is not yet known, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries officials said Friday.

Parke Moore, a wildlife biologist and assistant secretary of the agency's Office of Wildlife, said that about 610,000 acres of state-run refuges and wildlife management areas were impacted by Hurricane Rita, including damage to the sprawling Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in southwest Louisiana.

Moore said another 400,000 acres were damaged by Hurricane Katrina a month ago. The state has about 1.5 million acres under its wildlife jurisdiction, he said.

The storms also have altered the hunting seasons in several areas of the state.

"Many of the buildings, equipment and infrastructure in these areas have been damaged or destroyed," Moore said. "While the department has not yet been able to survey the habitat damage in many of these areas, it is apparent that significant damage to levees and water control structures has occurred."

**Deer and rabbit hunting is closed as of today in Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes south of the Intracoastal waterway.**

Moore said that during Rita, the storm surge approached 20 feet in coastal areas of southwest Louisiana, affecting rabbit and white-tailed-deer habitat and the species themselves.

"The impact of the storm surge, flooding and prolonged exposure to saltwater . . . has not yet been evaluated but it is expected to be significant," Moore said. "We will have substantial mortality to wildlife."

As a result of the hurricanes' damages, he said, deer- and rabbit-hunting season scheduled to open today in much of Cameron, Vermilion, Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu parishes will be "closed for several months," department Secretary Dwight Landreneau said.

The only hunting areas open in that area are north of Louisiana 14 in Cameron Parish, parts of Vermilion and Jefferson Davis parishes south of Louisiana 14 and parts of Calcasieu south of Louisiana 14 and Interstate 10.

Department spokesman Bo Boehringer said the opening of deer, rabbit and squirrel seasons will be delayed a week — until Oct. 8 — in Ascension, Livingston, St. John the Baptist and St. James parishes.

Landreneau said water "is slowing receding in this area" and hunting should be able to begin in those areas in a week.

Deer and rabbit hunting is closed as of today in Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes south of the Intracoastal waterway, Landreneau said.

"These areas should be reopened for hunting shortly, as soon as the water levels return to normal and the stress to these (wildlife) populations due to flooding is removed," he said.

Statewide, the alligator season, which was to open in early September was pushed back to mid-September and will now close Oct. 13.

Boehringer said hunters should check the precise locations that are opened and closed by accessing the agency's Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov and clicking on the "What's New" section for information on changes in the 2005-06 hunting season. He said the section will be updated on a regular basis as areas open for hunting.

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# Most seafood from lake is safe to eat, state says

## *But industry to lose more than $1 billion*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Crabs, shrimp and other seafood from Lake Pontchartrain should be safe for eating as long as they are properly prepared, and exhaustive tests will be conducted on the water and the creatures living in it to ensure they maintain that standard, health and environmental officials said Friday.

"There is no toxic soup," said Chris Piehler, a senior environmental scientist with the state Department of Environmental Quality, at a news conference. "We find no evidence that people should not consume seafood from Lake Pontchartrain, given that they are properly handled."

In addition to proper cooking, State Health Officer Jimmy Guidry said seafood lovers have another factor working on their behalf: the diluting power of the lake itself.

Even though high bacterial counts were found in the lake after Hurricane Katrina roared through, the potential menace of those toxins was virtually eliminated because they became weaker in the water, he said. "It's not near the toxicity that people are talking about."

To limit the number of pollutants in the lake, Guidry said sewage was diverted to the Mississippi River until New Orleans' sewage-treatment system is back.

Guidry said he wasn't certain of the environmental impact of that decision, but he said the silt-filled Mississippi River is never pristine when it reaches New Orleans.

"I don't like the idea of raw sewage in the Mississippi," he said. "But rather than have raw sewage in the city, it's the only alternative we have."

In addition to water testing, Piehler said tissue from shrimp, fish and crabs will be sampled throughout the lake to ensure they are not contaminated.

Because of the back-to-back assaults of Katrina and Rita, Louisiana's seafood industry could lose slightly more than $1 billion this year, said Harry Blanchet of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The storms hit not only fishers but also the land-based businesses supporting them, such as boat businesses and dry docks.

Recovery will take years, "but it will recover," said Jon Bell, a seafood expert in LSU AgCenter's Department of Food Sciences.

Although speakers at the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness were enthusiastic about the prospect of consuming fish, shrimp and crabs, they were less sanguine about oysters.

Oyster beds are closed, and Guidry said testing will be required before oysters can be safe in any form, raw or cooked.

No one would speculate on how long that process would take.

As Louisianians struggle to restore their lives, including the enjoyment of native seafood, Guidry said inspectors from the state Department of Health and Hospitals are working with restaurants to ensure they meet strict food-preparation criteria before reopening.

Every establishment that passes inspection will receive a certificate that must be posted for customers to see.

"If they don't see a certificate, I wouldn't eat there," Guidry said.

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# Tulane promises prospective students it won't disappear

*Admissions officials face some reluctance*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

BETHESDA, MD. — In one sense, it's the same pitch that Tulane University admissions counselors make every year: Tulane is one of America's elite private universities, a school that's neither so large as to be impersonal or too small as to limit academic choices, and it offers the extra benefit of being smack in the middle of one of America's most exciting cities.

Still, as Tulane representative Jeff Schiffman talked to a group of Walt Whitman High School seniors Friday, he acknowledged that some might well have doubts about applying to a university that was forced to cancel the fall semester due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Schiffman promised that the campus will be spruced up and ready for classes next fall, and that the vibrant New Orleans culture that makes Tulane "such a great place to go to school isn't going to disappear." One student asked whether "there will be Mardi Gras." Most certainly, Schiffman replied.

Still, he told students not to take his word for it.

"Unfortunately, you can't visit the campus this fall, but come visit during the spring semester," Schiffman said. "We'll be open up again on Jan. 17, and you can see for yourself."

Not only will they get a great education, he said, but they can attend Tulane at a time of incredible excitement, with a university committed to playing a major role in New Orleans' redevelopment. Architectural students already are working up new design schemes for devastated sections of New Orleans 9th Ward, Schiffman said, while engineering students are looking into new design possibilities for levees that failed and flooded the city.

For some of the Whitman students gathered in the school's guidance office, post-Katrina Tulane isn't an easy sell.

"My parents think it's not going to be as safe. Because of the water there might be more diseases," said Abby Wald, 17, a Whitman senior. "And since a lot of the city was ruined, will it be rebuilt by the time I go there? So it made me less interested in the school."

But Mariel Yohe, 17, said she was reassured by Schiffman's optimism about the future of both Tulane and New Orleans.

"I was a little worried because of all you read in the newspaper, but you don't really know about a place until you see it," Yohe said. "After hearing from the admissions guy, I feel more confident."

Abraham Einhorn, also 17, said he worries about how long it will take New Orleans to return to any semblance of its former vibrancy. But he said he still has a good feeling for the place.

"I think just like in New York after 9/11, there will be more of a connection to the place by the people who live there," Einhorn said. "I think that the people who come back will really be the ones who want to be there. But you wonder about all the lost historical buildings. I suspect in some ways after the rebuilding it will be better, but in some ways it will be worse. But I'm definitely going to consider Tulane."

Richard Whiteside, Tulane's dean of admissions, said applications for next fall's freshman class are running about 50 percent ahead of last year, although he conceded that part of the reason is attributed to the earlier distribution of brochures and admissions forms. Tulane has about 6,500 full-time undergraduates and a total student body of about 13,000.

Whiteside said he isn't sensing much reluctance about becoming part of Tulane's class of 2010 as he meets with high school students and their parents.

"I'd say the first five or six minutes go something like this: a lot of mutual support and concern for what happened, but that all ends pretty quickly," Whiteside said in a phone interview from Tulane's temporary administration offices in Houston. "And then it's all about admissions-related questions, like potential majors, financial aid and what student life is like. It's the same questions we get every year."

# 2 million gallons of spilled oil awaits cleanup

*Plaquemines has 40,000 barrels to go*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — About 55,000 barrels of oil have yet to be cleaned up from the estimated 190,000 that were spilled in the New Orleans area during Hurricane Katrina, U.S. Coast Guard officials said Friday.

Coast Guard Capt. Frank Paskewich, federal on-scene coordinator for clean-up efforts, said that equates to about 8 million gallons spilled and about 2.26 million gallons to be cleaned up.

He said that 65,000 barrels "have been recovered and another roughly 70,000 barrels have either been dispersed or have evaporated.

Most of the remaining spilled oil — about 40,000 of the 55,000 barrels — is at the two Bass Enterprises Production tank farms in Plaquemines Parish, one at Cox Bay the other at Pointe-a-la-Hache.

The spilled oil is contained within berms, dead-end canals or containment booms now in place, said Bass spokesman Joe Householder. "It is not going into the (Mississippi) river. "

The company has had more than 80 workers cleaning up the site, and they will be joined by about 60 more over the weekend, Householder said.

"We know where it is," he said. "We just have to get to it. . . .They are working around the clock."

Paskewich said he did not know when the Katrina-caused spills would be cleaned up.

He said the environmental damage should be minimal since "the vast majority of the oil spills were all contained."

Paskewich said Hurricane Rita did not cause any new spills. In addition to the two major spills, oil spilled at Murphy Oil Co. in Chalmette, where an estimated 35,140 barrels released. Of those, 17,429 barrels have been recovered, 13,706 dispersed or evaporated, and 4,005 barrels remaining to be cleaned up.

Paskewich said, there has been "an aggressive response to the Murphy Oil spill" with at least 150 to 200 workers cleaning it up or containing it.

# Celebrities help raise money for Katrina victims

**By Kathy Hanrahan**
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, MISS. — A very famous "Mississippi Girl" is helping Magnolia State residents put their lives back together more than a month after Hurricane Katrina.

Faith Hill is slated to perform at the gala fund-raising concert "Mississippi Rising" today in Oxford. Hill has been active in raising attention for victims of the storm.

The Star native's Web site is filled with messages urging fans to give money toward hurricane relief.

The three-hour, nationally televised benefit will raise money for the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund, which was started by Gov. Haley Barbour, and a similar fund in Louisiana administered by Foundations for Recovery.

The concert is being organized by two Mississippi natives: Sam Haskell, former worldwide head of television for The William Morris Agency in Hollywood, and Lanny Griffith, a longtime friend of the governor and chief executive officer of the Washington lobbying firm Barbour Griffith & Rogers.

Famous Mississipians scheduled to appear on the broadcast include Sela Ward from Meridian, Lance Bass of Clinton, and Delta resident Morgan Freeman.


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# Some paychecks stop for New Orleans workers

## *Companies can't pay without customers*

**By Rebecca Mowbray and Jaquetta White**
Business writers

Some New Orleans-area service-sector companies whose revenue stream is tied to a consuming public that has been largely absent for the past month began laying off workers Friday.

After Hurricane Katrina, many employers committed to paying their employees for 30 days. Friday marked the end of that period as well as the last day of the month, making it a natural time to cut ties.

The Belle of Orleans riverboat casino, for example, which was heavily damaged by the hurricane, fired its 692 employees. We paid them for 30 days, and that's where we're at now," said Gonzalo Hernandez, general manager of the privately owned casino formerly known as Bally's.

Tulane University, the metropolitan area's largest private employer, on Friday terminated all part-time faculty, part-time staff who did not get benefits, and part-time staff who were hired after May 1 that had been eligible to receive benefits. As of Nov. 1, only staff employees who have been requested to return to work will continue to be paid; others will need to use accrued vacation or sick leave until the university re-opens in January.

On a brighter note, Tulane on Friday extended pay through the end of October for research faculty, clinical faculty at the School of Medicine, medical residents and Veterans Affairs professors who work part-time at Tulane.

Sept. 30 was also a significant date for 500 full-time employees at the Fair Grounds Race Course and its betting and video poker operations. "We have said we would be paying everyone through the end of September, which is today," spokeswoman Julie Koenig-Loignon said Friday. Fair Grounds employees will need to start using their vacation and sick days as of today. But Churchill Downs Inc., the owner of the track, may have an update on that policy soon. "We are revisiting that decision on a week-by-week basis," she said.

Port of New Orleans employees who do not show up to work Monday will have to use their annual leave in order to continue being paid. Of the 318 port workers, 119 have reported to work. Thirty-three more are expected this week, according to the port's Web site.

At least one port tenant, International Shipholding Inc., has said that it will continue to pay all of its 122 New Orleans employees. They have been moved to temporary offices in Houston, Mandeville and Baton Rouge until the company can move back to New Orleans, said Erik L. Johnsen, the company's vice president.

Friday was the final payday for employees at Whole Foods Market locations in New Orleans and Metairie who had not relocated to another store. The company paid workers for two pay periods after the storm, whether they worked or not, and offered to pay relocation costs for those who chose to move to another city with a Whole Foods store.

Other companies weren't able to hang onto their employees that long. Two other grocers paid workers for only one week after the storm.

Winn-Dixie paid employees through Sept. 7 and then placed them on unpaid leave of absence, unless they found work at another Winn-Dixie store, said the company's spokesman, Dennis Wortham.

Likewise, the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., which owns the Sav-a-Center stores, paid employees for one week after Hurricane Katrina but continues to pay full benefits, company spokesman Glenn Dickson said.

About 775 of Sav-a-Center's 2,100 employees have been transferred to another store, he said.

The Ernest N. Morial Convention Center's 360 full-time employees stopped receiving paychecks Sept. 11 unless they were working. The Convention Center's 250 part-time employees are paid only for the hours they work. Sabrina Written, a spokeswoman for the Convention Center, said that some people in sales, human resources, finance, telecommunications, safety and operations have been working, but it's hard to know how many people that includes.

Harrah's New Orleans Casino, which has about 1,900 full-time employees, has committed to paying its workers for 90 days and has waived the payroll deductions for insurance. The Treasure Chest, which hopes to re-open soon, is paying its employees through the end of October. The Boomtown re-opened Friday.

# Archdiocese plans to lay off workers

## *Katrina has ravaged the church's finances*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Under financial strain from the burden of caring for victims of Katrina and Rita, the Archdiocese of New Orleans is grappling with the painful prospect of laying off an unspecified number of its 9,000 lay employees to avoid running a deficit.

"We certainly want to keep as many employees as we can," the Rev. William Maestri, the archdiocesan spokesman, said Friday. "However, we realize the ravages of Katrina and Rita have put a great strain on the archdiocese to provide for the victims of the storms and support its employees."

No decision has been made on the number of employees to be let go, the areas from which these workers will come or when the decision will be made, he said, explaining that this process has been in the works for only three weeks.

"We want to do this as quickly as possible . . . with all deliberate speed, to be fair to our employees," Maestri said.

Under its hurricane policy, the archdiocese paid all employees through today, he said, and benefits run through Oct. 31. Workers who are laid off can continue to pay for health insurance for another year.

Maestri said all lay employees must report to their supervisors or call 1 (888) 366-5024 by Monday.

If a job is available, the caller will be told when and where to report, and wages will resume on the first day of work. If no work is to be had, the worker will be terminated with two weeks' severance pay and then become eligible for unemployment compensation.

**"We want to do this as quickly as possible . . . with all deliberate speed, to be fair to our employees."**
THE REV. WILLIAM MAESTRI
archdiocese spokesman

Employees also will be terminated, with two weeks' pay, if they turn down jobs offered when they call, Maestri said.

If they don't call by Monday, they will be dropped with no severance pay.

"The layoffs will be painful," Maestri said.

But being laid off may not be the end of the line, because some archdiocesan departments with robust budgets may be able to hire workers from agencies that can't afford them, Maestri said, adding that an increase in donations to the archdiocese might mean that more employees could be kept on the payroll.

In a statement to employees spelling out these options, the archdiocese described itself as "both a victim of the storm as well as an integral source of support."

"We must, however, regrettably, discontinue the employment of many of our faithful workers," the statement said. "We pledge to keep as many as possible. We hope to rehire many in the future."

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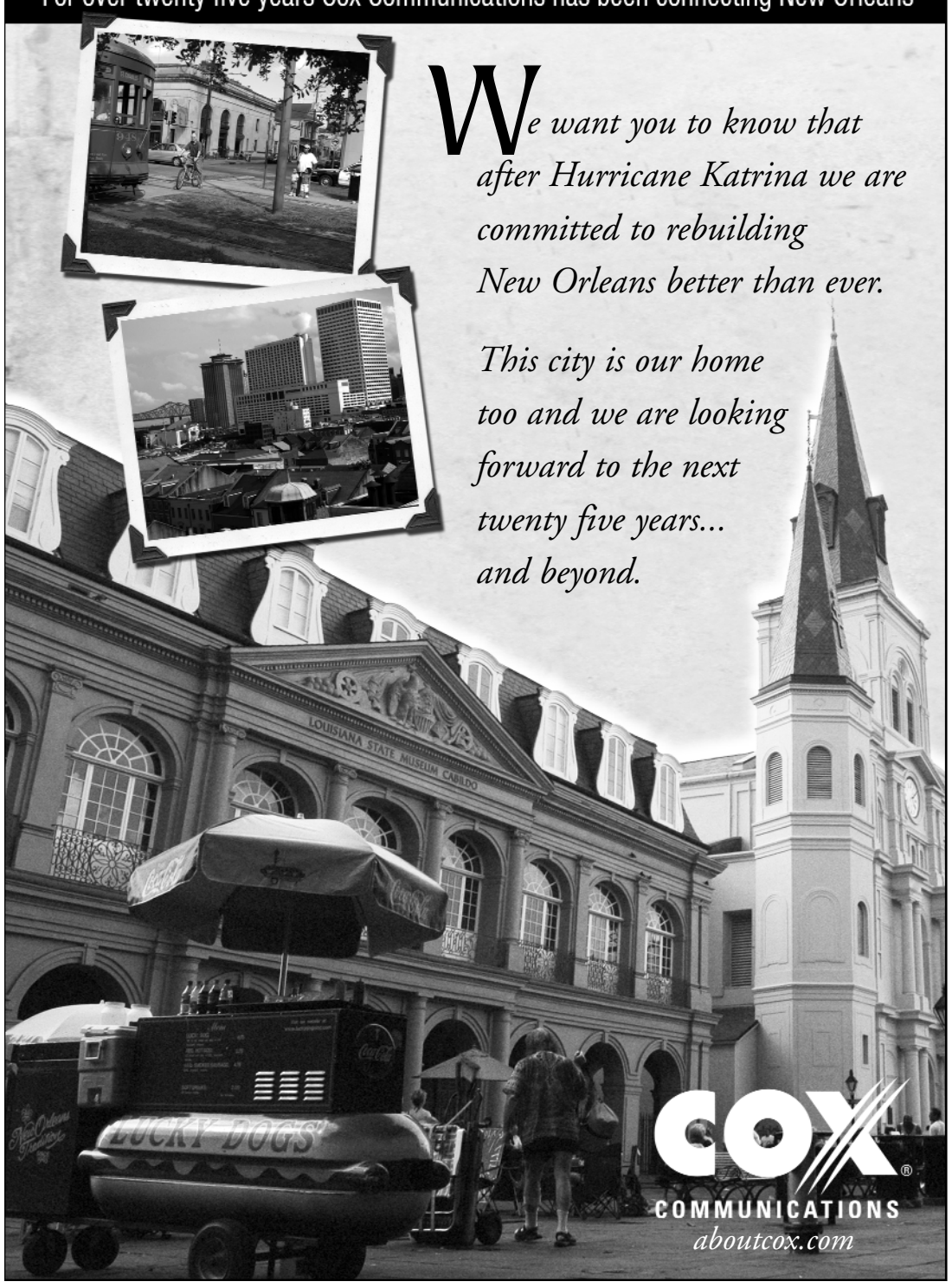
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# Last search teams pull out on high note

## *Urban squads elated after saving 6,500*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

Huddled around the convoy of 10 red-and-white rescue trucks and vans, they traded hugs, handshakes and stories that by now have been seared into their minds.

The 35 members of the Fairfax, Va., Fire and Rescue team were preparing for the two-day journey home, their tireless work in New Orleans finally completed. For many, the weekend will mark the first time they will see their families since before Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast just over a month ago.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency completed its role in Joint Task Force Katrina's search for survivors and bodies in the New Orleans area on Wednesday. On Friday, the Fairfax team and another from Pennsylvania, the final two urban search-and-rescue teams, left their base of operations at the New Orleans Saints' training facility in Metairie and headed home.

"These people are on a high right now," said Dave Webb, who commanded the urban search and rescue operation for FEMA. "They've contributed, and they know that they have had an impact on people's lives. That's why they're in this business."

Working in collaboration with the National Guard, Coast Guard and local law enforcement agencies, FEMA's urban search-and-rescue teams rescued more than 6,500 people in New Orleans during their 33-day operation.

Eighteen of FEMA's 28 task force units were deployed to the Gulf Coast. As many as a dozen specialized teams worked in New Orleans at one time, said Mark Stone, a FEMA spokesman. Those teams were deployed in two sizes: one with 35 members and others, carrying heavier equipment for bigger buildings, with 70 to 80 members.

Search missions were performed in three phases.

The first phase immediately after the storm involved hasty searches. Most were performed in boats by Wildlife and Fisheries and Coast Guard officials while many parts of the city were still underwater. Rescuers visited each home but did not enter unless they discovered a survivor.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Urban search-and-rescue teams get ready to hit to the road Friday from their base at the New Orleans Saints' training facility in Metairie. 'In magnitude and complexity, it's certainly the largest hurricane we've ever worked,' said Dave Webb, who commanded the teams who searched 22,313 homes in New Orleans.

During the second phase, rescuers went to homes again and searched more thoroughly, looking in windows and calling out for help.

The final phase began about two weeks ago and involved revisiting dwellings that had been inaccessible because of high water.

"We haven't dealt with water before, and we don't carry boats with us," Webb said. "We are trained for structural collapse. Historically, that's involved heavy concrete structures. That was one of the many things about this experience."

### 'A unique mission'

During the recovery process, rescuers encountered scores of dead bodies. Webb and Stone deferred to state and local officials for official counts but acknowledged that FEMA teams encountered "hundreds" of bodies.

"I think that was expected," Stone said.

They individually searched 22,313 homes, a task unprecedented in size and scope for the crews, many of whom responded to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., and last year's tsunami that devastated much of Southeast Asia.

"In magnitude and complexity, it's certainly the largest hurricane we've ever worked," Webb said. "This was a catastrophic event for the Gulf Coast."

There were countless stories of heroism among the scores of daily missions.

▶The rescues of 72-year-old John Lyons and 76-year-old Gerald Martin, who had been stranded in their homes for 20 and 18 days, respectively.

▶The recovery of two Torah scrolls in the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Lakeview.

▶The rescue and return to health of a rare cockatiel in Mid-City.

▶The painstaking work of Capt. Roger Lowe and Spc. Mike Adams of the National Guard to compile a working database from the 22,000 911 calls that were redirected to Baton Rouge after the New Orleans system failed in the days after the storm hit.

"The collaboration of the unified command was amazing," said Maj. Mike Kitchens of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, who assisted the search and recovery missions with troops and 17 five-ton high-water armored vehicles. "This was a unique mission for the Guard. In Iraq and Kuwait, we were helping America. But it changes the dynamics when you are here and trying to help Americans."

### Kinks in organization

That's not to say there weren't problems along the way.

FEMA initially deployed 11 of its 18 units to Mississippi but quickly changed gears and sent more rescuers, including the Fairfax County team, to Louisiana after the floodwaters rose.

While there was successful collaboration between the federal and local search and rescue teams, officials admitted that state and volunteer search parties also worked the area and overlapped efforts.

"There was a lot of duplication of effort on the searches," Webb said. "We know we searched many places three and four times. It's not the most efficient way to do it, but the overlaps were not necessarily harmful. We feel we did the best we could to rescue everybody we humanly possibly could."

The biggest problem initially was communication. Once a working system was installed after the first week, the operation and cooperation improved dramatically.

"In any operation of this magnitude there are going to be hiccups along the way," Kitchen said. "But in my opinion, this was a very well-run operation."

Added Stone: "During the first couple of days, the only one in charge here was Katrina. That's just how it is with a disaster of this size."

As Webb watched the rescue trucks roll away from the facility, he admitted to the remote possibility that more people could be discovered in homes as the city's residents return. But he's confident the local search-and-rescue units can handle the task. FEMA will continue to assist from Baton Rouge, but its presence in New Orleans is done.

"Miracles happen," Webb said. "I can tell you that we've met the expectations of the local government. We've done the best we could to cover all the ground where victims could be viable. Every home that met the agreed upon criteria was searched. We feel good about what we accomplished here."

• • • • • •

Jeff Duncan can be reached at jdunk@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3405.

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**"Ultimately government is going to have to retrench itself and shrink somewhat."**

JERRY LUKE LeBLANC, commissioner of administration

# Loss to state could top $1 billion

*Hurricane expenses draining the budget*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – The state's general fund will take a hit of at least $1 billion this year as sales taxes, personal income taxes and other revenue plunge far below projections before Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita slammed the area, state economists told lawmakers Friday.

"For us this is very dramatic, and it's going to be very prolonged," Greg Albrecht, chief economist for the Legislative Fiscal Office, told a joint House-Senate panel in the first public presentation on the storms' potential impact on state coffers.

The overall budget shortfall is likely to be far larger than $1 billion, as money in the general fund is used to attract federal financing for programs such as Medicaid. The total state budget is $18.7 billion, an amount that includes not just the general fund but federal dollars and money that the state generates from penalties, fees, mineral royalties and other sources.

Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's chief budget officer, said that means budget cuts will have to be made in the coming weeks and months.

"Ultimately government is going to have to retrench itself and shrink somewhat," LeBlanc said. He did not say what spending might get chopped.

Sen. Francis Heitmeier, D-Algiers, who chairs the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, said there are no plans to make up the difference by raising taxes when the Legislature meets for a special session sometime later in October. "It's important to point out that there are no plans for a tax measure," Heitmeier said.

Katrina and Rita "severely affected" about one-third of the state's population, which makes up 37 percent of Louisiana's employment base and 38 percent of the personal income, Albrecht said.

Albrecht said Katrina-related job losses are expected to result in about 250,000 to 325,000 new unemployment claims for the fourth quarter, a figure that doesn't include self-employed people who lost jobs because of the storm and those who were already unemployed before Katrina hit.

While many of those jobs will return – or be replaced by new jobs as the New Orleans area rebuilds – Albrecht said as many as 125,000 jobs could permanently vanish as people displaced by the storm take up residence in other states. That, in turn, means that the state tax base could suffer for years to come. "Population is your economy; we need people back," Albrecht said.

The fate of the state budget depends in large part on the federal government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently paying 100 percent of storm-related costs for state and local governments in Louisiana under a 60-day waiver, and the state has asked President Bush to extend that waiver until Aug. 29, 2006, the one-year anniversary of Katrina.

The state also is asking the federal government for another waiver that would allow FEMA to subsidize the day-to-day operating cost of state and local government. While FEMA's public assistance program lets state and local governments get reimbursed for disaster-related costs such as debris removal and overtime pay for emergency responders, it does not cover normal operating costs.

"It seems to me … that we're not going to be able to make any decisions going forward until we get a decision from the federal government for the waiving of the Stafford Act (which governs the federal response to disasters)," Sen. Jay Dardenne, R-Baton Rouge, said.

U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and David Vitter, R-La., have introduced a $250 billion relief bill. Congress is almost certain to cut much of that proposed spending before sending the bill to President Bush, yet it could provide some relief to cash-strapped state and local agencies.

Katrina is expected to be the most expensive disaster in U.S. history, with damages estimated at $180 billion. That's nearly six times as much as Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the second most expensive hurricane, which cost $32 billion. And it's more than twice the $87.4 billion in losses experienced in New York and suburban Washington, D.C., in the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The state began tightening its fiscal belt two weeks ago, when Blanco issued an executive order barring state agencies from hiring new workers and spending money on "nonessential items" such as travel and furniture. Far more stringent spending controls are on the way, LeBlanc said. "That executive order is just a drop in the bucket of what we will have to face moving forward," he said.

The state could make up part of the shortfall by using its $390 million rainy-day fund, one-third of which can be tapped by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, which is expected to have two special sessions before its regular meeting in March.

Also working in the state's favor is the rising price of oil and natural gas, which could bring in higher than expected severance and royalty taxes. The 2005-06 budget was built on projections that the average price of oil would be $40 a barrel, and that natural gas would sell for $5.75 per cubic feet. The latest expectations are that oil will sell for an average of $61 per barrel, and gas will average $9.70 per cubic feet.

Even though Katrina and Rita combined to temporarily shut down nearly all oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, economists said the higher 1weigh the lost production and result in a net gain for the state treasury.

"We will get some gain there, maybe, but it's not going to be the solution to our problem," said Jim Richardson, a professor of economics at Louisiana State University who sits on a forecasting panel that determines how much money the state will have available in the budget.

# Miss. airports to receive federal funds

**By The Associated Press**

GULFPORT, MISS. — Two airports on the Mississippi Gulf Coast will receive almost $2.4 million in federal funds, including money to help with hurricane repairs, U.S. Sen. Trent Lott said Wednesday.

Lott, R-Miss., said $1.4 million was approved for Stennis International Airport in Hancock County. He said almost $1 million would be used at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport for the continuation of a terminal apron expansion under way at the airport before Katrina.

"Getting airports in this region fully functional is very important, especially in a hard-hit area like Hancock County and Bay St. Louis," Lott said in a statement. "Stennis Space Center and Stennis Airport are a huge part of the Gulf Coast's economy, and this funding will help repair critical airport systems."

He said the federal funds for Stennis will help acquire aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles, install or replace navigational equipment, rehabilitate the ARFF building, and rehabilitate both runway and taxiway lighting.

The tidal surge from Katrina flooded the airport, causing extensive damage.

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# Firefighters honored for rescues

## *They insist they're just doing their jobs*

**By Paul Purpura**
Staff writer

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He made no big deal of how, even as Katrina's winds died down to 70 mph, a Category 1 storm, he and other firefighters ventured out of their safe haven into eastern New Orleans neighborhoods on a "windshield survey" to assess the damage left behind.

It was no big thing how during that survey they discovered 150 people in need of help and learned there were many, many more. How they devised a grid system to allow for an orderly search. How they used their own boats and Jet Skis and those they "commandeered" to create a flotilla of 10 vessels, keeping their tanks filled by siphoning gas from their own vehicles and even police cruisers.

And how, during five consecutive days of dawn-to-dusk searches, they helped save about 1,000 people from their flooded homes and roofs, even if it meant they had to wade through the sewage-filled, murky water.

"We still went out and did what we had to do," said Windsay, 32, a native of eastern New Orleans.

But on Friday, the New Orleans Fire Department recognized Windsay and 32 colleagues with commendations awarded by top brass in a ceremony at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in Algiers.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

New Orleans firefighter Lisa Ruffin, one of the 'BellSouth Group,' hugs New Orleans Fire Superintendent Charles Parent during an awards ceremony Friday. During five days of dawn-to-dusk searches, the group helped save about 1,000 people from their flooded homes and roofs.

They're informally called the "BellSouth Group," named for the telecommunications company's three-story building in eastern New Orleans that they occupied before, during and after the storm because it was on high ground.

"It's recognition for a job above and beyond the call of duty," said District Chief Richard Hampton, who since Katrina has headed the New Orleans Unified Incident Fire Command. "You can ask any one of these guys and they'll say, 'I did nothing.' "

It was the first of many such ceremonies the NOFD expects to hold in coming weeks, for 700 of the department's members who saved "thousands" of New Orleanians, NOFD Superintendent Charles Parent said.

"They never quit, never for one minute (abandoned) their duties," Parent said. "They've inspired me personally."

"You guys are awesome, and we will never forget you," Mayor Ray Nagin said.

Like many of its members whose families are scattered and whose homes have been destroyed, the fire department has suffered bruises. Ten of its 22 engine houses were destroyed and on any given day, about 20 percent of its trucks were taken out of service for maintenance because of the wear and tear, Parent said. The fire department even was forced to move its headquarters to Our Lady of Holy Cross College because Algiers survived high and dry, Parent said.

Slowly, Parent said, the department is getting back on its feet. But it hasn't done it alone, thanks to more than 1,600 firefighters from Illinois, New York and Maryland who have joined ranks with New Orleans, he said. The U.S. Forestry Service also sent personnel from the Pacific Northwest to help the NOFD with logistics and support, Parent said.

On Friday, some firefighters returned to New York and Illinois after a two-week rotation in New Orleans.

"What we've done here for the past four weeks is more than mutual aid," said Assistant Chief Bob Sweeney of the Fire Department of New York. "It's brother and sister helping brother and sister."

Nagin offered them the city's thanks. "We owe you a serious debt, and we thank you for supporting us in our time of serious need," he said. "You can count on us if you ever need us."

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"It was an experience that brought a lot of us together," Windsay said.

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Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net.

# Red Cross opens centers in B.R., Denham Springs

## *3,000 wait hours for financial aid*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

The Red Cross opened two Baton Rouge area financial aid distribution centers Friday and, like in other places where the agency is handing out debit cards, the openings were greeted with huge crowds and long waits.

At the center in Baton Rouge, the Bellemont Great Hall, roughly 3,000 people waited in line, some for four to five hours.

"I got here at 8:45 a.m.," a sweating Marie Broussard of Algiers, who evacuated from New Orleans with the Little Sisters of the Poor, said Friday afternoon.

Broussard, a nurse in training who worked at a nursing home operated by the order of nuns, was all smiles as she waited for what Red Cross officials described as a Discover credit card for goods and services.

"I'm going to use the money to buy sheets, towels and pots to cook in," said Broussard, who plans to move out of a room provided for free at St. Clare Manor Nursing Home in Baton Rouge and into an apartment. She said Katrina flooded her home on the first floor and mold was creeping everywhere on the second floor.

Broussard – who was studying nursing at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, but has since enrolled at Southern University – said she was "very appreciative of the Red Cross."

The Red Cross also set up a service delivery site in Denham Springs. Nearly 3,000 people stood in line there as well, said Mary Dooley, a spokeswoman for the nonprofit organization.

The Bellemont Great Hall, 7370 Airline Highway, and a location in Denham Springs, the North Park Recreation Center at 30372 Eden Church Road, were opened Friday for the first time and will remain open "for weeks," said Dooley, generally operating from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., seven days a week. The Denham Springs location, though, will not open today because it was already booked for a wedding.

Samuel Gable, who waited in line for more than four hours, said he was uncertain how much he would receive from the Red Cross, but he had to come because he needs money to buy clothes and food. Gable, a resident of eastern New Orleans who had worked for Lockheed Martin, said when he evacuated for Katrina he left with little clothing, thinking he would return in a few days.

Originally, he fled to Dallas, but later moved into a home in Baton Rouge provided by a friend of a friend.

Dooley said anyone from ZIP Codes in areas battered by hurricanes Katrina or Rita qualify for credit cards worth $360 for an individual up to $1,565 for a family of five or more. Residents will have to provide identification showing they reside in the affected areas.

But those who come to the distribution points should be prepared for long waits, Red Cross officials said.

"This has affected hundreds of thousands of people," said Kendall Hebert, a spokeswoman for the Baton Rouge Red Cross. "We want people to expect long lines."

Indeed, Red Cross financial aid centers opened this week in St. Tammany Parish, the first in the metro area to hand out the debit cards, created giant traffic jams.

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STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**MARRERO:** Khrystal Williams, 7, left, and her cousin, Halie Rodrigue, 10, clean up in front of their grandmother's home on Savage Avenue on Sept. 10. The family rode out Hurricane Katrina in Westwego.

# THE UNKINDEST CUT

The damage caused to homes and businesses by Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area was widespread and severe, but in a city well-known for its live oaks, trees also faced the fury of the storm. Residents returning to their homes are finding plenty of work to do outside, as well as inside.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

**BELLE CHASSE:** Mark Leonard inspects his grandmother's home Sept. 11. A tree leveled by Katrina crashed through the home, knocking it off its foundation. 'She always wanted that tree to be taken down before a storm knocked it down,' Leonard said.

**LAKEVIEW:** On Sept. 22, downed branches litter streets, sidewalks and yards, LEFT.





STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

**GRETNA:** George Cox Elementary School Principal Scott Steckler and physical education teacher Lance Carlson work Thursday morning on clearing a walkway near the school's air conditioning system.

**LAKEVIEW:** Roots are all that Katrina left of the trees near the 17th Street Canal on Bellaire Street.

# New Orleans faces health-care crisis

**HOSPITAL,** *from A-1*

provides an array of services that poor people would have a difficult time getting elsewhere, Rowland said. Charity also operates the area's only Level One trauma center, a member of an elite group of hospitals that are equipped to handle the most serious emergencies.

Dr. Vincent Berkley, chief medical officer for Indian Health Service, the federal health program for American Indians and Alaska natives, is leading a U.S. Public Hospital Administration team overseeing the restoration of health care in New Orleans. The goal is to rebuild the area's hospital capacity in an integrated and incremental manner, with hospitals sharing information about the services they are prepared to offer.

In the meantime, disaster medical assistance teams that work with doctors, nurses and pharmacy services to provide urgent medical care to communities without hospitals have been set up. And the emergency medical service systems in Orleans and Jefferson parishes are working together to transport patients to hospitals that can accommodate them.

A dozen hospitals in the New Orleans area continue to operate, including Ochsner Clinic Foundation in Jefferson, East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie and West Jefferson General Hospital in Marrero. Kenner Regional Medical Center and Touro Infirmary are operating emergency rooms. And this week Kenner Regional was cleared to reopen some inpatient beds, a spokesman for the hospital's owner said.

Tulane-Lakeside Hospital in Metairie reopened Friday. Although Lakeside specializes in women's health care, the hospital will offer additional services to help meet the community's immediate needs, said Jeff Prescott, spokesman for HCA Inc., the hospital's parent company.

Children's Hospital has a projected opening date of Oct. 10, depending on the return of city services.

All acute-care hospitals in St. Tammany Parish remain open, including North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell, as well as River Parishes Hospital in LaPlace and St. Charles Parish Hospital in Luling.

As the hospitals work to reopen, hospital administrators must balance the community's need for medical care with their own fiscal health.

"Nurses are being hired away because many of them have no homes here and no schools where they can send their children. The human resources side is not attractive," Finn said.

Already 5,944 doctors were displaced in the 10 parishes in Louisiana and Mississippi flooded by Katrina. That figure doesn't include doctors working as administrators or researchers, only those caring for patients. Of those, 4,486 were in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes, according to Thomas Ricketts, a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill professor who conducted a study on displaced doctors. The study is based on data from the American Medical Association, information on areas that flooded and the locations where doctors practiced.

More than half the displaced doctors were specialists, including 1,292 primary care doctors and 272 obstetricians and gynecologists. Half of the 1,300 medical students at Louisiana State University and Tulane moved to other programs, mostly in Baton Rouge and East Texas.

The problem is that many doctors won't come back. For physicians, once they get busy practicing elsewhere, the reasons for not coming back build, Ricketts said.

This week Tenet Healthcare notified the approximately 2,400 employees of Memorial and Lindy Boggs medical centers that they would be laid off at the end of October because it's clear those hospitals will be closed for at least six months, a company spokesman said. Both lost power and flooded when levees broke after Hurricane Katrina. Workers there are being given the opportunity to apply for work at Tenet's 67 other hospitals in 13 states, Steve Campanini said.

Both Methodist Hospital and Chalmette Medical Center took on water, and the parent company for those hospitals, UHS Inc., has started surveying the damage. UHS has 2,800 employees spread among the five New Orleans area hospitals it operates and they are still being paid.

UHS has not decided how long that will continue, spokesman Nick Ragone said, but the company will continue health insurance benefits for workers at Chalmette and Methodist through the end of the year, he said.

Ragone said UHS is offering jobs to employees at its 85 hospitals around the country and some have taken advantage of the offer.

## HOSPITAL STATUS

Here is the status of New Orleans area hospitals along with number of licensed beds:

**OPEN ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS**

| Hospital | Number of licensed beds |
|---|---|
| West Jefferson Medical Center, Marrero | 451 |
| Ochsner Foundation Hospital, Jefferson | 451 |
| East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie | 448 |
| St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Covington | 203 |
| Kenner Regional Medical Center, Kenner[1] | 203 |
| Tulane Lakeside Hospital, Metairie | 102 |
| Slidell Memorial Hospital, Slidell | 182 |
| Lakeview Regional Medical Center, Covington | 178 |
| NorthShore Regional Medical Center, Slidell | 174 |
| River Parishes Hospital, LaPlace | 106 |
| Louisiana Heart Hospital, Lacombe | 58 |
| St. Charles Parish Hospital, Luling | 56 |
| Fairway Medical Center, Covington | 21 |
| Doctors Hospital of Slidell, Slidell | 10 |

**CLOSED ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Medical Center of Louisiana, (University and Charity), New Orleans | 694 |
| Touro Infirmary, New Orleans[2] | 504 |
| Veterans Affairs Medical Center, New Orleans | 354 |
| Methodist Hospital, New Orleans | 350 |
| Tulane University Hospital and Clinic, New Orleans | 341 |
| Memorial Medical Center, New Orleans | 333 |
| Meadowcrest Hospital, Gretna[3] | 207 |
| Children's Hospital, New Orleans[4] | 201 |
| Chalmette Medical Center, Chalmette[5] | 194 |
| Lindy Boggs Medical Center, New Orleans | 172 |
| Kindred Hospital[6] | N/A |

[1]Emergency room and limited number of beds reopened this week.
[2]Emergency room opened Wednesday.
[3]Facility is being used as a staging area by Jefferson Parish for "Operation Life Line," a program that provides inoculation, food and water to local schools and public health clinics.
[4]Children's Hospital expects to open Oct. 10.
[5]Hospital was evacuated but has set up a clinic at the Chalmette Exxon to treat people in the area.
[6]A long-term acute care hospital in New Orleans is being used as a Federal Medical Rescue Center and acute triage unit for first responders.
Source: Louisiana Hospital Association

STAFF GRAPHIC

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# Nagin to make members sign ethics statement

NAGIN, *from A-1*

about doing things in a manner consistent with how other areas of the country do things."

Nagin also said each commission member has agreed to sign an "ethics statement" pledging they will not "profiteer from the rebuilding process."

Whether the final aid package that comes from Washington is $100 billion or $250 billion, Nagin vowed to see the funds spent in a transparent manner that would breed confidence in the recovery effort and the city's future. What's more, much of the money would be earmarked for projects to ensure that a similar disaster never happens again, he said.

At questions about the country's commitment to rebuilding the city in light of its precarious situation, however, the mayor displayed a flash of impatience. Nagin wondered why metropolitan areas with their own looming confrontations with nature are not subject to the same debate.

"I don't see it about Florida," he said. "There's not one about California, which sits right on a fault line. Let's figure out what we have to do to make this a safer community."

In an e-mail to the White House, Nagin said he had asked for four specific things:

▶ To have the city's levees immediately restored to withstand a Category 3 hurricane and "quickly thereafter" upgraded to a more comprehensive system of levees and floodwalls that could, in theory, withstand a direct hit from a Category 5 storm.

▶ Whatever dollars are appropriate to rebuild a levee protection system equipped to withstand a Category 5 hurricane.

▶ An "expedited and fortified" light rail system to run from downtown to the airport and then from the airport to Baton Rouge. Beyond its immediate benefits to the economy, Nagin said the system would serve as an evacuation tool.

▶ A complex package of tax breaks and incentives for individuals and businesses working or headquartered in New Orleans.

When asked what kind of response he got from the White House, Nagin smiled but did not provide specifics.

"They basically said they were looking at it," he replied. "You know, the president looked me in the eye and said we would rebuild the city into a shining example for the nation and so far he's been a man of his word."

Nagin added: "New Orleans is not asking for hand out. We're asking for a hand up."

The mayor said he has given the commission an ambitious timetable, asking it to deliver a "fully vetted plan" by year's end.

He said the commission "will not work in isolation," with up to two dozen subcommittees - on subjects such as levees, education and economic development — whose membership will number in the hundreds.

While he provided few details, Nagin said the commission plans to set up teleconferences to solicit input from evacuees scattered across the nation.

The commission will be co-chaired by two native New Orleanians: community activist Barbara Major, executive director of the St.Thomas Health Clinic, and Mel Lagarde, chief executive officer of HCA Delta Division, a major health care provider.

"I am honored to have been asked to be a part of this commission," Major said. "I don't know if I'm more scared than honored. But fear is a good thing because it brings about caution."

Major said she is committed to rebuilding a New Orleans "with the inclusiveness that it never had before in terms of equity and access. That everybody has a right to return to New Orleans. Not to the old New Orleans but to a better New Orleans where there is decent housing and quality schools and health care for all."

Lagarde said signing up for the commission "is an opportunity I've waited for really ever since the storm hit. We've talked enough about the devastation and the issues that face this city as a result of the storm."

While it will be a daunting task, he said New Orleans has an unprecedented chance "to come together and begin looking at things completely new, with a completely different set of issues and paradigms."

Nagin said he is not concerned that other committees being assembled by Gov. Kathleen Blanco and the New Orleans City Council will conflict with his commission, noting that the governor's panel has a statewide mission and that Council President Oliver Thomas has a seat on his committee.

Blanco, who showed up unannounced and got a bear hug from a surprised Nagin, agreed with the mayor's assessment.

She said she wants every Louisiana community hit by Katrina to set up similar committees of local community leaders and pledged her full support for the effort.

"We will be your right arm," Blanco told Nagin. "We'll work as a big team. We're going to work hard as your partner and we're going to make this happen."

## BRING NEW ORLEANS BACK COMMITTEE

On Friday, Mayor Ray Nagin named 17 people to a task force to help rebuild the city

### CO-CHAIRS

**Mel Lagarde,** chief executive officer of HCA Delta Division health care provider

**Barbara Major,** executive director of the St. Thomas Health Clinic

### OTHER MEMEBERS

**Boysie Bollinger,** CEO of Bollinger Shipyards Inc.
**Kim Boyle,** lawyer
**Cesar Burgos,** lawyer
**Joe Canizaro,** real estate developer and major Republican party fund raiser
**Scott Cowen,** Tulane University president
**Archbishop Alfred Hughes**
**The Rev. Fred Luter,** pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in Gentilly
**Wynton Marsalis,** jazz musician
**Alden McDonald,** chief executive of Liberty Bank and Trust
**Dan Packer,** president of Entergy New Orleans
**Anthony Patton,** president of EBONetworks.com
**Jimmy Reiss,** businessman and chairman of the Regional Transit Authority board of commissioners
**Gary Solomon,** real estate developer and banker
**Oliver Thomas,** City Council president
**David White,** Mandeville real estate developer and Nagin confidant

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**SIGN LETTERS** Changeable, All sizes. Also portable signs, 4ft x 8ft w/letters 504-733-2251

### 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**For Start** Up & Technical Service, Training, Documentation, Consulting, Call 256-627-9240

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Yd Clean Up. Sheet rock & carpet removal. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Complete mold** remediation, let us kill it before it gets worse, insured. 1-877-893-1799

**Debris removal/tree** removal, house repairs/demolition, fast & dependable, licensed & insured, no job too big or small. 1-877-893-1799

**Est Restaurant** for sale, xlnt location, turn key operation, clean, new equip. 985-626-0141

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST and FAIR insurance settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants. 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**BUSINESS OFFICE** MANAGER Slidell Company seeks energetic, organized and detail oriented office manager with computer, bookkeeping and analytical skills; QBook a +. Duties include A/P, A/R, payroll and cost control. Casual office, flexible hrs and benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: 159 Country Club Dr, Covington, LA 70433 Attn: Manager position

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE** Cox Radio, Richmond, VA. Outside Sale Position for the best company in radio. Excellent training, tools, benefits and earning potential. Resume to kevin.meek@cox.com or call (804)327-0874 EOE

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** SPECIALIST needed. Hackbarth Delivery Service is seeking an experienced outside salesperson to develop new accounts and service our existing client base. Experience in outside sales is required as is a clean MVR and background check. Please call 504-468-6468 or apply in person at 180 East James Drive St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

### Employment 4020 Agents & Sales

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**Janitorial evening** help. Covington/Mandeville area. Call 985-264-2344

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**MEDICAID FOLLOW-UP: Medical** Assistance Coordinator, Community Care/Outreach, Field Rep, Clerical Asst. Several open positions in West Jefferson Medical Center area. Help hospital patients with medical assistance applications and follow-up process. Medicaid billing experience helpful, but not required. Must be computer literate. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish preferred. Field Representative must have reliable trans, with valid drivers license and insurance. Please fax resume: 800-765-9329 or e-mail: DRMemployment@yahoo.com. E-mail Subject LIne: LA-DRM

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**SALES Now** taking applications for Sales Staff. Experience preferred. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-9996 or call Pat King 504-733-8188

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

**Sales West** Bank Sales office, looking for experienced, reliable sales person. Must have experience in Cathodic Protection field. Mail resume to: 181 Grefer Lane, Harvey LA, 70058.

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**WELCOME TO** THE FUTURE Revenue Assurance Partners, LLC is seeking highly motivated sales professionals to join their exciting new team on the North Shore. We offer base +top comm & benefits in a professional atmosphere that is conducive to YOUR Success. Our progressive, technology based agency services nat'l clients in the commercial receivables mgmt industry. Phil Weaver 985-626-1963 or fax resume to 985-626-1964.

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Reliable, reasonable** Handyman needed long term, Kenner. 985-373-2631 or harinisri@aol.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### Employment 4023 Banking

**LOAN SECRETARY** Experience with Laser Pro Loan System preferred. Knowledge of consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan processing. Teller Position for experienced bank teller. Will consider part time employment. These positions offer competitive salary. Full time positions offer an excellent benefit package. Please send resume by mail, email or fax to: American Bank and Trust Company Attn: CFO 1819 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 Email: info@abtinc.us Fax: 985-809-9297

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERIC/BOOKKEEPING A/R,** A/P, & phone services for Landry Tile Inc. Fax resume 504-734-1014

**Clerical Help,** FT Quick Books & Access, Reliable/Self Starter. Mandeville 985-674-0111

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**CLERICAL/DATA ENTRY** positions available, file room/clerical positions for insurance agency. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-736-0652

**Established Covington/Mandeville** law firm is seeking an experienced legal secretary with a minimum of four (4) years experience in transactional business and real estate. Must have knowledge of Corel WordPerfect and Microsoft Word. Send resume to Office Manager, P. O. Box 1810, Covington, LA 70434 or fax to (985)892-4925.

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST Full** Time - Covington CPA firm is seeking dependable person with professional attitude to perform various clerical duties in busy office. Please send resume and salary requirements to PO Box 1303, Covington, LA 70434

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

### 4040 Computers

**PC/NETWORK TECH** - For small contract jobs. Good people-skills important. $30/hour. Mandeville or Metairie. 3 years exp. min. E-mail resume: Info@nocomputertroubles.com

### 4045 Drivers

**ADVANCE BLDG** PRODUCTS Is Hiring for Full Time Positions. *Warehouse Workers *Truck Drivers *CDL Drivers *Forklift Operators Apply in Apply in person: 5734 Jefferson Highway. Elmwood Area or call 504-733-8200

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL DRIVERS** Haynes Motor Lines needs drivers for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, CDL class A, home every night, 1-800-349-3833 for more information.

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DELIVERY Two** man teams needed for appliance and furniture deliveries. Must have 16 ft or 24 ft Box Truck. Realistic earnings of 50K to 75K and more. Please call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Dr East, St Rose, LA 8 - 5 or by appointment.

### Employment 4045 Drivers

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVER/WAREHOUSE No** CDL needed. Full time permanent position. Call 504-712-9020

**DRIVERS** - CDL A B Drivers needed now. Warehouse & forklift labor, Call 504-828-7343

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE is seeking qualified box-truck drivers for day and night routes. Must have a clean MVR, clean criminal background, and be able to work flexible hours. Call 504-468-9468 for more info or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA, 8 AM to 5 PM.

**HACKBARTH DELIVERY** SERVICE, the KYSO Company, is seeking Independent Contractors for established routes and hot-shot deliveries. Work is available immediately. Please call 504-468-9468 or apply in person at 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA 8 AM to 5 PM or by appointment.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**MOTORCOACH OPERATORS** Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

**Nat'l Dedicated** Carrier seeking responsible, professional Class B Driver, w/2 yrs exp, clean MVR w/HM, for a dedicated M - F NIGHT route, based in JEFFERSON - home daily, weekends, holidays. Phone 1-504-382-1573 for a confidential interview

**NIGHT DRIVERS** CDL A or B. Monday - Friday. Must have Clean MVR and Pass DOT Physical and Drug Test. Immediate Openings. Pay Rate $500 to $550 a week. Benefit Package after 90 Days. Come See Mark at 300 Plauche Street, Harahan, LA or Call Mark 504-583-3834

**TOW TRUCK** DRIVER wanted must have experience, clean driving record, flexible hours and own transportation call 504-957-2608 or 504-885-3015 ask for John or April

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

### 4060 Engineering

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**Engineers, designers,** CADD techs needed, experienced, for Stuart, Florida civil eng. firm. DFWP. Email resume: captec1@aol.com, fax to 772.692.4341 or call 772.692.4344

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

### Employment 4060 Engineering

**TRINITY YACHTS** ENGINEERING Is currently seeking positions in the following areas: Naval Architects, Project Engineers, Marine Engineers, Piping Designers, & Structural Designers. Trinity Yachts Engineering is currently operating in Covington, LA and will be relocating to Gulfport, MS. If interested please send resumes to: Trinity Yachts, LLC. 1501 N.Highway 190, Covington, LA 70433. Or visit www.trinityyachtsusa.com

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF FINANCE reporting to CEO Building Materials Co. based in S.W. LA. Solid background in fin. & accounting. 12+ yrs business exp. CPA desired. 415-740-5476 or gia@execprofiler.com

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**Belle Chasse** Hair cutter with barber exp. 3 day week. Call 504-393-1687 or 504-392-1766

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279/ 504-813-4106.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**Mark Anthony** Salon is now Hiring 8 F/T & P/T stylists to join our team in our Mandeville & Covington location. We offer booth rental, employee or apprenticeship. Also needed 1 Massage Therapist w/ experience. We are an upscale Redken based salon w/ a strong emphasis on education. Come join our team w/ perks! 985-727-3332

**Massage Therapist** and Nail Technicians. Oasis Day Spa. 1357 North Causeway Blvd., Mandeville. Great incentives and a relaxing environment. Call 985-624-6772.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST** Immediate opening for Licensed Massage Therapist. Call 985-845-1703

**Massage Therapist** needed in La Place Area. Please call 985-651-0999.

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**O'Henry's Managers.** All positions. Apply in person. 1375 Gause Blvd. Slidell. 8850 Veterans Blvd. Kenner.

**BARTENDER North** Shore Tavern accepting applications for Bartenders. Please Call 985-264-8762 Drug Testing.

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**CHINESE COOK,** experienced, Fong's Chinese Restaurant, apply at 2102 Williams Blvd in Kenner. 504-467-9928

**COOK &** DISHWASHER Needed for The Vinery Restaurant. Call 985-792-0092

**COOKS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS VooDoo Barbecue. 504-464-1880 or Fax resume to 225-926-6002

**DONUT SHOP** Seeks applicants for: Donut cutter, Assistant & Counter help. Must be able to work wknds. 985-951-8533 by 6pm

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**Hampton Inn** & Suites Convention Center Now Hiring Room Attendants, Housepersons, Breakfast Host/Hostesses, Front Desk, Night Auditor. Transportation to and from work available. Temporary pay is $10/hour. Apply in person at 1201 Convention Center Blvd., call 504-566-9990 or email resume to tvise@highpointe.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen Positions now available. Applicants must be friendly, professional, out-going, and team oriented. $13/hr. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9 am - 11 am.

### Employment 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**KITCHEN HELP,** servers in Algiers, must have exp., $10/hr, 2 shifts 3am-1pm/1pm-11pm, 5 on/2 off, 50 + hrs, paid wkly., long term. Jeni@hiregoodpeople.com or fax to 225-291-5032

**LINE COOKS,** Production Cooks & all other positions. Olive Garden in Kenner now hiring! Come see the difference we're making at Olive Garden with great benefits packages. We offer day one benefits which include flexible schedules, excellent training, meal discounts, paid vacation, medical/dental insurance, 401K savings plan and management career advancement opportunities. Please apply anytime at 1325 West Espanade Ave., Kenner. EOE, M/F/D/V, www.olivegarden.com

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**RISTORANTE FILIPPO** Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY AND DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

**SHIMMY SHACK** Now Hiring Working Chef, Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

### 4080 Household

**DOMESTIC ASSISTANT** Needed for Busy Attorney in New Orleans/Metairie Area. Must have own transportation for various job assignments. Caring for 3 Teenage Boys. Compensation is negotiable and car related expenses will be reimbursed. Please Fax resumes with references to 337-233-6215 Attention Linda Forte.

**Housekeeper Live-in.** English and Spanish speaking. Call 504-393-0752

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER** - P/T, references required, Covington. Please call 985-502-8181

**SITTERS Needed** for Elderly Care, must have recent references, transportation, for Covington/Mandeville/Slidell area. Call 985-796-6195

### 4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**LEGAL SECRETARY** AND ASSISTANT Needed for our Gretna Law Office. Please call 504-368-6500

**LEGAL SECRETARY:** and file clerk wanted for New Orleans Law office. Good salary, all benefits. Call 504-522-3287

### 4100 Management

**OFFICE MGR** For scrap metal recycling facility in Kenner. Phone/computer/people skills. Veronica @costanzaproperties.com

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

**REAL ESTATE** OFC MGR With people, phone & computer skills. Veronica@costanzaproperties.com

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

### Employment 4110 Mechanical

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELLEST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**BODY SHOP** PAINTERS HELPER, Experience only. Apply within. Rainbow Northshore. 985-892-2000

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please send resume to PO Box 1450, Gray, LA 70359 Attention: Human Resources

**GOODYEAR AUTO** SERVICE CENTERS - Metairie and Kenner, New Orleans & Gretna locations. We are currently hiring the following positions... Auto Technicians, General Maintenance Technicians, & Tire Techs. This is a great opportunity! Top Pay and Paid uniforms. Please call Lubin at 504-837-7226 or Kevin at 504-464-0244.

**LEAD MECHANIC/SHOP** MANAGER Needed for 25 Vehicle diesel truck shop. Uniforms, vacations, medical, 401K. Fax resume or apply at Neuman Transport, LLC. 63336 Old Military Road, Pearl River LA. Fax 985-863-9095

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day wk. 6229 Jefferson

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4120 Medical

**PHYSICIANS: We** are a prominent, well-respected and stable multi-specialty group of 120+ physicians with opportunities in the following specialties: CARDIOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, HOSPITALIST, INTERNAL MEDICINE, ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, PULMONOLOGY, and UROLOGY. The group is physician-owner and managed. Community of 75,000 is a regional medical center for 15 counties and portions of three other states with a patient base of 500,000. Competitive first-year salary with excellent future earning potential. Signing bonus. Fringe benefits include productivity-based pay formula beginning with the second year, malpractice insurance, stock ownership, health insurance for physician and family, free pharmacy, life insurance on physician/family, disability policy, vacation, education leave, education monies, sabbatical leave, monthly automobile allowance, profit sharing, 401k. Economically progressive and growing community that is family oriented and offers the best of small-town living with big-city amenities. Low crime rate, low cost of living and housing, symphony, community theatre, and other cultural attractions. Located approximately mid-way between Memphis and Nashville with easy access to major airports. Enjoy a rewarding and successful medical practice without sacrificing your personal life! Please visit our website at www.jacksonclinic.com and the City of Jackson at www.jackson.tn.com. Tennessee does not have a personal state income tax! Please send CV to Carolyn O'Hara The Jackson Clinic P.A. 616 West Forest Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 cohara@jacksonclinic.com FAX: 731-422-0499 Sorry, not a J-1 visa opportunity.

**POLYSOMNOGRAPIC TECHNOLOGISTS/TECHNICAL** DIRECTOR: Total Sleep Diagnostics is hiring a Technical Director as well as full and part time technicians for our Mandeville, Raceland & Baton Rouge area labs. Email resume to: humanresources@totalsleep.com, fax to: 985-727-7281, or call: 800-505-5585

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POSITIONS OPEN** Billing Office Manager, AR Posting, Collections, Coding Billing. (UB92, Plus HCFA 1500) Experience required. Email resume to: arrno@bellsouth.net or Fax 504-780-9699

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Saint Tammany area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RECEPTIONIST Experienced** dental office receptionist needed for Washington Parish area. Fax resume to: 985-732-5944

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**SEEKING LPN** for La Place clinic, Must be well organized, good with math, motivated, & mature to work with people who are recovering from addiction. Hours are 5:30am-1:45pm Monday-Friday. Rotate Sat 7am-10am. Call Jennifer at (985)651-3777 or fax to: (985)651-3770 or email: jenniferca@hotmail.com

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. CHARLES** PARISH HOSPITAL: P.O. Box 87, 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070. CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: Clinical Associate, Dialysis Technician, LPN, Recreational Therapist. Apply in person: 9:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday. Fax resume to: (985) 785-4214, Email to: KDonnaud@stch.net, or apply online at: www.nola.com EOE

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

### 4120 Medical

**ST. JOSEPH** NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER We are open! St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located at 405 Folse Rd. in Harahan is re-opening its doors to our residents and our employees. If you are a current employee of St. Joseph, please contact us or return to the facility. We are seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, CNAs, LPN, HOUSEKEEPING. Interested candidates may apply at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 405 Folse Rd., Harahan, LA 70123. (504) 738-7676

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 504-347-0777 Fax: 504-620-3032

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**JANITORIAL Work.** Evenings, Metairie. $7/hour. Please call 985-652-1388

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.** Intern for Choices of Louisiana in LaPlace, LA. Bachelors degree in Health related field required. Objective: to obtain Licensed Addiction Counselor or Certified Addiction Counselor Certificate. Full time. Call Jennifer at (985)651-3777 or fax to: (985)651-3770 or email: jenniferca@hotmail.com

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Seeking Personnel** with general knowledge of construction who are capable of performing visual inspections and completing forms. Work is in N.O. Area, $15-$20/hour with 7-10 hour days. Send resume to 225-756-5903

**TAX PROFESSIONAL** - Northshore CPA firm is seeking a tax professional (CPA preferred) with 4-6 years tax experience. must also have experience with Quickbooks. Please send resume and salary requirements to PO Box 1303, Covington, LA 70434

**TECHNICIANS Richards** Honda has an immediate opening for experienced technicians - dealership and import expereince a plus - fair and friendly work environment - all benefits. Email resume to aaronm@richardshonda.com or contact Aaron at 225-928-6120.

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4145 Retail

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**INNER PARISH** SECURITY Is now taking applications for Security Guards. Paid weekly. Retirees welcome! Pay based on exp. You may contact us by phone at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

### 4147 Security

**Security Officer,** armed, $18/hour. Call 281-820-5700 or fax resume to 281-820-5757

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed both full & part time. Armed & unarmed. Applicants can apply in person from 8am-6pm at Clearview Mall or call 504-837-7772 for more information

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**Believers Life** Christian Academy, 501 Lapalco Blvd., Gretna, LA is currently hiring Certified Elementary and Secondary Teachers for the 2005/2006 School Year. Please bring a resume to the above address or you may email your resume to kjdaniel@familychurch.us

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**Musical School** in La Place is seeking a Music Instructor(s) w/2 yrs of music/teaching exp. 504-237-9674 or 985-653-7232

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C MAINTENANCE** & APPLIANCE Exp'd Tech, Must be CFC Certified, Must have own Tools, Minor Electrical & Plumbing Exp., Local Company. Competitive pay w/ benefits. Call 504-887-1416

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECH/INSTALLER** 5 years experience minimum. Murry's A/C. La Place. 985-651-0442

**A/C TECHNICIAN** & HELPER, If you are looking for a career not a job in HVAC we have Technicians that earn $50,000 plus per year and have advancement opportunities. Must be well groomed, drug free, and dependable. Full Benefits. Year Round Work. Please call Stephanie to set your future in motion at 985-871-9020

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**BLUE TARP** ROOFERS $11-$13/hour. Vehicle a must, truck preferred. 407-319-5117

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**Cabinet Builders** and finishers needed. Experience Preferred. 985-758-7014

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**Carpenters, Helpers,** Painters, Sheet Rockers, Needed. Trans needed. Call Kent 504-289-2638

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**Carpenters/Roofers/Helpers in** Slidell/Lacombe area, excellent pay. Lee 985-882-3879

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS/HELPERS Exp req'd for installers only. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**COMMAND CONSTRUCTION** A Highway/Heavy Contractor seeking EXPERIENCED: OPERATORS, CARPENTERS, LABORERS AND FINISHERS. Fax resume to: 504-885-0710 or apply in person to: 3206 North Turnbull Drive, Metairie. EOE

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION POSITIONS** *Pipe Foremen & Crew *Survey Party Chief *Heavy Equipment Operators. Experience required for established site contractor in Central Florida. Top Pay & benefits. DFWP. Call 407-865-7600 or visit our site, www.JMHC.CC

**Craftsmen/Laborers, all** fields of construction. exp. info to (504)834-5594 or JJCOSTACOMPANY@aol.com

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DISH INSTALLERS** Immediate need for experienced DISH Network installers to work in hurricane damaged areas of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Great pay scales and plenty of work. Earn $2500-$4000 per week! Must have DISH Network experience. Must have truck or van and all required tools. Call Debra at: 251-662-3174 or email: Dgamble05@bellsouth.net

**DOG GROOMER** Experienced needed in Gramercy Area. Phone 225-869-1902

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS** Hearing aid manufacturer needs hearing aid or microscopic assembly technicians. Salary commensurates with experience. Fax resume to 504-733-3799. Phone: 504-733-3767

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**Experienced Framing** Carpenter. Must have transportation. Call 504-473-8797

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**Experienced Service** Mechanic needed. Apply at Mayeux's AC & Heating, Inc. 650 St.Charles Street, Norco LA 70079.

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**FAMILIA CONSTRUCTION** Exp Frame Crews, Carpenters, & Helpers needed. Call 601-942-0174

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS, 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Now Accepting applications for experienced floor installers for all surfaces. Call Pat King 733-8188 or Apply in person, Monday - Thursday from 10-2 at 5403 Powell St., Elmwood, LA 70123

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Res and Com, all surfaces, exp a must! Call 504-466-9724 9a-4p

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Hard Workers, Must have own tools, Firefighters Please Apply, 504-452-3913

**FRAMING CARPENTER** Local Company, Transportation Required, Experienced. 504-473-8797

**General contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, & Cement Finishers in the New Orleans area. Call 504-915-5795/504-915-7666

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS$/ALUMINUM$ MIRROR** & SHOWER DOOR MECHANICS Good pay, Paid Holidays, Vacations and other benefits for long term employment of experienced installers of persons willing to learn the trade. (561)655-1309 West Palm Beach FL.

**GRANITE SHOP** Experienced Employees needed. Fabrication & Installation. Mandeville Area. 985-264-1741

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT** MECHANICS NEEDED. On-Site Equipment. Maint. is expanding our Baton Rouge location into the New Orleans area. Shop and road work available. Competitive rates and great benefits pkg. Call 225-753-1733

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING NOW** Welders/Fitters, Qualified for Pipe and Structural. Barge Crane Operators, Qualified Riggers, Experienced Welder Helpers, Sand Blaster/Painter, On Shore and Off Shore Positions. Please Apply in person: French's Welding and Marine Services, 1112 Engineers Road, Belle Chase, LA 70037

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**Hydraulic Press** Brake Operator, Experienced. Excellent Benefits. 985-385-2324; Radtke Construction - Morgan City

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**INSTALLERS AND** SERVICE TECHNICIANS Immediate positions available. Great pay. Call 985-626-7852 to apply

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks Cabinet Sales Person having at least 5 years experience, including 20/20 experience. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Production Managers and Mill Work Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp & Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**K&P Roofing** and Remodeling, experienced roofers needed, top pay. Contact Kevin at 504-415-9342 or 985-652-7138

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not required. Starting pay is $9/hour plus excellent opportunity for daily and monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits package after one year of employment. If you are interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 and leave us a message with your information.

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**LABORERS AND** PLASTERERS, Must have own transportation, Stucco, Call 504-258-4509

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** CREW. $8-$12/hourly depending on experience. Call 504-442-5394

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**LICENSED SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Needed. Must Have own Truck & Tools. Now Accepting Applications, Mon-Friday 9am-5pm. 1300 Gause Blvd, Suite B2, Slidell.

**LOCAL COMPANY** IN NEED OF 100 GENERAL LABORERS, 20 CDL Drivers, 40 Carpenters: Metal & Sheet Metal, Estimators, Inspectors, Civil Construction Engineers. Please call: 504-309-2355 or email resume: TheMooreGroupInc@aol.com

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED** IMMEDIATELY. Shop located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Full benefits offered, w/yearly bonus. Call 1-800-447-9666 or call 225-869-3542

**MAINTENANCE PERSON** - Needed, strong in a/c, CFC cert, some electrical, plumbing & carpentry skills needed. Paid holidays & vacation. 504-382-3156

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**Mighty Mowers** needs Lawn & Landscape workers for permanent positions. West Bank area. Job is labor intensive. Must have clean driving record, provide own transportation & able to pass background check & drug test. $7-10/hr to start depending on experience. 504-393-5004

**NORTHSHORE Fab** Shop looking for full time helper, must be dependable. Ability to use power tools is a plus. 985-893-9277

**OVERHEAD GARAGE** DOOR INSTALLER Experienced preferred. Paid Holidays & Benefits. Immediate Full Time Position. North Lake Garage Door Company, Ponchatoula. 985-386-8650

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

**PAINTERS AND** CONSTRUCTION HELPERS Needed for new construction and remodeling. 985-966-2424

**Painters With** Spray experience in industrial plants and experienced painter's helpers needed for full time work in the New Orleans and LaPlace areas. Drug test required, criminal background check may be required. Call Mon - Fri, 9am-3pm. 504-469-3815

**PAINTERS, Residential** Homes, exp., must have own transportation, F/T work, 985-966-6011

**Plant Work** Now hiring in Taft/Hahnville areas. Experienced blaster/painters and scaffold builders. Please leave a message for Mark Wallace at 800-256-2774 or 337-685-4725

**Porsche Technician** for new Porsche Dealership. Porsche experience a must. Will pay moving and lodging. 256-536-3800

**PRESS OPERATOR** AB Dick 9810/9870/9820. 2214 Williams Blvd, Kenner. 504-467-3620

**PSC Industrial** Services Group, North Americas largest integrated Industrial Services Company and a leader in providing specialized industrial cleaning to the chemical, oil, gas, refining and petrochemical industries is currently seeking individuals with verifiable experience in the following crafts: VACUUM/HYDRO TECH: Entry level position with little or no exp. Must have valid drivers license. VACUUM OPERATORS: Must posses a min. Class B with experience. HYDRO OPERATORS: Must posses min. Class D. CHEMICAL CLEANING OPERATORS: Musty posses a Class A with exp. All operators must have 6 mo. of verified work experience as a tech. or equivalent. A clean driving record is pre-requisite of employment. PSC Offers great benefits, competitive wages, and safety incentives. Applicants must be willing to work 7 days per week, in all weather types, and be on a 24 hour call out basis. Interested candidates should apply in person: Monday-Thursday from 8:30-3:30pm. Reserve, LA 268 Power Blvd.!

**(1 mile** past Marathon off Airline Hwy) 985-536-7612. Drug-Free. EOE/MFDV

**REFRIGERATOR AND** A/C TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Experienced only. Good pay and benefits. Fax resume to 985-809-6799

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**ROOFERS &** LABORERS NEEDED. Top pay. Full time permanent work. Call 504-259-7663

**ROOFERS Cover** roofs of structures with either shingles, slate, asphalt, Aluminum, wood and related materials, may spray roofs, sidings and walls with materials to bind, seal, insulate, or sound proof sections of structures, Hours are irregular and work may begin early mornings before daylight or go into late evenings. Work under rugged weather conditions. Job will start on January 15, 2006. Salary, $9,04 per hour and OT at $13.56. JO# 163564 La Place Job Center, 2701 New Highway 51, La Place, LA. 70069.

**ROOFERS Needed,** Immediate Employment. Please call Bob 504-912-4087

**ROOFERS New** Orleans Roofers needed in Baton Rouge or New Orleans Experienced in Slate or Asbestos. Call 225-761-4309

**ROOFERS Sub-Crews** needed. Must have own truck & tools. Call 504-452-9640 or 504-467-9387

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**Roofing Crews,** Roofers, and Laborers Needed. Pay DOE. Call Scott at 504-338-5398

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** Needed. Great pay. No experience needed. 985-249-4409

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING Relocation** opportunity for high-skilled slate, tile, copper mechanics. Housing assistance for longterm year-round work. Suburban Philadelphia, PA contractor est 1939. 888-RKI-ROOF

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**SCS Now** Hiring: Pipe Fitters, Fitters, TIG Welders, Welders, Experienced Laborers/Painters. Call 504-348-4855, 2072 Bonn Street, Harvey, La or 1-800-310-0131

**SERVICE TECHNICIANS** NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Award winning dealership with over 36 years in business. Experience preferred. Top dollar pay, excellent benefits. Clean driving record required. Drug free. Contact Johnny Giardina or Keith Conner at 337-364-4126. JP Thibodeaux, Inc. New Iberia, LA. EOE.

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET METAL** MECHANICS, Metal Building Erectors, Iron Workers, Must Have Own Tools. Call 985-331-0918

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SITE MANAGERS/MAINTENANCE** MAN A national leader in the self storage industry is seeking site managers and maintenance men for an award-winning self storage facility and retail center in Harahan, LA. Duties include property and equipment maintenance, janitorial work, and driving of medium box/move truck, and other various operational duties. Qualified candidates must possess a valid drivers license, a clean MVR, and outstanding organizational and time-management skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

**STRUCTURAL TIG** WELDER for Northshore Fab Shop needed for thin gage stainless steel. 985-893-9277

**SUPERVISOR for** job site, Jackson MS Company seeks industrial floor coatings job site supervisor, 3 years experience, travel required. 1-800-794-4237

**TREE MEDICS** is hiring now, start work today. Ground workers, tree climbers, bucket operator, bobcat operator, excavator operators, truck drivers, grapple truck drivers/operators. Start $10-$25/hour. Apply in person at 500 Clearview Pkwy, or call 225-955-2502

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**HOUSEKEEPING &** FLOOR TECHS - Control Building Services is hiring Janitorial & Floor Techs for the New Orleans area. Immediate employment is available. If interested, please call 504-247-3254 or 504-455-7704

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# Driving pilings weakens soil

**LEVEES,** *from A-1*

and may not have overflowed the walls – pointing to a possible flaw in design, construction or maintenance.

The issue also came up in a document about a contract dispute over the 17th Street Canal floodwall. In the 1998 document, reported by NBC News this week, contractor Pittman Construction said weak soil in the area had caused the wall to tilt slightly when concrete was poured. It also claimed that driving sheet piling into the ground had temporarily weakened the soil even more.

But it's not clear what, if anything, that means in terms of the floodwall failures. Corps engineers disputed Pittman's allegations. An administrative law judge agreed with the Corps, saying that the walls had tilted because the concrete molds were held in place by an unusual, unstable bracing system, and that Pittman had failed to back its contention that the soil conditions posed unexpected problems in the construction process.

One reason the complaints about soil strength were dismissed is that virtually the entire New Orleans levee system is constructed on weak soil. The judge cited another contractor's success in dealing with similar conditions in the nearby Orleans Avenue Canal.

Mississippi Delta soil is soft, squishy and unstable, composed of thin, alternating layers of soil, sand and silt laid down by the river over hundreds of years, supplemented in spots by garbage, trees and other materials.

Ivor van Heerden, assistant director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, who has degrees in geology and marine sciences, said the land under the canal once was a hardwood swamp, and could pose many problems for engineers designing a floodwall.

"The outflow at the break is filled with old cypress stump and cypress logs, because that was what this area used to be, that was the geology of it," he said. "You probably have cypress stumps and logs under the surface here every 5 meters or so. You can imagine driving a sheet piling into one of those, and the metal could bend or split. That could cause leakage later on."

Building stable, reliable levees and floodwalls – or anything – on such a base is a challenge. That's why such soil is usually mechanically compacted. It's not clear what kind of compaction was done on the canal wall bases.

"Any time that you design something that is a combination of earth and soil material and concrete, you have to think about various modes of failure. You look at global stability – sliding, overturning, breaking, flotation," said Leon Schieber, a levee and floodwall engineer at the firm Black & Veatch in Overland Park, Kansas. "The reason you do compaction on the soil is to address those kinds of failures."

So the teams of engineers will look at design, construction and maintenance documents to see what was done to the soil along the walls. They will take soil core samples and test them. They will get them wet and see how that changes the soil's strength.

Engineers also will look for clues as to what happened during Katrina. As storm surge rose, engineers say, that would have pushed water under the bottom of the floodwalls' sheet pile bases.

"Water is pushing against the concrete and trying to push it toward the dry side. But the water also infiltrates and saturates the soil. In the soil, it can create an upward pressure under the structure," Schieber said.

The pressure also could have moved soil underneath the wall, and either could have caused it to destabilize enough to collapse under the pressure of the water in the canal.

Designers can lessen the upward pressure by putting the structure deeper into the earth; that way the water has farther to travel and the pressure is lessened. But some observations by LSU scientists indicate the sheet piling might have been unusually short – just a few feet long.

Driving sheet piling "has several functions," Bea said. "The first is to prevent water intrusion below the base of the wall below the ground level. The other important function is to support the wall both laterally and vertically. We have all kinds of photographic evidence that says those walls did not get the support they needed, and over they went."

Another issue raised by Pittman Construction is whether driving the sheet piling into the soil itself weakened it – a contention rejected by the administrative law judge. Engineers were also skeptical.

"Soil can be weakened when you drive something into it — we call it liquefaction," said Dobroslav Znidarcic, a professor of geotechnical engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder. "You disturb the soil, and if the soil is relatively soft, you develop high water pressures inside the soil. But then over time the water pressure decreases and the strength increases."

According to the document, the walls were slightly titled and left that way. Znidarcic said that did not necessarily mean they were any less stable, however.

Bea said that more generally, a dispute between a contractor and the Corps could be a sign of trouble that could provide clues to possible design flaws. "When the contractor says, 'I've got trouble,' that's usually an early warning sign," he said.

The Times-Picayune

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**Mandeville Gated** Hunter's Glen, near Causeway/I-12, 2712 SF, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1.5 acre, flood zone C, well maint., Move in soon, $385,000, 985-727-1663

**Mandeville Schools:** LR, DR, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2 dens. Pool, 1.2 acres, $250,000. 985-892-1201

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**Mandeville. 649** Sweet Bay Dr. 4BR/2.5BA, 2350 +/- sqft. No storm damage. Near I12/Causeway. New paint/carpet/wd floors. 985-624-3358 or 985-373-2966

**NEW AD:** Mandeville, Green Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2750 sf, great cond/location. New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

**Old Military** Rd. Immediate occupancy. No flooding. Totally remodeled. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 31 acres. 504-400-6749

### 7580 Slidell

**1800 SQ.** FT. Living Home, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, Fireplace, Never Flooded! No Storm Damage! Close to I12 and I10. Built like a Fortress. Please call after 6pm 985-661-0371

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

**SLIDELL Lg** 4BR, 2.5BA in Breckenridge Subdivision, Stanton Model, in-ground heated pool, never flooded, exc school district, $350,000. 985-778-9942

### 7590 River Parish – East Bank

**FREE List** of Homes For Sale E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlaceHomes.com. The Home Company Realtors. 985-652-SOLD(7653)

**LAPLACE On** Old Hwy 51, 4BR, 2.5BA, 2300 Liv, Double Car Gar w/ 18x36 Gunite In-Ground Pool w/ spacious 90x235 Lot. $269,000. 985-652-1433/985-212-9060

### 7590 River Parish – East Bank

**ST ANDREWS** ESTATES, gorgeous home on golf course, super high ceilings, crown molding, 2 studies w/ book shelves, 3 Fam. Rm., master suite w/ luxury master BA, formal Din. Rm., gourmet kit, island bar, hardwood flr., ceramic tile. 550 SF screened patio, 28 by 21 game room. Angelle Songy 985-651-0021 ext. 12 Century 21 Judy Songy

### 7600 River Parish – West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

**Diamondhead home** for sale. Fully furnished, 2400 sqft, $270,000. All new carpet, blinds, paint, ss, appl's and theater room. 228-255-2822

### 7610 Tangipahoa Parish

**Between Kentwood** & Amite, LA, 4 bdrm, 3 bth, 3,000 sq ft, 28 acres country. 1 hr from BR, 1.5 hr from NO. Call 225-791-2921

### 7612 Washington Parish

**4BR, 3** bath, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg, $450,000 985-516-0237

**IN BOGALUSA,** Beautifully restored Victorian, 3600 Sq. Ft. $135,000. 985-516-3997

### 7615 Mississippi

**03 DBL** WIDE\1.64. AC FURNISHED SOUTH PANOLA SCHL. 662-934-1235. PERFECT

**CARRIERE Stone** Bridge Subdiv 20 min to Slidell, 3 yrs new upgraded & spacious, 3/2.5/2, PRC schls. $398,000 601-799-3398

**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**Hattiesburg, MS** FSBO, 1430sqft, Great schools, fenced yard-Easy access to highways, $156,000. 601-260-7638

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Poplarville, MS** 3bd, 3Ba house, with 60x40 Workshop, 75 acres, 2 10 acre Stocked Ponds. $625,000. 985-960-3419

**Purvis, MS** land for sale: 152 acres, rolling hills, mostly pasture. 10 minutes from town, 20 minutes from Hattiesburg. $4000.00/acre. ph#601-270-9713

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Smith Co,** MS Beautiful 4000 Sq. Ft. Home, 7 Ac, Walk Out Basement, $300,000. Additional 150 Ac Land/Timber. 601-382-3347

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**MS Gulf** Coast 4BR, 3ba, 41 acre executive estate with 2ac pond. $1.2M. 228-209-5252

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

### 7625 Country

**Ponchatoula area,** FSBO, 3 bedroom/2 full bath, whirlpool bath, .5 acre, open living/dining area, $170,000. 985-386-0061

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

**Belle Chasse** '01, 30 X 60, 3 Br, 2 Ba, Cathedral Ceilings throughout, 4 walk in closets & fplc, exc cond! moving, must sell at $50,000. 504-392-7928

**Folsom 3** Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1 acre, $74,900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath on 1.25 Acres, $98,500. Call 985-630-3250

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**SPRINGER DISCOUNT** Mobile homes. A licensed dealer for over 19 years has 3 bedroom single wides (wind zone II), now ready for delivery. Cash discounts! Financing available. Will work with insurance companies to lease a manufactured home until a new home is built. We also move & re-level damaged homes. 662-456-9833

**THIBODAUX Nice** community! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath, many appliances, move in condition. $9000. Seller motivated. 985-633-9927

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**1332 Aris** Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**4-2 Home** Only $3000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**45' Houseboat** for sale. Great live-a-board, interior totally redone, runs great, sleeps 6 with 2 full bathrooms & complete kitchen, Asking $65,000, owner anxious to sell. Call 504-236-9158 or 985-892-4238

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Houma, LA.** Newly renovated 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath For Sale! 205 Roselawn Ave., $68,950. Contact Marilyn 985-856-2837 or Vivian 985-498-0612

**Mandeville 57** foot house boat, handsomely decorated for easy living, Owners are live-aboards, docked in prime marina in Mandeville. 985-845-3916

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**GRETNA Commercial** building 1968 SF front area includes ofc. s, work area and holding cooler, back includes 1200 SF cooler, 1260 SF freezer, warehouse space and loading dock, lease or sale, For appt. Please Call 504-392-6759

**Hammond 4,255** sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**METAIRIE Causeway/Vets,** 1000 sq ft office condo, $260,000. 504-723-9806 or 225-802-6259

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

**TAMPA, FL** Approximately 6 acres, light industrial, adjacent to I-4, Ybor City. Concrete warehouse, approximately 40,335 square feet, truck loading docks with Approximately 10,000 square feet 2nd floor office space, plus steel buildings with high ceilings, overhead bridge cranes, rail easement. Vacant $5.95 Million. Contact Ron Romeo (office): 904-739-3066 cell: 904-716-6509

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Abita 1700sqft** Office Space Available. $1000/month. Please Call 985-789-5571

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. (Collins Blvd). 985-871-0771 985-264-0620

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**JEFFERSON NEAR** OCHSNER HOSP. - 2 pvt offices, library, reception, parking. $1000. 833-1957

**Kenner Williams** Blvd. corner 39th St, 1150sf building, no water. Terms negot. 504-251-2105

**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Dental** Office, ready to go except chairs. 3008 20th St. 504-666-1213

**North Shore** Area. Mobile office/storage container & RV Parking. 20 Spaces. Easy access to I-12 & I-55. 985-320-6034

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**RESTAURANT FOR** RENT Fully equipped. West 10th Street by Airline Highway, Reserve LA. Call 504-559-2645

**River Ridge** LA, 2000 Sq Ft of commercial lease space avail. 7 miles from New Orleans CBD w/ commercial kitchen, showers, and lg parking area. $4750/mo + util. 504-390-7560

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**ST. CHARLES** - Office space in Luling, 1,000 sq ft, previously used as a doctors office, 1 mile from I-310, 985-785-6221

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Algiers Space** Available. Mobile Office, Container, Storage, Truck Yard. Utilities Available 504-394-STOR or 985-652-2771

**Kenner Warehouse,** 4000 square feet, $2500. Borngesser Realty. 504-454-0800

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735 Investment Property

**5 Mandeville** Rentals for sale. $250,000. Great income! 1 Block from Hwy 190. 1009-1015 Wilkinson. 985-630-1757

**JEFFERSON PARISH** - Between Airline & Jefferson Hwy. 9 Unit apt building for sale. Each unit is 2 BR, 1 BA. Did not flood. $600,000. Call 504-228-0767

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7737 Waterfront Property

**10 Acres** on Silver Creek. Hill Top View, Lots of Trees, Unbelievable site and location. 12 miles from Franklinton and 30 miles North of Covington. 1000 feet of Road Frontage and 600 feet of Creek Frontage. Must See To Believe! Make Offer. 985-839-0046 or 225-278-2374

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**C-1 LOT.** Just off Veterans. High & dry, 50'x150', 740 Phosphor, $350K cash. 504-458-6927

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Harvey, corner** of 23rd & Tallow Tree. 70ft x 140ft, good for Home, Apt, etc. 504-733-2251

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $499K/obo. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**5 ACRE** Wooded lot with rolling hills, approx 200 feet above sea level, $9500 per acre. Call 504-975-5292

**ABITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**COVINGTON AREA** 200x260 corner lot, cleared, bridge over lagoon, well, 2 fountains and rock waterfall, $120,000. Call 985-966-6742

**MADISONVILLE 3/4** Acre, cleared with clay, new SubDiv, must sell! Call 985-969-8295

**MANDEVILLE 3BR,** 2.5BA, 1/2 acre lot, 1200 sq.ft. warehouse, furn., $350,000. 985-727-7503

**MANDEVILLE/COVINGTON 3** homes, move-in condition, 5 minutes to Causeway. 3BR, 2BA. 1709 sq. ft. living, $240,000. 5BR, 3BA, 3720 sq. ft. living, golf-course view, furnished, awesome, $599,900. 5BR, 3.5BA, 3475 sq. ft. living, $359,900. Ownr/agt. 985-809-9568

**PEARL RIVER** .75 acre, Sewer and well, fenced with large workshop. $30,000. 504-975-2903

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair

# AFTER THE STORM

**LOUISIANA DEATH TOLL**
**929**

**740 AT THE ST. GABRIEL MORGUE**
ASCENSION: 9
ASSUMPTION: 2
EAST BATON ROUGE: 72
IBERIA: 6
JEFFERSON: 30
LAFOURCHE: 2
LIVINGSTON: 5
PLAQUEMINES: 3
ST. CHARLES: 8
ST. TAMMANY: 7
TANGIPAHOA: 26
TERREBONNE: 16
WEST BATON ROUGE: 3

**POWER**
**ENTERGY OUTAGES**
Louisiana: 270,639*
*Including 156,000 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.
Percentage of Entergy customers in the metropolitan New Orleans area without power:
Jefferson Parish 2%
Plaquemines Parish 68%
Orleans Parish 63%
St. Bernard Parish 99%

**POSTAL SERVICE**
- Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week. For harder-hit Plaquemines Parish, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse, where residents can pick up their mail.
- In New Orleans, outgoing mail will be accepted at a temporary post office in the parking lot between Jax brewery and Canal Place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Postage will be available.
  Services are already up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened and partial delivery began last week for ZIP codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

**PARISH-BY-PARISH**
**ORLEANS**
- Beginning today, residents are allowed to re-enter the city in these ZIP codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. On Wednesday, residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
- There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
- Limited medical care is available. West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred DMAT.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Parish is open.
- 911 phone system is back on line.
- For storm-related information, call (985)898-2323.
- A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- All areas of the parish are open. Residents are required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dawn-to-dusk curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish is open from Alliance north to the parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- Some parts of the parish are still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open.

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open.

**FOR HELP**
- American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
- FEMA
  15 disaster recovery centers are in operation. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. For information, log on to www.fema.gov or call (800)621-3362.

## Counselors to help with finding work

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The Labor Department will dispatch counselors to help survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita find work.

About 150 counselors will be sent to relocation centers in several states to work one-on-one with evacuees, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao announced Friday. The department also will dispatch specially trained counselors to help the disabled find employment in hurricane-hit states.

The department also is speeding up enrollment for 4,000 young people who survived the hurricanes to take part in its Job Corps program, which provides education and vocational training to economically disadvantaged people 16 through 24.

Speaking to a small group of reporters, Chao declined to estimate the impact of the hurricanes on national payrolls. "We're going to have some uncertainty in the numbers," for a while, she said.

Many economists are predicting the economy will show a loss of around 170,000 jobs for September, lifting the unemployment rate – now at a four-year low of 4.9 percent – to above 5 percent. The employment report for September will be released next week.


# At Hibernia, we are dedicated to giving our customers the financial support they need.

# Here's how:

## Deferred Payments:

**All-In-One, Consumer and Small Business loans and lines up to $1 million, MasterCard BusinessCard,® Business Leases:**

- For zip codes beginning with 700, 701, 703, 704, 369, 393, 394, 395 and 396, Hibernia will defer all payments until January 2006 due date.[1]
- All automatic deduction payments will be suspended during the deferment period. If you wish to continue making payments, please contact Customer Service.

**First Mortgage Loans held by Hibernia:**

- For Hibernia customers impacted by the hurricane whose residential first mortgages are held by Hibernia, first-mortgage payments that qualify may be suspended up to three months, with no credit reporting.[1]
- Also, Hibernia may grant up to 18 months of temporary forbearance to repay suspended payments, with no credit reporting.[1]
- Government insured mortgages (FHA and VA loans) may also qualify for a variety of assistance options, including special forbearance, late-fee waiver, modification and refinance.
- For All-In-One loans, interest deferral does not extend your construction completion date and does not extend your permanent interest rate expiration. If you need additional time to complete construction, please contact the Interim Lender handling the construction portion of your loan.
- For eligibility, customers should contact Mortgage Customer Service at 1-877-636-4008 for details and arrangements.

**Additional Information:**

- Direct deposits, automatic debits and credits and online bill payments have been processed.
- Customers requiring federal assistance can visit FEMA.gov. Customers can locate routing numbers for direct deposit of relief funds at the bottom of checks and deposit slips.
- The U.S. Postal Service is rerouting mail that was addressed to Hibernia to other locations so Hibernia can process lockbox services for commercial customers.

## Please call:

- 1-800-262-5689 for specific account information

[1] Interest will continue to accrue during deferment period.

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The Times-Picayune

METRO

EDITORIALS • B-10

SECTION B
Saturday
October 1, 2005

# Jeff arrests 275 in Katrina looting

*Deputy wounds man during foot chase*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office has arrested 275 people on looting charges since Aug. 27, including one man shot by a deputy after he fired at the officer, Sheriff Harry Lee said in his most expansive accounting to date of Katrina-related crime.

The deputy wounded Larry Falkins, 19, of Westwego during a foot chase in Kenner on Sept. 1, an arrest report said. Falkins had been identified as the man who had broken into a nearby pawnshop.

Falkins allegedly fired a gun at the deputy and missed. The deputy returned fire and hit Falkins in the arm. Falkins managed to get away, but authorities later caught up with him at Kenner Regional Medical Center, after he turned up for treatment. Falkins was treated, released and later booked with looting, attempted first-degree murder and aggravated assault on an officer. Lee's figures exceed those reported by the FBI for looting arrests in New Or-

*See* **LOOTING,** *B-2*

# Franklin pushing for 2006 opening

*Charter school idea being floated*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

Staff and parents at Benjamin Franklin High School, a college-prep New Orleans public school that routinely tops the charts in state achievement scores, are mounting a grassroots effort to get the school open in January.

They are making it clear, meanwhile, that they will fight any effort to alter Franklin's magnet-school status.

Some parents are pushing the idea of converting Franklin into a charter school, thereby insulating it from school system directives, but no formal proposal has been drafted, said parent group leader Duris Holmes and Orleans Parish School Board member Lourdes Moran, who has two children at the school.

Interim Superintendent Ora Watson said district officials aren't contemplating Franklin's immediate future because they are too busy reopening west

*See* **FRANKLIN,** *B-2*

# BUILDING UNCERTAINTY

*No guidelines exist for determining when to tear down and when to repair*



STAFF PHOTOS BY SEAN GARDNER

Nelson Soza of Ace Environmental wears a mask Friday to protect himself from mold spores as he works at a home on Marcia Avenue in New Orleans. City officials have estimated that as many as 100,000 buildings may have to be demolished because of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

It's become conventional wisdom: A house that flooded severely and stayed that way for long will have to be torn down. But whoever came to that conclusion forgot to convince Tania Hahn.

Hahn's two-story home on Central Park Place near New Orleans' City Park sat in at least 5 feet of floodwater for weeks after the 17th Street Canal breach. On Friday, like thousands of houses that insurers and elected officials have said must be demolished, its façade still carried the telltale high-water mark attesting to its days spent marinating in the chemical-ridden liquid.

But inside, a three-man crew worked on the ground floor, gutting every inch of drywall, removing appliances and tearing out the floor, until only the skeleton of the 1940s-era home remained.

"It's definitely salvageable because it didn't float off the blocks," Hahn said, sounding a note of optimism shared by other brave rehabilitators, an uncounted group scattered across the city. "I've heard that the older houses had better construction," she said, while acknowledging that her insurance company doesn't share her view. "I had the go-ahead (from them) to demolish."

Hahn chose to renovate because her second floor was untouched. "I'd put it back together if it was a one-story house," she said. "I love this city. I heard people saying that you should just bulldoze the neighborhood. But who could imagine this country without the city of New Orleans?"



Ace Environmental employees tear out Sheetrock from a home on Marcia Avenue. According to Vieux Carre Commission Deputy Director Dan Brown, every home in New Orleans damaged by flooding will be inspected before any recommendations for demolition are made.

A week ago, contractor Chad Melancon might have shared Hahn's upbeat assessment, but no longer. He had seen only minor flooding damage in the Metairie and Kenner homes where he had ripped out

*See* **SOAKED,** *B-2*

# Some buses resume service

*Runs will be done before curfew*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Regional Transit Authority buses will resume limited service in New Orleans and Kenner on Sunday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina blasted the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

The buses, often used by low-wage workers at businesses in New Orleans and Jefferson parishes, are likely to aid stores and restaurants that have reopened in recent weeks but gone begging for employees. Jefferson Transit put its buses back on the street Wednesday on four East Jefferson and six West Jefferson routes.

The RTA's St. Charles Avenue, General Meyer and Algiers Local bus lines will begin running the routes they ran before Katrina, RTA spokeswoman Rosalind Blanco Cook said.

"Buses will run every 30 minutes with supervisors monitoring and adjusting the schedules as needed," Cook said.

The New Orleans buses will run shortened schedules, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, because of the New Orleans curfew. The last bus each day will start its run before 6 p.m., and at times before 5 p.m., so the route will be finished before the curfew begins.

In Kenner Sunday, RTA will begin Kenner Loop's regular schedule. Kenner resident Nella Brainis is eager to see it.

"I'm taking cabs, and for a few days I couldn't even get a cab," she said, adding that the bus service is important for employees without transportation. "These folks can't afford a cab, most of them. How are you going to get restaurant workers?"

Although many of RTA's buses flooded in Katrina, the agency has enough to begin the limited service, Cook said.

And staffing isn't a problem, she said. Many bus drivers stayed at RTA's Canal Street office during the storm and evacuated on the Tuesday after the hurricane for shelter in Baton Rouge, Cook said.

"There's no problem with getting personnel," she said.

For information, check the RTA's Web site at www.norta.com or Jefferson Transit's Web site at www.jeffersontransit.org.

# Entergy officials hope to light up the night in St. Bernard Parish

*Utility begins work on lines*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

St. Bernard Parish District Attorney John Rowley has gotten used to the dark. Ever since Katrina knocked off power in the entire parish Aug. 29, Rowley has lived in the parish courthouse in Chalmette, watching the glow of lights blanket neighboring parishes at night but waiting for the time he can turn on a switch in the historic building he now occupies.

"At night you can see the lights across the (Mississippi) River," he said recently, pointing toward Algiers.

His wait is almost over, Entergy officials said Friday, as they detailed efforts to restore the two transmission lines that feed the parish, which were heavily damaged by the storm. They said some small pockets in St. Bernard, including a few government buildings, public utilities, and proposed sites for federally funded temporary housing, are expected to have power again as early as next week.

But company officials said in most neighborhoods where the storm caused enough damage to warrant the demolition of entire blocks, power will only be restored once reconstruction plans are laid out and residents begin returning.

The ongoing repairs come after parish officials in recent weeks have criticized Entergy for "abandoning" St. Bernard while restoring power in other areas. Company officials have said the extent of the damage in St. Bernard, which was more severe than in most other areas, has delayed power restoration.

"We took a licking," said Glenn Jallans, the company supervisor in charge of the St. Bernard network. "As bad as you see the parish, that's how bad we were hit."

The damage was evident as

*See* **POWER,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSY COSTANZA

An Erickson Air Crane lifts part of a huge power pole, carrying it to Bayou Bienvenue marsh off Paris Road in Chalmette on Friday. Entergy crews are working to restore power to parts of St. Bernard Parish and are rebuilding a 115,000-volt transmission line extending from the Michoud facility in eastern New Orleans to Chalmette.

# Stolen vehicles found as far away as Houston

LOOTING, *from B-1*

leans and Jefferson Parish combined.

In the days just before and well after Katrina ripped the New Orleans region on Aug. 29, Jefferson deputies recovered many pickup-truckloads of merchandise stolen from Wal-Marts, Walgreens drug stores, Radio Shacks, grocery stores and businesses in Oakwood Center, which looters sacked and set afire. Among the booty: DVD players, DVDs, CD players, even electric toothbrushes — "Something that everybody needs during a hurricane when there's no electricity," said Capt. Kerry Najolia, deputy commander of the Sheriff's Office SWAT team. Among those booked with looting the Harvey Wal-Mart was Menekia Humphry, 29, of Harvey, who, with her 13-year-old daughter in tow, wheeled out a shopping cart of stolen goods including several Playstation 2 video games, an arrest report said. Also booked with looting that same store were two Sheriff's Office correctional officers who are accused of taking electronic equipment.

Quite a bit of stolen loot was found in vehicles that also had been stolen, Lee said. So far, 24 vehicles have been reported stolen from East Jefferson car dealerships, and at least 110 from dealerships in West Jefferson, he said. Deputies have not yet heard from another four West Jefferson dealers.

Even now, some Jefferson car dealers are getting calls that vehicles stolen from their lots have been found all over the United States, including several at the Astrodome in Houston, a major evacuation site for New Orleans area residents, Lee said.

Deputies also arrested more than eight people who bailed out of stolen U.S. Postal Service trucks parked near the West Bank Expressway and Westwood Drive in Marrero, arrest reports said. Inside the trucks, deputies found stolen goods, some with the security tags still attached, as well as lottery tickets, the reports said.

Looters also made their way into several grocery stores. But some thieves bypassed the food aisles and went to the pharmacy.

Shawn Berrigan, 33, of Metairie was arrested on charges of lifting several bottles of prescription drugs from a Sav-A-Center pharmacy, an arrest report said. Deputies found a black garbage bag containing narcotics such as hydrocodone and alprazolam.

He was booked Wednesday with eight counts of drug possession with the intent to distribute, looting and pharmacy burglary, the report said.

# School's top floors escape unscathed

FRANKLIN, *from B-1*

bank schools.

"There's been no discussion of any of the schools outside of Algiers and the west bank," she said.

One to two feet of floodwater caused extensive first-floor damage at Franklin, located at the edge of the University of New Orleans campus on Leon C. Simon Boulevard. The gym floor was ruined and the water had an undetermined impact on administrative offices, the library and the cafeteria, Principal Carol Christen said this week as she helped retrieve sopping files. The school's courtyard has been strewn with splintered tree branches, and there were reports of ruined textbooks.

But Christen said Franklin's upper two floors — housing all classroom and permanent record files — were unscathed. She and a few teachers didn't hesitate to talk up the future for a school that, once located in a tattered old building in Carrollton, has been an academic powerhouse for decades.

Pulling Franklin's dispersed student body back together, or as much of it as possible, is key to New Orleans' revival after Hurricane Katrina, they argue.

Before the storm hit, 935 students attended grades 9 through 12.

"We want our school back — clean or dirty. We want it back," said Colleen Fiegel, a biology teacher and technology coordinator.

There is a fierce desire to return among Franklin students who are scattered from New York to California, attending schools that can't quite compare with the demanding New Orleans school, said Holmes, president of the Ben Franklin High School Association.

A business lawyer, Holmes is now working in Lafayette and his children are attending school in suburban Atlanta.

"Even parents who have said they won't be back this year want to come back next year," he said. "There's a strong sense of wanting to keep the community together."

Contributions previously raised for lockers and video surveillance equipment at Franklin will be diverted to recovery expenses that aren't covered by the school system, Holmes said. A few distant schools, in Florida, California and Georgia, are interested in "adopting" Franklin to help with immediate needs, he said.

Holmes is hopeful that Franklin can enroll roughly 500 of Franklin's students in January, roughly the size of the student body back in the 1980s. The rebuilding drive will draw heavily from Uptown and Algiers areas that were spared flooding during Katrina, and school supporters hope students already registered at Franklin, but temporarily living in other parishes, can attend without residency challenges.

The school district's rush to turn a few relatively undamaged schools left dry after the hurricane into general-purpose schools worries some parents who fear that Franklin, which applies rigid admissions standards, could see a similar move as an emergency step. That would end Franklin's unusual role, they say.

"You can't have a Franklin with open enrollment," Holmes said.

Part of the interest in the charter-school idea stems from concern that if the school system rehires teachers based simply on seniority, Franklin may become home to many teachers who aren't qualified to teach advanced-placement and other gifted-student classes, he said.

Christen was reluctant to discuss the charter-school and open-enrollment issues, saying she hasn't had a chance to discuss Franklin's options in detail with district officials.

But as she toted a breathing mask and sweated profusely at the school Thursday, the educator added: "The goal here is to open up this school as this school."

Christen and Holmes said a lease with UNO that allowed Franklin to be built on the university campus provides that UNO can reclaim the property, including the school building, if Franklin's role as a college-prep magnet school is dissolved. For that reason, Moran said she doesn't expect a strong push for Franklin to become an open-enrollment high school.

Moran said she has heard of the informal push for charter-school independence but doesn't yet have an opinion on the idea.

"It all depends on what the School Board has in mind for Ben Franklin," said Moran, whose children are now attending a private school in Vermont.

Moran doesn't want Franklin's role changed, and hopes to discuss the matter informally with School Board colleagues during an Oct. 7 meeting at Eisenhower Elementary School in Algiers.

The discussion of converting Franklin into an independent charter school follows a recent bid by supporters of Lusher elementary and middle schools, also magnet schools with admissions criteria, to win School Board approval for charter school status.

State education officials so far aren't publicly discussing Franklin's future. Louisiana Department of Education spokeswoman Meg Casper said "we try to stay out of local issues" and that the matter falls in the School Board's domain.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education member Leslie Jacobs said, "My guess is everything under the sun is being discussed," but referred questions to Christen.

Ben Franklin High students, staff members and others can track developments or report their plans through the Web site for parents, bfhsa.org or through the e-mail network: groups.yahoo.com/group/bhsa.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Entergy crews move part of a large utility pole into place in the marshes of Bayou Bienvenue on Friday. They are rebuilding a 115,000-volt transmission line and have to replace 24 transmission towers supporting the lines that were damaged by surge from Hurricane Katrina.

# Company says extent of damage slowed repairs

POWER, *from B-1*

crews on Friday worked in the marshes around Bayou Bienvenue off Paris Road, rebuilding from the ground up a 115,000-volt transmission line extending from the Michoud facility in eastern New Orleans to Chalmette.

Twenty-four towers that supported the line went down as Katrina's surge, estimated at more than 23 feet, lifted a yacht and tangled it on the lines, which fed substations in Chalmette and Arabi.

Circles rippled in the water as a helicopter crane capable of lifting 20,000 pounds picked up a 30-foot long metal cylinder to be used as the foundation for one of the new towers and gently deposited it in the marsh. Crews drilled it into the earth and filled it with sand and cement. The chopper then brought the remaining parts of the tower to be assembled on site. The entire transmission line, Jallans said, is on schedule to be restored by the middle of next week.

He said the company has as many as 300 workers in the parish restoring hundreds of miles of distribution lines. In the last three days alone, he said, they had replaced 100 damaged poles.

"I've been in this company for 33 years," he said, "and I've never seen it this bad."

Once the power is back, Jallans said the juice will go first to a list of facilities the parish has tagged as high priorities. They include the courthouse, the jail and the government administrative building in Chalmette, sewage and water treatment plants, the parish's two refineries and at least four sites where the Federal Emergency Management Agency is to set up temporary housing and offices for public functions or returning residents.

Neighborhood distribution lines, Jallans and Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said, will be restored on an as-needed basis, since it remains unclear which areas of the parish will be demolished and which ones will be repaired. There's no point in making a large investment now, they said, in neighborhoods where it could be months or possibly years before homes go up.

"As people return, we'll restore power," Lagarde said.

Parish Councilwoman Judi Hoffmeister said the approach is logical. But she said a few areas, such as the Old Arabi area that suffered relatively minor flooding, will be ready for residents in a much shorter time.

"The priority will be those areas where people can return first and areas where schools may be set up," she said.

# Thousands of buildings likely to be razed

SOAKED, *from B-1*

moldy drywall and buckled wood floors, the first steps in renovating buildings left damaged but structurally intact by Katrina and Rita.

But standing in a one-story Lakeview home, where a thick layer of muck covered everything and the reddish water mark reached 7 feet from the floor, Melancon said Monday that the devastation eclipsed even his worst nightmares.

"Ten times worse," he said, noting that sixpenny nails joining wall studs probably had begun to rust in brackish floodwater, compromising the entire house. "It's got to go."

On this block of General Diaz Street near Harrison Avenue, and for miles in every direction, residents of entire neighborhoods that were flooded for days trickled back to ruined homes this week with a similar reaction: Knock it all down.

But before bulldozers and front-end loaders can push into devastated areas, state and local officials may have to retool building codes, with some already moving to expedite the condemnation process so structures sodden with oily water can be deemed unsalvageable and razed.

The process, however, cannot begin until hoards of inspectors arrive in the New Orleans area to provide the government's assessment of the properties after private claims adjusters have finished their work. And regarding structures facing condemnation, officials in some parishes said they need to set up a way for residents – and the growing cadre of concerned historic preservationists – to authorize demolitions or fight the wrecking ball.

The load of unsalvageable property in southeast Louisiana is expected to be massive. Local leaders have estimated that tens of thousands of structures may have to be demolished and in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish and thousands more in other low-lying areas across southeastern parts of the state.

In Louisiana alone, the tally of construction and demolition debris left by Katrina could top 35 million cubic yards – or enough to fill eight Louisiana Superdomes – if every building that sat in fetid floodwaters for longer than a few days has to be leveled, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees disaster debris removal.

No definitive standard exists, however, to determine which buildings must be razed. Inspectors likely will consider the type of construction, length of time that the structure was submerged and what was in the water, said Michael Carliner, an economist with the National Association of Home Builders.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Ron Roberson, who lives in the 3200 block of Nashville Avenue, found mold growing in his home.

"There's no rule of thumb," he said. "But most of the structures in New Orleans are on the wrong side of the scale. Most of them are older wood construction, they were submerged for long periods, and the water wasn't very clean."

He added that "this is not a simple demolition," saying that about 350,000 buildings likely will have to be demolished across the four states hit by Katrina and Rita; the previous record was 28,000 torn down because of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Indeed, in New Orleans, few plans have been made for which neighborhoods might be recommended for clearing. Vieux Carre Commission Deputy Director Dan Brown said last week that every flood-damaged building in the city, whether or not it is located in a historic district, will be inspected by one of 100 assessment teams. Photographs of each building will be posted on the Internet, he said.

"It will be a methodical, open process," Brown said.

But members of the City Council said this week, as some parts of New Orleans reopened to residents for the first time in a month, that they did not know if norms have been established for judging homes or if the city's current building codes would be sufficient to manage the myriad forms of damaged property.

"We have an obligation to establish a standard," said Councilwoman Cynthia Morrell, whose district was partially deluged by water that poured through a breach in the London Avenue Canal. "I would think neighborhood by neighborhood, they would have to have input," though resident participation probably would not extend "down to the house level."

Morrell also said she wanted officials to consider other options, such as a "bacterial wash" of flooded homes, before condemning large areas; spraying bleach on homes also has been suggested. "You can't go in and tell people you're going to tear down your whole neighborhood," Morrell said. "We've got to have options."

City Councilman Jay Batt, who represents the devastated Lakeview area, said the city's demolition norms probably will depend on recommendations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and whether rules are revamped for how residents in flooded areas can rebuild their homes and still retain coverage under the government-backed national flood insurance program.

"I don't think it's going to be wholesale demolitions," he said, "but a lot of the wood structures probably will have to come down."

Though FEMA is expected to aid in demolition, possibly by hiring contractors to disassemble homes, a spokesman said the agency will not decide which structures stay and which ones go.

"There is a rumor out there that FEMA has condemned all homes in the (Lakeview) area of New Orleans," Kim Pease said. "That's not true. FEMA does not condemn homes. We don't have bulldozers. That's up to the state and local jurisdictions."

In St. Bernard, where officials estimate that buildings in 80 percent of the parish will have to be razed, officials have begun rewriting laws to circumvent a mandated 90-day waiting period from condemnation to demolition and are working to establish an appeals process for residents who want to rebuild structurally compromised homes, said Larry Ingargiola, the parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness.

"The guidelines are going to be: Can you rebuild this house? Can you bring it

back to the way it was?" he said. "But we also want the homeowners to have a choice in what's going to happen to their property. These people have been screwed enough by Mother Nature. We don't want to come in and say, 'Hey, we're taking everything.' "

The parish, in conjunction with FEMA, also has accelerated a public bid process to hire inspectors to canvass the parish and determine which homes should be deemed unsafe or unhealthy because of contamination by spilled oil or other chemicals. They should start working by next week, Ingargiola said.

In Jefferson Parish, where the storms left an estimated 2,000 homes beyond repair, the Parish Council voted Wednesday to let its members appoint 14 engineers and architects as temporary building code inspectors. Officials said they aimed to prevent residents' reconstruction plans from stalling if the regular staff of code officers and inspectors cannot handle the spate of building requests sure to arise in the coming year.

Expediting the inspection process, Ingargiola said, is the crucial first step to rebuilding. But rushing the job likely would incite an uproar from groups such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which already has asked Congress to enact a three-part plan to govern the handling of damaged homes.

It includes tax credits and grants for property owners who choose to rehabilitate hurricane-ravaged homes and commercial buildings.

The organization, working with local groups, has requested permission to survey homes in devastated areas and made recommendations about which ones could be saved, said Jeannie McPherson, a spokeswoman for the preservation trust.

"New Orleans is New Orleans. It's unlike any other place in the whole world, so it's important to preserve that area," she said. "People want to come back to a place that's familiar to them, a place that they know and recognize. If they move forward with the wholesale demolition, they will not be coming back to the same place."

Any concerns about a hurried demolition probably are unwarranted, however, said Phil Hoffman, president of the Home Builders of Greater New Orleans. Given the magnitude of destruction, just starting the process may be months away because of a sheer lack of manpower.

"I don't see anything happening, I'm guessing, at least until Thanksgiving," he said. "I don't think they can even bring in enough people to do all those demolitions until then."

# Jeff Sheriff's Office gets back to normal

*More than 100 workers are gone after storm*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

Despite losing 104 employees, more than half of them fired for not reporting for Hurricane Katrina duty, Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee said this week that the office is back to business as usual.

Lee said 61 people were terminated and 43 resigned in the aftermath of Katrina leaving the Gulf Coast staggering Aug. 29. Most of the losses came at the Gretna jail, where 53 employees were fired and 14 quit. But other departments took a hit, too, including the 911 center, the 1st and 4th patrol districts on the east bank and the traffic division.

"Some didn't show up at all," Lee said. "Some felt that their family commitment was more important than reporting to work. I can respect that decision. But they took an oath to serve the people of Jefferson Parish."

The sheriff is handling personnel matters on case-by-case basis. Lee isn't restricted by the same civil service rules as the New Orleans Police Department; he can hire and fire at will.

New Orleans police reported 249 officers AWOL by Tuesday, out of almost 1,700 on the force. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office employed about 1,625 people before Katrina.

All nonessential Sheriff's Office employees have been called back to work, and most deputies have resumed their regular duties, Lee said.

But starting Monday, he is temporarily forming two mobile forces of deputies similar to department's disbanded street crimes unit to patrol high-crime areas on the east and west banks. Lee said the move was not prompted by any spike in crime but as a precaution for residents returning to the area.

Since Aug. 27, deputies have made 755 arrests, including 275 for looting. Authorities made several arrests for curfew violations, as well as drug violations and a handful of drunk-driving cases, according to arrest reports.

There was only one homicide reported in that period, in River Ridge in the days just before the storm, Lee said. No other information on the killing was available Friday.

The Sheriff's Office managed to keep most of its 1,400-plus fleet of vehicles intact during the storm. Lee had deputies park their vehicles above ground level in covered parking garages.

Nonetheless, 21 cars were destroyed by flooding, and nine will need new engines, Lee said. A single tree toppled by winds damaged five vehicles at the east bank motor pool at 3300 Metairie Road in Metairie.

And the Sheriff's Office lost a 42-foot patrol boat when it was hit by a barge and pushed into a boat launch in Westwego, Lee said.

Lee's own office, on the top floor of the Sheriff's Office headquarters in Harvey, also took a beating. High winds ripped away the roof, soaking most of the fifth floor.

A similar fate befell the roof at the department's new Pat F. Taylor Memorial Firing Range, also in Harvey. Repairs are under way.

Lee has set up a temporary office at the training academy, next door to the firing range.

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# Harahan to borrow for cleanup costs

*Budget will be short about $1.2 million*

**Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Harahan will borrow $3 million to pay cleanup costs stemming from Hurricane Katrina.

The City Council, meeting Thursday, also voted to move $140,000 from its capital budget to its payroll accounts to pay overtime for city workers. The city is likely to see a $1.2 million shortfall in revenue this year unless it receives substantial federal aid, Mayor Paul Johnston said.

The shortfall doesn't include many storm-related costs and damage.

Johnston said the bill for debris removal is $600,000 so far. The gymnasium at Harahan Playground has suffered about $300,000 in damage, including damage to its air-conditioning systems. The city has requested $1.6 million in grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and has been approved for $453,000, Johnston said. The city will decide later whether to become part of a joint bond offering by Jefferson Parish, or seek a loan directly from a bank.

Hugh Martin, the city's bond counsel, said the city might be able to save money by seeking the loan on its own.

In other action, the council set the property tax rate for 2005 at 15.81 mills per $1,000 of assessed property valuation. The increase from last year's levy of 14.72 mills comes mainly because of the passage of an additional tax for fire protection. Voters renewed the tax, raising it from 3.95 mills to the 5 mills that voters approved in 1995.

The council also voted to waive regulatory fees for storm-related repairs through Dec. 31. Property owners will still have to obtain building permits before work can begin.

The council also voted unanimously to rezone a residential lot at 77 Oak Ave. from R-2 townhouse, to C-2 commercial, and merged the property with a parcel at Oak Avenue and Jefferson Highway.

Residents opposed the idea, saying it will increase traffic through the neighborhood. City Councilman Louis Butler echoed the sentiments of other council members, who said additional professional office space is needed in the city.

"We need to broaden our base from a residential community," he said.

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ATTENTION

Parents or Guardians of students
Jefferson Parish Public School System

The Jefferson Parish Public School System has important REGISTRATION information for parents or guardians of students in the system. Some schools, which were not significantly damaged, will open the week of October 3 to receive students.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Same School**
JPPSS students who can return to their homes in their previous school boundary areas will attend his/her previous school. Bus transportation is limited, but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**Students Enrolled Before Hurricane Katrina Returning to Different School**
JPPSS students who cannot return to their homes and are living in a different part of Jefferson Parish will have to register at the sites listed below during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Students New To Jefferson Parish Public School System**
Students now living in Jefferson Parish who have been displaced from public, private, or parochial schools in other school systems wanting to attend Jefferson Parish public schools will need to register as new students. JPPSS will staff multiple registration sites throughout the parish during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**East Bank:** Riverdale Middle School, 3900 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson 828-2706
Dolhone Elem. School, 219 Severn Ave., Metairie 837-5370
Hazel Park Elem. School, 8809 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge 737-6163
Bissonet Elem. School, 6818 Kawanee Ave., Metairie 887-0470
Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner 468-1016

**West Bank:** Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown 393-8732
Estelle Elem. School, 2800 Barataria Blvd., Marrero 340-4014
Butler Elem. School, 400 Fourth St., Westwego 341-1351
Waggaman Elem. School, 6801 River Rd., Waggaman 436-1304

The Jefferson Parish Public School has important **RELOCATION** information for parents or guardians of students who previously attended Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere elementary schools or the John Martyn school.

Students of these schools should report to the new location and time listed below.

- **Alexander students** are to report at 9 a.m. to Greenlawn Elem. School, 1500 38th St., Kenner
- **Lincoln students** are to report at 9 a.m. to Butler Elem. School, 300 Fourth St., Marrero
- **Terrytown students** are to report at 8:40 a.m. to Boudreaux Elem. School, 950 Behrman Hwy., Terrytown (Boudreaux students report to Boudreaux at 9 a.m.)
- **Woodmere students** are to report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elem. School, 2500 Bent Tree Ln., Marrero (C.T. Janet students report to C.T. Janet at 9 a.m.)
- **John Matryn students** are to report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Dr., Jefferson

Students who previously walked to Alexander, Lincoln, Terrytown, and Woodmere will be assigned to a designated bus stop.

Parents should drop off and pick up their child the first day.

Bus transportation for all other students is limited but will be provided along regular routes at designated bus stops.

**For additional information, please visit www.jppss.k12.la.us or call toll-free 1-866-563-6559.**

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# Kenner waives fee for trash pickup

**By Kenner bureau**

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano on Friday waived September garbage collection fees for residents and businesses.

Capitano issued the executive order eliminating fees a day after he authorized a New Orleans company to help Waste Management pick up trash.

He said Thursday that Waste Management was too slow in picking up garbage, and that some Kenner residents haven't gotten their Waste Management cans emptied at all since Hurricane Katrina hit.

The city is paying Ramelli Janitorial Service Inc. $145 a ton to pick up garbage in half the city, while Waste Management is expected to pick up the rest. Capitano said he hopes those costs will be reimbursed by FEMA or by fining Waste Management.

Monthly garbage pickup fees in Kenner are $11.10 for residential customers, $7.43 for residents older than 65 and $15 for businesses.

A Waste Management official responded to Capitano by saying that starting the second week after the storm, the company began picking up garbage once a week.

But, he said, they were thwarted at times by unsafe streets.

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# Richard Kron Jr., 55, Sheriff's Office retiree

**From staff reports**

Richard Hollis Kron Jr., retired commander of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office traffic division, died Tuesday of a heart attack at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Miss. He was 55. Mr. Kron was born in New Orleans and lived in Jefferson Parish for 45 years before moving to Poplarville, Miss., about five years ago. He was a graduate of West Jefferson High School and attended Loyola University. He worked almost 37 years for the Sheriff's Office, retiring as a major in April. He was a member of Marrero Masonic Lodge No. 473, St. Cletus Catholic Church and the Fraternal Order of Police. He is survived by his wife, Dianne Lundgren Kron; a daughter, Holly K. Dufrene of Metairie, and a son, Jason R. Kron of Gretna; a sister, Connie Richards of Picayune, Miss., and a brother, Wayne P. Kron of Metairie. A funeral Mass will be held today at 3 p.m. at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 West Bank Expressway, Harvey. Visitation begins at 11 a.m. Burial will be in McDonoghville Cemetery in Gretna.



Richard Hollis Kron Jr.

# Kenner church plans rosary march Sunday

**Kenner bureau**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Kenner will hold a rosary march Sunday after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

The march will begin at the church, 1908 Short St., continue toward the rectory, turn on Corwin Street to Daniel Street and return to the church.

Marchers probably will make two passes along the route while saying the rosary.

For details, call the rectory at (504) 464-0361.

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*-- William Faulkner*

As the waters recede and our communities are being restored, the Freeport-McMoRan family salutes the heroic efforts of the men and women participating in the recovery from the disaster brought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the subsequent rebuilding of our infrastructure. Our great city, our small towns and our wonderful communities up and down the river and along the Gulf Coast are coming back to life. The path will be challenging. We are confident that the spirit of *community* will prevail and success will be achieved.

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# Jeff shifts focus toward housing

By Rob Nelson
and Michelle Krupa
West Bank bureau

Her Point-a-la-Hache house swallowed by Hurricane Katrina, Dolores Tinson, who fled to Kenner, then to Texas and then recently came to Avondale to stay with relatives, arrived Friday in Gretna on a mission.

"I need a place to live," said the 69-year-old retired teacher, standing with her sister at a disaster recovery center set up this week by the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the Westside Shopping Center. "We're from Plaquemines Parish. Everything is gone."

Tinson's plight, similar to thousands of other across the region, is emerging as the chief concern in Jefferson Parish, where a slow crawl back to a pre-Katrina lifestyle has pushed officials to shift their attention from immediate relief to housing the displaced.

Several food and water distribution stations manned by the military closed Friday, while parish leaders and FEMA have started to focus on how they will house residents of some 30,000 homes that were left uninhabitable by Katrina and Rita, including 2,000 structures so ravaged they likely will be condemned, Walter Maestri, Jefferson's emergency management director, said.

"FEMA has made a decision, and we basically agree, that community enterprises are returning to Jefferson Parish, and therefore there isn't a need for distribution of water, food and ice," Maestri said, noting that more grocery stores and restaurants have opened in recent days. "Jefferson is now officially designated as a recovery site. We're closer to normal than the other impacted areas in the metro area."

Parish and FEMA officials have gone to work nailing down the logistics of hauling thousands of mobile homes to Jefferson, possibly to locate them in driveways of damaged houses while contractors tear out the moldy sheetrock and replace buckled wood floors inside, Maestri said.

Though most food centers manned by National Guard and other military personnel were expected to close Friday, sites run by the Red Cross and the Salvation Army were expected to stay open, Maestri said.

Terrence Eusebio, 22, said he still would miss the temporary FEMA food station set up in a grocery store parking lot on Lafayette Street in Gretna.

Close to his parents' house, which had become a breeding ground for mold after the roof over two rooms collapsed during Katrina, Eusebio said he had grown accustomed to the fast-moving line of vehicles waiting for food, ice and water.

"We're going to miss this," he said of the center, run by the Indiana Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment. "They marked up the prices at the stores on food and water. And it's nice they're helping like this."

Meanwhile, the recovery center, which opened Wednesday, already has helped about 1,500 residents, many of whom are forced to wait for hours in lines before getting direct help. The center, one of 23 FEMA is operating statewide, offers storm victims a chance to speak with agency workers or the U.S. Small Business Administration about disaster relief.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Diane Pham, 9, of Harvey clutches two meals ready to eat as her mother Trang gathers up relief information for a table at the FEMA recovery center at the Westside Shopping Center in Gretna.

Crisis counselors, Medicaid officials and flood insurance experts also are on-hand, and the state runs an office next door where residents can get food stamps.

Residents also can order blue tarps for their damaged roofs. No money is doled out at the center, but residents can get face time with FEMA to establish or update their accounts, said Earl Armstrong, an agency spokesman.

The agency has signed a lease to run the center until the end of the year, but the number of residents seeking help also will determine how long that facility is open, Armstrong said.

"I'm here to begin the process," said Russell Brown, whose Harvey home, near the Harvey Canal, suffered roof and water damage. "I need some assistance and some repairs on my home."

Brown sat patiently in one of several rows of folding chairs waiting for a chance to speak with one of eight FEMA workers talking to residents from behind their laptops.

Terry Schule and her husband were further back in line, perched in chairs outside the building for nearly two hours. They applied to FEMA weeks ago about damage to their Westwego home, but have gotten no response and came to see about the holdup, Schule said.

As his wife slid down a few chairs as the center allowed more people inside, Charles Schule said he hopes the couple's patience pays off.

"Depending on the results, I'll let you know whether the wait was worth it," he said half-jokingly.

The center, at 15 West Bank Expressway in Gretna, is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.

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OYD is proposing to effect this furlough beginning 10-1-05 until cob on 10-15-05. Once approved by C.S., it will be made available to employees through the OYD website: www.oyd.louisiana.gov.

Any questions should be directed to Trudy E. Gautreau,
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# St. Charles seeks trash removal report

*Entergy, Cox Cable also on agenda*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

In an attempt to keep on top of residual Katrina-related garbage problems, the St. Charles Parish Council has requested reports from waste removal contractors working in the parish, to be delivered at Monday's council meeting.

Representatives from Waste Management, the parish's trash contractor and CERES Environmental Services, which was hired specifically for debris removal, will update the council on the status of the parish's waste pick-up at the meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. at the parish courthouse in Hahnville.

Spokesmen from Entergy and Cox Cable also will be on hand to offer updates.

While power has been restored throughout the parish, some people still are without phone service, and trash removal remains spotty, said Council Chairman Desmond Hilaire, who spent part of Thursday riding around with Waste Management officials, pinpointing areas that required attention.

"There are still areas (in my district) that have only had trash pick-up once or twice since the storm," he said.

The council will continue to ask for formal reports from Waste Management and others, until it feels the garbage situation is under control, Hilaire said.

Storm debris, including branches, planks and other construction refuse, continues to mount along roadways throughout neighborhoods. Debris probably will pose continuing problems as people finish clearing out their homes and start to fix them, parish spokesman Steve Sirmon said.

Other items on Monday's agenda include a resolution, which would grant businesses a 60-day extension to remit sales tax returns. Those returns were due starting Sept. 1.

# St. John holds off decision on trailers

*Permitting, zoning to be addressed*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

The St. John the Baptist Parish Council chose to hold off on making any final decision regarding temporary housing for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, deferring instead to the parish administration to come up with a plan to streamline the permitting and zoning process to allow for emergency mobile home placements.

At Thursday's informal council discussion held in LaPlace, council members ultimately decided that the best course of action would involve amending Parish President Nickie Monica's executive order regarding mobile home placements and rezoning or creating a separate ordinance.

Under current law, it could take from six to eight weeks to receive mobile home permitting, Parish Attorney Jeff Perriloux said. Parish officials are hoping to shorten that period, enabling the parish to grant permitting within two to three weeks, he said.

Perriloux stressed that this amendment would allow only for temporary placement of mobile homes, not permanent placement and that time limits would be in effect.

Perriloux said he and Planning and Zoning Director Adrienne Labat would hash out the details of a possible amendment. Natalie Robottom, St. John Parish's chief administrator, said Friday the legal team still was working on the changes and a draft could be completed by Monday.

On Sept. 23, Monica issued an executive order that relaxed the restrictions on using travel trailers to house industrial, commercial and construction workers in an effort to jump-start St. John's economy and help other parishes rebuild. In addition, the executive order allowed the placement of travel trailers on any residential lot on a non-rental basis with the receipt of a special permit from the parish.

The travel trailer permits will be valid for three months with an option for an additional year. The housing units are required to have their own sewage containment and disposal capabilities. The permits will only be issued through Oct. 7, according to the executive order.

However, that executive order did not allow for mobile homes to be placed on property unless residents went through the parish's formal permitting process with the Planning and Zoning Board. In addition, mobile homes are allowed only in specially zoned areas of the parish unless there is a zoning variance.

At Tuesday's regular council meeting, council members requested the special hearing to discuss the placement of trailers and a plan for expediting the process.

On Thursday, most council members reiterated the need to do something for the displaced residents, particularly those currently living in the parish.

"It's about time we get together and sit down with our attorney to figure out ways and means to place displaced people," Councilman Richard "Dale" Wolfe said. "We need to get down and take care of human beings that need help."

Others questioned whether the parish could absorb the strain of the population boom.

Councilman Ronnie Smith asked whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency would compensate the parish adequately, supplying enough extra law enforcement and firefighters to serve the larger population. And Councilman Allen St. Pierre expressed concern over the parish's infrastructure, including the overburdened sewerage system. He also mentioned the newfound inconveniences facing parish residents, who now must contend with increased traffic, as well as longer lines at gas stations and at retail outfits, resulting from a larger population.

Officials estimated that St. John's population has increased by approximately 15,000 residents. But Councilman Sean Roussel argued that the post-Katrina crowds are in the parish to stay, so it makes more sense to try and find them housing and offer them some relief, he said.

# Some put off by Katrina T-shirts

*Highway stands are popping up*

**By Jay Reeves**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. — Some proclaim the wearer a "Certified Hurricane Veteran." Others state, "I survived the big one — Hurricane Katrina."

The T-shirts popping up for sale at stands along a highway once smack in Katrina's path offer travelers a chance to get souvenirs of the catastrophe, but some are just getting offended.

"It's disgusting," said Mary Ann Martino, whose home was badly damaged yet is providing shelter for a dozen friends who are even worse off. "People are making money off what we've been through."

Small businesses have sprung up in towns near the coast along U.S. Highway 49, selling souvenirs of the storm that killed more than 1,000 people and displaced as many as 1 million in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The reaction to the vendors has been mixed.

Wayne and Melissa Rogers stopped at a stand Wednesday and paid $45 for three shirts, including one for their 2-year-old son, Zavier.

"We're going to save it for him," said Mrs. Rogers, 21, of Gulfport. "We have a trunk of stuff we've saved since he was born, things he can remember."

Katrina souvenirs are all over: eBay has "My Heart's in New Orleans" T-shirts for $18 including shipping, and rubber wristbands emblazoned with "Katrina Relief" start at $2.50 each. Some sellers say they will contribute to hurricane relief.

T-shirts have been sold after other hurricanes. One from Florida, which was pounded by four hurricanes last year, had a drawing of a house and the words: "1. Charley, 2. Frances, 3. Ivan, 4. Sale."

Still, selling T-shirts amid the Gulf Coast devastation rubs some people the wrong way.

Looking at a T-shirt stand from a nearby convenience store, Clarence Breaux wasn't biting. He survived Katrina by putting on a life preserver inside his home near the beach in Biloxi and doesn't need a reminder of the horror of that day.

"That's the last thing I want," said Breaux. "I'm lucky to have the shirt I've got on."

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# In B.R., Morial calls for unified rebuilding effort

*At the same time, he pushes for investigation*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer



PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Joining hands with New Orleans City Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis and former city housing chief Vincent Sylvain, former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, center, bows his head in prayer at a gathering of the Urban League in Baton Rouge. As the Crescent City is rebuilt, Morial said the right of people to return and to vote in New Orleans needs to be preserved: 'People need to be allowed to go home.'

BATON ROUGE — Accompanied by family and political allies from his two terms as New Orleans mayor, Marc Morial popped up Friday afternoon to call for a unified effort to help New Orleans recover from Hurricane Katrina.

In an appearance at Baton Rouge Community College, Morial, now head of the National Urban League, said the levee breaks and the inadequacies of the relief effort were deplorable and need to be examined.

The Urban League is calling for an independent commission to figure out what happens so that it doesn't happen again, Morial said.

"Why? Because hurricane season happens every year," he added, repeating a view he expressed last month before a U.S. Senate committee.

Morial said he and others across the nation grieved when they watched New Orleanians suffering after the hurricane. He said he was especially distressed to see that happening in the New Orleans convention center that "bears the name of my father; the sight of so many people without food, medicine — it didn't need to be that way."

The focus now must be on rebuilding, Morial said.

Morial, who was term-limited out of office in 2002 and has been notably absent from New Orleans since federal prosecutors began indicting some of his former political aides and allies, asserted that his visit to Baton Rouge wasn't about politics. He characterized it as a fact-finding mission and a chance to visit with friends and family.

"People have died, people have lost everything," he said. "It's inappropriate to even discuss politics.

"This is about life, it's about survival, it's about accountability," Morial said, adding that there is a huge wellspring of good will and concern for the New Orleans area all over the world. He called Katrina "biblical, an epic event."

While the pictures on television focused on the suffering of the poor and minorities, "Katrina was an equal-opportunity destroyer," Morial said. "The storm "destroyed rich and poor. It destroyed black and white. While the pictures on TV were the truth, they weren't the whole truth," Morial said.

Morial said rebuilding the city is going to be "a long-term deal" and that for that reason, people need to move from shelters to transitional housing. He said the Urban League and other organizations assisting in the recovery must insist on "a right to return."

"People need to be allowed to go home," he said. The right of people to vote in New Orleans needs to be preserved, he said.

"Nobody has a right to say that any neighborhood should be written off," Morial said. "The people need to make that decision themselves."

He said talk about building "a new New Orleans" can easily be misconstrued.

"A new New Orleans should not be some gated and tony community. That is not the New Orleans that crated jazz and great culture," he said.

# Long-lost friends from Germany reunited at Gulf Coast funeral

*Woman recognized pal in obituary*

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — Lilo Harris was unaware that her best friend from early years in Germany lived only a few miles down U.S. 90.

Harris and Emma Anita Seals grew up together in Germany and lost contact after World War II.

The two were reunited at Seals' funeral Wednesday in Biloxi.

"I feel like 50 years have been wasted," Harris said in low voice when she saw the blue casket. "We were only 20 miles apart."

Harris said she had read Seals' obituary, learned she lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and was a victim of Hurricane Katrina's storm surge at her Pass Christian home.

"I knew when I read the obituary that it was Emma," Harris said. "When I read about 'cursing like a sailor' I knew it was her. She was a little devil when we were kids."

Seals and Harris grew up in Wiesbaden, Germany. Both married American soldiers and lost touch when both came to America. Seals lived in Pass Christian and Harris' home is in Gulfport.

On Wednesday, at the Biloxi National Cemetery, Harris was one of about 25 people saying goodbye to the 81-year-old Seals, who was remembered by her friends and family as warm and outspoken and was known as Omar, German for grandmother.

Among mourners was a Pass Christian police dispatcher who had befriended Seals.

Theresa Harris, who is not related to Lilo Harris, said she tried to get Emma to leave her home before the Aug. 29 storm.

"I'm gonna miss her," Theresa Harris said. "We tried to get her to leave, but she didn't want to leave 'her' animals. She fed the wild and neighborhood animals every day."

The obituary Lilo Harris read was written by Natalie Krymski, who grew up across the street from Seals and her late, retired Air Force husband, Jimmy.

"I moved here when I was 7," said Krymski, now a 26-year-old homemaker from Orange Grove. "I remember she was a mystery to everyone with her long black hair. Kids on the bus would say a witch lived there, so that got my curiosity. She had a Chihuahua dog, and I decided that was the way to meet her."

The dog did the trick, and they became friends for life, Krymski said.

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A NOTE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

**From: Toledano, Herrin & Lopez, A.P.L.C.
Attorneys and Counselors at Law**

Dear clients, colleagues, friends and neighbors:

The attorneys and staff of Toledano, Herrin & Lopez express our sincerest sympathy for everyone who suffered losses. We received an outpouring of concern and gestures of support after this tragedy. We especially thank those who expressed their concern for us and our families.

We suffered minimal damage to our offices and are able to offer comprehensive legal representation to individuals and businesses needing services in litigation, insurance claims, construction issues, contractual matters, personal injury claims, real estate issues and criminal matters.

Below is some helpful information and strategies for protecting your family's interests during reconstruction:

1. Check your parish permit office to find out whether out-of-town contractors have registered.
2. Review estimates and read all contracts.
3. Certain parishes are offering construction related permits at no charge.
4. Make copies or record your contractor's license number, insurance information, driver's license number and state of issue.
5. Take pictures before, during and after construction.
6. Generally, construction contracts are not paid in full up front. Pay your contractor on a schedule of completion.
7. When a contractual dispute arises, contact an attorney for advice.
8. Public libraries are temporarily offering free internet and copying services.

Toledano, Herrin & Lopez is located on the North Shore with thirty-five years in the community and serving the greater New Orleans area.

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# Council wants own rebuilding panel

*With governor's, mayor's committees, that makes three*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Not to be outdone by Mayor Ray Nagin or Gov. Kathleen Blanco, the New Orleans City Council has empanelled its own blue-ribbon commission to devise a strategy for rebuilding the storm-ravaged city.

The 11-seat panel, approved but not named at Tuesday's council meeting, will include seven members appointed by the council, plus the state's two U.S. senators and the two U.S. House members whose districts include parts of New Orleans.

Excluding members of the mayor's administration from the panel reflects a certain amount of irritation with Nagin. Some council members have accused him of leaving them out of the loop following Hurricane Katrina's devastating assault.

Weeks ago, Nagin announced plans to name his Commission for the Future of New Orleans, and on Friday he rolled out the names of the members he has tapped.

On Thursday, Gov. Kathleen Blanco announced formation of a group of business, education and community leaders to assist her in restarting small and large businesses in devastated areas of the state. Blanco has drafted some of the people Nagin had approached to be on his team.

The City Council's action on Tuesday, at its second meeting since the storm, took the form of a unanimous resolution creating the Advisory Committee on Hurricane Recovery.

The resolution calls for the committee to ascertain and recommend how the council might best use its authority "to facilitate the city's post-hurricane recovery efforts for the greater good of the city."

Nagin said he knows little about the council's committee or whether it will be duplicative of the other two panels.

"I've heard they were thinking about doing that," he said. "But I'm not sure what they're doing or why they're doing it."

Nagin said he has told council members and state legislators from New Orleans that they will have a role on his commission, though he has not offered specifics.

Told that the council has outlined a mission for its appointees that appears to cover every aspect of the recovery, Nagin said, "Really! I don't know if that's a legislative function, but we'll take a look at it."

The council's resolution charges the panel with determining the council's legal options regarding "zoning, land use, permits, franchises, taxes and regulation of utility and communications companies."

The panel also is to recommend how the council might best coordinate with state and federal agencies in reconstruction efforts, financing, bonds issuance and the development of policies for rebuilding, repair and renovation.

In addition, the committee is to advise the council on a strategy for transitional housing, where to situate major commercial and industrial corridors, business incentives, ways to improve housing stock, telecommunications, utilities and transportation infrastructure, and a re-evaluation of criteria for historic property preservation.

The council pledged to supply the committee with staffing and research resources.

Though the council has not announced the names of committee members, it has placed the initiative on a fast track that calls for a first meeting by mid-October and a preliminary set of recommendations due a week later.

The resolution ends with an upbeat message to New Orleanians:

"The council is committed to doing everything within its power and authority to facilitate the restoration and reconstruction of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The city has suffered among the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States. Its citizens are dispersed, and many of their homes are damaged or destroyed. Yet, their spirit and love for our unique city are unwavering and will prevail. Through the efforts of all its citizens, including those who graciously accept appointment to the advisory committee, New Orleans will be rebuilt and will once again be the city that we are so proud to call our home."

# TP medical writer wins state award

**From staff reports**

John Pope, The Times-Picayune's medical-health reporter, has won the Louisiana State Medical Society's annual Award of Excellence in print journalism for articles he wrote on yellow fever.

He was honored for stories published July 17 that marked the centennial of the 1905 yellow-fever epidemic in New Orleans, the last outbreak of the illness in the United States, and showed how local researchers continue to battle disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Pope, who also won the competition in 1990 and 1998, will receive the award and $500. So will Dorothy Kendrick of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, who won in the broadcast division for a story on obese children who lost weight.

Prizes generally are presented at a luncheon during the medical society's annual meeting, but the disruption caused by Hurricane Katrina forced cancellation of this year's session, which had been scheduled for this weekend in Baton Rouge.

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AND WE'RE HERE TO STAY!

# Local businesses pledge loyalty to N.O.

## *Many that are back need to hire workers*

**By Keith Darce**
Business writer

Hoping to jump-start the region's economic recovery, executives from more than 100 local businesses, including a number of major government contractors, promised Friday to return their companies' operations to pre-Hurricane Katrina levels.

"We are committed to staying here. I have bayou blood running in my veins," said David Guidry, president of Guico Machine Works Inc., an oil field machine parts manufacturer in Harvey.

Many of the companies were the first to reopen in the wake of the storm, largely because their businesses aren't dependent on a local buying population. Many also need to fill jobs, in some cases, hundreds of jobs. The announcement Friday came even as some service-sector employers, hit hard in the wake of Katrina because the local customer base they rely on evacuated, began laying off employees.

About 2,700 people have gone back to work at Northrop Grumman Corp.'s big Navy shipyard in Avondale, and the plant needs another 2,500 to get back on track with warship delivery schedules, said George Yount, vice president of operations at the yard.

Offshore work boat builder and operator Edison Chouest Offshore will need 400 more workers over the next 10 months at a new $60 million shipyard being built by the company in Houma, said Senior Vice President Laney Chouest.

"Help wanted" signs along Veterans Memorial Boulevard were almost as plentiful Friday as "business open" signs.

But despite all of the good intentions, many businesses in the New Orleans area are struggling to reopen or even stay alive.

Many evacuated workers have been hard to track down, and some have resettled in other communities. The ones who have come back are having a hard time finding places to live. Many businesses, especially the small mom-and-pop shops that lack deep financial pockets shops, are running out of cash. And some companies might have to wait months to discover whether their customer base will return to the area.

Still, the group of executives that gathered Friday at the Hilton New Orleans Airport in Kenner to sign the Statement of Commitment voiced determination to restore their businesses.

"We are growing. We are ready to hire. We want people to come back to Louisiana," said Raymond Ranger, vice president of Jani King New Orleans, a commercial cleaning franchise business. Already, Jani King has cleaned schools, hospitals and New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board pumping stations.

The group was assembled by U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who called the one-page statement a "real and meaningful" start to rebuilding the region's comatose economy.

The statement included promises to continue using Louisiana suppliers and vendors, and to try to expand local operations or relocate to Louisiana business from outside the state.

Vitter and several of the executives said finding places to house returning workers has quickly become the biggest barrier to restarting business.

Much of the region's housing stock has been destroyed or damaged to the point of being uninhabitable, and parts of New Orleans that sustained less damage remain closed to residents.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency promised nearly three weeks ago to begin building temporary trailer communities for as many as 200,000 people displaced by the storm, but none have opened yet in the metropolitan area.

Some companies are finding ways to create their own housing for workers.

Northrop is housing about 100 workers on an empty vessel docked at the west Jefferson Parish shipyard, Yount said.

Jani King is looking at renting unused nursing homes or college dormitories in the area, Ranger said. "They have amenities to bring in food service and health care. We do have options, but we still need federal help to bring people back," he said.

Perhaps the most vulnerable businesses are small shops that can't survive long without a flow of revenue from customers, said economist Tim Ryan, chancellor of University of New Orleans.

Low-interest disaster relief loans are available to many of those businesses from the federal SmallBusiness Administration, but the money might not arrive in time, Vitter said Friday afternoon during a radio interview.

"Between now and 60 days, you will have a significant number of small businesses go under or declare bankruptcy unless something is done," he said.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

# DEATHS

**Ernest T. (Ernie) Bellanger**
**Edward Anthony Blanchard**
**Louisia Brass**
**Thomas Alexis Burke**
**Anthony Charles Centanni**
**Gerard Keith Chaix**
**Charles Oscar Cockrell**
**Douglas Delano Dragna**
**Beulah Taylor Dyer**
**Sister Mary Dyer-Davis**
**John Joseph Esper, Jr.**
**Malcom J. Farber**
**Chad Ferrand**
**Arthur F. Gallagher**
**Sylvan Heyman**
**Rosalie Girgenti Hodges**
**Henry E. Johnson, Sr.**
**Dorothy Krause**
**Richard Hollis Kron, Jr.**
**G. Michael Lala**
**Elizabeth Savoie Laurent**
**Daniel Gerard Levy, Sr.**
**Jerry J. Lirette**
**Sibylla Baessler McFarland**
**Sylvia Margarita Cortez Riche**
**Edna Lyden Shannon**
**Andree Higgins Stefferud**
**Albert Wilson Wolverton**
**Emelda Agnes Ziegan**
**Frank Dominick Zito**

### BELLANGER

Ernest T. (Ernie) Bellanger, Police Officer for the City of Gretna, died on September 27, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Mary Lee Ose Bellanger. Father of Mary Ann Deitrich, Thomas S. Bellanger, Nancy M. Herdt and Patty A. Bellanger. Father in law of Albert Deitrich, III and Tim Herdt. Son of the late Jeanne Boudoin Bellanger and Ludger J. Bellanger. Brother of the late Norman Joseph Bellanger. Grandfather of Joni, Jeff, Jennifer, Heather, Melissa, Ryan, Michael, Bryce and Trent. Great grandfather of Brianna and Jalyn. Age 74 years, a lifelong resident of Gretna, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also employees of the City of Gretna, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Parish School Board, Kate Middleton School, Members of K of C Council No. 1905, David Crockett Vol. Fire Dept. (Life Member), Krewe of Ulysses and Gretna Sportsman Club are invited to attend a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expy., Harvey, LA on Saturday October 1, 2005 at 9AM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open Friday from 6PM to 10 PM and Saturday from 8AM to 9AM. Info 504-366-4343.

### BLANCHARD

Edward Anthony Blanchard Born February 28 1923, in Addis, Louisiana, he passed away at his Marrero home on Thurs, Sept. 8, 2005. Eddie will be remembered as a loving husband an uncle and for his commitment to living with honesty and fairness with everything. A gifted leader and innovator, he dedicated his life totally to building ships and developing Avondale Shipyards, Inc. He served in the United States Navy. After 46 years of service at Avondale Shipyards, he retired from his position as Vice-president of Production-Operations. He then devoted all his time to caring for his extensive family of siblings, nieces, nephews, in-laws and countless close friends. He was extremely passionate about every aspect of his life. Throughout his total life experiences, the memories that held the most meaning to him were his family, his faith, and the numerous employees of Avondale Shipyards, Inc. He graduated from Brusly High School and also attended LSU. He is survived by his sister, Edith Blanchard Owens, Brusly; three sister-in-laws and four brother-in-laws, Mary Ann Hebert LeBlanc, Fairhope, Al; James M. Kinberger, Jr., Metairie; Julius J. and Gloria Hebert; Andrew and Carmella Hebert, and Carroll Hebert, all of Marrero; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Laura Lee Hebert; parents, Joseph Harvey Sr. and Beatrice Mary Levert Blanchard; sister, Beatrice Mary Blanchard Kinberger; three brothers, Joseph Harvey, Jr., Sidney Albert, and David Louis Blanchard. Eddie was a participant in the Tulane and LSU Schools of Medicine Willed Body Program. Msgr. Luminais will conduct a memorial service on Sat., Nov. 5th, 2005 at 4:00pm at Holy Guardian Angels Church in Bridge City. The deceased wished that all donations be made in his name to The Immaculate Conception Church, 4401 Seventh St., Marrero, LA 70072 or Holy Guardian Angels Church 1701 Bridge City Ave, Bridge City LA 70094

### BRASS

Louisia Brass died on September 18, 2005 at her home of natural causes. Age 68 years. She was born in Gilbert, LA and graduated from Rosner Gilbert High School. She lived in New Orleans most of her adult life until moving to Marrero 20 years ago. Mrs. Brass was a member of Dominion and Power. She worked at Bunk's Sewing Factory before attending Sidney Collier Vo-Tech School and earning a degree in Nursing. Mrs. Brass was employed by Charity/University Hospital as an LPN prior to her retirement. Survivors include two daughters, Edith Brass Lindsay and Arlene Brass; Two sisters, Janie Morris of Winnsboro, LA and Roxie Dunbar of New Orleans, LA; 3 Grandsons, 1 Granddaughter and 1 Great Grandson. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment: Restlawn Cemetery. Parlors will be open on Saturday morning from 10:00 AM until Funeral Time.

### BURKE

Thomas Alexis (TAB) Burke passed away on Monday, August 29, 2005 in the floodwaters of hurricane Katrina. He is survived by two daughters, Chantelle and Priscilla Burke and one grandchild, Zakai Williams. Tab was born on August 24, 1957 to the late Thomas Alexis Burke, Sr. and Rita Basile Burke. He is also survived by his brother, Michael Burke and two sisters, Delilah Wehner and Rhonda Benavides. Other survivors include numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Age 48 years. A lifelong resident of St. Bernard Parish, La. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral mass in the chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, La. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment: Gate of Heaven Mausoleum, Westwego, La. Parlors will be open on Saturday morning from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

### CENTANNI

Anthony Charles "A.C." Centanni a prominent businessman and community leader died Sunday, September 25, 2005 of renal failure. He was 84. Mr. Centanni was a life long resident of New Orleans. He was a graduate of Warren Easton High School where he was a member of the Tennis Team and attended Tulane University where he was a member of the University Marching Band. He was secretary-treasurer of Gold Seal Creamery and Centanni Realty. He was a parishioner of St. Pius X and St. Dominic Catholic Churches. He was past president and member of The Louisiana Dairymen's Association and Louisiana Dairy Products Association, which promoted free milk for school lunches under President Eisenhower. He served in the United States Navy. He was a member of the American Legion John and Patrick Lyons Post No. 336. The Carrollton Rotary Club, the BAT Club and several Carnival organizations including the Carrollton Club. Devoted husband of the late Gloria Montero Centanni and preceded in death by his sisters; Lorraine C. Johnson, Mary Yvonne C. Heman, Anna C. Taormina and Myra C. Mehrtens. Survivors include his daughters: Myra C. Ruiz, Linda C. Girard, Gloria C. Chatelain and Sally C. Culotta; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; his brother, Salvador F. Centanni; and his sister, Rosalie C. Gonczi. A mass will be said Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at L.A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be in Jefferson Memorial Gardens and Final interment in Metairie Cemetery.

### CHAIX

Gerard Keith "Jerry" Chaix on Tuesday, August 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Lucille Attenhofer Chaix. Father of Julie Ann and Michael Joseph Chaix. Son of Althea Heausler Chaix and the late Ronald Joseph Chaix. Brother of Gregory J. Chaix, Lana C. Rigney and Connie C. Kallivretakis. Aged 51 years, a native of New Orleans and a resident of River Ridge for the past 26 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, 55 W. 125th Street, New York, NY 10027, preferred.

### COCKRELL

Charles "Chuck" Oscar Cockrell died on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Beloved husband of Ann Eymard Cockrell. Father of Kelly Guillory, Frank Eymard and Nicole Toncrey. Brother of Owen Cockrell, Mary "Mickie" Tooraen, Jude Lauland and Antoinette "Toni" Ford. Grandfather of Hunter Toncrey, Aimee Guillory, Marissa and Mason Eymard. Son of the late Lafayette Lee Cockrell and Bernice Boudreaux Cockrell. Age 51 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA for the past 24 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Monday morning from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

### DRAGNA

Douglas Delano Dragna on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at 1:00pm. Beloved son of the late Lawrence and Mercedes Dragna. Father of Larry, Desiree' and Shannon Dragna and Helena Malone. Brother of Nona Johnson and Beverly (Frank) Christian, Grandfather of Gary and Katie Malone. Uncle of Darrell (Kim) and Alex Christian and Billy Johnson. Also survived by his faithful Canines, Pepper, Sara Lee and Nila and his Cockatoo, Sehcaep. A mass was held in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 3:00 pm. Interment: Garden of Memories.

### DYER-DAVIS

Beulah Taylor Dyer, a homemaker, joined our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in eternal life everlasting on Monday September 19, 2005 at Southwest Medical Center in Lafayette, LA. She was 93. A resident of New Orleans for 88 years. Sister Dyer was born in White Castle, LA. To the union of the late James and Opelia Leblanc Taylor. She was the wife of the late Joseph O. Dyer. The mother of Joseph S. Dyer, Jr. and the late Marion Ray Elum. She was a member and usher of First Free Mission Baptist Church in New Orleans, Rev. Melvin Collins, Pastor. She was a trusted employee, friend and confidant to Dr. Elise Cambon for over 60 years. Certainly she will be sorely missed but always remembered as "Mommie." She leaves to mourn her passing one son, Joseph S. Dyer, Jr., Mother in-law of Raymond Elum and Vera M. Dyer. Sister in-law of Delphine Wilder of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A very devoted nephew Alex (Marylee) Taylor of Raceland, LA. Five grandchildren and their spouses & Three Great Grandchildren. Also survived by other loving nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Relatives and friends of the family, First Free Mission Baptist Church of New Orleans, LA, Rev. Melvin Collins, Second Free Mission Baptist Church of New Orleans, Rev. Warren J. Ray, Jr. and Greater Pleasant Green Baptist Church of New Orleans, LA. Rev. Richard Bellazin are invited to attend the services: Visitation at Asbury Methodist Church, 31755 Laurel Ridge Road, White Castle, LA. Rev. Andrew Richardson, Pastor from 10:00 A.M. until religious services at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday October 1, 2005. Services will be conducted by the Rev. John Henderson, Jr. Interment in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Dorseyville, LA. Demby & Son Funeral Home, Donaldsonville, LA is in charge of arrangements.

### DYER-DAVIS

Sister Mary Dyer-Davis, or GranMary, as she was affectionately called, passed away on September 27, 2005, in Baton Rouge. She had been evacuated as a result of Hurricane Katrina. She was 72. GranMary was the third of five daughters born to the late Washington Lewis and Martha Washington Lewis Anderson. She later married Franklin N. Davis. GranMary was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin N. Davis, her parents, her son Bruce Dyer, and two sisters, Georgia Heard and Lavern Crain. She was a member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. GranMary leaves to cherish her memories a daughter, Wanda D. Route; a son, Rudolph G. Dyer, Sr.; daughter-in-law, Trudi Haney-Dyer; brother-in-law, Johnny L. Crain. She also leaves loving and devoted grandchildren Dana Route-Wade, Jena D. Route, Angelique Dyer, Rudolph G. Dyer, Jr. and Jude Haney; two sisters, Delores Colleen Wright and Lamealue Robinson; treasured nieces Terry Lynn Bailey, Christine Farve, Rachael Heard; and nephews, Louis C. Wright, Roy M. Wright, Anthony Heard, and a host of other family members and friends.

### ESPER

John Joseph Esper, Jr. at Chateau Living Center, Kenner, LA on Thursday September 1, 2005, at 4:00 PM. Age 70 years and a native of Cleveland, Ohio. Beloved father of Johnna Esper, Mark Esper, Matthew H. Esper, Doreen E. MacDonald, and Elaine E. Sinelli. Son of the late John J. Esper, Sr., and Frances Reynolds Esper. Brother of Dorothy Ann Gann, David, Lawrence, and George Esper and the late James Esper. Also survived by 8 Grandchildren. Devoted friend of Pauline Sadoski. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Service at H. C. Alexander Funeral Home, 821 Fourth Street, Norco, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Visitation on Saturday morning after 11:00 AM until Service time from the parlor of H.C. Alexander Funeral Home, Norco, LA

### FARBER

Malcom J. Farber passed away at his residence in the presence of his family on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 88, a native of Metairie and a resident of Kenner for the past 28 years. Mr. Faber was the owner of Malcolm Faber Trophies and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Beloved husband of Linda Bass Faber. Father of Malcolm J. Jr., Marvin J., Melvin J. and Michael J. Faber. Son of the late Exilda Helwick and Clarence Faber. Brother of the late Edith Cashen. Grandfather of Jason, Jessica, Amanda, Ryan, Ashley, Austin, Melvin Jr., Michaela, Matthew, Megan, David and Howard Faber. Great-grandfather of Hayden Faber. Relatives and friends of the family, also all employees of Malcolm Faber Trophies are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 11:00am Interment Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit from 2:00pm until 5:00pm on Sunday and after 9:00am on Monday.

### FERRAND

Chad Ferrand died Monday September 26, 2005 at the age of 25 years old at Baton Rouge General Mid City. Survivors include his mother Melaine Palmer and significant other Bob Guillot, father Rodney Ferrand. Paternal grandmother Maudry Ferrand. Maternal grandfather Edwin M. Palmer, Jr. Two sisters, Lauren Marie Ferrand and Ashley Elizabeth Ferrand. His dog and companion Hayden. Also survived by Aunts and Uncles; Mickey and Diana Palmer, Mark and Leslie Palmer, Matt and Susie Palmer and Maureen and Greg Favret. Also survived by cousins, Amy, Leigh, Matt, Andrew and Justin Palmer, Michael, Palmer, June, Mary, Maureen and Katie Richard. John, Gregory, Thomas, David Favret. Brad and Kelly Ferrand, Jonah, Jake and Jennica Berman. Glenn and Susie Ferrand, Brian and Priscila Ferrand, Janell and Jessie Berman. Preceded in death by Maternal grandmother; June W. Palmer and Paternal grandfather: Elmer L. Ferrand. A resident of New Orleans and a Native of Metairie and a graduate of LSU and the Meatairie Park Country Day High School; member of the Harahan Police Reserve; was a candidate for city council; former member of Colonial Golf Country Club; he worked for Charles Foti with the New Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office.

### GALLAGHER

Arthur F. Gallagher, on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Husband of the late Laura Freeman Gallagher. Father of Patricia Giles and Charles L. Gallagher. Grandfather of Scott Gallagher. Son of the late Charles and Valerie Gallagher. Brother of the late John, James and Charles Gallagher, Valerie Doody and Marian Callaghan. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Gallagher was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving in WWII. He was also retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Age 80 years. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m. Interment in Garden of Memories.

### HEYMAN

Sylvan Heyman, age 86, died on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. He was a New Orleans native and lived in Jefferson Parish for most of his life. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was married to the late Noemie Cook Heyman for 58 years. Survivors include a son, Cleve Heyman and two daughters, Sharon Bernard and Linda Morris. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Leslie Bernard Becker, Brett Bernard, Chris Morris and Craig Morris, five great-grandchildren: Kyle, Kody, Natalie, Abigail and Blaine and two step great-grandchildren: Josh and Evan. A private service will be held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral home, 4747 Veterans Blvd, in Metairie on Friday, September 30, 2005. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

### HODGES

Rosalie Girgenti Hodges age 87 died Monday September 26, 2005 at Pine Hill Nursing Home, Quitman, LA. Know as "Bam", beloved wife of the late John Aloysius Hodges, mother of Rosalie Ann Swanson of Covington, LA; John A. Hodges Jr. of New Orleans, LA; James Michael Hodges of Atlanta GA; and the late Mary Clare Hodges. Survived by 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Daughter of the late Anna Catalanotto and Giovanni Girgenti. Sister of Antoinette Jones of Tampa, FL, and the late Joseph Girgenti, Sarah DiBuono, Mary Hodges, John Anthony Girgenti, Jimmy Girgenti, and Michael "Mickey" Girgenti. Rosalie Hodges was born in Amite, LA, was a resident of New Orleans, LA, for 63 years and a resident of Colonial Oaks Nursing Home, Metarie, for the past 6 years. She was a parishioner of St. Dominic Catholic Church for 50 years, and a member of The Bereavement Committee, Ladies Altar Society and Legion of Mary. A funeral mass will be held at St. Helena Catholic Church 122 South 1st. St. Amite, LA at 11AM Monday October 3, 2005. Visitation at 10AM at St. Helena. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Southern Dominican Province 1421 North Causeway Blvd. Suite 200, Metarie, LA, 70001. Phone (504)837-2129.

### JOHNSON

Henry E. Johnson, Sr. departed this life on Friday, September 16, 2005 at his residence. Mr. Johnson was born in Westwego, LA, and moved to Marrero, LA until his demise. He was a member of Holy Hill Baptist Church. Devoted husband of Dorothy M. Johnson. Father of Janice J. Jasmin, Fleming Moran, Edward Johnson, Glean Johnson and Minister Henry E. Johnson, Jr. Brother of Alice Walker, Catherine Carpenter, Zenolia Johnson and Sherry Lee Tate. Grandfather of 19+ and Great grandfather of 14. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services from Rock of Ages Baptist Church, 6533 Acres Road, Marrero, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 12:00 PM. Internment in Restlawn Park Cemetery. Visitation at the church from 10:00 AM until service time. Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Info 504-341-9421

### KRAUSE

DOROTHY KRAUSE, 69 years old of Loranger, LA., died Monday, September 26, 2005 at her residence. She was born Sunday, April 26, 1936 in New Orleans. Surviving are 2 daughters, Cynthia Esler of Loranger and Donna Harper of Pearl River; 4 Sons, George Krause of Mandeville, Thomas Krause of Loranger, Donald Krause of Pearl River and Glenn Krause of Baton Rouge; Brother, Conley Smith, TENN.; 3 Sisters, Joyce Dolese of Slidell, Patricia Gromlovits of New York State and Mary Richardson of Metairie; 19 Grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Parents: Conley James Smith and Ida Claus Smith; 1 Son, Stephen Krause; 1 Brother, Ronald Smith. Friends will be received Friday, September 30 at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home in Hammond from 10:00am until services at 1:00pm at the Harry McKneely & son Funeral Home, Hammond, Louisiana. Services will be held at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home, Friday, September 30, 2005 at 1:00pm. Interment will follow in the Loranger Community Cemetery, Loranger, Louisiana 70446. Email Condolences to: hmckneely@i-55.com/ Subject line: Krause.

### KRON

Richard Hollis Kron, Jr. on September 27, 2005 at 10:30 AM. Beloved husband of Dianne Lundgren Kron. Father of Holly K. Dufrene and Jason R. Kron. Son of the late Edna Gass and Richard H. Kron, Sr. Brother of Connie Richards and Wayne P. Kron. Age 55 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Jefferson Parish, LA for the past 45 years. Relatives and friends of the family, also employees of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and Marrero Masonic Lodge # 479 are invited to attend a funeral mass in the chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 3:00 PM. Interment: McDonoghville Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Saturday morning from 11:00 AM until funeral time.

### LALA

G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

### LAURENT

Elizabeth Savoie Laurent, a retired Jefferson parish Sheriffs Office Employee at West Jefferson Medical Center on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 73. Wife of the late Lewis Laurent. Mother of Robert Chauvin and Lorraine L. Krummel. Daughter of the late Angelina Lopez and Norey Savoie. Grandmother of Angelina C. Vicknair, Latasha Laurent, Jared Krummel and Jordan Krummel. Sister of Roland Savoie. Mother-in-Law of Sheryl Chauvin and Jacob Krummel. Sister-in-Law of Jan Savoie. Relatives and friends of the family were invited to attend the funeral mass from the Chapel of Westside Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, on Friday, September 30, 2005. Interment Restlawn Park Cemetery. Visitation was Friday, September 30, 2005. Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Info 504-341-9421

### LEVY

Daniel Gerard Levy, Sr., a retired agent with Kansas City Southern Railroad after 44 years, passed away on Wednesday, August 31, 2005. Beloved husband of Rita St. Pierre Levy, father of Geralyn L. Kieffer, Elizabeth L. Camardelle, Donna L. Sisung, Charlene L. Devellier, Daniel II and Patrick Levy, brother of Marilyn Horn, Charles Levy, the late Anna Mae Barrios, Joseph and Bernard Levy. Survived by 15 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Age 71 years, A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident Luling, LA for the past 2 years. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Luling, LA. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA. Mr. Levy was a former member of St. Bonaventure Parish of Avondale.

### LIRETTE

CW-3 (Retired U.S. Army) Jerry J. Lirette, owner of Lirette A/C Repair Service, passed away Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 8:30 pm of a massive heart attack at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Rome Lirette and children, Cynthia, Barry and Michael. He additionally raised his grandchildren Ashley and Loney Lirette. He was the proud Paw Paw of these two grandchildren as well as Joshua Martinez, Joshua Thompson, Mathew and Natalie Lirette. He was the son of the late Evence Joseph Lirette and Emily Theriot Lirette and son-in-law of Morris Terrebonne and Dorothy Hargis Terrebonne and the late Loney J. Rome. He was the brother of the late Evence Lirette, Lois Cavalier, and Onelia Melancon and survived Mae Propps, Jennie St. Lucia, Eula Mae Wright, Joyce Hellyer, John and Odrey (Buddy) Lirette. He was a two-term, Vietnam Veteran that was decorated with three Bronze Star and one Purple Heart medals and numerous awards. He was a business associate of Coburn's Plbg. & A/C Supply and Care Services. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services at Mothe Funeral Homes, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 4:00 PM. Interment will be private. Parlors will be open on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 PM until service.

### MCFARLAND

Sibylla Baessler McFarland went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 23, 2005, at 7:05 pm at her home in Metairie, Louisiana at the age of 92 years old. A native of New Orleans, Mrs. McFarland lived in Letairie for 50 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Price McFarland, her parents, Ida Rotge and Charles A. Baessler, Sr., her daughter, Ida McFarland Rabb, her siblings, Catherine Eudora, and Charles A. Baessler, Jr. and Urania B. Caillouette and a great-grandson, Jason Dupre. She is survived by her children, Nola M. O'Connor, Sterling P. McFarland, Jr., L. Charlene M. Farbe, and Kathleen M. Torroll. She is also survived by her cousin, Veva Descant, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was a joy to all who knew her. Family and friends are invited to a viewing from 12 noon until services at 2:00 pm on Saturday October 1, 2005 at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy. in Metairie, LA. Interment in Gardens of Memories on Airline Drive. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to Fellowship Bible Church, 4600 N. Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006, or your favorite charity. Please sign the online guest book at www.legacy.com

### RICHE

Sylvia Margarita Cortez Riche died Thursday, September 1, 2005 of heart failure after a lengthy illness. Born in Teruel, Spain, April 8, 1924, her family immigrated to the U.S. in 1929, settling in New Orleans with her father, Mario Ramon Cortez, and her mother, Juana de Aragon Cortez, and her 4 sisters and 2 brothers, Juana Cortez Ortiz, Ana Cortex Wiley, Theresa Cortez Marino, Filipa Cortez Slack, Carlos Cortez, and Miguel Cortez (all now deceased). She graduated form McDonough High Scholl on Esplanade and Soulee Business College. She worked as Secretary to the President of Sears Roebuck. On January 6, 1946 she married Cedric F. Riche, eldest son of 7 by Olivia and Desire Riche, Elwood, Calvin, Roy (deceased), Lloyd (deceased), Claude Riche and Eloise Riche Vidal. They started their family in a small house on France St. in New Orleans, moved in 1958 to Arabi in St. Bernard Parish where she resided until her death. She was a faithful parishioner of St. Louise de Marillac Catholic Church in Arabi. Through those years she worked part time for Jack Brady of Pick-a-Pepper Imports and the Jung Hotel. In 1970 she returned to work full time as a secretary for Biehl Steamship Co. and Hapag-Lloyd until her retirement at the age of 70. She was widowed in 1996, and is survived by 6 children: Ronald Riche of Arabi, LA, Cheryl Riche Pierre of Harahan, LA, Kenneth Riche of Woodbridge, VA, Mary Riche of Desoto, TX, Rene Riche of Harvey, LA, and Elaine Riche Starnes of Ocean Springs, MS. Also Son/Daughter-in-laws Suzanne C. Riche, Allen Pierre, Cheryl S. Riche, Martha H. Riche, and James Starnes II. She was blessed to be Grandma of 11 grandchildren: Jeffrey (spouse Rachel) and Jean-Paul Pierre; Johnathan, Daniel, Andrew, Patrick, David, and Rebecca Riche; Jessica Reed; Olivia and James Starnes III, and also her great grandchildren, Gabriel Pierre and Tyler Wherlin. Aunt Syl loved her 34 nieces and nephews, and she enjoyed the loving friendship of her sisters and brothers-in-law. She also enjoyed her many grandpets and her own beloved dog Skippy. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd, on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Interment will be in Garden of Memories. Friends may visit on Monday after 10:00 am. Arrangements by JACOB SCHOEN ANDSON FEUNERAL HOME.

### SHANNON

Edna Lyden Shannon. A member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in New Orleans, Edna Lyden Shannon, died Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 11:00 am at Ollie Steele Burden Manor in Baton Rouge, LA at the age of 90. She was a resident of New Orleans and a native of Miami Florida. A private service will be held at a later date. She is survived by her three daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Shannon Plemer and husband Michael A. Plemer of New Orleans, Eileen Shannon Horner of Miami Florida, Michaela Shannon Stackhouse and husband Harry B. Stackhouse of Pensacola Florida; a son and daughter-in-law, James Philip Shannon III and wife Christine B. Shannon of Palm City Florida; nine grandchildren, Shannon Pierson Bland, Elise Milling Pierson, Britton K. Stackhouse, Bennett L. Stackhouse, Michael Brooks Stackhouse, Blaire Horner, Brittney Horner, Mikaela Shannon and Liam Barratt Shannon; two great-grandchildren, Izabella Erazo-Pierson and Lyden Henriette Bland. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Philip Shannon, Jr.

### STEFFERUD

Andree Higgins Stefferud succumbed to Parkinson's disease on the 27th of September, 2005 at her home in Madisonville, LA at the age of 86. She was the beloved wife for almost fifty years of Captain David Stefferud and the loving mother of Stanley Mack Danna of St. Tammany Parish, Ms. Andree Danna Jordan of Hawaii, Mrs. Diane Karen Danna Elliott of St. Charles Parish, Mrs. Arlene Francis Danna Evans of Mill Valley, CA and Mrs. Cherie Danna Young of Senoia, GA. An infant daughter and a son, Charles Michael Danna, preceded her in death. She is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Dawn Higgins Murphy, of Jackson, MS. Her brothers Edmond, Andrew, Frank, and Roland Higgins preceded her in passing. Mrs. Stefferud was the daughter of Angele Leona Colsson Higgins, of Mobile, Alabama, and Andrew Jackson Higgins, the famed New Orleans boat builder who was credited by President Eisenhower with a major share of the U.S. Victory in World War II for the design and rapid construction of the LCVP "Higgins Boat" landing craft. She is remembered with love by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service at the E.J. Fielding Home, 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, is planned for Thursday 6th, October 2005 at 11:00 AM. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Hospice of St. Tammany, 1202 Tyler St, Covington, LA 70433. Interment will be in the Metairie Cemetery at a later date.

### WOLVERTON

Albert Wilson "Buck" "Pie Man" Wolverton, a route salesman for Simon Hubig's Bakery for the past 26 years, passed into the hands of his Father on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 11:45 am. He was 68 years old. Beloved husband of Gail Forest Wolverton for 47 years. Beloved father of Randall Wilson, Russell Peter, Tami W. Barclay and Cynthia W. Amie. Grandfather of Amanda and Robyn Wolverton, Scott Amie, Alexander and Kayla Barclay. Great-grandfather of Tyler Pentney. Son of the late Wilson A. Wolverton and Virgie M. Bordeleon. Brother of Donald, Peter and Faith Wolverton and Barbara Bankston. Father-in-law of Toni Wolverton, Kevin Barclay and Alan Amie. Also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Mr. Wolverton was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Chalmette for the past 45 years. He served in the Navy as the Admiral's photographer during the Korean Conflict in the Pacific. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the service on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 2:00 PM at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd, near Clearview Pkwy. Interment will temporarily be in Holy Rosary Cemetery; final resting place will be in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held on Sunday from 10:30 am until funeral time.

### ZIEGAN

Emelda Agnes Ziegan on Friday, September 23, 2005, at 4:15pm. Daughter of the late Barbara Fleisch and Albert Ziegan. Sister of the late Gladys Ziegan Wilson. Thelma Ziegan Rouse and Irma Frances Ziegan. Aunt of Flora Schindler and Richard Ziegan Wilson. Great Aunt of Charles Arthur Schech, David Samuel Schech, Lorraine Schech Gritter, Gweldolyn Wilson Bridevaux, Holland Wilson Householder, and Richard Derek Wilson.

The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Jerry Butler sprays down his drink coolers with bleach and water as he tries to get his business, the Tchoup Stop, back in operation Thursday.

## Don't forget small businesses

The tragedy of the devastation rendered by the dual assault of hurricanes Katrina and Rita is well-documented but still somewhat incomprehensible. The toll on human life and spirit is bad enough and the property loss simply adds insult to injury. As a native son, I have every bit of faith in the toughness of our people. Those of us who can do so will roll up our sleeves and get to work while attempting, as best we can, to help those who are displaced or dispirited.

As a small-business owner, I am back to fulfill an obligation to a community that has helped to support my efforts and dreams. At the same time, however, I and many other business owners are somewhat alarmed that the smell of huge amounts of capital flowing into this area is going to attract huge, well-connected businesses from elsewhere that swoop in and decimate the small businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.

None of us can take a double hit like this. I would implore local governments to be vigilant in making sure that all of us small, local businesses have at least a fair stake in the redevelopment of our community and lifestyle.

We are all here for the long haul, treating our customers as individuals and recycling our revenue back into the local economy. We are not working for stockholders or funneling money to out-of-state home offices. I would hope that in a fraternal and close-knit area like ours, our dedication and involvement will be valued and considered by the powers that be.

**Ray Fransen**
*Ray Fransen's Drum Center*
*Kenner*

## Gretna unfairly accused

Four weeks ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of Gretna, leaving no building undamaged. It was a city without electricity, running water or sewerage. Gretna was far from a safe haven.

Of the city's 17,500 residents, 4,000 to 5,000 remained during the storm. A diverse population of white, African-American, Hispanic and Asian citizens, much like that of New Orleans, was left with the few provisions they had been warned to stock beforehand. Our efforts to have FEMA supply food, water and ice were not successful for a full five days after the storm.

On Monday, with storm winds still blowing, looters in our city were arrested and, according to our disaster response plan, the Gretna Police Department sealed our city limits.

Tuesday was the first clear-weather day that presented the nation with pictures of flooding, looting, arson and reports of rape in New Orleans. In Gretna, buses of RTA drivers and their families were dropped off in our city without any notice. Hours later, after Gretna provided water and access to portable toilets, the RTA brought in its own buses and evacuated to Baton Rouge. This was not a signal of what was to come.

Late Wednesday, a flow of people from New Orleans began to cross the Crescent City Connection on foot. With a crowd massing, Gretna police officers commandeered Westside Transit buses and began transporting busloads of people to safety at Interstate 10 and Causeway Boulevard, the FEMA-approved evacuation point. Approximately 6,000 evacuees were transported by Gretna police over 12 to 14 hours without a death or injury reported — a fact overlooked by the national media.

Oakwood Mall was looted and burned on Wednesday. By mid-morning on Thursday, with overwhelming numbers of evacuees at the foot of the West Bank Expressway, a joint decision was made by the Gretna Police Department, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and the Crescent City Connection Bridge Police that the bridge had to be closed for the safety of all.

Although our investigation of the bridge incident is not complete, initial reports revealed that a warning shot was fired when the crowd became unruly and the safety of an officer was threatened. What the crowd and police officers said that night we may never know. The decision to close the bridge was made because there was no safety for the evacuees on the west bank — no buses, no food, no shelter, nothing.

Gretna has been unfairly charged with racism. The city did not have the capacity to support its own residents, much less thousands more. What was the New Orleans plan? Is it racism not to have a plan?

It's disappointing to hear that the national and local media are accusing a good community of racism, when the charge is simply untrue.

**Ronnie C. Harris**
*Mayor*
*Gretna*

## Ask ordinary folks how to rebuild

In order to rebuild our city, our elected officials are in the process of creating a group that will decide what will constitute the new New Orleans. I have a suggestion: Ask the real people of the city to join that blue-ribbon committee.

I know dozens of intelligent people with common sense and an ability to think of others first. Let's not limit this auspicious group to business leaders and politicians.

We need people who want to see a different New Orleans rise from the floodwaters.

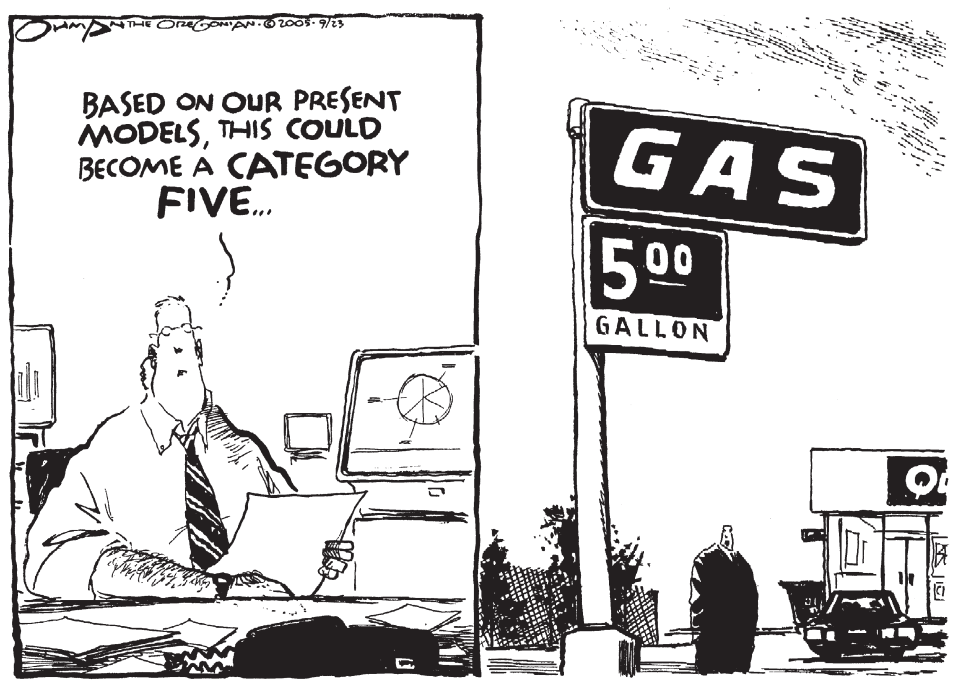
**Doug Joubert**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Zachary*

## Exit stage left

First it was FEMA boss Michael Brown, now Police Chief Eddie Compass. If Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco would follow suit and resign, there is hope for us yet.

**Tony Carter**
*New Orleans*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Lines of communication

Residents and business owners who are returning to the New Orleans area understand that their patience will be sorely tried in the weeks ahead. They're going to have to wait for electricity, for water and sewer service, and for telephone and cable service and the Internet connections those two utilities provide.

But waiting patiently is easier when providers don't keep customers in the dark about their progress. Entergy, for example, has been providing daily updates on power restoration since Hurricane Katrina.

By contrast, BellSouth Corp. and Cox Communications won't even say how many customers are without service.

Such reticence is unacceptable. People need to know if they are wired again or when they might reasonably expect to see that happen. Telephone and Internet service aren't as basic to survival as potable water and electricity, but a working landline could be crucial to homeowners who want to know if they can call 911 in case of a chainsaw accident and to residents who are trying to stay in contact with their insurance adjuster as well as their families. When they return might well hinge on that capacity.

Telephone and Internet connection are also vital to businesses that are trying to reopen. Without those networks, retailers will have trouble making credit card transactions, forcing them to do business on a cash-only basis. Communication lapses will hamper internal operations for companies and businesses, as well as efforts to contact suppliers, bankers and most of all, customers.

Restoring service for these companies is complicated by the fact that other repair crews might accidentally cut fiber optic cable, overhead wires and network routers. Those mishaps will be a frustration for the providers and their customers who might get service back only to lose it again. Keeping the public informed under those conditions will be complicated, but it's not impossible.

Fierce competition between BellSouth and Cox, which both provide high-speed Internet service, might be the real reason the companies are reluctant to say how many of their customers are without service or when they might be restored. But giving people frequent updates is an important part of customer service, too. New Orleanians would be happier if BellSouth and Cox competed to see which company can be the most forthright with the public.

BellSouth and Cox, like every other company doing business in the metro area, have a vested interest in seeing their customer base return. But these two companies also play a key role in making the return happen. Working hard to get us wired is the most important job, but letting us know how it's going is a close second.

## A break on LEAP

Louisiana schools have a great deal to cope with this year. Students from Orleans and St. Bernard parishes are enrolling elsewhere for now. Public school students in St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes will have missed a month when classes resume next week. And even schools that are far from the epicenter of Hurricane Katrina are dealing with floods of new children.

Add to that the fact that many students, teachers, administrators and support staff have suffered trauma and losses. That's bound to be distracting, and it will make the job of getting children back into the school groove more daunting.

For those reasons, it's hard to argue with giving students a reprieve on the LEAP test for a year — but only for a year.

The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education decided this week that though fourth- and eighth-grade students will take the test, they won't have to pass it in order to be promoted next fall. High school seniors, however, will still be required to pass the Graduate Exit Exam to get their diplomas. That's a reasonable response to the dual disasters that have hit Louisiana.

High-stakes testing is a critical part of school reform in this state, though, and Katrina and Rita must not be used as an excuse to abandon that effort. Schools should make every effort to prepare children for the LEAP test in the spring and strive to make this school year a productive one. Children who fail the math or language portions of the test should be offered the same opportunities for remediation that they would normally receive, such as summer school.

Some flexibility is wise for now, but it shouldn't extend past this school year. Louisiana's school accountability program, of which high-stakes testing is a key element, has produced significant academic gains in our state. Just a few weeks before Katrina hit, the state released school-by-school LEAP scores for 2005. Many metro area schools made significant gains in achievement, with Orleans Parish making greater gains than the state as a whole. Still, there were deep problems in some schools. Ninety schools in the metro area were labeled as failing by the state, and a whopping 73 were in New Orleans.

Those students are now scattered across the state and beyond. They will need continued attention to be able to thrive academically, and the state's accountability and testing program will be vital to that.

Education reform must not become another casualty of a dreadful hurricane season.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Declaring war on natural disasters

JAMES P. PINKERTON

It's a war — a total war. Finally, we have figured out the right way to think about natural disasters.

One can't solve a problem until one figures out what the problem is. While it's taken a tragically long time, the nation is finally moving toward an overall strategy for dealing with natural disasters, including hurricanes such as Katrina and Rita.

For most of human history, natural disasters were seen as acts of God. And so it seemed presumptuous, even sacrilegious, to seek to forestall such calamity. When Ben Franklin invented the lightning rod in 1752, many preachers objected to the idea of using it, especially atop churches, where a profane "rod of iron" seemed to be in arrogant competition with the cross. It took a century for lightning rods to become universal in the United States.

Even in our century, the feeling persists that God is directly involved in disasters. More than a few Christians noted that Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans just before a scheduled "Southern Decadence" festival.

Yet by the 20th century, most people saw natural disasters as just that — natural disasters. Even so, such catastrophes were seen as local problems, not national problems. When the great flood of 1927 came roaring down the Mississippi River, displacing hundreds of thousands, President Calvin Coolidge refused to visit the afflicted area. He even refused an offer from NBC Radio to broadcast a national appeal for charitable relief.

Yet Coolidge did appoint a disaster coordinator, thus establishing a new principle. Henceforth, it was understood that none of us were islands; at least at a minimal level, we were all in this together.

And so over time, the conscience of the nation has deepened our commitment to disaster assistance. Which, in turn, has forced us all to think anew about how best to respond in two crucial areas.

First, the American tradition of decentralized local and state control is being re-evaluated. On issues such as economic development and welfare reform, many mayors and governors have proved more inventive and effective than anyone in Washington, D.C. But Katrina demonstrated that some issues demand centralization.

Yes, the misfortunes of Katrina were substantially the fault of Louisiana officials. But residents of the Pelican State are still Americans. So if the national government has to step in, so be it. Yet if Uncle Sam has to assume responsibility for disaster remediation, he must also, of course, assume responsibility for disaster prevention. If local authorities can't be trusted to build levees and design evacuation plans, national authorities should be given that task.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

At the evacuation station at the Convention Center, Spc. Blake Harris, right, of the 82nd Airborne tries to telephone evacuee Lloyd Maturne's nephew.

The second area for new thinking is the role of the military. The U.S. Department of Defense should be given clear orders: Its mission is to defend the U.S.

But what about the Posse Comitatus Act? That Latinate law sounds fancy and important, like something out of the Magna Carta or the Bill of Rights. But it dates only to 1878, and its enactment was anything but admirable. Back then, Southern whites were using Ku Klux Klan-type violence to impose a brutal post-slavery Jim Crow regime in Dixie. The only obstacle they faced was federal troops left over from the Civil War. So Southern congressmen pushed through a law ordering the troops out. Is that a principle worth venerating and defending?

Problems with Posse Comitatus emerged long before these latest hurricanes. On 9/11, the military was so inhibited by the spirit of Posse Comitatus that its jets and anti-aircraft missiles sat passively as an airliner crashed into the Pentagon, nearly an hour after the first attack on the World Trade Center.

Since then, of course, the rules have changed. And now they need to change further, so that our $400-billion-a-year military can help save more lives on the home front.

When the nation is under attack by natural or unnatural forces, it must be defended, by all possible means — period. That's the new reality, and that reality should guide our strategic thinking about all future disasters.

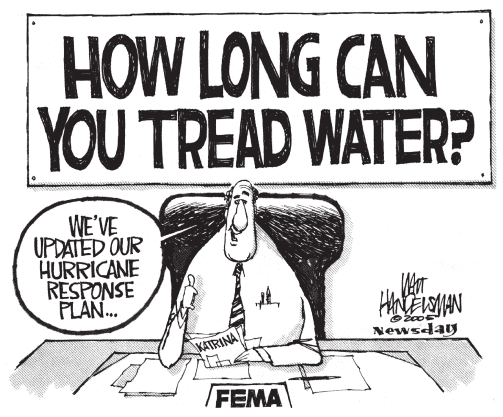
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James P. Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

# SKETCHBOOK: WALT HANDELSMAN

*The former Times-Picayune cartoonist, now at Newsday, saw Hurricane Katrina's aftermath firsthand during a recent visit. Here are some of his impressions.*

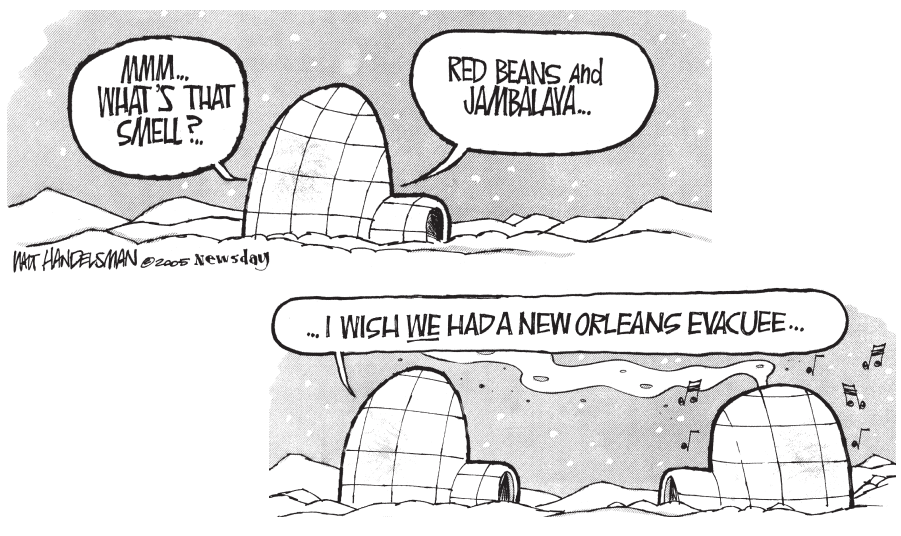


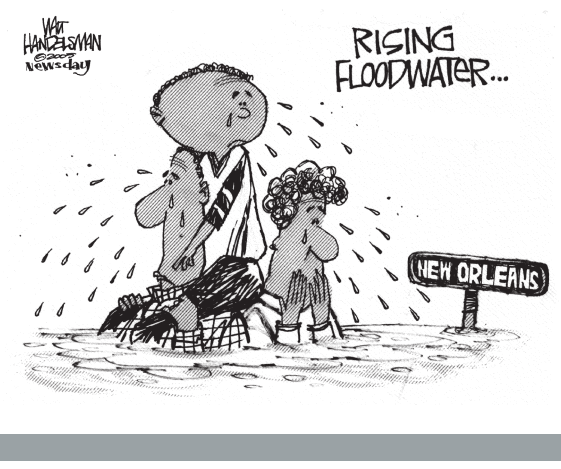















BOB HERBERT

# Feds have done enough damage

The special House committee investigating the government's response to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe — known to some as the Committee to Keep the Heat Off Bush — gave a good thrashing on Tuesday to Michael Brown, the terminally hapless former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

At the moment, nothing is safer politically in the United States than pounding the heck out of Brownie. But pummeling a scapegoat, even one as mouthwateringly tempting as the spectacularly clueless Brown, will not get us closer to understanding the monumental breakdown of government that contributed mightily to one of the greatest tragedies in American history.

For that we need a highly respected and truly independent commission that is willing to root out all the facts, no matter how embarrassing to the people in power, and lay out a reasonable plan for the future. The Bush administration wants no part of that.

On this issue, the American people should take a stand. Government at all levels failed the city of New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast, and many died as a result. This was a widely predicted tragedy, and still it was allowed to happen. The mayor of New Orleans, Democrat Ray Nagin, should have known better than anyone else in the country that a large portion of his city's population would be unable to evacuate on their own because they didn't have money, or they didn't have cars, or they didn't have a place to go, or they were just too ill to move. He failed in his obligation to them.

**We need a highly respected and truly independent commission that is willing to root out all the facts, no matter how embarrassing to the people in power.**

Make no mistake: Government officials have blood on their hands. Men, women and children — some of them handicapped, some of them elderly or already desperately ill — were condemned to horrible suffering and, in many cases, agonizing deaths. Human beings were left to drown in their flooded homes, in hospitals, in nursing homes and in the street. The American people deserve to know why.

Even as the tragedy was unfolding, carried live on television screens across the United States and around the world, President Bush declined to intervene in a timely and effective way. Had he acted promptly, he no doubt could have saved some lives. But he didn't. His inaction seemed both inexplicable and unforgivable, and would certainly be a main focus of an independent investigation.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that even the Louisiana National Guard was unprepared to carry out its Hurricane Katrina mission. Hampered from the start by a shortage of troops and crucial equipment because of the deployment of Guard members in Iraq, commanders saw the situation go from bad to disastrous when floodwaters overwhelmed their Jackson Barracks headquarters, which is in a low-lying section of New Orleans, downriver from the French Quarter.

Despite clear warnings that the hurricane might be disastrous, the Guard's commanders did not consider moving their vulnerable headquarters. When the flooding hit, chaos ensued. Commanders became preoccupied with salvaging what they could and rescuing soldiers who could not swim. Operations were then moved by boat and helicopter to the Superdome.

Televised hearings on matters of great national interest can bring out the worst in congressional committee members. They tend to behave like actors at a casting call. It's all about them.

This is a matter too grave and too complex to be investigated by the perpetually partisan, hey-look-at-me crowd on Capitol Hill. (The special House committee is primarily a Republican show. The Democrats, with a couple of exceptions, are boycotting it.)

President Bush, whose poor judgment gave us Brown as the head of FEMA, wants nothing more than a whitewash of his administration's role in the debacle. Back on Sept. 6, with criticism coming at him from all directions, he said, "What I intend to do is lead a — to lead an investigation to find out what went right and what went wrong."

We already know what went right: very little. What is needed now are the findings and the learned counsel of a bipartisan group of distinguished, sincere and dedicated individuals who are capable of keeping the best interests of the people of the United States in mind.

Terrorism remains an enormous threat — the No. 1 threat — to the United States. The tragically inept response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath (and the enormous difficulties encountered in the evacuation ahead of Hurricane Rita) tells us the nation is far from prepared to successfully meet that threat.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Bob Herbert is a New York Times columnist.

# Man, his best friend reunited after storm

## *Volunteers make a dream come true*

**By Paul Schwartzman**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The last time he had seen Sassy, his 11-year-old Lhasa apso, Craig Peel was fleeing flood-ravaged New Orleans, a journey that included a plane ride to Washington, where he took up shelter at the D.C. Armory.

For nearly a month, Peel, 76, has yearned for the dog he left with a friend in his old neighborhood. He told anyone and everyone he met at the armory that Sassy was his only relative.

Thursday, thanks to the enterprise of a volunteer at the armory and a team of animal rescue workers that traveled to the Gulf Coast, Peel got his wish.

After a 1,500-mile trip from New Orleans, a Washington Animal Rescue League van delivered Sassy and 17 other canine and feline evacuees to the league's Northeast headquarters Thursday afternoon, where Peel was reunited with the dog.

Except for fleas and a cataract, Sassy was her usual sprightly self, licking her owner's face and nestling in his lap. ``Got my baby back,'' Peel said, smiling as he hobbled behind her, leaning on a walker.

In the blur of the recent past, Peel cannot recall when he left New Orleans. He was in the city during Hurricane Katrina, remaining with Sassy in his apartment in a senior citizens complex near the French Quarter.

In the days after the storm, he said, he survived on a few gallons of water and canned food. He said he always made sure to take Sassy for her daily walks, even though it meant that he had to trudge up and down five flights of stairs in the dark because there was no electricity to power the elevator.

On several occasions, he said, he encountered police officers and members of the National Guard, who encouraged him to evacuate. He resisted, fearing it would mean giving up his dog.

Then he ran into a longtime friend from the neighborhood, Ginger Lucci, who said she was not leaving New Orleans and offered to board Sassy along with her three dogs. Running out of food and water, Peel agreed to leave Sassy behind.

``He was so sad when he dropped her off,'' said Lucci, 55, speaking Thursday by telephone from her French Quarter home, where she has remained since the hurricane.

An ambulance took Peel to the New Orleans Convention Center, and he was later transported to the airport and flown to Washington. A few days after arriving at the armory, he stationed himself in his wheelchair outside the entrance, holding up a sign that read ``America's Most Wanted: Sassy Peel.''

Peel said he plans to stay at the armory for the next couple of days, perhaps longer, while Sassy stays in a temporary shelter. After that, Peel is not sure where he will go, except it won't be New Orleans, his home for 43 years.

It's a painful truth, one that he said is ameliorated by another: He has his Sassy back. ``Where she belongs,'' he said, following as she nosed around her new world.

# Gulf Coast city won its casino bet

**By Duncan Mansfield**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, MISS. — The city of Biloxi, home to a dozen floating casinos smashed by Hurricane Katrina, took a gamble that paid off.

Two months before the storm struck Aug. 29, the coastal town of 50,000 secured an insurance policy against a catastrophic event like a hurricane disrupting its stream of gambling revenue.

At Mayor A.J. Holloway's suggestion, Biloxi spent $92,000 on a "business interruption" policy that pays out $10 million.

"He is going to be looked on as a genius for that," city spokesman Vincent Creel said.

Casino proceeds account for about a third of Biloxi's budget. The $10 million policy will cover about six months of lost revenue.

After Katrina's wrath, Biloxi needs the insurance money just to keep afloat.

"Right now, money is going out three times faster than on a normal day because we have so many people working so many hours and we have absolutely nothing coming in," Creel said.

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

PAGE C

Saturday
October 1, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5



ANGUS LIND

## It's 1927 all over again

*Avoyelles Parish woman has lived through both of Louisiana's great floods*

BIG BEND — When Bernadine "Bird" Laborde watched the images of the floodwaters caused by Hurricane Katrina racing through New Orleans, only one thing came to mind: The Great Flood of 1927 in Avoyelles Parish.

The 91-year-old matriarch of the Laborde family survived the monumental event that wiped out lives, livestock, homes, railroads, steamboats and everything in sight.

It was the most destructive flood in this country's history. The swollen Mississippi River broke through its levee system in 145 places, affecting six states and inundating 27,000 square miles to depths up to 30 feet. The federal budget at that time was a little over $3 billion. The flood caused an estimated $1 billion in property damage. Louisiana took the biggest hit.

Laborde survived only because her family lived in Mansura and not Big Bend, as she does today, on Bayou des Glaises.

"Everything below Mansura was flooded," she said. "The bayou country was absolutely one big lake. My father (Edward A. Coco, a cotton and corn planter) took me here after it happened. The railroad track looked like a corkscrew. You could only see rooftops like you did in New Orleans. I do not recall a lot of deaths. A lot of people got out. We had a lot of refugees in Mansura — we had a tent city."

Marksville, Mansura and Bunkie were high ground. The youngest of five children, she said she did not understand all the ramifications of the flood. "It was an exciting time, I remember that. Herbert Hoover (the Secretary of Commerce who would become president) came to Mansura. But I don't think I was old enough to grasp the situation. A 13-year-old then was not as sophisticated as a 13-year-old is today."

Just as the New Orleans area will henceforth be defined as BK or AK (Before Katrina or After Katrina), everything past

See LIND, C-4

# Crowd control

*One family was hard enough to control. Now with your in-laws and your sister, not to mention their dogs, cats and birds stuffed under one roof, life has become a daily descent into chaos. But there's hope, say experts: Make rules, establish some boundaries, and accept that life isn't going to be the same.*



**By Chris Bynum**
Staff writer

Remember before the storm? When you were a couple?

Now, post-Katrina, you are a commune.

Whether you are an evacuee or an unscathed homeowner who has taken evacuees in, chances are your nuclear family has become multiple families living under one roof.

Where she once had the luxury of complaining that he never put the toilet seat down, now she's not sure who to blame, but she feels like shouting at someone.

He used to look forward to the give-and-take of married life; now, not only is there no privacy for a marital tiff, there's no place to, uh, make up (wink-wink, nudge-nudge).

Add to that the stress of being displaced, the burden of recovery and the process of grief and you have to wonder: How can a couple displaced by Katrina get back to coupledom?

The answer, mental health experts say, is simply to use your best coping skills. And if you don't have any, learn some.

"Most coping problems arise because people are still attached to the way things used to be, and they are struggling to preserve some notion of how things are supposed to be," says Dr. Mark Epstein, a Manhattan psychiatrist and author of "Going to Pieces Without Falling Apart."

Some of the major issues in

See STRESS, C-4

STAFF ILLUSTRATION
BY KENNETH HARRISON



The intersection of Broad and Canal is deserted but for the homeless woman who occupied the bus bench before and, now, after Hurricane Katrina.

STAFF PHOTO BY KEITH SPERA

# The first one back

*Homeless woman returns to her familiar seat on the bench*

**By Keith Spera**
Staff writer

Before Katrina, she was the sole resident of the neutral ground at Canal and Broad streets.

Thousands of commuters passed the homeless woman every day. She tended to her overburdened shopping carts and dozed in a lawn chair, bundled in winter clothes no matter the season.

Her intersection is much lonelier now, unused except for the occasional relief and recovery vehicle.

But she is back.

On Thursday afternoon, long before any Orleans Parish resident was officially sanctioned to return, she sat on the bus bench beneath the stilled Whitney Bank clock. Reading from a Bible and preaching a profanity laced sermon to no one.

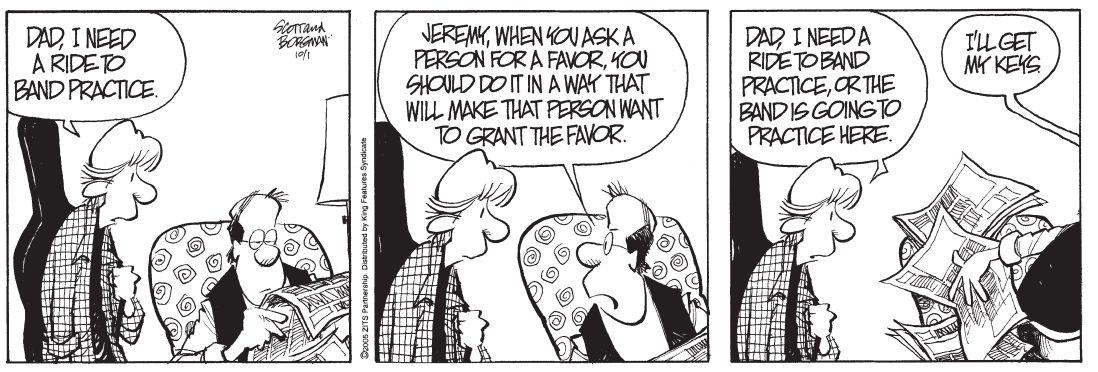
The traumatic events of the past three weeks had reduced her possessions to a black leather satchel, a blue child's backpack labeled "Turbo," and a sodden cardboard box. But otherwise, she was unperturbed.

The temperature hovered in the low 90s, yet her uniform remained the same: Heavy navy parka,

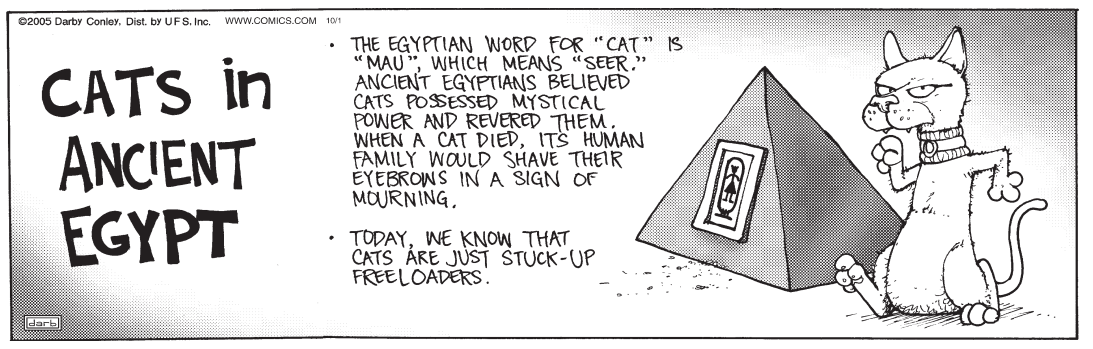
See HOMELESS, C-4

# COMICS

## ZITS




## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



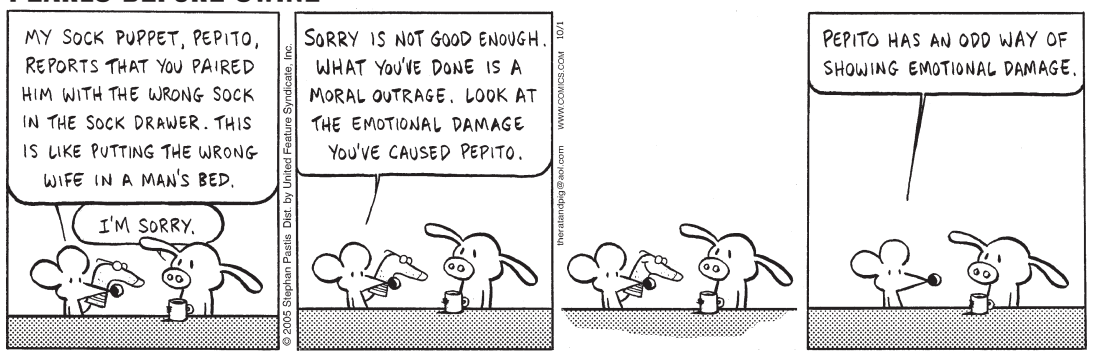

## FOX TROT




## JASON'S HORO-SCOPES

Aries: You have the same horoscope today as Capricorn.
Taurus: You have the same horoscope today as Libra.
Gemini: You have the same horoscope today as Virgo.
Cancer: You have the same horoscope today as Sagittarius.
Leo: You have the same horoscope today as Pisces.
Virgo: You have the same horoscope today as Aquarius.
Libra: You have the same horoscope today as Aries.
Scorpio: You have the same horoscope today as Gemini.
Sagittarius: You have the same horoscope today as Taurus.
Capricorn: You have the same horoscope today as Leo.
Aquarius: You have the same horoscope today as Cancer.
Pisces: You have the same horoscope today as Scorpio.

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOSUM

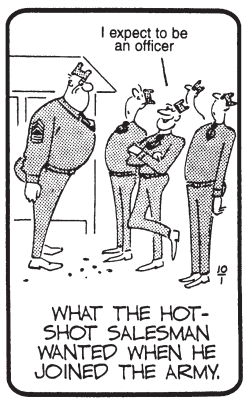
ZOONE

RICION

METIKS

www.jumble.com

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Ans:** HIS "_____"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP CLOVE MOROSE SEXTON
Answer: Hard to avoid at the seashore — "OVEREXPOSURE"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 | |
| A1 | Y4 | T1 | H4 | N1 | D2 | R1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 | 1st Letter Double |
| I1 | I1 | L1 | T1 | D2 | S1 | L1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 | |
| A1 | E1 | I1 | O1 | C3 | L1 | V4 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 | Triple Word Score |
| I1 | I1 | H4 | L1 | S1 | R1 | G2 | | |

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 218

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

| | | | | | | | | PAR SCORE 145-155 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = | H4 | Y4 | D2 | R1 | A1 | N1 | T1 | | 64 |
| RACK 2 = | D2 | I1 | S1 | T1 | I1 | L1 | L1 | | 60 |
| RACK 3 = | A1 | L1 | C3 | O1 | V4 | E1 | | | 11 |
| RACK 4 = | G2 | I1 | R1 | L1 | I1 | S1 | H4 | | 83 |

TOTAL 218

## WORD SLEUTH

P N K H E A B Y V S P M J H E
B Y V T R Q O L E I G D B Y W
T R P A E K N A N A M K I F D
A I L A M I H B E Y W U A S Q
X E M K D P I H F D S B P Z X
W U T S I E T S Q X I N O L J
H O T S I L L A C F T D R C E
A Y A G A N Y M E D E W U B V
T P S M Q R O C A R M E E X P
N L A K I H D P F E C H O B Z
Y W V U S R Q A E H T I S Y L

Friday's unlisted clue: PRESTO

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Saturday's unlisted clue hint: LATIN FOR EUROPE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adrastea | Carme | Io | Pasiphae |
| Amalthea | Elara | Leda | Sinope |
| Ananke | Ganymede | Lysithea | Thebe |
| Callisto | Himalia | Metis | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| V | P | A | I | A | S | A | S | B | P | G | I | O |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| W | A | O | O | S | R | D | E | S | I | F | T | T |
| 7 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| O | R | R | C | O | T | T | H | Y | R | C | A | A |
| 7 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| E | H | T | C | E | Y | P | R | G | H | T | O | E |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| P | T | I | R | Y | R | T | I | C | F | I | R | R |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| T | E | O | V | U | U | E | R | S | S | V | L | E |
| 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| T | L | I | A | N | T | I | G | I | F | O | E | N |

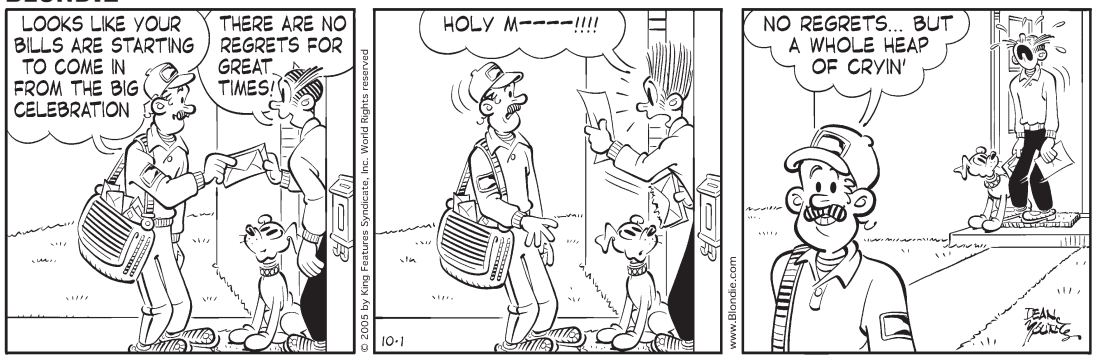
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CLASSIC PEANUTS



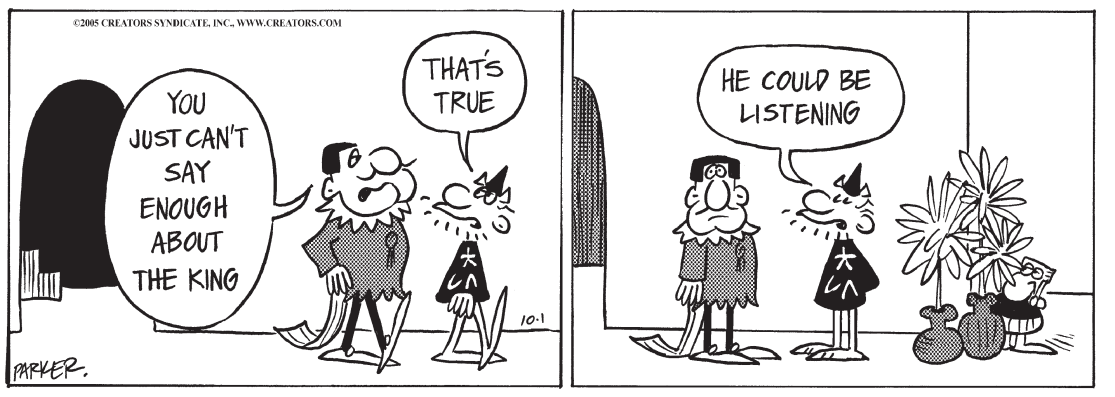

## BLONDIE




## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



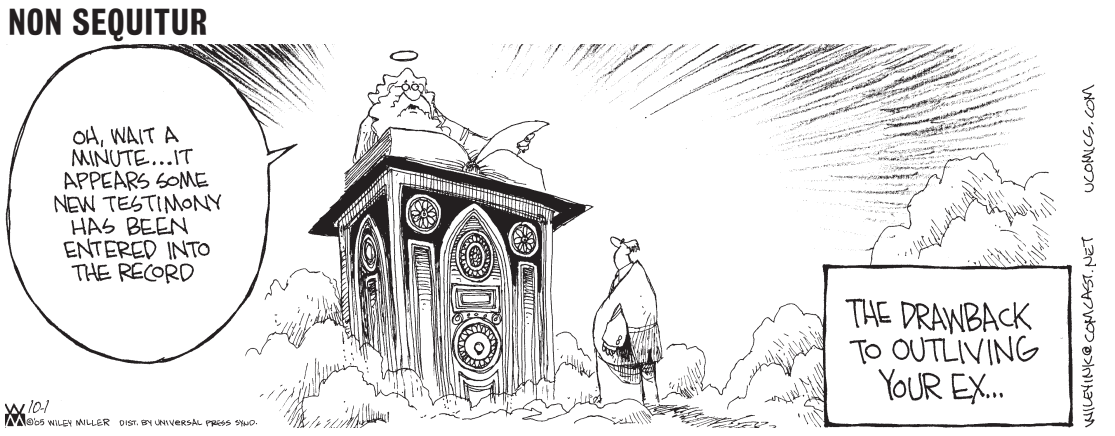

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

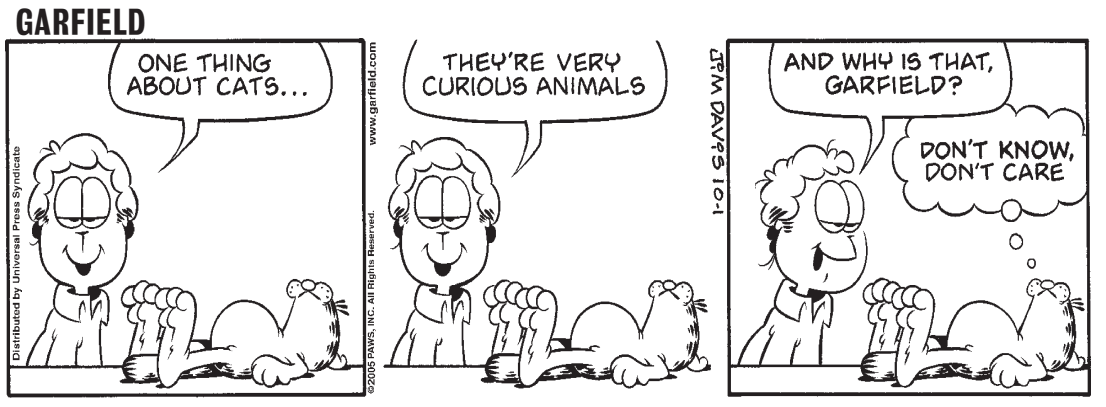



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



# COMICS

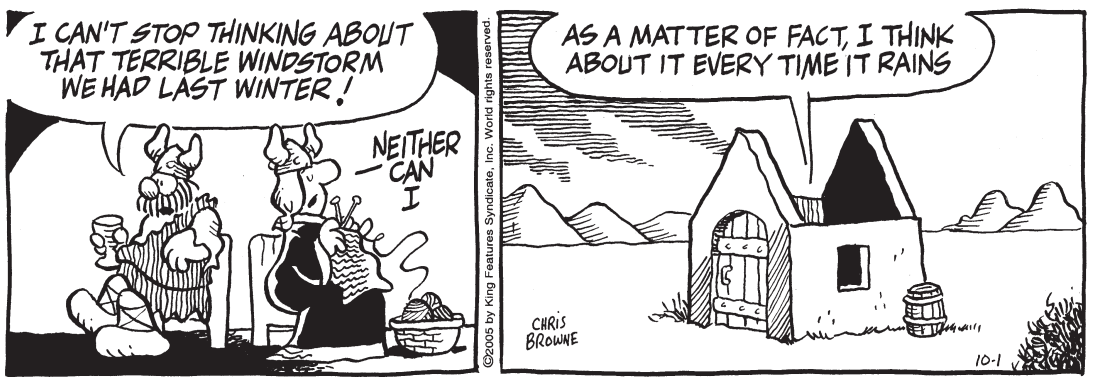
## GARFIELD



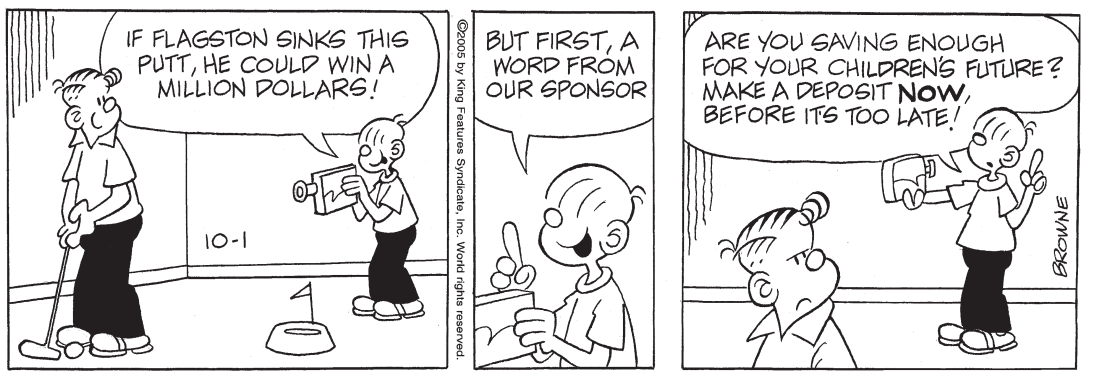

## DRABBLE



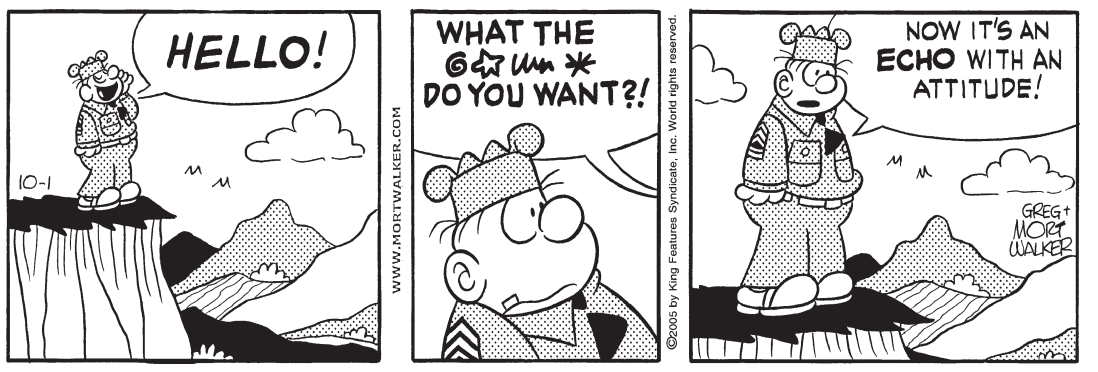

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



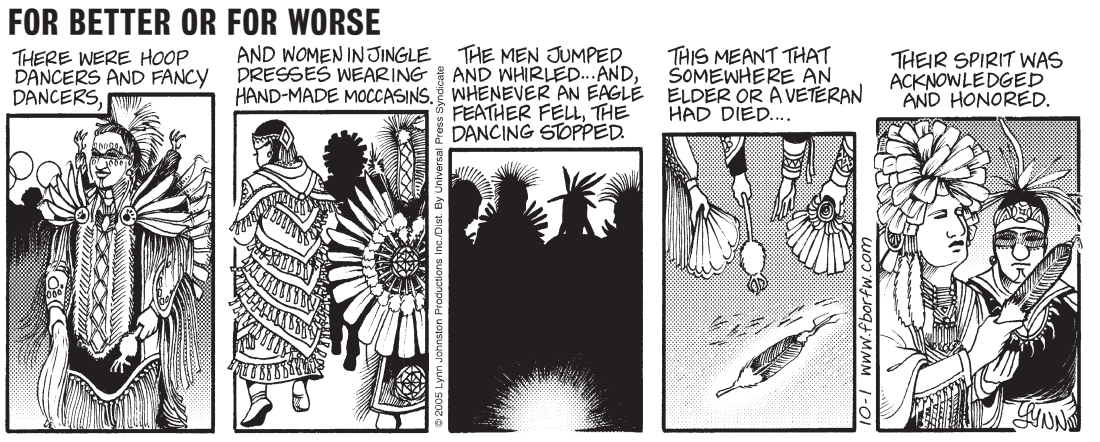

## HI & LOIS



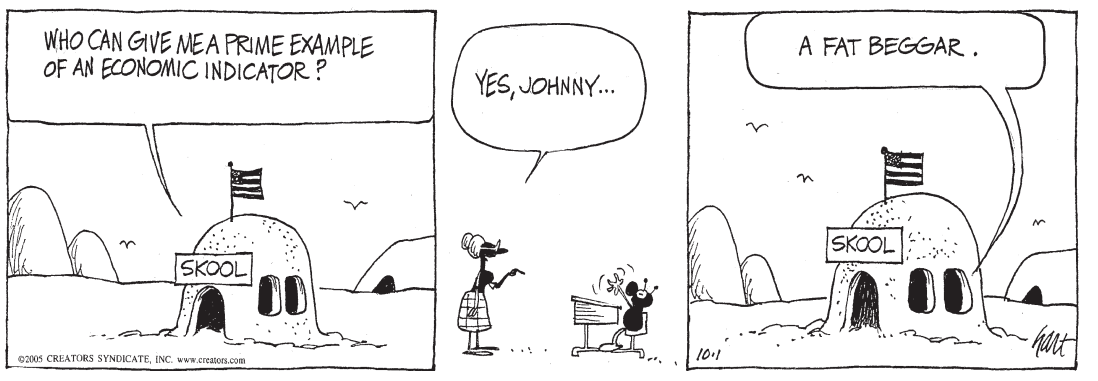

## BEETLE BAILEY



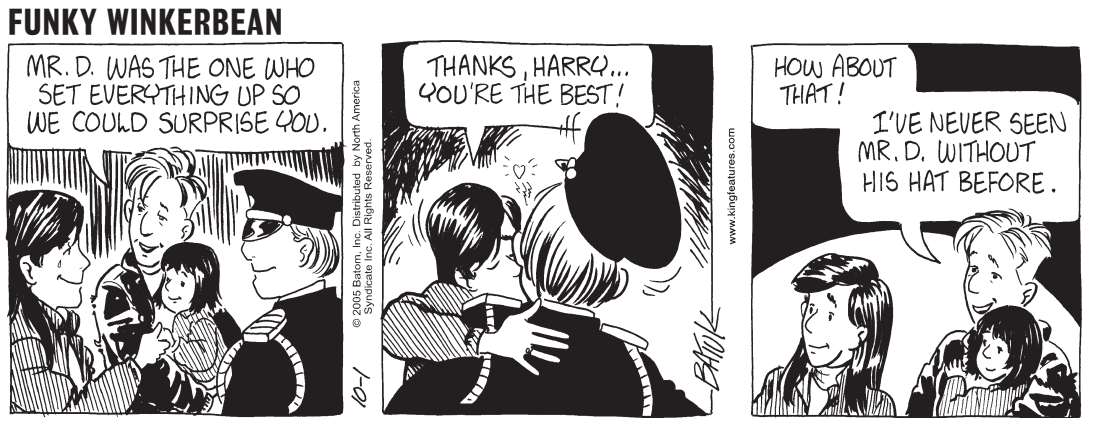

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



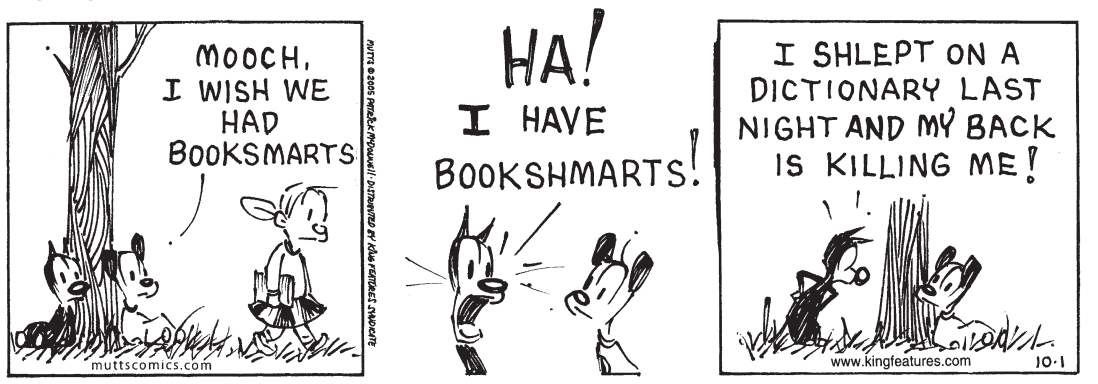

## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS




The man for whom the phrase *stirring up a hornets' nest* was invented

## SPEED BUMP

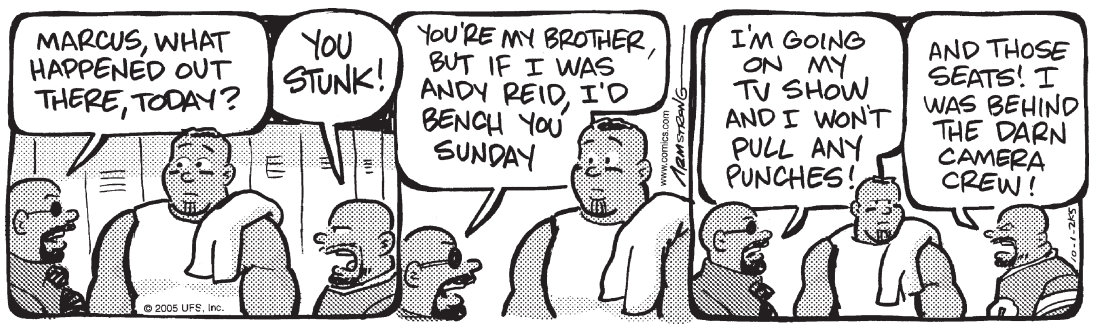



## MARMADUKE




"Guess where I'm gonna start raking the yard?"

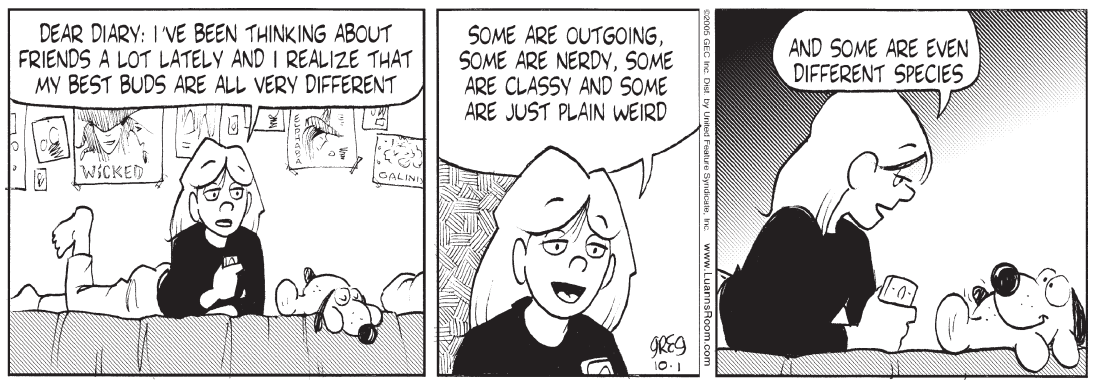
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN

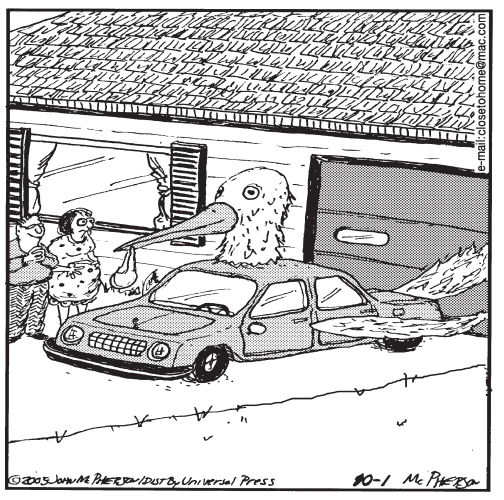



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



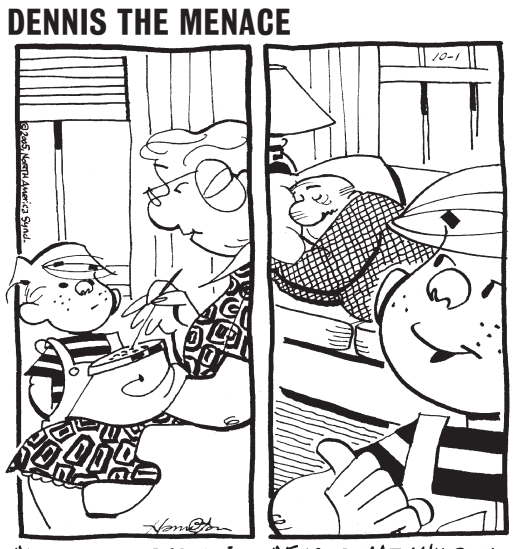

"Well, if ours is a V8 engine, could it run on tomato juice?"

## CLOSE TO HOME




Excited about getting Gina to the hospital on the "big day," Doug converts their car into the Stork-mobile.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**IN THE BATHROOM** — **Solution: 5 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | O | I | T | O | L | A | V | A | T | O | R | Y | H | P |
| D | E | C | A | L | O | C | K | E | T | L | T | A | R | O |
| I | N | E | N | I | L | P | C | L | W | I | N | D | O | W |
| S | R | L | R | S | C | O | M | B | N | G | L | M | L | D |
| P | E | A | T | C | T | Ⓒ | Ⓛ | Ⓐ | Ⓣ | H | A | E | L | E |
| E | W | C | D | U | S | C | V | T | H | T | A | E | S | R |
| N | O | S | O | R | M | S | U | R | S | S | A | L | G | U |
| S | H | P | O | T | H | B | F | D | K | L | E | D | L | T |
| E | S | D | R | A | I | N | L | O | O | W | L | N | R | C |
| R | A | K | V | I | E | S | O | E | O | R | A | A | E | I |
| E | W | E | C | N | O | H | S | T | R | O | P | H | T | P |
| P | Y | D | D | A | C | E | S | R | S | R | T | R | N | S |
| A | C | A | P | S | R | L | M | I | E | R | A | O | U | N |
| P | T | E | C | U | A | F | N | A | D | I | P | D | O | A |
| H | T | A | B | O | O | K | D | H | L | M | S | S | C | F |

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Bath, Book, Caddy, Caps, Comb, Counter, Curtain, Decal, Dish, Dispenser, Door, Drain, Fans, Faucet, Floss, Glass, Hair, Hall, Handle, Hang, Hooks, Lavatory, Lights, Linen, Lock, Lotion, Mats, Mirror, Paper, Picture, Powder, Products, Rack, Rail, Read, Rods, Rolls, Scale, Screen, Shampoo, Shave, Shelf, Shower, Sink, Soap, Spout, Stalls, Table, Talc, Taps, Tiles, Towels, Tumbler, Vanity, Wash, Window

**Yesterday's Answer: Underground**

CONTINUED

THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

## Moisture is the enemy

After the flood waters recede, it's essential to dry, dry and dry some more. Here are five tips from the American Red Cross:

**The first step to drying your home** — to halt rot and mildew — is lowering the humidity. If the humidity is lower outside than indoors, open all the doors and windows. If the sun is out, it should be drier outside. At night, however, when temperatures drop, an open home is generally warmer and will draw moisture inside, so as the sun goes down close windows and doors.



**If you have electricity,** or a generator, run fans, dehumidifiers and window air conditioners. Do not use central air conditioning or heating if the ducts were under water until the ducts have been cleaned, because the air may spread contaminants from sediment left in the duct work.

**Empty and open closets** and cabinet doors and remove drawers from furniture to allow air circulation. Do not, however, force drawers or cabinets open. They might be stuck due to swelling. You will probably be able to open them when they dry. If possible, remove the backs of cabinets or furniture to let air circulate inside.

**Here's another new word** for your post-Katrina vocabulary: desiccants. Desiccants are materials that absorb moisture. Certain kinds are available at hardware, grocery and drug stores, such as cat litter made of clay, and chemical dehumidifier packs used for drying boats and damp closets.

Also effective are calcium chloride pellets, made for melting icy roads or walkways. These pellets can irritate the skin and should not be used near computers or delicate equipment. Hang the pellets in a porous bag such as a pillow case or nylon stocking, and put a bucket underneath to catch dripping water. Close the area to be dried.

**Contractors specializing in drying flooded buildings** with large fans and dehumidifiers are available, but be careful about those who might inflate prices after disasters, and those who request payment in advance.

**Compiled by staff writer Judy Walker**

Have a household mitigation home remedy to share? E-mail tp-housetip@yahoo.com.

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# Crowd control

**STRESS,** *from C-1*

couples' lives post-Katrina, says local social worker and psychotherapist Vicki Grieshaber, are "sudden change in everyday routine, the lack of privacy and an increase in negative feelings," such as grief, fear, uncertainty and anger.

Susan Deily-Swearingen has been wrestling with these issues since she and her husband of 10 years had to evacuate their home and take up residence in her mother's house in Pensacola. The couple and their three children now reside in the same house where Deily-Swearingen grew up.

"We're trying to decide what is best for the children and what is best for us personally as we carry on with the goals for our lives and make sure everyone's needs are met," says the full-time mother and part-time actor.

Her husband is a pianist at Howl at the Moon on Bourbon Street. The two are dealing with many issues other parents face living in temporary environments — "kids not sleeping, deciding who gets up early and who makes breakfast," she says. That, and their daily lives as a couple.

"These are the kind of mundane things you would arrange at home," she says, "but it's more difficult because this is not home."

### Communicating your needs

Jerry Wilson, a delivery truck driver who lived in Metairie until he was displaced to a family home in McComb, Miss., and his wife do not have children, but they are no longer just a couple. They are living under the same roof with Wilson's mother-in-law, his brother-in-law and his wife, and his sister-in-law — not to mention three dogs and three cats.

He and his wife, married 25 years, were living the life of a carefree couple until Katrina. Now his wife's job is gone, and he does not know the future of his.

"Basically, we don't know what's coming around the bend," says Wilson, summing up the dilemma of many married Katrina evacuees.

Uncertainty and losses present a challenge for any couple. But as displaced spouses try to deal with the aftermath of a life turned upside down, they need to clarify their differences, says Taylor Aultman, a licensed social worker who says couples have to come to grips with the fact that they may not have the same "grief/stress style."

"Some withdraw, while others may lean," says Aultman, who says recognizing and respecting those differences are key in communicating emotions and needs during this time. It is vital, he says, that each person is clear about what he or she needs. And it is fair to recognize that one's spouse may not necessarily be the one to lend the empathetic ear.

"It could be another family member or friend who helps you grieve," he says. "But it's best when couples can provide this for each other."

"My husband and I have a strong relationship. We let off a lot of stress at each other," says Deily-Swearingen. "Our tempers are slightly shorter now, but we are sensitive to the fact that it's the situation, not the person."



### Managing group dynamics

When families combine, Aultman says, the new group will go through a series of stages until the pecking order is established. It's important to maintain couple boundaries, he said.

"Once someone is back in the original family, they can revert to old roles, particularly under stress," Aultman says. "Everything isn't up for family discussion."

If it is understood that the living situation is temporary, Aultman said, many couples "will get closer during this kind of thing. It's foxhole bonding. When you experience something together, you support one another."



Mark Reynaud, a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist from East Baton Rouge, can see the couple dilemma both personally and professionally. He had to put his practice into practice, so to speak, when he and his wife offered her sister and her landlord their home as a haven.

Katrina had also added to the professional demands of his career as a therapist and his wife's career as a nurse. The first time everyone sat down to dinner together, Reynaud implemented some guidelines to welcome guests, but to keep their life as a couple and as parents as normal as possible.

"Stay as long as you want, and consider this your home while you are here," he told his new housemates. "As in any household, we need some structure. We want to help, and we need help, too."

With Reynaud and his wife working overtime, the Katrina guests took over helping out with getting the children fed, washing clothes and usual household tasks. And the family talked about boundaries, such as a time for "lights out" or when televisions or conversations should not take place in certain rooms next to those where children were sleeping or doing homework.

"This was a win-win for everyone," he said. "We needed help around the house, and the people coming in didn't feel they were imposing. We are giving what we can give, and they are giving what they can give."

### What happened to sex?

Creating a structure to address post-Katrina lifestyle may create a smoother-running household, but the issue of privacy is still one many couples feel.

"Lack of privacy means no intimacy," Greishaber said. "Some individuals may feel neglected or sexually frustrated. And the feeling of loss can impact sexual hormones. It's important to know this is normal."

"When you're in survival mode," Aultman adds, "there are other ways to show affection — a hug or a pat or whatever re-establishes you as a couple."

Experts say to seize any window of opportunity, such as taking a walk or running errands together, to recapture time alone.



And even though everyone may be glued to the television during 24-hour-a-day storm reports, Greishaber says couples should make a conscious effort to turn off external stimuli and turn toward each other.

"It's not what we are feeling that's important, it's how we relate to that emotion that matters,' "Epstein says he learned from his Buddhist teacher, Joseph Goldstein.' " Life in a commune, with relatives, on the floor, disrupted, is not going to be the same as life before. We will all have all kinds of feelings about that. Those feelings, especially the most negative ones, do not have to be indulged. They can be permitted, tolerated, made room for - but they do not have to drive us into more destruction.

"Kindness toward others will get most people through most things."

Staff writer Chris Bynum can be reached at tpcbynum@aol.com.

# Home is where New Orleans is

**HOMELESS,** *from C-1*

thick black sweatpants, scarf wrapped around a wool cap.

The streets themselves have been cleared of debris, but all around is devastation. Flooded and looted cars. Ruined shops. Bundles of dead brown branches stacked on the neutral ground, where her favorite tree still stands.

A gritty gray-brown crust cakes the sidewalk, the street and the "Mayor's Clean Team" logo on a trash bin. The air is ripe with a stench like rotting fish on a stagnant beach. You get used to it. She has.

A Humvee pulls up to the bus stop, pauses, then continues across Canal Street past the dead traffic lights. A military medical unit decamps under the nearby Chevron station's canopy. She ignores them, and they her.

Her voice is alternately angry and matronly. "That's why I voted for Dukakis," she says, apropos of nothing. "Sorry he didn't win, Boo."

Finally she notices the stranger with the notepad nearby.

"What do YOU want?"

Her visitor replies with a joke. "I'm just waiting for the bus."

She laughs. "Man, don't clown with me! You gonna be standing there a long time!"

Water marks are stacked like rock strata along the Whitney's boarded windows, columns and retaining wall, a chronicle of the inundation of her intersection. Had she remained on the bus bench at the height of the flooding, the water would have topped her head.

She declines to disclose where, or how, she survived the disaster.

"Katricia didn't want me," she says, renaming the storm to suit her own purposes. "Katricia wanted them out there. They tried to escape. Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide."

All those people will soon return, her visitor suggests, as the recovery begins. She disagrees, vehemently.

"What you see is what you get! You see me, the only one sitting here! They ain't comin' back. Once you gone, you gone! Don't you make no predictions."

An 18-wheeler hauls a load of downed trees along Broad, stirring up a cloud of gray dust. She wipes her face with her scarf, then rants at a helicopter clattering overhead.

A passing New Orleans police officer in a black SUV stops short. The officer barrels out of the truck. She waves him off.

"Don't want no food! Don't want no water!"

The cop leaves. She has apparently accepted rations from others — empty water bottles and torn MRE wrappers fill a box beside her bench.

She soon realizes that her visitor, the only other soul on Broad Street, has turned to leave.

"You got tired of waiting for the bus, huh?"

She falls silent and returns to her Bible, pouring over Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. First chapter, seventh verse: "He will provide relief to you who are sorely tried."

The woman at the corner of Canal and Broad endured before the storm, and she endures after the storm.

Because Katricia did not want her.

Staff writer Keith Spera can be reached at keithspera@yahoo.com.

# Katrina reminds her of 1927

**LIND,** *from C-1*

and present here is measured in relation to the Great Flood of 1927.

"It's a generation away now, so it's died down a little as far as people alive who actually remember it," said Randy DeCuir, editor and publisher of "The Weekly News" and "The Avoyelles Journal," both located in Marksville. "But it's still a benchmark.

"My uncles, I'd be out in the fields with them and they'd say, 'There's the tree, see the mark from the '27 flood,' " he said.

DeCuir and his first cousin Carlos Mayeux Jr. are the authors of "The Great Flood of 1927 in Avoyelles Parish: 75th Anniversary Pictorial History," published in 2002. It is fraught with black-and-white photos eerily similar to the flooding scenes from the New Orleans area, minus the cattle and chickens floating away.

On May 11 and 12 in 1927, the levee gave way around Cottonport. There were torrential rains. On Friday the 13th, the first serious breech occurred north of Moreauville. The next day it broke at Bordelonville and Big Bend. The population of the 26-mile Bayou des Glaises loop was cut off. Church bells rang to warn that the levees were giving way. Boats from Mansura and Marksville helped evacuate people to higher ground. But the area was destroyed and devastated as the river remained at flood stage for more than a month, inspiring Randy Newman to record "Louisiana 1927" decades later.

Katrina, to many folks here, is history repeating itself. Mistakes were made then, just like now. Residents didn't heed warnings — they vowed to stay and fight rather than evacuate.

"Authorities and the public were just so sure that the technology which had brought the automobile and radio and sent Lindbergh over the Atlantic could certainly tame the Mississippi," DeCuir said.

It was the same faulty mentality that created a false sense of security about the vulnerability of New Orleans and the Louisiana coastline to a major hurricane, he said.

"You always think that the worst case scenario isn't going to happen. It's always a little less than the worst case — only it wasn't this time," he said. "It just makes the world so much smaller. The '27 flood would never happen again, ever. After '27, I thought we were smart enough for it not to happen again."

Katrina has proven him wrong.

What was not on television or radio in 1927 was captured graphically in print. The Bunkie Record reported: "All along the main highway nothing but desolation could be witnessed. The livestock was seen on the right and the left caught in the current and unable to escape. Heroic efforts were being made by the farmers to save their cattle but it was apparent they would have to give up.

"The main thing was to save lives, for if the water continued to rise at the rate it had risen that day — six inches to the hour — it was easy to see that some would be lost."

New Orleans was spared because as the floodwaters headed its way, 30 tons of dynamite were set off to "crevasse" — French for "breech" — the levee at Caernavon, La., 13 miles below Canal Street, sending 250,000 cubic feet of water per seconds through the marshland below the city, flooding all of St. Bernard Parish and destroying the marsh.

This would prove to be an unnecessary move because major levee breaks way upstream prevented flooding in New Orleans.

DeCuir said what is interesting is that there are incredible New Orleans connections to Avoyelles Parish and many people here are descendants of French families that settled in New Orleans. Some, he said, were ship captains and worked on vessels. Some eventually left the New Orleans area and moved up to Natchez, Pointe Coupee and New Roads. And ironically, a flood in 1780 in Pointe Coupee caused many of these same people to flee to the higher ground of Avoyelles Parish, not knowing all the ground was not high enough to fend off a rising river.

So the bayou land people of Avoyelles escaped up to the high ground that had drawn their ancestors here in 1780. Families generations removed survived two floods, 1780 and 1927, and in some cases a third, Katrina, because of relatives who may have gone back to New Orleans.

DeCuir believes one in five families in the Marksville and Bayou des Glaises area has a New Orleans connection.

"There are 40 to 50 names synonymous with this area," he said, French names familiar to Orleanians — Bordelon, Lemoine, Gremillion, Laborde, Couvillon¸ Dupuy,¸ Lacour, Plauche, Dufour, Tassin, Gauthier, Coco and Michel.

And now the state's two great floods, in 1927 and 2005, will forever be linked.

"The '27 flood has never been forgotten," Bird Laborde said. "It is still talked about here — just like New Orleans will be doing with Katrina for years."

Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

The Times-Picayune

COMPLETE SPORTS SECTION AVAILABLE ON nola.com

# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Saturday
October 1, 2005



JOHN DESHAZIER

## Tigers facing best-worst situation

The best thing for LSU could be getting back on the football field today.

The worst thing for LSU could be getting back on the football field today.

So far, we have no idea what to expect of the Tigers, except that they're capable of yielding gobs of points and yards weekly, of mounting a stunning and monumental comeback on the road and of being on the wrong side of a disheartening, historic collapse at home.

**LSU at MISS. STATE**
1:30 p.m. Saturday
**Radio:** 870-AM

Which means they could thump Mississippi State today, or they could find a way to toss the game away.

All that appears to be apparent from the first two games is that there will be few, if any "gimmes" on LSU's schedule, that the Tigers may be equal parts hero and villain.

Granted, Arizona State and Tennessee, the first two opponents, aren't Arizona Tech and Tennessee-Martin. Each was, and remains, nationally ranked. Both will play in bowl games, perhaps in a BCS bowl.

But the Tigers' stirring victory over the Sun Devils, a home

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *C-6*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

After starting two games at quarterback for LSU this season, JaMarcus Russell has gone from praiseworthy to criticized.

## GAINING ATTENTION

### *LSU's Russell hounded by defenses and naysayers*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

STARKVILLE, MISS. — No need to read between the lines.

LSU sophomore quarterback JaMarcus Russell's license to steer the Tigers' offense isn't issued on a weekly, renewable basis. It's permanent, coaches and teammates tried to stress in an abbreviated week, and it can't be revoked by the Court of Public Opinion.

"He's the person we're going to follow," center Rudy Niswanger said sternly.

Though not primarily responsible for last Monday's Collapse on the Bayou, Russell hasn't been spared in the constant verbal onslaught from Tigerland.

*See* **LSU,** *C-6*

# WAVE *of* DEFENSE



AP PHOTO

Tulane linebacker Antonio Mason, left, and cornerback Israel Route bring down Mississippi State's Jerious Norwood. The Green Wave has allowed only 352 yards in two games, only 150 on the ground.

## *Tulane ranked first in nation behind improved line play*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Tulane defensive coordinator Eric Schumann's philosophy is simple: If you can't stop the run, you won't stop the opposing team.

During the past two seasons, Tulane's defense against the run was its major weakness. Youth and inexperience during that span made it an easy target.

But after two seasons of passive defenses, a transformation has taken place.

**TULANE vs. SLU**
2:30 p.m. Saturday at Tiger Stadium
**Radio:** 1210-AM, 104.7-FM

Tulane's defense is ranked No. 1 in the nation after holding Mississippi State and Southern Methodist to 352 yards. Tulane is first against the pass and 21st against the run.

Impressed? Not Schumann. At least not yet.

"I need to see this every game," Schumann said.

The Green Wave defense will have another chance to impress their coach Saturday when Tulane plays host to Southeastern Louisiana at 2:30 p.m. in Tiger Stadium.

Although coaches still look at the defensive line as youthful (there isn't one senior), the sophomores and juniors have more experience than many second- and third-year players.

"I think the kids have grown up," Schumann said. "Any time the defensive line has that kind of playing experience, it's got to help. The last two years we played without experience. One year we were hit with all the injuries, and, the next year we had to play another set of freshmen."

With its top eight linemen starting a combined 64 games going into the season, a lot was expected of the defensive front.

"When we rotate groups, there isn't a major fall off in play. The next group has gotten in there and you don't notice a difference," Schumann said. "We'll see how the season goes, but we knocked people back instead of getting knocked back. So I'm encouraged by the defensive front's play."

Last season, the Green Wave allowed nearly 200 yards per game on the ground. So far, Tulane is allowing just 75 yards a game.

"Coach Zo (defensive line coach Lorenzo Constantini) worked us a lot, and we have more depth on the defensive line than we had last year," said sophomore Alvin Johnson, who was academically ineligible last season. "We set goals for ourselves, and the main goal was to stop the run."

The Green Wave has also put lots of pressure on the quarterback. Against Mississippi State, it held the Bulldogs to

*See* **TULANE,** *C-7*

### TULANE NATIONAL DEFENSIVE RANKINGS

| Year (# of teams) | Total Defense | Rush Defense | Pass Defense |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 (114) | 109th (450.1) | 113th (244.0) | NA (206.09) |
| 2000 (114) | 104th (436.73) | 83rd (180.5) | 110th (256.18) |
| 2001 (115) | 112th (490.33) | 115th (249.1) | 84th (241.25) |
| 2002 (117) | 62nd (371.92) | 93rd (180.1) | 32nd (191.85) |
| 2003 (117) | 112th (464.58) | 116th (243.7) | 59th (220.92) |
| 2004 (117) | 93rd (421.55) | 96th (194.5) | 74th (227.00) |
| **Through Sept. 24, 2005** | | | |
| 2005 (117) | 1st (176.00) | 21st (90.0) | 1st (86.00) |

# Saints to utilize slew of LBs

### *Starters, second group to share time equally*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints coach Jim Haslett never thought he'd see the day when he had to platoon entire sets of linebackers during the regular season.

But apparently that day has come.

After months of evaluation, Haslett and Saints defensive coordinator Rick Venturi have concluded that six linebackers deserve playing time with the first unit.

In other words, strongside linebacker Sedrick Hodge, middle linebacker Courtney Watson and weakside linebacker Colby Bockwoldt, although listed at the top of the team's depth chart at their positions, haven't necessarily distanced themselves from backups James Allen, Ron McKinnon and T.J. Slaughter.

**SAINTS vs. BILLS**
noon Sunday at San Antonio
**TV/Radio:** Fox; 870-AM

Consequently, the Saints will send waves of linebackers after Buffalo Bills quarterback J.P. Losman and running back Willis McGahee on Sunday at the Alamodome in an effort to snap a two-game losing streak.

"I don't like to platoon anybody, but I think all six linebackers warrant playing time,'' Haslett said. "So, if that's the way it is, that's the way it is."

"I don't think our linebackers have been a real big problem for us," Venturi said. "When we've given up big plays, most of the time, they haven't been involved in them.

"But we are playing them all, and it has been unusual to do that in the regular season. We've never done it before. I don't know if it's a great idea or not, but we feel at this point in time that it keeps everybody's head in the game and it keeps them in the week of practice. I'm fine with it at this point."

The starting rotation fea-

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-8*

# SLIDE RULE

### *Local coaches are questioning whether some schools have taken advantage of the LHSAA's decision to grant displaced athletes immediate eligibility*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

On Sept. 1, three days after the devastating strike of Hurricane Katrina and the opening day for the high school football season, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association executive committee passed emergency legislation granting immediate eligibility to displaced students from storm-affected parishes.

This rule in effect made these students "free agents" in terms of eligibility and gave them the ability to enroll in and compete for in any school they chose.

What has transpired since has resulted in more accusations of abuse than LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry cares to count. None, however, have been filed in writing.

"There are a lot of things being questioned, but nothing official," Henry said. "You hear this and you hear that, but we haven't received any formal complaints about illegal recruiting. The chief complaints I've received are from schools that say my school is open (again) and I want my kids back."

East St. John and Fontainebleau high schools are two examples of the situation Henry hears about, complaints that are expected to multiply in the wake of last weekend's strike of Hurricane Rita on southwest Louisiana.

### Road to Shreveport

East St. John tackle Jamar Thompson now plays for Evangel Christian, despite the fact East St. John re-opened nearly three weeks ago on Sept. 12. A 6-foot-6, 320-pound senior and college prospect, Thompson played his first game for Evangel just five days after Katrina's Aug. 29 strike and two days after the LHSAA's displaced student ruling.

The story East St. John coach Larry Dauterive tells of Thompson's path to Evangel is interesting. Thompson and his family evacuated to a shelter in Mansfield. At the shelter, a church deacon advised Thompson and his family about Evangel, a private Christian school and perennial football power in Shreveport, about 45 miles north of Mansfield. The deacon even guided the Thompsons to Evangel, where Thompson subsequently enrolled.

The day after Thompson's first game with Evangel, a 35-7 loss to Springdale, Ark., on Sept. 3, Thompson returned to the River Parishes dressed in an Evangel shirt and visited with Dauterive, and told his coach that he was returning. The two even kidded about how strange Jamar looked in Evangel red instead of the black and gold of East St. John.

Dauterive said he had no subsequent contact with the Thompson family until Jamar's father returned his son's East St. John uniform on Sept. 21 and informed the coach

*See* **LHSAA,** *C-8*

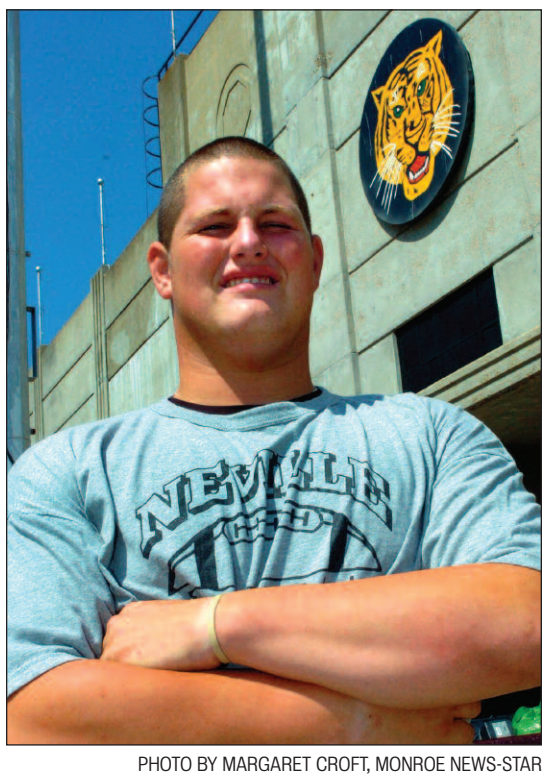


PHOTO BY MARGARET CROFT, MONROE NEWS-STAR

Fontainebleau High School offensive lineman Cameron Zipp, who evacuated to Rayville because of Hurricane Katrina, said he chose to enroll and play at Neville because he believed Fontainebleau's season was over and Neville has a winning tradition. He has returned to Fontainebleau since the school re-opened.

## INSIDE THE GAME

*LSU (1-1, 0-1) vs. Mississippi State (2-2, 0-2)*

### THE VITALS

**Kickoff:** 1:30 p.m. Davis-Wade Stadium, Starkville, Miss.
**Coaches:** LSU, Les Miles (29-22, 1-1, fifth season overall, first at LSU); Mississippi State, Sylvester Croom (5-10, second season, both at Miss. St.)
**TV/Radio:** Tiger Vision/WWL 870-AM.
**Injuries:** Miles said offensive lineman Brett Helms (unspecified injury) will miss a week to 10 days and lineman Peter Dyakowski (foot) about two weeks. Offensive lineman Nate Livings injured an ankle against Arizona State and aggravated the injury Monday, but should be ready Saturday, as should defensive back Jessie Daniels and defensive end Claude Wroten. Mississippi State's only injured player is defensive back Demario Bobo, who is questionable (knee).

**KEEP AN EYE ON LSU WR/KR SKYLER GREEN:** Green caught only two passes for 10 yards and touched the ball only once in the second half of the loss to Tennessee. The lone second half play was a 27-yard punt return. It's important for Green, a senior and leader, to get involved early and give a lift to the sagging offense. Green has shown he's recovered from an ankle injury that plagued him last season. He has returned five punts for 90 yards and leads the SEC in that category. But the LSU game plan has to get Green the ball in space and let him create.

### GAME PLAN

First, LSU must patch an injured offensive line, which could be without three players, and try to rediscover its offense. The Tigers gained only 44 yards in the second half vs. Tennessee. LSU may try to avoid playing physical, since many players will still be sore after having four days between games. Mississippi State's defense is allowing only 2.7 yards per rush. The Tigers may find success with its talented wide receivers. On defense, LSU will see more of the short passing game of the past two games. The Bulldogs use the West Coast offense with its short drops, quick passes and crossing routes, but the Tigers also have to be mindful of speedy running back Jerious Norwood, who is averaging five yards per carry. Quarterback Omarr Conner is completing 58.4 of his passes and is a dangerous runner. Bulldogs tight end Eric Butler could present a matchup problem.

### KEY MATCHUP

**LSU'S DEFENSIVE LINE VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE'S OFFENSIVE LINE:** As poorly as the defense played against Tennessee, the Tigers front line completely shut down the Vols running game in the first half. Kyle Williams and Claude Wroten were disruptive and the level of play didn't suffer much when backups Tyson Jackson and Glenn Dorsey went in. Mississippi State's offensive line has been inconsistent, despite the statistics produced by Norwood and Conner. In two SEC games, it has allowed nine sacks, and LSU is coming off a four-sack game against Tennessee. Croom said he would like to play a little more physical this week. "We have got to get into the rhythm of running the football," he said. "We are going to start doing it the hard way by knocking some people off the football. We are not going to try and finesse people."

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 39 - LSU's streak of consecutive games with at least one sack; 2 - fumbled snaps by LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell; 41 - consecutive starts by LSU tackle Andrew Whitworth; 7 - career interceptions by LSU safety Laron Landry. 8 - consecutive field goals by LSU; 98 - previous meetings between the schools in football, LSU's longest series; 12 - LSU victories against Mississippi State in the last 13 years; 16 - consecutive losses to SEC West teams by Mississippi State.

### ODDS AND ENDS

Colt David, who kicks extra points for LSU, made his first career field goal against Tennessee in overtime, a 31-yarder. . . . Saturday will be the first time LSU has played two games in a week since 1973, when the Tigers played Mississippi State on Nov. 17 and Alabama on Nov. 22, Thanksgiving night. . . . Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom and LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini were assistants on the same Green Bay Packers coaching staff in 2001 and 2002. . . . A victory by the Bulldogs would give Mississippi State its first 3-2 start since 2000. . . . Norwood is 431 yards from becoming Mississippi State's all-time leading rusher. He has 2,390 yards, fifth behind leader Walter Packer (1973-76) with 2,820.

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** *"It's not the start of a normal season in any way. This football team has quality men, and I don't think the coaching staff and players are ready to start finger-pointing. Let's get it fixed, hang in there and get better."* — LSU coach Les Miles.

**— Compiled by Jim Kleinpeter**

# Addai making most of limited chances

*Leading rusher has only 32 carries*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Joseph Addai waits . . . waits . . . waits. There it is, a brief bit of silence that he instinctively seizes, using the dead air to correct a wardrobe oversight.

It totally slipped the senior's mind. Before any Tiger speaks in front of the cameras, he is required to wear these pricey, conformist polos, each sporting school embroidery. There's no escaping this policy, since the rack covers a spectrum of sizes, from Skyler Green to Herman Johnson.

On Wednesday, Addai grabbed a shirt but forgot to put it on. Midway through an answer, Addai's upper body noticeably snapped — uh-oh, the shirt —- causing the mellow-spoken running back to turn auctioneer. With the fashion police hovering, Addai finished his statement atop speed, then wrestled that familiar purple shirt over his head.

"I don't know why we've got to put this shirt on," he mumbled as his arms searched for the sleeves.

Looking for some post-Tennessee upheaval? There it is. Yep, that's it.

True, it's not exactly the degree of dissention some expected after local weather forecasts predicted the sky to fall about 11 p.m. Monday night.

And although completely tongue-in-cheek, Addai - extra-cautious since it seems (statistically, at least) he's on the verge of becoming Les Miles' featured back — wishes he could have taken a mulligan on that shirt comment.

He proceeded to wisely pitter-patter around potentially spicy inquires, choosing not to jeopardize his current standing.

"I don't know," Addai said when probed as to whether he can get comfortable when he's frequently substituted in and out on the field. "The air was feeling kind of different, so we did have players that were tired or cramping, so I think I got in a good rhythm in the first half. In the second half, I don't think I . . ."

Addai put on the verbal brakes, choosing to keep his feet on the field, rather than putting them in his mouth.

Miles' decision to switch tailbacks at nearly every change of possession is quite similar Nick Saban's 2004 by-committee approach.

Through two games this season, Addai has received the majority of hand-offs and has rewarded the coach's generosity with 193 yards (96.5 per game, second in the SEC) on 32 carries.

At that rate, should LSU reach the SEC Championship and be invited to a bowl, Addai will have carried 208 times, 50 fewer than Oklahoma State's Vernand Morency compiled in 12 games last year under the same coach.

In the first half against Tennessee, Addai averaged better than seven yards per rush, and was the featured back for both LSU scoring drives. Most remember Addai's dash to the outside from 19 yards, putting LSU on top 7-0, but forget his second-quarter 21-yard run set the stage for the JaMarcus Russell-to-Craig Davis flea-flicker on the next play.

So why didn't Addai get 25 or 30 carries, particularly with LSU up big and the clock in its favor?

"I don't know," Addai said. "Whatever the coaches give, I'm going to take advantage of it — if it's five carries, if it's 20 carries. Whatever they give me."

Despite Addai's early effectiveness, Miles waited until LSU's third drive of the third quarter — beginning with 3:28 left — to return to his leading rusher. Well rested, Addai ripped off consecutive first-down runs, sparking another march that ended in points (a Chris Jackson field goal).

Asked if the revolving-door system disallowed any of the backs from getting into a consistent flow, Addai spruced up his sampling of responses, saying, "Really, I don't know."

# Russell is learning on the run

**LSU,** *from C-5*

The talk might finally subside today at 1:30 p.m., when approximately 40,000 cowbell-ringing fans welcome No. 4 LSU (1-1) to Mississippi State (2-2).

For a team that spent September underneath a national media microscope following Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, playing in pay-per-view anonymity might be the ideal scenario for a return to routine - especially for Russell, whose ESPN vitals graphic included "Housed musician Fats Domino."

In sixteen days, Russell went from untouchable savior who uplifted a hurricane-ravaged state with a single, miracle flick of his blessed right wrist to nothing more than a shaky.500 quarterback heavily criticized for picking a terrible time to throw his first interception of 2005 — midway through a 17-point, 4th quarter teeter.

The adequate but unspectacular performance against Tennessee (14 of 28, 158 yards) already has fans hollering for Matt Flynn and true freshman Ryan Perrilloux, even though all indications from inside the program suggest Russell has little left to prove.

"If he just goes out there, relaxes and plays ball, you know, we count on him to make some big plays," Coach Les Miles said. "If he just goes out there and plays like he's capable, that's all we ask."

In fact, if any interior squabbles and dissention exists, it went unspoken this week. Indifference was as juicy as it got.

"We feel like any quarterback that goes under center can get the job done," running back Joseph Addai said. "All three — Matt Flynn and Ryan Perrilloux — work real hard, so we're confident in everybody. ...I feel like it doesn't really matter who starts. We all got confidence in whoever gets under center."

"You can see it in his eyes," wide receiver Dwayne Bowe said about Russell's confidence. "When he lines up and says, 'Let's move down the field, we're not going to get stopped.' I can see it in his eyes."

Class obligations prevented Russell from speaking for himself this week and unintentionally reminded a rabid fan base that this still is a 20-year-old playing in exchange for room-and-board. His late heroics against Arizona State covered up many green mistakes and possibly inflated expectations for a quarterback without a surplus of experience.

"Like a lot of guys have said, this is only JaMarcus' seventh, really, game playing," Skyler Green said. "He still has some learning to do, still has some maturing to do, and he's doing it. He's learning on the run. Hats off to JaMarcus. It's a tough offense to learn."

Russell's issues with ball security have been not only cause for concern but fuel for naysayers touting a switch. In both games this season, Russell has lost a fumble with LSU driving inside the opponents' 30-yard-line. Very blunt and stone-faced about the subject, Miles simply said, "We'd only hope he'd get it fixed."

"He's still a young quarterback and I think he played great," Niswanger said. "Did he have a perfect game? No. But I don't any of us did. I don't think anyone in the history of football has ever had a perfect game. I think people need to relax a little bit."

Of course, that'll never happen. Catastrophe Theory — a Nick Saban-coined term — has saturated the city following the Tennessee gaff. When asked about the phrase, Miles was unsure what it referred to and pleaded for the media not to divulge the definition.

"I've been through these before," Miles said. "I understand what it takes. I understand how hard it is. So it's my job to corral the guys and get it pointed North and South."

Bo Pelini's defensive tendency to lean on soft zone coverage continues to be a subject of substantial local angst, particularly since LSU is facing its first dual-threat quarterback in Mississippi State's Omarr Connor. Oklahoma — Pelini's previous employer — allowed the teams of dual threats Reggie McNeal of Texas A&M, Omar Jacobs of Bowling Green and Donovan Woods of Oklahoma State to average 31.3 points per game versus the Sooners in 2004.

Sylvester Croom also hinted nothing Pelini shows should be foreign, considering the two served as assistant coaches on Mike Sherman's staff wi1th the Green Bay Packers from 2001-2002.

"He is not going to play any tricks during the game," Croom said. "He pretty much knows my philosophy, and I know his. So really, it is going to come down to the players executing and playing good football."

# LSU's fate rests with outcome vs. MSU

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

game pushed to the road because of Katrina, should have been a springboard against Tennessee. It appeared to be, with LSU taking leads of 21-0 and 24-7.

But the 30-27, overtime loss provided lots of room to doubt and shout.

"We had an opportunity to put a good football team away," defensive tackle Kyle Williams lamented. "We got complacent."

That's why today's game could be the best thing to happen for first-year Coach Les Miles, whose team needs a lot more than Listerine to wash the taste of Monday from its mouth. On the heels of the largest home collapse in the history of Tiger Stadium, the Tigers need to play, and play well, in the worst way.

They need to show they can stop a team for an entire block of 60 minutes. Prove they can handle and rebound from defeat since they failed to prosper after victory, even after a two-week break gave them ample time to come down and prepare for the next game.

Otherwise, the venom that flows from Monday becomes only more potent for the man who had the misfortune of following The Man, St. Nick.

Mississippi State would seem to be a favorable tonic, considering the Bulldogs (2-2) still are a notch below LSU in talent, still are attempting to recover from NCAA penalties levied in light of violations committed in past years.

The Bulldogs might not be 51 points worse than LSU, like last year, but they also aren't yet on LSU's level. Sylvester Croom inherited a mess; Miles, a mansion.

But, when you watch a team snap like LSU did Monday night, growing more passive as the hours passed, you wonder what kind of lows it might be capable of if it can't ride the emotion of a home-opening crowd to victory against an opponent that, for 2 1/2 to three quarters, looked awful.

If the Tigers can play Tennessee back into the game, seemingly forgetting to do all the things that generated a 21-point lead, then they're capable of playing down to Mississippi State, or of allowing Mississippi State to play up.

What'd they learn from Monday?

There's no way to tell until later today, when they are tested by the Bulldogs, who have played twice as many games (four) as an LSU team that Miles insists needs game action.

Will the Tigers fall or stand? Will they bite or be bitten? Will the groans and shouts cease — for a couple of days, at least — or swell to a level that Miles will be searching for earplugs?

The best thing for LSU could be getting back on the football field today.

The worst, too.

# Area golfers slowly get back in the swing

*Some courses are operating, others to reopen soon*

**By Richard Meek**
Staff writer

Area golf courses are creeping back to normal, with some already open and others set to reopen in the near future in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Ormond Country Club, which is now available to the public; Belle Terre Country Club, which is semi-private; and Royal Golf Club have opened. Chateau Country Club is scheduled to open today but will only be available to those displaced from other area country clubs.

Audubon Golf Club announced Friday it will open Nov. 5.

Ormond, which has been open since Sept. 10, is offering a $225 special for 10 rounds of golf that includes cart and green fees.

"We have so many people that have been displaced, and so many people that have lost everything that we wanted to offer something to them," head pro Tom Rogers said.

Rogers said Ormond sustained minimal damage and the only remnants of Katrina are a "few brushpiles" scattered around the course.

Belle Terre survived Katrina but was not as fortunate during Hurricane Rita this past weekend. A persistent southeast wind pushed water onto the front nine, forcing its closure. For the past week only the back nine was available for play, said head pro Ryan McEzoy.

However, McEzoy said the front nine is expected to open today.

"The course is in great shape," he said. "We had some tree damage but that's all been taken care of. We haven't had a lot of play but we expect it to pick up."

Royal only has the front nine open but head pro and general manager Cliff Lairgast said he hopes to reopen the full 18 next week. The course is only open from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. with no tee times. Rather, Lairgast said, golfers are able to play on a "first-come, first-served" policy.

When open, Audubon, which has been serving as a staging area for the National Guard and firefighters from around the country and the landing area for military helicopters, will be the only golf course available in Orleans Parish.

Audubon head pro Stan Stopa said the course might offer "Hurricane Katrina" discounted fees but those have not been determined. He added the course will accept tee times beginning Nov. 1, depending on the availability of the phone service at the clubhouse.

Chateau owner Al Swanner said the course is "open and will be happy to accept club members."

## THE WORLD IN SPORTS

**FACILITY FIXES BEGIN:** Officials are taking the first steps toward restoring the Superdome and New Orleans Arena, which sheltered thousands of refugees when Hurricane Katrina smashed through the city. Workers began using pumps and hot air to dry out the Arena this week and decontaminating it while a team of engineers, architects and others began evaluating the damage done to the Superdome and the steps needed to repair it.

"The more time goes by, the more certain we are that both buildings can be repaired," Superdome general manager Glenn Menard said Friday. "We just don't know how long it will take or how much it will cost."

The Arena, home to the NBA Hornets, was turned into a makeshift medical facility in the days after the storm. The Superdome, home to the NFL's Saints, Tulane football and the Sugar Bowl, lost part of its roof, and the interior was damaged by the thousands who crowded there for a week before all could be evacuated. The locker rooms and storage areas on the ground floor of the Arena had standing water, Menard said.

Ellerbe Becket, a design firm that has studied the Superdome in connection with upgrading it for the New Orleans Saints, sent in an eight-person team of architects, engineers and construction professionals evaluate the Dome.

"We had mapped out the Dome and had stored the information in our computer drafting systems here," said Stuart Smith, spokesman for Ellerbe Becket. "We have the floor plan already in tow. The team that studied the Dome will have a head start in this situation."

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**PINIELLA, RAYS PART:** Lou Piniella will not return as manager of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays next season, a decision that was expected after he questioned ownership's commitment to winning. Piniella has one season remaining on a $13 million, four-year contract he signed in October 2002. The buyout was finalized two weeks ago and calls for Piniella to receive $2.2 million of the $4.4 million he was due next season.

### NFL

**MARTZ HOSPITALIZED:** St, Louis Rams coach Mike Martz was hospitalized with a sinus infection, but the team expects him to be able to coach Sunday when St. Louis plays at the New York Giants. Martz drove himself to the hospital, spokesman Artis Twyman said. He was expected to be released by Saturday, in time to fly with the team to New York.

**SMITH ARRESTED:** Timmy Smith, who set a Super Bowl rushing record when he played for the Washington Redskins in 1988, has been arrested and charged with trying to sell cocaine to an undercover drug agent. Smith, 41, of Denver and his brother, Chris, of suburban Lakewood, were both charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine, U.S. attorney's spokesman Jeff Dorschner said Friday.

### MORE SPORTS

**NBA:** David Harrison of the Indiana Pacers was sentenced to a year of probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor assault charge stemming from the Pacers-Detroit Pistons brawl in Detroit. He also must perform community service, undergo anger management counseling and pay a $250 fine.
**Golf:** Michelle Wie will stick to her routine by going to school Wednesday, with one notable exception. She will be the only junior at Punahou School who already is a millionaire. Six days before she turns 16, Wie will turn professional with two endorsement deals that will make her the richest female golfer. Sources said Wie will sign two major endorsements, with Nike and Sony. One source said the Nike contract would pay her about $4 million to $5 million a year.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SCORES

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Thursday's games**
Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 0
N.Y. Mets 11, Colorado 0
Chicago Cubs 3, Houston 2
San Diego 1, San Francisco 0, 11 innings
Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 2

**Friday's games**
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at Washington
Colorado at N.Y. Mets
Atlanta at Florida
Chicago Cubs at Houston
Cincinnati at St. Louis
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego
Arizona at San Francisco

**Today's games**
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Houston, 3:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 3:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 3:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Florida, 5:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:05 p.m.
Colorado at N.Y. Mets, 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 9:05 p.m.

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Thursday's games**
Chicago W.S. 4, Detroit 2
L.A. Angels 7, Oakland 1
Seattle 4, Texas 3
Boston 5, Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 8, Baltimore 4
Cleveland 6, Tampa Bay 0
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 6

**Friday's Games**
N.Y. Yankees at Boston
Chicago W.S. at Cleveland
Kansas City at Toronto
Baltimore at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Texas
Detroit at Minnesota
Oakland at Seattle

**Today's games**
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 12:25 p.m.
Chicago W.S. at Cleveland , 12:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Toronto, 3:07 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 5:15 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 6:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Texas, 7:05 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 9:05 p.m.

## INSIDE THE GAME

*Tulane (1-1) vs. Southeastern Louisiana (1-1)*

### THE VITALS

**Kickoff:** 2:30 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.
**Coaches:** Tulane's Chris Scelfo (32-41, seventh season); SLU's Dennis Roland (1-1, first season).
**TV/Radio:** CSTV All-Access Package/no radio in New Orleans; north shore WJSH-FM (104.7) and Baton Rouge WSKR-AM (1210).

**KEEP AN EYE ON TULANE QUARTERBACK LESTER RICARD:** Just like Ricard originally planned, he'll play at Tiger Stadium. The former LSU quarterback transferred to Tulane in 2003, and now he will start in Death Valley - Tulane's home on Saturday against SLU. Ricard is key in Tulane's offense. He improved from the first game to the second game, showing confidence last week at Southern Methodist. But, despite the brilliant passes, like the one to Damarcus Davis in the end zone, there were the mental mistakes. Ricard threw an interception in the end zone, and he had a delay-of-game penalty while in the red zone.

**SLU'S RUNNING BACKS:** The pass-oriented offense does have a pair of youngsters behind quarterback Trey Willie. SLU needs one of them to be efficient if it wants to keep Tulane's defense honest. Mario Gilbert, a sophomore, has 106 yards on 21 carries. Jerald Watson, a sophomore transfer from Auburn, has 92 yards on 23 attempts, and he occasionally lines up at the slot receiver.

### GAME PLAN

Offensively, Tulane will feed off its offensive line's intensity. The Wave line, featuring three seniors, will try to smother SLU's 4-3 setup, which has four sacks in two games. Tulane's defense simply will continue to do what it has been doing. The Wave is No. 1 in the nation, allowing 176 yards per game. But, as Coach Chris Scelfo admitted, Tulane has not played "an offensive juggernaut."

Though SLU isn't at that status, either, the Lions will give Tulane some headaches. They run a lot of sets out of the shotgun. They rotate fresh legs at running back, and they still have the inkling to go deep, like the SLU teams under former coach Hal Mumme. Tulane will rotate its eight defensive linemen and attack the Lions' offensive line, which features two sophomore guards.

SLU will try to unleash record-breaking receiver Felton Huggins. In 2004, he had a school-record 84 catches. This year, he has nine in two games - and no scores. On the Wave secondary, Huggins told The Times-Picayune this week: "Nothing has impressed me, not to sound cocky or anything. They haven't played a passing team yet, so I haven't really seen much (from the secondary) yet."

### KEY MATCHUP

**TULANE RUNNING BACK MATT FORTE VS. SLU'S FRONT SEVEN:** Though Forte ran for only 21 more yards in the second game than the first, his performance last week showed his explosiveness. Against Southern Methodist, Forte ran for 87 yards, including an 18-yard run and two 12-yard touchdowns. But Forte struggled in short-yardage situations. On his five carries when Tulane was five yards or less from a first down, only once did he get the first. The Lions have allowed 149 rushing yards per game in its first two games.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 9 — Catches made by Tulane receiver Preston Brown in the opener against Mississippi State; 105 — Rushing yards SLU quarterback Trey Willie has on 27 carries; 14 — Points scored by the Lions in the first half in two games.

**ODDS AND ENDS:** Against SMU, Tulane's defensive line dominated, clogging holes and thus stealing tackles from standout linebacker Anthony Cannon. The senior made just five tackles. He had 12 the week before and six 10-tackle games last year. ... Tulane's Friday night accommodations? Air mattresses in the clubhouse at English Turn Golf & Country Club. "At this point, there are no surprises," defensive end Michael Purcell said. "As long as the field is 100 yards, I think we should be OK."

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** "The (defense) set a bar after the Mississippi State game and now they've got to live up to it. We've got to see that they live up to it - and if they don't live up to it, I'm going to be very disappointed."
— Tulane coach Chris Scelfo.

**— Compiled by Benjamin Hochma**



AP PHOTO

Jeremy Foreman (21) and a teammate break up a pass in the season opener against Mississippi State. Foreman and the Wave are No. 1 in the nation in pass defense.

# Experience pays off for Wave defense

**TULANE,** *from C-5*

108 passing yards. Against SMU, the Green Wave had nine sacks and held the Mustangs to 64 yards passing.

"We give a most valuable player award after every game, and I wanted the entire defensive line to get it (after the Mississippi State game)," linebacker Antonio Mason said. "That was the best defensive line play I seen since the 2002 season. They played as well as the '02 linemen. They kept people off of us."

Sophomore Frank Morton said the improvement is due to experience and strength. The experience is allowing the line to play without thinking much about the assignment, and the increased strength keeps it from being pushed off the line of scrimmage.

"It all reflects working out in the weight room and getting stronger in the upper body," Morton said. "We were a little weaker and our opponents were able to push us around (last season). Now we're able to throw the blows, push them back and create a new line of scrimmage."

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# Four Tulane players suspended for fight

*Altercation involved members of fraternity at Louisiana Tech*

**By Fred Robinson and Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writers

RUSTON — Four members of Tulane's football team have been suspended stemming from a fight with members of a fraternity at Louisiana Tech last weekend.

The names of the Tulane players suspended are being withheld by both Tulane and Louisiana Tech, and the length of the suspensions is also not being released, according to a Tulane athletic department official.

None of the players involved is a starter, and all appear to be players who did not make the travel squad for the Green Wave's game last Saturday afternoon against Southern Methodist in Dallas.

Tulane coach Chris Scelfo referred all inquiries to Athletic Director Rick Dickson, who is handling the investigation from Tulane's end. Dickson could not be reached for comment Friday afternoon. Louisiana Tech athletic director Jim Oakes said no Bulldogs players were involved in the incident.

No arrests were made as a result of the altercation, although two members of the Kappa Alpha fraternity were injured last Saturday, according to a Ruston police report.

Tulane's football team is staying on Louisiana Tech's campus and attending school there since being displaced by Hurricane Katrina last month.

According to the Ruston police reports, the department received a 911 call at approximately 10:25 p.m. Saturday about a possible fight at 214 Westwood Drive, where the Kappa Alpha fraternity house is located.

The police reported that several members of the fraternity told them there was a fight involving members to the Green Wave's football team and the fraternity.

But Saturday night's fight wasn't the first altercation between the fraternity and the Tulane football team. The previous night at least one Tulane player appeared at the frat house where the fraternity was holding a "Bid Night" party and was told he had to leave. Tempers flared and the Tulane player left angry, according to reports.

On Saturday night, the player returned with a group of football players, who wound up injuring two Kappa Alpha fraternity members.

Ruston police said no arrests have been made because the fraternity members who were injured did not file charges.

"We told the victims what we need to do to press charges, the steps they need to take," said Sgt. Curtis Hawkins of the Ruston Police Department. "And so far, we haven't heard from them."

The investigation is ongoing between the police and officials from both schools.

# Bayou Classic officially set for Houston

*Game finally OK'd to take place at Reliant Stadium*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Add the Bayou Classic to the list of events relocating from New Orleans to Houston.

The annual game between Grambling State and Southern University will be played Nov. 26 at Reliant Stadium because of damage from Hurricane Katrina that has made the Superdome unusable, officials from both schools announced Friday.

"Houston had the best proposal," said Angelia Weaver, chairman of Grambling State's Bayou Classic committee. "But what really sold us was that Houston was one of the first cities to reach out to the people of New Orleans and the rest of our state.

"They've really shown themselves to be a friend of Louisiana. If we had to move the event outside the state, that made it a lot easier to swallow."

Shreveport was the other finalist for the Thanksgiving Weekend event, but the 20,000-seat differential between that city's Independent Stadium and Houston's Reliant Stadium and the lack of adequate hotel rooms in Shreveport were determining factors.

Other cities which put in bids included Detroit; Los Angeles; Orlando, Fla.; Jackson, Miss.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Jacksonville, Fla. Baton Rouge also was considered, but the lack of hotel rooms and the LSU-Arkansas game on Nov. 25 ruled that out.

"We tried our best to make it work in Louisiana," said Ralph Slaughter, chairman of Southern's Bayou Classic committee. "But Baton Rouge just wasn't workable, and the limitation on rooms in Shreveport was too much to overcome.

"Once we realized that, we had to look at some other proposals. Houston was the best alternative, although we had some other good opportunities."

Slaughter said the coaches preferred to play the game in a domed stadium. Because of the many fan events connected with the game, the indoor environment worked out for the best.

Those events include a battle of the bands, Greek step show, coaches' luncheon, fan festival and job fair, which this year will be open to the public and not just students of the two universities as it has been in the past.

Because of the events held in connection to the game, the Bayou Classic has always drawn thousands more than the 70,000 who actually attend the game.

Slaughter said he did not expect those numbers to decline by much this year, although the large number of people relocated by Katrina could have an effect.

"You probably will have a great number of people from the New Orleans area who are in Houston now that will still be there in November," he said. "But this is still going to be a great event.

"Reliant Park has enough venues to allow us to do everything we've done before. We might be able to add a few events."

Slaughter and Weaver added that both schools view playing the game in Houston as a one-year necessity and that the Bayou Classic will return to New Orleans as soon as possible.

The Bayou Classic has been played in New Orleans since its inception in 1974.

Ticket and hotel information about the game can found at statefarmbayouclassic.com.

# Transfer of Fair Grounds season given approval

**By Bob Fortus**
Staff writer

OPELOUSAS — The Fair Grounds on Friday received unanimous approval from the State Racing Commission to run a 37-day season at Louisiana Downs in Bossier City to make up for the cancellation of the racing season in New Orleans.

The transferred Fair Grounds season, with purses averaging about $270,000 per day, will begin Nov. 19 and run through Jan. 22. Hurricane Katrina wiped out an 83-day Fair Grounds season scheduled for Nov. 24-March 26.

"An agreement with Louisiana Downs is days away from being finalized," Fair Grounds president Randy Soth told the commission in a meeting at Evangeline Downs.

Commission attorney Kim Chatelain said to them: "For all intents and purposes, Fair Grounds is taking over Louisiana Downs. It will be a Fair Grounds meet at Louisiana Downs."

By law, a Louisiana racetrack must run 80 days in 20 consecutive weeks to remain eligible for a racing license and to conduct off-track betting. The commission voted to waive that eligibility requirement for the Fair Grounds.

Also, David Waguespack, an attorney representing Churchill Downs Inc., which owns the Fair Grounds, said that the agreement between the company and Louisiana Downs will include a condition "that there will be no impact on our gaming license."

The Fair Grounds is licensed for slot machines but hasn't begun operating them. Leonce Gautreaux, a representative of the state attorney general's office, said the attorney general will meet with the commission "to make sure that everything's legal and gaming licenses won't be affected."

"It is an issue we want to resolve."

# Hornets get second-round pick for Dickau

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

More than two months after negotiations initially started, the Hornets traded point guard Dan Dickau to the Boston Celtics on Friday in exchange for a second-round pick in next year's draft.

The two franchises initially agreed in principle to the deal in early August, but Hornets general manager Allan Bristow has been working out compensation from the Celtics.

Dickau was an unrestricted free agent whom Coach Byron Scott had plans of possibly resigning when last season ended. Those plans changed, however, in June when the Hornets selected top draft pick Chris Paul, who is expected to be the team's starting point guard this season. Also, backup point guard Speedy Claxton, obtained in a February trade with Golden State for Baron Davis, has a season remaining on his contract.

"After we drafted Chris Paul, it became obvious that Dan would look to sign elsewhere in order to have a chance to compete for a starting point guard job," Hornets coach Byron Scott said in a statement. "Making this trade gives Dan that chance, which he earned by what he did for us last season, and it also prevents us from losing him without compensation. We wish him the best of luck in Boston."

Dickau was one of the Hornets' most popular players last season after he was obtained in a trade from the Dallas Mavericks in exchange for veteran Darrell Armstrong. Dickau averaged 13.2 points and 5.2 in 67 games for the Hornets.

During his first three seasons, Dickau was traded five times and did not get his first start until last season with the Hornets. He started 46 games last season.

The second-round pick the Hornets will receive originally belonged to the Miami Heat, but the Celtics acquired the pick in August as part of the largest trade in NBA history, which included the Hornets acquiring Rasual Butler from the Heat and Kirk Snyder from the Utah Jazz in exchange for the draft rights to Roberto Duenas.

Although second-round draft pick Brandon Bass signed with the Hornets nearly a month ago, they officially announced the signing Friday. Bass played at LSU and was the 33rd overall pick in last June's draft.

The Hornets begin training camp Tuesday at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla.

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# Linebackers bracing for McGahee

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

tures Hodge (nine tackles), Watson (17) and Bockwoldt (18). Depending on down and distance and flow of the game, Haslett and Venturi will go to their bullpen and insert Allen (five), McKinnon (seven) and Slaughter (three).

There is a method to their madness.

"McKinnon has always gone in and given us a jumpstart," Venturi said. "Slaughter is new to us, and he's learning the system and getting better all the time. And James Allen was a starter for us last year and he looks healthier this week than he has been this year.

"So it's a bit of a patchwork quilt at times, but all these guys are competing, and we're trying to find roles for people."

Haslett said he likes the idea of alternating an entire linebacking corps rather than swapping out individuals.

"I don't want to change out one guy for another, because then people might think that Courtney or Colby or Sedrick aren't playing well," Haslett said. "But those other guys warrant playing time because they do bring a spark. They got a little something to them. In fact, there is some sentiment to start those guys, but we'll keep it the way it is for the time being."

The Saints' linebacker-by-committee approach hasn't necessarily worked through three games, not based on the rushing output of the Carolina Panthers (141), New York Giants (92) and Minnesota Vikings (147).

The Saints are tied for 23rd in the league against the run, yielding 126.7 yards per game.

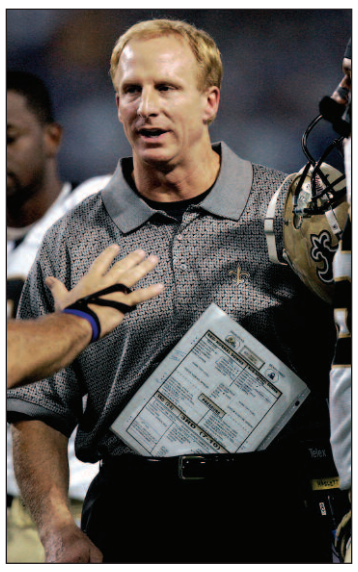
McGahee, the 23rd overall pick in the 2003 draft, poses the next challenge. He ranks seventh among NFL rushers with 291 yards, including a career-high 140 yards on 27 carries in a 24-16 loss to the Atlanta Falcons last week.

McGahee missed the entire '03 season while recovering from major reconstructive knee surgery. Last year, he rushed for 1,128 yards and eclipsed 100 yards seven times.

"He's their centerpiece," Saints defensive tackle Brian Young said.

"He's got his sea legs back," Venturi said.

"McGahee is an up-and-coming star in the NFL," Hodge said. "We've played against some elite runners already (Stephen Davis, Tiki Barber, Mewelde Moore). But that's the game we play in the NFL. You go against great players every week, and we're going against another great player this week."



AP PHOTO

Coach Jim Haslett said he doesn't like to platoon players but that six linebackers have shown they all deserve to play.

Allen said he's up to the challenge and believes his teammates are as well.

"This will be a great test for our linebackers, and I think we're all prepared to make it a tough day for him," Allen said. "We can't let him get any more confidence than he already has. The ball isn't bouncing our way right now, but, once it does, I think things will start turning around for us."

**NOTES:** Wide receiver Joe Horn (left hamstring) participated in individual drills but not in team sessions. Haslett said Horn would be a game-time decision. "One thing about Joe is he doesn't need a lot of practice because he's been in the same system for eight years," Haslett said. "So it's not like he doesn't know what's going on. If he's healthy, he'll play. And, if he's not, he won't play." ... Haslett said cornerback Fred Booker (LSU) will be promoted from the practice squad to the 53-man roster in time for Sunday's game. Booker will replace safety Jay Bellamy, who will undergo surgery next week to repair a torn rotator cuff and be placed on injured reserve. ... Cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee) and running back Aaron Stecker (ankle) will not play Sunday. Defensive end Charles Grant (toe) returned to practice Friday and will start. ... Approximately 8,800 tickets remained for Sunday's game as of Friday, Saints officials said.

# SLU coach's season keeps getting better

*Cancer-free Roland to have son with him on sideline vs. Tulane*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Since the time he was a toddler, Dennis Roland Jr. has enjoyed standing on the sidelines with his father, Dennis Roland Sr.

But when he does so today, it'll be special.

It's the first time Dennis Jr. will have done so with Dennis Sr. since the elder Roland became head coach of Southeastern Louisiana.

It comes at an unexpected venue - LSU's Tiger Stadium, where Southeastern will take on Tulane, marking the

first time in 21 seasons as a head coach at seven schools that one of Dennis Sr.'s teams has gone against a Division I-A opponent.

It comes during a stellar senior season for Dennis Jr., an offensive tackle at Georgia. He was the SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week for his play in the Bulldogs' victory against South Carolina, the same night that Dennis Sr.'s team opened it season by beating Alcorn State.

It comes six days after Dennis Jr. became engaged to recent Georgia grad Kristy Sorsensen. She'll be at the game today, too.

And, most important, it comes five days after Dennis Sr. learned that he is cancer-free after having been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma last spring.

Talk about your best week ever!

"That was about the best news I've ever gotten," said Dennis Jr., whose Georgia team has an open date Saturday. "The timing couldn't have worked out any better."

The Rolands, father and son, have always been close. But they became even closer when Dennis Jr. was in high school in Bolivar, Mo., and, for more than two years, drove daily with his father to the weight room at Southwest Baptist University, where he was then the coach, for 6 a.m. lifting sessions.

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Dennis Jr. is now listed at 6-9, 320, and his draft stock has increased dramatically.

"Dennis' progress has been unbelievable," said Georgia coach Mark Richt. "He came in here as a project and struggled mightily.

"But he's grown into quite a man, on and off the field. You have to give his father a lot of credit for that."

But, as bright as his future appears, Dennis Jr. would have been willing to put football on hold had his father's condition deteriorated. It was something Dennis Jr. kept to himself.

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Doing so would have paralleled what Dennis Sr. had done last year, leaving his post as assistant head coach at Southeastern to take a high school job in Georgia to be near his father, David, who was terminal with Parkinson's disease and age-onset diabetes.

David Roland died in December, and, less than a month later, Hal Mumme left Southeastern for New Mexico State, opening the door for Dennis Sr. to become head coach of the Lions.

For someone who had labored in football's trenches - taking coaching jobs at places like Olivet Nazarene, Middle Georgia Junior College, Southwest Baptist and Belhaven - Division I-AA SLU was a career peak.

Then came the cancer, which apparently has been eliminated thanks to aggressive chemotherapy. Through it all, Dennis Sr. hardly missed any work, although, in a concession to the weakening effects of the chemo, he frequently coached from a golf cart.

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"He fought through this because he loves his family and he loves football. He's the best coach I've ever seen."

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The Green Wave is playing its homecoming game at Tiger Stadium. In other news, hell just froze over.
Spread: none; Pick: Tulane 38-7

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Les Miles' approval ratings in Baton Rouge aren't too good these days. A close call in Starkville won't improve many moods.
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It could always be worse, LSU fans. You could be stuck with Ed (Only coach to ever lose to Vanderbilt and Wyoming in the same season) Orgeron.
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The Spartans were the September Flavor of the Month in the Big Ten. Unfortunately for them, it's now October.
Spread: Michigan State by 51/2; Pick: Michigan 28-24

**Iowa State at Nebraska**
2:30 p.m., ABC
For the first time in 100 meetings between the Cyclones and the Cornhuskers, Iowa State is ranked and Nebraska is not.
Spread: Nebraska by 31/2; Pick: Iowa State 17-16

**Last week:** 8-2, 8-2 vs. spread; To date: 28-12; 23-15 vs. spread

## EXTRA POINTS

Tulane and LSU might be playing a home-and-home series for the next 10 years, but they won't be meeting in the Liberty Bowl. Part of the agreement to pair SEC and Conference USA teams in the game through 2009 is a ban on schools from the same state playing each other. ... How bad are things going for the Sun Belt Conference? Not only are the league's eight teams a combined 0-18 against outside Division I-A opponents, but the average score in those games is 39-9. ... Tennessee had scored 24 points in its first 10 quarters before getting 30 in the second half and overtime against LSU. ... Central Florida's 23-13 victory against Marshall that broke the Knights' losing streak at 17 left Army and Rice tied for the longest current losing streak at eight games each. ... You gotta win the close ones. Purdue's 42-35 double-overtime loss to Minnesota left the Boilermakers 8-17 in their past 25 games settled by seven points or less, including a 4-11 mark in Big Ten games. ... This week's new coach on the hot seat: North Carolina State's Chuck Amato. The Wolfpack's 31-24 loss to rival North Carolina last Saturday was N.C. State's sixth in its past seven conference home games. N.C. State's next ACC game at home is against Clemson on Oct. 13. ... Texas A&M wide receiver Chad Schroeder has touched the ball five times this season and has five touchdowns, four on receptions and one on a fake field-goal attempt.

## CRESCENT CITY CONNECTION

Darius Reynaud, West Virginia, WR, So., (Hahnville): Reynaud, who was academically ineligible last season, is the Mountaineers' second-leading receiver with eight catches for 81 yards and two touchdowns.

*"Darius has made some big plays for us, but like any rookie, he's made some mistakes, too," said West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez. "He's one of our most explosive players, and he's also one of our hardest workers. We see him only getting better and better."*

## COACH'S CORNER

*"Playing (Troy) on Tuesday is good for us because it gives us a few more days to practice. And we sure need to practice."*
— North Texas coach Darryl Dickey, whose team has lost its past two games by a combined score of 108-9.

# Loopholes seem exposed

**LHSAA,** *from C-5*

Thompson would be staying at Evangel. Dauterive said he already was aware of Thompson's plan to remain in Shreveport based on conversations Thompson had with his former teammates.

"They're treating me like a king," was what Thompson told guard Josh Millet, a friend and teammate, Dauterive said. Millet confirmed Thompson's assertion.

"All I told (the dad) was that I hope you found what you were looking for," Dauterive said. "I wish him well. (Jamar) feels like the grass is greener over there, so more power to him."

Dauterive said Thompson no longer is welcomed back, and he questions the validity of the move given the Thompson home and his family's local business basically were not damaged by Katrina. The Thompsons are living in the Shreveport area, Dauterive said.

"You know life is about making decisions," Dauterive said. "(Thompson) decided to abandon his life-long friends for the new friends he found. He defected, is what he did. I don't dislike the kid. I just dislike the fact that he abandoned his teammates."

Dauterive also is upset he was not contacted by Evangel coach Dennis Dunn, and questions Thompson's recruitment to Evangel.

"If a deacon in a church found a guy who was 5-foot-5 and 125 pounds, you think he'd be at Evangel?" Dauterive said. "He'd be at Mansfield or he'd be back here at East St. John. Why didn't he go to Mansfield? Why did he go to Evangel? Evangel's just got a way of finding people."

Dunn acknowledged he likely erred by not contacting Dauterive, as he did with John Curtis coach J.T. Curtis, whose standout running back Joe McKnight also was playing for the Eagles. McKnight returned to the metro area Wednesday night to return to Curtis.

Dunn, however, defended his program in regards to Thompson. The church deacon referred to by Thompson, Dunn said, informed all of the families in the shelter that Evangel was taking in displaced students for free.

"It wasn't just Jamar," said Dunn, whose team is off to a 1-3 start, its lone victory being last week's forfeit from Cotton Valley.

"We've taken in about 100 kids, and very few of them are athletes. We haven't charged one dime of tuition to any of them. If Jamar walked in today and said, 'Coach, I'm going home,' I'd give him a big hug and wish him well. I think Jamar is staying here for personal reasons well beyond football, although I don't want to speak for him or his family."

Jamar Thompson and his family could not be reached for comment.

"There are always going to be people saying that schools try to exploit these kids, and that's ridiculous," Dunn said. "We're 30 days removed from that story, and football is the farthest thing from their minds. These kids have very unstable family lives right now, so football is way down on their list of priorities, and understandably so.

"All we want to do is create an avenue for them to get back to their normal lives. We welcome them to stay with us if they want to. But we're not urging these kids to stay if they need to be back with their families and be back with their teams. We just want to become a family for them and surround them with as much love as we can. We're not expecting them to provide us with an avenue to success."

"What makes this look orchestrated is it involves a high-profile school," said LHSAA president Bill Duplechain, principal at Port Barre. "I'm sure you could have 10 Philadelphia lawyers look into it and not find anything (wrong). There are loopholes in these things. There are things that are going to fall through the cracks. If this kid goes to Mansfield, nobody probably ever hears about this.

"In hindsight," Duplechain added, "I still think it was a good policy. With people fleeing and going from one state to another, it's actually miraculous that they have some (school) sites up and running. These kids should not be penalized for something they had no control over, this devastating storm."

## 'Looting' accusation

The Fontainebleau situation involved four players enrolling at Neville High School in Monroe, according to an ESPN report. The first was senior lineman Cameron Zipp, whose family had evacuated to stay with relatives in Rayville, a town 23 miles east of Monroe.

Believing that Fontainebleau's season was over, Zipp told ESPN he chose Neville because of a winning tradition that included three consecutive trips to the state semifinals. Fontainebleau had reached the Class 5A semifinals in 2004, Zipp's junior year.

A 6-2, 285-pound offensive line prospect, Zipp then began corresponding with three fellow Bulldogs seniors via cellular telephone text messaging and urged his friends to enroll at Neville. Defensive lineman Chris Johnson, linebacker Santiago Cordova and cornerback Ashton Autin joined Zipp at Neville and began playing for the Tigers while living with Zipp and his relatives in Rayville.

When Fontainebleau coach Larry Favre learned of the situation, he attempted to contact his players to inform them the St. Tammany Parish school was re-opening and the Bulldogs' season would resume. Favre urged them to return and attended a Neville game at Amite, where he spoke with his players following the game.

ESPN also reported Favre accused Neville coach Mickey McCarty of "looting" his players. Favre confirmed the accusation, but declined further comment, pending permission to speak from St. Tammany Parish Public Schools officials. McCarty could not be reached for comment.

Zipp and Johnson have returned to Fontainebleau, Favre also confirmed, but Cordova and Autin have opted to remain at Neville. Cordova and Autin continue to live with Zipp's relatives in Rayville, according to a Monroe News Star report.

Neither Zipp, Johnson, Cordova nor Autin could be reached for comment.

## 'Erring on the side of kids'

Both the East St. John and Fontainebleau examples illustrate the apparent catch in the LHSAA's emergency legislation, which does not require displaced athletes to return to their original school regardless of the conditions of their home or school. Once enrolled at their new school, the players are entitled to remain there and compete, with no strings attached, for the remainder of their high school career.

"I think the LHSAA erred," Dauterive said. "This rule was made in haste. They should have done some research on this. And I'm not telling you anything that I haven't told Tommy (Henry)."

When drawing up the rule, Henry and other LHSAA officials were operating under information from various government agencies stating that the Metro area would be uninhabitable for eight to 10 weeks.

"We did say that a displaced child could go to a school and stay there as long as they wanted to," said LHSAA vice president Kim Gaspard., principal at Airline High School in Shreveport. "Did we think people were going to take advantage of the rule? At the time we were concerned with the future of these kids, whose lives have been forever changed."

The LHSAA also was receiving subtle pressure from Texas for some kind of ruling on the displaced students, who suddenly were streaming into its school systems. Approximately 35,000 Louisiana high school students now attend school in Texas, Gaspard said.

"Your football season only lasts 10 games, and with all of the talk of the problems that people were facing and with no end in sight, we could not foresee what was going to happen," Duplechain said. "We had to make a decision, and although it may have been a little premature, it took a little of the edge off of what these kids were going through."

Henry points out that 1,178 student athletes have been cleared to play other schools as a result of the rule.

"That means that 1,178 kids would not have gotten to play," Henry said. "In the case of Hurricane Katrina, the feedback I received following the storm was very strong that we should take immediate action. I have no regrets. If we erred, we wanted to err on the side of kids."

The LHSAA has taken heed from the Katrina experience, however. In the wake of Rita's assault on southwest Louisiana, LHSAA officials are taking a more cautious approach. The executive committee decided via conference call Friday to decide each student's situation on an individual basis.

"People will find ways to circumvent rules and regulations," Duplechain said. "They will find ways to use rules and regulations to their advantage. When making rules, you have to have a rule to cover the entire population. Some people will try to win at all and any cost, and I don't think that we'll ever change that.

"But the real intent of the rule was to allow displaced students a chance to play. I'm just glad that there are student athletes, who have nothing, who have gotten the chance to do something."

SPORTS: WEB EDITION

# SLU coach's season keeps getting better

*Cancer-free Roland to have son with him on sideline vs. Tulane*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

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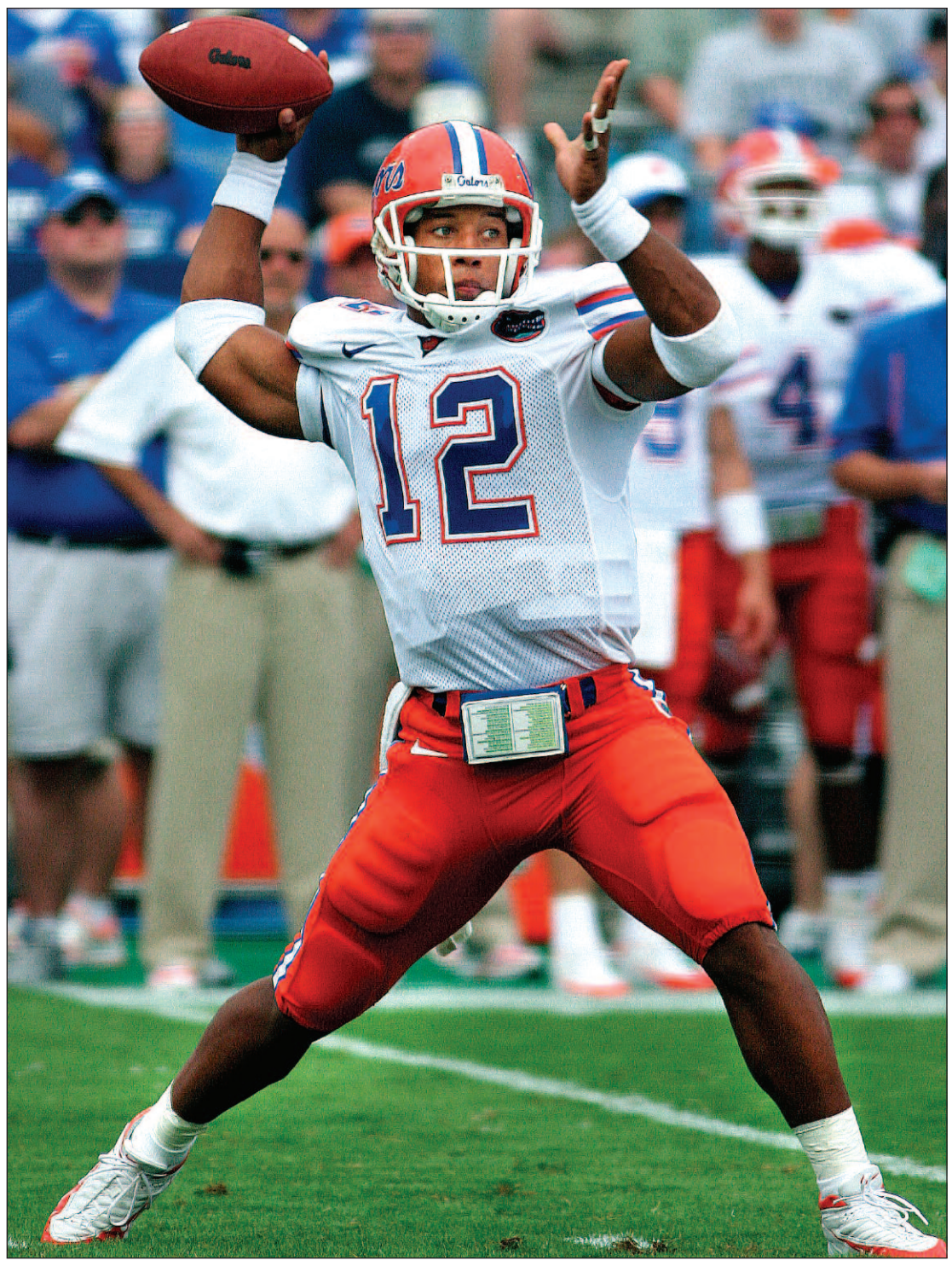
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"He fought through this because he loves his family and he loves football. He's the best coach I've ever seen."



AP PHOTO

Chris Leak and the Gators have a showdown against Alabama's defense, and they should escape - just barely.

## QUICK PICKS

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2:30 p.m.
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Spread: none; Pick: Tulane 38-7

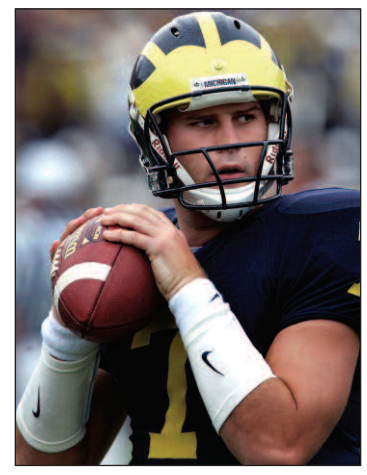
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Spread: USC by 16; Pick: USC 52-38



AP PHOTO

Quarterback Chad Henne and Michigan will end their two-game losing skid at rival Michigan State.

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**Virginia Tech at West Virginia**
11 a.m., ESPN
Mountaineer fans are being warned that local authorities will not tolerate the couch burning that traditionally follows a big West Virginia victory. They really don't have to worry about that.
Spread: Virginia Tech by 10; Pick: Virginia Tech 36-21

**Troy at North Texas**
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2
The Mean Green's 26-game Sun Belt Conference winning streak is a thing to admire. North Texas' last-in-the-country total offense average (188 yards per game) isn't.
Spread: North Texas by 3; Pick: Troy 19-14
**Last week;** 8-2, 8-2 vs. spread; To date: 28-12; 23-15 vs. spread

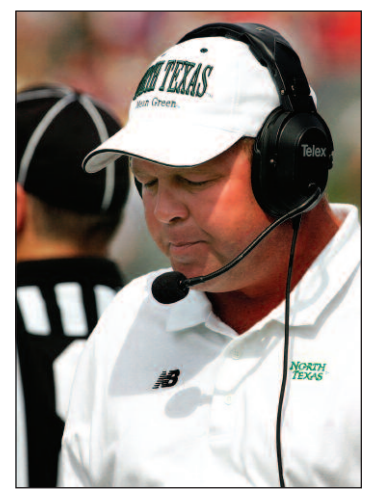
## EXTRA POINTS

Tulane and LSU might be playing a home-and-home series for the next 10 years, but they won't be meeting in the Liberty Bowl. Part of the agreement to pair SEC and Conference USA teams in the game through 2009 is a ban on schools from the same state playing each other. ... How bad are things going for the Sun Belt Conference? Not only are the league's eight teams a combined 0-18 against outside Division I-A opponents, but the average score in those games is 39-9. ... Tennessee had scored 24 points in its first 10 quarters before getting 30 in the second half and overtime against LSU. ... Central Florida's 23-13 victory against Marshall that broke the Knights' losing streak at 17 left Army and Rice tied for the longest current losing streak at eight games each. ... You gotta win the close ones. Purdue's 42-35 double-overtime loss to Minnesota left the Boilermakers 8-17 in their past 25 games settled by seven points or less, including a 4-11 mark in Big Ten games. ... This week's new coach on the hot seat: North Carolina State's Chuck Amato. The Wolfpack's 31-24 loss to rival North Carolina last Saturday was N.C. State's sixth in its past seven conference home games. N.C. State's next ACC game at home is against Clemson on Oct. 13. ... Texas A&M wide receiver Chad Schroeder has touched the ball five times this season and has five touchdowns, four on receptions and one on a fake field-goal attempt.

## CRESCENT CITY CONNECTION

Darius Reynaud, West Virginia, WR, So., (Hahnville): Reynaud, who was academically ineligible last season, is the Mountaineers' second-leading receiver with eight catches for 81 yards and two touchdowns.

*"Darius has made some big plays for us, but like any rookie, he's made some mistakes, too," said West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez. "He's one of our most explosive players, and he's also one of our hardest workers. We see him only getting better and better."*



AP PHOTO

North Texas coach Darrell Dickey is looking forward to returning to the practice field after losing his past two games by a combined score 108-9.

## COACH'S CORNER

*"Playing (Troy) on Tuesday is good for us because it gives us a few more days to practice. And we sure need to practice."*
— North Texas coach Darryl Dickey, whose team has lost its past two games by a combined score of 108-9.

# Arizona State hope to play spoiler again

*USC visits Tempe with 25-game winning streak*

**By Bob Baum**
AP sports writer

On Sept. 21, 1996, Arizona State stunned two-time defending national champion Nebraska 19-0 at Sun Devil Stadium, ending the No. 1-ranked Cornhuskers' 26-game winning streak.

On Saturday, two-time defending champ Southern Cal comes to town after winning 25 in a row. Maybe a second big upset in a decade isn't too much to ask.

That year senior quarterback Jake Plummer led the upset on national television en route to an undefeated regular season and a Rose Bowl berth. Sam Keller now directs the Arizona State offense that has produced statistics that rival, and in some cases exceed, those of the powerhouse Trojans.

A shootout would seem a strong possibility, though the 14th-ranked Sun Devils (3-1) are 17-point underdogs.

"Their offense is phenomenal, and if they're going to score, and that means we've got to score, we can do that," Keller said. "I see it being a shootout. Heck, our defense might play lights out and stuff them, and they might stuff us. It might be a 13-10 game, but I'd rather see a shootout. If you're talking to me, I think it should be a shootout just because I like shootouts."

The Trojans' offense, led by Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and LenDale White, is averaging 616 yards and 59 points per game. Arizona State is averaging 592 and 47.

It is the second Pac-10 road test in a row for Pete Carroll's team. The top-ranked Trojans (3-0) trailed at Oregon 13-10 at halftime last weekend, and won 45-13.

"It wasn't a blowout until late in the third quarter, maybe the fourth quarter," Leinart said. "It was good for us. We know that every game is not easy."

Carroll called the Oregon game "a reality check."

"Each week we're going to face great threats from the schools in our conference. They all know us well," he said. "Last year we had a tremendously difficult time getting through the conference. There were five games that were challenging."

Last year's Arizona State game was no challenge, though. The Sun Devils took a 5-0 record to Los Angeles, fell behind 42-7 by the half and lost 45-7.

"It's a bitter taste because that wasn't us, that wasn't ASU football at all," said Keller, who watched that game from the sideline as Andrew Walter's backup. "Our team, this year, is all about competing one play at a time, and we did that against LSU (a 35-31 home loss). We're not worried about how we look. We just go out there and grind it out because we have tough guys."

When teams can move the ball this well, rarely a word is mentioned about their defenses. But Arizona State has had two Pac-10 defensive players of the week - linebackers Dale Robinson and Jamar Williams. The Sun Devils had a 6-0 advantage in turnovers in last week's 42-24 victory at Oregon State.

"We have some very talented players on our defense," said Arizona State safety Zach Catanese, the team's second-leading tackler. "I think a lot of times they're overlooked. Our offense is great, our defense is kind of back there in the background. But we kind of like it like that. We would rather be the underdog and come out and show people what we're really about."

Southern Cal's defense had its best performance of the season at Oregon, shutting out the Ducks after the Trojans fell behind early 13-0.

"We're the question of the year," linebacker Oscar Lua said. "We did a marvelous job of proving we shouldn't be the question."

The last time the Trojans played at Sun Devil Stadium, two years ago, they were coming off a triple-overtime loss at California. Leinart was knocked out of the game early with an ankle and leg injury, but returned to direct a 27-0 second-half comeback that gave the Trojans a 37-17 victory.

The Trojans have not lost since.

# Comets capitalize on Rams mistakes

*St. Charles remains unbeaten*

By Billy Turner
Staff writer

St. Charles remained unbeaten Friday night by beating West St. John 29-12 at home.

The Comets took advantage of five West St. John mistakes (four fumbles and an interception) and the running of 5-foot-7, 185-pound senior Christopher Jones, who gained 116 yards on 20 carries.

West St. John, which won the state Class 2A title last season, fell to 0-4.

St. Charles (4-0) opens Class 10-2A play next week by hosting Donaldsonville. West St. John opens 9-1A play at White Castle.

"We've got a lot of room for improvement," St. Charles coach Frank Monica said. "We've got to be a smarter football team. But you always have to be pleased when you beat a good football team like West St. John."

With both teams playing on a short week of practice, the first half was marred by mistakes by both teams. Both played Monday. Five days later they were going at each other.

On the opening drive, the Comets drove from their 41 to the Rams 22 before throwing an interception. West St. John fumbled on the next series, but St. Charles came back with a huge mistake moments later.

After recovering the West St. John fumble at the Rams' 10, St. Charles stumbled. On a second-and-goal from the Rams' 5, a pass by Sutton was intercepted by Blake Comminie, who returned the ball 88 yards for the game's first score. The Rams led 6-0 with 5:17 left when their two-point conversion try failed.

The Comets took the lead for good when they drove 59 yards on the next series. Fletcher scored from the four. Preston Landry kicked the go-ahead extra point for a 7-6 lead with 1:57 left in the quarter.

St. Charles added to that with Landry's two-yard run in the second quarter. Thirty seconds later, senior lineman Ross Roubion fell on a West St. John fumble in the end zone, and with a two-point conversion, the Comets let 22-6.

"We didn't give ourselves a chance to win," West St. John coach Laury Dupont said. "Penalties and quarterback sacks and fumbles - you can't win like that."

The Rams' drove late, scoring on Olajuwan Hall's 15-yard pass to Devonne Lumar with 36 seconds left in the first half. But the two-point conversion failed and St. Charles led 22-12 at the half.

The Comets took advantage of another fumble in the third quarter. Ben Beneditto recovered at the Rams' 31, and Christopher Jones scored eight plays later. Landry's kick made the score 29-12 with 2:45 left in the quarter.

"It was important to take back the momentum," Monica said. "We knew we had to turn it since they had scored right at the end of the half, and we did. The defense gave us that, and that was big."

The game was scoreless in the final quarter.

# East St. John holds off Curtis

*Jabouri's kicks of 56, 20 yards seal victory*

By Bill Bumgarner
Staff writer

Friday was the third game for the East St. John Wildcats, and it showed.

The Wildcats (2-1) performed with precision and poise early, building a 10-0 lead in the first quarter against John Curtis. What the offense built, kicker Radi Jabouri sealed with fourth-quarter field goals of 56 and 20 yards, as East St. John prevailed 16-6 at home.

Wildcats' quarterback Johnnie Thiel, a Curtis transfer, hit three of three passes for 53 yards and rushed for 29 yards on the opening drive of 80 yards. Thiel scored from eight yards for a 7-0 lead.

Curtis (0-1) punted following three snaps.

Thiel then hit Louis Lee, who made a diving catch for a 48-yard gain at the Curtis five-yard line. East St. John lost 11 yards on its next three play,s but Jabouri made a 33-yard field goal for a 10-0 advantage with 4:12 left in the quarter.

"I thought the first drive set the tone for the game," East St. John coach Larry Dauterive said.

Curtis bounced back with its lone score on the next possession. On his first carry of the season, Joe McKnight broke two tackles at the line of scrimmage and raced 70 yards for a touchdown with 2:46 left. The extra-point attempt was missed, leaving East St. John ahead 10-6 after one period.

The second quarter featured a flurry of turnovers. Curtis fumbled on its first two possessions, miscues that were sandwiched around an interception by McKnight.

After the second fumble recovery, East St. John had possession at the Curtis 41-yard line. The Wildcats reached the Patriots' 17, but a 34-yard field goal attempt by Jabouri was blocked by John Ruttley.

"We had a lot of opportunies and we made a lot of mistakes," Dauterive said of the second quarter threats.

There were more miscues early in the fourth period. A Thiel was picked off at the Curtis 11-yard line by Kelby Wuertz. But East St. John's Isiah Francis picked off a Kyle Collura pass four plays later.

East St. John drove from its 24-yard line to the Curtis 39-yard line, where Jabouri made a 56-yard field goal for a 13-6 lead at 4:45.

One play later, East St. John's Kerry Clofer recovered a fumble that led to the clincher by Jabouri from 20 yards with 2:47 to play.

Thiel completed 14 of 21 passes for 231 yards. By contrast, the Patriots passed for 10 yards but rushed for 232. But that movement was offset by three lost fumbles.

"Obviously you're disappointed when you lose, but considering the circumstances (of Hurricane Katrina), this was a typical first game with all the errors," said Curtis coach J.T. Curtis. "This was a very high intensity game because we have never played them before in the regular season. It is just going to take time for us to jell. But we will."

# St. John holds off Riverside

*Four turnovers by Rebels help Eagles win 27-20*

By Jim Derry
Staff writer

PLAQUEMINE — It seemed early on Friday night that the winner between Riverside and St. John would be the team that made the game's final big play.

Chalk one up for the Eagles.

Chris Delrie's diving 21-yard touchdown catch in the back of the end zone from Baco Romero preserved St. John's 27-20 non-district victory at Plaquemine High Stadium. It was the only pass of the game from either side that gained yardage.

In the first half, Rebels quarterback A.J. Delaneuville kept his team in it with touchdown runs of 55 and 65 yards. His 140 yards on the ground in the first half was almost twice as much as St. John's total output, but the Eagles (3-1) led 14-12 at the break.

They scored their first touchdown on a 92-yard kickoff return by Chase Blanchard to take a 7-6 lead. He followed that with a one-yard score eight minutes later that was set up by Rodarrick Jones' 37-yard interception return.

"We get a stop early on and get a touchdown, and I cringe every time I put my kickoff team on the field," Riverside coach Mickey Roussel said. "I said, 'Guys, we've got them right where we want them right now, you kick the ball deep, and don't let them break a big one deep.' Guess what? They break one, and all the momentum that we had, we lose."

But the Rebels regained that momentum on the first play of the second half. Jarrid Caesar broke free through the right side and ran 88 yards for a touchdown that gave Riverside (3-1) a 20-14 lead.

Neither offense did much for most of the third quarter, as there were punts on the next four drives. That's when St. John used another big play to get in position to regain the lead.

Romero, who gained 75 yards on 18 carries, faked the pitch on an option and ran 27 yards to the Riverside 22, and two plays later he scored to put the Eagles ahead for good.

Turnovers plagued the Rebels all night, as they gave up two fumbles and two interceptions. St. John turned the ball over once.

"Turnovers will kill you, and so will not doing the little things right," Roussel said. "Bad snaps on the shotgun? Hey, we didn't do that the first three games, and we had three tonight (they lost one). ... Field position in the third quarter was all them."

After Delrie's score with 7:44 remaining, the Rebels had two more chances to drive down the field and tie or win the game. But a bad snap cost them 20 yards and forced a punt on the first drive, and Delaneuville threw a second interception to Jones, which allowed St. John to run out the clock.

# Destrehan tops St. James in hectic finish

*Eugene recovers from earlier miscues*

By Lori Lyons
Staff writer

Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene needed a little redemption Friday night.

With the game on the line, he got it.

With 1:18 remaining and St. James leading 25-20, Destrehan had a fourth-and 16 at the St. James 47-yard line. Destrehan also had a quarterback in Eugene who had thrown five interceptions on the night, the last four occurring on the previous possessions.

But this time, Eugene floated a short pass to Joshua Martin who was waiting at the 25-yard line and Martin did the rest. Martin broke away from a pair of St. James defenders, then he sprinted into the end zone. Eugene then connected with Edwin Reed for a two-point conversion that put Destrehan ahead 28-25.

St. James then got the ball with one minute remaining. In five plays, St. James drove to the Destrehan 42-yard line. But, with six seconds to play, Terry Dumas' Hail Mary pass was intercepted by Jerico Nelson to seal the victory for Destrehan.

It was a remarkable comeback for Class 5A Destrehan (4-0) against the No. 1 team in Class 2A. The Destrehan running game struggled for 87 yards on 20 carries. Reed had a punt return and a kickoff return for touchdowns nullified by penalties, and Eugene completed only 13 of 34 passes.

St. James, meanwhile, rushed for 255 yards, even with its two starting rushers hurt and another out for the second half. Luther Ambrose rushed 14 times for 177 yards and one touchdown. Jason Zenon ran for 83 yards on seven carries, all in the first half. And quarterback Antonio Phillips threw for 134 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another. Craig Duronslet had two of the five interceptions St. James nabbed.

But Destrehan had Eugene and coach Steve Robicheaux said he was putting his faith in him.

"He's the guy," Robicheaux said. "We know sooner or later he's going to get the job done. But a lot of guys made some great plays."

St. James led for most of the game, starting early. On their second possession, the visiting Wildcats took four plays and 27 seconds to drive 65 yards. After a 41-yard run by Zenon and a nine-yard pass from Phillips to Jordan Landry, Ambrose scored from the 10. Jerome Lewis' extra point made it 7-0.

After holding Destrehan to three and out, St. James scored again when Phillips connected with Wayne Mitchell on a 43-yard pass. The extra-point attempt was blocked, leaving St. James with a 13-0 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Destrehan ran a reverse to Reed, who scampered 97 yards for an apparent touchdown, but Destrehan was flagged for an illegal block in the back. Destrehan did not score until its next possession, with 8:50 remaining in the half, when Reed caught a pass from Eugene, cut inside and broke a tackle at the four-yard line for a 52-yard touchdown. Travis Brignac kicked the PAT to cut St. James' lead to six points.

But St. James extended the lead on its next possession, an 11-play, 95-yard drive capped by a six-yard pass from Phillips to Nick Narcisse. The two-point conversion failed, leaving St. James with a 19-7 lead.

Destrehan was driving late in the first half and got down to the St. James seven, but, with four seconds remaining, Ambrose intercepted a Eugene pass at the goal line and returned it to the Destrehan 20.

Destrehan opened the second half with two quick touchdowns. Eugene ran for a 29-yard score 13 seconds into the third quarter. Later he threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Martin with 8:35 remaining in the quarter. Brignac's PAT kick put Destrehan ahead for the first time, 20-19.

# BACK TO TRADITION



STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT THRELKELD

High school football returned to St. Tammany Parish on Friday night, as Slidell defeated Mandeville 29-6 at Slidell. Above, Slidell fans enjoy the return of football, delayed four weeks by Hurricane Katrina. Below, Mandeville finally enters the field for its season opener.



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# Rebuilt Dome pitched as super shelter

*But federal money the key, official says*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

If the Superdome is going to be used as a hurricane evacuation shelter in the future, federal officials should pay the extra costs needed to upgrade the facility to make it "hurricane-proof" and more suitable as a refuge, said the chairman of the state agency that oversees the building.

▶ The San Antonio Saints? Some think Texas city has ulterior motives, A-29

Tim Coulon, chairman of the Louisiana Stadium & Expedition District, hopes state officials can persuade the Federal Emergency Management Agency and insurance adjusters to pay for enhancements such as enlarged concourses and new restrooms that will make the Dome more suitable for future evacuations.

The building suffered millions of dollars in damage from Hurricane Katrina and the 25,000 evacuees who sought shelter there for days after the storm passed.

"It would be foolish on our part not to look at the building with the need to modify it as a shelter," Coulon said. "Obviously, if we don't consider the use of the Dome as a shelter then we shouldn't use it at all. Won't we be criticized five years from now

See DOME, A-31

THE RETURN OF NEW ORLEANS

# Where to begin?

## AS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOOK TO REBUILD THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LIVES, THAT QUESTION MAY BE THE HARDEST TO ANSWER



STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT ROSE

Constance Negrotto, 81, saves some antique figurines while her daughter Darlene Negrotto salvages a flag that draped the coffin of her father and Constance Negrotto's husband, who was a veteran of World War II. Negrotto, whose home is on Bellaire Drive in Lakeview, was cleaning up Saturday.

**By Gordon Russell, Meghan Gordon and Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writers

When floodwaters laid waste to Dennis Terry's Lakeview townhouse, his first few steps were obvious ones: Recover anything worth saving. Call the insurance company. Call the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Wait for a check to arrive, hopefully one that reflects the home's true value.

Now, though, Terry faces a labyrinth of more complex decisions. So do tens of thousands of owners of uninhabitable homes across a swath of New Orleans and its environs.

Terry's biggest questions: Can he rebuild? Should he? And if he does, will he have to build a home that is less vulnerable to flooding than the one that was lost in Hurricane Katrina's brutal aftermath?

See REBUILDING, A-6



George Byrne sprays the mold in his home on Octavia Street on Saturday.

# 3,000 city workers may lose jobs

*Drastic cuts are considered*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Crippled financially by the evaporation of virtually all tax revenue, Mayor Ray Nagin's administration has set in motion an unprecedented layoff process that could eliminate as many as 3,000 "non-essential" municipal employees — about 40 percent of the City Hall work force — as early as mid-October.

The only agencies likely to be largely spared by the proposed action are those with a direct impact on public safety, including the police and fire departments, the emergency medical unit that runs ambulance services and the Sewerage & Water Board, as well as electrical and health inspectors needed to get commerce up and running.

It is unclear how the sanitation department, a critical component in the city's recovery from Hurricane Katrina's destruction that is operated by a private contractor, would be affected.

The job termination order was signed Thursday by Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield and sent to the city's Civil Service Commission, the agency that oversees the hiring and firing of city workers.

Reached Saturday for comment, Nagin said the layoffs are not a certainty at this time as his administration continues to look "at all of our options."

But he added that he and his staff "are positioning ourselves to move timely in preparing for this type of event as the federal, state and banking financial support is not materializing as we had hoped."

Nagin, who replied by e-mail, did not address how many city jobs are in jeopardy. But a city official familiar with discussions, which have been going on for weeks,

See LAYOFFS, A-23

# Coast Guard stands up well to its biggest task

*Unprecedented rescues draw praise*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

For five straight nights in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Coast Guard helicopter pilot Lt. Patrick Dill could see the small beacons pointed skyward from the darkened, flooded landscape that was New Orleans.

"They were everywhere, shining flashlights," Dill said. "There were just thousands."

But as the days and nights and the rescues wore on, the beacons began to disappear. "Are we actually making a difference, or are their batteries dying?" Dill, a displaced Uptown resident, recalls pilots asking themselves.

In what could be its largest rescue operation since the D-Day invasion, the Coast Guard

See COAST GUARD, A-18

Chef Tom Wolfe of Peristyle removes boards that covered his windows during Hurricane Katrina. Wolfe said he hopes to open as soon as possible. 'I need to get back cooking.'




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

# NOW WE'RE COOKING

*In a city that needs its comfort food more than ever, there's no such thing as too many chefs*

**By Brett Anderson**
Restaurant critic

Stay or evacuate? Rebuild or bulldoze? When can we return?

Do we want to?

In a city reduced to an echo chamber of grim questions, there's one that's beginning to resonate with sweet familiarity: Where do you want to eat?

Finally, the denizens of New Orleans – rescue workers, law enforcement, eccentric holdouts, the media horde and now, and increasingly, returning evacuees – have choices, as the city's chefs and restaurateurs are overcoming circumstances that could chase away even the most committed pros.

For diners, the openings can't come a moment too soon.

See RESTAURANTS, A-27

DAY 34 • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: 929 • Jefferson Parish schools ready to hit the books, A-2 • Locals wonder what kind of city will emerge from floodwaters, A-4 • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM

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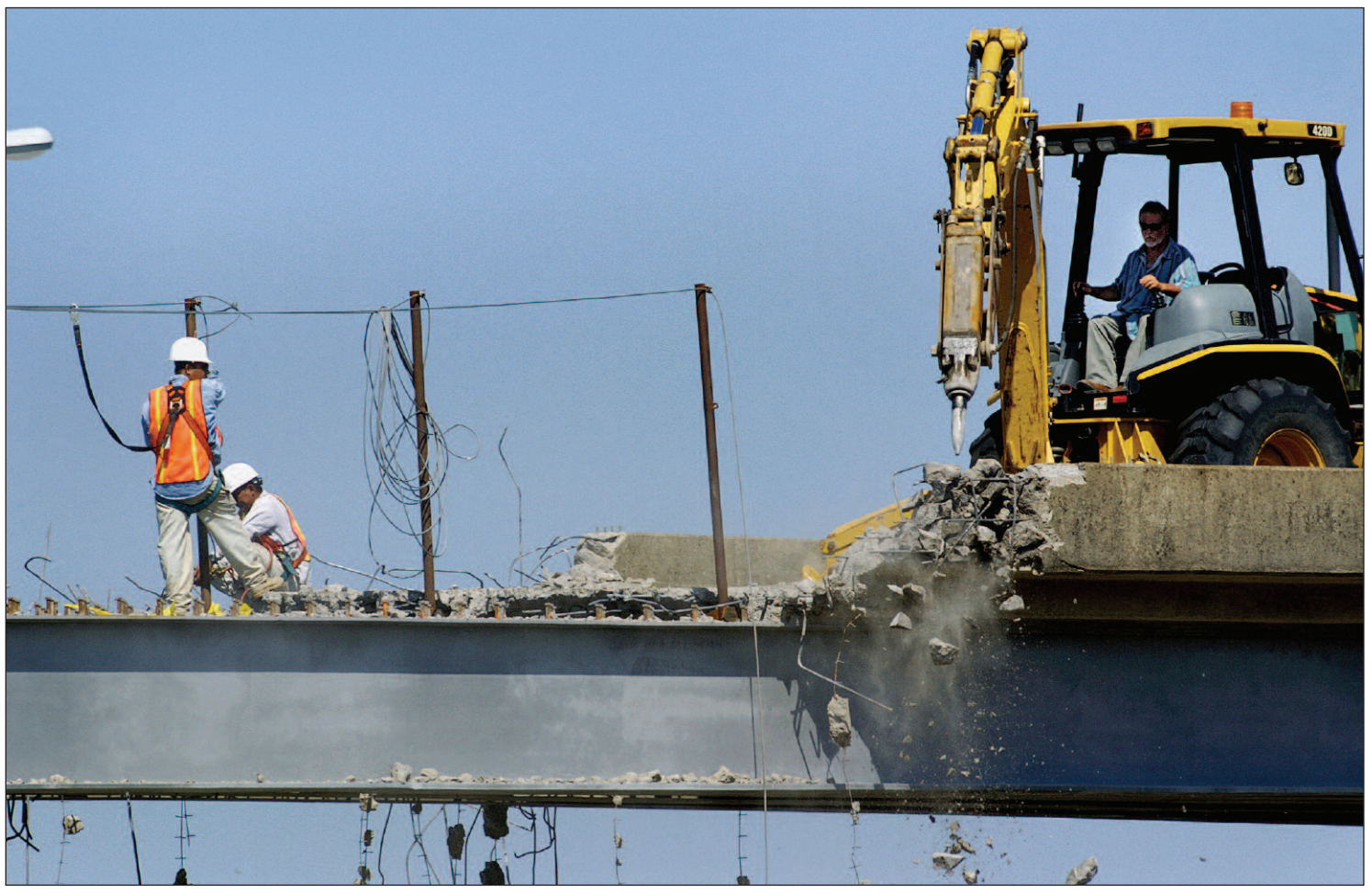
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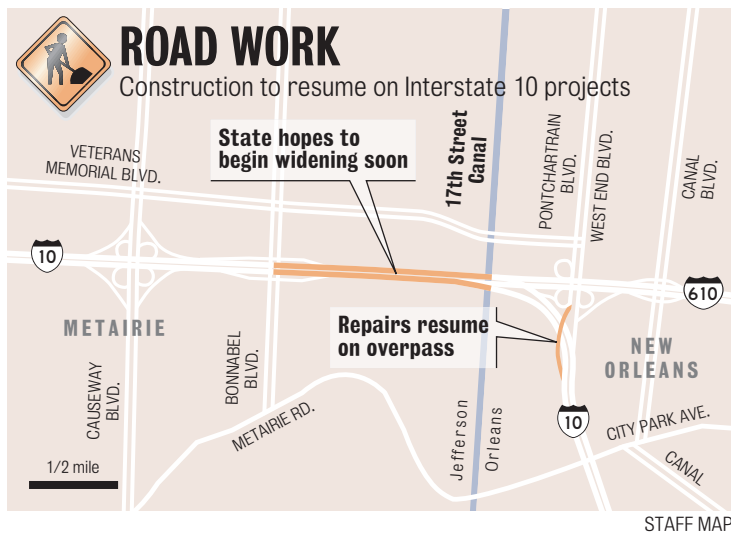
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# Interstate 10 road work to continue



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Workers with Boh Bros. Construction demolish part of the Pontchartrain Expressway overpass before they replace it with new concrete. The overpass job was originally scheduled to take six to eight weeks and cost $650,000 to $850,000.




STAFF MAP

## *Projects planned before hurricanes hit*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Some $70 million of major road work was pending when Hurricane Katrina blasted southeast Louisiana a month ago. Now the state highway department wants those jobs moving again to help rebuild the region's economy as well as improve its transportation system.

Repairs already have resumed on pre-Katrina damage to the Pontchartrain Expressway overpass at Interstate 10 in New Orleans near the Metairie line. In the weeks ahead, the state hopes to get a contractor started nearby on the widening of a major hurricane evacuation route: I-10 between the I-610 split and Causeway Boulevard in Metairie.

"We won't be blocking any routes, but I am trying to get these jobs moving," said Brian Buckel, chief project engineer for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in New Orleans. "From an economic standpoint, these companies need to get their people back to work, plus we need to improve the infrastructure so that when people come back, there's something to come back to."

Buckel said last week it was too soon to say when Boh Bros. Construction Co. can return to the I-10 widening job.

The $69 million contract calls for adding new lanes in each direction, a flyover ramp from Bonnabel Boulevard to westbound I-10, sound barriers and drainage improvements. Just two weeks before Katrina struck, Boh Bros. had begun mobilizing an army of people, equipment and supplies for the job, and construction was expected to begin today.

Despite the eagerness of the state and its contractors to return to work, the fallout from Katrina and, more recently, Hurricane Rita, still holds much sway over when storm-toppled construction schedules can be righted.

"Can you get the supplies, the equipment, and the people to do the work?" Buckel asks. "That's what every contractor is up against."

In the case of repairs to the pock-marked Pontchartrain Expressway overpass, four full spans and two partial spans must be replaced on a bridge that usually carries 20,000 vehicles per day. Boh Bros. began the job Aug. 22, snarling traffic for a time. Katrina arrived a week later.

Buckel said Boh Bros. resumed work there last week, even though no concrete plant was available to provide materials for finishing the job. The company will break up the old spans while awaiting new concrete.

"We wanted to get started on that while there wasn't much I-10 traffic," Buckel said.

Area concrete plants, which have been unable to get raw materials since Katrina and Rita disrupted the market, are just now beginning to reopen, Buckel said.

The overpass job was originally scheduled to take six to eight weeks and cost $650,000 to $850,000. Buckel said he doesn't yet know how the hurricane delays will affect those numbers.

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# Jefferson schools to reopen, with longer days, on Monday

## *Damaged campuses' students relocated*

**By Rob Nelson**
Staff Writer

With shaky finances, a reworked calendar and uncertain enrollment, the Jefferson Parish public school system gets back to business Monday, resuming classes for thousands of students, many from other districts still in tatters in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The system set the Oct. 3 reopening date weeks ago, convinced that a quick rebound would help lure residents back to Jefferson and shore up coveted state financing linked to student enrollment.

Highlighting the commitment of administrators and teachers, Superintendent Diane Roussel, whose Monday schedule is already packed with national and local media interviews, praised the system Saturday, likening the reopening to "a phoenix rising from the ashes."

Considering the uncertainty and chaos following the storm, Roussel said, the district's turnaround is a credit to employees who "took on the cause."

"This is an incredible date to be able to go back to school," she said. "We had teachers cutting grass. We had psychologists painting walls. It's been an incredible endeavor."

More than a month after Katrina rattled the state and scattered Louisiana residents across the nation, most of Jefferson's 84 schools are ready to safely welcome back students.

Only Terrytown Elementary, Woodmere Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, A.C. Alexander Elementary and John Martyn School remain too damaged to open. Officials have provided no timetable for when those schools will be functional.

The system has shifted students at those five schools into other schools, where they will share the building and run on different class schedules.

There is also concern about whether Lafitte Elementary and Grand Isle School can reopen Monday. Hurricane Rita, which came a few weeks after Katrina, flooded the small fishing village of Lafitte, and, like Katrina, battered Grand Isle. Students there have not yet been shifted to other schools.

Roussel said all principals have returned to the district and estimated that 60 percent to 70 percent of teachers are also back to work. The number of students expected to return varies greatly by neighborhoods, depending on the extent of damage to homes as well parents' resources to return to the parish, she said.

There could be a significant increase in enrollment in January, because some parents might wait until the end of the fall semester before returning, Roussel said.

Whatever number of students head back to Jefferson, they will definitely be waking up earlier.

The School Board adopted a calendar Thursday that adds one hour of class time to each remaining day of the school year, beginning Oct. 10. All schools will begin an hour earlier, with high schools facing the earliest start time at 6:15 a.m.

The move will help the system recoup 24 days of lost instructional time and meet state requirements for the number of academic minutes students must have. It's still unclear whether the state will require the system to make up all missed time, which could force a second calendar revision, officials said.

Regardless of what time students arrive, officials will keep a watchful eye on enrollment figures, a key factor in determining state financing. Before Katrina, Jefferson served about 50,000 students, but officials are unsure what that number might look like come Monday.

However, they expect an influx of students from Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, all of which were decimated by Katrina. School systems in those parishes are either only partially open or completely out of commission.

Rolling out a welcome mat to children from across the region, officials spent the past week registering students new to the parish or those who have relocated within Jefferson Parish. More than 2,000 signed up.

"It's about taking in as many students as we can," Roussel said. "We became teachers to help kids."

The system's coffers have also taken a pounding, particularly sales taxes that bring in $12 million monthly and represent 41 percent of the system's revenue.

The system's reserves, at a healthy $24 million before the storm, are close to empty, and the board approved Thursday establishing a $50 million line of credit with its bank in case the finances grow more desperate.

The district is also still fighting for money from its insurance adjusters and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Board members recently complained they have not seen any federal relief dollars.

If secured, some of that money, officials said, would go toward temporary housing for displaced teachers.

Describing her attitude about the reopening as "relieved and encouraged," Roussel said the most pressing concern is to make students feel welcome and secure. Counselors and psychologists will be on hand Monday, she said.

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# Return to N.O. begins not with bang, but whimper

## *Residents surprised by slow response*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

The repopulation of New Orleans has not begun with a blitz.

Although Mayor Ray Nagin officially opened large sections of the city Friday, allowing residents and business owners in eight ZIP codes to return, many residential areas of the city remained all but deserted Saturday afternoon.

There was isolated activity in some Uptown and the French Quarter neighborhoods, but people were not flocking back to their homes. Some residents said they were surprised by the slow return.

"There's no one down here. I'm pretty much the only one," Gregg White said outside his Esplanade Ridge home at 828-830 N. Rampart St." It's eerie to see how quiet it is."

White, a salon owner, said he returned Thursday, but speculated that many of his neighbors couldn't afford to get back quickly. "It's so expensive," he said, referring to the cost of air travel.

A few blocks away in Treme, Anthony Gibson said he hadn't seen many of his neighbors since before Hurricane Katrina hit Aug. 29. Gibson said he never left the city, remaining in his upper apartment at 1323 St. Philip St.

"Since the mayor has asked people to come back, I haven't seen a big amount of people," he said.

"I'm glad they haven't" come back, said innkeeper Jess Beaty outside 5 Continents Bed and Breakfast at 1731 Esplanade Ave. "The city is not ready."

Residents could be seen packing up moving vans and car trunks, and traffic along St. Charles Avenue was dominated by 18-wheelers and contractors' trucks. Many people said they were only retrieving items and did not plan to stay; they encountered sparse traffic entering New Orleans.

Edward Mink said he returned Friday night, and "once you got closer into the city, it got darker and I could count the cars. I saw about a dozen." He and his wife, Saba, took some items from 231½ St. Charles, and they were leaving for Plano, Texas, where they have relocated.

In Mid-City, Pete McHugh was dropping off supplies at a friend's house on North Lopez Street. He had just returned to the city after five weeks in Dallas, and as he crossed the Crescent City Connection, he encountered no traffic, he said, and no checkpoints.

"It's not the mad rush," said insurance adjuster Josh Stacey, who was visiting from Mobile, Ala.

In CC's Coffee House at Magazine Street and Jefferson Avenue, manager Angela Alessandrina said customers were coming in steadily, but she didn't know whether they were staying in the city.

"It's going to take a while for people to get back into town, but the cleanup is under way," she said.

The Bywater was sparsely populated Saturday, where Stephen Polier had just returned to Sugar Park Tavern, his pizza restaurant and bar at Dauphine and France streets. "We're just taking out the biohazards," he said, nodding toward the kitchen where he and his girlfriend were cleaning out spoiled food.

Across the street, a small group gathered outside Jimmy's Grocery. Ray Khalaileh spent Saturday cleaning out his poboy and grocery store, where his son Sharif sat on an overturned shelf on the sidewalk.

Khalaileh has three rental properties in the area. "One tenant keeps calling me, calling me. 'I want to come back,' she says. I tell her there's no electricity, you can't live here."

He said his store had no power and Entergy workers told him his gas would be turned off. "You can't. I need to cook for my customers," Khalaileh shouted.

After the truck drove away, the Israeli immigrant said, "We're definitely going to reopen. I just hope my customers return. I tell my son, 'We have wars where we come from. But I never seen nothing like this.' "

• • • • • •

Staff writer Brett Anderson contributed to this report.

# Race, class on everyone's mind

## *Resident visualize the future of N.O.*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Kappa Horn shook her hips to "New Orleans Funk" as she presided over a grill full of hamburgers — the only menu item of the day at her nearly reopened Magazine Street breakfast joint.

Going to . . . get back!
Going to . . . get back!

"This the best album in the world," she told hungry and thrilled-to-be-home customers, as official resettlement of New Orleans' east bank began late last week.

Horn had just returned to open Slim Goody's after a depressing stay in Baton Rouge. But there were moments of pure beauty, too. Greasy spatula in hand, she told of watching the Dirty Dozen Brass Band play in Baton Rouge.

They kicked into "Do Whatcha Wanna," the brass-band standard that bumps like a New Orleans anthem to anyone who has wiggled and giggled with friends and strangers in the city's world-famous music halls.

The room exploded, just like at home.

Then, Horn said, "somebody whispered in my ear, 'Well, You can't kill that.'"

No indeed. New Orleans will not die. For true.

But that begs a question that many New Orleanians are already beginning to grapple with: When the city gets back on its feet, what sort of place will it be?

The question already is provoking spirited discussion among returnees, if only as a diversion from more immediate anxieties, such as where to live and how to make a living.

Many said their thoughts alternate between visions of New Orleans' grand opportunity to wash away its severe problems and concern that its legendary character could get watered down in the process. Issues of race, class, politics and the fragile social fabric of neighborhoods weigh on their minds even as they begin to piece back together their damaged homes and businesses.

At Slim Goody's, chills ran up the spine of Matthew Ratcliff, 33, as "Big Chief" came on the juke box. He worked as a cook at Cobalt restaurant before the storm. They're paying him for another three months. After that, who knows? But he's looking for another job ñ anything ñ in the meantime.

"I've just been so stir-crazy," he said. "Even if it's minimum wage, it'll keep me from drinking all the time. Try staying in Little Rock, Ark., for a month. That'll make you nuts."

A few minutes later, Horn explained to customers that she had to reduce the menu to hamburgers only because she has no one for food prep. Ratcliff asked if she'd take him on.

"Show up at 8," she said.

Just like that, one man's economy switched back on.

"Perfect. I can walk to work," Ratcliff said.

Asked the question many are asking — how will the city look in the next three to five years? — Ratcliff said he thought a corps of die-hards, many without children, would form a base of rebuilders in a somewhat smaller city.

"It's a transient city anyway, but the hard-cores are going to be back. All my friends are coming back. People with families and kids may not. I think the 25-to-40 crowd is going to make up the bulk of population," said Ratcliff, who is single. "These people are realizing they're spoiled on New Orleans. It took me three or four weeks out of town to realize I couldn't live anywhere else."

### Race, class issues

A Napoleon Avenue couple, both doctors, inspected their spacious home near the corner of Saratoga Street.

"We think the city's going to be great," said Dawn Galliano, as she worked with her husband Dante, inspecting the moderate looting and water damage.

Asked why, she hesitated. "I don't want to say," she said.

Dante put the matter diplomatically, but his message was clear: fewer poor people.

"I think there's going to be so much business development in the lower economic areas, in the project areas," he said.

Near Napoleon Avenue and Magazine Street, Walter Marschner of Jefferson Parish Appraisal Service made a stop at one of the many homes he has inspected for damage. He speculated that the city would lose both rich and poor people, but ultimately come out more of a middle-class town ñ a good thing, he said.

*See* **FUTURE,** *page A-5*


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# Some say middle class will repopulate N.O.

**FUTURE,** *from A-4*

"What I'm hearing is that a lot of people aren't coming back," he said. "We have a lot of people at the bottom of the barrel, attending New Orleans public schools, on welfare. They have nothing going for them. A lot of these people have been transported to Dallas and Houston and Shreveport and all over. What they're finding there is that you can buy a 1,000-square-foot house (in Shreveport) for $40,000, that there are better schools, and that people are welcoming them in."

Marschner said he thinks poor New Orleanians who have been dispersed to other places may help both themselves and the city.

"This may sound mean and rotten, but if we can get rid of 100,000 of the lower class that are takers and not givers to the community, we'll be much better off," said Marschner, who is white. "That might sound racist, but I don't mean it that way."

To some, such comments do indeed sound racist.

Stan "Pampy" Barre, the African-American restaurateur and indicted political operative, expressed outrage at published comments from Regional Transit Authority Chairman James Reiss. Reiss, who is white, told the Wall Street Journal that New Orleans needs to tackle its problems of crime and poverty.

"Those who want to see this city rebuilt want to see it done in a completely different way: demographically, geographically and politically," Reiss told the newspaper. "The way we've been living is not going to happen again, or we're out."

Barre invited Reiss, who declined to comment further, to make good on his pledge to leave.

Barre interprets Reiss' comment to mean that he "doesn't want to redevelop those areas of the city that have a heavily black population. But that's what makes New Orleans (what it is)," Barre said.

He brushed off the notion that poor, black New Orleanians would be better off living elsewhere simply because they have not historically prospered here.

"That may be true in some instances," he said. "But what black people are going to miss about New Orleans, they're going to miss their mommas living right down the street, red beans and rice on Monday, Mardi Gras and JazzFest.

"There's a lot of people that want to come back, but that's going to be impossible unless they have a good plan and they don't price them out of the (housing) market," Barre said. "I wish I had the answers."

Even a New Orleans fixture such as Barre can't yet set up a new restaurant to replace Pampy's, the popular 7th Ward meeting ground for the city's movers and shakers. In the meantime, he's considering opening a place in Baton Rouge.

Opinions on the desired demographic and landscape of a new New Orleans do not break neatly along lines of race. Nor do the prospects for repopulating the many areas of the city inundated by floodwaters. Along with speculation on how many impoverished African-Americans might return to neighborhoods such as the Lower 9th Ward comes speculation about the degree to which affluent and mostly white areas such as Lakeview will lure its residents back. An even bigger question mark hangs over the mostly white and working-class parish of St. Bernard, which was clobbered by flooding and storm surge and will be among the most difficult and expensive to protect from further storms.

Ratcliff, who is white, was as incensed as Barre by the notion that the storm was a blessing because it might run poor blacks permanently out of town, a sentiment he said he heard frequently in Arkansas.

"That really pisses me off," he said. "Those are the same poor blacks that I rode the bus with last winter on my way to work, the people I talked about the Saints with . . . They're part of our culture: the second-lines and the Mardi Gras Indians. You can't just eliminate parts of society. Like me, some of my biggest flaws make up who I am."

Hope Manasek, a 41-year-old white woman, fretted that New Orleans would soon become a "Disneyland for Houstonians." Losing a large percentage of poor New Orleanians would ruin the town, she said.

"I've always seen New Orleans as a poor black town ñ a completely free place, not like the rest of America, a place with totally different values, food, music, attitude, a place where people came to escape their empty lives," she said, sipping a beer at Molly's at the Market in the French Quarter, which quickly reopened after the storm. "No matter how weird you are in your hometown, nobody looks twice at you here."

Molly's proprietor Jim Monaghan Jr., an outspoken French Quarter resident in the model of his father who started the bar, attacked the assertion that poverty ñ regardless of race ñis integral to the city's culture and heritage.

"I don't know what there is about poverty that's funky and flavorful ñ the city's still going to have a soul," he said.

## Looking for change

Amid the wide array of opinions on the city's probable future, those returning this week seemed to agree on a few key points, particularly that homes should be rebuilt to replicate the architecture that makes the city famous and livable. If shotgun houses are bulldozed in the Lower 9th Ward, shotgun houses should be built in their place, they said, provided the deluged low-lying area doesn't simply become a spillway or part of an improved flood-protection system, as some have recommended.

More importantly, those interviewed said, the city's political fiefdoms must go.

"The thing I thought of most in the last few weeks is how angry I am" at the city's inability to prepare for or respond to the storm, said Cheron Brylski, a veteran political operative and public relations specialist. "This really showed how inept our government structure is. . . . The political landscape is going to change significantly. You're going to see some new faces."

But putting in new leaders will be fruitless unless residents force change in the political culture, the cronyism and the patronage, Brylski said.

"Local neighborhood leaders have been ignored for so long," Brylski said. "People at some point just stopped participating. We've seen dropping voter turnout."

Brylski said she doesn't believe the national articles she's read speculating that New Orleans will become an "Uptown, white-only" enclave. The city's diversity will survive, she said, because people of all classes and races know instinctively that New Orleans won't be New Orleans without it.

The owners of Praline Connection, the popular Creole restaurant on Frenchmen Street in the Faubourg Marigny, aren't so sure. As Curtis Moore and Cecil Kaigler, both African-Americans, worked to repair their commissary near the restaurant Friday, they also fumed at government leaders for their failure to put New Orleanians ñ particularly poor black New Orleanians ñ first in line for clean-up and repair jobs.

"You need the people back ñ and they need to be working. We've got Hondurans and Mexicans down here working while New Orleanians are just sitting out of town in shelters," said Curtis Moore. "I think the city can come back strong, but only if all the money that's coming down here is applied fairly and justly. If it just makes the rich richer, it's not going to work."

Moore's vision of the new New Orleans disturbs him. "It'll be a majority white town. Most black people are renting, and their landlords are white. If the prices go sky high, they're not going to be able to afford to come back. We'll have less black people, and that's sad. . . . New Orleans will definitely lose some of the flavor and culture. It won't be the gumbo town; it'll be more like the white bean."

Monaghan said he plans to turn the Quarter and the Marigny into a base for political agitation. He launched his effort Friday with a town hall meeting called, "What is the future of the French Quarter?"

Monaghan said he had teamed up with Harry Anderson, the magician and former star of television's "Night Court," who recently opened up a magic club on Decatur Street. They hope to mobilize residents to demand change at City Hall.

"We want to light a fire under people's asses," he said. "We're looking for a friendlier City Hall ñ no more snarling people over there who won't even answer a simple question, no more nasty meter maids and bus drivers. . . . This is our city."

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# 'One of the charms of New Orleans

**REBUILDING,** *from A-1*

"Getting a real answer on anything is very difficult at this point," Terry said. People want the rebuilding process to get going, he said, but "we don't even know when it's going to start."

State Rep. Peppi Bruneau, whose Lakeview home was destroyed, said he's just as stymied as his neighbors by the lack of information. Like them, he wants to know whether the land will be elevated, whether new houses will have to be built on piers, and whether the levee system will be sufficient to prevent another wipe-out.

"You're now finding out how little information we have been able to get out of city government," Bruneau said. "Ask one of the councilmen and you're going to get the same answer. You're not getting any information from the mayor's office. I know he's inundated; I'm not blaming him. But these are executive decisions."

To some extent, the questions posed by Terry and others in his predicament can't yet be answered. Local officials are just beginning to grapple with the challenges posed by rebuilding the most devastated parts of the city, ranging from Lakeview to the Lower 9th Ward to St. Bernard Parish.

They must decide whether it's wiser to rebuild in flood-prone areas or whether it makes more sense to turn some areas into green space. In areas in which rebuilding is certain, they'll have to decide what kind of flood protection they want.

Will planners write new building codes, similar to those in coastal areas of Florida, that require homes to be more hurricane proof? Will they bring in tons of dirt aimed at raising the elevations of certain neighborhoods, or require building materials that are less prone to flood damage, such as concrete?

No matter what local officials decide, most homeowners whose properties sustained heavy flood damage will be forced to meet current building requirements for the first time. Thousands of homes will have to be raised or torn down and rebuilt at higher elevations in order to meet zoning codes that were first created in the early 1970s – well after most properties in the area were erected.

Federal officials say the magnitude of the rebuilding process may actually work in the city's behalf.

"One of the concerns we always have after is a flood is people rush in to rebuild," FEMA spokesman Ed Pasterick said. "And in a lot of cases, the community doesn't grab hold of the process like they should. But if you have a larger event, you are much more conscious of limiting the damage next time. That is certainly going to happen in New Orleans."

## New regulations

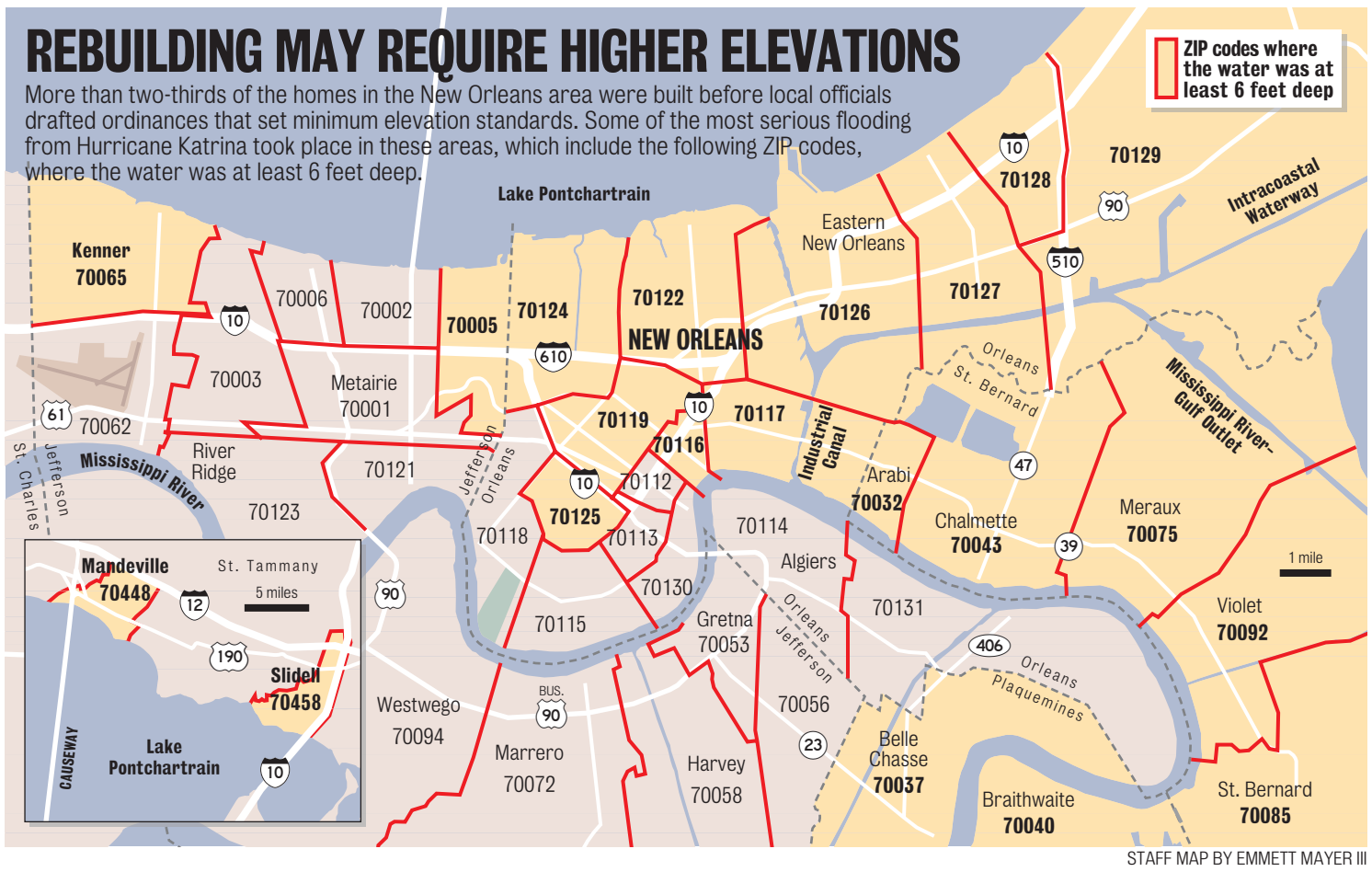
Like communities all across the United States, New Orleans passed laws in the 1970s requiring new homes to be at or above the level designated on the federal flood maps. But the older homes that dominate the cityscape were exempted from the new requirements.

Katrina has changed all that.

Any house that sustained damage estimated at 50 percent or more of its value will have to be brought into compliance with the rules or face much higher premiums, FEMA spokesman Ed Pasterick said. It will be up to local building inspectors, who may receive advice from the feds, to make those calls.

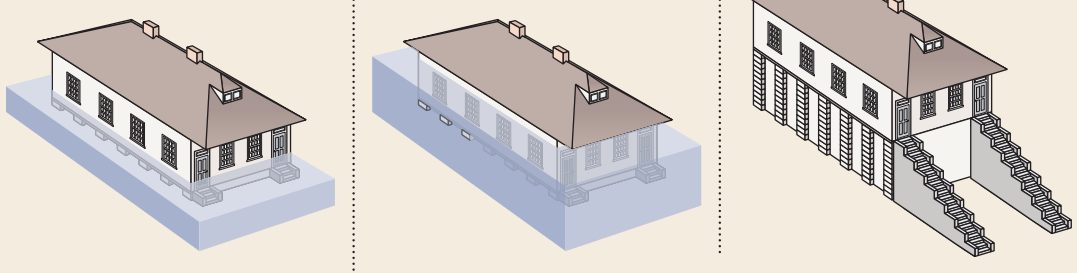
A homeowner who rebuilds in violation of the floodplain maps might pay more than $2,000 a year for a policy that used to cost $350, officials said. Local communities that fail to enforce the rules can also face sanctions from FEMA.

Huge numbers of homeowners will be forced to come into compliance with the stricter elevation standards. Of 256,000 homes covered by federal flood insurance in the seven-parish metropolitan area, more than 155,000 stand at elevations that are too low to protect them from a 100-year-flood, according to data supplied by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.




STAFF MAP BY EMMETT MAYER III

## HIGH SOCIETY



If the cost to repair your flood-damaged home is less than 50 percent of the property's market value, you can repair or rebuild it at the current elevation.

If the cost to repair your flood-damaged home is 50 percent or more of the property's market value, you must either raise it or tear it down and rebuild at the elevation level currently required for new construction in your neighborhood. Depending on the neighborhood, this can be as much as 10 feet higher than your current elevation.

STAFF GRAPHIC BY EMMETT MAYER III

While no one knows exactly how many properties were flooded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, about 140,000 flood claims had been filed in Louisiana even before Rita, Pasterick said, mostly in and around New Orleans.

And that number doesn't account for the thousands of homes that lack flood insurance. Overall, federal officials estimate that only about 41 percent of the homes in the metropolitan area carry flood protection, despite the area's propensity to flood.

According to Phil Huffman of the Homebuilders Association of Greater New Orleans, Katrina damaged a total of 360,000 homes in the New Orleans area, of which half may need to be totally rebuilt. How much money homeowners will receive is an open question: The maximum flood payout under federal rules is $250,000, a cause of consternation for owners of houses that would cost more than that to replace.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal said he expects a consensus will form by next week on a legislative initiative to assist homeowners whose losses are greater than the coverage provided by their flood insurance or their private insurer. With so much wealth lost so suddenly, Jindal is concerned that the extensive home damage will result in a raft of bankruptcies. There might be a way for insurers along with the federal and state governments to share the responsibility, he said.

Meanwhile, state Attorney General Charles Foti is looking into a lawsuit against insurance companies to force them to cover flood damages, much as Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood did two weeks after Katrina. But Foti is hoping a solution can be found that would avert a costly and time-consuming lawsuit, his spokeswoman said.

Though many homeowners now feel they're getting the short end of the stick, Pasterick said many have actually paid unrealistically cheap flood premiums for years because their properties were grandfathered. Most local communities didn't impose elevation requirements on new home construction until the early 1970s.

## Damaged, but not destroyed

Those whose homes were damaged but not destroyed by floodwaters will have other options, although houses that incurred substantial damage will have to be raised above the flood plain.

Take the case of David Cressy, Mandeville's city attorney. Cressy's 140-year-old home on the lakefront was inundated with 5 feet of water from Katrina's storm surge, making it uninhabitable. Many of Cressy's neighbors with homes on 10-foot stilts fared much better.

"They lost some stuff, but not their house,'' Cressy said. "That's what convinced me that I've got to raise mine."

Doing so will be expensive: Cressy will have to raise his floor levels by 11 feet. So far, the cheapest estimate he's gotten is $50,000, and that didn't include a foundation, which he hopes to add.

"It's probably going to cost me $100,000," Cressy said. "But I'm going to do it. I'm not going through this again. This is crazy."

Cressy won't have to pay the entire tab. Wayne Berggren, Mandeville's flood plain manager, said Cressy's is among 30 to 40 homes in Mandeville that qualify for a little-known benefit called "increased cost of compliance coverage" through their federal flood insurance policies.

Under the program, a property owner is eligible for up to $30,000 in grants if the cost to repair the home is 50 percent or more of the building's "pre-damage market value."

The money is not subject to the overall cap of $26,200 that covers other FEMA grants. However it is subject to the $250,000 maximum payout for structural damage under federal flood insurance. Most homes have less coverage.

In the New Orleans area, the government will probably wind up handing out more than $1 billion in such grants, based on The Times-Picayune's analysis of flood-policy data.

## 'Beyond repair' subjective

The projection that up to half of the 360,000 homes damaged in the New Orleans area will have to be totally rebuilt raises the specter of wholesale demolitions, a specter that concerns New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin.

"Most of the experts are telling us that any house that was in flood waters for a couple of weeks where the water was above their (electrical) outlets, is probably a property that is going to be very difficult to renovate," New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said. "All I know is that in some areas, houses will be demolished in significant numbers."

But not without the owner being fully in the loop. "There's this myth out there that we will start these demolitions en masse before people get a chance to assess and weigh in. We won't do that," Nagin said.

Preservationists fear a rush to judgment, with homes, including some in historic areas, getting torn down without much review.

"We get concerned when we read that there seems to be an assumption that the slate will be wiped clean in many areas," said Stephanie Bruno, director of the Preservation Resource Center's Operation Comeback. "That sounds like the kind of approach they're taking. Our approach would be more of a case-by-case basis."

Bruno said many homes that are heavily damaged can be fixed.

"The term 'beyond repair' is very subjective," she said. "Even buildings that are structurally compromised can be repaired if there's a will to do that."

Meg Lousteau of the Louisiana Landmarks Society echoed Bruno's comments after touring parts of the city. "From what I saw, except for buildings that had actually collapsed, I haven't seen a single building that needs to be torn down," she said.

Even structures that are choked with mold can be fixed, Lousteau said. "Mold can be dealt with without tearing down the whole structure, especially in older houses," she said. "I just hope people can get past the grossness of what they see when they first walk into their homes. It's going to be overwhelming and painful, but the truth is, the damage is superficial in a lot of cases. You can rip out the Sheetrock and the wiring."

Lousteau said she also worries that insurance adjusters may recommend demolition because of a belief that starting fresh will be cheaper.

Both Lousteau and Bruno were especially concerned about the future of the Holy Cross neighborhood, the section of the Lower 9th Ward that lies between the Mississippi River and St. Claude Avenue, which is designated as a historic district locally and nationally. While the area flooded badly, it drained quickly, they said, and most of the homes there are salvageable.

Bruno said the PRC will be offering its services to people looking to rebuild, or sell.

"We see ourselves helping to publicize tax breaks, loans and grants to help people see what's out there," she said. "And if they want to take their insurance check and move to Pennsylvania, helping them find a way of disposing of property and getting it into the hands of someone who does want to renovate."

## Advisory panels

As thousands of individual homeowners try to figure out their next move, a free-spirited debate about how to rebuild the city and its environs on a big-picture level has already begun to develop.

Federal officials, ranging from FEMA leaders to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson, have emphasized that most key decisions will be up to local officials.

Nagin on Friday named the 17 members of a blue-ribbon panel that will serve in an advisory role on rebuilding efforts. The City Council, not to be outdone, is establishing a similar body. And Gov. Kathleen Blanco has set up her own rebuilding team.

Jackson, of HUD, said he has encouraged the mayor to hold a "charette" led by architects, engineers and urban planners to brainstorm ideas for how to rebuild the city the right way.

In addition, a five-member panel appointed by the American Planning Association and contracted by FEMA will provide input. They include city planners from Fort Worth, Texas; Pittsburgh; Tampa, Fla.; and Chicago. Grover E. Mouton III, who teaches urban design at Tulane University, is the group's sole New Orleanian.

Yolanda Rodriguez, director of the City Planning Commission, said she expects her agency will take a lead role in making decisions using the recommendations turned in by the various groups.

One of FEMA's roles will be to help the community "understand that maybe some of the decisions that were made in the past are ones they don't want to make again," Pasterick said. "After every storm everybody revisits the wisdom of how things were built before. Maybe you're not going to rebuild in certain areas, or maybe there are some areas you won't want to develop again and turn into park land. But those are all local decisions."

Even so, the feds will have a major role to play, because nearly all of the billions in aid pouring into the area comes from the federal government. Of particular importance will be the decisions on how levees and floodwalls are rebuilt. So far, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has pledged only to restore levees to their pre-Katrina size, designed to handle a Category 3 hurricane. But local officials are lobbying for floodwalls to withstand a Category 5 storm.

St. Bernard Parish is looking for similar help. Joey DiFatta, president of the St. Bernard Parish Council, said the parish has asked the Corps to raise levees there to 25 feet - 8 feet higher than they were when Katrina hit.

State Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, said homeowners don't have the two keys they need to decide whether to start over in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

"To talk about revitalization is useless until you know: Are our levees going to be properly done and secured? Are we going to be able to buy insurance that's affordable?" Boasso said. "This is the mixed message that we have to get straightened out. We're in limbo, because it all boils down to levees and insurance."

## Gut-wrenching decisions

Experts and residents have already weighed in. Some said the massive task of rebuilding entire New Orleans neighborhoods would likely become the largest case study of its kind, with countless opportunities for triumphs and failures.

"This is the biggest planning challenge any of us is likely to have occur during our professional careers," said Rob Olshansky, a professor of urban planning at University of Illinois and an expert on rebuilding cities after natural disasters. "It's all there."

Some gut-wrenching decisions lie ahead.

"We have to look at the fact we have marshland and reclaimed lake bottoms that we built on, that we filled in," said City Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morrell, who represents Gentilly and parts of the Lakefront. "And we've got to evaluate how safe that's going to be. Maybe we shouldn't have built there?

"We have to face up to the fact that we're a coastal city. And we need to take a hard look at what they do in other places. We sit smack dab between Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River and we build out homes on slabs. How stupid are we?"

Hedge Morrell noted, in comments echoed by fellow council members, that other communities ruined by hurricanes, such as Homestead, Fla., rebuilt intelligently.

"They knew it was wind damage that really hurt Homestead so they came up with a plan so houses built now, they have to tie the roofs into a cement wall," she said. "In our case, we have to look at what is actually the (elevation) level we need to rebuild on."

The city needs to give people clear instructions to keep them safe, Hedge Morrell said.

"We're going to tell you what the height has to be in terms of filling in," she said. "We're going to tell you what type of materials you have to use, because evidently the structures we had let people build in that area on slabs couldn't handle what happened."

Kristina Ford, director of the city planning commission from 1992 to 2000 and now a professor of environmental studies at Bowdoin College, said decision-makers should consider radical ideas for resurrecting demolished areas, including ones that were unthinkable before Katrina.

For example, she said residents from the Lower 9th Ward perhaps could be relocated to one of the city's higher ridges. Their old neighborhood could be used in a way that doesn't put lives at risk, as headquarters for the public works department or as a place to store buses and other rolling stock that can be moved to higher ground ahead of a storm.

Once leaders decide whether to relocate or fill in parts of the city, Ford doesn't doubt that smart developers will surface with design proposals to repli-

*See* **REBUILDING,** *A-7*

# was the irrationality'

**REBUILDING,** *from A-6*

cate the "jumble" of styles present in most city neighborhoods.

"I see houses that are maintained to different degrees, I see gardens that are maintained to different degrees," Ford said of her mind's-eye view of New Orleans. "One of the things that I would look for would be a design that very quickly would reveal individual enthusiasm of individual residents. ... Anything monolithic can, if it's designed well, look less monolithic."

Bruneau said nobody in Lakeview would sit by while developers built "condo

world." While he wouldn't support mandatory style codes, Bruneau believes that individual owners would each rebuild their own piece of the hodgepodge of bungalows, ranch houses, "McMansions" and townhouses that filled the neighborhood.

"How do we rebuild a city that is so complicated, and interestingly so?" Ford said. "There will be an impulse to do this completely rationally, then we'll end up with something that has none of New Orleans' quality. One of the charms of New Orleans was the irrationality."

## Rebuilding takes time

While Katrina's swath of devastation is unprecedented in modern American history, the experiences of other communities after disasters could be instructive – for instance, the flood that swamped Tulsa, Okla., in 1984.

After the flood, which killed 14 people and inundated 6,800 homes and businesses, the city earned a 40 percent discount on flood insurance for its residents by taking aggressive action to limit future damage.

After completing more than $100 million in flood mitigation projects, Tulsa became the first – and only – city to earn a Class 2 rating under the government's Community Rating System. The measures included the acquisition of more than 1,000 flood-prone properties and the preservation of more than a quarter of the city's flood plain as green space.

By contrast, New Orleans is a Class 8 community, which entitles its residents to a 10 percent discount on flood insurance. The highest ratings in Louisiana are in Jefferson and East Baton Rouge parishes, which have a "7" rating, earning residents there a 15 percent discount.

A disaster more comparable to Katrina was the earthquake that leveled Kobe, Japan, in 1994, destroying 150,000 homes and damaging another 450,000. Olshansky, who just completed a yearlong study of it and other post-disaster rebuilding projects, said officials there used all sorts of programs to jumpstart public and private developments in a 10-year reconstruction. One key was to build temporary housing close to the city for the 310,000 people in emergency shelters — something New Orleans hasn't yet pulled off.

"If you want to rebuild New Orleans, you've got to get those people back there," he said.

Olshansky said New Orleans could benefit from hiring professional planners to advocate for each neighborhood, as Kobe did to ensure that displaced residents would return to a neighborhood that fit their needs.

New Orleanians should also prepare for the depression Kobe residents encountered well into reconstructing their city, Olshansky said.

"For a couple of years it seems hopeless and it seems like it's never going

to end," he said. "The project just seems overwhelming, but they got through

it, and other places got through it. ... A year from now, things are going to

look really bad and, 'It's a year later,' and 'Oh my God, we haven't gotten

anything done.' It's going to take a long time."

Leverne and Elwood Fleming of eastern New Orleans know they'll have to be in for a long haul if they want to get back to their old life on Trapier Avenue, where they worked, lived and socialized.

"I would like to see them do something to rebuild the east; I just don't know what kind of timeline they have," Leverne Fleming said after seeing their ruined home covered in mildew and mud. "I don't know how long we can wait this out, because sooner or later we're going to have to make a decision."

Terry faces the same frustrating wait as he and his family hold off on rebuilding their Lakeview townhouse while the future of the city is debated. He said he hopes the process doesn't stretch on so long that his family has to make a permanent home hundreds of miles from Lakeview.

"I've thought about living elsewhere to a degree, I have, but would I want to?" Terry said. "My wife and I discuss it, our way of life. I want it back. I love Natchitoches to death, but it's not home."

• • • • • •

Staff writers Frank Donze, Jeff Duncan and Robert Travis Scott contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Jose Lopez carries a shelf to the junk pile Saturday as he and a crew clean out a home on 14th Street near Fleur de Lis in Lakeview.

## MAYOR DISCUSSES HOW TO REBUILD

Late last week, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin talked about the challenges and risks he sees ahead as New Orleans recovers from Hurricane Katrina.

**HOW DOES THE CITY GO ABOUT REBUILDING ITS HOUSING STOCK?**

**Nagin:** The first thing we need to do is let people go in and see their homes and at least help us to decide the next steps. The second thing we need to do is find out from the Corps of Engineers what they are going to do with the levee system. It's my understanding they're going to build it back up to withstand at least a Category 3 by June of next year, and then from there they're probably going to a Category 5. Once that's complete or on a simultaneous track, we're going to try and figure out what do we need to build, how do we need to build: Should houses be two stories, three stories, garages on the bottom – we just haven't gotten that far.

**SO SOME AREAS MIGHT LOOK STARKLY DIFFERENT?**

**Nagin:** I think they will. Most of the experts are telling us that any house that was in floodwaters for a couple of weeks, with water above their (electrical) outlets, is probably a property that is going to be very difficult to renovate.

**WILL SLAB HOUSES BE OUT OF THE QUESTION?**

**Nagin:** I don't know. A lot of it is going to depend on the levee system. There are new designs for homes – I've done a little research. You can build concrete homes that are not as susceptible to being totally demolished after a storm like that. We're going to look at all those options.

**BUILDING HOUSES WELL ABOVE THE GROUND IS A POSSIBILITY?**

**Nagin:** It is definitely a possibility. The issue is can it be wind-resistant or not. In some cities – Charlotte or one of those – for high-rise apartments they build the first six floors strictly as garages, and then everything else is above it.

**WHAT ABOUT INDIVIDUAL RESIDENCES?**

**Nagin:** Residences are going to be a little tougher. I'm almost certain we're going to go to a standard of multilevel residences to make sure there is enough safety in case the floodwaters rise again. But that's where we're going to get the Urban Land Institute, the American Association of Architects, the Brookings Institute, all those folks to help us figure this out.

**IS IT TOO SOON TO SAY SOME AREAS WILL NOT BE RESETTLED?**

**Nagin:** All I know is that in some areas, houses will be demolished in significant numbers. Then we will figure out what we need to rebuild and how we do it. That's why I want to get this commission going so we can get some structure around how we do this.

**THIS MAY BE ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT TASKS?**

**Nagin:** It is, it is. It's all about neighborhood design and making this one of the most livable cities in the world – while maintaining the uniqueness of New Orleans.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

**"It's a hard thing for people to wrap their minds around what these probability numbers mean. If you wait long enough, you are certain to have a disaster."**

DON SWEENEY, University of Missouri St. Louis professor

# Incentives may cause, not alleviate, woes

*Federal aid could give evacuees false sense of security*

**By Jim Barnett**
Newhouse News Service



AP PHOTO

Tuan Nguyen takes a break from cleaning out his brother's hardware store Saturday in Biloxi, Miss., more than a month after Hurricane Katrina heavily damaged it.

WASHINGTON — Americans depend on government to protect them from disasters. But after the toll taken by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, some policymakers ask whether government hasn't instead enticed people into living, working and playing in dangerous places.

The problem isn't limited to hurricane-battered coastal areas, they say. Across the nation, people build homes and businesses near forests, riverbanks and other high-risk locales, largely because federal agencies provide infrastructure and financial help.

While in the 1800s government gave settlers land to encourage development, modern-day incentives include wildfire-prevention, flood-control and beach-improvement projects. Financial bonuses such as subsidized flood insurance and tax deductions also lure people into harm's way.

"In a sense, we are giving people a false sense of security that we can protect them," said Mike Dombeck, chief of the U.S. Forest Service during the Clinton administration. "The reality is that these natural forces are much bigger than we are."

The unintended result is a landscape of disasters waiting to happen: million-dollar bungalows on hurricane-battered Atlantic beachfronts, malls and suburbs in Midwestern floodplains and resort homes built at the edge of tinder-dry forests throughout the West.

With the federal contribution to recovery from Katrina estimated at $100 billion or more, some in Congress are calling for new scrutiny of federal policies that can feed a cycle of development, devastation and reconstruction.

"It's amazing how it has suddenly dawned on people that we can't keep doing things the same way," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. "I have found that this has moved up on the radar screen for a wide range of people."

Indeed, New Orleans residents knew long before Katrina hit that they lived in a risky place. But they also had put their faith in probabilities: A storm big enough to breach the lowest levees protecting the city would occur only once in 200 years, the Army Corps of Engineers had calculated.

## Odds deceiving

If anything, Katrina proved that odds can be deceiving, Don Sweeney, a retired corps economist, said. Many people fail to realize that a once-in-200-year storm is as likely to happen in the first year as in the 200th, he said.

Nevertheless, Sweeney and other critics said, growing numbers of people and businesses choose to play the odds — and do so with the tacit encouragement of federal, state and local governments.

A glaring example is cropping up in the St. Louis suburb of Chesterfield, Sweeney said. After floods in 1993, the corps began upgrading surrounding levees. The town followed with new water and sewer lines, which in turn allowed for construction of a strip mall.

Another flood will come, he said. The only question is when.

"It's a hard thing for people to wrap their minds around what these probability numbers mean," said Sweeney, now a professor at the University of Missouri St. Louis. "If you wait long enough, you are certain to have a disaster."

The National Flood Insurance Program has been a perennial target for criticism because until last year, it allowed owners to file unlimited numbers of claims for recurring damage on the same property. Many rebuild bigger and better than before.

"It has made it safe to build in high-risk areas, and it has increased the intensification of building at the coast," said Steve Ellis of Taxpayers for Common Sense, an advocacy group in Washington.

An analysis of flood-insurance coverage by Newhouse News Service supports Ellis' claim. The average amount of coverage per policy nearly doubled in constant dollars between 1978 and 2002, with coastal states such as North Carolina and Florida leading the way, the analysis found.

## Many incentives

Meanwhile, other incentives have encouraged people to build homes and businesses where they chance wildfires and droughts. Consider:

▶The 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act authorizes $760 million a year to thin fire-prone forests, with at least half going to protect residential areas. But without strict local planning ordinances, the spending will encourage further suburban sprawl, critics said.

"It's an ever-expanding circle," said Roger Kennedy, a former director of the National Park Service who is writing a book about government subsidies and their effect on development. "Until we focus on making the existing settlements safe and cease subsidizing extension into danger, we will not be saving people's lives."

▶Crop subsidies pose an indirect threat to growing communities in arid regions because they encourage farmers to irrigate with water pumped from underground aquifers, Don Wilhite, a climatologist at the University of Nebraska, said. The result is a lower water table that jeopardizes all users.

"All of a sudden, streams become intermittent, reservoirs don't fill," Wilhite said. "People are starting to figure this out."

▶Income tax laws also encourage risky development, said Ellis of the taxpayer group. Homeowners can deduct mortgage interest on second homes, often built near coastlines, forests, mountains and other vulnerable places.

While the threat of hurricanes is well known to beachgoers, mountain dwellers may face a hidden threat of mudslides because few alluvial fan floodplains have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Congress previously has taken steps to limit federal subsidies to risky development. But change hasn't come easily.

The 1982 Coastal Barrier Resources Act designated undeveloped areas on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to be "ineligible for direct or indirect federal financial assistance that might support development," according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The impact can be seen on barrier islands where rows of houses and condominiums end abruptly, Ellis said. But since passage, individual congressmen have sought out loopholes in the law or used it to justify further federal aid to populated coastal areas.

Last year, Blumenauer won passage of a law to limit federal liability for properties that have been flooded repeatedly. But the measure took five years to work its way through Congress, and was scaled back after Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., called it "an assault on the culture of South Louisiana."

Blumenauer said pressure to develop coastlines and other risky areas will mount as the U.S. population grows and becomes more affluent. But he says he is optimistic that Congress will learn from past mistakes as it pays for recovery from Katrina and Rita.

"There's chance to do this thing right," Blumenauer said. "I think people get it."


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# French musicians, schools eligible for special aid

*Some to be given money to tour France*

**From staff reports**

Jazz artists, Cajun musicians and schools that emphasize French language and culture will be eligible for assistance from a special Katrina relief fund, the French ambassador to the United States announced Saturday during a visit to New Orleans.

Jean-David Levitte said the Louisiana Foundation would receive an initial donation of $50,000 that could be released directly to French schools in New Orleans and Cajun parishes with French-speaking populations.

Eligible New Orleans schools include the International School of Louisiana, Audubon Montessori School and Ecole Bilingue.

The assistance also targets jazz and Cajun musicians displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Levitte said a panel in Paris will draft a list of Louisiana musicians who will be given transportation and living expenses to tour France from November through January. The benefit concerts would be scheduled to wrap up in time for the musicians to return for Mardi Gras in February.

"This city is based on the economy of tourists," Levitte said from a bench behind the Old Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter. "The musicians now are out of work. If we don't do something, in six months' time they will be gone for good."

Levitte said private French companies have sent an estimated $14.2 million in assistance to Katrina victims.

# Call police only for emergency

*St. Tammany is swamped with calls*

**St. Tammany bureau**

Don't call us unless it's an emergency.

That's the plea from the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office because dispatchers are being deluged by residents calling for all types of disaster-related information that law enforcement does not have.

As recovery efforts from hurricanes Katrina and Rita have intensified in recent days, emergency dispatchers are being overwhelmed by non-law enforcement calls, Sheriff's Office spokesman James Hartman said Friday.

"We don't have details on how to apply for FEMA assistance or how to contact the Red Cross or the Army Corps of Engineers or any other public or private relief agencies," Hartman said.

Non-emergency calls to the Sheriff's Office dispatchers have increased so significantly that it endangers response time to genuine emergencies or crime incidents.

Officials for police departments in Mandeville, Covington and Slidell said they, too, are receiving large numbers of calls for information on their non-emergency lines and they're often for information that police don't know.

"We are urging our citizens to limit calls to just those that involve law enforcement response," Hartman said. "We want to be able to respond quickly to an emergency but if our lines are continuing to be clogged with non-law enforcement requests for information, we are risking a slower response."

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[1] Interest will continue to accrue during deferment period.

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WORLD

# Bombings kill at least 22 in Indonesia

## *President had warned of terror attacks*

**By Wahjoe Boediwardhana**
Associated Press writer

BALI, INDONESIA — At least two bombs exploded almost simultaneously Saturday in tourist areas of the Indonesian resort island of Bali, killing at least 22 people and wounding about 50 others, officials said. The blasts came a month after Indonesia's president warned of possible terrorist attacks.

The wounded included at least two Americans.

The blasts at two packed seafood restaurants in Jimbaran beach and a bustling outdoor shopping center in downtown Kuta were the work of terrorists, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said. He also warned that more attacks were possible.

"We will hunt down the perpetrators and bring them to justice," he said after being briefed by top security officials. He also urged people to be alert.

The attacks occurred nearly three years to the day after bombings in Kuta that killed 202 people, mostly foreigners. Those attacks, and subsequent deadly bombings in 2003 and 2004, were blamed on the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah, which as been linked to al-Qaida.

Western and Indonesian intelligence agencies have consistently warned that the group was plotting more attacks. Last month, Yudhoyono said he was especially worried the extremist network was about to carry out more attacks.

"I received information at the time that terrorists were planning an action in Jakarta and that explosives were ready," he said late Saturday.

Vice President Yusuf Kalla told the British Broadcasting Corp. it was too soon to identify the bombers. He said Yudhoyono would visit the area today.

Putu Putra Wisada, spokesman at the Sangla Hospital in the capital, Denpasar, said 11 dead were taken to the hospital and 38 other people were admitted with injuries: 28 Indonesians, eight Australians and two Americans.

Officials at the Graha Asih Hospital close to Jimbaran Bay said at least 11 bodies were in its morgue, and doctors were treating about a dozen people.

"It's a horrible scene," said a receptionist, Komang.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. early today that at least one Australian was killed. Metro TV said a Japanese national also was killed.

The bombs went off at about 7:30 p.m. at three restaurants packed with foreign and Indonesian diners.

I Wayan Kresna said he witnessed the first bomb at a seafood restaurant on Jimbaran beach. He counted at least two dead and said many others were brought to a hospital.

"I helped lift up the bodies," he told the private El Shinta radio station. "There was blood everywhere."

Baradita Katoppo, an Indonesian tourist from Jakarta, said another bomb went off in the Nyoman Cafe, where he was eating dinner with friends.

"I could see other people sustained injuries," he said. "There was blood on their faces and their bodies. It was very chaotic and confusing. We didn't know what to do."

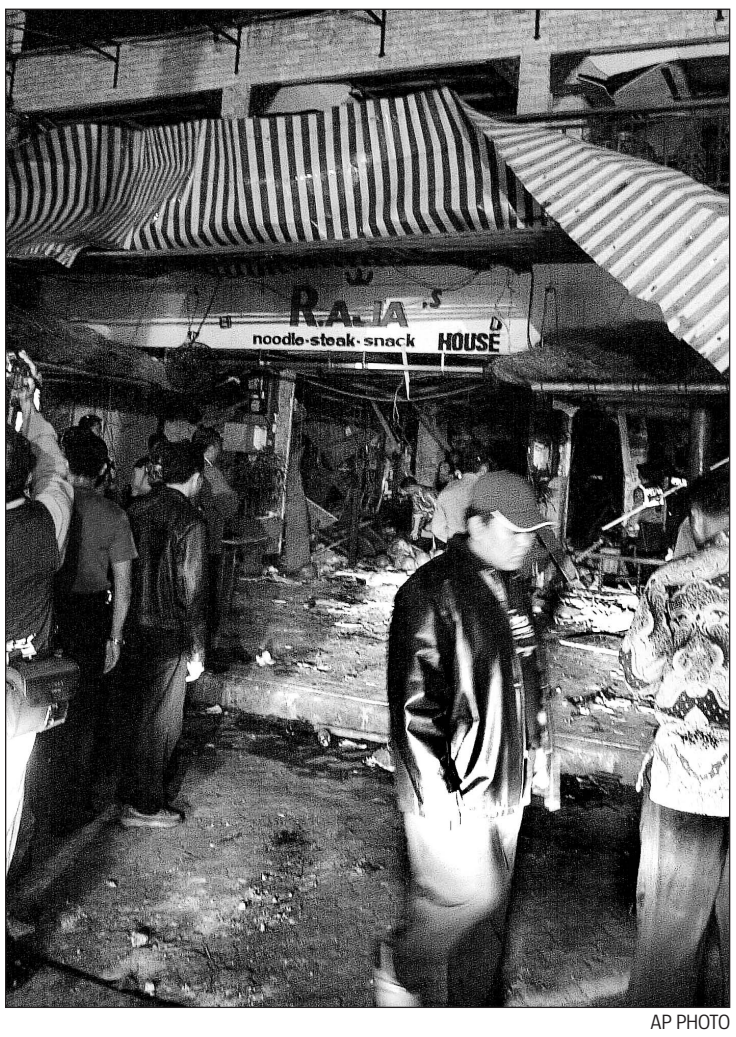
About 18 miles away in Kuta, an explosion hit the three-story Raja noodle and steakhouse in a bustling outdoor shopping center. Smoke poured from the badly damaged building.

The bomb apparently went off on the restaurant's second floor, and an Associated Press reporter saw at least three bodies and five wounded people there. There was no crater outside the building, indicating the blast was not caused by a car bomb.

The area includes a KFC fast-food restaurant, clothing stores and a tourist information center.

The exact number of blasts was not clear. Some witnesses said they heard at least two explosions at each location.

Since the Oct. 12, 2002, Bali blasts, Jemaah Islamiyah has been tied to at least two other bombings in Indonesia, both in the capital, Jakarta. Those blasts, one at the J.W. Marriott hotel in 2003 and the other outside the Australian Embassy in 2004, killed at least 23 people.




AP PHOTO

At least 22 people were killed and about 50 wounded when two bombs exploded simultaneously Saturday in tourist areas of the Indonesian resort island of Bali. The blasts at two packed seafood restaurants and an outdoor shopping center in downtown Kuta 'were clearly the work of terrorists,' Maj. Gen. Police Ansyaad Mbai, a top Indonesian anti-terrorism official, said.

## U.S. soldier, Afghan killed in rebel attack

### *American death toll 198 in Afghanistan*

**By The Associated Press**

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — A U.S. soldier and an Afghan soldier have been killed in an attack in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Saturday.

The small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade attack on Friday also wounded another U.S. soldier and two Afghan National Army troops during combat operations north of the city of Kandahar, the military said.

The three wounded soldiers were taken to a nearby forward operating base for treatment, according to a statement from the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of the capital Kabul.

The American's death brought to 198 the number of U.S. service members killed in and around Afghanistan since the 2001 campaign that drove the hard-line Taliban from power.

Violence blamed on Taliban insurgents has escalated this year, with more than 1,300 people killed during the past seven months, including hundreds of rebels. Most of the fighting has been in volatile southern and eastern Afghanistan, where U.S.-led coalition forces operate.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Lakeview residents feel shut out by city

*Few officials show up at a rally near 17th St. Canal*

**By Meghan Gordon**
Staff writer

As they stood in a Metairie parking lot no more than a block from the 17th Street Canal, hundreds of displaced Lakeview residents vented their frustration Saturday that they were still shut out of their neighborhood and felt shut out of plans for its future.

Cherie Melancon France, 28, a stay-at-home mother, organized the gathering dubbed "Back to the Breach" after weeks of messaging fellow Lakeview evacuees on the Internet. She said they wanted to demand access to their likely ruined homes and to hear from city officials involved in preliminary rebuilding discussions.

Since France set the meeting, Mayor Ray Nagin announced that Lakeview residents could make look-and-leave trips to their homes Wednesday to Friday.

Arthur France, 32, opened the grassroots gathering by cautioning the estimated 400-person crowd outside Heritage Plaza that he and his wife didn't call the meeting to touch off a storming of the checkpoint on Veterans Memorial Boulevard. But he said he hoped their presence would make city officials reconsider their plans to turn his neighbors away for several more days.

Only a few moments into the half-hour event, the audience of evacuees – many on edge from weeks of bouncing from city to city – were quick to point out the meeting's glitches. They shouted that they couldn't hear the karaoke machine speaker from the back row, that the generator off to one side was too loud, and that they didn't see Councilman Jay Batt among the short list of speakers.

State Sen. Edwin Murray, the only public official to speak, asked the crowd to realize that he and other officials who represent Lakeview were working tirelessly and were in constant communication. He elicited applause when he said Lakeview residents should have been allowed back in already, especially considering St. Bernard Parish residents were allowed to drive through Orleans and Jefferson parishes on the way to their oil- and mud-soaked streets.

"I wish I had more to tell you," Murray said. "Just continue the work that you're doing."

Amanda Zirkenbach, Batt's aide, received a hostile response when she announced she was standing in for the councilman after Batt had a prior family commitment.

The crowd booed.

"OK …," she said, taken aback. "To tell you all the truth, he hasn't seen his wife and kids in three weeks, so that's where he is."

"Please," a woman shouted in frustration.

Zirkenbach rattled off the city's latest briefing on the status of Lakeview services, including that the first debris phase was complete, that no traffic signals were operating and no temporary stop signs had been erected. She said the city would announce another set of entry dates Wednesday.

Some in the audience grumbled afterward about the poor showing of public officials.

Nagin e-mailed the group last week to say he wouldn't attend the meeting, first saying that any gathering in Lakeview was unsafe. When organizers made clear that the meeting would be on the Metairie side of the 17th Street Canal, he wrote: "I am not interested in meeting in Metairie with New Orleans residents. If you want me there, find a location in New Orleans."

Elaine Eckols, 58, left the meeting miffed that she has to wait four more days to see her house on Gen. Diaz Street, and even then can't spend much time rescuing keepsakes from the muck and mold.

"What can we pull out in three days?" Eckols asked.

But Clinton Lee, 59, whose house at 6200 Bellair Drive is likely ruined, shrugged his shoulders and said he didn't expect to learn the answers to all of his questions Saturday.

"It was a pep rally, but I'll take it," Lee said. "At least it's something."

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Meghan Gordon can be reached at meghangordon@hotmail.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Lakeview residents hold an informal 'Back to the Breach' informational meeting Saturday in the parking of Heritage Plaza in Metairie.


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We are keenly mindful of the suffering of our neighbors as the result of the recent storms, which increases our gratitude for being spared. At a time when our outlook could have been dark, our hearts were lightened by the overwhelming generosity and hopeful spirit of those around us. Thank you all for your assistance and friendship.

*I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends…*
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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AP PHOTO

Cars drive through street flooding in downtown Cabo San Lucas Saturday as the outer bands of Hurricane Otis approached the western coast of Mexico. Hundreds of families evacuated their homes in anticipation of its arrival today on the Baja California peninsula.

# Mexican west coast bracing for Otis

## *Landfall of minimal storm expected today*

**By Jorge Barrera**
Associated Press writer

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO – Hurricane Otis's outer bands lashed the coast of western Mexico on Saturday as the storm crawled toward the Baja California peninsula, forcing hundreds of families to evacuate their homes and flooding roads in the resort city of Cabo San Lucas.

The Category 1 hurricane weakened but still had winds up to 85 mph as it headed northward off the coast of Baja. Forecasters expected Otis to skirt past Cabo San Lucas, and move ashore along a sparsely populated stretch of desert far north of there as early as this evening, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Narciso Agundez, governor of Baja California Sur state, ordered emergency personnel to the community of Comondu, as well as tourist-friendly Lorteo and Mulege, closer to where the center of Otis was likely to hit land. He asked soldiers to help evacuate the islands of Magdalena and Margarita, off the coast of Comondu.

Periods of strong winds and heavy rains were mixed with mostly sunny skies over Cabo San Lucas.

Calm prevailed in the hotel zones, but Mayor Luis Armando Diaz led voluntary evacuations from the city's poor outskirts, where many homes are little more than wood and metal shacks.

About 700 families had evacuated to shelters in Cabo San Lucas and that more than 200 families evacuated in San Jose del Cabo, a nearby tourist destination to the northeast. There were also small-scale evacuations in Miraflores and Santiago, slightly further north.

Mexico declared a state of emergency to help cope with heavy rains in five communities, including Cabo San Lucas.

A hurricane warning was in effect for much of the peninsula's Pacific Coast, from Agua Blanca north to Puerto San Andresito and officials issued a tropical storm watch further northward.

Extended forecasts showed the storm weakening as it moved across the sparsely populated Baja California peninsula, then bringing rains to parts of western Texas and southern Arizona by early next week.

Otis was the 15th Pacific storm of the season. Unlike powerful Atlantic storms such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Pacific hurricanes tend to do less damage because they make landfall less frequently.

Like their Atlantic counterparts, Pacific storms are given names that correspond to the alphabet.

Also Saturday, the season's 20th tropical depression was drifting toward Mexico in the western Caribbean, prompting the government to issue tropical storm warnings for the Yucatan Peninsula.

The depression was centered 95 miles east of Tulum and about 95 miles southeast of Cozumel, according to the U.S. hurricane center. It was moving west at 6 mph.

The system had sustained winds of 30 mph, but could become a named tropical storm before making its expected landfall on the eastern Yucatan late Saturday or today, according to the center.


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# Killings of 14 dogs in St. Bernard investigated

## *Animals were left at schools by owners*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office and state authorities are investigating the killings of 14 dogs found with shotgun and handgun wounds in two schools that flooded during Hurricane Katrina, officials said. The dogs, mostly pit bulls, were left in the schools by their owners, who evacuated during the storm.

Ten dogs were found shot this week at the old parish courthouse in the community of St. Bernard, according to parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro. The building had until recently been part of P.G.T. Beauregard Middle School. The remaining four dogs were found at Sebastien Roy Middle School in eastern St. Bernard Parish, Cannizaro said.

Frank Asevado, owner of the dogs shot at Sebastien Roy, told CNN that he suspects law enforcement authorities shot the dogs, a claim he reiterated through a posting by his sister to an Internet Web log.

Asevado, who confirmed the Web log message, declined to comment for this story. The message indicated that as Katrina pummeled the parish Aug. 29 he left six pit bulls in the school, including a pregnant female named Cheyenne. When he returned this week he found Cheyenne alive with three puppies she had given birth to. But a male and three female dogs had been shot. His sixth dog was found dead in a locker, the message said.

Officials with the state's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are investigating and so is the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office, said its spokesman, Col. Richard Baumy. He said sheriff's investigators do not yet know who shot the dogs.

"As far as the information we have now, our deputies did not shoot the dogs," Baumy said.

Baumy said it's possible that other law enforcement personnel, National Guard units, or even some civilians could have shot the animals. He said the shell casings found at the schools are not the types used exclusively by law enforcement agencies.

Still, news of the findings has prompted a wave of protests from animal rights groups. Julie Morris, senior vice president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, called the incident "cold-blooded murder" and said her group will push for an investigation by the state Attorney General's Office.

"There's certainly enough to carry out an investigation (from) outside of St. Bernard Parish," Morris said.

She said her group had received reports of previous incidents of animals being shot in St. Bernard, although until now it had not decided to push for a probe.

Last month, a photographer with the Dallas Morning News videotaped a St. Bernard sheriff's deputy shooting a dog from the back of a moving vehicle, prompting a flood of e-mails to parish officials.

St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack Stephens said then that deputies had shot some dogs that were vicious.

But the newspaper's photographer, David Leeson, said the dog in the video was friendly, and he had intended to feed it just before it was shot. Leeson, however, also said that there were aggressive dogs in many neighborhoods and that the animals also nearly attacked him.

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Manuel Torres can be reached at (504) 352-2543 or at motstorm@yahoo.com.

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WAR IN IRAQ

# Troops, helicopters hit Iraqi border village

*2 U.S. soldiers killed in explosions*

By Mohammed Barakat
Associated Press writer

QAIM, IRAQ — About 1,000 U.S. troops, backed by attack helicopters and warplanes, swept into a village near the Syrian border Saturday in an offensive aimed at rooting out al-Qaida militants and stemming violence before a crucial election on a new constitution.

U.S. aircraft firing missiles struck houses and cars, sending palls of smoke into the sky as the forces moved into Sadah, according to residents contacted by The Associated Press. In the evening, Marines and insurgents clashed in the streets, they said.

The U.S. military said al-Qaida in Iraq, the country's most fearsome militant group behind a wave of suicide bombings, had taken control of Sadah and that foreign fighters were using it as a way station as they enter from Syria to join the insurgency.

The assault was the fourth large U.S. offensive in the border area since May. But the militants who run rampant in large parts of western Iraq have proven difficult to put down, moving back to towns after the assaults are over and the bulk of troops withdraw.

Al-Qaida and other Sunni-led insurgents have stepped up their campaign of violence, killing at least 205 people this week in an attempt to wreck the Oct. 15 referendum on the constitution, a vital step in Iraq's political process.

Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, which ruled under Saddam Hussein but lost power after his ouster, opposes the draft charter, fearing it will split Iraq and consecrate Shiite and Kurdish domination.

Al-Qaida in Iraq has declared "all-out war" on Shiites, and since a Shiite-majority government took power in Iraq on April 28, suicide bombers have killed at least 1,345 people, according to an Associated Press count.

### U.S. toll near 2,000

Two U.S. soldiers were killed by explosions while on patrols Saturday, one in Baghdad and another in Beiji, 155 miles north of the capital, the military said. Fifteen U.S. service members have been killed this week, and at least 1,935 have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

In Baghdad, insurgents kidnapped the brother of Interior Minister Bayan Jabr Solagh, the Shiite official who heads police forces, and the son of another top ministry official was kidnapped north of the capital, ministry spokesman Maj. Felah al-Mohammedawi said.

U.S. troops sealed off Sadah, 180 miles northwest of Baghdad, and U.S. and Iraqi officials released no information on casualties on the first day of the assault.

Troops went house to house, blasting open doors in a hunt for insurgents, but so far no weapons caches or significant militant figures had been found, said a correspondent for CNN embedded with the troops. Helicopters fired on three vehicles as the force moved in, including two that were carrying suicide bombers and a third that was being loaded with weapons, CNN reported.

Sadah is an isolated village of about 2,000 people on the banks of the Euphrates River, with one main road and about 200 houses scattered in a rural area about eight miles from the Syrian border, near the town of Qaim in Iraq's western province of Anbar.

The offensive, named Operation Iron Fist, was launched by a force of Marines, soldiers and sailors, aiming to root out al-Qaida militants who have turned Sadah into a "terrorist sanctuary" and to stop infiltration by foreign fighters, the military said in a statement.

Marines carried out two major operations around Qaim in May, killing 125 insurgents in the first campaign, Operation Matador, and about 50 in the second, Operation Spear in mid-June in the town of Karabilah. Nine Marines were killed in those actions.

### Iraqi recruits killed

In September, thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops fought through the city of Tal Afar, farther northwest along the border in Nineveh province, killing more than 150 insurgents and capturing more than 300, according to Iraqi military figures.

Two weeks after that offensive, a female suicide bomber infiltrated the city and set off a blast that killed six Iraqi army recruits on Wednesday, illustrating the difficulty of completely suppressing militants.

The Tal Afar assault included a large force of Iraqi troops alongside the Americans, but like the previous operations around Qaim, Iron Fist appeared to include only a minimal Iraqi presence; the U.S. military did not mention any at all, and police in Qaim said only a few Iraqis were participating.

President Bush said he was encouraged by the increasing size and capability of the Iraqi security forces, touting progress on a key measure for when U.S. troops can come home.

"They have made important gains in recent weeks and months; they are adapting our strategy to meet the needs on the ground; and they're helping us to bring victory in the war on terror," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

In other violence Saturday, a roadside bomb hit a patrol of Danish troops as they crossed a bridge in the southern city of Basra, killing one Dane ó the first Danish fatality from hostile fire in Iraq ó and wounding at least two others.

The U.S. military released about 500 Iraqi detainees from the notorious Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad on Saturday, the second and final part of a release of 1,000 this week in honor of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The move also aimed at persuading Sunnis to vote in the upcoming referendum.

The alliance at the center of Iraq's government also was showing strains, with Kurdish leaders accusing Shiite parties that dominate the Cabinet of monopolizing power and ignoring past promises ó particularly to start resettlement of Kurds in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Kurds warned they would consider withdrawing from the government, causing it to collapse, if their demands weren't met, a step that would deepen political turmoil ahead of the referendum.

# Pulling in for gas, high in the sky

*Refueling tank keeps jets flying over Iraq*

By Jim Krane
Associated Press writer

ABOARD A U.S. REFUELING PLANE OVER IRAQ — Lt. Col. Steve Nordhaus' F-16 was running low on fuel over Baghdad, so he pulled up to the gas station _ Spark-02, a refueling tanker circling 25,000 feet above the desert.

As Nordhaus and his wingman approached, a computer warning on the KC-135 tanker boomed "traffic, traffic!" Airman 1st Class Phil Inmon hustled into his pod in the tanker's tail and peered through the window, ready to guide the refueling boom into the fighter jet's nozzle.

It was Aug. 31, just another day's work for the Air Force fleet that keeps U.S. warplanes gassed up and running in the Iraq war.

The radio crackled again: "He's nine miles away, boom," said Spark-02's co-pilot, Capt. Nathan Dodd, 27, of Lafayette.

Inmon lowered the boom and craned his neck to catch a glimpse of the approaching F-16.

"Traffic, traffic!" the computer blared.

"Still no visual," Inmon said.

"He's at six o'clock, four miles away," Dodd said. "Boom, do you have him?"

"I've still got no visual," Inmon said, craning his neck to peer below the tanker's tail.

"He's about one mile now," Dodd said a few moments later.

"He must be coming in high. I don't see him," Inmon said.

Just then, the pointed nose of Nordhaus' gray F-16 crept into view, so close that individual stars on a folded American flag were in plain view on top of the control panel.

"I got him now," Inmon yelled, and switched to Nordhaus' radio frequency.

"I got you loud and clear," Nordhaus said, creeping ever closer to the tanker's dangling boom, as Inmon radioed the shrinking distance in feet: "40...30...20...10."

The boom smacked against the F-16's already scratched fuselage and locked onto the fuel tank coupling behind the cockpit. The two jets were now flying coupled to each other.

"Spark Zero-Two has contact," Inmon said, pushing a trigger to start the fuel flowing. "We're stable."

As the two jets flew in tandem high above the Iraqi desert, Inmon asked Nordhaus how his day was going.

"We're hanging out over Baghdad today," Nordhaus said. "If anything happens, we're ready to jump on it."

In a minute, the tank was full. "Offload is complete," Inmon said, uncoupling the boom and retracting it.

"Thanks for the gas," Nordhaus said, his F-16 rolling over and nosing down toward the desert. "We'll see you all next time."


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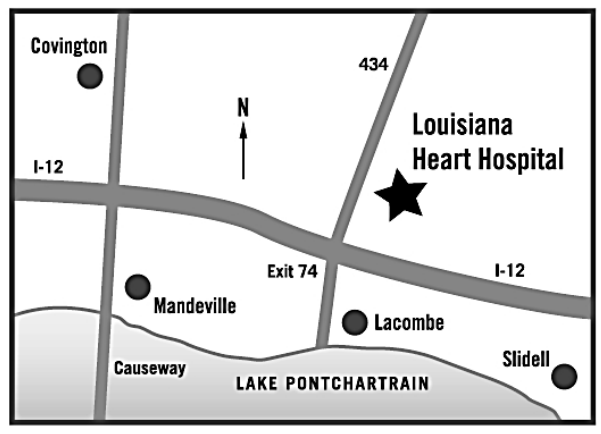


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Dr. Abida Butler *Emergency Medicine*
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Dr. Michael Finn *Cardiology*
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Dr. James Smith *Cardiology*
Dr. Richard Texada *Orthopedic Surgery*

At Louisiana Heart Hospital, our commitment to providing quality care for our community is stronger than ever.

# Turkish official says EU must keep its promises

## *Full membership for Turkey urged*

**"If the European Union decides not to keep its word, if its own leaders decide to forget their signatures beneath the decisions they've made before the ink has even dried ... if they decide to ignore all this and impose new conditions that Turkey will never accept ... then of course in that case this kind of partnership can never be."**

Foreign Minister ABDULLAH GUL

**By Benjamin Harvey**
Associated Press writer

ISTANBUL, TURKEY — Turkey's foreign minister urged European leaders Saturday to keep their promises and open talks next week on his country joining the European Union, and warned again Ankara will accept no new conditions to those discussions.

EU foreign ministers meet Sunday to discuss Austria's insistence that Turkey be offered something less than full membership in the EU, calling into question whether the bloc will open accession talks with the mostly Muslim nation on Monday. Austria has claimed to be speaking in the name of the majority of Europeans in saying it does not want Turkey as a full member.

The EU had agreed in December 2004 to open accession talks on Monday.

"If the European Union decides not to keep its word, if its own leaders decide to forget their signatures beneath the decisions they've made before the ink has even dried ... if they decide to ignore all this and impose new conditions that Turkey will never accept ... then of course in that case this kind of partnership can never be," Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said.

Gul emphasized, however, that the Turkish government remained committed to the EU.

"Believing it will be a victory for both Turkey and the EU, we want to finish this and we want to begin the negotiations," he said. "I hope Turkey's honest conduct and approach will find a response in the same manner."

Justice Minister Cemil Cicek also urged the EU to keep its promises.

"Human rights and freedoms are very important modern values," he said. "But keeping one's word is also a modern value. That's why we're expecting Europe to keep its word."

Ertugul Ozkok, columnist for Hurriyet newspaper, urged Turks to remain firm in their convictions and quoted Turgut Ozal, the prime minister who first applied for full membership in the EU in 1987.

"This is a long and hard road. There will be those who will try hard to turn us from this road, they'll play with our pride. But we must not be turned away," Ozal had said.

A poll by A&G Research of 1,834 people in 19 provinces showed the majority of Turkish people remain supportive of the EU bid, with 57.4 percent agreeing with the statement, "Turkey must join" the EU. The poll, which was taken Sept. 24-29, had a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc said Turkey was taking note of Europe's actions, and that the country would continue to progress on its own terms if Europe decided not to deal with Turkey.

"We are taking as a warning the political maneuvers of those working to obstruct our membership, which shock and amaze every reasonable man," Arinc said. "We didn't destroy our honor so much that we would sacrifice everything to be a member of the EU. We have enough strength to build our own future and a free and prosperous nation for our children."

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# Bishops tackle shortage of priests

## *Allowing marriage may be considered*

**By Nicole Winfield**
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — Bishops from around the world begin tackling major issues facing the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican on Sunday, including whether Holy Communion should be given to Catholic politicians who back abortion rights and to divorcees who remarry without getting an annulment.

The priest shortage and whether celibacy contributes to it, as well as dwindling Mass attendance, also are expected to be discussed at the three-week Synod of Bishops, during which bishops will offer recommendations to Pope Benedict XVI on running the church.

The Vatican said Saturday that 256 bishops from 118 countries would participate — the most ever. In addition, 10 representatives from non-Catholic Christian churches will attend, although they do not have voting rights.

Benedict formally opens the synod with a Sunday Mass, and in many ways the meeting is as much about him as it is about the bishops, since it is the pontiff's first major Vatican undertaking since being elected April 19.

Many participants have pointed to the changes Benedict made in organizing the synod as evidence he wants it to be a more collegial exchange of ideas than a meeting with a preordained outcome. Bishops will speak for six minutes rather than eight, allowing for an hour of open discussion at the end of each day.

"That in itself, while subtle, is a real emphasis," said Pittsburgh Bishop Donald Wuerl, one of the American delegates attending the Oct. 2-23 meeting.

Officially, the synod will discuss the Eucharist, or the sacrament of Holy Communion, which Catholics believe is the body and blood of Christ. But a range of issues falls under that.

In the draft document outlining the synod agenda, the Vatican singled out divorcees who remarry without getting an annulment and Catholic politicians who support abortion rights in criticizing those who continue to receive Holy Communion while in a state of "mortal sin."

**"It has been very unbelievable to me that steps have not been taken prior to this time to address the problem that has led to parishes closing and clustering."**

SISTER CHRISTINE SCHENK, of the FutureChurch group

The Rev. Anthony Figueiredo, a special assistant to the pope during the synod, said he expected debate on both topics but little change in church policy.

"I think what we will be seeing is a very clear affirmation of fidelity to the church's teaching," he said.

The document also noted declining Mass attendance — in some countries, only 5 percent of the faithful attend — as well as the priest shortage. It cited statistics showing there was one priest for every 1,797 Catholics in 1978 compared with one priest for every 2,677 Catholics in 2003.

Because of the shortage, several participants said they expected the church's celibacy requirement to be discussed, since many believe that more men would join the priesthood if they were allowed to marry.

"They're certainly not going to talk about ordination of women, but I think there might be some discussion of the celibacy law," said the Rev. Francis Moloney, an Australian theologian at the synod.

A survey by two U.S. church reform groups of more than 15,000 priests in 55 American dioceses said 67 percent believed that mandatory celibacy should be discussed. Sister Christine Schenk of the FutureChurch group said she planned to deliver the survey results and petitions from parishioners to church officials during the synod.

"It has been very unbelievable to me that steps have not been taken prior to this time to address the problem that has led to parishes closing and clustering," she said.

Benedict invited four Chinese bishops to attend the synod as part of his effort to unify China's divided church. But as of Saturday, the bishops had not submitted the necessary paperwork to attend, Vatican officials said — an indication the Beijing government would not let them come.

Nevertheless, Monsignor Nikola Eterovic, the general secretary of the synod, remained hopeful.

"We remain open to receiving them, even until the last day," he said.

During previous recent synods, one topic of "sideline" discussions has always been the papal succession. With Benedict now in office, that perennial issue may be replaced by an upcoming Vatican document expected to reaffirm the church's belief that homosexual men should not be ordained.

"The bishops might talk about it personally, but it's not a focal point in the discussion about the Eucharist," said Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.







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# Disaster Recovery

# Cleaning up

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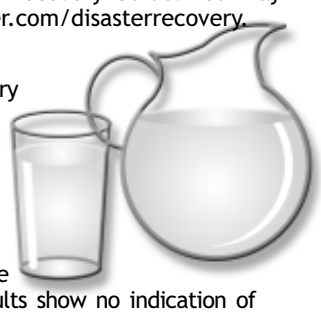
As hurricane recovery efforts continue in South Louisiana, the LSU AgCenter can provide reliable, research-based information on home and garden damage, food and water safety, avoiding hazardous molds, personal finances, stress management and other topics. Through our unique network of faculty in parish offices around the state, we can answer many of your clean up questions. You can find more detailed information by visiting our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery or contacting us for a free Storm Recovery Guide.

## Food and Water Safety

### Water

For instructions on purifying water, contact your local LSU AgCenter office or call for our free Storm Recovery Guide. You may also visit our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery.

### Water Well Purification



After a flood, it is important to take every precaution to ensure the safety of your well water. First, it is necessary to inspect and clean the well and pump before using them. You may want to have your water well driller or contractor check out the well before using it.

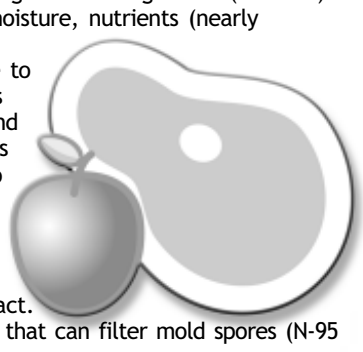
Have the water sampled and tested. The water IS NOT safe for drinking until lab results show no indication of total coliform bacteria. You can discuss the final lab results with the lab or local parish health unit. It is important to remember that disinfection will not remove chemicals which may have contaminated your well during a flood. For more information, contact your local LSU AgCenter office or visit our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery

### Foods and Food Preparation Items

- Do not eat food that may have come into contact with floodwater.
- Discard all food that came in contact with floodwaters including canned goods. It is impossible to know if the containers were damaged and the seals compromised.
- Discard wooden cutting boards, wooden spoons, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifers. There is no way to safely clean them if they have come in contact with contaminated flood waters.
- Thoroughly wash metal pans, ceramic dishes and utensils with hot soapy water and sanitize by boiling them in clean water or by immersing them for 15 minutes in a solution of 1 teaspoon of chlorine bleach per quart of water.
- Clean and sanitize all kitchen surfaces, especially those that may have been contaminated by floodwaters.
- Wash and sanitize dishes, utensils and appliances before using them.

## Avoiding Mold Hazards

A flood-damaged building requires special attention to avoid or correct a mold population explosion. Molds produce spores that float and spread easily through the air, forming new mold growths (colonies) when they find the right conditions – moisture, nutrients (nearly anything organic) and a place to grow.



Mold problems can result in damage to materials and health. The longer mold is allowed to grow, the greater the risk and the harder it is to remedy. So as soon as the floodwaters recede and it is safe to return, don't delay cleanup and dry out.

People are mainly exposed to mold by breathing spores or fragments, and can also be exposed through skin contact. Wearing gloves and a mask or respirator that can filter mold spores (N-95 or better) is recommended.

Although there is wide variation in how people are affected by mold, long-term or high exposure is unhealthy for anyone. Exposure to mold can trigger allergic reactions and asthma attacks, may suppress the immune system or have other effects. Some types of mold can produce mycotoxins in certain conditions, which can be present in live and dead spores and fragments in the air. "Black mold" is a misleading term since many types are black.

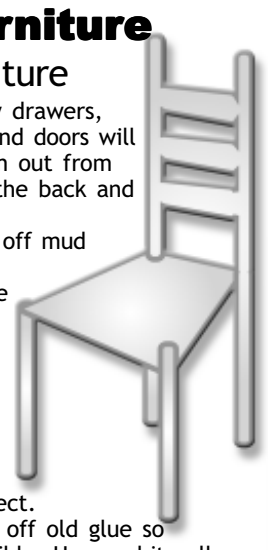
Mold testing is not usually needed and is rarely useful. Some insurance companies and legal services may require sampling as a form of documentation. Professional mold remediation contractors may test before and after cleanup to provide evidence of the cleanup's effectiveness.

To clean up mold, follow these steps and refer to the EPA guidelines: A Brief Guide To Mold, Moisture, and Your Home or Mold Remediation In Schools and Commercial Buildings available online at www.epa.gov/iaq)

- Isolate Work Area and Ventilate to Outdoors: Disturbing mold colonies can cause a massive release of spores, so seal off the contaminated area from the rest of the house. If power is on, use a fan to exhaust air to the outdoors.
- Remove And Discard Moldy Materials: Porous moldy or sewage-contaminated materials should be removed, bagged and thrown away — including gypsum wallboard, insulation, plaster, carpet/carpet pad, ceiling tiles, processed wood products and paper. To minimize the spread of spores, cover moldy material with plastic to contain spores before removing and discard it.
- Clean Surfaces: Surface mold on non-porous materials such as hard plastic, concrete, glass, metal and solid wood can usually be cleaned. Cleaning must remove, not just kill, the mold because dead spores can still cause health problems. After cleaning, choose to use a disinfectant to kill any mold missed by the cleaning. In the case of sewage contamination, disinfection must be performed. Contact your local health department for appropriate advice. On color-fast, non-metal surfaces, you may disinfect with a solution of 1/4 to 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water. Do not use in the air system. Milder, less corrosive disinfectants include alcohols, disinfecting cleaners and hydrogen peroxide. Always handle with caution, never mix bleach with ammonia and test on a small area before treatment.
- Speed Dry: Dry all wet materials as quickly as possible. Use air conditioning or heat with fans and dehumidifiers, if possible. New mold colonies can form in as little as three days if materials stay wet. Wood and other materials that may look dry can still be wet enough to support regrowth.
- Remain on Mold Alert: Continue looking for signs of moisture or new mold growth. If mold returns, repeat cleaning and consider using speed drying equipment and moisture meters. Regrowth may signal that the material was not dry enough or should be removed. Rebuilding and refurnishing should wait until all affected materials have dried completely.

## Salvaging/Cleaning Furniture

### Submerged or wet wooden furniture



Take furniture outdoors, and remove as many drawers, slides and removable parts as possible. Drawers and doors will probably be stuck tight. Do not try to force them out from the front. With a screwdriver or chisel, remove the back and push out the drawer from behind.

After you have removed movable parts, clean off mud and dirt, using a hose if necessary.

Take all furniture indoors and store it where it will dry slowly. Furniture left in the sunlight to dry will warp and twist out of shape.

When furniture is dry, reglue it if necessary. You will need equipment and clamps to reglue some pieces. Before you start, decide whether you have the time, equipment and ability to do the work. Consult an experienced carpenter if necessary. Many books are available on the subject.

To reglue loose joints or rungs, cut or scrape off old glue so the area will be as clean and free of glue as possible. Use a white all-purpose glue, following directions on container. Hold parts together with rubber rope tourniquets or C-clamps. To prevent damage from ropes or clamps, pad these areas with cloth.

### Damp furniture - removing white spots

White spots or a cloudy film may develop on damp furniture that has not been submerged.

If the entire surface is affected, rub with a damp cloth dipped in (a) turpentine or camphorated oil or (b) in a solution of 1/2 cup household ammonia and 1/2 cup water. Wipe dry at once and polish with wax or furniture polish.

If color is not restored, dip 3/0 steel wool in oil (boiled linseed, olive, mineral or lemon). Rub lightly with the wood grain. Wipe with a soft cloth and re-wax.

For deep spots, use a drop or two of ammonia on a damp cloth. Rub at once with a dry cloth. Polish. Rubbing cigarette ashes, powered pumice or a piece of walnut into spots may also help remove them. Be sure to wear rubber gloves when using these solutions.

Cleaning Tips

- Always wear rubber gloves when using cleaning solutions or working with flood-damaged or moldy furniture. Clean furniture outdoors.
- If mildew has developed, vacuum (preferably with an HEPA filter) surface or brush off with a broom.
- Read fiber content labels of upholstery. Test a hidden area using a solution of lukewarm soapy water (1 tablespoon soap to 1 quart water), or dilute denatured alcohol (1/2 alcohol and 1/2 water) or bleach solution (1 tablespoon bleach to a pint of water) to see if color is removed or fabric shrinks. Allow to dry, then decide if the fabric can be cleaned. Sponge fabric to remove dirt, and use bleach or alcohol solution to remove mildew. Fabric may be removed from frame to clean, depending on the damage.
- Remove tacks, nails, braid, other fasteners.
- Although wet synthetic foam padding can be restored, the risk of contamination and costs usually make replacement a better option. Wet cotton or other organic padding should always be replaced.
- Wipe down wooden frames with a wood cleaner or alcohol solution to remove mold or mildew. Wipe dry and allow to air dry in an open shady place (never dry furniture in direct sunlight).
- Dry springs and other metal parts. If rust has formed, you may need to replace or clean. Use steel wool and coat with paint. A light oil could be wiped on metal parts to help prevent later rusting. Many major manufacturers keep records of fabric or metal parts which can be ordered from the dealer for replacement.
- Be sure all parts are dry before reassembling.
- A reliable furniture repair shop will give estimates on cost of redoing furniture. Also, consider replacement cost and value of each piece. If insurance allows part value on flood-damaged furniture, it may be financially worthwhile to apply the money to new articles, rather than pay for extensive repairs.

## Cleaning Carpets and Floors

Cleaning water-soaked carpets and floors is difficult in itself, but in the aftermath of a storm or flood, contamination by mud, silt, sewage and mildew can compound the problem.

It's best to replace carpets and get professional cleaners to work on floors, but this may not be possible. Begin cleanup as soon as possible.

- Pull up all saturated carpets and rugs, and take them outdoors.
- If you wish to salvage valuable rugs and water was not contaminated, hose muddy carpets down. Work a low-sudsing, disinfectant carpet cleaning product deep into soiled spots with a broom.
- If only small areas of carpet got wet from leaks, pull up and prop the wet carpet to dry. Cut away wet padding.
- To discourage mildew and odors, rinse the backing with a solution of 2 tablespoons bleach to 1 gallon water. Don't use this solution on wool carpets. Also disinfect the slab or subfloor.
- Discard and replace foam pads.
- Sections of subfloors that separate must be replaced to avoid buckling. When floor coverings are removed, allow subfloors to dry thoroughly. It may take several months. Disinfect wet surfaces.
- In wood floors, remove a board every few feet to reduce buckling caused by swelling. Ask a carpenter for tips on removing tongue-and-groove boards.
- Clean and dry floor thoroughly before attempting repairs. Using a dehumidifier will speed the drying process.
- In vinyl floors with wood subflooring, the floor covering should be removed so the subflooring can be replaced. With concrete floors, removal isn't necessary except to hasten drying of the slab.
- Loose tiles may be replaced if the floor has not been soaked. If water has seeped under sheet flooring, remove the entire sheet.
- While cleaning, wash exposed skin frequently in purified water. Wear rubber gloves.

The forces of a hurricane can leave behind debris-strewn areas, contaminated water, spoiled food, displaced widelife and conditions which, if not treated properly, may lead to health problems. The LSU AgCenter has information to help you avoid and recover from some of the problems created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Here are tips to keep in mnd when restoring your home and belongings. You can also find this information and other recovery topics like using generators, stress management and filing for insurance in our free Storm Recovery Guide. To get yours, call your local LSU AgCenter office or 225.578.2263 or visit our Web site: www.lsuagcenter .com/disasterrecovery




Our Storm Recovery Guide includes information on:

Be Safe:Stay Healthy after a Disaster
- Safety in a Disaster Area
- Dangers of Debris
- Entering a Damaged Building
- Food and Water Safety
- Critters in Unusual Places
- Avoiding Mold Hazards
- These are Trying Times

Surviving/Recovering from a Power Outage
- Using Generators for Electrical Power
- Play it Safe with Food
- How to Cook when the Power Goes Off
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- Power Outage in Winter

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- Determining Structural Damage
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Salvaging Water-damaged Belongings
- Caring for Large Electrical Appliances
- Salvaging and Cleaning Furniture
- Cleaning Carpets and Floors
- Cleaning Storm-soaked Clothing

Lawn and Garden Losses
- Salvage Tips
- Tree Debris and Renewal
- Assessing Landscape Tree Loss
- Small Fruit Strategies after a Storm
- Salinity and Turfgrass after a Hurricane

Financial Recovery and Risk Management
- Documenting Losses and Claims
- Filing for Insurance
- Homeowner's Insurance
- Flood Insurance
- Credit and Other Sources of Relief
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- Contract Essentials

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# Agency says more financing needed

**COAST GUARD,** *from A-1*

saved 33,500 people in Katrina's aftermath across the Gulf Coast. Of that, about 19,000 came from flooded New Orleans area neighborhoods, including 6,500 who were plucked from rooftops or highway overpasses by Coast Guard helicopters, the agency said.

At one point, there were more helicopters involved with Katrina's aftermath than there are in Iraq and Kuwait, the National Guard said.

"As far as I know, it certainly is" the biggest search-and-rescue mission in the Coast Guard's history, said Bob Browning of the Coast Guard Historian's Office in Washington D.C. "It's certainly by far the largest one done by air" for the Coast Guard.

That compares to the June 1944 D-Day invasion, when 60 Coast Guard boats rescued 1,438 men off the coast of Normandy, Browning said.

The massive undertaking raised the Coast Guard's profile and earned the agency praise, a rarity after Katrina since agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross have been widely criticized for their slow response to the storm.

"Basically, the Coast Guard was one of the only success stories coming out of Katrina," said Alane Kochems, a national security policy analyst for the Heritage Foundation, a Washington D.C. conservative think tank.

But the life-saving operations were only part of the task for the Coast Guard, which also is responsible for conducting maritime homeland security patrols, ensuring commercial waterways are navigable and being the federal government's on-scene coordinator for environmental disasters.

"When Katrina hit, all these missions occurred at once in almost biblical proportions," said Capt. Frank Paskewich, commander of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans.

About 1,000 boats and barges were grounded, sunk or tossed over levees by Katrina's surge and winds, Paskewich said. Navigational aids in the Mississippi River and in other waterways were "virtually destroyed," leading to the closure of the Port of New Orleans for four days as well as the entryways to some of the nation's busiest ports, he said. Facilities in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes damaged by Katrina spilled almost 7 million gallons of oil, he said.

Katrina, Paskewich said, presented a huge challenge for this small, "nimble" maritime agency in the Department of Homeland Security whose active duty and reserve forces and its civilian complement total 55,000 people, small enough to fit in New York's Yankee Stadium with room to spare.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Rescue crews patrol in early September near Franklin Avenue and Interstate 10 in New Orleans. In addition to rescues, the Coast Guard is responsible for maritime homeland security patrols and ensuring that commercial waterways are navigable.

The Coast Guard's response, Kochems said, should illustrate to Congress the agency's need for money to modernize its fleet of boats, ships and aircraft in a "chronically underfunded" modernization program called the Integrated Deepwater System, conceived a decade ago.

"If these capabilities were on hand, with modern helicopters, sensors and patrol craft, the Coast Guard's search-and-rescue operations might have been much more effective," Kochems and fellow analyst, James Jay Carafano, wrote recently in a piece titled, "Coast Guard's Finest Hour Ignored by Congress."

About 3,000 Coast Guard personnel from across the nation responded to the Gulf Coast region, even as the agency saw its stations in Grand Isle, Venice and Gulfport, Miss., sustain heavy damage.

But the agency wasn't alone in the quest. New Orleans police and firefighters, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the National Guard and, later, the active duty military were in the streets and air. The first helicopters involved, however, belonged to the Louisiana National Guard's New Orleans-based 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment and the Coast Guard, officials have said.

## Mix and matching easily

The Coast Guard's reaction to Katrina centered around the agency's hurricane response plan, said Capt. Kevin Marshall, chief of staff for the 8th Coast Guard District.

"We practice it, we brief it to all new members when they show up," Marshall said, adding that the plan is revised annually. "It doesn't matter where the hurricane comes in. We're ready."

Two days before the storm, the 8th District's New Orleans headquarters was moved to St. Louis, and another command center was set up in Alexandria. Coast Guard family members were evacuated, and personnel, aircraft and boats were relocated outside the area where Katrina was expected to hit. As the disaster unfolded, officers called in more Coast Guard helicopters and small-boat crews from as far as the Great Lakes region.

Another factor, Marshall said, is that training is universal, allowing helicopter and boat crews to quickly form even though the Coast Guardsmen never met before. "We mixed and matched so many crews to make this happen that we never could have done it unless we had a standard training program," he said.

For aircrews trained to hoist people from boats at sea, the aviators were forced to improvise when plucking people from rooftops, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Eddie Jimenez, a HH-65 Dolphin crew chief based in Belle Chasse. "We train for that, just not that way," he said.

Marshall said members of the agency's volunteer auxiliary helped guide small boat crews who were unfamiliar with New Orleans' streets in their quest to find survivors.

And behind-the-scenes personnel kept the operations rolling. Commanding officers filled helicopters with fuel, and when the fuel pumps failed because of the storm, an electrician's mate second class, Ronnie Gordon, took the initiative to repair the pumps so that aircraft could continue flying, said Belle Chasse-based HH-65 Dolphin pilot Lt. Chris Huberty.

Coast Guard personnel also credit the autonomy they have to carry out their missions. As soon as it was safe to fly, commanders sent aircrews out with simple orders: "These are the areas that need help. You know what to do," Huberty said.

"We told them to handle the mission,'' Marshall said. "They're the ones pulling those babies out of the water."

## Efficient in the skies

The aircrews say no flight was wasted. Helicopters hauled food and water when flying into the city from Belle Chasse or Zephyr Field, used as a refueling and supply hub, and carried people out to safety when leaving the city, Jimenez said.

"We weren't just burning gas," he said.

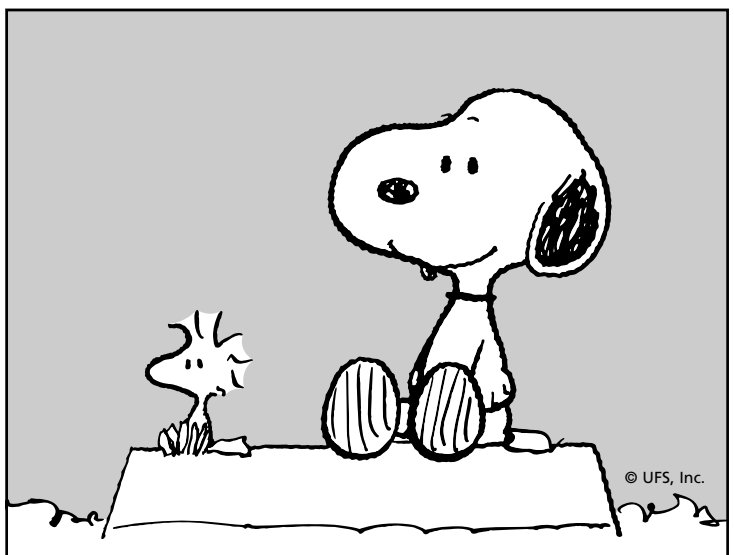
Dill said while flying over the B.W. Cooper public housing development, where much of his efforts were concentrated, someone threw a beer bottle at a rescue swimmer who had been lowered to a roof to offer help. Avoiding the hostility, Dill said, "We move on, find a family that wants to get out of there."

Yet in the same complex, Dill said, a burly man controlled the crowd and decided that older residents would be rescued first and coordinated the distribution of the water that the Coast Guardsmen delivered to them.

"I think the storm brought out the best in people and the worst of people," Dill said.

• • • • • •

Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net.


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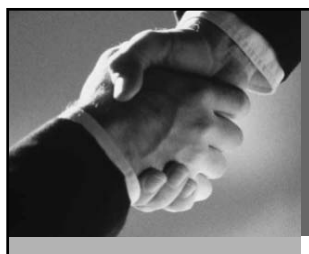
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PLAQUEMINES PARISH: 5,818
JEFFERSON PARISH: 2,500

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- FEMA
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- Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Two crisis hotlines are open: (800) 273-TALK and (800) 749-COPE

## SCHOOL OPENINGS
**ORLEANS PARISH**
- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
- Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country
- De La Salle High School will resume classes Oct. 18 at the temporary location of St. Rita School of Harahan at 194 Ravan Ave., near Jefferson Highway. Classes will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. until civil authorities approve moving back to 5300 St. Charles Ave. De La Salle parents are asked to attend an informational meeting Monday at 6 p.m. at the St. Rita's gym. Registration will take place Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For information, go to www.dlsneworleans.com, call (504) 231-6962, or send e-mail to kirb01@aol.com.

**JEFFERSON PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 targeted opening date for some schools
- Ecole Classique to open Oct. 3. Call (225) 819-2846 to register
- Concordia Lutheran in Marrero to open Oct. 3
- John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge open

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Public: Oct. 3 target date opening date
- Catholic: Several schools already open.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Probably closed for year

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen the Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students Oct. 17. For information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Public: Open
- Catholic: Open

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Public: Open except for students who enrolled after the storm. Those students are expected to begin this week.
- Catholic: Open

## POSTAL SERVICE
- Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
- For harder hit Plaquemines Parish, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit to Belle Chasse, where residents can pick up their mail.
- In New Orleans, outgoing mail will be accepted at a temporary post office in the parking lot between Jax brewery and Canal Place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Postage is available.
- Services are already up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened. Partial delivery has begun for ZIP codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH-BY-PARISH
**ORLEANS**
- Beginning Friday residents were allowed to re-enter the city in these ZIP codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. On Wednesday, residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
- There is a boil-water order in effect for the entire east bank of New Orleans.
- Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital, Oshsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and Kindred DMAT.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson has been lifted.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
- Parish is open
- 911 telephone system is back on line
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
- Parish officials said Tuesday that the parish had recorded its 100th storm-related death.
- All areas of the parish are open. Residents are required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dawn to dusk curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
- Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- Some parts of parish are still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities are working

**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
- Parish is open
- Utilities are working


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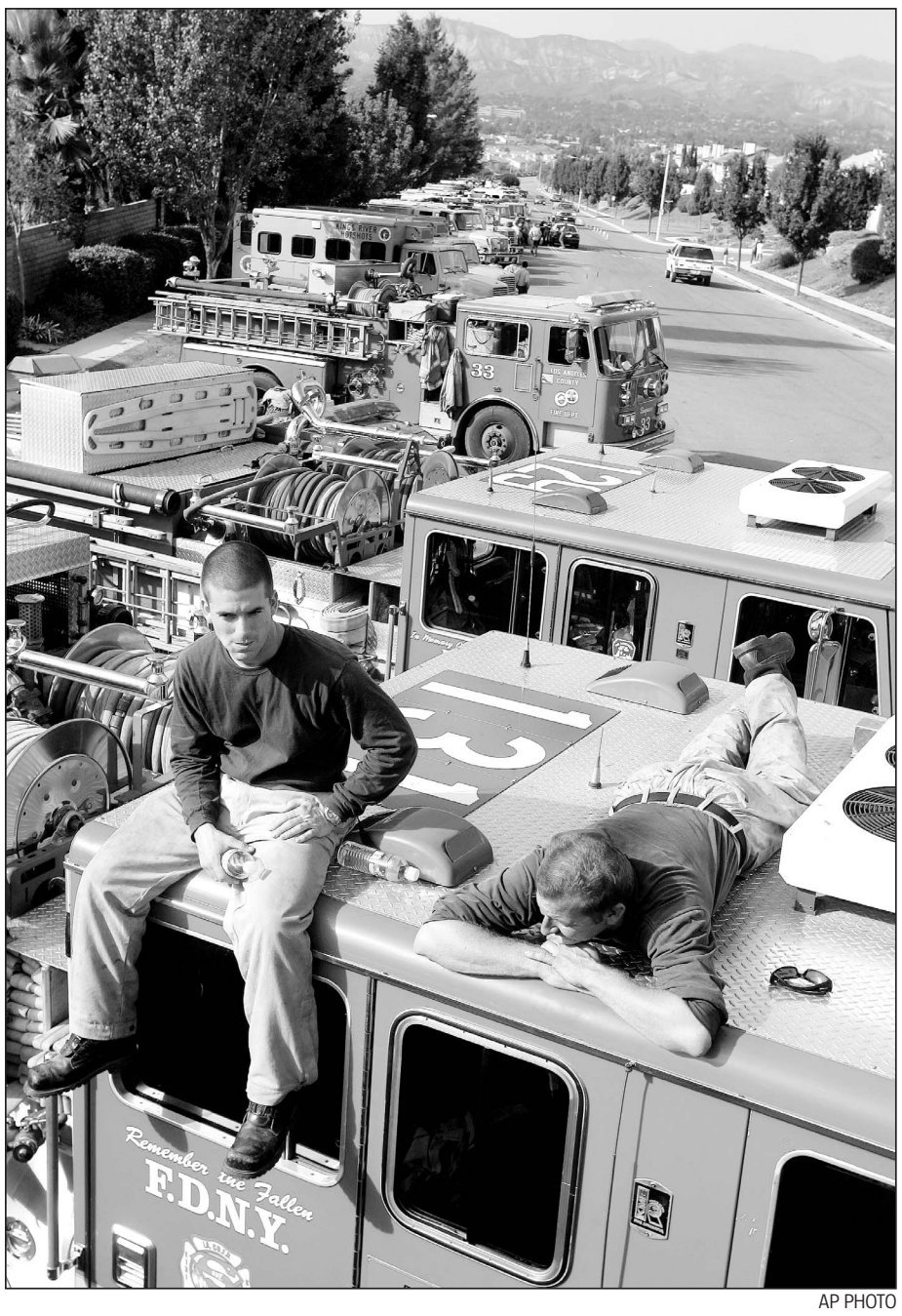
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Firefighter Jason Harryman, left, and engineer Dean Bayer of the Los Angeles County Fire Department rest on top of Engine 131 in Simi Valley, Calif., on Friday.

AP PHOTO

# Only 2 homes destroyed in wildfires in California

## *Quick response, weather are credited*

**By Michael R. Blood**
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — A wildfire that torched more than 23,000 acres on the edge of the city left a surprising legacy: it destroyed just two homes, a remarkably small number given the size and ferocity of the blaze.

A break in dry, windy weather and a speedy, pinpoint response by thousands of firefighters combined to spare scores of homes that stood in the path of the flames, officials said.

"It's thinking ahead of where you think the fire is going to be: looking at weather reports, wind speed, humidity, past burn patterns," said Battalion Chief Lou Roupoli of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

"It's like fighting a war," Roupoli added. "Everybody has a piece of the puzzle. Everybody has a chain of command they report to."

Coming just weeks after the chaotic response to Hurricane Katrina, the textbook effort in Los Angeles County prompted this reaction from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger: "Spectacular."

"We have the best fire department ... the best firefighters, the best fire chiefs, the best coordination, great communication," the governor said.

The fire began Wednesday afternoon in the Chatsworth area of northwest Los Angeles, then spread quickly in high winds.

By Saturday afternoon, firefighting equipment was heading elsewhere, the blaze mostly put down.

There were six injuries, none serious. Neighborhoods that had been evacuated were reopened to residents.

"There is very little, if any, active fire out there," said Kurt Schaefer, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "We are getting the upper hand."

Beyond skilled firefighting, there were two other factors.

The dry, desert winds that fanned the fire were pushed out Thursday by a stream of moist ocean air. And residents had planned ahead by cutting brush around their homes to create safety buffers.

"Brush clearance creates the defensible space that's needed, at least 100 feet surrounding the house," said Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Michael Brown, referring to a state law that requires homes in high fire-risk areas to cut surrounding brush. "Areas that did burn were not cleared."

Moreover, firefighters have learned from the past, including the 2003 San Diego fires, when a bungled response was blamed for the loss of hundreds of homes.

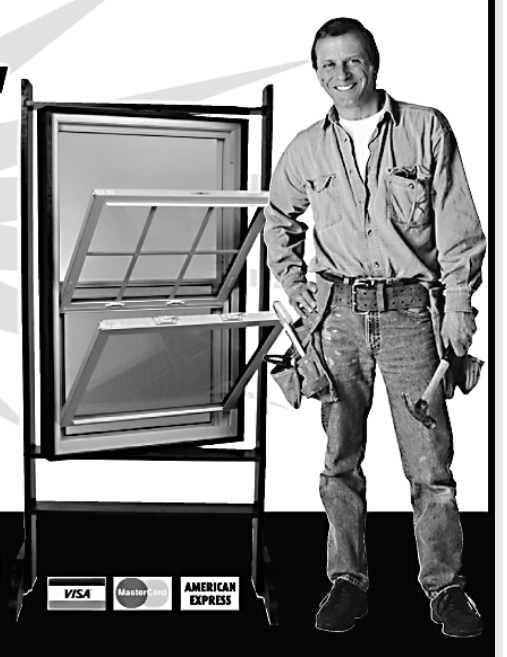
This time, helicopters were used even at night to drop water. Firefighters from various agencies — the fire burned along the Los Angeles and Ventura county lines — coordinated on how best to deploy personnel and equipment.

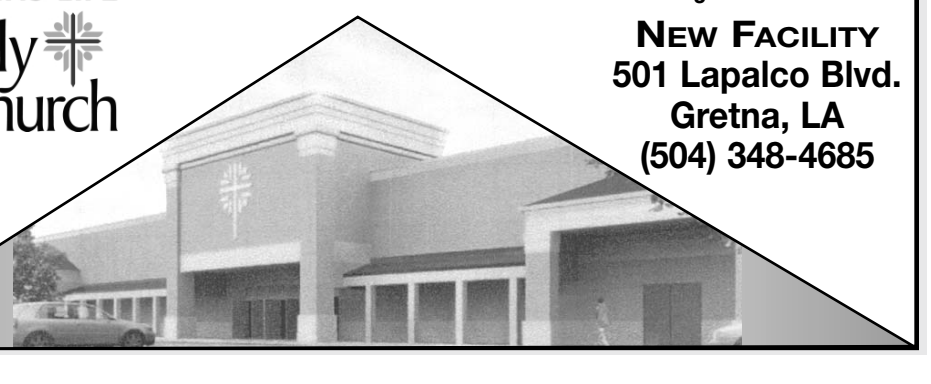
"We've been able to put those things we've learned in the past in place and save many more structures," Brown said.

Meanwhile, firefighters battled another wildfire Saturday in Burbank that blackened about 1,100 acres. About 70 homes in the rugged area 10 miles north of downtown Los Angeles were evacuated as a precaution.

Hundreds of emergency personnel were fighting a third fire about 70 miles east of Los Angeles in and around the San Bernardino National Forest. The blaze had charred 1,000 acres, said Robin Prince, spokeswoman for the national forest.

About 1,200 people were evacuated from several small communities in the area Friday, including Mountain Home Village, Angelus Oaks and Forest Falls.


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# U.S. millionaire hurtles into space

## *Scientist pays $20 million for ride from Russians*

**By Mike Eckel**
Associated Press writer

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN — U.S. millionaire scientist Gregory Olsen and an American-Russian crew hurtled toward the international space station Saturday on a Soyuz craft in a journey his family said was motivated by a devotion to science.

Relatives and friends of Olsen, astronaut William McArthur and cosmonaut Valery Tokarev gasped as the Russian craft lifted off in a burst of flame from the Baikonur cosmodrome and soared into the bright autumn sky over the steppes of Kazakhstan.

As the announcement came that the spacecraft had entered its initial designated orbit nine minutes after the launch, the crowd burst into applause.

The crew reported that all was well aboard the Soyuz TMA-7 capsule, which will rendezvous on Monday with the station floating 250 miles above the Earth.

"Life is good," said Cynthia McArthur, whose husband is a three-time veteran of U.S. space shuttle flights.

However, Russian space officials injected a sour note, warning that they could not guarantee McArthur's return next spring at the end of his and Tokarev's six-month mission unless NASA pays for the flight.

Since the 2003 Columbia disaster grounded the U.S. shuttle fleet, the United States has depended on Russian Soyuz and Progress craft to ferry its astronauts and supplies to the orbiting space station. Discovery visited the station in July, but problems with the foam insulation on its external fuel tank cast doubt on when the shuttle will fly again.



AP PHOTO

Scientist Gregory Olsen gives the thumbs up before a pressure test before his launch Saturday from the Baikonur Cosmodome as part of an American-Russian crew headed for the International Space Station. He was accompanied by astronaut William McArthur and Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev.

U.S. law currently bars NASA from making such payments to Russia.

The Soyuz make twice-yearly missions to the station to deliver new crews and bring back astronauts.

McArthur and Tokarev are replacing Russian Sergei Krikalev and American John Phillips, who will return to Earth on Oct. 11, along with Olsen, a 60-year-old founder of an infrared-camera maker based in Princeton, N.J. He reportedly paid $20 million for a seat on the Expedition 12 flight.

Olsen's daughter, Krista Dibsie, 31, videotaped the launch. "There goes Dad," she said quietly, tears rolling down her cheeks. "Love ya, Dad."

"Now I'm nervous for him," she said. "I wasn't before but now he's up there and, gosh, he's out of this world. I know that's a corny thing to say, but I can't believe it."

Her father, who holds advanced degrees in physics and materials science, has defended his presence in the capsule as a necessary step in the evolution of space travel.

"I would hope that my flight would help, if just to make space flight more routine," Olsen said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on the eve of the flight.

At Russian Mission Control in Korolyov, outside Moscow, Olsen's sister, Amy McCarroll, said her brother was motivated by a devotion to science.

"He is a scientist first of all, and that's his main reason for going up there ... to help mankind, to see what comes from his experiments," she said.

The cash-strapped Russian agency has turned to space tourism to generate money.

Olsen said he preferred the term "space flight participant" to "space tourist."

"'Tourism' implies that anyone can just write a check and go up there. That's not what happened," he told AP.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin, who met with his Russian counterpart, Anatoly Perminov, in Baikonur for talks on the future of joint space missions, warned that Moscow's demands for payment could end U.S participation.

Russia has made it clear that it expects the United States to make payment or some sort of capital investment in exchange for future U.S. participation on Russian flights.

But a law passed in 2000 penalizes countries that sell unconventional weapons and missile technology to Iran, and Russia is helping Iran build an $800 million atomic power plant despite concerns Tehran will build nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Senate has agreed to amend the measure and lift the ban on NASA purchases of Soyuz seats until 2012. The House has yet to act on it.

**ATTORNEY INTERIMLY SUSPENDED**

Alan J. Green, of Gretna, has been interimly suspended from the practice of law by order of the Louisiana Supreme Court dated August 25, 2005. He may not practice law in Louisiana pending further orders of the Court.

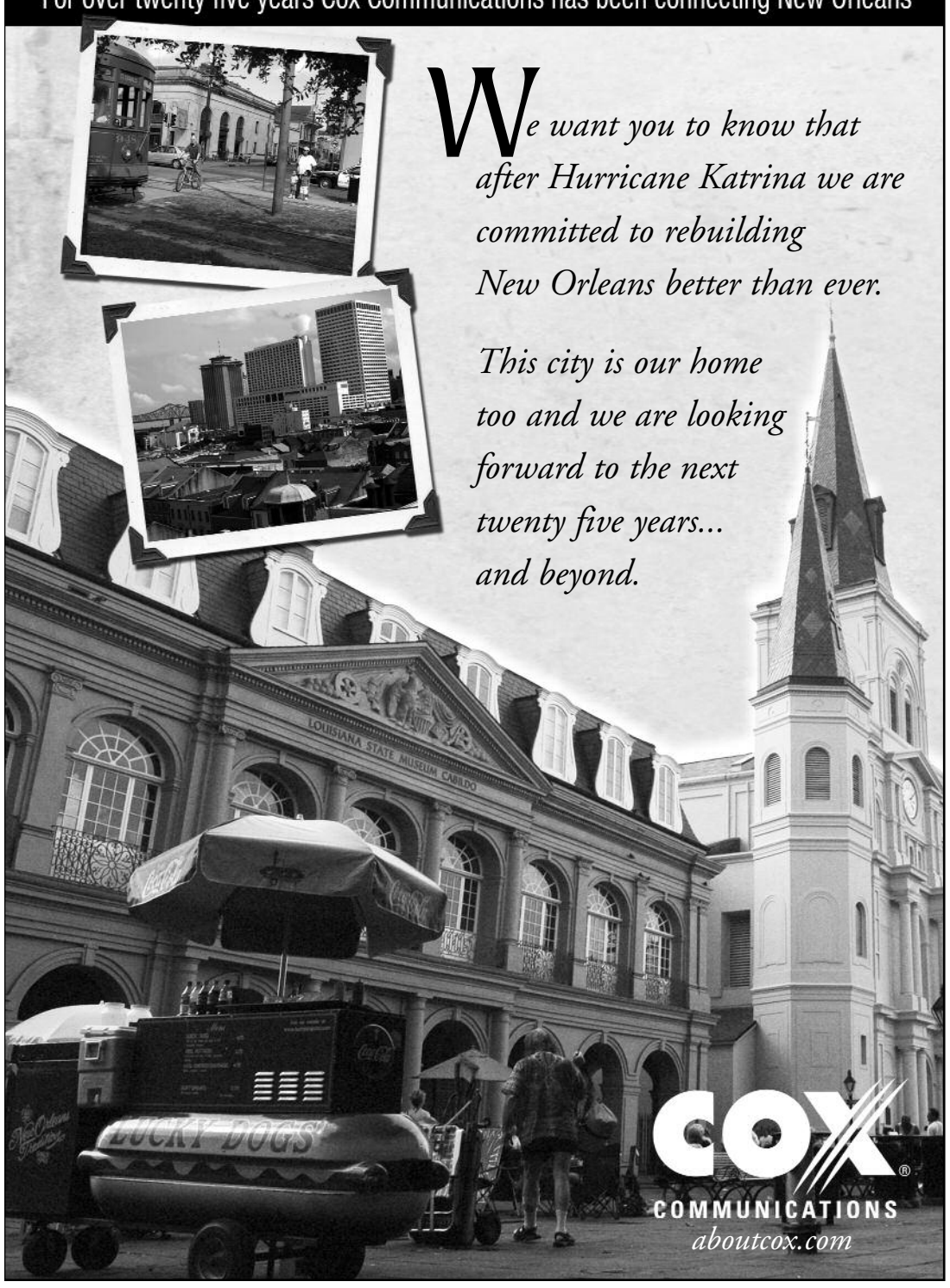
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LAYOFFS, *from A-1*

said that without a significant infusion of cash, the number of layoffs could approach 3,000.

## Serving notice

Because the City Hall layoff process would be guided to some degree by seniority, the review procedure could take weeks to complete.

During past fiscal crises, City Hall layoff orders have been halted or mitigated after city officials were able to locate money. The current dilemma, however, is so severe that city officials say massive layoffs are inevitable.

The document signed by Hatfield, obtained Saturday by The Times-Picayune, addresses both classified jobs protected by Civil Service rules and unclassified, or appointive, posts controlled by the mayor. It provides "written notice" for the layoffs to "take effect on Oct. 14 or as soon thereafter as practical."

Hatfield asks Civil Service Director Lisa Hudson to "please proceed in the appropriate and necessary manner required by law."

With all but a fraction of New Orleans' population still scattered across the nation five weeks after Katrina left the city's infrastructure in tatters, Nagin said Thursday that the city essentially "is broke."

The city delivered paychecks to its entire work force Friday. But city officials familiar with the layoff discussions said that may be the last time the full payroll is met for the foreseeable future as officials search for alternative sources of revenue.

The Nagin administration is negotiating with lenders and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide money for salaries. But the FEMA talks have been complicated by rules that limit federal reimbursement to overtime payments for public safety personnel.

Finance Director Reggie Zeno has said the city asked FEMA to waive its rules and provide full salaries for all employees that the administration determines are needed to keep the city running.

## Mass retirements expected

A "joint statement" prepared this week by the administration and the Civil Service Commission also obtained Saturday by the newspaper lays out the rationale for the layoff procedure.

The statement says "the state of emergency declared by" Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Nagin in the wake of Hurricane Katrina "is of continuing force and effect" and "directly affects the continued employment of classified and unclassified employees."

"Due to loss of revenue," it says, the mayor has asked city department heads to "immediately provide names of employees essential and critical to the city's recovery."

The document says those employees have already been notified.

"Considering the loss of local revenue," the statement continues, the city and the commission "deem circumstances warrant that all employees, whether classified or unclassified as of September 25, 2005, are on emergency leave without pay," a designation that triggers the layoff procedure.

"We anticipate this process to be completed within two weeks," the statement said.

While Civil Service rules dictate that employees placed on leave without pay are entitled to receive compensation for all unused sick and vacation pay, city officials who requested anonymity said Saturday it is unlikely those benefits will be received any time soon.

Many municipal employees have speculated that the city's dire financial straits may prompt scores of veteran City Hall bureaucrats to retire.

"If that happens," a city worker with more than two decades of experience said, "the institutional knowledge we stand to lose is staggering."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Mayor Ray Nagin talks with Sewerage & Water Board Executive Director Marcia St. Martin at the water purification plant in Algiers after Hurricane Katrina. City employees that have a direct impact on public safety – including those with the water board, the police and fire departments, and the emergency medical unit that runs ambulance services – are expected to be spared in the city's anticipated round of upcoming layoffs.

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NATION

# Demos to add contests in the name of diversity

*Primary may add a Southern state*

**By Will Lester**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Democrats trying to change their party's presidential primary for 2008 agreed Saturday to allow at least two other states to join Iowa and New Hampshire in voting during the opening days of the nominating campaign.

That expansion, debated before a commission considering changes in the primary calendar, is intended to provide more racial and geographic diversity to an opening process now dominated by Iowa and New Hampshire. Those states, representing about 1.5 percent of the country's population, have residents who are mostly white.

The additional states, expected to be named later, are likely to include a smaller state from the South and a smaller state from the Southwest or West.

Democrats agreed that it is critical that the early part of the voting be dominated by the personal, door-to-door politics that allows candidates to compete without a huge amount of money.

However, Democratic consultant Steve Murphy warned that it is critical they make no changes that help Republicans. Murphy and Iowa Democratic activist Jerry Crawford said Democrats should avoid stepping on the leadoff roles of Iowa and New Hampshire because they could anger voters in those states and make GOP victories there very likely in the general election.

"The Republicans are licking their chops today, hoping we stumble and give them the first good news they have had in months," said Crawford, a commission member.

**"I do not think we should make the assumption that Iowa and New Hampshire should always be in the group" of states leading off the voting.**

SEN. CARL LEVIN
D-Michigan

While Democrats agreed on expanding the early voting, sharp differences emerged on bigger questions such as slowing the pace of the primary calendar from early February on and whether Iowa and New Hampshire should have a permanent place at the front of the process.

"I do not think we should make the assumption that Iowa and New Hampshire should always be in the group" of states leading off the voting, said Sen. Carl Levin, the Michigan lawmaker whose complaints about the current calendar prompted the formation of the commission.

Longtime Democratic activist Harold Ickes of Washington questioned whether those changes will help the party's chances because the current calendar moves too quickly. Ickes noted that Democrats worked for a faster selection process of a Democratic nominee in 2004. By March the party had all but nominated Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

"We wanted to shut down the system and get our candidate out early," Ickes said. "If ever there was a foundering ship that was it. The longer we went on, the lower we went down in the polls. If we'd had a year we'd have been down around zero."

Commission members from Iowa and New Hampshire differed with Levin's argument that their states don't deserve to lead off the process.

"The more states we put into that period, the more it will contribute to frontloading," former New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said. "You can't separate the two."

The commission, led by Rep. David Price of North Carolina and former Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, planned to make its recommendations in December.

# Murder charge filed in case of abandoned child

*Authorities search for mom's remains*

**By Nahal Toosi**
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — A Queens man was charged Saturday with murdering his live-in girlfriend, a week after the woman's 4-year-old daughter was found walking down a city street alone in the middle of the night, police said.

Cesar Ascarrunz, 32, was arrested on murder charges two days after he was picked up by investigators, police said. Authorities were still searching Saturday for 26-year-old Monica Lozada's remains.

More than a dozen tips came in to police after child welfare officials took the unusual step of putting the child, Valerie Lozada, on television Thursday, in the hopes it would produce more information. In the appearance, Valerie described her mother as looking "like a princess."

Lozada was last seen at the apartment she shared with Ascarrunz on Sept. 24, at 11:45 p.m., authorities said. A little more than an hour later, Valerie was found on a Queens street, shivering and barefoot. She told residents that her father dropped her off and drove away, but showed no signs of abuse. She remained in foster care Saturday.

Authorities used records from the child's day care center to figure out her mother's identity, and declared her a missing person on Friday.

Ascarrunz also was charged with reckless endangerment, endangering the welfare of a child, child abandonment and evidence tampering, said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. If convicted on the murder charge, he faces 25 years to life in prison.

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AP PHOTO

Edgardo Rivera and Pablo Santiago, right, are among the couples waiting outside the city clerk's office in Hartford, Conn., to obtain a civil union license. The licenses were available for the first time on Saturday.

# Same-sex union licenses are issued

*Connecticut couples get new legal rights*

**By Cara Rubinsky**
Associated Press writer

HARTFORD, CONN. — After receiving their civil union license Saturday, Lidia Agramonte and Maria Gomez had all the same rights as a married couple in Connecticut. But they couldn't find words to describe their union.

"The hardest thing is, what do you call yourself: civilized?" said Agramonte, 47, a social worker from New Britain. "There are no words for it yet."

The women were the first in line at Hartford City Hall as a new law allowing same-sex civil unions took effect. City halls in Hartford, Stamford, New Haven and a half-dozen small towns held special weekend hours to issue certificates to couples who said they waited for years to be legally recognized.

Connecticut became the first state to legalize civil unions without being forced by the courts after lawmakers passed a law endorsing the unions in April. Massachusetts allows gay marriages and Vermont recognizes civil unions because of lawsuits.

"This is a historic day. We're beyond ecstatic," said Randy Sharp, 46, of Plainville, who obtained a license with his partner, Jeff Blanchette, 44. They planned an afternoon ceremony followed by a reception for about 50 people at a friend's house.

The law affords all the legal rights of marriage ó such as spousal health care benefits ó to same-sex couples, but defines marriage as between a man and a woman. Heterosexual couples cannot get civil unions. The license application is identical to one for marriage, except "bride" and "groom" are replaced with "party 1" and "party 2."

The 2000 U.S. census found about 7,400 same-sex couples in Connecticut, but no one was tracking how many applied for licenses Saturday. The day passed with few reports of protests, except for a rally at the Capitol sponsored by the Family Institute of Connecticut. It drew about 50 people.

"Oct. 1 is a tragic day because it's the first day a law goes into effect that states a legislative belief that children don't need both a mom and a dad," said Peter Wolfgang, the director of public policy for the institute.


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# Race of juries challenged in Boston case

*Judge trying to get more black jurors*

**By Denise Lavoie**
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — For years, defense attorneys have complained that seating a jury in federal court in Boston usually yields one of two panels: all-white or almost all-white.

After several failed challenges to the system, a judge hearing the federal death penalty case of two black men has issued a ruling that could change things.

Judge Nancy Gertner ordered court administrators to send additional summonses to certain zip codes when mailings are returned as undeliverable. In her ruling last month, Gertner said targeting certain zip codes may increase the likelihood that black jurors will be in the pool for the trial of Darryl Green and Branden Morris, who are charged in the 2001 gang killing of Terrell Gethers.

Without such a change, Gertner said, an all-white or largely white jury probably will decide not only their guilt or innocence, but whether they live or die.

"Such an outcome should be profoundly troubling, to say the least," Gertner wrote.

Her decision has created a stir in Boston's legal community, and U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan appealed Gertner's ruling to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is scheduled to hear the case Monday.

More than a dozen defense attorneys and civil rights groups have co-signed legal briefs praising Gertner's decision. She also won support from William Young, chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Boston, who took the unusual step of filing his own brief.

But prosecutors argue that Gertner's ruling disrupts the goal of selecting the jury pool at random.

Sullivan said Gertner lacks authority to change the jury selection plan. Only the district court as a whole can enact such changes, he said, to avoid the potential for inconsistency.

"Any suggestion that the (office) is opposing the court's order because it supports or wishes to continue any under-representation of any segment of the population is misleading and false," he said in a statement.

In her ruling, Gertner agreed with defense attorneys that resident lists used to summon potential jurors are more likely to be inaccurate in areas with the highest percentage of black residents. Resident lists are compiled through town census forms.

She said poorer communities have few financial resources to update their resident lists or follow up on summonses that cannot be delivered.

The situation was ironic, Gertner said, because Massachusetts pioneered the use of resident lists instead of voter rolls for jury selection in an attempt to maximize minority participation.

Other methods to find potential jurors include tax rolls or driver's license records, said Iloilo Marguerite Jones, executive director of the American Jury Institute/Fully Informed Jury Association, a nonprofit group based in Helena, Mont.

Jones said each method has the potential for under-representing some groups. But Jones praised Gertner's ruling, which specifies that when a jury summons is returned as undeliverable, the jury administrator should send a second notice. If that notice goes unanswered, a new summons should be sent to another person in the same zip code.

"I think what this judge has done is to try to find a level of remediation that is both logical and fair," Jones said.

Morris' attorney, Patricia Garin, called Gertner's remedy "a first step," but said it won't make juries truly representative of the community.

"But it's going to be a step in the right direction," Garin said. "It's going to make it somewhat more likely that we might see in our case, and defendants in other cases, may see people of color on their juries."

# Slayings terrify migrant workers

**By Russ Bynum**
Associated Press writer

TIFTON, GA. — Pedro Bemol stayed awake most of the night, swapping lookout shifts in the dark with the five other Mexican immigrants who share a ragged mobile home with no electricity and a front door that won't close because of a broken latch.

"Right now, we're afraid to go to sleep — all of us are restless," the 36-year-old said Saturday outside his home, two doors down from the trailer where robbers killed two of his neighbors. "We don't know if they'll come in and get us in the night, break in while we're asleep."

The slayings of five Mexican immigrants and wounding of six others during a string of mobile home robberies early Friday has terrified Hispanics who come to this rural south Georgia community to work in the fields of cotton and peanut farms.

Investigators suspect at least two men committed the attacks at four mobile home parks — three in Tift County and one in neighboring Colquitt County — and targeted Hispanics not out of hatred, but because they're easy prey.

"They're ready-made victims," said Vernon Keenan, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. "They're reluctant to go to the police. They speak very little English. What little cash they have, they keep on their persons or in their homes."

At least two of the men killed were shot. Others were beaten with aluminum baseball bats, a weapon used in all four attacks, Keenan said.

A relative said all but one of the dead belonged to the same family. Keenan said investigators have only determined two were related, a father and son killed in the same residence.

Investigators were following several leads after police released sketches of two attackers based on descriptions from surviving victims, but no arrests had been made. Keenan said crimes against Hispanics are becoming more common in southern Georgia.

"There's been a series of these in surrounding counties for four or five months, but never of this level of violence," Keenan said.

Authorities were still withholding the names of the dead. Police were working with the Mexican consulate in Atlanta to notify victims' families in Mexico, said Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead.


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# Chefs itching to feed the masses

**RESTAURANTS,** *from A-1*

"Come back tomorrow," Tenney Flynn told one group of potential customers – and then another – seeking lunch at his ZydeQue Cajun Barbeque on Iberville Street in the French Quarter Thursday. "We'll be open tomorrow. I promise."

Flynn kept his word on Friday, opening a restaurant that, from the vantage of one of its stools, looks just as it did before the storm, a cross between barbecue joint grit and French Quarter neon, unharmed by flood water or hurricane winds.

The situation is different behind the curtain, where Flynn and partner Gary Wollerman, who also own the still-shuttered GW Fins, overcome post-Katrina challenges: refrigeration that took days to clean and sanitize; no gas to power stoves; a water supply that, for the purposes of a restaurant, is essentially useless.

Yet one could say Flynn, who is living in Folsom in a trailer with no power, is lucky. Thanks to a jerry-rigged smoker, ZydeQue is offering much of its regular menu, including spare ribs, debris gumbo, and brisket and cochon du lait sandwiches.

"We'll do pretty much everything but the fried items," Flynn said. "I was just boiling potatoes for the potato salad in jug water. We're trying to be as sanitary as possible."

Red Fish Grill also opened Friday and, like ZydeQue, is serving food using disposable dishes and utensils. The normally seafood-centric restaurant's menu features just a handful of entrees: grilled chicken, hamburgers and, of course, redfish. "You'll notice the common theme is the grill," owner Ralph Brennan said. "That way we'll only have to wash a limited number of pots."

A scaled-down menu is the key for many restaurateurs.

Scott Boswell, the ambitious chef-owner of Stella!, has been grilling hamburgers and sausage sandwiches outside his French Quarter restaurant. Similar fare is available not far away at the Royal Street Grocery and Deli. On Thursday night, Dr. Brobson Lutz, a Galatoire's regular and the city's former health director, sat at one of the grocery's bare tables, singing the praises of the crawfish sausage poboys. Around the same time, Mayor Ray Nagin was serving himself from the Sheraton Hotel's dinner buffet.

Tom Wolfe, chef-owner of three New Orleans restaurants, is concentrating on reopening Peristyle, his French Quarter flagship. At the moment, he has no other choice: Wolfe's of New Orleans, his restaurant in Lakeview, was "completely submerged," while Wolfe's in the Warehouse, on Convention Center Boulevard, was looted, he said.

Two weeks ago, he was cleaning Peristyle and envisioning its rebirth as a pastry/coffee shop during the day and a more-or-less regular restaurant in the evening. "As soon as the lights come on, and as soon as we can get resources coming in the back door, we'll open," he said at the time. Hurricane Rita altered his plans. Early last week, Wolfe was talking about cooking on the sidewalk with a propane stove.

"I just need to get back cooking," he said.

The dining action may be concentrated in New Orleans' more populated downtown, but signs of life exist elsewhere.

Uptown, Slim Goodies Diner emerged from Katrina as New Orleans' go-to lunch destination. Cooter Brown's opened Friday in the Riverbend. "I've got shrimp, I've got catfish, I've got burgers, meat pies," said Art Depodesta, who owns the restaurant connected to the popular saloon. The bar will be open for alcohol and football viewing – "We've got cable, satellite, wi-fi," Depodesta said - but not raw oysters.

In Harahan, Chef Paul Prudhomme transformed his Magic Seasoning Blends headquarters into a giant commissary. Two weeks ago, in the makeshift tent kitchen erected in a rear parking lot, chicken in Creole tomato sauce sizzled in wide pans. The chicken would feed rescue personnel, a daily task at the compound, but the chef was already looking to reopen K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen, his famous French Quarter restaurant. Early this week, he plans to do just that.

K-Paul's menu will be smaller and less expensive. "I'm looking at $12 to $18, and you get a full meal," Prudhomme said. "You do three or four main courses, maybe a salad, a dessert with it."

"People keep asking, 'When are you going to reopen the restaurant?' " Prudomme said as he oversaw cooks tending batches of butter beans and etouffee. "The answer is, 'As soon as I can.'"

Before Hurricane Rita reflooded parts of the area, La Cote Brasserie, the restaurant in the Renaissance Arts Hotel, was nearly ready for business. The power was on, the refrigerators stocked, and three tanker trucks filled with water for drinking and dishwashing were parked out back. Chuck Subra returned to New Orleans this weekend, following a protracted Rita evacuation that involved numerous flight cancellations and a trip through his native New Iberia to help family members board up homes.

La Cote, noted for its gumbo and trout in butter, opened for business Saturday, mainly serving Federal Emergency Management Agency workers and insurance company representatives staying at the hotel. But Subra said neighborhood residents in need of a good meal were welcome, too.

The restaurant is open, said Subra, whose menu features gumbo, trout in butter and red beans on Monday, "but not really open."

Yet the days of serving seared foie gras and post-prandial cognacs may not be far off.

Thursday afternoon, Steven McHugh, sous chef at Restaurant August, diced herbs in the restaurant's second-floor kitchen. A hose from a water truck parked outside ran through a broken window up to where the chef was cooking for a group of 30 local politicos and CNN employees. They had booked August's private dining room for a multi-course meal: house salad followed by porcini risotto with truffle foam followed by a combination entrée, bordelaise-draped rib eye and chicken in apricot vinaigrette with creamy polenta. "For dessert I have a chocolate-orange panna cotta with a gold leaf," McHugh said.

McHugh said he and John Besh, the restaurant's chef-owner, are trying to have August open for regular service by Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a few blocks away at Herbsaint, chef-owner Donald Link huddled with a small crew drinking cold Carta Blanca longnecks amid tables set before Katrina blew through. Their task: writing the "No Potable Menu" that Link hopes to debut this Friday.

"We thought at first we'd just do chicken sandwiches and hamburgers, but after eating that for a few days, I was like: 'No way,' " Link said. The handwritten menu on the yellow legal pad in front of him included gumbo made with chicken and freshly harvested shellfish, handmade fettuccine with roasted garlic and morel mushrooms, shrimp remoulade, and pork belly with braised white beans.

Serving steak frites will depend on whether Link can track down his organic beef guy. "I don't want to do hangar steaks unless I can get good hangar steaks," he said.

Soon after opening, Link sees the menu expanding with the addition of duck confit, a daily seafood special, maybe some whole roasted crabs. And he's optimistic there will be plenty of business to go around.

"We've had like five people in really nice cars come by in the last couple of hours, looking for some good food," he said. "Our phone rang for the first time today, too. That was pretty exciting."




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

ABOVE: Chef Tom Wolfe of Peristyle removes boards that covered his windows during Hurricane Katrina. Wolfe said he hopes to open as soon as possible. 'I need to get back cooking.'

LEFT: The main sign for Emeril's Delmonico restaurant lies broken on the curb, a victim of high winds.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Plates normally used for fine dining at Herbsaint still are packed in protective wrap a month after Katrina blew through.

## On menu for local restaurants: HEALTH INSPECTION

*Teams make rounds of local eateries*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

As hungry patrons clamored for food at Slim Goodies diner Friday just before noon, three officers in camouflage uniforms came in and halted lunch before it began.

The jukebox stopped playing music, and about 15 people sat with soda cans, waiting for their burgers.

"It's the Department of Health, so we have to wait," waitress Wanda Hendersen told customers.

"Somebody get up and play some tunes for me," she said. "I can't stand the silence."

In the kitchen, where owner Kappa Horn has spent a lot of time at the grill in the past two weeks, three officers with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a branch of the Health and Human Services Department, inspected the diner.

Capt. Pfister, who declined to give his first name, said seven teams from the health service and the Food and Drug Administration are checking local restaurants. Last week they inspected schools.

Pfister said the officers were checking cooking and food-storage temperatures, and ensuring that restaurants aren't serving nonpotable water. "We don't expect everything to be 100 percent," he said.

About 20 minutes after the officers arrived at Slim Goodies, Horn emerged from the kitchen and beef was sizzling on the grill. Johnny Cash's "I Walk the Line" played on the jukebox, and the sanitarians sat in the courtyard to write up a report.

As restaurants and retail food establishments reopen in the New Orleans area, the state Department of Health is requiring each to be inspected.

When they are cleared for reopening, an official placard will be posted in a window or conspicuous location.

"Some of them may just not realize there is a procedure to follow," said Kristen Meyer, Health Department public information officer. "We have to make sure that we are not putting people at risk for food-borne illness."

Meyer said teams from the U.S. Public Health Service, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are helping the state in its effort.

As of Friday, she said, 741 food establishments had been cleared to operate in Jefferson Parish and 30 were cleared for operation in Algiers, but none had been OK'd on the east bank.

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Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.

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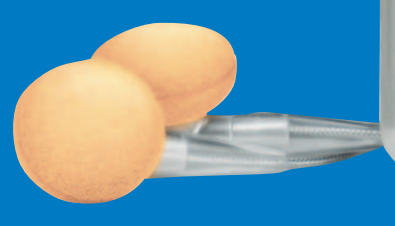




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**"If New Orleans rebuilds and they go back to New Orleans, that's great. And that's probably the right thing to do, quite frankly. But if something happens to New Orleans, they don't rebuild (the Superdome) or whatever happens, then maybe they do at some point look seriously at us."**

Bexar County Judge NELSON WOLFF, the San Antonio area's most influential local politician, who was mayor when the Alamodome was built

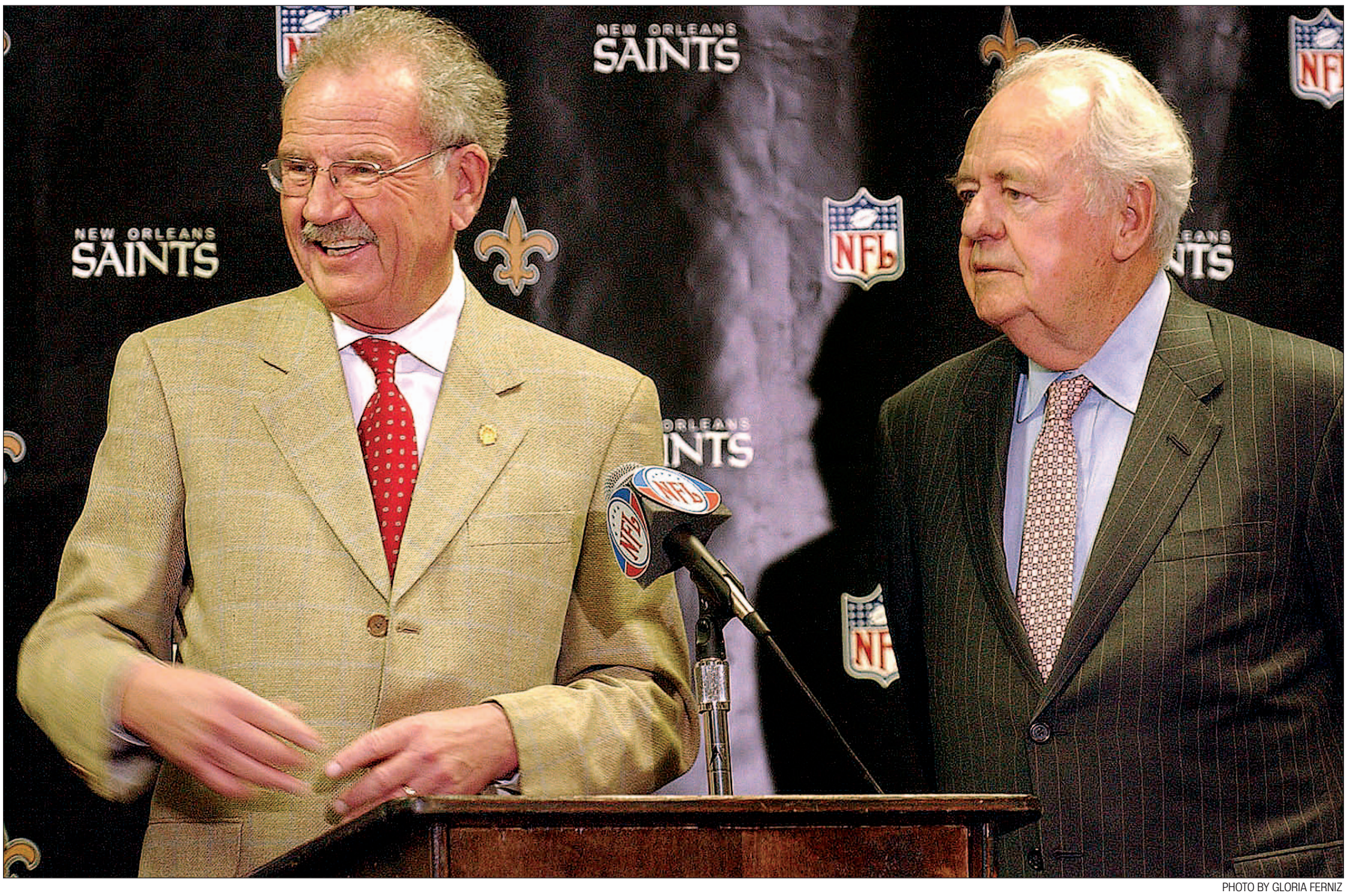



PHOTO BY GLORIA FERNIZ

San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger and Saints owner Tom Benson announce the Saints will play three games in the Alamodome this year, after the team was chased from the Superdome by Hurricane Katrina. While never publicly stating an interest in relocating his team to San Antonio, Benson has done little to quell that speculation.

# THE SAN ANTONIO SAINTS?

## *NFL says no, but city could make a play for franchise*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — After more than a decade of flirtations and frustrations, San Antonio will finally host its first regular-season National Football League game this afternoon when the Saints play the Buffalo Bills in the Alamodome.

What remains to be seen is whether this is the start of something big, or just one more big tease for a city that built the 65,000-seat indoor stadium in 1993 with the specific intent of trying to lure an NFL franchise.

This is the first of three games the Saints will play in the Alamodome this season after being chased from the Superdome in the devastating wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Under different circumstances, the Alamo City might be lauded for stepping up to the plate and providing a respectable home for a desperate team. But a series of factors – namely Saints owner Tom Benson's contentious negotiations on a long-term lease agreement in Louisiana before the hurricane hit – have turned this into an uncomfortably cozy relationship in many eyes.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, for one, has been emphatic in his stance that the league has no interest in moving any team to San Antonio, labeling the city a "small market" in an interview with The Times-Picayune two weeks ago. Tagliabue said the only market the NFL has interest in is Los Angeles.

The commissioner has long opposed San Antonio's viability. When the city applied for an expansion franchise in the early 1990s, it didn't even make the short list.

And since then, San Antonio has served as little more than a bargaining chip for NFL owners hoping to land sweeter deals back home.

Tagliabue's latest comments dampened the spirits of even the most enthusiastic city leaders, who felt this unique situation would provide them with a golden opportunity to change the commissioner's mind – and perhaps offer a permanent home to the Saints as early as next season.

"(Tagliabue's comments) didn't surprise me. I think I'm a little bit more realistic than some of the other fellas are. I've been through it," said Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, the area's most influential local politician, who was mayor when the Alamodome was constructed.

"Tom has an interest in us — apparently he does — and of course, he used to live here," Wolff said of Benson, who has longstanding personal and professional ties to San Antonio. "But the attitude I have, and I think (current mayor Phil Hardberger's) attitude is similar to mine, you say, 'Let's do a good job, let's do the best we can for the three games, let the cards fall where they fall.'

"If New Orleans rebuilds and they go back to New Orleans, that's great. And that's probably the right thing to do, quite frankly. But if something happens to New Orleans, they don't rebuild (the Superdome) or whatever happens, then maybe they do at some point look seriously at us.

"But I'm not holding my breath, and I'm not going to break my back on a deal that doesn't look very viable at this point."

Benson has never publicly stated an interest in relocating his team here. But he also has done very little to quell that speculation.

In fact, Benson has been very quiet, allowing hope to grow in San Antonio and allowing fear to spread throughout his fractured fan base.

Benson has repeatedly declined interview requests, making only occasional statements thanking the people of San Antonio and supporting the people back in New Orleans.

Only once was the Saints owner available in a brief news conference setting three weeks ago. And when asked directly about his long-term plans, he responded, "We intend to present a first-class team. First class all the way to the Super Bowl."

### Tough negotiator

Even if he has no intention of leaving New Orleans, Benson remains a tough negotiator who knows that a long-term deal eventually will be back on the table in Louisiana — even if that day does not come for several months.

Before Katrina's destructive efforts on the Superdome, Benson was already insisting on a new stadium in New Orleans and questioning the area's economic ability to provide one.

As part of the Saints' current lease agreement, which runs through 2010, Benson has a one-time window following this season to opt out by paying the state $81 million.

There might be other legal options to break the lease without penalty because of the Saints' inability to play in New Orleans — although there are protections in the contract against forces of nature, which could lead to complicated court proceedings.

There have been no indications to this point that Benson would pursue such legal options.

There also have been indications that neither Benson nor the Saints have discussed any kind of long-term arrangements with San Antonio officials.

Although some sources have suggested Benson is interested in the market, several principals involved in discussions between the Saints and San Antonio during the past month have insisted that nothing has been discussed beyond this season, even casually.

"We really are looking day to day, evaluating our immediate needs and responding to them, just focusing on this season," said Rita Benson LeBlanc, a Saints owner and heir apparent to her grandfather. "And as it shakes out, then we'll begin earnest talks (about the future)."

The Saints' director of community affairs, Paul Corliss, who has been at the forefront of the team's business dealings with San Antonio leaders, said the idea of San Antonio even being considered as a long-term possibility "has not been discussed in any meeting I've been in. And I would estimate I've been in at least 100 meetings."

Corliss did admit, however, that San Antonio's appetite for the NFL has certainly affected the city's response to the Saints games this year.

"I think San Antonio over the years, it's been documented that they have tried to be an NFL market. So I think certainly they wanted to show themselves worthy of being able to support an NFL team," Corliss said, before adding: "I don't think based on our conversations that they've tried to take this team away from New Orleans."

### Seen as a player?

There was a certain air of surprise and disappointment when today's game was still nearly 10,000 tickets shy of a sellout by week's end. Expectations were much higher earlier in the month.

When the Saints first moved their base of operations to San Antonio in the week following Hurricane Katrina, more than 200 of the city's highest-ranking corporate officials attended a breakfast meeting with Benson and other team executives.

The meeting was hastily arranged by the city's Chamber of Commerce to elicit support for bringing the Saints' home games to the city, and only about 50 officials were expected to attend.

"In less than 24 hours, we had 200 leaders in the business community ready to sign up," said Jim Greenwood, vice president of governmental affairs for Valero Energy Corp., the biggest refiner in North America and the highest-ranking of four Fortune 500 companies in San Antonio's growing business center.

There has been major support for the Saints in the way of sponsorship and promotion from large local corporations such as Valero, SBC Communications, Clear Channel Communications and HEB Grocery, as well as national corporations like Toyota and Washington Mutual, which have a strong presence in the area.

At that breakfast meeting, Henry Cisneros, a former San Antonio Mayor known as the "father of the Alamodome" and a longtime leader in the city's efforts to land an NFL team, made a stirring emotional speech calling for everyone to seize the opportunity to make its mark on the NFL.

One city leader compared Cisneros' speech to the movie "Braveheart."

But such excitement was also roundly criticized, with the city being accused of trying to loot the Saints franchise.

San Antonio businessman Red McCombs, former owner of the Minnesota Vikings and San Antonio Spurs, was specifically targeted for having told the San Antonio Express-News, "Every effort needs to be made to tie the Saints up for this season — including having people stand in front of the dome, singing, 'When the Saints Come Marching In.'"

McCombs, who has spent years trying to bring the NFL to San Antonio — losing out as the applicant on the city's expansion franchise before he purchased the Vikings — toned down those comments earlier this week.

"This is a good opportunity for us. I'm sorry it comes at New Orleans' misfortune," McCombs said. "But the other thing is I feel the Saints are fortunate that we were here."

McCombs joined a chorus of city leaders this week who insisted that this opportunity is about changing the NFL's perception rather than specifically luring the Saints.

"There's certainly that possibility there, and obviously a lot of people in San Antonio have thought

*See* **SAN ANTONIO,** *A-30*

# Texas already has 2 NFL franchises

SAN ANTONIO, *from A-29*

about it," Mayor Hardberger said of the idea that the Saints might consider relocating after this season. "But there's really never been any true negotiations on that. I think Tom Benson wants to try to win as many games as he can this year. And we wanted to make our statement to the whole world that we are an aggressive, growing city with a good market.

"I think we will show that, not just to the Saints, but to the whole NFL. Because there's more than one football team in the NFL, and I think that all of these football teams are always looking to see what better market they might have and so forth. And we want San Antonio to be known as a player."

Cisneros, in particular, stressed that the current situation has made it even less likely for any discussions to take place between San Antonio and the Saints, because the city would be seen as "kicking New Orleans while it's down."

"The truth of the matter is, whatever the possibilities between New Orleans and San Antonio, that may have been once upon a time, but that's all pre-Katrina," said Cisneros, who developed strong attachments to the city of New Orleans while working as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton. "With the effect the Saints can have on the people of New Orleans and Louisiana, I think they will make every effort to keep them there."

Mayor Hardberger admitted there is "certainly that possibility there" that the Saints might consider relocating after this season.

"And obviously a lot of people in San Antonio have thought about it," he said. "But there's really never been any true negotiations on that. I think Tom Benson wants to try to win as many games as he can this year. And we wanted to make our statement to the whole world that we are an aggressive, growing city with a good market.

"I think we will show that, not just to the Saints, but to the whole NFL. Because there's more than one football team in the NFL, and I think that all of these football teams are always looking to see what better market they might have and so forth. And we want San Antonio to be known as a player."



AP PHOTO

San Antonio built its Alamodome in 1993 in hopes of attracting an NFL team. The 65,000-seat indoor stadium is said to now fall short of NFL expectations for a stadium.

## To market, to market

Leading sports economists Marc Ganis and Andrew Zimbalist share the opinion that San Antonio, when combined with the growing city of Austin 75 miles to the north, is a viable NFL market.

But they also agree that the league has made two things clear:

It is not interested in expanding beyond 32 teams. And the next city to land an NFL team will be Los Angeles, the second-largest television market in the country, which has been without an NFL team since the Raiders and Rams both left after the 1994 season.

"Until the L.A. market is settled, I don't think there's any other market out there that stands a chance," said Zimbalist, a professor of economics at Smith College.

San Antonio is the eighth-largest city in the United States in population, but the total metropolitan area — a more accurate number when it comes to measuring a fan base — ranks only 30th with 1,592,383 people, according to the 2000 census. New Orleans, before Katrina, ranked 35th at 1,337,726.

San Antonio's television market, the ultimate NFL measuring stick, ranks 37th, ahead of only four current NFL teams — New Orleans, 43rd; Buffalo, 49th; Jacksonville, 52nd; and Green Bay-Appleton, 69th.

Austin's television market ranks 53rd, and combined, the two areas would rank 18th among all NFL markets.

Ganis, president of the Chicago-based consulting firm Sportscorp Ltd., has long believed that the San Antonio-Austin market is the best in the country without an NFL team — citing the corporate base, demographics, a population historically interested in football and the success of the NBA's Spurs.

But Ganis also knows the league does not share his opinion.

When the NFL put together an analysis of select non-NFL cities in 2003, including San Antonio, Birmingham, Portland, Orlando, Sacramento and Salt Lake City, and ranked them in different categories, the San Antonio market ranked fourth or fifth in five of the seven categories.

Another major roadblock that stands in San Antonio's way is that the NFL already has franchises in Dallas and Houston.

The 4-year-old Texans are just 200 miles away from San Antonio. And the Cowboys have a dedicated fan following in San Antonio, where the local Fox television affiliate has decided to air Cowboys games instead of Saints games when they are played at the same time this season.

Relocation of an NFL franchise must be approved by 24 of the league's 32 owners.

The common belief is that Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and Texans owner Bob McNair would block any team's attempt to move into the San Antonio market. But McCombs has insisted that both owners would be supportive if Benson wanted to bring his team here.

Both owners declined interview requests through team spokesmen.

"I don't see them as an obstacle. I see them as a plus," McCombs said, though he added

*See* SAN ANTONIO, *A-31*

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# Dome could be super shelter

**DOME,** *from A-1*

if we don't take into consideration the use of the building for some anticipated mass evacuation?"

The seven-member LSED is waiting on a report from architects and contractors to determine the cost of damages before deciding the Superdome's future.

Doug Thornton, the regional vice president of SMG, the company that manages the Dome, said he hopes to receive the report by mid-November. He has previously estimated the cost of damages to be about $150 million.

Coulon said he has no idea whether FEMA would be willing to cover any further enhancements, or even if the Superdome is eligible, but he plans to explore the possibility at future meetings of the LSED.

"I think it's quite credible," Coulon said. "We consider that to be a legitimate expansion of the building."

The Superdome has been declared a refuge of last resort and used as a shelter three times in its 30-year history.

More than 14,000 people sought shelter there from Hurricane Georges in 1998. The evacuees stole furniture and damaged property that resulted in thousands of dollars in losses. About a thousand special-needs patients were housed there for Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

"There isn't a mayor in the future that, faced with the same set of circumstances, wouldn't open up the largest building in the city as an evacuation shelter," Coulon said. "But if you're not going to enhance it, then you can't use the building."

Coulon said the Superdome's insurance is part of a $500 million state policy that includes several state facilities. The state must pay a $25 million deductible. Insurance is expected to pay the rest. However, with so many state buildings damaged from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, Coulon said, state officials are going to need FEMA to cover the extra costs.

"That $475 million of insurance is going to be eaten up quickly," Coulon said. "The rest hopefully will be covered by FEMA."

The future of the Superdome has been a lynchpin in negotiations on a long-term contract between state and New Orleans Saints officials for the past year. Saints owner Tom Benson wants a new stadium. State officials have offered a pair of proposals to renovate the Superdome.

Coulon said the Saints are but one of several important factors that state officials must take into consideration when weighing the future of the Dome.

"We can't be pressured into a situation where the Saints are the only concern that we have," Coulon said. "If you have to identify the five most important things to rebuilding the region, would an NFL team be one of them? Considering the magnitude of the problem that everybody across the state faces, they just aren't that important. The Saints can't dictate what we do with the Dome."

Thornton said he continues to receive positive reports from contractors who are cleaning and decontaminating the building. J&J Maintenance of Austin, Texas, reportedly removed 3,000 tons of debris from the building. Also, the electrical and plumbing systems are in better shape than expected. He said he's also confident the building's steel, aluminum and concrete structure is sound.

Dome officials hope to receive bids for the application of a temporary polyurethane roof next week. The roof, which will consist of a hardened foam spray that will make the building weatherproof, is expected to cost around $1 million. Eventually, Thornton said, a new permanent roof will be needed. That addition is expected to cost around $8 million.

"I'm optimistic the Dome is repairable," Thornton said. "We don't know the extent of the damage yet, but I'm hopeful the repairs can be done in a matter of months rather than years. It's critical that we get the building repaired to its pre-storm condition. It's vital to the economy of the city. But it also would serve as a symbol to the rest of the world that New Orleans is back."

Coulon, however, is more cautious.

"I'm very concerned about repairing a sick building," Coulon said. "You cannot see what's behind the walls, the mold and the spores that are in there. All of those things are going to be dealt with over the next 30 to 60 days in doing the assessment. Then we'll see where we go."

# San Antonio Saints?

**SAN ANTONIO,** *from A-30*

that he has not spoken to either owner about the subject. McCombs also shrugged off Tagliabue's comments. "I know that can change. And he doesn't always prevail. You've got to get 23 votes, and Mr. Tagliabue doesn't vote."

## Remember the Alamodome

Of course, all of this speculation could be a moot point if the largest issue of all enters the picture — money.

Sure, the Alamodome may suffice for the short term. But just as Benson wanted a new stadium in New Orleans, any potential NFL owner would surely insist on an upgrade over the Alamodome, which has just 34 suites and, by all accounts, falls short of NFL standards.

After having preliminary relocation talks with the Arizona Cardinals in 1999, the city of San Antonio commissioned a study in 2000 to determine what it would cost to bring the Alamodome up to NFL standards.

The study estimated about $200 million for the minimum number of suites and club seating, in addition to more parking and a new training facility.

"We've got some idea what it would take to upgrade the dome. But would that make (a potential NFL team) happy? If they're not happy with that, then do you have someone who wants to write a $500 million check?" Wolff said. "I don't know who the hell would build a new stadium. It won't be me.

"We built the arena for the Spurs (the SBC Center in 2002). We have a capacity in our bonds maybe to do something down the line. But the issue then would be, if you build a new one, what do you do with the one you've got?"

Wolff said that the city and county used up just about every last bit of their sales taxes and hotel-motel taxes, which are approaching a state-mandated cap, to fund the SBC Center.

The Spurs have been a tremendous success, thanks in large part to their winning three NBA titles in the past seven years. But selling out the 54 suites in the arena has not been an easy task, and corporate dollars might become even more stretched with two professional teams in town.

Still, the community leaders, beginning with the recently elected Hardberger, will continue to explore all their options. And many of them stick to the credo, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

"Look, the reason why the Saints are in San Antonio is because the taxpayers in the city built the Alamodome. We built the Alamodome 20 years ago with just the hope of bringing an NFL team to town," said Christian Archer, special assistant to the mayor and his point man on the NFL issue. "I think the city of San Antonio is prepared. We've been prepared for 20 years."




AP PHOTO

Fans wait in line at the Alamodome to buy tickets for New Orleans Saints games.

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NATIONAL

# 'Latino tsunami' alters minority politics

## *1965 law welcomed mass immigration*

**By Jonathan Tilove**
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — There is a deja vu quality to the nation's post-Katrina interest in race and poverty. It brings to mind the call-to-conscience of the Kerner Commission, named by President Johnson in the wake of the urban riots of the 1960s, and its warning of an America "moving toward two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal."

But of course, America is not black and white anymore, thanks to another legacy of that era: the Hart-Cellar Immigration Act, which Johnson signed into law Oct. 3, 1965. Infused with the civil rights spirit of the day, Hart-Cellar eliminated national origin quotas designed to keep the United States a mostly Northern European nation, ushering in an era of mass immigration, mostly from Latin America and Asia. It would transform America's racial and ethnic makeup more than any legislation in history. Forty years later, whites are a diminished majority in a far more diverse nation, but still comprise more than two-thirds of its population and a commanding share of its wealth and power.

Black people, meanwhile, have lost their standing as the dominant minority group, effectively ceding their singular claim on the national conscience, their grievances undermined by the competing demands and relative success of many immigrants of color.

"People are becoming aware that you can't talk about black and white anymore," said Gerald Jaynes, professor of economics and African-American studies at Yale University. In 1989, Jaynes co-edited "A Common Destiny," in its time the definitive study of blacks in American society. By 2000, he was editing another volume, "Immigration and Race."

### Largest U.S. minority

In 1960, blacks accounted for 69 percent of the U.S. minority population.

By 2004, according to Census Bureau estimates, blacks were only 39 percent of the minority population. Hispanics became the largest minority in 2001.

"What we have is not a black and white situation. It's black and brown, and white and Asian, and black and Asian, and on it goes," said Earl Ofari Hutchinson, a black writer and commentator who presides over the weekly Los Angeles Urban Roundtable.

In Los Angeles, as in California, blacks are now the third-largest minority, behind both Latinos and Asians, their ranks of elected officials thinning year by year. Watts, the definitive black ghetto when it exploded in riots in August 1965, long ago became mostly Latino.

"This is a new world," said Nicolas Vaca, a Bay Area lawyer and sociologist, author of last year's "The Presumed Alliance: The Unspoken Conflict Between Latinos and Blacks and What It Means for America."

In his book, Vaca describes the demographic wave overtaking black America as "the Latino tsunami" that will forever alter the arithmetic of minority politics. The new axioms of power, he writes, are that Latinos outnumber blacks, that they will compete for jobs and resources, that Latinos have their own history of oppression, and, most pointedly, that "because Latinos are not responsible for the plight of African-Americans, they come to the table with a clear conscience."

### Changing landscape

From the Civil War to the civil rights movement, black appeals to conscience and white guilt have proved indispensable to progress. But, as time passes and America's complexion changes, those appeals lose traction.

When John Hope Franklin, the eminent historian of the black experience, was named chairman of President Clinton's advisory board on race in 1997, he insisted that the board first focus on the fundamental question of black-white relations. Countered Angela Oh, a liberal young Korean-American lawyer from Los Angeles, who served on the board: "We can't undo this part of our heritage. But what we can affect is where we are headed. I want to talk about multiculturalism, because I think that's where we are headed."

When Philadelphia earlier this year became the first city to require that every high school student take a year-long course in African and African-American history, Chester Finn Jr., a conservative education reformer who served in the Reagan Education Department, assailed the development in the name of immigrant children.

"Why are they and their heritages being discriminated against?" Finn wrote in the June 16 newsletter of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, of which he is president. "One imagines families of Mexican, Trinidadian, Irish, Korean and Bangladeshi backgrounds asking why the school system is 'privileging' its African-American students' heritage and neglecting their own."

These are perilous times for African-Americans, argues Stephen Steinberg, a scholar of race at Queens College and author of "The Ethnic Myth" and "Turning Back: The Retreat From Racial Justice in American Thought and Policy." Steinberg addressed immigration's impact on black people in the summer issue of the left journal New Politics.

"The extension of race beyond the binary of black and white, the admission of permutations in the middle, has deflected attention away from the unique and unresolved problems of race qua African-Americans," he wrote.

Black people are caught coming and going. The success of many immigrants of color is used as proof that black people's misery is their own doing, not, as the Kerner Commission asserted, the consequence of white racism. But Steinberg said even many on the left turn a blind eye to the racism he sees as intrinsic in employer preferences for immigrant labor, in the network hiring and ethnic niches in the economy that limit opportunities for black people.


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# Accused American may have left Afghanistan

## *Shooting victim's family demands trial*

**By Matthew Pennington**
Associated Press writer

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — Afghan human rights activists warned Saturday that allegations that an American security contractor killed his Afghan interpreter could hurt the image of the United States in Afghanistan — even as the U.S. military suffers its deadliest year yet fighting Taliban rebels.

Underscoring the danger, militants firing rocket-propelled grenades killed a U.S. soldier and wounded another during combat operations Friday near the southern city of Kandahar, the military said. The death brought to 198 the number of U.S. service members killed in or around Afghanistan since the ouster of the unpopular Taliban regime in late 2001.

Relatives of the slain interpreter, 37-year-old Noor Ahmad, threatened to set themselves on fire unless his American supervisor is tried for his death, which occurred at a compound of U.S. Protection and Investigations in western Farah province. U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor told The Associated Press that it was "our understanding that this American citizen is no longer in Afghanistan."

The case has raised questions about the reach of Afghanistan's fledgling legal system and law enforcers.

Foreigners working on civilian projects are generally subject to Afghan law, but the legal status of security contractors appears unclear. U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan come under American military jurisdiction.

The Farah police chief said Thursday that his investigators were barred from entering the security company's compound after the shooting.

Ahmad Fahim Hakim, the deputy chairman of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, urged a thorough and transparent probe into the shooting.

"We are very concerned about this kind of incident," he said. "It also blurs the friendly image that the Americans developed in Afghanistan in the early days. That is gradually vanishing."

There are conflicting reports about what triggered the shooting.

Relatives claim the American opened fire during a late-night party because of a personal grievance against the Afghan. But a local militia commander who heard the shooting and later saw Ahmad's body claimed the interpreter was to blame.

The company provides security for foreign contract workers in Afghanistan.

Company officials have repeatedly declined to comment.

Fazel Ahmad, 45, a brother of the dead man, said that if the American was allowed to flee it would be a mockery of Afghan democracy.

"My brother who died has seven children. Who will take care of them? This guy should be brought to justice and there should be an open trial, because he is a foreigner and he has killed a poor Afghan man," Fazel Ahmad told The AP in Herat.

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**"I had concerns that the operation was hastily planned and executed, with significant risks and little return."**

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER TOLAND, platoon commander

# For last Marine from the squad, doubts about the war in Iraq

## *Blast kills 11 men who were his second family*

**By Antonio Castaneda**
Associated Press writer



AP PHOTO

Marine Lance Cpl. Edward Schroeder, left, and Lance Cpl. Christopher Dyer, right, patrol with fellow Marines in the city of Kubaysah, Iraq. Schroeder and Dyer were later killed by a roadside bomb along with nine members of their squad.

HADITHA DAM, IRAQ — Cpl. David Kreuter had a new baby boy he'd seen only in photos. Lance Cpl. Michael Cifuentes was counting the days to his wedding. Lance Cpl. Nicholas Bloem had just celebrated his 20th birthday.

Travis Williams remembers them all — all 11 men in his Marine squad — all now dead. Two months ago they shared a cramped room stacked with bunk beds at this base in northwest Iraq, where the Euphrates River rushes by. Now the room has been stripped of several beds, brutal testament that Lance Cpl. Williams' closest friends are gone.

For the 12 young Marines who landed in Iraq early this year, the war was a series of hectic, constant raids into more than a dozen lawless towns in Iraq's most hostile province, Anbar. The pace and the danger bound them together into what they called a second family, even as some began to question whether their raids were making any progress.

Now, all of the Marines assigned to the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, based in Columbus, Ohio, are gone — except Williams. They died in a roadside bomb set by insurgents on Aug. 3 that killed a total of 14 Marines. Most of the squad were in their early 20s; the youngest was 19.

"They were like a family. They were the tightest squad I've ever seen," said Capt. Christopher Toland of Austin, Texas, the squad's platoon commander. Even though many did not know each other before they got to Iraq, "They truly loved each other."

All that is left are photos and snippets of video, saved on dusty laptops, that run for a few dozen seconds. As they pack up to return home by early October, the Marines from Lima Company — including the squad's replacements — sometimes huddle around Williams' laptop in a room at the dam, straining to watch the few remaining moments of their young friends' lives. Some photos and videos carry the squad's adopted motto, "Family is Forever."

In one video, Lance Cpl. Christopher Dyer, who graduated with honors last year from a Cincinnati-area high school, strums his guitar and does a mock-heartfelt rendition of "Puff the Magic Dragon" as his friends laugh around him.

In a photo, Kreuter rides a bicycle through a neighborhood, swerving under the weight of body armor and weapons, as Marines and Iraqis watch and chuckle.

Each video ends abruptly, leaving behind a blank screen. Some are switched off as soon as they start — some images just hurt too much to see right now.

### Just another sweep

The August operation began like most of the squad's missions, with a rush into another lawless Iraqi city to hunt insurgents and do house-to-house searches, sometimes for 12 hours in temperatures near 120 degrees.

On Aug. 1, six Marine snipers had been ambushed and killed in Haditha, one of a string of cities that line the Euphrates, filled with waving palm trees. Two days later, Marines in armored vehicles, including the 1st Squad, rumbled into the area to look for the culprits.

Like other cities in this region, Haditha has no Iraqi troops, and its police force was destroyed earlier in the year by a wave of insurgent attacks. Marines patrol roads on the perimeter and occasionally raid homes in the city, which slopes along a quiet river valley. Commanders say insurgents have challenged local tribes for control and claim Iraq's most wanted terrorist, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, once had a home here.

Since their arrival in February, the Marines had spent nearly all their time on such sweeps or preparing for them, sometimes hurrying back to their base to grab fresh clothes, then heading off again to cities that hadn't seen American or Iraqi troops in months.

The intense pace of the operations, and the enormous area their regimental combat team had to cover — an expanse the size of West Virginia — caught some off guard.

The combat was certainly not what the 21-year-old Williams had expected.

"I didn't ever think we'd get engaged," said the soft-spoken, stocky Marine from Helena, Mont. "I just had the basic view of the American public — it can't be that bad out there."

In some sweeps, residents warmly greeted the Marines. But in others, such as operations in Haditha and Obeidi near the Syrian border, the squad members met gunfire and explosions. In the Obeidi operation in early May, another squad from Lima Company suffered six deaths. Williams himself perhaps saved lives, once spotting a gunman hidden in a mosque courtyard, said Toland, the platoon commander.

The night before the Aug. 3 operation, an uneasy Toland couldn't sleep. Instead he spent his last night with his squad members talking and joking, trying to suppress worries the mission was too predictable for an enemy that knew how to watch and learn.

"I had concerns that the operation was hastily planned and executed, with significant risks and little return," Toland said.

The road had been checked by engineers and other units, Marine commanders say. But insurgents had been clever, hiding the massive bomb under the road's asphalt.

Several Humvees first drove over the bomb, but the triggerman in the distance apparently waited for a vehicle with more troops. Then, as the clanking sound of their armored vehicles neared, a massive blast erupted, caused by explosives weighing hundreds of pounds. It threw a 26-ton Amphibious Assault Vehicle into the air, leaving it burning upside-down.

*See* **MARINES,** *A-35*

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# 'They were the tightest squad I've ever seen'

MARINES, *from A-34*

The blast was so large that Toland and his radioman, Williams, traveling two vehicles ahead and not injured, thought their vehicle had been hit by a bomb. They scrambled out to inspect the damage, but instead found the blazing carnage several yards down the road.

A total of 14 Marines and one Iraqi interpreter were killed.

## No help from witnesses

There was no time for grieving, not at first. There was only sudden devastation, then intense anger as the Marines pulled the remains of their friends from the vehicle.

Then there was frustration, as they fanned out to find the triggerman. Instead, they found only Iraqis either too sympathetic to the insurgency, or too afraid, to talk.

Although the bomb had been planted in clear view of their homes, residents claimed they had seen nothing of the men who had spent hours digging a large hole several feet deep and concealing the bomb.

It was a familiar and frustrating problem.

"They are totally complacent with what's going on here," said Maj. Steve Lawson of Columbus, Ohio, who commands Lima Company. "The average citizen in Haditha either wants a handout, or wants us to die or go away."

In a war where intelligence is the most valued asset, the Marines say few local people will divulge "actionable" information that could be used to locate insurgents.

Some Iraqis apparently fear reprisal attacks from militants. Many just want to stay out of the crossfire. Others hate the Americans enough to protect the insurgents: Marines say lookouts in cities would often launch flares as their vehicles approached.

In this region ruled by Sunni tribal loyalties, few voted for the new central Iraqi government, and many suspect the U.S. military is punishing them and empowering their longtime rivals, the Shiites of the south and the Kurds of the north.

"From a squad leader's perspective, the intelligence never helped me accomplish my mission," said Sgt. Don Owens, a squad leader in Lima Company from Cincinnati, who fought alongside the 1st Squad throughout their tour.

"Their intelligence is better than ours," Owens said.

## Without his family

The first night after the attack, Williams couldn't sleep. He stayed near his radio, listening to the heavy sobbing of fellow Marines that punctured the night around him.

He thought of his best friend, Lance Cpl. Aaron Reed, a 21-year-old with a goofy demeanor and a perpetual smile, now dead.

A world without his second family had begun. The young men Williams had planned to meet up with again, back in the States, had vanished in a matter of minutes. He was alone.

Yet from a military standpoint, it was important to press on to show the enemy that even their best hits couldn't stop the world's most powerful military. The Marines were ordered away from the blast site, to hunt insurgents, just one hour after the explosion.

They stayed out for another week, searching through dozens of homes in the nearby city of Parwana and struggling to piece together intelligence about who had planted the bomb.

"I pushed them back out the door to finish the mission," said Lawson. "They did it, but they were crying as they pushed on."

As word spread back in the United States that 14 men had been killed, the Marines on the ongoing mission couldn't even, at first, contact their families to let them know they had survived.

## Militants are killed

Marine commanders say the large-scale raids in western Anbar province have kept the insurgency off-balance, killing hundreds of militants and leaving a dwindling number of insurgent bases in the area.

They say the sweeps are critical to beat back the insurgent presence in larger cities such as Ramadi and Baghdad, where suicide bombings have been rampant.

But, among some Marines and even officers, there are doubts whether progress has been made.

The insurgents lurk nearby, capable of launching mortars and suicide car bombs and quietly re-entering cities soon after the Marines return to their bases on the outskirts.

"We've been here almost seven months and we don't control" the cities, said Gunnery Sgt. Ralph Perrine, an operations chief in the battalion from Brunswick, Ohio. "It's no secret."

Even commanders acknowledge that with the limited number of U.S. and Iraqi troops in the region, the mission is focused on "disrupting and interdicting" the insurgency — that is, keeping them on the run — and not controlling the cities.

"It's maintenance work," said Col. Stephen Davis, commander of all Marine operations in western Anbar. "Because this out here is where the fight is, while the success is happening downtown while the constitution is being written and while the referendum is getting worked out ... If I could bring every insurgent in the world out here and fight them all day long, we've done our job."

For Williams, the calculation is much more visceral and personal.

"Personally, I don't think the sweeps help too much," he said quietly on a recent day, sitting in a room at the dam, crowded with Marines resting from a late mission the night before.

"You find some stuff and most of the bad guys get away ... For as much energy as we put in them, I don't think the output is worth it," he said.

Williams, a Marine for three years, has decided not to re-enlist.

Instead, in these last days in Iraq, he thinks of home and fishing in the clear streams of Montana. He hopes to open a fishing and hunting gear shop once he returns and complete his bachelor's degree in wildlife biology. He looks forward to seeing his mother, his only surviving parent, and traveling to her native Thailand this fall.

He said his "best memory" will be the day he leaves Iraq. His only good memories, he said, are of his friends:

Of Dyer, 19, an avid rap music fan who would bop his head to Tupac Shakur. He played the viola in his high school orchestra and had planned to enroll in a finance honors program at Ohio State University.

Of Reed, his best friend. He was president of his high school class from Chillicothe, Ohio, and left behind a brother serving in Afghanistan.

Of Cifuentes, 25, from Oxford, Ohio. He was enrolled in graduate school in mathematics education and had been working as a substitute teacher when he was deployed.

"I think the most frustrating thing is there's no sense of accomplishment," Williams said. "You're biding your time and waiting. But then you lose your friends, and it's not even for their own country's freedom."

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**"This is very dangerous territory."**

LUCY DALGLISH, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

# Miller case puzzles journalists

*Reporter jailed 85 days before revealing source*

**By David B. Caruso**
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — New York Times reporter Judith Miller's decision to escape jail by testifying about her conversations with a confidential source surprised some of her supporters and left journalists wondering what her choice will mean for press freedoms.

Miller spent 85 days in jail for initially refusing to tell a grand jury whom she spoke with about Valerie Plame, a covert CIA official whose identity was leaked to several reporters in 2003.

But on Thursday she was abruptly released from prison, and a day later gave a grand jury the testimony long sought by Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald.

The reason for the abrupt change: Miller said that her source, identified by the Times as Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby, called her in prison and urged her to break her silence.

"This was the first time where he was saying, do it. I want you to testify," said Miller's attorney, Floyd Abrams.

News of her release from jail was greeted with joy by some of the organizations that had supported her, but also some dismay.

"Miller's release is obviously good news in itself," said the press freedom group Reporters Without Borders, "but she recovered her freedom in exchange for naming her source, albeit with the source's agreement, which means that the principle of the confidentiality of sources, one of the pillars of journalism, has been flouted."



AP PHOTO

Testimony Friday before a grand jury by New York Times reporter Judith Miller about conversations with a confidential source is of concern to journalists, who wonder what her decision will mean for press freedoms. Miller spent 85 days in jail for refusing to tell a grand jury whom she spoke with about Valerie Plame, a covert CIA official.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, praised Miller for her conduct in the case, but predicted its outcome would embolden other prosecutors to investigate press leaks, jailing reporters if necessary.

"This is very dangerous territory," she said.

In deciding to testify, Miller followed a path set by Time Magazine reporter Matt Cooper, who also was threatened with jail for refusing to say who told him about Plame's identity.

Shortly before he was to report to prison, Cooper said he received permission to break his silence from his confidential source: presidential adviser Karl Rove.

The idea of confronting a source who was initially promised confidentiality and asking for permission to go public discomfited Myron Farber, a New York Times reporter who was jailed for 40 days in 1978 for refusing to turn over notes reveal sources in a murder case. He said such requests might be seen as coercive.

"It may be inoffensive in this case," he said, given Libby's position of power and savvy in dealing with the press. "But smaller people might tremble more when the reporter calls back and says, 'can you release me?'

He quickly added that he had no cause to criticize Miller, whom he said he supported completely.

"I'm in no position, or you, to tell someone who is not a criminal, who has been locked up, 'You stick it out,' " he said.

Bob Steele, a journalism faculty member at the Poynter Institute, said going back to a source to seek a waiver is probably ethical, but should be avoided if possible.

He said reporters should ideally talk to their informants about how they might respond to a future subpoena before confidentiality is granted in the first place.

"Then, going back to the source (if a problem comes up later) doesn't come out of left field," he said.

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# Iran issues oil sales warning, paper says

## *Possible sanctions prompts statement*

**By Tarek Al-Issawi**
Associated Press writer

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — Iran's president threatened to curtail oil sales if the country is referred to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions on its nuclear program, a newspaper reported Saturday.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted in an interview with the Khaleej Times that Iran's nuclear program was peaceful. But he warned the country would protect its right to a nuclear fuel supply.

"If Iran's case is sent to the Security Council, we will respond by many ways, for example by holding back on oil sales," the president told the Dubai-based newspaper.

Iran pumps about 4 million barrels daily, making it the second-largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Saudi Arabia. Crude oil exports normally account for about 80 percent of Iran's hard currency income, and an oil official last month projected revenues from oil exports this year at $43 billion.

The United States does not purchase Iranian oil, but it would be affected by a substantial Iranian curtailment of oil supplies as that would raise the price of oil on the world market.

Ahmadinejad's remarks came after a resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency last month put Iran on the verge of referral unless Tehran eases suspicions about its nuclear activities. Iran insists its nuclear program is for energy purposes, while the United States suspects Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons.

Since the U.N. nuclear agency's resolution, other Iranian officials have threatened to resume uranium enrichment and block U.N. inspections of its nuclear facilities unless the U.N. nuclear agency stepped back from its action.

Iran has also threatened to use trade to punish countries that voted for the resolution, and last week the parliament began debating a bill to force the government to scale back cooperation with the IAEA.

The president criticized the resolution and foreign countries, however, for trying to impose their will on Iran.

"I said I'll do every thing in order to uphold our national interest," Ahmadinejad said of his campaign promises ahead of the June presidential election. "One of these things is that we will have access to the nuclear supply process."

"We don't want to be at war with the world," he said.

# Volcano kills two in El Salvador

**By Edgar Romero**
Associated Press writer

PALO CAMPANA, EL SALVADOR — A volcano in western El Salvador erupted on Saturday, sending a column of ash 50,000 feet into the air and killing two farmers buried by chunks of earth and boiling water that tumbled down the slopes.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of three communities in the shadow of the Ilamatepec volcano, which towers near Santa Ana, the country's second largest city, 40 miles from San Salvador, the capital.

"The volcano has entered an eruptive phase that consists of ashes and gases," Interior Secretary Rene Figueroa said.

It was unclear how many people had been ordered to leave their homes. Figueroa said as many as 10,000 residents live close to the volcano, but that most areas were not evacuated.

Emergency response officials said two farmers died and two other residents of the coffee-growing town of Palo Campana were missing.

The ground was smoldering when soldiers arrived to assist in the evacuations. Falling ash had destroyed coffee crops and damaged trees in surrounding forests.

Small bodies of water were steaming and bubbling from the heat and ash covered the ground as far as the eye could see. Problems with landslides worsened as afternoon rains pelted the area.

"We have had an eruption of moderate magnitude," President Tony Saca said during a visit to the country's national emergency response headquarters. But he added that "there was no lava."

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# Kenyan rains suspend moving of elephants

**By Tom Maliti**
Associated Press writer

NAIROBI, KENYA — Rangers suspended efforts to relocate 400 elephants because the upcoming rainy season will make it difficult to transport them, Kenya's Wildlife Service spokeswoman said Saturday.

The service has been moving the elephants from a small reserve with too many of the animals to another park 220 miles away. Rangers have so far moved 150 elephants from Shimba Hills National Reserve to Tsavo East National Park, spokeswoman Connie Maina said.

Ahead of the rainy season, "we want to concentrate more on monitoring the elephants we have (transported) to ensure they remain within the boundaries of the park and check whether they are comfortable," Maina told The Associated Press.

Efforts suspended Wednesday are expected to resume in January.

Rangers began Kenya's biggest elephant relocation on Aug. 25. It is expected to cost $3.2 million, and is being entirely financed by the government.

Shimba Hills has 600 elephants, three times what it can comfortably handle, resulting in the animals moving into populated areas, destroying crops and injuring people. Encounters between elephants and humans have been increasing as Kenya's population grows, prompting more people move to empty lands close to national parks.

Tsavo East has 10,397 elephants, down from a peak of 25,268 in 1972.

# Dominicans re-examine attitude toward firearms

## *Children have been hit by stray bullets*

**By Peter Prengaman**
Associated Press writer

BANI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Tania Diaz sits on the floor of her family's one-bedroom shack, lowering her head to hide her eyes.

The tall, thin 5-year-old was struck by a stray bullet that left her blind —in a series of random incidents of gun violence that has forced this Caribbean nation to reconsider its casual attitude toward firearms.

President Leonel Fernandez has called for a debate on the issue in a country where men walk around with pistols strapped to their belts and women regularly carry revolvers in their purses.

The obstacles are many: overcoming a cultural acceptance of gun possession, tracking down an unknown number of firearms smuggled in from neighboring Haiti and rooting out corrupt police officers who facilitate the illegal arms trade.

"Here you need to have your gun out so the criminals see it and retreat," said Jose Dia, a 33-year-old businessman who recently bought a 9 mm pistol in the capital of Santo Domingo.

Fernandez recently invited two children injured by stray bullets to appear on his weekly television to emphasize the need for gun control.

Dominican law has long required gun owners to conceal their weapons from public view. But the law is rarely enforced. Thousands of private security guards tote shotguns outside stores, gas stations, banks and private homes.

Revelers also fire into the air during national celebrations, shootouts at nightclubs are common and domestic disputes frequently end in gunshot deaths.

Last month, an argument during a meeting of regional politicians outside Santo Domingo ended in a shootout, leaving four dead and a dozen injured.

The statistics on guns are staggering in a country of 8.8 million.

▶At least 25 children have been killed or injured by stray bullets since January, say law enforcement officials and doctors at hospitals.

▶1,719 homicides in the first eight months of the year, compared with 1,513 during the same period in 2004. Police estimate guns are used in 75 percent of homicides.

▶190,000 registered firearms, including pistols, shotguns, rifles and automatic weapons used by the military, Secretary of Interior and Police Frank Almeyda said.

▶Hundreds of thousands of illegal guns, the majority smuggled in from Haiti, which shares an ill-patrolled 225-mile border with the Dominican Republic.

As a first step toward gun control, the government announced two weeks ago that people who renew or apply for new permits will not be allowed to carry their weapons unless they get special authorization.

Earlier this year, a team of 300 police officers and soldiers began searching vehicles at checkpoints and stopping people carrying guns on the streets to ask for permits.

The team confiscates about 1,000 illegally possessed guns a month, Almeyda said. But efforts are hindered by rampant police corruption, he conceded.

"When a police officer tells me his gun has been stolen, I order an immediate investigation because he probably sold it," Almeyda told The Associated Press.

Gun rights advocates say permit laws are strict enough. Applicants must take a drug test, undergo a criminal background check and get a psychological evaluation. They also must train at a shooting gallery for a day.

"There is already a lot of control over gun sales," Eduardo de la Rocha, a firearms importer in Santo Domingo, said. "And it's more dangerous to have a gun hidden than in the open."

Others warn that new laws on permits would be as ineffective as the old ones unless the government improves enforcement.

"In a country where visas and passports are falsified, obtaining a (permit) will be a child's game," a recent editorial in El Caribe newspaper said.

Gun violence has become a way of life in the poor neighborhoods of Bani, where Tania's family lives about 50 miles west of Santo Domingo.

In April, a stray bullet struck Tania's right temple and exited her left eye, severing her optic nerves and leaving her blind.

"At night, there are always a lot of shots. Sometimes they land on the roof," her mother, Amancia Diaz said. "We never go out. We are afraid."

Her daughter, once a leader in playing among her three younger sisters, still plays on some days, her mother said. "But often she sits on the floor, crying and kicking her feet, refusing to get up."


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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Sunday
October 2, 2005

DEATHS • B-9
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SHEILA STROUP

## Commmunity has faith in shrine

The sign on Sacred Heart Church in Lacombe tells the story: "No Mass at Shrine until further notice."

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine off Fish Hatchery Road is once again in need of repairs.

"We're out of business for now," said the Rev. William O'-Donnell, pastor of Sacred Heart.

After winds from Hurricane Ivan sent a huge pine crashing through the chapel's old roof last September, Sacred Heart Church embarked on a $90,000 renovation of the beloved 81-year-old shrine.

The first Mass was held in the refurbished chapel July 27; the last one a few days before Hurricane Katrina leveled countless trees near the rustic, mustard-colored building and punched another one through the brand-new reinforced standing-seam roof.

"The roof is the modern version of the metal roofs you find in southeastern Louisiana," Father Bill said.

"It does a great job if you can keep trees off it."

A devastating scene

When June McGee stepped inside the chapel after Katrina, it was like seeing a favorite old friend who had suddenly taken ill.

"It was heart-breaking when I opened the door that first day. It was a mess. There was glass everywhere," she said.

There was a gaping hole in the roof, Sheetrock lay in pieces on the floor, and a branch from the offending tree had broken one of the new skylights in the chapel.

"It was so pretty after we fixed it up," she said. "I wish you could have seen it."

The shrine was built in 1923 by the Rev. Francis Balay, a French Benedictine monk who was a missionary in St. Tammany Parish. He placed it on a hillside with a stream nearby that reminded him of the shrine in Lourdes, France, where pilgrims went to bathe in the healing water.

"You know what really bothers me? Our gurgling brook is no longer gurgling," June said.

Planning to reopen

Father Bill has no idea how long it will be before the shrine can be fixed up again.

"The insurance company has taken pictures, but the whole area is so overwhelmed I don't know when they'll be back," he said.

He managed to cover the hole in the roof temporarily so rain can't get in, although his first design had a slight flaw.

"The Visqueen took off and went flying with my two-by-fours attached. My expertise is not in roof fixing," he said.

With many churches severely damaged or destroyed by Katrina, Father Bill isn't complaining about the relatively minor damage at the shrine. But he knows how much it means to people such as June, who has worshipped there at weekday Masses for years.

"Everybody in the community loves our little shrine, and we're not going to give up on it," June said.

She knows that one day the roof will be repaired, the fallen trees that clog the brook will be removed, and the doors will open again. And she will kneel and say a prayer of thanks for the lovely little chapel in the woods.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985)898-4825.

# Living among the dead



STAFF PHOTOS BY SEAN GARDNER

Emergency response officials Nick Nichols, right, and Sharon Hinchee used these spine boards for patients during the evacuation before and after Hurricane Katrina.

## Grim work faces teams at St. Gabriel

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

Surrounded by nearly 900 corpses one month after Hurricane Katrina, Nick Nichols is caught in a hellish reality that he predicted but can't comprehend.

"New Orleans was nothing but a caldron brewing because there was no plan in place," said Nichols, public health emergency response coordinator for the state's Department of Health and Hospitals' Region One, which includes Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

**Nick Nichols, a retired Naval officer, said three tours of duty in Vietnam did not prepare him for what he has seen before and after Katrina.**

Nichols, 53, whose house in Metairie flooded after Katrina, spends most of his time at the morgue set up at St. Gabriel for storm casualties. It includes "a mixture of all genders and ages," he said.

"To our knowledge, we haven't received anyone who is a victim of (Hurricane) Rita," Nichols said, referring to the powerful storm that hit southwest Louisiana almost four weeks after Katrina.

Of the climbing number of bodies brought to the morgue in refrigerated trucks, 300 had been identified and 32 claimed, Nichols said Wednesday.

About 200 doctors, morticians, nurses and volunteers are living in tents at St. Gabriel "making sure the dead are being treated with respect," Nichols said.

"I have observed bodies laid out in a dignified way, 11 on each side of the truck," he said.

White-haired and dressed in jeans and a cowboy hat, Nichols said a person designated as a "tracker" is assigned to each body and remains with it throughout an examination process.

Bodies are placed on a gurney while a team of people, including an FBI official, examines them for identifying factors, such as wallets, scars and tattoos, he said.

The bodies are decontaminated and X-rayed for signs, such as bullets, that would necessitate an autopsy, he said.

If needed to determine an identity, DNA and fingerprints are taken, he said.

The bodies are being kept in a huge refrigeration unit, he said, and a database has been created to match family members searching for loved ones

See **MORGUE,** B-5



The spine boards have been autographed by hundreds of emergency response workers who came to New Orleans to help during the storm.

# Violence tears family apart

## Storms, sudden deaths make for terrible year

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

The Airline family has been rocked by one storm after another this year.

The devastation and upheaval wrought by Hurricane Katrina was sandwiched between the murders of two members of the Kenner clan.



**Don Airline**
Shot five times in the head after he evacuated from Kenner

In July, Wanda Airline, 33, was stabbed to death as she walked along a Metairie sidewalk. And Friday, the family buried her nephew, Don Airline, 24, who was shot five times in the head two weeks ago

See **AIRLINE,** B-3

# Shepherds tend to scattered N.O. flocks

## Church members need help, hope, housing

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

The Rev. Mark Lomax, in clerical collar, rubber boots and green Vatican City baseball cap, was standing outside his ruined St. Mark Catholic Church in the fetid stink of desolate St. Bernard Parish this week, when four neighbors spotted him from across the street.

"My God, look who it is!" a jubilant Paul Gremillion called

See **CHURCH,** B-2

# Rita pushed Harvey Canal to the brink

## Officials hope project shores up flood protection

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank bureau

It nearly happened seven years ago during Tropical Storm Frances, and it almost happened again Sept. 24 when Hurricane Rita's winds pushed a roiling wall of water from the Gulf of Mexico up the Harvey Canal, threatening to spill over makeshift levees and inundate parts of Harvey, Gretna and Algiers.

Jefferson Parish officials were so concerned that they had staged 21 buses at a Manhattan Boulevard parking lot to evacuate residents who did not have transportation, said Walter Maestri, parish director of emergency operations. Firetrucks were on standby to go from neighborhood to neighborhood, alerting residents of the danger. A shelter was set up at Louis Armstrong International Airport, and motorists would have been directed to take the elevated West Bank Expressway to the Huey P. Long Bridge out of harm's way, Maestri said.

Meanwhile, crews spent 12 hours plugging seepages in the levees alongside the canal. With the surge lapping at the banks, the Army Corps of Engineers opened the locks at the Mississippi River at 3 p.m., providing only minor relief, because the river's water level wasn't much lower than that of the swollen canal.

"I saw waves so high you could have surfed on them," said Harry "Chip" Cahill III, president of the West Jefferson Levee District. "If they'd kept up like that much longer, it could have been bad."

Rita had her way with low-lying Lafitte, Crown Point and Barataria, which took on enough water that hundreds of residents who ignored mandatory evacuation orders had to be rescued by the Coast Guard and Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies.

The drama that played out last weekend after the West Bank had dodged Hurricane Katrina was another reminder

See **CANAL,** B-5



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

West Jefferson Levee District workers dump filler material on the banks of the Harvey Canal as Hurricane Rita threatens Harvey on Sept. 24. Crews spent 12 hours plugging spots where water was seeping through.

# 'Wherever the people are, the church will be there, too'

CHURCH, *from B-1*

back to his wife and two neighbors.

The four converged and embraced in the middle of mud-caked Missouri Street, sweaty and dirty from foraging in the greasy sludge that coated the floors of their homes, the streets, the entire suburban reach of ruined Chalmette and St. Bernard.

As usual, the tears came quickly.

"Oh Father, will we have a church again? Will there be a parish?" one of the women asked, her voice quivering.

"We'll see. A lot's going to depend on the government and where they let us rebuild," Lomax said. "But you can be sure of this: Wherever the people are, the church will be there, too. It's just not clear where that's going to be yet."

So it goes around metropolitan New Orleans, in southeast Louisiana and in Texas, where in muddy streets and in make-do shelters, in borrowed hotel meeting rooms and even on the Internet, New Orleans pastors have confronted the most basic physical, spiritual and emotional needs of families who have lost all they own.

"In the last couple of weeks I've done literally everything, from social work and mental health counseling to psychological and spiritual warfare," said the Rev. Charles Southall of First Emanuel Baptist Church.

Southall is now displaced in Baton Rouge, tending to a few hundred of his scattered New Orleans flock made homeless and destitute, like him.

Like them, he lost everything he owns. He delivered his first sermon after the storm in a borrowed pulpit, wearing a suit and shoes donated by his hosts.

He is still locating members of his church, scattered before the storm from "sea to shining sea."

He works with some; worries about the rest. Restful sleep has eluded him for the month since Hurricane Katrina struck, he said.

"The need has grown so exponentially since the storm. It's so intense. I get two or three hours of sleep at a time and then I'm up. There's so much hurt; so much pain."

Yet in the midst of pain is a powerful recompense.

Although physically and mentally exhausted and suffering their own material losses, many pastors say they have never felt more needed than in the past month, consoling, explaining, encouraging – or helping their people solve the practical problems of housing, food and income.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Rev. Mark Lomax, left, of St. Mark Catholic Church, hugs parishioner Paul Gremillion in front of the church as they try to clean up in Chalmette after Hurricane Katrina.

## What's needed now

The Rev. Walter Austin, a Catholic priest and Louisiana National Guard chaplain, worked with nearly 30,000 evacuees in the squalid indignities of the Superdome for five days after the storm.

He walked among the crowds in his military camouflage, a chaplain's cross on his black beret and a Bible in his hand.

He introduced himself and showed them how to prepare their military-issued rations. He chatted with them; got to understand the social landscape as they bonded into family and neighborhood groups for support and encouragement.

He preached morning Scripture services from atop a generator cart outside the stadium. He spoke from the book of Job, the tormented soul beloved by God. He promised them they were not abandoned.

Often, he said, they asked him to pray with them. "Prayer was such an instrumental part of their lives," he said. "And what they prayed for was not for God to get them out of this, but to comfort them and get them through it."

When, after five days, they began file, exhausted and bedraggled, onto evacuation buses, many left the line to grasp Austin's hand in thanks.

"Some had urine stains on their clothing. Do you understand what they went through?" he said. "But they were coming over to us to say goodbye and to thank us. And it was spontaneous, heartfelt.

"My being there meant something to them, and that was a real joy."

Said Southall, the displaced pastor of a remnant flock-in-exile, "They need to see the fearless leader.

"They need to see some human sign that God has not abandoned them when they need him most."

Southall is more than a theologian and counselor. In a time of overwhelming need he has become a housing broker, relief expert and red-tape cutter. Politically active before the storm, Southall has dozens of contacts in public life – people to be called upon to help secure a permit or speed up an application for relief.

"You can't preach and teach until you've met their needs," he said.

## Lots of tears

Lomax has been back to his wrecked St. Mark's four times, each time encountering parishioners.

Officials estimate that every one of the 27,000 homes in St. Bernard will have to be bulldozed.

Boats sit on roofs. Cars are upended on their noses, their rear wheels snagged on rooflines. The homes' interiors are a dark, unrecognizable chaos of overturned furniture, foul muck and, sometimes, poisonous snakes.

"It's always the same. They burst into tears. They came back for something – anything – but they can't find even the pictures of the kids. There's a thousand ways of saying the same thing."

On Thursday Lomax returned again to retrieve a few personal items – a checkbook, car payment book, pictures of his late father for his 91-year-old mother, who lost everything in Lakeview.

Then he drove slowly up and down the streets lined with what used to be homes.

Sometimes he encountered a couple standing empty-handed in front of a house. Sometimes he knew them; sometimes not.

He'd stop and chat for a moment. "I'm sorry," he said. "God bless you."

"A priest is available to his people, but the biggest challenge for us today is finding our people," he said.

"We're working out of our cars, our homes, our PDAs," said the Rev. David Crosby, referring to personal electronic devices that store names and telephone numbers.

Crosby spends two to three hours a day on the Internet, reaching out to members of his First Baptist Church of New Orleans as they slowly populate a Web site, logging in with their location, contact information and stories.

## Great challenges

In the month since evacuating before Katrina, Crosby said he's slept in 11 bedrooms in four Southern states. He has held prayer services for strangers in motel meeting rooms, in evacuation shelters and borrowed churches.

He encourages his scattered flock electronically.

"I'm sending out mass e-mails on a regular basis, to give them hope and strength for the journey," he said.

"I tell them we're anchored in Christ, not our possessions, and that he will remain faithful to us. He will not abandon us."

Never have they been more challenged, they say.

"Their homes are gone; their businesses swamped. They wonder what the future holds," Crosby said.

And often, tragedy compounds itself.

The mother of one of Crosby's church members was among 24 elderly nursing home patients who perished in a fiery bus crash outside Dallas in the evacuation before Hurricane Rita.

Crosby was scheduled to perform the funeral Saturday.

In Algiers this week, the Rev. Paul Hart set aside preparations to repair St. Andrew the Apostle Parish long enough to bury Tom Stallings, a beloved parishioner who apparently died of a heart attack working in his attic. He was 45, a death that left a shattered family.

But pastors like Southall, Crosby and Hart see these as moments of professional challenge – crucial moments when their skills and words are never more needed.

"I know that God has called me to be the seventh pastor of a 120-year-old church – to be here at this time, on this day," Southall said.

"In a way it's almost an exciting time," Hart said. "Because it's what ministry is all about – leadership, rebuilding minds and hearts, not just buildings.

"I'm depressed. My body's hurting. I'm worried about my collections and my building project," he said.

"But when I'm doing a homily and I look out and I see people out there from Chalmette or wherever, in tears, I like to think I'm giving them something to hold onto."

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In accordance with the requirements of C.S. Rule 17.4(a), notice is hereby given of an impending furlough (a layoff avoidance measure consisting of a period of leave without pay) to be implemented by OYD for those employees who have not contacted us since Hurricane Katrina. A written plan to effect this furlough will be submitted to C.S. for its approval.
OYD is proposing to effect this furlough beginning 10-1-05 until cob on 10-15-05. Once approved by C.S., it will be made available to employees through the OYD website: www.oyd.louisiana.gov.
Any questions should be directed to Trudy E. Gautreau, OYD HR Director @ **(225) 287-7977** or e-mail: TGautreaux@oyd.louisiana.gov.

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# Motives behind deaths are unknown

AIRLINE, *from B-1*

in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he and other relatives had evacuated to escape hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"It's been like one long nightmare," Don Airline's mother, Sheila, said Thursday as she sat on the couch of her sister Delisa Bland's Kenner home, tending to the last-minute details of her son's funeral.

"I've been here before," she said.

Wanda Airline's body was found in the 8300 block of Milan Street on July 7. She had been stabbed so many times that the woman who overheard her soft cries for help and saw her emerge staggering from some brush, said it looked as if blood was gushing from her back. A trail of her

blood led back about 30 yards to the spot where the attack began.

The Airlines, who had been shocked by Wanda's violent death, took another hit when they later learned that the person booked with second-degree murder in her death, Erica Hutchinson, was a family friend. No one knows what prompted the killing.

Bland has worked hard to try to forgive her former friend and let go of her grief, especially after seeing her sister in a dream on Sept. 6, what would have been Wanda Airline's 34th birthday.

"I was just starting to get my breath," Bland said, "and then ..."

Like families across Louisiana, the Airlines had been scattered by Hurricane Katrina. Sheila Airline and another son, Mohammed, 19, spent the storm in a hotel in Natchez, Miss. Bland and her family went to Woodville, Miss.

Other family members went to Lake Charles and Alexandria.

Don Airline had gone to Houston. The last time Sheila Airline spoke to him was the Sunday before the storm hit. "I told him I love him and to be careful," she said.

After the storm, he couldn't reach her through his cell phone, and communicated by leaving messages with another relative. Sheila Airline learned that her son had evacuated Houston and was heading to Chattanooga to escape Hurricane Rita. The next word she received about her son was from a Chattanooga police detective, R. Kenneth Freeman.

Chattanooga Police found Don Airline's body in the grass on a remote stretch of road on Sept. 17, Freeman said. He had been shot five times in the head.

Police since have arrested a Chattanooga man, Edward Jones, 24, and booked him with first-degree murder.

The murder made a splash when it was reported in several media outlets that Don Airline had been killed during a robbery and that his Red Cross debit card, handed out to people who evacuated for the hurricanes, had been stolen. Sheila Airline said she read in some media reports that neither the Red Cross debit card nor his wallet have been recovered.

But investigators can not confirm the robbery nor a missing Red Cross card. Don Airline had $49 on him when he was found, Freeman said.

Authorities also are investigating whether Don Airline fell in with a bad crowd in Chattanooga and whether that might have led to his death.

"There's 59 different stories about what happened," Sheila Airline said. "I don't know."

Hurricane Rita postponed Don Airline's funeral one week. He was laid to rest Friday, and Sheila Airline said that although many friends and family are still evacuated, a large crowd was on hand to pay its respects. Sadly, many friends will soon be leaving again to set up homes elsewhere, she said.

The family still is figuring out how to weather this latest storm. They are repeatedly peppered by the same questions: "How are you doing? How are you going to cope?"

"By God," Bland said, as if the answer should be obvious. "We put it all in his hands."

# Covington woman gets a very special delivery

## *Habitat for Humanity home is on the way*

**By Karen Baker**
St. Tammany bureau

Hurricane Katrina dealt a blow to the home of Jackulin Collins of Covington, but help is on the way.

Collins was in New York on Sept. 26 to appear on the "Today" show, where she received the keys to her new Habitat for Humanity home.

The house is one of several whose parts are being assembled in New York, Los Angeles and Jackson, Miss., this week as part of "Make a Difference Today," a joint project of Habitat for Humanity International, the "Today" show and Warner Music Group.

Volunteers have been working in the three cities since Monday, framing houses for families displaced by Katrina. The frames will be disassembled into panels and placed in containers to be shipped to areas affected by the hurricane.

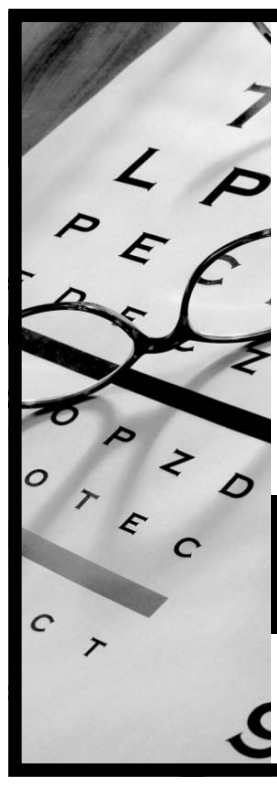
Covington will be the first stop, and Collins will be among one of the first in the country to have a very special delivery, said Ann Borne, executive director of Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West.

"They will bring them to us in Hope Village," said Borne, referring to an area near Pine View Middle School that was already prepared for Habitat construction. "It is our first subdivision. We already had 15 lots cleared and all ready. Isn't that God at work?"

Borne said the trucks are scheduled to arrive Friday and building will start Oct. 10.

The national effort was launched to help the Gulf Coast rebuild "one nail at a time," said Jonathan Reckford, Habitat's chief executive officer, and it serves as the kickoff project for Habitat's long-term rebuilding effort, dubbed "Operation Home Delivery."

For Collins and other homeowners-to-be, the special delivery can't come soon enough.

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# Flooded seminary sends students into cyberspace

## *School's Internet use gets more intense*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

A few days after Hurricane Katrina roared by last month, officials at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary emerged and took stock of the damage: every faculty residence flooded; 40 percent of on-campus student housing flooded; $20 million in damage; and faculty and students dispersed across the Southeast.

Yet education is continuing at the Southern Baptist institution, no matter that the bricks-and-mortar seminary sits quiet and empty on Gentilly Boulevard.

Today the institution's faculty teaches 3,900 students in cyberspace, and in more traditional settings at 17 satellite centers scattered across five Southeastern states from Louisiana to Florida.

"Our goal is to have every student on track toward graduation or finishing the semester," said Provost Steve Lemke, the institution's chief academic officer.

Shortly after the storm the seminary's leadership set itself two tasks: to care for its damaged students and to find a way forward through the academic year.

Most of the students on the Gentilly campus are graduate students, usually young men with small families managing a shift from a secular occupation to the pulpit. Many are financially stressed.

In short order, Southern Baptist donors, churches and agencies helped move 400 New Orleans-based students into free housing in other states.

Then an academic committee convened and asked itself a blunt question, Lemke said. "The faculty's dispersed; the students are dispersed. Is there any way of salvaging this semester?"

The answer turned out to be yes. The seminary retooled itself by seizing on two pre-Katrina strengths.

For years, the seminary has exported its accredited instruction to distant students through a thick network of so-called extension centers, or satellite campuses, in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Indeed, only half the seminary's enrollment is based at the New Orleans campus.

In addition, the school's faculty – and by necessity, its students — were digitally literate. They were comfortable with innovative distance-teaching techniques far removed from standalone classroom lectures, Lemke said.

More than half the faculty made some use of the Internet in their courses before Katrina.

Even before the storm, widely separated students could participate in classes through "threaded discussion" blogs, where they could carry on interactive classroom discussions shaped, challenged and critiqued by a professor-moderator as if everyone were gathered in the room.

Many students could download video lectures, search documents and other source material, examine linked Web sites, take tests and receive grades online. Now the shift is wholesale.

"Now we're taking what we had and putting it on steroids," Lemke said.

As a result, the school has cut itself free from its damaged campus. For the fall semester, education has transferred from Gentilly to cyberspace.

And much of what can't be done there is going on in more traditional ways, such as highly compressed weekend courses at major extension centers, like the one in Decatur, Ga., where President Chuck Kelley and the seminary's administration have transferred their offices.

It's an environment in which students must be more self-reliant and more responsible for their learning.

"It's more like the Oxford model of education, where a student takes on a project, goes off and does it and comes back to report on it," Lemke said.

Lemke and others are under no illusions that this kind of education is altogether perfect. Some courses are less well-suited for this than others, he said.

And the seminary hopes to migrate back toward more traditional methods for the spring semester. But that will be offered after something remarkable: a seminary graduation for the Katrina class, scheduled for Dec. 17 in Birmingham, Ala.

# Body found behind St. Rita's in Bernard

**From staff reports**

St. Bernard Parish authorities on Saturday found a body behind St. Rita's Nursing Home, where 34 people died during Hurricane Katrina, parish officials said.

The body was recovered in a wooded area behind the nursing home after authorities received a report of its location, parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro said. They could not immediately determine if it was a man or a woman.

Cannizaro said it was unclear whether the body, which was in advanced state of decomposition, was a patient from the nursing home or a nearby resident who floated to the site. Rescuers believe the person may not be tied to the home, however, because all the bodies of patients who died there were recovered inside the facility.

The 34 deaths recorded at the home was one of the highest storm-related fatality counts at any single location. The home's owners have been charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide for not evacuating the patients before the storm.

The body, combined with two others found Saturday in Violet, raised the parish's death count from Katrina to 110, Cannizaro said.

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# Floodgate work began in March

CANAL, *from B-1*

that the Harvey Canal remains the weakest link in the chain of the area's hurricane protection system. Not only did Rita heighten the sense of urgency for local officials in the wake of Katrina, it proved a greater threat than Frances in 1998, until now the benchmark for how close the West Bank came to a worst-case scenario.

"If we had gotten a lot of rain here, it could have been a different story," Cahill said.

The lessons learned from Frances put the $340 million West Bank Hurricane Protection Project on the fast track, with crews beginning work this year on massive floodgates south of Lapalco Boulevard designed to shut off a southerly surge.

With only about two months left in the hurricane season, officials hope that the project won't be needed this year and will be finished in time for hurricane season 2006.

## Slow going

Officials have long known the huge waterway makes the West Bank vulnerable, but attempts to shore up its system of levees, pumps and gates have been delayed because of a lack of federal and state money.

"I think it could have moved faster and we could be about three years ahead of where we are now," West Jefferson Levee District Executive Director Gerald Spohrer said.

Also standing in the way of the work was levee district officials' inability to force businesses along the canal to maintain levees on their properties. An agreement reached by the old Plaquemines-Jefferson Drainage District in the 1940s gave those companies that responsibility, Spohrer said.

The Corps of Engineers tried to build levees in the 1960s as part of the Harvey Canal-Bayou Barataria Hurricane Protection Project. But a lawsuit stymied the effort, and before litigation was settled, only levee construction on the west side of the canal had been completed, Spohrer said. Businesses on the east side of the canal still had the responsibility of keeping up levees. Some companies did a better job than others, he said.

Even with the creation of the West Jefferson Levee District in 1980, "government had very little power" to see to that levees were maintained, Spohrer said.

By 1988, government officials agreed that a floodgate south of Lapalco would negate the need for higher levees on the east side north of Lapalco. Industries had always complained that higher levees would greatly reduce the canal's commercial use.

Ten years later, Tropical Storm Frances spurred lawmakers to pour money into the project.

In March, Boh Bros. Construction Co. began work on the floodgates.

But Spohrer said more remains to be done to the Harvey Canal to protect against storms.

Levee construction is scheduled to begin before year's end or in early 2006 on the east side of the canal south of Lapalco Boulevard, and all work should be completed in three years, Spohrer said.

## Weak spots exist

Still, Rita put the West Bank on notice.

Frances threatened the canal with high tides for three days, but Rita hammered the area with high tides plus southeasterly and southerly winds, making it more of a threat, Maestri said.

Lower lying subdivisions, such as Stonebridge, Woodland West and Maplewood, are the most vulnerable, Spohrer said. Older areas closer to the Mississippi River are on higher ground and are less likely to receive water, he said.

"The concern with Frances was confined to one spot, at Goldin Industries," Maestri said. "This time we were concerned with a possible overtopping all along the eastern side of the canal."

Seepages and spillages occurred, mostly around Evans Industries Inc. and Goldin, both on Peters Road, Spohrer said.

A second weak spot was detected at the old pumping station on Bayou Segnette in Westwego, Spohrer said. Sheet pilings there were unstable, and crews worked to shore them up, he said.

Maestri, Cahill and Spohrer said they believe a small overtopping of the canal would not have resulted in catastrophic flooding.

"Drainage canals had been pumped down to the mud," Cahill said.

And the pumping stations were ready and at full capacity. "So our hope was that it wouldn't have been catastrophic," Maestri said.

# 'By noon we were overwhelmed'

MORGUE, *from B-1*

with the bodies in the morgue. Families do not come to the morgue; they arrange for the bodies of loved ones to be picked up by a funeral home.

A lack of "up-and-running" funeral homes in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes is postponing burials, Nichols said. "A lot of people are arranging for cremation," he said. The state has cut the waiting period from 10 days to five days, he said.

"These are not bodies that look like they are going to a funeral home," Nichols said.

When not working at the morgue, Nichols joins hundreds of storm- response workers from around the country at a temporary post at the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Headquarters on Bluebonnet Boulevard in Baton Rouge. Like most of the men and women there, Nichols has not had a day off since Katrina hit, and Rita has kept the workers from returning to their homes, many of which are in storm-torn areas.

Spelled out in brass letters on the headquarters' walkway are words from the book of Revelation: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Nichols, a retired Naval officer, said three tours of duty in Vietnam did not prepare him for what he has seen before and after Katrina.

"People were pulling up to the Superdome, putting out a wheelchair with Aunt Martha in it and driving off," he said. "We had nursing homes and group homes showing up with two to 32 people. We triaged as best we could and got out as many as we could."

Within 24 hours of the outset of Katrina, 2,400 people had been triaged, Nichols said, recalling that number was 27 for Hurricane Ivan last year and 37 for Tropical Storm Isidore in 2002.

"I had always told people we have no idea how many special-needs people there are" in New Orleans, Nichols said. "No one had ever taken the time to do a poll."

The morning before Katrina hit, the Dome was opened to special-needs people, but thousands of others showed up seeking shelter, Nichols said: "By noon we were overwhelmed."

When in battle, Nichols said, there is a saying that "10 minutes into combat, communication goes to hell. But in this case, there was never any communication. So we were left to our own devices."

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# Bloggers help maintain Web of information

## *First-hand accounts describe aftermath*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

When Hurricane Katrina ruptured the Gulf Coast region's communications network, displaced residents and separated families and friends, a cadre of Web warriors helped keep people connected.

Internet sites that began as personal journals became widely read touchstones of community. Their posts tell the storm's story in immediate, intimate detail and often personal terms.

The influence of so-called bloggers is double-edged, according Stephen Banning, a media professor at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication.

"It's good and bad," Manning said. "It's good in the sense that it allowed people to get information out."

But some of that information was taken as fact when it wasn't.

"There's no way to test for the credibility of the citizen journalist," Manning said.

A range of online outlets published bulletins from New Orleans, from an established technology firm to a solo writer standing on his parents' roof, aiming a cellular telephone at the sky and praying for a signal.

Local bloggers, which is shorthand for Web log writers, included a wine and cheese store owner, a former medical sales representative and a CEO holed up in the Poydras Center.

Tyler Gilbert, 36, a former medical sales representative, started Gulfsails.blogspot.com about two weeks before Katrina hit to promote sailing and racing. But as the storm approached, he boarded up his parents' River Ridge home, bought a generator and taught himself to post via cell phone text message.

Gilbert quickly became a hurricane correspondent, documenting the storm's onslaught and destruction in round-the-clock bulletins, some as brief as "Major debris. Matchstick power lines" and "Unknown people in neighborhood on foot. Neighbors arming selves. No imminent threat."

When he lost power, Gilbert climbed out onto the garage roof and aimed his phone toward Elmwood, where he thought a cellular tower at a Jefferson Parish command post would receive his signal.

A typically abbreviated post from Aug. 29 at 1:52 a.m. said: "Had a scare, check. Oddnoises.then alarms in distance. lights toward elmwood, prsh bldg, lg plot-gov set up base. Helos pass that direction."

Responding to friends' inquiries, he conducted surveys of the neighborhood by bicycle and published abbreviated "house roll-call" updates on damage.

When his readers complained that television coverage of the city was limited to areas such as French Quarter, Gilbert took his Jeep on forays into various New Orleans neighborhoods and posted photographs. "People said they were incredibly frustrated by the national media," he said.

Gilbert documented his return in a canoe, with his father, to his grandparents' ruined Lakeview home on Catina Street. He went along on an exhaustive pet rescue with a crew, then wrote about the experience.

He punctuated his posts with cheerful, wry humor and homage to the "defiant, self-deprecating, shoot the bird at the devil" spirit of New Orleans. He ranted against Saints owner Tom Benson and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu.

Until a reporter contacted him by text message two weeks after Katrina struck, Gilbert had no idea his blog was getting as many as 10,000 hits a day.

"I was blown away," he said. "I didn't realize how much people would be thankful for it."

Eventually, readers brought him beer, gas and MREs. But for Gilbert, the Web site was just a way to cope.

"The blog itself helped me stay sane," he said.

Jon Smith, 34, had a similar insight about his blog, Corknola.blogspot.com: "It was very therapeutic for me the first week to do it," he said.

Smith, the proprietor of Cork & Bottle Fine Wines at 3700 Orleans Ave., evacuated to Baton Rouge on the Saturday before the storm hit. "I wanted to reach out," he said. "I was almost spinning my wheels."

Smith began posting on his store's Web site, then transferred the posts to the blog and alerted customers using a list of e-mail addresses. He dedicated the blog to Mid-City, whose residents he said were hungry for updates about their tight-knit community.

"It's almost like a city within a city," he said. "It's a lot of people like me who had nothing but questions and no answers."

Smith posted questions from residents about their homes and relatives, links to online resources and on topics such as re-entering the city. He cleaned out his store's "rancid" refrigerator case of gourmet cheeses and posted the comic results, along with pictures.

"I can not impress on you all exactly how uniquely rancid this thing smelled," he wrote. "And it leaked. The rich bleus on the bottom shelf liquefied and leaked out. Without a doubt the worst smell I have ever smelled."

Smith posted readers' pleas for help, notices for fund-raisers, letters from friends and reports on his neighborhood. He too was surprised by the response. "I received so many e-mails from people saying thank you," he said.

One night at La Caretta, a Mexican restaurant in Baton Rouge, a reader approached, hugged him and said, "I was at the end of my rope not knowing," he said.

The blog has been very rewarding, Smith said: "It's grown beyond itself."

Core staff members of tech firm Intercosmos Media Group watched the hurricane's wrath unfold from the 10th floor of a downtown high-rise. They had stores of food, a 750-kilowatt generator and a surviving sense of humor.

Their blog, The Interdictor at mgno.com, grew out of the urge to share front-line observations with the outside world, according to CEO Sigmund Solares, a Thibodaux native and Loyola University graduate.

"We wanted to put out as much information as possible," he said. "We wanted people to see what was going on from what we could see."

His company, which has 800 servers and a 6,800-square-foot data center, was uniquely positioned to do so. The firm solicited outside help and used its tech savvy to post live video.

"From there, it spread really fast," Solares said. The site attracted as many as 400,000 unique visitors per day at its peak, he said. But interest has waned in the weeks following the storm, and he plans to turn the blog's focus to the rebuilding of the city.

Gilbert said he is considering his blog's demise. He's exhausted and may take a vacation, he said, and he's not sure how interested readers will be in posts about reconstruction. "The attention span of the American public is not that long," he said.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.

# Hurricane evacuees have new home, new life

## *Couple weds after fleeing Katrina*

CASPER, WYO. — New home, new job, new life — new wife.

Robert Baquet and Stephanie Bordelon were married Sunday, just days after their Ville Platte, La., home was destroyed by Hurricane Rita.

Baquet moved to Casper after Hurricane Katrina, hoping the job prospects were better in Wyoming than they were in Louisiana. As soon as he arrived, he decided he'd found a new home.

And a good thing he did — while Katrina missed Ville Platte, Rita hit the town hard.

His first words to Bordelon when she got off the plane: "We're getting married."

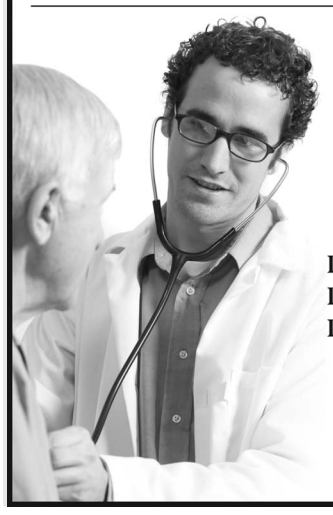
"I was a little stunned," she said. "But everyone here has been so great to us."

Linda Henderson, owner of the Sage & Sand Motel, gave them a space for the wedding, and the hotel's maids pooled their tips to help buy Bordelon a wedding dress.

"I've never been anywhere with people who have been so nice," Baquet said. "I want to stay here forever."

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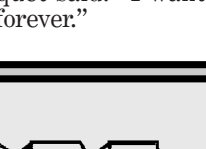
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**"Our mission right now is just to clear the right of way."**
RUSTY RETHERFORD, a supervisor with the Army Corps of Engineers.



AP PHOTOS

Virgie Ryals, left, and Bea Everett talk about the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in Lakeshore, Miss., Residents say they are afraid to leave what's left of their homes because they fear government contractors will bulldoze them. The government says such concerns are unfounded.



Travis Warwick, left, of Lumberton, N.C., and Ralph Diggs of Pecan Gap, Texas, remove debris from a street in Waveland, Miss.

# Mississippi families fear government bulldozers

*Many camping out to protect belongings*

**By Jay Reeves**
Associated Press writer

LAKESHORE, MISS. — Fear of Hurricane Katrina sent thousands fleeing their homes a month ago. Now, many are afraid to leave again and are camping out, despite temperatures in the 90s and swarms of biting flies, next to the shattered remains of their houses.

They're worried that if they're not around, bulldozers will clear away the rubble before they can pick it over.

Federal officials supervising the cleanup say the worries are unwarranted since crews are clearing only public land and road shoulders, where many homeowners have deposited debris they've cleaned up on their own. They say local officials will decide later whether to extend the work to private property.

"Our mission right now is just to clear the right of way," said Rusty Retherford, a supervisor with the Army Corps of Engineers.

But not everyone trusts the assurances. "Do Not Bulldoze" warnings are spray painted on homes and boats everywhere.

Some people are searching the debris for anything they can save, like family mementoes and kitchenware, while others are waiting for an insurance adjuster to come first or need help from a relative or a friend to start sorting their possessions from the trash.

At hard-hit Waveland, two families piled into tents on a corner lot for days after the storm to make sure dozers didn't destroy anything that could be salvaged from the wreckage of their homes. They were particularly concerned about protecting an in-ground swimming pool that wasn't damaged by the hurricane.

In the Lakeshore community, Bea Everett, 61, and Virgie Ryals, 69, are living in campers where their homes used to be to protect the few remaining contents.

"Over there, we had to stop them," said Everett, pointing to workers across a road. "They had already taken some stuff, and my daughter's car was under a tree."




A 'do not bulldoze' sign is posted on a damaged home in Biloxi, Miss.

David Holman, who is running a cleanup crew hired by the agency, was twice confronted by angry people after their homes were bulldozed to remove them from streets.

"Their stuff may have been OK, but they cut the trailers in half," he said. "There ain't nothing anybody can do about it."

Ronald Shiyou's wife was upset when a bulldozer destroyed the remainder of their brick home to get it off a street in Bay St. Louis, but he was more understanding.

"It was holding up progress. They had to get it out of there," he said. "My wife wanted to go in and get some pictures, but 80 percent of them were destroyed anyway."

Once contractors clear a street or roadside in Mississippi or Louisiana, rumbling trucks haul the remains to one of dozens of temporary holding sites. There, debris is sorted: Trees go to one pile and building debris to another, hazardous waste is dumped in lined containers and appliances are set aside for possible reclamation.

"We recycle what we can," said Retherford.

The corps estimates it will take from eight months to 1 1/2 years to remove all the debris from public property, even though workers are clearing away storm refuse at the rate of about 200,000 cubic yards a day, or enough to fill two football fields.

Everett hopes insurance company representatives and cleanup crews get to her storm-tossed home soon so she can move on. She'd like to get a trailer from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but not until the dozers are done.

"Everybody keeps telling us to leave, but when you're afraid you can't," she said.

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# Miss. natives make music for victims

By Kathy Hanrahan
Associated Press writer

OXFORD, MISS. — During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, former boy-band singer Lance Bass agonized over not being able to reach family members in his hometown of Laurel, Miss.

Bass, a one-time singer with 'N Sync, said three days passed before he learned that his relatives were unhurt but had lost their homes in the disaster.

"It is very devastating, especially having to watch it on television, when you have family members that are being bombarded by the thing," Bass told The Associated Press.

Bass was among musical artists who gathered Saturday at the University of Mississippi for a nationally televised concert called "Mississippi Rising" to raise money for victims of the hurricane.

"It's nice to have a voice and to be able to use it in events like this," Bass said. He was to be joined by Mississippi native Faith Hill, who planned to perform her hit "Mississippi Girl."

Hill has been active in fundraising efforts for hurricane victims. Her appearance at a Gulfport shelter singing "Amazing Grace" aired on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and her Web site is filled with messages urging fans to give money to hurricane relief.

The three-hour benefit will be shown live on MSNBC and aired on commercial television stations throughout Mississippi and Louisiana, and on Mississippi Public Television.

Donations will go to the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund, which was started by Gov. Haley Barbour, and to a similar fund in Louisiana administered by Foundations for Recovery.

The concert was organized by two Mississippi natives: Sam Haskell, former worldwide head of television for the William Morris Agency in Hollywood, and Lanny Griffith, a longtime friend of the governor who is chief executive officer of the Washington lobbying firm Barbour Griffith & Rogers. Before becoming governor, Barbour was chairman and CEO of the firm.

Other celebrities set to appear included Mississippi native Sela Ward, actor Morgan Freeman of Delta, Miss., and country singer Steve Azar of Greenville, Miss. Also scheduled to appear were actor Ray Romano; his TV mom, Doris Roberts; actors Jason Alexander and Samuel L. Jackson; and singer Macy Gray.



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# DEATHS

Edward Anthony Blanchard
Arthur F. Gallagher
Murray Garland
Leo Euston Kerner, Jr.
G. Michael Lala
Margie Acosta Maisano
Dorothy Joyce Rivers

**BLANCHARD**
Edward Anthony Blanchard Born February 28 1923, in Addis, Louisiana, he passed away at his Marrero home on Thurs, Sept. 8, 2005. Eddie will be remembered as a loving husband an uncle and for his commitment to living with honesty and fairness with everything. A gifted leader and innovator, he dedicated his life totally to building ships and developing Avondale Shipyards, Inc. He served in the United States Navy. After 46 years of service at Avondale Shipyards, he retired from his position as Vice-president of Production-Operations. He then devoted all his time to caring for his extensive family of siblings, nieces, nephews, in-laws and countless close friends. He was extremely passionate about every aspect of his life. Throughout his total life experiences, the memories that held the most meaning to him were his family, his faith, and the numerous employees of Avondale Shipyards, Inc. He graduated from Brusly High School and also attended LSU. He is survived by his sister, Edith Blanchard Owens, Brusly; three sister-in-laws and four brother-in-laws, Mary Ann Hebert LeBlanc, Fairhope, Al; James M. Kinberger, Jr., Metairie; Julius J. and Gloria Hebert; Andrew and Carmella Hebert, and Carroll Hebert, all of Marrero; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Laura Lee Hebert; parents, Joseph Harvey Sr. and Beatrice Mary Levert Blanchard; sister, Beatrice Mary Blanchard Kinberger; three brothers, Joseph Harvey, Jr., Sidney Albert, and David Louis Blanchard. Eddie was a participant in the Tulane and LSU Schools of Medicine Willed Body Program. Msgr. Luminais will conduct a memorial service on Sat., Nov. 5th, 2005 at 4:00pm at Holy Guardian Angels Church in Bridge City. The deceased wished that all donations be made in his name to The Immaculate Conception Church, 4401 Seventh St., Marrero, LA 70072 or Holy Guardian Angels Church 1701 Bridge City Ave, Bridge City LA 70094

**GALLAGHER**
Arthur F. Gallagher, on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Husband of the late Laura Freeman Gallagher. Father of Patricia Giles and Charles L. Gallagher. Grandfather of Scott Gallagher. Son of the late Charles and Valerie Gallagher. Brother of the late John, James and Charles Gallagher, Valerie Doody and Marian Callaghan. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Gallagher was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving in WWII. He was also retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Age 80 years. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m. Interment in Garden of Memories.

**GARLAND**
Murray Garland on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. Companion of the late Pat Squatrito. Son of the late Beulah Adams and Oray Graland. Father Of Marie Kingsmill and the late Joshua Garland, Michelle and Lisa Squatrito. Brother of Roy, Danny and Patricia Garland. Grandfather of Cayse, Harold and Jared Kingsmill. Aged 57 years, a native of New Orleans and a lifelong resident of Kenner. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in Ruebin Adams Family Cemetery, Angie, LA. Friends may visit after 9:00a.m. on Monday.

**KERNER**
Honorable Leo Euston Kerner, Jr., 81 years old, on Sunday, September 18, 2005. Beloved Husband of the late Willie Dolan Kerner. Friend and Companion of Amy Thompson. Father of Thelma Kerner Judice, Leo III, Charles, Larry, Willie, Timmy and The Late Edward Kerner. Son of the Late Thelma Couevas and Justice Of The Peace Leo E. Kerner, Sr. Brother of Ida Mae Zar and the Late Elwood, Edward, and Bobbie Kerner. Also survived by 19 Grandchildren and 27 Great Grandchildren. A Native of Barataria, LA and a resident of Lafitte, LA. Relatives and Friends of the family, also friends of the Gretna Courthouse, District Attorney Office, Sheriff Harry Lee's Office, Jefferson Parish Levee are invited to attend Funeral mass at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Lafitte, LA on Monday October 3, 2005 at 11:00AM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Sunday evening from 6:00 PM Until Midnight and at the church on Monday Morning from 8:30 AM until mass time.

**LALA**
G. Michael Lala, Restauranteur and Animal lover passed away Sunday, September 11, 2005, born on September 02, 1931, he was 74. Owner of the Olde Nawlins Cookery Restaurant. First cameraman of New Orleans for WDSU-TV for thirty years. President for two years for the New Orleans Press Club. Won numerous awards and shared an "Emmey" for the "KKK" documentary. First cameraman to operate a mini-cam on a regular basis. Inducted into the New Orleans Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. Created the Lala Animal Foundation. His dream was becoming reality in building Lala's of Lakeview Restaurant in West End with a portion of proceeds to aid his animal foundation. Survivors include his beloved Connie Tenhaaf and his puppy Rufus along with his numerous cats. A daughter, Linda Keiff, sister Beverly Bartlett, two brothers, Larry Lala and Ronnie Lala, three grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving son of the late Pascal and Lillian Lala. Funeral services pending. For information please call 504-952-0972 or 504-529-3663.

**MAISANO**
Margie Acosta Maisano at Alexandria, Louisiana on September 24, 2005. Age 80. Wife of Victor Maisano. Mother of John Maisano and Juana M. Ortego. Daughter of the late Valerie Pellegrin and Abel Acosta. Sister of Clara McKone and the late Willie Acosta. Mother in Law of Clyde J. Ortego. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Westside Leitz Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12:00 PM. Interment in St. Roch Cemetery will be private. Visitation at the funeral home on Monday, October 3, 2005 from 10:00 AM until service time. Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Info: 504-341-9421

**RIVERS**
Dorothy Joyce Rivers on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 65, a native of Woodville, MS and a resident of Metairie for the past 3 1/2 years. Beloved wife of the late J.C. Rivers. Mother of Jimmy S. Mumphrey, Jr. Daughter of the late Shelly and Anne Loy Whittington. Sister of Wayne Whittington and the late Jerry, Haskell and Shelly Whittington, Jr. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 11:00am. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens. Friends may visit from 9:00am until 11:00 am on Tuesday.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.
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# SILENT WITNESSES

*Throughout the rushing to prepare for the storm, the hunkering down, the waiting to return and the assessing of damage, representations of humanity kept still watch over the New Orleans area. The owners of the items can only imagine what scenes surrounded them, and work to restore them to more pleasing settings.*

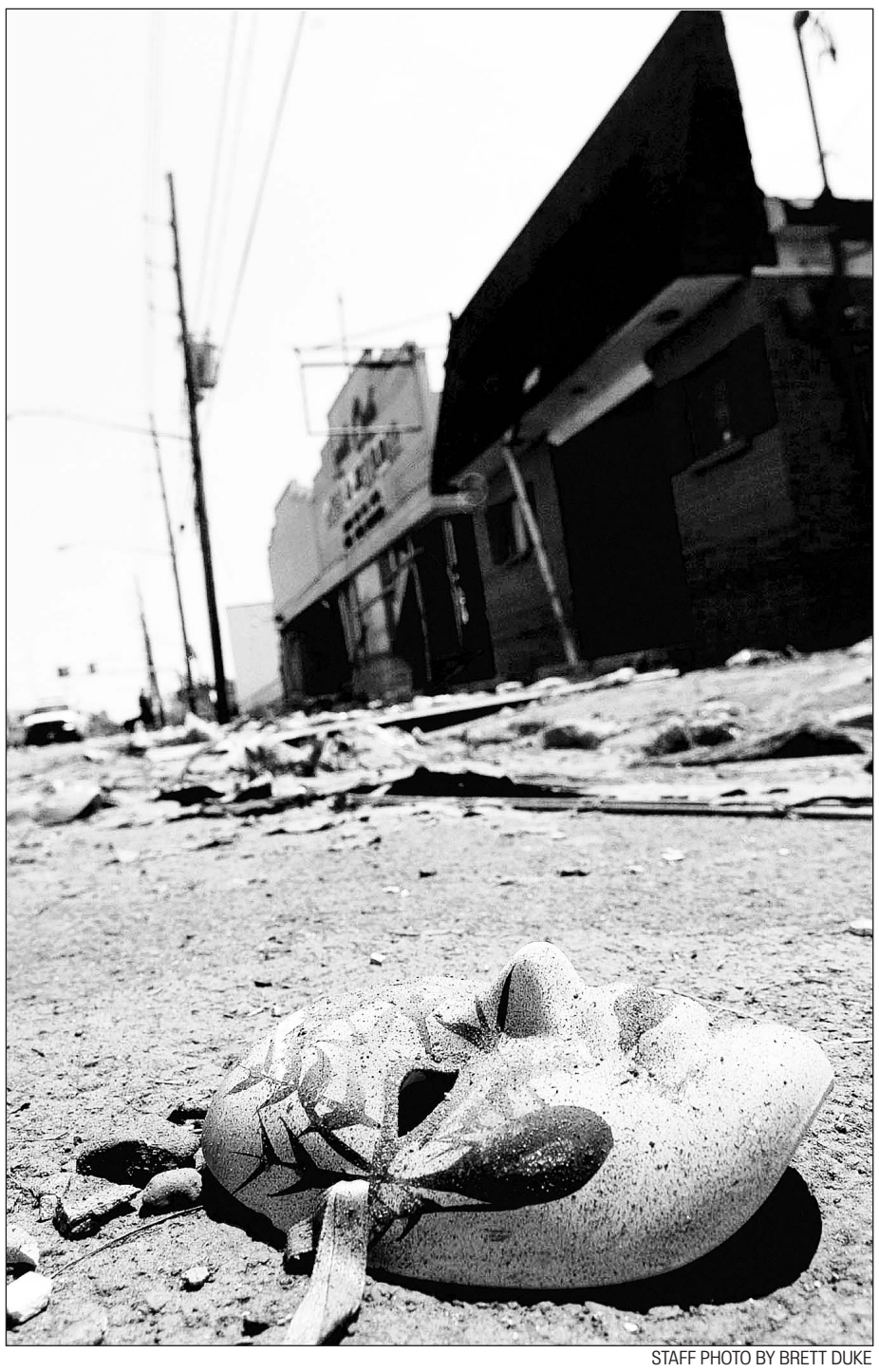


STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

TOP: When the floodwater subsided, bits of vegetation came to rest on this stone lion in front of a home in Eastover in New Orleans.
ABOVE: The statue of St. Joseph and two representations of the Virgin Mary were retrieved from St. Nicholas of Myra Church in New Orleans. Father Red Ginart is believed to have stayed during the storm; his remains were found nearby. In the remains of the Lake Catherine church are SWAT officers from the New Orleans Police Department.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

**NEW ORLEANS:** A Mardi Gras symbol fails to mask the devastation on St. Claude Avenue.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**MEREAUX:** An oil leak at Murphy Oil left residue on this lawn ornament nearby.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**NEW ORLEANS:** Floodwater in the Lower 9th Ward surrounded this statue of the Virgin Mary for a second time after Hurricane Rita.

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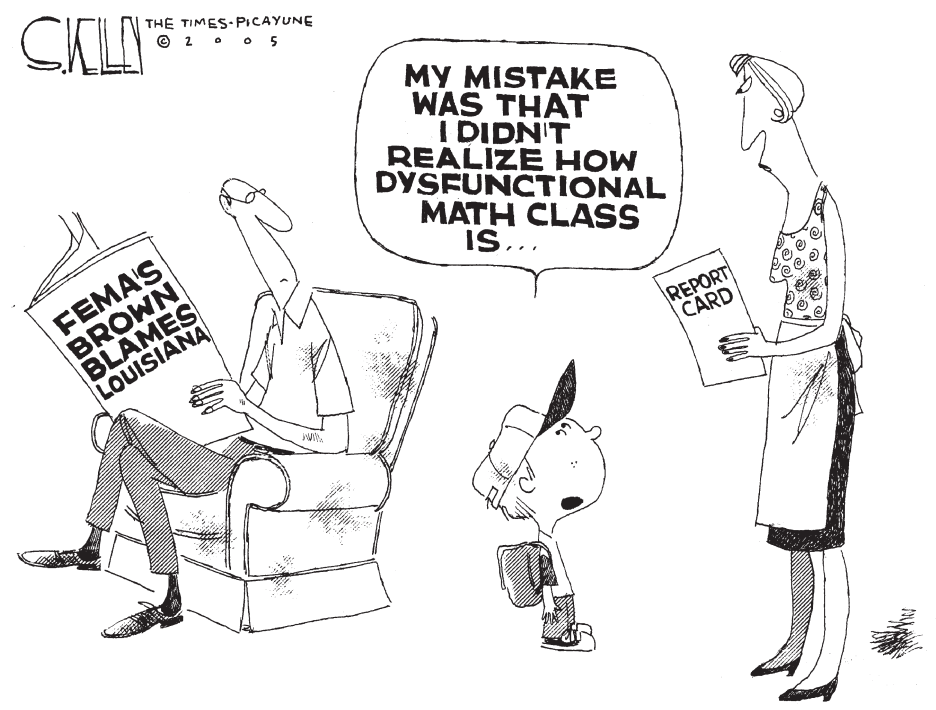
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# YOUR OPINIONS



Navy Seabees from California drag heavy wet carpeting out of the St. Bernard Parish government complex Sept. 13.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

## Send in the Navy

We are using the Army to bring aid to victims when we should be using the Navy.

The Army arrives in a miles-long convoy on Interstate 10. The Navy would arrive in the river at the foot of Canal Street hours after the eye of the storm passed. Since all hurricanes strike our coasts, the Navy could outfit five or six vessels, steam just behind the storm and be ready to dock when the storm passes.

The Navy could arrange for the first vessel to carry doctors, nurses and medical supplies, and the second vessel food, water and ice. The third might have quarters to temporarily house residents; the fourth could handle garbage and the fifth could be a jail. Obviously, these could be changed or combined. One might even carry amphibious vehicles and begin to rescue people in low-lying areas immediately.

The Navy could dock these vessels at a point that they could reach any hurricane that would threaten the East Coast or the Gulf Coast. They would be activated only during the hurricane season.

I do not like the idea of creating another government agency, but I think the Navy could do a better job than the Army.

**Robert W. Cisco**
*New Orleans*

## Schools plan to reopen, better than before

As the people of New Orleans work to recover and rebuild their lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, we would like to offer a beacon of hope: The New Orleans Public Schools will be reopened. The system will be stronger and the future for the children of this community will be brighter than ever before. When we are successful, we will re-establish a revenue base so that funds start flowing back into the system. We will be able to rehire our employees.

We will have the ability to make payments. We will restore hope that displaced citizens will have something great to return home to. And we will create a public school system the children of New Orleans deserve.

We are working closely with State Superintendent Cecil Picard and federal, state and local officials and have begun executing a school reopening plan. Here is what our process involves:

We have already begun the process of going school to school with FEMA officials, architects, engineers and other specialists to survey damage. We are addressing the district's financial situation, which was dire even before the storm.

We have echoed the call of Superintendent Picard to the federal government for financial assistance for our employees. We have been talking to other school districts around the country as well as to private foundations that can provide support in our efforts to build a world-class school system for the children of New Orleans.

Once the assessment of schools is complete, we will begin in phases, moving quickly to open schools that sustained the least damage.

The safety and well-being of the children is most important and we will work with public health and environmental experts to make sure that any schools we open are safe and there are no unseen hazards.

We are currently assessing our technology services and plan to restore our communications infrastructure. We also will work with vendors to make sure the schools have the furniture, supplies and materials they need.

We will work with the unions on a plan to bring back employees and we will coordinate the re-staffing of each school.

Finally, we will develop a transportation service plan to ensure that students have a means to get to school.

If we could open schools tomorrow, we would. But we know this will be a process. While our resolve is to act as quickly as humanly possible, we will never sacrifice safety or security or risk putting even one child in harm's way for the sake of expediency.

**Ora Watson**
*Interim Superintendent, New Orleans Public School System*

**The Rev. Torin Sanders**
*President, Orleans Parish School Board*

**William Roberti**
*Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal New Orleans*

## We can't rebuild on dirt-poor wages

The face of New Orleans in the days after Hurricane Katrina was that of a community of poor, black Americans. While the population of New Orleans is majority African-American, the reason for these citizens' poverty is not the color of their skin but the below-average wages that many businesses pay them.

Now that we have a chance to provide a large number of good-paying jobs in the rebuilding of New Orleans, the Bush administration has decided to reward favored contractors by suspending the 74-year-old Davis-Bacon Act. This law requires contractors to pay predetermined wage rates to workers on federal projects. With the suspension of this act, contractors could pay as little as $5.15 per hour to workers who desperately need a good-paying job to rebuild their lives.

Paying the prevailing wage does not increase the cost of a project. But suspending the prevailing wage law does increase the profits to contractors who can't lose money on a no-bid contract.

Prevailing wage rates are calculated by the Department of Labor, which does wage surveys in the area where the work is to be performed. The prevailing wage is an average of this survey. It is neither union scale nor non-union scale; it is an average of both. If President Bush truly wants to help Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama rebuild, he should not suspend Davis-Bacon and he should eliminate those sweetheart no-bid contracts.

**Emile L. Rome**
*Administrative Manager/Training Director*
*Operating Engineers Local 406*
*New Orleans*

## Cops might have stuck around

With the residency rule still in force, it is ironic that some of the New Orleans Police Department personnel could have been living in nearby parishes with their personal residences safe from harm or nearly so. Those police would have been available for work. This rule has come to bite the city on a delicate part of its anatomy.

**Sgt. Robert C. Whitney**
*New Orleans Police Department (Retired)*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# OUR OPINIONS

## The return

Hurricane Katrina struck the metro area more than a month ago, and by this point displaced and benumbed New Orleanians know more than they ever wanted to about the rigors of life as evacuees. While large parts of the metro area already are back in business, the east bank of Orleans Parish has been largely off-limits to residents. This dislocation has given cleanup crews room to operate, but the longer it goes on the worse the consequences for New Orleans' reconstruction effort.

For this reason, it's encouraging to see thousands of people heading to the east bank. Granted, Mayor Nagin's plan to allow people back into the city ZIP code by ZIP code is far from perfect; even in areas that officially opened to business owners and residents late last week, water and sewerage services are limited at best.

The downside is obvious, but so is the underlying logic of the plan: The quickest way to make New Orleans vibrant again is for people to live in their own homes and begin spending money in the city. The ZIP codes that experienced the worst flooding won't open until later this week, and residents will only be allowed to inspect their homes. But that alone should come as some comfort.

Even before the mayor began opening up the city, many New Orleanians managed to get to their homes — and started fighting back against moisture and mold. For residents who've stayed out of the city, the wait has been maddening. Until they see the damage for themselves, salvage mementoes and meet with insurance adjusters, people who suspect they've lost their homes can't move on with their lives.

That sentiment — the need to get back in — was palpable at a City Council meeting held Tuesday at Louis Armstrong International Airport. While state and federal officials have been cool to the mayor's efforts to reopen the city, council members criticized him for not moving quickly enough. Some complaints were self-serving; council members also fretted about not getting a sufficiently prominent role in the city's recovery efforts, even though managing emergencies is the responsibility of the executive branch.

Still, there's no doubt that council members are hearing from constituents, and the message has been clear: Tell us more about what's going on. Let us see our homes. Let us live there, if we can.

The mayor's first attempt, a couple of weeks back, at bringing people back into the city was confusing and ill-organized. He failed to distinguish adequately between re-entry and repopulation — between letting people come back to see their homes and inviting them back for good. That process was ultimately scuttled by the approach of Hurricane Rita, amid complaints from the White House on down that the mayor was moving too quickly.

This time, there's more specific information available about conditions in the city. Returning residents need to understand that, even in areas with power, the risks and inconveniences will be significant. Food, water and gasoline will likely be in short supply in the city for some time. Still, letting citizens come back could in theory accelerate repairs to essential services; under the watchful eyes of returning residents, the Sewerage & Water Board and the utility companies serving New Orleans will be under more pressure to fix broken pipes.

Some officials, no doubt, fear a repeat of the civil disorder that overtook the east bank in the first few days following the hurricane. Such concerns are hardly trivial. After all, ZIP codes are separated by imaginary lines, not by secure fences. State and local law enforcement agencies, along with the military units now operating in the city, need to keep tight control of neighborhoods that aren't yet open.

There are plenty of other legitimate arguments against allowing residents to return to New Orleans. But keeping residents away creates its own burdens. When people wake up every morning on somebody else's floor, it's difficult to contemplate the future with a clear head.

On Thursday, even before residents were officially allowed back, there were glimmers of life Uptown and in the French Quarter. The power was on, and the stores, restaurants and bars that were open for business had plenty of eager customers, all of whom had to know that life still wouldn't return to normal for some time. Still, it was good to be home.

## Transportation on track

Living in Baton Rouge and working in New Orleans will further complicate life for displaced New Orleanians — from the hours they'll spend on traffic-clogged highways to the expense they'll face buying gas for the 160-mile round trip.

Given the choice, many might jump at the chance to take a commuter train that would run between the two cities. Launching such a service is a smart, innovative idea.

The Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans and the Capital Area Transit System, which operates bus service in Baton Rouge, are getting together with the state Department of Transportation and Development, Amtrak and the Kansas City Southern railroad to propose a line that would run twice a day.

They're asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide $25 million to subsidize the rail service over a three-year period. It's hard to know how difficult it will be to sell FEMA on this plan, but with such an investment involved, organizers will have to demonstrate not only a need for the service but interest on the part of riders.

Showing the need shouldn't be difficult. An estimated 200,000 New Orleans area residents are now living in Baton Rouge and many of them have property, businesses or jobs that will demand their regular presence in New Orleans. A spokeswoman for the state transportation department said that the idea is to help people get back to work while they sort out their housing. State highway officials also think that commuter rail service would reduce traffic on Interstate 10.

Local, state and federal officials should be looking for ways to help displaced residents contribute to rebuilding the New Orleans area. Improving transportation between New Orleans and Baton Rouge is one key way to do that.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Katrina robbed us of so many precious things



JARVIS DEBERRY

The Thursday after Hurricane Katrina I was preparing to come to work at The Times-Picayune's new location in Baton Rouge. I was pocketing those things I always pick up before walking out the door: wallet, cell phone, keys.

That's when I stopped. "Keys? What do I have to unlock?"

I laughed the way all of must have laughed when we've caught ourselves doing things the way we would have done them before the storm. I put the keys in my camera bag, zipped it up and got used to walking around without them.

Four Thursdays later I was still in Baton Rouge, but on this day I knew I'd be going to New Orleans to check on my house. As I was getting ready to leave I realized with a start that I didn't have my keys. How pathetic would that be, I thought — me enduring Baton Rouge's hellish traffic, driving the 80 miles to New Orleans, only to realize that the keys I needed were back in the capital city?

I needn't have worried. The lock on every exterior door had rusted. The keys were as useless on Sept. 29 as they had been on Sept. 1.

To get inside, I had to do what soldiers had done Sept. 10 when they used neon yellow spray paint to mark my house: I had to climb in through a side window.

The room I landed in looked diseased. Like the black spots that appear on a rotting banana or an onion that's been left too long in the fridge, the mold running up the walls suggested an advanced state of decay. The house is still in the process of dying.

I know that others have gone back to their homes because they want to see whether that one cherished item survived the wind and the water: the framed photo of a deceased relative, a necklace from a spouse, a prized vase or crystal bowl. I thought I had removed from my house everything that was irreplaceable — I hadn't, but I'd told myself I had — so I was there out of a sense of obligation. I was going to have to face the destruction eventually. Why not now?

I headed first for my bedroom. I wonder if that's what everybody who returns will do. The rooms where we sleep define us, and they often house our most precious valuables. Why not start there?



Jarvis DeBerry's house on Crescent Drive took on an estimated 8 feet of water.

I couldn't get in. I turned the knob, pushed the door with my hand, pushed it with my shoulder and karate-kicked it repeatedly. It never budged.

By contrast, the door to the office across the hall gave way with modest effort. When I say "gave way," understand that I do mean "gave way." After a couple of pushes, my right arm went right through the door. At that point, I pushed the whole door down.

In his famous piece Areopagitica, John Milton wrote, "[A]s good almost kill a man as kill a good book." I remember debating that statement in my high school English class. Some classmates thought that Milton's position was too over the top to be considered. But I can say now that seeing most of my books in one sodden heap on the floor killed me. All the bookcases had fallen over. The desk had collapsed. The certificates on the wall were destroyed even as they remained attached to the walls.

I didn't stay long. I didn't see the need. I grabbed some books from the top shelf of a built-in case, but that was all. When I saw what looked like white cotton candy growing atop the blades of my ceiling fans I took it as evidence that the organisms that feast on death and decay had moved in permanently and that I was intruding on them.

Thousands of New Orleanians are chomping at the bit to get back to the city. Their eagerness says to me that they believe something good awaits them there. Many of them will have happier stories than mine. But many of them will have stories as bad. Many will stories that are worse.

I remembered Thursday night that behind my bedroom door were two quilts my grandmother had made for me. I felt bad for having told friends that I had removed everything that was irreplaceable. I hadn't. I'm guessing that many folks are going to return to their destroyed structures and realize that they hadn't either.

Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

# It takes the feds to mess up this badly



JAMES GILL

It was smart of Gov. Kathleen Blanco, testifying on Capitol Hill last week, to decline an opportunity to respond to Michael Brown's earlier acerbities.

Brown's sense of irony must be sadly undeveloped. Having set new standards for official incompetence as head of FEMA, he proceeded to denounce Louisiana government for a "dysfunctional" response to Katrina. All that Blanco had to do was watch him twist in the wind and refuse to be distracted from the task of extracting as much federal moolah as possible for the rebuilding effort.

For Brown, each day brings a fresh embarrassment. No sooner had a congressional committee poured scorn on his attempts to avoid responsibility than a damning internal FEMA report, prepared weeks before Katrina, came to light.

The report found "operational inefficiencies" that "hindered the delivery of essential disaster response and recovery services."

This appears to have hurt Brown's feelings. He rejected the report and complained that it failed to "acknowledge the highly performing, well managed and staffed systems supporting FEMA incident response and recovery." He resented that the report's "overall tone" was "negative."

It may be that the crowds stranded at the Superdome and the Convention Center also failed to notice the benefits of those "high performing, well managed and staffed systems."

Maybe, if asked for comment, they would have used even more negative language than the inspector general whose findings so offended Brown.

Brown's claim that he erred principally in failing to anticipate the shortcomings of others attracted plenty of derision from the congressional committee, and no doubt history will remember him as a spectacular bungler.

Perhaps Blanco and Nagin will come in for their share of condemnation too, although it is obvious that a screw-up of this magnitude is beyond the capacity of local officials. The full weight of the federal government is required to get so much wrong.



AP PHOTO

Former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown defends his response to Hurricane Katrina on Capitol Hill Sept. 27.

Brown blamed Louisiana officials for delaying the evacuation call, although he got that wrong too. Blanco ordered everyone out Aug. 27, and not, as Brown alleged on Capitol Hill, a day later.

Blanco was able to exercise wise restraint when she arrived in Washington, having already pointed out Brown's error and adding, "Such falsehoods and misleading statements, made under oath before Congress, are shocking." Nagin said that it was "too early to get into name-blame and all that stuff" but that "a FEMA director in Washington trying to deflect attention is unbelievable to me."

In fact, the evacuation order came in time for most residents to leave the New Orleans area. There cannot have been many who wanted to get out, and had the means to do so, but ran out of time.

Those who were left were either foolhardy or broke, New Orleans having an ample supply of citizens in both categories. Those who refuse to evacuate must be left to take their chances; the real scandal, however, is not that evacuation plans are implemented late but that they exclude so many.

Evacuations are always a trial for families who are forced to sit all day in their automobiles, even after contraflow, and it may be that there is room for more efficiencies. But large numbers of citizens might wish they had an opportunity to sit in a traffic jam on the way to safety on account of it sure beats drowning.

Some way must be found to make a decent provision for the poor. It was our failure to do so that made the glacial and confused federal response so deadly. But Brown made himself such a goat that nobody down here need explain anything right now.

James Gill is a staff writer.



STEPHANIE GRACE

# Next time remains a heck of a question

The question now is what the feds will do next time

Watching Michael Brown squirm under pointed questioning and worse before a congressional panel last week, my mind went back to that old job interview trick: When someone asks your biggest weakness, just tell them that you simply work too hard and care too much.

That seemed to be the ousted Federal Emergency Management Agency's director's strategy too, during what amounted to a six-hour exit interview before a mostly Republican but hardly sympathetic audience. Asked, basically, to explain how his disaster-response agency could have screwed up so badly after Hurricane Katrina, Brown responded that his major failing was being surrounded by incompetents.

"I very strongly personally regret that I was unable to persuade Gov. Blanco and Mayor Nagin to sit down, get over their differences and work together," Brown said.

And then there was this gem: "My biggest mistake was not recognizing, by Saturday, that Louisiana was dysfunctional."

Now, far be it from me to argue that ain't so. But pointing out local and state failings doesn't exactly absolve the federal government of its responsibility.

While "no disaster is perfect," Brown said (seriously), he started off defending his agency's efforts to coordinate a response, which is its primary function.

"I want this committee to know that FEMA pushed forward with everything that it had, every team, every asset that we had, in order to help what we saw as being a potentially catastrophic disaster," he said.

Yet, as the day wore on, it became crystal clear that everything FEMA had wasn't much.

Brown's criticism of the local and state communication efforts ran head-on into questions, most pointed by New Orleans Democrat William Jefferson, about FEMA's own Hurricane Pam simulation, which assumed that communication networks would be rendered inoperable by a Category 3 or worse storm anyway.

Brown contrasted the ground situation in Louisiana, unfavorably, with Alabama and Mississippi. That prompted a blistering response from Mississippi Gulf Coast Democrat Gene Taylor.

"So I guess what you are telling me is that in the face of an unprecedented storm, that in flooded areas that have not flooded since the Europeans landed in south Mississippi, that it was indeed part of FEMA's plan that the cities of Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Hancock County, many other communities, are expected to loot the local grocery store because help is, quote/unquote, on the way," Taylor said.

Outside the hearing room, the news cycle didn't treat Brown any more kindly.

Brown's testimony came the same day that recordings from Jefferson Parish's emergency czar Walter Maestri, an experienced pro who's been predicting and girding for the Big One for as long as I can remember, were made public.

A computer system used to funnel requests failed and requests from both the state and Jefferson Parish "went nowhere," Maestri said. Almost two weeks after, he was blasting FEMA for putting the parish's sewer system in jeopardy.

"Whatever happened to the FEMA gen packs we talked about, these pallets of generators that are supposedly pre-positioned across the country and can be flown in at a moment's notice?" Maestri demanded. "Now when we are on our knees, nothing's available."

If the failure was news to Maestri, it wouldn't have been to acting Homeland Security Department Inspector General Richard Skinner, who had homed in on a longstanding problem.

His audit of FEMA's information systems during the busy 2004 hurricane season found that the agency couldn't track and coordinate delivery of water and ice in Florida and that roughly 200,000 storm victims had to wait for temporary housing aid because of backlogged computers.

Well into the marathon hearing, with his bluster exhausted, Brown finally came around and acknowledged deep problems as well. In addition to Nagin and Blanco, he admitted, perhaps the Bush administration had some issues too.

"As we've gone through these changes with the focus on terrorism resources have just been moved, used to other things, different priorities have come in place," Brown said. "And I've got to tell you, it has been a personal struggle over the past two or three years to keep that place together because of this resource problem."

OK, now we're getting somewhere.

Though it's great sport to pick on Brown — and he does make it so easy — the real discussion that has to happen in Katrina's aftermath concerns what role the feds should play during future disasters, and what resources it needs.

It's a heck of a question, as President Bush might say — one that will be around long after the memory of Michael Brown's bizarre behavior has faded away.

Stephanie Grace is a staff writer. She can be reached at sgracenola@yahoo.com.

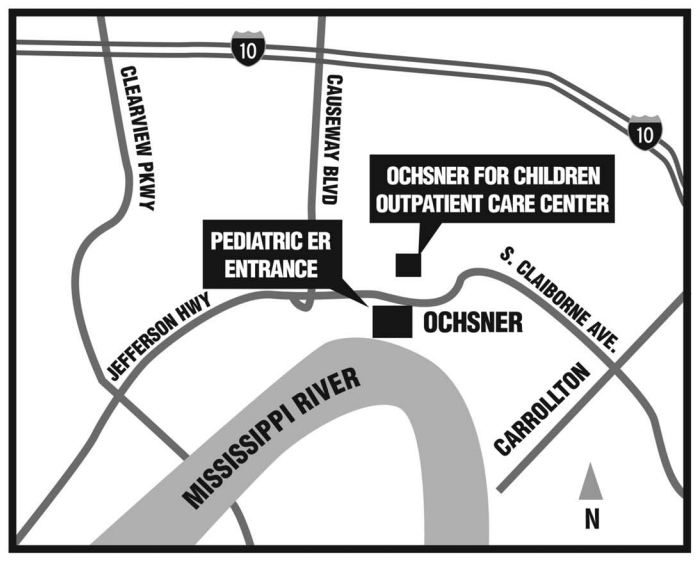
# All in favor of new emergency care for kids, raise your hands!

**The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service in New Orleans opens October 3.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service was designed to be just what your child would need if he or she needed urgent medical help. We considered the kind of things parents like you would want:

- state-of-the-art equipment sized just to fit kids
- a staff of pediatric emergency specialists
- 7-day-a-week service
- an intensive care unit
- 24-hour emergency transport service

And we made sure we have those things all in one friendly and convenient setting. Best of all, this service is from Ochsner, where family-focused care is at the heart of all we do. So when your child needs emergency care, Ochsner is the place to go.




The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is located in the Ochsner Emergency Room at 1514 Jefferson Highway.
For routine pediatric appointments, call **1-504-842-3900.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is just one of the many initiatives Ochsner is taking to make an ongoing difference in communities in and around New Orleans. To find out more, visit www.ochsner.org

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The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C
Sunday, October 2, 2005

Allan Bristow, who resigned as the Hornets' general manager, had been with the organization for 10 years in a variety of duties.



STAFF FILE PHOTO

## Bristow resigns from Hornets

*Health reasons forces general manager to end long tenure with team*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

General manager Allan Bristow resigned Saturday as the Hornets general manager, citing health concerns.

Director of player personnel Jeff Bower, who has been with the franchise for 10 years and has served in a number of capacities including assistant coach in 2003-04, was promoted to general manager.

"The stress and strain of the last month took a serious toll on various health problems that I was already facing before the hurricane," Bristow said in a statement. "After consulting with my physician, it became clear that stepping down was the only decision that made sense for me and my family."

Bristow was instrumental in guiding the basketball operations department during its transition period after Hurricane Katrina forced the team to temporarily relocate to Oklahoma City for this season after damages occurred at New Orleans Arena and New Orleans was devastated by flood waters.

He was promoted to general manager in June 2004 after serving the 2003-04 season as assistant general manager under vice president of basketball Bob Bass, who resigned at the end of the season when the Hornets were eliminated in the first round by the Miami Heat.

"Our first concern is Allan's health, but we have the utmost confidence that having Jeff in place will enable us

*See* **BRISTOW,** *page C-2*

2-1 TULANE 28 • SLU 21 1-2

# WAVE SQUEAKS BY



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Tulane's Tra Boger (2) moves into position to intercept an errant pass in the first half of Saturday's game against SLU.

*Low-riding TU crests enough to top Lions*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — After showing character in its first game and improvement in game two, Tulane took a step backward Saturday.

In what was originally set as its homecoming game, the Green Wave, in a lackluster performance at Tiger State, did only what it needed in defeating Southeastern Louisiana 28-21.

It wasn't until Southeastern tied the score early in the fourth quarter did Tulane come up with some scoring to put the Lions away. The Wave pulled away with a 97-yard kickoff return by Izzy Route and a 74-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Lester Ricard to Bubba Terranova.

Southeastern scored on the final play from scrimmage to close to within a touchdown of the Wave (2-1).

The Lions tied the score twice, the second time at 14 on a two-yard touchdown pass from Trey Willie to running back Blake Alfortish with 13:13 remaining. The tie was broken 14 seconds later when Route returned the ensuing kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown. It was the first time Tulane returned a kickoff for a score since the 2003 season.

While the Wave's special teams put it back in front, the Lions special teams responded and blocked the extra point attempt to keep themselves within striking distance, 20-14. But after Southeastern was stopped on fourth down at the Wave's 30-yard line, Tulane ended the suspense with a 74-yard scoring pass from Ricard to a wide-open Terranova.

The defense provided the Wave another opportunity with four minutes remaining when it recovered a fumble at SLU's 16. Tulane's offense, which was inconsistent for most of the game, did not take advantage of the Lions' final mistake.

*See* **TULANE,** *page C-4*

2-1 LSU 37 • MISS. STATE 7 2-3



AP PHOTO

LSU receiver Xavier Carter scores on a reverse against Mississippi State on Sunday.

## Russell, Tigers bounce back vs Miss. State

*LSU scores 37 straight points, improves to 1-1 in SEC*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

STARKVILLE, MISS. — Well Tigerland, you won't have Les Miles to kick around, anymore — not until possibly next Saturday, at least, anyway.

An easy bull's-eye for public scrutiny this week, the first-year LSU coach silently responded to the swell of criticism and began the healing process after the Tennessee meltdown Monday with a satisfying 37-7 road victory against SEC West rival Mississippi State.

Unlike its matchup against the Volunteers, LSU dominated the second half, inflating a 10-point halftime edge with three third-quarter touchdowns that sent most of Wade Davis Stadium back to its tailgating.

JaMarcus Russell abused Mississippi State's willingness to leave receivers uncovered on short, underneath routes, completing a career-best 21 of 24 passes for 211 yards until backup Matt Flynn gave the sophomore the rest of the afternoon at the start of the fourth quarter.

Russell was afforded a few opportunities to

*See* **LSU,** *page C-5*

## Bills' Bobby April has seen devastation before



PETER FINNEY

SAN ANTONIO — Bobby April is in town to coach the Buffalo Bills' special teams against the Saints on Sunday.

And he's carried some Katrina memories with him.

Here's a native of Chalmette, who's now working a short drive from Niagara Falls, and he's telling you how devastating, how frustrating it was to sit there, a thousand miles away, and "watch the place you grew up in disappear under water."

"I spent the last month looking at special teams film, mornings and afternoons," April said. "Go home at night and I'm watching horror film, watching all the misery, looking at all those people having their lives changed forever."

Bobby April counts his blessings.

"My mother lives in Metairie, near Dorignac's, and she came out all right," he said. "It was tougher on my wife, Charlene, who has seven brothers and sisters living in an area that really took a hit, Little Woods, Arabi, all the way to Delacroix. Fortunately, they all got out before the hurricane came, to the North Shore, to Mississippi and Alabama, but they all lost their homes. Three weeks after the

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-6*

## Saints not sure what to expect

*San Antonio crowd's attitude unknown*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

**SAINTS vs. BILLS**
noon Sunday
at San Antonio
**TV/Radio:** Fox; 870-AM

SAN ANTONIO — Coach Jim Haslett isn't certain how the Saints will play in today's historic "home-away-from-home" NFL game against the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome.

He's even more uncertain about the nearly 60,000 fans who'll be sitting in judgment.

Most will be strangers in a strange land, a mixed bag of uprooted Who Dats, regional diehards, Texas football purists, adventure seekers and the curious.

"I don't know what to expect, I really don't," Haslett said. "I hope it's electrifying. I hope the fans are in it and they cheer a lot and they're loud when Buffalo's offense is out there, so they can't hear the signals. We're hoping for a great environment, and I think they're going to like what they see."

Haslett hasn't liked what he's seen the past few weeks against the New York Giants and Minnesota Vikings, demoralizing losses littered by penalties and turnovers. Those games were a sharp contrast to a relatively clean road win against the Carolina Panthers in Week 1.

Saints officials are hoping the players have settled down after experiencing their first routine week of the season, although

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-6*

# Z's expect to be ready for opening day

**From staff, wire reports**

The New Orleans Zephyrs announced that they will remain in New Orleans and play baseball on opening day - April 6, 2006 — despite the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina.

Zephyr Field was damaged by the storm, but team officials said the building can be repaired by opening day.

"There is a lot to do, but we are lucky to have time on our side," General Manager Mike Schline said. "Opening day is over six months away, and we are determined to open our gates, play baseball and launch fireworks on opening day for the people of this city that have been through so much."

Zephyrs owner Don Beaver agreed, seeing baseball in New Orleans and opening

day as a landmark for the city.

"The Zephyrs will remain in New Orleans, and I expect the relationship between the team and the people of the city to be greater than ever in years to come," Beaver said. "The Zephyrs represent family values and affordable fun, and there is no greater time to provide that for New Orleans than now."

Zephyr Field is being used as a headquarters for FEMA and the National Guard. Stadium Operations Director Jon Peterson has spent the past week at Zephyr Field. "It is strange to see all of this at the ballpark, but at the same time it feels good knowing that our stadium and the Zephyrs are providing a positive outlet for the city."

Opening day is April 6, 2006 against the Round Rock Express. The promotion will be "2005 Fan Appreciation Day."

"We never got to do it on August 28 (last season), so we will do it April 6 and let our fans know we appreciate all their support and are glad to have them back," Schline said.

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

**KINSER WINS FOOD WORLD 300:** Kraig Kinser overcame an early mistake Saturday and won the Food World 300 in only his second start in the ARCA stock car series. The 20-year-old son of 19-time World of Outlaws sprint car champion Steve Kinser, started from the pole and led all but two of the first 51 laps before he was sent to the rear of the lead lap for crossing the blend line coming out of his first pit stop. That dropped him back to 17th. The youngster, who led 83 of 113 laps at Talladega Superspeedway, charged back, regaining the top spot on lap 80 and staying out front to the end. He beat Hendrick Motorsports development driver Kyle Krisiloff to the finish line by 0.169-seconds, about two car-lengths. Krisiloff's teammate Bobby Gerhart, running in his 200th ARCA event, and rookie Erin Crocker, one of only two women in the field and a development driver for Evernham Motorsports, were close behind the top two. Frank Kimmel, who already had wrapped up his seventh series championship and sixth in a row, finished fifth in the season finale. Kinser, a regular in the World of Outlaws, left the track shortly after his victory celebration to fly to Williams Grove, Pa., where he was scheduled to race his sprint car Saturday night. He made his stock car debut in August at Michigan with the team that is a joint venture between NASCAR's MB2 Motorsports and Andy Hillenburg Racing, starting second and finishing eighth. Kinser was even more impressive Saturday.

**MARTIN SAYS HE HAS NO EDGE:** Mark Martin is the only Chase for the championship driver with a victory at Talladega Superspeedway. Does that give him any advantage over his rivals in today's race? Absolutely not. "I am going to go out there and do the best I can. That's all," Martin said Saturday. "I can control the effort - our effort, my effort. I can't even come close to controlling the outcome of it. If we take our hit tomorrow, then that's what it is." Talladega is the wild card of NASCAR's 10-race title hunt, the one place where anything can happen and the points standings can shuffle dramatically. It's the only track in the Chase that requires carburetor restrictor plates, which sap horsepower and keep cars under 200 mph. The plates prevent cars from breaking away, creating huge packs of side-by-side racing. One bump or bobble can trigger a huge accident, collecting cars at random. It happened to Jeremy Mayfield last year, when he was taken out in a four-car accident and finished 38th. It ended Mayfield's shot at winning the Nextel Cup title. "These restrictor-plate races are really intense," said Carl Edwards, eighth in the Chase. "This place, you can't be too careful. You can't try too hard to watch out ahead. If there's a wreck, you can't stop too quick. You really have to be planning on what you're going do to stop that car as soon as you see some smoke."

**CREW CHIEF SUSPENDED:** Crew chief Todd Berrier was suspended for today's race at Talladega Superspeedway after Kevin Harvick's car failed inspection. Harvick qualified second for the race, but his Chevrolet was disqualified after NASCAR found three violations in the trunk area. Car owner Richard Childress was called into the NASCAR office Saturday morning and told that Berrier had been ordered from the track. It's not clear how long the suspension will last. Berrier sat out four races at the beginning of this season when he was caught rigging Harvick's fuel tank. He also was fined $25,000 and the team was docked points.

**HENDRICK TO PAY OVERTIME:** Hendrick Motorsports will pay more than $350,000 in back overtime wages to employees after an investigation found the racing company violated federal labor laws. The company, which designs, builds and races cars in NASCAR acknowledged it failed to pay 214 salaried production workers $351,783 in overtime between July 2003 and July 2005. The U.S. Labor Department said it determined Hendrick violated the Fair Labor Standards Act. "We certainly wanted to make sure our employees received any compensation to which they were entitled, so we were glad to make the appropriate payments," Hendrick spokesman Jesse Essex told The Associated Press on Saturday in an e-mail. "We've updated our internal policies and do not anticipate any ongoing issues."

## GOLF

**FERRIE LEADS DUNHILL:** Kenneth Ferrie of England shot a 5-under-par 67 on The Old Course to open a five-stroke lead in the third round of the Dunhill Links Championship in St. Andrews, Scotland. He was at 13-under 203 and followed at 208 by Scotland's Colin Montgomerie (73), Sweden's Henrik Stenson (65) and Argentina's Ricardo Gonzalez (71). Ferrie was in position for a 65 on The Old Course, which would have tied the record score Montgomerie matched Friday, but three-putted the last two greens.

**WEN–THE LEADS CROWNE PLAZA OPEN:** Taiwan's Lu Wen-teh shot a blemish-free round of six-under-par 66 to join overnight leader Digvijay Singh of India atop the leaderboard heading into the final day of the Crowne Plaza Open in Beijing, China.



AP PHOTO

Cubs closer Ryan Dempster has converted 33 of his 35 save opportunities this season

Starting in 17th place after unspectacular earlier rounds of 75 and 71, Lu went on the attack, reeling off six birdies against no bogeys to catapult up the board. Australia's Marcus Both (71), India's Shiv Kapur (68), and Prayad Marksaeng of Thailand (70) were one stroke back at 212, followed by Taiwan's Chen Yuan-chi (66), Australian Alistair Presnell (70), and Prom Meesawat of Thailand (71).

## MLB

**CUBS' DEMPSTER GETS EXTENSION:** Chicago Cubs closer Ryan Dempster agreed to a $15.5 million, three-year contract extension through the 2008 season. Going into Saturday's game in Houston, Dempster had 33 saves in 35 chances and was 4-0 with a 1.85 ERA in 57 relief appearances. He had converted 19 consecutive save opportunities, tying a team record during a single season, and his 21 1-3 consecutive scoreless innings were the longest streak by a Cubs reliever since 1989. Dempster had worked primarily as a starter for Florida and Cincinnati before surgery on his right elbow in 2003. He signed with the Cubs as a free agent last year, and was 1-1 with two saves and a 3.92 ERA in 23 late-season games. Dempster was a third-round draft pick by Texas in 1995, then traded the next year to the Florida organization. He started 121 games for the Marlins from 1998-02 before being traded to Cincinnati, where he started 35 games over two seasons before surgery in August 2003.

## TENNIS

**CLIJSTERS IN FORTIS FINAL:** Top-seeded Kim Clijsters beat fourth-seeded Nathalie Dechy of France 6-3, 6-1 and will play for the title of the Fortis Championships in Luxembourg against Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany. Clijsters, who won the U.S. Open last month, has won 25 of her past 26 matches. The third-ranked Belgian is chasing her fifth title in Luxembourg. In the other semifinal, Groenefeld defeated seventh-seeded Dinara Safina of Russia 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

**JANKOVIC, VAIDISOVA IN FINAL:** Top-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia-Montenegro regrouped after losing the second set to defeat third-seeded Tatiana Golovin of France 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 and advance to the final of the Korean Open in Seoul, South Korea. Jankovic will play for the championship today against Nicole Vaidisova. The second-seeded Czech eliminated Colombia's Catalina Castano 7-5, 6-4 in the other semifinal. Vaidisova reached the fourth round of last month's U.S. Open and made the third round of Wimbledon.

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SCORES

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**Saturday's games**
Houston 3, Chicago 1
Philadelphia 8, Washington 4
Arizona 2, San Francisco 1, 11 innings
St. Louis 9, Cincinnati 6
Atlanta at Florida
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh
Colorado at New York Mets
Los Angeles at San Diego

**Friday's games**
Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 5
Philadelphia 4, Washington 3
New York 3, Colorado 2
Florida 5, Atlanta 2
Chicago 4, Houston 3
St. Louis 12, Cincinnati 6
San Diego 3, Los Angeles 1
Arizona 7, San Francisco 3

**Today's games**
Atlanta at Florida, noon
Philadelphia at Washington, noon
Colorado at New York, noon
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m.
Chicago at Houston, 1 p.m
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m
Los Angeles at San Diego, 3 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 3 p.m.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Saturday's games**
New York 8 at Boston 4
Chicago 4 at Cleveland 3
Oakland 4, Seattle 3
Kansas City 7, Toronto 6
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 3
Detroit at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Texas

**Friday's games**
Boston 5, New York 3
Chicago 3, Cleveland 2, 13 innings
Toronto 10, Kansas City 1
Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 6
Los Angeles 7, Texas 1
Minnesota 7, Detroit 3
Seattle 4, Oakland 1

**Today's games**
Chicago at Cleveland, noon
Kansas City at Toronto, noon
New York at Boston, 1 p.m.
Los Angeles at Texas, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 3 p.m.

# Bower takes over as general manager

**BRISTOW,** *from C-1*

to move on without missing a beat," said team president Paul Mott. "His experience has made him knowledgeable about every facet of basketball operations, and I look forward to having him use that insight to put the best possible team on the floor."

From 1991-96, Bristow was the head coach of the Hornets, finishing with a 207-203 record.

Before becoming Hornets coach, Bristow served one season as vice president of basketball operations in 1990-91.

Most of Bristow's duties as general manager included handling the day-to-day basketball operations and overseeing player personnel decision. In June, he spearheaded the team's draft operations, landing point guard Chris Paul as the top pick in the first round.

"I'm glad that I was able to put everything in place in Oklahoma City from an operations standpoint before stepping down, but I regret that I won't get to see the finished product of the work that I put in during the offseason," said Bristow. "I wish Jeff Bower, Coach Scott and his staff, the players and the rest of the organization the best of luck as they begin the season."

Bower was the Hornets general manager from 2001-03, working under Bass.

"We expect to do great things this season, both on and off the court," said Bower. "I'm proud that I will be a part of both the excitement that is being generated in Oklahoma City and the rebuilding effort that we will help to see through in Louisiana."

Before joining the Hornets, Bower spent three years as an assistant coach at Penn State from 1983-1986 before moving to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. After serving as an assistant coach from 1986-90, he was promoted to associate head coach, a position he held for five years.

# 16 months not long enough for decision



JOHN DESHAZIER

Less than 16 months.

That's how long it took for Allan Bristow to ascend to the title of general manager of the Hornets and to be muscled out of his position and onto the street.

Officially, health concerns are cited for the departure of the 54-year-old. Unofficially, word is that he was pushed, rather than jumped. That the once favored son of Hornets owner George Shinn now is less favored than other, newer hires, that he was on the wrong end of a power struggle that really was no struggle at all, since none of the power rested in his hands anymore.

And today, as much as any time during their brief history in New Orleans, the Hornets carry the appearance of a team that lacks direction.

Less than a week before training camp is scheduled to begin, Bristow resigns? Now, after an entire summer to reflect, he decides that he isn't healthy enough to carry out his duties, though doing so earlier would've given the franchise a chance to attract a top-notch replacement?

I don't think he'd do that, and Hornets fans shouldn't, either. Not if he's the selfless, franchise-first person that he was made out to be. Not if, like his predecessor Bob Bass, he owned Shinn's blind trust because of that willingness to do what was right for the team.

More, this seems to be an extension of the goings on since Paul Mott was hired as team president and Tim McDougall was brought in as chief marketing officer. That, or it's quite a coincidence that in rapid procession since Mott came from the NBA office and McDougall moved over from the Houston Rockets, a personable and professional vice president of public and media relations (Harold Kaufman) and a general manager have been relieved of their duties under mysterious circumstances, and word is that the turnover in the sales department has reached triple digits.

That's unsettling, to say the least, heavy-handed at most. And while iron fists sometimes are preferable to gloved hands, it remains worth noting that there are several ways to accomplish the same goal, that a presentation of diverse ideas by diverse people almost always is a good thing.

How much Shinn is inputting into the recent decisions is anyone's guess. But you don't get the feeling that he would have run Kaufman, who'd been with the franchise since its inception in 1988, or that he could have run Bristow, his handpicked successor to Bass, with whom he entrusted the keys to the franchise.

You wonder if it was his plan to promote Director of Player Personnel Jeff Bower, who has worn many hats in 10 seasons with the club, including general manager for the 2002-03 season, rather than Willis Reed, the vice president of basketball operations and a Hall of Famer, who ran the New Jersey Nets franchise as general manager/vice president of basketball operations from 1988-96.

Because if Reed's primary role is to spark season-ticket sales by glad handing, appearing at camps and the like, then he is a commodity that is being underused ñ unless, that is, the belief is that Bower can and will command as much respect from the players and staff as Reed.

Now, maybe all this stuff comes out perfectly clean in the wash. Maybe the organization will run smoother and more efficiently than ever, either because employees are terrified to step outside the designated box and the constructors of the box are right, or because better people simply were hired to fill the positions that were made vacant.

Maybe.

But there is something to be said for continuity and cohesiveness, of which the Hornets currently appear to have little. There's something to be said when the loyal and faithful are given the back of the hand across the cheek rather than an extended palm.

Bristow, in less than 16 months, was extended the palm and then given the backhand. That's a positive only if the owner(s) of the backhand know better what's right for the basketball team.

And there's no proof of that.

# Hornets add Miller to coaching staff

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

Hornets coach Byron Scott announced Saturday that David Miller will join his staff as an assistant coach.

Miller is a former college assistant at Southern California, who has been involved in coaching for 18 years. The Hornets did not indicate what Miller's specific duties would be, but Scott said in his statement that Miller will have an integral role in trying to help his team improve from last season's 18-64 record, worst in franchise history.

Darrell Walker, Jim Cleamons and Kenny Gattison, assistants on Scott's staff last season, are returning.

Last season, Scott's assistants had a variety of duties from working closely with young players to helping him put forth the necessary defensive game plans against specific teams and players.

"He brings over 18 years of coaching to our team, so I am anxious for him to impart that knowledge to our players," Scott said.

Miller was on Henry Bibby's staff at USC when the Trojans made an Elite Eight appearance in the 2001 NCAA Tournament before losing to Duke, 78-69. Miller was an assistant at USC from 1996-2001.

He previously coached at Utah State (1993-96), Lamar (1993), West Point (1991-92), Arizona State (1990) and Texas (1987-89).

**STAYING INFORMED:** NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said Friday the league will stay in contact with Doug Thornton, the regional vice president for SMG, throughout the season to get updated reports on the cleanup and repair of New Orleans Arena, which incurred damages from Hurricane Katrina.

There remains a slight chance that three games, originally designated to played in Baton Rouge, could be switched to the Arena in March.

"We're going to monitor just to (see) how things are progressing, how the building is doing," Granik said.

Hornets owner George Shinn also plans to stay updated on the recovery efforts in New Orleans while his team's operates this season from Oklahoma City with a 35-game home schedule.

"I believe it's going to come back," Shinn said. "I feel its going to come back bigger and stronger. We're here (Oklahoma City) for this year. New Orleans has a lot do to get back and when they come back, we're coming back. I want the people there to have hope. In a lot of ways that's all some of them have, and I'm not going to take that away from them."

# Southern Cal rallies for another victory

*White, Bush carry Trojans to 26th consecutive win*

**From wire reports**

The strength and speed of LenDale White and Reggie Bush lifted No. 1 Southern Cal out of trouble again Saturday.

White rushed for 197 yards in 19 attempts, Bush gained 158 in 17 carries, and the Trojans rallied from 18 points down at the half to beat No. 14 Arizona State 38-28, breaking a Pac-10 and school record with their 26th victory in a row.

Southern Cal (4-0, 2-0 Pac-10) abandoned the big-play passing game in favor of the run, and the Sun Devils (3-2, 1-1) couldn't stop it.

Bush had touchdown runs of 24 and 34 yards, the second one giving the Trojans the lead for good 31-28 with 3:44 to go.

**No. 2 TEXAS 51, MISSOURI 20:** Vince Young ran for 108 yards and a touchdown and threw for two scores, and the Longhorns converted three turnovers by Missouri quarterback Brad Smith into touchdowns in Columbia, Mo.

The Longhorns (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) have won 11 straight road games and 11 straight games overall.

**No. 3 VIRGINIA TECH 34, WEST VIRGINIA 17:** Marcus Vick threw for two first-half touchdowns and rushed for a career-high 74 yards and a score, leading the Hokies.

Facing the Mountaineers for the first time, Vick guided four scoring drives of 50 yards or longer, including Virginia Tech's first two possessions of the second half halftime.

**No. 6 FLORIDA STATE 38, SYRACUSE 14:** Drew Weatherford passed for 234 yards and three touchdowns, including a 71-yard swing pass to Lorenzo Booker, as the Seminoles won in Tallahassee, Fla.

Weatherford also scored a touchdown as the Seminoles rolled up a 24-0 lead.

**MICHIGAN 34, No. 11 MICHIGAN STATE 31, OT:** Mike Hart returned from an injury to run for 218 yards and a touchdown, and Garrett Rivas made up for a missed field-goal attempt in the final minute of regulation by kicking a 35-yarder in overtime.

The Wolverines (3-2, 1-1 Big Ten) avoided their worst start since 1967.

Drew Stanton was 20-of-30 for 282 yards with a touchdown for the Spartans (4-1, 1-1) who lost their fourth straight game in the rivalry. Michigan State's John Goss missed a 37-yard field goal attempt in overtime.

**No. 17 WISCONSIN 41, INDIANA 24:** Brandon Williams caught two touchdown passes and returned a punt 63 yards for a score in Wisconsin's win over previously unbeaten Indiana.

The Badgers (5-0, 2-0 Big Ten) won for the 10th straight time at Camp Randall Stadium, their longest home winning streak since winning 25 straight from 1900 to 1903.

**PENN STATE 44, No. 18 MINNESOTA 14:** The Nittany Lions rushed for 363 yards, including 114 by Tony Hunt and 112 by Michael Robinson, in upsetting the Gophers in State College, Pa.

**MARYLAND 45, No. 19 VIRGINIA 33:** Lance Ball ran for 163 yards and scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns, and Maryland gained 570 yards in offense to hand the Cavaliers their first defeat.

**No. 21 BOSTON COLLEGE 38, BALL STATE 0:** Backup quarterback Matthew Ryan ran for a pair of first-half scores and threw a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, leading the Eagles (4-1) over suspension-riddled Ball State.

**No. 24 LOUISVILLE 61, FLORIDA ATLANTIC 10:** Michael Bush ran for a career-high 204 yards and No. 24 Louisville spoiled Howard Schnellenberger's homecoming with the worst loss in the Owls' five-year history.

Schnellenberger, 71, was born in Louisville and coached the Cardinals from 1985 to 1994. Bush was the first Cardinal to top 200 yards rushing since Anthony Shelman had 220 in Schnellenberger's last game as Louisville's coach.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCORES

**EAST**
Boston College 38, Ball St. 0
Brown 45, Rhode Island 35
Bucknell 27, Marist 7
Cent. Connecticut St. 56, St. Peter's 20
Colgate 34, Cornell 20
Connecticut 47, Army 13
Holy Cross 22, Yale 19
James Madison 42, Hofstra 10
La Salle 39, Iona 32, 2OT
Lafayette 12, Georgetown, D.C. 7
Lehigh 49, Harvard 24
Monmouth, N.J. 36, Stony Brook 7
New Hampshire 45, Villanova 17
Penn 26, Dartmouth 9
Penn St. 44, Minnesota 14
Princeton 43, Columbia 3
St. Francis, Pa. 35, Robert Morris 28
Virginia Tech 34, West Virginia 17
Wagner 26, Sacred Heart 21

**SOUTH**
Alabama 31, Florida 3
Austin Peay 30, Valparaiso 20
Bethune-Cookman 44, Morgan St. 26
Chattanooga 25, Wofford 14
Coastal Carolina 24, S. Carolina St. 23
Drake 58, Davidson 17
Florida St. 38, Syracuse 14
Furman 48, Gardner-Webb 31
Georgia Southern 49, Elon 7
Howard 27, Charleston Southern 22
LSU 37, Mississippi St. 7
Louisville 61, Florida Atlantic 10
Marshall 16, SMU 13, OT
Maryland 45, Virginia 33
N. Carolina A&T 16, Tennessee St. 3
Navy 28, Duke 21
North Carolina 31, Utah 17
S. Utah at McNeese St., ccd.
Tennessee 27, Mississippi 10
Tennessee Tech 42, Murray St. 21
Texas Southern 17, Alabama A&M 7
Tulane 28, SLU 21
VMI 10, Liberty 7
Wake Forest 31, Clemson 27

**MIDWEST**
Bowling Green 70, Temple 7
Dayton 49, Jacksonville 17
E. Michigan 27, Kent St. 20
Iowa 35, Illinois 7
Michigan 34, Michigan St. 31, OT
Morehead St. 58, Butler 10
N. Iowa 41, W. Illinois 24
Nebraska 27, Iowa St. 20, 2OT
S. Illinois 30, Missouri St. 23, 2OT
Texas 51, Missouri 20
W. Kentucky 38, Indiana St. 28
Wisconsin 41, Indiana 24

**SOUTHWEST**
Colorado 34, Oklahoma St. 0
Hardin-Simmons 45, Howard Payne 20
Texas A&M 16, Baylor 13, OT

**WEST**
Cal Poly-SLO 31, N. Colorado 14
Cent. Washington 48, W. Oregon 17
Idaho 27, Utah St. 13
Montana 24, Weber St. 19
Montana St. 30, Idaho St. 28
Oregon 44, Stanford 20
Oregon St. 44, Washington St. 33
San Diego 56, Menlo 0
USC 38, Arizona St. 28
Wyoming 42, UNLV 17

# Tennessee sharp despite short week

*Alabama cruises past No. 5 Florida*

**From wire reports**

The Tennessee Volunteers cut out the drama, and won on short rest.

Gerald Riggs ran for a touchdown and Jonathan Wade returned an interception for a score to give No. 10 Tennessee a first-quarter lead, and the Vols held on to beat Mississippi 27-10 on Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn.

The Rebels (1-3, 0-2 SEC) were hoping to catch Tennessee either tired or too excited after Monday night's dramatic comeback at LSU, but Mississippi couldn't muster enough momentum to rebound from back-to-back losses to Vanderbilt and Wyoming.

The Vols (3-1, 2-1) host No. 7 Georgia next week.

**NO. 15 ALABAMA 31, NO. 5 FLORIDA 3:** With Brodie Croyle throwing two long touchdown passes and the defense producing a goal line stand and a bunch more big plays, No. 15 Alabama finally looked like a Southeastern Conference contender again.

Croyle threw for three touchdowns, including an 88-yarder to Tyrone Prothro and a 65-yarder to Keith Brown, to lead the Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The Tide (5-0, 3-0) handed the Gators (4-1, 2-1) their first loss under coach Urban Meyer.


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STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Tulane receiver Bubba Terranova, snags a 27-yard pass over SLU's Romaliz Mayo for a first down in the first half of Saturday's game.

# Tulane responded with score tied

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

The Green Wave opened the game with a 12-play, 66-yard drive that consumed more than five minutes and gave it a 7-0 lead. But the sharpness Tulane displayed on its opening series quickly disappeared. The Wave finished with 173 yards in the first half, but wasn't able to add to its lead.

Ricard completed all eight of his passes on the first series, but only nine of his final 24 attempts in the first half.

As Tulane's offense was failing to mount scoring drives, its defense kept the Lions without a first down until their fourth series. But even when the Lions created a couple of breaks (they blocked two punts and had an interception in the first half), they still couldn't capitalize on them.

Following the second blocked punt, Southeastern place-kicker Jim Hall missed a 42-yard field-goal attempt on the final play of the half, leaving the Wave with a 7-0 lead.

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# TU awaits invitation from Mobile

## *Ladd-Peebles potential site for home games*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Tulane football is awaiting an offer from Mobile, Ala., to play the Oct. 29 game at Ladd-Peebles Stadium. Representatives from the city, stadium and the GMAC Bowl will decide Tuesday whether or not to offer the stadium to the homeless Green Wave, Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson said. If the offer is made, "it's quite likely" Tulane will play its game against Marshall there, Dickson said.

Mobile also offered the facility for Tulane's Oct. 14 game against UTEP.

Tulane has a standing offer from Shreveport to play any home game at Independence Stadium, where Tulane played its season opener against Mississippi State.

Tulane's next home game, Oct. 8 against Houston, will be in Lafayette. And the following home game, Oct. 14, will be in Ruston where Tulane is staying and attending classes at Louisiana Tech.

**SACK ATTACK:** Tulane defensive end Billy Harrison compiled three sacks against Southeastern Louisiana. Harrison entered the game with only one tackle in the first two games. In 2004, Tulane linebacker Anthony Cannon finished the season with four sacks - a team-high.

**HOMETOWN HERO:** Baton Rouge native Cary Koch scored his first Tulane touchdown in the third quarter, giving Tulane a 14-7 lead. The freshman receiver caught a Lester Ricard pass and darted about 5 yards into the end zone, totaling an 18-yard catch. Last season, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound Koch was the all-state team offensive MVP for the 1A Dunham School.

**FOURTH-DOWN LUCK:** Tulane converted a fourth down during its first drive of the game, making the Wave 6-for-6 on fourth downs for the season. On a fourth-and-one, running back Matt Forte' ran for three yards. Tulane scored a touchdown three plays later. But the magic wore off in the third quarter, when Tulane failed to convert a fourth-and-two, ending the streak.

**INJURED WAVE:** Left tackle Chris McGee and safety Sean Lucas were hampered with injuries and played sparingly. McGee, a senior, started with his left ankle injury, but missed some possessions in the first half, giving way to freshman Troy Kropog. McGee played the majority of the second half.

In the first half, Lucas played some on special teams, but didn't return punts (Izzy Route filled in) or play safety (Darren Sapp). But in the second quarter, notably the tight fourth quarter, Lucas was at his usual spot at safety.

**EXTRA POINTS:** For the third-straight game, Tulane shut out its opponent in the first half. ... Sophomore cornerback Josh Lumar made his first start of the year, as did Sapp, a senior safety. ...Tulane didn't allow an SLU first down until the Lions' first possession of the second quarter. ... In the third quarter, the referees utilized the new instant replay for the first time in a Tulane game. The call? A Damarcus Davis catch was ruled incomplete - and the call stood after the replay. ... Tulane blocked a field goal in the third quarter, the Wave's first since 2000. ... In a pass-heavy first half, Tulane ran for only 25 yards on 12 carries. ... Tulane defensive tackle Craig Morton was ejected in the fourth quarter, after an incident on SLU's extra point. ... The attendance at Tiger Stadium was 16,826.

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# Hobbled line paves the way



AP PHOTO

Coach Les Miles silenced the critics — at least for one week — by pummeling Mississippi State 37-7.

*LSU grounds out 180 yards rushing*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

STARKVILLE. ,MISS. — Even with only four days between games and a banged up offensive line, LSU's line showed some prowess.

The Tigers ran right at the Mississippi State Bulldogs, especially in the second half, to take control of a 37-7 victory.

Mississippi State came in allowing opponents 2.7 yards per carry, but LSU ran 38 times for 180 yards, 4.6 yards per carry. Joseph Addai led LSU with 86 yards on 17 carries and the Tigers had 50 yards rushing on an 80-yard touchdown drive to start the second half.

Guards Brett Helms and Peter Dyakowski (foot) did not dress because of injuries, and center Rudy Niswanger missed most of the game with an injury sustained in the first quarter.

### Lineup changes

Wide receiver Craig Davis (foot) and cornerback Mario Stephenson (death in family) did not make the trip for LSU. Skyler Green starter at the X receiver spot in place of Davis, and Will Arnold replaced Helms at left guard. Also, Keith Zinger started at tight end when LSU started the game in a one-tight end set. David Jones, normally the starter, entered on the next play when LSU went to a two-tight end set.

### Lineup change II

Niswanger limped off the field on LSU's second possession and was replaced by redshirt freshman Ryan Miller. The change cost the Tigers, who were flagged for delay of game the next play on third-and-two from the Mississippi State seven-yard line. LSU had to settle for a field goal. Niswanger returned for the next two series, but Miller played the rest of the game.

### Two for one

LSU linebacker Ken Hollis knocked out two players on one play; unfortunately one was his teammate. Hollis crashed into LSU safety Jessie Daniels and Mississippi State running back Jerious Norwood at the end of a 19-yard screen pass. The impact knocked Daniels' chinstrap high into the air and he left the game for one play. Norwood suffered a mild concussion and did not return.

### Consistency

For the second consecutive game LSU defensive tackle Claude Wroten jumped offside on the Tigers first defensive play. But the Tigers got through the rest of the game without getting another offside penalty and showed much improvement with penalties overall, getting flagged six times for 55 yards. LSU was penalized 11 times in each of the first two games, for 111 yards vs. Arizona State and 71 yards against Tennessee.

### Dominant

LSU continued its mastery of Mississippi State, winning for the 13th time in 14 tries. The only Bulldogs victory during that span was 17-16, in 1999 at Starkville. LSU has won the last three meetings at Starkville by a combined score of 120-13.

### Still going

Colt David's 30-yard field goal extended LSU's streak of consecutive field goals to nine. However, he hit the right upright with his third extra-point attempt after making 10 consecutive this season.

### Hallmarks

LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell had a career high 20 completions, topping his previous high of 16 against Arizona State earlier this season. Senior wide receiver Bennie Brazell tied his career high with two receptions, and had 21 yards.

### Firsts

Freshman running back Steven Korte got his first carries for LSU, rushing six times for 16 yards. Quarterback Matt Flynn got his first completion of the season, hitting David Jones for 19 yards. Wide receiver Xavier Carter made a splash with a 36-yard touchdown on his first-career rushing attempt on an end-around

# Russell plays efficient game for Tigers



AP PHOTO

Dwayne Bowe catches a 45-yard touchdown pass from JaMarcus Russell in the third quarter Saturday.

**LSU,** *from C-1*

showcase his downfield ability, most noticeably two touchdowns — 14- and 45-yard connections — to junior Dwayne Bowe, the latter putting LSU ahead 30-7 in the third quarter.

Mississippi State took a 7-0 when Bulldogs quarterback Omarr Conner's scrambling allowed Joey Sanders to wiggle free and get behind LSUís secondary for a 66-yard touchdown.

But beyond that particular breakdown, LSU's defense dared Conner to challenge it through the air, determined to eliminate Bulldogs tailback Jerious Norwood as a viable option. Mississippi State's leading rusher this season left the game in the second quarter because of a mild concussion and finished with nine yards.

LSU (2-1, 1-1 SEC) took advantage of premium field possession created by punter Chris Jackson, and responded to Mississippi State's initial score with drives of 17 and 42 yards, resulting in a Colt David field goal and a reverse to track standout Xavier Carter for his second career touchdown.

Ahead 17-7, cornerback Ronnie Prude came up with an interception in the end zone. Much like the Bulldogs' previous touchdown, Conner avoided the rush and lofted a safe pass, but in this instance, he put too much air under the ball, allowing Prude to swipe it from receiver Keon Humphries.

For the third straight game, Joseph Addai had 16 carries, rushing for 79 yards and a touchdown, his fourth of the season.

Mississippi State fell to 2-3, 0-3.

Despite the lopsided score, Miles did not play freshman Ryan Perrilloux, leaving open the option to redshirt the prized jewel of his inaugural recruiting class.

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## INSIDE THE SAINTS

**BILLS vs. SAINTS**

Kickoff: Noon CDT at the Alamodome, San Antonio.

Coaches: Saints Jim Haslett (43-40 sixth season, all with Saints); Bills coach Mike Mularkey (10-9, second season, both with Bills)

TV: CBS

Radio: 870-AM

**KEEP AN EYE ON MCGAHEE AND LOSMAN:** The Bills have one of the most dynamic up-and-coming tailbacks in the NFL in second-year starter Willis McGahee, who has run for more than 100 yards nine times in the past 14 games – more than any back in the NFL. But Buffalo's quarterback, former Tulane standout J.P. Losman, is far more unproven, having thrown just five career passes before being selected the starter this season. Clearly the challenge for the Saints will be the same as any team that faces the Bills this season – shut down McGahee, take an early lead and force Losman to get the job done. But putting the clamps on McGahee is a lot easier said than done.

**THE REPLACEMENTS:** The Saints and Bills were two of the teams swept up in the NFL's injury epidemic last weekend. The Saints lost veteran safety Jay Bellamy to a season-ending torn rotator cuff, and Buffalo lost veteran linebacker Takeo Spikes to a torn Achilles tendon. Bellamy was a stable presence in a secondary that is already playing without starting cornerback Fakhir Brown. His replacement, rookie Josh Bullocks, has talent and speed, but some hesitation and mental mistakes will surely creep up in his first career start. Spikes was the Bills' best open-field tackler, so a dropoff will be noticeable with third-year backup Angelo Crowell on the field.

**GAME PLAN**

Every week the Saints' plan is to establish the run, stick with the run and eventually wear a team into the ground with the run. But that plan has been tossed out the window in each of the past two games when the Saints trailed by at least 14 points in the first quarter against both the Giants and the Vikings. Penalties and turnovers destroyed any chance the Saints had of following a script. This week, expect them to at least break their two-game string of fumbling away the opening kickoff. ... The Saints are especially intent on establishing the run game this week against a Bills defense that ranks first in the NFL against the pass (106.3 yards per game allowed) and 32nd against the run (174.0 yards per game allowed). The usually steady Bills defense has clearly missed defensive tackle Pat Williams, who went to Minnesota in free agency. And Spikes' injury can't help. ... If the Saints are forced to throw, they could be in trouble. The Bills are an aggressive blitzing team, and Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks was not able to overcome Minnesota's heavy use of corner and safety blitzes last week.

**KEY MATCHUP**

**BILLS OT GREG JERMAN VS. SAINTS DEFENSIVE ENDS:** Jerman is expected to make his third career start in place of injured right tackle Mike Williams, the team's best blocker. The Saints would love to exploit this weakness by sending a combination of pass-rushing threats Darren Howard, Charles Grant, Will Smith and Tony Bryant at Jerman. Of course, those pass-rush situations will only come around if the Saints can shut down McGahee on first and second downs.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Saints receivers Joe Horn and Donte' Stallworth combined to catch 17 passes for 284 yards two weeks ago against the New York Giants. Last week, they had just one catch between them – an 11-yarder by Horn. ... The Saints rank worst in the NFL in both turnovers (12, tied with Minnesota) and penalties (36, tied with Oakland). ... The Saints' defense, meanwhile, has not forced any turnovers in the past two games, both losses. The team's only takeaway came on special teams in New York. ... This will be only the third meeting between the Saints and Bills since 1992. New Orleans won 24-6 at Buffalo in 2001, and the Bills won 45-33 in the Superdome in 1998. ... Saints coach Jim Haslett spent eight of his nine NFL seasons as a linebacker with the Bills, who drafted him in the second round in 1979 out of Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH:** "I thought we already had a home opener." – Haslett's sarcastic response when asked what he expected from the team's home opener today. The Saints' first official home game this year was played on the road at the New York Giants.

— compiled by Mike Triplett

# Brass hit right note with McGahee

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
NFL columnist

SAN ANTONIO - Entering today's historic game at the Alamodome, no running back in the NFL has rushed for more 100-yard games since Game 5 of the 2004 season than Willis McGahee of the Buffalo Bills.

Nine in 14 games to be exact, including a career-high 140 yards last week against the Atlanta Falcons.

Not Corey Dillon (eight), Edgerrin James (seven), Shaun Alexander (seven), Tiki Barber (five), Rudi Johnson (five), Curtis Martin (five) or Deuce McAllister (four).

This is the same Willis McGahee who entered the 2003 NFL draft under a cloud of uncertainty after tearing up his left knee while playing for the University of Miami (Fla.) in the national championship game against Ohio State.

Although Travis Henry seemed entrenched as the Bills' primary ball carrier, Bills' president/general manager Tom Donahoe sent wide receiver Peerless Price to Atlanta for the Falcons' first-round pick at No. 23.

With that pick, the Bills selected McGahee, gimpy leg, unlimited potential and all.

I can still hear the critics questioning the move when the Bills seemed to have bigger roster holes to fill. I can still see McGahee's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, on ESPN reveling in the moment and boldly predicting great things for his client.

Thirty months later, Bills owner Ralph Wilson, Donahoe and the team's assistant general manager Tom Modrak look like geniuses every time McGahee is handed the ball.

"Tom Donahoe is an excellent personnel guy," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "He's not going to make too many mistakes. I think over time it showed it was a smart move and the organization made a good decision."

Former Saints general manager Randy Mueller, now in a similar capacity with the Miami Dolphins, orchestrated a similar shrewd personnel move in 2001 when he selected McAllister in the 23rd slot of the first round against the wishes of some inside the organization.

At the time, Ricky Williams was the Saints' bell cow.

But not for long.

In March 2002, Mueller dealt Williams to the Dolphins for first- and conditional third-round draft picks.

That third-round pick later was upgraded to a No. 1 pick in 2003 based on Williams' performance.

Donahoe pulled the plug on Henry in July, trading the disgruntled backup to the Tennessee Titans for a third-round pick. Henry is presently serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

"It's working out," Donahoe said modestly. "I'm just happy for Willis, especially when you see what he had to go through.

"We were pretty confident when we made the pick. Then after watching him work, we knew it was just a matter of time. We just had to be patient."

Their patience seems to have paid off. In fact, neither Donahoe nor Modrak believe McGahee is 100 percent yet, a scary thought considering his recent performance. That bodes well for the Bills, who are 8-1 in games when McGahee eclipses the 100-yard rushing mark.

The Saints have proved vulnerable against the run to date, yielding 126.7 yards per game, 26th in the NFL.

"There's no telling how far Willis can go," Modrak said. "I think there's room we don't know about."

As in room for improvement.

"He's got his sea legs back," Saints defensive coordinator Rick Venturi said of McGahee. "It's critical that he doesn't bleed us to death."

### WEEK FOUR PICKS

**Buffalo – pick - Saints** ... Saints make "home" debut off I-10 as scheduled, only 525 miles away from the Superdome in the Alamodome. Texas crowd makes the fleur-de-lis boys feel right at home with cries of "How 'bout dem Saints!" Saints 23, Bills 17.

**At New England – 5 ½ – San Diego** ... Banged up Patriots are coming off crucial win against the Steelers. Despite the injuries, don't look for Bill Belichick's team to be caught napping. Patriots 26, Chargers 20.

**At Jacksonville – 4 – Denver** ... Battle of AFC playoff contenders. Jags can ill-afford to fall two games behind the South division leading Colts. Jaguars 19, Broncos 17.

**At Cincinnati – 9 ½ – Houston** ... Bengals are surprise leaders in the AFC North and are showing true stripes under Marvin Lewis. Texans, who are playing first game with new offensive coordinator Joe Pendry, remain winless. Bengals 30, Texans 18.

**Indianapolis – 7 – At Tennessee** ... Peyton Manning breaks out of his TD slump with three scoring passes against the up-and-down Titans who might not have ailing Steve McNair. Colts 27, Titans 16

**At Kansas City – 2 – Philadelphia** ... Chiefs are coming off Monday night blowout loss at Denver. Eagles will be without injured placekicker David Akers. Close game favors Philly despite playing on the road. Eagles 24, Chiefs 19.

**At Tampa Bay – 6 ½ – Detroit** ... Unbeaten Buccaneers are surprise team in the NFC. Rookie Cadillac Williams adds another 100-yard game to his NFL-leading rushing total. Buccaneers 31, Lions 16.

**At New York Giants – 3 – St. Louis** ... Give the edge to the Giants because Rams coach Mike Martz should be back on sideline after being hospitalized midweek with a sinus infection. Giants 23, Rams 19.

**At Washington – 2 – Seattle** ... Unbeaten Redskins (2-0) had a week off to enjoy their Monday night victory against the Cowboys. Seahawks bring them down to earth. Seahawks 24, Redskins 16.

**At Baltimore – 7 – New York Jets** ... Take the Ravens' defense in a game that promises to be low scoring with both teams playing backup quarterbacks. Vinny Testaverde and Kordell Stewart are warming up in the Jets' and Ravens' bullpens, respectively. Ravens finally get in the win column. Ravens 17, Jets 6.

**At Oakland – 3 – Dallas** ... NFC East-contending Cowboys are walking into a certain ambush in the Black Hole against the winless Raiders. Randy Moss outscores Keyshawn Johnson. Raiders 31, Cowboys 23.

**At Atlanta – 6 – Minnesota** ... Vikings and Daunte Culpepper had their way with the Saints but don't expect the same against the Falcons. Vikings owner Zygi Wilf sees Michael Vick experience up close. Falcons 30, Vikings 20.

**Arizona – 2 ½ – San Francisco** (ESPN, Sunday night, Mexico City) ... Josh McCown gets the start for injured quarterback Kurt Warner but the change of scenery south of the border doesn't help the Cardinals' sputtering offense. 49ers 24, Cardinals 13.

**At Carolina – 7 ½ – Green Bay** (ABC, Monday night) ... In a perfect world, Brett Favre rises to the occasion on prime time TV but Jake Delhomme steals the show. Panthers keep Packers winless. Panthers 24, Packers 16.

Byes: Chicago, Cleveland, Miami, Pittsburgh.

Record: Last week, 10-4.

# Saints becoming more comfortable

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

nothing is routine when it comes to life and football in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Three "home" games at the Alamodome, four "home" games at Tiger Stadium and more sky miles than a team could ever imagine.

"There will never be normalcy,'' Saints wide receiver Joe Horn said. "It will never be normal because of what happened."

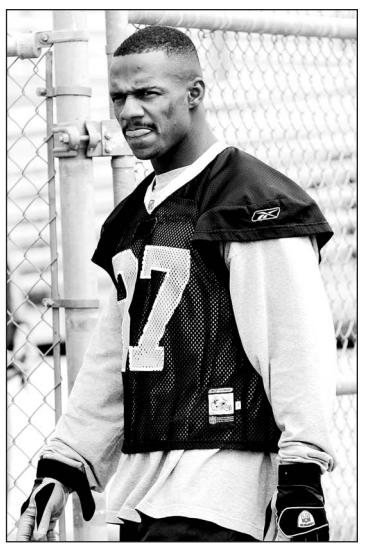
"I wouldn't use the word normalcy as much as this week is going to be more convenient for us," Saints tight end Ernie Conwell said. "The normalcy issue is we've never played in this stadium before. We've never come here on a game day. We didn't get the numbers and hash marks on the field until a couple days ago. We have to double up in our locker room and give the other half to Buffalo. So this is going to be a brand new environment for all of us."

For the first time this season, Haslett spent Monday and Tuesday watching opponent's game tape. In recent weeks, he was required to complete necessary administrative and logistical chores on those days for a team and franchise in exile.

Last week, during the 33-16 loss to the Vikings at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Saints defensive coordinator Rick Venturi turned to Haslett for input.

"Rick asked me if I wanted anything on third down?'' Haslett recalled. "And I said I didn't know what they were doing on third down. That's bad to say, but that's the truth. I've had a chance to look at the opponent this week. It's been kind of tiring but refreshing at the same time. I don't call the defenses, but at least I know what the heck is going on."

By next week, most players, coaches and team officials should be settled into their living accommodations for the remainder of the season. It remains unclear how long FEMA will be housed at the team's training facility in Metairie, meaning owner Tom Benson and his entire football operations could be here into next spring or longer.



AP PHOTO

No matter how comfortable the Saints become in their temporary home in San Antonio, it will never be the same as in New Orleans. 'There will never be normalcy,' Horn said. 'It will never be normal because of what happened.'

"We've still got four coaches living inside the Alamodome,'' Haslett said. "But you can sense through the players and the coaches that things are settling down and getting back to normal - at least for the next couple of weeks, and then we go on the road again. Hopefully this week will have a settling effect and it will pay off Sunday."

After today's game, the Saints travel to Green Bay, play Atlanta in Baton Rouge, travel to St. Louis, play Miami and Chicago in Baton Rouge, and travel east to play the two-time defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots and New York Jets.

The calendar then flips to December.

"All this isn't bothering me as far as what is going on," Saints defensive tackle Brian Young said. "I adjust pretty well. I grew up a military kid and being all over the place."

"It's all about, do you want your job?" Saints running back Deuce McAllister said. "If you do, then you'll get it done. If you take pride in what you do, you'll get it done. It's all about being a pro."

Like Haslett, Conwell said he didn't know what to expect inside the Alamodome.

"How many people are going to show up?" Conwell said. "Are they going to be excited? I wish we could have had a better record coming into this game for the people of San Antonio and New Orleans.

"But a lot of guys have been thinking about this. This is Texas; so they know football whether there have been a lot of NFL games here or not. They know high school football. So they're going to know how to cheer. We anticipate they'll be educated fans who are going to be quiet when our offense is out there and loud when our defense is out there, and full of energy."

Said McAllister: "Hopefully they'll be our fans, but that has yet to be determined. I guess they'll cheer for us if we're playing well, but if they don't you can't really blame them because in a way we're kind of borrowing or renting these fans. But hopefully they will be our fans."

Veteran Saints left tackle Wayne Gandy said he doesn't expect the crowd to be overwhelmingly partisan for the Saints, although a winning performance might win them over for future games.

"It's a home game only in the sense that we don't have to bus or fly anywhere,'' Gandy said. "However this season turns out, I'm quite sure that if somebody writes a book about Katrina, they would have to devote a chapter to the New Orleans Saints who had an entire season in disarray."

# Buffalo expects a dogfight with Saints

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

storm, Charlene felt she had to go down there and see if she could help. She got back to Buffalo a few days ago. She couldn't get near to where they lived, but she had a close enough look to tell me, 'you have to see it to believe it.'"

Bobby April is no stranger to hurricanes. He was 12, living in Chalmette, when the eye of Betsy came calling in 1965.

"We were very lucky,'' he said.

"Our house was on cinder blocks and we only got water up to our porch. In most places, it was water up to the rooftops. I remember seeing people in pirogues, paddling away. I remember the rats, the animals. When you're a seventh-grader, you don't forget things like that."

So life goes on.

As someone who spent four years on Mike Ditka's staff in charge of the Saints' special teams, April has an idea of what Jim Haslett is going through without a place to call home.

"It has to be tough because it changes the routine, the lifestyle the players are accustomed to," April said. "Families are scattered, kids are in different schools. It's a big adjustment."

With that said, the Saints will be playing closer to home Sunday than they have since the opening kickoff, facing another 1-2 team.

A week ago against the Vikings, the Saints' defense, among other things, had trouble handling ex-Tulane Greenie Mewelde Moore (who rushed for 101 yards) on the ground.

This time it will be a matter of handling ex-Greenie J.P. Losman in the air.

"J.P. has a great upside,'' April said.

"He's got three things going for him, his athleticism, his work ethic, and his thirst for competition. Some of our fans are disappointed in our record. But, even if we were 0-3, our mind-set would still be the same. We've got a plan and we're sticking to it."

The plan involves building with young talent and a quarterback taken the first round in 2004.

Last year, with veteran quarterback Drew Bledsoe running things, the Bills won six of their last seven to finish 9-7 and make the playoffs. Still, the decision was made to turn Bledsoe loose and go with Losman.

At the moment, critics are busy making comparisons. With Dallas, Bledsoe has a 103.7 quarterback rating, with an offense ranked No. 3 in the league.

He's completing 64 percent of his passes, with six touchdowns and only two interceptions.

Meanwhile, Losman owns a quarterback rating of 61.1, and the Bills offense is ranked 31st, next to last in the NFL.

The good news is Losman, who's completing only 49 percent of his passes, has thrown only one pick.

Perhaps the bad news for the Bills last week, aside from losing Pro Bowl linebacker Takeo Spikes in a 24-16 loss to Atlanta, was having veteran receiver Eric Moulds criticize the offensive plan.

"When you're playing against cornerbacks who are not starters,'' Moulds said, "you have to take shots down field and make some plays."

Will J.P. Losman try to do just that against a Saints defense burned by Daunte Culpepper?

We shall see.

As for Bobby April, he's hoping his special teams will hold up their end.

A year ago, they produced big time.

April was voted special teams coach of the year after the Bills had five returns for touchdowns and another on a blocked punt.

What is April expecting Sunday?

"A dogfight. Look at the records. No one has played four games and you only have four teams without a loss, two in each conference. I don't care who's playing who. There are no gimmes."



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB MARSHALL

Breton Sound Marina in Hopedale was wiped away by Hurricane Katrina.

# 'Our customer base has dried up'

*Fishing guides fear Worse after storm Destroys tourism*

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors editor

Two months ago Theophile Bourgeois was the cover boy for a Times-Picayune feature on the explosive growth in Louisiana's coastal fishing guide business. In five years his Lafitte-based Bourgeois Charters had opened two lodges, acquired a fleet of boats and a staff of regular captains to serve an ever-growing list of clients.

Life was good for Bourgeois — and he wasn't living large alone. The number of guides in coastal Louisiana had soared from 60 to 615 in just 10 years, with much of that growth in the marshes surrounding New Orleans.

But two months and two hurricanes later, Bourgeois and many of his colleagues are wondering if they'll still be guiding in six months. From Venice to Lafitte, Shell Beach to Grand Isle, the storms left many of their homes, marinas and lodges damaged or destroyed, boats wrecked and crews dispersed by the evacuation.

Worse, this group of small businessmen who liked to boast of their independence in the past, now are faced with the reality that their recoveries are tied in large measure to New Orleans — a wrecked metropolis with an uncertain future.

"New Orleans is what made our business go, and until the city comes back, we don't know if we can come back," Bourgeois said last week in the midst of repairing hurricane damage to his lodges that exceeded six figures.

"For most of our clients, we were just lagniappe at the end of a New Orleans trip. After a business meeting, they'd come fishing. Or while the wives and daughters were doing the French Quarter thing, the guys would come fishing. But now all that's gone. Our customer base has dried up.

"So now we're in a race to see if the city can get the tourists back before the mortgage companies get the lodges, the boats, our homes."

The race couldn't have come at a worse time. Most charter services, especially the inshore guides, rely on income from the busy spring-summer-fall seasons to hold them over through the normally slow January through April period. September bookings were lost in Katrina's aftermath, while October and November are in jeopardy, guides say, due to media reports of post-storm pollution.

"I got two calls last week from two big parties canceling because they were afraid they couldn't eat anything they caught," Bourgeois said. "The media is putting our reports that make it seem like all we got down here is polluted water and dead fish.

"People believe what they read and hear. They think New Orleans is still filled with snipers, and if they survive that, they'll die from eating the fish. It's crazy."

But accurate reports on the damage to the fishing infrastructure — including hotels, roads and marinas — are causing legitimate concerns among out-of-town anglers, guides say.

"If we can assure our customers they'll have a comfortable place to stay, have good food to eat and good fishing, we can get some of them back in the next month," said Barry Brechtel, owner of Big Fish Charters and the Breton Sound Marina in Hopedale, which was demolished by Katrina.

"But the problem is we don't have control over some of that. If someone wants to fish, I can take care of that. But the other stuff — the hotel, the food, the water — that's out of our hands."

Much of their future is in the hands of insurance adjusters. Many guides suffered losses into six figures. Mike Frenette, who built his Venice-based Teaser Charters into one of the nation's best-known Louisiana outfitters in 26 years of hard work, "lost everything" when Katrina destroyed Venice Marina.

"Normally when a hurricane got into the Gulf we'd go down and haul all the tackle and some of the boats up here," he said from his Marrero home. "But this time I was in Lake Charles fishing a tournament. By the time they said ëevacuate' we couldn't get down there because of the contra-flow. Everything we had in Venice is gone."

The list includes the Teaser Clubhouse, a floating lodge; three inshore fishing boats; an air boat; a four-wheeler, several duck boats and fishing and hunting tackle Frenette estimated would cost $60,000 to replace.

And as if that wasn't enough, Katrina also tore a hole in the roof of his home.

"One day we were on top of the mountain, the next we couldn't even see the mountain," Frenette said. "But we're not going to just give up.

"I've had calls from clients all over the country. They've been great. They're saying, 'Let us know when you're up and running and we'll be down.'

"We'll be back, but it's going to be a long hard road, and financially very tough. In this business, if you aren't fishing, you're losing money."

Mark Brockhoeft, whose Myrtle Grove-based Big Red Guide Service is arguably the best-known fly fishing outfitter in the area, said news of New Orleans' demise and fears of pollution have wiped out as many as 60 bookings thus far.

"Before Katrina I was booked solid from the second half of September through November and the better part of December, now all that's in doubt," Brockhoeft said. "But the large part of that was people coming to New Orleans for conventions, then doing a little fishing. Now the conventions have been canceled or moved — and the only calls I've been getting are cancellations.

"I keep thinking if I can hold on for two months, the hotels will reopen, people will come back, and I'll have business again. But I can't gamble on that. You can't make a living in this business on a couple trips a week. If you're not doing 20, 25 trips a month, you're not going to pay your bills.

"So now I'm looking at reassign everything, consider all the options."

One of those options is a temporary move. Barrett Brown, one of Brockhoeft's colleagues, already has taken a job at an Orvis Shop in Houston. Golf pro Blaine McAllister, one of Brockhoeft's regular clients, has offered to help Brockhoeft get started in the Florida panhandle.

"Nothing's certain right now," he said. "I'm like everyone else, just trying to see how things work out.

"It's hard to believe, but a month ago things were humming along, and most of the boys in this business almost felt like they had too much work.

"Now everything is in doubt."

# Louisiana politicians show they still don't get it

**By Bob Marshall**
Outdoors columnist

It didn't take long for the nation to heap scorn on Louisiana after our political establishment handed Congress a $200 billion pork-laden wish list for post-Katrina rebuilding. It was embarrassing, shameful, even degrading.

But worst of all, their action leaves the message that the people who would lead Louisiana still don't get it — they still don't understand what this fight is all about.

With hundreds of thousands of their citizens still living as evacuees and with the world's attention finally focused on two of the primary causes of that agony — coastal erosion and inadequate levees — our political leaders didn't go to Congress as pragmatic re-builders, but as brazen panhandlers.

Sure, their bill included about $30 billion to repair our coast and raise our levees. The problem is they didn't stop there.

They added tens of billions of obvious pork that has nothing to do with coastal restoration or flood protection or remediation hurricane damage, and a lot more to do with lining the pockets of special interests. They tacked on items like a deep-water shipping channel for New Iberia, work at the ports of Fourchon and New Orleans, millions for seafood promotion and even sugar cane research. And they want a special "Pelican Commission" with a blank check to spend the money - as well as waivers on environmental regulations and congressional oversight.

Of course it was the wrong audience for that ploy; you should never try to panhandle panhandlers. The move even sparked a rare moment of political unity, evoking denunciations from Fox News to the Washington Post, all of whom had plenty of fun with headlines like "Louisiana's looters."

The more serious problem is the damage will not stop there. We may have wasted our last best chance for fast action to address our vanishing coastal ecosystem.

In 20 years of covering the issue I've always told people my greatest fear was that the nation would not wake up to our plight until a category 4 or 5 storm left five feet of water on Canal Street. Well, it finally happened. And the world definitely noticed.

Every newspaper from New York to Sydney did reports on the causes of our perilous existence, as well as the cures that have been proposed and long ignored by our own country. Sympathy generated genuine interest and political momentum. Even President Bush — who earlier this year said our $14 billion plan for coastal restoration was worth only $2 billion — was singing a different tune.

Last week our political leaders turned much of that compassion to ridicule.

Mark Davis, executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, could not think of a worse beginning for the Katrina comeback effort. Attempts to explain away the big request as a "starting point" in negotiations with Congress, Davis said, show just how out of touch some of these planners are.

"At a point in history when we need the nation to trust us, we've given them reasons to step back and view everything we propose with skepticism," he said. "What in the world does a deep water port in New Iberia or Fourchon have to do with flood protection or restoring the coast? They want to build some of the very types of projects that have helped put us in this situation in the first place.

"So now we're in a position to have to explain, even further, every thing. It won't speed this along."

Ivor van Heerden, a director of the LSU Hurricane Center who was asked to be on the Pelican Commission, said he was "appalled" that there were "so many lobbyists on the thing and that I was the only scientist."

He saw the bill as a lost opportunity.

"To me we had an excellent opportunity to create something really innovative, something that would capture the nation's imagination that would have really gotten everybody behind us," he said. "But from the reaction to this Pelican Commission, it looks like the total opposite has happened and that, in fact, we've turned a lot of people against us."

Our delegation's focus now should be on repairing the damage. They should be working the halls of Congress — and the world's media — with the Coast 2050 Plan, explaining the important role our wetlands play in hurricane protection, fisheries and the unique culture of this area. They should be explaining that we need money for wetlands restoration and flood levees first — and that we can talk about funding for the cochon du lait later.

Most of all, they should be trying to show the world — and us — that they finally get it.

# State's fishery on fast track to normalcy, officials say

**By Andrew Canulette**
Staff writer

It's impossible to ignore the ruin brought upon the Gulf Coast by the double whammy of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

But at a press conference held in Baton Rouge on Friday, officials with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies had some positive news for locals who are looking for a silver lining in a very dark cloud.

After nearly a month of testing floodwater samples near Lake Pontchartrain, pump outs from the lake and the ambient waters in its estuaries, there is no cause for alarm concerning the consumption of fish and some other types of seafood pulled from those areas.

"We've done a tremendous amount of water quality testing in Lake Pontchartrain and we've found nothing to support the myth of a toxic soup," said Chris Piehler prior to the briefing.

Piehler is the senior environmental scientist with the LDEQ.

"There are some bacteria issues, which happens when you have water commingling with sewerage," Piehler said. "But that happens every time it rains, not just when you have a hurricane."

Piehler said he hopes the studies will squelch the fears of numerous recreational and commercial anglers who began expressing their concerns over the safety of eating fish caught in local waters well before Katrina made landfall Aug. 29. State agencies began testing the Lake Pontchartrain area four days after the storm launched its Category 4 assault on the Gulf Coast and were looking for a variety of pathogens including volatile organisms, pesticides and heavy metals. DEQ plans to test the Lake Borgne, Breton Sound and Barataria Bay areas as well and expects to have similar findings as it did in Lake Pontchartrain, which Piehler said should be encouraging to the fishing communities throughout southeast Louisiana.

"(This toxic soup) is a myth," he said. "There is no chemical contamination concern."

Piehler and others, however, have received reports of localized fish kills along the Louisiana coast. But the kills, which occur in oxygen-depleted waters, have not been of the magnitude one would expect after two major tropical systems, said Harry Blanchet, an LDWF biologist.

"They are still occurring in the western part of the state (where Rita made landfall)," Blanchet said.

Piehler said fish that die in fish kills should not be eaten and all local seafood should be cooked to alleviate bacterial concerns. The harvesting of oysters is currently off limits across Louisiana, another standard practice after a major storm passes through, Blanchet said.

While the state's fishery appears to be on a fast track to normalcy, many of the state's wildlife management areas remain closed and hunting seasons have been disrupted further because of Rita's impact on the coast.

On Thursday, the LDWF announced that deer and rabbit hunting seasons in Cameron, Vermilion, Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu parishes in the southwestern corner of the state are closed south of Louisiana 14. Those areas will remain closed until biologists can conduct more detailed surveys of habitat.

Deer, rabbit and squirrel seasons are closed in the portions of Ascension, Livingston, St. John and St. James parishes north and west of U.S. 51 from U.S. 61 to Frenier Road, north of Frenier Road to Lake Pontchartrain, west of Lake Pontchartrain to Pass Manchac, south of Pass Manchac to Lake Maurepas, south of Lake Maurepas to the Blind River, south of Blind River to the Amite River Diversion Canal, south of that canal to Louisiana 22, south of Louisiana 22 to Louisiana 70 in Sorrento, east of Louisiana 70 to Louisiana 3125, north of Louisiana 3125 to Louisiana 641, north and west of Louisiana 641 to U.S. 61 and north of U.S. 61 to U.S. 51.

Floodwaters have been slow to recede in those areas, though the LDWF expects the area to reopen on Oct. 8.

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# Comets capitalize on Rams mistakes

*St. Charles remains unbeaten*

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer

St. Charles remained unbeaten Friday night by beating West St. John 29-12 at home.

The Comets took advantage of five West St. John mistakes (four fumbles and an interception) and the running of 5-foot-7, 185-pound senior Christopher Jones, who gained 116 yards on 20 carries.

West St. John, which won the state Class 2A title last season, fell to 0-4.

St. Charles (4-0) opens Class 10-2A play next week by hosting Donaldsonville. West St. John opens 9-1A play at White Castle.

"We've got a lot of room for improvement," St. Charles coach Frank Monica said. "We've got to be a smarter football team. But you always have to be pleased when you beat a good football team like West St. John."

With both teams playing on a short week of practice, the first half was marred by mistakes by both teams. Both played Monday. Five days later they were going at each other.

On the opening drive, the Comets drove from their 41 to the Rams 22 before throwing an interception. West St. John fumbled on the next series, but St. Charles came back with a huge mistake moments later.

After recovering the West St. John fumble at the Rams' 10, St. Charles stumbled. On a second-and-goal from the Rams' 5, a pass by Sutton was intercepted by Blake Comminie, who returned the ball 88 yards for the game's first score. The Rams led 6-0 with 5:17 left when their two-point conversion try failed.

The Comets took the lead for good when they drove 59 yards on the next series. Fletcher scored from the four. Preston Landry kicked the go-ahead extra point for a 7-6 lead with 1:57 left in the quarter.

St. Charles added to that with Landry's two-yard run in the second quarter. Thirty seconds later, senior lineman Ross Roubion fell on a West St. John fumble in the end zone, and with a two-point conversion, the Comets let 22-6.

"We didn't give ourselves a chance to win," West St. John coach Laury Dupont said. "Penalties and quarterback sacks and fumbles - you can't win like that."

The Rams' drove late, scoring on Olajuwan Hall's 15-yard pass to Devonne Lumar with 36 seconds left in the first half. But the two-point conversion failed and St. Charles led 22-12 at the half.

The Comets took advantage of another fumble in the third quarter. Ben Beneditto recovered at the Rams' 31, and Christopher Jones scored eight plays later. Landry's kick made the score 29-12 with 2:45 left in the quarter.

"It was important to take back the momentum," Monica said. "We knew we had to turn it since they had scored right at the end of the half, and we did. The defense gave us that, and that was big."

The game was scoreless in the final quarter.

# East St. John holds off Curtis

**By Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writer

Friday was the third game for the East St. John Wildcats, and it showed.

The Wildcats (2-1) performed with precision and poise early, building a 10-0 lead in the first quarter against John Curtis. What the offense built, kicker Radi Jabouri sealed with fourth-quarter field goals of 56 and 20 yards, as East St. John prevailed 16-6 at home.

Wildcats' quarterback Johnnie Thiel, a Curtis transfer, hit three of three passes for 53 yards and rushed for 29 yards on the opening drive of 80 yards. Thiel scored from eight yards for a 7-0 lead.

Curtis (0-1) punted following three snaps.

Thiel then hit Louis Lee, who made a diving catch for a 48-yard gain at the Curtis five-yard line. East St. John lost 11 yards on its next three play,s but Jabouri made a 33-yard field goal for a 10-0 advantage with 4:12 left in the quarter.

"I thought the first drive set the tone for the game," East St. John coach Larry Dauterive said.

Curtis bounced back with its lone score on the next possession. On his first carry of the season, Joe McKnight broke two tackles at the line of scrimmage and raced 70 yards for a touchdown with 2:46 left. The extra-point attempt was missed, leaving East St. John ahead 10-6 after one period.

The second quarter featured a flurry of turnovers. Curtis fumbled on its first two possessions, miscues that were sandwiched around an interception by McKnight.

After the second fumble recovery, East St. John had possession at the Curtis 41-yard line. The Wildcats reached the Patriots' 17, but a 34-yard field goal attempt by Jabouri was blocked by John Ruttley.

"We had a lot of opportunies and we made a lot of mistakes," Dauterive said of the second quarter threats.

There were more miscues early in the fourth period. A Thiel was picked off at the Curtis 11-yard line by Kelby Wuertz. But East St. John's Isiah Francis picked off a Kyle Collura pass four plays later.

East St. John drove from its 24-yard line to the Curtis 39-yard line, where Jabouri made a 56-yard field goal for a 13-6 lead at 4:45.

One play later, East St. John's Kerry Clofer recovered a fumble that led to the clincher by Jabouri from 20 yards with 2:47 to play.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

West Jefferson receiver Derandus Frye (89) attempts to catch a tipped pass as Salmen's Daniel Regan looks on.

# St. John holds off Riverside

*Four turnovers by Rebels help Eagles win 27-20*

**By Jim Derry**
Staff writer

PLAQUEMINE — It seemed early on Friday night that the winner between Riverside and St. John would be the team that made the game's final big play.

Chalk one up for the Eagles.

Chris Delrie's diving 21-yard touchdown catch in the back of the end zone from Baco Romero preserved St. John's 27-20 non-district victory at Plaquemine High Stadium. It was the only pass of the game from either side that gained yardage.

In the first half, Rebels quarterback A.J. Delaneuville kept his team in it with touchdown runs of 55 and 65 yards. His 140 yards on the ground in the first half was almost twice as much as St. John's total output, but the Eagles (3-1) led 14-12 at the break.

They scored their first touchdown on a 92-yard kickoff return by Chase Blanchard to take a 7-6 lead. He followed that with a one-yard score eight minutes later that was set up by Rodarrick Jones' 37-yard interception return.

"We get a stop early on and get a touchdown, and I cringe every time I put my kickoff team on the field," Riverside coach Mickey Roussel said. "I said, 'Guys, we've got them right where we want them right now, you kick the ball deep, and don't let them break a big one deep.' Guess what? They break one, and all the momentum that we had, we lose."

But the Rebels regained that momentum on the first play of the second half. Jarrid Caesar broke free through the right side and ran 88 yards for a touchdown that gave Riverside (3-1) a 20-14 lead.

Neither offense did much for most of the third quarter, as there were punts on the next four drives. That's when St. John used another big play to get in position to regain the lead.

Romero, who gained 75 yards on 18 carries, faked the pitch on an option and ran 27 yards to the Riverside 22, and two plays later he scored to put the Eagles ahead for good.

Turnovers plagued the Rebels all night, as they gave up two fumbles and two interceptions. St. John turned the ball over once.

"Turnovers will kill you, and so will not doing the little things right," Roussel said. "Bad snaps on the shotgun? Hey, we didn't do that the first three games, and we had three tonight (they lost one). ... Field position in the third quarter was all them."

After Delrie's score with 7:44 remaining, the Rebels had two more chances to drive down the field and tie or win the game. But a bad snap cost them 20 yards and forced a punt on the first drive, and Delaneuville threw a second interception to Jones, which allowed St. John to run out the clock.

# Bucs go on the offensive

**From staff reports**

The first game of the West Bank high school football season was played

Saturday at sun-drenched Hoss Memtsas Stadium, and West Jefferson recorded a 34-3 non-district victory against Salmen.

For the 73 players in uniform, their coaches and fans, it represented much, much more.

For 140 minutes, a small sliver of normalcy was returned to their lives as those in the metro area try to recover from the devastating effects of two hurricane strikes in one month's time.

So what did it mean to the participants?

"That's a tough question to answer right now," Salmen coach Jerry

Leonard said as he fought back tears. "We didn't know if we were going to be able to get back out on the football field. But a lot of people helped us out. We're starting from scratch. We lost everything (in Hurricane Katrina's Aug. 29 strike). We've just got to do everything we can to get back to our winning ways. That's why this is so emotional for us."

Salmen's players and coaches have been back since Sept. 19, but the new equipment and uniforms made necessary by the seven-plus feet of water that engulfed their Slidell school didn't arrive until Thursday.

West Jefferson returned to practice Monday, but the Buccaneers did have the luxury of salvaging their equipment and uniforms. Though ragged at first, the Buccaneers settled down and rushed for 291 yards, totaled 356 overall and scored five touchdowns in their lone tune-up for the opening of District 5-5A play next week.

West Jefferson halfback Edward Robinson carried eight times for 123 yards with touchdowns covering 40 and 18 yards, and running mate Tevin Conway carried six times for 100 yards with a 58-yard score. Ryan Jackson completed four of 12 passes for 65 yards with a 26-yard touchdown to wide receiver Lionel Stewart for West Jeff's first touchdown.

"There is no place like home," said West Jeff co-captain Anthony

Sparks, who caught two passes for 29 yards. "This is a great victory for us. We have come through a lot of adversity and this should get us back on track for district coming up. Hopefully, we'll get the rest of our players back and then get focused on Assumption."

**Mike Strom**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II 24, LIVE OAK 6:** Only five days after falling in their season opener to Live Oak, the Jaguars avenged the loss at Live Oak on Friday.

Second half touchdown runs by Chad Hindman and Richard Guillot keyed the Jaguars (1-1) victory. Hindman's touchdown runs of 3 and 1 yard in the third quarter gave the Jaguars the lead after Live Oak led 6-3 at the half.

Guillot capped the scoring with a 56-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Live Oak is 2-2.

**ST. PAUL'S 35, HAMMOND 12:** The Wolves rushed for 318 yards, led by 65 yards and three touchdowns by running back Taylor Brett, in defeating Hammond in a District 4-5A game at St. Paul's in Covington.

Brett, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound junior, was one of three St. Paul's running backs who rushed for more than 50 yards. Caleb Bajon, a 6-0, 220 senior, rushed for 91 yards. Jared Morise, a 5-8, 160 junior, rushed for 104.

Hammond (1-1, 0-1) took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter when running back Matt Betts ran 62 yards for a touchdown.

St. Paul's (1-0, 1-0) then scored 21 straight points in the second quarter to take a 21-6 lead. Morise had a 16-yard touchdown run to make the score 7-6 with 10:37 remaining in the half. Brett ran up the middle for a 6-yard touchdown that made the score 14-6 with 6:37 left. Brett ran 1 yard for a touchdown 10 seconds later, which came after St. Paul's recovered a fumbled kickoff.

**Pierce W. Huff**

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS 35, NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN 0:** St. Thomas Aquinas took advantage of seven Northlake turnovers to key its first victory Friday at Southeastern Louisiana University's Strawberry Stadium in Hammond.

It was the debut of Northlake's varsity program.

St. Thomas Aquinas' Quentin Ruffin caught a touchdown pass and ran for another to lead the Falcons (1-3).

The Falcons scored three touchdowns in the second quarter, two set up by Northlake turnovers. St. Thomas Aquinas led 28-0 at the half.

**THURSDAY'S GAME**

**OUACHITA 27, HOLY CROSS 7:** Lions running back Keldrick Johnson rushed for 121 yards, his fifth straight 100-yard game, and the Ouachita defense held the Tigers to 103 yards on offense to key Thursday's victory in Monroe.

Quarterback Josh Strong was 12-of-22 passing for 185 yards.

Ouachita (5-0), ranked fourth in Class 4A, scored two touchdowns thanks to defense and special teams.

The defense limited Holy Cross (0-1) to 40 yards rushing on 32 carries.

Ouachita's defense was led by Chris Drummer, who blocked a punt and recorded three sacks.

# Destrehan tops St. James in hectic finish

*Eugene recovers from earlier miscues*

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer

Destrehan quarterback Jai Eugene needed a little redemption Friday night.

With the game on the line, he got it.

With 1:18 remaining and St. James leading 25-20, Destrehan had a fourth-and 16 at the St. James 47-yard line. Destrehan also had a quarterback in Eugene who had thrown five interceptions on the night, the last four occurring on the previous possessions.

But this time, Eugene floated a short pass to Joshua Martin who was waiting at the 25-yard line and Martin did the rest. Martin broke away from a pair of St. James defenders, then he sprinted into the end zone. Eugene then connected with Edwin Reed for a two-point conversion that put Destrehan ahead 28-25.

St. James then got the ball with one minute remaining. In five plays, St. James drove to the Destrehan 42-yard line. But, with six seconds to play, Terry Dumas' Hail Mary pass was intercepted by Jerico Nelson to seal the victory for Destrehan.

It was a remarkable comeback for Class 5A Destrehan (4-0) against the No. 1 team in Class 2A. The Destrehan running game struggled for 87 yards on 20 carries. Reed had a punt return and a kickoff return for touchdowns nullified by penalties, and Eugene completed only 13 of 34 passes.

St. James, meanwhile, rushed for 255 yards, even with its two starting rushers hurt and another out for the second half. Luther Ambrose rushed 14 times for 177 yards and one touchdown. Jason Zenon ran for 83 yards on seven carries, all in the first half. And quarterback Antonio Phillips threw for 134 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another. Craig Duronslet had two of the five interceptions St. James nabbed.

But Destrehan had Eugene and coach Steve Robicheaux said he was putting his faith in him.

"He's the guy," Robicheaux said. "We know sooner or later he's going to get the job done. But a lot of guys made some great plays."

St. James led for most of the game, starting early. On their second possession, the visiting Wildcats took four plays and 27 seconds to drive 65 yards. After a 41-yard run by Zenon and a nine-yard pass from Phillips to Jordan Landry, Ambrose scored from the 10. Jerome Lewis' extra point made it 7-0.

After holding Destrehan to three and out, St. James scored again when Phillips connected with Wayne Mitchell on a 43-yard pass. The extra-point attempt was blocked, leaving St. James with a 13-0 lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Destrehan ran a reverse to Reed, who scampered 97 yards for an apparent touchdown, but Destrehan was flagged for an illegal block in the back. Destrehan did not score until its next possession, with 8:50 remaining in the half, when Reed caught a pass from Eugene, cut inside and broke a tackle at the four-yard line for a 52-yard touchdown. Travis Brignac kicked the PAT to cut St. James' lead to six points.

But St. James extended the lead on its next possession, an 11-play, 95-yard drive capped by a six-yard pass from Phillips to Nick Narcisse. The two-point conversion failed, leaving St. James with a 19-7 lead.

Destrehan was driving late in the first half and got down to the St. James seven, but, with four seconds remaining, Ambrose intercepted a Eugene pass at the goal line and returned it to the Destrehan 20.

Destrehan opened the second half with two quick touchdowns. Eugene ran for a 29-yard score 13 seconds into the third quarter. Later he threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Martin with 8:35 remaining in the quarter. Brignac's PAT kick put Destrehan ahead for the first time, 20-19.

Will the Carnival Conquest come back?
Travel, C-10





Bob Jackson, a Catholic priest from Akron, Ohio, gives communion to Sgt. Roberto Nieto on Tulane University campus. Jackson and other chaplains in the National Guard perform interdenominational services for soldiers in Louisiana. (BELOW) An embroidered cross on the uniform collar is the only mark that sets chaplains apart from other National Guardsmen.

# FAITHFUL SOLDIERS

*National Guard chaplains strive to bring spiritual order to survivors and soldiers*






National Guard Chaplain Robert Hicks chats with Hurricane Katrina evacuee Alexandra Duncan of Port Sulphur. 'It's all gone,' Duncan said, as she held her 2-month-old nephew Haiden Duncan outside the Belle Chasse Primary school, where FEMA and Red Cross were seeing evacuees.

**Story and photos by Kathy Anderson**
Staff photographer

Two men cried together, one attempting to console the other's heartbreak. Both priests. Both pastors. The Rev. Gregg Riley of Grace Episcopal Church in Monroe, who had offered spiritual refuge to fellow priest George Walker Jr. of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lakeview, was with him as Walker learned about the massive flooding in the area of his church and home. He was unable to contact many of his parishioners. Most lived near the church. Many are elderly. They said a prayer.

Then the call came: Riley, a supervisory chaplain in the Louisiana National Guard, was told to report for duty. Throughout the country, in Tennessee, Ohio, Oregon, even Alaska, other Guard chaplains were getting the same call.

Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina came ashore on Aug. 29, 57 chaplains, one for every 500 soldiers, were in Louisiana counseling soldiers and evacuees and providing spiritual advice and religious services.

*See* **CHAPLAINS,** *C-11*

# JANICE ROMIG, 75

**HOME:** *Lakeview, in the house she raised her four children since 1952, two blocks from her childhood home.* **HAVEN:** *Baton Rouge*

"To me, the neighborhood is my life. That's where my memories are. My childhood. And then we never moved out of it. Lakeview.

"We almost didn't leave because we had never had water. Camille, Betsy, since I was a little child we had hurricanes, but we never had any water — maybe halfway up the lawn. But the children kept calling us: 'Y'all better go!' That's why, when (my husband Jerry and I) left, we took very little with us. I took two pairs of earrings.

"I said, 'We took each other and that's the main thing.'

"When you get down to Harrison, it's like a city within a big city. It's like a little village almost. You go to the store, you know everybody. You're telling people hello at the post office. The grocery. The coffee shop. The restaurants down on Harrison. The cleaners. The drugstore. The church. Three churches are right there.

"But you knew everyone. And all my friends that I met when the children were in school, we've been meeting for 30 years since the children got out of school, once a month at the Yacht Club, which burned.

"A friend of mine said five of her kids lived in Lakeview and I said two of mine did and she said, 'We taught them to love Lakeview and to stay here and they all got flooded.'

"Most of the children, the young people today that are tearing down small houses and building bigger houses than mine, are children who were raised in Lakeview. Whole families have lost their houses.

"When we drove down Harrison Avenue yesterday it was like a bomb has hit it. I think that's what dad and I had felt that we had really lost. You lost that part of your life. There's no place to call home. That's where we are at this point in our lives.

"I told the kids when it first happened, Grandmother Collins, my mother — we called her 'Great' — she used to say, 'Your memories, they're in your heart.' And I believe that. We passed by Great's house yesterday."

**MY STORM STORY**



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

*As told to Karen Sommer Shalett on Sept. 26.*



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER



CHRIS ROSE

# A beautiful fall day

*The sky is blue, the birds are chirping, my head is throbbing*

It's not hard to identify the point at which, during my second tour of press duty here, it was time to get out.

That would be when, in the course of accompanying a photographer to shoot pictures for a feature I was writing, I stood up, blacked out, pitched face-forward into a tree and lay in the grass drifting in and out of consciousness for the next couple of hours.

It was during those "in" points of my in-and-out consciousness, looking up into a profoundly beautiful blue New Orleans sky, that I thought: Maybe I need to eat more. Maybe I need a break. I wonder what my kids are doing today? I wonder if there any job openings in the Midwest?

There I was, a body lying face up in the grass on the side of the road for several hours in a once-major metropolitan city, a sizeable gash across my forehead, one that — as I study it in a mirror — actually seems to be in the shape of the letter K, which seems a fitting lifetime reminder of what has happened here.

A little more authentic than a tattoo, no?

I was also thinking: Isn't anyone going to come get me?

Several notions come to mind:

First of all, even before Katrina (Pre-K, let's call it), a man passed out on the side of the road in New Orleans was not a uniquely alarming sight. But that's usually a vision reserved for the tourist areas, not under the shady streets of Uptown where my meltdown occurred.

Secondly — and I don't mean to be too macabre here — but in the days since

Katrina, a body lying anywhere on the street around here has not been a completely unusual circumstance.

You may ask: Why didn't the photographer get me out of there? But he was the only shooter we seemed to have in the city that day and the police chief was about to resign and he had to go get the picture and so I waved him off: "Go ahead," I said. "I'll be fine."

The story is important, I was thinking. Go get the story.

That was about 3:30 in the afternoon. I heard birds singing and every now and then, I could hear the woman we had come to photograph — a Katrina holdout and survivor — cooing to her cats in the distance.

It was not altogether unpleasant, the parts where I was awake. I had some shade. But it occurred to me that this environment is no place for the over-emotional and faint of heart.

If you cry when you watch "Terms of Endearment," then you don't need to be here. Problem is, I even cry at the end of "When Harry Met Sally," so this whole experience is Stress City.

Though people are trickling back into town and businesses are starting to light up, it's still an impossible vista, this whole damn city, where Lakeview looks like a nuclear wasteland with automobile trunks, doors and windows imploded from being underwater and so many

*See* **ROSE,** *C-11*

*Cruise lines and riverboats that were scheduled to dock in New Orleans have relocated, but vow to return in 2006 or beyond*

# Pulling anchor




The Carnival Conquest now docks in Galveston, and although a company spokesman said it plans to resume seven-day cruises from New Orleans, 'We're just not certain about the timing or the ship.'

**By Millie Ball**
Travel editor

The Conquest, the Norwegian Sun, Grandeur of the Seas and the Sensation: All are enticing names for cruise ships that promised, and almost always delivered, memorable vacations to thousands of passengers via regular sailings from New Orleans to the Caribbean.

That all went kaput with Katrina. But the cruise lines operating the ships promise to reinstate cruising back into New Orleans when the city is ready to play again. And one ship already has a return date.

It's Carnival Cruise Lines' Sensation, a 2,052-passenger ship that's been making four- and five-night voyages year-round from New Orleans to Mexico since last fall. The Sensation is scheduled to resume the short cruises - complete with umbrella drinks and steel bands playing "Hot, Hot, Hot" — in October 2006, Carnival spokesman Jennifer de la Cruz said.

Actually, the Sensation still is in town, but its occupants are having a very different experience; the ship is under contract to FEMA to house officials and their families who are working in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Carnival's Conquest, a 2,974-passenger ship that was brand new and Carnival's largest when she proudly sailed into New Orleans in December 2002, has a new home port: Galveston, Texas. Her itinerary is the same as it was from here: the Western Caribbean ports of Grand Cayman; Montego Bay, Jamaica; and Cozumel, Mexico.

Guests who live in our area and were affected by the storm can contact Carnival about receiving refunds for the modified cruises; those who rebook before Dec. 31 will receive a $100 onboard credit per person.

As for when — or if — the French Impressionist-themed Conquest, which is almost three football fields long, will return, de la Cruz said, "We have every intention of resuming seven-day cruises from New Orleans and returning to the capacity levels we were at prior to Katrina." Specifics are vague.

De la Cruz said most short cruises draw a large drive-in crowd, while the week-long cruises lure people who fly in from all over the United States and Canada. So, without saying it bluntly, the return of the week-long cruise ships such as Conquest really depends on when New Orleans is ready to attract such visitors.

"We're just not certain about the timing or the ship," de la Cruz said.

While many New Orleanians feel as if the Conquest is "our" ship, two sister ships - the Valor and the Glory — are similar in design and newer. Another twin to the Conquest, at least in size and basic architecture, if not dÈcor, is the Carnival Freedom, scheduled to be christened in 2007. So, while nobody's saying anything, there's a clear possibility one of the other newer ones may be based here eventually.

Norwegian Cruise Line's 1,936-passenger, four-year-old Norwegian Sun, which was set to sail from New Orleans Oct. 16 through next spring, will now go to Houston instead and sail to Cozumel, Belize and Roatan, Honduras, said NCL spokesman Susan Robison.

In January, the ship will move to the Bahamas and make alternating week-long Eastern and Western Caribbean cruises. Previously booked guests who choose not to sail on one of the Houston cruises have until Sept. 30 to cancel without penalties; those who sail out of Houston or Miami will receive $50 per person (maximum of $100 per cabin) onboard credit.

The Norwegian Sun, built in 2001, was the first ship designed for NCL's "Freestyle cruising," which allows passengers to eat in any restaurant they want every night; it has 10 restaurants and cafes. The Sun was to replace the 13-year-old, 1,748-passenger Norwegian Dream that began sailing from New Orleans for six months each year in November 2003.

The most elegant of the cruise ships sailing out of New Orleans was Grandeur of the Seas, owned by Royal Caribbean International. For several years, the ship with a multi-story atrium and corridors lined with framed drawings for sets of plays and operas, arrived in late fall and left in early spring. This year, the 1,950-passenger ship was set to arrive Dec. 3 and sail through May 2006. It is being moved to Tampa for the season.

Passengers already booked have been advised to contact their travel agents or the cruise line, which promises "to ensure they experience as little inconvenience as possible."

"We truly regret we are unable to sail from New Orleans ... but we know that New Orleans will eventually reclaim its place as a world-class tourism destination," RCL President Adam Goldstein said. "We look forward to returning to the port of New Orleans as soon as circumstances permit us to do so."

His comment was echoed by other cruise line officials. In an official statement, Bob Dickinson, Carnival's president and CEO, called New Orleans "a city that is extremely near and dear to us" and pledged to return.

Riverboat companies also have been affected by the storm.

Delta Queen Steamboat Company, which was headquartered in New Orleans, has canceled all of its sailings on the American Queen, which uses New Orleans as its home port, at least until next spring.

The Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen steamboats now are on fall foliage cruises on the Upper Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and in November, when they normally would head back home to New Orleans, will instead sail from Memphis.

But because of winter weather on the other rivers and the impossibility of operating out of New Orleans now, the company has canceled Delta Queen cruises from Nov. 28 to at least March 3, 2006, and Mississippi Queen sailings from Dec. 5 to March 4, said public relations manager Lucette Brehm. The Web site, www.deltaqueen.com, states passengers will get refunds, or those who prefer to sail in 2006 can pay 2005 rates (with advance booking discounts) and receive a $100 per person onboard credit. (Call 800-543-1949).

Delta Queen President Bruce Nierenberg told the editor of Cruise Week newsletter last week that he has offered use of the boats to the government for relief efforts, hoping FEMA would use them for housing as the agency is doing with Carnival's Ecstasy and Sensation, both docked in New Orleans, and the Holiday, which is now in Mobile serving the same purpose. A FEMA spokesperson has said there are no more ongoing negotiations with cruise lines, but Nierenberg said his wish is that the Delta Queen boats will "eventually be involved with the effort."

Meanwhile, DQ has moved its main office to Buffalo, N.Y., where its parent company, Delaware North Corp., is located; other operations have relocated to Memphis.

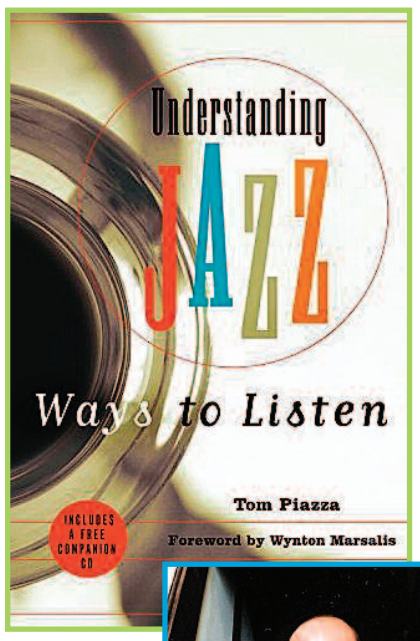
As for the possibility of returning the boats to New Orleans next year, Nierenberg told Cruise Week he doesn't think the city will be an "attractive destination" until at least mid-2006. But, he added, "the people of New Orleans have a lot of pride, and if the officials working in this regard give them the resources, they could surprise us all."

Travel editor Millie Ball can be reached at travlinmillie@aol.com.

BOOKS

# New Orleans *and all that jazz*

*New book-and-CD package celebrates a city and its music*






'Understanding Jazz' author Tom Piazza's next book will explain to the rest of the world 'Why New Orleans Matters.'

**By Susan Larson**
Book editor

Novelist and music writer Tom Piazza ("My Cold War," "The Guide to Classic Recorded Jazz") has the distinction of being the only New Orleans writer to have won a Grammy — for his album notes to "Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: A Musical Journey." He shares his extensive musical knowledge in the instructive and entertaining "Understanding Jazz: Ways to Listen" (Random House, $27.95, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center), with a foreword by Wynton Marsalis.

Piazza takes six basic concepts — "Foreground and Background," "Blues," "Forms," "Improvisation," "Swing, Rhythm, Time, Space," and "Telling a Story" — and carefully explicates them, using examples from the accompanying seven-song CD, which includes work by King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, Count Basie and Lester Young, Duke Ellington with Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, Stan Getz, the Miles Davis Quintet, and Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollis and Sonny Stitt.

Following Piazza's careful guidance, one learns to truly listen and appreciate basic structure as well as nuance. Like the great art teacher who finally makes students see anew, Piazza gives all music lovers a gift, "membership in the It club of jazz listeners," as Marsalis puts it in his foreword.

But the most wonderful, memorable description appears in the chapter on storytelling, where, describing the work of Buddy Tate and Buck Clayton, these words seem particularly applicable to post-Katrina listeners:

"Clayton's choruses had a bittersweet element that had to do with the fact of limitation and finitude itself. Whatever else that solo was about, it was also, in a way, his personal statement about the context — the song's form, the always beginning and ending and beginning again of the short blues choruses, the transient quality of sound and time itself. Things last only a short time, he seemed to be saying, but there is always a beginning again. There was nothing sentimental or maudlin in that recognition, and neither was there any bogus triumphalism. Buck and Buddy were looking things straight in the eye."

And at this time, when all New Orleanians are having to look things straight in the eye, this book makes for fine reading, celebrating, as it does, the music our city gave to the world.



Historian Douglas Brinkley has inked a deal to write about 'The Great Deluge' for William Morrow.

## Post-Katrina book deals are starting to line up

Piazza is working on a new book - "Why New Orleans Matters" — for HarperCollins. Times-Picayune City Editor Jed Horne has signed to write an as yet untitled book for Random House. And historian Douglas Brinkley will write the tentatively titled "The Great Deluge" for William Morrow.

## Festivals plan for return

Those who organize literary events are pausing to regroup, recharge and carry on. Rosemary James has said that this year's Words and Music, scheduled for November, will be back next year. She's going in to Faulkner House to retrieve papers and assess the damage to the literary landmark.

"I want to be in the house on Faulkner's birthday," James said, from her exile in Charleston, "to let the ornery, demanding old bastard know that somebody in New Orleans still loves him and remembered his birthday."

Patricia Brady, president of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, said form Hammond, "If we have to shine flashlights at the stage, the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival will take place as scheduled March 29-April 2 in the French Quarter. Writers who love New Orleans and the Festival have rushed to our support, including Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Chabon, Dorothy Allison, Elizabeth Berg, Ayelet Waldman, Rick Bragg, John Barry, Bev Marshall and Douglas Brinkley. Paul Willis, the executive director, is running the Festival in Exile from Kewanee, Ill. So like New Orleans itself, the festival is still alive."

John Barry, Douglas Brinkley and Josh Clark have signed on for a "Big Flood" panel discussion.

## Bookselling and publishing updates

Joseph Billingsley of Pelican Publishing is optimistic about the company's future. "The building was relatively unaffected," he said. "If we can get the staff back, I think we can be back to some semblance of normalcy, hopefully soon enough to preserve some national Christmas sales, though of course the loss of the local market is a huge blow to us."

Rob Schauffler of local wholesaler Forest Sales, said from Colorado, "Forest Sales was flooded. I don't yet know how high the water rose, but with the high temperatures, all our inventory and office is a total loss. We still don't know what records and documents can be saved."

The company has leased a small warehouse and office space in LaPlace, and is receiving books there. "I am working closely with Barnes & Noble to supply their Louisiana stores outside of New Orleans," Schauffler said. "They are doing all they can to assist us with orders as we slowly recover. We are looking at least a year to get back fifty to sixty percent of our business."

The city's independent booksellers will take a major hit from the lack of fall business; most are scattered across the country, waiting to get back in and assess the damage.

"It's going to be an interesting year," Garden District Book Shop's Britton Trice said from his refuge in Wisconsin, an understatement if ever there was one.

Book editor Susan Larson can be reached at slarson05@gmail.com

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

The finishing touches are being made to a 580-trailer park for displaced hurricane victims in a Baker cow pasture outside of Baton Rouge.

# Evacuees on edge about life in trailers

## *Security, isolation of FEMA park has some worried*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
Staff writer

For Angela Tillman, the idea of living in a temporary trailer park unleashes a litany of concerns.

She wonders how she will get around the proposed site in Baker without a car. She doubts there will be shopping centers or grocery stores within walking distance of the mini-city. And she worries about the security provided for the hundreds of displaced residents who will live there.

But when FEMA representatives came to her last week with the promise of temporary housing in a trailer, she reflected on her flooded 9th Ward home and her current home, at the River Center shelter in Baton Rouge, and realized she had no choice.

"I don't have another place to go," she said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is at the brink of completing its first large trailer city: 580 travel trailers in a 65-acre cow pasture in Baker, outside Baton Rouge. FEMA officials expect to put finishing touches on the park early this week and hope to start moving residents in by midweek.

Evacuees living in Baton Rouge, including those at the River Center, most likely will populate the mini-city, said FEMA spokesman James McIntyre. So far, FEMA has identified 400 eligible families and is considering others, although he could not say whether the families had been contacted or when they would be notified.

But confusion about move-in dates and other details about the site continues to frustrate people living at the shelter, deterring them from signing up to move into trailers.

People who move to FEMA-supplied temporary housing will not be eligible for the $2,358 cash advance toward three months'

*See* **SHELTER,** *A-14*

## Lack of clean water puts pressure on Orleans officials

# LIQUID ASSETS



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

After spending most of a day cleaning out his flooded house on Upperline Street, Randall Richmond cups his hands under the kitchen faucet to check the smell and quality of the water. The New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board is struggling to restore services to areas hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

**GETTING BACK:** Michael Funck grabs three crystal glasses as he and his brother, Brent Funck, clean their mother's home Sunday in the 6900 block of Fleur de Lis Street. New Orleanians stayed away in droves from their east bank homes this weekend, many citing concerns over the quality of water service and other uncertainties.
**See story, A-13**

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

One month after Hurricane Katrina smashed southeast Louisiana, crews struggling to restore drinking water on the east bank of New Orleans still are digging through mountains of muck-covered vehicles, a forest of fallen trees and homes flooded off their foundations — just to find and fix the broken pipes that have rendered the water system impotent.

It will be at several weeks, at best, before the water is certified safe to drink, and possibly longer, officials speculate.

Yet New Orleans' neighbors in rapidly repopulating Jefferson Parish have been drinking clean water for the past three weeks, and using it to cook dinner, make ice for cocktails, bathe the kids and wash away Katrina's filth from their homes and businesses.

It's a tale of two water systems and the very different cards they were dealt by the mighty storm.

When Katrina roared ashore Aug. 29, Jefferson Parish was operating water treatment plants bolstered by $7 million worth of recent improvements to their electrical systems and backed by a stable of new generators that enabled the parish to keep producing water through the teeth of the storm. Had it not been for toppled trees, which ripped open buried water pipes when their roots were wrenched from the ground in more than 300 spots, Water Director Randy Schuler thinks

*See* **WATER,** *A-7*

▶ **Most parishes in N.O. area have water except for St. Bernard, A-7**

▶ **Map of metro water systems' status, A-7**

# Sugar cane farmers facing a bleak season

## *If plants didn't drown, they were blown over*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

Except for 21 months spent in the Army during the 1960s, sugar cane farmer Raphael "Pookie" Rodriguez Jr., 65, has spent more than four decades of his life in the community of Ashton, growing a sometimes fickle crop that can break any man without a good work ethic and a healthy sense of humor.

Therefore, it should be no surprise that he can laugh easily as he points to the 5-foot-high watermark on the wall of his tool shed. Rodriguez, who seems to call everyone "cousin," says he has had a good life, free from prolonged bouts of worry. But when he sees 4 feet of water still sitting over part of his 1,500 acres of cane six days after Hurricane Rita huffed ashore, Rodriguez can't avoid pondering his future.

Nor can he avoid wondering what's in store for farmers like him across St. Mary, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes, an area among the state's 24-parish cane-producing area particularly hard-hit by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

"I've made it all my life, had some tough times and some good times, but I don't know how to make these (ends) meet," Rodriguez said. "I thought in the spring I had one of the better crops around here and then overnight it took a different change."

Industry experts estimate that the sugar cane industry in the state will sustain about $200 million in losses after the hurricanes. They were anticipating $160 million in losses from Katrina alone. Then Rita swamped the fields only weeks later.

The loss includes crop damage, equipment loss and lost

*See* **SUGAR,** *A-6*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Sugar cane farmer Gregory Rodriguez examines a levee breach near his uncle's soaked cane fields. Rodriguez, who farms 1,800 acres nearby, said he has thought about getting out of the business.

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# Rescuing the economy next on state's agenda

## *Tax incentives part of Blanco's strategy*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco was supposed to be visiting the picturesque Yangjae district of Seoul, South Korea, last week at the end of a four-nation Asian tour, sipping green tea with auto-manufacturing executives and trying to convince Kia Motor Co. to choose a site off Interstate 20 near Monroe for a new car plant.

Instead, because two hurricanes devastated southern Louisiana and uprooted more than a million people and 71,000 businesses, she canceled the trip and appeared before a congressional committee Wednesday in Washington, D.C., pleading for a massive economic rescue.

Sloughing off the heavy yoke of crisis management she wore in the storms' immediate aftermath, the sleep-deprived governor was rolling out an economic-development agenda for a Louisiana drastically different than the one she could have described to the Koreans.

Her core goal is still jobs, but now it is aimed more at bringing them back than at generating new ones, and it depends almost entirely on federal aid. Storm damage estimates of $180 billion are 20 times the size of the Louisiana government's entire revenue base, excluding federal sources.

"These storms knocked us down, but they didn't knock us out," Blanco told the Senate Committee on Finance. "And with your help and support, we will come back stronger and more prosperous than before."

For a governor accustomed to mapping out policy with long-range task forces and a carefully constructed consensus, the demands for immediate decision-making and the staggering challenges wrought by Hurricane Katrina are testing Blanco's strengths as a leader in ways that neither she, nor anyone else, could have imagined.

The former schoolteacher and housewife has been handed a historic moment and a unique political position, for she must set the course for state government and also stamp her imprimatur on federal legislation that will shape Louisiana's future for decades. And she must rally the support of a demoralized private sector, which she calls critical to the rebuilding effort.

Blanco and her administration have begun to articulate a plan and have identified what they see as the most urgent business. The first steps are crucial, but they are plagued with "chicken or egg" dilemmas, said Andy Kopplin, the governor's chief of staff who last week assumed the role of Blanco's point man for hurricane recovery.

Businesses can't return to New Orleans without workers, and workers can't return without jobs. Workers must have housing, and new housing needs workers to build it. Communities need basic public services, but those services require a community of taxpayers to finance public employment. Which comes first?

The solution is to send a strong signal immediately to the private sector that it is possible to operate businesses safely and efficiently in the New Orleans area, Kopplin said.

"That signal is urgently needed," Kopplin said, and it has to come from Congress and the President in the form of a rebuilding package set in several pieces of legislation. That's why Blanco flew to Washington and met privately with House and Senate leaders Wednesday.

Foremost, the package must include a federal commitment to rebuild a more robust levee system, Kopplin said. Although that job might take years to finish, Congress must act swiftly to give the private sector confidence that it will happen as soon as possible, he said. Otherwise, in the next few weeks many New Orleans businesses will decide not to return.

The signal also entails financial inducements to companies who dare to keep doing business in New Orleans, including various tax credits, grants and low-cost loans, according to a Blanco administration strategy document obtained by the newspaper. The Empire State Development Corp., a New York public agency that generated programs to bring businesses back to lower Manhattan after the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, has closely advised Louisiana's economic development officials on Blanco's rebuilding plan.

Another part of the signal would be an immediate federal bailout of local governments whose tax base was diminished by depopulation. Under the Stafford Act, which guides the spending practices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a catastrophe, federal dollars are readily available to reimburse law enforcement, firefighters and other local government workers for overtime pay, but not for base pay.

Blanco has appealed directly to President Bush to override the provisions of the law so that federal money for base salaries can flow to the parishes and towns in Louisiana experiencing cash-flow problems. She has the support of state associations of sheriffs, police juries and municipalities. Members of the state's congressional delegation also support the idea, while also pressing for non-FEMA sources of money for the salaries.

Without basic public services — above all for sewerage and water, a 911 emergency system and garbage collection — businesses will not return, Kopplin said.

### Tax holiday

Business people had their say with the governor on Thursday, when Blanco brought about 30 leaders from corporate and community circles statewide to a densely packed meeting room on the fourth floor of the state Capitol. Their ranks included King Milling, chief executive of Whitney National Bank and a former Rex, and Ken Carter, a former assessor in Orleans Parish and an influential member of the city's African-American political elite.

People both in and out of Blanco's political circle participated, among them her brother Errol Babineaux of Acadian Ambulance and James Davison, a Ruston businessman and strong supporter of Republican candidates for office.

As individuals offered ideas during the private meeting, their comments were typed on a large video screen for all to see. Bill Herrington, a senior vice president of Hibernia National Bank who has temporarily relocated to Houston, seized on a piece of Blanco's plan that he said would be the single most important "signal" that government can send to the private sector.

Called an "individual tax holiday," the incentive would grant a 50 percent federal tax cut on earned income and rental income for five years for people working in the Katrina impact area. The tax break would lure people — certainly the wealthy — to the area, and it could be passed by Congress as an immediate and tangible initiative without requiring a bureaucracy to make it work, Herrington said.

### Rocky political road

Such notions posted on an electronic screen in Baton Rouge have a rocky political road to travel before arriving as new legislation on the president's desk in Washington.

The state's legislative kickoff was Sept. 22, when Democratic U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu and her Republican colleague, U.S. Sen. David Vitter, jointly presented a 440-page proposal called the Louisiana Katrina Reconstruction Act, a sweeping list of projects totaling $250 billion that quickly drew editorial criticism and skepticism on Capitol Hill, especially in the House.

Kopplin said the governor's office "contributed significantly" to the senators' package.

The proposal directly addresses Hurricane Katrina's not only the most immediate military and infrastructure costs but also programs well outside the area of the storm's impact. For example, it requests several hundred million dollars for services to combat substance abuse and suicide, and $25 million for a sugar-cane research laboratory in Houma, where Katrina had little impact.

Both Vitter and Landrieu said last week that most federal lawmakers understand that the package is simply a blueprint or list of options, a starting point for dozens of bills and not the draft of a single bill.

"It's not a focus but a foundation," Landrieu said. "We've gotten criticism from people who don't understand how critical the situation is in south Louisiana and don't understand how important south Louisiana is to the rest of the nation."

Various committees will have to consider its components, and the real work is now being done in meetings with committee chairs to identify the top priorities, Vitter said.

To help finance the programs, the state's entire congressional delegation and the governor have been unified in their proposal to give Louisiana a larger share of the $5 billion in mineral revenues that the federal government collects for Gulf of Mexico offshore oil and gas operations.

### Pelican Commission

The senators are advocating radical ways to cut federal red tape. They want to create a nine-member Pelican Commission, a highly empowered panel appointed mainly by the president to short-cut the Army Corps of Engineers and the legislative process to quickly build a better levee system around New Orleans. The commission, with a majority of members from Louisiana, would call the shots without having to seek further financial authorization from Congress, according to the senators' legislative proposal.

The corps' system for improving levees moves "at a snail's pace," Vitter said. Without a dramatic change, "we'll have two more Katrinas before a spade is even put in the ground," Vitter said.

But Pelican stands for Protecting Essential Louisiana Infrastructure, Citizens and Nature, and the draft includes commission oversight of $40 billion in projects — some on the Corps of Engineers' drawing board for many years — ranging from coastal restoration to deeper access canals for the Port of Iberia.

The commission proposals appeared to be driven by special interests and pork barrel projects rather than objective expertise, according to Ivor van Heerden, a Louisiana scientist who was asked to advise a working group on levees and coastal management for the senators' legislative package. The advisory group was led by John Barry, author of "Rising Tide," a highly acclaimed book about the 1927 Mississippi River flood.

"This was a bill put together by lobbyists without any involvement from scientists from Louisiana who know the situation," said van Heerden, deputy director of Louisiana State University's Hurricane Center. He said his suggestions were drowned out by the preponderance of lobbyists on the working group.

"The bottom line I got out of this is that unless you were a lobbyist, they did not want you to participate," van Heerden said.

Vitter said the senators consulted with a slew of environmental experts and that his door has been wide open to everyone, not just lobbyists.

### Clock is ticking

Kopplin said the Pelican Commission was a proposal by the senators, and that in the long run Blanco is less interested in the mechanism than the results.

"The eye on the prize is that we get the resources we need so folks have the confidence that they can come back, and there's a long-term commitment of the federal government to be the state's partner in protecting our cities and towns from hurricanes and restoring the coast," Kopplin said.

Although Blanco has no vote in Congress, her support and ideas are key to that legislative process, Kopplin said.

Blanco and members of the congressional delegation say time is quickly running out. Landrieu warned that Congress has a short attention span. If the main legislative issues for Katrina recovery are left to languish until January, it will be very hard to get Washington to focus on Louisiana, she said.

By then, New Orleans may have lost the battle for the hearts and minds of the business community, said Herrington. Although Hibernia is committed to remaining in New Orleans and helping rebuild, many business owners and individuals working for his and other companies cannot wait too much longer for the state and federal governments to set a course of action.

"We're all going to have to make some permanent decisions here pretty soon, my friend. Pretty soon," he said.

## TEAM BLANCO

Gov. Kathleen Blanco called a meeting of business, education and community leaders to the state Capitol last week to form a team of advisers to help her pursue a strategy of rebuilding the economy in the storm-damaged regions of Louisiana. These are the people the governor's office has contacted to participate. All but about 10 of them attended the meeting.

Errol Babineaux, Acadian Ambulance
Bob Belk, Shaw Group, representing Jim Bernhard
State Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi
Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, Bollinger Shipyards
Bill Borne, Acadian Ambulance
Ralph Brennan, restaurateur
Michael Bruno, Bruno & Tervalon CPAs
Ronnie Burns, Burns Management Group
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Buddy Butler, Regions Bank
Ken Carter, former assessor in Orleans Parish
Renae Conley, Entergy Louisiana
Flozell Daniels, representing Tulane University President Scott Cowen
James Davison, Ruston businessman
Ned Diefenthal, Southern Holdings Inc. recycling
Jack Donahue, representing Maura Donahue
Ron Forman, Audubon Nature Institute
Norman Francis, Xavier University
Tony Gordon, Franciscan Missionaries
Nathan Granger, Quality Construction
Bill Herrington, Hibernia Bank
Sibyl Holt, Louisiana AFL-CIO
Dan Juneau, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
John Kallenborn, Chase Bank
Walter Leger, attorney and New Orleans Zephyrs owner
Alden McDonald, Liberty Bank
King Milling, Whitney National Bank
Billy Nungesser Jr., former Orleans Levee Board member
Dan Packer, Entergy New Orleans
Warren Prevett, representing Roy Martin Lumber
Louis Reine, Louisiana AFL-CIO
Jimmy Reiss, Regional Transit Authority
Virgil Robinson, Dryades Bank
David Rogers, chemical industry
Gene Sellers, architect
Henry Shane, Favrot and Shane Cos. real estate
Matt Stuller, Stuller Inc. jewelers
David Voelker, Frantzen/Voelker Investments
Richard Zuschlag, Acadian Ambulance

Source: Governor's press office

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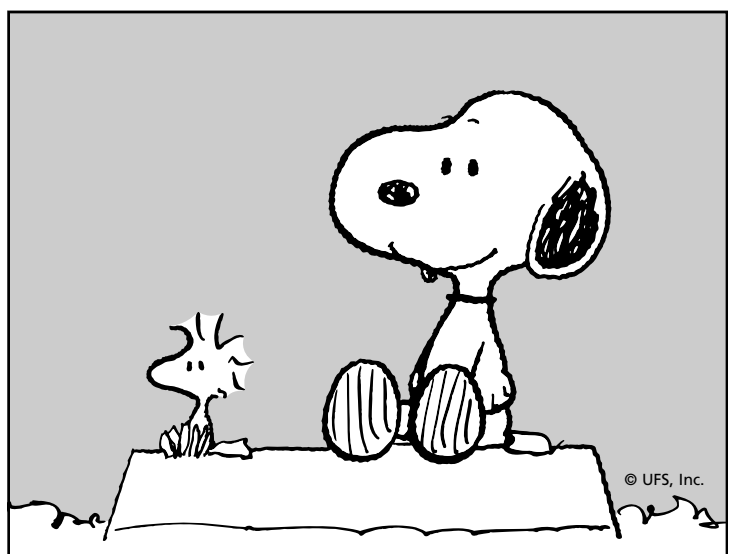
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STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A month after Hurricane Katrina sent floodwaters within a few feet of their roof, Donald and Colleen Bordelon air their belongings in the front yard of their Arabi home. 'That's my whole life right there,' said Donald Bordelon, who stayed in the home through Hurricane Betsy as well as Katrina. 'Ain't nothing but a big pile of trash, but it's all I've got.'

# FOR DIEHARDS, NO PLACE LIKE HOME

## *Couple rides out Hurricane Katrina atop their Arabi roof*

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Exhausted after a month of living in the post-Katrina wasteland that is St. Bernard Parish, Donald Bordelon slumped into a mud-caked rocking chair Thursday on the porch of his Arabi home, where a massive mound of moldy furniture and other storm debris filled the front yard and spilled into the street.

"That's my whole life right there," said Bordelon, 48, wearing a pair of denim overalls and a white sweat-soaked T-shirt. "Ain't nothing but a big pile of trash, but it's all I've got."

After riding out the storm on the second floor of the Schnell Drive home, Bordelon and his wife, Colleen, lived on the roof for eight days surrounded by up to 12 feet of water, with a blue tarp providing scant protection from the scorching sun.

As soon as the floodwaters receded, the Bordelons, who had survived on military MREs and warm bottled water, climbed down and began hauling their ruined belongings outside, one guck-covered wheelbarrow load at a time. They have since reclaimed their upstairs bedroom, where two small generator-powered fans provide a modicum of relief after long days toiling in the 90 degree heat.

"Everyone thinks we're crazy for staying here, but we're just trying to save our home," said Donald Bordelon, noting that the Red Cross sent a psychiatrist to check on them two weeks after the storm. "Where am I going to go? I don't want to move to Oklahoma or Florida. I really love it here. I love St. Bernard."

While many St. Bernard residents are unsure whether they will ever move back to the parish, Bordelon and a handful of others never left. Defying mandatory evacuation orders both before and after Katrina struck, the holdouts face a daily struggle to meet basic needs in the devastated parish, where most homes have no running water and all are without electricity.

After initially trying to persuade the survivalists to leave, authorities have accepted their stubborn presence as inevitable.

"People respond to tragedies like this in different ways. Everybody is doing their own thing," said Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta. "If they want to live in the squalor of what's left of their homes, that is their right."

But Bordelon points out that "squalor" is a relative term in St. Bernard, where the storm swamped virtually every one of the 27,600 homes, most of which will have to be torn down.

While neighbors began returning this week to houses filled with several inches of sludge, a gagging stench and an obstacle course of overturned furniture, the couple's house looks like something out of Better Homes and Gardens by comparison.

They spent a week clearing everything out and mopping the floors as best they could without running water. Then they sprayed every surface with bleach to keep the mold at bay.

A waterlogged king-sized mattress was so heavy that they had to cut it into three pieces to move it. Glassware coated in a film of dried muck fills a pirogue in the driveway next to a flatboat loaded with pots and pans and rusted kitchen utensils. A large pile of shoes, boots and sandals sits nearby.

As her husband started cleaning out the garage Thursday afternoon, Colleen Bordelon hung filthy clothes, sheets and blankets to dry on a rope in the front yard to prevent them from mildewing.

"I hope no one minds that I'm airing our dirty laundry in public," she said with a laugh.

With no water pressure, the couple uses bottled water to flush their toilets and to bathe.

"If you keep your thumb over the opening so that just a little trickles out, you can take a shower with three 12-ounce bottles," Donald Bordelon said. "But it takes six bottles if you want to wash your hair."

Now that the parish is open for residents to return and salvage what they can, friends and relatives drop off food, ice and gasoline for the generator. But the conditions remain primitive, and Donald Bordelon said he's coping with help from an occasional six-pack of Budweiser compliments of his brother, Jigger, who visits every couple of days.

"I was born and raised here, and I'd like to live the rest of my life here," Bordelon said. "I want to rebuild one more time, but if it floods again, I'll probably leave."

Another post-Katrina survivalist, Vic Lala, 79, has turned his front yard on Pirate Drive in Chalmette into a used-car lot.

White paint on the windows of a flooded 1969 Chevrolet C-10 pickup discloses that the vehicle "needs work," a monumental understatement that isn't fully appreciated until Lala pops the hood to reveal the rusted-out engine. But he's quick to point out that he slashed his prehurricane asking price in half to $1,000. Plus, he'll throw in a 1982 Ford F-150 pickup that the storm deposited on a low brick wall surrounding a flowerbed near the sidewalk.

A retired gas station owner who was a part-time maintenance worker at the Eastover Country Club in New Orleans, Lala said he never considered evacuating.

"I didn't want to go to no damn shelter with people moaning and groaning, kids making noise and having to wait in line to use the lavatory," he said. "I got everything I need to survive right here."

A moment later, though, he added, "I can always use more ice. You got any?"

Lala declined to show a visitor the living conditions on the second floor of his brick home.

"It's too personal," he said. "I'm just an old man trying to keep the smell down the best I can and keep it clean the best I can."

But he admits that he's starting to suffer, especially from the relentless swarms of flies. "I got fly swatters hanging all around," he said. "I kill the heck out of those suckers, but they keep coming back."

Lala insisted he's staying put until an insurance adjuster comes to settle his claim.

"Then I'm going to make my move," he said. "I'll get me a small camper and drive away, and you won't catch me looking back."

The Bordelons received a long-awaited visit Thursday afternoon from their insurance adjuster, who told them their efforts to salvage the house were for naught.

"He said it's a total loss, but that's a load of bull," Donald Bordelon said. "We just need to strip the walls to the studs, pressure wash everything and then get out the bleach. A little bleach will clean anything."

He said they plan to continue living in the house while they rebuild it, just like his parents did when they repaired the same home after Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

Each night, Bordelon fires up a generator on top of the carport and plugs in an extension cord connected to red, white and blue tube lighting wrapped around a utility pole in front of his house. The patriotic glow is the only light in the Arabi night sky.

Bordelon put the display up after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. Now it serves as a memorial to St. Bernard's own Sept. 11.

An American flag tied to the pole was torn to shreds by Katrina's 140 mph gusts. About a week after the storm had passed, Bordelon lowered the tattered and badly faded flag to half-mast, a poignant tribute to the ruined parish. He later found a brand new mildew-free flag tucked away in a dresser, and he tied it to the pole above the old one.

Bordelon views the brightly colored banner as a symbol of hope and renewal that suggests he made the right decision by staying.

"I didn't even know that I had that flag," he said. "It just shows that I have everything I need right here at home."

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# Relief bill seen as grab for cash

## *Corrupt La. past has some fearful*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, with Gov. Kathleen Blanco, announces his Bring New Orleans Back plans. There is some wariness around the country about giving Louisiana, with its history of political shenanigans, a large amount of federal money for rebuilding.

WASHINGTON — On the FOX News Channel last week conservative talk show host Sean Hannity told Sen. David Vitter that he was "shocked and outraged" that "you politicians in Louisiana" are exploiting the Hurricane Katrina tragedy by "trying to get every tax dollar for every pork barrel project."

On C-SPAN, a caller from Buffalo, N.Y., said he feared the hurricane relief money being funneled to Louisiana through the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be wasted by "corrupt and incompetent" government officials in Louisiana and New Orleans.

An editorial in The Oregonian, the newspaper in Portland, said Louisiana officials "seem all too eager to capitalize on public sympathy" with a "rich gumbo" of spending proposals, some unrelated to the hurricane. "Louisiana's history of corruption," the editorial said, "paired with FEMA's organizational troubles and the Bush administration's habit of awarding no-bid contracts should put taxpayers on alert."

While the Bush administration and many members of Congress say they have a strong commitment to providing a generous redevelopment package for Louisiana and Mississippi, there is growing cynicism about the amounts of money being tossed about, including a $250 billion aid request package introduced last week by Louisiana's two senators, Republican Vitter and Democrat Mary Landrieu.

Already wary of fast-track government spending programs unleashed in a state with a history of government shenanigans, watchdog groups were quick to pounce on the Landrieu-Vitter bill as a vehicle for pork-barrel spending that went way beyond the immediate needs for humanitarian aid and hurricane defense.

Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, said despite increased grumbling on and off Capitol Hill, Louisiana should do quite well with federal aid. "The devastation is so great and the stories of the victims have united Americans in sympathy," he said.

But he warns that "there is a palpable fear that many millions, if not billions (of dollars), will be wasted through graft and corruption." While Sabato said he understands the decision by Landrieu and Vitter to "strike while the iron is hot" with a far-reaching and expensive proposal, in retrospect their effort "looks greedy."

In his appearance on the Fox News Channel, Vitter responded to criticism of his and Landrieu's Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief and Economic Recovery Act by calling on Hannity and his liberal co-host Alan Colmes, to visit Louisiana and see the devastation first hand.

"We're talking about an entire major American metropolitan area that has been completely dislocated, completely evacuated," Vitter said. "Last time that happened in American history was the Civil War."

Landrieu said the legislation is intended to provide a broad outline of Louisiana's needs and that she and Vitter realize not all of it will sail through Congress and that some provisions no doubt will be revised or rejected.

"We recognize that it's a very high number," Landrieu said of the $250 billion bill. "But I guess part of introducing this package and doing it unified in our delegation is to say this is an unprecedented natural disaster, a national tragedy. And it's going to take an unprecedented response."

Vitter said he has received a generally favorable response in meetings with Senate committee leaders about individual priority items.

Still, advocates for restoring Louisiana's coastline worry that the Senate bill offered by Landrieu and Vitter will generate opposition because it is so broad and covers items not related to the coast or protecting the state from future hurricanes, such as upgrading the ports in New Iberia and Fourchon.

"How can we expect the nation to believe us that we need these projects to save the coastal wetlands that are vital to ourselves and to the nation, when we ask for a blank check and no oversight over $200 billion packed with projects that have nothing to do with either floor protection of the city of New Orleans or restoring the coast?" asked Mark Davis, executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

Ivor van Heerden, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Louisiana State University, said he was upset that lobbyists were involved in writing the bill, rather than experts who could offer new innovative solutions for hurricane protection and coastal restoration. Vitter said he and other delegation members relied on a wide range of experts, including former House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-Metaire, who is now a lobbyist but has great "insights" into the legislative process.

Some members of Congress will insist on the appointment of a chief financial officer to ensure that hurricane relief spending isn't wasted. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., one of the Senate's most conservative members, this week joined with liberal Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., to complain about the awarding of a six-month $192 million contract to Carnival Cruise lines that they say costs the government four times as much to house a Katrina evacuee as a vacation passenger.

"Hurricane Katrina is the most expensive natural disaster this country has ever faced and the rebuilding will certainly be the largest and costliest of its kind," the senators said in a statement. "This entrusts FEMA with massive responsibility, and so it's only right we protect both taxpayers and citizens of the Gulf Coast with strict accountability and oversight about how the money is spent and whether it is most efficiently directed to help rebuild lives."

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said he would like to see a well-respected manager, such as former Secretary of State Colin Powell or former General Electric CEO Jack Welch, oversee the redevelopment effort. Vitter said he already has submitted possible candidates to the White House.

Jindal said Louisiana House members have decided to pursue individual bills to rebuild New Orleans, including its businesses and job base, rather than the kind of single giant bill proposed by Landrieu and Vitter. But he said the delegation is unified across party lines to build support for the kind of redevelopment help southern Louisiana so desperately needs.

Norm Ornstein, the congressional and political expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said the American public doesn't have much patience for stories about wasted spending or corruption. He suggested the state's two senator's move away from advocating their expensive, all-encompassing bill.

"Any spate of news stories from now on about corruption in contracts, etc., will hurt – people will resist a major taxpayers' commitment if they think much of it will be wasted or lining the pockets of miscreants," Ornstein said. "That perception, unfortunately, has been reinforced by the delegation request, which editorials have called 'Louisiana looting.' The delegation needs to change its tone and strategy when it comes to getting aid. The other danger is that over time, as other disasters occur, aid becomes zero sum."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Bob Marshall contributed to this report

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## POSTAL SERVICE
- ▶ Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
- ▶ For harder-hit Plaquemines Parish, the Postal Service will dispatch a mobile unit this week to Belle Chasse, where residents can pick up their mail.
- ▶ In New Orleans, outgoing mail will be accepted at a temporary post office in the parking lot between JAX brewery and Canal Place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Postage is available.
- ▶ Services are up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened and partial delivery began last week for zip codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH-BY-PARISH
### ORLEANS
- ▶ Beginning today, residents are allowed to re-enter the city in these zip codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. On Wednesday residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
- ▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
- ▶ Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at the Ernest A. Morial Convention Center and at Kindred DMAT

### JEFFERSON
- ▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
- ▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- ▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of senior citizens and disabled people who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

### ST. TAMMANY PARISH
- ▶ Parish is open
- ▶ 911 phone system is back online
- ▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
- ▶ A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from 11 p.m to 6 a.m.

### ST. BERNARD PARISH
- ▶ Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
- ▶ As of today, all areas of the parish were to have been reopened. Residents will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH
- ▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
- ▶ Some parts of parish still without power

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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- ▶ Baton Rouge
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  North Park Recreation Center - 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs
- ▶ Mandeville, Pelican Park, Sunday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ▶ Kenner, Airline Highway near Lesan Drive, opens Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## FEMA
- ▶ 15 disaster recovery centers are in operation. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. For more information, log on to www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362.

# Orleanians espouse big-picture ideas

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

Harry Anderson, the magician and former television star who has recently opened three businesses in the French Quarter, yelled into a sporadically operable microphone at Molly's at the Market on Decatur Street on Friday night, addressing a typical Quarter crowd of tattoo enthusiasts, well-heeled entrepreneurs, street artists and self-proclaimed professional drunks.

Moderating over a unique town meeting, Anderson threw out bold and at times bizarre ideas for reinventing the Quarter and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Would the crowd support casinos in the Quarter?

"No," came the response.

"Is now the time to legalize prostitution?" asked Anderson, who has said his mother was once a prostitute, which led him on a nomadic road that perhaps predictably ended in New Orleans. Before the storm he performed a magic show at his new club, Oswald's, at Decatur Street and Esplanade Avenue.

"Yes," the crowd yelled back, amid giddy laughter and raised glasses, endorsing a new version of the city's famed Storyville prostitution district.

Anderson wasn't kidding.

"That's not a joke — it's a question," he said. "You have to understand — there is no tax base. There is no tax base."

Anderson put together the rousing town hall forum with Molly's proprietor Jim Monaghan Jr., hoping to light a fire under the crowd of die-hards in the Quarter and the Faubourg Marigny to take action to both preserve and reinvent the neighborhood and the city they love.

The perspectives that emerged in occasionally slurred and profanity-laced speeches, however, seemed to at once celebrate and rebuke the instincts that have become the hallmark of one of the world's most famous neighborhoods: parochialism, politics-as-entertainment, and, most of all, the butt-on-barstool culture of complaint.

The message rang loud and clear: Don't just sit and gripe, waiting for public officials and corporations to rebuild: Take responsibility and action to steer the city's fate.

"Don't be a drunk," said Carrie Eicher, an obviously drunk patron. "Take care of the city."

Anderson corrected her: "No — be a drunk and take care of the city," he barked into the scratchy sound system, prompting another round of raised glasses and applause. "Don't kid yourself into thinking this will be done by someone else."

Public officials — from the mayor to the president — took a beating from some at the microphone in the crowded bar, which quickly reopened after the storm. But Anderson and others told the crowd frankly to take a long look in the mirror.

"We have met the enemy, and he is us," Anderson said. "We can all do better. We weren't in the positions to push the major buttons … (during and after the storm), but we can all do better."

Anderson came to the meeting looking for just that kind of attitude. With three properties in the Quarter, his chosen semi-retirement home, he feared he may have to abandon ship rather than bear the heavy burden of entrepreneurship in a city with a devastated economy.

"I don't know if I want to carry this burden — it's still a mystery to me — but I know what I don't want to do, which is just to sit around" and curse public officials, Anderson said in an interview after the forum. "I came here to find out whether … we are going to control our own fate."

"This is a start," he said, pleased with the spirit shown during the forum.

The meeting also featured calls for an end to the neighborhood parochialism that for generations has defined New Orleans, and nowhere more fiercely than the Quarter.

"A lot of people in the national media have been talking about New Orleans will become a boutique city," said Jeanre Chandler, a French Quarter native.

"No!" the crowd yelled back.

The way to avoid that fate, Chandler said, is for the city's neighborhoods and suburbs to band together to rebuild a unified metropolitan area.

"A lot of neighborhoods have turned their backs on one another. People from Lakeview, Chalmette and the 9th Ward didn't care about one another. … We need to be a city again."

Clark Theriot, a Magazine Street business owner, joined the chorus. "We're shot in the leg right now, people in the 9th Ward, Uptown — everywhere. We need to band together right now. If we all want to get snooty with one another again in a year, fine."

Along with the unity should come a new openness and a temporary relaxing of the fierce protection of aesthetics in the Quarter, said Mike Howells, a French Quarter tarot card reader and property owner. He advocated setting up trailers for rebuilders to live and work in and near the Quarter. He recommended an empty lot near Rampart Street and Esplanade Avenue as one good option.

"We need to get temporary housing in the center of the city so people have access to work," he said.




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# Some cane farmers may be leaving their fields



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

A house floated off its foundation and landed in the middle of a sugar cane field. The industry's losses includes crop damage, equipment loss and lost productivity.

**SUGAR,** *from A-1*

productivity. In addition, one of the state's two sugar refineries is located in Chalmette, which suffered massive flooding, and could be closed indefinitely.

Before Rita, Louisiana's congressional delegation filed legislation that seeks $165 million to help sugar farmers recover from damage inflicted by Katrina.

While damage from the hurricanes is being felt in fields from Cameron to St. Charles parish, farmers in St. Mary, Vermilion and Iberia parishes were especially hard-hit by Rita, as their crops bore the brunt of a 6- to 10-foot storm surge from Vermilion Bay and Cote Blanche Bay that overtopped levees and saturated the ripe cane with a cocktail of saltwater and chemical run-off. In Vermilion and Iberia parishes the storm surge flattened the cane; in St. Mary Parish, it formed small ponds in the fields, thanks to an overtopped levee system that first allowed water into the fields and then in some cases prevented it from receding.

The harvest, which typically begins by Oct. 1 at the latest, could be pushed back several days as farmers wait for the mud in the fields to harden enough to support the heavy tractors and combine harvesters.

No doubt sugar cane is a more resilient crop than, say, cotton or rice, and can still produce despite such serious abuse. But the questions remain how much this year's crop will produce.

Herman Waguespack Jr., an agronomist with the American Sugar Cane League, said that his organization is still working to generate its own loss estimates for the two storms, but knows the losses are "substantial." He also expects the storms to drive more farmers out of the business, speeding the trend in recent years of declining numbers of cane farmers.



Farmer Joel Luke looks at damaged sugar cane plants.

"We know there are going to be some people who just are going out of business," Waguespack said.

Raphael Rodriguez's nephew, Gregory Rodriguez, who farms 1,800 acres nearby, said he has thought about getting out of the business himself lately. Gregory Rodriguez said farmers had to contend with Hurricane Lili in 2002, which reduced their yield, followed by heavy rains and dry spells late in the past couple of seasons.

Rodriguez said it typically costs about $700 to $1,000 to plant and harvest an acre of cane. A downturn in the sugar yielded by that acreage can mean the difference between making a profit and losing money, he said.

Also, farmers say, Katrina and Rita could cripple farmers for years to come if saltwater and wind caused serious damage to delicate new plantings in land that was not to be harvested this season. Waguespack said many of those new plantings were of a new higher-sugar-yielding variety of cane, and the damage will only exacerbate future losses.

"It makes you think. You can only take a loss so many years, then you have to look at the future," said Rodriguez, 37, who is married with two children. "We've had a hard rain come in here and put down four to five inches and then we get it out. But this (water) has just stayed here."

Strangely, Rodriguez hardly seemed frustrated with the water last week as he drove along the levees lining his and his uncle's levees. Stopping by one of the four breaches they created to let water escape from their fields until pumps could be used, Rodriguez said he was just thankful for the roughly three miles of swamp that border his property and slowed the storm surge.

"As much as you want to get the water off your cane there's nothing you can do," said Rodriguez, who gave up a career as a commercial pilot to "gamble" with cane because he hated being inside all day. "It's Mother Nature and I have no control over it."

Joel Luke, 62, who farms about 2,300 acres of cane about 10 miles from East Cote Blanche Bay, has worked tirelessly in recent days to drain acres of water off of his cane. After days of manning pumps and studying elevation maps, Luke has finally gotten the water moving with a series of large levee breaches along the perimeter of his land. He blames the Army Corp of Engineers for taking too long to complete a levee-raising project in the area.

"Reality, I guess, hasn't really set in. All I can see is water and concentrate on getting it off," Luke said. "The levee systems are a wonderful thing when they are completed … but if they're not completed we're in a vulnerable situation."

Rita's storm surge topped older, shorter levees, flooding his fields, Luke said. But then the water became trapped by the newer, taller levees nearby, soaking the cane with a mixture of saltwater, oil and unknown chemicals from plants and storage tanks near the cane fields. Individual farmers were left to start up pumps along the levee, or create breaches, he said.

While much of Luke's cane still had green leaves visible on its stalks, some of his neighbors' cane was almost completely brown, a bad sign for sugar content. Luke noted that the cane could also suffer from low sugar yield because it was blown flat by the storm surge. Besides the difficulty this will cause for harvesting machines, the cane may also begin to attempt to create new growth near its bent base, instead of ripening and increasing sugar yield.

Now, Luke, like other farmers, will try to work a miracle in his fields.

"I've got bills to pay and whatever (cane) is out there I have to get to meet my obligations."

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# State will give all-clear following tests

**WATER,** *from A-1*

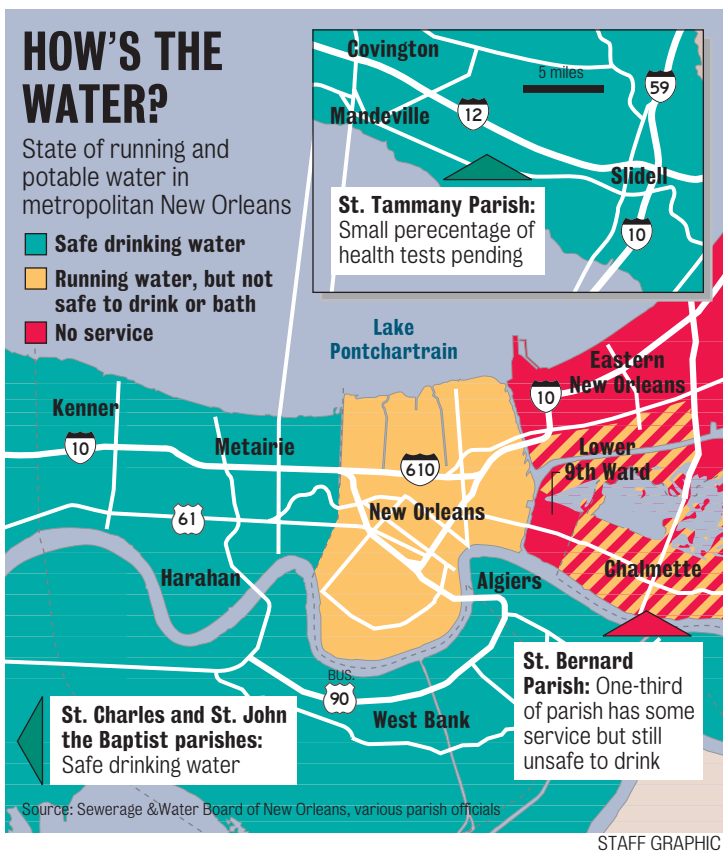
Jefferson would never have lost the water pressure that must be maintained to keep contaminants out of the system.

Even with those massive breaks, an army of parish employees, hired hands and volunteer waterworks crews from other areas had the lines repaired and the pressure restored in quick order. That work, twinned with water sampling that assured quality, persuaded the state Office of Public Health to lift the "boil orders" it had issued to Jefferson Parish on the day Katrina struck.

Those orders required that water be boiled or chemically disinfected before use in drinking, cooking or bathing. The state canceled the order Sept. 8 in West Jefferson and four days later in East Jefferson, which suffered far more breaks.

"We repaired about 385 leaks from Katrina, where normally in a year's time we have a contractor who does about 360 jobs for us," Schuler said.

Some floodwater did enter parts of Kenner, Metairie and Old Jefferson, hampering repairs, but it came and went fairly quickly in most spots.




STAFF GRAPHIC

## Orleans hit hard

Yet just across the parish line, the floodwater stood longer after Katrina knocked down the assets of New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, a century-old agency that provides water, sewerage and drainage services to the city.

When the 17th Street Canal broke on the parish line, it broke to the east, sending most of its water into New Orleans. One of its victims was the backup power plant at Claiborne Avenue waterworks. That plant usually provides juice to keep the S&WB's multiple systems operating even when commercial power provider Entergy fails, as it did during the storm.

During the height of Katrina's fury on Aug. 29, workers had managed to extinguish an electrical fire and keep the plant running.

"In spite of the fire, we were still on board-generated power for water, drainage — the whole thing — until the flood that Wednesday," said Marvin Russell, the S&WB's water purification superintendent.

But they couldn't beat a flood.

"When the water came, we had to shut the plant down or risk burning it up," he said. "And yes, it was catastrophic."

In fact, officials say, it was the first time in the board's long history that it experienced an almost complete failure of all systems. When the power plant failed, it took the purification equipment and the east bank's water pressure with it, exposing the system to contaminants that included sewage leaking from another equally wounded system of pipes.

When the floodwater subsided enough for repairs to be made, and employees got the power and purification plants back on line, they loaded the water system with higher-than-normal doses of chlorine and other chemicals to fight contamination and began pumping millions of gallons of water.

That hasn't been enough to wash away the state's boil order, however. Officials advise returning residents to turn on their hot and cold water taps for 10 to 15 minutes to flush water through their pipes, then turn off the water so as not to reduce pressure in the system. Even then they must boil or treat water if they plan to use it.

"The plant has been producing good water for weeks, after a few days of bad water, but the damage now is in our distribution system," said Russell, a microbiologist. "But all the massive leaks in the system have caused us to have to reduce pressure at the plant and to close valves, where it's possible, to certain hard-hit areas.

"We are making good water, but because of the leaks we can't deliver it with the certainty that it's good … by the time it comes out of your tap."

Envision a garden hose riddled with gaping holes and shovel cuts. Now imagine trying to wash your car with that hose, which is leaking water at each break and unable to build up enough pressure to knock the dust off the hood.

"If we're pumping more water through our system … because

*See* **WATER,** *A-8*

# Most local parishes are business as usual

**By Manuel Torres, Charlie Chapple and Littice Bacon-Blood**
Staff writers

While New Orleans still labors to make drinking water on its east bank safe to drink, surrounding parishes, for the most part, have completed the job. The big exception is St. Bernard Parish, which Hurricane Katrina flooded wall to wall.

St. Bernard officials have reactivated their water treatment plant, and Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez estimated that as many as one third of customers has some service. But if pressure is enough to flush toilets, the water coming from the tap remains unsafe to drink.

Hundreds of fire hydrants and thousands of underground pipes still are cracked and leaking. Crews are repairing breaks to build pressure and reduce contamination, but Emergency Preparedness Director Larry Ingergiola said it will be "a long time" before St. Bernard has drinkable water.

St. Tammany Parish is served by 280 "community" water systems that require state permits, parish Environmental Services Director Greg Gorden said. They include municipal systems; private and public systems that serve communities, subdivisions and commercial developments; and individual systems for some restaurants and other businesses in unincorporated areas.

Of the 280 systems, 235 have passed state health tests to deliver drinkable water, Gorden said. Of the remaining 45, 31 are for businesses that are closed due to Katrina's damage, he said. Health tests are pending for the rest, he said.

Gorden said St. Tammany hasn't experienced any major problem with its water systems because most of the supply comes from deep aquifers and artesian wells with a natural flow, which helps maintain water pressure and prevent contamination.

"There also hasn't been a whole lot of underground inundation of lines and a loss of pressure," he said, which allows bacteria to infiltrate the lines and contaminate the water.

Most other parts of the New Orleans region get their water from the Mississippi River.

Jefferson Parish restored safe drinking water to the West Bank on Sept. 8 and the east bank on Sept. 12.

Water systems in St. John the Baptist Parish and on the east bank on St. Charles Parish also were briefly compromised by Katrina. But St. John's water was certified safe to drink on Sept. 5. And St. Charles' east bank is no longer under orders to boil water before using it, either.

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# Parts of 9th Ward, eastern N.O. 'valved off'

**WATER,** *from A-7*

of massive leaks … than we can produce at our plant, then we would have to shut the plant down again, and we're not going to do that," Russell said.

He said he doesn't know how many pipes Katrina broke in New Orleans.

And yet there was some good news last week as Mayor Ray Nagin's plan to repopulate New Orleans drew thousands of residents back to a city where, except for Algiers on the West Bank, they are told not to use water straight from the tap.

By midweek, Russell said, 19 crews of private contractors, in addition to S&WB employees and volunteers from waterworks in Lafayette and Little Rock, Ark., were hunting down and fixing leaks in areas where hurricane's damage is the greatest. So many leaks were repaired on Wednesday and Thursday that the plant dropped from a daily production of 144 million of gallons of water at lower-than-optimal pressure to pumping 100 million gallons a day by Friday morning at normal pressure -- the gold standard of water systems. The drop in volume suggests a reduction in water that is wasted leaking out of pipe breaks.

"We're not sure at this point what the optimal number should be, not knowing how many people will be back in the city or when," Russell said. "But even getting to 50 million gallons a day at good pressure would make us happy."

S&WB officials don't know how long it will take to restore potable, or drinkable, water. Search-and-repair crews are fighting especially great odds in a city where entire neighborhoods are devastated.

"These crews not only have to identify leaks, then they have to clear debris before they can repair them," Russell said.

"In many cases, we have houses, trees and cars on top of leaks, and all that has to be removed before they can make repairs. "Mains are broken and running water. Fire hydrants are broken and running water.

There also are promising results from the hundreds of water samples that S&WB technicians have been taking in less-damaged neighborhoods.

"In those areas, we've seen no pattern of contamination or bacteriological problems," Russell said.

Although some samples have turned up unacceptable levels of fecal coliform, a group of bacteria that could indicate the presence of human or animal fecal matter, Russell said there were no findings of widespread contamination.

"That is very, very encouraging," he said. "But remember, these samples weren't from the hardest-hit areas. Teams of technicians are just starting to test in those sections of the city now that the floodwater is gone."

One of the board's greatest early challenges had been even to reach the sites of greatest damage, something that couldn't happen until the water subsided.

"Now that it has, we have a really focused system for identifying and repairing the leaks," he said. "We meet every day."

The French Quarter and some other sections of the city report good water pressure, and field sampling there indicates no widespread bacteria or infectious disease in the water. Still, Russell said, the system isn't set up to restore potable water one section and a time.

"The state won't allow us to certify sections of the city because we have a looped network of pipes out there," he said. "If we have excessive leaking in Lakeview, for example, we have to assume that the water is comingling with the dirt, and we have to assume that there is the possibility that some of that dirty water could make its way back into the (system), particularly if we lost power at the plant."

To understand how a looped system operates, Russell compares the biggest pipes to veins and arteries, and the smaller, connecting pipes to capillaries.

Under normal circumstances, a good system lets operators maintain drinkable water in some sections of the city, even with reduced pressure, despite a broken main or other problem in another section. But when pipe damage is this extensive, he said, weak pressure in one area and strong pressure in another might create a backflow in the capillaries, pushing dirty water back into the overall system.

So what does the state require to lift its boil order? Not all the leaks must be repaired. But Russell said they must be "controlled."

In other words, once a good pressure is restored and consistent, any leaks that remain — and there are always leaks in pipes that rest in the shifting mud of southeast Louisiana -- must be ones that, when considered globally, don't threaten water quality.

The state also expects a stable power source, which means both Entergy and the board's back-up plant must be in shape to produce. And proof must exist that chemicals can be reliably delivered to clean the water before it is pumped to homes and businesses.

Russell said all these factors mix together to produce plant capacity, the ability to provide clean water in an uninterrupted matter.

And finally comes the positive results required from certified sampling. At this point, the S&WB has done only "investigatory sampling" that provides a semi-official daily snapshot.

"We're hoping in two to three weeks to have the (leaks) under control in most sections of the city, and then we'll have to assure ourselves and the state that we have … plant capacity."

Russell said some areas of New Orleans, including the devastated Lower 9th Ward and portions of eastern New Orleans, have been "positively valved off", which means they've been temporarily removed from the loop.

"We certainly aren't abandoning them. We'll focus on those next," he said, explaining that the boundary of the Industrial Canal made it possible to eliminate those hard-hit areas and impossible to exclude others in the short-term march to provide drinkable water.

Spokeswoman Kristen Meyer of the state Department of Health and Hospitals, which includes the Office of Public Health, said officials there are pleased with daily monitoring that shows "water quality is getting better."

"The levels are dropping every day, but the results indicate that there's still an unacceptable level of bacteria," she said.

There is great pressure to restore drinking water in New Orleans.

A captain of industry addressing the City Council last week identified the availability of clean drinking water as the primary concern of businesses anxious to return to New Orleans.

"I hear back and forth about the water," said International Shipholding Co. executive Erik Johnsen. "District by district, we have to learn what is the condition of the water. Otherwise, people are not coming back."

The council has ordered S&WB officials to present a detailed briefing on the state of water. And during a pointed exchange before Mayor Ray Nagin and members of the state legislative delegation, the state Health and Hospitals chief was told to find a way to make drinking water happen sooner rather than later.

Russell knows what everyone wants to hear, and he wishes he could say it.

"But I'm just the water man," he says. "I cannot tell the public with assurance to drink the water … and under our state guidelines, I cannot tell our populace that it's 100 percent safe to bathe in the water or wash their dishes."

He said he can only offer assurances that S&WB employees are working hard to do what must be done.

"The water board people who rode out the storm, many of them losing their own homes, are still here," he said. "They're still working and still getting it done."

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# Jews struggle to mark High Holy Days

*Rescued scrolls play part in celebration*

**By Rachel Zoll**
AP religion writer

Bad luck keeps following Stephen Richer.

Last year at the start of Rosh Hashana, a hurricane evacuation sent him and a cantor at his tiny Biloxi, Miss., synagogue on an odyssey across the state to find a congregation where they could mark the Jewish New Year.

This year, as the High Holy Days begin tonight, Richer will once again be searching for a spiritual home. His Conservative synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, is one of many across the Gulf Coast that have been shuttered by extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm very happy to have this year over," Richer said. "We've had a lot of tragedy."

The 10-day period of repentance and renewal, among the most important in the Jewish calendar, arrives as Jewish evacuees are scattered throughout the country, their homes destroyed, their jobs gone and their future unclear.

Victims say the generosity of religious leaders in cities where they've sought refuge has helped ease discomfort about celebrating the holidays in an alien environment. Orthodox Jews have found housing for evacuees near congregations so they can observe the Jewish prohibition against driving on the High Holy Days. One Florida rabbi packed his Cessna with kosher meat and cheese, Sabbath candles and challah and flew the supplies to Biloxi, where members of Beth Israel may hold services at a military base. Other Jewish groups have sent prayer books, while Baptist, Roman Catholic and Unitarian churches have offered space for services.

Still, many displaced Jews say the pain of having lost everything will only be compounded by observing sacred rituals among strangers.

"I think the word is bittersweet," said Ruth Kullman, president of Touro Synagogue in New Orleans, a Reform congregation that was damaged and will not reopen for the holiday period, which ends with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Kullman, her husband and her 93-year-old mother-in-law fled to Memphis where Kullman's sister lives. "We're all so grateful to be here and together. We're just sad that we can't be celebrating the way we always had," she said.

Jewish leaders don't know when — if ever — their communities will reunite.

About 10,000 Jews lived in the New Orleans area and Eric Stillman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, has been trying to track them. Working out of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, he has contacted about 1,400 of the 3,600 families who were in his organization's database. Synagogue leaders have started their own online lists, but many families still have not been reached.

As Katrina battered the region, anxiety spread among Jewish leaders about the Torah scrolls inside the buildings. The scrolls, which Jews believe contain the word of God, are the holiest objects in Judaism.

About a week following the storm, a caravan of Jewish volunteers, accompanied by armed officers from outside New Orleans, went into the city to retrieve the scrolls. Some members of the mission had to swim through floodwater to reach their buildings, but all the Torahs were retrieved intact.

Stillman drove about a dozen of the Torahs to Houston, where they will be used in worship during the next 10 days. Rabbis and cantors from New Orleans-area congregations will be leading some of the services in college auditoriums, churches and other sites around the region.

Betty Zivitz, executive director of Congregation Temple Sinai, a New Orleans Reform synagogue of 850 families, said she was "trying to make as normal a holiday as possible."

Zivitz and her husband spent weeks moving from Jackson, Miss., to Memphis to Mobile, Ala., before returning to their damaged but inhabitable home in Metairie. She has been meeting with insurance adjusters about repairs to the synagogue, where the basement was filled with 2 feet of water and rain damaged the upper floors and ceilings.

Zivitz and her family plan to drive to Baton Rouge for the holiday, where her rabbi and cantor are leading services.

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# Stan swipes Mexico, Otis' winds die down

*Yucatan peninsula to get 15 inches of rain*

**By Jorge Barrera**
Associated Press writer

LA PAZ, MEXICO — Hurricane Otis weakened to a tropical storm Sunday and headed north toward an unpopulated stretch of the Baja California Peninsula, while a tropical depression strengthened to a tropical storm just before hitting land in southern Mexico.

Tropical Storm Stan formed before dawn Sunday and then plowed into land about 40 miles southwest of Tulum, on the Yucatan Peninsula. It carried maximum sustained winds of 45 mph, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The storm was expected to dump up to 15 inches of rain in some areas of the Yucatan Peninsula and Belize before weakening to a tropical depression. No major damages or injuries were immediately reported, and the storm was expected to move mostly south of the popular resort of Cancun.

Along the Pacific coast, the Mexican government issued a tropical storm warning for the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula as Otis continued to sideswipe the narrow stretch of land. No injuries have been reported.

The slow-moving storm was inching along the coastline at 3 mph and was expected to hit a deserted stretch of coastline late Sunday or early Monday. It carried maximum sustained winds of 70 mph and was expected to weaken over the next 24 hours, the National Hurricane Center said.

Preparing for the storm, Baja California state officials had asked soldiers to help evacuate the islands of Magdalena and Margarita, off the coast of Comondu.

More than 1,000 people evacuated by Saturday as rains from the storm's outer bands led to flooding in the poor outskirts of Cabo San Lucas, where many homes are little more than wooden shacks. Officials went door-to-door as part of a voluntary evacuation plan.

The resort's hotels in Cabo San Lucas escaped major flooding.

Otis was the 15th Pacific storm of the season. Unlike powerful Atlantic storms such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, Pacific hurricanes tend to do less damage because they make landfall less frequently.

Like their counterparts in the Atlantic, Pacific storms are given names that correspond to the alphabet.

# Construction quality key to weathering storm

*Devil's in details when building home*

**By Jay Reeves**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. — A few more nails and extra bolts could have made a big difference for some homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

An initial engineering review found that most of the wood-frame houses that survived the storm's 130 mph gusts held up because of little things: plenty of nails, metal straps attaching rafters to frames and bolts anchoring frames and porches to concrete.

The review was completed by a five-person team organized by the University of Alabama. University researchers, building code specialists, engineers and wood industry experts spent three days inspecting 30 locations in southern Mississippi and eastern Louisiana. The goal was to explain why some homes survived, and others were uninhabitable.

"The lesson to be learned is attention to detail," said John van de Lindt, a Colorado State University professor who was part of the team. "If the (building) code was followed, things seemed to do really well."

The research group determined that new homes fared better than older ones, but porches were a problem area.

The group also found evidence of spotty quality between builders. But rather than purposely skirting building codes, builders apparently didn't understand all the requirements of constructing hurricane-proof homes, the team believes.

Dave Johnson, a building inspector in Harrison County, said code inspectors ensure there are only "very minor differences" in construction from one contractor to the next.

The report is being completed and could be circulated within the industry within weeks, van de Lindt said.




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*Heals like Home*

# Residency rule divides newly united council

*Waiver is touted to raise ranks of police force*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

With all seven members present for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck, the New Orleans City Council offered plenty of evidence last week that they intend to work together to plot what will be a complex and costly recovery strategy.

But as an emotional, 10-hour meeting wound down last Tuesday after nightfall, the spirit of cooperation suddenly shattered along a familiar fault line: vehement disagreement over whether to suspend the city's residency requirement for police officers.

With the police force wracked by desertions and fatigue among those who stayed the course during the harrowing post-storm chaos, Councilman Jay Batt, author of an ordinance to temporarily waive the domicile rule, put his colleagues on notice that he intends to call for a vote in two weeks.

At the end of a long agenda that dealt with such critical issues as the restoration of electricity and water services, Batt appeared to have caught some members off guard by raising so volatile an issue so late in the day. A majority countered quickly, letting Batt, the council's lone Republican, know that his initiative is doomed if he attempts to move it forward now.

The city is facing an "emergency crisis situation," Batt replied. He said the council needs to act on his measure because New Orleans has "a lot less police than before" Katrina.

"And a lot less population," Councilwoman Renee Gill Pratt snapped back.

His voice rising, Batt said: "That's true, but it's important that we protect our property and what citizens we have left!" If he is wrong in his belief that lifting the residency rule will bolster the ranks of the Police Department, Batt said the council could repeal the waiver after a year. "We need this now more than ever."

Not so, argued a visibly upset Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, the mother of a police officer who was profiled by national media outlets for his bravery during Katrina's lawless aftermath.

Morrell told Batt that it is "totally inappropriate" to address the residency question until the NOPD has an opportunity to determine how many officers who live outside of Orleans Parish were among the deserters.

Shouting now, Batt said there was nothing inappropriate about his proposal. "I'm talking about public safety!" he said.

Morrell said the only change in the law that she could support would be a residency waiver for those police officers with suburban addresses who stayed on the job after Katrina passed.

"We need to know who came and who didn't," she said.

Clearly frustrated by the tenor of the debate, Council President Oliver Thomas tried to table the discussion, after remarking that some New Orleans neighborhoods are now home to more police officers and military personnel than citizens.

"Timing is everything," said Thomas, who had been poised before Katrina to join Batt in supporting a debate over the hot-button issue. "And this is a bad time. Things are sensitive right now. Emotions are heightened right now."

Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, a longtime domicile-rule opponent, was the only member to speak sympathetically of Batt's proposal.

Pratt echoed Thomas' sentiment that the timing of the residency debate was premature. She said as federal money pours into the city's rebuilding effort, outsiders, including potential police recruits, "will want to come New Orleans because they know we'll have a bigger and better city."

And mindful of reports that some members of suburban law enforcement agencies turned away New Orleans evacuees at gunpoint as they tried to flee the bedlam at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Pratt said "there are some people I don't want to come into our city."

Even as it became evident that he lacked the necessary support, Batt pressed on.

"You think everyone from New Orleans is perfect?" he shouted at Pratt. "I don't want those people either," he said in reference to the gun-wielding officers. "I just want those houses protected."

At one point, a weary Thomas summed up the feelings of the handful of council staffers and onlookers still in the meeting room at Louis Armstrong International Airport. "We did a lot of good work today," Thomas said. "But a great meeting just deteriorated to some junk."

For years, clear-headed arguments have been posed for and against the city's residency law. Proponents of the rule say that cops who live in the city are more apt to be attuned to the behavior of city residents, and that police officers strengthen the tax base and increase public safety by their mere presence.

Detractors counter that New Orleans desperately needs more police officers and can hardly afford to be so choosy. Allowing cops to live in the suburbs will triple the size of the pool of potential applicants, they say, and perhaps allow the city to reach its elusive goal of 2,000 officers.

The strongest endorsement of the plan had come from soon-to-depart Police Superintendent Eddie Compass, who resigned under pressure earlier that same day.

Despite the force of opinions on both sides, the residency debate has tended to devolve into a referendum on race, with white politicians and activists leading the charge to dismantle the rule and their African-American counterparts advocating the residency requirement.

That dynamic was evident Tuesday, with Batt and Clarkson, two of the council's three white members, supporting some sort of waiver, and Thomas, Morrell and Pratt, the three African-American members on hand, opposing. Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis, who is African-American, left the meeting before Batt raised the residency issue.

Eddie Sapir, the council's third white member, has taken no firm position on the issue. But on Tuesday, he sought to put the onus onto Mayor Ray Nagin, insisting that the mayor has the authority to issue an executive order to suspend the residency law if he chooses.

Nagin administration officials in attendance did not comment on Sapir's assertion. Nagin has previously said that he would sign a suspension of the domicile law if the council passed it, but has never gone so far as to ask for an up-or-down vote.

Asked later about Sapir's suggestion that he can use his emergency powers to waive the residency law unilaterally, Nagin offered a bemused smile.

"Oh OK, so in other words if we can't do it, let Mikey do it," Nagin said, making reference to a 1970s-era TV commercial for breakfast cereal in which a young boy who was used as a guinea pig by his older brothers.

As to whether he would consider taking such action, Nagin was noncommittal, saying he hasn't studied the legality of such a move.

"I don't know, it depends upon how the re-entry works and how well we protect the city going forward," Nagin said, adding that he'll be monitoring the issue.

"Right now, there's probably more pressure (to waive the rule) based on the fact that we have city workers all over the place, including council members' staff who are living in Baton Rouge, Houston and elsewhere," Nagin said.

But the mayor's real focus was police.

"This is a different environment than pre-Katrina," he said. "The manpower is definitely down. We've got 200-plus officers that are going to go through some type of review process" – a reference to the NOPD tribunal that has been set up to handle suspected deserters after Katrina struck.

"I'll tell you one thing I'm not going to do," Nagin said. "I'm not going to let this city go back to the crime levels we had before. We're going to do whatever it takes."


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# Many unknowns keeping New Orleanians away



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Octavia Street residents George and Susan Byrne clean up their kitchen Saturday. The two rode out the hurricane and were rescued after about a week of being stranded.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

ABOVE: Brent Funck helps his mother, Ellen Funck, over what used to be her fence on Fleur de Lis Street in Lakeview.

LEFT: Gary Escoffier puts his wedding photo in the truck as he loads items from his Venetian Isles home. Saturday was Escoffier's first day back at his house after Hurricane Katrina.

## *Sparse returns blamed on water, jobs, crime issues*

**By Coleman Warner and Frank Donze**
Staff writers

The anticipated onslaught of New Orleanians returning to their east bank homes never materialized this weekend, and many cited concerns over the quality of water service.

The rehabilitation of Algiers, however, seemed to be progressing more quickly among the city neighborhoods spared Hurricane Katrina flooding. Water service there has passed health inspections and is deemed save to drink.

In Algiers, Dionysia French cleaned out debris around her looted home on Shirley Drive. French, a cable company worker who evacuated to Jackson, Miss., said she came back because "my job wants me back to work."

French said she is not worried about the quality of Algiers' water.

"Supposedly it's OK because, if I'm not mistaken, we're on a different pumping system," the 41-year-old woman said.

But city officials have advised residents not to drink or bathe in water from east bank taps, because of contamination seeping though damaged water lines.

Della Viator, an administrator for a New Orleans architectural firm now living temporarily in New Iberia, is concerned about the water and cites it as one of "too many unknowns" that are delaying her return to her Annunciation Street home Uptown.

"I've washed my hands; it's like a burning sensation a little bit," said Viator, 49. "We don't have kids, but I know people that do that say the water quality is a big concern."

Water board officials say Algiers' water supply is clean and safe because it is on a different treatment system and wasn't subject to the destruction that ruptured major water supply lines on the east bank.

On the east bank, water officials are working to make repairs in the dry areas, where lines were damaged by uprooted trees, shifted houses and toppled utility poles, according to Marcia St. Martin, executive director of the water board.

Even without flooding, such events caused "major defects in the distribution system," St. Martin said. While the water is drinkable as it leaves the treatment plant - and has been since last week - it is dirty at the tap because of the damaged lines, St. Martin said.

The condition of New Orleans' water supply was a lively topic of conversation among residents and business executives as Mayor Ray Nagin's plan for repopulating the city took effect this weekend, starting with Algiers, Uptown, the French Quarter and portions of Mid-City. A steady trickle of residents returned to the city Sunday, in some cases to check the condition of properties and leave, in others to move in for good.

Residents could be seen in the yards of many streets in Algiers, hauling debris to the street and bagging downed limbs. Several said they're moving back in, and that they saw the beginnings of stepped-up activity across the Algiers district, with busy traffic on Gen. De Gaulle Drive and a smattering of store openings.

"We've been here since Tuesday — for good," said Chrissa Hailey, 39, an Orleans Parish public school teacher who has been placed on indefinite leave. There has been a lot more traffic in the past two days, she said.

Helping her clean her Nunez

*See* **RETURN,** *A-14*

## PARISH BREAKDOWN

The number of evacuees who remain in shelters as of Thursday

| Parish | Evacuees | Parish | Evacuees |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acadia | 0 | Lincoln | 858 |
| Allen | 0 | Livingston | 449 |
| Ascension | 993 | Madison | 121 |
| Assumption | 100 | Morehouse | 447 |
| Avoyelles | 886 | Natchitoches | 400 |
| Beauregard | 3,022 | Orleans | 0 |
| Bienville | 70 | Ouachita | 2,453 |
| Bossier | 1217 | Point Coupee | 147 |
| Caddo | 2,550 | Rapides | 6,685 |
| Calcasieu | 0 | Red River | 150 |
| Caldwell | 125 | Richland | 65 |
| Cameron | 0 | Sabine | 401 |
| Catahoula | 143 | St. Bernard | 30 |
| Claiborne | 579 | St. Helena | 29 |
| Concordia | 167 | St. John the Baptist | 500 |
| De Soto | 207 | St. Landry | 2,844 |
| East Carroll | 14 | St. Mary | 447 |
| East Feliciana | 48 | St. Tammany | 767 |
| East Baton Rouge | 5,889 | Tangipahoa | 1,407 |
| Evangeline | 662 | Tensas | 209 |
| Franklin | 202 | Terrebonne | 1,094 |
| Grant | 275 | Union | 959 |
| Iberia | 425 | Vermilion | 150 |
| Iberville | 0 | Vernon | 2,488 |
| Jackson | 392 | Washington | 31 |
| Jefferson | 40 | West Baton Rouge | 858 |
| Jefferson Davis | 0 | Webster | 673 |
| Lafayette | 2,850 | West Carroll | 100 |
| Lafourche | 557 | West Feliciana | 341 |
| La Salle | 584 | Winn | 660 |

NEW YORK TIMES/STAFF GRAPHIC

# 'People don't know what to expect. They don't know if they can stay here'

**RETURN,** *from A-13*

Street yard in Algiers Point was Kitty White, a social worker for the city school system, who lost her Lakeview home in Katrina flooding and is temporarily living with Hailey until she can find her own apartment in Algiers.

The unflooded west bank neighborhoods are sure to see more new residents who lost homes, she said.

"You get a place to live, then you start looking for a job," White said. "It's like a puzzle that's shattered; you start to put the pieces back together."

Several people filtering into Uptown neighborhoods on the east bank also said they are eager to move back in, but that they sense great uncertainty over issues related to crime and jobs, as well as water quality.

"People don't know what to expect. They don't know if they can stay here," said Susan Fitzgerald, 42, a sign company owner who now has a leased place on Washington Avenue as well as one in Ascension Parish.

"I'm going to end up being a resident of both places. There's nothing I can do about it ... I guess it's going to be maybe six months before a lot of people are back here (Uptown) living full-time."

A lawyer who rents the other side of Fitzgerald's double, Caroline Wallace, said she has been back in New Orleans for three days after evacuating to Lake Charles, and isn't eager to leave again.

"We have power and running water and gas and everything — just not drinking water," said Wallace, 30. "It's really good to be back in your own house for the first time in weeks."

# Residents could start filing in by midweek

**SHELTER,** *from A-1*

rent, and that has deterred some from signing up for the trailers.

Some residents said they have yet to hear whether they will be placed or when.

"I heard end of the month, 15th of the month, but I hope it's before that because I'm ready to go," said Theresa Barthelemy of Plaquemines Parish.

Others wonder whether the mobile home cities will provide the lifestyle they are accustomed to.

After a look at large color photographs of the trailers hung inside the shelter by FEMA officials, Jacqulyn Hyams of New Orleans decided that the trailers were too small for her and her six children. McIntyre said the trailers range from 22 to 30 feet long and could sleep a family of up to five. But Hyams said the crowded conditions would make life intolerable.

"My children aren't used to being boxed in," she said.

Others at the shelter questioned FEMA's decision to establish a trailer city in such a remote area without clarifying transportation options beforehand.

"They got us way back up in the woods," said Gloria Richardson. "What are you going to do in the woods? You need a car, you need buses, and the way buses run here, it's awful."

McIntyre said security and transportation would be addressed before residents move in. Security companies will be hired by FEMA or local enforcement agencies, which might receive extra government financing to hire more people or extend hours, he said. Baker's local government was responsible for setting up transportation to hospitals, schools, employment and retail, he said.

James Everett welcomed the idea of trailer living, or any alternative to the River Center.

"I don't like the living conditions, the people, and I definitely don't like the food," he said of the shelter. "Me myself, I don't like trailers either, but you've got to take what you can get for the time being."

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**LAKEVIEW:** Clad in work boots and rubber gloves, a group of residents waits for a bulldozer to clear a path through the downed trees on Canal Boulevard so they can return to their homes.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

**METAIRIE:** Lafreniere Park is now being used as a dump site for tons of trees destroyed or broken by Hurricane Katrina. Within the first four days, the site took in 100,000 cubic yards of tree debris.

# TAKING OUT THE TRASH

Now as common as beads hanging from St. Charles Avenue oaks after a Mardi Gras parade, tree limbs, appliances and piles of drywall line streets wherever Hurricane Katrina struck. New Orleans City Hall estimates that there's 50 million cubic yards of debris in the New Orleans area alone. And the estimate for cleanup, even for a city that's accustomed to cleaning up after Mardi Gras parades: at least one year.




STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**SLIDELL:** Hurricane Katrina debris is picked up along U.S. 11 near Slidell.

# Al-Qaida links suspected in Bali suicide bombings

## *26 die, 101 hurt in 3 explosions*

**By Irwan Firdaus**
Associated Press writer

BALI, INDONESIA — Indonesia said Sunday it suspected two fugitives linked to al-Qaida masterminded the suicide bombings of crowded restaurants in tourist areas of Bali that killed at least 26 people and injured more than 100.

The nation's president, meanwhile, warned that more terrorist attacks are possible.

"The terrorists are still looking for soft targets," President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at a press conference after touring the devastated areas on the Indonesian island.

He also said Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, will do everything it can to prevent another strike.

The wounded included six Americans.

Maj. Gen. Ansyaad Mbai, a top Indonesian anti-terror official, identified the two suspected masterminds of Saturday's bombings as Malaysians alleged to be key members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group.

They also are accused of orchestrating the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings, as well as two other attacks in the Indonesian capital in 2003 and 2004. The nightclub bombings, which also struck venues crowded with tourists on a Saturday night, killed 202 people, most of them foreigners.

Saturday's attacks occurred almost three years to the day after the nightclub bombings.

In the latest attacks, three suicide bombers wearing explosive vests set off near-simultaneous explosions that devastated three crowded restaurants Saturday night.

"The modus operandi of Saturday's attacks is the same as the earlier ones," said Mbai, who identified the two suspected masterminds as Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top.

He said the two were not believed to be among the three suicide attackers. The assailants' remains were found at the bombing scenes but have not yet been identified, he said.

"I have seen them. All that is left is their head and feet," he told The Associated Press. "By the evidence we can conclude the bombers were carrying the explosives around their waists."

Video footage of one blast showed groups of tourists, many of them apparently Westerners, seated at candlelit tables talking and sipping drinks in the seconds before the explosion. The footage, obtained by Associated Press Television News, then shows a bright flash accompanied by a loud bang and gusts of black smoke.

It was not immediately clear whether the three suicide bombers were included in the death toll, which increased to 26 on Sunday, said Sanglah Hospital spokesman Putu Putra Wisada. At least one child was killed, a witness said.

One Australian and a Japanese citizen were among those killed, along with 12 Indonesians. Hospital officials were trying to identify the other victims.

The 101 wounded included 49 Indonesians, 17 Australians, six Americans, six Koreans, four Japanese, officials said.

Dozens of people, most of them Indonesian, waited in tears outside the morgue in Sanglah Hospital, near the island's capital Denpasar, for news of friends and relatives missing since the attacks.

At Bali's international airport, long lines of travelers formed at checkout counters as a steady stream of taxis dropped off departing visitors.

"We were up all night trying to change our ticket," said Veli-Matti Enqvist, 51, who had been scheduled to leave Bali with his wife on Wednesday.



AP PHOTO

Australian national Mary Ann Purkiss, second from left, who was injured in a bomb blast in Bali Saturday, is helped to a plane at Nguhrah Rai International Airport which will return her home. Suicide bombers carried out three attacks which killed 26 and injured 101.

The couple was walking on the beach when they heard the blasts.

"We finally found something," he said. "We're going."

After the 2002 bombings, there was an immediate and massive evacuation of tourists, devastating the island's main industry.

The latest bombings struck two seafood cafes in the Jimbaran beach resort and a three-story noodle and steakhouse in downtown Kuta. Kuta is the bustling tourist center of Bali where the two nightclubs were bombed three years ago.

The bombers struck at about 8 p.m. The head waiter at the Menega Cafe said the bomb went off at his beachside restaurant between the tables of two large dinner parties, who were sitting in the sand. Most of the 120 diners at the restaurant were Indonesian, he said.

"Everyone started screaming "Allah! Allah! Help!" said Wayan Subagia, 23, who suffered leg injuries. "One woman rushed to pick up her child, but the little girl was already dead."

Minutes later, he heard another blast at the Nyoman seafood restaurant about 50 yards away.

At almost the same time about 18 miles away in Kuta, a bomb exploded at the three-story Raja restaurant in a bustling outdoor shopping center. The area includes a KFC fast-food restaurant, clothing stores and a tourist information center.

Smoke poured from the badly damaged building.

The bomb apparently went off on the restaurant's second floor, and an Associated Press reporter saw at least three bodies and five wounded people there.

The latest attacks came a month after Yudhoyono warned of possible terrorist attacks.

"I received information at the time that terrorists were planning an action in Jakarta and that explosives were ready," he said Saturday.

Western and Indonesian intelligence agencies have warned repeatedly that Jemaah Islamiyah was plotting more attacks in the nation.

The White House condemned the "attack aimed at innocent people taking their evening meal."

# U.S. offensive appears to widen in western Iraq

## *Village called sanctuary for al-Qaida militants*

**By Mohammed Barakat**
Associated Press writer

QAIM, IRAQ — Hundreds of U.S. troops combed through a village near the Syrian border Sunday, breaking into houses and fighting sporadic gun battles with gunmen on the second day of a new offensive against al-Qaida insurgents. At least eight militants were killed, the military said.

Many residents fled Sadah village into Syria before the offensive began, witnesses said, and the 1,000 U.S. troops involved appeared to be widening the sweep into two nearby towns.

In Karabila, troops with loudspeakers warned residents to stay inside their homes for their own safety Sunday, witnesses said. In Rumana, a town on the other side of the Euphrates River, helicopters fired on several houses, sending plumes of black smoke into the air, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of concern for their security.

A U.S. military spokeswoman in Baghdad said she could not immediately confirm that the offensive had expanded from Sadah to Karabila and Rumana.

No American casualties were reported in the offensive, which is aimed at rooting out al-Qaida militants the military believes have been using Sadah as a "sanctuary," closing insurgent supply routes and stemming violence ahead of Iraq's crucial vote on a new constitution on Oct. 15.

However, al-Qaida in Iraq claimed to have captured two U.S. Marines participating in the offensive and threatened in a Web statement issued Sunday to kill them within 24 hours. The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Also, a senior military commander said Sunday that he was not backing off his assessment that U.S. forces in Iraq could be reduced early next year, even though an Army general has said the number of battle-ready battalions of Iraqi soldiers has fallen by two-thirds.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gen. John Abizaid did not offer a reason for the decrease in top-level Iraqi troops from three battalions to one. But he said more Iraqis are in the field at various levels of training and are participating in security operations than before.


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The other Lutheran Schools in the area: **Mt. Olive Preschool** in Metairie; **Prince of Peace** in New Orleans East; and **St. John** in the Mid-City area are still assessing their situation. **St. Paul** in the Faubourg Marigny area will open once utilities are returned to their building.

For families with students enrolled in Lutheran Schools prior to Katrina, please go to **www.lutheranlocate.org** and inform us of the educational plans for your child. Please send an e-mail message to **southernlcms@aol.com** or call **225-756-2222** for further information on the Lutheran Schools that have not yet announced a restart date. Lutheran Schools and congregations are ready to be places of restoration and healing through sharing Christ!

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# Roberts to start with matter of life and death

## *New chief justice this week to weigh Oregon suicide law*

**By David G. Savage**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court opens its term this week with a new chief justice and facing a series of major cases on the "right to die," abortion, free speech and the death penalty.

Chief Justice John Roberts will be sworn in this morning during a court ceremony and then take the center seat as the justices hear the first round of oral arguments.

His first case might not prove memorable to him or to the law. It concerns whether slaughterhouse workers are entitled to be paid for the time it takes for them to don protective clothing at the start of each work shift.

On Wednesday, however, the court will hear the Bush administration's challenge to the nation's only "right to die" law, a case that might give an early clue as to what kind of conservative John Roberts is.

Oregon voters twice have approved the Death With Dignity Act, a measure that permits dying people to obtain lethal medication from their doctor. Since 1998 when the law took effect, 208 people have used medication to end their lives. Most of them were dying of cancer.

But shortly after President Bush won the presidency, his attorney general, John Ashcroft, decreed that Oregon doctors who prescribe lethal medication are violating the federal drug-control laws. He threatened them with a loss of their license to prescribe drugs.

As a legal matter, the case, now known as Gonzales vs. Oregon, pits the state's traditional power to regulate the practice of medicine against the federal government's authority to regulate drugs.

It also poses a test of different styles of conservatism. Libertarian and so-called "small government" conservatives probably would side with Oregon, because it allows dying people to decide for themselves whether to end their lives. Conservative advocates of federalism also have been inclined to defer to the states, not Washington, D.C., to make the law.

The case has similarities to the case testing California's medical marijuana law, a dispute that split the court's conservatives in June. Justices Clarence Thomas and Sandra Day O'Connor as well as Rehnquist sided with California and the patients who used marijuana to relieve their pain. They said this was an issue for the state and its voters to decide.

But Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy joined the majority in saying federal authorities had the power to ban all use of marijuana.

In late November, the court will revisit the abortion issue. A New Hampshire case does not ask the court to overrule Roe vs. Wade and the right to abortion, but it might make it much harder for doctors to challenge a state's regulation of abortion.

New Hampshire, like 34 other states, passed a law that requires doctors to notify a parent of a minor girl before performing an abortion. Unlike most such laws, however, this statute did not make an exception for medical emergencies that threaten the health of the young woman.

A federal judge and the U.S. court of appeals in Boston blocked the law from taking effect. The state's attorney general, Kelly Ayotte, and Bush administration lawyers urge the court to put the law into effect as written. They say doctors whose patients need emergency abortions may go to a judge and ask for a waiver of the parental notice rule.

Abortion rights advocates say doctors who face medical emergencies should go first to a hospital, not to a courthouse. The court will hear the case of Ayotte vs. Planned Parenthood on Nov. 30.

Two important free-speech cases will be heard in the fall. One concerns the rights of public employees, the other whether colleges may restrict military recruiters on campus.

At one time, the Supreme Court said public employees did not have a free-speech right to challenge their employer. But the court changed direction in 1968 when it ruled that a school teacher could not be fired for writing a letter to a newspaper editorial page complaining about how the school board was spending the taxpayers' money. The justices said public employees had a right to speak out on matters of public concern.

The law remains unclear, however, on whether whistle-blowers have a right to speak out with impunity regarding what they have seen or heard on the job.

On Oct. 12, the court will hear a case to clarify the law. Richard Ceballos was a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County five years ago when he alleged that another prosecutor had lied about evidence to obtain a search warrant. He persisted in raising his complaint with his superiors and alleges he was reprimanded.

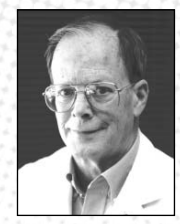
He sued several of his superiors, including then-District Attorney Gil Garcetti. At first, a federal judge dismissed his claim, but the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived it. Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote that the First Amendment should protect government whistle-blowers who disclose wrongdoing.

Bush administration lawyers have intervened in the case to urge the court to restrict the free-speech rights of public employees. A ruling on this issue could affect the rights of millions of public employees, including school teachers, college professors and police officers.

In December, the court will consider whether colleges and universities that receive federal money must give military recruiters equal access to their students. Congress in the Solomon Amendment threatened colleges with a cut-off of federal money if they discriminated against military recruiters.

But a group of law schools and professors challenged this rule as violating their free-speech rights. They said their schools routinely reject recruiters for employers who refuse to hire gay men and lesbians, and the Pentagon has such an anti-gay policy.

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**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE SERVICE.** Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

**TREES &** DEBRIS REMOVAL. Fast response. Insured. Free Estimates. Call 504-712-9024

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**Ganucheau Dental** Grp open for business 504-468-1675. 2825 Houma Blvd, Metairie Mon-Fri 8-5

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

### 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

**WEST BANK** FLOOD VICTIMS: Sheet rock finishing & Painting. Call 504-723-9725

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2420 Printing & Duplicating

**SIGN LETTERS** Changeable, All sizes. Also portable signs, 4ft x 8ft w/letters 504-733-2251

### 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

## Service Directory

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Yd Clean Up. Sheet rock & carpet removal. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**BUSINESS OFFICE** MANAGER Slidell Company seeks energetic, organized and detail oriented office manager with computer, bookkeeping and analytical skills; QBook a +. Duties include A/P, A/R, payroll and cost control. Casual office, flexible hrs and benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: 159 Country Club Dr, Covington, LA 70433 Attn: Manager position

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE** Cox Radio, Richmond, VA. Outside Sale Position for the best company in radio. Excellent training, tools, benefits and earning potential. Resume to kevin.meek@cox.com or call (804)327-0874 EOE

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**Janitorial evening** help. Covington/Mandeville area. Call 985-264-2344

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**MEDICAID FOLLOW-UP: Medical** Assistance Coordinator, Community Care/Outreach, Field Rep, Clerical Asst. Several open positions in West Jefferson Medical Center area. Help hospital patients with medical assistance applications and follow-up process. Medicaid billing experience helpful, but not required. Must be computer literate. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish preferred. Field Representative must have reliable trans, with valid drivers license and insurance. Please fax resume: 800-765-9329 or e-mail: DRMemployment@yahoo.com. E-mail Subject LIne: LA-DRM

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**SALES Now** taking applications for Sales Staff. Experience preferred. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-9996 or call Pat King 504-733-8188

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4023 Banking

**LOAN SECRETARY** Experience with Laser Pro Loan System preferred. Knowledge of consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan processing. Teller Position for experienced bank teller. Will consider part time employment. These positions offer competitive salary. Full time positions offer an excellent benefit package. Please send resume by mail, email or fax to: American Bank and Trust Company Attn: CFO 1819 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 Email: info@abtinc.us Fax: 985-809-9297

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**Established Covington/ Mandeville** law firm is seeking an experienced legal secretary with a minimum of four (4) years experience in transactional business and real estate. Must have knowledge of Corel WordPerfect and Microsoft Word. Send resume to Office Manager, P. O. Box 1810, Covington, LA 70434 or fax to (985)892-4925.

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

**WEEKS MARINE** INC. in Covington, Now hiring Crew Coordinator with 3 years plus experience in HR field or related area; Knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices and procedures: includes recruitment, employment, records management, employee/labor relations and organization development. Email resume to mailhr@weeksmarine.com or fax to 985-875-2575 EOE/M/F/V/D.

### 4045 Drivers

**BORDEN'S -** ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

### 4045 Drivers

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Immed., Driver's lic. req'd. Call 985-651-3496 or apply at Bayou Steel

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**Nat'l Dedicated** Carrier seeking responsible, professional Class B Driver, w/2 yrs exp, clean MVR w/ HM, for a dedicated M - F NIGHT route, based in JEFFERSON - home daily, weekends, holidays. Phone 1-504-382-1573 for a confidential interview

**TOW TRUCK** DRIVER wanted must have experience, clean driving record, flexible hours and own transportation call 504-957-2608 or 504-885-3015 ask for John or April

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

### 4060 Engineering

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**Engineers, designers,** CADD techs needed, experienced, for Stuart, Florida civil eng. firm. DFWP. Email resume: captec1@aol.com, fax to 772.692.4341 or call 772.692.4344

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

**TRINITY YACHTS** ENGINEERING Is currently seeking positions in the following areas: Naval Architects, Project Engineers, Marine Engineers, Piping Designers, & Structural Designers. Trinity Yachts Engineering is currently operating in Covington, LA and will be relocating to Gulfport, MS. If interested please send resumes to: Trinity Yachts, LLC. 1501 N.Highway 190, Covington, LA 70433. Or visit www.trinityyachtsusa.com

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** CASHIER must be experienced. Please call 504-469-8300

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF FINANCE reporting to CEO Building Materials Co. based in S.W. LA. Solid background in fin. & accounting. 12+ yrs business exp. CPA desired. 415-740-5476 or gia@execprofiler.com

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279/ 504-813-4106.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**Mark Anthony** Salon is now Hiring 8 F/T & P/T stylists to join our team in our Mandeville & Covington location. We offer booth rental, employee or apprenticeship. Also needed 1 Massage Therapist w/ experience. We are an upscale Redken based salon w/ a strong emphasis on education. Come join our team w/ perks! 985-727-3332

**Massage Therapist** and Nail Technicians. Oasis Day Spa. 1357 North Causeway Blvd., Mandeville. Great incentives and a relaxing environment. Call 985-624-6772.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST** Immediate opening for Licensed Massage Therapist. Call 985-845-1703

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**O'Henry's Managers.** All positions. Apply in person. 1375 Gause Blvd. Slidell. 8850 Veterans Blvd. Kenner.

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**CHINESE COOK,** experienced, Fong's Chinese Restaurant, apply at 2102 Williams Blvd in Kenner. 504-467-9928

**COOK &** DISHWASHER Needed for The Vinery Restaurant. Call 985-792-0092

**COOKS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS VooDoo Barbecue. 504-464-1880 or Fax resume to 225-926-6002

**DONUT SHOP** Seeks applicants for: Donut cutter, Assistant & Counter help. Must be able to work wknds. 985-951-8533 by 6pm

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**Hampton Inn** & Suites Convention Center Now Hiring Room Attendants, Housepersons, Breakfast Host/Hostesses, Front Desk, Night Auditor. Transportation to and from work available. Temporary pay is $10/hour. Apply in person at 1201 Convention Center Blvd., call 504-566-9990 or email resume to tvise@highpointe.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen Positions now available. Applicants must be friendly, professional, out-going, and team oriented. $13/hr. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9 am - 11 am.

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**RISTORANTE FILIPPO** Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY AND DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

**SHIMMY SHACK** Now Hiring Working Chef, Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

### 4080 Household

**House/Office Cleaner,** looking for dependable help Monday-Friday. 504-468-9432

**Housekeeper Live-in.** English and Spanish speaking. Call 504-393-0752

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

### 4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**LEGAL SECRETARY** AND ASSISTANT Needed for our Gretna Law Office. Please call 504-368-6500

**LEGAL SECRETARY:** and file clerk wanted for New Orleans Law office. Good salary, all benefits. Call 504-522-3287

### 4100 Management

**OFFICE MGR** For scrap metal recycling facility in Kenner. Phone/ computer/people skills. Veronica @costanzaproperties.com

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

**REAL ESTATE** OFC MGR With people, phone & computer skills. Veronica@costanzaproperties.com

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

### 4110 Mechanical

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELLEST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**BODY SHOP** PAINTERS HELPER, Experience only. Apply within. Rainbow Northshore. 985-892-2000

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please send resume to PO Box 1450, Gray, LA 70359 Attention: Human Resources

**GOODYEAR AUTO** SERVICE CENTERS - Metairie and Kenner, New Orleans & Gretna locations. We are currently hiring the following positions... Auto Technicians, General Maintenance Technicians, & Tire Techs. This is a great opportunity! Top Pay and Paid uniforms. Please call Lubin at 504-837-7226 or Kevin at 504-464-0244.

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC looking** for good Mechanic for work on truck/tailer/ heavy equip., will pay top dollar, must have own tools. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday 504-436-7777

**MECHANIC WANTED** Uniforms/benefits. Apply within or call: 985-536-1719 or 504-416-7385. 122 Power Blvd. Reserve, LA 70084

**NEED EXP** TRANSMISSION MECH, ALLISON KNOWLEDGE & CDL'S A +, GOOD BENEFITS. CALL 504-904-0050

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

### 4110 Mechanical

**TECHNICIANS Coulter** Cadillac of Phoenix, the #1 Cadillac dealer in the region is looking for qualified, G.M Technicians. We offer a generous compensation package, 401K, paid vacation and a friendly work environment. Fax your resume to 602-532-4724, Attn. Jon or Homer or find us on the web at coultercadillac.com

### 4120 Medical

**CHIROPRACTIC/MEDICAL OFFICE** ASSISTANT Needed. Previous experience required. Send resume to Attention Office Manager, 655 Asbury Dr. Mandeville, LA 70471 or Fax resume 985-626-7465

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**DIRECT CARE** STAFF Needed for individuals with developmental disabilities residing in local community homes. Duties include assistance and support with activities of daily living, active treatment and behavioral support. Various shifts available immediately for Slidell and Hammond areas. if interested, please call Harriett Joseph at Volunteers of America, 504-835-3005. Criminal background check required

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**IMMEDIATE OPENING-Busy** Medical Practice seeks experienced F/T Front Desk Person (excellent benefits). Check in/out, Ins verif, Appts, data entry, filing. Fax resume to 985-781-4850

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPN Private** duty home care. River Ridge. 2 positions open. Day and night shifts. License and references required. 504-756-9678 Leave message.

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**MA &** Front Desk Clerk needed in WB Office. Must be proficient in Word Processing. Fax resume (504)391-6009

**Medical Office** position open, M-F; dialysis, medical billing experience preferred. For more info call 985-479-6104 or email mah1974@aol.com

**OFFICE MGR** for busy 2 position allergy practice located in Covington. Experience w/ insurance and patient billing, A/R & electronic claims. Knowledge Quicken/Quick Books, A/P & payroll processing, strong interpersonal skills. Min. 3 yr office management exp. F/T position. Fax resume to 985-845-2668

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. CHARLES** PARISH HOSPITAL: P.O. Box 87, 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070. CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: Clinical Associate, Dialysis Technician, LPN, Recreational Therapist. Apply in person: 9:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday. Fax resume to: (985) 785-4214, Email to: KDonnaud@stch.net, or apply online at: www.nola.com EOE

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 

The Times-Picayune

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SITE MANAGERS/MAINTENANCE** MAN A national leader in the self storage industry is seeking site managers and maintenance men for an award-winning self storage facility and retail center in Harahan, LA. Duties include property and equipment maintenance, janitorial work, and driving of medium box/move truck, and other various operational duties. Qualified candidates must possess a valid drivers license, a clean MVR, and outstanding organizational and time-management skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

**STRUCTURAL TIG** WELDER for Northshore Fab Shop needed for thin gage stainless steel. 985-893-9277

**TREE MEDICS** is hiring now, start work today. Ground workers, tree climbers, bucket operator, bobcat operator, excavator operators, truck drivers, grapple truck drivers/operators. Start $10-$25/hour. Apply in person at 500 Clearview Pkwy, or call 225-955-2502

**UTILITY COMPANY** In St. Tammany Parish now hiring for all positions + CDL. Excellent benefits. Apply in person at 4000 Hwy 59, Mandeville. 985-893-1717

**WELDERS, FITTERS** & PILE DRIVERS needed for Marine Construction company in LA/MS Gulf Coast area. Please call 985-359-3700, fax # 985-359-3702. Benefits start in 120 days.

**WELDERS, FITTERS,** TACKERS, GENERAL LABORERS Immediate positions, 10-12 hours/day. Call 1-877-376-0801 or 504-376-8700

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**Whitfield's A/C** & Heating in Pearl River is looking for experienced A/C installers, helpers, and technicians for permanent positions. Please call Kirk at 985-863-0911 or 985-960-0285.

### 4165 Warehouse

**GENERAL PRODUCTION** - Personnel for chemical packaging facility in St. Rose. Qualified forklift operators, production plant operators, mechanics and floor supervisors needed immediately. Apply at Delta Petroleum Co., Inc. 10352 River Road, St. Rose, LA 70087. (504)467-1399

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE** / DRIVERS: ACI Distribution, EOE, drug screen, physical & references required. Auto & Flat Glass Delivery Drivers, and Warehouse Workers. Duties include: Driving truck, delivering windshields & glass in the City & Territories. Glass handling experience a plus! Class D or CDL & clean driving record required. Apply at ACI, 5716 Jarvis St., Harahan. Call 504-733-6606

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE POSITION** Good benefits, $9/hour. Harahan location. Fax resume to 504-733-8208 or mail to P.O. Box 10451 Jefferson, LA 70181

**WAREHOUSE WORK** - Stable company needs full-time employees to work in our warehouse. We offer good working environment and benefits, entry level positions starting at $7/hr. Apply in person at 5524 Mounes St. Harahan. Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm. Drug free workplace.

**WAREHOUSE WORKERS** - Compass Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**Warehouse Workers** Needed. Transportation company in St Rose needs workers to unload trucks and move appliances. Must be able to lift 70+ lbs, pass a drug test, and have a clean criminal background. $8/hr Please apply in person at 180 e james dr, st rose or call 468-9468 for more info

**WAREHOUSEMAN** - Exp in food dist warehousing, F. Christiana & Co, apply in person, 7251 River Rd, Marrero, Grt benefits, Nght Pos avail, 504-348-3391

**WAREHOUSEMAN Needed** for National Chemical Distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**$9/HOUR PLUS** BONUSES. Citywide Maid Service. Daytime Flexible Hours. 504-866-1234. For Northshore (Cov, Mand, Slid, Hamm). 985-867-1495

**ALL POSITIONS** Monarch Farms in Folsom, LA hiring temporary help for Katrina cleanup. Work needed includes yard work, mowing, pasture clean up, pick up tree limbs, run chainsaw and fence repairs. Contact Mike Jones at 985-515-4143 or 985-795-7992

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**ASSISTANT MANAGERS/CASHIERS** Gas/Convenient Store, great opportunities/benefits, xlnt starting pay, pd. vac., great work environment. Now accepting applications for managers/Assistant Managers/Cashiers. Apply at Shell Harbor Market at 2963 US Highway 190 in Mandeville or send resume to P.O. Box 73492 Metairie, LA 70033.

**BABYSITTER Needed** 3 to 4 days per week. Kenner Area for 1 Child. Salary dependent on experience. L. Howard 504-469-9857

**Caregiver, after** school care for our special needs child, 18 yrs & over pref. 985-237-9464

## Employment

### 4165 Warehouse

**CARQUEST Auto** Parts is growing and we are now accepting applications for the counter pro and customer delivery rep positions in the Metairie, Marrero, Hammond, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations. Knowledge of automotive parts applications, trouble shooting, counter sales and customer service skills are a plus. Must have good driving record. CARQUEST offers outstanding benefits and competitive pay. If you are hard working, willing to learn and want a career in a fast-paced, ever-changing, exciting business, this is the career opportunity you have been looking for. Please apply in person at the nearest location. EOE

**Construction Laborers** Wanted! Experience Helpful. Please call 504-458-5173

**DIRECT STAFF** needed to work with children and adults with disabilities and with the elderly. Part time and full time available in Mandeville, Covington, and Slidell areas. Call 985-674-4463 to apply

**DRY CLEANING** & LAUNDRY Presses, Counter Staff, Matchers, Baggers, 5038 W. Esplanade Ave. 504-455-5705

**EPIC DIVERS** & MARINE has immediate openings for the following qualified professionals: Purchasing Manager, Accounts Receivable Clerk, Shop Manager, Diesel Mechanic, Warehouse Person/Driver. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply at 1841 Enterprise Drive, Harvey, LA 70058 or send resume to jobs@epiccompanies.com

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** & LABORERS Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of hurricane Katrina. Hazmat & Oil Spill work experience a plus. Possible short & long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

**Experienced Tattoo** Artist needed. Metro New Orleans area. Call 504-401-2519

**Five Collision** Centers in the Metairie, Kenner, Westbank and Northshore areas are seeking employees for all positions. Please call: 504-465-5680 or apply in person at 1801 Veterans Blvd, Kenner 70062

**GROUNDSKEEPERS needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartments. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Home Inspectors** - $500 -$2500/wk. Will train 504-466-8222 or 888-776-7743

**HOUSEKEEPING &** FLOOR TECHS - Control Building Services is hiring Janitorial & Floor Techs for the New Orleans area. Immediate employment is available. If interested, please call 504-247-3254 or 504-455-7704

**Janitorial** - If you are reliable, honest and hard-working, we have a job for you! Day and evening shifts, full and part time available - competitive pay. Please call Bywater Building Svc. 504-885-5449.

**JANITORIAL** - PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE OF N.O. Seeking Custodians/Supervisors for Orleans, Metairie & W Bank 504-780-9694

**Kennel Attend** for busy Covington Animal Hospital. General Animal Hospital. 985-892-1114

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**Laborers. Landscape** Company seeks workers. Call 504-455-8258 or 504-450-0374

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**NANNY needed** in my Breckenridge subdivision home from for 19 month old, 8am-5pm, Mon.-Fri. 985-646-3694 or 985-774-1610

**NEEDED: Lost** Farm Bureau Adjuster, come to: 59542 Spring Drive or call: 985-502-2009

**Night Time** Positions avail: Serious inquiries apply only. Janitorial, full time & part time. Call James: 985-788-8201

**Production Line** Operators & Supervisors: Packing line experience. Please email resume to: HR@taeng.com or fax: 229-435-2826 Immediate needs lodging in N.O. provided!

**Spray Techs** needed. Will train, no exp needed. Please call Lobbs, 504-469-6773.

**Support Staff** needed to work with developmentally disabled individuals. Must have HS diploma, own transportation, car insurance, & drivers lic. $5.50/hour to start. Vacation, sick, & tuition reimbursement avail after 1 yr of F/T employment. Apply at: 2200 Veterans, #205, Kenner, 10a-2p M-F

**Tour Guide/Maintenance** and Gift Shop Manager/Personal Assistant. Friendly, enthusiastic, outgoing. In Covington, Insta-Gator Ranch. Call 985-892-3669

**TREE CLIMBER** $30 per hour. Call Joe at 504-468-9898

**VET ASSISTANT** Full time. Must be flexible and have customer service experience. Interviews Thurs., Fri. and Sat.from 10am-3pm. Bring resume to Banfield, located inside Elmwood PetSmart. 504-733-7313

**Welding supply** company needs experienced office clerks with basic computer skills. Also drivers with a CDL Class B Hazmat. Please apply in person 2700 Hessmer, Metairie.

### 4320Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Business Mgr** seeking immed. employment, exp. incl. project mgmt., HR, retail & transp., diverse background/flexible attitude. Contact 504-232-2929.

## MERCHANDISE

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**OAK TABLE** & 4 Chairs, $600. Oak Piano, $1000. Bedroom Set, $2200. 6 Shutters, $30 each. 985-845-2237 or 985-778-8925

### 5020 Appliances

**AIR CONDITIONER** CONDENSER, Used, (3) 2 @ $150, 1 @ $300. Please Call 504-559-9060

**REFRIGERATOR, Kenmore,** 27 cubic, $500. Washer/Dryer, Kenmore, $75 each. 504-296-9433

### 5165 Home Health Supplies

**MICRO-DERM ABRASION** Machine, seldom use, $8500. Independence area. Call 985-878-3439

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**BED full** size, $500. 3 drawer dresser, $200. Papsan chair, $65. Call 985-807-5216

**BEDROOM SET** 5 piece, queen sized, mattress and box spring, solid wood, some scratches, $600. 4 dinette chairs, no table, $80 or best offer. 985-764-3933 or 504-473-8965

## Merchandise

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**DINING ROOM** Round Oval Table, 6 Windsor Style Chairs, $600. Matching China Cabinet, $300. 2 Piece Sectional Sleeper Sofa's, Queen, $500. All in very good condition. 985-792-4025

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** computer desk with hutch, solid oak with white wash finish, 36 inch color TV, $1200 for all. Call 985-875-7970

**MOVING: ALL** MUST GO! 1 Memory Foam Queen Set, $450. 1 Regular Queen Set, $100. Heavy duty washer/gas dryer, $250. 1 Dresser with mirror, solid wood, $100. 2 nightstands, $20. 1 chest of drawers, $15. 6' sofa, yellow floral, $40. Chrome Craft table with 2 leaves & 6 chairs, $100. 1 coffee table, $20. Bigmans recliner, $75. Mens 26" bike, $50. Techniques 100 watt receiver, $60. RCA dual tape deck, $50. 2 Cerwin Vega speakers, 36", $125. 20" Zenith stereo TV, with remote & stand, $75. Wet and dry shop vac, 10 gallon, $20. 3.5 ton HD floor jack, $60. 2 auto ramps, $20. Call 504-913-2753

**Queen Sealey** Plus Scandinavian frame $650. Stereo + CD $175. 2 Custom chairs, $200. 504-738-0348/504-491-1145

**SOFA SLEEPER,** Denim with matching overstuffed Rocker, and coordinating oak coffee table. No Water Damage. Like New $1200. White Upholstered Sofa, No Water Damage, Good Condition. $300. Moving Must Sell! Please Call 504-628-4321

**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

### 5290 Tools, Equipment, Machinery

**GENERATOR Gas,** 30KW, ONAN, trlr mounted, 1 or 3 phase, cables incl, $4000/obo 601-450-2290

**MARINE CARGO** CONTAINERS, 8 by 20 foot and 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

**MORBARK 2400** Whole Tree Chipper w/ auto feed, 688 hours, 185 horsepower, JD Diesel, tandem axle, extra parts included, in LA. $28,000. Call 504-467-6336 ext10 leave message

**NIKRO Air** Duct Cleaning Equipment w/cargo trailer. $12,500. Call 985-705-6606

**STUMP GRINDER** Vermeer SC-90 with Honda 9HP, Great condition, $2000, 985-807-8228

**Stump Grinder;** 35 hp Vermeer 630B. (985)974-9896, (985)386-8417

### 5310 TV/Video/Movies

**PBS Front** Line wants your Katrina home videos. S-dome, Storm, luting, all considered. Will pay for quality footage. Email: info@rainmedia.net

### 5315 Utility Trailers

**DUMP TRAILERS,** 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740

### 5330 Miscellaneous

**CLOSEOUT BUSINESS,** SELLING FOLLOWING ITEMS AT COST: Store Fixtures, gift and Christmas inventory and antiques. Call 662-627-5184 or 662-901-1671

### 5340 Wanted

**PBS Front** Line wants your Katrina home videos. S-dome, Storm, luting, all considered. Will pay for quality footage. Email: info@rainmedia.net

## PETS/LIVESTOCK

### 6000 Dogs

**AUSTRALIAN CATTLE** DOG PUPPIES - Pure bred, 9 weeks old, free to good home, 985-867-9185

**Full Blood** Rat Terrier Puppies, Born 7/26/05. $150. Call 985-878-2804

**German Shepherd** Puppies, AKC, 8 weeks old. Please call 985-735-5915 or 985-807-6157

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Min Pin** Pups, Ready to go! Shots & Dew Claws. Black/Tan & Red, Chocolate. $300 & up. 985-871-7790

**Miniature Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**OLD ENGLISH** BULLDOG Male, Registered, brindle with white face, $600. 985-764-3067

**Pomeranian Puppies,** 1 Male, Black, $400. 1 Female, Multi-Colored, $450. 985-778-1885

**ROTTWEILER Pups,** tails cut & dewormed, both parents on site, 3 males $250,a female $300, 504-368-7248/504-400-4274

**Toy Party** Poodle, M, Blk/Wht, Pit Bull M, Wht/Brindle, blue eyes. Both 9 wks, Both have Shots. $300 each. 504-256-7716

## RECREATION

### 6530 Boats/Accessories/Services

**'04 Boston** Whaler 320 Outrage, Loaded For Blue Water Fishing. Twin 225 Merc OPTIMAX. Super Electronics Package, Outriggers, Downriggers, XM Radio, Custom Trailer, Many Extras. Excellent Condition. $130,000. Off Shore Tackle Available for Extra. Call 601-955-4298

**'99 Avenger** Bay Boat Sport 18.6', Yamaha 150 $12,900. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**HOUSEBOAT** - 43', Drifter, steel, new bottom job, $21,000. Monroe, LA 601-946-3493

### 6550Campers/Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'02 Bounder** 32', 10K miles, LR/DR slide, exc cond, sat TV, alarm, extras, $98,000. $100/day discount if sold by 10/15/05. Located in P-cola, will deliver. 850-572-6909

**'02 Fleetwood** Terry 30Ft, slide out, fully equipped, sleeps up to 8, excellent condition, must sell. 1-877-470-5739

**'02 Sportsmen** 30Ft Travel Trailer, double slide out, like new, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 318-251-8307 or 318-265-2300

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Coachman** Travel Trailer, 38 foot, 2 bedroom, big slide out, lots of storage, $17,000. 985-845-2094 or 985-778-9501

**'03 MONTANA** 5th Wheel, 34 foot, 3 slides. Rear living. Good condition $25,000 985-652-6950

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Aspen** 27' Travel Trailer, used 19 days escaping hurricanes, slide-out, built in entertainment ctr, presently located in a-La-Place Campground, completely hooked-up, move-in ready, cable, phone avail, 20 mi from airport on Airline Hwy, $24,000. 504-738-0233

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'85 Pace** Arrow 34 foot, sleeps 7, good condition, fully loaded, $15,900. Call 504-341-6406

**'94 Allegro** Bay 37 foot, super slide, washer/dryer, 33,000 orig. mi., $24,500. For more call 601-876-1837/601-876-4174

**'96 Dutchstar** 33', exc cond, way below book: $30K. Call FL Priv owner for pix 321-537-1416

**'96 Mountain** Aire By Newmar, 37.5 ft, slide out, multiple TVs, ACs & beds! Good tires, 61K miles, in exc cond! $39,900 obo 941-923-3421/1-888-325-2394

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 360-403-9873

**'96 Tioga** Montara, Class C Motor Home, 24', 45,000 miles, excellent condition. $17,000. 985-536-2249 or 985-817-1255

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'98 Crossroads** 32 ft. fifth wheel, double slide, garage kept, $23,500, 985-748-7009

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, 504-605-2267 or 504-276-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**95 Prowler** TT, 29' bunkhouse, sleeps 8, rear rack for bikes, $7000. 504-884-6742

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

### 7510 Below Canal

**1905 Marais** St. 3 BR, 1 BA, new paint and carpet, $89,000. Owner/agent. 201-736-4567

**1916 Marais** St. 3 BR, 1 BA, new paint and carpet, $92,800. Owner/Agent. 201-736-4567

**2141 Pauger** St. Gutted, ready, 1500 sq. ft., brick, $30,000. Owner/agent. 201-736-4567

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**2 homes** in Kenner no flood, 4/2 updated w/crown thru out approx.2200 sq.ft. in driftwood (61 Nassau) will lease @ $1800.00 or sell @ $250k. 3yr. old 2-sty (4104 lowa ave.) open floor plan very contemporary. 5/3 with crown/master jacuzzi/ open stairs/granite count/fireplace approx. 4200 sq. ft. $525k. call 504-237-3695 or 443-3695

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3br/2ba, 1350** living, attached one car garage, no flooding, 4424 ware ave, Jefferson. 205,000. (504)452-3132

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**FSBO-4 Bed/2.5** bath. High and Dry, 8411 West Metairie Ave. NO FLOODING. Two story brick, great room and 3032 SF. Two woodburning fireplaces. $379,000. Don't dawdle, see Jac 985.637.3886 or 504.467.8868

**HARAHAN $215,000** 3br, 1ba, 177 Magnolia Blvd. Great Condition! 504-251-5380

**HIGH AND** DRY IN RIVER RIDGE 4600 SF, 5 br, 3 ba, move-in ready, $500K firm. 504-251-6688

**KENNER Avail** Now! Beautiful Town house, 2Bdrm, 1.5Ba & a nice patio, approx 1400 sf, new carpet, kit 4 yrs old, bdrms are huge w/cathedral ceilings. Incls: Washer/Dryer, dishwasher & refrig. Owner/Agent $91,500. 504-451-2802 or 504-439-0465

**KENNER Driftwood** Sub, 4BR, 2BA, LR, den, rec room w/bar, 2 car gar, fenced yd w/patio, move-in cond, never flooded, 2500 sqft, $595,000. 504-920-7623

**MAKE OFFER!** 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, large den, living/dining room, enclosed spa & office, 4000 SF. Call 504-231-5338

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE 3BR,** 2BA, all wood floors, very cute, Large lot, $285,000. 504-338-6767

**METAIRIE Great** Loc-No Flood 3BR,2Ba, Garage, DR/LR, Gr Rm, 1800sf, liv. $235,000. H:5044552270 C:3379623722

**MOVE IN** READY nr. EJGH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**NEVER FLOODED!** 3133 Iowa Ave. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, living/dining room combo, large den, hot tub in backyard, $189,000. 504-756-1886, 504-454-3397 or 337-216-9303

## Residences for Sale

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**NEVER FLOODED!** PRICED RIGHT! 4BR/2BA, DR & LR, lrg den w/fp, gar, workshop, covrd patio, lrg yard w/storage bldng, $299K. 504-913-6061 or 504-554-6850

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**RIVER RIDGE** - 8812 Tanglewild. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2500 sqft. Lot is 70x120. rear yard access to oversized 2 car garage. Many Extras. $347,500. Please Call 504-737-4850/504-231-4270

**STUNNING METAIRIE** - Never flooded. 3bd/2ba. Granite cntrtps, Italian tile, hrdwd flrs, Move-in cond. 504-780-7680

**WE BUY** DAMAGED OR FLOODED HOUSES. Please call 504-756-6425 or 504-722-0424

**WILL BUY** STORM DAMAGED HOMES IN METAIRIE! PLEASE CALL: 504-957-6380

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**AIRLINE PARK** 1 bl to St. Mary Magdalen, 6813 Merle. 3 bed 2 bath NO Flooding. Asking $179,900. 504-736- 0904

**BONNABEL AREA,** FSBO, 2 Bedroom, 2 Ba + guest house w/full bath. 504-828-6622

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE 3200** SF, 2 story, 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, mahogany woodwork throughout home including doors, some Katrina damage, close to Bonnable, make offer. Call for details 504-554-0847

**METAIRIE High** & Dry 3br, 2ba, great rm w/FP, comp area, wd flrs, roof, A/C & appls 6 yrs. Patio & Hot Tub. 1605 Houma Blvd (btwn W. Metairie & W. Napoleon) $248K. 504-885-8167

**METAIRIE Home** For Sale. Flooded from Katrina, Demo Completed, Call 504-258-1159

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**NO FLOODING!** Double 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, central air, 1650 SF each side, 1 side rents for $850/mo. Includes furniture & appliances. Move in condition! Good business opportunity. FSBO, $265,000. 504-214-7669

**OLD MET** Dbl, 343 Carrollton, mint, $400,000. All furn. Properties Preferred. 504-887-2328

**OLD METAIRIE** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home, 1 bedroom efficiency apartment over garage, no flood area, $349,000. 601-795-3717

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**4000 St** James Dr - No fld min wind dmg 4b 3f/2h ba 2550ft2 as-is Gregg 504-352-6018

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**Chateau Estates,** no flood! 4/2.5, 2600 SF, open Sunday 2-4. 504-710-7065/504-464-1235

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

### 7560 West Bank

**1 Bedroom** Efficiency in Bridge City, lot 25x100, fenced yard, $45,000. 985-229-1993

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GRETNA** - NEW CONSTRUCTION! Gated community just 5 mins from the CBD. New homes available immediately, untouched by Katrina, no flooding. Prices starting at $209,900. Hamilton Oaks, 504-324-1886

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO, LA. 3 Br/2 Ba, 2000 Square Feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**HOUSING AVAILABLE** & HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788 Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba-see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY. CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Beau Chene** 4BR/4BA, 3500 sqft, golf course, pool, 10' ceilings, lots more. $434,000. 985-845-2085

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

## Residences for Sale

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**Beautiful North** Shore Home For Sale By Owner. 1125 Forest Ln, Mandeville. 3 br, 2 1/2 bath. Low $300,000's! Open House, Sun 10/9, 12-4

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $185,000. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $140,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**COVINGTON 3** Br, 2 full Ba, back porch, lot 60x150, no storm damage. $299,000. 985-502-0156

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890,000, Progressive Real estate 504-361-3238 Call for more info. Sydney Richoux 504-388-6788

**Covington great** area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Covington, 1** Br Condo, Pool, Fitness, Internet Access, Club House, $119,500. Will Consider Lease $1200/mo. 985-626-0071

**COVINGTON, Savannah's** New Construction, 3/2, Premium Lot, Ready in 6 Weeks. MADISONVILLE, Black River Forest, New Construction, 4/3, Bonus Rm, 3112 Living, 3/4 Acre Lot, Ready in 6 Wks. Spring Hill Homes LLC, 985-807-3805

**Lacombe 2.3** acres on bayou Lacombe, high ground, no flooding! 2 homes, each 3 BR, 2 BA, large detached gar., covered pool, $780,000. 28183 Main St, 985-882-5871 appt only

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

**Mandeville *NEW** LISTING* 5 bedroom, 2 bath, $375K. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**MANDEVILLE 2** bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, near Causeway. Community pool, balcony, 1000 square feet. $139,000. Please call 985-869-8691/985-788-7754

**Mandeville Desirable** Cornerstone. Green Leaves subdiv. 3000 sf, culdesac, precious! By appt only. $370,000. 985-624-8168

**Mandeville Gated** Hunter's Glen, near Causeway/I-12, 2712 SF, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1.5 acre, flood zone C, well maint., Move in soon, $385,000, 985-727-1663

**Mandeville Schools:** LR, DR, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2 dens. Pool, 1.2 acres, $250,000. 985-892-1201

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**NEW AD:** Mandeville, Green Leaves Estates Subdiv, 4BR, 3BA, 2750 sf, great cond/location. New tile/carpet floors, new A/C. $315,000. Furniture negotiable. 985-626-1684/630-2766

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

**Old Military** Rd. Immediate occupancy. No flooding. Totally remodeled. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 31 acres. 504-400-6749

### 7580 Slidell

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**HOUSE FOR** SALE in Hide-A-Way Lake gated subdivision 23 miles north of Slidell 601-799-2635

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL E-Z** fix, sold as is, unique custom built, 3 BR/2.5 BA, Acadian, spacious 2 story on 5 pretty AC/N. Slidell, no flood ever! Cosmetics only, all offers over $200,000 considered. 985-285-1036/985-768-2082

**SLIDELL Lg** 4BR, 2.5BA in Breckenridge Subdivision, Stanton Model, in-ground heated pool, never flooded, exc school district, $350,000. 985-778-9942

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**ST ANDREWS** ESTATES, gorgeous home on golf course, super high ceilings, crown molding, 2 studies w/ book sh



# West Jefferson Medical Center

# *Doctors...Healing. Caring. Leading.*

It takes a community to recover from a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina. We thank our medical community, our doctors at West Jefferson Medical Center. We are stronger now than ever. We share a proud history and look forward to a bright future...for the West Bank, the region, the entire Gulf South, and America.

Thank you to the physicians who worked tirelessly at West Jefferson during Katrina and through her aftermath. We were able to offer critical medical and surgical care to patients and storm victims under the most severe conditions because of you. We understand that you made personal sacrifices to be here with us. We appreciate your humanity, your dedication and commitment to our patients, your love and skill for the art and practice of Medicine. Thank you for being here with us despite your personal concerns.

Although many of you were dispersed afar, we appreciate the many members of the Medical Staff who have been able to return to West Jefferson Medical Center and our community. Many doctors' offices are now open; others plan to open soon. We are thankful that your staffs are also here and reflect the same love of community and devotion to the region. Today, West Jefferson is fully operational.

As we all know, having access to medical and surgical care is critical; this recent crisis served as a palpable reminder lest we forget. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to the community to provide quality care to our patients as we all begin the arduous healing process. And together, we welcome back more returning doctors each and every day and wish physicians, as well as their staffs and hospital staff on the way back to our community, a safe journey home.

West Jefferson Medical Center Hospital and Health System. We're family. Our Hospital Family. Thank you, West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff Members!

***The following departments and programs acknowledge their appreciation for the Medical Staff's Commitment during Hurricane Katrina:***

Accounting
Administration
Air Care
Ambulatory Surgery Center
Auxiliary and Volunteer Services
Behavioral Medicine Center
Breast Care Center
Cancer Center
Cardiac Cath Laboratory
Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab
Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine
Cart Supply
Case Management
Child Care Center
Community Relations and Elder Plus
Critical Care Nursing Units
Diabetes Services
EEG and EKG
EMS/Ambulance Transport
Emergency Department/Pediatric ER
Employee Health
Environmental Services and Linen Room
Food and Nutritional Services
Gift Shop and Guest Services
Health Information Management
Home Health and Hospice
Human Resources
Hyperbaric Medicine Center
Infection Control
Information Technology
Infusion Therapy
MRI
Maintenance
Materials Management
Medical Laboratory
Medical Staff Office
Medical/Surgical Nursing Units
Neuroscience Center and Stroke Unit
Nursing Services
PBX Operators
Patient Access
Patient Business Services
Pediatrics
Performance Improvement
Pharmacy
Pulmonary Medicine
Radiation Oncology
Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging
Rehabilitation Services
Safety and Security
Sleep Disorders Center
Social Services
Surgery and Special Procedures
Telecommunications
The Family Doctors
Transport
West Jeff Fitness Centers
Women's Imaging Center
Wound Care
....and all other services

***The following physicians are seeing patients in their offices in the Physicians Center and/or the hospital:****

Candice Abuso, M.D.
Tamer Acikalin, M.D.
Amit Ahuja, M.D.
Robert Applebaum, M.D.
Steven Atkins, M.D.
Madhusudhan Banda, M.D.
Robert Batson, M.D.
Harris Blackman, M.D.
Thomas Boos, M.D.
Jonathan Boraski, M.D.
William Borron, M.D.
Robert Bostick, III, M.D.
Alan Bowers, M.D.
Wesley Bryan, M.D.
Brian Cain, D.P.M.
David Caletri, M.D.
R. Fridge Cameron, M.D.
Thomas Cashio, M.D.
Frank Cerniglia, Jr., M.D.
Ronald Chee-Awai, M.D.
Stacey Clasen, M.D.
Meda Colvin, M.D.
Maria Cortez, M.D.
Brian Cospolich, M.D.
James Craven, M.D.
Elizabeth Cressy, M.D.
Frank Culicchia, M.D.
Bertha Daniels, M.D.
Robert Dawson, M.D.
Jules Deutsch, M.D.
Albert Diket, M.D.
Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.
Charles Dupin, M.D.
Dean Edell, M.D.
Libby Ellent, M.D.
Denise Lea Elliott, D.P.M.
Juan Escobar, M.D.
Patricia Estrada, M.D.
Charles Everson, M.D.
Chester Falterman, M.D.
Samuel Ferris, M.D.
Ronald Fiore, M.D.
Robert Alan Frank, M.D.
John Freiberg, M.D.
Pramela Ganji, M.D.
Louis Glade, M.D.
Daphne Glindmeyer, M.D.
Clay Gould, M.D.
Matthew Grimm, M.D.
Thomas Grimstad, M.D.
Joseph Guarnieri, M.D.
Michael Haydel, M.D.
Richard Helman, M.D.
David Hutchinson, M.D.
Thomas Irwin, M.D.
Shaunda Jones, M.D.
Mark Juneau, Jr., M.D.
Judy Kang, M.D.
Mark Kappelman, M.D.
Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.
E. Kenneth Kerut, M.D.
Robert Kessler, M.D.
Suzette Killeen, M.D.
John Kimble, M.D.
Akio Kitahama, M.D.
John Klees, M.D.
Allyson Kopel, M.D.
Douglas Koppel, M.D.
Rene Koppel, M.D.
Robert Koppel, M.D.
Patrick Krake, M.D.
Rhonda Kroll, M.D.
Scott Kurzer, M.D.
Frederick Kushner, M.D.
E.C. Labadie, M.D.
Juan Labadie, M.D.
Maria Labadie, M.D.
Pablo Labadie, M.D.
Elaine Lanasa, M.D.
Glenn Landry, M.D.
Dinh Le, M.D.
Michel LeBrun, M.D.
Owen Leftwich, M.D.
Leslie Levenson, M.D.
Daniel Lucio, M.D.
Joseph Macaluso, M.D.
Tilak Mallik, M.D.
Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.
Jose Marina, M.D.
Robert Matheney, M.D.
Joseph Miller, M.D.
Emery Minnard, M.D.
Guy Mioton, M.D.
Scott Nicholson, M.D.
Hong Nguyen, M.D.
Richard Paddock, M.D.
Michael Puente, M.D.
Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.
Chris Richards, M.D.
Gabriel Rivera, M.D.
Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro, M.D.
Stephen Rynick, M.D.
Charles Schibler, M.D.
Milton Seiler, Jr., M.D.
N.C. Sekar, M.D.
Earl Sonnier, M.D.
Sandra Spedale, M.D.
John Steck, M.D.
Patrick Stumpf, M.D.
Robert Swanton, M.D.
Rian Tanenbaum, M.D.
Charles Thomas, M.D.
Craig Thompson, M.D.
David Treen, Jr., M.D.
Ivo Tremont, M.D.
Walter Truax, M.D.
Steve Venturatos, M.D.
Alfredo Vichot, M.D.
Mark Workman, M.D.
West Bank Nephrology

***The following off campus physicians' offices are open and seeing patients:****

Grace Banuchi, M.D.
James Bellina, M.D.
Brigitte Brown, M.D.
Hector Cabrera, M.D.
Kenneth Coignet, M.D.
Leslie Copeland, M.D.
Surbhi Dargan, M.D.
Steven Deloach, M.D.
Craig Ehrensing, M.D.
Marc Fisher, M.D.
Michael Friley, M.D.
Mohamed Fustok, M.D.
Lawrence Giambelluca, M.D.
Jeffrey Guillmette, M.D.
Susan Hemelt, M.D.
Joseph Imseis, M.D.
Patty Jackson, M.D.
Yvens Laborde, M.D.
Anthony Lanasa, M.D.
Dwight Landry, D.D.S.
William Long, M.D.
Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.
Michael McSween, M.D.
Rebecca Nguyen, M.D.
William Procell, M.D.
Alva Roche-Green, M.D.
Lilibeth Rochon, M.D.
David Sampognaro, M.D.
T. Richard Smith, M.D.
Kamalakant Thaly, M.D.
The Bone and Joint Clinic
Can Tran, M.D.
Vu Vuong, M.D.
Edward Waitt, M.D.
J. Brent Wallis, M.D.
Laura Winkeler, M.D.
Brigetta Yancy, M.D.
Westside Clinics
Westside Orthopaedic Clinic
Womens Medical Centers

***Thank you, doctors who saw patients or were with us at West Jefferson Medical Center during Hurricane Katrina or the first several days following her wrath:***

Steven Atkins, M.D.
Richard Bagnetto, M.D.
Imelda Bautista, M.D.
Elizabeth Blanton, M.D.
Thomas Boos, M.D.
Jonathan Boraski, M.D.
William Borron, M.D.
Wesley Bryan, M.D.
Brian Cain, D.P.M.
David Caletri, M.D.
James Callahan, M.D.
Wayne Celentano, M.D.
Robert Chugden, M.D.
Kenneth Coignet, M.D.
Brian Cospolich, M.D.
James Craven, M.D.
Karen Crotty, M.D.
Frank Culicchia, M.D.
Brian DeHart, M.D.
Arlette Delcham, M.D.
Steven Deloach, M.D.
Damon Dietrich, M.D.
Frank Di Vincenti, M.D.
Dean Edell, M.D.
Sam Edelman, D.O.
Libby Ellent, M.D.
K. Barton Farris, M.D.
Rodney Florek, M.D.
Michael Friley, M.D.
Mohamed Fustok, M.D.
Daniel Gallagher, M.D.
Daphne Glindmeyer, M.D.
Matthew Grimm, M.D.
Mark Grise, M.D.
Robert Gruner, M.D.
Scott Habetz, M.D.
Paul Harch, M.D.
George Harris, M.D.
Richard Helman, M.D.
David Hunter, M.D.
David Hutchinson, M.D.
Jeanne Hutchinson, M.D.
Shaunda Jones, M.D.
David Joseph, M.D.
Shantiprakash Kedia, M.D.
John Kimble, M.D.
Rhonda Kroll, M.D.
E.C. Labadie, M.D.
Pablo Labadie, M.D.
Elaine Lanasa, M.D.
Keit Le, M.D.
Trac Le, M.D.
Michel LeBrun, M.D.
Henry Liu, M.D.
Daniel Lucio, M.D.
William Luer, M.D.
Ralph Lupin, M.D.
Evelyn Magsino-Bacuta, M.D.
Sheelagh Malloy, M.D.
Kenneth Malmstrom, M.D.
Robert Matheney, M.D.
Andrew Mayer, M.D.
Timothy McGowan, M.D.
Emery Minnard, M.D.
Scott Nicholson, M.D.
William Procell, M.D.
Michael Puente, M.D.
Sanjeeva Reddy, M.D.
John Reilly, M.D.
Chris Richards, M.D.
Todd Roberts, M.D.
Michael Russo, M.D.
N.C. Sekar, M.D.
Robert Shackleton, M.D.
Charles Simonson, M.D.
Geoffrey Smith, M.D.
Paul Staab, M.D.
John Steck, M.D.
Robert Swanton, M.D.
Oliver Thelin, M.D.
Charles Thomas, M.D.
Aaron Thompson, M.D.
Craig Thompson, M.D.
James Todd, III, M.D.
Walter Truax, M.D.
Laura Winkeler, M.D.
Mark Workman, M.D.

* We're working to update the "doctors' offices open" list every day on our web site at *www.wjmc.org*. If you are a member of the West Jefferson Medical Center Medical Staff and your office is open and you are not featured in the above applicable lists, please contact Shannon Hebert in the Medical Staff Office at (504) 349-1119 or Carol Hatchett, Physician Liaison in Community Relations at (504) 349-6023.

If you are a community member and do not see your doctor's office in our lists, please continue to call your physician's office to learn his or her availability. To check further, go to *www.wjmc.org* or call the previously listed numbers for assistance.

For a physician referral, call (505) 349-2054.

**West Jefferson Medical Center**
Hospital and Health System

1101 Medical Center Boulevard ✦ Marrero, Louisiana 70072 ✦ (504) 347-5511 ✦ www.wjmc.org

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Monday
October 3, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Up close and personal in 9th Ward

I learned Ninth Ward geography incrementally.

When I was in grade school, my sister's best friend, Gaytra Lathan, lived on Andry Street. Whenever I went along on the ride from our house in Carrollton to hers across the Industrial Canal, it seemed to me that we were traveling a great distance.

When I was in high school, I used to play gigs with a saxophone player who lived on Forstall Street.

When I met Herlin Riley, the drummer with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, I learned the way to his house on Tennessee Street.

### Geography lesson

The streets are all within a few blocks of each other, but having met these people and traveled to their homes at such different periods in my life, I hadn't pieced the map together in my mind.

I saw all three streets on Saturday as I traveled that neighborhood on a Florida Swamp Buggy, a huge all-terrain vehicle with towering tires and an ability to negotiate the murky, stinking water still in the Ninth Ward.

Ed Mendel, a Key Largo native, told me that he custom-made the vehicle.

He traveled here because he wanted to pay back all those Louisiana residents who helped Floridians after Hurricane Andrew.

Driving on North Derbigny Street, I got my first real look at Hurricane Katrina's devastation.

I understand now why soldiers and veteran foreign correspondents have said that our city looks worse than a war zone.

You don't grasp that from looking at the damage in places like Treme, Bywater, Central City or even Lakeview.

In many parts of the city, there are foundations with no houses on them, roofs with no houses beneath them and cars parked at elevations and angles and on top of things in such a way that they could not have been driven to their current locations.

In other parts of the city, such sights occur every few blocks, if that frequently. In the Ninth Ward, such sights occur on almost every block.

And it seemed that every inch of it is covered by a thick, mysterious sludge containing all manner of nasty chemicals.

### Rebuilding a must

I have no doubt that the technology exists to build more stable, less flood-prone homes in this community. A priority also must be placed on eliminating the toxic soup, to make certain it doesn't pose a greater long-term risk to residents than the storms themselves.

Saturday morning, hours before the swamp buggy tour, I was talking with Bob French, the jazz drummer.

During Hurricane Betsy, he lived in the Ninth Ward and lost everything. But he remains adamant that the Ninth Ward must be rebuilt if New Orleans is ever again to be spiritually whole.

• • • • • •

Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com.

# REBUILDING THE SPIRIT



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

Uptown resident Corrine Fox wipes away tears during Sunday's Mass in St. Louis Cathedral. 'The cathedral serves as a symbol that transcends any one faith and speaks to our community as a whole,' archdiocesan spokesman the Rev. William Maestri said.



Archbishop Alfred Hughes leads Mass on Sunday in St. Louis Cathedral — the first in the cathedral since Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans more than a month ago. Hughes said he believes the post-storm city will be 'more attentive to its soul.'

## St. Louis Cathedral's 1st post-Katrina Mass attracts the masses

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

People from every walk of life, dressed in their Sunday best or in blue jeans, packed every pew in the historic St. Louis Cathedral on Sunday morning to take part in the first Mass celebrated there since Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans a month ago.

Wearing shorts, a T-shirt and a Jazzfest cap, Sheila Tilford took a seat in the last pew after getting permission to bring in her small dog, Chase, who sat silently on her lap.

"We evacuated together," Tilford said. "He's part of me. And we are part of the beginning of the city coming back."

That was the message that Archbishop Alfred Hughes delivered from the pulpit.

"The church in New Orleans is alive,"

See MASS, B-2

# School Board politics emerge intact

## Division may hamper rebuilding opportunity

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

After decades of bitter debate and agonizing political battles over how to improve one of the nation's worst public school systems, New Orleans lost more than 80 percent of its schools to floodwaters and many of its students and staff to evacuation in the few days following Hurricane Katrina.

Now, although many of the district's financial obligations remain and much of its leadership is still in place, everyone agrees the district has an unprecedented opportunity to rebuild itself in a positive way.

The reopening of up to eight

See SCHOOL, B-3

# Delgado working to stabilize enrollment

## College not planning on laying off staff

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

Before Katrina changed everything, Louisiana's oldest and largest community college, Delgado, was on yet another growth roll, wondering how it would come up with enough classrooms and parking spaces. Now the college is hoping it loses no more than a 7,000 students, about 40 percent of its enrollment, this spring.

But as Delgado prepares to downsize while it contends with major damage at the sprawling City Park campus and at a Slidell satellite, it has no immediate plans to lay off any of its 1,200 full-time faculty and staff members or 495 part-time instructors, Chancellor Alex

See DELGADO, B-5

# 'Blue roof' crew roughing it in N.O.

## Storm chasers create tent city

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

He calls himself a storm chaser.

Like many of the dozens of people now camping out at Muss Bertolino Playground in Kenner, Cy Jay Guiles follows severe weather in search of work rebuilding shattered communities.

"I'm in construction, so I've chased storms before," said Guiles, of Fort Worth, Texas. But Katrina is different from the tornado alley stretching from Kansas to Texas and the hurricane strike zone of Florida. "I've never seen destruction like this," he said.

These days, Guiles is living in a colorful tent city on Bertolino's baseball and soccer fields, which Katrina transformed into a temporary home to people from all over the country. They sleep there at night and work during the day for the federal government, tarping homes as part of "Operation Blue Roof." The men who have staked their tents at the playground say Katrina is an opportunity to make good money, if you don't mind roughing it.

"We basically camp out for a while," said Dennis Baca, who installs body shop equipment back home in Mansfield, Texas. "It's actually really good pay, but the standard of living is a little weird."

The pay varies depending on the subcontractor, but the men said they could make about $200 or 250 a day if they cover 10,000 square feet of roof.

"If you work more, you get more," Guiles said. "We'll work seven days a week as long as we've got daylight."

Guiles estimated one day last week that 400 people have set up tents, campers and trailers in the playground, along with their grills, lawn chairs, folding tables and packs of playing cards. Workers said they stayed in hotels after past disasters, but they understand the post-Katrina accommodations.

See ROOFS, B-4

# Hospital worker gave patients what she had

HURRICANE HEROES



*Charity dietitian forges on at dark, forgotten hospital*

## Food, water, hope were running low

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

Charity Hospital dietitian Ashley Rogers laid her hands on the dying old woman and told her that everything was going to be all right.

The woman, naked under a white sheet to keep cool, must've known Rogers had lied when a priest leaned close to her wrinkled, pale face and gave her last rites.

"The lie" was all Rogers said she had left to feed many of her patients, who were trapped inside Charity Hospital for six days after Hurricane Katrina left the facility crippled.

Rogers said the woman seemed to weep without tears, a veil of fear draping her face as the cleric spoke softly into her ear.

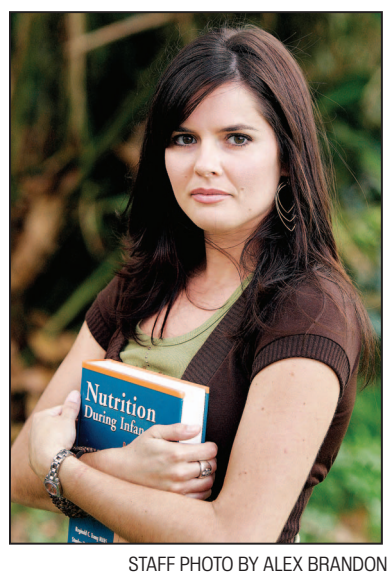
A tube that snaked from her throat lay alongside her, unattached to the ventilator that once sustained her life.

The memory of the moment is seared into Rogers' mind as she recalled how she and a staff of dietitians from University and Charity hospitals struggled to keep patients alive with little food or hope.

Rogers said "the lie" was all she had to comfort the sick, scared and dying.

"They'd ask if they were going to be OK," Rogers said. "I said yes, but I didn't know if any of us were going to make

See HERO, B-4




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

'They'd ask if they were going to be OK,' Charity Hospital dietitian Ashley Rogers said of her patients. 'I said yes, but I didn't know if any of us were going to make it out alive. I said yes to give them hope.'

# ‘If God is there, we will rebuild her right’




Faubourg Marigny resident Russell Carll, center, bows his head in prayer among other congregants at Mass on Sunday at St. Louis Cathedral. A standing-room-only crowd gathered for what Archbishop Alfred Hughes called a historic moment for both the church and the city.



Deacon Ron Guidry, center, offers a comforting shoulder Sunday to New Orleans resident Helen Sue Chenevert.




STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ZDON

Illinois National Guardsman Sgt. Dominic Novielli thanks Archbishop Alfred Hughes following Sunday’s Mass.

**MASS,** *from B-1*

Hughes said as he welcomed those who filled even the side aisles of the cathedral.

Hughes said the Mass signaled a historic moment for the church and for the city.

“The structure which harbors the soul of our city has come back to life,” he said.

As residents, politicians, the military and others who have worked to save New Orleans listened and prayed during the Mass, reporters and photographers from across the country captured tears of sadness, clasped hands and smiles of hope.

“The people of New Orleans are a people of faith, and we can begin to explore the possibilities,” Hughes said, hoping that the storm will stir change in the form of “a simple way of life, … less consumer driven.”

Hughes said he believes the community will be “more attentive to its soul” and its people will share “respect for all human life.”

That too is the hope of Sister Lilianne Flavin, an administrator at Hope House, who recently returned to her Uptown community after weeks in an evacuation center in Gonzales.

Before Mass, she recalled a conversation she had with Don Everard, executive director of Hope House, two weeks before Katrina, in which they discussed the poor and needy in New Orleans.

“We were saying that something has to happen,” Flavin said, calling the hurricane a “cleansing force” that could lead to positive change “if we take it seriously.”

Happy to be home in the Lower Garden District, where the former St. Thomas public housing development once stood, Flavin smiled at the fact that her home did not flood.

“We were on the better side of town for the first time in our lives,” Flavin said.

Don Marshall, executive director of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation, said he came to the Mass because he “felt a need to be part of a community again.”

Marshall said he is living in the French Quarter, but it is difficult to communicate with anyone since most businesses and other gathering spots are closed.

“I’ve been wondering where everyone’s been,” he said.

Marshall predicts the city will become a “better New Orleans” filled with “people who committed to creating an integrated city, finally.”

Conversation with fellow New Orleanians outside of the cathedral was music to the ears of New Orleans singer Wanda Rouzan, who lost most of her possessions to floodwaters that washed through her Gentilly home.

Along with a few of her awards and photos, “my nephew pulled out my rosary beads and my cross,” Rouzan said.

She’s staying in Florida for now, but Rouzan said she will return home to do “whatever I need to do for my queen city. … The archbishop said it so clearly: If God is there, we will rebuild her right.”

Rouzan and her sisters Laura Rouzan and Barbara Randolph attended the Mass after traveling to Baton Rouge for an aunt’s funeral. She died two days after the storm at Lafon Nursing Home in eastern New Orleans, Rouzan said.

Attending the Mass was a must, she said.

“We are the funk of New Orleans, the soul,” she said. “When I walked up to the cathedral, my heart was beating so fast. How can I leave? That’s absurd.”

Sunday’s Mass served as “a significant moment in the life of our archdiocese and the city of New Orleans,” archdiocesan spokesman the Rev. William Maestri said.

“The cathedral serves as a symbol that transcends any one faith and speaks to our community as a whole. Today sends a sign of hope to our city, state and nation.”



Archbishop Alfred Hughes follows in procession before the start of Mass on Sunday. During the service, Hughes spoke of the city returning to ‘a simple way of life, … less consumer-driven.’

# Local, state officials wrestling for control

SCHOOL, *from B-1*

of its 116 schools in November represents a critical first step, officials say, that will have a lasting impression on the nation and, perhaps more important, on countless parents who for years have shunned the district, either paying to put their children in private schools or moving to suburban school districts.

But on the School Board, still notorious for its power struggles just a year after a slate of mostly self-proclaimed reformers took over, the floodwaters have not washed away politics and personal agendas. Frustration and gridlock have reached new heights; threatening to devolve the troubled district to a new low at what many say should be its finest hour.

"There is a real historic opportunity to take what has obviously been just a terrible thing and create something good out of it," said Kevin Hall, chief operating officer of the nonprofit Broad Foundation, one of several education organizations that have offered money and staff to New Orleans. "If the business-as-usual, adult-centered agenda rules the day, it would be a real tragedy for the students in New Orleans. People around the nation who are poised to help bring resources to the table might turn their attention to other places."

The fault line among school board members had been exposed earlier this year, when its members were bitterly divided over whether to hire financial turnaround firm Alvarez & Marsal to right the district's finances. Board President Torin Sanders even refused to sign a board-approved agreement with the firm until he was granted certain concessions by state education Superintendent Cecil Picard, who had heavily pushed Alvarez & Marsal's involvement.

Now, Sanders says, "what they were hired for is not what is needed," suggesting the New York-based firm was hired for a "restructuring," not a "rebuilding."

In the wake of the disaster, Picard and Sanders are more at odds than ever, setting the stage for intense and swift action as local and state officials wrestle for control of the district before any schools open.

"What makes anyone think, after this natural disaster, when the population is scattered, that New Orleans can rebuild without Alvarez & Marsal's expertise?" Picard said. "They need it more than ever before. They are a turnaround company and now they've really got to focus on crisis management and rebuilding in addition to the turnaround. Their work has tripled for the same amount of money their contract calls for."

Picard suggested radical changes could be on the immediate horizon.

"We have a serious problem on our hands," Picard said, noting a commitment he made to state and federal officials, along with Louisiana's congressional delegation, to get the system on the right path. The power struggle on the School Board has to be resolved – and fast, he said – "before we talk about rebuilding."

Asked how it will be resolved, Picard responded: "I have some ideas, and we're working on it."

## State's role

Some suggest a complete – albeit temporary – takeover of the board's powers, as has happened in other cities during times of great unrest, could be in the works.

"One of the questions is: Is the board structure really the most effective structure for the system in times of crisis?" asked Hall.

Linda Johnson, a member of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, suggested a similar scenario.

"Can we get where we need to be faster if the state were more involved?" she asked. "And the answer to that may be yes."

Johnson cautioned that the board is "an elected body" and "I want them to exist," but noted that the system is also very much "in crisis."

But Leslie Jacobs, her colleague on BESE, said it may be easier said than done.

"As much as there's been discussion, there is not a constitutional means to take over the New Orleans School Board," she said. "But this is an extraordinary time, and I think we need to explore any and all measures that could be available to us."

## Battle lines drawn

Board Vice President Lourdes Moran said she wouldn't fight a takeover.

"If that's what he feels is necessary, then I'll support that plan," she said.

If that happens, Sanders is prepared for the fight of his life.

He began girding for battle only weeks after the storm, when the board met Sept. 15 in Baton Rouge. After half an hour of glad-handing and talk of unity in the face of tragedy, the battle lines were drawn, with board member Phyllis Landrieu attempting to call a vote on hiring former U.S. Secretary of Education Rodney Paige as the district's acting chief academic officer and replace interim Superintendent Ora Watson with Bill Roberti, who heads the financial turnaround effort for Alvarez & Marsal.

Although the motion lacked the necessary five votes – state law requires two-thirds approval to add items to the agenda – the vote was cast down racial lines with Sanders and the other two African-American board members, Heidi Lovett Daniels and Cynthia Cade, opposed.

After the meeting, Sanders said the effort to replace Watson, who is African-American, with Roberti, who is white, was "clearly" racially motivated.

Moran said she was outraged by the allegation.

"I wish my colleagues on that board, in particular my board president, would get off this racist platform," she said. "I've had just about enough of it."

"We vote on a president in January, and I guarantee you there will be a change," added board member Jimmy Fahrenholtz. "Back in law school they used to tell us, 'If you don't have the facts, argue the law; and if you don't have the law, argue the facts; and if you don't have either one, you play the race card.' This has nothing to do with race."

Sanders said it's essential to protect local control of the system and denied suggestions that his charge of racism is part of any political strategy.

"As far as playing the race card, I don't believe race is a card. I believe it's a whole deck," he said. "I think the events of Katrina have given a lot of credence to that in regard to race and poverty."

Daniels and Cade did not return calls seeking comment.

## Showing commitment

Fahrenholtz and Moran say a defining moment for the Alvarez & Marsal team came two days after the storm when Roberti and two of his colleagues at the firm, Sajan George and Rajeev Jain, headed into the city to retrieve computer tapes containing all of the district's payroll and financial data.

George described the scene as "spooky" as the three headed down Gen. DeGaulle Drive on the West Bank at dusk after using Roberti's military ID – he served as a colonel in the Army Reserve – to get into the city.

After attempting to break down a door to the building's data room with a table, George described how they trudged back through the water in the lobby and recruited several soldiers to knock the door in with a sledgehammer so they could retrieve the tapes.

Two weeks later, employees were being invited to pick up their paychecks at Western Union locations nationwide.

Those efforts validate Alvarez & Marsal's commitment to the district, Moran said, noting how a contractor went in to retrieve vital information during a dangerous hours while Watson and other district employees "were evacuated."

"For Torin to come back in and say their services might no longer be needed is absolutely ludicrous," she said.

Sanders said he's not averse to working with Alvarez & Marsal, but their pre-Katrina contract should not apply.

"What they were hired for is not what is needed right now," he said. "The existing contract, as we know it, doesn't really mean much, because the nature of that work is not really valid."

Although everyone agrees Katrina is offering the district a fresh start in many respects, many disagree with Sanders' contention that the system is starting over with a clean slate.

"A natural disaster does not wipe away the financial challenge facing the school system," Picard said. "Nothing has changed when it comes to Alvarez & Marsal's contract to rehabilitate the finances of the system."

"We still have lots of accountability issues. The storm did not wipe away the debt," Moran added. "The only clean slate that exists is we have dilapidated buildings on the east bank that will be rebuilt. All the politicizing, all the mistrust and all the rhetoric remains."

## Window of opportunity

George said starting anew can mean a lot more than rebuilding schools. Depending on how much the district takes advantage of the opportunity, the district is being offered a clean slate "in terms of deciding how do I want to do payroll, transportation, food service" and, on the academic side, he said, determining "what kind of training do we want for our principals," for example.

The district is currently negotiating with the teachers' union, George said, to determine who will be hired back to staff the first set of schools that open in Algiers, where floodwaters did not damage schools. Although the district has yet to determine how many schools will open and how many teachers will be needed – parents and employees are being asked to tell the district whether they plan to return by calling (877) 771-5800 – it is unclear to what extent officials will be allowed to handpick staff for schools.

However the reopening is structured – whether it's one school or all eight in Algiers – the first impression the district leaves with residents between now and the reopening of the first schools will be a lasting one.

"I would say the window is probably now and over the next few months," said Hall, of the Broad Foundation. "Families are going to be making choices about whether to move back to New Orleans, and I've got to believe they're thinking about the school system."

"You only have one chance to make a first impression," Jacobs said, "and a lot of people who are going to be coming back to New Orleans, who may have sent their kids to a nonpublic school, may be considering public schools for the first time. The No. 1 question now is how can we open schools well so we get off to a good footing."

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STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

A set of bleachers at the Muss Bertolino baseball field is surrounded by a temporary tent community, which is expected to grow as more workers head to the New Orleans area.

# Workers come to N.O. from across the nation

**ROOFS,** *from B-1*

Being able to report to disaster work requires a flexible schedule. On short notice, workers leave home and family and sometimes a lower-paying job for months at a time.

"We got this together to help employ the people who were laid off," said former Ohio steelworker David Haught, who said his previous job evaporated because of foreign competition.

Oscar Espino of Dallas spoke quickly and vigorously nodded his head when asked whether he missed his wife.

"He said it was pretty hard to leave his family," one of Espino's fellow tarpers translated for him. "But you have to pay bills."

Many of the workers in the Bertolino tent city didn't know how long they would be in the New Orleans area. Answers ranged from a month to a year or longer.

Once all the roofs in the area have been secured with tarps, some said they will leave. But others said they will stay on to reshingle roofs and rebuild homes.

"The work's here now," said Guiles, who normally works as a bounty hunter. "We'll be here until the money runs out, until we run out of work."

• • • • • •

Mary Swerczek may be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

# Evacuated school psychologist works to balance emotions

*Children's experiences often mirror her own*

**By Samira Jafari**
Associated Press writer

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — The only sign of life was her 6-year-old daughter's pet fish, Dori.

Kathleen McKinney-Franks could have dwelled on the piles of ruined photographs, furniture and knickknacks filled with memories drowned by Hurricane Katrina in her New Orleans home.

Instead, she marveled at the strength of the little fish that rode out the storm and endured two weeks without food.

Her job as the new school psychologist for Pickens County schools has forced her to stay optimistic and sensitive to feats small and large. As both a hurricane victim and a chief counselor, she spends each day keeping her own emotions in check while organizing counseling services for young evacuees who lost their homes, pets and — in the worst cases — family members to Katrina. And that's on top of her regular student load.

"I'm sure they would be able to connect with me much more quickly because we have a shared background," said McKinney-Franks, a former school psychologist in New Orleans, in a telephone interview after wrapping up her first week on the job.

Nearly 5,700 student evacuees have enrolled in Alabama's public schools and individual school systems, including Pickens. The systems are looking to school psychologists, counselors and social workers to help the displaced youngsters make the transition into their new settings.

More than 50 displaced teachers and school employees have made inquiries about jobs at Alabama's public schools, though the state Department of Education does not have a figure on the number hired, said Rebecca Leigh White, state schools spokeswoman.

Displaced teachers may apply for emergency certification to work at the public schools for as long as a year, while other jobs, including school psychologists, require a background check and a licensing by a professional board.

Like many displaced employees, McKinney-Franks isn't sure where her next hometown will be, though she knows she won't be able to return to her New Orleans home for at least six months.

# 'I stayed because I am a caregiver'

**HERO,** *from B-1*

it out alive. I said yes to give them hope."

Rogers knew that some of those patients pleading for help would die before someone came to save them.

So she laid hands on those begging for hope, and prayed for those who'd lost it in the stifling heat and chaos that gripped the hospital.

The electricity was out and the generators failed after a few hours. There was no air conditioning, lights or running water.

"None of it seemed real," she said.

"It was like a dream; worse, a nightmare."

Food was running low and had to be rationed after three days; dry cereal for breakfast, a half-cup of cold ravioli for lunch, and pork and beans for dinner. Each was given a gallon of water a day.

There were no working elevators, so Rogers and the dietary staff carried loads of food up and down 14 flights of stairs to feed their patients.

The toilets overflowed the first night, unable to handle the waste of 1,300 staff members and 230 patients. The dark stairwells became a place where some relieved themselves, although Rogers said each staff member was given a five-gallon bucket for a toilet.

The stench of feces and unshowered bodies wafted through the hospital.

Rogers said while food drops were being made at other hospitals throughout the week, none were made to Charity.

Tulane University Hospital was being evacuated by Thursday, she said, and doctors there offered food dropped at that facility to Charity. So doctors and nurses, who themselves were near dehydration and hungry, commandeered boats to retrieve it.

"They are the real heroes," Rogers said. "The doctors and some of the nurses had to give themselves IVs while they worked on patients just to stay hydrated. They didn't even take the time to take care of themselves."

The 26-year-old Westwego native had been on the job only six months, and it took everything she had to keep her wobbly spirit from breaking.

At night she prayed under a blanket of darkness that cloaked every open space in the hospital.

She found the strength to continue in God, she said.

She pushed on by focusing on her patients, on their needs rather than hers.

And she savored the quick phone calls she was able to make to Jeffrey, her husband, who'd evacuated to Arkansas with his parents. A land-line phone in one of the offices worked. Since her department heads wouldn't let him stay with her, the daily calls were all they had.

He became a good liar, she said, almost as good as she'd become in the face of such seeming hopelessness.

Jeffrey told her that everything was going to be OK, that she was safe.

But he had no real way of knowing, and was hearing otherwise from national news accounts.

He tried not to believe the now-debunked rumors of rape and murder that had been spread across the nation. He tried to believe that his wife of five years was fine.

He knew, like she did, that his words were all she had left to hold onto. So he perfected "the lie."

After five days in crisis mode, Charity Hospital was evacuated. Staff and patients lined up on the emergency room loading dock and boarded school buses headed out of the city.

Rogers didn't know where she was going, but anywhere was better than New Orleans, she said.

The bus she boarded was headed for the airport in Kenner.

They parked on Airline Highway and a National Guardsman stepped on board, M-16 in hand.

"Anybody get off this bus or even move will be shot," Rogers recalled the soldier yelling.

The group of hospital employees was shocked, and told him they worked for the hospital. He apologized.

Somehow the buses evacuating hospital staff got mixed in with buses from the Superdome. The group was transferred from the school bus to a Greyhound headed for Baton Rouge, where a family friend picked her up.

After all she has been through, remaining in the hospital during the crisis, Rogers has been fired from her job.

Rogers' job probation was for 18 months, she said. Hospital officials said she was ineligible for transfer, that she would receive a paycheck through Sept. 30 and will be terminated as of Thursday.

"I'm just so angry," Rogers said. "I put my life at risk for the hospital and its patients and basically got the shaft. I stayed because I am a caregiver and I wanted to give care to those who needed it. That's what I did. Even with this outcome I wouldn't take it back."

# Winnsboro woman may be victim of West Nile

MONROE – A Winnsboro woman has died from what a family member says was West Nile virus.

If confirmed by state officials, this will be Northeast Louisiana's first West Nile virus death this year.

Aaron Hopper Scott, 52, died Wednesday at Saint Francis Medical Center. Her sister says Scott was in the hospital for 12 days with both West Nile and Guillain-Barr Syndrome.

Like West Nile, GBS also attacks the central nervous system.

Statewide six people have died from West Nile and 99 have been diagnosed with the virus.

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# Web-based courses will be stressed

DELGADO, *from B-1*

Johnson said.

"Our commitment now is to continue to keep everybody on the payroll, and really keep our faculty intact," Johnson said Saturday after a tour of Delgado facilities, long viewed as essential to New Orleans job training. "We have asked our faculty to register, call in, let us know not only of their whereabouts but their availability for work. We've made every effort to engage faculty in meaningful work."

Some idle faculty members will be assigned to teach online courses, while others will serve as student advisers, he said.

Johnson's pledge contrasts with harsh realities playing out at some local higher education institutions badly wounded by Katrina, including Tulane University and the University of New Orleans, that are beginning to trim their staffs. The chancellor isn't ruling out a later round of layoffs, but hopes that Delgado's rush to offer online courses and health sciences classes at a few satellite locations will jump-start a large-scale return to traditional Delgado offerings in the spring.

Internet-based courses in various academic fields are being offered by Delgado at no charge in conjunction with an online program sponsored by the New York-based Sloan Foundation and the Southern Regional Education Board. Details on offerings should be available in coming days through the Delgado Web site, www.dcc.edu.

Roughly 7,000 Delgado students should be taking courses before January including 4,000 designated "visiting" students at public institutions in the region, such as Baton Rouge Community College, Southern Louisiana University and Southern University at Baton Rouge, Johnson said. He hopes 9,000 to 10,000 will be taking courses directly from Delgado in the spring, down from 17,400 before the storm.

Preparing facilities for returning students is a daunting task. Johnson said damage estimates aren't firm, but that up to 8 feet of water overtook the Slidell branch and at least 60 percent of the City Park campus had serious flooding, 6 to 8 feet deep at the back side of the campus facing Lakeview. A partially-built center for science and mathematics on the City Park site, serving Orleans Parish public school students, collapsed during the storm, and some other buildings, including the landmark Building No. 1 facing City Park Avenue, had limited wind damage.

Delgado is preparing to lease a 10,000-square-foot social services building on Gen. DeGaulle Drive in Algiers to provide more teaching space while it tackles major repair projects in coming months, Johnson said.

The college's information technology infrastructure, critical to student records and payroll, was badly damaged but now is largely restored, Johnson said.

Despite Johnson's effort to preserve their jobs, many Delgado instructors living in Lakeview, Gentilly and other New Orleans neighborhoods lost homes to flooding and will face a challenge getting to work, said Shelley Tyler, an English as a second language instructor who lives on the West Bank. Some faculty members plan to commute in from apartments in Baton Rouge or Picayune, Miss., she said.

"I think most faculty, if they could come back, they would want to come back," she said. "Everybody's kind of disconnected right now."

The Delgado Community College Foundation has contributed $9,000 to a relief fund for displaced students and is collecting donations for students and building repairs.

Details on the initiatives are to be provided through the college's Web site.

Serving as a base for National Guard units since the storm, the City Park campus also is serving as an informal staging area for companies hauling debris out of damaged neighborhoods.

Johnson said he doesn't know who authorized the haulers' use of campus property but doesn't mind if it helps with the city's recovery.

Delgado administrators temporarily are working out of space at Baton Rouge Community College and can be contacted at (225) 216-8336.

## HAPPY ENDINGS



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Two St. Bernard families who had not seen or heard from each other since Hurricane Katrina destroyed their homes a month ago were reunited by chance Saturday at a free food and rummage 'sale' at St. Peter School in Covington. Jeanine Mason of Meraux, left, was shopping for her family when she spotted her cousin, Leslie Kelt of Meraux, second from left. Nathalie Satter of Chalmette, right, Kelt's mother, hugs Joseph Mason, 8, Jeanine Mason's son. 'I was speechless,' Mason said. 'The last I knew, Leslie was in Ohio, and she thought I was in Thibodaux.' The families had migrated to Covington, where they are staying with friends and family.

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# YOUR OPINIONS



As Gov. Kathleen Blanco, President Bush and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin tour parts of New Orleans Sept. 12, U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, left, tries to get low-hanging wires out of the way.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

## Elections matter

Unfortunately, what many people will remember about this dire time in our history is not what our heroes did, but what our elected officials did not do. There was a failure of leadership not only in the days before the storm, but for weeks after. The congressional hearings will, no doubt, find stupidity and incompetence at all levels of government.

We need look no further than ourselves to find the blame for these failures. We elected these people to office. We are the ones who, for the last 30 years, have failed to elect true leaders who would have made this a safer place.

If we learn just one thing from this catastrophe, it should be that elections do have consequences. Hopefully we will remember that the next time we pull the lever behind the curtain.

**Jeff Lorio**
*Luling*

## Give the poor a better life

New Orleans has always been a place of poverty and degradation for its poor, who are primarily African-American. To bring the poor back to New Orleans would be almost criminal. The good ole boys and their mentality of business as usual would all be there as well. For the poor, this would mean lack of opportunity, poor education and living with fear and violence. The poor still would not be able to trust government, the police or other social institutions. The drug culture would once again rule the streets and ghetto-like neighborhoods. As a deacon and minister in Hollygrove, I know of what I speak.

My suggestion is for the local, state and federal governments to allow families to gather together and give them a choice of cities to live where meaningful jobs are available, job training can be had and schools are ready to accept their children. Many towns and cities would be able to accommodate extended families.

I am asking everyone to prevail on the government, especially the federal government, not to send the poor back to their ruined city.

I am begging you to give these people a fresh start, a new beginning of hope. Give them a place where there is more respect, better schools and less fear, violence and murder. Give them a place where they can experience the freedom and advantages that most white folks in New Orleans take for granted.

**Rodrigo Fonseca**
*New Orleans*
*Now in River Ridge*

## Details wrong, but reaction right

Despite recent clarifications, there was apparently plenty of killing, raping and mayhem all over the city. In particular I remember the article about the worker who stayed in the National D-Day Museum. In the article, he describes how he saw gun-wielding thugs rape a girl. This may not have happened in the Superdome or Convention Center, but you can't blame the mayor or police chief for getting worked up about the lawlessness that surrounded them. Maybe they didn't get the details quite right but there was certainly plenty to be horrified and overwhelmed by.

Unfortunately, since we haven't had access to national TV news (no cable), it is difficult to see how the rest of the country sees us. I've heard it has been pretty bad. Last night a reporter from MSNBC was interviewed by a local news station. The reporter said they had taped a group of New Orleans police officers looting a Wal-Mart. He made it sound as if the officers flaunted it in front of the cameras.

I wanted to ask him, "Were they getting water, food and supplies for their police station/fortress? Were they trying to find supplies for stranded people?"

Heck, I wouldn't have minded if they went to my house and took all the food. At least now it wouldn't be covered in mold.

**Margaret Lancaster**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Covington*

## Kindness did not rule the shelters

Although Monday's front-page story focused on how many of the purported atrocities in the Superdome and Convention Center never actually happened, a picture of my 85-year-old grandfather on that page provides all the proof I need that there was at least one despicable act.

In that picture, he is shown sitting with his suitcase, waiting for a bus after having been evacuated from an assisted living center in eastern New Orleans. The picture was taken before he was taken to the Convention Center, where he was severely beaten and had all of his belongings in the suitcase stolen from him.

After being rescued from the Convention Center, he spent three days in the hospital in Baton Rouge and remains physically and emotionally scarred from the experience. A previously healthy and spry senior, he has much more to overcome than heat, hunger and dehydration.

**Melissa Fisher DeRamus**
*River Ridge*

## Family found on forum

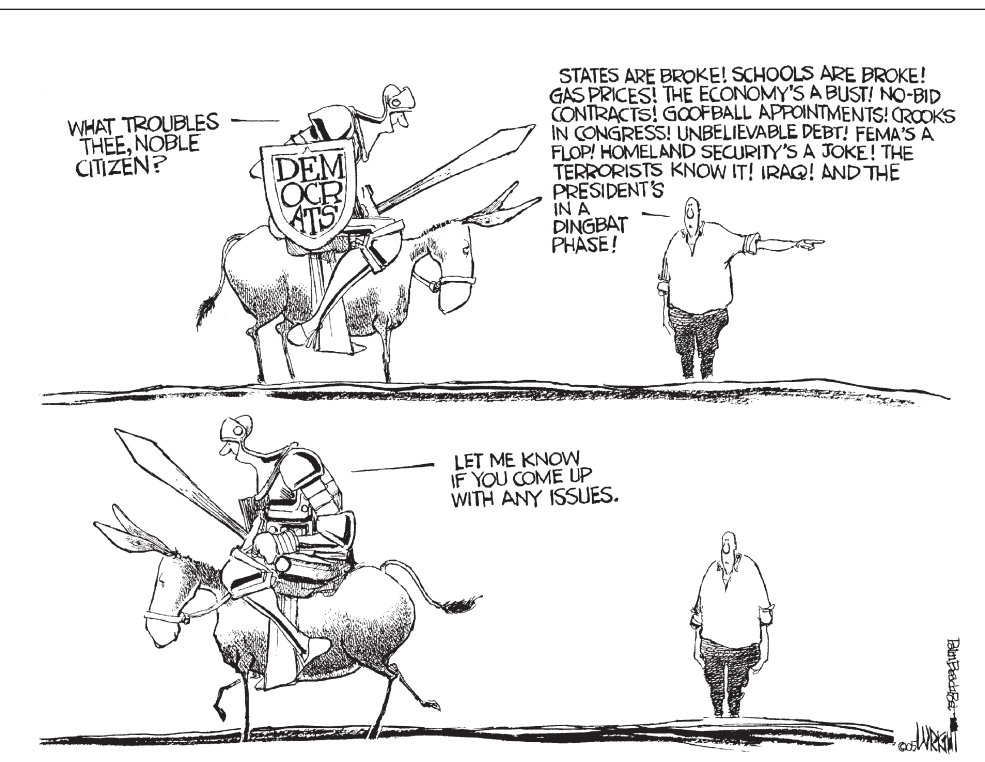
Greetings from Mesa, Ariz. I have family all over Louisiana, but especially in Buras. After the storm hit, I found very little information on any of the Buras-area news outlets I normally use. Frustration and anger were beginning to get the better of me. I accidentally stumbled onto nola.com and all its local forums a few days later, and posted information on my family members.

Within a few hours, I received two phone calls and several e-mails from others who saw my post and provided me with leads that eventually led directly to my lost relatives. Had The Times-Picayune's affiliated Web site not put those forums online, I would never have found them. How you did it while dealing with the aftermath of Katrina, I have no idea. Thank you so much.

I now make it a practice to tell everyone which paper has the most information and actually cares about its customers.

**Cherié Frugé**
*Mesa, Ariz.*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Independence is a virtue

Weeks after Hurricane Katrina steamed past southeast Louisiana, the levee breaches along the London Avenue Canal in New Orleans were still fearsome to behold. Concrete panels that were supposed to hold back the storm surge during a hurricane instead were bowed out and bent over. Homes nestled against the levee looked as though a river had flowed through them, and piles of sediment had collected in what was left of their back yards.

But while the destruction caused by the failure of the London Avenue Canal, 17th Street Canal and Industrial Canal floodwalls is evident in the surrounding neighborhoods – and across a vast area in Orleans, St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes – the precise cause of these breaches can be established only through a detailed forensic investigation.

The Army Corps of Engineers has already announced that it is conducting such an investigation. But the agency responsible for designing and building flood-protection levees should not lead the inquiry into what went wrong.

An unbiased investigation could conclude that Katrina was simply too strong a storm – that the storm surge it produced exceeded the design standards of the floodwalls. In fact, some evidence suggests that a huge storm surge was indeed responsible for the failure of the Industrial Canal floodwalls. If a Category 4 hurricane overwhelms a levee system that was explicitly designed for only a Category 3 storm, there's not much else the corps or its contractors could have done; fault would instead lie with the public officials who declined to support a stronger system.

But independent engineers say the floodwalls at the London Avenue and 17th Street canals were designed to handle stresses worse than Katrina's. If so, the failures could be the result of design, construction or maintenance flaws. And the corps' initial theory about those breaches – that water topped the floodwalls and scoured away the back side of the earthen berm supporting it – could start to look like a knee-jerk, defensive reaction.

The corps has plenty of critics who are suspicious of virtually every move the agency makes, and over the years the agency has given them ammunition. Impartial government reports have accused agency officials of fiddling with numbers in their economic-impact studies to make proposed corps projects look more beneficial and more worthy of government money.

But the truth is, few organizations find it easy to point the finger at themselves after something goes wrong, and internal pressures often frustrate the search for answers. In his book "The Wisdom of Crowds," the writer James Surowiecki examines the final mission of the space shuttle Columbia, and he argues persuasively that bureaucratic power politics within NASA hampered the agency's response to evidence that heat-resistant tiles had been damaged on liftoff. High-ranking officials at the space agency concluded early on that nothing could be done about such a problem, Mr. Surowiecki maintains, and they discounted opinions to the contrary.

Putting independent experts in charge of an investigation, by contrast, makes it less likely to succumb to bureaucratic groupthink and rear-covering. For that reason, it's encouraging that experts from the National Science Foundation and the American Society of Civil Engineers will be examining the breaches.

There's been considerable public debate about whether the congressional investigation into the poky federal response to Katrina represents a real effort to find answers – or is merely an attempt by Republican leaders to shield the Bush administration from further criticism. But whatever happens with that political sideshow in Washington, an independent investigation of the levee failures is more crucial to the New Orleans area's safety in the near term.

The fate of our entire community is at stake. Institutional politics within the corps should not affect the outcome of the post-Katrina inquiry, and the only way to guarantee that is to let someone else take the lead.

## Camping in the driveway

Before Katrina tore up southeast Louisiana, city planners and elected officials worried about things like zoning and aesthetics, and those concerns shouldn't be completely erased by the disaster that has hit this region.

But the wind and flood damage caused by the Aug. 29 storm does mean that local governments need to reorder their priorities. Slidell City Council members showed that they understand that when they voted 6-0 to allow residents to live in temporary housing on their own property while they repair their homes.

The vote provides an exemption to a municipal ordinance that bans such housing in the city limits. While the City Council initially considered a six-month exemption, the action taken last week allows temporary housing – campers, recreational vehicles and trailer homes – for a year. The time can be extended, too, if the council deems it necessary.

With 4,000 of Slidell's 10,000 houses damaged by wind or flood water, that's a pragmatic response to what many Slidellians – including Police Chief Freddy Drennan – are already doing. The waiver expires as soon as city inspectors decide that the damaged house is habitable.

Planning Director Martin Bruno was reluctant to extend the exemption beyond six months. He warned that the city could be opening the door to the return of mobile homes, which were banned three years ago, and predicted that there would be enforcement problems when the time runs out.

But those concerns pale compared to what could happen if Slidell makes it hard for people to live on their property while it is undergoing repairs. A year from now, the city could find itself depleted of residents and stuck with dilapidated and abandoned housing.

Slidell might have to deal with a few violators a year or more down the road, but it's a safe bet that most people aren,t going to want to camp in their driveways a minute longer than necessary.

# OTHER OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Sherlita Singleton cleans barber chairs Saturday in front of her husband's business on Simon Bolivar Avenue. The Singletons hope to reopen soon.

## WHY LOUISIANA MATTERS



MARY LANDRIEU

The Washington Post's Sept. 27 editorial "Louisiana's Looters" displayed a profound ignorance of the regional and national miscalculation of this national disaster. It's not just that people's homes are underwater; that happens with every hurricane. It's not just that roofs have blown off; those are the usual visuals of a storm of this nature. It's that an entire region vital to our national energy supply, security and commerce has been devastated.

South Louisiana is the anchor of America's Energy Coast, securing more than three-quarters of U.S. offshore oil and gas production ñ a greater share of our nation's energy supply than even the kingdom of Saudi Arabia accounts for. The ports of south Louisiana, including New Orleans, are America's gateway to the world, handling more than 20 percent of U.S. imports and exports each day, including more than 70 percent of all grains as they move from farms across the nation to markets overseas. And 40 percent of the seafood consumed by Americans each year comes through coastal Louisiana.

But The Post dismissed the federal government's role in the rebuilding of these and other devastated sectors of our economy. It described an effort to rebuild the regional economy as extraneous, comparing it to a sports venue miles from Ground Zero in New York. The people of Louisiana do not share this simplistic view. Nor would an Iowa farmer unable to bring his grain to market, or a Virginia mother who can't keep up with rising gas costs for the family car, or a Chicago seafood restaurateur trying to expand his business even as supplies are constrained.

It is important to note that we will not rebuild New Orleans out of our own sense of need or nostalgia. We will renew and restore New Orleans and the region because its existence is dictated by the needs of U.S. commerce. The question is not whether Americans can afford to raise up Louisiana's economy; it is whether America can afford not to. The answer is clear: We must rebuild stronger, better and smarter than before.

Just as the Netherlands did after the devastating flood of 1953, we will build the world's strongest levee system. But rebuilding this region will take more than just higher levees. We must also build a better education system in the region, while figuring out a way to maintain the education of 200,000 displaced children and 73,000 displaced college students around the country.

We must build a better health care system in New Orleans and throughout south Louisiana, and we must figure out how to extend health care coverage to a million survivors whose employers are either gone, teetering on the verge of bankruptcy or dropping their coverage. We must provide the infrastructure and appropriate incentives for businesses and industry that are positioned to accept the risk of reopening their doors amid their unprecedented losses and the destruction around them.

Finally, The Post's editorial accuses our delegation of disregarding the "root causes" of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. But even a cursory amount of journalistic effort would reveal years of requests to stem the repeated cuts to our flood and hurricane protection programs, most recently in a letter to the president in November, as well as efforts to restore America's Wetland, our primary hurricane protection.

A search of Post archives would demonstrate decades of unity on the part of our congressional delegation in seeking restoration of Louisiana's eroding coast, as the continued erosion increases the vulnerability of our coastal populations.

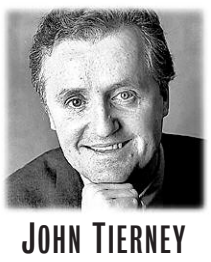
Despite this legacy of federal neglect, The Post criticizes proposals to give Louisiana greater control of the rebuilding effort. Let us be clear: Louisiana will be rebuilt by Louisianians. New Orleans will be rebuilt by New Orleanians. And the rest of southern Louisiana will be rebuilt under the leadership of the people who call it home.

Certainly The Post, long a champion of home rule, should appreciate this enduring spirit.

• • • • • • • • • •

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu of New Orleans wrote this for the Washington Post.

## Instead of the soft path, try hard cash



JOHN TIERNEY

President Bush has been getting grief for telling people to cut back on driving while he gas-guzzles his way across the country. But he's merely expressing Washington's bipartisan consensus: Energy conservation is a wonderful idea — for other people.

In the past, Republicans weren't quite as devoted to conservation as Democrats, especially ones like John Kerry. During last year's campaign, he called for massive cutbacks in energy use as he traveled among his five houses on a Gulfstream that was less fuel-efficient per passenger than Air Force One.

But Republicans shuttling between just two homes have generally at least paid lip service to energy conservation, because they know most voters like it in principle. The problem is that these voters, for some odd reason, cling to the notion that their personal travels are just as essential as politicians'.

So both parties refuse to consider the best way to save energy: charging more for gasoline. It's taboo to raise the gas tax, or even to raise prices during a shortage.

The gas stations that increased prices after Hurricane Katrina were having precisely the effect that Bush wanted when he tried to discourage driving. But he lumped them together with street criminals, saying there should be "zero tolerance of people breaking the law during an emergency such as this, whether it be looting, or price-gouging at the gasoline pump."

To assuage voters, politicians hide the price tag when they try to impose conservation. They've forced cars and appliances to become more energy-efficient, which makes them more expensive, but no one blames Congress for the higher sticker prices.

The rationale for these policies is that consumers will save money in the long run by using less energy – they're just not savvy enough to realize it when they're shopping for a new car or refrigerator. But even if you doubt consumers' judgment, it doesn't follow that regulators are any savvier when they dictate what should be sold.

The efficiency standards for appliances, far from paying for themselves, will cost consumers roughly $50 billion through 2050, according to Ronald Sutherland, an economist at George Mason University. And those costs are borne disproportionately by low-income and middle-income households.

Besides being costly, conservation rules can produce unintended consequences. The fuel-efficiency standards for cars led to that environmentalist nightmare, the SUV, which became popular because of a loophole in the rules.

Consumers who wanted a big car had to buy one pretending to be a truck because carmakers were forced to downsize their fleets. As cars became lighter, they also became more dangerous, resulting in an additional 2,000 deaths per year, according to the National Research Council.

During the 1970s and 1980s, regulators in California and other states forced utilities to subsidize alternative energy sources and technologies that reduced electricity consumption. That was the energy "soft path," as its advocates described it in rhapsodies like the ones I heard at Robert Redford's place in Sundance in 1989.

At Redford's conference, devoted to "healing the planet," utility and coal executives listened to lectures from the soft-path advocates explaining why the energy soft path would more than pay for itself. The executives listened politely, but one of them summed up their reaction with the punch line from the old story about a failed dog-food marketing campaign. "The dogs ain't eatin' it," he said.

The utility executives didn't think these conservation measures made economic sense — and they turned out to be right, as evidenced by subsequent research and the soaring electricity prices in California to cover the soft-path boondoggles forced on the utilities. Those mistakes haven't deterred today's energy conservationists from coming up with more money-saving schemes for society, but there's usually a good reason the dog ain't eatin' it already.

Individuals don't always make the best choices about energy use — you can make a case that we drive too much because the price of gasoline doesn't reflect all the social costs. But if a new gas tax covered those costs, then we'd have all the incentive we need to conserve energy. While a gas tax may sound politically hopeless, it's worth considering ways to induce both parties to go for it.

A tax would make people figure out on their own how to burn less gasoline. Washington wouldn't need to lecture them on conservation or dictate what kind of cars they can buy. Freed from supervisory duties, some politicians might even think about conserving energy themselves.

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John Tierney is a columnist for The New York Times.



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

## Katrina brings opportunity to rebuild U.S. health care

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we have an opportunity to construct something far more important than higher levees: a national health care system that looks less like a tightrope and more like a safety net.

A dozen years after Bill Clinton's health reform efforts were destroyed by the insurance industry's duplicity, it's worth trying again. The health care system is steadily becoming more gummed up in ways that are impossible to hide.

One of the bumper stickers attacking the Clinton plan read: "If You Like the Post Office, You'll Love National Health Insurance." That wouldn't work today: The Postal Service runs a system that is manifestly more rational and efficient than our health care system. For starters, imagine a postal system that refused to deliver letters to or from 45 million Americans – except on rare occasions, by ambulance.

"This is one of those fleeting opportunities where a catastrophe creates an opportunity to rebuild something better than before," says Dr. Irwin Redlener, president of the Children's Health Fund and associate dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

In a sign of the growing disenchantment with our health system, 13,000 doctors have joined Physicians for a National Health Program, which lobbies for a single-payer government-financed health program.

There are four main problems with the existing system. First, it leaves out 45 million uninsured Americans, and their number is rising. Second, it is by far the most expensive in the world, costing 15 percent of our national income, yet our outcomes are awful: U.S. life expectancy is worse than Costa Rica's. Third, our business competitiveness is undermined when, for example, medical expenses add $1,500 to the sticker of each General Motors car. Fourth, our system is catastrophically inefficient: According to a study in The New England Journal of Medicine, health administrative costs are $1,059 per capita in the United States, and just $307 in Canada.

A single-payer system would be most efficient but probably is not politically feasible at the moment. The smart new book "The Health Care Mess" suggests a variety of more gradual approaches that would face less opposition.

Whatever the mechanism, all children should be covered. It's a disgrace that we use public money to save the lives of nonagenarians but not those of 9-year-olds. And kids are a bargain: per capita medical spending is $1,525 for children younger than 5, and $9,000 per person aged 65 to 74.

A second principle is that we should put less emphasis on curative medicine and more on public health and prevention: everything from preparing for avian flu to encouraging exercise. Sure, we can buy more "left ventricular assist devices," which cost $210,000 per patient installed, or buy Erbitux for colon cancer, at $17,000 per month of treatment. But as a wise new book, "Prescription for a Healthy Nation," argues, you get more bang for the buck when you promote healthier lifestyles: fighting obesity, cigarette smoking and the like.

Raising cigarette taxes saved far more American lives, for example, than an army of neurologists ever could. In the same spirit, I'd like to see a French fry tax. And imagine the health gains if we banned potato chips and soda from schools.

Reforming the health system won't be easy. In the real world, poor kids don't see doctors not only because they're uninsured, but also because Mom doesn't have a car, can't easily get time off from work, or doesn't speak English. Those are hard nuts to crack – but one reason to think that we can do better is that much of the world does better.

I've been thinking of health care partly because of something that happened when I was on vacation in August. My kids and I were stacking firewood for my parents on the Yamhill, Ore., farm where I grew up, when suddenly the 7-foot stack collapsed – on top of my youngest. She was knocked down and pinned, her face bleeding, under a pile of logs.

I had insurance, and a car to get to the emergency room – and in the end the logs (stained with blood) turned out to be in worse shape than my daughter. She's just fine. But that instant was heart-stopping in its terror – and the system routinely does fail such children in need. Isn't it worth fighting one more time for reforms, so that we Americans can get health care every bit as good as Canada's?

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Nicholas D. Kristof is a columnist for The New York Times.

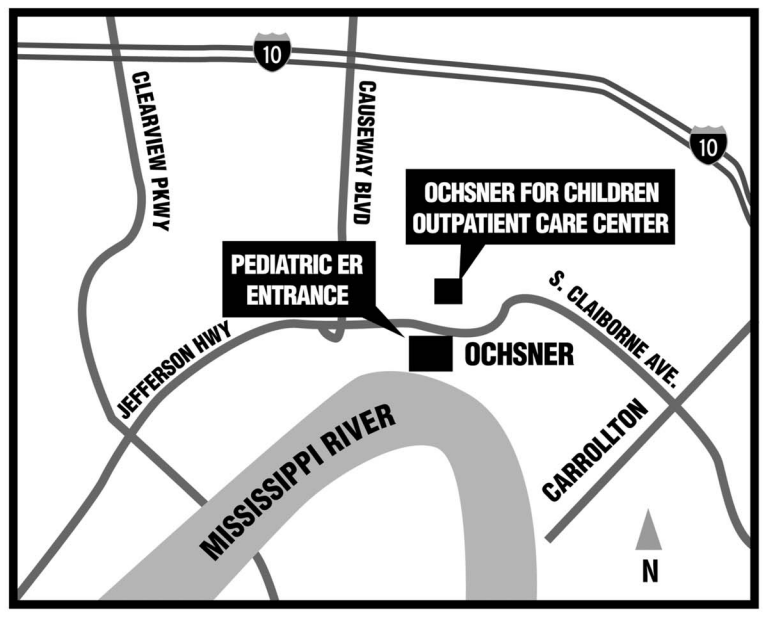
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The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is located in the Ochsner Emergency Room at 1514 Jefferson Highway.
For routine pediatric appointments, call **1-504-842-3900.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is just one of the many initiatives Ochsner is taking to make an ongoing difference in communities in and around New Orleans. To find out more, visit www.ochsner.org

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# SPORTS

SECTION C
*Monday, October 3, 2005*

LIVING
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# NO PLACE LIKE — HOME?



PETER FINNEY

## Saints respond to warm welcome

SAN ANTONIO — Inside the Alamodome, someone was holding a poster with Louisiana's outline that said: "There's No Place Like Home."

Well, let the record show San Antonio's warmth, its flat-out enthusiasm for the sport, was a welcome change for a Saints football team, at least for now, that has said goodbye to its Big Easy roots.

While the Richter-scale level of†58,688 did not match the Superdome in its vintage days, it registered solidly, with the players, with the coaches, with the owner.

"These fans were really into it," Tom Benson said. "I don't think you can read anything more than they were responding to what these guys have been through, a terrible tragedy. And they were throwing their feelings†out on the field."

Obviously, Jim Haslett's team was listening.

When was the last time the Saints shut out a team for the last 55 minutes?

When was the last time the Saints controlled the ball for almost 36 minutes?

When was the last time they came out of a game with only four penalties — for a meager 46 yards?

The Buffalo Bills they defeated 19-7 were not a team of the quality of the Carolina Panthers. But the way the Saints handled early adversity, surrendering an early score, then muffing some passes, the way they managed to come with a big play, here and there, helped make it a quality victory for a 2-2 ballclub.

"The fans were cool," said Deuce McAllister, who rushed for 83 of his 130 yards in the fourth quarter as the Saints applied a final fingerprint to a feel-good Sunday.

Two large fingerprints were supplied by two members of the defense, first by Fred Thomas, then by Dwight Smith.

Listening to Thomas tell you about Terrance McGee's 82-yard kickoff return that ended the first half was a thrill in itself.

John Carney had kicked a 40-yard field goal to put the Saints ahead 13-7 with 10 seconds remaining.

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-4*



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

ABOVE, Quarterback Aaron Brooks scored the Saints' only touchdown Sunday on this four-yard run, and did not commit a turnover while passing for 172 yards. BELOW, Daniel Bena displays the sentiments of San Antonio fans Sunday. Although the crowd was more than 6,000 tickets short of a sellout, it was vocal and enthusiastic.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

## Enthusiastic crowd in San Antonio sees Saints dominate Bills

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — An historic event took place at the Alamodome on Sunday, the first regular-season NFL game played in San Antonio, a moment years in the making.

The Saints were happy enough to take part, but mostly they are just hoping Sunday's 19-7 victory over the hapless Buffalo Bills was the watershed moment in their 2005 season.

The Saints waited three long weeks for their second win this season, a convincing performance with no turnovers and only four penalties, and evened their record at 2-2.

A .500 mark usually isn't much to celebrate. But after all that this team has been through in the past month, catching up is an achievement worth appreciating.

"It was important to us because we got back to even; we got back to 2-2. And it was important because of the way we played, more than anything," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "We played the type of football that we'd like to play.

"We'd rather be 4-0 or 3-1, but you take these games in four-game segments. You know the teams we have to beat, we play coming up, (NFC West rivals) Tampa Bay and Atlanta in a few weeks. But in the meantime, we have to stay in the hunt; we have to stay close so we have the opportunity to get back in this thing."

The Saints said the past week felt like a normal routine for the first time they could remember after a whirlwind tour took them from New Orleans to Oakland, San Antonio, Charlotte, New York and Minnesota.

The team has not boarded a plane in seven days now, the longest streak of the season. Members of the team and the organization have been driving their own cars and sleeping in their own beds, albeit rented beds in rented apartments.

But at least it's something.

And at least now the Saints get a chance to start fresh, putting behind

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-4*

## Turmoil follows Hornets after move from Charlotte

*Displaced team faces issues about arena, front office, lawsuits*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

A little more than a month before the start of training camp, everything seemed to be in order for the Hornets.

They had a successful draft, landing coveted point guard Chris Paul. In an average free-agency class, they got a bargain in European sharpshooter Arvydas Macijauskas. Then they traded basically nothing for Rasual Butler, their likely starting small forward. And in a bit of off-court lagniappe, the Hornets achieved their highest season-ticket sales figures in New Orleans.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit.

Instead of eagerly anticipating the regular season, the Hornets were in a crisis, initially unsure where they would play their home games. What they knew for certain was that it would take months to repair the flood-damaged New Orleans Arena and it was unlikely they would play in New Orleans this season.

But new team president Paul Mott and General Manager Allan Bristow worked through the situation, signing a lucrative deal to base the team in Oklahoma City for 35 games and playing the other six home games in Baton Rouge. The chaos, it seemed, had passed. Then on Saturday, just two days before the team's media day, Bristow resigned, citing health concerns.

It was the latest in a series of volatile events surrounding the franchise since it moved to New Orleans before the 2002-03 season. Newly promoted Jeff Bower is the team's third general manager. Byron Scott is the team's third head coach. And there have been lawsuits, conflicts involving local politicians, as well as a power struggle involving owners George Shinn and Ray Wooldridge, which hampered the progress of the franchise during its first 2½ seasons in New Orleans.

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-2*

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

**JARRETT WINS AT TALLADEGA:** Dale Jarrett ended a 98-race drought by winning at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway on Sunday, and Ryan Newman moved to the top of the Nextel Cup standings. Jarrett used a three-wide pass to challenge Tony Stewart for the lead on the final lap and moved ahead on the backstretch in the UAW-Ford 500 for his first victory since 2003. Stewart finished second and Newman was third, moving him on top of the Chase for the Championship after the third of 10 races. Newman holds a one-point advantage over Stewart after a race that shuffled the Chase standings. Jimmie Johnson, who started the day as the points leader, was involved in two accidents and dropped to fourth in the standings, 98 points back. At least five Chase drivers suffered accident-related damage, and Johnson wrecked 20 laps into the race. A second eight-car accident started when Chase driver Ryan Newman hit Casey Mears. That accident damaged the cars of Chase drivers Rusty Wallace and Greg Biffle. Both were able to get back on the track to run for points.

## GOLF

**MONTGOMERIE WINS DUNHILL:** Colin Montgomerie birdied the last hole to win the Dunhill Links Championship by a stroke at St. Andrews, Scotland, rallying from a five-shot deficit for his first victory in his home country since 1999. Montgomerie closed with a 1-under-par 71 on the Old Course for a 279 total. Kenneth Ferrie led after three rounds but a 77 left him at 280. Four others were a stroke back: Padraig Harrington, Henrik Stenson, Robert Karlsson and Anders Hanson. This was Montgomerie's first victory since the Singapore Masters early last year. His previous victory in Scotland came at the Loch Lomond Invitational, now the Scottish Open. It was his 29th title on the European tour.

**MORE GOLF:** At Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., British Open champion Jeong Jang shot a 5-under 66 to join Hee-Won Han and Karine Icher as the second-round leaders by two shots in the fog-delayed LPGA Office Depot Championship. The conclusion of the 54-hole event is scheduled for today. . . . Jeff Gove won the Oregon Classic in Eugene, Ore., when steady rain forced tournament officials to cancel the fourth round of the Nationwide Tour event.

## BASKETBALL

**BROWN WANTED TO ATTACK TEAMMATE:** With Kwame Brown now out of Washington, he's sharing why he was suspended for the playoffs. According to ESPN.com, Brown told The Washington Post that he wasn't ill after Game 3 of the Wizards' series with the Bulls, as the team reported, but was so upset with guard Gilbert Arenas, he feared he would have attacked Arenas. "The thing is, the whole thing stems from Gilbert telling them not to put me in the game. I didn't come to practice because I was going to be a distraction. I was going to slap the (expletive) out of him," Brown told the paper. "I'll admit it, what I did was wrong - not showing up was wrong - but I ain't saying what I would've done if I showed up would've been right. Being that I didn't show up, I didn't put my hands on nobody. How a teammate, a supposed friend, would go to a coach and tell him don't put me in a game, I would've done something seriously wrong to him." Arenas has denied telling the team not to play Brown.

**AROUND THE NBA:** The Milwaukee Bucks signed forward Josh Davis to a free-agent contract, General Manager Larry Harris said. Davis played 42 games with the Philadelphia 76ers last season, averaging 2.8 points and 1.9 rebounds.

## BOXING

**JONES PONDERS FUTURE:** Roy Jones Jr., a former champion in four weight classes, failed in his bid to regain the IBO light heavyweight crown from Antonio Tarver on Saturday night, losing a unanimous 12-round decision that raised more questions about whether it's time for him to retire. Jones said he's not sure. "I'm a true champion," he said. "Being the champion I am, I may come back." The loss was his second to Tarver in 16 months. Jones has dropped three straight fights, two by knockouts, after winning 49 of his first 50 pro bouts.

## TENNIS

**FEDERER WINS THAILAND OPEN:** Roger Federer won the Thailand Open title for the second straight year, defeating Andy Murray 6-3, 7-5 in Bangkok. Federer, ranked No. 1, has won 24 consecutive ATP finals, including seven this season. "I had to work hard to get to this point," Federer said. "There are tough challengers, but not this week. I'm amazed with myself, and hopefully I'll keep doing this in the future."

**MORE TENNIS:** Igor Andreev rebounded from a first-set wipeout to defeat Filippo Volandri 0-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the Palermo International final in Palermo, Sicily, for his second ATP title. . . . Jonas Bjorkman defeated third-seeded Radek Stepanek 6-3, 7-6 (4) to win the inaugural Vietnam Open in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for his first ATP title since 2002. . . . Nicole Vaidisova rallied past top-seeded Jelena Jankovic 7-5, 6-3 to win the Korea Open in Seoul, South Korea. . . . Yan Zi won her first WTA singles title, winning the Guangzhou International when Nuria Llagostera Vives stopped in the second set because of a strained left hamstring. Yan, unseeded and ranked No. 163, won the first set 6-4 and was ahead 4-0 in the second when her sixth-seeded opponent quit at Guangzhou, China.




AP PHOTO

The car of Casey Mears (41) spins out after a crash in the UAW-Ford 500 at Talladega, Ala. Five Chase for the Championship drivers suffered some accident-related damage during the race.

## OTHER SPORTS

**HORSE RACING:** The Daddy beat A.P. Arrow by a neck Saturday in the $750,000 Grade II Super Derby at Louisiana Downs in Bossier City, La., in a race marred by the death of Royal Saint, who collapsed in midstretch. The Daddy, in his fourth career start, was briefly headed by Kilates Kiss on the second turn. He regained the lead and had just enough to hold off A.P. Arrow on the outside in the 1¼-mile race for 3-year-olds. Ridden by 17-year-old apprentice Pablo Morales, The Daddy's third victory earned him a ticket to the Breeders' Cup on Oct. 29 at Belmont Park, owner Greg Norman said. . . . Funfair beat Artie Schiller by a head in Sunday's $350,000 Kelso Breeders' Cup Handicap for horses 3 and older at Belmont Park. Ridden by Edgar Prado, Funfair covered one mile in 1:32.95 over firm turf and paid $29.20. Sensation defeated Swap Fliparoo by 5½ lengths in the co-featured $106,600 Astarita Stakes for 2-year-old fillies. Sensation covered 6½ furlongs in 1:16.90 to earn $63,960 for Castletop Farm and Cobra Stable.

**ROAD RACING:** A 10-mile race that had attracted about 20,000 runners grew by a mile when a suspicious package under a bridge prompted organizers to change their route. The Army's annual "Ten-Miler" road race from Arlington, Va., to Washington and back became an unofficial "fun run" when a Washington police harbor unit found the package under the 14th Street Bridge, a part of the route. Before runners reached the bridge, race organizers decided to turn them back, said a spokeswoman for the Military District of Washington. Police later said it was harmless.

## COLLEGES

**TULANE FALLS IN VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER:** Tulane libero Kelli Dickson had 24 digs and three Green Wave players had 10 or more kills, but Tulane fell to Houston in four games in a volleyball match in College Station, Texas. Tulane fell to 1-4 and 0-2 in CUSA play. Houston is 6-8 and 1-1. . . . Despite one goal apiece from Jill Sharp and Jackie Obert, the Tulane women's soccer team (0-5, 0-2) fell 3-2 to UAB (5-5-1) in Birmingham.

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL BY THE NUMBERS

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

### FINAL STANDINGS

**East**

| Team | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Atlanta | 90 | 72 | .556 | — |
| Philadelphia | 88 | 74 | .543 | 2 |
| Florida | 83 | 79 | .512 | 7 |
| New York | 83 | 79 | .512 | 7 |
| Washington | 81 | 81 | .500 | 9 |
| **Central** | | | | |
| x-St. Louis | 100 | 62 | .617 | — |
| y-Houston | 89 | 73 | .549 | 11 |
| Milwaukee | 81 | 81 | .500 | 19 |
| Chicago | 79 | 83 | .488 | 21 |
| Cincinnati | 73 | 89 | .451 | 27 |
| Pittsburgh | 67 | 95 | .414 | 33 |
| **West** | | | | |
| x-San Diego | 82 | 80 | .506 | — |
| Arizona | 77 | 85 | .475 | 5 |
| San Francisco | 75 | 87 | .463 | 7 |
| Los Angeles | 71 | 91 | .438 | 11 |
| Colorado | 67 | 95 | .414 | 15 |

### SCORES

**Sunday's results**

Houston 6, Chicago 4
Philadelphia 9, Washington 3
Florida 7, Atlanta 6, 10 innings
Colorado 11, New York 3
Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 1
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 5
San Diego 3, Los Angeles 1
San Francisco 3, Arizona 1
**END REGULAR SEASON**

**Saturday's results**

Houston 3, Chicago 1
Philadelphia 8, Washington 4
Arizona 2, San Francisco 1, 11 innings
St. Louis 9, Cincinnati 6
Florida 6, Atlanta 4
Pittsburgh 5, Milwaukee 1
New York 3, Colorado 1
Los Angeles 2, San Diego 1

### PLAYOFF MATCHUPS

**Atlanta Braves vs. Houston Astros**
(Time, TV TBA; Games 4 and 5, if necessary)
Game 1: Wednesday at Atlanta
Game 2: Thursday at Atlanta
Game 3: Saturday at Houston
Game 4: Oct. 9 at Houston
Game 5: Oct. 10 at Atlanta

**San Diego Padres vs. St. Louis Cardinals**
(Time, TV TBA; Games 4 and 5, if necessary)
Game 1: Tuesday at St. Louis, noon ESPN
Game 2: Thursday at St. Louis
Game 3: Saturday at San Diego
Game 4: Oct. 9 at San Diego
Game 5: Oct. 10 at St. Louis

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

### FINAL STANDINGS

**East**

| Team | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-New York | 95 | 67 | .586 | — |
| y-Boston | 95 | 67 | .586 | — |
| Toronto | 80 | 82 | .494 | 15 |
| Baltimore | 74 | 88 | .457 | 21 |
| Tampa Bay | 67 | 95 | .414 | 28 |
| **Central** | | | | |
| x-Chicago | 99 | 63 | .611 | — |
| Cleveland | 93 | 69 | .574 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 83 | 79 | .512 | 16 |
| Detroit | 71 | 91 | .438 | 28 |
| Kansas City | 56 | 106 | .346 | 43 |
| **West** | | | | |
| x-Los Angeles | 95 | 67 | .586 | — |
| Oakland | 88 | 74 | .543 | 7 |
| Texas | 79 | 83 | .488 | 16 |
| Seattle | 69 | 93 | .426 | 26 |

### SCORES

**Sunday's results**

Boston 10, New York 1
Chicago 3, Cleveland 1
Toronto 7, Kansas City 2
Los Angeles 7, Texas 4
Minnesota 6, Detroit 4
Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 2
Oakland 8, Seattle 3
**END REGULAR SEASON**

**Saturday's results**

New York 8, Boston 4
Chicago 4, Cleveland 3
Oakland 4, Seattle 3
Kansas City 7, Toronto 6
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 3
Minnesota 3, Detroit 0
Los Angeles 7, Texas 6

### PLAYOFF MATCHUPS

**Los Angeles Angels vs. New York Yankees**
(Time, TV TBA; Games 4 and 5, if necessary)
Game 1: Tuesday at Anaheim, 7 p.m. Fox
Game 2: Wednesday at Anaheim
Game 3: Friday at New York
Game 4: Saturday at New York
Game 5: Oct. 9 at Anaheim

**Boston Red Sox vs. Chicago White Sox**
(Time, TV TBA; Games 4 and 5, if necessary)
Game 1: Tuesday at Chicago, 3 p.m. ESPN
Game 2: Wednesday at Chicago
Game 3: Friday at Boston
Game 4: Saturday at Boston
Game 5: Oct. 9 at Chicago

# Astros, Red Sox gain wild-card berths

*Yankees to begin playoffs on the road*

**From wire reports**

Roy Oswalt became the first pitcher since 2001-02 with consecutive 20-win seasons, and

the Houston Astros clinched the NL wild card on the final day of the regular season — just like they did last year.

With their 6-4 victory over the Cubs on Sunday, the Astros, 15-30 after a loss to the Cubs on May 24, became the first team since the 1914 Boston Braves to make the playoffs after being as many as 15 games under .500 in the same season.

Houston (89-73) will play Atlanta in a rematch of last year's NL division series, won by the Astros in five games. The Braves were 5-1 against Houston this season, including a four-game sweep in Atlanta, where Game 1 is Wednesday.

By winning their regular season finale, the Astros avoided a tie with Philadelphia for the wild card. The Phillies (88-74) won 9-3 at Washington on Sunday to finish a game behind Houston.

**BOSTON BONANZA:** The Boston Red Sox joined the New York Yankees in the playoffs and made their rivals' road just a little tougher.

Reigning World Series MVP Manny Ramirez hit a three-run homer and also threw out Derek Jeter from the outfield on Sunday, and Curt Schilling shut the Yankees down long enough for the Red Sox to defeat them 10-1 and clinch the AL wild-card berth.

Boston opens the playoffs Tuesday at Chicago. New York's loss meant it will start the postseason Tuesday at Anaheim rather than at home against the Angels.

The Cleveland Indians lost 3-1 to the Chicago White Sox, assuring Boston of the AL's last playoff spot. Boston and New York each finished the year 95-67, and the Yankees won the division title because they beat the Red Sox 10-9 in the season series. The Angels also finished 95-67 and earned the home-field advantage against New York because they won the season series 6-4.

# Choi starts strong, wins in Greensboro

**By Keith Parsons**
AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, N.C. — K.J. Choi had the look of a champion from the start.

"You can tell when someone is in the zone by his eyes," said Choi's caddie, Andy Prodger. "And you could see it in his eyes."

Four consecutive birdies to open the final round helped Choi win the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro on Sunday. He cruised to a two-shot victory over Shigeki Maruyama to snap a three-year losing streak.

"I really focused on my game," Choi said through an interpreter. "In Korea, in all the times, every since the last one, anytime I'm in the last group, I won it except once."

It was Choi's first PGA Tour victory since 2002, when he won two tournaments, including the HP Classic of New Orleans. He finished with a 6-under 66 for a 22-under 266 total, one stroke short of Jesper Parnevik's tournament record from 1999.

Maruyama shot a 67. First-round leader Charles Warren, who tied the Forest Oaks Country Club record of 62 before faltering the past two days, rebounded with a 65 to tie Brandt Jobe (67) and Jason Bohn (70) for third.

"K.J. got off to the kind of start that everybody wanted," said Bohn, who locked up a spot in next week's $7.5 million American Express Championship. "After that, I was just firing at a lot of pins coming in, and that led to some bogeys. But I was trying to win."

# Hornets are facing off-court issues

**HORNETS,** *from C-1*

Shinn bought out Wooldridge earlier this year.

"The Charlotte/New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets have certainly emerged as one of the sports industry's all-time most interesting franchises," said David M. Carter, the principal owner of The Sports Business Group, a Redondo Beach, Calif.-based company that provides marketing and consulting services for the sports industry. "Their inability to gain traction with and within the cities in which they have played, coupled with volatile ownership and unforeseen circumstances, has made it very difficult to establish a committed fan base.

"The only other franchise that comes to mind in terms of seemingly persistent turmoil is the Oakland/Los Angeles/Oakland Raiders. The lawsuits, the multiple relocations, and the non-traditional fan base all contributes to the team's brand ñ sometimes for the better, often for the worse."

In Charlotte, the Hornets led the league in attendance for eight consecutive seasons before the downward spiral began in 1997 when Shinn's trial for sexual assault appeared on Court TV for two consecutive weeks, becoming an irrecoverable public relations disaster for him and the franchise.

When he brought NBA basketball to Charlotte in 1988, the city threw a parade in his honor. During the 2001-02 season, Shinn's reputation in Charlotte became so bad that he rarely made public appearances, skipping nearly all of the Hornetsë games that were played at Charlotte Coliseum.

"I know he went through a lot in Charlotte," said Steve Martin, former Hornets vice president of broadcast operations who now does the radio broadcasts for the Charlotte Bobcats. "I mean he was really under assault in Charlotte. It was an interesting transformation because when he brought the franchise to Charlotte a lot of people were mentioning him as a possible candidate for governor, and then it gets to the end and he can't even walk down the street."

The Hornets never got their fan base back in Charlotte, and couldn't work out a deal with city officials to get a downtown arena built that would ensure the franchise of much-needed revenue streams like luxury suites and club seats that Charlotte Coliseum lacked.

During the season before the Hornets relocated to New Orleans, they averaged a league-worst 11,286 per game.

Once they left Charlotte, Shinn and Wooldridge expected immediate success in New Orleans. Initially, they did, as both were welcomed warmly by the New Orleans community. But at the end of the season, they turned off some of their fan base when popular coach Paul Silas was fired after failing to advance the Hornets past the first round of the playoffs against the Philadelphia 76ers after he led the team to 47 victories in the regular season.

Before the start of the 2003-04 season, the Hornets hired Tim Floyd, mainly because of his successful stint as coach at UNO. But most of his players didn't respect his authority or his NBA coaching record, which was 49-190 in 3½ seasons with the Chicago Bulls.

Under Floyd, the Hornets finished 41-41 and were eliminated in a decisive seventh game by the Miami Heat on the road.

The day after the season ended, longtime general manager Bob Bass resigned and Floyd was eventually fired before Scott was hired as the franchise's third coach in three seasons.

Last season, the Hornets finished with the worst record in franchise history at 18-64 and had to dump franchise player Baron Davis at the trading deadline for a backup point guard. Off the court, they experienced a high percentage of turnover in the front office. In May, eight former employees filed a lawsuit alleging that the team had a practice of requiring people to work overtime without getting paid, which is a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The case remains pending in U.S. Federal District Court.

"As tough as the ups and downs have been for the Hornets, they never had trouble making payroll," said Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp, a Chicago-based consulted firm. "There have been some professional sports franchises with some serious problems, the Hornets are at least financially solvent."

Shinn has gone full circle, pushing ahead with eagerness and showing little regard for all of his franchise's past problems. He's like he was in 2002 when the Hornets had to achieve benchmarks to get their New Orleans relocation bid approved by the league's Board of Governors.

To help drum up support for his team in Oklahoma City, he's gone to rotary clubs and anywhere else where a crowd is gathered to convert them into Hornets fans.

"I've been through a lot, and I just feel like the bottom line to get through certain things is having faith," Shinn said by telephone last week. "I came to Oklahoma City trying to be positive, knowing I got a big wall to conquer because of these salaries that I've got to pay whether we play or not. I've got employees who are depending on me, so I just can't sit still. I've got to sell what I believe in and that's the Hornets. I'm going to be speaking and preaching and we're going to make the best of it."

SPORTS

# Chargers pummel depleted Patriots

## *Defending champions lose rare home game*

**By Dave Goldberg**
AP sports writer

FOXBORO, MASS. — The New England Patriots couldn't plug the holes left by injuries – not against Drew Brees and San Diego's explosive offense.

The Chargers handed the Patriots their first loss at Gillette Stadium in 22 games Sunday, beating them 41-17 as Brees threw for two touchdowns, LaDainian Tomlinson ran for two and Antonio Gates had six catches for 108 yards.

The loss was the first in Foxboro for the Patriots since Dec. 22, 2002, when they were beaten by the New York Jets. That was the only season in the past four in which they failed to win the Super Bowl.

The last time the Patriots started a season 2-2 was 2003, though they went on to win the title that year anyway.

Though the score was tied at 17 at the half, Brees took advantage of a secondary that was without two of its top three cornerbacks and safety Rodney Harrison, lost for the year with a knee injury. Harrison's absence was clearly felt on one play in the third quarter when backup running back Michael Turner ran right through Harrison's replacement, Guss Scott, on the way to an 18-yard gain.

That drive ended with a 28-yard touchdown pass to Reche Caldwell that gave San Diego (2-2) a 31-17 lead. Brees also threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Keenan McCardell in the second quarter.

Gates also leaped over Scott to take in a 38-yard pass from Brees at the New England 1 on the first series of the second half. That set up a 1-yard touchdown run by former LSU standout Kevin Faulk, which broke the 17-17 tie.

Tomlinson finished with 134 yards on 25 carries and overall, San Diego rushed for 183 yards against a defense that also is without last year's starting inside linebackers, Tedy Bruschi and Ted Johnson.

That first half included a rarity – a missed field goal attempt by New England's Adam Vinatieri, who was wide right from 37 yards on the Patriots' first possession.

One of the San Diego scores, the pass from Brees to McCardell, came after a drive that covered 101 yards because of penalties against the Chargers. The other came on an 8-yard touchdown run by Tomlinson, extending his NFL record to 16 consecutive games with a rushing touchdown.

New England scored on Corey Dillon's 1-yard run and a 30-yard pass from Tom Brady to Tim Dwight, who was released by San Diego in March. Vinatieri's 24-yard field goal with 21 seconds left in the half tied the score.

The final score came on an interception by Donnie Edwards of a pass by third-string quarterback Matt Cassell that was lateraled to Clinton Hart. Hart ran 40 yards for the touchdown.



AP PHOTO

San Diego running back LaDainian Tomlinson rushed for 134 yards and two touchdowns and the Chargers routed the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

# Buccaneers turn back Lions to stay unbeaten

## *Rookie Williams ailing, but Tampa Bay still rolls*

**By Fred Goodall**
AP sports writer

TAMPA, FLA. — Carnell "Cadillac" Williams has been such a big part of Tampa Bay's success that the rest of the Buccaneers offense has gone mostly unnoticed in the team's first 4-0 start since 1997.

With the rookie slowed by a sore hamstring Sunday, Joey Galloway and Michael Pittman took up the slack, and the Bucs' defense stopped a drive deep in its territory to hang on for a 17-13 victory against the Detroit Lions.

Galloway scored on an 80-yard reception, and Brian Griese threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Pittman, Williams' backup.

The Lions had trouble moving the ball all day, but Joey Harrington led a drive from Detroit's 7 to the Tampa Bay 11 in the last five minutes.

Harrington found Marcus Pollard in the right corner of the end zone, but the tight end's sliding catch was reversed by instant replay. Harrington found Mike Williams on the opposite side of the end zone on the next play, but the rookie came down out of bounds. Harrington overthrew Charles Rogers on the last play of the game.

Williams, the first player in NFL history to begin his career with three consecutive 100-yard rushing games, was held to 13 yards on 11 carries. He left late in the third quarter and did not return. He also has been slowed by a sprained foot.

But in slowing down the league's leading rusher, the Lions left themselves vulnerable to Galloway and Pittman.

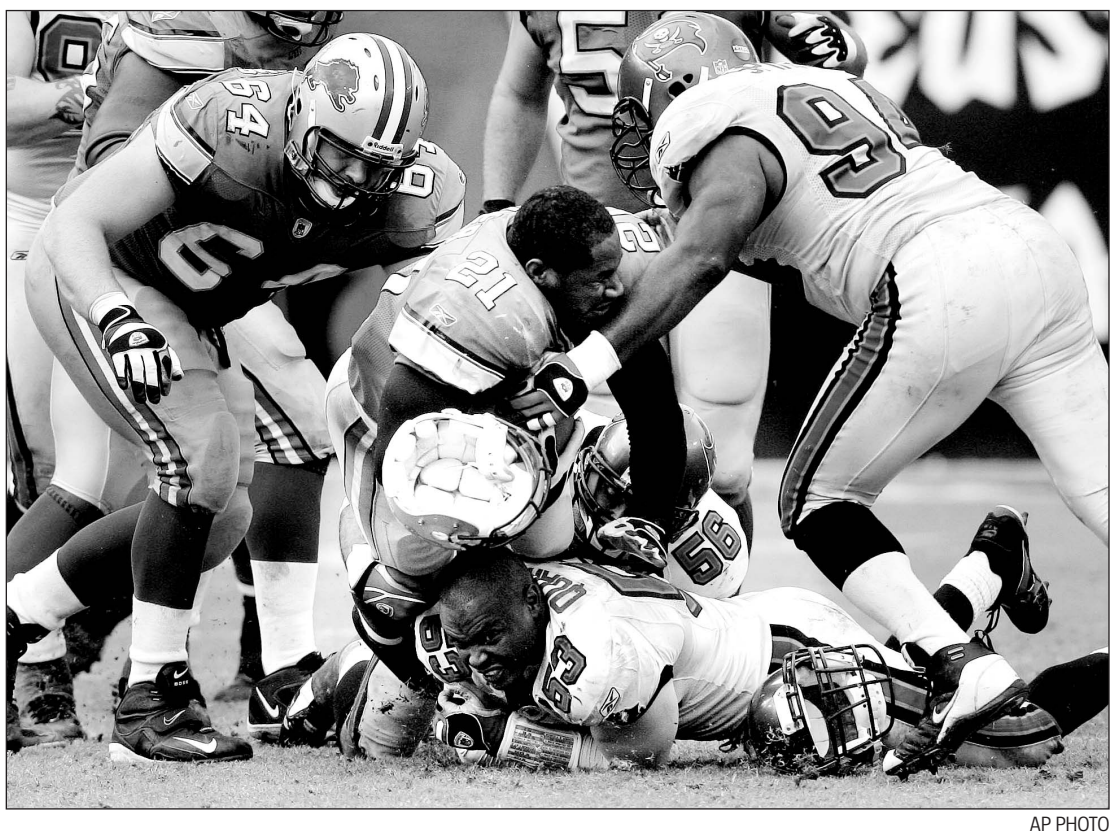
Griese threw for 302 yards and made up for three turnovers that set up all of Detroit's points with his touchdown throws to Pittman and Galloway, who had seven receptions for a career-high 166 yards.

Detroit turned Griese's first-quarter fumble into a 44-yard Jason Hanson field goal, and linebacker Teddy Lehman returned an interception 17 yards to the Bucs' 8. That set up Kevin Jones's 8-yard touchdown run that put the Lions ahead 10-3.

Pittman's touchdown made it 10-10 at the half, and Griese hit Galloway on a slant pattern early in the third quarter to put the Bucs ahead for good. Terrence Holt returned Detroit's third interception of Griese 51 yards to the Tampa Bay 23, setting up a 23-yard field goal that trimmed the Lions' deficit to 17-13 midway through the fourth.

Harrington was 15-of-27 for 137 yards and no interceptions.

Griese finished 22-of-39 and was sacked three times.



AP PHOTO

The Tampa Bay defense was dominant against Detroit on Sunday, holding the Lions' running back Artose Pinner to 28 yards rushing.

# Vick injured, but Falcons wallop Vikings

## *Atlanta quarterback has sprained right knee*

**By Paul Newberry**
AP sports writer

ATLANTA — Michael Vick played about 22 minutes Sunday, more than enough for the Atlanta Falcons to beat the Minnesota Vikings.

Vick left midway through the second quarter after spraining his right knee, and he watched the rest of the game from the sideline as backup Matt Schaub and the Falcons' defense finished off a 30-10 rout of the Vikings (1-3).

Baton Rouge native Warrick Dunn rushed for 126 yards, including his 50th career touchdown on a 37-yard run, to lead a 274-yard rushing performance by the Falcons. Vick ran for 58 yards and threw a touchdown pass before getting hurt.

The Falcons' defense made things miserable for Daunte Culpepper, who was sacked nine times, intercepted twice and lost a fumble.

The Minnesota quarterback has been sacked 16 times the past two weeks and looked especially gun-shy on his fumble. Rod Coleman brushed Culpepper's hip as he drew back to throw, the ball fell out of the quarterback's hand, and Patrick Kerney recovered.

Coleman, Brady Smith and Demorrio Williams had two sacks apiece for the Falcons (3-1), who had their most sacks since a franchise-record 10 against the Saints in 1997.

Vick guided the Falcons to a 14-0 lead on their first two possessions. He threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crumpler, setting it up with runs of 23 and 24 yards. Then, Vick directed a 14-play drive capped by T.J. Duckett's 1-yard plunge.

On the first play of Atlanta's next possession, Vick rolled right to throw and was hit hard by Minnesota's Erasmus James after throwing an incomplete pass. James fell on top of the quarterback as they tumbled to the turf. Vick grabbed at his shin and remained down for several minutes. Vick climbed to his feet and walked slowly off the field to a standing ovation. The team said he had a strained medial collateral ligament and wouldn't return.

Schaub took over and led the Falcons to a 24-0 halftime lead. Dunn scored his first touchdown of the season from 37 yards, wriggling into the end zone on his back.

Then Schaub led a hurried drive to the first of three field goals by Todd Peterson. The backup quarterback broke runs of 21 and 23 yards to set up Peterson's 38-yard kick with one second left in the half.

Schaub didn't do much the rest of the way, going 5-of-14 for 39 yards.

Vick's status for next week's game against defending Super Bowl champion New England wasn't known, but the injury didn't appear too serious.

The Atlanta offense, with and without Vick, had its way against the injury-depleted Vikings, who played without Darren Sharper, Kenechi Udeze, Brian Williams and Lance Johnstone.

The Vikings scored with 2 1/2 minutes remaining when Culpepper teamed with Troy Williamson on a 16-yard touchdown pass.

# Bengals overcome injuries, Texans to remain unbeaten

## *Eagles get past Chiefs; Redskins prevail in OT*

**From wire reports**

The Cincinnati Bengals improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1988 – the last they made the Super Bowl – with a 16-10 victory Sunday over the Houston Texans.

"Everybody was going with some type of injury," said the Bengals' Willie Anderson, a Pro Bowl right tackle who threw his back out before the kickoff and hurt his nose during the game. "That's the type of character this team has now."

The Bengals had 14 penalties for 117 yards – one of them wiped out T.J. Houshmandzadeh's touchdown catch – and lost both of their veteran centers to knee injuries in the second quarter. They absorbed the penalties, shuffled the line and gritted it out.

"We had some dumb mistakes," quarterback Carson Palmer said. "We're not always perfect."

Houshmandzadeh caught eight passes for 105 yards, steadying an offense that had to grind it out for the first time this season.

With 3:14 left, Houston quarterback David Carr was hit by Justin Smith while his arm was cocked, and the ball slipped out of his hand as he started throwing. John Thornton fell on the ball, and referee Larry Nemmers upheld the call on review, costing the Texans their final timeout.

"We all thought it was going to be overturned," Texans right tackle Todd Wade said. "That's why we stayed on the field. Apparently, they saw it otherwise."

Graham kicked a field goal from 46 yards for the final points. Six plays later, Carr was sacked at midfield as time ran out.

Palmer went 25-of-34 for 276 yards and a touchdown.

**EAGLES 37 at CHIEFS 30:** Donovan McNabb completed 33 of 48 passes for 369 yards and three touchdowns as Philadelphia (3-1) held off Kansas City (2-2).

Terrell Owens caught 11 for 170 yards and a touchdown for the Eagles.

Trent Green was 19-of-30 for 221 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Chiefs, who closed to the final margin with 1:24 left on Green's 15-yard touchdown pass to Dante Hall.

**REDSKINS 20 vs. SEAHAWKS 17, OT:** Rookie Nick Novak kicked a 39-yard field goal 5:31 into overtime to give Washington its first 3-0 start since 1991, the season the Redskins won their last Super Bowl.

The Seahawks (2-2) tied the game on Darrell Jackson's 6-yard catch with 1:23 remaining. They got the ball back on Kelly Herndon's interception on a pass deflected off the fingertips of Clinton Portis, the only turnover of the game. Three plays later, Josh Brown hit an upright from 47 yards.

Novak was playing because of an injury to John Hall. Novak's first NFL attempt Sunday was blocked. He had to kick the winner twice because the Redskins were called for delay of game on the first try.

**BRONCOS 20 at JAGUARS 7:** Jake Plummer threw two touchdown passes to backup offensive lineman Dwayne Carswell, and Mike Anderson and Tatum Bell combined for 175 yards rushing for Denver.

The Broncos (3-1) won their third straight despite a short week that followed a Monday night victory against Kansas City.

Fred Taylor carried eight times for 14 yards, and the Jaguars (2-2) finished with a franchise-low 12 yards rushing.

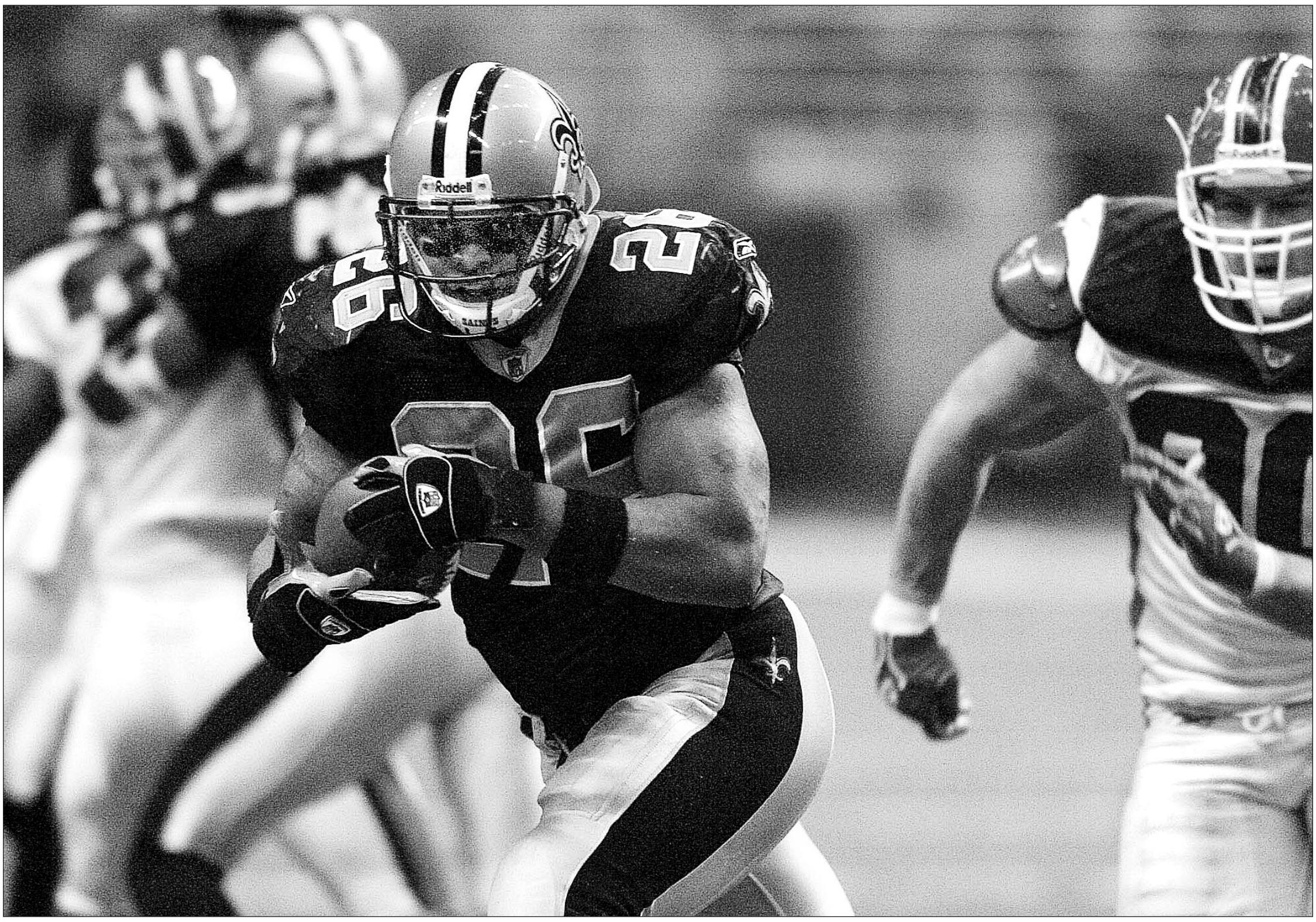
**RAVENS 13 vs. JETS 3:** Jamal Lewis scored on a 1-yard run, Matt Stover kicked two field goals, and Baltimore (1-2) sacked Brooks Bollinger five times.

The Ravens held Curtis Martin to 30 yards on 13 carries and harassed Bollinger for much of the game. Playing in his second NFL game and first as a starter, Bollinger went 14-for-28 for 149 yards in place of injured starter Chad Pennington, out for the season with a torn right rotator cuff. Backup Jay Fiedler also is out with an injury, and the Jets (1-3) made only six first downs and had 90 yards in offense through the first 56 minutes.

Lewis ran for 81 yards on 29 carries, and Anthony Wright was 15-for-21 for 144 yards for the Ravens.

**RAIDERS 19 vs. COWBOYS 13:** Sebastian Janikowski kicked four field goals to boost Oakland (1-3) past Dallas (2-2).

LaMont Jordan rushed 26 times for 126 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders. Drew Bledsoe was 11-of-26 for 212 yards, a touchdown and an interception for Dallas.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Deuce McAllister rushed for 130 yards on 27 carries, including 83 on 10 carries in the Saints' final two possessions. Offensive lineman Wayne Gandy said of McAllister: 'When we can get late in a game like that, up six, up seven or up eight, and really get to use what he can do, it's a great advantage to have.'

# N.O. is happy to even record at 2-2

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

them those spectacular back-to-back losses at New York and Minnesota.

"Coaches try to break the season down into four quarters," safety Dwight Smith said. "We put ourselves into a hole, but we tied it up at the end of the first quarter. Hopefully from here, we can turn the season into 12 games, and at worst come out 8-4.

"We've got 12 games left, three quarters left. And we don't want any more 2-2s."

Sunday's game started out in similar fashion to those previous two losses — the Saints trailed 7-0 after a 10-play, 75-yard touchdown drive on the Bills' opening possession.

Saints defensive coordinator Rick Venturi admitted he was upset but not exactly worried, because he sensed the energy and the attitude were there, and the early mistakes were correctable ones.

"I didn't feel like it was last week, when we were kind of sleepwalking," Venturi said.

Sure enough, the Bills didn't score another point.

In fact, after that opening drive, Buffalo gained just 133 yards, and finished with 208 total.

Struggling second-year quarterback J.P. Losman, a former Tulane standout, lost his grip on the starting job when he was pulled in favor of Kelly Holcomb in the second half. Combined, the Bills' passing game accounted for just 67 yards, with no touchdowns and one interception.

Once the Saints took a 10-7 lead in the second quarter on quarterback Aaron Brooks' four-yard run, then added to it with three more John Carney field goals, the Saints' defense was able to apply pressure on the Bills.

The Saints did an excellent job of putting the clamps on dangerous Bills tailback Willis McGahee. Saints defensive ends Darren Howard, Charles Grant and Will Smith sacked Losman and Holcomb a combined four times.

"That's what we want to do, put teams in situations like that, so we can have a chance to mess up the quarterback," Grant said. "I think if we can do that, we'll be a great football team. We keep that up, we'll be a top-10, top-five defense."

The biggest defensive play of the game came early in the fourth quarter, when the Bills still trailed only 13-7 and elected to go for it on fourth-and-inches near midfield.

Dwight Smith rushed in and wrapped up McGahee for a two-yard loss.

"Dwight's a playmaker. He's that kind of guy. That's why he's here," Venturi said. "He's really going to make an impact and be a team leader here. I'm so proud of him, because as you know, I desperately wanted him."

The Saints' offense was not exactly explosive. But by leading throughout much of the game, the Saints were also able to stay committed to their running game.

Tailback Deuce McAllister carried the ball 27 times for 130 yards — 83 coming on two fourth-quarter drives that sealed the game.

The Saints finished with a 12-minute advantage in time of possession.

"We have one of the top three or four guys in the league, in my opinion," Saints left tackle Wayne Gandy said of McAllister. "And when we can get late in a game like that, up six, up seven or up eight, and really get to use what he can do, it's a great advantage to have."

The momentum was in the Saints' favor all afternoon in the first semblance of a home game they have had all season.

A crowd of 58,688 was in the Alamodome stands. The game was more than 6,000 tickets shy of a sellout, but those that did show up were vocal and enthusiastic, raising the decibel level significantly in pivotal moments for the Bills' offense.

Gandy said the game was "100 times better than what we've been doing." And Grant gave the fans from San Antonio, Louisiana and scattered points in between an "A-plus, A-plus, A-plus."

"It was great. The atmosphere was wonderful, man," Grant said. "I hope we have it like that in every home game we play here."

# Saints rise to occasion in new surroundings

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

His next kick was to McGee, and there McGee went, sideline to sideline, ever forward, looking for the end zone.

"I kept backpedaling," Thomas said. "And he kept on coming. I don't know how many blockers he had in front of him. It looked like he was inside an egg shell."

Well, finally, by the time McGee reached the Saints' 10, Thomas was blocked and, as he hit the ground, "I reached up and pulled him down with my right hand."

If McGee hadn't run so far, maybe more than 100 yards, Thomas figured, "he'd run right through my hand."

It was a hand that deprived the Bills of a 14-13 halftime lead, representing a huge change in momentum.

Smith stepped up early in the fourth quarter, with the Saints still holding a six-point lead, with the Bills on the move, facing fourth-and-inches at the Saints' 48.

Not surprisingly, they went for the 10 inches, figuring Willis McGahee was good as gold in that spot.

"The coaches made the call and I'm blitzing," Smith said. "It was like basketball. The coach calls a back screen and you're supposed to make a layup. I came on a blitz and I made the tackle. If I don't, it's like missing a layup."

Smith's "layup" was a matter of knifing in and nailing McGahee in his tracks.

How big a play? "Biggest of the game," Haslett said.

There were more, of course.

There was Aaron Brooks running the ball, three times for first downs, once four yards for a touchdown. With injured Joe Horn missing only his second Saints game in five years, there was also Brooks finding Donte' Stallworth eight times for 129 yards, three times on 20-plus-yard strikes, enough to keep the chains moving, setting up one touchdown and three field goals.

After playing closer to home than they've played all season, the Saints will go north next week to face a Green Bay team that has gotten off to a stumbling, fumbling start.

Neither the weather, nor the crowd, will be as warm as it was Sunday.

Haslett called Sunday's crowd, a "mixture of New Orleans and San Antonio people," refreshing.

In the NFL, it's always "refreshing" to win.

Listen to Dwight Smith.

"I look at this as the end of the first quarter of a four-quarter season," he said. "We're 2-2. We'd like to be 8-4 after the third quarter. And then? We'll see."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie brings down Buffalo's Willis McGahee, who rushed for 84 yards and a touchdown.

# Thomas keeps game from turning

## *TD would have given Bills a halftime lead*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — As a winded Buffalo Bills kick returner Terrence McGee stumbled toward the end zone Sunday, only Saints cornerback Fred Thomas stood between him and an improbable touchdown.

"They had three players out there in front of him, and I was just backing up trying to bide time until my teammates could catch up," Thomas said. "Out of the corner of my eye I saw that I was on the 10, so I knew I had to make a move.

"The (blocker) I cut down fell on top of me, so I just took a shot. Luckily I grabbed (McGee's) foot and pulled him down. He tried to jump over us and I grabbed his foot. He'd probably already run about 200 yards. If he had been fresh, my hand probably wouldn't have bothered him. When I say I barely got his foot, I barely got his foot."

Thomas' touchdown-saving tackle preserved a 13-7 lead at halftime, and the Saints went on to snap a two-game losing streak with a 19-7 victory in the first NFL regular-season game at the Alamodome.

In a game of few highlights, Thomas' gem proved to be the biggest play of the game, according to teammates.

"That would have been absolutely deflating for us if they would have actually scored on that play," Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie said. "That was a tremendous play for us."

"That was real big," Saints center LeCharles Bentley said. "Fred was fighting and being tenacious. Those are the types of plays we need to be making all year. You can say woulda, coulda, shoulda all you want, but the most important thing is we made the play."

"My gosh, it was huge," Saints tight end Ernie Conwell said. "Does it get any bigger than that? You can speculate on what it might have done for them. If they end up scoring and go into the second half with the lead, they've got all kinds of momentum.

"But thanks to Freddy they didn't score, so how disheartening was that? Everybody is on their sideline jumping up and down celebrating because they thought they had a touchdown, and then all of sudden they go, 'No-ooo!' That's why it took everybody so long to get off the field, because everybody was in such disbelief. They thought he had to score; he couldn't be down."

McGee caught John Carney's squib kick on a dead run at the Bills' 15 and headed toward the Saints' sideline. It appeared that the Saints' coverage team had McGee penned around midfield, but he slid past a few tacklers and stayed on his feet.

He cut across the field and picked up additional blockers, and had only Thomas to beat.

"I was trying to make something happen," McGee said. "It could have been the points we needed. We needed a touchdown and a big play. I just came up short and didn't get it in the end zone."

"You can't put in the paper what I was thinking," Thomas said. "It was just luck, because there were so many Bills out there. It wasn't exciting for me. It was scary."



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Saints defensive end Charles Grant (94) congratulates Darren Howard after Howard sacked Bills quarterback J.P. Losman. Howard had two of the Saints' four sacks, and Grant had one.

# Saints receiver proving his worth

## *Stallworth rebounds from slow start, catches eight passes*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — With the Saints' four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Joe Horn sitting out Sunday's game with an injured hamstring, Donte' Stallworth knew he had to step up and meet the challenge.

And he did, catching a game-high eight passes for 129 yards in the Saints' 19-7 victory against the Buffalo Bills at the Alamodome.

"I started off slow," Stallworth said. "I should have got a first down on that little slant route in the first quarter but I didn't realize I was that close to the sticks. And then I dropped a comeback on our sideline. I'm just glad Shep (offensive coordinator Mike Sheppard) and Haz (Coach Jim Haslett) kept coming to me.

"They had faith in me and what I can do. I just wanted to show everybody what I can do. This is my fourth year and I still haven't proven my worth. I'm just trying to keep getting better and better. As long as Joe's (Horn) out, I'm going to have to continue playing better and better every game."

Although Saints officials didn't officially scratch Horn from the lineup until Sunday morning, Haslett said he knew earlier in the week that Horn wouldn't play.

"Donte' had a little bit of a rough start but after that, he made play after play after play," Saints wide receivers coach Jimmy Robinson said. "It just so happened that Donte' got the lion's share of the opportunities and he stepped up."

Saints left tackle Wayne Gandy applauded the crowd of 58,688 at the Alamodome with helping keep Stallworth's head in the game.

"If we're on the road and Donte' drops a couple of balls he might go in the tank," Gandy said. "He dropped a couple balls, then made a few good catches and the fans responded and then he was back up. That's the advantage of being home."

**LOSMAN YANKED:** Bills coach Mike Mularkey went to replaced starting quarterback J.P. Losman with backup Kelly Holcomb in the fourth quarter. After leading his team to a touchdown on its first possession, Losman struggled. He completed seven of 15 passes for 75 yards and one interception. "No, I'm not happy," Losman said. "You're never happy when you get pulled. Obviously, you take it personal, but it's tough." Mularkey said Losman would remain his starter for the time being. "I think everyone understands that," Mularkey said. "I was just trying to get a change of pace."

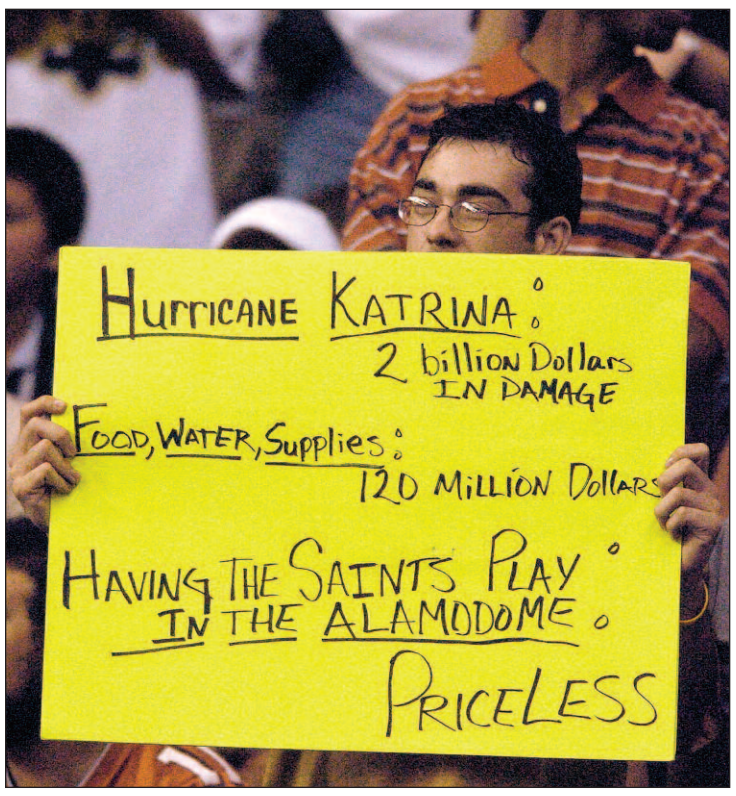
**PERSONNEL UPDATE:** Horn was among the Saints' seven inactives Sunday, only the second regular-season game he has missed since joining the team in 2000. Montrae Holland started at right guard for Jermane Mayberry (shoulder), wide receiver Devery Henderson made his first NFL start in place of Horn (hamstring), Jason Craft started at right cornerback for Fakhir Brown (knee) and rookie free safety Josh Bullocks replaced Jay Bellamy, who will undergo season-ending shoulder surgery this week.

**HALFTIME SKIRMISH:** Saints safety Dwight Smith called Bills wide receiver Eric Moulds a "coward" for spitting on one of the Saints players as the teams walked to their dressing rooms at halftime. Moulds' actions led to a brief skirmish. "One of your brothers gets spat on, we're going to react," Smith said. "I just believe it was a cowardly act."




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Buffalo quarterback J.P. Losman tries to evade Saints defensive lineman Brian Young during the second quarter of Sunday's game.




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Fans of the NFL in San Antonio were pleased to have a team to call their own, at least for three games, at the Alamodome.

## SAINTS' REPORT CARD

### OFFENSE

Nothing spectacular: Only 211 yards through three quarters and 333 for the game. But when you cut down on the penalties and turnovers on offense, good things happen. The Saints would take an efficient performance like this any Sunday. They had to be stubborn with their running game before the offensive line and Deuce McAllister finally wore down the Bills' defense in the fourth quarter. McAllister carried 10 times for 83 yards on the final two drives. Quarterback Aaron Brooks was stable, making some big third-down throws when he had to and never turning over the ball. Brooks was a weapon running the ball with seven carries for 33 yards. Receiver Donte' Stallworth stepped up big in the absence of injured Joe Horn, catching eight passes for 129 yards after a bad drop in the first quarter.

**GRADE: B**

### DEFENSE

The Bills' first offensive play was scary — a 25-yard run by tailback Willis McGahee — and Buffalo took a 7-0 lead on its opening drive. But the Saints went into shut-down mode after that. They put the clamps on McGahee, put the pressure on quarterbacks J.P. Losman and Kelly Holcomb with four sacks, and they made a game-changing play with Jason Craft's interception in the second quarter. It was the first takeaway by the Saints' defense since Week 1, and it led to a Saints' touchdown. Craft returned the interception 39 yards to the Buffalo 23-yard line.

**GRADE: A**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

The coverage units were shaky, allowing an 82-yard kickoff return and a 44-yarder. Cornerback Fred Thomas saved a touchdown on that 82-yard return at the end of the first half, making a last-ditch tackle after a half-dozen tackle attempts had been missed. Punter Mitch Berger had his usual efficient day, and place-kicker John Carney made four out of his five field-goal attempts. But the most important factor of all — the Saints did not fumble any kickoff returns for the first time in three weeks.

**GRADE: C**

### COACHING

The biggest credit to the coaching staff goes to its patience on offense. Even though the Saints seemed to be in control the entire day, they were stuck on a 13-7 lead into the fourth quarter. But instead of forcing the issue and turning over the ball, the Saints stuck with the running game, which paid big dividends on the final two drives. The defense adjusted well after allowing the opening touchdown, and McGahee — the Bills' biggest threat — was held in check.

**GRADE: A-**

**Mike Triplett**

## INSIDE THE GAME

**SCORE BY QUARTERS**

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — 7 |
| New Orleans | 0 | 13 | 0 | 6 | — 19 |

**Attendance:** 58,688

**FIRST QUARTER**
**Bills 7, Saints 0**
**Scoring play:** Willis McGahee one-yard run (Rian Lindell kick). **Time:** 9:59. **Drive:** 10 plays, 75 yards. **Time of possession:** 5:20. **Key play:** J.P. Losman scrambles 14 yards on third-and-six at the New Orleans 46.

**SECOND QUARTER**
**Bills 7, Saints 3**
**Scoring play:** John Carney 23-yard field goal. **Time:** 9:50. **Drive:** 13 plays, 56 yards. **Time of possession:** 8:04. **Key play:** Aaron Brooks throws to Donte Stallworth for 24 yards on second-and-15 at the Buffalo 35.

**Saints 10, Bills 7**
**Scoring play:** Brooks four-yard run (Carney kick). **Time:** 6:26. **Drive:** Five plays, 18 yards. **Time of possession:** 3:01. **Key play:** Jason Craft returns interception 39 yards.

**Saints 13, Bills 7**
**Scoring play:** Carney 40-yard field goal. **Time:** 0:14. **Drive:** Six plays, 43 yards. **Time of possession:** 1:13. **Key play:** Brooks throws to Stallworth for 26 yards on first-and-15 at the New Orleans 41.

**THIRD QUARTER**
No scoring

**FOURTH QUARTER**
**Saints 16, Bills 7**
**Scoring play:** Carney 20-yard field goal. **Time:** 5:49. **Drive:** 11 plays, 48 yards. **Time of possession:** 6:15. **Key play:** Brooks scrambles nine yards on third-and-five at the Buffalo 45.

**Saints 19, Bills 7**
**Scoring play:** Carney 37 field goal. **Time:** 1:13. **Drive:** Eight plays, 75 yards. **Time of possession:** 2:59. **Key play:** Deuce McAllister rushed for 65 yards on five carries during the drive.

# Mannings each throw 4 TD passes

*Younger QB has nine in four games*

**From wire reports**

Eli Manning is giving his big brother a challenge for family bragging rights.

Eli, the New York Giants' second-year quarterback, had his second straight outstanding performance Sunday, throwing for 296 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in a 44-24 win over the visiting St. Louis Rams.

That matched the day of older brother Peyton, who threw for four touchdowns in Indianapolis' 31-10 win over Tennessee. Through the first four games of the season, the younger Manning has a 9-6 lead in touchdown passes over his brother, who has been to the Pro Bowl five times in eight seasons and is a two-time league MVP. Both Mannings are alumni of Newman School.

Peyton Manning threw two TD passes Sunday to Marvin Harrison, the last of which tied the NFL record for most TDs between a quarterback and receiver.

Harrison caught nine passes for 109 yards, and Edgerrin James also ran for 90 yards in helping the Colts improve to 4-0 with their highest point total this season.

"Last week people were kind of making a big deal," Manning said of scoring 47 points in the Colts' first three games. "I overthrew it a couple times. The real mind-set is to finish drives into the end zone, and we did that today. And that really was the difference."

Manning tied Ron Jaworski with his 116th consecutive start, which ranks second among quarterbacks behind Green Bay's Brett Favre. He and Harrison tied Steve Young and Jerry Rice for most touchdowns between a quarterback and receiver with 85 career TDs on a 24-yard pass with 13:09 left in the game.

Manning was 4-of-4 for 64 yards on the opening possession and capped the drive with a 25-yard pass to Ehret alumnus Reggie Wayne.

Steve McNair was 28-of-37 for 220 yards for the Titans (1-3).

Eli Manning was 19-for-35 and threw two TD passes to Plaxico Burress ñ who had a career-high 10 catches ñ and one each to Amani Toomer and Jeremy Shockey. Manning passed for 352 yards last week in a 41-23 loss against the San Diego Chargers.

Marc Bulger finished 40-of-62 for 442 yards and two touchdowns for the Rams (2-2).

On the Giants' opening drive, Eli Manning connected with Burress on a 31-yard slant pattern. The 6-foot-5 wide receiver leaped high to catch the ball, then ran untouched into the end zone.

Manning found Burress again in the second quarter with a 17-yard touchdown pass, and also threw a 1-yard scoring pass to Toomer on a fade pattern.

With the Rams trailing 27-27, running back Steven botched a third-down handoff to Shaun McDonald on a reverse at the Giants' 6-yard line, and Fred Robbins recovered for New York.

Manning drove New York to the St. Louis 31 and feathered a pass just out of the reach of Rams safety Adam Archuleta and into the hands of Shockey. Shockey tumbled into the end zone to push the Giants' lead back to 17.




AP PHOTO

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning had a big day against AFC South rival Tennessee, beating the Titans 31-10 in Nashville, Tenn.




AP PHOTO

Eli Manning got the respect of the New York fans as he led the Giants to a 44-24 victory against the St. Louis Rams.

## YOU THE MAN-NING

Peyton and Eli Manning put up big numbers in their games Sunday. Peyton's Indianapolis Colts beat the Tennessee Titans 31-10 and Eli's New York Giants beat the St. Louis Rams 44-24. Here is a breakdown of their performances:

| PEYTON MANNING | | | ELI MANNING | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Com-Att-Int. | Yds | TD | Com-Att-Int. | Yds | TD |
| 20-27-0 | 264 | 4 | 19-35-0 | 296 | 4 |

SAINTS' NEXT FOE: SUNDAY AT GREEN BAY

# Panthers like new kid on the block

*Struggling Packers' offense missing guard Wahle*

**By Arnie Stapleton**
AP Sports Writer

The Green Bay Packers had no idea they'd miss Mike Wahle, a guard of all things, so badly.

Wahle's departure to Carolina as a free agent appears a major reason the Packers are not the fine-tuned offensive engine they've been in recent years. Tonight, the Packers will see Wahle opening holes for the Panthers' runners instead of theirs.

Wahle accepted an $11.5 million bonus to join the Panthers via free agency after spending seven seasons protecting Packers quarterback Brett Favre and opening running lanes for Green Bay's efficient ground game.

Without Wahle and fellow guard Marco Rivera, who signed with Dallas, the Packers' high-octane offense is running on fumes.

Favre, who lost top target Javon Walker to a season-ending knee injury in the opener and Pro Bowl tight end Bubba Franks with a knee injury in the second game of the season, has thrown seven interceptions, a byproduct of playing with the lead for just six of 180 minutes so far.

And Ahman Green, who has been to the Pro Bowl the past four seasons, has rushed for 58, 54 and 58 yards and has yet to score a touchdown.

For the past several seasons, Wahle was used extensively as a pulling guard to spring Green through gaping holes and to set up Favre's resourceful rollouts.

"Personally, I miss him," Packers center Mike Flanagan said. "He's a good guy. Anytime you have a friend go somewhere else, that's hard. You want the best people around you that you can have. Professionally, he's one of the best in the business. So, we miss him there, too. But this is a business."

The Packers averaged 4.3 yards per carry and 119 yards per game last year and five yards per carry and 160 yards per game in 2003. This year, they're averaging 3.3 yards a carry and 79 per game, and the team's longest run is a 20-yard scramble by Favre.

Trouble is, the Packers' offense has been predicated on the run for some time.

"It's no secret really what we do," Favre said. "The majority of our passing game I think is also the run game: play-action, keep passes, movement passes, things like that. Very rarely do we just drop straight back and throw (like) the old West Coast offense. It starts with the run game."

And the Packers sorely miss Wahle's play in that area.

"We miss his experience, size and tenacity," Green said. "You can't replace Mike Wahle; just do the best you can do with whoever it is that comes in to replace him."

The Packers plugged in oft-injured Adrian Klemm at left guard and rookie Will Whitticker at right guard, but they didn't settle on their starters until the waning days of training camp, robbing Flanagan and tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher of time to build chemistry along the line.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-8

PAGE C-7

Monday
October 3, 2005

How do you cope with catastrophe? Ask a Cajun.
**Tuesday in Living**





STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# Their *lost* senior year

*Friendships are fractured. College plans are complicated. Athletic seasons are totally screwed up. Ask any member of the* **CLASS OF 2006** *about Hurricane Katrina, and here's what they'll tell you: It blows.*

**By Barri Bronston**
Staff writer

It wasn't supposed to be this way, feeling like freshmen in their senior year.

It wasn't supposed to be a year of awkwardness, misery and homesickness. That was supposed to be NEXT year — their first year at college.

The fourth year of high school was supposed to be the coolest, most memorable year of their lives, a time to be with childhood friends one last time before heading off in different directions, a chance to be the Big Kids on Campus before starting over at the bottom of the heap.

But the storm that changed everything rewrote the yearbook for this, the Class of 2006, derailing best-laid academic and athletic plans, unraveling tight-knit circles of friends, scattering classmates to new schools and satellite campuses across the state and the country and, in some cases, erasing senior years altogether by sending gifted students into early college admissions programs.

With any luck, some may be back in their old schools by January, maybe sooner. But for now, they're just trying to make the best of a defining moment — and utterly destructive milestone — in their lives.

Heidi Heumann had looked forward to her senior year at Metairie Park Country Day since she was in kindergarten. As a senior, she looked forward to being assigned a kindergarten buddy, taking part in special cheers at the football games and donning an elegant white dress for the school's graduation ceremony in the front circle.

But after Katrina struck, she and her family evacuated to Oxford, Miss., where her brother attends Old Miss. She was able to sign up for a dual enrollment program that allows high school seniors to earn high school and college credit from Ole Miss. Her counselor and principal at Country Day gave her their blessing.

"My first reaction to not being able to have a senior year was just complete sadness," she said. "Senior year is the year everyone waits for and looks forward to. I have a very close group of friends and we were expecting to have

*See* **SENIORS**, *C-10*

# My fare city

*He hails from Bosnia and evacuated to St. Louis, but this cabbie now* **knows what it means to miss New Orleans**

**By Elizabeth Mullener**
Staff writer

When Besim Imsirovic left New Orleans early on the Saturday morning before Katrina, he left in style: in a caravan of 10 White Fleet taxis.

"It was fun, really fun," he says. "We drove 10 in a row. We all have radios in our cabs, so we called each other. We can make group calls with our radios so we talk to each other. We are laughing. Like a three-day vacation."

And then the fun stopped.

After a few days in Memphis, glued to CNN and shaken by the ruinous turn of events, the group of 10 cabbies, all of them former Bosnians, dispersed. Some went to Baltimore, some to Pittsburgh, some to Atlanta. One went back to Bosnia. Imsirovic went to St. Louis.

"I don't know why I came to St. Louis," he says. "Everybody went somewhere. We heard things about Bosnian community in St. Louis. So I thought, OK, St. Louis."

Imsirovic sits in the oppressively plain lobby of a Days' Inn motel near the St. Louis airport, where scores of hurricane evacuees have gathered. He is thin and limber at 36, with a look of grief on his face and harrowed eyes that are soft and deep and dark and sometimes teary. Born and bred in Sarajevo, he left shortly after the war there and came to New Orleans nine years ago.

After several weeks in St. Louis, Imsirovic has discovered something about himself: Today he is more a New Orleanian than he is a Bosnian.

"I have not been in touch with the Bosnian community as much as I thought I would be," he says, struggling to tame his unruly accent. "I think because they are not from New Orleans. All I can think about now is New Orleans. I want to be with people from New Orleans. It's easier to understand each other."




'All I can think about now is New Orleans,' says displaced cabbie Besim Imsirovic.

Imsirovic is surprised somewhat by the depth of his feelings for his adopted hometown.

"I went to a few Bosnian restaurants, had a few meals and that's about it.

"They couldn't understand my feelings about this city. You know, there is no place on earth like New Orleans. It's hard to describe, even in my language. There's some feeling you have in New Orleans that you don't have anywhere else. You feel free in New Orleans. If you spend some time there, you will never leave."

He misses the landmarks of the city, he says, the comforts of his Metairie condo, the traditions of his daily life.

"A few days ago a therapist came

*See* **CABBIE**, *C-10*

# 'THOSE IMAGES WILL HAUNT ME FOREVER'

*CBS newsman will never forget his reports from New Orleans after Katrina*



**DAVE WALKER**
*On the Air*

On the first of 10 straight days he spent covering Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, CBS's John Roberts was struck by how alone the city seemed.

"The first thing that sticks in my mind — and I've been covering hurricanes since 1989 — was how the emergency response fell so completely flat," he said. "It was stunning to me, the huge breakdown I saw."

Interviewed by phone after he'd rotated out of New Orleans, Roberts said he'd taken several indelible memories with him.

Many were recorded on or near Interstate 10, a bridge over troubled water, indeed.

Early on, he and his crew slept in their vehicles on I-10.

"It wasn't like sleeping in a hole in the dirt, as we were doing during the (Iraq) war," he said. "At least in the desert it got cool at night.

"Any hardships we suffered paled in comparison to the poor people whose lives were completely destroyed by the hurricane."

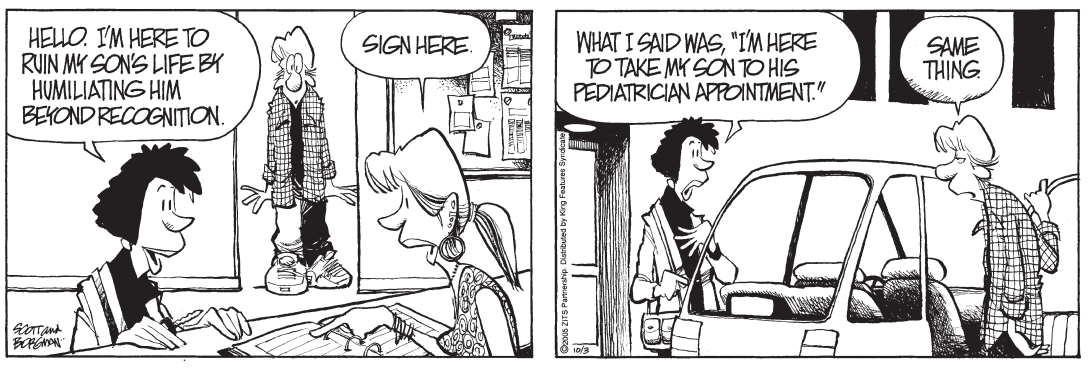
Past reporting trips to Somalia, he said, produce the only comparable images.

"Every time we drove up and down I-10 . . . we kept saying to each

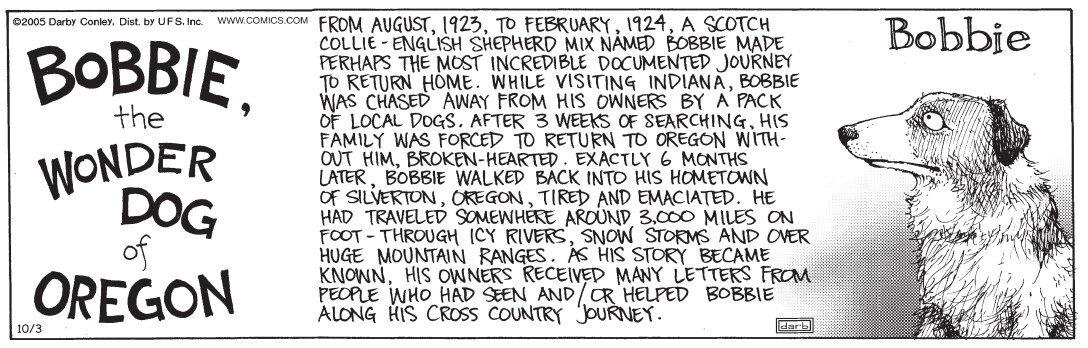
*See* **WALKER**, *C-10*

# COMICS

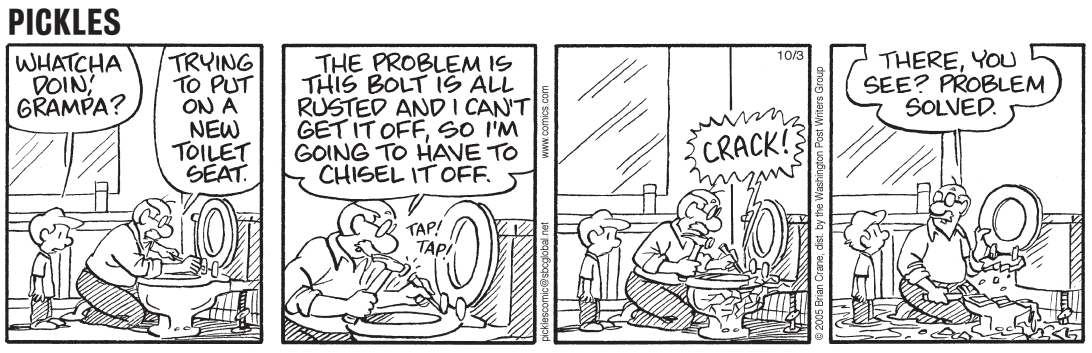
## ZITS



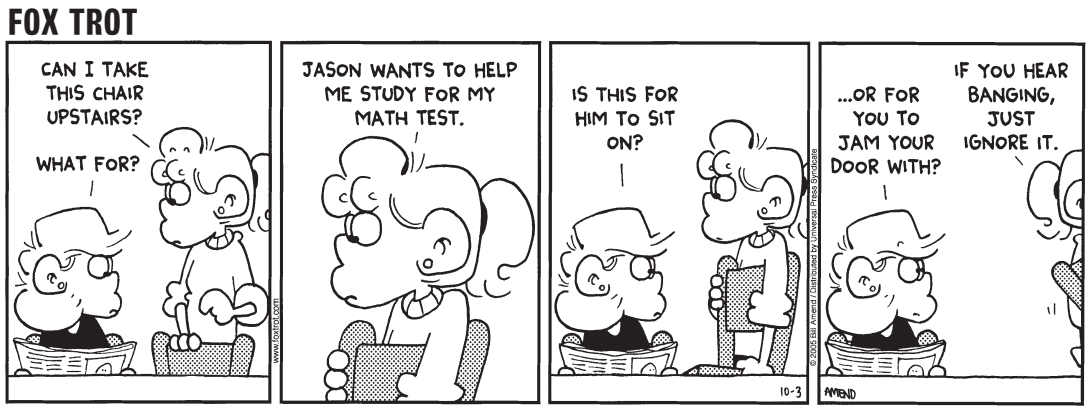

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



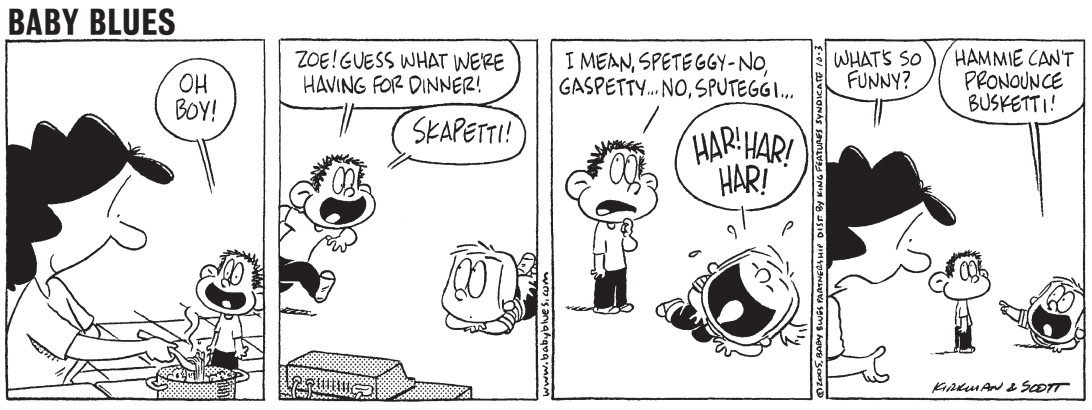

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OPUCE

IKKAH

CHINTS

ASTOAN

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer:** "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOUSY OZONE IRONIC KISMET
Answer: What the hotshot salesman wanted when he joined the Army — HIS "COMMISSION"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 3rd Letter Triple | RACK 1 |
| $A_1$ | $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $Y_4$ | $R_1$ | $L_1$ | $D_2$ | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $U_1$ | $L_1$ | $D_2$ | $B_3$ | | |
| | | | | | | | Double Word Score | RACK 3 |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $U_1$ | $L_1$ | $N_1$ | $C_3$ | $P_3$ | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $U_1$ | $D_2$ | $N_1$ | $S_1$ | $S_1$ | | |

**PAR SCORE 140-150**
**BEST SCORE 202**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 140-150

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = | $A_1$ | $L_1$ | $R_1$ | $E_1$ | $A_1$ | $D_2$ | $Y_4$ | | | | | | | 63 |
| RACK 2 = | $D_2$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $B_3$ | $L_1$ | $E_1$ | | | | | | | | 9 |
| RACK 3 = | $C_3$ | $L_1$ | $E_1$ | $A_1$ | $N_1$ | $U_1$ | $P_3$ | | | | | | | 72 |
| RACK 4 = | $S_1$ | $U_1$ | $N_1$ | $D_2$ | $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $S_1$ | | | | | | | 58 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 202 |

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | R | O | L | I | E | B | Y | V | S | Q | N | K | H | E |
| B | Y | W | T | I | R | O | L | W | J | G | E | B | Y | W |
| U | R | P | N | N | K | I | A | O | G | D | B | Z | X | V |
| B | S | Q | O | S | M | K | G | R | I | E | S | G | E | R |
| U | A | E | R | U | B | C | E | T | A | Y | N | W | A | U |
| S | Q | L | P | R | N | G | N | H | L | L | O | T | J | H |
| F | E | C | A | A | A | U | C | Y | C | I | I | A | R | Y |
| X | V | U | S | N | O | Q | Y | P | N | N | N | M | M | Y |
| S | D | R | A | C | C | K | J | H | G | E | U | F | I | E |
| C | B | M | C | E | Z | E | E | U | Q | S | M | R | E | T |

Z Y A X V U T R Q P O M L C K

Saturday's unlisted clue: EUROPA

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: **Max Amount You Can Borrow**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Account | Cards | Lines | Terms |
| Agency | Crunch | Manager | Unions |
| Balance | Entry | Rating | Worthy |
| Bureau | Insurance | Squeeze | |

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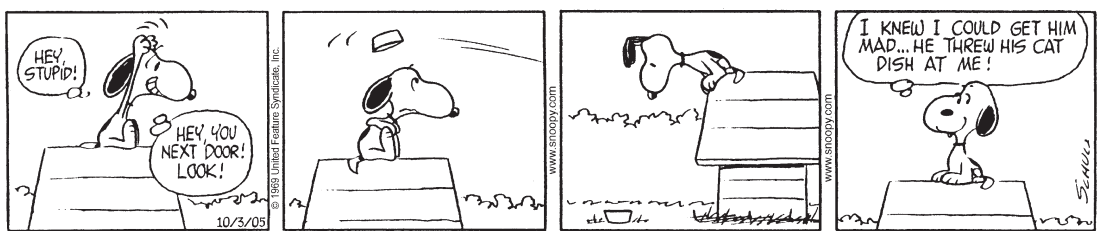
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| S | A | S | N | T | B | E | N | A | O | U | X | T |
| 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| O | E | B | U | M | S | C | C | O | I | P | N | T |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| P | I | T | O | Y | P | S | T | N | R | A | T | O |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| A | T | R | G | C | T | I | L | F | L | R | O | E |
| 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| O | S | M | R | D | E | A | M | I | T | O | R | Y |
| 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| M | Y | P | D | N | V | S | U | A | E | F | D | L |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 7 |
| R | S | A | E | U | S | E | I | Y | E | S | N | D |

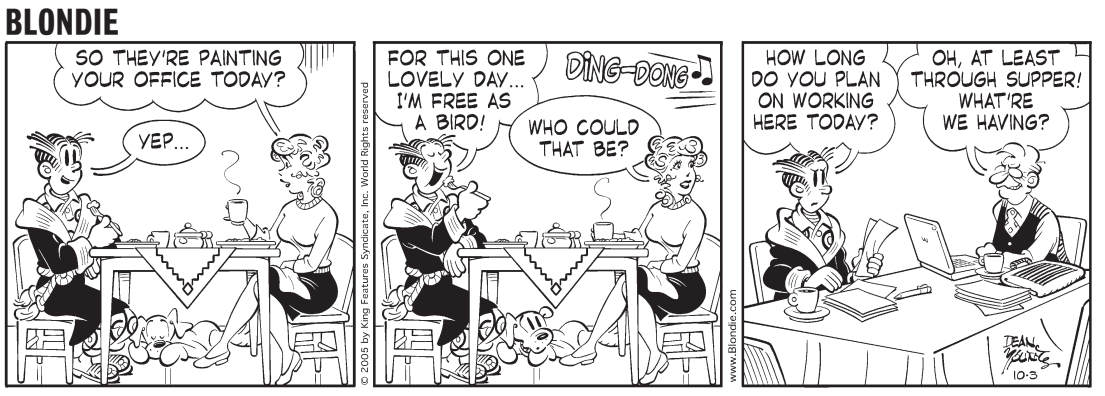
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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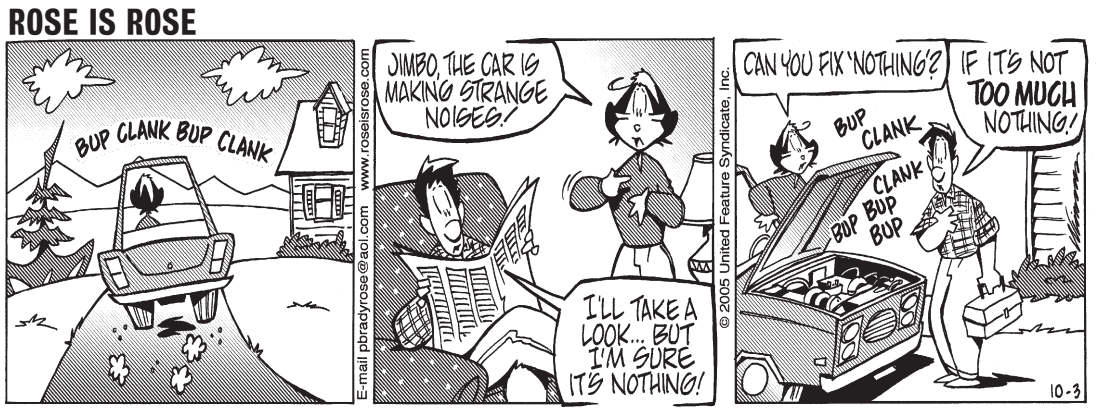
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



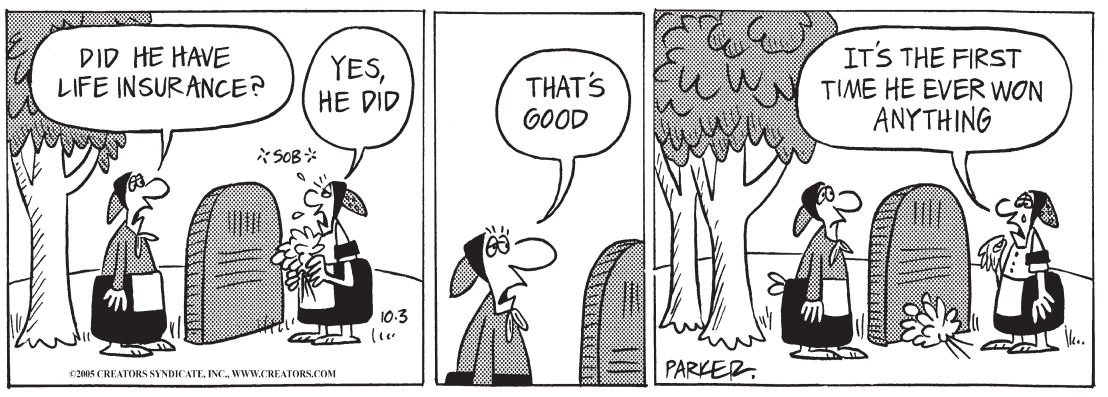

## BLONDIE



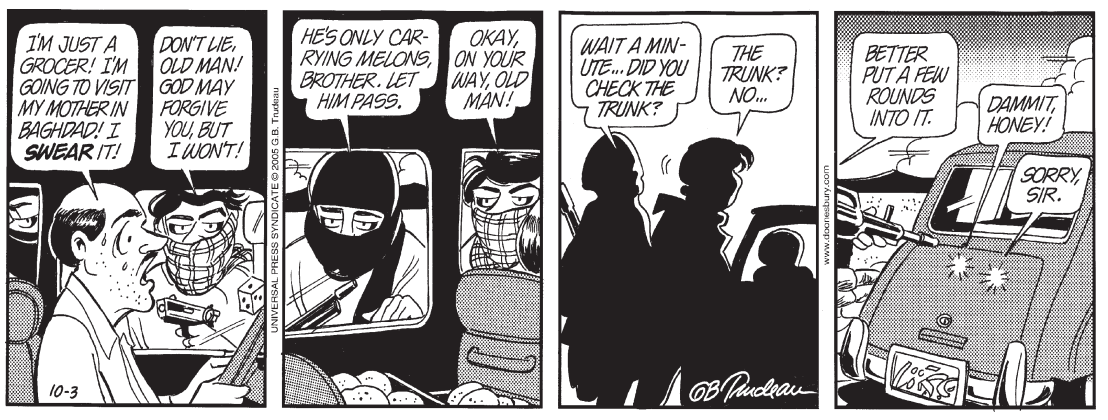

## ROSE IS ROSE



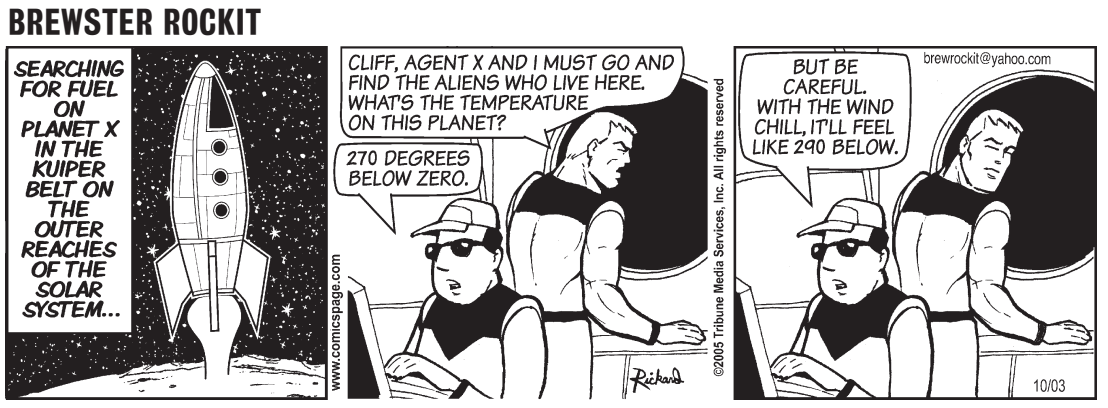

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



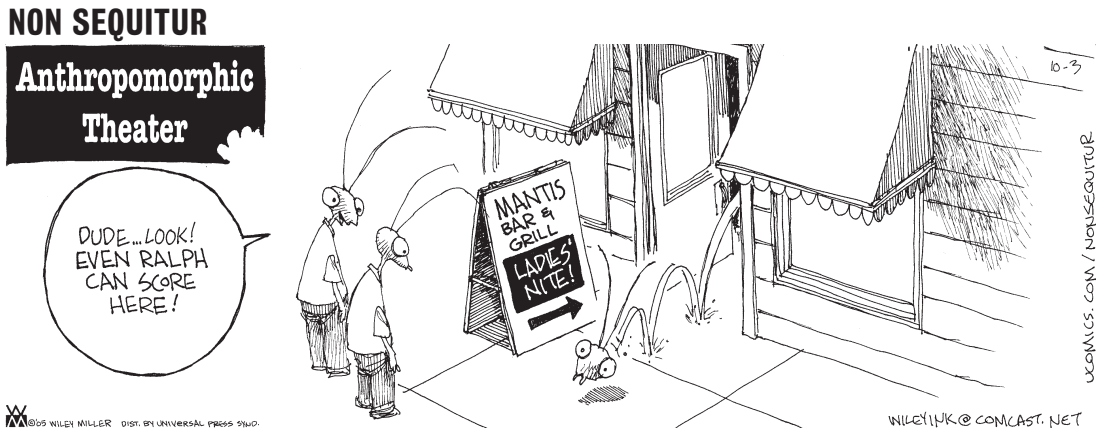

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



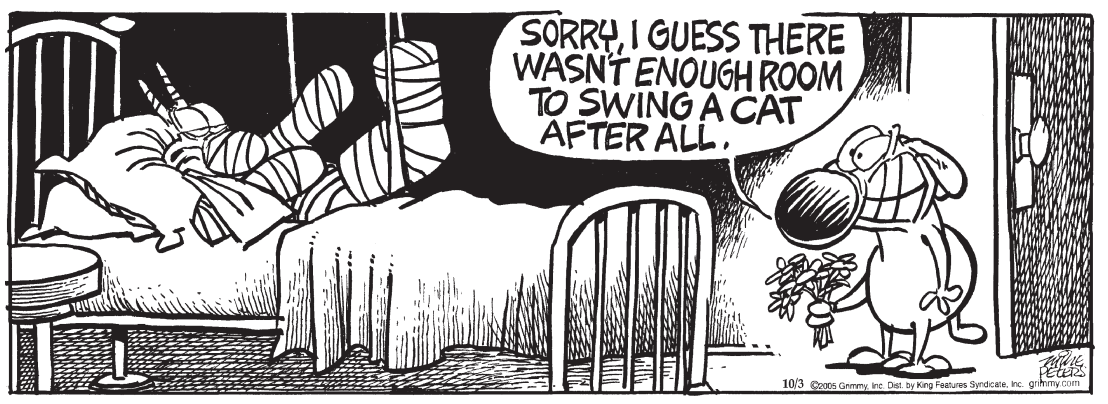

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

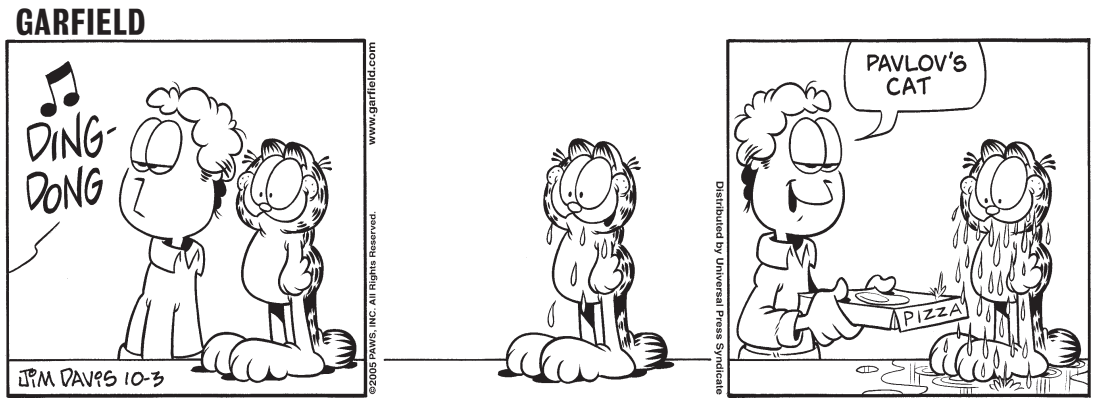



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

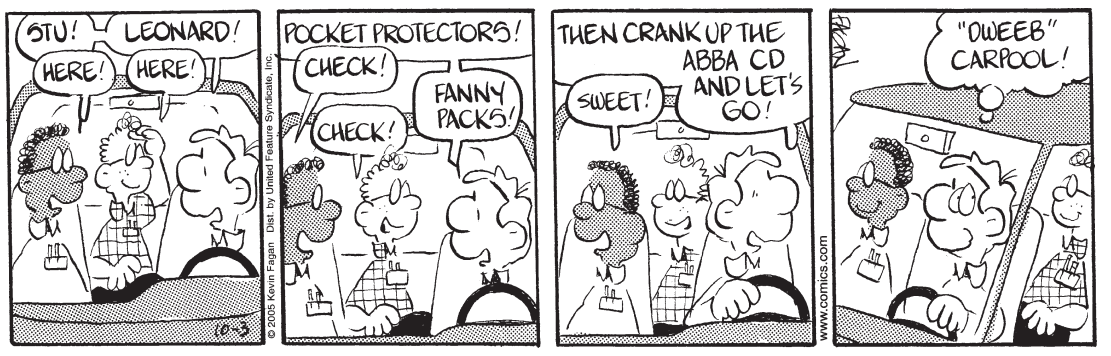


# COMICS

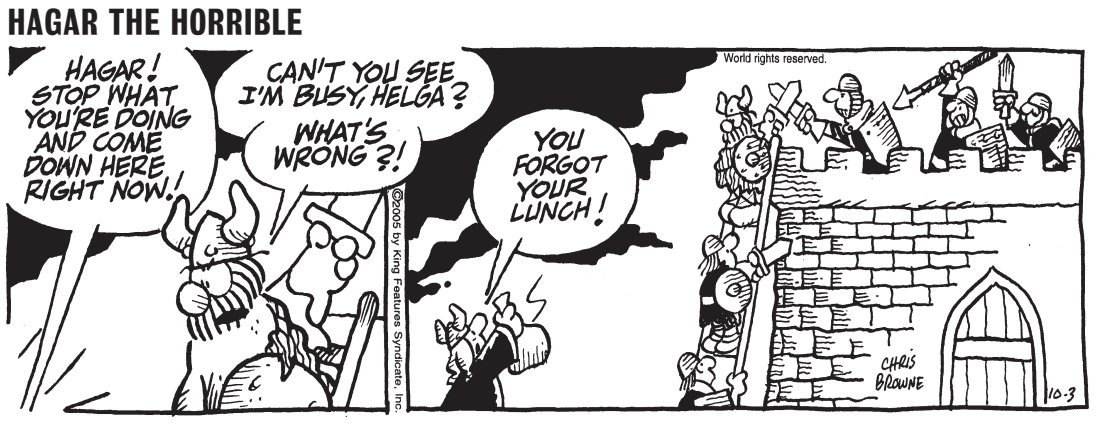
## GARFIELD



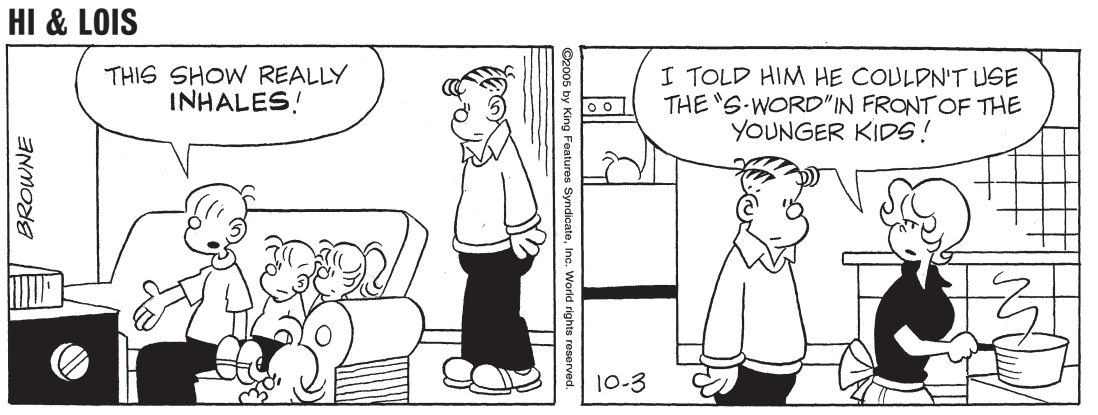

## DRABBLE



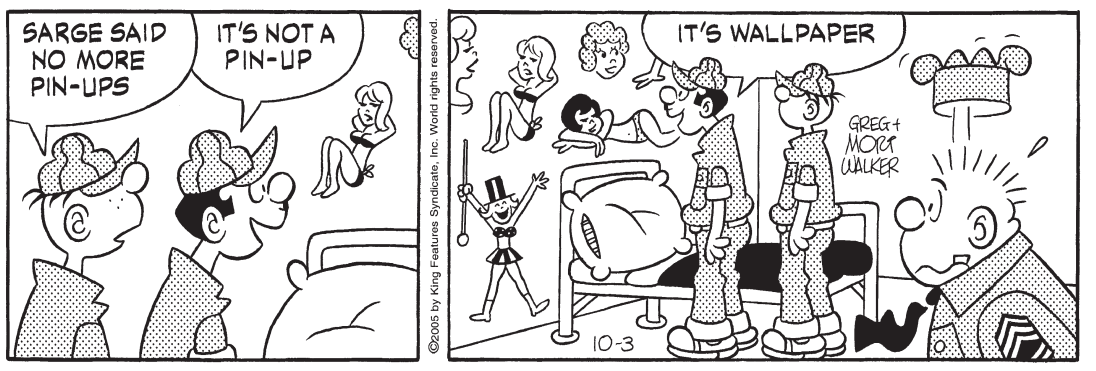

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



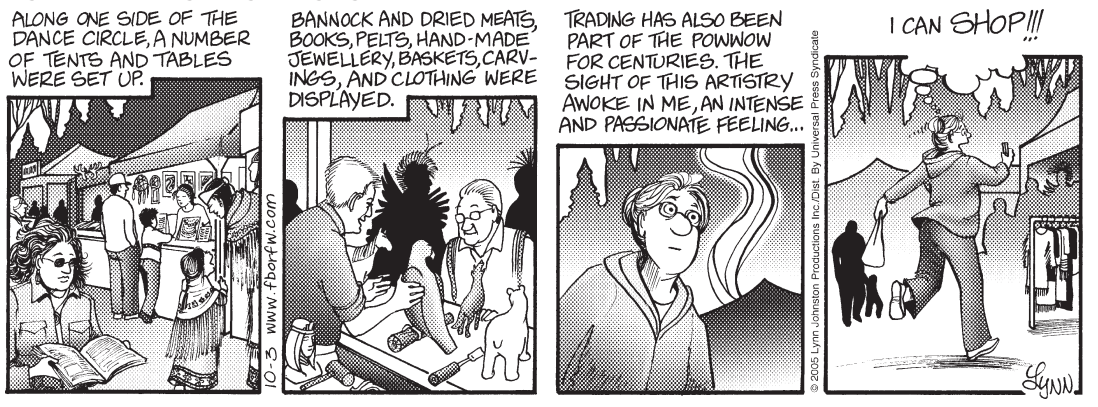

## HI & LOIS



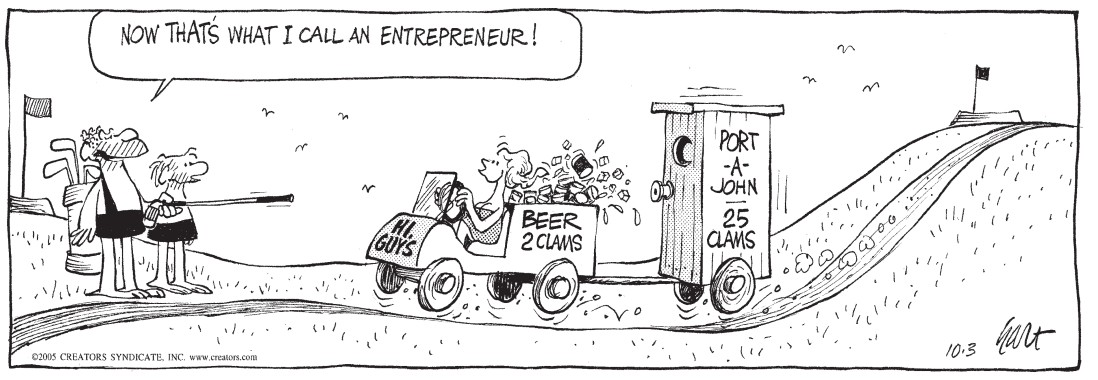

## BEETLE BAILEY



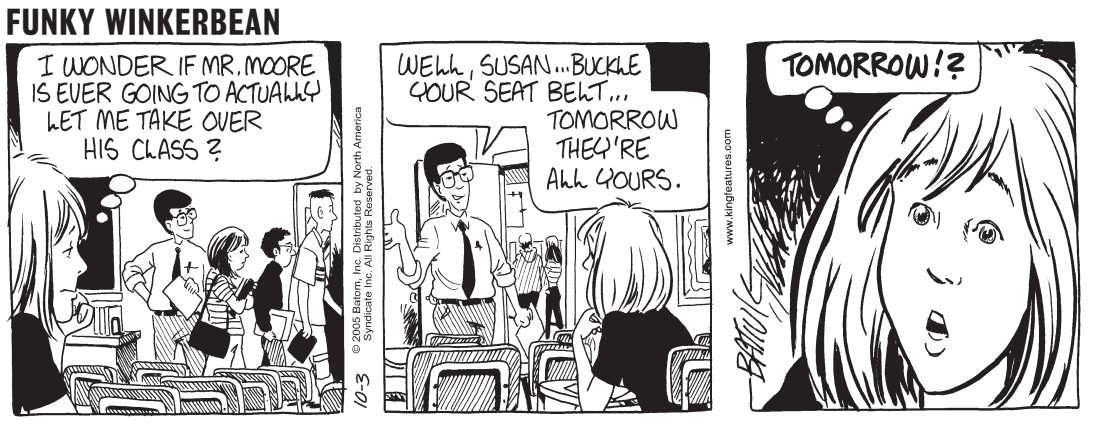

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



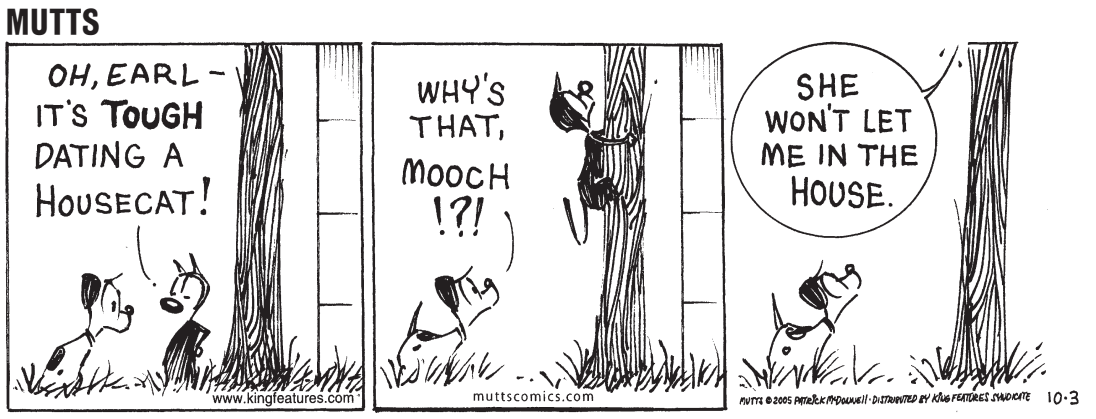

## B.C.



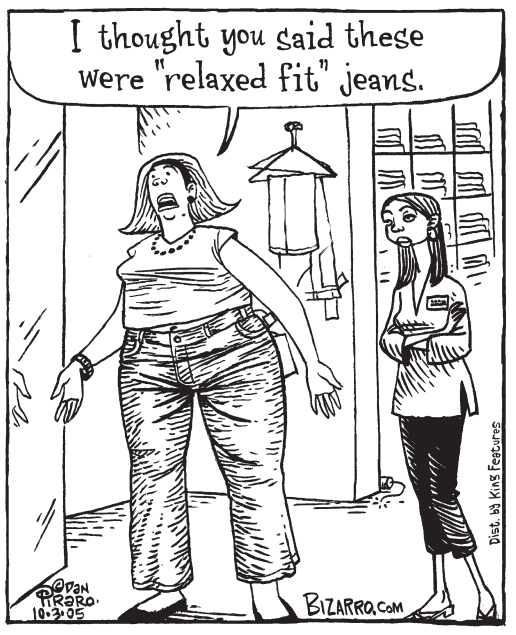

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO



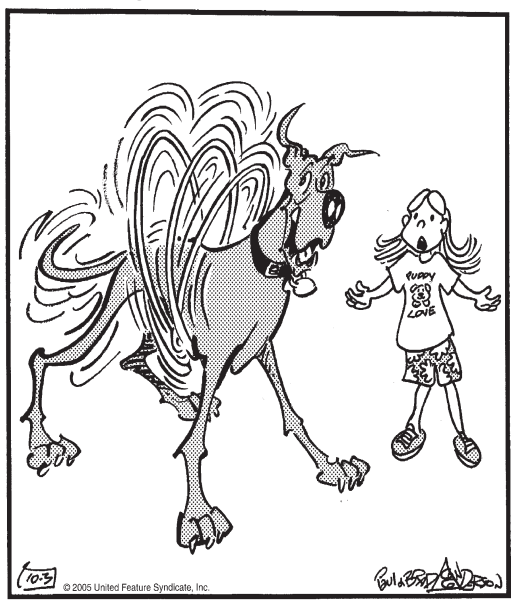

## LOOSE PARTS




## SPEED BUMP

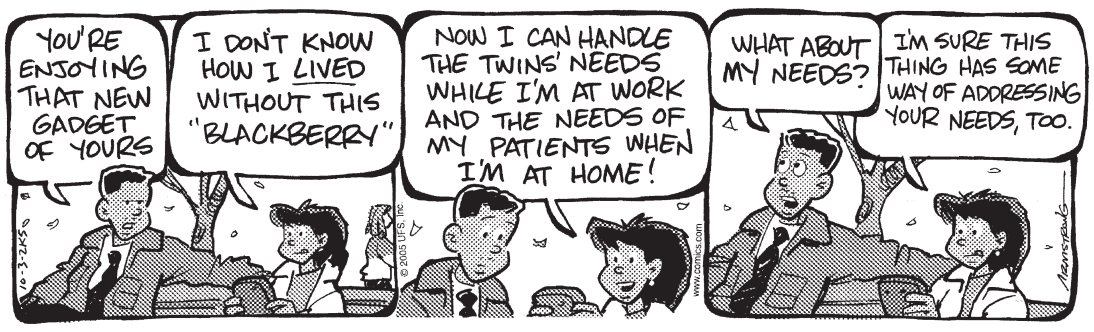



## MARMADUKE




"No, no! You're supposed to **jump** through it!"

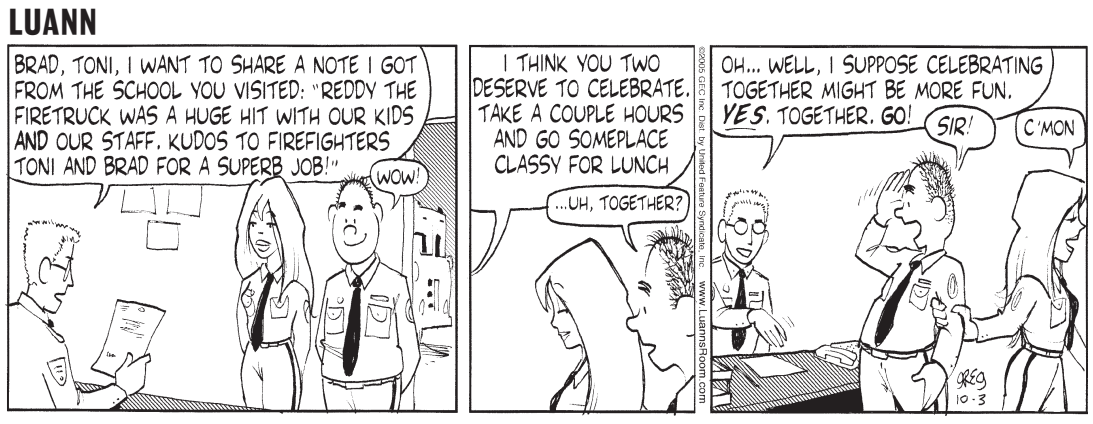
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



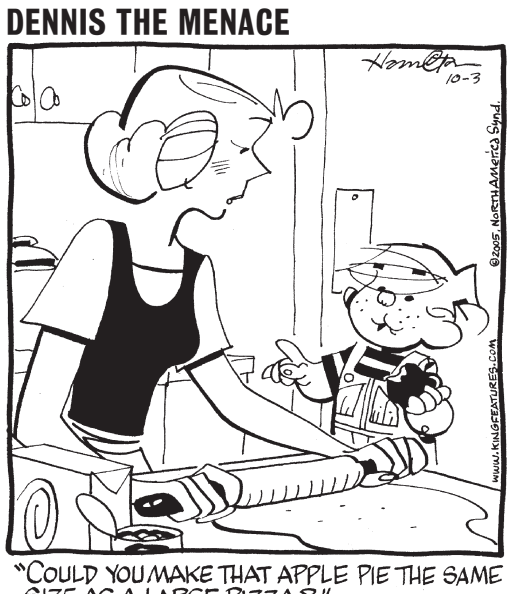

"Yeah, but it was more fun gettin' dirty."

## CLOSE TO HOME




The Tuckermans weren't about to let Brad's football practices keep them from having dinner as a family.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"COULD YOU MAKE THAT APPLE PIE THE SAME SIZE AS A LARGE PIZZA?"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**HEINRICH RUDOLPH HERTZ** **Solution: 9 letters**

S P E E D B L O O D E T E C T
S J T S R I F T E P R I S M R
E S O D G O S Z A T T E S T A
L C K H I T I C O E (L)(I)(O)(C) N
E I T R A R I D O B R O C E S
R S L L A N G N A V S G O S M
I Y R L V P N T U R E E F P I
W H O E F N S E V A W R R E T
I P N W C I N O C R A M E V T
F T E X P E N O G A Y A Q O E
E Q U A T E I D B Y T N U R D
F O R M U L A V I S I Y E P I
R T A I N F L U E N C E N A E
S N O I T A I D A R G P C T D
T R A T S I T N E I C S Y H H

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Blood, Bonn, City, Coil, Detect, Died, Discover, Equate, Findings, First, Formula, Frequency, Germany, Great, Grid, Influence, Invent, Johanne, Light, Loop, Marconi, Maxwell, Observe, Optics, Parts, Path, Physics, Polarized, Prism, Prove, Radiation, Radio, Rays, Receiver, Scientist, Sparks, Speed, Start, Tables, Test, Transmitted, Unit, Waves, Wife, Wireless

**Last Saturday's Answer: Cream**

# THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*




STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

## Photographs and memories

### Favorite books, photographs and works of art may not be lost forever

If you want to rescue books, photos, art and textiles from your hurricane-ravaged home, it's critical to start salvage efforts right away, says Historic New Orleans Collection head preparatory Steve Sweet, who is in charge of protecting the HNOC's priceless historical objects. It may be too late to save objects that have been exposed to water or humidity for weeks.

"A lot of people are going to lose a lot of things, no way around it," Sweet said. "You can save an object, but it's not going to be the way it was."

To aid those hoping to save their own precious items after Hurricane Katrina, Sweet has added disaster recovery links to www.hnoc.org. Here are some of his tips:

**SEEK EXPERT ADVICE.** "The most important thing to know is, if it's a valuable thing, you've got to get it to a conservator," Sweet said. Novice efforts can ruin something a conservator might save. The HNOC Web site has a link to conservators, but the museum is not allowed to recommend specialists, Sweet said.

**DRY BOOKS SLOWLY.** "If it's wet and you can't get to it, put it in waxed paper and put it in your freezer," he says. "Keep it frozen, which will preserve it until you can work on it." Interleaf wet books every few pages with blotter paper or plain newsprint (from an art supply store) or paper towels. Keep changing the paper to soak up water. To dry the book further, set it up on its spine and have a fan blowing in the room, although not directly on the book, so the air circulates. "When the book gets kind of dry, when it feels a little cold but most of the moisture is out of there, lay it down, put more paper in it, then put a weight on it," Sweet said. "The book will want to expand and will never get back to its normal shape."

**HANDLE PHOTOS CAREFULLY.** The most important thing to remember about photos is not to touch the image or emulsion. Family photographs on resin-coated paper (those from the 1970s until digital photography) can probably be lightly rinsed in fresh water and saved, dried flat with the emulsion side up. Put blotter paper or paper towels underneath to soak up moisture. Keep changing the paper. Photos will curl, but a picture framer, photo studio or conservator can flatten them in a press. If the photograph has been sitting in water for some time, don't touch it. Use a piece of sturdy cardboard to scoop it up gently from underneath and place it on cardboard. Bring it to a conservator as soon as possible. If a photo is framed and sticking to the glass, don't try to remove it. Take off the frame and let it dry with the glass side down on the counter, and bring it to a conservator.

**HANDLE ARTWORK EVEN MORE CAREFULLY.** Pastels or works with soluble ink are problematic, but intaglios or lithographs might be saved. As with photographs, remove the frame, but if the artwork is stuck to the glass, do not try to remove it. Dry face-up with blotter paper underneath, changing the paper to absorb moisture. Paintings should be removed from the frame, but not the stretcher and allowed to dry. "Do not apply heat or put it in the oven to flatten it out, which will ruin it," Sweet said.

**— By Judy Walker, staff writer**

Have a tip to share? Offer your solutions to hurricane-related household problems by sending an e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and a phone number so we can contact you.

# CLASS OF 2006 Lost year

**SENIORS,** *from C-7*

such a fun senior year. But people I have gone to school with for 12 years are now spread throughout the country. I don't get to be with some of my closest and best friends which makes this experience even harder."

Helping ease her separation anxiety is the presence of her friend and classmate Maria Castellon, who she persuaded to join her at Ole Miss. Like Heidi, Maria was overcome with sadness when she realized that she probably wouldn't be returning to Country Day. Although boarding school was an option, the chance to be with one of her friends sealed her decision to enroll in college.

"When I started my senior year, I had no idea that I would be going to college in about 10 days," Maria said. "Fortunately, I am having the time of my life. The people here in Oxford are so nice. They make everyone feel welcome and are trying to make all of us evacuees happy."

Chris Acosta is more angry than sad that he won't be returning to Andrew Jackson High School in Chalmette for his senior year. In addition to Ring Day and prom, this was the year he had hoped to help his wrestling team win a state title. He is continuing to wrestle, but at a high school in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he has had a difficult transition.

It's bad enough that he lost his home along with his best friend, who was killed a few days before the storm when he lost control of his car following a back-to-school tubing trip in Tickfaw. Without the security of his school, he says, he is lost.

"I don't have my friends for support and I've lost the bonds that I made with my teachers over the years," he said. "Between my best friend's car crash and the hurricane, there is not much I can do to salvage my senior year. It's ruined."

As nice and supportive as his new classmates and teachers have been, Grey Keetch said there is no comparison between Bishop England High School in Charleston, S.C. and his old school, Holy Cross, where he has been enrolled since seventh grade.

"Graduating from Holy Cross is something that I've been working toward," he said. "I knew everyone in my grade on a personal level. I was looking forward to prom and to the football season and to my swim season. I was looking forward to my senior trip. We had one scheduled in the middle of the year to Disney World."

Grey, captain of the Holy Cross swim team, is trying to make the best of his new surroundings. Among other things, he has joined the swim team and has competed in three meets. "The competition is a little easier," he said. "I've been getting firsts in all my events."

Rebecca Gonzales, a senior at St. Mary's Dominican High School, can't help but worry about her future. Back home in Metairie after evacuating to Birmingham, Ala., and then Tallulah, La., she has been out of school since the storm struck and is holding out hope that she will be able to return to school in early October.

As things stand now, she will be attending a transitional school at Archbishop Rummel, an all-boys Catholic school that will be accepting girls as part of an Archdiocese of New Orleans plan to get students back in school as soon as possible. The school will probably bring in trailers to accommodate the influx of students, and will reduce the holiday schedule to make up for lost time.

"I'm more worried than usual," she said. "There is so much to do to get ready for college — teacher recommendations, scholarship applications, all that kind of stuff."

Benjamin Franklin High School senior Rebekka Veith doesn't like to speak in clichés, but Katrina has made one especially fitting. "You don't know what you have until it's gone," she said. "I didn't realize how much I loved my school until I couldn't attend it anymore."

Her good friend Callie Barlow agreed. "My friends and I used to always complain about the workload and the teachers at Franklin, but now I miss it more than ever."

Callie now attends Highland Park High School in Dallas, and Rebekka is a student at Runnels School, a private school in Baton Rouge. Last weekend, the two traveled to Houston for a mini-reunion involving Franklin students now living in Baton Rouge, Houston and Dallas.

"It was the most fun I've had in a month," said Callie. "We couldn't stop smiling and laughing. We were all just so happy to actually be together."

Although they are making new friends at their new schools, they pray that Franklin is able to open its doors in January. That's where they began their high school career and that's where they want to end it.

"My new school has been accommodating but it can't compare to the place I've invested such hard work and passion in for the past three years," Veith said.

"If Franklin reopens in January, I would return — even if it meant I had to swim to school every day."

Staff writer Karen Taylor Gist contributed to this report. Staff writer Barri Bronston can be reached at tpbarri@aol.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN GARDNER

Rebekka Veith, center, pinky-swears with fellow Franklin student Amanda Figueroa, left, and Metairie Park Country Day student Clare Pirri during study hour at Runnels School in Baton Rouge, where the three displaced seniors are now attending school.

# ROBERTS STARTLED BY THE SUFFERING

**WALKER,** *from C-7*

other, 'Where are the helicopters dropping pallets of water? Where are the trucks bringing crates of MREs?'" he said. "It was heartbreaking to see these people, so many of them with young children, babies, the elderly.

"They were left there, cast away with no ability to fend for themselves. To think I saw scenes like that in America is just stunning to me."

At I-10 and Elysian Fields, Roberts and his crew met a woman who'd been dropped there after being rescued from her nearby flooded home.

"She was with her husband, had been married to the fellow for 53 years," said Roberts. "They'd spent all of their lives together. She had been pretty much frantically trying to flag down every emergency vehicle going by. Nobody would even stop and talk to her."

The husband died late on the Tuesday night after Katrina.

"Died at her feet," said Roberts. "The next afternoon, Wednesday afternoon, when I met her, the husband was still there at her feet.

"Someone had tried to do the dignified thing and had covered up the body. The only advice she'd gotten ... was when a police car stopped and someone said, 'If the body starts to smell, move it down the interstate.'"

Roberts and his crew returned to the intersection two days later.

"She had been picked up but the body was still there," he said. "Her husband for 53 years. Imagine the pain she was going through."

On the same day, on the same overpass, Roberts met a man in his mid-60s who'd had recent knee-replacement surgery.

"The scar on his knee was pretty much an open wound," said Roberts. "He'd been wading through the fetid water. Who knows what could've gotten into it."

Still, he was better off than his 97-year-old mother, who couldn't walk without assistance. They'd been on the overpass for a day and half with no food or water.

"The poor fellow broke down," said Roberts, "He said, 'Don't treat us like dogs. Don't treat us like dogs.'

"Those images will haunt me forever."

There are others.

Chief White House correspondent for CBS News since 1999, Roberts is considered one of the contenders for "The CBS Evening News" anchor chair vacated by Dan Rather in March.



'CBS Evening News' anchor John Roberts hit the streets of New Orleans in a boat the day after Hurricane Katrina. 'To think I saw scenes like that in America is just stunning to me,' he says.

As potential heir to Rather's chair, who else would CBS send to New Orleans but John Roberts?

Several others, actually, but Roberts served as on-site "Evening News" co-anchor when the news was at its worst.

"It was impossible to not tell a compelling story," he said. "To a large degree, journalists have to be very clinical, almost like being a doctor. But when you get into such a heart-wrenching scene, you become human.

"It was important not to wear your heart on your sleeve, but after seeing people suffering so badly in the greatest country in the world ... There was a complete and utter failure to look after these people."

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# Longing for home

**CABBIE,** *from C-7*

here to Days Inn and talked to us. You know what's so hard? I told her every morning I would wake up, open my door, get my Times-Picayune and make my coffee. Those are the things you do in the morning. It's a ceremony for me. Very important.

"I miss The Times-Picayune. I saw the newspaper on TV once. They were showing it on the screen. I felt so sentimental. Hard to explain.

"When I was talking about missing my Times-Picayune, she was talking about missing her kitchen. I didn't want to compare my Times-Picayune with her kitchen. How can you compare The Times-Picayune with somebody's kitchen?"

His life in St. Louis so far has been as pleasant as possible under the circumstances, Imsirovic says. Several times a week, local churches provide dinner for the evacuees at Days Inn. With the help of local relief organizations, he has secured a job driving a shuttle for the President Casino.

And he has landed an apartment as well, which he will move into as soon as Catholic Charities comes up with the promised furniture.

"People in St. Louis are very nice to us," he says. "They provide us with housing, food. I saw many people want to help us. Many people."

But all the help doesn't allay the anxiety and loneliness — or the boredom.

"To be bored is the hardest thing," he says. "From the time I wake up, all the time I am watching TV and I am looking at CNN and I am waiting for somebody to say New Orleans is alive again. You wait, wait, wait and wait.

"I am going to return to New Orleans as soon as possible, as soon as I have some work. New Orleans is my home.

"Maybe there are some places to go out in St. Louis but I don't know of them. I don't know people here. St. Louis might be a great town, but it's not my town."

Staff writer Elizabeth Mullener can be reached at mullener@cox.net.

**SUNDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLVED**

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# MONDAY MORNING QB

## Alabama makes statement in victory over Florida

By Ted Lewis
Staff writer

'Bama's back.

And that's a good thing.

You can have a pennant race without the Yankees being a factor, but it's just not as interesting.

Same thing goes for Alabama. The SEC is a lot more intriguing when the Crimson Tide is in the hunt.

And that 'Bama is after Saturday's 31-3 rout of Florida that may be the most stunning result of the year.

It was if the pent-up frustration of five years of coaching changes, probation, lawsuits, injuries and other assorted insults was released in one afternoon at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Lots of schools claim their fans are the most passionate. If 'Bama's aren't No. 1, they're right at the top.

If you don't believe that, read "Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer," Warren St. John's hilarious account of spending a season hanging out with those who drive their RVs to every game.

You have to be more than a little nuts to put off emergency gall bladder surgery to make it to the Outback Bowl by kickoff.

That level of energy permeated the stadium Saturday and the players responded.

"We got tired of hearing everyone saying that we were going to lose, that we couldn't hold a stick to those guys," Alabama junior linebacker Juwan Simpson said.

That wasn't the case from the get-go.

Brodie Croyle and Tyrone Prothro connected on an 87-yard touchdown pass on the Tide's first offensive snap.

Another quick touchdown came after Chris Harris caught the first interception of a Chris Leak pass this season. The Gators never recovered.

But this wasn't just a bad day at the office for the Gators. Alabama was faster, stronger, hungrier and better prepared.

The better prepared part is important.

As big as the victory was for the team, it also was a one-week validation for Alabama coach Mike Shula.

No coach could have taken over a job in more unfavorable conditions than Shula did in the spring of 2003.

Dennis Franchione had vacated the premises after two years because he couldn't take the pressure. Mike Price's term had ended before he coached a single game after his misadventure in a Pensacola strip club.

Thanks to probation, the program had lost 21 scholarships.

And Shula was considered primarily the beneficiary of a famous last name. His credentials as an Alabama quarterback in the mid-1980s and 14 years an NFL assistant didn't seem to matter.

Plus, no Alabama coach can ever escape the shadow of Bear Bryant. Shula is the sixth coach since Bryant retired in 1982, but to Alabama fans, no matter how many degrees of separation exist, the Bear always will be an unreachable standard of excellence.

Going 10-15 in his first two seasons with no significant victories had Shula on many hot seats lists, but as Shula said so well, he was on the hot seat from Day One.

Now he's 15-15 with victories this season against living legend Steve Spurrier and budding legend Urban Meyer.

How far Shula and the Tide can take it from here remains to be seen. Saturday's elation was tempered by the loss for the season of Prothro, the team's outstanding receiver and return man, to a broken leg.

But for today at least, Alabama is ranked No. 7 and may just be the top team in the SEC.

"The polls have a chance for us to get where we want to go," Shula said Sunday. "You just keep having success week in and week out and the good things keep building on each other."

For Alabama fans, that can only mean having a shot at a 13th national championship. But even the rabid among them has to acknowledge that there's a ton of football to be played between now and the Rose Bowl.

Still, in a year when four of the top 10 winning programs of all time – Penn State, Nebraska, Notre Dame and Alabama – all started the season unranked and are now a combined 18-1, it's fun to think about.

### POLL WATCHING

Idaho had five points in last week's inaugural Harris Interactive College Football Poll, an embarrassment for the newest component of the BCS formula because they were 0-4. It defeated Utah State, 27-13, but received no points in this week's balloting.

Neither did Arizona, Illinois or Syracuse, all sub-.500 teams who received votes last week.

LSU, ranked fifth in the Harris Poll last week and fourth in the USA Today coaches' poll that also is part of the BCS formula, was hurt much more by losing to Tennessee on Monday than beating Mississippi State on Saturday.

The Tigers fell to 11th in the coaches poll and 12th in the Harris poll.

Southern California, Texas and Virginia Tech remained the top three teams in both polls. Georgia is fourth in the coaches poll and fifth in the Harris, while Florida State is fourth in the Harris and fifth in the coaches.

Alabama made the biggest gain in both polls. The Crimson Tide's 37-3 victory against Florida advanced 'Bama from 15th to No. 8 in the Harris Poll and from No. 16 to No. 10 in the coaches.

The first release of the BCS standings, which includes six computer rankings, will be made after this week's games.

### SUGAR BOWL UPDATE

The Sugar Bowl took another step toward moving this season's game to Atlanta when executive director Paul Hoolahan and senior associate director Jeff Hundley checked out facilities there last week with Georgia Dome, Peach Bowl and local tourism officials.

"They were very hospitable," Hoolahan said. "They offered a lot of support and showed us that they have the capacity to do the job."

Hoolahan also said playing the game at LSU with most of the fans housed in New Orleans is a possibility, but the lack of hotel rooms is making that difficult.

Hoolahan also said that regardless of where the game is played, those already with tickets will have a refund option with the ability to repurchase them when the game is returned to New Orleans.

The Sugar Bowl's executive committee will meet via conference call no later than Wednesday with an announcement expected by Friday.

### SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

▶ Vanderbilt's unbeaten dreams ended when Middle Tennessee State's Jeremiah Weaver blocked a 36-yard field-goal attempt at the game's end to preserve the Blue Raiders' 17-15 victory. Vanderbilt, which hosts LSU on Saturday, was seeking its first 5-0 start since 1943. It was the Blue Raiders' third straight win against Vanderbilt.

▶ Louisiana Tech gave New Mexico State a rude welcome to the WAC, beating the Aggies 34-14 to drop Hal Mumme's team to 0-5. New Mexico State did not score until the final 1:05.

▶ Given a new chance because Louisiana-Lafayette had called time out just prior to a missed 28-yard field-goal attempt, Central Florida's John Brown connected with five seconds left to give the Golden Knights a 24-21 victory against the Ragin' Cajuns.

### EXTRA POINTS

Not football, but worth mentioning. Oklahoma fans haven't forgotten former Sooners basketball standout and St. Augustine product Hollis Price. They not only provided a home for Price's grandfather, George Carraby and 17 family members in Houston after they were forced from their 9th Ward neighborhood following Hurricane Katrina, but they also sent a 53-foot trailer with household goods and clothes.

### LEWIS VOTE

Ted Lewis is a member of the Harris Interactive College Football Poll.

Here is his vote for this week: 1. USC; 2. Texas; 3. Virginia Tech; 4. Ohio State; 5. Alabama; 6. Georgia; 7. Tennessee; 8. Florida State; 9. Notre Dame; 10. LSU; 11. Florida; 12. Miami; 13. Wisconsin; 14. Arizona State; 15. Michigan; 16. Michigan State; 17. California; 18. UCLA; 19, Auburn, 20. Boston College; 21. Penn State; 22. Texas Tech; 23. Minnesota; 24. Louisville; 25. Oregon.

ANALYSIS

# In one drive, Miles displays his blueprint

*Without flash, Tigers overwhelmed MSU with 13-play march*

By William Kalec
Staff writer

STARKVILLE, MISS. — Once word of the grass-stained, eight-minute Van Gogh of a drive reaches John Sheldon in Northeast Ohio, Les Miles' old high school line coach is sure to flash a smile as wide as the momentous drive was long.

You can have frilly Xavier Carter reverses. Take those calculated touchdown tosses to Dwayne Bowe. Sheldon, a tough guy from a tougher Rust Belt town, isn't interested.

Man, give him that unappreciated smash-mouth masterpiece worthy of display behind a ring of velvet ropes. Thirteen glorious plays, scanning 80 yards as half a quarter expired - all of it efficient and yet unfit for highlights.

Nothing fancy. Nothing cute. Nothing tricky. Nothing Sheldon would ever disapprove of teaching the sons of mill workers and other Elyria blue-collars. Just a bunch of O's pushing around a bunch of X's, draining their confidence and spirit.

For those puzzled as to what exactly athletic director Skip Bertman saw beyond Les Miles' résumé when he hired the four-year head coach to replace Nick Saban, take a look at LSU's initial possession of the second half against Mississippi State. Don't let Miles' fashion quirks (seriously, can we stop talking about the dang headset) distract you from acknowledging his infectious toughness and will.

Ahead by a deceptively secure 17-7, the Tigers finally shook Saban's shadow and began mirroring the square-jaw disposition of the new guy in the white hat. Right then, Miles put his muddy fingerprint on the program.

The play-by-play reads like scripture from the Book of Schembechler - pure poetry to Sheldon and Miles – Eighty yards in 13 plays, 8:02 elapsed.

*JaMarcus Russell complete to Skyler Green, five yards,*

*Joseph Addai rush for 15 yards,*

*Russell complete to Addai, minus one yard,*

*Addai rush for 12 yards,*

Beautiful, huh? Let's jump ahead to the last stage.

*Addai rush for 1 yard,*

*Shyrone Carey rush for 8 yards,*

*Carey rush for 3 yards,*

*Carey rush for 5 yards*

*Addai rush for 5 yards*

*Addai rush for 3 yards*

*Jacob Hester for 1 yard, touchdown, LSU 23, MSU 7.*

"That drive was the drive that virtually won the game," Miles said Sunday. "It set the tempo for the second half."

Stepping into a situation with uniquely elevated expectations and inheriting a season unlike any other, that drive Miles spoke of was so dominant and pristine, it could be a turning-point moment - the kind of sequence Miles beleaguers-turned-boosters might identify as a season-altering sequence, should LSU find itself spending early December in Atlanta.

Everything clicked.

"They weren't going to be denied this game," Miles said.

Fault human nature and LSU fans' tendency to dissect the bad, instead of praise the positives, for the lack of credit Miles and assistant coach Stacy Searels have received for their work with the offensive line, the core of the drive.

Much like Saban was an overachieving defensive back whose moxie rubbed off and stuck to his more gifted players, Miles' gritty demeanor as a two-time letterman at Michigan is slowly being absorbed by his bigger, quicker prodigies, specifically the backups who've filled in for bruised starters.

"We need to understand those drives possess the characteristics that will take our opponents out of the game," Miles said.

### LSU 37, MISSISSIPPI STATE 7

**FIRST QUARTER**

**Mississippi State 7, LSU 0**
Scoring play: Joey Sanders 66-yard pass from Omarr Conner (Keith Andrews kick). Time: 12:46 Drive: 5 plays, 80 yards. Time of Possession: 2:14. Key play: Conner found Tee Milons open for 8 yards to preserve the drive and prevent the Bulldogs from punting deep in their own territory.

**Mississippi State 7, LSU 3**
Scoring play: Colt David 30-yard field goal. Time: 5:02. Drive: 9 plays, 35 yards. Time of Possession: 0:55. Key Play: Prior to the kick, Russell forced an incomplete pass into Bennie Brazell that was nearly intercepted by Mississippi State's Jeramie Johnson.

**LSU 10, Mississippi State 7**
Scoring play: Xavier Carter 36-yard run (David kick). Time: 2:19. Drive: 4 plays, 57 yards. Time of Possession: Officials overruled offensive pass interference on a screen play to Skyler Green, preventing the Tigers from starting in a huge hole.

**SECOND QUARTER**

**LSU 17, Mississippi State 7**
Scoring play: Dwayne Bowe 14-yard pass from JaMarcus Russell (David kick). Time: 14:45. Drive: 3 plays, 46 yards. Time of possession: 1:01. Key play: Another short, 11-yard pass to Green gave LSU its initial first down of the quick march.

**THIRD QUARTER**

**LSU 23, Mississippi State 7**
Scoring play: Jacob Hester 1-yard run (kick failed). Time: 6:58. Drive: 13 plays, 80 yards. Time of Possession: 8:02. Key play: The Tigers converted their lone 3rd down of the drive on a 12-yard out to Green.

**LSU 30, Mississippi State 7**
Scoring play: Bowe 44-yards pass from Russell (David kick) Time: 4:33. Drive 3 plays, 59 yards. Time of Possession: 0:27. Key Play: Bowe had to wait for the pass, and then spun out of a tackle for the score.

**LSU 37, Mississippi State 7**
Scoring play: Joseph Addai 1-yard run (David kick) Time: 1:38. Drive: 3 plays, 21 yards. Time of Possession: 0:58. Key play: Green's 37-yard punt return provided LSU a short field to work with.

ANALYSIS

# Shaky win may be just what Wave needed

*Tulane coaches now have players' focus for Houston*

By Fred Robinson
Staff writer

RUSTON – Tulane coach Chris Scelfo has said many times that he has never met a bad win. That isn't always the case with fans, who won't be dwelling on the positive after the Green Wave beat Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday.

The faithful expected the Green Wave, with the No. 1-ranked defense in the nation, to mash poor little SLU, a Division I-AA opponent. That was a no-no. Don't they remember their team being pushed to overtime with Northwestern State just two years ago?

Although the coaches and fans will spend at least part of the week realizing the Green Wave left Baton Rouge with an unconvincing 28-21 victory, both need to keep the big picture in mind.

Following a decent effort in its first game against Mississippi State and a solid performance last week against Southern Methodist, Tulane's shaky performance against SLU may have been exactly what the Wave needed.

Did Tulane really need to go into this week's Conference USA game against Houston following a huge blowout over a Division I-AA team?

"You know, a win is a win, but playing like that can't be happening to this team," senior linebacker Anthony Cannon said. "I said ever since the spring that this defense is something special. You can't take anything away from SLU; they had a great quarterback who's a scrambler, and he was able to make plays on the run."

Fact is, Tulane's going to face much better quarterbacks and much better offenses during the next couple of weeks.

It would have been good for Tulane to look sharp and use backups most of the second half while rolling to an easy victory, but Saturday's poor showing will give the coaches a reason to get players refocused for Houston.

At the start of fall practice, Scelfo made this observation. He said there isn't one team on the schedule Tulane couldn't beat, and not one team that it couldn't lose to. Against SLU, the Wave dodged a bullet.

### OFFENSE – C

In the end, it got the job done, but the offense wasn't close to playing up to its potential. Some of that may have been due to the offensive line being banged up a bit and playing without its top lineman, left tackle Chris McGee, for most of the game. But playing without McGee is something the Wave had better learn to do quickly. His sprained left ankle likely will bother him the rest of the season.

With running back Matt Forte unable to find holes, a lot of pressure was placed on Tulane's passing game. It was probably the way junior quarterback Lester Ricard wanted it. Having signed with LSU out of Amite High, and spending his redshirt season with the Tigers before transferring to Tulane in 2003, he was getting to play his first game in Tiger Stadium.

But after completing his first eight passes and leading the Wave to a 12-play, 66-yard scoring drive, Ricard was inconsistent the rest of the game. As Ricard goes, so does Tulane's offense, and against SLU he stumbled too much. Several times he forced passes into double coverage, and he threw two interceptions. In spite of the inconsistency, he connected on a couple of big passes late in the game and finished with 324 passing yards, his second-highest total in 12 games.

### DEFENSE – C+

The Wave held the opponent scoreless in the first half for the third straight week. But it seemed to relax too much in the second half and didn't make the necessary adjustments to stop SLU's passing game and the running of Lions quarterback Trey Willie.

Willie's line gave him enough time to find open receivers in the third and fourth quarters. That was the time Tulane's defensive line was expected to start overwhelming the Lions' offensive front. It didn't happen.

Although the defense allowed 309 yards and some big plays, which definitely dropped that No. 1 ranking, it had some shining moments. It stopped the Lions in the red zone, and on a fourth-and-five from Tulane's 30, the defense squashed an SLU drive that could have given the Lions a 21-20 lead.

### SPECIAL TEAMS – D

Had it not been for Izzy Route's dazzling returns, a 97-yard kickoff return for a the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter and a 58-yard punt return that was called back because of an illegal block, this would have been a disastrous day for the Wave.

The Wave had breakdowns in the line that allowed SLU to block a pair of Chris Beckman punts, and a critical extra-point attempt was blocked that kept it from taking a seven-point lead.

Route had seven returns for 155 yards, Beckman averaged 42 yards on six punts and the special teams blocked a field-goal attempt by SLU. Still, this is the weakest area for the Wave. The Wave is lacking a kicker who can kick the ball deep on kickoffs, and consistency on field-goal and extra-point attempts.

### TULANE 28, SE LOUISIANA 21

**FIRST QUARTER**

**Tulane 7, Southeastern 0**
Scoring play: Jovon Jackson six run (Jacob Hargroves kick). Time: 9:43. Drive: 12 plays, 66 yards. Time of Possession: 5:17. Key play: Matt Forte gains three yards on fourth-and-one from the SLU 22.

**SECOND QUARTER**

**No Scoring**

**THIRD QUARTER**

**Southeastern 7, Tulane, 7**
Scoring play: Felton Huggins 10 pass from Trey Willie (Jim Hall kick). Time: 9:07. Drive: 13 plays, 71 yards. Time of Possession: 5:45. Key play: Willie threw the touchdown pass on third down with a tackler around his waist.

**Tulane 14, Southeastern 7**
Scoring play: Cary Koch 19 pass from Lester Ricard (Hargroves kick). Time: 3:57. Drive: eight plays, 78 yards. Time of Possession: 2:20. Key Play: Ricard tossed a 48-yard pass to Brian King on a third-and-16 to put Tulane on the SLU 36.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

**Southeastern 14, Tulane 14**
Blake Alfortish, one pass from Willie (Hall kick). Time: 13:13. Drive: six plays, 22 yards. Time of possession: 2:50. Key Play: Hutch Gonzales caught a 17-yard pass on fourth-down that put the Lions on the Green Wave three-yard line.

**Tulane 20, Southeastern 14**
Israel Route, 97 kick-off return (kick failed). Time: 12:59.

**Tulane 28, Southeastern 14**
Bubba Terranova, 74 pass from Ricard (Bobby Hoover pass from Chris Beckman). Time: 3:47. Drive: three plays, 74 yards. Time of Possession: 0:26. Key play: Terranova's reception provided all the yards on the drive.

**Southeastern 21, Tulane 28**
Huggins two pass from Willie (Hall kick). Time: 0:00; Drive: 13 plays, 88 yards. Time of Possession: 2:27. Key play: Gonzales caught a 30-yard pass on third down to put the Lions on the Green Wave 44-yard line.







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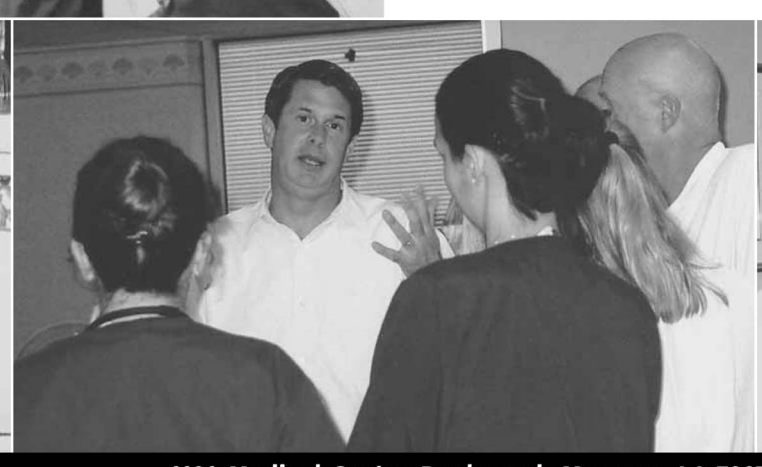
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The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 257 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# Hurricane recess ends in Jefferson



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

First-grader Rasone Quinn, 6, gets excited about his new bag of school supplies Monday at Airline Park Elementary School in Metairie while his classmates reach for their own bags. Boxes of pencils, paper, rulers and crayons were donated to the school from groups around the country.

## Most Orleans schools staying shut

*Enrollment is open for Algiers locations*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

The New Orleans public school system does not intend to open any campuses on the city's east bank this school year, the president of its governing board, the Rev. Torin Sanders, said Monday.

New Orleans public schools Uptown and elsewhere may be in good condition, but it's unlikely they could open soon, he said. If the east bank schools opened in January or later, students attending them would not receive enough instructional time, he said.

Last month, State Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard said engineers and architects who visited New Orleans public schools concluded at least seven Uptown schools are in good condition.

Sanders said Mayor Ray Nagin "wants us to be cautious and not have too many people using the city at one time." Sanders said it's unclear whether city services would be ready in time for a Nov. 1 opening of Uptown schools. The mayor, he said, wants things done in stages.

"We have the city and the School Board working with each other," Sanders said.

At least two private schools have opened in New Orleans and eight public schools are scheduled to open in a few weeks.

All of the schools are in Algiers.

St. Andrew the Apostle, 3131 Eton Street, welcomed roughly 700 students Monday, said the Rev. William Maestri, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He estimated 400 attended opening day at Holy Name of Mary School at 502 Olivier St.

The two Catholic schools serve students in grades prekindergarten through

*See* **ORLEANS,** *A-9*

## Tammany also back in the classroom

**By Rob Nelson and Mark Waller**
Staff writers

Louisiana's top-performing public school system and one of its largest systems both returned to the classroom from the five-week hurricane hiatus Monday to find some students missing and some new ones in their places.

St. Tammany Parish schools, the highest-ranked public system in the state, had no attendance total but said they registered almost 1,800 new students whom Hurricane Katrina displaced from heavily damaged schools elsewhere. That's an increase of 5 percent from St. Tammany's pre-Katrina enrollment of about 37,000.

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana's second largest school system by enrollment after still-closed Orleans, reported almost 30,000 students, less

*See* **SCHOOL,** *A-9*



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Principal Scott Steckler of George Cox Elementary School greets a familiar face Monday as first-grader Shylia Starks reports for school in Jefferson Parish.

## TO OUR READERS

The Times-Picayune will resume production of the newspaper at its Howard Avenue plant in New Orleans within the next two weeks, publisher Ashton Phelps Jr. announced Monday.

In addition, Phelps said the newspaper would invite back all employees who stayed in contact with the newspaper during the period after Hurricane Katrina.

"The evacuation of New Orleans and the disruption of essential city services as a result of Hurricane Katrina caused us to move our operations for several weeks to Baton Rouge, Mobile and Houma," Phelps said. "We sincerely appreciate the patience of our subscribers and our advertisers during that period."

About 250 Times-Picayune employees evacuated the building in the back of newspaper delivery trucks on Aug. 30, the day after Hurricane Katrina hit, as water rose around the building.

While water did not enter the building, at 3800 Howard Ave., lack of electricity, water service and access to the building has delayed its reopening.

A group of reporters returned later that day to the city to report on Katrina's aftermath, while others published the newspaper online on NOLA.com, the paper's affiliated Web site, for two days at the Houma Courier, a New York Times newspaper. Still others began setting up a temporary base of operations in Baton Rouge. The paper's staff also assisted in providing NOLA.com with information for its round-the-clock weblog coverage of Katrina and its aftermath.

The Times-Picayune was printed for two weeks at the Courier and later at the Mobile Register, which like the Times-Picayune is owned by Advance Publications Inc.

Phelps said he was pleased that so many people were able to access news and advertising in The Times-Picayune and on NOLA.com.

"We would like to express our profound gratitude and pride to those Times-Picayune employees who, at a time of unimaginable personal and professional stress, worked tirelessly to ensure that their newspaper would continue to publish," Phelps said.

"We have invited back to work all our employees who have stayed in touch with their department heads or supervisors during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," he said. "We look forward to being back at home and playing a part in the rebuilding of the New Orleans area."

"It represents a huge step forward for the New Orleans recovery," Tom Curley, president and CEO of The Associated Press, wrote to Phelps. "It also makes an incredible statement about the vision and values of you, the Newhouses and Advance (owners of The Times-Picayune)... As you have shown, our country needs New Orleans and its Times-Picayune."

## Pile of mud may be clue to levee failure



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Two engineers say the clubhouse, above, was heaved upward in the London Avenue Canal levee break.

*'Heave' points to structural problem, not levee topping*

**By John McQuaid**
Staff writer

A child's clubhouse, built about 25 years ago by a civil engineer for his son, provides another clue pointing to possible design or construction flaws in the structural failures that breached two canal floodwalls and inundated the city during Hurricane Katrina.

Engineer Gus Cantrell, 60, and son Daniel Cantrell, 33 – now a structural engineer himself – returned to the family's Pratt Drive house last week for the first time since Katrina struck. They discovered the old clubhouse sitting a few feet from its original location next to the London Avenue Canal levee – on top of a pile of mud and silty sand about 8 feet high.

The Cantrells believe that extreme pressure from high water pushed soil under the base of the floodwall away from the canal and upward in an arc, something known as a heave. That appears to have raised a mound of earth into the back

*See* **HEAVE,** *A-11*

## SBA slow to the rescue of business owners

*Heavy paperwork, inspections bog loan evaluations*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — More than a month after Hurricane Katrina decimated thousands of Gulf Coast businesses, the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved just 14 low-interest loans that could help companies rebuild, including three to companies in the hardest-hit state, Louisiana.

With more than 3,000 applications awaiting action, top officials in the federal agency blamed the slow response on logistical problems caused by the hurricane. But, unlike other federal agencies, the Small Business Administration has done little to streamline the application requirements for people who evacuated ahead of the Aug. 29 storm.

*See* **SBA,** *A-11*

**DAY 36** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **964** • Tax breaks at center of Blanco revival plan, A-2 • Probe looks at abuse of prisoners, A-3 • Dillard to set up shop at Tulane, A-9 **FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM**

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MOSTLY CLOUDY
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# Governor hopes tax breaks will jump-start N.O. recovery

*But where they'll take effect unclear*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Generous federal income tax breaks form the centerpiece of Gov. Kathleen Blanco's initiatives to lure people and businesses back to the storm-ravaged areas of New Orleans, according to documents and interviews with members of her administration.

The governor is suggesting a multiyear "tax holiday" for individuals, a house reconstruction tax break of as much as $50,000 and significant changes in accounting rules.

Among the more novel features of the proposed breaks is that people in some cases could sell the tax credits to third parties. For example, banks or tax-credit brokers could be allowed to purchase the credits and take the tax break themselves, while providing upfront cash to storm victims.

But a critical term in the proposals remains undefined: In what areas will people or businesses have to live or operate to be eligible for the break?

Blanco met Thursday with a group of selected business and community leaders from around the state to discuss her hurricane recovery plans. She gave them an outline of her proposals for tax legislation, mainly on the federal level, designed to attract people and companies to the New Orleans area, including new residents and peoplee who evacuated.

The discussions are expected to continue with feedback from the business group. Most of the proposals do not require new bureaucracies or large sums of money to be spent. Rather, as tax code changes, the federal government would simply receive less revenue from people and businesses in the New Orleans area.

The New Orleans area experienced a major diaspora of its population because of Katrina. Even businesses that are inclined to move back are questioning whether they can find the employees to fill their ranks and whether those employees can find housing.

Blanco's tax-break proposals are aimed directly at that concern. The proposals need the support of the Louisiana congressional delegation to succeed in Congress, and Blanco has been working most closely with Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter on new legislation.

Several of the federal tax benefits would apply to people in the "Hurricane Katrina impact area," but the administration has not determined what that area would be, the governor's spokeswoman said Monday. The governor's declarations for a state of emergency have not noted particular parishes.

For example, homeowners in that still-undefined area would be eligible for a federal tax credit of up to 35 percent of construction costs, up to a maximum of $50,000, if they repair a home or build a new one. People who were displaced but who did not own a home would get a tax credit of $20,000 per family if they came back to the "Katrina impact area."

Many people who would be eligible for the various tax credits would not have a large enough tax bill in a single year to take full advantage of the breaks, and so some of the proposals would let people and businesses take the breaks over several years.

An "individual tax holiday" proposal is aimed especially at people who are involved in deciding whether their businesses will return to New Orleans, according to administration documents. It would grant a 50 percent tax holiday through 2010 for earned income, which would include wages, service income and some other forms of earnings, such as income from rental payments.

## THE BLANCO INITIATIVES

Gov. Kathleen Blanco is supporting a multifaceted plan for state recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, much of it requiring action from Congress. Here are some highlights of initiatives taken or being considered:

### LEADERSHIP

**Advisers**: The governor has formed an independent group of about 40 business, higher education and community leaders.
**Consultant**: Blanco tapped the international management consulting group McKinsey & Co. to guide and evaluate the state's recovery effort, on a pro bono basis.
**Auditor**: The administration is looking for an auditing firm experienced in catastrophe recovery to monitor massive spending programs.
**Administration revamp**: Blanco has reorganized her administration into eight recovery teams to develop plans of action on the state level and to coordinate with leaders on the local level, covering the economy, education, environment, family services, fiscal stability, health, housing and transportation, and infrastructure. Each state agency has reorganized to focus on storm recovery.

### LEGISLATION

**State**: Blanco plans to call special legislative sessions in late October and January to deal with major revenue changes in the state budget and other storm-related issues.
**Federal**: The governor is pressing for major levee and coastal restoration projects, housing relief, massive rebuilding aid for state and local public services affected by the storms and incentives to businesses and individuals to return to the damaged areas.

### MAJOR PROGRAMS

**Hurricane recovery bonds**: The governor wants legislation for $30 billion in tax-exempt bonds in the state to finance construction and rehabilitation of real estate, including residential, commercial and rental properties.
**Louisiana business development fund**: Federal assistance would provide $10 billion in grants to small businesses that return to the affected areas.
**Medicaid**: Blanco wants full federal financing for Medicaid services for evacuees. She supports several plans by congressional leaders to make this happen.
**Gulf Opportunity Zone**: Blanco supports President Bush's proposal as a way to bring south Louisiana citizens back and encourage private investment and reconstruction.
**Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation**: Blanco established this foundation to support long-term family restoration and recovery using a network of charities and nonprofit groups.

### SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

**Home construction credit**: This would create a tax credit of 35 percent of construction costs or $50,000, whichever is less, for any resident of the Katrina impact area who rebuilds or repairs a home. The credit could be transferred, or sold, to any purchaser.
**Displaced persons credit**: For those who do not qualify for the home construction credit, this plan would give a $20,000 tax credit per family for re-establishing residence in the Katrina impact area.
**Relocation tax credit**: This measure would create a full tax credit for expenses incurred in relocating an individual or business back to the general location affected by Katrina by 2007. This credit would be transferable.
**Individual tax holiday**: Individuals working in the Katrina impact area would be subject to a 50 percent federal income tax holiday through 2010. It would apply to wages, service income, rental income and other income derived from management or marketing activities conducted on behalf of a business.
**Worker opportunity tax credit**: This would create a credit for businesses for 80 percent of qualified wages earned in the Katrina impact area through 2010, limited to the first $40,000 of wages per employee.
**Small business interruption tax credit**: A one-time credit of $1,000 per employee up to $100,000 would apply to businesses that relocate to the Katrina impact area.
**Economic growth credit**: This would authorize a 15 percent tax credit for capital invested in businesses in targeted high-growth, high-wage sectors in the Katrina impact area through 2008.
**Tax changes**: A variety of initiatives would help businesses by changing the tax rules on depreciation, expanding tax benefits when accounting for net operating losses and other measures.
**Hurricane recovery new markets tax credit**: This would offer a federal income tax credit for those making equity investments in the impact area.

Sources: Governor's office; Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

# Tropical storm aims for the Mexican Gulf coast

**By Miguel Hernandez**
Associated Press writer

VERACRUZ, MEXICO — Mexico's state oil monopoly said Monday it evacuated 270 workers from five platforms in the Gulf of Mexico as Tropical Storm Stan swirled toward Veracruz state's coastline.

It was unclear how the evacuations would affect production at Petroleos Mexicanos, the world's third-biggest oil producer and a major supplier to the United States. The company pumps about 3.4 million barrels a day of crude, exporting about half of it.

On land, Mexico issued a hurricane warning for much of the Gulf coast, from Cabo Rojo southward to Punta el Lagarto. Veracruz state prepared dozens of shelters and warned citizens of the approaching storm, which was expected to hit land late today or early Wednesday.

Veracruz closed its busy port, and the region's many anglers began pulling their boats from the water.

The storm was 265 miles northeast of Veracruz on Monday afternoon, with maximum sustained winds of 55 mph. It was expected to become a hurricane late Monday or early today, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Synagogue is open:** A wire service article in Monday's edition stated incorrectly that Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Ave., would not be holding services during the High Holy Days because of hurricane damage. In fact, services resume today with a Rosh Hashanah observance at 11 a.m.

The Times-Picayune

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# HOME ABLAZE



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

New Orleans firefighters team up with members of the New York Fire Department late Monday afternoon to control a fire that consumed a house in the 7900 block of Nelson Street in New Orleans. The home was near the intersection of South Carrollton and South Claiborne avenues.

# Investigation opens into possible inmate abuse

## *Beatings, racial slurs alleged after Katrina*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Justice has started a preliminary investigation into allegations that inmates transferred from Jefferson Parish lockups after Hurricane Katrina were victims of beatings and racial slurs, an agency spokesman said Monday.

Spokesman Eric Holland said that if the preliminary probe indicates that the allegations have validity, the Justice Department would open a more comprehensive probe.

Jamie Fellner, director of U.S. programs at Human Rights Watch, which monitors prison conditions, said volunteer lawyers who questioned inmates bused to a former youth detention facility in Jena, found serious allegations of abuse that were so consistent that he believes they are credible.

Among the allegations compiled by the lawyers: Inmates were beaten while shackled, and some were forced to lie on their knees for three to five hours at a time; some were forced to hold their faces against walls that had been sprayed with mace; and some were forced to wipe their faces and hair with vomit. Some of the guards, according to the complaints, used racial slurs when addressing African-American inmates.

"I've been doing prison monitoring for many years, and the consistency of the complaints indicates that there was a serious problem at Jena," Fellner said. "Just about every inmate who was interviewed said they saw someone else abused, or were abused themselves."

As many as 500 inmates were held at Jena after the hurricane.

Pam Laborde, spokeswoman for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, said a preliminary state investigation found "nothing that would substantiate a lot of these claims." She said that two senior correction officials from the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola are investigating, and the department is committed to getting to the truth when serious allegations are made.

She said there were two "incidents" at Jena that resulted in inmates being transferred from the facility. The first occurred Sept. 1, when some inmates refused to get into their beds for a mandatory bed count, complaining that they had not gotten an opportunity for outdoor exercise, she said.

Eleven inmates who refused the orders were removed from the dorm and restrained with flex cuffs in holding cells and then transferred to a correctional facility in Houma, Laborde said

The second event occurred a day later, when some inmates began yelling and beating on glass doors with their fists, demanding access to phones and cigarettes, Laborde said. She said the facility was classified as no-smoking, and that there were no phones at the facility, which was shut down as a juvenile detention facility five years ago. It took two weeks to get working phones into the facility, she said.

About 50 inmates were removed after the second incident, Laborde said. She said no one was injured during either incident.

Fellner said the inability of inmates to make phone calls was frustrating because many were worried about the safety of their families after the hurricane. She said many of the inmates were awaiting bail on relatively minor charges or were scheduled for release on minor convictions, but were stymied when Hurricane Katrina shut down the judicial process in Louisiana.

Fellner also is asking the Justice Department to examine what happened to all the inmates at Orleans Parish jails. In a report released last week, Human Rights Watch said that as many as 300 prisoners haven't been accounted for.

Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman said none of the city's 6,000 inmates died or were abandoned during the storm. Human Rights Watch said some inmates were abandoned in their cells as floodwaters rose up to their necks.

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# Many listed as missing may not be after all

## *Center not always told when families reunite*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — About 2,500 people are still listed as missing or unaccounted for more than a month after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast.

But fortunately, the numbers are misleading, according to Larry Upchurch, deputy director of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Upchurch said he is confident the vast majority of people on the list – most of them children – have been reunited or at least been in contact with their loved ones, although officials haven't been notified.

Some no doubt died in the hurricane, but Upchurch expects that number to be a relatively small proportion of the "missing" list of 2,500.

"There's a tendency when people are reunited not always to report that to the center or other officials," Upchurch said.

Of the original 4,500 missing cases reported to the center, about 2,000 have been resolved, usually with the discovery that the missing child or adult was with a parent or relative.

One encouraging statistic is that the number of Louisiana children who have turned up at shelters or other locations with no idea where their parents or caregivers are has dropped from the hundreds to one.



**Tyler**
Four-year-old's family is missing; she was found at Convention Center

The National Center says it still can't find the parents or guardians for Tyler, a 4-year-old girl found alone at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Aug. 31. Authorities say they don't know her last name, or date of birth, making the effort to find her parents or guardians all the more difficult.

Tyler, described as 3 feet, 1 inch tall with black hair and black eyes, grasped the hand of a stranger at the Convention Center and that man kept her with his family until all were evacuated to a shelter. If officials cannot find her family, she'll be placed in foster care.

Even on Sunday, more than a month after the hurricane struck, 20 new cases of missing people were reported to the Hurricane Katrina data base, (800) THE-LOST.

Most believed that their relatives were safe, but had lost track of them when they moved out of temporary shelter and into other housing, Upchurch said.

Upchurch, a retired FBI agent, said he has 20 investigators working in Louisiana trying to help families get back together.

In some instances, he said, it's just a matter of helping a parent or other relative learn whether children or others displaced by the hurricane are safe. In instances where there are questions about visitation rights, callers aren't told the location of the children. They are told only that they are safe, assuming officials know where they are, but little more, Upchurch said.

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# Wooley: Most insurance firms can withstand storms

## *But higher premiums are likely in future*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Higher homeowner insurance premiums are almost certain in the near future, but most of the state's insurance companies should be able to weather the deluge of homeowner claims spawned by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, state Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley told a joint House-Senate committee Monday.

"Basically, there will be increases (in premiums); there will be increases countrywide," not just along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast, he said.

The testimony came during the initial meeting of a joint House-Senate committee looking into long-term planning and recovery efforts. Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Chalmette, said the panel will break into subcommittees that travel the state seeking input on the best ways to help the state recover. The panel will make some preliminary recommendations on legislation for an expected special legislative session this month.

Wooley said that as it stands, most insurance companies will remain solvent, though a few smaller companies may not be able to survive.

That could change, he said, if Congress enacts retroactive legislation that would require insurers to pay for claims in excess of what was covered by the policies and paid for by original premiums.

Sen. Ben Nevers, D-Bogalusa, asked Wooley if he could assure people who have to rebuild their homes that insurance will be available for them. Wooley said he could not make that guarantee, nor could his office order private insurance companies to write new policies in an area. He said homeowners probably could still get insurance from the state-run, high-risk program.

Wooley also said lawmakers should consider enacting a uniform statewide building code to ensure there are uniform standards for the elevation of buildings and their ability to withstand high winds. Now, building codes are enacted by local governments and vary from city to city or parish to parish.

Earlier during Monday's session, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu told the joint meeting that state parks should be used as sites for evacuees to live temporarily. Landrieu said the federal government also should provide security, day-care services and transportation to and from work and school for displaced people forced to live in the parks for prolonged periods.

**"Basically, there will be increases (in premiums); there will be increases countrywide," not just along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.**

ROBERT WOOLEY
State insurance commissioner, speaking to a joint House- Senate committee

He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency wants to use the sites but does not want to sign a contract with the state for the amenities.

He said the cabins and trailer connections at the parks housed about 4,000 people in the days immediately following Katrina's landfall. That number has now dipped to about 3,500.

Landrieu told the committee that his office will not allow FEMA to bulldoze property to clear the way for more trailers -- a move that could permanently destroy the value of the scenic parks.

"We want to negotiate a contract (with FEMA) that will assure the esthetic setting of our state parks," department Secretary Angele Davis said. "We are not anticipating changes to the state parks" in the long run.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco told members of the steering committee of the House Special Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization, and the executive committee of the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization, that recovery efforts will need "a unified effort for the task ahead of us ... to rebuild coastal Louisiana from the Texas border to the Mississippi border."

She said she has met with New Orleans-area business leaders who are "as committed to restoring Louisiana as I am. ... The task is large but not too large for a unified Louisiana."

# Evacuees may get to vote at special precinct sites

## *Temporary polls are possible out of state*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana voters could vote in special out-of-state voting precincts under a plan suggested by Secretary of State Al Ater. Ater said he probably will ask a special session of the Legislature to give him the authority to open such out-of-state precincts if large clusters of Louisiana voters are living in those areas and still want to vote in Louisiana elections.

Ater told a special House-Senate panel looking at long-term revitalization and recovery from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita that there are more than 300,000 voters who are now out of their normal precincts and "dispersed all throughout America."

He said his office is working with the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify which voters are in state and which ones are out of state.

Ater specifically addressed the New Orleans elections in February. He said for in state voters, members of his office may have to travel to those areas in the state and encourage voters to vote absentee by mail. If voters register in another parish, they would not be able to vote in their home elections.

For voters out of state, Ater said he would like to open temporary polling for the citywide races.

"We have the technology to assure voting (at distant locations) without a hint of fraud," Ater said. "We want to make sure that is not one person in America who is a citizen of New Orleans who will not be able to vote."

Ater said his plan would apply to all elections in which Louisiana residents are dispersed, not just for the New Orleans races next year.

"We are developing a plan to try to reach and find everyone," he said. "Through no fault of their own, they are now living in Los Angeles or Minnesota, but that should not preclude them from participating in elections in Louisiana. . . .We are putting together a plan that reaches every voter no matter where they are."

He said his office sustained $2.5 million in losses in election machines and equipment from the two hurricanes. He said that 90 of the 892 voting machines in Orleans Parish were ruined, four of 735 in Jefferson were destroyed, and all 125 in St. Bernard were "total losses."

He said none in Plaquemines Parish was damaged because they were not stored in low-lying areas.

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# AFTER THE STORM

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Lafourche — 2
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Plaquemines — 3
St. Charles — 8
St. Tammany — 7
Tangipahoa — 26
Terrebonne — 16
West Baton Rouge — 3

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Orleans Parish 64 %
St. Bernard Parish 100 %

**POSTAL SERVICE**
▶ Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
▶ For harder-hit areas of Plaquemines, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse where residents can pick up mail.
▶ In New Orleans, outgoing mail will be accepted at a temporary post office in the parking lot between JAX brewery and Canal Place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Postage is available.
▶ Services are up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened and partial delivery began last week for ZIP codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH BY PARISH

**ORLEANS**
▶ Residents and business owners are allowed to re-enter the city in these ZIP codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. Beginning Wednesday, residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
▶ Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and Oshsner Hospital are open and emergency service is available at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and Kindred DMAT
**JEFFERSON**
▶ East and west banks are open to residents.
▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizensí Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m
**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
▶ Parish is open
▶ 911 phone system is online
▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323
▶ A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from midnight to 5 a.m.
**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
▶ Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
▶ All areas of the parish have been reopened. Residents will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dusk to dawn curfew is in effect.
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
▶ Some parts of parish still without power
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
▶ Parish is open
▶ Utilities are working
**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
▶ Parish is open
▶ Utilities are working

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS PARISH**
▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year
▶ Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country.
▶ De La Salle High School will resume class on Oct. 18 at the temporary location of St. Rita School of Harahan at 194 Ravan Ave., near Jefferson Highway. Classes will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. until civil authorities approve moving back to 5300 St. Charles Ave. Registration takes place through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.dlsneworleans.com, call 504-231-6962, or e-mail kirb01@aol.com.
**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
▶ Public schools open except Terrytown, Woodmere, Lincoln and Alexander elementary schools as well as John Martyn School.
▶ Alexander students should report at 9 a.m. to Greenlawn Elementary, 1500 38th St., Kenner.
▶ Lincoln students should report at 9 a.m. to Butler Elementary School, 300 Fourth St., Westwego.
▶ Terrytown students should arrive at 8:40 a.m. at Boudreaux Elementary, 950 Behrman Highway, Terrytown.
▶ Woodmere students should report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elementary, 2500 Bent Tree Lane, Marrero.
▶ Martyn students should report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Drive, Jefferson.
▶ Students at Lafitte Elementary and Grand Isle School should call the school to see whether classes will resume Monday.
▶ Ecole Classique open. Call (225) 819-2846 to register.
▶ Concordia Lutheran in Marrero open.
▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge open.
**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
▶ Public: Open
▶ Catholic: Several schools open.
**ST. BERNARD**
▶ Public: Probably closed for year
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
▶ The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen the Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
▶ Public: Open
▶ Catholic: Open
**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
▶ Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin this week.
▶ Catholic: Open.

## FOR HELP

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▶ Red Cross Relief Sites opened in Baton Rouge, Mandeville, Kenner
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**MANDEVILLE**
▶ Pelican Park (Sun-Fri. 9a-7p)
**KENNER**
(Opens Wednesday, 9a-7p)
▶ Airline Highway Near Lesan Drive
**FEMA**
▶ 15 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice. For more information, log on to www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362.
▶ Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
▶ Two crisis hotlines are open: 1-800-273-8255 and 1-800-749-2673

# Blanco repeats plea for worker base pay

## *Request requires regulation change*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Saying that some parishes and towns struck by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have lost their tax base and "are on the verge of financial collapse," Gov. Kathleen Blanco repeated her request Monday to President Bush to change federal regulations so that local governments can use emergency dollars from Washington to pay base salaries of essential workers.

Blanco wants base pay for police, sheriff's deputies, firefighters and other public sector employees, in addition to the overtime pay that the federal government provides to local governments after a catastrophe.

A spokeswoman for Bush said the administration is looking into the matter but does not have a timetable for when a decision might be made. White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card spoke with Blanco on Monday. A spokeswoman for the governor said the two had a productive conversation.

Blanco met Monday at the state Capitol with about 50 representatives from towns across south Louisiana and at least 15 parishes, including several that suffered relatively light damage from the hurricanes but have borne costs of hosting evacuees from the storm-damaged areas.

"This is a unique situation, and that's why we're asking for a unique response," Blanco said.

The Stafford Act guides the spending policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. After Hurricane Andrew swept through Florida and Louisiana in 1992, the Clinton administration changed the regulations under the act so that the federal government could continue to provide overtime pay to local governments after a catastrophe, but not base pay, said Mark Merritt, a senior vice president with James Lee Witt Associates, which is advising Blanco on FEMA matters.

To change the regulation, Congress does not have to alter the Stafford Act, Merritt said. But, if the normal procedure for changing regulations is followed, federal agencies and members of Congress would have to sign off on the regulatory changes, a time-consuming process, Merritt said.

Blanco wrote Bush on Sept. 23 asking him to override the regulations. The governor did not pin a dollar figure on the amount of money needed. She said the salary relief should not be made in a blanket manner. Federal officials should assess each local government situation to determine if the need is justified, she said.

Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff Daniel Edwards said most sheriffs across the state rely on property taxes, the bulk of which are paid out of mortgage company escrow accounts at the beginning of the year. So by September, the sheriffs departments have little money left to handle a major adjustment to their budgets, he said.

St. Bernard Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said the parish has about 30 days — or about "two more paydays" — before it runs out of money for public sector salaries. He said the Sheriff's Office already had laid off 100 people and the parish had laid off 120 workers.



AP PHOTO

At a news conference in Gov. Kathleen Blanco's office at the state Capitol, St. Bernard Parish President Henry 'Junior' Rodriguez says that without federal assistance, the parish will have no money for payroll by the end of this month.

"We're not up here asking for welfare; we're asking for some help to survive," Rodriguez said.

He said living conditions in the parish are poor. "You can't light a light bulb in St. Bernard," he said, referring to the power outage. With no gas stations and no stores, it is clear that the tax base has vanished along with the people and businesses, he said.

Rodriguez estimated the parish will need three years' worth of revenue to stay afloat financially until the area can recover. The recovery will be slow because about 80 percent of the homes in the parish will have to be torn down, he said. The pre-Katrina annual parish budget was $57 million, not including law enforcement, he said.

The governor's administration is examining the Stafford Act to make suggestions for changes that might be affected by disasters in the future.

Members of Louisiana's congressional delegation have been looking for financing alternatives to solve the problem.

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# Televised photo reunites couple

## *Two strokes took woman's speech*

**By Janet McConnaughey**
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — A woman who went unidentified for nearly a month at a New Orleans-area hospital was a paralyzed former singer whose family had been putting up posters asking people to help find her, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Joan Magee, 62, speechless and paralyzed from two strokes, and her husband, guitarist Shelton Magee, were separated after they were rescued from the 9th Ward floods and brought to the Superdome.

A notice posted for Joan Magee on one lost-person Web site said they were separated around Aug. 29, the day Katrina hit New Orleans and a breached levee flooded the 9th Ward.

Ochsner Clinic Foundation social worker Karla Davis had said the woman was brought to Ochsner hospital Aug. 30.

Shelton Magee, who had cared for his wife at their home, never gave up faith that she would be returned to him. Hospital spokeswoman Amiee Goforth said he told her, " 'God wouldn't have let me bring my wife out of all of that and then take her away from me. I knew she was alive.' "

Shelton Magee said both had performed with a group called the Foundation Band in the Crazy Quarter club, Goforth said Monday. That club no longer exists.

In addition to Shelton Magee's notice on the Internet, other relatives had posted fliers across New Orleans, Goforth said.

Joan Magee was identified after television stations across Louisiana showed her photograph, Davis said.

"Her mother-in-law, who lives in Slidell, recognized her. She called Ochsner and said `I know who that lady is. She's my daughter-in-law,'" Goforth said.

She was identified Friday, and her husband, who had evacuated to Chicago and was staying with a brother, arrived at the hospital on Sunday.

"She'd been crying since the storm, and when he walked in she stopped," Goforth said.

# One researcher's plan: Fight storms with storms

## *Weather modification the distant goal*

**By Guy Gugliotta**
The Washington Post

Moshe Alamaro has a modest proposal. Get a fleet of ocean barges and mount 10 or 20 jet engines — tails up — on each one. Fill the barges with aviation fuel and tow them into the path of a hurricane. Light the jets.

If everything goes as planned, the jets will trigger small tropical storms, "like backfires," Alamaro says, marginally lowering the surface ocean temperature and depriving the real hurricane of energy as it gets closer to shore.

Less energy means less power, and less power can turn tigers like hurricanes Katrina and Rita into relative pussycats.

It is not clear how much support Alamaro has for his concept, which he defines as a "salient" that outdistances conventional thinking "by leaps and springs." But his zeal highlights the increased interest of scientists and laypeople alike in finding something — anything — to avoid another 2005.

A solution, unfortunately, does not loom on the horizon. Improved weather forecasting and the advent of satellite imagery have made the paths and dimensions of hurricanes much more predictable, but greater knowledge, while helpful, does not solve the problem. Hurricanes, as old boxers might say, are like fighting Sugar Ray Robinson: You know you're going to get hit, but there's still nothing you can do about it.

"I will go out on a limb and say, eventually, we will accomplish this," said Kerry Emanuel, an atmospheric scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But by "this," Emanuel means "disaster avoidance, rather than weather control."

The trick is to introduce a "perturbation" in a hurricane — a variation in moisture, wind speed, temperature or pressure — so that the hurricane weakens or veers out to sea. The strategy uses the principle that a small, early change in a complex "chaotic" system such as a hurricane can have large, and benign, effects later on.

Alamaro's "free jet" plan is designed to create a temperature perturbation. He said he could test the concept — in a remote part of the Pacific and in the hurricane off-season — for about $10 million, by using junker jet engines from mothballed B-52s in Arizona.

"We have the jets and the barge, but we don't have knowledge about the effects and we don't have the knowledge about hurricanes," Alamaro said in a telephone interview. "A test would entice the necessary studies to make it feasible."

**"I hate to sound pessimistic, but Moshe's strategy requires many orders of magnitude of energy more than what he's talking about, and the backfires would have to be almost as strong as the hurricane itself. I think, unfortunately, it falls into the category of nutty ideas."**

KERRY EMANUEL
an atmospheric scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Perhaps. Alamaro, a research affiliate at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology, outlined his strategy at this year's annual meeting of the Weather Modification Association, amid "a lot of commotion."

This, in part, was because atmospheric scientists are skittish, Alamaro said: "They know that weather modification would give an unbelievable boost to atmospheric science, but they don't want to support it because of the stigma that it is some sort of black art."

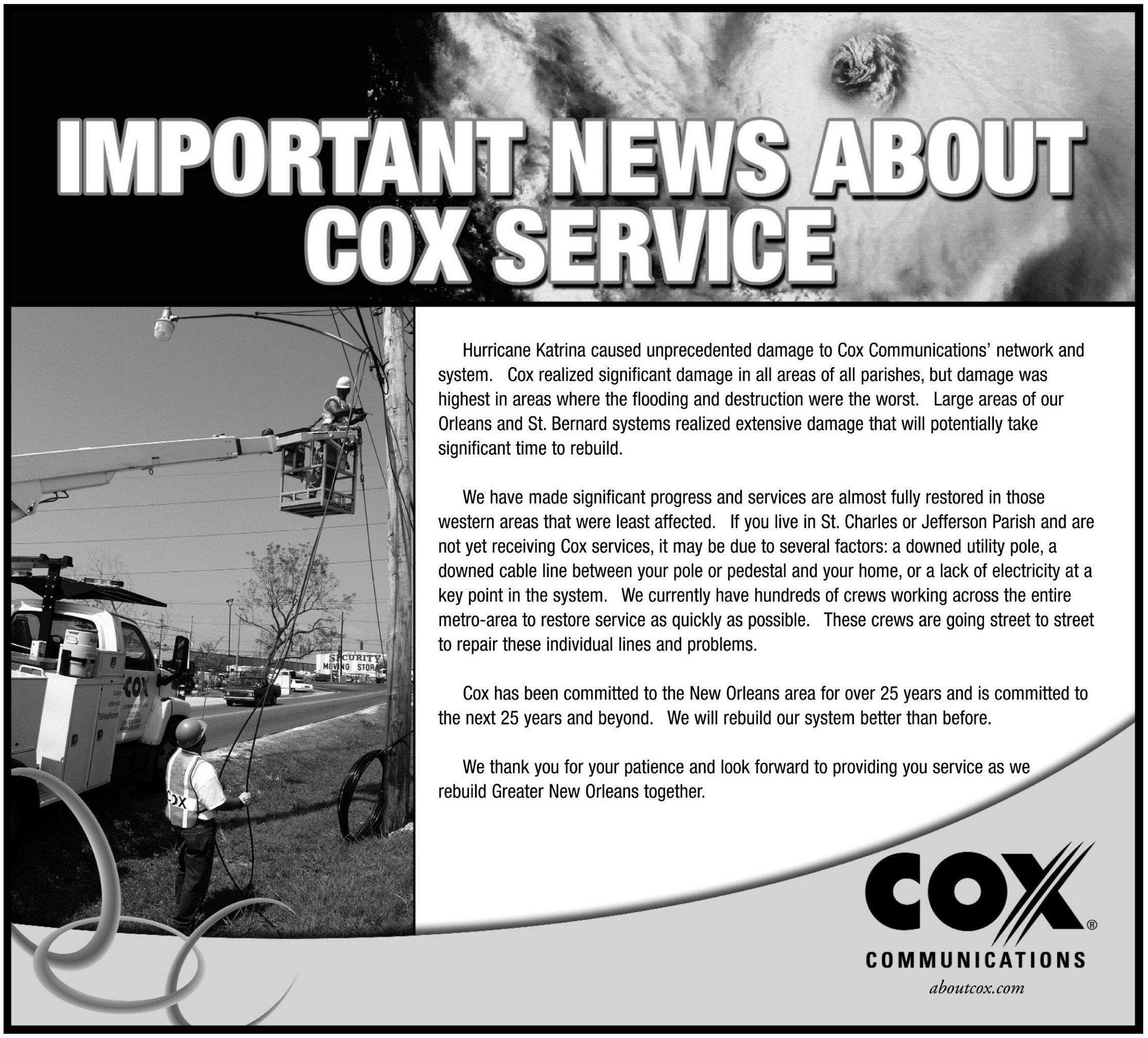
This is true, said Greg Glenn, a civilian who studies weather modification at Florida's Eglin Air Force Base, and who is interested in enlisting Alamaro in a hurricane-mitigation project: "This isn't going to go away as junk science," he said. Glenn is not as interested in Alamaro's free jets as in an idea promoted by Emanuel: spraying a "monolayer film" on the ocean in front of a hurricane to inhibit the storm's ability to pick up heat energy and moisture from the sea surface.

And Emanuel, a top U.S. atmospheric scientist, is not an Alamaro fan: "I hate to sound pessimistic, but Moshe's strategy requires many orders of magnitude of energy more than what he's talking about, and the backfires would have to be almost as strong as the hurricane itself," Emanuel said. "I think, unfortunately, it falls into the category of nutty ideas."

Regardless of the method, most atmospheric scientists would probably agree that manipulating hurricanes is not only an uncertain scientific undertaking but a potential catastrophe in several ways, if intended results are not achieved.

If scientists promise to save New Orleans and fail, they will be sued. Or if they hit Mississippi instead, they will be sued. If they promise to save New Orleans and hit Mexico, they will create an international incident. "Who takes the blame?" Emanuel asked. "It's a horrific political problem."

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# No easy transition for Katrina students

*New towns make learning daunting*

**By Bill Kaczor**
Associated Press writer

DESTIN, FLA. — One child displaced by Hurricane Katrina burst into tears several times and told a classmate "They're gone" during the first few days at his new school, even though his family and friends had survived without injury.

Another evacuee student at Destin Middle School was unfazed, keeping a stiff upper lip even though he knew his uncle had drowned in the Aug. 29 storm and two other relatives were missing back in Mississippi.

There's nothing unusual about either boy's reaction, and that's why schools must exercise maximum flexibility to help the thousands of children displaced by Katrina cope with bad memories and new surroundings, said Ted Feinberg, assistant executive director of the National Association of School Psychologists.

"The grieving process takes many different forms," he said from the association's Bethesda, Md., headquarters. "There's no right or wrong way to grieve."

The children are grieving because all have faced some kind of loss, but the effects might not show up immediately, Feinberg said. And there's no difference whether they are rich or poor, black or white, he added.

"These kids are coming in with a very significant amount of emotional baggage, and they are going to need time to express their feelings," he said. "Over time, people's physical capacity to tolerate this kind of stress becomes less and less and systems break down."

Guidance counselors and school psychologists are on alert and ready to respond at Destin Middle if Katrina children display signs of emotional instability, principal Sherri Houp said.

Her school also brought in grief counselors from Covenant Hospice in nearby Niceville to meet with more than 100 evacuee children from Louisiana and Mississippi.

"For them, this is in a way a death because they've lost a way of life," said Mary Jo Hardin, a children's specialist with the hospice, "They need some kind of sense of normalcy."

Hardin said there needs to be a balance, though, between the needs to "get some things out" and put Katrina in the past. "If you dwell on it, you're not going to be able to move on," she said.

## Not bringing it up

Kyla Scelzi, a language arts teacher at Destin Middle, said she discusses the hurricane only if the children bring it up to avoid provoking more tears. She recalled the crying boy who told another child: "They're gone, everything's gone. They're all dead."

"It wasn't anything affecting him personally," Scelzi said. "Just watching the news and seeing how many thousands of people they had projected to be dead, to him it was almost 'Those are my friends and that's my family.'"

Christopher Davison, also a language arts teacher at Destin Middle, also said he never brings up the hurricane because he wants to get the children back into a normal routine.

"They're going to get enough reminders of this when they go home and Mom and Dad are trying to figure out how they are going to pay bills, where he's going to get a job and those kinds of things," Davison said.

Feinberg said that's an understandable response by teachers who see getting on with the academic agenda as therapeutic, but it might be too much, too soon for some children.

"Kids need time and need the opportunity to deal with these issues whether it's through talking it out or arts and crafts or some other mechanism to allow them to let go of this stuff," Feinberg said.

## 'It's just not home'

Twelve-year-old Megan O'Neill, a seventh-grader from New Orleans, said the children at Destin Middle have welcomed her, but "It's just not home. You can't feel at home."

"I like it, but I want to go back to my old school because all my friends are there," said seventh-grader Kayla Stutts, 12, of Metairie. "Here I have nobody."

Children who have gone through such trauma often have a hard time concentrating on school work, Feinberg said. Twelve-year-old Alexis Talley, a sixth-grader, said that's what happened to her since coming to Destin Middle from Metairie.

"You can't study because you're always thinking about what's wrong with your house," she said. Her home had five feet of water, a hole in the roof and mold on the walls.

"At home I'm an A-honors student," said 13-year-old Taylor Way, an eighth-grader from the New Orleans area, who says she doesn't bother to study any more. "Here, it's just like 'whatever.'"

Taylor said some local children seem to be saying "I don't like having you people."

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# Damaged schools set up shop on other campuses



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Ninth-graders Dominique Jackson and Brione Williams check out their new schedules Monday at John Ehret High School. Both students attended schools in Orleans Parish.

**SCHOOL,** *from A-1*

than two-thirds its former student population of 51,000. Jefferson officials did not know how many registered from other systems, but they said they expect enrollment to climb quickly as more families return home from hurricane evacuations and more families from devastated Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes move to Jefferson.

Educators worked hard to make the transition a smooth one.

Inside a sunlight hallway of George Cox Elementary School in Gretna, a bulletin board reads, "Katrina, Katrina, go away. Come and learn today." Filled with color pictures of Katrina's destructive toll on the building — shattered windows, uprooted trees and soaked classrooms — the board serves as a message of hope for the children now cruising the halls of the cleaned and largely repaired school, Principal Scott Steckler said.

"This is a metaphor for life for the children," he said.

Indeed, waves of recovery, normalcy and hope swept through Jefferson Parish public schools for the first time since Katrina scattered families across the country, shuttered the schools and tossed the system's finances and enrollment into uncertainty.

## Excitement and angst

Jefferson is the largest school system in the New Orleans region to reopen, progress that parish leaders say bodes well for the parish's overall recovery. Substantiating school leaders' hopes that Jefferson will become an educational refuge for students throughout the region, they said hundreds of Monday's students were new pupils from Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

One was fifth-grader Raja Harrison, who formerly attended Martin Behrman Elementary in Algiers. Sitting on a couch in Steckler's office, she laughed and giggled as she talked warmly about her new school.

"I'm excited to be back at schools because I love school," the 10-year-old said, lamenting only the school-provided free lunch. "I was kind of scared that I would not meet any friends, but it's been good so far, except for the lasagna."

The reaction wasn't quite as cozy from Brione Williams, a new freshman at John Ehret High School in Marrero, who had started the 2005-06 year in August at John F. Kennedy High School in New Orleans.

"It makes me nervous, meeting new friends," said Williams, whose voice barely topped a whisper while sitting in line to have her picture taken for school identification. When asked what she missed about Kennedy, she replied, "Everything."



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Second-grader Jessica Washington, left, has a gift for her new classmate, Sophie Vagianos, at Airline Park Elementary School. Hurricane Katrina forced Sophie from her school in New Orleans.

## Sharing space

Seventy-six of Jefferson's 79 schools that opened reported a total of 27,122 returning students.

"I think this is a very fluid situation," said Patricia Mendoza, principal of Terrytown Elementary School, which was too damaged to open and is sharing the campus of Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary School. "Every month will bring something different."

Three other conventional elementary schools in Jefferson remain closed because of damage and are also sharing campuses with other schools.

In St. Tammany, classes resumed at all but four schools damaged by Katrina: Salmen High, St. Tammany Junior High, Brock Elementary and Slidell Pathways, all in Slidell. Those students will platoon at other schools or, in the case of Brock, attend classes alongside children at another elementary school.

At Ehret, the state's largest high school before the storm with about 2,600 students, about 50 percent of students returned – much to the delight of Principal Clothilde Cobert.

"I was excited to just see the kids get off the bus," said Colbert, praising the system's efforts to resume operation quickly. "When the schools open, it helps the whole community recover."

The homecoming had a party feel at Airline Park Elementary School in Metairie. The day started there with an assembly that featured a reading from a storybook about a character that survived a hurricane, a slideshow set to Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" with pictures of local landmarks and a second-line out of the cafeteria to return to class, complete with teachers draping beads around children's necks.

"I missed all my friends," said 10-year-old Brandan Dugan, an Airline student. "I only had a sister to play with. She's 7. It's better to play with friends."

Students there also took part in the classic assignment of writing essays about their "vacation" from school.

"My family and I went to nine different states," wrote a fifth-grade boy. "I can't wait to go home in my own bed," a second-grade boy scrawled.

## National attention

Despite some busing-related glitches, Superintendent Diane Roussel said the reopening went smoothly and is pivotal to the region's recovery because it lets thousands of parents return and tend to their homes and businesses.

"I'm encouraged," she said about the system's post-Katrina debut. "It's looking really good. I thought everybody put forth maximum effort."

The system's reopening, which had the atmosphere of the first day of school that many students experienced exactly a week before Katrina struck, attracted news media attention from around the country. CNN, MSNBC, CBS News and others bombarded Roussel and classrooms at Airline Park.

The attention seemed welcomed by principals, relieved and encouraged by the return to work.

"Good schools will bring people back in a heartbeat," Estelle Elementary School Principal Jackie Daniillidis said.

Registering her second-grade son at Estelle after weeks in Atlanta, Natasha Williams, whose Gretna house was destroyed, said her son was itching to get back to the books. Williams called Jefferson's reopening "a blessing."

"They helped me with my son, and he's happy," she said.

For Steckler, the hugs from returning Cox students made his day.

"I couldn't wait for this day, and I now I know why," he said. "Today, I escaped Katrina."

Christine Harvey of the St. Tammany bureau contributed to this report.

# Archdiocese may open some schools in January

**ORLEANS,** *from A-1*

eighth grade.

New Orleans public schools slated to open Nov. 1 include six schools for students in grades prekindergarten through eighth grade and two high schools, Sanders said. All will be open enrollment, meaning students who live anywhere in the city may attend the schools.

The high schools, grades 9-12, include:

- O.P. Walker High, 2832 Gen. Meyer Ave.
- Edna Karr Magnet, 3332 Huntlee Drive.

The elementary schools, prekindergarten through eighth grade, include:

- Eisenhower Elementary, 3700 Tall Pines Drive.
- Fischer Elementary, 1801 L.B. Landry Ave.
- Habans Elementary, 3819 Herschel St.
- Harte Elementary, 5300 Berkley Drive.
- Henderson Middle School, 1912 L.B. Landry Ave.
- McDonogh No. 32, 800 Dearmas St.

Parents can enroll students by calling (877) 771-5800, said Lelia McCullum, an administrator with the instructional technology department. Or those with an Internet connection can visit www.nops.k12.la.us and press the link that states "If you are a parent of a NOPS student, click here to fill in an online form to indicate your intent to return your child to NOPS."

Sanders said Monday that, according to a plan from acting Superintendent Ora Watson, only New Orleans public schools on the West Bank will operate during the 2005-06 school year. The holiday schedule will be abbreviated and the school year will end in June rather than May, he said.

The schools can accommodate at least 8,000 students, Sanders said.

Consequently, some returning New Orleanians may have to rely on private schools or schools outside the parish to educate their children.

Unlike the public school system, the archdiocese is considering opening schools on the city's east bank if it can get them ready by January, Maestri said, adding that he eagerly awaits information about the status of water service, sanitation and electricity.

The archdiocese continues to assess the damage to its east bank schools, he said. If any can be ready by January and city services are ready, "we are prepared to open," Maestri said.

"We'd eliminate holidays, extend the day and go into the summer," he continued.

The archdiocese may know by mid-October whether it will open any Catholic schools on the city's east bank, Maestri said.

In addition to the Catholic and public schools in the New Orleans, there are at least eight institutions that are members of the Independent School Association of the Southwest: Academy of the Sacred Heart, Louise S. McGehee, Isidore Newman, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, St. George's Episcopal School, St. Paul's Episcopal School, Stuart Hall School for Boys and Trinity Episcopal. Geoffrey Butler, executive director of the association, could not be reached for comment regarding the status of those schools.

There are also five charter schools in New Orleans, which are public schools that operate outside the purview of the School Board. Decisions on when those schools may reopen are pending.

Leslie Williams can be reached at (225) 215-0897.

# Dillard aims for January return

*University to set up on Tulane's campus*

**By The Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS — Dillard University will resume classes on Tulane University's campus as early as January while Dillard's campus undergoes extensive repairs.

Both universities were damaged by the floods after Hurricane Katrina, but Tulane is near the high edge of the bowl-shaped city, while Dillard's campus is near the center.

Tulane, which already has announced plans to reopen in January for its spring semester, had offered the space to Dillard, a 135-year-old historically black university. The schools worked together to bring Dillard back to New Orleans, Dillard President Marvalene Hughes said.

A news release said Dillard had considered several sites in Louisiana and in adjacent states.

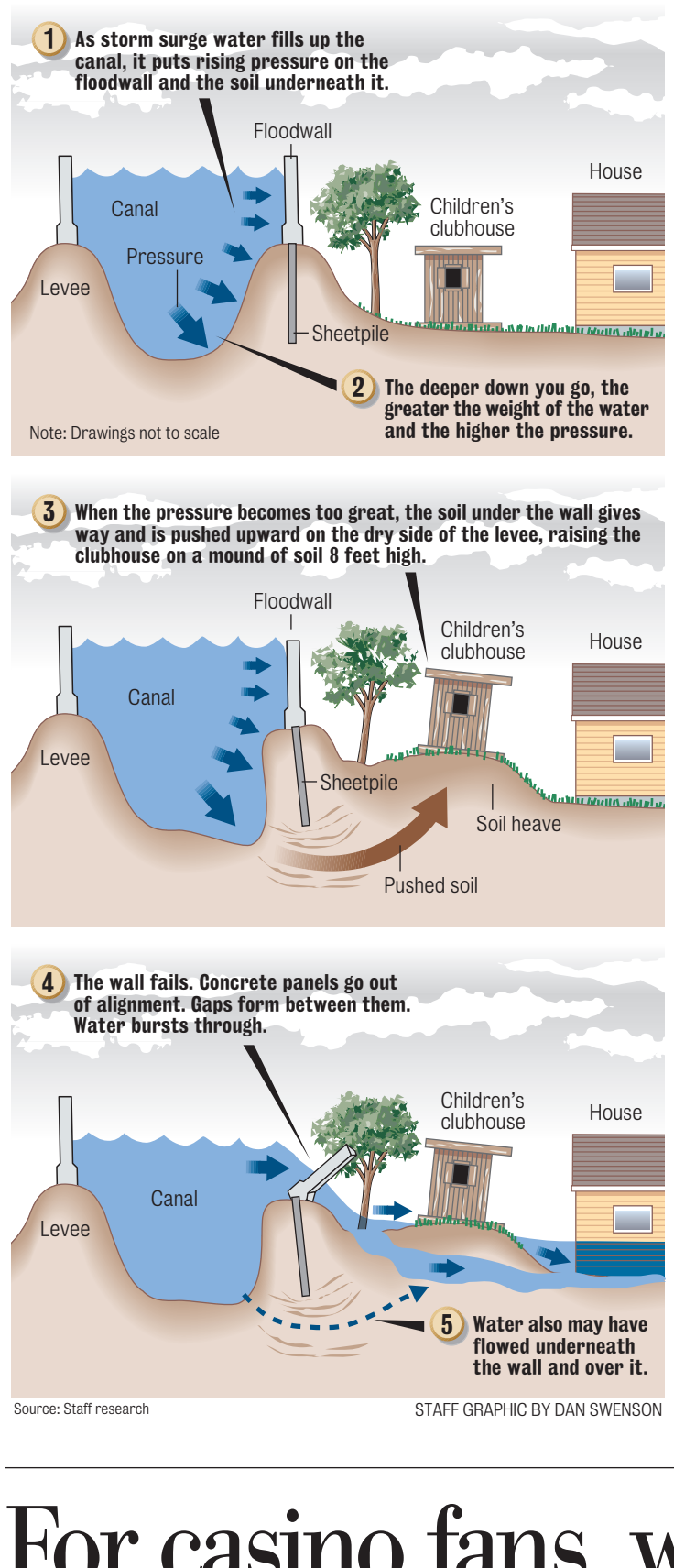
"With the Tulane offer in New Orleans, it has been ensured that Dillard University will maintain its separate identity and heritage as a historically black university, re-establish its learning-centered community of students, faculty and staff and reclaim its legacy of 135 years in the city," it said.

The availability of classrooms, laboratories, auditoriums and administrative space helped shape the decision, the statement said.

Hughes said, "Dillard has two immediate goals: One, to prepare for our move back to campus as quickly as possible, with the safety and security of all of our students, faculty and staff as a paramount concern; and, two, to participate in the economic redevelopment of New Orleans."

## SOIL HEAVE: A NEW BREACH THEORY

A father-son pair of engineers believe that the London Avenue Canal levee failed behind their house because of something called a soil heave. Water may have pushed soil under the levee floodwall and upward into their back yard under a children's clubhouse. The destabilized wall failed and the area behind it flooded.




Source: Staff research

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

# 'It's a textbook case of heave'

HEAVE, *from A-1*

yard under the clubhouse. The wooden clubhouse's base is now even with the edge of the house's roof, Daniel Cantrell said.

"Once that happened, the wall would have been compromised, not have been able to support itself," he said.

That is different from initial theories offered by the Army Corps of Engineers that the floodwalls were topped by storm surge and raises more questions about design and construction.

James Michael Duncan, a professor of geotechnical engineering at Virginia Tech, said that the description of what happened sounded like a "deep-seated structural failure" in which the soil under the structure moves and the structure built into it fails. One way to visualize it, he said, would be to think of a cross-section of the wall and the soil around it in a circle.

"Imagine what's inside the circle rotating. Outside of the wall, with the high water on it, it's pushing in and down," he said. "On the inside of the wall soil comes up as on the outside it goes down."

The position of the clubhouse suggests that the wall failed because of some form of human error, the Cantrells say.

Corps officials have suggested the storm surge may have simply overwhelmed the wall, flowing over the top and eroding the dry side. "The theory put out by the Corps was that it had been overtopped and it scoured out the soil ... and the wall would have keeled over at the knee," Cantrell said. "That would not have resulted in what we have. It's a textbook case of heave. The clubhouse is perfectly level, high and dry."

A similar heave may have occurred at the breach in the 17th Street canal, where soil also appears to have been pushed forward and upward.

A Corps of Engineers spokesman said that investigators probing the levee breaches probably would look at the possibility of soil heaves. Teams of engineers from the Corps, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Science Foundation are surveying the levee breaches this week, collecting evidence.

"They are going to look at everything and try to make a determination," spokesman Alan Dooley said. "The Corps is a learning organization. We'd like to learn everything we can."

The Cantrells' clubhouse is virtually undamaged. It was built sturdily, Gus Cantrell said, because he wanted to demonstrate good building techniques to his son. A flimsier backyard shed was pushed all the way across the street.

"We climbed over the debris to the clubhouse, which had two padlocks on it. Neither had been corroded," Daniel Cantrell said. "In the clubhouse, we found my son's bike – he's 5. It was hanging in there, no rust, no corrosion, no dirt, it had not gotten wet. There was a chest containing my grandfather's tools. They were in fine shape. It appears that the structure had not gotten wet at all."

That suggests the heave occurred first, precipitating the wall's failure. The floodwall did not completely collapse, but the concrete panels were knocked askew, with gaps between them. Once the wall destabilized, water could have flowed through the wall and possibly underneath it too. It flowed around the raised clubhouse and a patch of green grass next to it – the only live vegetation left on the property.

Once the wall broke, water appears to have blasted through it. The French doors on the Cantrell house were ripped off. Water coursed through the house and blew out the walls on two sides. Furniture was carried away.

"There was a china cabinet that took 10 men and a mule to move," Gus Cantrell said. "It's gone."

Cantrell, who retired in July from the University of New Orleans, where he worked as the director of the physical plant, said he was grateful he evacuated.

"If my wife and I had been home and not decided to leave, we would both be dead," he said. "There is no way we would have survived."

Gus Cantrell and his wife are now staying at Daniel's home in Houston. He said he has lived in Houston for 4½ years and did not plan to return to live in New Orleans. Gus Cantrell said that based on what he saw in his backyard, he believes the Corps bears some responsibility for the breaches.

"My regret is that I didn't look at that floodwall and say, what am I going to do when that wall comes down?" he said. "I didn't think about that. I trusted the Corps of Engineers."

• • • • • •

John McQuaid can be reached at (202) 383-7889 or at john.mcquaid@newhouse.com.

## With waters on the rise, corps races to fix levees

*High tides, heavy rains expected in next few days*

**From staff reports**

Anticipating heavy rains on Thursday and rising water levels in Lake Pontchartrain this week, the Army Corps of Engineers was working Monday to finish sealing up the ends of the London Avenue and 17th Street canals.

As it did before Rita, the corps is closing off the canals to prevent water levels from rising on both canals when winds from the east and a coming full moon bring in tides off the lake during the next few days.

With the London Avenue Canal sealed off and the final steel pilings being driven into the 17th Street Canal at the bridge late in the afternoon, Army Col. Duane P. Gapinski, commander of the corps' dewatering task force, said closing off the canals will give workers more time to mend the breaches in both canals with crushed rock and sandbags. The breaches are currently mended up to 6 feet and will be up to 10 feet by Thursday when heavy rains are expected, he said.

Though the Industrial Canal is too wide to seal off, Gapinski said the levee should be up to 10 feet by Thursday, enough to keep rising water from flooding the Lower 9th Ward again.

# For casino fans, where there's a will, there's a wager

*Gamblers forced to find inland alternatives*

**By Brendan Farrington**
Associated Press writer

VICKSBURG, MISS. — For years, Wayne Hardin and his friends have made the trip from greater Atlanta to the Mississippi coast for gambling and golf. But now that Hurricane Katrina has shuttered those casinos, he and other gamblers have found new locations to place their wagers.

"Vicksburg is a very nice town," said Hardin, reflecting on his group's newfound discovery of this inland casino town, along the Mississippi River. One of the nicest things about it, Hardin noted, was that he'd pocketed a couple of thousand dollars at the Isle of Capri casino's blackjack tables.

While the coastal casinos are losing $3.3 million in gaming revenue each day, gamblers aren't sitting on their money. Much of it is going to casinos in Vicksburg — between New Orleans and Memphis, Tenn., along Mississippi's western border — and the state's other casinos in Greenville, Natchez, Tunica and Philadelphia.

For those who want to gamble, it's not like they have many other options.

Katrina, which shut down casinos along the Mississippi coast, also closed New Orleans' downtown casino and three riverboat casinos in the area. Hurricane Rita shut down Lake Charles' six casinos and an Indian reservation casino nearby. Louisiana and Mississippi are the only two deep South states with Las Vegas-style casinos; the closest alternative would be Missouri's riverboat casinos.

So while conventions usually drawn to the shuttered casinos seek alternatives in places like Las Vegas, smaller groups of gamblers are heading to inland Mississippi casinos closer to home.

"Recreational gamblers or retirees will take any room, whenever you have it," said Kim Tullos, general manager for the Isle of Capri's Vicksburg casino.

Until Katrina, Tullos said her hotel rooms usually filled only on weekends. But now weeknights are also being booked weeks in advance. And there are more guests than usual from Alabama, Florida and Louisiana.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority said it has no data indicating individual visitors that may be going there instead of the Gulf Coast casinos. But it's been contacted by 65 groups that had events scheduled for New Orleans and Mississippi that now want to book Las Vegas.

The least damaged of the Gulf casinos, the Imperial Palace, probably won't have gambling for another three months, said Steve Richer, executive director of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau. But it could be years before others reopen.

The timing could depend, in part, on a decision by the Mississippi Legislature, meeting this week to debate whether casino operators should be allowed to rebuild on land.

For now, many of the buses that used to transport gamblers to the Gulf are changing direction.

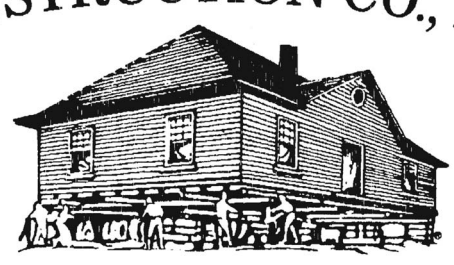
"We really thought that everything was lost, at least through the end of the year," said Donna Johnson of Trinity Tour and Travel. "The charter buses are regrouping. They're coming in leaps and bounds. We're continuing to book and every day it looks a little bit more promising. If people keep traveling, they can save us."

In Tunica, which rivals the Gulf Coast in the number of casinos and money gambled, scores of groups are rebooking trips scheduled for Biloxi and Gulfport.

"We've just been in reaction mode here handling the calls," said Anne Coggins, sales manager for meetings and conventions at the Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau. "If people are willing to adjust some dates, we're doing our best to get them plugged in ... They're desperate to book."

But business has not picked up for everybody. Good Time Tours of Pensacola, Fla., which ran 10 buses a day to Biloxi before the storm, is starting to sell off some of its fleet. The company is now running buses to Vicksburg and other Mississippi casino towns.

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AP PHOTOS

**ERATH:** In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, a crew works to contain water next to the Henry Hub natural gas facility on Monday. Hurricane season has wreaked havoc on natural gas production across the Gulf of Mexico.

# WORRIES ALL THEIR OWN



STAFF PHOTO BY

ABOVE: **BEAUMONT:** Joseph Segura removes branches from his Texas property on Sunday. He evacuated before Hurricane Rita and returned to find his home, upper left, burned to the ground.

LEFT: **CAMERON:** Debris hangs 70 feet in the air on a cellular phone tower as Brian Coughenour works to restore service on Sunday. Little was spared in the Louisiana town, located near Hurricane Rita's landfall.

**Katrina continues to command most headlines in the New Orleans metro area. But in southwest Louisiana, Rita is the name on everyone's lips. From Erath in the east to Beaumont in the west, from power outages to curfews, it's a story now all too familiar.**

## Jindal: Use ZIP codes to assess damage

**SBA,** *from A-1*

To get a low-interest business loan, applicants must fill out as many as six forms, report their month-by-month business revenue for the past three years and submit to an inspection of their shop by a government "loss verifier" who must eyeball the property, even if it's in a region where residents are not yet allowed back.

"We've heard from a lot of small businesses eager to open up again but worried about the paperwork and delays," Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said. "If we smother people in paperwork, some of the businesses the SBA is trying to help may not be there."

Jindal said he plans to meet today with SBA officials and local business people in Baton Rouge and Mandeville to try to expedite the application process.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco estimates that about a third of the private businesses in the state were disrupted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Katrina alone damaged about 68,000 small businesses with annual revenues of less than $5 million, the governor said.

SBA offers small-business owners 30-year loans of as much as $1.5 million with an attractive 4 percent interest rate. In the three states hardest hit by Katrina, 3,100 business owners have applied. As of Monday, the agency said three have been approved in Louisiana, five in Mississippi and six in Alabama for a total outlay by the SBA of $538,900.

Fourteen times as many applications have been rejected as approved.

An official with the SBA, which promotes itself as "America's Disaster Resource," said the devastation of back-to-back hurricanes along the Gulf Coast and especially the flooding have hindered inspectors from evaluating the property that business owners hope to rebuild.

"We are going as fast as we can. We understand the need," said Loan Program Director Herb Mitchell. "A lot of places, we just haven't been able to gain access."

Jindal questioned the need to conduct in-person inspections at all. He said the agency could gauge the general level of damage to a business by its ZIP code because that is the standard public officials such as the mayor of New Orleans are using to allow people back into their neighborhoods.

"It's obvious that in some of these neighborhoods, if you look at the ZIP code, you know there has been significant damage," Jindal said.

Within a week of Hurricane Katrina, the federal government announced it was waiving normal Medicaid application requirements for hurricane evacuees. It was a recognition by federal officials that storm evacuees were unlikely to have all of the paperwork they typically need to qualify for the government health insurance program.

The Small Business Administration has worked out an arrangement with the Internal Revenue Service to provide tax information that applicants might not have with them. But Mitchell said he didn't have the authority to waive legal requirements for qualifying and closing on a government loan.

Those helping business owners fill out the applications say there are plenty of hurdles to clear. The biggest challenge, they say, is the requirement to report three years' worth of revenue on a month-to-month basis. Most small business owners who evacuated didn't bring with them a full set of business records. If they had accountants, they too might be digging out from under storm damage.

Tony Martinez, director of the Small Business Development Center in Baton Rouge, said his office has submitted 30 applications on behalf of business owners and that the SBA hasn't finished reviewing any of them. One, he said, was for a business in Baton Rouge, far from the worst storm damage, whose owner filed an application three days after Katrina.

Martinez said he was told by a regional SBA official that the agency is giving top priority to homeowners who apply for low-interest loans and that the turnaround time on business loans will average 90 days.

"The loan officers said the home (loan) applications take priority. I was told as much," Martinez said. "I can give you a loan to rebuild your house, but what will you do in the meantime? To me they should have equal priority."

SBA said its "target" to approve loans is 30 days. A spokeswoman also denied that home loan applications are getting handled more quickly.

"They are being considered as they come in," SBA spokeswoman Carol Chastang said.

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NATIONAL

# Bush names Harriet Miers to Supreme Court

## *Trial lawyer has never been a judge*

**By Fred Barbash, Peter Baker and Michael Fletcher**
The Washington Post

President Bush named White House Counsel Harriet Miers, 60, to be associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court today.

Miers, who was Bush's personal attorney in Texas, was the first woman elected president of the Texas Bar Association and was a partner at the Texas law firm of Locke Liddell & Sapp before coming to Washington to work in the Bush administration.

The announcement came just two hours before Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. formally took his seat as chief justice of the United States on the high court's opening day of the 2005 term.

Miers would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, generally considered the decisive swing vote on many close issues.

If confirmed by the Senate, Miers would be a rare appointee with no experience as a judge at any level. Initial searches of news archives also suggested that Miers has not been an outspoken advocate for or against any particular issue.

Reaction from Democrats was noncommittal but not negative, mostly because of who she isn't (a prominent conservative judge similar to some on the White House short list) than who she is.

Vermont Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Miers has been a Bush loyalist and that "it is important to know whether she would enter this key post with the judicial independence necessary when the Supreme Court considers issues of interest to this administration."

But White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters that both Republican and Democratic senators suggested Miers by name to the president.

One Democrat who appeared pleased by the choice was Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

"I like Harriet Miers," said Reid, who had voted against Roberts, in a statement. "In my view, the Supreme Court would benefit from the addition of a justice who has real experience as a practicing lawyer."

Later when meeting with Miers at the Capitol, Reid noted that 39 other people have been appointed to the Supreme Court without having experience as a judge. He praised her experience as a trial lawyer, an occupation he shares with her.

"So anyone with that background makes me feel good — someone who has been in a courtroom, tried cases, answered interrogatories, done all those things that lawyers need to do," Reid said.

Reaction from some non-elected conservatives, particularly on blogs, was less positive. David Frum, in National Review Online, said the president missed an opportunity. "The Miers nomination," he wrote, "is an unforced error. Unlike the Roberts's nomination, which confirmed the previous balance on the Court, the O'Connor resignation offered an opportunity to change the balance."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) said he "did not think" Miers had taken positions on many of the critical issues before the court. "One of the things that I talked to her about," he said after a private meeting today, "was the complexity of a Supreme Court nomination hearing because of there are a lot of complicated issues."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he was "excited" and "pleased" with the nomination. "She's a woman who understands judicial restraint," he said.

Frist promised a "thorough, disciplined" confirmation process. He suggested the Senate could vote on her nomination before Thanksgiving, although Specter said he was not yet sure of the timetable.

Among the non-judges appointed to the Supreme Court in modern history are the late William H. Rehnquist, who was a top Justice Department official in the Nixon administration, and Abe Fortas, an influential Washington attorney and close adviser to Lyndon B. Johnson, who nominated him to the high court in 1965.

Bush portrayed Miers as a "pioneer" in the legal profession who broke down gender barriers in the law. She would become the third woman to have served on the Supreme Court, following O'Connor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

"Harriet's greatest inspiration was her mother, who taught her the difference between right and wrong and instilled in Harriet the conviction that she could do anything she set her mind to," said Bush.

"Inspired by the confidence, Harriet became a pioneer in the field of law, breaking down barriers to women that remain even after a generation — remain a generation after President Reagan appointed Justice O'Connor to the Supreme Court."

Miers was active in a 1992 battle in the American Bar Association, arguing vehemently but unsuccessfully against a resolution supporting abortion rights. News reports at the time did not quote her on the merits of Roe v. Wade , the 1973 decision legalizing abortion, but rather on what she considered the inappropriateness of the ABA taking a position.

She does have some political experience. In 1989, she was elected to a two-year term as an at-large candidate on the Dallas City Council. She chose not to run for reelection when her term expired.

Miers served as general counsel for the transition team of Governor-elect Bush in 1994, according to a White House biography of Miers released this morning.

"She is single and very close to her family: Two brothers and her mother live in Dallas and a third brother lives in Houston," said the White House biography.

Her low-key but high-precision style has been particularly valued in a White House where discipline in publicly articulating policy and loyalty to the president are highly valued.

Miers came with Bush to the White House in 2001 as staff secretary, the person who screens all the documents that cross the president's desk.

She was promoted to deputy chief of staff before Bush named her counsel after his reelection in November. She succeeded Alberto R. Gonzales, another longtime Bush confidant, who was elevated to attorney general.

"Harriet Miers is a trusted adviser on whom I have long relied for straightforward advice," Bush said at the time. "Harriet has the keen judgment and discerning intellect necessary to be an outstanding counsel."

When he was governor of Texas, Bush once called her "a pit bull in size 6 shoes" for her cool but dogged determination.

Working with her staff of 13 lawyers, and in cooperation with the Justice Department, Miers's office provides guidance on issues from the legal parameters for the war on terrorism to presidential speeches. Her office also takes the lead in vetting and recommending candidates for the federal judiciary, all the way up to the Supreme Court.

The office also has played a pivotal role in recommending federal appeals court candidates to Bush. Senate Democrats blocked 10 of the president's 34 appeals court nominees during his first term, saying they were too extreme in their conservatism. That prompted Senate Republicans to threaten to change the rules to disallow filibusters of judicial candidates.

Born and raised in Dallas, Miers, 60, is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, where she majored in mathematics. She went on to law school at SMU, earning her law degree in 1970 and going on to clerk for a federal judge in Dallas. In an era when there were few female lawyers, Miers set out for the top.

According to published reports, she was the first woman hired by Locke Purnell Boren Laney & Neely, a Dallas firm whose history extends to the 1890s. She went on to become a top commercial litigator whose clients included Microsoft and the Walt Disney Co.

Miers was active in professional organizations and eventually was elected head of the Dallas and Texas bar associations, where she was known for encouraging members to do pro bono work.

She met Bush in the 1980s and was drafted to work as counsel for his 1994 gubernatorial campaign. In 1995, he appointed her to the Texas Lottery Commission.



AP PHOTO

President Bush escorts White House Counsel Harriet Miers from the Oval Office after announcing his nomination of her to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day OíConnor on the Supreme Court.

### BUSH'S PICK

President Bush nominated White House Counsel Harriet Miers for the seat on the Supreme Court left open by the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Miers has been there for Bush at every turn for more than a decade.

**HARRIET ELLAN MIERS**

**Age:** 60, born in Dallas.
**Education:** B.S., Southern Methodist University, 1967; J.D., Southern Methodist University School of Law, 1970.
**Experience:** 2004-present, White House counsel; 2003-2004, White House deputy chief of staff for policy; 2001-2003, White House staff secretary; 1995-2001, chairwoman, Texas Lottery Commission; 1972-2000, private law practice; 1992, president, Dallas Bar Association; 1989-1991, member, Dallas City Council; 1985, president, Dallas Bar Association.
**Family:** Single, no children.
Source: AP

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NATION

# Roberts is all business his first day on the bench

## *Bush welcomes new chief justice*

**By Darlene Superville**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — John Roberts, who argued more than three dozen cases before the Supreme Court as an appellate court lawyer, got to see a new side on Monday.

He took his seat — a leather chair, actually — as chief justice.

On opening day of the court's 2005-06 term, Roberts welcomed new lawyers to the Supreme Court bar and presided over arguments in two cases. He put on eyeglasses to read from the sheaf of papers in front of him, removed them to survey the packed courtroom and sipped from a silver cup.

Crisp and businesslike, Roberts, 50, listened intently, at times with chin in hand.

It was a younger and more robust version of his mentor, the late William H. Rehnquist, who died last month of cancer at age 80 after 33 years on the high court, including 19 as chief justice.

But unlike his predecessor, who had adorned each sleeve of his robe with a set of four gold stripes after being inspired by a costume in a comic opera, Roberts wore a plain black judicial robe.

Before taking his place in the chief justice's center chair, Roberts was welcomed during a special sitting of the nine-member Supreme Court. President Bush, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Solicitor General Paul Clement, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and other senators, Roberts' wife, Jane, also a lawyer, and the Roberts' two children attended, among others.



AP PHOTO

Flanked by Justice John Paul Stevens, left, and President Bush, new Chief Justice John Roberts signs some paperwork during a special ceremony in the chief justice's conference room on Monday.

Gonzales, wearing a formal morning coat with tails, brought Roberts' commission — a poster-sized, ivory-colored document that Bush signed stating his intent to nominate Roberts to be chief justice. It was unrolled and read aloud before Justice John Paul Stevens, the most senior justice, administered the oath to Roberts in a repeat of his swearing-in at the White House on Thursday.

Stevens, 85, then wished his much-younger boss "a long and happy career in our common calling."

After the brief ceremony, the pair — in suits rather than their judicial robes — posed for pictures on the Supreme Court steps before Roberts motioned for his waiting family to join him.

Jack Roberts, 4, an active boy who manages to steal his father's limelight when they appear together in public, gazed at the long flight of steps before him as if he wanted to make a run for them.

His mother seemed to catch on and gripped his hand before letting him go to run, arms open wide, to Roberts, who scooped him up into a big hug. Roberts then hugged daughter Josie, 5, before exchanging a kiss with his wife and posing for news photographers.

"We love you Judge Roberts. We are praying for you and your family," shouted someone from the crowd that gathered in front of the court and had been singing until he appeared.


The Times-Picayune

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**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**SALES Now** taking applications for Sales Staff. Experience preferred. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-9996 or call Pat King 504-733-8188

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

Employment

4023 Banking

**LOAN SECRETARY** Experience with Laser Pro Loan System preferred. Knowledge of consumer, commercial and residential real estate loan processing. Teller Position for experienced bank teller. Will consider part time employment. These positions offer competitive salary. Full time positions offer an excellent benefit package. Please send resume by mail, email or fax to: American Bank and Trust Company Attn: CFO 1819 N. Columbia St. Covington, LA 70433 Email: info@abtinc.us Fax: 985-809-9297

4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** $35K, Front Desk $20K. For these and other office positions, 504-832-9033. Office Assistance, Inc. The Personnel Specialists.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**MEDICAL BILLING** CLERK Local Mandeville medical company is seeking a billing clerk with billing and coding skills. Prior experience in medical charge entry or other related position is preferred. Fax resume to: 985-727-7281 or email: humanresources@totalsleep.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. CSR, Legal Secretary, Office Support ect. Min 1 yr exp. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

**WEEKS MARINE** INC. in Covington, Now hiring Crew Coordinator with 3 years plus experience in HR field or related area; Knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices and procedures: includes recruitment, employment, records management, employee/labor relations and organization development. Email resume to mailhr@weeksmarine.com or fax to 985-875-2575 EOE/M/F/V/D.

4040 Computers

**NEWTORK TECHNICIAN** Needed. 2-5 years experience. Windows Server experience a huge plus. Resume to PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 7001 or email to lajobs@bellsouth.net

4045 Drivers

**BEST BUY** Delivery drivers, metro New Orleans. Fax resume to 504-456-8902, or apply at any Best Buy location.

Employment

4045 Drivers

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL "X"** Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance, holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demand shiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume: 985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

**CDL Drivers** and Owner Operators, Must Have 2yrs Experienced, Home On Weekends. Call For More Information: 985-732-6793 or 985-750-5553

**CDL DRIVERS** needed, must have Hazmat and DOT certification, pre-employment drug screening. Blossman Oil Co 985-892-2401 or 985-898-2663

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DRIVER Needed** for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**OFFICE DEPOT** Supply Route Driver. New Orleans Metro area; Clear MVR, Chauffeur's Lic,Lifting 70#'s, and Min. 2 Years Route Driver Exp. Please apply at 150 Riverbend Blvd., St. Rose, LA

**OTR DRIVERS** NEEDED. Call Gainey Transportation 800-968-7575 for more information

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

4060 Engineering

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

Employment

4060 Engineering

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Engineers and Geoscience. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

**TRINITY YACHTS** ENGINEERING Is currently seeking positions in the following areas: Naval Architects, Project Engineers, Marine Engineers, Piping Designers, & Structural Designers. Trinity Yachts Engineering is currently operating in Covington, LA and will be relocating to Gulfport, MS. If interested please send resumes to: Trinity Yachts, LLC. 1501 N.Highway 190, Covington, LA 70433. Or visit www.trinityyachtsusa.com

4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF FINANCE reporting to CEO Building Materials Co. based in S.W. LA. Solid background in fin. & accounting. 12+ yrs business exp. CPA desired. 415-740-5476 or gia@execprofiler.com

4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**BARBER EQUIPMENT** Complete Barber Shop For Sale! Call 504-606-6343

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-835-9279/ 504-813-4106.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**HAIRDRESSER NEEDED,** ASAP IN HARAHAN. APPLY AT 1939 HICKORY AVE, SUITE 106. 504-737-6011

**Mark Anthony** Salon is now Hiring 8 F/T & P/T stylists to join our team in our Mandeville & Covington location. We offer booth rental, employee or apprenticeship. Also needed 1 Massage Therapist w/ experience. We are an upscale Redken based salon w/ a strong emphasis on education. Come join our team w/ perks! 985-727-3332

**Massage Therapist** and Nail Technicians. Oasis Day Spa. 1357 North Causeway Blvd., Mandeville. Great incentives and a relaxing environment. Call 985-624-6772.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST** Immediate opening for Licensed Massage Therapist. Call 985-845-1703

4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**O'Henry's Managers.** All positions. Apply in person. 1375 Gause Blvd. Slidell. 8850 Veterans Blvd. Kenner.

**Bartenders Needed.** Full Time. Apply in Person: 4520 South I10 Service Road, Metairie.

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**CHINESE COOK,** experienced, Fong's Chinese Restaurant, apply at 2102 Williams Blvd in Kenner. 504-467-9928

**COOK &** DISHWASHER Needed for The Vinery Restaurant. Call 985-792-0092

**COOKS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS VooDoo Barbecue. 504-464-1880 or Fax resume to 225-926-6002

**DONUT SHOP** Seeks applicants for: Donut cutter, Assistant & Counter help. Must be able to work wknds. 985-951-8533 by 6pm

**EXPERIENCED TOP** NEW ORLEANS CHEF for Restaurant in New York City. Fax resume to 212-265-5067. Email: jezebelres@aol.com

Employment

4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**GIORLANDO'S RESTAURANT** Experienced Line Cook, Dishwasher, and Front Counter Server. Apply 2-4pm, 741 Bonnabell Blvd, Old Metairie. 504-835-8593.

**Hampton Inn** & Suites Convention Center Now Hiring Room Attendants, Housepersons, Breakfast Host/Hostesses, Front Desk, Night Auditor. Transportation to and from work available. Temporary pay is $10/hour. Apply in person at 1201 Convention Center Blvd., call 504-566-9990 or email resume to tvise@highpointe.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen Positions now available. Applicants must be friendly, professional, out-going, and team oriented. $13/hr. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9 am - 11 am.

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring SOUS CHEF AND PASTRY CHEF. Great benefits, pay. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F or at rgratia@muriels.com No phone calls please!

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring Wait Staff, Line Cooks, Asst. Server, Runners, Hosts, Bartender. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F. No phone calls please!

**RISTORANTE FILIPPO** Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY AND DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

**SERVERS, Morton's** Seafood Restaurant in Madisonville now hiring exp. Servers. $5/hr. plus tips. Please Apply in person at 702 Water St.

**SHIMMY SHACK** Now Hiring Working Chef, Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

**Wait staff** and all kitchen positions available. The Dakota Restaurant 629 N. Highway 190 Covington

4080 Household

**Caregiver, Live-in** for Mother. Metairie area. 504-782-7709

**House/Office Cleaner,** looking for dependable help Monday-Friday. 504-468-9432

**Housekeeper Live-in.** English and Spanish speaking. Call 504-393-0752

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**Part Time** Sitter for elderly lady, in Mandeville. Light housekeeping. Non-smoker. Call Linda 985-237-9144

4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**LEGAL SECRETARY** AND ASSISTANT Needed for our Gretna Law Office. Please call 504-368-6500

**LEGAL SECRETARY:** and file clerk wanted for New Orleans Law office. Good salary, all benefits. Call 504-522-3287

4100 Management

**OFFICE MGR** For scrap metal recycling facility in Kenner. Phone/computer/people skills. Veronica @costanzaproperties.com

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

Employment

4100 Management

**PURCHASING MGR/SR** BUYER Covington, LA. Immediate Opportunity. Join POOLCORP, Publicly traded on Nasdaq as "POOL", cited as one of the top 10 IPOs of the 1990s, and named one of the 100

NATION

# Investigators: Passengers slid to one side before boat flipped

## *Survivors give differing accounts*

**By Chris Carola**
Associated Press writer

LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. — The passengers aboard a tour boat that capsized on Lake George, killing 20 people, were sitting on long benches and slid sharply to one side of the vessel just before it flipped over, authorities said Monday.

Wayne Bennett, State Police superintendent, said that investigators do not know what initially caused the Ethan Allen to tip. But he said passengers either slid or were thrown to one side of the boat after it began lurching.

"And that, of course, would automatically mean an even bigger shift of weight," Bennett said.

The captain of the 40-foot glass-enclosed boat told authorities it was hit by waves from at least one other vessel and turned over as he tried to steer out of them, authorities said earlier Monday. The boat flipped so fast that none of the 47 passengers _ all senior citizens, most of them from Michigan _ could put on a life jacket.

There was no immediate confirmation that another boat that could have churned up waves was in the area, and survivors gave investigators differing versions of what happened before the boat went down in calm, sunny weather, authorities said.

Eight people were hospitalized with shortness of breath, broken bones and other injuries.

On Monday afternoon, crews using inflatable bags raised the sunken vessel 70 feet to the surface. They planned to pump it out and tow it to shore. National Transportation Safety Board investigators will then examine the wreck.

Mark Rosenker, NTSB acting chairman, said investigators would focus on such things as the history of the boat, the pilot's record, whether the boat had enough crew members and whether the number of passengers played a role in the accident.

"It's much too early to determine what happened out on that lake," Rosenker said.

The boat's captain, Richard Paris, was the only crew member aboard, but state rules allow for just one crewman for up to 50 passengers. Also, New York state regulations require that life jackets be made available for every person on a boat, but people do not have to wear them.

Earlier in the day, Bennett said the seats were not secured to deck. Later, State Police said that was incorrect.

Rep. John Sweeney, R.-N.Y., said investigators are looking at whether there was too much weight on board the boat, even though the vessel was just below its capacity of 50 people. He said the Coast Guard assumes a weight of 150 pounds per person in calculating a vessel's capacity, an assumption he said may have been off the mark.

Gov. George Pataki said licenses for two other boats operated by the Ethan Allen's owner, Shoreline Cruises, have been suspended while the investigation continues. He and others, however, said people should not draw any conclusions about the operator.

"I do not believe there is any criminal culpability on any of the parties we have spoken with," said Sheriff Larry Cleveland.

A survivor, 76-year-old old Jeane Siler of Trenton, Mich., said that she saw a wake coming and that the boat turned into it. She said she stood up and was either thrown or jumped into the water, where she found herself surrounded by other passengers. She suffered broken bones in her spine, a broken finger and bumps on her head.

Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, an organization for recreational boaters, said investigators would probably examine how weight was distributed within the boat.

"If all the people were on one side, maybe to look at something, and if the operator were to take the boat over a wave at a particular angle, it could cause the boat to roll," Chambers said.

Chambers said he also expected investigators to look into whether there were any modifications to the craft, such as the addition of a canopy, that might have made the boat less stable.

The captain was not tested for drugs or alcohol after the accident. The sheriff said he had no legal grounds for administering such a test. Also, the sheriff said Paris had a state license, rather than a Coast Guard one, which would have required a test for drugs or alcohol.


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ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.


## Employment

### 4110 Mechanical

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

**TECHNICIANS Coulter** Cadillac of Phoenix, the #1 Cadillac dealer in the region is looking for qualified, G.M Technicians. We offer a generous compensation package, 401K, paid vacation and a friendly work environment. Fax your resume to 602-532-4724, Attn. Jon or Homer or find us on the web at coultercadillac.com

### 4120 Medical

**CHIROPRACTIC/MEDICAL OFFICE** ASSISTANT Needed. Previous experience required. Send resume to Attention Office Manager, 655 Asbury Dr. Mandeville, LA 70471 or Fax resume 985-626-7465

**CLINICAL STAFF** - (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) Needed for Management positions in growing community based mental health org. To learn more & submit resume: www.sbcs.us, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, 499 Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08002. Fax: 856-773-0210

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**IMMEDIATE OPENING-Busy** Medical Practice seeks experienced F/T Front Desk Person (excellent benefits). Check in/out, Ins verif, Appts, data entry, filing. Fax resume to 985-781-4850

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPN Private** duty home care. River Ridge. 2 positions open. Day and night shifts. License and references required. 504-756-9678 Leave message.

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**MA &** Front Desk Clerk needed in WB Office. Must be proficient in Word Processing. Fax resume (504)391-6009

**Medical Office** position open, M-F; dialysis, medical billing experience preferred. For more info call 985-479-6104 or email mah1974@aol.com

**OFFICE MGR** for busy 2 position allergy practice located in Covington. Experience w/ insurance and patient billing, A/R & electronic claims. Knowledge Quicken/Quick Books, A/P & payroll processing, strong interpersonal skills. Min. 3 yr office management exp. F/T position. Fax resume to 985-845-2668

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. CHARLES** PARISH HOSPITAL: P.O. Box 87, 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070. CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: Clinical Associate, Dialysis Technician, LPN, Recreational Therapist. Apply in person: 9:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday. Fax resume to: (985) 785-4214, Email to: KDonnaud@stch.net, or apply online at: www.nola.com EOE

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 504-347-0777 Fax: 504-620-3032

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Reception-ist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Attorneys, and Paralegals. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Seeking Personnel** with general knowledge of construction who are capable of performing visual inspections and completing forms. Work is in N.O. Area, $15-$20/hour with 7-10 hour days. Send resume to 225-756-5903

**TECHNICIANS Richards** Honda has an immediate opening for experienced technicians - dealership and import expereince a plus - fair and friendly work environment - all benefits. Email resume to aaronm@richardshonda.com or contact Aaron at 225-928-6120.

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4145 Retail

**BEST BUY** in store job fair, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, West Bank store at 1601 W Bank Xway Ste A, Harvey, LA 75008. Monday-Friday 8am to 11pm, and 4pm to 6pm, Veterans Blvd store 6205 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA, 70003. Monday-Friday 1pm to 4pm, Slidell store, at 120 Northshore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70459. Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 pm, Covington store, 69344 Hwy 21, Covington, LA, 70433. Prior to visiting our job fair apply on-line at careers.bestbuy.com. Now hiring seasonal & F/T & P/T, Cashiers, Customer Service, Gen. Sales, Merchandising, Music/Software/Gaming, Srvc Tech, Computer Tech/Geek Squad, Mobile Installer Tech, Shipping/Recieving, Security/LP, Delivery Drivers. EOE DFWP

**MERCHANDISING SET** REP $13/hr with full benefits in 90 days. Samsco Services, a national leader in service merchandising for the home improvement industry has immediate openings in the New Orleans area, specific to Home Depot stores throughout the area. Responsible for setting steel racks, merchandising product, installing signs and fixtures, and ensuring all project plans are 100% executed, in setting new stores and performing resets/remodels in existing stores. Qualifications include: ·Must be able to pass drug screen and background check ·Ability to work safely in a retail environment ·Maintain work schedule according to plan ·Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. on a consistent basis ·Extensive travel required ·Must be able to safely use and operate hand tools and power tools. ·Basic computer and Internet skills, preferred. ·Experience with big box retailer or equivalent preferred. E-mail resume to: bruce_sturgill@samscoservices.com or fax 972-516-2742

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed both full & part time. Armed & unarmed. Applicants can apply in person from 8am-6pm at Clearview Mall or call 504-837-7772 for more information

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

### 4150Teachers & Instructors

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**Believers Life** Christian Academy, 501 Lapalco Blvd., Gretna, LA is currently hiring Certified Elementary and Secondary Teachers for the 2005/2006 School Year. Please bring a resume to the above address or you may email your resume to kjdaniel@familychurch.us

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**VIOLIN &** or Band Instructor, P/T, Harahan/Mandeville/Covington. 985-674-2992/504-738-3050

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C INSTALLERS** & SHEET METAL INSTALLERS - Call Blue Flame, Inc. 504-733-9112

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** & HELPER, If you are looking for a career not a job in HVAC we have Technicians that earn $50,000 plus per year and have advancement opportunities. Must be well groomed, drug free, and dependable. Full Benefits. Year Round Work. Please call Stephanie to set your future in motion at 985-871-9020

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR ALARM** INSTALLER - Wanted. F/T, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**Cabinet Builders** and finishers needed. Experience Preferred. 985-758-7014

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**Carpenters/Roofers/Helpers in** Slidell/Lacombe area, excellent pay. Lee 985-882-3879

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**Commercial Electricians** needed. Local work. Please Call 501-580-7857

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**Craftsmen/Laborers, all** fields of construction. exp. info to (504)834-5594 or JJCOSTACOMPANY@aol.com

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRAFTSMAN Inside** and outside Sales combination. 504-469-1272

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS** Hearing aid manufacturer needs hearing aid or microscopic assembly technicians. Salary commensurates with experience. Fax resume to 504-733-3799. Phone: 504-733-3767

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**Experienced Framing** Carpenter. Must have transportation. Call 504-473-8797

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FIRST CLASS** MACHINISTS, 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FIRST CLASS** STRUCTURAL FITTERS - 5 year minimum of experience. 504-469-1272

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Now Accepting applications for experienced floor installers for all surfaces. Call Pat King 733-8188 or Apply in person, Monday - Thursday from 10-2 at 5403 Powell St., Elmwood, LA 70123

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Hard Workers, Must have own tools, Firefighters Please Apply, 504-452-3913

**FRAMING CARPENTER** Local Company, Transportation Required, Experienced. 504-473-8797

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING NOW** Welders/Fitters, Qualified for Pipe and Structural. Barge Crane Operators, Qualified Riggers, Experienced Welder Helpers, Sand Blaster/Painter, On Shore and Off Shore Positions. Please Apply in person: French's Welding and Marine Services, 1112 Engineers Road, Belle Chase, LA 70037

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**HUTCO INC** Is Hiring For Welders, Fitters, Blasters Painters, Plant Operators, Hydroblasters, Electricians, Outside Machinists, Tackers & Laborers. Call 504-348-7818

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**Immediate Openings** for Offshore Construction work WELDERS, RIGGERS, FITTERS, PAINTERS Qualified candidates should have a minimum of 2 years offshore experience, welding certifications, safe working habits, and be able to pass a drug screen and physical. For more information, please call Jana at our remote personnel office at 361-289-8292 to provide callback information.

**INSTALLERS AND** SERVICE TECHNICIANS Immediate positions available. Great pay. Call 985-626-7852 to apply

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**K&P Roofing** and Remodeling, experienced roofers needed, top pay. Contact Kevin at 504-415-9342 or 985-652-7138

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not required. Starting pay is $9/hour plus excellent opportunity for daily and monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits package after one year of employment. If you are interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 and leave us a message with your information.

**LABORERS AND** PLASTERERS, Must have own transportation, Stucco, Call 504-258-4509

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** CREW. $8-$12/hourly depending on experience. Call 504-442-5394

**LGE COMMER'L** CONST CO. in Metairie 20 yrs. Immed FT employment. Top pay. Needing Laborers, Sheet Rock Finishers, Painters, Carpenters, Tile Setters. Great benefits, pd vac, health, sick leave, etc. 504-831-4261 or fax 832-0762. e-mail: office@constructionmastersinc.com

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MAINTENANCE PERSON** - Needed, strong in a/c, CFC cert, some electrical, plumbing & carpentry skills needed. Paid holidays & vacation. 504-382-3156

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**MMR Offshore** Services is currently seeking Electricians & Instument Fitters for offshore assignments. Please apply at 108 Lauren Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 or call (504) 394-5448 or fax resume to (504) 394-5444 or emial to gplaisance@mmrgrp.com or Mail resume to PO Box 490 Harvey,LA 70050 EOE

**NORTHSHORE Fab** Shop looking for full time helper, must be dependable. Ability to use power tools is a plus. 985-893-9277

**OFFSHORE/ONSHORE WORK** Premier Industries, Inc. FITTERS/WELDERS, FITTER HELPER/TRACKERS, EXPERIENCED RIGGERS, RIGGER/CRANE OPERATORS, OFFSHORE SUPERINTENDENTS/FOREMEN. All positions require a minimum or 3 years recent offshore experience. BARGE PILE DRIVING FRICTION CRANE OPERATOR Must have experience driving piles with a friction crane from a floating barge. SUB-ARC WELDER Top pay. All positions receive: Group medical, dental plan, long and short term disability, life insurance, 401K plan. Must pass physical and drug screen. Apply in person at: 3450 Peters Rd. Harvey, LA. EOE

**OVERHEAD GARAGE** DOOR INSTALLER Experienced preferred. Paid Holidays & Benefits. Immediate Full Time Position. North Lake Garage Door Company, Ponchatoula. 985-386-8650

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

**PAINTERS AND** CONSTRUCTION HELPERS Needed for new construction and remodeling. 985-966-2424

**PAINTERS AND** SHEET ROCK FINISHERS WANTED. Please call 504-363-1194

**PAINTERS North** Shore, own tools/phone/transportation. Call Ricky 504-651-3179

**Painters With** Spray experience in industrial plants and experienced painter's helpers needed for full time work in the New Orleans and LaPlace areas. Drug test required, criminal background check may be required. Call Mon - Fri, 9am-3pm. 504-469-3815

**PAINTERS, Residential** Homes, exp., must have own transportation, F/T work, 985-966-6011

**Painters, Sheetrock** Finishers, Paper Hangers Coatings Inc. 504-832-8049

**Project Manager/Estimator** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

**REFRIGERATOR AND** A/C TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Experienced only. Good pay and benefits. Fax resume to 985-809-6799

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**ROOFERS COMMERCIAL,** local company seeks exp. flat roofers only. Top wages. 504-464-9181

**ROOFERS Needed,** Immediate Employment. Please call Bob 504-912-4087

**ROOFERS New** Orleans Roofers needed in Baton Rouge or New Orleans Experienced in Slate or Asbestos. Call 225-761-4309

**ROOFERS Sub-Crews** needed. Must have own truck & tools. Call 504-452-9640 or 504-467-9387

**ROOFERS Wanted,** Experienced, Good Pay. Must have transportation. 504-469-0353

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**Roofing Crews,** Roofers, and Laborers Needed. Pay DOE. Call Scott at 504-338-5398

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** Needed. Great pay. No experience needed. 985-249-4409

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING Relocation** opportunity for high-skilled slate, tile, copper mechanics. Housing assistance for longterm year-round work. Suburban Philadelphia, PA contractor est 1939. 888-RKI-ROOF

**SCS Now** Hiring: Pipe Fitters, Fitters, TIG Welders, Welders, Experienced Laborers/Painters. Call 504-348-4855, 2072 Bonn Street, Harvey, La or 1-800-310-0131

**SERVICE TECHNICIANS** NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Award winning dealership with over 36 years in business. Experience preferred. Top dollar pay, excellent benefits. Clean driving record required. Drug free. Contact Johnny Giardina or Keith Conner at 337-364-4126. JP Thibodeaux, Inc. New Iberia, LA. EOE.

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SHIPYARD TRADES** 1st class tradesman FL, AL, VA $17-$23.50/hour package, OT, holidays and benefits. CTR 1-800-462-5309. Carpenters, Cabinet Makers, Electricians, Outside Mo's, Shipfitters, Crane Operators, Pipe Fitters, Pipe Welders, Sheet Metal, Welders.

**SITE MANAGERS/MAINTENANCE** MAN A national leader in the self storage industry is seeking site managers and maintenance men for an award-winning self storage facility and retail center in Harahan, LA. Duties include property and equipment maintenance, janitorial work, and driving of medium box/move truck, and other various operational duties. Qualified candidates must possess a valid drivers license, a clean MVR, and outstanding organizational and time-management skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

**STRUCTURAL TIG** WELDER for Northshore Fab Shop needed for thin gage stainless steel. 985-893-9277

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**TREE MEDICS** is hiring now, start work today. Ground workers, tree climbers, bucket operator, bobcat operator, excavator operators, truck drivers, grapple truck drivers/operators. Start $10-$25/hour. Apply in person at 500 Clearview Pkwy, or call 225-955-2502

**UPHOLSTERY SEAMSTRESS** Apply in person. Call for address and directions 985-643-5919

**UTILITY COMPANY** In St. Tammany Parish now hiring for all positions + CDL. Excellent benefits. Apply in person at 4000 Hwy 59, Mandeville. 985-893-1717

**Venture Logistics** is Hiring in the Lacombe area.Fork Operators-Case Pickers-Dispatcher-Supervisor's. Sign on Bonus and Benifits after 90 days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax resume to 985-726-7642.

**WELDERS, FITTERS** & PILE DRIVERS needed for Marine Construction company in LA/MS Gulf Coast area. Please call 985-359-3700, fax # 985-359-3702. Benefits start in 120 days.

**WELDERS, FITTERS,** TACKERS, GENERAL LABORERS Immediate positions, 10-12 hours/day. Call 1-877-376-0801 or 504-376-8700

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**Whitfield's A/C** & Heating in Pearl River is looking for experienced A/C installers, helpers, and technicians for permanent positions. Please call Kirk at 985-863-0911 or 985-960-0285.

### 4165 Warehouse

**GENERAL PRODUCTION** - Personnel for chemical packaging facility in St. Rose. Qualified forklift operators, production plant operators, mechanics and floor supervisors needed immediately. Apply at Delta Petroleum Co., Inc. 10352 River Road, St. Rose, LA 70087. (504)467-1399

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE /** DRIVERS: ACI Distribution, EOE, drug screen, physical & references required. Auto & Flat Glass Delivery Drivers, and Warehouse Workers. Duties include: Driving truck, delivering windshields & glass in the City & Territories. Glass handling experience a plus! Class D or CDL & clean driving record required. Apply at ACI, 5716 Jarvis St., Harahan. Call 504-733-6606

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE POSITION** Good benefits, $9/hour. Harahan location. Fax resume to 504-733-8208 or mail to P.O. Box 10451 Jefferson, LA 70181

**WAREHOUSE WORK** - Stable company needs full-time employees to work in our warehouse. We offer good working environment and benefits, entry level positions starting at $7/hr. Apply in person at 5524 Mounes St. Harahan. Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm. Drug free workplace.

**WAREHOUSE WORKER** $9/Hr Immediate openings, Lots of OT! Labor Skills Co. 225-926-8641

**WAREHOUSE WORKERS** - Compass Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**WAREHOUSEMAN** - Exp in food dist warehousing, F. Christiana & Co, apply in person, 7251 River Rd, Marrero, Grt benefits, Nght Pos avail, 504-348-3391

**WAREHOUSEMAN Needed** for National Chemical Distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**$9/HOUR PLUS** BONUSES. Citywide Maid Service. Daytime Flexible Hours. 504-866-1234. For Northshore (Cov, Mand, Slid, Hamm). 985-867-1495

**ADMINISTRATIVE 

THE WAR IN IRAQ

# U.S. continues sweep in insurgent stronghold

## *Assassination attempt on Iraqi oil minister fails*

**By Mohammed Barakat**
Associated Press writer

QAIM, IRAQ — With snipers on rooftops and helicopters hovering overhead, U.S. forces clashed with insurgent fighters Monday while searching homes in a town near the Syrian border.

In Baghdad, Iraq's oil minister narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb hit his motorcade.

While U.S. forces pushed ahead with their offensive farther west, fighting erupted in the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, with masked militants attacking an Iraqi patrol and sparking a gunbattle in the streets of Ramadi.

Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum was headed out of the capital to attend the opening of a rebuilt refinery to the north when the roadside bomb hit his seven-car motorcade Monday morning, killing three of his bodyguards, the ministry said. Bahr al-Uloum was unhurt.

The assassination attempt came a week after a car bomb at a checkpoint near the Oil Ministry killed at least three ministry employees and seven police officers.

Iraq has the world's third-largest known oil reserves, but the industry has been crippled by war, sanctions during Saddam Hussein's rule and the anti-U.S. insurgency. Oil production remains limited, curbed by decaying infrastructure and frequent militant attacks on pipelines and refineries.

The violence came less than two weeks before a national referendum on a new constitution. Al-Qaida in Iraq and other groups in the Sunni-led insurgency have launched a wave of violence to wreck the Oct. 15 vote, killing at least 207 people in the past eight days, including 16 U.S. forces.

Bahr al-Uloum vowed that the insurgents would fail and that Iraqis will approve the new constitution. "All Iraqis are looking forward to saying 'yes' to the constitution ... By doing so Iraq will usher in a new stage," he said after the attack.

But leaders of Iraq's Sunni Arab minority have rejected the constitution and are trying to defeat it at the polls, saying it will tear the country apart into Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish fiefdoms, the Sunnis being the weakest.

The U.S. offensive near the western border aims to sweep out al-Qaida in Iraq insurgents who have made the area a stronghold and used it to bring foreign fighters in from Syria.

The sweep, codenamed Operation Iron Fist, began Saturday in the village of Sadah and has spread to Karabilah and Rumana.

U.S. helicopters fired rockets at targets in Rumana, where a roadside bomb blew up near an American armored vehicle, sending up a plume of black smoke, witnesses said, but no U.S. casualties were reported.

In Karabilah, troops searched house to house for militants, apparently meeting stiffer resistance than in Sadah, which most fighters fled before the U.S. troops moved in.

Marine snipers fired from rooftops and U.S. helicopters flew overhead as the advance was slowed for about an hour by insurgent fire, a CNN journalist embedded with the Marines said.

No U.S. troops have been killed or seriously injured in the offensive, the military said.

But an American soldier died of wounds suffered from indirect fire Saturday in Ramadi, the military said Monday. The death raised to 1,936 the number of U.S. military members who have died since the Iraq war began in 2003.

The U.S. military also dismissed as "patently false" a claim by al-Qaida in Iraq that its insurgents had captured two U.S. Marines in the fighting, even as the group issued a claim that it had killed them.

Al-Qaida in Iraq issued a Web statement Sunday saying a 24-hour deadline it set for U.S. and Iraqi authorities to release female Sunni prisoners had ended and that its fighters "implemented the law of God on the two infidel captives," referring to their execution. Neither the claim of the abduction Sunday nor the latest claim included any details or photos of the alleged captives, which such Web statements usually carry.


The Times-Picayune

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GENERAL INFORMATION
ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

PETS/LIVESTOCK

6000 Dogs

**Bichon Frise** Male D.O.B 2/23/05, house-broken, all shots, must sell due to Katrina, $475, 985-640-0893 or 504-469-9970

**CHIHUAHUA PUPS,** Long Hair, $300 each. Also 1 adult Male, $100. 504-858-0830 985-781-0221

**DOBERMAN PUPS** AKC 8 weeks, 3 females, 2 males. 504-454-1773, 504-831-0728

**Full Blood** Rat Terrier Puppies, Born 7/26/05. $150. Call 985-878-2804

**German Shepherd** Puppies, AKC, 8 weeks old. Please call 985-735-5915 or 985-807-6157

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Min Pin** Pups, Ready to go! Shots & Dew Claws. Black/Tan & Red, Chocolate. $300 & up. 985-871-7790

**Miniature Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**OLD ENGLISH** BULLDOG Male, Registered, brindle with white face, $600. 985-764-3067

**Old English** Bulldog Pups CKC, 2M, 4F, $800. Visit beardsbull-dogge.com or call 504-301-1129

**Pomeranian Puppies,** 1 Male, Black, $400. 1 Female, Multi-Colored, $450. 985-778-1885

**ROTTWEILER Pups,** tails cut & dewormed, both parents on site, 3 males $250,a female $300, 504-368-7248/504-400-4274

**Toy Party** Poodle, M, Blk/Wht, Pit Bull M, Wht/Brindle, blue eyes. Both 9 wks, Both have Shots. $300 each. 504-256-7716

RECREATION

6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**'04 Boston** Whaler 320 Outrage, Loaded For Blue Water Fishing. Twin 225 Merc OPTIMAX. Super Electronics Package, Outriggers, Downriggers, XM Radio, Custom Trailer, Many Extras. Excellent Condition. $130,000. Off Shore Tackle Available for Extra. Call 601-955-4298

**'99 Avenger** Bay Boat Sport 18.6', Yamaha 150 $12,900. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'02 Bounder** 32', 10K miles, LR/DR slide, exc cond, sat TV, alarm, extras, $98,000. $100/day discount if sold by 10/15/05. Located in P-cola, will deliver. 850-572-6909

**'02 Sportsmen** 30Ft Travel Trailer, double slide out, like new, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 318-251-8307 or 318-265-2300

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Coachman** Travel Trailer, 38 foot, 2 bedroom, big slide out, lots of storage, $17,000. 985-845-2094 or 985-778-9501

**'03 MONTANA** 5th Wheel, 34 foot, 3 slides. Rear living. Good condition $25,000 985-652-6950

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Aspen** 27' Travel Trailer, used 19 days escaping hurricanes, slide-out, built in entertainment ctr, presently located in a La-Place Campground, completely hooked-up, move-in ready, cable, phone avail, 20 mi from airport on Airline Hwy, $24,000. 504-738-0233

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'05 Fleetwood,** sleeps 6, fully contained, asking $15,000, 504-838-0396 or 504-957-6620

Recreation

6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'05 Sunny** Brook, 41ft, 5th Whl, 2 slides, gen., cargo area, loaded, $49,000, 504-915-1068

**'85 Pace** Arrow 34 foot, sleeps 7, good condition, fully loaded, $15,900. Call 504-341-6406

**'94 Allegro** Bay 37 foot, super slide, washer/dryer, 33,000 orig. mi., $24,500. For more call 601-876-1837/601-876-4174

**'96 Dutchstar** 33', exc cond, way below book: $30K. Call FL Priv owner for pix 321-537-1416

**'96 Mountain** Aire By Newmar, 37.5 ft, slide out, multiple TVs, ACs & beds! Good tires, 61K miles, in exc cond! $39,900 obo 941-923-3421/1-888-325-2394

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 360-403-9873

**'96 Tioga** Montara, Class C Motor Home, 24', 45,000 miles, excellent condition. $17,000. 985-536-2249 or 985-817-1255

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'97 Coleman** Seapine travel trailer/pop-up new roof great condition. $3500. Call 504-469-2910, 504-481-3916

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**03 31'** Class C Camper Triton V10, 11K, A/C, gen, gas fridge/heat, slide-out, slps 8, warr. Grt cnd! $46,500 985-264-9326

**95 Prowler** TT, 29' bunkhouse, sleeps 8, rear rack for bikes, $7000. 504-884-6742

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

RESIDENCES FOR SALE

7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 Trey 225-922-4300 or 504-343-6747

**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

7535 Mid City/City Park

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**6515 WEST** END FSBO Charming 3BR/2BA Cottage. EXC COND! $275,000. Call Lee for Appointment. 504-482-7473

7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**2 homes** in Kenner no flood, 4/2 updated w/crown thru out approx.2200 sq.ft. in driftwood (61 Nassau) will lease @ $1800.00 or sell @ $250k. 3yr. old 2-sty (4104 Iowa ave.) open floor plan very contemporary. 5/3 with crown/ master jacuzzi/ open stairs/granite count/fireplace approx. 4200 sq. ft. $525k. call 504-237-3695 or 443-3695

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3br/2ba, 1350** living, attached one car garage, no flooding, 4424 ware ave, Jefferson. 205,000. (504)452-3132

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**6605 Hastings** Street, 3-bdrm, 2-full bath, never flooded. $190,000. 318-208-1699

**FSBO-4 Bed/2.5** bath. High and Dry, 8411 West Metairie Ave. NO FLOODING. Two story brick, great room and 3032 SF. Two woodburning fireplaces. $379,000. Don't dawdle, see Jac 985.637.3886 or 504.467.8868

**HARAHAN $215,000** 3br, 1ba, 177 Magnolia Blvd. Great Condition! 504-251-5380

Residences for Sale

7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**HIGH AND** DRY IN RIVER RIDGE 4600 SF, 5 br, 3 ba, move-in ready, $500K firm. 504-251-6688

**KENNER Avail** Now! Beautiful Town house, 2Bdrm, 1.5Ba & a nice patio, approx 1400 sf, new carpet, kit 4 yrs old, bdrms are huge w/cathedral ceilings. Incls: Washer/Dryer, dishwasher & refrig. Owner/Agent $91,500. 504-451-2802 or 504-439-0465

**KENNER Driftwood** Sub, 4BR, 2BA, LR, den, rec room w/bar, 2 car gar, fenced yd w/patio, move-in cond, never flooded, 2500 sqft, $595,000. 504-920-7623

**MAKE OFFER!** 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, large den, living/dining room, enclosed spa & office, 4000 SF. Call 504-231-5338

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE FSBO,** 2BR, 1BA cottage off Metairie Rd, $174,900. 504-432-5002/210-263-9829

**METAIRIE Great** Loc-No Flood 3BR,2Ba, Garage, DR/LR, Gr Rm, 1800sf, liv. $235,000. H:5044552270 C:3379623722

**MOVE IN** READY nr. EJGH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**NEVER FLOODED!** 3133 Iowa Ave. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, living/dining room combo, large den, hot tub in backyard, $189,000. 504-756-1886, 504-454-3397 or 337-216-9303

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**RIVER RIDGE** - 8812 Tanglewild. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2500 sqft. Lot is 70x120. rear yard access to oversized 2 car garage. Many Extras. $347,500. Please Call 504-737-4850/504-231-4270

**STUNNING METAIRIE** - Never flooded. 3bd/2ba. Granite cntrtps, Italian tile, hrdwd flrs, Move-in cond. 504-780-7680

**WE BUY** DAMAGED OR FLOODED HOUSES. Please call 504-756-6425 or 504-722-0424

**WILL BUY** STORM DAMAGED HOMES IN METAIRIE! PLEASE CALL: 504-957-6380

7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**AIRLINE PARK** 1 bl to St. Mary Magdalen, 6813 Merle. 3 bed 2 bath NO Flooding. Asking $179,900. 504-736- 0904

**BELOW CAUSEWAY** No Flooding, 2 story, 4 bdrm, 3 BA, Brick, 1017 Smith Dr. $450,000. Call 504-495-6718 or 504-289-6796

**BONNABEL AREA,** FSBO, 2 Bedroom, 2 Ba + guest house w/full bath. 504-828-6622

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE High** & Dry 3br, 2ba, great rm w/FP, comp area, wd flrs, roof, A/C & appls 6 yrs. Patio & Hot Tub. 1605 Houma Blvd (btwn W. Metairie & W. Napolean) $248K. 504-885-8167

**METAIRIE Home** For Sale. Flooded from Katrina, Demo Completed, Call 504-258-1159

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** 3213 Ridgeway. 5 Bd, 3.5 bath, master down, 2 car garage, granite counters, custom cabinets. $685,000. Schmidt Homes 504-885-0900.

**NO FLOODING!** Double 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, central air, 1650 SF each side, 1 side rents for $850/mo. Includes furniture & appliances. Move in condition! Good business opportunity. FSBO, $265,000. 504-214-7669

**OLD MET** Dbl, 343 Carrollton, mint, $400,000. All furn. Properties Preferred. 504-887-2328

**OLD METAIRIE** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home, 1 bedroom efficiency apartment over garage, no flood area, $349,000. 601-795-3717

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

Residences for Sale

7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**4000 St** James Dr - No fld min wind dmg 4b 3f/2h ba 2550ft2 as-is Gregg 504-352-6018

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**Chateau Estates,** no flood! 4/2.5, 2600 SF, open Sunday 2-4. 504-710-7065/504-464-1235

**Chateau Golf** course fsbo $600K, 3785sf, 1/3+ac, 4br/3.5ba, 5 Chateau Mouton. 504-458-8317

**Chateau Lakefrt** 2550 SF, $350K. 4BR/2BA, extras, 16x20 shed, pool. 850-859-9917 after 3pm.

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

7560 West Bank

**1 Bedroom** Efficiency in Bridge City, lot 25x100, fenced yard, $45,000. 985-229-1993

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GRETNA** - NEW CONSTRUCTION! Gated community just 5 mins from the CBD. New homes available immediately, untouched by Katrina, no flooding. Prices starting at $209,900. Hamilton Oaks, 504-324-1886

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO, LA. 3 Br/2 Ba, 2000 Square Feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**HOUSING AVAILABLE** & HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 or email sydneyrichoux@cox.net

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba $445,000 -see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY, CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

7570Mandeville/Covington

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**ABITA SPRINGS** 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom home, double lot, completely renovated in 2002, 1200 sq.ft, Norman Rockwell setting. Only $225,000. 985-264-9326

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Beau Chene** 4BR/4BA, 3500 sqft, golf course, pool, 10' ceilings, lots more. $434,000. 985-845-2085

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Beautiful North** Shore Home For Sale By Owner. 1125 Forest Ln, Mandeville. 3 br, 2 1/2 bath. Low $300,000's! Open House, Sun 10/9, 12-4

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $185,000. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $140,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**COVINGTON 3** Br, 2 full Ba, back porch, lot 60x150, no storm damage. $299,000. 985-502-0156

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890K, for more details on this esquisite home, call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 Progressive Real Estate

Residences for Sale

7570Mandeville/Covington

**Covington great** area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Covington, 1** Br Condo, Pool, Fitness, Internet Access, Club House, $119,500. Will Consider Lease $1200/mo. 985-626-0071

**COVINGTON, Savannah's** New Construction, 3/2, Premium Lot, Ready in 6 Weeks. MADISONVILLE, Black River Forest, New Construction, 4/3, Bonus Rm, 3112 Living, 3/4 Acre Lot, Ready in 6 Wks. Spring Hill Homes LLC, 985-807-3805

**Folsom 2** BR, 1 BA, 100 yr home, C1 lot, Near Hwy 25 & Hwy 40. $87000. 985-705-1899

**Lacombe 2.3** acres on bayou Lacombe, high ground, no flooding! 2 homes, each 3 BR, 2 BA, large detached gar., covered pool, $780,000. 28183 Main St, 985-882-5871 appt only

**Lacombe Cottage,** 2000sqft. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, loft upstairs, $275,000. Call 985-630-8528

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

**Mandeville *NEW** LISTING* 5 bedroom, 2 bath, $375K. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**Mandeville Desirable** Cornerstone. Green Leaves subdiv. 3000 sf, culdesac, precious! By appt only. $370,000. 985-624-8168

**Mandeville Gated** Hunter's Glen, near Causeway/I-12, 2712 SF, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1.5 acre, flood zone C, well maint., Move in soon, $385,000, 985-727-1663

**Mandeville Schools:** LR, DR, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2 dens. Pool, 1.2 acres, $250,000. 985-892-1201

**Mandeville, 2** Mins from Causeway in Elegant Fontainebleau Sub. 2 Yrs new custom built Tuscan. $487,500. 985-626-5727

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

**Old Military** Rd. Immediate occupancy. No flooding. Totally remodeled. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 31 acres. 504-400-6749

7580 Slidell

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

**SLIDELL Lg** 4BR, 2.5BA in Breckenridge Subdivision, Stanton Model, in-ground heated pool, never flooded, exc school district, $350,000. 985-778-9942

7590River Parish East Bank

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.LaPlaceHomeSeller.com The Home Company Realtors (985)652-SOLD(7653)

**ST ANDREWS** ESTATES, gorgeous home on golf course, super high ceilings, crown molding, 2 studies w/ book shelves, 3 Fam. Rm., master suite w/ luxury master BA, formal Din. Rm., gourmet kit, island bar, hardwood flr., ceramic tile. 550 SF screened patio, 28 by 21 game room. Angelle Songy 985-651-0021 ext. 12 Century 21 Judy Songy

7600 River Parish West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

7610 Tangipahoa Parish

**Between Kentwood** & Amite, LA, 4 bdrm, 3 bth, 3,000 sq ft, 28 acres country. 1 hr from BR, 1.5 hr from NO. Call 225-791-2921

7612 Washington Parish

**4BR, 3** bath, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg, $450,000 985-516-0237

**IN BOGALUSA,** Beautifully restored Victorian, 3600 Sq. Ft. $135,000. 985-516-3997

7615 Mississippi

**CARRIERE Stone** Bridge Subdiv 20 min to Slidell, 3 yrs new upgraded & spacious, 3/2.5/2, PRC schls. $398,000 601-799-3398

**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**MS, 1** hr 15 mins from CBD, 2860 SF Home, Trophy Bass, 25 acres. $499,900. 601-749-8282

Residences for Sale

7615 Mississippi

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Purvis, MS** land for sale: 152 acres, rolling hills, mostly pasture. 10 minutes from town, 20 minutes from Hattiesburg. $4000.00/acre. ph#601-270-9713

**Sandy Hook,** MS. 3 Bedroom brick with 8 acres of land. House needs some repair, $48,000. 601-736-0317 or 601-441-4017

**Smith Co,** MS Beautiful 4000 Sq. Ft. Home, 7 Ac, Walk Out Basement, $300,000. Additional 150 Ac Land/Timber. 601-382-3347

7620 Gulf Coast

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

7625 Country

**Franklinton, Country** home for sale, 8 years old, just updated on 2 acres. 4000 square feet living area. 4 bedroom, 4 bath. Additional acreage available. $475,000. 985-848-4473

**Ponchatoula area,** FSBO, 3 bedroom/2 full bath, whirlpool bath, .5 acre, open living/dining area, $170,000. 985-386-0061

7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

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**5 AC

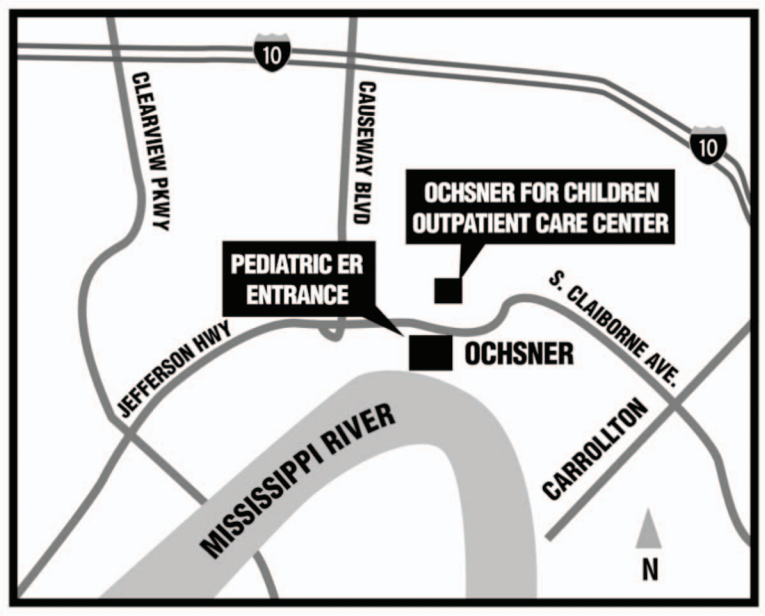
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Tuesday
October 4, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## City of silence greets musician

Spencer Bohren came home two weeks ago to get his passport.

The blues musician and his wife, Marilyn, drove into New Orleans before dawn. "Metairie was lit up, but when we turned to go into the city, it was totally dark," he said. "It just took our breath away. It was like looking across a cornfield or the ocean or something."

On Esplanade Avenue, they saw cars crashed into houses, dodged abandoned buses, breathed in the wreckage of their city, a city that had always been filled with music.

"It was just so silent. I think that disturbed us more than the darkness.

There were no birds singing, no dogs barking, certainly no musicians playing," Spencer said.

And when the sun rose, they looked around and saw that everything looked dead.

"It just hurts. You don't live in New Orleans without a commitment, and part of the payoff is the beautiful foliage," he said.

### Everything changed

They stayed only long enough to gather up a few belongings that hadn't been swamped.

"The thing I really needed was my passport so I can perform at some hurricane benefits in Switzerland and France this month," Spencer, 55, said.

One item they had grabbed when they first evacuated was their computer, which has kept them in touch with musicians Spencer has known and performed with over the years.

"We got hundreds of e-mails from around the world — people wanting to donate stuff, wanting to help," he said.

When they left New Orleans for the second time, they didn't talk much.

Spencer thought about how everything had changed: Their home in Esplanade Ridge was filled with creepy mold; their son Tucker was enrolled in a high school in St. Louis, his friends from Ben Franklin scattered across the country; and Marilyn was sitting in Missouri instead of teaching at Holy Rosary Academy.

Then she broke the silence, summing up in four words what so many people are feeling.

"I miss my life," she said.

### Only one true home

Spencer is not a native New Orleanian. He grew up in Wyoming and traveled around the country, playing folk, gospel and blues music.

In spite of what he calls his "gypsy streak," he spent much of the '70s in the Crescent City, playing in the French Quarter and at Tipitina's. And in 1997, when they came back for a visit, he and Marilyn decided to stay.

"We never felt at home until we got to New Orleans," he said.

He is feeling homeless now, and everywhere he goes to perform, people want to talk about Katrina and what it did to his city.

During a radio interview in Kansas City, he almost started crying.

"I was talking about how there's something in New Orleans that you can't touch, but it touches you deeply. And then I just lost it," he said.

He wants to come back, and he wants New Orleans to be the way it was: a place that's never silent, a place where music feeds your soul and you never go hungry.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# FLOODED AND FRUSTRATED

*Until they declare you a disaster area, there ain't nothing they can do for you,' one Lafitte fisher says.*



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

James Arabie walks through his muddy home for the first time since it was flooded by storm surge from Hurricane Rita.

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

The evidence of Carol Perkins' plight is scattered on her front lawn. Her sofas, waterlogged and mildewing, are interspersed with her other household possessions that were ruined when Hurricane Rita soaked the inside of her Lafitte home with 2 feet of water more than a week ago.

The federal government denied her application for help on Saturday. Puzzled, she said she tried to reach the Federal Emergency Management Agency by phone to no avail.

"We'll bounce back," Perkins said. "We've done if before. We come from a long line of hunters and trappers. I just hope they don't screw me on the insurance."

Not far away, three caskets from a small cemetery rested in the parking lot of American Legion Post No. 344 hall on Jean Lafitte Boulevard next to Bruce Kuhn Sr.'s home.

"You know it's bad when the dead want to get out," Kuhn said with a chuckle.

A sense of humor was about the only thing he had left while waiting for federal help, hopefully, in the form of a mobile home parked near his house to live in while he makes repairs.

"Until they declare you a disaster area, there ain't nothing they can do for you," said Kuhn, a commercial fisher who said the industry has been "shot" by the hurricanes. "I told them, 'I got three feet of water in my house, so why hasn't this been a disaster area?' I ain't the only one. I ain't the only one."

On Monday, 10 days after Rita's tidal surge flooded Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point, forcing hundreds of residents from their flooded homes, FEMA declared lower Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish disaster areas. The declaration means displaced residents would be eligible for temporary housing, said Jefferson Parish Councilman Chris Roberts, who represents the area.

"They were very slow," he said, adding that parish officials are still assessing the damage. "It's a very, very frustrating process."

Except for Grand Isle, Lower Jefferson was spared the brunt of Hurricane Katri-

See LAFITTE, B-2



Denny Higgins, left, and Bruce Kuhn Jr. load a flood-damaged stove into the back of a truck while cleaning out a home inundated by storm surge from Hurricane Rita.

## Kenner official gets mayor's backing

*Floyd is accused of hoarding goods*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Kenner's suspended chief administrative officer, Cedric Floyd, who is accused in a criminal complaint of hoarding hurricane relief goods at his house, had the backing of Mayor Phil Capitano "to distribute food and supplies at any time and at any location," according to a Capitano affidavit obtained Monday by The Times-Picayune.

The document, dated Wednesday, appears to give Floyd some official cover for ac-

See FLOYD, B-2

## Hundreds turned away from aid center

*Site to stay open at least two weeks*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Hundreds of motorists trying to reach a relocated Red Cross distribution center at Pelican Park near Mandeville were turned away early Monday, leading to a flurry of rumors that the agency had canceled plans to keep giving out $300-per-person debit cards.

But the people were denied entrance because by 8 a.m., the 1,000-vehicle parking lot at the park's Castine Center was full, State Police Sgt. Randy Fandal said. He was among several state troopers and sheriff's deputies who handled traffic at the recreation complex at 6 a.m.

See RED CROSS, B-2

## Lower 9th Ward residents return to ruin

*Harrowing stories, abysmal sites abound*

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

With the Lower 9th Ward in ruin and without the people who once lived there, the Lastie and Banks families drove into their neighborhood Monday to see and save what they could after Hurricane Katrina.

On North Robertson and Lamanche streets, Chester Lastie Jr., 63, and his son, Darren, 39, walked around the family compound of houses now on dry land.

"I'm blessed — blessed to be alive," Darren Lastie said while rummaging through the flood-damaged Bobcat, bulldozer and excavator that once

See 9TH WARD, B-2



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Lower 9th Ward resident Jason Banks, right, and Jack McKeon, of Global Adjusters, slog down still-flooded Tricou Street on Monday to get a look at Banks' house. It appeared the home would have to be torn down.

## High Holy Days begin with faithful scattered

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Like many of their ancient forbears, New Orleans Jews on Monday night began celebrating the High Holy Days in a kind of forced exile, driven from their homes by calamity – this one natural, not political.

By some estimates 3,000 to 5,000 Jews, a quarter to nearly half of New Orleans' Jewish population, found themselves in Houston on Monday to begin the celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

The next-largest contingent appeared to be in Baton Rouge, another haven for New Orleanians who fled Hurricane Katrina.

Rosh Hashanah opens a 10-day period of reflection and renewal ending on Oct. 13, the solemn Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.

See HOLY, B-2



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Bizani hangs clothes from her nearby home in the front yard of her son-in-law's home.

# Councilman pushing for mobile homes

**LAFITTE,** *from B-1*

na, which downed trees and damaged weaker structures. However, Rita's surge wreaked more destruction, as is evident now from the mounds of crumpled drywall, appliances and furniture dragged from homes to the edge of streets.

Jean Lafitte town officials said FEMA representatives arrived at Town Hall on Monday morning – in response to Hurricane Katrina, which caused scattered wind damage to homes and other structures. American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Army Corps of Engineers officials also were in the area.

Still frustrated residents trying to figure out the next step after Rita said they were glad to be home.

Outside his family home of more than 50 years, Purnell Adams thumbed through an art book that featured his late uncle, Lafitte folk artist James P. Scott.

"I ain't throwing this away," said Adams, a commercial fisher whose job is in limbo because of the storms. "This is mine. It has always been mine. I wish I would have taken this with me."

His sister, Vera Adams, looked over his shoulder. "How do you dry this?" she said.

Like her brother, she faces the Herculean task of cleaning her Barataria home.

"I'm glad to be home," she said. "There's no place like home, and I'm not leaving."

Unlike a huge park federal officials have created outside Baton Rouge for displaced residents, Roberts said the parish wants FEMA to supply mobile homes as temporary housing that residents can park on their properties.

"That's the preference in Jefferson Parish," he said. "That's what we're pushing for."

Jefferson Parish residents displaced by Rita should call the Citizens Affairs Office at (504) 736-8703, Roberts said.

Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net

# Floyd accused of hoarding goods

**FLOYD,** *from B-1*

tivities that the Police Department considers to be a crime.

Police booked Floyd on Sept. 23 with malfeasance in office after officers searched his house and found truckloads of new clothing, tools and cases of food and medicine. Police said Floyd had diverted the supplies from a city-sponsored distribution center for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Floyd said he was storing the goods to give them to Mark Mitchell, pastor of New Hope Community Church. Both men said they had been planning to meet up so Mitchell could pick up the supplies.

Capitano's affidavit says Floyd managed the distribution center at 2500 Williams Boulevard but "had the authority to distribute foods and supplies at any time and at any location."

"We asked him if he would to try and get as much of that stuff to the different churches as we could," Capitano said Monday. "We wanted him to move those supplies to the churches. We figured that by putting it at the churches, it would bring it closer to where people were."

Nonetheless, after police searched Floyd's house, Capitano placed him on leave without pay until the charge is resolved in court.

"We've suspended him, and until the justice system runs its course he will be suspended," Capitano said.

Jefferson Parish District Attorney Paul Connick Jr. said his office hasn't received a formal report from the Police Department so he wouldn't comment on the affidavit.

Capt. Steve Caraway, a Police Department spokesman, said he would not comment on the affidavit because he hasn't seen it. He said the Police Department hasn't finished the investigation because members have not yet interviewed Capitano.

"We've been trying to meet with the mayor since last week," Caraway said.

Floyd would not comment on the case, and his attorney could not be reached.

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

# N.O. congregations meet where they are

**HOLY,** *from B-1*

As sunset fell Monday, marking the close of the old and the arrival of a new year in the Jewish calendar, most of the metropolitan area's synagogues appeared to be closed for the traditional ceremony that celebrates the beginning of Rosh Hashanah.

One exception was Northshore Jewish Congregation in Mandeville, where a service was planned for Monday night.

But this morning promised a return to religious life for Jews in New Orleans: The Jewish community said it would observe holy day services in an unusual communal service in New Orleans, at 11 a.m. at Touro Synagogue.

Touro's service this morning is hosted by and for the entire Jewish community, said Rabbi Robert Loewy of Metairie's Congregation Gates of Prayer, who was helping to coordinate it.

Monday night's observances were to be mostly out of town.

Loewy was to lead a Rosh Hashanah service at Rice University for New Orleanians in Houston; Rabbi Andrew Busch, the new leader of Touro Synagogue, was to lead one at a Unitarian church in Baton Rouge; and Rabbi Ed Cohn of Temple Sinai was to lead another in Baton Rouge.

Congregation Shir Chadash, a conservative congregation based in Metairie, was to observe the day in Houston, Loewy said.

Moreover, it appeared that more congregations in the area would be able to have services as the High Holy Days wore on.

Loewy said a significant fraction of his Jefferson Parish congregation would observe Yom Kippur in their water-damaged temple.

"It'll be chairs on a bare concrete floor, but we'll be there," he said.

This morning's service at Touro was expected to attract hundreds of observant Jews from Jefferson Parish, as well as Jewish National Guard and relief workers who have been asking whether any New Orleans service might be available, Busch said.

Touro is unusual in New Orleans in that it has something like a basement. Although rising water did not reach the synagogue, its basement flooded from a drainage backup, said Mark Rubenstein, the congregation's executive director. For that reason this morning's service might be held in the synagogue's chapel, he said.

The service will be led by Busch, who moved to New Orleans a few months ago from suburban Philadelphia and took over July 1 from retired Rabbi David Goldstein.

Busch spent part of Monday inspecting his newly purchased, damaged house Uptown, then was to return to Baton Rouge for the evening service.

Today and over the next few days, he said, he would emphasize the need for community and solidarity in the face of the crisis.

"We've got to worry about ourselves, yes, but we have to take care of others as well," he said. "The Jewish community is part and parcel of New Orleans at large; we have to be as concerned about the very poor as ourselves."

In the same way that Katrina shredded lives and personal plans, it also shredded the carefully prepared sermon series many rabbis labored over for weeks.

But some once-secondary elements seem even more relevant, even compelling now. Loewy said he knows he'll spend time focusing on hope.

"You have to spend your life focusing on your values, what's truly important to you. Then you focus your life around reaching those goals," he said.

# St. Tammany president calls for FEMA apology

## *Development of site for trailers is at issue*

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

An angry St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis on Monday demanded a public apology from FEMA officials and called on the agency to fire a spokeswoman who alleged that Davis tried to get FEMA to hire a construction company the agency claims he owns, to develop property "to which he has personal ties," for a large temporary-housing site near Slidell.

The allegations, attributed to agency spokeswoman Nicol Andrews, were posted on CNN's Web site Sunday night in an apparent response to an interview done by Davis with the national television news network earlier in the day.

The comments made by Andrews to CNN are totally false, Davis said. And if FEMA officials do not issue a public and formal apology, the parish may sever relations with the agency, Davis said during a briefing with other local officials.

James McIntyre, a FEMA spokesman in Baton Rouge, said the agency is not publicly discussing Davis' demand. "The issue is being worked with Mr. Davis," McIntyre said.

Davis said he was "flabbergasted" when he read Andrews' comments. "I said to myself: What is this?" Davis said. "I don't even own a construction company."

The construction company and property belong to Slidell-area businessmen Robert Torres, Davis said. Although Torres is a friend and political supporter, Davis said he has no ties to the company or the property at Lakeshore Estates, south of Slidell, which can accommodate up to 1,200 temporary trailer homes for hurricane victims.

Davis said he was only trying to expedite the securing of local housing sites for the thousands of parish residents who desperately need temporary homes.

The site in Lakeshore Estates has electricity, sewerage and water and can be quickly converted into a temporary housing site. Torres' construction company was ready to get the site prepared, he said, and FEMA wouldn't have to wait until it secured an outside company to do the work.

Davis, like other officials in the region, has been critical of FEMA and its response to the recovery effort. The parish president especially has been critical of agency efforts to provide temporary housing in St. Tammany. Last week, Davis said publicly that he might lead a caravan of local residents, with pickup trucks and trailer hitches, to FEMA holding sites for the temporary homes and bring some back to St. Tammany.

"Sometimes, you have to do something like that to get their attention," Davis said last week. "It seems like that's the only way you can get them to do anything."

During Sunday's interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, David commended FEMA field workers and those at the top of the agency. But he said FEMA's middle management creates bureaucratic logjams that prevent or slow down help from reaching those who need it.

"I wasn't mean, upset or angry" during the interview, Davis said Monday. "I was just telling it like it is…Then I read these false statements they made about me. That made me angry…Don't they verify their facts?"

Meanwhile this weekend, 300 trailers were brought by FEMA into St. Tammany and are being stored at Lakeshore Estates.

# 'There's nothing to be saved'

**9TH WARD,** *from B-1*

earned him a living.

With thousands of houses beyond repair, it's the perfect time for this father and son to be in the demolition business, but their equipment lay rusting.

After spending days trying to save the business from looters right after the storm, the Lasties were rescued and now have returned.

They are sleeping "on the street" along St. Claude Avenue on the downtown side of the Industrial Canal at night and return to the Lower 9th Ward each morning in a just-purchased 1989 Dodge truck, packed with new generators.

Already battered by Katrina in August, the Lower 9th Ward flooded again during Hurricane Rita less than a month later.

"My main goal is to get the equipment up and running so we can make some money and rebuild the city at the same time," Darren Lastie said.

"I'm really ready to retire, but it looks like I might have to work," said Chester Lastie, who wound up spending two days in his attic after Katrina, before chopping through the roof to be rescued.

Also caught by the rushing water that flooded his neighborhood after the Industrial Canal levee broke, Darren Lastie was rescued from the second floor of a neighbor's home after a harrowing ordeal.

"I was caught and found myself swimming," he said. "I swam over to the Bobcat, and that went under. So I swam to my sister's Mardi Gras truck float, then that went under. So I swam to a neighbor's house and stayed upstairs."

Though he eventually was rescued, no one showed up for days — and at one point, he was convinced he would have to find a way out of the house. He caught sight of a tire floating by.

"I caught it with an extension cord and a coat hanger," he said.

"It's still tied up there, and I've been laughing about that."

Several blocks away, Jason Banks, 45, walked in remaining knee-high floodwater to his house on Tricou Street while his wife, Lisa, sat in the insurance adjuster's van with the Massachusetts plate, hoping that if he could save only one thing it would be the wedding ring she set high in a closet because she didn't want to lose it in a hotel or hurricane shelter.

But her husband did not return smiling.

"It's gone," Banks told his wife. "We couldn't even get in. There's nothing to be saved."

Banks, who owns Java Copy Zone on Baronne Street, promised her they would return "whenever the water dries."

# Drive-through process set up at former mall

**RED CROSS,** *from B-1*

as hordes of vehicles showed up, blocking U.S. 190.

Ken Williams, a Covington spokesman for the Red Cross, said the Castine Center will be the new western St. Tammany distribution center for the debit cards, opening from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and on Sunday. Williams said he did not know how long the distribution center would remain open, but Fandal said Red Cross volunteers on the scene told him Monday that they would be at the location for at least two weeks.

Park Director Kathy Foley said Red Cross officials contacted her Friday about shifting the operation from the Paul Spitzfaden Community Center on East Causeway Approach in Mandeville to Pelican Park, which is just east of the city.

"They said there was such a crush of people it was disrupting businesses on East Causeway . . . and causing such extreme traffic congestion on East Causeway and U.S. 190 they needed a new location," Foley said.

She said she OK'd the Red Cross request only if it agreed not to distribute on Saturday. "That way, we get our youth activities up and running and have a full Saturday of recreational sports and plenty of parking for parents and children in our various youth leagues," she said.

Fandal said motorists are being asked to not stack up on U.S. 190.

"We have a long Pelican Drive off the highway, and we can count as they come in and we will keep them moving to the parking lot," he said. "When we count 1,000 cars each day, we will shut it down . . . If a motorist sees the closed sign, just keep moving."

Foley said the wait Monday to get inside the Castine Center was about five hours. "We encourage people to bring folding chairs and umbrellas, and cold bottled water will be provided. We can get 800 people at a time inside the air-conditioned Castine Center," she said.

The first on-site distribution of the $300 debit cards in western St. Tammany began Wednesday at Donahue-Favret Contractors. The next day it moved next door to the community center, where about 3,000 people daily were given cards after waiting in line for one to nearly four hours.

But overwhelmed Mandeville police struggled to keep the process orderly and keep traffic moving and protect scores of recipients darting across East Causeway each day. By Sunday's giveaway, vehicles began stacking up on the west shoulder of U.S. 190 almost to the entrance of the Police Department.

Foley said by the time the parking lot capacity was reached Monday at the Castine Center, more than 3,000 people were in line.

The west St. Tammany distribution has been set up so motorists park and stand in line.

In Slidell, a distribution center was established Wednesday at the former factory outlet mall near Interstate 10 and Old Spanish Trail. That center has a drive-through process, in which those eligible in each car get debit cards after passing three checkpoints.

On Monday, Slidell police said that some residents have filed double claims at the Red Cross distribution center and they will be prosecuted for fraud.

In some cases, a man would receive a maximum of $1,200 in debit cards for himself and his wife and children. The next day, the wife would show up seeking $1,200 in aid for the same family, said Police Department spokesman Capt. Rob Callahan.

"Individuals and families living in the storm-affected area are entitled to one card for each victim in the household up to four cards. And they cannot apply using the two hurricanes to get double cards," Callahan said.

He said those committing fraud will be identified because all applications are cross-referenced using names, Social Security number and address. Callahan did not say how many cases of fraud are suspected so far.

# BOTTOMS UP




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

The head is tails after Hurricane Katrina upended the root beer float sign at the Frostop on South Claiborne Avenue Uptown.

# Red Cross help site opening by airport

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

The American Red Cross plans to open a drive-through relief center Wednesday in Kenner where disaster victims may sign up for money.

People will receive applications to fill out in their vehicles at the center, which will be in an employee parking lot at Louis Armstrong International Airport, City Hall spokeswoman Karen Boudrie said.

People are asked to bring two forms of identification, such as a driver's license and a utility bill. Parents may take Social Security cards or another identification for their children because aid is based on the number of people in a household, Red Cross spokesman Ken Williams said.

The center will be open Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and others days until the need subsides, Williams said.

Red Cross officials can see only 1,000 cars per day at the center, and any additional cars will be turned away, Boudrie said. However, more than one household may arrive in a car, Williams said.

No meals will be served at the center, so people should bring drinks and snacks in anticipation of a wait, Boudrie said.

"Please bring some things for you and your family to eat," she said.

To reach the center, people heading west on Airline Drive should pass the airport's main entrance and turn right at the next traffic light, before the railroad overpass. People heading east on Airline from the St. Rose area should come down the overpass and turn left at the light, before the airport's main entrance.

The street is called Service Road B. It is not marked with a street sign but is scheduled to have Red Cross signs pointing out where to go.

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

**SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE**
The Jefferson Parish Council will hold a Special Emergency Council Meeting to authorize payment to contractors for emergency work authorized due to the hurricanes. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 10 AM in the General Government Bldg., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053

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# Lower Plaquemines residents frustrated

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

For Plaquemines Parish resident Joanne Evans, unhappy returns are becoming routine.

Three times in the past five weeks, Evans has tried to go back to Port Sulphur in lower Plaquemines to see what hurricanes Katrina and Rita left of her hometown, one of several communities in the sliver of the parish that sticks into the Gulf of Mexico and got flooded by the two storms. Every time, including on Monday, Evans has gotten the same response.

"Can't get to it. They say it's still flooded," she said. "Everybody is coming back except us."

As residents in other hard-hit areas in New Orleans and in St. Bernard Parish return to pick up the pieces, Evans and many others in lower Plaquemines have to sit it out as crews work to close more than 18 breaches Katrina and Rita left in the marsh levees.

"A lot of people are frustrated," Parish President Benny Rousselle said Monday as he surveyed a map showing the gaps.

But he said the end may be near. The Army Corps of Engineers, using helicopters to drop giant sandbags into the levee openings, may complete the job as soon as today. Then, Rousselle said, parish pumps can begin draining up to three feet of water covering the communities, a process he said should be completed in three to four days.

"We're working to try to reopen this area," he said. "Rita set us back."

All areas of the parish's west bank below Port Sulphur flooded during Katrina on Aug. 29, as did most of the east bank, when the storm topped levees and caused several breaches. Just as officials had completed temporary repairs and were starting to drain the waters, Rita's surge reflooded the area Sept. 25.

The second storm also created new breaches and flooded areas Katrina had spared, such as Myrtle Grove. Only Belle Chasse and Jesuit Bend, in the northernmost portions of Plaquemines, stayed dry both times.

Officials are battling six levee gaps on the east bank, split between the communities of Braithwaite and Scarsdale. East bank areas south of those communities are dry.

On the west bank, however, crews are trying to plug about a dozen breaches, extending from Myrtle Grove south to Sunrise. Some areas have drained on their own, though, mostly between City Price and Port Sulphur.

But all residents are stopped at Myrtle Grove, where more than three feet of water covered Louisiana 23 at high tide Monday.

Rousselle said that as soon as the water is drained, officials will announce a re-entry plan.

For Evans, it can't come soon enough.

"I'll be back," she said, heading back to her haven in Hammond.

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Manuel Torres can be reached at (504) 352-2543 or at motstorm@yahoo.com.

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# Traffic court reopens in Metairie, Gretna

*Officials ease rules regarding no-shows*

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

In what surely is an unwelcome sign of normalcy for some, traffic court in Jefferson Parish is back in business.

First and Second Parish courts opened Monday for the first time in five weeks, and court officials urged drivers who missed court dates because of hurricane evacuations to stop by to resolve pending cases.

"We're asking people to just come in, or if they can't come in to call us," said Judge Rebecca Olivier of First Parish Court.

Even people with outstanding warrants won't be arrested if they try to resolve their issues, said Judge Stephen Grefer of Second Parish Court.

"We've instructed our staff to work with people," he said. "We want to help anyone who is trying to do the right thing."

The district attorney's office has assigned assistants to stay in court all day to handle traffic matters, unlike the normal routine in which traffic is limited to the evening schedule.

Parish courts handle traffic and misdemeanor cases, which include first- and second-offense drunken driving, shoplifting and battery cases, as well as small civil matters.

The buildings that house First Parish Court in Metairie and Second Parish Court in Gretna suffered some storm damage. But no information in the computer systems has been lost, court administrators said.

More than 30 people waited in line Monday at Second Parish Court. Gilbert Higgerson of Bridge City, who hoped to deal with a citation for running a stop sign, leaned against a column in the building's lobby near a sign that said "Contempt Department." He wore an expression that said he wished he were somewhere else.

"It looks like everybody went to lunch at the same time," he grumbled. "They should let them go in shifts."

Still, traffic was light in both courts. Grefer said no more than 10 of the 120 people scheduled for Monday's docket showed up.

"That's not really surprising, given the number of people who have evacuated," he said.

Under normal circumstances, arrest warrants would be issued for the no-shows. But considering the havoc wreaked by two hurricanes, Grefer said, the court is being more flexible. First Parish Court Administrator Bea Parisi said her staff reprogrammed the court's computers to eliminate its normal commands to sic law enforcement agencies on no-shows.

"There are procedures in place, but we're overriding some of that because of the circumstances," she said.

That doesn't mean that the court will be so understanding forever, Olivier said.

"Anyone has a case before us really needs to come in as soon as they can," she said.

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Matt Scallan may be reached at mscallan326@cox.net or (504) 467-1746.

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*Jefferson Parish*
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**DATE:** ➜ Thursday, October 6

**TIMES:** ➜ 4:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. (Repeat Sessions)

**LOCATION:** ➜ Holiday Inn Westbank
100 Westbank Expressway
Gretna

**COST:** ➜ Free of Charge

**SPONSORS:** ➜ Sponsored by JEDCO, the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson Business Council and The Jefferson EDGE. (All Members of the **Jefferson Back to Business** Task Force.)

# TOPSY TURVY



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Christopher Newton of Chalmette shovels mud out of his brother's shrimp boat. It was sunk by Hurricane Katrina in the marsh at Bayou Bienvenue. When asked about the work that lay ahead of him, he said, 'It's all good.'

Besides the things Hurricane Katrina took, the things left behind can be just as hard to deal with. Many boat owners have a long and expensive road ahead.



A shrimp boat lies upside down in the Bayou Bienvenue marsh in Chalmette.

# Harvey man is shot by Gretna police officer

*Victim was reaching under vehicle's seat*

**West Bank bureau**

A Gretna police officer fatally shot a Harvey man early Sunday after the man appeared to reach for something underneath the driver's seat of his sports utility vehicle, police said Monday.

Officers later found a pellet pistol under the seat, Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson said in a prepared statement.

Michael Don Manis Jr., 25, of 3420 Louise St., was shot "several times" about 3:15 a.m. on the railroad tracks at Gretna Boulevard and Belle Chasse Highway, where his 2001 Jeep Cherokee was stopped, Lawson said. Manis was pronounced dead at West Jefferson Medical Center.

The police officer who shot Manis and another police officer at the scene, were not identified. Gretna police are investigating the shooting and the case will be turned over to the Jefferson Parish district attorney's office, Lawson said.

The Jeep was stopped at the intersection through several sequences of the traffic light, Lawson said. Officers who investigated found its engine on and the transmission in gear. Manis was apparently asleep, and officers made numerous attempts to wake him, the chief said.

When Manis woke, he "became belligerent and combative and disregarded the officers' commands to exit the vehicle," Lawson said.

Manis "continued to reach under the front seats of the vehicle in an attempt to pull something from under the front seat," the chief said. An officer, fearing for his safety and that of the other officer and witnesses at the scene, fired five shots, Lawson said. The pellet pistol was a replica of a .45-caliber handgun, the chief said.

# Water in Beaumont now safe to drink

**By The Associated Press**

BEAUMONT, TEXAS — The water in Beaumont is safe to drink, even if it is discolored, local officials said Monday, as southeast Texas sputtered back to life nine days after Hurricane Rita slammed into the region.

Residents of Beaumont can return to the city to check the damage on their homes, but the city wants residents out of town by 7 p.m. because water, sewer and electrical services may not be on. Residents who stay must observe a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew, said city spokeswoman Carman Apple. That curfew extends around the region.

Crews continued working to restore power to some of the city's vital services, such as police, fire, hospitals and the county jail.

Entergy Texas said on Monday it still has more than 150,000 customers without electricity. In Louisiana, the power company said at least 61,900 remained powerless. At its peak, Rita left about 330,000 Entergy customers without power.

"Just because we got one-half in the first week doesn't mean the second half will be done in the next week," Joe Domino, utility president and chief executive, told The Beaumont Enterprise in its Sunday editions. "We are now working our way to customers with significant damage. It will be several weeks before all are restored."

Getting through a day in Beaumont is still a bit tricky. Apple said "a tremendous amount of debris" still litters the roadways. Most traffic signals don't work, a malfunction that's caused minor accidents around town.

While it's OK to drink the water, officials warned that the discoloration could stick to clothes.

Residents in Nederland, Port Neches, Groves and Port Arthur are still required to boil their water because of water systems that remain on emergency generator power.

Police have received a few reports of property taken from homes and a few people were caught taking alcohol and tobacco from convenience stores, but Apple said looting has not been a major problem.

Also Monday, the Texas Public Utility Commission decided to waive deposit fees for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita who need new telephone and electrical service in Texas.

# Forecaster predicts high hurricane activity in Oct.

**By The Associated Press**

FORT COLLINS, COLO. - Hurricane researcher William Gray on Monday forecast two hurricanes, one of them one major, for the rest of October, nearly double the long-term average for the month.

Gray and fellow researcher Philip Klotzbach of Colorado State University said the likelihood of a major hurricane crossing the U.S. coastline is 15 percent, more than double the long-term average of 6 percent.

"Unfortunately, the very active season we have seen to this point is not yet over," Gray said.

Gray and Klotzbach said the likelihood of a named storm hitting the U.S. coast in October is 49 percent, compared with an average of 29 percent from 1950 to 2000. The probability of a hurricane making landfall in the U.S. is 21 percent, compared with the long-term average of 15 percent, they said.

Through the end of September, the 2005 season has had nine hurricanes, five of them major, and 17 named storms. The 50-year average is 5.9 hurricanes, 2.3 of them major, and 9.6 named storms for an entire season.

Three of this year's major hurricanes, Dennis, Katrina and Rita, made landfall. Ophelia hit the North Carolina coast as a Category 1 hurricane, although its eye remained just offshore.

Gray and Klotzbach said factors behind this year's active season include warmer-than-average Atlantic Ocean surface temperatures and lower-than-normal sea level pressures, lower-than-average vertical wind shears and moister conditions in the lower and middle atmosphere.

They said they do not attribute the active season to human-induced global warming. Instead, they cited "long-period natural climate alterations that historical and paleo-climate records show to have occurred many times in the past."

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# Deaths of dogs leave owners angry and hurt

## *Animals were found in St. Bernard schools*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

With Hurricane Katrina moving toward south Louisiana, Carol Hamm said, her husband left their name and address on the wall of a former St. Bernard Parish school building where they placed four family pets, urging rescuers to save the animals.

But the request was not answered. In fact, Hamm said, she later learned that the pets had been shot and killed.

Hamm, who evacuated to Temple, Texas, said the dogs included a Labrador retriever named Angel Girl, a Siberian husky-German shepherd mix named Bullet, her mother-in-law's mixed Chihuahua and dachshund named Daisy, and her son's pit bull, Honey.

"It really hurt ... I was angry," Hamm said, when she first saw a report about the dogs on a television news program. They were among 10 dogs parish officials said were found dead in the former school building next to P.G.T. Beauregard Middle School. Five out of six other dogs left at another school also were found dead.

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office and state authorities are investigating the animal killings.

Hamm said she and several family members were rescued from the roof of their flooded house, but her husband stayed behind to ride in another boat with the four pets. He took them to the second floor of the old Beauregard school building while the family went to a shelter at St. Bernard High School, she said.

"He had tied them up. They were all together. He left plenty of food and water," she said.

The family later learned that the animals had been killed, as had animals left at Sebastien Roy Middle School in eastern St. Bernard Parish.

Capt. Brian Clark of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said there was evidence that some dogs had been shot at both schools, although he was not able to tell whether all the dogs had died from gunshots. There were spent shell casings from a variety of gun types, including a shotgun and a 9mm handgun.

Clark said he has been asked by the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office and the state attorney general's office to look into the shootings. While he has collected some evidence from the schools, most is still there. "I don't have the means to secure that type of evidence," he said.

Attorney general's office spokeswoman Kris Wartelle said the inquiry hasn't risen yet to the level of a formal investigation.

"We've made some inquiries," Wartelle said Monday. "I know the animal rescue people documented a lot of what was going on."

Jefferson Parish resident Marilyn McGee and her husband took photographs of the dogs last week. McGee said she planned to give the photos to the attorney general's office. She was the first to report the incident after she went in search of a service dog reportedly left at Beauregard by its hearing-impaired owner. McGee said she and her husband discovered the dogs in several rooms. She said it was obvious they had been shot.

The dogs at Sebastien Roy Elementary School in Reggio had been left by their owner in the school gym with plenty of food and water, but they were found dead in rooms in another part of the building, without any food or water, McGee said.

"I feel there's a dangerous person lurking out there," McGee said. "If they would harm animals in this way, I'd hate to think what they'd do to a person."

ASPCA attorney Stacy Wolf said the organization is following the investigation, although it has not filed a formal complaint. "I'm glad (authorities) are taking it seriously," she said. "It's a disturbing and atrocious thing."

# Plaquemines books two with stealing nursery's plants

**From staff reports**

Two people were booked with looting in Plaquemines Parish on Monday after they were found taking plants and tree-care equipment from a Belle Chasse nursery, the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office said.

Westwego neighbors Mark Pate, 33, 625 Avenue H, and Diane Spieler, 57, 627 Avenue H, were booked with looting the Southern Gateway Nursery, said John Marie, spokesman for the Plaquemines Sheriff's Office.

Marie said a friend of the nursery owner's was driving by the business Monday when he saw the pair loading plants and tools into the back of a vehicle. The owner's friend then held the couple at gunpoint, Marie said, before deputies arrived. They discovered the couple had taken a dozen plants and tools out of the nursery and the owner, contacted by deputies, verified he had not authorized anybody to remove the items.

The arrests raised to nine the number of people charged with looting in Plaquemines Parish since Katrina struck Aug. 29, Marie said.

# DEATHS

Cheryl Nugier Angelo
Paula Marie Dufrene Arceneaux
George W. Bennen
Marjoriee Morris Bonnette
Conrad J. Bouchard
Laura Marie Waguespack Boudreaux
Robert Byers
Lowell G. Chauff
Lucy Falletta Cherry
John Dimiterchik
Hazel Pierre Dufau
Henri Ferrer III
Joseph Robert Givens, Sr.
Mother Dorothy Guilbault
Loney J. Hebert
Shaun Michael James
Gladys Fitzmorris King
Annie Dugas Landry
Shirley Leads Cavallino Lewis
Dolores Gegenheimer Lucien
Maria Springer Meriwether
Jo-Anne Maurin Montz
Mrs. Alice Ory
Edith Bowers Pfister
Dorothy Joyce Rivers
Wanda Joan St. Philip
Nellie Cottom Toncrey
Calvin Orr West
Jean Elizabeth Morgan Wilson

### ANGELO

Cheryl Nugier Angelo passed away on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Beloved wife of Arnold Angelo Jr. Mother of Sean Eppinette and Arnold Angelo III. Grandmother of Sean Michael Eppinette and Samuel Eppinette. Sister of Billie Frantz. Also survived by a niece Kimberly Yahn. Age 54 years; a native of Abbeville, LA and a resident of Slidell, LA for the past 25 years. Relatives, friends and employees of Cooper T. Smith & Crescent Towing are invited to attend the funeral services from the chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Friends may visit on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM and again on Thursday from 10:00 AM until service time. Offer condolences online at: www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### ARCENEAUX

Paula Marie Dufrene Arceneaux of Marrero, La on Thursday September 29, 2005. Beloved wife of the late David T Arceneaux. Mother of Racheal Catherine Arceneaux Branch and David Paul Arceneaux. Sister of Jules Paul Dufrene. Daughter of Enola Terrebonne Dufrene and the late Jules Henry Dufrene. Grandmother of Christopher Branch, Tyler Branch, Lyndal Arceneaux and Tory Arceneaux. Niece of Amy Terrebonne Morman, Burnick (T-Bone) Terrebonne and Sedonia Porter. Relatives and Friends of the Family are invited to attend The Funeral Mass from the Chapel of Westside/Leitz-Eagen Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Tuesday October 4, 2005 at 12 noon. Interment in Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, La. Visitation at Westside/Leitz-Eagen Funeral Home on Tuesday October 4, 2005 from 9am-12 noon. Information 504-341-9421

### BENNEN

George W. Bennen, A retired employee of Union Pacific Railroad, he went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005, at 11:05 am at Baton Rouge General Medical Center-Mid City. He was a resident of Metairie, a native of New Orleans and a U.S. Navy Veteran. Visiting at Wilbert Funeral Home in Plaquemine on Thursday, Sept. 29, from 6pm to 9pm. Visiting on Friday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly from 8:30am. until Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30am Entombment in the church mausoleum. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Iris Bergeron Bennen of Metairie; they were married in July 1947. He also is survived by a daughter, Debby Bennen, Metairie; three sons and daughters-in-law, Craig and Tommie Kay Bennen of Harvey, Bryan and Melissa Bennen of Metairie, and Randal and Denise Bennen of Plano, Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Margaret "Margie" and Earl Anderson, Slidell; two cousins who he considered brothers, Leonard and Johnny Booksh, Metairie; and five grandchildren, Heather Durant and husband James, and Jordan, Brad, Joshua, and George Bennen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles "Bud" and Mary "Mazie" Lincoln Bennen. He was graduate of Jesuit High School, Class of 1944, a member of American Legion Post 175 and founding member of the Old Guys Club. He worked with St. Vincent de Paul in St. Benidle Church Parish, was a member of Archbishop Chapelle and Archbishop Rummel High schools Old Timers clubs. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Diabetes Association.

### BONNETTE

Marjoriee Morris Bonnette, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Beloved wife of Terry W. Bonnette. Loving mother of Michael Edward Reyes and his wife Carmen of Slidell and Karen Reyes Licciardi and her husband Lance of Chalmette. Adoring grandmother of Michael Jr., Gabriella Reyes, Lance Jr., Ashton, Dominic and Max Licciardi. Sister of Phyllis (Pinkie) M. Rodriguez and her husband Arnold of St. Bernard, Paula M. Hudson and her husband Charlie of Pearl River, and the late Edward Lee Morris. Daughter of the late Claire L. Licali. Daughter-in-Law of Jesse and Fena Bonnette of Kenner. Loving Aunt of Phyllis Poche, Holly Volion, and Brian Hudson. Age 62 years. Margie was a native of Bowden, GA and a resident of Franklinton, LA. She was known for her sincere kindness and love for others. She drew strength from her Savior, Jesus, in her courageous battle with Lou Gherig's Disease. A private service was held Saturday, October 1, 2005 at Jefferson Memorial Gardens in St. Rose, LA.

### BOUCHARD

Conrad J. Bouchard, age 79 and a longtime resident of Wauconda, IL and Naples, FL passed away on September 30, 2005 at the Covington residence of his daughter, Nadine B. Sahlin from complications of Parkinson Disease. Born in Frenchville, ME in 1926, he was married to Agry Kowalski of Chicago, IL who preceded him in death in 1988 after 38 years of marriage. Beloved father and grandfather, he is survived by his 5 children; Nadine B. Sahlin of Covington, LA, Greg Bouchard of St. Cloud, WI, Lloyd Bouchard of Greensburg, PA, Neil Bouchard of Lake in the Hills, IL and Renee B. Alexander of Lake Ozarks, MO and eleven grandchildren. Himself, one of 10 children, he is also survived by his brother Leo Bouchard of Boston, ME, and two sisters Martha B. Rooney of Chippewa Falls, WI and Geraldine B. Brewer of Presque Isles, ME. Visitation will be held at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433 on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2005 from 10:00am until service time at noon. Memorials may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 NW 9th Ave., Bob Hope Rd, Miami, FL 33136-1494. Offer condolences online at: www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com.

### BOUDREAUX

Laura Marie Waguespack Boudreaux a Loving wife, mother, grandmother & great grandmother died Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 1:45 AM in Baton Rouge, LA. Wife of the late Newell Roy Boudreaux. Daughter of the late Emile & Matilda Schexnaydre Waguespack. Mother & Mother-in-law of: Tilda & Doug Bourgeois of Gonzales, LA., Janelle Seaton of Convent, LA., Darlene & Ryan Waguespack of Gonzales, LA., Debra Clouatre of Gonzales, LA., Jerry & Phyllis Boudreaux, Newell "Bubby" & Susan Boudreaux, Dwayne "Beanie" & Priscilla Boudreaux & Gayle & Denise Boudreaux, all of Gonzales, LA., and Vera Boudreaux of Gonzales, LA., and the late Melvin Boudreaux. Sister of: Althea Dupuy of LaCombe, LA., Inez Hinchman of Norco, LA., Virgie Navo of Baton Rouge, LA., Madeline Melancon of Lumberton, MS., Emile Waguespack of Harrahan, LA., Hubert Waguespack of Ponchatoula, LA., Leroy Waguespack of LaPlace, LA., and the late Marguerite Pekich, Ruth Dornier, Daniel Waguespack, Melvin Waguespack & Ronald Waguespack. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Breast Cancer Awareness or Alzheimers Assoc. Special thanks to the staff of Heritage Manor of Baton Rouge and Life Source Hospice of Baton Rouge, LA. She was a member of St. Mary's Altar Society. Also survived by 21 grandchildren & 18 great-grandchildren. Age 88, she was a native of Donaldsonville and a resident of Convent, LA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday at St. Mark Catholic Church in Gonzales, LA. Interment in St. Mary's Chapel Mausoleum in Union, LA. Visitation at St. Mark Catholic Church from 8:00 to 11:00 AM on Tuesday. Arrangements by Ourso Funeral Home of Gonzales, LA.

### BYERS

Robert "Bob" Byers, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 7:04 PM, beloved husband of the late Adele Radford Byers, father of Robert E. Byers, Larry E. Byers, and the late June Byers, father-in-law of Sarah and Mary Byers, grandfather of Deanne Kinkella, Barbara Fradella, Melanie Vicknair, and Suzette Gagliano, brother of Bertha Thompson, and the late Ethel, Thomas, Joseph, and Archie Byers. Also survived by numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. His parents preceded him in death. Mr. Byers, 89, was a native of Abita Springs, LA and a resident of Gretna, LA for the past 10 years. He was a retired member of Truck Drivers Local 270 and a World War II Army Veteran. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral from Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 12:00 Noon with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM until funeral time on Tuesday. Interment will be in Garden of Memories with final interment in Lake Lawn Mausoleum. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### CHAUFF

Lowell G. Chauff on September 28, 2005. Beloved husband of Ruth Banting Chauff. Father of Felicia C. Scholle and April C. Fontenot. Father-in-law of Stephen J. Scholle and Tony J. Fontenot. Son of Gladys Mae Chauff and the late Wilbert Chauff. Brother of Carol Brunies and the late Corliss Segari. Grandfather of Cody, T.J. and Jason. Age 64 years, a resident of Avondale, LA. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Relatives and Friends of the family also employees and retirees of Avondale Shipyards, employees and patrons of Banting's Nursery and fellow square-dancers are invited to attend funeral services at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 3:15 pm. interment Restlawn Park Cemetery. Parlors will be open Saturday at 12 noon.

### CHERRY

Lucy Falletta Cherry on Wednesday September 12, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Anthony Joseph Cherry. Mother of Roselyn Connolly and Linda Claudet. Daughter of the late Leah Cashio Falletta and Paul Falletta. Sister of the late Sarah Legendre and Mary Panepinto. Grandmother of Linda, Rebecca, Patrick Connolly and Michael Claudet. Great grandmother of Jessica Connolly. Age 85 years, a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Terrytown, LA for the past 29 years. Relatives and friends of the family, Entergy, Marianites of Holy Cross and Members of the First Assembly Of God are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial in The Chapel of Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey LA. on Monday, Oct. 3, 2005 at 11:00 am, Interment Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery-Gretna, Parlors will be open Monday from 9:00am until service time.

### DIMITERCHIK

John Dimiterchik, age 87 passed away on Thursday, September 29, 2005, in Gretna, Louisiana. Mr. Dimiterchik was the beloved husband of Winnie Hines Dimiterchik for 63 years. He was the father of Julia Dimiterchik Fontenot of Ville Platte, Louisiana, Michael Louie Dimiterchik and Karen Dimiterchik Rule, both of Katy, Texas. He is also survived by 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. A 1936 graduate of Minersville High School, located in Minersville, Pennsylvania, Mr. Dimiterchik annually donated a scholarship to the school's Valedictorian and Salutatorian through a foundation he had created. A World War II Veteran, he served in the 1271st Combat Engineers and was retired from the oil field. He was a member of St. Basil's Eastern Orthodox Church in Metairie, Louisiana. Predeceased by his parents, Emily O. and Michael Dimiterchik, he was a first generation American who was a life-time member of the American Legion. Mr. Dimiterchik will be buried on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, in Minersville, Pennsylvania in the Llewellyn Cemetery.

### DUFAU

Hazel Pierre Dufau, on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 2:54 in Houma, LA. Beloved Wife of the late Clement Dufau. Mother of Jean Geraci of New Orleans, LA. Grandmother of Bart John Geraci. Also survived by 2 great grandchildren. Preceded in death by 2 brothers and 1 sister. A native and resident of New Orleans, aged 98 years. Services are pending at a latter date. Masses are preferred. Falgout Funeral Homes in charge of arrangements.

### FERRER

Henri Ferrer 'Hank' III on Sunday August 28, 2005. Beloved Son of Henri F. Ferrer, Jr. and Cheryl Morse Schleuss. Brother of Adam D. Ferrer. Grandson of Henri F. Ferrer, Sr. Bettie F. Ferrer, Armitize 'Tecy' Morse and the late John I Morse. Age 24 years. A resident of Covington, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Service on Saturday October 8, 2005 at 7:00 PM at New Life United Pentecostal Church 72151 Camellia St. Covington, LA. For More Information Please Call (985)839-4740. E.J.Fielding Funeral Home, Inc. Covington, LA in charge of arrangements.

### GIVENS

Joseph Robert Givens, Sr. Of Marrero on Sunday, September 25, 2005. Beloved father of Dana G. Ullo and Joseph R. Givens, Jr. Son of the late Lize McMellan and Travis Givens. Brother of the late Faye Givens. Also survived by 5 grandchildren. Age 64 years. A native of Campti, Louisiana and a resident of Marrero, Louisiana. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral mass in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, Louisiana, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1pm. Interment at Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 12 noon until funeral time.

### GUILBAULT

Mother Dorothy Guilbault, a Sister of Mount Carmel, teacher, principal and former Superior General of the Sisters of Mount Carmeldied Oct. 2, 2005 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette, LA. She was 91 years old and in the 69th year of her religious profession. Mother Dorothy was born Dorothy Marie Guilbault on Oct. 16,1913, to George Guilbault and Julia Dastre in New Orleans, LA. Sheentered the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sept. 5, 1933, and received the habit of the Sisters of Mount Carmel Aug. 6, 1934. On Aug. 3, 1936, she made her first profession and pronounced perpetualvows Aug. 3, 1939. She graduated from Mount Carmel in New Orleans, LA in 1932. She received her undergraduate degree in 1944 from Loyola University in New Orleans and her masters degree in Secondary Administration from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.in 1954. She received an undergraduate degree and a masters degree in Hospital Administration in 1964 from Xavier University in Ohio. Mother Dorothy taught from 1936 to 1949 at parochial and MountCarmel schools in New Iberia, Thibodaux, Lafayette and St. James Majorin New Orleans, LA. She served as principal of Mount Carmel New Iberia and Mount Carmel Lafayette from 1949 to 1961 and administrator of St. Joseph Hospital in Thibodaux from 1961 to 1967. She was Assistant General from 1967 to 1973 and Superior General from 1973 to 1977 of the Sisters of Mount Carmel. Mother Dorothy also served as residential administrator at Chateau de Notre Dame, Motherhouse superior and administrator and Lakeview Shepherd Center Board President. Since 1990 Mother Dorothy served as moderator, regional coordinator, consultant and Formation National Commissioner of the Lay Carmelites. She was moderator of the Marians and the Theresians in the New Orleans area. Mother Dorothy served as coordinator for bringing the Relics of St. Therese to the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Among her awards she received Certificate of Merit from the Council on Aging as 'Shepherd of the Year',and was honored at a retirement program by the Regional Lay Carmelites. She celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 1996. Mother Dorothy, the fourth of six children, was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: George, Marious and Robert Guilbault, and two sisters: Julia Moore and Isabel Guilbault. She is survived by many nieces and nephews and their children. On Tuesday, October 4th, 2005 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 600 Raintree Trail, Lafayette, LA, visitation will begin at 9:00am followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30pm. The Reverend Harold J. Trahan, Pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church will be the Celebrant of the Funeral Mass and will conduct the Funeral Services. Interment will be in St. John Cemetery. View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Martin and Castille Funeral Home, Inc. of Lafayette.

### HEBERT

Loney J. Hebert, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at his residence in Marrero, LA at the age of 84. Beloved son of the late Hercules J. Herbert and Stella R. Herbert. Brother of Ella H. Boudreaux and the late Wilmer J. Hebert, Joe Hebert and Velma Melancon. Also survived by 6 nephews and 1 niece. A native of Raceland, LA and a resident of Marrero, La. Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 3500 Highway 1, Raceland, La. Visitation from 8:00 A.M. until funeral time on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at Falgout Funeral Homes, 3838 Highway 1, Raceland, La. Falgout Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### JAMES

Shaun Michael James age 19, an employee of Camillia Beans died Friday September 30, 2005 of Heart Failure at East Jefferson Hospital. Survived by Father Charles Arthur and Mother Debra Virga James. Sisters Shannon and Shantelle James. Maw Maw Silvia and the late Paw Paw John J. Virga. Cousins Brandie, Eric and Garrett Morales, J.J. and James Virga and Kamryn Faulstich. Survived by his Nanny Donna, Uncle Johnny and Aunt Karen. Also all of his loving friends. Relatives, friends, employees of Camillia Beans, Fabricated Filters and Big Lots are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on October 5, 2005 at 4:00 pm. Visitation on Thursday from 11:00am until 4:00pm.

### KING

Gladys "Big Momma" Fitzmorris King, on Friday, September 30, 2005. Beloved mother of Wanda K. Davis, Sylvia K. Karp, James "Jimmy" W., Larry and Rayburn King. Sister of Cecile Dominguez, Vivian Braud, Thelma Lavigne and the late Rachel Rogers, Ina Mae Sambola, Monroe, Hardy, Joseph and Kenzie Fitzmorris. Also survived by 19 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Aged 93 years, a native and a lifelong resident of Covington, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 11:00am from Shepherd's Care Church, 20115 Hwy 1081 (Stafford Rd.), Covington, LA 70435. Visitation on Monday at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Inc., 2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA 70433 from 6:00pm until 9:00pm and on Tuesday at Shepherd's Care Church from 9:00 am until service time. Interment in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Shepherd's Care Ministries. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com.

### LANDRY

Annie Dugas Landry, 97, on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at Lacombe Nursing Center. Born in Donaldsonville and a resident of Metairie for the past 26 years. She was the wife of the late Leon Landry and mother of the late Isabelle Landry Sunseri Riso. Survivors include son, Lionel Landry, daughter-in-law Karen K. Landry, daughter Velma Landry Elmer, wife of the late George R. Elmer, Jr.; 15 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; and 5 great-great grandchildren. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Services at LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Catholic Prayer Service to follow at 10:00 am. Interment will follow in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Arrangements by JACOB SCHOEN AND SON.

### LEWIS

Shirley Leads Cavallino Lewis on Thursday September 29, 2005 at 11:34am. Wife of the late Joseph Lewis. Mother of Joy S. Vedros. Sister of the late Dr. Warren Leeds and Marion O'Toole. Grandmother of Dr. Lauren V. Myers, Jill V. Mutavdzic and Kimberley V. Landry. Great Grandmother of Taylor, Grayson, Madison, Kallen and Alexandra. Aunt of Robert Leeds, Mimi Quiroga and Michael Leeds. Age 85 years, A native of New York, NY and a resident of this city for 60 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Wednesday October 5, 2005 at 2:00pm. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery and final resting place in LakeLawn Cemetery. Visitation from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

### LUCIEN

Dolores Gegenheimer Lucien on Saturday, September 24, 2005 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Beloved wife of the late Charles F. Lucien. Beloved daughter of the late William and Agnes DuQuercron Gegenheimer. Preceded in death by her sisters Joan Gegenheimer, Edith (Mrs. Ray) Moore, and brothers Lionel, William, Malcolm, and Lester Gegenheimer. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. She was dearly loved by all her family and will be greatly missed. Age 76 years, a native of Gretna and a resident of New Orleans and Metairie. A private burial service was held at the Garden of Memories Mausoleum. Arrangements by L.A. Muhleisen & Son.

### MERIWETHER

Maria Springer Meriwether, a lifelong resident of the New Orleans area, passed away at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX, on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 64 years. Beloved wife of William D. Meriwether, Jr.. Loving mother of Richard Springer Favor, Maria Favor Argote and George Michael Favor. Stepmother of Elizabeth Meriwether Finger, Susan Meriwether Lee and William D. Meriwether, III. Sister of Marilyn "Chickie" Springer. Daughter of the late George Joseph and Marguerite Smith Springer. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Services were held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 2:00pm. Interment was private. Visitation took place from 12:00pm until service time at church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, c/o Felipe Samaniego, M.D., 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Box 429, Houston, TX. 77030. LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements.

### MONTZ

Jo-Anne "Jody" Maurin Montz died on Friday, September 23rd, 2005 at 6:42pm. Beloved wife of the late Warren "Smokey" Montz, mother and mother-in-law of Timothy Muntz and Jon Graham, April and Kent Campbell, Marsha and Roger Zettler and Steven and Monica Muntz. Grandmother of, Joshua, Benjamin, Annie Jo, and Gabriel Boudreaux and Maria Hays, John Henry Town. Step-grandmother of Katie Campbell. Daughter of the late Lois Sr., and Emma LeBrun Maurin. Sister of Elaine Delaneuville, Marjorie McTopy, Marie Therese Muntz, and the late Lois (LJ) Maurin, Gloria Oubre, and J. LeBrun Maurin. A Native of Reserve Louisiana and a resident of LaPlace for the past 55 years. Relative and friends of the family our invited to attend the services. Visitation at St. Peter Catholic Church Reserve, LA on Tuesday, October 4 from 4:00pm - 5:30 pm. Followed by religious services at the church at 5:30pm. Burial in church cemetery. No flowers please. Masses preferred. Arrangements by Millet-Guidry Funeral Home of LaPlace, LA.

### ORY

Mrs. Alice Ory, age 83, passed away Thursday September 29,2005 in Fulton County Georgia. Mrs. Ory had been residing with her son in Ocean Springs, MS for the past several years and due to Hurricane Katrina, had evacuated to Georgia where she unfortunately died after a long battle with heart failure. Prior to residing with her children in both Baton Rouge and Mississippi, she had been a lifelong resident in New Orleans. She was a retired Civil Servant from the Port of Embarkation and a member of First Presbyterian Church of Gentilly. She was preceded in death by her husband Octave J. Ory of Garyville and New Orleans, LA and by her parents Arthur and Ana Salguero, also of New Orleans. Surviving family includes a brother, Gilbert Whitefield of Lady Lake, FL; a daughter and son-in-law, Janis and Raymond Hebbler of Baton Rouge, LA; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Tracy Ory formerly of Ocean Springs, MS; grandchildren, Christopher Ory of Lafayette, LA, Laura and Christina Hebbler both of Baton Rouge, LA, Morgan, Chandlar and Hayden Ory all formerly of Ocean Springs, MS. Due to the recent disaster, there are no plans for a memorial service at this time. The family request that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the American Red Cross. Arrangements by Whitley Garner at Rosehaven Funeral Home, Douglasville, GA 30134

### PFISTER

Edith "Dee" Bowers Pfister passed away in Baton Rouge on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Age 91, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie for the past 36 years. Mrs. Pfister was past president of Evergreen Garden Club, member of Federated Council of State Garden Clubs, past president of Council of Catholic Schools Cooperative Clubs and member of St. Benilde Holy Name Society. Beloved wife of the late Louis M. Pfister. Mother of Lois P. Hart. Sister of Thelma Bosch, Rosemary Toribio and the late Hilda Johnson. Grandmother of Valerie Hart-Sirrine, Alicia H. Obermeyer and Cheryl H. Helm. Great-grandmother of Robert, Rachel and Rebecca Helm. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Friends may visit on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until time of service. Burial in Jefferson Memorial Gardens Cemetery and final interment in Cypress Grove Cemetery.

### RIVERS

Dorothy Joyce Rivers on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Age 65, a native of Woodville, MS and a resident of Metairie for the past 3 1/2 years. Beloved wife of the late J.C. Rivers. Mother of Jimmy S. Mumphrey, Jr. Daughter of the late Shelly and Anne Loy Whittington. Sister of Wayne Whittington and the late Jerry, Haskell and Shelly Whittington, Jr. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 11:00am. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens. Friends may visit from 9:00am until 11:00 am on Tues.

### ST. PHILIP

Wanda Joan St. Philip was born on September 1, 1922 in Lublin, Poland to Vincent and Felicia Rozkres and died in Kingwood, TX on September 29, 2005 at the age of 83. In 1946 she met her true soul mate in Iran and consequently married her American soldier love in Basra Iraq and then moved to the United States with her beloved. Her dedication and love to Jake has never ended and was only magnified by the arrival of each of their four children. Wanda gave all of her love and energy to her family and into being the wife and mother all wish they had had. Just as strong as her love for her family was her love for her faith, which she devoutly practiced. She was preceded in death by her son, Frank Edward St. Philip and her brother , Stanislaus Rozkreswho lost his life in WWII. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Jake P. St. Philip; daughters, Paula Seams and her husband, Jerry of Kingwood, TX, Patty Gallagher and her husband Jim, of Kingwood, TX; son, Jake P. St. Philip, Jr. and his wife Peggy, of San Diego, CA; daughter-in-law, Vinnie St. Philip of Mandeville, LA; brother, Gieneck Rozkres, of England; nine grandchlidren; eight great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. Visitation with the family will be 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Sunday, October 2, 2005 at Kingwood Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 3, 2005 at St. Martha Catholic Church, 2302 Oak Shores at Woodland Hills Drive, Kingwood, TX presided by Monsignor Chester Borski. For those desiring, the family requests memorials take the form.

### TONCREY

Nellie Cottom Toncrey on Friday Sept 30, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Lionel J. Toncrey. Mother of Albert S. Toncrey, Lionel T. Toncrey, Mary Nell T Cedotal, Nancy T. Delerno. Godmother of Joy Perez. Sister of Thomas Cottom, Isabel C. Perez, Mary C. Gary and Camille C. Blaise. Daughter of the late Thomas Cottom and Mary Rose Roche Cottom. Survived by 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, Age 89 years. A native of Algiers, LA and a resident of Harvey, LA for the past 66 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral service in the parlor of Mothe Funeral Homes, 1300 Vallette Street, Algiers, LA. on Tuesday Oct, 4, 2005 at 11:00am, Interment St. Bartholomew Cemetery, Algiers, LA. Visitation will begin on Tuesday at 9:00am until service time.

### WEST

Calvin Orr West on Friday September, 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Edyth Routt West for 57 years. Father of Susan W. Richardson, Dennis L. West, Daniel J. West, and Jane E. West. Grandfather of Keith, Neil, and Eric West, Rebecca and Claire Richardson. Great Grandfather of Ethan West. Brother of Rachel W. Shannon. Age 81 years. Mr. West was a Gideon, a member of the Alumni Association of University of Kentucky, a Deacon at Memorial Baptist Church, a Board Member of Global Maritime Ministries, and the Owner of Cottman Transmission in Gretna. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 4:00pm. Visitation from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. In lieu of flowers donations to Maritime Seaman's Mission, Gideons or Memorial Baptist Church.

### WILSON

Jean Elizabeth Morgan Wilson died in her home on September 30, 2005, surrounded by her family. She was 89 years of age. Funeral Services will be at Osborn Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 4, at 10:00am with Chaplain Rosemary Lafargue of Hospice of Shreveport/Bossier officiating, assisted by one of Mrs. Wilson's sons. Visitation will be held at the Osborn Funeral Home on Monday, October 3 from 6:00 to 9:00pm. Burial will follow at Forest Park Cemetery. Jean Elizabeth Morgan was born in Greeley, Colorado on May 21, 1916, along with her identical twin sister, Julia Ann Morgan. She attended Greeley High School and the University of Colorado at Boulder. She married Arthur J. Wilson, Jr. (Art) on the 13th August, 1937, which was a Friday (so obviously they were not superstitious), and they were married for almost 58 years before Art's death in 1995. Jean was city girl and Art was a farmer, so she had a lot to learn about farm life, but she took it all in stride. In December 1953 the Wilson clan, which then consisted of the parents and three sons, Arthur J. III, John Morgan, and William Wayne, moved to a farm south of Shreveport near the small town of Forbing. They lived there for about six years before they sold the farm and moved to Shreveport. Jean worked for many years for Southwestern Wholesale Dry Goods Company. The boys attended Byrd High School and either Louisiana Tech or LSU. Her sons are all professionals, Arthur J. (Jim) an engineer and Colonel US Air Force retired, John an attourney practicing in New Orleans and Bill a missionary minister working with foreign students at the University of Arizona in Tucson. They all served in the US Armed Forces; Jean and Art believed all young men should spend some time serving their country. Jean is survived by her twin sister, Julia Ann Morgan Weidner of Shreveport, Colonel (retired) Arthur James Wilson III and wife Hedy of Smith Mountain Lake in Southwestern Virginia, John Morgan Wilson and wife Edie of New Orleans, the Reverend William Wayne Wilson and wife Donna of Tucson, Arizona, and seven grandchildren: Dr. Gina W. Hook, M.D. of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Arthur J. IV of Port Allen, Louisiana, David Morgan of Boston, Massachusetts, Edward Reynolds of New York City, Mary Anne Spears of Tucson, Arizona, Deborah Gidney of Tucson, Arizona and Jonathan of Tucson, Arizona. There are fifteen great-grandchildren; Austin James, Andrew Mark, Claire Constance Hook, Ethan Hamilton Hook, Kemper Davis and Rowan Declar (twins), Cyrus Nowroozi, Kelsey Elizabeth Spears, Caitlin Marie Spears, Trevor Benjamin Spears, Emma Louise Spears, Matthew James Gidney, Sarah Elizabeth Gidney, Christiana Diane Gidney and Kaylee Elisabeth. The family extends its sincerest thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Wilson's physicians, Dr. Robert J. Massingill, M.D. and Dr. Rick Michael, M.D. and to all of the dedicated and loving care-givers at Hospice of Shreveport/Bossier. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate a memorial gift to Hospice of Shreveport/Bossier, 3303 Knight Street, Suite 115, Shreveport, LA 71105

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To place a death notice in The Times-Picayune, please call 866-420-3227 toll free or send

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# YOUR OPINIONS

## From a thankful Wave fan

I would like to thank Skip Bertman and the LSU athletic administration for hosting the Tulane-Southeastern football game this past weekend. While it was bizarre sitting on the 50 yard-line in Tiger Stadium cheering for the Green Wave, it was a thrill to play so close to home and to play outdoors. The LSU stadium staff went out of their way to help us feel at home. I'm certain Tammy Nunez's article Sunday in no way reflects the feelings of the majority of us at the game. Ms. Nunez dwelled upon the foibles of a 21-year-old who was concerned more about his bourbon than the football game, rather than highlighting the 10,000 or so Tulane die-hards who were grateful to have a place to play so near New Orleans.

**Leon Contavesprie**
*St. Rose*

## Tulane fans show lack of class

Re: "Tigers den not comfortable for Wave fans," Sports, Oct. 2. I must admit, I'm not surprised by the Tulane fans' attitude because I grew up surrounded by it. It's just a shame that it has been thrown in the face of a gesture of good will. During a time when neighbors are helping each other, the ingratitude and utter idiocy of Tulane fan Colby Omner's comments bring out the true colors of Tulane faithful. Mr. Omner ranted about his "disgust" at having to watch Tulane play a home game in that "den of evil," Tiger Stadium. Shame on you, Colby! I'll bet your sister (an LSU student) doesn't agree with your tasteless and inappropriate comments.

Mr. Omner also says that "The least they could have done is have the decency to let us paint Tulane in the end zone." The decency of LSU extended well beyond some nasty blue and green paint in the end zone. Skip Bertman and the LSU athletic department went above and beyond the call of duty in helping Tulane play its homecoming game closer to home than Shreveport, and this is the thanks that Tulane fans such as Colby and David Melius (you should have stayed in the parking lot) show.

Let's face it; the decision wasn't made for the revenue that the game brought in. Unless, of course, Tulane guaranteed that it would pay for all the empty seats. Might I suggest that the next time Tulane needs a place to play a home game, it check with NORD. I am sure that there is a neighborhood playground with a few hundred portable bleacher seats to hold the ungrateful Wave supporters.

**Reggie McCue**
*Mandeville*

## Panel is a wasted opportunity

The mayor's commission of 17 to rebuild New Orleans is supposed to represent the city's diversity? I didn't know that New Orleans was overwhelmingly male and that big businessmen made up more than half the population. I didn't know that New Orleans had zero small-business owners and virtually no nonprofit organizations. I didn't know that it had no religious leaders from the Jewish community.

No matter that there will be 200 committee members serving with this commission. Mayor Ray Nagin has clearly sent the message that he has no regard for the many voices of those who are the heart and soul of the city. Unfortunately, Mayor Nagin squandered the opportunity to bring the community together in an open dialogue about who should represent New Orleans. There would never have been unanimity, but there would have been communication and a sense that the ordinary person's voice could be heard. Now the window has closed on that possibility, and the city and its people are the poorer for it.

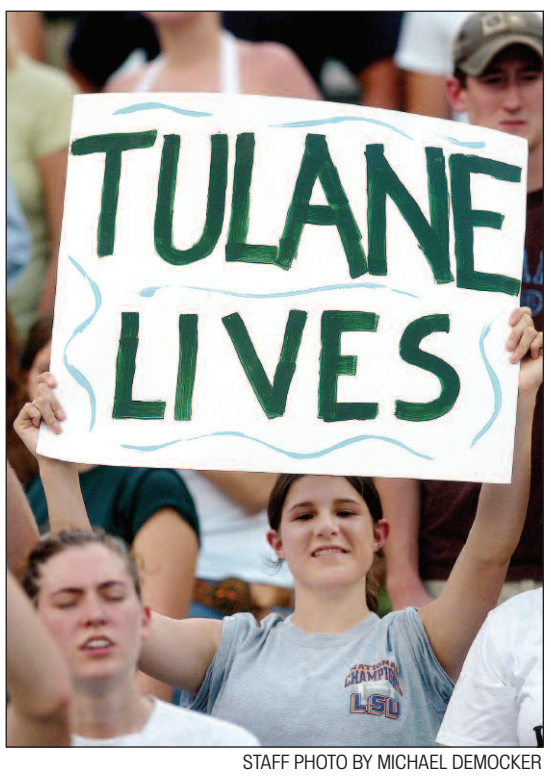
**Joycelyn Cole**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Gretna*

## Insights from the outdoors writer

The article by outdoors writer Bob Marshall was one of the best evaluations of our situation that I have seen. It should have been on the front page and not buried in the sports section, as it points out the unsavory pork-barrel attitude of our long-term politicians.

My sincere congratulations to Bob Marshall for his insight.

**James Kiser**
*Mandeville*




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

A fan at the Tulane-Southeastern game at Tiger Stadium Saturday proclaims that Tulane survived Hurricane Katrina.

## Mass transit for commuters is crucial

It is critical that the economic opportunities created by the rebuilding of New Orleans are accessible to all of the citizens of New Orleans, regardless of their income and education. This access extends beyond employment. All citizens need security from flooding, access to recreation and transportation that enables them to work.

Population growth should follow economic growth. We need to accept that New Orleans will initially have a smaller population. I think the economy should draw people into the city and allow New Orleans to grow in a planned way. Mass transportation to outlying communities such as the north shore and Baton Rouge will allow access without forcing people to live in the city. This may be one of several ways of making public land where private residential areas used to be. I lived for a few years in the Netherlands, a country that has achieved a balance of commercial needs, transportation and flood protection in one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Citizens participate in how their communities are run and insist on consensus. There are high expectations and accountability for public officials. It is critical that the agendas of the government and business communities do not overwhelm the needs of the people living in New Orleans.

**Mark Winter**
*New Orleans*

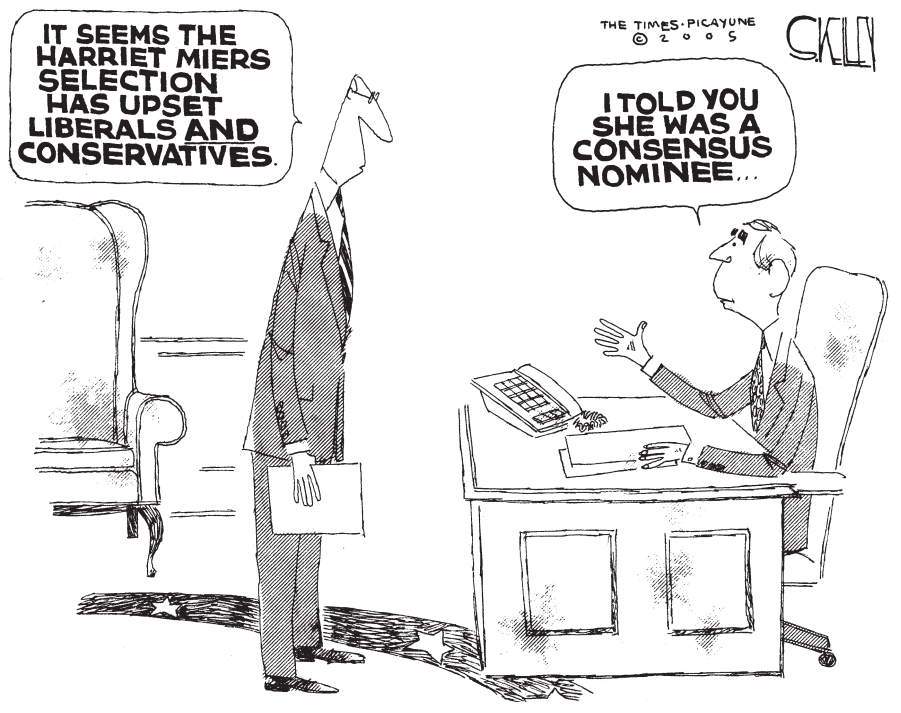
## Let schools start later in the day

Re: "Jefferson schools to reopen with longer days," Metro, Oct. 2.The plan to have Jefferson Parish students attend school an extra hour seems poorly thought out. First, it appears from the numbers available on the BESE Web site that more than 50 percent of displaced children attended school elsewhere for the month of September. Second, the concern about young children attending after dark seems far-fetched. Even on the winter solstice, the sunset is after 5 p.m. Third, what do the bus drivers say about starting their day before 5 a.m.?

I have a high-school student who is currently picked up by bus at 6:15 a.m. The only time there would be daylight at 5:15, the new bus time, would be in the summer. Every study of teenagers suggests they would benefit from a later, not an earlier, school day. And, a later end time for all schools would more closely coincide with parents' work schedules. I hope a well-thought-out and reasonable accommodation can be made if it is really necessary to add an hour to the school day.

**Vicky Rands**
*Metairie*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Task force mania

Rebuilding after the ravages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be a task of almost unimaginable complexity. Even the relatively concrete problems, such as where to put all the garbage left behind by the hurricanes, would seem like Herculean tasks under different circumstances. Working out tougher, more abstract issues — what to rebuild where, how to get the economy restarted again — will take lots of brainpower.

For that reason, at least, the proliferation of post-hurricane task forces is easy to understand. Decisions about the future of New Orleans area communities and Louisiana as a whole need to be informed by citizen participation. For that reason, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin have each enlisted the help of prominent business people, civic leaders, academics and government officials.

But while putting together one task force makes sense in the face of a catastrophe of unprecedented dimensions, it's hard to imagine that a plethora of competing task forces will bring about a coherent plan for rebuilding the metro area and the state.

Last week, Gov. Blanco formed a team of advisers that includes a number of prominent New Orleans area residents. Among the members are Xavier University President Norman Francis, restaurateur Ralph Brennan, bank executives Alden McDonald and King Milling and state Sen. Walter Boasso, a no-nonsense lawmaker whose district includes the badly stricken St. Bernard Parish. The goal of the group will be to get the state's damaged economy moving again.

The next day, Mayor Nagin named 17 people to the task force he had previously vowed to create. It will be chaired by health care executive Mel Lagarde and community activist Barbara Major and will also include City Council President Oliver Thomas, real estate developer Joe Canizaro, jazzman Wynton Marsalis and Archbishop Alfred Hughes. There's a considerable overlap between the mayor's panel and the governor's; Mr. McDonald, Entergy New Orleans President Dan Packer, Regional Transit Authority Chairman Jimmy Reiss and shipyard executive Donald "Boysie" Bollinger will serve on both.

There's no doubt that the individuals on these panels have a wealth of relevant experience, and their involvement will no doubt be helpful to the recovery effort.

But now that the City Council has approved plans for a task force of its own, one has to wonder: How many task forces can state and local government agencies empanel without confusing the public and stepping on each other's toes?

The council set up an 11-member group last week but did not name its members. The council probably will need, over time, to consider changes to policies on zoning, permits, utility regulation and other matters that the council handles on a regular basis. But the resolution authorizing the blue-ribbon panel also assigns it a broader mission: to figure out how the council can use its authority "to facilitate the city's post-hurricane recovery efforts for the greater good of the city." Oh, is that all?

It's hardly obvious that New Orleans alone needs two task forces, especially since some of the thorniest problems created by the hurricane aren't restricted to any one community. Hurricane Katrina led to the flooding of vast areas of Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, and Hurricane Rita brought more flooding in some of the same neighborhoods. Tens of thousands of homes, possibly hundreds of thousands, have been taken out of the housing market altogether. This will have significant implications for housing and transportation planning even in those parishes that escaped major damage.

Setting up yet another task force to deal with issues of metrowide importance would be silly, but now is time for existing institutions such as the Regional Planning Commission to prove their worth.

The cynical view of task forces, of course, is that they're a convenient way for reluctant politicians to avoid committing themselves to actual policy changes. When Gov. Blanco first took office, she wanted to identify ways to modernize and improve the health care system, so she called together a long list of luminaries from across the health care field. That panel had hours of intelligent debate, and one of the best ideas that percolated out of it was the need to provide long-term care for elderly and disabled people in settings other than nursing homes. That notion made sense, but it offended some politically powerful interests. So almost two years later, the state has made little progress toward the task force's goal.

The City Council doesn't need a task force. There are too many study commissions as it is. We may be stuck with them, though. If we are, they need to deliberate swiftly, and they need to deliberate openly.

Ultimately, responsibility for turning the panels' recommendations into specific reconstruction plans will fall to our elected leadership, and these officials won't have the luxury of punting on hard decisions. Which buildings, if any, should be bulldozed? What, if anything, should be built in their place? How do we persuade former residents to return and out-of-towners to come settle in the metro area?

These are difficult questions. And more task forces aren't likely to lead to better answers.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Denial makes everyone's job more difficult



JARVIS DEBERRY

You may have noticed that "failures at all levels of government" is fast becoming a catch phrase. It was launched by the federal government in attempt to simultaneously admit fault and blame New Orleans and Louisiana officials. Journalists, pundits and self-identified experts have picked up on the phrase, too. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's most glaring error, the common thinking goes, was his failure to evacuate the city in advance of the storm.

I'm not here to shield the mayor from criticism, but the blithe comments do aggravate. I don't know how any major metropolitan area can be emptied out in less than 48 hours, much less New Orleans, which has a single interstate highway and a public transportation system prized not for its efficiency but its quaintness.

The comments also imply that all the people who drowned or were airlifted from their rooftops were trapped by poverty. That was certainly true for many. Too many.

But let's be honest. Most of us know of people who had the transportation, who had the money, who had friends who would have gladly taken them in, and they still chose not to evacuate. Not only that, but they looked down their noses at the people they saw preparing to leave.

I don't mean to suggest that the people who refused to leave outnumbered those who couldn't leave. But I do know that there were plenty who had options but stayed. And that some of them had to be fished out just like those trapped by circumstance.

The city of New Orleans is in multiple ways a feat of engineering. The Mississippi River would have eventually flowed away from the city and taken a different path to the Gulf of Mexico had the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers not built the Old River Control Structure at the Atchafalaya River/Mississippi River split. The city would have already been flooded by water from the Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain multiple times if not for the levees built up around it. Water from the sky has nowhere to drain, so it has to be pumped out. The creation of the city in this spot reflects the belief that human beings can prevail against nature.

Many city residents seemed to have adopted the same attitude on a micro level. How many people did we hear refuse to evacuate with the boast, "I rode out Betsy"? A woman quoted in The Times-Picayune told a reporter that she was rescued from her rooftop after Hurricane Betsy and 40 years later was rescued from a rooftop after Hurricane Katrina. She promised that there would never be a third time.

I wondered why there had been a second. Why would someone with such a traumatic hurricane experience stay around for a repeat?

The mayor has said he welcomes analysis and feedback for his performance during this crisis. As we oblige him, we ought to admit that human psychology – in particular our amazing ability to deny that danger will ever befall us – made the government's job more difficult.

Even those who did leave wouldn't let themselves think it was going to be this bad. "Two or three days." Many people have told me that that's how long they expected to be away from their homes. Which is odd. When Tropical Storm Cindy blew through New Orleans Aug. 4, I was among those people who went more than four days without power. At one point Hurricane Katrina was a Category 5 aimed at New Orleans, yet evacuees convinced themselves that it wasn't going to be that bad.

If the people who left town were telling themselves that, imagine what was being said by the people who were staying. Maybe they were telling themselves that the storm would turn because that is what they always do.

In a way, they were right. Just not right enough. Katrina did turn. But not so much that New Orleans was spared.

In order for an evacuation to be truly effective, the people must be convinced that their lives will be imperiled if they stay. Too many New Orleanians weren't convinced. I don't think that's a failure of government. I think it's proof that many of us were in denial.

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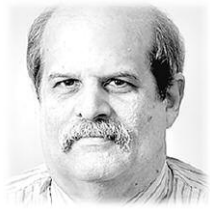
Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A Chinook helicopter drops sandbags in the gaps of the concrete levee wall of the London Avenue Canal near Mirabeau Sept. 12.

# In the shadow of a canal, life is uncertain



DENNIS PERSICA

When my house on Athis Street got six inches of water in the 1995 flood, I came up with what I thought was a pretty clever theory about water damage. I would tell people how for every few extra inches the water could have risen then, I would have lost another "layer" of my world.

At six inches, the bottom row of books was lost, the bottom drawer of clothes in a dresser, the bottom shelf in a pantry. Had the water gotten 12 inches high, I would have lost another shelf's worth of books, more pantry contents, more clothes. The motors of things like refrigerators, washers and dryers would have been threatened.

A few inches more and the computer printer sitting on a low stand would have been lost too; maybe parts of the stereo system.

Looking back on it now, I realize my prattling sounded more like crazy Kramer in that episode of "Seinfeld" when he wanted to live his life in "levels," with all of his furniture replaced by shelving.

But if 1995 formulated in my mind what might be called the Special Theory of Storm Damage, then Hurricane Katrina brought about a more unified, overarching General Theory. Roughly it is this: Eight feet of water in your house pretty much wipes out everything.

In 2004, I managed to move from Athis, and though my new house was only a mile away and still in the same ZIP code, the tree-lined neighborhood was nicer, and it was closer to Lake Pontchartrain.

If you look at a post-Katrina aerial shot of the London Avenue Canal, you'll see a place where the floodwall seems to bend. Actually, it broke right there, and right across the street is my house. I can only assume that it was a wall of water that blew out the front panel of windows, rushed through the house and then knocked out a set of windowed double doors that led to my back yard, taking with them the iron security bars that were supposed to protect me from intruders.

All of my stuff is strewn about my yard and my neighbors' yards under mounds of mud. The ground-level deck in my yard apparently floated to rooftop level while furniture and other things from inside washed out through the spot where the double doors used to be and into the back yard. Then when the floodwaters receded, the deck came down on my belongings, holding them in place until I could get the time to go through them.

I've been to my neighborhood three times now. My first time through, I thought of that phrase from T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land."

"Unreal city," he wrote. And that's the way it seemed, driving along Pontchartrain Boulevard, down Harrison and Paris avenues, where the city has turned brown from all the vegetation that drowned in poisoned floodwaters. Closer to the London Avenue Canal, mud mixed with lake sand and silt is piled up in gray mounds along the sides of the streets. As of Sunday there still was water leaking from the canal, puddling on Pratt Drive at hubcap level. But two lidless storm sewers seem to be keeping the water from going higher, and I'm told the leak from the canal is intentional and controlled.

As I tried to salvage things from my house, the drapes in nearby homes waved in the breeze through blown-out windows and walls. At first I mistook the motion for people inside, my neighbors doing the same thing I was doing, moving about their houses trying to see what they could bring out. But it was wishful thinking. I was the only human being moving around in this ghost town.

I was especially worried about my neighbor Jay. As my kids and I headed out of the neighborhood about 2:30 p.m. on the Sunday Katrina bore down on us, his SUV was the only car still left in the block. I was afraid he had tried to tough it out.

But my first time back in the neighborhood, I noticed the marks that the searchers leave behind showed that no one had died inside that house. Jay's SUV was gone too; another good but not conclusive sign that he'd escaped. My house has those markings too, as well as an orange X on the attic stairway, an eerie indicator of how thorough the search was.

It also has a new marker now, a red sticker from the city inspector saying it is uninhabitable. No surprise there, what with no front window or back door, a layer of mud throughout the house and insects flitting around like they sense the presence of rotting food – or worse. I'm not sure what the sticker actually means to my future there, nor what the regulators have in mind for a neighborhood so close to a major canal.

Until I rebuild, if I will be allowed to rebuild, I have a rental house in Terrytown, far from the tree-lined streets, Lake Pontchartrain and the floodwall – a fragile barrier, it turned out – that rises high above the rooftops of my neighborhood.

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Dennis Persica can be reached via email at dennispersica@bellsouth.net.



STEPHANIE GRACE

# Too many voices blur the message

The mayor and the governor hugged and made up last week.

You might have missed it, but it was a nice moment. It happened just as Mayor Ray Nagin was introducing his appointees to a commission charged with creating a master plan "that rebuilds New Orleans culturally, socially, economically and uniquely for every citizen."

The day before, you might recall, Gov. Kathleen Blanco had appointed her own rebuilding commission, including some of the very same business and community leaders.

No conflict at all, the two leaders said at Nagin's Friday press conference – and these two have been publicly at odds many times since Hurricane Katrina. Blanco, whose unexpected drop-by clearly surprised the mayor, told Nagin that she hopes storm-struck communities across Louisiana will set up similar groups.

"We'll work as a big team," Blanco said.

Again, a nice thought, given that the city's and state's very futures are at stake. But I wouldn't put my money on it.

Let's start with the obvious reasons.

There's the long history of personal and professional strain between Blanco and Nagin, dating back to his decision to endorse her Republican opponent in 2003, and stretching into the post-Katrina area. There are longstanding state-versus-city tensions, particularly when it comes to spending money. And there are the deep differences between the two leaders' decision-making and management styles. Blanco is fond of forming committees and commissions, while Nagin's more a lone-wolf, go-with-his-gut type.

Beyond all that is the very real and vital question of who gets to make the big decisions that will dictate what New Orleans is to be when this is all over.

Blanco and Nagin aren't the only ones in the mix. The City Council is poised to appoint its own advisory committee, separate from the mayor's. Artists, architects and legislators are forming their own groups. Individuals with vested interests, such as developer Pres Kabacoff, are making the rounds, getting their ideas on the table via the local, national and international media.

And some old faces have turned up at the table. Last week, none other than Marc Morial, the former New Orleans mayor now serving as national president of the Urban League, stormed back onto the scene. Surrounded by family and political allies from the good old days, Morial was making his first public appearance in Louisiana – in Baton Rouge, mind you, not New Orleans – since it became clear how aggressively U.S. Attorney Jim Letten is pursuing allegations of public corruption at City Hall on Morial's watch.

The ex-mayor offered a thinly veiled criticism of Nagin and Blanco, pointing out that Mississippi had shown the keepers of the Washington purse strings a relatively united front, having already formed one commission and held a post-Katrina special session.

And, by endorsing what he termed a "right of return," Morial also jumped right into some of the most sensitive issues at stake for any of the great thinkers in charge: which neighborhoods can be rebuilt, and, more centrally, how to retain the city's distinctive and delicate racial, ethnic and cultural balance.

That brings us back to who gets to decide, and how those decisions will be made.

By virtue of the city's strong-mayor form of government, Nagin's committee may speak the loudest, but it will have lots of competition. There's a real risk of balkanization here, with too many factions competing, rather than working together.

Morial may well have his own agenda, but he's dead right about one thing: The city and state have the best chance of holding onto the sympathies of the outside world if they speak with a common voice.

In other words, let's hope that Blanco stops by to hug Nagin – and vice versa – a little more often. It can only help.

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Stephanie Grace is a staff writer.

The Times-Picayune

MONEY

B-8
Tuesday
October 4, 2005



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA

Workers cut some plywood as they repair storm damage on the 31st floor of the World Trade Center building in New Orleans on Monday. Hurricane Katrina blew out nearly 200 windows in the building and destroyed lounges on the 31st and 33rd floors.

# Katrina puts the hurt on WTC hotel project

*Market viability among developers' concerns*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Hurricane Katrina dealt a serious blow to long-stalled plans to convert part of the World Trade Center building at the foot of Canal Street into a hotel.

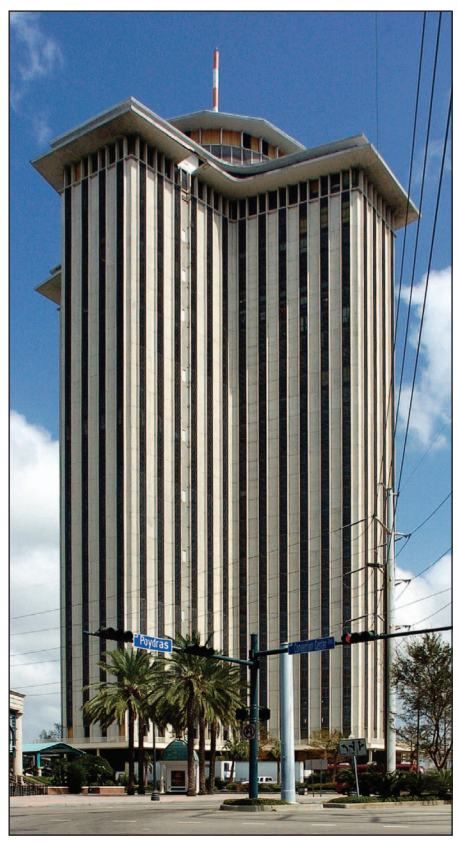
The storm blew out nearly 200 windows, turning the offices that were left exposed "upside down," said Richard Allen, managing administrator of the World Trade Center of New Orleans Inc., the nonprofit trade organization that built the 33-story structure. The storm also destroyed lounges on the building's 31st and 33rd floors, but the building suffered surprisingly little moisture intrusion.

Damage to the World Trade Center isn't the only hurdle faced by developers of the proposed 563-room, $190 million Westin Hotel, who are doing business as WTC Development LLP. In the wake of the massive storm, Lane Sisung, son of lead developer Larry Sisung, wonders whether or not there will still be a market for hotel rooms in New Orleans.

Sisung said that John Keeling of PKF Consulting in Houston, the consultant on the project, will have to re-evaluate the project's projected occupancy and room rates.

Furthermore, uncertainty about the local market raises questions about whether financing for the project – which was almost lined up before the storm – will still move forward.

"Financing was going excellent," Sisung said. "We had it lined up and now this."



Before Katrina, developers were poised to begin work on a 563-room, $190 million hotel project in the World Trade Center.

But Sisung said the development team is not giving up on pursuing conventional financing.

"We're in the same position as everyone else in other downtown development projects," Sisung said. It likely will take months before a plan for the project is put together.

"I don't think anyone is going to know what to do until the city reopens," he said. "This is just another punch thrown at the project … and we'll just keep on fighting," Sisung said.

The hotel project, first announced in 1998, has faced a series of setbacks. An earlier round of private financing for the project fell apart in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And in June, the Louisiana Supreme Court found that a controversial tax-increment financing plan behind the project was unconstitutional.

Allen said that the WTC board of directors will try to meet Thursday to determine whether to use insurance money to repair the building or to simply use the building as an investment by giving it to developers with expectations of repayment once and if the hotel is ever completed. The trade group already is owed nearly $5 million by developers for pre-hotel construction costs.

Meanwhile Ray Wooldridge, former part-owner of the New Orleans Hornets, was unavailable for comment on whether or not he will rebuild the two nightclubs he operates in the building. Katrina's winds blew out every window in Attitude 33, the 33rd-floor lounge Wooldridge recently refurbished. The storm also destroyed Ray's on the River, the 31st-floor jazz club Wooldridge's company -- Big Play Entertainment LLC — spent $3.8 million creating. Wooldridge also has expressed interest in becoming a player in the development of the hotel, an infusion of equity that would be welcomed under the right circumstances, developers have said.

# Manufacturing sector unfazed by Katrina

*But price index rises, along with inflation fears*

**By Eileen Alt Powell**
AP Business writer

NEW YORK — The nation's manufacturing sector shook off the impact of Hurricane Katrina and expanded robustly during September, but prices for raw materials surged, raising the specter of higher inflation and interest rates.

The Institute for Supply Management said Monday its manufacturing index advanced to 59.4 percent in September from 53.6 percent the month before, for the industrial sector's 28th consecutive month of growth. It was the highest reading since the gauge hit 59.6 percent in August 2004 and well above the 54 percent reading that analysts had expected.

A reading above 50 indicates the sector is expanding; below 50 indicates manufacturing activity is shrinking.

But manufacturers reported another sharp jump in prices last month as higher crude oil costs and transportation bottlenecks caused by the recent hurricanes boosted their costs for materials and energy. The price index rose to 78 percent in September, a 15.5 percentage point rise from 62.5 percent in August, the institute said. The price index had jumped 14 percentage points the month before.

Norbert Ore, chair of the institute's business survey committee, said the September report was heavily influenced by Katrina, which struck the Gulf Coast Aug. 29. He said, for example, that a good part of the rise in new orders appeared to be manufacturers scrambling for alternate suppliers after regular sources were shut down by the storm.

This, he said, was "event-driven demand" as opposed to improved order books amid a strengthening business cycle.

Ore also said the surge in prices appeared tied to Katrina and its aftermath.

"When manufacturers are forced to go to that second or third supplier, they're off contract," he said, meaning that companies may have to pay a premium for needed raw materials.

Mark Vitner, senior economist with Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, N.C., said that with consumer demand softening, "it's more likely corporate profits are going to come under pressure rather than (consumer) prices."

Still, Vitner expects the Federal Reserve to continue raising interest rates at its November and December meetings.

"Hurricane relief is pumping billions of dollars into the system, meaning fiscal policy is more stimulative," Vitner said. "If monetary policy were to remain accommodative ... that's a recipe for inflation in 2006, and the Fed doesn't want that to happen."

Focused on the price index, Wall Street gave back early gains to trade mixed. The Dow Jones industrial index bore the brunt of investors' concern, falling 32.10, or 0.3 percent, to 10,536.60 in the afternoon after advancing nearly 40 points in early trading.

# Fuel tank fires up work at Michoud

*Plant slowly coming back to life in N.O.*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

The spacecraft plant in eastern New Orleans crawled to life Monday as a space shuttle external fuel tank slowly rolled from the barge that carried it from Florida to a building at the Michoud Assembly Facility, where workers will begin preparing it for the next shuttle flight.

The moment marked a milestone in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration plant that employed about 2,000 workers before Hurricane Katrina and supplied the largest number of high-technology jobs in the city.

"That's very encouraging," said Tommy Kurtz, senior vice president of Greater New Orleans Inc., the region's economic development organization. "It shows that even in an actual catastrophe, a large plant can be up and running again," he said.

With many businesses in the region struggling to reopen after Katrina, major manufacturers such as Michoud are quickly becoming the backbone of the area's economic recovery.

The tank left NASA's Kennedy Space Center six weeks ago on the barge but was quickly anchored to avoid what was then Tropical Storm Katrina, which had formed off Florida's central Atlantic coast.

The five-day trip around the tip of Florida and across the eastern Gulf of Mexico was further delayed as Katrina made a beeline for the central Gulf Coast.

The tank finally arrived at Michoud on Sunday.

NASA's investigation into nagging problems with tank foam insulation has been on hold for nearly a month because of Katrina and damage caused by the storm at Michoud.

The shuttle fleet has been grounded since July, when foam once again broke from a tank after liftoff. The same problem contributed to the shuttle Columbia's destruction more than two and a half years ago.

Now that the tank has been delivered, engineers with NASA and Michoud's operator, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, will begin dissecting sections of foam from areas on the tank that broke free during the last shuttle flight in July. Eventually, sections of the tank's foam will be redesigned and the tank may be used for the next shuttle launch, which probably won't occur before May.

Meanwhile, many repairs are to be made at the Michoud plant.

About 15 gaping holes dot the Vertical Assembly Building where tanks are stood on end. Pieces of the building's concrete roof collapsed during the storm and fell onto a shuttle tank being held in one of its bays. Engineers will X-ray that tank to determine whether it sustained structural damage.

Other buildings got similar roof damage, including Building 118, where tanks go for final work before being delivered. Water poured through holes in that building onto a tank. Workers vacuumed the water away from the tank's insulation foam exterior after the storm.

So far, only about 400 Michoud workers have returned to the plant, split evenly among production workers and office staff, said Mike Javery, vice president of operations for Lockheed and head of the plant's storm recovery program.

Two hundred more Michoud engineers are working at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., Javery said.

Nearly half of the plant's work force could be back on duty in New Orleans by early November, he said.

But Michoud remains months away from returning to anything resembling normalcy. To reach that point, Javery said, utility and city services in hard-hit eastern New Orleans will have to be fully restored. And that won't be easy, given the damage sustained by the area's infrastructure.

In the meantime, Lockheed Martin and NASA are looking for ways to restore at least partial services to the plant. One possibility is drilling a water well on the site, Javery said.

Housing for workers is another major barrier, as it is for many other companies in the region. NASA is trying to secure large passenger ferries normally used by the military that would be docked along the Intercoastal Waterway to serve as temporary housing for as many as 900 workers, excluding their families, Javery said.

Another option being explored with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials is erecting temporary trailer cities for hundreds of Michoud workers on both sides of Lake Pontchartrain, he said.

Not everyone will return to Michoud, Javery said. He estimated that about half of Michoud workers either lost their homes in the New Orleans area or won't be able to reoccupy them anytime soon.

Workers who return probably will face less pressure to meet production schedules and more flexibility for dealing with personal problems brought on by Katrina, Javery said.

"The wrong thing to do right now would be to push employees," he said. "You have to believe in teamwork. (Managers) have to serve more in a coaching role than we did in the past.

"There will be days when an employee has to be home with his family to meet adjusters or see a doctor, and we will have to understand that," he said.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The external fuel tank is brought into the Michoud Assembly Facility hangar on Monday. NASA's investigation into nagging problems with tank foam insulation has been on hold for nearly a month because of Katrina and damage caused by the storm at Michoud.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

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DAVE WALKER
*On the Air*

## Live! From New York! It's Katrina!

*'Saturday Night Live' finds plenty of fodder for hurricane comedy*



Horatio Sanz filled in for Tina Fey as 'Weekend Update' co-anchor on the season premiere of 'Saturday Night Live.'

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

Late-night talk show hosts had barely begun staggering back to work after the 9/11 attacks, most returning with dead-serious monologues addressing the horror, when "Saturday Night Live" signaled it was OK to lighten up a little.

The opening segment of the venerable sketch-comedy series' 2001 season featured New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani — a newly emerged hero in the wake of the attacks — standing amid a tableau of New York City firefighters and police officers.

Noting that "SNL" was one of "our great New York City institutions," Giuliani said that having the show on the air signaled that the city was "open for business."

Lorne Michaels, "SNL" creator and executive producer, thanked Giuliani but wondered if it was too early for the country to start laughing again.

"Can we be funny?" he asked.

Answered Giuliani, in one of the great ice-breakers of all time: "Why start now?"

Hosted by Steve Carell ("The Daily Show," "The 40 Year Old Virgin"), "SNL" opened its new season Saturday on a resonant note.

The episode was loaded with Hurricane Katrina references, which mostly targeted the media and public officialdom, starting at the top.

In the show-opening sketch, Will Forte played George W. Bush reluctantly conducting a news conference, at which the president recounted his post-storm visits to the ravaged gulf.

"I've handed out fresh water to people who needed water," he said. "I did this without my suit jacket on."

The main Katrina sketch starred Seth Meyers as CNN's Anderson Cooper reporting live on a celebrity house-raising event in Jefferson Parish.

Finesse Mitchell played New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who celebrated the "overwhelming show of support from the whole country, especially the entertainment community."

Among the celebrity construction crew were Tony Danza, Sharon Stone and Al Pacino (all impersonated by "SNL" players),

*See* **WALKER,** *C-4*

# Joie de survivre



Paul Daigle performs with his band Cajun Gold at the recent Festivals Acadiens celebration in Lafayette.

*The people of Lafayette recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of their ancestors' exile from Canada, and storm-tossed Orleanians can only benefit from that legacy's lessons in endurance. The cardinal rule is:* ***First, you dance.***



After enduring a week of incredible hardship in helping patients and staff evacuate New Orleans after Katrina, Charity Hospital Emergency Management Director Tim Butcher is only too eager to dance his cares away with friend Sandra Robertson from Atlanta.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAYMOND PROVOST

Magazine Street furniture store owner O.J. Hooter gives the Festivals Acadiens a big New Orleans thumbs-up.

**By Suzanne Stouse**
Staff writer

LAFAYETTE — And just why, again, is this man smiling?

This man, head of emergency planning for Charity Hospital, whose house in Lakeview drowned while he spent six days at work in bureaucratic hell, watching "all we'd planned for fall apart"?

And why this couple, who work for New Orleans' House of Blues, whose everything-in-this-world Katrina washed away?

And this woman, a pediatric nurse at Tulane-Lakeside Hospital, whose Metairie house went underwater while she worked through the nights lofting sick babies into helicopters by the light of a doctor's headlights?

Well, really.

"How can you not smile out here?" asked Orleanian Mike DeAgano at the Festivals Acadiens in Girard Park. The recent two-day celebration of Cajun music, food and culture, in its 31st year, bore the banner "250 Ans et Toujours Grand Debout (250 Years and Still Standing Tall)" to commemorate the Acadians' Grand Dèrangement, their expulsion by the British from Nova Scotia starting in 1755.

"We know a little bit about forced migrations around here," says main stage impresario Barry Ancelet, an author, folklorist and professor of Francophone studies at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette who has been amplifying appreciation of Cajun music and culture for more

*See* **CAJUNS,** *C-4*

# PATRICIA BEHRE, 45, HISTORY PROFESSOR

**BIRTHPLACE:** *Gentilly*
**HOME:** *Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn.*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"I've always loved New Orleans. It's the place where I grew up. My father and my grandfather grew up there, too. I left in 1978 to go to college but I go back and forth a lot and I've always had a strong link to the city.

"Now, in a crisis like this, I am suddenly aware of what a profound value there is having grown up in New Orleans. It's such a human city. That's what I'm aware of now. And I'm aware of how precious that quality is.

"The New Orleans expatriate community has been in a mad whir of e-mailing. All these people I went to high school with — all these people I went to kindergarten with — we all started e-mailing. 'How is so-and-so's mother doing? Did she go to her in-law's house?' You'd get information about one person and you'd send it to everybody else. I've gotten reconnected with all kinds of people I haven't seen in years.

"This whole experience gave me a strong feeling that I want to be connected to New Orleans and not in some sentimental, oh-wasn't-it-lovely kind of way. I want to know New Orleans is there. Not a storybook New Orleans or a Disneyland version of it. I want to know it's there for the people who live there.

"The spirit of the expatriate community is a strong bond. We've all left New Orleans for professional or personal reasons. But we try to replicate that kind of community outside New Orleans that we loved so much inside New Orleans.

"I remember once I went to visit my aunt in Mid-City and I was supposed to meet somebody at Canal Place, so I called a cab. The trip probably took 20 minutes and the cab driver is visiting with me the way people in New Orleans always visit. And we're chatting and carrying on. And it dawned on me when I got out of that cab: You know something? This cab driver knows more about me in 20 minutes than the people I've lived around in Connecticut for the last 15 years.

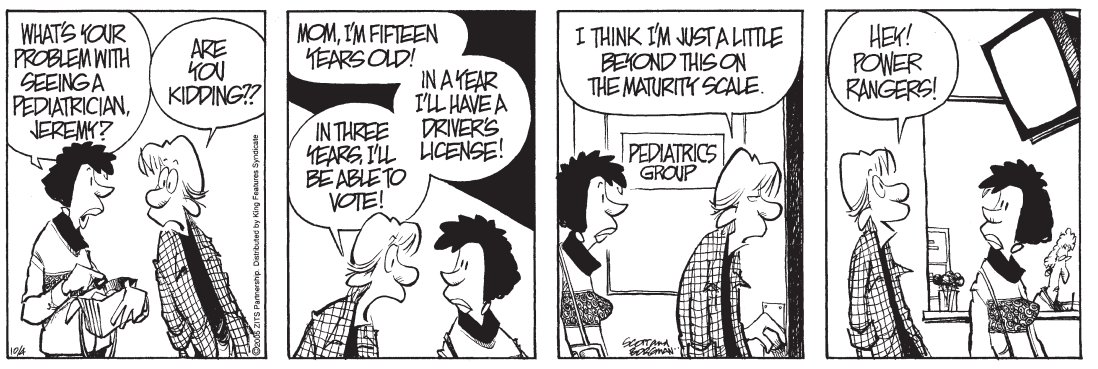
"The hurricane has made me realize how valuable the slower elements of life are and how much I miss that."

*As told to Elizabeth Mullener on Sept. 27.*

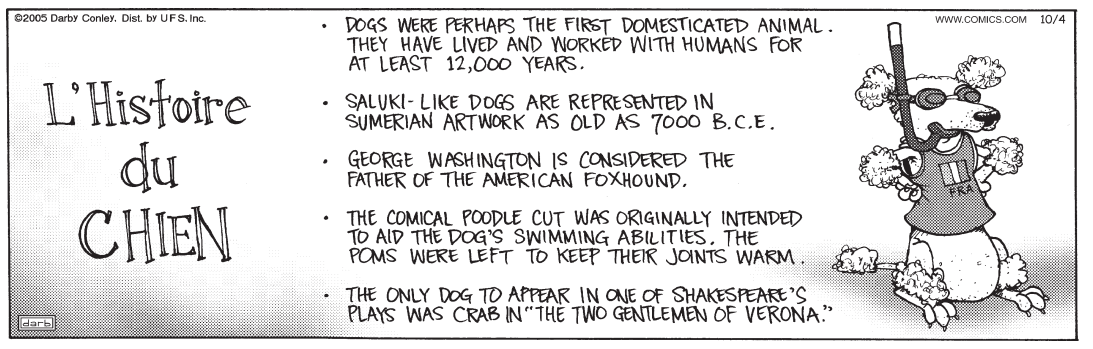


# COMICS

## ZITS



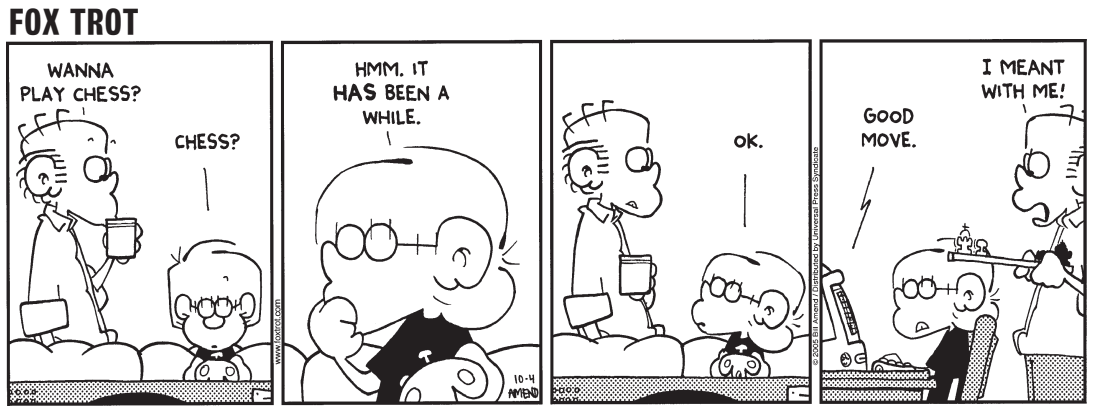

## GET FUZZY



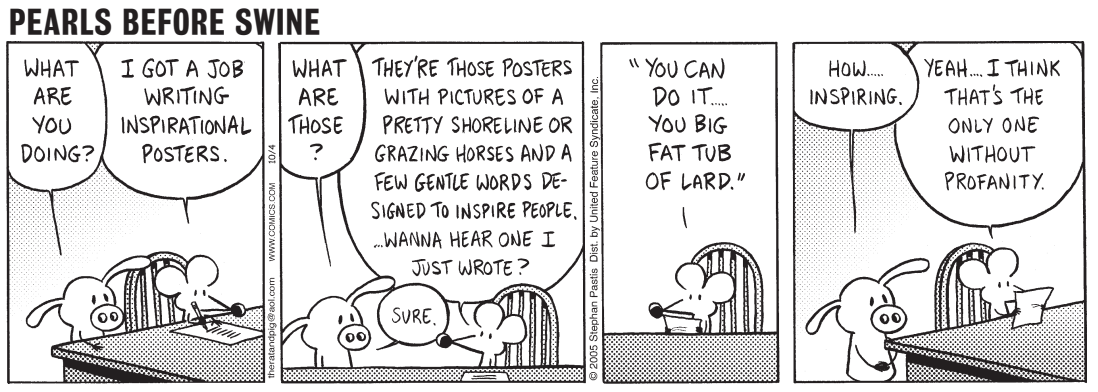

## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MORGO

LOUFT

PUSHTY

DIFOMY

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Print answer here:*** ( ) " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COUPE KHAKI SNITCH SONATA
Answer: For the champ, it was a good night for — "KNOCKOUTS"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | E1 | O1 | K5 | G2 | N1 | T1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | O1 | O1 | N1 | H4 | P3 | R1 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| A1 | E1 | I1 | U1 | P3 | S1 | C3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | E1 | U1 | R1 | T1 | P3 | C3 | 1st Letter Double |

**PAR SCORE 145-155**
**BEST SCORE 221**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL** ____
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 145-155

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = 64 | C3 | A1 | P3 | T1 | U1 | R1 | E1 | |
| RACK 3 = 61 | A1 | U1 | S1 | P3 | I1 | C3 | E1 | |
| RACK 2 = 86 | H4 | A1 | R1 | P3 | O1 | O1 | N1 | |
| RACK 1 = 10 | K5 | E1 | T1 | O1 | N1 | E1 | | |

TOTAL 221

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | G | D | A | X | U | D | O | O | G | R | O | L | J | G |
| D | A | X | V | Y | S | P | N | N | K | I | F | C | A | X |
| V | S | W | E | E | T | H | E | A | R | T | S | Q | O | L |
| J | H | E | C | A | V | R | W | X | L | A | S | V | T | R |
| P | N | L | J | H | A | I | I | F | D | E | S | B | Y | X |
| V | T | R | P | U | O | T | T | D | G | S | E | M | K | I |
| G | E | D | Q | B | Z | X | A | A | W | O | N | H | U | T |
| R | Q | S | O | N | L | R | K | E | R | L | I | J | W | I |
| G | F | D | C | A | Y | C | I | K | R | C | S | X | G | W |
| V | T | S | Y | D | A | H | S | A | R | G | U | I | P | O |
| N | L | K | J | P | I | G | W | M | F | F | B | L | E | C |

Monday's unlisted clue: LIMIT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: A QUESTIONABLE DEAL

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Big | Fair | Make a | Square |
| Business | Good | New | Sweetheart |
| Close a | Great | Package | Wheel and |
| Dirty | Lucrative | Raw | |

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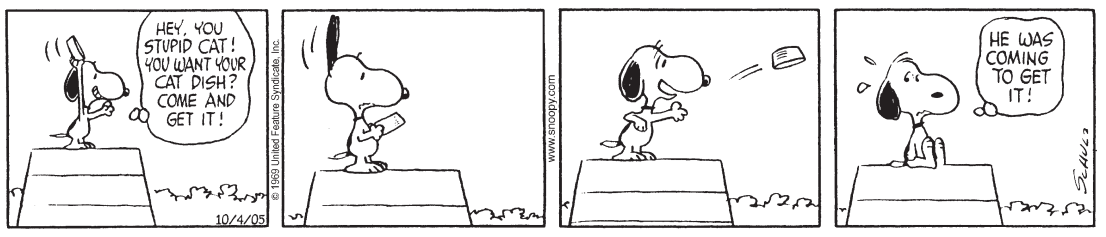
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| E | S | N | B | D | E | D | P | U | U | L | L | E |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| E | O | B | T | R | R | O | I | S | S | K | I | A |
| 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| I | I | U | U | W | R | S | N | E | H | T | T | I |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| E | I | G | E | E | E | N | E | F | L | T | R | S |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| I | I | A | M | N | E | E | D | N | D | T | A | R |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| C | T | H | D | E | V | R | S | E | I | A | U | D |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| C | S | A | T | S | T | E | H | O | I | R | P | Y |

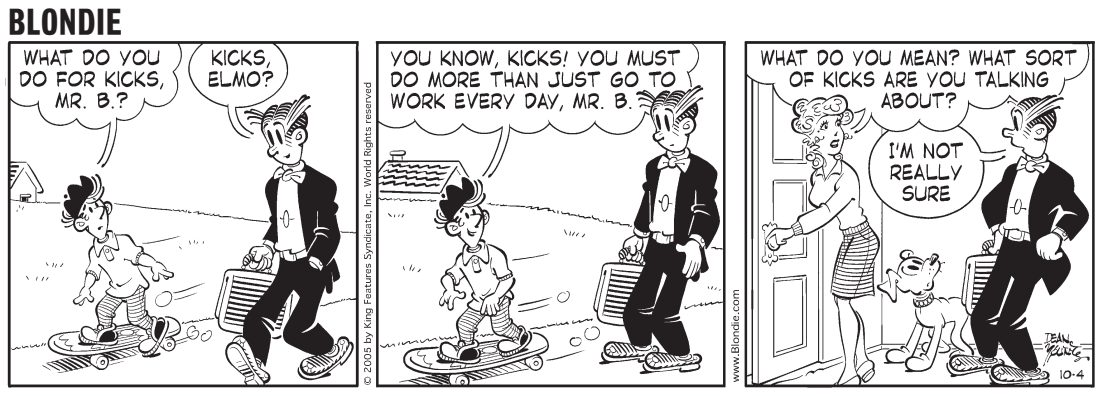
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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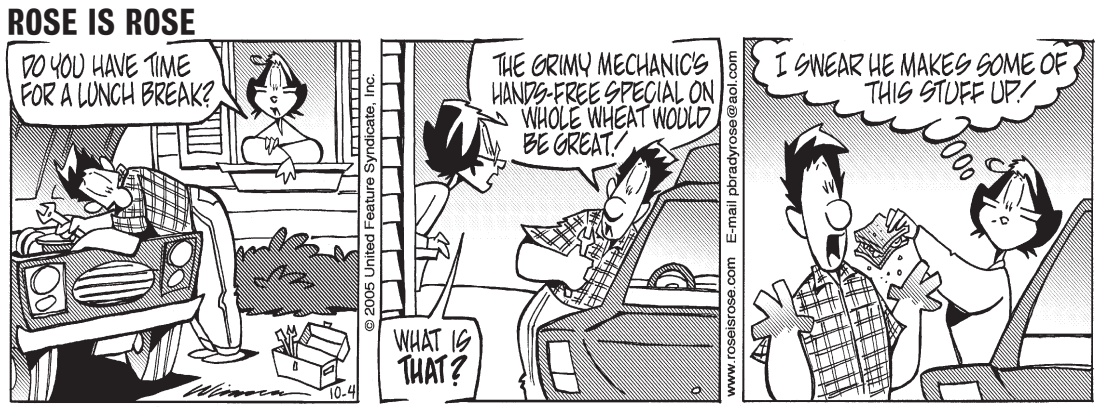
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



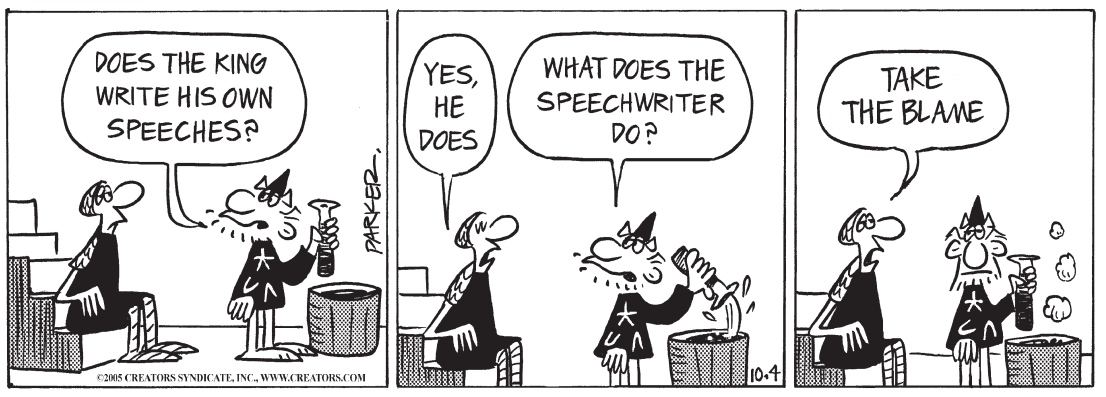

## BLONDIE



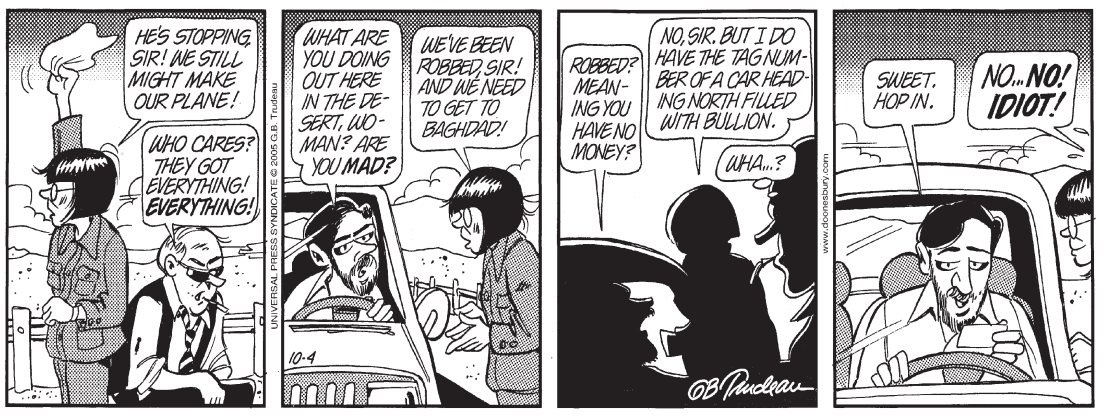

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID



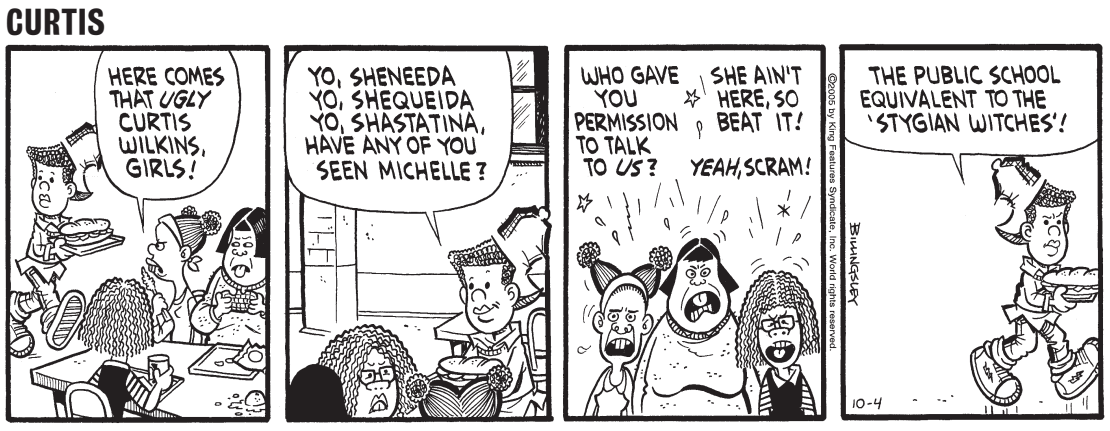

## DOONESBURY



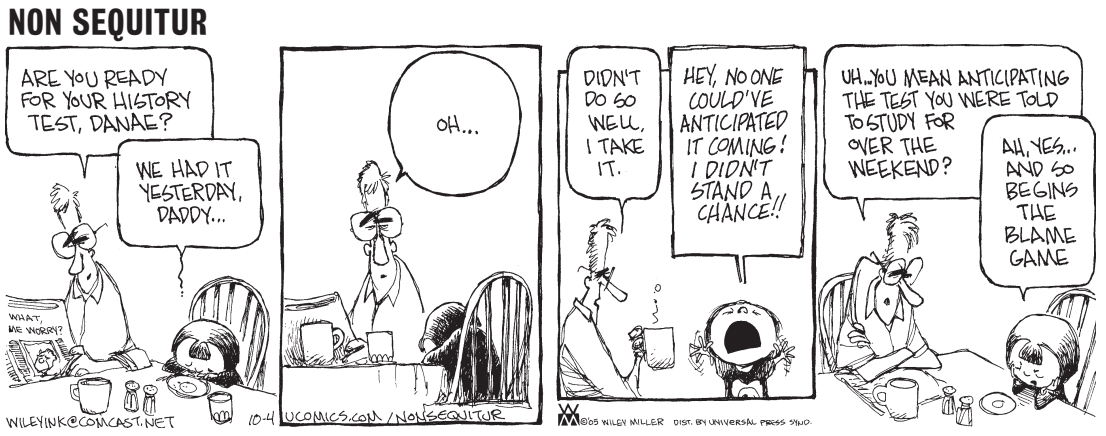

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

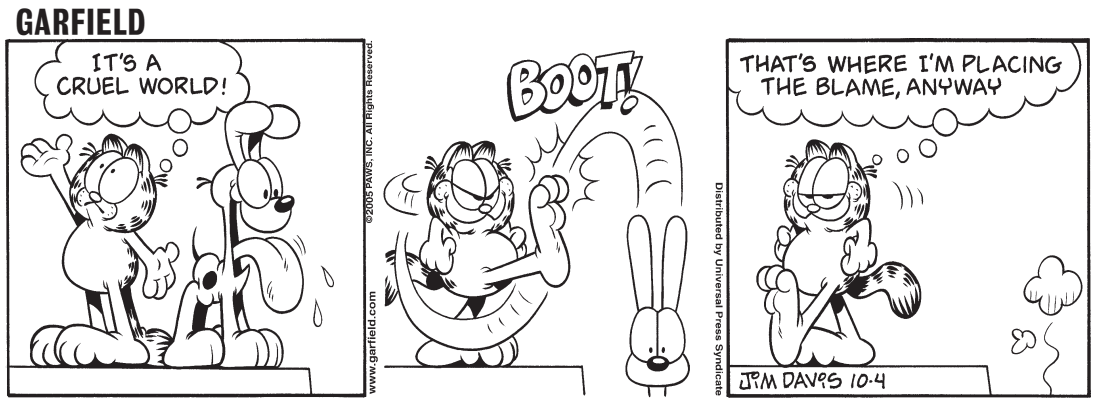



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



# COMICS

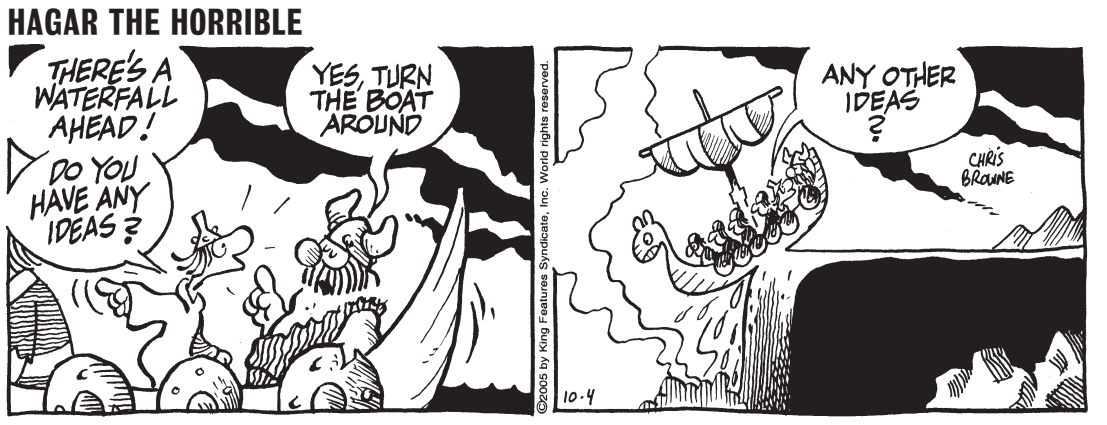
## GARFIELD




## DRABBLE



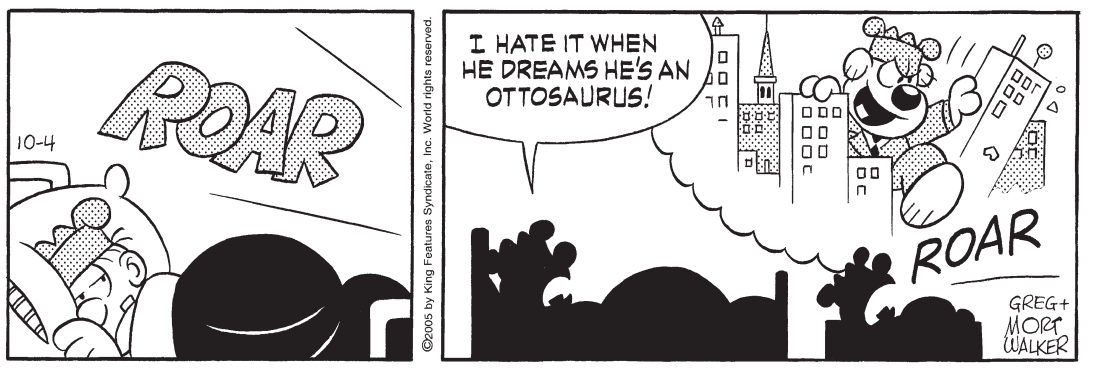

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



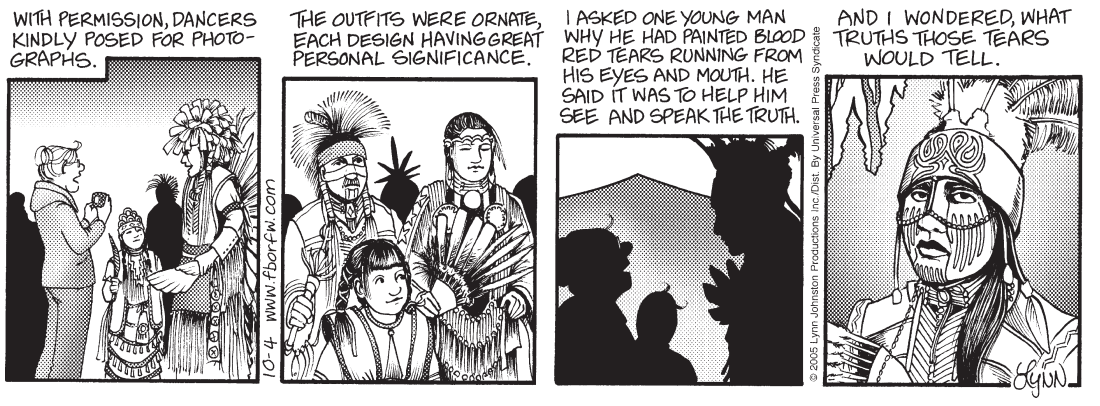

## HI & LOIS



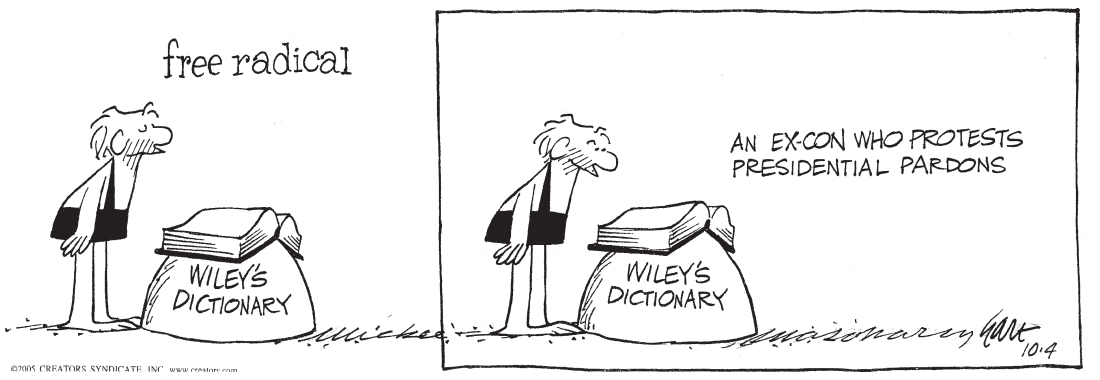

## BEETLE BAILEY



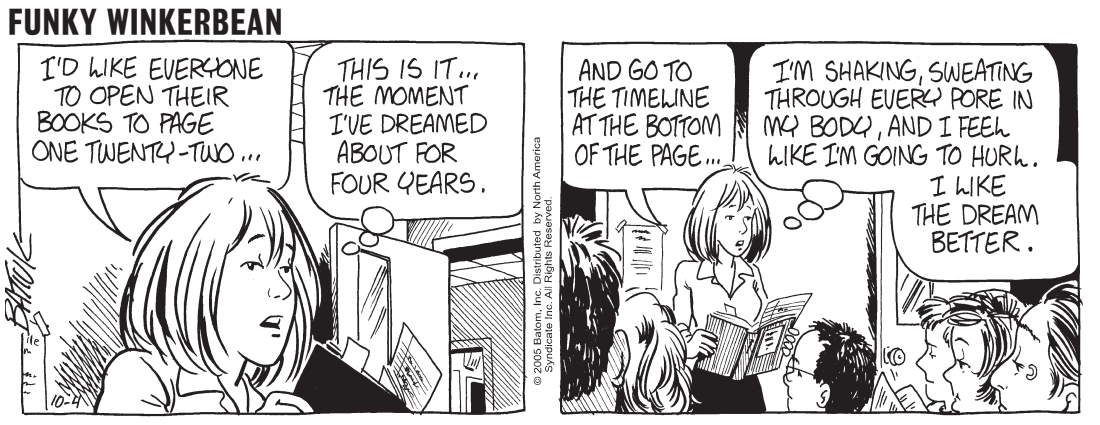

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



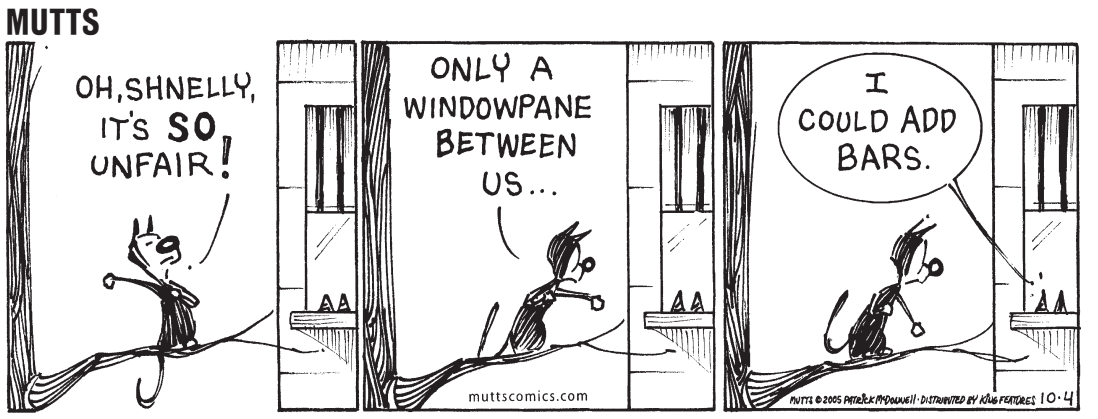

## B.C.



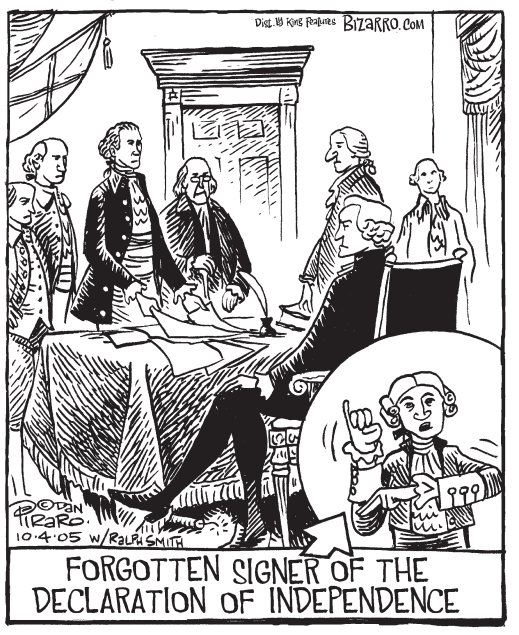

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



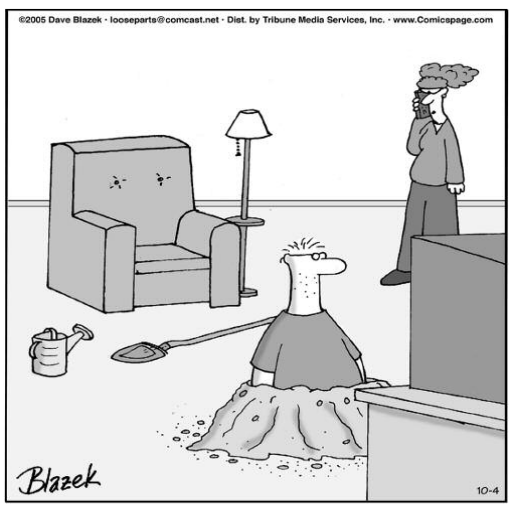

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

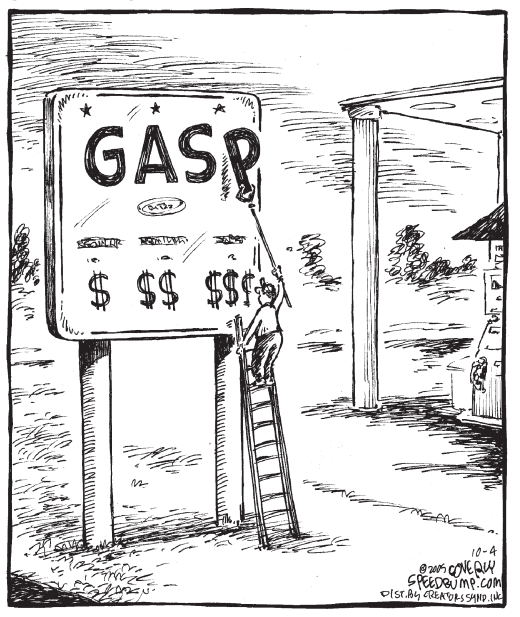



## LOOSE PARTS

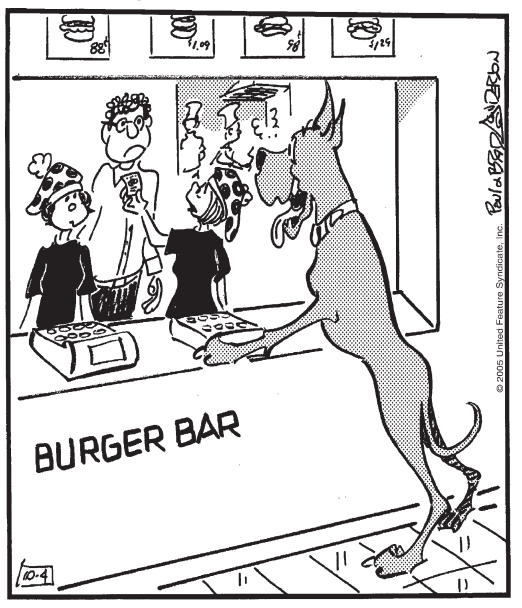



"I don't think we're going to make it, Vera. Dan just planted himself in front of the TV."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"You tell him that his coupon has expired."

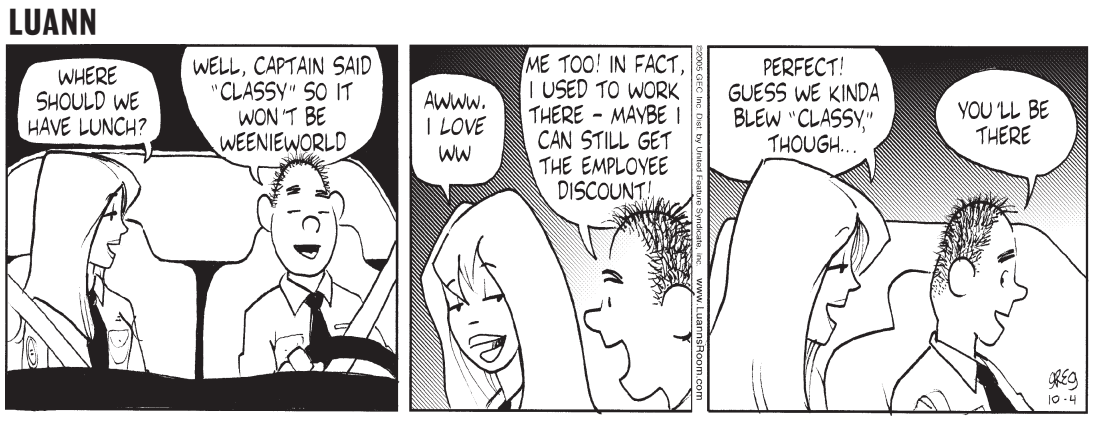
## JUMP START



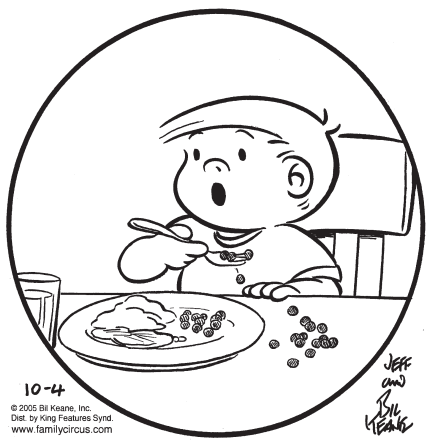

## DILBERT




## LUANN

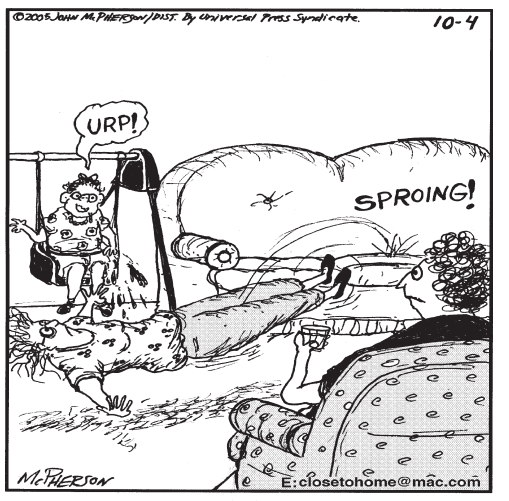



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"Why don't they sell peas on the cob?"

## CLOSE TO HOME




Noticing that her daughter was about to spit up, Jennifer sacrificed her blouse to save the new carpet.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"I DON'T THINK MY MOM LIKES THIS PHOTO. SHE SAID SHE'S GONNA HAVE IT BLOWN UP!"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**HAPPY LIFE** — **Solution: 6 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | S | E | N | D | N | I | K | T | P | D | O | O | F |
| D | C | U | G | J | O | K | E | O | R | N | A | I | F | A |
| V | I | C | R | C | R | F | M | S | O | R | G | T | N | C |
| E | S | C | O | O | A | O | O | T | F | A | I | T | H | E |
| N | U | E | W | M | R | R | H | E | M | E | V | E | R | R |
| T | M | S | E | R | P | E | E | P | O | L | E | V | E | D |
| U | T | S | O | V | A | L | U | E | C | R | T | A | S | O |
| R | R | W | L | L | S | R | I | A | R | E | D | M | P | N |
| E | A | O | T | E | S | P | O | S | I | T | I | V | E | A |
| Y | V | H | S | U | I | F | M | D | H | L | R | D | C | T |
| E | E | O | E | O | O | S | A | F | E | M | R | O | T | E |
| N | L | L | Z | C | N | L | U | C | K | A | E | P | P | Ⓣ |
| O | E | D | U | H | U | G | S | R | G | I | A | N | O | Ⓢ |
| M | S | S | I | K | E | A | S | Y | E | L | L | Y | T | Ⓔ |
| Y | Y | A | T | S | E | X | E | R | C | I | S | E | S | Ⓡ |

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Accomplishment, Adventure, Career, Cheer, Clap, Comfort, Develop, Diet, Dine, Donate, Easy, Exercises, Face, Faith, Fame, Focus, Food, Garden, Give, Grow, Health, Hold, Home, Hugs, Joke, Kindness, Kiss, Learn, Leisure, Love, Luck, Money, Music, Nest, Passion, Path, Pets, Positive, Pursue, Read, Respect, Rest, Safe, Smile, Songs, Sport, Stay, Success, Tomorrow, Toys, Travel, Value, Work, Zest

**Yesterday's Answer: Telegraph**

**"*Everyone dances,* even grandmére and grandpére, no matter what the difficulties they must bear. There may be only a couple of fiddles to play for the crowd, there may be only four candles for light, placed on wooden arms attached to the walls; nothing but long wooden benches to sit on and only exceptionally a few bottles of tafia diluted with water for refreshment; no matter, everyone dances."**

— From C.C. Robin's "Voyage dans l'intèrieur de la Louisiane"
an 1803-1805 travelogue excerpted in Barry Jean Ancelet's "Cajun Music: Origins and Development"

# Joie de survivre



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAYMOND PROVOST

David and Sarah Westfall do what the Cajuns have been doing for centuries: They dance in the face of adversity.

**CAJUNS,** *from C-1*

than 30 years. "When bad things happen in this culture, the Acadians learn from their history. When something like this comes along, the old stuff comes roaring out.

"In their new frontier, the French settlers learned to depend only on their own efforts," says Ancelet, pointing to his as well as ULL professor Carl Brasseaux's research on the subject. "And the Cajuns, heirs of this fierce sense of independence, have continued to rely on their own strategies for survival in Louisiana."

The response to crisis or tragedy is the same: Cajuns turn to each other.

"When something bad happens, you group together," he says, "talk about things, network the community's resources. Ramasseries, for example, gathered members of the community to bring in a sick neighbor's crop. Today, somebody's roof blows off, you get together to fix it. Somebody's sick, you have a benefit dance, you send some cooked food. This is what you do — the only thing you know to do.

"We responded that way to Katrina — as we did in 1927, after Audrey, Hilda, Betsy, all of them. Thousands here culled their closets. Every remotely mobile makeshift cooking contraption was mobilized to barbecue and boil and grill and fry food until the MREs began to arrive."

But Cajuns do not persevere on hard work and generosity alone.

"You have to dance, to sing, tell stories, play music, as a socially-affirming event," Ancelet says. "And we've known this for a long time."

Two weeks ago at Banding Together, an outdoor Cajun/zydeco Red Cross benefit with heavyweight headliners including Michael Doucet and Zachary Richard, Ancelet told the crowd that some people may have questioned the wisdom of a rousing concert "at a time like this." He reminded them that "the first thing our ancestors did when they got here was jump off the boats and start dancing on the dock."

Ancelet admitted that, "We also initially questioned whether it was responsible to hold this festival in the face of this tragedy." But then he came to his senses.

"This year," he said, "I've come to see Festivals Acadiens as a giant benefit dance. There were thousands here who needed a break."

Ancelet makes it clear to a visitor that he heartily disapproves of hurricane parties that take place before a hurricane hits. Those, he says, are for "idiots." After a hurricane is the time.

"Then you can generate help," he says. "That's what we're about."

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**Around 11 a.m. opening day,** the crowd is delightfully slim. In the small Heritage Stage tent ("Dedicated to Rufus Thibodeaux and Harry Hypolite"),





Charles 'Chopper' Brady married Andrea Gorman at the gazebo on the Festivals Acadiens grounds. RIGHT: Hurricane or no hurricane, New Orleanian Mike DeAgano asks, 'How can you NOT smile out here?'

slide guitar virtuoso Sonny Landreth is chatting with the 150 or so people who fill the place to capacity. New Orleans artist and guitar/dulcimer player Amzie Adams is there too, recalling "how the Cajuns got here: They were refugees, like us."

Across the way, close to the tent manned by the Krewe des Canailles (roughly, mischief-makers), it's a fais-do-do, straw-hatted old-timers in folding chairs claiming the shady spots around the oak trees, families plopped under tarps (yes! like the Jazzfest That Was), eating boudin and crawfish sausage po-boys and Gator-on-a-Stick and listening to main-stage performer Kevin Naquin, leader of the Ossun Playboys, announce a turn by "Mr. Paul Frugè on the pipes!"

The young people will come "once everyone gets awake — around noon," a festival worker says.

The early birds had heard Barry Ancelet offer a rousing bienvenu and a "This is for you, New Orleans!," and pitch the purchase of "les T-shirts" for the cause.

"Katrina took a shot, and we're still here," he tells them. "But you gotta wonder if Fats Domino is ever going to play 'Let the Four Winds Blow' again."

Shouts of "aiiieeeeeeeeee!" ring out as friends run into friends. Somebody says "This is the first time I've laughed since that Sunday."

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**In the shade of the main stage,** Tim Butcher, the Charity emergency management director, says he had decided, "If I had a pulse today, I was going to be at this festival." He warns that this conversation will be over the minute Balfa Toujours starts to play, "and I'm going to have to dance."

He talks about thinking for the first couple of days after the storm that the city, state and federal emergency structure he had helped work on for three years "might actually work." By Wednesday, "it had fallen apart completely." On Thursday, he started the begging, calling every official to be found, "but the very top chain of command had broken down." They ran out of food. Then the diesel fuel to run the generators to save the preemies and the criticals. All told, he slept "about six hours."

And then Butcher, this very large man, starts to cry. Not bitter tears, not sad. Thankful ones, flowing with the recollection that, "Every single person from the CEO to the housekeepers was a hero. Not one complained." When the helicopters and the armed boats finally came, "everybody, regardless of his job, grabbed patients and got them on, got them out."

"In the history of the Cajun people there's always been hardship, always been loss," says Butcher, a Lafayette native who's now living in Butte LaRose. "Whether it was the people who came through Le Grand Dèrangement or yellow fever or hurricanes, one thing that remains is the music and the spirit of the people. That's allowed them to come back, to be happy."

And then the family Balfa comes on, and Butcher begins to dance. Hard. Kicking up dust with his friend Sandra Robertson from Atlanta. And laughing.

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**"This is the heart and soul of Louisiana,** this right here," announces Charles "Chopper" Brady, the House of Blues production manager just-married to Andrea Gorman by Justice of the Peace Barbara Broussard, of the town of Broussard, at the park's gazebo on a cypress pond.

Committed to marrying eventually, the couple had bumped up the wedding date only two days earlier, when Brady went to get a copy of his birth certificate and realized the place gave out marriage licenses, too.

Before a small cluster of friends and family, on a day the temperature hit 100 degrees, saxophonist Dickie Landry played "Hear Comes the Bride" on a harmonica he'd just bought at a garage sale. The bride, with dark eyes and curls and looking for all the world like Longfellow's Evangeline must have, wore a swirling skirt and camisole.

"We are head-strong: this is NOT going to kill the people of Louisiana," the groom had told a visitor before the ceremony. One big reason, says Brady, who lost two houses in Gentilly: "You hear the bad stories — mostly false — and then you go to a place called Comeaux's on Kaliste Saloom Road and the gas prices aren't high at all and I thank the guy for understanding and he chases me down and gives me my $20 back."

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**One of the weekend's more poignant moments** might have come Saturday on the main stage when Terry Huval and Jambalaya brought out Bruce Daigrepont and his band as unscripted "special guests."

Daigrepont, of Metairie, has been a mainstay on the Cajun music scene in New Orleans since 1980 - in fact, back in the early '80s, Daigrepont and Allen Fontenot represented the sum total of the Cajun music scene in New Orleans — and for many years he has catered to local Cajun dancers, moreso than the tourists, with his regular fais do-do at Tipitina's.

Clad this day in a black Tip's T-shirt, Daigrepont and his mates ripped into several songs, interspersed with a heartfelt dialogue about the band's recent travails. Like so many New Orleans-based musicians, Daigrepont and his band find themselves suddenly out of work (if not homeless and out of work), and his appreciation for this opportunity to play music again was genuine.

Later, after crowd favorites Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys wrap up "Ardoin Medley," they segue into "Marie Mouri (Marie Has Died)," a poem written by a slave in St. Martinville that the band found in the Breaux Bridge library and set to music by guitarist Sam Broussard. The beginning sounds almost like a dirge, sad bagpipes-on-the-bayou. But then things pick up.

There's an address to the New Orleans people, telling them how the Cajuns will bring them back, with jobs, with anything they need. How the band will be back as well — with a Maple Leaf gig planned for the first weekend in October.

As the white buckets for the Acadiana Arts Council's Project HEAL (Helping Employ Artists Locally) pass from hand to hand, Heritage Stage producer Patrick Mould, a Baton Rouge chef who moved to Lafayette to make room for New Orleans friends until they rebuild, echoes the talk of "not being able to imagine Louisiana without New Orleans," of "the dishwashers, the hostesses, the thousands who lost jobs in the hospitality and other industries." He promises, again: "We are here."

A little while later, close to quitting time, a hard rain starts to fall, but the people stay put. It's not enough to shut this party down.

As their ancestors did 250 years ago, as their new friends do today, they keep dancing.

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# Making comedy from Katrina

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

Ray Romano (played by Carell) and Aaron Neville (played by Horatio Sanz, sporting massive prosthetic arms).

Darrell Hammond closed the sketch by playing Fox News Channel correspondent Geraldo Rivera horning in on Cooper's shot, then stealing Cooper's van.

An inevitable fake commercial for "Girls Gone Wild — Katrina" promoted a fake tape to benefit the rebuilding of Bourbon Street. Asked the fake narrator: "Isn't it time you did something to help the victims of these hurricanes?"

On the fake "Weekend Update" newscast, anchor Amy Poehler led the rundown with an item about new revelations of Iraqi prisoner abuse.

"Sen. John McCain said that continued mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners is hurting the nation's image," she said.

The graphic changed from McCain to hurricane victims in New Orleans.

"Also hurting the nation's image — letting people drown when it rains," said Poehler.

A picture of Kathleen Blanco appeared over the shoulder of anchor Sanz, subbing for new mom Tina Fey, as he read:

"While appearing before a Senate committee investigating the Katrina disaster, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said, 'We are looking forward, not backwards.' At which point she was hit from behind by a hurricane."

The funniest segment of the night was a coffee-urn reunion between "SNL" alum Mike Myers ("Wayne's World," "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me") and musical guest Kanye West, who'd freelanced an anti-Bush diatribe, with Myers standing dumb-struck at his side, during the Sept. 2, hurricane-relief benefit concert televised by various NBC broadcast and cable entities.

In Saturday's sketch, West asked Myers how he'd been since their controversial telethon moment, during which West charged, "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

"I got a lot of calls about it," said Myers, cringing. "Mostly from the FBI and the IRS."

Myers, a Canadian, added that he'd also been stripped of his American citizenship and that he was pretty sure his phone was tapped and that he was being followed.

"So everything's going good for you," said West. "Party on, Wayne."

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The Times-Picayune

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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Tuesday
October 4, 2005

# Saints try something new — a day off

*Haslett welcomes opportunity to rest*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints got a nice emotional boost from their first victory in three weeks Sunday. At least, Coach Jim Haslett thinks they did.

For the first time in what seems like ages, the team was able to squeeze in a relaxing, refreshing day off.

"I haven't seen everybody because I gave them a 'Victory Monday,' " Haslett said of one of the routine perks that came from a 19-7 victory over the Buffalo Bills. "I know they're fired up about having a day off."

It wasn't just a day away from the practice field. The Saints have had a handful of breaks in the schedule in the past month.

But this was the first time they didn't spend that off day searching for apartments, renting furniture or signing their kids up for school.

Even better, they didn't spend this Monday fighting off jet lag. After four straight weeks of lengthy plane trips, the Saints stayed in San Antonio this past weekend to beat the Bills on their "home turf" at the Alamodome, where the Saints have set up their practices, offices, meeting rooms, locker room and weight room.

"I tell you it was nice," Haslett said. "We've been working out of this building, so it was kind of nice to come to a place where everything was intact. You get up and get a workout in in the morning. It was kind of nice to drive into the stadium, go to your own office, sit at your own locker."

The Saints (2-2) have to get back on a plane Saturday and fly to Green Bay. But for a change, the Packers might be the wearier of the two teams. Green Bay hosted Carolina on Monday night, giving the Packers a short week to prepare for the Saints.

The Saints had been looking forward to their Alamodome opener, mostly for such creature comforts. But they were pleasantly surprised at how much of a difference the home crowd made on the field as well.

The players were eating it up, motioning to the

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-7*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Saints fans dance outside the Alamodome before their game against the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

# Bristow's resignation surprises Hornets



AP PHOTO

The Hornets Chris Andersen, left, and Jamaal Magloire are deep in discussion during media day in Oklahoma City on Monday.



AP PHOTO

The Hornets Jackson Vroman holds a basketball while displaying a sign with his name on it during the team's media day Monday in Oklahoma City. It was the city's first opportunity to meet the team that it will host for a year while New Orleans Arena is being repaired.

*Players had no indication of his departure*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — A few days before Allan Bristow resigned as the Hornets' general manager, he and backup center Chris Andersen spoke at length about the upcoming season.

Not once, Andersen said, did Bristow mention he was thinking about leaving the franchise because of health concerns.

"We sat and talked for awhile," Andersen said during the Hornets' media event Monday at the Ford Center. "So it was kind of unexpected after I found out. When I came in this morning and Jeff Bower (promoted to replace Bristow) was speaking, I was looking around for Allan."

Like Andersen, most of the Hornets' players were surprised by the news of

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-6*

# Two area schools may lose basketball standouts

*Rummel's Lewis, Curtis' Paris could remain in Houston*

**By Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writer

Two of the top high-school basketball players in Jefferson Parish find themselves in similar situations heading into the 2005-06 season.

Dwight Lewis, a 6-foot-6 Class 5A All-State forward from Rummel, evacuated to the Houston area for Hurricane Katrina and has enrolled at John Taylor High in Katy,Texas, where he'll likely remain this season, Raiders' coach Steve Alfonso said.

"He's staying in a rental house with his parents and his grandparents," Alfonso said. "I think he is going to stay where he is."

**"There is always the chance he may be back in January. But we've picked up some kids from Jesuit and other schools, and we are going to coach the heck of out those."**
STEVE ALFONSO
Raiders' coach

Alfonso, who is commuting daily to Rummel from Abita Springs because his Chalmette home was demolished by the storm, still remains upbeat, despite losing a senior who averaged 25 points per game. "There is always the chance he may be back in January," Alfonso said. "But we've picked up some kids from Jesuit and other schools, and we are going to coach the heck of out those."

Alfonso said that Lewis, who committed to Kansas and then had a change of heart, has narrowed his collegiate choices to Miami, Oklahoma and Southern California.

At John Curtis, Patriots coach Mike Krajcer remains hopeful that All-Metro guard Biko Paris will return soon. Paris, a junior who averaged 29 points last season, has been attending Cypress Community Christian School in Missouri City, just north of Houston.

"The big problem will be finding him and his family a place to live," Krajcer said. "Some of his relatives had to walk through chest deep water to get away. But I talked to his parents Wednesday, and they

*See* **BASKETBALL,** *C-6*

# MILES WELCOMES MUNDANE

*LSU coach looking forward to routine*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Took a while — October to be exact — but LSU coach Les Miles finally gets to settle in and script a normal Sunday to Saturday routine.

Trust it's a big deal, even if Miles can't calculate the precise significance.

"Honestly, I look forward to a regular week," Miles said at his weekly press conference. "I look forward to Monday, Tuesday, getting a couple practices in a row with the team and then count on a game on Saturday and look to a normal travel schedule and look forward to a normal home schedule, eventually.

"That definitely does affect a team. To what extent, I'm not

*See* **LSU,** *C-8*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell is going to be counted on to be more consistent now that the Tigers are on a more regular routine, says Coach Les Miles.

# Wave win a picture of moxie

Last season, probably, the result would have been a loss. And, truth be told, that likely would've been the case almost every year before that — six in all — that Chris Scelfo has been Tulane's football coach.

But somehow, two Tulane punts and an extra point being blocked and throwing an interception were only major inconveniences for the Green Wave, not crippling blows. Somehow, playing as flat as a pancake the better part of three quarters made for a struggle, but the Wave overcame it.

So, if you didn't believe there is depth and backbone to this Green Wave team, which is 2-1 after taking a 28-21 victory over Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday, now might be a good time to start.



JOHN DESHAZIER

Sure, Southeastern wasn't exactly USC. The Lions, in fact, are a resurrected Division I-AA team that has been up and running for less than five years. But

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *C-8*

SPORTS

# Bryant holds no grudge against Jackson

*Lakers guard: He's the coach, I'm the player*

**From wire reports**

Kobe Bryant welcomed Phil Jackson back with open arms Monday.

Honest.

The way Bryant spoke about his former and current coach with the Los Angeles Lakers, one would hardly know the two had problems in the past.

"We both know what we need to do. We're both determined to make it happen," Bryant told reporters at the team's media day - shortly before the Lakers left for a 10-day training camp in Honolulu. They'll play their first two preseason games Oct. 11-12 against Golden State.

"He taught me how to play the game. He's the coach, I'm the player," Bryant said. "We don't think we're going to have any problems."



AP PHOTO

Golden State Warriors Baron Davis, left, and Jason Richardson share a laugh during Media Day on Monday. NBA training camps open today around the country.

Differences cropped up several times during Jackson's previous five years as coach of the Lakers, and Jackson had critical words for Bryant in a book he wrote documenting the 2003-04 season - Jackson's last year in his first go-round with the team.

"It doesn't bother me at all. Do I hold any hard feelings? Not at all," Bryant said. "Life is to short to sit around and hold grudges. I don't hold any whatsoever."

**EX-HORNET SIGNS WITH SIXERS:** Forward Lee Nailon signed with the Philadelphia 76ers after averaging a career-high 14.2 points last season with the Hornets.

The 6-foot-9, 238-pound free agent will be joining his sixth NBA team.

The former TCU player has averaged 8.9 points and 3.1 rebounds in five seasons with Charlotte-New Orleans, New York, Atlanta, Orlando and Cleveland. He averaged 4.4 rebounds in 68 games last season for the Hornets.

The 76ers also signed free agents Steve Castleberry, Olu Famutimi, Herve Lamizana, James Thomas and Ime Udoka.

**STOUDEMIRE SIGNS EXTENSION:** Amare Stoudemire, who jumped from high school to stardom in the NBA, signed a five-year contract extension with the Phoenix Suns worth about $73 million.

The extension kicks in after this season and has an opt-out clause after the 2009-10 season.

He signed the contract a month shy of his 23rd birthday as the Suns gathered for media day preceding the start of their training camp in Tucson, Ariz., today.

The 6-foot-10, 245-pound power forward played out of position at center and dominated opponents last season for the high-scoring Suns.

# Shinn: We are New Orleans' team

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — When the Hornets took their team photo before Monday's media day at the Ford Center, they wore their teal road uniforms with ìNew Orleansî labeled across the front of the jerseys.

"We are New Orleans ' team and that's it," Hornets owner George Shinn said. "If any politician here in Oklahoma City or anybody else says this is something other than temporary, they are a liar."

But Shinn has been trying to drum up enough support for his team in Oklahoma City to sell out the 19,675-seat Ford Center for the 35 games to be played there this season for his Hurricane Katrina-displaced team.

"One reason why I'm pushing this thing so hard in Oklahoma City and trying to make it work here to let the people have hope here they can get a franchise," Shinn said. "Not my franchise, but a franchise. I'm selling like hell. If we were in New Orleans, I wouldn't have near the expenses that I'm going to have being up here.

"I've got a lot of expenses, so I've got to put on the best sales shoes I can to pay my bills. If I sell this arena out, I will be very close to taking care of the expenses, which are heavier now because of the storm. I'm not going to turn loose on this, I'm in a vice and I've got to push hard."

Shinn said the advantages he has now playing in Oklahoma City as opposed to playing in New Orleans is that the level of income among residents is higher, which increases his potential for more season tickets to be sold. Another difference, Shinn said, is that his team is the only show in town in Oklahoma City. In New Orleans, he has to compete with the Saints for the opening two months of the season.

"Let's say that we play here this whole season and we sell out every game, a lot of people here are probably going to think, why would we go back? But we're going to go back," he said.

The Hornets have an option to return to Oklahoma City next season. Shinn said he plans to continue to monitor the recovery efforts in New Orleans.

"When New Orleans comes back, we're coming back," he said.

**TRADE REQUEST:** Veteran forward George Lynch said Monday that he wants the Hornets to trade him. Last season, Lynch played limited minutes for most of the season, despite playing in 44 games.

Lynch underwent surgery last Wednesday to remove scar tissue in both of his heels. He is expected to be out four to six weeks, missing the Hornets' entire training camp and preseason games.

"I know I'm an older veteran player and I wasn't happy with my play last year and I'm sure Coach Scott wasn't happy with it," Lynch said. "At this stage in my career, I'm trying to go where I can play and get on a winning team. They're trying to rebuild and I understand that. I'm trying to compete and play. I can help a team and it may not be this team and I totally understand that. When I'm healthy, I'm planning on competing. I don't think I'm going to be here."

Hornets coach Byron Scott said they unsuccessfully tried to trade Lynch this past summer. General Manager Jeff Bower said he plans to meet with Lynch before deciding what steps to take.

**BACK TO WORK:** The Hornets open training camp today at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., located outside of Oklahoma City. Scott said he's aware some players, such as P.J. Brown, had their offseason workout schedules disrupted by Hurricane Katrina, so he's going to give them time to work themselves in shape during camp.

# Scott says he will seek advice from Bristow

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

Bristow's sudden departure on Saturday, three days before the Hornets' training camp was set to begin.

"I was definitely shocked," veteran forward P.J. Brown said. "I picked up the paper yesterday morning and read about it. I hadn't heard anything, so I was completely surprised."

Although Bristow had served as general manager since June 2004, 11 of the 15 players currently under contract with the team were obtained by him either through trades, the draft or free agency.

Bristow also played a role in the Hornets inviting Troy Bell, Sean Banks and Alex Garcia to training camp. Both Banks and Bell got high evaluation marks by Bristow while playing on the Hornets' summer league team that competed in Las Vegas last July.

A team source said Bristow sought a new contract, but he resigned before management made a decision. Bristow could not be reached for comment Monday, having left Oklahoma City this past weekend for his off-season home near Naples, Fla.

It had been a busy offseason for Bristow, which started immediately after last season with preparations for the draft.

The Hornets selected point guard Chris Paul with their first-round selection and former LSU player Brandon Bass in the second round. In free agency, Bristow made an attempt to sign Bobby Simmons, who was considered the top small forward available. But Simmons eventually signed with the Milwaukee Bucks, and the Hornets then shifted their focus on strengthening the shooting guard spot by signing European star Arvydas Macijaukas.

"Allan definitely did an unbelievable job," Hornets coach Byron Scott said. "He did indicate to me (a few days before) what was going on and that he was going to resign. I knew he had some problems handling stress.

"Allan is so passionate about what he does. But I had no idea before he told me that he was going to resign. It's a little disappointing because Allan and I formed an unbelievable friendship and great working relationship. But I also understand that, if you're doing it for health reasons, you are doing the best thing you have to do for yourself. I'm still going to stay in contact with him because he's still my friend."

For this season, the Hornets will keep the same working arrangement in their basketball operations department as the team had under Bristow. Decisions will be made collectively under Bower's direction, with input coming from Scott and Willis Reed, vice president of basketball operations.

Scott said team president Paul Mott has made it a priority that the basketball operations staff meet with him regularly.

"I knew there was some health issues with Allan, but I'm disappointed that he's not here," Reed said. "I thought he did a nice job. He and Jeff did a nice job under a very difficult situation last year. When you draft kids and put a team together, you want to see that team stay and work together, but I guess with his health issues that was it."

Reed said he had no interest in seeking the job and recommended to Mott that Bower be considered after it became apparent the team wanted to fill the vacancy from within the organization.

"Jeff should be the one to handle it because he was the (director of player personnel)," Reed said.

On his first official day working as general manager Monday, Bower had almost the same number of interview requests as some of the Hornets' top players.

"The biggest thing is that I have to go back on my experiences such as working for Bob Bass for eight years and working for Allan for one year," Bower said. "There are a ton of challenges, but being able to eliminate any off-the-court issues is something we need to stay on top of."

# Sources say VooDoo players to join K.C.

*But they can return to N.O. after season*

**By Jim Derry**
Staff writer

The 13 displaced members of the New Orleans VooDoo will have a place to play next season.

The Arena Football League will announce today that Kansas City has been awarded an expansion franchise, and that the VooDoo players under contract will become members of that team, league sources said Monday.

Ten of the 13 players are under one-year contracts, and they will be allowed to return to New Orleans if they so choose after the 2006 season. Three players — quarterback Andy Kelly and linemen B.J. Cohen and Mike Landry — signed two-year deals in June that run through the 2007 season. But those three players will be allowed to sign with either Kansas City or New Orleans during the 30-day period following the season in which a player may only sign with his own club.

The 10 players under one-year deals are wide receiver/linebackers James Jordan and Tremaine Neal, wide receiver/defensive back Calvin Spears, fullback/linebacker Dawan Moss, defensive specialists Chris Pointer and Cliff Green and linemen Brook Miller, Hans Olsen, Aaron Hamilton and Dan Rumishek.

Fullback Dan Curran, who is on the refused-to-report list, and lineman Brian Poli-Dixon, who is on the exempt list, also will be listed on the roster of the Kansas City franchise, which will be placed in the Southern Division and play at Kemper Arena, for the upcoming season.

# Football starting to get in full swing

*Schools resuming schedules; some kicking off their seasons*

**By Mike Strom and Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writers

West Jefferson makes its first official road trip of this hurricane-plagued season Friday night at Assumption for its District 5-5A opener.

The Buccaneers' first unofficial road trip took place Wednesday when assistant coaches Malter Scobel and Matt Burmaster traveled to New Iberia, Alexandria and Baton Rouge to gather three West Jefferson players who had no way to return home.

Senior linebackers Clarence Fultz and Ivan Weber were two key additions. The third, sophomore running back Tevin Conway, quickly proved his worth with a 56-yard scoring run in a 100-yard rushing performance in Saturday's 34-3 season-opening victory against Salmen.

"This is all about the kids," said West Jefferson coach Hank Tierney.

"They all want to play. We felt like we owed it to them to make sure they had that chance. They worked so hard in our offseason program, and this was going to be our staff's first senior class. Our big thing is commitment. That's what we preach to our kids. That's what we ask of them.

"We just felt like we had an obligation to them to play, especially the seniors, after all that they have given us."

Similar resolve is present at all nine Jefferson Parish public high schools as they resume play this weekend after a four-week layoff. Jefferson schools re-opened Monday, and this is the second week of practice for most programs.

West Jefferson, Ehret, Higgins and Fisher will play their second games of the season, and Bonnabel, Cox, East Jefferson, King and Riverdale will kick off their five-game schedules.

All nine teams are operating with rosters approximately one-half to one-third the size of what they were before Hurricane Katrina. West Jefferson dressed 42 players, one-half of its original 84-man roster, against Salmen. Higgins had 34 players in uniform and Ehret 30 .

Numbers alone, however, belie the true value of being back.

"The kids have been good about all of this," said East Jefferson coach Henry Rando. "There's been a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. I know I'm excited about being back. We felt like we were going to have a good team. I feel good about the kids that we have, although we've had to hustle a few."

"You've got to hand it to these coaches," said Jefferson Parish Public Schools athletic director Manny Barocco. "They have made this (resumption of the season) happen. I'm sure it's good therapy for them rather than sitting around doing nothing. It's good therapy for the community, as well."

"I don't look at our numbers as a negative,'' said Ehret coach Billy North. "I think it's a positive, given all of the things that we've been through. I think the numbers we have is a great thing. We're all right.

We're prepared. We've got MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat). It's time to stop bellyaching and having people feel sorry for us. It's time to start playing and getting back. Crying time is over."

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**Friday's games**

**District 4-5A**
Fontainebleau at Covington, 7 p.m.
St. Paul's at Slidell, 7 p.m.
Ponchatoula at Mandeville, 7 p.m.
Hammond at Northshore, 7:45 p.m.

**District 5-5A**
West Jefferson at Assumption, 7 p.m.
Ehret at Destrehan, 7 p.m.
Hahnville at East St. John, 7 p.m.

**District 9-2A**
Varnado at Pope John Paul II, 7 p.m.

**District 10-2A**
Donaldsonville at St. Charles, 7 p.m.
St. James at Riverside, 7 p.m.

**District 7-1A**
Northlake Christian at Kentwood, 7 p.m.

**District 9-1A**
West St. John at White Castle, 7 p.m.

**Non-district**
Menard vs. Crescent City at St. Martin's, 6 p.m.
Cox vs. Higgins at Hoss Memtsas, 7 p.m.
Bonnabel at Fisher, 7 p.m.
King vs. East Jefferson at Yenni, 7 p.m.
Holy Cross at Vandebilt Catholic, 7 p.m.
Curtis at Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Choctawhatchee, 7 p.m.
Shaw at Walker, 7 p.m.
Christian Life at Pearl River, 7 p.m.
Salmen at Lutcher, 7 p.m.

**Saturday's game**
Ridgewood vs. Riverdale at Yenni, 7 p.m.

# Area basketball coaches hope for players return

**BASKETBALL,** *from C-5*

told me as soon as they find a place, they will be back."

"Everything is up in the air," said Paris' mother, Erica. "We really do not know what we are going to do. There is a possibility that he could stay here for one year and return (to Curtis) next season."

Curtis resumed classes this week.

**NOTES:** Mandeville's volleyball team and the Brother Martin cross-country team won Saturday in Baton Rouge.

Mandeville, which won its first two district games last week, won the St. Joseph's Academy Tournament, beating Sacred Heart in the final.

Led by individual winner Andy Florek, Brother Martin captured the St. Joseph's Academy Invitational meet at the Highland Park course.

The Skippers (7-1) defeated Sacred Heart 25-16, 25-22 in the championship.

"In the final we played some of the best ball we have played in a long time," Mandeville coach Jody Walker said.

The only team the Skippers lost to in the tournament was reigning Division I champion St. Joseph's. The Skippers lost 23-25, 25-21, 7-15 in a rematch of last year's state tournament final.

Mandeville bounced back with a 25-19, 28-30, 18-16 victory against Episcopal of Baton Rouge, then defeated Assumption in the semifinals 25-20, 25-22.

Mandeville's Rachel Lindelow and Rachel Mauti were selected to the all-tournament team. Lindelow had 38 kills, 143 assists, 54 digs, 13 blocks and eight aces in the tournament. Mauti had 68 kills, 63 digs, 18 blocks and six aces.

Florek ran the three-mile course in 15 minutes, 57 seconds. Brother Martin won the meet with 56 points, followed by Catholic-Baton Rouge (69) and Episcopal-Baton Rouge (75). ...

Rummel and Curtis are looking to fill open dates in basketball. Coaches interested should call Krajcer at 261-8216 or Alfonso at 583-7893. Rummel also is looking for an opening in a Christmas tournament.

# Vick expected to start against New England

## *MRI shows right knee not seriously injured*

**From wire reports**

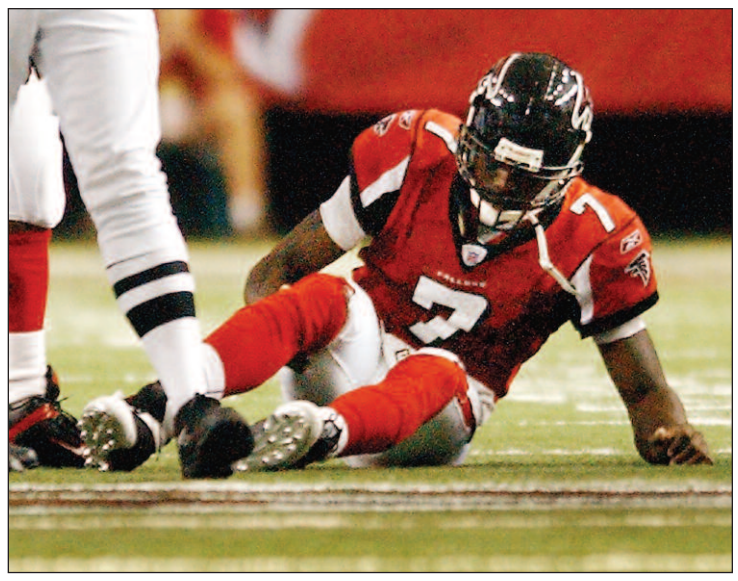
Michael Vick is expected to start against New England this week after an MRI confirmed Monday that he did not seriously injure his right knee Sunday in Atlanta's victory over Minnesota.

"It confirmed that it was just a mild sprain of his MCL, and he is day-to-day," Coach Jim Mora said. "That ought to put that to rest for at least two or three minutes from now when someone asks another question about it."

Vick was injured when Minnesota rookie defensive end Erasmus James knocked him to the ground and fell on his leg in the second quarter of Atlanta's 30-10 win.

Matt Schaub replaced Vick and played the rest of the game. The Falcons had a two-touchdown lead when Vick walked slowly off the field with a slight limp.

"Just because I got injured doesn't mean that my confidence level is going to go down," Vick said. "The same thing happened to me against Seattle, and I came back and had one of my best games against Buffalo. Injury doesn't scare me."



AP PHOTO

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is expected to play this week against New England.

Vick tweaked his left hamstring at Seattle in Week 2 and left the game on each of the final two drives. The Falcons lost 21-18, but Vick played all four quarters in an eight-point win at Buffalo the following week.

**McCOWN LEADS CARDINALS:** Before an NFL-record 103,467 fans at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, Josh McCown passed for a career-high 385 yards and two touchdowns and Neil Rackers kicked a career-best six field goals Sunday night as Arizona defeated the San Francisco 49ers 31-14 in the league's first regular-season game outside the United States.

Derek Smith and Derrick Johnson scored on fumble recoveries for San Francisco (1-3) in the first quarter, with Smith scoring on the game's first play and Johnson returning his 78 yards.

The crowd topped the previous NFL record for a regular-season game, when 102,368 fans saw the Los Angeles Rams play the 49ers at the L.A. Coliseum on Nov. 10, 1957.

Meanwhile, cornerback Antrell Rolle, Arizona's first-round draft pick this year, will likely miss the rest of the season because of a left knee injury. Rolle had arthroscopic surgery Monday.

**REPORT: ROGERS TO BE SUSPENDED:** Detroit Lions receiver Charles Rogers will be suspended for four games for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, ESPN reported Monday night.

Unless Rogers appeals, the suspension could be announced this week, ESPN reported, citing sources.

In three games this season, Rogers has caught five passes for 77 yards.

**RAMS LOSE TIGHT END:** St. Louis tight end Roland Williams will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Cam Cleeland, who played for the Rams in 2004 and 2003 and with the Saints before that, may return. He was expected in St. Louis by Tuesday, but Coach Mike Martz wasn't certain if Cleeland would be ready for Sunday's home game against Seattle.

"I'd love to have him back on this team. I know what he can do. He can make a lot of plays for us," Martz said.

**ETC.:** Raiders center Jake Grove underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee and will likely miss three to four weeks. Grove tore cartilage in his knee in the third quarter of Sunday's 19-13 win against Dallas. . . . Chargers left guard Toniu Fonoti will have further surgery on his broken right hand is expected to be out two to three more weeks.

# Mitchell likely won't play at Green Bay

## *Saints safety has left hamstring injury*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Injuries continue to pile up for the Saints after Sunday's 19-7 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

The most serious appears to be safety Mel Mitchell's left hamstring injury. Coach Jim Haslett did not put a timetable on the injury, but he said Mitchell probably won't be available for Sunday's game at Green Bay.

That leaves the Saints hamstrung at the position, which also lost veteran starter Jay Bellamy to a season-ending torn rotator cuff a week earlier.

The Saints now have three healthy safeties on their roster: veterans Dwight Smith and Steve Gleason, and rookie Josh Bullocks. Haslett said he plans to use one of his cornerbacks at the position as well, but did not name the player.

The Saints have four healthy cornerbacks right now (Mike McKenzie, Jason Craft, Fred Thomas and Fred Booker). Starting cornerback Fakhir Brown has missed the past three games with a knee injury. Haslett said Brown worked out a little bit Monday but remains questionable for Sunday's game.

Receiver Joe Horn (hamstring) and guard Jermane Mayberry also worked out Monday and remain questionable after missing the game against Buffalo.

The Saints did not practice Monday, but injured players came in for treatment.

Also listed as questionable with injuries sustained against Buffalo are linebacker James Allen (hamstring), linebacker T.J. Slaughter (groin) and guard Kendyl Jacox (knee and ankle).

**THE BEST EVER?** Haslett said Monday afternoon that he planned to stick around the coaching offices in the Alamodome to watch Monday night's game between Green Bay and Carolina.

Though the Packers entered the game with an 0-3 record, Haslett said he won't take the game-planning lightly when it comes to Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, whom he called, "the greatest player to ever play the game."

"The guy's got championship rings, and he gives that team a chance to win every time he steps on the field," Haslett said. "If he's not, I don't know who is."

**TICKET UPDATE:** The Saints had 2,200 tickets remaining Monday for their Oct. 16 game against the Atlanta Falcons at the Alamodome, the hottest seller of any of their home games this season.

They are expected to draw a large crowd in Baton Rouge when they host former LSU coach Nick Saban and the Miami Dolphins on Oct. 30. But so far, the Saints have sold just more than 20,000 tickets to that game.

Ticket sales for the games at Tiger Stadium are expected to increase now that the Saints have a fully staffed office up and running in Baton Rouge. Most of the sales staff was operating in San Antonio before the Saints' first game at the Alamodome on Sunday.

For tickets to games in either city, fans can go through Ticketmaster or the Saints' Web site at www.neworleanssaints.com. For San Antonio tickets, they can also call the Saints at (210) 208-9520. And for Baton Rouge tickets, they can call the Saints at (225) 927-8626 or drop by the Baton Rouge offices at 9613 Interline, Suite C.

**ETC.:** Haslett said he had never seen so many missed tackles on one play as he did on the 82-yard kickoff return by Buffalo's Terrence McGee at the end of the first half Sunday, which ended in a touchdown-saving trip-up by the Saints' Thomas. Though the coach didn't reveal the exact number of misses on the play, he did say that one player missed three tackles.

# Day off just what the Saints needed

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

crowd and feeding off the energy. And the Bills had trouble with the noise from the more than 58,000 fans in attendance, which helped Buffalo's offense get called for three pre-snap penalties.

The Saints, who had been plagued by penalties in their previous road games, committed just one pre-snap penalty and had only four penalties total.

"The kickoff, when all the flashes (from cameras) went off, I thought we were in the Super Bowl. It kind of gave you chills," said Haslett, who estimated that it was a good mix of San Antonio fans and those who had made the trip from Louisiana and Mississippi, based on the people he saw and spoke to at the stadium. "Our players really were excited about having a home-field crowd. You could really see it in the way they warmed up, the way they were into it. They were excited about coming out for the opening kickoff."



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Jesus Guerra plays the trumpet as part of a pre-game party outside the Alamodome before the Saints played the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

This past week has signaled a return to normalcy for the Saints — as much as could be expected, anyway. And the team hopes that will carry over into the next 12 games, two of which will be played in San Antonio, four in Baton Rouge and six more on the road.

Haslett said he has relaxed some of his rules and policies this past month, such as fining players for showing up late for treatment in the morning, since they don't know their way around yet and have so much else to deal with.

Haslett said he's sure the players appreciate it, because there is a distinct sense that they are "all in this together."

But the coach also made it clear that the team won't be making any excuses. When asked if he thinks the lenient rules have been working, the coach responded, "I don't know. We're 2-2. We're just an average team right now."

## NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 68 | 51 |
| New England | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 87 | 108 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 3 | 0 | .25 | 48 | 69 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 47 | 73 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Indianapolis | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 78 | 26 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 62 | 64 |
| Tennessee | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 69 | 106 |
| Houston | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 24 | 65 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 104 | 38 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 81 | 37 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 30 | 52 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 45 | 64 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Denver | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 80 | 68 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 91 |
| San Diego | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 127 | 88 |
| Oakland | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 89 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 43 | 37 |
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 136 | 98 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 112 | 68 |
| Dallas | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 88 | 88 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 77 | 45 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 86 | 57 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 68 | 87 |
| Carolina | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 71 | 67 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Chicago | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 52 | 39 |
| Detroit | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 36 | 58 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 64 | 107 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 43 | 60 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| St. Louis | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 97 | 111 |
| Seattle | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 89 | 76 |
| Arizona | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 74 | 110 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 132 |

**Sunday's Games**
New Orleans 19, Buffalo 7
N.Y. Giants 44, St. Louis 24
Washington 20, Seattle 17, OT
Denver 20, Jacksonville 7
Indianapolis 31, Tennessee 10
Cincinnati 16, Houston 10
Tampa Bay 17, Detroit 13
San Diego 41, New England 17
Baltimore 13, N.Y. Jets 3
Atlanta 30, Minnesota 10
Oakland 19, Dallas 13
Philadelphia 37, Kansas City 31
Arizona 31, San Francisco 14
**Open:** Kansas City, Oakland, N.Y. Giants, Minnesota
**Monday, Oct. 10**
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 8 p.m.
Green Bay at Carolina
**Sunday, Oct. 9**
Baltimore at Detroit, noon
Miami at Buffalo, noon
Seattle at St. Louis, noon
Tennessee at Houston, noon
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets, noon
New England at Atlanta, noon
New Orleans at Green Bay, noon
Chicago at Cleveland, noon
Indianapolis at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 3:15 p.m.
Carolina at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 7:30 p.m.
**Open:** Kansas City, Oakland, N.Y. Giants, Minnesota
**Monday, Oct. 10**
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 8 p.m.

# MLB PLAYOFFS

## CARDINALS VS. PADRES

**Game 1:** Tuesday at St. Louis, noon ESPN
**Game 2:** Thursday at St. Louis, 3 p.m. ESPN2
**Game 3:** Saturday at San Diego, TBA
**Game 4:** Sunday at San Diego, if necessary, TBA
**Game 5:** Monday at St. Louis, if necessary, TBA
**The series:** San Diego won four of seven, including three of four in St. Louis, beating the Cardinals' bullpen twice.
**Cardinals rotation:** Chris Carpenter (21-5, 2.83 ERA); Mark Mulder (16-8, 3.64); Matt Morris (14-10, 4.11); Jason Marquis (13-14, 4.13)
**Cardinals bullpen:** CL Jason Isringhausen (39 of 43 saves. 2.14 ERA); Julian Tavares (2-3, 3.43); Ray King (4-4, 3.38)
**Cardinals lineup:** David Eckstein, SS (.294, 11 SB); Larry Walker, RF (.289, 15 HR, 52 RBIs); Albert Pujols, 1B (.330, 41 HR, 117 RBIs); Jim Edmonds, CF (.263, 29 HR, 89 RBIs); Reggie Sanders, LF (.271, 21 HR, 54 RBIs); Mark Grudzeilanek, 2B (.294, 8 HR, 59 RBIs); Abraham Nunez, 3B (.285, 5 HR, 44 RBIs); Yadier Molina, C (.252, 8 HR, 49 RBIs)
**Cardinals in the series:** Pujols had 10 hits, including two homers, and 21 total bases in the seven games. Walker (.417), Nunez (.412) and Sanders (.400) were all .400 or better. The Cardinals hit 10 homers and had a slugging percentage of .510.
**Padres rotation:** Jake Peavy (13-7, 2.88 ERA); Brian Lawrence (7-15, 4.83); Adam Eaton (11-5, 4.27); Woody Williams (9-12, 4.85)
**Padres bullpen:** CL Trevor Hoffman (43 of 46 saves, 2.97 ERA); Akinori Otsuka (2-8, 3.59); Scott Linebrink (8-1, 1.83)
Padres lineup: Dave Roberts, CF(.275, 23 SB); Mark Loretta, 2B(.280, 3 HR, 38 RBIs);Brian Giles, RF (.301, 15 HR, 83 RBIs); Ryan Klesko, LF (.248, 18 HR, 58 RBIs); Khalil Green, SS (.250, 15 HR, 70 RBIs); Mark Sweeney, 1B (.294, 8 HR, 40 RBIs); Joe Randa, 3B (.276, 17 HR, 68 RBIs);Ramon Hernandez, C (.290, 12 HR, 58 RBIs)
**Padres in the series:** Giles hit .417 with two homers and nine RBIs in the seven games. Klesko (.240) and Roberts (.174) struggled.
**Outlook:** The Cardinals have the best record in baseball, are well-rested after running away with their division, have a reliable rotation and a fearsome lineup. The Padres, at 82-80, areapologizing more for making the playoffs than planning to get through them. Cardinals in four.

## BRAVES VS. ASTROS

**Game 1:** Wednesday at Atlanta, 3 p.m. ESPN
**Game 2:** Thursday at Atlanta, 7 p.m. Fox
**Game 3:** Saturday at Houston, TBA
**Game 4:** Sunday at Houston, if necessary, TBA
**Game 5:** Monday at Atlanta, if necessary, TBA
**The series:** Braves won five of the six meetings, including all four in Atlanta.
Braves rotation: Tim Hudson (14-9, 3.52 ERA); John Thomson (4-6, 4.47); Horacio Ramirez (11-9, 4.63); Jorge Sosa (13-3, 2.55)
**Braves bullpen:** CL Kyle Farnsworth (10 of 10 saves. 1.98 ERA); Chris Reitsma (3-6, 3.93); Dan Kolb (3-8, 5.93)
**Braves lineup:** Rafael Furcal, SS (.284, 46 SB); Marcus Giles, 2B (.291, 15 HR, 63 RBIs); Chipper Jones, 3B (.296, 21 HR, 72 RBIs); Andruw Jones, CF (.263, 51 HR, 128 RBIs), Adam LaRoche, 1B (.259, 20 HR, 78 RBIs), Jeff Francoer, RF (.300, 14 HR, 45 RBIs); Ryan Langerhans, LF (.267, 8 HR, 42 RBIs); Brian McCann, C (.278, 5 HR, 23 RBIs)
**Braves in the series:** Giles, Chipper Jones andLangerhans each hit better than .400 against Houston, and Atlanta hit .310 with 10 homers in the six games. NL home run leader Andruw Jones had only one of those homers; Langerhans had three of his eight against the Astros.
**Astros rotation:** Andy Pettitte (17-9, 2.39); Roger Clemens (13-8, 1.87 ERA); Roy Oswalt (20-12, 2.94); Brandon Backe (10-8, 4.76)
**Astros bullpen:** CL Brad Lidge (42 of 46 saves, 2.29 ERA); Dan Wheeler (2-3, 2.21); Chad Qualls (6-4, 3.28)
**Astros lineup:** Willy Taveras, CF, (.291, 34 SB); Craig Biggio, 2B (.264, 26 HR, 69 RBIs); Lance Berkman, 1B (.293, 24 HR, 82 RBIs); Morgan Ensberg, 3B (.283, 36 HR, 101 RBIs); Jason Lane, RF (.267, 26 HR, 78 RBIs); Adam Everett, SS (.248, 11 HR, 54 RBIs); Chris Burke, LF (.248, 5 HR, 26 RBIs); Brad Ausmus (.258, 3 HR, 47 RBIs)
**Astros in the series:** Bench players Mike Lamb (.333) and Orlando Palmeiro (.500) have fared well, but the Astros hit .175 against Atlanta pitching.
**Outlook:** The Astros had too much pitching for Atlanta last season, and have added Andy Pettitte into that mix. But they also had too much Carlos Beltran and Jeff Kent Houston still has the pitching to win a short series, but maybe not enough hitting. Braves in five.

## RED SOX VS. WHITE SOX

**Game 1:** Tuesday at Chicago, 3 p.m. ESPN
**Game 2:** Wednesday at Chicago, 6 p.m. ESPN
**Game 3:** Friday at Boston, 3 p.m. ESPN2
**Game 4:** Saturday at Boston, if necessary, TBA
**Game 5:** Sunday at Boston, if necessary, TBA
**The series:** Boston won four of seven.
White Sox rotation: Jose Contreras (15-7, 3.61); Mark Buehrle (16-8, 3.12 ERA); John Garland (18-10, 3.50); Freddy Garcia (14-8, 3.87)
**White Sox bullpen:** CL Bobby Jenks (6 of 8 saves, 2.75 ERA); Damaso Marte (3-4, 3.77); Dustin Hermanson (2-4, 2.04)
**White Sox lineup:** Scott Podsednik, LF (.290, 59 SB); Tadahito Iguchi, 2B (.278, 15 HR, 71 RBIs); Jermaine Dye, RF (.274, 31 HR, 86 RBIs); Paul Konerko, 1B (.283, 40 HR, 100 RBIs); Carl Everett, DH (.251, 23 HR, 87 RBIs); Aaron Rowand, CF (.270, 13 HR, 69 RBIs); A.J. Pierzynski, C (.257, 18 HR, 56 RBIs); Joe Crede, 3B (.252, 22 HR, 62 RBIs); Juan Uribe, SS (.252, 16 HR, 71 RBIs)
**White Sox in the series:** Konerko hit .429 with four homers and 27 total bases in the seven games. Rowand hit .360 with three homers. Podsednik hit .391 with a .440 OBP. Garland (5.25 ERA) and Buehrle (22 hits in 13 innings, 6.23 ERA) were ineffective against Boston.
**Red Sox rotation:** Matt Clement (13-6, 4.57); Curt Schilling (8-8, 5.69 ERA); David Wells (15-7, 4.45); Tim Wakefield (16-12, 4.15)
**Red Sox bullpen:** CL Mike Timlin (13 of 20 saves, 2.24 ERA); Jonathan Popelbon (3-1, 2.65); Mike Myers (3-1, 3.13)
**Red Sox lineup:** Johnny Damon, CF (.316, 18 SB); Edgar Renteria, SS (.276, 8 HR, 70 RBIs); David Ortiz, DH (.300, 47 HR, 148 RBIs); Manny Ramirez, LF (.292, 45 HR, 144 RBIs); Trot Nixon, RF (.275, 13 HR, 67 RBIs); Kevin Millar, 1B (.272, 9 HR, 50 RBIs); Jason Varitek, C (.281, 22 HR, 70 RBIs); Bill Mueller, 3B (.295, 10 HR, 62 RBIs); Tony Graffanino, 2B(.309, 7 HR, 38 RBIs)
**Red Sox in the series:** Ortiz hit .321 with three homers and eight RBIs in the seven games. Varitek caught five of the games and hit .350with three homers. Damon (.221) and Millar (.236) struggled. Schilling (5.98 ERA) had a difficult time. Wakefield (4.15) had the team's best ERA in the series.
**Outlook:** The White Sox have power throughout the lineup, and a lot of depth. Both bullpens are questionable; Jenks is unproven, and the Boston bullpen has been bad all season, blowing 17 save opportunities. The White Sox's rotation has been more consistent than Boston's. But it's tough to count Boston out after its gutty performance in last year's playoff. White Sox in four.

## YANKEES VS. ANGELS

**Game 1:** Tuesday at Los Angeles, 7 p.m. Fox
**Game 2:** Wednesday at Los Angeles, 9 p.m. ESPN
**Game 3:** Friday at New York, 7 p.m. Fox
**Game 4:** Saturday at New York, if necessary, TBA
**Game 5:** Sunday at Los Angeles, if necessary, TBA
**The series:** Angels won six of 10.
Angels rotation: Bartolo Colon (21-8, 3.48 ERA); Jarrod Washburn (8-8, 3.20); John Lackey (14-5, 3.44); Paul Byrd (12-11, 3.74)
**Angels bullpen:** CL Francisco Rodriguez (45 of 50 saves, 2.67 ERA); Scot Shields (10-11, 2.75); Brendan Donnelly (9-3, 3.72)
Angels lineup: Darin Erstad, 1B (.273, 10 SB); Chone Figgins, 2B (..290, 62 SB); Vladimir Guerrero, RF (.317, 32 HR, 108 RBIs); Garrett Anderson, LF (.283, 17 HR,96 RBIs); Steve Finley, CF (.222, 12 HR, 54 RBIs); Orlando Cabrera, SS (.257, 8 HR, 57 RBIs); Adam Kennedy, 2B (.300, 2 HR, 37 RBIs); Benjie Molina, C (.295, 15 HR, 69 RBIs); Jeff DaVanon, DH (.231, 2 HR, 15 RBIs)
**Angels in the series:** Washburn (2.35) and Lackey (2.53) shined. Surprisingly, Colon (seven homers in 10 innings, 8.44 ERA) was a disappointment against the Yanks. Figgins hit .487 with a .535 OBP and stole six bases. Guerrero drove in 13 in the 10 games.
**Yankees rotation:** Mike Mussina (13-8, 4.41); Randy Johnson (17-8, 3.79 ERA); Shawn Chacon (7-3, 2.85); Aaron Small (10-0, 3.20)
**Yankees bullpen:** CL Mariano Rivera (43 of 47 saves, 1.38 ERA); Tom Gordon (5-4, 2.57); Tanyon Sturtze (5-3, 4.73); Chien-Ming Wang (8-5, 4.02)
**Yankees lineup:** Derek Jeter, SS (.309, 19 HR, 70 RBIs); Alex Rodriguez, 3B (.321, 48 HR, 130 RBIs); Jason Giambi, 1B (.271, 32 HR, 87 RBIs); Gary Sheffield, DH (.291, 34 HR, 123 RBIs); Hideki Matsui, LF (.305, 23 HR, 116 RBIs); Jorge Posada, C (.261, 19 HR, 71 RBIs); Matt Lawton, RF (.255, 13 HR, 53 RBIs); Bernie Williams, CF (.249, 12 HR, 64 RBIs); Robinson Cano, 2B (.297, 14 HR, 62 RBIs)
**Yankees in the series:** A-Rod hit .390 with five homers in the 10 games, Giambi .400 with six homers. Jeter hit .368. On the negative side, Posada hit .061, Williams.200 and Matsui.225. Chacon pitched six scoreless innings in his only start, and Mussina was effective (3.80) in three starts, but won only one.
**Outlook:** Yankees hit 17 homers in the 10 meetings with the Angels. IfColon can't beat N.Y. (he allowed seven of those homers in two starts), the Angels have little chance. But Angels manager Mike Scioscia has made three playoff appearances in four seasons. TheAngels' rotation is probably better, given that the Yankees had nine pitchers with nine or more starts. Angels in five.

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# Despite mistakes, Wave gets needed victory

**DESHAZIER,** *from C-5*

the way Tulane played Saturday afternoon, it could have lost to an LHSAA team.

But it didn't. The Wave — which has the distinction of being the first home team to win in LSU's Tiger Stadium this season — conjured an escape. It wasn't nearly as clean or mesmerizing as anything Houdini would've come up with, but might've made the illusionist proud just the same.

"I don't think our focus was there, and that's my fault," Scelfo said. "I've got to do a better job."

What he might have done differently, though, is perplexing.

Playing in Baton Rouge will be as close as Tulane gets to playing in New Orleans this season, which means last weekend was a chance for many of the players and coaches to visit the city.

To see the destruction.

To get a whiff of the stench left in its wake.

To visit homes that now may be unlivable.

To wonder what might have been if Hurricane Katrina hadn't blown through and blown up any grand plans there might have been of producing victory after victory in front of an appreciative home crowd.

Fact is, Scelfo just about had to take his team and coaches to New Orleans, if for no other reason than to remind them of what a privilege it is to be playing football and how thankful they all should be just to be alive.

But, no doubt, it took an emotional toll.

"I think driving in the city, coaches going to see their houses, seeing the destruction, going back to New Orleans, the emotions of it . . ." Scelfo said. "(But) I felt we could overcome that.

"(But) I just don't think our focus was there. And that's directly attributable to me. I may have taken too much for granted."

Maybe his team was a little guilty of taking the Lions for granted, too. After opening the game with a 12-play, 66-yard drive that resulted in a touchdown, the Wave might have considered Southeastern easy pickings.

Then the Lions started blocking kicks, intercepted a pass and began sending what appeared to be 15 rushers, from every conceivable direction, at Tulane quarterback Lester Ricard on passing downs. And before anyone knew it, a blowout became a slugfest, Southeastern giving as well as it got, sometimes better.

"We made a lot of mistakes that were game-changers, but we managed to win" Scelfo said. "And Southeastern made us make a lot of those mistakes.

"Man on man, they were just whipping us."

But not on the scoreboard, which, ultimately, is the only place where the whipping matters. There, Tulane finished with a seven-point advantage, courtesy of a couple of fourth-quarter whoppers — a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Izzy Route, and a 74-yard scoring pass from Ricard to Bubba Terranova.

"We made some mistakes and found a way to win," Scelfo said. "That hasn't happened on a lot of Saturdays."

Not on his watch, or anyone else's at Tulane.

Which makes you think that maybe, like Scelfo has said and repeated and stressed at every opportunity, there's some depth and backbone to this team, elements that might have been lacking in past editions or, certainly, weren't as evident.

"When guys had to make plays," he said, "they made them."

And that's a vision many of us want to get used to.

# Tulane shows big-play ability

## *But Scelfo still not satisfied with offensive execution*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — One week after calling out his offense for not producing enough big plays, Tulane coach Chris Scelfo was handed a slew of them, making a huge difference in the outcome of Saturday's game over Southeastern Louisiana at Tiger Stadium.

Scelfo said the offense came through with seven big plays in the 28-21 victory, including a 74-yard touchdown pass from Lester Ricard to senior wideout Bubba Terranova late in the fourth quarter. And there was a key fourth-down conversion on the Wave's opening possession. Three plays later, Tulane scored its first touchdown.

Punter Chris Beckman threw for a two-point conversion when the Wave faked the extra-point kick against Southeastern. Beckman also completed a 27-yard pass on a fake punt in Tulane's season-opening loss to Mississippi State.

"The fake kick on the extra point put us up by two (touchdowns). That was a big, big play," Scelfo said.

"Third-and-10 to Bubba, and the third-and-16 to (freshman Brian) King, those were big plays."

King's reception led to a touchdown.

Scelfo's glowing remarks, however, were few. Even the couple of conversions on critical downs couldn't get Scelfo to ignore the generally poor showing by Tulane's offense.

"I'm very disappointed in the way our offense has performed so far," Scelfo said. "Mistakes, we're not making as many, but we're just not executing very well. We're not putting our kids in situations where we can execute. When we do, we're good. When we don't, we're not very good."

Tulane's offense entered the game against SLU averaging 22.5 points, 21.5 first downs and 325 yards per game. On Saturday, the Wave exceeded its scoring average and had 352 total yards. Of Ricard's 24 completions, 12 were for 10 yards or more.

But there were areas in which the team failed, Scelfo said. Most noticeable was the team's 28 rushing yards. Then there were the five first downs in the second half. Adding to the misery was the defense's inability to get off the field in the final two quarters.

"We've got to find some answers on offense," Scelfo said. "We've got to get our running game going. We can make all the excuses we want, but we've got to run the football. If we don't do a better job of running the football, it's going to be a long year on offense.

"I thought (SLU's defense) outplayed our offense. They had a sense of purpose on Saturday and our offense didn't. That begins with me and the offensive coaches. I don't know whether our offense thought we were going to go in there and steamroll them or what. We've got to be more mature than that."

Not once last season did an opponent hold the Wave 's running game in check the way Southeastern did. Tulane averaged just 1.3 yards per rush.

After running 44 plays in the first half, Tulane was limited to 27 in the second half while SLU ran 53 plays in the second half and held a 12-5 edge in first downs.

"That's why the game wound up being as close as it was," Scelfo said. "You don't get three more shots, then your defense gets run down and your (offensive) opportunities get condensed."

Said defensive coordinator Eric Schumann: "We played a lot of plays in the second half."

The game ended with Southeastern scoring a touchdown, something that irritated Scelfo just as much as the inconsistency on offense and his team having two punts blocked.

"Defensively, I'm disappointed in that last drive," Scelfo said. "I think they kind of let down a bit. To let them go 88 yards is disappointing to me. We had missed tackles and blown coverages, something that we can't let happen."

## Marshall game in Mobile

Tulane football will play its Oct. 29 home game in Mobile, Ala., a school source has confirmed. The Green Wave will host Marshall at Ladd-Peebles Stadium at 6 p.m., the first Conference USA meeting between the two teams. The city of Mobile previously offered its stadium for Tulane's Oct. 14 game against UTEP.

This will be Tulane's first home game outside the state of Louisiana. The 2-1 Wave has played in Shreveport and Baton Rouge and will play Saturday in Lafayette and the next Friday in Ruston. The Green Wave is based in Ruston this season, taking classes at Louisiana Tech.

The Marshall game is the fifth Tulane home game of the season. The final home game, Nov. 19 against Tulsa, does not have a site scheduled.

# LSU special teams 'a real plus'

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — In a season full of displacement and distraction, LSU has struggled for consistency, but one area of the Tigers play has been near flawless.

LSU, which dropped to No. 11 in the Associated Press poll, got another good game from its special teams, even though the Tigers missed an extra-point attempt. Mississippi State's average starting field position was its 18-yard line. LSU downed three punts inside the Bulldogs' 10 and tackled Mississippi State return men inside the 20 four times, three of those inside the 15. The Bulldogs had no punt return yardage and averaged 15.4 yards on kickoff returns.

"It's continuing to be a real plus for us," LSU coach Les Miles said. "Minus an extra point, most of the afternoon our teams were dominant."

Those numbers bolstered the Tigers' previous performances. LSU leads the SEC and is No. 4 in the nation in net punting at 40.1 yards and tops in the SEC in kickoff coverage.

LSU's Skyler Green leads the SEC and is 11th in the nation in punt returns, with a 16.8-yard average.

Green earned SEC special teams player of the week honors with a 15.4 average on five punt returns. He also had a 30-yard kickoff return.

**TV NEWS:** The LSU-Florida game Oct. 15 in Tiger Stadium will kickoff at 2:30 p.m. as the second part of a CBS doubleheader, the school learned Monday. CBS will televise either Alabama at Ole Miss or Georgia at Vanderbilt at 11 a.m. The other game will be picked up by ESPN2.

**INJURIES:** Miles said guard Pete Dyakowski is probably out this week with a foot injury. Guard Brett Helms (knee) is questionable, but probably will practice this week. Miles said he isn't sure if wide receiver Craig Davis (foot) will practice but that center Rudy Niswanger, who injured an ankle Saturday, would be back. Miles said linebacker E.J. Kuale, who broke his ankle in practice five weeks ago, will "do a little more today, but I'm not sure to what extent."

**STAT ADJUSTMENT:** Quarterback JaMarcus Russell was credited with another completion in Saturday's game when a previously ruled lateral to Green was changed to a pass. That gave Russell 21 completions in 24 attempts for 206 yards, a percentage of .875. That mark is a school record for an SEC game when throwing at least 20 passes. Alan Risher, who was 21-of-26 against Ole Miss in 1981, held the previous mark. Green's reception gave him nine for 64 yards and tied his career high for receptions.

**UNCRAMPED:** Miles said cramps were not a problem for his team Saturday, despite the high humidity. Several LSU players suffered with cramps against Tennessee, but they paid better attention to drinking fluids.

"We pounded them with hydration talk," Miles said. "We encouraged them to understand. The training staff did a great job pushing liquids. There's a combination of play, the length of the game and liquid intake that comes with experience. It's an experience you have to have." Miles said only one player, punter Chris Jackson, had cramps Saturday.

**PERRILLOUX WATCH:** Backup quarterback Matt Flynn played much of the fourth quarter, but freshman Ryan Perrilloux didn't take a snap. Miles was not definitive on Perrilloux's role for the season. "We're going to see how things go from this point forward," he said. "We've got decisions that we're going to have to make."

# Miles relishes return to routine

**LSU,** *from C-5*

certain. I don't know that I can necessarily describe it or define it."

Four weeks into the infant stages of the Les Miles Era and only now does LSU's remaining three-fourths of 2005 appear concrete. Tentatively, that is. Because thus far LSU had its opener postponed, its next game moved from the Central to Pacific Time Zone, and a Monday night SEC opener creating an abrupt turnaround for the Mississippi State tilt.

And that's ignoring the emotion and physical extremes associated with JaMarcus Russell remembering to pick up Fats Domino's prescriptions after practice and Skyler Green reverting to his long-forgotten Tetris skills, figuring out how to fit 20 displaced loved ones in a two-bedroom college apartment — just a couple of Katrina-related anecdotes.

"Every week there's been a change," Miles said. "Every week has been a little awkward. The meeting times on certain days are different for the fact the game was canceled or the game was postponed or it's moved forward Ö The fatigue through the week — you enjoy the fact that you taper down at the end of the week. The opportunity to taper down last week came very quickly and came on the heels of a pretty exhausting Monday.

"I think everybody is looking to get beyond that unusual regiment."

Miles has experience in dealing with these rare scheduling potholes in his 25 years in coaching, although obviously nothing that prepared him for his inaugural September in Baton Rouge. Like every other Division I-A school, Oklahoma State had its weekend game following the 9/11 attacks postponed and, in 1991, when serving as an assistant coach at Michigan, the Minnesota Twins advanced to the World Series. The unexpected postseason home game created a conflict with the Metrodome's Saturday schedule causing the Wolverines-Golden Gophers game to be moved to Friday night.

"Your body responds to certain things," offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "Our bodies will be on a rhythm of playing games every Saturday, getting prepared to feel well for that Saturday and mentally being prepared for that Saturday. It'll be something that week-by-week gets more important."

Reverting to the six-days-till-Saturday norm not only allows the Tigers coaching staff to control the physical intensity knob, turning it up early and down later as kickoff approaches, but also permits players to let their emotions rise steadily. Against Tennessee, LSU went through essentially two Wednesday practices — normally one of the tougher days — and had to sit and watch another college football Saturday pass on their televisions.

"Everyone got drained," Kyle Williams said. "There were so many things that came into play with the Tennessee game with emotions and being hot and getting excited. You'd be surprised how tired you can get just because you're excited Ö I felt as tired after the first quarter — now the first quarter was long — than I have in a while. Didn't feel like I caught my breath until halftime."

Barring unforeseeable circumstances, LSU has just one more familiar hiccup remaining — a common Friday afternoon finale against Arkansas on Nov. 25. Until then, the Tigers are booked for the next seven Saturdays.

"Our guys understood the very unusual nature of the schedule — what's happened — and how we were, like others, asked to adjust," Miles said. "And those adjustments are not necessarily friendly to the legs, or friendly to the schedule, or friendly to preparation or friendly to have an edge and take it into the game."

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## COLLEGES

**XAVIER PLAYER CLEARED TO PLAY:** The NCAA has approved Cincinnati's request to allow Division I transfer Ronald Allen to play this basketball season rather than sit out the academic year, the university said Friday. Allen, a 6-foot-9 junior, attended Xavier, but enrolled at Cincinnati at the beginning of the fall quarter after Hurricane Katrina forced the evacuation of New Orleans. Allen was a backup center last season, averaging 4.9 points and 2.4 rebounds in 19 games. Xavier released Allen from his scholarship. He will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

**UNO ATHLETICS GETS COOKING:** Louisiana-Lafayette will serve as the opening venue for the UNO's "Get New Orleans Cookin' Again" fundraiser. The event will be held prior to the Cajuns' game against Florida Atlantic on Thursday, and will feature representatives from UNO athletics serving jambalaya during pregame tailgating to help support the Privateer Hurricane Relief Fund. Game time is 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN Plus in markets around the Southeast. The campaign will raise money for the UNO student-athletes and revitalize a New Orleans business, which were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Paul Preau, owner of Ad Gas Outdoor Cooking Products of New Orleans, will serve as the head chef of the campaign. For information, please call John Barranco at (225) 261-7919 or e-mail him at jbarranc@uno.edu.

**VICK APOLOGIZES FOR GESTURE:** Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick apologized for making an obscene gesture to fans during Tech's 31-17 win Saturday at West Virginia. Early in the third quarter, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was caught on camera quickly extending his middle finger toward the stands after he was run out of bounds.

"I apologize for letting my emotions get the best of me Saturday," Vick said in a statement issued Sunday by Virginia Tech. "What I did was wrong and I am sorry. My goal is to be a leader of this team and do things the right way." Vick said he would have no further comment. "In the heat of the moment, he made a mistake," said Billy Hite, an associate head coach for the Hokies. "Marcus knows he can't react like that."



AP PHOTO

Tennessee quarterback Rick Clausen hurt his Achilles' tendon in the Volunteers 27-10 victory Saturday against Mississippi. But Clausen, who wore a walking boot Monday, is expected to play this week against Georgia.

**CLAUSEN EXPECTED TO START:** Tennessee quarterback Rick Clausen wore a walking boot to protect his left Achilles' tendon, but expects to play against Georgia. Clausen was elevated to starter after leading the No. 8 Volunteers in a second-half comeback at LSU a week ago. He played the entire way in Tennessee's 27-10 win over Mississippi this past Saturday. Clausen said his Achilles' tendinitis developed last year, and it flared against LSU. Coach Phillip Fulmer said Clausen was going to be fine. Tennessee (3-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) hosts fifth-ranked Georgia (4-0, 2-0) on Saturday in a key East Division game.

"I'm going to get a lot of treatment this week, as many times as possible, to get the soreness out," Clausen said. Clausen dislocated two fingers on his right (nonthrowing) hand this season.

## TENNIS

**THREE AMERICANS ADVANCE:** Jan-Michael Gambill defeated Peter Wessels 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 to lead three American men into the second round of the Japan Open in Tokyo. Gambill was joined by Eric Taino and Kevin Kim. Taino defeated Tasuku Iwami 7-6 (9), 6-4, and Kim downed Denis Gremelmayr 6-2, 7-6 (3). The 16 seeded men received byes into the second round. Among the women, seventh-seeded Shinobu Asagoe defeated Maria Vento-Kabchi 6-3, 6-3. In other women's matches, Saori Obata defeated Martina Sucha 6-1, 6-0; Henrieta Nagyova topped Tathiana Garbin 6-7 (7), 6-1, 6-2; and Rika Fujiwara ousted Sybille Bammer in a walkover. Nicolas Lapentti defeated Takahiro Ittogi 6-0, 6-1.

**DAVYDENKO IN ROUND 2:** Top-seeded Nikolay Davydenko beat Ricardo Mello 6-3, 6-1 and third-seeded Ivan Ljubicic downed Jose Acasuso 7-6 (2), 6-3 in the first round of the Open de Moselle.

Also, fifth-seeded Robin Soderling beat Tomas Zib 7-6 (5), 6-4 and No. 4 Dominik Hrbaty beat Thierry Ascione 6-3, 6-4. In an upset, Agustin Calleri ousted eighth-seeded Nicolas Massu 7-5, 7-5. Davydenko, a French Open semifinalist this year, is chasing his second ATP title of 2005 after winning at St. Poelten, Austria, in May. Ljubicic, who is yet to win an ATP title, is 38-18. He has lost four finals - three to Roger Federer at Doha, Rotterdam and Dubai, and to Joachim Johansson at Marseille.

**CLIJSTERS POISED TO REGAIN RANKING:** Daniela Hantuchova beat Meghann Shaughnessy 6-4, 6-0 at the Porsche Grand Prix in Filderstadt, Germany, where Kim Clijsters is in position to regain the No. 1 ranking. Clijsters, ranked No. 2, and top-seeded Lindsay Davenport will close within a few points of Maria Sharapova's top ranking with a strong showing. Sharapova is injured and pulled out of the indoor tournament, which features four of the world's top five players. Hantuchova, who reached the Filderstadt final in 2002 and was ranked fifth in 2003, has broken out of a slump and is back to No. 20. The WTA said Clijsters most likely will pass Sharapova if she beats fourth-ranked Amelie Mauresmo and eighth-ranked Elena Dementieva on the way to reaching the final. Clijsters, the tour's hottest player, won the U.S. Open and is 26-1 since a fourth-round loss to Davenport at Wimbledon.

The top ranking has changed hands six times at the event, which traditionally boasts one of the tour's strongest fields.

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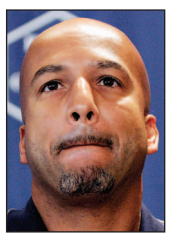
# N.O. fires 3,000 city workers

## *And that could be just the start, Nagin says*

**By James Varney and Frank Donze**
Staff writers

In a frank acknowledgement of New Orleans' bleak economic condition, Mayor Ray Nagin dispensed pink slips to half the city's work force Tuesday and conceded that additional layoffs could loom.

The firing of 3,000 workers, some of whom almost certainly lost their homes to Katrina, comes as the city's $13 million monthly sales tax revenue has shrunk to zero. Intense negotiations for loans from state and federal agencies have proved fruitless so far, and a $50 million line of credit from private lenders remains sketchy, Nagin said.



**"We are just not able to put together the financing necessary to maintain staffing at City Hall at its current level. We have no revenue stream, and the prospect of getting revenue streams is pretty dicey."**
MAYOR RAY NAGIN

The bad news was slightly mitigated with an upbeat assessment from Nagin about the improving quality of city water. Nagin said he hopes that within a week or so, possibly as early as this weekend, east bank tap water will be certified as potable. West Bank water already is.

Tuesday's news conference was dominated, however, by questions about the layoffs.

"We are just not able to put together the financing necessary to maintain staffing at City Hall at its current level," Nagin said. "We have no revenue stream, and the prospect of getting revenue streams is pretty dicey. I think we can limp along for another month or two, but beyond two months we'll have to see."

Nagin said he will then determine if "we'll have to make another tough call."

He said his administration hopes to nail down the $50 million line of credit in the next 30 days.

The mayor estimated the cutbacks would save the city $5 million to $8 million a month, although he warned, "We will probably have to do some more belt-tightening."

Workers deemed essential, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel, will not be affected. It was unclear how the layoffs will impact the mayor's own staff, and Nagin sidestepped a question about

*See* **CITY,** *A-9*

# More schools may open

## *Picard, Nagin not counting it out*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

State Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard and Mayor Ray Nagin said they would not be opposed to allowing some public schools on the east bank of New Orleans to open this academic year, contradicting remarks by the Orleans Parish School Board president.

Although the school district is tentatively planning a November opening of as many as eight schools on the city's West Bank, where many city

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *A-11*

## REACHING OUT



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Former President Clinton came to the New Orleans area on Tuesday, bringing his trademark warmth and cheer. He consoled Hurricane Katrina evacuees, thanked relief workers for their dedication and welcomed suggestions from all he encountered about how to disperse $100 million collected through the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. **See story, Metro**

**DAY 37** Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **972**

State official wants stricter role in reviewing evacuation plans of nursing homes, A-2

Contractors may be peddling undrinkable water in New Orleans, A-10

St. Bernard residents trek to St. Tammany for their mail, Metro

# Fast-food restaurants hungry for workers

## *One store offering $6,000 'signing bonus'*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

A cutthroat, post-hurricane labor market has sent wages skyrocketing in the fast-food industry and prompted some of the New Orleans region's biggest chains to offer workers thousands of dollars in signing bonuses, perks typically associated with higher-paying white-collar jobs.

Burger King recruiters have been visiting federal disaster recovery centers and newly reopened high schools offering a $6,000 bonus, paid in monthly installments, to anyone promising to work full-time at a metropolitan New Orleans restaurant for at least a year. New part-time workers are being offered $3,000 bonuses.

Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits has increased hourly pay for cashiers and cooks from just over the federal minimum wage of $5.15 to more than $8, a jump of more than 50 percent.

"I've been in the (fast-food restaurant) business for 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this," said Glen Helton, president and chief operating officer of Strategic Restaurant Acquisition Corp., the California company that owns the 54 Burger King stores in metropolitan New Orleans.

Strategic Restaurant has reopened about half of its stores and is ready to open 13 more, but it can't until it hires about 500 more workers, Helton said.

Almost overnight, Hurricane Katrina transformed the bottom reaches of the region's economy from an employer's market where low-wage earners had few options for advancement to a worker's market where job opportunities,

*See* **PAY,** *A-9*



CHRIS ROSE

# Flying over a blue tarp town

The first time I came back to New Orleans after Katrina, I'll admit that the whole specter shook me to my core. After spending eight days reporting in the city, my hands were shaking and I had lost about 10 pounds. It was time to take a break.

As I drove to Baton Rouge to catch a flight, I pulled off at the first interstate exchange with any life to it – LaPlace – and went to the McDonald's and got a Big Mac, a fish sandwich, large fries and a large coke.

I inhaled the stuff as I drove and, two exits later – Sorrento or somewhere like

*See* **ROSE,** *A-9*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Postal employees Alice Mitchell, left, and Judi Brining add numbers Tuesday to post office boxes installed in a trailer in downtown New Orleans. Because so many letter carriers were displaced, mail delivery on the east bank of Orleans Parish has yet to resume.

# For many in New Orleans, you've finally got mail

## *Delivery, however, is another story*

**Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

As power, water, telephone and Internet service slowly return to the east bank of New Orleans, so, too, does the mail.

Residents and business owners from Uptown, the Carrollton area and portions of the Central Business District and the French Quarter may begin collecting their old mail today at two conventional post offices and a temporary trailer city near New Orleans Arena, the U.S. Postal Service said Tuesday. It hopes to make similar arrangements for the rest of the east bank by next week.

Even without full street delivery, the pickup arrangements represent a breakthrough for the Postal Service after five weeks of stockpiling mail for most of the New Orleans region first in Houston and Dallas, then in Baton Rouge, then back in Houston. During that time, first Katrina then Rita blasted the Louisiana coast, largely emptying many parishes.

"The two hurricanes put us behind the eight ball," New Orleans postmaster Alan Cousin said.

*See* **MAIL,** *A-9*

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**SUN AND CLOUDS** HIGH 86 | LOW 75

# Strict rules cordon off Medicaid for displaced

## *Effort to relax guidelines stalls*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — More than half of the hurricane evacuees in Louisiana who have sought help from Medicaid to cover their medical bills have been rejected because of strict eligibility guidelines that keep out even some people far below the poverty line.

The more than 6,000 people who have been turned down for coverage since the Aug. 29 storm have been caught in a political dispute about whether eligibility should be relaxed in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and if so, who should pay for the added health-care costs: the state or federal government?

"At this point, we have no choice but to deny those people," Ruth Kennedy, Louisiana's Medicaid director, said Tuesday.

Kennedy said the state health department is holding on to the rejected applications in case a congressional logjam is broken that frees up money to pay the extra cost.

Louisiana's Medicaid eligibility rules, which are established by the state Legislature, are among the strictest in the country. People between the ages of 19 and 64 without dependent children can qualify only if they have incomes of less than 13 percent of the federal poverty line, or $174 per month. That hard-to-meet standard has contributed to a high rejection rate since Katrina hit the state, forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes throughout southeastern Louisiana.

Kennedy said 55 percent of the applicants have been rejected, although she cautioned that the number is a conservation estimate. It only counts people who were in shelters or applied for the program in state Medicaid offices. It doesn't include people who might have been living with family and friends when they applied.

Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., have been pushing legislation to loosen Medicaid eligibility rules for hurricane victims, with the federal government footing the bill. Their legislation would cover health expenses for five months at a cost of about $9 billion.

But the effort has bogged down in the Senate where fiscal conservatives have balked at the hefty price tag. It also is opposed by the Bush administration, which said it is overly broad — possibly enrolling people unaffected by the storm — and unnecessary because states, including Louisiana, can get federal permission through Medicaid waivers to loosen eligibility rules. Eight states, including Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama, have already gotten waivers.

The Bush administration has described the Medicaid waiver process as a quick fix for people in need.

"By doing the waiver, it is something we can do now to make those funds available now," Christina Pearson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

But Kennedy and others say the federal waiver would only ease eligibility rules marginally, while leaving Louisiana with a sizeable medical bill it can't afford to pay.

Under the waiver, people with children and with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty line -- $19,350 for a family of four -- would be covered by Medicaid for five months. Those with disabilities would be excluded unless their condition is so severe it has kept them out of work for a year or more, she said.

The waivers also shift the cost to the states. If Louisiana got a waiver to ease its eligibility guidelines, it would be on the hook for 30 percent of the extra medical costs at a time when state revenue is shrinking because of the storm.

"It will be an issue, even to continue the Medicaid program at pre-Katrina enrollment levels," Kennedy said.

Evacuation shelters have various levels of medical care. A survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation of 680 evacuees, most from Louisiana, at shelters in Houston in mid-September found a mixed record. Twenty-nine percent said they were having trouble getting the prescription drugs they needed. Twenty-one percent said they weren't getting treatment for injuries they suffered in the hurricane.

A more substantial problem will come when they leave shelters and find themselves in need of medical care. Many low-income people in New Orleans used to get treatment at the publicly supported Charity Hospital, but it was flooded and remains closed. Without the public hospital, many hurricane victims have no other means of paying their medical bills.

When the Kaiser Foundation survey asked evacuees whether they had health insurance, 52 percent said no.

# Hospitals, homes see more storm fallout

## *State urged to review emergency plans*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The state should take a more active role in reviewing the emergency evacuation plans of nursing homes and hospitals in hurricane-prone areas, Attorney General Charles Foti said this week.

Foti's comments came as his agency continues its criminal investigation of 13 nursing homes and six hospitals where patients died after their owners did not evacuate in advance of Hurricane Katrina. At least 100 patients died during and after the storm in facilities that did not evacuate, though it's unclear how many of those deaths are directly tied to the storm and its aftermath.

Although health care facilities are required to have an emergency evacuation plan on file, outlining where patients will be taken in case of an emergency and how they will get there, the state does not keep a copy of those plans. The only copies are maintained by local emergency operations centers.

"We want a copy to be kept" with the state, Foti told a joint House-Senate committee looking into post-hurricane recovery efforts. He said health care facilities also should be required to keep backup copies of patients' records so they will be available to doctors and nurses after patients are moved.

The Legislature could take up the matter this month, when it's expected to meet for the first of two special sessions to deal with

*See* **HOMES,** *page A-3*

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Outgoing mail locations clarified:** Contrary to the item in Tuesday's "After the Storm" section, outgoing mail from the general public is not being accepted in the temporary post office in the parking lot between Jax Brewery and Canal Place. That facility will accept mail between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. exclusively from relief and rescue workers and law enforcement personnel. The general public can drop off mail at 207 N. Peters St., near the Custom House, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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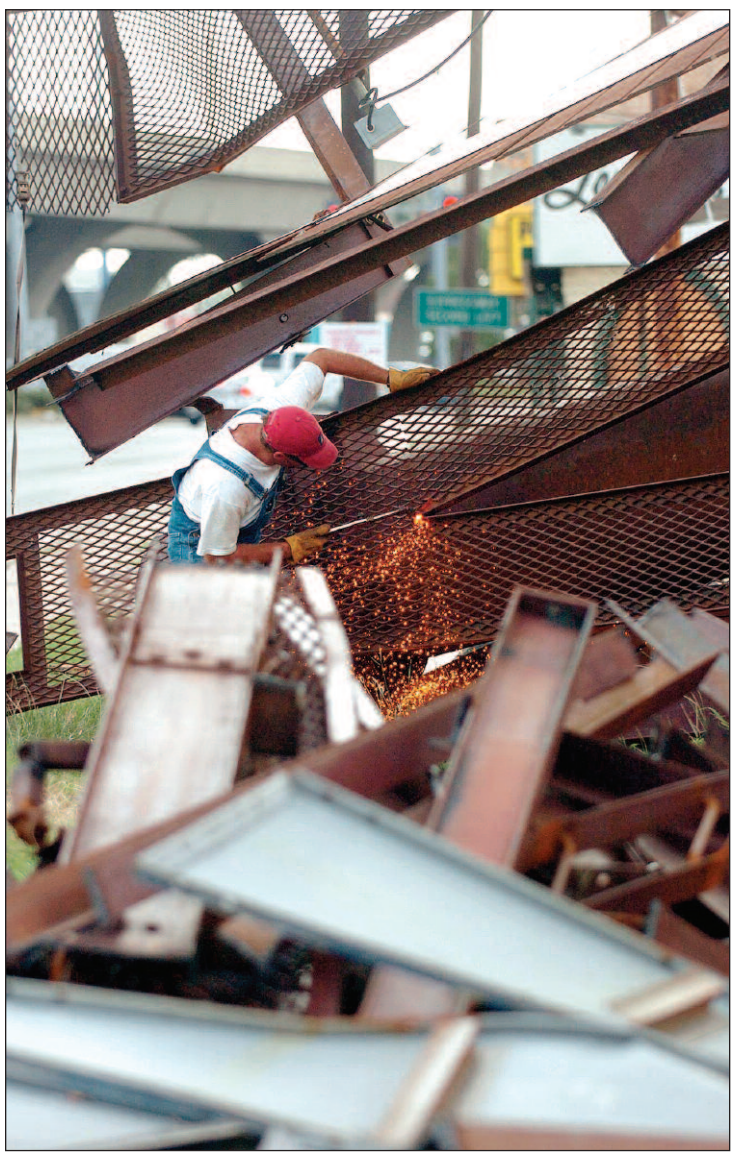
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# BURNING MAN



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

A worker uses a torch Tuesday to reduce a fallen billboard into a pile of metal on the West Bank Expressway in Gretna. Many billboards in the metropolitan New Orleans area crumpled when Hurricane Katrina swept through the area.

# Irked landlords can't oust missing tenants

## *All evictions on hold until October 25*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — With thousands of New Orleans-area renters displaced by Hurricane Katrina, frustration is growing among landlords seeking access to their properties and trying to track down tenants who've been missing since the storm.

"The No. 1 complaint I have (since Katrina) is from the landlords in my area," said Rep. Henry "Tank" Powell, R-Ponchatoula, who said the owners are frustrated by their inability to survey their damaged properties until they reach a resolution with their tenants.

Their efforts are complicated by a pair of executive orders from Gov. Kathleen Blanco suspending all legal deadlines until Oct. 25, meaning that all legal evictions are on hold until then.

But Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball, testifying Tuesday before the Legislative Audit Advisory Committee, said there have been just as many complaints from tenants who have returned to their rented homes after the storm to find their belongings on the street.

Kimball said it will be up to the Legislature, not the courts, to make any changes to existing law. "I think that's going to be your baby," Kimball said.

Constable Lambert Boissiere of the First City Court in New Orleans said six landlords filed eviction procedures when the court reopened Monday at its temporary headquarters in Gonzales. But none of them can be carried out until Blanco's executive order is lifted, he said.

Even when the order expires, Katrina will continue to pose unusual hurdles. Under normal circumstances, eviction notices are posted on a tenant's front door. But that doesn't provide enough due process to tenants who evacuated during the storm.

Boissiere said he wants to set up a temporary system in which the constable's office would catalogue and store furniture and other possessions of evicted tenants, while working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to find them.

But setting up such a system will require federal financing, as well as an agreement with FEMA to help the constable's office track down missing tenants.

"Any absence of that, you're going to have chaos," Boissiere said.

# Coalition promotes hiring of La. workers

## *Union leader says electricians treated 'like 2nd-class citizens'*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

The Louisiana AFL-CIO, ACORN of Louisiana, the NAACP of Baton Rouge and the Service Employees International Union announced Tuesday they are joining forces to form New Orleans Opportunities for Action and Hope to "ensure that as Louisiana rebuilds, the poverty that preceded Katrina is not recreated."

The organization was created to encourage employers and others to hire workers from Louisiana, especially from areas battered by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, organization officials said.

During the announcement Tuesday, some union members decried the treatment they've already received. Robert "Tiger" Hammond, business manger for Local No. 130 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said 75 electricians from New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles were hired a few weeks ago at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse to wire the "tent city" there.

Hammond said they were recently let go in favor of workers from Texas.

"After the job was about 60 percent complete, BE&K of Birmingham, Ala., told us the company no longer needed our services," Hammond said. The company replaced the Louisiana workers with workers with less pay and no benefits, he said.

Bill Rigby, a vice president for BE&K, said the union workers "did good work," but were let go because their services were no longer needed.

Rigby said his company brought in "some of our own electricians" from Texas and elsewhere to "augment" the union work force. As a consequence, the "backlog of work fell off, and we no longer needed their help," he said.

But Hammond and others viewed it differently.

"Local people are being treated like second-class citizens in our own communities," said Hammond, who has sent a letter of complaint to the corporate offices of BE&K.

W. Roland Goetzman, a Baton Rouge resident formerly of New Orleans, was one of the 75 union workers.

"I'm a longtime resident of Louisiana," Goetzman said. "I'm a veteran. I am P.O.'d about them bringing these people from out of state that are not going to pay any taxes and they're going to take the money out of the state."

State Reps. Juan A LaFonta and Austin J. Badon Jr., both Democrats from New Orleans, attended the NOAH gathering to show their support for the cause.

In all, the coalition represents more than 151,000 people fighting for "priority job placement and training" for Louisiana residents, good wages, and immediate and long-term affordable housing.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Susan Finch contributed to this report.

# Nursing homes, hospitals investigated

**HOMES,** *from A-2*

issues related to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Kris Wartelle, Foti's spokeswoman, declined to provide a list of the facilities being investigated. She confirmed that investigators from the agency's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit are looking into the deaths of at least 22 people at Lafon Nursing Home of the Holy Family in eastern New Orleans.

Additionally, Tenet Healthcare Corp. issued a statement on its Web site saying prosecutors have seized "records and other material" from Memorial Medical Center in connection with 34 patients who died there before they could be evacuated. The company said it thinks 24 of those patients died in a separately owned nursing home on the hospital's campus operated by LifeCare Holdings.

The most high-profile case involves St. Rita's Nursing Home in Violet, whose owners have been charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide in connection with residents who died in Katrina's aftermath. Authorities in St. Bernard Parish have said the home's owners turned away two offers to have buses evacuate the residents before the storm.

According to published reports, only about one-third of the 60 nursing homes in the area hardest-hit by Katrina evacuated before the storm. Wartelle said it's not clear when the investigations will wrap up or whether more charges will be filed.

Former Health and Hospitals Secretary David Hood said the health agency tried to improve its oversight of evacuation plans after several residents died while being evacuated from nursing homes in advance of Hurricane George in 1998. Among the changes he instituted was requiring state regulators to review the plans during their regular inspection surveys, Hood said.

"To what extent it's been carried out since then I really couldn't tell you," Hood said "Obviously there's some problems with it."

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# Building code issue moved to back burner

## *Safety, architect groups raise alarm over delay*

By Mark Schleifstein
Staff writer

In the wake of destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Legislature may consider adopting a mandatory statewide building code for the first time, but it won't be until after the first of the year, Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley said Tuesday.

Wooley said officials with Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration and legislators confirmed Tuesday morning that legislation establishing a statewide building code tailored to address building failures caused by wind and flooding from Katrina will not be included in the call for an October special session.

Instead, it might be considered during a January special session, he said.

The announcement was made at a meeting of the Uniform Building Code Task Force, a group set up by the Legislature last year to address concerns that the lack of residential and commercial building codes in many coastal Louisiana parishes was a major factor in the decisions by insurance companies not to do business in the state.

The decision to wait until the first of the year to address the problem is bad news, Louisiana American Institute of Architects President Trula Remson said.

"It seems to me that's an urgent issue," Remson said. "Building codes come into play during those times when you are building, and we are building now."

Jeff Burton, building code manager with the Florida-based Institute of Business and Home Safety, a national advocate for more stringent building codes, agreed.

"I think the concern is that there's rebuilding that's going on," he said. "Our mission being to protect lives and property through more resistant construction, it's our concern that this construction may be going on at the same low level of protection as before."

Burton presented a four-point plan to the task force that would help the state strengthen local building codes and their enforcement.

**"It seems to me that's an urgent issue. Building codes come into play during those times when you are building, and we are building now."**

TRULA REMSON
Louisiana American Institute of Architects president

The group recommends adoption of the 2003 versions of the International Building Code and International Residential Code. Louisiana parishes are allowed to adopt the 2000 version of the International Building Code, which regulates construction of commercial buildings, but there's no requirement that parishes adopt the code and there's also no state-approved residential construction code. State law also prohibits parishes from adopting codes that are more stringent than the state-approved code, so they could not adopt the 2003 version.

Burton also asked the group to consider adopting a new international existing building code when it is completed, possibly later this year. That code would set standards for retrofitting existing homes and commercial buildings to withstand higher winds and water damage.

The safety group's plan also would include training and certification requirements for building code officials and building inspectors, training for builders to familiarize them with the new code and strengthened wind and flooding standards, and similar training for architects and engineers.

The entire process would take about five years to implement, he said.

Burton's group was one of the key organizations participating in the rewriting of Florida's building code after Hurricane Andrew destroyed south Dade County in 1992.

Andrew's winds exposed problems with the Miami-Dade County enforcement of what were then the nation's most stringent building codes, as side-by-side subdivisions experienced wildly different levels of destruction.

Marc Levitan, director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, also presented a study indicating that much of the wind damage believed caused by Katrina could have been avoided by adoption of stronger residential building codes.

Using a wind damage model based on National Hurricane Center estimates of Katrina's winds at landfall, Levitan estimated the number of residential structures with wind and wind-driven rain damage from Katrina to be near 273,000, or 16 percent of the total building stock in Louisiana.

Levitan recommended that any statewide building code require improvements in protection of building openings and the attachment of roof sheathing and that it include a requirement to use hurricane straps or clips to attach roofs and hold down walls, and secondary moisture protection, such as taping joints between roofing sections, to reduce mold and mildew problems in the aftermath of storms.

Wooley and Levitan said they've already been approached by insurance executives concerned about the lack of more stringent building codes in the state.

"In the meeting today, the vice president of a major national insurance firm said he flew over from Florida to see what was going to be done," Levitan said. "He told me, 'We're evaluating if we're going to sell coverage in the Louisiana market, and one of the key things we're looking at is if Louisiana adopts a statewide building code.' "

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Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@aol.com.

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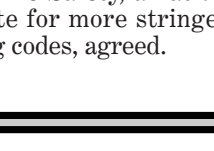
**Housing and Human Needs Committee of the New Orleans City Council**

Thursday October 6, 2005 • 11:00 A.M.
City Council Chambers
New Orleans, LA

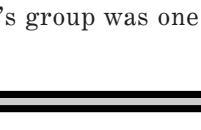
**AGENDA**

1. Report of a representative of Fluor, Inc., on the housing recovery plan.
2. Report of the Director of Sanitation
3. Report of the Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
4. Report of the Director of the Department of Safety & Permits
5. Report of a representative from the American Red Cross
6. Report of the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO)
7. Other matters.

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# Committee wants housing answers

*Power, water are big issues for N.O.*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Officials must focus on providing housing and services such as water and electricity to get more people to move back to New Orleans and to remain there, a legislative committee dealing with the city's recovery said Tuesday.

The Joint House-Senate Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long Term Revitalization's Subcommittee on New Orleans said it wants answers from power companies, the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board and other entities on when all of the city's neighborhoods will have clean water and electricity.

"The thing I hear more than anything is housing," said Sen. Diana Bajoie, D-New Orleans, who co-chairs the panel along with Rep. Charmaine Marchand, D-New Orleans. "You have the issue of jobs and getting contracts to clean the city up and rebuild it, and these are all pieces of the pie. But where are people going to live?"

The committee took no action, but said it wants to hear from city officials and power company executives when it meets Oct. 18 in New Orleans.

Bajoie said she also would like to bring in the leaders of contracting companies who have been hired by the federal government to help clean up New Orleans to find out why more local companies and individuals have not been hired for the rebuilding effort.

"You all need to look at safety issues" regarding crime in New Orleans, said Rep. Charles Lancaster, R-Metairie. He said he knows of someone who returned to New Orleans to begin cleaning up a home near Tulane University only to have it looted, despite a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Bajoie said there also is a problem of looting in her Central City neighborhood and wants the New Orleans Police Department to tell the panel what it is doing to curb those incidents.

Bajoie said the committee will make recommendations for legislation to be considered at a special session expected to be held later this month, as well come up with as longer-term solutions to be addressed at its general session in March.

Rep. Alex Heaton, D-New Orleans, said the people of New Orleans also need to hear from Entergy officials about restoration of power.

He said he represents a district that covers both sides of South Carrollton Avenue. Constituents on one side of the thoroughfare cannot understand why homes across the street from them have power and they do not.

Rep. Karen Carter, D-New Orleans, said that although tourism is vital to the city's recovery, hotel and restaurant operators may not get workers back because of their relatively low pay.

She said she would like to hear from the hospitality industry why pay scales are not more competitive.

She said former residents who were making $7 an hour and are now "in Houston with a child in a school that is arguably better (than one in New Orleans), with a mass transit system that is arguably better, why should they come back?"

Rep. Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans, said the panel also should look into why more New Orleans workers or companies are not being hired for debris removal and reconstruction work. "We must have local companies involved in the rebuilding," he said.

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## POSTAL SERVICE

▶ Limited postal service for residents of Algiers and Plaquemines Parish could begin by the end of the week.
▶ For harder-hit areas of Plaquemines Parish, the postal service will dispatch a mobile unit later this week to Belle Chasse where residents can pick up their mail.
▶ In New Orleans, outgoing mail can be brought to 207 N. Peters St., near the Customs House, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
▶ Services already are up and running in some portions of the New Orleans area. Where possible, post offices have reopened, and partial delivery began last week for zip codes beginning with 700, 703, 704, 705, 706 and 707.

## PARISH BY PARISH

**ORLEANS**
▶ Residents and business owners are allowed to re-enter the city in these zip codes: 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131. Beginning Wednesday, residents and business owners in the rest of New Orleans, with the exception of the Lower 9th Ward, can return.
▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
▶ Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at Touro Infirmary, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred DMAT.
**JEFFERSON**
▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m
**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ 911 phone system is back on line.
▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
▶ A curfew is in effect in St. Tammany Parish from midnight to 5 a.m.
**ST. BERNARD PARISH**
▶ Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
▶ As of today, all areas of the parish were to have been reopened. Residents will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents. A dusk-to-dawn curfew also is in effect.
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
▶ Some parts of parish still without power.
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ Utilities are working.
**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ Utilities are working.

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS PARISH**
▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year.
▶ Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country.
▶ De La Salle High School will resume classes Oct . 18 at St. Rita School of Harahan at 194 Ravan Ave., near Jefferson Highway. Classes will be from 4 to 7 p.m. until civil authorities approve moving back to 5300 St. Charles Ave. Registration will take place through Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.dlsneworleans.com, call (504) 231-6962, or e-mail kirb01@aol.com
**JEFFFERSON PARISH**
▶ Public schools reopen except Terrytown, Woodmere, Lincoln and Alexander elementary schools, and John Martyn School.
▶ Alexander students should report at 9 a.m. to Greenlawn Elementary, 1500 38th St., Kenner.
▶ Lincoln students should report at 9 a.m. to Butler Elementary School, 300 Fourth St., in Westwego.
▶ Terrytown students should arrive at 8:40 a.m. at Boudreaux Elementary, 950 Behrman Highway in Terrytown.
▶ Woodmere students should report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elementary, 2500 Bent Tree Lane, Marrero.
▶ Martyn students should report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Drive, Jefferson.
▶ Students at Lafitte Elementary and Grand Isle School should call the school to see if classes will resume Monday.
▶ Ecole Classique open. Call (225) 819-2846 to register.
▶ Concordia Lutheran in Marrero open.
▶ John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge open.
**ST. TAMMANY PARISH**
▶ Public: Open.
▶ Catholic: Several schools already open.
**ST. BERNARD**
▶ Public: Probably closed for the year.
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**
▶ The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
▶ Public: Open.
▶ Catholic: Open.
**ST. CHARLES PARISH**
▶ Public: Open except for those who enrolled after the storm. Those students expected to begin this week.
▶ Catholic: Open.

## FOR HELP

▶ American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
▶ Red Cross Relief Sites opened in Baton Rouge, Mandeville, Kenner:
**FEMA**
▶ 15 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation. They are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice. For more information, log onto www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362.
▶ Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
▶ Two crisis hotlines are open: 1 (800) 273-TALK and 1 (800) 749-COPE.

# Airport prepares for crash landing

## *Cash may dry up in about 60 days*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport will run out of cash in about 60 days, and without help it will plan to default on its loans, an airport official told members of Congress on Tuesday.

The airport's $70 million annual operating budget depends largely on landing fees and rent from airlines and concessions revenue from passengers – both depressed since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29.

"We're down to about 10 percent of our normal revenue," Mario Rodriguez, the airport's deputy director for planning and development, told members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, who met at the airport.

**"What I'm seeing here is folks from other areas that are not impacted saying, 'I'm a host city and I'm inconvenienced. Now here is my 10-year wish list that I've been working on for the last 15 months and I want all this stuff taken care of.' And I think that's wrong."**
RAY NAGIN, New Orleans mayor

Rodriguez said the airport needs about $90 million in the next 28 months to remain solvent, in addition to about $50 million to repair damages from Hurricane Katrina.

Members of the congressional committee offered no response to his statement. In September, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta delivered $15.2 million to make initial repairs to the airport.

Though Armstrong re-opened to commercial passenger traffic two weeks ago, only 24 flights are scheduled to arrive today, compared with an average of 174 flights before Katrina.

Air traffic is slowly growing, but much depends on the comeback of New Orleans' tourism and convention industry. Rodriguez said he expects traffic to rise to 30 percent to 40 percent of normal in 2006 and to 70 percent in 2007.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin also spoke at the meeting and urged Congress to apportion Katrina financial aid based on the amount of damage suffered by each community, using factors such as the number of people displaced or the number of buildings flooded.

"Make sure it goes to the areas most affected," he said. "What I'm seeing here is folks from other areas that are not impacted saying, 'I'm a host city and I'm inconvenienced. Now here is my 10-year wish list that I've been working on for the last 15 months and I want all this stuff taken care of.'

"And I think that's wrong."

Nagin said his wish list includes tax incentives to reward people who rebuild businesses in New Orleans and hire local residents, as well as a high-speed light rail system linking New Orleans and Baton Rouge that could be used for evacuation purposes.

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Matt Scallan may be reached mscallan326@cox.net or (504) 467-1746.

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# Blanco names Norman Francis chair of new foundation

## *Group to coordinate storm relief efforts*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Xavier University President Norman Francis on Tuesday was named chairman of a foundation designed to coordinate relief efforts for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco also announced Emmett Carson as interim chief executive officer of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation as well as 10 members of the foundation's board .

"The task of assisting with family restoration is a monumental one and will require the combined knowledge of and reach of this special group of leaders who have proven knowledge of Louisiana and a history of community service," Blanco said.

Blanco spokesman Roderick Hawkins said the 10 members of the foundation board range form members of the clergy to accountants.

He called the appointments "a first round of board selections" but did not say how many more members will be named to the board or when they all would be in place.

In naming Francis, Blanco called the university president "a leader with impeccable credentials who represents interests broad and wide."

She said that accepting the new task "when there are so many demands on his time and energy speaks volumes about Dr. Francis' character and concern for his fellow Louisianians."

Carson, president and chief executive officer of the National Council of Foundation, has agreed to serve as a loaned executive and interim chief executive officer of the new Louisiana foundation.

Blanco's first round of board appointees include: Brenda Birkett, dean of the business school at McNeese State University in Lake Charles; Renae Conley, chief executive officer of Entergy Corp. in New Orleans; the Rev. Hampton Davis, an executive at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; Berwick Duval II, a Houma lawyer; Linetta Gilbert, program officer of the Ford Foundation of New York City; Bill Henning, chief executive officer of Cameron Communications in Sulphur; Sibal Holt of Baton Rouge, retired president of the state AFL-CIO; the Rev. Fred Luter, senior pastor of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans; R. King Milling, president of Whitney Bank; and John Redd III, an accountant from Lafayette.

The state foundation was formed to attract funds to a central disaster relief effort that works with non-profit groups to help those in need.

Donations to the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation can be made by calling 1-877-HELPLA1 or 1-877-435-7521 and pledging a donation on a credit or debit card. Donations can also be made online at www.louisianahelp.org; and checks may be written to the foundation and mailed to Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, La., 70804-9095.

# Pumps expected to dry Terrebonne

HOUMA (AP) — Portable pumps from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should accelerate the draining of Terrebonne Parish.

Workers have plugged major holes in the parish's levees, and about 20 pumps arrived in Terrebonne over the weekend to speed efforts to pump water from low-lying areas, said Jeff Richie, project engineer with the Corps' New Orleans district.

With the extra pumps, Terrebonne could be relieved of floodwater in days.

As in New Orleans, workers first had to close gaps in the levee systems before draining much of the water.

"Our mission was to get levees to where they were sealed off enough to pump," Richie said.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

**"The reality is this city will not be the same for a while. We're not saying bring New Orleans back today."**

MAYOR RAY NAGIN

# 'Army of workers' tries to restore water

**CITY,** *from A-1*

whether he would accept a pay cut.

"I'm homeless already, so let's just put the dagger all the way in," he joked before adding that he was more inclined to wait until February's elections to see if voters want to hand him "the ultimate pay cut."

### 'It's tough. It's really tough.'

The layoffs were expected but nonetheless flew in the face of Nagin's recent efforts to paint New Orleans as a city slowly regaining its footing. For several days now, the mayor has showcased his "Bring New Orleans Back" panel, the improving security situation, a re-entry timetable, and the scattered restoration of power. Tuesday, however, the economic wallop packed by Katrina was thrown into sharp relief and raised new questions about what kind of city will emerge from the wreckage.

"The reality is this city will not be the same for a while," Nagin said. "We're not saying bring New Orleans back today."

Nagin staffers were unable to provide a breakdown Tuesday of how the layoffs will impact individual city agencies. But Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield said besides the public safety sector, the areas that will largely be spared include the Sewerage & Water Board, health and building inspectors needed to get commerce up and running and sanitation workers who work for a private contractor.

Though the police and fire departments will be spared, even those agencies will see reductions in their administrative staffs, Hatfield said.

Nagin said city workers singled out for layoffs will receive their last paychecks Oct. 14 and Oct. 21, depending on which pay cycle they're in. He asked city employees who have been issued vehicles, cell phones or other equipment to return the property immediately.

As for the prospects of rehiring anyone down the road, Nagin said he thinks the layoffs are "pretty permanent."

Asked if it was hard for him to tell people with low-paying jobs who have lost their homes that they no longer have jobs, Nagin said, "It's tough. It's really tough."

But he said he is buoyed by reports that many relocated city workers are earning higher salaries in their new locations. "Hopefully, they have landed on their feet," he said.

Nagin said the city is not contemplating bankruptcy at this time, adding that the strained city budget could get temporary relief if the Legislature accepts a recommendation by state Treasurer John Kennedy and agrees to assume City Hall's debt service.

### Making some headway

Although water on the east bank remains undrinkable, some neighborhoods are piled high with garbage and debris, and the return of residents is just a trickle, Nagin insisted there are signs everywhere that the landscape is improving.

For example, he predicted there would be a marked increase in the number of crews and trucks removing trash and trees from city streets, announced a more aggressive program to provide temporary shelter for residents, and urged state and federal agencies to join the water board in certifying the water as fit to drink.

He labeled as "schizophrenia" the mixed messages coming from state and federal health officials about the quality of the city's drinking water. Nagin said the water board is testing the water daily at the treatment plant and that "it exceeds standards." But the water is being corrupted as it runs through the city's delivery system, severely damaged in some places. Nagin said an "army of workers" is making significant progress on repairs to water pipes.

Until the water has been cleared to drink, a milestone Nagin hopes to see in about a week, he said he won't be comfortable bringing children back to the city.

On Tuesday, administration officials also identified several areas where temporary housing trailers can be erected for 711 families. Though not all those locations were made public and more are expected to be lined up soon, Nagin said the available locations include Louis Armstrong International Airport, Touro Infirmary, Algiers and a Winn-Dixie parking lot Uptown.

He added that trailers soon will be available to residents who want to park the mobile homes in driveways while their homes are repaired or rebuilt.

Rather than fret about a lack of traffic jams resulting from people returning to the city – a sign that perhaps the repopulation will not be as strong or as quick as he had hoped – Nagin praised the pace. He said it was because things had gone so smoothly, adding that he is expanding his "look and leave" policy to all sections of the city except the still soggy Lower 9th Ward.

# Wages jump at local fast-food outlets

**PAY,** *from A-1*

restaurants are struggling to assemble enough workers to reopen stores in Jefferson Parish and parts of New Orleans that escaped devastating floods.

Many evacuated workers have resettled in other cities or can't return because their homes were ruined.

Strategic Restaurant, which had a pre-storm work force of about 2,700 in the metro area, has lost about 1,271 front-line workers and 65 managers from the local market, Helton said. Many workers who are willing to return to their old jobs aren't able to come home yet, he said.

To make matters worse, competition has exploded for the unskilled and low-skilled workers favored by the fast-food industry. Every employer operating in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is chasing after the same pool of workers, he said.

"Now the job market includes anybody doing relief work at $15 an hour. ... Everyone is looking for general laborers, and they are drawing from our normal work force," Helton said.

The changes promise to put larger amounts of money into the wallets and purses of the region's working poor.

Before the storm, a fast-food restaurant employee could expect to earn just over the federal minimum wage of $5.15 as a part-time worker. That would result in take-home pay of $8,000 to $12,000 a year.




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Like many businesses, the Winn-Dixie supermarket at the Marrero Shopping Center is hiring. Many people who evacuated because of Hurricane Katrina have settled in other cities, driving wages in the New Orleans area sharply higher for unskilled and low-skilled employees.

Now, that same employee can make as much as $8.50 an hour and work a full-time schedule with regular amounts of overtime hours each week. Retention and referral bonuses for bringing in new workers can raise the worker's yearly income above $20,000.

The higher wages should stick even after the initial post-storm hiring frenzy stabilizes, because the local labor pool will likely remain tight for years to come, said Z.R. Pasby, regional director of operations for Popeyes.

Helton agreed. "I think (wages) will level off, but it will never be a minimum-wage market again," he said.

But those wage gains could be eroded if rising pay rates and other factors create inflation in the region and lead to higher costs for food, housing, utilities and other necessities.

So far, Burger King and Popeyes stores have resisted passing on their higher labor costs to customers by raising prices.

"A Whopper cost $2.39 before the storm and $2.39 after the storm," Helton said.

But that could change down the road, especially if fuel prices continue to rise and if higher wages in the area put more disposable income in the pockets of customers, the fast-food managers said.

"Someone has to foot the bill," Pasby said.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com

# Pace of mail service frustrates many

**MAIL,** *from A-1*

The Postal Service said its Uptown Station at 2000 Louisiana Ave. and Carrollton Station at 3400 S. Carrollton Ave. will be open weekdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mail addressed to the 70115 ZIP code will be available at the Uptown Station, and mail addressed to the 70125 area will be at the Carrollton Station, only for pickup. Post office boxes at the stations also will start receiving mail.

Because so many New Orleans letter carriers were displaced by post-Katrina flooding, street delivery on the east bank is out of the question for now, said Anthony Ruda, the Postal Service's Louisiana district manager.

Mail destined for ZIP codes 70112 and 70113 will be distributed weekdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at one of seven trailers set up in the parking lot between New Orleans Arena and the New Orleans Shopping Center parking garage on Girod Street, Cousin said.

By Tuesday, Cousin said, postal workers hope to make available mail at the same site for ZIP codes 70130, 70116 and 70119. All customers with post office boxes at the New Orleans main office, 701 Loyola Ave., may check mail Thursday at special boxes set up in the same trailers.

### Mounds of mail

As more trailers are erected on the site, other New Orleans ZIP codes will be added, postal officials said. The staggered availability is designed to go along with Mayor Ray Nagin's re-entry plan for residents and business owners.

"We wanted to open up as the city opens up," said Cousins, who estimates that more than 6 1/2 million pieces of mail from the past month have been waiting to be delivered to the New Orleans area.

That's nowhere near the amount of mail normally processed in a five-week period by the main post office, which handled mail for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles and St. Tammany parishes, as well for parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, Ruda said. The main office, which took on water in its basement, processed an average of six million to eight million letters per day.

Shortly after the storm, Ruda said, most business stopped sending bulk mail, the advertisements and credit card offers that made up almost 50 percent of the deliveries. Magazines and other periodicals have also been held. And many banks and billing institutions did not send out statements during September, he said.

For now, only first-class letters and packages will be delivered into the New Orleans region.

"A lot of people think there's got to be warehouses and warehouses of mail right now," Ruda said. "That's not the case. There's just not a lot of mail coming in."

### On the way

A good bit of the mail that was waiting to be delivered in September is already arriving in mailboxes.

At least partial street delivery has been returned to Algiers and Jefferson Parish.

Residents of Plaquemines Parish can retrieve mail from a mobile post office at 9419 Louisiana 23 in Belle Chasse. St. Bernard mail is expected to be available at a similar mobile unit in Covington next week, Ruda said.

Though some residents have been happy to see letter carriers back on the streets, others have been grumbling about sluggish delivery and forwarded mail that has yet to arrive despite their completing change-of-address forms weeks ago.

Gail Lassere of Gretna had her mail forwarded to her sister's house in Conroe, Texas, when she and her husband hit the road to flee Katrina. But more than four weeks later, her sister hasn't received a single item for Lassere.

"I'm still looking for my mail," Lassere said while standing in line at the Gretna post office on Gretna Boulevard. "I don't know if I'll find some here or if it's just in Never Never Land."

Ruda said all change-of-address forms are being processed and that the mail has been forwarded. But postal officials said the storms and the unusually high demand for mail service have slowed delivery.

After Katrina, all New Orleans area mail was routed to Houston and Dallas, where it was processed and forwarding requests were handled, Ruda said. Though a change-of-address request usually takes seven to 10 days, the surge of requests after the storm pushed things back to about three weeks.

Then, Hurricane Rita forced the Postal Service to evacuate the stockpiled mail to Baton Rouge, where it sat until it was safe to be sent back to Houston.

Postal staff shortages all over mean fewer employees to sort mail and make deliveries, said Kim Handy, a letter carrier at the Gretna post office, where the staff was still short at least 20 people Monday. Thus, street delivery routes must be juggled, and residents may receive mail once every few days instead of six days per week.

But the mail is being delivered, Handy assured.

"The key," she said, "is to be patient."

# Collective memories bond us together

**ROSE,** *from A-1*

that – I pulled off and went to the McDonald's there and got a Big Mac and a large coke to sustain me for the rest of the drive, my own personal take on "Supersize Me."

After a brief respite with my wife and kids in Maryland, I returned to the city for more.

The second time I left New Orleans, last week, Armstrong Airport was open and again my hands shook as I drove away from town, but when I settled into my airplane seat as we went aloft, my troubles, too, stayed behind on the ground.

I looked down over the region as we rose and – maybe you've seen pictures of this – the sea of blue color beneath me was nothing less than awe-inspiring.

At first I had this vision that I was flying over Beverly Hills until I realized all that blue beneath me was not swimming pools but roof tarps and coverings. It is the color that bonds us in these times, maybe even more than that weird purple hue that Rex, LSU and K&B made us love.

The Blue Roof Town. Man, there's a great country song in there somewhere.

There are a lot of heartache songs in this whole ordeal, no doubt assisted by the syncopative double-whammy of Rita/Katrina. Somewhere, right now, someone is writing a song that will make Tim McGraw a million dollars; I just hope that someone is from New Orleans.

On my most recent trip back to New Orleans, earlier this week, I was waiting for my connection in Memphis and listened while the gate agent called the names of standby travelers to come forward: "Passenger Cheramie. Passenger Bettincourt...."

The gate agent's Tennessee drawl mauled these names but it was a wondrous thing, to hear these beautiful French names being called and to know that our people were coming home.

Settling into their seats, almost everyone turned to the stranger next to them and asked: "Have you seen it yet?"

It. That is our home. That is our place.

Such a haunting quietude consumed the plane as we descended over Lake Pontchartrain. You could tell that most of the people on the plane were coming home for the first time, and instead of the usual world-weary travelers burying their noses in paperbacks or trying to catch a last wink of sleep, everyone craned for looks out the windows to see what "it" looks like now.

It felt like a plane full of kids on their first flights, like they had never seen such a vista from the air before. And, of course, they hadn't.

I wanted to pipe up: Man, you should have seen it a month ago; it was so much worse. Or maybe tell them all: It's not as bad as you think it's going to be.

Or I thought I could harness more practical advice from recent experience and tell them: Whatever you do, DO NOT open your refrigerator. Ever. Again.

But, even though I have one of those profoundly annoying personal compulsions of talking to (at?) strangers all the time – particularly at inappropriate moments – I found myself lingering on some advice whose providence I have long forgotten (and seldom followed), but which seemed so apt for this anguished moment: "If you cannot improve upon the silence, do not speak."

Words of wisdom, to be sure. At a time like this, a flow of platitudes from a self-absorbed dilettante veteran of the War of 2005 – a dilettante with shaky hands, no less – is not what anybody needs to hear.

So I kept my mouth shut and let the passengers' heads wrap around what was about to happen to them when they got out of the plane and drove to their homes for the first time.

For some, it will be a foul-smelling but mildly comic discovery that they forgot to empty their Diaper Genie before they left. For a friend of mine who accompanied his mother to their home off Paris Road in St. Bernard Parish over the weekend, it was the discovery of two tenants in the rental side of her shotgun double – two tenants who had been dead for 33 days.

Wrap your head around that.

For those who return to the area and those who do not and those who never left, these are our collective memories now, our marks of distinction and suffering, small stuff like Aunt Ida's meatloaf sitting in your fridge for five weeks or big stuff like dead people on the other side of your living room wall.

Like our blue tarp rooftops, these are the bonds that we share forever. They are the bonds that will hold us together.

• • • • • •

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

# State investigates water sent into N.O.

## *It could be tainted by oil-field tankers*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

Louisiana officials are investigating the possibility that contractors are peddling undrinkable water to people in New Orleans, but it remains unclear whether consumers are being duped.

The Department of Health and Hospitals said Tuesday that water is being moved in unclean trucks and is investigating the possibility that some people are forging federal and state paperwork certifying the water as potable, agency spokesman Bob Johannessen said.

Officials are concerned that the water, in most cases certified potable at the source in East Jefferson, West Jefferson, Algiers or Baton Rouge, is being carried to New Orleans not in food-grade stainless steel tankers, but in tankers that normally transport oil field waste chemicals. The compounds are known as "VOCs," or volatile organic chemicals.

No one disputes that the tankers are not designed to carry drinkable water, or that the water is not drinkable upon delivery in New Orleans. The question, then, is whether the water is billed as potable by the either carrier or the buyer.

The main purchasers of the bad water are hotels in the Central Business District, Johannessen said.

"They're coming from really icky trucks," said Karen Irion, Louisiana's drinking water administrator. "Why would the hotels be bothering to take that when they can already get non-potable water from the city?"



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Louisiana officials are concerned that some water sent to New Orleans is being trucked in tankers that normally carry oil-field waste.

At the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street, signs were posted at the reception area and in the elevators saying that the water is not fit to drink. At the nearby J.W. Marriott Hotel, receptionists declined to comment about how they are handling the water situation, although some guests said they got a flier at check-in informing them the water was not drinkable.

Marriott officials could not be reached for comment.

"I personally don't see where we're doing anything to jeopardize people's health," said Dan King, the Sheraton's manager.

"For some reason they think we are selling it as potable," King said. "But we're not. No one here has billed it that way."

King, several Marriott representatives and a handful of contractors attended a Department of Health and Hospitals meeting Tuesday.

"They kept saying the water doesn't meet the codes, and I said, 'I know it doesn't,' " King said. "It's kind of an emergency situation, and we're just using it to flush the toilets and just to take care of the aid workers who are staying here. I live here, too."

King said the issue could be resolved this weekend when the Sheraton, which is not connected to the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board, reconnects with the city's system when it is declared safe.

The company crating the water to New Orleans was identified by the state as Eagle Construction and Environmental Services, a subcontractor operating out of Gonzales. An Eagle representative could not be reached for comment late Tuesday afternoon.

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# Many evacuated students in schools out of town

SCHOOLS, *from A-1*

services have already been restored, anticipated delays in returning those services to the east bank could delay reopenings of undamaged schools there until January, officials said.

Fearing that students who start school in January might not receive enough instructional time, board President Torin Sanders reiterated Tuesday that it is unlikely any east bank public schools will reopen this school year.

According to a plan from interim Superintendent Ora Watson, Sanders said, only New Orleans public schools on the West Bank will operate during the 2005-06 school year, which would end in June rather than May.

Meg Casper, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Education, noted that many evacuated students have enrolled in other districts, where they will receive first-semester instruction, preparing them for a second semester in Orleans Parish Public Schools.

Picard said Tuesday he is open to the prospect of opening some east bank schools in January, or whenever officials determine the city is safe for children and it's possible to open schools.

Nagin agreed. "I want to get the water certified (by health officials), which will hopefully be this weekend, then I will be much more comfortable bringing back children," he said at a news conference Tuesday.

Watson, however, said Nagin recently told her "he would not be comfortable with our opening schools outside of the West Bank until he was assured that the waste management controls in place were sufficient," adding that water treatment facilities were still in need of much work.

Casper said she expects the issue to come up at Friday's School Board meeting.

Bill Roberti, the district's chief restructuring officer and an employee of Alvarez & Marsal, the turnaround firm charged with righting the district's finances, said the company was also exploring opening east bank schools shortly after the December holidays.

"We will continue to work with the mayor and the School Board moving forward to determine which schools will open," he said. "Right now, it is still possible that some Uptown schools could open in January, and the mayor indicated that he is completely open to that."

School Board Vice President Lourdes Moran said she also supports reopening east bank schools this academic year.

"It's the administration job to have a plan of action for November and January," she said. "If New Orleans Public Schools are to be successful, we must stop being shortsighted."

Nagin also said he doesn't want students to return to the "deplorable conditions" that existed in some schools before the storm and encouraged district officials and the board to take advantage of this opportunity to improve the system.

"My only push back to the School Board would be, 'Take this opportunity to fix yourself,' " he said.

School system employees and parents of students are asked to call (877)771-5800 if they are planning to return to New Orleans. The number of West Bank schools that open in November will be determined by the level of interest. Enrollment has yet to begin and will be open to children throughout the city.

# $34.4 billion in property claims expected in Katrina

**By Eileen Alt Powell**
AP business writer

NEW YORK - Hurricane Katrina is likely to result in at least $34.4 billion in personal and commercial property loss claims, according to the first publicly released survey of the nation's insurers.

ISO's Property Claim Services Unit said Tuesday that the preliminary estimate of damages to homes and businesses in six states would make Katrina the most costly U.S. natural disaster ever, surpassing the inflation-adjusted $20.8 billion in losses from Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Several risk assessment companies earlier released projections of insured losses from Katrina, with totals ranging from $14 billion to $60 billion.

The ISO's tally includes anticipated insurance industry losses for personal and commercial property, including boats and vehicles, business interruption coverage and additional living expenses. Reported damaged to insured onshore oil facilities are included, ISO officials said.

The estimates exclude losses to utilities, agriculture, aircraft, offshore drilling platforms and property insured under the federal flood insurance program.

Also Tuesday, the Securities and Exchange Commission said it was easing rules for insurance companies to raise capital, responding to concern that the billions of dollars of losses from Katrina and Hurricane Rita could make it harder for the insurers to pay victims' claims.

The losses could drain capital and cash from the companies. In relaxing the rules for them to tap into the capital markets, the SEC "recognized that the risk is out there for the industry," said Keith Buckley, a group managing director at Wall Street credit agency Fitch Ratings.

ISO, an insurance risk and data firm based in Jersey City, N.J., said that policyholders in the six affected states _ Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia _ were expected to file more than 1.6 million claims for damage to personal and commercial property, automobiles, boats and yachts.

"The personal property loss claims include nearly 75,000 boats and yachts in the affected states, with an estimated insured value of slightly under $2 billion," the ISO report said.

The report said that Louisiana, the state hardest hit when Katrina made landfall on Aug. 29, was expected to produce 900,000 claims for some $22.6 billion in losses.

It gave these estimates for the neighboring states: Mississippi, 490,000 claims for $9.8 billion; Alabama, 123,000 claims for $1.3 billion; Florida, 110,000 claims for $468 million; Tennessee, 8,400 claims for $46.1 million; and Georgia, 3,300 claims for $22.2 million.

The report said that insurers were still assessing losses, noting that access to some badly damaged areas in Louisiana was complicated by flooding.

# Reward offered for news on shot dogs

**From staff reports**

Pasado's Safe Haven, a Washington state humane organization, is offering a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who shot and killed 14 dogs in St. Bernard Parish.

Mark Steinway, a humane investigator and co-founder of the group, said the dogs were found at a school and a former school building in the parish.

Officials with the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office are investigating the incident.

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# NASA official says workers may have damaged foam

## *Insulation problem grounds fleet*

**By Marcia Dunn**
AP aerospace writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — Workers may have accidentally cut or crushed the section of foam that broke off Discovery's fuel tank during its launch two months ago — a mishap that threatened the safety of the astronauts and grounded the shuttle fleet.

That is the leading theory for the cause behind the loss of foam insulation that cast a cloud over NASA's return to space, said Wayne Hale, the newly appointed manager of the space shuttle program.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Hale said the shuttle will not fly again until the foam insulation problem is resolved — no sooner than spring.

He also said repair work has been set back because of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The storms dealt "a severe blow" to resuming shuttle flights and caused NASA to lose three months of work, he said.

In a memo written soon after Katrina slammed two shuttle facilities on the Gulf Coast, Hale speculated that the space shuttles might be grounded until next fall. He has since backed off that view and noted that progress has been made in understanding the foam problem and getting the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, which manufactures the tanks, back into limited operation.

"We're working a spring kind of launch date, but we haven't established one," he said. May is the most likely target.

To NASA's horror, a 1-pound, 3-foot chunk of insulating foam peeled away from Discovery's external fuel tank during liftoff in late July. It was the same kind of problem that doomed Columbia in 2003, and it occurred despite 2½ years of improvements and assurances that this was the safest tank ever built.

What probably happened is that during modifications to the tank at Michoud, technicians inadvertently damaged the section that ended up coming off, while working on nearby areas, Hale said. "This foam, which normally is not touched after it's applied, clearly was touched," he said.

Workers using plastic knives to remove nearby foam may have made small cuts in the section that tore away, allowing air to condense in the crevices against the tank, full of supercold fuel, Hale said. Another possibility, he said, is that workers leaned against the piece of foam that broke off, fracturing it. Yet another theory is that the foam cracked because of normal thermal stresses.

A spokesman for Lockheed Martin Corp., which builds the tanks at Michoud, said inadvertent worker damage is one of the potential causes being investigated. "We're committed to supporting NASA and the space shuttle program," spokesman Harry Wadsworth said.

# DeLay conspiracy charge relies on little-used law

## *No such cases in 20 years, lawyer says*

**By Kelley Shannon**
Associated Press writer

AUSTIN, TEXAS — A little-used Texas law could decide the future of Rep. Tom DeLay, the former House majority leader who is charged with conspiracy and money laundering in an alleged campaign-finance scheme.

Grand jurors looking into 2002 campaign contributions indicted DeLay on Monday for the second time in less than a week. House rules required him to step down from his leadership post pending the outcome of the case.

"I have not seen a criminal conspiracy case in Texas for a long, long time," said Austin-based defense attorney Ray Bass, who is not involved in the DeLay case. "In the last 20 years, I can't even think of one."

Rather than relying on conspiracy charges, Texas prosecutors often use an alternative law known as the state's "parties statute," which allows them to accuse or implicate groups of people who allegedly participated in a crime together, Bass said.

The use of the rarely invoked conspiracy law suggests that prosecutors are getting "very inventive" in their case against DeLay, Bass said.

DeLay was first charged with conspiracy to violate the state election code, which bans the direct use of corporate money for political campaigns.

His lawyers filed court papers Monday attacking that charge on technical grounds. Hours later, a new grand jury brought an indictment against DeLay that included one count of conspiracy to launder money and one count of money laundering.

Under Texas law, a conspiracy occurs if someone agrees with one or more other people to commit a felony, and if someone in the group performs an overt act to carry out that plan. The agreement can be inferred, Bass said.

State prosecutions rarely rely on conspiracy, said George Dix, a law professor at the University of Texas. The indictment claims DeLay's political committee, Texans for a Republican Majority, accepted corporate contributions and then sent $190,000 to the Republican National Committee with a list of seven Texas state House candidates that should receive contributions. The committee then allegedly issued checks to the candidates for a total of $190,000.

Prosecutors have argued that was a violation of the state's ban on the use of corporate money in local election campaigns.

DeLay defense attorney Dick DeGuerin believes the new indictment replaces the first. But District Attorney Ronnie Earle, in a statement released Tuesday, said prosecutors would press ahead with all three charges, and the final decision would be resolved by a judge.

DeLay is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 21.

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**MOLD ABATEMENT** Air duct cleaning, insurance claims welcome. Call 504-392-6906 or 1-800-494-2468

**MONTE'S CONSTRUCTION** All types of remodel/clean-up. Owner operated. Free est. 504-908-3778

**NOLA CONTRACTING** SERVICES. HDLC Award winner, does it all! From demo to high-end renovations. 504-220-5111 or 895-4532

**PRESSURE CLEANING** Royal Steam Pressure Srvc. N.O. Co since 1989. 504-329-7642, 504-329-7643, 225-615-2442

**ROOFING Drywall,** Louisiana general contractor. Licensed and insured. 35 years experience. 69438 Highway 59, Abita Springs LA 70420. Call: 318-381-5865 or 318-381-6994 Office: 318-766-3188

**SHEET ROCK** DEMOLITION & COMPLETE Interior & Exterior renovation. Licensed & insured. 504-931-5231

**SHEET ROCK** Removal, house gutting, & debris clean up. Call 985-359-1961 or 504-329-3592

**ST LISC** & INS Contractors avail for flood and hurricane work. 40 years experience locally. 504-512-4572 or 504-554-2377

**ST TAMMANY** MAINT, LLC Hurricane debris rem, house cleaning, tractor/Bobcat svc, expert tree rem, boat rescue, water pumping. 225-338-6999

**STORM CLEAN** OUT Wet Carpet, Drywall Strip, Average $1.10/ SF removal. Free Estimates. 504-884-1009

**STORM DAMAGE** REMOVAL And renovation, Please Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

**TREE AND** SHEET ROCK REMOVAL, Sheet rock and painting repairs, major swimming pool repairs, concrete sand pumping and fill. Licensed and insured local contractor. Call 504-415-2039 and 504-415-4288

### 2240 Electrical

**LACAZE ELECTRIC** Dependable Licensed/Insured 504-341-0642 or 504-236-6045

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN** Will solve any problems, Licensed, insured, 504-416-0172

**LESLIE ELECTRICAL** SVC LLC, residential & comm'l, lic & insured. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

**MONTE'S ELECTRICAL** SERVICE Senior discounts. Owner Operated. Free estimates. 504-908-3778

### 2250 Fencing

**NOLA FENCE** COMPANY Wood, vinyl. Huge inventory, ready to install today. 504-454-0046

**Richardson Fencing** Company, Specializing in sm or lrg jobs. 504-669-0242/504-469-2834/985-652-8945 or fax 985-651-1646

### 2265 Hauling

**20, 30yd** dumpster rental. Please call 504-431-8383

**At Your** Disposal.Commercial and residential.Same day service. Do not get stuck with housing your own trash. 504-353-3070

### 2290 Janitorial/Maid

**Complete Cleaning** Services for your home or office. Please call 504-606-7592 or 469-1701

### 2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees

**ABM COMPLETE** TREE SERVICE Storm damage, tree trimming, topping, elevating and removals. We can get the job done! Call 1-888-328-9289

**ALL IN** ONE Tree Service, low rates. Free estimates. Call 504-621-5003 or 225-664-0674

**Bubba's Stump** Grinding Local; Insured. (985)974-9896 or (985)386-8417

**David's Stump** Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

**DEBRIS AND** TREE REMOVAL Free estimates. Contact Jerry at 504-393-1517 or 504-338-3128

**HALF PRICE** TREE SERVICE Free estimates. Call 985-966-8581 or 850-543-9399

**HELPING HANDS** TREE & SHEET ROCK REMOVAL Pressure Washing, low rates, free estimates. 504-888-4627/610-4545/957-7324

**Red Sky** Disaster Services, High hazard tree removal and hauling. Call 321-615-8904

**STORM DEBRIS** Clean up, Top Notch Lawn Care and Storm Debris cleanup, 504-329-6258

**TIP TOP** CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercard accepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

**TREE AND** DEBRIS REMOVAL, Stump grinding, licensed & insured. Free estimates. 843-345-7580

**TREE CUTS** AND DEBRIS REMOVAL and Auto towing, free estimates, 504-442-2730 or 504-338-8443

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE SERVICE.** Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

**TREES Service.** Local Owned/ Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**Ganucheau Dental** Grp open for business 504-468-1675. 2825 Houma Blvd, Metairie Mon-Fri 8-5

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

**SAEED AHMED** MD is open for business. Please call- 504-466-9386 or 504-885-0545

### 2360 Moving

**FRANK'S DISCOUNT** MOVING Low hourly rates. Call 504-914-2742

### 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**DARRYL'S WALLPAPER** HANGING. Free Estimates! Family trade. 504-328-2644

### Service Directory 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**DEPENDABLE PROF.** PAINTER Free Estimate and Resume. Call Pierre 501-318-4242 or email: eliane123@msn.com for information

**WEST BANK** FLOOD VICTIMS: Sheet rock finishing & Painting. Call 504-723-9725

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**KILCREASE PLUMBING** LLC Comm'l/resid'l, water heaters, LMP#3252, lic'd for gas 504-234-1075

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**MONTE'S PLUMBING** REPAIRS Gas repairs, drains unclogged, $39.95. Senior citizen discounts, owner operated. 504-908-3778

**NOELS PLUMBING** LLC New Construction, Repairs & Renovations. LMP 5080. 504-909-7275

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2420Printing & Duplicating

**SIGN LETTERS** Changeable, All sizes. Also portable signs, 4ft x 8ft w/letters 504-733-2251

### 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**General Contractor/Commercial** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Yd Clean Up. Sheet rock & carpet removal. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

### Employment 2500 Miscellaneous

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**FEE ONLY** Financial Planning firm in COVINGTON needs CPA or CFP. Send resume to Asset Planning Services, 509 W. 21st Avenue, Covington, LA 70433

**PAYROLL Westbank** Company seeks expd Payroll ind, stable environment w/ good benefits, salary, 35-45 range, e-mail CKerthPCG@yahoo.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Accountants, Bookkeepers, Accounting Clerks, Degree or Non-Degree. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Inside &** Outside sales in Decorating Field. Part time or full time. Salary plus commission. Call 985-871-5040 for appt

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**OUTSIDE SALES** REPRESENTATIVE Established Fluid Power Distributor seeks to expand Outside Sales staff in AR, LA, and MS. Industrial technical sales experience preferred. Indicate on resume preferred location and/or willingness to relocate. Send resume to: Director of Sales, P.O. Box 18777, Memphis, TN 38181-0777

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**Route Sales** - Golden Flake Snack Foods. Full and part-time positions available. Competitive pay and benefits. EOE. Call for details 1-800-233-0232

**SALES Now** taking applications for Sales Staff. Experience preferred. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-9996 or call Pat King 504-733-8188

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

### Employment 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** $35K, Front Desk $20K. For these and other office positions, 504-832-9033. Office Assistance, Inc. The Personnel Specialists.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**MEDICAL BILLING** CLERK Local Mandeville medical company is seeking a billing clerk with billing and coding skills. Prior experience in medical charge entry or other related position is preferred. Fax resume to: 985-727-7281 or email: humanresources@totalsleep.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. CSR, Legal Secretary, Office Support ect. Min 1 yr exp. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**Receptionist and** transcriptionist needed for Uptown medical clinic. Fax resume to 504-394-3713.

**SECRETARY With** QuickBooks and Sales Expereince preferred. The Spa Shop, Corey 985-626-3847

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

**WEEKS MARINE** INC. in Covington, Now hiring Crew Coordinator with 3 years plus experience in HR field or related area; Knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices and procedures: includes recruitment, employment, records management, employee/labor relations and organization development. Email resume to mailhr@weeksmarine.com or fax to 985-875-2575 EOE/M/F/V/D.

### 4040 Computers

**NEWTORK TECHNICIAN** Needed. 2-5 years experience. Windows Server experience a huge plus. Resume to PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 7001 or email to lajobs@bellsouth.net

### 4045 Drivers

**********

**DRIVER** DEDICATED RUN Hammond To New Orleans $2000 Sign on Bonus * Home Every Day * $15.50/hr. +/OT after 40 *5 day work week *Weekly Guarantee *Performance Bonus *Great Benefits-401K, etc... Need 1 yr. T/T exp. w/X end. 800-366-4910 EOE www.dupretransport.com ********** ********** **BEST BUY** Delivery drivers, metro New Orleans. Fax resume to 504-456-8902, or apply at any Best Buy location.

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

### Employment 4045 Drivers

**CDL "X"** Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance, holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demand shiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume: 985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

**CDL Drivers** and Owner Operators, Must Have 2yrs Experienced, Home On Weekends. Call For More Information: 985-732-6793 or 985-750-5553

**CDL DRIVERS** needed, must have Hazmat and DOT certification, pre-employment drug screening. Blossman Oil Co 985-892-2401 or 985-898-2663

**CDL DRIVERS** Northshore routes only, immediate openings! Call: 985-966-0113

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DRIVER All** New every 7-10 days, 2 days off, $300 Orientation pay, start up to $.40 plus a $.03 Bonus! NO HAZMAT, NO NYC, NO CANADA! Choice of fleets, van, or refridg. Regional fleets available and more! 1-866-467-6768 www.kllm.com KLLM Transport Services EOE CDL-A

**Driver Dedicated** Run, Hammond to New Orleans, $2000 Sign on Bonus, Home every day, $15,50/hr + OT after 40, 5 day work week, Weekly Guarantee, Performance bonus, Great Benefits, 401K etc. Need 1 yr. T/T exp w/X end, 800-366-4910, EOE, www.dupretransport.com

**DRIVER Needed** for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

**DRIVER WANTED:** CDL class B Driver/Warehouse person, drug screen reqd. Apply to SE Hardwood Flooring, 68391 James St, Mandeville, 985-875-2091/Louis

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVERS NEW** DEDICATED CONTRACT Based out of Taft Interplant spotting service SIGN ON BONUS Earn up to $15.50/hr. plus O.T. after 40 hrs. *Weekly Guarantee *Performance Bonus *Great Benefits-401K (800) 333-9009 EOE Need 2 yrs T/T- Tank/Hazmat experience www.dupretransport.com .....

**DRIVERS DANA** SUTTLES ********** ** OWNER-OPERATORS Needed for GulfCoast Terminate SYSTEM, REGION, LOCAL, & DEDICATED HAULING AVAILABLE! ********** ****** *100% fuel surcharge to Owner Operators *Excellent % pay rates *Fuel taxes paid & calculated *Paid permits & tolls *Comdata fuel cards! *Base plate financing! *Direct Deposit TANK EXP. PREFERRED. Min. 25 yrs. old, Clean MVR, 2 yrs. verifiable CDL-A exp. w/hazmat & tank endors. w/in past 5 yrs. req'd. Must Pass DOT tests. EOE/M/F/DV Call Recruiting Today: 866-903-3262 www.danacompanies.com

**DRIVERS -** CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

### Employment 4045 Drivers

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**Drivers NEW** Dedicated Contract, Based out of Taft, Interplant spotting service. Sign on Bonus, Earn up to $15.50/hr. + OT after 40 hrs. Weekly guarantee, Performance bonus, Great benefits, 401K 800-333-9009, EOE, Needs 2 yrs T/T Tank/Hazmat experience. www.dupretransport.com

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**OFFICE DEPOT** Supply Route Driver. New Orleans Metro area; Clear MVR, Chauffeur's Lic,Lifting 70#'s, and Min. 2 Years Route Driver Exp. Please apply at 150 Riverbend Blvd., St. Rose, LA

**OWNER OPERATORS** AND DRIVERS Local trucking Co., CDL Class A, over the road 3 yrs exp. home weekends, new rates for Owner Operators, 504-834-1222

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS - CDL License required. $12/hour. $400 signing bonus. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**Tow truck** drivers needed. Apply at 302 Almedia Road St.Rose, LA Mon-Fri 8-5

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Class A or B, experienced, good pay, local work. Please call 321-228-6335

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

### 4060 Engineering

**DESKTOP ENGINEER** Local Company seeking experienced Desktop Engineer. Person must have minimum 2 yrs experience in desktop computer skills in Windows NT 4.0/ Windows 2000 / Windows XP environment. Individual must have experience servicing desktop, laptops, and printers, as well as a good understanding of LAN/WAN Networking and the ability to lift 50 lbs. Good customer service skills and reliable transportation required. Certifications are a plus (MCP, Network +, Server +, A+)! This full time position offers a great working environment with a competitive salary along with full benefit package. Email: resume2005@hotmail.com

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Engineers and Geoscience. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

### Employment 4065 Financial

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF FINANCE reporting to CEO Building Materials Co. based in S.W. LA. Solid background in fin. & accounting. 12+ yrs business exp. CPA desired. 415-740-5476 or gia@execprofiler.com

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**BARBER EQUIPMENT** Complete Barber Shop For Sale! Call 504-606-6343

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-813-4106/504-835-9279

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**HAIRDRESSER NEEDED,** ASAP IN HARAHAN. APPLY AT 1939 HICKORY AVE, SUITE 106. 504-737-6011

**Mark Anthony** Salon is now Hiring 8 F/T & P/T stylists to join our team in our Mandeville & Covington location. We offer booth rental, employee or apprenticeship. Also needed 1 Massage Therapist w/ experience. We are an upscale Redken based salon w/ a strong emphasis on education. Come join our team w/ perks! 985-727-3332

**Massage Therapist** and Nail Technicians. Oasis Day Spa. 1357 North Causeway Blvd., Mandeville. Great incentives and a relaxing environment. Call 985-624-6772.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST** Immediate opening for Licensed Massage Therapist. Call 985-845-1703

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**O'Henry's Managers.** All positions. Apply in person. 1375 Gause Blvd. Slidell. 8850 Veterans Blvd. Kenner.

**Bartenders Needed.** Full Time. Apply in Person: 4520 South I10 Service Road, Metairie.

**BARTENDERS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS Experienced only. Male and Female encouraged to apply. Full or part time considered. Apply in person only, Wed.-Fri. 10am-7pm Franks Marina Grille, 100 Marina del Ray Dr. Madisonville. 985-792-4000

**Bartenders. Experienced.** Male/Female. Mulligan's in Metry 3535 Severn 481-4279

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**CHINESE COOK,** experienced, Fong's Chin

The Times-Picayune

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4120 Medical

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICIAN Needed** for an established Weight Loss Center in Hammond. Call Emily for details at: 985-969-0882

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. CHARLES** PARISH HOSPITAL: P.O. Box 87, 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070. CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: Clinical Associate, Dialysis Technician, LPN, Recreational Therapist. Apply in person: 9:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday. Fax resume to: (985) 785-4214, Email to: KDonnaud@stch.net, or apply online at: www.nola.com EOE

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 504-347-0777 Fax: 504-620-3032

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

**X-RAY Tech** for Metairie orth surg off. Call Vicki @ 504-887-4757. mwf 9:30-12

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**AUTOMOTIVE: IMMEDIATE** OPENINGS! No Experience Necessary. We Will Provide Training. Opportunities for: MANAGEMENT, SALES ASSOCIATIVES, TIRE & SERVICE TECHNICIANS, ASE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS. Outstanding Wages! Paid Vacation - Personal Days - Holidays. Health - Dental - Vision and Prescription Benefits. 401(k) Savings Plan. Supplemental Training. Tuition Reimbursement for on going education and ASE Certification. Please apply on-line at: www.tirekingdom.com or for a store near you call 1-800-NEW TIRE. We are an EOE

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Attorneys, and Paralegals. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Seeking Personnel** with general knowledge of construction who are capable of performing visual inspections and completing forms. Work is in N.O. Area, $15-$20/hour with 7-10 hour days. Send resume to 225-756-5903

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4145 Retail

**BEST BUY** in store job fair, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, West Bank store at 1601 W Bank Xway Ste A, Harvey, LA 75008. Monday-Friday 8am to 11pm, and 4pm to 6pm, Veterans Blvd store 6205 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA, 70003. Monday-Friday 1pm to 4pm, Slidell store, at 120 Northshore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70459. Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 pm, Covington store, 69344 Hwy 21, Covington, LA, 70433. Prior to visiting our job fair apply on-line at careers.bestbuy.com. Now hiring seasonal & F/T & P/T, Cashiers, Customer Service, Gen. Sales, Merchandising, Music/Software/Gaming, Srvc Tech, Computer Tech/Geek Squad, Mobile Installer Tech, Shipping/Recieving, Security/LP, Delivery Drivers. EOE DFWP

### 4145 Retail

**MERCHANDISING SET** REP $13/hr with full benefits in 90 days. Samsco Services, a national leader in service merchandising for the home improvement industry has immediate openings in the New Orleans area, specific to Home Depot stores throughout the area. Responsible for setting steel racks, merchandising product, installing signs and fixtures, and ensuring all project plans are 100% executed, in setting new stores and performing resets/remodels in existing stores. Qualifications include: ·Must be able to pass drug screen and background check ·Ability to work safely in a retail environment ·Maintain work schedule according to plan ·Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. on a consistent basis ·Extensive travel required ·Must be able to safely use and operate hand tools and power tools. ·Basic computer and Internet skills, preferred. ·Experience with big box retailer or equivalent preferred. E-mail resume to: bruce_sturgill@samscoservices.com or fax 972-516-2742

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**Florida Security** Guards available. Call 407-687-0156 or 561-714-0343, Scott Security

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY AlliedBarton** Security Services, the largest American-owned security services company, is now hiring. SECURITY OFFICERS, New Orleans Area, $12/hour. Must be 18 yrs of age; must be able to pass a criminal background check and a drug screen, and possess a H.S. diploma, GED, or 10 years' verifiable employment history. Interested candidates, please contact Jermaine Cobb at: 225-772-1051 for more information. EOE, M/F/D/V

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Cell 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150Teachers & Instructors

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**VIOLIN &** or Band Instructor, P/T, Harahan/Mandeville/Covington. 985-674-2992/504-738-3050

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C INSTALLERS** & SHEET METAL INSTALLERS - Call Blue Flame, Inc. 504-733-9112

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** & HELPER, If you are looking for a career not a job in HVAC we have Technicians that earn $50,000 plus per year and have advancement opportunities. Must be well groomed, drug free, and dependable. Full Benefits. Year Round Work. Please call Stephanie to set your future in motion at 985-871-9020

**A/C TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. Call 504-833-1164

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**B &** B Electrical Services ready to serve all your electrical needs. now hiring electricians, helpers, laborers paying time and a half. (504)891-9773 (504)466-7833

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR ALARM** INSTALLER - Wanted. F/T, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**Cabinet Builders** and finishers needed. Experience Preferred. 985-758-7014

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**Carpenters and** Laborers needed for new const. uptown. Local/displaced? Will try to help u get housing. REDDING CONST. 504-415-3292/504-598-3227

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**CBD Bldg** needs maintenance engineer - a/c, electrical, plumbing ,data/phone , etc. Also need sheetrock wks. Call Bret 504-915-0649

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**Commercial Electricians** needed. Local work. Please Call 501-580-7857

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** TESTING FIELD TECHNICIAN Entry level or experienced. Apply at 724 Central Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121 504-733-9411 EOE. M/F/D/V

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**Craftsmen/Laborers, all** fields of construction. exp. info to (504)834-5594 or JJCOSTACOMPANY@aol.com

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRYWALL HANGERS,** FINISHERS, Demolition Persons. Immediate openings with established company, top pay. Call 504-352-4005

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRICIANS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial work site, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS** Hearing aid manufacturer needs hearing aid or microscopic assembly technicians. Salary commensurates with experience. Fax resume to 504-733-3799. Phone: 504-733-3767

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** Exp. for Debris in Metairie. Bobcat, Loader/Rotor/Truck Drivers. 954-464-5273 or 954-650-4669. $15-$20 per hour.

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,** Immediate openings! All Northshore sites. Call: 985-966-0113

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**EXP. DOZER/EXCOVATOR** BOBCAT OPERATOR & MECHANIC WORK for HEAVY EQUIPMENT 504-455-6222

**Experienced Framing** Carpenter. Must have transportation. Call 504-473-8797

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED LICENSED** ELECTRICIANS and helpers with tools, call Jim at 504-416-0172

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**Fire/Water Damage** Technician, Surfpro of the North Shore, exp. proffered but willing to train, must have good driving record. Fax resume to 985-898-6373 or call 985-898-0022

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Now Accepting applications for experienced floor installers for all surfaces. Call Pat King 733-8188 or Apply in person, Monday - Thursday from 10-2 at 5403 Powell St., Elmwood, LA 70123

**FOUR ALARM** FENCE COMPANY Hard Workers, Must have own tools, Firefighters Please Apply, 504-452-3913

**FRAMING CARPENTER** Local Company, Transportation Required, Experienced. 504-473-8797

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS TECHNICIANS** Flat and auto needed, Please Call 504-400-6799

**HB VENTURES** Hiring hosemen & squigee men, Barge washers, top pay, w/ safety awards & bi-wkly incentives, 504-915-3143, 382-6912 or 348-2336

**HIRING Electricians** and Helpers in Slidell, Covington and Metairie, 504-833-3492

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING NOW** Welders/Fitters, Qualified for Pipe and Structural. Barge Crane Operators, Qualified Riggers, Experienced Welder Helpers, Sand Blaster/Painter, On Shore and Off Shore Positions. Please Apply in person: French's Welding and Marine Services, 1112 Engineers Road, Belle Chase, LA 70037

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**HUTCO INC** Is Hiring For Welders, Fitters, Blasters Painters, Plant Operators, Hydroblasters, Electricians, Outside Machinists, Tackers & Laborers. Call 504-348-7818

**HVAC INSTALLERS** & SERVICE TECHS NEEDED. Immediate openings for experienced only. Please call 341-8526.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**Immediate Openings** for Offshore Construction work WELDERS, RIGGERS, FITTERS, PAINTERS Qualified candidates should have a minimum of 2 years offshore experience, welding certifications, safe working habits, and be able to pass a drug screen and physical. For more information, please call Jana at our remote personnel office at 361-289-8292 to provide callback information.

**INSTALLERS AND** SERVICE TECHNICIANS Immediate positions available. Great pay. Call 985-626-7852 to apply

**INSTALLERS Needed,** Quarles Insulation. Please call 504-466-9213

**INTEGRATED Airline** Services Is Hiring For RAMP AGENTS. Must Have Valid Drivers License. Competitive Wages. Must be able to pass 10yr background check. Call 504-468-1401

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Door Unit Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp, and Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**K&P Roofing** and Remodeling, experienced roofers needed, top pay. Contact Kevin at 504-415-9342 or 985-652-7138

**KITCHEN EQUIPMENT** TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. 504-833-1164

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not required. Starting pay is $9/hour plus excellent opportunity for daily and monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits package after one year of employment. If you are interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 and leave us a message with your information.

**LABORERS AND** PLASTERERS, Must have own transportation, Stucco, Call 504-258-4509

**Laborers needed** ASAP in N.O. - Paid daily if necessary. $80 per day 901-542-9900

**Laborers needed** in Louisiana and Gulf Coast areas. $80.00/day, Recruiters are welcomed. Please call 901-542-9900 Express Staffing

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** CREW. $8-$12/hourly depending on experience. Call 504-442-5394

**LGE COMMER'L** CONST CO. in Metairie 20 yrs. Immed FT employment. Top pay. Needing Laborers, Sheet Rock Finishers, Painters, Carpenters, Tile Setters. Great benefits, pd vac, health, sick leave, etc. 504-831-4261 or fax 832-0762. e-mail: office@constructionmastersinc.com

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MAINTENANCE PERSON** - Needed, strong in a/c, CFC cert, some electrical, plumbing & carpentry skills needed. Paid holidays & vacation. 504-382-3156

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metal building** and sheet metal workmen needed, experienced. Call 504-261-4179

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**MMR Offshore** Services is currently seeking Electricians & Instument Fitters for offshore assignments. Please apply at 108 Lauren Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 or call (504) 394-5448 or fax resume to (504) 394-5444 or emial to gplaisance@mmrgrp.com or Mail resume to PO Box 490 Harvey,LA 70050 EOE

**NEEDED Carpenters/Carpenter** Helpers, T.R. Davis Construction. 504-939-1957, 504-250-2032, 225-329-9266

**NORTHSHORE Fab** Shop looking for full time helper, must be dependable. Ability to use power tools is a plus. 985-893-9277

**Office Manager/Sales/Assistants** to run busy contracting company. Call 985-781-8364

**OFFSHORE/ONSHORE WORK** Premier Industries, Inc. FITTERS/WELDERS, FITTER HELPER/TRACKERS, EXPERIENCED RIGGERS, RIGGER/CRANE OPERATORS, OFFSHORE SUPERINTENDENTS/FOREMEN. All positions require a minimum or 3 years recent offshore experience. BARGE PILE DRIVING FRICTION CRANE OPERATOR Must have experience driving piles with a friction crane from a floating barge. SUB-ARC WELDER Top pay. All positions receive: Group medical, dental plan, long and short term disability, life insurance, 401K plan. Must pass physical and drug screen. Apply in person at: 3450 Peters Rd. Harvey, LA. EOE

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

**PAINTERS AND** CONSTRUCTION HELPERS Needed for new construction and remodeling. 985-966-2424

**PAINTERS AND** SHEET ROCK FINISHERS WANTED. Please call 504-363-1194

**PAINTERS North** Shore, own tools/phone/transportation. Call Ricky 504-651-3179

**Painters With** Spray experience in industrial plants and experienced painter's helpers needed for full time work in the New Orleans and LaPlace areas. Drug test required, criminal background check may be required. Call Mon - Fri, 9am-3pm. 504-469-3815

**PAINTERS, Residential** Homes, exp., must have own transportation, F/T work, 985-966-6011

**Painters, Sheetrock** Finishers, Paper Hangers Coatings Inc. 504-832-8049

**Plumber Experienced** journeyman repair plumber. Experienced only need apply. 504-340-8776

**PLUMBERS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial worksite, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**Project Manager/Estimater** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

**REFRIGERATOR AND** A/C TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Experienced only. Good pay and benefits. Fax resume to 985-809-6799

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**ROOFERS -** Needed. Shingle & flat crews, New Orleans & Baton Rouge area. Call 504-779-3232 or 504-559-9106

**ROOFERS COMMERCIAL,** local company seeks exp. flat roofers only. Top wages. 504-464-9181

**ROOFERS Needed,** Immediate Employment. Please call Bob 504-912-4087

**ROOFERS New** Orleans Roofers needed in Baton Rouge or New Orleans Experienced in Slate or Asbestos. Call 225-761-4309

**ROOFERS Wanted,** Experienced, Good Pay. Must have transportation. 504-469-0353

**ROOFERS, SHEET** ROCK INSTALLERS needed for Bent Tree Marrero. Bob Lee 504-328-7905

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**ROOFING CREWS,** top pay, own tools and transportation required. Call 985-781-8364

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING Relocation** opportunity for high-skilled slate, tile, copper mechanics. Housing assistance for longterm year-round work. Suburban Philadelphia, PA contractor est 1939. 888-RKI-ROOF

**SCS Now** Hiring: Pipe Fitters, Fitters, TIG Welders, Welders, Experienced Laborers/Painters. Call 504-348-4855, 2072 Bonn Street, Harvey, La or 1-800-310-0131

**SERVICE TECHNICIANS** NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Award winning dealership with over 36 years in business. Experience preferred. Top dollar pay, excellent benefits. Clean driving record required. Drug free. Contact Johnny Giardina or Keith Conner at 337-364-4126. JP Thibodeaux, Inc. New Iberia, LA. EOE.

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SITE MANAGERS/MAINTENANCE** MAN A national leader in the self storage industry is seeking site managers and maintenance men for an award-winning self storage facility and retail center in Harahan, LA. Duties include property and equipment maintenance, janitorial work, and driving of medium box/move truck, and other various operational duties. Qualified candidates must possess a valid drivers license, a clean MVR, and outstanding organizational and time-management skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

**Southern Precision** is looking for CNC Machinist for Immediate Employment. Great Pay! Apply in person 9am to 4pm 108 Pintail St., St. Rose

**STRUCTURAL TIG** WELDER for Northshore Fab Shop needed for thin gage stainless steel. 985-893-9277

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**TREE MEDICS** is hiring now, start work today. Ground workers, tree climbers, bucket operator, bobcat operator, excavator operators, truck drivers, grapple truck drivers/operators. Start $10-$25/hour. Apply in person at 500 Clearview Pkwy, or call 225-955-2502

**Union Electrical** Helper Positions. $10.00 per hour. No experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have reliable transportation. Apply in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 P.M. N.O. Electrical JATC, 3200 Ridgelake Dr., Suite 301, Metairie, LA.

**UPHOLSTERY SEAMSTRESS** Apply in person. Call for address and directions 985-643-5919

**UTILITY COMPANY** In St. Tammany Parish now hiring for all positions + CDL. Excellent benefits. Apply in person at 4000 Hwy 59, Mandeville. 985-893-1717

**Venture Logistics** is Hiring in the Lacombe area.Fork Operators-Case Pickers-Dispatcher-Supervisor's. Sign on Bonus and Benifits after 90 days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax resume to 985-726-7642.

**Vinyl Siding/Gutter/Patio** Installers, experienced. Call 985-290-9649/985-290-9648

**WELDERS, FITTERS** & PILE DRIVERS needed for Marine Construction company in LA/MS Gulf Coast area. Please call 985-359-3700, fax # 985-359-3702. Benefits start in 120 days.

**WELDERS, FITTERS,** TACKERS, GENERAL LABORERS Immediate positions, 10-12 hours/day. Call 1-877-376-0801 or 504-376-8700

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**Whitfield's A/C** & Heating in Pearl River is looking for experienced A/C installers, helpers, and technicians for permanent positions. Please call Kirk at 985-863-0911 or 985-960-0285.

### 4165 Warehouse

**GENERAL PRODUCTION** - Personnel for chemical packaging facility in St. Rose. Qualified forklift operators, production plant operators, mechanics and floor supervisors needed immediately. Apply at Delta Petroleum Co., Inc. 10352 River Road, St. Rose, LA 70087. (504)467-1399

**LABORERS 50** (Warehouse/Construction). $8-$15/hour. 124 Trudeau St, Metairie. 504-712-1133

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE /** DRIVERS: ACI Distribution, EOE, drug screen, physical & references required. Auto & Flat Glass Delivery Drivers, and Warehouse Workers. Duties include: Driving truck, delivering windshields & glass in the City & Territories. Glass handling experience a plus! Class D or CDL & clean driving record required. Apply at ACI, 5716 Jarvis St., Harahan. Call 504-733-6606

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE POSITION** Good benefits, $9/hour. Harahan location. Fax resume to 504-733-8208 or mail to P.O. Box 10451 Jefferson, LA 70181

**WAREHOUSE WORK** - Stable company needs full-time employees to work in our warehouse. We offer good working environment and benefits, entry level positions starting at $7/hr. Apply in person at 5524 Mounes St. Harahan. Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm. Drug free workplace.

**WAREHOUSE WORKERS** - Compass Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**WAREHOUSEMAN** - Exp in food dist warehousing, F. Christiana & Co, apply in person, 7251 River Rd, Marrero, Grt benefits, Nght Pos avail, 504-348-3391

**WAREHOUSEMAN Needed** for National Chemical Distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**$9/HOUR PLUS** BONUSES. Citywide Maid Service. Daytime Flexible Hours. 504-866-1234. For Northshore (Cov, Mand, Slid, Hamm). 985-867-1495

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** - Entry level, needed for national health care co. Must be dependable, detail-oriented, organized and able to think on their feet. Please e-mail resume to: kennerassistant@yahoo.com

**ALL POSITIONS** Monarch Farms in Folsom, LA hiring temporary help for Katrina cleanup. Work needed includes yard work, mowing, pasture clean up, pick up tree limbs, run chainsaw and fence repairs. Contact Mike Jones at 985-515-4143 or 985-795-7992

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr

MONEY

# Energy consumers are in for shock

## *Gas, electric bills to climb high, fast*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Residents soon will receive gas and electric bills that are near-record highs because of the spiking price of natural gas.

Natural gas prices already were high after a cold winter and hot summer, but prices took off in the past month after wells, pipelines and other infrastructure went down across the Gulf of Mexico after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Natural gas prices had risen 33 percent since May, to $9.79 per thousand cubic feet before the storms hit in August and September and have hit record highs of $14.80 in the past week.

Energy traders predicted home heating bills this winter could be at least 50 percent higher than last year. Customers will see these increases as early as this month.

An Entergy New Orleans customer who uses a modest 2,000 cubic feet of gas this month, or 20 ccf as it appears on the bill, will pay a record $45.66, excluding taxes. An electric customer in New Orleans who uses 1,000 kilowatt hours will pay $122.57 for October, which is the highest bill in two years.

Entergy customers in Algiers and elsewhere in southeast Louisiana will pay $101 for 1,000 kilowatt hours for October.

Entergy New Orleans residential customers this month will pay a record $16.68 per thousand cubic feet for gas that shows up as a "fuel adjustment charge," up from $7.81 last October. The customer's cost is higher than the commodity cost because it includes the cost of transportation.

A utility bill consists of a customer charge, which is set by regulators and includes a profit for the utility company, and the fuel adjustment charge, which fluctuates with fuel costs and does not include a profit for the utility.

Other local utilities were unable to provide figures. However, escalating gas prices are expected to increase utility bills everywhere.

Many Entergy New Orleans customers are receiving bills for electricity and gas used before Hurricane Katrina, which hit Aug. 29. Many Entergy customers in New Orleans will not be billed for service in September when the city was under a mandatory evacuation order. However, the October bills, not yet out, will include the higher prices.

The Energy Information Administration expects residential customers to pay an average of $16.08 per thousand cubic feet of gas for fuel adjustments during the last three months of the year, which is 42 percent higher than the average $11.30 paid during the final quarter of 2004.

"We are looking at prices dramatically higher than a year ago in some cases," said Peter Beutel, president of Cameron Hanover, an energy risk management firm in New Canaan, Conn. He said wholesale prices are significantly higher than the 50 percent to 100 percent price increases being discussed for residential customers.

Entergy usually prepares a price forecast for residential customers but has not done so this year. Given the uncertainty of its customer base in New Orleans and low energy use in September, the utility has actually sold 50 percent of its natural gas hedge contracts and has sold a portion of its purchased power agreements, which would have provided cheaper coal and nuclear power, said Amy Stallings, spokeswoman for Entergy New Orleans.

Gas prices have risen dramatically during the summer, said Phil Flynn, vice president and senior market analyst at Alaron Trading in Chicago, reaching a high of almost $15 in late September. In May prices were as low as $6.03 per thousand cubic feet.

He said the market gets squeezed each year as use increases but offshore drilling is restricted.

As of Monday, 75 percent of the gas normally produced by wells in the Gulf was still shut down, or about 10 billion cubic feet of gas. The federal waters of the Gulf produce 21 percent of the nation's natural gas.


The Times-Picayune

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GENERAL INFORMATION
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## Recreation

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'97 RV** 35' Gulfstream, Ford 460 26K Ex Cond. $37,000 Seattle Pay flight/gas 206-660-3238

**'98 Coachman** 29'Trailer $8500,1996 Jayco 26' $7500. Avail. now in Lafayette. Craig @ 817-572-4414

**'98 DUTCHMAN** 5th WHEEL CAMPER Excellent condition! Sleeps 6. Diningroom, Livingroom slide out. $17,000. If possible delivery for $1,000! 419-674-4313

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**03 31'** Class C Camper Triton V10, 11K, A/C, gen, gas fridge/heat, slide-out, slps 8, warr. Grt cnd! $46,500 985-264-9326

**1999 Jayco** 3610 Designer, 37.5 ft, generator, washer/dryer, $23000. 662-231-9172

**90 Winnebago** Chieftain, 28', sleeps four, clean bed, AC/Heat, TV, refrigerator, freezer, oven, microwave. $12,000. 985-624-5076 or 985-264-9739

**Dewalt 4300** kw gen.$1,800; 3" Honda Pump $1600, Poulan c.saw $200 All new in box/delv to N.O. Craig 817-572-4414

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

**RV For** rent! Sleeps 8, full bath, generator, AC, from $75/day, can deliver. 404-488-3282.

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'01 Honda** Shadow 600 Has everything, black with chrome, 60 mpg. $3000. Call 985-705-3995.

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 504-343-6747 OBO Must sell

**NEVER FLOODED,** furnished, Garden Dist. 2/2 condo, gated parking, security, hdwd flrs, pool, 5 min. from downtown. $319,000 504-390-7000

**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

### 7508 Warehouse/CBD

**Newly renov,** 1bd/1ba condo Gated parking, EXC cond fitnes ctr $209,999 504-723-4141

### 7535 Mid City/City Park

**4923 IBERVILLE,** Tri-plex, 3BR owners. Gar. Cent A/H. Dry. $399K. L. Nugent RE 504-250-3364

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

**7545 Metairie** Jefferson/Above Causeway (Kenner)

**1521 Giuffrias,** updated, move in cond. 4br/2ba, extras. $329,000. Never Flooded. 504-835-8700.

**2 homes** in Kenner no flood, 4/2 updated w/crown thru out approx.2200 sq.ft. in driftwood (61 Nassau) will lease @ $1800.00 or sell @ $250k. 3yr. old 2-sty (4104 Iowa ave.) open floor plan very contemporary. 5/3 with crown/ master jacuzzi/ open stairs/granite count/fireplace approx. 4200 sq. ft. $525k. call 504-237-3695 or 443-3695

**2 HOUSES** FOR SALE. High & Dry, from $165,000. 504-455-0049

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3br/2ba, 1350** living, attached one car garage, no flooding, 4424 ware ave, Jefferson. 205,000. (504)452-3132

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**6605 Hastings** Street, 3-bdrm, 2-full bath, never flooded. $190,000. 318-208-1699

**717 Park** Ridge, $230,000, 3br 2ba, gr, no flood, rennov 2yr ago incl new AC. 504-228-2010

**FSBO-4 Bed/2.5** bath. High and Dry, 8411 West Metairie Ave. NO FLOODING. Two story brick, great room and 3032 SF. Two woodburning fireplaces. $379,000. Don't dawdle, see Jac 985.637.3886 or 504.467.8868

**HARAHAN $215,000** 3br, 1ba, 177 Magnolia Blvd. Great Condition! 504-251-5380

**HIGH AND** DRY IN RIVER RIDGE 4600 SF, 5 br, 3 ba, move-in ready, $500K firm. 504-251-6688

### 7535 Mid City/City Park

**JEFFERSON 705** Pecan Grove Lane, Townhome, never flooded, 504-733-9281 or 504-914-3663

**KENNER Avail** Now! Beautiful Town house, 2Bdrm, 1.5Ba & a nice patio, approx 1400 sf, new carpet, kit 4 yrs old, bdrms are huge w/cathedral ceilings. Incls: Washer/Dryer, dishwasher & refrig. Owner/Agent $91,500. 504-451-2802 or 504-439-0465

**KENNER Driftwood** Sub, 4BR, 2BA, LR, den, rec room w/bar, 2 car gar, fenced yd w/patio, move-in cond, never flooded, 2500 sqft, $595,000. 504-920-7623

**Magical home,** 10 fenced acres, pool, creek, giant oaks. $350,000. 803-349-5588, kkoepp@aol.com

**MAKE OFFER!** 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, large den, living/dining room, enclosed spa & office, 4000 SF. Call 504-231-5338

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE FSBO,Dry,** 2BR, 1BA cottage off Metairie Rd, $174,900. 504-432-5002/210-263-9829

**METAIRIE Great** Loc-No Flood 3BR,2Ba, Garage, DR/LR, Gr Rm, 1800sf, liv. $235,000. H:5044552270 C:3379623722

**METAIRIE never** flooded 3800 sqft, 4br/2.5ba, wood/tile flrs, granite counters 504-455-4005

**MOVE IN** READY nr. EJGH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**N. ATLANTA** ST. #1428. High and dry. 3 BR, 2 BA, office, great area, $195,000. 504-364-7922

**NEVER FLOODED!** 3133 Iowa Ave. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, living/dining room combo, large den, hot tub in backyard, $189,000. 504-756-1886, 504-454-3397 or 337-216-9303

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**RIVER RIDGE** - 8812 Tanglewild. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2500 sqft. Lot is 70x120. rear yard access to oversized 2 car garage. Many Extras. $347,500. Please Call 504-737-4850/504-231-4270

**RIVER RIDGE** Hi/dry, 4BR/2.5BA, 2450 SF. $375,000. 504-259-0635. T. Crane Inc 504-866-8666

**SPECIALIZED RE** SERVICES INC. www.sresinc.com. For Sale: Homes, Condo's & Lots. All areas. Call 504-468-7979

**STUNNING METAIRIE** - Never flooded. 3bd/2ba. Granite cntrtps, Italian tile, hrdwd flrs, Move-in cond. 504-780-7680

**WE BUY** DAMAGED OR FLOODED HOUSES. Please call 504-756-6425 or 504-722-0424

**WILL BUY** STORM DAMAGED HOMES IN METAIRIE! PLEASE CALL: 504-957-6380

### 7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**AIRLINE PARK** 1 bl to St. Mary Magdalen, 6813 Merle. 3 bed 2 bath NO Flooding. Asking $179,900. 504-736- 0904

**BELOW CAUSEWAY** No Flooding, 2 story, 4 bdrm, 3 BA, Brick, 1017 Smith Dr. $450,000. Call 504-495-6718 or 504-289-6796

**BONNABEL AREA,** FSBO, 2 Bedroom, 2 Ba + guest house w/full bath. 504-828-6622

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**METAIRIE High** & Dry 3br, 2ba, great rm w/FP, comp area, wd flrs, roof, A/C & appls 6 yrs. Patio & Hot Tub. 1605 Houma Blvd (btwn W. Metairie & W. Napoleon) $248K. 504-885-8167

**METAIRIE Home** For Sale. Flooded from Katrina, Demo Completed, Call 504-258-1159

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** 3213 Ridgeway. 5 Bd, 3.5 bath, master down, 2 car garage, granite counters, custom cabinets. $685,000. Schmidt Homes 504-885-0900.

**OLD METAIRIE** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home, 1 bedroom efficiency apartment over garage, no flood area, $349,000. 601-795-3717

**OLD METAIRIE** 8 Plex, possible Condo conversion, $500,000, Please Call 504-737-6410

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**WANTED: Fix-up** houses, teardowns & lots. Local Company since 1984. 504-455-0049

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**4000 St** James Dr - No fld min wind dmg 4b 3f/2h ba 2550ft2 as-is Gregg 504-352-6018

### Residences for Sale

### 7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**Chateau Estates,** no flood! 4/2.5, 2600 SF, open Sunday 2-4. 504-710-7065/504-464-1235

**Chateau Golf** course fsbo $600K, 3785sf, 1/3+ac, 4br/3.5ba, 5 Chateau Mouton. 504-458-8317

**Chateau Lakefrt** 2550 SF, $350K. 4BR/2BA, extras, 16x20 shed, pool. 850-859-9917 after 3pm.

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

### 7560 West Bank

**1 Bedroom** Efficiency in Bridge City, lot 25x100, fenced yard, $45,000. 985-229-1993

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**2 BEDROOM,** 1 Bath, central A/H, 112 12th Street, Bridge City, high & dry, $105,000/OBO. 865-654-9486 or 865-688-2768

**2BR, 1.5BA** ,fireplace, garage, Picayune, NO KATRINA DAMAGE, 601-799-2626; 601-818-1047

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA** Condo in exc cond. Frpl, alarm, pvt backyard, fully equipped kit. $159,000. 504-362-8756, 504-812-6517

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GRETNA** - NEW CONSTRUCTION! Gated community just 5 mins from the CBD. New homes available immediately, untouched by Katrina, no flooding. Prices starting at $209,900. Hamilton Oaks, 504-324-1886

**GRETNA BY** OWNER. $205K. 349 Southwood Dr. Never flooded. New roof, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 flr., ext. room and storage shed, pavement all around, design garden. 832-474-2151 or 985-651-1411

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO, LA. 3 Br/2 Ba, 2000 Square Feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**HOUSING AVAILABLE** & HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 or email sydneyrichoux@cox.net

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba $445,000 -see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**Terrytown 4** Bedroom, 2 Bath Lrg Living Area 689 E. Niagara Cir. $138,500. Call Ann 504-610-6952

**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY, CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**ABITA SPRINGS** 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom home, double lot, completely renovated in 2002, 1200 sq.ft, Norman Rockwell setting. Only $225,000. 985-264-9326

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Acadian on** Cul de sac 5bd/3b/2gar, pool, .49acre $389,500. Please call 985-624-9331 or www.infotube.net, ad#111805

**Beau Chene** 4BR/4BA, 3500 sqft, golf course, pool, 10' ceilings, lots more. $434,000. 985-845-2085

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Beautiful North** Shore Home For Sale By Owner. 1125 Forest Ln, Mandeville. 3 br, 2 1/2 bath. Low $300,000's! Open House, Sun 10/9, 12-4

**Beautiful raised** acadian/1AC. Mandeville best schls, 4BR/2.5BA, cust. mill wk, lg open kit/din/+, 2300 SF, lg wind.s, french drs to deck. 985-264-5269

### 7570Mandeville/Covington

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $185,000. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $140,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington 2** bedroom/1 bath, .5 acre, central heat/air, $80,000. 504-218-5357/985-634-0728

**COVINGTON 3** Br, 2 full Ba, back porch, lot 60x150, no storm damage. $299,000. 985-502-0156

**COVINGTON EXEC** ESTATE. high & dry! 3.75 acres. 4100 + square foot; excellent condition. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, bonus room. Large den, LV/DR; Master suite w/ Jacuzzi; Separate studio (perfect for mother-in-law) Three 2 car garages: Elegant entry w/ iron gate. Covered patio w/ tile floors, gazebo, green house; stocked pond & more $399,000.00 call 985 210-9571; 985 535-2889;985 817-0180. Geri or Abril.

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890K, for more details on this esquisite home, call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 Progressive Real Estate

**Covington great** area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Covington, 1** Br Condo, Pool, Fitness, Internet Access, Club House, $119,500. Will Consider Lease $1200/mo. 985-626-0071

**COVINGTON, Savannah's** New Construction, 3/2, Premium Lot, Ready in 6 Weeks. MADISONVILLE, Black River Forest, New Construction, 4/3, Bonus Rm, 3112 Living, 3/4 Acre Lot, Ready in 6 Wks. Spring Hill Homes LLC, 985-807-3805

**Folsom 2** BR, 1 BA, 100 yr home, C1 lot, Near Hwy 25 & Hwy 40. $87000. 985-705-1899

**Lacombe 2.3** acres on bayou Lacombe, high ground, no flooding! 2 homes, each 3 BR, 2 BA, large detached gar., covered pool, $780,000. 28183 Main St, 985-882-5871 appt only

**Lacombe Cottage,** 2000sqft. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, loft upstairs, $275,000. Call 985-630-8528

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

**Madisonville New** const., 4BR/3BA, over 3200 SF living area, granite counter-tops, Re-Max R.E.P, 985-626-1561/871-4940

**Mandeville *NEW** LISTING* 5 bedroom, 2 bath, $375K. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**MANDEVILLE 3BR,** 2.5BA, 1/2 acre lot, 1200 sq.ft. warehouse, furn., $350,000. 985-727-7503

**Mandeville Desirable** Cornerstone. Green Leaves subdiv. 3000 sf, culdesac, precious! By appt only. $370,000. 985-624-8168

**Mandeville Gated** Hunter's Glen, near Causeway/I-12, 2712 SF, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1.5 acre, flood zone C, well maint., Move in soon, $385,000, 985-727-1663

**Mandeville Schools:** LR, DR, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2 dens. Pool, 1.2 acres, $250,000. 985-892-1201

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**MANDEVILLE/GREENLEAVES SUBDIVISION** Lovely 4BR/3.25BA home on quiet cul de sac, minutes from Causeway. 2616 square foot living. $340,000. Call 985-778-1369 or 985-893-7982

**NEW CONSTRUCTION,** Will be complete in 60 days. 2481 SF living, 1 AC lot. 4 BR, 3 BA. 4 Begonia in Flower Estates South. $303,000. Call 985-966-0628 or 504-628-6075

**Old Military** Rd. Immediate occupancy. No flooding. Totally remodeled. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 31 acres. 504-400-6749

### 7580 Slidell

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**SLIDELL 4BR,** 2.5BA, 2701 sq. ft. living, in Breckenridge Subdivision, in-ground heated pool w/ spa, never flooded, exc school district, $309,000. 985-778-9942 or 985-707-3572

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

### 7590 River Parish East Bank

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.LaPlaceHomeSeller.com The Home Company Realtors (985)652-SOLD(7653)

**ST ANDREWS** ESTATES, gorgeous home on golf course, super high ceilings, crown molding, 2 studies w/ book shelves, 3 Fam. Rm., master suite w/ luxury master BA, formal Din. Rm., gourmet kit, island bar, hardwood flr., ceramic tile. 550 SF screened patio, 28 by 21 game room. Angelle Songy 985-651-0021 ext. 12 Century 21 Judy Songy

### 7600 River Parish West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

### 7610 Tangipahoa Parish

**Between Kentwood** & Amite, LA, 4 bdrm, 3 bth, 3,000 sq ft, 28 acres country. 1 hr from BR, 1.5 hr from NO. Call 225-791-2921

### 7612 Washington Parish

**4BR, 3** bath, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg, $450,000 985-516-0237

**Franklinton in** city limits, 1 year old home, 1800 sq. ft., lived in for 3 months, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, asking $144,000 for sale by owner. 985-705-9959

**IN BOGALUSA,** Beautifully restored Victorian, 3600 Sq. Ft. $135,000. 985-516-3997

### 7615 Mississippi

**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**HURRICANE GET-AWAY** HOME! 250 mi N of mouth MS River. Off I-55/55 mi S of Jackson in Brookhaven, MS. Built '98. 5Br/4BA, (5th BR priv BA/Dress & Sitt area). 2 stry. Brick/Stucco w/cathedral Ceil. Approx 6500 SF on approx 20 ac. Access to priv lake. Indoor pool. Lots of extras. Top of the line appl. Appoint only 601-833-6403 or 601-833-8806.

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**Purvis, MS** land for sale: 152 acres, rolling hills, mostly pasture. 10 minutes from town, 20 minutes from Hattiesburg. $4000.00/acre. ph#601-270-9713

**Smith Co,** MS Beautiful 4000 Sq. Ft. Home, 7 Ac, Walk Out Basement, $300,000. Additional 150 Ac Land/Timber. 601-382-3347

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**Relocating? Many** homes available. $150,000 & up. Montgomery Realtors. 850-932-9228, 850-432-3060

**VANCLEAVE, MS.** 2000 SF, Ranch-style, 3BR, 2BA, 4 acres, large kit, great rm, fplc, huge master BR/BA, 3 yrs old, fncd and prvt. Asking $300K. 228-297-8949 or 228-297-8923

### 7625 Country

**Franklinton, Country** home for sale, 8 years old, just updated on 2 acres. 4000 square feet living area. 4 bedroom, 4 bath. Additional acreage available. $475,000. 985-848-4473

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

**3br/2bth Mobile** Home- Dblwide 28x52. Price includes move. Fridge ,w/d, dishw, stove, micro incl. 28K obo. 504-421-5462.

**Beautiful Dbl.** wide Mfg home 3b/2b on 1.63 acres in Albany La. 225-567-9712

**Belle Chasse** '01, 30 X 60, 3 Br, 2 Ba, Cathedral Ceilings throughout, 4 walk in closets & fplc, exc cond! moving, must sell at $50,000. 504-392-7928

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

**Mobile Home** 1983 (12x60) 2 bdrm, 1 ba. Needs HVAC, update/repair. Must be moved $5500 P.R.La. 985 285-4412

**SPRINGER DISCOUNT** Mobile homes. A licensed dealer for over 19 years has 3 bedroom single wides (wind zone II), now ready for delivery. Cash discounts! Financing available. Will work with insurance companies to lease a manufactured home until a new home is built. We also move & re-level damaged homes. 662-456-9833

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**SLIDELL 1,** 2 or 3 bedroom, single house for sale or rent. 985-882-7381

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**1332 Aris** Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

**3-2 Home** Only $13,000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**3B/2BA House** in Folsom Subdiv., $1200/mo., 12 month contract, avail now., call 985-966-7867 (8am-6pm)

### Residences for Sale

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Houma, LA.** Newly renovated 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath For Sale! 205 Roselawn Ave., $68,950. Contact Marilyn 985-856-2837 or Vivian 985-498-0612

**Uptown on** Magazine! Grand, two-story house among all the antique and boutique shops! 3 bedrooms plus loft. Older couple has decided to reduce their worries and move to a townhouse. This house is NOT damaged by recent events! Includes soughtafter COVERED parking for 2-4 vehicles. For more info, please call 214-893-0410

## COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**GRETNA Commercial** building 1968 SF front area includes ofc. s, work area and holding cooler, back includes 1200 SF cooler, 1260 SF freezer, warehouse space and loading dock, lease or sale, For appt. Please Call 504-392-6759

**Hammond 4,255** sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**HARAHAN Local** franchise for sale, SMOOTHIE JUICE AND JAVA BAR, turn key operation. For info please call Whitney 504-319-3003

**KENNER- 3,800sf** OFFICE AND MULTI-USE BUILDING, 3326 Fla Ave. $420,000. 504-491-8335

**RECONDITIONED Mobile** offices. Call Jobsite Trailer Corp 877-699-6280/ www.jobsitemobileoffices.com

**Slidell: 3440** sqft building on Front St., parking and extra lot included - $310,000. 228-342-0642 or 228-342-0619

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**CBD, between** 4000-8000 sq ft, office in Arts district, classic structure, 504-931-0954

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. (Collins Blvd). 985-871-0771 985-264-0620

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**JEFFERSON NEAR** OCHSNER HOSP. - 2 pvt offices, library, reception, parking. $1000. 833-1957

**Kenner Williams** Blvd. corner 39th St, 1150sf building, no water. Terms negot. 504-251-2105

**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Immediately** available: Office space from 407 sq. ft. - 2,427 sq. ft., in the Wagner and Truax building. 2121 N. Causeway Blvd. Rates: $13.00 RSF - $14.50 RSF. Full service 2 year lease required. Call Agent 504-831-6694

**NO FLOOD** ZONE! For Lease, Lacombe/Mandeville on Highway 190 West. All or Part, Build to Suite. 3 Acres, C2 Property, 400 Ft. Highway Frontage. 504-818-6233

**Office Williams** Blvd. 600 SF, $600, plenty of pking, Borngesser Realty Co. 504-454-0800

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**River Ridge** LA, 2000 Sq Ft of commercial lease space avail. 7 miles from New Orleans CBD w/ commercial kitchen, showers, and lg parking area. $4750/mo + util. 504-390-7560

**ST. CHARLES** - Office space in Luling, 1,000 sq ft, previously used as a doctors office, 1 mile from I-310, 985-785-6221

**Up to** 4800 SQ FT Office Space Available near NO Intl. Airport. 504-712-9020

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Algiers Space** Available. Mobile Office, Container, Storage, Truck Yard. Utilities Available 504-394-STOR or 985-652-2771

### Commercial-Offices

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**COVINGTON LC1** approx .0653 ACs, off Hwy 190, in growing area, $250,000, 504-347-1509

**MONEY TO** LEND! Commercial Mortgages. 504-610-2169

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735Investment Property

**Metairie, 2** Doubles and 2 Singles $550,000. Please call 504-834-1459.

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7737Waterfront Property

**10 Acres** on Silver Creek. Hill Top View, Lots of Trees, Unbelievable site and location. 12 miles from Franklinton and 30 miles North of Covington. 1000 feet of Road Frontage and 600 feet of Creek Frontage. Must See To Believe! Make Offer. 985-839-0046 or 225-278-2374

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**C-1 LOT.** Just off Veterans. High & dry, 50'x150', 740 Phosphor, $350K cash. 504-458-6927

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**HARAHAN CONDO** Renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 BA. $175,000. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**Harvey, corner** of 23rd & Tallow Tree. 70ft x 140ft, good for Home, Apt, etc. 504-733-2251

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $479K/OBO. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**5 ACRE** Wooded lot with rolling hills

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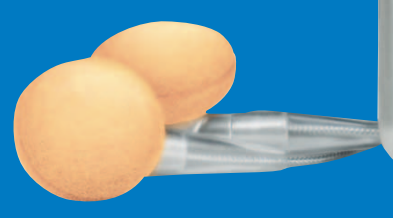




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69284 Hwy. 21, (Target Shopping Center), 985-809-6784
**Cutoff** 13984 W Main St., 985-798-7077
**Hammond** 1625 S Morrison Blvd., 985-345-9020
1805 SW Railroad Ave., (Palace Center), 985-542-3933
**Harahan** 1000 S Clearview Pkwy., 504-734-9393
1134 S Clearview Pkwy., 504-733-8435
**Houma** 1060 Grand Caillou Rd., 985-580-2337
Southland Mall, 5953 W Park Ave., 985-868-5163
1344 W Tunnel Blvd., 985-868-0220
**Kenner** 819 W Esplanade Ave., Ste. 4, 504-466-2081

**Lakeside Mall Kiosk** 3401 Veterans Blvd.
(Inside Mall Ctr. Area)
**LaPlace** 140-C Belle Terre Hwy., 985-653-7935
**Mandeville** 601 N Causeway Blvd., 985-624-9900
**Metairie** 2222 Clearview Pkwy., 504-883-7771
3413 Veterans Mem. Blvd.
(Outside Lakeside Mall), 504-834-2786
4436 Veterans Blvd. (Clearview Mall), 504-454-3400
**New Orleans** 201 St. Charles Ave., 504-581-2900
1900 St. Charles Ave., 504-523-4169
5300 Tchoupitoulas St., 504-895-2166

**Slidell** 1300 Gause Blvd., 985-847-9900
61103 Airport Rd., Ste.1, (Target Shopping Center)
985-781-4786
**Thibodaux** 367 N Canal Blvd., 985-446-3418
**West Bank** 605 Lapalco Blvd., 504-392-6900
197 West Bank Expy.
(in Oakwood Mall), 504-363-0074
1831 Manhattan Place, (next to Target), 504-263-0261

**Express Locations**
**Houma** Southland Mall, 5953 West Park Ave., 985-868-1786
**Kenner** Esplanade Mall, 1401 W Esplanade Ave., 504-471-4967
**Metairie** Lakeside Mall, 3401 Veterans Blvd., 504-833-3305
**New Orleans** The Plaza Mall, 5700 Read Blvd., 504-244-1060
**Raceland** Wal-Mart, LA Hwy. 1, 985-532-6454
**Thibodaux** 204 N Canal Blvd., 985-449-1655
**West Bank** Oakwood Mall
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Wednesday
October 5, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## City must refocus its energy

Many of my friends are walking around angry that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is no longer distributing the $2,000 in emergency funds that was promised to Hurricane Katrina victims after the storm.

Other friends are struggling to come to grips emotionally with the difficulty of rebuilding homes and lives.

Others, who lived in the areas that were hardest hit, are wondering whether they will be allowed to repair or rebuild in their old neighborhoods.

The concerns loom so large that you can hardly blame folks for focusing on their individual problems rather than concentrating on the larger issues that will affect the rebuilding of our city.

But we need to keep the big picture in mind.

### Making it affordable

The Alliance for Affordable Energy has always been a big-picture organization and, true to form, it has compiled a list of principles that should guide our steps forward.

Its most practical ideas relate to building energy-efficient homes, smart planning and the use of alternative energy sources.

"We have a very poor community," said Linda Stone, the organization's executive director. "Everyone needs to have an energy-efficient home so we can reduce the demands on energy and be more affordable."

In recent decades, developers across the country have created communities in which residential and commercial areas are so segregated that you need a car to go almost anywhere. Various issues, including the skyrocketing price of gas, make such an approach unwise.

If acres and acres of New Orleans are to be rebuilt, as Mayor Ray Nagin and others have suggested, we should create neighborhoods in which businesses are in close proximity to the residents they will serve.

### A city in danger

As difficult as it will be to incorporate those concerns into our rebuilding efforts, the Alliance makes some other suggestions that are far broader in implication and far more difficult to implement.

"Long before Katrina, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identified New Orleans as the North American city most endangered by global warming," the organization says in a recent news release. "Both sea level rise and higher ocean temperatures are caused by the warming of our atmosphere."

These conditions contribute to the intensity of hurricanes. For that reason, our state needs to be a leader in combating climate change.

Because the barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico play a crucial role in minimizing the impact of hurricanes, rebuilding our coast is crucial to our future security.

The Alliance for Affordable Energy plans to hold a series of community workshops to discuss these issues. The first is planned for Oct. 8th in Baton Rouge at the Parish Hall of First United Methodist Church at

930 North Blvd. from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, go to www.all4energy.org or call (210) 885-6879.

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Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com.

# Clinton finds 9th Ward sobering

## *Crowd's input on spending sought*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

About 48 evacuees warmly cheered former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday at L.B. Landry High School in Algiers, where he told the invited crowd, "My heart goes out to you."

Clinton visited the magnet school turned FEMA Disaster Recovery Center to discuss how to spend an estimated $100 million collected through the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund. He called that amount "peanuts" in comparison to federally appropriated relief.

Clinton was accompanied to the school cafeteria by Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, where he briefly met other state and local officials such as New Orleans Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, who introduced him to the crowd.

Wearing blue jeans and a golf shirt, Clinton asked the evacuees to discuss how to allocate the fund's donations, which he said are aimed at needs not covered by federal money.

"We want to get it to people directly who need it as quickly as we can," he said, adding that his visit was in part a fact-finding mission, "to find out how folks are doing after Katrina."

He had toured the 9th Ward, where "we saw things I never thought I'd see," Clinton said. He was amazed, he said, to see Fats Domino's name still on his house. "That was about the only thing I saw that was untouched."

A woman wearing a "Burn K-Doe Burn" T-shirt addressed Clinton first, telling him she wanted to welcome him to New Orleans. She then put strands of beads around his neck.

Another man asked how local residents can participate in a rebuilding effort that seems domi-

See CLINTON, B-3

# MONUMENT TO FAITH

## *The old Ursuline Convent, a French Quarter landmark, may have taken a hit, but it still stands*



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA

Monsignor Crosby Kern checks the condition Tuesday of rare poetry and photos in an archive room at the old Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter. He said many documents were taken to Baton Rouge before the storm.

**By Meghan Gordon**
Staff writer

In the attic of the old Ursuline Convent, blue light shines through a tarp onto some of the oldest cypress beams in the Mississippi River Valley, and bricks lie shattered on the floor near a broken water main. Two stories below, spots of mold stain a wall.

Despite the damage by Hurricane Katrina to the French Quarter landmark, generally thought to be the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley, Monsignor Crosby Kern smiled as he showed off the 253-year-old structure and boasted that it survived yet another New Orleans disaster.

The convent at Chartres Street and Ursulines Aveune – the second structure built at the site, three decades after French nuns started a school there – carries a long history of its former occupants praying to Our Lady of Prompt Succor to spare it and the city from destruction.

The list of impending calamities includes the night of Jan. 7, 1815, when nuns prayed on the eve of the Battle of New Orleans, and the night in 1788 when a fire ravaged the city and destroyed the Church of St. Louis, one of the nearby cathedral's many predecessors.

"They say they put her face

See URSULINES, B-2



A pile of broken bricks from a collapsed chimney sits in a corner of the attic at the old Ursuline Convent. In the attic are some of the oldest cypress beams in the Mississippi River Valley.

# St. Bernard schools down, not out

## *Superintendent vows to rebuild system*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Each of its schools is severely damaged, the district is running out of money, and its employees and students are scattered across Louisiana and the nation, but the head of St. Bernard Parish public schools vows the system will be rebuilt.

St. Bernard school Superintendent Doris Voitier said the district plans to provide educational services to students in a temporary location as soon as families begin moving back to the devastated parish. Voitier said much of the plan depends on how fast electric, water and sewer services can be restored.

"We will be looking for trailers for temporary housing and for school facilities," Voitier

See SCHOOLS, B-2

▶ St. Bernard mail bound for St. Tammany Parish B-2

# Historic jazz building sent to an early grave

## *Unauthorized razing of battered structure chills preservationists*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

Given the vast wreckage wrought by Hurricane Katrina, knocking down one damaged building might seem like pretty small potatoes.

But recent demolition of the former Naval Brigade Hall, at 823 Camp St. in the Warehouse District, has preservationists alarmed. The building, which dates to 1903 and for a time housed the Grunewald Music School, was one of the city's more significant jazz landmarks, and preservationists fear that the manner in which it was torn down – without any review

See SHRINE, B-2



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, the former Naval Brigade Hall at 823 Camp St. was demolished by out-of-state firefighters without any formal review.

# Franklin wants to be charter school

## *Officials hoping to reopen in January*

**From staff reports**

In a push to reopen the school in January, the board of directors of the Benjamin Franklin High School Association voted unanimously Tuesday to apply to the Orleans Parish School Board to become a charter school.

Franklin, the college preparatory public school located on the lakefront campus of the University of New Orleans, is the second high-performing New Orleans public school to seek charter status, which would put it outside of the control of the parish school system.

Lusher School already has won approval of its charter from

See CHARTER, B-3

# School system to build from ground up

SCHOOLS, *from B-1*

said. She said the first site might be a school with grades kindergarten through 12.

School district finance manager David Fernandez said officials hope money to operate the school will be provided under the state's education financing program, the Minimum Foundation Program.

The district's 15 schools were swamped after Hurricane Katrina sent floodwaters over local levees Aug. 29. Parts of the parish were swamped a second time weeks later when Hurricane Rita, which came ashore in southwestern Louisiana, delivered a glancing blow to the area and pushed a storm surge through a breached levee.

St. Bernard was the only parish to lose the use of all its school buildings. Officials are still assessing the damages, Fernandez said.

Schools "are in pretty bad shape," Voitier said.

At Arabi Elementary, one of the schools closest to a levee failure that caused massive flooding, a brick and steel gymnasium was obliterated except for the four corners of the building.

"It looks like an open pavilion," Voitier said. The foundation of Chalmette Middle School was badly damaged, and a tornado apparently struck Joe Davies Elementary School in Meraux, she said.

"We are the only school system and parish with 100 percent devastation," Voitier said.

Voitier and several members of her staff have been working out of offices at the state Department of Education in Baton Rouge, where they've been helping students make transitions to other schools and to employees and retired workers hold on to their health insurance benefits.

"We have major funding problems," including no local tax revenue, Voitier said Friday.

School officials, meanwhile, have been mailing records to schools across the country for students who moved to other states. Officials saved St. Bernard Parish school records by duplicating data two days before the storm hit and safeguarding it in St. John the Baptist Parish, Voitier said.

Another priority is maintaining health insurance for school system employees and retired employees, she said. The school district pays $1 million in insurance premiums monthly. Benefits are covered until the end of October, but "we are looking to the state for help after that," Voitier said.

School system employees have been encouraged to take jobs elsewhere. "We have told our employees to take care of their families," Voitier said.

Nevertheless, she said, "I see us coming back," although it may not as large a system as it was before Hurricane Katrina.

On a brighter note, the parish's public schools have graduated seven high school seniors since Katrina swamped the parish.

Those were students who already had enough course credits to meet state graduation requirements, Voitier said.

# St. Bernard's mail bound for Covington

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

Jeanine Pellegrini, exiled to Mandeville after her Chalmette home was swept away by Hurricane Katrina, came to the Covington Post Office Tuesday expecting to retrieve a bushel basket full of mail.

She walked away empty-handed but was surprisingly upbeat. "At least I got some accurate information," she said.

She was told that regular and delayed residential and business mail for St. Bernard Parish residents will be available for pickup at the Covington Post Office in about 10 days. It will be dispersed from trailers being set up behind the post office on North Columbia Street just off U.S. 190.

Pellegrini was among a long line of displaced St. Bernard residents who came from all over expecting to pick up mail stacking up since the hurricane devastated their parish.

But all that has been available since Friday are monthly Social Security and SSI checks and some checks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"There was some confusion; some misinformation and a lot of disappointed people. But they were cordial and nice even if they were frustrated,'' said Wendy Frederick, a displaced letter carrier from the St. Bernard community post office now living in Baton Rouge and commuting since Monday to the Covington Post Office.

Several St. Bernard postal employees have taken over a corner of the lobby of the Covington post office. Dangling from the top of a service counter are hand-lettered signs for the post office locations formerly operating in St. Bernard. Behind those names, in boxes, there are scores of checks ready for pickup — but no regular mail yet.

The checks are being disbursed on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The same hours will apply when the St. Bernard mail operation begins from the trailers.

# Dance hall, jazz school were once housed at site

SHRINE, *from B-1*

process – could be a sign of growing peril to New Orleans' architectural heritage as the city rebuilds.

City officials say it was a mistake that won't happen again.

Jazz historian Jack Stewart called the hall "a double-dip" jazz landmark. At the turn of the century, it was an incubator of early ragtime music. In its later incarnation as a school, it was a place of learning and teaching for several well-known jazz musicians.

Demolition of the hall occurred Monday, a few hours after city inspectors placed a sign on the building declaring it unsafe for habitation. The work was done by a group of out-of-town firefighters – led, witnesses say, by a contingent from Chicago – who used a device known as "the strong arm" that is capable of spraying water and knocking over walls simultaneously.

Though the hall was not on fire, "they began to spray water on the building, and then after a while they began to bang on the roof, pushing through the roof from the top," said neighbor Lee Madere, who watched and protested as the building went down. "They were showing how it could break through roofs.

"My wife said, 'Look, we save historic structures here, we don't destroy them for demonstration purposes. After a while they began to knock the brick walls down and pull the façade off and demolish the structure. At that time, I said, 'Guys, that's a historic structure, you can't do this.' They said, 'We have to do it for safety.'"

City officials said they did not authorize the action.

"It has come to our attention that some of our mutual aid firefighters, in their enthusiasm to assist the New Orleans Fire Department, used a piece of equipment called the strong arm to demolish a storm-damaged building," Mayor Ray Nagin's press office said in a statement. "They were unaware of the proper procedures and the 'chain of command' necessary to accomplish this task. Steps have been taken by the New Orleans Fire Department to ensure that this will not happen again."

### Training exercise

Neighbors who witnessed the demolition, as well as the building's owner, Roland von Kurnatowski, acknowledged the building had suffered significant damage from Katrina's winds; the third floor had collapsed, spilling bricks onto Camp Street. But the first floor was basically intact, they said, and its unusually thick walls were still plumb.

Larry Freeman of Ferrara Fire Apparatus Inc., which provided the equipment, described the "controlled demolition" as a training exercise for the Chicago Fire Department, which had sent a contingent of firefighters to New Orleans to help with fire protection.

Freeman claimed he received permission from city officials to tear the building down, though he did not say specifically who authorized it.

"The structure was condemned by the city of New Orleans," Freeman said. "There was no way to rebuild that structure."

In fact, city officials say they only marked the building as uninhabitable. The notice posted last week, similar to those on hundreds of thousands of other buildings damaged by the storm, reads: "This structure is unsafe and its use or occupancy has been prohibited by the building official."

Mike Centineo, the city's director of safety and permits, said the stickers do not call for automatic demolition. "We are simply trying to protect people alerting them to the fact that the building is unsafe in its present state. Demolition will be determined on a case-by-case basis."

Now a pile of bricks and timbers stands where a part of New Orleans' jazz legacy was forged.

### Rich with history

That's too bad, said Stewart, because the naval hall had architectural as well as cultural importance. It was designed and built by Julius Koch, whose son, Richard, went on to co-found Koch & Wilson, a major architectural and restoration firm, Stewart said.

Stewart described its style as "Edwardian, quasi-military," with crenellation on the top and hooded decorative elements over the windows.

And it was full of stories.

"It was a very active hall; they had dances and music there," Stewart said, noting that William Braun, a ragtime composer and violinist, was the director of the hall's band.

An its later incarnation, the school served as a training ground for a number of prominent jazz musicians. The school was also notable for its tendency to ignore Jim Crow, then the law of the land.

"On the second floor were the white students, and the third floor was for black students," Stewart said. "But it was a limited budget operation so they didn't have enough teachers to teach every kind of instrument to both groups. So if the black teachers had a question for one kind of instrument, the white teacher went upstairs, and vice versa.

Von Kurnatowski bought the property in January and was in the process of converting it and four adjacent structures into condos, some of which had been presold.

### 'A bit arbitrary'

Von Kurnatowski said the building was "compromised" by the storm, but he added: "To find out they went ahead and did it seems a bit arbitrary to me. We figured we would figure out what to do when things got more sane. Next thing I know, they tore it down."

Some preservationists were less forgiving.

"You don't have the right to do a demonstration on a property that is not on fire," said Meg Lousteau of the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

"I'm very saddened that we've lost such an important piece of jazz history, seemingly without a permit or the owner's approval," Lousteau added. "Just because we're in the midst of a disaster, I don't think people should be taking it upon themselves to decide which buildings need to be destroyed."

# Papers moved ahead of storm

URSULINES, *from B-1*

in the window, and it faced the fire, and it stopped," Kern said of a small statue of the nuns' patron saint.

During Katrina, a chimney toppled onto the convent's roof and shattered a water main. Water poured down through the building for eight hours, soaking a few walls and many of the ancient cypress beams.

Speaking from the largest room on the convent's first floor – the nuns' original classroom and once home to the state legislature in the 1830s – Kern pointed to the moldy black and brown spots on one wall that will have to be cut out.

"All of this, it came from the attic all the way down," said Kern, who is in charge of the building as part of his duties as rector of nearby St. Louis Cathedral. "It's sad."

But an inlaid table used to support the bodies of New Orleans bishops before burial remained unharmed under a glass enclosure.

A spiral staircase from the original convent – one of the building's jewels – suffered no damage. Its cypress steps are still uneven underfoot, and its French colonial iron railing still curves delicately to the second floor.

Kern said that none of the historic items in the convent's archives on the second floor were damaged.

He said many documents were taken to Baton Rouge before the storm.

Others that stayed in sealed vaults were untouched by the water break but were in danger of mildewing if power wasn't restored to the climate controls, a fate they escaped.

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**DATE:** ➜ Thursday, October 6

**TIMES:** ➜ 4:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. (Repeat Sessions)

**LOCATION:** ➜ Holiday Inn Westbank
100 Westbank Expressway
Gretna

**COST:** ➜ Free of Charge

**SPONSORS:** ➜ Sponsored by JEDCO, the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson Business Council and The Jefferson EDGE. (All Members of the **Jefferson Back to Business** Task Force.)

# Lusher charter moves forward

CHARTER, *from B-1*

the School Board, though the charter application must still be ratified by state education officials. Lusher School officials also hope to reopen in January.

In a news release announcing the charter application, Duris Holmes, president of the Franklin parents association, said school officials and its support organizations are "committed to assisting with the rebuilding of the city of New Orleans by reopening its doors as soon as possible so that students and their families will be encouraged to return to the city and resume their productive roles in our society."

The announcement came a day after School Board President Torin Sanders said no public schools on the east bank of the city would reopen during the 2005-06 school year. He said beginning the school year in January would not provide enough instructional time for students.

Other school officials Tuesday disagreed with Sanders, saying that some schools on the city's east bank could open by January if they could be made safe and secure for students by that time.

Under the charter application, Franklin would partner with UNO to continue to offer a college preparatory education to students who meet admission requirements, according to the press release.

"Because of the impact that Katrina had within Orleans Parish on the homes and residences of Franklin students, it is anticipated that students registered as of Aug. 29, 2005, will be permitted to enroll in January 2006 and remain enrolled through their graduation regardless of their parish of residence. Any student who was accepted for enrollment in Franklin for the 2005-2006 school year but chose to attend another high school and is unable to continue his/her education at that school due to the effects of Katrina may also enroll at Franklin in January 2006," according to the release.

# Tammany cheers FEMA house trailers

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

A rare and hearty round of applause greeted the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday as house trailers began rolling from a staging area south of Slidell to hurricane-flooded and battered houses in eastern St. Tammany Parish.

"We're back in business," Parish President Kevin Davis told the daily gathering of municipal, parish, state, federal and other officials coordinating the massive post-Katrina restoration effort.

Early Tuesday, FEMA representative Scott Nelson said, 22 of the 300 trailers that arrived Sunday were being moved "as we speak" to the undisclosed locations for those who had qualified for the agency's temporary housing program.

The houses must have available water, sewerage and electrical hookups for the trailers. If they go on land the applicant doesn't own, he or she must obtain permission from the owner.

Nelson and FEMA official Roger Ingram urged those who haven't already registered either for the rental assistance or temporary housing program to do so by calling (800) 621-3362 or by going to www.fema.com on the Internet.

Evacuees or others displaced by the Aug. 29 hurricane that devastated the New Orleans area also may go to one of two FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers in Slidell or Covington.

"That (registration) is going to be crucial to the process," Nelson said. He warned, however, that people can qualify only for rental aid or trailers, not both.

By late afternoon, FEMA information officers were unable to say whether any additional trailers had been relocated from the Lakeshore Estates site south of Slidell during the day or how many were expected to be moved today.

Meanwhile, another 125 mobile homes are waiting to be hooked up at a trailer park owned by Slidell area businessman Chris Jean off Interstate 59 near Pearl River. Those trailers aren't expected to be moved.

It was unclear Tuesday to whom they would be assigned.

Davis has asked FEMA to provide at least 20,000 trailers and other types of mobile housing for the hurricane homeless during the recovery and rebuilding process.

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# Fund addresses gaps in federal relief

CLINTON, *from B-1*

nated by "folks that's not from New Orleans."

"I think more of it should be done locally," Clinton responded, but he added that federal funding would be directed according to state plans. He said there would be a better opportunity to "give people a fair shake over the long term."

Reporters were ushered from the room shortly after the question-and-answer session began. Mayor Ray Nagin was then escorted into the cafeteria.

Earlier Tuesday, Clinton met with scores of evacuees at River Center in Baton Rouge and took a tour of the convention center-turned-shelter. "I got a lot of really good ideas" from the evacuees at the capital, he said.

Clinton planned to spend the night in downtown New Orleans. He is scheduled to meet with relief workers at Picadilly Cafeteria in Metairie this morning before heading to Gulfport, Miss., and Bayou La Batre, Ala.

Created by former Presidents Bush and Clinton, the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund is a nonpartisan fund established to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina by addressing unmet needs and gaps in current funding. Clinton said the online application is simple and should be completed by one person, or advocate, per family.

For more information or to donate, visit bushclintonkatrinafund.org on the Web.

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Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT**
**for**
**ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES - TOWN OF FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA**

The Town of FRANKLINTON is seeking assistance for engineering services needed to prepare the FY 2006-2007 LCDBG application for funds, and subsequent implementation of that program, if funded. Qualifications statements for Engineering Design Services shall be received by:

4:00 p.m., Friday, October 7, 2005

The proposed project is SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION.
The Town of FRANKLINTON is soliciting qualification statements for engineering services to assist the Town of FRANKLINTON with preliminary engineering, design engineering, and inspections of this project in compliance with LCDBG Program requirements. The agreement will be on a lump sum, fixed price basis (or cost reimbursement "not to exceed" basis), with payment terms to be negotiated with the selected offeror. Reimbursement for services will be contingent on the Town of FRANKLINTON receiving funding from the State. Local funds will be used to pay for costs, if any, for applications which are not funded under the LCDBG Program. If the application is not funded by the State, no services beyond the application stage will be required. Therefore, neither the State nor the local governing body will be liable for any other expenditures under the contract. The maximum amount of pre-agreement and program implementation engineering fees which can be paid for implementation with LCDBG funds will be determined by the State and may require adjustments in the proposed contract amount.

The services to be provided will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Assist in the preparation of the application package (pre-agreement costs).
2. Designing system improvements and construction engineering. The preliminary plans and specifications must be completed within six (6) months of the Town's receipt of the "Authorization to Incur Costs" letter from the State's Office of Community Development.
3. Submit plans and specifications to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, if applicable, and to the Office of Community Development within the aforementioned six month period.
4. Assisting the administrative consultant with the construction bid package in conformance with applicable federal requirements and supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisement for bids, conducting the bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed. The first advertisement for bid must appear within thirty days of receiving authorization to advertise bids from the State.
5. Assist in conducting the preconstruction conference.
6. Field staking, on-site inspection of the construction work, and preparing inspection reports.
7. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment and submitting approved requests to the governing body.
8. Providing reproducible, certified, "As-built" plan drawings to the Town upon project completion.
9. Conducting final inspection and testing.

Respondents will be evaluated on the basis of the written materials submitted and according to the following factors (100 pts):
(a) Experience with this type of construction project under the LCDBG program (1997-2005) (15 pts.)
Under contract with 6 or more grantees (identify).....15
Under contract with 3-5 grantees (identify).....10
Under contract with 1-2 grantees (identify).....5
No previous LCDBG experience.....0

(b) Proximity of firm to local governing body (15 pts.)
0-50 miles.....15
51-80 miles.....10
81-100 miles.....5
>100 miles.....0

(c) Minority or female owend firm (submit certification) (10 pts)
>50% minority AND female ownership.....10
<50% minority ownership (or female ownership).....5
No female or minority ownership.....0

(d) Technical expertise of personnel assigned to this project (include resumes, pertinent experience on similar LCDBG and other public/private public works projects) (30 pts)

Project manager (10)
Registered professional engineer > 10 years.....10
Registered professional engineer 5-9 years.....5
Non-registered.....0

Design Engineer-of-record (10)
Registered >10 years experience.....10
Registered 5-9 years experience.....7
Registered 2-4 years experience.....3
Registered less than 2 years.....0

Support personnel (5)
Draftsmen; 2 or more with combined 10 years exper.....5
Draftsmen; 2 or more with combined 5-9 years exper....3
Draftsmen; 1 or more with 10 years experience.....3
Draftsmen; 1 or more with 5-9 years experience.....2
Draftsmen; 1 or more with less than 5 years experience....0

Inspection personnel (5)
Inspector with >10 years experience.....5
Inspector with 5-9 years experience.....3
Inspector with less than 5 years experience.....0

(e) The familiarity of the candidate with the type of problems applicable to the project, including local soils conditions, construction practices, etc. (10 pts)
Familiarity based on previous projects similar in scope within a twenty mile radius....10
Familiarity baed on previous projects within Florida Parishes.....3
No similar projects within Florida parishes.....0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES
LCDBG PROGRAM - Town of Franklinton, Louisiana

The TOWN OF FRANKLINTON is applying for a grant under the FY 2006-2007 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program for the purpose of constructing SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION. The TOWN OF FRANKLINTON is interested in procuring the services of an administrative consulting firm to prepare the application package and to administer and implement the project if it is successful in being funded.

The procedures for the selection of this firm will be in accordance with the procurement requirements of the LCDBG program. All responses received will be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria and corresponding point system that is identified in the request for proposals package. That package also identifies the scope of services to be performed by the selected firm.

The TOWN OF FRANKLINTON will award the contract to the respondent obtaining the highest score in the evaluation process.

Interested parties are invited to secure a proposal package from Ms. Faye Boyd, Town Clerk, Town of Franklinton, 301 Eleventh Avenue, Franklinton, LA 70438 ((985) 839-3569). The response to this request must be hand-delivered to the Town Hall (301 Eleventh Avenue, Franklinton, LA) or mailed to the above named person at the above address in such a manner that it is received not later than

4:00 p.m., Friday, October 7, 2005.

The TOWN OF FRANKLINTON is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage all small and minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises to apply.

s/ Earle R. Brown, Sr., MAYOR

Publish
New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE - October 5, 2005

(f) Satisfactory completion of similar public works projects within the past five (5) years (substantiate with letters of reference from chief elected official of municipality/parish noted) (10 pts)
Three or more projects (within past 5 years).....10
One-two projects (within past 5 years).....5
No project references.....0

(g) Past experience with the Town of FRANKLINTON on public works projects (10 pts)

A Selection Committee of four (4) persons, including the Mayor of Franklinton, the Town Clerk, the Public Works Director, and one (1) Alderman, as appointed by the Mayor, will grade and rank the Qualifications on or before Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at which time the highest ranked QS will be contacted to commence fee negotiations.

In the event of a tie, oral interviews will be held with those firms. As a result of those interviews, the TOWN will determine which firm will be selected to enter into contract negotiation. Unsuccessful offerers will be notified as soon as possible.

A recommendation of award will be made by the Selection Committee based on the most qualified offeror whose qualification statement is deemed most advantageous to the Town of FRANKLINTON, all factors considered. Tentative date of recommendation to the Board of Aldermen will be at the Town's regular meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

Questions and responses should be directed to:
Ms. Faye Boyd
Town of FRANKLINTON
301 Eleventh Avenue
Franklinton, LA 70438
(985) 839-3569

All qualification statements (submitted in duplicate) must be received not later than
4:00 p.m., Friday, October 7, 2005

State "ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION STATEMENT-FY 2006 - 2007 LCDBG" on the outside of the package submitted.

s/ Earle R. Brown
Earle R. Brown, Sr., MAYOR

Publish
New Orleans TIMES PICAYUNE - October 5, 2005

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES**
**LCDBG PROGRAM - Town of Amite, Louisiana**

The TOWN OF AMITE is applying for a grant under the FY 2006 - 2007 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program for the purpose of constructing SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION. The TOWN OF AMITE is interested in procuring the services of an administrative consulting firm to prepare the application package and to administer and implement the project if it is successful in being funded.

The procedures for the selection of this firm will be in accordance with the procurement requirements of the LCDBG program. All responses received will be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria and corresponding point system that is identified in the request for proposals package. That package also identifies the scope of services to be performed by the selected firm.

The TOWN OF AMITE will award the contract to the respondent obtaining the highest score in the evaluation process.

Interested parties are invited to secure a proposal package from Ms. Pris Gallagher, Director of Administration, Town of Amite, 212 East Oak Street, Amite, LA 70422 ((985) 748-8761). The response to this request must be hand-delivered to the Town Hall (212 East Oak Street, Amite, LA) or mailed to the above named person at the above address in such a manner that is received not later than

**4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2005.**

The TOWN OF AMITE is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage all small and minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises to apply.

/s/ R.E. Goldsby
R.E. Goldsby, M.D., MAYOR

Publish
New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE - October 5, 2005

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT for**
**ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES - TOWN of AMITE CITY, LOUISIANA**

The Town of AMITE CITY is seeking assistance for engineering services, qualifications statements for which shall be received by **4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2005**. Subject engineering services needed to prepare the FY 2006-2007 LCDBG application for funds, and subsequent implementation of that program, if funded. The proposed project is SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION.

The Town of AMITE CITY is soliciting qualification statements for engineering services to assist the Town of AMITE CITY with preliminary engineering, design engineering, and inspections of this project in compliance with LCDBG Program requirements. The agreement will be on a lump sum, fixed price basis (or cost reimbursement "not to exceed" basis), with payment terms to be negotiated with the selected offeror. Reimbursement for services will be contingent on the Town of AMITE CITY receiving funding from the State. Local funds will be used to pay for costs, if any, for applications which are not funded under the LCDBG Program. If the application is not funded by the State, no services beyond the application stage will be required. Therefore, neither the State nor the local governing body will be liable for any other expenditure under the contract. The maximum amount of pre-agreement and program implementation engineering fees which can be paid for implementation with LCDBG funds will be determined by the State and may require adjustments in the proposed contract amount.

The services to be provided will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Assist in the preparation of the application package (pre-agreement costs).
2. Designing system improvements and construction engineering. The preliminary plans and specifications must be completed within six (6) months of the Town's receipt of the "Authorization to Incur Costs" letter from the State's Office of Community Development.
3. Submit plans and specifications to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, if applicable, and to the Office of Community Development within the aforementioned six month period.
4. Assisting the administrative consultant with the construction bid package in conformance with applicable federal requirements and supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisement for bids, conducting the bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed. The first advertisement for bid must appear within thirty days of receiving authorization to advertise bids from the State.
5. Assist in conducting the preconstruction conference.
6. Field staking, on-site inspection of the construction work, and preparing inspection reports.
7. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment and submitting approved requests to the governing body.
8. Providing reproducible, certified, "As-built" plan drawings to the Town upon project completion.
9. Conducting final inspection and testing.

Respondents will be evaluated on the basis of the written materials submitted and according to the following factors (100 pts):
a) **Experience** with this type of construction project **under the LCDBG program (1997-2003)** (15 pts.)
Under contract with 6 or more grantees (identify).....15
Under contract with 3-5 grantees (identify).....10
Under contract with 1-2 grantees (identify).....5
No previous LCDBG experience.....0

(b) **Proximity** of firm to local governing body (15 pts.)
0-50 miles.....15
51-80 miles.....10
81-100 miles.....5
>100 miles.....0

(c) **Minority or female owend firm** (submit certification) (10 pts)
>50% minority AND female ownership.....10
<50% minority ownership (or female ownership).....5
No female or minority ownership.....0

(d) **Technical expertise** of personnel assigned to this project (include resumes, pertinent experience on similar LCDBG and other public/private public works projects) (30 pts)
Project manager (10)
Registered professional engineer > 10 years.....10
Registered professional engineer 5-9 years.....5
Non-registered.....0

Design Engineer-of-record (10)
Registered >10 years experience.....10
Registered 5-9 years experience.....7
Registered 2-4 years experience.....3
Registered less than 2 years.....0

Support personnel (5)
Draftsmen; 2 or more with combined 10 years exper.....5
Draftsmen; 2 or more with combined 5-9 years exper....3
Draftsmen; 1 or more with 10 years experience.....3
Draftsmen; 1 or more with 5-9 years experience.....2
Draftsmen; 1 or more with less than 5 years experience....0

Inspection personnel (5)
Inspector with >10 years experience.....5
Inspector with 5-9 years experience.....3
Inspector with less than 5 years experience.....0

(e) The **familiarity** of the candidate with the type of problems applicable to the project, including local soils conditions, construction practices, etc. (10 pts)
Familiarity based on previous projects similar in scope within a twenty mile radius....10
Familiarity based on previous projects in within 40 mile radius.....5
Familiarity based on previous projects within Florida Parishes.....3
No similar projects within Florida parishes.....0

(f) **Satisfactory completion of similar public works projects** within the past five (5) years (substantiate with letters of reference from chief elected official of municipality/parish noted) (10 pts)
Three or more projects (within past 5 years).....10
One-two projects (within past 5 years).....5
No project references.....0

(g) **Past experience with the Town of AMITE CITY** on public works projects (10 pts)

A Selection Committee of four (4) persons, including the Mayor of Amite, the Administrator, the Public Works Director, and one (1) Alderman, as appointed by the Mayor, will grade and rank the Qualifications on or before Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at which time the highest ranked QS will be contacted to commence fee negotiations.

In the event of a tie, oral interviews will be held with those firms. As a result of those interviews, the TOWN will determine which firm will be selected to enter into contract negotiation. Unsuccessful offerers will be notified as soon as possible.

A recommendation of award will be made by the Selection Committee based on the most qualified offeror whose qualification statement is deemed most advantageous to the Town of AMITE CITY, all factors considered. Tentative date of recommendation to the Board of Aldermen will be at the Town's regular meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2005.

Questions and responses should be directed to:
Ms. Pris Gallagher, Administrator
Town of Amite City
212 East Oak Street
Amite, Louisiana 70422
(985) 748-8761

All qualification statements (submitted in duplicate) must be received not later than
**4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2005**

State "ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION STATEMENT-FY 2006 - 2007 LCDBG" on the outside of the package submitted.

s/ R.E. Goldsby, M.D., Mayor

Publish in THE TIMES PICAYUNE - October 5, 2005

# East Jefferson looking to fix pumping plan

## *Evacuated workers were not at posts*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Saying he thinks some flooding in East Jefferson after Hurricane Katrina was due to pump stations that were not running, East Jefferson Levee District President Pat Bossetta said Tuesday that he's ready to explore the feasibility of assuming operation of parish drainage pumps.

Jefferson Parish, which is responsible for operating the pump stations, enacted its "doomsday" plan shortly before Katrina made landfall Aug. 29. Under that two-year-old plan, designed to protect the lives of parish employees when a major hurricane is forecast to make a direct hit on the New Orleans region, Parish President Aaron Broussard's administration evacuated pump operators and other essential personnel to shelters north of Lake Pontchartrain.

Bossetta is among a growing number of officials who think dozens of neighborhoods and commercial districts north of Interstate 10, from the St. Charles Parish line in Kenner to about Bonnabel Boulevard in Metairie, flooded only because no one was operating the pumps designed to reduce or eliminate flooding.

"Maybe the pumping stations need to come under our jurisdiction," Bossetta said Tuesday during his agency's first post-Katrina board meeting. "Maybe our guys need to be trained to turn them on. The water in East Jefferson didn't come over the levee. The problem with water in East Jefferson came through the pumping stations and into the canals," he said.

The Broussard administration declined additional comment Tuesday, but officials previously have said the evacuations were necessary to save lives. Parish spokeswoman Jacquie Bauer said parish emergency services director Walter Maestri is expected to make Katrina-related remarks to the Jefferson Parish Council, which

has scheduled a special meeting today to process emergency contracts related to the storms.

As essential personnel, Bossetta said, pump station operators should be required to stay at their posts during emergencies or, at the very least, be housed somewhere within the parish so that they can quickly return to the pump stations once a hurricane passes.

In Kenner, city officials Thursday are expected to pass a resolution asking their parish counterparts to cross-train essential Kenner employees to operate the pumps, "so we will never again be 100 percent dependent on the parish staff to turn on the pumps," Kenner chief of staff Phil Ramon said.

Katrina-related destruction on the north shore reportedly kept some evacuated pump station operators from getting back to their stations until 24 hours after the storm passed.

Much of Old Metairie, Airline Highway and the neighborhoods in between flooded after a breach on the Orleans Parish side of the 17th Street Canal inundated the city, then flowed north and west into the easternmost sections of Jefferson Parish.

But engineers agree it wasn't the 17th Street Canal that flooded Kenner and the rest of Metairie. State Department of Transportation and Development engineer Michael Stack, the department's liaison with southeast Louisiana levee districts, said he wasn't familiar enough with Jefferson Parish pump stations to know what kind of system the facilities have in place to stop backflow, which would occur if rising lake water forced itself into giant discharge pipes and ran into the canals.

In fact, Stack said he doesn't know whether the flooding occurred because of backflow, the collection of rainwater not being pumped out, or a combination of the two. Stack's responsibility is the design and maintenance of levees in southeast Louisiana parishes, not their drainage systems. But he agreed that it wasn't water from the 17th Street Canal that flooded Kenner, and the west and central portions of Metairie.

• • • • • •

Sheila Grissett can be reached at sgrissett@cox.net.

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# Jeff Council to OK emergency spending

## *Money covers cleanup, supply distribution*

**East Jefferson bureau**

The Jefferson Parish Council will hold a special meeting today to approve $3.8 million in emergency expenses incurred after Hurricane Katrina.

The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the General Government Building at 200 Derbigny St. in Gretna.

The council will vote on three resolutions to approve contracts and to authorize payment of invoices for contracts Parish President Aaron Broussard previously approved.

The parish disbursed the largest sum to Certified Cleaning and Restoration of Metairie, which charged $3.2 million for cleanup of the Joseph S. Yenni building, the parish government's headquarters on the east bank.

The parish also owes $456,700 to LMD for fuel and $90,000 to Feed the Relief, a charity set up by the professional golfer Kelly Gibson, for expenses related to Operation Life Line Depot, the system set up by the parish to distribute food, water and medical supplies to parish employees and the public.

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For St. Paul Business claims, please call
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**Slidell, LA:** Wal-Mart parking lot at 167 North Shore Blvd.
**Metairie, LA:** Lakeside Shopping Center near Pottery Barn at 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on corner of North Causeway Blvd.

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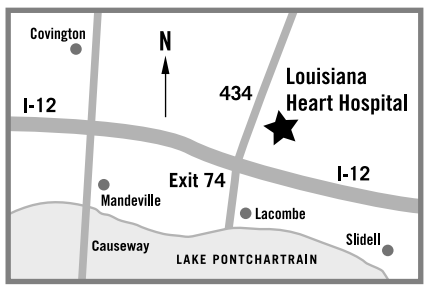
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LOUISIANA HEART HOSPITAL
www.louisianahearthospital.com

Louisiana Heart Hospital, recipient of the 2005 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award, would like to help some of the thousands of doctors displaced by Hurricane Katrina continue to serve patients on the North Shore and the Mississippi Coast. So we're making office space available on a short- or long-term basis.

Dedicated to fighting cardiovascular disease, Louisiana Heart Hospital provides quality care for cardiac, spine, orthopedics and a range of specialties. We stayed open during the storm, accepting patient transfers and serving as a rallying point for our community. By making room for our displaced colleagues, we help ensure patients' needs will continue to be met in this trying time. For physicians needing a place to practice, for patients seeking quality care, Louisiana Heart Hospital's doors are open.




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# 110-year-old home succumbs to fire

## *Hurricanes had spared Audubon Place house*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Firefighters battle a blaze Tuesday that consumed Dr. Michael Hayman's three-story home in Audubon Place.

Dr. Michael Hayman thought he'd emerged unscathed from the double-whammy of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

His 110-year-old home in historic Audubon Place next to Tulane University lost a few shingles and received only minor water damage.

"We felt very fortunate," said Hayman, a radiation oncologist at East Jefferson Medical Center.

Then Hayman took a phone call from a member of the Audubon Place Commission while having lunch Tuesday with his son in Philadelphia. His house was on fire.

"At first they told me that it was my house, then they said it was a neighbor's house," Hayman said by cell phone from the Philadelphia airport while frantically trying to find a flight home. "I still feel like it's somebody else's house. I guess I'm in denial."

Capt. Terry Hardy of the New Orleans Fire Department said 82 firefighters from 20 units fought the three-alarm blaze. He said the fire was reported at 11:23 a.m., and the first unit was on the scene at 11:27 a.m. By the time firefighters arrived, the fire had engulfed much of the first and second floors along the back of the house. It quickly spread throughout the house and to the third floor.

"When we arrived, the front door was locked and we had to kick it in," Hardy said. "We worked on the interior of the house, but the fire spread quickly and we had to pull out."

Firefighters managed to save the surrounding homes in the historic neighborhood, one of the oldest gated communities in the South. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. An ATF agent at the scene told Hayman over the phone that neighbors had reported power surges in the area. He said some neighbors also reported hearing a loud bang before the fire was noticed. Hardy said power was restored to the block Sunday.

Hayman, 57, said he and his wife, Marina, have lived in the three-story wood-frame home for 13 years. The couple's most prized possessions were a rare collection of Russian icons, artwork from the 1800s, family portraits and antiques, some dating to the 1700s.

# Electricity restored at Grand Isle School

## *But water service still intermittent*

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank bureau

Stuck in darkness for more than five weeks after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and left to fend for itself after hordes of volunteers evaporated along with media attention in the storms' aftermath, Grand Isle took a step toward sufficiency Tuesday when electricity was restored to its only school.

The Grand Isle School will reopen Thursday, but Jefferson Parish public school officials said they don't know how many of its 200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade will return after most of the community's homes were heavily damaged.

Still, the return of electricity will do much to help Grand Isle rebuild, Mayor David Camardelle said. About 80 percent to 90 percent of residents have come home to check their property, and about 150 people have stayed.

Recovery was progressing, but Hurricane Rita slowed the process, Camardelle said.

Entergy spokeswoman Becky Watson acknowledged that Hurricane Rita had delayed restoration of service. She said it has taken five weeks to rebuild the Grand Isle substation, which "was totally demolished."

Within two or three days, the utility hopes to return service to 50 percent to 60 percent of its 2,500 customers, she said.

Many buildings sustained heavy damage, including to the meters, and must be checked by an electrician before the power can be turned on, she said.

Camardelle said 60 percent to 70 percent of the remaining buildings have water service, although it is intermittent.

# DEATHS

Roy R. Angelette
Cheryl Nugier Angelo
Charles Addriam Arnold
Ernestine Painting Ball
Thomas John Beckman
Edward Lloyd Bottom
Sheldon Leslie Bulkin
Charles Walter Burdett
Francis William Burgess
Marko Martin Butirich
Jack Clement Caramonta
James Curtis
Mary Margaret Guillot Esteve
Wanda Fremaux Harris
Leonard Frank Ingrivaglia
Dorothy Thomas Isaacson
Glady's Fitzmorris King
Mary Mangerchine
Betty Joyce Bibbs Minor
Anees Mogabgab
Evelyn Sanger Mumford
Althea Welbrock Saacks
Gladys Marie Gaspard Stumpf
Salvadore Tedesco
Stella Lauve Troxler
Eric M. Walle
Joseph H. Waples
Roy Alan Worrell

### ANGELETTE

Roy R. Angelette, Sr., 79, a native of Golden Meadow and a resident of Larose, died October 3, 2005. Visitation will be from 4:00pm to 10:00pm Wednesday and 8:00am to 10:00am Thursday at Falgout Funeral Home in Galliano. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Larose at 11:00am Thursday. Interment Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Rose Mary Savoie Angelette, Ronnie and Denise Angelette, and Keith and Donna Angelette; one daughter and son-in-law, Crystal and Price Redmond; one son-in-law, Kurt Eschette; two brothers and sister-in-laws, Ambert Jr. and Genevieve Angelette, and Steve and Carolyn Angellette; two sisters and brother-in-law, Natalie and George Toups, and Lorraine and Roger Eymard, Sr.; one sister, Eloise Cheramie; grandchildren, their spouses and great-grandchildren, Neil and Tracy Angelette, and their children, Natalie, Nicholas, and Mark; Mignon and Stephen Gill, and their child, Alexandra; Brandy and Jamie Cheramie, and their children, Kurstan and Karoline; Matthew Eschette; Cody and Jera Angellette, and their child, Haiven; Domonique Angelette; Heather Eschette; Kristen Angelette; Michael Redmond; Shelby Angelette; Ryan Redmond and Nicole Redmond. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ambert Sr. and Natalie Angelette; daughter, Patsy Angellette Eschette; sister and brother-in-law, Yvonne and Wendel Harvey; and brother-in-law, Harrison Cheramie, Jr. Roy was a founder of A. Angelette & Sons Construction Company. He was a hard working cattleman and enjoyed spending time with his wife and family. He was a member of the Lafourche Cattleman's Association and the VFW. He was a WWII U.S. Navy Veteran, proudly serving in the Pacific as a Higgins Landing Craft Operator and Instructor.

### ANGELO

Cheryl Nugier Angelo passed away on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Beloved wife of Arnold Angelo Jr. Mother of Sean Eppinette and Arnold Angelo III. Grandmother of Sean Michael Eppinette and Samuel Eppinette. Sister of Billie Frantz. Also survived by a niece Kimberly Yahn. Age 54 years; a native of Abbeville, LA and a resident of Slidell, LA for the past 25 years. Relatives, friends and employees of Cooper T. Smith & Crescent Towing are invited to attend the funeral services from the chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Friends may visit on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM and again on Thursday from 10:00 AM until service time. Offer condolences online at: www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### ARNOLD

Charles Addriam Arnold of Bush, LA died on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 10:30 PM, in Lakeview Regional Medical Center. He was 80 years of age, a native of Richard City, Tennessee and a resident of Bush for the past 20 years. He was beloved husband of Shirley McBroom Arnold, Father of James "Chip" Planche, Edward Planche, Sandra Guerra, Melaine Ducote, Elizabeth Trouliet, Gia LePere and the late Jamie Castille. Son of late Charles Arnold and Hester McCrary Arnold. Also survived by 13 Grandchildren and 3 Great Grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral service on Wednesday October 5, 2005 at 11:00 am at Bagnell and Son Funeral Home, 75212 Lee Road, Covington, Louisiana. Visitation from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Interment will be private.

### BALL

Ernestine "Tina" Painting Ball at her residence in Metairie, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 10:55 PM.Beloved wife of Eugene J. Ball, Jr. for 56 years. Mother of Dennis J. Ball, Gina Ball Meyers, Ted A. Ball and the late Patrice Ann Ball. Sister of Joann Wheat, Dorothy Griffin, Nancy Corenti and the late Pearl Painting and James Painting.Also survived by 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Age 78 years. A native of Amite, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 58 years.Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation on October 6, 2005 from 10:00 AM until funeral time. Information call 831-9901. Sign on Guest book at www.legacy.com.

### BECKMAN

Thomas John "T.J." Beckman, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 2:10 p.m. Husband of the late Thelma Glindmeyer Beckman. Brother of Mary Ellen Allo, Thelma Buford and the late William Joseph Beckman. Son of the late William and Bertha Esler Beckman. Uncle of Tommy Allo, Jr., Billy Buford, Larry Buford, Jerry Buford and the late Ronnie Allo. Brother-in-law of Deanna Glindmeyer. Mr. Beckman was a U.S. Army Veteran and retired from American Can Company where he worked for 20 years. Age 73 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie for 40 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. Temporary interment at Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Covington, LA. Final resting place will be in Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

### BOTTOM

Lt. Col. Edward Lloyd Bottom, member of the 926th Fighter Group, passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Beloved husband of Doris Aleman Bottom for 60 years. Father of Susan Bottom Danos, Jill Bottom Cockerham Keppel and Lezlee Bottom Theo. Grandfather of Clay E. Cockerham, Ashley M. Cockerham, Courtney Danos Brown, Alicia K. Danos, Lindsay N. Theo and Grant B. Theo. Father-in-law of Thomas F. Danos and Pete G. Theo. Age 82 years; a native of Galena, IL and a resident of Covington for the past 50 years. Mr. Bottom was a retired engineer for South Central Bell, a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, Covington Country Club, and Northshore Duplicate Bridge Club. He served his country in the battle of Normandy and WWII receiving a Purple Heart, Medal of Honor along with numerous other medals. He received a certificate of honor from the American Air Museum and is a charter member of the Normandy Memorial Museum. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Chapel of E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 1:00PM. Friends may visit from 11:00 AM until service time. Interment in St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery.

### BULKIN

Sheldon Leslie Bulkin, age 59 years, of Slidell, LA on Friday, September 23, 2005, at Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX. Beloved Husband of Bettysue Dale Bulkin. Father of Charles D. Bulkin. Son of Molly Bulkin of Trenton, N.M. and the late Davis S. Bulkin. Brother of Bruce I. Bulkin of San Francisco, CA and Meryl A. Wood of Trenton, N.J. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Graveside Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 1751 GAUSE Blvd. West, Slidell, LA on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. Interment in FOREST LAWN CEMETERY. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society, preferred. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### BURDETT

Charles Walter Burdett, Jr., on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 1:22 a.m. Beloved husband of Helena Venezia Burdett. Father of Charles W. Burdett, III and wife Pamela Folse Burdett; and Donald M. Burdett. Grandfather of Crystal Burdett Hirstius and husband Brian; Charles W. Burdett, IV and wife Kelly Henson; Nicole E. Burdett, Bradley F. Burdett and Christian M. Burdett. Son of the late Edith Howard Burdett and Charles W. Burdett, Sr. Brother of Doris Burdett Bannon, Geraldine Burdett Monnier, Linda Burdett Mara, Edith Burdett and the late Marion Burdett Joseph, Walter Burdett, Carol Burdett Bujol and Jean Ann Burdett Wolf. Brother-in-law of Tommy Bannon, William Monnier, Gus Mara, John Joseph, Yvelle Burdett, Lydon Bujol and Ronald Wolf. Age 74 Years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie. Mr. Burdett was a U.S. Navy Veteran - United States Naval Airman - Fighter Squadron 33, a member of Teamster Local No. 270 and the American Legion 267. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Kidney Foundation preferred.

### BURGESS

Francis William Burgess, Jr. on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 died of cardiac arrest. He was 39 years old. He was born and raised in Uptown New Orleans and was a resident of Arabi, LA for the past 12 years. He was employed by Authement's Glass. He was the son of the late Juanita Morgan Burgess and Francis William Burgess, Sr. Survivors inclue: his wife Barbara, son Ryan, and daughter Lauren, sister Juanita (Tessie) Burgess Jenny, and brothers James Seawright, Timothy Thomas, Thomas, and James Burgess, and numerous nieces and nephews. Family and friends are welcome to attend the services to be held at L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner, on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 7:30 pm. Visitation on Thursday from 6 pm until 9 pm.

### BUTIRICH

Mr. Marko Martin Butirich, 78, of Biloxi, MS, died Sunday, October 2, 2005 in Daphne, AL. Mr. Butirich was a native Gretna, LA and had been a resident of Biloxi since 1954. He was a graduate of Ole Miss and the former owner of West End Pharmacy. Mr. Butirich was a member of Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral, the Slavic Benevolent Association of Croatia. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and past president of board of directors of Howard Memorial Hospital. He was also a member of the Gulf Coast Carnival Association. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Butirich. Survivors included two daughters, Kalin Butirich of Biloxi and Stephanie Winkler of Covington, LA; two sons, John Butirich and Marko Butirich, Jr., both of Biloxi, and eight grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 11:00 AM at Nativity B.V.M. Catholic Cathedral where friends may visit from 10:00 AM until service time. Entombment will follow in Biloxi City Cemetery. The Pass Road Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes in Biloxi is in charge of arrangements. View and sign register book at www.bradfordokeefe.com

### CARAMONTA

Jack Clement Caramonta on Friday, September 30, 2005. Husband of the late Rosalie Tortorich Caramonta. Father of Jack C. Jr. and Chris J. Caramonta. Brother of Lucille Ragusa, Anna Mae Hidalgo, Anthony Sr. and Vincent Caramonta Sr. Son of the late Chris Caramonta and Marie Michell Caramonta. Also survived by 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Age 85 years. A native of New Orleans, LA, a resident of Harvey, LA for 81 years and of Covington LA for the past 4 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral mass in the chapel of the Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Friday October 7, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Friday from 10:00 AM until service time.

### CURTIS

James Curtis, Jr., born July 7, 1955, died Sept. 25th of a massive heart attack. He has been a New Orleans resident all of his 50 years. He leaves behind his wife, Karen, and 3 children, Conrad, Jessica and Shelby Curtis. His parents, James and Marie Curtis, Sr., 6 sisters and 2 brothers, loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He worked on the riverfront for the last 30 years, the last 7 years with SSA Gulf Terminals, Inc. A Funeral will be held Oct. 5th at 10 am at Richardson Funeral Home, 1112 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge, LA. Burial at Providence Memorial Park Cemetery. Richardson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### ESTEVE

Mary Margaret Guillot Esteve, on Sunday, October 2, 2005, at West Jefferson Medical Center. Age 73 years. Beloved wife of Norman M. Esteve. Daughter of the late Philbert Henry Guillot and the late Philodie Duet Guillot. Mother of Glenn F. Esteve and his companion Kathy J. Lester and Nancy E. Saltzman and her husband John D. Saltzman. Sister of Yvonne G. Naquin. Half-sister of Sylvain "June" Duet. Mrs. Esteve was a native and lifelong resident of Gretna, LA. She was a member of the Davey Crockett Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Archbishop Blenk Council #1905 Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, St. Joseph's Women's Club and the St. Joseph Altar Society. She was retired from Lafayette Insurance Company after 44 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend funeral services on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, at 1:00 PM at St. Genevieve Catholic Church, Thibodaux, LA. Interment will follow services in St. Joseph Cemetery, Thibodaux, LA. Visitation, on Tuesday October 4, 2005, 6:00-10:00PM at the Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA and on Wednesday, 10:30-1:00 PM at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Thibodaux. The Rosary will be recited at 8:00 PM on Tuesday by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. In lieu of flowers, Masses or donations to the Leukemia Society, preferred.

### HARRIS

Services for Wanda Fremaux Harris will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 5, 2005 in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church with Rev. Dan O'Connor officiating under the direction of John Kramer & Son. Interment will be in Greenwood Memorial Park, Pineville, LA. Wanda Fremaux Harris went to the Lord October 1, 2005 in Winston-Salem, NC. She was born to Eugene and Jessie Fremaux August 5, 1912 in Morse, Louisiana. Wanda attended Covington High School in Convington, LA. and received a BA in English with minors in Spanish and French from Louisiana College, Pineville, LA. A long time resident of Baton Rouge, LA., she was active in the Baton Rouge Opera Guild, Baton Rouge Symphony, Frolicker's Dance Club, Big Timers Dance Club, The Woman's Club, Red Cross, Our lady of the Lake Auxillary, Novel Club, Garden Clubs and Bridge Clubs. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 66 years, Homer Henry Harris, Jr., her daughter, Wanda Annette Harris, daughter-in-law, Sandra Kleinpeter Harris, and great grand daughter, Sophie Ellen Harris. Wanda is survived by: One Daughter: Charlotte Harris Zamjahn of Winston-Salem, NC.; One Son: Homer Henry Harris III ans his spouse Eileen of Houston, TX. She is graced wirh grand daughters: Kimberly Hatchett Edgar and spouse, Erin, of San Antonio, TX.; Jacqueline Hatchett Goad and spouse Rick of Celebration, FL; Victoria Zamjhan Brandt and spouse Corey of Metairie, LA; and grandsons: Harold W. "Rusty" Hatchett, Jr. and spouse Angela of Texarkana, TX.; Harris Wilton Hatchett and spouse Lisa of Pineville, LA.; Kevin Todd Zamjhan and spouse Carol of Folsom, LA.; John Bradford Zamjhan and spouse Jennifer of Harahan, LA.; Homer H. "Beau" Harris IV of Austin, TX.; Benchmark "Ben" Henry Harris and spouse Deborah of Denton, TX.; and James Rice "J.R." Harris Houston, TX. She is also survived by 15 great grandchildren. Pallbearers will be her grandsons. Friends are asked to call from 9:00 until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday October 5, 2005 at the church. Condolences may be sent online to: kramerfunerals@aol.com

### INGRIVAGLIA

Leonard Frank Ingrivaglia, Jr. entered into Eternal Rest on Saturday, October 1, 2005. 68 years old. He was the husband of Gae Ann Gab Ingrivalia. He was the father of Jill I. Hogan, Gae Lynne I. Cavalier, the late Beth Ann I. Brackett, and Julie Ann Ingrivalia. He was the grandfather of Greg L. Ingrivalia, Sr., Daniella Brackett, Timothy II, Melanie, and Julianne Hogan, and Gregory and Garrett Cavalier. He was the great-grandfather of Greg L. Ingrivaglia, Jr. He was the father-in-law of Timothy P. Hogan, Sr. and Gregory J. Cavalier. He was the brother of Jeanette I. Chopin and Antoinette I. Abadie. He was the son of the late Leonardo and Laura Cardenia Ingrivaglia. He was a beloved friend of Warren and Ornella Barras. He was a graduate of Warren Easton High School. He was a retired Sr. Master Sergeant with the Louisiana Air National Guard, 159th Fighter Wing. He was a founding member of the Italian-American Marching Club. He was employed by the Federal Pilots Association. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Arabi for the past 36 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit on Thursday after 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society, 2200 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Kenner, LA 70062, preferred. Arrangements by JACOB SCHOEN AND SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS.

### ISAACSON

Dorothy Thomas Isaacson, affectionately known as Dot, on September 30, 2005 in Houston, TX after a brief illness. Age 87, a native of Brooklyn, New York, moved to New Orleans, Louisiana in 1948 and a resident of Covington, Louisiana for the last 46 years. Beloved wife of the late Vincent Gordon Isaacson. Dorothy was the daughter of John Henry Thomas and Lois Griffin Thomas and the sister of John Henry Thomas of Shelbyville, TN. She is survived by her two daughters, Janet Dorothy Blossman and Nancy Lois Isaacson, son-in-law Michael N. Blossman, six grandchildren; Amy, Adam, Andrew, and Alan Blossman, Brad and Stacey Bernhard, daughter-in-laws Josi and Jennifer Blossman and Shelly Bernhard. Dorothy is also survived by four great-grandchildren Brooklyn Blossman, Jake Bernhard, and Ashton and Jack Henry Aycock. Dorothy was a past Guild member of the St. Tammany Parish Hospital and a member of the First United Methodist Church. She was avid Saints fan and a Sunday afternoon enthusiastic supporter of Tiger Woods. She will be remembered lovingly as someone who never wanted anything for herself and everything for her children. Her sweet and gentle spirit will be sadly missed by all who loved her. Donations to the Salvation Army, 3170 Pontchartrain Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, in her memory preferred. A private graveside memorial is being planned for a later date.

### KING

Glady's "Big Mama" Fitzmorris King, on Friday, September 30, 2005. Beloved mother of Wanda K. Davis, Sylvia K. Sharp, James "Jimmie" W., Larry and Rayburn King. Sister of Cecile Dominguez, Vivian Braud, Thelma Lavigne and the late Rachael Rogers, Ina Mae Sambola, Monroe, Hardy, Joseph, and Kenzie Fitzmorris. Also survived by 19 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Aged 93 years, a native and a lifelong resident of Covington, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 11:00 AM from Shepherd's Care Church, 20115 Hwy 1081 (Stafford Rd.). Covington, LA 70435. Visitation on Monday at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Inc., 2260 W. 21st. Ave., Covington, LA 70433 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Tuesday at Shepherd's Care Church from 9:00 AM until service time. Interment in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery. In lieu flowers, donations can be made to Shepherd's Care Ministries. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### MANGERCHINE

Mary Mangerchine at Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Jefferson, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 4:40 PM.Beloved wife of the late Julius J. Mangerchine. Mother of Michael J., Richard D. and Cheryl D.Sister of Catherine Trahan and Shirley Roser.Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.Age 76 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Harahan, LA for the past 17 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral service from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 10:00 AM until funeral time. Information call 831-9901. Sign on Guest book at www.legacy.com.

### MINOR

BETTY JOYCE BIBBS MINOR, a retired teacher's aid and a devoted homemaker was called to her eternal home on Monday September 26, 2005 at 5:55 P.M. at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, La. She was 56. A resident of Westwego and a native on Donaldsonville (Smoke Bend Community). She was a 1967 graduate of Lowery High School in Donaldsonville, La. and attended Southern University of Baton Rouge, La. She leaves to mourn her passing: her husband, Ellis Minor, her father, Wilbert Bibbs, Sr. of Smoke Bend, La., her mother Pearley Bibbs of Hallandale, Florida, a son, Delmain Richard of Westwego, La., a brother, Wilbert, Jr. (Joyceline) Bibbs of Gonzales, La., two sisters, Jacqueline Mitchell of Donaldsonville, La. and Gwendolyn (Gerald) Dean of Hallandale, Florida. Also survived by two grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the services: Visitation at Demby & Son Funeral Home, Donaldsonville, La. 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday October 4, 2005. Visitation at Second Salvation Baptist Church, Rev. Herbert Green Pastor. 212 Morrero St. Bridge City, La. 9:00 A.M. until religious services at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday October 5, 2005. Services will be conducted by the Rev. George Davis. She was a member of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Bridge City, La. Interment in Restlawn Park Cemetery, Avondale, La. Demby & Son Funeral Home 900 Magnolia St. Donaldsonville, La. is in charge of arrangements.

### MOGABGAB

Anees Mogabgab, Jr. On September 8, 2005, Anees Mogabgab, Jr., died of congestive heart failure in Houston, Texas. He was 80 years old. Mr. Mogabgab was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 24, 1925, son of Dr. Anees Mogabgab and Maude Jopes Mogabgab, also preceded in death by his brother, Dr. William J. Mogabgab. He graduated from Tulane University receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, a Masters of Business Administration and a degree in Commerce. During his undergraduate studies, he was elected and served as President of the student body of the School of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Mogabgab was an avid and articulate linguist and was one of the earliest to receive the certification of CPCU ever awarded. He served in the United States Marine Corps and in the Louisiana National Guard during World War II and was honorably discharged from both services. He retired as President of Northrop, Inc. Mr Mogabgab was an honorary member of the Tally-Ho Club and a former member of the New Orleans Country Club, the Southern Yacht Club and the Pass Christian yacht Club. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Janet Northrop Mogabgab, two sons, Stephen A. and Paul N., two daughters, Janet Magee and Judith Tyrl. His surviving grandchildren are Anees Tyrl, Eva Snapp, Jason, Owen, Blake and Elaine Mogabgab. and one great grandson Stephen Clay Mogabgab. Subsequent to his death, his body was donated to the University of Texas Medical School. A memorial celebration will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Tammany Hospice.

### MUMFORD

Evelyn Sanger Mumford on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Frank Eugene Mumford. Mother of Kendal R. Mumford and mother-in-law of Joann Purcello Mumford. Grandmother of Jeffrey Mumford and his wife Melody Mumford and Gregory Paul Mumford. Great-grandmother of Jeffrey, Dixie, and Dustin. Great-great-grandmother of Dylan. Lifelong member of Carrolton Presbyterian Church. Aged 94 years, a native of New Orleans. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral service from the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Friends may visit from 11:00 AM until time of service.

### SAACKS

Althea Welbrock Saacks, on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 2:00 PM, beloved wife of the late William Joseph Saacks, mother of Rosemary S. Graffeo, Lynda A. Saacks, and Jill Frances Saacks, daughter of the late Cecilia Petermann Welbrock and Walter Thomas Welbrock, sister of Rosemary W. Gerosa, Cecilia W. Kuchler, George Welbrook, and the late Arthur Welbrock, John Welbrock and Melva W. Nuchler, grandmother of Michele, Terry, Jr., Scott and William, great-grandmother of Ashleigh, Nicholas, Chloe, Reese, and Ashton. Mrs. Saacks, a native of New Orleans, was 88 and a resident of Metairie for the past 60 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral mass to be celebrated at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 4921 West Metairie Avenue, Metairie, LA on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 11:00 AM with visitation at the church beginning at 10:00 AM until Mass begins. Interment will be in the Garden of Memories. In lieu of flowers, Masses preferred. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### STUMPF

Gladys Marie Gaspard Stumpf, 92, died Saturday, October 1, 2005 at St. Claire Manor in Baton Rouge, LA. She was a former resident of Little Sister's of the Poor Mary Joseph Residence for the Elderly in Algiers. She was a graduate of Sophie B. Wright High School and Mercy Hospital Soniat Memorial School of Nursing. She was Assistant Supervisor at Charity and Mercy Hospitals. She worked in th OB-GYN department at Ochsner Hospital Foundation for 18 years and retired in 1973. In 1987, Mrs. Stumpf was awarded Place Dubourg's Humanitarian award for her concern and attention to the sick and overall service to the residents. She was the beloved wife of the late John Williams Stumpf, Jr.; mother of Irene Marie Stumpf and John William Stumpf, III; daughter of the late Victoria Naquin Gaspard and Edward Joseph Gaspard, Sr.; sister of Mae Regina Fischer and the Earl Gaspard and Edward Gaspard, Jr.; grandmother of eight and great grandmother of 6. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 448 Metairie Road, Metairie on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 11:00a.m. Interment will follow in St. Louis Cemetery # III. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. at church. Donations are requested in Marie Stumpf's name to the Little Sisters of the Poor, 4201 Woodland Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### TEDESCO

Salvadore Tedesco, a Hurricane Katrina refugee from Violet, LA, and a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Violet died in Lafayette, LA on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 78 years of age. He resided in Violet for 42 years. Memorial Funeral Services were held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church on Saturday, October 1 with Monsignor Glen Provost presiding. He was preceded in death by his parents Anthony Joseph Tedesco and Rose Crescioni and brother Anthony Joseph Tedesco, Jr. all natives of New Orleans. Sal served in the Pacific Fleet of the U.S. Navy during WWII, and the Korean conflict receiving honorable discharges. He was employed as a shop foreman for Blatman and Corbesco Industries for 40 years before retiring. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Hermenia (Menia), daughters Christine Tedesco and Susan Fried, granddaughter Heather Fried, all of Violet, LA, step-grandson Gregory Fried of Picayune, MS, a sister, Shirley Stinson of Carriere, MS, and a host of loving nieces and nephews. Martin and Castille Funeral Home in Lafayette Handled the arrangements. The family requested that donations be directed to the St. Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 2319 Johnston St. Lafayette, LA, 70503, In His Memory.

### TROXLER

Stella "Ta" Lauve Troxler, a lifelong resident of Waggaman, passed away on Saturday, October 1st 2005. She was 76 years old. Mrs. Troxler was the wife of the late Leonard M. Troxler, Mother and Mother-in-Law of Sandra T. and Irvin M. Friloux Jr., Ricky M. and Cathy R. Troxler, David M. and Charlene S. Troxler, Elaine T. and the late Randy W. Barnes, Tommy J. and Donna E. Troxler: grandmother of Bambi and her husband Gary Simoneaux, Irby Petit III, Cami, Ryder, Clint, Katie, Jason, Joey and his wife Kattie Troxler, and Jessica Barnes; Great-grandmother of Torey and Julianna Simoneaux; Daughter of the late Louis and Estelle Lauve, sister of Amay, Pearl, Jessie and Ned Lauve, Peggy Friloux, and the late Lawrence, Minkey and Roy Lauve, and Hazel Friloux. Mrs. Troxler was a homemaker and a parishioner at Our lady of the Angels Catholic Church. Westside Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

### WALLE

Memorial Services are at a later date for Eric M. Walle, 61, of Picayune, who died Tuesday, September 27. A native of New Orleans, he was a chemist/engineer. Survivors include his wife, Connie Walle of Picayune, two sons, Mark Walle of Denham Springs, LA and Scott Walle of Kenner, LA, a step daughter Patricia Dupuis of Nicholson, two step sons, Richard J. Damme of Metairie, LA, and Mark B. Damme of Boston, Mass., a twin brother, Evan Walle of Metairie, and a sister, Bonnie Walle of Folsom. McDonald Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### WAPLES

Joseph H. Waples on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Beloved Husband of Jeanne D. Waples. Age 86 years. A native of Warren, PA and a resident of Harvey, LA for the past 50 years. He was an active member of NOGA, Junior Golfers, and The Red Cross. He was past president of The Rotary Club and was founder of The Westbank Boys Club. He was also a member of the American Legion and the Elks Lodge. A private service was held and a memorial service will be held in Warren, PA. Mothe Funeral Homes in charge of arrangements.

### WORRELL

Roy Alan Worrell, 78, a courageous man, passed away on September 29, 2005. He was the youngest of four sons, born March 21, 1927 in Pensacola, Oklahoma to Roy Arthur Worrell and Helen Elaine Wagner. Roy was a proud US Army Veteran of WWII and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1951 with a BS degree in Geology. Most of his professional career was with Gulf Oil Corp., starting as a geologist in Tulsa and earning positions of increasing responsibility until he retired as a General Manager of Exploration in Houston, and later in New Orleans. His career involved making fifteen "furniture moves" to most of the oil producing states, plus five brief foreign assignments. He was proud of Gulf Oil Company and enjoyed the many friends in the industry and the neighbors in the various places where he lived, worked, and visited. Mr. Worrell is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Gloria Marie Walbert; three sons, Alan Andrew Worrell and his wife Phyllis of Crosby, TX, Roger Whitney Worrell and his wife, Tammi of Jackson, MS, and Royce Matthew Worrell and his wife, Misty of Humble, TX; eleven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brother, James Manning Worrell and his wife, Elaine of Kansas City, MO; and a large extended family. A private family service was held October 2, 2005 in Humble, TX, officiated by Dr. Tom Duff Fritts of Deerbrook Baptist Church. "Friendly Roy" wanted his body donated to LifeGift of Houston, TX and to BioGift of Portland, OR, because his spirit was already with God Almighty above. Interment will be at a later date at the Houston Veterans National Cemetery. In desired, Roy asked that you send memorial contributions to the charity of your choice.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.
Express your condolences by signing a guest book on nola.com/obits
To place a death notice in The Times-Picayune, please call 866-420-3227 toll free or send an e-mail to
tpdeathnotices@classifiedsplus.net
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The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

A National Guardsman from Oregon clears trees and debris from North Galvez Street last month in New Orleans.

## Nonresidents saved the city

I read the article concerning the New Orleans City Council and its argument about whether to maintain the residency requirement for police officers. I was appalled. Did not hundreds of military personnel come into the city and rescue, transport and feed the residents there? Were these men and women from New Orleans or did they live there? It seems their actions have taken the old argument, "If they don't live there, they don't care" and made it a moot issue. To quote Gen. Russel Honore, "They are stuck on stupid."

**Gus Krinke**
*Retired sergeant*
*New Orleans Police Department*
*Kenner*

## With God, you never know

I am amazed at the presumption of those who "know" that Hurricane Katrina was God's judgment on the Gulf Coast and perplexed by the sureness of those who "know" it wasn't. As a minister of the last 15 years in metro New Orleans, it seems to me a wiser course to say: "It might be; we surely deserve it. So let us seek the Lord."

When Hurricane Betsy went through this area in 1965, I was a local seminarian and pastor of the Baptist church in Paradis. A friend from Alabama who was ministering in my church that week drove down U.S. 90, dead certain that Betsy was God's judgment on the juke joints on that strip. I recall thinking that, if so, God needed to improve his aim, because a lot of good people were also being hurt. And yet, I held my peace because anyone who reads the Scriptures knows the Lord God is not shy about judgment.

Patient, yes, infinitely patient. But eventually, he judges. Is that what's happening here? It could be. We deserve it. Let us seek the Lord.

**Joe McKeever**
*Director of missions*
*Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans*
*River Ridge*

## Companies are working hard to rebuild

Your Oct. 1 editorial, "Lines of communication," was off the mark.

Instead of criticizing companies like Cox Communications and BellSouth, which are spending millions of dollars each week since Hurricane Katrina to restore services, The Times-Picayune should be celebrating the example both are setting to quickly rebuild our metro area. It is exactly this kind of confidence and investment that will brighten New Orleans' future, accelerate employment and help rebuild our local economy.

Ironically, we paid to run an ad in the same edition of The Times-Picayune, describing where damage was worst and where restoration will take longest, and where service to many of our customers has already been restored. This ad was in addition to numerous efforts we are undertaking to keep our customers informed, including near-daily media updates on the United Broadcasters/WWL radio station, broadcast and print advertising and a mobile hurricane recovery information center, in addition to our regularly updated Web site info and customer-line phone messaging.

The Times-Picayune should enthusiastically embrace how profoundly New Orleans needs local businesses to take the lead in restoring our badly damaged metropolitan area infrastructure and should acknowledge some of the companies who are working hard to do just that.

**Greg Bicket**
*Vice president and region manager*
*Cox Communications New Orleans*
*Metairie*

## Short-changed by FEMA

Re: "FEMA not giving $2,000 checks to victims anymore," Oct. 1

FEMA contractors are doing a great job of picking up debris in western St. Tammany Parish, but FEMA's now-ended program to distribute the president's promised $2,000 to each family adversely impacted by Hurricane Katrina was a travesty marked by ineptitude, arbitrariness and shocking inefficiency.

In my case, for example, I filed online within a few days of the president's announcement, but FEMA denied my application because I had the foresight to buy homeowner's insurance. Don't most homeowners? Never mind that, as with most homeowner's policies, there is a substantial deductible and that $2,000 wouldn't have begun to cover my uninsured losses. Never mind that most people I know who did get the $2,000 emergency relief also had homeowner's policies. Was I too honest?

Your story contained even more egregious examples of FEMA dysfunction, including their ludicrously arbitrary shut-down of the program without warning. The bureaucrats involved in running this program ought to be ashamed.

**Marinus Quist**
*Covington*

## Lakeview's problems run deeper than flood

The future of Lakeview will be dictated not only by what happens from ground zero to 10 feet about sea level, but by what happens underground as well.

Even on a good day before Hurricane Katrina, water bubbled up from the streets. The sewer lines that were blocked or had collapsed were on a "list for repairs." Drainage was haphazard because the subsurface system had collapsed years ago, taking with it our streets and front yards.

Lakeview may be emotionally vibrant, but it is physically dead. It is silent. It is toxic.

The silence over what must be done to bring it back is deafening.

**Jim Blitch**
*New Orleans*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Getting real on residency

In the best of worlds, all police officers would live in the communities they serve, and a rule requiring them to do so would not have the effect of driving potential recruits away.

But the situation in New Orleans lately has been anything but ideal. In practice, the residency requirement for city police officers may well have hindered recruitment efforts. As the city's crime rate crept up in recent years and the department struggled to meet its staffing goals, the residency policy got harder to defend.

Now that the flooding after Hurricane Katrina has removed vast areas of the city from the housing market, the City Council ought to shelve the rule officially.

A rule requiring officers to live in New Orleans has been in effect for years, but the city began enforcing it in earnest during former Mayor Marc Morial's administration. Proponents maintained that officers' presence in the city during their off hours makes New Orleans more secure, that officers who live and shop in the city shore up the tax base and that resident officers are more attuned to what's going on than those who leave town when their shifts are over. These arguments have some merit.

When the Morial administration began stressing the residency rule in 1995, proponents also worried – with good reason – about the potential for antagonism between the Police Department, which then had a white majority, in a city with a majority-black population. In that regard, the residency rule has done its job. The department is now a majority-black force.

Whatever its benefits, though, the rule has also put up barriers to recruitment. Housing prices have grown much faster than officers' salaries, and when Katrina struck, there was a scarcity of decent, affordable homes in the city. Moreover, the ever-deepening woes of the Orleans Parish public school system cannot have reassured officers and potential recruits with school-age children.

The policy, in short, weighed heavily on newer recruits with young families and relatively modest salaries. No wonder a 2004 study indicated that a majority of black officers as well as white officers opposed the residency rule.

It's unclear whether the hurricane changed officers' views about the issue. More than 200 officers are suspected of deserting their posts after the hurricane. City Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morrell, who is the mother of a police officer and supports the residency rule, suggested at a council meeting last week that the department needs to determine how many nonresident officers were among the deserters. That information would be useful, but it may also be unknowable; some officers live outside the city surreptitiously but claim a New Orleans address.

Regardless, the department will need to hire new officers at some point, perhaps in the near future. Right now the effect of the hurricane on the housing market is anyone's guess, but recruits may have difficulty finding homes. While some residents of areas that stayed dry may opt not to return, thousands upon thousands of houses elsewhere in the city have been rendered unlivable.

Unfortunately, some defenders of the residency rule don't yet seem to grasp what New Orleans is up against. Councilwoman Renee Gill Pratt suggested that, as federal money pours into the city, potential police recruits "will want to come to New Orleans because they know we'll have a bigger and better city." Let's hope Ms. Pratt is correct. But wishful thinking will not keep the Police Department staffed.

City Councilman Jay Batt may have made a tactical mistake last week when he raised the volatile issue at the end of a long, arduous council meeting. Mr. Batt, who has submitted an ordinance that would temporarily waive the residency rule, told other council members that he will push for a vote next week.

The debate heated up quickly. Three council members vehemently opposed changing the rule. Mr. Batt raised his voice. City Council President Oliver Thomas, who in the past has been open to a debate on the issue, tried to table the discussion because emotions were running so high.

It's a shame the meeting took such a turn, because Mr. Batt is correct on the merits of the issue.

Some demands are not negotiable: The city needs officers with honesty, integrity and a commitment to protecting all New Orleans residents. But a city with a vastly diminished housing stock – and, for now, without a working school system – is in a poor position to tell officers where they can and cannot live.

## Don't count on good luck

After Hurricane Katrina devastated much of the metro area, the West Bank looked like a safe haven. Strong winds brought trees down everywhere, but most of the populated areas on the west side of the Mississippi River stayed dry.

Under different circumstances, though, the West Bank might have flooded, too. That ought to trouble state and local emergency-management agencies.

While Hurricane Katrina led to breaches in levees in New Orleans, it was Hurricane Rita that posed a major threat to the West Bank. The hurricane pushed so much water up from the Gulf of Mexico into the Harvey Canal on Sept. 24 that major flooding of Harvey, Gretna and Algiers was entirely possible.

Fortunately, crews spent hours plugging spots where water had begun to seep through levees, and the levees ultimately held. But while disaster was avoided for now, conditions far worse than those created by Rita could recur during any hurricane season.

The $340 million West Bank Hurricane Protection Project is already under way, and it should provide more security for West Bank residents worried about future flooding. Still, the havoc that enveloped the metro area after Katrina struck should lead to a rethinking of the entire metro area's levee system. The year's most notorious storm ultimately spared most of the West Bank from flooding, but the area's vulnerabilities should figure in any post-Katrina deliberations about how to improve that system in the future.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Storm victims face misery by design



PAUL KRUGMAN

Federal aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina already is faltering on two crucial fronts: health care and housing. Incompetence is part of the problem, but deeper political issues also play a crucial role.

Start with health care, where conservative senators, generally believed to be acting on behalf of the White House, have blocked bipartisan legislation that would provide all low-income victims of Katrina with health coverage under Medicaid.

In a letter urging Senate leaders to reject the bill, Mike Leavitt, the secretary of health and human services, warned that it would create "a new Medicaid entitlement." He asserted that victims can be taken care of by Medicaid "waivers," which basically amount to giving refugees the health benefits, if any, that they would have been entitled to in their home states — and no more.

As the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities points out, many needy victims won't qualify for aid. For example, Medicaid doesn't cover childless adults of working age. In fact, surveys show that many destitute survivors of Katrina are being denied Medicaid, and some are going without medicines they need.

Local hospitals and doctors often will treat Katrina victims even if they can't pay. But this means that communities that have welcomed Katrina refugees will, in effect, be financially punished for their generosity — something local officials will remember in future crises. (The administration has offered vague, unconvincing assurances that it will do something to compensate medical caregivers. It has offered much more concrete assurances that it will reimburse religious groups that provide aid.)

What about housing? These days, both conservatives and liberals agree that public housing projects are a bad idea, and that housing vouchers — which help the poor pay rent — are much better. In the aftermath of the 1994 earthquake in California, special housing vouchers issued to victims worked very well.

But the administration has chosen, instead, to focus its efforts on the creation of public housing in the form of trailer parks, which have been slow to take shape, will almost surely be more expensive than a voucher program and may create long-term refugee ghettos. Even Newt Gingrich calls this "extraordinarily bad policy" that "violates every conservative principle."

What's going on here? The crucial point is that President Bush has been forced by events into short-term actions that conflict with his long-term goals. His mission in office is to dismantle or at least shrink the federal social safety net, yet he must, as a matter of political necessity, provide aid to Katrina's victims. His problem is how to do that without legitimizing the very role of government he opposes.

This dilemma explains the administration's opposition to Medicaid coverage for all Katrina refugees. How can it provide that coverage without undermining its ongoing efforts to reduce the Medicaid rolls? More broadly, if it accepts the principle that all hurricane victims are entitled to medical care, people might start asking why the same isn't true of all American citizens — a line of thought that points toward a system of universal health insurance, which is anathema to conservatives.

As for the administration's odd insistence on providing public housing instead of relying on the market, The Los Angeles Times reports that Department of Housing and Urban Development officials initially announced plans to issue rent vouchers, then backed off after meeting with White House aides. As the article notes, the administration has "repeatedly sought to cut or limit" the existing housing voucher program.

This suggests that what administration officials fear isn't that housing vouchers would fail, but that they would succeed — and that this success would undermine the administration's ongoing efforts to cut back housing aid.

So here's the key to understanding post-Katrina policy: Bush can't avoid helping Katrina's victims, but he doesn't want to legitimize institutions that help the needy, like the housing voucher program. As a result, his administration refuses to use those institutions, even when they are the best way to help victims. More generally, the administration is trying to treat Katrina's victims as harshly as the political realities allow, so as not to create a precedent for other aid efforts.

As the misery of the hurricane's survivors goes on, remember this: To a large extent, they are miserable by design.

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Paul Krugman is a New York Times columnist.




STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Work continues at a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer park off Groom Road in Baker on Thursday.

# Two states, two ways to get paid



JOHN MAGINNIS

For storm-stricken Louisiana and Mississippi, the road to recovery goes straight through Washington, where Congress writes the checks. Yet the two Washington delegations have taken different on-ramps to the appropriations superhighway, and Louisiana's is marked "wrong way."

Mississippi's congressmen decided not to introduce a stand-alone bill spelling out that state's needs. Instead, they are working behind the scenes with the Bush administration and committee chairs to include their projects in the several spending bills or one omnibus measure that will work its way through the Congress over the next months.

The Louisiana delegation should have followed suit, but instead took its own path, which is being labeled, unfortunately, the Louisiana way.

Louisiana's two senators co-sponsored a jaw-dropping, budget-busting $250 billion spending request (on top of the $62.3 billion already passed by Congress), which runs the gamut of flood protection, navigation improvements, highway construction, business subsidies, economic development grants and expanded programs for healthcare, law enforcement, education and social services.

The wish list was assembled with significant input from an array of lobbyists representing shipping firms, utility companies and other corporate interests. The legislation was barely filed last week before the sponsors said there would be add-ons to cover the devastation caused by Hurricane Rita. Let's say, round it up to $300 billion.

Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter said they did not expect every item to be fully financed, but that the bill represents a starting point in the discussion of relief and recovery.

Indeed, that got the discussion started. The Washington Post compared the state's senators to "looters who seize six televisions when their homes have room for only two."

"Brazen doesn't begin to describe it," railed Taxpayers for Common Sense, adding that the state delegation is "using Katrina as an excuse to resurrect a laundry list of pork projects."

Conservative talk show hosts fulminated over the line items, such as $50 billion in open-ended community block grants to local governments, $40 billion over 10 years for Army Corps of Engineers projects to be chosen by a Louisiana-dominated commission, $5 billion to increase transportation capacity in cities like Baton Rouge swollen by evacuees, $750 million for incentives to get teachers to return to their schools, $400 million for mental health and substance-abuse services for Katrina victims, $175 million for export-related training and assistance for companies seeking international markets, $160 million to build the "federal city" complex of military and governmental offices in Algiers, $25 million for a sugar-cane research lab, $8 million for alligator farms and on and on.

The bill presented commentators with just the opening they sought to tee off on Louisiana's reputation for excess and corruption. However noble the lawmakers' intentions or unfair the criticism, that the Louisiana bill evoked such vilification from The Washington Post on the left to Rush Limbaugh on the right suggests that our congressional brain trust did not think this one the whole way through.

A spokesman for Landrieu defended the wish list as a "record" of the state's needs, which is best stated all at once instead of piecemeal. He further noted it is important to finance economic development projects beyond mere relief measures in order that the recovery be sustained.

Those points are valid, but they do not justify the laundry-list strategy of the Louisiana bill. By lumping all the projects and programs together, the state missed the opportunity to stress those priorities that distinguish Louisiana's needs from Mississippi's, that is, the completion and upgrade of the southeast Louisiana hurricane levee protection system and restoration of the eroding coast. That's the proper focus of a stand-alone bill.

As for infrastructure and program assistance needs relevant to both states, our delegation should make the case to be treated as fairly as Mississippi, whose delegation has more seniority and clout, including chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Landrieu's aide points out that, given Mississippi's power advantage, the Louisiana delegation needs to work harder. Try working smarter.

• • • • • • • • • • •

John Maginnis is an independent journalist covering Louisiana politics. He can be contacted at www.LaPolitics.com.



JAMES GILL

# There's no need to steal

Our critics — watchdogs, pundits and members of Congress — say our demands for federal help to recover from Katrina are excessive and that politicians and their cronies will trouser a bunch of the money anyway.

Don't they see the connection? If we weren't going to steal some of the money, we wouldn't need so much.

There is, however, no graft item in the $250 billion grab devised by Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter. You have to be a little subtle in such matters.

Not really. Nobody will accuse Landrieu and Vitter of nefarious intent. It is not their fault that our reputation as the world capital of corruption casts a shadow on any big money bill.

Plenty of other states breed their fair share of thieves, but our politicians have never been known for subtlety, and the populace has sometimes seemed to take a perverse pride in their venality, so it is taken for granted that hurricane relief will enrich the unworthy.

To an extent, it will, as it would anywhere. It is impossible to pump billions of dollars into any state and ensure that it is all allocated legitimately. The rogues will always put a few past even the most anal money manager.

But the public mood has changed. Louisiana may have taken crooked politicians for granted when times were good, but, now, anyone creaming off disaster money is liable to be strung up from the nearest lamppost. Maybe, one of the features of the reborn New Orleans will be a new level of integrity.

It would be unwise to bet on it, however, and it is hardly surprising that Vitter and Landrieu have been accused of trying to pull a fast one. Of course, they are. If they succeeded in raking in the full $250 billion, it is likely that nobody would be more surprised than they.

They have left plenty of room for compromise. Even, say, 70 percent of what they are seeking would be a bonanza for Louisiana, and Congress could congratulate itself on saving a fortune.

And paring down this list looks like child's play. Vitter and Landrieu suggest their bills represent a starting point for negotiations, and it would appear that many of their requests have been included only to give their colleagues some easy targets. There is no obvious reason, for instance, for federal taxpayers to subsidize alligator farms, sugar cane research and substance abuse as part of a hurricane relief effort.

The Vitter and Landrieu bills look very much like the work of lobbyists, and there is a good reason for that. Not only was their working group dominated by lobbyists, but three of them were former aides to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, Washington's current king of pork.

The official line is that our senators are not asking for this money just for Louisiana but as a favor for the nation. We are "the anchor of America's Energy Coast," our ports handle 20 percent of the import and export trade and we provide 40 percent of the nation's seafood, Landrieu pointed out in a column republished in this newspaper a couple of days ago. Federal parsimony is also partially responsible for the weak hurricane defenses that led to the flooding, she wrote.

But the nation is going to have to pay dearly for the favor. The $40 billion requested for the Corps of Engineers, for instance, is 10 times its current annual budget nationwide. That should be enough to give us a decent levee system, though.

Within those levees everyone seems likely to share in the wealth. There is even a $50 billion allocation for open-ended grants. So much legal money would be sloshing around that there'd hardly be a need to steal.

It makes a lot of sense for Landrieu and Vitter to get their requests in while public sympathy is still in full spate and President Bush is looking for ways to boost his popularity and atone for the feeble initial response to Katrina. Bush's untax-and-spend approach is perfect for the occasion, at least from our point of view.

Whatever we wrest from the feds had better come soon, however. Otherwise, there may not be enough people here to hold their hands out.

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James Gill is a staff writer.

# Red Cross calls security in aid center flap

## *Kenner site was test for general public*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Red Cross officials called for security to handle two incidents Tuesday in which people confronted volunteers after they were told a relief center giving out debit cards was only handling Kenner city employees.

It was "nothing we felt threatened with," said Denise Metzinger, a Red Cross volunteer from Kansas, who called the incidents "minor."

A drive-through assistance center for the general public will open today at 9 a.m. in a parking lot at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

Red Cross officials ran out of the debit cards Tuesday, so people who sign up for help today will fill out an application for assistance and receive a check by in the mail, Red Cross spokesman Ken Williams said.

The check can be cashed at any Hibernia bank without charge, Williams said. "They will get a check mailed to whatever address they want it mailed to, rather than a client card," Williams said. He said all Red Cross sites will now give out the checks.

After people sign up, checks will be mailed within 24 to 72 hours, Williams said.

"They can list the address where they're staying or do general delivery at a particular post office," he said.

The Red Cross Center set up for Kenner employees in the Lions Club building across from City Hall was open Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. By 3:15 p.m., the center had seen 257 people and given away $224,025 in debit cards, Williams said. Each resident who qualifies will receive about $350 per person in their household, Williams said.

At the Lions Club building, "very few people had to wait," Metzinger said, adding that the longest wait to see a volunteer was only about 10 minutes and a total of 20 minutes to get a debit card.

She said volunteers turned away some people who weren't Kenner employees but came by because they had heard about the center from a friend or by passing by.

"Most of them were very understanding," she said. She said the Red Cross set up the center for city employees and their families by partnering with Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano.

The Red Cross first tried to serve first responders with the financial assistance, she said, and the Kenner City Hall center is part of an effort to serve large groups. She said educational groups and the New Orleans Airport Authority could be future groups served en masse.

Capitano's chief of staff, Phil Ramon, called the city employee center a "dry run" for the center that will open today for the general population near the airport.

"It was an opportunity to allow the Red Cross to train their employees, their new volunteers, as well as benefit city workers who would have to take off and could have slowed down city operations," Ramon said. "It's a win-win for everyone."

But at least one hurricane victim said she thought it was unfair that Kenner employees didn't have to stand in line.

"That's a shame," said Loyce Ceaser, who lives in LaPlace. Ceaser waited for hours to get assistance at a relief center in Slidell and planned to come to Kenner today to ask about the availability of additional assistance. "Everybody else had to get in line and wait 8, 9, 10 hours," she said.

The center will open at 9 a.m., but if financial relief centers on the north shore are any indication, "people are going to try and line up from midnight on, and we have not located a way to try and dissuade people from doing that," Williams said.

Williams said people who live in the ZIP codes that were most affected by the hurricane will get financial assistance. If they live in a ZIP code on the periphery, their property must be assessed, he said.

Also, he said people who have already gotten the financial assistance for hardships caused by Hurricane Katrina will not get assistance for Hurricane Rita.

The center will be daily starting today from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and remain open until the need subsides, Williams said.

To reach the center, people heading west on Airline Drive should pass the airport's main entrance and turn right at the next traffic light, before the railroad overpass. People heading east on Airline from the St. Rose area should come down the overpass and turn left at the light before the airport's main entrance.

The street is called Service Road B. It is not marked with a street sign but is scheduled to have Red Cross signs pointing out where to go.


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1000 West Esplanade

**Driftwood**
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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

PAGE C

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October 5, 2005

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5



# Caretaker of the convent



**FOR DECADES,** a professional photographer documented the private lives of a cloistered order of New Orleans nuns. Since Hurricane Katrina forced their departure, David Spielman has a new mission: keeping an eye on their place until the Poor Clares come home.



ANGUS LIND

Before Hurricane Katrina hit, photographer David Spielman had spent more than 30 years working on a photo essay about the Poor Clare nuns, the dwindling Catholic cloistered order that dwells in the convent on Henry Clay Avenue and Magazine Street.

"They are my family," he said. "There are only eight of them left, the youngest is in her mid-50s, I'm guessing, and the average age is probably late 70s. When they're gone, they're gone."

The Poor Clares, Spielman said, had originally planned to stay through the storm. But when they lost water pressure and there was chaos in the Uptown area, Spielman went to them and begged them to evacuate. He told them there was "a lot of bad stuff going on."

"They invited me into their house meeting," he said. "It was the first time a male was ever invited."

He convinced them to evacuate. They packed up in three cars and went to a sister convent in Brenham, Texas, east of Austin.

What Spielman saw in their faces and eyes was memorable. And sad. "You could feel that they were thinking they might never get to come back here," he said. "A cloistered order of nuns and in some cases this was the only place they've ever lived."

Before they left, he was told: "Our house is your house." They asked him to stay at the convent.

*See* **LIND,** *C-4*

New Orleans photographer David Spielman lights candles at an altar inside the Poor Clare nuns' Uptown convent. TOP OF PAGE: Spielman preserves a ritual at the convent by ringing a morning bell 'to tell God that they're not here right now, but they are not gone.'

# A Louisiana classic

## *New collection of Ernest Gaines' stories and essays are salve for a Southern soul*

BOOKS

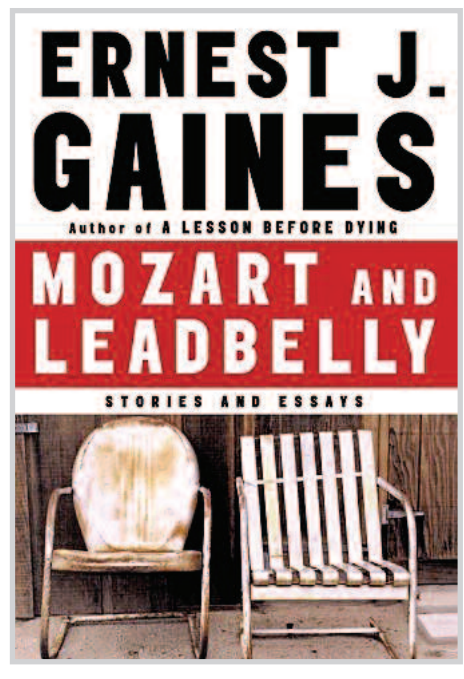
**By Susan Larson**
Book editor

Of the great Louisiana literary voices, one of the deepest and strongest belongs to Ernest Gaines. Born and raised on False River near New Roads, Gaines has lovingly chronicled the lives of working class African-Americans in Louisiana. Growing up in "the quarters" in the '40s, he served as a scribe for his elders, writing their letters, telling their stories, perfect training for the fiction writer he would eventually become. His work has brought well-deserved honors: a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, a National Book Critics Circle Award, the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France. In 2004, "A Lesson Before Dying" was selected for the One book/One New Orleans reading initiative.

In **'Mozart and Leadbelly: Stories and Essays'** *(Alfred A. Knopf, $22.95),* we get a glimpse of the man behind the work, as well as a welcome selection of five stories and six essays (many delivered as public addresses), previously written but now available to the greater reading public for the first time.

Editors Marcia Gaudet and Darrell Bourque, Gaines' colleagues at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, penned an insightful introduction that offers an

*See* **BOOKS,** *C-4*




WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

# CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

New Orleanians facing the mammoth task of rebuilding their shattered homes might find inspiration (or at least fair warning) in the following movies available for rent on DVD.



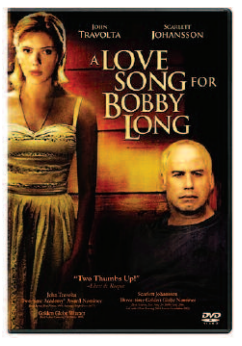

**THE MONEY PIT (PG, 1986)**

Tom Hanks and Shelley Long get in over their heads when they try to restore a hopelessly dilapidated house. Richard Benjamin directs an uneven comedy, co-starring Alexander Godunov, Maureen Stapleton, Joe Mantegna and Yakov Smirnoff.




**UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN (PG-13, 2003)**

On a whim, a recent divorcee buys a run-down villa in Tuscany and rebuilds her life as she restores her new home. Diane Lane stars in Audrey Wells' adaptation of Frances Mayes' memoir. It's difficult to say which is more beautiful: the incandescent Lane or the golden Italian countryside. In one of the funniest moments, Sandra Oh learns why one should never connect a toilet to the hot water line. Raoul Bova and Lindsay Duncan co-star.



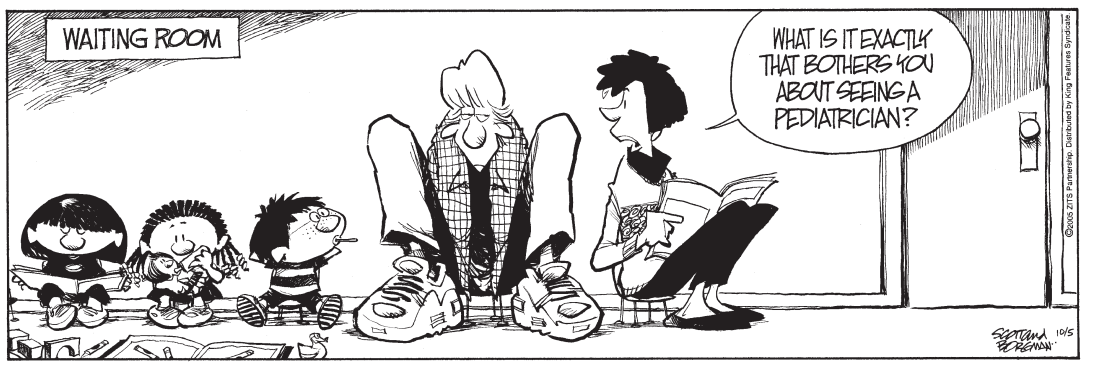

**A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG (R, 2004)**

Headstrong Scarlett Johansson inherits a New Orleans shotgun house already occupied by two alcoholic masters of deferred maintenance: disgraced literature professor John Travolta and protege Gabriel Macht. As the home is brought back to life, so are its occupants. Shainee Gabel directs an adaptation of the novel by Ronald Everett Capps, whose son — singer-songwriter Grayson Capps — can be heard on the soundtrack. Dane Rhodes and Carol Sutton are among the local faces in a movie filmed in the Crescent City.

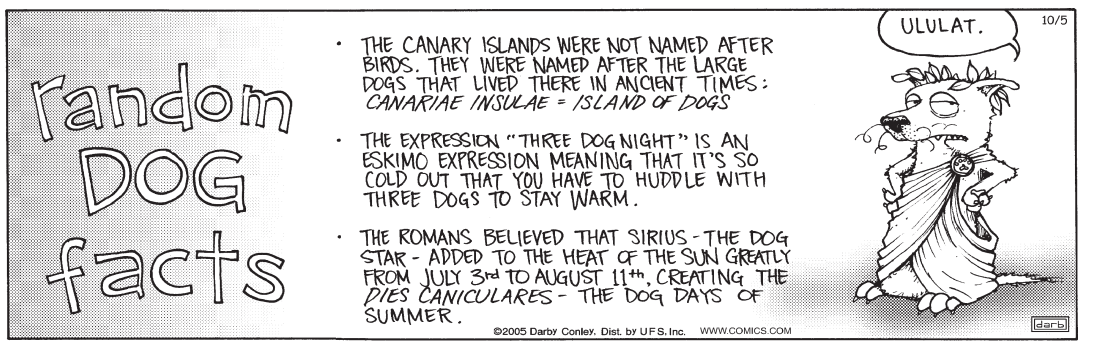
**By Michael H. Kleinschrodt, movie critic**

# COMICS

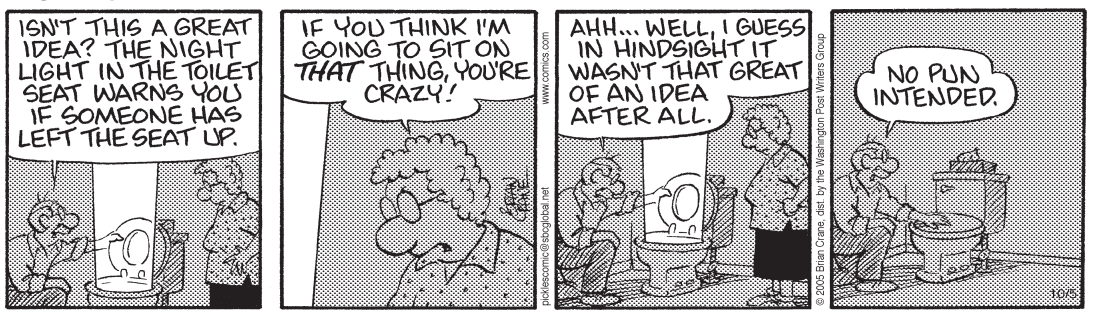
## ZITS



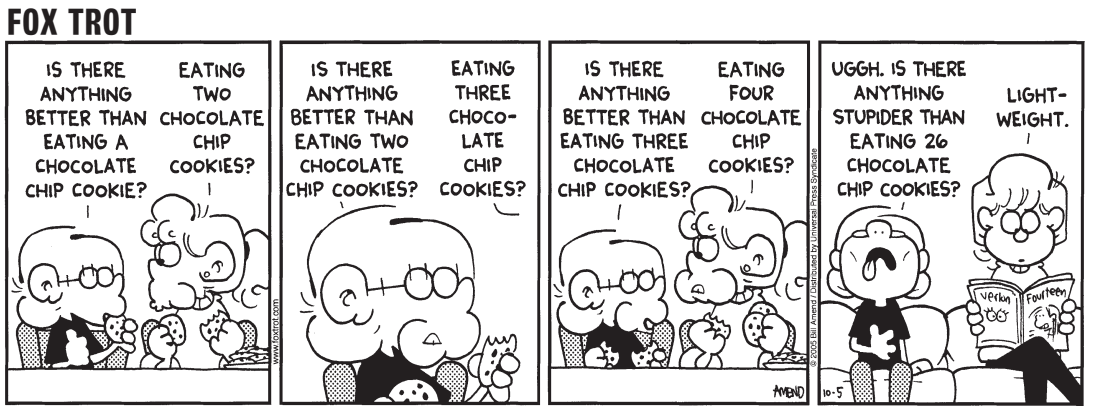

## GET FUZZY



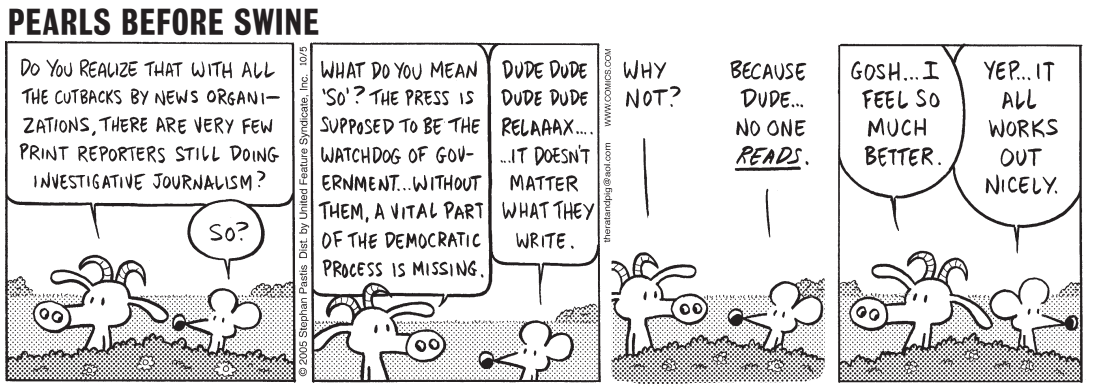

## PICKLES



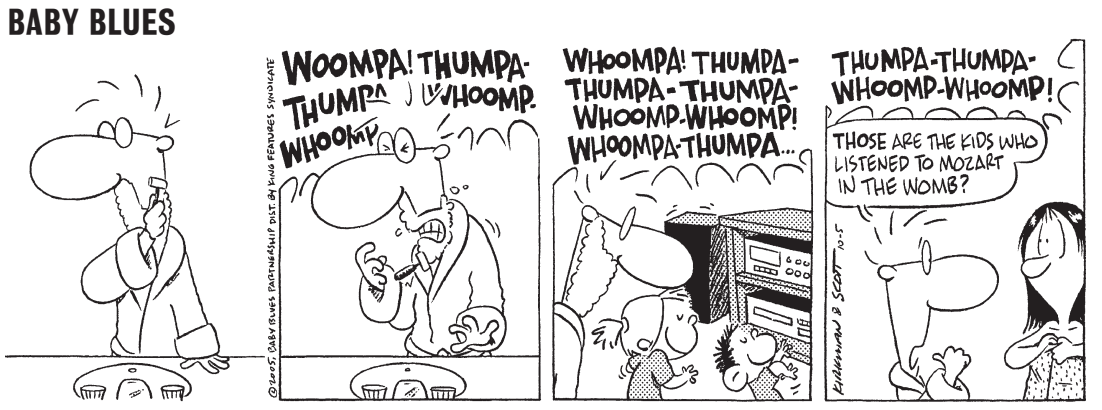

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

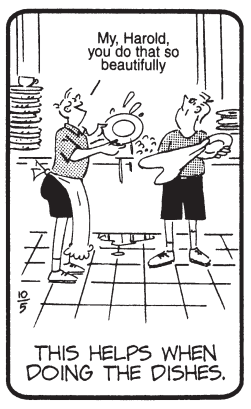
HARNC

RIGMY

PEXLUD

REMMIO

www.jumble.com




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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer here:** " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GROOM FLOUT TYPHUS MODIFY
Answer: The street peddler's wares were always — SOLD "OUT"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | E1 | U1 | G2 | P3 | T1 | S1 | Double Word Score | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | O1 | O1 | G2 | G2 | N1 | L1 | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | Y4 | L1 | R1 | P3 | 3rd Letter Triple | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| A1 | I1 | O1 | D2 | R1 | L1 | K5 | | RACK 4 |

**PAR SCORE 140-150**
**BEST SCORE 203**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 140-150

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = 62 | K5 | L1 | O1 | R1 | A1 | D2 | |
| RACK 3 = 64 | A1 | I1 | R1 | P3 | L1 | A1 | Y4 |
| RACK 2 = 7 | L1 | A1 | G2 | O1 | O1 | N1 | |
| RACK 1 = 70 | U1 | P3 | S1 | T1 | A1 | G2 | E1 |

TOTAL 203

## WORD SLEUTH

S E A X T Q N J G C Z W T Q N
J G D A X U R O L J G D A X V
S P N K I F C A L P T X V S Q
O L S J H E C A X O V R T R E
P N L D J H F D W S O B I Y R
X D C V R T R I T S A F E A I
P G N O L A N O K U M K E Y F
I G E U V D C C B M Z Y K H H
X W U T O A I L L A B O R Q T
O N L J I R H G F L O O C T I
D C A Y T R A P A H X W V T W

Tuesday's unlisted clue: SHADY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: FAILURE TO ATTEND

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A part | By ear | It cool | To win |
| Along | Cards | It safe | Tricks |
| Around | Fair | Possum | With fire |
| Ball | Havoc | The fool | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| G | J | O | N | O | J | O | D | E | G | X | Y | E |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| A | O | E | O | W | R | G | F | B | O | O | O | D |
| 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| C | B | I | R | F | I | O | R | S | O | N | R | I |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| T | M | E | D | E | U | G | M | N | E | T | I | M |
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| E | W | E | S | E | I | N | N | N | A | B | G | P |
| 8 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| T | E | O | D | U | R | S | R | L | I | D | N | M |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| O | O | E | V | S | E | S | O | V | V | E | E | S |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

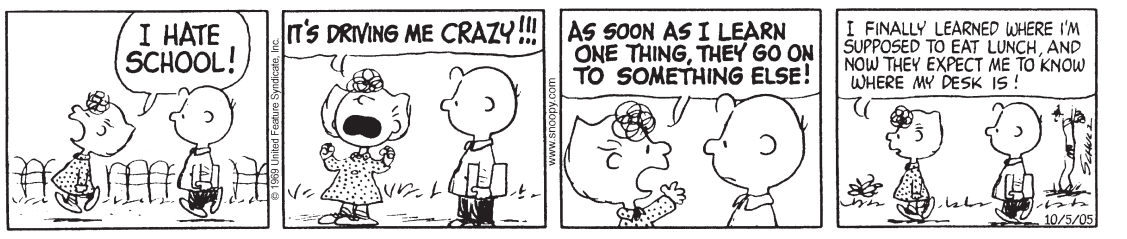
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## WISHING WELL

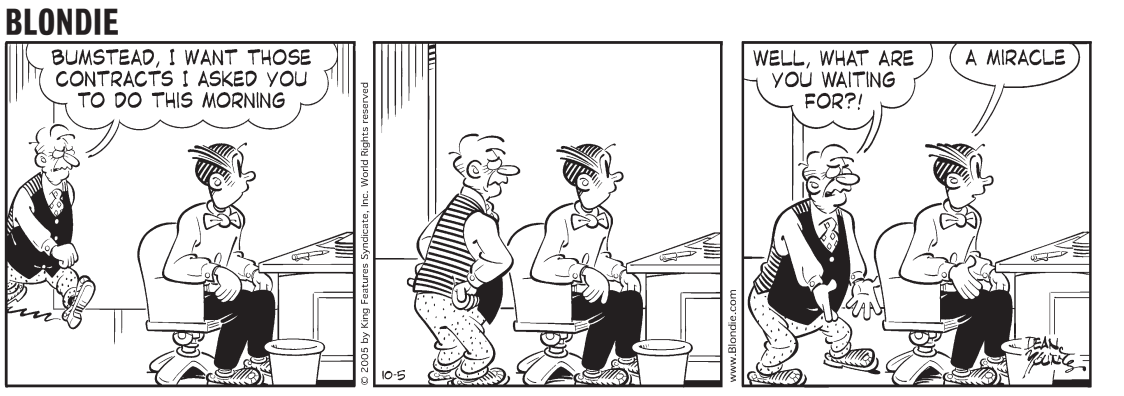
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A part | By ear | It cool | To win |
| Along | Cards | It safe | Tricks |
| Around | Fair | Possum | With fire |
| Ball | Havoc | The fool | |

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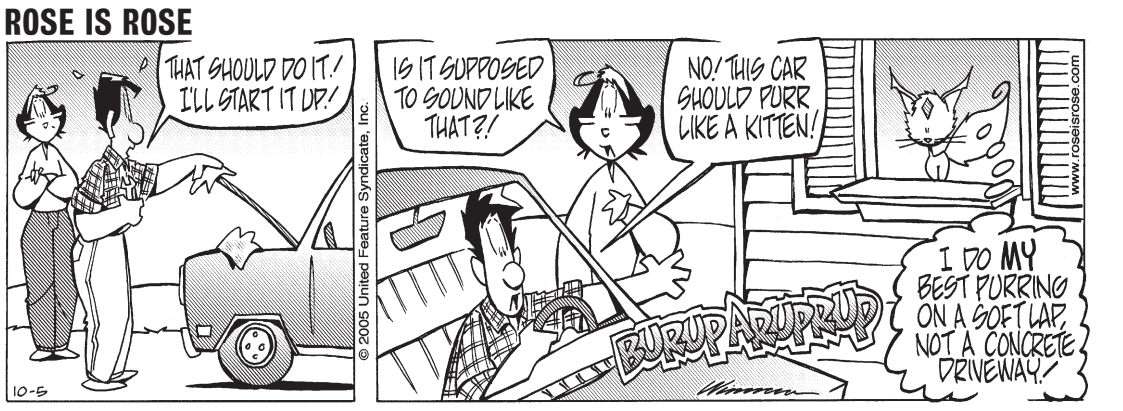
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



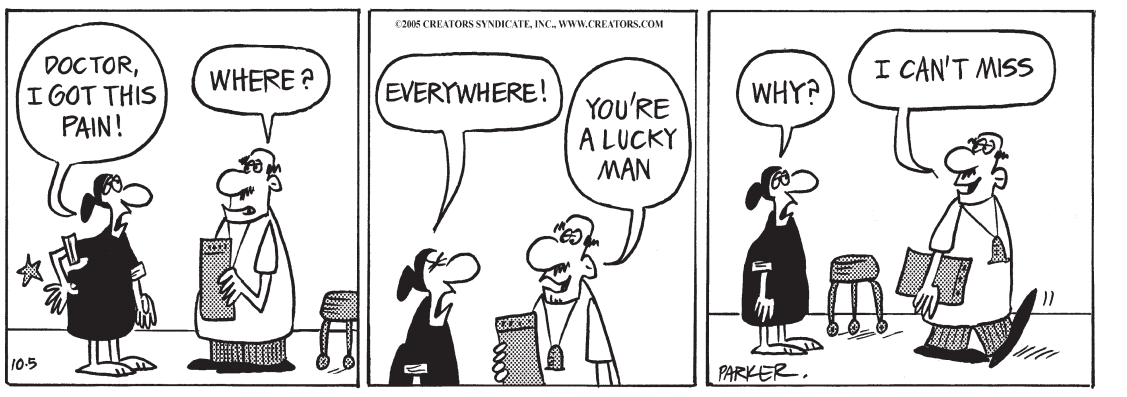

## BLONDIE




## ROSE IS ROSE



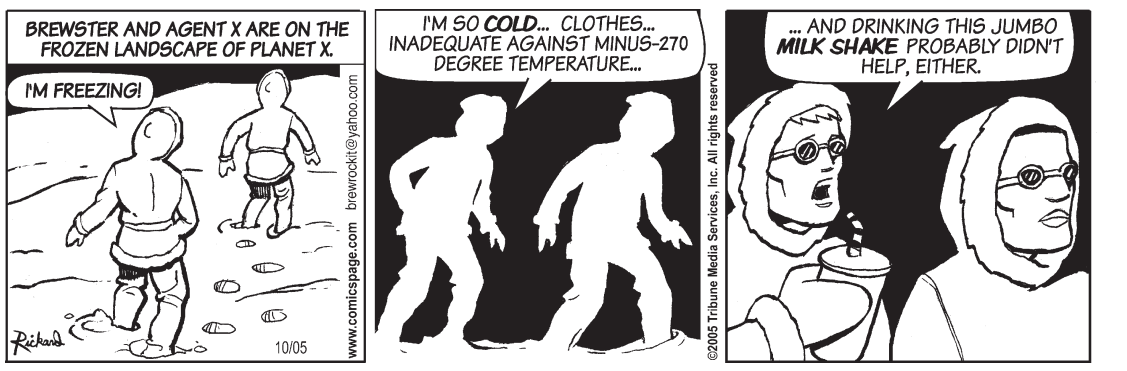

## THE WIZARD OF ID



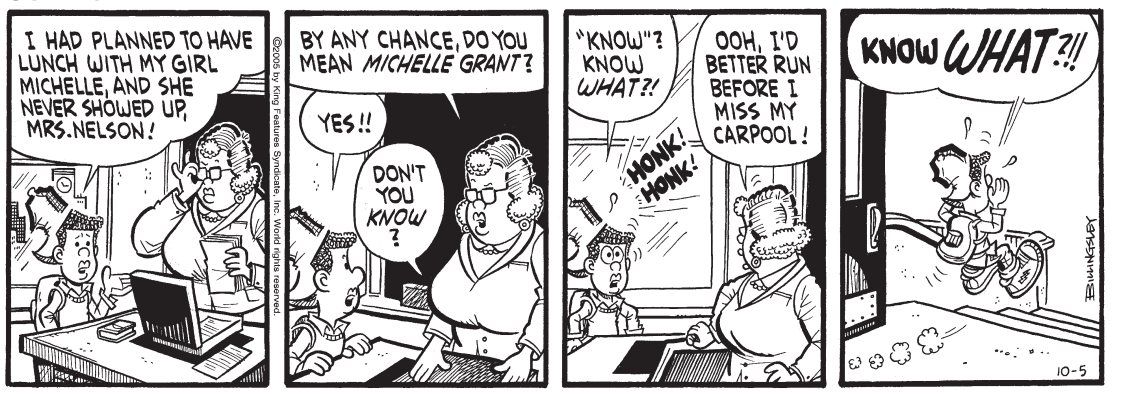

## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT



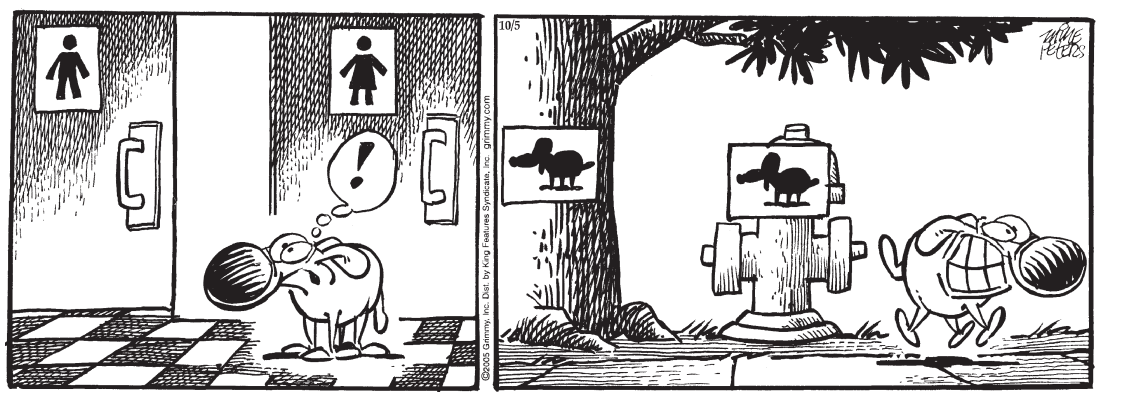

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

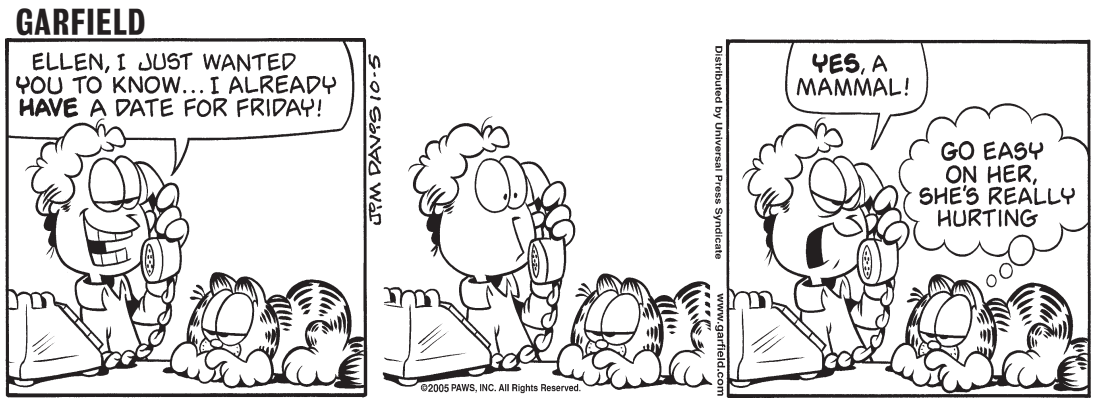



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

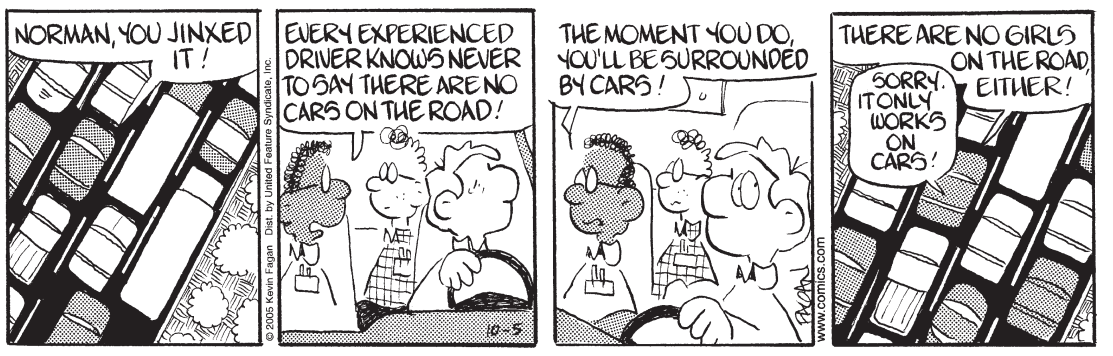


# COMICS

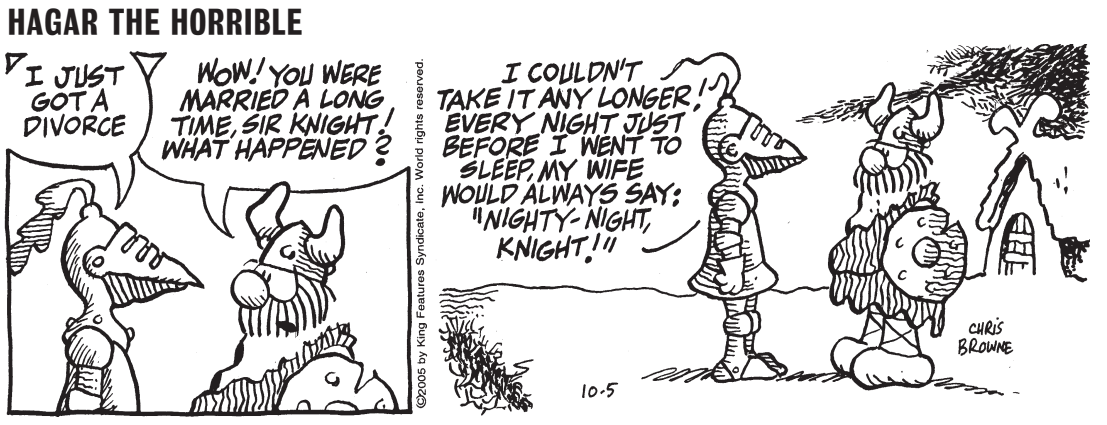
## GARFIELD



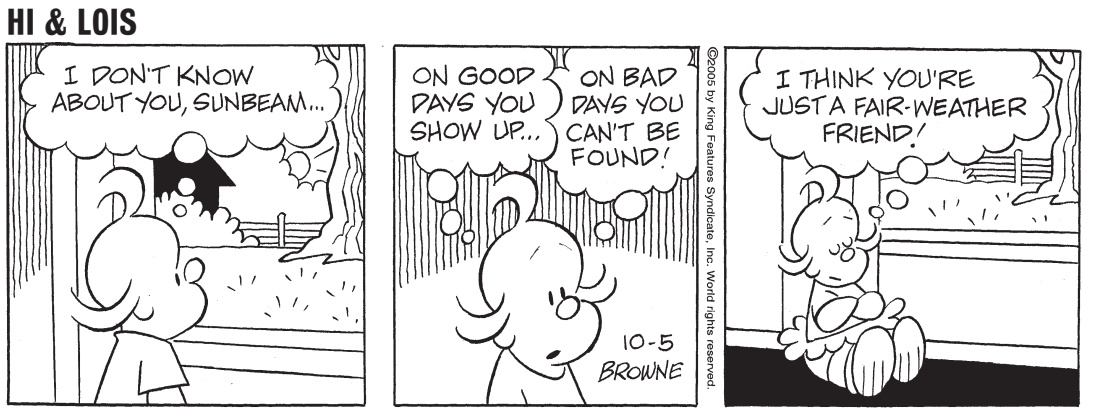

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE




## HI & LOIS



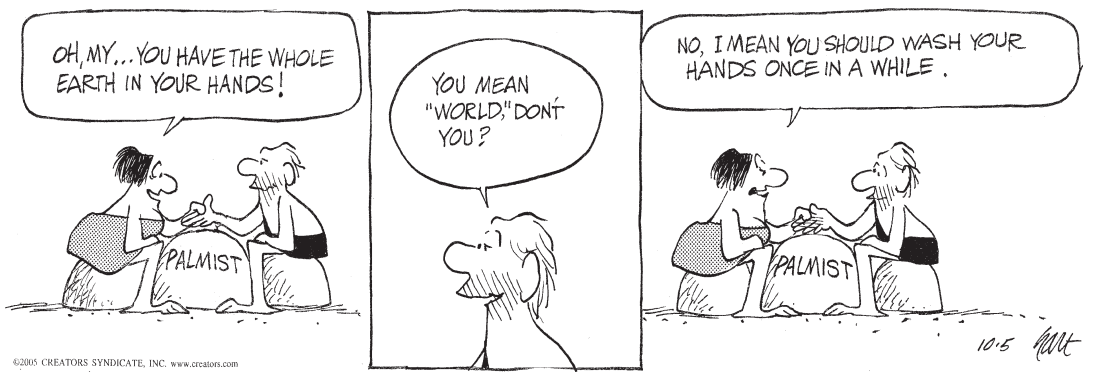

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



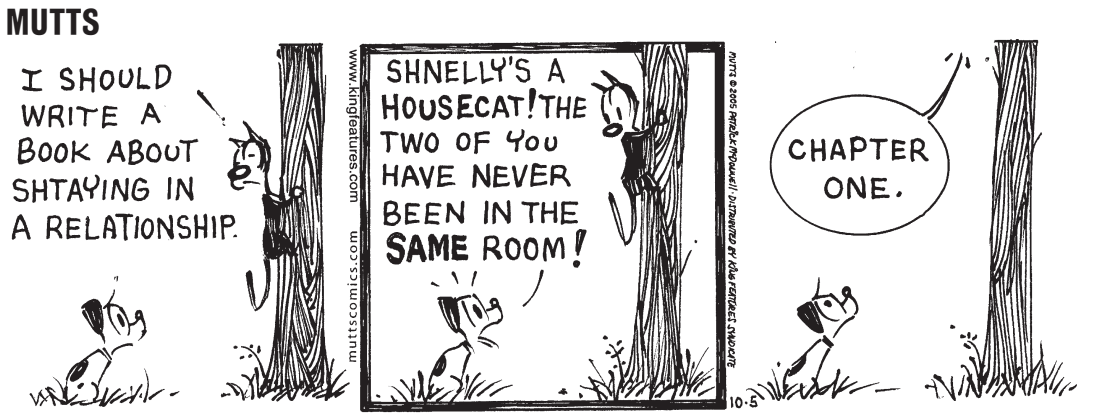

## B.C.



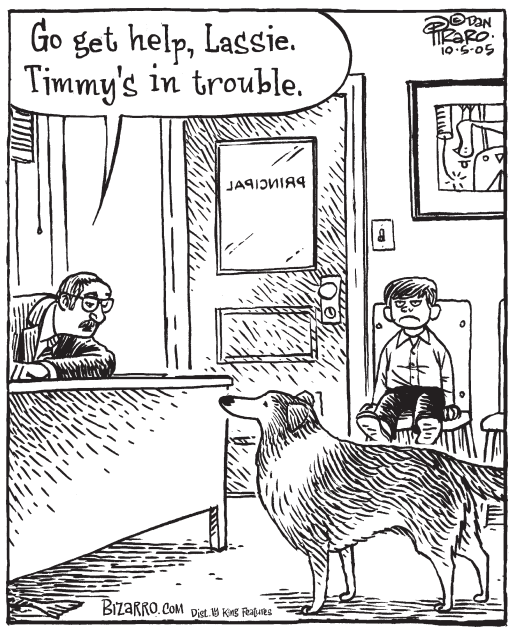

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS

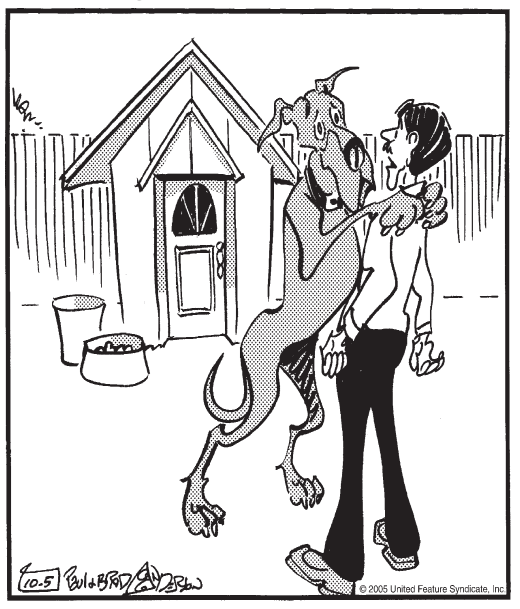



"I'm sorry, Frank. Come To Work as a Protozoa Day was moved to Thursday."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"You're locked out? When did you get a door?"

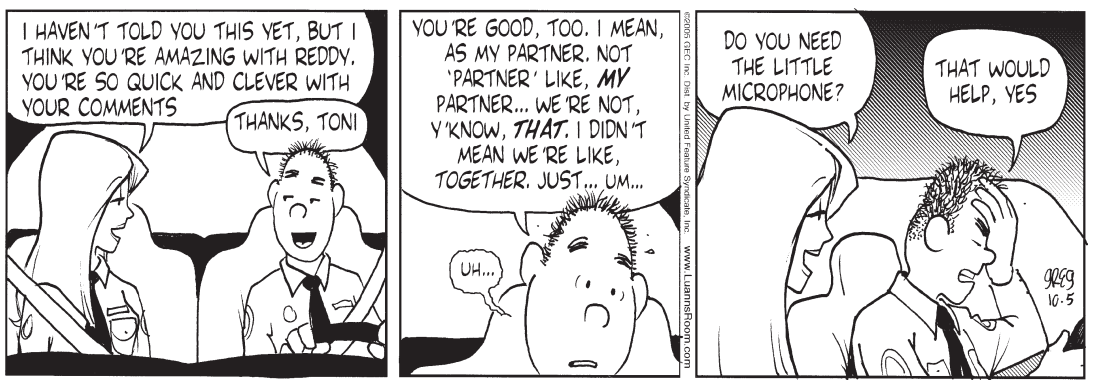
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



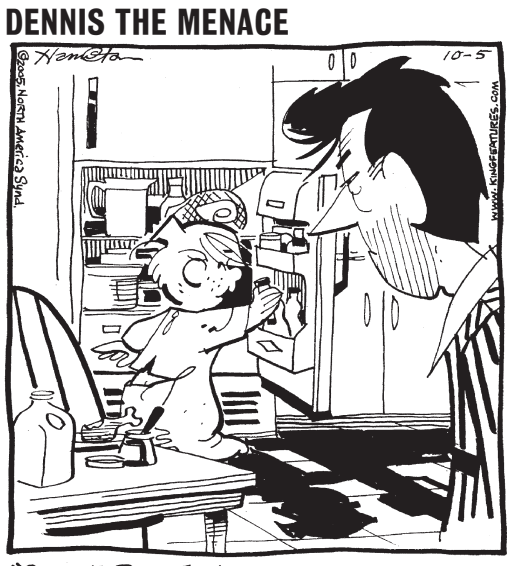

"Why do newborn babies have an extension cord plugged into their tummies?"

## CLOSE TO HOME




The faculty's new biker gang dress code dramatically reduced discipline problems at Welsner Junior High.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"OH... HI, DAD. I WOKE UP EARLY AND MY TUMMY FELT LONESOME."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GROWING POTATOES — **Solution: 9 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | D | U | P | S | M | G | R | A | T | E | D | N | E | T |
| S | E | R | V | E | T | L | T | O | S | S | E | D | B | Y |
| C | H | S | A | L | U | O | G | P | A | G | I | T | R | H |
| R | Y | L | T | N | H | T | R | O | I | S | P | U | O | S |
| U | D | U | C | A | P | O | M | E | L | E | T | B | W | E |
| B | R | H | S | I | U | O | B | A | O | D | C | E | N | L |
| N | A | H | C | T | P | R | M | H | S | P | E | R | D | F |
| H | T | K | S | D | D | W | A | X | Y | H | A | N | O | O |
| S | E | Y | E | K | E | D | R | N | F | R | E | S | H | P |
| A | D | B | T | D | I | T | K | Y | T | D | U | D | S | E |
| W | U | K | G | A | R | N | E | F | A | R | M | O | C | S |
| C | S | E | C | O | F | L | T | E | O | Ⓑ | Ⓞ | Ⓘ | Ⓛ | C |
| O | S | O | V | A | L | G | R | O | W | O | L | I | O | F |
| L | E | E | P | O | N | B | E | Z | I | S | D | O | I | U |
| D | N | M | W | R | U | S | S | E | T | E | K | T | A | L |

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Beige, Boil, Bread, Brown, Cold, Cook, Crop, Cubed, Dehydrated, Eyes, Farm, Fleshy, Floury, Foil, Food, Fresh, Fried, Golden, Goulash, Grated, Grow, Hash, Idaho, Latke, Lunch, Market, Mashed, Meal, Omelet, Oval, Oven, Pass, Peel, Pick, Restaurant, Roasted, Root, Russet, Scrub, Serve, Side, Size, Skin, Slice, Snack, Soups, Sprout, Spud, Store, Sweet, Tend, Toss, Tuber, Turn, Wash, Waxy, Wedges, Yellow

**Yesterday's Answer: Family**

# Truth is what Ernest Gaines writes

**BOOKS,** *from C-1*

appreciation ofthe man as well as the work. The collection is essentially a lengthy literary conversation with Gaines, and a genial and wide-ranging conversationalist he can be, discoursing on such varied topics as photography, teaching writing, his love of music, and the people and places who have made him the man he is.

In the essays, we get a sense of the man behind the work. Gaines describes his upbringing in a loving, if at times stern, community; his love for his aunt, Augusteen Jefferson, who never walked but who insured his stability and safety; the difficult personal truths he has learned about the writing life; and the genesis of two of his best known novels, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Lesson Before Dying."

In the moving "Miss Jane and I," he writes of his exile in California, where he had gone to pursue educational opportunities and to reunite with his mother and stepfather in 1948. In words that seem unbearably poignant in the light of the exodus following Hurricane Katrina, Gaines describes his intense longing for home and his dream of recreating it in his work:

"I wanted to smell that Louisiana earth, feel that Louisiana sun, sit under the shade of one of those Louisiana oaks, search for pecans in that Louisiana grass in one of those Louisiana yards next to one of those Louisiana bayous, not far from a Louisiana river. I wanted to see on paper those Louisiana black children walking to school on cold days while yellow Louisiana buses passed them by. I wanted to see on paper those black parents going to work before the sun came up and coming back home to look after their children after the sun went down. I wanted to see on paper the true reason why those black fathers left home — not because they were trifling or shiftless, but because they were tired of putting up with certain conditions. I wanted to see on paper the small country churches (schools during the week) and I wanted to hear those simple religious songs, those simple prayers — that true devotion . . . and I wanted to hear that Louisiana dialect — that combination of English, Creole, Cajun, black. For me there's no more beautiful sound anywhere — unless, of course, you take exceptional pride in 'proper' French or 'proper' English. I wanted to read about the true relationship between whites and blacks — about the people I had known."

In novel after novel, story after story, Gaines has captured that Louisiana of his life and his imagination. "Truth to me," he writes "is what people like Miss Jane remember." Truth, to me, is what Ernest Gaines writes.

Of the five stories in this collection, "Christ Walked Down Market Street" is perhaps the most remarkable. Set in San Francisco, and written while Gaines was a visiting professor in Houston, it predates "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," and was inspired by Isaac Bashevis Singer's "The Spinoza of Market Street." Spoken in the voice of a street person trying to recapture a brief vision of Christ, this story reminds the reader of the spark of divinity within all of us.

Other stories, set in Louisiana, include Gaines' first story, "The Turtles," about a young boy's sexual initiation; "Boy in the Double-Breasted Suit" and "My Grandpa and the Haint," about a young boy's glimpses of very adult relationships; and "Mary Louise," an early working of elements that would appear in Gaines' first novel, "Catherine Carmier."

In the title essay, Gaines writes of cultural context and the way it is informed by many voices.

"A lady friend of mine in Washington, D.C., once told me that she knew a young African American male who would always get on the elevator whistling a tune of Mozart. I, too, like Mozart; I like Haydn, Bach, Brahms, Schubert, Chopin. I like Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky, A Lark Ascending by Ralph Vaughn Williams — I like them all. And though Mozart and Haydn can soothe my brain while I write, neither can tell me about the Great Flood of '27 as Bessie Smith or Big Bill Broonzy can. And neither can describe Louisiana State Prison at Angola as Leadbelly can. And neither can tell me what it means to be bonded out of jail and put on a plantation to work out your time as Lightnin' Hopkins can. William Faulkner writes over one hundred pages describing the Great Flood of '27 in his story 'Old Man.' Bessie Smith gives us as true a picture in twelve lines. I am not putting Faulkner down; Faulkner is one of my favorite writers, and what Southern writer has not been influenced by him in the past 50 years? What I am saying to that young man who found it desirable to whistle Mozart in the elevator is that there is some value in whistling Bessie Smith or Leadbelly."

That same value — and it is a great one — is to be found in reading the work of Ernest Gaines. Like Bessie Smith and Leadbelly, he tells the truth of the human spirit — suffering in pain, uplifted by grace, rising to glory.

• • • • • • • • • •

Book editor Susan Larson can be reached at slarson05@gmail.com.

## Caretaker of the convent

## "WHEN I go through that gate, I know I'm safe."



**LIND,** *from C-1*

"We want to make you an honorary sister," one of them said.

"A half-sister or a step-sister?" Spielman asked.

"No, a full sister," came the reply.

"They are witty, articulate, intelligent, genteel, and extremely kind," he said. "They are a praying order — they don't teach. If you have intentions or wishes for people, you can ask them to pray."

They gave Spielman the key to the convent. He checked in with two National Guard units in the area to let them know that he was there and what was going on, and he checks in with those units and the nuns in Texas daily.

"When I go through that gate after I run, I know I'm safe," he said. "There is such a calm there. I go into the chapel. I have a candle lit for them. I ring the bell. That's to tell God that they are not there right now, they're someplace else — but they are not gone.

"They have been just the best. I wouldn't do anything to betray their trust."

Spielman, who converted to Catholicism in 2000, runs a generator a few hours a day to keep his refrigerator cool and to run his oscillating fan. But sleep has not come easy. And it only lasts a few hours.

"I sweat all night long. I sleep on top of the sheets and I sweat even with the fan. I feel something on my face and I don't know whether it's a bug or a bead of sweat."

He's been around Uptown and downtown and over to the Gulf Coast, one time flying with the California Highway Patrol in a helicopter. "It's an area of destruction the size of Great Britain," he said.

Spielman said with his photos he's trying to give more of a perspective of the loss.

"I want my photos to say something. One was of a gargantuan oak tree that had fallen. It made a three-story house on Prytania Street look diminutive. Three hundred years of history gone, just like that, and anyone who lives in a home that size anywhere in the world will sense the enormity of it.

"There are so many icons we adore that are gone, just gone," he said. "Waveland was obliterated. We'll be oblivious to it until we drive up and say, 'Oh my God, Katrina took it.' Our area is forever and ever changed. When we come back, we may be a city of 125,000 or 150,000 people.

"It's so eerie," he said. "There are no lights on — none. You get to see this incredible set of stars we've never seen before in the city because the ambient light is so great. You don't hear any ACs humming, no buses on Magazine or streetcars on St. Charles — all you hear are birds and wind."

Spielman is an avid runner who hit a milestone in 2003 of running for 10 years without missing a day.

The 55-year-old's home course is Audubon Park, where his typical five-mile pre-dawn run past centuries-old oak trees is his ritual. And when his work as a freelance photographer takes him on the road, even around the world, he runs wherever he is, always mindful of his streak.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

David Spielman walks through the gardens at the Poor Clare convent, where a pine tree knocked a statue off its pedestal. TOP: Spielman writes an entry in his daily diary at home, where he records his impressions of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

"I ran the day after the storm came through," he said. "You couldn't go more than 10 yards without having to stop or dodge a limb." He's now up to more than 4,250 days without missing a run, but who's counting?

The native Oklahoman has been running in Audubon Park for 32 years. During his daily runs, he said, the moon guides him around the park and the moonbeams dance off the water of the lagoons.

"I've always considered that the park was mine," he said. "It's such a special and beautiful place. Now it's singularly mine because I'm the only one running. I've always joked that Ron Forman may be in charge of the park but I run the park."

After he talks to the nuns and the Guardsmen, "I go through a vast majority of my day without saying a word."

Despite the hardships, including a steady diet of peanut butter, Spielman feels he's done the right thing.

"I wouldn't change it for the world," he said. "I'm always looking to test myself — my running streak, my freelance work. This is another test and it's a religious and spiritual test. This draws upon all your core values. You have to be incredibly patient, you have to be cautious, and you have to believe in rituals."

For him, the rituals now include lighting the candles, ringing the bell, and making sure that, in some small way, the Poor Clares' convent comes to life every day during their absence.

"It's why we are on this earth, for stuff like this," Spielman said. "Everybody can do the other stuff."

• • • • • • • • • •

Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

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***WE ARE OPENING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH***

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (G)(✓)
11:50 2:00 3:50 5:40 7:40
TWO FOR THE MONEY (R)(✓) (WATCH ONLY ON THX SOUND)
12:30 3:05 5:35 8:15
FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)(✓)
12:20 2:50 4:55 8:00
IN HER SHOES (PG-13)(✓)
12:25 2:55 5:30 8:10
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE (PG)(✓)
12:00 2:40 4:50 7:45
GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(✓)
12:05 2:35 5:05 7:55
THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13)(✓)
12:10 3:00 5:25 8:05
THE GOSPEL (PG)(✓)
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:50
ROLL BOUNCE (PG-13)(✓)
11:55 2:30 4:45

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# THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

## Adjuster advice

### Five things to consider before meeting your insurance adjuster



**1. YOU MAY HAVE MORE THAN ONE POLICY.** Your homeowner's insurance policy covers fire, windstorm, hail, riots and explosions — but not damage from floodwater. For that you must have a flood policy issued by the government's National Flood Insurance Program. When you call your insurance agency to file a claim, you will be assigned an adjuster for each policy you own. You will need to meet with an adjuster from the company issuing the homeowner's policy if you think you have damage from wind, such as water from broken windows or holes in the roof. The adjuster who handles your flood insurance also handles damage from rising water. NFIP limits coverage to $250,000 per residential structure and $100,000 for contents, although private companies also offer excess flood protection policies. (If you don't have your flood policy details, call the NFIP general information line at 800-427-4661 or visit www.fema.gov/nfip/ on the Web.

**2. HAVE THE FOLLOWING IN HAND WHEN YOU CALL YOUR INSURANCE AGENT.**

- The names of the companies that issued your homeowner's insurance policy as well as your flood policy (many agents sell policies from multiple companies).
- Your policy number(s).
- A phone number and e-mail address where you can be reached.

If you are in temporary housing, make sure there is a point of contact for your agent. Ask the adjuster(s) for a time frame on when an inspection of your house is likely, so that you can make plans. If an adjuster for each policy has not contacted you within a few days, call back.

**3. BE PATIENT.** NFIP claims from Hurricane Katrina have already reached 150,000, compared to 74,000 claims for four hurricanes in 2004. So get in line: Most adjusters are handling 200 or more cases at the moment. Because of the numbers, the NFIP is making some concessions for Katrina victims. The proof-of-loss claim, a legal sworn statement verifying losses that normally is due within 60 days, has been waived for 12 months. Also, the NFIP may pay some claims without requiring site visits. The agency is using water depth charts, aerial imagery and other data to determine what properties obviously were damaged up to or over the insured amount. For example, if your house was washed off its foundation, or stood for weeks in deep water, you may receive the maximum benefit allowed by your policy without having to meet an adjuster at the house. Finally, flood insurance adjusters are being instructed to help policyholders develop leaner content lists: Serial and model numbers for appliances are not needed, and a list of contents by major grouping can be submitted, rather than a comprehensive list.

**4. DOCUMENT BEFORE YOU DISCARD.** Photograph water in the house, damaged property, structural damage and the like; in this case, that photo really is worth the proverbial thousand words. Make a list of damaged or lost items and gather receipts if you have them (a comprehensive contents list is not necessary at this time). For mold remediation purposes, anything wet can be removed immediately, but it's a good idea to cut and save swatches from carpeting, curtains, chairs and the like before tossing them. Photograph damaged walls before removing sheetrock panels or punching holes in them to allow insulation to start drying.

**5. WHEN YOU MEET THE ADJUSTER,** show up on time (you'd be surprised how may people make appointments and don't keep them) and take with you a good attitude and a list — along with receipts — of any out-of-pocket relocation expenses. These can be submitted for reimbursement (the amount depends on your policy). If you get a contractor's estimate on repairs, make a copy of that for the adjuster as well. Remember that the adjuster is there to help you through the process: Ask questions, stay in touch and follow instructions on necessary forms, content lists, documentation and the like. Most of the time, only one site visit is necessary to determine what needs to be done to complete the claim.

Have a tip to share? Send your solutions to hurricane-related household problems by sending an e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you.



AP PHOTO

Rookie point guard Chris Paul came prepared for Coach Byron Scott's grueling training camp and did well on his first day.

## Paul, Hornets put to test as camp opens

*Scott takes it easy on team after Katrina*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets top draft pick Chris Paul was warned by teammates that he needed to stay in shape in the offseason if he hoped to survive the rigorous training camp Coach Byron Scott conducts.

That was good advice, Paul found out at the start of Tuesday's opening training-camp practice.

Scott had the team sprinting, backpedaling and moving around the baseline in a defensive stance with their hands raised for 20 minutes nonstop. Before practiced ended, Scott made his players run sprints again.

Paul got through it, but he looked exhausted after the drill ended.

"At Wake Forest, you had preseason conditioning, and that's one thing you don't have in the NBA," said Paul, a former star point guard for the Demon Deacons who was selected by the Hornets as the fourth overall pick in this year's draft.

"In college, (conditioning is) totally separate from practice. You're on the track or on the football field two or three weeks before practice starts. This now is pretty much conditioning and practice at the same time."

Scott said he could have made Tuesday's practice much harder, but he took in consideration the workout schedules of some players, such as veteran forward P.J. Brown, might have been disrupted because of Hurricane Katrina. But starting today, he promised there will be no scaling back.

"I thought (Paul) did well," Scott said, adding that he was pleased with his players' conditioning and the way they practiced.

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-7*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Salmen football coach Jerry Leonard, right, got emotional when he saw his team take the field after Hurricane Katrina, but he has been his usual, intense self at practice lately.

## Salmen pride proves to be an inspiration

*Spartans football team lifting spirits*

**By Marty Mule'**
Staff writer

There was intensity at Monday's practice for the Salmen High School football team, something expected from one of the state's top programs.

"You missed that block!"

"You should have had that tackle!"

"Wrong cut!"

But everything else was different, almost out of place. Here was Salmen working out in the morning instead of the afternoon. The practice was across town at Northshore High School. And the players were wearing gear obtained from the generosity of others as far away as Fort Dodge, Kan.

This is life now for Salmen's football team and for its entire student body.

Salmen High's buildings were devastated by Hurricane Katrina and are out of commission. Salmen students are now platooned at Northshore, where, oddly enough, the Spartans were supposed to begin the football season a month ago against their rival, and where

*See* **SALMEN,** *page C-7*

# OPPORTUNITY'S OBSTACLE



AP PHOTO

Texas coach Mack Brown has a reputation for failing to win big games, as evidenced by a five-game losing streak to rival Oklahoma. But the Longhorns enter Saturday's Red River Rivalry as 14-point favorites, the largest spread in the series since 1970.

*Texas seems primed to end a five-year losing streak against Oklahoma*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

Brian Bosworth, the noted thespian, intellect and former Oklahoma linebacker, has his own take on why the Sooners have beaten the Texas Longhorns five consecutive times going into the 100th edition of the Red River Rivalry on Saturday at Dallas' venerable Cotton Bowl.

"I think Mack's inside Mack's head," said The Boz, who was playing at Oklahoma during Texas coach Mack Brown's one year (1984) on the Sooners' staff. "I've seen how he reacts in certain situations. There's a hurdle that he has to overcome. I don't think he believes in the players he has around them."

Chicago Bears rookie running back Cedric Benson, who played four years at Texas, sees it much the same way, saying during an ESPN radio interview that "without a doubt" the Texas coaches approached the Oklahoma game trying not to lose more than planning to win.

*See* **TEXAS,** *page C-7*

### THE RED RIVER (NON-)RIVALRY

The past five years:
**2004:** Oklahoma 12, Texas 0
**2003:** Oklahoma 65, Texas 13
**2002:** Oklahoma 35, Texas 24
**2001:** Oklahoma 14, Texas 3
**2000:** Oklahoma 63, Texas 14

## Pressure is on for Longhorns' Brown



PETER FINNEY

When he was head coach of the Tulane Green Wave - that would be the seasons of 1985, '86 and '87 - a young Mack Brown welcomed the "Big Game" chant: Beat LSU.

Brown would fail three times, but his Greenies did come close in '87, when they took the heavily favored Tigers to the wire, losing 41-36 in the Superdome.

How tiny that big-game loss seems now, this week, come Saturday, when Coach Brown's Texas Longhorns take on the Oklahoma Sooners.

So how BIG is this one for the Texas coach?

Bigger than big.

Huger than huge.

Is Brown, for example, under more pressure than Joe Torre?

Not even close. Torre's New York Yankees have won the "big one" many times.

Brown is still searching for some kind of championship to call his own, and that can only come about by demolishing his No. 1 demon.

*See* **FINNEY,** *page C-7*

## SCOUTING REPORT

*SAINTS (2-2) at GREEN BAY PACKERS (0-4)*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

The venerable Green Bay Packers appear to have hit rock bottom.

Entering the first week of October, the Packers (0-4) are off to their worst start in 17 years and join the Houston Texans (0-3) as the NFL's only winless teams.

Green Bay's dismal start serves as a snapshot of the NFC North, where Chicago and Detroit share the division lead with 1-2 records, a half-game ahead of the Minnesota Vikings (1-3).

The Vikings have the only victory outside the division, a 33-16 pasting of the Saints in Week 3.

Packers officials, and quarterback Brett Favre, appear to be in denial, perhaps reflecting on last season when the team started 1-4 and rebounded to win nine of their last 11 games to win the NFC North with a 10-6 record.

But the franchise is clearly rebuilding under first-year General Manager Ted Thompson and Coach Mike Sherman, who received a two-year contract extension but surrendered his GM duties during the offseason. Although the Packers have won three consecutive division championships for only the fourth time in team history, Sherman could be on a short leash, according to team insiders.

The team's 53-man roster features 11 first-year players, including nine draft picks.

The Packers also sustained a handful of injuries in Monday night's 32-29 loss to Carolina. The most serious injury involved rookie wide receiver/kick returner Terrence Murphy, who remained in a Charlotte hospital Tuesday night after taking a helmet-to-helmet hit on Monday.

Left tackle Chad Clifton, running back Ahman Green, center Mike Flanagan and linebacker Na'il Diggs also sustained injuries against Carolina and their status for Sunday's game is unknown.

Tight end Bubba Franks, who has missed the past two games with a knee injury, is questionable. .

**LAST MEETING:** The Saints defeated the Packers 35-20 at the Superdome on Sept. 15, 2002. Wide receiver Joe Horn had six catches for 120 yards to become the first player in franchise history to open a season with consecutive 100-yard receiving games.

### PACKERS ON OFFENSE

Although Favre led the Packers to within a field goal of sending the game into overtime Monday, the offense has struggled. Favre finally is showing his age after 14 grueling NFL seasons. Green, who left the game early in the third quarter after rushing 14 times for 36 yards, appears to have lost a step. Favre is feeling Javon-

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-6*

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**LEYLAND REPLACES TRAMMELL: T**he Detroit Tigers hired Jim Leyland on Tuesday as their manager to replace Alan Trammell, fired a day earlier after three seasons. Leyland, 60, won a World Series championship with the Florida Marlins in 1997, and has not managed since 1999 with Colorado. He was a two-time NL Manager of the Year with Pittsburgh, where he won three division titles. "That passion that Jim Leyland has had throughout his career is back within him to manage," Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "The decision to name one of the top managers in the game of baseball in recent time, to bring him back to this organization, is a very big day for our franchise." Leyland's first 18 years in professional baseball were in the Tigers' farm system, six as a catcher, one as a coach and 11 as a manager. Leyland was beaten out for Philadelphia's managerial job by Charlie Manuel last winter. He has said he wanted to manage again close to his Pittsburgh home, which is about a five-hour drive from Detroit.

**HART RESIGNS:** John Hart stepped down as general manager of the Texas Rangers after a four-year stint in which he couldn't duplicate the success he had in Cleveland. Hart's resignation came two days after the Rangers finished 79-83, their third losing season in four years under Hart and their fifth since winning their last AL West title in 1999. Hart, whose teams won six division titles in his last seven years in Cleveland ending in 2001, will be replaced by assistant general manager Jon Daniels, who will become the youngest general manager in baseball at 28. Hart will remain a team consultant.

**ALMANZAR SUSPENDED:** Texas Rangers reliever Carlos Almanzar has been suspended for the first 10 games of next season for violating baseballís steroids policy. Almanzar is the 10th major-league player banned 10 days this year under the sport's new policy, and the second Texas pitcher.

## AUTO RACING

**JOHNSON TAKES BLAME:** Jimmie Johnson acknowledged he was at fault for an eight-car crash at Talladega Superspeedway that scuttled at least one other driver's championship hopes. Johnson had denied responsibility immediately after Sunday's accident, which cost both himself and Mark Martin valuable ground in the race for the Nextel Cup title. After watching tape of the accident that occurred 20 laps into the race, Johnson said he realized he ran into the back of leader Elliott Sadler to start the wreck. "I feel bad, I don't know what else I can say," Johnson said. "I started a wreck and took out a lot of good cars. That was the last thing I intended to do, and I feel horrible for it. So I'm taking the responsibility. I needed to see the video to really understand what took place."

## COLLEGES

**LSU UPDATE:** LSU senior center Rudy Niswanger is among 184 football players who have been selected semifinalists for the Draddy Trophy, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame announced. Niswanger, in his second year as a starter on the LSU offensive line, recently graduated with a 4.0 grade point average in pre-medicine. Niswanger earned First-Team Academic All-America honors last season. The Draddy Trophy honors the best pkayer in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. . . . The LSU softball team did not allow a run in four games in the Fall Collegiate Classic this weekend at Tiger Park, outscoring its opponents 42-0. LSU beat East Mississippi Junior College 10-0, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 12-0, LSU-Eunice 9-0 and SLU 11-0.

**TULANE UPDATE:** Tickets to Saturdayís Conference USA game between Tulane and Houston at Cajun Field in Lafayette are on sale through all Ticketmaster outlets, and season-ticket holders can pick up tickets for Saturdayís game in Lafayette, Tulane ticket manager Dan Holden announced. Kickoff is at 5 p.m. . . . Junior Kyle Ritchie shot a two-under par 70 and the Green Wave saved their best round for last and finished seventh at the Memphis Intercollegiate at the par-72, 7,249-yard Colonial Country Club. The Green Wave shot a team-best 290 on Tuesday. The Green Wave slid three spots after heading to the clubhouse yesterday in fourth place. Ritchie, who had a par 144 on the first day, finished tied for third. . . . Despite one goal each from juniors Jill Sharp and Jackie Obert, the Tulane women's soccer team fell 3-2 to UAB in Birmingham. UAB (5-5-1) held a 20-9 edge on shots. Tulane fell to 0-5 and 0-2 in C-USA.

**UNO UPDATE:** University of New Orleans men's golfer Adam Collins fired a two-under 142 over the first two rounds of the Louisiana-Monroe/Fred Marx Invitational to tie for first with two other golfers, and the Privateers shot a one-over to lead the event after the first day of the 54-hole tournament being held at Bayou Desiard Country Club. Collins shot rounds of 70 and 72 and is tied with ULM's Daniel Keeton and Nicholls State's Donny Schmitt for the individual lead.

**USM KICKER ARRESTED:** Southern Mississippi kicker Darren McCaleb faces a charge of simple assault stemming from an incident involving a female student in Hattiesburg, Miss., police said. McCaleb will appear in Forrest County Justice Court on Nov. 1 to enter a plea. He was arrested Sept. 18 after the incident, which took place along fraternity row, university Police Chief Robert Hopkins said. Citing privacy issues, Hopkins declined to release the report and the woman's name. He also refused to provide specifics. If convicted, McCaleb could be fined up to $500 and face six months in jail.

# Panthers survive Favre, Packers

*Carolina leads big, has to hold on for win*

**From wire reports**

Carolina was building a comfortable lead against the Green Bay Packers, but Panthers coach John Fox didn't dare let his team back down. Not with Brett Favre in the game.

Favre didn't disappoint, throwing four touchdown passes and nearly rallying the Packers out of a 19-point hole.

So the Panthers don't view this win as a near-collapse. They prefer to look at Monday night's 32-29 victory as success at overcoming the Favre factor.

"At halftime, I kind of knew what kind of a game it was going to be for them offensively. ... They were going to throw it a lot," Fox said Tuesday. "You give them a little momentum, and he's pretty special."

Because of Favre, the Panthers (2-2) sweated out a game they should have wrapped up at halftime.

Unlike their losses to New Orleans and Miami, the Panthers were sharp at the opening kickoff and pounced on the struggling Packers (0-4) by forcing a Favre fumble on the third play of the game. Carolina scored three plays later for a quick 7-0 lead.

The Panthers continued to roll, shutting down Packers' running back Ahman Green and Green Bays' running game and forcing Favre to do everything himself. With an inexperienced supporting cast, Favre struggled to do it alone and ended up throwing an interception that the Panthers converted into another touchdown and a 26-7 halftime lead.

It was then that Fox issued his warning: Favre was going to go down fighting.

"I've seen him do it too many times," Fox said. "It's something that we cautioned ourselves about. We expected it to be a tough battle."

It went all the way down to the wire, with Favre needing to convert on fourth-and-three with 1:04 remaining. Favre passed to Donald Driver past the first down line, but Chris Gamble knocked it out of his hands, and it fell incomplete.

Favre nearly stole the victory and finished 28-of-47 for 303 yards and four touchdowns. But that's what opposing teams have come to expect from Favre, a future Hall of Famer.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

# Chicago overpowers Red Sox

*Five home runs lift White Sox to Game 1 rout*

**From wire reports**



AP PHOTO

The Chicago White Sox's A.J. Pierzynski, center, is congratulated by Carl Everett, left, and Aaron Rowand after his three-run homer in the first inning against the Boston Red Sox in Game 1 of the American League Division Series on Tuesday.

CHICAGO — The winning socks came from the White Sox. Now maybe it's their turn to end a long championship drought.

A.J. Pierzynski homered twice, Paul Konerko, Juan Uribe and Scott Podsednik also homered, and Chicago scored five times in the first inning Tuesday en route to a 14-2 rout of the World Series-champion Red Sox in their playoff opener.

Jose Contreras pitched effectively into the eighth inning, ending Boston's eight-game postseason winning streak that carried the team to its first title in 86 years last season.

The White Sox hope to end a drought that's even longer, since the days of Shoeless Joe Jackson and their most recent World Series crown in 1917, the last time they won any playoff series at all.

One sign in the stands summed up hopes on the South Side:

"2004: Their Sox. 2005: Our Sox."

Then again, Boston has done fine overcoming October deficits. The Red Sox rallied from three games down to beat the New York Yankees in the AL championship series last year before sweeping St. Louis in the World Series for their first title since 1918.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is Wednesday at U.S. Cellular Field, with Chicago's Mark Buehrle facing Boston's David Wells.

The White Sox got their first playoff victory since 1993 with a stunning display of power.

Pierzynski's three-run homer off Matt Clement capped Chicago's first-inning outburst. Konerko added a solo shot in the third and Uribe a two-run drive to finish Clement in the fourth.

Podsednik, Chicago's speedy leadoff hitter who didn't have a homer all season, hit a three-run shot off Jeremi Gonzalez in the sixth. Pierzynski connected again in the eighth.

Contreras, who was 2-4 with an 11.67 ERA in his career against the Red Sox, allowed eight hits and two runs in 7 2-3 innings in his first playoff start.

Clement, who lost three of his final five regular-season starts, struggled with his control at the outset, hitting Podsednik and Jermaine Dye.

Podsednik stole third and after Konerko sent a long drive to left that was foul, he put the White Sox ahead with an RBI grounder to third.

Carl Everett followed with a single before Aaron Rowand sent an RBI single over shortstop for a 2-0 lead. Pierzynski, a veteran of playoff games with Minnesota, lined his three-run homer to left-center.

Trot Nixon singled in the fourth and, after Jason Varitek dropped down a bunt for another hit, Chicago third baseman Joe Crede kicked the ball as he was trying to pick it up and both runners advanced on the error.

Contreras, who tied teammate Freddy Garcia with an AL-leading 20 wild pitches this season, threw another as Nixon scored. Kevin Millar followed with a double to right and the Red Sox were seemingly back in the game at 6-2.

But Chicago second baseman Tadahito Ighuchi made a heads-up play on Bill Mueller's grounder, making a rare throw from second to third to cut down Millar and douse the rally.

After Pierzynski doubled to start the fourth, Uribe drove a pitch over the fence in left, giving the White Sox a six-run cushion and finishing Clement's day after just 3⅓ innings.

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

**All games on ESPN**

- Houston at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
- Boston at Chicago, 6 p.m
- N.Y. Yankees vs. Los Angeles at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

# Favre showing his age

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

Walker's (torn ACL) absence in the passing game, and losing starting guards Mike Wahl (Carolina) and Marco Rivera (Dallas) has adversely impacted the offense. Injuries to Clifton and Flanagan might force Sherman to revamp the offensive line for Sunday's game. The Packers are hoping to get Franks back this week. If not, look for Sherman to bolster the roster with a wide receiver via free agency or the team's practice squad. Wide receiver Donald Driver has been the lone bright spot on offense. Wide receiver Robert Ferguson continues to struggle catching the ball.

### PACKERS ON DEFENSE

As a whole, the unit is devoid of playmakers. It is solid against the run and suspect against the pass. The defensive line features an eight-man rotation, six of the players are bare minimum wage players. Defensive end Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, a.k.a. "KGB," had two sacks Monday night and has at least 10 sacks in four consecutive seasons. Although an excellent pass rusher, Gbaja-Biamila is somewhat of a liability against the run. Look for Defensive Coordinator Jim Bates to move KGB inside or outside to take advantage of the best matchup against the Saints. The Packers are somewhat predictable on defense. They seldom blitz and largely play Cover 2 with their cornerbacks and safeties. Cornerbacks Al Harris and Ahmad "Batman" Carroll play aggressive, but each are prone to commit penalties, especially Carroll, a first-round pick in 2004 from Arkansas. Safeties Nick Collins, a second-round pick in April, and Mark Roman (LSU) are susceptible to the deep ball. Diggs, who missed training camp and the first two games with a knee injury, is questionable after reinjuring himself against Carolina.

### PACKERS ON SPECIAL TEAMS

Place-kicker Ryan Longwell is reliable from 40-yards in, and he is approaching the 1,000-point mark for his career. Punter/holder B.J. Sander botched a snap on a missed extra-point attempt in a 17-16 loss against Tampa Bay in Week 3. Punt returner Antonio Chatman is adequate but nothing special. Murphy doubles as the team's kick returner but a change will be forthcoming because of his injury.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 1 — Times the Saints have played the Packers in a regular-season game at Lambeau Field. The Packers won there 35-34 in 1989. Five of the past six games between the teams have been played at the Superdome.

**FYI:** Favre, a native of Kiln, Miss., turns 36 Monday.

**WORTH REPEATING:** "It's so hard right now being 0-4. I've never been 0-4 in my life." — Packers' middle linebacker Nick Barnett.

# Sanders' six RBIs give Cards early edge

**By R.B. Fallstrom**
AP sports writer

ST. LOUIS — Reggie Sanders, Chris Carpenter and the St. Louis Cardinals looked every bit like the best team in baseball, even with a shaky ending.

San Diego played as poorly as its record suggests for most of the day. And with ace pitcher Jake Peavy out for the postseason with a broken rib, the Padres might be overmatched.

Sanders hit a grand slam and set an NL division series record with six RBIs, Carpenter pitched six scoreless innings before being replaced as a precaution and the Cardinals built a big lead and held off the Padres 8-5 Tuesday in Game 1.

"It's huge," Sanders said. "Let alone getting one RBI in a week, you get six in one day - and especially under postseason pressure. It's a great day. But it's not over, we've got a long way to go."

Facing a team that won the West despite an 82-80 record, the Cardinals- who led the majors with 100 victories - opened an 8-0 cushion in the fifth inning against Peavy. He was taken to a hospital after lasting only 4⅓ innings.

An MRI showed one broken rib on his right side and the possibility of a second break. A Padres spokesman said the injury would take four to six weeks to heal.

"He felt something on his right side," manager Bruce Bochy said. "He said he felt it during the course of the game."

Even without Peavy, the pesky Padres scored once in the seventh, once in the eighth and then got back into it in the ninth. San Diego scored three times and loaded the bases with two outs before closer Jason Isringhausen struck out Ramon Hernandez.

"We're playing a tough team," Sanders said. "As you can see, they fought to the last out."

Mark Mulder will oppose San Diego's Pedro Astacio on Thursday in Game 2 of the best-of-five series.

Jim Edmonds helped St. Louis with a home run, double and single. Eric Young had a pinch-hit homer in the eighth for San Diego and an RBI groundout in the ninth.

Manager Tony La Russa's team won for the fifth time in six NLDS openers. That includes a victory in 1996 when the Cardinals swept the Padres.

Sanders was on pace for the first 30-homer, 30-steal season of his career before missing 54 games after breaking his right leg in an outfield collision with Edmonds in mid-July.

### NFL STANDINGS, RESULTS, SCHEDULE

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

| South | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 77 | 45 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 86 | 57 |
| Carolina | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 103 | 96 |
| **New Orleans** | **2** | **2** | **0** | **.500** | **68** | **87** |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Chicago | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 52 | 39 |
| Detroit | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 36 | 58 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 64 | 107 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 | 72 | 92 |
| **East** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Washington | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 43 | 37 |
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 136 | 98 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 112 | 68 |
| Dallas | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 88 | 88 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| St. Louis | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 97 | 111 |
| Seattle | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 89 | 76 |
| Arizona | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 74 | 110 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 132 |

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

| South | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 78 | 26 |
| Jacksonville | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 62 | 64 |
| Tennessee | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 69 | 106 |
| Houston | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 24 | 65 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 104 | 38 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 81 | 37 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 30 | 52 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 45 | 64 |
| **East** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Miami | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 68 | 51 |
| New England | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 87 | 108 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 3 | 0 | .25 | 48 | 69 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 47 | 73 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Denver | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 80 | 68 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 91 |
| San Diego | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 127 | 88 |
| Oakland | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 89 |

**SUNDAY'S GAMES**
New Orleans 19, Buffalo 7
N.Y. Giants 44, St. Louis 24
Washington 20, Seattle 17, OT
Denver 20, Jacksonville 7
Indianapolis 31, Tennessee 10
Cincinnati 16, Houston 10
Tampa Bay 17, Detroit 13
San Diego 41, New England 17
Baltimore 13, N.Y. Jets 3
Atlanta 30, Minnesota 10
Oakland 19, Dallas 13
Philadelphia 37, Kansas City 31
Arizona 31, San Francisco 14

**MONDAY'S GAME**
Carolina 32, Green Bay 29
**Open:** Miami, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cleveland

**SUNDAY, OCT. 9**
Baltimore at Detroit, noon
Miami at Buffalo, noon
Seattle at St. Louis, noon
Tennessee at Houston, noon
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets, noon
New England at Atlanta, noon
New Orleans at Green Bay, noon
Chicago at Cleveland, noon
Indianapolis at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 3:15 p.m.
Carolina at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
Washington at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 7:30 p.m.
**Open:** Kansas City, Oakland, N.Y. Giants, Minnesota

**MONDAY, OCT. 10**
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 8 p.m.

# Oklahoma playing better after tough start

**TEXAS,** *from C-5*

Certainly the Longhorns, dominant against just about everybody else during Brown's tenure (their 73 victories in his seven-plus seasons at Texas are more than anyone else in the same span), have not been at their best against the Sooners of late.

"We know there are questions about Oklahoma, and that's fair," Brown said. "We haven't played very well or coached very well on that day."

Indeed.

Two of the past five games wound up in humiliating blowouts - 63-14 in 2000 and 65-13 in 2003.

Last year, Oklahoma won 12-0, handing Texas its first shutout in 24 years.

The Longhorns haven't lost in their 11 games since, including a victory against Michigan in the Rose Bowl to finish last season and one at Ohio State this season.

However, all of the success is overshadowed by the fact that Texas has yet to beat Oklahoma this millennium, Small wonder frustrated Texas fans have taken to wearing "Reverse the Curse" ornaments.

But maybe the real reason is much simpler. At least, former Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer sees it that way.

"Coaching staffs don't get intimidated," he said. "They know going into the game if they've got the best team or not, even though it may not always come out that way. The last few years, Mack has known that he's had the short stick. But he's got the longer stick this time."

That he does.

Texas has bountiful blue-chip talent, big-time playmakers and is brimming with confidence plus motivation.

Chief among them in talent and leadership is quarterback Vincent Young.

"He has absolutely no fear of failure. None," Brown said. "I think that's carried over to the team. They will embrace this week instead of being scared of it."

That's the way Young was talking Monday.

"I'm just burning to get out there and make some noise and answer all the people who think Texas might go out there and be uptight," he said.

The Longhorns are 4-0 following last Saturday's 51-20 victory at Missouri, a solid No. 2 behind Southern California in the rankings.

But that will all come crashing down if they don't win Saturday, not to mention the burden of having to deal with yet another loss to the Sooners.

"It you want to be the No. 1 team, you have to make a statement every week and shock the world," senior defensive tackle Rod Wright said. "People are questioning if this team is going to win this game. I'm thinking, 'How will the world feel if they turn on ESPN and see Texas go out and totally dominate OU?' That will make a statement that the No. 2 team in the country is trying to get to No. 1."

Part of the Longhorns' confidence comes from the fact that this Oklahoma team has not measured up to the powerhouses who have played for the national championship three times in the past five years.

The Sooners (2-2) are unranked for the first time since 1999. Gone are eight of their nine first-team All-Big 12 picks from a year ago, and they rank 11th in the conference in scoring defense and total defense.

"They've got a long way to go," Switzer said. "You can't replace that kind of talent in one year."

Texas knows it, too.

Asked if Texas "smells blood in the water," Longhorns offensive tackle Justin Griffin admitted, "It would be hard not to."

Or as a Dallas columnist wrote Tuesday, Texas has no excuses this time.

Still, Oklahoma is a formidable challenge.

After losing two of their first three games, including a shocking home defeat to TCU, the Sooners used an open date to regroup and last week scored an impressive 43-21 victory against Kansas State.

The Oklahoma players, accustomed to winning, were clearly juiced by the victory.

"Man, it was so exciting," senior co-captain Davin Joseph said. "We always knew we had it, and we felt like we had finally turned the corner and are hitting our stride. It's great that we finally started clicking as a group and getting the chemistry going in time for Texas."

To Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, it wasn't just that the Sooners won, it was how they won.

"We're getting closer and closer to where we should be," he said. "We're playing smarter, and we're playing harder. When you shore up, have fewer mental breakdowns and reduce your negative offensive plays, you really have a chance to improve."

Brown sees it, too.

"Bob has done an amazing job getting his kids back together," he said. "They used that week off to get themselves back to being the Oklahoma teams we're used to - quick, tough and aggressive."

Plus, Oklahoma has the results of the past five years in its favor.

"It gives us the confidence that we match up well against them, and we understand what they like to do," Stoops said. "Our players have a sense of that."

Still, Texas is a 14-point favorite, the biggest spread in the game since 1970.

And for Brown, that just makes for more pressure.

"The problem for Mac is getting it done," Switzer said. "He's supposed to win, and by more than he was before the season began. If he can't get it done this time, it's really going to eat away at him. I always want Oklahoma to win, but I'm rooting for Mack, too."

# Bama, Shula now in driver's seat

**FINNEY,** *from C-5*

For a football-crazed state, it's been a frustrating ride.

Inside Texas, the only thing as big, or bigger, than the Dallas Cowboys are the Longhorns.

Mack rides into town to revive a sinking program and, what do you know, in his first two seasons, he beat the Sooners.

What happened next was the problem.

As Brown kept on bringing in quality recruiting classes, as the 'Horns became perennial Big 12 contenders, they could do most anything except beat Oklahoma.

The Sooners have won five consecutive Red River Shootouts.

They won the last one by shutting out the 'Horns (12-0), the first time a Texas team was blanked in what seemed like a thousand years.

The previous year, Texas managed to score 13 points. But Oklahoma scored 65.

Now, at last, in this bitter rivalry, the tables appear to have turned 180 degrees.

Oklahoma opened the season by losing to TCU, 17-10, some say in the biggest upset of the college season.

And the Sooners would later go out to UCLA and get blitzed, 41-24.

Meanwhile, the Longhorns were going to Columbus, Ohio, and perhaps registering the finest victory of Brown's career, 25-22, over Ohio State.

A big game?

Yes.

But, for Brown, big games come in all sizes. Yes, Ohio State is a better football team than Oklahoma. But Ohio State does not live across the state line. The Buckeyes have not beaten the Longhorns five in a row.

This time, the Longhorns are No. 2.

This time, the Sooners are out of the top 25.

This time, the Longhorns have a Heisman candidate in quarterback Vince Young.

This time, the Sooners have no one.

This time, the Longhorns are favored by 13 points.

One point of caution: The 2-2 Sooners played their best game so far last week in whipping Kansas State, 43-21.

After the game, Bob Stoops, coach of the Okies, had the knife out. "We match up pretty well against Texas. Our players have some life. This is a huge game in the Big 12 South.??

A huge game?

Stoops likes this kind of talk during Texas week.

He knows where the pressure lies.

On the back of the coach of the Texas Longhorns.

Meanwhile, an old coach who has won his share of big ones, Joe Paterno, has gotten Penn State off to a 4-0 start.

And a far younger coach, Alabama's Mike Shula, came up with the biggest victory of his career, a 31-3 trouncing of Florida that suddenly made the Tide, not LSU, favored in the SEC West.

It was a bittersweet win, if only because Bama lost standout receiver Ty Prothro for the season with a broken leg. They'll be second-guessing Shula for having Prothro in the game in the fourth quarter as they did last year when quarterback Brodie Croyle was still on the field in the third quarter with his team leading East Carolina, 31-0. At that time, Croyle suffered a season-ending injury, proving that sometimes you can win big and lose big.

# Groin pull knocks Smith out of first day

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets shooting guard J.R. Smith came away with a slightly pulled groin injury during Tuesday's opening day of training camp at Southern Nazarene University.

As a precaution, Hornets coach Byron Scott said Smith likely will sit out the next three or four days to receive treatment.

Smith is a projected starter, but he is expected to be pushed in training camp by former European star Arvydas Macijauskas, who already has shown he's one of the team's top perimeter shooters.

**AT HOME:** Veteran forward George Lynch, who on Monday requested the team to trade him, was not at practice Tuesday. Lynch is expected to miss training camp and the preseason because of a heel injury. Hornets spokesman Scott Hall said Lynch went to Dallas, his offseason home, to do rehabilitation work.

**IN SHAPE:** Forward Kirk Snyder showed Tuesday that he might be the Hornets' best conditioned player. During a sprinting drill near the end of practice, he lapped some teammates. The Hornets obtained Snyder from the Utah Jazz in August as part of a five-team, 13-player deal.

"My job is to stay in shape," Snyder said. "The biggest thing for me is showing what I can do on the defensive end. That's where I want to make my focus."

**DISTRACTION FREE:** Veteran forward P.J. Brown said it was great to begin the first day of training camp without a major distraction, although former general manager Allan Bristow abruptly resigned last Saturday, citing health concerns.

Before last season's training camp in New Orleans, former star point guard Baron Davis said the franchise didn't do enough in free agency to improve, and he made a trade request through his agent. The Hornets eventually traded Davis in February to the Golden State Warriors for Speedy Claxton.

"'Right now, it's all about basketball and taking care of business," Brown said. "We're trying to be as good of a team that we can be with no distractions. That's the way it should be."

**GLAD TO BE BACK:** Point guard Alex Garcia, who had a season-ending knee injury last December, has recovered and is aiming to make the roster. He was signed last week, along with free agents Troy Bell, a point guard, and Sean Banks, a forward.

"It's definitely a new year for me," Garcia said. "To get back, I worked every day for three or four hours a day over the past six months."

**WHAT'S AHEAD:** Scott said several new players picked up things quickly with his offensive system during Tuesday's practice. But Scott said they all have plenty of work ahead.

"We have a lot of things that we want to put in, a lot of things we want to do and a lot of things we

want to accomplish, so there are not going to be a lot of days off," Scott said. "There will be days that we take it easy on the guys, and easy is going to be two hours. Other than that, we are going to go the full three hours and sometimes a little bit more."

# Chicago trades center Curry to Knicks

**From wire reports**

Eddy Curry refused to take a DNA test to determine if he has a serious heart problem, so the Chicago Bulls cut ties with the center and sent him to the New York Knicks.

The Bulls also dealt veteran center Antonio Davis to the Knicks for forwards Tim Thomas, Michael Sweetney and Jermaine Jackson on Monday night. Several draft picks were also involved in the trade, according to an Eastern Conference executive who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Bulls general manager John Paxson had warned 10 days earlier that a showdown with Curry was looming, and he didn't hide his frustration Monday.

"All we can say right now is we traded Eddy to the Knicks," Bulls public relations director Sebrina Brewster said.

Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz said the team declined comment on Paxson's announcement.

The Bulls had insisted that Curry take a DNA test to determine whether he's susceptible to a potentially fatal heart problem. Curry, who missed the final 13 games of the regular season and the playoffs after experiencing an irregular heartbeat, balked, saying it violated his privacy.

Curry has been diagnosed with having a benign arrhythmia.

Several prominent cardiologists cleared him to play, but Barry Maron, a world-renowned specialist in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, suggested the DNA test.

"Think about what's at stake here," Alan Milstein, Curry's attorney, told the Associated Press recently. "As far as DNA testing, we're just at the beginning of that universe. Pretty soon, though, we'll know whether someone is predisposed to cancer, alcoholism, obesity, baldness and who knows what else.

"Hand that information to an employer," he added, "and imagine the implications. If the NBA were to get away with it, what about everyone else in this country looking for a job."

**RAPTORS DEAL ALSTON:** The Toronto Raptors traded temperamental point guard Rafer Alston to Houston for guard Mike James.

Alston was involved in several scrapes last season. He threatened to quit the team and the NBA after a Dec. 3 game in Boston and was suspended by the Raptors for two games for conduct detrimental to the club after he walked out during practice.

**BOBCATS WILL LET KOPONO GO:** Charlotte will not match the Miami Heat's offer sheet for restricted free-agent forward Jason Kapono.

**TRAIL BLAZERS SIGN CLANCY:** Portland signed forward Sam Clancy to a one-year contract.

# Butler familiar with intense workouts

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

Scott has high expectations for Paul, who is expected to be the starting point guard when the Hornets open the regular season Nov. 1 against the Sacramento Kings at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City. During Monday's Media Day, Scott hinted that Paul could be the league's Rookie of the Year this season.

Yet, Paul isn't even sure he'll win the battle for the starting job against Speedy Claxton, Troy Bell and Alex Garcia.

"I want to play, but I do not feel like I have job security," Paul said. "I'm competing against great players, and I'm just trying to show Coach that I'm a leader and I'm going to play as hard as I can."

J.R. Smith, who went through an extensive adjustment period as a rookie during the first two months of the season last year, was impressed by the way Paul handled his first day of work.

Paul and Smith are friends, and they started discussing what to expect from training camp in July when they were teammates on the Hornets' summer league team that competed in Las Vegas.

"I told him everything he needed to know about all the drills," Smith said. "But he looked like a pro out there."

Like Paul, seven other players went through their first training-camp practice under Scott. Second-round draft pick and former LSU player Brandon Bass said it definitely was intense.

"College was hard, but it was nothing like this," Bass said. "Everybody just tried to get through the first day. Coach Scott really emphasis details and doing every drill correctly. I got ready for camp by working out three days a week."

Rasual Butler, who was acquired by the Hornets from the Miami Heat in a five-team, 13-player trade in August, said Scott's camp reminded him of his rookie season with the Heat when Pat Riley was his coach. Riley also was Scott's coach when he played for the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1980s.

"They both think that discipline and conditioning are something very important," Butler said. "It was tough today, but I was able to get through it because of my experience of having already been through a similar training camp."

# Athletes deserve season to remember

**SALMEN,** *from C-5*

the football team now practices in the morning before going to class in the afternoon.

The team, with high expectations before the season, now has 32 players, fewer than half of the 70 who reported in August. The rest of the players are scattered across the country. Some of the current Salmen players still aren't living in their homes; their families aren't whole again yet.

The existence of Salmen football this season was in doubt because the Spartans' equipment was destroyed by flooding, and even if the school could field a team, there was almost no one left to play. Salmen's district, 10-4A, was decimated; none of Salmen's opponents are able to compete.

"But it was important for us to play," said Coach Jerry Leonard, who created a makeshift schedule and found equipment.

Having a football season was not just important for the team. The fact the Spartans, the most successful program in St. Tammany Parish with three state championships and 14 district titles in the past 16 years, are still playing is almost symbolic. South Slidell, the hardest hit area of the north shore, is where Salmen is located. Salmen football, long a source of pride in the area, may be able to provide an emotional lift, coaches and Salmen administrators said.

When Salmen opened its season Saturday — a month after its scheduled start — it was a triumph even though the result was a 34-3 loss to West Jefferson. Leonard admits he had tears in his eyes when his team ran through the chute.

"These kids have been through so much, and it means so much to them and the school to have them playing again, it got a little emotional."

Monday morning, intensity and Leonard's trademark search for perfection were the hallmarks of the Spartans practice.

"The time for warm and fuzzy is over," he said. "Right now we've got to get ready to play football.'

Monday afternoon, Salmen began school at Northshore High. About a third of the school's population of 1,000 made it back for the first day.

Rumors were rife in post-Katrina St. Tammany that Salmen was so damaged it might never reopen.

"No one ever said that," said Mike Leland, Salmen's athletic director. "But obviously things were bad. Some of these kids had a sense they were losing their school."

So having football has been a source of inspiration for all Salmen students.

As much as anyone, Mike Peterson, the principal at Northshore, gets an assist for keeping the Spartans' program breathing. Peterson let the Salmen officials know he would do whatever he could to help. "He's been a major benefactor," Leland said.

Although Salmen is competing again, there is no mistaking the fact this is not the same highly rated team that the Spartans were pre-Katrina. All-around star player Ryan Eden and quarterback Derrick Sander are playing in Ohio. Others are scattered from Texas to Florida. Some will be back, others won't.

The Spartans who are back, though, are special, said Leonard, who has given them a singular designation. Salmen will wear gold jerseys all season. Traditionally, the Spartans wear black or white. The official Spartan colors are black and gold, but no other Spartans team in the three-and-a-half decades of the program has worn gold jerseys.

"This is a special group," Leonard said. "They've lived through a life-altering experience, but they've come back. I wanted to do something to set them apart from every other Salmen team. I want them to be remembered. They deserve it."

As does the school and the community, he said.

# Scelfo hopes to counter fatigue

*Wave coach cuts practice, prepares for long season*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — In Tulane's first practice following three weeks of road games, two of which it was considered the home team, Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo said it is time to start easing up and preparing for the long haul.

Saying his team is beginning to show signs of tiring, Scelfo cut Tuesday's workout by about 15 minutes. He said he would do the same for today's practice and follow that routine the rest of the season.

"I think it's taken a toll,"Scelfo said, referring to the team's bus rides the past three weeks. "We're going to cut back on practice today and (Wednesday). What we miss in assignments and repetition, I think we'll make up in freshness."

Scelfo said the sluggish performance by the Green Wave in its 28-21 victory over Southeastern Louisiana convinced him the reduction is needed. The team will be traveling again this weekend, going to Lafayette on Friday where it will play host to Houston on Saturday evening.

"Last Saturday, I thought our team was tired," Scelfo said. "It came out and really played well early, and kind of ran out of gas. I've never driven 5½ hours home after a homecoming game. I had trouble, and that's me. So I know the kids are tired. Our football team has been through a lot, and I think it showed up Saturday."

The freshness will come in handy. The Wave, which doesn't have an open week during the next two months, begins a four-game Conference USA stretch, including its next two games against Houston and Texas-El Paso. The Miners and the Cougars were picked to finish first and second in C-USA's West Division in the league's preseason poll.

Tulane was picked third.

**BACK IN SHAPE:** Going through knee surgery for the second consecutive year during fall drills only slowed down Bubba Terranova.

Terranova, the only senior wide receiver, had the biggest game of his career against SLU. He caught four passes for 120 yards, including one for a 74-yard touchdown.

"He's always been a guy you can count on,"offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo said. "(SLU) gave us an opportunity to get him the ball. He has great hands, runs a great route and is always assignment-sure."

Terranova's career-best would have been better had it not been for a holding call on the Green Wave's second possession of the third quarter. A 29-yard reception was nullified.

**TREASURE HUNT:** Like so many people affected by Hurricane Katrina, returning home last week prior to the game against SLU wasn't pleasant for defensive coordinator Eric Schumann or linebacker coach Garrett Chachere.

"It looked like a giant went in there and made a big mess of things,"said Chachere, who lives close to the London Avenue canal.

Schumann, who lives in Arabi, said his apartment ceiling had fallen to the floor. He was able to find his watch and ring from the Green Wave's 2002 ConAgra Hawaii Bowl victory, but his most-valued possessions were not found.

**"Last Saturday, I thought our team was tired. It came out and really played well early, and kind of ran out of gas. I've never driven 5½ hours home after a homecoming game. I had trouble, and that's me. So I know the kids are tired. Our football team has been through a lot, and I think it showed up Saturday."**

CHRIS SCELFO
Tulane football coach

A gold watch and 1978 ring presented to him by former Alabama coach Paul "Bear"Bryant are missing.

"You always have hope before going in,"Schumann said. "I knew we had water, but you hoped there was only five feet of water."

**SHORT FALL:** The Green Wave's No. 1 ranking as the nation's top defense didn't last long. The Wave dropped to No. 2 after giving up 309 yards last week to Division I-AA SLU. Connecticut (213.50) is No. 1. Tulane (220.37) is fifth against the pass (146.67) and seventh against the rush (73.7). It faces Houston, ranked 13th in offense. The Cougars are averaging 475.25 yards a game.

# D-line leading charge for LSU

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Note to all the LSU fans who long for an improved defense: Stop scouring the secondary and look a little closer to the ball.

If any part of the LSU defense asserted itself in Saturday's victory against Mississippi State, it was the front four — or eight if you want to count the non-starters.

Even before the Bulldogs top rusher, Jerious Norwood, left the game with a mild concussion, LSU's defensive line had set the tone for the game.

Mississippi State was held to 56 yards rushing, 36 of which came in the last quarter. Norwood finished with seven carries for nine yards. The seven†sacks by LSU were all by linemen, and the constant pressure forced several incompletions.

Defensive tackle Kyle Williams said it's not just the line play. He said fans should expect to see incremental improvement each week.

"Everything defensively kind of took a step forward this week," Williams said. "ÖThings are starting to click a little more, and you can especially see it in the games. The Arizona state game was bad. The Tennessee game was good then bad, and then the last week we played pretty good all game."

The line stood out among them all. Defensive tackle Claude Wroten had a team-high seven tackles, two of which were sacks, and end Melvin Oliver had six tackles and two sacks. Ends Ryan Willis and Chase Pittman and tackle Glenn Dorsey had one sack each.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Linebacker Cameron Vaughn and the LSU defense showed marked improvement this past Saturday, yielding a touchdown to Mississippi State.

LSU's pass rush was effective in the opener at Arizona State but showed some improvement against Tennessee.

"I think it's just the idea that we're coming after them a little more regularly," said LSU coach Les Miles. "I think we're putting more pressure on them, and the guys up front expect themselves to get to the quarterback and understand how important that is for the team."

Williams said the first two opponents were more wary of LSU's pressure and placed a great deal of strategic importance on keeping the quarterback protected.

"Tennessee and Arizona State squeezed the protection a lot and left backs in to chip on our rushers," he said. "We were still able to get to them some during the Tennessee game, though we didn't get many sacks. Mississippi State decided they were going to run their offense to the death.

"A team that tries to block us with five offensive linemen against our four, we're going to be able to get good pressure."

Williams said he didn't know what to expect from the Vanderbilt game plan. The Commodores have two seniors on the offensive line, and quarterback Jay Cutler, the SEC leader in passing yards per game, isn't easy to bring down. Besides his scrambling and running ability, Cutler is 6 feet 4 and 225 pounds. In five games, he's been sacked seven times.

"He will hold the ball; he will take a hit to be able to get rid of the ball," Williams said. "We have to work hard on getting to him and containing him, because he can run. He's got real good pocket presence, real calm in the pocket."

**ROUGH CAREER:** Norwood is fifth on State's career rushing chart, but no thanks to LSU. After Saturday's performance, he finished his four games against LSU with 25 carries for 17 yards — and one giant headache.

**DROUGHT:** Vanderbilt hasn't appeared on ESPN or ESPN2 since 1999, when the Commodores lost to Kentucky, 19-17.

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# Flooded homes need wiring inspected

*Electricity 'more than likely' can be restored soon*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

New Orleanians returning to homes flooded by Hurricane Katrina must have their homes inspected by a licensed electrician before power can be restored, a spokeswoman for Entergy New Orleans said Wednesday as residents returned to areas soaked by the Aug. 29 storm.

The wiring may have been compromised in flooded homes and at homes where water entered through damaged roofs, Amy Stallings said. If service were restored to homes with damaged wiring, fires could result, she said.

After a home has been inspected, the electrician's work must be reviewed by the city's Department of Safety and Permits. Either the department or electrician then has to notify Entergy that it's safe to provide power to the home, she said.

"Power can be restored to an individual home," Stallings said.

Unlike the unflooded parts of the city where the lights came on in an entire block or a neighborhood, she said, "it's house by house."

*See* **ELECTRICITY,** *A-9*

# Tax base drying up with floodwaters

*That puts assessors in unique position*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

If there's a silver lining for those who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina, it's that tax bills on decimated properties in all likelihood will be small to nonexistent next year.

Of course, the sudden collapse of the revenue stream that flows from property tax is not at all good news for the governments that depend on it, particularly at a time when sales-tax revenue, the biggest source of money for most municipalities and parishes, have shriveled to a pittance in the storm's wake.

After a news conference Tuesday in which New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announced the city was laying off about half its 6,000 employees, Finance Director Reggie Zeno explained that the city's sales-tax revenue had fallen from about $13 million per month to almost nothing. The layoffs were expected

*See* **ASSESS,** *A-10*

**HOUSTON:** Carl Wright, in a wheelchair, and Maurice Brown wait to leave a shelter in advance of Hurricane Rita. Rather than heading to Arkansas on Sept. 20 with others from the Reliant Arena, Wright accepted an offer of housing in Colorado and Brown decided to stay in Houston.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

# A TALE OF TWO SHELTERS

*One man finds a future; one woman loses hope*

**By Gwen Filosa and Tara Young**
Staff writers

For three days, Maurice Brown waded through the dirty floodwaters of Violet, helping stranded neighbors as he made his way out of the parish. He eventually found a ferry to higher ground and a bus, that, as luck would have it, took him to the Houston Astrodome.

Three weeks later, he has a new future in Houston, complete with a new apartment and an active job hunt.

"I'm not going back to Louisiana until everything is straight," said Brown, who is now looking for a job as a carpenter's assistant. "I'll be here two years, maybe permanently if things turn out right. God gave us a fresh start here."

But Donyeln Howard, 39, who drove out of New Orleans in her truck and eventually found her way to the Cajun Dome in Lafayette, has been in shelters since Sept. 8. Howard is living with her 70-year-old mother, 20 relatives and about 900 other evacuees. She has three changes of clothes, a Ford pickup, a sore back from sleeping on a cot and a single FEMA check.

*See* **SHELTERS,** *A-8*

# LOOK & GRIEVE



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

**PARIS AVENUE:** They came ready to work on Wednesday, the first day the city's 'look and leave' policy allowed them to see their devastated homes, but for many residents of Lakeview, Gentilly, eastern New Orleans and parts of Mid-City, the heaviest burden clearly was the emotional one. The distant stare — perhaps grief, perhaps disbelief, perhaps both — says it all for Gnann Cather as she retrieves what few salvageable items she can find in her home. Cather's home is near the breach in the London Avenue Canal and, like most homes in the city, saw extensive flooding after Hurricane Katrina.
**See story, A-13**

# Cleanup crews clamor for share of big haul



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A debris-removal truck unloads branches onto a giant pile at Veterans Memorial Boulevard and the Pontchartrain Expressway a month after Hurricane Katrina.

*Debris-removal job may last for years*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

They line up every morning along Marconi Drive, a staging area better known for the huge Endymion floats that assemble there before the super krewe rolls on the Saturday before Mardi Gras.

But these vehicles — hundreds of hauling trucks from all over the nation — are here for a less jolly purpose: waiting their turn to participate in post-Katrina debris-removal, an operation of truly epic proportions.

"This is my first time doing it. The guy I work for, he wanted to try it, see how it is," Jamell Yates, 31, a hauling company worker from the Atlanta area, said Monday as he waited for his truck to reach a check-in stand between a collapsed building on the Delgado campus and splintered oaks in City Park. "He said we won't be able to go home for at least 35 to 45 days. He said we will go home for Thanksgiving, though."

Others scoff at that timeline. They expect to be pulling tree limbs and construction debris out of New Orleans neighborhoods for 18 months to two years, especially if government agencies authorize the demolition of thousands of homes in the most flood-damaged sections.

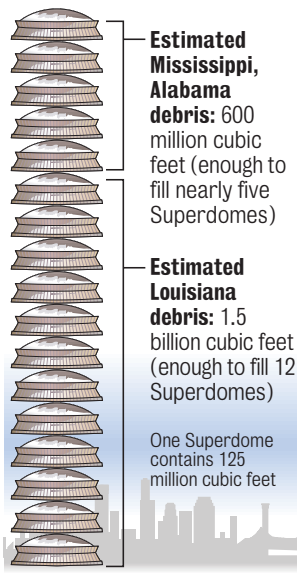
Brand Stallings, a 38-year-old debris hauler from Greenwood, Ark., didn't flinch at the notion of spending two years,

*See* **CLEANUP,** *A-5*

## SUPER-SIZED TASK

Preliminary debris estimates from Hurricane Katrina:

**Total debris:** 2.1 billion cubic feet (enough to fill 16.8 Superdomes)




Source: State officials, staff research
STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

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# Nagin pushes package of tax incentives

*He hopes breaks will rebuild city*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

As he tries to reassemble a shattered city, Mayor Ray Nagin says New Orleans is not looking for a "handout" from the federal government, only a "hand-up."

But a closer look at the wish list that Nagin has submitted to President Bush shows that he's asking for quite a handful, from a state-of-the-art light rail system linking New Orleans and Baton Rouge to a new and improved flood protection network equipped to handle a Category 5 hurricane.

But the centerpiece of the mayor's request for aid is a package of tax incentives designed to fuel the repopulation of a city that, five weeks after Hurricane Katrina forced an unprecedented mass evacuation, is now home to about 75,000 residents.

Under the proposal, which Nagin outlined last week as he introduced a 17-member blue ribbon commission charged with mapping a strategy to rebuild the city, anyone who lives and works in New Orleans would be eligible for a 50 percent federal tax credit on total taxable wages. The mayor said he wants a cap of $50,000 for individuals and $100,000 for couples who file joint income tax returns.

The program, which Nagin has dubbed the Katrina Tax and Jobs Incentive Zone, also would offer a break for companies that operate in the city now or decide to locate in New Orleans in the future.

The plan would afford all New Orleans-based businesses a 50 percent federal income tax credit on their total payroll for employees who live and work in the city. That credit would be capped annually at their total tax liability, which means a business would not be able to save more than it owes in taxes.

Under his plan, Nagin said, the tax credit could not be transferred to a third party or credited to a prior or future year.

"The most you could get is a zero federal tax environment in any one year," he said.

Nagin said he wants the tax breaks to remain in place for seven years, or until New Orleans' population reaches its pre-Katrina level, whichever comes first. The most recent census figures pegged the city's population before the storm at 469,000.

The message to the president and Congress, Nagin said, is "Help us create the right environment, and we'll take it from there.

"We don't want to be an undue burden on the federal government, but we do think that we contribute to this nation. We contribute mightily to this nation and we deserve to be treated accordingly."

And when it comes to direct assistance to reconstruct the city's infrastructure, Nagin said he is seeking the White House's commitment for a formula that provides New Orleans with its fair share.

Nagin said he wants an "allocation of federal dollars that is based upon citizens being displaced and/or businesses or residents that were flooded or destroyed compared to the totals in each affected state," whether it is Louisiana, Mississippi or Texas. "Let's not divert very needed funds from the areas that are most affected."

Nagin's proposed tax incentives are similar to those included in a plan unveiled this week by Gov. Kathleen Blanco to lure people and businesses back to storm-ravaged areas of Louisiana.

But there are significant differences.

For example, Blanco's ideas include the option to sell the tax credits to a third party, who then could provide upfront cash to storm victims.

And while Nagin's plan is specific to New Orleans, the governor has not defined which areas of the state would be eligible for the breaks.

In most cases, the changes will need the support of Louisiana's congressional delegation. Both Blanco and Nagin have been working closely with U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter on their respective plans.

As for any direct help from City Hall for the business community, Nagin said it's not going to happen any time soon.

"If you're talking money, the city's broke," he said. "So that's pretty much out."

Nagin said his administration is available to offer assistance on how to access money through the state and the federal government, but that local tax breaks are out of the question.

"We don't have any tax revenue so how can we give tax breaks?" he asked. "The city's in a reconstruction mode just like the businesses. And we'd love to help them, and we're going to try to work with them to come up with whatever incentives we can afford. But right now we can't afford much."

Nagin said he understands the frustration that business owners must feel as they struggle to get back on their feet. But he is asking them to be patient.

"We're going to try to rebuild this city as fast as possible," he said. "And we hope they're going to be flexible enough to understand that we are in a rebuild mode and this is not normal conditions."

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# Some N.O. water could soon get OK

*Certification key to bringing residents back*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The state health department expects to begin this week certifying the water in some areas on New Orleans' east bank as safe to drink, Mayor Ray Nagin and agency officials said Wednesday.

One of the major challenges confronting the city's effort to bring back residents has been the questionable condition of the tap water, which officials have warned is not yet drinkable on the east bank of the city and may not even be safe for contact.

But Nagin, appearing at the state Capitol to speak with state lawmakers, and a spokesman for the Department of Health and Hospitals said they are hopeful that clean water certifications for some neighborhoods will be issued as early as today.

Only some areas of the city would have clean water, and the health agency would designate which areas. More areas would be certified in phases as water pipes are fixed and more testing is done. Water on most of the West Bank already is certified as clean for drinking, and well as in many areas of Jefferson Parish.

Information on drinking water in the New Orleans metro area is available by checking the state health agency's Web site at www.dhhemergencynews.com.

Monique Harden, a director of the public interest group Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, said she is concerned that the city's drinking water supply is compromised by breaks in water mains and pipes, and that any clean water certifications need to take that in consideration.

The state health agency said its certifications would be based on the quality of the water at the tap, not just at the water plants.

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# Razing of N.O. public hospitals urged

## *Buildings sustained millions in damage*

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — The two public hospitals in New Orleans — Charity and University — should be torn down because damage from Hurricane Katrina left them "dangerous, dangerous places," the director of Louisiana's charity hospital system said Wednesday.

"The Big Charity and University Hospital buildings were issued their 'death warrant' by Katrina and the cataclysmic floods it spawned," Donald Smithburg told the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors.

"Even before the storms, these old facilities were on the ropes," he said, noting that Charity was built in the 1930s and University in the 1960s.

LSU officials had been pushing to replace the outdated facilities before the hurricane hit. Two weeks ago, they went to Washington to plead their case for federal money to build new facilities.

The LSU Board must approve any demolition or rebuilding plans.

Charity, a distinctive 20-story Art Deco hospital, opened in 1939, four years after Huey P. Long was killed, and once was the nation's second-largest hospital, with nearly 2,700 beds.

"They're moving toward implementing a plan they've been talking about for some years, for a new Level 1 trauma and adjacent 450-bed hospital, as well as clinics throughout New Orleans," said Charles Zewe, spokesman for the LSU system.

LSU also wants to replace Earl K. Long Hospital, the public hospital in Baton Rouge, with a new 450-bed hospital.

There's no word yet on when the LSU Board might be asked to approve such plans, Zewe said.

In the meantime, medical needs are being handled in a MASH-type unit at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. A second is about to go up in a parking lot across the street from University Hospital. "We hope by Christmas to have as many as 200 beds in that facility," Zewe said.

An LSU news release sent out Wednesday called the 1,000-bed Navy hospital ship Comfort "Floating Charity," although a military spokesman had said earlier in the day that it might soon be heading back from New Orleans to Baltimore, its home port.

"The Comfort has not been very busy because not many people are in the city," Zewe said. "Our people anticipate it'll get a lot busier."

He said the Navy said it would stay for at least two weeks.

Smithburg, chief executive officer of the LSU Health Care Services Division, said flooding and wind did more than $340 million in damage at Charity Hospital, and another $105 million at University Hospital.

The two hospitals usually treat more than 500,000 patients a year.

Smithburg said they may not look much worse than before the flood, but it's deceiving. "The buildings have unsafe air to breathe, pervasive mold growing, and mechanical systems that were completely destroyed by the storm," he said.

He said they don't have the environmental, structural or mechanical capacity needed for modern health care.

"We are going to build newer, more modern facilities that will withstand the test of time. They will withstand the next storm, and the one after that," Smithburg said. "Charity and University have anchored the health care system of southern Louisiana for over 100 years. We believe they should be replaced quickly to ensure they provide health care for the next 100 years and beyond."

Charity Hospital is also among hospitals being investigated by the state attorney general because patients died there during the storm.

Attorney General Charles Foti is looking into whether six hospitals and 13 nursing homes mishandled evacuations of patients, abandoned them during Katrina or euthanized people to spare them further pain when rescuers didn't arrive.

At least 140 elderly patients in New Orleans nursing homes and hospitals died in the storm and its aftermath; dozens more who were living independently may have perished.

WAR IN IRAQ

# N.O. soldier killed in attack on base in Iraq

## *Sergeant's post hit by 'indirect fire'*

A New Orleans soldier has been killed in the line of duty in Iraq, the Department of Defense announced Wednesday.

Staff Sgt. Jens E. Schelbert, 31, died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on Oct. 1, when his operating base was attacked by enemy forces using "indirect fire," a Department of Defense news release said.

Schelbert was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

Further details were not available late Wednesday.

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# Amtrak to resume service from N.O.

## *Routes include Memphis, Chicago, Atlanta, N.Y.*

**By The Associated Press**

Amtrak plans to resume train service from New Orleans on Sunday, the first rail passenger service since Hurricane Katrina hit the region.

The City of New Orleans will begin running again to Memphis and Chicago, while the Crescent will resume its route to Atlanta and New York, Amtrak said Wednesday.

Amtrak said service on the Sunset Limited, a three-day-a-week train from Orlando, Fla., to Los Angeles will remain suspended. Amtrak said service would be resumed later on that route to Beaumont, Texas, and Houston, but eastern service will not begin until at least 2006 because of extensive damage to tracks and bridges owned by CSX Transportation.

# Jackson wants cleanup done by local workers

## *He's got buses to pick up evacuees*

**By The Associated Press**

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, decrying what he claims is a lack of local labor taking part in hurricane cleanup efforts, said Wednesday that he plans to bus evacuated residents back to New Orleans.

Jackson said the federal response to the hurricane has enabled large government contractors to win no-bid contracts that could instead be serviced by local residents who now are unemployed and living in shelters around the country.

"We're talking about cleanup, debris removal, driving trucks, driving bulldozers — these are skills within the realm of people who are being victimized by this crisis," he said.

Jackson said emergency workers and contractors have inundated the city, and displaced residents living on military bases and in hotels around the nation could use similar accommodations in and around their native city.

Jackson said a caravan of buses will leave Sunday or Monday from Chicago to pick up men and women during stops in St. Louis, Memphis and Jackson, Miss., before heading to New Orleans. He said his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will work with officials from New Orleans to help the residents get job training and work repairing their city. He had no specific estimate of how many people or buses would be used.

Sally Forman, spokeswoman for Mayor Ray Nagin, said she could not immediately comment on Jackson's plan because her office had not been told about it.

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# Tropical Storm Tammy threatens Fla. coast

## *It's unlikely to reach hurricane strength*

**By Ron Word**
Associated Press writer

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. — Tropical Storm Tammy churned off the north Florida coast on Wednesday, packing winds of 45 mph, dumping heavy rain in spots and cranking out waves up to 4 feet high, forecasters said.

A tropical storm warning was issued from Flagler Beach, north of Daytona Beach, to South Carolina's Santee River. The warning means tropical storm conditions were expected within 24 hours.

Tammy was centered about 20 miles northeast of Daytona Beach at 2 p.m. and was moving north-northwest at 14 mph. It was expected to continue moving parallel to Florida's east coast while gradually slowing its forward motion.

Robbie Berg, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said that because Tammy will spend so little time over water, it is unlikely that it will reach hurricane strength of 74 mph. He said it was hard to forecast where Tammy would make landfall because "one slight variation in its track could bring it onshore."

Seven hurricanes have brushed past or hit Florida in the past 14 months, including three this year.

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# AFTER THE STORM

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Jefferson – 30
Lafourche – 2
Livingston – 5
Plaquemines – 3
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Tangipahoa – 26
Terrebonne – 19
West Baton Rouge – 3

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## POSTAL SERVICE

▶ At least partial street delivery has been returned to Algiers and Jefferson Parish.
▶ 70115 mail can be picked up at the Uptown station, 2000 Louisiana Ave.
▶ 70125 mail is available at the Carrollton station, 3400 S. Carrollton Ave.
▶ Both sites are open weekdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
▶ 70112, 70113, 70116, 70119, 70130 and post office box mail from those ZIP codes will be distributed weekdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in trailers set up between the New Orleans Arena and the New Orleans Centre parking garage on Girod Street, Cousin said.
▶ For now, only first-class letters and packages will be delivered to the New Orleans region.
▶ Residents of Plaquemines Parish can retrieve mail from a mobile post office at 9419 Louisiana 23 in Belle Chasse.
▶ St. Bernard mail is expected to be available at a similar mobile unit in Covington next week.

## PARISH BY PARISH

**ORLEANS**
▶ Homeowners and business owners can return to all areas of the city except the Lower 9th Ward.
▶ The Red Cross has set up feeding and bulk distribution of water and ice. Cleanup and comfort kits are available at the following sites as well as feedings, including carry-away evening meals:
▶ Municipal Auditorium parking lot
▶ A.L. Davis Park, Washington at Simon Bolivar
▶ Freret Street parking lot, Jena at Freret
▶ Esplanade at St. Claude/North Rampart
▶ Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
▶ Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
▶ Fox playground, Algiers
▶ Cutoff playground, Algiers
▶ There is a boil-water order in effect for all of the east bank of New Orleans.
▶ Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at Touro Infirmary, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred DMAT.

**JEFFERSON**
▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6100, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ 911 phone system is back on line.

**ST. BERNARD**
▶ Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
▶ All parish areas open. People will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents.
▶ A dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES**
▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
▶ Some parts still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST. CHARLES**
▶ Open; utilities working.

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS**
▶ Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year.
▶ De La Salle High School will resume classes Oct. 18 at St. Rita School of Harahan , 194 Ravan Ave., 4 to 7 p.m. Registration is today from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.dlsneworleans.com, call (504) 231-6962, or e-mail kirb01@aol.com.

**JEFFERSON**
▶ Public schools are open except:
▶ Alexander students should report at 9 a.m. to Greenlawn Elementary, 1500 38th St., Kenner.
▶ Lincoln students should report at 9 a.m. to Butler Elementary School, 300 Fourth St., in Westwego.
▶ Terrytown students should arrive at 8:40 a.m. at Boudreaux Elementary, 950 Behrman Highway in Terrytown.
▶ Woodmere students should report at 7:45 a.m. to C.T. Janet Elementary, 2500 Bent Tree Lane, Marrero.
▶ Martyn students should report to Riverdale High School, 240 Riverdale Drive in Jefferson.
▶ Many other private and Catholic schools have reopened.

**ST. TAMMANY**
▶ Public: Open.
▶ Catholic: Most have reopened.

**ST. BERNARD**
▶ Public: Probably closed for year.

**PLAQUEMINES**
▶ Belle Chasse schools will reopen Oct. 17. For more information, visit www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
▶ Public and Catholic: Open.

**ST. CHARLES**
▶ Public and Catholic: Open.

September 22, 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT due to Hurricane Katrina, the regular meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana, scheduled for September 7, 2005 was not held. It has been postponed and will be held at their regular meeting place, the City Hall, Harahan, Louisiana, on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 7:30 pm for the following casee(s):
1. An ordinance to resubdivide Lots 36 and 37, Square J, Harahan City Subdivision into Lot 37-A, Square J, Harahan City Subdivision. (432 Hickory Avenue)

THIS NOTICE IS TO ADVISE CITIZENS OF HARAHAN OF THE PUBLIC MEETING. YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

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**Bonnabel**
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**Causeway**
2200 North Causeway Blvd.

**Chateau**
1000 West Esplanade

**Driftwood**
3644 Williams Blvd.

**Elmwood**
5400 Mounes Street

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# Truck drivers 'are chasing these storms'

CLEANUP, *from A-1*

working 12 hours a day, in one of the dirtiest storm-recovery tasks.

"I'll take 20 years of it if the money's good," he said.

Plenty of money will be spent in this debris-hauling program directed by the Army Corps of Engineers. But just how much will be made by equipment operators and laborers who have descended on Orleans Parish —more than 1,000 by some estimates, in several hundred vehicles — is a matter of conjecture, linked to the size and expense of individual trucks and the productivity of their crews. A driver or chainsaw operator may earn $250 or more a day, a flag-holder $100 to $150 a day, workers say, while far more may be earned by owners of trucks and other heavy moving equipment.

But Rodney Thompson, a hauler from West Monroe, cautioned that some of those who invested heavily in new rigs before coming to New Orleans face a risk of losing money if they can't keep costs down or don't earn as much as expected.

"I'll stay until I start losing money," he said.

The haulers serve as frontline cleanup forces for Tennessee-based Phillips & Jordan, a disaster-recovery company hired by the corps to remove Katrina's New Orleans debris under a contract that could pay as much as $500 million, according to news reports. Phillips & Jordan has in turn hired four companies in the New Orleans region to take a direct role in running a cleanup operation. Over time, the operations will move in stages through removal of downed trees and limbs, construction debris and, ultimately, ruined buildings that must be demolished, according to Rookie Tadlock, a supervisor with one of the four local companies, Durr Construction in Harahan.

Tadlock said there has been no difficulty finding enough haulers to perform a cleanup task that he expects his company to be involved in for "six months to a year, maybe longer."

Word spread quickly around the country about the chance to make money in the wake of the disaster, he said. "Man, these people are chasing these storms," Tadlock said. "Every day, we've had about two miles of trucks line up, waiting to get checked in."

Some of the truck drivers say they have slept in their cabs, taking no chance on losing their place in line at the staging area. Dozens of campers parked on the Marconi neutral ground and in Delgado parking lots, without authorization from the community college, according to its chancellor, suggest there will be an encampment of haulers and other disaster operators at the site for some time. Other haulers said they return each night to campers parked at various locations outside Orleans Parish.

The Delgado campus along Marconi buzzed with activity Monday as haulers ate hot dogs and hamburgers served up under a large tent or underwent medical screenings before they were issued work tags. A sign posted outside one trailer said: "Step 2 Medical Interview, must be clean-shaven before you start process (mustache only)."

William Verhine, 31, a debris hauler from Albertville, Ala., who gained experience helping to clean up south Florida after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, said he wants to be a player in New Orleans' recovery.

"These people have nothing left down here, (I want to) come in and help people," he said. "I don't think anybody's seen anything like this before in their life — hopefully never will again."

But Thompson said that while a few of the visiting workers are concerned about New Orleans residents, "99 percent of them are here for the money. That's about it … very few people (haulers) here are from here."

Haulers say they are closely monitored by corps officials or contractors to ensure they wear masks, use flag operators and take other safety measures at cleanup sites. One corps safety officer at Delgado, Sam Crispin, said the agency's message to workers is straightforward: "You came here safe, you're going to go home safe, you're not going to hurt the public while you're here."

A few miles from the Marconi staging area, a line of big trucks loaded with downed limbs snaked along the wide neutral ground near the intersection of Pontchartrain Boulevard and Harrison Avenue early Monday afternoon, adding to what had already become a mound of debris some 35 feet high. Tractors rearranged debris at the site, one of three temporary dumps set up to move New Orleans' massive cleanup effort forward.

The temporary dump and newly constructed gravel parking lots for the hauling trucks overlie what had been a serene and grassy stretch once favored by strollers and dog-walkers. It is faced across the avenue by rows of vacant homes, their doors blown open, floodlines reaching 8 and 9 feet high.

Varying fates await the mountain of debris being collected at the three temporary dumps. Some of the fallen trees and branches will be chipped on site, some hauled to landfills, some burned – though open burning is not an option at the Pontchartrain Boulevard dump, according to Don Cleary, a construction representative with the corps.

This is just the preliminary phase, Cleary said.

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# 28,000 still in state's shelters

**SHELTERS,** *from A-1*

"There is no way to plan a future in Lafayette," said Howard, who lost her eastern New Orleans apartment and her Chalmette clothing business to Hurricane Katrina. "They don't have housing to offer us. The hotels are full. Some people have means of transportation; some of us don't."

Less than two weeks before President Bush's Oct. 15 deadline to empty all storm shelters, more than 28,000 people remain warehoused in the state's shelters.

Houston, by contrast, emptied its shelters of 28,000 people within three weeks.

State and federal officials in Louisiana and Houston point to two major differences that have kept people in Louisiana shelters while those in Texas have moved: the availability of housing and Houston officials' determination to place evacuees in that available housing.

"In Houston, they have plenty of housing stock," said James McIntire, a Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman. "The delay in Baton Rouge, Lafayette and other Louisiana communities is due to the (lack of) availability of housing stock."

Apartments, hotel rooms and homes are filled up throughout Louisiana, forcing the state and FEMA to turn to parks of travel trailers that are being set up throughout the state. The first such park will open this week in Baker, just outside Baton Rouge.

But until those parks are set up, the evacuees remain shoulder-to-shoulder in places such as Bossier City, Baton Rouge and Lafayette.

## Thinking ahead

Houston officials say keeping evacuees in the shelters was not an option.

As buses of evacuees from the Superdome and elsewhere made their way into Houston, three shelters were set up at Reliant City, a complex of arenas and stadiums including the Astrodome. Evacuees could find housing and register their children for school. At the nearby George R. Brown Convention Center, they could get hearing aids and eyeglasses made within an hour. Both sites had pharmacies, job-placement centers, job fairs and day care. Everything was free.

Yet as the first bus rolled, Houston officials were looking for ways to move the evacuees out.

Hurricane Katrina evacuees were expected to stay a minimum of six months. But that was never the plan for Lt. Joe Leonard of the U.S. Coast Guard, who headed the shelter effort in Houston.

"We were not going to be there six months," Leonard said. "There's better things to do than spend six months in the Astrodome. Three weeks was enough."

A Joint Katrina Housing Task Force was quickly established, comprising city and federal officials and even representatives of the Housing Authority of New Orleans to help assist those residents already receiving federal housing assistance. Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels launched a networking effort to help find places for residents to stay in Houston and surrounding areas.

And when those options didn't work, officials at the Reliant Center directed evacuees to Continental Airlines, which was giving people free tickets anywhere in the United States.

"We found problems at every turn. But we were also able to resolve them," said Margaret O'Brien-Molina, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

As the days passed, the officials got more forceful about getting the evacuees out of the shelters. Letters were left on the evacuees' cots saying that it would only be a matter of time before the Reliant Arena would close.

One by one, shelters were closed in Reliant City. Carrollton resident Eddie Johnson was moved out of the Astrodome into Reliant.

"The hospitality in the beginning was so nice," he said. "I guess they're getting tired of us."

Johnson eventually found himself an apartment in Houston.

## 'We were cattle'

In Louisiana, though, many evacuees who departed ahead of the storm and drove out of town with family and friends found themselves bumped from shelter to shelter. Some were turned away. Others who couldn't get help from FEMA or Red Cross left to find help elsewhere; some went to Texas.

"There's nothing going on to help people in Louisiana right now," said Linda Jeffers, a New Orleans evacuee who lived in Houston shelters before receiving a free plane ticket to Florida as a solution to her homelessness.

After Katie C. Jones heard that others had found help in Houston, she left Baton Rouge and went there for help.

In early September, Jones stood in line with hundreds of people waiting for Red Cross assistance at a Houston church. She'd been waiting for hours, but she was confident that she would be helped.

"I'm here with my seven grandchildren," Jones said. "I ran out of money. I have been to three shelters. I was in a shelter, and I couldn't get any help. That's why I left River Center in Baton Rouge."

Leonard Johnson said he and his family had no choice but to live at shelters in the Leesville area after Hurricane Katrina. He eventually left the shelter for a home in Alexandria because of lack of accommodations.

"We were cattle and they were the herdsmen," Johnson said.

Not all in Louisiana shelters are complaining about the roof over their heads. Those who hope to return to New Orleans or those who have nothing to return to are simply happy to have someplace to stay.

Herbert Johnson, 59, who fled his home on Fourth Street in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina, hasn't left the Cajun Dome except a brief interlude when the shelter was evacuated for Rita. The truck driver, who is in Lafayette with his wife, Dorothy Johnson, said he had no insurance for his belongings.

"Everybody wants to be at the Cajun Dome," he said, as a hustler sold him a $2 pack of cigarettes. "You eat 24 hours a day. That's what I like about it."

## Destination unknown

Johnson's time is limited. As in Houston, shelters across the state are beginning to shut down. In the past two weeks, many smaller shelters with 200 people or less, such as those in churches, have been closing down. Until just recently, there were still 40,000 people in shelters across the state.

It's not clear where those people have gone.

Some have gone to hotel rooms, which still house 400,000 evacuees. Although the Red Cross and FEMA announced earlier that they would end a program paying for the 141,300 rooms, they said Wednesday that they would extend the program indefinitely.

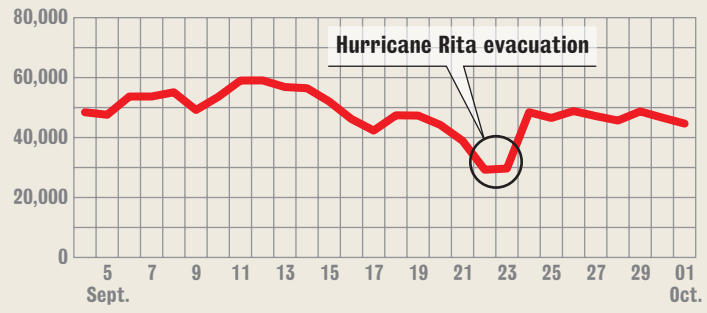
Louisiana officials say one reason people have been in shelters for so long is that FEMA was slow to recognize the magnitude of the housing shortage, said Jerry Jones, state facilities director.

Jones said the state has offered up 53,000 acres of state land that could be developed into trailer communities. The

*See* **SHELTERS,** *A-11*

## LOUISIANA SHELTER POPULATION

The number of evacuees in shelters across the state has remained relatively steady during the past several weeks




Source: La. Dept. of Social Service

STAFF CHART

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# POWER PROGRESS

A look at the electric and gas restoration progress for New Orleans:

| New Orleans neighborhood | General street boundaries | ELECTRIC: Restoration progress | ELECTRIC: Expected date of restoration* | GAS: Restoration progress | GAS: Expected date of restoration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Algiers** | includes ZIP codes 70114 and 70131 | All customers who can safely receive power have been restored. | Complete. | Service at 100 percent. | Complete for those who can accept service. |
| **Uptown – lake side of St. Charles Ave.** | St. Charles Ave. to S. Claiborne Ave. and Carrollton to expressway | 50 percent of infrastructure is repaired. Customers who experienced flooding and have property damage will need a permit to receive power. | Less than two weeks. | Service at 10 percent. St. Charles to Hickory and Audubon to Carrollton have gas. | Water intrusion in the gas mains will require removal before gas service can be restored. Otherwise, those who can accept service will be able to do so. |
| **Uptown – river side of St. Charles Ave.** | St. Charles Ave. to Mississippi River and S. Carrollton to expressway | Restoring power to customers who can safely receive power. | Complete, except for several isolated cases. | Service at 100 percent with the exception of the area bounded by St. Charles to Magazine and Washington to Napoleon. | Complete. Those who can accept service will be able to do so. Others with water in gas line will take approximately three weeks. |
| **Carrollton** | S. Carrollton to Monticello Ave. and Leake Ave. to Oak St. | Infrastructure repairs have been made from Oak St. to Earhart, but customers will need a permit to receive power. | Customers who can take power should have power. | Service at 50 percent | Water intrusion in system. Balance of system restoration uncertain at this time. |
| **French Quarter, CBD** | | Power available to customers who can take power. Approximately 10,000 customers have been restored in French Quarter and CBD. | Complete. | Service at 100 percent. Approximately 10,000 customers have been restored in French Quarter and CBD. | Complete. Those who can accept service will be able to do so. |
| **Bywater, Marigny** | Esplanade Ave. to Poland Ave. and St. Claude to Mississippi River | 70 percent customers restored. | Friday for customers able to receive power. | Damage to gas system currently under evaluation. | Uncertain. |
| **Portions of Treme, Bywater and Marigny** | N. Claiborne to St. Claude and Esplanade Ave. to Poland Ave. | Currently making repairs to the infrastructure serving the area. Damage assessments substantially complete. | Two weeks. | Water intrusion in the gas mains will require removal before gas service can be restored. | Uncertain. |
| **9th Ward** | | Heavily damaged area. | Uncertain. | Service was shut off. Water intrusion and damage to system. | Uncertain. |
| **Hollygrove, Broadmore** | 70125 area | Areas received large amounts of floodwaters and will need to be inspected by Department of Safety & Permits before service can be restored. | Several weeks. | Water intrusion in the gas mains will require removal before gas service can be restored. | Uncertain. |
| **West End** | 17th Street Canal to West End Blvd. | Heavily damaged area; substation serving this area was flooded. | Indefinite. | Water intrusion and damage to the gas mains. | Uncertain. |
| **Lakeshore Park** | Lake to Robert E. Lee Blvd. | Underground vaults that distribute electricity were damaged by floodwaters. New substation required. | 10 days for customers who can take power. | Most of Lakeshore and Lake Vista has been restored. | Those who can accept service will be able to do so. |
| **Lakeview** | Robert E. Lee Blvd. to I-610 | Area received flooding and requires infrastructure repair. | 4-6 weeks for customers who can take power. | Damage and water intrusion. Service shut off to portion of area. | Uncertain. |
| **Mid-City** | Expressway to Orleans Ave. and N. Carrollton to N. Claiborne | Heavily damaged area. Infrustructure repairs under way. Customers may need city permit before Entergy can restore power. | Several weeks. | Water intrusion in gas mains will require removal before service can be restored. | Uncertain. |
| **Esplanade Ridge** | Dumaine to Wisner and Paul Morphy to O'Reily | Restoration crews are working on infrastructure. | Uncertain. | Damage and water intrusion. Service shut off to portion of area. | Uncertain. |
| **Gentilly** | | Heavily damaged area. | Uncertain. | Water intrusion in gas mains will require removal before service can be restored. | Uncertain. |
| **Chef Menteur corridor** | Downman Road to edge of eastern New Orleans | Heavily damaged area. On lake side, 70 percent complete from Read Blvd. to Chef Pass. | More than two weeks. | Damage and water intrusion. Service shut off. | Still assessing damage. Uncertain. |
| **Hayne Blvd.** | Curren to Hayne and Downman to Paris | Infrastructure repair complete; working to restore individual customers. | One week. | Damage and water intrusion. Service shut off. | Still assessing damage. Uncertain. |
| **Other eastern New Orleans** | Various locations | Inspecting and repairing underground circuits. | Uncertain. | Damage and water intrusion. Service shut off. | Still assessing damage. Uncertain. |

*Electricity will be restored only to customers who can safely receive power. A licensed electrician may need to inspect your property before Entergy will restore power. Source: Entergy

## 58% of homes still lack power

**ELECTRICITY,** *from A-1*

Customers "more than likely" will be able to receive power shortly after completing the inspection process, but in some places workers have yet to repair the system's infrastructure, so restoration will take longer, Stallings said.

About 58 percent of Entergy's 190,000 electric customers in New Orleans were without service Wednesday. Stallings said she does not know how many customers are without service because they have not completed the inspection process, but many have no service because their homes were severely damaged.

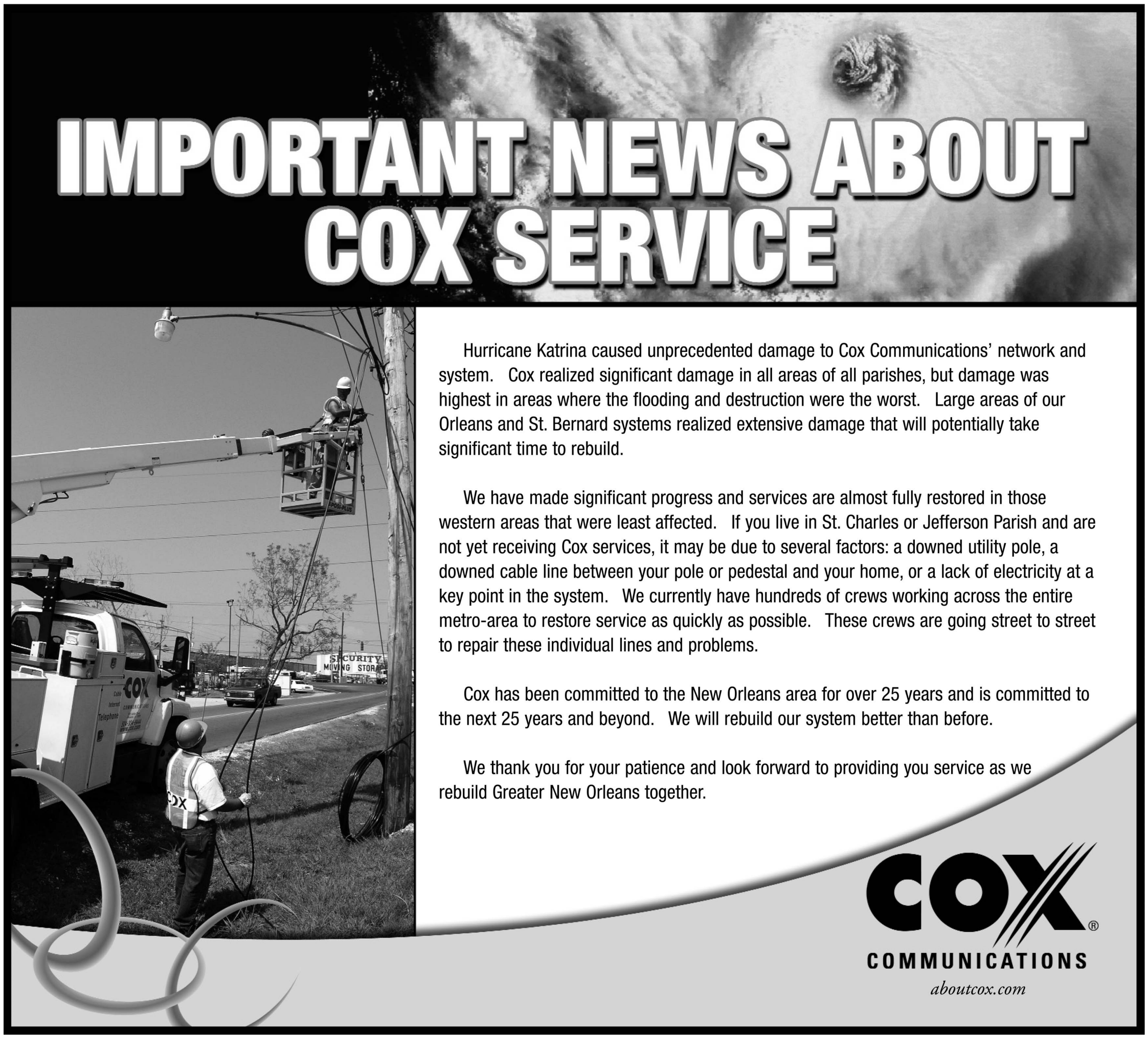
Information on repairs in individual neighborhoods can be found at www.entergy.com/content/Corp/EmergencyCtr/NOLA_detail_content.asp.

Electrical service was restored recently to a block in Audubon Place near Tulane University and not long afterward, a home in that block was engulfed in flames. Although the cause of the fire is under investigation, an unidentified agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said neighbors had reported power surges in the area.

Stallings said Wednesday, "There is no indication that a power surge caused the fire."

In addition to electricians, some Entergy customers will need to hire licensed plumbers, whose work also will need to be approved by the city's Department of Safety and Permits.

Plumbers, she said, should be hired if gas appliances have come into contact with floodwaters or if flooding or structural damage to a home may have "compromised the integrity of gas lines."


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# No taxation without habitation

ASSESS, *from A-1*

to save the city as much as $8 million a month.

Zeno called property tax revenue "next year's problem." But it could be a big problem indeed.

Much of the heart of the city's tax base, from eastern New Orleans to Gentilly to Lakeview, has been decimated by floodwaters. And a provision in Louisiana law requires assessors to reappraise all property that has been "overflowed" by water.

The state Tax Commission, the Legislature, the assessors and local government officials are trying to figure out a solution to the resulting problems; New Orleans officials, the Tax Commission and the city's seven assessors plan to meet in Baton Rouge on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

The goal is to somehow balance two imperatives: that local government secure the money it needs to operate, and that properties be valued fairly.

"Everyone is cognizant of the need for revenue," said Elizabeth Guglielmo, chairwoman of the Tax Commission. "But it must be weighed with the obligation that there be a fair assessment of property."

## No small task

Those considerations aside, there's also a massive logistical hurdle facing assessors: how to revalue tens of thousands of properties in a few weeks or months. The task is complicated by the fact that mass appraisal techniques, whereby assessors figure per-square-foot prices for various neighborhoods, may prove useless in some areas. Instead, assessors will have to visit many properties individually, particularly in areas that were damaged but not devastated, to see what shape they're in.

"We want to see what the assessors tell us," Guglielmo said. "Do they have their rolls? Do they have staff to get the rolls out? Can a roll be filed that doesn't reflect the storm damage?"

Already, the tax process has been pushed back to give everyone time to regroup.

On Sept. 23, Gov. Kathleen Blanco signed an executive order that suspended for 120 days a variety of obligations — including the filing of tax rolls, which were coming due — for the assessors for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Tammany and Washington parishes.

That will likely mean a delay of similar length before bills are mailed out and revenue starts streaming – or, more likely, trickling – in.

Take the Lakeview area, traditionally one of the city's most stable sources of property tax revenue. Second District Assessor Claude Mauberret said he'll likely leave land values roughly constant but that all improvements in the area — buildings and houses — will be revalued at next to nothing. Given that most Lakeview residents are owner/occupants and thus shielded by Louisiana's $75,000 homestead exemption, the city and other entities that share property tax revenue, chiefly the School Board, will receive almost no money from that area next year, Mauberret said.

According to the city's assessors, the Nagin administration has indicated that it would like to mail out tax bills based on the tax roll that was completed before Katrina hit. They unanimously oppose that idea, saying it would be completely unfair, especially since Orleans is the only parish in the state that requires taxpayers to pony up for the coming year instead of paying for the past one.

"I don't know how the mayor can send bills to Lakeview and expect them to get paid," 5th District Assessor Tom Arnold said. "It's absurd. If you just got a tax bill and you lost your job and your house, how are you going to pay it?"

Arnold noted that the assessors themselves are almost entirely dependent for their operating funds on a small property tax millage. "I may be out of business Jan. 1, too, but that doesn't give me the right to do this," he said.

Brenda Hatfield, Nagin's chief administrative officer, disputed the assessors' contention that the administration wants to send out bills ahead of the revaluation.

"The administration has not taken a position on the timing of the tax bills," she said. "After all, most people in the administration also have been victims of having their homes devastated and truly understand the plight of our citizens. We understand the assessors' and the Tax Commission's concerns, and we will abide by their decisions."

## Taking another look

Janet Howard of the watchdog Bureau of Governmental Research said the pending revenue shortfall makes it opportune to revisit the city's unique-in-America system of seven independent assessors, Howard said.

"The dramatic decline in the city's tax base will force them to streamline city government," she said. "Some of the sacred cows, including the seven assessors, are obviously candidates for re-examination. Do we really need, and can we afford, seven chiefs, some presiding over largely decimated areas?"

Arnold said his own district — the West Bank — was little damaged by the storms but that many properties must be revalued, including businesses that were looted or that now have no source of revenue.

"How do you tax them for stuff that doesn't exist?" he asked. "If a guy's out of business, I'm going to send him tax bills?"

Mauberret, whose district includes Lakeview, the western lakefront and much of Mid-City as well as Treme and the French Quarter, said he plans a drastic revaluation.

"I'm going to reduce Lakeview substantially," he said. "I'm going to reduce Lakeshore (which is on higher ground), but not as much as Lakeview. Lake Vista, the same thing. Mid-City I need to reduce. All the way until the French Quarter. Everything outside the French Quarter is going to get pretty much wiped off the books. And the Quarter will have to be looked at on a case-by-case basis. It's unscathed for the most part, but there will be reductions."

It will be difficult to examine every property in the less-damaged areas, Mauberret said, but homeowners who can show pictures of major damage will get some relief. Those who feel that their homes are overvalued will be afforded appeals, as always, he said.

Mauberret noted that his plans are subject to change — for instance, if the Tax Commission tells him that what he plans to do is improper or illegal. There are also questions about whether homeowners with ruined houses can continue enjoying the homestead exemption, which by law requires that the holder "own and occupy" the property.

"I plan on wiping them (the devastated areas) off unless I get an order not to," Mauberret said. "I'll bring the case to court if I have to."

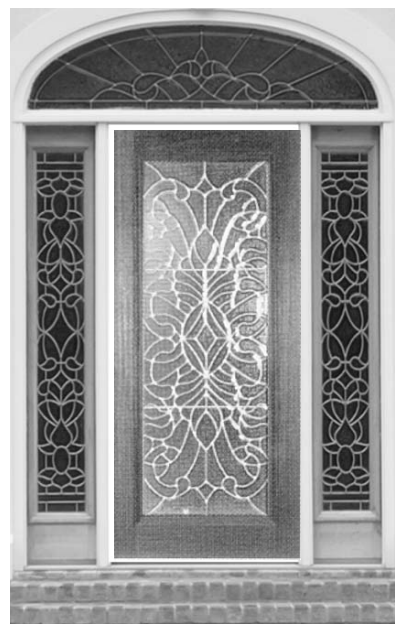
Third District Assessor Erroll Williams, whose district is by far the largest of the seven, and the most heavily damaged as well — it includes eastern New Orleans, Gentilly and the Lower 9th Ward, among other ruined areas — could not be reached for comment Wednesday. But it seems likely he will pursue a course similar to Mauberret's.

Assessors in the suburban parishes clobbered by Katrina — essentially all of them except St. John the Baptist — likely will follow a course similar to Mauberret's, even though suburban homeowners are technically paying taxes on the past year, not the year ahead.

Plaquemines Parish Assessor Robert Gravolet said even though state law dictates that assessments be based on the value of the property the previous Jan. 1, he doesn't think that would be fair. Nor does he support using a home's pre-Katrina value for the first eight months of the year and using the damaged value for the other four months, a method he said the Tax Commission recommended.

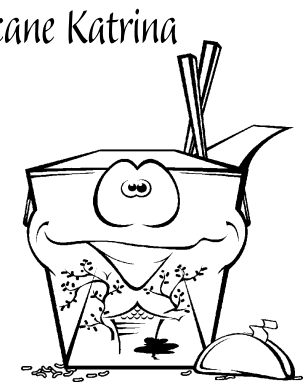
*See* **ASSESS,** *A-11*

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# N.O. assessors want panel's order rescinded

**ASSESS,** *from A-10*

Those whose homes were destroyed deserve more relief, he said.

"They would pay on the land and maybe a portion of their building, a slab or something," Gravolet said. "If they sign a homestead exemption, for all practical purposes they would probably pay nothing, which would be justified in most people's opinion."

## Looking for answers

Guglielmo of the Tax Commission said there may be some solutions in Louisiana law, proposed and on the books, that could help local governments get through the crisis.

For instance, a provision in the state Constitution lets the Legislature postpone tax collections. The state can then be authorized to borrow money on behalf of local governments so they can make ends meet. Guglielmo said she expects that option to be discussed in the upcoming special session of the state Legislature.

Another provision lets taxpayers seek a temporary deferment of taxes and pay by installments over a 10-year period.

Guglielmo said she is researching how other states and jurisdictions crushed by storms or other disasters have handled the problem.

"This is all such uncharted territory, really," she said.

Another unresolved question is what will become of the reassessment of all residential property in New Orleans that was ordered by the Tax Commission earlier this year, before Katrina, on the heels of a series of articles in The Times-Picayune that exposed widespread inequities in appraisals.

Arnold said the assessors want that order — which required up-to-date, uniform rolls by August 2006 — to be rescinded. The matter likely will be discussed Friday.

Howard of the BGR, which has been a persistent critic of local assessment practices, said it would be a mistake for the commission to lift its order. Howard said it might make sense to push the mandate back a few months to give assessors time to catch up with Katrina damage but that she sees no reason to give up on the notion of equitable tax rolls.

"Don't get rid of it," she said. "That problem remains even while we're focusing on this catastrophe. There may even be an opportunity here to really bring in expertise from outside. The assessors may be able to call on the resources of their colleagues on a volunteer basis."

Howard added that the homeowners who were feeling the brunt of the inequities before — chiefly those who bought higher-priced homes in recent years — might be hit even harder post-Katrina, especially if city officials attempt to close the revenue gap caused by the destruction of property by raising tax rates.

If that happens, "The impact of the inequity is going to be even more pronounced" than it already was, Howard said.

Hatfield of the mayor's office said it's too soon to begin talking about things such as tax hikes. The assessors say it's an idea that should be taken off the table before it's even brought up.

"I think there would be a revolt," Mauberret said. "That would be just ludicrous."

"The only way they can roll up the millage would be through public hearings," Arnold said. "Can you imagine the attendance at those public hearings?"

The federal government is going to have to step in and help, Arnold said.

"If the federal government, which helps all these foreign countries, can't do something, I don't understand it," he said. "If the federal government doesn't do it, the city of New Orleans is going to become the town of New Orleans."

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Gordon Russell can be reached at (504)232-6759.

# Trailer park options sought

**SHELTERS,** *from A-8*

first trailer community, built in Baker outside Baton Rouge, has 400 families signed up to move in this week. FEMA plans to build several more trailer parks around Baton Rouge, and at least one in Orleans Parish. State officials would like to see other options.

"FEMA is not real good at thinking out of the box, because they're tied down by their bureaucracy," Jones told a House-Senate budget meeting on Friday. "They're also the only solution we have."

## Quality-of-life questions

Life at the trailer parks will mean private sleeping quarters, but the tight rows of campers at the Baker site still won't offer much privacy.

The Baker site is seven-tenths of a mile from the nearest convenience store on Main Street and 1.5 miles from the only Winn-Dixie around. The campsite has no sidewalks or paved shoulder on the road to Main Street, but the state said shuttle buses will be provided.

Jones and others envision the camper-park communities as self-sufficient neighborhoods, complete with schools.

But critics say they will only tax and tap scarce resources in various parishes.

"Why would we want to locate these trailer parks in places where there are no jobs?" asked Rep. Tom McVea, R-St. Francisville, adding that schools and other services in his rural district north of Baton Rouge cannot accommodate newcomers.

Willa Mae Bennett, 35, fled from Hurricane Rita's assault on her Beaumont, Texas, home for Louisiana with her two young children, eventually landing in the Cajun Dome.

Bennett, seated on a sidewalk with Jasmine, 9, and James, 10, shook her head at what she called a complete lack of services for evacuees in Louisiana. She was still waiting for emergency food stamps. "It's only for Katrina victims," she said.

Shelters are no place to stay for long, Bennett said.

"You get somewhere to lay your head and your personal belongings. With no help from anybody else, we can't even ask for more."

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Staff writers Laura Maggi and Jan Moller contributed to this report.
Gwen Filosa can be reached at gwen.filosa@gmail.com

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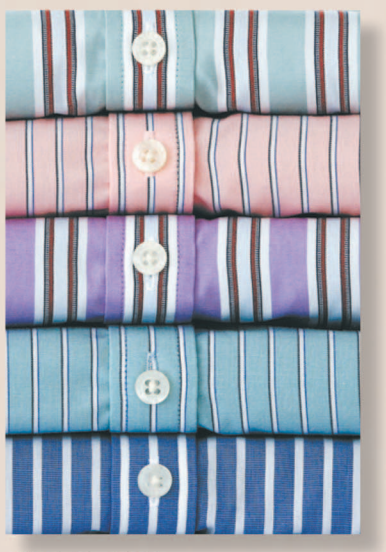


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# Partial twin spans reopening slated for Oct. 31

## *Westbound bridge's target date is Jan. 14*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

After flying over the shattered Interstate 10 twin spans, Gov. Kathleen Blanco on Wednesday cast the on-schedule project to restore the bridge as a hopeful sign of the region's economy getting back on track.

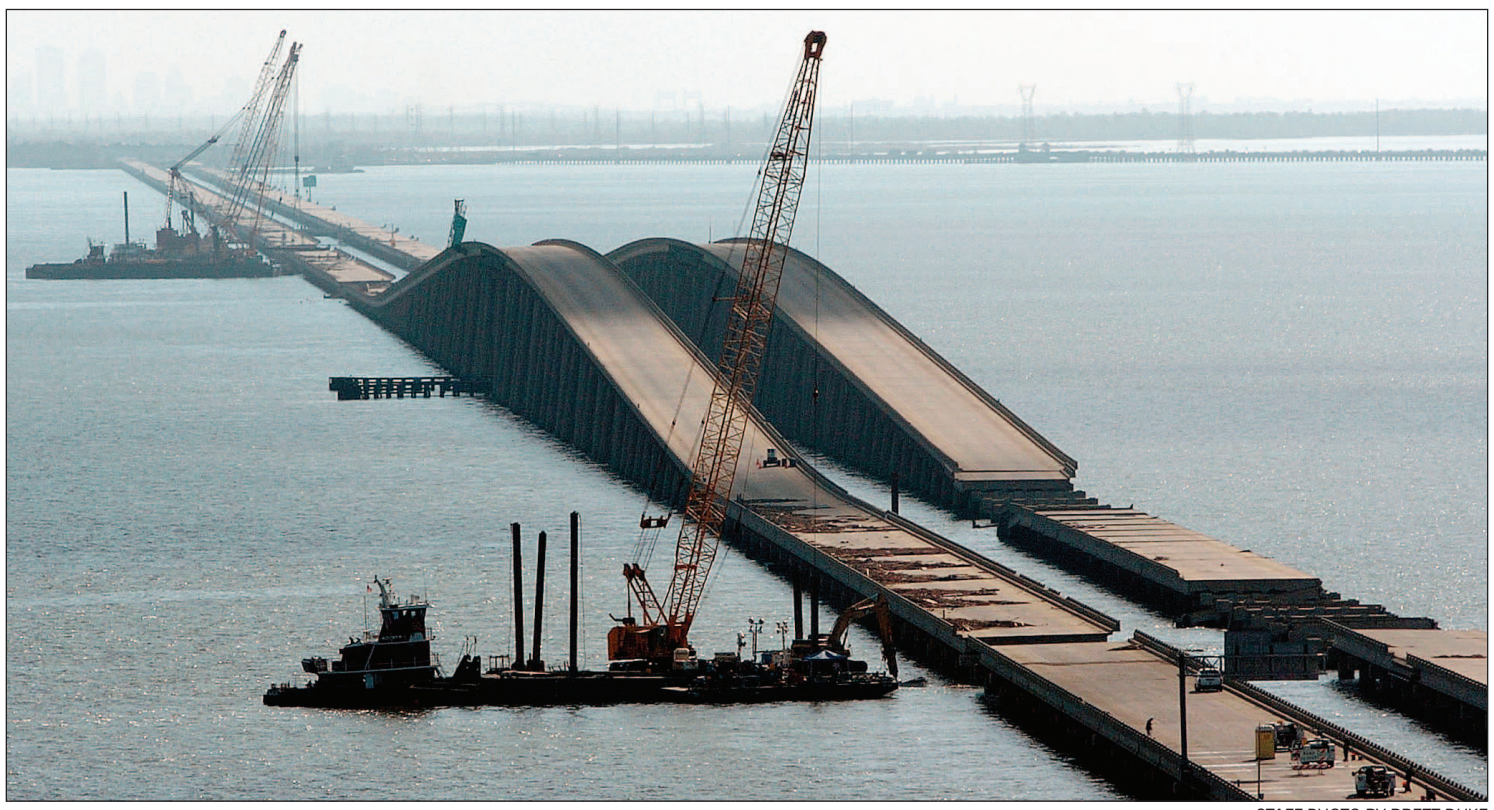
Boh Brothers Construction crews were on their 20th day of the 45-day first phase of a $30.9 million contract to restore the two-lane eastbound bridge. If completed on time, two-way traffic will resume on the less-damaged bridge by Oct. 31.

"I'm just as pleased as I can be that we were able to expedite the process of getting a Louisiana firm on site, working as quickly as possible and actually, I think, a little head of schedule," Blanco said from a work trailer on the northern end of the bridge.

Project supervisor John Horn of Volkert Construction Services told Blanco that 171 of the eastbound bridge's 433 spans have been repositioned after the tidal surge from Hurricane Katrina pushed them up to 5 feet out of line. Crews have recovered another 20 of the 39 eastbound spans that fell into Lake Pontchartrain, destroying the 65-foot segments. Fourteen spans from the westbound bridge have been installed on the eastbound bridge, he said.

"We're on schedule and feel really good about finishing within the 45 days," Horn said.

Blanco added: "That's in spite of the fact that Rita killed about four days of your work."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Boh Brothers Construction crews have 45 days to restore the two-lane eastbound bridge of the shattered Interstate 10 twin spans. If the company finishes early, it will get a bonus.

Boh Brothers will receive a $75,000 bonus for each day it finishes early, up to 15 days; or incur a $75,000 fine for every day after Oct. 31.

During the second phase, crews will install temporary bridge panels in place of the 265 missing spans on the westbound bridge by Jan. 14. The span taking motorists into New Orleans sustained the most damage, as the tidal surge whipped back out of the lake, Horn said. On Oct. 4, the state approved a contract change to restore two lanes on that bridge, instead of one mandated by the original contract.

Secretary Johnny Bradbury of the state Department of Transportation and Development said officials were still working to solidify federal financing for a new six-lane structure that will eventually replace the restored twin spans. He said the state is trying to have a contract in place by April for the project that is expected to cost $500 million.

Blanco said the new bridge would correct its predecessor's vulnerability to Katrina's storm surge.

"Where you had the elevation, you didn't have the losses," she said. "We would like to have a bridge that doesn't go out in any category (hurricane)."

Before a new bridge is built, though, Blanco said getting cars back on the twin spans is critical to rebuilding New Orleans and the north shore.

"It will certainly symbolize extensive recovery operations that are already in full play," she said. "We've got a lot of work to do in terms of restoring our housing for our people and things like that. But if our people can't even get into the city or out of the city or get to Slidell or out of Slidell, there's a tremendous amount of commerce that goes on between them just internally in Louisiana between the north shore and the city. We're trying to support both sides of this equation."

Horn supervised the restoration of the I-10 Escambia Bay Bridge near Pensacola, Fla., which suffered a similar fate last year during Hurricane Ivan. He said two-way traffic was restored to that bridge after 17 days, followed by a temporary patching of the second bridge within 63 days.

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Meghan Gordon can be reached at meghangordon@hotmail.com.

# Lakeview residents learn awful truth

## *Homes are sludge pits with little to salvage*

**By Lynne Jensen, Michelle Krupa and Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writers

A block from the 17th Street Canal breach that allowed floodwater to rise to the ceiling of their Lakeview home after Hurricane Katrina, Jimmy and Grace Leung came home to New Orleans on Wednesday, among the small contingent of residents who waited for the mayor's OK.

Covered in plastic and crouched over borrowed buckets filled with water, the Leungs cleaned all they could salvage: their daughters' school and music trophies.

"My daughters said don't worry because we are OK," said Grace Leung, a nurse at Charity Hospital. "But I just wanted to get something for them."

While in recent weeks many residents blocked from returning by Mayor Ray Nagin's ZIP code plan had found a way in anyway, Leung said she didn't mind waiting more than a month to visit her house. "Coming back early wouldn't have made a difference," she said.

No proof of ZIP code was needed to enter Orleans Parish on Wednesday, with almost the entire city reopened. The exception is the 9th Ward, still deemed unsafe to visit. Residents from other hard-hit areas - Lakeview, Gentilly, eastern New Orleans and parts of Mid-City – streamed in to have a look, although virtually all of them were in for just the day. Algiers is the only part of the city meeting the dual standard of having power and drinkable water.

The water rose so high inside the Leungs' brick home that it lapped the ceiling and ripped it down over the furniture, crushed into a moldy mess.

"I couldn't recognize my daughter's piano," Grace Leung said.

After cleaning dozens of brass-coated trophies and placing them in the back of their van, the Leungs left their unlocked house and headed back to Lafayette to clean up before picking up their children from school.

"If we can come back, we will build a two-story house and the new piano will be on the second floor," Grace Leung said.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON



ABOVE, Newlyweds Paola and Jose Corrada embrace in the moldy bedroom of their Lakeview home, their first home together. Residents of Lakeview, Gentilly, eastern New Orleans and parts of Mid-City were allowed to return to their homes Wednesday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina flooded most of the city.

LEFT, Wearing boots that are several sizes too big for her because they were the last pair left to buy, Grace Leung helps husband Jimmy Leung clean their daughter's music and academic trophies in front of their Lakeview home. 'If we can come back, we will build a two-story house and the new piano will be on the second floor,' Grace Leung said.

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"If we can come back, we will build a two-story house and the new piano will be on the second floor," Grace Leung said.

Those driving into Lakeview by way of Metairie Road noticed a stark contrast on either side of the 17th Street Canal. In Jefferson Parish, young mothers pushed baby strollers and joggers roamed streets where children played on school grounds and consumers strolled into businesses.

Just across the canal, in Orleans Parish, the houses stood storm-struck and as silent as the cemetery along Metaire Road.

Whether modern brick or post-war bungalow, Lakeview houses suffered the same flooded fate. Many residents who returned for a look hit the highways into town at daybreak in new cars with temporary paper plates. Some chugged along backed-up roadways in first gear in rented hauling vans, hoping to find furniture and clothing worth saving. Few were successful.

Sandy Pitre, a nurse living in Lakeview near City Park, was one of the lucky ones. She had turned the attic space of her pink house on Hidalgo Street into a bedroom packed with antiques inherited and collected over the years. She showed up Wednesday to haul those items to her new home in Thibodaux.

In Mid-City, a smattering of residents returned to salvage items and check on their homes. Several said they cannot live there now, but that is their ultimate plan.

"I think the neighborhood looks pretty good, considering you had a Category (4) hurricane," said Leo Wagmann, who lives in the 3300 block of Esplanade Avenue. "It could be a lot worse."

Wagmann and his son were cleaning his house, which he said his father-in-law built in the 1930s. It survived Hurricane Betsy, he said, and "it can withstand anything."

But floodwater reached about 1 foot high throughout his house.

Waggman returned to New Orleans for the first time Wednesday. He planned to return to Galveston, Texas, where his ailing wife is living, but he vowed to return. "I'm not going to stay (here), but I'm not leaving the city," he said. "It feels good to be home."

On Gentilly Road, Jimmie Jackson and his wife, Catherine, surveyed their looted, damaged shotgun double and lamented their temporary exile. A guard at the state museum in the French Quarter, Jackson had evacuated to Houston after a stint at the Superdome.

He planned to be working at the Presbytere and Cabildo on Monday, but he couldn't stay.

"I feel relieved to be home," he said. "But I'm lost. As soon as I can get back in this city and thrive, it's my intention to do it."

With a U-Haul truck parked outside their home at 3155 Maurepas St., Scott Webster and

*See* **LAKEVIEW,** *A-14*

# Forgotston blasts re-entry plan

## *Nagin accused of discrimination*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has been getting it from all sides these days, from critics who say he's moving too fast to repopulate the city as well as those who accuse him of deliberately dragging his feet in a scheme to keep the poor from ever returning home.

But the latest accusation, lodged Sunday in a nasty e-mail by self-appointed government watchdog C.B. Forgotston, apparently struck a nerve.

Forgotston, a resident of Lakeview, accused the mayor of discriminating against white New Orleanians by not including the Lakeview area in his re-entry plan. The e-mail also was sent to eight other public officials.

In fact, under Nagin's plan, white residents as well as African-Americans have been returning in large numbers to parts of the city that did not flood and have already been opened back up: Algiers, Uptown, the French Quarter and the Central Business District.

But Forgotston's focus was on Lakeview, which he described as "the largest, mostly white middle-class area of the city of New Orleans." Under Nagin's plan, Lakeview residents were officially permitted to visit the neighborhood starting Wednesday, though many had jumped the gun.

"There is no other way to describe it," Forgotston wrote of Nagin's timetable, "except as BLATANT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

"We keep hearing our public officials tell us that they want us back," continued Forgotston, a lawyer and former lobbyist best known publicly as a ceaseless critic of the gambling industry. "They say they want businesses to open. They say they want things to get back to normal as quickly as possible. Obviously, they aren't talking about a large segment of the white population of New Orleans that makes up

*See* **RE-ENTRY,** *A-14*

# 'We've just got to find a place that we can call home'

**LAKEVIEW,** *from A-13*

Crystal Philippi were busy packing. "I figured we'd beat the rush," Webster said, gesturing to the still street. "But there's no rush."

The couple remained in the city for a week after Katrina, and said the experience spurred them to move to Sacramento, Calif. "I saw a lot of people revert from humanity to an animal-type nature," Webster said.

A few blocks away, in the 2800 block, two neighbors chatted after cleaning and clearing debris from their yards. Both had been visiting for several days, but their block was still mostly empty.

"I haven't seen many people," Laurie Hart said. "They come and go."

Daphne Lesage said, "I've been back almost every day. This is the first day there have been automobiles on the road."

In eastern New Orleans, some residents were seeing their homes for the first time, finding scenes of mud-swamped ruin and near-desolation, many hauling trailers with the hope of salvaging a few belongings.

Streets mostly cleared of debris ushered shocked residents through neighborhoods where sedans still sat flipped on their sides and every structure showed some sign of devastation: a roof folded back on itself; a bay window blown to shreds; a brick wall smashed into a pile of rubble.

"It looks like a … bomb hit: just gray and brown and no people," said Dr. Carter Paddock, who visited his dermatology practice near Methodist Hospital to retrieve boxes of purple, orange, yellow and blue folders filled with patient records he planned to take to his Metairie office.

Paddock said managers of the Eastern New Orleans professional building said the structure would be useable within 60 days. "But who are we going to treat?" he asked.

Indeed, few residents ventured back Wednesday, even for a look-and-leave visit to homes in one of the hardest-hit sections of the city, and those who did return said they did not plan to stay, at least not in the short term.

Hiding swollen eyes behind plastic goggles and a respiration mask, Jamilah Pelrean and her husband, Damien, wandered around their one-story home on Crowder Boulevard where 6-year-old wedding photographs bred mold and the off-white carpeting was coated in a nearly black greenish hue.

"We just wanted to come back early because we figured everyone is going to be swamped with the (insurance) claims," Damien Pelrean said, adding that the couple intends to renovate or rebuild their home, which took about 5 feet of floodwater.

One block over, Pamela Powell and four family members trekked back and forth over a mud-caked dome of buckled wood flooring to tote out a few salvageable items - two television sets, a sewing machine and a plastic box of family photographs – amid a sea of muddy desks, couches and clothes.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they bulldoze all the houses in New Orleans east," said Powell, adding that she hoped to rent a space this week at a trailer park in LaPlace.

"Everywhere you look, it's just disastrous. Right now, we've just got to find a place that we can call home."

# Heated e-mails exchanged

**RE-ENTRY,** *from A-13*

an ever decreasing minority of the city's citizens," he wrote.

"Perhaps, we should just hang a sign on I-10 coming into New Orleans — WELCOME HOME — WHITES NOT WANTED,'" Forgotston's e-mail said.

Forgotston's diatribe runs counter to criticism directed at Nagin last month by Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, the federal head of New Orleans' hurricane recovery effort. Allen sharply questioned the wisdom of the accelerated reentry timeline first announced by Nagin and then abandoned as Hurricane Rita's menace grew. With few medical services available, sketchy electrical service and uncertain water quality, moving people back into the city was "extremely problematic," Allen said at the time.

Nagin also came under fire from several black state lawmakers and New Orleans City Council members, who raised concerns about a meeting the mayor had in Dallas with a group of mostly white businessmen. Their fear: that the group was attempting to coordinate a recovery program that would discourage a large portion of poor African-Americans from returning to the city.

Nagin, who received Forgotston's e-mail while in a hospital caring for a son who underwent emergency surgery, fired back:

"Shame on you! I have seen lots of terrible things as it relates to this storm . . . I must tell you the worst thing through all of this is the racist comments coming from both black and whites. It is appalling and extremely offensive."

He continued: "If there ever was a time I wanted to cuss someone out, it is now! "However, I will resist the urge and just pray for you. May God bless you with the patience and understanding that we all need in this time of crisis! If the city is repopulated with small-minded, racist-thinking and -speaking blacks, whites and Hispanics, then we are all in deep trouble."

The mayor went on to chastise Forgotston for lodging irrational complaints without checking census data to see how many people of varying races live in the areas being repopulated. He also said if Forgotston had done his homework, he would understand why the mayor selected certain ZIP codes to open first.

"Next time, a cleansing Katrina-type storm will not leave anything for us to argue about," Nagin wrote. "The Bible says, 'If my people, who are called by my name, will turn from their wicked ways, then I, their God in heaven, will hear their pleas and heal their land.' Let's pray and humble ourselves."

Forgotston, in an e-mail Tuesday, said Nagin originally responded to him with a shorter version, then sent the longer one, which Forgotston believes was written or edited by the mayor's communications director, Sally Forman. Forman said the mayor accidentally deleted his original response to Forgotston before sending a copy to the other elected officials who received his message. So Nagin composed a second e-mail.

• • • • • •

Martha Carr may be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.

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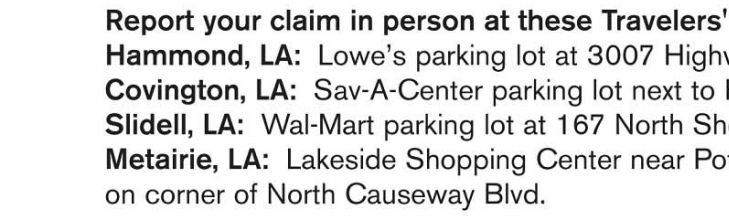
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# Convention Center's Phase IV in peril

*Project on track days before storm*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Officials with the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center are figuring out whether the star-crossed Phase IV expansion to the Convention Center can proceed after Hurricane Katrina.

"Right now we're still moving forward," said Ralph Brennan, chairman of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority, the board that governs the sprawling, 1.1 million-square-foot Convention Center. But, he said, "That's all up in the air now."

Even before Katrina, the proposed 524,000-square foot expansion, one of the most expensive state-financed projects ever in Louisiana, had been beset by delays. A legal challenge to the initial award of the construction contract in October 2003 held up the project for 22 months, and in the meantime, rising steel prices and then a proposal to combine the project with a football stadium for the Saints nearly derailed it.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Thousands of New Orleans evacuees used the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center for shelter after Hurricane Katrina. The Convention Center and its insurance company, Zurich, are working on estimates for the cost of fixing the building.

The project finally appeared to get on track in August, just days before the storm, when the Convention Center board and the winning construction bidder, Broadmoor LLC, signed a contract. But Brennan said the parties never signed a notice to proceed before the storm hit. That's because the Convention Center needed to work out ways to keep costs down.

Now the oft-delayed project is once again in question, Brennan said.

It's unclear whether the cash-strapped state's $100 million commitment to the project still stands.

There are also questions whether the tourism taxes slated to pay the project's bonds can be restored to the usual $35 million or so a year. The taxes are collected from hotels and restaurants, many of which are closed. Even the hotels that are open are generating almost no taxes because occupancy taxes aren't collected on rooms rented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the relief effort.

And with all the questions about the future of the tourism industry, Brennan asked, "Frankly, do we need Phase IV?"

At a meeting this week, the Convention Center board's first since the storm, the group moved to evaluate its options.

Convention, Sports & Leisure International, the Minneapolis consulting firm that did the feasibility study for the Convention Center expansion, plans to survey meeting planners on their thoughts about holding meetings in New Orleans. John Kaatz, the principal of the company, said he expects that some of the answers may be logistical, such as when the city can host guests, and others may be emotional, such as whether their views of the New Orleans were damaged by the city's hurricane vulnerability or the looting and suffering that followed the storm.

Meanwhile, the state is looking at whether it can afford projects such as the Convention Center expansion.

Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot said a key consideration is whether the state will be required to contribute to the rebuilding effort. FEMA expects the state to pay for 25 percent for the cost of rebuilding after Katrina, which is estimated to total $250 billion.

The State Bond Commission says that most of the $120 million in capital outlay for the convention center can be recalled. Some $94.5 million of that money is scheduled to move to the top funding priority for next year, but with competing priorities after Katrina, the Convention Center money may not be appropriated.

"Of course, with the storm, the question is, do you do any capital outlay? You've got other needs now," said Whit Kling, executive director of the Bond Commission. "The governor chooses who gets in what priority and when they move."

The Convention Center and its insurance company, Zurich, are working on estimates for the cost of fixing the building, Brennan said. The Convention Center still hopes that the federal government will chip in — $1 billion of the proposed $250 billion Katrina relief bill in Congress is for tourism and Brennan hopes that the Convention Center will get some of that money.

At this point, April 1 is still the target date for re-opening the Convention Center. "For the moment, yes," Brennan said. "That's the best target date we've got."

But with the Convention Center shut down, the board voted this week to reduce the staff by more than half. About 190 full-time positions, mostly those who support events at the building, will be cut, leaving about 170 full-time workers.

# Trucker shortage stymies port

*Many evacuated, working elsewhere*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

Cargo ships gradually are returning to the Port of New Orleans, but a key commerce link is still missing: the truck drivers needed to ferry imports and exports to and from the port's docks.

The shortage of drivers — many of whom evacuated the area with their families and in some cases found other work — could create a serious problem if it forces shippers to divert vessels to other ports in the region.

"Without trucks, that cargo doesn't move," said Cathy Gautreaux, executive director of the Louisiana Motor Transport Association. "We're seriously concerned that ships could be diverted."

And any such diversion has the potential to become permanent.

Port spokesman Chris Bonura said the shortage has not reached crisis stage, even though shipping activity through the port continues to grow. The port expects to handle nine ships this week, nearly double the number it handled last week.

"There's starting to be a real need," Bonura said. "It's something that we identified early and need to address."

But Susan Howland, CEO of the Howland Group Inc., a maritime consulting firm outside Philadelphia, said the local truck driver shortage amplifies a current nationwide shortage and comes as companies already are struggling to find the fastest way to get their products.

"So many of these companies are these just-in-time deliveries," she said. "They can't afford to have their supply chain knocked out for a couple of days.

"The cargo has to go beyond the port. That access to and from the port is as critical as the marine terminal. When a critical piece of infrastructure is missing, then we start to see a ripple through the economy."

The Port of New Orleans is making grand attempts to lure back drivers. The agency has cleared transportation lanes for drivers and eliminated checkpoints on the routes. The port also is offering living space aboard military ships for drivers, many of whom have no place to live. But drivers who accept the housing will have to leave their families behind because there is not enough room.

"They're hesitant to come back without their families," Gautreaux said.

The motor transport association also is meeting with city and state officials to find ways to bring drivers back, Gautreaux said.

"We've thought of bonuses; we've thought of subsidies," she said. "We have nothing concrete as of yet. But we need to figure it out. We can't afford to lose ships to other ports."

But bringing back drivers is complicated.

Most truck drivers in New Orleans are independent owner-operators, not trucking company employees. Their skills basically allow them work anywhere.

And that's what many are doing.

Owner-operator Lionel Smith evacuated to and now is working in Houston. His home in Violet was destroyed, and he and his family are renting an apartment in the Texas city. In New Orleans, he carried cargo to and from the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal. In Houston, he does the same job at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal, but he's paid $15 to $20 more for every move. Smith isn't planning a speedy return to New Orleans.

"The wages are so much better here," he said from his truck

*See* **TRUCKERS,** *A-16*

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# Piles of rotting garbage raise their own stink

## *Nauseated neighbors try to tackle problem*

**By Jeff Duncan**
Staff writer

Ben Sherman stepped away from the fetid piles of rotting meat littering the sidewalk in front of his Uptown business Tuesday afternoon and explained how a neighborhood bar owner suddenly has become an expert in the treatment of hazardous waste.

"The Homeland Security people told me that lime is what you use on decomposing waste," Sherman said.

Sherman and co-owner Steve Watson operate The Kingpin, a popular nightspot in the commercial pocket along Prytania Street in Uptown between Napoleon and Jefferson avenues.

They have delayed re-opening their bar for a couple of days, in part because of the potentially hazardous waste. The half-block long piles of meat and other spoiled supermarket products have been festering on the sidewalk since the owners of neighboring Zara's Super Market were seen emptying their freezers a few days after Hurricane Katrina struck in late August.

"We're ready to go," Watson said. "We've got to get our place open, but we can't get in there until they get that stuff up. I understand why they (the owners) did it. They wanted to save their business. But at the same time, it's irresponsible."

The owners of Zara's could not be reached for comment.

Waste and debris removal has been one of the biggest hurdles faced by business owners since they returned to Orleans Parish last week. Few agencies are up and running, and those that are operating are overwhelmed.

The trash bin next to Zara's is maintained by Metro Disposal Service of Harvey. Officials from Metro Disposal did not immediately return a call Tuesday.

"I've seen only one Waste Management truck since I've been here, and he drove by me," said Ben Lazich, owner of The Wine Seller a few doors down at 5000 Prytania St.

Rather than wait on city officials or licensed contractors, many business owners are taking matters into their own hands, as Sherman and three friends did Tuesday.

Wearing surgical masks, hip boots and protective glasses, the men spent most of Tuesday afternoon treating the squalid mountain. First, they used shovels to cover the spoiled refuse with lime. Then they covered it with large plastic tarps, weighed down with bricks and grocery carts.

It was a nasty job. The rancid pile included whole shoulders of pork, whole chickens, sides of beef, sausage, eggs, milk and vegetables.

As the men worked, swarms of flies attacked their legs and blurred their vision. From time to time, the wind would blow the lime onto their skin, causing it to burn.

"I'm slipping on maggots all over the place," Sherman said. "And they aren't little ones. They've been feasting for weeks. … But something had to be done. I couldn't stand looking at it anymore."

Not to mention smelling it. The stench was inescapable throughout the four-square block commercial area that's home to popular restaurants such as Crepe Nanou, Kyoto and Upperline.

A man and woman walking down Upperline Street to the Creole Creamery were forced to cover their mouths and noses as they made their way down the block.

"It's making me sick," said Guy Grissom, who runs a landscaping service out of his home on nearby Pitt Street. "I threw up last night after the wind shifted."

Neighbors and business owners have tried to reach the store owners and city officials to address the problem, but their efforts have proved futile. Meanwhile, the smell and potential biohazard worsens daily.

"I'm livid about it," Lazich said. "The whole neighborhood is upset about it. Wouldn't have been easier to bag up the waste so it would keep the smell down a little and be easier to pick up?"

Added Sherman: "The only thing I want to say is they (owners of Zara's) aren't invited to the Christmas party this year."

Sherman and Watson said they won't feel comfortable opening their doors until the reeking waste can be removed. The putrid piles cover much of the sidewalk that leads to their bar.

"This is just another casualty of the storm," Watson said. "We're all in the same boat on this. There's trash all over the city."

# Other ports, FEMA offer drivers better pay

**TRUCKERS,** *from A-15*

while moving container cargo Wednesday. "I was looking to get in another form of business in New Orleans, because trucking in New Orleans, you weren't making any money. I was really looking to change careers."

But with his newly purchased truck — he lost his old one to floodwaters in Violet — he plans to work as a driver for the foreseeable future.

"Right now, Houston is home," he said.

Another big problem, Gautreaux said, is that the maritime industry is competing with FEMA for workers.

"The truck drivers are making a lot more money working for FEMA," she said. "It's short-term, but it's good money and you can't blame them."

Another driver, Darrell Williams, plans to work in New Orleans as soon as he buys a new truck. But he doesn't plan to pick up where he left off, moving port cargo. Instead, he hopes to join the FEMA debris collection team.

"If I get a truck, I'm going to get a dump trailer and work cleanup," Williams said. "I can make money doing that more than moving containers. The container business is going to be on hold here for a while."

Jack Jensen, owner of TCI Trucking in New Orleans, said those stories could be multiplied by 100 to better assess the trucking situation. Jensen's company usually runs about 120 trucks a day; they're down to 12 to 15 now, he said.

"The majority of our truck drivers are from the 9th Ward, and they're just getting to their trucks now," he said.

The one bright spot for TCI, he said, is that the office they opened in Houston just six months ago is now busy. About 40 trucks are operating there, up from 25.

"At least we've got some revenue coming in," he said. "It's just a different kind of work there. There's something for everyone."

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# Two insurance companies will coordinate adjusters

## *Plan to be tried in St. Bernard, Plaquemines*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

In an unusual display of cooperation, two insurance giants agreed Wednesday to work together to settle claims for homeowners whose properties were destroyed five weeks ago by Hurricane Katrina.

Allstate and State Farm, which together control 54 percent of the homeowner's market in Louisiana, pledged to send in an army of adjusters and work in the same neighborhoods at the same time. Adjusters for other insurers are expected to join in, effectively creating total coverage. The system will first be used in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, but State Insurance Commissioner Robert Wooley said he hopes New Orleans officials eventually agree to adopt the approach.

The companies will work off grids created by local officials that chop Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes into large squares consisting of about 1,000 damaged properties. To expedite demolition and rebuilding, the companies agreed to finish all work in one square before moving to another.

The benefit is that one area could be bulldozed at once and building permits could be issued for entire neighborhoods, greatly speeding rebuilding.

"There ain't no rule book for this – it ain't never been done before," Wooley said Wednesday while addressing about 30 insurance company representatives and a handful of local officials in Belle Chasse.

The only time that competing insurance companies agreed to cooperate in a similar manner took place in 2003, when about 4,000 homes were wiped out by wildfires in California, according to Paul Tracey, field operations manager for Allstate. By contrast, construction experts say more than 360,000 homes were damaged by Katrina, and as many as half of those homes must be completely rebuilt.

Wooley said the insurance companies were initially skittish about working together on such a large scale.

"These companies are so competitive they'll eat each other's young if you let them,'' Wooley said."It's been tough to get them together."

Still, policyholders shouldn't expect immediate results. Though the companies have embraced the concept, they have not agreed on a timetable for completing the work. During two meetings on the subject Wednesday, Allstate and State Farm representatives said they could definitely bring in enough adjusters to finish one square per week in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, but they weren't sure if they could finish two squares, which would represent about 2,000 homes in each parish.

At one square a week, it would take up to six months to finish all the claims work in St. Bernard Parish, which local officials said is unacceptable.

"Most of them homes in this area were destroyed – I don't need an adjuster to tell me that,'' said Danny Menesses, chief administrative officer for St. Bernard."There are houses we're going to put on the grid that you can't even find anymore. They aren't there."

To drive the point home, local officials took the group on an hour-long tour, showing them neighborhoods where the flooding was so severe it deposited refrigerators, boats and cars on the roofs of Katrina-scarred homes. They saw hundreds of severely damaged homes, including more than a dozen that had been swept off their slabs.

"Words don't describe it,'' said Chris Winter, a representative for Crawford & Co., the world's largest independent adjusting firm."I didn't see a single property that wasn't totaled. Just incredible."

After the tour, Allstate and State Farm representatives said they'll study the grids and come up with projected timetables by early next week.

"The biggest thing is to establish a presence and quell our citizens' concerns that nothing is getting done," Menesses said.

Though adjusters have started visiting properties in the two parishes, little work has been done because so many property owners are not there to meet them. Under normal operating procedure, an adjuster can't work on a claim until the property owner is present.

But under the grid system, the companies will concentrate their efforts first on areas in which it is obvious that the vast majority of homes have sustained damages that are equal to or exceed the face value of the flood insurance policy.

Though it sometimes takes three or four days for an adjuster to complete work on a single flood insurance claim, insurers said the grid system will make it possible for adjusters to process two homes per day.

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# Most La. storm victims still not identified

## *Only 32 names made public*

**By Shaila Dewan**
New York Times

BATON ROUGE — In a country that cherishes the names of the dead, reads them aloud, engraves them in stone and stitches them into quilts, it is odd that Hurricane Katrina's victims remain, more than a month later, largely anonymous.

There has been no accounting of their age, sex and race, nor of how they died or where they were found. As for how they lived, it is difficult to find even a Web site paying tribute to individual victims. With 972 deaths confirmed and the search for bodies declared complete, the state has released only 61 bodies and made the names of only 32 victims public.

In contrast, of the 221 dead in Mississippi, 196 have been identified, a state official said.

Like any silence, the one blanketing Louisiana's dead is ripe for interpretation. To some, including family members who wait in anguish, it is further proof of bureaucratic bungling or a lack of regard for the poor blacks who doubtless make up many of the victims. To others, it is a deliberate attempt to shield an embarrassing truth from view.

State officials, still in crisis mode, say compiling and releasing data about the dead is simply not a priority. They say several factors have contributed to delays: criminal investigations that have forced them to perform more autopsies than expected; the arrival of a second hurricane, Rita, which once again displaced their staff; and the condition bodies were in after spending days or weeks in the heat or water. The New Orleans coroner, Frank Minyard, has complained that pathologists from around the country have volunteered to help but that he awaits a trailer from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to house them. But critics say that the state officials have not released bodies whose identities are obvious and that Louisiana has imposed too tough a standard on confirming the names of victims.

Tattoos, driver's licenses and physical characteristics have been used in Mississippi. But they are apparently not enough for Louisiana officials, who said last week that either a fingerprint, dental or DNA match is required.

About 370 of the bodies at the temporary morgue set up by FEMA have been "presumptively" identified but await confirmation by one of those three methods.

Nor has the Department of Health and Hospitals been willing to make public information that it has collected, from the recovery locations to the autopsy results. Dr. Louis Cataldie, the state emergency medical director, has made it clear that he is bewildered by a reporter's request for precise numbers, saying at a briefing last week that there had been "six to seven homicides" and "there haven't been that many" children.

Asked afterward how many more bodies might be out there, he appeared exasperated. "There is one out there," he said. "That's all that matters, isn't it?"

After that briefing, the Department of Health and Hospitals posted the names of 32 of the dead on the Internet, but by the next morning the list was gone.

On the edges of the disaster zone, a much clearer picture of Hurricane Katrina's victims has emerged. In Houston, the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office lists the names of 53 evacuees who have died, most of natural causes and two by suicide. In Dallas, there are 23, including twins who died of "extreme prematurity due to maternal exhaustion and dehydration occurring as a result of Hurricane Katrina."

Don Morrow, the director of operations for the coroner in East Baton Rouge, said that among the evacuees who died in his parish there were 24 males and 44 females, that 36 were white, 30 black and 2 Hispanic, and that more than 60 victims were older than 50. Six were under 21; the oldest victim was 95.

Those killed directly by the storm, which struck Aug. 29, remain the least known.

The lack of information has robbed the death toll, released each day in a terse statement from Dr. Cataldie's office, of a human face. "There really haven't been any stories of who they are," said Marian Fontana, who lost her husband in the World Trade Center and became a prominent advocate for Sept. 11 victims' families. "I think the way people really connected to 9/11 was people's lives, and I haven't heard any of that. It reminds me of the tsunami," where hundreds of victims ended up in mass graves. "It was a big giant number in a place far away."

Families of the victims have expressed frustration that the process is not moving more quickly. Memorial services and burials have been delayed indefinitely, and families must wait to file insurance claims, execute wills and settle estates. Even the few who have been are able to bury their loved ones question what is going on. One woman, Marion K. Babin, said it took weeks to get the body of her husband, Justin Babin, though he wore a hospital bracelet and medical dog tags listing his name and condition. Officials said that Mr. Babin had to be autopsied because he was found in a hospital and that the attorney general was investigating all hospital and nursing home deaths.

And some deaths unrelated to the storm have been caught up in the process. One of the 32 names released was that of Jason Curtis Zito, 30, who choked to death on a wad of tobacco on Sept. 23, his mother said.

Gary T. Hargrove, the coroner of Harrison County in Mississippi, said he was "quite surprised" to read that Louisiana had identified so few of the dead, and speculated that the lag was because of the state's blighted body retrieval effort, which began a week after the storm.

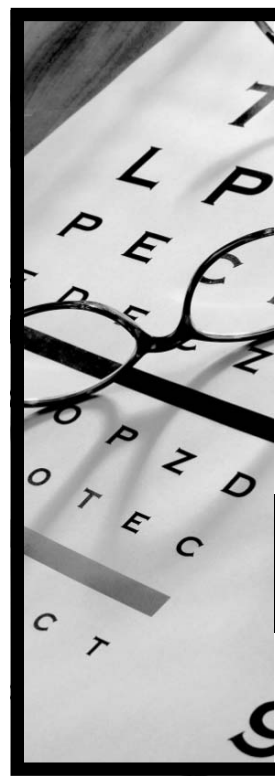
"We started recoveries on the Monday afternoon after the storm, as soon as the winds dropped below 60 miles per hour," Mr. Hargrove said, adding that 65 of the county's 88 bodies have been identified and 63 have been released.

But advanced decomposition does not entirely explain the discrepancy. Just as in Louisiana, Mississippi's bodies were too decomposed to be viewed by families - but many could be identified by physical characteristics. In Jackson County, 9 of 12 identities were confirmed, mostly by scars, tattoos, prosthetics or implants, said Vicki Broadus, the coroner.

Still, forensic experts who have dealt with mass casualties cautioned that every disaster presents distinct challenges.

"Every single disaster I've ever worked this comes up, like maybe they're doing too much," said Dr. Mary Jumbelic, the medical examiner for Onondaga County in New York, who worked on the tsunami last year, the aftermath of Sept. 11 and several plane crashes. Medical examiners have to pre-empt fears that families received the wrong remains, Dr. Jumbelic said. "That will be the question three months from now if the standards are not adhered to."

Dr. Charles Hirsch, the chief medical examiner of New York City, whose office handled the dead after the World Trade Center attack, said Louisiana, where parish coroners are responsible for issuing death certificates, had geographic and jurisdictional issues that did not arise with Sept. 11, where the disaster spanned only 16 acres and the bulk of the surviving family members were not dispersed throughout the 50 states.

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**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

### 2950 Repair

**E &** T's Home Improvment Drywall, carpet, shingle removal & repair. 985-758-7746/232-0552

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTING CLERK** Gilsbar Inc located in Covington is accepting applications, Associates Degree in Accounting or Business, must be computer literate w/exp in Excel, Word & Outlook. Apply online www.gilsbar.com

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**FEE ONLY** Financial Planning firm in COVINGTON needs CPA or CFP. Send resume to Asset Planning Services, 509 W. 21st Avenue, Covington, LA 70433

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**PAYROLL Westbank** Company seeks expd Payroll ind, stable environment w/ good benefits, salary, 35-45 range, e-mail CKerthPCG@yahoo.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Accountants, Bookkeepers, Accounting Clerks, Degree or Non-Degree. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**AUTO/WHEEL SALES** AGENT must have experience, busy location in Metairie. 504-737-1558 or fax to 504-737-1703

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Experienced Automotive** Salesperson needed for fast growing Mercedes/Volvo Dealership in Pensacola, FL. 1-800-876-4931

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**Manager/Sales in** Slidell, full time, inside and outside in decorating field, commission based. Call 985-871-5040.

**MEDICAID FOLLOW-UP: Medical** Assistance Coordinator, Community Care/Outreach, Field Rep, Clerical Asst. Several open positions in West Jefferson Medical Center area. Help hospital patients with medical assistance applications and follow-up process. Medicaid billing experience helpful, but not required. Must be computer literate. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish preferred. Field Representative must have reliable trans, with valid drivers license and insurance. Please fax resume: 800-765-9329 or e-mail: DRMemployment@yahoo.com. E-mail Subject LIne: LA-DRM

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** NEEDED 10% commission. Call Vince 734-678-8067

**Route Sales** - Golden Flake Snack Foods. Full and part-time positions available. Competitive pay and benefits. EOE. Call for details 1-800-233-0232

**SALES Now** taking applications for Sales Staff. Experience preferred. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-9996 or call Pat King 504-733-8188

**SALES PEOPLE** Self-starters wanted. Experience not necessary, will train. Top commission in city, Great benefit package. Apply at 2500 Williams Blvd, or Call 504-602-6800 ask for Jim Roberts

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Aply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** $35K, Front Desk $20K. For these and other office positions, 504-832-9033. Office Assistance, Inc. The Personnel Specialists.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**CLERICAL Several** positions open in Credit Department. Hourly wage plus commission, great benefit package. Contact Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner, LA or Call 504-602-6800

**F/T Receptionist/Secretary** for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

**GENERAL OFFICE** HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

**MEDICAL BILLING** CLERK Local Mandeville medical company is seeking a billing clerk with billing and coding skills. Prior experience in medical charge entry or other related position is preferred. Fax resume to: 985-727-7281 or email: humanresources@totalsleep.com

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. CSR, Legal Secretary, Office Support ect. Min 1 yr exp. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**Receptionist and** transcriptionist needed for Uptown medical clinic. Fax resume to 504-394-3713.

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

### 4040 Computers

**NEWTORK TECHNICIAN** Needed. 2-5 years experience. Windows Server experience a huge plus. Resume to PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 7001 or email to lajobs@bellsouth.net

### 4045 Drivers

**BEST BUY** Delivery drivers, metro New Orleans. Fax resume to 504-456-8902, or apply at any Best Buy location.

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

### 4045 Drivers

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL "X"** Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance, holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demand shiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume: 985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

**CDL Drivers** and Owner Operators, Must Have 2yrs Experienced, Home On Weekends. Call For More Information: 985-732-6793 or 985-750-5553

**CDL DRIVERS** needed, must have Hazmat and DOT certification, pre-employment drug screening. Blossman Oil Co 985-892-2401 or 985-898-2663

**CDL DRIVERS** Northshore routes only, immediate openings! Call: 985-966-0113

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DRIVER CDL** and Non-CDL needed to do hurricane debris hauling and dumping. Local work. 12 hours/day, 7 days/week. Clean lic. req. 941-448-4392

**DRIVER Needed** for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

**DRIVER WANTED:** CDL class B Driver/Warehouse person, drug screen reqd. Apply to SE Hardwood Flooring, 68391 James St, Mandeville, 985-875-2091/Louis

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

**Independent Contractors** needed immediately! Must have Cargo Van - 10ft, 16ft, 24ft box truck. Local early AM RTS, M-F, Sat if desired. 504-885-7447 M-F, 8AM-4PM for interview or fax resume to 504-463-3299.

**KORNMEYER'S FURNITURE** needs experienced, positive CDL delivery drivers. Please fax resume to 225-926-0149 or email job@kornmeyers.com

**KORNMEYER'S FURNITURE** Needs experienced, positive Interior Designers & Sales people. Fax resume 225-926-0149 or email job@kornmeyers.com

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**OFFICE DEPOT** Supply Route Driver. New Orleans Metro area; Clear MVR, Chauffeur's Lic,Lifting 70#'s, and Min. 2 Years Route Driver Exp. Please apply at 150 Riverbend Blvd., St. Rose, LA

**OWNER OPERATORS** AND DRIVERS Local trucking Co., CDL Class A, over the road 3 yrs exp. home weekends, new rates for Owner Operators, 504-834-1222

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS - CDL License required. $12/hour. $400 signing bonus. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**Tow truck** drivers needed. Apply at 302 Almedia Road St.Rose, LA Mon-Fri 8-5

### 4045 Drivers

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Class A or B, experienced, good pay, local work. Please call 321-228-6335

**TRUCK DRIVERS** Wanted. Competitive salary and benefits package. Start immediately. Come by Universal Furniture, 2500 Williams Blvd or call 504-602-6800

### 4060 Engineering

**CIVIL ENGINEERS** Entry, Mid & Sr level, BSCE Req, MS & PE pref. Exp in Land Development Eng. pref. PACIULLI, SIMMONS & ASSOCIATES. We offer high salaries & comp. benefits. Offices in Fairfax & Loudoun, VA. E-mail: lbarker@psaltd.com, fax 703-934-9787, www.psaltd.com

**DESKTOP ENGINEER** Local Company seeking experienced Desktop Engineer. Person must have minimum 2 yrs experience in desktop computer skills in Windows NT 4.0/ Windows 2000 / Windows XP environment. Individual must have experience servicing desktop, laptops, and printers, as well as a good understanding of LAN/WAN Networking and the ability to lift 50 lbs. Good customer service skills and reliable transportation required. Certifications are a plus (MCP, Network +, Server +, A+)! This full time position offers a great working environment with a competitive salary along with full benefit package. Email: resume2005@hotmail.com

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**METAIRIE BASED** Engineering firm,seeking ME's CE's & Cheme's EE's for plant and project work at local refineries. e-mail resume to joebrinz@eisllc.net

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Engineers and Geoscience. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**Superintendent(s) are** needed at large, commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have at least 10 years experience in commercial general contracting; computer skills are a plus. Several Openings are available. Please fax resume to 713/465-9837.

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-237-3261

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**Local finance** co in Gonzales, LA has immed. open for f/t Manager. Exc. communication, organizational & interpersonal skills req'd. Prior consumer fin. exp. a must. Fax resumes to 985-542-5180.

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF FINANCE reporting to CEO Building Materials Co. based in S.W. LA. Solid background in fin. & accounting. 12+ yrs business exp. CPA desired. 415-740-5476 or gia@execprofiler.com

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**BARBER EQUIPMENT** Complete Barber Shop For Sale! 504-366-0882 Eves 504-394-1244, after 6pm

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**GEORGY'S HAIR** STUDIO Now Hiring, Assistants &

The Times-Picayune

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| Tuesday | 5pm FRIDAY |
| Wednesday | 5pm MONDAY |
| Thursday | 5pm TUESDAY |
| Friday | 5pm WEDNESDAY |
| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4110 Mechanical

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**SMALL ENGINE** MECHANIC Needed immediately, 1945 Surgi Dr. Mandeville LA. 985-727-3143

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

**TECHNICIANS Coulter** Cadillac of Phoenix, the #1 Cadillac dealer in the region is looking for qualified, G.M Technicians. We offer a generous compensation package, 401K, paid vacation and a friendly work environment. Fax your resume to 602-532-4724, Attn. Jon or Homer or find us on the web at coultercadillac.com

### 4120 Medical

**CHIROPRACTIC/MEDICAL OFFICE** ASSISTANT Needed. Previous experience required. Send resume to Attention Office Manager, 655 Asbury Dr. Mandeville, LA 70471 or Fax resume 985-626-7465

**CLINICAL STAFF** - (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) Needed for Management positions in growing community based mental health org. To learn more & submit resume: www.sbcs.us, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, 499 Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08002. Fax: 856-773-0210

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**Dental/Office Asst** Full Time needed for busy Mandeville Family Practice. Mail resume to 20121 Helenberg Rd. #1; Covington, LA 70433

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**Help Wanted:** Medical Assistant/LPN for family practice/primary care clinic, applicants should be able to draw blood, give injections, order supplies, order labs, some knowledge of ICD nine codes required. Please fax resumes to 504-367-8579 or for info, please phone 504-367-8577, Attention: Ms. Johnson.

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**Medical Office** position open, M-F; dialysis, medical billing experience preferred. For more info call 985-479-6104 or email mah1974@aol.com

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**OFFICE MGR** for busy 2 position allergy practice located in Covington. Experience w/ insurance and patient billing, A/R & electronic claims. Knowledge Quicken/Quick Books, A/P & payroll processing, strong interpersonal skills. Min. 3 yr office management exp. F/T position. Fax resume to 985-845-2668

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. CHARLES** PARISH HOSPITAL: P.O. Box 87, 1057 Paul Maillard Road, Luling, LA 70070. CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: Clinical Associate, Dialysis Technician, LPN, Recreational Therapist. Apply in person: 9:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm Monday - Thursday. Fax resume to: (985) 785-4214, Email to: KDonnaud@stch.net, or apply online at: www.nola.com EOE

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8131/985-320-1111

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PERSONNEL CONSULTING** GROUP Is holding a Job Fair at the LA Credit Union Building, 824 Elmwood Pkwy, Harahan, LA. Fri 10/07, 9am-4pm. Attorneys, and Paralegals. Email to Jobfair@personnel-group.com

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Seeking Personnel** with general knowledge of construction who are capable of performing visual inspections and completing forms. Work is in N.O. Area, $15-$20/hour with 7-10 hour days. Send resume to 225-756-5903

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

### 4145 Retail

**BEST BUY** in store job fair, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, West Bank store at 1601 W Bank Xway Ste A, Harvey, LA 75008. Monday-Friday 8am to 11pm, and 4pm to 6pm, Veterans Blvd store 6205 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA, 70003. Monday-Friday 1pm to 4pm, Slidell store, at 120 Northshore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70459. Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 pm, Covington store, 69344 Hwy 21, Covington, LA, 70433. Prior to visiting our job fair apply on-line at careers.bestbuy.com. Now hiring seasonal & F/T & P/T, Cashiers, Customer Service, Gen. Sales, Merchandising, Music/Software/Gaming, Srvc Tech, Computer Tech/Geek Squad, Mobile Installer Tech, Shipping/Recieving, Security/LP, Delivery Drivers. EOE DFWP

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**MERCHANDISING SET** REP $13/hr with full benefits in 90 days. Samsco Services, a national leader in service merchandising for the home improvement industry has immediate openings in the New Orleans area, specific to Home Depot stores throughout the area. Responsible for setting steel racks, merchandising product, installing signs and fixtures, and ensuring all project plans are 100% executed, in setting new stores and performing resets/remodels in existing stores. Qualifications include: ·Must be able to pass drug screen and background check ·Ability to work safely in a retail environment ·Maintain work schedule according to plan ·Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. on a consistent basis ·Extensive travel required ·Must be able to safely use and operate hand tools and power tools. ·Basic computer and Internet skills, preferred. ·Experience with big box retailer or equivalent preferred. E-mail resume to: bruce_sturgill@samscoservices.com or fax 972-516-2742

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**COMMUNITY SUPERVISION** OFFICER Person with preferably military, police or security officer experienced needed to work with rehab of (Drug/Alcohol) addicted persons, weekend and evenings required. Please submit resume to Drug Court 104 Ormond Blvd, Suite B La Place, LA 70068 or fax to 985-359-3316

**Florida Security** Guards available. Call 407-687-0156 or 561-714-0343, Scott Security

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY INNER** PARISH Is now taking applications for Security Guards. Paid weekly. Retirees welcome! Pay based on exp. New Orleans positions available with housing included. You may contact us by phone at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SECURITY OFFICERS,** Jefferson, Orleans, and the River Parishes. Must be 21. High School/GED. Free Health/Life, paid vacations. Uniforms/Training provided. Drug Screen required. Call Guardsmark, Monday - Friday, 504-734-8301. EOE.

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Cell 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS** HIRING NOW MANDEVILLE, 674-0086 SLIDELL, 643-7400

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**VIOLIN &** or Band Instructor, P/T, Harahan/Mandeville/Covington. 985-674-2992/504-738-3050

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C INSTALLERS &** SHEET METAL INSTALLERS - Call Blue Flame, Inc. 504-733-9112

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** IMMEDIATE OPENING N. Shore Area. Exp'd. Good Pay + Benefits. 985-966-0075

**A/C TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. Call 504-833-1164

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC HELPER** Wanted. Full time, no experience needed. Benefits available. Call 504-416-7363

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**AUTO TECH,** must have experience with custom rims and tires. Top pay! Located in Metairie. 504-737-1558

**B &** B Electrical Services ready to serve all your electrical needs. now hiring electricians, helpers, laborers paying time and a half. (504)891-9773 (504)466-7833

**BEST PAY** IN AREA - Need Drywall crews, Painters, Carpenters, Shingle crews. 504-270-6937

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR ALARM** INSTALLER - Wanted. F/T, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**Cabinet Builders** and finishers needed. Experience Preferred. 985-758-7014

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**Carpenters and** Laborers needed for new const. uptown. Local/displaced? Will try to help u get housing. REDDING CONST. 504-415-3292/504-598-3227

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, Helpers,** Laborers, Foremen. Gov't Blue Roof Program, Jefferson Parrish. $150-$200/per day. Start immediately. 561-204-4860

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Immediate** Openings. Local Construction Company, Residential and Commercial. 504-628-7712

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS/HELPERS Needed,** Experienced. Please call 504-348-0236 leave message

**CARPET/FLOORING INSTALLER,** excellent pay + bonus, exp pref, tons of work! 504-512-3277

**CBD Bldg** needs maintenance engineer - a/c, electrical, plumbing ,data/phone , etc. Also need sheetrock wks. Call Bret 504-915-0649

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**Commercial Electricians** needed. Local work. Please Call 501-580-7857

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** TESTING FIELD TECHNICIAN Entry level or experienced. Apply at 724 Central Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121 504-733-9411 EOE. M/F/D/V

**CONSTRUCTION SUBS** Needed, Licensed and Insured. Please call 504-415-3614

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRYWALL HANGERS,** FINISHERS, Demolition Persons. Immediate openings with established company, top pay. Call 504-352-4005

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRICIANS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial work site, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS** Hearing aid manufacturer needs hearing aid or microscopic assembly technicians. Salary commensurates with experience. Fax resume to 504-733-3799. Phone: 504-733-3767

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** Exp. for Debris in Metairie. Bobcat, Loader/Rotor/Truck Drivers. 954-464-5273 or 954-650-4669. $15-$20 per hour.

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,** Immediate openings! All Northshore sites. Call: 985-966-0113

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**EXP. DOZER/EXCOVATOR** BOBCAT OPERATOR & MECHANIC WORK for HEAVY EQUIPMENT 504-455-6222

**Experienced Framing** Carpenter. Must have transportation. Call 504-473-8797

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED LICENSED** ELECTRICIANS and helpers with tools, call Jim at 504-416-0172

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Exp'd working partner needed to run company. Please call 504-465-0209

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**Fire/Water Damage** Technician, Surfpro of the North Shore, exp. proffered but willing to train, must have good driving record. Fax resume to 985-898-6373 or call 985-898-0022

**FLEET MECHANIC** To start immediately to work on trucks, pressure washers & pressure pumps. Good pay rate & benefits 504-329-2831

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Now Accepting applications for experienced floor installers for all surfaces. Call Pat King 733-8188 or Apply in person, Monday - Thursday from 10-2 at 5403 Powell St., Elmwood, LA 70123

**FRAMING CARPENTER** Local Company, Transportation Required, Experienced. 504-473-8797

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS TECH** trainees needed for New Orleans co, top pay + commission. Call 504-822-3255

**GLASS TECHNICIANS** Flat and auto needed, Please Call 504-400-6799

**HANDYMAN in** Covington area, full or part time. Call 985-237-0817

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T Manufacturing Maintenance Mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time Manufacturing Equipment Operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**HB VENTURES** Hiring hosemen & squigee men, Barge washers, top pay, w/ safety awards & biwkly incentives, 504-915-3143, 382-6912 or 348-2336

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT** MECHANICS NEEDED. On-Site Equipment. Maint. is expanding our Baton Rouge location into the New Orleans area. Shop and road work available. Competitive rates and great benefits pkg. Call 225-753-1733

**HIRING Electricians** and Helpers in Slidell, Covington and Metairie, 504-833-3492

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING NOW** Welders/Fitters, Qualified for Pipe and Structural. Barge Crane Operators, Qualified Riggers, Experienced Welder Helpers, Sand Blaster/Painter, On Shore and Off Shore Positions. Please Apply in person: French's Welding and Marine Services, 1112 Engineers Road, Belle Chase, LA 70037

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**HUTCO INC** Is Hiring For Welders, Fitters, Blasters Painters, Plant Operators, Hydroblasters, Electricians, Outside Machinists, Tackers & Laborers. Call 504-348-7818

**HVAC INSTALLERS** & SERVICE TECHS NEEDED. Immediate openings for experienced only. Please call 341-8526.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**Immediate Openings** for Offshore Construction work WELDERS, RIGGERS, FITTERS, PAINTERS Qualified candidates should have a minimum of 2 years offshore experience, welding certifications, safe working habits, and be able to pass a drug screen and physical. For more information, please call Jana at our remote personnel office at 361-289-8292 to provide callback information.

**INSTALLERS AND** SERVICE TECHNICIANS Immediate positions available. Great pay. Call 985-626-7852 to apply

**INSTALLERS Needed,** Quarles Insulation. Please call 504-466-9213

**INTEGRATED Airline** Services Is Hiring For RAMP AGENTS. Must Have Valid Drivers License. Competitive Wages. Must be able to pass 10yr background check. Call 504-468-1401

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks exp'd Mill Work People in all categories including Door Unit Assembly. Also Carpenter's Helpers w/at least some exp, and Truck Drivers with Class D License for local delivery. Please Call 504-340-2471 for information

**K&P Roofing** and Remodeling, experienced roofers needed, top pay. Contact Kevin at 504-415-9342 or 985-652-7138

**KITCHEN EQUIPMENT** TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. 504-833-1164

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not required. Starting pay is $9/hour plus excellent opportunity for daily and monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits package after one year of employment. If you are interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 and leave us a message with your information.

**LABORERS AND** PLASTERERS, Must have own transportation, Stucco, Call 504-258-4509

**Laborers needed** ASAP in N.O. - Paid daily if necessary. $80 per day 901-542-9900

**Laborers needed** in Louisiana and Gulf Coast areas. $80.00/day, Recruiters are welcomed. Please call 901-542-9900 Express Staffing

**LANDSCAPING LABORERS** Hard workers need. Some landscaping experience preferred, not required. GOOD $. HAVE OWN TRUCK $$. Paid Daily. Please contact Steven 985-774-3487, 985-641-2141

**LGE COMMER'L** CONST CO. in Metairie 20 yrs. Immed FT employment. Top pay. Needing Laborers, Sheet Rock Finishers, Painters, Carpenters, Tile Setters. Great benefits, pd vac, health, sick leave, etc. 504-831-4261 or fax 832-0762. e-mail: office@constructionmastersinc.com

**LICENSED JOURNEYMAN,** Repair Plumber, and Gas Fitter. Paid vac, SL, Holidays, and Major Med. Apply in person 308 Adams St, NO or call 504-861-7517

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MAINTENANCE PERSON** - Needed, strong in a/c, CFC cert, some electrical, plumbing & carpentry skills needed. Paid holidays & vacation. 504-382-3156

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**Metal building** and sheet metal workmen needed, experienced. Call 504-261-4179

**Metro New** Orleans residential and comm'l gen. contractor for renovating/remodeling, NOW HIRING all disciplines. Subs welcomed. MCCI 504-341-1546

**MMR Offshore** Services is currently seeking Electricians & Instument Fitters for offshore assignments. Please apply at 108 Lauren Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 or call (504) 394-5448 or fax resume to (504) 394-5444 or emial to gplaisance@mmrgrp.com or Mail resume to PO Box 490 Harvey,LA 70050 EOE

**NEEDED Carpenters/Carpenter** Helpers, T.R. Davis Construction. 504-939-1957, 504-250-2032, 225-329-9266

**NORTHSHORE Fab** Shop looking for full time helper, must be dependable. Ability to use power tools is a plus. 985-893-9277

**Office Manager/Sales/Assistants** to run busy contracting company. Call 985-781-8364

**OFFSHORE/ONSHORE WORK** Premier Industries, Inc. FITTERS/WELDERS, FITTER HELPER/TRACKERS, EXPERIENCED RIGGERS, RIGGER/CRANE OPERATORS, OFFSHORE SUPERINTENDENTS/FOREMEN. All positions require a minimum or 3 years recent offshore experience. BARGE PILE DRIVING FRICTION CRANE OPERATOR Must have experience driving piles with a friction crane from a floating barge. SUB-ARC WELDER Top pay. All positions receive: Group medical, dental plan, long and short term disability, life insurance, 401K plan. Must pass physical and drug screen. Apply in person at: 3450 Peters Rd. Harvey, LA. EOE

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

**PAINTERS AND** CONSTRUCTION HELPERS Needed for new construction and remodeling. 985-966-2424

**PAINTERS AND** SHEET ROCK FINISHERS WANTED. Please call 504-363-1194

**PAINTERS North** Shore, own tools/phone/transportation. Call Ricky 504-651-3179

**Painters With** Spray experience in industrial plants and experienced painter's helpers needed for full time work in the New Orleans and LaPlace areas. Drug test required, criminal background check may be required. Call Mon - Fri, 9am-3pm. 504-469-3815

**PAINTERS, Residential** Homes, exp., must have own transportation, F/T work, 985-966-6011

**Painters, Sheetrock** Finishers, Paper Hangers Coatings Inc. 504-832-8049

**Plumber Experienced** journeyman repair plumber. Experienced only need apply. 504-340-8776

**PLUMBERS Hiring** Licensed Plumbers, Experienced Helpers, and Equipment Operators for New Construction Plumbing work. Great Pay and Benefits with prosperous company Call 985-892-5626

**PLUMBERS, LICENSED** and HELPERS needed. Call Sidney Lapuyade Plumbing, Inc. 504-834-7750

**PLUMBERS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial worksite, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**Project Manager/Estimater** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

**REFRIGERATOR AND** A/C TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Experienced only. Good pay and benefits. Fax resume to 985-809-6799

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**ROOFERS** - Needed. Shingle & flat crews, New Orleans & Baton Rouge area. Call 504-779-3232 or 504-559-9106

**ROOFERS COMMERCIAL,** local company seeks exp. flat roofers only. Top wages. 504-464-9181

**ROOFERS Experience** roofers needed for new roofs and all types of repairs. Must have own truck & tools. Call 504-452-9640 or 504-467-9387

**ROOFERS NEEDED!** TOP PAY Helpers - $100/Day Call (504) 416-4324

**ROOFERS New** Orleans Roofers needed in Baton Rouge or New Orleans Experienced in Slate or Asbestos. Call 225-761-4309

**ROOFERS Wanted,** Experienced, Good Pay. Must have transportation. 504-469-0353

**ROOFERS, SHEET** ROCK INSTALLERS needed for Bent Tree Marrero. Bob Lee 504-328-7905

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**ROOFING Crews** needed, top pay. Contact Roof Pro 734-678-8067

**ROOFING CREWS,** top pay, own tools and transportation required. Call 985-781-8364

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING Relocation** opportunity for high-skilled slate, tile, copper mechanics. Housing assistance for longterm year-round work. Suburban Philadelphia, PA contractor est 1939. 888-RKI-ROOF

**SCS Now** Hiring: Pipe Fitters, Fitters, TIG Welders, Welders, Experienced Laborers/Painters. Call 504-348-4855, 2072 Bonn Street, Harvey, La or 1-800-310-0131

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SIDING Installers** and Helpers Wanted, Top Pay. Call 504-491-5812

**SITE MANAGERS/MAINTENANCE** MAN A national leader in the self storage industry is seeking site managers and maintenance men for an award-winning self storage facility and retail center in Harahan, LA. Duties include property and equipment maintenance, janitorial work, and driving of medium box/move truck, and other various operational duties. Qualified candidates must possess a valid drivers license, a clean MVR, and outstanding organizational and time-management skills. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Pets/Livestock

### 6000 Dogs

**Bichon Frise** Male D.O.B 2/23/05, house-broken, all shots, must sell due to Katrina, $475, 985-640-0893 or 504-469-9970

**CANE KORSO** Pups, ICCS 7 weeks old, 1 male, 5 females, $1500. 225-933-0762 225-654-0509

**CHIHUAHUA PUPS,** Long Hair, $300 each. Also 1 adult Male, $100. 504-858-0830 985-781-0221

**DOBERMAN PUPS** AKC 8 weeks, 3 females, 2 males. 504-454-1773, 504-831-0728

**Full Blood** Rat Terrier Puppies, Born 7/26/05. $150. Call 985-878-2804

**German Shepherd** Puppies, AKC, 8 weeks old. Please call 985-735-5915 or 985-807-6157

**GERMAN SHEPHERD** PUPS AKC, CKC, Micro Chipped. 504-348-1501 or 504-913-7350

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Labrador, Yellow,** 12 weeks old with AKC papers and shots, $250, 504-329-1938

**Min Pin** Pups, Ready to go! Shots & Dew Claws. Black/Tan & Red, Chocolate. $300 & up. 985-871-7790

**Miniature Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**OLD ENGLISH** BULLDOG Male, Registered, brindle with white face, $600. 985-764-3067

**Old English** Bulldog Pups CKC, 2M, 4F, $800. Visit beardsbulldogge.com or call 504-301-1129

**Pomeranian Puppies,** 1 Male, Black, $400. 1 Female, Multi-Colored, $450. 985-778-1885

**RAT TERRIER** PUPS - Registered, 5 weeks old, 3 males, $125/each, call 504-481-3357/818-2248

**ROTTWEILER Pups,** tails cut & dewormed, both parents on site, 3 males $250,a female $300, 504-368-7248/504-400-4274

**Toy Party** Poodle, M, Blk/Wht, Pit Bull M, Wht/Brindle, blue eyes. Both 9 wks, Both have Shots. $300 each. 504-256-7716

**YORKIE TERRIERS,** CKC, 2 males, small, shots & wormed, $800. Call 504-738-1050

## RECREATION

### 6530 Boats/Accessories/ Services

**'00 Kenner** 23 foot, 225 EFI Mercury, excellent condition, extras, low hours. $16,000. Call 504-416-3703/504-689-4304

**'04 Boston** Whaler 320 Outrage, Loaded For Blue Water Fishing. Twin 225 Merc OPTIMAX. Super Electronics Package, Outriggers, Downriggers, XM Radio, Custom Trailer, Many Extras. Excellent Condition. $130,000. Off Shore Tackle Available for Extra. Call 601-955-4298

**'06 River** Time HOUSEBOAT. Brand new, 52 ft, deluxe. 2 115 HP Mercs, fully self contained. Sleeps 6, 651-450-1496 for more info. $165,000 Will deliver.

**'98 Boston** Whaler Outrage 23', 225 HP Johnson, garage kept. $32,900. 504-885-0900

**'99 Avenger** Bay Boat Sport 18.6', Yamaha 150 $12,900. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**30' Trojan** Sportfisherman twin 260hp, gas, 800 hrs. nice A/C, genset, shower, radar, sleeps 4 or 5. 601-924-0406

**65 Foot** Trawler/ Home, Safe, Twin Diesel, A/C, Can deliver, $250,000. 361-249-2995

### 6550 Campers/Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Franklin** Imperial Trlr40'/93 Olds Cierra clean, 8x10 metal shed. As is, where is in Seattle tlr park. $22,000. 206-660-3238

**'00 Jayco** 32.5 ft 5th wheeler, sleeps 9, F.Glass exterior., many extras/upgrades, never smoked in, perfect condition, $17,500 firm. 504-888-6952

**'00 Rockwood** 25' travel trailer; pristine cond; sleeps 4; $12,000; 318-435-9264.

**'01 Jayco** Eagle 5th wheel, 33 feet long, sleeps 9, super slide, lots of cabinets, $17,000. 601-736-8975

**'02 Bounder** 32', 10K miles, LR/DR slide, exc cond, sat TV, alarm, extras, $98,000. $100/day discount if sold by 10/15/05. Located in P-cola, will deliver. 850-572-6909

**'02 Cherokee** 24' Light Travel Trailer, Like new, sleeps 6, will deliver. $11,000. 504-348-9340 or 504-421-5788

**'02 Holiday** Rambler Vacationer. 2 slides. 1 and 1/2 baths. $79,000. 985-789-2879

**'02 Keystone** Cougar 28 foot, 5 th wheel slide-out, $20,000. Call 504-453-5517

**'02 Sportsmen** 30Ft Travel Trailer, double slide out, like new, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 318-251-8307 or 318-265-2300

**'02 Trail** Lite, 20' Travel Trailer, 1700 lbs. $10,000. Call 985-758-3567 or 504-756-6732

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Coachman** Travel Trailer, 38 foot, 2 bedroom, big slide out, lots of storage, $17,000. 985-845-2094 or 985-778-9501

**'03 MONTANA** 5th Wheel, 34 foot, 3 slides. Rear living. Good condition $25,000 985-652-6950

**'03 Shasta** 24', bunk beds, dinette, front bd, A/C, microwave, 2 dr ref., finance & delivery avail. $10,599. 1-866-243-1716 www.northtownmotorhomes.com

**'04 Celebrity** 5th Wheel, 40 foot, 3 slides, washer/dryer, excellent. Brooklyn, MS. Free delivery. $36,000 407-973-7107

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

## Recreation

### 6550 Campers/Motor Homes

**'05 Aspen** 27' Travel Trailer, used 19 days escaping hurricanes, slide-out, built in entertainment ctr, presently located in a La-Place Campground, completely hooked-up, move-in ready, cable, phone avail, 20 mi from airport on Airline Hwy, $24,000. 504-738-0233

**'05 Dutchman** 28ft Travel Trailer, sleeps 8, used 5 times, exc condition, A/C, heater, microwave/stove, stereo CD player, satellite dish & TV, $15,000. 504-228-3229 or 504-348-2118

**'05 Fleetwood,** sleeps 6, fully contained, asking $15,000, 504-838-0396 or 504-957-6620

**'05 Sunny** Brook, 41ft, 5th Whl, 2 slides, gen., cargo area, loaded, $49,000, 504-915-1068

**'05 Trail** Bay Travel Trailer, 27' w/slideout, sleeps 6, barely used, $17,000. 504-329-5248 or 504-328-7500

**'06 JAYCO** 25' travel trlr. new, sleeps 6, slide out, $21,900. 504-831-8900, 504-453-4441

**'78 Mobile** 14X70 2BR/2BA, some updates, new vinyl siding, $6350, 985-839-8973/504-376-4279

**'85 Pace** Arrow 34 foot, sleeps 7, good condition, fully loaded, $15,900. Call 504-341-6406

**'86 Prevost** XL 96K 8V92 5SP Allison 15K Gen 5K inv All Elec New tires - $85,000. 858-755-3484

**'92 29ft** Prowler, pull behind, fully furnished, excellent condition. $10,500. 504-292-9924

**'93 Gulfstream** Conquest 102 Class C Motor Coach, slps 8, good cond, $21,500. 504-813-7880

**'94 Allegro** Bay 37 foot, super slide, washer/dryer, 33,000 orig. mi., $24,500. For more call 601-876-1837/601-876-4174

**'96 Mountain** Aire By Newmar, 37.5 ft, slide out, multiple TVs, ACs & beds! Good tires, 61K miles, in exc cond! $39,900 obo 941-923-3421/1-888-325-2394

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 360-403-9873

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'97 Coleman** Seapine travel trailer/pop-up new roof great condition. $3500. Call 504-469-2910, 504-481-3916

**'97 RV** 35' Gulfstream, Ford 460 26K Ex Cond. $37,000 Seattle Pay flight/gas 206-660-3238

**'98 Coachman** 29'Trailer $8500,1996 Jayco 26' $7500. Avail. now in Lafayette. Craig @ 817-572-4414

**'98 DUTCHMAN** 5th WHEEL CAMPER Excellent condition! Sleeps 6. Diningroom, Livingroom slide out. $17,000. If possible delivery for $1,000! 419-674-4313

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**03 31'** Class C Camper Triton V10, 11K, A/C, gen, gas fridge/heat, slide-out, slps 8, warr. Grt cnd! $46,500 985-264-9326

**1999 Jayco** 3610 Designer, 37.5 ft, generator, washer/dryer, $23000. 662-231-9172

**90 Winnebago** Chieftain, 28', sleeps four, clean bed, AC/Heat, TV, refrigerator, freezer, oven, microwave. $12,000. 985-624-5076 or 985-264-9739

**Dewalt 4300** kw gen.$1,800; 3" Honda Pump $1600, Poulan c.saw $200 All new in box/delv to N.O. Craig 817-572-4414

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

**RV For** rent! Sleeps 8, full bath, generator, AC, from $75/day, can deliver. 404-488-3282.

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'01 Honda** Shadow 600 Has everything, black with chrome, 60 mpg. $3000. Call 985-705-3995.

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 504-343-6747 OBO Must sell

**NEVER FLOODED,** furnished, Garden Dist. 2/2 condo, gated parking, security, hdwd flrs, pool, 5 min. from downtown. $319,000 504-390-7000

**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

### 7508 Warehouse/CBD

**Newly renov,** 1bd/1ba condo Gated parking, EXC cond fitnes ctr $209,999 504-723-4141

### 7535 Mid City/City Park

**4923 IBERVILLE,** Tri-plex, 3BR owners. Gar. Cent A/H. Dry. $399K. L. Nugent RE 504-250-3364

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

### 7545 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**1521 Giuffrias,** updated, move in cond. 4br/2ba, extras. $329,000. Never Flooded. 504-835-8700.

**2 homes** in Kenner no flood, 4/2 updated w/crown thru out approx.2200 sq.ft. in driftwood (61 Nassau) will lease @ $1800.00 or sell @ $250k. 3yr. old 2-sty (4104 lowa ave.) open floor plan very contemporary. 5/3 with crown/ master jacuzzi/ open stairs/granite count/fireplace approx. 4200 sq. ft. $525k. call 504-237-3695 or 443-3695

**2 HOUSES** FOR SALE. High & Dry, from $165,000. 504-455-0049

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**3br/2ba, 1350** living, attached one car garage, no flooding, 4424 ware ave, Jefferson. 205,000. (504)452-3132

### 7545 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**4800 REBECCA,** 4 BR. 3121 45th St. 3203 California, 2 BR. Flood free. 504-258-6867

**6605 Hastings** Street, 3-bdrm, 2-full bath, never flooded. $190,000. 318-208-1699

**717 Park** Ridge, $230,000, 3br 2ba, gr, no flood, rennov 2yr ago incl new AC. 504-228-2010

**BRIDGEDALE SUBDIVISION** Never flooded, move-in condition, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $319,000 by owner. Call 504-220-3979

**FSBO-4 Bed/2.5** bath. High and Dry, 8411 West Metairie Ave. NO FLOODING. Two story brick, great room and 3032 SF. Two woodburning fireplaces. $379,000. Don't dawdle, see Jac 985.637.3886 or 504.467.8868

**HARAHAN $215,000** 3br, 1ba, 177 Magnolia Blvd. Great Condition! 504-251-5380

**HIGH AND** DRY IN RIVER RIDGE 4600 SF, 5 br, 3 ba, move-in ready, $500K firm. 504-251-6688

**JEFFERSON 705** Pecan Grove Lane, Townhome, never flooded, 504-733-9281 or 504-914-3663

**KENNER Avail** Now! Beautiful Town house, 2Bdrm, 1.5Ba & a nice patio, approx 1400 sf, new carpet, kit 4 yrs old, bdrms are huge w/cathedral ceilings. Incls: Washer/Dryer, dishwasher & refrig. Owner/Agent $91,500. 504-451-2802 or 504-439-0465

**KENNER Driftwood** Sub, 4BR, 2BA, LR, den, rec room w/bar, 2 car gar, fenced yd w/patio, move-in cond, never flooded, 2500 sqft, $595,000. 504-920-7623

**Magical home,** 10 fenced acres, pool, creek, giant oaks. $350,000. 803-349-5588, kkoepp@aol.com

**MAKE OFFER!** 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, large den, living/dining room, enclosed spa & office, 4000 SF. Call 504-231-5338

**Metairie 3** bdrm, 2 bath 1700 sf No flooding 504-468-6023 www.sell-home411.com/10205

**METAIRIE 3808** Cypress St. 2-3 BR, 1BA, 1250 SF, raised cottage w/ detached gar. & playhouse, no flooding ever! 75X120 fncd lot, $239,000, 504-858-7648

**METAIRIE FSBO,Dry,** 2BR, 1BA cottage off Metairie Rd, $174,900. 504-432-5002/210-263-9829

**METAIRIE Great** Loc-No Flood 3BR,2Ba, Garage, DR/LR, Gr Rm, 1800sf, liv. $235,000. H:5044552270 C:3379623722

**METAIRIE never** flooded 3800 sqft, 4br/2.5ba, wood/tile flrs, granite counters 504-455-4005

**MOVE IN** READY nr. EJGH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**N. ATLANTA** ST. #1428. High and dry. 3 BR, 2 BA, office, great area, $195,000. 504-364-7922

**NEVER FLOODED!** 3133 Iowa Ave. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, living/dining room combo, large den, hot tub in backyard, $189,000. 504-756-1886, 504-454-3397 or 337-216-9303

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**OLD METAIRIE** No flooding, 4550 square feet, $1,590,000, Please Call 504-610-5343

**RIVER RIDGE** - 8812 Tanglewild. 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2500 sqft. Lot is 70x120. rear yard access to oversized 2 car garage. Many Extras. $347,500. Please Call 504-737-4850/504-231-4270

**RIVER RIDGE** Hi/dry, 4BR/2.5BA, 2450 SF. $375,000. 504-259-0635. T. Crane Inc 504-866-8666

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, for sale $295,000 or rent $3500/mo. Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**SPECIALIZED RE** SERVICES INC. www.sresinc.com. For Sale: Homes, Condo's & Lots. All areas. Call 504-468-7979

**STUNNING METAIRIE** - Never flooded. 3bd/2ba. Granite cntrtps, Italian tile, hrdwd flrs, Move-in cond. 504-780-7680

**WE BUY** DAMAGED OR FLOODED HOUSES. Please call 504-756-6425 or 504-722-0424

**WILL BUY** STORM DAMAGED HOMES IN METAIRIE! PLEASE CALL: 504-957-6380

### 7550 Metairie – Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**1209 CLAIBORNE** DR. $132K. No Flooding! 3BR/1BA, Wood Floors, Corner Lot. 504-495-3181

**745 OAKLAWN,** No Flood, 3BR/2BA, furnished(WSH/DRYR,frig), $275,000. 504-473-1525

**AIRLINE PARK** 1 bl to St. Mary Magdalen, 6813 Merle. 3 bed 2 bath NO Flooding. Asking $179,900. 504-736- 0904

**BELOW CAUSEWAY** No Flooding, 2 story, 4 bdrm, 3 BA, Brick, 1017 Smith Dr. $450,000. Call 504-495-6718 or 504-289-6796

**GRETNA 852** Morningside Dr, 3br, LR, DR/kit combine, hugh den w/fp, fenced in large backyard, no storm damage! 504-810-0950/504-701-3284 anytime

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**KENNER House** for sale, 3500 square feet, $590,000, Please Call 504-610-5343

**METAIRIE High** & Dry 3br, 2ba, great rm w/FP, comp area, wd flrs, roof, A/C & appls 6 yrs. Patio & Hot Tub. 1605 Houma Blvd (btwn W. Metairie & W. Napolean) $248K. 504-885-8167

**METAIRIE Home** For Sale. Flooded from Katrina, Demo Completed, Call 504-258-1159

**Never Flooded** 6 mo old, 3br, 3.5ba, din/lr/study. $374,900. 504-251-1117

**OLD METAIRIE** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home, 1 bedroom efficiency apartment over garage, no flood area, $349,000. 601-795-3717

**OLD METAIRIE** 8 Plex, possible Condo conversion, $500,000, Please Call 504-737-6410

**OLD METAIRIE** New construction! 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3400 Sq.Ft. Italianate center hall cottage, wide pine floors, Viking Appliances, marble master, 11' ceilings down, did not flood! $795,000. 337-263-9840 or 504-250-7700. Email: chooper@riverlakeproperties.com

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**WANTED: Fix-up** houses, teardowns & lots. Local Company since 1984. 504-455-0049

### 7555 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**Chateau Estates,** no flood! 4/2.5, 2600 SF, open Sunday 2-4. 504-710-7065/504-464-1235

**Chateau Golf** course fsbo $600K, 3785sf, 1/3+ac, 4br/3.5ba, 5 Chateau Mouton. 504-458-8317

**Chateau Lakefrt** 2550 SF, $350K. 4BR/2BA, extras, 16x20 shed, pool. 850-859-9917 after 3pm.

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**HIGH AND** DRY C1 Zone, New Orleans-style Duplex. Mostly renovated, close to I10. 6 rms, 2 BAs, cent AC, carport/laund rm both sides. 504-915-5042 or 504-512-0201

**KENNER Chateau** Estates, no flood, great loc., 4BR, 2BA, new roof, gutters and more! $289,000, 504-469-7630/919-1208

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

**NO FLOOD** SETON PARK 4000 ST JAMES DR 2550 SF 4 B/3-2 BA $339K OBO 504-352-6018

### 7560 West Bank

**1 Bedroom** Efficiency in Bridge City, lot 25x100, fenced yard, $45,000. 985-229-1993

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**2 BEDROOM,** 1 Bath, central A/H, 112 12th Street, Bridge City, high & dry, $105,000/OBO. 865-654-9486 or 865-688-2768

**2BR, 1.5BA** ,fireplace, garage, Picayune, NO KATRINA DAMAGE, 601-799-2626; 601-818-1047

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**3Br/2Ba, approx** 2500 sq.ft., some storm damage. $115,000. Call 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Beau Chene** home for rent ($2500) or lease purchase or purchase (low 300's, owner finance). 4bd, 2.5bth, large yard. 985-966-7495

**BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA** Condo in exc cond. Frpl, alarm, pvt backyard, fully equipped kit. $159,000. 504-362-8756, 504-812-6517

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GRETNA** - NEW CONSTRUCTION! Gated community just 5 mins from the CBD. New homes available immediately, untouched by Katrina, no flooding. Prices starting at $209,900. Hamilton Oaks, 504-324-1886

**GRETNA BY** OWNER. $205K. 349 Southwood Dr. Never flooded. New roof, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 flr., ext. room and storage shed, pavement all around, design garden. 832-474-2151 or 985-651-1411

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**Historic Algiers** Point in NO, LA. 3 Br/2 Ba, 2000 Square Feet, $275,000. Call 504-723-8087

**HOUSING AVAILABLE** & HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 or email sydneyrichoux@cox.net

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba $445,000 -see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**LULINGS Best** kept secret. 3500 sq. ft., 2 story, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, swimming pool, large lot, $250,000. Call 985-331-1700 or 504-421-3311

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**MARRERO New** Construction 3 New Homes. Will Be Completed in 60 to 90 Days, 2000 Sq. Ft. Living Area, 2600-2750 total Sq. Ft., Quiet Cul-De-Sac Street. 10 minutes away from CBD. No Flood or Katrina Damage! All Brick, Top Quality Construction. 5 More Lots to Build on, 5 Plans to choice from. Prices starting at $249,900. Call 504-328-1437 or 504-228-9557

**OLD GRETNA** 1114 10th St. Renovated, did not flood. $149K. Poss rent to own. 504-258-3842

**Terrytown 4** Bedroom, 2 Bath Lrg Living Area 689 E. Niagara Cir. $138,500. Call Ann 504-610-6952

**WESTWEGO, LA** RENOVATED 4BR, 2.5 BATH TWO STORY, CROWN MOLDING, NEW CERAMIC, NEW CARPET. $150,000. 504-491-9291

### 7570 Mandeville/Covington

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**ABITA SPRINGS** 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom home, double lot, completely renovated in 2002, 1200 sq.ft, Norman Rockwell setting. Only $225,000. 985-264-9326

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Acadian on** Cul de sac 5bd/3b/2gar, pool, .49acre $389,500. Please call 985-624-9331 or www.infotube.net, ad#111805

**Beau Chene** 4BR/4BA, 3500 sqft, golf course, pool, 10' ceilings, lots more. $434,000. 985-845-2085

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**VANCLE

WASHINGTON

# Conservatives question Miers' nomination

## *Bush assurances fail to sway many*

**By Jesse J. Holland**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Not satisfied with President Bush's word, conservative senators and others questioned Wednesday whether Harriet Miers was the best Supreme Court nominee a self-proclaimed conservative Republican president could find.

"I guess they thought we'd all just say 'Whoopee!' but that's not the way it works around here anymore," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss. He insisted there were many potential nominees more qualified than Miers.

The White House and congressional GOP leaders _ weakened by the Hurricane Katrina recovery, high gas prices, the war in Iraq and investigations of House and Senate majority leaders Tom DeLay and Bill Frist _ now find themselves defending Bush's decision to elevate his 60-year-old White House counsel to the Supreme Court.

Several conservatives, from Lott, a former Senate majority leader, to columnist George Will to John Thune, R-S.D., one of the newest conservative senators, continued to question Bush's decision even after the president made an impassioned defense of Miers in the Rose Garden on Tuesday.

**"I just don't know her. I'm not going to jump out there and say this is a wonderful choice."**
SEN. TRENT LOTT, R-Miss.

"I just don't know her," Lott said Wednesday. "I'm not going to jump out there and say this is a wonderful choice."

Added Thune: "A lot of folks were saying, 'Why wasn't it a Luttig, a Priscilla Owen, a Janice Rogers Brown, somebody that we know?' Conservatives see this as having enormous stakes and I think that's why there is so much weight attached to this, and a lot of anxiety and uncertainty about where she's going to come down."

Owen, Brown and J. Michael Luttig are all appeals court judges.

Miers is nominated to replace Sandra Day O'Connor, whose Supreme Court vote has been key on issues including abortion and affirmative action. Senate Republicans are looking to start Miers' confirmation hearings in early November, with an eye on getting her final confirmation vote by Thanksgiving.

With 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats and independent, Miers is expected to be confirmed by the Senate unless something unexpected happens before the vote.

"Conservatives are learning more everyday about Harriet Miers, about her history and I would remind you there was concern over Judge Roberts in the beginning," said former Republican Party chairman Ed Gillespie, who said he would shepherd Miers through the Senate in the same way that former Sen. Fred Thompson did for Chief Justice John Roberts. "This is not uncommon in the nomination-confirmation process. It's kind of the natural cycle."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan suggested that support for Miers would grow once senators looked "at her record of accomplishment."

In fact a number of Republican senators, including Judiciary Committee members Orrin Hatch of Utah, John Cornyn of Texas and Mike DeWine of Ohio, have come forward saying they plan to support confirmation.

"I see absolutely no reason that I would not vote for her," DeWine said following an hour-long meeting with Miers Wednesday. "The only reason I'm not announcing it today is I think we always need to have hearings."

Still, Thune said, "For conservatives, she is going to have to be very forthcoming in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee to give them the comfort level that they need, the confidence level that she is going to be a judge in the mold that the president indicated: a Scalia or Thomas."

Democrats are watching the Republican squabbling while working on document requests for Miers' work, once Bush officially sends her nomination to the Senate. They are not above trying to make the situation worse for the GOP.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, pointed out after meeting with Miers that she has not authorized anyone in the White House to speak for her views. The White House has been trumpeting favorable comments on Miers by Focus on the Family chairman James Dobson.

"I said, 'Would you disavow people who send out assurances that they know how you're going to vote?' She said, 'Absolutely,' " said Leahy. "She said, 'I will be my own person, I will be independent. Nobody has the authority or right or ability to tell how I'm going to vote.' "


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# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-10

SECTION B
Thursday
October 6, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Honor begins at home

For Sarah Mathews, 14, everything has changed in the past six weeks.

"The first schoolbus ride I ever had was Monday," she said. "It was exciting."

Sarah is good at finding sunshine behind the clouds. Her mother, Karen, says it's "the Girl Scout" in her daughter.

"When we took her back to our house, there were no tears. She was so strong," Karen said.

Edgar and Karen Mathews' home in the heart of Chalmette lay in ruins, and Sarah's recently redecorated bedroom was in shambles.

"I had wanted a new bedroom for a long time because we had this hideous wallpaper," she said.

All of Sarah's clothes and belongings, including the mementos from her summer adventure, were gone.

"I went on a Girl Scout trip to California, where we did things like wind-surfing and white-water rafting and rock climbing. It was just a fun time," Sarah said.

### Fair share

The Mathews are staying in Mandeville with Karen's brother, Jimmy Hewitt; his wife, Pattye; and their daughter, Jade, 16.

And what used to be the dining room is now a makeshift bedroom for Sarah, Jade, and Sarah's brother, James, 16.

"We get along. It's really not too bad," Sarah said.

The parents came up with some "Katrina House Guidelines" to keep things running smoothly. There are rules about putting dishes in the dishwasher, making beds and, under Katrina Economics, one that makes the three teens laugh: "When eating snacks, ask yourself, 'Have I already taken my fair share of that item?'"

Monday, Sarah and James began classes at Fontainebleau High School with their cousin.

"It's my first public school," Sarah said.

She spent her elementary years at St. Robert Bellarmine School in Arabi and began high school at St. Mary's Dominican in New Orleans a few days before the hurricane.

"This is different, but it's going to be fine," she said.

### Scout support

One thing that has helped Sarah since the hurricane is the friends she made at Sierra Magic, her August Girl Scout trip.

"We're on an e-mail list, and everybody was writing, saying 'We heard about New Orleans. Where are you? How are you?'" Sarah said.

When they found out she had lost everything, the letters and boxes began to arrive.

"I got pictures from the trip and gift certificates and clothes," she said. "And then the San Francisco area Girl Scout council sent me two packages with tons of stuff."

Between opening boxes full of good wishes, going to swim-team practice, doing homework and eating only her fair share of snacks, Sarah doesn't have time to think about the changes in her life.

"It just seems like a big ride that hasn't come to a sudden stop," she said.

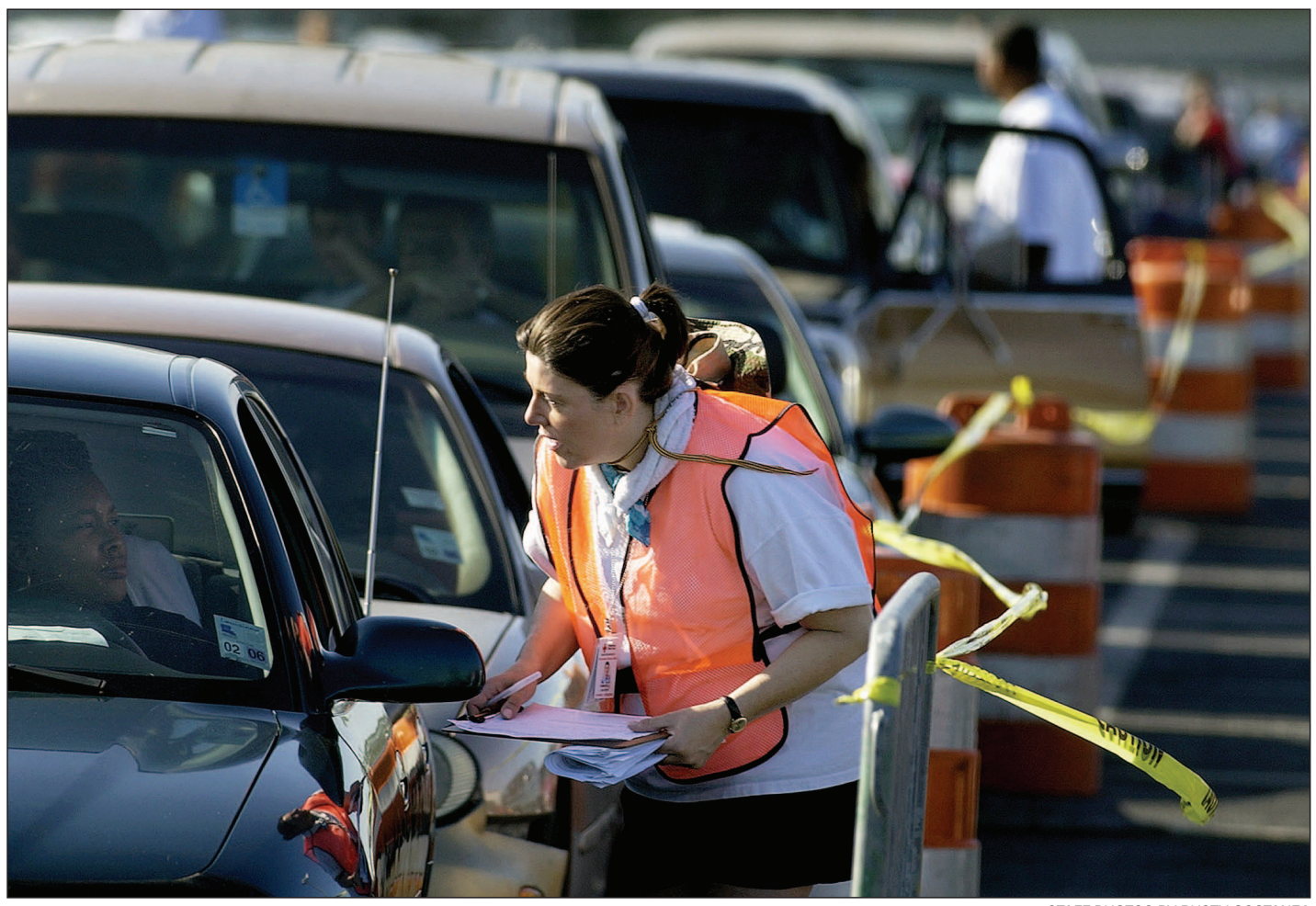
She doesn't even mind that her mom has become a substitute teacher at her new school.

"It's fine," she said. "I can give her stuff I don't want to carry, and she can give me money."

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# Kenner Red Cross center hits limit before opening



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Kimberly Jackson of Cambridge, Md., helps arrange financial help for a client in one of the 750 cars admitted to the American Red Cross drive-through center at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Wednesday, the center's opening day.

## *Airport site to stay until need subsides*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Just as has happened in other Louisiana towns, the American Red Cross was swamped Wednesday when it opened a drive-through center in Kenner for Hurricane Katrina victims seeking cash assistance.

By 5:30 a.m., 3½ hours before the site opened for business, the line of waiting vehicles had already reached the day's capacity.

"This is the first day of operation in Kenner," said Charles Blake, acting emergency services director for the Red Cross. "We're going to be refining our process."

Red Cross volunteers signed up about 750 cars, representing 1,300 households with a total of 5,000 people, Red Cross spokesman Ken Williams said. Each person is to receive about $350, depending on the size of the family, in the form of a check to be mailed within three days.

The drive-through center is in an employee parking lot just west of Louis Armstrong International Airport's terminal. It will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until the need subsides.

And if Wednesday's turnout was an indication, the need is great indeed.

Metairie resident Charlotte Salles was turned away long before the first application was taken Wednesday morning. She arrived at 4 a.m. and was directed to a line of vehicles, but two hours later she heard a voice over a bullhorn telling her and others near her in line to go home.

"This is just unacceptable," she said. "We're told the place opens at 9, but then we're turned away when we get there at 4. I can't continue to do this night after night."

At the other end of the line, in the very first vehicle, Destrehan resident Sharon Gulino said she had arrived Tuesday at 6 p.m. She said she was directed to another airport parking lot, where she waited until she was allowed at 12:45 a.m. into the employee parking lot where the Red Cross center set up.



Agnes Ardoin, seated, and her niece Kylie Badeaux take it easy as they wait to apply for financial assistance from the American Red Cross. Checks are to be mailed within three days.

"We knew it was going to be a long wait," Gulino said, adding that she packed crackers and bottles of water. "We kept our lights off and were real quiet and orderly."

Other people who were lined up at the center said they were directed to wait on Kenner Avenue, which they said turned into a "Mardi Gras atmosphere."

Brian Ardoin of Houma said he had hoped to "beat the traffic" by arriving at midnight, but no such luck.

"When we got here, they already had a bunch of cars," he said.

Authorities directed him to Williams Boulevard, where

*See* **RED CROSS,** *B-2*

# Rummel balloons with evacuees

## *Catholic school teaches in shifts*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Archbishop Rummel High School became the largest Catholic school in the New Orleans area Wednesday as students displaced by Hurricane Katrina from across the metro area swelled the enrollment of the Metairie campus to about 3,000 students in three distinct schools.

An afternoon school for students displaced from other campuses began with a prayer service Wednesday in the Rummel gymnasium, where 1,300 stu-

*See* **RUMMEL,** *B-2*

# Beacon of faith shines amid the destruction

## *N.O. Muslims mark holy month*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Battered and making-do like other New Orleanians, the metropolitan area's Muslims on Wednesday began the day-long fasts that mark the month of Ramadan, a period of reflection, prayer – and this year, most pointedly, charity.

"Definitely a time for charity," said Nabil Abukhader, the principal of the small Muslim Academy, an elementary school for Muslim children in Gretna.

Abukhader's school so far has recovered only 40 percent of the students it had enrolled before Hurricane Katrina struck.

More will likely come back, but it remains an open question whether the school, one of two

*See* **RAMADAN,** *B-2*

# Coast Guard official visits church shelter in Zachary

## *Progress being made on housing, he says*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

ZACHARY — For the first time since he began overseeing the government's Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts early last month, Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen talked at length Tuesday with some of the 81,000 Gulf Coast storm evacuees depending on him to get out of shelters and into homes of their own.

Allen spent more than two hours inside the new Family Life Center of Cornerstone Church. The center opened shortly after the storm to families with children from Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes. Allen said residents asked how soon they can get into permanent housing, but they stressed the church has made them feel part of a loving family.

With help from local businesses and citizens, Cornerstone has been able to provide almost everything needed to give shelter residents "as much as we can in the form of a normal life," said Cornerstone associate pastor Charlie Watts.

The church helped enroll children in Zachary public schools and provided shelter residents with three meals a day, mattresses and bed linens, a big-screen cable television, internet access and help

*See* **ZACHARY,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen talks with, from left, evacuees Kathy Jones, Trudy Robinson and Louise Stevens at the Family Life Center of Cornerstone Church in Zachary. In Katrina's wake, Allen said, there is very little vacant housing in the New Orleans area. 'If somebody really wants to go back to New Orleans, there may or may not be housing for two or three years,' he said.

# 'God sent us here,' 70-year-old says

**ZACHARY,** *from B-1*

with transportation and getting identification cards.

Many of Cornerstone's evacuees eventually want to return to the New Orleans area, Watts said. Others are considering settling in Zachary, he said.

Among the shelter's satisfied customers is Louise Stevens, a 70-year old New Orleanian who had never set foot in Zachary before she and her son, daughter in law and their four children arrived after Katrina.

"These people love you," Stevens said. "God sent us here. We could have been sleeping under a bridge."

Allen, who made a much shorter visit earlier Tuesday to the much-larger River Center evacuation shelter in Baton Rouge, said during his visit here that while to some extent love can make up for "not having walls," what evacuees really want is permanent residences.

Preparations are moving as fast as possible, he said, to get people displaced by Katrina into travel trailers and mobile homes they can call their own.

For evacuees wanting to rent, Allen said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is providing a three-month, $2,300 housing allowance that can be extended for another 15 months.

In Katrina's wake, Allen said, there is very little vacant housing in the New Orleans area: "If somebody really wants to go back to New Orleans, there may or may not be housing for two or three years," he said.

One member of Allen's entourage, Federal Emergency Management Agency employee Emilo Rodriguez of Florida, fielded complaints from some of the shelter's residents that the FEMA checks they'd applied for - and were told would be forthcoming - have still not arrived.

Rodriguez advised patience: "Understand that the mail is extremely bad," he told Yvonne Simmons, who groused that FEMA told her check was mailed out on Sept. 9.

"I probably would wait one more week," Simmons said. "If you don't receive it, go back there."

The Cornerstone shelter, which limited its occupancy to 125 people, had 70 residents left Tuesday. Another 360 people spent time there before returning to their homes or moving in with relatives or local families that took them in, Watts said.

Some other church-run evacuation shelters have begun closing their doors, but Cornerstone isn't among them, according to Watts. "We have told people we are not going to shut this shelter down as long as one family is still here," he said.

Allen's spokesman, Commander Brendan McPherson, said Wednesday that the admiral decided to visit the Cornerstone shelter because it fit into his schedule and offered him the opportunity to spend time from evacuees from the New Orelans area.

# 'Now we know the value of charity'

**RAMADAN,** *from B-1*

of its kind in the area, can finish the year, he said.

The loss of tuition income hurts, but he said a greater loss is that of the school's benefactors: those Muslim business owners and professionals who could be counted on for a donation to make up any shortfalls.

New Orleans' Muslims are scattered in Baton Rouge, Houston, Dallas and beyond. Many have returned. Many of those who run small shops have returned to confront the additional losses by looters who stole or destroyed what the storm spared, Abukhader said.

Before the storm, Muslims were dispersed throughout the metropolitan area, with some concentration on the West Bank and in Metairie, which fared relatively well after the storm.

Hundreds of Muslim families in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish, however, were wiped out.

Currently, only two mosques appear to be functioning, albeit with reduced numbers, said Abukhader: Masjid Al Tawber in Gretna, and Masjid Abu Bakr al Siddiq in Metairie.

Whether their members can return to New Orleans in force depends on a number of things: jobs, schools and housing, said Abdur Rahman Bashir, the imam of Masjid Abu Bakr.

"But slowly, the people are coming back," he said.

Before the storm, devout Muslims came to the mosque to offer obligatory Friday community prayers in such numbers that the facility, which can hold 250 in its main room, had to schedule two sessions, Bashir said.

That hasn't happened since late August. But the numbers are growing, with 100 at Friday's gathering, he said.

While the daylight hours of Ramadan are periods of abstinence from food and water, evenings normally are devoted to breaking the fast together in group meals that strengthen the bonds of community.

With their numbers down and resources strained, that may be more difficult to do now, Abukhader and Bashir said. But the community will probably make every effort to reconnect during Ramadan, they said.

"It's important that we stick together," Bashir said.

In the way that Katrina changed everything for everybody, it also changed Ramadan for him, Bashir said.

In a time of self-disciplined attention to God, the self-denial of food and water during daylight will drive home the point, if it needs further emphasis, that many who were once well-off are now poor, or nearly so, Bashir said.

"Now we know the value of charity," he said.

# Girls at school is new for Rummel

**RUMMEL,** *from B-1*

dents – girls and boys wearing the uniforms of 14 other schools – gathered.

On Monday, members of Rummel's own all-boys student body returned to study in a morning shift, along with some visiting boys from the storm-closed Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, creating a school of 1,400. And in a separate part of campus beginning Tuesday, Christian Brothers School of New Orleans, also displaced by flooding, opened an all-boys school in exile with about 250 students.

"Teachers and students, we are creating memories, and we are making history," Principal Nancy Hernandez told the crowd assembled to launch the afternoon "transitional" school, which is expected to serve the students until many of their schools reopen in January. Hernandez herself is displaced; she is normally principal of

Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, which plans to return in January.

The Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, told the students that they carry the spirits of their closed schools with them, ensuring those institutions will survive.

"When we look around this gymnasium this afternoon, we cannot help but be filled with hope, hope because of all that you represent," he said.

The students were abuzz with talk about the biggest change for many of them: attending classes with members of the opposite sex.



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Students from 14 other schools in the New Orleans area are attending Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie. The enrollment at the school has swelled to 3,000 students in three distinct schools, and now includes girls.

Rummel President Michael Begg remarked that one of the main challenges of running the transitional school might be getting the Rummel boys to go home after their morning session, instead of waiting for the girls of the afternoon session to arrive.

The boys attending the afternoon school, where classes run from 1:30 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., were coy on the subject of girls. "It's going to be a different learning experience," said Alex Huerta, a junior from all-boys Brother Martin.

The girls focused on practical ramifications. "I have to get up an hour early to brush my hair and put on makeup," said Megan Kenney, a junior from Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans.

Girls outnumber boys 3-to-1 in the transitional school, partly because Rummel could absorb some displaced boys into its morning shift. But co-educational learning also made its debut at Archbishop Chapelle High

School in Metairie, where boys attended for the first time Wednesday, among 400 displaced students who mixed into Chapelle's regular classes.

Chapelle Principal Mary Beth Drez said applications from displaced students continue pouring in, so Chapelle also will open a second shift beginning Oct. 13. Registration for that program will continue through Friday.

Another adjustment for students at the Rummel transitional school will be studying alongside students from rival schools, such as girls from Mount Carmel and St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans studying together, not to mention Brother Martin boys having to study on rival Rummel's campus.

But the students also found positive attributes in their new situation, such as the late start time, which many educators advocate as actually being more conducive for learning.

"I think it's going to be perfect," said Dominican junior Sarah Ann Tolleson. "We can sleep in and have a decent breakfast."

Seniors said the disruption of their senior year wrought by Katrina is upsetting, but that going through the experience together also bringsthem closer.

"It's going to make our senior year even more special when we get back," Mount Carmel senior Brittany Arata said.

# Weapons confiscated from those seeking aid

**RED CROSS,** *from B-1*

others had lined up. He said Kenner police were called to the location twice when tempers flared because people tried to cut in line.

Despite the long wait, people who did get a spot in line were happy their wait for Red Cross money is almost over.

"At least we know there will be an outcome of this, even though we have to wait on the money," said Jennie Leonard of Harahan, who lined up at 2 a.m. and was allowed into the center's lot about 9:30 a.m.

National Guardsmen searched people at the front entrance to the center's parking lot for weapons, alcohol and drugs. Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies stood guard over an ice chest full of seized weapons, including pistols, a shotgun, knives and baseball bats.

"They are going to search you, and they are going to be taking away" weapons, Kenner City Hall spokeswoman Karen Boudrie said.

Red Cross volunteers delivered a one-page application to each vehicle and were finishing the last applications about 2 p.m. If people are approved as living in a Katrina-affected area, their check will be mailed within 24 to 72 hours, Williams said.

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

# Tammany cable slow to return

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

More than five weeks after Hurricane Katrina, about two-thirds of Charter Communications' cable television customers in St. Tammany still are without the service.

Kelly LeBouef, Charter's director of operations for St. Tammany and surrounding parishes, told local officials Wednesday that some 35,000 St. Tammany subscribers do not have cable, but that number should rapidly decrease during the next 30 days.

The company has 900 workers in St. Tammany, restoring 1,200 to 1,500 customers daily, LeBouef said.

"We hope to increase that to 2,000 a day," he said, adding that 90 percent of Charter's 52,000 customers should have cable within the next 30 days.

"We're spending $1 million a day to get people back up," he said. "We're working as hard as we can."

But apparently, that's not enough for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Charter customers who have been switching to satellite TV.

"I got a satellite dish at my house today," Covington resident Carl Barrio said Tuesday night. "Waiting for cable to come back was getting ridiculous."

Randy Almond, a salesman for "Creel's, The Dish TV Place" of Longview, Texas, has been doing a booming business, working in the parking lot of Sav-A-Center in St. Tammany Oaks Shopping Center south of Covington.

Almond, working at a folding desk between two trailers loaded with satellite dishes, said Wednesday that's he's sold more than 800 DirecTV or Dish Network systems since shortly after Katrina. Almond said he decided to come to St. Tammany after his boss, David Creel, sold 47 satellite systems in four hours at a Mandeville shopping center parking lot. Almond said he has 16 crews installing the systems within two weeks after they're purchased.

# 10 suspects booked in relief card fraud

## *Red Cross stops giving out cards at two sites*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

In an attempt to stem increasing efforts to obtain relief payments by fraud, Red Cross officials stopped handing out debit cards Wednesday at its two distribution centers in St. Tammany Parish.

Ten people, most of them from Baton Rouge, were arrested Tuesday for allegedly submitting fraudulent applications to receive the $300 debit cards, according to Slidell police.

Red Cross volunteers will still take applications at the two centers, at the former outlet mall in Slidell and at the Castine Center at Pelican Park east of Mandeville. Instead of giving debit cards to applicants right away, though, personnel will cross-reference each application and send people checks if it is determined that the requests for money are legitimate, Red Cross spokesman Ken Williams said.

Slidell police have been warning people waiting in lines at the Slidell site that Red Cross officials were flagging possible fraudulent applications.

On Tuesday, police closed in on 10 people who had driven through the checkpoints and submitted what appeared to be suspicious applications for aid.

Seven of those people are from Baton Rouge; two are from Denham Springs; and one from Donaldsonville, police spokesman Capt. Rob Callahan said.

Booked with access device application fraud were Baton Rouge residents Veda Primas, 36; Clary Myles, 23; Troy James, 26; Carlos Brooks, 18; Zahid Thomas, 28; Farron Tucker, 33; and Nancy Duronslet, 44; Maxine Biggs, 71, and Karla Polcyn, 20, both of Denham Springs; and Richie Giroir, 44, of Donaldsonville.

They are accused of either providing false names or the names of fictitious family members in an attempt to acquire cards, Callahan said.

Because each of the 10 suspects submitted fraudulent applications for as many as five cards — the maximum allowed per family by the Red Cross — with a total value of $1,565, they were booked with felonies.

Because of the alleged fraud at the Slidell center, the Red Cross in St. Tammany has stopped accepting any applications with Baton Rouge addresses, Williams said.

Baton Rouge-area residents who want to apply for relief from the agency should contact the Red Cross offices there for a center location, he said. After applying, they will be subject to an on-site inspection before any money is paid, he said.

# Tammany lifts curfew

**St. Tammany bureau**

A parishwide curfew in St. Tammany, in effect since Aug. 28, was lifted Wednesday by Parish President Kevin Davis.

Davis took the action after informally polling local law enforcement officials during a morning briefing. Law enforcement officers, including those from the Sheriff's Office, all said they do not object to lifting the curfew.

The curfew had been in effect since the day before Hurricane Katrina hit, but its hours have been gradually reduced as the parish recovered from the storm. The curfew was shortened to only five hours, between midnight and 5 a.m., on Monday. Davis said at the time that he hoped to lift it completely by early next week.

**The Times-Picayune** on nola.com

# Insurance firms sued over price tag on tree removals

## *Amounts offered too small, suit says*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

An estimated 200 St. Tammany Parish residents have turned to state court to demand higher compensation for the clean-up bills and lost property value of trees that Hurricane Katrina toppled in every corner of the north shore.

The class-action petition names Urban M. Craddock Sr. as the lead plaintiff, but Covington lawyer Shawn Reed said she has added dozens of names daily to the lawsuit against 17 insurance companies.

Craddock's insurer offered him $500 to remove the 40 to 50 fallen trees on his 16-acre property north of Pearl River — a sum that fell $59,500 short of the lowest estimate to clean up the mess, Reed said. Craddock also should be due reimbursement for the loss in value from the majestic oaks that were the focal point of his property, she said.

**"We're here because we love our trees, and that's part of what we love when we're here. But the insurance companies are saying, 'We'll give you $500 for debris removal, but we won't cover the trees.' "**
SHAWN REED
Covington lawyer

"They're saying basically that the trees have no value, and our position is that the trees do have value," Reed said. "They've just totally ignored that in our community we really think that our trees are important property.

"We're here because we love our trees, and that's part of what we love when we're here. But the insurance companies are saying, 'We'll give you $500 for debris removal, but we won't cover the trees.' "

Reed said insurers should have specifically excluded trees from homeowners' policies if they wanted to take the stance they have taken since Katrina.

Craddock, whom Reed said wouldn't comment because of pending depositions, was forced to clear what he could from his driveway to get in and out of his house. Reed said he left the remainder of the huge debris-removal project untouched, because he can't afford the estimates he's received.

Reed would not release a list of clients who hope to be named plaintiffs in the suit. She gave another example of an elderly woman who paid $7,000 to have two trees cleared.

"It's all the same story wherever we go," she said. "People are left with quotes to clean up this stuff."

Defendants named in the Sept. 29 petition include All State, American International Group, Lloyd's of London, CNA, GEICO, Hanover Insurance Co., Hartford Group, Liberty Mutual, Louisiana Farm Bureau, St. Paul Insurance, Traveler's, State Farm, USF&G, Safeco and Farmers Group.

Meghan Gordon can be reached at meghangordon@hotmail.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Owners of St. Tammany property that were heavily damaged by falling trees during Hurricane Katrina have filed a class-action lawsuit to recoup the entire cost of removing the trees. The 17 insurance companies named in the suit are paying only a small amount of the cost. 'They're saying basically that the trees have no value, and our position is that the trees do have value,' said Shawn Reed, the Covington lawyer who is handling the suit.

# Katrina felled more than merely trees

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

The small forest of long-leaf pines that Roy Wood bought in northwestern St. Tammany Parish after returning from World War II represented more than just the start of a young man's financial investment.

As his land holdings grew to 800 wooded acres in St. Tammany and Washington parishes, Wood's forests became a point of pride and an endless hobby. He studied the latest management practices to keep his land a healthy ecosystem, home to two of the dwindling gopher tortoise dens in the state.

Now 81, Wood stood recently among the twisted, shattered, mature trees that were but healthy saplings when he bought the land in 1946. The retired nuclear weapons specialists compared the scene to the outer edges of a multi-megaton blast.

Wood and some 10,000 family foresters in southeastern Louisiana who suffered enormous blows from Hurricane Katrina stand to lose 90 percent or more of the income they could have reaped from logging. Meanwhile, 3 billion board feet of damaged timber lay tangled on the ground, in danger of deteriorating before it can be sold for sharply depleted prices as plywood or pulpwood.

"It's got to be the most destructive force that's hit our country since settlement days," Wood said, adding that he remembers as a boy counting the growth rings of felled trees in Washington Parish. "I could count in excess of 400, so there had never been a storm like this."

Buck Vandersteen, executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association, said the state's timber industry will likely take a $1 billion hit – one fifth its annual income – from Katrina's immediate damage and the subsequent rush to salvage fallen trees before they're stripped of all their value.

The staggering loss amounts to enough healthy wood to build 300,000 homes — twice Louisiana's total annual harvest, Vandersteen said.

About 65 percent of the damage was in Washington Parish, with St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes suffering most of the remainder of the damage.

Vandersteen said that although none of the damaged wood has gone to waste, it's quickly approaching that point. First, loggers are attempting to pick up fallen trees that weren't splintered so badly that they can no longer be used as plywood. The remaining wood that's picked up in time will be shredded into pulpwood for paper. Finally, timber that sits too long will have to be used as fuel wood, burned in boilers for energy.

"A lot of it will go to waste," Vandersteen said. "Our goal is to recover 40 percent of it."

Aside from the sheer volume of material awaiting pickup, Vandersteen said the task for loggers screeched to a halt when crews had to abandon all-mechanized cutting for on-the-ground power saws to untangle the clot of fallen trees. He said insurance costs have doubled for the more dangerous working conditions.

"Because the material is all down and it's crosswise and it's such a mess, productivity drops by about half than what it would normally be," he said.

The forestry association has been working with state and federal officials to line up grants and other assistance to help landowners reforest their devastated plots. Vandersteen said the future of timber, the state's largest agricultural crop, depends on starting the long process of replacing the hurricane-ravaged forests.

"What we worry most after this storm is that people's attitudes after this storm is, 'Oh, it is too risky. I'm going to let it grow up into weeds or I'm going to turn it in to a shopping center,' " Vandersteen said.

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## JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCES INTRODUCED FOR PUBLICATION IN SUMMARY AND PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CONSIDERATION ON THEIR FINAL ADOPTION ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005, BEGINNING AT TEN (10:00) O'CLOCK A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING, GRETNA, LA.

On Joint Motion of All Councilmembers present, the following Summaries of Ordinances were read in full and were introduced for publication in Summary and Public Hearings for consideration for final adoption on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, beginning at ten (10:00) o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, General Government Building, Gretna, Louisiana.

The following ordinances having been read are available for public inspection in the Parish Clerk's Office, Suite 6700, General Government Building, Gretna, La. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The foregoing motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:
YEAS: 6 NAYS: None ABSENT: (1) Congemi

The motion was declared to be adopted on the 28th day of September, 2005.
SUMMARIES OF ORDINANCES INTRODUCED THIS DAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SUMMARY NO. 21742 - ORDINANCE NO.
An ordinance to allow Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. to convert the vacant Wal-Mart Store located at 2100 Alex Korman Road, Harvey, LA 70058, into a temporary shelter for use by Wal-Mart employees in order to assist Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., with the immediate re-opening of stores across the area and that immediate approval be granted for the renovation and temporary conversion of said store, and that the Commercial Permit process currently enforced by the Jefferson Parish Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement be waived. (Council District No. 3) (Emergency Ordinance No. 22576 adopted 9-28-05)

SUMMARY NO. 21743 - ORDINANCE NO.
An ordinance suspending and/or amending certain provisions of Chapter 40 Article X, Sec. 40-166 through 40173, and Article X.5, Sec. 40-174 through 40-184, of the Code of Ordinances relative to the regulatory requirements for the Old Metairie Neighborhood Conservation District and the Metairie Ridge Tree Preservation District and delegating to a committee made up of the Old Metairie Commission, the Parish Attorney, the Director of Inspection and Code Enforcement and the Director of Planning the authority to adopt by rule those provisions of the ordinances that they determine should remain in effect; to provide that the Council by resolution may adopt rules and regulations during the period of suspension, and to provide for related matters. (Emergency Ordinance No. 22577 adopted 9-28-05)

SUMMARY NO. 21744 - ORDINANCE NO.
An ordinance authorizing the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana to incur debt and borrow money in an amount not to exceed $30,000,000 pursuant to the Not to Exceed $100,000,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority Special Obligation Bonds, Series 2005A (Hurricane Katrina Relief Program); approving a loan agreement with the Authority; authorizing an application to the State Bond Commission for the approval of said loan; and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

It was moved by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Capella to adjourn, and no objections being voiced, the meeting was declared to be officially adjourned by the Chairman at 12:01 P.M.
APPROVED:

THOMAS J. CAPELLA., CHAIRMAN
JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL

EULA A. LOPEZ, PARISH CLERK
JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL

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# Greenlawn Terrace welcomes Alexander students

## *Green, red shirts differentiate pupils*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

A walk through the halls of Kenner's Greenlawn Terrace Elementary School on Tuesday revealed all the students in some classrooms wearing red shirts, while in other rooms they were in green.

Even in the cafeteria during lunch, there were tables with students in red shirts, and others with students in green.

But it's not a dispute over school uniforms or a feud between cliques dividing the students by clothing color. It's just one of the changes brought on by Hurricane Katrina: Greenlawn Terrace is now also serving as home to A.C. Alexander Elementary of Kenner.

Katrina destroyed a skylight in Alexander's cafeteria, allowing rain to enter. Alexander thus became one of the four Jefferson Parish elementary schools that could not reopen with most other Jefferson public schools Monday.

Alexander Principal Mary Jenks said it's unclear how long it will take to fix the cafeteria, so now Greenlawn has two principals' offices: the regular one occupied by Greenlawn Principal Kitty Croft, and one in the library for Jenks and her staff. In some classrooms, Greenlawn teachers work with Greenlawn students in their green shirts, while other classrooms hold Alexander teachers and students in their red shirts.

In the morning, Alexander students enter a different side of campus than the Greenlawn students. "Everybody who had an extra spot, like a gifted, speech, social worker, I took all of their classrooms away,'' to make room for the Alexander classes, Croft said.

The visiting students outnumber resident ones: 274 children from Alexander are on the Greenlawn campus, compared with about 140 Greenlawn students and 23 students displaced from other schools. So far, more than half of the two schools' pre-Katrina students remain away.

Croft said Greenlawn was fortunate to be able to operate and take displaced students. Storm water surrounded the campus but stopped at its edges, she said. Wind damage to buildings was minor, and the National Guard helped Croft clear tree debris.

The two principals said they were neighbors in Metairie for 25 years and have collaborated professionally for 15 years, forming a close friendship that has eased the task of merging the two schools. Both said they are committed to preserving Alexander's identity as a separate school.

"This is just a temporary setback for us," Jenks said. "We intend to go back."

The children seemed to take their new circumstances in stride Tuesday. Some Alexander students said they miss the central air conditioning at their home school because Greenlawn's window units are noisy. But they said they prefer physical education classes at Greenlawn because they get to go outdoors more than at Alexander. "It feels kind of still the same, because we have the same teachers, and we're doing the same work," Alexander fifth-grader Geoffrey Noot said.

Greenlawn students said they were glad to share their school and meet new friends.

"I hope for the best for them,'' Greenlawn fourth-grader Casey Murphy said about his Alexander peers. "It's kind of a little crowded, but we work hard. We work through it. I hope they get their building fixed, and they can go back."

# Kenner seeks role in pump operations

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

The Kenner City Council will discuss a slew of hurricane-related issues at its meeting tonight, including a resolution asking Jefferson Parish to train Kenner workers to operate parish drainage pumps.

Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano submitted a resolution asking the parish to cross-train Kenner employees to operate the pumps, which city officials said would make the city more self-reliant during storms. Parish pump operators evacuated north of Lake Pontchartrain for Hurricane Katrina.

Capitano's resolution also asks Jefferson Parish to consider a system that would drain south Kenner into the Mississippi River, rather than into Lake Pontchartrain. After Hurricane Katrina, Kenner officials said, water from south Kenner flowed into lower-lying north Kenner, flooding some of the neighborhoods there.

"There are a number of improvements and modifications to the system which could help prevent or alleviate the catastrophic flooding which occurred during Katrina," the resolution states.

Another hot topic on tonight's agenda is garbage and trash pickup.

Some Kenner residents have complained that pickup has been slow or, in some cases, nonexistent since the hurricane.

Last week, Capitano warned Waste Management that it had violated its contract by not picking up garbage quickly enough. He also signed a contract last week with Ramelli Janitorial Service Inc. to handle half of the city, while Waste Management handles the other half.

"Obviously there's been a breakdown in the whole city of Kenner," said City Councilman Marc Johnson, who requested the garbage discussion. He said he has talked with some people who haven't had garbage picked up in the past three or four weeks.

"It's horrible. If we've hired another company to come in, then what are they doing?" Johnson asked. "We shouldn't be this far behind today."

The council is also scheduled to consider a resolution, submitted by Councilman Dominic Weilbaecher, that asks Capitano to provide the council with all contracts and invoices, both submitted and approved, since Aug. 28.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the council chambers in Kenner City Hall at 1801 Williams Blvd.

# Jeff OKs Katrina contracts

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson Bureau

Jefferson Parish accumulated $18.8 million in bills for food, medicine and emergency cleanup in the days after Hurricane Katrina, and it has approved dozens of other contracts that will add millions more to its tab, according to documents distributed to Parish Council members this week.

The parish used a basic form of competitive bidding before awarding the contracts, placing calls to several companies to obtain verbal estimates, but much of the work nonetheless fell to companies that have contributed generously to parish leaders in the past.

Among the roster of familiar names are Boh Bros., which received a contract for water line repairs, and Brown, Cunningham and Gannuch, which provided storm surge and damage assessments.

The Jefferson Parish Council called an emergency meeting Wednesday to approve the contracts and authorize payment of invoices already submitted to the parish. The work was previously sanctioned by Parish President Aaron Broussard, who has the authority to sign contracts in emergency situations. Normally, that task would fall to the council chairman after formal action by the Parish Council.

But the council deferred a vote on the contracts on the advice of parish attorney Tom Wilkinson, who said he was not certain the council had the power to act because state law confers emergency powers on Broussard. The council will take up the resolutions again at its regular meeting this Wednesday.

"Everybody who has done work will be getting paid," Council Chairman Tom Capella said. The documents provide the first glimpse into spending parish officials conducted in the hectic days after Katrina, and more information is expected as officials continue assessing storm damage.

Chief Administrative Assistant Tim Whitmer said the Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse the parish for the lion's share of its emergency spending.

The parish has earmarked only a few of the contracts, including one with Greg Cantrell Inc. to restore the landscaping in public areas, that likely will not be eligible for the federal refund. Cantrell received a second contract with the parish to plant shrubbery at mobile homes parks.

The largest of the contracts went to Jim Tatman's Mobile Homes, a Louisiana company that will receive $8.7 million to provide trailers for police officers, firefighters and medical workers.

The parish paid Certified Cleaning of Metairie $3.2 million to clean the Joseph S. Yenni Building, the east bank complex of government offices that sustained heavy damage in the hurricane.

The parish issued a second contract to Mechanical Construction for $310,000 to repair the cooling tower at the Yenni building. The company's owner, Joseph Jaeger, contributed $2,000 to Broussard during his most recent campaign.

Whitmer said the parish hewed to the competitive bidding guidelines laid out by FEMA by seeking estimates for work by telephone. In the days immediately after the storm, however, when many workers had evacuated the area, the parish sometimes had to issue a contract to the first company it could find.

In the Yenni building, the parish needed to remove water immediately to prevent the growth of mold, he said; cleaning costs would have soared if the water were left to stand.

Shaw Environmental, a company generous to Gov. Kathleen Blanco during her campaign in 2003, won a contract with the parish to coordinate "all matters" related to fallout from the hurricane. The company will work with several subcontractors, including Tatman's Mobile Homes.

Boh Bros. Construction gave at least $2,000 to Broussard in the 2003 election, and Cajun Construction also donated to Broussard; both received contracts to repair water lines. Another donor, Durr Heavy Construction, which gave $5,000 to Broussard in the same election, will serve as the general contractor for mobile home sites.

Brown, Cunningham and Gannuch donated at least $5,000 to Broussard.

Documents provided by the parish did not specify the value of the contracts.

# Mayor's Court set to return in Harahan

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Harahan will resume its Mayor's Court docket on Oct. 11 at 5:30 p.m. to hear cases originally set for Sept. 13, Mayor Paul Johnston said.

Cases originally set for arraignment on Sept. 27 have been reset for Oct. 25.

The court office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday so defendants can pay fines. For cases scheduled for arraignment, fines can be paid until 3 p.m. on the day of the arraignment, Johnston said.

Johnston also said residents will receive a $5 credit for garbage collection on their next bill because of a lack of service during September. He said the city's cleanup is well under way, but asked residents to segregate their garbage into three piles: trash, including tree limbs and construction debris; bagged leaves; and garbage.

The piles are important because the city pays substantially more to dispose of household garbage than it does to dispose other types of waste. Contractors can grind up branches and leaves. Wet sheetrock can be hauled off to landfills designed for construction debris.

Johnston said residents should put garbage in the regular cans.

"If they don't get everything on the first round, we're asking people to pick up what's left and put it in the empty can. We're catching up."

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Matt Scallan may be reached at (504) 467-1746 or mscallan326@cox.net

# Jeff judge election scheduled April 1

**East Jefferson bureau**

Gov. Kathleen Blanco has scheduled an April 1 election to replace Alan Green, who was convicted of a corruption charge three months ago while a judge of the 24th District Court in Jefferson Parish. The runoff, if necessary, will be April 29.

The winner will serve the rest of Green's term, which runs through 2008.

The election dates are the same ones on which Jefferson's six municipalities will be choosing city officials to four-year terms.

Meanwhile, no new dates have been set for balloting in Jefferson and Orleans parishes that originally was scheduled for Oct. 15 but postponed after Hurricane Katrina.

These include a Jefferson-wide seat on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, the 2nd District seat on the Kenner City Council, the 4th District seat on the Jefferson School Board and community services taxes or fees in three New Orleans neighborhoods: Kingswood, Touro Bouligny and Twinbrook.

Blanco on Sept. 14 issued an executive order indefinitely delaying the balloting.

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# Defense contractor tries to find footing

## *Textron bringing in workers old, new*

**St. Tammany bureau**

Like other major defense contractors in southeast Louisiana, Textron Marine and Land Systems is struggling to get its factories and shipyards back in operation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Among Textron's contracts are ones worth up to $660 million to build armored security vehicles, or ASVs, used primarily by military police patrols and local security forces in the war in Iraq.

The company is bringing back as many workers as possible — and hiring additional ones — in an effort to get its main plant in eastern New Orleans and its finishing plant in Slidell back in full production by late November.

St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis said Tuesday that the parish is helping out by allowing Textron to place as many as 100 house trailers on the golf course at storm-devastated Oak Harbor Estates south of Slidell to house displaced workers.

Not everyone is happy about that decision, he acknowledged, but insisted the full operation of the two facilities "is important to our economy, to Slidell and to the whole parish."

# Government officials, workers to get day off

**St. Tammany bureau**

Schools will be in session Monday, which is Columbus Day, but it will be a holiday for all but essential personnel in St. Tammany Parish government and most municipal offices.

Parish President Kevin Davis, at a daily briefing this week, urged local government officials to "give your employees a break." Most agreed, including those from Covington, Folsom, Mandeville and Slidell.

Davis said, "We've been going 24-7 for five or six weeks" since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29. "We're real stressed." He's among them, he added, and said he was looking forward to a three-day weekend.

"The majority of our employees have been working long, hard hours since Hurricane Katrina without time off to take care of their own homes and families," he said.

Davis urged contractors and others to obtain all necessary parish permits before Friday "so that the work of rebuilding St. Tammany will continue uninterrupted."

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# LOOTING ARRESTS

**St. Tammany bureau**

The following people were booked with looting in St. Tammany Parish between Aug. 29 and Thursday. Multiple counts of looting and additional charges are noted.

The arrests were made by the Sheriffís Office and Slidell, Mandeville and Covington police departments. Arrested were:

Jessie Smith, 20, 76522 Louisiana 41, Pearl River, booked Aug. 30.

Amanda Trajue, 18, 75522 Louisiana 41, Pearl River, Aug. 30.

Bobby Benedict, 47, 39197 Haas Road, Pearl River area, Aug. 31. Also booked with possession of marijuana.

Jackie Benedict, 48, 39197 Haas Road, Pearl River area, Aug. 31. Also booked with being a principal to looting and possession of marijuana.

Juanita Byrd, 18, 2900 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, Aug. 31.

Sarah Smith, 20, 141 Antibes East, Mandeville, Aug. 29.

Jeremy Sheridan, 17, 1013 W. 32nd Ave., Covington, Sept. 1. Also booked with simple battery.

Prince Freeman, 41, 4848 Pontchartrain Blvd., Slidell, Sept. 1. Also booked with resisting an officer.

Brian Lesaicherre, 42, 3711 E. Louisiana St., Kenner, Sept. 1. Also booked with carrying an illegal weapon and telephone harassment.

Lori Freeman, 17, 538 Queen Anne Drive, Slidell, Sept. 1.

Teddy Lesaicherre, 32, 3711 E. Louisiana St., Kenner, Sept. 2.

Albert Shaffer, 57, 56271 Beach St., Slidell, Sept. 2.

Rufus Warren, 63, 3254 Reine Ave., Slidell, Sept.2.

Connell Thornton, 22, 611 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, Sept. 3, two counts of looting, one count of possession of stolen things.

Samuel Vicari, 29, 84693 Camus Lane, Covington, Sept. 3, Also booked with possession of stolen things.

Andrew Harrison, 20, 704 Heavens Drive, Mandeville, Sept. 1. Also booked with possession of stolen things.

Leon Edwards, 21, 611 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, Sept. 3, two counts of looting and seven counts of illegal possession of stolen things.

Anson Holly, 36, 2409 Crane St., Slidell, Sept. 3. Also booked with illegal possession of stolen things.

John Zoller, 37329 Sticker Road, Pearl River, Sept. 7. Also booked with aggravated arson and illegal possession of stolen things.

Christopher Rylee, 26, 56712 Freblemen, Slidell, Sept. 7. Also booked with aggravated arson.

Roxanne Billiott, 19, 56712 Freblemen, Slidell, Sept. 7. Also booked with aggravated arson.

Jennifer Kellum, 19, 56685 Freblemen, Slidell, Sept. 7. Also booked with aggravated arson.

Terence Hines, 18, 70277 Mehurt Road, Covington, Sept. 7.

Joshua Barkmeyer, 21, 19445 Slemmer Road, Covington area, Sept. 7, three counts of looting.

Chad Hallaway, 31, 113 Antibes East, Mandeville, Sept. 8. Also booked with three counts of simple battery.

Erika Garwood, 44, 4802 Pontchartrain Blvd., Slidell, Sept. 8.

Ernest Williams, 41, 1509 Kings Row, Slidell, Sept. 9. Also booked with vehicle theft, curfew violation and possession of illegal drugs.

Okemelo Ibarra-Ortiz, 42, 849 Walnut St., Slidell, Sept. 9.

Juan Ibarra-Ortiz, 21, 58944 Tyler St., Slidell, Sept. 9.

Roberto Ibarra-Ortiz, 20, 58944 Tyler St., Slidell, Sept. 9.

Matthew Weaver, 17, 372 Winchester Court, Mandeville, Sept. 14. Also booked with vehicle burglary, curfew violation and illegal possession of drugs.

Daniel Griffis, 52, 109 Lafitte St., Slidell, Sept. 15.

Maude Griffis, 45, 109 Lafitte St., Slidell, Sept. 15.

Chad Riso,17, 289 Crossgates, Slidell, Sept. 16.

Scott Fell, 19, 259 Lakeview Drive, Slidell, Sept. 16.

Matthew Morgan, 19, 172 East Hall, Slidell, Sept. 17. Also booked with resisting an officer.

Vincent Moore, 18, 159 Fountain Drive, Slidell, Sept. 17. Also booked with resisting an officer.

Conrado Roque, 41, of Houston, Sept. 21. Also booked with simple criminal damage to property.

Juan Gallegos, 19, Santillo, Mexico, Sept. 21. Also booked with attempted looting and simple criminal damage to property.

Marcel Radosta Jr., 57, 249 Lakeview Drive, Slidell, Sept. 24. Also booked with theft.

Ronald Lahoste, 39, 2325 Charles St., Chalmette, Sept. 24. Also booked with contempt of court.

Rodney Hizrr, 48, 244 Blue Ridge Acres, Slidell, Sept. 24.

Gary Greiner, 22, 804 North Lake Drive, Slidell, Sept. 25. Also booked with possession of stolen tools, curfew violation and introducing contraband into a jail.

Christopher Yencho, 40, 64095 Mangano, Slidell, Sept. 28.

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# OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF HARAHAN
CITY OF HARAHAN LEGALS

## Harahan City Officials

**Mayor**
Paul D. Johnston

**Councilmen**
Scott Blanchard
Louis M. Butler
Provino Mosca
Roy R. Richardson
Tiffany Scot Wilken

**Chief of Police**
Peter dale

**City of Harahan**
6437 Jefferson Hwy.
Harahan, LA 70123
Telephone (504) 737-6383

**Harahan Police**
6441 Jefferson Hwy.
Harahan, LA 70123
Telephone (504) 737-9763

## City Council Minutes

**The following Ordinance was offered by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Butler__:**

**ORDINANCE NO. _1511_____**

**AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX OF 15.81 MILLS ON EACH DOLLAR OF ASSESSED VALUATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTIESIN THE CITY OF HARAHAN FOR THE YEAR 2005 AND AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT THE SAID TAXES ON ALL THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE INCORPORATED LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HARAHAN AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**SECTION I. BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Harahan that there is hereby levied a tax of 15.81 mills (.01581) on each dollar of assessed valuation on all taxable property in the City of Harahan for the year 2005.**

**SECTION II. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Harahan, acting as the governing authority of said City, and the Sewerage District #1 of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana that the following ad valorem tax be hereby levied on all taxable property in the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana:**

**2005 LEVY**

| | |
|---|---|
| CONSTITUTIONAL GENERAL ALIMONY | 4.15 |
| GENERAL ALIMONY | 1.63 |
| 1982 GENERAL ALIMONY | 2.37 |
| SEWERAGE MAINTENANCE | .89 |
| FIRE PROTECTION CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENENANCE | 5.00 |
| SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRING, IMPROVING & MAINTAINANCE | 1.77 |
| TOTAL TAX | 15.81 |

**SECTION III. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Harahan that the Tax Collector of the City of Harahan is hereby authorized to extend said tax on the assessment rolls of the City of Harahan for the year 2005 and she is further authorized to collect said tax on all property within the incorporated limits of the City of Harahan.**

**SECTION IV. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Harahan that when any taxpayer fails to pay the tax, or any portion thereof, on or before the day when its is required to be paid, interest at the (1%) per month shall be added to the amount of the tax due and such interest shall be computed from January 1, 2006 until the tax is paid. The interest provided for herein shall be an obligation to be collected and accounted for in the same manner as if it were a part of the tax due and can be enforced in a separate action or in the same action for collection of the tax.**

**SECTION V. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Harahan that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.**

**SECTION VI. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision, items or applications of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.**

**This ordinance having been considered section by section and as a whole, a vote was as follows:**

**YEAS: Blanchard, Butler, Mosca, Richardson, Wilken**
**NAYS: None**
**ABSENT: None**

**And the above ordinance was declared adopted on this, the_29th_____ day of September, 2005 to become effective immediately upon the signature of the Mayor.**

**_____**
**Paul D. Johnston**
**Mayor**
**City of Harahan**

**_____**
**Margaret G. Broussard**
**City Clerk**
**This is to certify that the above Ordinance was advertised on the front door of Harahan City Hall from September 13, 2005 until it was adopted.**

**_____**
**Margaret G. Broussard, City Clerk/Tax Collector**

The Times-Picayune
# OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF GRETNA
CITY OF GRETNA LEGALS

## Gretna City Officials

**Mayor**
Ronnie C. Harris

**Councilmen**
At Large: Wayne A. Rau
Dist. 1: Jonathan C. Bolar
Dist. 2: Salvadore Marchese Jr.
Dist. 3: Vincent E. Cox III
Dist 4: Ricky J. Templet

**Chief of Police**
B. H. Miller Jr.

**Justice of the Peace**
District 1: Vernon J. Wilty III

**City of Gretna**
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Gretna, LA 70053
Telephone (504) 366-4374

**CITY OF GRETNA**

**SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Gretna will meet in Special Session on **Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.,** on the second floor, Council Chambers of Gretna City Hall, Second Street and Huey P. Long Avenue for the following purpose:

To approve the demolition of properties condemned due to damage from Hurricane Katrina.

**CITY OF GRETNA**

**MEETING NOTICE**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Gretna will meet in regular session on **Monday, October 10, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.,** on the second floor Council Chambers of Gretna City Hall, Second Street and Huey P. Long Avenue.

**/S/ AZALEA M. ROUSSELL, CMC**
**CITY CLERK**

Publish: The Times-Picayune October 6, 2005

On motion by **Councilman Cox** and seconded by **Councilman Rau**, the following emergency ordinance was adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3547**

**An emergency ordinance ratifying the action of the Chief of Police instituting a curfew within the City of Gretna limits beginning August 28, 2005 from dusk to dawn for the impact of Hurricane Katrina and providing penalties for same.**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Gretna desires to protect the lives, safety and property of the residents of the City due to Hurricane Katrina's potential impact on the area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Gretna, acting as legislative authority for said City, that:
**The City of Gretna hereby institutes a curfew within the City limits effective August 28, 2005 from dusk to dawn each day until such time as the emergency of Hurricane Katrina has ended.**

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that:

**This curfew shall be in addition to any other hours or time of curfew as designated by the governing authority of the Parish of Jefferson until such time as the emergency of Hurricane Katrina has ended.**

**Any one who violates this ordinance shall be subject to the general penalty provisions contained in the Gretna Code of Ordinances.**

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:
Yeas: **Council Members Bolar, Constant, Cox, Rau and Templet**
Nays: None
Absent: None
This ordinance is declared to be an emergency and shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

This ordinance was declared to be adopted on this 27th day of August, 2005

**ADOPTED: AUGUST 27, 2005** **APPROVED: AUGUST 27, 2005**

**/S/ AZALEA M. ROUSSELL, CMC** **/S/ RONNIE C. HARRIS**

**CITY CLERK** **MAYOR**
**CITY OF GRETNA** **CITY OF GRETNA**

**A TRUE COPY:**

**/S/ AZALEA M. ROUSSELL, CMC**

**CITY CLERK**

On motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Bolar**, the following emergency ordinance was adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3548**

**An emergency ordinance declaring a citywide hardship relative to temporary housing; Procedures to establish same and for related matters.**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Gretna has an interest in the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and
**WHEREAS,** as the City of Gretna struggles to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina and possible subsequent storms, the City realizes the massive rebuilding efforts faced by its residents; and
**WHEREAS,** many residents face the daunting task of major repairs to their homes which in many cases are not fit for habitation; and
**WHEREAS,** many residents are not financially able to secure alternate living arrangements while said home repairs are being made; and
**WHEREAS,** the City recognizes the need for residents and their families to secure whatever living quarters may be feasible for the time period needed to make the necessary repairs; and
**WHEREAS,** the City recognizes and acknowledges the potential of mobile homes, recreational vehicles, trailers, campers and similar structures to serve as temporary housing.
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Gretna, acting as legislative authority for said City, that:
**1) A state of emergency exists in the City of Gretna due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.**
**2) A hardship exists in the entire City of Gretna relative to home repairs and the need for temporary housing.**
**3) Given the above, pursuant to Gretna Code of Ordinances, Section 102-262, the City declares hardship for temporary housing to exist for the duration of said public emergency.**
**4) In order to use a mobile home, trailer, camper, recreational vehicle, or other such structure as temporary housing, a special permit must be obtained. All fees associated with said permit shall be waived.**
**5) In order to obtain such a permit, property owners must have ongoing repairs to their home or business.**
**6) All mobile homes, recreational vehicles, campers, etc. must be located on private property and meet all applicable setbacks for accessory buildings.**

**7) All mobile homes, trailers, recreational vehicles, campers or other facilities being used for temporary housing shall have appropriate utility hook ups as determined by the Regulatory department.**

**8) This state of hardship shall be in effect as long as the City of Gretna maintains a state of emergency in the city and declares by resolution at the end of such emergency that the hardship period will expire in 120-days.**

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: **Council Members Bolar, Constant, Cox, Rau and Templet**
Nays: None
Absent: None
This ordinance is declared to be an emergency and shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

This ordinance was declared to be adopted on this 22nd day of September, 2005

**ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2005** **APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2005**

**/S/ AZALEA M. ROUSSELL, CMC** **/S/ RONNIE C. HARRIS**
**CITY CLERK** **MAYOR**
**CITY OF GRETNA** **CITY OF GRETNA**

**A TRUE COPY:**
**/S/ AZALEA M. ROUSSELL, CMC**
**CITY CLERK**

# State gets $20.9 million grant for charter schools

*State hopes to use money for repairs*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

Louisiana has been awarded a $20.9 million grant to help reopen charter schools damaged by Hurricane Katrina, as well as to create new charter schools or expand the capacity of existing ones, the federal Secretary of Education has announced.

The announcement has piqued interest in creating charter schools in the New Orleans area, said Gary Wheat, charter school program administrator for the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Earlier this week, the board of directors at Benjamin Franklin High School, the city's premier magnet school, voted unanimously to reopen as a charter school in January. The decision is subject to approval by the Orleans Parish School Board or BESE.

Lusher School already has won approval of its charter from the School Board. Lusher School officials also hope to reopen in January, with financial assistance of as much as $1.5 million from Tulane University, which will give spots at the school to children of faculty and staff.

Seven of the nine charter schools in New Orleans were damaged by Katrina. Two Uptown schools, the Milestone SABIS Academy and Sophie B. Wright, sustained minimal or no damage and are planning to reopen soon.

The grant, funded by President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, covers costs of supplies and salaries but cannot be used to repair buildings, Wheat said. The state has asked for a waiver, however, to allow some of the money to be used for repairs, he said. It is expecting an answer next week. FEMA money could be available for those repairs if the grant money cannot.

Charter schools that sustained the most serious flooding are New Orleans Charter Middle School, the International School of Louisiana and KIPP: Phillips Academy. They are not planning to reopen this year, Wheat said.

Wheat said more federal money could be made available in the future if the current grant cannot provide enough assistance to existing, expanding or startup charters.

In 2003, lawmakers voted to let nonprofit groups take over an unlimited number of schools that have posted failing grades for four consecutive years. Five in New Orleans have been taken over since last summer.

Charter schools are independent public schools designed and operated by parents, educators or community leaders. Charter schools are operated free of charge to parents.

# St. Bernard to keep tabs on finances

*Without federal aid, coffers to dry up soon*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

With hundreds of millions of dollars in reconstruction contracts to be handed out in St. Bernard Parish in the next few months, the Parish Council on Tuesday asked President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez' administration to report monthly on who is getting the work, as well as on the parish's finances.

The request, unanimously approved by the council, comes as officials said they want to get a handle on the parish's coffers five weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area. Council members also indicated they want to ensure St. Bernard handles the work with transparency and that the parish does not get overcharged.

"There's not only snakes in your house; there could be other snakes," said Councilman Mark Madary, referring to a contractor who offered the parish trailers at a very high rent. The parish did not take the offer.

His comment drew a sharp reply from Rodriguez.

"Don't tell me there are hidden snakes. There are no snakes," Rodriguez said.

The exchange, not unusual during typical council meetings, stood out during what was mostly an emotional and subdued meeting on the Scotia Prince, the cruise ship that parish officials are using as a temporary home. Several residents cried as they told the council their Katrina stories and sought advice on how to resume their lives.

"I'm lost. I got my little trinkets out of my house. What do I do next?" pleaded Chalmette resident Audrey Bello, who with her husband lost their home and a small private school they operated.

Council members said the monthly report they seek from the administration would help them make informed decisions about the parish's finances.

Rodriguez and the council said the parish will run out of cash after two more payrolls unless they get federal aid. Rodriguez was scheduled to testify in Congress today to boost the state's request for money for local governments.

But council members also asked for a report on whom the parish is employing and which companies are receiving reconstruction contracts. So far, the parish has hired one firm, IDB, to oversee its massive cleanup, in a deal that officials said could reach $128 million. FEMA is expected to reimburse the contract's cost.

Giving a glimpse into the gargantuan needs in the parish, the council also listened to reports from 15 federal and state agencies working in the parish. Progress is coming, though in some cases a bit slow.

For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has tagged the first 6,000 travel trailers for temporary housing for St. Bernard government agencies and residents, and it has identified six sites to put them on. But leases have been signed for only two of the sites, and nobody could verify that the trailers are available now.

But things are moving faster in other areas. A FEMA Disaster Response Center and several private insurance companies have set up shop at the parking lot of the new Wal-Mart in Chalmette. Officials hope the facilities will help residents get assistance and move their insurance claims along. Officials also said a temporary medical clinic will be set up at the same site in two weeks.

Residents at the meeting who asked when they can get a FEMA trailer were told they must apply at one of the agency's disaster response sites. But officials assured them they could park that trailer wherever they are living, even out of state, as long as the site passes an inspection and has power, water and sewer access.

But a FEMA representative warned the audience that "we don't have enough trailers, guaranteed."

### In other matters, the council:

▶ Said no property in the parish will be demolished without the knowledge of its owner. "We need to respond to widespread rumors," Rodriguez said. "Nobody is going in your property unless you say so."

▶ Suspended the parish's ordinance banning the burning of trash so that the state's Department of Environmental Quality can do controlled burns of storm debris with the authorization of the St. Bernard Fire Department. The waiver does not affect private residents and businesses, which are still not allowed to burn their trash.

▶ Gave contractors in charge of collecting storm debris the authority to access the land and exterior of a private home or business in cases where the property owner is not present. Councilman Lynn Dean voted against the measure, saying the government should not pay for collecting debris in private property.

▶ Changed the time of its next meeting, scheduled for Oct. 18, from 7 p.m. to 11 a.m. Officials said they hope to be back in the parish's government complex by then.

• • • • • •

Manuel Torres can be reached at (504) 352-2543 or motstorm@yahoo.com.

# Free ride almost over for Causeway drivers

*Tolls to return Monday on bridge*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Free passage across Lake Pontchartrain comes to an end Monday, when the Causeway Commission resumes collecting tolls.

Meanwhile, officials with Crescent City Connection, which spans the Mississippi River, are awaiting word from the state on whether they may also reinstate tolls the same day.

To help evacuation traffic move more quickly, officials from both bridges suspended toll collection before Hurricane Katrina made landfall Aug. 29. National Guard and emergency vehicles, prevalent in hurricane recovery efforts, will continue to have tolls waived, officials said.

Causeway officials will resume collecting tolls from civilian motorists Monday at 5 a.m., bridge General Manager Robert Lambert said Wednesday. With the Interstate 10 twin spans between eastern New Orleans and Slidell closed for repair, the Causeway is seeing a larger volume of traffic. But that doesn't mean Causeway officials are trying to capitalize on the increase, Lambert said.

"We're clearly not looking to gain off that," he said, adding that he expects the twin spans to reopen "before most people believe."

The Causeway averages about $40,000 in toll collections daily, Lambert said, but the loss of revenue does not threaten the jobs of bridge employees. Fewer dollars could have a "short term" effect on the bridge's budget, but higher toll revenue in coming weeks are expected to compensate for the loss.

Though the Crescent City Connection has resumed ferry service, officials have not received approval from the state Department of Transportation and Development to reinstate tolls, said Randy Paisant, the bridge's assistant director. The amount collected daily on the CCC was not available Wednesday.

The ferries at Jackson Avenue and Canal Street resumed service with one boat each on Sept. 16, and they are operating free of tolls from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Paisant said.

But if the state approves, toll collection for the ferries might resume Monday, too, he said.

The Chalmette-Algiers ferries, however, are not in service because of damage to the boats and landings during Katrina, Paisant said.

The motor vessels Capt. Neville Levy and Sen. Alvin T. Stumpf were knocked loose from their moorings in Algiers by stray barges and were pushed by the surge and wind to the levee and batture downstream, Paisant said. Their hulls and propellers were damaged, and a private contractor is expected to move the ferries back to water by early next week, Paisant said.

"It's a delicate operation to do so without causing further damage to the boats," he said.

The ferries will be put in dry docks for repairs, but Paisant said it is not known when ferry service will resume between Chalmette and Algiers.

St. Bernard Parish remains closed.

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The Court has rescheduled the fairness hearing concerning that $5 million settlement reached in a class action lawsuit about exposure to (a) alleged toxic and/or harmful materials and substances, including but not limited to materials and substances as referred to in previous notices which were allegedly present within the hotel/public accommodations building at 1732 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana and/or (b) the byproducts of those materials and substances that were allegedly released in the air. At the fairness hearing in this matter, the Court will consider whether the settlement should be approved, among other things. The fairness hearing is now scheduled for November 2, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Algiers Courthouse, 225 Morgan St., Algiers, Orleans Parish, LA 70114. Generally, this settlement includes all present or past employees who occupied the hotel/public accommodations building at 1732 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana from 1995 to the date of their departure from the building and who were exposed to the alleged materials and substances in question. To obtain more information, including applicable deadlines and a more detailed notice, call toll-free 1-877-840-3850, go to www.Crescentclaims.com, or write to Crescent Class Counsel at P.O. Box 2168, Houma, LA 70361.

# Sheriff furloughs more than half of his employees in St. Bernard

## *Tax revenue can't cover their salaries*

**By Manuel Torres and Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Illustrating the financial wasteland Hurricane Katrina has made of St. Bernard Parish, Sheriff Jack Stephens on Wednesday temporarily laid off more than 200 employees, more than half of his workforce, citing the lack of tax revenue needed to run his office.

Stephens placed the employees on indefinite furlough and said they will be called back as money for their salaries becomes available and a need for their jobs arises. He said he had no choice as sales and property tax revenues, which make up most of his budget, have evaporated since the storm flooded the entire parish Aug. 29.

The cuts shrank the Sheriff's Office from around 400 workers to just 182, but did not affect deputies assigned to law enforcement duties, Stephens said. On the contrary, he said, remaining deputies will receive a $500-per-month raise as an incentive to not seek work elsewhere. Stephens said he will not receive the raise.

"They have no place to live; they're separated from their families; and they don't know how much longer they'll have a job," Stephens said of the employees getting a raise. "We have to give them some reason to stick it out."

Stephens' announcement came a day after New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin laid off 3,000 people, or half the city's workers, citing financial strains. Other local government entities that also depend on taxes have warned they are also reeling from the effects of Katrina and are considering personnel reductions.

The St. Bernard Sheriff's Office cuts affected mostly administrative employees and personnel assigned to duties no longer needed now that almost all parish residents are living elsewhere and commerce is practically nonexistent in St. Bernard, Stephens said. The targeted jobs included some positions at the parish jail and workers assigned to collecting taxes, guarding school crossings, and serving court subpoenas, among other functions.

Stephens, who has been warning for weeks about dwindling cash reserves, received more than $12 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency last week. But by law the money can be spent only on overtime and other emergency expenses such as temporary housing and replacing equipment destroyed by the hurricane. FEMA cannot allocate money for salaries of existing employees.

The Louisiana congressional delegation and state and local officials have been pushing Congress to consider appropriating money to keep local governments and sheriffs from going bankrupt and having to shut down.

In the meantime, Stephens said he is considering using the FEMA money to make payroll for his remaining employees as a stop-gap measure. He said he would replace the cash later with whatever money Congress may approve or future revenue as the parish rebuilds. Asked about the legality of such a move, he said he had no alternative.

"If that's not legal, go ahead and take me away in handcuffs right now because my hands are already tied," he said. "There's nothing else I can do."

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Manuel Torres can be reached at (504) 352-2543 or at motstorm@yahoo.com.

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Paul Rioux can be reached at (504) 352-2545 or at parioux@yahoo.com.

# Plaquemines sets meetings for public school employees

## *Classes to begin in parish Oct. 17*

**St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau**

The Plaquemines Parish School Board will have two meetings Thursday for employees planning to return to work when schools reopen Oct. 17.

Instructional employees will meet at 10 a.m., and at 1 p.m. support staff will gather at the Belle Chasse High School auditorium, school district spokesman Paul Springer said Tuesday.

The meetings are in preparation for employees' return to work, Springer said. The three public schools in the Belle Chasse area will resume classes a week later.

The school district expects about 600 of its 750 employees to return. About 145 have said they want to return but do not have housing, Plaquemines Secondary Education Director Carol Roberts said.

Only about 20 employees said they have taken jobs elsewhere, she said. The School Board has requested 40 travel trailers and six mobile homes to house essential personnel who lost their own homes in Hurricane Katrina, Superintendent Jim Hoyle said.

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# Body is thought to be nursing home patient's

## *Parish coroner finds feeding tube telling*

**From staff reports**

The body found behind St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard Parish on Saturday had a feeding tube in it and was probably that of a nursing home patient who died during Hurricane Katrina, the parish coroner said Monday.

Rescuers found the woman's body in a wooded area behind the facility near Poydras, but officials said Saturday that it was not clear whether she was a patient at the home, where 34 people were found dead inside after Katrina.

Coroner Bryan Bertucci on Monday said the woman had a feeding tube in her, an indication that she was receiving medical care and a sign that she may have been a patient at the home.

"There's no ID, but all indications would be that she was a (nursing home) patient," Bertucci said.

He said it is also possible that the woman was a nearby resident of another facility who died during the storm and whose body floated to the area.

The owners of the home have been charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide for failing to evacuate the home ahead of the hurricane.

It was unclear Monday whether a charge would be added because of the new body. The attorney general's office and National Guard searched the building and surrounding areas again Monday, with no additional bodies found, parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro said.

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# Restoration of ruined levees begins along the Gulf outlet



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

**CHALMETTE:** The Army Corps of Engineers begins work rebuilding a 6-mile stretch of levee extending along the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet from Bayou Bienvenue east. The grass in the foreground is at the top of the levee, and the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Michoud assembly facility is visible at far right.

## *Category 3 shield sought by June 1*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Sweating under sunny skies Wednesday afternoon, a work crew running a half dozen bulldozers shifted sand along the washed-out hurricane protection levee that separates the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet from the marshes just north of St. Bernard Parish.

It looked like very unceremonial work — leveling the remains of an earthen levee almost entirely washed out by Hurricane Katrina, so that it can eventually be raised again. But the labor marked a milestone: the start of the first of 40 gargantuan projects that over the next eight months are set to burn $400 million to restore flood protection around the New Orleans area to its pre-Katrina levels.

"This looks pretty mundane; like watching grass grow," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Alan Dooley, as the earth-moving machines toiled in the background. "But it marks the beginning of the road back to recovery."

It'll be a race against the clock. The Corps, which maintains the levees and is overseeing the work, says it can restore the levee system to a Category 3 hurricane level of protection by June 1, the start of the 2006 hurricane season. It'll also be a monumental task that will repair one tenth of the metro area's levee system, using almost 3 million cubic yards of material: enough to create a pile the size of a football field and æ of a mile high.

More important, the work may in many ways help determine the fate of the metro area, as residents try to gather the confidence to rebuild in St. Bernard, eastern New Orleans and other areas that got pummeled by Katrina's surge.

A wall of water — or surge — as high as 22 feet washed away much of the levees along the MRGO and the eastern flank of the city. It's the severity of the damage there that prompted the Corps to start the rebuilding there, said Col. Louis Setliff, with the Corps' Task Force Guardian, the group planning the rebuilding.

The hit that levees took there was evident during a tour Wednesday of the section now under repair. An errant barge that partially crushed the floodwall near the floodgate at Bayou Bienvenue still sat over the damaged structure, and the surge twisted nearby sheet piling as it rushed towards Chalmette neighborhoods. The levee's earthen mound, formerly 17 feet high, was gone in sections extending hundreds of yards. Corps officials had no need to bend as they walked under a gas pipeline formerly buried in the levee.

The section to be fixed by the first contract is a 6-mile stretch of levee extending along the MRGO from Bayou Bienvenue east. A second contract, expected to begin in two weeks, will repair a 7-mile stretch east of Bayou Dupree in St. Bernard Parish. The third contract to be let will fix levees in eastern New Orleans to the east of the Pump Station No. 15, located near the Michoud facility.

Corps officials Wednesday did not know which contract would follow, but they said that with one-tenth of the metro area's flood protection system needing repairs, they expect to have dozens of projects and hundreds of employees working simultaneously in a few months.

"We have never seen this in the New Orleans district," said Walter Baumy, a one of the district engineers working in the effort.

Most repairs will not be as daring as the now-well-known images of military helicopters dropping giant sand bags in breaches along the Industrial, 17th Street and London canals.

"This is not as dramatic. But this is how you get long-term protection," Dooley said.

The entire rebuilding plan could change in midstream if Congress decides to write the check to upgrade the area's protection to a level sufficient for a Category 5 hurricane, a move Louisiana officials are pushing for. The massive effort would take years and cost as much as $3 billion.

Baumy said such a change could mean some of the current rebuilding would have to be redesigned or may even need to be torn down. But he said the area cannot stay "in a holding pattern" without repairing levees while Congress determines what to do in the long run.

"That's a chance you cannot take," he said.

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Manuel Torres can be reached at (504) 352-3543 or at motstorm@yahoo.com.

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# Plea deal reached in fatal '02 crash in St. John

## *Trucker accepts lesser charge*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

A Texas trucker who was charged in a massive 2002 crash along Interstate 10 that killed a Florida man pled guilty to a reduced charge Tuesday that carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment instead of 30.

William Moore of Kemp, Texas, decided against fighting the original charge of vehicular homicide in court, accepting a plea agreement for negligent homicide with the St. John the Baptist Parish district attorney's office.

Jury selection in Moore's trial was scheduled for Tuesday before 40th District Court Judge Madeline Jasmine. LaPlace attorney Daniel Becnel III represented Moore.

Vehicular homicide applies to any death caused by a vehicle, particularly if someone drives that vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It carries a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment and a $15,000 fine. Negligent homicide applies to any death caused by negligence and has a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a $5,000 fine.

A Dec. 5 sentencing hearing in Moore's case has been scheduled before Jasmine.

Moore is accused of killing Mark Mackaness, 40, of Jacksonville, Fla., in July 2002 after the Jeep Cherokee that Mackaness was riding in was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer driven by Moore. The Jeep burst into flames, and Mackaness was trapped inside. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Jeep was pulled from the vehicle by another motorist but sustained several injuries.

Besides the crash that killed Mackaness, there were five other accidents along the same stretch of rain-slicked highway on that day, including several others allegedly involving Moore's truck.

St. John Parish code enforcement officer Edward "Skipper" Songy was killed in one of those incidents, police said, when a vehicle hit him as he stood on the side of the road directing traffic.

At the time of Moore's accident, law enforcement officials did not believe drugs or alcohol were involved, but lawyers for the driver of Mackaness' Jeep accused Moore during a civil trial of being intoxicated with methadone. Those attorneys said his intoxication led to the crash.

Officials with the district attorney's office could not be reached for comment. Fred Mackaness, the father of the victim, also could not be reached for comment on the plea agreement.

DEATHS

Ronald Gerald Baptiste
Thomas John Beckman
Gerald R. Bode
Geraldine Bernadette Johnson Brown
Dorothy McConnell Castaing
Irene Ruiz deBouchel
Dorothy Kinsella Diblin
Ruth LaCroix DiLeo
Adrin C. Domino
Cecilia R. Drouant
Ryan Jacob Eskine
Emmett E. Everett
Alice E. Fernandez
Harry James Johnson
Emma Harris Jones
Mrs. Erminie Abbott Savois Labella
Pierre Jean Langlois
Vida Ruth LeCron Laporte
Austin James Leslie
James Jackie Lewis III
Michael Don Manis
Anees Mogabgab
John E. Moss
Caroline Allison Ogden
Laura Rotolo Pieno
James Calvin Pitre
Flora Leona Rivers
Jossie Mae Smith
Sterling Francis Spencer
Mitchell Sullivan
Roy Alan Worrell
Marcelle Jacobs Wright

### BAPTISTE
Ronald Gerald Baptiste, Sr., born June 3, 1936 passed away in Hampton, VA, on Thursday, September 29, 2005 of heart failure. He was the beloved husband of Betty Baptiste. Father of Ronald G. Baptiste, Jr.; Michael A. Baptiste, Sr.; Kirk Baptiste, Sr.; Troy Delaney, Leon (Benny) Delaney, Jr., Charmine Delaney and Denise Delaney Cousin. Father-in-law of Kim Baptiste, Yolanda Baptiste, Leah Baptiste and Ronald Cousin, Sr. Brother of the late Henry Baptiste, Merlin Baptiste, Venon Baptiste, Harold Baptiste, Yvonne Baptiste, Joycelyn Jack, Armide Baptiste. Survived by 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. He was a life long resident of New Orleans. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral mass at St. Margaret Mary Church, at 1050 Robert Blvd., Slidell, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 10:15 am. All Visitations will begin at the church at 9:30 am. Interment to follow in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### BECKMAN
Thomas John "T.J." Beckman, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 2:10 PM. Husband of the late Thelma Glindmeyer Beckman. Brother of Mary Eilen Allo, Thelma Buford and the late William Joseph Beckman. Son of the late William and Bertha Esler Beckman. Uncle of Tommy Allo, Jr., Billy Buford, Larry Buford, Jerry Buford, and the late Ronnie Allo. Brother-in-law of Deanna Glindmeyer. Mr. Beckman was a U.S. Army Veteran and retired from American Can Company where he worked for 20 years. Age 73 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie for 40 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 12:00 PM. Visitation will begin at 9:30 AM. Temporary interment at Pinecrest Memorial Gardens in Covington LA. Final resting place will be in Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

### BODE
Gerald "Jerry" R. Bode at Maison DeVille Nursing Home, Harvey, LA on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 10:06 A.M. Beloved father of Kristi Bode Ruffina, father-in-law of Luke Vincent Ruffina, former husband of Pate Bode. Brother of Albert Bode, Jr., Rosie Rome and the late Raymond Bode, Leah Lea, and Eldoris Bode. Brother-in-law of Cathrine Bode. Age 73 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 45 years. Relatives, friends, and members of IBEW Union Local #130 are invited to attend the funeral service from the Metairie Home of LA-MANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:00 PM followed by interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie LA. Visitation on Friday, October 7, 2005 from 11:00 AM until funeral time. Information, 831-9901. Sign on-line guest book at www.legacy.com

### BROWN
Geraldine Bernadette Johnson Brown passed away on September 27, 2005 in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She will be remembered as a devoted mother, grandmother, and a committed follower of Jesus Christ. Born on September 24, 1928, she was a life long resident of Algiers. She was a retired sales associate for Maison Blanche Department Stores and a member of Mount Pilgrim 4th Baptist Church. Daughter of the late Oscar J. Johnson and Beatrice Black Johnson. Beloved wife of the late Bernie A. Brown, Sr. Mother of Denise B. Barbarin, Janet L. Brown, Bernie A. Brown Jr., and Courtney B. Bagneris. Sister of Shirley J. Coleman, the late Florence J. Hamption, and Oscar J. Johnson, Jr. Mother-in-law of Vaughn Barbarin, Sr., and Cedric Bagneris. Grandmother of Vaughn Barbarin, Jr., Kristen Barbarin Porter, Bailey and Blake Bagneris. Great-grandmother of Myron J. III and Myles J. Porter, and Conner R. Barbarin. Devoted niece of Percy and Joseph Johnson and the late Enola and Lionel Antoine. Cousin of Gloria M. Darville. Sister-in-law of Henry Coleman and the late Gladys B. Clark, Charles W. Olga, Ann, Nellie, Warren and Percy Brown. Also survived by a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Relatives and friends of the family; also Pastors. Officers and Members of Mt. Pilgrim 4th Baptist Church and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the Funeral Services at First Free Mission Baptist Church, 426 Larmarque Street, Algiers at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, October 8, 2005. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM Interment in Oakville Cemetery Oakville, LA. Bishop Wilfred Johnson officiating. Rev. Johnny Johnson, Host Pastor. Murray Henderson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### CASTAING
Dorothy McConnell Castaing passed away on September 25, 2005 in Memphis, Tennessee. She was 85. Beloved wife of the late Louis Joseph Castaing, Sr. Mother of Louis Joseph Castaing, Jr., Mary Hollace Brady and the late Lisa Castaing Miller. Mother-in-law of Patrick Brady. Daughter of the late William G. McConnell and Jeannette Durfee McConnell. Grandmother of Sean, Matthew and Kyle Brady. A Funeral mass was held at St. Catherine of Siena on Wednesday, September 28, 2005. Interment will be held at Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas TX 75265-0309. To sign and view the family guestbook, please visit www.lakelawnmetairie.com

### DEBOUCHEL
Irene Ruiz deBouchel passed away Monday October 3, 2005 at Desoto Regional Medical Center in Mansfield, Louisiana at 12:30 P.M at the age of 72. She was the wife of the late Gerald A. deBouchel. Mother of Gregory O Ruiz, Sr. and the late Jeanne deBouchel. Sister of Inez R. Herrmann, Ruth R. Hernandez, Alex L. Ruiz, Gerald R/ Ruiz, Sr. and the late Marie R. Salles. Grandmother of Gregory O. Ruiz Jr., Beau R. Ruiz and Kristin A. Ruiz. Great grandmother of Kylie Rae Ruiz, Paris Riley Ruiz and Abigail Leigh Yarborough. A Native of New Orleans, Louisiana and a resident of Meraux, Louisiana for the past 30 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, October 7, 2005 at Bagnell and Son Funeral Home, 75212 Lee Road, Covington, Louisiana. Visitation from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Friday. Interment will be private.

### DIBLIN
Dorothy Kinsella Diblin, 78, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie passed away Sept. 6, 2005, in Morgan City. She was the daughter of Andrew and Alice Kinsella, born June 21, 1927. Services will be held at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church, 8500 W. Metairie Ave October 8th 2005. Visitation at 10:00 a.m. with mass to follow at 11:00 a.m. (burial pending). She is survived by her husband, Clarence Diblin, Jr. of Metairie; her two sons, Clarence and his wife Joan Diblin III of Covington, Mark and Melissa Diblin of Gainesville, Fl.; her daughter, Connie and her husband Larry Besson of Metairie; her brother, Andrew Kinsella and his wife Pat of Mandeville; her sister Marilyn Brechtel and her husband Warren of Covington. She is also survived by her six loving grandchildren, Cody, Joshua, Dorie, Abby, and Molly Diblin, Alison Cupit, and great-granddaughter Cassidy. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, Alice & Joseph Stelljes. Donations to O.L.D. P. Church hurricane relief fund or any cancer fund are encouraged.

### DILEO
Ruth LaCroix DiLeo, a resident of Metairie, for 56 years, died on September 24, 2005 after evacuating for Hurricane Katrina to Arcadia, Louisiana. She was 84 years young. Mrs. DiLeo was born in Ft. Worth Texas and came to New Orleans in 1940 to attend Charity Hospital School of Nursing. Ruth worked at Touro Infirmary for 42 years, being one of the first nurses to open the ICU and taught with the Inservice Department for many years, orienting and training new nurses. Ruth continued her education, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Holy Cross College. She had many friends with the Lures & Liars Sportsmen's Club. For decades, Ruth was very active at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School and Church, including serving as a Eucharistic Minister for many years. Ruth also enjoyed being an active member of the Legion of Mary at St. Catherine's, through the years. Ruth was the beloved wife of Dr. Carlo A. DiLeo; the adored mother of Carol D. Benit, Trudy, Charles and Stephen DiLeo and the late Christopher DiLeo; mother-in-law of Thomas Benit, Christopher Shaw, Cassandra Miele DiLeo, Janet Wall DiLeo and the late Lillie Rome DiLeo; daughter of the late Gertrude Henton Lofton and Adolphus Charles LaCroix; sister of Milton LaCroix, Gertrude Wood and the late Maxine Johnston, Ralph LaCroix and Adolphus C. LaCroix, Jr. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. The family invites friends and relatives to visit at the Metairie Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2929 Metairie Road on Friday, October 7, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Visitations are also welcome on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM at the funeral home followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. at 11:00 AM. Temporary interment will follow at Jefferson Memorial Gardens, 11316 River Road, St. Rose, Louisiana, with final interment in Lake Lawn

### DOMINO
Adrin C. Domino departed this life at West Jefferson Medical on Sunday, August 28, 2005 at 9:09 A.M. at the age of 30. Father of Troyonna and Toye Domino. Son of Jewell P. Domino Hampton and the late Andre A. Domino. Stepson of David Hampton, Jr. Grandson of Antoine and Rosemary Domino and the late Matthew and Serena Peterson. Brother of Andre A. Domino, Jr., Kendra and Karla Hampton. Uncle Andre A. Collins. Brother-in-law of Vanessa Domino. Companion of Charnell Audrict, Also survived by a host of Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, other Relatives and Friends. A native of New Orleans, LA. and a resident of Marrero, LA. Relatives and friends of the family also Pastors, Officers, and members of St. Peter M.B.C. and neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral service. Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 11:00A.M. Rev. Alex J. Robertson III Officiating (No Wake) Visitation from 8:30A.M. until service time at the above nam es Parlor. interment: Woodlawn Cemetery, Westwego, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service.

### DROUANT
Cecilia R. Drouant, of Slidell, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005, at her residence. Beloved wife of Paul B. Drouant, Jr. Mother of one son Paul B. Drouant III. Two daughters, Lauri T. Drouant and Angela R. Drouant. Daughter of Cecilia M. Baronich and the late Harold J. Baronich. Sister of Harold J. Baronich, Jr., Carol B. Kuhn, Tina B. Matherne, and the late Josie Petit. Also survived by one granddaughter, Bailey Anne Dormant. Age 61 years. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Slidell for 30 day. She was a loan officer with the Bank of Louisiana for 15 years and a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Slidell, LA. Funeral Services will be held at FOREST LAWN MAUSOLEUM, 1751 GAUSE Blvd WEST (in Forest Lawn Cemetery), Slidell, LA on Friday October 7, 2005 at 1:00 pm. Fr. Adrian B. Hall, officiating. Temporary interment will be in Pinecrest Memorial Garden, Covington, LA with the final interment in Lake Lawn Park Masoleum at a later date. Arrangements by Honak er Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### ESKINE
Ryan Jacob Eskine passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Age 31 years. Beloved husband of Danielle Chanove Eskine. Father of Tristen Eskine. Stepfather of David Walters, III. Son of Paul H. Eskine, Sr. and Lydia Seifert Docampo. Stepson of Leah B. Eskine and Pedro Docampo. Brother of Paul H. Eskine, Jr. Grandson of Noemie Seifert. Brother-in-law of Joe and Dominique Chanove. Son-in-law of Wallace and Mary Lynn Chanove. Mr. Eskine was a member of St. Genevieve Catholic Church. Relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Louisiana Carpenters Regional, the Louisiana State Troopers Association and the New Orleans Police Department are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Chapel, 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM and on Friday from 11:00 AM until time of Mass. In lieu of flowers donations to STOPS, St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433 preferred. Burial will follow in Pinecrest Cemetery.

### EVERETT
Emmett E. Everett, Sr. (Pablo), on September 1, 2005 at Memorial Medical Center - Baptist Campus. Beloved husband of Carrie R. Everett. Father of Emmett E. Everett, Jr. and Delfina V. Everett. Grandfather of Emmett E. Gordon and Crystal A. Dabney. Son of the late Leola Balderramos and Foster Everett, Stepfather Cirilo Balderramos. Brother of the late James R. Everett, Henry A. Everett and Allan L. Balderramos, Sr.. A native of Honduras, lived in New Orleans, LA for most of his life. Survived by a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Relatives and friends of the family also employees of Sewerage and Water Board, U.S. Marine, The Home Depot, and AutoZone are invited to attend. A graveside service was held at Providence Park at 8200 Airline Highway on Wednesday, October 5, 2005.

### FERNANDEZ
Alice E. Fernandez (nee Arseneaux) on October 2, 2005. Mrs Fernandez has lived in Drexel Hill, PA for the past six months, but was raised in New Orleans, LA and was a long time resident of Metairie, LA. Beloved wife of the late Bernard J. Fernandez, Sr. Dear mother of Bernard J. Fernandez, Jr. (Anne) of Drexel Hill, Pa. Devoted grandmother of 4 and great grandmother of 7. Relatives and friends are invited to attend Alice's life celebration on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 8:00 am - 10:30 am at Spencer T. Videon of Drexel Hill Garrett Road at Shadeland Avenue, followed by her Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am at St. Andrew the Apostle Church 3500 School Lane, Drexel Hill, PA. Interment Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund C/O American Red Cross Southeastern PA Chapter 23rd and Chestnut Streets Phila., PA 19104.

### JOHNSON
Harry James Johnson, Sr. Departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at the age of 59. Beloved husband Colleen Winder Johnson. Adoring father of Chrysan, Harry, Jr., Cesha, Keely, Darren, Damon, Tiffany (Glenn, Jr.) Davidson, Christopher and Christiana Johnson. Grandfather of Wayne, Cameron, Michael, Darren, Jr, Taylor, Tyler, Glenn, III, Trina and Angel. Son of Oscar (Gayle) Johnson and Laura (Eugene) West. Brother of Ronald Johnson, Myrna (Henry) Bennett, Iris White, Sheila Johnson and Lintrell Clements, and the late Sidney Johnson. Son-in-law of Jimmy and Mary Howard. Brother-in-law of James (Sally) Howard. Also survived by a host of Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Other Relatives and Friends. A native of New Orleans, LA. and a resident of Harvey, LA. for the past 25 years. Relatives and friends also priest and parishioners of St. John the Bosco Catholic Church., St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church and all neighboring churches. He was the owner and agent of C & H Bail Bonds Agency and Johnson Consulting Service, Founding Member of African American Voters League, Past Recording Secretary of International Longshoreman Association, Former owner of Harry James Solon, Chapter One Restaurant, Johnson Seafood Restaurant and Captain of a few good friends Karnival Krewe. Are invited to attend the mass of Christian Burial from St. John the Bosco Catholic Church, 2114 Oakmere Dr, Harvey, LA. on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. (No Wake) Visitation from 9:00 A.M. until service time. Interment: Westlawn Cemetery - Gretna, LA. arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service.

### JONES
Emma Harris Jones on Sunday October 2, 2005 at West Jefferson Medical Center. Wife of David Jones. Mother of Andrea, Denise, Ronald and David Jones Jr., Leo Byrd, Vivian Taylor, Rose Harrison, James Mitchell and the late Lillian Meade. Also by a host of brothers, sisters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 11:00 AM at Murray Henderson Funeral Home 1209 Teche Street Algiers, LA. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM. Interment in McDonghville Cemetery Gretna, LA.

### LABELLA
Mrs. Erminie Abbott Savois Labella on Saturday, September 24, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Anthony LaBella and of the late Roland Savois by first marriage. Mother of Joy Savois Ledet and stepmother of Joseph Labella. Sister of the late Austin, Irvin and Charles Abbott and Doralee Voelker, Marguarite Wingerter and Abbigail Heider. Mother-in-law of Charles J. Ledet, Sr. Also survived by her grandchildren: Charles Ledet, Jr., Monique M. Ledet, Patrice A Mayberry; Great-Grandchildren, Charles III, Kristyle, Austin and Caitlyn Ledet, Collin J. Mayberry and Anna M. Labella; and great-great-grandchild Brianna Ledet. Age 92 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of St. Tammany Parish, LA for the past 12 years. A Funeral Mass was held in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home. Interment: McDonoghville Cemetery, Gretna, LA.

### LANGLOIS
Pierre Jean Langlois, age 74 years, died in Houston, Texas on September 29, 2005 at 6:10 PM. A native of Pointe-A-Pitre, Guadeloupe and a resident of River Ridge, LA for the past 37 years. He was the former General Motors dealer in Point-A-Coupe and a retired marine cargo surveyor. Mr. Langlois was the former Vice Counsel of the Netherlands from 1964-1968. Beloved husband of Denise Thionville Langlois. Father of Pierre Guy Langlois and wife Patricia, Jack Jean Langlois and wife Catherine, Raymond Maurice Langlois and wife Michele, Francois Pierre Langlois, Bernard Pierre Langlois and wife Holly and Philippe Jack Langlois and wife Gina. Brother of Helene L. Ross and husband Melvin. Also survived by two nephews and 17 grandchildren, Raymond F., Brigitte Burke, Jonathan, Danielle, Nicholas, Nicole, Lauren, Jean Pierre, Thomas, Jennifer, John Paul, Alexi, Jack II, Marielle, Sabrina, and Alyssa Langlois. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services from the Jefferson home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 North Causeway Blvd. at 43rd Street on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Friends may call at the funeral home from 11:00 AM until service time. Interment will follow in the Garden of Memories. In lieu of the usual remembrances, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Assn., 3340 Severn Ave., Metairie, LA 70002.

### LAPORTE
Vida Ruth LeCron Laporte was welcomed into heaven on September 30, 2005 at 4:30 pm from East Jefferson General Hospital after a brief illness. Beloved wife of the late Gordon S. Laporte, and daughter of the late Rev. Michael R. and Bernadine LeCron. Adored mother of Susan Ruth Laporte and Michael Gordon Laporte, and, by love and affection of Myrna L. Collado, and mother-in-law of Christy Palmes Laporte. Cherished sister of Berna Schambach and Janice Lewis, and sister-in-law of Ed Schambach and Leroy Lewis. Loving aunt to nieces Becky Young and Laura Melohn, and nephews Oswald Laporte and the late Bill Bond, an to numerous grand-nieces and -nephews. Sister-in-law of the late Edward and Daisy Laporte, and of John and Edith Laporte. Loving friend to and loved by countless others. Also survived by her beloved dog, Lady. Age 82. A lifelong resident of New Orleans, member of St. John Lutheran Church on Canal St, and a retired Library Technician for the USDA Southern Regional Research Laboratory. Founding member and former Social Co-Chairperson of the Lake Oaks Civic Association, and Historian of the Lake Oaks Garden Club. Officer of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (former President and Secretary of the New Orleans zone, and former secretary of the Louisiana-Mississippi District). Branch officer for over 50 years of the Aid Association for Lutherans (now Thrivent Financial for Lutherans). Secretary of the ladies Circle of St. John Lutheran Church, New Orleans, and a tireless volunteer on behalf of the Lutheran Church-MissouriSynod. In Lieu of Flowers, Memorials to the LeCron Memorial Fund of the Luthern Church-Missouri Synod, Southern District, 2142 O'Neal Ave, #303, Baton Rouge, LA, 70816 (telephone 225-756-2222), or to St. John Lutheran Church, 3937 Canal St, New Orleans, are appreciated. Visitation on Saturday, October 8, 2005 beginning at 9:00 am, followed by services at 12:00 Noon, at Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N.

### LESLIE
Austin James Leslie, a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, died Wednesday, September 29, 2005 at the Atlanta Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Leslie was born in Orleans Parish on July 2, 1934 to the late Ruby DeJean Leslie Johnson, and the late Glenn W. Leslie. Mr. Leslie was an U.S. Army Veteran. Mr. Leslie began his cooking career at the legendary Portia's Restaurant on South Rampart Street in New Orleans. Mr. Leslie then spent four and a half years at D.H. Holmes' restaurant as an assistant chef in New Orleans. Mr. Leslie began assisting his aunt, restaurateur Helen Pollock in 1964 at Chez Helene Restaurant in New Orleans. In 1975, Helen Pollock retired and turned the reigns over to Mr. Leslie. For thirty years, "Chef Leslie" made his name as a renowned chef both nationally and internationally at Chez Helene Restaurant. In 1995, after thirty years of Creole soul food cooking at Chez Helene, he brought his distinctive style to several restaurants including: N'awlinsin Denmark, and Jacques-Imos and Pampy's in New Orleans. Mr. Leslie served as a chef consultant to numerous other Creole soul food restaurants. Mr. Leslie's cooking has recieved worldwide critical acclaim from several sources. He is survived by his wife, Victoria Stuart Leslie; on daughter, Tracey Leslie Quinn; three stepsons, Gerald Emelle, Gary Emelle, and Felix Rainey; two stepdaughters, Shannon and Tanya Rainey; one son-in-law, Jonathan Quinn, Sr.; one daughter-in-law, Maria Hebert, and ten grandchildren, Jontrell, Jada, and Jonathan Quinn, Jr., Tegist Emelle, Ariane, Darielle, Daizhan, and Felix Rainey, Elodia and Martin Blanco, III. Two great-grandchildren, Jontrell, Quentin Perkins and Telika Blanco. He is also survived by one sister, Glenna Leslie Burgess and brother-in-law Albert Burgess; several nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by sister Bernadine Leslie Nailer. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, October 7, 2005 at First Congregational U.C.C. 105 Courtland Street, N.E., where the viewing of the remains will lie in state two hours prior to funeral time. Murray Brothers funeral home in Atlanta, Georgia is in charge of arrangements.

### LEWIS
James Jackie Lewis III, age 29, on Monday, October 3. Son of James J. Lewis, Jr. and Cindy Haan. Brother of Shannon and Charlene Lewis. Grandson of Michelle Haan, Mel & Virginia Haan and Barbara Lewis. Great-grandson of Sarah Caldwell. Uncle of Taylor Simon and Julian Rodriguez. Also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was a native of Seneca, SC and a resident of New Orleans, LA for the past 24 years. The relatives and friends of the family and invited to attend the Funeral Service from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 4:00 PM. Visitation will be from 2:00 PM until time of service. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations sent to Odyssey House, LA, Inc. 235 Grandpre St. #4, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

### MANIS
Michael Don Manis, Jr. on Monday, October 3, 2005. Father of Bryce Michael Manis and Madison Michelle Manis. Son of Eva Dwyer and the late Michael D. Manis, Sr. Stepson of Andrew P. Dwyer. Brother of Micki M. Dean and husband, Keith J. Dean, Jr. Companion of Tonya Plaisance. Maternal Grandson of Clara Menchaca and the late Raymond A. Menchaca. Paternal grandson of Mae Catalano. Great-grandson of Willie Mae Anderson. Age 25 years. A native of Okaloosa County, FL and a current resident of Harvey, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment: Jefferson Memorial Gardens, St. Rose, LA. Parlors will be open on Thursday morning from 9:00 AM until Mass time. In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Cletus Church School Fund preferred.

### MOGABGAB
Anees Mogabgab, Jr. On September 8, 2005, Anees Mogabgab, Jr., died of congestive heart failure in Houston, Texas. He was 80 years old. Mr. Mogabgab was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 24, 1925, son of Dr. Anees Mogabgab and Maude Jopes Mogabgab, also preceded in death by his brother, Dr. William J. Mogabgab. He graduated from Tulane University receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, a Masters of Business Administration and a degree in Commerce. During his undergraduate studies, he was elected and served as President of the student body of the School of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Mogabgab was an avid and articulate linguist and was one of the earliest to receive the certification of CPCU ever awarded. He served in the United States Marine Corps and in the Louisiana National Guard during World War II and was honorably discharged from both services. He retired as President of Northrop, Inc. Mr Mogabgab was an honorary member of the Tally-Ho Club and a former member of the New Orleans Country Club, the Southern Yacht Club and the Pass Christian yacht Club. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Janet Northrop Mogabgab, two sons, Stephen A. and Paul N., two daughters, Janet Magee and Judith Tyrl. His surviving grandchildren are Anees Tyrl, Eva Snapp, Jason, Owen, Blake and Elaine Mogabgab. and one great grandson Stephen Clay Mogabgab. Subsequent to his death, his body was donated to the University of Texas Medical School. A memorial celebration will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Tammany Hospice.

### MOSS
John E. Moss on Thursday, September 29, 2005, he was 79. Father of Nicole Moss Dorignac of Madisonville, LA; step-father of Gaylane Bonck. He is also survived by one granddaughter, Margaret Dorignac. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert Lamar and Velma Fullen Moss. Mr. Moss began his life at Sea by serving in WWII and Vietman. Soon after his tours with the Merchant Marines, Mr. Moss sailed as Boson, later attained licensing to sail as 1st mate. Finally he retired from the Seafarer's International Union and Master, Mates and Pilots Union. Memorial Services were held Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 6:00 PM at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA. Interment Services will be held at Metairie Cemetery at a later date. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### OGDEN
Caroline "Carrie" Allison Ogden, a senior at Louisiana State University, died Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the age of 23. She was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from Holy Name of Jesus and Ursuline Academy. She was a Parishioner of St. Martha's Catholic Church. While attending high school and college she was a counselor at Camp Challenge for Kids with Cancer and recently volunteered for the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort. Survivors include her parents Charles Barry Ogden and Jane T. Ogden of Gretna, Louisiana; a grandmother Shirley S. Triay of New Orleans; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation will be Wednesday night October 5, 2005 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, Louisiana. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am on Thursday, October 6, 2005 and mass will be held at 11:00 am at Mothe Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Hope Mausoleum, 4841 Canal Street, New Orleans.

### PIENO
Laura Rotolo Pieno of Marrero, LA on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 10:00 am. Beloved wife of Anthony (Tony) Pieno; Mother of Toni Pieno Besse; Mother-in-Law of Robert Besse; Sister of the late Rosalie Talamo, Virginia Rudolph, Genevieve Castellano, Anna Licciardi, Guy (Tony) Rotolo, Anthony Rotolo, and Sam Rotolo; Daughter of the late Joseph Rotolo and Marie Grace Gibina Rotolo; Grandmother of Laura B. Rudiger, Rachel Simons, and Nathan Besse; Great-Grandmother of Matthew Drachenberg, Patrick Rudiger, Thomas Rudiger, Joseph Simons, and Audrey Simons. Mrs. Pieno was the recipient of SJW Senior Citizen of the Year Award. Relatives and friends of the family also Parishoners of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, SJW Senior Citizens, Continental Can Company Plant #37, Sanbell Supply Company Friends of JTCT and OWTC, Scando's Beauty Salon, and Westside Street Rod Assoc. are inveted to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Marrero, LA on Monday October 3, 2005 at 12 Noon. Interment in Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Visitation on Monday, October 3, 2005 from 9:00 am until 12 Noon at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Marrero, LA. Information 504-341-6421.

### PITRE
James Calvin Pitre, age 78, on Tuesday, October 4. Husband of Gennie LeBlanc. Father of Cindy Weaver, Cathy Horton & her husband Joseph. Son of the late Marshall Pitre and Bridget Brignac. Brother of Norwood Pitre, Lessie "lee" Tipton, Delores A. Kostick, and Donna R. Haas. Grandfather of Matthew Weaver and Caitlyn & Ashlyn Horton. He was a native of Ville Platte, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA for the past 31 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM until time of service.

### RIVERS
Flora Leona Rivers Died On Thursday, September 29, 2005 At Platte County Memorial Hospital In Wheatland, Wyoming. Beloved Wife Of The Late Opal David "O.D." Rivers. Mother Of Judith F. Huffaker Of Wheatland, WY, David A. Rivers Of Jasper, AL, Brenda K. Rausin Of Sicily Island, LA, John W. Rivers And Tommy R. Rivers, Both Of Belle Chasse, LA. Sister Of Ora Othell Jackson Of Osceola, IN, Lee Albert Donaldson Of Talladega, AL, Ronald E. Donaldson Of Hueytown, AL And Harland E. Donaldson Of Montgomery, AL. Also Survived By 11 Grandchildren, 19 Great Grandchildren, Numerous Nieces, Nephews, Sister-In-Laws And Friends Too Numerous To Count. She Was Preceded In Death By Her Parents, William Oather Donaldson And Bessie (Hannah) Donaldson And Five Siblings. Age 87 Years. A Native Of Searles, AL And A Resident Of Wheatland, WY For The Past 8 Years. Realatives And Friends Of The Family Are Invited To Attend Funeral Services At Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Wesybank Expressway, Harvey, LA On Thursday, October 6, 2005 At 1:00 PM. Interment: Restlawn Park Cemetery, Avondale, LA. There Will Be a Visitation On Thursday Morning From 10:00 AM Until Funeral Time. In Lieu Of Flowers, Donations To Platte County Memorial Nursing Home, P.O. Box 848, Wheatland, WY 82201 Would Be Appreciated By The Family.

### SMITH
Jossie Mae Smith, a homemaker, died on September 29, 2005 at Summit Hospital in Baton Rouge, LA, after a long illness at age 85. She was born in Tylertown, MS to the late Ruby Quinn. Lovingly called "Baby" by her late husband, Woodrow Smith Sr. She leaves to mourn her death six children and their spouses: Ruby Carney (Jewel), Evella Smith of New Orleans, LA, JoAnn McCullough (John) of Montclair, NJ, Woodrow Smith Jr., Dane Clark Smith of New Orleans, LA, and Patricia Smith Swan (Glen) of DeSoto, TX. Also mourning her loss are three grandsons, four granddaughters, one sister, Earline Holmes, and a host of other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Friday, October 7, 2005 at Providence Baptist Church, 11509 Jefferson Highway. The church will be open for viewing form 10:00 am until 11:00 am. Services will begin at 11:00 am with interment to follow at Providence Memorial Park Cemetery. A repast will be held at the church. Personal condolences can be sent to the family at 53 Madison Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042. Funeral Arrangements are handled by Richardson Funeral Home.

### SPENCER
Sterling Francis Spencer on Wednesday, September 14, 2005. Beloved husband of Joann I. Spencer, brother of Laurie E. Spencer, John David Spencer and Todd Michael Spencer. Son of the late Emily Greaux Spencer. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Age 58 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a current resident of Harvey, LA. A Memorial Mass was held at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church. Interment: St. Bartholomew Cemetery, Algiers, LA. Mothe Funeral Homes in charge of arrangements.

### SULLIVAN
Mitchell Sullivan departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center on Thursday, September 22, 2005, at the age of 47. Devoted companion of Deborah Coston. Father of Richard James

The Times-Picayune

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and FRANCIS A. LUMSDEN, *Publishers, 1837-1864*
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# YOUR OPINIONS




STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Crews from the state Department of Transportation and Development remove a rock levee on Airline Drive at the Orleans-Jefferson line Sept. 30.

## Merge parishes into one

It would seem with such a small number of people remaining in our region and planning to return, we should take advantage of this situation to bring our newborn metropolis into the modern age and dispel some of those horrible images that have mortally wounded our tourist industry.

We have now seen, as has the world, where the institutions of segregation and discrimination have gotten us: a large percentage of the population living in poverty, a robust crime rate, a school system in disarray.

To solve all of these problems, as well as having the resources available to rebuild our region, we should consolidate the three connected parishes, Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard, into one.

Are we our brother's keeper? Do we have enough to help others? To help ourselves?

I know it's not in our history to work together, but maybe we should put it there.

**Jim Ferrera**
*Marrero*

## Kenner mayor is proud of city's response to storm's challenges

Re: "Who benefits from drowned Jefferson Parish?" Your Opinions, Sept. 29.

I take exception to Gene P. Inman's claims in his letter regarding conditions in Kenner during Hurricane Katrina. Wind damage in Kenner was anything but "minimal." Thousands of homes and businesses in Kenner sustained wind damage. For more than two weeks we did not have water or sewage services, and only 30 percent of the city had power. Had residents returned too early, additional damage would have been caused by sewage backups, not to mention the danger from downed power lines and ruptured gas lines.

Mr. Inman gives the impression that it was my decision to stop the pumps prior to the storm's arrival. No Jefferson Parish municipal mayor has authority over the pumping system. All pumping stations, drainage systems and pumping station staff are controlled exclusively by Jefferson Parish. The massive flooding in Kenner after the storm disturbs me greatly.

The suggestion that I would cause harm to Kenner for the sake of one federal dollar is utter nonsense and an insult. The city is reimbursed for some of the emergency services provided, and to get federal assistance we must painstakingly document all expenses. The city will lose a great deal of its cash reserves in this disaster.

Mr. Inman said he hopes we are "proud" of our work. Frankly, I am very proud. I am proud of my staff, which pulled together in the worst possible conditions and worked around the clock for four weeks to get Kenner moving again. I am proud of the Kenner firefighters, police officers and city workers who helped keep homes as safe as possible. We immediately began the rebuilding of our city infrastructure and jump-started commerce by allowing businesses to return to the city after only two weeks.

**Philip L. Capitano**
*Mayor*
*Kenner*

## Pay to evacuate? Why not?

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it has become clear that the proper evacuation of the thousands of poor people in our city was a major problem. Some have said that those who stayed did so because they are too dependent on government handouts and waited for the state and FEMA to bail them out. I think the problem was more subtle.

I doubt anyone consciously said, "Let's just sit around here and wait for the water to rise. The government will come in and fix us up." Instead, people stayed for two main reasons. First, some stayed because they felt the storm would not hurt them. They figured that in the past no hurricane had destroyed their homes, there was no reason to think Hurricane Katrina would be any different. This hard-headed attitude is a product of poor education.

The second reason (and the more prevalent, I think) is lack of funds. Who wants to jump on a bus and be left off in Dallas with $5 in his pocket? This is a very real and understandable source of anxiety.

This second reason can be solved. I propose that at the beginning of hurricane season, the state issue hurricane cards to eligible citizens. These cards would be a kind of voucher that would only be activated in the event of a mandatory evacuation order. At that point each card would be linked to an account with a modest amount of money — say, $250. This money could be spent only outside the evacuation area, and the account would be closed in about a week. If the evacuation remained in effect three days later, more money could be issued.

Critics might argue that this plan is tantamount to paying residents to leave the city. It is. On the other hand, putting up a few dollars ahead of time to get people to leave town sounds like a small price to pay to make sure the events at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and the Superdome never happen again.

**Michael C. Hebert**
*Chalmette*
*Now in Metairie*

## School Board should act or step aside

Re: "School Board politics emerge intact," Oct. 3.

As three displaced families and parents of eight Orleans Parish schoolchildren, we are compelled to respond to article on the overwhelming inertia of the Orleans Parish School Board. At a time of the most catastrophic natural disaster in our countryís history, members of the Orleans Parish School Board cannot find a way to put aside their egos and personal needs in order to put New Orleans' children's needs first.

Our lives are in New Orleans. Soon we shall have utilities and drinkable water and should be able to come home to rebuild the city that we love. But because the schools are not ready for our children, we cannot come home. The boardís leaders appear more interested in advancing their own agenda than to admit they are in over their heads. They should accept the offered help and expertise from concerned specialists from across the state and country.

Have we all not suffered enough? We beg of those on the School Board, please do what is best for the children. Either consult and work with state and national authorities who can lead New Orleans schools forward, or step aside and allow those who are interested and willing to do so.

**Jan Kahoe, Larry Durante, Gretchen Becnel and Shellie Shockey**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Bitter medicine

Because of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, plenty of employers in the metro area are being forced to make painful choices. Government agencies are no exception. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announced Tuesday that the city is laying off 3,000 employees — about half its work force — because it can't afford to keep paying them. For much the same reason, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack Stephens laid off more than 200 employees. Other public agencies may well end up making similar decisions in coming weeks.

Unquestionably, these layoffs represent a hardship for public employees, many of whom have also lost their homes, and for the New Orleans area as a whole. The loss of thousands of jobs could hamper efforts to get the local economy moving again, and evacuees who have no source of income left will have even less of a reason to return.

Nevertheless, the choice is straightforward: If there is no money to pay people, there is little option but to cut the public payroll.

Some commentators have suggested that any aid given to Louisiana will be squandered through profligacy and cronyism. The layoffs show that Mayor Nagin and Sheriff Stephens understand the depth and breadth of their communities' predicament and are trying to be fiscally responsible, even under the worst possible conditions. That ought to reassure federal and state officials and others who are watching local reconstruction efforts with a skeptical eye.

A key danger of these cuts, of course, is that they will hinder local governmentsí ability to provide the services necessary to attract residents back.

The cuts in New Orleans will not affect workers whom the mayor's office deemed essential: police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, health and safety inspectors, and sewerage, water and sanitation workers. Likewise, in reducing his office's work force from more than 400 to 182, Sheriff Stephens suggests that he focused on employees whose jobs are currently unnecessary. Workers assigned to guarding school crossings and serving subpoenas, for example, wouldn't have much to do anyway now that virtually all St. Bernard residents have evacuated. In the meantime, deputies who are staying on are getting a $500-a-month raise, to dissuade them from taking jobs elsewhere.

It's not yet clear whether these changes will be sufficient to stop the flow of red ink without crippling the government bodies involved. Mayor Nagin hinted that if the city's bleak revenue forecasts don't improve, Tuesday's layoffs could be only the beginning. Under current rules, money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency cannot be used to pay for the regular salaries of government employees; the idea, understandably enough, is to focus money on relief services rather than on propping up potentially bloated government agencies.

But Katrina is the rare disaster that threatens the continued existence of a community the size of New Orleans. FEMA officials and members of Congress need to consider making an exception — under rare circumstances and subject to strict controls.

With or without FEMA aid, though, the challenge facing local government agencies is formidable. When the population of a city or a parish plunges, its government will likely have to adapt and shrink accordingly. The reality is grim, but pretending otherwise won't make the problem go away.

## Don't hold your breath

To learn that a federal agency is bogged down in bureaucracy doesn't exactly qualify as a news flash. But even the most cynical among us must be stunned to learn that, as of earlier this week, the U.S. Small Business Administration had only approved 14 of its low-interest loans to businesses that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Only three of those businesses are in Louisiana, and it's unknown whether any are in the New Orleans area. By all accounts the problem is the mountains of paperwork that owners must complete. Requiring applicants to provide lots of records is perfectly acceptable under normal circumstances, but this isn't a normal circumstance.

So many small businesses in the Gulf Coast region were incapacitated by Katrina that the area's economy is threatened. According to Gov. Kathleen Blanco, about a third of the state's private businesses were disrupted by the one-two punch of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Katrina alone damaged about 68,000 small businesses in Louisiana.

Therefore, it behooves the SBA to expedite loan applications. The longer the area's businesses are shut, the less likely residents will be to return.

Tony Martinez, director of the Small Business Development Center in Baton Rouge, says his office has helped 30 business owners submit applications to the SBA and that the agency hasn't finished reviewing any of them. He also said a regional SBA official told him that business owners can expect a 90-day turnaround on their loan applications.

SBA spokeswoman Carol Chastang disputes that. She says the agency's goal is to have applications approved within 30 days. That's better than 90 days, of course, but it's far less speedy than it needs to be.

The SBA requires that applicants have detailed records showing the previous three years' worth of revenue on a month-to-month basis. They also must wait for a government inspector to come and look at the damaged business. U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal wonders why the SBA doesn't just assume that businesses in certain ZIP codes sustained heavy damage and forgo the time-consuming visits. It's a very good question.

Loan Program Director Herb Mitchell says he lacks the authority to waive legal requirements for government loans. If so, the Bush administration needs to give him that authority. Not every rule needs to be waived, of course. But the SBA does need to nimbly adjust to the needs of the business owners it was created to help.

It hasn't adjusted yet. And because it hasn't, many business owners and the economies that depend on them continue to suffer.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# A chance for better health care



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Wendy Spino, left, of Chalmette gets a shot Sept. 17 from Sherry Holland, a nurse from Columbia, Md., at Westwego Elementary School. Doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians set up shop in the school cafeteria to provide care for those in need.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we have an opportunity to construct something far more important than higher levees: a national health care system that looks less like a tightrope and more like a safety net.

A dozen years after President Clinton's health reform efforts were destroyed by the insurance industry's duplicity, it's worth trying again. The health care system is steadily becoming more gummed up in ways that are impossible to hide.

One of the bumper stickers attacking the Clinton plan read, "If You Like the Post Office, You'll Love National Health Insurance." That wouldn't work today: The Postal Service runs a system that is manifestly more rational and efficient than our health care system. For starters, imagine a postal system that refused to deliver letters to or from 45 million Americans — except on rare occasions, by ambulance.

"This is one of those fleeting opportunities where a catastrophe creates an opportunity to rebuild something better than before," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, president of the Children's Health Fund and associate dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

In a sign of the growing disenchantment with our health system, 13,000 doctors have joined Physicians for a National Health Program, which lobbies for a single-payer government-financed health program.

There are four main problems with the existing system. First, it leaves out 45 million uninsured Americans, and their number is rising. Second, it is by far the most expensive in the world, costing 15 percent of our national income, yet our outcomes are awful — U.S. life expectancy is worse than Costa Rica's. Third, our business competitiveness is undermined when, for example, medical expenses add $1,500 to the sticker of each General Motors car. Fourth, our system is catastrophically inefficient. According to a study in The New England Journal of Medicine, health administrative costs are $1,059 per capita in the United States and just $307 in Canada.

A single-payer system would be most efficient but probably is not politically feasible at the moment. The smart new book "The Health Care Mess" suggests a variety of more gradual approaches that would face less opposition.

Whatever the mechanism, all children should be covered. It's a disgrace that we use public funds to save the lives of nonagenarians but not those of 9-year-olds. And kids are a bargain: per capita medical spending is $1,525 for children younger than 5, and $9,000 per person aged 65 to 74.

A second principle is that we should put less emphasis on curative medicine and more on public health and prevention, everything from preparing for avian flu to encouraging exercise. Sure, we can buy more "left ventricular assist devices," which cost $210,000 per patient installed, or buy Erbitux for colon cancer, at $17,000 per month of treatment. But as a wise new book, "Prescription for a Healthy Nation," argues, you get more bang for the buck when you promote healthier lifestyles, such as by fighting obesity, cigarette smoking and the like.

Raising cigarette taxes saved far more American lives, for example, than an army of neurologists ever could. In the same spirit, I'd like to see a French fry tax. And imagine the health gains if we banned potato chips and soda from schools.

Reforming the health system won't be easy. In the real world, poor kids don't see doctors not only because they're uninsured, but also because Mom doesn't have a car, can't easily get time off from work or doesn't speak English. Those are hard nuts to crack, but one reason to think that we can do better is that much of the world does better.

I've been thinking of health care partly because of something that happened when I was on vacation in August. My kids and I were stacking firewood for my parents on the Yamhill, Ore., farm where I grew up, when suddenly the 7-foot stack collapsed — on top of my youngest. She was knocked down and pinned, her face bleeding, under a pile of logs.

I had insurance and a car to get to the emergency room — and in the end the logs (stained with blood) turned out to be in worse shape than my daughter. She's just fine. But that instant was heart-stopping in its terror, and the system routinely does fail such children in need. Isn't it worth fighting one more time for reforms so that we Americans can get health care every bit as good as Canada's?

Nicholas D. Kristof is a New York Times columnist.

# ON OTHER ISSUES: Justice Harriet Miers?

*Excerpts from the debate over President Bush's Supreme Court nominee*

President Bush certainly thought he was making the safe and clever choice when he nominated Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court. Precisely because the choice was too clever, it could prove to be dangerous to both Bush and his party.

In selecting his White House counsel, Bush seemed determined not so much to satisfy anyone in particular as to offend no one at all. Many voices insisted that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor needed to be replaced by a woman. Democrats who had supported Chief Justice John Roberts said they would battle hard against any right-wing ideologue. Social conservatives said they would not be satisfied with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales or anyone else who showed signs of being treacherously moderate on abortion.

Miers got to the top of the list because she could check the first box and leave the other two blank. Since so much of her career has been outside public view — either as a corporate lawyer or as a loyal Bush insider — Democrats eager to keep a staunch conservative off the court have no idea where she stands on most issues.

**— E.J. Dionne, in The Washington Post**

Here's what people at the White House told me after Bush announced to nearly everyone's surprise that Miers, 60, now the chief White House legal counsel, was his pick to replace Sandra Day O'Connor: After running the judicial selection process along with Karl Rove — the process that led to the Roberts nomination — she had become a candidate for the high court herself.

The president and others at the White House have had long discussions with her about judges. She and Rove were involved in questioning at least five candidates for the court vacancy Roberts has filled. From those talks over the months, I'm told, it became clear to Bush that she had exactly the philosophy of judicial restraint he favors and that she wouldn't "grow" as a justice and turn into a swing vote or a liberal.

Also, I'm told, the president is fully aware of the stakes in this nomination. Roberts' replacement of William Rehnquist as chief justice was simply a conservative replacing a conservative. But Miers would succeed a swing justice. With her, I'm told further, Bush believes he would be altering the ideological makeup of the court, moving it to the right.

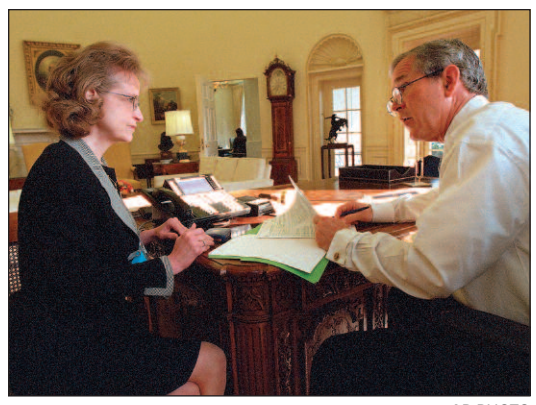
**— Fred Barnes, in The Weekly Standard**

On the major legal debates of her time, Miers has remained largely silent. Perhaps this is because she hasn't had the public opportunity to express her views, but a rational worry is that she doesn't have well-developed opinions about the reach into state prerogatives of the Commerce Clause, the separation of powers, the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, the breadth of the right to privacy, and so on. The lesson of other Republican nominees without such fixed views — Harry Blackmun, (David) Souter, Anthony Kennedy — is that they always drift to the left once they get on the court.

We aren't talking here, by the way, about Miers' personal views on abortion. GOP advocates yesterday were making much of the nominee's fight, in the early 1990s, to stop the American Bar Association from endorsing abortion on demand and public financing. For some social conservatives, this may be enough to assure them that Miers will vote correctly. But a judge is not a policymaker, and the problem with the Supreme Court's line of "privacy" cases isn't solely their policy result. It is that the justices invented a right in the "penumbras" and "emanations" of the Constitution and then stole the decision-making power from the people and their legislators on these social issues. What matters is where Miers stands on the Constitutional question.

Apart from his personal loyalty, this lack of a public record may have been Bush's main reason for nominating her: She won't be an easy ideological target, and so the left won't be able to find the "extraordinary circumstances" to sustain a filibuster.

**— editorial, The Wall Street Journal**



AP PHOTO

In this 2001 photo, Harriet Miers, then staff secretary at the White House, confers with President Bush over personnel forms. Bush nominated Miers for the Supreme Court Monday.

Why does President Bush's nomination of White House Counsel Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court remind me of Patty Hearst marrying her bodyguard? I can see how Miers might turn out to be a brilliant pick. But her proximity and loyalty to Bush are burdens, not virtues. They raise extra doubts that need to be overcome — i.e., doubts that wouldn't be raised in an equally under-résuméd and unknown candidate who wasn't Bush's in-house lawyer: 1) This is the Supreme Court, which is supposed to be an independent branch. That means loyalty should count for less and prickly integrity for more. . . ; 2) Even in the executive branch, where cronyism has a long, honorable and effective tradition, it hasn't been working conspicuously well of late for President Bush; 3) This sends a message to all sorts of ambitious, competent GOPers that the only real way to get the big promotions in a Bush administration is to actually work with Bush personally.

**— Mickey Kaus, on Slate.com**

Running a state lottery does not qualify anyone for the Supreme Court. Solving a property rights dispute is also not a qualification, even if the client becomes president. Clerking for a federal district court judge and serving on a city council are meager additions to a resume for this job. Heading up a large law firm can demonstrate ability as a lawyer and manager but provide little experience with constitutional principles. Working as counsel to the president does inevitably involve major public issues, including questions of constitutionality. The counsel's job would be a significant qualification if it had been held for years rather than months.

All in all, Harriet Miers' work experience makes her one of the least-qualified nominees for the Supreme Court in many decades. While such a thin resume is disappointing, it is not by itself disqualifying. But it does place Miers in a position of having to prove her case to the Senate.

**—editorial, in the Boston Globe**

I worked with Harriet Miers. She's a lovely person: intelligent, honest, capable, loyal, discreet, dedicated... I could pile on the praise all morning. But there is no reason at all to believe either that she is a legal conservative or — and more important — that she has the spine and steel necessary to resist the pressures that constantly bend the American legal system toward the left.

**—David Frum, on National Review Online**

ANNE APPLEBAUM

# The rumor mill

Did you know that a monster crocodile was fished out of the New Orleans floodwaters? Had you realized that sharks were swimming through the submerged streets of the Lower Ninth Ward? Did you see the photographs of Katrina, the ones showing the hurricane menacing New Orleans like a "Wizard of Oz" cartoon twister? In the weeks after Hurricane Katrina, all of those rumors were present on the Internet in one form or another. I personally received the crocodile photograph — an authentic picture, apparently, taken in Congo some years ago.

Yet although all of these rumors were in the air — or in the cyber-air, to be more precise — none of them took hold. Few people were worried about monster crocodiles or sharks. The fake photographs of Katrina looking like the thing that blew Dorothy out of Kansas somehow never made it onto the evening news. Nevertheless, many did believe the other rumors: the babies being raped, the rat-gnawed corpses floating in the streets, the police officers being shot point-blank in the head, or the snipers firing at helicopters. These reports surfaced not only in mass e-mails but also on talk shows and in the press around the world. And now it seems that they were no more real than the man-eating sharks.

Although investigations by The Times-Picayune, the New Orleans police and the National Guard have turned up a few bad incidents, none of the more grotesque stories of the horrors at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center or the Superdome can be substantiated.

Where did they come from? For once, it's really not possible to blame "the media," although naturally many have. For once, the sociologists — and there's a whole flock of them who study rumors — have something interesting to add. They point out that the main influence on whether people believe rumors is the reliability of the sources — in this case, senior New Orleans officials. Some of the stories of infant rape came from New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. The tales of armed gangs of thugs outgunning the police in the convention center came from New Orleans' police chief, Eddie Compass. (Compass recently resigned.) More important, both told these stories on television, to Oprah Winfrey — possibly the most trusted woman in the nation.

But there was more. In fact, New Orleans post-Katrina was a textbook example — or perhaps I should say the perfect storm — of the conditions that rumors require to flourish. A lack of good communications is always a condition for phony stories, and the telephones in New Orleans were down. A few true examples of bad behavior, inevitably embellished in the retelling, always help too — and according to The Times Picayune, one of the four bodies (not 200, as rumored) recovered from the convention center might really have had stab wounds. Gunshots really were heard. As National Guard soldiers have confirmed, conditions in the convention center really were crowded and primitive, infants and old people really were starving and dehydrating in the heat, and help really was shockingly slow.

But in the end, the fact that so many people believed, as Nagin put it, that the crowds had degenerated into an "almost animalistic state" must have had deeper roots. For the rumor sociologists also tell us that the most deeply believed rumors are always the ones that express some profound public anxiety. Some think that anxiety had to do with race: As I am not the first to note, few would have believed that 25,000 white, middle-class suburbanites had reverted to an "almost animalistic state" within a few days. But then, I'm not sure that 25,000 black middle-class suburbanites would have inspired such stories either, and certainly black officials such as Nagin and Compass wouldn't have repeated them.

What I'm guessing the Katrina rumors revealed was not precisely racism but a much deeper fear of the poor, even of poverty itself. What I'm guessing they revealed is our imaginary picture of what life would be like without the civilizing elements and the social markings to which we're accustomed: our houses, our cars, our clothes, our possessions, our reputations, our authority. If all that was gone, who knows how our next-door neighbors would behave, how we would behave. Maybe the people across the street would turn out to be thieves. Maybe the people who live across the city, in the neighborhood we never visit, would turn out to be murderers.

Or maybe not — but we don't know, which is why we imagine murder and rape. Perhaps it's not so odd that the mayor and the police chief immediately assumed the worst about their own city. Monster crocodiles, in the end, are a lot less threatening than life without possessions, without status, without law.

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist.

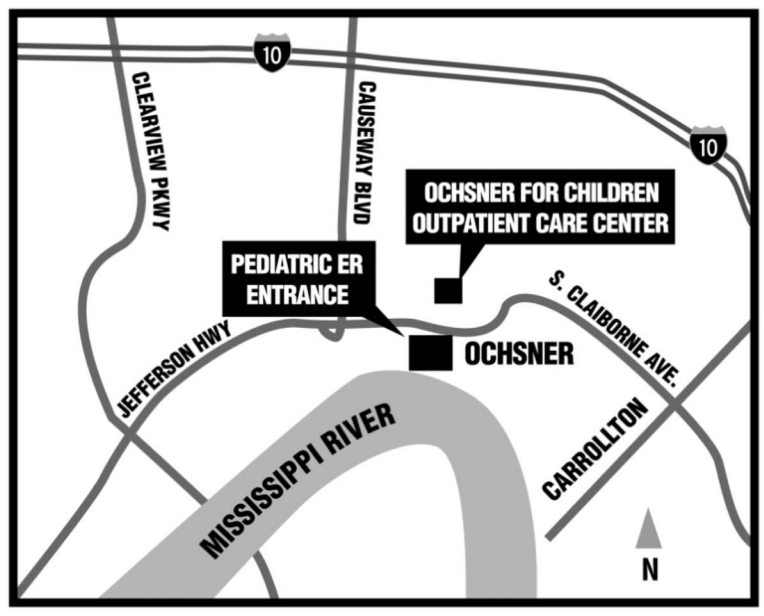
# All in favor of new emergency care for kids, raise your hands!

**The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service in New Orleans opens October 3.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service was designed to be just what your child would need if he or she needed urgent medical help. We considered the kind of things parents like you would want:

- state-of-the-art equipment sized just to fit kids
- a staff of pediatric emergency specialists
- 7-day-a-week service
- an intensive care unit
- 24-hour emergency transport service

And we made sure we have those things all in one friendly and convenient setting. Best of all, this service is from Ochsner, where family-focused care is at the heart of all we do. So when your child needs emergency care, Ochsner is the place to go.




The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is located in the Ochsner Emergency Room at 1514 Jefferson Highway.
For routine pediatric appointments, call **1-504-842-3900.**

The new Ochsner Pediatric Emergency Care Service is just one of the many initiatives Ochsner is taking to make an ongoing difference in communities in and around New Orleans. To find out more, visit www.ochsner.org

Ochsner



The Times-Picayune

LIVING
For complete Living section, see PAGE C-7

SPORTS

SECTION C
Thursday, October 6, 2005



NNS PHOTO

Because of damage to the Superdome caused by Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 Sugar Bowl will be played in Atlanta. Officials say it is imperative to have the Superdome ready for the 2008 season, when New Orleans will host the national championship game and a BCS game.

# Sugar Bowl to be played in Atlanta

## *Game at Georgia Dome for one year only*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

In what is planned to be a one-year hiatus from New Orleans, this season's Sugar Bowl will be played at Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

The bowl's executive committee, meeting via a conference call Tuesday night, approved moving the game out of state after hearing a report that not enough hotel rooms could be made available in New Orleans and Baton Rouge to play the Jan. 2 game at Tiger Stadium.

Already the bowl had been forced from New Orleans for the first time in its 72-year history because of damage done to the Superdome by Hurricane Katrina. An official announcement on playing the game in Atlanta will be made Friday.

Plans are to play the 2007 Sugar Bowl at the Superdome if it is reopened by then. If not, the game would be played at LSU. Hotel availability isn't expected to be a problem by then.

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan has said that it is imperative that the Superdome be reopened by the 2008 game because that is the year in which New Orleans is scheduled to host both the national championship game and the "regular" Sugar Bowl under the BCS' double-hosting format, which debuts next season.

When it became apparent that the Superdome was out for this year, Hoolahan said that every effort would be made to keep the game in Louisiana. At the same time though, he pursued a parallel track for an alternative site. The SEC, which provides the anchor team for the game, insisted that the game be played within the league's region and Atlanta was identified as the preferred site.

In the end, the lack of hotel rooms was an obstacle that could not be overcome for keeping the game in Louisiana.

A typical Sugar Bowl brings enough visitors to New Orleans to fill approximately 32,000 hotel rooms. Far fewer than that are expected to be reopened by December, and many of those are being used by displaced hotel employees and hurricane recovery workers.

All available hotel rooms in the Baton Rouge area are taken as well.

*See* **SUGAR BOWL,** *page C-2*

# Saints are McKenzie's kind of team

## *Ex-Packers cornerback says he fits in better with New Orleans*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie fully expects to be showered with boos when he returns to Green Bay's Lambeau Field this Sunday.

But he insists he will be one of the happiest guys in the stadium.

McKenzie, who spent his first 5½ seasons with the Packers before pressuring the team to trade him last October, said he wanted out of Green Bay for a number of reasons. Reportedly those reasons included his desire for a better contract, his disrespect for head coach Mike Sherman, his frustration with some of the team's assistant coaching hires and his distaste for living in Green Bay.

**SAINTS at PACKERS**
noon Sunday
**TV/Radio:** Fox; 870-AM

But more than anything, McKenzie said Wednesday, he became tired of the team underachieving year after year.

"It was really a situation where you've been somewhere for a while and you have good teams and you really just consistently find a way to blow it and come up short," said McKenzie, who had boycotted the media in Green Bay last season but openly discussed his departure Wednesday, both in San Antonio and in a conference call with the Green Bay media.

*See* **SAINTS,** *page C-6*

# LSU's Hollis a small-town hit

## *Linebacker took junior-college route to Division 1A*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — In last week's victory over Mississippi State, LSU linebacker Kenneth Hollis sent teammate Jesse Daniels' chinstrap into orbit faster than anything NASA has. And on the same play he KO'ed Jerious Norwood.

**LSU at VANDERBILT**
6 p.m. Saturday
**TV/Radio:** ESPN2; 870-AM

But it wasn't until late Saturday night, when he was channel surfing, that Hollis actually saw what all the postgame fuss was about.

Like everyone, he cringed a little, too.

For Hollis, the road to highlight-show icon took a sharp two-year detour through Scooba, Miss., home of East Mississippi Community College.

Looking for a bite to eat? Try the Scooba gas station, Hollis says. It had the usual - coffee, candy bars, eat-at-your-own-risk hot dogs. It's near the stop sign. Can't miss it. Want to take the lady out for a night on the bustling town? Try the gas

*See* **LSU,** *page C-3*

# Magloire hoping to make most of time with Hornets



AP FILE PHOTO

Hornets center Jamaal Magloire says he holds no resentment to the Hornets, who tried to trade him this past summer. 'It's part of the business, so I really didn't take it personal at all,' Magloire says.

## *Center is focused despite desire to play in Toronto*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets starting center Jamaal Magloire reported to training camp this week with no resentment toward management for exploring the possibility of trading him to the Toronto Raptors this summer for two first-round draft picks.

The Raptors passed on the offer, keeping their selections at Nos. 7 and 16, and Magloire rose back into the Hornets' plans.

Magloire said he doesn't have ill feelings because he understands all 30 teams in the league explore trade offers all the time, and most players don't remain on the same team for their entire career. Magloire is entering his fifth season with the Hornets, who drafted him as the 19th pick in the 2000 draft.

"It's part of the business, so I really didn't take it personal at all,'" Magloire said. "They've got to listen and do what's best for the team."

Former general manager Allan Bristow, who resigned last week, was involved in trade negotiations with the Raptors several days before last June's NBA draft.

"Are there things on the table? Yes,'" Bristow said on June 27. "Talking about Jamaal specifically, he is our starting center, and we think he's a huge piece of our puzzle. But I think we have to explore all our options."

Those options were explored, and after the second day of training camp Coach Byron Scott definitely has Magloire in his plans for this season, impressed by his attitude and work habits.

"He's never come in here with a bad attitude," Scott said. "He's been a true professional

*See* **HORNETS,** *page C-6*

# 'Rook' J.R. Smith is graduating into a leader



JOHN DESHAZIER

He looks at the "youngsters" on the basketball court, senses that their heads are spinning, watches them playing tentative and fragile, not quite sure where to go and when to be there, and knows exactly how they feel.

"I look at some guys and some of the mistakes they make, and they're the exact same mistakes I made," he said. "It's a pretty big (learning) cycle."

And J.R. Smith, grizzled veteran of 20, is ready to help.

"I want to teach some of my peers how to play this game," he said.

Yes, that warrants a chuckle, because Smith, the Hornets' first-round draft pick last season, still is learning it himself. And he'll be that way for a while.

But the key is that he is learning the game, the evidence being a rookie season in which he segued from benchwarmer to reserve to starter to bright future of the franchise, flashing the potential to carry a team for stretches of games and showing enough star power to bring fans to their feet.

*See* **DeSHAZIER,** *page C-6*

# WORLD OF SPORTS



AP PHOTO

Fifteen-year-old Michelle Wie, who turned pro Wednesday, will make her debut next week on the LPGA Tour at the Samsung World Championship.

## GOLF

**WIE TURNS PRO:** Michelle Wie, the Hawaii teen who has been competing against golf's best players since she was in the seventh grade, turned professional Wednesday. "I'm finally happy to say I'm a pro starting today," Wie said, wearing a pink Nike shirt and high heels that made her look even taller than 6 feet. "The first time I grabbed a golf club, I knew I'd do it for the rest of my life. Some 12 years later, I'm finally turning pro, and I'm so excited." It had been reported for weeks that Wie would go pro by her 16th birthday next week. She has signed endorsement deals with Nike and Sony said to be worth $10 million a year, and her first act as a professional was to give some of it back. Wie pledged $500,000 to the U.S. Golf Hurricane Relief Fund, set up by the major golf organizations. She made the announcement she was turning pro at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel, next to the 10th fairway at Waialae Country Club where, at age 13, she shot a 68 in the Sony Open, the lowest score ever by a female competing on the men's tour. Wie will make her professional debut next week on the LPGA Tour at the Samsung World Championship, an 18-player field at Bighorn Golf Club in the California desert. She also will play in the Casio World Open in Japan the week of Thanksgiving, her sixth time competing against men. She has yet to make the cut against men, but has more than held her own on the LPGA Tour. Wie was runner-up at the LPGA Championship to Annika Sorenstam, and tied for third at the Women's British Open. She has made the cut in her past 16 LPGA events dating to 2003, and would have earned about $640,870 on the LPGA Tour had she not been an amateur. That would put her 13th on the money list in only seven starts.

## BASEBALL

**MACHA, A'S 'PART WAYS':** Oakland manager Ken Macha was out of a job Wednesday after failing to reach an agreement on a new contract. "We decided it's best to part ways at this point," General Manager Billy Beane said in a conference call. "We offered a three-year deal with a club option and they countered with a three-year deal without a club option," Beane said. "I don't think we were ever going to be able to bridge the gap. It was a significant gap." The option would have allowed the A's to decide whether to keep Macha after three seasons. "It was a compensation issue," Beane said. Macha led the A's to the AL West title in his first year as manager in 2003, the club's fourth straight playoff berth. But Oakland failed to reach the postseason the past two years despite a 91-win season in 2004 and 88 victories this year. Macha had said he hoped to return to the A's, and said late in the season he thought the team would make a quick decision. "There are no hard feelings whatsoever," Beane said. "This is part of the business." The A's went 88-74 this season, but seemed out of it in May when they had two eight-game losing streaks and finished the month with a 7-20 record. But Oakland rebounded with another strong second half, overcoming injuries to key players such as shortstop Bobby Crosby and No. 2 starter Rich Harden. Beane met Monday with the 55-year-old Macha, who was still in the Bay Area as of Wednesday and had yet to return home to Pittsburgh for the offseason. Macha was 275-211 in three seasons with the A's. He came to the Oakland organization in 1999 following four seasons as a manager in Boston's farm system. He was promoted from bench coach when Art Howe left for the New York Mets following the 2002 season.

## AUTO RACING

**CREW CHIEF PLANS APPEAL:** Crew chief Todd Berrier plans to appeal his two-race suspension and will be in Kevin Harvick's pit for Sunday's NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Kansas Speedway. The appeal is expected to be heard early next week by a National Stock Car Racing Commission panel. Berrier announced his plans Wednesday and will be allowed to work with the team. "We feel we have a responsibility to GM Goodwrench and all of our sponsors, as well as all of our fans, to stand up for what we think is right," team owner Richard Childress said. Berrier was sent home and Harvick's Chevrolet was disqualified last Friday after NASCAR found several violations in the trunk of Harvick's car after he qualified second at Talladega Superspeedway. On Tuesday, the crew chief was fined $10,000, suspended for an additional two races, until Oct. 19, and put on probation until Dec. 31.

**WALTRIP'S PENALTIES OVERTURNED:** Michael Waltrip's penalties for allegedly making an inappropriate gesture during a race last month were overturned. NASCAR had accused Waltrip of gesturing during the Sept. 18 race in New Hampshire after Robby Gordon threw his helmet at Waltrip following an accident involving the drivers. Waltrip was fined $10,000, docked 25 points and placed on probation until the end of the year. Waltrip denied making the gesture and appealed to the three-member National Stock Car Racing Commission. The panel said two members found TV footage "inconclusive," and the commission then voted to rescind the penalties.

## TENNIS

**PUERTA TESTS POSITIVE:** Argentina's Mariano Puerta tested positive for a banned drug following his loss in the French Open final and faces a possible life ban for a second doping offense, the French sports newspaper L'Equipe reported. Puerta's lawyers said the player denied committing a doping offense, and his agent called the report an "injustice." Puerta tested positive for the stimulant etilefrine after his four-set loss to Spain's Rafael Nadal in the June 5 final, L'Equipe reported, without citing sources. Puerta told associates he had taken medication to fight the flu at the time of the tournament, L'Equipe said. The 10th-ranked Argentine won a second-round match Wednesday at the Japan Open, beating U.S. qualifier Eric Taino 6-3, 6-4. This would be Puerta's second positive test, putting him at risk of becoming the first tennis player to receive a life ban for doping.

**DAVENPORT ADVANCES:** Defending champion Lindsay Davenport overpowered Italy's Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-2 to reach the Porsche Grand Prix quarterfinals in Filderstadt, Germany. The top-seeded Davenport has won this tournament twice and is going for her 50th career singles title. Davenport will next face Anastasia Myskina, who defeated Dinara Safina 7-6 (6), 6-7 (3), 7-5 in a baseline duel between Russian friends. Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia pulled off the first upset of the tournament, beating 10th-ranked Patty Schnyder 6-4, 6-3.

**HRBATY REACHES QUARTERFINALS:** Fourth-seeded Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia beat Germany's Florian Mayer 7-6 (5), 6-1 to move into the quarterfinals of the Open de Moselle in Metz, France. Hrbaty will next play Argentina's Agustin Calleri or Mark Philippoussis of Australia. In other first-round matches, Australia's Peter Luczak downed Yuri Schukin of Russia 6-4, 7-6 (4); France's Paul-Henri Mathieu beat Igor Andreev of Russia 7-6 (5), 6-4; and France's Arnaud Clement beat Germany's Tobias Summerer 7-6 (3), 6-4.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**UTAH COACH REPRIMANDED:** The Mountain West Conference reprimanded Utah coach Kyle Whittingham for comments he made about Atlantic Coast Conference officials in Saturday's loss at North Carolina. The Utes were penalized 12 times for 101 yards, including a roughing-the-passer call that nullified an interception return for a touchdown. Whittingham was still angry about the officiating Tuesday during the MWC conference call. "We've been very good penalty-wise up until this game," Whittingham said. "All I can say is I'm quite thankful we don't have to play a game with an ACC refereeing crew again this year. That was miserable and I'll leave it at that." Although Whittingham's comments were directed at the ACC crew, Mountain West commissioner Craig Thompson said they violated MWC sportsmanship standards. Whittingham issued a statement after the reprimand was announced. "My comment regarding ACC officials was unfortunate and poor judgment on my part. You can't beat a good team when you commit five turnovers," Whittingham said.

## FLORIDA ATLANTIC at LOUISIANA–LAFAYETTE

**Time:** 7 p.m. at Lafayette; **TV:** Cox Sports TV

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

▶ ULL freshman Michael Desormeaux, who relieved starting quarterback Jerry Babb after he sprained a shoulder on the first series in a 24-21 loss last week to Central Florida, likely will get the start in the Ragin' Cajuns' Sun Belt opener.

▶ ULL (1-3) fell behind 21-0 to Central Florida before tying the score, but a field goal with three seconds left decided the game. Desormeaux completed 14 of 26 passes for 119 yards with two interceptions, and he carried 17 times for 76 yards.

▶ The Cajuns, who didn't sack an opposing quarterback in their first three games, got five sacks against Central Florida. ULL cornerback Michael Adams made 12 tackles.

▶ Florida Atlantic (0-5, 0-1), coming off a 61-10 loss to Louisville, has been outscored 188-60 this season. The Owls' other non-conference losses were against Kansas, Oklahoma State and Minnesota.

Quarterback Danny Embrick paces the Florida Atlantic offense. He has completed 64 of 117 passes for 850 yards and six touchdowns, with four interceptions.

# Win would put Georgia in SEC driver's seat

*Bulldogs can take control in East with victory against Vols*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU, Tennessee and Florida were the SEC teams getting the most preseason love from prognosticators.

Now it's Georgia sitting on top, with Alabama right behind.

The No. 5 Bulldogs can strengthen their hold as the lead dog in the league with a victory when they visit No. 8 Tennessee on Saturday.

Georgia coach Mark Richt, whose team was off last week, isn't dodging the big game question, either.

"No doubt about it," he said. "There is so much riding on it for both teams. If we win, we continue to be one of the conference's top teams. If we lose, we lose control of (our destiny in) the SEC East.

"They are not a good team but a great team."

A victory by Georgia would all but eliminate Tennessee from the SEC East race. A loss would mean Georgia would have to win the rest of its games to create a possible three-way tie with Florida and Tennessee if those two also finish with one conference loss.

Georgia lost to the Volunteers in Athens last year, but has won the past two meetings in Knoxville, including a last-second 26-24 victory in Richt's first season.

"That was a very important win for us," he said. "When you have a victory like that, it makes (fans) believe in a hurry."



AP PHOTO

Coach Mark Richt's Georgia Bulldogs can strengthen their hold atop the SEC East with a victory at Tennessee on Saturday.

**ALABAMA:** Wide receiver Tyrone Prothro, who suffered a broken leg in the Tide's 31-3 victory against Florida, is out for the rest of the season but is expected to be able to play again, according to the doctor who operated on him. Prothro had no ligament or tendon damage but broke both his left tibia and fibula and had a steel rod inserted. He caught five passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns, including an 87-yard scoring reception on Alabama's first play from scrimmage. . . . The Tide is on the cover of this week's Sports Illustrated.

**AUBURN:** Auburn's 48-7 victory against South Carolina was Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier's second-worst loss as a head coach, and second consecutive big SEC loss.

South Carolina lost to Alabama 37-14. Some of the coaches on Wednesday's SEC teleconference were asked if there was any satisfaction in seeing Spurrier, who often won by big scores at Florida, take a beating.

"Steve and I are good friends," said Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville. "He's beaten up on me, and I've beaten up on him. (There's no) satisfaction in that. I would never run up the score. It's downgrading to the players. I've been on that side before."

**GEORGIA:** The Bulldogs didn't spend the off week just working on Tennessee. Richt said players and coaches autographed footballs and helmets to be auctioned to raise money to be donated to the hurricane relief effort. Check georgiadogs.com for more information.

**TENNESSEE:** Junior defensive end Daniel Brooks was dismissed from the team after an on-campus altercation with Vols basketball players Jemere Hendrix and Andre Patterson, according to The Tennessean. Brooks already had been suspended for the Vols' first three games for a previous incident and was scheduled to be redshirted. Tennessee football coach Phillip Fulmer said Brooks was on a zero-tolerance policy, even though he said Brooks didn't necessarily instigate the conflict, which was the result of a simmering feud between Brooks and Patterson. Hendrix was dismissed from the basketball team and Patterson suspended indefinitely.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE:** Despite a sprained knee in preseason, a bruised shoulder against Auburn and being knocked unconscious against LSU, Bulldogs running back Jerious Norwood expects to play Saturday at Florida. He practiced this week, albeit under limited conditions.

In addition to a mild concussion against LSU, he suffered a neck sprain, which is causing him more problems than the concussion. "My head's getting better, but my neck feels the same," he said.

**OLE MISS:** The Rebels are ninth in the SEC in total offense with a 298.5-yard average and are last in scoring offense (14.2), first downs and third-down conversions, and second to last in rushing offense (97.8). Ole Miss was held to a season-low 50 yards rushing by Tennessee last week and had a minus-3 yards after three quarters.

# 2007 game to be at Superdome or LSU

**SUGAR BOWL,** *from C-1*

"We couldn't have fans scattered from Mobile to Lafayette to Jackson (Miss.) driving in to Baton Rouge on the day of the game," one bowl official said. "That's not what the Sugar Bowl experience is supposed to be."

Hotel rooms are not a problem in Atlanta.

Hoolahan found that out last week during an inspection visit to the city.

"I think Paul was surprised to learn he had a choice of four different headquarters hotels," said Bob Schuler, vice president of the Atlanta Convention and Tourist Bureau. "The period around the Sugar Bowl is one of low occupancy for our hotels, so we can easily accommodate the fans.

"We're going to do everything to create a quality bowl experience. It won't be New Orleans, but the teams and fans will find plenty to do."

"We wanted them to play here if they could," said LSU associate athletic director Herb Vincent. "But, considering the circumstances, they did what was best for the Sugar Bowl. If they need our help in the future, we'll still be here."

Playing the Sugar Bowl in Atlanta will make for a busy football weekend in the city. The Peach Bowl is scheduled for Dec. 30 and the Atlanta Falcons will host Carolina on Jan 1.

The Sugar Bowl, which has an estimated economic impact of $200 million annually, is the second major college event to be forced to another state because of Katrina.

Last week, Bayou Classic officials announced that their game between Southern and Grambling will be played in Houston.

This is not the first time a bowl game has been forced to another location.

The 1942 Rose Bowl was played in Durham, N.C., because of the fear of having large crowds on the West Coast immediately following Pearl Harbor. The 1994 Gator Bowl was played in Gainesville, Fla., because of renovations being made to Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville, Fla.

# Much work ahead for Tulane's athletic director

## *Aftermath of storm has Dickson working nonstop*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON - Now that Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson has gotten a handle on all but one of the sites for the Green Wave's remaining 'home' football games, you'd think he could sit and take a deep breath.

Not a chance. For Dickson, there aren't any free moments.

In less than two weeks, basketball practice begins for Tulane's men at Texas A&M in College Station and for the women at Texas Tech in Lubbock. And, in four months, Tulane's baseball team, coming off of its second College World Series, will hit the practice field with the season to start a month later.

Dickson knows his work is far from done.

This week, Dickson, who has been working out of an office in Dallas, is scheduled visit Tulane's campus and inspect the facilities, including Fogelman Arena.

"I can't honestly say what the condition of Fogelman is right now," Dickson said. "Unofficially, there are reports that it's mostly OK."

Even if Fogelman is ready for the basketball programs to utilize it, Dickson said, that won't happen for some time.

"We're going to be on these campuses (of Texas A&M and Texas Tech) for the first term, so anything done in the first term will be done in Lubbock and at A&M," he said.

Dickson has met with men's coach Dave Dickerson, in his first season with the Wave, and women's coach Lisa Stockton and has made adjustments in both schedules. Tulane will not play some of the schools it was scheduled to host.

"They won't be playing some of the guaranteed games because it makes no sense to pay $50,000 to bring somebody in to College Station," Dickson said. "Without naming those schools, those are the kinds of decisions that have to be made."

Dickson said there have been talks about playing games against the schools hosting the Wave's basketball programs - A&M and Texas Tech.

By late December, Dickson is hoping all of Tulane's student-athletes are back on campus, which means the basketball teams would be home in time to play their Conference USA games in Fogelman.

"We're going to play our regular home-and-home games with people, conference and non-conference. Tulane's big non-conference games are with LSU (a single game) and UNO (a pair of games).

As for baseball, the sport that has been a huge revenue producer the last few seasons, Dickson said he hasn't had time to think much about it.

"Right now, I think it's premature to say what's going to happen (with baseball). I'm assuming the condition the field was in when we left, it was mostly demolished, is going to render it unplayable," Dickson said.

Turchin Stadium, the Wave's home diamond, is undergoing a massive renovation. The grandstands have been torn down, while pilings have been driven for the new facility. It was expected to be ready for the Wave's season opener in February. That will not happen.

According to Dickson, Landis Construction Company, which is doing the renovation, has moved its crew over to the Wilson Center, which had about five feet of water on the first level.

"The best way for me to describe it is to say (baseball) is in one of those logjams on the Causeway right now," said Dickson.

The biggest problem with the baseball program, unlike basketball, is it will not only lack a facility for its games, but the team will have to find a place to practice.

There are only a handful of facilities in the New Orleans area capable of providing Tulane with a facility comparable to Turchin Stadium.

Baseball coach Rick Jones said he is still hoping the new stadium will be ready by the time the Green Wave begins conference play.

"I'm going to trust the administration," Jones said. "I do believe we have an opportunity to have another good team."

# Tulane offense offended by running game

## *SLU held Wave to only 28 yards*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

They couldn't even fake smiles.

As Tulane's offensive players left the field Saturday, each player glumly stared ahead, even as dozens of fans near the locker room dutifully cheered. Tulane beat Southeastern Louisiana 28-21, but the

Green Wave's offense - notably its ground game - was invisible.

Running back Matt Forte carried 13 times for 26 yards. Jovon Jackson carried six times, gaining 12 yards. The only thing consistent was the lackluster two-yard average.

"It wasn't so much that it was a I-AA team, or it was Southeastern Louisiana - none of that matters," offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo said. "What mattered was, man-on-man, we didn't get it done. We lost. And our kids up front have a lot of pride. And they were embarrassed about it."

Tulane will face Houston this Saturday in Lafayette. On paper, that's good news. Houston is ranked eighth in Conference USA in rushing defense, allowing 148.2 yards per game. But Tulane remembers last season's 24-3 loss to the Cougars, in which it ran 30 times for 65 yards. And it remembers Saturday.

"Our offense wasn't in sync on Saturday. We didn't get into a rhythm," said Forte, who ran for 87 yards and two touchdowns at Southern Methodist the week before.

"I think it was an embarrassment that we weren't able to move the football on the ground as well as we should have," Scelfo said. "That falls on the offensive line, and they know that. We're going to go as they go. We had been pretty decent running the ball, and we didn't run it at all last week. It's not hard to look and find out where the most improvement needs to take place."

The veteran line took some hits last Saturday, as seniors Chris McGee, Joe Traina and Matt Traina missed some snaps because of injuries. Matt Traina, the left guard, rested Wednesday, but all three are expected to play Saturday.

But last Saturday in Baton Rouge, the offensive line had trouble containing the Lions' defensive line.

"I got frustrated because, in the first half, they were stopping the run, and I got antsy," said Forte, who had just 15 yards in the first half. "I wasn't being patient with my runs, and

**"I think it was an embarrassment that we weren't able to move the football on the ground as well as we should have. That falls on the offensive line, and they know that. We're going to go as they go. We had been pretty decent running the ball, and we didn't run it at all last week. It's not hard to look and find out where the most improvement needs to take place."**
CHRIS SCELFO

I missed a couple of cuts a few times. And a few times it just wasn't there."

Tulane wasn't able to set up short yardage situations on third down. The Wave had 22 third downs, 19 of them were third-and-six or longer.

Tulane's net 28 rushing yards were its worst since 2002 against Texas Christian, when Tulane finished with minus 53 ground yards. Since Chris Scelfo became coach in 1999, only three times did the Wave have a smaller rushing total than last Saturday - the Texas Christian game, 15 yards against Southern

Miss in 1999 and eight yards against UAB in 2001.

So how will the Wave remedy its run game? Forte said it comes down to intensity, intensity, intensity.

"I'm going to try to stay (focused) on our inside running drills, make it more intense," he said. "I'm going to get it more intense, try to get the guys up. Usually we go through practice and aren't excited like we are during a game. I'm going to get excited this week, like a game situation."

"I think there's more of a sense of urgency," Frank Scelfo said. "We saw it in practice on Tuesday."

Scelfo also said Jackson could play more against the Cougars. Against SLU, the senior had six carries to Forte's 13. The week before, Jackson had 16 and Forte had 20.

"Last week they played about the same number of snaps," Frank Scelfo said. "The plays aren't called based on who is in there in tailback. They're called based on a situation. When Matt was in there, he got a few more carries. They understand it, and they know their roles."

After Forte's explosive end to 2004, coaches began comparing him to former Tulane running back Mewelde Moore, a school record holder and current Minnesota Viking. But Forte, only a sophomore, is the first to admit his 2005 hasn't reached expectations - thus far.

"I'm kind of disappointed in myself right now, because I'm not performing the way I'd really want to," Forte said. "I'm really trying to prove it to myself."

# Healthy Green puts Tigers' offense on bubble

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU's 37-7 victory against Mississippi State on Saturday marked the return of the bubble screen.

The play - a quick pass toward the sideline along the line of scrimmage - was used effectively by Rohan Davey and Josh Reed in 2001 and by Matt Mauck and Skyler Green in 2003.

An ankle injury to Green last season sidelined it but he hasn't forgotten how to execute the play. Green tied a career high with nine receptions against the Bulldogs, several on the bubble screen.

"I love it," Green said. "It's blind faith, that's what Coach (Jimbo Fisher) always says. You are running to the sideline with your head turned hoping your guy has blocked the guy shooting in to make the tackle. You can get killed on that play."

The play gives Green a chance to use his shifty moves in the open field and relies on him getting a block from a wide receiver or an offensive tackle. Green used it to make good yardage, though he was unable to break a big play.

"If one guy just thought about taking a bad angle I would have broken loose," Green said. "The key to the play is the blocking. If you get the blocking and the safety takes a bad angle, you can have a big play."

**INJURIES:** Miles said wide receiver Craig Davis (foot) and center Rudy Niswanger (ankle) are expected to play. Guards Pete Dyakowski and Brett Helms (knee) are doubtful. Miles also said Mario Stephenson, who missed the Mississippi State game because of a death in the family, will be back.

**LAST MAN:** Green also has returned to form on punt returns. He leads the SEC and is 11th in the nation with a 16.8 yard average. However, he's yet to break one for a touchdown and the main culprit is the opposing team's punter, something his teammates and coaches have razzed him about. "I'm still ironing some things out," he said. "I've just got to get the punter out of my hair, make him miss and get into the end zone. Every time I've broken one I get tackled by the punter."

**OPTIONS N OPTION:** Vanderbilt is one of the few remaining college teams that runs the option and the Commodores don't do it as much with the development of senior quarterback Jay Cutler as a passer. But Miles said the Tigers still have to be wary.

"We have to constantly be aware of the sets they run it out of, and your responsibilities as it pertains to the keep or pitch," he said.

# Hollis developed work ethic at junior college

**LSU,** *from C-1*

station, Hollis says, laughing. Yep, buy her an Icee, thumb through the magazine rack and play a few Scratch-N-Wins. How about a college hangout?

"We'd all just go to the gas station," Hollis said.

Ready to enroll at Tuskegee after finishing his prep career as the leading tackler defensive MVP in the Alabama High School All-Star game, Hollis was wooed by the East Mississippi Community College coaching staff, which dangled the chance to play Division 1A football in front of the youngster's face. That was enough for Hollis to switch commitments.

"I never even visited, and the first time driving there, I'm like, 'Where am I at?'" Hollis recalls. "I was just ready to play football and get into my books. It didn't matter if we were playing in someone's backyard, I was ready to play."

Performing underneath lights that attracted more bugs than fans, Hollis excelled in obscurity, collecting 104 tackles and four sacks in 2002. The gas station manager never did thank him, though, as the No. 2 junior college linebacker in the country attracted extra business at the pumps.

"There wasn't anything but the school and football, so that became all I thought about," Hollis said. "I look at guys like Ray Lewis and football is all they do. That was me. Football and school was all I did, so I knew nobody was going to outwork me. Going to the small town, that was an adjustment. But, after that, it was just work."

In order to meet his target playing weight, Hollis ran extra conditioning with the players.

"Everybody on this team has nothing but respect for him," Cameron Vaughn said. "He's a great guy, one of the hardest workers you'll ever meet. Kind of like an Eric Alexander in the fact that he gives his all and gives it up every play."

Actually, Hollis is so liked among his peers, it didn't take much to mend fences with Daniels, who unfortunately wound up on the infamous end of Hollis' one-hit wonder.

"I apologized," Hollis said, laughing. "'I'm sorry, man. I didn't see you.'"

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# ESJ, Hahnville to tee it up again

*A rare rematch provides Wildcats chance for revenge*

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer

There have been few occasions when two River Parishes high school football teams have played each other twice in a season.

Lutcher and St. Charles have done it twice. In 2003 and 2004, the Bulldogs and Comets met in the regular season and again in the playoffs. The same thing has happened between Riverside and West St John three times. Lutcher and St. James played twice in 1984 and again in 2002.

But until this year, East St. John and Hahnville have never played more than once in a season. Once was enough.

The Wildcats and Tigers have played 27 times, and 10 of those games have been won by a touchdown or less. Five times, one point was the difference.

But both rivals needed an opponent for Sept, 17 after Hurricane Katrina left their schedules in shambles - both were scheduled to play Orleans Parish teams whose seasons were canceled. Hahnville coach Lou Valdin and East St. John coach Larry Dauterive agreed to play a non-district game.

A single point proved to be the difference. As time expired, Hahnville quarterback Larry James threw a Hail Mary pass into the end zone and receiver Laron Byrd caught the ball. It was Hahnville's sixth straight victory against East St. John.

Dauterive has never defeated the Tigers. Now it's time for the rematch, this time in the District 5-5A opener. This time, East St. John has two games behind it. This time, there's a revenge factor. This time should be different. East St. John 28, Hahnville 27.

**OTHER GAMES**

**ST. JAMES 27, RIVERSIDE 25:** The Wildcats nearly beat Destrehan last week. In the end, Destrehan had too much depth. This week, the Wildcats will be the ones with more depth.

**ST. CHARLES 41, DONALDSONVILLE 38:** Finally playing in Class 2A where it belongs, Donaldsonville is on its way to its first winning season since 1996. But it will find its district opponents very tough, starting with St. Charles.

**WEST ST. JOHN 38, WHITE CASTLE 13:** The Rams aren't used to being winless in October. After tonight, they won't be.

**LUTCHER 28, SALMEN 6:** It's a victory just for the Spartans to be playing this week.

**CURTIS 24, FORT WALTON (FLA.) CHOCTAWATCHEE 7:** Curtis very rarely loses two in a row. It's hard to pick against the Patriots, even though they'll be traveling.

**EAST JEFFERSON 13, KING 6:** This is the opener for both teams. The Warriors appear to have lost fewer players because of Hurricane evacuations.

**HIGGINS 24, COX 6:** Mother Nature certainly didn't make Cox's inaugural season any easier, did it?

**LAST WEEK:** 4-2

# Pearl River looks to rebound

*Young Rebels team coming off 2 defeats*

**By Marty Mule'**
Staff writer

Nothing these days is normal, including this football season. Just ask Pearl River coach Joe Harris.

A month ago, Harris had the daunting task of trying to replace a bevy of four-year starters, like all-purpose runner Steven Sylvas, who helped the Rebels to a pair of 6-4 seasons.

Now 6-4 seasons won't stop the football world, but Pearl River made the playoffs in each of the past two years, something that hadn't happened before.

A bigger challenge lay ahead this season as Harris set out to rebuild with a new group of youngsters. At least that's what he thought was the challenge.

Then along came Katrina. The season opener was pushed back, then the second game.

If that wasn't bad enough, Harris lost some of his players. Some were displaced and some took jobs doing repair and cleanup work.

Pearl River kept practicing. Harris was forced to use several of his young players on offense and defense.

And the lack of an opponent quickly grew old.

"We were getting anxious," Harris said. "We were getting tired of hitting each other."

So with Rita looming and another Friday night game in jeopardy, Harris and his young Rebels moved things up a day. They went to Loranger 24 hours early for their game.

What's that old saying? Be careful what you wish for.

Pearl River was on the short end of a 42-6 thumping.

The following week Pearl River was beaten 40-20 by Albany.

"It's hard," Harris said of so many of his young players going both ways. "I don't mind that in itself. We always play some kids on both sides of the ball. But these kids are so young and inexperienced. It's hard enough to ease into the game, to get the grasp of things little by little. To just throw them in and to expect the same kind of results is not realistic."

In trying to build the Pearl River program into a major factor in District 9-3A, Harris' young players need meaningful experience, games in which they can compete and have what they do on the field truly count for something.

That begins tonight when the Rebels play Christian Life, the first game this season in which Harris' young team has a real chance at victory. Christian Life has gone through four coaches in four years, which says something about the historical quality of the program.

"I just hope we're ready to play," Harris said.

**OTHER GAMES**

**PEARL RIVER 30, CHRISTIAN LIFE 12:** Quarterback Jessie Williams and the Rebels' offense come to life against Christian Life.

**SLIDELL 24, ST. PAUL'S 21:** On the theory the home field is often the difference between even teams.

**FONTAINEBLEAU 20, COVINGTON 14:** It took the Bulldogs a half to get going in their opener. The Lions never did get into gear.

**PONCHATOULA 24, MANDEVILLE 14:** Jamarius Poche helps shut down the Skippers.

**HAMMOND 17, NORTHSHORE 14:** A late score by powerful Tors running back Matt Betts seals the deal.

**KENTWOOD 28, NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN 7:** The 'Roos won't need injured running back Alfred McKnight against the fledgling Wolverines.

**LUTCHER 27, SALMEN 14:** Spartans are still getting their sea legs under them.

**VARNADO 21, POPE JOHN PAUL 14:** Otha Foster has a big night for the Wildcats.

**LAST WEEK:** 6-2, .750.

**SEASON:** 8-2, .800.

# No Doubt, Bulldogs need her defense

*Senior gives up offensive role to play libero*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

Alise Doubt can't quite put her finger on what has changed this season for the Fontainebleau volleyball team.

No new star player arrived in the Bulldogs' gym before or after Hurricane Katrina. In fact, the lineup is similar to last year's, same players, same system.

But this season the Bulldogs are off to a hot start, including a victory against rival Covington last week.

The Bulldogs entered the week 3-1 and 1-0 in District 4-I. The only Fontainebleau loss was against defending Division I state champion St. Joseph's Academy.

"It's not that we have any new Fontainebleau players, but we have just come together. And that sounds cheesy, but it's true," Doubt said.

Before Thursday, Doubt, a senior, had never been on a Fontainebleau team that beat Covington. The Bulldogs defeated the Lions 25-16, 25-19, 25-10. Doubt and Sara Fradella led the Bulldogs with nine digs each.

"It's great being able to say we finally beat Covington," Doubt said. "It was more than just another match."

Even in the loss to St. Joseph's, the Bulldogs played some of their best volleyball of the season.

"For the first time since I have coached at Fontainebleau, we were not in awe of the competition, but looked forward to it," Fontainebleau coach Judy Tyrl said. "I believe (playing St. Joseph's Academy) helps us to understand how critical your fundamentals are when competing, especially against that level of competition."

Doubt said St. Joseph's is similar to Mandeville, a team that St. Joseph's has not been beaten in district play in two seasons. The Bulldogs play at Mandeville on Tuesday.

"St. Joe's was a really good team for us to play to get ready for district," Doubt said. "We really learned how important our blocking and covering our hitters is. (Up until St. Joe's), we weren't having a lot of our hits come back at us. I expect Mandeville to have very powerful hitters and put up a huge block.

"I like hitting, but I love defense. I love being able to stop someone who thinks they're going to get a kill, and to be able to take that away."

Putting Doubt at libero, a defensive position, means she can't swing or make kills. It's a tricky proposition for Tyrl, who knows that while Doubt plays libero, the offense could be missing something.

"It is still a tough decision as to play Alise all around or as a libero," Tyrl said. "She definitely needs to be on the court as much as possible."

What isn't lost, no matter what position she plays, is her spirit, Tyrl said.

"Alise is our captain this year and is a great example of diligence and performance, and provides encouragement and accountability to her teammates," Tyrl said.

There's no doubt she'll be needed in the Mandeville match. The Skippers haven't lost a step despite losing setter Allison Entzel, who moved following Katrina.

Mandeville won the St. Joseph's Academy Tournament last weekend, had two players on the All-Tournament team and is off to a 3-0 district start after beating Covington 25-8, 25-21, 25-9 on Tuesday.

Beating Mandeville comes down to a scrappy defense led by Doubt.

"It's not so much we put the ball down every time we swing," Doubt said. "It's hanging in there in those rallies and making the other team make a mistake."

# WHERE Y'AT?

*A weekly update on displaced prep athletes:*

**BASTROP BRONCHOS**

Five Port Sulphur football players are now members of the top-ranked Class 4A football team from Bastrop and the displaced Bronchos are making their presence felt. Senior receiver Jeremy Sylve, a 2004 All-Metro selection, had seven receptions totaling 103 yards with two touchdowns in Bastrop's 45-23 victory against Ruston this past Friday. Sophomore quarterback Randall Mackey passed for 104 yards in a relief effort, and senior tailback Jamal Recasner had a 73-yard scoring run. Also playing for the Bastrop are defensive end Jody Ancar and linebacker James Brown.

"They are probably my five best kids," said Port Sulphur coach Cyril Crutchfield. "That's not too bad going from a 1A program to Bastrop and playing. They might have a chance to win a state championship."

Former Bronchos assistant D'-Carlos Holmes, who left Port Sulphur for Bastrop before school started, is the person responsible for bringing the five Bronchos to Bastrop, Crutchfield said.

Mackey, however, is home sick and wants to return to be with his mother, Crutchfield said. Under Louisiana High School Athletic Association emergency legislation passed in September, Mackey could return to the metro area, enroll at another school in the area and be granted immediate eligibility by Commissioner Tommy Henry through the LHSAA hardship program.

**OH BOY, ROY**

Former Belle Chasse quarterback Adam Roy continues to impress at his new school, Alexandria Senior High. Roy completed eight of 12 passes for 90 yards and four touchdowns in the Trojans' 47-7 victory against Marksville this past week. Alexandria is 3-1, 3-0 since losing the season opener against Bastrop. The Trojans open District 3-4A play against Tioga this week.

**NEWMAN NATIONALS**

Newman football players are scattered throughout the state and nation. Four Greenies — Will Langenstein, Mattox Hall, Jeremy Sinclair and Robert Riess — are playing at Kincaid High in Houston. Linebacker Lewis Irving, Kevin Stephens and Brett Wainwright are playing for Dunham in Baton Rouge. Here is a list of some of the others players and where they are: James Horner and Doug Prechter, Memorial High in Houston; Matt Mann, University High in Baton Rouge; Matt Braun, Ryan Swayze and Clarke Armatis, Episcopal in Baton Rouge; Marc Cordes, Kansas City; Mandela Kazi, Country Day School in Louisville, Kentucky; Michael Harris, Savannah Country Day in Savannah, Ga.; Matthew Czerniak, St. Bernard School in St. Paul, Minn.; Demian Reed, Amherst Regional High School in Amherst, Mass.; and Bruno Vetter, Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pa.

**EXODUS TO TEXAS**

Katy and Taylor high schools, located in Katy, Texas, a suburb of Houston, have added several New Orleans area players. Katy High has 10 metro area players, including brothers Brandus and Brandon Mercadel of Clark High. Katy also picked up Kennedy players Vincent Smith and Brad Jackson, John Paul Hammette of Gregory High, Donny Bornholdt of Grace King, West Jefferson's Cory Theodore and DeJean Turner, Fontainebleau's Lonnie Pitts and Abramson's Nathaniel Willis. Among the six players from the area playing for Taylor is Brother Martin kicker Eric Hill. Taylor is now the home of another Catholic League athlete, Rummel basketball star Dwight Lewis, one of Louisiana's top seniors.

**Editor's note:** The Times-Picayune Sports Department will run a weekly update on metro-area student-athletes displaced by Hurricane Katrina and now competing for other schools around the state and nation. If you know of an athlete displaced by the storm and competing somewhere else, e-mail us at tp-preps@yahoo.com. Please include a contact number so we can verify the information.

# Coaches make sure team can compete

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

Greg and Jenny Caro, Sacred Heart's husband-and-wife cross country coaching team, consider themselves fortunate.

Although they lived in a shelter in Belle Chasse for 21 days after Hurricane Katrina hit, their house in Gretna suffered only minor wind damage, and they were allowed to return home last week.

But something has long been more important to the Caros than their home. For the past nine years, the girls on the Sacred Heart cross country team have been the childless couple's surrogate children.

When Katrina forced Sacred Heart to move operations to Grand Coteau last month, the Caros followed the school. Once a week for the past three weeks, the couple has made the three-hour drive from the West Bank to the school's new campus, near Lafayette, so the team could practice.

"What the coaches are doing just shows that they really care about the girls on the team," said sophomore Meggie Schmidt, who won the Class 4A state championship last year.

Sacred Heart freshman Bethany Burst said that the Caros' weekly practice trips have been a boost to the team. "It shows that they are dedicated to the team, and that we should be dedicated to the team, too," Burst said.

Sacred Heart athletic director Mike Barnes said the Caros have gone above and beyond the call of duty. But the Caros, who have been married for 13 years, don't see what they are doing as special.

After Katrina hit, the couple said they needed to coach the team as bad as the girls needed to get back in shape.

"We've given our life to the kids, and we coach them because (they're) our babies," Greg said. "We wanted to get some normalcy for our kids' lives. It doesn't matter how rich a family is or how poor a family is, everyone down here has been affected."

A few days after Katrina hit and the school moved, the Caros contacted Barnes about finding a way to continue practicing and competing in meets.

The Caros decided to make the trip once a week, and Burst's parents agreed to let the couple spend the night on the sofa bed in their hotel room in nearby Opelousas.

The Caros conduct the Sacred Heart practices on Wednesday and Thursday, and they e-mail the runners their weekly training schedules. They also drive to all of the Cardinals' meets.

"That's just Greg and Jenny," Barnes said. "They are really passionate about what they are doing and passionate about the kids and working for Sacred Heart. When they told me what they wanted to do I wasn't surprised one bit."

Jenny said she knew the couple made the right decision the first time Sacred Heart had a workout after Katrina.

"I could just tell from the looks on the girls' faces," Jenny said. "Some of the girls were in shock and thinking, 'Oh my God! My coaches actually came up here.' "

The long drive from the West Bank to Grand Coteau has been getting easier each week for the Caros, and Sacred Heart has improved in its two meets this season. Schmidt has dropped her time by 37 seconds in the past two weeks and could be a threat to win a state title for the second year in a row. Burst, juniors Rayne Housey and Margot Bienvenu and senior Amanda Barrett also have come on strong in the past two weeks and could be ready to give Sacred Heart the depth it needs to win the Class 3A state championship.

"We were thinking we could win a state championship pre-Katrina, and we're thinking we can win a state championship post-Katrina," Greg said.

But in a lot of ways, the Caros and Sacred Heart are just thankful to have a team this season.

"We have 12 runners on our team now, and we had 35 on our team last year," Greg said. "A lot of our girls were displaced and moved to Houston, and one of the runners moved to Connecticut."

Sacred Heart is one of the few metro area teams running cross country this season.

"It's been tough, but we just want to get the team together and compete in state," Jenny said. "If we do that, it doesn't matter where we'll finish because we'll consider ourselves winners."

# NOTES

**SACRED HEART TO FACE FAMILIAR DISTRICT FOES**

Sacred Heart has relocated to the Lafayette area but still will compete in District 9-II volleyball against Blenk and Immaculata. St. Mary's will not play this fall. The Cardinals, the reigning Division II state champions, are 7-3 after advancing to the final of the St. Joseph tournament this past weekend. They play in the St. Thomas More tournament in Lafayette this weekend.

**DE LA SALLE WILL PLAY**

De La Salle is set to resume classes, and the Cavaliers also will have abbreviated football and volleyball schedules, head football coach Richard Walker said. The Cavaliers will play a three-game football schedule that concludes with a District 9-3A championship pairing at Lutcher on Nov. 4. The Cavs' first game is against Shaw on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. at Hoss Memtsas Stadium followed by an Oct. 22 meeting with Rummel at 7 p.m. at Joe Yenni Stadium.

**NO FALL BALL AT BELLE CHASSE**

Belle Chasse is scheduled to resume school Oct. 17, but the Cardinals will not have football, volleyball nor cross country this fall, Athletic Director Bob Becnel said. The decision to cancel the three fall sports seasons was made Monday, Becnel said.

**METRO MEET IN JEOPARDY**

The Metro Championship has been New Orleans biggest high school cross country meet for more than 35 years, but this yearís race is likely off. Brother Martin cross country coach Dennis Panepinto, the meet director, said he doesnít know if the race will be held Nov. 9 as scheduled because of damage to the area and the low number of teams. He doesn't think that the Lakefront course — the metro area's most frequently used cross country venue — will be ready in time for the meet. Panepinto also is concerned about having the meet because there are a small number of teams running this season.

**STRONG BEGINNING**

Brother Martin, behind four runners with top 20 finishes, began its season by winning the St. Joseph's Invitational last Saturday. Andy Florek, a senior, won the meet, finishing the three-mile course in 15 minutes and 57 seconds. Senior Kyle Hecker was eighth (16:45). Senior Mark Buchert (17:04), sophomore Kenneth Schiffman (17:15) and sophomore Will Kirkikis (17:27) rounded out the Brother Martin top finishers.

**TODAY'S GAME**

**EAST JEFFERSON (0–0) vs. KING (0–0)**
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. at Joe Yenni Stadium.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** King won 21-20.
**Notes:** King had about 30 players on hand for practice this week. But King's Rob McGill, a 6-foot-7 tight end, has transferred to Ouachita Christian in Monroe. East Jeff opened practice with 31 players, including 10 starters on offense and seven on defense.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

# Ensberg leads Houston in NLDS Game 1

## *His five RBIs push Astros ahead of Braves*

**From wire reports**

Tim Hudson was expected to give the Braves a better chance in the first round of the playoffs.

Instead, Hudson had control problems in his postseason debut with Atlanta and the Braves are facing another division series deficit.

Hudson walked five — one intentional — and hit a batter, giving up seven hits and five runs in 6⅔ innings Wednesday as the Houston Astros beat the host Braves 10-5 in the best-of-five opener.

The five walks and five earned runs were career highs in eight postseason appearances for Hudson, who came to Atlanta from Oakland in a December trade.

The Braves hoped Hudson could team with John Smoltz to give them a strong duo of power pitchers with postseason experience.

After the departures of Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux and Smoltz's move to the bullpen, the top of the rotation lacked a true ace as the Braves were eliminated in the division series each of the last three years.

With the addition of Hudson, and Smoltz back in the rotation, the Braves hoped they had the two lead starters who could help them return to the World Series.

Hudson had not issued as many walks since June 13, when he walked five in 2 2-3 innings in a 7-3 loss at Texas. He also walked five in a 4-3 loss at Boston on May 20.

Hudson allowed 15 walks in his last five starts of the regular season. His 65 walks this season are the second-highest total of his career. His career-high 82 came in 2000 when he won a career-high 20 games for Oakland.

Hudson didn't appear comfortable in the early innings. Often high with his pitches, he walked four and hit a batter in the first three innings. In the fourth inning, he threw a pitch to Brad Ausmus over catcher Johnny Estrada's head.

He didn't walk another batter until giving Lance Berkman an intentional pass in the seventh before Morgan Ensberg's third run-scoring hit of the game. The single gave Houston a 5-3 lead and knocked Hudson out of the game.

Three of the hits off Hudson were doubles. Two led off an inning and another, by Craig Biggio in the third inning, came with one out. Biggio scored on a two-run single by Ensberg after Hudson loaded the bases with two walks.

Ausmus scored after a leadoff double in the fourth for a 4-1 lead.

Game 2 will be played today at 7 p.m. Turner Field with Smoltz going up against Astros ace Roger Clemens, who had a 1.87 ERA during the regular season.



AP PHOTO

The Houston Astros' Morgan Ensberg hits a two-run single against Braves pitcher Tim Hudson in the third inning of Game 1 of the National League Division Series at Turner Field in Atlanta.

# Mussina's sore elbow no problem for Yanks

TUESDAY'S LATE GAME

## *New York takes opening ALDS game against Angels*

**From wire reports**

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — Joe Torre insisted on a playoff-tested pitcher. With Randy Johnson unavailable to go in Game 1, that left New York's manager with only one option: Mike Mussina and his tender elbow.

The right-hander never appeared to be hurting, or just hid it well. It helped to watch rookie Robinson Cano's clutch hit that gave the Yankees an early lead.

Mussina pitched scoreless ball into the sixth inning, Cano lined a three-run double in the first and New York beat Bartolo Colon again, defeating the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 in Game 1 of their AL division series Tuesday night.

"We just wanted Moose because of his experience," said Torre, who needed Johnson to pitch in Saturday's AL East clincher at Boston. "If Randy was available, obviously he probably would have gone there. We just felt that experience is so important, especially when you're opening on the road."

Mussina struck out four and didn't walk a batter, giving up five hits in 5⅔ innings, then Torre went to his bullpen to finish things off.

Mariano Rivera saved it for the Yankees, who looked completely fresh — even after a cross-country trek on the heels of a seven-game road trip to end the regular season. They traveled West late Sunday, one day after clinching their eighth consecutive division title with a victory over the rival Red Sox.

Darin Erstad's ninth-inning RBI single cut it to 4-2, just the 10th earned run allowed by Rivera in 71 career postseason appearances. But the right-hander got pinch-hitter Casey Kotchman on a popup to extend his major league record to 33 postseason saves in 37 opportunities, earning his first postseason save since blowing chances in Games 4 and 5 against Boston in the 2004 AL championship series.

New York scored all four runs with two outs and wasted little time getting to Colon, a 21-game winner and leading contender for the AL Cy Young Award.

"When you're pitching on the road and you get to go to the mound in the first inning with runs, that's a big deal," said Mussina, who missed much of September with elbow trouble. "This is only the third time I've been to the mound since I had three weeks off. One was good and one was bad, so I didn't have any idea what to expect."

**TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

- **Game 2:** San Diego at St. Louis, 3 p.m. ESPN2
- **Game 2:** Houston at Atlanta, 7 p.m. FOX

AROUND THE NBA

# Off-court dress code may not fly

## *Players object to 'business-like attire' rule*

**From wire reports**

NBA players have been warned an off-the-court dress code likely will be instituted this season for team functions, ESPN.com reported. Players will have to wear business casual clothes, such as a sport coat and slacks, for all team affairs. Commissioner David Stern told The Boston Globe that the dress code would exclude jeans.

Team functions would include team flights, traveling to and from games and at public appearances. The Atlanta-Journal Constitution reported the dress code would be backed up by NBA fines.

"The dress code is, to me, a continuation of things," Stern told The Globe. "It's a small thing that contributes to a sense of professionalism. It's what the job entails. We've always moved to the fashion of our players. Years ago, the fashion was a jacket and tie. Now, it's a much more casual approach."

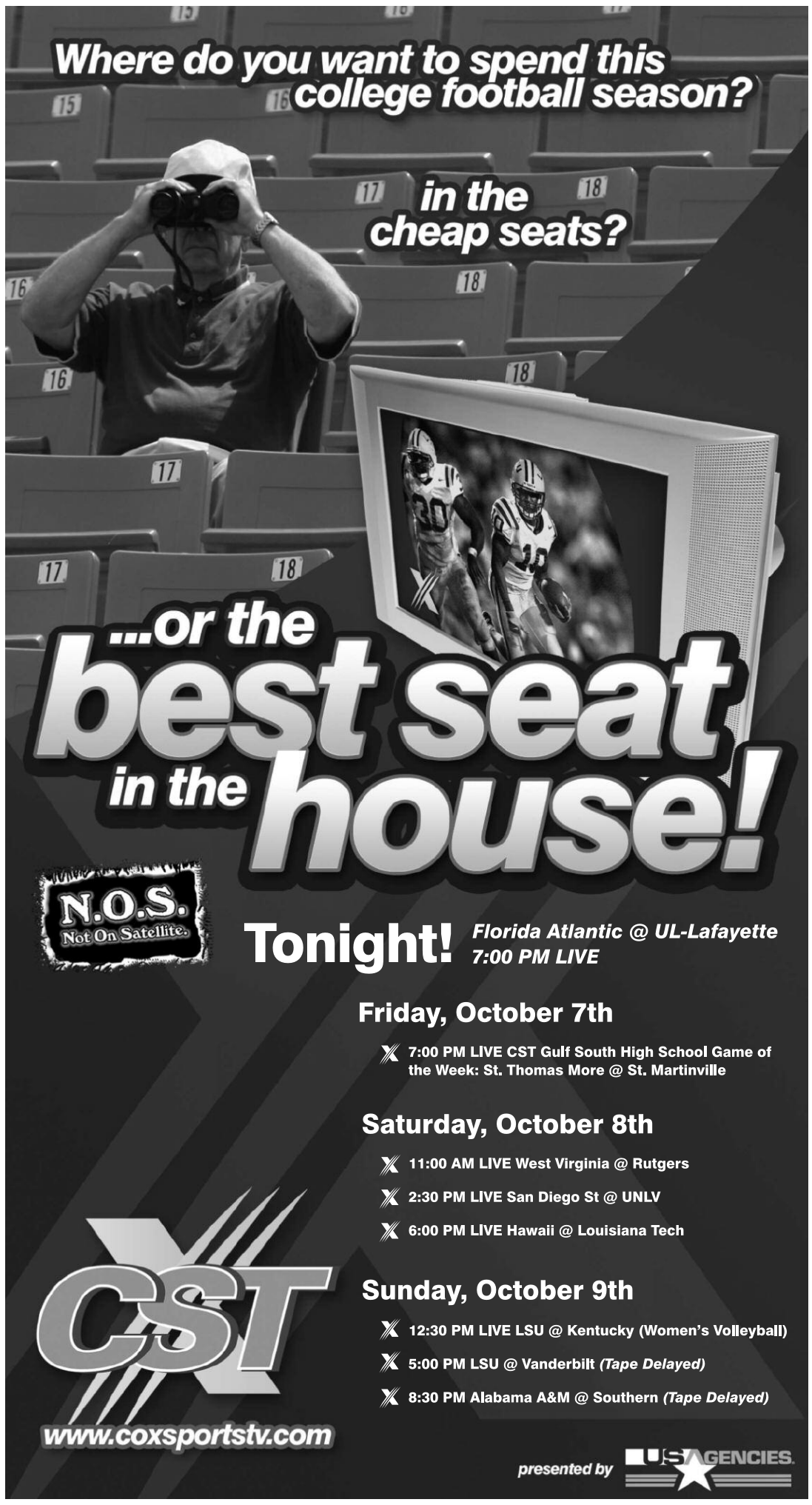
Allen Iverson told The Philadelphia Daily News he will fight any new dress code.

"I dress to make myself comfortable," Iverson told the Philadelphia Daily News. "I really do have a problem with it. ... I'll fight for."

**SZCZERBIAK HAPPY AGAIN:** Wally Szczerbiak wasn't sure he wanted to come back to the Minnesota Timberwolves. Relegated to sixth man last season, Szczerbiak expressed frustration with how he was being used and said he would rather be traded than spend another season coming off the bench in Minnesota.

"I was an All-Star in this league and it seemed like some people forgot that, for whatever reason," Szczerbiak said this week as the Timberwolves opened training camp.

**CLIPPERS WAIVE WILLIAMS:** The Clippers requested waivers on point guard Frank Williams. He averaged 2.9 points and 1.9 assists in his first three NBA seasons after being taken by Denver as the 25th overall selection in the 2002 NBA draft.




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# Four hobbled Saints return to practice

## *Horn has 'no doubt' he will play Sunday*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff Writer

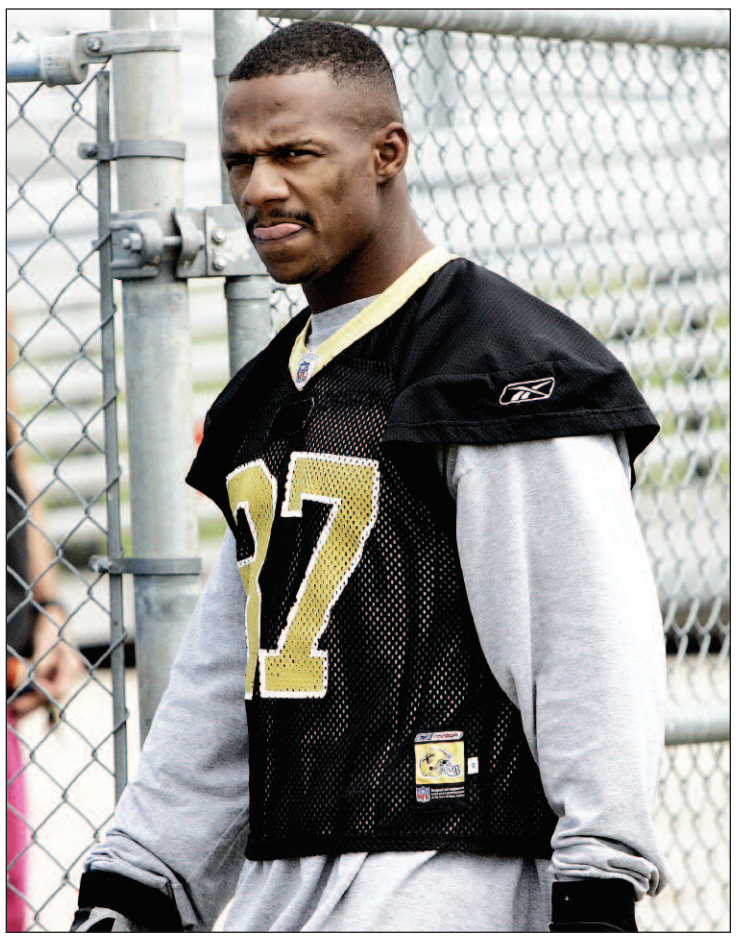
SAN ANTONIO — Joe Horn, Fakhir Brown, Jermane Mayberry and Aaron Stecker were back in practice Wednesday after missing last Sunday's victory over the Buffalo Bills with injuries.

Horn, who was sidelined for a week and a half with a hamstring injury, said he did not expect to play against Buffalo, but this week he has "no doubt" he will play at Green Bay.

"I knew it was pretty sore (last week) and I could've played on it, but I probably would have hurt it more," Horn said. "I knew I had to get it rested, get it well so I didn't wind up being out for four or five weeks."

Brown, a starting cornerback, has missed the past three games with a bruised bone in his knee. Mayberry, a starting guard, has missed the past two games with a shoulder injury. Stecker, a backup tailback/kick returner, sprained his ankle during the Week 3 loss at Minnesota.

Those who did not practice Wednesday were receiver Az-Zahir Hakim (knee), guard Kendyl Jacox (ankle), linebackers James Allen (hamstring) and T.J. Slaughter (groin) and safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring).



AP PHOTO

Saints receiver Joe Horn, who missed last week's game against the Buffalo Bills with a hamstring injury, vows to play at Green Bay on Sunday.

Saints coach Jim Haslett said he expects Hakim and Jacox to return to practice today, but he wasn't sure about the other three. If Mitchell can't play, cornerback Jason Craft may be used as a backup safety.

**HOWARD HONORED:** Defensive end Darren Howard was selected the NFC's Defensive Player of the Week for the second time in his career after getting two sacks, forcing a fumble and batting away a pass against Buffalo.

Howard was the subject of trade discussions this past offseason, mostly because of contract issues and the Saints' depth at his position. But Haslett said the team was not looking to "get rid of him" unless they could upgrade their team in the process.

"We thought that Darren's value to this football team was a lot," Haslett said. "It was just a money issue at the time, and in order to trade Darren we wanted equal value. The only team that was even close was Dallas. But obviously we felt it wasn't equal value what they wanted to offer."

**ETC.:** The Saints practiced indoors Wednesday but will head outside to the San Antonio School District Spring Sports Complex on Thursday and Friday to prepare for an outdoor game at Green Bay. Lambeau Field will hardly be the "frozen tundra," with an early forecast of 60 degrees for Sunday. Haslett said cool weather in San Antonio this week should help them get a feel for their conditions.

# McKenzie to face his former team

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

"You really just need change. So that really was the situation there. I enjoyed my time there. It's a first-class organization. But, for me personally, I really just needed change.

"My only regret is that I didn't win a championship while playing in Green Bay. Outside of that, there's no regrets at all."

The Saints have certainly had no regrets since trading this year's second-round draft pick and quarterback J.T. O'Sullivan to the Packers in exchange for McKenzie and a conditional late-round draft pick in 2006.

McKenzie had five interceptions in his 10 games with the Saints last year and added another in Week 1 this season. He is a positive locker room presence, is regularly available to the media and brings a swagger and confidence onto the field with him - a far cry from his reputation of being distant and aloof.

"I'm always going to give a guy a chance. And Mike passed with flying colors," Saints receiver Joe Horn said. "Let me tell you something, you're only aloof and you're only a locker room cancer when you've got people around you that you don't get along with, and guys that you just don't feel. Mike feels us. Mike loves the guys that he's around. He's having fun.

"I'm not going to say there's bad guys down in Green Bay with him. But, obviously, there must have been more haters than friends."

McKenzie insisted then and now that his contract was not the main reason for his unhappiness in Green Bay - the five-year, $17.1 million deal he signed in 2002 had him ranked barely among the top 20 cornerbacks in the NFL by 2003.

The Saints did not guarantee McKenzie a new contract when they traded for him but said they would be open to discussing an extension.

Sure enough, after his instant impact, he signed a new five-year, $22 million deal this summer with a $7 million signing bonus.

"We researched him. We knew he was always on time for meetings, and he was a good guy. And he really just wanted change basically," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "We talked to a lot of people who had him and some coaches who were there when he was there, and nobody had anything negative to say.

"You know, they said he's a little different, which he is. But he's a good guy. He's a good person. He wants to be a good player. He works hard, and he's got playmaking ability. Everybody's different. If you're playing football, you're a different kind of cat anyway."

McKenzie joined the Packers as a third-round pick out of Memphis in 1999 and started all 16 games his rookie season. Green Bay made the playoffs in 2001, 2002 and 2003 but never advanced to the NFC championship game.

McKenzie said he felt the Packers' second-round overtime loss to Philadelphia in January 2004 (the

infamous fourth-and-26 conversion by the Eagles) represented Green bay's last window of opportunity to reach the Super Bowl.

The Packers fired defensive coordinator Ed Donatell after that, but McKenzie was apparently not pleased with the team's replacement, Bob Slowik - who was replaced after last season.

"He was a great Xs and Os coach, but sometimes when it comes to the heat of battle and having to make calls, that's different from just sitting in your office and going over tape," McKenzie said of Slowik.

McKenzie was also reportedly disappointed that assistant defensive backs coach Lionel Washington was passed over for promotion.

McKenzie admitted that he didn't exactly fit in with the Green Bay culture and preferred to spend offseasons in Memphis or his hometown of Miami.

All of those issues led to him sitting out the 2004 offseason workouts, the entire training camp and the first week of the regular season. He signed with agent Drew Rosenhaus - his fifth agent in five years - and asked for a trade.

He reluctantly returned to the team in Week 2 but only played in one game before a hamstring injury sidelined him.

Though McKenzie insisted again Wednesday that he did not fake or milk the injury, that speculation was rampant at the time.

Eventually, Sherman, who is also Green Bay's general manager, lowered the team's asking price in a trade to remove the distraction, if nothing else.

"I've always been a Mike McKenzie fan," Sherman said during his conference call Wednesday. "He's a good kid. He helped us win a bunch of ballgames here, and watching him on tape he's one of the best corners in the National Football League, so he's playing well down there.

"I have no hard feelings for Mike at all. I wish we could have gotten it resolved there. We didn't, but we moved forward."

So, too, has McKenzie.

"For me personally, things worked out for me," McKenzie said. "Truthfully, once I left Green Bay, a

lot of that stuff kind of went in the rear view, and I've been since that time really looking forward to being here with my teammates and working on ways for us to get better, to find a way for us to get to a championship.

"Outside of Katrina coming through our region and having that devastation, I'm happy to be here in this locker room, with these guys. You know, we've shown great resilience. We've grown tighter as a team in these situations. And I wouldn't want to change anything for any reason."

# Rams' Martz has heart infection

## *Coach says he can be treated with antibiotics*

**From wire reports**

St. Louis Rams coach Mike Martz has an infection of the heart that will require treatment with antibiotics and keep him out of practice for a couple of days.

"I haven't been feeling good for four or five weeks, and there is some type of infection in my body that has gotten worse," Martz said Wednesday. "They think they've identified what it is."

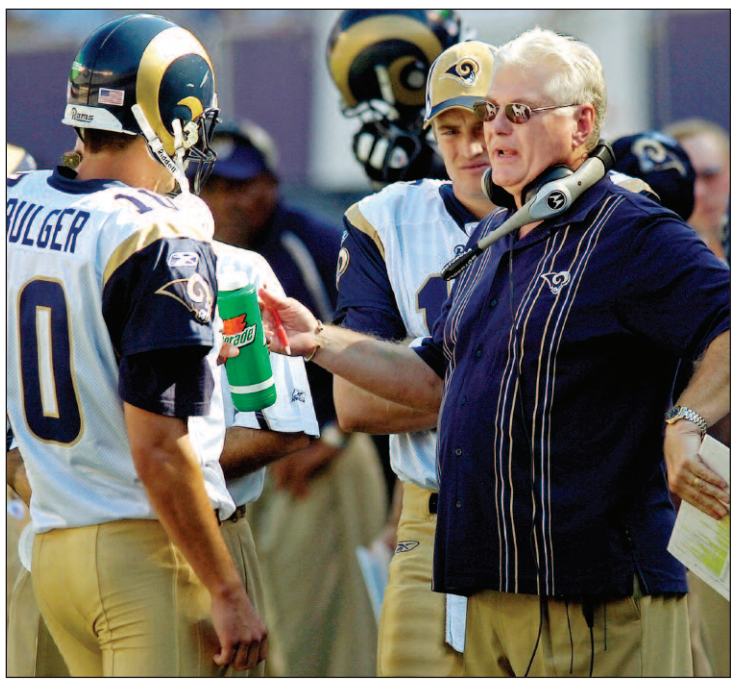
Martz, 54, said doctors believe he has endocarditis, a bacterial infection of the heart's inner lining or the heart valve. Martz will undergo a series of blood cultures in the next week to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment involves taking antibiotics over a long period of time, Martz said.

"This is something that if you let it go, it could become a real issue," Martz said.

Martz was hospitalized last Friday with what doctors believed was a sinus infection. He was released the next day and coached the Rams on Sunday in their 44-24 loss to the New York Giants.

**TESTAVERDE TO START:** Vinny Testaverde, nearly 42 years old, has not thrown a pass in a regular-season game since January. And he has had about a week to learn the Jets offense.



AP PHOTO

St. Louis Rams coach Mike Martz has a heart infection that will keep him out of practice for a couple of days.

This is the player coach Herman Edwards has entrusted to help save the season.

Edwards selected Testaverde his staring quarterback Wednesday, with hope he can spark their floundering offense. Though Testaverde was on the verge of retirement a few weeks ago, he is now put in the tough spot of trying to get the Jets some victories.

His first start comes Sunday against Tampa Bay, the team that drafted him No. 1 overall in 1987. He will be the fourth-oldest quarterback to start in the Super Bowl era, behind Steve DeBerg, Warren Moon and Doug Flutie.

Testaverde, signed a week ago when Chad Pennington went out for the season with another torn rotator cuff, watched from the sideline as third-stringer Brooks Bollinger started in a 13-3 loss to Baltimore. The Jets did little to help Bollinger. But Edwards pointed to one statistic that helped him make his decision: Bollinger was 4-of-16.

**ROGERS SUSPENDED:** Detroit wide receiver Charles Rogers was suspended Wednesday for four games for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

"I will make no excuses for what I did, and I accept full responsibility for my actions," Rogers said in a statement released by the Lions. "I let down a lot of people, mainly myself."

The suspension is the latest in a series of problems for Rogers, the second choice in the 2003 draft, who missed much of his first two seasons after breaking his right collarbone twice.

**AROUND THE NFL:** Starting wide receivers Bobby Engram (ribs) and Darrell Jackson (knee bruise) are both listed as doubtful for Seattle's game Sunday at St. Louis. If neither can play, Joe Jurevicius and Peter Warrick will start. ... The Seahawks signed veteran punter Tom Rouen on Wednesday and released Leo Araguz. ... Philadelphia All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins and Pro Bowl middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter sat out practice Wednesday, but neither is expected to miss Sunday's game at Dallas. Both are listed as questionable.

# Magloire working to regain All-Star form

**HORNETS,** *from C-1*

every single day, and he knows this is where he's going to be playing for the time being and he's giving us 100 percent.

"I think Jamaal, no matter what he says in the papers, he's always said that he would love to someday play in Toronto, and that's understandable. It's his hometown.'"

But Magloire said his main objective is to be a team player, who is focused on proving he can return to the level achieved during the 2003-04 season when he played in all 82 games and made his first All-Star game appearance.

Last season, Magloire's streak of playing in 290 consecutive games ended after he fractured his right ring finger in November and was placed on the injured list. He also had problems with back spasms, and he missed 51 games with the injuries.

"My pride is the biggest thing, and I always want to play at the top level,'" Magloire said. "I always want to be considered one of the best in the NBA. Being out of the loop for a year just made me more eager to come back. I'm coming in with a new attitude. I'm resilient, and I want to work hard, and it's time to get the show on the road."

To get into shape this summer, Magloire said, he ran on hills, stairs and even did some sparring work in the boxing ring. Some of the Hornets players have noticed the way he's handled Scott's rigorous running drills at training camp.

"I think he's different guy coming into this year than he was last year," veteran forward P.J. Brown said. "He's definitely more focused, like he's on a mission. He wants to regain his form where he was two years ago. He's not saying very much, but he's saying enough when he has to and doing everything that coach is asking him to do."

Magloire is the Hornets' highest-paid player, earning about $8.5 million per season with a year remaining on his contract after this season.

"Hurricane Katrina has put everything in perspective, there are so many other things more important right now (than trade issues)," Magloire said. "Everything will work out for me because I've always had a good attitude. One day the ball will be in my court, and I'll be able to shine."

# Smith aiming to become complete player

**DeSHAZIER,** *from C-1*

He even has his name back, after being called "Rook" so often last season that there had to have been times he forgot his real name himself.

"That's a good feeling," Smith said of being able to call someone else "Rook." "That's the best feeling in the world right now."

It's among the few pleasures he has while he and his teammates go through training camp at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City, Okla., rather than the Alario Center in Westwego, and prepare for regular season home games to be played at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City, rather than New Orleans Arena.

Like everyone else, Smith has an adjustment period to go through.

The classes he was hoping to take at Tulane (he took courses there last season) will have to be taken in

Oklahoma City. He's determined to remain a "student-athlete," he said.

Mom and Dad won't be living with him this season. They're home in New Jersey, watching over a younger brother who, for the first time, will be able to play football this season. Probably, Smith and rookie point guard Chris Paul, this year's first-round pick, will find a house and room together.

And, of course, there's the matter of transforming into the elite player that the Hornets feel they drafted, the one he full well believes he can be.

"I just want to be a more complete player, work on my ball-handling, jump shot," said Smith, who averaged 10.3 points, two rebounds and 1.9 assists per game last season, when he shot 39 percent from the field and started 56 of 76 games. "I want to be a better all-around player, a lot more calm on the offensive and defensive end."

Familiarity will help with that. A year in Coach Byron Scott's system means there should be a lot less indecision for all of the returning Hornets, who far too often last season were a step slow doing this, a tad late doing that.

It might help Smith, especially, because he will have added responsibilities. In addition to playing shooting guard, he also will be counted on to play small forward in some situations. Likely, he'll have some problems defending there. Likely, he'll present his share of problems, too.

"I'm just looking forward to getting out there and playing," he said. "Doesn't matter where, just getting on the court. I'll play the 5 (the center) if that's what they need me to do."

Wherever Smith plays, Scott will ride him hard again, just like last season.

"He told me the other day he's going to be even harder on me this year," Smith said. "He's trying to help me become the best player I can be. But I always put pressure on myself to be the best player I can be."

The best he can be seems to be very, very good. But it's going to take at least a little longer to get there, because even though Smith is ready and willing to help the "youngsters," he still is very much one himself.

# Sorry survivors

## Their houses are fine. Their families are safe. Their jobs are secure. So why are Katrina's unscathed so miserable? The guilt is killing them.

**By Chris Bynum**
Staff writer

Angele du Passage was flying from New Orleans to Atlanta last week when a flight attendant asked her the dreaded question.

"She bent down, leaned in towards me and quietly asked, with a concerned look on her face, 'How are you?' " said du Passage, a national sales manager for Sheraton New Orleans Hotels.

"I had to say, with a guilty look on my face, 'I am fine, thank you' - and really meant it."

It is a daily indignity for du Passage, who says she feels like former Disco Queen Gloria Gaynor: "I did survive. But I do not feel like singing." The Mandeville resident has been struggling with feelings of guilt since Katrina spared her home from wind and flood damage, while the homes of neighbors and co-workers were smashed by falling trees or submerged in floodwaters.

*See* **GUILT,** *C-10*



### SURVIVOR GUILT REMEDIES

- ▶ Don't overcompensate by overworking or worrying nonstop because you feel you don't deserve your good fortune.
- ▶ Don't punish yourself for having moments of joy. Feeling joy does not mean you are "spitting in the face of the pain of others."
- ▶ Don't postpone your life. That has nothing to do with respecting those for whom you feel empathy.
- ▶ Don't bottle up your feelings. They will eventually come out as anger, resentment or depression. Moments of humor are just as profound and appropriate as moments of sadness.
- ▶ Do something to help those who didn't survive the storm so well. It will make you — and them — feel better.

Source: Psychologist Wayne Sotile

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# The Funk Master

## *In The Big Moldy, what used to be a disability now qualifies as a gift: He can't smell a thing*

**Maria Montoya**
Staff Writer

At the time, it qualified as a tragedy: Little 10-year-old Jason Glas took a spill and fractured his skull.

"I fell down in one of those blow-up play houses at a fair," said Glas, "and soon after we figured out I couldn't smell anymore."

Poor Jason, everyone thought. He'll never smell the gumbo cooking in his momma's kitchen, or the chicory coffee that fills his cup at Cafe DuMonde, or the perfume on his girlfriend's neck.

And then came Katrina, and the pungent funk that followed it, and now all anyone can say is: Dude! Can you clean out my refrigerator for me?

*See* **SMELL,** *C-10*



'It's unbelievable that something so good could come from an accident that at the time was pretty bad,' says Jason Glas, who lost his sense of smell at age 10.

# A few of their favorite things

## *Laughter is the best medicine for the authors of a 'Sound of Music' storm parody*



ANGUS LIND

Ellen Steigman and her husband John Valentino took in evacuees to their north shore home because they sustained only minimal damage.

Steigman, a part-time stand-up comic and schoolteacher, and her husband, an art professor at Southeastern Louisiana University, boarded fellow members of the Krewe du Vieux Carnival organization and other wayward nomads for some time. Each night they had big communal dinners.

And a few bottles of wine.

"Everything for me is a song," said Steigman, whose comedy material in New York included such routines as "Why There's No such Thing as a Romantic Jewish Dinner" and "Life in New York: Do These Things Happen to Just Me?"

"I always tried to be clean and not denigrate anybody," she said.

And now she's into evacuation and hurricane humor.

"I enjoy making people laugh, especially in a time like this. It's good to create pleasure out of pain. If you don't laugh, you cry."

So one night, the one-liners started flying. Things started getting a little crazy. Steigman got out her laptop. Everybody contributed. As she says, "Take five people who have been cleaning out and packing up three post-Katrina homes. Combine with a comedienne and art professor. Add a couple bottles of wine. Stir."

The result was a takeoff of "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music." They called it, "My Favorite Things Are Debris." It was written by Steigman and Donna Musarra with an extraordinary creative effort from local actor Greg Baber and the equally deranged minds of David Mervis,

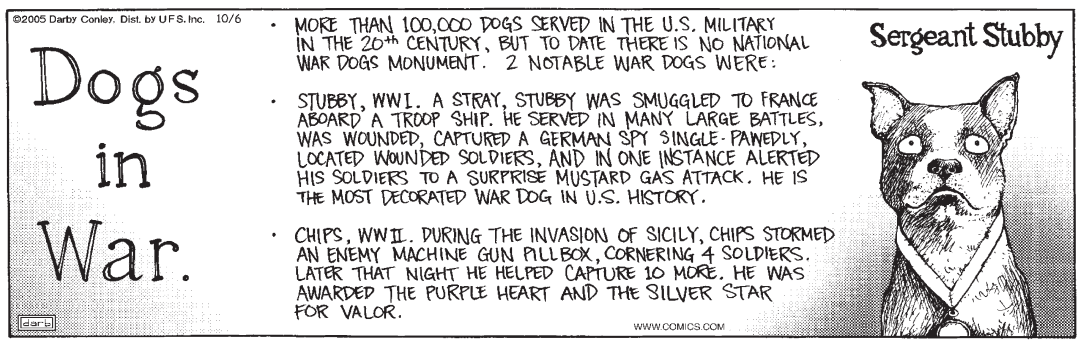
*See* **LIND,** *C-10*

# COMICS

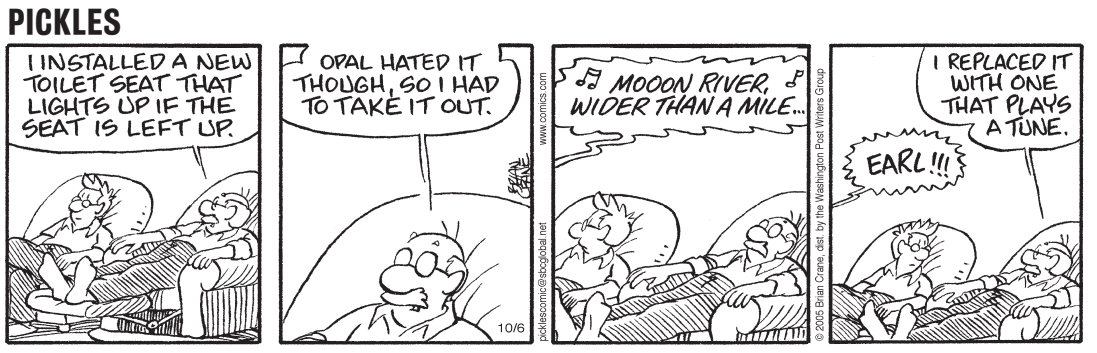
## ZITS



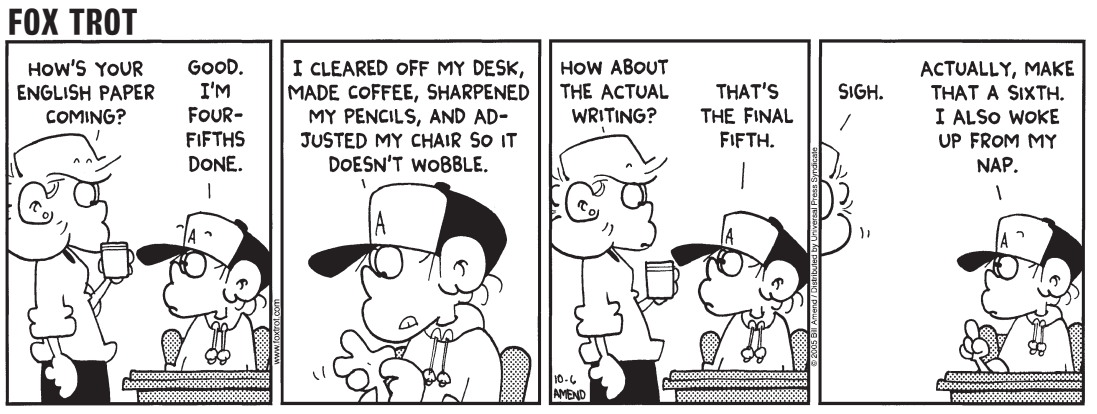

## GET FUZZY




## PICKLES



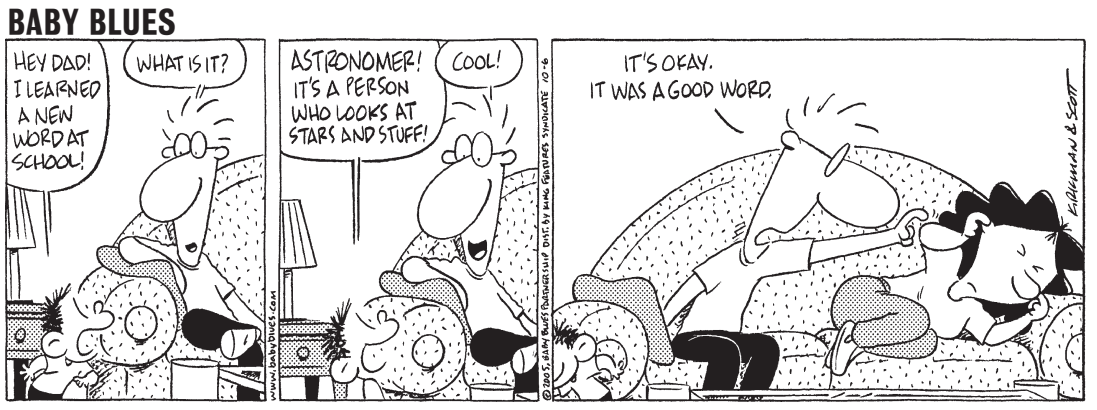

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

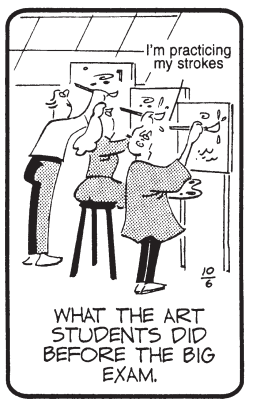
MACHP

UGAVE

BISCER

CLUGED

www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer:** "_____" ____

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RANCH GRIMY DUPLEX MEMOIR
Answer: This helps when doing the dishes — "DRY" HUMOR

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| A1 | E1 | T1 | D2 | N1 | K5 | S1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | E1 | Y4 | H4 | R1 | T1 | B3 | 1st Letter Double |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | I1 | Y4 | N1 | C3 | L1 | C3 | Triple Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| A1 | A1 | E1 | G2 | M3 | R1 | P3 | |

**PAR SCORE 170-180**
**BEST SCORE 228**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 170-180

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = 62 | D2 | A1 | N1 | K5 | E1 | S1 | T1 | |
| RACK 2 = 68 | B3 | R1 | E1 | A1 | T1 | H4 | Y4 | |
| RACK 3 = 36 | C3 | Y4 | C3 | L1 | E1 | | | |
| RACK 4 = 62 | R1 | A1 | M3 | P3 | A1 | G2 | E1 | |

TOTAL 228

## WORD SLEUTH

D I E B R Y V S Q N K H E B Y
W T R O Y L J G E B R Y W U R
P N K Y A S T R Z E M S K I I
G Y O U N T M X V D U B C Z X
V S Q O E M B A K I S N O G C
E C A R Y W E F I E I O R O U
S Q B P N S N U L L A S B J H
F E C A M H C O Y T L B X V U
S Q P I A N H K R N M I K J H
F E T P C B Z Y X A V G W U T
R H S Q P O M L K M A I H G E

Wednesday's unlisted clue: HOOKY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: SHORTSTOP OZZIE —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron | Cobb | Musial | Williams |
| Bench | Gibson | Ryan | Yastrzemski |
| Brett | Koufax | Seaver | Yount |
| Brock | Mantle | Spahn | |

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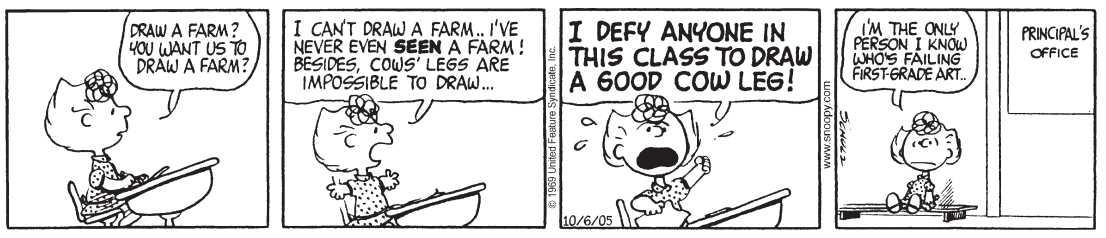
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| F | B | R | L | A | O | E | T | E | O | M | I | B |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| R | O | E | L | L | I | D | D | E | E | O | R | L |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| G | U | A | E | I | Y | S | T | K | T | P | E | Y |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| I | F | O | I | H | D | N | I | E | O | S | R | N |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| N | I | N | E | G | R | W | L | S | A | E | O | L |
| 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| S | O | T | N | O | S | D | R | E | O | I | V | P |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| E | A | C | T | R | A | D | A | S | L | T | L | E |

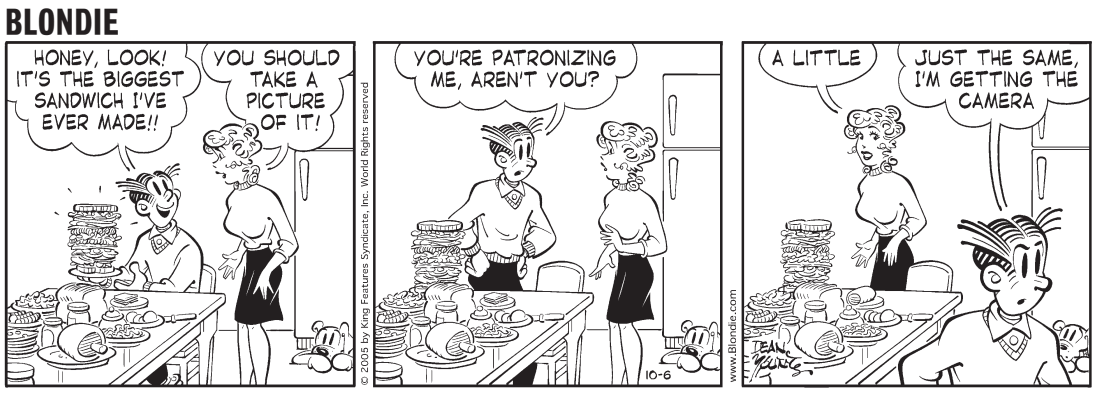
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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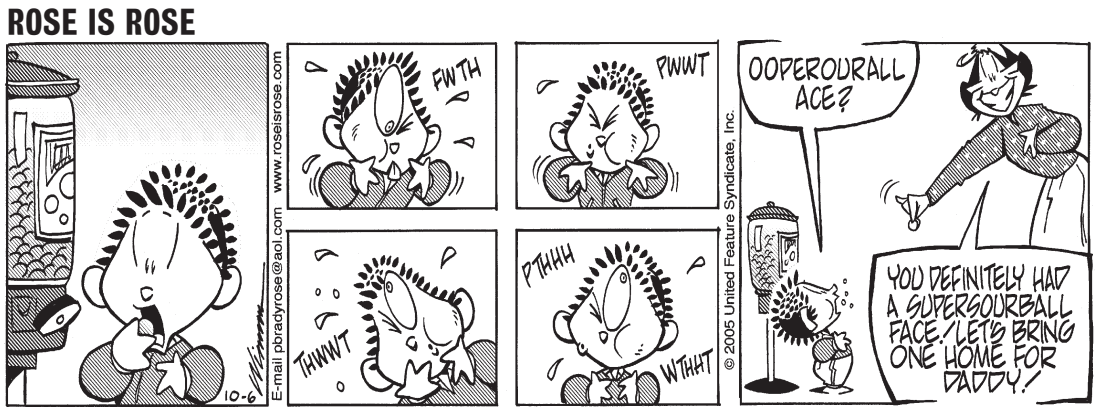
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



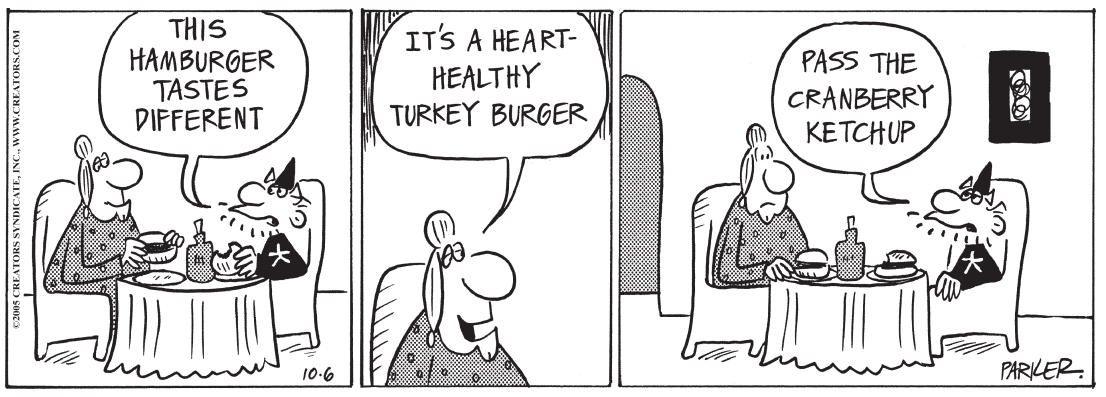

## BLONDIE



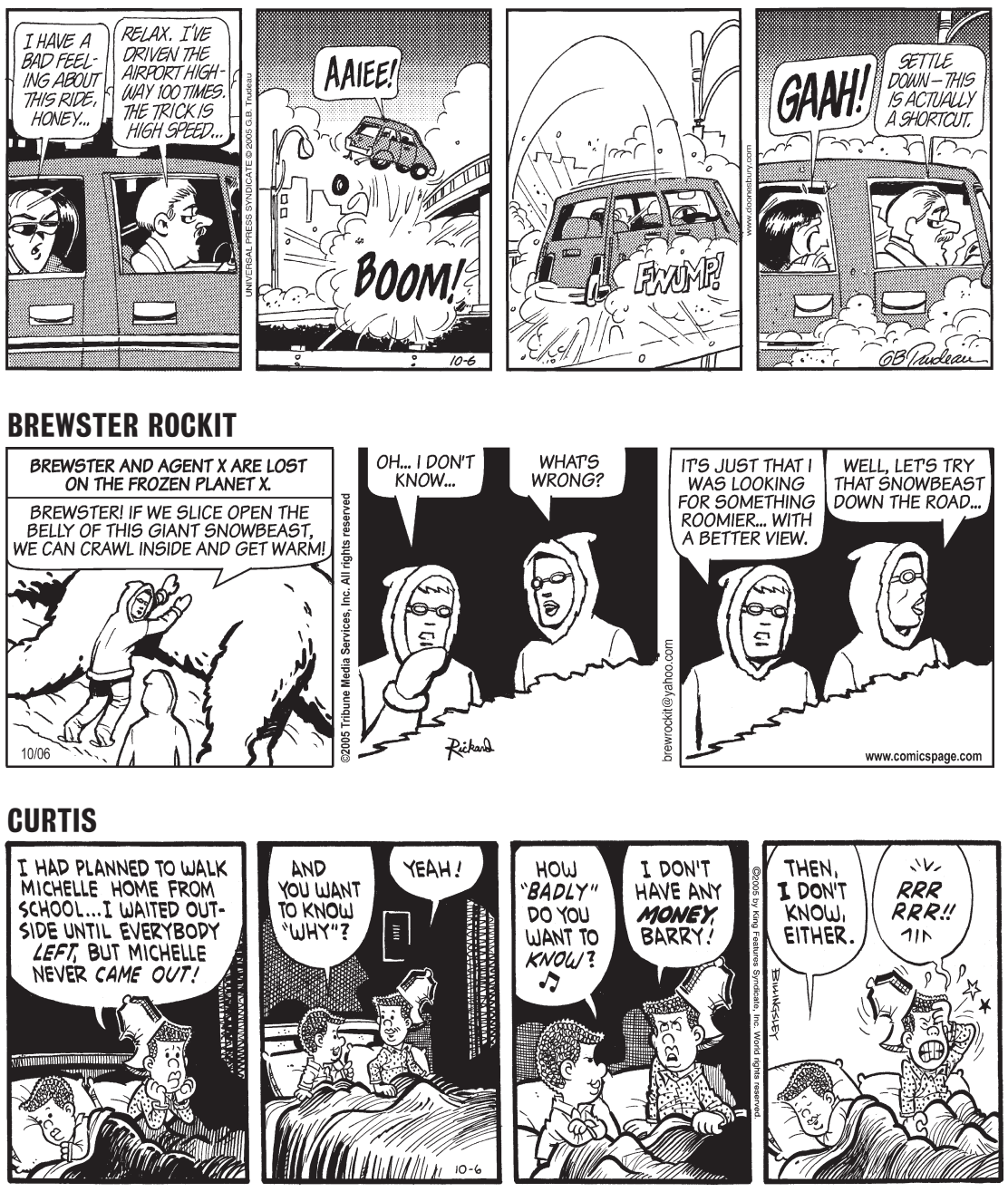

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



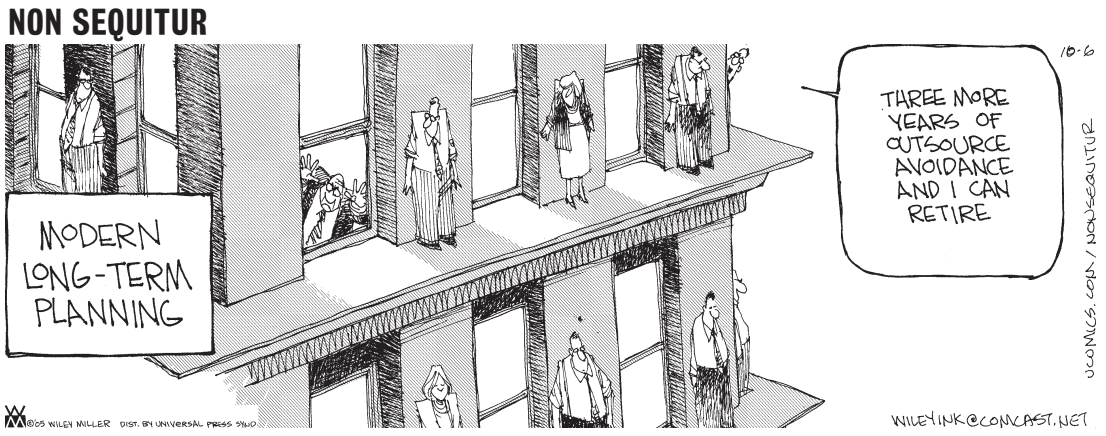

## BREWSTER ROCKIT



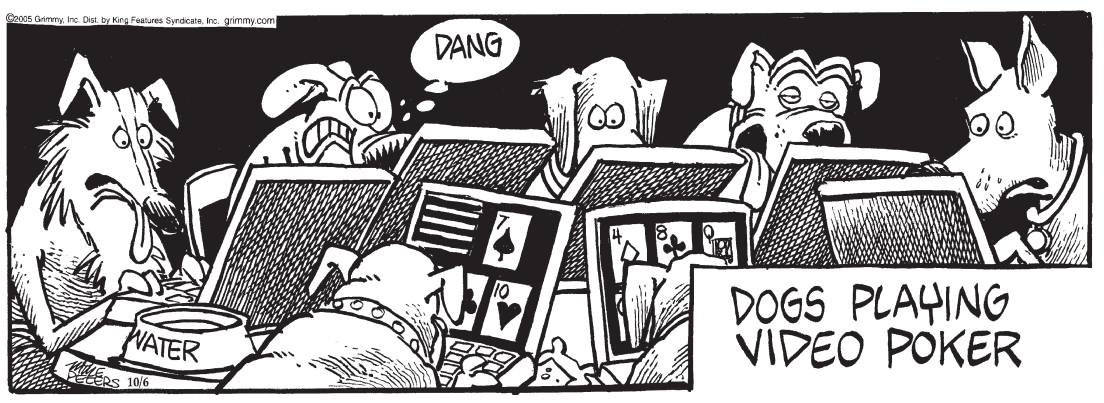

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

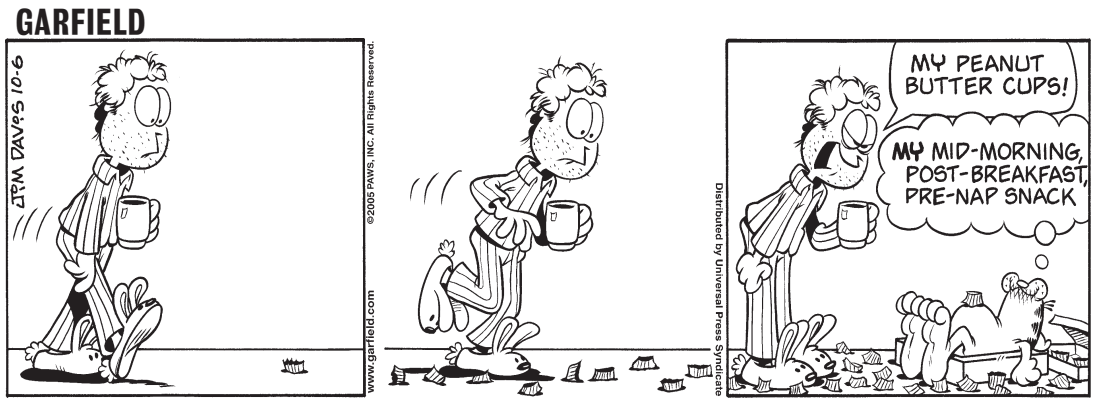



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

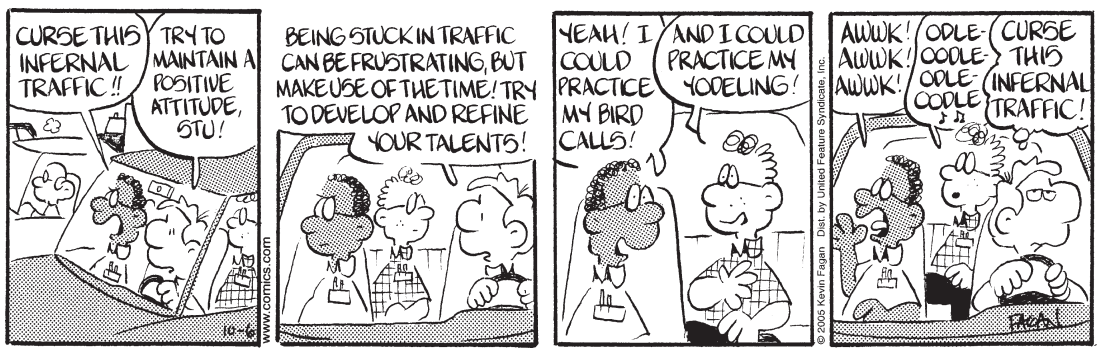


# COMICS

## GARFIELD



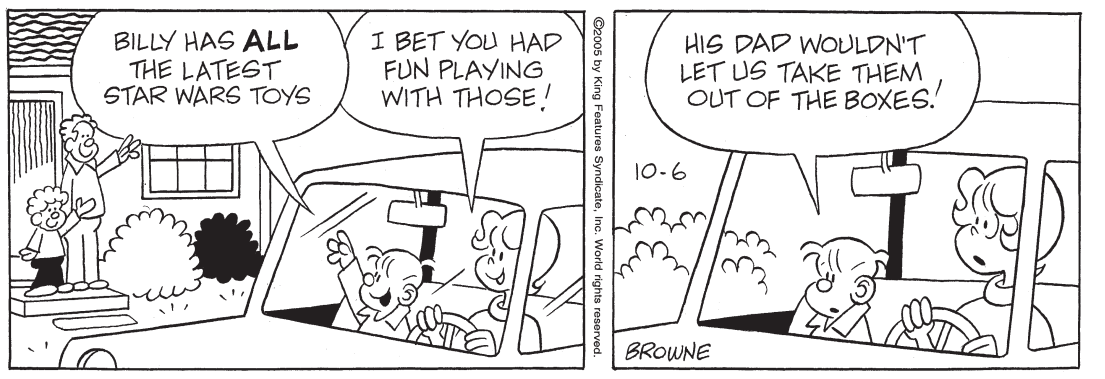

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



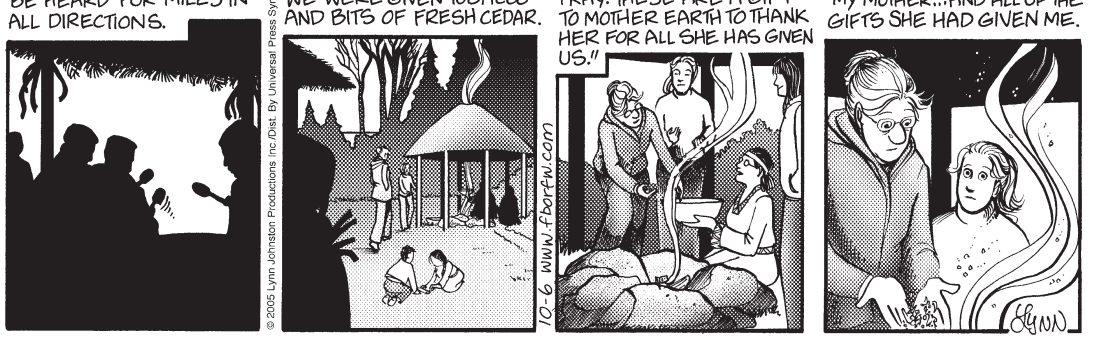

## HI & LOIS



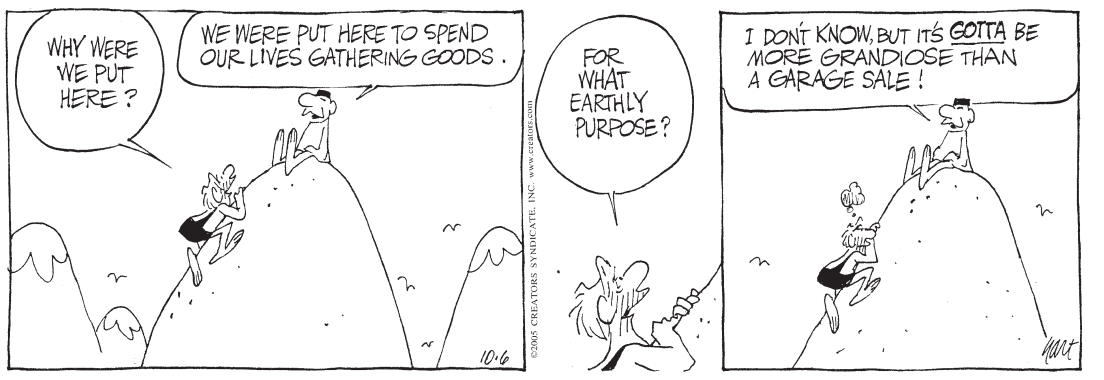

## BEETLE BAILEY



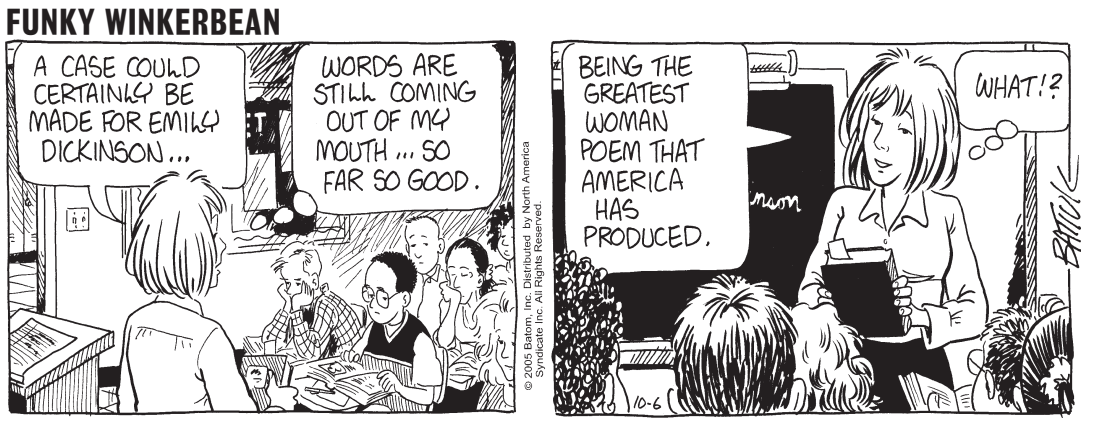

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.



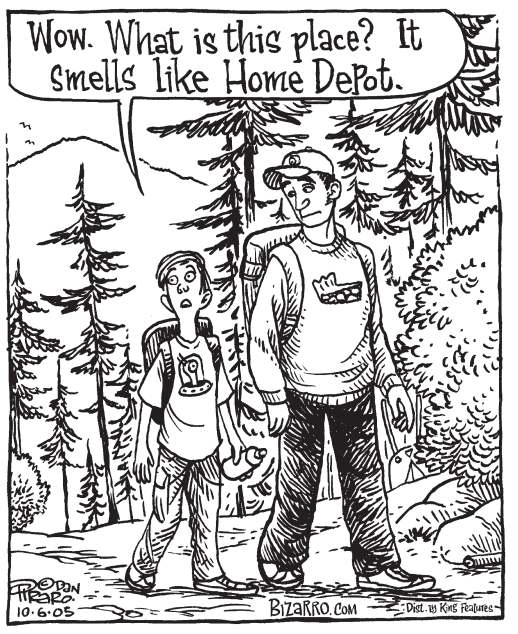

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

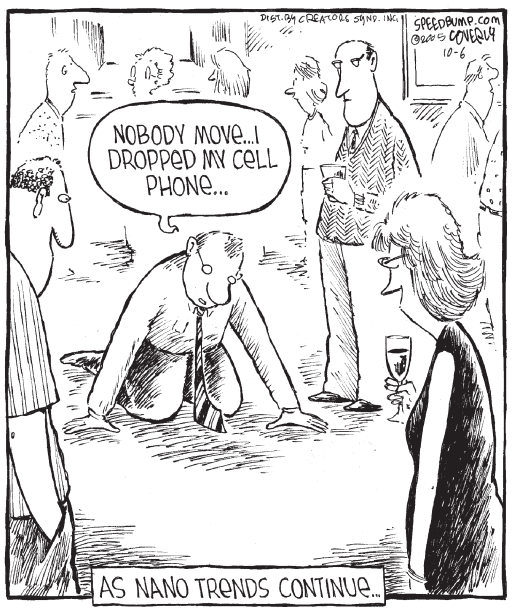



## LOOSE PARTS

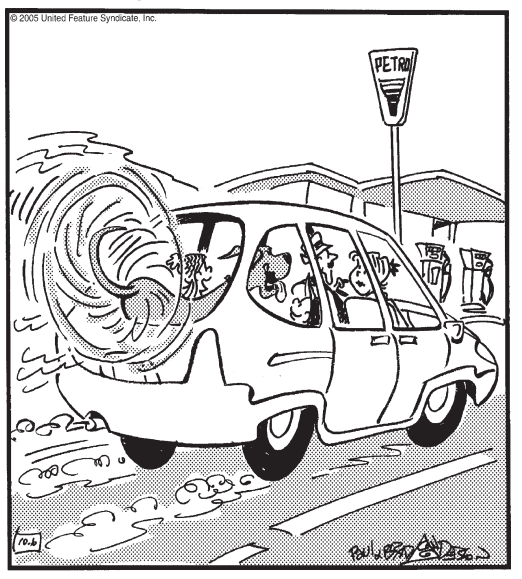



The peace talks get off to a shaky start.

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"Don't worry about the price of gas anymore, Dad. Marmaduke has his propeller tail going."

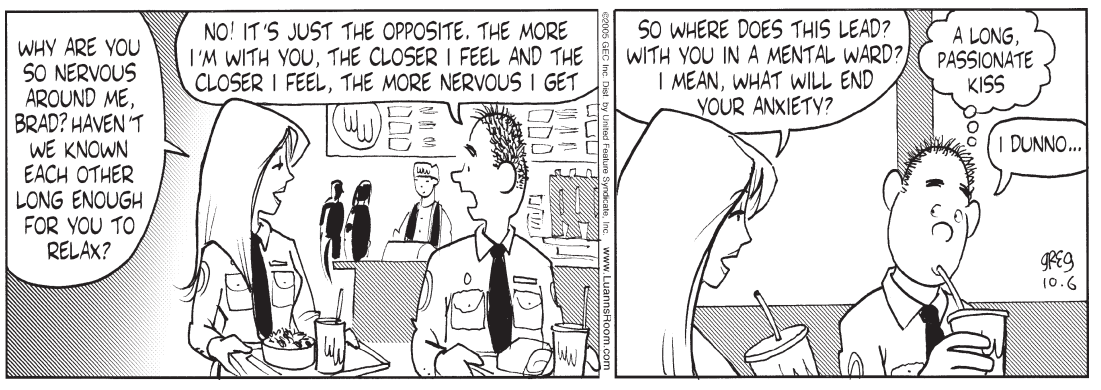
## JUMP START



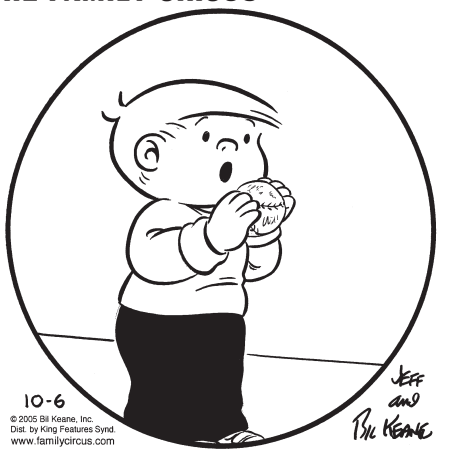

## DILBERT




## LUANN

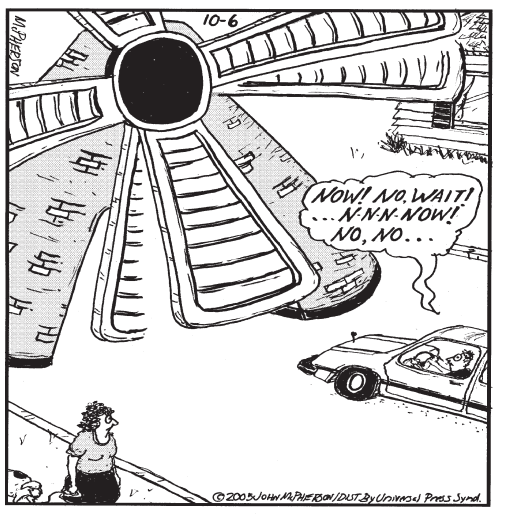



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



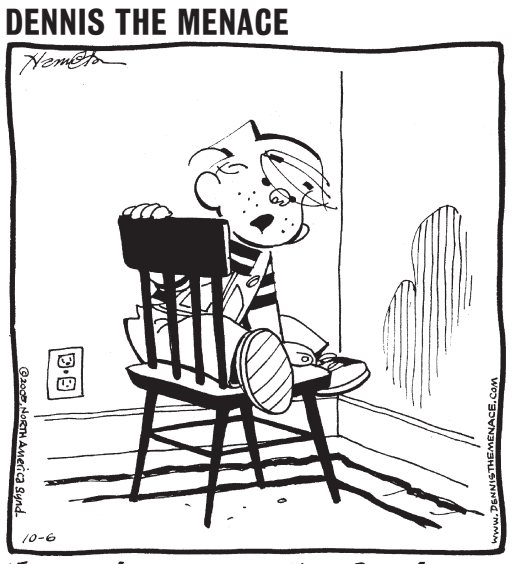

"This baseball wasn't autographed by anyone embarrassing, was it?"

## CLOSE TO HOME




Finding speed bumps to be ineffective, many towns are opting for mini-golf-style windmills.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"I THINK I'M DONE HERE, MOM. I DON'T FEEL GUILTY ANYMORE."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**GOOD ODDS** **Solution: 7 letters**

S T L U S E R I N S U R E B E
B E N E F I T F L H I G H V E
E P C H E S I A R L N C I F H
S D O U B L E T C I E C A S W
A P M S R D P E M A T S U S O
E T P A I I T I F O R P R R H
R S E N D T T I R U V D I E S
C F T K N E I Y P T R E S V E
N P E E R C Y V E S U T K I V
I A V E M A G A E C A F H L I
D E T T L R M D T R S O F E R
A H S P M I N D T I R T N D R
E C A L P A N O Y S A E O E A
H D L O H E D G E C N A H C G
A P P R O V E S T R O P S K K

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Ahead, Approve, Arrive, Benefit, Cards, Cash, Chance, Cheap, Compete, Deals, Deck, Deliver, Dogs, Double, Easy, Event, Face, Fate, Feeling, Further, Game, Hand, Hedge, High, Hold, Hope, Horses, Increase, Insure, Last, Made, Market, Mind, Move, Place, Play, Positive, Push, Race, Raise, Results, Risk, Safe, Security, Sell, Send, Show, Sports, Start, Stock, Team, Timing, Tips, Triple, Tuff, Victory

**Yesterday's Answer: Potassium**

CONTINUED

# Sorry survivors

**GUILT,** *from C-7*

Add to that a daily deluge of depressing TV and newspaper images from shelters and storm-ravaged communities and the song in her head changes to "Help Me Make It Through the Night."

What du Passage and others who were spared Katrina's destruction are feeling is so common that the dictionary has a term for it: "survivor guilt," defined as "a deep feeling of guilt often experienced by those who have survived some catastrophe." The term was first coined when referring to the emotional state of many who lived through the Holocaust.

In the case of Katrina, some people who escaped the storm and quickly returned to somewhat normal lives say they feel unworthy and unable to enjoy their blessings. How can they when so many others' lives are in shambles?

Rabbi Robert H. Loewy of the Congregation Gates of Prayer in Metairie, now temporarily displaced to Houston, said the emotion is as common as it is misguided.

"People may feel guilt, which is usually connected with having done something wrong, or at least the feeling that others think you may have done something wrong," he said. "Of course, they did not do anything wrong. The fact that they are not suffering and others are is a simple reality."

But it's a reality du Passage cannot help but take personally, no matter how irrational those feelings may be.

"I work at a downtown hotel in New Orleans, and most of my co-workers live in the city as well. They still have not been to their homes," she said. "All I had to deal with was lost power and a loud generator for two weeks. But now my son is back in school. My husband and I are back at work, and life goes on.

"The guilt just never ends."

The most constructive way to cope with such strong emotions is "not to think about things in black and white," says Wayne Sotile, director of Psychological Services for the Wake Forest University Healthy Exercise and Lifestyles Program in Charlotte, N.C.

Sotile, who was born in Donaldsonville, La., said he has "over 500 relatives between New Orleans and Baton Rouge" and has been touched both personally and professionally by Katrina.

"The fact that you may be happy, even relieved, is not the same as being happy or relieved at someone else's expense," he says.

"It is important to recognize that 'survivor guilt' comes from a good heart," agrees Randy Quevillon, chairman of the psychology department and faculty member of the Disaster Mental Health Institute of the University of South Dakota. "It's a pro-social feeling."

Quevillon says that survivor guilt tends



to be temporary in its intensity. And Sotile points out that, if channeled properly, it can be turned into something tremendously productive.

"Pay attention to the theme (behind the feeling of guilt) — that you want to give something back," Sotile said. "Do something directly for those who have been traumatized . . . little acts of kindness help. Being kind is a way to counterbalance the scales of awfulness."

Something as simple as not being impatient in the grocery line, he says, could impact the storm survivor ahead of you.

Each individual, Quevillon said, must evaluate what form of generosity feels right for them. It's not a bad idea, he says, to take time for a reality check with friends and family about the options you plan to explore. Overextending oneself for the sake of others is not the healthiest approach, especially when it is at the expense of personal responsibilities that are already in place.

Remember to cut yourself some slack, he says.

"Escaping into a good book or a movie can be an energizer during these times that you want to give back to the community," he said.

It's also important, Sotile added, to remember that no one is unaffected by a disaster on the scale of this one.

"One need not minimize their own measure of inconvenience," he said.

That's hard for public school teacher Pat Kaschalk, who has lost her job as a result of the storm but still feels guilt for not doing more to help her poor students' families before the storm.

"I have never been a wealthy person, but I know that I have had an easier life than many of the people who have suffered the most from this event," Kaschalk said. "I had 16 years of a decent living wage in this city, which is much more than many of the hardest hit people have had. My house, though not unscathed, is, I think, dry.

"What bugs me is the fact that I didn't work more to help alleviate the economic disparity before the hurricane. Now so many families whose hearts are in the city won't come back because they had so little economic opportunity before."

Kaschalk knows what she would like to do with the survivor guilt she feels.

"There will be a lot of sheetrock to hang, painting to do," she said. "My dream would be to paint and hang sheetrock alongside them."

That kind of reaction, said Rabbi Loewy, is both sensible and spiritually sound.

"Gratitude is the appropriate response, not guilt," he said. "We are not so all powerful as to determine whose house will be flooded and whose will not. Those who were more fortunate than others can look upon their good fortune as an opportunity to help those who suffered."

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Staff writer Chris Bynum can be reached at tpcbynum@aol.com.

# Benefits on the boards

## *Theaters in New York and elsewhere rally behind the N.O. arts community*

**By David Cuthbert**
Theater critic

Four of New Orleans' "cherce" cabaret performers will join Tony winners, nominees and Big Apple cabaret stars Oct. 16 in "Heartsong: The Concert for New Orleans," a Hurricane Katrina benefit for local theater artists at Symphony Space in New York City.

The latest additions to the more than 40 performers on the bill are Ricky Graham, Banu Gibson, Cynthia Owen and Harry Mayronne. They join Kitty Carlisle Hart, who will introduce the show and Bryan Batt in the New Orleans contingent.

Cabaret performers who have played Le Chat Noir, which is one of the producers of the event, are Karen Akers, Andrea Marcovicci and Karen Mason, who headline an impressive array of talent.

Also scheduled to appear: Donna Murphy; actor-playwright Charles Busch; Ann Hampton Calloway: Liz Calloway; Boyd Gaines, original "Fantasticks" star Rita Gardner; Andrea McArdle, the original "Annie;' Lee Roy Reams; Heather MacRae; Steve Ross; Janis Siegel; Judy Blazer; Jim Caruso: Lina Koutrakos; Steven Lutvak; Laurel Masse; Mark Nadler; Marnie Nixon (everyone's singing voice in the movies); Joyce Randolph; Sally Mayes; Marilyn Sokol; Brett Somers; KT Sullivan; and Julie Wilson, chanteuse empress of Manhattan nightlife.

Alex Rybeck, who has also appeared at Le Chat, is music coordinator for the concert.

Money raised from the event will go to the Contemporary Arts Center, the Heartsong Performing Artists Fund and the Andy Kruzik/Heartsong Animal Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF).

Awarding of money will be overseen by the CAC and GNOF and a small committee of volunteer producers, theater owners and managers who work within New Orleans theater community. Only individual artists and performers will be eligible.

The list of producers is almost as long as that of the performers. Erv Raible Cabaret & Concert Artists International is overseeing the event, along with Wendy Bailey, John Hoglund and Raible, of the Cabaret Conference at Yale University, in association with Le Chat Noir and its owner Barbara Motley, New Orleans producers Jacquee Carvin and Patrick Lee, Lois and Richard Nicotra, Lorenzo's Cabaret and the Hilton Garden Inn on Staten Island. Tickets for the event are $50, $100 and $200.

"Heartsong: The Concert for New Orleans" takes place Sunday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Symphony Space, Broadway and 95th Street. For reservations, call 212-864-5400.

**TIMING IS EVERYTHING:** One of the acts that was due to play Le Chat in the fall was Amanda Hebert in "Late Nite Catechism II: Sometimes We Feel Guilty Because We Are Guilty." Motley sees the show as an ideal benefit for Catholic schools in Louisiana and Texas that have taken in New Orleans school children.

"We could play Houston, Lafayette, Alexandria and end up at Le Chat," she said.

• • • • • • • •

Theater critic David Cuthbert can be reached at dcuthber@bellsouth.net.

# 'I didn't smell one thing'

**SMELL,** *from C-7*

"It's unbelievable that something so good could from an accident that at the time was pretty bad," says Glas, now 18 and suddenly the most popular member of his family, if not the entire city.

It wasn't until last week, when Glas returned to an uncle's home in Old Metairie, that he realized just how precious — and profitable — this malodorous immunity might be. The workers his uncle had hired to clean out the house, which had taken on 5 feet of water, were overcome with nausea. Glas didn't smell a thing.

"We were trying to remove the fridge and the guy helping out kept having to stop to go outside," Glas said. "He kept asking me, 'You really can't smell anything, nothing at all?' I didn't smell one thing."

His uncle was so appreciative he paid Glas $15 an hour for his work — more than twice what he makes in a week as a supermarket bagboy. Good money for a college student.

There are drawbacks, of course. Glas said he is worried that he can't smell natural gas, or the smoke from a fire in another room. But under the stinky circumstances, the benefits definitely outweigh the drawbacks.

"I can't even imagine how bad the smell is and I'm happy that my aunt and uncle didn't have to deal with it," Glas said. "Everyone has already been through so much, this is just one less thing they had to deal with themselves."

While he said he is considering helping others in the same stinky situation, he does have his limits. He may have lost his sense of smell, but his vision is intact and sending all of the appropriate messages to his brain that say: DO NOT TOUCH.

"I won't mess with sewage or anything gross like that," he said. "I may not smell it, but that's just too funky."

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# Favorite things are debris

**LIND,** *from C-7*

Marquis and Jennifer Hodes and husband Valentino.

With apologies to Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein . . .

*Water is swarming with venomous species*
*Elegant swimming pools teeming with feces*
*The rash on my haunches is starting to sting*
*These are the things that Katrina brings.*

*Houses are burning and levees are breeching*
*Into my water the sewage is seeping*
*Horrible odors awaft in the breeze*
*Hoping I don't catch a dreadful disease*

*Helicopters flying and criminals shooting*
*I called the police but they're too busy looting*
*National Guard troops all over the town*
*Why did it take Bush two weeks to dump Brown?*

*First the Dome leaked*
*Then the Dome reeked*
*Damn, the fridge smells bad!*
*New Orleans covered in green, purple and gold*
*It's not Mardi Gras, it's MOLD!*

*(slowly)*
*Boats on the rooftops and lawns full of branches*
*President hiding on big Texas ranches*
*Blue tarps on houses as far as I see*
*My favorite things are debris!*

Born in Chicago, Steigman grew up in Philadelphia and went to college in Boston. She and her husband, a New Yorker, lived in Buffalo and moved here a month before 9/11.

"I'm a born and bred Yankee," she said. "When we first got here, it didn't feel like home. It's home now. I feel myself becoming a regional spokesman. I'm more connected to Louisiana and the area. I'm part of it. I feel like an ambassador."

But, she added, "Trying to explain this to people up north is impossible."

It's odd on the north shore, she said, where things are starting to get back to normal. Now, she said, she's even starting to miss things that weren't normal but had started to look normal.

"Downed trees are not normal. But then they started to look normal. Then they took that pile of brush away that was in front of my house and I said, 'Where's my barrier? Now I have to look at my neighbors.'

"I drive past blue tarps and think nothing of it. There's something wrong with this, isn't there?"

It's evacuation humor, that's all. Steigman says it makes her want to make signs that say:

"Exile: It's not just for Jews anymore."

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Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

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12:30 3:05 5:35 8:15
FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)(✓)
12:20 2:50 4:55 8:00
IN HER SHOES (PG-13)(✓)
12:25 2:55 5:30 8:10
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE (PG)(✓)
12:00 2:40 4:50 7:45
GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(✓)
12:05 2:35 5:05 7:55
THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13)(✓)
12:10 3:00 5:25 8:05
THE GOSPEL (PG)(✓)
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:50
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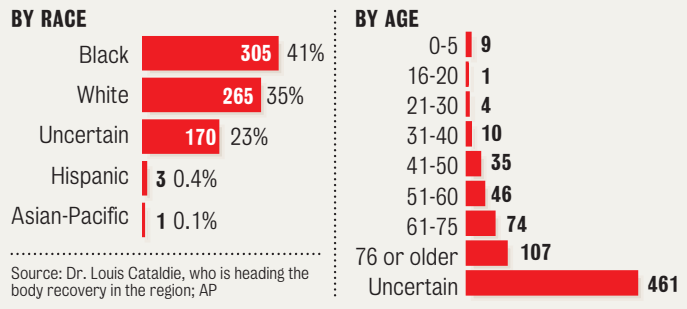
The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 260 | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

# Information on deaths coming slowly

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE DEAD

Statistics released for 747 the nearly 1,000 people killed by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana:




Source: Dr. Louis Cataldie, who is heading the body recovery in the region; AP

*After days in water, bodies hard to ID*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — After calling around, searching for friends and family who have not been heard of since Hurricane Katrina, some New Orleanians are making one last call in desperation – to funeral homes.

"We get people calling every day because they can't find out what's going on," said Belva Pinchon, a funeral director at Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home. "I can't tell you the number of calls we get every day."

But funeral home directors can't give them the answers they are looking for.

Almost six weeks after Katrina struck, and as the Louisiana death toll from the storm nears 1,000, only 32 names have been released to the public. And of those, no ages or identifying factors were released.

"I think there's a concern out there for that," said Billy Henry, Bultman Funeral Home manager. "They think people were evacuated, but they don't know."

By contrast, 52 evacuees

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-16*

# You can drink the water, state says

*All-clear stops at Industrial Canal*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

Tap water is drinkable once again across a broad swath of New Orleans' east bank.

That was the word from state officials on Thursday and a huge boost to the effort to repopulate a desolate city as quickly as possible.

For many families considering a return to New Orleans, the lack of water suitable for drinking and cooking was a major reason to stay away. Now the problem has disappeared on the city's east bank from the Jefferson Parish line to the Industrial Canal.

The lack of potable water several weeks ago was at the heart of U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen's reluctance to embrace Mayor Ray Nagin's accelerated plan for repopulating the city.

Potable water is still not available in eastern New Orleans or the Lower 9th Ward, two of the neighborhoods hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. Algiers has had drinkable water since days after the storm.

"It's something we're very excited about," Nagin spokeswoman Sally Forman

*See* **WATER,** *A-15*



# A PLACE TO CALL HOME

## Trailer park opens in Baker to house Katrina's homeless



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

Wanda Evans of New Orleans, right, hugs Maria-Elena Sanchez Matherne, a chaplain, at Evans' trailer in Baker. Evans, 41, is among the people displaced by Katrina who began moving into the trailer park Thursday. The site northwest of Baton Rouge has 573 temporary homes that can be used for as long as 18 months.

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

BAKER

When Hurricane Katrina transformed Wanda Evans from a resident of a New Orleans public housing complex into an evacuee, she lost the thing she valued the most: time alone.

That changed Thursday, when Evans, 41, a diabetic, became one of the first dozen occupants of a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer park in Baker, a short drive northwest of Baton Rouge.

And at least among the initial residents, the consensus was that the trailers offered a vast improvement over what they had faced for the past month.



"I don't have to take showers with other women anymore. I don't have to flush a toilet somebody left something in before I use it. I can sleep when I want to," said Evans, whose itinerant

Craig McDaniel of Algiers moved into the Baker trailer park Thursday. 'The peacefulness, being comfortable – I think it's great,' he said.

*See* **BAKER,** *A-14*

# Archdiocese lays off 881 employees

*Number doesn't include teachers, parish workers*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

The Archdiocese of New Orleans said Thursday it has laid off 881 employees in its sprawling charitable, housing and other ministries. The number does not include hundreds of teachers and parish employees already let go by pastors in dozens of decentralized parishes and schools severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The archdiocese, which says it employed 9,000 people before the storm, is still canvassing its church parishes, particularly in Orleans and St. Bernard, to develop an accounting for the total number of jobs lost, said archdiocesan spokesman the Rev. William Maestri.

The number will be large, however. Of its approximately three dozen New Orleans

*See* **ARCHDIOCESE,** *A-17*



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

American Red Cross worker Kimberly Jackson helps a client Wednesday at Louis Armstrong International Airport, where 1,000 drivers arrived to apply for aid.

# Red Cross suffers black eye post-Katrina

*Public views of agency take hit*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

After waiting six hours in blistering heat in Marrero, Wanda Simlin prepared to turn the corner that would put her in view of the West Jefferson Medical Center, where the American Red Cross was dispensing debit cards to a long line of hurricane victims. At that moment, a worker cut off the line as if snapping a turkey wishbone.

"We're the hope for today, the line for tomorrow," Simlin, a Metairie resident, sighed

*See* **RED CROSS,** *A-16*

# Business owners erupt at city workshop

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Slow action by federal agencies and contractors to help local businesses pushed tempers to a boil Thursday at a "Back to Business" workshop in downtown New Orleans designed to help local businesses grab bigger pieces of the billions of dollars in government aid flowing into the region.

"I need you to tell the big contractors that we're here," shouted Darrin Blystad from the floor of a ballroom in the Sheraton Hotel near the end of a panel featuring officials from the federal Small Business Administration and city and state economic development offices.

He warned that while many subcontracts for recovery work have gone to out-of-state firms, local businesses like his pest control and mold

*See* **BACK TO BUSINESS,** *A-15*

**DAY 39** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **988** • Vitter trying to get money to support local governments, A-4 • West Bank schools may seek charter status, Metro • General Honore tours 'Rita parishes,' A-8

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# Lawmakers try to keep La. bailout afloat

## *Local governments, hospitals need cash*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Before Congress adjourns today for a one-week recess, Louisiana lawmakers are racing to stitch together a financial bailout to prevent further layoffs by local governments struggling for survival in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Negotiations were taking place late Thursday between members of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the House and Senate, and the Bush administration.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said Thursday afternoon that he had reached an agreement with the White House and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., to make $750 million in low-interest loans available to local governments in southeastern Louisiana and three hospitals that remained open following the Aug. 29 hurricane.

An aide to Frist said that the bill has the backing of Senate Republicans, and Democrats were being polled. A White House spokeswoman would say only that negotiations were still taking place.

"There are a lot of numbers flying around," Jeanie Mamo said. "We recognize the urgency. We're committed to it."

On the House side, Rep. Richard Baker, R-Baton Rouge, said he too had struck a deal with the White House. But a Baker spokesman cautioned that the deal was far from final.

"The White House doesn't pass legislation," Michael DiResto said. "Our intimate understanding is that there are members of Congress in both chambers that have reservations (about the legislation). ... We can't say this is 100 percent done."

Helping the cause of the Louisiana lawmakers is that they aren't asking for new spending. Instead, they want Congress to loosen the restrictions on the $62.3 billion it has already approved for hurricane relief and recovery. By law, the money can't be used for such things as paying salaries of police and firefighters, although it can be used to pay overtime for those and other emergency workers.

Under the approach outlined by Vitter, the six hardest-hit parishes – Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Washington – could apply for the emergency loans and use them to pay essential workers. Three hospitals – East Jefferson General Hospital, West Jefferson Medical Center and Ochsner Foundation Hospital – also could apply for the loans. With just a third of their normal number of patients, hospital officials have said they will be forced to lay off health care workers if they don't get financial assistance quickly.

Louisiana lawmakers have been seeking a stopgap bailout. The effort took on renewed urgency with a week-long congressional recess looming and the announcement earlier this week that the city of New Orleans plans to lay off 3,000 workers.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., has pressed for a larger package. She urged Frist and President Bush on Wednesday to carve out $14.3 billion for local governments and hospitals.

Her proposal contains a $9 billion request that would loosen Medicaid eligibility rules and pay for medical coverage for thousands of hurricane evacuees. Senate conservatives and the White House have strongly criticized the measure as wasteful and unnecessary.

Landrieu balked at an earlier White House proposal that, according to aides, would limit the loans to $5 million and require that they be paid back. Vitter said the cap has since been lifted and the president would have the authority to forgive the loans.

"This program would clearly allow for the forgiveness of loans," Vitter said.

Congress was preparing to leave Washington today for the Columbus Day recess and return Oct. 17.

# FEMA contracts made without bids to change

## *Deals were made quickly after storm*

**By Bruce Alpert and Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of millions of dollars in no-bid contracts awarded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina will be canceled and re-bid competitively, the new head of the federal disaster agency said Thursday.

David Paulison, who took over the reins at the Federal Emergency Management Agency two weeks ago, told a Senate committee Thursday that when time is of the essence, it makes sense to skip what can often be a cumbersome bidding process.

"Sometimes you have to do them because of the expedience of getting things done," Paulison said. "And I can assure you that we are going to look at all of those contracts very carefully. All of those no-bid contracts, we are going to go back and rebid."

The stakes are high as firms from all over the nation vie for a piece of the $62.3 billion so far allocated for relief and recovery.

Paulison told The Associated Press after the hearing that he didn't know the total amount of all the no-bid contracts, but said they included four for $100 million each for housing and construction in the days after the storm.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded four contracts worth up to $500 million each for debris removal. Paulison said reviewing those contracts will be "high on our priority list."

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., filed legislation Thursday that would make it harder for FEMA to award no-bid contracts in the future. The bill would allow non-competitive awards in emergencies, but also put a six-month deadline on them and require congressional notification.

One week after former FEMA Director Michael Brown was put on the congressional hot seat for what all parties have conceded was an inadequate response to the hurricanes, it was Paulison's turn Thursday. Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee pressed him especially about the agency's decision to put firefighters volunteering for Katrina relief duty through several days of "sensitivity training" and for choosing out-of-state firms over local companies for lucrative recovery contracts.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., told Paulison, a former Miami-Dade Fire Department chief, that senators realize he's "new on the job," but warned him to expect to hear an "accumulation of anger and frustration" from the committee over FEMA's handling of the Katrina relief effort.

The agency was vilified for a detached, bureaucratic approach that left thousands of people stranded in New Orleans for days after the Aug. 29 hurricane. Under pressure, Brown resigned two weeks ago.

Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said several hundred firefighters from across the nation were frustrated that they were required to undergo sensitivity and sexual harassment training in Atlanta, and then given tasks of handing out leaflets, instead of providing direct help to those trapped in the floodwaters of New Orleans.

Lieberman said if the training is required by current laws or regulations, he wants to change that immediately.

"This is the classic case, you know, when the house is burning, I mean, or people are drowning, you don't want to send them for two or three days of sensitivity training," Lieberman said.

Collins also expressed frustration that despite more than $2 billion in spending on temporary housing, thousands of hurricane evacuees in Louisiana remained in shelters.

She said that FEMA had purchased more than 120,000 trailers and mobile homes. But as of last week, she said, the agency had placed just 109 Louisiana families in those homes.

"More than a month after Katrina's landfall, frustration, concerns and questions about FEMA's responsiveness and planning persist as Gulf Coast residents work to put their lives back together," Collins said.

A reason for the delay in housing placements, Paulison said, is the agency's desire to place people as close as possible to their original homes.

"And that's what slows things down, particularly around New Orleans," he said, "You know there's nothing there locally where we can put places right now. It's still pretty wet."

Unlike his predecessor at FEMA, who in House testimony mostly blamed "dysfunctional" officials in Louisiana and New Orleans for the recovery problems, Paulison struck a more conciliatory tone. He said he wanted to learn from congressional investigations and would heed the advice he's getting from Congress as well as local officials.

**"Sometimes you have to do them because of the expedience of getting things done. And I can assure you that we are going to look at all of those contracts very carefully. All of those no-bid contracts, we are going to go back and rebid."**

DAVID PAULISON
Federal Emergency Management Agency director

Asked about complaints that FEMA under Brown had become a dumping ground for people with connections to the Bush administration, but without practical skills in emergency management, Paulison was diplomatic.

"I fully support the fact that those types of positions should be political appointees," Paulison said. "They have to carry out the president's policies and guidelines. However, I do feel that the person has to have the capability of doing the job."

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Elections only in Kenner, Harahan:** The Times-Picayune incorrectly reported Thursday which Jefferson Parish municipalities will elect city officials April 1. Only Kenner and Harahan will hold elections on that date.

**Employee return date corrected:** Plaquemines Parish public school employees are expected to return to work Monday. A story in Thursday's editions gave an incorrrect date. Students will return to the Belle Chasse-area schools Oct. 17.

**Not from Lakeview:** C.B. Forgotston lives in the East Lakeshore subdivision, which is adjacent to Lakeview. A Thursday story about his exchange of e-mails with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin gave the wrong neighborhood.

**Golf pro misidentified:** In Saturday's Sports section, Ryan McEvoy was wrongly identified as the head golf pro at Belle Terre Country Club in LaPlace. That job is actually held by Bruce Bell.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Levee restoration work must wait on probe

## *Vitter urges faster action*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Some work to restore the New Orleans levee system to its pre-Hurricane Katrina strength cannot begin until an investigation is completed into levee failures that led to major flooding in parts of the city, the Army Corps of Engineers says.

The investigation will take "a short period of months," Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, the corps' chief engineer, told a Senate hearing Thursday, creating a tight schedule to meet the agency's deadline to fortify the city by the start of the next hurricane season, June 1.

"As we try to restore pre-Katrina conditions, we want to ensure that we are not putting in any kind of a flawed design," Strock said. "So we're very interested in understanding if these levees performed as designed, or whether there was some problem with our design."

Teams of forensic engineers from the corps, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Science Foundation are surveying the levee breaches in the 17th Street and London Avenue canals, collecting evidence this week in an effort to determine a cause or causes for the failures.

Floodwaters in the canals may not have been high enough to flow over the tops of the floodwalls, but they collapsed anyway. Experts say that points to human error – a possible design, construction or maintenance flaw.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Two panels of the 17th Street Canal containment wall lie in the Lakeview neighborhood. The Army Corps of Engineers said work on restoring New Orleans' levees to pre-Katrina strength won't begin until an investigation into the causes of the failures is complete.

The investigation must be complete before the corps can let contracts to repair the floodwalls, Strock told members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., pressed Strock on the timing of the repairs. "The announced schedule to even get back to pre-Katrina protection is next June, which is the beginning of next hurricane season," he said. "So that means if it slips at all, it goes into the next hurricane season."

Later, Vitter said that he favors a faster resolution.

"The timetable is inadequate," he said. "That is a disastrously unambitious schedule. … I'm tired of living by the old corps schedule."

Vitter proposed compressing the schedule and giving the corps additional work to do. "We need to bring the (levee) system back to pre-Katrina levels before June and outline a plan to bring them up to Category 5 before next hurricane season," he said.

Vitter also sent a letter to committee Chairman James Inhofe, R-Okla., requesting a hearing on the levee and floodwall breaches.

"There is no excuse for the tragic loss of life in Louisiana, but if the cause of this flooding is in any way related to the design, specifications or construction techniques used in developing our floodwalls or levees we must address these flaws immediately," the letter said.

Inhofe also reiterated earlier accusations that environmental groups were to blame for Katrina's flooding because they opposed a corps plan dating to the 1960s to put control floodgates at the passes into Lake Pontchartrain. An environmental group filed suit to block the project and a judge ordered the corps to revise it. The corps dropped the project.

Inhofe quoted several former corps officials lamenting the demise of the project and blaming environmentalists.

"Many experts who were involved in that process nearly 30 years ago are convinced that the project the corps abandoned because of the environmentalist lawsuit, in all likelihood, would have saved New Orleans," Inhofe said.

However, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. disputed Inhofe's assertion, citing a report by the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, that said that the original design would have made Katrina's flooding worse.

• • • • • •

John McQuaid can be reached at john.mcquaid@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7889.

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# Scope will be narrow for special session

## *Blanco wants focus on hurricane issues*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco is pushing for a narrowly focused special legislative session beginning Oct. 23 and is asking her Cabinet members to submit legislation to her as soon as possible.

Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said it is Blanco's intention to focus on a narrow range of issues at the special session, such as legal maters due to interruptions caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Bottcher said lawmakers also will be asked to ratify the executive orders Blanco issued in the wake of the hurricanes that suspended certain state regulations or laws.

Bottcher said the Oct. 23 date has not been firmed up but is still "a working date." Rep. John Alario, D-Westwego, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers have been told to prepare for a special post-hurricane session from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3.

Blanco has told her staff and her department heads that if anything can wait until the general session in March, it should be taken up then, Bottcher said. In March, lawmakers will meet for 60 days taking up all issues except taxes.

Legislators, including Alario, are pushing for a special session in January to deal with fiscal issues following the state's loss of revenue. Officials of the Division of Administration, the arm of the governor's office that handles budgetary and fiscal matters, did not comment on Alario's assessment.

Meanwhile, Rep. Danny Martiny, R-Kenner, chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, said his panel will be looking at hurricane-spawned legislation dealing with where to try criminal cases outside of the defendants' home parishes if a courthouse can't be used.

Secretary of State Al Ater said he will ask Blanco to include in the legislative session a bill giving him authority to declare a state of emergency for elections, such as the February citywide elections in New Orleans, so regular election procedures can be modified to allow city voters who may not be in Orleans Parish to cast their ballots.

He also said he is trying to compile a mailing list of all displaced registered voters, comparing records of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other relief groups with the rolls of registered voters to send them a notice that they still have voting rights in their home parishes unless they re-registered in another parish or state.

Bottcher did not say if Blanco would include Ater's request in the special session.

# Houston job fair opens up to all evacuees

## *200 employers offer work opportunities*

**Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON — Finding a job in Houston was the last thing Keisha Stephens wanted to do.

But after Mayor Ray Nagin announced the layoff of 3,000 city workers this week, the mother of three said she had no choice.

"I'm quite sure I'm going to be one of the ones laid off," said Stephens, 31, who worked as a senior taxicab investigator for the city's Transportation Department.

Stephens was not alone in her search Thursday at Destination Occupation, a regional job fair organized by Harris County and the city of Houston. With more than 200 prospective employers, evacuees who lost their jobs after Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Katrina were vying for positions alongside Texas residents at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Originally organized for Katrina victims, the fair was opened to Rita evacuees and others in search of jobs.

As she scanned the crowded room and began looking for possible job opportunities, Stephens said she is not bitter about being laid off and doesn't blame Nagin.

"He's really fighting for our city," she said. "I understand. I am not angry."

She said she'd rather be laid off now so that the city could save money, rebuild and rehire her again one day.

Gentilly resident Shanna Washington walked through the job fair clutching a stack of applications and said she no longer wants to live in New Orleans.

"I haven't been back, and I don't want to go back," said Washington, who worked at a Walgreens pharmacy in New Orleans. "I want to reside here. I found an apartment. Now I want to look for a car and a job."

Foot traffic was steady Thursday at the Houston Independent School District's job booth. But few jobs were available.

Although 20,000 students have been registered in Houston-area schools, the Houston Independent School District has only absorbed about 5,300 Hurricane Katrina students, said Robin Williams, a district recruiter who attended the job fair.

As they're searching for jobs and permanent places to stay, many parents have opted to keep their children out of school, Williams said. "We have had a great outpouring of teachers; we just haven't had the students enroll."

Keith Bowman, a former dispatcher in New Orleans, didn't know where to begin.

He'd escaped the floodwaters of New Orleans by making it to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and eventually to a bus, which took him to Arkansas. He decided to come to Houston after hearing about the opportunities being made available to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Bowman said he'd worked at the same company for 15 years and knew that in Houston, he wouldn't be making the same amount of money he had made in New Orleans.

**"They can't pay me what I was making there. Now it's time to swallow your pride and take what you can get. We have no choice right now."**

KEITH BOWMAN
former dispatcher in New Orleans

"They can't pay me what I was making there," he said. "Now it's time to swallow your pride and take what you can get. We have no choice right now."

Kimiko Austin, 23, of Marrero said most of her family has returned to New Orleans, but she decided to stay in Houston.

Austin said the storm-ravaged city depresses her. "It looks a mess out there," said Austin, a pharmacy technician.

Ralph Walker of Gretna already has a job but was searching the booths for part-time work Thursday.

"I came to Houston with my friends," said Walker, 19, who is working at a Houston-area Wal-Mart and wants to go to college. "I'm looking for a part-time job to better myself."

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Edward Scannell Butler III

# Edward S. Butler III, radio host, activist

Edward Scannell Butler III, a New Orleans radio host and anti-communist activist who debated Lee Harvey Oswald on the air three months before President Kennedy's assassination, died Aug. 31 of a heart attack at Louisiana Heart Hospital in Lacombe. He was 71.

Mr. Butler was born in New Orleans, worked in Holmby Hills, Calif., for many years and most recently lived in Slidell. At the time of his death, he was awaiting heart surgery to correct problems that arose immediately before the arrival of Hurricane Katrina, said his brother, Perrin Butler of Metairie.

During a stint in the Army, Mr. Butler worked with the Defense Intelligence Agency while stationed at the Army Management School at Fort Belvoir, Va. Later, he co-founded The Information Council Of The Americas, a nonprofit organization that became involved with aiding people displaced by Fidel Castro's communist revolution in Cuba.

In the course of his work with the council, Mr. Butler came in contact with Oswald, who was promoting a pro-Castro organization in New Orleans and seeking help from the American Communist Party. Mr. Butler confronted Oswald on a New Orleans radio show in August 1963 and forced him to admit that as a Marxist, he had gone to the Soviet Union and tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship.

Oswald soon moved to Dallas, killing Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. In 2002, Mr. Butler recalled his on-air debate with Oswald:

"He wore a very heavy wool suit in August, a very hot August day in New Orleans. He was parboiling, but he didn't have a bead of sweat on him, and he was very self-contained.

"I was shocked when I heard he had killed Kennedy. I would not have been shocked if he had tried to kill me. I was concerned about the guy from the minute I met him."

After Kennedy's assassination, Mr. Butler wrote a study of political revolution, "Revolution Is My Profession," in which he predicted unrest in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s and the rise of terrorism. He also produced a television show based in large measure on the Oswald radio debate, as well as a feature film examining the nature of the Castro regime: "Hitler In Havana."

During his years in California, Mr. Butler produced and starred in a weekly television show, "The Square World Of Ed Butler," and appeared in documentaries, including two series: "Spirit '76" and "Spirit U.S." He also published a West Coast magazine, "Westwood Village Square."

More recently, Mr. Butler managed radio station WTIX-AM in New Orleans, where he conducted an afternoon talk show.

Mr. Butler is survived by five children, Edward Scannell Butler IV of Redondo Beach, Calif., Nola Butler of Pasadena, Calif., Matthew Thomson Butler of Beaverton, Ore., Clarkston Butler of Slidell and Dawn Butler Edelen of Lafayette; four grandchildren; two brothers Perrin Butler of Metairie and Rhett Butler of Troy, Ala.; and a sister, Lynn Butler Mauney of New Orleans.

A memorial service will be at a later time, when travel restrictions related to Hurricane Katrina are sufficiently eased. For information, call Perrin Butler at (504) 831-5958.

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# Evacuation keeps hospital patients at bay

## *Public health care future in doubt*

**By Jan Moller**
Staff writer

At the Poland Avenue Wharf, next to a virtually empty neighborhood, sits a 250-bed floating hospital with almost no patients.

The USNS Comfort has seen a total of 54 patients in the eight days since it arrived from Baltimore to serve as the temporary home for Charity Hospital. Only eight patients were there Thursday morning, and an operating suite had two mannequins dressed to look like medical personnel to show the touring media what the facility looks like in busier times.

"We're not seeing the numbers we want to see," said Dr. James Aiken of Louisiana State University, the ship's civilian medical director, who said he is "very concerned" that the Comfort will soon be redeployed, leaving New Orleans without a fully functioning public hospital as residents begin to return.

Aiken blamed the location of the boat – far away from parts of the city that are returning to life – for the lack of traffic. And he's predicting that the patient load will pick up once more residents return and start to rebuild.

But whether a new Charity Hospital will be there to serve New Orleans for the long term remains an open question. Donald Smithburg, chief executive of LSU's Health Care Services Division, said Charity and University hospitals were decimated by Hurricane Katrina and need to be replaced.

"The (old) facilities are unusable for health care purposes," Smithburg said. "That doesn't mean the public hospital system is down and out."

Most of the damage at Charity involved the mechanical and electrical systems, which were housed in the basement and were submerged by the flooding.

"Katrina dealt a death knell to the already marginal system that existed," said Walt Adams, who conducted a structural analysis of Charity and University and recommended that both buildings be torn down.

But at a hearing Thursday before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said he was told by some Oklahoma National Guard troops who were assigned to Charity Hospital after the hurricane that the facility had only limited water damage.




STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT ROSE

Structural engineer Walt Adams has recommended that Charity Hospital and University Hospital be torn down because of storm damage. 'Katrina dealt a death knell to the already marginal system that existed,' he said.



According to Dr. James Aiken, left, doctors aboard the USNS Comfort have seen only 54 patients since the ship arrived at the Poland Avenue Wharf to serve as Charity's temporary home.

Coburn said he knows that LSU administrators had plans to build a new facility before the hurricane but "had not gotten funding." He told acting Federal Emergency Management Agency Director David Paulison that he does not think the federal government should pay for a replacement hospital and suggested LSU was trying to use the hurricane as a way to get LSU but structural engineers and environmental experts who determined Charity Hospital was a total loss. He said that Coburn "should tour the facility so he can see for himself the extent of the damage."

Smithburg also said that although the hospital had plans to build a new facility because Charity lacked modern medical facilities, such as the ability to offer private or semi-private rooms, the process had not gotten far enough along to evaluate financing options seriously.

Smithburg said Charity Hospital would cost $340 million to repair and $561 million to replace. Repairs to University Hospital, an adjacent office building and the power plant that served both hospitals would cost $149 million, while the replacement cost would be about $250 million, he said.

A structural survey by Adams Project Management Consulting determined that Charity Hospital was 60 percent damaged by Katrina, and that University Hospital sustained 51 percent damage. If the federal government agrees with those assessments, LSU could be eligible for at least partial financing to replace the facilities rather than restore them to their prestorm condition.

In the meantime, LSU is setting up modular field hospital in the parking lot of University Hospital that could start receiving emergency patients by the end of next week and have 200 beds operating by late December.

The drive for a new hospital could get a boost when LSU's School of Medicine reopens its New Orleans campus in January, officials said, reacting to rumors that LSU was looking to move the school to Baton Rouge. "The intent is to take everybody back to New Orleans," said Charles Zewe, a medical school spokesman, who said plans are under way to reopen the school's main New Orleans campus in time for the Jan. 18 start of the spring semester.

Students at LSU's medical school, dental school and allied health programs have been attending classes at LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, while some nursing students are being taught at a nearby movie theater complex. A Finnish ferryboat, which docked at the Port of Baton Rouge on Wednesday, will provide temporary living quarters for as many as 1,400 medical students starting this weekend.

In the meantime, other universities have sought to take advantage of LSU's plight by trying to lure away some of its top research faculty, Zewe said. "It's a major problem for us, and it's been a major problem for us since Day 1 of the storm," Zewe said. "A lot of our fellow research universities have made some of our best people some very lucrative offers."

So far, however, fewer than a half-dozen faculty members have left the school, and most medical students appear willing to stick it out as well, he said. Zewe said classroom attendance has averaged close to 100 percent since Katrina.





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# Group wants warning about health risks

*Tests will monitor contaminants*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — An environmental research group says the federal government is failing to adequately inform the public about the health risks caused by Hurricane Katrina and is critical of New Orleans' plans to allow citizens back into the city.

People returning to the area and many recovery workers do not understand the severity of the problems and are not using proper protective clothing or gear, the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council said.

Representatives of the organization, which has offices in New York and Washington, D.C., visited Louisiana this week to stress their concerns with state lawmakers and other officials about the conditions of the air and sediment left by the floods.

The group is launching its own field tests to monitor contaminants in the environment, said Erik Olson, senior attorney with the Council. Financing for the tests is provided by a variety of individuals from around the country, he said.

"We're very concerned about the level of air pollutants in much of the city," Olson said. "We're concerned about widescale repopulation of the city."

The Environmental Protection Agency has more than 650 employees or contractors working in the Gulf region to assess conditions and begin remediation. The federal agency has warned that flood waters that covered much of the New Orleans area were contaminated by fuel spills, sewerage and other harmful materials, and that much of the sediment left by the floods is contaminated.

On its Web site, the EPA publishes its sampling results from hundreds of stations in the region.

But the council criticized the EPA for "serious shortcomings" in its test reporting and in its warnings to citizens.

"The EPA air sampling so far has been very limited, and does not include enough chemicals or locations to form a full picture of the problem in New Orleans," according to a council report.

EPA officials in Dallas referred questions to staff in the agency's field operations, who did not respond Thursday.

Mayor Ray Nagin said Wednesday that he has asked the Dallas EPA office to conduct more environmental tests in the city, especially in the Lower Ninth Ward, which flooded during Katrina and then again when levees breached during Hurricane Rita.

Nagin has repeatedly raised concerns about the environmental risks, one of the reasons he is strongly suggesting that people not resettle permanently in certain areas of the city. The mayor has opened certain ZIP codes, which were relatively dry, to people who want to come back to live there. But the city is suggesting that people only visit the non-targeted zones and wait until further notice before resettling.

Council members said they are not opposed to repopulating the city in the long term or to people coming in temporarily to check on their damaged homes, but the group is concerned about the prospect of hundreds of thousands of people returning to the area permanently before the real dangers are known, Olson said.

The group's concern extends beyond the city to any place where high levels of contaminants are found, such as St. Bernard Parish. The contaminant levels vary from place to place, Olson said, and the council is particularly concerned about high levels of benzene found is some areas. Benzene, probably left over mainly from fuel spills, is a carcinogen, he said. It could degrade to become less of a problem over a matter of weeks, he said.

Meanwhile, as the sediment dries and is stirred up, and as demolition work intensifies, an increasing amount of pollution will rise into the air, according to the council report. That matter could include dust, bacteria and toxic chemicals posing problems if inhaled.

"A simple dust mask is not effective for protecting people from most of the contaminants in the air," the report says. The council recommends high-quality respirators, especially where there is evidence of oil or fuel spills, and rubber boots and vinyl gloves.

Children, the elderly and people with asthma or heart conditions should not return to previously flooded areas at this time, the group recommends.

The EPA web site for sampling results is www.epa.gov/katrina/testresults. Residents can type in an address and see the technical results of samples taken in their neighborhoods.

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TOURO INFIRMARY

# Tropical Storm Tammy leaves Georgia messy

*Rain soaks city; many lose power*

**By Russ Bynum**
Associated Press writer

BRUNSWICK, GA. — Tropical Storm Tammy turned subdivisions into lagoons as ankle-deep water seeped into at least two dozen homes after the storm soaked this port city with more than 4 inches of rain before weakening Thursday to a tropical depression.

Joseph and Michelle Floyd woke up Thursday at 1:15 a.m. to find 1 1/2 inches of water in their bedroom, prompting them to flee with their three young children. They came back hours later and had to wade through knee-deep water to get to the front door.

"It rained all day yesterday and there were just puddles — it really didn't seem that bad," Michelle Floyd said as a boy four doors down paddled a small boat on flooded Green Swamp Road. "We just assumed we were all right."

Tammy's gusty winds, reported at 46 mph on nearby St. Simons Island, toppled trees and power lines as the storm came ashore late Wednesday near the Georgia-Florida state line. With the heaviest wind and rains north and east of its eye, the storm left Florida practically unscathed.

More than 16,500 utility customers lost power from Savannah to St. Marys 100 miles to the south, but officials reported mostly mild damage.

In South Carolina, another 9,500 customers lost power, mostly in the Beaufort area, and an oceanfront home in vulnerable Edisto Beach collapsed. Hilton Head saw nearly 6 inches of rain and Charleston had more than 2.

In Georgia's Glynn County, 24 to 36 homes in Brunswick and the surrounding county had flooding and some roads had up to 3 feet of standing water.

Tammy was the 19th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

The 2005 hurricane season is tied for the second-busiest since record-keeping started in 1851; 19 storms also formed in 1995 and 1887. The record for tropical storms and hurricanes in one year is 21, set in 1933.

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# Honore takes tour of 'Rita parishes'

## *Ravaged region struggles to recover*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore talks with Freddie Richard, director of Homeland Security in Cameron Parish, about the cleanup effort after Hurricane Rita.

Touring the Louisiana coast this week to survey damage from Hurricane Rita, Army Lt. Gen Russel Honore looked out at a landscape so pocked and torn it appeared to suffer from emphysema.

Throughout small towns along the southern coast in what he calls "the Rita parishes," the toll of that area's battle with the hurricane seems enormous.

West of New Iberia, countless blue roofs dot the landscape and it seems as if houses have exploded from the inside. Walls are intact, but belongings have been scattered, leaving swaths of south Louisiana strewn with wreckage like nut shells on a saloon floor. Piles of moldy furniture line the roads, with only some homes on rises offering evidence of how thin the line was between doom and grace as a storm surge from the Gulf, estimated at 20 feet high, tore inland.

The closer Honore's Wednesday tour got to ground zero of Rita's landfall, the worse the damage. By Cameron Parish, most of the communities are matchsticks on slabs.

"My wife took more than 50 pictures for insurance purposes before we left," said Freddie Richard, the parish's Homeland Security director. "But it turned out not to matter. There's nothing left that you can fit in the palm of your hand."

Richard and other parish officials, along with some troops, are working out of the 38th Judicial District, a courthouse in the town of Cameron that has been turned into an emergency command post. The courthouse, only recently pumped clean of mud, stands amid a sepia world and is ringed by dead trees, once a picturesque grove of oaks. The only green comes from splotches on the soldiers' camouflage fatigues.

Over the next week or so, Richard wants residents to return for a "look and leave" before the parish is locked down again for a massive cleanup. In some respects, the task in Cameron is easier than it is in New Orleans: Once the place is essentially swept, rebuilding can begin. But for the roughly 10,000 left homeless, the pain of loss is just as great.

"There's still high water around in places, but much of this was always marsh and I ain't worried about disease," Honore said after touring the site on foot and meeting guardsmen from Alabama in nearby Creole.

After those stops, it was back in the Blackhawk and on to Erath.

At the small City Hall he was surrounded by a knot of townspeople and by Councilman John LeBlanc, a 19-year political veteran who the mayor, who is ill, has appointed as his temporary replacement.

"Without all the help we've gotten here, we wouldn't have survived," LeBlanc said, describing how the town's tiny schools were wiped out by flooding and how elementary school students are being bused some 25 to 30 miles each morning to Maurice.

"We want our kids back in town," he said. "It's hard to see your kids bused that distance every day."

In each of the towns, Honore urged soldiers to work harder and asked residents what they needed. Honore reminded the small crowd that they can get temporary housing through FEMA — a trailer right on their property — and he encouraged them to sign up more elderly or computer illiterate residents who might be unaware of such programs.

He promised to look into reports of people scavenging through the piles of sodden, moldy belongings — trash heaps to some but important insurance evidence to homeowners. He promised to return.

And then, the long hopscotch complete, Honore headed back to New Orleans.

These morale-boosting, fact-gathering trips may be coming to an end soon for Honore. Though he declined to offer a departure date, he already has replacement staff up and running, and the number of boots he commands on the ground has dwindled from about 21,000 to 1,400, he estimated.

Whether the situation on the ground will approve sooner rather than later will depend more on Louisianians than federal troops, he said.

"The parishes need to find the mechanisms to deal with all of this," he insisted. "But we're not talking about soft people here. You can look at all the death and destruction or you can stay focused on the mission and realize there's a lot of work being done to save lives."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore and his aide, Capt. Scott Trahan, head down the tarmac during a visit Thursday to the town of Creole. In each of the southwest Louisiana towns he visited Thursday, Honore tried to provide troops with motivation and residents with hope.

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# Campground sued for price-gouging

## *36 more cases under investigation*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — State Attorney General Charles Foti has filed a lawsuit alleging consumer price-gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and has 36 other complaints under "active investigation," officials said Wednesday.

Foti spokeswoman Jennifer Cluck said a lawsuit was filed Tuesday against the operators of Natalbany Creek Campground, accusing the owners of tripling the monthly rates charged to evacuees.

The civil lawsuit was filed in Tangipahoa Parish and was allotted to 21st Judicial District Court Judge Zorraine "Zoey" Waguespack. No hearing date has been set.

Officials at the campground, at 30218 Louisiana 16 West in Amite, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

Cluck said Foti's office has received almost 2,100 complaints of price-gouging, but many have been dismissed and others have been negotiated for restitution.

Many of the 36 active investigations involve gasoline companies accused of overcharging evacuees, Cluck said. She said Foti is trying to resolve those cases by negotiations and getting rebates for consumers.

State law allows a merchant to increase prices of goods and pass those costs along to consumers if the merchant is having trouble obtaining items for sale. Those increases have to be reasonable, Cluck said.

The day after Katrina hit the region, according to the lawsuit, the campground raised the rental price of camp sites from $22 a day plus tax to $30 a day plus tax.

Two weeks later, the suit says, the campground owners "abruptly eliminated daily rates altogether (and) increased the rental price to $900 per month plus hotel and sales tax."

The suit asks Waguespack to rule that the campground violated the state's unfair trade practices and consumer protection law and that restitution be made to people who were evacuated and overcharged at the campground.

Cluck said the judge can order a civil fine of $500 for each day's violation, as well as restitution and triple damages.

# N.O. evacuee hits jackpot at casino

## *Woman wins $1.6 million*

**By The Associated Press**

OPELOUSAS — After more than a month of living with dozens of displaced relatives in Opelousas, Jacquelyn Sherman, an evacuee from New Orleans, told her niece she was depressed.

That all changed when she won $1.6 million — before taxes — playing a slot machine at Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino.

"When it happened, I didn't know what was going on," Sherman said. "I had just put in my $20 in the 'Wheel of Fortune' machine when it hit. My feeling about this win is better than being blessed. Thank you, Lord."

Sherman had evacuated to her sister's home in Opelousas as Hurricane Katrina threatened New Orleans. After a month with no end in sight and no prospects, she and her niece began to pray Tuesday.

"I told my aunt that God works in mysterious ways and that I had prayed that something good would happen for the whole family to be happy," Jamie Sherman said.

Later that night, Jacquelyn Sherman and her sister decided to entertain themselves with a trip to Evangeline Downs. Before she knew it, Sherman went from having practically nothing to being a millionaire.

"I have to get an attorney and make some decisions about my future," she said Wednesday at a news conference at the racetrack. "It hasn't all sunk in right now. I'm tired. We were up very late last night and back here very early. I plan to go home right now and rest, take a nap. I have so many thoughts going through my mind about what to do and how to do it."

Jacquelyn Sherman's win is the single largest jackpot won since the casino's opening.

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# Bush warns of 'radical Islamic empire'

*Speech comes as backing for war dips*

**By Tom Raum**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush accused militants Thursday of seeking to establish a "radical Islamic empire" and said the United States and its allies had foiled at least 10 plots by the al-Qaida terror network since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

He also warned other nations not to support or harbor groups with al-Qaida ties.

In a speech designed to revive flagging public support for the war in Iraq, Bush said Islamic radicals are using that nation as a base for attacks. Such radicals are being sheltered by "allies of convenience like Syria and Iran," Bush declared in a speech before the National Endowment for Democracy.

Polls show declining American support for the war that has thus far claimed more than 1,940 members of the U.S. military. Bush's policy faces a crucial test in Iraq's Oct. 15 referendum on a new constitution, a vote that Bush has said terrorists will try to derail.

In remarks clearly aimed at those seeking a withdrawal of U.S. troops, Bush said: "There's always a temptation in the middle of a long struggle to seek the quiet life, to escape the duties and problems of the world and to hope the enemy grows weary of fanaticism and tired of murder.

"We will keep our nerve, and we will win that victory," he said.

Asked about the president's singling out of Iran and Syria as "allies of convenience," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "They continue to move in the wrong direction."



AP PHOTO

Amid flagging support for the war in Iraq, President Bush said Islamic radicals are using that nation as a base for attacks and that the United States can't afford to retreat.

Likewise, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in London that explosive devices that have killed U.S.-led troops were similar to those used by the Iranian-linked militant group Hezbollah.

"There is no justification for Iran or any other country interfering in Iraq," Blair said at a news conference with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

Iran's ambassador in London, Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, said the charges were not supported by evidence, adding, "We are against any kind of action which might jeopardize or destroy the stabilization process of Iraq."

At the White House, McClellan was asked about Bush's reference to 10 foiled terror attacks, including three in the United States. He said some of the information the president based his remarks on remains classified.

McClellan mentioned the conviction of Iyman Faris, a Columbus, Ohio, truck driver who authorities said plotted attacks on the Brooklyn Bridge and a central Ohio shopping mall. Administration officials have previously claimed success in breaking up terror cells in New York, Oregon, Virginia and Florida.

He also mentioned Jose Padilla, a former Chicago gang member who converted to Islam and allegedly plotted with top al-Qaida commanders to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb" in a U.S. city. Padilla, whose plot never materialized, was designated an enemy combatant by Bush and is being held without criminal charge at a Navy brig in South Carolina.

"We have been successful in disrupting certain plots. Some have been made public or are in the public domain, like Richard Reid," Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told reporters. "Others are classified."

Shoe-bomber Richard Reid is serving a life sentence after a failed attempt to blow up an American Airlines flight in 2001.

Democrats challenged Bush's arguments on the Iraq mission. "The president went into Iraq under a false premise, without a plan, and has totally mismanaged our involvement," said House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California. "Now he is trying to justify his actions with a series of excuses."

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts said Bush "continues to invent a false link between the war in Iraq and the tragedy of Sept. 11." Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Bush "has offered America a false choice, between resolve and retreat."

Bush said Islamic extremists hope to use "the vacuum created by an American retreat" to gain control of Iraq and use it as a base for launching attacks against other countries.

"The murderous ideology of the Islamic radicals is the great challenge of our new century," he said. "Like the ideology of communism, our new enemy teaches that innocent individuals can be sacrificed to serve a political vision."

"The militants believe that controlling one country will rally the Muslim masses, enabling them to overthrow all moderate governments in the region, and establish a radical Islamic empire that spans from Spain to Indonesia," Bush asserted.

"Against such an enemy, there's only one effective response: We never back down, never give in and never accept anything less than complete victory," Bush declared.

Countering claims that the U.S. military presence in Iraq is fueling radicalism, Bush noted that American troops were not there on Sept. 11, 2001. He said Russia did not support the military action in Iraq, yet a terrorist attack in Beslan, Russia, left more than 300 schoolchildren dead in 2004.

# Man charged with passing secrets from White House

*FBI analyst allegedly gave him information*

**By Mark Sherman**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A former police official in the Philippines was indicted Thursday on charges of passing classified information from an FBI analyst to current and former officials in that country.

The FBI is investigating whether the analyst, a former Marine, also provided classified information taken from the White House when he worked in the vice president's office, government officials said.

Federal prosecutors in Newark, N.J., did not seek an indictment against the analyst, Leandro Aragoncillo, 46, because he is negotiating a plea, according court records.

His alleged go-between, Michael Ray Aquino, 39, of Queens, N.Y., was charged with conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent.

The charges mirror those filed in September, when Aquino and Aragoncillo were arrested. Both have been jailed in federal custody in New Jersey since their arrests.

Aquino attorney Mark Berman said his client, a former deputy director of the Philippines National Police, rejected a plea deal.

"There's a fundamental difference between Aragoncillo and Aquino," Berman said. "Aquino is not an FBI agent and had no reason to know that the information the government laid out in the indictment was classified."

Filipino Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales said the criminal complaint against Aragoncillo suggests the information could have been intended to destabilize the government in the Philippines.

Aragoncillo worked at the White House from 1999 to 2001 and was assigned to the vice president's office under both Al Gore and Dick Cheney.

White House officials said Wednesday they were aware of the investigation but would provide no details.

"It is an ongoing investigation, and as such all questions should be directed to the FBI," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said. "We are cooperating fully with the investigation."

McClellan declined Thursday to discuss the investigation or Aragoncillo's specific duties while he worked in the offices of Gore and Cheney. "We're not going to have anything further on it," he said.

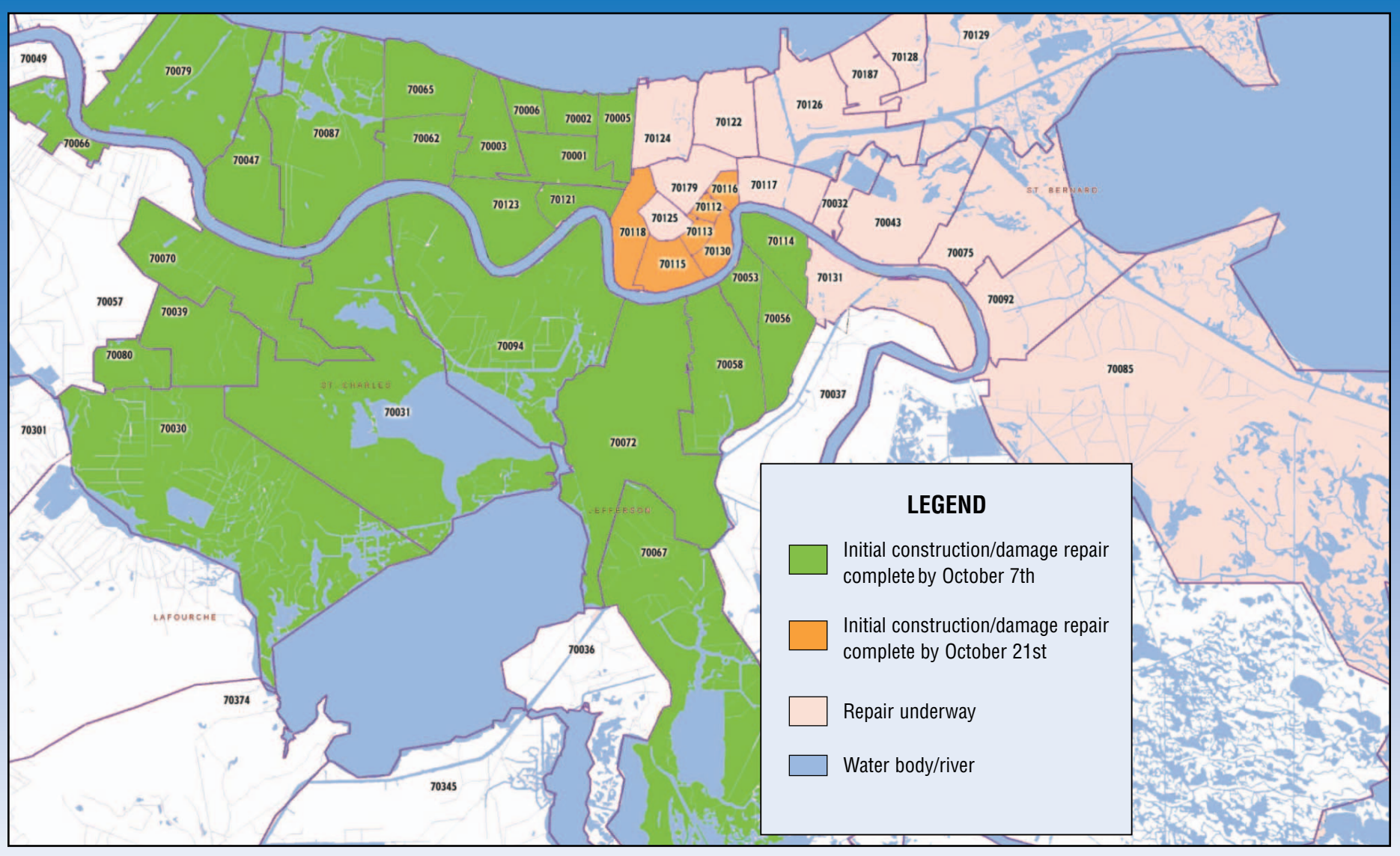
Justice Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said the department would not comment on an ongoing investigation, first reported Wednesday by ABC News.

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case, said investigators were examining all of Aragoncillo's postings in which he had access to classified information, including the White House.

Aragoncillo was hired to work at the Army's Fort Monmouth, N.J., in July 2004 and began sending classified information and documents in January, according to an FBI complaint made public last month. The documents' contents have not been made public.

Aragoncillo's public defender, Chester Keller, declined to say whether his client was cooperating with investigators.


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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# heartbreaking homecoming



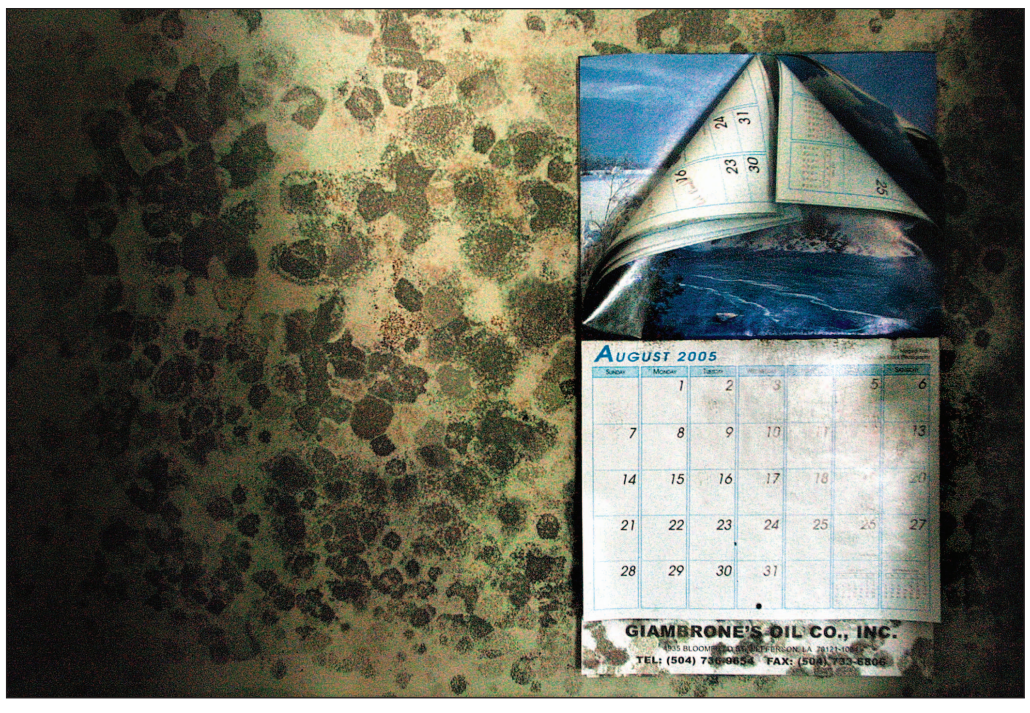
*Home sweet home. There's no place like home. Most clichés about home ownership are heartwarming. But that's not the experience of untold thousands of New Orleanians now, and certainly not for Jamilah and Damien Pelrean. They had their Crowder Boulevard house built for them two years ago and lavished care on its details. This week the Pelreans returned to find little left of worth. They may get to the point many others have, in which the only phrase that rings true is: You can't go home again.*



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

ABOVE: Jamilah Pelrean walks through her flooded bedroom, past a wedding picture of her with husband Damien.

TOP: Damien Pelrean holds a faded family picture he retrieved from his flooded bedroom.






FAR LEFT: In Jamilah and Damien Pelrean's home, the calendar is still on August, the month they fled Katrina. Mold covers the walls of the 2-year-old home.

LEFT: Muddy footprints cover the floor of the Pelrean home on Crowder Boulevard in New Orleans East.

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# 400 families to live at site in Baker

BAKER, *from A-1*

life began with a four-day stay at the Superdome.

A gymnasium in Ft. Worth, Texas, later would provide the roof over her head. Then came a short stay at a friend's house in Gilmer, Texas. That was followed by two weeks at the River Center shelter in Baton Rouge – until the big day when an American Red Cross worker told Evans she was leaving.

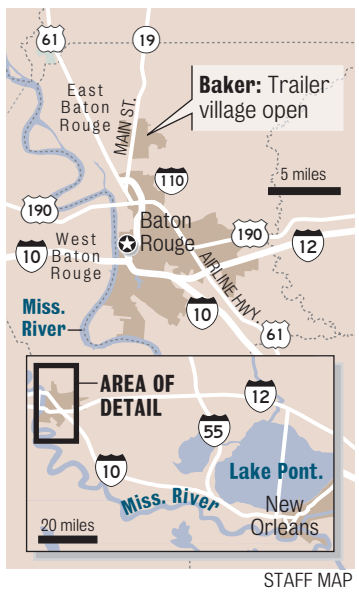
"I smiled, hugged her and said, 'For real?' " said Evans as she settled into her furnished Puma trailer with central air conditioning, heat, a combination shower and tub and a space that combines a living room, dining room and kitchen, complete with oven, microwave, refrigerator and freezer.

Mixed in with the Puma are Jay Flights, Springdales, Nomads, Cougars, Dutchmen, Outbacks, Cruisers, Tundras, Salems and Coachmen – 573 trailers in all, compliments of FEMA. The treeless expanse off Groom Road in Baker has been developed like a small suburb, said James McIntyre, a spokesman for the agency, which hired private workers to install utilities and build roads. The site, with its own streetlights, is enclosed with a tall chain-link fence and has security guards posted at its entrances.

"It's the largest trailer park we've built in Louisiana," McIntyre said.

A site under construction in Slidell, scheduled to open later this month, will have about 125 trailers, he said. And trailers have been set up in a collection of parks in Louisiana.

The agency has 1,500 trailers available in the state, but only 686 have families in them, McIntyre said.




STAFF MAP

Displaced residents such as Evans can stay in a trailer at least 18 months, he said.

And that suits Evans just fine.

"I always wanted a mobile home, and the Lord has blessed me with one," said Evans, who smiled broadly as she pointed to the home's amenities. "I love it."

Evans, who lived in the 7th Ward before moving to the Lafitte public housing complex less than a year ago, boasted about the "brand-new" smell of her Puma and how clean everything is.

"I smoke like a choo-choo train, but I'm not going to smoke in here," Evans said. "I want it to always smell this way."

She said the combined living room, dining room and kitchen is her favorite, noting that it allows her to do pretty much everything in one place. The bedroom by the front door ranks second. On Thursday, nearly everything she owns was scattered on top of her bed in clear plastic bags: clothes, shoes, towels, linens, pillows and a stuffed Tweety Bird, a gift from a nurse at the River Center shelter.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

'I don't have to take showers with other women anymore. I don't have to flush a toilet somebody left something in before I use it. I can sleep when I want to,' Evans said about her new home.

"I'm so happy, I can cry," said Evans, who did.

She said she'd be comfortable living in the Puma forever and added that she doesn't intend to make an effort to get to know her neighbors for a while.

"I want to enjoy my peace and quiet," said Evans.

It's a sentiment embraced by Craig McDaniel, 46, of Algiers.

McDaniel, who lived in Huntlee Village in Algiers before ending up at the River Center shelter, rode on the same FEMA bus with Evans to the Baker trailer park.

"The peacefulness, being comfortable – I think it's great," McDaniel said. "Everything seems to be fine.

"I can adapt to this real easy," said McDaniel, who also is a diabetic.

McDaniel and Evans are among 400 families who have been assigned to the 573-unit trailer park, McIntyre said. All of them previously resided at shelters, he said. Most, like Evans and McDaniel, have special health-care needs, he said. Other groups that likely will populate the trailers are the elderly and families with young children. FEMA is trying to determine what, if any, transportation should be provided to the new residents, McIntyre said.

Ken Dyer, president the defense division of the KETA Group, a private company that is managing the trailer park,

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# 'I need you to tell the big contractors that we're here'

**BACK TO BUSINESS,** *from A-1*

removal company are sinking toward the edge of ruin.

"You're going to rebuild a city and nothing is going to be here," he said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco rapped the SBA for approving only a handful of the 1.6 million disaster loan applications filed with the agency in the nearly six weeks since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area and wrecked the region's economy.

An SBA spokesman said Thursday afternoon that the agency has approved nine business loans in Louisiana related to hurricane damage worth $1.2 million.

"These numbers must change," Blanco told the crowd of nearly 2,000 that filled the room and spilled into the lobby. "If there is any Louisiana business or worker who is able to do the job, they should get those jobs.

"It's our people who have been displaced and are out there struggling, wondering what will happen to them each day," she said.

SBA field operations director Al Judd blamed the slow pace of processing loan applications on two factors: The volume of requests, which already is triple the highest level by the agency following any other disaster, and difficulties sending inspectors to business sites to assess damage and determine the appropriate loan amount.

SBA administrators have talked about ways to speed up the process, such as distributing a portion of the loan before assessing property damage, but no changes have been made thus far.

"We've been having all sorts of discussions on how to tweak the process but they all have their own downsides," Judd said.

The charged atmosphere of the gathering once again laid bare criticisms about the federal government's recovery and reconstruction effort that have circulated for weeks. With much of the region's population still evacuated and workers in critically short supply, many businesses are struggling mightily to reopen their doors, make payroll and keep bill collectors at bay. With little or no cash flowing from customers, many businesses are hoping to get government loans or grants to stay afloat.

The SBA's Disaster Loan Assistance program provides low-interest, long-term loans for up to $1.5 million to businesses of all sizes to cover damage to property, machinery and inventory. The money also may be used to pay bills and operating expenses.

Even with the frustrations, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin told the gathering that the region is on the cusp of a remarkable economic renaissance.

"You are sitting in a city and a region where we will probably spend a minimum of $10 billion a year (in reconstruction money) for the next 10 years," he said. "You are in a position to create wealth not only for yourself but for your children and your children's children."

Still, much of the talk Thursday focused on the difficulties that Louisiana businesses have had tapping into the recovery.

Mike Olivier, state secretary of Economic Development, told the crowd about recent efforts by his office to assemble a group of Louisiana restaurants and caterers to supply as many as 190,000 meals to government contractors who otherwise would be stuck feeding their workers military meals ready to eat, or MREs.

He found enough local businesses to produce about half of the meals, but problems drawing up the contracts with the federal government have scuttled the deal, he said.

"We've got to find a better way. This is simply unacceptable. We're sick of it, dammit," Olivier said.

During a question-and-answer session, eastern New Orleans tow truck operator Walter Coleman said he has tried without success to win work from a California contractor that has been towing hundreds of flooded cars to several sites around the city.

Coleman lost his home and workshop to the flood, but he saved his fleet of 12 tow trucks by driving out of the city in advance of the storm.

When Coleman called the towing contractor, he was told he would be put on a waiting list for work and that no priority was being given to Louisiana companies.

At one of the salvage yards earlier this week, Coleman said, he watched wreckers with license plates from Texas, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee deliver vehicles.

"I'm out of my home, out of my work, out of everything. And I look around me and see everyone else making money," he said.

# For some, clean water is sign to return

**WATER,** *from A-1*

said Thursday. "It's something the mayor has been pushing for, because the Sewerage & Water Board testing was showing good signs, but we needed the regulatory agency to sign off on it. We hope it makes it easier for citizens in New Orleans to live in their own homes, for those who still have homes."

Some evacuees, particularly those with kids, said the availability of clean water might be enough to bring them home.

Nicole Frilot, a cashier at an airport gift shop who owns a house in the Carrollton area, has been staying at the River-Center in Baton Rouge with her three children, aged 3, 5 and 11.

Provided her relatives tell her that her home appears habitable, Frilot said, "Yeah, we'll go back," upon hearing about that the water had been certified potable once again.

Business owners who have been trying to make a go of it without clean water also cheered the news.

"It'll make my life less expensive," said Gary Wollerman, owner of the French Quarter barbecue joint Zydeque, which re-opened last Friday. Wollerman has had to wash pots and pans in bottled water - in sinks that hold 60 gallons at a time — and serve canned soft drinks to patrons instead of fountain cokes, he said.

"On the consumer side of it, if you pay a buck fifty, you normally get free refills, but we can't do that with the cans," Wollerman said. "So it's a better deal. Also, in a barbecue restaurant, people expect unlimited sweet and unsweetened tea. And we haven't been able to brew it. So now we can kind of meet guests' expectations."

The state certification was based on a series of tests conducted by the water board over the past five days using state-approved methods. Forty-three samples were tested from sites around the east bank. All samples tested negative for coliform colonies, said Marvin Russell Jr., the water board's water purification superintendent.

The state Office of Public Health - which is charged with enforcing the federal Clean Water Act in Louisiana - signed off on the results, according to chief engineer Doug Vincent.

Since Sept. 12, Russell said, about 350 water samples have been taken from across the city, mostly from fire hydrants. Of those, nine were positive for coliform, with one sample positive for fecal coliform, an indicator of contamination by sewage. All the formerly positive sites have been retested and found to be negative, Russell said, adding that recent national media reports claiming city water was "polluted with sediment, toxins and bacteria" were baseless.

It's been a long road to recovery for the water board. Two days after the storm, the board's water purification plant, on South Claiborne Avenue near the Jefferson Parish line, lost power due to flooding. For more than a week, no water at all could be delivered through city pipes to homeowners and businesses.

When service was restored, the water was deemed unsafe for drinking, cooking and bathing because of massive leaks in the system's 1,600 mile maze of pipes, which resulted in a loss of water pressure and the possibility of impure water seeping into pipes. Some board officials speculated at the time that it could be three months before water quality could be guaranteed.

Since then, water board workers - aided by private contractors, as well as public utility crews from Lafayette and Little Rock, Ark., among other places - have been busy making repairs to the system. Most of the leaks are being detected visually, rather than through testing, Russell said.

A lot of work remains to be done.

Russell said that the east bank system is pumping out about 100 million gallons a day — less than the typical pre-Katrina level of 115 million gallons, but far more than he would expect given the slim population.

Not only are there few customers, the area east of the Industrial Canal has been "valved off," meaning no water at all is being pumped there.

If the system weren't leaking, Russell guessed it might be pumping from 30 to 50 million gallons a day with the current population. But he said it's difficult to form an accurate estimate without knowing how many people are in town.

Despite the persistent leakage, Russell said water pressure in the system is basically normal, at about 60 pounds per square inch.

Though the water is now considered safe, Russell said that residents and business owners should let both hot and cold faucets run for 10 to 15 minutes before drinking it for the first time. He also said residents should allow icemakers to run "a few cycles" before using the ice.

Russell said work will be stepped up in the area east of the Industrial Canal, but he could not estimate when that portion of the system would be activated. Businesses in that part of town are eager for service, he said.

"I had a guy muscling me the other day who has a business out on Michoud Boulevard, wanting to know when he'd have water," Russell said. "It's like a drunk driver crashing into the bayou, and before the car's even been pulled from the water, he's asking the mechanic, 'When will you have it fixed?'"

• • • • • • •

Staff writer Susan Finch contributed to this report.
Gordon Russell can be reached at (504) 232-6759.

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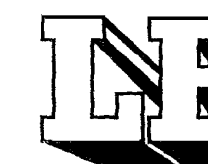
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# Criticism not of volunteers, but of bureaucracy

**RED CROSS,** *from A-1*

to the crowd of weary people spooling out behind her.

The Red Cross served 1,000 people at the hospital on Saturday, and since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, the agency has channeled aid to more than half the families hurt by the storm. But no matter how many people it serves, the Red Cross continues to play catch-up with demand.

In the process, one of the country's most familiar and beloved charities has suffered something of a black eye, unusual in the history of the organization that Clara Barton organized 124 years ago. Perhaps not since the terrorist attacks of 2001, when the Red Cross angered donors by diverting money intended for World Trade Center victims to other charitable ventures, has it ignited such a firestorm.

"When people hear about the Red Cross, they think about an organization that is going to be on the front lines," said Havidan Rodriguez, director of the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. "But the Red Cross does not have the resources the government has. It takes time for its pledges to turn into real money.

"Volunteers are working extremely long hours," Rodriguez said. "But problems are emerging, and people are complaining about the lack of adequate response by the Red Cross."

## No 'tremendous presence'

In the first days after Katrina passed, it was the Federal Emergency Management Agency that storm victims pilloried for its flatfooted response to the hurricane. Then the victims began calling the Red Cross assistance hotline, only to wait hours before they connected with a live voice.

Suddenly, the Red Cross found itself with a growing contingent of detractors.

The faultfinding spreads beyond the men and women braving the phone lines and bread lines for help. While some local officials have expressed gratitude toward the charity, others have publicly denounced its Katrina deployment as sluggish and inadequate.

"I have seen them giving meals away, but aside from that, I have not seen them having a tremendous presence in giving out the resources they collected nationally," Jefferson Parish Councilman Chris Roberts said. "A lot of residents I have spoken to feel that, in a time of need, they didn't have their act together."

Last week, the Red Cross opened centers in Mandeville, Slidell, Baton Rouge and West Jefferson to distribute debit cards to storm victims, letting them avert the interminable wait on the phone line. But the lines at the relief centers were long, too.

On Sunday, it launched six more centers to distribute food and cleaning supplies to the residents trickling into the east bank of New Orleans. Another financial aid center opened Wednesday in Kenner, again attracting a stampede.

The people marooned from their houses and desperate for cash wonder why the Red Cross, which is in the business of responding to disasters, took almost five weeks to bring financial assistance to the hurricane strike zone.

Residents grumbled that they had difficulty finding out where the distribution centers were located, because the Red Cross did not announce them until the last minute. They relied on reports from police and rumors from neighbors, and many hopscotched from site to site until they landed in the right place.

Roberts, the Jefferson councilman, said having an online site where people could register for assistance would have made the whole process simpler.

"You have people waiting for five or six hours to have a operator come online," Roberts said. "At least FEMA gave people the opportunity to apply over the Internet."

## Scramble to open sites

The Red Cross is roughly halfway toward collecting the $2 billion it hopes to raise for hurricane victims, and in spite of the storied delays, its staff says it has succeeded in delivering aid to 700,000 families. Every day, the agency says, it pumps about $35 million to those in need.

Kay Wilkins, chief executive of the Southeast Louisiana chapter, said the Red Cross never planned to open centers where people could obtain financial assistance in person. The phone hotline, which has handled 30,000 calls a day, was supposed to be the vehicle for people to get help. But when the line was overwhelmed, the agency had to scramble to rig up an alternative.

After moving on to the debit-card method, the Red Cross changed its distribution system again this week. Instead of getting cash cards on the spot, customers now must provide an address where the agency can mail a check within three days. The Red Cross says the new method will allow staff to check who has already received assistance, instead of relying on the honor system to prevent double-dipping.

"We did not bargain for having a million people trying to access an 800 number at the same time," Wilkins said.

Wilkins and other Red Cross leaders say they are proud of the effort mounted by volunteers. Indeed, criticism of the agency has not focused on the volunteers but on the ponderous, bureaucratic movement of the Red Cross as a whole.

In the days immediately after the hurricane, some parishes were left virtually alone to feed and care for emergency workers and the residents who had ignored evacuation orders. While Red Cross workers began meeting with parish leaders the weekend after the hurricane, the agency did not have boots on the ground in New Orleans until 10 days after the storm.

*See* **RED CROSS,** *A-17*

# 32 victims' names released

**DEATHS,** *from A-1*

from New Orleans who died have been identified in Houston by name and hometown. Most of the 167 people confirmed to have died because of the hurricane in south Mississippi have been identified and released to families.

But there was a difference that worked in favor of Harris County, Texas, said Stacey Mitchell, a spokeswoman for the county's Medical Examiners Office: Many of the people who died there were surrounded by family members who could identify them quickly.

In Louisiana, Mitchell said, many people were found in water or discovered after days or weeks in their homes.

Those factors, as well as short staffing, could draw out the task of identifying the bodies to a year, Orleans Parish Coroner Frank Minyard said Thursday.

"We're all trying to do our very best," said Minyard, who said he hitchhiked to Baton Rouge after being rescued from his flooded office because he wanted to be part of the process.

"There have been missteps," he said, "and that's putting it mildly."

He and Dr. Louis Cataldie, the man in charge of identifying the dead, spoke at a news conference Thursday in which the dominant theme was the slowness with which names of victims are being released and the absence of any accompanying information, such as home parish and the cause of death.

There have been about 340 presumptive identifications, Cataldie said, but he is delaying releasing their names until their identities can be confirmed.

"I don't know when you will get that data," said Cataldie, the former East Baton Rouge Parish coroner. "I'm looking at means to increase the rate. ... It's going horribly slowly."

The National Association of Medical Examiners has offered as many as 20 medical examiners who will perform autopsies in two-week shifts.

Some of the bodies from Memorial Medical Center, Lindy Boggs Medical Center and St. Rita's Nursing Home are being regarded as potential evidence in criminal cases, slowing the release of many of those names, Minyard said.

On Thursday, the state Department of Health and Hospitals did release some data: Of 747 victims, 41 percent were African-American and 35 were percent white. Nearly 23 percent could not be identified by race.

They were also broken down by age. Aside from nearly 62 percent whose ages could not be determined, the biggest group, 14 percent, was made up of men and women older than 75.

And many of those, Henry said, are the ones that people are calling his funeral home about.

"There are lots of 80- and 90-year-olds in Lakeview," Henry said. "People don't know if they were evacuated."

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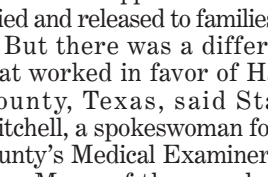
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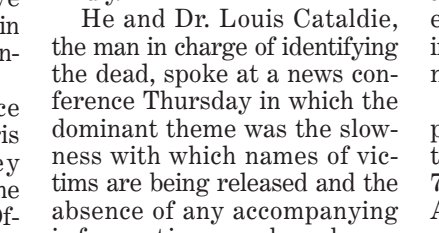
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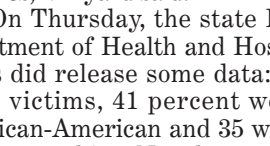


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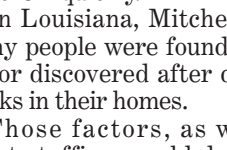
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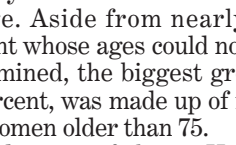
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# Slow response not entirely agency's fault

**RED CROSS,** *from A-16*

The Red Cross also delayed moving into Jefferson Parish for more than a week after Katrina because the U.S. Department of Homeland Security advised workers to wait until the National Guard could secure the devastated areas.

"I was a little bit busy to wonder where they were, but in the first three weeks, we were on our own," said Larry Ingargiola, emergency preparedness director in St. Bernard Parish.

Wilkins said the Red Cross moved into heavily damaged areas as early as it could. Sending volunteers in earlier with food and water, when emergency workers were conducting search and rescue missions, would have created a false sense of security among the people the government was trying to truck out. Plus, Wilkins added, the volunteers could have become victims themselves.

"People needed to evacuate the city. That was the message the mayor was sending," Wilkins said. "Our people could have hampered the rescue effort. We were meeting buses of evacuees when they would come to different areas. What the Red Cross does during a national response is feeding and sheltering, and we were positioned well for that."

## Response plan troubles

No one is complaining that the agency failed to provide emergency housing. More than five weeks after the hurricane, the Red Cross still is running more than 300 shelters that house 50,000 displaced people. In collaboration with FEMA, it is helping thousands more to pay for hotels.

The complaints began when parish leaders could not find the agency's telltale red-and-white smocks in the days immediately after the storm.

Dave Neal, director of the Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events at Oklahoma State University, says the slow response was not entirely the fault of the Red Cross because its movements are bound up in the overall federal response plan. If the government moves slowly, then the Red Cross will too. At the same time, Neal says, the Red Cross does not have the flexibility to resort to deficit spending, as the federal government does, to speed up its response to an epic disaster such as Hurricane Katrina.

"The Red Cross does a lot of good work, but sometimes they don't get their message out as well as they should," Neal said. "One of biggest misconceptions is that they get money from the federal government. Even though they're part of the national response plan, there might be other parts of the bureaucracy that don't see them as equal.

"Yet the public has expectations they should be right there."

Neal argues that the way the government began planning for disaster relief after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was not conducive to improving the response of the Red Cross. The government directed money to police officers and firefighters for equipment and training to handle biological agents, for example, instead of harmonizing all the relief agencies.

"We have defined disaster preparedness as giving equipment to emergency responders. But we've been so focused on the first-responder aspect that we haven't stepped back to look at bigger picture of how we manage this," Neal said. "Sure, we give people fancy equipment, but how do we manage and coordinate all this?"

Some observers in the nonprofit community now are questioning whether the Red Cross, which along with the Salvation Army has collected the bulk of post-Katrina charitable donations, should have such a monopoly on providing aid. They say more charitable groups should be brought into the fold, especially as New Orleans moves from relief to rebuilding.

"There is a lesson perhaps to be learned that as the larger public donates money, they should not look just to the Red Cross. There are other nonprofits that provide immediate relief as well as long-term assistance," said James Ferris, director of the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California. "There seems to be an overwhelming bias in the media to encourage people to give to the Red Cross as opposed to other possible providers."

The public gives to the Red Cross in such large numbers that some of the hurricane victims — themselves previous donors — felt a sense of entitlement that aid should be readily available.

"We work for a living. This is where we donate our funds," said Simlin, the Metairie resident who was waiting in line at West Jefferson Medical Center. "This is something you do all your life, and when you're in need, it's hard to get anything."

For its part, the Red Cross offers assurance that it will get aid to all who need it, if only they can be patient. Staff members say beleaguered people should not feel they have to camp overnight at the aid distribution centers to get their share of the available aid.

"We want people to understand that they don't have to go the minute they hear a rumor a site is opening up," said Mary Dooley, a spokeswoman in Baton Rouge. "We are going to be here for weeks to come."

• • • • • •

Kate Moran may be reached at katherine_moran@yahoo.com.

# Storm revives school voucher issue

**ARCHDIOCESE,** *from A-1*

and St. Bernard schools, apparently all are closed but one, St. Andrew the Apostle in Algiers. In addition, dozens of the church's approximately 70 parishes in Orleans and St. Bernard are still out of business.

Maestri, who serves as both archdiocesan spokesman and Catholic schools superintendent, saved the layoffs disclosure for the end of a wide-ranging news conference otherwise filled with announcements devoted to extraordinary recovery efforts and church offers of hospitality.

The archdiocesan layoffs came two days after the city announced it was letting 3,000 workers go because it cannot make payroll.

The church's announcement demonstrated again how Katrina's economic damage continues to accrue, even as recovery efforts gather momentum.

The archdiocese had asked all its employees to check in with supervisors by Monday. It said it would offer two weeks severance pay and assistance finding new jobs to those it had to lay off.

The church also announced a number of initiatives to help restore New Orleans, including a plan to reopen an elementary school in the French Quarter – perhaps the first attempt since the Aug. 29 storm to welcome children back into New Orleans.

The announcement symbolized a tiny step toward normalcy, "an important time for hope" for the battered city, Maestri said.

Other initiatives the church announced Thursday included:

▶ Plans to offer vacant church land as sites for mobile homes or other temporary housing. Archdiocesan building officials are inventorying church properties to determine their suitability for such uses, Maestri said.

▶ Plans to expand Archbishop Chappell High School in Metairie to a second shift of evening students. Separately, Jesuit High School announced plans to reopen in the late afternoon and evenings at St. Martin Episcopal School in Metairie. Jesuit hopes to return to its Mid-City campus on South Carrollton Avenue in January, said the Rev. Tony McGinn, its president.

The church said it expected on Oct. 17 to open Cathedral Academy, a small French Quarter school educating about 220 children through eighth grade.

City officials, although eager to welcome residents back to begin rebuilding the community and its economy, have also made clear that returning is best suited for families that are mobile, flexible and healthy.

But city officials have told the church they support the plan to open the school, Maestri said. The city's health department has also signed off on the school, he said.

Catholic educators will make a special effort to enroll the children of police and firefighters in the cathedral school, partly because they represent a fixed population that must be served, Maestri said.

The archdiocese will set up reIn addition, the archdiocese has identified nine other relatively undamaged schools that may reopen at some point this year if city services permit, Maestri said.

They are Bishop Perry, Holy Ghost, Holy Rosary, St. Alphonsus, St. Joan of Arc, St. Joseph Central, Leo the Great, St. Peter Claver and St. Stephen.

Maestri asked for patience among parents as schools try to follow archdiocesan policy that tuition will follow displaced students from a closed archdiocesan school to new archdiocesan school.

Promised 90 percent tuition refunds are being delayed in many cases because school enrollment records were destroyed, he said.

He said the system has asked host schools to honor a 45-day waiting period in which they will not demand tuition payments from displaced parents who have not yet received refunds from their old schools.

Maestri also called on state and local education officials to reopen conversations with the church about providing education vouchers to parents to send children to Catholic schools.

For three years, the archdiocese has tried strenuously, but in vain, to lobby the state Legislature to send parents tuition vouchers they might use in private schools.

The effort is strongly opposed by public educators and teacher unions, who fear in part that public schools would be left with depleted resources and the most problematic students.

But the post-storm environment and the subsequent wreckage of private and public education in New Orleans have revolutionized the context of the politically sensitive debate, which must be renewed "without the old divisions," Maestri said.

"I think for the time being we can no longer ask the old questions, such as who's responsible for providing education," he said.

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**HURRICANE RESTORATION** Drywall and Flooring removal, licensed LA contractor. Please Call 318-614-7110

**SHEETROCK REMOVAL** and repair, call George Eiffert. Office 504-737-6865, Cell 504-239-1669

### 2240 Electrical

**LACAZE ELECTRIC** Dependable Licensed/Insured 504-341-0642 or 504-236-6045

**Excell Electric** Inc. Residential and commercial, all types of repairs, state licensed/insured. 504-338-6965/504-931-5837

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN** Will solve any problems, Licensed, insured, 504-416-0172

**GENERATORS Diesel,** 5500 Watts, silent, $1650. Free immediate shipping to LA 305-490-9916. All credit cards accepted.

**LESLIE ELECTRICAL** SVC LLC, residential & comm'l, lic & insured. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

**MONTE'S ELECTRICAL** SERVICE Senior discounts. Owner Operated. Free estimates. 504-908-3778

### 2250 Fencing

**NOLA FENCE** COMPANY Wood, vinyl. Huge inventory, ready to install today. 504-454-0046

**Richardson Fencing** Company, Specializing in sm or lrg jobs. 504-669-0242/504-469-2834/985-652-8945 or fax 985-651-1646

### 2265 Hauling

**20, 30yd** dumpster rental. Please call 504-431-8383

**At Your** Disposal.Commercial and residential.Same day service. Do not get stuck with housing your own trash. 504-353-3070

### 2290 Janitorial/Maid

**Complete Cleaning** Services for your home or office. Please call 504-606-7592 or 469-1701

**Kei's House** Cleaning. Insured and bonded. Available Monday-Friday. References. 504-738-9114

### 2300 Landfill & Grading

**RIVER-SAND** No clay or debris Call 504-469-1182

### 2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees

**ABM COMPLETE** TREE SERVICE Storm damage, tree trimming, topping, elevating and removals. We can get the job done! Call 1-888-328-9289

**Bubba's Stump** Grinding Local; Insured. (985)974-9896 or (985)386-8417

**David's Stump** Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

**DEBRIS AND** TREE REMOVAL Free estimates. Contact Jerry at 504-393-1517 or 504-338-3128

### Service Directory 2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees

**HALF PRICE** TREE SERVICE Free estimates. Call 985-966-8581 or 850-543-9399

**HELPING HANDS** TREE & SHEET ROCK REMOVAL Pressure Washing, low rates, free estimates. 504-888-4627/610-4545/957-7324

**HURRICANE DAMAGE** REMOVAL: Stump Grinding, Dump Truck Service, Landscape Clean Out, Lawn Maintenance, Dirt Hauling And Excavation Services Available. Please Call 504-460-5105

**Red Sky** Disaster Services, High hazard tree removal and hauling. Call 321-615-8904

**STORM DEBRIS** Clean up, Top Notch Lawn Care and Storm Debris cleanup, 504-329-6258

**TIP TOP** CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercard accepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

**TREE AND** DEBRIS REMOVAL, Stump grinding, licensed & insured. Free estimates. 843-345-7580

**Tree Cut** & Debris Removal. Yard clearing w/ bobcat. 4 hire, 504-615-2158

**TREE CUTS** AND DEBRIS REMOVAL and Auto towing, free estimates, 504-442-2730 or 504-338-8443

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE SERVICE.** Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREES Service.** Local Owned/Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**DR. MATTHEW** SCHUETTE & DR. SCOTT PETHKE are available for the care and treatment of Respiratory Illnesses. Call 504-463-0403 for an appointment. 200 W. Esplanade Ave. # 313 Kenner, LA 70065

**Ganucheau Dental** Grp open for business 504-468-1675. 2825 Houma Blvd, Metairie Mon-Fri 8-5

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

### 2360 Moving

**FRANK'S DISCOUNT** MOVING Low hourly rates. Call 504-914-2742

### 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**DARRYL'S WALLPAPER** HANGING. Free Estimates! Family trade. 504-328-2644

**Holman's Painting** and Pressure washing, interior/exterior, sheet rocks and roofing. 504-341-6491 or 504-919-7996

**WEST BANK** FLOOD VICTIMS: Sheet rock finishing & Painting. Call 504-723-9725

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**KILCREASE PLUMBING** LLC Comm'l/resid'l, water heaters, LMP#3252, lic'd for gas 504-234-1075

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**MONTE'S PLUMBING** REPAIRS Gas repairs, drains unclogged, $39.95. Senior citizen discounts, owner operated. 504-908-3778

**NOELS PLUMBING** LLC New Construction, Repairs & Renovations. LMP 5080. 504-909-7275

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2415 Pool Service

**Professional Pool** Restoration Complete inground pool repair/restoration. Acid wash: $450+ Resurface: $2500+ 817-564-1516 www.professionalpoolrestoration.com

### 2420Printing & Duplicating

**COMPLETE PHOTO** RESTORATION BY ORLEANS COLOUR. 32 years experience. Call 504-512-3277

**SIGN LETTERS** Changeable, All sizes. Also portable signs, 4ft x 8ft w/letters 504-733-2251

### 2430 Professional

**Architect Economical** 38 years exp. houses and commercial, Fast, Call 504-957-4166

### Service Directory 2430 Professional

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**FEMA AND** SBA pkg. Having problems filing w/ FEMA & SBA? I can help! CAll Richard Lassalle Tax & accounting consulting 504-957-9238

**Photographer Digital** images of property on CD's. $25/property. 504-885-8343

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**HOUSE LEVELING,** house gutting, roofing/repair, mold removal. Call 225-268-6276

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**General Contractor/Commerical** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**KNS Roofing** Reroofing & Repairs. 46 years exp. We Do Insurance Work, Free Estimates. All Types of Roofing. 225-647-0727

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOF Repairs** starting at $85. Local company, slate, tile and shingles. All work guaranteed. 985-809-0502

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Metairre, Kenner, Riverridge & Harahan. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2498 Word Processing/ Typing

**QUALITY SECRETARIAL** SERVICE Pick-Up/Delivery or Work on site. $20/hr. + mis. 504-261-6163

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Established Profitable** Auto Repair Shop on busy Mandeville Highway for sale. With or without building. Retiring for medical reasons. Call evenings: 985-264-0445

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

### Service Directory 2500 Miscellaneous

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**AUDITOR Est** Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Seeks Part time Bookkeeper/Secretary with knowledge of Quickbooks, Peachtree, and Word Processing. Fax resume: 504-838-0287

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**HR/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR,** Bilingual & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PROCESSOR - Wanted for immediate hire. F/T permanent positions with benefits. Experienced only. Fax resume 985-641-1125. EOE

**R.E. Development/Management** firm seeks dependable, detail oriented person with accounting/administrative experience for FT position. Competitive compensation and benefits included. Fax resume to 523-1704.

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**AUTO/WHEEL SALES** AGENT must have experience, busy location in Metairie. 504-737-1558 or fax to 504-737-1703

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Experienced Automotive** Salesperson needed for fast growing Mercedes/Volvo Dealership in Pensacola, FL. 1-800-876-4931

**INSIDE SALES** REPRESENTATIVES Waco Inc., a leading distributor of filters for air, liquid and gas filtration, seeks an Inside Sales Representative to join our Baton Rouge, LA branch. The Waco Inside Sale Representative will be responsible for new sales opportunities as well as building and maintaining successful customer relationships. Position requires constant customer interface to meet branch sales goals and perform customer service activities and some warehouse functions. The ideal candidate should possess a minimum of 3-5 years inside sales/customer service experience, preferably with an industrial distributor or manufacturer. PC proficiency on MS Office/AS400 products is a plus. We offer competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package and an annual performance bonus tied to branch profitability. This is an excellent opportunity to join a leading-edge distributor of filtration products. For immediate consideration, please send resume and salary requirements to: dwosczyna@wacofilters.com or fax to 1-800-500-8895

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**MEDICAID FOLLOW-UP: Medical** Assistance Coordinator, Community Care/Outreach, Field Rep, Clerical Asst. Several open positions in West Jefferson Medical Center area. Help hospital patients with medical assistance applications and follow-up process. Medicaid billing experience helpful, but not required. Must be computer literate. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish preferred. Field Representative must have reliable trans, with valid drivers license and insurance. Please fax resume: 800-765-9329 or e-mail: DRMemployment@yahoo.com. E-mail Subject LIne: LA-DRM

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**Experienced Apartment** Manager needed, Hud experience, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**Maintenance needed** with AC certification, good pay, excellent benefits, Metairie area. Call 228-547-0414

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Established company seeking Administrative Assistant for General Manager. Must be detail oriented, have computer & organizational skills. full benefits & 401K. Fax resume: 504-348-2782

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** F/T Front desk, multi-phone lines, general office duties, A/P, A/R, computer experience necessary. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to: 504-464-4419

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.** Rapidly growing company in immediate need of F/T Admin. Asst. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Duties include answering switchboard, data entry, large mailouts, filing, ordering ofc. supplies. Qualified candidate will assist the owner and all members of mgmt. This is a permanent position and hourly rate is based on exp. Fax resume to 504-733-0224.

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**F/T Receptionist/Secretary** for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

**FRONT DESK** MANAGER - Start Immediately. 10am-7pm, Mon-Fri. $7-$9/hour. Mandeville Sports Complex. Call 985-727-7277 or fax resume to 985-727-9020

**GENERAL OFFICE** HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

**NOTARIAL SECRETARY** for busy Mandeville Title Company. Fax resume to: 985-845-4393

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! Now seeking: **RECEPTIONISTS** VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE, FT & PT. (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or Fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**Receptionist and** transcriptionist needed for Uptown medical clinic. Fax resume to 504-394-3713.

**RECEPTIONIST FULL** TIME POSITION, ENTRY LEVEL. COMPUTER EXPERIENCE W/ WORD AND EXCEL. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 10890; JEFFERSON, LA 70181

**RECEPTIONIST Light** secretarial skills for large condo community. Exc benefits, no exp nec. Must have dependable transp. Apply in person Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Emerald Forest Condominiums located behind Wal-mart in Covington. No ph calls pls!

**RECEPTIONIST Needed** ASAP, hours Monday-Friday 8-5, Mandeville office. Call 985-727-0891

**RECEPTIONIST West** Bank Company Seeking self motivated & multi-task individual for Receptionist position. Must have good computer & organizational skills. Full benefits & 401K. Fax resume: 504-348-2782

### Employment 4030 Clerical

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** - Needed NOW! Heavy Phones & PC. Accuracy Essential in this fast-paced casual office. Fax Resumes: 504-443-9271 Attn Manager or Apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

### 4040 Computers

**NEWTORK TECHNICIAN** Needed. 2-5 years experience. Windows Server experience a huge plus. Resume to PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 7001 or email to lajobs@bellsouth.net

### 4045 Drivers

**BEST BUY** Delivery drivers, metro New Orleans. Fax resume to 504-456-8902, or apply at any Best Buy location.

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

**BUILDING PRODUCTS** COMPANY Seeks CDL-Driver for local deliveries. Load & Unload material. Apply in person at Shelter Distribution, 1420 Sams Ave, Harahan. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

**CDL "X"** Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance, holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demand shiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume: 985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

**CDL Drivers** and Owner Operators, Must Have 2yrs Experienced, Home On Weekends. Call For More Information: 985-732-6793 or 985-750-5553

**CDL DRIVERS** needed, must have Hazmat and DOT certification, pre-employment drug screening. Blossman Oil Co 985-892-2401 or 985-898-2663

**CDL DRIVERS** Northshore routes only, immediate openings! Call: 985-966-0113

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**Debris Removal** Contractor with long-term contract in New Orleans is looking for experienced, local equipment operators and class A CDL drivers for $150 per day. Contact Hines Development at 612-747-1858 (cell).

**DELIVERY DRIVER** Exp Class A CDL, great benefits, now accepting applications at 7251 River Rd in Marrero, F. Christiana and Company, 504-348-3391

**DRIVER CDL** and Non-CDL needed to do hurricane debris hauling and dumping. Local work. 12 hours/day, 7 days/week. Clean lic. req. 941-448-4392

**DRIVER Needed** for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

**DRIVER WANTED:** CDL class B Driver/Warehouse person, drug screen reqd. Apply to SE Hardwood Flooring, 68391 James St, Mandeville, 985-875-2091/Louis

**DRIVER WAREHOUSEMAN** Must have CDL class A with HAZMAT endorsement. National chemical distributor with excellent benefits. Apply at: 333 River Rd, near Ochser Hospital in Jefferson

**DRIVER/COUNTERPERSON full-time.** AC and refrigeration knowledge, computer literate. Salary commensurate w/exp. Call Joe 985-649-7410 or fax resume 985-649-7411

**DRIVERS** - CES is looking for CDL Rolloff Drivers. Please call 504-254-2494

**DRIVERS** - JEFFERSON DOOR CO. West Bank Company seeks Drivers with type D lic. for local deliveries. 40 hrs work week guar. No nights or wknds. Paid health ins. & vacation. Please call 504-340-2471 for info

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS Compass** Furniture now hiring, apply in person at 5025 Bloomfield in Jefferson and see Anthony

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed** for Roll-Off Container company. Class A or B CDL needed for New Orleans and St. Tammany areas. Please call 504-733-0189 or 985-661-1277

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring Class A Drivers. Local Hauls, Home Nightly. Can Offer Temporary Housing. 504-731-2829

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS** Local Hot Shots/Delivery service needs independent contractors with pick-up, 1 ton flatbeds and gooseneck trailers. 504-469-0699

### 4045 Drivers

**Independent Contractors** needed immediately! Must have Cargo Van - 10ft, 16ft, 24ft box truck. Local early AM RTS, M-F, Sat if desired. 504-885-7447 M-F, 8AM-4PM for interview or fax resume to 504-463-3299.

**KORNMEYER'S FURNITURE** needs experienced, positive CDL delivery drivers. Please fax resume to 225-926-0149 or email job@kornmeyers.com

**KORNMEYER'S FURNITURE** Needs experienced, positive Interior Designers & Sales people. Fax resume 225-926-0149 or email job@kornmeyers.com

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**NORTHSHORE BUILDING** SUPPLY Seeks Local Driver/Warehouseman. CDL Class A required. Competitive pay and benefits. Call Jason 985-875-0837

**OFFICE DEPOT** Supply Route Driver. New Orleans Metro area; Clear MVR, Chauffeur's Lic,Lifting 70#'s, and Min. 2 Years Route Driver Exp. Please apply at 150 Riverbend Blvd., St. Rose, LA

**OWNER OPERATORS** AND COMPANY DRIVERS NEEDED SIGN ON BONUS/PERMANANT WORK BE HOME MOST NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS NO PAY-CUT ON EMPTY MILES/SHARED FUEL SURCHARGE Extremely Busy Bulk Liquid Transportation Company located in Reserve, LA. Is currently accepting applications. Hazmat endorsement required. Industry leading pay and benefits. Send or apply at CBSL Transportation Services, Inc. 189 Power Blvd. Reserve, LA 70084 Phone 985-479-5650 Fax 985-479-5653 TimM@CBSLTrans.com

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4080 Household

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**Nanny Needed** to live in our home every other week. Must own a reliable car to transport twins to school. $250/week. 601-365-9247. Picayune MS. (30 Min. from Slidell)

**Part Time** Sitter for elderly lady, in Mandeville. Light housekeeping. No-smoking. Call Linda 985-237-9144

**SITTERS Needed** for Elderly Care, must have recent references, transportation, for Covington/Mandeville/ Slidell area. Call 985-871-9656

### 4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**NEW ORLEANS** CBD Law Firm seeks both and experienced full time Legal Secretary and a Paralegal. Temporarily located in Baton Rouge, will relocate to N.O soon. Typing speed of 70+wpm with Word and Word Perfect experience required. salary based on experience firm can locate housing if needed. Please fax resume to office manager 225-382-2079 or mail to 240 Laurel St, Baton Rouge 70801

**PARALEGAL Old** Metairie Law Firm on Metairie Road looking for part and full time Paralegals. Minimum 5 yrs exp. Good Salary, Benefits, Free Parking & Flexible Hours. Fax resume to: 504-828-0024 or email kieferlaw@aol.com

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Established Furniture Company. looking for highly motivated self starter. Excellent working environment, salary and benefits. Apply in person at 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner LA.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Self Storage, West Bank facility needs F/T Assistant Mgr, 214-837-7200

**KENNER OFFICE** MANAGER Word, Excel, QuickBooks Pro. Experience helps. Fax 504-468-9523

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**DECK HAND** $150/day. Must have 1 year experience on Fleet towboat. 7 days on, 7 days off, live on boat. 504-416-2128

**Marine Personnel** Exp inland Captains and Deck hands. Captain's pay starting at $300-$325 per day, plus benefits. Call 504-737-6994

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

**Tow Boat** Pilots To start immed. ly, must be posted from New Orleans Harbor and West Canal, 200 ton or Master or Mate of towing license req., $330-$350 per day, health ins. incl.d, 28/14 schedule, 225-806-9376

### 4110 Mechanical

**EXPERIENCED MECHANIC** Must have own tools. Call: 504-468-2527

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELL EST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**AUTO MECHANIC** must have tools, plenty of work, Metairie area. Please call 504-737-1558 or fax to 504-737-1703

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. GM techs for fast growing service department in Baton Rouge area. Full benefits available, top pay for top techs. Mon.-Fri. Email resume to: gmtechnician@hotmail.com

**BODY SHOP** PAINTERS HELPER, Experience only. Apply within. Rainbow Northshore. 985-892-2000

**GOLF COURSE** MECHANIC Money Hill Golf and Country Club. Must have knowledge of golf course equipment, be motivated and detail oriented. Please call 985-893-7251

**GOODYEAR AUTO** SERVICE CENTERS - Metairie and Kenner, New Orleans & Gretna locations. We are currently hiring the following positions... Auto Technicians, General Maintenance Technicians, & Tire Techs. This is a great opportunity! Top Pay and Paid uniforms. Please call Lubin at 504-837-7226 or Kevin at 504-464-0244.

**MACHINIST Miami** based office seeking to fill 2 positions with experience with CNC, mill, and grind-hard chrome. Will perform all setup procedures for machining components utilizing available equipment. For more information call 305-622-4523 or fax 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day/wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC looking** for good Mechanic for work on truck/tailer/ heavy equip., will pay top dollar, must have own tools. 8am-4pm Monday-Friday 504-436-7777

**MECHANIC, SERVICE** TECHNICIAN, OFFICE CLERK Openings Available Immediately. 985-892-6304

**Needed VW** SERVICE MANAGER, also VW and Mazda service technicians. Please call 800-663-4240 or send resume to QUALITY MAZDA VW, 4301 Greensboro Ave; Tuscaloosa, Al 35405

### 4110 Mechanical

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**SMALL ENGINE** MECHANIC Needed immediately, 1945 Surgi Dr. Mandeville LA. 985-727-3143

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

**TECHNICIANS Coulter** Cadillac of Phoenix, the #1 Cadillac dealer in the region is looking for qualified, G.M Technicians. We offer a generous compensation package, 401K, paid vacation and a friendly work environment. Fax your resume to 602-532-4724, Attn. Jon or Homer or find us on the web at coultercadillac.com

### 4120 Medical

**CERTIFIED PHARMACY** TECH/ CASHIER And Cashier. Pleasant atmosphere. Apply at the Medicine Shop 999 Robert Blvd, Slidell, 9-5:30 M-F.

**CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT** - 2 positions. X-ray certification helpful. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-885-0762

**CLINICAL STAFF** - (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) Needed for Management positions in growing community based mental health org. To learn more & submit resume: www.sbcs.us, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, 499 Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08002. Fax: 856-773-0210

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Needed immediately. Call Dr. Martin's office at: 504-833-2594

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS** needed. Upper Scale Dental Office located on the West Bank looking for 2 exp. assistants accustomed to treating quality patients. 504-392-0221

**Dental/Office Asst** Full Time needed for busy Mandeville Family Practice. Mail resume to 20121 Helenberg Rd. #1; Covington, LA 70433

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**LPN FT** with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**MEDICAL OFFICE** CLERK FT for busy W. Bank cardiology office. Bi-lingual Spanish preferred. Call Susan at 504-349-6365. Fax Resume to: 504-349-6355

**Medical Office** position open, M-F; dialysis, medical billing experience preferred. For more info call 985-479-6104 or email mah1974@aol.com

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**MRI Technologist-Expanding** outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologist with preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience required. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

**Northeastern Children's** Dental office seeks enthusiastic individuals to fill positions in Dental Assisting, Front Desk, and Lab Technician who will also play our charming character, Bippo The Hippo. Please call 985-641-8437 for more info

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**OFFICE MGR** for busy 2 position allergy practice located in Covington. Experience w/ insurance and patient billing, A/R & electronic claims. Knowledge Quicken/Quick Books, A/P & payroll processing, strong interpersonal skills. Min. 3 yr office management exp. F/T position. Fax resume to 985-845-2668

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** OR LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT Needed for Metairie Area to start immediately! Please call 225-677-5464

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, excellent hours, PT owned and operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845

### 4120 Medical

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! HIRING NOW FOR LPNs, CNAs, DIETARY TECHS, HOUSEKEEPERS, & RECEPTIONISTS. VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE. FT/PT/PRN (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PROGRESSIVE HOME** HEALTH CARE. WE ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING WITH: RNs/PTs/OTs/Aides/Sitters. WE CAN FILL YOUR SCHEDULE. ALL AREAS: HOUMA, NORTHSHORE, BATON ROUGE, WESTBANK, EASTBANK, NEW ORLEANS. FAX RESUMES TO: 504-263-8320

**RECEPTIONIST Metairie** Dental Office, experienced only, Fax Resume to: 504-835-8136

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**ST CHARLES** Healthcare, Making Home, home again. LPN'S, at St Charles Healthcare We're back to our normal routine, at making a home for our residences & employee. We are a long-term care facility, located in the heart of New Orleans, & are seeking staff members for the following areas: LPN's, CNA's, Cooks, Housekeeping. If you are interested in helping us make home, home again, please apply at: St Charles Healthcare ATTN: Tansy Magendie, 1539 Delachaise St, New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-895-3953

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**VOLUNTEERS OF** AMERICA DIRECT CARE STAFF Needed for individuals with developmental disabilities residing in local community homes. Duties include assistance and support with activities of daily living, active treatment and behavioral support. Various shifts available immediately for Slidell and Hammond areas. if interested, please call Harriett Joseph at Volunteers of America, 504-835-3005. Criminal background check required

**WE ARE** Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 504-347-0777 Fax: 504-620-3032

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

**X-RAY Tech** for Metairie orth surg off. Call Vicki @ 504-887-4757. mwf 9:30-12

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8131/985-320-1111

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT** - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

Andrea's
RESTAURANT
PORTER
CAPTAIN/WAITER
LINE COOKS
CASHIERS
BANQUET STAFF
SECRETARY
Apply in person M-F:
3100 19th St., Metairie, LA 70002
DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**Looking for** Access Control Tech with GE/Casi Rusco exp. Contact Sherry at: 800-259-4422 or fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attention Sherry

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/ chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**Tech Needed** in N.O. area to work on CCTV & Access Control Systems. Strong computer & database skills a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attn Sherry

**TIRE TECHS** Needed. Pad and road service experience preferred. Company truck and tools provided. 401K and benefits, vacation and insurance. Contact Steve or Gary at 504-733-8813.

**WE ARE** ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4145 Retail

**BEST BUY** in store job fair, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, West Bank store at 1601 W Bank Xway Ste A, Harvey, LA 75008. Monday-Friday 8am to 11pm, and 4pm to 6pm, Veterans Blvd store 6205 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA, 70003. Monday-Friday 1pm to 4pm, Slidell store, at 120 Northshore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70459. Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 pm, Covington store, 69344 Hwy 21, Covington, LA, 70433. Prior to visiting our job fair apply on-line at careers.bestbuy.com. Now hiring seasonal & F/T & P/T, Cashiers, Customer Service, Gen. Sales, Merchandising, Music/Software/Gaming, Srvc Tech, Computer Tech/Geek Squad, Mobile Installer Tech, Shipping/ Recieving, Security/LP, Delivery Drivers. EOE DFWP

**Enlace, the** largest and fastest growing Spanish Yellow Page Directory in the U.S., is looking for Outside Sales Representatives to work directly with local retailers and manufacturers to create online and print advertising. Talent for speaking Spanish is not required. We offer an excellent compensation package which includes a Base Salary + Commission, and full benefits. Email resumes: atincher@cobaltpublishing.com

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**Florida Security** Guards available. Call 407-687-0156 or 561-714-0343, Scott Security

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY INNER** PARISH Is now taking applications for Security Guards. Paid weekly. Retirees welcome! Pay based on exp. New Orleans positions available with housing included. You may contact us by phone at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T, Must be 21, Call Scheuering Security 504-202-4075

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Cell 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150Teachers & Instructors

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS** HIRING NOW MANDEVILLE, 674-0086 SLIDELL, 643-7400

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**CHILDCARE POSITIONS,** PT/ FT. At Children's Cottage in Mandeville. Call 985-626-1676

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**VIOLIN &** or Band Instructor, P/T, Harahan/Mandeville/Covington. 985-674-2992/504-738-3050

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C INSTALLERS** & SHEET METAL INSTALLERS - Call Blue Flame, Inc. 504-733-9112

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C SERVICE** TECH, immediate opening! Must be well groomed, drug free & dependable. Benefits and other opportunities available. Call 504-466-9399

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** IMMEDIATE OPENING N. Shore Area. Exp'd. Good Pay + Benefits. 985-966-0075

**A/C TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. Call 504-833-1164

**A/C TECHS** With 5 yrs min exp. Great pay & start today! 225-664-4912 or fax: 225-664-8792

**AC HELPER** Wanted. Full time, no experience needed. Benefits available. Call 504-416-7363

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**AUTO &** MEDIUM TRUCK MECHANIC Commission and Guaranteed salary. 5 days a week, Paid Vacation & Holidays, 504-837-3721

**AUTO GLASS** INSTALLER Exp a Must 5yrs+ 985-249-1496/985-718-9356 Vernon/Steve, N.Shore only

**AUTO TECH,** must have experience with custom rims and tires. Top pay! Located in Metairie. 504-737-1558

**B &** B Electrical Services ready to serve all your electrical needs. now hiring electricians, helpers, laborers paying time and a half. (504)891-9773 (504)466-7833

**BEST PAY** IN AREA - Need Drywall crews, Painters, Carpenters, Shingle crews. 504-270-6937

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR ALARM** INSTALLER - Wanted. F/T, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CARPENTERS &** LABORERS - Needed for local construction co. Residential & commercial experience required. 504-464-7789

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS: Needed now! Call 504-522-3287

**Carpenters and** Laborers needed for new const. uptown. Local/ displaced? Will try to help u get housing. REDDING CONST. 504-415-3292/504-598-3227

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, ROOFERS** and LABORERS- Experienced, Top Pay. 504-723-8028, 504-919-0782 (Local)

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS/ HELPERS Needed,** Experienced. Please call 504-348-0236 leave message

**CARPET/FLOORING INSTALLER,** excellent pay + bonus, exp pref, tons of work! 504-512-3277

**CBD Bldg** needs maintenance engineer - a/c, electrical, plumbing ,data/phone , etc. Also need sheetrock wks. Call Bret 504-915-0649

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**CLASS A** MACHINIST, Erickson Machine and Tool. Apply in person to 30 Commerce Ct Harahan, Louisiana. 504-733-8565

**COLE'S RENTAL** WORLD Of Covington & Mandeville needs F/T Counter Personnel, CDL Drivers and Mechanics. Benefits/OT. Some heavy lifting required. 985-892-2991 and 985-626-9743

**Commercial Electricians** needed. Local work. Please Call 501-580-7857

**COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN** Voice/Data, Local contractor is seeking a skilled technician. Must have exp. installing, terminating, testing and troubleshooting CAT 5, 5E and fiber, minimum 4 yrs exp needed. Must have own hand tools and transportation, benefits include, holiday, vacation, health insurance. Send Resume to: P.O BOX 10460, Jefferson LA, 70181.

**Construction &** Demolition Company hiring immediately for Dump Truck Drivers, Excavator Operators, & Roll off Drivers. Great paying positions. Call 504-431-9631 for more information

**CONSTRUCTION Local** company looking for men or woman for all forms of construction. 504-348-0400

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** TESTING FIELD TECHNICIAN Entry level or experienced. Apply at 724 Central Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121 504-733-9411 EOE. M/F/D/V

**CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC,** immediate opening for experienced. Carpenters in commercial/ Hospital renovation and repairs, locals proffered. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION SUBS** Needed for all phases, Licensed & Insured. Please call 504-415-3614

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRYWALL HANGERS,** FINISHERS, Demolition Persons. Immediate openings with established company, top pay. Call 504-352-4005

**DRYWALL/METAL STUD** MECHANICS, interior work, good pay, permanent F/T positions, experience only please. 504-416-5775

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/ FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICAL HELPERS** $10.00 per hour. Immediate employment opportunities. No experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have reliable transportation. Apply in person, Monday through Friday, 8AM until 3PM, New Orleans Electrical JATC, 3200 Ridgelake Dr., Suite 301, Metairie, LA.

**ELECTRICIAN Residential** and commercial experience. Call 504-338-6965/504-931-5837

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS MEITEC** is Hiring Now for Immediate Positions. Supervisors, Electricians, Helpers and Instrument Fitters needed now. Off Shore, On Shore, and Out of State Work. Overtime and per DM. Contact MEITEC Inc, 504-455-2600 or 281-412-6990 Fax 504-888-1428 or tonym@meitec.net

**ELECTRICIANS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial work site, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** Exp. for Debris in Metairie. Bobcat, Loader/Rotor/Truck Drivers. 954-464-5273 or 954-650-4669. $15-$20 per hour.

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,** Immediate openings! All Northshore sites. Call: 985-966-0113

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS/LABORERS** Needed for Local Rail Construction Project. Slidell To Bay St. Louis Areas. Apply: Slidell Auditorium or W. St. Tammany Job Center. Call 859-699-3741.

**EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Experienced for demo and site work. Experienced only!!! 504-889-3975

**EXP. DOZER/EXCOVATOR** BOBCAT OPERATOR for HEAVY EQUIPMENT 504-455-6222

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRIC** MOTOR MECHANICS, Exp Submersible Pump Mechanics, Exp Pump Mechanics, and Helper Trainees. Paid holidays. Call 504-469-8481/8a-5p

**Experienced HVAC** Technician needed. Housing available in Metairie. Call 504-888-8154

**EXPERIENCED LICENSED** ELECTRICIANS and helpers with tools, call Jim at 504-416-0172

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Exp'd working partner needed to run company. Please call 504-465-0209

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FENCED INSTALLER** needed, exp;d, drug-free, must have own transportation. 985-626-8533

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**FINISH CARPENTERS** 10 Yrs exp. new const. and renov. New Orleans, top pay, 504-920-5500

**Fire/Water Damage** Technician, Surfpro of the North Shore, exp. proffered but willing to train, must have good driving record. Fax resume to 985-898-6373 or call 985-898-0022

**FLEET MECHANIC** To start immediately to work on trucks, pressure washers & pressure pumps. Good pay rate & benefits 504-329-2831

**FLOORING HELPER** wanted. Metairie area. 504-913-6965 for more information.

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** Now Accepting applications for experienced floor installers for all surfaces. Call Pat King 733-8188 or Apply in person, Monday - Thursday from 10-2 at 5403 Powell St., Elmwood, LA 70123

**FRAMING CARPENTER** Local Company, Transportation Required, Experienced. 504-473-8797

**FURNITURE BUILDER/FINISHER,** skilled workmen needed for upscale shop. Apply at: 7420 Zimple St. or call: 504-865-9622

**GENERAL HEATING** & A/C Needs exp Installers, Service Technicians and helpers. We offer full benefits, health plan, 401k, paid vacation. Work for the company that has been here for 50 years! Call Layne: 504-235-5501 or fax: 985-419-0993

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS TECH** trainees needed for New Orleans co, top pay + commission. Call 504-822-3255

**GLASS TECHNICIANS** Flat and auto needed, Please Call 504-400-6799

**H&E EQUIPMENT** SERVICES, A leading construction equipment dealer seeks exp Crane Technicians to join our Belle Chasse, LA service team. We offer competitive wage/benefit packages and are currently offering a SIGNING BONUS based on the technical qualifications of the candidate. 2 yrs Crane equipment mechanic exp is required. Resume to Ken 225-298-5299 or kefisher@he-equipment.com AA/EOE

**HANDYMAN in** Covington area, full or part time. Call 985-237-0817

**HANDYMAN Part** time. Must have own tools and transportation. Please call 504-737-9268.

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T Manufacturing Maintenance Mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time Manufacturing Equipment Operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**HB VENTURES** Hiring hosemen & squigee men, Barge washers, top pay, w/ safety awards & biwkly incentives, 504-915-3143, 382-6912

The Times-Picayune

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| Friday | 5pm WEDNESDAY |
| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**ALL POSITIONS** Monarch Farms in Folsom, LA hiring temporary help for Katrina cleanup. Work needed includes yard work, mowing, pasture clean up, pick up tree limbs, run chainsaw and fence repairs. Contact Mike Jones at 985-515-4143 or 985-795-7992

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**ASSISTANT MANAGERS/CASHIERS** Gas/Convenient Store, great opportunities/benefits, xlnt starting pay, pd. vac., great work environment. Now accepting applications for managers/Assistant Managers/Cashiers. Apply at Shell Harbor Market at 2963 US Highway 190 in Mandeville or send resume to P.O. Box 73492 Metairie, LA 70033.

**Blueroof &** Debris Removal Inspectors. For info call DQSI(985)809-3970 ASAP

**CAREGIVER Need** sitter for handicap elderly lady. Please call 504-454-1296

**Caregiver, after** school care for our special needs child in Mandeville. 985-237-9464

**Carpet &** Furniture Cleaning 2 people needed. No experience. 504-466-0741

**CASHIER** - Hotel Gift Shop, Downtown. AM/PM Shifts. Call 723-0023

**CERAMIC TILE** AND MARBLE HELPERS No Experience Necessary. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. 504-885-3738/504-416-9633

**Counter Help,** Creole Bagelry, hours of operation 7am-2pm. Call Bernadette: 985-649-6151 or 985-788-5252

**DIRECT STAFF** needed to work with children and adults with disabilities and with the elderly. Part time and full time available in Mandeville, Covington, and Slidell areas. Call 985-674-4463 to apply

**Does your** job offer family freedom and financial security? Call 484-542-1631

**DOG GROOMER** - Must be experienced, needed for Picayune area. Please call 601-799-2904

**DRIVERS &** KITCHEN HELP P/T F/T Salary plus tips. Apply at Dia Roma Cafe 3712 Williams.

**DRY CLEAN** and Laundry Presser needed. 751 Veterans Blvd. Call 504-615-3868, 504-835-0876

**DRY CLEANING** & LAUNDRY Presses, Counter Staff, Matchers, Baggers, 5038 W. Esplanade Ave. 504-455-5705

**EPIC DIVERS** & MARINE has immediate openings for the following qualified professionals: Purchasing Manager, Accounts Receivable Clerk, Shop Manager, Diesel Mechanic, Warehouse Person/Driver. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply at 1841 Enterprise Drive, Harvey, LA 70058 or send resume to jobs@epiccompanies.com

**EVANS QUALITY** - 4714 Canal St. Employees needed immediately. $9-$15/hr depending upon job. Interviews Mon, Oct. 10 ONLY 8am-1pm. Bring 2 forms of ID

**Experienced Tattoo** Artist needed. Metro New Orleans area. Call 504-401-2519

**EXPERT DRY** CLEAN PRESSER and Expert Wet/Shirt Presser. Apply as soon as possible 3910 Highway 22, Mandeville. Dry Cleaning By Louis.

**Five Collision** Centers in the Metairie, Kenner, Westbank and Northshore areas are seeking employees for all positions. Please call: 504-465-5680 or apply in person at 1801 Veterans Blvd, Kenner 70062

**FLYER/LEAD CANVASER'S** Needed for Construction Co., hrly wage, 504-885-3738 or 504-416-9633

**French Quarter** Valets and Cashiers Needed. Professional and good driving records. Apply Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm, 716 Iberville St. EEO

**Front Desk/Veterinarian** Assistant, full time/part time, immediate openings, Cypress Point Animal Hospital, Mandeville. Call: 985-626-4462

**GROUNDSKEEPERS needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartments. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**Guitar Player** & Singer needed for established cover band w/ jobs. 504-495-6591

**Handyman needed,** $10 an hour, must have own transportation. Please call 504-606-4559

**HARDWARE CLERK-duties** consist of cutting and threading pipe, cutting glass and loading cement. Lapalco Hardware Please call 504-367-2020

**HIRING NOW** CASHIERS & ATTENDANTS Shell Convenient Stores, All Shifts, Competitive Pay, Insurance, Please Apply At: 711 East Boston Street, Covington, LA. 985-898-2663

**Home Inspectors** - $500 -$2500/wk. Will train 504-466-8222 or 888-776-7743

**HOUSE CLEANERS** Monday-Friday days, paid training, CAR REQUIRED. Merry Maids, 504-849-0411

**JANITORIAL** - PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE OF N.O. Seeking Custodians/Supervisors for Orleans, Metairie & W Bank 504-780-9694

**JANITORIAL NO** EXP NEEDED,FT/PT. COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS. APPLY @ ESPLANADE MALL MGMT OFC OR CALL 504-466-2500.

**JANITORIAL Work.** Evenings, Metairie. $7/hour. Please call 985-652-1388

**Kennel Attend** for busy Covington Animal Hospital. General Animal Hospital. 985-892-1114

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**LABORERS Need** 50 people! packing merchandise, $13/hour, meals provided, 504-858-8050

**Laborers. Landscape** Company seeks workers. Call 504-455-8258 or 504-450-0374

**Landscape contractor** needs dependable workers Please Call 504-738-1885

**Landscape Maintenance/Grass** Cutting Help, wanted in St. Charles Parish, 985-448-1643

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**Lawn** - Byrd Lawn And Handyman currently hiring FT and PT help, on the North Shore, $8-$10/hour, Call Dan 985-516-8816

**LAWN MAINTENANCE** help needed. Outdoor work, $10.00 and up. Call 504-887-0393

**Lawncare Business,** help needed, no exp needed. Drivers also needed w/ good license for crew leader. 985-262-3367

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**Medical Courier/Ofc** worker needed, must be over 21, clean MVR. Hours M-F 5am-1:30, some weekends. GREAT benefits, $8/hr. Call 639-3407 or apply at 1921 Corp. Sq, Ste A, Slidell

**Motor Vehicle** Inspector (break tag), must be Louisiana licensed. 504-368-3687/504-621-2572

**NANNY needed** in my Breckenridge subdivision home from for 19 month old, 8am-5pm, Mon.-Fri. 985-646-3694 or 985-774-1610

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER All** Day, Mon.-Fri. Must own car and have clean driving record. Background check. Mandeville home. 985-626-9285

**NEEDED: Lost** Farm Bureau Adjuster, come to: 59542 Spring Drive or call: 985-502-2009

**Night Time** Positions avail: Serious inquiries apply only. Janitorial, full time & part time. Call James: 985-788-8201

**Office Furniture** Installer needed for 35 year Metairie furniture/equipment dealer. Also light machine repair. Good Driver. Will train right person. Opportunity for growth. Please Call 504-454-3316

**PCA'S needed** to work with developmentally disabled individuals. Must have HS diploma, own transportation, car insurance, & drivers lic. $6.00/hour to start. Vacation, sick, & tuition reimbursement avail after 1 yr of F/T employment. Apply at: 2200 Veterans Blvd, #205, Kenner, 10a-2p M-F

**PET GROOMER** Needed for upscale boarding kennel, great pay, start now. 985-845-9444

**Pet Groomer,** Experienced Groomer needed. Established clientele. percentage based salary. Call 985-542-6300 (Hammond)

**PORTER Needed** in new Orleans. Call 504-522-3287

**Positions: MIG/TIG** exp. welder, alum & steel. Warehouseman w/ mechanical ability. AQUA-AIR 639 Manhattan, Harvey.

**Preschool/Childcare Attendant,** Precious Angels Daycare seeking experienced Childcare Attendant. 504-363-5400

**Production Line** Operators & Supervisors: Packing line experience. Please email resume to: HR@taeng.com or fax: 229-435-2826 Immediate needs lodging in N.O. provided!

**QUALITY CONTROL** ASSISTANTS Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for Quality Control Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities, and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediately and work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour. Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-359-3018

**RECEPTIONIST/VETERINARIAN ASSISTANT** Full-time for Banfield, The Pet Hospital. Apply at 45 Park Place Dr. (Inside Petsmart) 985-867-9224

**RIVER OAKS** MANAGEMENT Now Hiring qualified managers, assistant managers, maintenance men and grounds keepers, Apply at 139 Enterprise Drive, Gretna LA., 504-367-9273.

**SALES Mandeville** co seeking salespersons, must have 3+ yrs sales exp, fax 985-674-5386

**Short and** long term work available IMMEDIATELY for skilled and unskilled workers. CALL NOW 504-833-5200

**Southern Credit** Recovery Inc., Metairie LA seeking qualified, experienced collectors. Please e-mail resume to: KPerez@scrcbo.com

**Spray Techs** needed. Will train, no exp needed. Please call Lobbs, 504-469-6773.

**State All** Fuel Center. Needed Cashiers and Deli workers. Call 504-394-5530

**SUPERVISOR** - Experienced person to supervise telemarket department, must be reliable, aggressive, and able to work as a team member and leader, great salary, ($40,000 - $50,000/year) depending on experience + benefits. Please e-mail resume to: mktgresume@yahoo.com

**Tank Wash** Personnel, Oakley Trucking Inc. is now accepting applications for Tank Wash personnel. Entry level position. Some mechanical experience preferred. Excellent benefit package, including health and life insurance, 401K, vacation and holiday pay. Experienced applicants only need apply. Please come by to fill out application at 191 Transport Dr. Reserve, LA. Apply in person and ask for Skip McGriff.

**Tour Guide/Maintenance** and Gift Shop Manager/Personal Assistant. Friendly, enthusiastic, outgoing. In Covington, Insta-Gator Ranch. Call 985-892-3669

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**VET ASSISTANT** Full time. Must be flexible and have customer service experience. Interviews Thurs., Fri. and Sat.from 10am-3pm. Bring resume to Banfield, located inside Elmwood PetSmart. 504-733-7313

**VETERINARIAN TECHNICIANS** & KENNEL ASSISTANT, Needed for Mandeville Veterinary Specialty Hospital. Experienced preferred, but we are willing to train the right people. Some weekend hours req. Excellent benefits including group health insurance, 401K, paid vacation, discount on pet care. Pay based on experience. Call Shelly at 985-626-4862 or fax: 985-626-4852

**Welding supply** company needs experienced office clerks with basic computer skills. Also drivers with a CDL Class B Hazmat. Please apply in person 2700 Hessmer, Metairie.

**YOUTH CARE** WORKER The Louisiana Office of Youth Development is accepting applications for a Youth Care Worker 1, 2, & 3 for Bridge City Center for Youth. A bachelor's degree or 4 years experience with at-risk youth is required. The incumbent of this position will provide for the safety, discipline, and custodial care of youth during their assessment, rehabilitation, and social development. Applications must be made on the official form (SF-10), which may be obtained from the LA Dept. of Civil Service in Baton Rouge or New Orleans. The SF-10 application may also be downloaded from the Civil Service website at www.dscs.state.la.us. Applications must have a certified score on Series 7333-PET Test. Applications must be submitted to the Office of Youth Development attn: Trudy Gautreau, P.O. Box 66458 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, by close of business, October 10, 2005.

## Employment

### 4315 Employment Wanted - Medical

**Advance Practice** RN with Master Degree in Psychiatric Nursing looking for a position in New Orleans Metro Area as a physician extender, Dictating MD discharge summaries, doing psychiatric evaluation on patients including DSM IV TR Diagnoses. The Hospital where I was employed didn't reopen after Katrina. 504-701-7482

### 4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**Clerical ofc.** admin assistant exp. short or long term assignments, travel okay. Flexible days and hours, why pay temp agcy fees? Call 727-743-2534

**NANNY/SITTER- needed** to care for my 19 mo. old daughter in my home in New Orleans. References required,e-mail work history, phone#, and interests to rerchildcare@cox.net

**Wanted Telecommuter** Oppt'y! Ret. Mil. Ofcr, complete home office: 55+ WPM. MS Ofc., Notary/Paralegal. 901-240-7724

## MERCHANDISE

### 5010 Antique/Collectibles

**ANTIQUE FAIR** & Yard Sale! Old schoolhouse antique mall, Washington, LA. 9-5pm Oct. 7,8,& 9. Over 200 Vendors. Exit 25 off I-49, North off Opelousas. 337-826-3580

### 5020 Appliances

**AIR CONDITIONER** CONDENSER, Used, (3) 2 @ $150, 1 @ $300. Please Call 504-559-9060

**REFRIGERATOR Amana** 25.6 Cu.Ft., white, side by side, 2 yrs old, exc. cond, $700. Call 985-875-7970

**REFRIGERATOR, Kenmore,** 27 cubic, $500. Washer/Dryer, Kenmore, $75 each. 504-296-9433

**STOVE, Oven,** Dishwasher & Microwave. Sold as set for $800 or best offer. Call 985-892-7481

**UPRIGHT FREEZER** Sears Coldspot 15.3cu ft, exc working cond, $75. Mike 504-466-8572

### 5070 Building Materials

**MOBILE Construction** Offices, 8x36, new or used with bath and air. Call Jobsite Trailer Corp 877-699-6280/ www.jobsitemobileoffices.com

### 5085 Cemetery/Funerals

**PLOT Single** For Sale, Rest Lawn cemetery, Avondale LA, Asking $2000, 251-645-2611

### 5110 Computer, Etc.

**COMPUTERS, PIII** & PII, complete set, $250. DESK, $100. CHAIR, $45. FAX, $45. PRINTER, $45. SCANNER, $45. 985-707-5659

### 5165 Home Health Supplies

**MICRO-DERM ABRASION** Machine, seldom use, $8500. Independence area. Call 985-878-3439

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**ARMOIRE, Thomasville** Cherry, with doors, holds 19inch TV. $350. Call 985-502-1866

**ARMOIRE/ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** Oak, 2 years old, 42wx75hx21d, excellent condition. $400. 985-892-4759

**BED full** size, $500. 3 drawer dresser, $200. Papsan chair, $65. Call 985-807-5216

**BEDROOM SET** 5 piece, queen sized, mattress and box spring, solid wood, some scratches, $600. 4 dinette chairs, no table, $80 or best offer. 985-764-3933 or 504-473-8965

**FURNITURE LAZY** BOY Oversized Couch and Chair, $1000. Recliner, $150. Marble top coffee table, 2 end tables, console table, $750. 985-875-2617, by appt only. Covington/ Mandeville

**Glass top** dining table with pedestal, 4 upholstered chairs, $450, small desk $50. Call 985-624-6646

**KITCHEN CABINETS** Used, oak, two entertainment centers, microwave, $250, 985-875-7658

**MOVING: ALL** MUST GO! 1 Memory Foam Queen Set, $450. 1 Regular Queen Set, $100. Heavy duty washer/gas dryer, $250. 1 Dresser with mirror, solid wood, $100. 2 nightstands, $20. 1 chest of drawers, $15. 6' sofa, yellow floral, $40. Chrome Craft table with 2 leaves & 6 chairs, $100. 1 coffee table, $20. Bigmans recliner, $75. Mens 26" bike, $50. Techniques 100 watt receiver, $60. RCA dual tape deck, $50. 2 Cerwin Vega speakers, 36", $125. 20" Zenith stereo TV, with remote & stand, $75. Wet and dry shop vac, 10 gallon, $20. 3.5 ton HD floor jack, $60. 2 auto ramps, $20. Call 504-913-2753

**Oak entertainment** center/3 piece, 100 inch wide/78 inch tall, glass doors/storage cabinets on bottom, $501. 985-626-4194

**Round oak** table set, $150, queen bed set w/ frame/headboard, $200, 2 dressers, $75 ea., lthr. sofa, $125. 504-391-0208

**SECTIONAL SOFA,** cloth material, recliners on ends, good shape, $195. 985-867-4956

**SOFA SLEEPER,** Denim with matching overstuffed Rocker, and coordinating oak coffee table. No Water Damage. Like New $1200. White Upholstered Sofa, No Water Damage, Good Condition. $300. Moving Must Sell! Please Call 504-628-4321

**SOFA, 90"** Custom black leather, 6 mos old, no flood. Was $4000, Sell $1100. 985-875-0004

**SOFA/LOVESEAT Blue,** exc cond, $450. 6 chairs, table, china, buffet, bar $650. 504-887-2959

**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

**Stereo +** CD, Nakamichi, 6 disc + tape, amp, and B & W speakers $150. 2 Custom chairs, $175. 504-738-0348/504-491-1145

**TABLE, oak** Trestle, 5 chairs total, 4 side, 1 with arms. $500. Please call 985-624-2678

### 5200 Musical

**PIANO, full** size, Story & Clark, $600, you pick up, Metairie, 512-809-6058

### 5210 Office Furniture/Supplies

**DKI OFFICE** FURNITURE Truck Load Sale, new and used desks, chairs, files, panel systems, work stations, and much much more! 5530 Jefferson Highway 504-734-8424

**OFFICE FURNITURE** 40%-50% off. Call Doug at GBP Direct, 504-388-6631

## Merchandise

### 5240 Restaurants/Bar Equipment

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT:** New ranges, fryers and refrigerators. CONVENIENT STORES: New Deli scales, coolers and freezers. Immediate delivery or will hold, Call 504-427-0992

### 5290 Tools, Equipment, Machinery

**1999 New** Holland 555E, Backhoe (Rubber Tire), w/ Cabin. Good Cond. $29,000. 504-712-9024

**DOZER 1992** Komatsu, 6 Way Blade, New Under Carriage, Good Cond. $21,000. 504-712-9020

**FRONT LOADERS,** DOZERS, SKID STEARS, CUSTOM EXCAVATORS and other machinery. Available for immediate sale. 504-431-7906

**GENERATOR, 10.5KW,** 42 amps continuous, Onan/Cummings. Very light use, superb cond! Orig. price $12,000 asking $4500. 512-825-5227 or cwplatt@quik.com

**GENERATORS** - 4 KW Dayton, $600; 5 KW Honda, $2,000. Call 504-737-2668

**GUTTER MACHINES** 5 in. seamless, 6 in. seamless, both on trailers, ready to work. $20,000 ea. 504-400-0790, 504-834-2911

**MARINE CARGO** CONTAINERS, 8 by 20 foot and 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

**MORBARK 2400** Whole Tree Chipper w/ auto feed, 688 hours, 185 horsepower, JD Diesel, tandem axle, extra parts included, in LA. $28,000. Call 504-467-6336 ext10 leave message

**NIKRO Air** Duct Cleaning Equipment w/cargo trailer. $12,500. Call 985-705-6606

**Stump Grinder;** 35 hp Vermeer 630B. (985)974-9896, (985)386-8417

### 5315 Utility Trailers

**DUMP TRAILERS,** 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740

### 5330 Miscellaneous

**Treadmill and** stepper, $150, for both, good condition. Call 504-737-2930.

### 5340 Wanted

**PBS FRONTLINE** wants your Katrina home videos from Aug. 26th on, before, during & after Storm. Will pay for quality footage. Email: info@rainmedia.net

## PETS/LIVESTOCK

### 6000 Dogs

**Basset Puppies** CKC, 4 Females. Available 10/15. $300 each. 985-502-8404

**Beagle Pups,** AKC, 3 males, 1 female, 6 weeks old, $150 each. 504-908-3042 or 504-390-0778

**Boston Terriers** CKC Registered, Mini-Pins/hounds. $200 up. 985-848-5423

**CANE KORSO** Pups, ICCS 7 weeks old, 1 male, 5 females, $1500. 225-933-0762 225-654-0509

**CHIHUAHUA PUPS,** Long Hair, $300 each. Also 1 adult Male, $100. 504-858-0830 985-781-0221

**DOBERMAN PUPS** AKC 8 weeks, 3 females, 2 males. 504-454-1773, 504-831-0728

**Full Blood** Rat Terrier Puppies, Born 7/26/05. $150. Call 985-878-2804

**German Shepherd** Puppies, AKC, 8 weeks old. Please call 985-735-5915 or 985-807-6157

**GERMAN SHEPHERD** PUPS AKC, CKC, Micro Chipped. 504-348-1501 or 504-913-7350

**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Labrador, Yellow,** 12 weeks old with AKC papers and shots, $250, 504-329-1938

**MALTESE AKC,** pups. Baby Doll. Multi Ch. Blood. Regular & Tiny. Also YORKIES, 504-737-1234

**MALTESE and** SHIH TZU pups, adorable, $250. and up, call 504-733-3621

**Min Pin** Pups, Ready to go! Shots & Dew Claws. Black/Tan & Red, Chocolate. $300 & up. 985-871-7790

**Miniature Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**OLD ENGLISH** BULLDOG Male, Registered, brindle with white face, $600. 985-764-3067

**Old English** Bulldog Pups CKC, 2M, 4F, $800. Visit beardsbulldogge.com or call 504-301-1129

**Pomeranian Puppies,** 1 Male, Black, $400. 1 Female, Multi-Colored, $450. 985-778-1885

**RAT TERRIER** PUPS - Registered, 5 weeks old, 3 males, $125/each, call 504-481-3357/818-2248

**ROTTWEILER Pups,** tails cut & dewormed, both parents on site, 3 males $250,a female $300, 504-368-7248/504-400-4274

**SCHNAUZER Minis,** AKC, Salt/Pepper males, $350. Black/Silver males, $450. 985-542-8403

**SHELTIE PUPS** - CKC, Please call 504-250-3893

**Staffordshire Terrier,** Bull Dog Pit mixed. Free to loving home. No children/ other pets, very loving with people. Fenced in yard a must. Fantastic Watch dogs. 504-417-9749

**Toy Party** Poodle, M, Blk/Wht, Pit Bull M, Wht/Brindle, blue eyes. Both 9 wks, Both have Shots. $300 each. 504-256-7716

**Wanted: Little** Yorkie Dog, Female, about 2 years old, to love. Call 504-738-9567

**YORKIE TERRIERS,** CKC, 2 males, small, shots & wormed, $800. Call 504-738-1050

## RECREATION

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**'00 Kenner** 23 foot, 225 EFI Mercury, excellent condition, extras, low hours. $16,000. Call 504-416-3703/504-689-4304

**'04 Boston** Whaler 320 Outrage, Loaded For Blue Water Fishing. Twin 225 Merc OPTIMAX. Super Electronics Package, Outriggers, Downriggers, XM Radio, Custom Trailer, Many Extras. Excellent Condition. $130,000. Off Shore Tackle Available for Extra. Call 601-955-4298

**'06 River** Time HOUSEBOAT. Brand new, 52 ft, deluxe. 2 115 HP Mercs, fully self contained. Sleeps 6, 651-450-1496 for more info. $165,000 Will deliver.

**'98 Boston** Whaler Outrage 23', 225 HP Johnson, garage kept. $32,900. 504-885-0900

## Recreation

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**'99 Avenger** Bay Boat Sport 18.6', Yamaha 150 $12,900. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**30' Trojan** Sportfisherman twin 260hp, gas, 800 hrs. nice A/C, genset, shower, radar, sleeps 4 or 5. 601-924-0406

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**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Franklin** Imperial Trlr40'/93 Olds Cierra clean, 8x10 metal shed. As is, where is in Seattle tlr park. $22,000. 206-660-3238

**'00 Rockwood** 25' travel trailer; pristine cond; sleeps 4; $12,000; 318-435-9264.

**'01 Jayco** Eagle 5th wheel, 33 feet long, sleeps 9, super slide, lots of cabinets, $17,000. 601-736-8975

**'01 Trail** Lite 21' Travel Trailer with hitch, sleeps 7, like new, tow with 6 cylinder, $8500. 504-342-7286

**'02 Cherokee** 24' Light Travel Trailer, Like new, sleeps 6, will deliver. $11,000. 504-348-9340 or 504-421-5788

**'02 Holiday** Rambler Vacationer. 2 slides. 1 and 1/2 baths. $79,000. 985-789-2879

**'02 Keystone** Cougar 28 foot, 5 th wheel slide-out, $20,000. Call 504-453-5517

**'02 Sportsmen** 30Ft Travel Trailer, double slide out, like new, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 318-251-8307 or 318-265-2300

**'02 Trail** Lite, 20' Travel Trailer, 1700 lbs. $10,000. Call 985-758-3567 or 504-756-6732

**'02 Winnebago** Sightseer 30', Class A, with slide-out, self-contained, low miles, excellent condition. $65,000 or rent for $100/day. 504-738-6952

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Coachman** Travel Trailer, 38 foot, 2 bedroom, big slide out, lots of storage, $17,000. 985-845-2094 or 985-778-9501

**'03 FOUR** WINDS CLASS C - 31', excellent cond, sleeps 6-8, stove, fridge, freezer, microwave, generator, TV/VCR/DVD, awning, will rent or sell. Asking $33,000. John, 888-561-8199

**'03 MONTANA** 5th Wheel, 34 foot, 3 slides. Rear living. Good condition $25,000 985-652-6950

**'03 Shasta** 24', bunk beds, dinette, front bd, A/C, microwave, 2 dr ref., finance & delivery avail. $10,599. 1-866-243-1716 www.northtownmotorhomes.com

**'03 Weekend** Warrior 27', sleeps 6-8, kitchen, bath, mini suite, cable TV, micro, appl., self-contained w/generator, $17,000. 504-834-1112

**'04 Celebrity** 5th Wheel, 40 foot, 3 slides, washer/dryer, excellent. Brooklyn, MS. Free delivery. $36,000 407-973-7107

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Crossroads** 30'TT, all alum, rear LR, queen, lg slide, like new. $25,000. 504-621-8327

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Aspen** 27' Travel Trailer, used 19 days escaping hurricanes, slide-out, built in entertainment ctr, presently located in a La-Place Campground, completely hooked-up, move-in ready, cable, phone avail, 20 mi from airport on Airline Hwy, $24,000. 504-738-0233

**'05 Fleetwood,** sleeps 6, fully contained, asking $15,000, 504-838-0396 or 504-957-6620

**'05 Sunny** Brook, 41ft, 5th Whl, 2 slides, gen., cargo area, loaded, $49,000, 504-915-1068

**'05 Trail** Bay Travel Trailer, 27' w/slideout, sleeps 6, barely used, $17,000. 504-329-5248 or 504-328-7500

**'06 JAYCO** 25' travel trlr. new, sleeps 6, slide out, $21,900. 504-831-8900, 504-453-4441

**'06 JAYCO** JAYFLIGHT 28RLS $23,800. Call 504-341-8555 or 504-234-6844.

**'85 Pace** Arrow 34 foot, sleeps 7, good condition, fully loaded, $15,900. Call 504-341-6406

**'86 Prevost** XL 96K 8V92 5SP Allison-15K Gen 5K inv All Elec New tires - $85,000. 858-755-3484

**'92 29ft** Prowler, pull behind, fully furnished, excellent condition. $10,500. 504-292-9924

**'93 Gulfstream** Conquest 102 Class C Motor Coach, slps 8, good cond, $21,500. 504-813-7880

**'94 Allegro** Bay 37 foot, super slide, washer/dryer, 33,000 orig. mi., $24,500. For more call 601-876-1837/601-876-4174

**'94 Winnebago** Brave 34 ft, w/ '90 Honda, tow bar. Sleeps 6, fridge, stove, queen bed, microwave, shower, cruise, 4.0 Onan gen., AM/FM/Cass, new muffler, exc. tires, & exc. cond. Car & RV $23,500. 202-418-2462/804-720-1462

**'96 Mountain** Aire By Newmar, 37.5 ft, slide out, multiple TVs, ACs & beds! Good tires, 61K miles, in exc cond! $39,900 obo 941-923-3421/1-888-325-2394

**'96 Nash** 24' Excellent Condition, New A/C, Bunk House Model, Sleeps 7, $12K 360-403-9873

**'96 Pace** Arrow Vision, $40,000/OBO. Please Call (504)628-4688 for info

**'97 Breadman,** 16x80, very good shape, some furniture and appliances come with it. Must Be Moved. $18,000. 985-796-1997

**'97 Coleman** Seapine travel trailer/pop-up new roof great condition. $3500. Call 504-469-2910, 504-481-3916

**'97 Jayco** Jay Series 1208 Pop-up, sleeps 8, garage kept, exc. cond. $4500, Call 504-577-3733 or 985-781-1517

**'97 LTD** ALPENLITE, 34', 5th Wheel, 2 slides, a/c, no smoke, dbl sink, full tub. $21,995. For pics: www.geocities.com/darlaharness. 870-365-9155

**'97 RV** 35' Gulfstream, Ford 460 26K Ex Cond. $37,000 Seattle Pay flight/gas 206-660-3238

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'98 Coachman** 29'Trailer $8500,1996 Jayco 26' $7500. Avail. now in Lafayette. Craig @ 817-572-4414

**'98 DUTCHMAN** 5th WHEEL CAMPER Excellent condition! Sleeps 6. Diningroom, Livingroom slide out. $17,000. If possible delivery for $1,000! 419-674-4313

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

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**90 Winnebago** Chieftain, 28', sleeps four, clean bed, AC/Heat, TV, refrigerator, freezer, oven, microwave. $12,000. 985-624-5076 or 985-264-9739

**Dewalt 4300** kw gen.$1,800; 3" Honda Pump $1600, Poulan c.saw $200 All new in box/delv to N.O. Craig 817-572-4414

**FLEETWOOD TERRY** DAKOTA 2003 - Fiberglass, Ultra light, great shape, $10,500. 504-270-6937

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

**RV For** rent! Sleeps 8, full bath, generator, AC, from $75/day, can deliver. 404-488-3282.

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'01 Honda** Shadow 600 Has everything, black with chrome, 60 mpg. $3000. Call 985-705-3995.

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags. $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

**'98 Yamaha** Blue 98 YZF-R-1. $4,000. Call 985-264-3116 or 985-246-1128.

## RESIDENCES FOR SALE

### 7505 Above Canal

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 504-343-6747 OBO Must sell

**Beautifully refinished** executive residence. No flood, on Melpomene. One-half of duplex, 1000 square feet. $240,000 unfurnished; $260,000 furnished. Call 225-769-8335. Agents protected

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**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

### 7508 Warehouse/CBD

**Newly renov,** 1bd/1ba condo Gated parking, EXC cond fitnes ctr $209,999 504-723-4141

### 7510 Below Canal

**1905 Marais** St. 3 BR, 1 BA, new paint and carpet, $89,000. Owner/agent. 201-736-4567

**1916 Marais** St. 3 BR, 1 BA, new paint and carpet, $92,800. Owner/Agent. 201-736-4567

**2141 Pauger** St. Gutted, ready, 1500 sq. ft., brick, $30,000. Owner/agent. 201-736-4567

### 7535 Mid City/City Park

**4923 IBERVILLE,** Tri-plex, 3BR owners. Gar. Cent A/H. Dry. $399K. L. Nugent RE 504-250-3364

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**LAKEVIEW High** Quality New Construction, Brick, Corner Lot. Approx 4000 sqft, 2 Car Gar, Pool/Sun-Dek, 1st Flr Flooded. Top Floor Perfect! Sold as is, $460,000.(previously valued at $760,000). 504-621-2001

### 7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**1521 Giuffrias,** updated, move in cond. 4br/2ba, extras. $329,000. Never Flooded. 504-835-8700.

**2 homes** in Kenner no flood, 4/2 updated w/crown thru out approx.2200 sq.ft. in driftwood (61 Nassau) will lease @ $1800.00 or sell @ $250k. 3yr. old 2-sty (4104 lowa ave.) open floor plan very contemporary. 5/3 with crown/ master jacuzzi/ open stairs/granite count/fireplace approx. 4200 sq. ft. $525k. call 504-237-3695 or 443-3695

**2 HOUSES** FOR SALE. High & Dry, from $165,000. 504-455-0049

**3 BR,** 2 BA Dry in Metairie, new kitchen w/ Silestone counters, new 30 yr. roof, ceramic t

HEALTH/SCIENCE

# Cervical cancer vaccine 100 percent effective

*Findings a result of two-year test*

**By Linda A. Johnson**
AP business writer

An experimental vaccine to prevent the most common forms of cervical cancer proved 100 percent effective in a two-year test on more than 10,000 girls and women, drug maker Merck & Co. says.

Merck is hoping to win Food and Drug Administration approval for the vaccine, Gardasil, and put it on the market as soon as late 2006. It would be the first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, a disease caused almost exclusively by a highly common sexually transmitted virus called the human papilloma virus, or HPV.

Doctors expect the vaccine to be routinely offered to girls — and boys, too, because they can spread the virus to their partners — before they become sexually active, though the practice is certain to run into opposition from conservatives and religious groups.

"I see this as a phenomenal breakthrough," said Dr. Gloria Bachmann, director of the Women's Health Institute at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers among women. It kills nearly 300,000 a year, including about 3,700 in the United States. About 20 million Americans have some form of HPV, which in addition to cervical cancer can cause painful genital warts.

The genetically engineered vaccine prevents cervical cancer by blocking infection from the two strains of HPV that cause 70 percent of all cases of the disease.

The study included 10,559 sexually active women ages 16 to 26 in the United States and 12 other countries who were not infected with either of the two virus strains, called HPV 16 and 18. Half got three vaccine doses over six months; half got dummy shots.

Among those still virus-free after the six months, none of those who received the vaccine developed either cervical cancer or precancerous lesions during two years of follow-up, compared with 21 of those who got dummy shots.

"To have 100 percent efficacy is something that you have very rarely," Dr. Eliav Barr, Merck's head of clinical development for the vaccine, said. "We're breaking out the champagne."

The study, which was financed by Merck, will be presented Friday at a meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

A second analysis showed that after just one dose, the vaccine was 97 percent effective. Barr said the 97 percent rate was more "real world," given that patients sometimes miss or delay follow-up shots.

Barr also noted that a small number of women in the study developed dangerous precancerous lesions caused by HPV types other than 16 and 18.

The immune system clears most HPV infections in a year or two, but several types of HPV can persist, cause cervical cancer or trigger other cancers in the genital area. There is no cure for HPV, but the cancers can be treated and an improved Pap test is catching more cases of cervical cancer before it spreads.

Bachmann said that to fight the disease, students would have to be vaccinated in high school, middle school, even elementary school, before they become sexually active.

Merck, hammered by slumping profits and facing roughly 5,000 lawsuits over its withdrawn painkiller Vioxx, is seeking to beat rival drug maker GlaxoSmithKline to market with the first cervical cancer vaccine.

GlaxoSmithKline still is enrolling patients in final-stage tests to determine whether its vaccine prevents cancer, and does not expect to have initial data until late next year. Spokeswoman Danielle Halstrom said earlier research showed it has a 100 percent success rate in blocking two virus strains, HPV 16 and 18.

The Merck vaccine was also found to reduce infection from two other HPV strains that cause 90 percent of genital warts cases.

Merck is continuing research on Gardasil and will soon report on four years of follow-up on the women in this latest study. The company also will explore whether the vaccine's effectiveness wanes over time. In addition, Merck has been studying Gardasil's effectiveness in boys 9 to 15.


The Times-Picayune

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**7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes**

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**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

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**DURANGO, COLORADO** Exceptional value. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, office, hobby room and 3 car garage. 2721 sq. ft. one level floor plan. Major appliances included. Located on 35 acres with stunning views. Only 11 miles from Durango. Constructed 2001. Horses allowed. $699,000. Call Thad at The Wells Group. Toll Free: 800-955-0259. Cell: 970-749-7103

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**FSBO Lockport** LA, High land + 10ft elevation! Furnished 2 story brick, 4BR/2BA, 2 kits, bsmt workshop + 2 car gar w/apt above, on 3/4 AC lot, $280,000. 985-532-2368 or 601-736-2056

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

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**Lafourche Parish,** 2500 sq. ft. home (carport) w/app. 900 square foot mother inlaw apt. on rear of property. (160'W x 193'D.) fenced yard w/conc. slab all around house, app. 900 sq. ft. 3 section garage. sewer treatment, central air/heat, quiet, crime free, older neighborhood in Raceland area. call (985) 209-2368 $159,000

**Residences for Sale**

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**7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.**

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**CBD, between** 4000-8000 sq ft, office in Arts district, classic structure, 504-931-0954

**Commercial Space** for temp relocation. 600-5,000 sqft. In Mandeville near hwy 59 & hwy 1088. 985-626-7608

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. (Collins Blvd). 985-871-0771 985-264-0620

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/ month. 985-867-9186

**Covington Office** space to rent. 1,250 sq.ft./$1500 mo. Triple Net. Highland Park Plaza. Beth or Larry 985-893-2104

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**Kenner Williams** Blvd. corner 39th St, 1150sf building, no water. Terms negot. 504-251-2105

**LULING 3,700** sq. ft., office/ multi-use for lease, $8.50/sq. ft. annually. Will build to suit. Please Call 985-785-1399 or 504-421-3311

**Mandeville office** space 22,000 square ft, grey carpet, central air, 5000 square ft open with no partition, glass enclosed on one side, plenty parking, state of art design, ready for occupancy. Terms negotiable. 3 miles from Causeway bridge. Jim 504-368-2404/504-390-1944

**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Immediately** available: Office space from 407 sq. ft. - 2,427 sq. ft., in the Wagner and Truax building. 2121 N. Causeway Blvd. Rates: $13.00 RSF - $14.50 RSF. Full service 2 year lease required. Call Agent 504-831-6694

**Commercial-Offices**

**7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices**

**NO FLOOD** ZONE! For Lease, Lacombe/Mandeville on Highway 190 West. All or Part, Build to Suite. 3 Acres, C2 Property, 400 Ft. Highway Frontage. 504-818-6233

**Office for** rent-Met. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013,opt1

**Office Williams** Blvd. 600 SF, $600, plenty of pking, Borngesser Realty Co. 504-454-0800

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**Rental property** in Prime Uptown area, Salon/Day Spa & equip. for sale, not flooded, low price. 970-946-0464

**River Ridge** LA, 2000 Sq Ft of commercial lease space avail. 7 miles from New Orleans CBD w/ commercial kitchen, showers, and lg parking area. $4750/mo + util. 504-390-7560

**ST. CHARLES** - Office space in Luling, 1,000 sq ft, previously used as a doctors office, 1 mile from I-310, 985-785-6221

**Up to** 4800 SQ FT Office Space Available near NO Intl. Airport. 504-712-9020

**7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.**

**Algiers Space** Available. Mobile Office, Container, Storage, Truck Yard. Utilities Available 504-394-STOR or 985-652-2771

**Kenner 3600** sq. ft., 3 offices, 2 overhead doors, Williams/Veterans area. Warehouse R.E. Co. 504-831-4380

**METAIRIE COMMERCIAL** WAREHOUSE Great Location! No Damage. High & Dry. 504-400-6799

**METAIRIE PRIME** WAREHOUSE - with office & bath, 10'x'10' ent. door, approx 1450 sq ft, water paid, $950/mo. 504-723-0657

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

**Warehouse space** for rent. 3,000; 4,000; & 5,000 sq. ft. dry storage available. Louisiana & Tchoupitoulas neighborhood. Call (504)628-4688.

**7730 Miscellaneous**

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**COVINGTON LC1** approx .0653 ACs, off Hwy 190, in growing area, $250,000, 504-347-1509

**GARAGE FOR** RENT 500 Square foot. $200/mo. Metairie Area. Call 504-858-9770

**MONEY TO** LEND! Commercial Mortgages. 504-610-2169

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

**7735Investment Property**

**Metairie, 2** Doubles and 2 Singles $550,000. Please call 504-834-1459.

**NEW ORLEANS/METAIRIE,** Selling multiple invest prop., 4 plexes, 6 plexes, etc. 504-250-7116

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

**7737Waterfront Property**

**10 Acres** on Silver Creek. Hill Top View, Lots of Trees, Unbelievable site and location. 12 miles from Franklinton and 30 miles North of Covington. 1000 feet of Road Frontage and 600 feet of Creek Frontage. Must See To Believe! Make Offer. 985-839-0046 or 225-278-2374

**BARATARIA, LA** Land Lease 5252 Privateer Blvd, zoned u, cleared/dry, $1000/mo 504-340-3158

**7740 Acreage/ Farm & Timberland**

**CLARK COUNTY,** MS. 120 Acres, excellent hunting. Call 601-271-7720 for more information

**SOUTH MARION** COUNTY MS 158 acres, 2 small ponds, located approx. 85 miles North of New Orleans. 10 acres in pines, fronts 2 blacktop roads, exc deer hunting, excellent home sites. $5000/ acre. Please call 601-736-7954, 601-519-7175

**Real Estate For Sale**

**7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots**

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

**7770 Jefferson Lots**

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**C-1 LOT.** Just off Veterans. High & dry, 50'x150', 740 Phosphor, $350K cash. 504-458-6927

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**HARAHAN CONDO** Renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 BA. $175,000. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**RIVER RIDGE** - 66'x93', dead end street, 504-737-1326

**7780 West Bank Lots**

**Harvey, corner** of 23rd & Tallow Tree. 70ft x 140ft, good for Home, Apt, etc. 504-733-2251

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

**7790 North Shore Lots**

**5 ACRE** Wooded lot with rolling hills, approx 200 feet above sea level, $9500 per acre. Call 504-975-5292

**ABITA SPRINGS** 10 lots for sale, 25x100 feet. $4500. each, call 504-329-8989

**ABITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**COVINGTON AREA** 200x260 corner lot, cleared, bridge over lagoon, well, 2 fountains and rock waterfall, $120,000. Call 985-966-6742

**MADISONVILLE like** new, 4 BR, 2 BA, + ofc, too many extras, $235K, by appt, Open House 10/8, 10am-4pm, 985-792-5534

**OLD LANDING/COVINGTON** 136 ft on deep Tchefuncte River, $290,000. 985-626-9130

**PEARL RIVER** .75 acre, Sewer and well, fenced with large workshop. $30,000. 504-975-2903

**7795 River Parish Lots**

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

**Lot for** sale 75 x 116 Evangeline Rd. in Montz St. Charles Parish $65,000 cleared and filled. Please call 985-307-0099 or 504-666-0468

**7800 Mississippi Lots**

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

**Pearl River** County, Hickory Ridge Sub-division, large lot. $18,000. 601-799-2055

**7805 Miscellaneous Lots**

**MADISONVILLE High** and Dry. 2+ acres, $100,000. Please call 985-845-7209

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

**7810 Mobile Home Lots**

**LOTS FOR** RENT! NEW PARK - WESTBANK. Please Call (504)201-6320

**7840 Wanted to Purchase**

**CASH Storm** damaged prop, Comm'l, homes, land. Fair prices, quick closings 1-877-355-7253

**I BUY** FLOODED HOMES AS IS IN JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, AND ST. TAMMANY PARISH. CALL 985-674-5363, 504-908-6635

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. For more info, call 1-877-893-1799

**7860 Other States**

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2 + brdm, Fullgaming Bsmnt, Hottub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all, includes all season cabin. New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229K Call 480-866-0954 Owner.

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2+ bedroom, Fullgaming Basement, Hot tub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all,includes all season cabin.New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229,000. Call 480-688-0954 Owner.

**RENTALS FURNISHED**

**7905 Real Estate Mgmt.**

**French Quarter** Realty open for business, properties for sale or lease. Call 225-933-6042

**7915 Above Canal**

**FRENCH QUARTER** High/Dry Condo, Furnished, 1 BR, 1 BA for lease. Avail now! $1500 per mo. or fsbo $220,000. Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**UPTOWN 1** and 2 bdrm apts furn/unfurn, water incl. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**UPTOWN 1** bedroom, never flooded, near park, $1,500/ month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN 2** bedroom, dry, near Audubon Park, $2,000/month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN dbl,** great nghbrhd. Flood survivor! 1,900 sf. Hardwood flrs, shed, near streetcar, $300K. 917-501-8915.

**UPTOWN Victorian** home, 2 bedroom apartment, no flooding, $2,500/month. 225-474-3589

**7917 Below Canal**

**French Quarter** 4 stories/condos and office space. Ground floor business, 1400 SF, 2nd floor condo 1600 SF, 3rd floor condo 1500 SF, 4th floor condo 1400 SF, patio, balconies. 1 block from river, 10 blocks to Canal St. Prefer to lease entire building. All condos furn. at this time. Jim 504-368-2404 504-390-1944

**French Quarter** 5 star luxury 1 and 2 bedroom suites, pool, spa, Internet, business services. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717/www.ruedumaine.com

**7960 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)**

**KENNER/METAIRIE Housing** for working crews, dorm style, kitchen, washer/dryer, with or w/o 2 possible hot meals, space avail for up to 100 people. Reasonable rates. 504-712-6918

**7965 West Bank**

**CORPORATE/EXEC Completely** furn. home for rent, now, 4 BR, 3 BA, 4000sf, gated subd., maid srvc., $8000/mo. Agent 504-393-7690

**NEAR AVONDALE,** Rooms for rent, TV & cable, share kit and bath. $125/wk & up. 504-430-4610

**7970Mandeville/Covington**

**ABITA SPRINGS** Great displacement rental, 3 br, 2 ba on 3.5 ac, $1200/mo, completely furn w/satellite, short term avail. Nice house only 10 mi from I-12. Chuck 985-789-5188

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

**COVINGTON -** 3 rooms avail, short term, mo/mo, furnished. Call 504-952-6771 for details

**8015 Country**

**FOLSOM Almost** new 4 bedroom trailer, furnished, $2000/ mo. plus deposit, available Oct. 15th, Please Call 985-373-5094

**NORTHSHORE 1500** square feet, fully furnished, 1 hour, 50 minutes from New Orleans, non-smoking, no inside pets. $1600/ month. 504-712-9024

**8030 Rooms**

**Algiers 2** vacant furnished rooms. Price negotiable. Call 504-975-8342

**Saint Rose** Furnished room, includes all, $125/week, Call for details 504-452-9818

**8045 Miscellaneous**

**Above/Below Canal,** Luxury french quarter & Garden District Apts. All newly renov., many amenities, many have pvt balconies & patios, 504-529-7662

**Colorado Backcountry** Realty www.pjdrei.com 719-221-3137

**ROOMMATES**

**8050 Rentals to Share**

**Covington Furnished.** roommate wanted. Call after 5pm 504-329-3588

**RENTALS UNFURNISHED**

**8062 Above Canal**

**920 Peniston** - 3 rms, bath & kit, fenced yd; 4512 Pitt - LR & DR, 2 BR, w/d, cent a/h. Both hardwood flrs, 504-899-5481

**ABOVE CANAL** High/Dry Apts, 1BR, quiet, above Nap, 1 blck off St.Chrls, no pets. $700-+/mo, 12 mo. lease. 504-458-3554

**Near Magazine** St. Efficiency $425 or 1 bedroom, $525. Furnished kitchen, W/D. No dogs. Lease/dep. 504-831-4454

**UNIV. AREA** #15 Cromwell, 5 bdrm/3 BA, gar., $2200, upper, 4 bdrm/2 BA, $2000. 504-391-8292

**Uptown Condo** 2 bed/2 1/2 baths. Office w/wirelss. Furn. $2000/mo. 504/289-3361

**UPTOWN One** and two BR apartments avail. recent renovations, Please Call 504-722-9606

**UPTOWN-High/Dry, 1108** Felicity, 2 bedroom. 910 Washington, 1 bedroom, pet ok. 504-237-1739

**8063 Warehouse/CBD**

**1205 Charles** Ave. 1 bedroom, 1 year lease, Building has been totally renovated recently, fitness center, secure parking & pool. $1450/month. Mr. Pont 305-773-7739

**MARIGNEY 3** BR furn. home for rent on Burgundy St, $2650 util. incl, lrg. Victorian beautiful home. 619-548-4697

**8090 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)**

**421 N** BENGAL RD 3 Br, 1 Ba, never flooded, great shape, cent A/C, $1500/Mo, 504-717-5704

**8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway**

**2 bedroom,** 1 bath House, near Ochsner, $800 per month Call for details @ 504-835-2897

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

**Old Metairie** 500 square foot apartment, 1BR, 1BA, never flooded, $850/month. 504-258-2768

**8102 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)**

**KENNER -** Chateau Lakefront, 25 Clevner Dr, 4 BR, 2 BA, updated, new floors, no flooding, corporations welcome, immediate occupancy, call for details, 504-231-7961 or 504-464-1883

**8104 West Bank**

**ALGIERS Parc** Fontaine, gated, 1 BR, $700/month plus deposit. 504-398-1111

**Algiers Pt,** 3 BR 2.5 BA, 2700 sq. ft, all services, $3500/mo incl. utilities. 504-813-9234

**GRETNA, 3** BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $850. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $700, stove, A/C & hkups. 504-340-3158

**MARRERO Rent** to own, 3 BR/2 BA home, 2708 Bayou Cane Dr, $990 mo./dn. pymt. 1-866-298-4711

**Ready to** move in to, $1,100 and up. Call Sidney, 504-388-6788. Owner/agent

**RHONE PROPERTIES** Marrero 3 BR, 2 bath, 2008 James Dr, $650. Gretna, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2531 Huey P Long, $900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1711 Weyer St, $850. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2413 Claire Ave, $600. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2801 Huey P Long, $475. NO PETS. VISA & M/C. 504-366-2604

**TRAILER In** Lafitte. 2BR, 1BA, stove, washer, dryer. $500 + $500 deposit. 504-689-4435

**WEST BANK** 2, 3, and 4 BR houses, from $800-$1500/mo. Email: drivas1234@aol.com.

**8106Mandeville/Covington**

**BUSH 3BR,** 2.5BA house, 8 acres, small stables, pets ok. $1200/ month. Call 318-251-2857

**COVINGTON 2700** sq ft home, pool, 4BR, 3BA, open floor plan, frpl, 2 car gar, upscale gated comm, excellent location, $3000/ mo. Avail in 2-3 weeks, 1 year lease. 985-892-5982, 612-360-5980 or 985-871-7535

**COVINGTON Live** by the TCH, 1850sq ft living area, $1500/mo. 504-858-7773/985-809-1146

**MAND. Lg** Bd,Lg Ba, Hardwood Flrs, 12.5' Ceiling w/Fans, Pvt Ent, $600 + Util. 985-705-6720

**MANDEVILLE 2** BR/1.5 BA townhouse, year lease, $750 mo./dep. req, avail now. 504-343-8513

**MANDEVILLE 4** BR, 2.5 BA, great schools, shopping, close to causeway, Green Leaves sub-division, $3000/mo. 985-845-8158

**Rentals Unfurnished**

**8106Mandeville/Covington**

**MANDEVILLE 4BR,** 2BA, Marigny Trace Subdivision, great schools. $2300/month. 985-626-8232

**MANDEVILLE Mark** Anthony Salon has a 12X12 room for rent with a private hall and bathroom. Perfect for massage setting or a business that would compliment a salon atmosphere, Please Call 985-727-3332

**8116 Gulf Coast**

**Panama City** FL rental; 3/2 $1500 mo unfur plus util, furn 1 br private studio apt all util furn'd $700 mo, Furn beach beauty w/ antiques $1395 mo. plus util 850-819-8067

**8125 Mobile Homes**

**BIG BRANCH** 25584 Chestnut Street, 3 BR, 2 BA, trailer for rent, $800. call 504-329-8989

**8150 Rentals Wanted**

**Housing Needed** for constr. workers. Will do needed repairs, including major work. 901-331-3091

**Lot or** acreage needed to build tent city in New Orleans area. Approximately 100 tents. Must have water access. 901-331-3091

**Needed Lot** to rent to place tents for Temporary workers. Express Stafing. Please call 901-542-9900

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**8540 BMW**

**'00, 323C1,** Premium Package, Garage Kept, 72,000 miles. No Water. $14,900. 504-834-7373

**'04, M3,** Very clean, nice car, loaded, too much to list, low miles, must sell, moving. Call 985-966-3765 or 228-669-0432

**8550 Buick**

**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

**8560 Cadillac**

**'98 STS,** Black/Black, loaded, $6000/OBO. No Flood Damage! 985-764-6059/504-427-7966

**8570 Chevrolet**

**'02 Malibu** no flood, pl, ps, extras, $8995. Call 504-234-2294

**'05 Monte** Carlo, white, 3.4 V6 engine, alum rims, power all, warranty, $16,000. 504-340-9997/504-250-2997

**8580 Chrysler**

**'04 PACIFICA** 27,000 miles, excellent condition, fully loaded. Entertainment system. $21,000. 504-606-4300

**'96 CONCORD** 4 door, V6, auto, air, $3490. 4701 Jefferson Hwy. 504-736-0685.

**1999 CONCORDE** Lxi 88K, White, tan leather, loaded, clean. $8000. 318-388-2719

**8620 Ford**

**'02 MUSTANG** GT, 17K miles, A.R. Rims, Falcon Tires, Flow Master, $16,500. 504-451-2858

**'02 Mustang** GT, mineral gray, 22000 miles, 5 spd, exhaust, $18,000 obo, 504915-5400

**'05 Focus** Willing to sell for payoff. Husband in Iraq. $14,000. Call 504-909-1081

**8630 Honda**

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'95 Ford** Taurus, Only $595, For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

**8638 Infiniti**

**'05 G35** 4 DR, 17000 miles. Blue $31,000. High and Dry. Please Call (504)416-3770

**8650 Jaguar**

**'01 S** TYPE 4.0 Jaguar, 54,000 miles, Dark Red, $20,000. Call 504-736-0690 ext 114

**'03 Jaguar** XJ8, 49K miles, silver, loaded, exc condition, ext. warranty until 8/08 or 85K miles. $30,500, 504-415-0550

**8665 Lexus**

**'93 ES300** pearl, 183K miles, New AC, CV joints and Brakes. Very dependable. $4000. 985-705-2340

**Automotive**

**8690 Mazda**

**03' Protege,** 40,000 miles, sunroof, 6-Disc CD, $11,000. (985)951-9775

**95 Mazda** 626 Es, V6, leather, 78K miles, Covington.$3500/ OBO Please call (504)237-7042

**8710 Mercedes-Benz**

**'99 CLK** 430, Blk/Blk, Exc Cond, 79K mis. No Flood Damage! $25K. 985-764-6059/504-427-7966

**'99 E320,** Blk/Grey Leather, Loaded, No Flood Damage. $18,500. 504-621-6855 or 504-259-1030

**8720 Mercury**

**'95 COUGAR** A/C, Automatic, V8, did not flood. Good Cond 94,000 miles. $3495. 504-908-6635

**'96 Cougar** XR-7 Coupe 2D. 169,400 miles. $3000. Excel. cond. 985-674-2135 or cell 985-264-1737, Mandeville.

**8732 Mitsubishi**

**'05 Eclipse** RMX 6 disc, lthr, sunroof, 4cyl. 3K mi, $18,000/negotiable. 504-912-1888

**8780 Pontiac**

**'99 SUNFIRE** SE auto, air, 2 door, red w/ spoiler, 82K mi $3590 4701 Jefferson Hwy 736-0685

**8820 Saab**

**'99 Saab** 9-3 4dr a/t loaded car from North Alabama $7995 (601)551-7227

**8823 Saturn**

**'99 SC2** 51000 miles, 5 speed, never been wet, $6,000, 337-344-2353 or 337-989-5231

**8840 Toyota**

**'02 Camry** LE Great cond, silver, 54,200 mi., no flood damage, $13000. 504-782-3131

**8860 Volvo**

**'99 Volvo** V70 65k, White, lthr, CD, alloys, non-smkr, perfect, stored inside, $10,500/obo. 504-393-8110

**8870 Under $2,000**

**'94 Jeep** Cherokee, Only $600. For Listings Please Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

**POLICE IMPOUNDS** from $500! For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension 2172

**8872 $2,000 - $5,000**

**'99 Dodge** Grand Caravan, good condition, $4000. Please Call 985-871-9595

**8880 Miscellaneous**

**'87 Winnebago** Chieftan 27', only 43K mi. Sleeps 4+, Nice. $12,500. 319-230-2034

**45 New** & used Travel Trailers, ready to deliver. Atwood Trailer Service: 1-800-310-4994

**CARS CARS** & MORE CARS all under $1900. 4701 Jefferson Highway, Call 504-736-0685.

**Need a** Car!! Let Auto Negotiator take the hassle out of buying your next vehicle! 504-919-7108 for Prices. Locally owned & oper. Fully Lic. & Ins.

**8900 Antique/Classic**

**'41 Chevy** Pickup, ready for rebuild. $3,500. Please call 504-214-2762

**8915 Pickup Trucks**

**'00 Silverado** 5.3 extended cab, $13,350, Call for information 985-783-2165

**'01 Ford** F150 Ext cab, two tone red/sil, AC, CD, Tow pkg, & more. 123,000 mis, very good cond. Ready to drive, no work needed. $10,500. 985-290-3454.

**'01 Ram** 1500 SWB, 68k auto,TX Tk,$6995 avail now in Lafayette 817-572-4414

**'03 Chevy** Avalanche white 68000 miles, runs great, $18000 OBO, 225-673-9609

**'90 Chevy** Silverado Reliable/ Runs Great! V8/Auto, Bedliner , A/C, 60K on engine. Only $3800. 504-460-6401

**'93 CHEVROLET** S-10, 5 speed, 82K miles, great condition, $2500. Call: 985-892-9122.

**'95 GMC** Ext Cab, No Flood Damage, Great work Truck! $3699. 504-228-4423

**'95 RAM** 1500 Laramie SLT Club Cab, V8 auto air, 85K, $5500 4701 Jefferson Hwy 504-736-0685

**Automotive**

**8915 Pickup Trucks**

**2001 Ford** F150 Super Crew Lariat 5.4L V8, tow pkg, bedlnr-cvr, allpwr, 60K mis, w/dilvr, $19995. 321-693-7102

**8920Sport Utility Vehicles**

**'00 Explorer** XLT 49K mint GOLD V8 10,300.(504)832-1106. Missed hurricane.

**'00 Ford** Explorer 2 Door Sport 108,000 miles, Auto, No Flood! $6300/OBO. 504-756-6425

**'00 Ford** Explorer E.B. 62K, 4dr, loaded, clean, exc cond, $13500. Elizabeth 504-473-6114

**'02 GMC** Envoy 60K mi, Never Flooded. Blk, Loaded, Leather. $15,900/OBO. 985-307-0940

**'98 Ford** Explorer XLT 146k mi, V6, auto, all power, green. $3900 985-875-9868

**'98 Ford** Explorer XLT, 65k miles, great condition with ext warranty. $7000. 504-417-2649

**'01 

# AFTER THE STORM

## LOUISIANA DEATH TOLL
**988**

**783 ARE AT THE MORGUE IN ST. GABRIEL**
Parish breakdown:
Ascension – 9
Assumption – 3
East Baton Rouge – 72
Iberia – 6
Jefferson – 30
Lafourche – 2
Livingston – 5
Plaquemines – 3
St. Charles – 8
St. Tammany – 7
Tangipahoa – 26
Terrebonne – 19
West Baton Rouge – 3

## POWER
Entergy electricity outages
Louisiana: 192,500*
*Including 156,300 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.
Percentage of Entergy customers in the metropolitan New Orleans area without power
Jefferson Parish 1%
Plaquemines Parish 68%
Orleans Parish 59%
St. Bernard Parish 100%

## POSTAL SERVICE
At least partial street delivery has been returned to Algiers and Jefferson Parish.
70115 mail can be picked up at the Uptown station, 2000 Louisiana Ave.
70118 and 70125 mail is available at the Carrollton station, 3400 S. Carrollton Ave.
Both sites are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
70112, 70113, 70116, 70119 and 70130 post office box, residential and business mail may be picked up at at the New Orleans Postal Annex located at Julia and La Salle streets, which will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For now, only first-class letters and packages will be delivered into the New Orleans region.
Residents of Plaquemines Parish can retrieve mail from a mobile post office at 9419 Louisiana 23 in Belle Chasse.
St. Bernard mail is expected to be available next week at a mobile unit in Covington.

## PARISH BY PARISH
**ORLEANS**
▶ Homeowners and businesses owners can return to all areas of the city except the Lower 9th Ward.
▶ The Red Cross has set up feeding and bulk distribution of water and ice. Cleanup and comfort kits are available at the following sites as are feedings, including carry-away evening meals:
—Municipal Auditorium parking lot
—A.L. Davis Park, Washington at Simon Bolivar
— Freret Street parking lot, Jena at Freret
— Esplanade at St. Claude/North Rampart
— Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
— Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
— Fox playground, Algiers
— Cut-off playground, Algiers
▶ Water on the east bank of New Orleans west of the Industrial Canal has been declared safe to drink by the state Department of Health and Hospitals. There is still a boil-water order in effect for the east bank of the city east of the Industrial Canal.
▶ Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Foundation Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at Touro Infirmary, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred Hospital.

**JEFFERSON**
▶ Both the east and west banks are open to residents.
▶ The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
▶ The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6000, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ 911 phone system is back on line.
▶ For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
▶ A parishwide curfew is in effect from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**ST. BERNARD**
▶ Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
▶ All parish areas open. People will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents.
▶ A dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES**
▶ Parish open from Alliance north to parish line. Traffic is not allowed beyond Alliance or north of Scarsdale.
▶ Some parts of parish still without power.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ Utilities are working.

**ST. CHARLES**
▶ Parish is open.
▶ Utilities are working.

## FOR HELP
▶ American Red Cross (800) 975-7585
▶ Red Cross relief sites open in Baton Rouge, Mandeville, Kenner
— Baton Rouge area:
Bellemont Great Hotel - 7370 Airline Highway
North Park Recreation Center - 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs
— Mandeville:
Pelican Park (Sunday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.)
- Kenner:
Airline Drive near Lesan Drive (daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.)
▶ FEMA
28 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation in Louisiana. They are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice. For more information, log onto www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362; a list of centers can be found at http://www.fema.gov/rrr/open-drcs.shtm#Louisiana
▶ Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
▶ Two crisis hotlines are open: (800) 273-TALK and (800) 749-COPE.
▶ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing temporary roof repairs. Call (888) 766-3258 for more information.

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MORGAN CITY
Acadian Smart Phones
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The Times-Picayune

METRO

SECTION B

2

Friday
October 7, 2005

DEATHS • B-9
EDITORIALS • B-10



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

# Strange world of life at shelters

In this place, you find chairs and cots, playground equipment and a public school, the laughter of children and the alarming sight of men carrying large automatic rifles.

This place is the River Center, one of the many Baton Rouge area shelters for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

The sight of heavily armed soldiers walking around and between the rows of cots where people eat, sleep, play and dream is strange and problematic.

"It's devastating. A lot of the kids, they are afraid of the soldiers. It's intimidating," said Albert "Chui" Clark, a shelter resident who lived in the Faubourg Treme before the hurricane.

"Psychologically, it's no different than when they go through the neighborhood and they see an individual pull a gun," Clark said.

## Reports exaggerated

In the early days after Hurricane Katrina, with the bandits and looters of New Orleans took center stage, it might as well have seemed to the world that we were a lawless people, incapable of behaving well even under dire circumstances.

Since then, a truer picture has emerged. The number of murders, rapes, shootings and stabbings were grossly exaggerated in the early media reports. Yet it seems this negative image of our city and its people remains embedded in the national mind.

Residents of the River Center are forced to wear plastic wrist bands. While these may assist officials in determining who belongs in the shelter and who does not, it also makes it easy for folks around Baton Rouge to separate "regular" citizens from shelter residents.

"It stigmatizes you,'" Clark said, echoing the sentiments of other shelter residents. "It singles you out as 'one of those people,' one of those people who have been associated with those hoodlums from New Orleans."

## Security measure

Shelter authorities contend that they mean no offense.

"The guidelines we are going by are what was sent by Louisiana, Louisiana's request," said Maj. Richard Shackleford of the Kentucky National Guard.

"Louisiana requested our presence from the state of Kentucky and this is what we deployed with, and this is what we keep.

"That decision doesn't come from my level. If they say to us, 'okay, you will not carry that weapon any more,' then that's the order we would follow."

"The wrist band really acts as a security measure and an identification measure for shelter residents," said Julia Ann Easley, a supervisor with the American Red Cross.

"We have heard those concerns and we have recommended to shelter residents that they could get some gauze from our medical clinic and wrap the band in gauze while they are outside. Or they can wear a long sleeve shirt."

Let's see if I have this straight: In addition to losing their homes, their livelihoods, their neighborhoods and their lives as they knew them, it seems shelter residents are now being advised to abandon the age old wisdom that dictates short sleeve shirts in 90 degree heat.

That's a lot to give up.

• • • • • •

Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at elietp@gmail.com.

# Pump workers' evacuation angers Jeff residents

*Officials ordered them out before Katrina*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

A sense of outrage and disbelief is growing in Jefferson Parish at the decision by Parish President Aaron Broussard's administration to evacuate drainage pump operators the day before Hurricane Katrina flooded southeast Louisiana on Aug. 29, according to extensive interviews with residents this week.

They are frustrated that they didn't know of the plan beforehand, stunned that the pump operators weren't returned to their posts for more than 24 hours and anxious that parish officials have been slow, in their view, to justify the decision in light of the ensuing destruction.

But mostly they are mad.

"This wasn't an act of God. It was an act of stupidity, and we're the little guys now stuck between the parish and the insurance companies," said Danny Callahan of Metairie. "We are the ones who have to pay for the decisions politicians make.

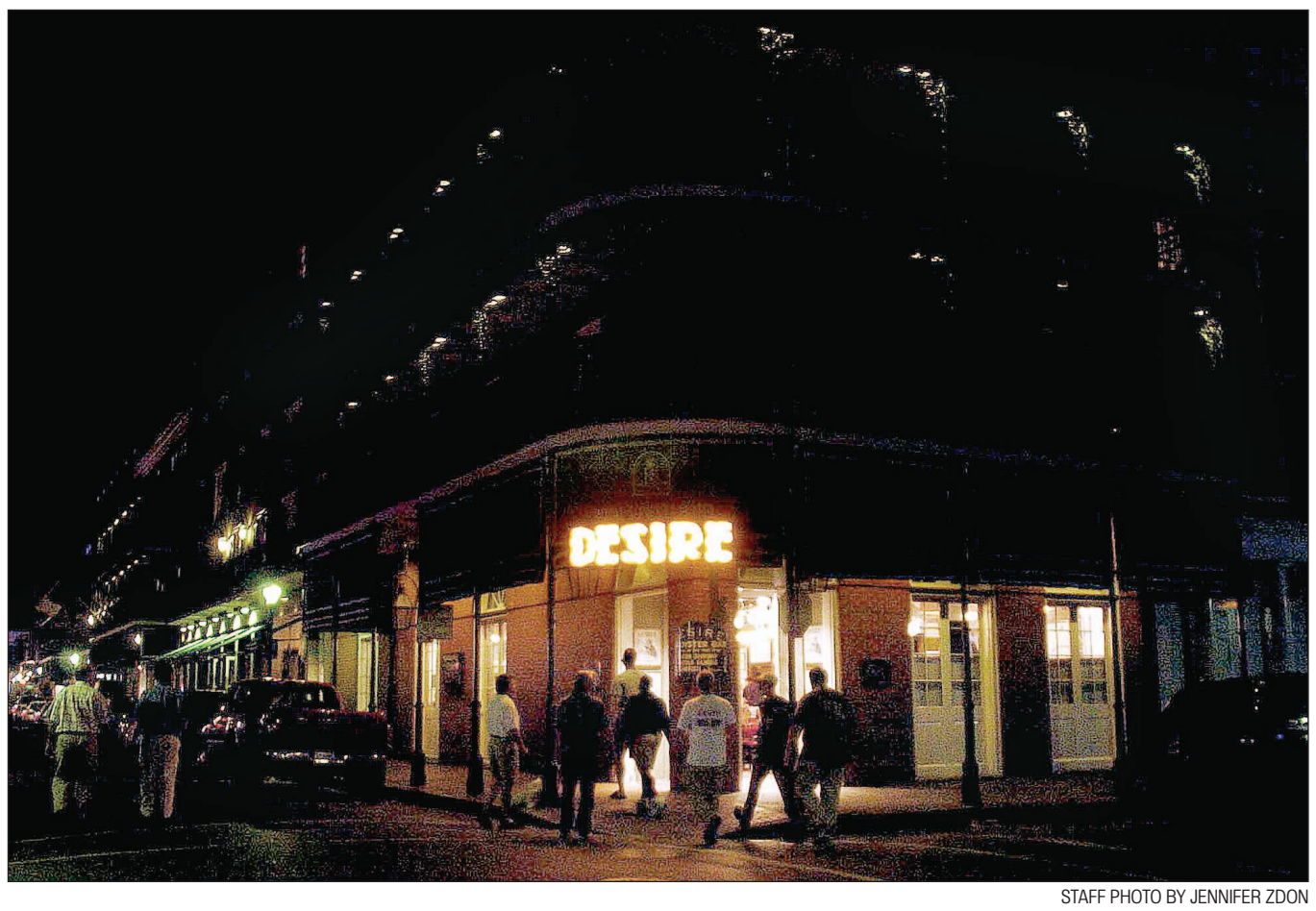
"Higher insurance rates, deductibles, financial ruin. I don't want any politician deciding what they think is best for me. When he pays the mortgage on my house or takes my place in filing for bankruptcy, then he can make the decisions."

Administration officials say they still are analyzing data on the hurricane and its effects, and that the full implications of the decision won't be known for some time.

But in general, they say Jefferson's drainage systems were never designed to withstand a storm as furious as Katrina, and that the decision to evacuate the pump operators was intended to save the lives of employees who would be unlikely to survive a Category 4 or 5 hurricane in stations built to Category 3 standards at best. Moving the operators to safety, in this case to Washington Parish, ensured they would live to pump out the floodwater quickly after

*See* **PUMPS,** *B-3*

# Curfew now midnight in N.O.'s 'open' areas




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Most of the lights were off at the Royal Sonesta on Bourbon Street on Tuesday after 8 p.m., but many people still roamed the French Quarter after curfew. New Orleans police said Thursday that the curfew's start had been rolled back to midnight.

*Earlier time was spottily enforced*

**By Michelle Krupa**
Staff writer

In a move that could bolster commerce by allowing businesses to remain open later, the New Orleans Police Department said late Thursday the nighttime curfew for "open" areas of the city has been pushed back from 8 p.m. to midnight. Streets still will stayed closed until 6 a.m.

Capt. Marlon Defillo, the department's spokesman, said "open" areas of the city include Uptown, the Garden District, the Central Business District and the French Quarter. Other parts of town, including Lakeview, Mid-City, Gentilly and eastern New Orleans would remain under an 8 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew, with access to the Lower 9th Ward still completely restricted. Algiers had no curfew, he said.

*See* **CURFEW,** *B-3*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

On Wednesday, crowds remain inside The Living Room long after the then-existing 8 p.m. curfew.

# Algiers charter school plan gets good grades

*Financially, it may be the only way to go*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

A plan to charter all 12 New Orleans public schools in Algiers could be the only way to get them open, School Board Vice President Lourdes Moran said, noting the district's grim financial picture following the storm.

While it's too early to tell what the district's financial future holds, Moran said, it's also possible that more charters could be considered on the city's east bank. "It's a good possibility if we're really concerned about our children and education and rebuilding New Orleans," she said, but emphasized that her plan is focused only on the West Bank.

Meantime, the West Bank chartering plan seeks to have schools open in November and available to returning students all across the city, much the same as a plan by the district. Damage assessments show eight schools on the West Bank can accept students, allowing capacity of up to 7,111, depending on student interest. So far, 1,800 students have said they plan to return, district officials said.

While the district is not broke, Sajan George, the chief operating officer installed in the district by turnaround firm Alvarez & Marsal, said $50 million in bonds the district won state approval to sell before the storm now cannot be issued because the tax revenue backing them has all but disappeared.

*See* **CHARTER,** *B-2*

# NOPD investigation of Cadillac cops may involve brass

*Dozens may have fled in 'commandeered' cars*

**By James Varney and Walt Philbin**
Staff writers

Acting New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley said Thursday that as many as 40 officers from the department's 3rd District, including the commanding captain, are "under scrutiny" for possibly bolting the city in the clutch and heading to Baton Rouge in Cadillacs from a New Orleans dealership.

"It is a subject that is under review," Riley said, stopping short of saying he has launched a formal investigation. Asked if Capt. Donald Paisant, who replaced Capt. James Scott as the 3rd District commander, was a part of that review, Riley said, "Certainly the commander of that district is under scrutiny."

Last week, after reports surfaced that the Louisiana attorney general's office was investigating the alleged theft of about 200 cars from Sewell Cadillac Chevrolet, possibly by NOPD officers, Riley revealed his

*See* **CARS,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Acting New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley on Thursday repeated his promise to hold police officers accountable if they are found to have fled town in vehicles from a local Cadillac dealership.

# Schools may be eligible for federal grant money

CHARTER, *from B-1*

Before the storm, he warned the board repeatedly that the district would "run out of money by September" if the bonds did not go through.

To open those first few schools on its own, George said, the district is relying on the state to continue paying Orleans the $16 million a month they received based on enrollment before the storm. The federal government also has to approve the district's use of $67 million in project-specific grants for other purposes so it can weather its fiscal crisis, he said.

"I don't know what kind of local monies are going to come into this district," Moran said. "The sales tax is dried up, and I don't know what really happens to the (property) taxes."

The charter movement is primarily motivated, Moran said, by a desire to access part of a $20.9 million federal grant to create new charter schools and expand and repair existing ones. That grant assures that a group of newly chartered schools would be financially stable, Moran said.

Although School Board President Torin Sanders, who has been opposed to charter schools, said it was too early to comment on the plan, he also did not appear to rule it out.

"The whole nature and intent of charters pre-Katrina and post-Katrina may be totally different," he said. "Post-Katrina we have to consider all options."

Moran said interim Superintendent Ora Watson seemed to support the idea when she first pitched it about two weeks ago, but Watson could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Charter schools are independently run by community leaders and free from many laws typically governing public schools, allowing them to establish their own curriculum and set their own schedules. Charters are subject to state accountability standards and laws, however, and each is governed by a board of directors.

Although charter schools typically are not beholden to large labor organizations, Moran said she is willing to work with the United Teachers of New Orleans.

"The teachers union can play a role," she said. "I don't want this to be seen that I'm trying to shut people out."

The current version of her plan calls for the School Board to serve on the charter board overseeing the West Bank schools at first, with members eventually rotating off and being replaced by members of the community in Algiers, Moran said.

The plan needs approval from the School Board or, failing that, approval from the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Moran said she was unsure whether she would be ready to bring the issue up for a vote at today's School Board meeting, scheduled for noon in the New Orleans City Council chambers.

Rep. Jim Tucker, R-Algiers, said a study resolution he and Rep. Jeff Arnold, D-Algiers, passed during the last legislative session in Baton Rouge already had them beginning to put together a group set to explore whether West Bank schools should break off from the New Orleans Public School system. That effort was put on hold, he said, when Moran approached him late last month about her chartering plan.

The idea was pitched to about 20 community, business and religious leaders at a Wednesday meeting in Algiers led by Tucker, since Moran was required to be in Houston for her job.

City Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson, who represents Algiers, said a strong charter school system on the West Bank "could literally set the standard for the way the rest of the system goes."

Algiers resident Eileen Wrigley said she'd likely to see the schools chartered if only so they could be wrested from the control of the School Board. "I have no respect for their ability to run a school system," she said.

The Rev. Arthur Wadsworth, of Mount Pilgrim Fourth Baptist Church, said studies of charter schools' effectiveness offer conflicting information.

"I do think public schools work. Look at St. Tammany. Look at Edna Karr," he said, referring to the high-performing district high school in Algiers. "I'm just saying, 'Be careful. Be very careful.'"

Tucker emphasized that the charter schools would be all-inclusive. "The typical reaction is that charter schools are elitist," he said. "That is not the kind of system anyone is talking about."

Moran also tried to allay fears that students with behavioral problems would be ejected from the charter schools after Oct. 1, when schools typically receive state money based on enrollment. Allegations have cropped up in the past that other charters have done that, she said.

"We keep talking about a clean slate," Moran said. "Well, this is a clean slate. It frees up the schools from all the board policies which contradict each other, which people have not familiarized themselves with over the years, and it gives us an opportunity to implement new programs that are out there."

BESE member Leslie Jacobs said charters might be the best option for the troubled district in the world after Katrina.

"When you have a damaged home, at some point you have to sit back and assess whether it makes more sense to build anew rather than renovate," she said. "If it's two feet of water, you can renovate. If it's eight feet of water, you likely have to rebuild, and this district has been under water for a very long time."

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Steve Ritea can be reached at sritea@hotmail.com

### CHARTER SCHOOL PROPOSAL

12 Algiers schools may become charters

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

- Edna Karr Magnet, 3332 Huntlee Drive
- L.B. Landry, 1200 L.B. Landry Ave.
- O.P. Walker, 2832 Gen. Meyer Ave.

**ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

- Eisenhower Elementary, 3700 Tall Pines Drive
- Fischer Elementary, 1801 L.B. Landry Ave.
- Julius Rosenwald Accelerated, 6501 Berkley Drive
- Habans Elementary, 3819 Herschel St.
- Harte Elementary, 5300 Berkley Drive
- Harriet Tubman Elementary, 2013 Gen. Meyer Ave.
- Henderson Middle, 1912 L.B. Landry Ave.
- Martin Behrman Elementary, 715 Opelousas Ave.
- McDonogh No. 32, 800 DeArmas St.

# Cleanup picks up steam in St. Tammany

*But tax revenue may be disappointing*

By Richard Boyd and Charlie Chapple
St. Tammany bureau

St. Tammany Parish's smaller municipalities have reported significant progress in recovering from Hurricane Katrina, but they are warning of possible belt-tightening and budget cuts because of lost sales tax revenue.

"I would estimate that we are about 60 percent in terms of debris removal from the streets, curbs and medians throughout Mandeville," Mayor Eddie Price said. "We have made a second complete pass of every street in the city and will continue until all debris has been removed."

Price said a deal he struck with the owner of the old Prestressed Concrete plant site on Monroe Street two weeks ago has sped up the process of debris removal. Instead of hauling loads of debris to a dump site in Slidell and losing hours in traffic, trucks can now unload at the Monroe Street site. Eventually all debris will be transported to a permanent dump site approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Covington Mayor Candace Watkins said Thursday that debris pickup in the city "is going really well," although it will be a long time before work is completed.

So far, contractors working under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers have collected about 200,000 cubic yards of debris, Watkins said. The trash, which is being temporarily deposited next to the city maintenance barn at the western end of 27th Avenue, has made a huge pile "about as big as the parish courthouse," she said.

Watkins said she hopes the pickup of "green debris" can be completed in about another month. But she said that she expects more construction debris as residents begin rebuilding and repairing homes and businesses. "It could be as long as a year before everything's picked up," she said.

All of Covington's municipal services are operational.

In Abita Springs, Mayor Louis Fitzmorris said the removal of tree and limb debris is nearly complete and crews are canvassing the town, cutting away mangled and dead limbs, cutting trees on rights-of-way and grinding stumps left behind.

"After that is done, we will then begin the next phase of removal of the debris removed from gutted homes. ... I am guessing that just about all debris of any sort will be removed from the town over the next three weeks," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Debris from trees is deposited into a fire pit in the parking lot of the Abita Springs Recreation Department's baseball fields on Louisiana 36 on Thursday. Small communities in St. Tammany Parish say they are making significant progress in the cleanup of debris left by Hurricane Katrina.

In Madisonville, Mayor Peter Gitz said all trees and limbs that were cut and stacked along streets have been removed. "We still have some debris removed from gutted houses that needs to be hauled away, but I would say that about 90 percent of that has been done," he said.

Pearl River Police Chief Benny Raynor said his town also is rapidly recovering.

"The cleanup crews operated by the Corps of Engineers working through FEMA have made one complete pass of every street in town and the state highways through town, removing trees, limbs and items taken from destroyed and damaged homes. They are making the second complete pass now," he said.

He said the town's services were functioning. "We only lost services a short time after Katrina when we lost power,'' Raynor said. "Overall, we are making a good comeback."

In Folsom, Village Clerk Joyce Core said: "The Army Corps is making great progress in clearing away debris from damaged houses and the limbs and trees. We lost a large number of trees that fell on streets and property."

She said the wastewater treatment plant was out of operation for 24 hours after the village lost electricity when Katrina hit but was up and running on generators. "But all our power is back on, and we have full village services," she said.

Although the situation has improved in the municipalities and businesses have reopened, the economic impact of Katrina has yet to be felt, leaders warned.

"In August we only collected $350,000 in sales tax, about half of what we normally collect — and that was before Katrina," Price said. "Our September figures are going to be a disaster. ...

"We will just have to look at the figures and see where we are, and we may have to make some major budget adjustments to account for lost revenue."

Although Mandeville was slowed by Hurricane Rita, Gitz said business is booming again. Still, he said he expects to see a decline in sales tax revenue for the September collections, which won't be known until later this month.

Fitzmorris said business also is doing well in Abita Springs.

"I think all of my retail businesses in town are up and running, and they are all reporting great increases in customers. I think that is because this parish has at least 100,000 more people in it than before Katrina — and maybe even more.

"I shudder to see the September sales tax collections, because I don't think we will see much. But I am guardedly optimistic that a lot of that loss can be made up by the end of the year in the increased volume for our retail outlets. Maybe some of them would be staying open even longer and serving more customers if they had more employees; they are all looking for workers," he said.

# N.O. cops turned up in Baton Rouge after storm

CARS, *from B-1*

own internal investigations. All told, Riley said 12 officers were under investigation for looting or failing to combat looting in their presence, four officers had been suspended and one had been reassigned.

He acknowledged then that an unspecified number of officers were being looked at for their alleged involvement in the Sewell incident, which took place in the first four days after Katrina ripped through town.

Riley said he was surprised to learn that "at least 40" 3rd District officers were in Baton Rouge after the hurricane. Riley said that at some point after a number of 3rd District teams were rescued from the Louisiana State University Dental School he spoke to clumps of them at the Hampton Inn and Suites on Convention Center Boulevard.

"At that point they were just settling in for the evening," he said. "A day or so later we learned they were in Baton Rouge, and they were immediately ordered to return to the city."

The story about the 3rd District's involvement at Sewell has percolated among the force for weeks and has some captains enraged, but Riley's statement was the first indication it has come to the attention of NOPD's highest circle.

The 3rd District was flooded out of its Moss Street headquarters, and officers had been trapped in the dental school for three days.

Riley said many of the district's cars had been washed out and that evacuating officers from the dental school proved difficult because the water level was 6 feet below the nearest windows. What's more, officers have related tales of living with no food or water for days, and carrying a 300-pound sergeant with a broken ankle up and down flights of stairs.

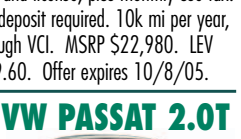
It remains unclear how many of the cases launched by Riley will be resolved, but he vowed Thursday, as he did when Mayor Ray Nagin appointed him as acting superintendent, to not let officers off the hook.

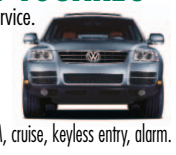
"The public will clearly see the change on this as time goes on," he said. "Discipline will be one of our top three priorities, along with professionalism and integrity, and we are doing all that we can to get to the bottom of this."

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# 'This wasn't an act of God. It was an act of stupidity'

**PUMPS,** *from B-1*

Katrina passed, the officials say.

"The damage is done now. Homes are flooded," said Charles Miller, a small business owner and president of the West Jefferson Civic Coalition. "To me, the bigger question is: Is this going to happen again, or do we have a plan to keep it from happening in the event we have another major hurricane in two weeks? We're sitting here vulnerable, and the hurricane season isn't over."

Kenner resident Jackie Madden said the idle pumps are the talk of the town.

"Whether it's the beauty parlor or the bank, this is the topic of conversation, and there is such disbelief that the pumps were turned off while we were flooding," said Madden, former president of the East Jefferson Civic League.

Madden said she understands the desire not to put pump operators in harm's way.

"But I don't understand why they sent them so far? If they had stayed closer, perhaps they could have saved some neighborhoods, if not all of them," she said. "People just don't understand."

## 'Doomsday' plan

Broussard and Emergency Management Director Walter Maestri have said that pump station operators were among the caravan of public employees and equipment sent across Lake Pontchartrain to shelters north of Interstate 12 during the late afternoon and early evening of Aug. 28. At the time, Katrina was a Category 5 storm, packing 175 mph winds, although it subsided to Category 3 and 125 mph by the time the eye made landfall Aug. 29 about 10 a.m., according to initial reports from the National Hurricane Center.

It was the first time that the administration had implemented its two-year-old

"doomsday" plan, which calls for evacuating even essential personnel if a Category 4 or 5 storm threatens region.

"It was a matter of saving life," Maestri said. "You've got to distinguish life from property, and I don't think a lot of people are doing that. I think we're looking for a boogeyman."

Others say the distinction is not so clear.

"For bedridden people, flooding is a matter of life," said Coleen Perilloux Landry, a longtime community activist and retired Sheriff's Office colonel who helped evacuate nursing homes during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. "For elderly people who become easily confused and frightened, rising water is a matter of life. Who's to say how high water will get, especially when the pumps aren't on to drain it?

"I believe our homes would not have flooded in Hurricane Katrina had the pumps been running at the proper time," Landry said. "Now we have the agony — yes, agony — of trying to meet with insurance adjusters, fighting mold and mildew, and throwing our treasured possessions in a heap on the curb. ... What kind of faith can we have in our public officials to protect us?"

## 'Very difficult decision'

Parish Council members have not criticized Broussard's decision, but several have said they are discussing alternatives with the administration in hopes of balancing employee safety with the need to operate the multimillion-dollar drainage system.

Councilman Louis Congemi, who has estimated that at least 50 percent of the homes in his district flooded, predicted that parish officials will fast-track plans to build "safe houses" at all 18 major pump stations in order to keep personnel on site during stronger storms. Currently, five safe houses are under construction on the West Bank.

Council Chairman Tom Capella said he won't second-guess the president's decision in Katrina: "Now is not the time for Monday-morning quarterbacking. It's a very difficult balance, a very difficult decision."

But Capella said he's told the administration he's interested in seeing improvements made to the disaster plan.

"We'll sit down with Aaron to see if there's a closer shelter that could possibly house the operators," he said. "If another perfect storm hits us next week, it will be another tough decision that the parish president has to make. But if there's a way to get them closer, I'm sure we will."

Broussard, Maestri and nine other parish officials rode out Katrina in Jefferson's Emergency Operations Center in Marrero, which Maestri has said was constructed to withstand Category 4 winds. Broussard said other key personnel were sent north to shelters so that they would be safe — and available to re-establish parish government — had Katrina shifted a few miles to the west and destroyed West Jefferson.

Some emergency first responders, as well as some council members, rode out the storm in East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie and West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, which also housed medical staff and seriously ill patients. Miller, the Civic Coalition leader, said his father had a leg amputated two days before the storm and spent Katrina in West Jefferson Medical Center.

"Now, if the hospital was safe enough for my dad and all those other people, why wasn't it safe enough for the pump station operators?" he said. "They could have left as soon as the storm was over and gone to work. But if it wasn't safe enough for them, then everyone there should have been evacuated."

Terrytown resident Jeffrey Haupt agreed that the hospitals would have provided close refuge for the pump operators and a quick return to pump stations.

"With no power and no one on there to turn on the standby generators, the suppression systems failed and the lake flowed into the canals," he said. "Hurricane Katrina presented a perfect scenario for back siphoning to be achieved, and the parish leaders allowed it to happen."

## Automated pumps?

Callahan said the parish should equip the drainage system for remote-control operation if personnel won't stay on site.

"Whatever that would cost won't compare to the cost of the massive, massive damage done to homes and businesses in Jefferson Parish," said Callahan, an electrical engineer whose home near West Napoleon Avenue flooded.

Debbie Settoon, a former East Jefferson Civic League president and a

consulting engineer in the oil and gas industry, said the technology exists to automate the pump system.

"I understand not putting people in harm's way. We evacuate men and women from the Gulf all the time," she said. "But why not instrument the pump stations to operate remotely? We do that every day. We operate platforms with no men on them."

Settoon was in Baton Rouge when she heard the news that pump stations had been evacuated.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I just screamed when I heard it, and then I started crying. It was the first time I cried. It was the straw that broke the camel's back, because I knew what it meant."

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Sheila Grissett may be reached at sgrissett@cox.net.

# Curfew's 'for the marauders, not for the businessman'

**CURFEW,** *from B-1*

Defillo said he wasn't sure when the curfew hours had been revised.

Officials said they had enacted the curfew to protect residents from crime in the face of a reduced police force and spotty 911 service, as well as from getting hurt in ruined homes and neighborhoods still strewn with debris.

But many residents had routinely ignored the stricter curfew, going about their business as they tried to steer their lives back to a normal routine. Throughout the French Quarter and Central Business District this week, off-duty military and police personnel stayed outdoors well after 8 p.m., and they generally did not bother residents out for a meal or a stroll after curfew.

The same treatment had turned up in recent days in newly resuscitated pockets of Uptown, where the 8 p.m. curfew was increasingly flaunted by neighbors, tavern owners and even police, including many who no longer even acknowledged the cars that pass their posts on St. Charles Avenue and Magazine Street after 8 p.m.

Across Uptown, where just a few homes on every block appeared to be inhabited this week, many returned evacuees spurned the curfew order, saying it was more important to renew their pre-hurricane lifestyles than to follow it to the letter. Some maintained that the curfew simply did not apply to them.

Rene Brunet Jr., proprietor of the single-screen Prytania Theatre, sold tickets Wednesday night to a 7:45 p.m. showing of "Wedding Crashers" and paid no mind to how the film's two-hour run time would be impacted by the imminent lockdown. Brunet said the police had not bothered his establishment — thought to be the city's first movie house to illuminate its silver screen since Katrina — since it opened Monday night.

"This Uptown neighborhood is kind of upper crust," Brunet said. "We don't have the crime. We just don't have the things going on in other parts of the city. So I just don't think they've been enforcing (the curfew)."

Some business owners, however, had been forced to shut down at 8 p.m. At Igor's on St. Charles Avenue near Jackson Avenue, owner Igor Margan said National Guard troops accompanied by a pair of New Orleans police officers entered the bar Tuesday night, demanding that it shutter.

"The curfew is supposed to be for the marauders, not for the businessman who's trying to stay open, to pay taxes to a city that has no businesses paying taxes," Margan said, adding that he did not think that operating after 8 p.m. would tempt burglars to his bar. "I do feel 100 percent safe, especially now since I have the police department coming in to eat because there's no place else to eat."

Defillo declined to comment on spotty enforcement of earlier curfews, adding that residents still would be stopped at checkpoints at Orleans Parish borders and would not be allowed entry during curfew hours.

"I'm not going to second-guess what happened two or three days ago," Defillo said. "A person trying to enter the parish after restricted hours, they will not be allowed access."

The later curfew, however, seemed poised to please many business owners, including Shawn Stallard, a co-owner of Dos Jefes Uptown Cigar Bar, which had been ordering last call at 8 p.m. to stay in line with the strict curfew.

"We're a nighttime business," Stallard said.



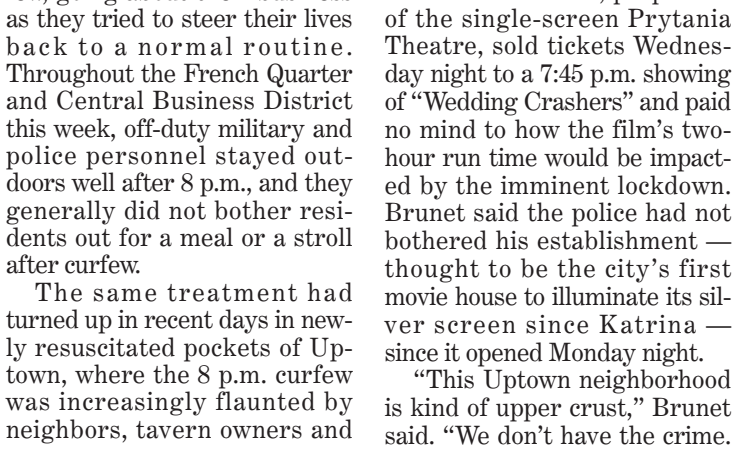

STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Waitress Lauren Boudousque, far right, takes orders Wednesday from customers dining outside The Living Room at Magazine Street and Washington Avenue. The restaurant's sign openly flaunts that it is open until 9 p.m. — one hour past New Orleans' curfew at the time.

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# New Orleans' restoration to end with statue's fingers, Hughes says

## *No timetable given for figure's repair*

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

The fingers of Jesus — or at least the two stone versions of them shorn off the left hand of the statue in the garden behind St. Louis Cathedral — will not be restored until New Orleans is, Archbishop Alfred Hughes has decided.

Katrina reduced the serene courtyard in the rear of the church to a maze of shattered timber. An oak and a magnolia, both estimated by church officials to be more than 150 years old, crashed around the statue, which the church lights at night to create a distinctive, giant silhouette on the back wall of the cathedral.

Incredibly, the Jesus statue emerged nearly unscathed, losing only the thumb and index finger from the left hand. In the next few days, French Quarter residents marveled at the statue's brush with obliteration, and some of the faithful began to say Jesus had managed to flick the hurricane just to the east, sparing New Orleans even greater damage than it endured.

That story has gone all the way to Rome, said Monsignor Crosby Kern, who rode out the tempest in the St. Louis rectory, which dates to 1830. "Those old buildings can weather anything," Kern said.

**"We have photos from a big storm in 1915 and both of those trees are in it. They weathered that, and they were big trees then. But this was unbelievable, and I saw it and just thought, 'The Lord is taking care of everything.' "**

MONSIGNOR CROSBY KERN

In the heat of Katrina, however, the fate of other church assets seemed less certain.

"The wind was howling, and the slates were coming off the roof, just getting ripped off and sailing away, when I heard the crack of the branches," Kern recalled. He watched, astonished, as the trees bent and arced during their collapse, falling all around the statue but failing to hit it.

"We have photos from a big storm in 1915 and both of those trees are in it," he said of the now fallen oak and magnolia. "They weathered that, and they were big trees then. But this was unbelievable, and I saw it and just thought, 'The Lord is taking care of everything.'"

Paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne cleaned up the ziggurat of debris, found the stone digits and presented them to former Archbishop Philip Hannan, who served as a chaplain to the 82nd during World War II.

Like the statue, the famed cathedral suffered relatively minor damage given Katrina's ferocity, Kern said. The roof bore the worst of it, and some holes punched in the steeple allowed water to course into the organ box. But all of that can be repaired, Kern said.

A casualty of another sort was the Rev. Frank Montalbano, a faculty member at Notre Dame Seminary and a well known figure at the cathedral. After riding out the storm in the rectory with Kern, Montalbano, 83, promptly announced his retirement and moved to San Antonio, Texas.

"Well," Kern laughed, "I think he realized, 'maybe I don't have to put up with this anymore.' "

The decision to hold off on restoring the fingers to the statue's damaged hand until the city itself has mended was announced by the archbishop last Sunday, during the first Mass at the New Orleans landmark since Katrina.

Hughes did not say what benchmarks would be the basis of his decision that New Orleans had healed and that it was time for the fingers to be replaced.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

In this Sept. 15 photo, Archbishop Philip M. Hannan holds the finger that was broken off the statue of Jesus behind St. Louis Cathedral during Hurricane Katrina. Except for the hand, the statue emerged from the storm unscathed.

# Habitat for Humanity builds new program

## *It seeks to help reshape Gulf Coast*

**By Valerie Faciane**
Staff writer

Paulette Lindsey was at the top of Habitat for Humanity's list for a new home in the Slidell area even before Hurricane Katrina struck. She was living in a trailer, but the damage it sustained from the storm worsened her plight. She and her children had to move in with her sister.

Amid all the recent turmoil, the 39-year-old St. Tammany Parish school custodian never dreamed that her home would come so soon, much less be broadcast on national television as it was assembled in New York and delivered to Slidell.

Last week, trucks towing the exterior and interior walls and roof of her 1,200 square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bath preassembled home arrived on Terrace Avenue in Slidell, along with NBC's "Today" show, elected officials, entertainer Harry Connick Jr., gospel singer Tracy Worth of Chicago, Habitat volunteers and many well-wishers who celebrated the arrival of what would become Lindsey's dream home.

The house was one of several built in Rockefeller Center by volunteers coordinated by Habitat for Humanity International as part of Make a Difference Today, a joint project of Habitat, the "Today" show and Warner Music Group. Habitat homes are also being assembled in Los Angeles and Jackson, Miss.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Amy Verinder of the Jackson, Miss., branch of Habitat for Humanity takes measurements for the roof of a home in Slidell on Monday. The frame was built in New York.

Meanwhile, local volunteers with Habitat for Humanity East St. Tammany cleared about 30 trees from the property and poured the foundation for Lindsey's home, all between Sept. 26 and Oct. 1.

Habitat's good works are nothing new in Slidell, but after Katrina, Habitat is even more important in the city, Mayor Ben Morris said.

City trucks delivered dirt that Habitat purchased for the home's foundation, and the city made sure all the permits were in place, said Martin Bruno, director of planning for Slidell.

East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity President Jim Thomas said he was "surprised and excited" to learn that Slidell would get the first home under the organization's new Operation Home Delivery program, a national effort to help the Gulf Coast rebuild after Katrina. Operation Home Delivery makes preassembled homes available to Habitat affiliates. The homes are built offsite and delivered "so we can get it done very quickly," Thomas said.

Short notice of Lindsey's home delivery forced the volunteers to work at a faster pace than usual, but that didn't bother Scott Richard, who has been a Habitat volunteer for 13 years.

"We're about helping people who need housing," Richard said. He said it's heartening to see so many people around the country interested in helping storm victims.

When workers poured the foundation for the house during the early morning Oct. 1, Debbie Crouch, assistant to the executive director of the East St. Tammany Habitat, was there, along with her son, Jay, his girlfriend, Heidi Gutierrez, and Gutierrez's son, Extor.

Gutierrez called the parents of several of her son's soccer teammates at 8:30 p.m. the night before, and at 5:30 a.m. the next morning, Vince Abbott, Phil Frazier and Wendy Way showed up to help, despite the fact that some of their homes were damaged by the storm as well.

East St. Tammany Habitat Executive Director Nancy Wood said she was amazed at the outpouring of support from people and organizations from all over the country who want to help victims of Katrina. She said the RV-Care-Vanners and students from Georgia and Ohio have signed on to volunteer.

"It's absolutely unbelievable," Wood said. "Our whole affiliate is just in shock."

East St. Tammany will need all the help it can get. Wood said that besides building new homes, Habitat needs volunteers to help repair 20 of the 24 houses it has built that were damaged by the storm.

Wood called the volunteers "the most beautiful dream coming out of a nightmare."

Thomas said East St. Tammany Habitat is scheduled to receive four more preassembled homes in the next couple of weeks. He said the lots will have to be cleared, but the families have already been approved.

"If we can get the support of the community, we can build these four houses and probably 25 more," Thomas said. He said what is needed are places for out-of-town volunteers to stay – such as churches and large buildings.

"For me, it's a dream come true, because I always wanted a safe and comfortable home for me and my children," said Lindsey, a New Orleans native who has lived in Slidell for the past 20 years. Her children, Tiron, 12, and Tonishia, 9, are equally excited.

"I'm just grateful for all the love and help that's going toward building my new home," Lindsey said. "I'm just taking it one day at a time, because it's overwhelming."

# Group providing tarps, muscle

**St. Tammany bureau**

Need a tarp for your damaged roof?

The faith-based Operation Blessing is providing blue tarps in Slidell at the former Schwegmann's supermarket site, now America's Furniture Club, off Gause Boulevard and Interstate 10.

The organization also is helping homeowners install them.

Operation Blessing also reported Wednesday that its 18-ton crane and a Christian Contractors Association work crew have arrived in Slidell to help remove tree debris and patch damaged roofs, all for free.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers is still providing tarps for homeowners. People can sign up for them at Slidell Memorial Hospital's Founders Medical Building on Robert Boulevard and now at the old Wal-Mart store as well.

In other Hurricane Katrina related news from the Slidell area:

▶ The Federal Emergency Management Agency no longer is handing out ice, water and MREs at the old Wal-Mart store off Gause and I-10. That operation closed late Tuesday.

▶ Feeding locations for hurricane victims are still open throughout Slidell. Among them are First Baptist Church Harvest Church in the John Jay Shopping Center, both on Pontchartain Drive; and Grace Memorial Church on Pearl Acres Street off Gause Boulevard East.

▶ The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center remains open at John Slidell Park on Robert Boulevard near Interstate 12 to help residents apply for disaster aid, including transitional housing or rental assistance. The center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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# Jefferson casino is feeling lucky today

## *Treasure Chest to reopen Monday*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Treasure Chest Casino in Kenner, one of Jefferson Parish's largest employers and the source of about $6 million a year for Kenner's coffers, will reopen Monday at noon.

And it can't come too soon for Kenner officials.

"We get a portion of every head that walks on the boat," said Phil Ramon, Kenner's chief of staff. "Nobody has walked on the boat for a while."

While the casino has been closed, it has cost the state about $1.98 million a month and Kenner about $543,031 a month, or $18,101 per day, in tax revenues, said Wade Duty, executive director of the Casino Association of Louisiana.

Kenner receives $2.50 for each passenger entering the casino, as well as 2 percent of net gaming proceeds, with revenues going to both city government and the police department.

Kenner uses Treasure Chest revenue for capital expenses and debt reduction.

"It makes a terrific impact on our budget," said City Councilwoman Jeannie Black said, adding that Kenner receives $5 million to $8 million annually from the boat.

Kenner will receive the entire $6.3 million it budgeted from Treasure Chest for the 2005-06 fiscal year that began in July, because the casino pays based on prior year profits, city Finance Director Duke McConnell said.

Any effect would be felt in next year's capital budget, McConnell said.

"If not made up, it would effect next year's budget," he said. "It could be made up, maybe not."

Duty said chances are slim that lost revenues will be recovered once the casino reopens because the market has shrunk. He said 85 percent of Treasure Chest's business is local.

"The New Orleans market is not what it used to be," he said. "I think it's going to look a lot different from what it used to."

The riverboat didn't receive much physical damage, but the communications systems that ran the casino's 970 slot machines needed to be repaired, said Rob Stillwell, vice president of corporate communications for Boyd Gaming, which owns Treasure Chest.

Open 24 hours a day before Hurricane Katrina, the riverboat will remain open from noon to 2 a.m., but will expand and hope to be at full capacity soon, Stillwell said.

"We'll build from there," Stillwell said.

Not including public agencies, Treasure Chest was one of the 10 biggest employers in Jefferson Parish pre-Katrina, according to the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

Boyd Gaming, which owns Treasure Chest, has only let go a handful of it 1,031 Treasure Chest employees, those who were asked to return to work, but refused, Stillwell said.

The company never interrupted its paychecks, agreeing shortly after Hurricane Katrina, to pay employees for the next 60 days, including an adjusted tip rate for those qualified positions, Stillwell said.

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at (504) 467-1726 or mkswerczek@hotmail.com.




# Son of councilman dies in wreck

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

A collision between a pickup truck and tractor-trailer on Louisiana 54 on Wednesday night killed the son of St. John the Baptist Parish Councilman Allen St. Pierre, but left the driver of the semi uninjured.

Darren P. St. Pierre, 35, of Garyville, died after his 2001 Chevrolet truck rear-ended a tractor-trailer hauling wastewater to the Garyville wastewater treatment plant, authorities said. According to a news release from State Police, St. Pierre was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident, which happened shortly before 7:30 p.m.

Authorities say the accident occurred while the driver of the tractor-trailer waited to make a left turn from the westbound lane of Louisiana 54. St. Pierre, who was alone in his vehicle, collided with the rear of the truck. He was dead at the scene, authorities said.

According to the release, authorities believe St. Pierre was unaware that the truck had stopped because investigators did not see any skid marks, and it doesn't appear he slowed at all.

While State Police are still investigating the crash, they do not believe alcohol or drugs were a factor.

St. Pierre was married with a young daughter and worked at the Shell refinery in Norco.

Visitation will be held today at 4 to 5 p.m. for family and from 5 to 10 p.m. for friends at the Millet-Guidry Funeral Home, 2806 West Airline Highway in Reserve. Visitation also will be held Saturday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by a 10 a.m. Mass at St. Hubert's Catholic Church, 176 Anthony F Monica Street in Garyville.

# Singer adds voice to relief effort

## *FeFe Dobson to sing at football game*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Have your song featured in an MTV movie soundtrack: check. Have the WNBA use another song for an advertising campaign: been there. Be featured in a Got Milk? ad: done that. Perform at the East St. John/Hahnville High School football game on Friday night: huh? What was Canadian rock star FeFe Dobson thinking?

Dobson has accomplished a lot in her young career but performing at the football game, while monumental to Louisiana prep sports fans, seems to be off the beaten path.

Dobson was approached about the idea a few weeks ago and immediately agreed to perform.

"Since the whole hurricane I wanted to give something back," the 20-year-old singing sensation said during a phone interview Thursday. "I wanted to get involved."

Dobson will perform the national anthem, sing two songs during halftime and give a 45-minute concert after the game.

Dobson's appearance is part of the Great American Rivalry Series, an event that highlights high school football rivalries across the nation, said Chad Howard, director of events and promotions for iHigh, Inc., the Lexington, Ky., marketing company behind the concept of the series.

In addition to the game and concert, iHigh will present two scholarships to the football player on each team with the highest grade-point average. The American Red Cross will also collect donations for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort throughout the game.

Donations will continue during upcoming games in Louisville, Dallas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Howard said iHigh also would donate $1,000 to the American Red Cross during the Louisiana game.

Dobson is a Toronto, Ontario, native whose 2003 self-titled debut album features the hit "Take Me Away."

East St. John High School principal Debra Schum admits she had not heard of Dobson before.

"However, some of my students had heard of her. The song 'Take me Away' jogs the memory," Schum said with a laugh.

Schum said the school has been buzzing with anticipation about the game and Dobson's performance. "They (students) want to know if they can get autographs," Schum said. "It is a pick-me-up."

Organizers expect a large crowd for the game tonight, which starts at 7 p.m. in Joe Keller Stadium in LaPlace. Admission is $6. Seating capacity is 5,000, but Schum said additional bleachers will be added, as well as a standing room only section.

# Post-Katrina conditions at N.O. jail draw suit

**By Doug Simpson**
Associated Press writer

BATON ROUGE - A civil rights group filed court papers on Thursday demanding access to the New Orleans city jail to investigate allegations that the lockup became chaotic after Hurricane Katrina, with inmates abandoned for days, without food or drinking water, with floodwaters up to their chests.

It took three days to evacuate over 6,000 inmates from the lockup after the storm hit on Aug. 29, prison authorities have said. The prisoners are now being held at 38 state and local lockups around Louisiana.

The American Civil Liberties Union's court filings demand information about where each prisoner is locked up. The group also wants the sheriff's office to halt any clean up at the jail because it could destroy evidence that prisoners were left standing in bacteria- and petroleum-laden floodwater.

A spokeswoman for Sheriff Marlin Gusman said in an e-mail that the sheriff had not yet been served with the papers.

The court papers also said many of Gusman's deputies left their posts, creating security risks: "The dwindling security staff, depleted by massive job walk-offs by deputies, was forced to maintain order and improvise an evacuation without sufficient manpower, weapons or vehicles."

Gusman has said "seven or eight" deputies, out of a total security staff of about 650, left their posts.

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FDIC

# West Bank struggles to cope with aftermath

## *Many blame Jeff for flood damage*

**By Joe Darby**
West Bank bureau

They think of themselves as the orphans of Orchid Street, neglected, ignored and forgotten.

Almost six weeks after Hurricane Katrina flooded their Marrero neighborhood, the residents of Orchid Street say the piles of carpet and debris on their street have been untouched, local and federal government has done little for them and, worst of all, they believe their homes would not have taken on water if parish pumping stations had been staffed.

While much of the West Bank emerged relatively unscathed from Katrina, save for downed trees, power lines and other wind damage, Orchid Street, in the Kings Grant subdivision, is just one of several West Jefferson neighborhoods that suffered devastating damage but have received little attention.

"We evacuated to Lafayette and we saw no coverage about our area," resident Ken Chiasson said. "We saw New Orleans was flooded, and Kenner, so I told my wife, if they're not showing anything on the West Bank we must have done well. But when we got home and I saw my house..."

Chiasson and his neighbors are convinced that when Jefferson Parish evacuated its pumping station operators, the parish left them vulnerable.

"If the pumps had been on, we wouldn't have flooded," he said. "Within 24 hours of the flood, the pumps were turned on and I'm told the water just flowed out of here."

Parish spokeswoman Jacquie Bauer said parish officials are trying to assess the question of the unstaffed stations.

Flooding is nothing new to Orchid Street, residents say, as many homes have received water several times over the years.

Wayne Oubre, who has lived on Orchid since 1966, said he got two feet of water in his house. Taxpayer money spent on new drainage canals and pumping stations does no good if the pumps are not on, he said

"The police stayed, the firemen stayed. Why couldn't the pump operators stay?" he asked.

Other West Jefferson neighborhoods also suffered.

Yolanda Hunter, who lives with her husband and two children on Esher Place in Marrero's Westminster subdivision, said her home received more than two feet of water.

"We've paid all this tax money to build pumping stations that were supposed to protect us, but it didn't happen," said Hunter, adding that she doesn't have flood insurance.

"I'm going to stay and rebuild but we're going to make a decision down the line on whether we're going to sell the house or rent it out," she said.

Not far away, the home of Marie Stokes, on Fisk Court in the Lincolnshire subdivision, took a beating. Gaping holes were left in her roof and the living room ceiling collapsed, exposing insulation and rafters, as rainwater poured in. Plus, she said, she had more than two feet of flood water.

Stokes said she applied for a tarp to cover her roof, but as of Thursday, had not received one.

"I want to tear down this house and rebuild, but I'll have to see what my insurance company says," she said.

In any case, she said, she will decorate for Christmas this year. "I have 40,000 Christmas lights and I'm going to do it again this year, whether this house is here or not," she said.

In Harvey, the flood-prone Maplewood subdivision was struck again.

Verna Minor, who lives on Dogwood Street, was busy moving Thursday, a pile of ruined furniture on her front lawn. "I have no idea where we're going, and I've gotten nothing from FEMA, but I can't stay here," she said.

Minor worked at Meadowcrest Hospital, "but now I have no employment, no nothing," she said. "Life is hard, but it will go on and my family has each other."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Rosalyn White of Baton Rouge carries cushions out to the curb in front of her mother's house, damaged by flood waters from Hurricane Katrina. The Waters Drive house in Marrero, owned by Gladys Wright, had about two feet of water.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Contractors Carlos Ha and Marshanda Scott tear out drywall and baseboards from a house on Orchid Drive in Marrero damaged by flooding. Many on the street feel they have been ignored and forgotten.

## ROUGH RIDE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Foul-smelling water drains through a break in the levee around Six Flags New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The eastern New Orleans amusement park was heavily damaged in the storm.

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**"The city of New Orleans has no revenue stream coming in. We really are in pretty tight quarters."**

MAYOR RAY NAGIN

# Hotels get to decide who will get rooms

## *Feds drop plans for long-term leases*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – At the request of Mayor Ray Nagin, the federal government has dropped its effort to book long-term leases on 10,000 hotel rooms in the New Orleans area for recovery workers and evacuees, instead leaving it up to the hotels to decide who will fill the vacancies.

The change in tactics opens a new chapter in the city's quest to rebuild infrastructure and restock its work force after Hurricane Katrina, while also creating a stronger foothold to revitalize tourism and kick-starting a local tax revenue stream.

Hotel rooms booked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency are not subject to a room tax, a source of money the mayor said the cash-strapped city desperately needs.

The mayor laid off 3,000 city employees Tuesday due to a severe budget crunch.

"The city of New Orleans has no revenue stream coming in," Nagin told a group of state lawmakers at the state Capitol Wednesday. "We really are in pretty tight quarters."

The city had hoped to get a $200 million line of credit to help pay its bills, but the revenue picture was too bleak, Nagin said. He is now negotiating with a major bank for a $50 million line of credit. FEMA pays for specific clean-up projects and overtime for police and other vital workers, but does not pay for the city's basic operating expenses, Nagin said.

Members of the New Orleans hotel industry expressed frustration last month with FEMA's delay in signing contracts for six-month leases on blocks of accommodations totaling 10,000 rooms.

At the time, several hotels were eager to fill their vacant rooms while federal attorneys pored over the FEMA contracts. Among the glitches, some hotels wanted FEMA renovation money, but agency rules prohibit government payments to renovate the commercial buildings.

Even before Nagin's request to FEMA, some of the hotels had simply given up on the government bureaucracy and were pursuing customers on their own.

"We're just moving forward in a free-market environment," said Bill Langkopp, executive director of the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association, who supports the mayor's request. "To my knowledge any room that is rentable is being rented."

The New Orleans area currently has about 5,000 hotel rooms, compared with an inventory of about 38,000 rooms before Katrina, Langkopp said. More rooms are becoming available as hotels get back in shape.

Hoteliers that are open said they were housing their own staff and trying to fill demands from companies involved in the recovery and insurance claims adjusters.

FEMA spokesman James McIntyre said the agency considered the mayor's request and decided to agree. Currently, the agency is leasing about 1,250 rooms in the city from Sheraton and another hotel, tax free.

The mayor and Langkopp said they have asked FEMA to find a legal way for the agency to pay the room tax on the agency-leased rooms, but have not heard back.

"You don't talk to FEMA," Langkopp said. "You make a request and you never know if anybody's on the other end."

McIntyre said he was not sure what FEMA's ultimate response to the tax question will be.

In the short term, the rooms would have gone primarily to a variety of people involved in rebuilding or running the city, with or without the FEMA contracts. But in the longer term and as the city's infrastructure started coming to life, FEMA could have begun to bring back evacuees who escaped to other cities and place them in the New Orleans hotel rooms, in keeping with state housing priorities.

Now that the hotels, rather than FEMA and other government officials, are deciding who their customers will be, evacuees returning to New Orleans with little money are unlikely to become tenants. Corporate clients and tourists are more likely to become the priority.

For those private sector customers, the room bills will come with an approximately 13 percent tax plus some fees, as before the storm. Most of that revenue goes to the Superdome Commission and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, but part goes to the city, the Regional Transit Authority and Orleans schools.

Pre-Katrina, the room tax in New Orleans generated about $91million annually.

FEMA is housing police, emergency and recovery workers in two large Carnival Cruise Lines ships docked on New Orleans wharves on the Mississippi River.

Nagin and FEMA's state housing director Ron Sherman said they are pleased with how the cruise ship accommodations are working out.

As of Tuesday, the Ecstasy had 969 cabins filled and 67 vacant. The Sensation had 968 cabins filled and 52 open.

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Robert Travis Scott can be reached at 225-342-4197 or roberttravisscott@yahoo.com

# WELCOME RELIEF




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Members of Victory Fellowship Church in Metairie arrived at a small park at Napoleon Avenue and South Saratoga Street on Thursday and served more than 600 meals to residents dealing the with aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The church is going to various locations to feed people, and also has been serving meals at its church on Airline Drive.

# Jeff schools drop dawn start

## *Extended day, fewer holidays are options*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank Bureau

Swayed by parental outcry, the Jefferson Parish public school system has scrapped plans to start school an hour earlier each morning. Schools Superintendent Diane Roussel said this week she has temporarily suspended the plan, which was to begin Monday and would have had some kids in school at 6:15 a.m., after School Board members told her about the public backlash to the revised calendar, which the board unanimously approved Sept. 29.

Roussel said she will reconvene the district's Calendar Committee to draft several alternatives to the extended morning plan, options the board likely will consider at its meeting Thursday.

Cutting holidays or adding time to the end of the school day are emerging as the likely alternatives, officials said. Still muddying the waters, though, is confusion about how many days the state Department of Education will require students to make up. Earlier reports said the department would excuse a "reasonable number" of missed days, but local officials said the state has provided no concrete answer about Jefferson's 24 missed days.

"I can't get them to say that right now," Roussel said.

In addition, it remains unclear whether instructional time that relocated students have earned in other states can be applied toward Louisiana academic standards, she said.

Some parents have complained that their children have been in a different school system for weeks and shouldn't have to come back to Jefferson and make up a full school year's worth of instruction.

With growing concern over the logistical hurdles and educational soundness of having students in class earlier, officials said it's likely that some holidays will be cut or that extra time could be added to the end of the school day.

"We're taking a step back and looking at (the calendar) again," Roussel said. Board member Gene Katsanis said he has received more calls from parents about the calendar than about any other issue during his 11 years on the board. "I agree with the parents that the start time was way too early," he said, adding that he supports adding an hour to the end of the day.

Under that plan, for example, 4:45 p.m. would be the latest dismissal time in his district, Katsanis said. He predicted the board will ultimately approve a calendar that both adds an hour to students' afternoon as well as slices some holidays.

Under the recently approved calendar, students have off from Nov. 21-25 for Thanksgiving, from Dec. 19 to Jan. 2 for Winter Break, from Feb. 27 to March 1 for Mardi Gras and from April 13 to April 17 for Spring Break. The current calendar also calls for the extra morning hour beginning Monday, with high schools facing the earliest start time at about 6:15 a.m. After a five-week hiatus, students returned to classes Monday on their pre-Katrina schedules to give students and teachers a week to settle back into class.

Roussel conceded that, no matter what calendar eventually passes, it's impossible to please everyone.

"Somebody's not going to be happy," she said. "We're about to make someone angry."

The debate over the calendar mirrors discussion earlier this year when board member Libby Moran requested the system look at later school start times. She argued that students would be more attentive later in the day, which would lead to greater academic success.

Critics cited logistical problems with busing, after-school jobs and extracurricular activities.

A spring survey of about 2,500 students, parents and teachers showed high school students and parents leaning toward a later start time but middle school students and teachers at both levels favoring their current start time.

Currently, high schools start about 7:15 a.m., middle school begin about 7:30 a.m. and elementary schools start about 9 a.m.

Meanwhile, the district is seeing steady growth in its enrollment. Opening day drew a total of 28,749 students, followed by 28,955 Tuesday and 31,003 Wednesday. On Thursday, 30,551 students attended class. The system served about 49,000 students in the days directly before Katrina.

The week before reopening schools, the system conducted five days of registration for students new to the parish or those who relocated within Jefferson. More than 2,600 students signed up, but hundreds more have registered by simply showing up at schools this week, officials said.

With administrators nervous about state funding, which is heavily tied to student enrollment, and teachers and staff fearing layoffs in the suddenly smaller system, Jefferson is keeping a close eye on how many students return.

Hundreds of students from the more devastated parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes have joined Jefferson schools, fitting with officials' hopes that the district will become an educational refuge for the displaced.

The School Board meets Thursday at noon in the Jefferson Parish Council chambers, 200 Derbigny St., Gretna.

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**RE: Local Union 689, New Orleans, Louisiana**
**Notice of Emergency Trusteeship Hearing**

Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on **October 17, 2005** at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)** to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.
Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.
The hearing will be conducted via telephone at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)**. Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free **1-800-423-1988** and provide the operator with the following code **(788833)**. Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: **Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**.

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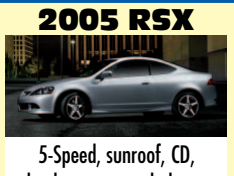
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# N.O. residents get down to business

*Restaurants, stores open their doors*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

Your neighborhood might not have power, but you can make groceries, cut your curls, grab dinner, watch a movie and eat ice cream in New Orleans.

The city's skeletal economy is slowly growing muscle, especially in pockets of Uptown and the French Quarter, where small businesses are up, running - and busy.

Vast swaths of New Orleans were still without electricity Thursday, and commercial activity in those areas is nearly nonexistent. But fine dining, live music and other amenities are helping returning residents feel at home again.

"People are shocked we have fresh product," said Pete DeRosha, manager of the Sav-A-Center grocery store on Tchoupitoulas Street, which opened Wednesday morning.

Workers were restocking the wine shelves, and the smell of fresh bread wafted from the store's bakery.

"I was just looking for a cold drink," customer Nathaniel Sprague said as he waited to check out. "Not only was I surprised, I was thrilled."

The Winn-Dixie in Riverside Market also opened Wednesday, and manager Marla Hubble said the store had everything but its deli operating.

"It just feels good to get back to doing something normal," she said.

Amy Ferguson emerged from the store with a full shopping cart, her grocery bags piled atop a cooler. She pronounced herself "ecstatic."



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Ralph Spindola fuels up Thursday at the Shell station on Magazine Street. He said he found the bison head on the side of the road on Jefferson Avenue.

Rudy Bergeron was back behind his elevated chair Tuesday, wielding scissors and a comb as he welcomed back customers to Golden Shears on Magazine Street.

"I usually come here anyway, so he was a sight for sore eyes," said Uptown resident Rene Dupaquier, who was moving back into his office at Crane Builders Inc. when he saw the barbershop was open.

"Having a barbershop open - that's almost as normal as you can get," said Dupaquier, a regular for 18 years. "I'm ready to get back here in a heartbeat."

Bergeron, who owns the shop, said he checked on it Monday and got so many calls he decided to open.

"Everybody's hair is just like mine," he said, brushing his slightly shaggy curls.

Before 1 p.m. on his first day back in business, Bergeron had already given about 15 haircuts; another 27 customers had left because he is the only barber in the shop and they couldn't wait, he said.

"I could have hugged him when I saw him in the window," said Phillip Griffin, a Tulane Medical Center professor.

Next door, Clement Hardware was selling cleanup tools - "Welcome Home" its sign read - and the Shell gas station across the street was filling tanks.

A few blocks away, John Ward set a sandwich board on the sidewalk outside National Art & Hobby.

"I've had one dollar in sales today," he said, but he wasn't complaining. A man who bought his daughter a sketchbook before the hurricane had returned for an eraser.

Ward said he had been open since Sept. 29, and he had $150 in sales one day, thanks to resilient artists. "Everybody is coming in a little," he said.

St. Charles Vision at 624 S. Carrollton in Riverbend was open Wednesday, and assistant manager Theresa Durr was trying to locate glasses that had not been delivered.

At the nearby New Orleans Original Daiquiris, Vice President of Operations Joe Pando drank a Diet Coke and had a sandwich. He said demand for daiquiris is surprisingly strong.

"It's going to be a prosperous time for us," he said, despite damage at several other locations.

Drug stores, especially CVS and Walgreens - have been at the vanguard of the city's reopening, and many restaurants have been stirring back to life.

In the French Quarter, several restaurants have been serving meals with limited menus for several days, among them Angeli's, Red Fish Grill, Bacco and Bourbon House.

Another Quarter landmark, the Port of Call restaurant on Esplanade, was cleared by health inspectors Wednesday, and the owners said they would open in time for Thursday lunch.

Eateries including the Magazine Po-Boy Shop also offered informal fare such as muffuleta and Zapp's potato chips. Uptown resident Wes Wallace said he enjoyed his fried catfish Wednesday.

For dessert, the Creole Creamery at 4924 Prytania Street had rich flavors such as bananas Foster and chocolate amaretto cheesecake. Owner David Bergeron said he opened Sept. 30 with six flavors; he was serving 14 Thursday, along with capuccinos and lattés.

"I'm trying to fill that need," he said. "It's been pretty steady."

If power outages make home life too boring, moviegoers could watch "Wedding Crashers" at the Prytania Theatre, which offered 5:30 and 7:45 p.m. showtimes. Police and military were admitted free.

And there were cocktails and life after dark, despite a curfew.

Drinks and conversation have been flowing nightly at French Quarter bars such as Molly's at the Market, Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop and Touche.

Marquee venues may still be dark, but musicians have been mixing it up along Bourbon Street, from acoustic, Jimmy Buffet cover songs to sidewalk buskers.

And the blues never left. Said one performer last week between songs: "I've been depressed for five weeks."

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Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com

# Wet records put house sales in limbo

*Title searches, research come to a dead stop*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of pending home sales in New Orleans will remain in limbo until at least Oct 18 because critical mortgage, archival and real estate conveyance records that got wet in the basement of the Orleans Parish Civil District court during Hurricane Katrina have been moved to Boston, where they are drying and undergoing a special preservation process. That will prevent research necessary for home-sale transactions to close.

That shattered officials' plans to open a temporary Recorder of Mortgages, Register of Conveyances and Custodian of Notarial Archives offices in Hall A in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center next week so that abstractors – the specialists who research title, lien, mortgage and other records for lenders, lawyers and Realtors – could process pending real estate sales.

Instead, the three offices will open for filings only, said Custodian of Notarial Archives Steven Bruno and Register of Mortgages Desiree Charbonnet. That means a transaction that closed just before Katrina hit will be able to be recorded. New records, such as construction contracts, which many major contractors will want to have filed as public records to ensure their deal is documented, will be accepted and become public record.

But Charbonnet said she was "sure there are going to be complaints" that full operations will not resume, as she and other officials said last week.

She said she had two major considerations: the health of workers handling the damp books and fear of damaging the books themselves. Some of the wettest books were sent to Chicago for intense restorative work, Bruno said.

It's estimated that there are 12 million pages of documents dating back nearly 250 years from the three agencies.

The main concern, according to Arthur Sterbcow, president of Latter & Blum Realtors Inc., is that no lender is going to release funds on a home or commercial property loan purchase without a complete research of title and mortgage records, holding up "hundreds, just hundreds" of pending sales as residents try to return to New Orleans.

Lenders, according to one real estate attorney, want to research filings at least 36 years back from the date of the purchase agreement for residential properties and 70 years on commercial properties to ensure clear title and that no other encumbrances on the property exist.

In the mortgage office, records have been computerized since 1987. Conveyances, where transfers of property are recorded, were also computerized beginning in 1985. But that's not enough information for abstractors, title insurance companies and mortgage companies to be satisfied to sign off on a transaction.

Mortgage and conveyance records, including leases, liens, military discharge papers, wills, contracts and other documents were kept in the 56-year-old basement of the court building, originally built as a bomb shelter to protect against nuclear attack during the Cold War. Older documents, many of great historical importance, such slave records and deed transfers written in French and Spanish from colonial times, were stored by Bruno at 1340 Poydras St. Those records were endangered when hundreds of windows were blown away by the powerful storm.

The documents had been drying for weeks in 17 refrigerated trucks outside the courthouse by Munters, a Swedish document restoration firm.

Charbonnet and Recorder of Mortgages Gasper Schiro had hoped to have the books removed from the trucks to finish airing them out at the Convention Center in preparation for opening all transaction business Monday.

But Munters said the documents weren't ready, the Convention Center wasn't suitable for finishing the drying process and the use of damp books risked damaging them. Munters opted to truck the records to warehouse space in Dallas.

But it turned out that Munters, working to salvage documents for hundreds of businesses aside from the court records, had no drying space left there, so the 17 trucks went to Boston, where dryers are finishing the process.

"I think we've done' the very best thing we could under the circumstances," Charbonnet said Monday. "I think I made the right call, even though my staff has been reduced to 13 and we'll be using Port-o-lets" because the rest of the Convention Center has not been cleaned.

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# DEATHS

Harold W. Anderson
Kevin Charles Bell
Lynn P. Bertaut Jr.
Lucille Gleber Besnard
Hilda Hubert Cauvin Bishchoff
Johnny Ray Brinston III
Richard R. Brown III
Donald Joseph Conners
Dorothy Kinsella Diblin
Dr. Casimir A. DiCristina
Ruth LaCroix DiLeo
Joseph Dorsey
Doris June Adolph Downey
Joyce Edwards
James Earl Enmon
Ryan Jacob Eskine
Emmet William Geary
Melvin Mitchel Gerrets
Onnie R. Greene
Don Thomas Hattier
Theresa Hudson
Tammy Lirette Irby
Abner Isaac Jaffe
Fay Wise Jeffries
Gilbert Anthony Johnson
Cecil Johnnie Johnston
Joseph J. Krebs
Joseph J. Laurie
Shirley Leads Cavallino Lewis
Andree (Angie) Johansen Lindsey
Wallace Gordon Monroe
Dominique Sylvia Narcisse
Terry Lee Newton
Flora Leona Rivers
Wanda Joan St. Philip
Eugenio Suazo Tejeda
Maurice Abrams Theriot
Idamay Hayden Uhl
Ireatha Angel Butler Spears Watson
Joseph Gascal Wilson
Marcelle Jacobs Wright

## ANDERSON

Harold W. "Noonie" Anderson, Jr., age 39 years, died at Conroe, TX on September 8, 2005. Beloved son of Alice Pattison Anderson and Harold W. Anderson, Sr. loving father of Renae and Jenae Anderson. Brother of Kim A. Dubroc, Kelly A. Juneau, Angela A. Crews and Richard Anderson. Brother-in-law of Charles Cunningham, Billy Juneau, and Keith Crews. Uncle of Krystal Dubroc, Chayse Juneau, Cory and Cody Cunningham, Keith Jr., Amber and Robert Crews. Also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to a Memorial Mass from the Jefferson Home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 North Causeway Blvd on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 12 o'clock Noon with Father Martin Smullen officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home after 10:00 AM. in lieu of the usual remembrances, memorials may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation, 3701 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. Information 835-2341

## BELL

Kevin Charles Bell, age 45, on Monday, October 3. Husband of Darnell Chiek. Father of Amanda M. Bell. Son of Frank Bell, Jr. and Joan Byrne. Brother of Frank G. Bell, Joy E. Rittler, Bonnie J. Reel and Rebecca A. Arnold. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA for the past 45 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM until time of service.

## BERTAUT

Lynn P. Bertaut Jr., age 55 of Metairie, LA departed this life on September 20, 2005 at his daugher's home in Franklin, TN after a brief and courageous fight against metastatic melanoma. Adoring and beloved husband of Norma Dominguez Bertaut. Much beloved father of Rebecca Bertaut Vaughn and Christa Bertaut Gonzales. Grandfather ('GB') of Wyatt and Sawyer Vaughn. Father-in-law of Billy Vaughn and Michael Gonzales. Son of Lynn P. Bertaut, Sr. and Gerry Bertaut. Brother of Robert, Elizabeth B. Themes, Julie B. Bell, and Tina B. Festi. Founder and CEO of On-Line Systems Research. He will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held in Metairie, LA at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Alive Hospice of Nashville, TN or the American Cancer Society. Friends may call 504-339-9995

## BESNARD

Lucille Gleber Besnard on August 31, 2005, she was 81. Beloved wife of the late Silas E. Besnard, Sr. She is the mother of Silas E. Besnard, Jr. of Baton Rouge, LA, William H. Besnard of Highland Ranch, CO and Michael D. Besnard of Covington; sister of Ruth Guarino, Matthew, Beryl, and Thomas Gleber. She was preceded in death by a brother Anthony Gleber and a sister Natalie G. Dillon. She is also survived by six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Mass on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 2:00PM from the Chapel at E.J.Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA. For directions or to offer condolences online go to www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

## BISHOFF

Hilda Hubert Cauvin Bishchoff at St. Agnes Health Care Center, Breaux Bridge, LA on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 6:20 AM. Wife of the late Sidney L. Cauvin, Sr. by first marriage and the late George F. Bischoff by second marriage. Mother of Joseph S. Cauvin and the late Sidney L. Cauvin, Jr., Mother-in-law of Cynthia W. Cauvin and Jackie R. Cauvin. Grandmother of Dr. Cynthia Cauvin Latagan, Karen Cauvin Eustis, Dayan Cauvin McGrew, Christy Cauvin Brown, Julie Cauvin Hahn, Cara Cauvin Cooley, Andri Cauvin Riley, and the late Dr. Sidney "Buddy" Cauvin. Also survived by 16 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Age 95 years. A native of New Orleans and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 6 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Chapel of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 11:00 AM followed by interment in St. Patrick #1 Cemetery, New Orleans, LA. Visitation on Friday, October 7, 2005 from 9:00 AM until funeral time. Information 831-9901. Sign on-line guest book at www.legacy.com

## BRINSTON

Johnny "Lil Ray" Ray Brinston III, age 67 on Friday, September 2, 2005 departed this life. Devoted husband of Alice Brinston, Father of Ivory Glover, Betty Brinston, Joseph Duncan and the late Irish Bennett Brother of Sharon Butler, Jiles Brinston and the late Brenda Herbert, Father in law of Clarence Glover, Grandfather of 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 5 god children, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A native and a resident of New Orleans, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers, and members of Clio Place Baptist Church, Local Union No. 689, Folgers Coffee Co., Crescent City Healthcare, Serenity Hospice, Bridge City Correctional Center, Cox Communications, The Barousse, and Regional Transit Authority are invited to attend the funeral services at Providence Baptist Church 11509 Jefferson Hwy on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12:00 P.M. Rev. Sherman Hughes- Officiating. Interment Providence Memorial Park. No wake. You may sign the Guest Book on nola.com/obits. Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home Inc. in charge. 504-522-2525 and 985-872-6934

## BROWN

Richard R. Brown III died on Tuesday October 4, 2005 in Jackson, MS. Husband of Bea North Brown. Son of Richard Brown Jr. and Carol Tate Brown. Brother of Michael Brown. Uncle of Meghan Brown and Cody Brown. Nephew of Ron and Bob Brown. Son-in-law of Daniel W. North, Jr. and Mattie North. Brother-in-law of Marilyn Nelson. Age 40 years, a native of Covington, LA and a resident of Abita Springs for 14 years. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday October 8, 2005 at 12:30 PM. Visitation on Saturday from 11:30 AM until service time. In lieu of flowers, donations fo LSU School of Medicine for Brain Trauma. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

## CONNERS

Donald Joseph Conners, age 69 years, passed away on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the Metropolitan Hospice in New Orleans, LA. He is the beloved husband of Ann Marie McEntee Conners for the past 36 years; father of Craig Joseph Conners, Peter Anthony Conners, Shawn Patrick Conners, Cory James Conners and Dawn Elizabeth Cancienne; father-in-law of Lorie F. Conners, Amber L. Conners, Mary A. Conners and Emil Cancienne; grandfather of E.J. and Whitney Cancienne, Cayla and Cameron Conners, Aiden Patrick Conners and the late Christa Conners; son of the late Peter Clarence Conners and Marguerite Cancienne Conners; son-in-law of the late James J. McEntee and Jeanne Coleman McEntee; brother of Melrose Conners Kathmann and the late Gloria Conners Bringold; brother-in-law of Bernard (Pete) Kathmann and the late John Bringold. Mr. Conners was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Chalmette, LA. He graduated in 1955 from Francis T. Nicholls High School in New Orleans, LA. He was a retired dispatcher for Illinois Central Gulf Railroad after 43 dedicated years. He was also an employee of St. Bernard Memorial Funeral Home in Chalmette and also Great Southern Motor Cargo, Inc. in New Orleans, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a memorial mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 448 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will begin at church from 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM. Burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers: donations may be made in honor of Mr. Conners to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. ST. BERNARD MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME Is in charge of arrangements.

## DIBLIN

Dorothy Kinsella Diblin, 78, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie passed away Sept. 6, 2005, in Morgan City. She was the daughter of Andrew and Alice Kinsella, born June 21, 1927. Services will be held at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church, 8500 W. Metairie Ave October 8th 2005. Visitation at 10:00 a.m. with mass to follow at 11:00 a.m. (burial pending). She is survived by her husband, Clarence Diblin, Jr. of Metairie; her two sons, Clarence and his wife Joan Diblin III of Covington, Mark and Melissa Diblin of Gainesville, Fl.; her daughter, Connie and her husband Larry Besson of Metairie; her brother, Andrew Kinsella and his wife Pat of Mandeville; her sister Marilyn Brechtel and her husband Warren of Covington. She is also survived by her six loving grandchildren, Cody, Joshua, Dorie, Abby, and Molly Diblin, Alison Cupit, and great-granddaughter Cassidy. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, Alice & Joseph Stelljes. Donations to O.L.D. P. Church hurricane relief fund or any cancer fund are encouraged.

## DICRISTINA

Dr. Casimir A. DiCristina was born on June 10, 1921 in New orleans, LA and passed into heaven to be with his Lord on October 4, 2005 in Houston, TX. He graduated from LSU Medical School in 1946 and practiced family medicine in NEw Orleans for almost 50 years. He was a compassionate physician becoming very popular and highly sought after by New Orleans' families. He was a leader in Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish Medical Societies and a past President of the Louisiana Association of General Practitioners. Dr. DiCristina was a man of Christian Faith with a profound love of God and His Son Jesus Christ. He personalized his Faith in his daily life often reflecting with delight that "his work was God's work". He loved boating, fishing, traveling, cookouts, birthdays, hunting with his son and nephews and many other activities. His interests were many, but "family" was the primary influence capturing his love and imagination. He was a strong, devoted head of his Italian family, and his love and compassion will be missed. He is preceded in death by his parents, Josephine and Orazio DiCristina, sister, Emma DiCristina Schilleci, all of New Orleans. Dr. DiCristina is surviced by his beloved and cherished wife of 57 years, Verne Miller DiCristina; son, Casimir DiCristina, both of Metairie; daughters, Sherolyn Hancock and husband Randy of Houston and Kathy Touchy and husband Michael; sister, Carmel DiCristina Azzarello, all of Metairie. He was surrounded by 8 wonderful and very entertaining grandchildren: Rebecca Murphy Roos and husband Christopher, Robert Murphy Jr. and wife Jeanne, Christina Murphy, Jennifer DiCristina, Kelly Touchy, Jessica DiCristina, Michael Touchey II, and Jamie DiCristina. He also enjoyed 7 great-grandchildren. Dr. DiCristina was a truly remarkable and blessed man. The family will recieve visitors 12:00 - 2:00 pm, Friday, October 7 at J.B. Earthman-Tanglewood Funeral Home (5740 San Felipe @ Bering Dr.) followed by a 2:00 pm Fun Orleans at a future date. Please post tributes at www.earthmanfunerals.com.

## DILEO

Ruth LaCroix DiLeo, a resident of Metairie, for 56 years, died on September 24, 2005 after evacuating for Hurricane Katrina to Arcadia, Louisiana. She was 84 years young. Mrs. DiLeo was born in Ft. Worth Texas and came to New Orleans in 1940 to attend Charity Hospital School of Nursing. Ruth worked at Touro Infirmary for 42 years, being one of the first nurses to open the ICU and taught with the Inservice Department for many years, orienting and training new nurses. Ruth continued her education, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Holy Cross College. She had many friends with the Lures & Liars Sportsmen's Club. For decades, Ruth was very active at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School and Church, including serving as a Eucharistic Minister for many years. Ruth also enjoyed being an active member of the Legion of Mary at St. Catherine's, through the years. Ruth was the beloved wife of Dr. Carlo A. DiLeo; the adored mother of Carol D. Benit, Trudy, Charles and Stephen DiLeo and the late Christopher DiLeo; mother-in-law of Thomas Benit, Christopher Shaw, Cassandra Miele DiLeo, Janet Wall DiLeo and the late Lillie Rome DiLeo; daughter of the late Gertrude Henton Lofton and Adolphus Charles LaCroix; sister of Milton LaCroix, Gertrude Wood and the late Maxine Johnston, Ralph LaCroix and Adolphus C. LaCroix, Jr. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. The family invites friends and relatives to visit at the Metairie Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2929 Metairie Road on Friday, October 7, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Visitations are also welcome on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM at the funeral home followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. at 11:00 AM. Temporary interment will follow at Jefferson Memorial Gardens, 11316 River Road, St. Rose, Louisiana, with final interment in Lake Lawn

## DORSEY

Joseph Dorsey died on Friday, September 23, 2005 at the age of 71 in Houston, TX. Graduated from Clark Senior High School. A member of Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr. A former building and grounds keeper for the state of Louisiana when he was active. Son of the late William and Willie Mae Dorsey. Beloved Husband of Willie Mae Glover Dorsey. Father of Rachel Dorsey Simon, Rafaela Dorsey, and Monica Cargo. Step Father of Derrick Dooley Sr. of New Orleans, LA. Also survived by 3 grandchildren, Brea Coleman, Khari Dooley, and Derrick Dooley Jr., and a host of brothers, sisters, nieces, ,nephews, and other relatives and friends. A native and resident of New Orleans, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers, and members of Providence BC and Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Church are invited to attend the Funeral Services at Providence Baptist Church, 11509 Jefferson Hwy on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12:00 pm, Rev. Sherman Hughes officiating. Interment Restlawn Memorial Park, Avondale, LA. No wake. You may sign the guest book on nola.com/obits. Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home Inc. in charge. 504-522-2525 or 985-872-6934.

## DOWNEY

Doris June Adolph Downey on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Louis (Pat) Downey, Sr. Daughter of the late Esther Mayer Adolph and Sherwin Adolph. Mother of Wayne Michael, Rodney Edward and Louis Patrick Downey, Jr. Sister of Eleanor Goodwin. Also survived by 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Age 76 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Terrytown, LA for the past 38 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA., on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Friday morning from 9:00 AM until time of service.

## EDWARDS

Joyce Edwards born July 18th, 1928 passed away October 3, 2005 at Lafayette General Medical Center. Native of Greenwell Springs, LA. Survived by two daughters, Patsy Bozzelle and Pamela Sue Caplis; one son, Wayne Felps; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, 1 sister Mattie Stubbs; and two brothers, C.W. and Odgen Cutrer. The body was donated to the LSU Medical Center. Memorial Service at Sandy Creek Baptist Church in Pride, LA., Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sandy Creek Baptist Church Youth Fund.

## ENMON

James (Big Jim) Earl Enmon 56, of Slidell, died September 2, 2005 in St. Louis, MO. He was the the beloved husband of Jeanette M. Enmon for 36 years and the loving father of Heather Enmon and Derek Enmon. Also survived by two grandchildren, Carson and Kaden Enmon; his daughter-in-law Collen; his two brothers, Clyde and Richard Enmon; and several nieces and nephews. James was a long time member of the Slidell Elks Lodge 2321 and a member of the Fremeux Tavern dart team. James spent over 30 years in the lumber industry while working for Hill Behan, McCoys, Poole's, and Louisiana Lumber. A memorial service will be held the Slidell Elks Lodge, Saturday October 8, 2005 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Slidell Elks Lodge.

## ESKINE

Ryan Jacob Eskine passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Age 31 years. Beloved husband of Danielle Chanove Eskine. Father of Tristen Eskine. Stepfather of David Walters, III. Son of Paul H. Eskine, Sr. and Lydia Seifert Docampo. Stepson of Leah B. Eskine and Pedro Docampo. Brother of Paul H. Eskine, Jr. Grandson of Noemie Seifert. Brother-in-law of Joe and Dominique Chanove. Son-in-law of Wallace and Mary Lynn Chanove. Mr. Eskine was a member of St. Genevieve Catholic Church. Relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Louisiana Carpenters Regional, the Louisiana State Troopers Association and the New Orleans Police Department are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Chapel, 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM and on Friday from 11:00 AM until time of Mass. In lieu of flowers donations to STOPS, St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433 preferred. Burial will follow in Pinecrest Cemetery LAKELAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME Is in charge of arrangements.

## GEARY

Emmet William Geary, Sr., Monday, October 3, 2005 at 9:00 P.M. at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Houma, LA. Husband of Louise Daspit Geary of New Orleans, LA. Son of the late Walter M. Geary and Harriet Beatty Geary. Father of Emmet W. Geary, Jr. of New Orleans, LA., and Katharine Louise Geary of Pineville, LA. Brother of Harriet B. Geary of New Orleans, LA., Catherine Geary Martin of Smyrna, GA., the late Walter T. Geary and Arthur Geary. Also survived by one grandson Andrew Cavaners. Age 87 Years, a native and resident of New Orleans, LA. A retired office manager with Bell South, and a U.S. Army Veteran. Parishioner of Mater Dolorosa Church in New Orleans, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass Christian Burial on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 11:00 AM at St.Francis de Sales Cathedral, 500 Goode St., Houma, LA., with temporary interment at St. Francis de Sales #1 Cemetery, Houma, LA., and final interment in Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, LA. Visitation will be held on Saturday at St. Francis De Sales Cathedral from 10:30 A.M. until funeral time. In lieu of flowers, donations to charity of your choice. Arrangements by Chauvin Funeral Home, Inc. 5899 Hwy 311, Houma, LA 70360.

## GERRETS

Melvin Mitchel Gerrets, Jr., A Loving Husband, Father, And Son Passed Away On September 30, 2005 At M.D. Anderson Cancer Center In Houston, TX. Where He Was Surrounded By His Family. He Passed Peacefully After A Long, Hard Fight With Lymphoma. A Native Of New Orleans, LA, He Was Born On June 26, 1950. He Graduated From DE LA Salle High School And Spent A Short Time In College Until He Joined The New Orleans Police Department, Where He Served For 30 Years Until Retiring In 2004. His Service To The Department Is Most Remembered For His Successful Work As A Detective In The Robbery Division, Where He Was Honored With Many Awards And Was Offered Several Promotions But Chose To Retain The Rank Of Sergeant In Order To Continue The Job He Enjoyed And Excelled In. He Also Started His Own Business Entitles Mel's Ice Cream, A Soft Serve Ice Cream And Daiquiri Machine Rental Company That Services The Entire New ORLEANS Metro Area And Parts Of Mississippi And Alabama. A Hard Worker And Well-Respected Gentleman Of His Community, He Will Be Remembered For His Comaraderie And His Service For His City. Mel Is Survived By His Wife, Jill Blady Gerrets; His Two Sons, Mel, III And Greg; His Parents, Mel, Sr. And Mildred Gerrets And His Sister, Marlene Pittari. He IS Also Survived By Many Nieces And Nephews. Relatives And Friends Of The Family Are Invited To Attend A Funeral MAss To Be Held At St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church, Algiers, LA On Friday, October 7, 2005 At 1:00 PM> Interment: Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Cemetery, Belle Chasse, LA. A Visitation Will Be Held At Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 West Bank Expy., Harvey, LA on Friday morning From 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM. In Lieu Of Flowers, Donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Preferred (www.lla.org.donate)

## GREENE

Onnie R. Greene passed away Thursday, September 29, 2005 at his home in Luling, LA. Son of Caldonia Greene and the late Joseph Greene, Sr. Husband of Charlotte White Greene. Brother of Calotta Raynold and Ronnie Greene. Brother of Al Greene, Lori Burns, Trudy Greene, and the late Joseph Greene Jr. Also survived by one grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Age 47 years. A native of LaPlace, LA and a resident of Luling, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of Antioch Baptist Church and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral service at Antioch Baptist 16461 Old Spanish Trail, Des Allemands, LA on Saturday, October 8,2005 at 11:00AM. Rev Dr. Mitchell Bolden, Jr., Pastor, Rev Charles Temple, Jr., Assistant Pastor, Officiating. Internment Mt. Airy Memorial Park Cemetary, Boutte, LA. Visitation at the above named church from 10:00AM until service time. SERVICED BY ROBOTTOM

## HATTIER

Don Thomas Hattier, born on October 8, 1940 passed away on September 29, 2005 at his Kenner home. Husband of the late Merle Thibodeaux Hattier. Survived by his daughter, Catherine Hattier Barrouquere, son-in-law, James M. Barrouquere and granddaughter, Anna Grace Barrouquere. Preceded in death by his parents Helen Collins Hattier and Milton John Hattier. Born in New Orleans, he resided in Kenner for over thirty years. He was a graduate of St. Aloysius High School and Louisiana State University. Relatives and friends as well as employees of Retif Oil are invited to attend the Funeral Services at Lamana-Panna-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Blvd. on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12:00 Noon at the funeral home. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for Mount Carmel Academy's Athletic Department, 7027 Milne Dr., New Orleans, LA., 70124. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

## HUDSON

Theresa Hudson departed this life on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at Avoyelles Hospital. Beloved Wife of of the late Wilbert Hudson, Sr. Mother of Dorothy Kennard, Shirley and Brenda Babino, Mary Louise Keller, Lois Ann Hunter, Helen, Mary Ann, and Sue Ann Hudson. John Babino, Wilbert, Jr., Michael, Tyrone, Jyrone and Lionel Hudson. Daughter of the late Isom Joseph Babino and Florence Babino. Sister of Leana Sampson of Mansura, LA., Emma (Paul) Steib of New Orleans, LA., Leitta Moore of Port Author, TX., Lester (IDA) Babino and Johnell Babino of Mansura, LA. Mother-in-law of Ruth Babino, Jackie and Brenda L. Hudson, Clarence Hudson, Sr., Steven and Ted Griffin and the late Leonard Kennard, Sr. Also survived by 49 Grandchildren, 53 Great Grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. Age 72 years. A native of Mansura, LA., and a resident of Marrero, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also Pastors, Officers, and Members of Tabernacle Church and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Tabernacle Church, 355 Sala Ave. Westwego, LA., on Friday, October 7, 2005 (no wake). Visitation from 8:30 A.M. until time of service at the church. Interment, New Hope Cemetery-Grenta, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 W. B. Expressway, Marrero, LA.

## IRBY

Tammy Lirette Irby, October 4, 2005 at 11:58 P.M. Wife of the late Joseph Irby. Daughter of Lolita LeCompte Lirette of Buras, LA. and the late Houston Lirette. Mother of Houston Back and Emily Back and her fiance' Michael Scandurro, Jr. of Buras, LA. Sister of Walker Lirette of Empire, LA. Also survived by three grandchildren. Age 44 years, a native of Marrero, LA. and resident of Houma, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Religious Service at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at Chauvin Funeral Home Chapel, 5899 Hwy 311, Houma, LA., with interment at Southdown Cemetery, Houma, LA. Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at Chauvin Funeral Home from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. and on Friday from 8:00 A.M. until funeral time. Arrangements by Chauvin Funeral Home, Inc. 5899 Hwy 311, Houma, LA. 70360.

## JAFFE

Abner Isaac Jaffe, age 98, on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 8:30 AM. Husband of the late Sylvia Rothman Jaffe. Father of Bernard Michael Jaffe, M.D. and the late Carol Ann Gersten. Grandfather of Mark Allen Jaffe, Debra Lynn Hanzen and David Gersten. Great-grandfather of Alex and Max Jaffe and Jonah Hanzen. Private Funeral Services were held at Rabenhorst Funeral Homes in Baton Rouge, LA on September 29th, 2005. Followed by burial in Beth David Cemetery, Elmont, NY.

## JEFFRIES

Fay Wise Jeffries on Sunday October 2, 2005 at her residence. Beloved wife of James A. Jeffries. Mother of Dawn J. Zimmerman and Heidi Jeffries Raaphorst. Grandmother of Ryan J., Craig N. and Megan N. Zimmerman. Abbey M. and Ava Grace Raaphorst. Sister of Joyce Nettle, Joan N. Garrusso and Robert Wise. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie. Services for the family on Thursday October 6, 2005 at 12:00 PM at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. Interment in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens, final resting place LakeLawn Park.

## JOHNSON

Gilbert Anthony Johnson on September 1, 2005. Beloved husband of Marian Galway Johnson. Father of Bruce N. Johnson, Sr. and the late Kenneth G. Johnson. Grandfather of Bruce N. Johnson, Jr. Mr. Johnson was a WWII Navy Veteran. Aged 87 years. A native of New Orleans and a lifelong resident of this city. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Interment in St. Patrick No. 1. Friends may call from 8:30 AM on Monday October 10, 2005 until funeral time.

## JOHNSTON

Cecil (Timmy) Johnnie Johnston, Jr., a skilled carpenter, loyal friend and loving father died on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. He was 43 years old. Beloved father of Thor Taylor Johnston. Companion of Dona Rainey. Son of Jeanette Babin Odom and the late Bedford Taylor Odom. Brother of Cindy Hyde Diaz and the late Sr. Airman Mark Gregory Johnston. A native of Algiers and a resident of Terrytown for the past 21 years. Services will be private. Arrangements handled by Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA. 504-341-9421

## KREBS

Joseph J. Krebs, Jr., a native and resident of New Orleans, died on October 4, 2005, at the age of seventy-five, following a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Betty Krebs, his children, David Krebs and Kathleen Murphy, and their spouses, Patricia Krebs and Tim Murphy, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He served as President and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans, as Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce for New Orleans and the River Region, and as Chairman of the Jefferson Business Council. He was a member of the Board of Advisors of the Tulane University School of Engineering and a member of the Board of Trustees of Loyola University. He was a loving husband and father. Relatives and friends are invited to attend Funeral services on Saturday, October 8 at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana 70006. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Society for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Executive Plaza III, Suite 906, 11350 McCormick Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031

## LAURIE

Joseph J. Laurie, Jr. on Friday, September 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Antoinette "Gigi" Giglio Laurie. Father of Nicholas Joseph and Stephanie Elizabeth Laurie. Son of the late Elizabeth O'Connor and Joseph J. Laurie. Brother of Frances Laurie Lewis, Jimmy Haag, Donald Haag and preceded in death by John A. Rome and Larry "Whip" Laurie. Beloved cousin of Chester Stetfelt, Jr. Also survived by brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, family and friends. He will be sadly missed by Baxter "his cat". Aged 47 years, a native of New Orleans, a resident of Metairie for 41 years, and a resident of Arabi for the past 6 yeas. Relatives, employees of Coca Cola Bottling Co., Winn Dixie, Bellsouth, Hibernia Bank, and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Friends may visit from 9:00 AM until time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations to Childrens Hospital, 200 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, preferred.

## LEWIS

Shirley Leads Cavallino Lewis on Thursday September 29, 2005 at 11:34am. Wife of the late Joseph Lewis. Mother of Joy S. Vedros. Sister of the late Dr. Warren Leeds and Marion O'Toole. Grandmother of Dr. Lauren V. Myers, Jill V. Mutavdzic and Kimberley V. Landry. Great Grandmother of Taylor, Grayson, Madison, Kallen and Alexandra. Aunt of Robert Leeds, Mimi Quiroga and Michael Leeds. Age 85 years, A native of New York, NY and a resident of this city for 60 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Wednesday October 5, 2005 at 2:00pm. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery and final resting place in LakeLawn Cemetery. Visitation from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

## LINDSEY

Andree (Angie) Johansen Lindsey, 64 years old, devoted wife and mother, passed away in peace at her home on August 25, 2005 after a courageous fight with cancer in the care of her husband and St. Joseph's Hospice. Born in Detroit and a lifelong resident of New Orleans, she was employed as a secretary at Lykes Brothers Shipping and Taylor Diving and Salvage Companies, and as a waitress at Visko's, the Seafood Steamery and Ye Olde College Inn. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. Survivors include her devoted husband, Elzy, her son and daughter-in-law, Elzy Jay Lindsey and Keely Carlisle, her granddaughters, Morgan and Aidan Lindsey, as well as, a host of nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by her son Gary Ray, her parents, Knute and Evelyn Johansen and her sister Evelyn Zapalowski. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitation and funeral services at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd, near Clearview Pkwy. on Monday, October 10, 2005. Visitation will begin at 8:00 AM and the Funeral Service will begin at 12:00 Noon. Interment to follow at Restlawn Park and Mausoleum, 4040 Highway 90, Avondale, LA. Please sign the online guestbook at www.legacy.com

## MONROE

Wallace Gordon Monroe, Jr., a retired Baptist Minister after 50 years, passed away on Saturday, August 27, 2005. Beloved husband of Florine Johns Monroe after 63 years of marriage. Father of Michael Monroe, Donna M. Weber, Mary Monroe and the late Carol M. Roundtree. Brother of Audrey M. Dacus, the late Nancy M. Hand, Donald and Kenneth Monroe. Son of the late Wallace Gordon Monroe, Sr. and Edith Davis Monroe. Also survived by 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Age 88 years. A native of Jacksonville, FL and a resident of Marrero, LA for the past 47 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Service in the chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Friday morning from 11:00 AM until service time.

## NARCISSE

Dominique Sylvia Narcisse on Sunday October 2, 2005 at Lincoln General Hospital in Ruston, LA. She was a student at Louisiana Tech University and a high school graduate of McMain Magnet Secondary High School. Beloved daughter of Lloyd Buggage, Jr. and Cynthia Narcisse. Sister of Quincy and Darnell Narcisse, Craig Smith, Keith Sykes, Sharon Walter, and Jazmine Scott. She's also survived by her grandmother Glenda Buggage, and a host of Aunts, Uncles, and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Clarence and Sylvia Narcisse and Lloyd Buggage, Sr. Age 17 years. Resident of New Orleans. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastor, officers, and members of Greater St. Stephen FGBC, Zion Travelers 2nd BC, staff and students of McMain High School, McDonald 35 High School, and LA Tech University, and Crescent City Cheerleader Organization (which she was a member of) are invited to attend the Funeral Services at Greater St. Mary Baptist Church,1533 Horace St in New Orleans at 11:00 am on Saturday, October 8, 2005. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Richardson Funeral Home in charge of Arrangements.

## NEWTON

Terry Lee Newton on September 30, 2005. Beloved son of Lillie Bell Newton. Loving father of Chante' Monique Newton. He was also survived by three sisters and two brothers-in-law: Clarita Gordon (Alvin), Paula Daniels (Hollis) and Sherry L. Newton. Four grandchildren; Ashanti, Steven, A'Juane', Shane. He was preceded in death by two brothers and one aunt. He also leaves to mourn one aunt, two uncles, and a host of cousins and many devoted friends. Funeral services will be held Friday, October 7, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Richardson Funeral Home, 11112 Jefferson Hwy, River Ridge, LA. Interment Providence Memorial Park. Richardson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## RIVERS

Flora Leona Rivers Died On Thursday, September 29, 2005 At Platte County Memorial Hospital In Wheatland, Wyoming. Beloved Wife Of The Late Opal David "O.D." Rivers. Mother Of Judith F. Huffaker Of Wheatland, WY, David A. Rivers Of Jasper, AL, Brenda K. Rausin Of Sicily Island, LA, John W. Rivers And Tommy R. Rivers, Both Of Belle Chasse, LA. Sister Of Ora Othell Jackson Of Osceola, IN, Lee Albert Donaldson Of Talladega, AL, Ronald E. Donaldson Of Hueytown, AL And Harland E. Donaldson Of Montgomery, AL. Also Survived By 11 Grandchildren, 19 Great Grandchildren, Numerous Nieces, Nephews, Sister-In-Laws And Friends Too Numerous To Count. She Was Preceded In Death By Her Parents, William Oather Donaldson And Bessie (Hannah) Donaldson And Five Siblings. Age 87 Years. A Native Of Searles, AL And A Resident Of Wheatland, WY For The Past 8 Years. Realatives And Friends Of The Family Are Invited To Attend Funeral Services At Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Wesybank Expressway, Harvey, LA On Thursday

The Times-Picayune

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# YOUR OPINIONS



Three hundred Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers are being stored near the Lakeshore Estates subdivision south of Slidell.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

## Now the poor have an opportunity

Re: "Storm victims face misery by design," Oct. 5.

Paul Krugman's column states that the federal government is faltering on two critical issues: by giving permanent Medicaid to poor Katrina victims and offering trailers to the homeless. He criticizes Medicaid waivers for victims so they can get Medicaid in the areas that they have evacuated to. These waivers would entitle victims to services they were entitled to in their home states and no more. What is wrong with that?

Mr. Krugman feels that taxpayers should give all poor evacuees permanent Medicaid, not just waivers. Why? He goes on to say that many of these poor in need of Medicaid are childless adults of working age. If they are of working age and not on Medicaid due to a disability, then why do they need it? They have an excellent opportunity to go to work at a higher wage than before either in New Orleans or other metro areas.

Other articles the same day report signing bonuses offered by fast food outlets of up to $6,000 with a higher hourly wage than offered prior to the hurricane. Why don't some of these jobless people take those jobs with benefits and get off the dole, permanently?

As for Mr. Krugman's condemnation of trailers and his endorsement of rental-vouchers: Has he been here since the hurricanes? Where would one take a voucher to get a rental property? Does he not understand that there are vast parts of the city that are uninhabitable? The rental properties are gone. After the storm, I had no electricity, potable water, etc. I would have given my right arm for a good night's sleep in a cool trailer.

We have depended on the government so long that we have created an entitlement society where young people don't want to work but would rather stand in line for giveaways. It is time to break this cycle.

Spread the poor out (in trailers or wherever we can) and encourage them to apply for a job. They have to start somewhere if they ever expect to rise from poverty. Or just maybe, poverty is the condition where our elected officials want them — so it is easier to bus them to the polls on Election Day.

**Claire Taylor**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Mandeville*

## Many owe us foreign aid

If the U.S. government cannot provide interim funds to keep parish employees on the job, then the parishes should ask for foreign aid. This country has provided money to Israel, Egypt, Indonesia and many others. China, Japan, Taiwan, India and other countries benefit from their sales and services to the United States. We are now in need, and those who have profited from commerce with this country should be ready to provide assistance.

**George Hero**
*Belle Chasse*

## Don't bulldoze

Unfortunately, New Orleans didn't have a Rudy Giuliani for Hurricane Katrina or a Joseph Riley for its aftermath. After Hugo hit Charleston in 1989, Mayor Riley understood the importance of historic preservation and fought to prevent the wholesale demolition of his historic city.

Will New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin show the same leadership and protect New Orleans' architectural legacy? Or will he turn our beloved city over to carpetbaggers: federal bureaucrats, clueless politicians, big developers and insurance companies?

New Orleans is more than a local and state treasure, it is a world monument!

**Lloyd Sensat**
*New Orleans*
*Now in Baton Rouge*

## Careful what you ask for

We got exactly what we asked for.

We voted in the government we wanted because they promised tax cuts. They said government is the problem, and that they'd make it so small they could drown it in a bathtub.

Well, we got our tax cuts and our dysfunctional government.

Look who's drowning now.

**Michael DiBari**
*New Orleans*

## Families need schools

Re: "Most Orleans schools staying shut," Oct. 4

I respectfully urge the Orleans Parish School Board, interim Superintendent Ora Watson and Alvarez & Marsal to open the viable schools on the east bank of the river. Several schools in Uptown New Orleans remain intact. Children certainly cannot return to the area without approval of the water; however, once this occurs, the school system should amend the New Orleans public school plan to open schools on the east bank. Our children need accessible schools in their general area. Driving to Algiers or enrolling in private school is not a financially viable option during this time.

Many parents and teachers are willing to work to clear up debris and litter to make the areas around the school available for students. Some of us may have our homes intact and our jobs to return to. However, if neighborhood schools are missing, it leaves our infrastructure in peril.

**Alysha Jordan**
*New Orleans*

## Illegal ads trash streets

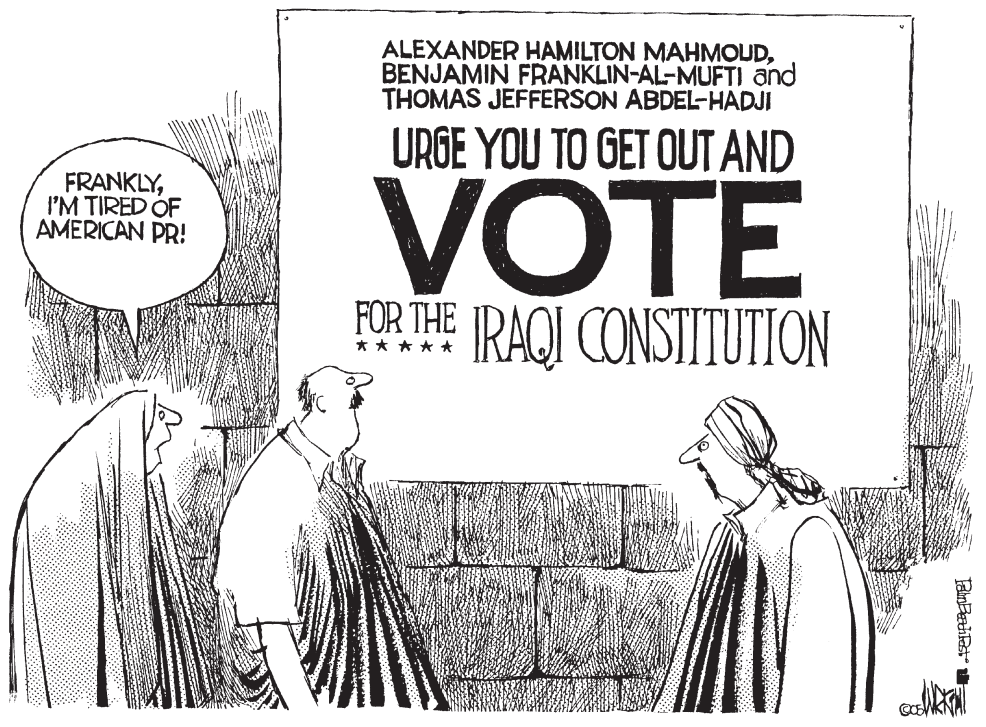
With all of the debris caused by Hurricane Katrina piling up along our city streets, the last thing we need is businesses adding to this blight with illegal advertising. Yet I counted 50 illegal signs at one major intersection in St. Tammany Parish. It has been illegal to advertise on public property for decades. Yet an opportunity to make some fast cash off of the storm victims is too great to pass up. The unethical practice continues to snowball to the point where you cannot even read them because there are so many.

Ask your parish or city leaders why they let this continue. Better yet, ask the businesses why they are littering your streets. Ask the local businesses that are not littering and spending thousands of dollars a year to advertise legally how they feel about out-of-state competitors being allowed to break the law.

It should not fall to local citizens to take the law into their own hands, but I have noticed that forests of signs have been regularly removed from the entrances to several subdivisions. But perhaps this is the answer. If the visual blight offends you, remove the sign yourself. Perhaps then these businesses will stop littering your streets.

**Hew Hamilton**
*Mandeville*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Displaced and rejected

Helping impoverished hurricane victims get the health care they need shouldn't be a hard sell. But a bipartisan bill that would provide temporary Medicaid coverage to those hit by Katrina and Rita — and help Louisiana, Mississippi and parts of Alabama with the additional cost — is going nowhere in the Senate.

The legislation, sponsored by U.S. Sens. Charles Grassley and Max Baucus, would provide coverage for five months to all storm victims who are below the federal poverty line, including childless adults between the ages of 19 and 64, a group normally excluded by eligibility criteria. It would also cover pregnant women and children whose income is 200 percent above the federal poverty line. Under the bill, the federal government would pay 100 percent of the cost of Medicaid coverage in Louisiana, Mississippi and parts of Alabama until the end of 2006.

That's a reasonable response to this catastrophe that will help victims, the states that have harbored them and hospitals and clinics that have provided care for them. The 6,000 storm victims in Louisiana alone who have been rejected when they sought Medicaid coverage demonstrates the need to temporarily ease eligibility requirements. That's more than half who've applied, and those figures only take into account people living in evacuation shelters and those who've applied for the program at a Medicaid office in Louisiana.

The bill's opponents, including the Bush administration, don't want an expansion of the Medicaid program, nor do they want the federal government to be stuck with the tab — nearly $9 million in the original bill, an amount Sen. Grassley is working to reduce to $6 million. The White House says the legislation could end up benefiting people who were not storm victims, a problem that could easily be addressed by amending the bill. Administration officials also claim that a solution is already available: a Medicaid waiver that gives states permission to loosen the rules.

But a waiver is not much of an answer for Louisiana. It would at least enable people with children whose incomes are below $19,350 for a family of four — the federal poverty line — to get Medicaid coverage for five months. But the state would have to pay 30 percent of the additional cost. That would be tough for a poor state such as Louisiana during normal times. Such an expense now, when the state is reeling from the one-two punch of Katrina and Rita, isn't feasible.

This necessary piece of legislation should not languish. Lawmakers understand that storm victims need food, water and shelter. They should also understand that people need to be able to see a doctor and get medicine if they become ill. In fact, evacuees may be more medically at risk than they were before Katrina turned their lives upside down. New Orleans area residents who went to Charity Hospital for care no longer have that alternative, and it's unclear when or if they will have a public hospital again.

Giving temporary Medicaid coverage to more hurricane victims won't solve all their problems. But it might keep them healthier in the immediate aftermath of the disaster — and put them in a better position to help themselves and their families. Helping Louisiana pay for the cost is also critical to the state's fiscal health.

Any approach to recovery that fails to take people's health care needs into account is by definition inadequate. Louisiana's poor have already endured an inadequate government response to their distress; they shouldn't have to live through another.

## Garbage in, garbage out

There are many difficulties inherent to life in the city of New Orleans these days.

Power service is spotty. Phone service is iffy. Shopping is limited to a few drugstores and little else.

Still, parts of the city are coming to life, and Mayor Ray Nagin is urging more residents and businesses to make their way home.

If the city wants to help along the process, it needs to make sure the growing mounds of festering garbage scattered around town are picked up in rapid order. Parts of New Orleans have a strong aroma during the best of times. A fetid scent hangs over the French Quarter after throngs of tourists have had their fun. In the summer, the odor can be particularly pungent.

The rotting remains from homes and businesses in these post-Katrina days make the everyday scent of the French Quarter seem like the aroma of a sweet olive tree.

The spoiled remains of refrigerators are being put out on sidewalks, and some businesses have piles of refuse stacking up. On some stretches of the streets in the French Quarter, the odor is so strong it takes your breath away. Uptown, the parking lot and part of the street next to Zara's Supermarket is scattered with putrid meat and other decaying food. There appears to have been little or no attempt to bag up the garbage or contain its spoilage.

Decaying piles of food are a health hazard, and they are an impediment to the recovery of the city. How is a business owner supposed to lure back customers if his neighbor left a mound of rotting refuse next door? How is a homeowner supposed to clean up and start over if his front yard stinks to high heaven?

Yes, the city is in a financial crisis. And Mayor Ray Nagin's announcement Tuesday of massive layoffs to the city work force complicated the situation. If the city doesn't have the resources to handle garbage collection, the mayor needs to make sure that someone else — the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Guard, someone — gets the job done.

One way to make New Orleans a livable city is to pick up the trash.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Media may need anger management



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Trucks and motor homes used by news organizations occupy the Canal Street neutral ground in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on Sept. 11.

TOM ROSENSTIEL AND BILL KOVACH

Much has been made of the surge of emotion among journalists who covered the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and to a lesser degree Hurricane Rita. Jeanne Meserve of CNN broke down. Anderson Cooper, also of CNN, got mad. Shepard Smith of Fox was outraged.

Many have lauded the news media's newfound passion, and some have even wondered whether it might be a welcome sign of a new aggressiveness on their part.

But the praise has by no means been unanimous. "A 100-year journalistic commitment to a dispassionate report of facts seems to be in jeopardy," one well-known Washington journalism educator wrote us. Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour was moved to ask Cooper one night, "Is this an argument or an interview?"

The issue cuts to the heart of what it means to be a journalist at a time when the matter is more in doubt than ever. In a profession that pledges itself to suppress self-interest to ensure its credibility, are emotionalism and outrage ever appropriate? And if so, when do they go too far?

Emotional responses to breaking events have become increasingly common with the new technology that allows instant visual reports from any place on Earth: the World Trade Center, Fallujah, tsunami-stricken villages, a bloody schoolhouse in the Russian town of Beslan, and towns and cities ravaged by Katrina. The pictures provide the stimulus. Anchors, sometimes armed with little more information than viewers have, offer the response.

It would be difficult to argue that emotion from journalists on the scene witnessing such human suffering is always out of place. Journalists are in essence our surrogate observers. It would have been odd, even distressing to most, if reporters had reacted like journalistic robots to the devastation in the Gulf Coast — further proof, press bashers would be quick to suggest, that the media have lost their humanity.

Rejecting that kind of emotional isolationism helped spawn movements such as civic journalism over a decade ago. The goal was to "reconnect" with citizens and present news in terms that made it more relevant to them. Bonding with audiences is also one of the forces that fueled the rise of the new partisan media.

Genuine human emotion drives journalism to higher levels of inquiry and gives journalists spine. Yet clearly there are risks to it. It can quickly descend into manipulative gimmickry, with journalists as professional emoters who cover events to express their outrage. Paddy Chayefsky explored this in the movie "Network," in which anchorman Howard Beale announces that he's fed up and isn't going to take it anymore. The angry everyman is an old clichÉ in the news game, one that is alive and well in talk radio, on cable TV and on new Internet venues.

One problem is that this kind of emotional formulation of the news can distort coverage. You search for stories that play that tune, and avoid those that do not. The emotionalism becomes the news, the brand, the gimmick. Information is deemed too cerebral and insufficiently visual.

The first sensible rule here would seem to be that emotion ought to come at those moments when any other reaction would seem forced or out of place — when it's the only organic response. When anchorman Walter Cronkite wiped his eyes after John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 or showed the sense of awe he felt over the space shots a few years later, it struck Americans as appropriate — as did the concern of anchors Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Dan Rather after Sept. 11, 2001. Katrina qualifies. The emotion wasn't a journalistic device. It was simply what it was — a human reaction, difficult to control.

The second rule should be that once journalists have reacted in a human way to what they've seen, they must compose themselves to sort out responsibility for how and why things happened. The search for answers requires all their skepticism, professionalism and intellectual independence.

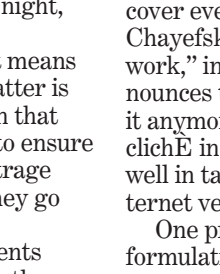
In a disaster of the magnitude of Katrina, we will continue to mourn what America has lost, and emotion will at times be part of the story. But we are now beginning to identify and learn from the mistakes, and the public will be called on to support or oppose decisions that will be made in its name.

Vested interests, political and otherwise, will supply the outrage and finger-pointing ad nauseam. That is the time when citizens most need journalists to have their wits about them, to apply serious critical and independent thought to questions that will cut through the spin and provide people the information they need to make up their own minds.

Human emotion is at the heart of what makes something news. But if journalists try to manufacture it or use it to bring attention to themselves, they're into something there is already enough of: reality entertainment.

Tom Rosenstiel is the director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism. Bill Kovach is the chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists. They wrote this column for The Washington Post.

# Musicians stick out in square Atlanta



JARVIS DEBERRY

One of the things Jeremi Crump noticed after he arrived in Atlanta was the seeming absence of musicians who support themselves solely with their craft. New Orleans was a place teeming with musicians. Sure, some of them had so-called "day jobs," but a great number of them were devoted entirely to their music.

That ability of those New Orleans musicians to devote themselves entirely to their craft no doubt explains why the music was so good and why so many people — residents and tourists alike — flocked to the city's nightclubs to hear them.

But Atlanta's a different kind of city. More corporate. More nine-to-five-ish. A few months ago I bumped into a friend from New Orleans who told me his grandfather was still under the illusion that New Orleans and Atlanta were competitors. The grandson told the old man that while the two cities may have been neck-and-neck generations ago that the race has long since been completed, and New Orleans was not the victor.

I think my friend's verdict is mostly true. If we measure the two cities on the standard American scorecard, New Orleans just doesn't compare. But the funny thing about those of us who lived in New Orleans was our collective decision to adopt a different scorecard. After all, a city that shuts down completely for Mardi Gras and slows to a crawl during Jazzfest obviously isn't trying to keep pace with richer cities. People who chose to live in New Orleans did so in large part because it was a city so preoccupied with having good times that it wasn't trying to win a race.

That's why musicians flourished. It's also why the 23-year-old Crump, who went to Atlanta with his family members before Hurricane Katrina, was feeling a little out of his element when I recently interviewed him over the phone.

"I haven't been meeting any full-time musicians," he said. "They all have a day job. And (in New Orleans) I didn't have a day job. Everything I had was music-related."

Crump said he played keyboard for several bands in New Orleans including Vivid, Waterseed and Uisdom (pronounced like wisdom). He also taught piano, served as a musician for his church congregation, provided music for New Orleans area stage productions and made presentations to school-age children taking field trips to the Contemporary Arts Center on Camp Street.

When I talked to him on Sept. 28 he had already found some work. "I played one gig for pay so far. It was a very nice jazz gig at a museum. I played three or four other gigs just sitting in to network with other musicians. They give me every reason to believe that they will call me for work in the future." New Orleans percussionist Bill Summers let Crump know about a jam session that was pulling double duty as a relief effort for New Orleans musicians. He was approached afterwards by Atlantans who wanted to know if would be available to teach.

He had already begun when I talked to him.

Outsiders though they are, New Orleans musicians might not find it that difficult to find work. If they're competing against Atlanta locals who have to go home and shower after they knock off from their "real" jobs they'll have a leg up.

"I'm starting to get the impression that (venue owners) are really looking for people who can commit to the times of the gigs because so many of the (Atlantans) have day jobs. A lot of them can't commit to the time or the money." Those from New Orleans, by contrast, are less likely to have excuses about why they can't be at a certain place at a certain time.

Provided, that is, that they don't get lost. Crump told me he was still trying to figure out his way around the city, specifically how to distinguish one Peachtree address from another. Two venues can both be on Peachtree and not even be in the same municipality, he said. New Orleans never kept the locations of its music venues secret. On any night of the week, New Orleanians hungering for good music could head to the French Quarter, Faubourg Marigny, Rampart Street, Magazine Street, Tchoupitoulas Street or any number of other locations and expect to be satisfied.

Crump is a musician, but he doesn't know where people in Atlanta go when they want the same. "I have yet to find any kind of district where I can expect to hear any number of live music venues. I'm having a little trouble finding it."

Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.



JAMES GILL

# No school for this board

Education does not always seem the principal concern of school boards, but it can sometimes prove a serious distraction.

Not the way Orleans Parish board President Torin Sanders plays it, however.

There won't be many of those tiresome teachers and students to get in the way until the fall of 2006, according to his plan.

All east bank schools will remain closed, Sanders declared the other day. If it weren't for a handful of schools on the West Bank that were largely unscathed by Katrina, Sanders could slough off the board's academic responsibilities entirely.

Sanders claimed that Mayor Ray Nagin shared his defeatist sentiments, which seemed odd. Nagin has been gung-ho about repopulating the city, and, indeed, has been roundly criticized in some quarters for unseemly haste. Keeping the schools closed hardly seemed the best way to encourage citizens to return.

Sure enough, Nagin said that as soon as water supplies receive a clean bill of health — which, in fact, happened for most of the city the next day — he favored exploring the possibility of reopening east bank schools.

Some of those schools looked as though they had been hit by a hurricane before anyone had heard of Katrina, and Nagin suggested this would be an opportunity for the board to "fix" itself.

A lot of people think the board should go fix itself, of course, but there are bound to be financial constraints. The system was broke before Katrina blew the tax base away, and where the money can be found to educate kids, let alone improve campus conditions, is a poser.

Alvarez & Marsal, the New York whiz kids charged with rooting out the fraud and mismanagement that have plagued public education in New Orleans as long as anyone can remember, do not think this is the time to give up, however.

Bill Roberti, head honcho for Alvarez & Marsal in New Orleans, is weighing the possibility of opening some east bank schools in January. That would be jake with State Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard.

School Board Vice President Lourdes Moran is also in favor of the quickest possible reopening. It makes obvious sense, since there is no possibility of any semblance of normal life otherwise. The counsels of despair only make crisis harder to bear.

But there isn't much fight in Sanders and his interim superintendent, Ora Watson. They refused to budge and insisted nothing could be done. Watson suggested Nagin was against opening east bank schools until waste management was up to snuff, but his own pronouncements seemed to indicate he thought that could be achieved.

Watson and Sanders do not seem to grasp that their responsibility is to ensure that education is available, rather than find pretexts to cut it off. As Moran noted, the schools will always be lousy unless we "stop being shortsighted."

Sanders has argued that kids won't get enough classroom time if their schools reopen for the second semester. But students have enrolled in other systems all over the place and might not miss a beat if allowed to return in January. The notion that schools should be shuttered to further the interests of students is, in any case, a quaint one.

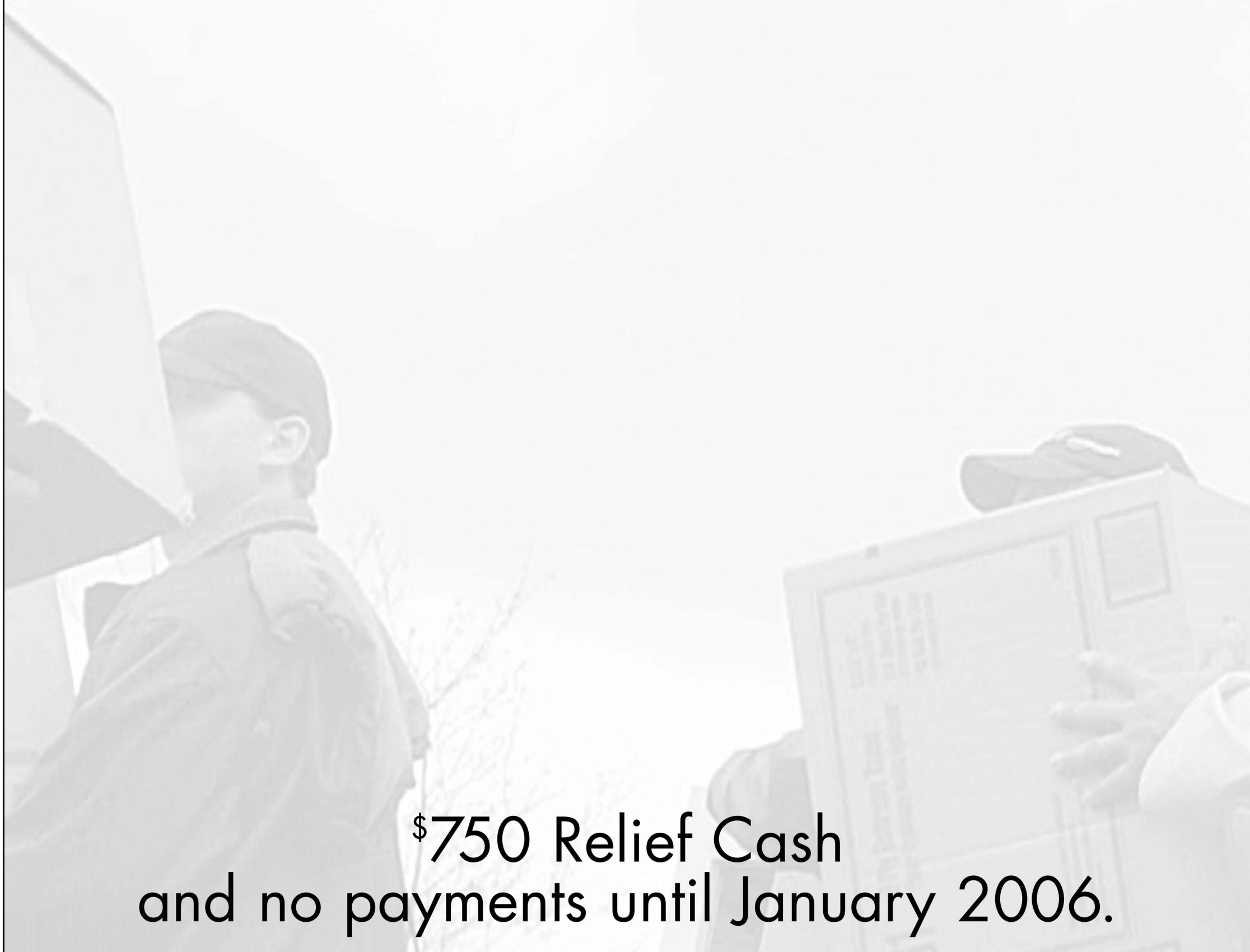
Perhaps not so quaint in New Orleans as in some systems, however, for it is unlikely that many evacuated students yearn for the academic rigor they were used to at home. Still, if Alvarez & Marsal are to improve public education in New Orleans, the sooner the schools are up and running the better.

The elite high school Ben Franklin was among those with hopes of reopening in January before Sanders made his announcement, and its board of directors has now unanimously voted to apply for charter status.

Lusher having recently done the same, it seems the city's best schools were concluding that academic excellence requires escaping the dead hand of the School Board before Sanders decided Katrina was a good excuse to close up shop.

James Gill is a staff writer.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

SECTION C
*Friday, October 7, 2005*

LIVING
For complete Living section, see **PAGE C-6**

# Miami awarded 2010 Super Bowl

**SUPER BOWL FUTURE SITES**
**2006 (XL):** Detroit
**2007 (XLI):** Miami
**2008 (XLII):** Phoenix
**2009 (XLIII):** Tampa, Fla.
**2010 (XLIV):** Miami

**By Larry Lage**
AP Sports Writer

ROMULUS, MICH. — South Florida heat prevailed over a city whose last Super Bowl was an icy one.

Miami was awarded the 2010 Super Bowl on Thursday, a record 10th time the city will host the title game and record 15th time it will be in Florida.

"We love our city and we love our area. We think the weather is the best. We think we have the best hotels, the best restaurants, the best beaches and the best golf courses," Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga said.

Miami, Atlanta and Houston made a final pitch for the marquee event at an NFL owners meeting about 25 miles from Detroit's Ford Field, where the next Super Bowl will be played.

What would Falcons owner Arthur Blank do differently?

"I would take Atlanta and move it to the Caribbean," he joked.

An ice storm and frigid temperatures struck Atlanta in 2000, the last time the game was played at the Georgia Dome.

With New York, which had been conditionally awarded the game, out of the running, the NFL picked from three cities that lost a bid in May for the 2009 game, which went to Tampa, Fla.

*See* **SUPER BOWL,** *C-4*

# Hornets' foreign signee adjusting

*Scott, Macijauskas working through language barrier*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — On the first day of training camp, former European star Arvydas Macijauskas couldn't avoid drawing the attention of Hornets coach Byron Scott.

On a set play, Scott told Macijauskas to move back to the left side when forward Bostjan Nachbar moved into the post. Instead of moving left, Macijauskas ran inside with Nachbar.

"Right then I knew he didn't know fully what I was saying because of the language barrier," Scott said. "The thing about the language barrier is that most European guys are embarrassed to say, 'I don't understand.' So, they just shake their head and say, yes they got it. You just have to weather the storm. It's a process.

"They're going to get some things and some things they're not going to understand. When they don't understand them, the last person they want to talk to is the coach. But he is a wonderful kid and he works hard and he's got some good skills."

Macijauskas, a 6-foot-4 shooting guard from Lithuania, was the Hornets' top free-agent signee this summer. He speaks

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-2*



PETER FINNEY

# Dickson still 'hanging in there'

For Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson, the odyssey began Sunday morning, Aug. 28, Katrina Minus-1.

It began with a get-out-of-town bus trip to Jackson, Miss., with the football team and soccer team, after which the evacuees spent the night on air mattresses in a gym on the campus of Jackson State. They spent Monday night, once power was lost to hurricane winds, in a gym lit by oil lanterns.

Six weeks later, Dickson could be found in Mobile with the latest news, happy to announce Coach Chris Scelfo's Green Wave would play their Oct. 29 "home" game against Marshall in Ladd Stadium, home of the Senior Bowl.

So let's see what took place in that time frame. Approximately 7,500 of Tulane's undergrad students found their way to some 100 campuses around the country. Meanwhile, 12 of Tulane's varsity teams wound up going to

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-3*

# TOUGH TRANSITION



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Jeremy McGee's evacuation to Houston for Hurricane Katrina has resulted in him enrolling and playing football at McKinley High in Baton Rouge.

*Displaced Karr running back Jeremy McGee is finding it difficult to adjust at McKinley*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

When Jeremy McGee left home with two uncles and a friend on the final weekend in August, he believed that they were headed off on nothing more than a brief excursion to Houston to take advantage of a hurricane holiday.

Nearly five weeks later, the blue-chip running back, who was expected to lead Edna Karr into the state playoffs, finds himself living in Baton Rouge, playing for the winless McKinley Panthers and being asked for something that right now he cannot deliver.

"It's crazy," McGee said. "We thought we were just going on a little trip. We thought we were going to Houston for a couple of days to have some fun. Then we started watching the news."

It was then that McGee realized he needed to find his parents, his dad Alcie and mother Genell, to pick up what few pieces of their lives remained following Hurricane Katrina's devastating strike.

"I would never have separated from my mother if I thought it was going to be a bad storm," McGee said. "She wouldn't have let me go. But none of us thought it was going to hit like this."

McGee said he expects to visit his family's Seventh Ward residence near the Fair Grounds this weekend. It will be his first trip home since evacuating. He has been told there was flooding

*See* **McGEE,** *C-5*



Wideout Donte Stallworth, a first-round pick by the Saints in 2002, leads the team with 20 catches and 317 yards this season.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

# Stallworth valuable on field and in locker room

*Receiver matures into a leadership role*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

**SAINTS at PACKERS**
noon Sunday
**TV/Radio:** Fox; 870-AM

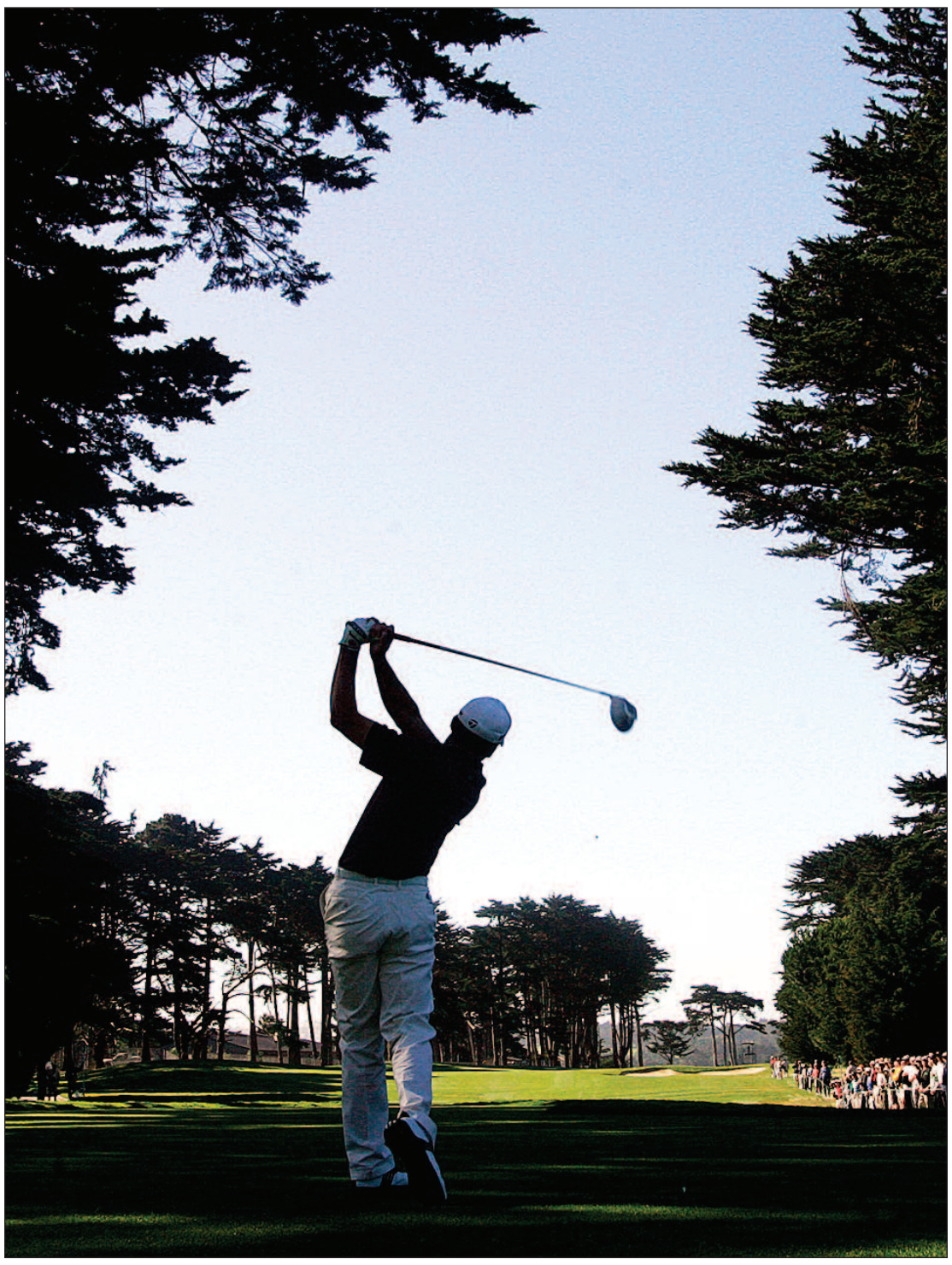
SAN ANTONIO — When veteran Pro Bowler Joe Horn missed last Sunday's game with a hamstring injury, there was little doubt that No. 2 receiver Donte Stallworth could step in and pick up the slack.

Stallworth did just that, rebounding from an early dropped ball to catch eight passes for 129 yards in the Saints' 19-7 victory.

But Stallworth, in his fourth season, isn't just able to carry the load on the field. He's grown into a valued team leader in the locker room - a veteran at just 24 years old who provides comic relief and sets the mood with his jovial attitude.

The evolution has been subtle over the past couple years, but Stallworth is no longer a first-round draft choice with something to prove.

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-4*



AP PHOTO

Sergio Garcia shot a 67 on Thursday at the American Express Championship and is in a group that trails leader Colin Montgomerie by three shots.

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## GOLF

**MONTGOMERIE TAKES LEAD:** Coming off his first victory in 19 months, Colin Montgomerie appears hungry for more. Montgomerie showed no effects from an emotional victory four days ago in Scotland, matching his career-low score in the United States with a 6-under 64 that gave him a three-shot lead Thursday at the American Express Championship in San Francisco. Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh, Sergio Garcia and eight others were at 67 on a spectacular day at Harding Park, the municipal course along Lake Merced that got a $16 million makeover and held its own against the world's best players. It was right up Montgomerie's alley. He looked like the Monty of old with tee shots that split the tree-lined fairways, making the game look simple. The 42-year-old Scot ran off three straight birdies to close out the back nine, then added his lone birdie on the front with a wedge into 18 inches. What mattered more to him was no bogeys on his card. "If I can hit fairways, I can hit greens," he said. "And then I can score." Woods, who played Harding Park in junior high school when it was covered with weeds, stayed close until he stopped giving himself good chances, dropping a shot on the par-3 eighth and having to scramble for par at the end. "If I shot something between 2- and 4-under par, I thought it would be pretty good," Woods said. "They've done a wonderful job tucking the pins. The greens are firm, so you've got to be careful." It was the first test at Harding Park, which had not hosted golf's best players since the late 1960s. The course is considered relatively short at 7,086 yards, although the firm greens with subtle contours kept anyone from going outrageously low. "A muni just means it's owned by the city," Phil Mickelson said after stumbling to a 71. "It doesn't mean it's an easy or hard course." It was plenty easy for Montgomerie. He missed only two greens, and saved par both times with 10-foot putts that kept his momentum going - not only in the opening round, but in a summer that has turned his fortunes around more than he could have imagined. Montgomerie fell as low as No. 83 in the world ranking and failed to qualify for The Players Championship and the Masters in the spring. But as he coped with a divorce last year and controversy over an apparent rules breach in March at the Indonesian Open, he suddenly finds himself headed toward the top. He was runner-up to Woods at the British Open, then returned to St. Andrews to win the Dunhill Links Championship last week with a birdie on the final hole, moving him to No. 16 in the world and within range of an eighth Order of Merit on the European tour. Then came his 64, matching the 7-under 64 he shot at Riviera in the second round of the Nissan Open in February. "Ninety percent of it is carryover from Sunday," he said. "If I finished third or fourth on Sunday, I wouldn't have shot 64 today, simple as that." John Daly was tied with Montgomerie late in the round, carried along by prodigious drives. None fired up the fans more than driving the 350-yard seventh hole as Woods was standing off to the side waiting for the eighth tee to clear. Sadly for Daly, the epoxy on the hosel of his putter gave way late in the round, which contributed to three-putt bogeys on his final two holes for a 67. He was furious as he headed to the trailer to get it fixed. "Ninth time this year," he said. "I am so sick of this."

**ROMERO, SKOLD SHARE LEAD:** Argentina's Andres Romero and Sweden's Johan Skold shot 5-under 66s to share the first-round lead in the PGA European Tour's Abama Open de Canarias at Tenerife, Canary Islands. Skold three-putted the 18th green for his only bogey of the round. The 24-year-old Romero won the Morson International Pro-Am Challenge on the Challenge Tour in August and is 10th on the developmental circuit's money list. English left-hander Stuart Little was two strokes back along with Scotland's Marc Warren and David Patrick and South Africa's Titch Moore.

## BASEBALL

**STERNBERG TAKES OVER DEVIL RAYS:** New York investor Stuart Sternberg took control of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays from founding owner Vince Naimoli on Thursday, promising better days ahead for a franchise that's finished last in seven of its eight seasons. The first order of business was to fire General Manager Chuck LaMar, who had been with the franchise since its inception. Assistant GM Scott Proefrock and player personnel director Cam Bonifay also were dismissed. "The time has come for dramatic change for this organization," Sternberg said, vowing to make the necessary corrections, on and off the field, to improve the team. Sternberg, who becomes principal owner, appointed Matthew Silverman team president. The moves follow the departure of Manager Lou Piniella, who sought a buyout with one season remaining on his contract after criticizing the ownership group led by Sternberg for being more concerned about the future than trying to win now. The ouster of Naimoli, who retains 15 percent ownership and becomes chairman, and LaMar had been expected for weeks. Sternberg did not announce a timetable for hiring a new manager and general manager. "The timing is not as important as getting the right people," Sternberg said. The Devil Rays began the 2005 season with a payroll of just over $29 million. After a horrible first half, the team went 39-34 after the All-Star break with a young lineup that figures to get better with more experience. Sternberg said the payroll will increase, but would not speculate on how much. "There are teams that spend quite a bit of money and don't have much success," he said. "There are teams that spend a bit less and have a lot of success. We just want to have success."

**BUTERA TO ASSIST GM:** The Toronto Blue Jays appointed Sal Butera to the position of special assistant to the general manager. Butera has scouted for the Blue Jays for the past 10 years, and spent the past two seasons as a major league scout. The former catcher played parts of nine seasons in the majors with Minnesota, Detroit, Montreal and Toronto. He will report to general manager J.P. Ricciardi.

## TENNIS

**CLIJSTERS CLOSER TO NO. 1:** U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters closed in on the top ranking, beating Croatia's Karolina Sprem 6-3, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals at the Porsche Grand Prix at Filderstadt, Germany. The Belgian can become No. 1 by winning this tournament a third time. If Clijsters meets third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo in Saturday's semifinals, she could unseat injured Maria Sharapova. Mauresmo advanced when Jelena Jankovic retired with a virus after dropping the first set 6-0. Clijsters next faces fifth-seeded Elena Dementieva, who won 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 against France's Nathalie Dechy. Also, Nadia Petrova beat Elena Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-1. Clijsters wasted three match points before Sprem netted a forehand return. Sprem fought off three set points while trading power shots with the Belgian before tiring. "It was a harder match than the score indicated," said Clijsters, seeded second behind Lindsay Davenport. "I felt quite good. I did what I had to do."

## FIGURE SKATING

**KWAN HAS INJURY:** Michelle Kwan strained a ligament in her right hip and withdrew from Skate America, the first Grand Prix event of the season, and this weekend's Campbell's International Figure Skating Classic. The nine-time U.S. champion hopes to be healthy for the Cup of China, Nov. 2-6 in Beijing. "Of course I'm very disappointed, but I see this as a temporary setback," Kwan said. "I intend to follow the doctor's orders, get well and be back competing as soon as possible." Kwan will take two weeks off from training, then gradually resume skating. Rehab could take up to a month. "This is a very painful injury, but with the prescribed rest and treatment I anticipate a full and complete recovery," said Dr. Leisure Yu, the orthopedic surgeon treating Kwan. The 25-year-old Kwan said she will try to make her third Olympic team. She already has Olympic silver and bronze medals, and is a five-time world champion. She'll be replaced at Skate America by Emily Hughes, the bronze medalist at last year's junior world championships and sister of Olympic champion Sarah Hughes. Alissa Czisny will fill Kwan's spot at the Campbell's Classic, which is Saturday in St. Paul, Minn.

# 'Birdman' not sold on NBA's wardrobe ruling

## *Point guard Bell showing promise*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Chris "Birdman" Andersen isn't pleased about the possibility that he may have to buy a new wardrobe for this season.

That's because NBA commissioner David Stern is expected to institute a new dress code, making it mandatory for players to dress in casual business attire - a sport coat and slacks — for all team-related functions, including travel on charter flights.

"I can understand if the league said we could mix and match, like wearing a collared shirt with a sport coat and blue jeans," Andersen said. "Our character is that certain people have their own certain styles. They should put a rule in there where we can be casual, but not like I'm going to the office to be a lawyer."

But Andersen said he would abide by the rule. So will veteran forward P.J. Brown, but he isn't happy about it either.

"I think guys shouldn't be looking all sloppy on the bench with jeans," Brown said. "But trying to control what we wear on the road is not good. Sometimes we travel late, coming in at 3 in the morning. You want to be comfortable, and I don't want to be in a suit."

Point guard Speedy Claxton said a player's character isn't going to change because he's forced to wear a suit.

"I was on one of the best character teams in the NBA when I played for the San Antonio Spurs and we wore whatever we wanted to the game," Claxton said.

**HUMP DAY:** Thursday was hump day - the third day of workouts — at Hornets' practice, but Coach Byron Scott urged players to push through, despite weariness. He didn't take it easy. Instead, he put players through an intense scrimmage, where top draft pick Chris Paul got knocked down twice trying to get around picks. At one point during the workout, Scott yelled at his players to, "Quit crying over fouls."

"Right now, they're dealing with their feet and knees being sore because this is a different type of running than what they've been doing all summer," Scott said. "Right now, they've just got to go through it."

**SHOWING PROMISE:** Point guard Troy Bell is facing long-shot odds to make the roster this season, but he's working to make Scott's decision on the final roster a hard one. On Thursday, Bell ran the offense efficiently, defended Paul tough and three times made jump shots from beyond 15 feet. Bell was a first-round draft pick of the Boston Celtics in 2003 but was traded to the Memphis Grizzlies before the 2003-04 season started. The Grizzlies waived him before the start of last year's training camp. Bell played on the Hornets summer league team in Las Vegas in July.

**SETTING PICKS:** A priority Scott is emphasizing in training camp is for his players to set better picks than they did last year. In his offense, a high percentage of open shots come after picks are set.

"Big Cat (Jamaal Magloire) did a good job today as far as being aggressive and knocking people down, so guys can get open looks," Scott said.

**AGGRESSIVE:** Forward David West has been aggressive during the past two practices challenging a number of shots in the post. In the final year of his contract, expectations are higher for him to produce this season.

**QUICK SHOTS:** Shooting guard J.R. Smith sat out Thursday's practice because of a pulled groin, but he could resume work today. ... Hornets general manager Jeff Bower said he had no new updates to give regarding any trade discussions involving forward George Lynch, who has been banned from training camp by Scott.

# Divac's second stay with Lakers ends

## *Knicks, Curry waiting for heart test results*

**From wire reports**

The Los Angeles Lakers have waived Vlade Divac, a disappointment in his second go-round with the team.

The Lakers had the option of picking up a one-year, $5.4 million contract option or buying him out for $2 million. Divac will be owed the $2 million if he clears waivers.

The 37-year-old center underwent back surgery in January and played in only 15 games for Los Angeles last season, averaging 2.3 points and 2.1 rebounds. He had averaged 11.9 points and 8.3 rebounds in 15 previous NBA seasons, seven with the Lakers, two with Charlotte and six with Sacramento.

Taken by the Lakers with the 26th pick in the 1989 NBA draft, Divac was traded to the Hornets in 1996 for the rights to Kobe Bryant.

Divac would like to remain with the Lakers as an assistant coach and scout.

**KNICKS AWAIT TEST:** Eddy Curry's status with the New York Knicks remained unsettled Thursday, with the team waiting for medical tests on his irregular heartbeat.

Knicks president Isiah Thomas said the team does not have the information needed to evaluate whether Curry is healthy. Curry, the Bulls' top scorer last season at 16.1 points per game, missed the final 13 games of the season and the playoffs after his condition was discovered.

Curry, a 6-foot-11 center, was traded this week from Chicago with Antonio Davis for Tim Thomas, Michael Sweetney and Jermaine Jackson.

The club also was waiting for Curry's medical records from Chicago. The deadline for the deal is 6 p.m. Friday.

"Hopefully, this will be resolved soon," Thomas said. "Hopefully, the doctors will work fast and we'll see where we are."

Curry, 22 and entering his fifth NBA season, had refused Chicago's request for a DNA test to determine whether he was susceptible to cardiomyopathy, the ailment that killed former Boston Celtics guard Reggie Lewis and Loyola Marymount star Hank Gathers.

Thomas said the Knicks couldn't give Curry a DNA test because of New York's privacy and employment laws.

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** The Sacramento Kings claimed center Luke Schenscher off waivers from the Denver Nuggets. Schenscher played four seasons at Georgia Tech, averaging 7.3 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.3 blocks. The Nuggets signed him during the summer as an undrafted free agent. . . . The Lakers have signed center Adam Parada, a 7-foot center who last played in the NBA Developmental League. Parada, out of UC Irvine, averaged 5.2 points, 3.4 rebounds and 13.8 minutes in 23 games for the Huntsville Flight.

# Macijauskas proving to be 3-point whiz

**HORNETS,** *from C-1*

English and several other languages, but there are some English words he occasionally has trouble understanding.

To make sure he understands some plays, Scott points to the spot where he wants Macijauskas to be. It's all part of the adjustment period Macijauskas is going through.

"I know before I came here, it was going to be different," Macijauskas said. "The players are so athletic, and I've already learned that small things you must do makes a big difference (on certain plays)."

It may take him time to learn specific duties on some of Scott's plays, but he's already shown why the Hornets courted the sharp-shooter for two years.

"We were here a couple of days early, so I went over to a gym with him and we took shots and he didn't miss many," Hornets rookie point guard Chris Paul said. "If you leave him open, you're in trouble. So the best bet is not to leave him open."

On a play during Thursday's scrimmage, rookie free agent Sean Banks hesitated for a moment while covering Macijauskas. It turned out to be a mistake as Macijauskas easily made a baseline jumper from about 15 feet.

Macijauskas started to build his reputation as a shooter when he was 16 and signed a contract to play six games for Neptunas Klaipeda, a professional team in Lithuania in 1996. By the 2000-01 season he was a proven star. He was named a Lithuanian All-Star when he shot 59.1 percent from the field, 52.1 from 3-point range and averaged 16.9 points for Lietuvos Rytas Vilnius.

He made the All-Euroleague first team last season after averaging 16 points for Tau Vitoria, a professional team based in Spain.

"The things that set him apart from other good shooters is his number of trips to the free-throw line, which right away indicates he can play with contact and guard the ball," Hornets general manager Jeff Bower said.

"We all watched a ton of his games and he was not an unknown player at all when we signed him. We certainly don't claim to have discovered him either."

In camp, Macijauskas has had some difficulty adjusting to the athleticism of some of the Hornets' players. It's also apparent that he will have to come off screens to be an effective shooter because of his height disadvantage as a shooting guard.

"I don't think Arvydas is going to have a problem making 3-pointers," said Nachbar, who is from Slovenia. "It's going to be up to us to get him those shots because he's not going to be able to create those shots most of the time."

Scott is particularly eager for the preseason schedule to begin next week, so he can see how Macijauskas fares against certain defenses, particularly zone coverages. Macijauskas is eager to show he can have the same success in the NBA that he had in Europe.

"That's when you gain the respect of your teammates and coaches," Macijauskas said.

# Future still full of questions for Wave

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

classes, and fulfilling scholarship obligations, at four locations within a somewhat reasonable shouting distance of the Big Easy.

Football and women's track and field are at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. Men and women's golf are at SMU in Dallas. Baseball and women's basketball are at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Men's basketball, volleyball, soccer, swimming, and men's and women's tennis are at Texas A&M in College Station.

"The cooperation with all of these schools has been outstanding,'' said Dickson. "We never forget these young men and women were student-athletes, and we did the best job we could in accomplishing this under difficult circumstances. It was something made easier by the way the schools involved accepted our people."

As for football, the location of only one game is still to be determined. The Wave lost its "home" opener against Mississippi State in Shreveport and won its second "home'' date against Southeastern Louisiana last Saturday in Tiger Stadium.

After facing Houston on Saturday in Lafayette, the Greenies play UTEP in Ruston on October 14, Marshall in Mobile on October 29 and will close out their "home"slate against Tulsa on November 19, in either Ruston or Monroe.

"If it's Monroe," said Dickson, "our football team will have played 11 games in 11 different stadiums. That has to be an NCAA record. Given the circumstances, Chris Scelfo has done a great jobkeeping things together. Like (with) other teams in the Gulf Coast area, Katrina left its mark. Some of the players and some of the coaches lost homes, and they've been uprooted, away from family and friends. But they've hung in there. That says a lot."

Dickson, who has set up in Dallas with a skeleton staff, is too occupied to look too far ahead.

If the Superdome is a lost cause as a future football home, would Tad Gormley Stadium be a possibility for 2006?

"We've played homecoming games there," said Dickson, "so it would have to be explored. Much would depend on how it came out of the flooding."

As for the present, what about Fogelman Arena for basketball this season? And what about Turchin Stadium, Tulane's baseball home, which Katrina caught in the midst of a major facelift?

"It looks as though Fogelman may have dodged a serious bullet," said Dickson. "But it's still to be determined."

And Turchin?

"That's another story. From what they tell me, thanks to Katrina, the sod inside Turchin wound up inside the Wilson Center. Because of priorities, getting the Wilson Center back in use to run the athletic program will be priority number one. Which means the baseball team will be looking at other options for available sites for the upcoming season."

Dickson had a more upbeat story from College Station.

"Our volleyball team was host to Notre Dame and Arizona State on the Aggie campus," he said. "More than a thousand Aggies showed up rooting the Wave on. They fit Aggie cheers to Tulane's. It was quite a scene."

# Houston quarterback has dominated Wave

## *Junior Kolb is 2-0 against Tulane*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

Kevin Kolb provides more headaches than a Sunday morning in Vegas.

In the past two seasons, Houston's electric quarterback peppered Tulane's defense with his misdirections, short passes and long heaves, dominating the Green Wave.

The schedule reunites Kolb and 11 angry men 5 p.m. Saturday in Lafayette.

"They've had our number the last couple years," said Tulane coach Chris Scelfo, whose team hosts the Cougars at Cajun Field. "Their quarterback is one of the best quarterbacks in the league."

Exhibit A - Oct. 11, 2003. Kolb, a freshman, showed up at Tad Gormley Stadium and picked apart Tulane's defense, jumping to a 14-0 lead, then 28-7 by halftime. In the 45-42 victory, Houston's quarterback finished 22 of 39 for 283 yards and three touchdowns.

Exhibit B - Oct. 30, 2004. Kolb, a sophomore quarterback, again had a 14-0 lead against Tulane, and then he ran in a 3-yarder in the second quarter to make it 21-0. He finished with 267 passing yards in the 24-3 win, including 60 from a pass to Donnie Avery, setting up the first touchdown.

On Saturday, the Wave's improved defense will face the No. 2 scoring offense in Conference USA, which averages 31.5 points per game. Kolb leads the conference with 298.5 total yards per game.

"I call him a playmaker," said Anthony Cannon, Tulane's senior linebacker. "He's not slow - he's got speed and a great arm. ... He's a system man, and they have a great system over there. He's been in it since high school, and he's comfortable in the system."

Kolb did play for Coach Art Briles at Stephenville High, before both men moved on to college. While Briles said "there's always room for improvement," he knows his offense is in good hands with his trusty signal-caller. This is quarterback, after all, who was the first true freshman to start at Houston. He has played in a bowl game. And after last season's frustrating 3-8 season, Kolb bounced back as a leader of the team. The Cougars are 2-2 and 1-1 in C-USA - including a heart-breaking overtime loss to UTEP - and No. 4 demands the spotlight on Saturdays.

When asked his quarterback's best assets, Briles shied away from physical attributes, though there are plenty. "His unselfishness and desire to win are the two things that come to my mind," the coach said. "We videotape every practice and every game, and our guys see it on the field - see how he practices, see how he works in the weight room, see where his heart is toward that team. It's a deal where we don't have to harp on it."

So how will Tulane stop this guy?

Cannon pointed to third downs. Kolb kills them.

"We'd stop him on first and second down, and third down we'd give up the play," Cannon said. "This year, getting off the field on third downs would be a big help to us. Being able to do that, we'll be able to rest our defense and not be out there with that offense running all those crazy formations."

Against the Green Wave, Houston was 14-for-21 on third downs in 2003 and 10-for-17 last year. Tulane (2-1, 1-0) can't get complacent or antsy on third down.

The 2005 Cougars are fourth in C-USA in third-down conversions (38.8 percent), and Tulane is sixth in opponent's third-down conversion (35.4). But this Cougars team has eluded third down very nicely this season — they lead the conference with 96 first downs.

Which C-USA team has allowed the fewest first downs? The Green Wave with 36.

# Cutler's staying power energizes Vandy

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — There haven't been many Vanderbilt football players faced with a realistic choice of staying for a senior year or moving on to the NFL.

Even in the rare instances when it has happened, it's hardly been a choice at all. Given the Commodores' misadventures on the field and dearth of victories, the pull of the NFL usually won out.

But quarterback Jay Cutler had enough faith in what he saw around him to stick it out one more time and the program is on track to reap a big reward.

With Cutler, the SEC's passing yardage leader, showing the way, Vandy started the season with four victories for the first time since 1984. The Commodores are two victories away from earning their first winning record and bowl appearance since 1982 and are hoping to get one of those Saturday when they host LSU.

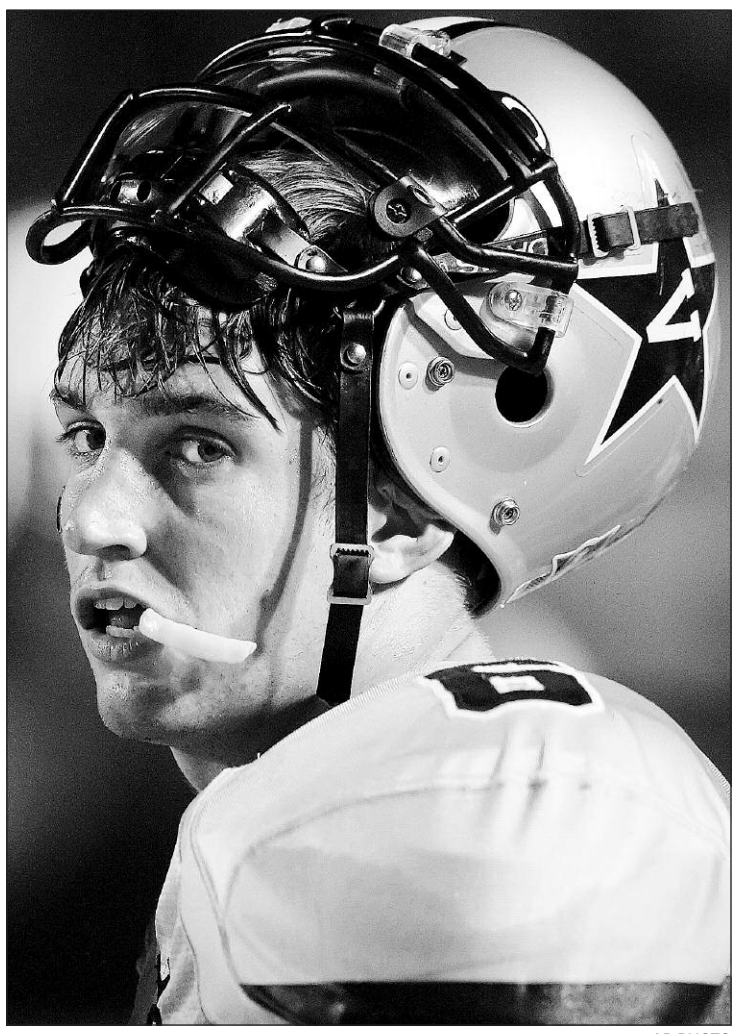
Vanderbilt has managed six victories in the previous three years with Cutler at the helm. He has started every game but one since his redshirt freshman year. Along the way he has endured physical beatings as well as 29 losses.

When the NFL beckoned, Cutler listened — for a while, anyway.

"I think it was pretty close," said Cutler, who was advised that he would be taken in the third or fourth round. "Especially with the end of the season, we had been through some tough losses down the stretch. It was hard to take three years of losing, especially when you aren't used to it. I thought it might be best if I moved on. I took my time and talked to a lot of people, and it's turned out well for me."

Cutler has become the school's career touchdown pass leader with 45, and he's second in yardage and completions. He needs 982 yards and 34 completions to pass Greg Zolman, his immediate predecessor. He is averaging 275 yards per game this season.

He's connected on 126 of 206 throws (61.2 percent) for 1,376 yards and seven touchdowns with three interceptions.



AP PHOTO

Jay Cutler is Vanderbilt's career leader in touchdown passes with 45 and leads the SEC this season in passing yardage with 1,376.

But forget the stats. He's been a big part of the change in atmosphere at Vanderbilt and has dramatically improved his draft position.

Not a highly recruited quarterback out of Santa Claus, Ind., he has developed into a quarterback with all the right attributes. He can throw every type of pass from the bomb to the screen and is a dangerous runner, especially on the option. He has the size (6-4, 233) of the NFL prototypes.

"I don't know what else you can want in a quarterback," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "It would have been easy for him to go to the NFL and leave Vanderbilt behind."

Cutler didn't want to leave his teammates behind as it turned out. He was one of several seniors who wanted to see it through after all the bumps and bruises and hard times of playing through inexperience.

"Just the guys on the team, guys I came in with," said Cutler of his reason for coming back. "We were extremely tight. I'd feel bad leaving with one year left. We'd been through a lot together."

"He's the heart and soul of this team, a thoroughbred leader," said wide receiver Erik Davis, who has caught 35 passes for 445 yards and two scores.

The crystallizing moment was also one of sadness and tragedy. Running back Kwane Doster was shot and killed in his hometown of Tampa, Fla., and the team traveled to the funeral together, which bonded the players even tighter.

"I was still deciding when Kwane was killed," Cutler said. "As a team, we came together, went to the funeral together and it brought us closer together. I realized how much these guys mean to me and what a wonderful opportunity college is, to play in the SEC, and it shouldn't be taken for granted."

Just like Vanderbilt should no longer be taken for granted. The Commodores are 2-0 in the SEC and the team, especially Cutler, is catching the attention of opposing players and coaches.

"We have to control him," said LSU coach Les Miles. "He's their big playmaker."

Said LSU defensive tackle Kyle Williams: "We have to get to him quick. Hopefully, we can get in his face, make him hiccup and get some shots on him. If Cutler is on his game and the receivers are on their game, they can give you trouble passing the ball."

# SLU faces tough task against Texas State

## *Bobcats QB Nealy presents problems for Lions' defense*

**By Tammy Nunez**
Staff writer

HAMMOND — If nothing else, Southeastern Louisiana walked away from last week's game against Tulane with the proverbial moral victory.

The Lions might not have pulled off the upset. Still, they kept the game too close for comfort until the Green Wave and its No. 1-ranked defense eventually escaped with a 28-21 win at Tiger Stadium.

Many saw SLU's performance as inspiring. But all Lions coach Dennis Roland has to do to end any talk among his players of last week's game is pop in a tape of Saturday's opponent, Texas State.

The No. 14-ranked Bobcats - SLU's first conference opponent in 20 years - are near the top in every statistical category in the Southland Conference. The Bobcats returned nine of 11 starters on defense and have a 6-foot-5, 230-pound senior quarterback, Barrick Nealy, who is leading the conference in rushing with 349 yards on 37 carries with five touchdowns.

In addition to his league-leading rushing total, Nealy has completed 62 of 93 passes for 877 yards and averages 306.5 yards of total offense per game.

Lions quarterback Trey Willie is the only conference player ranked ahead of him in total offense with 141 rushing yards, 790 passing yards and a 310.3 average.

The Bobcats (3-1) were picked by the league's coaches and sports information directors to finish second. Their only loss was in a close game against Texas A&M.

Southeastern (1-2), on the other hand, was picked to finish last in the league and has yet to have a consistent effort this season, Roland said.

"(My players) want to be good in this conference," Roland said. "They've been looking forward to this for a long time. You've got to play the whole game. . . . You got to play week in and week out. The really good teams play up every week. That's the test. Will we answer the call?"

The Lions answered the call all afternoon against the Green Wave - even scoring their final touchdown on an untimed play to finish the game.

Roland hopes to see that kind of effort at home Saturday, beginning at 6 p.m.

"They were playing hard. I could tell it in their eyes," Roland said. "It was almost like they still thought they could win the game (with the no-time-left touchdown)."

Willie said he thinks the intensity is a hallmark of a team taking strength and motivation from Roland, who underwent treatment for cancer and was declared disease-free last week.

"I think we get that from Coach and the way he battles cancer," Willie said. "He's never given up, and we never gave up."

The Lions will enter Saturday's game a little banged up. Running backs Mario Gilbert and Jerald Watson are questionable, as well as receiver Josh Taylor, who suffered a bruised kidney against Tulane.

"College football is a physical game, that's part of it, and you have to deal with it," Roland said.

The Bobcats have their injury problems, too. Texas State receiver K.R. Carpenter broke his nose last week against South Dakota State in a game he caught five passes for 118 yards.

"I didn't know if I was going to make it or not," Carpenter told the Austin American-Statesman. "I broke my nose a little bit tonight, but I think I've broken it about nine times, so it's not that big of a deal."

Saturday's game will be the first time this season SLU will have to defend against a multi-dimensional quarterback.

"We knew (Tulane's) Lester Ricard didn't really want to run the ball," Roland said. "Going into this game, Barrick Nealy might like to run first. We have to defend against both. He's the real deal."

# Leading scorer Carruth leaves USM basketball team

**From wire reports**

Leading scorer Rashaad Carruth has left Southern Mississippi's men's basketball team for personal reasons.

"I am going to concentrate on getting my degree from Southern Miss while I take care of some personal matters," Carruth said Thursday in a statement issued by the school. "(Coach Larry Eustachy) has been like a second father to me, and I am grateful for all he has done and continues to do for me."

Carruth, a guard, came to Hattiesburg a season ago with a troubled past. He played one season at Kentucky, but walked out after what he termed a misunderstanding with Coach Tubby Smith.

Last season, he averaged 13.4 points and led the team with 49 3-pointers.

### FOOTBALL

**SOONERS' BOMAR ON HOT SEAT:** The first time he walked onto the field at the Cotton Bowl to play Oklahoma's biggest rival, fullback J.D. Runnels was a bit overcome.

He had been warned, just like he'll try to prepare this year's freshmen, but it still wasn't enough to keep his breakfast down once he experienced the overwhelming atmosphere of the Red River Shootout with Texas.

"It's hard to tell those freshmen what to expect whenever you're going out there and it's half orange, half crimson. Before my first one, I just kind of lost it there for a minute," said Runnels, now a senior captain.

"People telling you is one thing, but being on the field and seeing it is completely another," he said.

**USC TAILBACKS THRIVING:** The best two tailbacks in college football just might play for the same team. One, Reggie Bush, gets most of the attention. The other, LenDale White, probably doesn't get as much as he deserves.

Together, Bush and White have revived No. 1 Southern California's reputation as Tailback U, overshadowed in recent years by the dominance of Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart.

"We definitely like to pound it in there and score big touchdowns," Bush said.

USC's legacy of outstanding tailbacks began in 1965, when Mike Garrett won the Heisman. O.J. Simpson, Charles White and Marcus Allen continued the tradition by being honored as college football's outstanding player, and Anthony Davis was another record-setting standout.

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# Saints expect best from Packers

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Green Bay Packers are either a struggling team that can't find a way to win or a sleeping giant ready to break through against the Saints on Sunday.

The 0-4 Packers have lost their past three games by a total of six points, falling at Carolina 32-29 on Monday night, losing 17-16 to Tampa Bay two weeks ago and losing to Cleveland 26-24 in Week 2.

"We are not familiar with losing, and that is one thing we stress in this locker room: Don't get familiar with losing, because we never lose games here," Packers receiver Donald Driver said. "I think a lot of guys know that, and they know the tradition behind the Green Bay Packers, so it is time for us to get on this road and start winning games."

Unfortunately for the Packers, that reputation keeps opponents motivated as well.

To a man, the Saints players and coaches have shown the utmost respect for Green Bay this week and don't seem to be taking their trip to historic Lambeau Field lightly - even if is expected to be sunny and 60 degrees for an early October game.

Most of that respect stems from the abilities of Packers quarterback Brett Favre, whom both Jim Haslett and Joe Horn dubbed the greatest to ever play the game.

"Any time they've got No. 4 on their football team, anything can happen," Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks said of Favre. "They could have an eight-game winning streak from here on out, so I'm not really too concerned about that. I'm only concerned about us as a football team going up there and trying to get a victory."

Penalties and turnovers have hindered the Packers, much 1like they tormented the Saints in both of the Saints' losses this season.

Favre has not been spectacular, with nine touchdowns and eight interceptions, though he had his best performance Monday at Carolina, throwing for 303 yards, four touchdowns and one interception.

The Packers lost their top receiver Javon Walker to a season-ending knee injury in Week 1. They have not been able to establish a consistent running game, with tailback Ahman Green totaling just 206 yards and zero touchdowns in four games. Green has missed practice this week because of knee and quadriceps injuries.

And the offensive line, which lost standout starters Mike Wahle and Marco Rivera in free agency, lost two more starters to injury Monday - center Mike Flanagan (hernia) and left tackle Chad Clifton (ankle). Flanagan will not play this week, and Clifton is questionable after missing practice Wednesday and Thursday.

Also on the Packers' lengthy injury report, linebacker Na'il Diggs (knee) and receiver Terrence Murphy (neck) are out. And tight end Bubba Franks (knee) and safety Earl Little (hamstring) have not practiced this week.

**SAINTS INJURIES:** Horn participated in limited action during Thursday's practice and remains questionable for Sunday's game after fully participating in Wednesday's practice.

Offensive guard Kendyl Jacox (ankle), linebackers James Allen (hamstring) and T.J. Slaughter (groin), and safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring) did not practice and all remain questionable.

Cornerback Fakhir Brown (knee), guard Jermane Mayberry (shoulder), receiver Az-Zahir Hakim

(knee), tailback Aaron Stecker (ankle) and tight end Shad Meier (knee) all fully participated in Thursday's practice.

**TICKET UPDATE:** The Saints still have about 55,000 tickets remaining for their Baton Rouge opener against the Miami Dolphins on Oct. 30, the first of four games they will play at Tiger Stadium this season. Capacity for the Saints games will be 79,000. The team has sold nearly 25,000 tickets so far.

There are slightly more than 2,000 tickets available for the Saints' next home game in San Antonio, Oct. 16 against Atlanta.

**ETC.:** The Saints added safety Brent Hafford to their practice squad this week after promoting cornerback Fred Booker to their active roster last week. . . . Saints' executive vice president of administration Arnold Fielkow is from Appleton, Wis., near Green Bay. Fielkow's friends and family will be celebrating his grandmother's 100th birthday while the Saints are in town this weekend.

# Mularkey sends Losman to Buffalo's bench

From wire reports

Coach Mike Mularkey's secret is out. Wide receivers Eric Moulds and Lee Evans said Thursday that backup Kelly Holcomb is replacing former Tulane standout J.P. Losman as the starting quarterback for Buffalo's game against Miami on Sunday.

Moulds backed the decision, crediting Mularkey for attempting to provide a spark to a sputtering offense that has managed 29 points - two touchdowns and five field goals - in the past 14 quarters.

"It takes a good coach to say, `I'm going to sit the starting quarterback down and be able to go with somebody else and try to get a spark from Kelly,'" Moulds said. "A lot of coaches wouldn't have done it, so we respect him and we're going to back him 100 percent."

**GIBBS CALLS OUT ARRINGTON:** The LaVar Arrington soap opera kept its grip on the Washington Redskins all week, with every development taking the shine off of a 3-0 start. On Monday, the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker wondered why he was playing so little. On Wednesday, Arrington and coach Joe Gibbs held an animated conversation after practice, just out of earshot but in clear view of reporters. On Thursday, Gregg Williams, the assistant coach in charge of the defense, offered the most candid explanation yet.

"We're pretty old-school coaches," Williams said. "You've got to do it in practice if you're going to do it in the game. I'm not going to relent on that. If you do it in practice, you'll do it in the game. If you don't do it, you don't get a chance to play in the game."

**PATS' SEYMOUR OUT SUNDAY?** The New England Patriots might be without three-time Pro Bowl defensive end Richard Seymour for Sunday's game in Atlanta. Seymour was not on the field Wednesday or Thursday during the time the media was allowed to view practice.

# Stallworth beginning to live up to expectations

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

"I think he's really matured this year, compared to his first couple years," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "We drafted him when he was a junior. People forget that he was (21) years old. I think he's really matured the last couple years, but this year it's evident by his play and taking care of himself and understanding that, in order for him to be a good football player, he has to take care of himself on and off the field."

Even before the season started, this was shaping up to be a watershed year for the former Tennessee star, who became the clear-cut No. 2 receiver after the team let Jerome Pathon leave in free agency.

Stallworth was healthy for a full season for the first time last year after missing eight games with injuries over his first two seasons.

And this summer, he signed on with super-agent Drew Rosenhaus (Stallworth is signed through 2006 with a voidable option for 2007).

"I know with me being the 13th pick when I came in, I had a lot of pressure on me," Stallworth said. "I think I produced pretty well in the opportunities that I got. But I always know I can do a lot better. So, as the years go on, it's just a matter of me being consistent and playing that way when I get the opportunities."

Stallworth made an immediate impact on the Saints in 2002, catching eight touchdown passes, including at least one in his first four NFL games.

But then came the hamstring injury that sidelined him for three weeks. Then, in his second season, he missed five games with leg and ankle injuries that limited him to just 25 catches and three touchdowns.

No one was exactly calling Stallworth a bust, but there was a growing sense of impatience from the fan base, if not the team.

"The injuries are frustrating. You can't control them," Stallworth said. "But, as far as people judging me, I didn't really worry about that. The only people I worry about judging me are the guys in the locker room. Knowing that when I'm on the field, my teammates have respect that I'm going to go out and bust my chops every play and know that, when I am out there, I'm going to help this team win. That's all that matters."

Stallworth said he felt like he had a chance to break through last season, when he played all 16 games and caught a career-high 58 passes for 767 yards and five touchdowns.

"But obviously with me being moved into the full-time starting role, I was definitely able to get more opportunities," he said.

Stallworth leads the team with 20 catches and 317 yards this season, though he didn't catch a pass two weeks ago at Minnesota on a day that was bad for the Saints' offense across the board.

He may once again be the go-to guy at Green Bay on Sunday, depending on Horn's availability.

Horn participated in Thursday's practice in a limited fashion after fully participating in Wednesday's practice. He remains listed as questionable.

Haslett said that, even though Horn wasn't playing last week, his impact was felt through his encouragement of Stallworth and the other receivers.

Haslett said Horn and Stallworth have developed a good relationship.

"Donte is kind of his disciple," Haslett said. "He kind of follows him around. Donte kind of listens to everything, because Joe's been around the block a few times."

Stallworth agreed, saying it was natural to follow Horn's lead because he is such an accomplished receiver. But their exuberant personalities also meshed well together.

Horn said even though Stallworth came in with such a high profile as a top draft pick, he welcomed him and tried to mentor him the same as veterans like Andre Rison had done for Horn in Kansas City.

"This is his fourth year. My fourth year I was in the same boat," said Horn, now in his 10th NFL season. "So Donte kind of resembled me coming up. So I'm happy to see him being matured and making plays. To see him expand and grow and have games like (last Sunday), I'm very proud of that.

"Like I told him, I said, 'When I sit on my couch in a couple years, if I'm retired or whatever, I want to see you breaking records, my records. I want to see you and Devery Henderson starting at the X and Z.' My job is there for the taking. I say when you come to training camp, come to take my job. That's how you prepare."

# Miami to host two Super Bowls in four years

**SUPER BOWL,** *from C-1*

The vote took three ballots, with Houston eliminated on the first. No city got the three-quarters vote needed on the second ballot and Miami won by a simple majority on the third.

"Obviously, it was very close," Blank said.

Some regarded Atlanta and Houston as favorites because Miami already had been picked for the 2007 game, but Blank said South Florida's weather won out. The 2008 Super Bowl will be played in suburban Phoenix. That means after the game in Michigan this year, there will be three Super Bowls in Florida and one in Arizona.

"If you look at the last number of votes, it's very clear the ownership feels strongly about having the game where the weather is generally warmer," Blank said.

When the NFL is not awarding a Super Bowl to a city — like Detroit — with a new stadium, Huizenga expects Miami to have a good shot at landing the game.

"I think a lot of it is weather-driven," he said. "It's a nice environment for our sponsors to take their guests. If you're a sponsor and you're doing business globally, to bring your guests to South Florida is pretty nice."

After 2010, Miami will top New Orleans' record of nine for hosting the most Super Bowl games. Three off the first five Super Bowls - in 1968, 1969 and 1971 - were in Miami and the last one there was in 1999.

"We know that the best Super Bowls in history were in South Florida," said William Talbert, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. "And we know the best place to hold Super Bowls is South Florida. We were somewhat of an underdog this time, but that never deters us."

Florida is in the midst of what will be a four-Super Bowl, six-year run with last season's game in Jacksonville, the 2007 game in Miami and Tampa being the title-game site two years later.

"The NFL is finally realizing that the people who go to Super Bowls like warm-weather cities because of all the activities that can take place," said Dick Anderson, who played in three Super Bowls with the Dolphins and chaired the Super Bowl host committee for Miami in 1989.

Atlanta (2000 and 1994) and Houston (2004 and 1974) has each hosted the Super Bowl twice.

The 2010 Super Bowl originally was awarded to New York on the condition that a new stadium be built. The stadium, which also was part of the city's unsuccessful Olympic bid, failed to win government approval.

Last week, the New York Jets and Giants agreed to build a new stadium in New Jersey that could be opened by 2009. Both teams - as well as the NFL and New Jersey - would like a roof, but the teams have said the $200 million additional cost is beyond them. A roof would allow the Super Bowl and college basketball's Final Four to be played at the state-run Meadowlands complex.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

# Cardinals go up two games on San Diego

*With big lead early, Mulder stifles Padres*

By R.B. Fallstrom
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — Mark Mulder tossed aside a pair of poor tuneup starts and put the St. Louis Cardinals on the brink of a playoff sweep.

Mulder pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning and the Cardinals once again built an early lead, beating the San Diego Padres 6-2 Thursday for a 2-0 edge in their first-round NL series.

Matt Morris will try to clinch it for St. Louis on Saturday at San Diego against Woody Williams.

The Cardinals, who led the majors with 100 wins this season, have advanced to the NL championship series four times in five chances under manager Tony La Russa. San Diego, which limped into the playoffs with an 82-80 record, hasn't shown any signs of stopping them.

Seven teams have rallied from a 2-0 deficit in division series play. The last team to do it was Boston against Oakland in 2003.

Mulder was 16-8 in his first season since being acquired from Oakland, but gave up seven earned runs in 5 2-3 innings in two starts after the Cardinals clinched the NL Central.

Mulder shut down a lineup stacked with seven right-handed hitters until the late innings and was backed by four double plays, tying the NLDS record.

The Cardinals' first four runs came on balls that didn't leave the infield, or in one case, even the catcher's glove. David Eckstein had a run-scoring groundout and a squeeze bunt, Yadier Molina had an RBI grounder and Albert Pujols drew a bases-loaded walk to finish Pedro Astacio after four innings.

As in Tuesday's opener, when the Cardinals took an eight-run lead behind Chris Carpenter before the Padres rallied in an 8-5 loss, it got a little closer at the end. A double by Khalil Greene, a single by Joe Randa and Xavier Nady's run-scoring single cut the deficit to 4-1.

Reggie Sanders, who drove in an NLDS-record six runs in Game 1, hit a two-run double off Rudy Seanez in the seventh that made the score 6-1. Sanders has eight RBIs in eight at-bats this series after totaling five RBIs in five previous division series appearances covering 68 at-bats.

# Red Sox again in big playoff hole

WEDNESDAY'S LATE GAMES

*Chicago one win from ALCS berth*

From wire reports

The defending World Series champions need another big comeback, this time just to get out of the first round of the playoffs.

The Chicago White Sox will reach the AL championship series with one more victory over the Boston Red Sox, thanks to a pair of homer-filled wins at U.S. Cellular Field.

"I think people know what the Red Sox did to the Yankees last year, and with that lineup we can't slow down," winning pitcher Mark Buehrle said after Chicago came back to beat Boston 5-4 Wednesday and take a 2-0 series lead. "We've got to go out there and finish these guys as quick as we can."

Game 3 and, if necessary, Game 4 are at Fenway Park today and Saturday. A fifth game, if necessary, would be at Chicago on Sunday.

"The perspective is we're down 0-2. . . . I'd rather have it the other way," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "The comfort I have is our ability to play."

After a 19-8 loss to the New York Yankees in Game 3 of the AL championship series a year ago, the Red Sox won eight straight to win their first World Series title since 1918. Boston has won eight of its past nine when facing postseason elimination.

"Last year was last year; this has nothing to do with last year," Boston's David Ortiz said. "We made a comeback, but it was last year."

The White Sox trailed 4-0 Wednesday before scoring five runs in the fifth off David Wells, capped by Tadahito Iguchi's three-run homer. The drive over the left-field fence came shortly after a deflating error by Boston second baseman Tony Graffanino, who once played for the White Sox.

"I've had situations where I've erred," Iguchi said through a translator. "I understand Graffanino's feelings there, but I'm happy that his error gave me a chance to do something."

Iguchi, a 30-year-old major league rookie who played eight seasons in Japan, has been one of manager Ozzie Guillen's favorite players all season.

"One of the biggest reasons we are here is because of Iguchi," Guillen said. "He moves the guy over, he runs for me, he makes the plays, he hits home runs, he runs the bases right. This kid does everything for the team, and that's why I keep on saying he's my MVP."

The Red Sox, 14-2 losers in Tuesday's opener when Chicago homered five times, were shut out on three hits for the final six innings by Buehrle and rookie Bobby Jenks.

**ANGELS 5, YANKEES 3:** Orlando Cabrera's bat beat the Yankees when he played for Boston last October, and he did it again for the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday. Cabrera scored the tying run after Alex Rodriguez's error and later hit a go-ahead single, Bengie Molina got two big hits and the Angels defeated the Yankees 5-3 to even their AL division series at one game apiece.

"This team always played the Yankees very well, so there's not a lot that I can tell these guys that they haven't done before," said Cabrera, who hit safely in all seven games against New York in the 2004 ALCS to help the Red Sox reach the World Series.

"You just keep the pressure on them the whole time and they are somehow going to crack up, and we're going to take advantage of any mistake they make."

**TODAY'S ALDS SCHEDULE**

- **Game 3:** Chicago at Boston, 3 p.m. ESPN2
- **Game 3:** Los Angeles at New York, 7 p.m. ESPN

# METRO AREA FOOTBALL CAPSULES

## TODAY'S GAMES

**HAHNVILLE (4–0) AT EAST ST. JOHN (3–1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Hahnville defeated Patterson 21-20. East St. John defeated Curtis 16-6.
**Last year:** Hahnville won 32-27.
**Notes:** The District 5-5A opener for both teams, but it is the second meeting of this season. The first, played Sept. 17 and won by Hahnville, was a non-district game arranged after both teams had games against Orleans Parish opponents canceled. Hahnville has won the past six meetings. The past three have been by a touchdown or less.

**SALMEN (0–1) AT LUTCHER (1–3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Salmen lost to West Jefferson 34-3. Lutcher lost to Catholic-New Iberia 20-16.
**Last year:** Did not play
**Notes:** A non-district game. Salmen dressed out 32 players for its opener last week. This was the Spartans' first week of practice in pads after all of their equipment was destroyed by flooding. Last week the Spartans gained 75 yards and allowed 356 to West Jefferson.

**DONALDSONVILLE (4–0) AT ST. CHARLES (4–0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Donaldsonville defeated Port Allen 37-14. St. Charles defeated West St. John 29-12.
**Last year:** St. Charles won 56-6.
**Notes:** The District 10-2A opener for both teams. Donaldsonville has had a losing record the past three seasons and seven of the past eight. St. Charles is ranked No. 3 in Class 2A. Donaldsonville is ranked No. 5.

**ST. JAMES (3–1) AT RIVERSIDE (3–1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** St. James lost to Destrehan 28-25. Riverside lost to St. John of Plaquemine 27-20.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** The District 10-2A opener for both teams. Last year's scheduled game between these teams was canceled because of Hurricane Ivan. In 2003, St. James defeated Riverside 27-14. Riverside, ranked No. 8 in Class 2A last week, dropped out of the top 10 this week. St. James, ranked No. 1 last week, dropped to No. 4 this week.

**WEST ST. JOHN (0–4) AT WHITE CASTLE (1–3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** West St. John lost to St. Charles 29-12. White Castle lost to Berwick 13-12.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** The District 9-1A opener for both teams. The last time these teams played was in 1998. West St. John won 34-15. The Rams committed 11 turnovers in their past two games.

**EHRET (1–0) AT DESTREHAN (4–0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Ehret beat Higgins 15-14. Destrehan beat St. James 28-25.
**Last year:** Ehret won 32-29 in double overtime.
**Notes:** The District 5-5A opener for both teams. Destrehan enters ranked No. 4 in Class 5A. Ehret is operating on just two weeks of practice. The visiting Patriots have six two-way starters, unusual for a 5A program, but one necessitated by a roster of 34. The Wildcats allowed 20 points in their first three victories against Thibodaux, Terrebonne and South Lafourche before squeaking by St. James, then the top-ranked team in Class 2A.

**WEST JEFFERSON (1–0) AT ASSUMPTION (2–2)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** West Jefferson beat Salmen 34-3. Assumption beat H.L. Bourgeois 20-14.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** The District 5-5A opener for both teams. West Jefferson used a no-huddle offense against Salmen, and had two backs rush for 100 or more yards. The Bucs gained 291 yards on the ground and 356 overall. Sophomore Edward Robinson ran for 123 yards and two scores on eight carries, despite having only two days of practice. Tevin Conway also had 100 yards with a 58-yard touchdown run. The Bucs defense limited Salmen to 75 yards, 54 of it rushing. Assumption features one of the state's top backs in Carl Francis, who rushed for 257 yards and three touchdowns against Bourgeois.

**BONNABEL (0–0) AT FISHER (0–1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Fisher lost to Springfield 34-7. Bonnabel did not play.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** A non-district game. The Bruins are making their debut, and the host Gators are playing the first of four consecutive home games. Three of the six games Fishercoach Duane Foret was able to arrange are against opponents from Class 4A or higher. The Gators have all but one of their pre-storm starters back and a roster of 42 players. Senior quarterback Brad Navero scored Fisher's lone touchdown at undefeated Springfield, but threw three interceptions, all of which resulted in Springfield scores.

**SHAW (0–0) AT WALKER (1–3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Shaw did not play. Walker lost to Baton Rouge-Central 30-22.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** A non-district game. Shaw makes its season debut with a roster of 65 players, down 15 from prior to Hurricane Katrina. The Eagles return 18 pre-storm starters, including All-Metro safety Tommy Connors and quarterback Darold Hughes, tailback Daniel Borne and wide receiver Eric Abadie. Walker has lost three straight following a season-opening 13-6 victory against Belaire.

**CURTIS (0–1) AT CHOCTAWHATCHEE (FLA.) (2–3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m. in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
**Last week:** Curtis lost to East St. John 16-6. Choctawhatchee lost to Crestview, Fla., 24-7.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notable:** This is the first meeting between the schools. Curtis lost its opener for the first time since a 25-7 loss to West Monroe in 2000. Curtis' Joe McKnight had a 70-yard touchdown run and an interception last week.

**HOLY CROSS (0–1) AT VANDEBILT (2–2)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Holy Cross lost to Ouachita 27-7. Vandebilt lost to E.D. White 14-7.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** A non-district game. Ouachita held Holy Cross to 103 yards and only 40 yards on 32 carries. Ouachita scored a touchdown on defense and one on special teams.

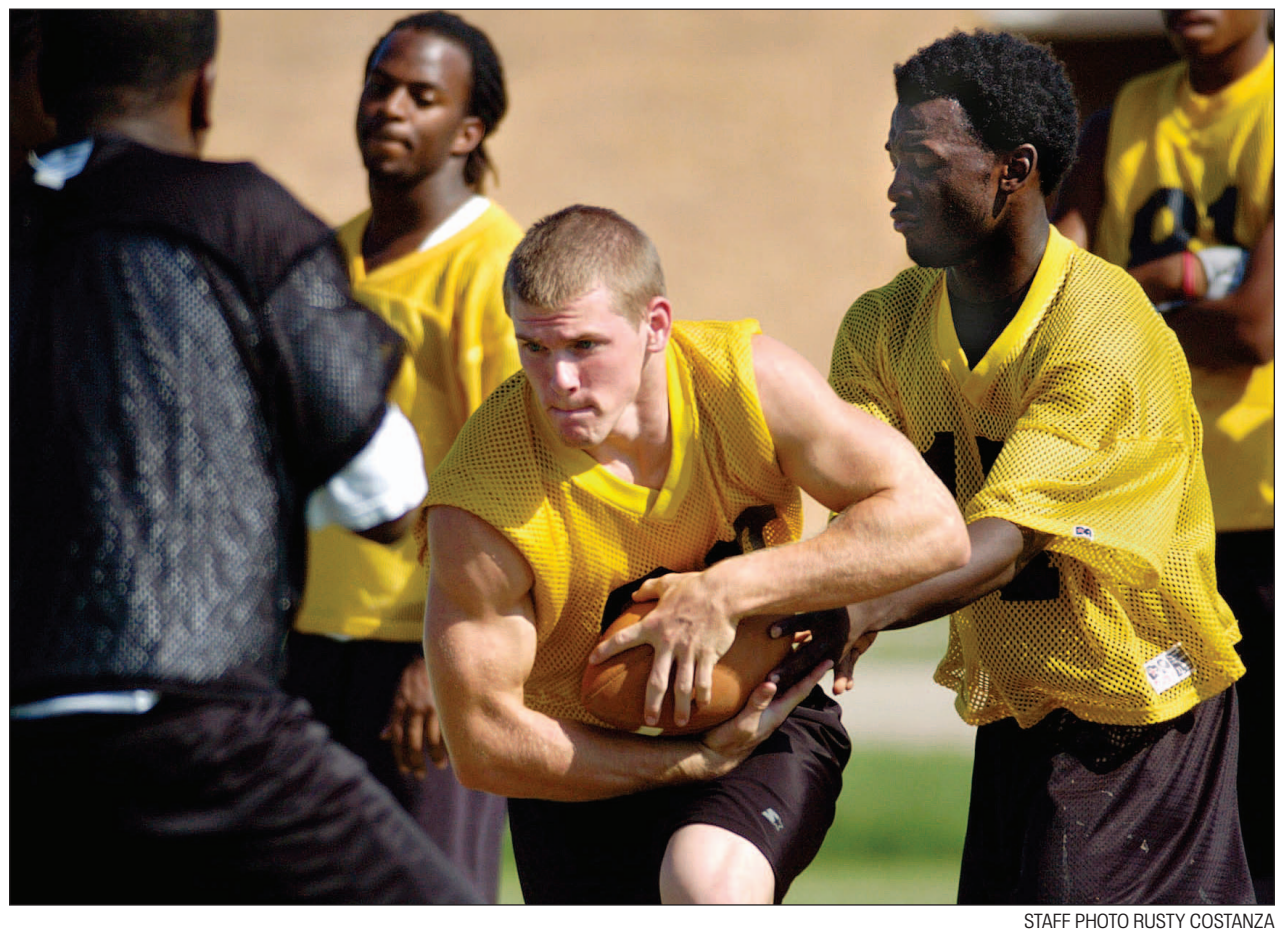
## SATURDAY'S GAMES

**RIDGEWOOD (0–0) VS. RIVERDALE (0–0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m. at Joe Yenni Stadium.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** A non-district game. Ridgewood's roster dropped from 32 players to 28. Tackle Kole Porter has transferred to Baton Rouge-McKinley.

**HIGGINS (0–1) VS. COX (0–0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m. at Hoss Memtsas Stadium.
**Last week:** Higgins lost to Ehret 15-14. Cox did not play.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Cox, once a feeder school for West Jefferson and Ehret, is playing its first varsity game. Converted receiver Edward Scott will direct the Cougars' veer until Rudy Chattman returns from storm evacuation. Scott leads a list of 10 pre-storm starters back for the Cougars. Five are on offense and five on defense. Higgins got a week head start on its new Jefferson Parish rival. Senior Michael Roussel was a standout with two interceptions and 93 yards on 12 carries as the new starting tailback.

## MONDAY'S GAME

**CRESCENT CITY (0–0) VS. DESIRE STREET (0–0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m. at St. Martin's.
**Last week:** Neither team played.
**Last year:** Did not play.
**Notes:** A District 10-1A game. Crescent City had 27 players report and will be missing four starters, including All-State receiver Luis Sobalvarro. Desire Street has opened its school in Niceville, Fla., after its campus in the Ninth Ward sustained heavy damage.



STAFF PHOTO RUSTY COSTANZA

Running back Johnny Owen, center, has made an immediate contribution at East St. John after moving from Brother Martin following Hurricane Katrina.

# Like his father, Owen playing at East St. John

*Running back chooses Wildcats after move from Brother Martin*

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer

When East St. John opened its 2005 football season on Sept. 17 - two weeks late thanks to Hurricane Katrina - the Wildcats had a newcomer in the backfield with a familiar name: Johnny Owen.

From 1980 to 1991, Johnny Owen Sr. was the head baseball coach at East St. John. In 1990, his team won the Class 4A state championship with a 28-0 record.

Back then, Johnny Owen Jr. was just a toddler.

"I grew up on that baseball field," Owen Jr. said. "I remember walking in the halls, playing on that (practice field) tower."

Those memories have been coming back to Owen in the past month. When Hurricane Katrina struck, Owen was a junior starter for Brother Martin. As a sophomore running back last season, he rushed for more than 400 yards before he suffered a broken collarbone that ended his season. After Brother Martin was flooded by Katrina and forced to close, Owen transferred to a familiar place, East St. John.

"We looked at some of the other schools in the area," said Owen, who lives in LaPlace but had attended Brother Martin since he was a freshman. "I wanted to stay in a big school. And I knew this was a good program."

The Owen family sought the advice of Brother Martin head football coach Wayde Keiser, who had been a head coach at St. Charles Catholic in LaPlace and an assistant coach at East St. John.

"I told them they couldn't go wrong either way," said Keiser, who now is assisting at Vandebilt in Houma. "He needed to make his own decision. I'm just happy he's playing. I just want him to play somewhere."

Owen isn't just playing. That first week Owen earned a starting spot in the backfield and was the only displaced player to appear in the Wildcats' season-opening loss to Hahnville. On the first play of East St. John's third possession, Owen burst through the line and ran 78 yards for a touchdown. He finished the game with 83 yards. Against East Ascension he rushed for 107 yards on eight carries.

Owen Sr. said that seeing his son in an East St. John uniform has brought back memories.

"It's a little strange," said Owen, who is the transportation director for the St. John the Baptist Parish school system. "But with everything that's happened, we just feel fortunate that he's playing and that he's playing for a program like East St. John. He was looking for a challenge. If he could keep up with the athletes they have, it would make him a better football player."

Owen did not follow in his father's baseball shoes. He ran track at Brother Martin, competing in the 100 and 200 eters, the 400-meter relay and the 800-meter relay. His best time in the 100 meters was 10.8 seconds and he advanced to the Class 5A regionals last year, missing the state meet by two-tenths of a second.

"He's got legitimate sprinter speed," said East St. John coach Larry Dauterive, who has decided to rotate Owen with tailback Stanley Jackson. "And he'll get better as the season goes on. Right now, he understands his role. He comes in every other series and his job is to run the football. We have so many weapons. He's just one of them."

# Move doesn't suit McGee

**McGEE,** *from C-1*

in the neighborhood, but that no water made its way inside the house. Hopefully, that means the clothes he left behind are still viable.

Other than that, the only things still standing concrete in his life are his love for his parents and the verbal commitment he made in August to play college football at UCLA.

Try as he might, McGee has found it difficult to blend into his new surroundings at McKinley, a Class 4A school located near LSU that takes an 0-4 record into Friday's homecoming contest and District 3-4A opener against Broadmoor.

He enrolled at McKinley primarily because of Karr coach Jabbar Juluke's urging that he stick with a magnet school program in order to assure his qualifying for an NCAA scholarship. He also visited Scotlandville, another magnet school in the Baton Rouge area, and received an inquiry from Southern Lab. He knew nothing about McKinley, much less that it was a program in transition being rebuilt by new coach Bruce Swinton.

"It really didn't matter much to me what school I went to because it wasn't going to feel right to me anyway," McGee said.

"Whatever team I went to wasn't going to feel the same as at Karr. I had worked the whole summer to prepare myself for this season at Karr. So I didn't concern myself with whether I went to a winning school or a losing school."

Though it hasn't been reflected in the victory column, McGee has made an impact with the Panthers, having rushed for 100 yards in each of his first two games while totaling 257 yards and two touchdowns on 30 carries, an average of 6.4 yards per carry.

He was approaching a third 100-yard game during last week's 49-0 loss to Istrouma when he was sidelined by a foot injury.

McGee said he is recovered sufficiently to play against Broadmoor.

Swinton, however, is looking for more than pure physical production. He needs a leader to inspire a team that began the season with 12 seniors.

"Jeremy has the moves of a Sunday running back, the professional moves that you can't teach," Swinton said. "He sees where there might be a hole and he finds it. And his speed is impressive. He can play some day on Sunday, but his maturity level must increase with him getting ready to go to the next level. I was hoping that he would be more of a leader for us.

"With the situation with Katrina happening, you have to mature more and act more like an adult even though you're 17 or 18. We didn't ask for this situation to happen, but we have to deal with it.

"It's hard for a 16- or 17-year-old when they're forced out of their element. But things are different from the way it was at Karr."

"It's easy for someone to say you need to step up and be a leader," McGee said. "I just don't feel like I'm in that position to come in and tell these guys what to do. That's going to take time because it just doesn't feel right to me."

McGee will likely benefit from the addition of Juluke to the McKinley faculty and coaching staff. After spending more than three weeks living with relatives in Houston, Juluke is in his first full week with the Panthers. Three other Karr players, safety Jared Berry and defensive linemen Patrick and Thomas Barnes, also are on the team.

"At Karr most of the pieces basically were in place and Jeremy was the main piece of the puzzle," Juluke said. "Now you come to a new team, which is a different puzzle, and you don't want to step on anybody's toes. Jeremy has to humble himself and become a team player in another role. He's the best player here, but it's not his team.

"At Karr he was the best player and had established himself to the point where other kids looked to him. So it's a hard transition. Here he's on a team that's not as successful as we were or as successful as we were expected to be."

So McGee will keep plugging away, hoping that this is the week the Panthers break through into the win column and he clears his own mental hurdle.

"Even if we would win a championship, it wouldn't really matter to me because it's not Karr," McGee said. "It wouldn't feel right to me. So I'm just trying to make the best of this situation right now. I hope we win. I'm going to do whatever it takes."




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Former Karr running back Jeremy McGee, who has transferred to McKinley, has found it difficult to adjust in his new role. 'It really didn't matter much to me what school I went to because it wasn't going to feel right to me anyway,' says McGee, who has committed to UCLA.

# Houston socializing and Mississippi Bridging

## *New Orleanians step out and stay connected in their temporary home towns*

**By Nell Nolan**
Society columnist

HOUSTON — "Okra, that's what I'm so excited about," said chef Monica Pope, award-winning Houstonian chef-owner of restaurant t'afia. She was the featured speaker at the Junior League Tea Room's most recent "relaxed Wednesday dinner," which was hailed as "Houston's Farmers' Markets with Monica Pope."

"Eat where your food lives" was one of the pronouncements made by Monica as she moseyed about, mike in hand, within the Tea Room's several areas. Lending an attentive ear were New Orleanians — and twins — Joan and Julie Fotiades, who were in the company of their Houstonian sister, Evelyn Poulos.

The Fotiadeses never really evacuated New Orleans. Just before the hurricane, they were in Memphis for a wedding. "So we just flew from Memphis to Houston," said Joan, who said that so much of her and Julie's time in Houston has been spent returning phone calls and trying to make contact with friends. Joan also praised her sister's hospitality. "Evelyn's been so wonderful to have us here."

St. Pete's Dancing Marlin included newlyweds Merrick and Veronica Lyons as diners on a recent Friday night. The hip, downtown eatery is owned by John Zotos, a best buddy of Merrick's Orleanian brother, Tom Lyons. (Their father is the celebrated architect Pio Lyons.) What made the experience so very special, according to Veronica, "was hearing the Rebirth Jazz Band from New Orleans playing."

• • • • • •

**Carlo and Rosemonde Capomazza** have been spending their evacuee time in Oxford with son Stefano, a former restaurant owner and now a developer of condominiums. Carlo's happy to report that his Uptown home and shop on Magazine Street "have done well" through Katrina and its aftermath. Not so some of their country property.

Among those who've been in Oxford — and maybe were just passing through — have been Carl and Lois Downing, and Charlie and Dot Heidingsfelder and their daughters and sons-in-law, Molly Silvia and Dr. Charles and Ellen Manning and Cooper. Of course we all know the Manning connection to this Mississippi town. It's part of the pigskin pact. Also milling on Oxfordian turf have been Peter and Debi Dupuy, the Rev. Jesse and Nancy Adams, Anne Craighead, Walker Ronaldson, Courtney-Anne Sarpy, and Becky and Dick Currence. Their son, John Currence, has the acclaimed City Grocery restaurant in Oxford, which has seen a bit of NOEVAC (New Orleans evacuee) traffic of late.

The Downings' son, Doug, and his wife, Vaughn, along with their three cute boys, Michael, Andrew and James, are currently calling Houston home. Vaughn's pleased to be teaching part time at her boys' school.

The above Rosemonde's sister and brother-in-law, Karolyn and Paul Westervelt, made tracks to Lafayette. Carlo also reported that Dr. Quinn Peeper and Michael Harold headed to Memphis and the home of Quinn's parents; and that John and Bonnie Boyd were being housed in Shreveport by friends.

Concern from abroad came from Carlo's sister, Simonetta, who lives in Rome. When she and her husband and pals visited the Crescent City a few days before Easter, Prescott and Sarah Dunbar entertained them at the Dunbars' beautiful Garden District home.

From Paris have come concerned messages via Gerard and Antoinette Roubichou, former residents — and continued fans — of the Crescent City. They were asking about buddies Jackie and Alan Bartlett and Colette and Jim Stelly, among many others, as well as their former home on Marengo Street. Gerard is a former cultural attache at the Consulate of France in New Orleans and Antoinette taught at Newcomb College. Yet another Gallic voice of caring was that of Rita Dedeyan, who entertained Donna Kay Berger and a few other Orleanian friends during teatime at Laduree in Paris earlier in the summer. Rita was acting as a clearing house for her New Orleans friends, and came up with names to help all of us make contacts of our "lost" Crescent City kith. Moving on in Mississippi! Several Saturdays ago, Jimmy and Berthe Amoss were spotted at a Natchez-riverside restaurant with son Dr. John and daughter-in-law Dunbar (and her parents, the Smiths) and the latter couple's little sons, James and Jack Amoss. Nearby at the same spot were Thad and Gail Waters, whose home is in St. Joseph, La., but who have both logged time in New Orleans. She taught school and he was with a brokerage firm. Earlier that same afternoon, and after they had just toured Monmouth Plantation, the Waterses were introduced to Orleanians Diane and Dr. Robert "Bob" Jones. The Joneses had been airlifted out of New Orleanians — he, as a doctor, was tending to his medical work — and she was buying a purse in the gift shop for her essentials.

The docent at Monmouth said she "was awaiting Uncle Buzz and Les." That's our town's Buzz Harper, whose Natchezian roots are very strong, and Les Wisinger. The buzz on Buzz for years has been houses. His most recent Garden District transaction was the sale of his mansion on Prytania and Third streets. He bought it from Anne Rice, embellished it and opened it to a slew of fine charities, and sold it a few months ago to actor Nicolas Cage.

• • • • • •

**"I've never been on a ranch before** and didn't know what to expect. It's so nice." So said Moonyeen Johnston, who has been logging Texas time with various family members. "I even have my own room," she said after describing a harrowing departure from New Orleans post-Katrina. Whereas the ranch, which family members have dubbed "Camp David," is outside Fort Worth, she has also been at the Houston home of her granddaughter Leslie Ward Wubbenhorst, and husband Rob. "They are so civic-minded," said Moonyeen, who expounded on Leslie and Rob's many recent volunteer efforts.

# Riegel and Wicker sign off

## *WWL news reporter and WVUE weathercaster won't return*

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

Her home near Lake Pontchartrain destroyed by Hurricane Katrina flooding, Stephanie Riegel spent a week reporting on the storm's aftermath as a Baton Rouge evacuee, then resigned her part-time job with WWL-Channel 4 to pursue freelance public-relations consulting.

More important, she said in a recent interview, she left WWL to devote more time to her children, ages 5, 8 and 8.

"They lost everything they had, too," she said. "I wanted to be (with them) as much as I could."

Riegel, who had worked at WWL since 1993, said that she and her family likely will reside for a while in Baton Rouge, from where her husband can commute to work on the north shore.

WWL management, she said, has been "wonderful — they were never anything but great to me."

Her new life as a self-employed consultant is going well but it's too early to tell if she'll miss reporting.

"Everything is so radically different," she said. "It doesn't really seem real."

Earlier, WVUE-Channel 8 general manager Jeff West announced that morning meteorologist Crystal Wicker took a weekend weathercasting job with Indianapolis ABC affiliate WRTV-TV shortly after Katrina hit town. But unlike WWL meteorologist John Gumm, her departure was unrelated to the storm.

"Indiana is home for her," he said. "She aspired to go there. The timing I think was as much a coincidence as anything."

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TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-8

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Friday
October 7, 2005

Dickie Brennan plots his restaurants' comeback.

Saturday in Living

# The weatherman who came *in* from the storm



**For any TV meteorologist, this was the hurricane of a lifetime: a Category 5 headed straight for New Orleans. And then WWL-TV's John Gumm got a call from his wife that changed everything.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN GUMM

John and Jennifer Gumm beam after the arrival of Connor Jacob Gumm, born at 3:20 a.m. the day before Katrina made landfall. The proud papa, a WWL-TV weatherman, evacuated with his family, then decided not to come back.



DAVE WALKER
*On the Air*

When Hurricane Katrina's projected path jumped west toward New Orleans that Friday afternoon in late August, John Gumm's wife "was basically ready to give birth at any second," he said.

The WWL weekend meteorologist, recently promoted to the station's top-rated morning newscast, immediately understood the implications of Katrina's drift to his city, his new family, himself.

The next morning he went in to work prepared to stay on the job for several days, while his wife, Jennifer, planning to ride out the storm with a friend, tried to prepare their Slidell home for a direct hit from a hurricane.

"She packed up all the photo albums and pictures, things like that," he said.

All that day, the storm track "didn't look good," said Gumm. "It looked like the nightmare scenario."

At 9:30 p.m. Saturday, "I get a phone call," he said. "It's her. She says, 'Hey, my contractions have started. I'm going to the hospital to see if they'll admit me.'

"I thought, 'Oh, that's great news.' I was really excited at that point (that) the baby was coming now rather than later. That could've been a catastrophe."

Gumm called Carl Arredondo, WWL's chief meteorologist, to let him know that he'd need emergency relief at the station.

WWL's weathercaster ranks were already depleted due to David Bernard's recent departure for Miami. (WWL would eventually bring in relievers Dawn Brown, a weathercasting veteran of stations in Philadelphia and San Francisco, and former WWL meteorologist Brad Panovich, now at WCNC-TV in Charlotte, N.C.)

Despite the station's staffing jam, nothing was going to keep Gumm from his wife.

Except, briefly, the new 10 p.m. storm track, which Gumm waited to deliver to viewers.

During the segment, anchors Karen Swensen and Mike Hoss made a cross-talk reference on the air to Jennifer being in labor.

Jennifer's parents, watching the Internet stream of the newscast from Indiana, learned for the first time that the arrival of their new grandchild was imminent.

Off the air, Gumm had an impromptu chat with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who'd come to the station to be interviewed on the 10 p.m. newscast.

"He came into the weather center and said, 'What's going on? How's it looking?'" said Gumm. "I said, 'This is the one we've feared.' He was talking about mandatory evacuation. I said, 'Yeah, I'd do it. I'd try to get the infrastructure in place and get the people out.' I wished him luck.

"He was actually the last person I saw before I left the station and drove across the twin spans to Slidell."

*See* **WALKER,** *C-10*



CHRIS ROSE

# SENSE AND THE CITY

*Sight and sound are improving, but the smell has a long way to go*

New Orleans still unfolds itself to you in a sensual way. That was always her seductive forte, but it is different after the storm.

For instance, in the immediate days after the flood, it was sound: Choppers, jets, boats, sirens, big trucks, bigger trucks, chainsaws. And then at night, the damn scariest silence you never heard.

Then it was sight: The impenetrable darkness of the night, punctuated in the distance from time to time by a red or blue cherry top on a slow-rolling cruiser and most likely the driver — a young state trooper from some town in the Midwest suddenly dropped into Fallujah — was as terrified as you.

There were lots of monsters under the bed in those early days.

**THE SLIGHTEST WIND SHIFT CAN TAKE YOU TO PUKE CITY.**

Then came the blinding sunlight of morning — so much of it unfiltered by tree limbs after Katrina's indiscriminate and not-so-tidy pruning job — just slamming straight into your face and onto the ground.

Now the choppers are gone, and most of that other industrial noise, and at night you hear crickets. And the sunlight, so hellish weeks ago, is getting better with the approach of autumn, and the scary darkness is now sliced apart at night by streetlights and the yellow glow from occasional bedroom windows.

That leaves us the sense of smell. And, wow.

Louisiana balladeer Randy Newman once wrote a song lamenting Baltimore's civic downfall many years ago with the line: "Oh, Baltimore. Man, it's hard just to breathe."

That would be New Orleans now. It stinks here, just flat out stinks. There are random piles of residential and commercial trash just everywhere and even where there is no visible evidence, the slightest wind shift can take you to Puke City.

I mean it; it's rough. Even in places that are cleaned up and open for business, you can still smell the Aftermath. The CVS and Walgreens drug stores are open Uptown and even though the air-conditioning is blasting and they've cleaned the hell out of those places, you can still sense it when you first walk in, just barely taste it.

A friend of mine e-mailed me recently that when she walked into a grocery store, her daughter said to her: "Mom, it smells like ass in here," and I know that's not very appetizing terminology or imagery for a newspaper, but standard operating procedures have changed around here because New Orleans, it smells like, well . . . never mind.

*See* **ROSE,** *C-10*

# HUGH HAYDEN, 34, OWNER OF BIG SWAY DENIM CO.

**HOME AND HAVEN:** *Madisonville*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

"Our line (of Big Sway jeans) came out earlier this year, at the beginning of the year. Everything's been going great till this happened. We're probably in 27, 30 states.

"When I got (to the warehouse in Madisonville) it was so bizarre. It was like somebody took the boxes and just threw them around. We had them all in rows by style and sizes and it was just like someone came in here and picked them up and threw them around.

"They weigh 50 pounds a case. They were stacked up five, six, eight boxes high. The bottom case got wet and of course the cardboard collapsed. And the two or three boxes on the top would fall off — fall over into the floodwaters.

"We went through every box. Every jean. What was lost in the warehouse was the finished product. Tagged. The whole nine yards. Retail value was approximately $189,000. We lost a lot of our Lucile style and after that it was our Pearl. After that it was our Delilah. They retail from $176 up to $225.

"I loaded up 1,000 pairs of wet jeans — some were dry. We put them in big Hefty garbage bags in a trailer and drove them up to Baton Rouge to a washer house. They took them four, five days to wash them all and dry them all and bag them. I came and picked them up and brought them over to the Red Cross in Baton Rouge. They were fired up.

"I contacted the insurance adjuster and told them exactly what I was doing. I said, I cannot sit here and let them go completely to waste. Thousands and thousands of people are homeless and they don't have but the clothes on their back that they walked out with.

"He said, 'Man I think that's great.'

"I'm not going to let Katrina knock me down. Or Rita. I'm not going to just give up because this happened. We can't get anywhere if we don't get up."

*— As told to Karen Sommer Shalett on Sept. 26*

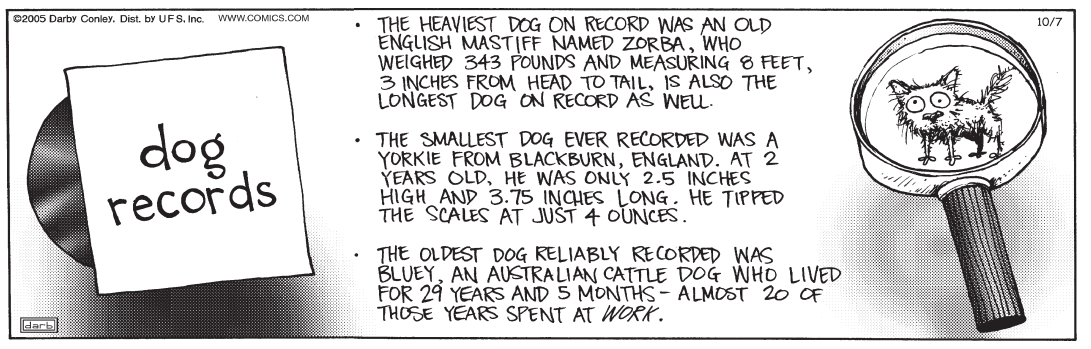


# COMICS

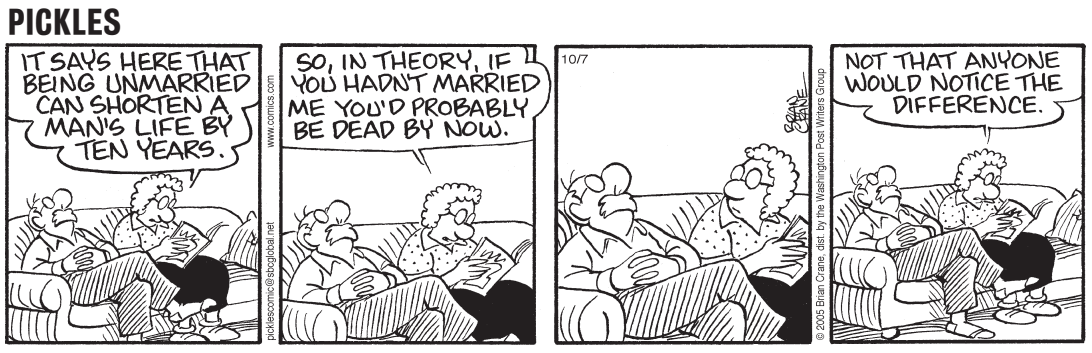
## ZITS



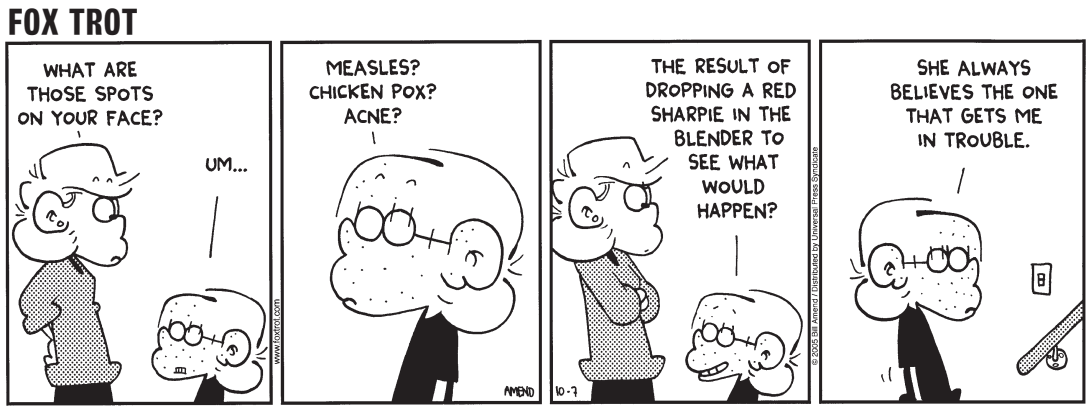

## GET FUZZY



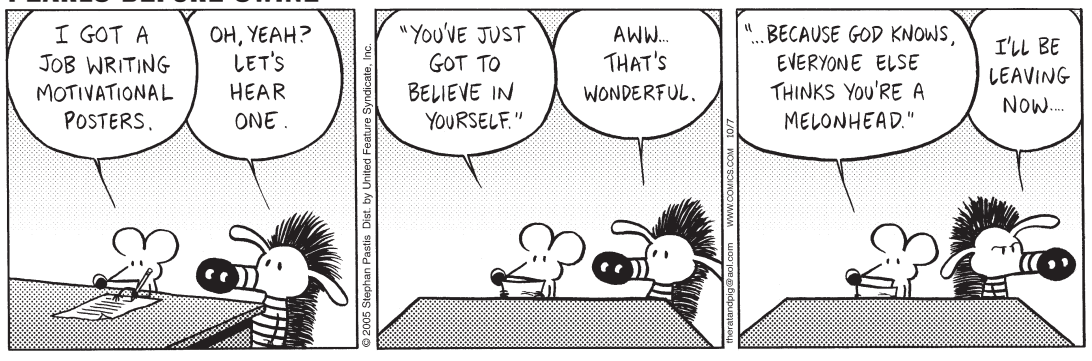

## PICKLES



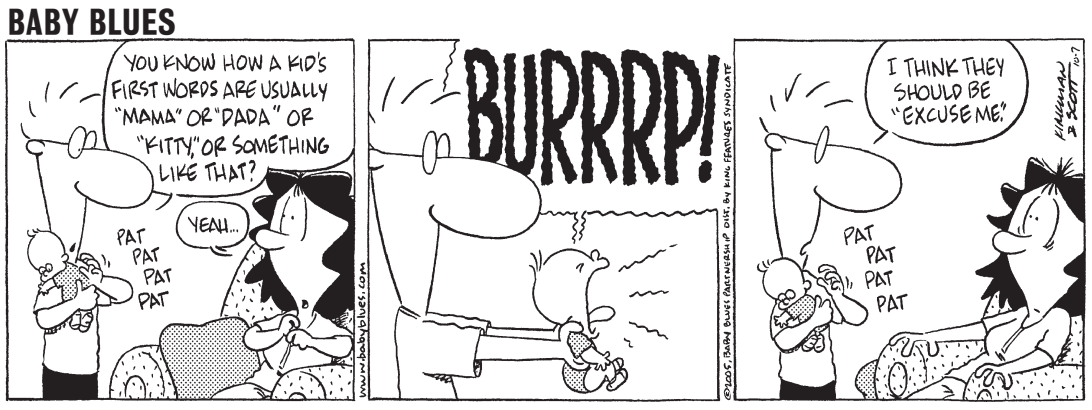

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYTIA

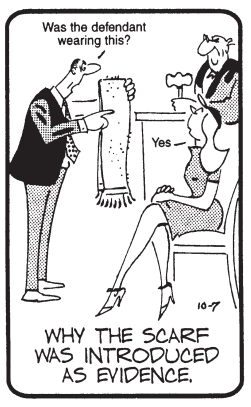
KERPI

LEHTAH

MAIDDY

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Answer:*** IT WAS "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAMP VAGUE SCRIBE CUDGEL
Answer: What the art students did before the big exam — "BRUSHED" UP

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 | |
| A1 | E1 | O1 | G2 | G2 | N1 | L1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 | |
| A1 | L1 | S1 | B3 | H4 | P3 | S1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 | Double Word Score |
| A1 | E1 | U1 | D2 | M3 | G2 | N1 | | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 | 1st Letter Triple |
| A1 | E1 | T1 | N1 | H4 | S1 | C3 | | |

**PAR SCORE 150-160**
**BEST SCORE 210**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 150-160

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C3 | H4 | A1 | S1 | T1 | E1 | N1 | | | | | | | | 210 |
| A1 | G2 | E1 | N1 | D2 | U1 | M3 | | | | | | | | 72 |
| S1 | P3 | L1 | A1 | S1 | H4 | | | | | | | | | 11 |
| A1 | G2 | E1 | L1 | O1 | N1 | G2 | | | | | | | | 59 |

RACK 4 = 68
RACK 3 = 72
RACK 2 = 11
RACK 1 = 59

## WORD SLEUTH

U N J G D Z W T Q N K H D A G
X U R P M J G D A X V S Q N O
M K I F N O S L E N D A X V L
T A E T I H W R N Q O N M J D
H F R K C A O Y E S W I U R W
P N B I Y D L L G D J K H F A
D B Z B O D I X V N N R C T T
R Q O M I N N E S O T A M I E
K I M H F G A A V B T L S D R
B O Z Y W V M T V A R I Q O N
C L K I H F D C A Z D X Z W V

Thursday's unlisted clue: SMITH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: FORMER ARIZONA SENATOR

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bonds | Gibb | Minnesota | Van Dyke |
| Commodore | Larkin | Nelson | White |
| Dave | Manilow | Rick | Zito |
| Gene | Marion | Sanders | |

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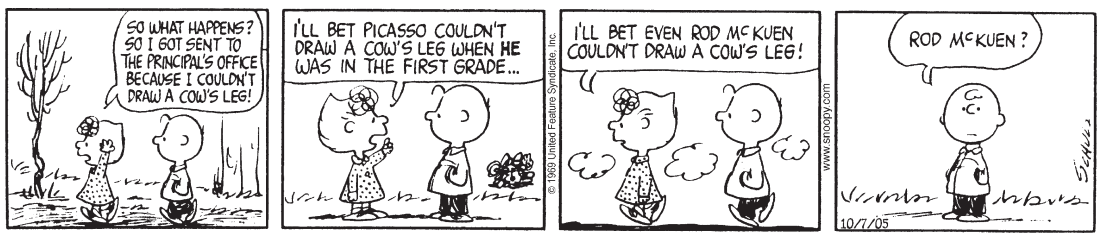
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| H | B | N | A | O | B | Y | E | B | O | C | E | A |
| 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| H | E | A | V | R | F | O | E | F | L | R | F | O |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| D | A | U | I | A | R | E | T | Y | S | R | T | E |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| R | M | R | W | C | A | O | I | I | I | N | O | T |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| T | T | A | H | U | O | N | U | E | T | B | G | H |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| L | R | L | I | E | J | O | O | N | I | L | T | A |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| O | V | L | B | A | O | T | O | L | K | S | E | E |

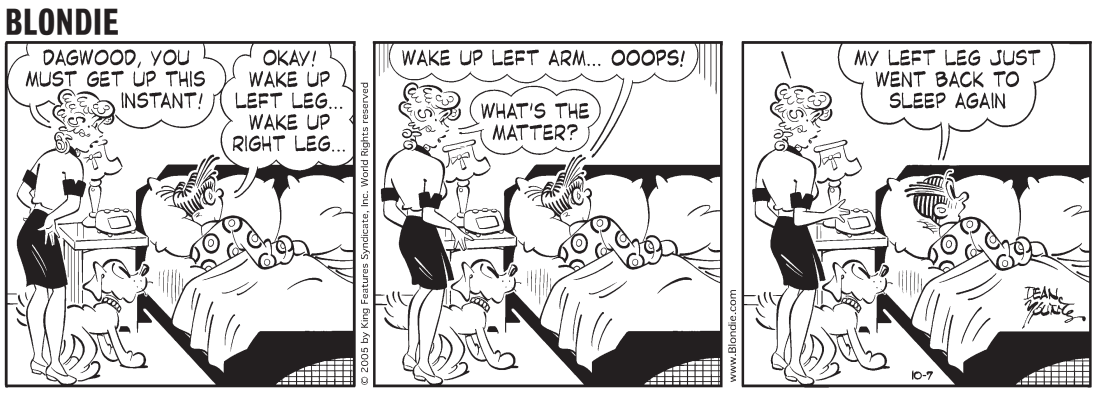
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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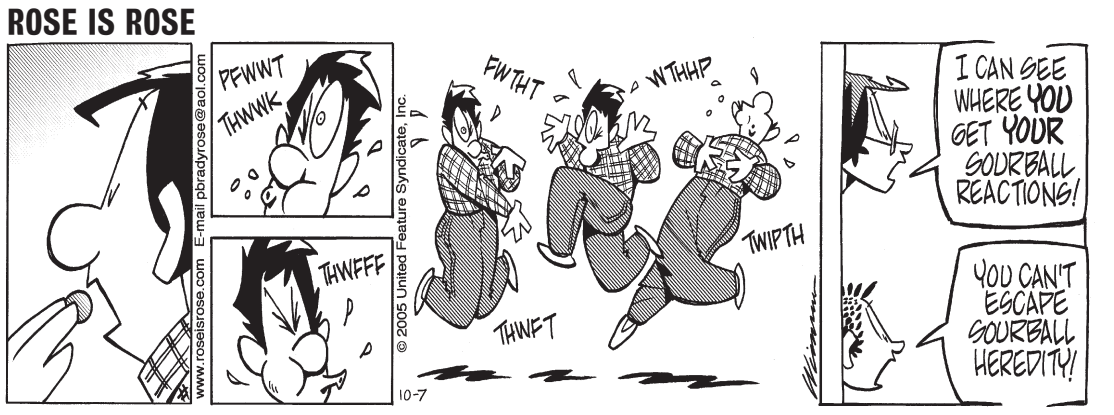
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



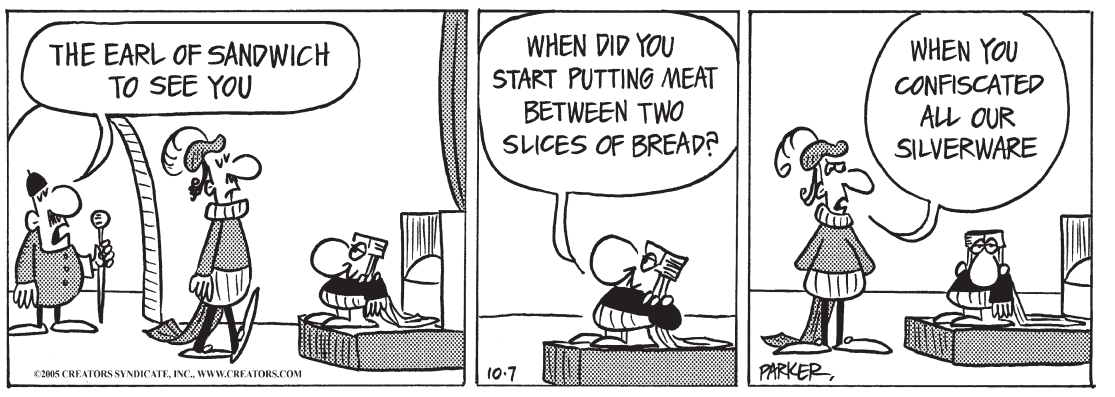

## BLONDIE




## ROSE IS ROSE



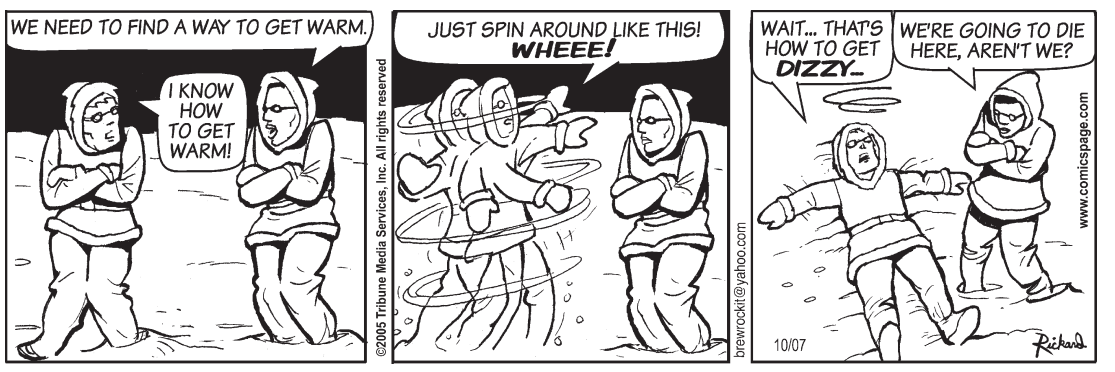

## THE WIZARD OF ID



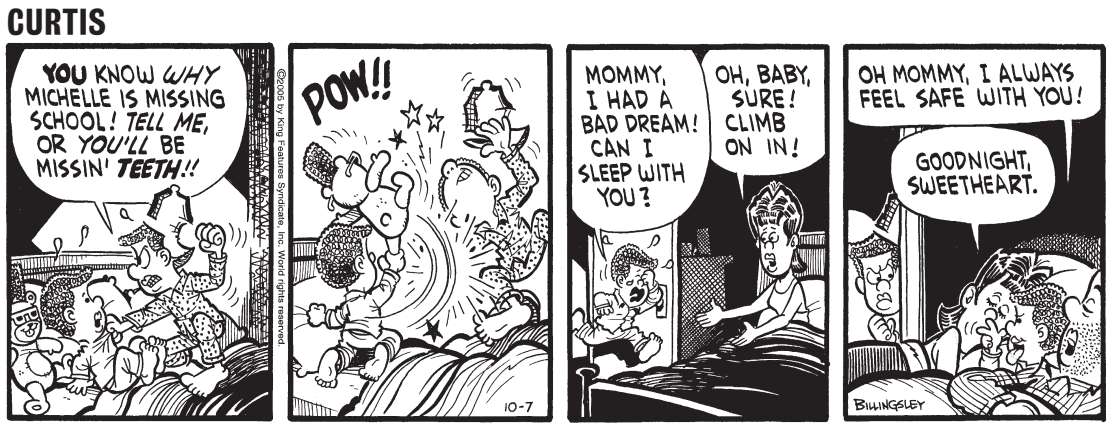

## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

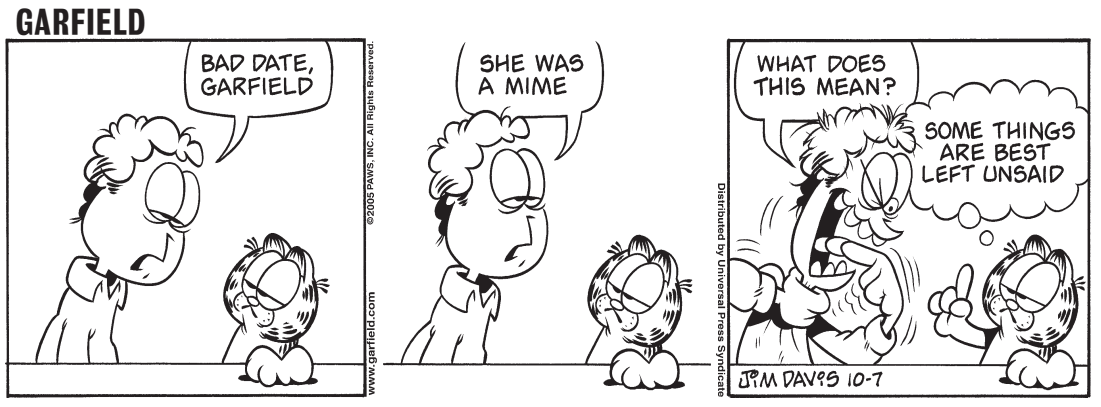



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

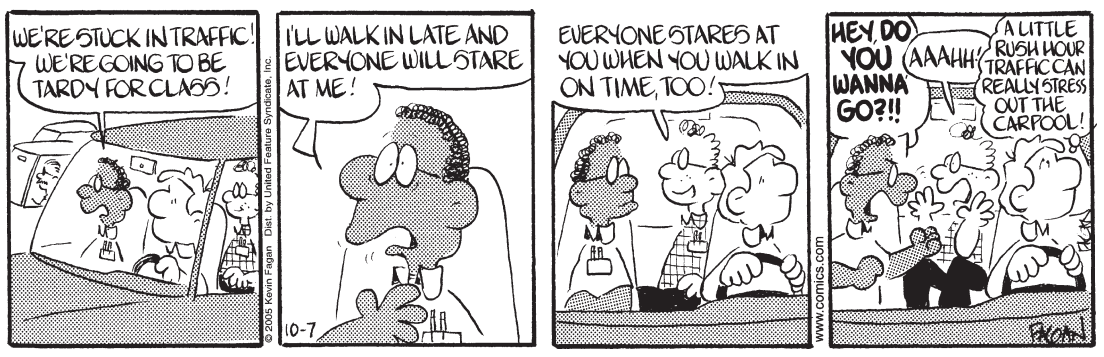


# COMICS

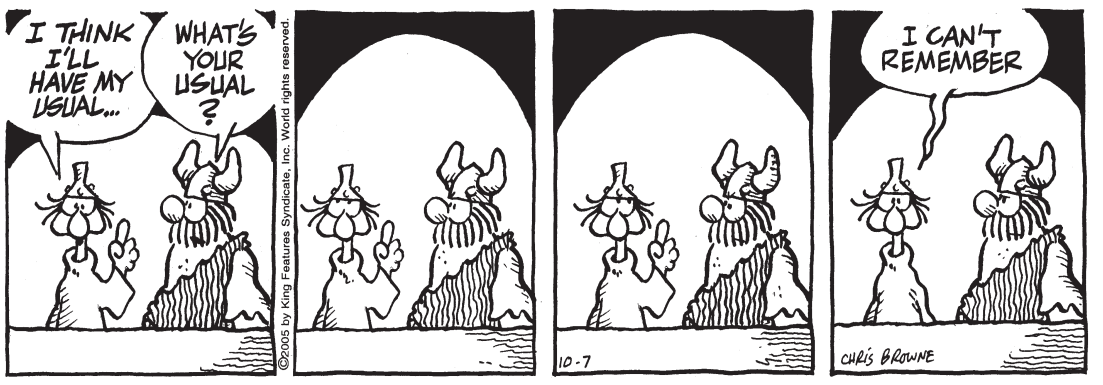
## GARFIELD



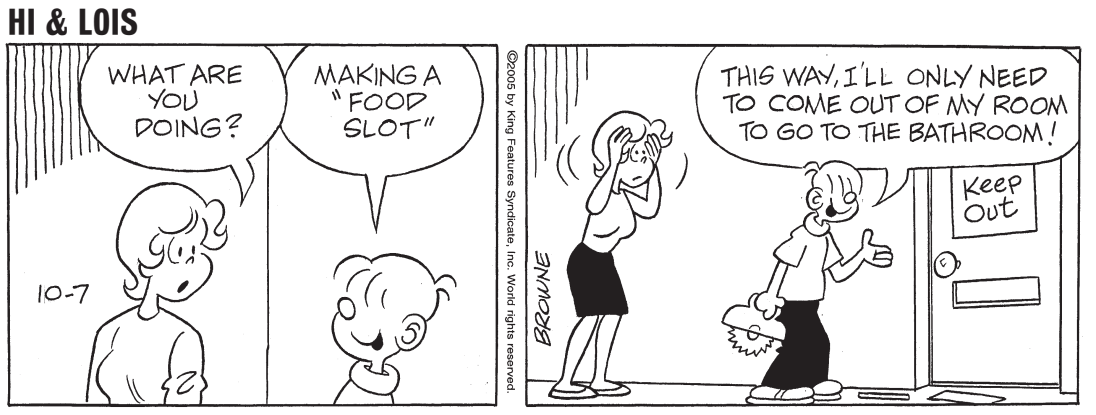

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



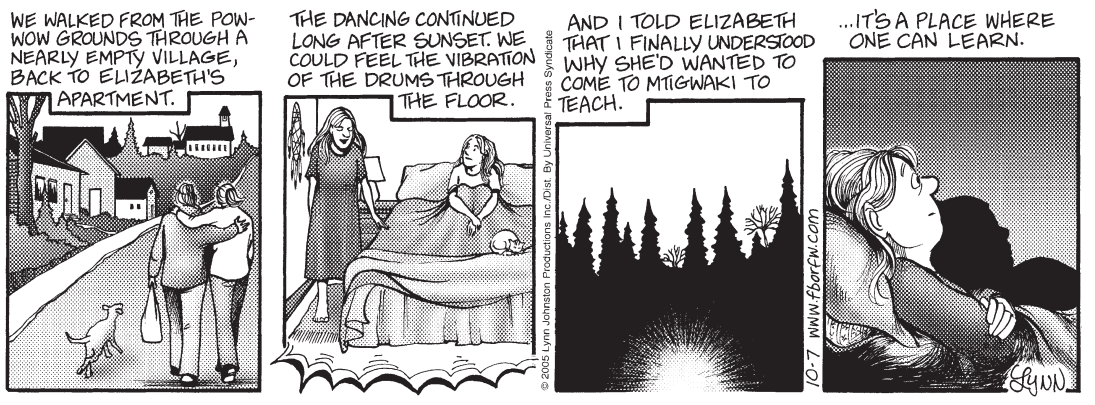

## HI & LOIS




## BEETLE BAILEY



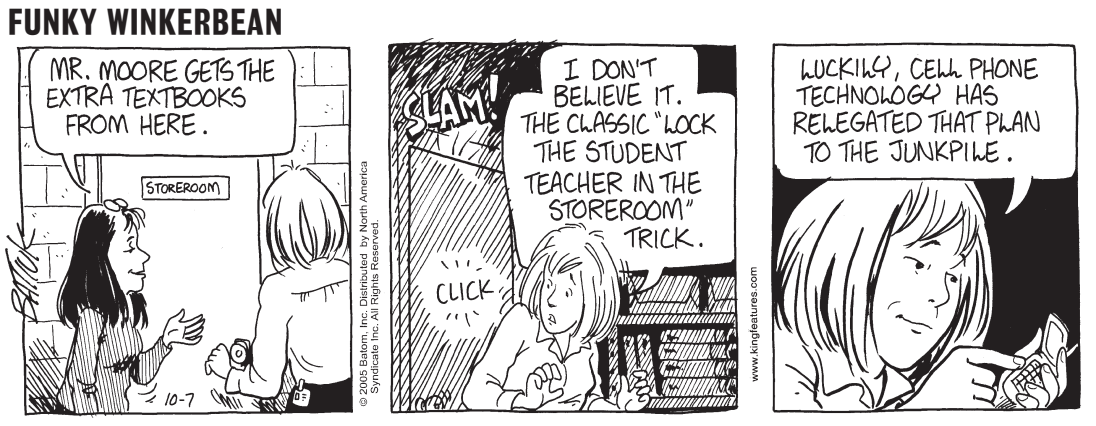

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN



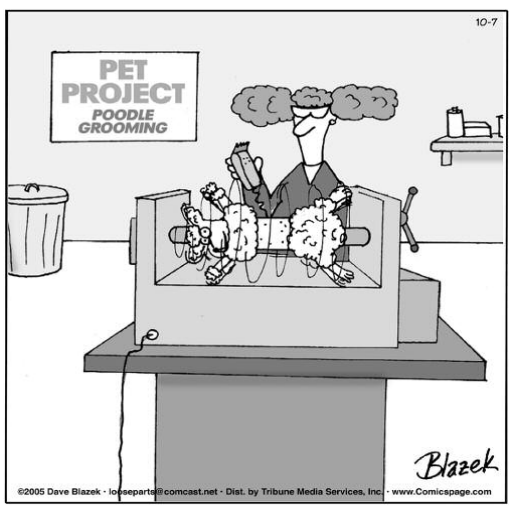

## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

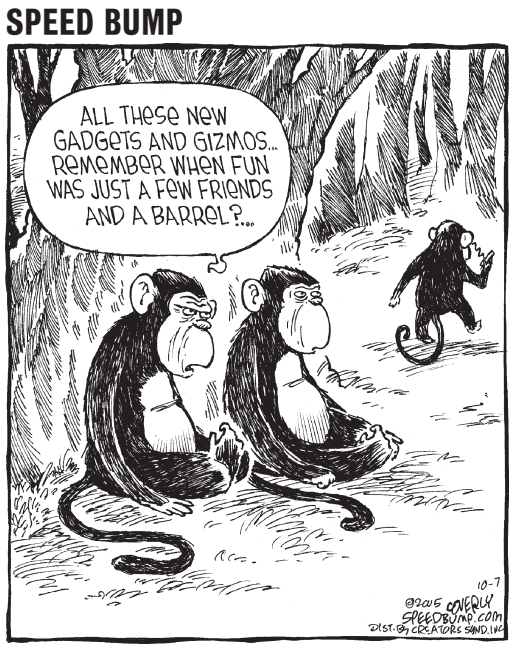



## LOOSE PARTS




Groom up to 50% more dogs a day with the Amazing New Poodle Lathe!

## SPEED BUMP

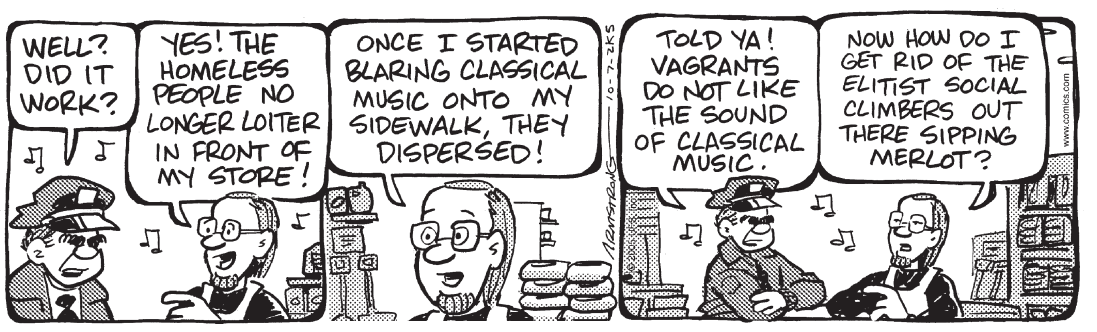



## MARMADUKE

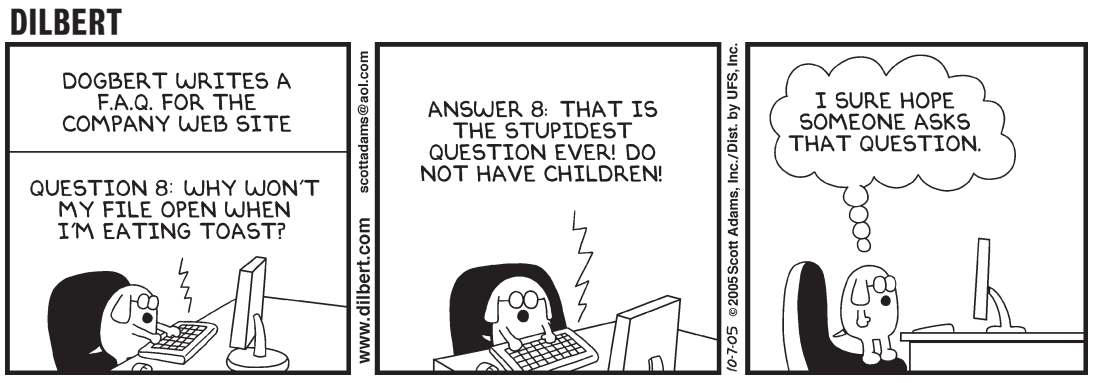



"Why would anyone take a number to be barked at?"

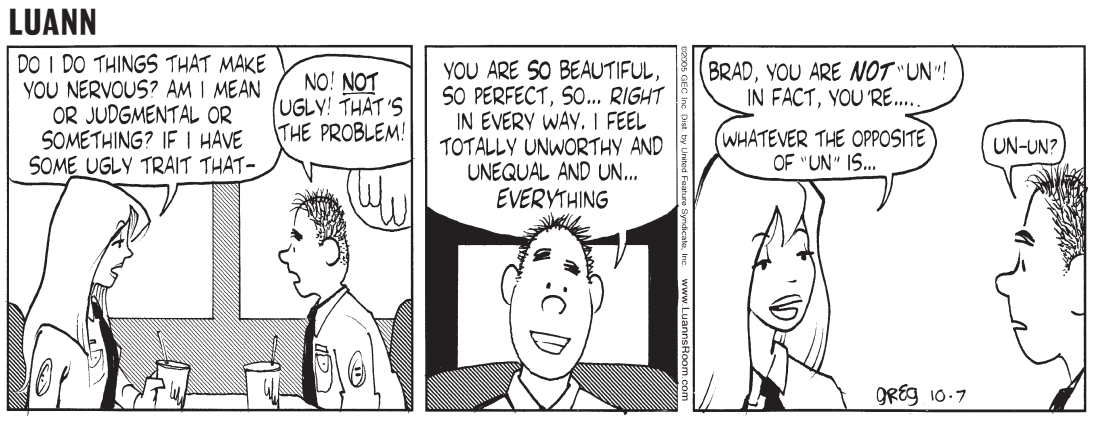
## JUMP START




## DILBERT




## LUANN

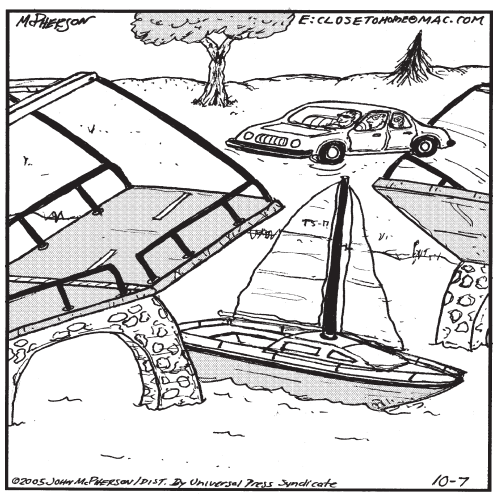



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



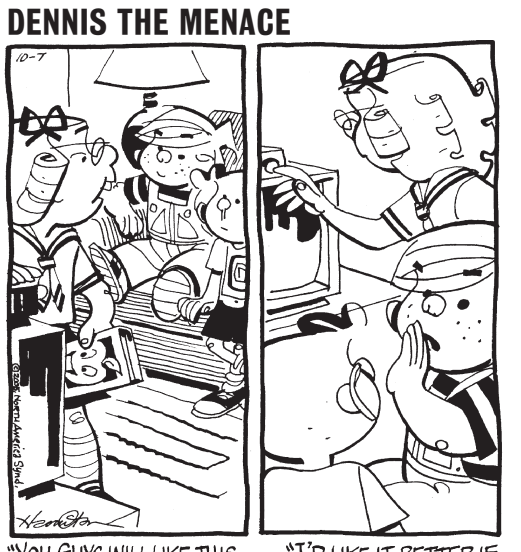

"We'll have a quiet ride home."

## CLOSE TO HOME




Concerned about getting his expectant wife to the hospital on time, Gary hired a stunt driver for the "big day."

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"YOU GUYS WILL LIKE THIS VIDEO...ALL THE CHARACTERS ARE VEGETABLES."

"I'D LIKE IT BETTER IF THEY WERE DESSERTS."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**CLASSIC MARTINIS** **Solution: 5 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | L | P | O | U | R | F | A | N | C | Y | E | O | K | S |
| I | A | E | D | I | R | T | Y | R | D | R | L | N | E | T |
| G | N | T | M | U | P | O | R | D | U | F | I | R | N | R |
| H | O | S | I | O | Y | A | R | T | N | R | V | A | T | A |
| T | I | T | B | L | N | B | A | I | D | E | G | S | E | I |
| C | T | C | O | L | O | R | A | N | G | E | R | E | R | N |
| L | I | O | H | N | E | P | D | R | L | Z | V | T | T | E |
| U | D | S | O | P | G | N | O | E | T | E | M | S | A | R |
| B | A | E | M | T | O | S | D | M | N | E | I | E | I | A |
| D | R | E | L | M | H | O | P | I | S | W | N | T | N | G |
| Ⓢ | T | I | L | L | O | P | N | L | T | O | S | D | U | U |
| Ⓣ | K | A | G | M | I | G | I | O | A | O | C | E | E | S |
| Ⓔ | C | I | G | A | R | H | O | C | H | S | S | V | H | R |
| Ⓜ | N | S | W | I | R | L | C | E | K | T | H | O | M | E |
| S | R | A | E | P | S | T | L | A | S | Y | T | R | A | P |

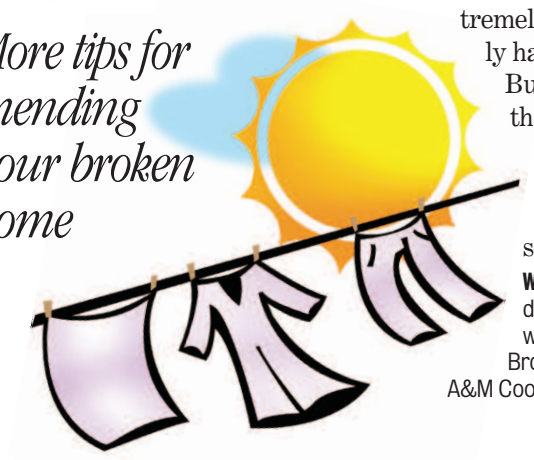
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Almond, Bartender, Blend, Chilled, Cigar, Color, Cosmopolitan, Dash, Dirty, Drink, Drop, Dry, Elegant, Entertain, Evening, Fancy, Freeze, Fruit, Gins, Guests, Home, Host, Lemon, Like, Menu, Mood, Nightclub, Orange, Party, Pour, Rims, Salt, Serve, Sets, Shot, Spears, Splash, Stem, Strainer, Sugar, Swirl, Temperature, Tongs, Tools, Toothpick, Traditional, Tray, Trendy, Twist

**Yesterday's Answer: Betting**

# THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*



## LET THE SUN SHINE Get clothes and linens out of those damp closets and drawers and onto an old-fashioned clothesline

If clothing that must be dry-cleaned has been soaked in floodwater, or if clothes have been exposed to fiberglass insulation or are extremely molded, the items will likely have to be pitched, experts say. But you might have more luck than you think salvaging other hurricane-damaged clothing and linens — even after mildew has set in. Here are some expert tips:

**WEAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES** when handling items that have come in contact with contaminants, said Pamela Brown, a textiles expert with the Texas A&M Cooperative Extension.

**SORT CLOTHING INTO PILES,** separating what is worth salvaging and what isn't. Then, separate into laundry and dry-cleaning piles. Avoid storing clothes in plastic bags because it will speed mildew.

**DIVIDE THE LAUNDRY PILE** into colors and whites, then sort the lights and darks by fabric type. First remove all loose or caked-on dirt and rinse the items in cold, clean water repeatedly to get rid of as much mud as possible, said Rose Marie Tondl, a clothing specialist at the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**AIR DRY CLOTHING THAT MUST BE DRY-CLEANED** and take it to the cleaners as soon as possible. Talk with the dry cleaner about stubborn mold stains or damage to determine if the piece is worth trying to clean, Brown said.

**TAKE ITEMS WITH DARK MOLD STAINS OUTSIDE** and brush off the mold. Pre-treat the patch by dampening it with water and rubbing detergent into the stain, and then launder the items in hot water, detergent and chlorine bleach, if safe for fabric. Rinse well. If any stain remains, use lemon juice and salt. Once the stain is gone, dry the items in sun. Rinse thoroughly and repeat, Tondl said.

**DISINFECT ALL CLOTHES** by using the longest wash cycle, highest water level and hottest water temperature safe for the fabric, being careful not to overcrowd the washer. If clothes are contaminated, disinfectants that contain at least 80 percent pine oil, such as Pine-Sol and Al-Pine, are safe for most fabrics in the washing machine — except wool and silk. Add two tablespoons of disinfectant to the water before adding clothing. Add two more tablespoons in the rinse cycle.

**BE CAREFUL WITH BLEACH.** Liquid chlorine bleaches such as Clorox and Purex can be used on most fabrics but not on mohair, wool, silk, Spandex or resin-coated fabrics with durable press finishes. Two tablespoons of chlorine bleach per washer load will kill bacteria and won't cause substantial harm to clothing, Brown said.

**LINE DRY IN THE SUN** to help kill bacteria. In the dryer, use the highest temperature setting. Don't dry clothes that still have stains, or the heat will set them. Try laundering again with other stain removers, Tondl said.

**— Karen Sommer Shalett and Judy Walker, staff writers**

Have a tip to share? Offer your solutions to hurricane-related household problems by sending an e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you.

# The weatherman who came *in* from the storm

**GUMM,** *from C-7*

Accompanied by her friend, Jennifer had been admitted to NorthShore Regional Medical Center.

When Gumm arrived, "They hadn't given her the epidural at that point, though the contractions were getting more painful," he said. "She was still OK."

In a waiting room, Gumm saw a TV report that said Katrina's winds had increased to 145 mph.

"At that point, I thought, 'Oh boy, I don't think we'll be able to stay here,'" he said.

Connor Jacob Gumm was born at 3:20 a.m. Sunday.

Later that morning, Gumm spoke with Panovich, who told him that it appeared as if Katrina's eyewall could be headed straight for Slidell.

Gumm left the hospital to further prepare his rented home for the storm, and to pick up the family dog, Calvin, a bichon frise.

"I picked up as many things as I could," he said. "Baby things. Things we'd need to care of the baby. Actually, I didn't know what we'd need."

The approximate two-mile drive on the interstate from Gumm's house to the hospital took two hours.

"It was gridlock," he said. "Jennifer called me on my cell and said, 'Hey, there's a problem. The doctor needs to talk to you when you get here. He thinks we should stay so they can observe him a little longer.'"

There was some concern at the hospital that Connor had contracted Group B Strep, a potentially fatal condition for a newborn.

"The hospital wanted to keep him for observation," Gumm said. "At that point, I had to have the doctor explain what the risks are. I knew that the hurricane would be a threat, no doubt in my mind."

Connor was given a pre-emptive dose of antibiotics, and the Gumms hit the road for Nashville to stay with Jennifer's sister's family.

"Dog in front, Jennifer and the baby in back," he said.

It was 7 p.m. Sunday.

"I had been up, at this point, for 40 hours straight," he said. "I was a mess. The thought of driving at that point was really a little overwhelming."

A few miles from the hospital, Gumm ran into more evacuee gridlock.

"I thought, 'Oh, my goodness. Have I done the right thing?'" he said.

Jennifer's sister and her husband had already departed from Nashville to meet the Gumms halfway.



They met in Laurel, Miss.

"I can't remember what time it was, but I changed my first diaper in the back of an SUV in a gas station in Laurel, Miss.," Gumm said.

**"I had been up, at this point, for 40 hours straight. I was a mess. The thought of driving at that point was really a little overwhelming."**

The caravan — having driven through "lots of rain . . . the feeder bands were coming through and we were getting gusts up to tropical storm force," Gumm said — arrived at a motel in northern Alabama for a short rest stop at 6 a.m. Monday.

"I was able to watch TV at that point, and see where the storm was going," Gumm said. "At that point, I knew that this was the one."

He also began to feel "a sense of guilt" about not being at work.

"This is my job," he said. "This is the thing that I'm there for — a category 4 or 5 coming into New Orleans."

The Gumms arrived in Nashville at 11 a.m. Monday.

After a quick visit to a hospital, Connor was pronounced healthy.

After the storm had passed, Gumm got a report from a friend that his Slidell house had suffered significant damage from a downed tree.

Gumm saw it for himself over the Labor Day weekend, when he came back to salvage as much as he could, tarp the damaged roof and look for another place to live.

Gumm's plan at that point was to get Jennifer and Connor to her parents' house in Bloomington, Ind., then get to Baton Rouge, where WWL had relocated its news operation.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN GUMM

'The storm for us changed everything, like it changed things for so many people,' says John Gumm, with newborn son Connor Jacob Gumm. Fallen trees damaged the WWL-TV meteorologist's Slidell home, forcing their relocation to the Midwest, where they will stay.

Once everybody got to Bloomington, the plan changed.

Gumm had just signed a new contract with WWL.

Before the arrival of both Katrina and Connor, Gumm and his wife had begun hunting for a house to buy in the Slidell area.

"We were looking at houses in areas that really got flooded bad," he said. "Glad we didn't pull the trigger on that.

"We were planning on staying there long-term. We wanted to stay there and raise our children there.

"WWL is such a great television station to work for.

"The storm for us changed everything, like it changed things for so many people."

Jennifer, a social worker, knew that her workplace was in a New Orleans neighborhood that had suffered some of the worst flooding.

Though staying in Slidell would've been worse, her evacuation experience had been horrible.

"She was pretty traumatized by the whole event," Gumm said. "The way everything happened just kind of reinforced the idea to us that family pulled us through this.

"If it wasn't for our family helping us out, we couldn't have handled it. They gave us places to stay, helped us financially. Helped us with just about everything.

"Jennifer indicated to me, 'You know, I would just like to be a little closer to family, if possible.' After all we've been through, I understand that.

"So I called WWL and just basically asked them, 'Can you release me from my employment contract?'

"I admit I was in tears. I felt so horrible, knowing that they needed me back, and now I was leaving them in a very tight spot."

WWL management agreed "without hesitation," said Gumm. "They said, 'John, this doesn't change how we feel about you. We think you did a great job.'"

Gumm, who grew up in Ohio, is now looking for a meteorologist job in the Midwest.

He planned to return to the New Orleans area this week to pack up his desk at work and haul more stuff out of his Slidell home.

One of the keepsakes stored there is a school paper Gumm wrote in sixth grade.

"The assignment for that day was to write about your greatest dream," he said. "I wrote a paper — true story — that said, 'My greatest dream in life is to become a meteorologist and one day save a large city from a horrible hurricane.'"

Thinking back on his last air shift at WWL, Gumm said it's probably time to have that sixth-grade essay framed.

"Those 12 hours were probably the most important work I've ever done in my life," he said.

The hours following those have been pretty important, too.

Connor and Jennifer are "doing great," said Gumm. "He's keeping us up all night. He's healthy, doing just wonderful."

And, someday, he'll learn about when and how and, most importantly, where he was born.

"He's going to know what lagniappe means," Gumm said. "He's going to know what a po-boy is.

"He's going to know what Mardi Gras is all about.

"We're going to come back to visit. He's going to understand the culture down there.

"We hope to bring him back to a city that's better than ever."

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

# New Orleans stinks, but it's picking up

**ROSE,** *from C-7*

I'm just trying to convey what it's like and I can certainly muster no better description than that.

On many streets, refrigerators are duct-taped shut and lined up along the curbside calling to mind nothing so much as the image of empty Mardi Gras parade ladders all in a row. All these structures, just waiting for something to happen.

Only problem is, there are no clean-up crews following these imaginary parades to remove the debris. So they stand, sturdy sentinels, fortress walls.

We should rename the streets around here Whirlpool Way, Amana Avenue and Kenmore Court, because that's what it looks like. The streets are paved in appliances. Where trees once stood, they are sometimes the only shade on a block.

Where are they going to put all these things? I don't suppose that they can be used to buttress our wetlands like they do with discarded Christmas trees every year, huh?

Do we even have any wetlands?

And, problem is, for every person who comes back here, either to reclaim residency or just to gather some valuables and clean up a bit, more garbage accumulates. Pity the folks who had been in the middle of home renovations when this hit, because their dumpsters are now brimming with a primordial stew so nasty that even the rats abandoned it.

**THEIR DUMPSTERS ARE NOW BRIMMING WITH A PRIMORDIAL STEW SO NASTY THAT EVEN THE RATS ABANDONED IT.**

Very strange side note here: There are no rats. Everyone talks about this, says the same thing — they haven't seen a rat since Day One. Here on Dry Land, where I live, we thought they'd over run us. But I don't know.

Anyway, I remember — until it was deemed injudicious by an image-conscious administration — when the city used to measure the success of Mardi Gras by announcing the accumulated tonnage of garbage that was collected during Carnival season. Well, by that measure, Kristina was a very successful hurricane.

Very.

Stink is a situation that TV and radio cannot successfully portray; olfactory being one of the senses not yet conquered by the airwaves or Internet. And until The Times-Picayune can successfully produce a scratch-n-sniff version of the daily newspaper — and this technology still seems to be at least three or four years down the road — then even we can only fail in our efforts to accurately capture the foulness of some of these street corners.

I don't mean to be complaining here, jumping on the gripe train and all that. Compared to losing a loved one, a home or a job, this is civic kibbles and bits. But in terms of livability, it matters. There seem to be 900 guys from Texas who've been trucked into town to cut down trees and limbs; aren't there a dozen guys from River Parish Disposal who can cruise around New Orleans every day picking up stuff?

The whole idea of it makes me very nostalgic, the radio playing in my back yard on autumn Sunday afternoons in New Orleans, after a Saints game, listening to Buddy D pitching River Parish Disposal: "Our business stinks, but it's picking up."

What a great slogan that is.

Buddy D. The Saints. Garbage pick-up. Ah, memories of my old New Orleans.

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

INSIDE • CHRIS ROSE SEES STRANGE SIGNS OF NORMALCY LIVING • SECOND HORNETS EXECUTIVE QUITS SPORTS

The Times-Picayune

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# Katrina death toll surpasses 1,000

*Storm is deadliest in state since 1893*

By Karen Turni Bazile
Staff writer

The Louisiana death toll from Hurricane Katrina topped 1,000 on Friday, making it the most deadly hurricane in the state since 1893, when a Category 4 hurricane hit the barrier island Cheniere Caminada, killing 1,100 to 2,000 people, according to the National Weather Service.

The official state death toll for Katrina was 1,003, with 810 of those bodies at the state's St. Gabriel morgue. Those victims are primarily from St. Bernard and Orleans parishes. Also on Friday, the state released the identities of 42 more bodies, bringing the total identified to 73.

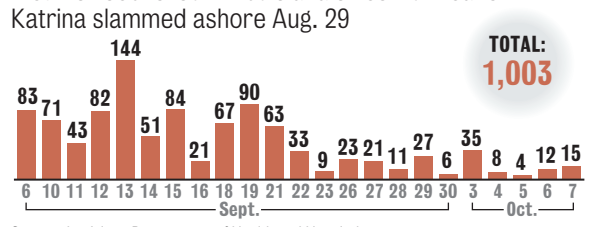
▶ List of identified victims released to families, A-19

National Weather Service Spokesman Frank Lapore said the agency's historical archives show the Galveston hurricane

See DEATHS, A-19

## BODIES RECOVERED

Victims recovered in Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina slammed ashore Aug. 29




Source: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

# Nagin gambles on N.O. casino plan

*Proposal would need approval from state, voters*

By Frank Donze and Gordon Russell
Staff writers

Admitting he is desperate to jump-start New Orleans' shattered economy, Mayor Ray Nagin on Friday proposed creating a downtown casino district that would allow more than a half-dozen large hotels to open gambling halls that would compete directly with the giant Harrah's complex at the foot of Canal Street.

Nagin dropped the bombshell at an afternoon news conference where he reiterated that the city faces dire financial straits nearly six weeks after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the metropolitan area.

The mayor included his call for the drastic expansion of legalized gambling in a letter he sent this week to Gov. Kathleen Blanco. In the letter Nagin seeks Blanco's support for changes in the state's gambling laws and for another radical proposal: to give him the authority to start a citywide charter public school district.

He said he has asked the governor help him "jointly rewrite the rules as it relates to public education in New Orleans," creating at least 20 charter schools that would partner with foundations, universities and businesses.

"Now is the time to think outside the box." Nagin said, acknowledging that his casino initiative will generate significant opposition. "Now is the time to think about a bold vision for a cash-strapped city. We need solutions."

The announcement came just three days after Nagin laid off 3,000 municipal employees, about half the City Hall work force, citing evaporation of virtually all tax revenue.

During the next 12 to 24 months, Nagin told Blanco in the letter, the city "will be

See NAGIN, A-16

# Frustrated 9th Ward anxious to get home



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

Residents of the Lower 9th Ward are frustrated they have not been able to get in to see their neighborhood, parts of which, such as this section near the levee break, fared the worst in the city.

*But re-entry plan is up in the air*

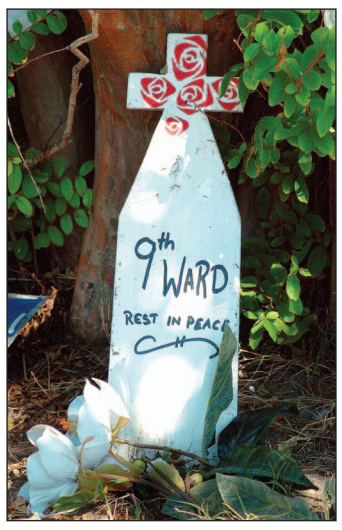
By Michelle Krupa
Staff writer

With residents desperate to return to New Orleans' last shuttered neighborhood, a re-entry plan has begun to emerge for the Lower 9th Ward, where some of the city's most disastrous flooding had drained to scattered ponds by Friday and only the echo of metal twisting in the wind broke the silence of a community still in exile.

State Rep. Charmaine Marchand, however, wants residents to be allowed to return as soon as Monday to homes between North Claiborne Avenue and the Mississippi River using a coordinated system of passenger vans that would ferry people across the St. Claude Avenue bridge and wind through streets that suffered massive flooding because of breaches in the levee lining the Industrial Canal.

"I know everybody needs closure," she said. "I need closure, too. I've been trying to

See 9TH WARD, A-14




A memorial by artist Jeffrey Holmes was placed on the Claiborne Avenue neutral ground near the Industrial Canal bridge.

# Levee failure theory gains support

*Engineers think soft soil may be to blame*

By Mark Schleifstein
Staff writer

A layer of soft, peaty soil about 25 feet below the base of the levee wall along the 17th Street Canal may have contributed to a breach that flooded much of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, a team of engineers said Friday.

Robert Bea, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California-Berkeley and a New Orleans native, said that the shifting of 35 feet of soil in the area of the breach was the result of the force of water on the wall overwhelming the ability of sheet piling beneath it to stay in place, which may have been the fault of the layer of peaty soil.

If the bottom of the piling didn't extend through the peaty soil to stronger soil beneath it, that may have caused the wall to fail and the earth to heave out, as is seen in the yards of homes along the eastern canal wall in New Orleans, said Bea, a member of a team of researchers financed by the National Science Foundation that is studying levee failures.

See LEVEES, A-18

# Housing called critical to recovery at SUNO

*Officials envision FEMA trailer park*

By Coleman Warner
Staff writer

Southern University at New Orleans, an urban commuter school targeting African-American students that has no residence hall, is asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency to create a trailer park on the Lakefront campus to house students and faculty and provide temporary classroom space as SUNO recovers from massive Hurricane Katrina damage.

Interim SUNO Chancellor Robert Gex talked in an interview about the plan, still lacking details, as he met in Baton Rouge with members of the Southern University Board of

See SUNO, A-17



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Mike McGowan helps remove beams from the ruined basketball court at Xavier University, where cleanup work is gaining momentum.

# Crime rate barely a blip on the radar

*And most arrests are minor offenses*

By James Varney
Staff writer

He's not quite the Maytag repairman of police chiefs, but Warren Riley can say this about crime, the traditional bugaboo of New Orleans life: along with much of the city's population, it's largely gone, at least temporarily.

Before Katrina, each of the city's eight police districts averaged around 300-plus arrests a week, or about 2,500 total, NOPD spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said Friday. Since the hurricane, there have been 379 arrests in the entire city — fewer than 10 a day all told, and most of them for minor offenses.

See CRIME, A-15

DAY 40 • Businesses struggle with housing for employees, A-2 • Louisiana cities may get federal help, A-3 • Special session to begin Nov. 6, A-6 • Tolls still off the Causeway, Metro • FULL COVERAGE AT NOLA.COM

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# Businesses' top woe is workers' housing

## *Places to live dry up in N.O.*

**By Ronette King**
Business writer



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Pepsi Americas' Elmwood warehouse holds 26 two-bedroom trailers, one trailer for children's recreation and one for washing clothes. The new arrangement is called Philville, after Phil Montero, the regional warehouse manager.



Ryan and Shantell Perez, married just five months, will live in one of the new trailers set up for employees at Pepsi Americas' distribution plant. Ryan Perez is the warehouse supervisor.

As New Orleans area business struggle to get restarted, the lack of housing for workers has popped up as one of the biggest problems. In fact, one old-line company is thinking of relocating if a solution isn't found soon.

"We've been in this city 103 years and we are not ready to leave yet," said Bob Maurer, president of Reily Foods Co. "We will make every effort to remain and to be part of the rebuilding of this city. The only reason we would leave is if we are forced to leave because they don't help us come up with a solution for housing."

With many of the city's apartments already filled with displaced residents and hotels brimming with relief workers from Hurricane Katrina, little housing is available within a two-hour drive.

And that has caused a problem for those companies that have managed to restore their factories and assembly lines and offices. They're hamstrung because many workers' homes were destroyed by the hurricane and can't find other nearby housing to resume work.

Some local companies have found the solution in trailers set up on their property by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Others have leased groups of apartments that the company sublets to employees.

At the Pepsi Americas distribution plant in Elmwood, a warehouse that normally houses vending machines is now home to 36 two-bedroom trailers, each stocked with bedding and toiletries supplied by the company for its displaced workers and their families. The space covers two city blocks and includes two additional trailers, one with washers, dryers and ironing boards, the other a recreation center for children. It is nicknamed Philville in honor of Phil Montero, the regional warehouse manager.

Although not many of the plant's 160 employees needed housing, Pepsi wanted to make sure they could get the distribution warehouse back to full capacity.

"We had customers up and operating," said Rita Weary, human resource manager for Pepsi Americas. "The one thing we wanted to do was make sure we could get our people back and the holdup they had was they had no place to live."

Days after the storm, Pepsi's corporate affairs department started working to procure the temporary housing. Montero, the warehouse manager, bought electrical lines and sewer lines into the warehouse to connect the trailers, both required for FEMA to supply the units.

"I just think we stood a much better chance of getting employees back if their families are able to come back," Montero said. "Other than that, we don't feel we had a good shot at getting our employees back."

At Kajun Kettle Foods in Elmwood, Pierre Hilzim did something a little different.

Days after the storm, Hilzim was trying to get the trailers on his own when he got a call from the Jefferson Economic Development Corp. asking whether any of his workers needed temporary housing. The state Department of Economic Development is administering the program for FEMA, and JEDCO has helped parish businesses get about 800 trailers so far, according to Jerry Bologna, economic development manager.

Kajun Kettle received 10 trailers and Hilzim set them up in the employee parking lot. With the trailers in place, the 24-year-old firm was able to get back up and running two weeks after the storm. Hilzim said the trailers house 10 to 17 workers a night but are available only to the workers, not their families.

"If you don't have your employees settled, you don't have a business," Hilzim said. "What we're doing is necessary for them."

Other employers scooped up some of the limited housing quickly. Immediately after the storm hit, Chase Bank, formerly Bank One, signed master leases for apartments in Gonzales, Jefferson Parish and other communities, and then rented them to bank workers. The bank company got a few recreational vehicles and parked those on bank property in some cases and rented those to employees, too.

Other workers are living in Baton Rouge and commuting to work daily in van pools that the bank helped arrange, said Michael Lulich, head of retail banking for southeast Louisiana who oversees the estimated 700 bank branch workers.

Also, Chase determined that child care was an issue for many workers, so Chase located a child care center on the West Bank that wasn't damaged but whose teachers had evacuated. Then Chase moved teachers from its Monroe mortgage servicing center to New Orleans to work in the child care center.

For Reily Foods, the solution isn't simple. Reily has resumed business with a skeleton crew, but needs many more. Maurer said he's tried unsuccessfully to solve his employees' housing shortage, and now he hopes local government can step in and expedite matters.

The maker of mayonnaise, chili mix, salad dressings and other foods, Reily operates two area manufacturing plants: one in eastern New Orleans, which produces Luzianne tea and private-label coffees, and the other is the Blue Plate mayonnaise plant on South Jefferson Davis Parkway. Reily's headquarters has been temporarily moved from Magazine Street to Knoxville, Tenn., where the company operates another plant.

Although the company has space on the site of its eastern New Orleans plant for trailers, the industrial location isn't conducive to family living, Maurer said. And with much of eastern New Orleans devastated, there are no nearby stores or other services for family needs. Maurer tried to put the FEMA trailers in trailer parks nearby off Chef Menteur Highway but was told FEMA trailers weren't welcome.

Maurer said all levels of government – city, state and FEMA - need to work with business to find a solution within the next 30 to 60 days. The city's long-term recovery depends on getting its workforce back to work, Maurer said.

If a company's employees can't return, he said, "then employers like ourselves have to begin to (ask) what are we going to do with our plants, how are we going to protect our franchise, how are we going to deliver products to people who depend on them?"

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# Federal cash would help cities pay workers

## *But money would have to be repaid*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Louisiana communities will qualify for low-interest loans to pay police, firefighters and other essential employees under legislation passed Friday by the U.S. House and Senate. But unlike previous disaster aid packages, the federal government is barred from forgiving the loans.

The legislation, passed by voice votes in both chambers, could avert some of the large-scale layoffs already announced by local governments, including in New Orleans. But the inability of Louisiana lawmakers to get an escape clause for the debts signals a tough road ahead for getting the massive federal assistance state officials say is needed to rebuild southern Louisiana.

Passage of the loan legislation, which provides as much as $750 million in federal loans, came after Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., kept the Senate in session through the night Thursday. She was attempting, without luck, to amend the legislation so the federal government could forgive the loans, as it has for some $227 billion in disaster loans over the past 31 years.

Landrieu said the insistence that all loans be repaid, even by communities that have lost virtually their entire tax base, amounts to treating the Gulf Coast "in some second-class fashion."

Her delaying tactics brought a rebuke on the Senate floor from fellow Louisiana Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who said her action threatened passage because the House might adjourn for the 10-day Columbus Day recess before being able to take up the legislation. Vitter later praised the House for acting with unusual speed.

### Issue could be revisited

In an interview, Vitter said House GOP leaders and the White House had insisted on the ban on loan forgiveness because they didn't want to "invite the possibility" of loans not being repaid if it wasn't absolutely necessary.

But he said he has gotten assurances that if Gulf Coast governments are unable to repay the loans that the White House and House Republican leaders would support forgiveness in subsequent legislation.

The importance of the legislation shouldn't be minimized, Vitter said, because it provides critical loans that will enable parishes and municipalities in Louisiana and Mississippi to pay essential workers.

FEMA assistance currently can be used only to help pay for overtime pay, and loans are limited to no more than $5 million per entity, which "clearly is insufficient" for cities such as New Orleans, Vitter said. Those limits are lifted by the legislation passed Friday. The White House said President Bush would sign the bill into law quickly.

**"What's important to real people in the real world in the real devastated area is that we get real help to them today, not give a speech, not filibuster."**

SEN. DAVID VITTER, R-LA.

"What's important to real people in the real world in the real devastated area is that we get real help to them today, not give a speech, not filibuster," Vitter said in critical reference to Landrieu.

Landrieu said she wouldn't "respond in kind" to Vitter's criticism. The Democrat said she and Vitter, despite past disagreements, had been working together to gain loan forgiveness and other improvements in the legislation. She noted that the White House had initially insisted on a package no higher than $300 million and had been persuaded to accept a $750 million package.

After days of working together, Landrieu said Vitter "decided there was no more use in trying" for loan forgiveness even though she wanted to try one more day to improve the bill.

"The Gulf Coast states have been basically forced by the Republican leadership in the House to accept help under conditions that have never been imposed on any state, city, region, county, sheriff, mayor ever before in the history of the country," Landrieu said.

### Blame game

There was some clear shifting of blame during Friday's debate on the House and Senate floor.

Rep. Richard Baker, R-Baton Rouge, said the House was stuck with the version that had passed the Senate because the Senate had already adjourned and Louisiana needed the help immediately.

But Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-La., didn't accept Baker's explanation.

"Sen. Vitter worked in this House for six years and knows its leadership," Melancon said. "He has placed the blame squarely at their feet, and I think they owe the entire Gulf Coast an explanation."

On the Senate floor, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., recalled how Congress had provided New York City with $20 billion after the 2001 terrorist attacks "without telling New Yorkers that, 'Well, you're just going to have to figure out how you're going to repay when you're not even sure there's another attack coming.'" The same good will should be given residents of the Gulf Coast, she said.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., made one final attempt Friday morning to get an amendment allowing forgiveness of loans if approved by Congress. But Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., objected, killing the amendment under Senate rules. Frist then moved to pass the original bill, with the controversial provision that states, "notwithstanding section 417 of the Stafford Act, such loans may not be canceled."

Neither Landrieu nor Levin objected, and the bill was declared passed.

Melancon said issuing loans to governments with no immediate prospects of recovering their tax base is untenable.

"My advice to them: Take the money and run," Melancon said. "Spend it on your sheriff's deputies, your firefighters and our public hospitals. Spend it and don't pay it back."

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said he is "greatly disappointed by the change in precedent" for loan forgiveness. So was Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, saying, "The federal government has forgiven over $227 billion in loans for other communities. What makes my city or the Gulf Region any different?"

Harold Turner, executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs Association, said state sheriffs' departments have had a hard time qualifying for federal financing because they operate under different rules than counterparts in other states. Vitter said he's been assured the Louisiana sheriffs would qualify for the loans, although Landrieu said she would have preferred language that spelled out their eligibility.

"Right now we just have to pray that in fact we are included," Turner said.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco called passage of the bill "bittersweet" because it provides $750 million in "much needed funding through the Community Disaster Loan Program but doesn't allow for loan forgiveness."

# Fannie Mae counts on major losses

## *Company may be down $550 million*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Embattled mortgage giant Fannie Mae disclosed Friday that it expects losses of between $250 million and $550 million because of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The largest U.S. buyer and guarantor of home mortgages made the estimate in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is investigating the company's accounting. The anticipated losses stem from Fannie Mae's guarantees of timely principal and interest payments on home loans and from its investment holdings of securities that are tied to mortgages in the affected Gulf Coast areas.

The Mortgage Bankers Association, an industry trade group, has estimated that some 360,000 single-family mortgages in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were affected by Katrina and the ensuing floods.

Despite the losses, government-sponsored Fannie Mae said it expects to exceed the requirements set by federal regulators for its reserve capital as a cushion against risk.

Government-sponsored Fannie Mae has said it likely will not complete the reworking of its accounting, ordered by federal regulators, before the second half of next year. The company still hasn't filed its annual report for 2004.

Federal regulators accused Fannie Mae in the fall of 2004 of serious accounting problems and earnings manipulation to meet Wall Street targets, and the SEC in December ordered the company to restate earnings back to 2001 — a correction that could reach an estimated $11 billion.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, its smaller rival in the $8 trillion home-mortgage market, have encouraged lenders to return September mortgage payments from people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

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For St. Paul Business claims, please call
800.STPAUL1
(800.787.2851)

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**Covington, LA:** Sav-A-Center parking lot next to Home Depot, 50 Park Place
**Slidell, LA:** Wal-Mart parking lot at 167 North Shore Blvd.
**Metairie, LA:** Lakeside Shopping Center near Pottery Barn at 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on corner of North Causeway Blvd.

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# Plans to help uninsured left hanging in Congress

## *Fiscal conservatives seek broad overhaul*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Flooded-out homeowners in southeast Louisiana shouldn't expect relief anytime soon from Congress, which left Friday for a weeklong recess with legislation to help cover uninsured losses still in the talking stages.

Tens of thousands of homes were flooded during Hurricane Katrina, and insurance companies have informed residents that the damage is not covered by their homeowners' insurance policies. Those with flood insurance policies face $250,000 caps that may not be enough to rebuild.

Mississippi has sued insurers to cover the losses, and some homeowners have filed private lawsuits as well.

A congressional fix for the problem is being discussed, but a consensus has been slow to take shape.

The most prominent proposal is by Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., who wants to let homeowners buy into the National Flood Insurance Program to cover their losses from Hurricane Katrina. Under his bill, homeowners would pay 10 years' worth of premiums, plus a 5 percent penalty, to get the coverage. The bill has 32 co-sponsors, including Reps. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, and Charlie Melancon, D-Napoleonville.

But it is being eyed warily by fiscal conservatives, who are loath to expand the flood insurance program before it is overhauled. Critics have long complained that the program encourages people to stay in flood-prone areas by paying for repetitive losses.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., a leading proponent of flood insurance change, is an unexpected supporter of the Taylor bill. But he said it would have to go hand-in-hand with broad-based reforms of the program such as mandating flood insurance for those in flood-prone regions.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said getting some relief for people who didn't have flood insurance is a top priority. But he said it's been slow going in Congress.

"We've been told there is a comprehensive approach under development and we have been asked to wait to consider it," said Jindal, who declined to say who has asked him to hold up on legislation. "This has to be addressed sooner rather than later so people have incentive to rebuild."

Jindal said he is considering a bill that would set up a financial pool that state and federal governments would pay in to, along with the insurance industry. Industry officials say that companies are unlikely to support any plan that requires them to pay over and above what homeowners' policies require.

"We want to pay what we owe, not a penny less and not a penny more," said Jim Dudas, a spokesman for Allstate, which covers nearly 21 percent of the homes in Louisiana.

Since Katrina struck five weeks ago, Allstate has renewed efforts to push for a national catastrophe insurance fund paid for by those who live in high-risk areas. The fund would be backed by state and federal governments.

"Just as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation protects depositors from losing money when banks are insolvent, the federal and state governments should act to guarantee that claims are paid after an extreme catastrophe," an Allstate position paper said.

Such a fund, however, would do nothing to bail out people in Louisiana whose homes are damaged or ruined and who lacked insurance to cover their losses. Congress is due back in session Oct. 17.

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# AFTER THE STORM

## LA. DEATH TOLL

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**810** are at the morgue in St. Gabriel
**Parish breakdown:**
Ascension — 9
Assumption — 3
East Baton Rouge — 72
Iberia — 6
Jefferson — 30
Lafourche — 2
Livingston — 5
Plaquemines — 3
St. Charles — 8
St. Tammany — 7
Tangipahoa — 26
Terrebonne — 19
West Baton Rouge — 3

## POWER

Entergy electricity outages
Louisiana: 183,829*
*Including 156,300 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.
Percentage of Entergy customers in the metropolitan New Orleans area without power
Jefferson Parish — all power reported restored as of 10 a.m. Friday
PLAQUEMINES PARISH **69%**
ORLEANS PARISH **56%**
ST. BERNARD PARISH **0%**

## POSTAL SERVICE

- At least partial street delivery has been returned to Algiers and Jefferson Parish.
- 70115 mail can be picked up at the Uptown station, 2000 Louisiana Ave.
- 70118 and 70125 mail is available at the Carrollton station, 3400 S. Carrollton Ave.
- Both sites are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 70112, 70113, 70116, 70119 and 70130 post office box, residential and business mail may be picked up at the New Orleans Postal Annex at Julia and La Salle streets, which will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- For now, only first-class letters and packages will be delivered into the New Orleans region.
- Residents of Plaquemines Parish can retrieve mail from a mobile post office at 9419 Louisiana 23 in Belle Chasse.
- St. Bernard mail is expected to be available next week at a mobile unit in Covington.

## PARISH BY PARISH

**ORLEANS**
- Homeowners and businesses owners can return to all areas of the city except the Lower 9th Ward.
- The Red Cross has set up feeding and bulk distribution of water and ice. Cleanup and comfort kits are available at the following sites along with meals, including carry-away evening meals:
  - Municipal Auditorium parking lot
  - A.L. Davis Park, Washington at Simon Bolivar
  - Freret Street parking lot, Jena at Freret
  - Esplanade at St. Claude/North Rampart
  - Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
  - Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
  - Fox playground, Algiers
  - Cut-off playground, Algiers
- Water on the east bank of New Orleans west of the Industrial Canal has been declared safe to drink by the state Department of Health and Hospitals. There is still a boil-water order in effect for the east bank of the city east of the Industrial Canal.
- Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Foundation Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at Touro Infirmary, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred Hospital.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6000, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY**
- Parish is open.
- 911 phone system is back on line.
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
- A parishwide curfew has been lifted.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
- All parish areas open. People will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents.
- A dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES**
- Parish reopened Friday on the west bank to the end of Louisiana 23 in Venice. On the east bank, the communities of Scarsdale and Braithwaite remain closed to residents. Below Scarsdale, Louisiana 39 is open south of the Belle Chasse-Scarsdale ferry landing.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- Parish is open.
- Utilities are working.

**ST. CHARLES**
- Parish is open.
- Utilities are working.

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS**
- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year.
- Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country.
- De La Salle High School will resume classes Oct. 18 at St. Rita School of Harahan at 194 Ravan Ave., near Jefferson Highway.

**JEFFERSON**
- Public schools are open except Terrytown, Woodmere, Lincoln and Alexander elementary schools, and John Martyn School.
- Many other private and Catholic schools have reopened.

**ST. TAMMANY**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Most have reopened.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Probably closed for year.

**PLAQUEMINES**
- The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Open.

**ST. CHARLES**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Open.

## FOR HELP

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**
- (800) 975-7585
- Red Cross relief sites open in Baton Rouge, Mandeville, Kenner

**Baton Rouge area**
- Bellemont Great Hotel, 7370 Airline Highway
- North Park Recreation Center, 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs

**Mandeville**
- Pelican Park, Sunday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Kenner**
- Airline Drive near Lesan Drive, daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**FEMA**
- 29 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation in Louisiana. They are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice; the Plaquemines Parish center is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, log onto www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362. A list of centers can be found at http://www.fema.gov/rrr/opendrcs.shtm#Louisiana
- Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Two crisis hotlines are open: (800) 273-TALK and (800) 749-COPE.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is providing temporary roof repairs. Call (888) 766-3258 for more information.

# Post-storm jobless claims surpass state's 2004 total

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana has paid 224,200 new claims for jobless benefits since Hurricane Katrina hit the state on Aug. 29 — exceeding the entire amount of new unemployment claims paid in 2004, the state labor department said Friday.

The agency said $133.9 million in Katrina-related unemployment claims were paid for September and the first week of October. Of the total, $111 million was for unemployment insurance benefits and $22.8 million was for special disaster unemployment assistance.

Nationwide, Katrina caused the first nationwide job loss in two years. Payrolls fell by 35,000, with jobs in retailing, lodging, bars, restaurants and leisure pursuits such as gambling all taking a hit. The national unemployment rate climbed to 5.1 percent, from a four-year low of 4.9 percent in August.

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# GOP-led House votes to help boost refinery construction

*Democrats cry, 'Shame, shame'*

**By H. Josef Hebert**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The House voted to encourage U.S. oil companies to build new refineries Friday in a raucous roll call that Republican leaders extended 40 minutes while they buttonholed their own members to avoid an embarrassing defeat.

Democrats crying, "Shame, shame" — and some GOP moderates — called the bill a sop to rich oil companies that would do nothing to ease energy costs, including expected soaring heating bills this winter.

The bill would streamline government permits for refineries; open federal lands, including closed military bases for future refinery construction; and limit the number of gasoline blends refiners have to produce, eliminating many blends now designed to reduce air pollution.

President Bush welcomed the vote. "I commend the House for passing legislation that would increase our refining capacity and help address the cost of gasoline, diesel fuels and jet fuels," he said.

The legislation, which now goes to the Senate, passed 212-210, but not before a standoff on the House floor. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., asked at one point, "Is this the House of a Banana Republic?"

It looked as if the bill was going down to defeat, two votes shy of approval. Democrats to no avail called for gaveling the vote closed as GOP leaders lobbied their own members to switch votes and support the bill.

"He worked me over a little," said Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., among the last group of lawmakers to switch to support the legislation, referring to his discussions with House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois.

Rep. Tom DeLay, who recently stepped down temporarily as majority leader after being indicted in Texas over a campaign finance issue, was as active as ever, administering pressure on wavering lawmakers in the crowded, noisy House chamber.

Finally, long after the vote had been scheduled to close, two GOP votes switched, providing the Republican victory. A tie would have killed the bill. "Shame, shame, shame," came a chorus from the Democratic side of the aisle.

Afterward, Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California called it all "a shameless display of the Republican culture of corruption," a theme she has used in recent days on a number of issues since DeLay's indictment in Texas on conspiracy and money laundering charges in connection with campaign finance activities.

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, who had predicted a close vote, said he was not aware of "any deals" being made to get the last votes. No Democrats voted for the legislation, although three initially favored it, only to change their minds after talking to Pelosi and Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the second-ranking Democrat.

Supporters of the measure said Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita made clear that the country needs more refineries, including new ones outside the Gulf region. No new refinery has been built since 1976, although large refineries have been expanded to meet growing demand.

Critics of the legislation argued that a cash-rich industry with huge profits over the past year shouldn't need government help to build refineries. They said the bill would allow the oil industry to avoid environmental regulations and would lead to dirtier air.

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., accused GOP leaders of using "the hardships and devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ... to pass Republican and industry wish lists" that would do nothing to curtail gasoline prices or help people facing huge heating bills this winter.

Pelosi called the bill a rehash of "all the special favors to the industry that were too extreme" for Congress last summer when it passed energy legislation.

Barton said the bill simply would give industry more certainty that a refinery project will not be delayed in government red tape.

Opponents said the bill would stifle legitimate lawsuits against refinery projects and in some cases override state or local objections if a refinery were located on federal land. A community or citizens group would have to pay an oil company's legal costs whether they won or lost a lawsuit challenging a refinery under one provision in the bill.

Limiting the number of gasoline blends refiners would have to produce to six could hinder the ability of states and cities to meet federal air quality requirements, according to state and county clean air officials, who lobbied against the legislation.

Others opposed to the bill were the National League of Cities, nine state attorneys general and various environmental organizations.

# Legislative session set to begin Nov. 6

*Budget revisions will wait for later*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Kathleen Blanco will call lawmakers into special session Nov. 6-18 to deal with "urgent matters" stemming from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, administration officials confirmed Friday.

"It will be narrowly focused, allowing legislators to focus on urgent matters" that cannot wait until the 60-day general session that begins March 27, Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said.

Bottcher said the details of what will be taken up in the session have not been worked out.

Blanco's two chief legislative floor leaders — Senate President Donald Hines, D-Bunkie, and House Speaker Joe Salter, D-Florien — said after meeting with members of the administration and legislative leaders that Blanco aides wanted the session delayed to give them more time to work on legislation to be debated.

The previously discussed date for the session, Oct. 23 to Nov. 3, "was too early for them (the administration) to get everything together," Hines said.

Salter agreed: "Everybody was talking after the hurricane about having a session as soon as possible. I didn't see how they could be ready by the 23rd (of October)."

A special session can be called by the governor, who sets the agenda of items to be debated and announces that agenda at least five days before the session is scheduled to begin; or lawmakers can call themselves into a special session, something that has not happened in modern times.

Bottcher earlier this week called the Oct. 23 start date "a working date," and conceded that it was "a tight deadline" to have bills drafted to address post-hurricane problems. "We were working against a tight deadline before Hurricane Rita came along," and that delayed things even more, Bottcher said.

Hines and Salter said that a second special session will be needed, probably in January, after revenue estimators have a chance to meet and assess the hurricanes' impact on lost revenues, which has been estimated at about $1 billion so far.

The revenue panel is expected to meet in December.

Bottcher said the governor is considering a fiscal-only session in January but has not yet made a decision.

Hines and Salter said they think a special session in January will be needed. Hines said that when the fiscal session is held will also depend on how much financial relief the federal government approves for Louisiana by late this year or early next.

Hines said he expects the November session to deal with codifying some of the actions Blanco took in suspending laws dealing with lawsuits and when they must be heard and disposed of; evictions; and reworking the state's formula for financing public elementary and secondary education in light of prolonged school closures in some areas and the influx of displaced students into other school systems.

Salter said he does not expect a second special session dealing with budget issues until January.

The fall session, he said, will be confined "just to matters and legal issues that cannot wait until January or the regular session" in March.

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# Katrina may have been Category 3

## *Weather officials probe strength*

**By Denise Kalette**
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Government hurricane specialists said Friday that they are investigating whether Katrina was actually a Category 3 storm, not a 4, when it struck the Gulf Coast.

Analyzing the hurricane's strength has been made more difficult because instruments used to measure the wind failed or were swept away when the storm hit Aug. 29. Also, communications were cut off to the National Weather Service's radar station in Slidell, and flooding prevented workers from getting in or out. Hurricane specialists are examining data from planes that flew through the storm on the day it struck New Orleans, trying to gauge whether wind speed measurements accurately reflected conditions on the ground, said Jack Beven, hurricane specialist with the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

A downgrade in strength could be a dark sign for New Orleans, where the storm levees are generally thought to be able to protect the city from the rains and surge of a Category 3 storm. Portions of the levee system were either topped or failed in the storm, sending devastating floodwater into the city.

The categories are part of the Saffir-Simpson scale of a hurricane's intensity, used to measure potential property damage and coastal flooding.

"It should be pointed out that New Orleans was on the western side of the hurricane, and regardless of how strong it was, New Orleans did not get the worst that the storm had to offer," Beven said.

The National Hurricane Center routinely re-examines data from storms to accurately assess their size and power.

Several weather instruments were positioned throughout the New Orleans area, including Louis Armstrong International Airport, Lakefront Airport and the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse. But all failed.

When Katrina struck the mouth of the Mississippi River south of New Orleans at daybreak on Aug. 29, it was a Category 4, with wind speed of 135 mph, Beven said. The strongest part of the storm actually missed New Orleans but instead passed over the mouth of the Mississippi River and into the Mississippi Gulf coast.

"From 20 to 70 miles east to northeast of New Orleans, that's where the worst effects of the storm were, winds and tides, over on the Mississippi Gulf coast, Gulfport, Biloxi, Waveland, Pass Christian and even over to Ocean Springs," Beven said. "The winds and the tides there were much higher than what you had in the New Orleans area."

Beven said the hurricane center is internally debating whether Katrina was a Category 3 or 4, and specifically where. The center is examining data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Air Force hurricane hunter aircraft that flew through the eye and the strongest winds of the hurricane many times on the 29th.

"We were getting a continuous flow of data ... the data is taken automatically every 20 or 30 seconds. That's one reason we haven't finished yet: There's a lot of data to evaluate," Beven said.

Scientists are also investigating why a 20- to 30-foot storm surge along the Mississippi coast seemed more consistent with a Category 5 hurricane than the designated Category 4, according to specialists at the hurricane center.

"At one point Katrina was a Category 5. It may have been that the winds died down to a Category 4 or 3, but the ocean was so stirred up by the hurricane that the surge was more equivalent to a 5," Beven said.

Hurricane categories have been changed in the past, based on analysis after the storm. Hurricane Andrew, which hit Florida in 1992, was upgraded years later to a Category 5 storm from Category 4.

# Riverboat casinos ready to roll

## *Kenner vessel among those to reopen*

**By The Associated Press**

Four Louisiana riverboat casinos that were forced to close by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, including one in Kenner, are preparing to receive gamblers again.

The Treasure Chest Casino, a riverboat casino in Kenner, will open Monday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, said the casino's owner, Boyd Gaming Corp. The casino closed Aug. 27, two days before Katrina's arrival.

In Lake Charles, the L'Auberge du Lac Hotel & Casino opened parts of its complex Friday with gambling scheduled to begin today, the same day Isle of Capri Casinos Inc. planned to reopen its two gambling boats in the market.

L'Auberge du Lac, which opened in late May, is owned by Pinnacle Entertainment Inc.

Both closed shortly before Rita hit on Sept. 24.

Two of the four casinos in the New Orleans are remain closed: Harrah's New Orleans Casino and the Belle of Orleans riverboat. The Boomtown Belle reopened Monday. Neither the Belle of Orleans nor Harrah's have announced possible reopening dates.

In the Lake Charles market, Harrah's Entertainment Inc.'s two-riverboat complex remains closed because of extensive hurricane damage, along with the Delta Downs race track and its slot machine casino. Harrah's said this week that it cannot project a reopening date.

Boyd Gaming, which owns Delta Downs, said this week that it hopes to have at least part of the facility open in late November.

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# Rita evacuation brought bumps in the road

## *Contraflow wasn't part of Texas' storm plan*

**By Liz Austin**
Associated Press writer

AUSTIN — State and local officials have taken a beating for waiting until millions of Hurricane Rita evacuees had been trapped in gridlock for more than 24 hours before they opened Houston's major highways to one-way outbound traffic.

About 60 of approximately 100 Rita victims died during the evacuation, including 23 residents of a Bellaire, Texas, assisted-living facility whose bus was consumed by fire and explosions near Dallas. Hundreds of drivers ran out of gas and sat on the road shoulder waiting for help.

"It certainly wasn't pretty in all cases and wasn't without some difficulties," Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Randall Dillard said. "The time people spent in their cars and the conditions they faced is certainly not something we want to see repeated."

But, he added, it wasn't easy to convert 487 miles of highway, including two interstates, to one-way traffic, and doing so earlier would have made it even harder to get supplies such as gasoline into Houston before the storm hit.

Nevertheless, gasoline stations ran dry and shut down, and supermarkets were running out of food in the days before the storm.

One-way traffic, or contraflow, wasn't part of the state's emergency management plan because officials didn't think so many people would evacuate. State Emergency Management Coordinator Jack Colley said just 1.3 million people needed to evacuate from the projected strike zone — well below the regional highway system's capacity.

But with Hurricane Katrina's devastation fresh in their minds, about 3 million people fled their homes, including many from areas that were not even prone to flooding. And many families took two or three cars instead of packing into one vehicle.

That onslaught of vehicles quickly overwhelmed highways in Houston and throughout southeast Texas.

Because there wasn't a contraflow plan, Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels had to ask Gov. Rick Perry to order it. Perry signed the order Sept. 22, a day after the start of the mass evacuation. The first 80 miles of contraflow lanes opened at noon on I-45.

To open the contraflow lanes, the state Department of Transportation had to install barricades at 133 ramps on Interstates 45 and 10 and coordinate the placement of a police officer at each one to make sure people didn't drive around them. It also had to find contractors to break down median barriers to let cars cross the highways.

By 3 p.m., the agency was operating 155 miles of contraflow traffic on I-10 between downtown Houston and Seguin, 30 miles east of San Antonio, and 153 miles of contraflow traffic on I-45 between Conroe and Ennis.

About 180 miles of highways in southeast Texas also opened to contraflow to help people evacuate from towns near Beaumont north to Lufkin and Jasper.

The lane turnaround got traffic moving more quickly, but it didn't solve every problem.

The contraflow lanes eventually had to merge with the regular lanes, creating still more traffic jams. And blocking inbound traffic made it harder for the Department of Transportation to bring gas to stranded motorists as the Houston area's supplies ran low.

As two task forces prepare to study what went wrong with the evacuation and what could be done better, Dillard said he expects directions to more quickly implement contraflow in the future will be added to the state emergency management plan.

"It won't be the first step, but if it's needed it certainly will be part of the plan," Dillard said, adding contraflow had never been used to this extent in an evacuation in Texas.

LSU professor Brian Wolshon, who studies hurricane evacuations, said he's glad Texas is taking a closer look at its contraflow plans. But he said he could have told state officials a traffic jam was inevitable if a big hurricane headed toward Houston.

"I don't think we necessarily need to see a Rita or a Katrina and then say 'Gee, we didn't realize these things were going to happen,'" Wolshon said. "We can look at this stuff well in advance if there is the will and the available funds."

# Criticism over ice contracts heats up

## *FEMA defends deals decried as wasteful*

**By The Associated Press**

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — A trucker who got $20,000 from the government for hauling bagged ice that never made it to any victims of Hurricane Katrina said he's finished working for federal agencies, despite the big payday.

Paul Mullinaux was part of an infamous post-Katrina convoy that carried ice from manufacturing plants to staging areas in Montgomery and elsewhere and then to refrigerated storage without ever getting it to people who needed it after the storm.

The Montgomery Advertiser reported Mullinaux's windfall Friday along with contract details that included truckers being paid $54 an hour to wait in their rigs, which had to run their engines to keep the refrigeration working, and the government's agreement to pay what one person said was three times the going price for ice.

Mullinaux said he hardly feels right depositing his check after seeing the ice operation, run by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"I don't know how FEMA gets away with it. I don't know how the Army Corps of Engineers gets away with it," Mullinaux said. "I'm going to take their check for $20,000, but I'm ashamed to do it. I'll never do it again."

FEMA ordered 180 million pounds of ice to distribute to victims after Katrina. But trucks hauling millions of pounds of leftover ice were sent as far north as Maine last month to storage sites after the government realized it had too much ice.

The Army Corps of Engineers awarded an emergency ice contract with IAP Worldwide Services Inc. of Cape Canaveral, Fla. The government paid 28 cents a pound for ice, almost three times the going rate, according to Jeff St. Cin, president of the Ozark-based Gulf Ice.

They also paid $2.60 a mile for the roughly 4,000 truckers to haul the ice all over the country. FEMA paid $54 an hour for each truckload of ice while the drivers awaited orders, according to the contract with IAP posted on the Corps' Galveston District Web site in Texas.

Corps spokesman Marilyn Uhrich said IAP was the only company that submitted a bid to supply ice.

IAP describes itself as FEMA's "contractor of choice" for emergency power generation and ice after a natural disaster. The company coordinated the delivery of 100 million pounds of ice in Florida after hurricanes hit the Sunshine State last year.

After Katrina, some truckers waited for more than a week in Montgomery for instructions. Corps officials said that of those, 114 truckloads of ice were sent from Alabama to a storage facility in Gloucester, Mass. That cost approximately $385,000 in mileage alone.

FEMA spokesman Don North defended the spending, saying it was better for the government to be prepared for the worst and have too much ice rather than have too little.

FEMA and corps officials said the ice was more expensive than normal because the contract required delivery of 100 truckloads on short notice.

Government watchdog Tom Schatz said government waste from Hurricane Katrina and Rita would grow into the billions of dollars. He said he was more concerned with poor planning than a pricey contract.

"They should just have a deal with Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot and other large companies to get all this stuff out there as quickly as possible, and that would solve a lot of problems," said Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste.

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Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on **October 17, 2005** at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)** to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.
Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.
The hearing will be conducted via telephone at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)**. Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free **1-800-423-1988** and provide the operator with the following code **(788833)**. Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: **Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**.



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# Lawmakers condemn recovery effort as wasteful

## *At least one wants millions rescinded*

**By Jonathan Weisman and Griff Witte**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers from both parties on Thursday sharply questioned nearly every aspect of the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, focusing their discontent on suspect contracts and eliciting a pledge that hundreds of millions of dollars in deals awarded with no competition would soon be put up for bid.

Nine House and Senate panels held hearings on hurricane relief, with a sense of frustration frequently bursting to the surface. Several members chastised administration officials, citing tales of small Gulf states businesses losing work to giants such as Halliburton Co. Others challenged administration stances on tax breaks and health care for the displaced.

Under questioning about the agency's reliance on contracts that lacked full and open bidding, R. David Paulison, the acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said, "I've been in public service a long time, and I've never been a fan of no-bid contracts."

Asked by Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., why the agency did not hold competitions before Katrina struck, Paulison replied that "all of those no-bid contracts, we are going to go back and rebid. We're in the process of rebidding them already."

A FEMA spokeswoman later said the new bidding process affects only the four largest no-bid deals. Those are $100 million contracts awarded to the Shaw Group, Bechtel Corp., CH2M Hill Inc. and Fluor Corp. to find and engineer sites for temporary housing for displaced residents.

Paulison told the panels that his agency had delivered nearly 85 million liters of water, more than 4 million meals and nearly 176 million pounds of ice by Oct. 3, while registering more than 1.7 million victims for disaster assistance. He also announced a higher estimate of Katrina homeless, from 300,000 to "between 400,000 and 600,000 households."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who chairs the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, decried "a trail of missteps that calls into question what has been done during the last four years and that continues to plague the recovery even today."

### "Back off our bill"

Paulison's pledge to rebid some Katrina contracts showed a willingness to re-examine some of those decisions, though the actual impact of the move could prove limited.

The agency said Thursday that it has no plans to compete numerous other deals signed in the wake of Katrina with little or no competition. Also, FEMA has already committed a large amount of money to the four firms doing the housing site work, $49.2 million in the case of Bechtel. And there is no timeline for how quickly the competition will proceed. Each of the firms said Thursday that they will continue to work in the meantime.

The day's events indicated the administration has yet to regain its footing since its slow response to the hurricane's initial onslaught more than a month ago.

In a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., called the Department of Homeland Security "dysfunctional" and suggested that Congress should rescind half the more than $60 billion it has provided for the relief effort unless FEMA can better document how it is being spent.

DHS Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson responded that the department will be watching the money closely. "The opportunity to go awry here is large, and we must be extremely diligent in preventing fraud and waste," he said.

Members of both parties raised doubts that President Bush's proposed business tax breaks would lure employers and employees back to the battered Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, a continuing dispute over health care for Katrina evacuees led Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, to sharply rebuke Treasury Secretary John Snow. For weeks, the administration has blocked legislation that would temporarily expand Medicaid eligibility rules and raise federal health care reimbursement rates to states affected by the hurricane.

"Tell the White House to back off our bill," Grassley told Snow. "There are people hurting down there, and we want to get them help."

### Apples and kumquats

Lawmakers indicated they would also challenge Bush's proposal to create a vast, tax-favored Gulf Opportunity Zone, stretching from Louisiana to parts of Florida. Under the proposal, much of the cost of business investments would be tax-deductible.

"The energy of the private sector will be unleashed and ignited" by the plan, Snow told the Senate Finance Committee. "These are tried-and-true measures. They've worked. We've seen them work."

But a Congressional Research Service study presented to the committee appeared to indicate otherwise.

A "significant body of empirical studies focused mainly on state enterprise zones" in large part "have not found evidence of effects on growth or employment," the CRS found.

The Gulf Coast's situation is unique, said Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., since much of the work force has simply left. "You can incentivize all the businesses you want to relocate in a depressed area, but you have to have a work force to make those businesses work," he said.

Meanwhile, the incentives working now appear to be favoring large contractors at the expense of local companies, lawmakers charged.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said union maintenance workers at the Superdome and Ernest N. Morial Convention Center have been replaced with out-of-state workers earning lower wages without benefits. And he charged that a Mississippi modular classroom maker was rebuffed in its bid to supply 300 classrooms when the Army Corps of Engineers turned to an Alaska firm charging more than twice the price.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., questioned whether the federal government should be left with the tab to replace New Orleans' now-condemned charity hospitals when Oklahoma emergency medical technicians reported only minor flood damage to the basement.

And he again assailed FEMA's $236 million contract with Carnival Cruise Lines, which has provided three ships to house evacuees and relief workers. Under that contract, Senate investigators have determined that Carnival will earn nearly 50 percent more per berth than the company would have under normal sailing operations.

Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz said Coburn's comparison is "like comparing apples to kumquats." Carnival's contract price includes the cost of canceling the cruises of more than 120,000 passengers, paying travel agents' commissions on those lost cruises, loss of onboard revenues such as shore excursions, casinos, spas, alcoholic beverages, and gift shops, loss of tips for crew, and the cost of income taxes that otherwise would not have been paid.

Paulison defended the Carnival contract, saying the ships are now "almost completely full," and at a cost of $168 a day per person, are proving "very cost effective."

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# Faces of Katrina tragedy seen again

## *Subjects of photo are still together*

**By Michael Graczyk**
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — When the TV is off and the only sounds in the neat, three-bedroom house come from the hum of the air conditioner and the gurgle of an aquarium, 89-year-old Nita LaGarde sometimes has to fight back tears as she falls asleep in her white wooden bed with clean linens.

"This is nice," she said.

The tears are not so much for what she lost, but for what she has found: a new life and new, loving friends in Houston, a city she had never even visited until a month ago during the culmination of a hellish journey.

America met Mama Nita, as she is known, and 5-year-old Tanisha Belvin as they fled the horror of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in the days immediately following Hurricane Katrina.

A grim-looking LaGarde was seen sitting in a wheelchair, her withered white hand clasping Tanisha's tiny black hand in a Sept. 3 photograph taken by Eric Gay of the Associated Press. The photo of their rescue from the Convention Center was published on front pages around the nation, and the pair became a symbol of the disaster.

"I wasn't going to let her go," LaGarde said of her tight hold on Tanisha in the photo.

Also with them, but out of the picture, was Earnestine Dangerfield, 60, Tanisha's grandmother and LaGarde's neighbor of 20 years at the duplex they shared in New Orleans' flooded 9th Ward.

Now, all three are living under the same roof in Houston, courtesy of a local couple.



AP PHOTO

In a photo that has become emblematic of the tragedy wrought by Hurricane Katrina, 89-year-old Nita LaGarde clings tightly to the hand of Tanisha Belvin, 5, as they are evacuated Sept. 3 from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The image was run in newspapers across the country, including in Houston, where LaGarde and Belvin have made a new home — together.

The three had escaped the rising waters in New Orleans by climbing into the attic then punching a hole in the roof. With LaGarde and Tanisha tied to Dangerfield with an orange electrical cord, the three were rescued by neighbors in a canoe. They were taken to a bridge, where they stayed for two days.

From there, a helicopter took them to an interstate overpass, then a police truck moved them to a spot outside the Convention Center, where they waited amid the squalor for more days, Mama Nita trading a spot on the concrete for a mattress from a looted hotel. Finally, with fears for LaGarde's declining health, soldiers summoned a helicopter to pluck them from among the thousands waiting to get away.

"They kept us together," Dangerfield said. "I told them: Where she goes, I got to go."

All they had were the clothes they were wearing and LaGarde's mattress as they boarded a plane for Houston, 350 miles away.

"We've been through hell," LaGarde said. "I didn't worry. I just wanted to be out of there."

They received medical treatment in Houston, then a spot at the city's Reliant Center shelter. They were moved again, to an adjacent arena, and then once more, to a motel in the suburb of Tomball. They still had LaGarde's mattress.

"When you lose everything, you just want to hold something that's yours," Dangerfield said.

That was where they were when the Houston Chronicle followed up on the AP photo, which had prompted many calls from readers wishing to help. The story moved a retired Houston couple, Joe and Daisy Maura, to offer them a vacant house they rent.

"We got our kids together and told them what we were going to do," said Daisy Maura, 67, who retired in August after 45 years as a Houston public school teacher and principal. "We're going to adopt this family."

"You know good people when you see them," said her husband, 68, a retired school basketball coach. "You think: They're just family. Now they're part of us. They are not here alone."

The Mauras got in touch with emergency officials, who put them in contact with LaGarde and Dangerfield.

"This is too good to be true," said Dangerfield, a former bus driver in New Orleans. "When I walked in the door, I dropped to my knees. This is better than I had in New Orleans."

"I feel like a millionaire," LaGarde said.

LaGarde was born in Smoke Bend, La., and moved with her family in 1937 to New Orleans, where she worked in a plant that made airplane parts, as a waitress and for 10 years in a bakery at night while raising a son and daughter. Her husband died in 1986.

"I ain't going back no more," she said. "There ain't nothing to go back to."

During the interview, Tanisha was in perpetual motion, tugging at her grandmother, then racing around the living room. She was shy with strangers but cuddled up to Daisy Maura as if the woman were a lifelong relative. In her room, the little girl had her own TV, a few toys, and a choice of top or bottom bunk.

It hasn't all been easy. LaGarde and Dangerfield are trying to replace personal documents and get simple things such as New Orleans telephone books. They do not have a car and have to rely on the Maura family to get around. Dangerfield is still trying to find other relatives scattered in Mississippi and Missouri.

And when Hurricane Rita threatened the Houston area two weeks ago, Tanisha, who has enrolled in kindergarten, was afraid their new home would be washed away just like their old one. She is afraid whenever the weather turns ugly, Dangerfield said.

But on the night Rita brushed by Houston, the Mauras had them at their house, where LaGarde, as the oldest in attendance, was the queen of their hurricane party.

(LaGarde's age somehow got reported as 105 in the caption and story that accompanied the AP photo. "Eighty-nine is bad enough," she cracked.)

"Everyone here's been wonderful," LaGarde said. "We've met so many people. I thank God every day for the people in Houston."

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WORLD

# ElBaradei, agency share Nobel prize

*His words smooth tensions with U.S.*

**By George Jahn**
Associated Press writer

VIENNA, AUSTRIA — Mohamed ElBaradei and his International Atomic Energy agency won the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, leaving the chief U.N. nuclear inspector strengthened in a job he nearly lost because of a dispute with the United States over Iran and Iraq.

ElBaradei suggested winning the world's most prestigious award vindicated his methods and goals — using diplomacy rather than confrontation and defusing tensions in multilateral negotiations that strive for consensus.

He also suggested the conflict with Washington was over, saying Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "wished me well" in a congratulatory phone call.

The Bush administration has bristled at ElBaradei's positions on the nuclear threat posed by Iran and Iraq and unsuccessfully lobbied to block his appointment to a third and final four-year term this year. The endorsement by the Nobel Committee was viewed as a major boost to the 63-year-old Egyptian diplomat and his mandate to curb nuclear proliferation.

ElBaradei (pronounced ehl-BEHR'-uh-day) and the IAEA locked horns with Washington in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war by challenging U.S. claims that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. More recently, ElBaradei's refusal to back U.S. assertions that Iran has a covert nuclear weapons program hardened opposition to him within the Bush administration.

After the award was announced, ElBaradei refrained from criticizing the United States in comments to Associated Press Television News and two other media outlets.

"I don't see it as a critique of the U.S." he said Friday. "We had disagreement before the Iraq war, honest disagreement. We could have been wrong, they could have been right."

Instead, ElBaradei said, the honor was "a message — 'Hey guys, you need to get your act together you need to work together in multinational institutions.'"

The award also was a signal "going to the Arab world, going to the Western world that we ... have a lot in common and we need to work together to survive," ElBaradei said.



AP PHOTO

Mohamed ElBaradei, right, the director of the International Atomic Energy agency, said winning the world's most prestigious award vindicated his use of diplomacy in international disputes. ElBaradei and the IAEA locked horns with Washington in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war and recently clashed with the administration over Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Describing his phone conversation with Rice, he said that they both "agreed that we will have to continue to work together" on issues including dispelling suspicions about Iran's nuclear ambitions and getting North Korea to return to the nonproliferation fold.

"The award sends a very strong message: 'Keep doing what you are doing,'" he said. "We continue to believe that in all of our activities we have to be impartial, objective and work with integrity."

In Washington, Rice reaffirmed in a statement that the Bush administration was "committed to working with the IAEA to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology."

Nobel Committee chairman Ole Danbolt Mjoes also denied the award was meant as a slap at the United States.

"This is not a kick in the shin of any nation, any leader," he said. "It is a challenge to all leaders in the world and all the world's nations to go much further on the road toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons."

The award was the highlight in the career for the diplomat, who received a doctorate in International Law at the New York University School of Law in 1974 and later became an adjunct professor there.

ElBaradei joined the IAEA in 1984 and rose from within the ranks of the 139-nation agency, becoming its head in 1997. Naturally shy, he grew into the job as the IAEA dealt with crises in Iraq, North Korea and Iran, becoming an ever more outspoken advocate of nonproliferation in comments that mutated from stilted statements to polished soundbites.

The Nobel Committee recognized ElBaradei and the U.N. nuclear agency "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."

"At a time when disarmament efforts appear deadlocked, when there is a danger that nuclear arms will spread both to states and to terrorist groups, and when nuclear power again appears to be playing an increasingly significant role, IAEA's work is of incalculable importance," it said in a statement.

ElBaradei and the agency had been among the favorites to win as speculation mounted the Nobel Committee would seek to honor the victims of nuclear weapons and those who try to contain their use.

The committee has repeatedly awarded its peace prize to anti-nuclear weapons campaigners on the major anniversaries of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Among the dozens of foreign leaders congratulating ElBaradei was German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder — a strong critic of the U.S. invasion that toppled Saddam. He praised ElBaradei's "courageous stand for an objective view of the situation in the run-up to the Iraq war."

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf also applauded the committee's decision — despite often tense relations with the IAEA, most recently over revelations of an enormous nuclear black market run by disgraced Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan.

ElBaradei's agency has been pivotal in nearly three years of investigations into Iran's suspect nuclear activities, including programs that can be used for making weapons.

Last month, the IAEA board put Iran on notice that it faces referral to the U.N. Security Council unless it dispels international concerns about it nuclear aims — despite ElBaradei's private preference for a less confrontational approach.

The agency has had no control over North Korea since the country quit the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 2003, but ElBaradei has said he hopes to have his inspectors back in the country, the "sooner the better" in the wake of the North's announcement that it wants to end its atomic weapons program.

In Iraq, IAEA inspectors searched for evidence of a nuclear weapons program in the months ahead of the 2003 U.S. invasion but failed to find concrete evidence to back U.S. assertions Saddam's regime had such a program.

The Nobel committee received a record 199 nominations for the peace prize, which includes $1.3 million, a gold medal and a diploma. ElBaradei and the IAEA will share the award when they receive it Dec. 10 in the Norwegian capital of Oslo.


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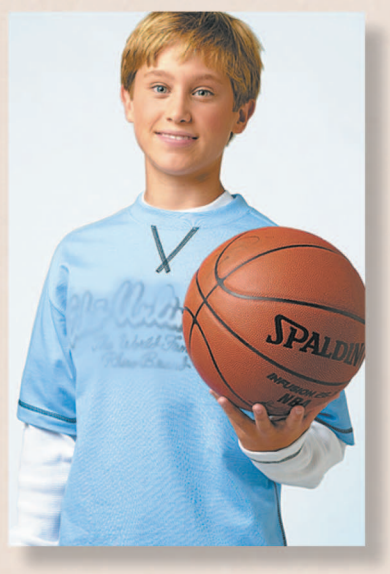
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## Two Arabi families: the Lameus & the Fleetwoods. Two hurricanes: Betsy and Katrina.

# NOT AGAIN



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Edward Fleetwood is a collector of classic car models. He was able to recover a few, but many were beaten up by the floodwaters that came after the hurricane.



Mike Lameu of Arabi recovers from his parents' home the American flag that draped his father's casket. His father, Lawrence, was a Marine who served in the Korean War. The flag was one of the few items Lameu and his family could salvage.

*The Lameus and the Fleetwoods survived Betsy in 1965 and returned to their Arabi roots to rebuild and recover their lives. But now, after Hurricane Katrina, the families aren't sure they have the heart to go through it all again.*





ABOVE: E.J. Fleetwood helps his mom, Joan, look for her rosaries amid the debris of the Fleetwood family home, where the floodwaters reached the attic.

LEFT: Mike Lameu stands atop a ladder to assess the damage to the Arabi neighborhood where he was raised. It was Lameu's and his family's first visit to their house after it was flooded by Katrina and Rita.

# Structures seem OK below North Claiborne

**9TH WARD,** *from A-1*

adamantly work to get the area opened sectionally."

The plan, however, is not without roadblocks. The van system would have to pass City Hall muster, and Marchand said Mayor Ray Nagin told her this week he did not have the "manpower" to cordon off blocks north of North Claiborne Avenue to prevent neighbors from entering areas where power lines still dangled across streets and some homes appeared on the verge of collapse. City officials could not be reached Friday and had not issued a plan for reentry into the Lower 9th Ward.

Further, soil and air quality test results in the historic Holy Cross neighborhood and blocks northward have not been released, meaning returning refugees would have to use boots, gloves and masks to protect themselves against possible toxins from an oil spill in St. Bernard Parish, Marchand said. An Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman said Friday that no date had been set for issuance of that data.

Also, recent seepage through patched portions of the Industrial Canal's eastern levee at North Claiborne and Florida avenues could pose problems for residents, though gravel and sand piled this week to 10 feet above sea level appeared to be plugging the gaps, a spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans district said.

"A little bit of rain or a little bit of wind, and it should hold up fine," spokeswoman Susan Jackson said. "If we get a real heavy storm, if we get another Rita, that definitely will raise everybody's level of concern."

Some low-lying sections above North Claiborne Avenue still held small ponds of water Friday, though most streets had been emptied by St. Bernard Parish pumps, Jackson said. All seven pumps at the Florida Avenue station still were at least two weeks from being operational, she said, adding that four temporary pumps installed by the corps were ridding the area of its last patches of floodwater Friday.

Despite those complications, Lower 9th Ward residents grew increasingly eager to cross bridges over the Industrial Canal to get home to their vacant streets, especially after watching residents of flood-ruined Lakeview, Gentilly and eastern New Orleans begin trekking this week through swamped houses, saving photographs, jewelry and other mementos from overwhelming mold and muck.

One problem, some said, had been the inclination by politicians and news reporters to lump together the entire area from Florida Avenue to the river, and from the canal to the parish line, as a disaster zone adequate only for bulldozing and therefore off-limits to average citizens.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Some homes in the Lower 9th Ward near the Industrial Canal levee break have collapsed. City officials could not be reached Friday and had not issued a plan for re-entry into the Lower 9th Ward.

A drive through the roughly two-square-mile sector Friday, though, revealed a disparate scene, with most buildings above North Claiborne Avenue indeed destroyed by Katrina and Rita. But south of that main drag, many structures appeared sound, and some on the highest ground even lacked telltale water marks on exterior walls because floodwaters apparently did not settle there for long periods.

"The national media really doesn't have any way of realizing the distinctions between the parts of the Lower 9th Ward, so I think they've been thinking the whole Lower 9th Ward is a write-off. But if you actually see the houses, you come to a very different conclusion," said Stephanie Bruno, a project director at New Orleans' Preservation Resource Center.

"In the Holy Cross area, these are definitely houses that can be repaired and rehabited without major problems," she said, referring to blocks south of St. Claude Avenue. "This is a fiercely proud neighborhood, and they just need to get into their neighborhood to get their neighborhood back."

Despite checkpoints staffed by the New Orleans Police Department, Willie Fernandez managed to "finagle" his way back to his Caffin Avenue home Friday. Erecting a pile of mattresses and broken wooden furniture, Fernandez said he did not understand why homeowners living near Holy Cross School, which administrators said could reopen by Jan.1, could not have returned when the flood receded weeks ago.

"To have to sit back and wait while your whole area is dry, that's what really hurts," he said.

Evacuated to her cousin's home in Marksville, Stacy Rockwood's anger also festered. Rockwood said satellite photos she saw on the Internet suggested her Flood Street house might not have lived up to the roadway's name. But she knew from neighbors who had sneaked into the Holy Cross area that many homes had been left unlocked by rescue workers. In fact, on a single block of Forstall Street near Burgundy Street, four of seven front doors stood wide open Friday morning.

"I have personal fears that my house will be looted because it's open," Rockwood said. "I don't want to stay; I just want to get in to see it. I want to see how bad the mold is, and I know it's getting worse every single day."

Even residents with homes above North Claiborne Avenue, where smashed windows in nearly every building provided a view into muddy hellholes, said they wanted to get in. Sharon Johnson-Murphy, who saw her house for the first time Friday after entering the Lower 9th Ward with a contractors' access pass, said her neighbors should be allowed to return to realize that their homes truly are gone.

"They still got a lot of people who think their houses can be salvaged, but it's over. This will no longer be my home," Johnson-Murphy said, snapping photos of her mangled front door and of interior walls that crumbled at the gentlest touch. "You need to see it to really believe it. It's good to see it and get out.

"I'm OK now," she said. "I can put it out of my mind."


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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Riley: Bad officers to be dealt with more severely

**CRIME,** *from A-1*

The pace is quickening a bit now that patrols are up and running, but there is no question that both the incidence and level of violence are low.

The past two days were telling, Riley said, scanning the numbers on his Blackberry. On Wednesday, there were 41 arrests, with 28 of those classified as "municipal," meaning misdemeanor-type incidents like traffic violations or drunk and disorderly conduct. Thursday saw just 19 arrests, 15 of which were for municipal offenses.

"I don't know why people in Baton Rouge and elsewhere think there is a lot of crime in New Orleans," Defillo said, reacting to panicky comments on Thursday at a meeting in Baton Rouge of small-business owners from New Orleans. "It's just not here."

Indeed, in neighborhoods that flooded, there remain more dirt and dust-covered cars than people. And interviews Friday with New Orleanians in several neighborhoods that stayed dry showed crime has slipped from its normally high perch in the list of their concerns.

While the perennially understaffed NOPD has been further reduced in strength by the storm's tumult, to fewer than 1,500 officers, state troopers from all over the country are assisting with patrols, and National Guard troops — about 2,700, an NOPD spokesman said Friday — remain a highly visible presence throughout the city since the 82nd Airborne pulled out.

Humvees rumble along residential streets and soldiers are present in NOPD's makeshift headquarters, in a ballroom of the French Quarter's Royal Sonesta Hotel, giving New Orleans the feel of a city under occupation.

"How brazen would you have to be to be a criminal these days?" marveled Robert Boulanger,27, a carpenter who rides around the city on his bicycle and said authorities stop him regularly. "A friend of mine had his car broken into but that's about it."

On the corner of Simon Bolivar Avenue and Josephine Street, Antoinette Simmons, 34, was returning to her home. In the past, she conceded, crime worried her daily. Now it's not an issue.

"It's empty," she said of her neighborhood. "You don't have to worry about too much."

But Riley, a deputy superintendent who took over as acting chief last week after Superintendent Eddie Compass was eased out, has plenty on his desk. It's not just the spike in homicides that had begun to worry the department.

## Stricter rules

Instead, Riley is supervising Nagin's re-entry plan, and has issued orders for cops to be at their most courteous, letting residents know they are welcome.

While a smile and a wave may be the department's public face, in private many officers are still seething over colleagues who appear to have deserted their posts during the storm's aftermath or who joined in the looting they were supposed to avert.

It's hardly the first time the NOPD has had to deal with lawlessness in its own ranks. At the zenith of the department's dysfunction, in the mid-1990s, two officers were sent to death row for murder and dozens of others were charged with felonies. Riley said no big-city department is immune to the problem, and noted the vast majority of officers behaved honorably, at times even heroically. But he said he won't sugarcoat the issue.

"You will see very soon the development of a police integrity bureau that I consider hard-hitting," he said. "I won't let officers embarrass this department and our penalties are going to be a little more severe."

Last week, Riley announced that four officers had been suspended, one reassigned, and at least a dozen others put under investigation for allegedly looting or failing to combat looting in their presence. That number grew Thursday when Riley revealed he is taking a close look at roughly 40 Third District officers based on the suspicion that they bolted from the city in Cadillacs swiped from a downtown dealership.

As for the alleged deserters, Riley reiterated his position that not every cop who didn't appear at his usual post should be labeled a coward. In many cases, officers were marooned in their homes by floodwaters, or moved with family members to Jefferson Parish, which made a return into the city impossible, particularly for officers assigned to districts like the 7th in eastern New Orleans or the 3rd in Lakeview, both of which were essentially submerged.

"Right now things get better every day, but I would say the department is working at 60 to 65 percent efficiency," Riley said. "Getting it back to 100 percent is the number one goal."

## A career in the force

Riley, who next week marks his 24th anniversary with the department, calls the moment "bittersweet." The ascent to acting police chief was complicated by his friendship with Compass and his loyalty to Nagin, who reportedly forced Compass out.

But Riley, a Southern University graduate who spent much of his career in the 5th and 6th districts before rising through the ranks to a post at headquarters, has never made a secret of his ambition and drive. He made an unsuccessful run last year for criminal sheriff, with Mayor Ray Nagin's backing.

His career record is not spotless. He has been suspended from the force during investigation of traffic accidents, and in a case that became a major issue last year during the sheriff's race, he acknowledged a lapse in judgment during his time as an investigator with Internal Affairs.

In that case, Riley failed to follow up on an interview with the girlfriend of former officer Victor Gant, who spoke with Riley at headquarters and said Gant had assaulted her.

Gant's girlfriend was later killed, and Gant emerged as a suspect in her death.

But investigators found no evidence that Riley had tipped Gant in any way and it appeared to be true that the girlfriend declined to make out a formal complaint against the officer when Riley interviewed her. Top-ranking Public Integrity Bureau officers essentially cleared Riley of any wrongdoing.

Despite those past problems, Riley is considered a strong candidate to become chief on a permanent basis. "I think Riley is the guy," said Rafael Goyeneche, the executive director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and a seasoned NOPD analyst. This is not entirely to Goyeneche's liking. The importance of the job requires a national search for Compass' successor, said Goyeneche, who favors hiring a talented and disciplined executive over a swashbuckling crimefighter.

Riley said he has not been told whether the mayor will make his promotion permanent, and Nagin has given no indication of long-term plans for the post. Meanwhile, Riley says, he's trying to focus on the job. He sidesteps questions about the NOPD's controversial residency rule or the pace of federal aid in the wild first week after Katrina, saying he didn't want to delve into political issues.

"I'm just trying to deal with the crisis here," said Riley, whose daughter evacuated with his ex-wife to Texas and has enrolled in school there. "I haven't had time to really reflect on all of that and I don't know what my opinion might be."

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Plan would open casinos downtown

NAGIN, *from A-1*

lucky" to get to half of the pre-Katrina revenue level. And without significant financial support in the next 90 days, he said, he will have no choice but to lay off more city workers.

And without drastic action to spark development in the city's port and tourism industries, he said, "we're going to limp along for the next three to five years."

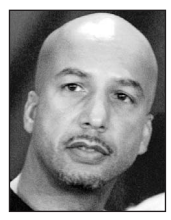
Faced with what will be a long recovery period, Nagin said, the city can't afford to lay back and do the same thing.

"I'd love to have another solution for our citizens," Nagin said. "I'm not a big gaming person. I'm not a big gambler."

The mayor conceded that several obstacles stand in the way.

For one, the state's arrangement with Harrah's New Orleans Casino guarantees that Harrah's will be the only land-based casino in the state. If the agreement is violated, Harrah's does not have to pay its taxes to the state.

Each year, Harrah's is required to pay a minimum of $60 million or 21.5 percent of its revenue, whichever is greater. Most years, Harrah's has paid the 21.5 percent, which has amounted to $65 or $70 million in recent years.



**Mayor Ray Nagin**
'I'd love to have another solution for our citizens'

The Legislature would have to approve Nagin's concept, and the state would have to hammer out a new agreement with Harrah's – one likely to prove costly to the state, Nagin said. Even if the idea clears those hurdles, New Orleans voters would decide the matter in a referendum.

The proposed Casino Conversion & Gaming Zone would cover a U-shaped area starting at Claiborne Avenue and running along Canal Street, around Harrah's and back up Poydras Street to Claiborne.

Only hotels with at least 500 rooms would be eligible. The hotels that appear to fit the bill are the Hyatt, the Sheraton, the Hilton, the Marriott, the Ritz-Carlton, the Park Plaza and the Astor Crowne Plaza. It was not clear Friday whether the Monteleone and the Fairmont, which are near the zone and have more than 500 rooms, would qualify.

Hotels that converted to casinos would have to offer all forms of gambling, not just slot machines, and would have to agree to pay a "living wage" of at least $8 an hour plus health insurance and benefits, Nagin said.

Under Nagin's proposal, the city and state would equally split all gambling revenue. The mayor said he did not have an estimate on how much tax money would come in, but said that Mississippi's Gulf Coast casinos were generating about $150 million per year for the state before Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

"We have an incredible opportunity to accelerate growth right now," he said.

No single casino or hotel company would be allowed to hold a market share greater than 25 percent, the mayor said. He said he had had a brief discussion with the director of the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association, who showed "some interest and excitement" about the idea.

"We're well on our way to recovery," he said. "We just want to accelerate the process."

Nagin also said that he had discussed the notion with Blanco and Andy Kopplin, who leads Blanco's hurricane-recovery effort. He said the idea caught them "a little off-guard."

"They were open to it," he said. "I'm not saying they endorsed it wholeheartedly, but they're open to it."

Asked whether he feared that his idea could put New Orleans' rich cultural traditions at risk, turning the city into a Southern Las Vegas, Nagin said he's not worried.

The mayor said New Orleans has so much more than Las Vegas, citing great food, historic architecture, the French Quarter and Mardi Gras Indians, among other cultural touchstones.

"I don't ever see a scenario where New Orleans becomes Las Vegas," Nagin said.

# Rove told Bush he wasn't involved in CIA leak

**By John Solomon**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove told President Bush and others that he never engaged in an effort to disclose a CIA operative's identity to discredit her husband's criticism of the administration's Iraq policy, according to people with knowledge of Rove's account in the investigation.

They said Rove's denial to Bush occurred during a brief conversation in July 2003, shortly after media reports revealed that former Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, worked as a covert CIA operative.

Those with direct knowledge of evidence gathered in the criminal investigation spoke to The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity because of grand jury secrecy.

Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald is wrapping up an investigation into whether Rove; Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby; or other White House aides divulged Plame's identity in violation of federal law.

Besides the disclosure of Plame's identity, the investigation is examining whether presidential aides mishandled classified information, made false statements or obstructed justice.

Rove is slated to testify before the grand jury soon for a fourth time, although prosecutors have told him they no longer can assure he will avoid indictment. Rove offered in July to return to the grand jury for additional testimony, and Fitzgerald accepted that offer after taking grand jury testimony from the formerly jailed New York Times reporter Judith Miller.

The discussion with Bush, along with others, was general and did not get into specifics concerning Rove's contacts with two reporters, Time magazine's Matthew Cooper and syndicated columnist Robert Novak, who wrote stories identifying Plame, the people familiar with Rove's account said.

They said Bush asked Rove to assure him he was not involved in an effort to divulge Plame's identity and punish Wilson, and the longtime confidant assured him so. He answered similarly when White House press secretary Scott McClellan asked a similar question.

Robert Luskin, Rove's attorney, declined Friday to comment on the specifics of the discussions with Bush but confirmed his client maintains — then and now — he did not engage in an effort to disclose Plame's identity.

Rove has told a grand jury he first learned of Plame's work for the CIA from news reporters and then discussed it with Novak and Cooper.

"Did Karl purposely set out to disclose Valerie Plame's identity in order to punish Joe Wilson for his criticism? The answer is, 'No,'" Luskin said. "That was his answer in July 2003 and in October 2003 (when he first testified) And it remains his answer today."


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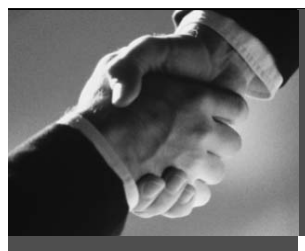
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# Cleanup at SUNO has yet to get started

**SUNO,** *from A-1*

Supervisors. Board members said they are determined to bring SUNO back to life, ordering new filings in a long-running higher education desegregation lawsuit that seek court backing for rebuilding the 49-year-old college.

"I will say emphatically: We will do everything we know to do to make sure that campus again becomes alive and well," said board Chairman Johnny Anderson. "We want to make sure that we do whatever we can to restore hope."

The brighter talk for SUNO — still vacant, waterlogged and strewn with debris — came as cleanup work picked up momentum at Xavier and Dillard universities, older private institutions that also serve predominantly black student bodies. Hundreds of contract workers are now buzzing about a fenced-off Xavier campus. Flood and wind damage from Katrina was extensive at all three universities, more comprehensive in its reach than that seen, for example, at Tulane University or the University of New Orleans. Loyola University had only light wind damage.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

The water line matches up with the window sill at Southern University at New Orleans, where lingering floodwater delayed remediation.

## National attention

The paralyzing blows to all three New Orleans universities targeting African-Americans, with a combined student body of 10,000 and workforce of 1,500 before the storm, is beginning to grab national attention. The United Negro College Fund, affiliated with Dillard and Xavier, has begin a fund-raising campaign; the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education is looking for ways to help; and a smattering of foundations are pitching in with grants, officials said.

"We're getting offers of help; we're getting word that people are trying to structure efforts for us," said Edward Jackson, interim president of the Southern University System and chancellor of Southern in Baton Rouge, a refuge for many SUNO students.

Dillard President Marvalene Hughes, who took over the post in July, said she has received "enormous support" from former colleagues and other colleges across the country. When she gave an address Sunday at Hampton University in Virginia, for example, Hughes was presented $10,000 raised at the campus for Dillard.

Brown and Princeton universities weeks ago promised technical help for Dillard as well as support in repairing buildings and restocking the library. At the time, Brown President Ruth Simmons, a Dillard graduate, said Dillard has "been a dependable source of support in the struggle to overcome disadvantaged backgrounds."

Dillard, Xavier and SUNO officials say they will rebound quickly, with tentative plans by the three to resume classes, in some cases off campus, in January. But their agendas hinge on the availability of federal storm relief money, the supply of housing for students and faculty and, especially in the case of SUNO, the repopulation of New Orleans. Dillard and Xavier recruit strongly outside on New Orleans and the state.

Louisiana's commissioner of higher education, Joseph Savoie, also noted that "none of these institutions have significant endowments that they can lean on."

Xavier and Dillard have long-term endowment funds of $54 million and $46 million, respectively, a fraction of that reported by many public or private universities, while SUNO recently started building an endowment, now totaling about $2 million.

While such funds are designed in part for emergency needs, campus policies restrict their use, and officials at the three universities said they hope to cover restoration costs with insurance payments and federal aid.

Specific damage estimates are not yet available from the universities, but they are already seeking to get a slice of a federal relief package that could ultimately total billions of dollars. The help would be directed to a wide range of needs, including building repair and reconstruction costs, financial aid for students and temporary pay support for faculty and staff members. Dillard is seeking at least $350 million, while Xavier is asking for at least $75 million, their presidents said.

## Avoiding layoffs

In both cases, the universities hope for a quick response, within the next few weeks, hoping to avoid layoffs.

"I'm sitting here on a wing and a prayer … I'm at the drop-dead stage," Xavier President Norman Francis said, while Hughes said, "It will be very difficult replacing people who have spent so many years coming to understand the Dillard culture."

Gex, at SUNO, said he hasn't yet received word from state officials about whether he must lay off any of the university's 450 staff members, including 160 faculty members. In the meantime, administrators are trying to keep them engaged in "meaningful work," in some cases teaching classes at the Southern campus in Baton Rouge. He didn't know Friday how much in federal aid the campus is seeking.

Long before Katrina hit, many in the higher education have seen the SUNO campus as vulnerable to elimination or merger with another institution, due to its relatively small size, limited resources and frequent internal political squabbles. But SUNO advocates on Friday said they see no threat of the campus being shut down permanently, and in fact hope for a bright future founded on new construction. Savoie echoed that view, saying that, while various public colleges around New Orleans may see changes in their missions, there "will be an important role for an institution like SUNO … I don't see a diminished role, I see an enhanced role."

Gex said that surveys of displaced SUNO students, now concentrated in Baton Rouge but also scattered to other states, show they are eager to return to the campus, but flood damage has made housing a critical issue. Locating a colony of FEMA trailers on a north section of the campus, possibly within a few months, offers an answer, he said.

"I think we can get them (students) all back eventually," Gex said. "If we can deal with the housing piece for both faculty and students, we'll get a very good return."

FEMA spokesman James McIntyre said SUNO's push for help with housing and classroom space is among "various opportunities" that the federal agency may consider in New Orleans but that it was premature to discuss the matter in detail.

One SUNO faculty member, asking not to be named, said professors are eager to return but that there is frustration that a cleanup of the site hasn't yet begun, even as mold continues to spread through areas not hit with floodwater. Gex said remediation was delayed by lingering floodwater, but activity, including grounds cleanup and security improvements, should be seen within a week.

SUNO's student government president, Avis White, used an appearance at the system board meeting to thank the Baton Rouge campus for giving SUNO students refuge, saying officials went out of their way to reopen class registration and find book vouchers for the New Orleanians. In an interview, she said it seems more realistic to hope for a resumption of classes at the campus next summer, rather than in January, but that many students are prepared to pitch in with the cleanup.

"We may be displaced, but we're not destroyed," she said. "We'll be back."

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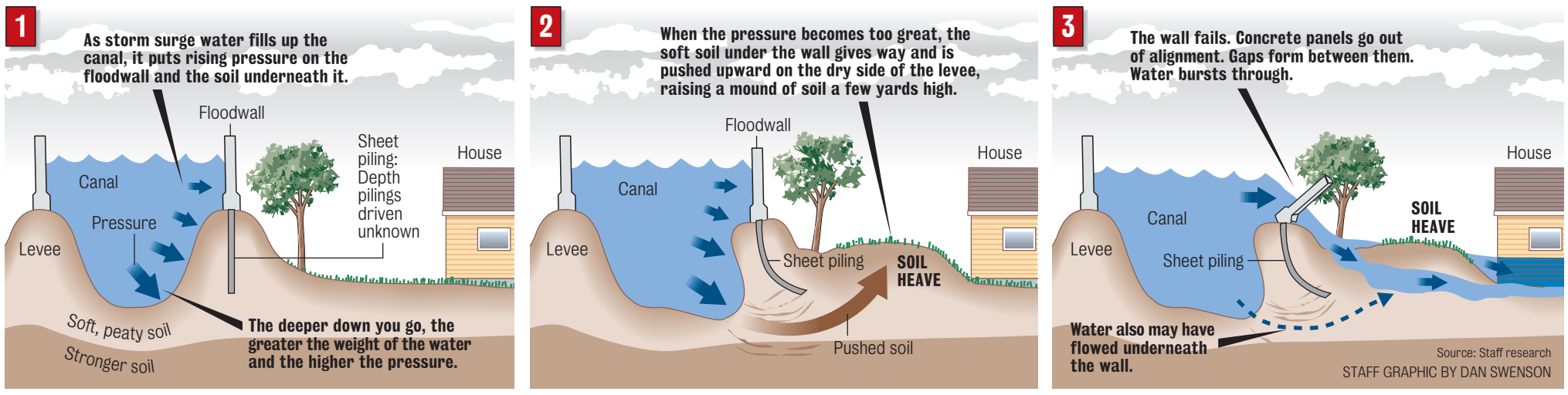
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## HEAVE: THE NEW BREACH THEORY

Investigators are looking into soil heaving as the reason for the 17th Street and London Avenue canal breaches. A look at the theory:




# Water still seeping through repairs

**LEVEES,** *from A-1*

"It's like jumping on a diving board if you haven't got one side pinned down," he said, adding that the fact that the east side levee wall failed and the west side didn't supports the theory.

The "heave" phenomenon, with water pressure pushing under the levee walls and driving the soil in an arc on the other side, points to possible design or construction flaws in the walls and contradicts initial explanations by the Army Corps of Engineers that the floodwalls had been topped by storm surge.

Water did not top either the 17th Street or London Avenue canal walls, said Dr. Peter Nicholson, an engineering professor at the University of Hawaii and leader of a second investigative team representing the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The teams have been in New Orleans for the past week, touring various levee breach areas as part of an initial investigation into Katrina's effects on the levee system. They expect to issue a preliminary report on their findings in 30 days. All of the engineers said it's too soon to call their preliminary findings conclusive, in large part because the information they are gathering must be matched to the design and as-built drawings of the levees, which have not yet been found by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The corps has its own investigative team also looking at the levees. Paul Mlaker, who is leading that effort, said the corps is still looking for a variety of documents that investigators need to confirm their initial findings, including the construction plans and schematics that would indicate exactly how the wall was designed and constructed.

A key issue that officials hope is answered by those documents is how deep the metal sheet piling is beneath the concrete upper wall. Mlaker could provide no estimate Friday of how deep the pilings were supposed to be.

Corps officials also are searching for records of test borings conducted in advance of the wall construction that might indicate whether builders should have been aware of the soft soil beneath the wall.

Engineering Professor Raymond Seed, also of University of California-Berkeley, said corps officials indicated to the researchers that soil borings were taken every 500 feet along the path of the levee. Corps officials are now taking new borings in the canal adjacent to the wall to help determine what soils actually are beneath the wall. Seed said they may also pull some of the sheet piling beneath the wall to determine exactly how deep it was built.

Gordon Boutwell, a soils specialist with the civil engineers team, said water from the canal would leak through peaty soil faster than through more dense clay, "and when the levee starts to fail, the peat loses a lot of its strength."

He said the layer of peat may be 5 to 8 feet thick and is believed to be 20 to 25 feet below the base of the levee wall.

At the London Avenue Canal, the same heaving of soil is believed to have occurred, several of the engineers said. In addition, there's also an indication that the connection between the concrete levee wall and the metal sheet piling may have failed in at least part of the breach there.

Seed also said that although there's evidence that a barge that floated into the 9th Ward from the Industrial Canal hit one of the wall panels there, it doesn't look like that alone caused the failure of a 200-foot-long section of that levee wall. Instead, there's clear evidence that water topped a lengthy stretch of the wall, eroding the earth below it on the east side of the levee.

Mlaker said water is still leaking through temporary repairs at both the 17th Street and London Avenue canals, which he said is the result of the porous materials – rock and gravel – used to fill in the breaches. Both temporary repairs have been raised to 10 feet.

Mlaker said sheet piling may be installed on the canal side of the repairs in the 17th Street Canal to allow workers to remove the initial temporary repair and replace it with a second temporary repair.

Bea said that if there's a silver lining to the levee story, it's a stretch of levee along Lake Borgne that did not fail despite being topped. He credited a wide stretch of wetlands and trees in front of that levee with blocking the waves that eroded a similar stretch of levee along the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet from its original 17 feet or taller height to only 4 feet.

With the wide Gulf Outlet channel in front, that levee was hit by continuous waves as the storm went across the area, he said.

Mark Schleifstein can be reached at mersmia@aol.com.

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## DECEASED IDENTIFIED, RELEASED

Of the 1,003 reported Hurricane Katrina-related deaths, Louisiana officials have identified the following victims and released them to their families:

| Name | Age | City |
|---|---|---|
| Jose Ares | 83 | New Orleans |
| Justin Babin | N/A | Kenner |
| Della Badeaux | N/A | New Orleans |
| Arthur Batieste Jr. | 75 | New Orleans |
| Lawrence Batiste | 83 | New Orleans |
| Gladys Beatty | N/A | New Orleans |
| Edith Bennett | 84 | New Orleans |
| Bulah Boss | N/A | New Orleans |
| Johnny Brinston | 67 | New Orleans |
| Danny Brumfield | 45 | New Orleans |
| George Bumgartner | 95 | New Orleans |
| Lloyd Buras | N/A | New Orleans |
| Thomas Burke | 48 | Violet |
| Evelyn Burns | 97 | Chalmette |
| Frances Cox | 77 | Chalmette |
| Wessie Crutchfield | 73 | Bogalusa |
| William Deadman Jr. | 71 | New Orleans |
| Maggie Dennis | 89 | New Orleans |
| Ethel Dugar | 61 | New Orleans |
| Lorraine Duvernay | N/A | New Orleans |
| Emmett Everett | 61 | New Orleans |
| Theresa Foster | N/A | New Orleans |
| Rudy Frazier | 76 | New Orleans |
| Caroline Fuhrmann | 92 | Metairie |
| Ernest Gilmore | 51 | N/A |
| Dulce Marie Gonzalez | 80 | New Orleans |
| Maria del los Gonzalez | 52 | New Orleans |
| Gulda Haines | 50 | New Orleans |
| Carrie Hall | 78 | New Orleans |
| Azemo Hall | 78 | New Orleans |
| Mary Hamilton | N/A | New Orleans |
| Isabelle Hebert | 52 | New Orleans |
| Amelia Hose | 102 | New Orleans |
| Alice Hutzler | 90 | St. Bernard |
| Emelda Jackson | 78 | New Orleans |
| Myrtle Jackson | 75 | New Orleans |
| James Jackson Sr. | N/A | New Orleans |

| Name | Age | City |
|---|---|---|
| Aleria Jefferson | 69 | Algiers |
| Preston Johnson | 25 | N/A |
| Ella Jones | 80 | New Orleans |
| Ruby Joseph | 94 | New Orleans |
| Elias Kapnissis | N/A | N/A |
| John Laur | 85 | New Orleans |
| Willie Martinez | 84 | New Orleans |
| Arthur Mason | 88 | New Orleans |
| Reba Massey | 37 | N/A |
| Jessie May | 79 | New Orleans |
| Matthew McDonald | 41 | Norwich, Conn. |
| Wilda McManus | 70 | New Orleans |
| Rose Migllore | N/A | N/A |
| Helen Mortellaro | 83 | New Orleans |
| Veola Mosby | 79 | New Orleans |
| Elaine Nelson | 90 | Metairie |
| Helen Olivier | N/A | N/A |
| Peter Pelitere | N/A | Kenner |
| Thelma Pinkney | 76 | New Orleans |
| Elizabeth Riehm | 82 | Jefferson |
| Rufus Rivers | 77 | Chalmette |
| Jean Robin | 78 | New Orleans |
| Eva Rodrigue | 93 | Chalmette |
| Alma Ryburn | 83 | N/A |
| Rose Savoie | 90 | New Orleans |
| Elaine Seeger | 90 | New Orleans |
| Isaac Shanks | 43 | Gretna |
| Edward Sparks | 54 | New Orleans |
| Onita Stewart | 70 | New Orleans |
| Ronald Taylor | 51 | N/A |
| Frank Trapolin | 92 | New Orleans |
| Mable Veal | 75 | New Orleans |
| James Wilder | 72 | New Orleans |
| Roy Williams | 3 | New Orleans |
| Paul Williams Jr. | 60 | New Orleans |
| Jason Zito | N/A | N/A |

Source: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

# Gulf Coast death toll from Hurricane Katrina hits 1,240

DEATHS, *from A-1*

of 1900 was responsible for at least 8,000 deaths and remains the deadliest hurricane in history. The death total from the Lake Okeechobee hurricane of 1928 that overtopped a levee at the Florida lake killed at least 2,500 people.

Lapore said Katrina probably would be ranked as the fourth deadliest storm, with the overall death count of 1,240 including deaths in Florida, Mississippi and Alabama.

By comparison, the death toll following Hurricane Camille was 256, and Hurricane Betsy, 75. An unnamed hurricane that hit Land Island in Louisiana in 1856 killed 400, a hurricane that hit Grand Isle in 1909 killed 350 and a 1915 hurricane that hit New Orleans killed 275.

The exact number of deaths in the older storms is hard to know because officials believe huge storm surges washed away bodies, Lapore said. And once people were separated it was hard for them to find one another, a problem that has arisen in the wake of Katrina despite advanced communications.

Archives from the weather service show 14 of the 15 deadliest hurricanes were the equivalent of a category 3 or higher, and the large death totals were primarily a result of storm surges of 10 feet or higher associated with those storms.

Since Katrina came ashore as a Category 4 storm, it could be expected to result in a high death tally. Lapore said there are several factors besides wind speed that combine to make some storms more deadly than others.

For New Orleans, topography and population concentration added to the mix.

"There are a host of factors that play into the outcome, some of which we have control over and some of which we do not have control over."

## FATAL STORMS

Some of the deadliest mainland U.S. hurricanes since 1851

| Rank | Hurricane | Year | Category | Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Galveston, Texas | 1900 | 4 | 8,000 |
| 2. | Lake Okeechobee, Southeast Fla. | 1928 | 4 | 2,500 |
| 3. | Cheniere Caminada, La. | 1893 | 4 | 1,100-1,400 |
| **4.** | **Katrina** | **2005** | **4** | **1,240** |
| 5. | Sea Islands, S. Carolina, Georgia | 1893 | 3 | 1,000-2,000 |
| 6. | Georgia, South Carolina | 1881 | 2 | 700 |
| 7. | Florida Keys | 1935 | 5 | 408 |
| 8. | Last Island, La. | 1856 | 4 | 400 |
| 9. | Audrey: Southwest La., north Texas | 1957 | 4 | 390 |
| 10. | Florida, Mississippi, Alabama | 1926 | 4 | 372 |
| 15. | Camille: Miss., southeast La., Va. | 1969 | 5 | 256 |
| 26. | Betsy: Southeast La., southeast Fla. | 1965 | 3 | 75 |

Source: National Weather Service

STAFF CHART

# Police shot man listed as Katrina victim

**By Janet McConnaughey**
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — One person listed as a victim of Hurricane Katrina was actually shot by police.

Officer Ronald Mitchell shot and killed Danny Brumfield, 45, outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the New Orleans Police Department confirmed Friday. Police said it happened Sept. 3 about 2 a.m., in the darkness before the National Guard arrived and began evacuating the Convention Center.

A police statement released after The Associated Press asked about the shooting said that, moments after Mitchell and his partner heard what appeared to be a gunshot, a man jumped onto the hood of their patrol car swinging something shiny. It was attempted murder of a police officer, a four-paragraph news release said.

That wasn't what happened, say Brumfield's daughter, Shantan Brumfield, and his niece Africa Brumfield, both of whom were there and both of whom were interviewed by phone by the AP.

They say the officer who shot Brumfield had hit him twice with a squad car before doing so — a nudge the first time, and a heavier bump the second. That was when he leaped onto the hood and was shot, they said. Afterward, they said, the car ran over him, and other officers didn't come to investigate for several hours.

Police say he was shot because he appeared to be attacking an officer. Capt. Marlon Defillo, a New Orleans police spokesman, said he had not heard any reports about Brumfield being hit or run over by a car. He said the homicide section is investigating the incident, and all information will be turned over to the district attorney's office.

By all accounts, that night was a time when looting was rampant and widespread rumors of violence had everyone, including police, running scared.

Brumfield had spent several sleepless nights caring for his own five grandchildren and others in the area, because people thought they had to clutch their children against rapists and killers who would snatch them into the dark.

"The lady next to us, she had like 10 or 15 children with her and nobody to help her," Shantan Brumfield said. "He helped her feed the children. I don't know if they were her children or nieces or nephews."

When Hurricane Katrina approached, Brumfield had stayed to protect his house from looters. He wound up having to saw through the roof so that he, his wife, Deborah, and her diabetic mother, Ruby Augustine, could escape from floods that reached high on the second floor.

His mother-in-law, wife and son wound up at the Astrodome. Danny Brumfield wound up in front of the Convention Center, where he found his daughter and her children. Several of their other relatives were there, too, Shantan Brumfield said.

They and other people in the area had set up chairs near some steps. The children were inside, adults in the chairs as a barricade of bodies. Shantan Brumfield said a commotion broke out shortly before the squad car came by. Africa Brumfield said a woman had been screaming for some time.

Danny Brumfield got into the street. His niece thought he was trying to stop the police car; his daughter wasn't sure why he did.

Africa Brumfield said the officer slammed on the brakes and her uncle put his hands on the hood to show he wasn't carrying any weapons. Shantan Brumfield said he put his hands on the hood after he was hit, apparently trying to stop it.

Both agree that the car sped up, hit him again, and he jumped onto the hood.

Shantan Brumfield said he reached up toward the glass, as if trying to get the car to stop and let him down. Africa Brumfield said he had reached down and pulled out a pair of shears which she had given him earlier that day, as the only weapon they had to protect the children.

That was when he was shot. Then, both said, the car left, over Brumfield's body rather than around it.

Africa Brumfield said she wrote her uncle's name and birthdate on a piece of duct tape which she wrapped around his arm, and her cousin wrote information about her father on a piece of paper which they put into a zip-lock bag and taped to his body.

Someone found a black blanket with which they covered the body, so his grandchildren wouldn't have to see it.

Buses showed up about 10 a.m. that day, three blocks away.

"My mother walked up to him. She said her goodbyes there," Africa Brumfield said. "She said, as much as we didn't want to leave his body there, we really didn't have any other choice.

"Then we ran because our lives depended on it."

By the time his body was recovered and released to his family, it was unrecognizable.

"Everything you've ever seen in a horror film does not compare to that reality," Africa Brumfield said. "The only way I was able to identify him was that the position my uncle died in was entrenched on my mind."

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**TREE AND** DEBRIS REMOVAL, Stump grinding, licensed & insured. Free estimates. 843-345-7580

**Tree Cut** & Debris Removal. Yard clearing w/ bobcat. 4 hire, 504-615-2158

**TREE CUTS** AND DEBRIS REMOVAL and Auto towing, free estimates, 504-442-2730 or 504-338-8443

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREES Service.** Local Owned/ Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

**LAW OFFICE** OPEN Personal Injury & Criminal Defense. Call Christopher B Edwards, 504-366-1121

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**DR. MATTHEW** SCHUETTE & DR. SCOTT PETHKE are available for the care and treatment of Respiratory Illnesses. Call 504-463-0403 for an appointment. 200 W. Esplanade Ave. # 313 Kenner, LA 70065

**ELDERLY CARE** Residential home living for elderly persons, private pay, Metairie, LA. Call 504-837-2047

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

### 2360 Moving

**FRANK'S DISCOUNT** MOVING Low hourly rates. Call 504-914-2742

### Service Directory — 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**VICK'S PAINT** SERVICES LLC Interior/Exterior Painting & Pressure Washing LA State Lic FREE ESTIMATES Carl-Lee Vicknair 225-869-8201

**DARRYL'S WALLPAPER** HANGING. Free Estimates! Family trade. 504-328-2644

**Holman's Painting** and Pressure washing, interior/exterior, sheet rocks and roofing. 504-341-6491 or 504-919-7996

**WEST BANK** FLOOD VICTIMS: Sheet rock finishing & Painting. Call 504-723-9725

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**KILCREASE PLUMBING** LLC Comm'l/resid'l, water heaters, LMP#3252, lic'd for gas 504-234-1075

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**MONTE'S PLUMBING** REPAIRS Gas repairs, drains unclogged, $39.95. Senior citizen discounts, owner operated. 504-908-3778

**NOELS PLUMBING** LLC New Construction, Repairs & Renovations. LMP 5080. 504-909-7275

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2415 Pool Service

**Professional Pool** Restoration Complete inground pool repair/ restoration. Acid wash: $450+ Resurface: $2500+ 817-564-1516 www.professionalpoolrestoration.com

### 2420 Printing & Duplicating

**COMPLETE PHOTO** RESTORATION BY ORLEANS COLOUR. 32 years experience. Call 504-512-3277

### 2430 Professional

**Architect Economical** 38 years exp. houses and commercial, Fast, Call 504-957-4166

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**FEMA AND** SBA pkg. Having problems filing w/ FEMA & SBA? I can help! CAll Richard Lassalle Tax & accounting consulting 504-957-9238

**Photographer Digital** images of property on CD's. $25/property. 504-885-8343

**RGA Environmental,** Inc. Moisture & Mold Testing; Asbestos Consulting: Insurance Assessments; Remediation Planning: Worker Health & Safety. Call Maggie Carrington 504-818-8807 or 800-776-5696

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**HOUSE LEVELING,** house gutting, roofing/repair, mold removal. Call 225-268-6276

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**General Contractor/Commerical** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOF Repairs** starting at $85. Local company, slate, tile and shingles. All work guaranteed. 985-809-0502

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Metairre, Kenner, Riverridge & Harahan. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

### Service Directory — 2496 Transportation

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2498 Word Processing/ Typing

**QUALITY SECRETARIAL** SERVICE Pick-Up/Delivery or Work on site. $20/hr. + mis. 504-261-6163

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Established Profitable** Auto Repair Shop on busy Mandeville Highway for sale. With or without building. Retiring for medical reasons. Call evenings: 985-264-0445

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** Person needed for a company in Covington. Must have minimum 5 years of Accounts payable experience. Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30. Salary based upon experience. Email resume to hr@i-55.com

**AUDITOR Est** Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Seeks Part time Bookkeeper/ Secretary with knowledge of Quickbooks, Peachtree, and Word Processing. Fax resume: 504-838-0287

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**GROWING COMPANY** In Mandeville seeks Bookkeeper. Successful candidate will have two plus years of experience in accounts payable, and capable of multi-tasking in a fast paced environment. Experience with Great Plains of QuickBooks a plus. Fax resumes to: 985-727-7281

**HR/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR,** Bilingual & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PROCESSOR - Wanted for immediate hire. F/T permanent positions with benefits. Experienced only. Fax resume 985-641-1125. EOE

**R.E. Development/Management** firm seeks dependable, detail oriented person with accounting/administrative experience for FT position. Competitive compensation and benefits included. Fax resume to 523-1704.

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**AUTO/WHEEL SALES** AGENT must have experience, busy location in Metairie. 504-737-1558 or fax to 504-737-1703

**CHALLENGING CAREER** OPPORTUNITY. Leading automobile dealer is expanding its sales force. We are searching for individuals who are highly motivated, have good work ethic, and want to be rewarded for their efforts. WE OFFER Absolute best pay plan in the industry - Earn $45,000-$80,000 1st year, Finest sales training available, Paid while training, 5 day work week 40-45 hrs/wk, Scheduled time off, 401K, Vacation after 1 year, Hospitalization, Great inventory to sell from, Auto experience acceptable but not required. Be a part of a team with the finest reputation in the city, the largest Buick dealer in the state. Sell the hot new Sierra Pickup and the new Yukon XL. Call for appointment. Contact Ralph Roemershauser, CROWN BUICK, 2121 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70001. 504-455-6666.

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

### Employment — 4020 Agents & Sales

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Experienced Automotive** Salesperson needed for fast growing Mercedes/Volvo Dealership in Pensacola, FL. 1-800-876-4931

**INSIDE SALES** REPRESENTATIVES Waco Inc., a leading distributor of filters for air, liquid and gas filtration, seeks an Inside Sales Representative to join our Baton Rouge, LA branch. The Waco Inside Sale Representative will be responsible for new sales opportunities as well as building and maintaining successful customer relationships. Position requires constant customer interface to meet branch sales goals and perform customer service activities and some warehouse functions. The ideal candidate should possess a minimum of 3-5 years inside sales/customer service experience, preferably with an industrial distributor or manufacturer. PC proficiency on MS Office/AS400 products is a plus. We offer competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package and an annual performance bonus tied to branch profitability. This is an excellent opportunity to join a leading-edge distributor of filtration products. For immediate consideration, please send resume and salary requirements to: dwosczyna@wacofilters.com or fax to 1-800-500-8895

**Kitchen &** Bath Designer - Campbell Cabinet Co is now accepting resumes for kitchen & bath designer for inside sales in our Harahan location. The position requires reading blue prints, designing & selling kitchen & bath cabinets. Mail resume to P.O. Box 23884, Harahan, LA 70183.

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**MEDICAID FOLLOW-UP: Medical** Assistance Coordinator, Community Care/Outreach, Field Rep, Clerical Asst. Several open positions in West Jefferson Medical Center area. Help hospital patients with medical assistance applications and follow-up process. Medicaid billing experience helpful, but not required. Must be computer literate. Bi-lingual, English/Spanish preferred. Field Representative must have reliable trans, with valid drivers license and insurance. Please fax resume: 800-765-9329 or e-mail: DRMemployment@yahoo.com. E-mail Subject Llne: LA-DRM

**OUTSIDE SALES** REP - Need Wireless Telephone Reps for Outside Sales to work out of Mobile, AL, start immediately. Can find housing. Call 251-479-2617

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**Retail &** Commercial Collectors - for Metairie Collection Agency. Collection Agency Experience Req'd. Base + Commission. Fax resumes to 504-455-2814

**ROOF SALES.** Local Co. w/ state license. Pros only pls. DVD training program. 888-906-7663.

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** NEEDED 10% commission. Call Vince 734-678-8067

**Route Sales** - Golden Flake Snack Foods. Full and part-time positions available. Competitive pay and benefits. EOE. Call for details 1-800-233-0232

**ROUTE SALES** - Termite Technician Service & Sales seeks career minded, self driven & outgoing ind. $30-$35K/year, company vehicle, hospital ins, retirement & vacation. Subject to criminal, drug & driving background check. Apply 2:30-5:30pm. Mon-Fri, BILLIOT PEST CONTROL, 201 Bark Dr, Harvey LA

**SALES REP** - Food Service Equipment, 428 Maine St. Jefferson, LA. Call 504-219-9080

**Sales/Office Admin** - Covington company looking for energetic, dependable and organized inside sales/office admin, full-time position. No phone solicitation! Call 985-809-2778 or fax resume to 985-809-2725

**TELEMARKETERS Wanted** Our top sales people earned over $100K in 2004, Start at $10/hour plus bonus. If you wanna work in a fun and fast environment, where you will never hear "You are making to Much Money!" Call: Max 985-639-0292, 866-639-0292 or 504-274-8512

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

### Employment — 4021 Apartment Personnel

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4023 Banking

**STATE INVESTORS** BANK is seeking qualified applicants to fill the following positions: TELLERS Needed for FT employment at the Metairie and Mandeville offices. Requirements: minimum 1 year teller exp., energetic, personable individual with good communications skills and computer literate. Must be able to work Part day on assigned Sat. LOAN PROCESSOR For Mandeville office, minimum 1 year mortgage loan processing exp. required, knowledge of ARTA/Bankers software programs a plus and ability to multi-task. Bank offers excellent employee benefits package. Please Forward Resume to : State Investors Bank, Attn: Branch Manager, 2909 Highway 190, Mandeville LA, 70471, or Via Fax: 985-624-5431. EOE/M-F.

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Downtown New Orleans High rise Leasing and Facilities manager in immediate need of full time Administrative Assistant. Must be motivated, neat, and proficient in MS Word, XL and Outlook. Please fax resume to 504-569-1553

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Established company seeking Administrative Assistant for General Manager. Must be detail oriented, have computer & organizational skills. full benefits & 401K. Fax resume: 504-348-2782

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** F/T Front desk, multi-phone lines, general office duties, A/P, A/R, computer experience necessary. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to: 504-464-4419

**CLERICAL Needed** Full time, 8am-5pm, in Mandeville and Slidell area. General office knowledge required (10 Key) and computer skills. Fax resume to 985-643-6098 or mail to: PO BOX 6030, Slidell 70469.

**F/T Receptionist/Secretary** for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

**FRONT DESK** MANAGER - Start Immediately. 10am-7pm, Mon-Fri. $7-$9/hour. Mandeville Sports Complex. Call 985-727-7277 or fax resume to 985-727-9020

**FRONT DESK** RECEPTIONIST Full time for busy Metairie office. Typing, filing, computer literate. Fax resume to: 504-888-9323

**GENERAL OFFICE** HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

**NOTARIAL SECRETARY** for busy Mandeville Title Company. Fax resume to: 985-845-4393

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! Now seeking: **RECEPTIONISTS** VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE, FT & PT. (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or Fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PT clinic** in Mandeville looking for F/T licensed PT and F/T office assistant. Fax resume (985)893-0301.

**RECEPTIONIST** - Mature, experienced Receptionist needed for premier North Shore flooring Co. Knowledge of Nortel/Norstar phone system helpful. Knowledge of MS Word & Excel a plus. Hours: Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm; Saturday rotation, 8am-Noon. Fax resume to 985-867-9442

**Receptionist and** transcriptionist needed for Uptown medical clinic. Fax resume to 504-394-3713.

**RECEPTIONIST FULL** TIME POSITION, ENTRY LEVEL. COMPUTER EXPERIENCE W/ WORD AND EXCEL. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 10890; JEFFERSON, LA 70181

**RECEPTIONIST Light** secretarial skills for large condo community. Exc benefits, no exp nec. Must have dependable transp. Apply in person Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Emerald Forest Condominiums located behind Wal-mart in Covington. No ph calls pls!

**RECEPTIONIST Needed** ASAP, hours Monday-Friday 8-5, Mandeville office. Call 985-727-0891

**RECEPTIONIST West** Bank Company Seeking self motivated & multi-task individual for Receptionist position. Must have good computer & organizational skills. Full benefits & 401K. Fax resume: 504-348-2782

**SECRETARY Needed** for busy Real Estate Office in Metairie and in Gretna. For answering phones and data entry. Must be able to multi-task. Email resume to: rema01@bellsouth.net

**SECRETARY St.** Rose, Plush Offices, Must know Excel, Quick Books, Corel Draw. Terminal Services, Call Dottie, 504-466-8222

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** - Needed NOW! Heavy Phones & PC. Accuracy Essential in this fast-paced casual office. Fax Resumes: 504-443-9271 Attn Manager or Apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**STEAM SHIP** AGENCY Immediate positions, Bookkeeping, Data Entry, and Operations. Call 985-960-0509 please leave message

**

The Times-Picayune

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**EXPERIENCED TOP** NEW ORLEANS CHEF for Restaurant in New York City. Fax resume to 212-265-5067. Email: jezebelres@aol.com

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**GIORLANDO'S RESTAURANT** Experienced Line Cook, Dishwasher, and Front Counter Server. Apply 2-4pm, 741 Bonnabell Blvd, Old Metairie. 504-835-8593.

**Hampton Inn** & Suites Convention Center Now Hiring Room Attendants, Housepersons, Breakfast Host/Hostesses, Front Desk, Night Auditor. Transportation to and from work available. Temporary pay is $10/hour. Apply in person at 1201 Convention Center Blvd., call 504-566-9990 or email resume to tvise@highpointe.com

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen now hiring dishwashers/all kitchen pos. $13/hr.& frt of house pos. Must be frdly, prof, out-going & team ornted. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9am - 11am.

**KITCHEN HELP** Mon.-Thurs. 4am-1pm AND BAR HELP Mon.-Fri. 12pm-7pm. Apply in person B & R Restaurant and Lounge. Bridge City, Avondale shipyard area. 504-453-6619

**KITCHEN STAFF** Harahan area restaurant seeks staff members, several positions available. Great hours. Please call 504-737-0033, Mon.-Fri. from 2pm-5pm

**Major hotel** franchise in Westwego, Louisiana is seeking an experienced motel manager. Priority will be given to displaced hurricane Katrina victims. For further details, call 225 892 0899 or fax your information to 225 753 5113 or email your resume to tri526@aol.com.

**Mena's restaurant** now hiring breakfast cooks, short order cooks, prep cooks, dishwashers, and servers. 504-251-4646 or 504-525-0217

**MICHELLI'S A** neighborhood bar, est 1972 seeking exp.d bartenders to work night & wknds. FT & P/T. Must be responsible & possess out going personality. Call 394-9764 after 11:00 am for appt.

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring SOUS CHEF AND PASTRY CHEF. Great benefits, pay. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F or at rgratia@muriels.com No phone calls please!

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring Wait Staff, Line Cooks, Asst. Server, Runners, Hosts, Bartender. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F. No phone calls please!

**NIGHT AUDITORS** CHATEAU LEMOYNE FRENCH QUARTER. Front Desk, Food & Beverage, Housekeeping positions available now. 301 Dauphine St. 504-581-1303

**PICCADILLY RESTAURANTS** Job Fair For All Positions for Covington and the New Orleans area! Apply in person on Mon Oct 10 and Tue Oct 11, 10am-4pm both days at 69008 Highway 190 Service Road - Covington, 8908 Veterans Highway or 4150 General DeGaulle Drive - New Orleans. Paying up to $12/hour!!!

**RISTORANTE FILIPPO** Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY AND DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

**SERVERS, Bussers,** & hostess, exp. only. Apply in person, Annadele's Plantation Restaurant, 71495 Chestnut Street, Covington, LA.

**SERVERS, HOSTS/HOSTESS,** BARTENDERS, LINE & PRODUCTION COOKS, BUSSERS, DISH & TO-GO SPECIALISTS. Come see the difference we're making at Olive Garden with great benefits packages. We offer flexible schedules, excellent training, also meal discounts, paid vacation, day one medical/dental insurance benefits available, 401 (k) savings plan and management career advancement opportunities Apply anytime at: 1315 W.Esplanada Ave., Kenner. EOE, M/F/D/V. www.olivegarden.com OLIVE GARDEN

**SERVERS, HOSTS/HOSTESS,** BARTENDERS, LINE & PRODUCTION COOKS, BUSSERS, DISH & TO-GO SPECIALISTS. Come see the difference we're making at Olive Garden with great benefits packages. We offer flexible schedules, excellent training, also meal discounts, paid vacation, day one medical/dental insurance benefits available, 401 (k) savings plan and management career advancement opportunities Apply anytime at: 1315 W.Esplanada Ave., Kenner. EOE, M/F/D/V. www.olivegarden.com OLIVE GARDEN

**SERVERS, Morton's** Seafood Restaurant in Madisonville now hiring exp. Servers. $5/hr. plus tips. Please Apply in person at 702 Water St.

**TEMP CHEF** for Emergency Response Team! Fix/Clean 3 meals/day, meal planning & shopping. Mon-Sun Approx 84/wk. Send Resume Fax 413-480-3457 or Email mswindell@firstrestoration.com

**Wait staff** and all kitchen positions available. The Dakota Restaurant 629 N. Highway 190 Covington

### 4080 Household

**Caregiver, Live-in** for Mother. Metairie area. 504-782-7709

**House Keeper** Needed Bilingual in Gretna area. 225-920-2500/ 225-812-9453/225-309-6775.

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**Nanny Needed** to live in our home every other week. Must own a reliable car to transport twins to school. $250/week. 601-365-9247. Picayune MS. (30 Min. from Slidell)

**Part Time** Sitter for elderly lady, in Mandeville. Light housekeeping. No-smoking. Call Linda 985-237-9144

**SITTERS Needed** for Elderly Care, must have recent references, transportation, for Covington/Mandeville/ Slidell area. Call 985-871-9656

### 4095 Legal

**CASE MANAGERS:** Busy personal injury law firm looking for energetic and motivated Case Managers. Spanish/English speaking people preferred. Fax resumes to Tooraj at: 1800-507-2093 or email to: Tbadie@sipes-associates.com

**Legal Secretary** for Metairie Office. Apply at 3829 Veterans Blvd., Suite 205 or fax resume to 504-455-4480

**NEW ORLEANS** CBD Law Firm seeks both and experienced full time Legal Secretary and a Paralegal. Temporarily located in Baton Rouge, will relocate to N.O soon. Typing speed of 70+wpm with Word and Word Perfect experience required. salary based on experience firm can locate housing if needed. Please fax resume to office manager 225-382-2079 or mail to 240 Laurel St, Baton Rouge 70801

**PARALEGAL Old** Metairie Law Firm on Metairie Road looking for part and full time Paralegals. Minimum 5 yrs exp. Good Salary, Benefits, Free Parking & Flexible Hours. Fax resume to: 504-828-0024 or email kieferlaw@aol.com

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Established Furniture Company. looking for highly motivated self starter. Excellent working environment, salary and benefits. Apply in person at 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner LA.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Self Storage, West Bank facility needs F/T Assistant Mgr, 214-837-7200

**KENNER OFFICE** MANAGER Word, Excel, QuickBooks Pro. Experience helps. Fax 504-468-9523

**MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR** 7-10 years experience in maintaining/servicing electrical mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment in an industrial environment in facilities maintenance. Minimum 2-3 years supervisory experience of maintenance personnel in an industrial setting. Experience with maintenance building electrical, HVAC, lighting and plumbing systems. Must have knowledge and understanding of industrial processes and preventative maintenance programs. Must have formal training in the maintenance trades or the military. Must be able to read and interpret technical and maintenance manuals. Call 305-622-4523 or fax resume to: 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** needed for National Company in Bogalusa. Good benefits. Send resume to 2032 Columbia St. Bogalusa LA, 70427 or fax 985-735-6992

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

**SELF STORAGE** FACILITY OFFICE MANAGER A National leader in the self storage industry is seeking qualified managers for an award winning facility in Harahan, LA. Duties include utilizing phone skills to generate walk-in sales, outstanding customer service, and attaining revenue goals, daily office duties, accounts recievable, data collection, operations reporting, banking, marketing, and general light maintenance of the facility. Qualified candidates will have 1-2 years related experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, familiarity with computers, and outstanding organizational skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Equal Employment Opportunity Organization. These are full time positions and are eligible for commissions, bonuses, medical, dental, and other competitive benefits. Interested applicants should fax their resume to 770-801-0068 or Email resume to selfstoragemgr2005@yahoo.com

### 4105 Marine

**DECK HAND** $150/day. Must have 1 year experience on Fleet towboat. 7 days on, 7 days off, live on boat. 504-416-2128

**Marine Personnel** Exp inland Captains and Deck hands. Captain's pay starting at $300-$325 per day, plus benefits. Call 504-737-6994

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

**Tow Boat** Pilots To start immed. ly, must be posted from New Orleans Harbor and West Canal, 200 ton or Master or Mate of towing license req., $330-$350 per day, health ins. incl.d, 28/14 schedule, 225-806-9376

### 4110 Mechanical

**EXPERIENCED MECHANIC** Must have own tools. Call: 504-468-2527

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELL EST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**AUTO MECHANIC** must have tools, plenty of work, Metairie area. Please call 504-737-1558 or fax to 504-737-1703

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. GM techs for fast growing service department in Baton Rouge area. Full benefits available, top pay for top techs. Mon.-Fri. Email resume to: gmtechnician@hotmail.com

**BODY MECHANIC,** experienced and 1 experienced body helper. 504-464-1133 or 504-982-6200

**BODY SHOP** PAINTERS HELPER, Experience only. Apply within. Rainbow Northshore. 985-892-2000

**Briggs Equipment** has immed. opening for Forklift Tech. and CDL Drivers. We offer top wages + Excellent benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, health insurance, company stock plan. For more info. Call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

**CERT DETROIT** DIESEL 71/53 SERIES MECHANIC/SHOP SUPV Immed Opening Guar 40 hr/ some O/T 985-892-0056/fx 985-892-4061

**DIESEL CRANKSHAFT** AND CAMSHAFT GRINDER MACHINISTS Pay based on experience. 504-347-8061

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please Call Becky 985-876-3000

**DIESEL TRUCK** MECHANIC - Penske Truck Leasing, a global transportation services provider, is currently seeking an experienced individual to join our team in the New Orleans area. You will remvoe/replace major components and all series of motor/truck and trailer equipment at the direction of a Lead Technician or Maintenance Supervisor. Minimum of 1-3 years practical experience or equivalent combination of related education and experience. Proficiency in use of all tools required. Fax resume to Bryan Leleux, 504-733-6563

**EXPERIENCED Mechanics** needed for outdoor power equipment dealership. Competitive pay, benefits available. Fax resume to: 985-893-5198 or apply in person at Evergreen Tractor, 1017 Highway 190 Bypass, Covington

**GOLF COURSE** MECHANIC Money Hill Golf and Country Club. Must have knowledge of golf course equipment, be motivated and detail oriented. Please call 985-893-7251

**GOODYEAR AUTO** SERVICE CENTERS - Metairie and Kenner, New Orleans & Gretna locations. We are currently hiring the following positions... Auto Technicians, General Maintenance Technicians, & Tire Techs. This is a great opportunity! Top Pay and Paid uniforms. Please call Lubin at 504-837-7226 or Kevin at 504-464-0244.

**MACHINIST Miami** based office seeking to fill 2 positions with experience with CNC, mill, and grind-hard chrome. Will perform all setup procedures for machining components utilizing available equipment. For more information call 305-622-4523 or fax 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**MECHANIC Aerial** Access Equipment is seeking an experienced mechanic. Excellent compensation package including medical, vacation, holiday and 401k retirement benefits. Apply in person at 1808 Engineers Rd, Belle Chasse, LA or fax resume to 504-392-2090

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day/wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC, SERVICE** TECHNICIAN, OFFICE CLERK Openings Available Immediately. 985-892-6304

**Needed VW** SERVICE MANAGER, also VW and Mazda service technicians. Please call 800-663-4240 or send resume to QUALITY MAZDA VW, 4301 Greensboro Ave; Tuscaloosa, Al 35405

**NORTH SHORE** TOYOTA Needs 10 Technicians, 5 Lube Technicians and 5 detail personnel. Business is booming, come work for the fastest growing dealership on the North Shore. Toyota experience a plus, ASE certifications a plus. Benefits, 401K, health, dental, life, paid vacations, uniforms, training. Please apply in person 68500 Hwy 190 Service Rd, Covington, La 70433. 985-893-7778

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**RADIATOR REPAIRMAN,** MECHANIC Experience needed. Helpers also needed, Regis Radiator Service, Call 504-341-9118

**SMALL ENGINE** MECHANIC Needed immediately, 1945 Surgi Dr. Mandeville LA. 985-727-3143

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

### 4120 Medical

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL** CENTER In need of part time Tech to assist in procedures & clean instruments. Experience preferred but not required. St. Tammany area office. Please fax resume to 985-645-9393

**CANNON HOSPICE** is OPEN Has Immediate needs for following: Apply in person or fax to 504-648-1806. Rn's, LPN's/nights, Cna's, Asst. DON, Medicaid/Medicare AP, Unit Secretary, Bereavement w/MSW or LCSW. Competitive salary & benefits avail.

**CERTIFIED PHARMACY** TECH/ CASHIER And Cashier. Pleasant atmosphere. Apply at the Medicine Shop 999 Robert Blvd, Slidell, 9-5:30 M-F.

**CHAIRSIDE DENTAL** ASSISTANT experience preferred but not required, fax resume to 504-831-5957 or call 504-831-4895

**CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT** - 2 positions. X-ray certification helpful. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-885-0762

**CLINICAL STAFF** - (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) Needed for Management positions in growing community based mental health org. To learn more & submit resume: www.sbcs.us, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, 499 Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08002. Fax: 856-773-0210

**CNA'S, CMA'S** & LPN'S Needed for Med Passes and private duty. Call Integra Care at: 985-340-9940 or fax: 985-340-9941

**COLLECTIONS CLERK** Experience in Medicare Insurance posting. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** Needed immediately. Call Dr. Martin's office at: 504-833-2594

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** New Orleans Dental Center on West bank in Harvey is hiring experienced Dental Assistants. Please Call 504-347-6000 or Fax Resume to: 504-340-0186 or Apply in person at 3909 Lapalco Boulevard, Suite 202 Harvey

**DENTAL ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST** Experienced, West Bank. Call 504-367-6135.

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS** needed. Upper Scale Dental Office located on the West Bank looking for 2 exp. assistants accustomed to treating quality patients. 504-392-0221

**Dental/Office Asst** Full Time needed for busy Mandeville Family Practice. Mail resume to 20121 Helenberg Rd. #1; Covington, LA 70433

**Direct Service** Prof. for Non-Profit. Care of elderly & disabled. Must have high school diploma, own transportation, car ins. Pls. call 504-512-2243, 504-228-6850.

**FRONT DESK** RECEPTIONIST Full time for busy Metairie office. Typing, filing, computer literate. Fax resume to: 504-888-9323

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**LPN FT** with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**MEDICAL OFFICE** CLERK FT for busy W. Bank cardiology office. Bi-lingual Spanish preferred. Call Susan at 504-349-6365. Fax Resume to: 504-349-6355

**Medical Office** position open, M-F; dialysis, medical billing experience preferred. For more info call 985-479-6104 or email mah1974@aol.com

**MEMORIAL HOSPICE** Positions North Shore/South Shore: DON, RN, LPN, CNA, volunteer coordinator, chaplain. 1-888-643-2041 or fax 985-626-8773. Written Inquirers: PO BOX 650 Mandeville, 70470.

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**MRI Technologist-Expanding** outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologist with preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience required. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

**Northeastern Children's** Dental office seeks enthusiastic individuals to fill positions in Dental Assisting, Front Desk, and Lab Technician who will also play our charming character, Bippo The Hippo. Please call 985-641-8437 for more info

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**OFFICE MGR** for busy 2 position allergy practice located in Covington. Experience w/ insurance and patient billing, A/R & electronic claims. Knowledge Quicken/Quick Books, A/P & payroll processing, strong interpersonal skills. Min. 3 yr office management exp. F/T position. Fax resume to 985-845-2668

**OMEGA HOSPITAL** LLC. Now Hiring full time employees. RN, LPN, Patient Care Techs, Housekeepers, Purchasing Agent. Excellent pay, benefits, 401K. 504-832-4200 or fax: 504-849-4858

**PCAs &** CNAs Needed for a personal care service agency. Call Roz @ Archangel: 504-366-0494

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHARMACY TECH,** Fully Licensed. Send Resumes To: Pharmacy Tech, P.O.BOX 1075. Abita Springs, LA 70420

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** OR LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT Needed for Metairie Area to start immediately! Please call 225-677-5464

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, excellent hours, PT owned and operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845

**PHYSICIANS AND** NURSES ATTENTION PLEASE! Positions available immediately throughout the US. Offering a wide range of nationwide employers and benefits including: Sign-on Bonuses and Student loan repayment. All costs including your interview and moving expenses are covered. Contact Medicorp toll free, 1-877-295-7778 or log on, www.medicorpinc.com

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! HIRING NOW FOR LPNs, CNAs, DIETARY TECHS, HOUSEKEEPERS, & RECEPTIONISTS. VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE. FT/PT/PRN (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PROGRESSIVE HOME** HEALTH CARE. WE ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING WITH: RNs/PTs/OTs/ Aides/Sitters. WE CAN FILL YOUR SCHEDULE. ALL AREAS: HOUMA, NORTHSHORE, BATON ROUGE, WESTBANK, EASTBANK, NEW ORLEANS. FAX RESUMES TO: 504-263-8320

**RECEPTIONIST Metairie** Dental Office, experienced only, Fax Resume to: 504-835-8136

**REGISTERED DENTAL** HYGIENIST Algiers area. Mon-Thurs, 7:45-5:15. Call Kathleen 504-394-5330

**Reliable Community** Alternatives, Inc. - DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF/PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT - Individuals who are compassionate, reliable, possess excellent writing skills & are willing to work with the elderly and/or individuals w/disabilities in their home or in the community. Various shifts avail immediately. Call 504-779-4740. Or apply in person at 5416 Veterans Blvd, suite 315, Metairie. Must pass criminal background.

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**ST CHARLES** Healthcare, Making Home, home again. LPN'S, at St Charles Healthcare We're back to our normal routine, at making a home for our residences & employee. We are a long-term care facility, located in the heart of New Orleans, & are seeking staff members for the following areas: LPN's, CNA's, Cooks, Housekeeping. If you are interested in helping us make home, home again, please apply at: St Charles Healthcare ATTN: Tansy Magendie, 1539 Delachaise St, New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-895-3953

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: $8.00/hr all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB is preparing to Re-Open. If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: Director of Nursing w/experience in long term care, Medicare Biller, LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry, & Maintenance. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**SURGICAL TECHNICIAN** Full time for physician practice, to assist in clinic and surgery. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**VOLUNTEERS OF** AMERICA DIRECT CARE STAFF Needed for individuals with developmental disabilities residing in local community homes. Duties include assistance and support with activities of daily living, active treatment and behavioral support. Various shifts available immediately for Slidell and Hammond areas. if interested, please call Harriett Joseph at Volunteers of America, 504-835-3005. Criminal background check required

**WE ARE** Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**WYNHOVEN HEALTHCARE** CENTER A Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Immediate Openings Available for All Positions: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping, Dietary, Maintenance. Join our Mission-driven, Compassionate & Caring Team. Call 504-347-0777 Fax: 504-620-3032

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

**X-RAY Tech** for Metairie orth surg off. Call Vicki @ 504-887-4757. mwf 9:30-12

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8131/985-320-1111

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT** - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/ hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

**Looking for** Access Control Tech with GE/Casi Rusco exp. Contact Sherry at: 800-259-4422 or fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attention Sherry

**Major oil** and gas Industry Service based in Dubai UAE-contractor with diverse business in Petrochemical Facility construction, maintenance, process module fabrication, Shipyard construction and refurbishment seeks, motivated professionals in the following fields with varied levels of experience in: Project Management Construction Management and Supervision Quantity Surveying/Cost Engineering Electrical and Instrumental Installations Offshore Hookup Supervision Fabrication Yard Management Oil Rig (Onshore and Offshore) Construction and Refurbishment Management and Supervision. The UAE offers a vibrant and satisfying lifestyle with all the advantages of a tax free environment. The oil and gas industry likewise is embarking on a period of expansion and development. Interested individuals should apply to: E-Mail ID: Bulldog@airmail.net and hrunitedstates@yahoo.com OR

UAE Job Postings c/o LMS 5810 Star Lane Houston, Texas 77057 Fax: 713-977-9749

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Part Time** Vet Tech/Receptionist. Experience preferred. Self motivation mandatory. Contact: 985-845-4681

**PROFESSIONAL LAND** SURVEYING FIRM Needs Party Chiefs, Instrument Men, Rodman, and CAD Operators in Mandeville, La. Fax 985-626-0057 or Email: jebco1@bellsouth.net

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/ chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**Tech Needed** in N.O. area to work on CCTV & Access Control Systems. Strong computer & database skills a plus. Fax resume to 504-733-0006 Attn Sherry

**WE ARE** ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4145 Retail

**BEST BUY** in store job fair, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, West Bank store at 1601 W Bank Xway Ste A, Harvey, LA 75008. Monday-Friday 8am to 11pm, and 4pm to 6pm, Veterans Blvd store 6205 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA, 70003. Monday-Friday 1pm to 4pm, Slidell store, at 120 Northshore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70459. Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 pm, Covington store, 69344 Hwy 21, Covington, LA, 70433. Prior to visiting our job fair apply on-line at careers.bestbuy.com. Now hiring seasonal & F/T & P/T, Cashiers, Customer Service, Gen. Sales, Merchandising, Music/Software/Gaming, Srvc Tech, Computer Tech/Geek Squad, Mobile Installer Tech, Shipping/ Recieving, Security/LP, Delivery Drivers. EOE DFWP

**Enlace, the** largest and fastest growing Spanish Yellow Page Directory in the U.S., is looking for Outside Sales Representatives to work directly with local retailers and manufacturers to create online and print advertising. Talent for speaking Spanish is not required. We offer an excellent compensation package which includes a Base Salary + Commission, and full benefits. Email resumes: atincher@cobaltpublishing.com

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**RETAIL Sears** We are holding a Job Fair on October 12 from 9am-12pm at the Sears located at North Shore Square Mall: 150 North Shore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70460. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Base Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, in-home HVAC Service Technicians (product services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit number 2026, Automotive unit number 6118. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**SEARS We** are holding a Job Fair on October 14 from 1pm-4pm at the Sears Clearview location: 4400 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA 70006. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, In-home Laundry and Lawn & Garden Technicians (Product Services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit #1226, Automotive unit #6326. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**STORE MANAGER/OPERATOR** For successful West Bank Convenience store, experience necessary, top pay, apply now! 985-796-3001 or 504-577-6557

**STORE MGR,** Sales Mgr, Credit Manager, Delivery Drivers, Colortyme now hiring all positions, $20,000-$40,000 based on position & exp. Apply at Colortyme Westside North Center #18A in Gretena/fax resume to Corporate Office 985-419-0169.

### 4147 Security

**INNER PARISH** SECURITY Is now taking applications for an experienced and licensed alarm technician. Paid Weekly. You may call us at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY INNER** PARISH Is now taking applications for Security Guards. Paid weekly. Retirees welcome! Pay based on exp. New Orleans positions available with housing included. You may contact us by phone at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**SECURITY OFFICER** Covenant Security Services (CSS), A leader in commercial security is currently seeking displaced unarmed security officers to work in New Orleans, LA. Successful candidates will posses a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, good driving record and be willing to submit to a drug test and background check. CSS will provide competitive wages, free housing and food. For more information, or to apply, please contact Dominic Ferrara at 267-252-7210 from 8am-5pm. CSS is proud to be an EOE.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T. Must be 21. Call Scheuering Security 504-834-1088

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Cell 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS** HIRING NOW MANDEVILLE, 674-0086 SLIDELL, 643-7400

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**CHILDCARE POSITIONS,** PT/ FT. At Children's Cottage in Mandeville. Call 985-626-1676

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**Teachers! Kindercare** Learning Center in Feitel, is now accepting applications for P/T and F/T teaching positions. Successful candidates will have to have at least 1 year of childcare experience, and/or a degree. Please apply in person at the following Kindercare Learning Center, between the hours of 10am-3pm: 1040 Joe Buccaran Dr. Feitel, LA 70458

**VIOLIN &** or Band Instructor, P/T, Harahan/Mandeville/Covington. 985-674-2992/504-738-3050

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**Union Carbide** Corporation a wholly owned subsidiary of the DOW Chemical Company has the following opportunities available: Process Technician #0500979 Check out our website at www.careersatdow.com for complete job descriptions and responsibilities. To be considered for a position, visit us online (Limited testing seats will be available) www.dowcareers.com/tech (Click on Job Title or Job #) Smoke-free/drug-free environment We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

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**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

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ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Residences for Sale

### 7555 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**Chateau Golf** course fsbo $600K, 3785sf, 1/3+ac, 4br/3.5ba, 5 Chateau Mouton. 504-458-8317

**Chateau Lakefrt** 2550 SF, $350K. 4BR/2BA, extras, 16x20 shed, pool. 850-859-9917 after 3pm.

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.MetairieHomeSeller.com The Home Company Realtor, (504)463-5899

**HIGH &** DRY In Chateau Estates! Well maintained & spacious home on beautiful golf course lot, $537,000. Jeff: 504-234-1630 Keller Williams Realty N.O.

**HIGH AND** DRY C1 Zone, New Orleans-style Duplex. Mostly renovated, close to I10. 6 rms, 2 BAs, cent AC, carport/laund rm both sides. 504-915-5042 or 504-512-0201

**High/Dry-Kenner, 4BR,1** 3/4 BA, 1892 sqft, 208k, 1010 Minor St. 504-455-1114/460-6745

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

**KENNER Chateau** Estates, no flood, great loc., 4BR, 2BA, new roof, gutters and more! $289,000, 504-469-7630/919-1208

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

**NO FLOOD** SETON PARK 4000 ST JAMES DR 2550 SF 4 B/3-2 BA $339K OBO 504-352-6018

### 7560 West Bank

**1 Bedroom** Efficiency in Bridge City, lot 25x100, fenced yard, $45,000. 985-229-1993

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**2 BEDROOM,** 1 Bath, central A/H, 112 12th Street, Bridge City, high & dry, $105,000/OBO. 504-341-1465or 865-688-2768

**2BR, 1.5BA** ,fireplace, garage, Picayune, NO KATRINA DAMAGE, 601-799-2626; 601-818-1047

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**3Br/2Ba, approx** 2500 sq.ft., some storm damage. $115,000. Call 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

**Algiers 3541** Indiana, new construction, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,800 sq. ft., $210,000. Owner/agent. 201-736-4567

**ALGIERS New** Orleans Alive - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1200 square foot living area, newly renovated completely. No damage. $165,000 - BEST OFFER NOW - 504-393-7162, 504-214-5516

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**Beau Chene** home for rent ($2500) or lease purchase or purchase (low 300's, owner finance). 4bd, 2.5bth, large yard. 985-966-7495

**BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA** Condo in exc cond. Frpl, alarm, pvt backyard, fully equipped kit. $159,000. 504-362-8756, 504-812-6517

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GREAT open** 3/2 bonus rm 1857sqft brick new kit & paint 2cargar never flooded LOTS of EXTRAS 232-5104 232-7676 1617 Appleby Ln $172,000

**GRETNA** - NEW CONSTRUCTION! Gated community just 5 mins from the CBD. New homes available immediately, untouched by Katrina, no flooding. Prices starting at $209,900. Hamilton Oaks, 504-324-1886

**GRETNA BY** OWNER. $205K. 349 Southwood Dr. Never flooded. New roof, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 flr., ext. room and storage shed, pavement all around, design garden. 832-474-2151 or 985-651-1411

**GRETNA, 4-Plex,** 2 BR, 1.5 BA, $250K: 3 BR Dbl, $160K: 2&3 BR Townhouse, $95K. 504-340-3158

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**HARVEY/STONEBRIDGE on** golf course. 4 BR/2 BA, 2600 SF living, high & dry, plenty closet of space, $360,000. 504-723-1275

**HOUSING AVAILABLE &** HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 or email sydneyrichoux@cox.net

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba $445,000 -see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**LULINGS Best** kept secret. 2700 sq. ft., 2 story, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, swimming pool, large lot, $250,000. Call 985-331-1700 or 504-421-3311

**MARRERO 3** BR/2 BA, recent remodel, no storm damage, 5428 Faith Dr, $155,000. 225-637-2016

**Marrero 3bdrm,** 2bath, over 1/2 acre, inground pool,rear yd access w/ 1bdrm guest. Both inc. all appl. 5000sf ttot. Renovated. 504-453-1631

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**MARRERO New** Construction 3 New Homes. Will Be Completed in 60 to 90 Days, 2000 Sq. Ft. Living Area, 2600-2750 total Sq. Ft., Quiet Cul-De-Sac Street. 10 minutes away from CBD. No Flood or Katrina Damage! All Brick, Top Quality Construction. 5 More Lots to Build on, 5 Plans to choice from. Prices starting at $249,900. Call 504-328-1437 or 504-228-9557

**MARRRERO 604** Allo St, 3BR, 2BA, newly renovated, $129,000. 504-737-4280 or 504-931-5231

**OLD GRETNA** 1114 10th St. Renovated, did not flood. $149K. Poss rent to own. 504-258-3842

**PLEASANT RIDGE,** Luxury 4 BR, 3 BA, 4000sf, gated, avail now, furn. or not, to many extras to list, $640,000. Agent 504-393-7690

**Ready now.** 3 BR. Marrero. $130,000. Sidney, 504-388-6788. Progressive R.E. 504-361-3238

**Ready now.** 3 BR. Terrytown. $170,000. Sidney, 504-388-6788. Progressive R.E. 504-361-3238

**Terrytown 4** Bedroom, 2 Bath Lrg Living Area 689 E. Niagara Cir. $138,500. Call Ann 504-610-6952

**WEST BANK** For Sale in Avondale, 3BR/1.5BA, needs carpet and paint. $88,900. 850-501-2464

**WEST WEGO** 722 Avenue F. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1400 Sq. Ft, newly renovated. No Storm Damage $120,000. 504-338-8888

### 7570 Mandeville/Covington

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**ABITA SPRINGS** 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom home, double lot, completely renovated in 2002, 1200 sq.ft, Norman Rockwell setting. Only $225,000. 985-264-9326

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Acadian on** Cul de sac 5bd/3b/2gar, pool, .49acre $389,500. Please call 985-624-9331 or www.infotube.net, ad#111805

**Beau Chene** 4BR/4BA, 3500 sqft, golf course, pool, 10' ceilings, lots more. $434,000. 985-845-2085

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Beautiful North** Shore Home For Sale By Owner. 1125 Forest Ln, Mandeville. 3 br, 2 1/2 bath. Low $300,000's! Open House, Sun 10/9, 12-4

**Beautiful raised** acadian/1AC. Mandeville best schls, 4BR/2.5BA, cust. mill wk, lg open kit/din/+, 2300 SF, lg wind.s, french drs to deck. 985-264-5269

**CAN VACATE** IN 2 WEEKS! Immac 3BR/2BA, approx 1500 SF. Great location & schools, $185,000. 985-892-4534 or 985-871-7995

**COVINGTON 1007** W 24th, 1200 sq ft home, 150x150 lot, private $140,000. 850-323-1185 or 850-323-1186 FSBO

**Covington 2** bedroom/1 bath, .5 acre, central heat/air, $80,000. 504-218-5357/985-634-0728

**COVINGTON 3** Br, 2 full Ba, back porch, lot 60x150, no storm damage. $299,000. 985-502-0156

**Covington 3-20** Acres w/ house and barn. Either all 20 ACs or 3 and over for sale. Approximately 10 mi. north of Covington. Minutes from fire dept and School. 985-264-7057

**COVINGTON 3BR,** 2BA brick home on 1 acre with oaks. Deck and spa. $168,000. 985-893-4694

**COVINGTON EXEC** ESTATE. high & dry! 3.75 acres. 4100 + square foot; excellent condition. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, bonus room. Large den, LV/DR; Master suite w/ Jacuzzi; Separate studio (perfect for mother-in-law) Three 2 car garages: Elegant entry w/ iron gate. Covered patio w/ tile floors, gazebo, green house; stocked pond & more $399,000.00 call 985 210-9571; 985 535-2889;985 817-0180. Geri or Abril.

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890K, for more details on this esquisite home, call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 Progressive Real Estate

**Covington FSBO,** 2BR, 1BA, outside storage, corner lot, $169,000, Call 985-893-8674

**Covington great** area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Covington, 1** Br Condo, Pool, Fitness, Internet Access, Club House, $119,500. Will Consider Lease $1200/mo. 985-626-0071

**Covington, 2,689** sq. ft. living, 3.89 acres, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, $315,000. 985-373-2199

**Covington. New** Construction 4 bedroom, 3 bath, Acadian, 2700 living, 3400 under beams square feet. Lot 2A Penny Ln. off of 8th St. $428,500. 985-807-5060

**Folsom 2** BR, 1 BA, 100 yr home, C1 lot, Near Hwy 25 & Hwy 40. $87000. 985-705-1899

**FOLSOM 2BR,** 2BA, w/guest hse, barn, pool, 10 ac, fncd, $350K, consider split. 803-349-5588

**For Sale-Owner,** Mandeville, 4bd 2ba, 1,900 sf, great schools, high & dry, big lot, 20' x 20' deck, $250,000 985-951-7832

**Lacombe 2.3** acres on bayou Lacombe, high ground, no flooding! 2 homes, each 3 BR, 2 BA, large detached gar., covered pool, $780,000. 28183 Main St, 985-882-5871 appt only

**Lacombe Cottage,** 2000sqft. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, loft upstairs, $275,000. Call 985-630-8528

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

**Madisonville New** const., 4BR/3BA, over 3200 SF living area, granite counter-tops, Re-Max R.E.P, 985-626-1561/871-4940

**Mandeville *NEW** LISTING* 5 bedroom, 2 bath, $349K. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**Mandeville 1292** Springwater Dr, Meadowbrook Sub-Division, 4 BR/3 BA, 2473 SF, $350,000. Call 504-701-8758

**Mandeville 2** Bedroom, 2 Bath 1200 sf condo in good school district $133,000. Please call (504) 259-6245

**MANDEVILLE 2** Year Od, 3BR, 2.5BA, 2660 Sq. Ft. furn on 1/2 acre lot. Additional 1200 sq. ft. warehouse on rear of property, $335,000. 985-727-7503

**Mandeville 645** BARBARA PLACE, New Golden Shores, 4 bedroom, 2 baths, 2400 square feet of living area, $250,000. 985-845-7248 or 985-630-5085

**Mandeville Condos** 1 block from Lake, 3 br - $215,000. 2 br - $199,000. 985-502-2000

**Mandeville Desirable** Cornerstone. Green Leaves subdiv. 3000 sf, culdesac, precious! By appt only. $370,000. 985-624-8168

**Mandeville Gated** Hunter's Glen, near Causeway/I-12, 2712 SF, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1.5 acre, flood zone C, well maint., Move in soon, $385,000, 985-727-1663

**MANDEVILLE Great** Location! Excellent schools! 4 bedroom, 2 bath, new paint and carpet, $249,600. 985-264-4109 or 985-892-4663 or 985-732-5527

**Mandeville Schools:** LR, DR, 5BR, 2.5BA, 2 dens. Pool, 1.2 acres, $250,000. 985-892-1201

**MANDEVILLE, Hidden** Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

**MANDEVILLE/COVINGTON 3** homes, move-in condition, 5 minutes to Causeway. 3BR, 2BA. 1709 sq. ft. living, $240,000. 5BR, 3BA, 3720 sq. ft. living, golf-course view, furnished, awesome, $599,900. 5BR, 3.5BA, 3475 sq. ft. living, $359,900. Ownr/agt. 985-809-9568

**MANDEVILLE/GREENLEAVES SUBDIVISION** Lovely 4BR/3.25BA home on quiet cul de sac, minutes from Causeway. 2616 square foot living. $340,000. Call 985-778-1369 or 985-893-7982

**Money Hill,** FSBO, By Appt. Only. 985-502-3848, Serious Inquires Only. $247,500.

**Old Military** Rd. Immediate occupancy. No flooding. Totally remodeled. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 31 acres. 504-400-6749

**PONCHATOULA -** 3900 sf acadian home. 40x60 shop, 11+ acres, pond. $315,000. 985-386-7621

### 7580 Slidell

**4161 Dauphine** Rd Slidell, 3BR, 2BA, high ceiling, 1200sf. No Damage. Asking $114,000. (337)344-7603

### 7580 Slidell

**62189 NORTH** 16TH ST. Off 3rd St. Hwy. 11. Lease to buy or sell! 3 BR, 2 BA, total electric. 8 yrs old. 985-774-9993

**FSBO CrossGates** No flooding 4 br, 2ba, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., many amenities! $239,000 (985)726-0393

**PEARL RIVER** AREA, FSBO. Brick 3Br/2Ba, fenced yard, separate garage, 1 acre, 1710 SF, all electric, $130,000. 985-640-8252 or 985-640-7811

**SLIDELL 4** bd, 2.5 ba, 2701 sq ft, Breckenridge Subdiv, inground heated pool w/spa, never flooded, excel sch dist. $309,000. Call Tammy 985-643-7400, night/weekends 985-643-8814

**SLIDELL 5** bedroom/3 bath, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984/985-781-5459

### 7590 River Parish – East Bank

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.LaPlaceHomeSeller.com The Home Company Realtors (985)652-SOLD(7653)

**La PLACE** 3Br +study, 2 bath, 1642 SF, 2 car garage, no damage, asking $200K. 504-559-0958

**LA PLACE,** Riverlands, 2 story, 4 bedroom, 24x24 shed, $155,000. Call 985-651-8468

**ST ANDREWS** ESTATES, gorgeous home on golf course, super high ceilings, crown molding, 2 studies w/ book shelves, 3 Fam. Rm., master suite w/ luxury master BA, formal Din. Rm., gourmet kit, island bar, hardwood flr., ceramic tile. 550 SF screened patio, 28 by 21 game room. Angelle Songy 985-651-0021 ext. 12 Century 21 Judy Songy

### 7600 River Parish – West Bank

**318 S.** Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

**Luling, Gorgeous** 5/4.5 home. 1 yr old, 4800 SF, great school district. Must sell! $479K/OBO. 985-785-8769/504-756-6425

### 7610 Tangipahoa Parish

**Between Kentwood** & Amite, LA, 4 bdrm, 3 bth, 3,000 sq ft, 28 acres country. 1 hr from BR, 1.5 hr from NO. Call 225-791-2921

### 7612 Washington Parish

**4BR, 3** bath, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg, $450,000 985-516-0237

**Franklinton in** city limits, 1 year old home, 1800 sq. ft., lived in for 3 months, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, asking $144,000 for sale by owner. 985-705-9959

**Home on** 6 acres, pond. 2BR, 1.5BA, 1200 sq.ft. Also trlr. in back. $148,000. 985-839-0053

### 7613 Ascension/ Livingston Parishes

**BRAND NEW** HOME, Denham Springs, 3br/2ba, gated subdivision, 1,650 s.f., 2-car garage, fenced yard, full kitchen, ready to move in! $197,000 Call: 504-638-5343 (Mark)

### 7615 Mississippi

**Gulfport-3bd/2ba 2100sq.ft.,** inc 2 car garage. $245,000. 228-326-4341

**HURRICANE GET-AWAY** HOME! 250 mi N of mouth MS River. Off I-55/55 mi S of Jackson in Brookhaven, MS. Built '98. 5Br/4BA, (5th BR priv BA/Dress & Sitt area). 2 stry. Brick/Stucco w/cathedral Ceil. Approx 6500 SF on approx 20 ac. Access to priv lake. Indoor pool. Lots of extras. Top of the line appl. Appoint only 601-833-6403 or 601-833-8806.

**New construction,** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community, $187,000. 601-795-0015

**PICAYUNE 3** bedroom, 2 bath, 1.5 acres, 2100 square feet, $199,500. 601-749-4234

**Purvis, MS** land for sale: 152 acres, rolling hills, mostly pasture. 10 minutes from town, 20 minutes from Hattiesburg. $4000.00/acre. ph#601-270-9713

**See lormanplantation.com** open house 10/16/05. call 662-871-1676

**Smith Co,** MS Beautiful 4000 Sq. Ft. Home, 7 Ac, Walk Out Basement, $300,000. Additional 150 Ac Land/Timber. 601-382-3347

### 7620 Gulf Coast

**Bay St** Louis, Log Cabin. 7 mins to the Jordan River, Reduced due to Katrina, Structural Okay, repairs will be needed, $66,000 from $125,000. 329-2832

**Modern home,** scenic windows, granite countertops 53 acres on Tchoutacabouffa River, private beach. Home never flooded. 15 minutes to Biloxi beach. $550,000. Call (228) 860-9860 after 3:00 p.m.

**VANCLEAVE, MS.** 2000 SF, Ranch-style, 3BR, 2BA, 4 acres, large kit, great rm, fplc, huge master BR/BA, 3 yrs old, fncd and prvt. Asking $300K. 228-297-8949 or 228-297-8923

### 7625 Country

**Franklinton, Country** home for sale, 8 years old, just updated on 2 acres. 4000 square feet living area. 4 bedroom, 4 bath. Additional acreage available. $475,000. 985-848-4473

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**'78 Mobile** 14X70 2BR/2BA, some updates, new vinyl siding, $6350, 985-839-8973/504-376-4279

**1996 3** BR, 2 BA, 16 x 80 ft, Magnolia Magnum model single wide. On 12,500 sq. ft. waterfront lot w/lease paid until 6/06 on Bayou Choctaw near Plaquemine. Easy access to boat ramp. Gas stove, furnace, water heater/refrig & select furn incld. $27,500. 225-545-7999

**2000, 52** x 32 dble wide; 3 br/2 ba; lrg laundry rm; hardwood floors; sheetrock walls; oak cabinets; all appliances; fireplace; many upgrades; beautiful home in excellent condition. $45,000. Call (985)386-8417 or (985)320-5167 to set up appt for viewing.

**3br/2bth Mobile** Home- Dbl-wide 28x52. Price includes move. Fridge ,w/d, dishw, stove, micro incl. 28K obo. 504-421-5462.

**Beautiful Dbl.** wide Mfg home 3b/2b on 1.63 acres in Albany La. 225-567-9712

**Belle Chasse** '01, 30 X 60, 3 Br, 2 Ba, Cathedral Ceilings throughout, 4 walk in closets & fplc, exc cond! moving, must sell at $50,000. 504-392-7928

**FURNISHED Slidell** in high area, no flooding. Shady Pines Mobile home Park. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1980 home, good condition, survived storm, w/d, dishwasher, pool table. $9,000/best. Please call 985-710-0588

**HOUSES AVAILABLE,** SINGLE WIDE 14x70! Office units available. www.whalenenergy.com. 866-944-4415

### 7635 Mobile or Manufactured Homes

**Mobile Home** 1983 (12x60) 2 bdrm, 1 ba. Needs HVAC, update/repair. Must be moved $5500 P.R.La. 985 285-4412

**NEW &** USED 16'x80', low down payment, $275/month; New & Used Double Wides, $350/month. Includes delivery, set up & a/c. Call Brian, 225-413-2048

**SPRINGER DISCOUNT** Mobile homes. A licensed dealer for over 19 years has 3 bedroom single wides (wind zone II), now ready for delivery. Cash discounts! Financing available. Will work with insurance companies to lease a manufactured home until a new home is built. We also move & re-level damaged homes. 662-456-9833

### 7660 Lease/Purchase

**SLIDELL 1,** 2 or 3 bedroom, single house for sale or rent. 985-882-7381

**WWW.EUREKAHOMESTEAD.COM 100%** NO DOC LOANS! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

**1332 Aris** Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

**3-2 Home** Only $13,000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**3B/2BA House** in Folsom Subdiv., $1200/mo., 12 month contract, avail now., call 985-966-7867 (8am-6pm)

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**DURANGO, COLORADO** Exceptional value. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, office, hobby room and 3 car garage. 2721 sq. ft. one level floor plan. Major appliances included. Located on 35 acres with stunning views. Only 11 miles from Durango. Constructed 2001. Horses allowed. $699,000. Call Thad at The Wells Group. Toll Free: 800-955-0259. Cell: 970-749-7103

**FREE Homes** For Sale List E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com The Home Company Realtors 985-652-SOLD(7653).

**FSBO Lockport** LA, High land + 10ft elevation! Furnished 2 story brick, 4BR/2BA, 2 kits, bsmt workshop + 2 car gar w/apt above, on 3/4 AC lot, $280,000. 985-532-2368 or 601-736-2056

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Houma, LA.** Newly renovated 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath For Sale! 205 Roselawn Ave., $68,950. Contact Marilyn 985-856-2837 or Vivian 985-498-0612

**Lafourche Parish** 3BR, 1BA, Brick Home 30 mi From NO. Totally Remodeled. Sits on 3 Lots in quiet area. No Storm Damage! $125,000. 985-537-3188 or 985-859-8077

**Lafourche Parish,** 2500 sq. ft. home (carport) w/app. 900 square foot mother inlaw apt. on rear of property. (160'W x 193'D.) fenced yard w/conc. slab all around house, app. 900 sq. ft. 3 section garage. sewer treatment, central air/heat, quiet, crime free, older neighborhood in Raceland area. call (985) 209-2368 $159,000

**LOW MORTGAGE** RATES Local Co. with fast, personal service. 100% financing avail. We will come to you. Signature Mortgage. 504-338-6555 or 866-784-4442

**Not coming** back to NO? Want me to manage or sell your property? Metairie or Kenner. Call me, Devlanc Real Estate. 504-258-1692 or 504-822-3161

**Uptown on** Magazine! Grand, two-story house among all the antique and boutique shops! 3 bedrooms plus loft. Older couple has decided to reduce their worries and move to a townhouse. This house is NOT damaged by recent events! Includes sought-after COVERED parking for 2-4 vehicles. For more info, please call 214-893-0410

### COMMERCIAL-OFFICES

### 7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices

**CHILD CARE** BUSINESS. Ready for operation, perfect cond. $22,500. 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

**GRETNA Commercial** building 1968 SF front area includes ofc. s, work area and holding cooler, back includes 1200 SF cooler, 1260 SF freezer, warehouse space and loading dock, lease or sale, For appt. Please Call 504-392-6759

**Hammond 4,255** sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**HARAHAN Local** franchise for sale, SMOOTHIE JUICE AND JAVA BAR, turn key operation. For info please call Whitney 504-319-3003

**KENNER- 3,800sf** OFFICE AND MULTI-USE BUILDING, 3326 Fla Ave. $420,000. 504-491-8335

**MANDEVILLE** - SMALL RESTAURANT, full service, established, turn key operation, serious inquiries only, $150,000. Call 504-236-0297 or 985-727-1725.

**OLD GRETNA** 2 properties, 516, 518 Lafayette St. C-1 shop, 1400 square feet with 1/2 bath. Currently a woodworking shop with 3 phase power. Also included 2 bedroom, 2 bath, shotgun, 1080 square feet, $180,000. 504-908-3669

**RECONDITIONED Mobile** offices. Call Jobsite Trailer Corp 877-699-6280/ www.jobsitemobileoffices.com

**Slidell: 3440** sqft building on Front St., parking and extra lot included - $310,000. 228-342-0642 or 228-342-0619

### 7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.

**HAMMOND LA.** 3+ ac on Hwy, 25,000sf metal building, side street entrance, 4 overhead doors, glass front. Avra O'Dwyer Real Estate 228-342-0734

**KENNER Refrigerated** warehouse, 2255 Aberdeen, 80'x120', 2 offices, dry storage, cooler, freezer, processing rm, 2 bay loading dock. For appt call 985-705-1178

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Atlanta/Alpharetta, GA.** FREE RENT. 1700-5200 sq. ft., new, modern, convenient to Highways/ Airport. 404-936-7720

**CBD, between** 4000-8000 sq ft, office in Arts district, classic structure, 504-931-0954

## Commercial Offices

### 7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices

**Commercial Space** for temp relocation. 600-5,000 sqft. In Mandeville near hwy 59 & hwy 1088. 985-626-7608

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. (Collins Blvd). 985-871-0771 985-264-0620

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**Kenner Williams** Blvd. corner 39th St, 1150sf building, no water. Terms negot. 504-251-2105

**LULING 3,700** sq. ft., office/multi-use for lease, $18.50/sq. ft. annually. Will build to suit. Please Call 985-785-1399 or 504-421-3311

**Mandeville office** space 22,000 square ft, grey carpet, central air, 5000 square ft open with no partition, glass enclosed on one side, plenty parking, state of art design, ready for occupancy. Terms negotiable. 3 miles from Causeway bridge. Jim 504-368-2404/504-390-1944

**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Immediately** available: Office space from 407 sq. ft. - 2,427 sq. ft., in the Wagner and Truax building. 2121 N. Causeway Blvd. Rates: $13.00 RSF - $14.50 RSF. Full service 2 year lease required. Call Agent 504-831-6694

**Metairie, Causeway** at I-10. 7200 SF of PRIME RETAIL SPACE. Showrm, Warehouse, 18-Wheeler Door 504-831-0747/504-495-2925

**NO FLOOD** ZONE! For Lease, Lacombe/Mandeville on Highway 190 West. All or Part, Build to Suite. 3 Acres, C2 Property, 400 Ft. Highway Frontage. 504-818-6233

**Office for** rent-Met. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013,opt1

**Office Williams** Blvd. 600 SF, $600, plenty of pking, Borngesser Realty Co. 504-454-0800

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**Rental property** in Prime Uptown area, Salon/Day Spa & equip. for sale, not flooded, low price. 970-946-0464

**River Ridge** LA, 2000 Sq Ft of commercial lease space avail. 7 miles from New Orleans CBD w/ commercial kitchen, showers, and lg parking area. $4750/mo + util. 504-390-7560

**ST. CHARLES** - Office space in Luling, 1,000 sq ft, previously used as a doctors office, 1 mile from I-310, 985-785-6221

**Up to** 4800 SQ FT Office Space Available near NO Intl. Airport. 504-712-9020

### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Algiers Space** Available. Mobile Office, Container, Storage, Truck Yard. Utilities Available 504-394-STOR or 985-652-2771

**HAMMOND LA.** Hwy, 5000 - 25,000sf avail, overhead doors, glass front. Avra O'Dwyer Real Estate 228-342-0734

**Kenner 3600** sq. ft., 3 offices, 2 overhead doors, Williams/Veterans area. Warehouse R.E. Co. 504-831-4380

**METAIRIE COMMERCIAL** WAREHOUSE Great Location! No Damage. High & Dry. 504-400-6799

**METAIRIE PRIME** WAREHOUSE - with office & bath, 10'x'10' ent. door, approx 1450 sq ft, water paid, $950/mo. 504-723-0657

**WANTED 2000-4000** sq ft, office/warehouse, Kenner/Metairie. 504-343-4563 or 504-400-6799

**Warehouse space** for rent. 3,000; 4,000; & 5,000 sq. ft. dry storage available. Louisiana & Tchoupitoulas neighborhood. Call (504)628-4688.

### 7730 Miscellaneous

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**COVINGTON LC1** approx .0653 ACs, off Hwy 190, in growing area, $250,000, 504-347-1509

**GARAGE FOR** RENT 500 Square foot. $200/mo. Metairie Area. Call 504-858-9770

**MONEY TO** LEND! Commercial Mortgages. 504-610-2169

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735Investment Property

**Metairie, 2** Doubles and 2 Singles $550,000. Please call 504-834-1459.

**NEW ORLEANS/METAIRIE,** Selling multiple invest prop., 4 plexes, 6 plexes, etc. 504-250-7116

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

### 7737Waterfront Property

**10 Acres** on Silver Creek. Hill Top View, Lots of Trees, Unbelievable site and location. 12 miles from Franklinton and 30 miles North of Covington. 1000 feet of Road Frontage and 600 feet of Creek Frontage. Must See To Believe! Make Offer. 985-839-0046 or 225-278-2374

**BARATARIA, LA** Land Lease 5252 Privateer Blvd, zoned u, cleared/dry, $1000/mo 504-340-3158

**BOGUE CHITTO** RIVER - 31 acres in Franklinton. Water, electrical & road. Perfect for camps, homes or park. Large sand beach, fishing & boating. $315,000/best offer. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

### 7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland

**CLARK COUNTY,** MS. 120 Acres, excellent hunting. Call 601-271-7720 for more information

**FRANKLINTON -** 8 acres. Close to shopping, schools & hospital. $8,500/acre. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**FRANKLINTON -** Beautiful hilltop 3.08 acre property, just minutes from Gemstone Golf Course. $39,000. 985-750-2816

**SOUTH MARION** COUNTY MS 158 acres, 2 small ponds, located approx. 85 miles North of New Orleans. 10 acres in pines, fronts 2 blacktop roads, exc deer hunting, excellent home sites. $5000/acre. Please call 601-736-7954, 601-519-7175

## Real Estate for Sale

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**C-1 LOT.** Just off Veterans. High & dry, 50'x150', 740 Phosphor, $350K cash. 504-458-6927

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**HARAHAN CONDO** Renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 BA. $175,000. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**RIVER RIDGE** - 66'x93', dead end street, 504-737-1326

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**5 ACRE** Wooded lot with rolling hills, approx 200 feet above sea level, $9500 per acre. Call 504-975-5292

**ABITA SPRINGS** 10 lots for sale, 25x100 feet. $4500. each, call 504-329-8989

**ABITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**COVINGTON AREA** 200x260 corner lot, cleared, bridge over lagoon, well, 2 fountains and rock waterfall, $120,000. Call 985-966-6742

**FRANKLINTON** - 2 lots, 200'x100' each. Near the Bogue Chitta River, $4,000/both. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**MADISONVILLE like** new, 4 BR, 2 BA, + ofc, too many extras, $235K, by appt, Open House 10/8, 10am-4pm, 985-792-5534

**OLD LANDING/COVINGTON** 136 ft on deep Tchefuncte River, $290,000. 985-626-9130

**PEARL RIVER** .75 acre, Sewer and well, fenced with large workshop. $30,000. 504-975-2903

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet

The Times-Picayune

# ST. TAMMANY

AND THE METRO AREA

SECTION B
Saturday
October 8, 2005

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EDITORIALS • B-10

# Uprooted firm finds home in Slidell

*More may be on way, local officials say*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

A major high-tech company is moving into Slidell Memorial Hospital's Wellness Pavilion and a group of New Orleans area physicians may relocate to the hospital's Primary Care Pavilion, officials have said.

Hospital officials called the arrangement a "win-win situation" for the community, its economy and health care in the post-Katrina environment of recovery and rebuilding.

City officials agreed, noting that it matters little where in Slidell the high-tech company called 3001 Inc. is located.

The firm, a defense contractor and public and private industry company based in Fairfax, Va., had been negotiating with city, military and other officials about moving its New Orleans branch headquarters to Slidell.

Initially, 3001 wanted to move to the Defense Information Systems Agency at Gause and Robert boulevards. Hurricane Katrina, the uncertainty surrounding the anticipated closure of DISA, and other factors changed those plans.

Slidell Memorial spokesman Sam Caruso Jr. said the geospatial services company first approached hospital officials a few months ago about leasing the second floor of the Primary Care Pavilion at 901 Gause next to the hospital's main campus.

An instant-care medical group led by Dr. Miguel Culasso has a five-year lease, signed in January 2004, for the bottom floor of the once-empty care pavilion.

But after Katrina devastated much of the New Orleans area Aug. 29, "we have had numerous inquiries about space from physicians" who no longer have space in which to practice because of the storm's widespread destruction, Caruso said.

As a result, Chief Executive Officer Bob Hawley and other hospital officials decided to lease the second floor of the Primary Care Pavilion as physician offices, which is what it was originally intended for when it was built in 1997.

As to when physicians from the south shore and elsewhere will be setting up shop there, Caruso said the hospital is in "very preliminary" talks with several groups, adding, "We cannot reveal the names yet, pending further negotiation."

In the meantime, 3001 already is moving into the Fitness Center on the second floor of the Wellness Pavilion at 501 Robert Blvd., Patrick Upton, a 3001 supervisor, said Thursday as a crew worked on renovations and installations.

*See* **SLIDELL,** *B-2*

# Parish seeks OK for loan

*Cash flow critical for debris removal*

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

St. Tammany Parish will ask the State Bond Commission for permission to borrow up to $10 million as a precautionary move to prevent cash flow problems during recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

"This doesn't mean we're going to borrow the money," parish Chief Administrative Officer Bill Oiler said after the Parish Council on Thursday night approved, without discussion, measures to seek a loan backed by future revenue.

"This is being done just as a precaution in case we have cash flow problems," Oiler said. "We don't want to get caught in a cash flow situation. But if we do, we'll have this to fall back on."

So far, the parish hasn't experienced money problems while awaiting FEMA reimbursement for the costs of hurricane cleanup

*See* **LOAN,** *B-2*

# Maternity home near Mandeville rejected

*No deal reached on site for unwed moms*

**By Charlie Chapple**
St. Tammany bureau

A zoning permit for a maternity home for unwed mothers northeast of Mandeville has been narrowly rejected by the St. Tammany Parish Council, ending eight months of debate between proponents of the project and opposing residents of Forest Brook subdivision.

During a meeting Thursday night, the council voted 8-6 to concur with a Zoning Commission decision to deny the permit sought by Bill and Shari Karanas to build and operate the nonprofit maternity home on 1.25 acres south of Louisiana 1088 and west of Forest Brook Boulevard.

*See* **HOME,** *B-3*



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Scott Mitchell helps daughter Susan to the sink in their new FEMA trailer, which is parked at their home in Slidell's Park Place subdivision. The Mitchells are among 29 St. Tammany Parish families to have such trailers, and Scott Mitchell couldn't be happier about it. FEMA and other aid agencies have 'been a blessing to us,' he said.

# FEMA trailers roll in, families close behind

*Tammany residents homeward bound*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

The Mitchell family of Slidell's Park Place subdivision and the Lenahans of rural Lacombe are among the luckier victims of Hurricane Katrina.

They have a place to live other than with relatives, friends or the trailer park and tent cities that have been springing up since the powerful storm roared through the New Orleans area and the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

The Mitchells and Lenahans are living on their own property, in travel trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As of Friday, only 29 families in St. Tammany Parish could say that, FEMA officials said.

Until most of the debris was cleared from their yard, the Mitchells' home on Park Drive fit snugly into the ugly picture of devastation painted by Katrina in so many of the subdivisions in south Slidell and elsewhere. One major difference is the air-conditioned travel trailer now sitting in their front yard.

Taking little more than the clothes on their backs and a few belongings as Katrina approached, the family fled to stay with relatives in Simmesport, where they watched with mounting anxiety the national weather and news reports about the New Orleans area.

Jeanne Mitchell, who's on leave from her job as a bus attendant for the St. Tammany Parish school system, stayed in Simmesport with 8-year-old daughter Susan as husband Charles Mitchell, a former longshoreman on disability retirement, made several trips back to Slidell.

*See* **TRAILERS,** *B-2*

# Tolls won't be taken on Causeway after all

*Bridge is losing $40,000 each day*

**From staff reports**

Tolls will resume Monday on the Crescent City Connection, but the decision to reinstate tolls on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway has been rescinded, officials said.

After six weeks of allowing motorists to cross the Crescent City Connection free of charge, the state will resume collecting tolls on the bridge and ferries at 5 a.m. Monday, said Randy Paisant, assistant director of the bridge authority.

However, National Guard and emergency vehicles will not be required to pay the tolls, he said.

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway officials have rescinded their decision to reinstate tolls on Monday.

Motorist using the Gretna-Jackson Avenue and Canal Street-Algiers ferries, which have been operating since Sept. 16, also will resume paying tolls on Monday. The Algiers-Chalmette ferry has been out of service because of hurricane damage.

State officials did not estimate how much toll revenue was lost since they suspended collection. Tolls were stopped on Aug. 26 to allow motorists to evacuate the region quickly as Hurricane Katrina bore down on the coast.

Since the toll revenue is used to pay bridge employees' salaries and other operations costs, the state has insurance to covers three weeks of income

*See* **TOLLS,** *B-2*

## FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE

Firefighters try to save a home that caught fire when the one next door went up in flames Friday in the 1900 block of Abundance Street in New Orleans.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

# Accidents claim lives of two St. Tammany teens

*Junior high girl was riding with relatives*

**St. Tammany bureau**

Two St. Tammany Parish teenagers, including one who had evacuated to Mississippi, were killed in recent auto accidents.

Madelyn Williams, 13, an eighth-grader at Fontainebleau Junior High School, died Sept. 14 when the car in which she was riding collided with a vehicle that allegedly drove into its path in West Point, Miss.

Eric Hadden, 18, of Goodbee died Sunday after being hit by a wrecker while riding a bicycle near Covington.

Madelyn was in a car driven by her grandmother, Mary Williams of Angie, and was returning to her home in the Money Hill subdivision north of Abita Springs. She had evacuated

*See* **FATALS,** *B-2*

# Kenner raises stink about trash pickup

## *Companies say they're doing their best*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

The Kenner City Council spent more than an hour Thursday complaining that no one wants to pick up the city's garbage in the wake of Hurricane Katrina – not its longtime trash hauler, Waste Management; not the newly contracted Ramelli Janitorial Service; and certainly not the out-of-state companies that didn't even reply to a bid request.

"I know I'm getting calls that people's garbage has not been picked up since before the storm," Councilman Marc Johnson told his colleagues during their meeting. "What's the plan? Because it's unacceptable."

But the garbage companies already on the ground in Kenner say they are doing the best they can to deal with the unprecedented disaster, and a Waste Management official said the company has a meeting scheduled with the city Monday to discuss getting on a once-a-week pickup timetable.

"I expect we will have a set schedule," said Rene Faucheux, Waste Management's manager of municipal and community affairs for south Louisiana. He said Friday that his company has done several sweeps of the entire city, but acknowledged that some areas could have been missed in the confusion.

"There's just an unprecedented amount of garbage and trash in the city," he said.

Upset with Waste Management, Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano fired off a warning letter last week and contracted with Ramelli Janitorial Service, a New Orleans company, to cover half of the city, while Waste Management continues with the other half.

Kenner's chief of staff, Phil Ramon, said the city sought other proposals, but no companies responded. But council members said Thursday that hiring Ramelli to split the load isn't working.

Difficulty hiring workers has hampered his company's progress, company President Bob Ramelli said. He said the process also is going slow because Federal Emergency Management Agency workers ride along and dictate what workers can pick up.

"We have to determine what is trash," he told the council Thursday. "We're trying to do our best."




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY CONSTANZA

Trash cans line Martinique Avenue in Kenner on Friday. 'I know I'm getting calls that people's garbage has not been picked up since before the storm,' Councilman Marc Johnson said Thursday.

Ramelli said he would have a total of six more trucks – for a total of 10 – in Kenner once they are approved by FEMA. Ramon told him not to worry about FEMA.

"I will take care of that," Ramon said forcefully. "Get the trucks in our city."

Ramelli Janitorial Inc. contributed $2,000 to Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano last year after Capitano was elected mayor, according to campaign finance reports Capitano filed with the state.

Ramelli finished his remarks by asking that frustrated Kenner residents not yell at his drivers.

"They said, 'We're not coming back,' " Ramelli said, imitating the drivers. " 'This is a hostile environment.' "

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

# Hospital makes room for displaced doctors

**SLIDELL,** *from B-1*

Upton said the company hoped to have the facility "fully functional" by late next week or early the following week. And the company's stay is expected to be a long-term one, he said.

"They're running our network lines and everything right now," he said of the crew. "And then somebody from the hospital has to come get the exercise equipment out of here."

The company relocated its New Orleans branch to temporary headquarters in Lake Charles in the wake of Katrina, "and then (Hurricane) Rita came along and chased us out," Upton said.

At first, 3001 expects to staff the Slidell office with personnel from the New Orleans branch and the Intel-Defense Solutions branch at Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Miss., company officials have said.

The company was established in 1965 in the Lake Charles area as a two-person consulting, engineering and surveying firm for projects in southwest Louisiana. It now has more than 150 employees with offices in seven states and projects throughout the Americas.

The New Orleans office is no longer in operation. Andy Dougherty, who heads the division at Stennis, was unavailable for comment.

Caruso indicated the Fitness Center will be relocated. For those who regularly used it until it closed last week, he said, the hospital has an agreement with Slidell Athletic Club to take center members at the rates they were paying through December 2006.

He acknowledged there is some medical equipment in the center that is unavailable at similar private facilities in the area.

"For the few patients that use those machines, we are working with their physicians and some of our existing space elsewhere on our campus to ensure that they do not lose access to those machines," he said.

The center had three full-time employees "and a couple of part-timers," Caruso said. The full-timers have been offered positions elsewhere in the hospital's operations, he said.

Outpatient rehabilitation services occupy the first floor of the Wellness Pavilion, and a hospital business office and other tenants are on the third floor. "They will all remain in place," Caruso said. "And we remain the owner of the entire building."

# Council term limit proposal is on hold

**LOAN,** *from B-1*

and recovery, Oiler said. But the way the parish is paying for debris pickup is a major reason that officials took the precautionary move.

While most debris pickup contractors are paid directly by FEMA, the parish annually seeks and awards a bid to a contractor for debris cleanup in case of a hurricane, flood, tornado or other natural disaster. The arrangement means that the parish has a contractor ready to roll for debris cleanup. But it also means that the parish pays its contractor, Omni Construction of Slidell, and then seeks reimbursement from FEMA.

On Thursday alone, there were 78,000 cubic yards of debris collected at a cost of $14 per cubic yard, Oiler said.

"You multiply 78,000 cubic yards by $14 and see what it comes to," he said. It totals nearly $1.1 million.

With bills like that, the parish needs additional money available to ensure that there's no disruption of debris pickup because of a cash-flow shortfall, parish President Kevin Davis said.

In other matters involving parish finances, the Parish Council gave bonding attorneys the green light to refinance outstanding bond debts of $31 million to construct the parish courthouse and $14 million for additions to the parish jail.

The measures approved by the council allow bonding attorneys to lock in an interest rate to refinance the debts when the rates are low enough to save the parish money.

The council Thursday night also:

▶Removed from consideration "at this time" an ordinance that could have led to a referendum on limiting Parish Council members to three consecutive terms.

▶Extended for six months a ban on issuing building permits on all properties that abut Tantella Ranch Road north of Goodbee and all properties that abut Louisiana 1077 from U.S. 190 in Goodbee northwest to the Tangipahoa Parish line. The moratorium was imposed because of developmental pressure on a mostly rural area of the parish.

▶Extended for six months a ban on issuing building permits for a part of Highland Park subdivision near Slidell. The ban was imposed because of drainage concerns.

# Only 29 local families have trailers

**TRAILERS,** *from B-1*

What Mitchell finally saw when he reached the house where he's lived for 12 years was shocking: More than 4 feet of storm surge had pushed its way through the house.

"I have flood insurance, but no contents" insurance through a separate homeowners policy, he said. "So we lost everything."

FEMA regulations allow use of the temporary housing for up to 18 months while a family's home is being repaired or rebuilt. The Mitchells estimate it will take at least eight months to restore their house.

They still have some compensation issues with their insurance company — they haven't yet seen an adjuster for the final settlement tally — and they can't hire a contractor for the major rebuilding work until the claim is finalized. But their persistence with FEMA paid off.

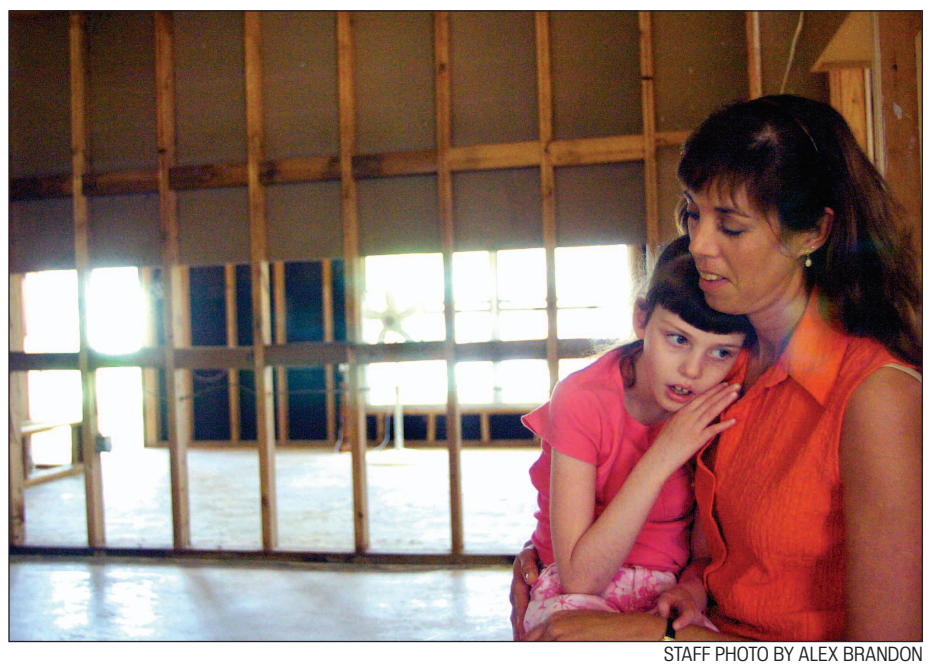
Mitchell was "thrilled" by the trailer's arrival and had nothing but good things to say about FEMA and other relief agencies such as the Salvation Army. "They've been a blessing to us," he said.

Mitchell hired someone to clear the debris from his yard, while he and his brother have been tearing out wallboard and fighting the mold in his home. After one last trip back to Simmesport to retrieve their scant belongings, Mitchell, his wife and daughter returned to what is now their new home Thursday night.

"Maybe we can get our life back together," he said Friday.

Jeanne Mitchell agreed. Among other things, her left-behind car was flooded in the storm.

"But we're just thankful we have our lives," she said. "We can replace everything else.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Jeanne Mitchell and daughter Susan, 8, look over their flooded-out Slidell home Friday. The Mitchell family is living in a FEMA trailer on the property while they restore their house, a process they think will last at least eight months.

The Mitchells' temporary home is the first FEMA trailer to show up in Park Place in a city that now has thousands of unlivable houses and a parish in which an estimated 20,000-plus homes suffered major wind or water damage.

Theirs is one of 29 trailers moved by FEMA contractors from the 300 parked in a staging area south of Slidell onto home sites in St. Tammany Parish.

Several miles to the west, at Tom and Connie Lenahan's house off Lake Road in Lacombe, five feet of water had surged through the first floor. Mud covered the first and second floors and crept two steps up toward the master bedroom on the third floor. The smell of mold is in the air.

The Lenahans, both of whom are rural-route mail carriers, have done only the necessary cleanup and repairs, including ripping out the drywall, so they can come and go inside the house.

There's little else that can be done until an insurance settlement is reached.

"Are we going to fix this or are we going to knock it down?" Lenahan asked rhetorically about his home. He clearly wants to restore it, but he estimates it will take about a year before it can be put in a safe and livable condition.

They also want to have their two younger sons home by Christmas from their current home-away-from-home with relatives in Ohio, but they'll all be living in the trailer then.

Officials have estimated at least 20,000 homes in St. Tammany are unlivable at this time and are unlikely to be anytime soon. Parish President Kevin Davis has asked for as many as 23,000 trailers and other types of mobile housing.

As of Friday morning, only 686 FEMA trailers had been received in Louisiana. Of that number, only 109 have been placed next to damaged homes, officials reported. Most of the others are in mobile home parks, public parks and similar sites.

Asked what was taking so long to move out all 300 trailers south of Slidell, and to make way for the many hundreds more promised to the stricken area, FEMA officials had responses but not answers likely to please the hurricane homeless.

James McIntyre, a top FEMA official headquartered in Baton Rouge, said the applicants must already be in FEMA's computer system for temporary housing assistance.

Inspectors must determine whether the home sites are suitable for trailers. The sites must have water, sewer and electricity hookups, and the homeowners must sign "right of entry" releases, McIntyre said.

# Tolls were stopped to allow quick evacuations

**TOLLS,** *from B-1*

interruptions, said Secretary Johnny Bradberry of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

On the Causeway, southbound drivers will continue to be waved through the north toll plaza without paying the $2 and $3 rates.

General Manager Robert Lambert said the bridge is losing an estimated $40,000 a day on the lifted tolls at a time when traffic across Lake Pontchartrain has soared compared with pre-Katrina levels.

"Fundamentally, we just want to help the recovery of the whole area," Lambert said. "And we feel like, while this is going to be a direct loss of revenue to the Causeway, we think it's the right thing to do."

Lambert said he hopes to continue the free passes until two lanes of the Interstate 10 twin spans reopen at the end of the month. Nevertheless, he said, he isn't certain the bridge can sustain the losses while continuing to meet its debt obligations.

# Bicyclist on U.S. 190 had just gotten off work

**FATALS,** *from B-1*

to Tupelo, Miss., with her grandparents after Hurricane Katrina.

The teenager's mother, Shantelle Williams, said her daughter had removed her seat belt moments before the crash because they were about to stop at a convenience store. "She was ejected from the car and killed instantly," Williams said.

Williams, who owns The Medicine Shoppe on U.S. 190 Business in Covington, said she stayed behind to watch over her home in Money Hill and her business.

"I sent her to Angie to ride out Katrina with her paternal grandparents. But after the storm, when they had no electricity, they decided to evacuate and move north and stayed for several days in Tupelo before starting on the trip back," she said.

She said the grandparents were both injured but are recovering.

Madelyn had attended Abita Elementary and Abita Middle schools.

Funeral services were conducted Sept. 18 in Bogalusa with burial in Pinecrest Cemetery in Covington. She is also survived by her father, Kevin Williams of Abita Springs; a sister, Alex Williams, 10, of the Abita Springs area; a newborn half-sister, Isabella Williams of Abita Springs; and her maternal grandparents, Billy and Jackie Brignac.

In the other accident, Hadden was riding a bicycle westbound on U.S. 190 west of Covington when a wrecker hit him from behind, authorities said. Hadden, of 11263 U.S. 190, was killed instantly in the 1:50 a.m. accident.

No charges have been filed, and a State Police spokesman said Thursday that the matter is under investigation.

The driver of the Holden's Wrecker Service truck was identified as Wayne Williams, 39, 73260 Pruden Road, near Covington. He told investigators that he did not see Hadden, who allegedly darted from behind an eastbound vehicle into the path of the truck, police said.

Hadden's mother, Kimberly Hadden, said her son was returning to their home after working at Sicily's Pizza on U.S. 190 in Covington, where he had been employed about two weeks. She said he had reflectors but no lights on his bicycle.

Funeral services for Hadden were held Wednesday at Calvary Christian Center in Hammond, with burial at Sand Hill Cemetery in Ponchatoula.

Hadden is also survived by his father, Todd Hadden of the Goodbee area; a brother, Randy Hadden, 19, of Mississippi; a sister, Selenia Hadden, 16, of the Goodbee area; paternal grandparents, Joy and Will Hadden of Bogalusa; and maternal grandfathers Jack Powell of Eggly and Steve Kraemer of Raceland.

# Orleans board makes 13 schools charters

## *East bank sites may follow later*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

In an unprecedented move, the Orleans Parish School Board voted to charter all 13 schools on the city's West Bank Friday, keeping power with the board temporarily but giving those schools what proponents say will be a new level of financial stability while the district wrestles with its fiscal crisis.

The shift to charter schools apparently has the support of the city administration. Mayor Ray Nagin, at a news conference held at the same time as the board meeting, said he would ask Gov. Kathleen Blanco to help him create a citywide charter school system.

Board members voted 4-2 to approve the West Bank plan near the end of a meeting in the New Orleans City Council chambers, with members Cynthia Cade and Torin Sanders opposed.

Board member Phyllis Landrieu stood up and walked to the side of the chamber just before the vote and responded "absent" when her name was called.

Cade, Sanders and interim Superintendent Ora Watson said they had heard little or nothing about the plan by Vice President Lourdes Moran prior to the meeting.

"I think an inclusive process may have been violated, unintentionally," Watson said.

Cade said she learned of the charter movement only after she was contacted by a reporter Thursday.

Asked why she kept some of her colleagues in the dark until the last minute, Moran commented: "I knew we would all get into an argument about contracts," referring to recent battles on the board that have sometimes held up progress.

Although Cade asked that the decision be deferred, Moran stressed in an interview after the meeting that it was necessary to move quickly in order for schools to be ready to accept students in November.

The charter is subject to approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Although the district currently has nine charter schools and two more are in the works, Friday's decision creates an unprecedented system of 13 charter schools.

The decision followed the lengthy outlining of a plan by Alvarez & Marsal, the turnaround firm tasked with righting the district's finances, to open up to eight schools on the West Bank in November. The eight schools are among the 13 proposed in the charter plan but would be operated as traditional schools under the Alvarez & Marsal proposal.

Both plans would offer access to students throughout the city until more schools can be opened on the east bank.

### Partnership discussions

Board member Una Anderson said more charters on the city's east bank are a strong possibility, particularly Uptown, where many are undamaged.

Anderson said she would likely not push to charter the district's remaining schools under a single system, opting instead to seek out partnerships with universities or businesses.

At his news conference, Nagin initially said he wants to create at least 20 charter schools partnered with foundations, universities or businesses. He said he has had discussions with a number of foundations that are willing to bankroll such an operation.

Earlier in the School Board meeting, Sajan George, the chief operating officer installed by turnaround firm Alvarez & Marsal, said the district could only afford to open the eight West Bank schools if the federal government agreed to let the district use $61 million in project-specific grants on basic operating expenses and the state continued paying the district $16.5 million each month through the Minimum Foundation Program based on last year's enrollment.

Since thousands of the district's students have flooded to other school systems across the state and nation, there is some fear that MFP money would follow those students and funnel out of the district.

Rep. Jim Tucker, R-Algiers, said he expects legislation aimed at pulling that money away from New Orleans to be presented at a special legislative session planned for early November.

Those fears, coupled with the district's unstable finances, largely drove Moran's plan to charter all of the West Bank schools, she said.

### Focus on finances

The charter would give schools more academic freedom, although they would still be subject to state laws and accountability standards.

At first, Moran said, the charter board, overseeing all 13 schools, would be made up of the current School Board, with members rotating off in favor of members of the community in Algiers.

The plan is also an attempt to take advantage of a recently announced $20.9 million federal grant to expand, repair and create charter schools.

Moran moved fast on the plan, first floating it to a core group of community leaders in Algiers at an invitation-only meeting on the west bank on Wednesday.

Several expressed frustration with politics on the current School Board at that meeting, saying anything that stripped power away from that body and the administration is a positive.

But Moran and Tucker, who appeared alongside Rep. Jeff Arnold, D-Algiers, and City Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson to present the plan, kept the focus on finances.

Before she brought up the charter issue, Moran said she is also gravely concerned about state MFP funding for next year, since the student counts that dictate that financing are typically made Oct. 1 for the following year.

No students are currently attending public school in New Orleans.

Bill Roberti, the district's chief restructuring officer and an Alvarez & Marsal employee, said, "That's one of the things the state superintendent is grappling with."

Asked how Friday's decision will impact the district's finances, Roberti shrugged and commented: "The money still follows the kids to the West Bank."

Beyond that, he said, it was far too early to assess what impact the chartering will have on district finances.

"It's not the district's money," board member Jimmy Fahrenholtz countered. "It's the children's money. It should stay with them and follow them."

Moran said she will likely use a plan outlined by Roberti and George to open chartered schools on the west bank.

"There's no reason to reinvent the wheel," she said.

Those eight schools have the capacity to educate up to 7,111, and 1,873 students so far have expressed interest in returning to the district.

### 'Giving away the schools'

The Alvarez & Marsal plan also called for contracting out a number of services including food service, transportation and payroll.

Moran stressed that the schools would be all-inclusive, including provisions to help students with behavioral problems. She also indicated a willingness to work with the district's teacher's union, although charters would not be beholden to the district's contract with the United Teachers of New Orleans.

The charter system would also have freedom to author its own policies and procedures, freeing them from what she called contradictory and sometimes confusing policies in the district.

Some protested the move as selling off the school district.

"While we're still counting bodies in New Orleans, you're giving away the schools," said Willie Zanders, a local lawyer who has represented several district employees with grievances.

Another attendee branded it racism, likening it to a "public lynching" as he screamed at the top of his lungs.

Watson said research about the academic strength of charter schools is not conclusive and said everyone needed more time to study Moran's option, adding: "I don't think we should go down this road in financial fear and implement a different governance for schools in a substantive part of our district."

Moran denied charges that she was simply trying to wrest the school away from district control, stressing fiscal considerations above all else.

"I'm not saying I want to do this because I want to change governance," she said. "I am interested in making sure we access all the resources necessary to have a quality education."

Noting that the $20.9 million grant might soon be eaten up by other entities, she added: "We don't want to miss an opportunity."

# Residents: Home was too close for comfort

**HOME,** *from B-1*

Since the project was proposed in February and decided by the commission in April, opponents and proponents of the home have met numerous times in hopes of reaching a compromise.

The last meeting was held in late August while the Karanases' appeal of the commission decision was tabled by the council. Bill Magee, attorney for the couple, said the Karanases made numerous concessions at that meeting.

They included limiting the home to 20 unwed mothers ages 14 to 24, no babies as residents of the home, additional green space and fencing around the perimeter of the site, and moving the home farther away from houses in Forest Brook.

But Forest Brook residents said the concessions weren't enough. Jay Melancon of the subdivision's homeowners association said the proposed 7,877 square-foot home would be incompatible with houses in Forest Brook that average about 2,300 square feet. And residents remain strongly opposed to the home next to their subdivision.

Despite numerous meetings with the builders, "We just didn't work things out," Melancon said. "We tried."

Councilman Joe Impastato of Lacombe, whose district includes the area, agreed with the residents and asked the council to concur with the Zoning Commission. "This is an agonizing decision," he said. "But the site they've chosen is next to a subdivision. ... And it's an institutional use of 8,000 square feet."

Had the proposed home been smaller and closer to Louisiana 1088, farther away from the subdivision, "it may have been more palatable," Impastato said.

In other development matters Thursday night, the council:

▶Concurred with the Zoning Commission's approval of M-2 intermediate industrial zoning for a business park on a 38-acre tract between Louisiana 1085 and Interstate 12, just west of Louisiana 1077. Some citizens had appealed the commission's decision to the council, but the issue was amicably resolved after the Zenith Interest Partnership agreed to several conditions for its property southwest of Covington. They included a 110-foot buffer along Louisiana 1085 and eliminating what some considered more onerous uses allowed in M-2 zones, such as an auto salvage yard.

▶Eased a condition placed by the Planning Commission on its approval of conceptual plans for a 101-home subdivision, Eagle Landing, proposed for Goodbee by Rue du Chene Developers LLC. The condition called for the developers to pay for the installation of a traffic signal at Louisiana 1077 and U.S. 190, south of the proposed subdivision, before they could begin construction. The condition was changed to require installation of the traffic light before the parish gives final approval for the developers to sell lots in the subdivision.

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# No-bid contracts lead to questions

*Many companies were campaign contributors*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

Most of the emergency purchases that Jefferson Parish made in the days after Hurricane Katrina addressed pressing needs such as food, water and medical supplies, or covered repairs to water mains, government offices and other damaged public infrastructure. Some were as mundane and specific as $2,500 for orange traffic cones, $5,900 for washing machines and clothes dryers at Meadowcrest Hospital in Gretna, and $125 for a fuse from Nu-Lite Electric Wholesale.

But parish administrators also executed a number of vaguely defined and open-ended contracts that were not bound by a dollar value, according to an examination of documents released this week. Companies such as Shaw Environmental of Baton Rouge, the beneficiary of a contract to "coordinate all matters dealing with the effects of Hurricane Katrina" – and a political contributor to Parish President Aaron Broussard and two council members – were given a window to stay involved with lucrative relief work for weeks to come.

These generic contracts might not constitute an immediate worry for local taxpayers, because the parish is seeking to recoup the bulk of its hurricane costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But the companies that won the business did so without undergoing the same competitive bidding process that usually would prevail to give the public the lowest price for services.

Normally, the Parish Council would issue an open call for estimates from companies that hoped to perform government work. The council would choose from among the offers, then pass on a contract to the council chairman for signature.

In emergency situations, however, state law gives the parish president discretion to award contracts to address urgent needs.

Tim Whitmer, chief administrative assistant to Broussard, said the administration adhered to rudimentary bid procedures even after the hurricane, by making rounds of calls to obtain oral estimates from local firms. In some cases, however, officials could locate only one or two companies that had workers available in the area, Whitmer said.

**"One of the most shocking disclosures after Katrina and Rita was how little prepared the local and state governments were, not only in handling the hurricanes but also their aftermath.**
JONATHAN TURLEY
professor of public interest law at George Washington University

He said companies that received the generic contracts – such as Shaw Environmental – were given "task orders" to handle a broad range of issues. For example, Shaw handled applications from business owners seeking "Jumpstart Jefferson" passes, which allowed them entry to the parish when it was generally off limits to others.

Chris Sammons, vice president of corporate communications for the Shaw Group, said the company repaired water lines and helped deliver food, water and generators to hospitals. In addition, it helped pump water out of Old Metairie, he said.

Whitmer said the oral estimates obtained by administrators satisfied the FEMA guidelines for awarding government work in disaster situations.

FEMA, which itself doled out billions of dollars worth of no-bid contracts in the wake of the storm, announced Thursday that it would revisit many of those awards. Parish officials said they have no immediate plans to follow suit.

Councilman Chris Roberts said the council could not review most of the emergency contracts because much of the work that the administration assigned has already been completed.

"A lot of work is already done," Roberts said. "The parish ordered immediate, quick repairs. We were the first parish in the entire region to get up and running."

Jonathan Turley, professor of public interest law at George Washington University, said governments in hurricane-vulnerable states such as Louisiana should have contracts already in place that they can activate during a disaster, instead of signing new contracts during the emergency period. Such an arrangement could protect taxpayers from price gouging, he said.

"One of the most shocking disclosures after Katrina and Rita was how little prepared the local and state governments were, not only in handling the hurricanes but also their aftermath. You got the feeling that states like Louisiana had the same level of hurricane protection as Iowa," said Turley, formerly a professor at Tulane University.

"Politicians love disasters: Financial restrictions are lifted. Procedures are waived. Citizens turn docile as kittens, and there is very little accountability," he said. "It is not surprising that politicians and companies find disasters to be a terrific time for self-dealing."

Some of the companies that received the largest Jefferson contracts have no apparent ties to parish leaders. For example, a review of campaign finance records dating from 1994 shows Broussard and council members received no campaign contributions from Certified Cleaning and Restoration, which won a $3.2 million contract to clean the ravaged Joseph S. Yenni Building in Elmwood.

Yet a number of companies that have contributed regularly to Broussard and council members received emergency work. The Shaw Group, which also donated to Gov. Kathleen Blanco's last campaign, has given a combined $10,000 to Broussard, Roberts and Councilman Elton Lagasse since 2003, according to campaign finance reports.

Since 2000, Mosquito Control of Harvey, which won an emergency contract to spray pesticides, has given a combined $11,750 in campaign contributions to Broussard, Roberts, Lagasse and Councilman Louis Congemi. The company is Jefferson's longstanding mosquito abatement contractor.

Also since 2000, the Government Advisory Group of Kenner has donated $9,550 to Broussard, Congemi and Lagasse. The company won an emergency contract for an unspecified amount to manage housing relocation for a period of 18 months.

And Durr Heavy Construction, general contractor for post-Katrina mobile home sites, has donated $9,100 to Broussard, Lagasse, Congemi and Roberts since 2001.

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# Civil, criminal courts face funding crisis

*Orleans DA cuts nonessential staff*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

Banished to temporary quarters because of hurricane damage to their buildings, New Orleans' criminal and civil courts are struggling to keep going with fewer employees to conserve dwindling operating revenue, judges said in separate news conferences Friday.

Civil District Court, whose judges are temporarily housed in a two-story wood frame office building in Gonzales, depends upon filing fees to pay for its operations. Fewer filings in civil court will mean less income, Judge Ethel Sims Julien said Friday.

Likewise, Criminal District Court Chief Judge Calvin Johnson said the court won't be able to function if the city discontinues funding other agencies that make up the criminal justice system. Though the state pays for judges' salaries, the city funds the Police Department, and it contributes some financing to the district attorney and clerk of court.

"If we expect people to come back to the city" Johnson said, "we have to have a fully functioning criminal justice system."

Johnson spoke to reporters at Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, where teams of criminal division judges are taking turns handling cases three days a week.

Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan, who also spoke in St. Gabriel, said he's let go of about 40 of his nonessential workers, and he warned that he'll have to give his prosecutors their walking papers if the city doesn't come through with more money. The city supplies about one-third of the DA's operating funds; state and federal grants each supply another third.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is helping with plans to get the city's various courts, including its Municipal and Traffic courts, back into operation at their usual locations.

Julien said the civil courts, including First and Second city courts, are essential because they're the places where disputes can be settled peacefully.

Julien said she expects the courts will see a rising number of cases involving insurance claims, custody disputes and evictions.

Orleans Parish Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau said Friday morning that his office also will suffer from the fact that fewer cases will be filed in the court. One source of the sheriff's revenue is fees from the seizure and sale of real estate foreclosed upon by mortgage companies.

While the South Broad Street building that houses Municipal and Traffic courts is out of commission, Municipal Court's judges are hearing cases daily at the Union Passenger Terminal, where criminal court magistrates are also setting bonds for people arrested in New Orleans. Traffic Court will resume operations Monday at the Algiers courthouse, where the courts' four divisions will convene weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

# Riverboat casinos ready to roll

*Kenner vessel among those to reopen*

**By The Associated Press**

Four Louisiana riverboat casinos that were forced to close by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, including one in Kenner, are preparing to receive gamblers again.

The Treasure Chest Casino, a riverboat casino in Kenner, will open Monday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, said the casino's owner, Boyd Gaming Corp. The casino closed Aug. 27, two days before Katrina's arrival.

In Lake Charles, the L'Auberge du Lac Hotel & Casino opened parts of its complex Friday with gambling scheduled to begin today, the same day Isle of Capri Casinos Inc. planned to reopen its two gambling boats in the market.

L'Auberge du Lac, which opened in late May, is owned by Pinnacle Entertainment Inc.

Both closed shortly before Rita hit on Sept. 24.

Two of the four casinos in the New Orleans are remain closed: Harrah's New Orleans Casino and the Belle of Orleans riverboat. The Boomtown Belle reopened Monday. Neither the Belle of Orleans nor Harrah's have announced possible reopening dates.

In the Lake Charles market, Harrah's Entertainment Inc.'s two-riverboat complex remains closed, along with the Delta Downs race track and its slot machine casino. Harrah's said this week that it cannot project a reopening date.

Boyd Gaming, which owns Delta Downs, said this week that it hopes to have at least part of the facility open in late November.

# Kenner Council huffs over pumps

*They weren't told of decision to evacuate*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Kenner politicians added their voices to the chorus criticizing Jefferson Parish's decision to evacuate its drainage pump operators before Hurricane Katrina, and they asked that Kenner workers be trained to run the pumps.

"Kenner has been seriously affected by this," Councilman Kent Denapolis said at Thursday night's City Council meeting. "There is no doubt in my mind that this caused great destruction in my district."

Hundreds of homes across Metairie and Kenner flooded after Katrina struck Aug. 29.

Jefferson Parish officials, who run the drainage system for the entire parish, including municipalities such as Kenner, have defended their decision to evacuate pump operators as one that put employees' lives before property. They say the pump stations were designed to Category 3 hurricane standards, no match for the Category 5 winds that Katrina was packing as it bore down on Louisiana on Aug. 28, the day pump operators were removed to shelter in Washington Parish.

Kenner council members said they should have been made aware of the plan.

"I would never have thought bailing out of the pumping station was ever an option," Councilman Marc Johnson said.

The council unanimously requested that the parish train Kenner workers to operate the pumps. It also asked the parish to make improvements that would allow the pumps to run even if flooded, to automate pumping stations and to investigate the possibility of draining parts of south Kenner to the Mississippi River, instead of toward Lake Pontchartrain.

Years ago, a proposal to drain River Ridge to the river via a pipeline along Kenner's eastern city limits was shot down by Kenner officials.

Kenner council members questioned why Jefferson Parish didn't keep Kenner in the loop about the evacuation plan.

Phil Ramon, chief of staff to Mayor Phil Capitano, said city officials attended every parish emergency meeting before Katrina and learned Aug. 28 that the pump operators would be evacuated to the north shore. He said parish officials did communicate with Kenner.

"People are furious about this plan, that nobody knew about," Councilman Dominic Weilbaecher said Friday. "Nobody told them the plan included having unmanned pump stations. That's information that should be shared with the people in the city."

Denapolis questioned why the pump operators were taken so far away, and why they didn't stay in local shelters with other essential workers.

"Our firemen stayed behind. Our police stayed behind," Denapolis said. "I'm perplexed they were overlooked as non-essential personnel."

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Mary Swerczek may be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504) 467-1726.

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# DRIVE-THROUGH EMPLOYMENT




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

**Would you like a job with that?** A busy McDonald's at Lafayette Street and West Bank Expressway advertises its latest special: available positions.

# FEMA releases flood maps to help with rebuilding

## *New elevation levels in Miss. are recorded*

**By The Associated Press**

JACKSON, MISS. — The Federal Emergency Management Agency said Friday that it is putting out interim flood elevation maps to help hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast communities make early rebuilding decisions.

Analysts have decided that the old flood elevation levels were 3 to 8 feet too low in the three coastal counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson, a FEMA statement said. Flood elevation is the height above ground at which there is a 1 percent chance water could reach in a given year.

The new elevations for Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties were being released to Gulf Coast officials and will be included on updated flood recovery maps now scheduled for release in November.

The new maps update the existing flood elevations developed in the mid-1980s and include tide and storm data collected after Hurricane Katrina and earlier storms like Elena and Georges.

"Our goal is to help states and local communities make the best decisions while reconstructing their communities," said Vice Admiral Thad Allen, principal federal official and federal coordinating officer for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

Todd Davison, mitigation division director with FEMA's regional office in Atlanta, said water driven inland by Katrina far exceeded the 1 percent chance flood event, sometimes called the 100-year flood.

Because of this, he said, coast governments had requested that new flood maps be developed to assist with planned new construction.

Davison said FEMA would meet with coast leaders next week to go over the new maps but "it is their option to adjust and adopt their local codes and ordinances to include these new elevations."

Until the new maps are approved by local communities, existing elevation maps will be in force, he said.

The new maps include survey information collected in the field after Katrina and a review of storm surge data dating back 20 years. While the new elevations are higher than the existing standard, they are below the storm surge levels reached by Katrina, a Category 4 storm.

He said Katrina's surge was well beyond the 100-year flood mark and that requiring structures to be built to survive such a storm would be cost-prohibitive.

If new elevation requirements are adopted and followed, it will mean a "significant decrease in their insurance premiums" both now and in the future. He said the standards would also help local communities qualify for various federal and state programs.

Davison and Mike Womack, deputy director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Association, said the elevation changes should not mean a major change in how structures are built on the coast.

Davison said many of the structures destroyed by Katrina were built before the current requirements. And he said there were cases where older buildings had been elevated on pilings and survived the storm's furry.

Davison said permanent maps will be released in 12 to 24 months.

# Evacuees being relocated from Mass. shelter

**By The Associated Press**

BOURNE, MASS. — State officials are looking for permanent housing in Massachusetts for as many as 100 Hurricane Katrina refugees who are scheduled to leave their temporary home on a Cape Cod military base this month.

The state hopes to relocate all 156 of the people living at Camp Edwards by Oct. 21.

About a third are expected to leave the state, with most returning to the Gulf Coast, but most of the rest have said they want to stay in Massachusetts, Massachusetts National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Smith said Friday.

"There is also a population that still isn't sure yet what they want to do," he said.

A total of 235 evacuees have lived at Camp Edwards. Of those, 70 have already relocated to other states, while Massachusetts officials have found housing for nine others.

The refugees' housing costs will be subsidized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for as long as one year.

The state also has helped 13 people find jobs, including as a cook, maintenance worker, carpenter, welder or hotel worker. Eight more are still looking for jobs, while more than 100 have applied for unemployment insurance, according to state Health and Human Services Undersecretary Steven Kadish.

"Most people were working (before the hurricane)," he said, "and many were self-employed."

Although Camp Edwards is bidding farewell to its "guests," Smith said he and other members of the National Guard expect to keep in touch after they leave.

"It's been an enriching experience," he said. "People have been eager to share. It's interesting for us Yankees to find out about a part of the country we're not familiar with."

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# Meadowcrest is suing West Jefferson

*Hospitals have been fierce competitors*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Meadowcrest Hospital, which has been closed since it was commandeered by Jefferson Parish days after Hurricane Katrina passed, sued West Jefferson Medical Center in federal court Friday, claiming that its publicly owned competitor is setting the stage for taking the Gretna facility by force.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, alleges that West Jefferson Medical Center on Sept. 27 made an unsolicited offer to buy Meadowcrest for $15.7 million and that the offer was the first step in a formal expropriation process required by state law.

"In a brazen attempt to exploit the ongoing tragedy of Katrina and eliminate its principal competition, WJMC has now commenced efforts to expropriate Meadowcrest's entire physical facility," according to Meadowcrest's lawsuit, which seeks to stop the move through an injunction.

"There is no other explanation for this naked use of the expropriation power except for WJMC's desire to create a monopoly over inpatient acute care hospital services on the west bank of the Mississippi River," according to the lawsuit.

Peter Butler, attorney for West Jefferson, said he could not comment on particulars of the lawsuit, including the expropriation.

Initially, Meadowcrest's attorney asked for more information about the offer, Butler said. West Jefferson provided the information and asked for a response by 5 p.m. Friday, he said.

"Instead of getting a response to the offer, I got a lawsuit," Butler said.

Meadowcrest is asking a federal judge to stop West Jefferson's attempt to acquire the hospital, saying the move violates federal antitrust laws. The lawsuit specifically names as the defendant Jefferson Hospital District No. 1, which does business as West Jefferson Medical Center.

Tenet Healthsystems, the Dallas-based parent company for Meadowcrest, also declined to comment on the suit. "I think it's self-explanatory," spokesman Harry Anderson said Friday evening.

Meadowcrest hopes to reopen Nov. 1. Parish President Aaron Broussard took control of the facility during Hurricane Katrina to use it as a dormitory and offices for doctors, nurses, National Guard troops and other emergency workers, officials said.

Using powers given by state law to parish presidents during emergencies, Broussard commandeered the hospital after 700 staff members, patients and family members who rode out the storm there evacuated Sept. 1 amid concerns over security and patient care, Meadowcrest officials said.

Butler said West Jefferson's offer to buy Meadowcrest was unrelated to Broussard's commandeering of the hospital.

The combination of events has left West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero as the West Bank's only open hospital and has called attention to the fierce competition between the parish's public medical center and the for-profit Meadowcrest.

West Jefferson is one of five hospitals currently operating in the New Orleans area; others are closed because of hurricane damage. Among the shuttered facilities is Charity Hospital, which is the region's sole Level One trauma unit, treating emergencies such as gunshot wounds.

West Jefferson remained open through Katrina and is "taking care of whatever comes our way. I don't think there's an impact" associated with Meadowcrest's closure, Mark McGinnis, the public hospital's senior vice president and chief financial officer, said this week before the lawsuit was filed. "You don't have a fully populated area."

Area hospitals that are open include Ochsner Foundation Hospital and East Jefferson General Hospital. Kenner Regional Medical Center, also taken over by the parish, regained its facilities this week and is providing limited services, officials said.

Meadowcrest will stay under parish control until Jefferson's state of emergency is lifted on Oct. 15, said Tim Whitmer, Broussard's chief administrative assistant. Broussard could extend the emergency declaration, which he has done once in Katrina's aftermath.

But, Whitmer said, "we don't see that happening at this point."

The parish will pay Meadowcrest and Kenner Regional, but that amount has not been determined.

"Legally, Tenet will be properly compensated for the parish's occupation of (the hospitals) and will pursue those remedies," said Steve Campanini, a spokesman for Tenet.

Some of West Jefferson's staff was housed at Meadowcrest, neighboring Wynhoven Health Care Center and other places, said Jennifer Steel, the public hospital's spokeswoman.

About 350 of West Jefferson's 1,800 employees lost their homes, McGinnis said. "Housing is a critical issue," he said.

Once the parish releases Meadowcrest, Tenet will spend two weeks preparing its Nov. 1 opening of the emergency room and limited diagnostic and outpatient services, Campanini said.

"We would add more services, including inpatients, as the community needs become more apparent," he said.

Employees have been retained and are getting full benefits, but their pay has been halved, he said. They also have been offered jobs at other Tenet hospitals, Campanini said.

Phillip Sowa, Meadowcrest's chief executive, could not be reached for comment. But in a posting on the hospital's Web site, he said he was forced to respond to a "fact sheet" circulated by West Jefferson after Katrina, which said Meadowcrest closed "for no apparent reason."

The comment was "incorrect and harmful," Sowa wrote.

Meadowcrest had 146 patients the day before the Aug. 29 storm, and began asking for government help Aug. 31 to evacuate the hospital, Sowa said on the Web site.

He described a scene after the storm in which people showed up seeking shelter and had to be turned away.

"The situation turned ugly with reports of threats and violence to our people," he said, adding that employees' cars were stolen from the parking garage, electricity was lost and some medical equipment, run by emergency generators, overheated and failed.

Asked about the posting, McGinnis said Sowa is "entitled to his opinion." The scene at West Jefferson, which had more than 300 patients when Katrina hit, was not much different, McGinnis said.

But the emergency room continued receiving patients, including evacuees from the Superdome and a New Orleans police officer who was shot by a looter in Algiers, McGinnis said.

"For four days we didn't have air conditioning," he said. "We didn't have water. We couldn't flush toilets. We just worked through it ... It was a pretty dreadful situation."

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Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@cox.net
Reporter Michelle Krupa contributed to this story.

# Bridge City man is booked with murder in stabbing

*Evacuee's host slain in Luling*

**By Littice Bacon-Blood**
River Parishes bureau

A 31-year-old Bridge City man was arrested in Houston on Thursday and booked with the stabbing death of a Luling man who had taken him in several days after Hurricane Katrina, St. Charles Parish sheriff's authorities said Friday.

Houston police officers arrested Jason Pfeil at a construction site and booked him with the first-degree murder of 41-year-old James E. Underwood, St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne said Friday. Pfeil was driving Underwood's 1996 black Dodge pickup, the same vehicle a witness reported seeing leaving the crime scene, Champagne said.

Authorities found Underwood's body in his Luling apartment on Sept. 22. They don't have a motive for the stabbing, Champagne said.

Pfeil is expected to be returned to St. Charles Parish to face the charges, Champagne said.

Champagne would not say how authorities tracked Pfeil to Houston, but said that he didn't "cover his tracks" very well.

"We had information as to who he was and what he might be doing," Champagne said. "The detectives did a good job."

Champagne said investigators believe that Underwood allowed Pfeil to live with him after the younger man evacuated for Hurricane Katrina. They think the two men may have met during a meeting of one of Underwood's support groups for recovering alcohol and drug abusers.

Pfeil is a recovering alcoholic and drug abuser, Champagne said. Underwood, who worked at Cytec Industries, was a recovering alcoholic, he said.

"(Underwood) did volunteer work in the jail," holding Alcoholics Anonymous group meetings, Champagne said. "We don't know details, but we know Underwood invited (Pfeil) to live with him after the storm."

Authorities found Underwood's badly decomposed body on the floor of the bathroom after a neighbor reported that she had not seen him since Sept. 6. Underwood had been stabbed multiple times, Champagne said. He would not say where on his body Underwood had been stabbed.

"We don't know what the motive was," Champagne said. "We do know that there appeared to be efforts to clean up the crime scene to some degree."

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# Ruined city still is picturesque

## *Sightseers drawn to the destruction*

**By Mary Foster**
Associated Press writer

There's a new kind of tourism in New Orleans. Forget photos of elegant French Quarter balconies, street musicians or even cheerfully bombed college girls flashing their breasts.

These days, relief workers, National Guardsmen, firefighters and police officers are snapping pictures of the remnants of Hurricane Katrina: piles of garbage still rotting in the hot sun, cars crushed by toppled walls and rows of shattered buildings.

"I wish we were taking pictures with strippers on Bourbon Street," said Stephen Lawrence of the Costilla County, Colo., sheriff's department. "But the things we're seeing are interesting. It's a part of history."

Boston University sociology professor Daniel Monti said the lure of such a disaster is common. Just as the World Trade Center site in New York became a tourist draw after the Sept. 11 attacks, the aftermath of Katrina has the same appeal.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence," Monti said. "I don't know that we've ever had a natural disaster that affected such a large part of the country. People want to recall it, to memorialize it."

Favorite tourist spots have even developed. Visitors are making regular pilgrimages to two cars on the edge of the French Quarter that are still under the pile of fallen bricks that crushed them in the storm.

"It's compact parking," joked Steve Dicketts, a private security agent from Virginia Beach, Va. "Quite a sight."

Dicketts has visited New Orleans before, but his pictures from that trip are nothing like the ones he's taking now.

"This isn't the same city," he said. "You will never see this again. They will take it away and rebuild, so you want to get it now."

New Orleans' new sights are just as awe-inspiring as the old ones. On a street full of bricks from smashed 19th-century buildings, John Harris posed in front of the only standing wall.

"This is awesome," said Harris, who was in town with a group of Baptist relief workers delivering supplies. "We're getting pictures to show people at our church."

Even the breaks in the levees that flooded most of the city are now attractions. And when 40 fire trucks and crews from around the country responded to a small fire, the firefighters linked arms and posed for pictures in front of the tiny puff of smoke.

Members of the American Society of Travel Agents have had only cancellations of trips to New Orleans, according to Liz Connolly, a spokesman for the group. But J. Stephen Perry, president of the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau, said his organization has already had calls from people who would like to visit the city while the storm debris is fresh.

"We hear from them every day," he said. "We just tell them that it's a hard time to come in right now. The hotel rooms are being taken by recovery workers. The area isn't safe. There are just too many problems."

The visitors bureau plans to market New Orleans again to regular tourists who plan to visit beginning at Christmas.

But until then, the ruins of the city provide a powerful draw for people already here.

"I was here four or five years ago," guardsman Reid Anderson said. "The pictures I'm sending home now are nothing like the ones I took then, but I'm probably taking more this time."

# Bulldozer kills man at Kenner dump site

## *Houma resident was run over*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

A Houma man working at a temporary dump site in Kenner was accidentally killed Thursday when he was run over by a bulldozer, Kenner police said.

Terry Porche, who family said is from Houma, was working as a flagman at the dump in the 600 block of Charles Street near Airline Drive, police spokesman Capt. Steve Caraway said.

"It was unpreventable," Caraway said. "There was nothing they could do."

Witnesses told police that Thursday at about 6 p.m. Porche was walking backwards behind the bulldozer when he tripped and fell, Caraway said. The bulldozer, being driven by Kenneth Kelly, 39, of Franklin, backed over him, Caraway said.

Kelly will not be cited, Caraway said.

"The machinery is very loud, and he didn't know the guy was behind him or had fallen," Caraway said.

Both men were contractors working for FEMA, Caraway said.

The dump site where Porche was killed is being used for Jefferson Parish debris, said Phil Ramon, chief of staff for Kenner government. He said that site and another on the east side of Hollandey Street where Kenner debris is being dumped were chosen to expedite cleanup of city streets, so trucks wouldn't have to travel to a landfill farther away.

Kenner City Council members criticized the dumps Thursday at a Kenner council meeting because of the smell. Ramon said only trees and debris is supposed to be dumped at the site, not garbage.

But Deborah Capers, a neighbor, told the council that some city residents, upset that curbside garbage hasn't been picked up, are dumping their ruined refrigerators and waste at the site.

Ramon said Friday that he has written a letter asking Police Chief Nick Congemi to enforce laws against illegal dumping.

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Mary Swerczek can be reached at mkswerczek@hotmail.com or (504)467-1726.

# STARTING OVER



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

The bottom floor of Slidell City Hall in Old Towne has been gutted after it was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. The Council has been meeting in the emergency operations center on Bayou Lane, which has been serving as government headquarters. About 4,000 of the estimated 10,000 homes in Slidell had flood or tree damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

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# STREET CLEANING



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Parkview Tavern owner Kathy Anderson scrubs a grill outside the Mid-City business Thursday. She said the Parkview will be ready to reopen when power is restored.

# Beau Rivage casino is worse than first thought

*Damage could total hundreds of millions*

**By Adam Goldman**
Associated Press writer

BILOXI, MISS. — When Hurricane Katrina finished pounding this seaside city, it appeared that the Beau Rivage – the $800 million crown jewel of Gulf Coast casinos – had escaped serious damage.

But a closer look revealed a gloomier picture, and now the resort's Las Vegas-based parent company, MGM Mirage Inc., predicts the Beau Rivage will be the single-biggest loss of any of the 13 casinos lining the Mississippi coast.

Officials estimate that fixing the 1,740-room resort could cost hundreds of millions of dollars and take 12 to 16 months – a frustrating setback for the 3,400 people who worked there.

"When you look at it, your heart kind of sinks," said Cindy Nieder, a security supervisor and a Beau Rivage employee since the property opened in 1999. "It was so pretty in here. We had flowers and little shrubs. It was beautiful."

The Beau Rivage was built to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, and its exterior walls and core architectural structure emerged largely intact. But the real damage is inside.

MGM Mirage allowed a reporter inside the Beau Rivage for the first time this week, giving The Associated Press a tour of the damage caused by a tidal surge towering more than two stories – a height the resort's designers hadn't planned for.

The company has hired a small army to revive the Beau Rivage, but debris remains visible in all corners of the gutted first floor.

Large sections of the southern wall facing the Gulf of Mexico have huge gashes from the giant waves that repeatedly crashed into them, and the first two floors of the parking garage were wiped away.

A pile of battered computers is all that remains of the front desk. The atrium has been reduced to rubble thanks to the heavy equipment tearing up the floors. The only people around are construction workers trying to piece the resort back together.

MGM Mirage had spent millions improving the Beau Rivage in recent months, adding a nightclub and new restaurants; those investments were flushed out to sea. The new $4 million club is gone, except for the center bar and the coral glass above it.

Many seats in the cavernous showroom that holds 1,550 people were yanked out, along with the slot machines on the casino floor. Nickels are scattered everywhere.

The cage, where people cashed their chips, is like a deserted bank, with only the bars and teller stations signaling there was ever a casino here. Almost all of the first-floor carpet has been removed, and the ceilings are exposed, revealing a tangle of electrical wires.

The popular restaurants have disappeared.

George Goldhoff, vice president of food and beverage at the resort, said his operation was wrecked. A custom-made meat smoker has vanished.

"It's not there," he said. "There's no telling where it went."

The brewpub's gleaming, stainless steel beer tanks didn't survive, and the four 10,000-gallon aquariums that held sharks and other marine life were washed out to sea. Goldhoff didn't know what happened to the creatures.

"Free Willy, baby," he said.

Architects who inspected the Beau Rivage say it is structurally sound because the design helped mitigate and divert the force of the winds. The barge on which the casino rested managed to remain in place thanks to the oil-rig technology used to construct it. The adjacent marina that has 31 slips and can accommodate huge yachts also escaped the storm's wrath for the most part.

While power hasn't been restored to the entire building, it's possible to take an elevator to the executive offices on the second floor. The sturdy hotel tower and its many rooms also are in good shape – a relief to MGM Mirage executives.

But Goldhoff, who helped open the Bellagio megaresort in Las Vegas, knows he has a daunting rebuilding job in front of him.

The thought of it, he said, "makes the hair on my arm stand up."

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# Entergy may close old power plants

## *Electricity would be bought wholesale*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Utility customers in Louisiana could save $59 million a year if Entergy Corp.'s electricity utilities outside New Orleans shut down old, inefficient power plants and replaced them with electricity purchased from wholesale suppliers, according to a newly released report from state Public Service Commission consultants.

However, that figure is far below the hundreds of millions of dollars in savings predicted by some of the wholesale suppliers who want the state's biggest utilities to purchase more of their electricity.

"A (power plant) retirement strategy will not produce massive customer rate savings, but it might be able to provide at least modest savings to Louisiana customers," concluded the 109-page report by J. Kennedy & Associates of Roswell, Ga., Exeter Associates of Columbia, Md., and Stone, Pigman, Walter Wittman LLC of New Orleans.

At $59 million, the savings would average of $59 a year, or less than $5 a month, for each of the 1 million customers. However, any actual savings would likely be much different because regulators can distribute the money in a variety of ways.

The report supports Entergy's ongoing strategy of supplementing its power generation capacity with attractively priced electricity purchased on the wholesale market and the acquisition of newer, more efficient generators, said Michael Twomey, vice president of regulatory affairs for the utility.

At least one wholesale power supplier said the report should prompt state regulators to continue studying potential plant retirements.

"It validates what we have said all along: that retirements are justified," said Tom Allen, spokesman for New South Energy, a subsidiary of Calpine Corp.

"With gas prices up, efficiency now more than ever is tantamount and important."

The PSC initiated the study in 2003 to determine whether rates could be lowered by forcing Entergy to replacing some of the 14,000 megawatts of power the utility generates from old natural gas and oil-fired generators, many of which have been operating for more than 30 years.

During the past five years, competitive power suppliers have built numerous modern and more efficient gas-fired generators in the state capable of generating 17,000 megawatts of electricity.

Owners of those plants have pressed regulators to force Entergy to purchase larger amounts of power from them.

In addition to modest savings to customers, the consultants concluded that retiring some of Entergy's old plants would produce "significant" reductions of so-called greenhouse gas pollutants.

And the consultants said customers stand to benefit more from Entergy adding modern generators to its in-house fleet of power plants by purchasing financially troubled plants at sharply discounted prices from competitive electricity suppliers.

Entergy purchased one such plant, the Perryville Power Station in northeastern Louisiana, last year from Cleco Corp. Another plant acquisition is pending in Mississippi.

Still, the laws of physics and geography pose barriers to shutting down large numbers of Entergy's older generators, the consultants reported. The movement of electricity over the company's vast grid of wires requires power plants to be strategically located in order to maintain a stable flow of power.

"These constraints force the operation of substantial portions of Entergy's old gas generation and limit the ability of the newly acquired units to displace the high-cost generation," according to the report.

Upgrades to the company's transmission lines could lessen those problems, but the cost of those improvements could offset much of the savings reaped from retiring old plants, the consultants said.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@yahoo.com.

# Jackson: Buses to bring back those seeking jobs

## *But mayor worries they'll be homeless*

**By The Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS — About 600 displaced residents will return from shelters around the country to their storm-ravaged city and be matched with jobs and housing early next week, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said Friday.

In a conference call with reporters, Jackson said a caravan of buses will begin their journey from Chicago early Monday morning, will travel to shelters in St. Louis; Memphis, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; and Mobile, Ala., and will arrive Tuesday in New Orleans.

"People who have been displaced have the right to return, the right to reclaim their property," said Jackson, speaking from California.

Later Friday, Mayor Ray Nagin said that while he was in favor of allowing local people to fill city jobs, he had doubts about Jackson's plan. No housing exists for the displaced residents, he said.

"We're going to have a mess. These people are going to come here and be homeless," Nagin said, adding he hoped to talk to Jackson soon about the busing plan.

During the conference call, Jackson characterized his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's efforts as "a time to heal, a time to rebuild," and reiterated his criticism of federal work repairing damage from Hurricane Katrina.

He said displaced residents should be getting the contracts being awarded to out-of-town companies for construction and debris removal.

Jackson said service-sector jobs in restaurants and hotels are plentiful, and that returning residents would be housed in hotel rooms and trailers and on military bases.

"There are jobs – there's no doubt about that," he said. "Those who've been displaced are not getting them."

# DEATHS

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**Lynn P. Bertaut, Jr.**
**Jeremiah Jeff Bishop**
**Johnnie Melvin Brown**
**Verena Fichter Brumfield**
**Joseph Collins, Jr.**
**Lucille Callac Conn**
**Elenora Miller Cortello**
**Walter Thomas Cosse**
**Dorothy Kinsella Diblin**
**Mary Treadaway Donewar**
**Ryan Jacob Eskine**
**Emmet William Geary**
**Onnie R. Greene**
**Myrtle M. Grosskopf**
**Don Thomas Hattier**
**Dorothea Mae Maitre Hodgson**
**Joseph Barton Hughes**
**Joseph J. Krebs**
**Joseph J. Laurie**
**Hypolite Adolph LeBlanc, Jr.**
**David Joseph Rome**
**Marie Julia Barousse Slemmer**
**Darren P. St. Pierre**
**Salvador Taulli**
**Eugenio Suazo Tejeda**
**Cherry Mae Miles Williams**

### BAHR
Ernest Fletcher Bahr, Jr. born October 30, 1954 in Birmingham, AL, passed away September 16, 2005 at the home of his parents, Ernest and Evelyn Bahr, Sr. of Slidell, LA. He was a resident of Biloxi, MS. Mr. Fletcher was a U.S. Navy Veteran and was a security guard at Dupont in Velisle, MS at the time of his death. He is the husband of Edina Bahr, the father of Richard L. Bahr of Eastman, GA, Ernaest Paul Bahr of Biloxi, MS; bother of Jerri Lynne Bahr Boddy of Ft. Worth, TX; Grandfather of Tristen and Connor Bahr; Father-in-law of Whitney Bahr; Brother-in-law of Edward Boddy. He was known as Uncle Bubba to nieces and nephews, Ernie to some and Fletcher to most. Funeral Services were held September 22, 2005 from Schoen Funeral Home in Covington, LA.

### BERTAUT
Lynn P. Jr., age 55 of Metairie, LA departed this life on September 20, 2005 at his daugher's home in Franklin, TN after a brief and courageous fight against metastatic melanoma. Adoring and beloved husband of Norma Dominguez Bertaut. Much beloved father of Rebecca Bertaut Vaughn and Christa Bertaut Gonzales. Grandfather ('GB') of Wyatt and Sawyer Vaughn. Father-in-law of Billy Vaughn and Michael Gonzales. Son of Lynn P. Bertaut, Sr. and Gerry Bertaut. Brother of Robert, Elizabeth B. Themes, Julie B. Bell, and Tina B. Festi. Founder and CEO of On-Line Systems Research. He will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held in Metairie, LA at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Alive Hospice of Nashville, TN or the American Cancer Society. Friends may call 504-339-9995

### BISHOP
Jeremiah "Jeremy" Jeff Bishop, on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Age 19 years. Beloved son of Bonnie Bishop. Fiance of Leighann Nicole Hebert. Brother of Justin Bishop and John Mulanax. Maternal grandson of the late Jerry and Juanita Bishop. Also survived by his beloved dog "Angel" and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend funeral services on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 2:00 PM at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM.

### BROWN
Johnnie Melvin Brown on October 6, 2005. Beloved husband of Joyce Archer Brown. Father of Barbara B. Bourgeois, Johnell B. Smith, Laura Lee B. Erskin, Walter A. Brown, Jeralyn B. Fernandez and Dottie B. Creppel. Brother of Billy B. Moak, D. Thomas Brown and the late Van Haley Brown, D. Hewitt Brown, Jerry Brown and Christine B. Foret. Also survived by 13 Grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Age 74 years. A native of Bogue Chitto, MS., and a resident of Kenner. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services from the funeral home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 N. Causeway on Saturday October 8, 2005 at 3:00 PM. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit Saturday after 1:00 PM. Donations can be made to Little Farms United Church of Christ, 135 Sauve Road, River Ridge, LA. 70123, 504-737-5858.

### BRUMFIELD
Verena Fichter Brumfield, of Slidell, LA on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, at Baptist Medical Center, San Antonio, TX. Beloved wife of Harold "Boo Boo" Brumfield. Mother of Linda, Brenda, Elizabeth (Liz) and Elaine Fichter. Sister of the late Freddy Fichter, George Mansardt, Bubby Fichter, and Eva Ricks. Grandmother of Elroy Hugle, Cassandra Hugle, Corey Fichter, Justin Wintzel, Bryan Mims, Jason Wintzel, and Mackinzie Fichter. Great grandmother of Ciara Hugle. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Graveside funeral services at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 1751 Gause Blvd. West, Slidell, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 1:00 pm. Rev. Adrian Hall officiating. Interment in Forest lawn Cemetery. Visitation on Saturday from 12:00 Noon to service time. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### COLLINS
Joseph "Joe" Collins, Jr. of New Orleans, LA., departed this Earthly life on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital. Beloved husband of Beverly Collins of New Orleans, LA. Loving father of Giovanni Felix Collins, Moncell Vincenti Collins of New Orleans, LA., and the late Nicole C. Burton and Giovannell Catrice Collins. Brother of Effie Mae Thomas of New Orleans, LA. Dorothy Woods of Detroit, MI., and Norbert Heney, Sr., of Kennesaw, GA. Brother-in-law of Diana Henry of Kennesaw, GA. Five grandchildren; Jody Burton, Jovann Carter, Mercedes Walters, Erica and Ivory Wicken. A host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass to be celebrated at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 11140 LA. Hwy 77, Maringouin, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 10:00 AM with visitation beginning at 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. Interment in Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery. Bardell's Mortuary of Mt. Airy, LA in charge. Information 985-535-6837.

### CONN
Lucille Callac Conn on October 1, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Allan MacDuff Conn. Mother of Sandra Conn, Charlotte Conn Dumestre and Deborah Conn. Grandmother of Suzette D. Crocker and the late David Allan Dumestre. Great Grandmother of Emily J. and Evan M. Crocker. Daughter of the late Frederick J. Callac and Cecelia Corre Jolles Callac. Sister of Marguerite C. Cooper, Cecelia C. Burns and the late Peter B. Callac. Age 96 years. A lifelong resident of New Orleans. Mrs. Conn was a graduate of Sophie B. Wright class of 1928. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the religious services on Friday October 7, 2005 at 12:00 Noon from the Chapel of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 N. Causeway. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am Interment in Garden of Memories.

### CORTELLO
Elenora Miller Cortello at her son's residence in Metairie, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 5:30 PM. Beloved wife of the late Anthony J. Cortello. Mother of Ellen C. Frisard, George A. Cortello, Jackie C. Beck, and the late Marion Cortello, Janis C. During and Malcolm J. Cortello. Sister of the late Emile A. Miller and Theodor Miller. Daughter of the late Ellen Peterson Miller and Emile Miller. Also survived by 15 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Age 100 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 30 years. Relatives and friends were invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 11:00 AM followed by interment in Garden of Memories, Metairie, LA. Visitation on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 from 9:00 AM until funeral time. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions to Sister Servants of Mary of New Orleans, 2131 W. 27th St, Los Angeles, CA 90018. Sign on Guest book at www.legacy.com

### COSSE
On this very heavenly day October 2, 2005 God opened his loving arms and welcomed a special angel to His rest, Walter Thomas Cosse, 30. His death was of natural cause. Walter willing and lovingly will watch over his loving wife Karen Presley Cosse, his son, love of his life, Ty Michael Cosse, mother, Barbara Comer Cosse, father, Thomas Cosse, brother, Thomas "Tommy" Cosse, Jr., Mother and father-in-law, Michael and Debbie Presley, grandfather, Walter J. Comer, nanny, Patty tufaro, godfather, Leo Cosse, uncle, Pete Tufaro, and aunt, Mary Landa, godchild, Richard "Braden" Prince, and cousins: Melisssa and Paris Prince, Peter Tufaro, Jr., Timothy Cosse, Kim Shreve, Rodney Cantrell, Missy Graham, Jackie Moore, Robin Landa-Detwiller. Sister-in-law to be Amy Kimball. Deceased but never forgotten grandmothers, Hazel D. Comer, Gloria Cosse. Walter was a life long resident of St. Bernard Parish, graduate of Brother Martin and Nunez Community College. He was a dedicated and gracious employee of Metal Pro Industries. Walter had many other treasured family and friends. His knowledge, talent, and dimpled smile will remain with us forever. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Church on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 10:00 am. Visitation will be held on Sunday October 9, 2005 from 5pm-9pm at the temporary location of Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home 1717 Veterans Boulevared Metairie, LA 70005. God Saved him and took him to his golden palace in peace forever.

### DIBLIN
Dorothy Kinsella Diblin, 78, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie passed away Sept. 6, 2005, in Morgan City. She was the daughter of Andrew and Alice Kinsella, born June 21, 1927. Services will be held at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church, 8500 W. Metairie Ave October 8th 2005. Visitation at 10:00 a.m. with mass to follow at 11:00 a.m. (burial pending). She is survived by her husband, Clarence Diblin, Jr. of Metairie; her two sons, Clarence and his wife Joan Diblin III of Covington, Mark and Melissa Diblin of Gainesville, Fl.; her daughter, Connie and her husband Larry Besson of Metairie; her brother, Andrew Kinsella and his wife Pat of Mandeville; her sister Marilyn Brechtel and her husband Warren of Covington. She is also survived by her six loving grandchildren, Cody, Joshua, Dorie, Abby, and Molly Diblin, Alison Cupit, and great-granddaughter Cassidy. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, Alice & Joseph Stelljes. Donations to O.L.D.P. Church hurricane relief fund or any cancer fund are encouraged.

### DONEWAR
Mary Treadaway Donewar on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Francis Charles Donewar. Mother of John Charles Donewar. Mother in law of Cheryl Vicknair Donewar. Daughter of the late Irene Gerrets Treadaway and Blaize J. Treadaway. Sister of Joseph, Edwin, Robert, Alvin, Donald Treadaway and the late Irwin Treadaway. Grandmother of Neil Christopher Donewar and Todd Jude Donewar. Age 84 years. A native of Algiers, LA., and a resident of Gretna, LA. She was a resident of Our Lady of Wisdom Health Care Center in Algiers and a member of John McDonogh VFW Post 3121 Ladies Auxiliary. Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expy., Harvey, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 11 AM. Interment will follow at McDonogh Cemetery. Parlors will be open Saturday morning at 9 AM. The family would like to extend their thanks and sincere gratitude to the staff of Our Lady of Wisdom Health Care Center and to her home caregivers for their kindness and compassionate care.

### ESKINE
Ryan Jacob Eskine passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Age 31 years. Beloved husband of Danielle Chanove Eskine. Father of Tristen Eskine. Stepfather of David Walters, III. Son of Paul H. Eskine, Sr. and Lydia Seifert Docampo. Stepson of Leah B. Eskine and Pedro Docampo. Brother of Paul H. Eskine, Jr. Grandson of Noemie Seifert. Brother-in-law of Joe and Dominique Chanove. Son-in-law of Wallace and Mary Lynn Chanove. Mr. Eskine was a member of St. Genevieve Catholic Church. Relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Louisiana Carpenters Regional, the Louisiana State Troopers Association and the New Orleans Police Department are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Chapel, 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be on Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM and on Friday from 11:00 AM until time of Mass. In lieu of flowers donations to STOPS, St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433 preferred. Burial will follow in Pinecrest Cemetery LAKELAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME Is in charge of arrangements.

### GEARY
Emmet William Geary, Sr., Monday, October 3, 2005 at 9:00 P.M. at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Houma, LA. Husband of Louise Daspit Geary of New Orleans, LA. Son of the late Walter M. Geary and Harriet Beatty Geary. Father of Emmet W. Geary, Jr. of New Orleans, LA., and Katharine Louise Geary of Pineville, LA. Brother of Harriet B. Geary of New Orleans, LA., Catherine Geary Martin of Smyrna, GA., the late Walter T. Geary and Arthur Geary. Also survived by one grandson Andrew Cavaners. Age 87 Years, a native and resident of New Orleans, LA. A retired office manager with Bell South, and a U.S. Army Veteran. Parishioner of Mater Dolorosa Church in New Orleans, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass Christian Burial on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 11:00 AM at St.Francis de Sales Cathedral, 500 Goode St., Houma, LA., with temporary interment at St. Francis de Sales #1 Cemetery, Houma, LA., and final interment in Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, LA. Visitation will be held on Saturday at St. Francis De Sales Cathedral from 10:30 A.M. until funeral time. In lieu of flowers, donations to charity of your choice. Arrangements by Chauvin Funeral Home, Inc. 5899 Hwy 311, Houma, LA 70360.

### GREENE
Onnie R. Greene passed away Thursday, September 29, 2005 at his home in Luling, LA. Son of Caldonia Greene and the late Joseph Greene, Sr. Husband of Charlotte White Greene. Father of Calotta, Raynold, and Ronnie Greene. Brother of Al Greene, Lori Burns, Trudy Greene, and the late Joseph Greene Jr. Also survived by one grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Age 47 years. A native of LaPlace, LA and a resident of Luling, LA. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of Antioch Baptist Church and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral service at Antioch Baptist Church, 16461 Old Spanish Trail, Des Allemands, LA on Saturday, October 8,2005 at 11:00AM. Rev Dr. Mitchell Bolden, Jr., Pastor, Rev Charles Temple, Jr., Assistant Pastor, Officiating. Internment Mt. Airy Memorial Park Cemetery, Boutte, LA. Visitation at the above named church from 10:00AM until service time. SERVICED BY ROBOTTOM

### GROSSKOPF
Myrtle M. Grosskopf, age 71 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, LA. Mrs. Grosskopf is the beloved wife of Robert E. Grosskopf, Sr. for the past 54 years. Mother of Robert E. Grosskopf, Jr. and his wife Catherine Grosskopf of Boston, MA and Pamela L. Mashon and her husband Kurt Mashon of Hammond, LA. Grandmother of Meghan and Margot Grosskopf, and Zachary and Alexandra Mashon. Daughter of the late Charles R. Lesher, Jr. of Jupiter, FL and the late Mary Jane Hamm. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Mrs. Grosskopf was a retired Office Supervisor for Analytical Studies in Metairie, LA. She was a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Service in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 315 Ridgelake Dr, Metairie, LA 70001, on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf to the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at the above address. All Faiths Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### HATTIER
Don Thomas Hattier, born on October 8, 1940 passed away on September 29, 2005 at his Kenner home. Husband of the late Merle Thibodeaux Hattier. Survived by his daughter, Catherine Hattier Barrouquere, son-in-law, James M. Barrouquere and granddaughter, Anna Grace Barrouquere. Preceded in death by his parents Helen Collins Hattier and Milton John Hattier. Born in New Orleans, he resided in Kenner for over thirty years. He was a graduate of St. Aloysius High School and Louisiana State University. Relatives and friends as well as employees of Retif Oil are invited to attend the Funeral Services at Lamana-Panna-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Blvd. on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12:00 Noon at the funeral home. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for Mount Carmel Academy's Athletic Department, 7027 Milne Dr., New Orleans, LA., 70124. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### HODGSON
Dorothea Mae Maitre Hodgson, age 85 years, on Monday, September 26, 2005, at Greenbriar Nursing Home, Slidell. Wife of the late Maurice Gelpi Hodgson, Sr. Mother of Marylyn Ann Beyer and the Maurice (Butch) Gelpi Hodgson, Jr. Daughter of the late Henry Maitre and Wilhelmine Carstens. Also survived by 6 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and 4 great great grandchildren. A graduate of L.E. RaBouin School. Services and Interment were private. Doantions to the Little Sisters of the Poor, preferred. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### HUGHES
Joseph Barton Hughes on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:40 AM at his residence. Beloved husband of 67 years to Ruth Curry Hughes. Loving father of Helen H. Whittington and Michael S. Hughes. Grandfather of Kim W. Michel, Tonia W. Merrick, Michael S. Hughes, Jr., Bobby, Jason, Jennifer Louise and Emily Lauren Hughes and the late Billy D. "Bubba" Whittington. Great grandfather of Nicholas, Michael, Shane, Megan, Garrett, Jacob, Dakota, Colby and Shelby Hughes and Adriana Milyn Michel. Son of the late Joby Eugene and Mealie Adeline Wilkinson Hughes. Brother of the late Ada Holloway, Roy, Stanford, Verdin and Theo Hughes. Mr. Hughes was born in Leady, MS and lived in Covington for the past 55 years. He was a retired rigger with Brown & Root/Prestressed Concrete Products. He worked with the construction of the first Causeway Bridge in 1955 and the second Causeway in 1968, the I-10 Twin Spans, I-10 & I-55 Manchac Bridges, BonneCarre Spillway Bridges and the bridges across Escambia Bay to Pensacola, FL. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 2:00 PM from the chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA. Interment to follow in Garden of The Pines Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### KREBS,
Joseph J. Krebs, Jr. passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Mr. Krebs, the former Chairman and CEO of J.J. Krebs and Sons, Inc., an engineering consulting firm now known as Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc., retired in December 1995, and served as a consultant to the firm until his death. A 1950 Tulane graduate in Civil Engineering, he was a member of Tau Beta Pi Honorary Fraternity. In 1976, he was appointed to the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans and served for five years as Commissioner, and as President and Chairman of the Board in 1980. Mr. Krebs led the Board's first trade mission to the People's Republic of China and the Far East in 1984. The same year, he was elected Chairman of the Board of the Chamber/New Orleans and the River Region and served for many years in various Chamber organizations. From 1981 to 1986 he was a member of the Greater Jefferson Port Commission, and in 1986 became a member of the Jefferson Economic Development Commission, on whose board he served until 1991. Mr. Krebs has also been a Board member of the Louisiana Council for Fiscal Reform, Jefferson Business Council, Commitee for a Better Jefferson, Bureau of Government Research, World Trade Center, Greater New Orleans Foundation and the American Public Works Association, and the Board of Trustees of Loyola University. In addition, Mr. Krebs served for many years on the Board of Directors of LP&L and NOPSI, and as an Advisory Board member of Entergy. Mr. Krebs received the C. Alvin Bertel Award from the New Orleans Traffic and Transportation Bureau, recognizing his contributions to the effort to keep New Orleans competitive with other ports and to enhance its position in the development of trade and industry vital to the economy of Louisiana. His lists of awards also includes the Joseph W. Simon Award from the Chamber/New Orleans and the River Region for his superlative and honorable service to their organization, The Young Leadership Council's 25 Role Models of 1987, and the 1988 Construction Industry Association of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana's "Honor Award". In 1994, Mr. Krebs was inducted into the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame. Mr. Krebs was an active parishioner of St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church, and served on many committes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, including as Chairman of the Archbishop's Community Appeal in 1991. Joseph J. Krebs, Jr. is survived by the former Betty Prillmayer, two married children, David and kathy, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Services will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Leitz-Eagan Funerla Home on Veterans Blvd. in Metairie, with visitation from 9:00 to 11:00, followed by a Catholic Mass at Leitz-Eagan at 11:00. Interment will follow at Garden of Memories in Metairie.

### LAURIE
Joseph J. Laurie, Jr. on Friday, September 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Antoinette "Gigi" Giglio Laurie. Father of Nicholas Joseph and Stephanie Elizabeth Laurie. Son of the late Elizabeth O'Connor and Joseph J. Laurie. Brother of Frances Laurie Lewis, Jimmy Haag, Donald Haag and preceded in death by John A. Rome and Larry "Whip" Laurie. Beloved cousin of Chester Stetfelt, Jr. Also survived by brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, family and friends. He will be sadly missed by Baxter "his cat". Aged 47 years, a native of New Orleans, a resident of Metairie for 41 years, and a resident of Arabi for the past 6 yeas. Relatives, employees of Coca Cola Bottling Co., Winn Dixie, Bellsouth, Hibernia Bank, and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Friends may visit from 9:00 AM until time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations to Childrens Hospital, 200 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, preferred.

### LEBLANC
Hypolite Adolph LeBlanc Jr., (H.A.) "Hyp", age 91. Died October 5, 2005. He was a former Scout Master for Boy Scouts of America. Secretary of St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter Commission, Chairman Norco Drainage District. A member of Sacred Heart Planning committee, former of Destrehen Progress Club, also a member of Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, LaBranch Duck Club, Bonnet Carre Rod and Gun Club, Chemical Engineering Society & LSU Alumni. He is survived by loving wife Hazel Marie Falgout. Sons; Dr. Hal A. LeBlanc and daughter-in-law Ann and Whittaker LeBlanc. Sisters Miriam LeBlanc Launey and Courtner LeBlanc Everard. Grandchildren: Elizabeth LeBlanc Frietas and Michael Frietas, Rebecca LeBlanc Brens and Steve Brens, Halie LeBlanc and fiance Jason Lowry, Hal A. LeBlanc, Jr. (Beau), and Melissa LeBlanc. Great-Grandchildren; Kirsten, Lorrie, Victoria, Madalyn, Breland, and Micah. Preceded in death by parents; Hypolite Adolph LeBlanc and Ruphena Longmire LeBlanc. Sister Mary Elizabeth LeBlanc Firment. Brothers; Warton and Vernon LeBlanc. Great grandson Gabriel Michael Brens. Hyp was a loving husband and the sole caregiver of his wife of 69 years. Tired: God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be, so he put his arms around you, and whispered "come to me", with tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away, and though we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay, a golden heart stopped beating, a precious soul at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best. Hyp passed away taking care of the love of his life Hazel. Devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norco, LA with Father Terry Hayden officiating. Visitation will be Saturday from 10:00 AM until Mass at the church. Entombment in St. Charles Borromeo Masuoleum in Destrehan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. H.C. Alexander Funeral Home is in charge of arrangments.

### ROME
David Joseph Rome, age 22 years at his Jefferson, LA residence on Thursday, September 29, 2005. Beloved son of Mark Rome and Rose DiBella Rome. Brother of Paul and Melissa Rome, and brother-in-law of Jaime Rome. Grandson of Florence "Granny" DiBella and the late Placido J. DiBella, and the late Mary Stanberry Rome and Melvin J. Rome. Also survived by one nephew, Austin Rome. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Jefferson Home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 North Causeway Blvd on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 2:00pm. Friends may call at the funeral home from after 12:00 o'clock noon. Interment in Garden of Memories. Information 835-2341

### SLEMMER
Marie Julia Barousse Slemmer of Covington died on Wednesday, September 21, 2005. She was 86 years old, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Covington for the past 40 years. She was the beloved wife of the late Josepoh Harry Slemmer, Jr. She is survived by the children: Marie Rivet and husband Pie, Catherine Quave and husband Tommy, Laura Bridges, Patricia Rohm and husband Milton, and Michael Joseph Slemmer and wife Pamela; her son-in-law Daniel Wahl, Sr.; and her brother Irvin Barousse and wife Jean. Also survived by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anna Rockel and Matthew Barousse; her daughter Harriet Victoria Wahl; Brother Charles Barousse and his wife Marguerite; her granddaughter Jamie Marie Jourdan. Services were held September 22, 2005 at St. Jane de Chantel Catholic Church in Abita Springs, Interment followed in the Garden of the Pines Cemetery. Arrangements by Bagnell and Son Funeral Home. Donation of Perpeptual Masses preferred.

### ST. PIERRE
Darren P. St. Pierre on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 7:15 PM. Beloved husband of Christa Roccaforte St. Pierre. Father of Brooke St. Pierre. Son of Allen and Audrey Millet St. Pierre. Brother of Darlene Vest, Kathleen Clement, Suzanne Quinlan and Allen St. Pierre, Jr. Son-in-law of Lonnie and Janice Roccaforte. Brother-in-law of Scott and Randy Roccaforte, Randy Clement, Joseph Quinlan, and Coy St. Pierre. Age 35 years. A native and resident of Garyville LA. Relatives and friends of the family also members of the Monseigneur Eyraud Knights of Columbus are invited to attend services; visitation at Milletl-Guidry Funeral Home, 2806 West Airline Hwy, La Place LA. On Friday, October 7, 2005 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM and on Saturday from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM. followed by religious services at St. Hubert Catholic Church, 10:00 AM. Burial in St. Peter Cemetery, Reserve LA

### TAULLI
Salvador (Sam) Taulli on Friday, October 7, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Eula Mae LeCompte. Father of Carroll Thiaville, Frank Taulli, Colin Taulli and Sam Taulli, Jr. Son of the late Verena Celino Taulli and Frank L. Taulli, Sr. Brother of Lawrence Taulli and the late Anthony, Russell, Joe, Frank, Michael and Peter Taulli and Conchetta Pumilia. Age 92 years. A native and resident of Harvey, LA. Relatives and Friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at St. Rosalie Catholic Church, Harvey, LA. On Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment: Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Visitation will be held at the church from 10:00 AM until mass time. Mothe Funeral Homes in charge of arrangements, 504-366-4343

### TEJEDA
Eugenio Suazo Tejeda, January 13, 1930 to August 27, 2005 at 75 years old. Eugenio Suazo Tejeda aka "La Ley", a retired boilermaker and seaman, died August 27, 2005 of complications due to prostate cancer. He was 75 years old. Mr. Tejeda was born in La Paz, Honduras, raised in La Ceiba, Honduras and lived in New Orleans for the past 40 years. He was a parishioner of St. Peter and Paul and also of St. Teresa of Avila where he was one of the "Caballeros de Suyapa". Mr. Tejeda was a Honduran Humanitarian as he helped many settle here in the New Orleans area. He was married to the late Maria de Jesus Tejeda Argueta. Survivors include six sons: Eugenio Suazo, Hugo Enrique, Rafael Antonio, Eugenio Antonio and Jaime Jose Tejeda; six daughters: Maria Eugenia, Lucila Raquel, Maria Lorena, Patricia Marie, Pamela Lizzette, and Monica Elizabeth Tejeda; Twenty grandchildren, five great-grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of Lamana, Panno, Fallo, Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 2:00 pm. Interment in Providence Memorial Park, 8200 Airline Hwy, Metairie, LA. Friends may visit on Saturday after 12:00 Noon. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Directors.

### WILLIAMS
Cherry Mae Miles Williams, a devoted member of the Mt. Pilgrim B.C. in Harvey, for over 53 years. Died on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 7:38 p.m. in Lake Charles, LA. Beloved wife of the late Lonnie Williams. Daughter of the late Caritha and Peter Miles. Mother of Caritha Roache, Carolyn W. Every, L.D. Sylvester, Clarence, Johnnie, Larry and Lloyd Williams and the late Melvin Williams. Sister of Elnora Johnson, Carrie Lee Penn, Robert Miles, Eldora Victor, Rose Mary Daniels, the late Daisy Walters, Helen Williams, and Willie Miles. Also survived by 25 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 10 great great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Special thanks to Meadowcrest Hospital, Odyssey Hospice, Staff of St. Martin D. Pores Multi-Care Center of Lake Charles, LA., Mt. Pilgrim B.C. and all neighboring Churches are invited to attend. Funeral Services will be held at Mt. Pilgrim B.C. 922 Estalote Ave., on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. John A. Brooks, Sr. Officiating. Interment: Bright Star Cemetery. Arrangements by Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, LA.

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# YOUR OPINIONS



Mount Carmel Academy 10th-grader Katie Gernhauser waves to a classmate at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie Wednesday. Next to Gernhauser are Sarah Raymond and Rebecca Crais, who also are Mount Carmel 10th-graders.

STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

## Jeff schools lead way to recovery

In the first few days after our community was devastated by Katrina, a very poor and uninformed decision was made to announce that Jefferson Parish schools would not open until January. Laying blame for that decision when so much work is left to be done is a waste of time and energy, but that errant announcement in conjunction with rumors that the school system would lay off thousands of employees has made the recovery of our community more difficult. Hundreds, if not thousands, of families made decisions to take jobs and enroll children in schools outside of Jefferson Parish when that announcement was made.

On Sept. 7, when Jefferson Parish was still closed, water remained in our streets, electrical service was sporadic and communication nearly impossible, the parish School Board met in Baton Rouge.

Despite the personal losses of board members and key administrators, all were in attendance. All board members reported that they had personally gone to their district and surveyed their schools. This first-hand survey by the elected leaders of the school system was critical in the decision-making process and the subsequent unanimous votes by the board to reopen the system Oct. 3 — and not to interrupt teacher pay and benefits.

Despite the bickering and politics seen on the board in the past, the board was united in its mission to re-establish one of the cornerstones of our community. The board understood reopening of schools was vital to signaling our citizens to return and rebuild, vital to the recovery of our local economy and vital to the well-being of our children. The board understood that the initial release of the January reopening date was a detriment to recovery and must be overcome.

Once the decision to open was made by the board, the massive task was met head-on by our administrators, teachers and staff. Countless hours were spent by administrators calling teachers, and teachers calling students to inform them to return. Blessed with good weather, massive repairs were made, and 79 of 84 schools opened Oct. 3. Jefferson Parish schools are now receiving students from surrounding devastated parishes, and we have exceeded attendance expectations with more that 50 percent of our pre-Katrina students and growing every day. More that 85 percent of teachers have returned.

We predict that by January (ironically the initial reopening date) our numbers will exceed our pre-Katrina numbers. All this has been accomplished without a single penny of federal disaster relief aid.

Our general fund surplus (our rainy day fund) has been depleted, and our immediate financial future is uncertain due to loss of tax revenue, but we are open and serving our community.

My hat is off to my fellow board members their leadership and resolve in rebuilding not only our school system but our community. And regarding Superintendent Diane

Roussel, our administrators, teachers and staff members, words cannot express my appreciation for their loyalty and efforts.

**Mark C. Morgan**
*Jefferson Parish School Board*
*1st District*
*Gretna*

## What are schools without teachers?

Congratulations to Edna Karr Magnet School for being named a Blue Ribbon School for the second time in 10 years. Initially, I was excited to hear that my children's schools, Edna Karr and Alice Harte Elementary, would be reopening Nov. 1. However, it was disheartening to learn that the teachers who have made these schools two of the top-performing schools in the state might not be returning.

Instead, the Orleans Parish school system has chosen to rely on UTNO, the teachers' union, to staff the schools as they see fit. Only in the Orleans Parish system would the teachers who have helped my children become the best and the brightest be removed for teachers who have been in academically unacceptable schools for two decades.

Maybe Edna Karr and Alice Harte should follow Lusher and Ben Franklin's lead and apply to become charter schools.

**Christine Tierney**
*New Orleans*

## No help from FEMA

I filed online for FEMA assistance and checked back 24 hours later, but they could not find my record and told me to file again. After another 24 hours I checked again, but then they said I had filed twice and that it would delay my application.

I saw President Bush on television when he said that FEMA would provide $2,000 emergency assistance. Well, I have neighbors who got $2,000 per person and got money from their insurance companies as well. My wife and I cannot even get $2,000 for the two of us. We are 66 and 64 years old and were displaced for one month. Our insurance company gave us $1,600 for a maximum of 14 days' assistance.

I am tired of hearing all the excuses from our federal government and from FEMA. They need to cut the red tape and provide the assistance promised. Forget about asking for help from Congress and the White House. They all sent me a standard form letter telling me to contact FEMA. What a joke.

**Marvin D. LaFleur**
*New Orleans*

## City not ready for the chronically ill

I am a social worker at a local hospital. I work primarily with patients who have chronic diseases, primarily end-stage renal disease, and with dialysis patients. While I am proud of Mayor Ray Nagin and support his efforts to repopulate the city, I am finding that important information is not getting out to the population I serve.

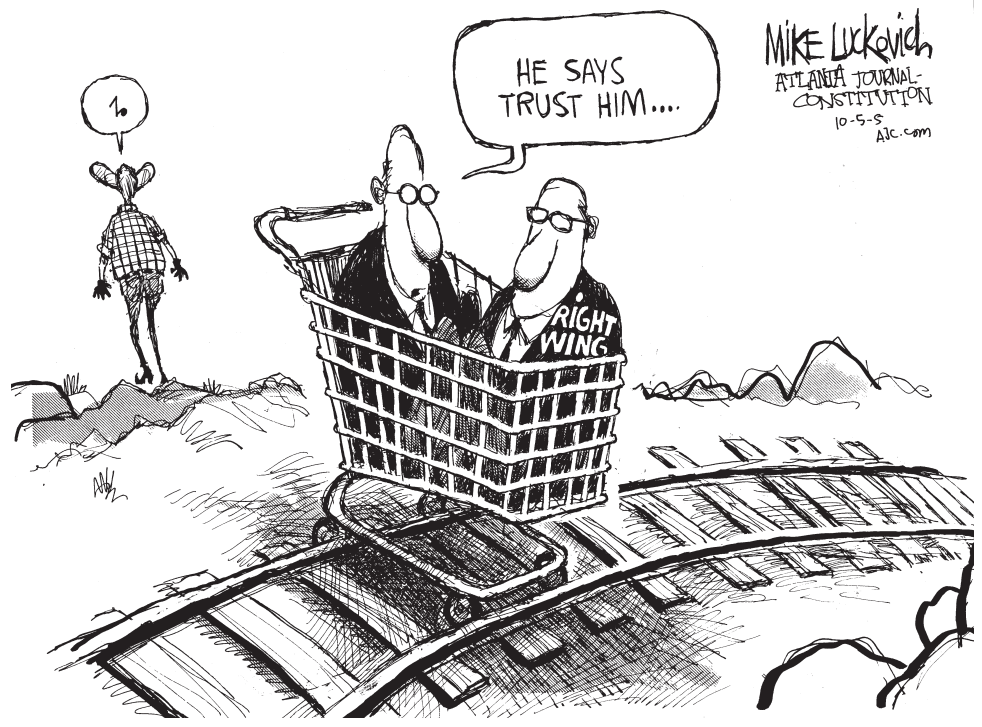
Dialysis is a life-sustaining kidney replacement therapy that patients require three days a week. In order to perform this procedure, a safe water supply is a must. Not only were many of the city's dialysis units flooded or damaged, the east bank water supply is unsafe.

Many patients have come home to find their Orleans Parish dialysis units not open and the systems that provided transportation to and from their units and doctors' offices unavailable. While there are units open in Algiers and Jefferson Parish, many people lack transportation to get to them. These patients were not prepared for the lack of services available within the city.

I hope The Times-Picayune will assist the health care community in better informing persons with serious, chronic or life-threatening illnesses to contact their local health care providers prior to returning to the city and to have a viable plan for transportation and obtaining medication.

**Shirley Townsend Strong, LCSW**
*New Orleans*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## The easy slander

St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis got an official apology out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday, and he deserved one. After he publicly criticized the agency, a FEMA spokeswoman suggested that he was merely trying to enrich himself.

Federal agencies shouldn't try to deflect criticism of their work in Louisiana by making up corruption allegations on the spot. And when they do, they shouldn't get away with it.

In an interview with CNN on Sunday, Mr. Davis praised FEMA's top management and field workers for their work. But he also complained that because of bureaucratic barriers created by the agency's middle managers, help is slow to reach the disaster victims who need it.

In comments posted on the news network's Web site, agency spokeswoman Nicol Andrews responded that Mr. Davis had tried to get FEMA to hire a construction company he owns to develop property "to which he has personal ties." She apparently was referring to a site in the Lakeshore Estates area capable of accommodating 1,200 FEMA trailer homes. The land in question is owned by developer Robert Torres, a friend and political supporter of Mr. Davis.

The parish president says the site already has electricity, water and sewerage and therefore could quickly become a temporary housing site. Regardless, if FEMA had a better idea in mind, it didn't have to use Mr. Torres' land. And contrary to Ms. Andrews' comments, Mr. Davis doesn't own a construction company at all.

Our state's fabled history of political intrigue and cronyism cannot serve as an all-purpose response to Louisiana's cries for help.

Yes, some past and current public officials in the metro area and elsewhere in Louisiana have given plum contracts to friends and political allies. Yes, one former governor is in jail, and the past three insurance commissioners have done time as well. If Hurricane Katrina breaks the back of the so-called Louisiana way, it will have done our state one service amid all the misery and heartbreak.

But people outside Louisiana should also know that there are voices — and institutions — demanding accountability from those who misuse their positions and misspend public money. Ray Nagin was elected mayor in New Orleans because city residents were fed up with the culture of patronage and wanted a leader who would foster business development in an honest, straightforward manner. Whatever their other strengths and weaknesses, the mayor and Gov. Kathleen Blanco both have reputations for forthrightness. "Google me," the mayor dared those who questioned the city's ability to use outside aid effectively.

If federal officials are worried about where money is going, they can assign more public-corruption prosecutors to U.S. Attorney Jim Letten's office. They can send in a little army of watchdogs, auditors and inspectors general. But for heaven's sake, our area needs help, and it needs help yesterday.

FEMA has been raked over the coals in the past month or so because of its slow initial response to Katrina. It's just a little too convenient for that agency to let on that state and local officials in Louisiana are, everywhere and always, up to no good.

And it's simply not true.

## Envious of us?

Those of us who were chased out of our homes by Hurricane Katrina would rather have had our lives continue along in normal fashion than be put in a position in which a $2,000 check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency was needed. But two Baton Rouge residents apparently were envious of the money the federal government was distributing to hurricane victims — so much so that they pretended to be victimized, authorities say.

Ursula R. Johnson, 33, and John Philip Dugan, 19, both appeared before a federal magistrate in Baton Rouge on Tuesday after each was booked with fraud. A third person is wanted on similar allegations of lying, and federal prosecutors say at least 21 other people in New Orleans and Baton Rouge are being investigated.

Most of us have the decency not to tempt fate. We have at least a rudimentary sense of karma that prevents us from faking pain and misery, lest we find ourselves in a situation where faking it won't be required.

But according to the Department of Homeland Security agent who took statements from the accused, Mr. Dugan needed money for car repairs. Why not file a fake claim with FEMA? Ms. Johnson's motivations are less clear. But the agent did say that she admitted using her brother's name and her aunt's New Orleans address to get money. When the money arrived, she forged her brother's name and deposited the check into a bank account they share.

Such accusations of greed shouldn't surprise us. Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, there were people who pretended that they had lost loved ones so they could qualify for government relief. Federal prosecutors suggest that as relief money continues to be distributed, false claims will continue apace.

That's shameful. Those of us who were forced to evacuate or who lost homes and cars during the hurricane should be comforted in our grief and perhaps even praised for having endured as much as we have. The one thing we shouldn't be is envied. This has not been a bonanza for us. It's been a trial. Anybody despicable enough to fake injury deserves not just jail time, but scorn.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# To fix N.O. finances, look to N.Y.



NICOLE GELINAS

Mayor Ray Nagin painted a dire picture of New Orleans' finances Tuesday, when he said he must cut half of the city's work force because the city is running out of cash.

This was no surprise. Just like many people, cities live from paycheck to paycheck. New Orleans has been virtually empty of residents and businesses for five weeks now, so the city isn't earning any tax revenue to pay its bills.

The problem is that New Orleans must show its evacuees — scattered around the nation — that it can provide them with basic services in order to convince them to come back. But it's a vicious circle: The city can't provide residents and workers with those basic services unless the residents and workers are already back, and paying their taxes.

But New Orleans' post-Katrina fiscal crisis can be fixed, with some creative thinking. And the city can look to New York as a model — no, not to Gotham's experience after 9/11, but to its experience during an earlier budget crisis, way back in 1975.

Thirty years ago, New York City, just like New Orleans, couldn't pay its bills. The cause of the problem was different: A free-spending New York had borrowed millions each month from banks and bondholders to pay the bills for years, and those lenders had finally said that the jig was up. The constant borrowing had become unsustainable and had to stop.

New York's 1975 crisis was more limited than New Orleans' current crisis, but the bottom line was similar: Without enough money to pay the bills, New York would have had to implement drastic service cuts, possibly driving what was left of its tax base away. And it was too late for outside observers to chastise the city for poor management and tell it to do better on its own.

By that point, just as in New Orleans now, New York was in dire fiscal straits, and needed an outside savior. And the federal government was refusing to step in.

Unlike municipal officials in New Orleans, New York's leaders had one priceless asset: The world's most brilliant private-sector financiers lived in New York. Many of them cared about the city, despite elected leaders' mistakes, and wanted it to recover.

Investment bankers led by Felix Rohatyn worked with Democratic governor Hugh Carey to design a unique bailout package to get New York City out of its hole, so that it could start fresh with better management practices in the future.

The city was in no shape to issue more bonds itself. So the state, not the city, issued them — covering New York City's huge budget gap well into the future so that the city was able to avoid massive service cuts. This gave the state and outside fiscal experts valuable time to step in and impose strict fiscal-management practices on the city, so that a repeat crisis would never occur.

There's no reason New Orleans can't do what New York did three decades ago, but with a twist.

Mayor Nagin needs about $20 million each month to pay his workers. A $120 million bond issue would cover these costs for six months. Louisiana, with its own economy so dependent on New Orleans, likely can't issue bonds on behalf of New Orleans at a low interest rate, like New York state did for New York City — unless the state first secures a federal guarantee on those state bonds.

The feds can and should provide that guarantee, which in effect would temporarily relieve New Orleans of the need to slash day-to-day spending. Three decades ago the federal government refused to help New York in such a manner. But New Orleans' acute fiscal crisis — the temporary disappearance of its entire tax base — is due to a natural disaster, not to chronic overspending.

With the federal government on board, Louisiana could then issue $120 million in 'New Orleans Operational Recovery Bonds' on the global bond market at a low interest rate. (Federally guaranteed bonds feature some of the lowest interest rates in the world.) The state, in turn, would give the money to the city only for the city to meet its payroll, and for no other state or city purpose, as would be agreed to in the bond documents.

Louisiana could structure the debt so that the first year's interest on it was 'borrowed' as well — that is, the state would make its first interest payments on the debt, say, a year from now.

This plan not only would allow New Orleans to pay its workers, easing the recovery. It would buy the city valuable time, creating a structured environment in which to assess its day-to-day fiscal needs for the post-Katrina future. New Orleans, perhaps with a commission of nationwide municipal-finance experts working on a pro-bono basis, could go over its books as information becomes available, and determine what level of tax base it can expect to have in a few months' time.

The city would also have time to determine, as the months pass, what kind of municipal services it will need, say, a year from now, and how best to pay for those services on a sustainable basis.

When New Orleans' tax base has begun to recover, Louisiana could look to the city to begin to pay back some of its debt: It would cost about $650,000 a month for the city to repay $120 million emergency debt over 30 years. New Orleans can't afford that now — but a recovering city with a recovering tax base could.

Is this a risk for the state, and, in turn, for the feds, who would guarantee the state debt? Sure. But Louisiana has no real choice. Louisiana, on a long-term basis, needs a recovered New Orleans to provide much of its tax revenue.

And national taxpayers who fund the federal government have their own selfish interest as well as a moral obligation at stake here: No city — whether well-managed or poorly managed, or in surplus or deficit, to start with — could survive an extended evacuation of its tax base without help.

Nicole Gelinas, a Tulane graduate, is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York.

# We need info to weather the storm

BARUCH FISCHHOFF

In an emergency, our future may hang on a few words, provided by someone in authority, as we face a fateful decision. The clock might be ticking quickly, as when a severe storm approaches, or slowly, as when we ponder treatment for a severe illness.

Good information doesn't make the world better, but it does tell us what we're up against. The back-to-back calamities on the Gulf Coast have shown what can happen when people have bad or incomplete information to act upon. Sadly, many problems there were predictable, given how official communications were managed and how rampant rumors became. Preparations could have been much better had state, local and federal authorities spoken with a single voice and made sure their words were being understood.

There are many things that might be said in advance about any looming risk, whether immediate or long-term. Far from the action, it's interesting to think about how oceanic loop currents may (or may not) affect hurricane intensity or how tighter airport security does (or does not) reduce the odds of a terrorist attack. But when we need to make a quick decision, what we really need are the most critical facts: Will there be enough gas available on the evacuation route? Is vaccination at all effective after exposure to smallpox? Can I trust the schools to protect my children while I ride out the crisis at work?

It's not that hard to understand the answers to these questions. But if people who need to know these facts don't get them in a timely and understandable way, then those responsible for communicating the facts have failed.

Without a scientific analysis of what happened after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, we won't know exactly what officials said and what citizens heard. A preliminary assessment suggests the messages worked much better for some people than for others. In both hurricanes, many people got out of harm's way. In Katrina, many others remained behind and suffered. Some stayed willfully, some didn't understand their predicament, some had no options. With Rita, many people left who could have stayed home had they only understood — and believed — official communications. Instead, many fled, creating a massive traffic jam in which a bus overheated and exploded, killing 23 passengers.

Communicators fail for known reasons. Here are some possibilities that a Katrina commission should examine looking backward, and that every citizen should consider looking forward, in assessing the communicators in a crisis:

*They don't understand how to talk to their public.* People tend to exaggerate how well they can put themselves in others' shoes. As a result, the experts say things that people already know, in terms the public doesn't understand, while omitting important information. When talking to patients, physicians have some chance of recognizing that they're missing the mark. Experts making official announcements over radio and television have no chance at all.



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA McCOY

The line to enter a Sept. 12 town meeting for St. Bernard Parish residents at the Capitol went out the door. Residents were desperate for information about their homes and the future of their community.

Nor is there any substitute for asking people in the intended audience how they interpret a message, before releasing it to the world. Seemingly simple terms, such as "shelter in place," "climate" and even "safe sex" mean different things to different people. No one would put a drug on the market without testing it. Yet we rely on labels that leave users guessing at the extent of the risks and benefits. We issue emergency instructions without running them by anyone.

*They don't trust their public.* Sadly, once we misunderstand other people's predicaments, we often judge them harshly if their actions don't make sense to us. We don't guess that a woman might have stayed behind in a hurricane because she didn't know her ex-husband had already taken their child to safety, or that a man on probation might decide he couldn't leave because he couldn't reach his probation officer.

Officials aren't immune to these biases. One often hears "experts'" predict mass panic in an emergency. Yet studies since the London blitz during World War II have shown that people behave responsibly, even bravely, in crises.

*They don't care solely about their public.* Risk communication is a public health function, helping people make the best choices. Yet the job is often given to public affairs or public relations or even marketing people. These professionals have valuable skills, but they naturally focus on their employers' welfare, not just that of their audience. When people feel their lives are on the line, they just want unspun facts.

Only the most cynical public affairs person would emphasize spin over substance in a crisis. But research finds that changing hats isn't that easy. Conventional concerns so permeate people's thinking that they cannot set aside their habitual ways of communicating.

*They have nothing to tell their public.* Without proper advance research, an agency cannot assess the risks that its public faces. In that case, it's better to plead ignorance than offer confident guesswork. Of course, no one wants to be told: "Beats me. You're on your own." But that's more useful than an unsupportable "Trust me." Still, there's always the temptation to pretend to know what should have been known, and to blame the victims for not doing the impossible.

Communication is part of any relationship. After Katrina and Rita, after the anthrax mailings, the abortive smallpox vaccination campaign — indeed, after any public crisis — citizens will ask, "Did you listen to us so that you could tell us what we needed to know?'" When the answer is yes, the authorities increase their standing as information providers. When the answer is no, the authorities undermine our resilience as a society.

Baruch Fischhoff, a professor of social and decision sciences at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, is president of the Society for Risk Analysis. He wrote this column for The Washington Post.



MAUREEN DOWD

# Bush's work wives

I hope President Bush doesn't have any more office wives tucked away in the White House.

There are only so many supremely powerful jobs to give to women who are not qualified to get them.

The West Wing is a parallel universe to TV's Wisteria Lane: Instead of self-indulgent desperate housewives wary of sexy nannies, there are self-sacrificing, buttoned-up nannies serving as adoring work wives, catering to W.'s every political, legal and ego-affirming need.

Maybe it's because his mom was not adoring enough, but more tart and prickly, even telling her son, the president, not to put his feet up on her coffee table. Or maybe it's because, as his wife says, his kinship with his mom gives him a desire to be around strong, "very natural" women. But W. loves being surrounded by tough women who steadfastly devote their entire lives to doting on him, like the vestal virgins guarding the sacred fire, serving as custodians for his values and watchdogs for his reputation.

First he elevated Condi Rice to secretary of state, even though she had bungled her job as national security adviser, failing to bring a sense of urgency to warnings about terrorism aimed at America before 9/11, and acting more as an enabler than an honest broker in the push to invade Iraq.

But what were these limitations, considering the time the workaholic bachelorette logged at W.'s side in Crawford and Camp David, coaching him on foreign affairs, talking sports with him, exercising with him, making him feel like the most thoughtful, farsighted he-man in the world?

Then he elevated his longtime aide, speechwriter, memoir ghostwriter and cheerleader Karen Hughes to undersecretary of state for public diplomacy, even though it is exceedingly hard for the 6-foot Texan to try to spin a billion Muslims whom she doesn't understand the first thing about.

But who cares about her lack of expertise in such a critical job, as long as the workaholic loyalist continues to make her old boss feel like the most thoughtful, farsighted he-man in the world?

And now he has nominated his White House counsel and former personal lawyer, Harriet Miers, to a crucial swing spot on the Supreme Court. The stolid Texan, called "Harry" by some old friends, is a bachelorette who was known for working long hours, sometimes 16-hour days, and was a frequent guest at Camp David and the Crawford ranch, where she helped W. clear brush.

Like Hughes and Laura Bush, she's a graduate of Southern Methodist, and she has always been there for W. In 1998, during his re-election race for governor, Harry handled the first questions about whether Bush had received favorable treatment to get into the Texas Air National Guard to avoid the draft. Though the former Democrat gave a grand to Al Gore in '88, she passed the loyalty test for W. during the Bush vs. Gore standoff in 2000, when she recruited conservative lawyers to work for the Bush scion in Tallahassee, Fla.

But who cares whether she has no judicial experience, and that no one knows what she believes or how she would rule from a bench she's never been behind, as long as the reason her views are so mysterious is that she's subordinated them to W.'s, making him feel like the most thoughtful, farsighted he-man in the world?

David Frum, the former White House speechwriter and conservative commentator, reported on his blog that Miers once told him that W. was the most brilliant man she knew.

Bushie and Harriet share the same born-again Christian faith, which they came to in midlife, deciding to adopt Jesus Christ as their savior. The Washington Post reported that she tithes to the Valley View Christian Church in Dallas, "where antiabortion literature is sometimes distributed and tapes from the conservative group Focus on the Family are sometimes screened," and where, when she returns, Miers asks well-wishers to pray for her and the president.

Born Catholic, she switched to evangelical Christianity in her mid-30s and began to identify more with the Republicans than with the Democrats, The New York Times reports Wednesday; she joined the missions committee of her church, which opposed legalized abortion, and one former political associate said that Miers told her she had been in favor of a woman's right to have an abortion when she was younger, but that her views hardened against abortion once she became born again.

W. is asking for a triple leap of faith. He has faith in Miers as his lawyer and as a woman who shares his faith. And we're expected to have faith in his faith and her faith, and her opinions that derive from her faith that could change the balance of the court and affect women's rights for the next generation.

That's a little bit too much faith, isn't it?

Maureen Dowd is a New York Times columnist.

# Katrina brings winds of change for some firms

## *But other businesses energized about return*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

Like many other New Orleans companies, energy firms have gone into exile in Gulf Coast cities from Baton Rouge to Houston in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and many are starting to plan their homecoming pending repairs to their buildings and the return of basic city services.

But a couple are looking for change first.

Energy Partners Ltd., a publicly traded exploration company with headquarters in New Orleans, has temporarily moved its 80 employees to Houston. The company is grappling with whether it stays there.

Richard Bachmann, chairman and chief executive, said he is frustrated with the lack of leadership at the state and city levels of government and the lack of communication with industry leaders.

"We will wait to see (that) they don't make a mess of things," he said.

"The heart of the oil and gas industry is in Houston," he said. "The longer companies are left there, the more comfortable they are in exile."

Tidewater Inc., a New Orleans company with about 80 employees in its headquarters on Poydras Street, also is watching.

"Until we see what shakes out in the reconstruction effort, and how it is accomplished, we will take a wait-and-see position," said Dean Taylor, president and chief executive of Tidewater.

Taylor said that instead of infighting and finger-pointing among elected officials, he would like to see them spend their efforts creating tax-free zones and tax holidays for businesses.

He said that even if his company does not maintain headquarters in New Orleans, it may leave administrative staff the city.

However, many other energy employers say they're starting to plan for their return.

Chevron Texaco moved its Gulf of Mexico unit from the unit's Gravier Street headquarters, where nearly 1,000 employees worked, to Lafayette, where it already had offices.

"Chevron is evaluating the safety, security and reliability of our building and city infrastructure, which will determine our timeline for returning to the city," spokesman Mickey Driver said.

Partial power has been restored to Chalmette Refining Co., a l83,000-barrel per day refinery owned by Exxon Mobil and Petroleos de Venezuela, and repairs are under way. Mark Boudreaux, an Exxon spokesman in Houston, said 200 to 300 of the refinery's 600 employees have returned to work.

"Our intention is to bring the refinery up and have people restored to work," he said.

Dominion Resources, whose office tower in New Orleans Centre was severely damaged, said January is the earliest the company could return its 340 employees to the headquarters from temporary offices in Houston, spokesman Dan Donovan said. He said the company might look for other office space in New Orleans, if necessary, in order to return to the city.

But he said there are considerations other than office space. The company's employees "need a safe and suitable place to live," he said.

Shell Exploration and Development will reoccupy its office site in One Shell Square "when it becomes habitable," the company said in a press release.

"The intention is to return with all employees. The question is time," said Chris Bozman, manager of public relations for Shell Oil in Houston. Shell has moved the 1,000 New Orleans employees to offices in Houston and to a training center in Robert.

Bozman said the company is awaiting repairs as well as basic utilities and a fire and medical response system.

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold and McMoRan Exploration have moved staff to Baton Rouge but plan on moving back when repairs are made to their Poydras Street headquarters. Spokesman Bill Collier said the company expects repairs to be completed by Nov. 15.

"The key date is Nov. 15, when we will start moving back," he said. "We plan on moving everything back."

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- If you wish to continue making payments, please contact Customer Service.

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- For Hibernia customers impacted by the hurricane whose residential first mortgages are held by Hibernia, first-mortgage payments that qualify may be suspended up to three months, with no credit reporting.[1]
- Also, Hibernia may grant up to 18 months of temporary forbearance to repay suspended payments, with no credit reporting.[1]
- Government insured mortgages (FHA and VA loans) may also qualify for a variety of assistance options, including special forbearance, late-fee waiver, modification and refinance.
- For All-In-One loans, interest deferral does not extend your construction completion date and does not extend your permanent interest rate expiration. If you need additional time to complete construction, please contact the Interim Lender handling the construction portion of your loan.
- For eligibility, customers should contact Mortgage Customer Service at 1-877-636-4008 for details and arrangements.

**Additional Information:**

- Direct deposits, automatic debits and credits and online bill payments have been processed.
- Customers requiring federal assistance can visit FEMA.gov. Customers can locate routing numbers for direct deposit of relief funds at the bottom of checks and deposit slips.
- The U.S. Postal Service is rerouting mail that was addressed to Hibernia to other locations so Hibernia can process lockbox services for commercial customers.

## Please call:

- 1-800-262-5689 for specific account information

[1] Interest will continue to accrue during deferment period.

HIBERNIA
*Where service matters.*SM

**Call.**
1-888-855-2265

**Click.**
Log on to Hibernia.com

**Visit.**
Any Hibernia banking office

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER ©2005 Hibernia National Bank, Member FDIC. Normal credit qualifications apply.

# Upbeat Dickie B



*At a meeting in Baton Rouge, Dickie Brennan maps out a strategy to revive his three French Quarter restaurants, and help his employees rebuild their lives*



Mike Cobb, Michelle Benoit and Eric Offray get the first post-Katrina order of food out of the kitchen and onto the tables of customers at Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House restaurant in the French Quarter.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA



Even with most of the city unpopulated, many of the tables inside Bourbon House were filled at lunchtime Wednesday.

**By Brett Anderson**
Restaurant writer

Dickie Brennan's three French Quarter restaurants had been shut down for over five weeks. Two of them, Palace Cafe and Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse, suffered damage in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; the latter was flooded and won't be ready to reopen for months.

Yet at a meeting of Brennan's management at Ruffino's restaurant last Monday in Baton Rouge, where the restaurateur had set up a satellite office of Dickie Brennan and Co., the prevailing feeling was one of abundant good fortune.

Brennan felt lucky to have one of his restaurants, Bourbon House, nearly ready for business, with hopes that the Palace Cafe would soon follow. His staff was lucky, too, and not just because Brennan's company had the wherewithal to keep all full-time employees - roughly 400 people — on the payroll, including tips for waiters.

Soon after the meeting started, the arrival of Eric Offray, Palace Cafe's kitchen manager, was met with applause and hugs.

*See* **BRENNAN,** *C-4*



CHRIS ROSE

# The more things change

*... the more some things in New Orleans stay the same*

You hang around New Orleans long enough these days and you begin to absorb what is new and what is returning to normal.

For instance, I was sitting on my front stoop and an RTA bus marked MAGAZINE zoomed by. I thought: Well, how about that! That's a good sign.

Never mind that the bus was empty; at least it was running and that's a sign of normalcy. And it was driving way too fast and therein was another harbinger of the same-ol', same-ol'.

Then, about 90 seconds later, another RTA bus marked MAGAZINE whizzed by, shaking my house to its foundation. It, too, was empty, but it was the realization that there were probably only two busses running the entire Magazine Street route and here they were, one right after the other and I thought: We're back!

What could be a better indication of a return to the old ways than the colossal inefficiency of our public transportation system? I don't know about you, but I will sleep better tonight; at least, that is, until an RTA bus blows by the house at midnight at Category-5 speed and does more damage to my plaster ceilings than Katrina did.

Of course, a common joke around here — dire times make for dire humor — is that when the mayor gets around to laying off those 3,000 workers, will anybody notice? I believe he, or some other public official, called them non-essential employees and I'll let you fill in your own punch line here.

I just hope it's not the two guys who've been assigned to cut the grass on the neutral grounds for the past 10 years; man, things would really be

*See* **ROSE,** *C-4*

# DO-IT-YOURSELF FILM FEST

Were it not for That Which Must Not Be Named, the 17th annual New Orleans Film Festival would be in full swing this weekend. Festival programming had been set to begin Friday. A statement on the festival's Web site, www.neworleansfilmfest.com, says, "We are conferring with state and local officials and plan to begin programming in New Orleans and other cities as soon as possible."

In the meantime, fans can re-create the festival experience with a collection of titles available for rent on DVD. All have played at the New Orleans Film Festival.

## WELCOME DISTRACTIONS

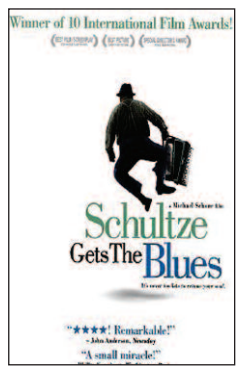


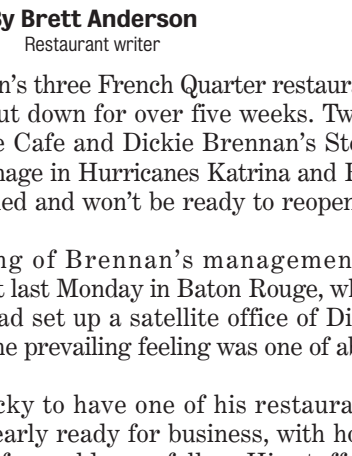

*Trivial pursuits to take your mind off you-know-what*

**Shine** (PG-13, 1996)
Every festival has to start with a big-ticket attraction featuring A-list talent. Director Scott Hicks' biography of troubled pianist David Helfgott is perhaps the most successful mainstream film ever to have its local premiere at the New Orleans festival. The cast includes Geoffrey Rush, Noah Taylor and Armin Mueller-Stahl.

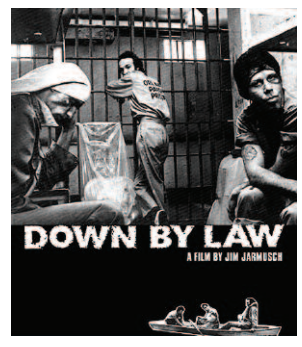



**Schultze Gets the Blues** (PG, 2003)
The foreign selection is writer-director Michael Schorr's study of a German miner forced into early retirement. Schultze (Horst Krause), an amateur accordionist, travels through Texas and Louisiana to learn the influence of polka music on tejano and zydeco styles. (It's not the blues he gets at all.) True, the film isn't very good, but every festival has to have a clunker. Besides, those who stick with it to the end will see scenes filmed at Mid-City Lanes Rock 'n' Bowl. Mostly in German with subtitles.




**Naqoyqatsi** (PG, 2002)
No festival is complete without a capital-A Art Film to leave movie-goers scratching their heads. This mesmerizing film is a feature-length montage depicting the globalization of technology and violence, set to a score by composer Philip Glass. Writer-director Godfrey Reggio is a New Orleans native. The film completes the "qatsi" trilogy Reggio began in the 1980s.

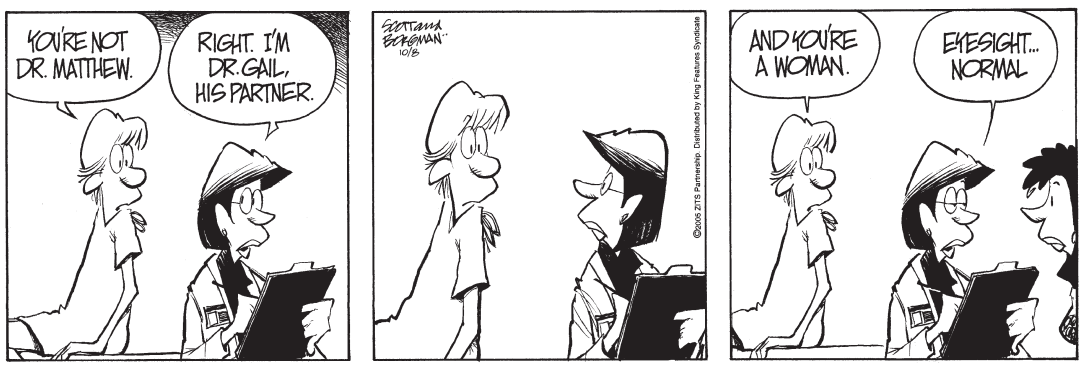



**Down by Law** (R, 1986)
Artistic Director John Desplas has said that writer-director Jim Jarmusch's comedy is the festival's most-requested title, earning the cult hit a near-permanent spot on the schedule. The movie, filmed in Louisiana, tells the story of three very different men who end up in the same prison cell. They are played by Tom Waits, John Lurie and Roberto Benigni. The cast includes Nicoletta Braschi and Ellen Barkin.

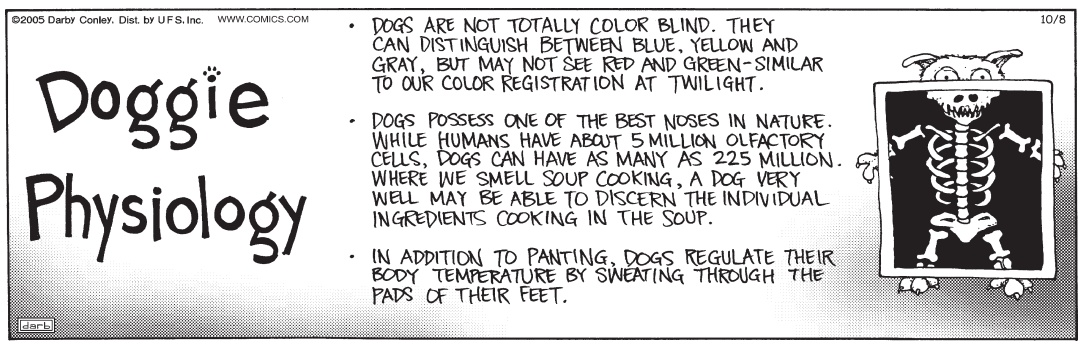
**By Michael H. Kleinschrodt, movie critic**

# COMICS

## ZITS



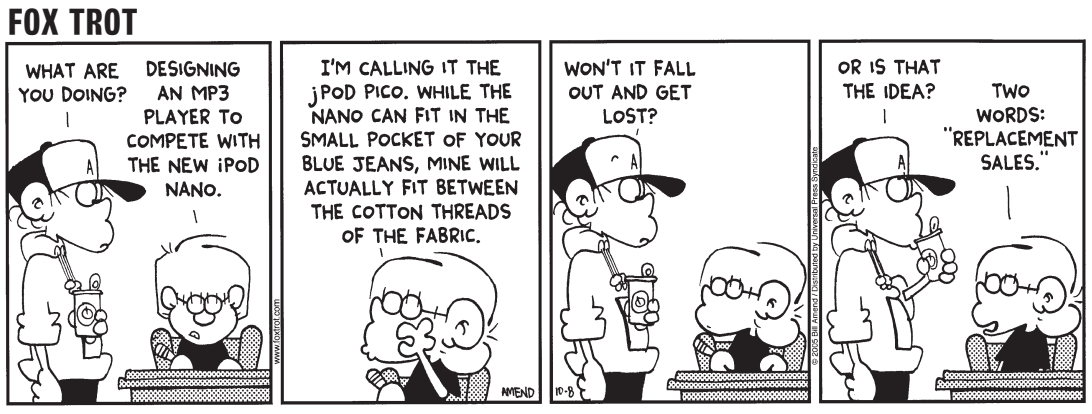

## GET FUZZY



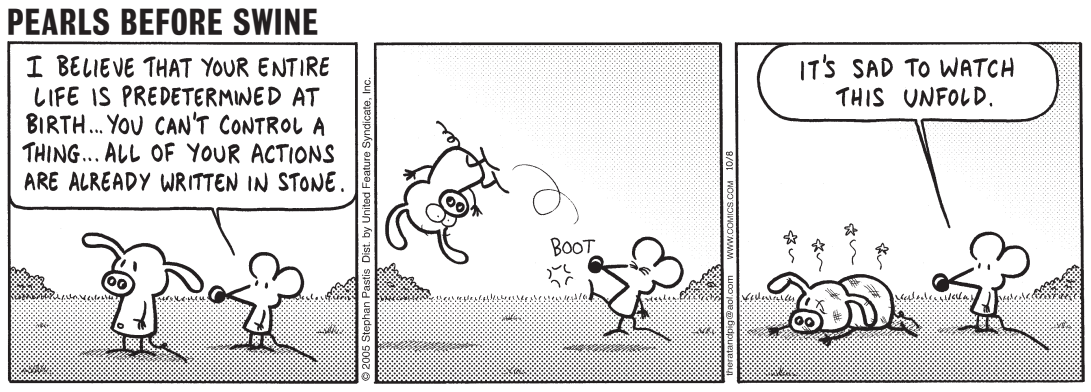

## PICKLES



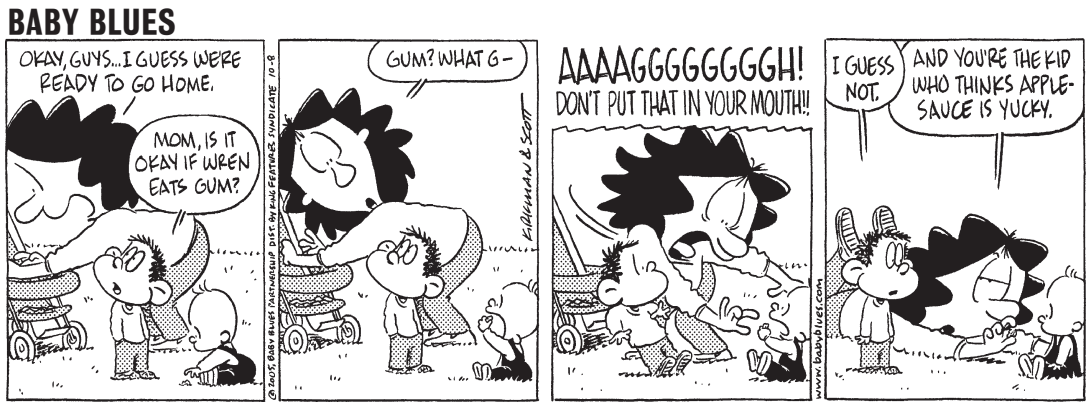

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THANC

LYDOM

LOCASE

LEXFAN

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: _____ " _____ "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AMITY PIKER HEALTH MIDDAY
Answer: Why the scarf was introduced as evidence — IT WAS "MATERIAL"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | A1 | P3 | N1 | R1 | G2 | D2 | | RACK 1 |
| E1 | Y4 | Y4 | R1 | N1 | S1 | G2 | 1st Letter Double | RACK 2 |
| A1 | A1 | Y4 | Y4 | D2 | W4 | N1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| A1 | A1 | I1 | O1 | M3 | N1 | G2 | | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 175-185
BEST SCORE 231

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 175-185

| | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 4 = 60 | A1 | M3 | O1 | I1 | G2 | N1 | A1 | |
| RACK 3 = 45 | | Y4 | A1 | W4 | Y4 | N1 | A1 | |
| RACK 2 = 65 | S1 | Y4 | N1 | E1 | R1 | G2 | Y4 | |
| RACK 1 = 61 | G2 | R1 | A1 | N1 | D2 | P3 | A1 | 231 |

## WORD SLEUTH

D K H D A X U Q N K H E B Y V
S P M S J H E B Y V T Q O L I
G D D T B Y W T R P M K I F D
B Y W O U S Q O M K I F D B Z
X W U R O S S Q O N L J H F D
C C I A T L O V A Y E W V T S
Q P N G E L B K I N H T F L E
C B Z E W Y W D M L I N I K S
V U P S R Q P D E D D A P H N
M E L K C I S U T R J L R L W
R A L O S J F I S Y H P F B E

Friday's unlisted clue: GOLDWATER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Saturday's unlisted clue hint: — BLOOD CELLS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brain | Padded | Skin | Storage |
| Dry | Plant | Sleeper | Voltaic |
| Fuel | Red blood | Solar | Wet |
| Jail | Sickle | Stem | |

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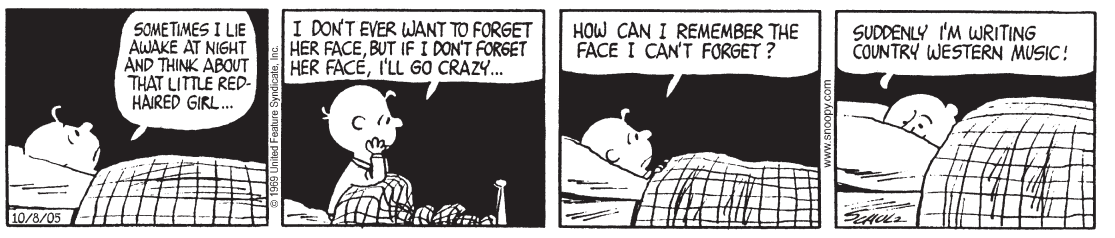
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| I | T | H | M | E | E | P | A | N | A | E | L | Y |
| 8 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| D | O | E | U | N | T | K | H | W | E | I | R | M |
| 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| A | W | S | F | T | A | E | R | O | C | F | I | E |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| H | N | A | E | C | P | U | L | F | B | I | R | A |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| A | T | T | N | L | N | S | D | P | O | T | I | O |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| F | V | L | L | R | R | E | W | A | I | M | E | G |
| 6 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| A | N | T | E | I | E | G | I | S | O | F | N | E |

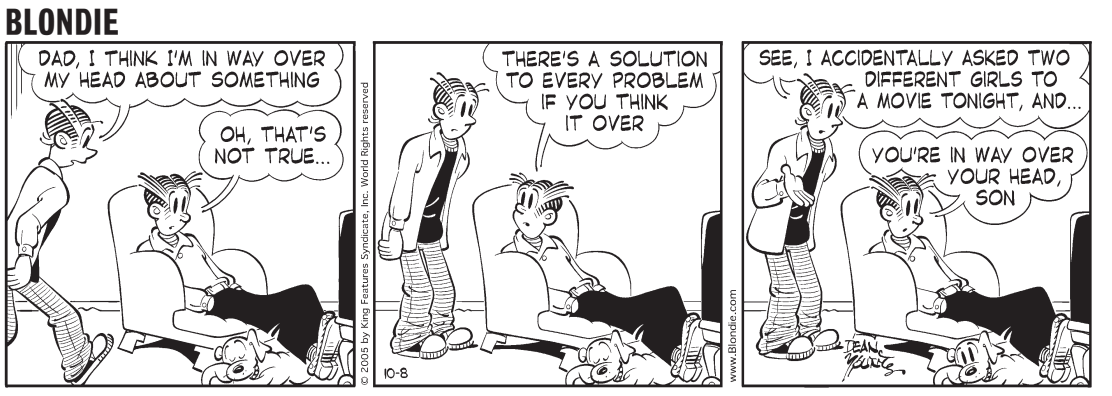
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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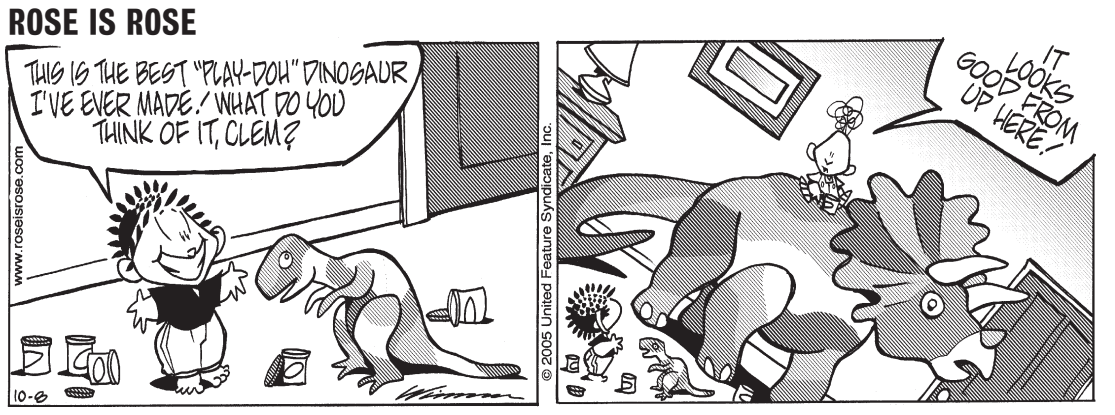
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



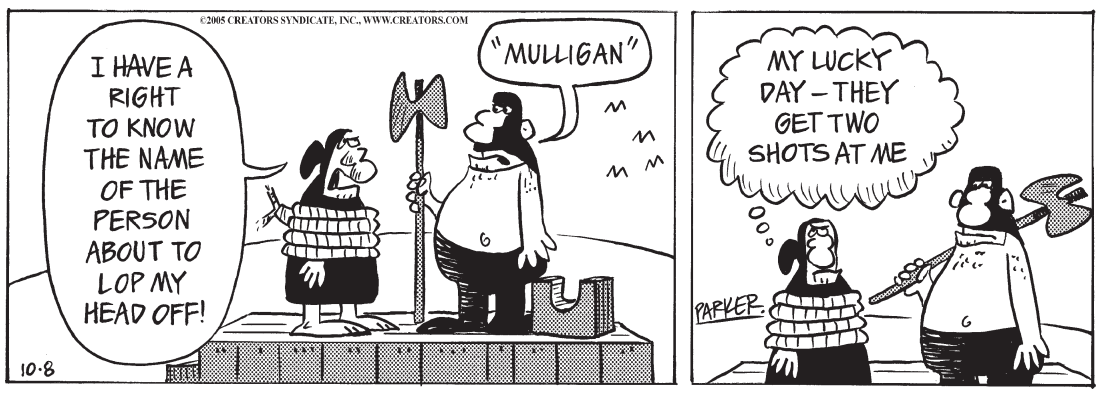

## BLONDIE



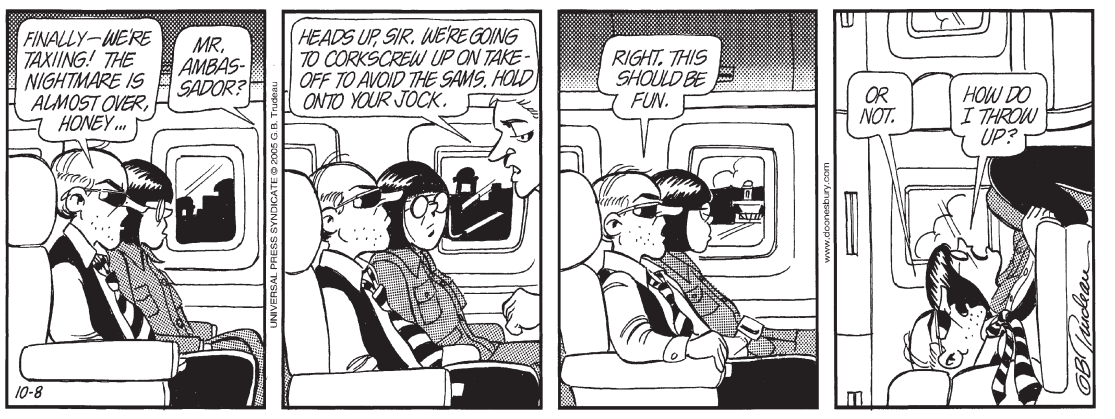

## ROSE IS ROSE



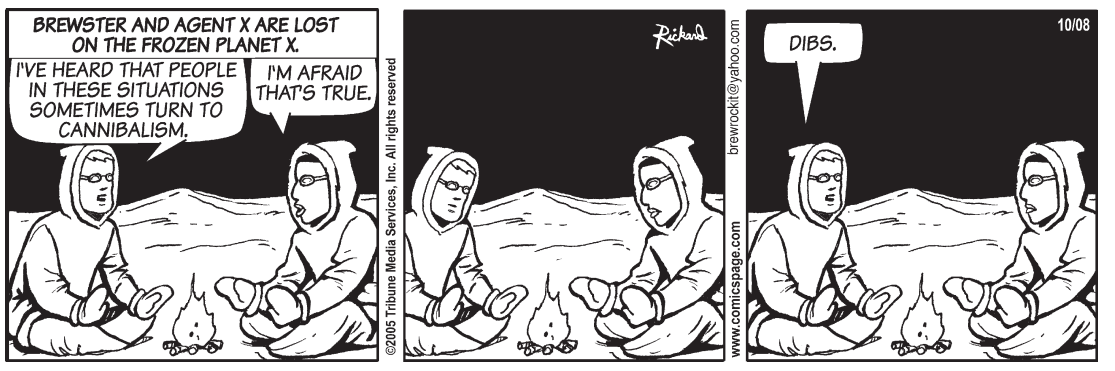

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

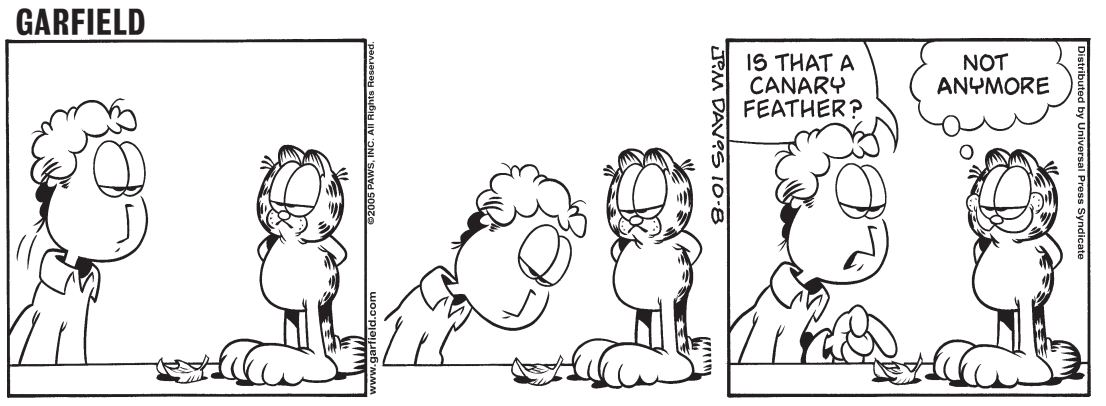



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

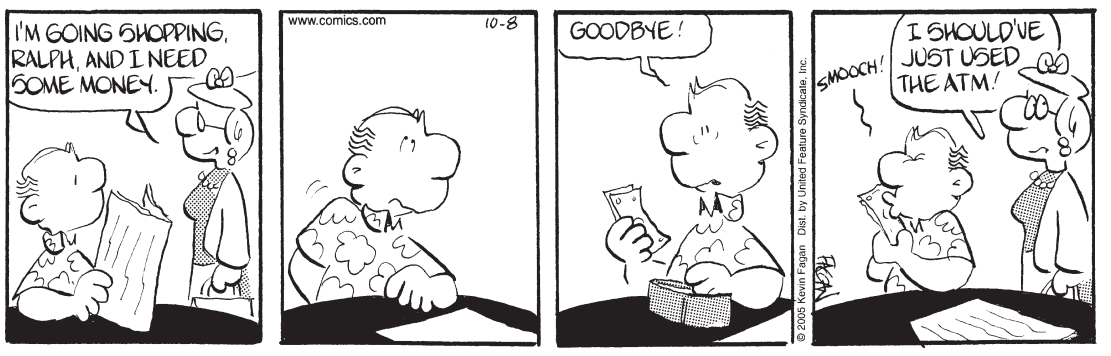


# COMICS

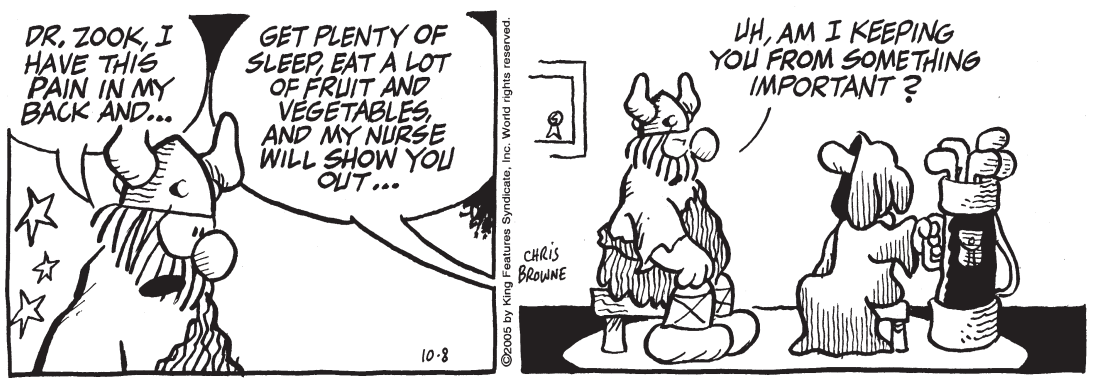
## GARFIELD



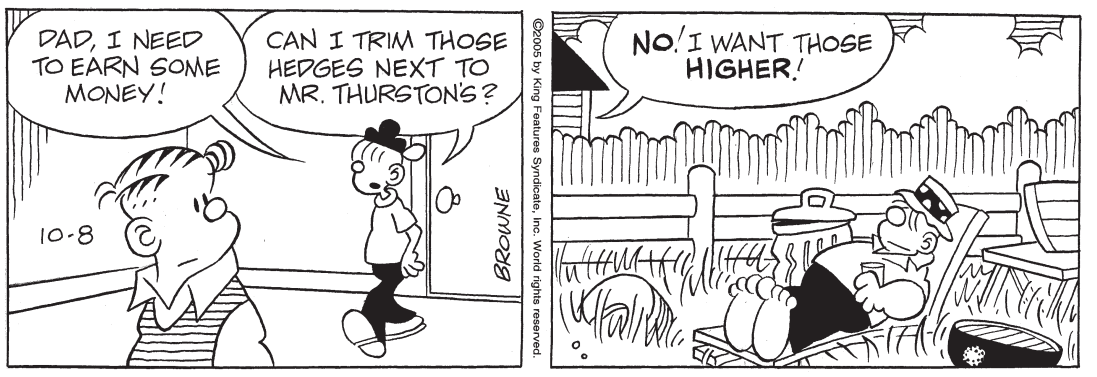

## DRABBLE



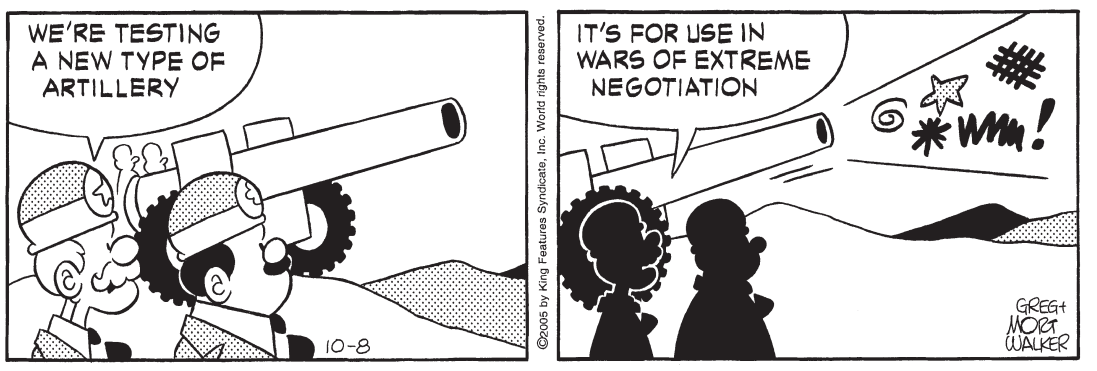

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



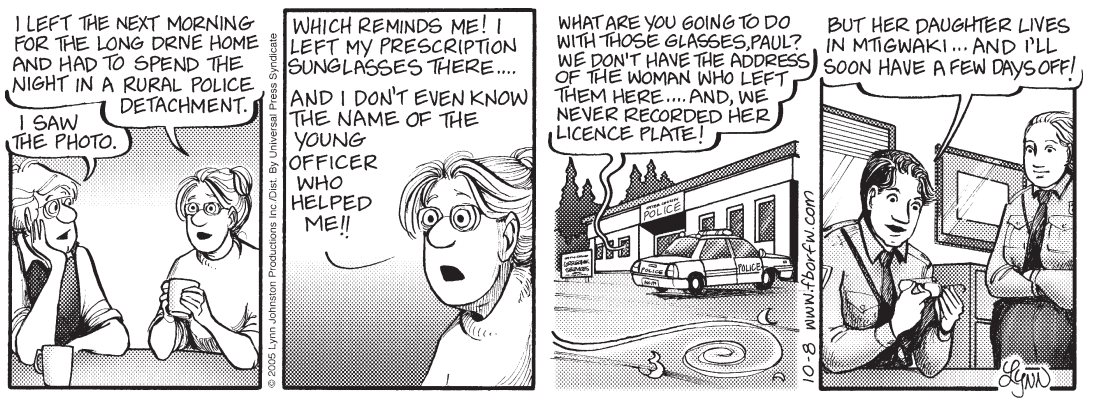

## HI & LOIS



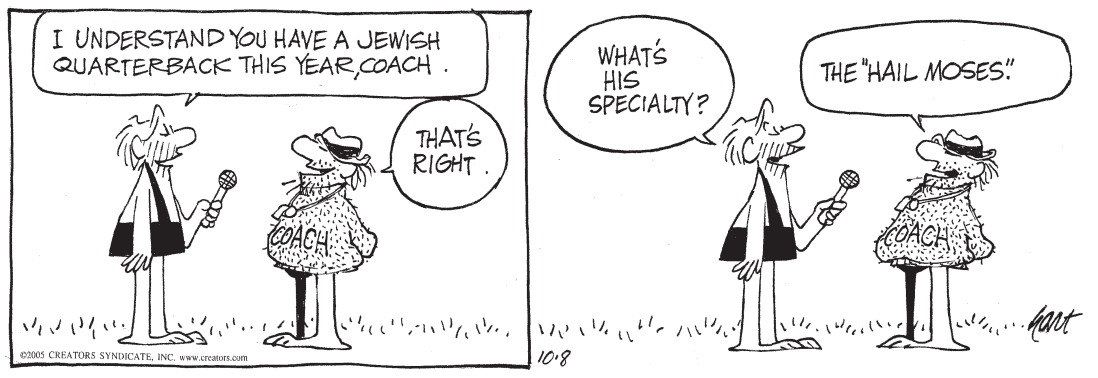

## BEETLE BAILEY



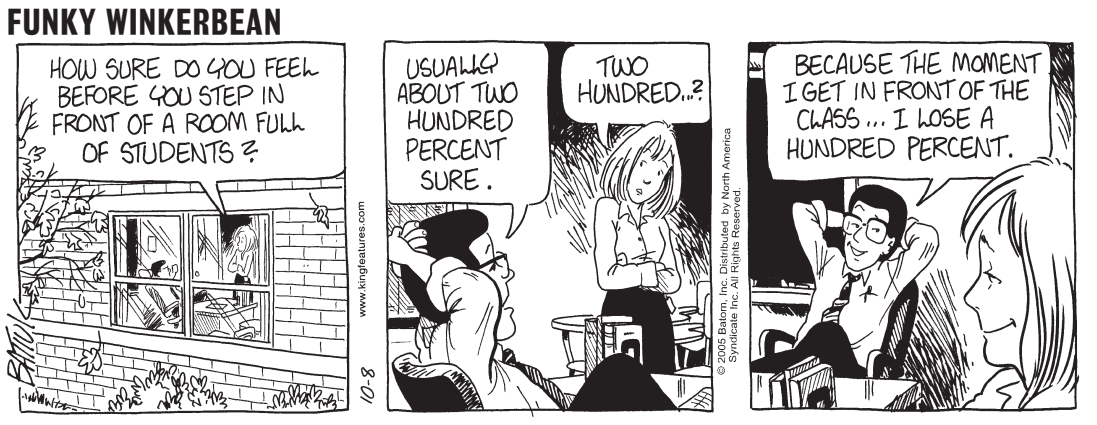

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



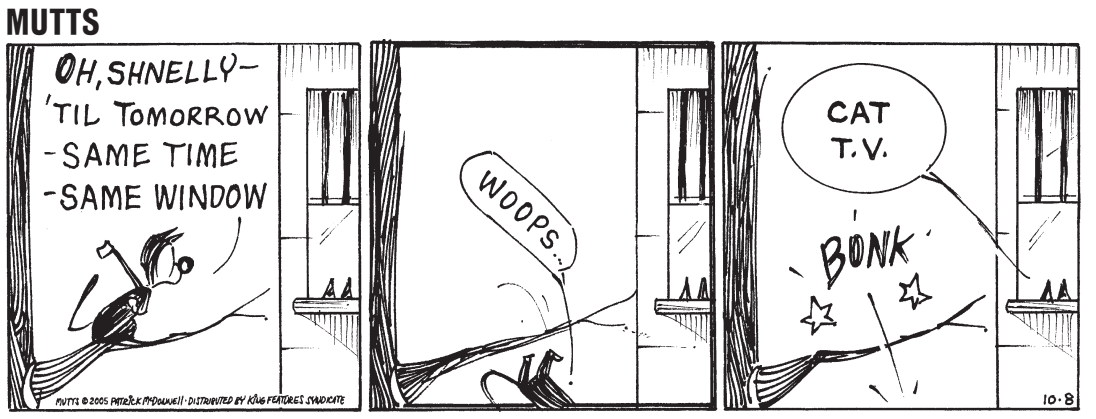

## B.C.




## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

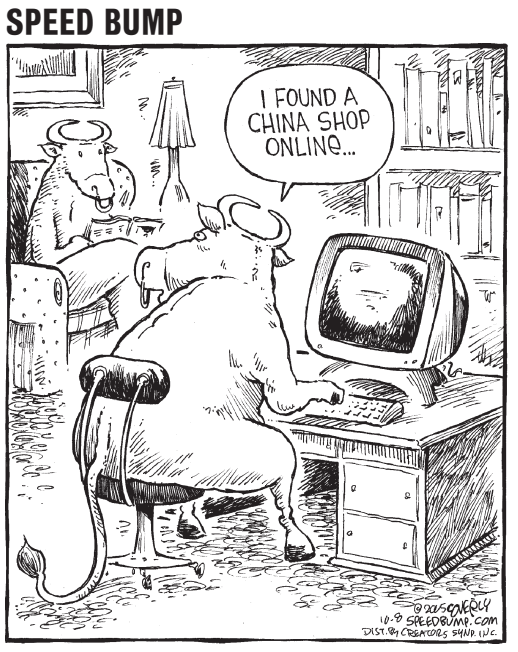



## LOOSE PARTS

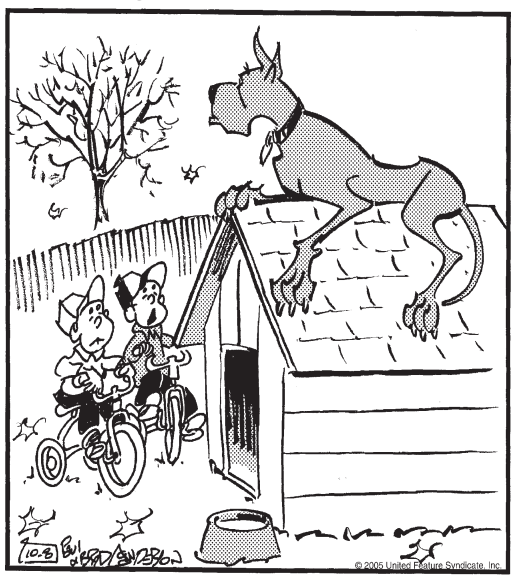



"Whattya mean I always sound nervous at work?"

## SPEED BUMP

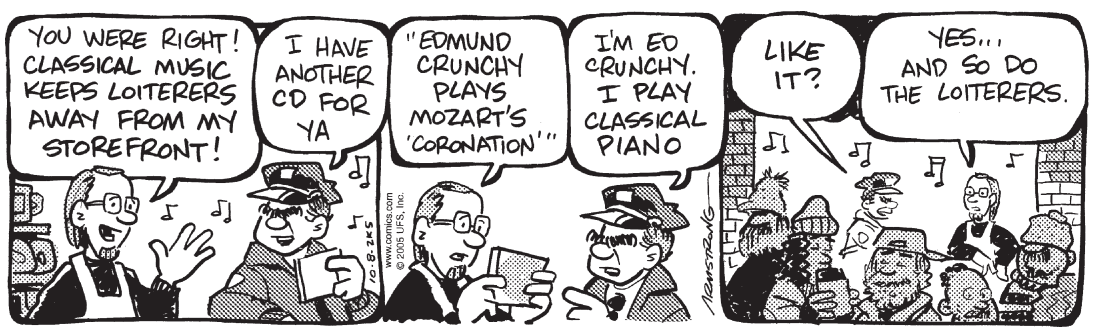



## MARMADUKE




"You betcha he's a good watch dog. You should see him watch me eat a cookie!"

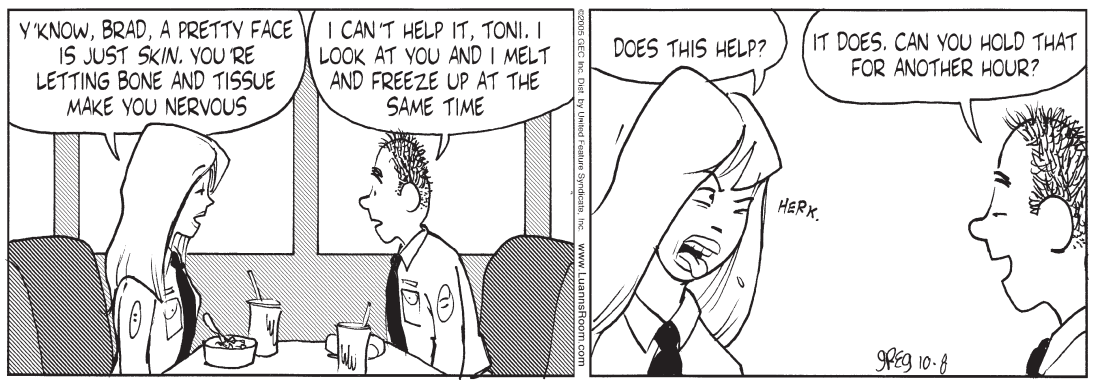
## JUMP START



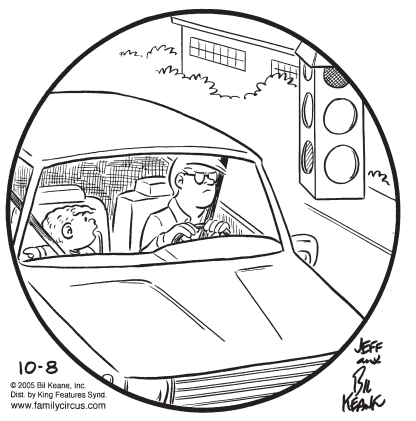

## DILBERT




## LUANN

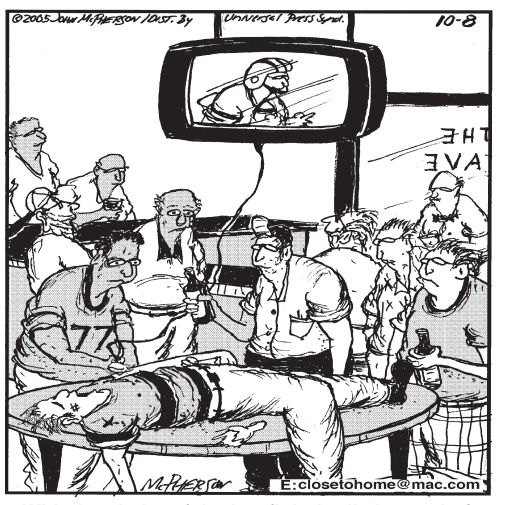



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"If you want the light to change, Daddy, jump out and push the button on that pole."

## CLOSE TO HOME




With the victim of the bar fight badly in need of blood, a quick-thinking doctor ran an IV line from the plasma screen TV.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"FIRST OF ALL, WE NEED *MORE* PLAYERS ON OUR TEAM TO MAKE OUR HUDDLES LOOK GOOD."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**CUISINES OF THE WORLD** **Solution: 11 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | E | A | K | (E) | (K) | (A) | (B) | T | I | U | R | F | T |
| V | S | T | S | E | T | M | W | U | A | O | E | R | I | A |
| S | A | U | C | E | E | U | N | E | S | S | I | W | S | O |
| K | O | R | F | R | U | C | N | A | T | T | G | L | H | G |
| O | R | E | I | G | A | G | O | A | E | S | R | G | S | S |
| O | H | C | N | E | R | F | U | U | Y | P | G | I | E | D |
| C | A | A | C | A | T | R | O | T | S | E | O | A | A | S |
| N | I | J | G | A | A | Y | L | O | R | C | S | R | T | N |
| T | E | U | A | N | N | A | P | M | D | O | O | O | U | I |
| E | S | N | T | P | I | A | A | A | N | E | P | U | T | E |
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**Yesterday's Answer: Olive**

CONTINUED

# RENTERS HAVE RIGHTS, TOO

New Orleanians who rent apartments have many of the same hurricane mitigation issues as homeowners: Who do they call? What does insurance cover? Can or will the place be fixed? Here's a look at renter's concerns and how to address them.

## THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

**FIRST, CALL YOUR LANDLORD** and try to ascertain the condition of your rental home. Or, if you have returned there, call to give a report on its condition. Most landlords will work with tenants to get the property back in shape and abate the rent for the time the apartment was not habitable. Many landlords also are being flexible about lease requirements, given the scope of the disaster. Work together to determine a date for moving back in.

**THE CONTENTS ARE YOUR PROBLEM.** While the landlord is responsible for insuring the building, the renter must insure its contents. But few take advantage of this option: Industry estimates are that only 20 to 30 percent of renters carry insurance on their belongings. Non-homeowners can buy both flood insurance and renters insurance to cover the cost of replacing damaged belongings. A maximum of $100,000 in flood insurance for contents is allowed on National Flood Insurance Program policies. As with structural concerns the dweller's possessions, are covered by flood insurance if the damage is from rising water, and by renters insurance if the damage is from wind or storm.

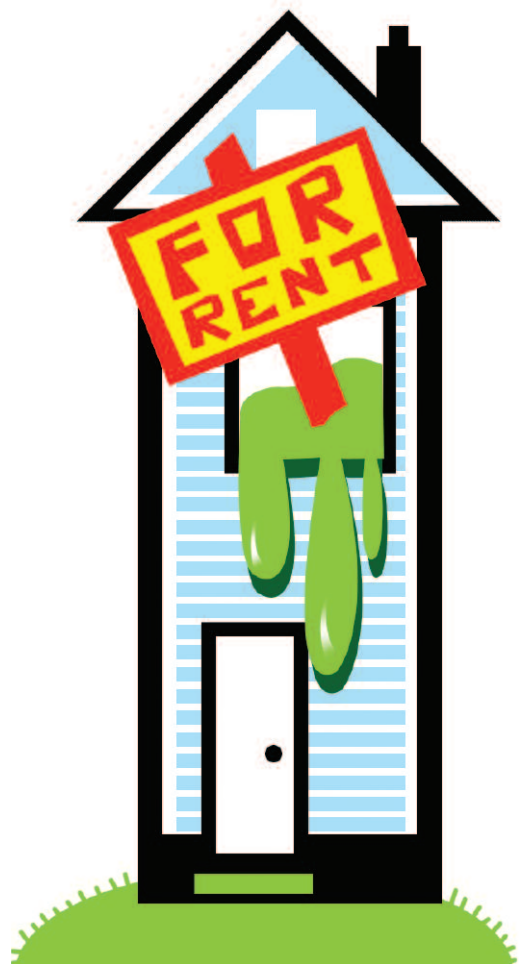
**KNOW YOUR EVICTION RIGHTS.** Keep in mind: Gov. Kathleen Blanco has suspended all legal deadlines until Oct. 25, meaning that all legal evictions are on hold until then. According to New Orleans Legal Assistance, a renter generally cannot be evicted if he has a written lease and the apartment was "partially" damaged. Check your lease to see if the landlord can evict for "partial" destruction. "Total" destruction allows the landlord to evict. If you don't have a lease, the landlord can evict by giving you 10 days notice before the end of the rental month.

**YOU CAN LEGALLY CANCEL YOUR LEASE** only if the apartment was partially or totally "destroyed." Short-term repairs, such as replacing the carpet, don't count. The good news is that you generally are not obligated to pay rent for the time you're forced to be out of the apartment due to flood damage and necessary repairs, says New Orleans Legal Assistance. If the landlord doesn't repair the damage to the apartment, you can make the repairs yourself and deduct the cost from your rent, but you cannot withhold rent in order to force the owner to fix things. For general information on legal issues, visit www.lawhelp.org; rental issues vary widely, and renters should seek legal advice for problems that they cannot resolve.

**IN CASES OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, FEMA** (800-621-3362, or www.fema.gov) or the Red Cross (800-975-7585, or www.redcross.org) may award rent money, and you may be able to deduct property losses not covered by insurance on your income tax. Also, renters may qualify for loans from the Small Business Administration (800-659-2955, or www.sba.gov.) to repair or replace personal property.

**Renee Peck, staff writer**

Have a tip to share? Send your solutions to hurricane-related household problems by sending an e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you. To read other tips, visit www.nola.com/newslogs/tpmoldhouse.




STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# Upbeat Dickie B

**BRENNAN,** *from C-1*

"He carried his kids out of flood waters on his back," whispered marketing director Lee Anne Garner. Offray, his wife and two young children eventually made their way from the Upper 9th Ward to the Astor Crowne Plaza, where the Bourbon House anchors the first floor.

"Sometime Monday morning Eric calls me on my cell phone and he says, 'I've got an axe, and I'm going up to the attic. Do you think that'll be OK? My car's already under water,' " said Steve Pettus, managing partner of Dickie Brennan and Company. "And then I didn't hear from him for three days."

The group of roughly two dozen managers was joined via speaker phone by a crew readying the Bourbon House for its reopening.

"What about the water in the hotel?" Brennan asked.

Through static, the voice said something about "chlorine" and "potable water."

Brennan seemed to understand: "So guests can shower in this water and we can't use it for anything?"

"We're getting all of our deliveries in tomorrow," Bourbon House chef Jared Tees said through the speaker phone. "But I don't think the protein cooler made it."

Brennan said the refrigeration equipment at all three restaurants would need to be replaced.

Pettus delivered a run-down of property damage at the company's two other properties. The Steakhouse filled with three inches of seeping ground water after the pumps that normally keep the sub-basement restaurant dry were knocked out with the rest of the city's power.

"We'll meet with the architect and contractor at the Steakhouse later this week," Pettus told the managers. "We have some holes in the roof at the Palace Café. We had a satellite dish land on the roof."

"That wasn't ours?" Brennan joked.

Steakhouse general manager George Henriquez also spotted some mildew at the Palace. "We can clear that up tomorrow," he said.

Having to open three restaurants in stages is in some ways a blessing, Brennan said, allowing the company to devote spare resources to helping employees resettle and, if necessary, rebuild.

"We're not a construction company, but we think we have enough hands to get people back and situated," Pettus told the group. "Is there a Steakhouse person who wants to be the point person on that?"

Brennan and Pettus urged the managers to prepare mentally for Friday, when all company staff was due to report to New Orleans for work. 35 FEMA trailers have been reserved for employees who need them.

"Most of our conversations are going to be about how we survived this disaster," Brennan said.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Waitress Lacey Raschke hustles beverages to a table of customers at Bourbon House, the first of Dickie Brennan's three French Quarter restaurants to reopen.

Returning staff are "going to have a lot of questions," Pettus added. " 'How do I get my kids into school? Where do I live?' " In preparation the company's lawyers prepared a thick volume detailing, among other things, assistance opportunities for displaced Louisianans.

Henriquez raised the issue of increased opportunities for New Orleans laborers. "We need to talk about restructuring our pay scale," he said, citing circulating stories of dishwashers commanding $10 per hour on the West Bank.

Brennan reported that his father, Dick Brennan, Sr., had already offered to pitch in scrubbing pots.

"We might open up the Palace where we open up the kitchen and do it cafeteria style," he said. "We're all going to be creative. But we're going to take care of people, bottom line."

"Our goal," he added, "was never to be the first restaurant open in New Orleans, but to open the best restaurant that we can."

Brennan hoped the Friday meeting would allow the company to give checks to some of the over 100 employees that are still unaccounted for. Barbara Krieger, Brennan and Pettus' executive assistant, announced that Warren Carter, a Bourbon House oyster shucker, had been located in Iowa, where he was taken in by customers of the restaurant.

Carter told Jim Leslie, Bourbon House's general manager, that the customers supplied him with a car, a home and a job. They also set up a relief fund for him at a local bank.

"He said if he didn't work at the Bourbon House," Krieger said, "he wouldn't have known these people and wouldn't have had anyplace to go."

Restaurant writer Brett Anderson can be reached at bretta1@cox.net.

# There are signs of the times on Lee Circle

**ROSE,** *from C-1*

different around here without them.

I have a feeling I just really ticked off 3,000 people, maybe more. But then, that would be another sign of normalcy, wouldn't it? People being angry at the local newspaper: a comfort zone if ever there was one.

A casual drive around town — or at least what remains of it — is also a compelling reminder of the old days. It reminds you how much a simple afternoon drive can be facing danger to its core.

First of all, at least half the city's one-way signs were turned sideways by the wind and now point in the wrong direction. And half the people driving around here are guys from out of state in massive pickup trucks and the National Guard put up temporary stop signs at intersections where traffic lights are now working, so it's all a game of Russian roulette. Or maybe chicken.

A run to the local drug store/gas station/strip club has turned into a not-so-virtual game of Grand Theft Auto.

Every now and then I see some church lady tooling down the road at 7 mph in her cream-colored, four-door Grand Marquis and I can only wonder: Why are you here?

I know it's probably bad taste to kick the city while it's down, but it really can be interesting/fun/mind-boggling to watch some of the old New Orleans civic quirks work their way back into operation.

For instance, the mayor has urged business owners to come back into town and open up and we residents have been encouraged to patronize them, but neighborhood restaurants and bars are bum-rushed by the authorities every night at 8 p.m. and told to close for curfew.

I'm no restaurateur, but I can imagine it's got to be hard to build up a steady dinner clientele when you close at sunset. Oddly — maybe not so oddly, when I think about it — the strip clubs on Bourbon Street have somehow been exempt from this rule and there are tons of big, beefy guys in town (who drive really big pick-up trucks) who are all too happy to stuff garter belts full of fivers until the sun comes up and then they have to report to work and operate heavy machinery on a one-way street.

Yes, indeed, all is returning to normal. I think there is no better indication of this than the running commentary that has been taking place on the plywood boards mounted over the windows of Sarouk Shop Oriental Rugs down on St. Charles Avenue near Lee Circle.

Early on, in the hairy days of Aftermath, the owner/proprietor/squatter who was living there spray painted (I'm no handwriting analyst, but I'd say it was with some urgency): "Don't try: I am sleeping inside with a big dog, an ugly woman, two shotguns and a claw hammer."

Claw hammer. Nice touch.

Then, in a spray paint posting dated 9/4/05 (talk about meticulous graffiti!), it says: "Still here. Woman left. Cooking a pot of dog gumbo."

Like I said, dire times call for dire humor. Or maybe it wasn't a joke; some strange things have happened around here lately.

Anyway, in a spray painted update, dated 9/24, it says: "Welcome back, y'all. Grin & bear it."

Ain't that the truth? I mean, what are the other choices?

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

THEATER

# 'Greater Tuna' returns, 'Blues' breaks out, 'Tongues' are untied

By David Cuthbert
Theater writer

"Greater Tuna," the popular Joe Sears-Jayston Williams comedy in which two actors play just about all the denizens of Tuna, Texas - including women and children - has surfaced yet again, this time at the Skyfire Theatre in Covington.

Frequent co-stars Gary Rucker and Sean Patterson ("The Bible," The Tulane Shakespeare Festival, The Patchwork Players) will be the quick-change artist-actors and George Sanchez will direct.

Proceeds will benefit "the nonprofit Pelican Foundation, which will aid north shore victims of Hurricane Katrina."

"Tuna" will play Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Oct. 29, with one matinee at 3 p.m. Oct. 16 at Skyfire, 332 N. New Hampshire St. in Covington on a "Pay what you will policy."

For more information or reservations, call (985) 875-7577.

• • • • • •

**BREAKOUT PLAYS:** Two cabaret musical comedies developed at Le Chat Noir by composer Harry Mayronne and writer-performers Ricky Graham and Roy Haylock may soon appear in New York and Houston.

Mayronne, who is in New York, reports he is planning to open "The Black & White Blues," the revue about restaurants and the waitering game, at Sophia's at the Edison Hotel in November.

And lawyer-producer Patrick Lee is working at producing "Hollywood Heaven" as a holiday show in November-December at STAGES in Houston, starring Graham and Haylock.

• • • • • •

**'NATIVE TONGUES' BENEFITS:** Carl Walker, the director of All Kinds of Theatre, says that he is offering all of the "Native Tongues" monologues, gratis, to any theater in the country which wants to use them for benefit readings.

"I'm also continuing to work by e-mail with playwright Jim Fitzmorris on our stage adaptation of Chris Wiltz's book on Norma Wallace, 'The Last Madam,' " Walker said.

Contacted on the road, Fitzmorris said that the Cincinnati League of Theaters is having a benefit reading of the play's first act and that he was en route to Kentucky, where he is confident the famed Actor's Theatre of Louisville will give it a reading as well.

"Then, in October, I'll be a visiting scholar at Columbia University at the invitation of (playwright) Anne Bogart and we can get some readings going there," he said.

• • • • • •

Theater critic David Cuthbert can be reached at dcuthber@bellsouth.net.

SOCIAL SCENE

# New Orleanians have stories to tell from Texas

By Nell Nolan
Society columnist

"The stories I could tell you, you wouldn't believe," said New Orleans advertising-public relations exec Peter Mayer, about his evacuation odyssey. "From New Orleans, I went to Laurel, Miss., then to Tunica, Miss., then across Arkansas, to Houston, then (because of Rita) to California and then back to Houston." Whew! For the time being, Pete is ensconced in his son's pool house in Houston, where his creature comforts are being realized: "I'm eating well."

He added "People have been wonderful. In fact, at Cassitty's Cafe in Cleveland, Texas, and after a lovely meal, the owner wouldn't let me pay. He said I'd been through enough."

Concerning his return to New Orleans, Pete says he very optimistic about the long-term future of the city. He finished with, "I'm looking forward to going home."

Also in Houston, Julie Wise (Mrs. Marshall) Oreck said, "It's been traumatic for everyone. It's like a jigsaw puzzle." Marshall and Tom Oreck have set up temporary offices (with generators and mobile homes) in Dallas; David Oreck is in Poplarville, Miss.; and Julie's in Houston with her and Marshall's teenage daughters, Zoe and Sophie, who've enrolled in Houston schools. Julie also reported on the Houston presence of her mother, Carol Wise and Roswell Weil, as well as that of Pam and Frank Friedler and Pam's parents, Mary and Arthur Davis.

Julie praised the work of the Jewish Federation. "It's been great helping to coordinate everyone," she said.

Sue and Harold Singer spent a while in Houston — and found "the people so accommodating" — but have just returned to the Crescent City, where, she says, she's doing a lot of cooking and housing some close kith and kin. "I'm offering good food and cheer."

Bruce Waltzer, who was honored recently by the Forum for Equality in New Orleans, and his wife, retired Judge Miriam (also a former Forum honoree), are in Dallas with several generations of their family, including their daughter and son-in-law, Lainie and Tad Breaux, whose baby, Zachary, was born six days before Katrina hit and had to be left in the Crescent City for neonatal care until he was reunited with his parents; and son Joel Waltzer and wife Toni and their Noah and Elias.

"We're all here in Dallas," said Bruce, who praised Angel Flights and Jewish Federation for help with newborn Zachary. He continued, saying the extensive family was likely to stay in Dallas for the nine months of the school year, and concluded, "People in Dallas have been opening their hearts to us."

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# Another Hornets exec resigns

*McDougall had held the position for 6 ½ months*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Chief marketing officer Tim McDougall, hired by the Hornets in February to increase the team's flagging ticket sales, has left the team, becoming the second Hornets executive to resign within a week.

McDougall's departure, after only 6 1/2 months with the organization, was confirmed Friday by team president Paul Mott, who†did not specify the reason for the resignation. McDougall could not be reached for comment.

Last Saturday, Allan Bristow resigned as general manager, citing health concerns.

Mott said the team is going†through a difficult†transition period for some of its employees, prompted by the teamís temporary relocation to Oklahoma City for the season as a result of damage to New Orleans Arena from Hurricane Katrina.

"During this time of great change and uncertainty, there have been a number of people who have not opted to come to Oklahoma City," Mott said. "Some who couldn't bring themselves to leave Louisiana in a time of great need. Others had family and things that made the decision to come to Oklahoma City very hard.

"All of us in life have our own issues to deal with - good, bad or challenging. With the aftermath of Katrina, the impact of Hurricane Rita, this has been a life-altering experience of major proportions as I've ever known."

Mott did not say if the team's relocation to Oklahoma City had anything to do with McDougall's resignation. McDougall lived with his

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-10*



AP PHOTO

LSU coach Les Miles won't let his team look past Vanderbilt, which has started the season by winning four of five games.

# Tigers vow not to overlook Vanderbilt

*LSU must tackle 'Dores before shot vs. Gators*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Despite the talk from Tigertown, there is nothing normal about this week.

In fact, it's abnormal.

Yes, No. 11 LSU (2-1) did enjoy a normal flight home Saturday after the usual laugher at Mississippi State and began preparations for its next opponent on a ho-hum Sunday. Monday went according to script. Tuesday was typical. On Wednesday, Coach Les Miles upped the tempo of practice, letting it crescendo at 5:30 p.m. so that the players could ease down Thursday and Friday.

**LSU AT VANDERBILT**
6 p.m.
Saturday
ESPN2

Sure, everything appears orderly - no Category 4 hurricanes, no postponed home opener, no bye week, no weekday game in Tiger Stadi-

*See* **LSU,** *C-9*

# Wave's challenge is to keep ball vs. Houston

*Tulane sees time of possession as key*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

LAFAYETTE — Tulane's game Saturday against Houston has all the makings of a showdown.

It has Tulane's defense, ranked second in the nation, going against Houston's high-powered offense, No. 1 in Conference USA.

**TULANE AT HOUSTON**
5 p.m.
Saturday
CST

But, the matchup that cannot be overlooked when the two meet at Cajun Field, is Tulane's offense versus the Cougars' defense, ranked 99th in the nation.

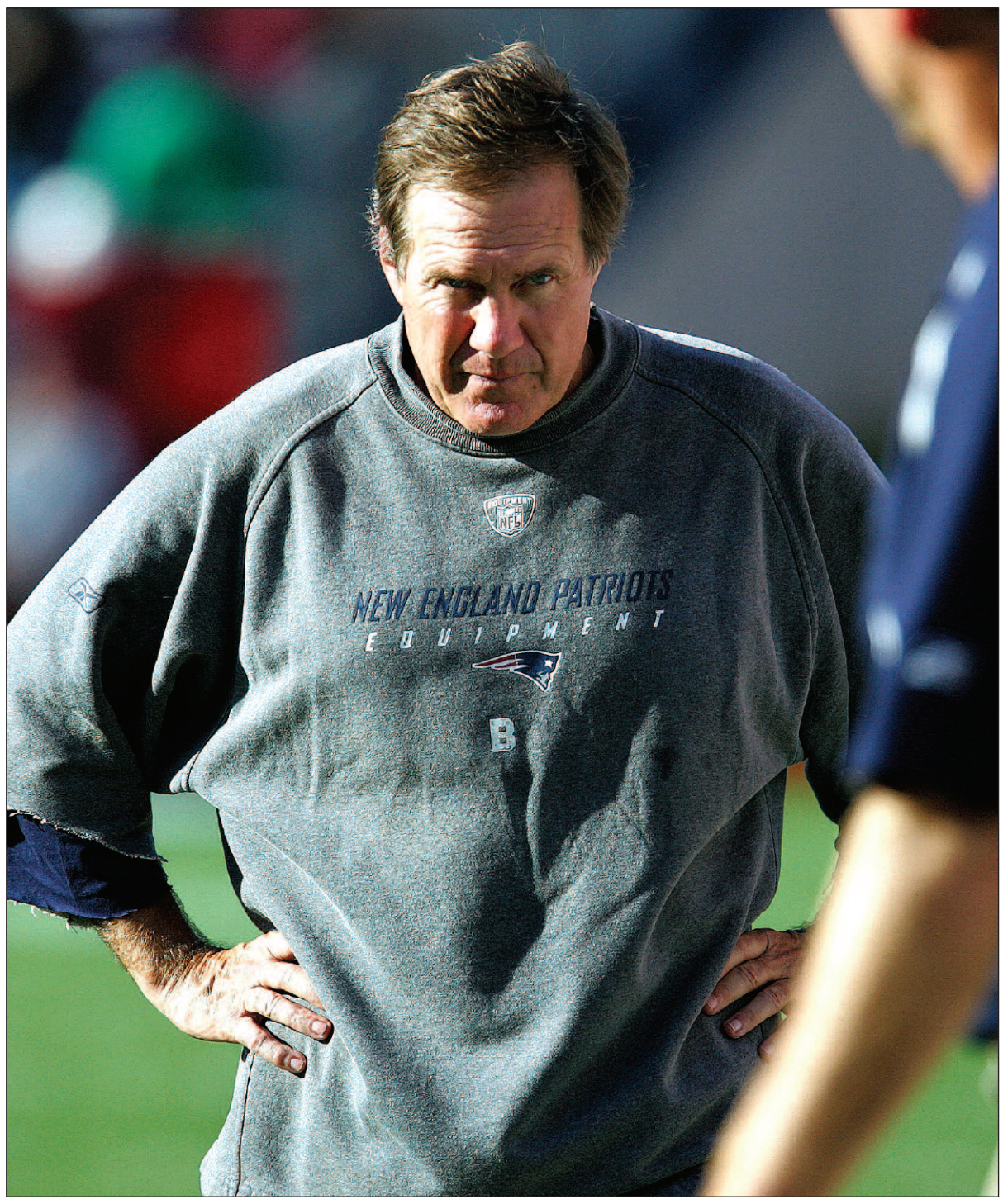
In two of Tulane's three games this season, the Green Wave offense dominated time of possession. The Wave held the ball for nearly 16 minutes more than its opponents in the first two games.

Last week in its victory over Southeastern Louisiana, Tulane lost the time-of-possession battle by almost 12 minutes. Keeping Houston's offense off the field as much as possible is a must, and to do that, Tulane must return to being a ballhawk.

"We just have to execute," Green Wave offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo said. "The main thing is, at the end of every one of those drives, we've got to get points. We've got to get

*See* **TULANE,** *C-9*

# BEANTOWN BLUES



AP PHOTO

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has seen his team go from being one of the best defensive teams in the NFL to one that gave up 41 points against San Diego last week.

## New England appears to be mortal this season with a 2-2 record, but is it too soon to write off the two-time defending champs?

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

There seems to be sufficient reason for Beantown sports fans to panic these days.

The Boston Red Sox find themselves down two games to none against the Chicago White Sox in the best-of-five American League Division Series, and the twice-defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots appear to be vulnerable.

Vulnerable as in 2-2 and coming off a surprising 41-17 loss to the San Diego Chargers that ended the Patriotsí 21-game home winning streak.

With a road game coming Sunday against Michael Vick and the Atlanta Falcons, the Patriots are in danger of losing consecutive games for the first time since December 2002, a span of 39 games.

"They came in here and beat us in all phases," Patriots linebacker Monty Beisel said. "They had us up against the ropes all day, and they left here with a KO."

So why has Bill Belichickís team suddenly developed a glass jaw?

For the simple answer, one only needs to look at the injury list and players no longer on the team.

The team's three leading tacklers in 2004 are not on the field - safety Rodney Harrison (a season-ending knee injury) and linebackers Ted Johnson (retired) and Tedy Bruschi (on the league's physically unable to perform list). Additionally, veteran running back/return specialist Kevin Faulk (foot) and tackle Matt Light (ankle) are sidelined indefinitely.

As the Patriots won three Super Bowl titles in the past four years, they stayed relatively healthy, especially with their group of core players. And when a hole has needed to be plugged, Belichick seems to have found a solution.

On Monday, a headline in the Providence Journal warned of pending trouble: "Fasten Your Seatbelts, Patriots Fans, and Brace for Some Turbulence."

"I can't tell you how the other 12 (games) are going to turn out," Belichick told reporters. "I donít think you know. I don't think anybody knows. I donít think it really matters. At this point, it's a one-game season and it's Atlanta."

One Patriots insider pointed to the teamís inability to stop the Chargers' running game. San Diego rushed for 183 yards, in-

*See* **PATRIOTS,** *C-7*

# Red Sox won't defend title

*Chicago ends 88-year drought*

**By Jimmy Golen**
AP sports writer

BOSTON — The White Sox swept away the champion Red Sox, and now they'll try to purge the memory of the notorious Black Sox.

Orlando Hernandez delivered a vintage performance out of the bullpen and Paul Konerko hit a tiebreaking homer as Chicago defeated Boston 5-3 Friday to sweep the defending World Series champs out of the playoffs and win a postseason series for the first time since Shoeless Joe Jackson's team won it in 1917.

Two years later, some of Jackson's "Black Sox" took payoffs from gamblers to throw the Series. Eight men were out, banned from baseball for life.

Boston had hoped for its first repeat championships since 1915-16, but for the second time in three years its season ended thanks to a Tim Wakefield knuckleball that went over a left-field wall.

The Red Sox cut the deficit to 4-3 when Manny Ramirez led off the sixth inning with his second homer, then they loaded the bases - still with none out. But Hernandez got pinch-hitter Jason Varitek and Game 2 goat Tony Graffanino to pop up to the infield, then Johnny Damon struck out on a check swing to end the inning.

Graffanino, whose error before Tadahito Iguchi's three-run homer was the difference in a 5-4 loss on Wednesday night, fouled off four pitches with two strikes; Damon also worked the count full, but Hernandez got him on a pitch in the dirt.

El Duque shut out the Red Sox on one hit over three innings, and Juan Uribe's suicide squeeze made the score 5-3 in the ninth. Rookie closer Bobby Jenks got three outs to save it for winner Freddy Garcia.

The White Sox lost in the '19 and '59 Series and the '83, '93 and 2000 playoffs. With the three-game sweep, they are the first team to advance to the second round of the playoffs.

Chicago took a 2-0 lead in the third with four consecutive hits off Wakefield - doubles by Uribe and Scott Podsednik and singles by Iguchi and Jermaine Dye.

*See* **WHITE SOX,** *C-11*

# Patriots are missing some key personnel



AP PHOTO

Middle linebacker Tedy Bruschi is one of the Patriots' three top tacklers from last season that are not playing this season.

**PATRIOTS,** *from C-6*

cluding 134 and two touchdowns on 25 carries by All-Pro LaDainian Tomlinson.

A year ago, the Patriots were 4-0 with wins against Indianapolis (27-24), Arizona (23-12), Buffalo (31-17) and Miami (24-10). The first four games on this season's schedule appeared to be more difficult - against Oakland (W, 30-20), Carolina (L, 27-17), Pittsburgh (W, 23-20) and San Diego (L, 41-17).

By comparison, the 2005 Patriots have scored 18 fewer points and yielded 41 more than at this stage a year ago. This seasonís team is averaging 56 fewer rushing yards and 50 more passing yards per game.

"What theyíve done is remarkable," Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "But at what point do you keep responding when you have to keep putting in new players? They've done it wonderfully over the last four years, but there comes a time where it has to catch up with you. Even with a team as great as this one."

With 12 games remaining, few are counting the Patriots out of the AFC championship hunt, although Carolina and San Diego exposed a few flaws.

Besides the six games in the AFC East, the Patriots will visit Atlanta (3-1) and Denver (3-1) the next two weeks and later face Indianapolis (4-0), New Orleans (2-2), at Kansas City (2-2) and Tampa Bay (4-0). Those six teams have a combined 18-6 record, a .750 winning percentage.

"Tom Brady is healthy, isnít he?" Buccaneers personnel executive Doug Williams asked. "If they find somebody adequate to replace Light, then they still have Brady, Corey Dillon and two of the best tight ends in the league (Daniel Graham and Christian Fauria) on offense. And they're going to play defense under Belichick. So you can't throw dirt on New England at 2-2, not now, even though a lot of folks would like to.

"It's too early, way too early. ... There ainít no way in the world you can write them off."

Former Saints and Colts coach Jim Mora, now an analyst for the NFL Network and Fox Sports radio, said the Patriots are not a Super Bowl-caliber team but are still capable of making noise in the playoffs.

"They've lost two games, so everybody asks what's wrong with New England?" Mora said. "They're not super-human, even though they have played like it the last few years. Itís hard to sustain the winning edge like theyíve had over the last few years. Injuries happen, you lose people, you lose coaches (coordinators Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weis); maybe you get a little complacent.

"But to keep winning and winning and winning is hard to do in the National Football League, because it is so competitive. Everybody is gunning for you. There's no mercy in the NFL. There is no pity. Everybody has to contend with injuries, some more than others.

"But I don't think it's time to panic. The Patriots are still a good football team and they'll be in the hunt."

# Horn questionable for Packers game

## *Vick probable; Martz is back*

**From staff, wire reports**

Saints receiver Joe Horn was limited during practice again Friday and remains questionable for Sundayís game at Green Bay with a hamstring injury.

Horn fully participated in Wednesday's practice and said he planned to play against the Packers, but his status seems no better than 50-50 right now.

Three Saints have not practiced all week and probably wonít play ñ safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring), linebacker James Allen (hamstring) and linebacker T.J. Slaughter (groin). Guard Kendyl Jacox (ankle) returned to practice Friday and is expected to start against the Packers.

Green Bay has been inundated by injuries. Tailback Ahman Green (knee/quadriceps) has not practiced all week and looks unlikely to play. He would be replaced by Najeh Davenport. Starting left offensive tackle Chad Clifton (ankle) practided Friday for the first time all week, taking 50 percent of the snaps. Backup safety Earl Little (hamstring) has not practiced all week and probably wonít play.

**VICK HAS LIMITED WORKOUT:** Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick was limited during practice but is listed as probable for the Falcons' game against New England.

Backup Matt Schaub took nearly all the snaps during the workout; Vick was limited mainly to running and agility drills. He missed practice Wednesday and Thursday.

Vick sprained the medial collateral ligament in his right knee during last weekendís 30-10 victory over Minnesota. Schaub played the final 2 Ω quarters for the Falcons (3-1).

**MARTZ RETURNS:** Coach Mike Martz returned to practice Friday, ready to put the attention back on the St. Louis Ramsí next game instead of his heart condition.

Martz, 54, missed two days while undergoing tests for a bacterial infection of a heart valve. He said earlier this week that team doctors believe he has endocarditis.

"I appreciate everybody's concern and Iím not trying to minimize this, I'm really not, but everything's fine," Martz said. "Now it's time to focus on this team and winning a game. Really, I'm not trying to minimize it or be a John Wayne or anything else like that, it just is what it is."

The Rams (2-2) play the Seattle Seahawks (2-2) on Sunday.

**CHIEFS LINEMAN IMPROVING:** The agent for Kevin Sampson, the Kansas City Chiefs offensive lineman hospitalized Thursday night after suffering what was believed to be a seizure, told ESPN.com that tests have revealed no reason for the incident. Agent Joe Linta said he expects his client to be released in the next 24-48 hours.

"He looks fine," Linta said. "I'm not a doctor, but at this point I see no reason he won't be back in Kansas City on Monday and practicing again next week."

The Chiefs have an open date this weekend.

Linta said doctors have run tests on Sampson, including a neurological battery and cardiac exams, and turned up nothing. He said more tests are pending.

Linta, a second-year pro and a seventh-round choice in the 2004 draft, is in intensive care and is listed in stable condition.

"Kevin is asthmatic, which I didnít even know," Linta said. "He said he was suffering flu-like symptoms and was dehydrated, but I donít know if any of that is related to what happened. They're still trying to get to the bottom of it."

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** Randy McMichael signed a four-year extension worth a reported $18 million with the Miami Dolphins. McMichael is the Dolphinsí leading receiver this season with 15 catches for 150 yards and three touchdowns. . . . Jets quarterback Chad Pennington underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder, and the team is optimistic he will be ready for the 2006 season.

The surgery was performed Thursday by orthopedist Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, Ala., the team said. Andrews repaired a small rotator cuff tear, the anterior capsule and labrum. Pennington will begin rehabilitation immediately. . . . The Jacksonville Jaguars acquired linebacker Jamie Winborn from the San Francisco 49ers for an undisclosed draft pick. Winborn started two of the 49ersí three games this season and had 13 tackles and a pass deflection. The Jaguars released defensive tackle Martin Chase, a former Saint, to make room for Winborn. . . . Bills defensive tackle Ron Edwards will probably miss the rest of the season after having surgery on his injured right shoulder this week, Coach Mike Mularkey said. The Bills havenít placed him on injured reserve. Edwards was hurt in the first half of Buffalo's 19-7 loss to the Saints on Sunday and didnít return. Tim Anderson and Justin Bannan are expected to replace Edwards. . . . Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said injured wide receivers Bobby Engram (cracked ribs) and Darrell Jackson (bone bruise in right knee) will not play at St. Louis on Sunday.

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# TAILGATING

By Ted Lewis, Staff writer

## Sports scene without Dome



AP FILE PHOTO

The Sugar Bowl will be played in Atlanta because of damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina to the Louisiana Superdome.

Sugar Bowl — gone to Atlanta.

Bayou Classic — gone to Houston.

New Orleans Bowl — gone to Lafayette.

Tulane — gone to a different place every week.

Friday's announcement that the Sugar Bowl would be played in the Georgia Dome brought home the depressing point that there will be no college football played in New Orleans in 2005.

The last year that happened was 1897 when Tulane didn't field a team.

But what about the 2006 season?

If the Superdome is open for business again, things will be back to normal, or as normal as things can be post-Hurricane Katrina.

But if not, and we wonít know that answer for some time, all four entities will have big decisions to make.

The Sugar Bowlís option is the clearest — play at LSU with most of the fans staying in New Orleans, where hotel rooms are expected to be plentiful again. While the logistics aren't ideal, they can be worked out.

The Sugar Bowl's biggest concern is that Superdome renovations don't extend through 2007 as well because January 2008 is when New Orleans is to be the site of the national championship game, plus the 'regular' Sugar Bowl under the BCS' new double-hosting system.

If the Sugar Bowl loses its place in line in the BCS rotation, it would never be regained. And the Bowl would drop to a second-tier status.

The Bayou Classic is a little trickier. Houston will offer many of the amenities Grambling and Southern fans have enjoyed in New Orleans, and the city no doubt try to make the move permanent.

If that game is played at LSU, with fans staying in New Orleans, Baton Rouge or remaining at home, it would be difficult to maintain the spirit of the weekend, a time when the external activities are more eagerly anticipated by many than the game itself.

In the end, political pressure to return the game to Louisiana should prevail. But it might not leave the majority of fans happy.

The New Orleans Bowl should find a hospitable venue in Lafayette, which is much more in scale with the event.

If the Sports Foundation is determined to bring the game back to New Orleans, Tad Gormley would be the site, assuming itís playable.

But Gormley lacks the amenities even a modest bowl needs. Lafayette would get the bowl for another year then.

Which brings us to Tulane.

The Green Wave has gotten by playing one or two games a year at Gormley. But that has been a novelty whose appeal has been waning.

Even in its pre-Katrina state, Gormley was not a suitable Division I-A stadium, at least not for an entire season.

If it upgraded Gormley, Tulane would be putting money into a venue that:

A. It doesn't own.

B. Isn't on or even near its campus.

C. It would have to share with high schools.

D. It would be using for only one year.

Plus damage to Tulane's other athletic facilities puts the idea of the school building its own stadium further on the backburner.

Regardless, Tulane would seemingly have no other choice than to tough it out at Gormley.

Funny, Tom Benson used to complain how outdated the Superdome was and more than a few agreed with him.

But, boy, everybody sure does miss it now.

### Quick Picks

**LSU at Vanderbilt**
6 p.m., ESPN2
You donít score back-to-back road blowouts, even if the opponents are Mississippi State and Vanderbilt.
Spread: LSU by 15; Pick: LSU, 27-17

**Houston vs. Tulane**
5 p.m., CSTV
Question ñ if Tulane wins Conference USA West, where do they play the league championship game?
Spread: Houston by 1; Pick: Tulane, 28-20

**Texas vs. Oklahoma**
Noon, ABC
The Longhorns reverse the curse — but not by much.
Spread: Texas by 13 ½; Pick: Texas, 30-24

**Georgia at Tennessee**
2:30 p.m. CBS
Vols' quarterback Rick Clausen is hobbling around with a bruised heel, but Tennesseeís defense should be stout enough to carry the day.
Spread: Tennessee by 3; Pick: Tennessee, 17-13

**Ohio State at Penn State**
6:45 p.m. ESPN
JoePa is actually playing his talented freshmen and the Nittany Lions are unbeaten. Until the Buckeyes come to town.
Spread: Ohio State by 3; Pick: Ohio State, 34-27

**Arizona at Southern California**
2:30 p.m. FSW
The Trojans could give the Wildcats a 30-0 head start and still come back to win this one. The only problem is that Arizonaís offense can't score 30 against anybody.
Spread: USC by 37; Pick: USC, 48-7

**Mississippi State at Florida**
11:30 a.m. JP
Which are the Gators maddest about ñ being humiliated by Alabama last week or by the Bulldogs last year? Either way, it spells a long day in The Swamp.
Spread: Florida by 27; Pick: Florida, 42-10

**California at UCLA**
6:30 p.m. TBS
Itís unbeaten vs. unbeaten. But thatís only because neither team has played USC yet.
Spread: Cal by 1; Pick: Cal, 37-33

**Texas Tech at Nebraska**
3 p.m. TBS
Another match up of unbeatens. The Cornhuskers havenít gotten over last yearís 70-10 undressing. But they donít have the guns to extract the revenge they seek.
Spread: Texas Tech by 4; Pick: Texas Tech, 21-10

**TCU at Wyoming**
2 p.m.
With victories against Utah and New Mexico already in the books, the Horned Frogs can effectively wrap up the Mountain West title in their first year in the league by winning this one. But how did they lose to SMU?
Spread: Wyoming by 6; Pick: TCU, 34-32

**Last week:** 8-2, 7-2 vs. spread; To date: 36-14; 30-17 vs. spread

### Extra Points

Who's No. 1? Two of the six computer services that provide a third of the BCS formula say itís Penn State. The Colley Matrix and Massey Rankings both have the Nittany Lions at the top. Anderson-Hester and Billingsley like Southern California, and Alabama is tops in the Sagarin Rankings. The Wolfe Rankings wonít debut until after next weekís games. Alabama has the highest average computer ranking, followed by Florida State and USC. ÖThe 1955 Pittsburgh team, which featured the first African-American to play in the Sugar Bowl, will be honored prior to the Panthersí game against Cincinnati. The Pitt team voted not to play the game if Bobby Greer, the Panthersí lone black player, was not allowed to participate. ÖAuthor John Feinstein will continue as the analyst on Navy football broadcasts, despite uttering an obscenity during last weekís game against Duke. Feinstein immediately apologized after the incident, which came after what he perceived to be a bad call against Duke, his alma mater. ÖThis didnít take long. Following Floridaís 37-3 loss to Alabama last week, some disgruntled Gators fan started bringbackronzook.com.

### Crescent City Connection

Chris Markey, UCLA, RB, So. (Jesuit)
Markey is the second-leading rusher for the Bruins with 148 yards and three touchdowns. He is also UCLAís top return man, averaging 24 yards on punts and 26.9 on kickoffs.
"Chris takes a tremendous amount of pride in everything he does," said UCLA running backs coach Eric Bienemy. "And he brings a different dimension to our team because heís such a great all-around back.
"He's also got the mental toughness to know that he may not be our feature back, but he comes to practice every day preparing to be the starter."

### Coach's Corner

"Don't mistake chronological age for maturity. I think we have some immature guys. Iím not going to name names, but we certainly have more than one. We have multiple personalities on this team. And, if you asked me what I would wish for this team at this stage of the season, it would be for them to grow up and mature." — Purdue coach Joe Tiller on his teamís 2-2 record, despite having 17 returning starters.

• • • • • •

Ted Lewis can be contacted at onlyingc@aol.com or (504) 232-5071.

# Nicholls State to open conference play vs. S.F. Austin

*Colonels hope to unleash running game*

By Bob Fortus
Staff writer

To Nicholls State players, the season starts today.

"We're looking at this week, going into this week, 0-0,'' Colonels fullback Broderick Cole said. "Conference starts. Our goal is to win the conference, get the ring and make the playoffs."

The Colonels (1-2) play Stephen F. Austin (3-1) in a Southland Conference opener today at Nacogdoches, Texas. Kickoff is at 2 p.m.

Nicholls State is coming off a 26-13 loss last week at North Dakota State.

Hurricane Katrina eliminated one game from Nicholls State's schedule. Hurricane Rita eliminated another. Because of the hurricanes, the Colonels missed about 15 days of practice.

But the record book won't make note of situations related to the storms, Cole said. It will list only results.

"This year and in years to come, a win is a win, and a loss is a loss," he said. "It won't be due to Hurricane Katrina."

The running game is the key to how Nicholls State fares.

In the Colonels' triple-option offense, most plays start with quarterback Yale Vannoy putting the ball in Cole's stomach. Cole, a 237-pound fullback from West Jefferson High, is the first option. He has carried 46 times for 213 yards and two touchdowns this season.

"He's a big part of our attack," Coach Jay Thomas said.

Last year, Cole started every game as a freshman, rushing for 501 yards on 121 carries and was selected Southland freshman of the year. He also was chosen Nicholls State freshman athlete of the year.

The second option is for Vannoy to pull the ball back and give it to another one of the team's talented running backs, such as Joseph Tobias, who rushed for 97 yards on 13 carries against North Dakota State. Zach Morgan and Anthony Harris are other productive Nicholls State runners. Or, Vannoy might keep the ball.

The Colonels rank second in Division I-AA in rushing, averaging 350.67 yards per game. But North Dakota State, then ranked No. 13 in the Sport's Network I-AA poll, held them to a season-low 249 yards rushing.

After trailing 17-0 at halftime, the Colonels put together 80- and 94-yard scoring drives to cut the deficit to 17-13. They had chances to draw closer before North Dakota State pulled away late.

"Early in the game, we never could get the field position flipped around," Thomas said. "When you're playing a good football team, you really can't give up the real estate like that."

Thomas said Hurricane Rita seemed to cause greater distractions to the team than Hurricane Katrina did.

"The first storm, we were coming right out of camp," he said. "It was easier to overcome.

"We were just getting into a routine. Then bam, there's another storm."

After the scheduled opener Sept. 3 against Utah State was canceled because of Katrina, the Colonels opened a week later at Indiana. Rushing for 408 yards, they nearly upset the Hoosiers but lost on a touchdown in the final minute, 35-31.

Nicholls State beat Division II Cheney University 54-0 the next week. Rita then wiped out a game scheduled for Sept. 24 against Western Carolina.

"You usually get better as you go along," Thomas said. "Normally now, you've played five games."

Little things need correcting, Thomas said. Special teams have suffered because of the postponements.

"0It's just pieces and parts," Thomas said. "It's not really one person or one player. It's everything together right now."

Said Cole: "I don't think I've ever been satisfied with how I play."

Stephen F. Austin, hasn't played since beating Southern Utah 40-17 two weeks ago.

The Lumberjacks average 453 yards per game, 301 passing.

Quarterback Zeke Dixon has completed 69 of 139 passes for 1,064 yards and 10 touchdowns, with six interceptions. Freshman running back Damian Perkins has carried 66 times for 281 yards and three touchdowns.

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE AT GRAMBLING STATE** (1:30 p.m. in Grambling): Tigers quarterback Bruce Eugene, a former Cohen High School player, was selected SWAC offensive player of the week for his performance last week in a 50-7 rout of Prairie View A&M.

Eugene completed 34 of 50 passes for a school record 618 yards. His seven touchdown passes increased his career total to 95, also a school record. Henry Tolbert caught nine passes for 175 yards and two touchdowns. George Piggott caught six passes for 148 yards and a touchdown.

The Tigers (2-1, 2-0 SWAC) have won consecutive games since losing their opener to Washington State. Eugene leads the SWAC in passing yards per game (363.3).

The Delta Devils (2-2, 2-2) were off last week. Their quarterback, Aries Nelson, ranks third in the conference in passing yards per game (297.5).

**ALABAMA A&M AT SOUTHERN** (6:30 p.m. in Baton Rouge, Cox Sports TV tape-delayed to Sunday): The Jaguars (1-2, 1-2 SWAC), tied with Grambling for the SWAC lead in scoring offense (33.7 points per game), play host to the team leading the conference in scoring defense.

The Bulldogs (3-2, 1-2) have allowed an average of 17.6 points per game.

Southern quarterback J.C. Lewis passed for 302 yards and five touchdowns, two to James Vernon, but was sacked seven times in a 45-35 loss last week to Alabama State. Tonight, the Jaguars' rebuilt offensive line will try to protect Lewis from Alabama A&M's Kevin Lockhart, who leads the SWAC in sacks with five.

The Bulldogs had won consecutive games before losing last week to Texas Southern, 17-7.

**LOUISIANA-MONROE AT ARKANSAS** (6 p.m. in Little Rock, Ark.): The Indians (2-3, 2-0 Sun Belt) go into this game with the Razorbacks having won their past two games.

ULM beat Arkansas State 31-27 last week on quarterback Steven Jyles' two-yard run with 36 seconds left. The touchdown capped a 68-yard drive in six plays. Jyles also completed 16 of 31 passes for 261 yards and two touchdowns. He's the ULM career leader in total offense with 8,701 yards.

Arkansas (1-3, 0-2 SEC), which hasn't played since losing 24-13 at Alabama two weeks ago, ranks fourth in Division I-A in rushing with an average of 277.8 yards per game. De'Arrius Howard is the team's leader rusher, having carried 47 times for 279 yards.

Arkansas linebacker Sam Olajubutu has made 53 tackles.

**HAWAII AT LOUISIANA TECH** (6 p.m. in Ruston, ESPN Regional/Cox Sports TV): After starting the season with non-conference losses to Florida and Kansas, the Bulldogs (1-2, 1-0 Western Athletic Conference) opened conference play last week with a 34-14 rout of New Mexico State.

Louisiana Tech's first-team defense shut out the Aggies, who scored twice in the final 1:05 against reserves. Bulldogs quarterback Matt Kubik was solid, completing 17 of 28 passes for 173 yards without an interception. Running back Mark Dillard carried 14 times for 64 yards and one touchdown.

The Rainbows (1-3, 1-1) had a chance to tie the score late in a WAC game last week against Boise State, but the Broncos blocked an extra-point attempt and returned the ball for two points to cap the scoring in their 44-41 victory.

Hawaii relies on the passing of Colt Brennan, who threw for four touchdowns and 426 yards against Boise State. For the season, he's 107-of-158 for 1,242 yards and 10 touchdowns, with three interceptions.

**NORTHWESTERN STATE AT SAM HOUSTON STATE** (2 p.m. in Huntsville, Texas): This Southland Conference opener matches the teams that shared the conference title last year.

Both teams are 1-2 and will be playing for the first time in three weeks. Last week was a scheduled off week for both teams, and their games scheduled for Sept. 24 were canceled because of Hurricane Rita.

Northwestern State hasn't played since losing at Louisiana-Lafayette, 49-28, on Sept. 17. The Demons lost six turnovers, including five fumbles, in that game and gave up 544 yards. Northwestern State has committed 37 penalties and lost 14 turnovers in its three games.

Sam Houston State hasn't played since losing at Texas Tech, 80-21. Phillip Daugherty, a transfer from Texas Tech, will make his first start at quarterback for the Bearkats.

**TEXAS SOUTHERN VS. MCNEESE STATE** (3 p.m. in Natchitoches): Hurricane Katrina wiped out one game from McNeese's schedule, and Rita knocked out two games. So the Cowboys (1-1) arranged this game instead of taking a scheduled off week.

Because of damage from Rita, the McNeese State campus in Lake Charles is expected to remain closed for several weeks. The Cowboys, who had missed more than two weeks of practice, resumed practice this week at Southeastern Louisiana University. Northwestern State University provided the game site.

McNeese hasn't played since losing to Southern Mississippi 48-20 on Sept. 17. Cowboys free safety Lawrence Darby, from Covington High, made 15 tackles and intercepted two passes in that game.

Texas Southern (1-2, 1-2 SWAC) snapped a 16-game losing streak by beating Alabama A&M last week. The Tigers' Kyle Watson averaged 42.2 yards on 10 punts in that game and put four punts inside the 20-yard line.

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# LSU (2-1, 1-1) VS. VANDERBILT (4-1, 2-0)

## THE VITALS

Kickoff: 6 p.m. Dudley Field, Nashville, Tenn.

Coaches: LSU, Les Miles (30-22, 2-1, fifth season overall, first at LSU); Vanderbilt, Bobby Johnson (70-66 overall, 10-30, second year at Vanderbilt).

TV/Radio: ESPN2/870-AM.

## INJURIES

LSU: Guard Pete Dyakowski (foot) is out; guard Brett Helms (knee) questionable; receiver Craig Davis (foot) questionable; center Rudy Niswanger (ankle) probable.

Vanderbilt: Fullback Steven Bright (knee) questionable; guard Mac Pyle (knee) questionable; safety Kelechi Ohanaja (knee) probable.

## KEEP AN EYE ON

LSU DT Claude Wroten

Wroten has been quietly dominating inside with the help of fellow tackle Kyle Williams, who draws most of the attention from opponents. Wroten had two of LSU's seven sacks last week and has been difficult for each LSU opponent to block. Whether or not he can put pressure on Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler will determine what kind of game Cutler has. If Cutler has time, he can pick LSU apart. And he has the moxie to burn the Tigers when they blitz, so pressure from the LSU front four is crucial.

## GAMEPLAN

Offensively, LSU has a chance to make some big plays with its skill-position players. LSU might stretch the field with its wide receivers to create those opportunities. Expect to see more of the bubble screen to open up the running game, but LSU must take advantage of its athletic superiority to combat a sound, experienced defensive unit. Defensively, LSU will see much of the same as it has the past three games. Cutler will throw quickly to negate the pass rush and, as a fifth-year senior, he has the smarts to make plays in tight situations. Defensive backs will have to keep tight coverage and force Cutler to hold the ball. Vanderbilt will first test the Tigers' run defense, ranked No. 2 in the SEC and No. 9 in the nation. And, with Cutler, the Tigers must always be on guard for the option play.

## KEY MATCHUP

Vanderbilt LB Moses Osemwegie vs. the LSU offense:

Osemwegie (6 feet, 230 pounds) is the physical and spiritual leader of the Vanderbilt defense and is capable as a pass rusher, on run defense and in coverage. He was a first-team All-SEC linebacker last year and has shown no dropoff. He had 13 tackles last week, 11 solo, and leads all defensive players in the conference with 46 tackles. He has two sacks and two forced fumbles. "Heís really a physical player, real athletic and a big playmaker for them," Miles said. LSU blockers will have to find him first.

## BY THE NUMBERS

13 — total points by Vanderbilt in the schoolsí past three meetings; 1982 — Last year Vanderbilt had a winning record and played in a bowl game; 2 — Vanderbilt receiver Erik Davis' ranking in receptions and yards per game in the SEC; 9 — Sacks by LSU in three games; 7 — Sacks allowed by Vanderbilt in five games; 40 — Starts for Vanderbilt senior QB Jay Cutler, out of a possible 41.

## ODDS AND ENDS

LSU will open the season with three road games out of four for the first time since 1993. ... Vanderbilt running back coach Kenny Carter coached at LSU in the 1999 season. ... Vanderbilt will recognize the 50th anniversary of the 1955 Commodores team that defeated Auburn in the Gator Bowl.

## EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Beautiful weather — football weather — is expected in Nashville for the latest of LSU's infrequent visits to Music City. Forecasts are predicting temperatures around 55 degrees at kickoff. But, regardless of how nice the conditions, any LSU fan who has made the trip would have to be wary.

LSU has a 9-5 edge in games at Nashville, but something goofy often happens when LSU visits the Commodores.

The last visit — in 1997 — was nearly a nightmare for the Tigers and head coach Gerry DiNardo. LSU led 7-0 when Vandy scored in the final minute. The Commodores were then penalized twice for delay of game prior to the conversion. Eventually, Vandy kicked for the tie and LSUís Kenny Mixon blocked the kick, preserving the victory. A loss would have been hard for DiNardo to take. Three years previous, he left Vandy for LSU after pledging he would stay. Vanderbilt sued, trying to get DiNardo to pay back part of his salary. The two sides eventually settled. That game also marked the last time Cecil Collins played for LSU. He suffered a broken leg in the second quarter and was booted off the team the following summer for off-field transgressions. In 1990, LSU appeared to win the game on a desperation pass into the end zone from Chad Loup to Todd Kinchen. But Kinchen was called for offensive pass interference to end the game. The loss cost the Tigers a winning record and greased the skids for then-coach Mike Archer, who was fired with two games remaining.

In 1937, Vandy defeated LSU 7-0 to stop a 23-game winning streak, but it was how they did it that was unusual ñ the hidden ball trick. As the Vandy offense swept to the left, quarterback Dutch Reinschmidt placed the ball on the ground and continued left as if he had it. Tackle Greer Ricketson picked it up and ran the other way for a 50-yard touchdown.

## FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"If there was a routine, it would be getting in a plane and playing on the road. We've only had one home game." — LSU coach Les Miles

**Jim Kleinpeter**

# Too early for LSU to be thinking about Gators

**LSU,** *from C-6*

um - but what about the question asked of defensive tackle Kyle Williams on Monday afternoon?

Explain this: Do you think they were looking ahead, maybe, to you guys this weekend?

"They" meaning the Vanderbilt Commodores.

But the question wasn't only relevant, it was appropriate.

"I think so," Williams said of Vandy's lone loss to Middle Tennessee State last Saturday night. "I think they got caught up in us coming to town and being an ESPN game."

A blocked field goal away from perfection, Vanderbilt (4-1) is still tied for top honors in the SEC East and an upset away from its best start since 1950, two years before Miles was born.

Coach Bobby Johnson's Commodores are two wins away from bowl eligibility and possibly their first postseason appearance since 1982, when the iconic Whit Taylor quarterbacked Vanderbilt to a loss in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

"I've really not addressed too much history," Johnson said. "We're not worried about what Vanderbilt's done in the past. We're trying to do what weíre doing this year. We got off to a great start, and we just want to keep it going for us, for our team."

Credit Vanderbilt senior quarterback Jay Cutler for the early-season subdued hype, and look for him to chip away at the LSU secondary if Bo Peliniís scheme mirrors the zone coverage that Rick Clausen picked apart. Expect a bunch of three-step drops, quick passes, lots of patience, lots of wise decisions and the occasional scramble - a facet missing from Clausen's repertoire.

Through five games, Cutler has thrown for less than 250 yards only once (245 in the loss) and sports a slightly better than 2/1 touchdown/interception ratio. Last season Vanderbilt trailed LSU 10-7 last fall until Cutler suffered a game-ending injury early in the third quarter of the Tigers' 24-7 escape.

"He's a veteran guy," Miles said. "He's been in the offense for a good, long time, understands where heís going with the ball and has a quick release. Everybody respects whatís happening there and he does a great job functioning that offense."

Last year in Tiger Stadium, Cutler compiled as many rushing attempts - including a 1-yard touchdown - as completed passes, and he should flash the quarterback option. Evidenced by the injury suffered, Cutler doesnít shy from contact.

"Our whole defense is based on stopping him first," LSU linebacker Kenneth Hollis said. "If we play our right style of defense and the corners are coming and pressing and the linebackers are reading their keys, it will be a good game."

Of course, LSU finds itself in similar precarious crossroads as Vanderbilt last week. Looming just beyond this supposedly easy win is a CBS afternoon date with Urban Meyer and Florida. Given that LSU canít afford another conference loss if it hopes to play in the SEC championship game at the Georgia Dome in December, Williams can't find any excuse for an oversight.

"Being around this conference, you know that just about anybody can beat you at any time," Williams said. "I was there when a Kentucky wasn't that good and we had to beat them on the very last play of the game. You have to focus in this conference, no matter who you're playing."

# Wave needs to get rushing



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Tulane defensive lineman Frank Morton (99) is one of the cogs in the Green Wave defense that ranks second in the country.

**TULANE,** *from C-6*

points and give them a long field to work off of if we don't score."

While the stats from Houston's offense and Tulane's defense are the ones that really stick out, Scelfo knows the Green Wave's offense will have a good opportunity to exploit a defense that hasn't had much success this season. Besides being ranked 99th in the nation in total defense, the Cougars are 66th against the run (148.2) and 108th against the pass (297.2). It is a setup for the Wave's offense to have a big game.

After three games, Tulane, which sits atop the C-USA West Division (1-0) standings, ranks 37th in the NCAA in passing.

But Green Wave quarterback Lester Ricard said the passing game will not be as important as getting the running game going. Last week, the Wave had just 28 yards rushing.

"We've got to have a big-time ball-control game," Ricard said. "We have to run the football really well in order to keep their offense off the field. They have some excellent athletes on offense."

Houston's offense begins with its quarterback, junior Kevin Kolb, who leads the league in total offense and is third in passing yards. The Cougars also have a running threat in Ryan Gilbert, second in the conference with a 90.2-yards-per-game average.

Kolb and Gilbert make it essential that Tulane's offense comes up with a solid performance after last week's disappointing showing.



Tulane linebacker Antonio Mason tackles Southeastern Louisiana receiver Josh Taylor in the Green Waveís 28-21 win last week.

"I think it's more than just keeping Houston's offense off the field," said Tulane center Joe Traina. "It's more of keeping our defense off the field. When they're fresh and rested, they're as good as anybody in the country.

"So, if we're able to control the ball, control the game on the offensive side of the ball, then when our defense does get on the field, we're able to dominate."

Tulane leads the conference in average time of possession (33:37); Houston is fifth (30:36).

"Yeah, you know how I feel about that stat," Scelfo said.

The Wave will have to keep drives going against Houston, something it didn't accomplish against Southeastern. Tulane was 7-of-19 on third-down conversions.

Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo, whose team finished 93rd in the nation in defense last year, says he isn't counting on one area to make the difference against the Cougars.

"You have to win two out of three phases. You've got to win defense and special teams, offense and defense, offense and special teams," Scelfo said. "It's all important. We've got to be more efficient on offense this week than we were last week. And, defensively, we can't stay on the field as long as we did last week. And we can't have mistakes in the kicking game."

# TULANE (2-1, 1-0) VS. HOUSTON (2-2, 1-1)

## THE VITALS

Kickoff: 5 p.m. Cajun Field in Lafayette.

Coaches: Tulane, Chris Scelfo (33-41, seventh season); Houston, Art Briles (12-16, third season).

TV/Radio: i network (formally PAX Network)/ no radio in New Orleans; north shore 104.7-FM; and Baton Rouge 1210-AM.

## KEEP AN EYE ON

TULANE'S OFFENSIVE LINE: Last Saturday, three starters spent time nursing injuries on the sideline. The three were the only three seniors: left tackle Chris McGee, left guard Matt Traina and center Joe Traina. They are expected to play against Houston, but are still battling pain. Because the trio has started since freshman year, the backups have little experience. And right guard Michael Parenton and right tackle Derek Rogers are in their first full season as starters.

## GAMEPLAN

Tulane must establish its rushing game. The Wave knows it; the Cougars know it. Last week against Southeastern Louisiana, Tulane mustered 28 net rushing yards ñ less than the number of carries Tulane had the previous week at Southern Methodist (47). The offensive line must play more focused, but the running backs need to be patient. If Matt Forte runs for 26 yards again, Tulane will probably lose.

And Tulane must do a better job containing Houston in the first half. Or, at least recent history says so. In the past two games, both Houston victories, the Cougars have outscored the Wave 52-7 in the first half.

## KEY MATCHUP

CHRIS SCELFO VS. ART BRILES: Coach Briles has had Tulaneís number the past two years. As a rookie coach in 2003, Briles came into New Orleans and defeated Scelfoís Wave 45-42. In 2004, Houston finished with a 3-8 record but managed to dominate Tulane, 24-3. Scelfo, Tulane's veteran coach, will get a third crack at Briles this week. It will be intriguing to see how Scelfo and his coordinators respond to Brilesí tricky and proven offensive scheme.

## BY THE NUMBERS

3 — Tulane is playing its third home game in its third home site (Shreveport and Baton Rouge). ... Tulaneís three senior linebackers are the team's top three tacklers — Anthony Cannon (29), Antonio Mason (19) and Brandon Spincer (16). 1 — Houston quarterback Kevin Kolb needs just one touchdown pass to move into third place on the school's career touchdowns list with 47. He would then trail Andre Ware (75) and David Klingler (91).

## ODDS AND ENDS

Houston running back Ryan Gilbert has made the most of his 48 carries, rushing for 361 yards. The 90.2 yards per game is second in Conference USA. Tulane running back Matt Forte is sixth (59.7). ... Tulane is 6-for-8 on fourth down this season. Opponents are 0-for-3. ... Houston's cornerback tandem is ranked No. 1-2 in passes defended. Willie Gatson leads C-USA with nine breakups. Ricky Wilson is second with five breakups and two interceptions.

## FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"Their quarterback is one of the best in the league." — Tulane coach Chris Scelfo on Houston's Kevin Kolb.

**Benjamin Hochman**

# Sugar will retain some New Orleans spice

*Game in Georgia Dome to be New Orleans-style show*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

The 2006 Sugar Bowl is headed to Atlanta for a year, but it will retain a New Orleans flavor ñ perhaps complete with a Mardi Gras parade.

That was one of the points driven home Friday in Atlanta as official announcement was made that this seasonís game will be played at the Georgia Dome because of Hurricane Katrina-caused damage to the Superdome.

"We want to put on the best possible New Orleans-style show that's part of the best Sugar Bowl we've ever produced," said bowl president Mark Romig. "We'd love to include a parade and benefit concert to give everyone a sense of what the Sugar Bowl and New Orleans are all about."

Romig made a second point: The game will return to Louisiana in 2007, either in the Superdome, or, if repairs are not completed, at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

"We are resolved to play the 73rd Sugar Bowl in Louisiana," he said. "And we plan to make it better than ever"

But first there are the nuts and bolts issues of transferring the game to Atlanta in less than three months.

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan said two staffers will move into newly acquired office space by next week to start organizing the Jan. 2 game.

But the Sugar Bowl staffers won't be doing it alone.

Officials from the Georgia Dome, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Atlanta City Council, the SEC and the Peach Bowl were at Friday's press conference, with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue.

"You have humbled us by entrusting us with one of your most valuable assets from New Orleans and Louisiana," Perdue said to Romig and Hoolahan. "And I can tell you today that the state of Georgia, Atlanta, the Georgia Dome and the all of the fans of the SEC will not let you down.

"We're going to treat you like kinfolk and give you all we can." Hoolahan said that kind of support will be needed as many of the normal functions of the Sugar Bowl staff have to be carried out by local organizations.

"We've got to plug in all the resources available to us," he said. "Our priority is the game, but there are events around the game that have to be taken care of as well.

"Our title sponsor (Nokia) and all of the people here in Atlanta will be putting our shoulders to the wheel to make this work.î

One important item is the redistribution of tickets. Hoolahan said that those already holding tickets will be offered the option of retaining them or receiving a refund for this year or having them credited for next year's game.

About 15 percent of the 72,000 tickets are held by people in Louisiana.

The special circumstances of the game will very much be in evidence, Romig said.

Besides the proposed parade and concert, there will be other relief fund raisers connected with the game. And Atlanta hotels, which will benefit from a large influx of fans during a normal low-occupancy period, will donate 10 percent of their revenue to relief as well.

"We were really overwhelmed by the support we've seen," Romig said. "I don't think anybodyís ever been given a standing ovation at a press conference, but that's what they did for Paul and me."

This year's Sugar Bowl will match the SEC champion, if that team is not playing for the BCS championship in the Rose Bowl, against an at-large opponent.

SEC commissioner Mike Slive said he had no worries about fans from the SEC champion being reluctant to return to Atlanta less than a month after the SEC championship game, which also is played in the Georgia Dome.

"What this tragedy has taught us is to be very flexible," he said. "If our champion is not in the Rose Bowl, its fans will be very happy to be playing in Atlanta."

The vote to play in Atlanta by the Sugar Bowl committeeís board of directors came earlier this week after bowl officials had explored the possibility of playing the game at LSU with fans staying in New Orleans.

The lack of hotel rooms in New Orleans was the determining factor. A normal Sugar Bowl has fans occupying upward of 32,000 rooms. Less than a third of that number would have been available in New Orleans.

Still, Romig said, the decision was not easy.

"I think, from a logistical standpoint, that everyone realized the challenge we faced trying to stay in Louisiana," he said. "But that didn't make it any less emotional.

"This was a very historic decision. But everyone realizes how important the franchise the Sugar Bowl holds is, and we had the responsibility not to put it jeopardy."

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# Iverson eager to get to work for Cheeks

*All-Star guard says 'It's just been fun'*

**From wire reports**

Allen Iverson loves practice so much he wants to arrive early.

"I can't remember the last time I actually wanted to come in real early," Iverson, a former MVP, said Friday in Durham, N.C. "It's been great, man. Everybody's responding well. Everybody's trying to learn and get better."

Iverson said he has a new outlook now that former All-Star guard Maurice Cheeks is coaching the 76ers. The atmosphere at training camp at Duke is fun and relaxed, and Iverson attributes that to Cheeks.

"This was a dream for me, ever since Coach (Larry) Brown left," Iverson said. "I wanted Maurice Cheeks to be the coach, and now itís finally here. It's just different for me. I feel like in the 10 years that Iíve been playing, the atmosphere should have always been like it is. I should have always wanted to come to work every day and not play hard or go after people because I was upset about something.'

Iverson, who once asked, "How can I make my teammates better by practicing?" said he has discovered that he can make a difference with his workouts.

"When everybody sees that Iím working and ready to get at it, I guess it makes it that much easier for them to get involved with everything going on," Iverson said.

Last season, Iverson complained that he had little input under Coach Jim O'Brien. Iverson said the 76ers failed to develop an identity and rarely made adjustments, including a resistance to zone defense.

Cheeks' positive attitude isnít new to Iverson. Cheeks was an assistant under Brown when Iverson led the 76ers to the NBA Finals in 2001.

"Everybody's not here uptight," Iverson said. ìItís just been fun so far.î

O"Brien also didn't believe in getting Chris Webber more involved once the All-Star forward was acquired in February. Cheeks has raved about the way Iverson and Webber have worked together.

Iverson said he has noticed a difference in Webberís attitude.

"He's been doing everything to make us better and make himself better," Iverson said. "We're just trying to put it together on the court right here in training camp. Hopefully when we leave here, we'll have some type of chemistry."

Cheeks gave Webber the day off Friday, but a day earlier he credited the first-year coach with making a dramatic difference.

"I want what Mo has, and thatís a championship," Webber said. "I admire what heís done and I thank him for the communication and just being a man first and a coach second. If you're a good man, it's easy to be a good coach."

"It's important that guys want to come to work," Cheeks said. "I want them to enjoy coming here. It's where weíre going to be for eight or nine months."

**PACER GETS PROBATION:** Anthony Johnson of the Indiana Pacers was sentenced to a year of probation at Rochester Hills, Mich., after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor assault charge for his role in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history.

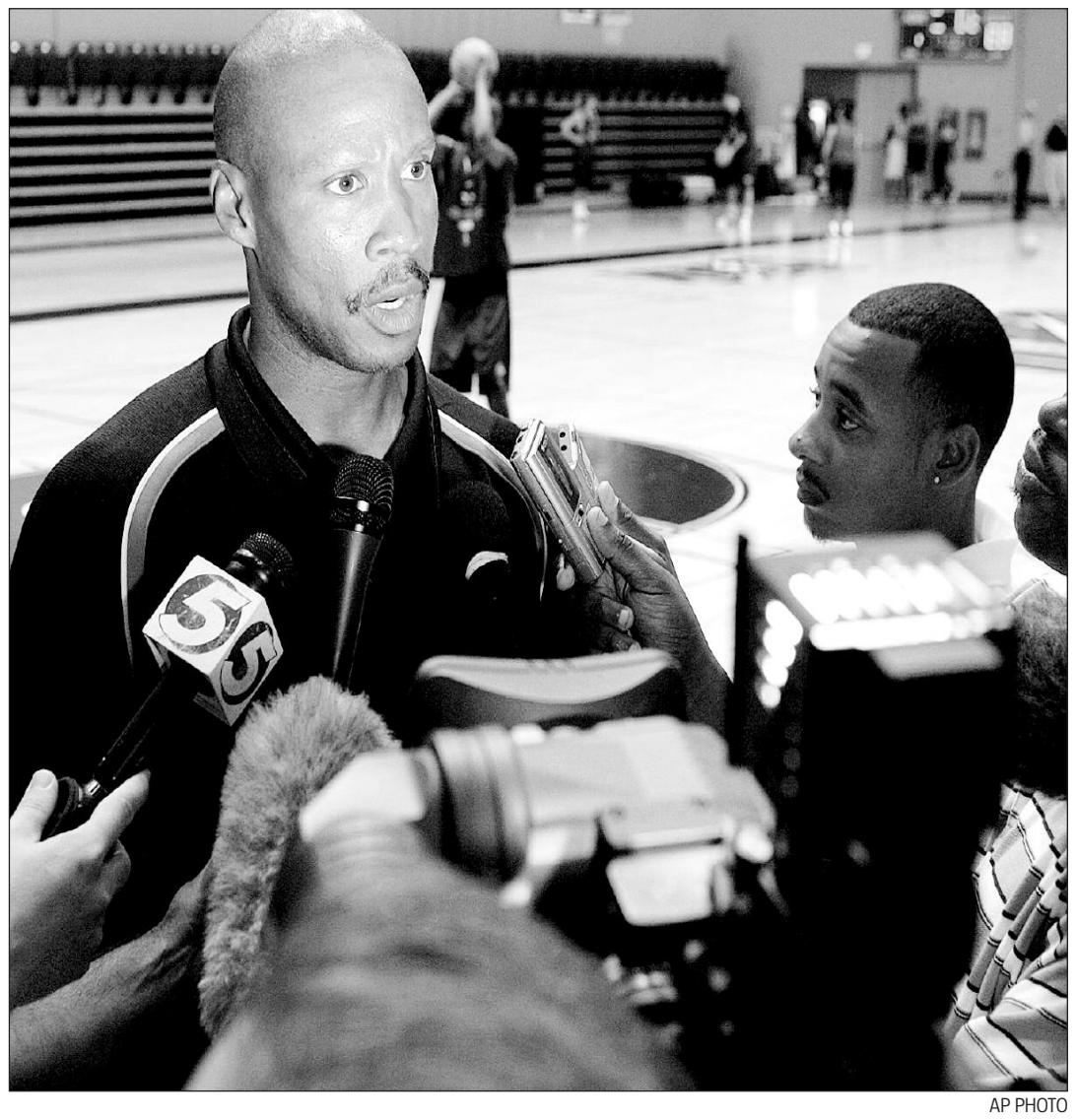
He was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, directed to attend counseling and fined $250.

Teammates Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal, David Harrison and Stephen Jackson received similar sentences last month for their participation in the Nov. 19 fighting that broke out during a game with the Detroit Pistons at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

A no-contest plea in Michigan is not an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing.

Several fans also were charged in the brawl that started after Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace shoved Artest following a hard foul.

After the players were separated, Artest was doused with a beverage and rushed into the stands after the man he thought had thrown the drink. Some teammates joined him in the stands and clashed with fans on the court. Artest was suspended for the rest of the season, Jackson for 30 games, O'Neal for 25 and Johnson for five. The league did not suspend Harrison. An arbitrator later reduced O'Neal's suspension to 15 games, and it was upheld in federal court.



AP PHOTO

Hornets coach Byron Scott said he probably won't be making roster cuts until after a few exhibition games, because all of the 17 players on the roster deserve a chance to play in game conditions.

# Hornets to present options for season-ticket holders

*E-mails from team are set to begin*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Starting next week, the Hornets plan to contact New Orleans-area season-ticket holders who made deposits before Hurricane Katrina forced the team to temporarily relocate to Oklahoma City.

Hornets president Paul Mott said the team's computers and servers, which contained sales records before the storm hit, are again operational.

"What we're going to be doing is putting together an e-mail communication for everybody that we have an address for," Mott said. "Obviously someone who doesn't have an e-mail address can contact our number in Oklahoma City, or they can write us through Hornets.com.

"We would like to get contact information from them, and we would like to be able to reach out and talk to as many, if not all, of our season-ticket holders."

Mott said the franchise will begin contacting season-ticket holders by mid-week. They will have the option of getting a refund, keeping their money in the account as a deposit for the 2006-07 return of the Hornets to New Orleans or using a portion of it to purchase tickets for the six games scheduled for LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge.

Those games are Dec. 16 against the Phoenix Suns, Jan. 13 against the Sacramento Kings, Jan. 18 against the Memphis Grizzlies, March 8 against the Los Angeles Lakers, March 18 against the Denver Nuggets and March 21 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Hornets will play a preseason game Oct. 25 against the Shaquille O'Neal-led Miami Heat in Baton Rouge.

"Of course, if there are people who need to get that money refunded, then we will work to get that done," Mott said. "For those in Louisiana, especially in Baton Rouge, we're going to offer a pre-sale opportunity for the Baton Rouge games. In our communication with them, we will explain what we are proposing."

**BACK TO WORK:** After sitting out three days of practice because of a groin pull, guard J.R. Smith is expected to practice today. Smith said he was injured while working out in Houston with former NBA coach John Lucas a few days before the Hornets reported to training camp at Southern Nazarene University.

**SORE KNEE:** Top draft pick Chris Paul had a large ice bag on his left knee after Friday's practice but said the knee is only sore. He said it wasn't going to keep him from practicing. Paul practiced with no limitations.

**NO QUICK CUTS:** Last season, Coach Byron Scott made his first wave of training-camp cuts before the opening week ended. He's not going to be so quick this time.

"I want to give these guys a chance to play in a couple of games," Scott said. "A lot of guys, even young guys, sometimes are not practice players. They come and give you effort and things like that, but they really drive on being in game situations. All 17 guys that we have here right now, I'm happy with them."

The Hornets begin their preseason schedule Thursday night against the Nuggets at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

**OVERWEIGHT?** Backup center Chris Andersen said he is a few pounds overweight, but Scott disagrees. "He feels that he's just a little too heavy right now, (but) a lot of that is just muscle. I don't feel he's overweight," Scott said. "But one thing about Birdman is that he's going to continue to run and work and all of those things to feel better."

# Another exec walks away from team

**HORNETS,** *from C-6*

wife, Beth, and son, Max, in New Orleans before the storm.

He came to the Hornets after spending four seasons as vice president of marketing with the Houston Rockets, Houston Comets (WNBA) and the Toyota Center, and was responsible for the supervision of marketing and promotions, media relations, broadcasting and community relations.

Under McDougall's direction, the Hornets' entire sales operations underwent a makeover, prompting the closure of all their†regional ticket offices in Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Miss., Mandeville and Houma.

He recently had been in charge of the team's media relations department. When the Hornets moved into a temporary office at the Toyota Center, home of the Rockets, a few days after Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, McDougall and Mott spearheaded the transition team, which included Kristy McKearn, vice president of business operations.

Long before Hurricane Katrina the Hornets had been in upheaval mainly because of a high employee turnover rate, which included several top management positions.

Some of the resignations†included Jack Capella, executive vice president/chief operating officer; Harold Kaufman, vice president of public relations, who had been with the franchise since its inception in 1988; and Todd Santino, vice president of sponsorship sales.

Owner George Shinn also bought out partner Ray Wooldridge earlier this year, prompting another period of upheaval.

McDougall was hired in February, becoming the organization's third marketing chief since its relocation to New Orleans in 2002. McDougall replaced John Lee, who was senior vice president of marketing/sales for four months before resigning.

"It's going to be challenging, but you do the best you can," Mott said. "You work closely with and support emotionally those that are trying to hang in and do it with you. But this is a tremendous challenge, no question about it."

Tim Hinchey, recently hired as senior vice president of corporate development, will oversee marketing, branding and ticket sales, Mott said.

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

**A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHASE:** The Chase for the Nextel Cup championship is different this year. Last year in the inaugural run, the playoff atmosphere was intense. So far in 2005, the focus is more on retaliation, rules and wrecks than on winning the title. In the opener of the 10-race Chase, Robby Gordon and Kasey Kahne overshadowed the 10 championship contenders with outbursts and even tried to retaliate with their cars after being knocked into the wall. A week later at Dover, contender Jimmie Johnson and teammate Kyle Busch finished 1-2. Several of their opponents charged that their Chevrolets were running with their rear ends too high, but NASCAR gave the cars a few moments to settle in the postrace inspection and both passed. NASCAR said all the parts and pieces used in their rear shock absorbers met standards, but a notice was sent a week later saying those shocks would no longer be allowed. Last Sunday at Talladega was the final race of the season where horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates were used. Multicar crashes damaged the chances of five of the 10 Chase competitors, and Johnson acknowledged he ignited one of the big wrecks. The Banquet 400 at Kansas Speedway on Sunday is the fourth of the final 10 races. Tony Stewart leads Ryan Newman by four points, with Rusty Wallace, Johnson, Greg Biffle, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth and Jeremy Mayfield all within 112 points of the leader. A year ago, Johnson got off to a tough start in the Chase, falling far off the pace when he crashed at Talladega and Kansas. But that turned a week later at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., where he won for the first of three straight visits to Victory Lane and four of the final six. Johnson has noticed a difference this year. "I see that the teams are a little more relaxed in the first few races,î he said. "Last year, everybody felt that the champion was going to be the team that made it clean through the final 10. This year I think the teams are a little bit smarter and everybody has realized that last year everybody had problems. Now as we get toward the halfway point in the Chase, the intensity level is going to ramp up and catch up for everybody.î Stewart has been the hottest driver in the Cup series since June. He has 14 top-10 finishes, including all five of his wins, in his past 15 races. "The same thing that got you in the Chase is the same thing that's going to win you the Chase,î he said. "You've got to be consistent and you've got to be up front each week. That's the same thing that got us 10 in the Chase in the first place.î

## BOXING

**CORRALES, CASTILLO MEET AGAIN:** Someday when they're finished with one another, Diego Corrales hopes he and Jose Luis Castillo can sit down, have a beer and talk about their place in boxing history. They've already got plenty to discuss. Their first fight was one for the ages, even before Corrales got off the canvas twice in the 10th round to stop Castillo. They meet again for the lightweight title in Las Vegas on Saturday night, barely five months after they gave each other the kind of beating that shortens and sometimes ends careers. Once again, both vow not to give an inch to the other. "This is a war of attrition. This is the final battle,î Corrales said. "I am here, and I will die in that ring before I give up what I have.î What Corrales has is more than just the WBC 135-pound title he won from Castillo on May 8. At 28, he has become a throwback fighter who could have boxed Castillo from the outside but decided instead to go toe-to-toe with him because it was the manly thing to do. "I love what happened,î Corrales said. "I always wanted my war, and I got it. You always wonder if you have it in you to do it. I was glad to see I did.î The Mexican challenger says he wasn't at his best the first time around, but will have no excuses in the scheduled 12-round fight that is expected to draw 15,000 fans to the UNLV campus arena. "I think it is going to be a much, much better fight than the last one,î Castillo said.

## HORSE RACING

**AFLEET ALEX MAKING PROGRESS:** Afleet Alex took another huge stride in his comeback with a solid half-mile workout Friday at Belmont Park. With regular rider Jeremy Rose aboard, the Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner breezed a half-mile in 46.02 seconds, the fastest work of 42 horses at the same distance. Last week Afleet Alex had his first timed workout - five furlongs in 59.85 - since being sidelined with a hairline fracture of his left-front canon bone July 21. The 3-year-old colt had surgery six days later. "He hasn't come back completely yet, but he's on his way back,î trainer Tim Ritchey said. "He's an amazing horse, and amazing horses can do amazing things. Everything so far has gone to plan.î The plan is to get to the $4 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont on Oct. 29. Ritchey most likely will run Afleet Alex in next Friday's seven-furlong Perryville Stakes at Keeneland in Lexington, Ky. It would be the colt's first race since winning the Belmont on June 11. Afleet Alex won the Preakness despite nearly falling to his knees when bumped by Scrappy T at the top of the stretch. Afleet Alex has won eight of 12 career starts for earnings of $2,765,800.

**SHE SAYS IT BEST WINS:** She Says It Best took the lead at the start and was not headed in winning the Darley Alcibiades Stakes on opening day at Keeneland. The 2-year-old daughter of Stormy Atlantic won for the fourth time in six starts, and trainer Vickie Foley said the next stop will be the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies on Oct. 29 at Belmont Park. She Says It Best, a 10-1 shot, covered the 1 1/16 miles in 1:49.07 on a track listed as fast despite persistent light drizzle. The filly won by 2 1/2 lengths over 2-1 favorite Ex Caelis. She Says It Best paid $21.40. In the Sycamore Breeders' Cup, the 9-year-old gelding Rochester - making his fifth straight appearance in the 1 1/2-mile event - won it for the third time. He beat Dreadnaught by 3 3/4 lengths and paid $14.60.

## TENNIS

**DEMENTIEVA KNOCKS OFF CLIJSTERS:** Elena Dementieva ended Kim Clijsters' bid for the top ranking, beating the U.S. Open champion 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the Porsche Grand Prix in Filderstadt, Germany. Clijsters would have unseated Maria Sharapova at No. 1 by winning the tournament, but instead was dealt her second loss in 29 matches by eighth-ranked Dementieva. Clijsters has the tour's best record (60-7) and has won eight titles this year. "This was the best match I ever played,î said Dementieva, who lost two Grand Slam finals in 2004. "For me, Kim is the best player in the world - this will give me confidence for the future.î Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, trying to win the event for the third time, beat 12th-ranked Anastasia Myskina 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. In the semifinals, she faces Daniela Hantuchova, who topped Flavia Pennetta 6-3, 6-4. Dementieva will face fourth-ranked Amelie Mauresmo, who beat ninth-ranked Nadia Petrova 2-6 6-2, 6-4.

**SERENA PULLS OUT OF TOURNEYS:** Serena Williams has pulled out of her last two scheduled tournaments of the season in hopes of being healthy for 2006. Williams, who won the Australian Open this year for her seventh Grand Slam title, will miss the event in Zurich, Switzerland, next week, and the Philadelphia tournament that begins Oct. 31. She's been hampered by left ankle and knee problems for months and played 28 matches in 2005, going 21-7.

## OLYMPICS

**BASEBALL TO PUSH FOR REINSTATEMENT:** Three months after being cut from the 2012 Olympics, baseball found out Friday how close the vote was - very close. Baseball lost its place in the Olympics by three votes, international federation president Aldo Notari told The Associated Press. The result - 54-50 against, with 53 votes in favor needed to remain - was tight enough for the sport to push for a vote of reinstatement in February. "We have a duty to get back in the Olympics,î Notari said. The International Olympic Committee voted in July to cut softball and baseball after the 2008 Beijing Games, the first sports removed from the program since polo in 1936. The vote totals were kept secret at the time, but the softball and baseball federations later asked the IOC for the figures. The vote count for softball was released in late August. The sport fell one vote short of making the cut - 52-52, with one abstention.

## FIGURE SKATING

**ST. PAUL CHOSEN 2008 SITE:** St. Paul will host the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 2008, returning the event to the Twin Cities for the first time in 17 years. St. Paul was chosen over Colorado Springs, Colo., and Providence, R.I., for the nationals, which will be held Jan. 20-27, 2008, at the 18,064-seat Xcel Energy Center. This season's nationals, which also are the Olympic trials, will be in St. Louis from Jan. 7-15. The 2007 nationals will be in Spokane, Wash., from Jan. 21-28.

## PREP VOLLEYBALL

**BLENK HOLDS OFF RIDGEWOOD:** Amelia Hendrickson had 12 kills and Megan Barbee had 16 assists to lead Blenk to a 25-13, 25-19, 22-25, 25-19 non-district victory against visiting Ridgewood on Thursday. Barbee and Britney Rouse each had five aces, and Kimmy Allemand and Krystal Ciulla each added seven kills for Blenk (2-0). Lauren Mayer had 21 kills, and Lauren Eorgsted had 29 assists to pace Ridgewood (1-3).

**IMMACULATA GETS SPLIT:** Brigette Saucheaux had 27 assists, and Kayla Rauschkolb, Katie Winters and Lauren Hartman combined for 21 kills to help Immaculata salvage a split of a Thursday doubleheader with a 25-11, 25-23, 25-13 non-district victory at West Jefferson. Rauschkolb had nine kills, and Winters and Hartman had six each. Ashley Darda added four aces, and Marcy Mobley had three digs for Immaculata (1-1). In the first match, Saucheaux had 25 assists and Meagan Williams six kills in a 25-21, 25-11, 21-25, 25-8 non-district loss to East St. John. Winters, Rauschkolb and Hartman each had five



AP PHOTO

The Chicago White Sox celebrate after finishing a three-game sweep of the Boston Red Sox on Friday night.

# White Sox are first team to advance

**WHITE SOX,** *from C-6*

Boston's David Ortiz and Ramirez hit consecutive homers in the fourth to tie the score, then Garcia escaped in the fifth after Damon doubled with two outs and Edgar Renteria walked. With Ortiz on deck, pitching coach Don Cooper came out to the mound to settle his pitcher.

Ortiz swung at the first pitch and hit it hard to straightaway center field, but Aaron Rowand gathered it in a few steps in front of the wall, about 400 feet from home plate.

The Red Sox didn't homer in the first two games, but Chicago hit six - five in a 14-2 win in the opener - to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series. Ramirez hit his 19th and 20th career postseason home runs, passing Reggie Jackson and Mickey Mantle and second only to Bernie Williams (22); in Mantle's time, there was no league championship series and Jackson played in the era before wild-card teams.

The Red Sox had won eight of their past nine games when facing elimination, rallying from an 0-2 deficit against the Oakland Athletics in the first round of the 2003 playoffs and then defeating the Yankees in four straight last year en route to their first World Series title since 1918.

# Young and old powering Braves

**From wire reports**

ATLANTA — Not long after Brian McCann was called up from the minors, John Smoltz took the rookie catcher under his wing.

Their relationship paid off big for the Atlanta Braves on Thursday in the NL playoffs.

Smoltz picked up where he left off in 1999, throwing seven strong innings against Houston to reclaim exclusive rights to the title of baseball's winningest postseason pitcher.

The offense was provided by his personal catcher. McCann hit a three-run homer on his first postseason swing - off Roger Clemens.

The Braves pulled away for a 7-1 victory, pulling even in the best-of-five series at one game apiece. Game 3 is today Houston.

Roy Oswalt, 20-12 with a 2.94 ERA this season, will face Atlanta's Jorge Sosa, 13-3 with a 2.55 ERA. It will be Sosa's first postseason start.

Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said a special bond developed between 38-year-old Smoltz, the only player who's been with the Braves throughout their run of 14 consecutive divisions titles, and 21-year-old McCann, who began the season at Double-A Mississippi.

"Smoltzie told me from the get-go, 'Give me McCann,' " Cox said. "John sort of adopting him really made his year."

Smoltz chuckled at the generation gap.

"He took a picture with me when he was seven years old," Smoltz said. "Now he's catching for me in the biggest series of his life."

In his first October start since the 1999 World Series, Smoltz improved to 7-0 in the division series and 15-4 in the postseason, one day after Houston's Andy Pettitte earned his 14th postseason victory in a series-opening victory over the Braves.

Atlanta trailed 1-0 when McCann stepped to the plate in the second inning with two on and two out, facing a pitcher who made his major league debut for the Boston Red Sox in 1984, less than three months after McCann was born. With Smoltz on deck, Clemens missed with his first two pitches, then left a fastball over the plate. McCann connected with a 409-foot drive that ricocheted into the Braves' bullpen in right field for a 3-1 lead.

"A very hittable pitch," Clemens said. "When a guy's at this level, it doesn't matter if he's 21 or 41. He's going to hit that."

McCann also joined Clemens, 43, in a more obscure record: biggest age gap between a pitcher and a batter who hit a postseason homer - 21 years and 200 days, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

# Griffey and Giambi returned in style

*Veterans selected NL, AL comeback Players of the Year*

**The Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. was voted the NL Comeback Player of the Year by fans, and the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi was given the AL honor.

Griffey, 35, proved he's still one of the best when healthy, batting .301 with 35 homers and 92 RBIs this season following four years of injuries.

"I didn't really think about trying to prove to anybody that I could still play this game," Griffey said. "It was more or less proving to myself that I could still go out and compete at a high level and help the team win.

"I felt if I couldn't do that I would just go home and not waste anybody's time. That's one of the things about me, I'm not going to waste anybody's time and go out there and just collect a check. That will never be me."

The award was voted on for the first time by fans on MLB.com.

Giambi, the New York Yankees 34-year-old first baseman, hit .271 with 32 homers and 87 RBIs, and led the AL with a .440 on-base percentage and 108 walks. He also was eighth in the league with a .535 slugging percentage.

Beset by a twisted ankle, a stomach virus, a strained groin, a respiratory infection, an intestinal parasite and a benign pituitary tumor, Giambi hit .208 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs in 2004. He was so weak at the end of the season he wasn't included in New York's postseason roster.

"I am truly humbled by this award," Giambi said in a statement.

"I wanted nothing more than to prove to you and the people of New York that I could face adversity and come back to be the player I once was," Giambi said.

**MINNESOTA MAKING MOVES:** Designated hitter Matthew LeCroy was among three players taken off Minnesota's 40-man roster.

LeCroy, a popular teammate who batted .260 with 17 home runs and 50 RBIs in 304 at-bats this year, has spent his entire career with the Twins. Over parts of six major league seasons, LeCroy has batted .263 with 58 homers and 209 RBIs in 430 games.

Also outrighted to Triple-A Rochester were outfielder Jason Tyner and third baseman Glenn Williams.

Minnesota general manager Terry Ryan also declined the $8.5 million option on the contract of right-hander Joe Mays and confirmed that third-base coach Al Newman has accepted a job with the Arizona Diamondbacks as a professional scout.

**MOHR TESTING MARKET:** Colorado Rockies outfielder Dustan Mohr opted for free agency after refusing an assignment to Triple-A Colorado Springs. The Rockies had declined an option for next season.

Mohr, 29, hit .214 with 38 RBIs in 98 games this season. His career-high 17 home runs was third on the team. Mohr previously played for Minnesota and San Francisco. He has a career .252 average with 46 home runs and 151 RBIs in 476 major league games.

# Montgomerie leads tight field at American Express

*Daly, Howell 1 back; Tiger heads pack at 5-under 135*

**From wire reports**

Colin Montgomerie and John Daly would seem to have little in common except for their names atop the leaderboard at the American Express Championship.

Montgomerie plots his way around the golf course, and although Friday was a battle with jet lag, he scrambled well enough for a 1-under 69 at Harding Park in San Francisco that left him one shot clear of Daly and David Howell. Tiger Woods and five others are another shot behind. Montgomerie is at 7-under-par 133.

Daly swings for the fences, and he drove the green on a par 4 for the second straight day, this one on the 336-yard 16th as Woods was lining up a birdie putt ahead of him.

Montgomerie and Daly will be in the final group today of this World Golf Championship, along with Howell, connected by their tee time and a desire to bounce back from tough times.

"Both of us have had plenty of divorces, so we can always talk about that," Daly joked after his 67. "I've had a lot more than he has."

The reference was to Montgomerie's very public divorce last year, which he said contributed to a plunge in the world rankings, to No. 83.

Daly has gone through all that and more: three divorces, two stints in alcohol rehab, one PGA Tour suspension and two major championships.

"You get lonely," Daly said. "I've been through it a lot, and I know what he went through. It's great to see him come back. I'm sure he would love to get a win on U.S. soil. My hat's off to him."

Montgomerie is recovering nicely, winning last week on the European tour for the first time in 19 months. He was four shots worse Friday than in his opening round, yet he said he felt even better about his chance to win for the first time in the United States. He turned a big mess into a little one on the 18th by making a 4-footer for bogey that put him at 133.

"Overall, that's as good a round of golf as it was yesterday," Montgomerie said. "It was more of a battle today. I didn't get off to the flying start I did yesterday, so it was tougher, very much tougher. I'm as glad with that round today as I was yesterday, so I'm still in contention."

So are two dozen other players.

Harding Park, a municipal course with a $16 million makeover, has proven to be a worthy test through two rounds. It allows for good scores, dishes out bogeys with the slightest mistake and has kept anyone from running away from the field.

Thirteen players are within three shots of the lead, and 29 players are within five shots of the lead. Former LSU standout David Toms was at 136 after a 68.

Another contender is Woods, who was wild off the tee at times, but not on the 344-yard seventh hole, when he noticed the tees about 25 yards up. He ripped his driver through the fog and knew it was good when he heard a gallery standing six-deep behind the green roar. The ball landed softly on the green 12 feet away to set up an eagle, and when he birdied the par-5 10th, he was tied for the lead.

But there were too many mistakes. He missed the green with a lob wedge and a 9-iron - and he settled for a 68 that left him at 135 with a large group that includes Mark Calcavecchia (68), Jim Furyk (67) and 23-year-old rookie Sean O'Hair (67).

"I turned a really good round into an OK round," Woods said. "Today I thought was my opportunity to do what Monty did yesterday. I made quite a few mistakes."

**TEWELL LEADS SUSPENDED FIRST ROUND:** Doug Tewell was one of nine players to complete the first round of the rain-delayed Greater Hickory Classic, and his 2-under 70 got him the clubhouse lead at Conover, N.C.

Gil Morgan and Don Pooley are one hole from knocking Tewell out of the top spot when play resumes this morning in the Champions Tour event. The second round is to immediately follow.

Morgan and Pooley were 4 under through 17 holes when play was stopped after daylong showers eventually overwhelmed the fairways at Rock Barn Golf & Spa.

Keith Fergus (14 holes), John Bland (12 holes) and Wayne Levi (10 holes) were also 4 under when played was called.

**LITTLE LEADS:** Stuart Little birdied three of the last four holes in a 4-under-par 67 and shared the lead with Michael Kirk after two rounds of the Abama Open de Canarias in Tenerife, Canary Islands.

Little birdied Nos. 15-17 to get to 7-under 135 in the PGA European Tour event. Kirk birdied two of his last three for a 66, leaving him and Little one stroke ahead of Titch Moore (68) and Stephen Scahill (66), who overcame a bogey at 16 with an eagle-3 on the 509-yard

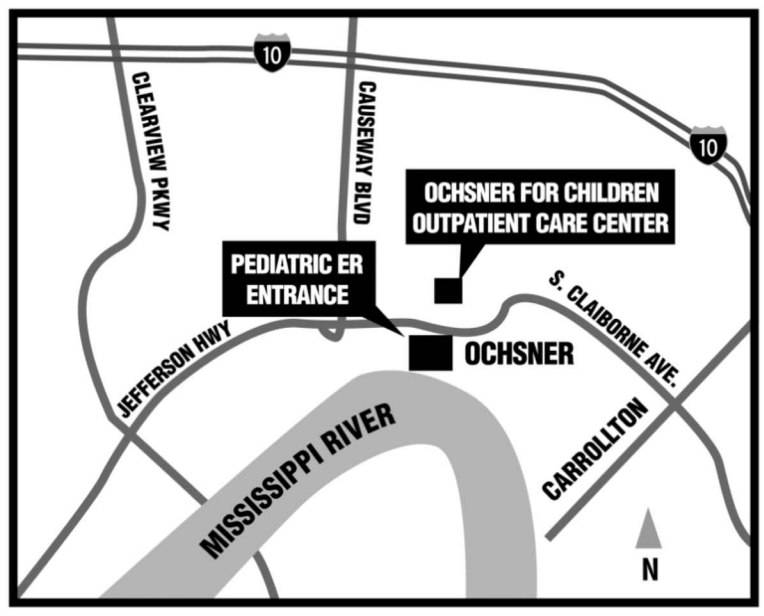
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**When New Orleans was evacuated, few children were left behind.**

*And the absence of their laughter and their spirit, as the city struggles to get back on its feet, accentuates the harshness of the task at hand.*

# The children of New Orleans



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Aside from reluctant Rosie, a neighbor's puppy, 3-year-old Ava Buras has few friends her size in the French Quarter. Though the Quarter is springing back to life, much of the city is barely inhabitable even for adults, making many residents reluctant to bring their children home yet.

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

At the Royal Street Grocery in the French Quarter, a 3-year-old a bundle of zeal draped in black curls reigns as hostess and entertainer at her father's store, climbing on laps, singing pop songs, asking nosy questions.

Ava Frances Buras is a rare child in a nearly childless city.

The tyke has retained a sunny disposition even after Hurricane Katrina deluged New Orleans and the family spent three uncomfortable and nerve-wracking days inside the store, said Robert Buras, her father. Yet even as Ava basked in the attention of adult customers last week, she yearned for the company of her peers.

"There's Rosa and Pooh Bear and Angelo and Matthew; there's Grace and that kid from the shoe store," the child said, naming off all the friends she played with before Katrina. "Angelo came to visit me, but not my other friends."

Instead, she fills her days babysitting Choochamonga, a cat rescued from Mid-City. A

*See* **CHILDREN,** *A-6*

**▶ "It's still hard to believe this has happened to our city." A relocated New Orleans teen and her peers talk about missing New Orleans, A-6**



Ava talks with her father, Robert Buras, at the family business, the Royal Street Grocery, in the French Quarter.

# Second-guessing is not the focus for Broussard

*But others question his Katrina Week motives*

**By Bob Ross**
East Jefferson bureau

With Category 5 Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the southeast Louisiana coastline on Aug. 28, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard ordered the operators of the parish's huge diesel drainage pumps out of their stations and evacuated to Washington Parish.

Two days later, as parts of Jefferson Parish lay rotting in Katrina's floodwater, Broussard announced that displaced residents quickly would be given a chance to return to the primitive conditions — no electricity, water or sewer service — to survey their damage, collect items they needed and leave.

By the end of Katrina Week, Broussard had gone on national television and broken down sobbing as he told the emotional story of an employee's mother who had died while waiting to be rescued, a gripping tale but one that turned out to be greatly exaggerated.



**Aaron Broussard**
Parish president criticized over Jeff re-entry plan

At this early stage in the evolving history of government's response to Hurricane Katrina, these are among the enduring images of Broussard, a career politician who, after Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, occupied the Katrina spotlight as much as or more than any public official, earning him criticism in some quarters and praise in others.

"As a whole, I think he did exactly what the citizens of the parish expected: to take control and take a leadership position in getting us through the disaster," said former Parish President Tim Coulon, now a lobbyist for the Adams and Reese law firm and chairman of the Superdome Commission. "Of course, many of those decisions were very spontaneous and might lead to second-guessing."

The decision to evacuate pump station operators on the day before Katrina struck, and not to return them to their posts for more than 24 hours, did not originate with Broussard. In fact, he was following a "doomsday plan" developed during Coulon's 1996-2003 administration, when Broussard was Parish Council chairman.

*See* **BROUSSARD,** *A-9*

# ONCE MAJESTIC, CITY PARK NOW TATTERED AND TORN



Visitors to City Park feed the geese along a debris-strewn roadway Oct. 2.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

*Officials seek federal help*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

John Hopper pushed open the battered French doors and walked inside City Park's antique carousel, a ghostly reminder of what New Orleans used to be.

The flying horses sat pristine and motionless on their brass posts, as if waiting for a throng of children to burst in for a ride. But surrounding the hand-painted creatures were signs of the devastation that will keep the carousel and much of the rest of City Park closed for months: buckled and moldy wooden floors, stained glass windows shattered on the floor.

"It's just sad," said Hopper, one of the park's few remaining employees. "So sad."

The damaged carousel is just a piece of it. The damage to City Park from Hurricane Katrina is simply staggering, the worst in the 150-year history of New Orleans' pre-eminent green space.

Not only were hundreds of trees torn from their roots and stripped bare by Katrina's roaring winds. But more than 90 percent of the 1,300-acre playground was flooded when concrete floodwalls along the 17th Street and London Avenue canals failed, sending water streaming into the city's midsection. Forty percent of the park stayed under brackish water for more than two weeks, Hopper said.

*See* **CITY PARK,** *A-12*

**$43 million**

Approximate cost to repair City Park, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina

**DAY 41 • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: 1,003 • Hopeful families still looking for missing loved ones, A-2 • Bush to visit New Orleans on Monday, A-4 • Public housing in turmoil, Metro • FULL COVERAGE, NOLA.COM**

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# Families fractured by Katrina still looking, hoping

## *Even after weeks, many remain lost*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Shoulders hunched against the early morning chill, Carlos Bernard sat outside the River Center on Friday and ticked off on his fingers the siblings he hasn't heard from since Hurricane Katrina blasted through New Orleans.

"There's my sister Julia, my sister Catherine, my brother Ricardo and my brother Gerard," he said. "I'm worried."

Bernard was hardly alone in his anguish. In nearly every group outside the cavernous shelter, there was at least one person who wanted not only such tangible items as food and a place to live, but also the intangible comfort of knowing how their loved ones fared in the storm.

Getting information about the thousands of missing people is not easy. There is no central registry of the missing. And a recent list of Louisiana fatalities included the names of only 74 of 988.

The state health department and the American Red Cross have set up toll-free telephone lines to try to reunite friends and families, but the lists are not the same. Consequently, people who have been evacuated to distant shelters often have no way of knowing whether friends and relatives are safe in shelters and, if so, where.

For instance, Monique Cavasher is trying to help her husband, Raymond Montgomery, find his mother, Gloria Bagley, who fled New Orleans as Katrina approached. But Cavasher and Montgomery don't know what happened to Bagley after Hurricane Rita blew ashore near the Texas-Louisiana line.

"She's somewhere in Texas, but that's a big state," Cavasher said, hopping from one foot to another to keep warm. "He hasn't heard anything. He's been on the Internet, but she's not listed anywhere. He wants to find out that she's OK and let her know that he's OK."

Angela Cillman is wondering what happened to her young sons, Raymond 12, and Lloyd, 13. Katrina hit while she was serving time in Orleans Parish Prison for begging.

"I haven't gotten in contact with them since the storm," she said, her voice breaking. "I want to know where they're at."

The sheer geographic scope of the places where people fled makes tracking them difficult, said Russell Dynes, founder of the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware.

Even though the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks had many more fatalities — nearly 3,000, compared with almost 1,000 Louisiana deaths so far from Katrina — everyone knew where the dead and missing could be found: in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon or the jets that slammed into them and a Pennsylvania field.

No one who lost anyone that day ran into the problems Carlos Bernard has encountered in trying to find his brother Ricardo and others.

"He could be in Ohio," he said. "I know some people who have gone to Utah, some to Ohio, some to Atlanta, some to Houston and some to Arkansas."

Dynes said the situation is unique: "We really haven't had a situation like this."

To try to help people learn what has happened to relatives and friends, the state Department of Health and Hospitals and the American Red Cross have set up free databases.

The health department's toll-free number is 1 (866) 326-9393. Callers are interviewed briefly about the people they're seeking, and the information is compared with lists of people who signed up when they entered hurricane shelters around Louisiana, department spokeswoman Melissa Walker said.

Even though the line originally was designed to let people find out whether relatives had died, "We can help them if the person they're looking for is living," Walker said.

The Red Cross service is available at www.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina and just inside the River Center's main entrance from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 275 River Road in downtown Baton Rouge.

People who are looking for missing individuals are registered and put on the database, too, so the people they were seeking can find them if they go online, Red Cross spokeswoman Pam Kyllo said.

Although the Red Cross doesn't keep track of the number of matches it makes, its record is "pretty good," she said.

"Even one success is a great success," Kyllo said. "Seeing the smiles on faces is wonderful."

"We even found a dog," Kyllo said. "Some people are by themselves, and that's the only thing they have left."

# FEMA fraud doesn't pay

## *Two arrested can't use $2,000 checks*

**By Jenny Hurwitz and Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writers

When John Dugan filed a false claim for FEMA money back in September, he never considered the consequences.

"I just thought if I could get it, I could get a break at least once in my life," said Dugan, who planned to use the $2,000 check intended for Hurricane Katrina victims to fix his car and pay off other outstanding debts. "That was kind of a break, when I got that money."

Instead, he was arrested on fraud charges and now is awaiting an Oct. 21 court appearance in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge.

"Whatever you do in the dark comes to light anyway," he said Saturday, from his living room in Baton Rouge. "You can't get away with anything."

Dugan was one of two people in the Baton Rouge area arrested and charged with making false claims for relief money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency last week, according to U.S. Attorney David Dugas, who serves the middle district of Louisiana.

The indictments were announced at a news conference in New Orleans on Saturday with U.S. District Attorney Jim Letten, the head prosecutor in the eastern District of Louisiana.

"You don't want to expose yourself to the possibility of becoming a federal felon for that amount of money," Letten said, referring to the $2,000 checks FEMA has been distributing. "If people are contemplating fraud, they need to know: We will prosecute them. If they think this amount is too small for the feds to go after, it's not."

Dugas and Letten emphasized they have "zero tolerance" for fraud. "If you know of any fraud activity, please report it," Dugas said. Anyone who is thinking "maybe I can take advantage: Stop," he said.

Dugan, 19, of Baton Rouge, and Ursula Johnson, 33, of Baker, both were indicted on fraud charges, Dugas said. A warrant on a similar charge has been issued for Ruby Lollis, 36, also of Baton Rouge.

The U.S. Attorney's office said Dugan filed the relief form through a FEMA Web site. Saturday, he admitted he knowingly filed out false information on or around Sept.20, claiming he lived in New Orleans, and received a

*See* **FEMA,** *page A-4*

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# AFTER THE STORM

## LOUISIANA DEATH TOLL

**1,003**

**810** are at the morgue in St. Gabriel
**Parish breakdown:**
Ascension **9**
Assumption **3**
East Baton Rouge **72**
Iberia **6**
Jefferson **30**
Lafourche **2**
Livingston **5**
Plaquemines **3**
St. Charles **8**
St. Tammany **7**
Tangipahoa **26**
Terrebonne **19**
West Baton Rouge **3**

## POWER

Entergy electricity outages
Louisiana: 183,829*
*Including 156,300 customers who are unable to receive service because of damage to their homes.
Percentage of Entergy customers in the metropolitan New Orleans area without power
Jefferson Parish — all power reported restored as of 10 a.m. Friday
Plaquemines Parish **69%**
Orleans Parish **56%**
St. Bernard Parish **0%**

## POSTAL SERVICE

- At least partial street delivery has been returned to Algiers and Jefferson Parish.
- 70115 mail can be picked up at the Uptown station, 2000 Louisiana Ave.
- 70118 and 70125 mail is available at the Carrollton station, 3400 S. Carrollton Ave.
- Both sites are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 70112, 70113, 70116, 70119 and 70130 post office box, residential and business mail may be picked up at the New Orleans Postal Annex located at Julia and La Salle streets, which will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- For now, only first-class letters and packages will be delivered into the New Orleans region.
- Residents of Plaquemines Parish can retrieve mail from a mobile post office at 9419 Louisiana 23 in Belle Chasse.
- St. Bernard mail is expected to be available next week at a mobile unit in Covington.

## PARISH BY PARISH

**ORLEANS**
- Homeowners and businesses owners can return to all areas of the city except the Lower 9th Ward.
- The Red Cross has set up feeding and bulk distribution of water and ice. Cleanup and comfort kits are available at the following sites along with meals, including carry-away evening meals:
  • Municipal Auditorium parking lot
  • A.L. Davis Park, Washington at Simon Bolivar
  • Freret Street parking lot, Jena at Freret
  • Esplanade at St. Claude/North Rampart
  • Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
  • Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
  • Fox playground, Algiers
  • Cut-off playground, Algiers
- Water on the east bank of New Orleans west of the Industrial Canal has been declared safe to drink by the state Department of Health and Hospitals. There is still a boil-water order in effect for the east bank of the city east of the Industrial Canal.
- Limited medical care is available: West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital and Ochsner Foundation Hospital are open, and emergency service is available at Touro Infirmary, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and Kindred Hospital.

**JEFFERSON**
- Both the east and west banks are open.
- The boil-water order for East Jefferson is lifted.
- The Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Service is collecting the names of seniors and disabled citizens who need help cleaning debris from their homes. For more information, call the agency at 736-6000, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ST. TAMMANY**
- Parish is open.
- 911 phone system is back on line.
- For storm-related information, call (985) 898-2323.
- A parishwide curfew has been lifted.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Parish officials set the storm-related death toll at 110.
- All parish areas open. People will be required to carry identification showing they are parish residents.
- A dusk-to-dawn curfew is in effect.

**PLAQUEMINES**
- Parish reopened Friday on the west bank to the end of Louisiana 23 in Venice. On the east bank, the communities of Scarsdale and Braithwaite remain closed to residents. Below Scarsdale, Louisiana 39 is open south of the Belle Chasse-Scarsdale ferry landing.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- Parish is open.
- Utilities are working.

**ST. CHARLES**
- Parish is open.
- Utilities are working.

## SCHOOL OPENINGS

**ORLEANS**
- Public: Some schools may reopen late this year or early next year.
- Teachers and other public school employees can pick up their checks at any Western Union office in the country.
- De La Salle High School will resume classes Oct. 18 at St. Rita School of Harahan at 194 Ravan Ave., near Jefferson Highway.

**JEFFERSON**
- Public schools are open except Terrytown, Woodmere, Lincoln and Alexander elementary schools, and John Martyn School.
- Many other private and Catholic schools have reopened.

**ST. TAMMANY**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Most have reopened.

**ST. BERNARD**
- Public: Probably closed for year.

**PLAQUEMINES**
- The Plaquemines Parish School Board will reopen Belle Chasse schools for all Plaquemines Parish students on Oct. 17. For more information, see the Plaquemines Parish School Board Web site, www.ppsb.org.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Open.

**ST. CHARLES**
- Public: Open.
- Catholic: Open.

## FOR HELP

**AMERICAN RED CROSS**
(800) 975-7585
- Red Cross relief sites open in Baton Rouge, Mandeville, Kenner
- Baton Rouge area: Bellemont Great Hotel - 7370 Airline Highway
  North Park Recreation Center - 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs
- Mandeville: Pelican Park (Sunday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.)
- Kenner: Airline Drive near Lesan Drive (daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.)

**FEMA**
- 29 Disaster Recovery Centers are in operation in Louisiana. They are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice; the Plaquemines Parish center is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, log onto www.fema.gov or call (800) 621-3362; a list of centers can be found at http://www.fema.gov/rrr/opendrcs.shtm#Louisiana
- Find Family National Call Center, (866) 326-9393, is the official coordination center for information on people missing from the storm. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Two crisis hotlines are open: (800) 273-TALK and (800) 749-COPE.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing temporary roof repairs. Call (888) 766-3258 for more information.

# Bush to dine in N.O. Monday

*He'll talk rebuilding with Nagin and panel*

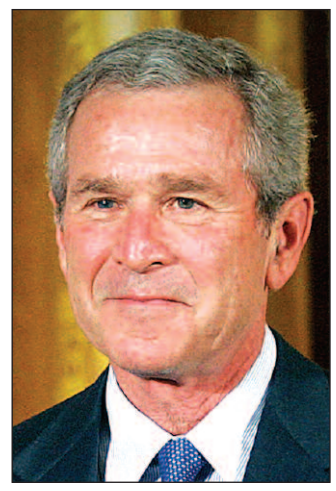
**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush and his wife, Laura, are scheduled to visit New Orleans on Monday night for a private dinner with local officials and civic leaders to discuss options for rebuilding the region, a White House spokesman confirmed Saturday.

The guest list and the site for the dinner were not disclosed.

The visit would mark the president's seventh trip to the Gulf Coast since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the area in August and September. The appearance will come six weeks to the day after Hurricane Katrina struck land in Louisiana, flooding much of the city and forcing hundreds of thousands to evacuate.

With tax revenue wiped out, along with many businesses and homes, hopes for a speedy redevelopment of New Orleans and other devastated southern Louisiana communities depend almost entirely on federal largess.



**President Bush**
Visit will be his seventh to the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina

Bush has said that local leaders should decide how the region is rebuilt and restored.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has appointed 17 business and civic leaders to help develop rebuilding plans, and members of the panel are expected to be on hand for the dinner, along with the mayor.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other state officials have been urging Bush to honor his commitment for the nation's largest-ever redevelopment effort, and say it needs to include financing to rebuild a significantly upgraded levee system, and a system of tax credits, grants and low-cost loans to encourage businesses to return and lure new ones to the area.

The government's slow response to help the thousands of people trapped by the floods or stranded in oppressive conditions at the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center drew criticism from both Democrats and Republicans and ended with the ouster of Bush's Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown. Bush admitted that the initial federal response was unacceptable.

Bush won praise for a nationally televised speech he delivered Sept. 15 from Jackson Square, in which he promised that the federal government would pay for most of what he said would one of the largest redevelopment efforts the world has ever seen.

But last week, his administration, along with House GOP leaders, were criticized for denying Louisiana governmental entities that borrow federal money to keep key employees on the payroll the ability, given past disaster loan recipients, to seek forgiveness of those loans.

# Maximum penalty is $250,000 fine, 5 years

**FEMA,** *from A-2*

check in the mail a week and a half later.

Johnson allegedly filed a false claim in her brother's name, forged her brother's signature, and claimed she lived at an aunt's address in New Orleans. She could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Both received and deposited their checks, the prosecutor said.

According to a criminal affidavit, Lollis applied for relief assistance using a false Social Security number and Baton Rouge address. Interviewed by a Department of Homeland Security agent, she allegedly admitted she had not been displaced by the hurricane, federal prosecutors said.

The maximum penalty for the fraud charge is five years in prison and a $250,000 fine, but such steep penalties are rare unless defendants have extensive criminal records.

Facing a possible prison sentence and a fine, Dugan said he regrets his decision and acknowledges that his actions were wrong. He never spent the FEMA money, he said, and he hopes to return it and face a lesser sentence.

"I'm just deeply sorry. I got the money so easily, and people are still struggling to get theirs," he said. "I just hope people in New Orleans can forgive me."

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**October 9, 2005**

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**I stand committed to my city, my family and my employees to rebuild our business together at the dawn of this new beginning. We will move forward. As Joshua saw grapes and not giants, we see a better, stronger New Orleans.**

**If we stand firm in our faith and keep the desire for perfection we will rebuild New Orleans to be a better, safer and healthier place for our children, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the city for future generations.**

**Stay strong and May God bless New Orleans.**

Troy J. Duhon

**Troy J. Duhon**
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# WAITING TO COME HOME

*Editor's note: Thousands of New Orleans children were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and are attending schools in other communities. Juliet Meeks, a sophomore at Ben Franklin High School who lost her home in Lakeview and is attending Grady High School in Atlanta, created an online survey to gather journal entries from her friends at Franklin and other schools. Here is a sampling:*

**By Juliet Meeks**
Special to the Times-Picayune

It's still hard to believe this has happened to our city. My house, my school, my life has been taken away from me and everyone I know.

Buildings in our city have been devastated, lives have been lost. It's too tragic to even try to think about it all at once. I miss my city, I miss my friends, I miss my school, I miss my world.

All I want right now is to go home as soon as possible, and that will most likely be in January to either start my second semester at the school I love, or if that isn't possible, then a different school in New Orleans.

Atlanta is a nice place, but honestly, for me it doesn't even compare to New Orleans, even after Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans is a great city. The people are special, the history is special, the lifestyle is special and none of that can be taken away by a hurricane.

Almost every one of my friends is moving back except for the few who can't because of their parents' jobs, and even then they still want to move back. Yes, my home has been flooded, along with my neighborhood and many others (which was preventable and should have been) but I'll move on. I've always wanted to live Uptown anyway.

As hard as it is to find a positive aspect of this hurricane after what it's done to our people and our life, there is one: a chance for improvement. I just really love this city and I completely support it.

It wouldn't be right for everyone to just "give up" on New Orleans. This is not the kind of city you give up on. New Orleans is the best place in the world and my only true home. All I can say is, I'm waiting to go home and I won't feel complete until I can.

### Ashley Robins, 17

**Neighborhood and school:** Lakefront New Orleans; senior at Ben Franklin
**Current school and home:** McKinley High School, Baton Rouge
Katrina has caused a terrible mess in my personal life. My job, my school, and my friends are all temporarily, or perhaps permanently, gone. I don't even know yet. I visited New Orleans nearly three weeks after Katrina, and everything looked like death. You could smell mold everywhere, and the only life I saw were a few crows and some Army men. Everything is brown and wet. My "new" life isn't exactly satisfactory. Though I'm grateful for a place to stay, Baton Rouge couldn't hold a candle to New Orleans. I want to go home. My new school isn't nearly as academically advanced as my old one, and I haven't exactly made any new friends here. I plan on getting back to New Orleans as soon as possible.

### Mallory Gannon, 16

**Neighborhood and school:** Lakeview; De La Salle.
**Current school and home:** Springfield High School, Springfield.
We saw my house from satellite pictures on the Internet and the water was up to my roof. I am now in Springfield. This town has a population of 395 people, which is extremely small to me. I am not used to my high school being really small either. Everyone is really nice and I've made friends, though I miss my New Orleans friends a lot! I know that we are living here for the rest of the school year. We're not sure if we're ever moving back, or we may move back the first day of the summer. We don't know anything yet.

### Izzy Durante, 15

**Neighborhood and school:** Uptown New Orleans, Ben Franklin.
**Current school and home:** McKinley High School, Baton Rouge.
I was blessed. My house got a little water on the floors. The insulation is ruined underneath my house, but that is about it. I feel so out of my normal state of mind. One day everything was going perfectly and a week later, I'm going to another school, not knowing where half of my friends are. I still think I am in a bad dream, waiting to wake up and go back to my life. I plan to return to Franklin the day it reopens. Everyone has been nice at my new school. It's so different though, nothing like Franklin.

### Rhodes Murphy, 14

**Neighborhood and school:** Mid-City, Ben Franklin
**Current school and home:** Freedom High School; Tampa, Fla.
Like I'm sure many other kids already have done too, I've relocated to another school, city and state. It seems though, the farther away I get from New Orleans the more desperate I become to get back. I'm sure that my house is fine, but we can't even get into the city. With the levees breaking, the push factors are starting to outweigh the pull. Not that I don't want to go home, but it's really not my decision. When people are forced to completely move their lives, they tend to stay wherever they're getting paid. My mom has found a new job in Tampa, a higher-paying job at that. It may be months before we could even think about going home ... maybe even years?

### Andrea Parker, 13

**Neighborhood and school:** Uptown, Ben Franklin
**Current school and home:** Zachary High School; Zachary
I was born in New Orleans. Until we evacuated for Hurricane Katrina, I always had lived Uptown. My feelings toward Hurricane Katrina are mixed as to when, or if, I want go back to New Orleans. But I hope New Orleans is not going to change drastically. If it does change, I hope it is for the better! New Orleans is my home and I love it.

### Margaret Zehner, 15

**Neighborhood and school:** Old Metairie; Academy of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans.
**Current school and home:** Academy of the Sacred Heart Grand Coteau; Breaux Bridge.
Although Katrina had little effect on my house, it had a major effect on me and my city. I have been separated from the majority of my friends, who are now scattered throughout the country. I know that most of them are definitely coming back despite what we saw on the news. It was shocking to me how New Orleans looked on the news, and I was scared to go back to see what Katrina had done to my neighborhood. I was one of the lucky ones. Right now I am living with a host family in Breaux Bridge. ... Everyone here is nice and all, but it still isn't home. I am planning on returning to my house to live ... every weekend until my school reopens in New Orleans, which I hope will be soon.

### Xan Baird, 14

**Neighborhood and school:** Uptown New Orleans; Ben Franklin.
**Current school and home:** None yet, but in process of moving to Lafayette. Presently in Memphis, Tenn.
Well basically, this all sucks. Memphis isn't horrible, but it's not New Orleans. Hopefully, there will be some people I know in Lafayette. My house is mostly OK — it was up about 4 feet — but the back is pretty much dead. I plan to go back as soon as I can, but it'll probably be about a year because my brother's school got hit pretty bad. Also they have been taught in French their whole life, so it's hard to find a school for them.

### Talbot Schmidt, 14

**Neighborhood and school:** Lakefront New Orleans; Jesuit.
**Current school and home:** Enrolled at Rummel High School after returning from Destin, Fla.
I think that Hurricane Katrina, though it caused a lot of damage, won't keep a lot of people from coming back, because there aren't many other places like New Orleans. Even in Destin, a peaceful city on the beach, I haven't wanted to be in New Orleans more. My family is definitely moving back, and plan to rebuild our house and return to our normal lives.

# Experts say risks to kids decreasing

**CHILDREN,** *from A-1*

young couple entered the store with their infant, and Ava bounced over, showering the baby with attention.

"You like babies, huh? You don't see too many babies these last few weeks?" asked Joe Dean, as Ava tickled his son, 3-month-old Dexter Dean, and spun the mobile of brightly colored plastic trinkets attached to his stroller.

Ava's bright eyes at the sight of a child spoke volumes about the new social landscape of the city. People between the ages of 20 and 50, most of them male, many from out of town, often strapped with guns or tools, dominate the dry neighborhoods. That will change, but families with children likely will be among the last to return and many may stay away for good.

The almost complete lack of suitable schools, medical care, day care and, of course, playmates, along with the fear of toxins and other hazards, will change the city's complexion for perhaps years to come, displaced parents, children and school and health officials said.

"The obvious absence of the little voices is what really gets to you," said Pastor Dwight Ramsey, standing in front of his empty, flood-damaged church at the corner of Canal Street and Jefferson Davis Parkway. Ramsey has been able to contact only a tiny percentage of the families belonging to First United Methodist Church and wonders how many will return. He wonders, too, what will become of about 400 students at the International School of Louisiana, a public charter school his churched had housed.

Leslie Jacobs, a member of the state school board who lives in New Orleans, said she expects only about 10,000 students will attend the city's public schools this year, and only 20,000 the next – down from nearly 60,000 before the storm. While single people and childless couples may opt to brave the Wild West-style landscape, families, particularly poor ones, will struggle to put together school, work and affordable housing. And the lack of housing, medical care, social services and other support systems will keep away the city's older citizens as well.

"It's the three-legged stool of life, and almost no one can get all three right now," she said. "Some people might not have lost their house, but they lost their job. Others might have their job, but lost their house. ... And there's going to be a feeding frenzy on real estate in the dry areas."

The flood wiped out neighborhoods with the high concentration of young families, leaving dry areas with more singles and senior citizens than children. The flood spared only the narrow, crescent-shaped curve of land along the Mississippi River, from the edge of the Industrial Canal in the Bywater to the Riverbend area of Uptown, but swamped more family-friendly neighborhoods – rich, poor and in-between – such as Lakeview, eastern New Orleans, Gentilly and the Lower 9th Ward.

"Residential family areas on the east bank, black and white, were decimated," Jacobs said. "And if you're getting pregnant or have a newborn baby, now is not the time to be in New Orleans."

Dean and the mother of his newborn, Charlotte Patrick, brought their baby to the city only for a day trip, leaving at nightfall for a her mother's Baton Rouge home. As they strolled through the French Quarter with Dexter, they felt the glare of disapproving stares.

"People are looking at us funny because we have a baby here," Joe Dean said. "But he's had more shots than we've had."

The mother and father still wrestle with how soon to return, even though their Uptown home is dry and sustained only moderate wind damage. "He wants to, but I'm not so big on it," Patrick said. "It's just so desolate. It's not ready yet."

Jon Smith, owner of Cork and Bottle wine shop and the father of an 8-month-old, echoed others in saying he and his wife want to get back soon, but have to put concerns of their child first.

The flood left polluted residue climbing up the homes and businesses of Mid-City, where he lives and works. A former triathlete, Smith religiously monitored the fecal coliform levels in Lake Ponchartrain, where he swam to train.

"We don't think any of the flood residue will be toxic, but to see some of the levels they had in that water" after the storm, he said, "It was like, 'My God, that's unreal.' "

The city announced Thursday that tap water on the east bank of the Mississippi River, west of the Industrial Canal, is now safe to drink. Before, the entire east bank had been under a boil order.

Sewage-tainted water in areas where children might play is another concern, said Jimmy Guidry, state health officer with the Department of Health and Hospitals.

"If a child has a cut, that could get infected," he said. "But that (the risk) is decreasing over time."

Children, especially babies and those with compromised immune systems, could also get infections from direct contact with mold and dust, Guidry said. But for most children, minor respiratory irritation will be the most serious consequence.

Guidry, who tracks child deaths and injuries in the state, said most come from injuries that occur in the absence of parental supervision. After the storm, that supervision becomes much more critical.

"You have to be observing them. They don't have an adult mind to make decisions," he said. "Coming back to areas hit by a storm like this, the things we're seeing in emergency rooms are injuries from electrical wire, broken glass, hanging glass that might fall, tree limbs that are weak, housing structures that are weak."

Even after concerns about water subside, the Smiths will need to see the essential services they once relied on rebuilt. That includes hospitals and convenient day care.

"We need the infrastructure to raise a young child," he said. "Now that he's started to crawl, what happens if he reaches up, pulls something off the coffee table and bonks his head? Which hospital do you go to? And what's the grocery store situation? It's hard enough to raise a child when everything's clicking."

Whether and when parents return are factors in the decisions of doctors, home health care professionals and others looking to rebuild their businesses and find jobs, said Sandra Adams, director of the Maternal and Child Health Coalition and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians.

Hospital care for serious sickness and injuries of children is already available, she said, at places like Ochsner Foundation Hospital and, by Monday, a reopened Children's Hospital. Other primary care options, such as pediatricians and home health specialists, along with care for special needs children, will take much longer to rebuild.

"We estimate that 40 pediatricians had their offices severely damaged" in New Orleans, Adams said. "In order for them to build a new building and reconstruct their businesses, they're going to have to have some indication that the patient population is there. It's a chicken-and-egg thing. Do you put the services in before the children get back, or wait until the children get back to put the services in?"

The state Department of Social Services, which handles child abuse investigations, foster care and adoptions, also has almost no presence now in the city, a department spokeswoman said. Its New Orleans office was destroyed, and it's unclear when it will be rebuilt, particularly given the lack of children to serve right now, said spokeswoman Nanette White.

## CHILDREN OF NEW ORLEANS

Thirty percent of the N.O. population before Katrina was made up of children. Their families may not return to the city any time soon, and many may not come back at all. Here's a look at pre-Katrina New Orleans:

| Age | Male | Female | Total | Percent both sexes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Younger than 5 | 17,108 | 16,388 | 33,496 | 6.9% |
| 5 to 9 | 18,965 | 18,168 | 37,133 | 7.7% |
| 10 to 14 | 18,634 | 18,135 | 36,769 | 7.6% |
| 15 to 19 | 18,456 | 19,856 | 38,312 | 7.9% |
| **Total children** | **73,163** | **72,547** | **145,710** | **30.1%** |
| **Total population** | **227,094** | **257,580** | **484,674** | **100.0%** |

Source: U.S. Census

STAFF CHART

## 'It has to get better'

In Houston, schooling is the main concern for Lillian Lewis. Two of her four children had been enrolled in New Orleans public schools, one at Jean Gordon, another at Lake Area Middle. Another son attended St. Augustine Catholic High School, and another attended a publicly subsidized Catholic preschool.

The public schools of Houston, she said, seem like nirvana by comparison to public schools in New Orleans. "The schools here are immaculate, I love it," she said. "Some of the things they (my children) are studying, they're a little behind, but they're adjusting."

Having seen the often squalid conditions of New Orleans public schools, Lewis started photographing Houston schools to have a model to share when she returns, perhaps in a year.

"Every last school I walked into, the floors were clean, the halls are clean and they kids aren't hanging out. My (high school) kid was late one day – and I got a call. It's beautiful," she said.

Still, she and her family want to return – hopefully to a smaller but better school system. She likes the plans to convert many of the city's public schools into charter institutions, a move that would shift power to principals and school communities to run schools essentially as they pleased.

"What we're doing right now is horrible, so we need to try something new," she said. "It has to get better because it can't get any worse."

Still, Lewis and her family insist that Houston will never be home. Her 13-year-old daughter, Misha, went through crying bouts each morning before school, missing her home and her friends and her role as a cheerleader and student council member at Lake Area Middle.

"I told her we're going to get through this as a family," she said. "We're just waiting right now, because it's better for the children. They can go to the mall, the movies, make new friends, and they can have pen pals when go home."

## 'An "X" on our house'

Not all parents are so sure.

Meghan Tracie, mother of 5-year Julia Matherne, also took off to Houston, where she has stayed most of the time, at her sister's house. Now she and her daughter are living with another sister in Metairie.

Julia has struggled, she said. Sometimes she understands that home, and all her toys including her birthday presents, are no more. Other times she asks her mom when they're going home.

"But it's too dangerous, and there's an 'X' on our house," the child said, referring to the markings of rescue workers after they checked houses for survivors and bodies. "There's no Children's Museum, and all my toys are gone – everything's ruined."

Julia said sometimes she feels "sad and angry." She can't say who or what is the target of her anger.

"Are you angry at the storm? You're not angry at God, are you?" her mother asked, as the two sat outside a restaurant.

"No, I'm not angry at God," the child said.

"Good," Tracie said.

In exile in Houston, sometimes Julia has played well with her cousins; other times there has been tension. "They're too 'followy' – they follow me around," Julia said. "And one of them spilled milk on me and I was crying."

Her mother, 28, has had her own crying bouts, nearly every day in that awful first week after the storm. She couldn't figure it out at first – it was just stuff, you can get more stuff, she told herself – but she came to realize her grief came from the loss of a familiar and lovely lifestyle.

"I was crying for my town, my life and my friends – that's what I want back," she said. "I can live without a sofa and a TV and a leather jacket, and she can live without toys."

But give up buying 50 pounds of crawfish at Kajun's? Relaxing at Coffee & Company, where that same old lady always needs a reminder it's whole milk, not skim? Walking the galleries of Royal Street with Julia on Sundays?

Yet Houston held promise, Tracie said. It offered normalcy, if displacement, along with a new job in the same industry, food distribution – at twice the salary. How could she refuse?

Tracie took it. After she checked on her house, she drove to Baton Rouge to pick up Julia, planning to drive to Houston to start work.

Then came another crying bout, in the car, driving around Baton Rouge with Julia. She asked her daughter what she wanted.

"Do you want to live in New Orleans, even though it's bad, or go back to Houston?"

"New Orleans," the child responded.

Houston was out.

"I just couldn't do it," Tracie said. "My family's mad at me for not taking it, but I just can't be happy in Houston. The second thing I did after I checked the house was to go to the cemetery and see the graves of my mother, my grandmother, and my great grandmother, to make sure they hadn't floated away. This is home. This is where my history is. This is where my family is."

"I want to raise my daughter here. I want to grow up loving this city like I do."

## 'It's weird'

Older children have different issues, though no less emotional.

Ridley Richards, a 15-year-old son of two Uptown artists, attended Holy Cross for two days before the storm hit. He evacuated to a relative's home in Eunice and briefly attended school there, but has moved back to his Magazine Street home and plans to enroll at either Riverdale or Grace King in East Jefferson.

But he said there aren't many teen-agers living in New Orleans these days.

"I know one girl who is about my age and that's it," he said. "It's weird. I really don't do a lot, I just sit around all day. There's not really a lot to do."

Richards said most of his friends have said they plan to finish the school year wherever they are, though others want to come back in January if their schools reopen.

He was visited this weekend by his friend Zach Maier, 14, a Ben Franklin student who is living in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Maier said he'll be back permanently next summer, but plans to come home often in the meantime because "I don't really have anybody to hang out with there."

Maura Beyer, 15, a former student at Dominican High School, can't complain about how she has been treated in her new home in Newton, Mass., and her new school, Newton North. "The people are nice. They sure ask a lot of questions, though," and Beyer said her New Orleans manner of speaking marks her as a walking curiosity.

*See* **CHILDREN,** *A-7*

# School in Houston gives N.O. students some stability

*Charter school group provides structured class environment*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

HOUSTON — After six weeks of chaos that began when he watched water rise around his home in the St. Bernard public housing complex, 13-year-old Richard Davis finally has some stability in his life.

Davis, an eighth-grader, joined 200 other students, primarily displaced from New Orleans, who started school this week under the umbrella of New Orleans West College Prep in Houston.

The first of its kind in the nation, the school is using Teach for America educators who were assigned to New Orleans to teach displaced students. Thirty-three teachers were hired to teach as many as 525 students. More than 200 students have registered so far. The school will be open until May.

The school day is divided into three 100-minute sessions from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. School officials are using buses from the Houston school system to bring the New Orleans students to the site.

Many students are sifting through the faces of their new classmates hoping to find a lost friend or any news of home.

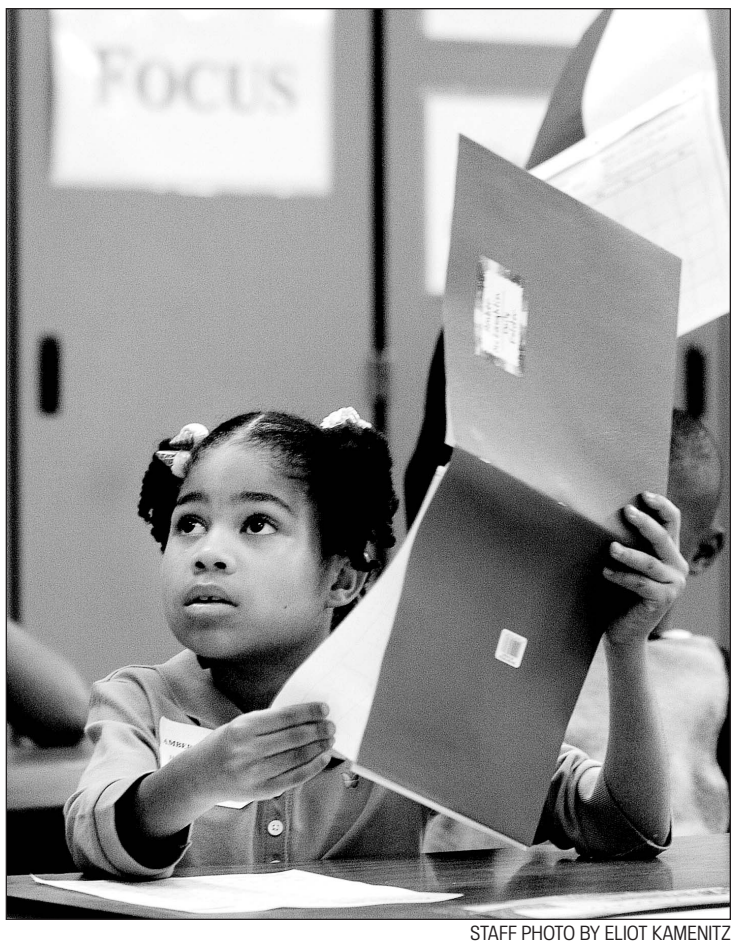
"There are so many of my kids who don't know if their friends are alive," said Towana Pierre-Floyd, a teacher at the school.

The site is being run by the nationally recognized Knowledge is Power Program, responsible for opening 47 charter schools nationwide in troubled inner-city communities with the goal of preparing underprivileged students for college.

Gary Robichaux, who was principal of KIPP: Phillips Preparatory, a newly converted charter school for eighth-graders next to the St. Bernard public housing complex, was tapped to lead the Houston school after Katrina flooded his New Orleans facility.

Robichaux, who brought his staff with him, said preparing the Houston school was a labor of love.

"There's a lot of energy here," he said. "This is like a dream teaching staff."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Amber McLaughlin looks over her new daily calendar. She started school this week with New Orleans teachers under the umbrella of New Orleans West College Prep in Houston.

Robichaux said he came to Houston and began working with KIPP officials to open a school after his students started e-mailing him after the storm. He flew to Houston and saw many of them at the Astrodome, and he thought a special school was needed in Houston to help them adjust and cope.

Since Katrina, nearly 20,000 students have been registered in Houston-area schools. There are 5,300 Louisiana students alone registered in the Houston Independent School District, the nation's seventh largest school district.

Creating a school for New Orleans students seemed appropriate, said Mike Feinberg, cofounder of KIPP and superintendent of a group of charter schools in Texas, who received permission from Houston and Texas officials to open the facility at a shuttered inner-city school once called Douglass Elementary.

The state of Texas has agreed to pay upwards of $5,000 for each student at the school. A nonprofit organization has committed to contributing an additional $2,000 for each student registered. With monies for breakfast, lunch and snacks included, Feinberg said, his organization has received about $9,000 total for each student.

The median age for teachers on the staff is 24. Although many of the faculty members have lost their homes and some are still living in hotels in Houston, they're all smiles. They believe that having weathered the storm ultimately will make them better teachers for their students.

Pierre-Floyd, a seventh-grade reading teacher, is a Howard University graduate and a New Orleans native. A participant in the Teach for America program, Pierre-Floyd said she hadn't been teaching even two weeks at Abramson High School when Hurricane Katrina forced her to flee with her husband and young son.

*See* **SCHOOL,** *A-8*

# Essential services must be rebuilt

**CHILDREN,** *from A-6*

"Do you know they don't say satsuma here? They have clementines. And they think it's so weird when I say 'y'all,' " she said. "They ask so many questions, the weirdest questions. They ask me if I've ever seen snow. Then I had to have an interview, on the TV news here, then with the school newspaper and then the yearbook."

Reminders of home are conspicuously absent. The people, she said, "are friendly and outgoing, but I think they're not as exciting as New Orleans people. They're kind of boring."

Beyer, who said she will return whenever Dominican reopens – she hopes for the spring semester – and her scattered friends light up the Internet with email and instant messages and text messages to their cell phones, trying to stay connected.

"I probably sent 400 text messages that first week," said Beyer's friend Mary Grace Tifft, 15, daughter of Criminal District Court Judge Camille Buras, whose brother owns Royal Street Grocery.

At first, some friends said they were never coming back, Tifft said, but now many have turned their aspirations homeward. She is now attending Rummel High School in Jefferson Parish now, in platoon schedule to ease overcrowding, from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.

"It's different going to a school with guys," she said, outside her uncle's store. "You have to worry about what you look like in the morning, or, well, afternoon."

A few minutes later, inside the French Quarter Grocery, the visiting baby continued to delight Ava Frances Buras. But his parents decided they couldn't wait 45 minutes until cooks fired up the grill for dinner and decided to get back to Baton Rouge before nightfall.

"You're leaving?" the child said plaintively. "But, but, what about your sandwich? Don't you want a sandwich?"

As the couple headed for the door, Ava sprinted after them, begging.

"Wait! Wait! Wait! I want to see the baby again!" she said.

She rubbed Dexter's head one more time, then pouted as the stroller rolled away.

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# Site is run by KIPP charter school group

**SCHOOL,** *from A-7*

The teacher said she came to New Orleans to give back to her community and jumped at the chance to come to Houston.

The students are surprised about how structured the school is compared with the ones they left behind in New Orleans. From the first day, they have been indoctrinated in the KIPP way of doing things.

There's no running or talking in the halls. There are specific times scheduled for escorted restroom breaks, depending on grade levels. And when a teacher speaks, all eyes should be on the instructor, students were told during a "culture session."

During one session, students who spoke to other students while instructors addressed the class were taken from the room.

Once outside, teachers and administrators counseled them and asked them to explain their behavior. For many, teachers said, it was the first time they had been held accountable for their actions.

Educators said they will not allow students to use Katrina as an excuse to lose academic focus. If anything, they say, the tragedy will serve as the catalyst leading them to brighter futures.

"If we do that, we've actually managed to find a silver lining in this situation," Feinberg said. "Between 2010 and 2018, I want to see them all graduate from high school and go to college."

It's just the kind of attitude, and school, that Angela Banks of New Orleans was looking for.

Banks couldn't stop smiling after dropping her third-grade daughter and second-grade son off at the school. She sat in on their classes and toured the facility, which far surpassed the school they left behind in New Orleans.

"I love the school," Banks said. "They are taking time out with the kids. I think that's good. It's encouraging."

And the school has given eighth-grader Davis hope that he will return home to New Orleans one day.

Davis, whose family has found an apartment in Houston, said he welcomes the structure the school has restored to his life.

"I was excited," he said, remembering when his mother told him the school was opening. "They're strict, but it's helpful. If it wasn't strict, everybody would be running around and nothing would be done."



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Teacher Adam Meinig instructs students at the school in Houston. The state of Texas has agreed to pay upwards of $5,000 for each student at the school. A nonprofit organization has committed to contributing an additional $2,000 for each student registered.


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# 'History will be the judge'

**BROUSSARD,** *from A-1*

Coulon said the plan calls for pump operators to be evacuated for an approaching Category 5 storm. The plan does not spell out where they are to be taken, he said.

Even as critics now blame the lack of pumping for much of the flooding, particularly in Metairie and Kenner, Broussard stands by the decision to remove the operators and potentially save their lives.

"You could easily be sentencing someone to death by staying at their post," Broussard said in an interview last week. "That is illogical, unreasonable, and we will never do that."

Had the pump operators remained in their stations during Katrina, Broussard said, its storm surge would have rushed from Lake Pontchartrain back through the stations, anyway, and still flooded parts of East Jefferson. And, he said, by the time the pump operators returned the night of Aug. 29, they found many of the stations were damaged and inoperable.

"I did not create this plan, but this plan has logic," he said.

That logic is lost on Jackie Madden, a neighborhood activist who lives in the Palm Vista subdivision in Metairie.

"My concern is why have the pumps here if people are going to leave, and why bring them 60 miles away?" she said.

Broussard conceded the plan might need tweaking. He said he will consider other evacuation sites, closer to the pump stations than Washington Parish, for pump operators so that they can return more quickly after the worst of a hurricane has passed.

Others suggest more drastic changes.

East Jefferson Levee District officials say it's time to consider whether their employees should run all the pumping stations on the east bank of the Mississippi River, so operators don't leave the area. In Kenner, city officials are planning to ask the parish to train their own employees to work the pumps in the city.

## Re-entry worked smoothly

In contrast to the evacuation decision, the decision to let evacuees back into Jefferson Parish one week after the storm was entirely Broussard's. And it was roundly panned — in the beginning.

"I was absolutely a salmon swimming upstream on this one," Broussard said. "There was opposition from my top administration, law enforcement and even council members, but I refused to back down."

The concern, said a State Police spokesman, Lt. Lawrence McLeary, was for the safety of the Jefferson residents who could find themselves hurt in a car wreck or stranded in a parish without working traffic signals and basic government, medical and retail services.

"There was debris in the roadway and the possibility of injury was there, and with all that debris there was no hospital or 911 service," he said.




Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard speaks on 'Meet the Press' last month.

GETTY IMAGES

Other officials worried that motorists would run out of gasoline in long lines of traffic, and that the congestion might interfere with emergency and utility workers.

"I didn't want people being trapped in Jefferson Parish without these services," Parish Council member John Young said.

Broussard held firm, convinced that National Guard members and parish workers could clear major roads of debris and that letting residents "peek and turn" was crucial to their own recovery.

"People had to learn their lives were altered in a dramatic way," he said.

And so the return began Sept. 5, despite the critics, with Broussard explaining Jefferson was basically under martial law and he was the only marshal in town.

"I am not an analysis paralysis guy," he said. "I'm an action guy. If you manage a crisis by committee you are hopelessly inept in reacting to the needs of the citizens.

"I was willing to take the bull by the horns."

These days, McLeary and Young concede that the return went smoothly.

"In retrospect, it worked out a lot better than many of us thought it could," Young said.

## Facts wrong on national TV

Six days after Katrina hit, Broussard grabbed the national spotlight again, during an interview on the "Meet the Press" television show. Sobbing uncontrollably, he told moderator Tim Russert about the death of emergency manager Tommy Rodrigue's mother in a St. Bernard Parish nursing home.

"The guy who runs this building I'm in, emergency management, he's responsible for everything. His mother was trapped in a St. Bernard nursing home and every day she called him and said, 'Are you coming, son? Is somebody coming?' And he said, 'Yeah, mama. Somebody's coming to get you. Somebody's coming to get you on Tuesday. Somebody's coming to get you on Wednesday. Somebody's coming to get you on Thursday. Somebody's coming to get you on Friday. And she drowned Friday night. She drowned Friday night."

The spectacle capped days of local complaints about Washington's sluggish response to the Katrina, and, as The New York Times reported the next day: "The administration's problems in the crisis seemed to crystallize" with Broussard's TV appearance. Broussard's breakdown also earned a full-page portrait in Vanity Fair magazine's November issue.

But he got the facts wrong.

Eva Rodrigue, 92, did die, along with 33 other people, in St. Rita's Nursing Home in Chalmette. But she did not die on the Friday of Katrina Week, rather much earlier in the week, perhaps Monday, the very day Katrina struck, her son said. She did not have the series of conversations with her son that the parish president described two days later.

Broussard said this week it was on that Friday that he learned about the death, from staffers whom Rodrigue had told. And while he talked to Rodrigue that night, forcing his employee to take time off to grieve and have some personal time, the two did not discuss the details of what happened to Rodrigue's mother.

Still, the death stuck in Broussard's mind: Here was a man charged with safeguarding a parish of almost 500,000 people, and he could not rescue his own mother. And as he talked about abandonment during the "Meet the Press" interview, the thought of Eva Rodrigue came into his head.

"Absolutely I was told she was asking for him. Absolutely I was told by my employees," Broussard said recently. "I could care less if someone thinks I got the facts of Tommy's mother's death wrong. I only care about what Tommy thinks."

Rodrigue said he understands the strain under which Broussard was working during Katrina Week.

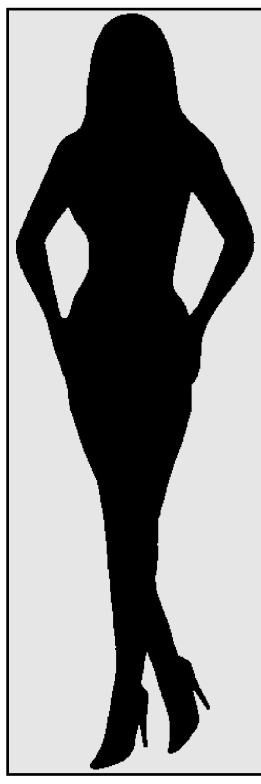
He said he told co-workers that he was calling the nursing home before the storm to find out it was not evacuating everyone.

"Somebody may have taken that information and it just go messed up," he said. "(People) have to understand the environment we were operating in. This place was crawling with people."

For his part, Broussard refuses to question individual actions from that hectic and defining week for Jefferson Parish. Not now. Not when there is still so much to do to rebuild the parish.

"I did not have a personal agenda in any of the decisions I made," he said. "History will be the judge."

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HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Stadium sat under water for days



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

There are bright spots at the park. The Botanical Garden, which includes the Pavilion of Two Sisters conservatory, came through relatively unscathed, as did the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden.

**CITY PARK,** *from A-1*

As a result, about 1,000 trees have been toppled, and another thousand are expected to perish by next spring. All three golf greens, once peppered with motorized carts and men in knickers, are dead, poisoned by salty floodwaters and then suffocated under a thick layer of muck.

The rosebushes in the botanical garden are lifeless; the amusement park rides static because of waterlogged motors.

Even the park's miniature red trains, which have carried generations of children through the meandering landscape of live oaks and lagoons, were knocked out by the flood, said the park's director, Bob Becker.

"We were on the verge of greatness," Becker said. "This has set us back 70 years."

With City Park almost completely dependent on revenue from its attractions, Becker said, he had no choice but to furlough all but 11 of the park's 260 full-time, part-time and seasonal workers immediately after the storm.

For now, there is enough money to pay the remaining staff until the end of the year. After that, the park could be totally abandoned, he said.

"We would all just walk away," he said. "How horrible would that be, in the middle of a city that is trying to rebuild?"

To try to avoid that scenario, Becker has submitted a proposal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency offering sections of the park as potential sites for trailers where residents and park workers could live while they rebuild. He is also talking with the Army Corps of Engineers about building a transfer station on park land. Debris would be dumped there, reduced and then shipped to a landfill. Both ideas offer the prospect of badly needed rental income.

"At least that might allow us to hire some people back," Becker said.

Hopper, the park's development director, is also soliciting donations from foundations and other charitable organizations, while trying to piece together what once was an army of volunteers.

But long term, both men say, the best hope for the park is a massive infusion of federal money, similar to the millions from the Works Progress Administration that were used to develop the park in the 1930s.

The Adams & Reese law firm has agreed to represent the park for free through its Washington, D.C., lobbying arm, Becker said.

"The city is broke. The state is broke," he said. "The feds are the only ones who have the money to do the job."

Becker said the bedraggled park needs to do more than rebuild what was lost; it also needs to make critical improvements to its attractions and operating staff, as outlined in a 13-year master plan approved this year by the park's board.

Unlike Audubon Park, City Park receives virtually no public operating funds and has been criticized in the past for high grass, littered grounds and other chronic maintenance shortfalls.

The master plan was adopted not only to address those concerns, but to upgrade a park that hadn't seen a significant investment in public money since 20,000 WPA workers spent four years during the Great Depression

*See* **CITY PARK,** *A-13*


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# Golf courses sustained flood damage

CITY PARK, *from A-12*

creating many of its signature spaces.

The bottom line is that City Park's revitalization is a key to making the reconstruction of New Orleans successful and to improving quality of life in a city that now, more than ever, needs beautiful green spaces, Becker said.

"The federal government saved this park 70 years ago," he said. "There is another opportunity here."

### Revenue dries up

City Park's problems are twofold. First, it has lost of almost all its operating revenue, to the tune of $10.6 million a year. That's critical, because the park receives only $200,000 annually in tax support for operations, making it an anomaly in a country where most communities publicly fund their major parks. As long as the park is out of commission, none of that money can be recouped, Becker said.

Secondly, the park sustained almost $43 million in damage. With virtually no rainy day fund, it can't afford to patch roofs and cut Sheetrock, let alone pay for more extensive repairs, Becker said.

FEMA is providing some help. So far, contractors have cleared most roads in the park, and they are removing dead trees, a service that will save the park millions of dollars. But there are plenty of other problems the park can't begin to address without additional assistance, Becker said.

Virtually every building in City Park was damaged or destroyed, including the administration building with all of its computers, records and archives. The park lost its entire fleet of vehicles, including mowers, bucket trucks and backhoes. Even grass cutting is not within the park's present range of abilities, Becker said.

The North, East and West golf courses were completely ruined, as was the clubhouse, which sat for weeks under several feet of water.

And City Park's premiere stadium, Tad Gormley, was a lake for weeks. The goalposts, bent to the east, serve as reminders of Katrina's ferocity. Dead fish still littered the parking lot last week.

But the most extensive damage was to the park's 14,000-tree forest, likely to be reduced by 2,000 in the spring when waterlogged root systems add another thousand dead trees to those blown over by the storm.

Fortunately, many of the park's oldest live oaks -- including the entire majestic grove along City Park Avenue — appear to have survived the hurricane.

"The big boys did OK," Hopper said. "They were built for the job."

But scores of pines, water oaks, magnolias, cypress and crape myrtles weren't so lucky. In a cypress grove along Marconi Drive, about 40 trees were toppled, Hopper said. Most of the crape myrtles that lined Filmore Avenue were blown over.

### Museum, garden OK

There are some bright spots, though.

The New Orleans Museum of Art — considered one of the most important museums in the South — was virtually unscathed. Damage to the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, which opened in 2003, was limited to ruined landscaping and the toppling of a single sculpture: Kenneth Snelson's "Virlane Tower," which stood in a lagoon.

Most of the park's architectural features, including the Peristyle, Popp Bandstand and Popp Fountain, appeared intact during a tour Oct. 2. The park's fountains and statuary also were still standing, many of them creations of the esteemed Enrique Alferez.

The 26 life-sized fiberglass figures in Storyland, the park's fairytale theme park for chil-

*See* CITY PARK, *A-14*

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## CITY PARK DEVASTATED BY KATRINA

Cost to repair park could run $42,875,000*. Here is a look at the damage:

### GOLF: $19 MILLION

**North, West and East courses:** All grass is presumed to die. Will require resprigging of fairways, resodding of greens and tees, and repairs to irrigation and pump systems.
**Main clubhouse:** Under 5 feet of water for 2 weeks, sustained roof damage and is considered lost.
**Driving range:** All fences blown down, equipment under water, irrigation and drainage damaged, and building considerably damaged.
**Maintenance building:** No structural damage, but all supplies, inventory and fuel systems destroyed.

### BUILDINGS: $7.25 MILLION

**Administration building:** Under 4 feet of water for 2 weeks.
**Casino building:** Extensively looted; second floor damaged by wind and rain.
**Catering building:** Under water for 2 weeks.
**Maintenance building:** Partially collapsed.
**Irby Building:** Slated for demolition.

### TREES AND GROUNDS: $4 MILLION

**Trees:** More than 1,000 trees blown over or received major structural damage. Many ancient oak trees will require selective pruning to maintain their balance and prevent loss in the future.

### ROADS, PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL: $3 MILLION

### SPORTS FIELDS AND STADIUMS: $3 MILLION

**Tad Gormley Stadium:** Under water nearly 2 weeks. Field, concessions, locker rooms and bathrooms extensively damaged.
**Pan American Stadium:** Field and scoreboard damaged.
**Quadraplex building and 8 sports fields:** Water and wind damage to fences, light poles, goalposts and fields.

### BOTANICAL GARDEN: $2.22 MILLION

**14-acre plant collection:** Under water for nearly 2 weeks and must be replaced.
**Pavilion of the Two Sisters:** Flood damage, windows blown out.
**Garden administrative offices:** Under several feet of water.
**Conservatory, including plant collection:** Flood-damaged.
**Other:** Additional damage to production greenhouses and inventory, the Garden Study Center, Lathe House and equipment.

### TENNIS: $277,000

▶ 20 rubico courts need complete refurbishment. Building appears to have no structural damage, but pro shop inventory lost. Wind screens, fence and bleachers damaged.

### TECHNOLOGY: $593,000

### BOATING: $30,000

▶ 3 canoes and 10 paddleboats lost. Fishing building damaged.

### PARK EQUIPMENT: $1.6 MILLION

▶ Virtually all of the park's equipment was under water at the maintenance complex, including 20 pickups, 3 backhoes, a Bobcat, 4 bucket trucks, 4 police cars, 8 master mowers, 4 tractors and 4 Bush Hogs.

### AMUSEMENT PARK: $1.4 MILLION

**Carousel:** Horses suffered no damage, but floor buckled and entire area was under water for at least a week.
**Rides:** Motors for all amusement rides need to be replaced. Ferris wheel, birthday party house, bumper cars, ticket booths, concession buildings and bathrooms damaged.
**Trains:** All 3 engines were under water and sustained extensive damage. A coach was completely destroyed.

### STORYLAND: $500,000

▶ Several figures need to be replaced or repaired. C.T. Parker Building and bathrooms damaged. Puppet castle and walkways damaged.

*Cost estimates include a 15 percent contingency for unknown damage.

Source: City Park administrative staff

# Rebuilding of park could take years

**CITY PARK,** *from A-13*

dren, were beat up but salvageable. Mother Goose still hung from her tree limb. Pinocchio sat perched atop his wide-mouthed whale.

Even the Botanical Garden, which had extensive damage, showed signs of hope, with magenta and lavender lilies sprouting in the lily pond, and sprigs of grass beginning to grow from under the brown matted lawns.

"Nature is a resilient female," Becker said. "You can see her coming back everywhere."

The problem is the sheer magnitude of the challenge ahead. One mile wide and three miles long, the park is one of the nation's largest tracts of urban greenery, stretching from the city's midsection to the residential neighborhoods that line the lakefront. It is also known for its diversity of attractions, from horse stables to nature trails to its annual Celebration in the Oaks Christmas light display.

Rebuilding could take years, Becker said.

But it's possible some parts of the park could make an early comeback. A strip of land that stretches from the museum toward City Park Avenue somehow escaped floodwaters, leaving several tennis courts and the children's playground relatively unharmed. The nearby casino building also appears repairable, though it was extensively looted and sustained wind and rain damage on the second floor. On Oct. 2, the concession area still reeked of rotten food.

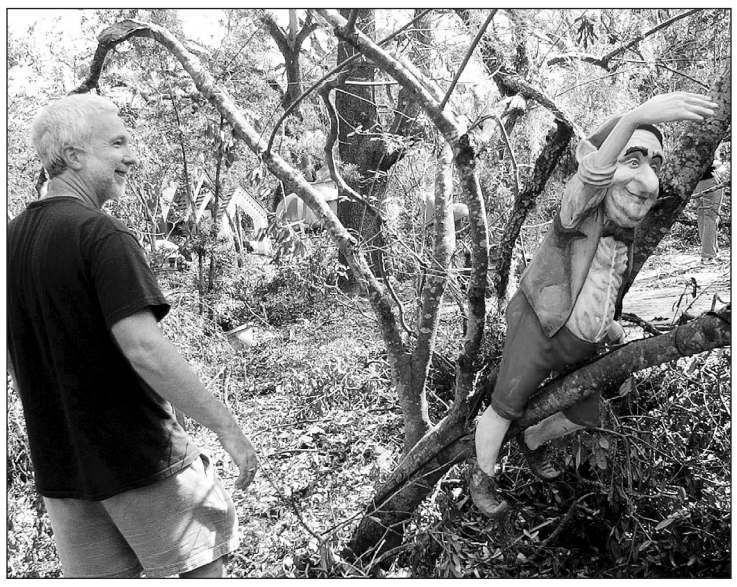
Becker said that whatever the obstacles, local, state and federal leaders must join forces to find ways to resurrect the park. Just like the food and the music, City Park is New Orleans, its past, its present and its future, he said.

"Can you imagine New York City without Central Park?" he said. "The same holds true here."

• • • • • •

People willing to help the park rebuild can e-mail John Hopper at johnhopperkatrina@yahoo.com.

Martha Carr can be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Hopper walks through the Storyland theme park at City Park on Oct. 2. The park gets little public money and is dependent on its attractions for revenue. Only 11 of 260 employees remain.


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# Man charged with firing at rescue helicopter

## *5 others booked with gun crimes*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

A man accused of firing at a rescue helicopter in Algiers after Hurricane Katrina is among six people recently indicted by a federal grand jury on gun charges, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said Saturday.

U.S. Attorney David Dugas also announced two Baton Rouge area residents have been arrested and charged with making false claims for relief money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said an arrest warrant has been issued for another Baton Rouge resident on fraud charges.

Dugas and Letten made their announcements outside the Hale Boggs federal courthouse, where they were joined by acting New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren Riley and a special agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The six new indictments were handed down Friday by a grand jury empaneled at the federal courthouse in Houma. The jury charged Wendell Bailey, 20, with being a felon in possession of a firearm as well as firing upon a military aircraft Sept. 5.

ATF agents who witnessed gunfire from an Algiers apartment saw two people leave the building. The agents overheard the suspects saying of the shooting, "They won't be back now." Then, according to the U.S. attorney's office, the agents saw Bailey, who later emerged when they called him out.

A .22 caliber Rhomm revolver and a .32 caliber Smith & Wesson were retrieved from under a mattress as well as a box of 9 mm ammunition.

Bailey has a previous conviction for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

The grand jury charged four other New Orleans residents with felony records with illegally possessing a firearm: Benjamin Guidroz, Henry Press, James Turner and Darren Marquez. Paul Gleeson was charged with possession of a firearm by an illegal immigrant.

If convicted, all five face maximum penalties of 10 years in prison.

They were arrested separately between Sept. 8 and 27.

- Guidroz was arrested by police after a Sept. 8 traffic stop; officers stopped a car driving fast on four flat tires near St. Claude Avenue and Frenchmen Street. Police say Guidroz was armed with a .38 caliber revolver.
- Press was arrested by deputy U.S. marshals conducting "welfare checks" Sept. 9 in the 2500 block of Barracks Street. Army soldiers alerted the marshals that Press had gone to his house to retrieve items and never left. A .40 caliber Ruger pistol and four ammunition magazines were seized from his home, the U.S. attorney's office said.
- Turner was arrested in a Sept. 19 traffic stop by police in a restricted section of the city. A .45 caliber pistol was retrieved from his glove compartment.
- Police arrested Marquez in a Sept. 27 traffic stop, also in a restricted area, and recovered a .38 caliber semiautomatic from his pickup.
- Gleeson was arrested Sept. 16 when police responded to an assault call in the 500 block of Belleville Street. The complainant told detectives that Gleeson had driven into the yard of his house and started chasing him with a hatchet.

After Gleeson was arrested, he allegedly told police he had a gun in his house; a .44 caliber Smith & Wesson was found, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

"ATF will not tolerate criminals with guns in our community," ATF Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait said in a written statement. "They will be arrested and prosecuted at every opportunity."

Robert Browning, assistant special agent in charge, said ATF agents arrested a New Orleans resident in another state Friday night who had guns stolen from a firearms store in the city. ATF employees are reviewing records as local retailers try to create an accurate inventory of their weapons, he said.

A few hundred guns were looted in New Orleans after the hurricane, Browning said.

Letten said the weapons charges show that federal prosecutors are aggressively pursuing criminal activity in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Riley agreed.

"It shows our criminal justice system, while not operating at 100 percent, is still up and running and getting better every day," he said.

• • • • • •

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.


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# Federal, private entities urged to work together

*St. Tammany officials want more cooperation and less waiting*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

The efforts of federal inspectors and private insurance adjusters should be coordinated to expedite the rebuilding of homes, businesses and lives wrecked by major storms and other natural disasters, local and state officials insisted Friday.

In the wake of escalating complaints from officials in the Slidell and Pearl River areas, Rep. A.G. Crowe, R-Slidell, called for congressional action to eliminate or alleviate disputes, bureaucratic chokepoints and duplication of effort.

The call came during a meeting of a newly formed panel of north shore representatives who earlier in the day toured areas of southeast St. Tammany Parish devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Slidell Mayor Ben Morris, Pearl River Mayor James Lavigne and others said they're bewildered and angry over the glacial pace of Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts in Katrina's grim aftermath.

Lavigne said he can't get a straight answer — only buck-passing and conflicting statements — from anyone in the FEMA bureaucracy at a time when "our little town is hurting" for financial aid and other assistance.

"I'd like to get one person who would tell me one way or the other whether we're going to get our money by next week or what," he told the House subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Pete Schneider, R-Slidell.

Lavigne and others said the confusion persists over what percentage — 100, 75, 60 — of the storm-recovery money already spent by local and parish governments will be reimbursed and when.

One key reason for the reimbursement slowdown is that the state auditor must double-check and triple-check local claims because of Louisiana's reputation for political and financial corruption, Crowe said.

That image has been especially magnified by the national news media in the post-Katrina era, resulting in the unfortunate but understandable wariness of auditors to sign off quickly on reimbursement claims, he said.

And, Crowe said, the disputes over what is and isn't covered by insurance policies held by local governments and homeowners is further aggravated by the complicated regulations of the federal agencies that step in after a disaster.

Morris said he's been "yelling and screaming for the last month and a few days about the federal response" to the needs of his city, the most populous in the parish.

City employees and the utility companies have rebuilt most of Slidell's crucial water, sewerage and electrical infrastructure in less time than he would have thought possible after the hurricane struck Aug. 29, Morris said.

"The real problem we have is housing, temporary housing, for about 4,000 homes" in Slidell alone, he said. "We're in a critical situation right now. ... There are people out there with their lives in the ditch."

He also took another swipe at the Army Corps of Engineers, whose subcontractors replaced local contractors the city chose through an emergency bids process for removing the mountains of curbside storm debris.

The city-hired contractor was on the job only a few days before the corps took over the project, albeit with city approval. Since then, Morris complained, "not one inch of anything has been cleaned in three weeks."

Meanwhile, parish government hired its own contractors, and about 1.2 million cubic yards of the estimated 6 million in the unincorporated areas had been picked up by Friday, according to parish officials.

Slidell officials estimate that at least 1 million cubic yards of storm debris — tree chunks, large limbs, ruined appliances and the like — are piled up in the city and will take at least three months and probably longer to remove.

There's a significant financial difference between the two arrangements. While the cost to Slidell is essentially zero, the parish will have to come up with 25 percent of its total unless that "local match" is waived by the corps.

Schneider's subcommittee of the House Special Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-term Revitalization plans additional hearings in St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa parishes.

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# Black mayors push for long-term help

## *Needs won't dry up with waters, they say*

**By Harry R. Weber**
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — The nation's black mayors want to know what happens when relief agencies leave the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

At a meeting Saturday, they voiced concern about how to deal with the long-term housing and employment needs of residents affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, especially those who don't plan to return home.

"What do they do afterward?" asked Jack Ellis, the mayor of Macon, Ga. "Do they go out and beg with a tin can? Only the federal government can do this work."

The two-dozen black mayors from across the country who attended the National Conference of Black Mayors board meeting at a hotel near the Atlanta airport discussed ways to raise money to help rebuild damaged homes and place evacuees who lost their jobs in new jobs.

Some agreed with Ellis that the mayors need to push the federal government to provide long-term money and manpower to the relief effort. Others, however, said the local governments need to work together to address the problem.

"This disaster certainly took the covers off what's been racial and economic disparity," said Robert Bowser, the mayor of East Orange, N.J., which has opened up housing for evacuees who want to relocate there. "We want to help our brothers and sisters in the South by doing what we can."

The president of the group, Inglewood, Calif., Mayor Roosevelt Dorn, said the black mayors are calling upon the federal government to use his group as a conduit to cities to help get long-term aid to hurricane victims. He said the group will be looking to tap relief funds in that effort.

Most agreed the big problem is where to house victims for the months and years ahead, particularly those who have relocated to small communities in the South that have seen their limited resources drained in the six weeks since Katrina came ashore.

Mayor James Perkins of Selma, Ala., said his community has seen hurricane evacuees from as far away as Texas show up in recent weeks looking for homes and jobs. He said the community will need help if it is to care for those people long-term.

"I don't know about you, but I hear this big sucking sound coming from our budget," Perkins said. "It's been a drain on our resources."

George Grace, the mayor of St. Gabriel, where a temporary morgue was set up for those who died in the hurricanes, said the black mayors should push for more money to go toward finding people permanent housing rather than temporary housing.

"After the media goes home, after FEMA goes home, after the Red Cross goes home, we are left with the problem," Grace said.

Some of the black mayors had harsh words for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its response to the disaster.

"They had no command structure," said Larry Bryant, the mayor of Forrest City, Ark. "It was like they were newborn babies. They didn't know how to walk or how to talk."

He said that if anything good comes from the disaster it is that it opened people's eyes to the government's level of preparedness for major hurricanes.

John White, the mayor of Ames, Texas, about 40 miles west of Beaumont, which was hit hard by Rita, said FEMA needs to deal more directly with local communities affected by hurricanes.

"We couldn't get help to get generators," White said.

But some at the meeting said the finger-pointing is counterproductive.

"Local, state and federal governments dropped the ball. You can't blame one," said Milton Tutwiler, the mayor of Winstonville, Miss. "We have to figure out how to rebuild and where to house people. It's not just black folks, but white folks and Asian folks."

Tutwiler added, "I don't think anyone was prepared for this thing."

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# Mapping Katrina's surge will help prepare for future storms

## *Levels noted across 90,000 square miles*

**By Brendan Farrington**
Associated Press writer

GULFPORT, MISS. — A small piece of duct tape stuck 9 ½ feet above the ground marks the spot on a gutted brick house where Hurricane Katrina's storm surge gushed a month earlier.

As a backhoe scoops up a massive pile of torn-up drywall, furniture and soggy carpets in front of the home, Gary Bryan and two other surveyors examine the spot.

They're one of several crews hired by the government to painstakingly map flood levels from Louisiana to Florida. Across 90,000 square miles, crews are tracking down hundreds of markings posted by earlier teams right after the storm. They record their location and elevation.

Their goal is to create an atlas. Emergency planners want to learn not only what happened during Katrina, but to prepare for what might happen with future storms. How high might the water surge next time?

The house where the crew found one of the markers is a half-mile from the Gulf of Mexico. But it's near Bernard Bayou, which rose when the hurricane roared onto land Aug. 29.

"I'm from Florida. We had three eyes come pretty close to us and we didn't even get teased compared to this," Bryan said, comparing Katrina's wrath to the hurricanes that smashed last year through his home state.

Surge is the water a hurricane pushes up as it approaches shore. A number of factors contribute to its size: wind strength, air pressure, the size of a storm's eye, the distance hurricane force winds extend from the center, the speed at which it comes ashore and the angle at which it hits.

So a Category 4 hurricane, if it's especially slow and large, can have a much larger surge than a stronger Category 5 storm. The Gulf Coast is more vulnerable to a high surge than the Atlantic coast because of its shallow continental shelf. Waters rise more easily when there's less of it to push.

A mistake many people made in deciding to ride out Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 storm, was thinking it wouldn't be as bad as Hurricane Camille, a Category 5 storm that struck the same area 36 years ago.

"This storm was much larger than Camille," said Pat Fitzpatrick, a research professor at Mississippi State University's GeoResources Institute. "What people need to realize is they need to pay attention to the size of the storm and not just the intensity."

Hurricane force winds extended 125 miles from Katrina's center, compared with 60 miles for Camille, he said. Also, Katrina's eye was 32 miles wide even though a storm of its intensity normally has an eye that is 10 miles wide.

Scientists know much more about surge today than they did in 1969 when Camille hit. They can predict with reasonable accuracy what the surge will be. But the unpredictable nature of storms makes it difficult to say far in advance which areas will be flooded and how much higher the wind-whipped waves on top of the surge will be.

For example, Hurricane Ivan last year was predicted to hit west of Mobile, Ala. If it had, it would have sent 12 feet of storm surge into the area and 4 feet over the Pensacola area. But just hours before landfall, it shifted and hit east of the city. It spared Mobile, but sent a 10-foot surge over the Florida Panhandle, said Stephen Baig, a storm surge expert at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

In the case of Katrina, estimates have ranged from a 35-foot surge in Waveland to at least 15 feet along the entire Mississippi coast, which demolished scores of buildings near the gulf and led to extensive inland flooding. Areas were covered in water that never before were known to flood.

"There's a lot of talk about what the surge was and, 'We measured it at this,' but nobody knows those real numbers," said Baig. "People could well have observed a 30-foot raised level of water with a 25- to 28-foot surge being part of it."

Scientists hope public officials and residents will learn from Katrina that storm surge can be dangerous, destructive and unpredictable.

Gertrude Taylor said her husband is one of those people who made the Camille comparison and persuaded her to ride out Katrina in their Gulfport home.

"He's from the coast. He said he ain't worried about it. He said we're going to stick it out," said Taylor.

She said she realized they were both crazy for staying when nearby homes were being ripped from foundations.

"I jumped out of the bed and got under it. It seemed like the whole house was rocking."

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# Katrina offers flood of lessons

## *Social scientists flock to region*

**By Matthew Hay Brown**
The Baltimore Sun

HOUSTON — For all the suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina, the upheaval wrought by the storm is producing unusually rich research opportunities for academics and scientists.

Researchers from throughout the United States have descended on the Gulf Coast to explore topics as disparate as communications among victims and first responders, use of family networks in sheltering the displaced, and the provisions made for pets during disasters.

Social scientists are scrambling to put together research-grant proposals, said Vincent Gawronski, an assistant professor of political science at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. Their interests include everything from the psychological and political effects on Katrina's victims, to how communities are absorbing these newcomers.

"Of course, they will all be welcomed with open arms in communities and homes around the country during the emergency phase of the disaster," Gawronski said. "But what will happen down the road? What will be the social strains and stresses?"

Gawronski has teamed with Richard Olson of Florida International University to examine media coverage of the catastrophe.

"Disasters provide all sorts of opportunity to do interesting research from all sorts of different perspectives," he said.

If that's true of disasters generally, Katrina has opened access to information unique in U.S. history. The near-total evacuation of a major city is unprecedented, as is the sudden dispersal of as many as 1 million Americans to all corners of the country.

That outflow compares with the dislocations that followed the Civil War, the migration of black Southerners to the North at the beginning of the 20th century, and the exodus of farmers and laborers from the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression.

But this time, the flight unfolded in days, not years. With history in the making, analysts are getting to work learning what they can.

"These kinds of crises represent more or less natural laboratories, situations where, because of their difference from everyday life, give you an opportunity to see the inner workings of society, of groups, of organizations," said retired University of Southern California sociologist Robert Stallings, president of the research committee on disasters of the International Sociological Association.

When Katrina victims began arriving in Houston, John Barnshaw hurried down to meet them.

As a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Delaware, Barnshaw studies inequality among races, classes and genders. Hurricane Katrina provided an unprecedented opportunity for research.

A graduate assistant at Delaware's Disaster Research Center, Barnshaw spent four days at the Reliant Park shelter complex in Houston interviewing more than 40 evacuees about how they were making decisions to either return to the Gulf Court or resettle elsewhere.

Barnshaw's project is one of 20 funded so far through a quick-response-grant program at the University of Colorado. The funding enabled him to reach Reliant Park while it still held thousands of people.

"They offer an opportunity for researchers to get in there and collect highly perishable data," Barnshaw said.

The Natural Hazards Center, based at the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, has been issuing immediate grants of National Science Foundation money to speed researchers into the field.

Hillary Potter of the University of Colorado is pursuing a project titled "Reframing Crime: Race, Gender, Class, Criminality and Enforcement of Laws in a Natural Disaster." Lauren Barsky of the University of Delaware is examining "Disaster Realities in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: Revisiting the Looting Myth."

"This is information that would be lost, memories that would change over time," said Greg Guibert, program manager at the Natural Hazards Center. In addition to the 20 grants already issued, he said, another 10 proposals are being reviewed for approval.

Guibert said several of the researchers are from areas affected by the storm.

"So this is a very difficult time for them," he said. "But this is information that needs to be captured."

Gawronski said the lessons of Katrina can broaden understanding of everyday life.

"Disasters provide a window for looking at all sorts of things within a society because they lay bare underlying weaknesses and strengths in institutions, in the social fabric, even in the psychological makeup of a community," he said. "You can see so many things so quickly. It's just a revelatory event."


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# The heart of New Orleans broken but still beating



**Keith Woods** *is dean of faculty at The Poynter Institute. He was born in New Orleans and spent 16 years at The Times-Picayune, working jobs ranging from sportswriter to city editor to columnist.*

## *Despite the pain, city draws residents home*

How does a city die?

In the dead air of our cell phones, my sister and I let the question fade into ellipses, finding refuge from the pain in silence. I have to go. I'm on my way home to New Orleans, or as close as I will get. The road trip from Tampa used to cover 700 miles in just about nine hours. Now, Hurricane Katrina has rearranged the roads and shifted the direction of lives. So it will take nearly a day.

It's not an easy thing to run toward heartbreak. My father waits in a hospital in Opelousas, La., a sickly man nearly finished off by the trauma of a protracted evacuation. My sister-in-law's parents are missing. I don't know the fates of countless friends. We expect that nearly every home my family owns or occupies is done with.

Nephews and cousins and friends and in-laws were last seen stubbornly holding out here, trapped in a hotel there, lost amid the dazed masses in the Superdome and Convention Center.

I don't mean to be ungrateful for the people who I know are alive, nor am I unmindful of the souls — How many? Hundreds? Thousands? — who have died in the wind and waters. It's just hard to see past the dense urgency of now and the shattered vision of tomorrow.

"How does a city die?" I ask my sister. But the question reaches into my chest and pulls angrily at my heart, demanding an answer from the journalist that I am. From the black man. From the brother, uncle, cousin, friend and father.

From a son of New Orleans.

### Getting out in time

"Hi. You leaving?"

These stories all begin the same way. The phone rings and an out-of-town sibling quickly gets to the point. Since the nine of us have variously occupied or abandoned Missouri, Washington, D.C., New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, parts of Louisiana and so much of Florida, somebody always watches over New Orleans. Somebody always calls.

Jeanne had Daddy. She and my stepmother, Vertner, would meet with Patrick's family and they would caravan to Lisa's house in Opelousas. My brother Eric had a rental and would take Liz and their two boys to Jackson, Miss., to stay with strangers. I reached Patrick's wife, Cheryl, on the Saturday before Katrina. The phone lines were already jammed. The family evacuation was all but done.

Disaster could come now.

It took seven hours for the family caravan to reach the pecan grove Lisa and her husband own in Opelousas, a trip that doesn't take half as much time when you're not emptying out a city. Pneumonia was brewing in my father's chest and he would be rushed to the hospital on Monday as Katrina exhaled her devastating breath at the Gulf Coast.

No one told my father then that the trip killed his dog. Sassy had grown old and feeble like her master, and Vertner found their blonde cocker spaniel taking her last gasps under a camellia tree. So they buried her near the horse pasture. As floodwaters drowned my father's neighborhood 150 miles away, the doctors at Opelousas General asked what to do in the event his heart stopped.

"He can't die now," Vertner said to me. "Where would we bury him?"

"Do you hear that music?"

Brother gave me a puzzled look, inasmuch as nobody was singing and we hadn't stopped talking long enough to turn on the radio. The oldest son, he's named after my father — Verdun Paul Woods Jr. — but we've never called him anything but Brother. We'd hooked up in Tallahassee — I drove from Tampa,

*See* **WOODS,** *page A-22*

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**I wish they could have seen the white faces of poverty in the Superdome or along the Mississippi Gulf Coast as clearly as they could see the blackness of poor folks in the 9th Ward or the blackness of the mayor who leads New Orleans. Then, maybe, they'd understand how little of this was about race and how much was about a more insidious, long-standing, unconscionable malfeasance of government officials.**

# Soundtrack of the storm is frightening and sad

**WOODS,** *from A-21*

he drove from Jacksonville — to make the circuitous trip north to go south.

The music I heard in my head had an epic sound, with lots of trumpets, trombones, maybe violins and French horns. You hear it in every disaster movie, building to crescendo as stunned victims take in the full measure of a catastrophe.

I started hearing the music in Dothan, Ala., which is not exactly on the way from here to there. As Katrina raged north, she'd wedged an oil platform under a key bridge in Mobile, Ala., wiped out the Mississippi coast from Pascagoula to Pearlington and shattered the span of Interstate 10 that crosses Lake Pontchartrain into New Orleans. So the only way to get where we were going was to angle up through Georgia and Alabama, go west to Jackson and a rendezvous with my brother Eric, then head down toward what was left of home.

I heard the music faintly when I saw the Louisiana "Sportsman's Paradise" license plate in a gas station on Highway 84 and listened to a woman with a distinct New Orleans drawl tell her child why the ATM wouldn't work for them ("Sugah, I think the water got into our bank"). By the time we reached the Wal-Mart Supercenter on Montgomery Highway to buy food and clothes for family, the music was blaring so loudly my head hurt.

The food shelves in this huge store were under siege nearly a week after the storm had passed. Maybe the people were panicked by impending shortages. Maybe, like the family in the gas station, they were running from my hometown. Maybe, like us, they were stocking up to help someone who had been hit.



POYNTER.ORG PHOTO

Keith Woods and his brother, Verdun Paul Woods Jr., known as Brother, made the difficult drive from Florida to the ruins of home in Louisiana.

We stopped in Jackson to give Eric and Liz food, water, money, encouragement. Just before we left, Liz asked if, when we found a place with electricity, we would post the names of her parents and her sister on the Internet. She hadn't heard from them in seven days.

"It doesn't look good," I told Brother.

The music came back.

## Always about race

"Are you a looter or a finder?"

I read the subject line and knew what was in the e-mail. A wave of messages had rolled in on Katrina's heels linking to the†same two pictures: A black man pulling a garbage bag full of loot, a white woman towing bread and other food behind her. The black man, one photo caption says, is a looter. The white woman, the other says, found the food she's pulling through the water. Television and print journalists had gotten swept up in the apocalyptic story of a city sinking into anarchy, and now they'd turned on themselves. Wasn't this evidence, many journalists wanted to know, of the media's bigotry?

The argument raged in my inbox. I deleted each one as it arrived.

It was Tuesday. Cheryl's 94-year-old grandmother (they called her Mama Dear) was trapped in her house, awash in rising, putrid water. Fats Domino was missing. People were dying in attics, on rooftops, on the roadsides and in the Superdome. What the hell did I care whether somebody messed up a caption?

That week, Slate's Jack Shafer wrote with glib, liberal superiority that the fear of being called racists cowed white journalists so much that they ignored the most obvious element of the story: that the people who stayed and were now, by the thousands, in harm's way, were overwhelmingly black. Thus, many journalists, their unexamined discomfort with the story's images outed by the widely circulated column, leapt upon the opportunity to add the race of New Orleans' victims to their stories.

I wondered if some even felt relieved to have permission finally to state the obvious.

I wish they'd waited for the water to go down low enough for the white people of St. Bernard Parish to start their sorrowful westward sojourn. I wish they'd waited until the Gulf of Mexico had retreated enough to reveal the devastation in Lower Plaquemines Parish and release the bodies of the white people drowned in Buras, Port Sulphur and Boothville and Venice — people who, just like the black people in New Orleans, stayed because they had no options or because they believed this storm, too, would turn, or because they were unwise or because they believed in God but not in Armageddon.

I wish they'd waited until they heard the white president of Washington Parish crying on the radio as he pleaded for help that hadn't come. I wish they'd seen the white president of Jefferson Parish crying on television because he thought help came too late. I wish they could have seen the white faces of poverty in the Superdome or along the Mississippi Gulf Coast as clearly as they could see the blackness of poor folks in the 9th Ward or the blackness of the mayor who leads New Orleans. Then, maybe, they'd understand how little of this was about race and how much was about a more insidious, long-standing, unconscionable malfeasance of government officials who must have felt secret glee as our eyes diverted from their criminal incompetence.

I know rage and racial suspicion. Every time I've cried since the end of August, those tears have been laced with the poisonous fear that we live in such a country where you can die of heat or hunger, drowning or dehydration — on national television — and no one will come to help if your skin is not white.

But I know more. I saw the white people waiting, hurting, dying. I knew they were there even when I didn't see them. I knew that America had also failed them.

As Brother and I neared Baton Rouge, a white woman called in to a radio station from Bogalusa, a devastated victim of Katrina in Washington Parish, just north of the city. They're crying racism in New Orleans, she told the host.

"Now the black people are going to get all the help and we won't get nothing," she said. "So I think we should set up a charity for white people."

*See* **WOODS,** *page A-24*


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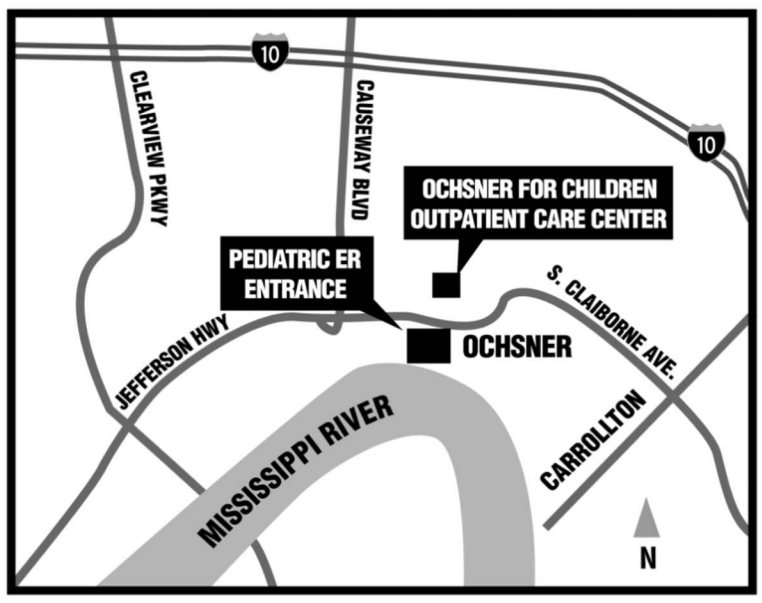
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# Hope is one survivor

WOODS, *from A-22*

## Lost and found

"Did you hear about Mama Dear?"

Lisa is on the other end of the phone, and I can't listen anymore. My father looks like death. My city is empty. It has been too much.

Our trip to Louisiana was mostly symbolic and bordered on an inconvenience for Lisa and her husband, who had other things to do than rescue her older brothers each time we got lost in the back roads of Opelousas. Everything we did to help fell short of finished. Everything we bought or donated felt pitifully inadequate. A week after the storm struck we celebrated Lisa's birthday, kissed my father goodbye, then headed home.

We drove back through Mississippi on the once-impassable Interstate 59. Katrina had come this way. In the darkness, the roadside landscape looked like it had been stomped by giants. A mile south of Poplarville, the trees on either side of the Interstate, many teetering dangerously above us, had been snapped in two, their pine essence hemorrhaging into the night air. On the other side of the highway, dozens of military jeeps, utility trucks and ambulances spoke solemnly of what they expected to find as they convoyed south.

For miles, we were the only ones on I-59. There were no road signs, no electricity, nothing to point the way home but headlights and memory. The music was back now — soft, saxophone sad, a dirge befitting the birthplace of jazz.

Slowly though, as the dead bobbed to the surface in New Orleans, the living emerged elsewhere. My uncles, aunts and cousins were with family in Houston, San Antonio and Baton Rouge. My friend Mario was in Franklin, La. One of my sister-in-law's brothers was in Arkansas, another in North Carolina. Two cousins had gone to Atlanta. Liz's parents and sister were alive in Baton Rouge. The missing reporter surfaced in Gulfport. Fats Domino was pulled from his yellow and black shotgun double in the sodden Lower 9th Ward.

Hope had survived.

Now, Lisa is on the phone, reminding me that this story is not over.

Mama Dear is dead.

She died on Sept. 14, Patrick's birthday. Her 7th Ward house had survived Katrina, but when the levees broke, the water rushed in, and it was nearly two days later that firefighters in a boat plucked her from there. They took her to the nearby Interstate 10 ramp, where she lay on an air mattress for 12 sweltering hours. An ambulance came on the third day and took her to the tarmac of Louis Armstrong airport, where doctors and nurses practiced medicine in the open air, their old and sick patients stacked on luggage carts. She was there for another 12 hours before an airplane came to take her to Houston.

What age and disease couldn't accomplish in 94 years, foolhardiness, dehydration and incompetence did in 16 days.

They buried her in a crypt in Houston just as cars began to flood Texas roads in panicked retreat from Hurricane Rita. She won't stay there, though. They'll bring her back home sometime after the madness recedes and the soldiers go away and, I suppose, when there are enough people around to lay her casket at her husband's side in New Orleans.

How does a city die?

How can it die when cars stream stubbornly back? Some surely come only to carry bleary-eyed family home to pick through the muck of their lives on the way to somewhere else. Some come only to lead a funeral cortege to grieve at the cemetery. But others will stay to rebuild, to pick up the sticks and bricks and trees and, in a few weeks, when it's All Souls Day, to tidy the graves they build above the ground in New Orleans so that no amount of water can totally erase the past upon which my hometown has always built its future.

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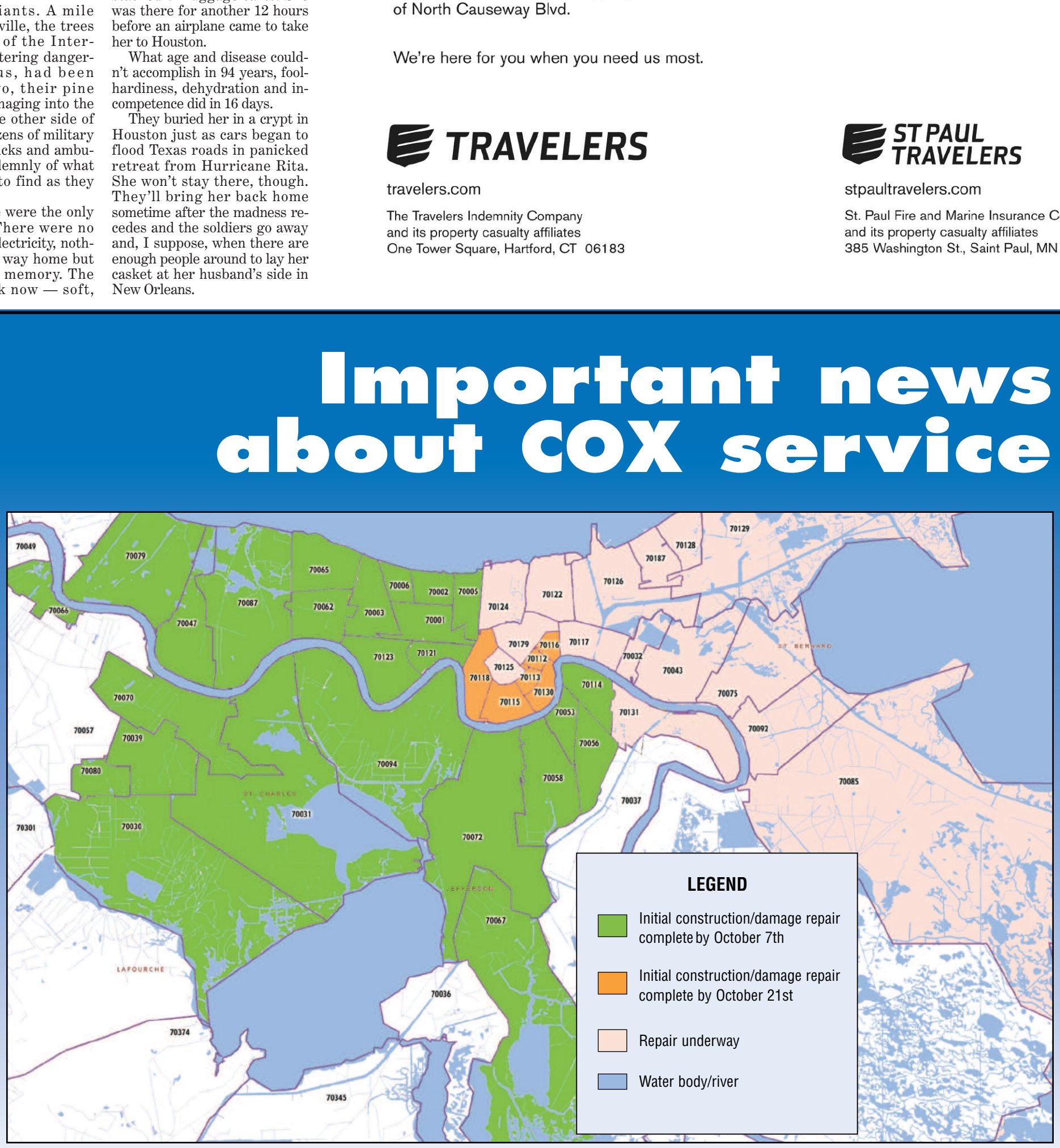
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# Big Apple braces for its own 'Big One'

## *Theoretical storm could swamp city*

**By Larry McShane**
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — It's coming, with skyscraper-rattling winds and a 30-foot storm surge that threatens to submerge Wall Street, flood the subways and turn Coney Island into a water park.

And when it arrives, more than 3 million New Yorkers — more than six times the population of New Orleans — could be forced to evacuate by the first major hurricane to hit the city since 1938.

A killer storm in the nation's largest city, with flooding in all five boroughs, inaccessible highways and airports, and enormous traffic jams, would require an unprecedented response. After the summer of Katrina and Rita, New Yorkers are wondering if the city could handle such a challenge.

"The plan now is full of technical and other management flaws," said state Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, who chairs a committee investigating the city's planned response. "There's a basic bottom line: We are incredibly vulnerable, and our leaders are patting us on the head saying, 'There, there. Trust us.' "

A recent WNBC-TV/Marist Poll indicated that 62 percent of New Yorkers felt it was not possible to evacuate their neighborhoods.

Not true, city emergency officials say. New York is ready to respond to hurricane risks, and the city dispatched staffers to New Orleans and Texas in hopes of learning from Katrina and Rita.

"There's a lot of criticism and public debate, but our plan is workable and we're prepared," said Jarrod Bernstein, spokesman for New York City's Office of Emergency Management.

### The Long Island Express

A major hurricane barrels into New York City about once every 90 years. The most recent big blow came with the 1938 Long Island Express, which killed 700 people, about 600 in New England, and left 63,000 people homeless.

"If it happened before, it will happen again," said hurricane expert Nicholas Coch, a Queens College professor of coastal geology.

The city's current response plan for a Category 4 storm, which would bring 155-mph winds, would handle 3.3 million evacuees and provide shelter for as many as 800,000 displaced people, Bernstein said.

But the OEM estimated it would take nearly 18 hours to evacuate just 1 million people.

Coch mentioned another rarely discussed factor: A Northern hurricane moves typically at 34 mph, about triple the speed of a Southern storm. Though that could mean less rainfall, it would also mean less time to react.

A big blast would come with a storm surge of 30 feet, turning the water into "a giant bulldozer sweeping away everything in its path," according to OEM's "Hurricanes and New York City."

In fact, an 1821 hurricane lifted the tide 13 feet in an hour, with the East and Hudson rivers converging over lower Manhattan as far north as Canal Street.

### A sitting duck

In today's downtown, the FDR Drive, One Police Plaza and City Hall are all in the flood zone for a major hurricane making landfall just south of the city. Wall Street would be under water. The South Street Seaport would become more sea, less port.

To avert traffic jams, officials would evacuate from the coasts inward and use mass transportation as much as possible.

Unlike New Orleans, the city has no land below sea level. But it is particularly vulnerable because of its location: tucked in a bend between the New Jersey and Long Island coastlines, at a right angle to incoming storms. That could turn even a Category 2 hurricane into a major nightmare.

Brodsky is critical of OEM's plan to move evacuees in two shifts. Initially, evacuees would travel to one of 23 reception centers across the five boroughs. Only then would they board a bus or van for transportation to an evacuation center.

And that is if New Yorkers even show up. Convincing them about the dangers of a hurricane on the Hudson is a major part of the process.

"Most New Yorkers," Coch said, "think hurricanes only occur in places with palm trees."

# Miss. will pay fishers to rehabilitate state oyster reefs

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources will pay oyster fishers to help remove debris and rehabilitate oyster reefs heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29.

The DMR will use money it received last year after Hurricane Ivan to pay fishers for the oyster reefs project. No project costs were announced.

DMR officials said they hope the money will be of some help to fishers who are now struggling after losing at least one complete oyster season, which typically runs from September to April or May.

"This is a short-term solution to a long-term problem," DMR spokesman Joe Jewell said. "I don't know how long it will take before we run out of money."

As of Tuesday, more than 30 fishers had called to sign up for the project and officials expect more.Jewell said DMR wants to work with Mississippi oyster harvesters who have held an oyster license within the last two years and will pay a daily wage per boat for an eight-hour day.

Initial assessments of the oyster reefs indicated heavy scouring where the rapidly retreating storm surge cut gullies and dropped building debris.

Investigators found very few live oysters. Though officials are not anticipating opening the season this year, they are cautiously optimistic about the resurgence of the oyster industry.

"Oysters have a tremendous ability to reproduce," said Dale Diaz, a DMR official. "A few oysters can quickly make a lot of oysters."




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The road back will be long, and at times seem endless; however, 84 Lumber is committed to helping the region rebuild through a steady supply of quality building materials and by continuing to be active in generating funds for Hurricane Katrina Relief through our Building Hope initiative.




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**"It's about building community and bringing together a very broad spectrum of the African-American community."**

ROBERT ALLEN, University of California at Berkeley professor

# After 10 years, black nation within a nation to gather again

## *Millions More Movement to march on Washington*

**By Jonathan Tilove**
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON – In 1995, the racially polarized reaction to the O.J. Simpson murder trial verdict presaged the enormous gathering on the National Mall for the Million Man March. Ten years later, Hurricane Katrina and its stark reminder of the distinctly different conditions many black people endure have set the stage for the Millions More Movement and its commemorative march on the mall Oct. 15.

Simpson, Katrina and the continuing history of black mass gatherings are reminders of how time and circumstance have produced a collective identity, forged by crisis, that still sets black America apart. More than anything else, the gatherings in 1995 and again this year are a way to recognize that nation within a nation.

"It's a coming together of who we are, affirming blackness and black culture, and affirming that African-Americans have survived in this society, despite a long history of oppression and hardship," said Robert Allen, professor of African-American studies at the University of California at Berkeley. "It's about building community and bringing together a very broad spectrum of the African-American community."

Who would have imagined in 1963, when the Rev. Martin Luther King's March on Washington brought 250,000 people to the mall to demand an end to legal segregation, that three decades later a march called by Louis Farrakhan of the black nationalist Nation of Islam would draw a far larger crowd and that it would be composed almost exclusively of African-American men around an agenda of introspection and atonement?

The 1995 event was by far the largest African-American public gathering in history. Another decade later, black Americans again plan to assemble on the mall to express the unity of a people who, as Farrakhan puts it, are "slipping further behind."

A strong collective identity is central to the African-American psyche and shows no signs of dimming with time, said University of Chicago political scientist Michael Dawson, an expert on black political opinion. No group in America is as politically cohesive.

"One of the themes throughout African-American history, going back to before the Civil War, is many African-Americans viewing themselves as a nation, or a nationality, within the borders of the United States," Dawson said.

And why not?

Schools are more segregated than a decade ago, according to the Harvard Civil Rights Project. The rise of the black middle class has been accompanied by the rise of the black suburb. "Ghetto" has a throwback air about it, but well describes deeply poor black neighborhoods like the Lower 9th Ward, where black English rules and African-influenced first names mark that this is not Jacob-and-Emily America. Prison is a rite of passage for many black men.

The enormous gap between black and white wealth has grown, as black people actually lost wealth between 1996 and 2002, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

"We're talking about nearly 40 million (black) people in this country. Forty million people in a land who don't have serious power or economics. It's obscene," said Haki Madhubuti, a Chicago poet, publisher and educator who with Maulana Karenga edited the commemorative volume "Million Man March/Day of Absence."

Black people get their information from the usual sources, but also from black media, at the barbershop, in church, or, as in a recent case, at a shelter for Katrina evacuees in Charlotte, N.C., where Farrakhan said he had "heard from a very reliable source" that a levee in a New Orleans "may have been blown up, so that the water would destroy the black part of town, and where the whites lived, it would be dry." Is that reckless, paranoid demagoguery or reasonable suspicion, given all that's come before?

Ten years ago it was the image of black people reacting with delight to the acquittal of Simpson that shocked many white people. How, they wondered, could so many black people watch the same events unfold and react so differently to the outcome?

Then came Katrina.

According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press of 1,000 adults, including an oversample of African-Americans, interviewed Sept. 6 and 7, 66 percent of black people, but only 17 percent of white people, thought the government would have responded faster if most of the hurricane's victims had been white. For 71 percent of black people, but only 32 percent of white people, Katrina proved that racial inequality was still a major problem.

"The racism that I saw in New Orleans, the do-nothing attitude in the treatment of those who were there, it takes me back to the early days of racism," said Joseph Dulin, principal of an Ann Arbor, Mich., alternative high school. "People who say it wasn't anything racist, well, you have to have been a victim to feel these things, to know these things."

According to the Pew survey, 22 percent of white people said they had a close friend or relative directly affected by Katrina. Forty-three percent of black people said they had that first-hand connection.

"Katrina is to black people what 9/11 was to white people," said Raymond Winbush, director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, who compares the Oct. 15 march to a national organizational meeting in the wake of a great tragedy. "This is going to be another watershed moment in black American history."

The Million Man March inspired countless acts of community building by those who went home determined to do more for their people. Dulin returned to Ann Arbor and founded National African American Parent Involvement Day. Richard Shorter of West Orange, N.J., started the Boys to Men mentorship program at St. Mark's AME Church in East Orange.

But then and now, some were disappointed that the 1995 event asked more of black men than of America.

John Bracey Jr. was a 22-year-old organizer with the Congress of Racial Equality in Chicago when he went to the 1963 March on Washington. He is now a scholar of black nationalism at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"Why would you go all that way to Washington to blame everything on yourself?" Bracey recalled asking students who made the trek in 1995. Of this month's event, he said, "Someone is supposed to nail 10 theses on the White House door."

In fact, the Millions More Movement has a 10-point agenda under the headings of unity, spiritual values, education, economic development, political power, reparations, the prison-industrial complex, health, artistic/cultural development and peace.

Farrakhan, though, has proved a mercurial leader. In the years since the Million Man March, he has pursued alliances with the fringe white political leader Lyndon LaRouche, with Sun Myung Moon and his conservative Unification Church, and with the Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi.

Still, his position outside the mainstream, as a man uncompromised by having to make accommodations with white America, may help him rally black Americans under the banner of racial solidarity.

"What we're talking about with modern black nationalism is a feeling or spirit or group identity, that because of skin color, because of background, black people are undervalued or oppressed," said William Van Deburg, a professor of Afro-American studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and the author of "Modern Black Nationalism." This march, like the last one, is about "affirming blackness."

And beyond that?

"What's become more obvious to me is that we're not a monolithic group of people," said Shorter, the real estate appraiser from West Orange, N.J. "I'm tired of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton and the Congressional Black Caucus. I ain't into federal programs.

"What's that gotten us in New Orleans and Newark and East Orange and Milwaukee?"

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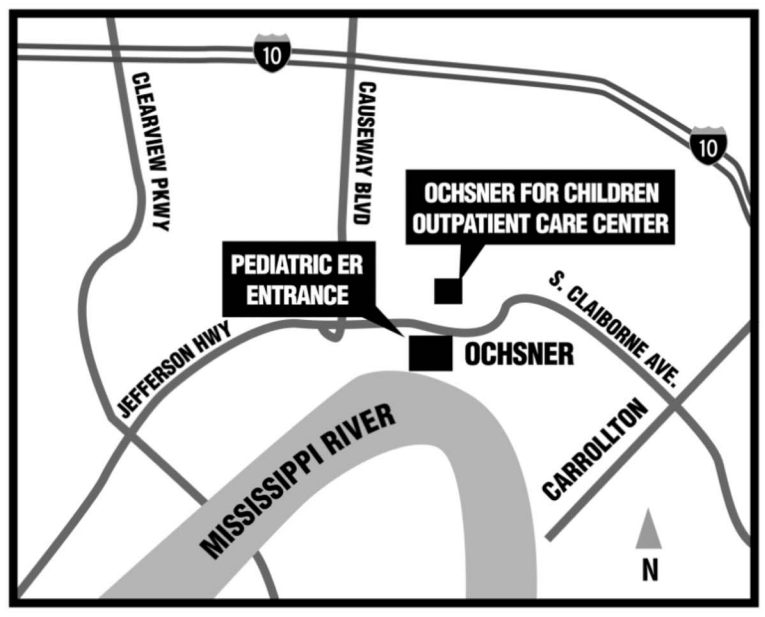
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NATIONAL

# Some Senate Demos defend Miers from GOP flak

*Still, that doesn't mean they'll vote for high court nominee*

**By Jesse J. Holland**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON – Some Senate Democrats are jumping in the middle of a Republican fray to defend Harriet Miers from conservative criticism that she isn't qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

That doesn't mean Democrats will vote to approve President Bush's longtime confidante for the high court or give her an easy time at a Senate confirmation hearing.

Behind the scenes, a half-dozen aides to Senate Democrats - speaking on condition of anonymity to protect their jobs - admit that they are enjoying watching the GOP's right wing beat up the president. None will say whether their bosses feel the same way - or might be insincere when they heap praise on Miers and call her critics unfair.

"All the trashing is coming from the right wing of the Republican Party," Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said in a conference call with reporters. "I really think it's despicable what they're doing."

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., accused critics of Miers' nomination of being "incredibly sexist."

"They're saying a woman who was one of the first to head up a major law firm with over 400 lawyers doesn't have intellectual heft," Mikulski said. "I find this a double standard."

More unusual is the outright praise from some Democrats for the person who would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a moderate vote on abortion, affirmative action and other close rulings.



AP FILE PHOTO

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., right, walks out of his office with U.S. Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. Galling to many conservatives is that Reid recommended that Bush nominate Miers and has praised her several times since then.

"I like what I hear so far," said Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark.

Many conservatives don't. Several columnists have derided Bush's decision, and some groups have called on the president to withdraw her name. Bush insists that Miers is worthy, citing her 35-year legal career and her service in city and state government as well as the White House.

"When she goes before the Senate, I am confident that all Americans will see what I see every day: Harriet Miers is a woman of intelligence, strength and conviction," the president said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "And when she is confirmed by the Senate, I am confident that she will leave a lasting mark on the Supreme Court and will be a justice who makes all Americans proud."

There are 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats and one independent senator, Jim Jeffords of Vermont. If six conservative Republicans vote against Miers, a united Democratic caucus along with Jeffords could defeat her nomination.

Galling to many conservatives is that Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada recommended that Bush nominate Miers and has praised her several times since then, without promising to vote for her.

The White House enlisted many conservative leaders to testify that Miers would be a reliable vote. Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Senate Judiciary Committee's senior Democrat, tried to counter that assurance when he asserted that Miers pledged to be independent when they discussed her nomination.

"I said, 'Would you disavow people who send out assurances that they know how you're going to vote?' She said, 'Absolutely,'" said Leahy. "She said, 'I will be my own person, I will be independent. Nobody has the authority or right or ability to tell how I'm going to vote.'"

Democrats are preparing to blanket the White House with document requests to help flesh out Miers' judicial philosophy. However, her work there falls under executive privilege or lawyer-client privilege.

Bush aides have anticipated such requests. While Miers will answer senators' questions, the White House will not provide "confidential deliberative documents" relating to work for the president, spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Democrats are aligning themselves with demands by conservatives that Miers be forthcoming at her confirmation hearings. Last month, the court's new chief justice, John Roberts, had solid support from conservatives when he declined to answer many questions from Democrats. This time, Democrats hope Miers will feel pressured to be more open.

"The idea that Americans shouldn't know what the judicial philosophy of the nominee to this powerful, powerful position is, is wearing thin with the American people, whether they be liberal, conservative or moderate," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.


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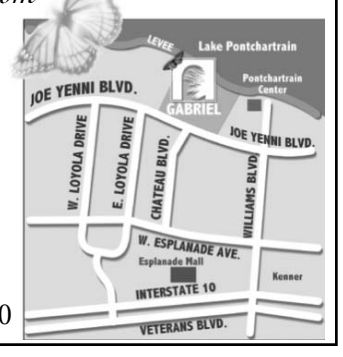
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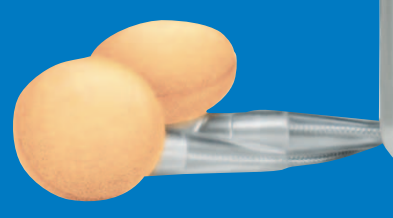




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# Most Americans bound for vast waist land

## *Study shows we get fatter over long haul*

**By Alex Dominguez**
Associated Press writer

BALTIMORE — Just when we thought we couldn't get any fatter, a new study that followed Americans for three decades suggests that over the long haul, 9 out of 10 men and 7 out of 10 women will become overweight.

Even if you are one of the lucky few who made it to middle age without getting fat, don't congratulate yourself — keep watching that waistline.

Half of the men and women in the study who had made it well into adulthood without a weight problem ultimately became overweight. A third of those women and a quarter of the men became obese.

"You cannot become complacent, because you are at risk of becoming overweight," said Ramachandran Vasan, an associate professor of medicine at Boston University and the study's lead author.

He and other researchers studied data gathered from 4,000 white adults over 30 years. Participants were between the ages of 30 and 59 at the start, and were examined every four years. By the end of the study, more than 1 in 3 had become obese.

The study defined obesity as a body mass index, which is a commonly used height and weight comparison, of more than 30.

The findings, published Tuesday in the Annals of Internal Medicine, show obesity may be a greater problem than indicated by studies that look at a cross-section of the population at one point in time. Those so-called "snapshots" of obesity have found about 6 in 10 are overweight and about 1 in 3 are obese, Vasan said.

The findings also re-emphasize that people must continually watch their weight, Vasan said.

The research subjects were the children of participants in the long-running and often-cited Framingham Heart Study, which has been following the health of generations of Massachusetts residents.

Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which supported the study, said the findings show "we could have an even more serious degree of overweight and obesity over the next few decades."

Susan Bartlett, an assistant professor of medicine and an obesity researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, said the study was one of the first to look at the risk of becoming overweight.

"The results are pretty sobering, really," said Bartlett, who was not involved in the research.

While the health risks of being obese are much more severe than being overweight, those who are overweight are much more likely to go on to become obese, Bartlett said.

The study shows Americans live in an "environment in which it's hard not to become overweight or obese. Unless people actively work against that, that's what's most likely to happen to them."

Obesity raises the risk of heart disease, some cancers, diabetes and arthritis, and being overweight raises blood pressure and cholesterol, which in turn can raise the risk of heart disease.

The number of deaths linked to obesity has been heavily debated. Earlier this year the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said obesity caused only about 25,814 deaths annually in the United States — far fewer than the 365,000 deaths the agency had earlier reported. Other scientists have disagreed with the revised conclusion, while organizations representing the food and restaurant industry think weight-related ills have been overstated.

As for the Framingham study, Mark Vander Weg, a Mayo Clinic psychologist who researches obesity but was not involved in the study, said it is one of a few to track a group of individuals over an extended period.

"What's particularly concerning is that these results actually may underestimate the risk of becoming overweight or obese among the general population" because minorities, who are at increased risk for obesity, were not included in the study, Vander Weg said.

Recent trends also suggest that people now coming into middle age may be even more likely to become overweight or obese than those who were studied, Vander Weg said.

While more studies that include more diverse populations are needed, he said, the results "add to a growing body of evidence that makes it increasingly apparent that more effective prevention and treatment strategies are urgently needed."

# Kidney donation swap shows promise in study

## *Recipients line up friends to donate*

**By Carla K. Johnson**
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Researchers are reporting a high success rate for a novel kidney swap program that proponents say could someday ease the shortage of transplant organs in the United States.

Most kidney transplants use organs taken from cadavers. But doctors prefer using organs from live donors, because the success rates are higher.

In a live-donor practice used increasingly in the United States over the past few years, a patient who needs a kidney is matched with a compatible stranger; in return, the patient must line up a friend or relative willing to donate an organ to a stranger, too.

The practice is particularly useful in cases in which a kidney patient's friends or relatives are willing to donate an organ to their loved one but are not a suitable match.

In the first U.S. success-rate study of what are called "kidney paired donations," Johns Hopkins University researchers tracked 22 patients who received kidneys from living strangers.

Of the 22 transplants, only one failed, because of clotting problems unrelated to organ rejection. That patient eventually received a kidney from a dead donor. Four patients also had treatable immune-system reactions. There were no deaths.

The patients were followed, on average, for 13 months, although two were followed only one month.

The success rates were comparable to other live-donor transplant rates, said study co-author Dr. Robert Montgomery, director of Johns Hopkins' Comprehensive Transplant Center. The university's kidney-swap program began in 2001.

The study appears in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

More than 63,000 U.S. patients are awaiting a kidney transplant, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. In 2004, 3,897 patients died while waiting for a kidney.

Though the kidney swap idea has been around almost 20 years, only 64 U.S. patients have received a kidney transplant through a paired exchange, according to UNOS.

But "the momentum is increasing for a national program," Montgomery said. At a conference in March, he and other specialists gathered in Chicago to develop a blueprint for a national paired organ exchange.

Proponents hope a nationwide system could help relieve the organ shortage and cut costs by getting people off dialysis.

But such swaps involve logistical and ethical problems.

Dr. Lainie Ross of the University of Chicago, who with her colleagues wrote a paper in 1997 laying out the ethical guidelines followed by Johns Hopkins, praised the research but said there are still unknowns, such as how the donor and recipient will fare emotionally.

A 2004 Korean study also saw successful kidney transplants using the swap strategy.


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# Robot vehicles rumble across desert

## *Driverless technology tested on the sand*

**By Alicia Chang**
AP science writer

PRIMM, NEV. — A customized Volkswagen SUV created by Stanford University on Saturday became the first driverless vehicle to cross the finish line of a $2 million Pentagon-sponsored robot race across the rugged Mojave Desert.

The race announcer did not immediately declare a winner because 22 out of the 23 robots left the starting line at staggered times at dawn, racing against the clock rather than each other. As the Volkswagen robot dubbed "Stanley" crossed the finish line, a group of Stanford engineers and scientists erupted into cheers.

Four other robots remained on the course.

Last year's much-hyped inaugural robot race ended without a winner when all the self-navigating vehicles broke down shortly after leaving the starting gate. Sandstorm, a customized Humvee by Carnegie Mellon University, chugged the farthest at 7 1/2 miles.

Of the 23 robots that competed Saturday, 15 vehicles failed to navigate the entire 132-mile course, but most still managed to beat Sandstorm's mileage last year.

The Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, plans to award $2 million to the first vehicle to cover the race in less than 10 hours. The taxpayer-funded race was intended to spur innovation and development of remote control-free robots that could be used in the battlefield.

Stanley finished the course in less than 7 1/2 hours.

The unmanned vehicles must use their computer brains and sensing devices to follow a programmed route and avoid hitting obstacles that may doom their chances.

Vehicles have to drive on rough, winding desert roads and dry lake beds filled with overhanging brush and man-made obstacles. The machines also must traverse a narrow 1.3-mile mountain pass with a steep drop-off and go through three tunnels designed to knock out their GPS signals.

This year's field was more competitive. Even before Saturday's race, many teams tested their vehicles in parts of the Southwest desert under race-like conditions including some that practiced on last year's course from Barstow, Calif., to Primm.

The vehicles were tricked out with the latest sensors, lasers, cameras and radar that feed information to several onboard computers. This helps vehicles make intelligent decisions such as distinguishing a dangerous boulder from a tumbleweed and calculating whether a chasm is too deep to cross.

Cornell University's military light strike vehicle traveled about 20 miles when it failed to cross a bridge. Team members were trying to figure out what went wrong.

"We're at a loss," said Ephrahim Garcia, a Cornell mechanical engineer. "It's a disappointment."

The so-called Grand Challenge race is part of the Pentagon's effort to cut the risk of casualties by fulfilling a congressional mandate to have a third of all military ground vehicles unmanned by 2015.

The military currently has a small fleet of autonomous ground vehicles stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the machines are remotely controlled by a soldier who usually rides in the same convoy. The Pentagon wants to eliminate the human factor and use self-thinking robotic vehicles to ferry supplies in war zones.

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# Iraq strategy helping insurgency, some say

## *Analysts say attacks likely to continue*

**By Tyler Marshall and Louise Roug**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Senior U.S. officials have begun to question a key presumption of American strategy in Iraq: that establishing democracy there can erode and ultimately eradicate the insurgency that grips the country.

The expectation that political progress would bring stability has been fundamental to the Bush administration's approach to rebuilding Iraq, as well as a central theme of White House rhetoric to convince the American public that its policy in Iraq remains on course.

But within the past two months, U.S. analysts with access to classified intelligence data have started to challenge this precept, noting what they termed a "significant and disturbing disconnect" between apparent advances on the political front and any progress in reducing insurgent attacks.

Now, with Saturday's constitutional referendum looming as an event more likely to divide than unify the country, others within the Bush administration have concluded that the quest for democracy in Iraq, at least in its current form, actually could strengthen the insurgency.

The commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, Army Gen. George Casey, has acknowledged that such a scenario was possible, while officials elsewhere in the administration, all of whom declined to be identified because of the subject's sensitivity, said they shared similar concerns about the referendum.

Iraq's Sunni Arabs, who are thought to make up the core of the nation's insurgency, are bitterly opposed to a constitution drafted mainly by the country's majority Shiite Muslim sect and ethnic Kurds. Yet by all indications, they will fail to muster enough "no" votes to defeat it.

"It could make people on the fence a little more angry or (make them) come off the fence," said a senior U.S. official who requested anonymity.

A growing number of experts outside the Bush administration and in Iraq say they agree with such assessments.

"If the constitution passes in a nonamicable way, the violence will increase," said Ali Dabbagh, an Iraqi National Assembly member considered close to Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafari.

The White House consistently has linked the building of democracy in Iraq and in the broader Middle East with the defeat of the insurgency there.

President Bush repeated that assertion Thursday in a major policy address to the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, declaring: "If the peoples of that region (the Middle East) are permitted to choose their own destiny and advance by their own energy and by their participation as free men and women, then the extremists will be marginalized and the flow of violent radicalism to the rest of the world will slow and eventually end."

Vice President Dick Cheney has put it more succinctly. "I think ... we will, in fact, succeed in getting democracy established in Iraq, and I think when we do, that will be the end of the insurgency," he said in a CNN interview in June.

Those comments echo a belief put forward earlier this year by the Pentagon that U.S. forces could not defeat the insurgency through military might alone, but that success depended on redeploying troops to protect the nascent democratic process. That process, commanders said, together with military force, eventually would smother the violence.

Despite what Bush on Thursday called "incredible political progress" in Iraq since Saddam Hussein's fall two years ago, the Iraqi insurgency has grown in strength and sophistication. From about 5,000 largely disaffected Saddam loyalists using leftover Iraqi army equipment in late 2003, it has mushroomed into a disparate yet potent force of as many as 20,000 equipped with explosives capable of knocking out even heavily armored U.S. military vehicles.

"The surface political process has stumbled forward, but the insurgency came up and kind of stayed that way," said one U.S. government analyst with access to classified intelligence reports. The analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity while discussing intelligence information, indicated that initial evidence of the disconnect first began to surface in the spring — following Iraq's first national elections Jan. 30 — and gradually has hardened since.

Doubts about such a central pillar of the administration's Iraq policy come at an awkward time for the White House, with opinion polls indicating eroding public confidence in both in Bush as a leader and about his handling of the Iraq war. In recent days, Bush, Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have tried to shore up public support for staying in Iraq.

But Middle East experts say they have found little correlation between Iraq's emerging democracy and the strength of the insurgency.

"The democratic process as it has worked so far has certainly done nothing to undermine the insurgency," said Nathan Brown, a scholar on Middle East political reform at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

Robert Malley, one of the authors of a report issued in September by the International Crisis Group that concluded approval of the constitution could make things worse, called the administration's Iraq policy "a case study of pinning too much hope on an electoral process without doing so much of the other work."

Success in Iraq "is not about democracy or nondemocracy, it's about reaching consensus on a political pact that all parties agree to," said Malley, a onetime special assistant to former President Clinton for Arab-Israeli affairs. "If they don't agree, the political process won't help."

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad reportedly is trying to broker 11th-hour changes in the draft to ease Sunni concerns, but even if he succeeds, the impact of such a concession would not be immediately clear, analysts said.

A Western diplomat in Baghdad who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic sensitivity said that a government unable to provide its people with basic services such as security, electricity, potable water and jobs also commands little loyalty.

With the divisive constitutional referendum only a week away, the first of several of Saddam's trials due to begin later this month and the prospect that December elections will produce a Shiite-dominated Parliament, events in the coming months could act only to further distance Sunni Arabs from Iraq's emerging democratic state, analysts believe.

Sunnis, largely excluded from crucial negotiations on the constitution that took place this summer, see the draft as a document rigged against their interests.

They fear, for example, that blunt language outlawing Saddam's Sunni-dominated Baathist Party could be used to block Sunni public sector employment.

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# Iraq heightens security as referendum nears

## *Two U.S. soldiers killed in fighting*

**By Qassim Abdul-Zahra**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Iraq announced a curfew, weapons ban, border closings and other security measures Saturday to clamp down ahead of next weekend's key constitutional referendum and prevent insurgent attacks. Sunni Arabs geared up their campaign to defeat the measure at the polls.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed in fighting in western Iraq, bringing to eight the number of American casualties in a series of offensives the military has launched to put down militants before the Oct. 15 vote.

In Baghdad, a suicide attacker detonated a car full of explosives at two police vehicles forming a checkpoint, killing at least five police officers and wounding 20 people, including six civilians.

It was the sort of attack Iraqi security forces are hoping to avert with a ban on using vehicles on voting day — a step taken during parliamentary elections in January. Sunni-led insurgents have vowed to wreck the referendum with a wave of attacks.

"We will protect those who say yes and those who say no," Interior Minister Bayan Jabr told reporters in Baghdad. "We have countermeasures against all terrorist actions, and you will see tens of thousands of Iraqi security forces deployed in Baghdad and the provinces."

On Thursday — two days ahead of the vote — a nationwide nighttime curfew will begin and nobody will be able to carry weapons in public, even if they're licensed, Jabr said. On Friday evening, police will bar travel between provinces. International borders, airports and ports also will be closed, but Jabr did not say when that step would begin.

He acknowledged problems with security in Iraq's western province of Anbar, the heartland of the insurgency. In the provincial capital of Ramadi, only 1,000 of the city's 6,500-member police force were willing to come to work, Jabr said. He said help from powerful local tribes was needed to protect polling stations, and the Iraqi military would have to be responsible for security.

The referendum has divided Iraqis, with leaders of the Shiite Muslim majority and Kurds supporting the constitution and Sunni Arabs opposing it, saying it will fragment Iraq. Sunnis can defeat the charter if they garner a two-thirds "no" vote in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces.

A delegation from the Arab League arrived Saturday in Iraq to lay the groundwork for an Iraqi "reconciliation conference" it hopes to hold after the vote. It was the first time the pan-Arab organization has tried to take a direct role in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

"The situation is so tense there is a threat looming in the air about civil war that could erupt at any moment, although some people would say that it is already there," Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa warned in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. radio on Saturday.

But the organization has gotten a cold reception from some Shiite leaders in the government, resentful over what they see as the predominantly Sunni league's bias in favor of the minority in Iraq.

Meanwhile, all sides were stepping up their campaigns for and against the constitution. Leaders of the top Sunni political factions met in Baghdad to plan how to rally their followers in the "no" vote.

In Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, the Iraqi Islamic Party passed out copies of the constitution to worshippers at a Sunni mosque and urged them to go to the polls to reject it.

In western Iraq, U.S. troops continued their four-day-old Operation River Gate, a sweep of several towns along the Euphrates River valley, one of two offensives launched last week in Anbar province against insurgents.

The two U.S. soldiers were killed Friday by small-arms fire near the town of Haqlaniyah during the River Bend operation.

Six other U.S. service members have been killed in past days in River Bend and the second operation, Iron Fist, which ended Thursday night further upriver near the Syrian border. At least 1,952 U.S. service members have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

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WORLD

# Gaza border security negotiations progress

## *Palestinians pushing for prisoners' release*

**By Josef Federman**
Associated Press writer

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinians were moving toward agreement on new security arrangements for Gaza's border with Egypt, officials from both sides said Saturday, a deal that could allow Palestinian residents of the coastal strip relatively free movement for the first time.

The signs of progress came days before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas were to meet for the first time since Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Also Saturday, the Palestinians broke ground on their first major development project in Gaza since the withdrawal: a $100 million complex that will provide housing for 25,000 people. The development, financed by the United Arab Emirates, was being built on the former Jewish settlement of Morag and was expected to take two years to complete.

A border deal would mark a significant breakthrough. Before completing its withdrawal last month, Israel closed the Rafah border terminal, Gaza's main gateway to the outside world. The Palestinians say reopening the border is vital for Gaza's devastated economy.

A deal to reopen the terminal will have to address Israel's security concerns. Israel, which used to operate Rafah, fears that militants and weapons will reach Gaza more easily without Israeli inspectors.

This concern was underscored in the days following the Israeli withdrawal. Border control broke down and thousands of Palestinians crossed freely in and out of Egypt without any security checks. With few exceptions, Palestinians have been barred from traveling to Egypt since order was restored.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom also said Saturday that Egypt is not doing enough to stop the flow of weapons into Gaza and that anti-tank rockets and shoulder-held missiles have reached the area.

"There is no doubt that the situation has improved, compared to the first days, but we still see a relatively free movement (of weapons)," he told Israel Radio.

Egypt and Israel negotiated a security arrangement, including the deployment of 750 Egyptian border guards, ahead of the Gaza pullout.

Under a compromise proposal brokered by international mediator James Wolfensohn, Palestinian travelers and exports leaving Gaza would go through Rafah, with foreign inspectors supervising the traffic.

Incoming goods would be rerouted through Kerem Shalom, an Israeli-run inspection point in the area where Gaza, Egypt and Israel converge.

Wolfensohn briefed Abbas on the negotiations Friday and told him Israel agreed in principle to the presence of European inspectors, said a Palestinian official who participated in the talks.

Wolfensohn told Abbas he hopes to wrap up a Rafah deal by the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in early November, the Palestinian official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Wolfensohn last week led a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian officials who set up subcommittees on customs and security. "We are going in a positive direction," he said.

A senior Israeli official said Israel is open to the idea of foreign monitors on the border and the Wolfensohn plan is "one of the options" under consideration. Israel wants to have access to the terminal's computers to monitor who is entering and leaving Gaza, the official said.

Sharon was to meet with top officials today to finalize the Israeli position on the border issue before meeting with Abbas, the official said, declining to be identified because of government rules.

Abbas and Sharon were expected to meet Tuesday, but the date wasn't certain. Both sides have said it's better not to hold the meeting at all than to have it fail.

Despite progress on the border issue, the two sides appeared deadlocked on other areas. The Palestinians were pushing for the release of some of the more than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and an Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank towns.

Israel wants Abbas to take tougher action against militant groups. Abbas has refused to use force to disarm the groups, preferring instead to negotiate with them, though he recently imposed a ban on public displays of weapons in Gaza. Militants repeatedly have flouted the ban.


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WORLD

# How long Latin America will be Catholic?

*Protestants make inroads*

**By Nicole Winfield**
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — A senior Brazilian cardinal on Saturday lamented the rapid growth of Protestant movements in Latin America and wondered aloud how much longer the continent could be called Roman Catholic.

The comments by Cardinal Claudio Hummes to the Synod of Bishops reflected increasing concern in the church about the competition for souls in Latin America and Africa.

Hummes cited Brazilian government and church statistics that found that Brazil's Catholics, who represented about 90 percent of the country's population during the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council, had fallen to 83 percent in 1991 and 67 percent today.

At the same time, for every Catholic priest in Brazil, there are now two Protestant ministers, he said, according to a summary of his remarks released by the Vatican.

"We ask ourselves with anxiety: How much longer will Brazil be a Catholic country?" Hummes said. "Many indications say the same is true for all of Latin America, and also here we ask ourselves: How long will Latin America be a Catholic continent?"

Pope Benedict XVI has spoken out on a few occasions about the threats to the Catholic faith posed by Protestant groups, including on the first day of the conclave that elected him pope.

During a homily April 18 in which he denounced the "dictatorship of relativism" in the world, he cited the groups as well as Marxism, liberalism, atheism and agnosticism as threats to the fundamental truths of the church.

More recently, in a speech to priests in northern Italy, the pope lamented that Protestants were attracting Africans looking for religion beyond their traditional faiths and "present themselves as the best, the simplest and the most accommodating form of Christianity."

During Saturday's discussions, several bishops also spoke of the plight of Christians living in some Muslim countries. Monsignor Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Ethiopia drew applause after he urged bishops in Muslim countries to pay particular care to Christian migrants who leave their homes in search of work.

"They are forced to go to these Muslim countries because of the poverty of their own countries, and because the doors of other Christian countries are closed to them," he said.

The Oct. 2-23 synod continues on Monday.

# Land mine in Afghanistan kills U.S. soldier on patrol

*Toll in nation reaches 200 since invasion*

**By Daniel Cooney**
Associated Press writer

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — A U.S. soldier was killed after stepping on a land mine while patrolling in southern Afghanistan, the military said Saturday, bringing to 200 the number of American troops slain here since the Taliban was ousted in 2001.

The soldier was part of an offensive patrol in a part of Helmand province that has been wracked by rebel violence recently, a military statement said.

U.S. military spokeswoman Sgt. Marina Evans said it was not immediately known whether the mine had been recently laid and was meant as an attack on the patrol or whether it was one of thousands of mines left over from a quarter-century of war.

"It's a sad day any time a comrade dies in this ongoing struggle," Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling, a deputy commander of the U.S.-led coalition, said in the statement.

"The pain of the loss is tempered only by the knowledge that his efforts and sacrifice have brought closer the day when the growing democracy in Afghanistan removes the terrorists from this country forever," he said. "While we mourn this loss, we will continue to work to ensure that Afghanistan remains a stable democracy."

The soldier's name was withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

This year has been the deadliest yet for the 21,000-strong U.S.-led coalition force. Fighting escalated sharply ahead of Sept. 18 parliamentary elections, with more than 1,300 people killed including hundreds of Taliban-led militants during the past seven months.

The vote itself passed off relatively peacefully despite Taliban threats of violence.


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WORLD

# Thousands left dead in rubble of Pakistani quake

## *Tremors also rattle India, Afghanistan*

**By Christopher Torchia**
Associated Press writer

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN — A huge earthquake triggered landslides, toppled an apartment building and flattened villages of mud-brick homes Saturday, killing thousands across a mountainous swath touching Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. The worst damage was in Pakistan, where the dead included 250 girls crushed at a school and 200 soldiers on duty in the Himalayas.

The casualty toll from the 7.6-magnitude tremor stood at more than 3,000 by early today and was rising as rescuers struggled to dig people from the wreckage, their work made more difficult as rain and hail turned dirt and debris into sticky muck.

For hours, aftershocks rattled an area stretching from Afghanistan across northern Pakistan into India's portion of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. Hospitals moved quake victims onto lawns, fearing that tremors could cause more damage.

The earthquake, which struck just before 9 a.m., caused buildings to sway for about a minute in the capitals of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, an area some 625 miles across. Panicked people ran from homes and offices, and communications were cut to many areas.

Most of the devastation occurred in the mountains of northern Pakistan. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered about 60 miles northeast of the capital, Islamabad, in the forested mountains of Pakistani Kashmir.

"It is a national tragedy," said Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, Pakistan's chief army spokesman. "This is the worst earthquake in recent times."

In Mansehra, a shop owner named Haji Fazal Ilahi stood vigil over the body of his 14-year-old daughter, which lay under a sheet on a hospital mattress. He said his wife, another daughter and a brother also died when the family's house fell.

"I could see rocks and homes tumbling down the mountains," said Ilahi, who was driving to his village of Garlat when the quake struck. "When I reached my village, there was nothing left of my home."

India's government offered condolences and assistance to Pakistan, a longtime rival with which it has been pursuing peace efforts after fighting three wars since independence from British rule in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

"While parts of India have also suffered from this unexpected natural disaster, we are prepared to extend any assistance with rescue and relief which you may deem appropriate," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in a message to Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

India reported at least 250 people killed and 800 injured when the quake collapsed 2,700 houses and other buildings in Jammu-Kashmir state. Most of the deaths occurred in the border towns of Uri, Tangdar and Punch and in the city of Srinagar, said B.B. Vyas, the state's divisional commissioner.

Telephone lines were down. Some bridges developed cracks, but traffic was reported to be passing over them.

A senior Pakistani army officer said 200 soldiers were killed by debris and landslides in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists.

About 1,000 civilians died in that region, said Sardar Mohammed Anwar, the top government official in the area.

"This is my conservative guess, and the death toll could be much higher," Anwar told Pakistan's Aaj television station, adding that most homes in Muzaffarabad, the area's capital, were damaged, and schools and hospitals collapsed.

The death toll was at least 1,600 in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, said Akram Durani, the province's top elected official.

Ataullah Khan Wazir, police chief in the northwestern district of Mansehra, said authorities there pulled the bodies of 250 students from the wreckage of an all-girls school in the village of Ghari Habibibullah. About 500 students were injured, he said.

Dozens of children were feared killed in other schools.

Mansehra, about 90 miles northwest of the capital, was believed to be a hotbed of Islamic militant activity during the time the Taliban religious militia ruled neighboring Afghanistan. Al-Qaida operatives trained suicide squads at a camp there, Afghan and Pakistani sources told The Associated Press in 2002.

Afghanistan appeared to suffer the least damage. In its east, an 11-year-old girl was crushed to death when a wall in her home collapsed, police official Gafar Khan said.

A U.S. military spokesman, Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, said the quake was felt at Bagram, the main American base in Afghanistan, but he had no reports of damage at bases around the country.

The United Nations said it was working with Pakistan, Afghanistan and India on an emergency response to the quake.

President Bush offered condolences, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States was ready to help.

"At this difficult time, the United States stands with its friends in Pakistan and India, just as they stood with us and offered assistance after Hurricane Katrina," Rice said in a statement.

In Pakistan, Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz ordered the military to extend "all-out help" to quake-hit areas and appealed to the nation to stay calm.

Helicopters and C-130 transport planes took troops and supplies to damaged areas, but landslides and rain hindered rescue efforts.

The only serious damage reported in Pakistan's capital was the collapse of a 10-story apartment building, where at least 10 people were killed and 126 were injured. Hospital doctors said the dead included an Egyptian diplomat, and the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo said two Japanese were killed.

A man named Rehmatullah who lived near the apartment building said the dust enveloped the wreckage.

"I rushed down, and for some time you could not see anything because of the dust. Then we began to look for people in the rubble," he said. "We pulled out one man by cutting off his legs."

"It was like hell," added Nauman Ali, who lives in a nearby building. "I was tossed up in my bed, and the ceiling fan struck against the roof."

Aided by two large cranes, hundreds of police and soldiers helped remove chunks of concrete, one of which was splattered with blood. One rescue worker said he heard faint cries from people trapped in the rubble.

In Abbotabad, north of Islamabad, dozens of injured quake victims and other patients lay on the lawn of the city hospital as staff with loudspeakers appealed to the public for food and other relief supplies.

One of the injured was an 8-year-old boy, Qadeer, whose father, a farmer named Jehangir, said the only buildings left standing in their village were a mosque and a school. Qadeer lay unconscious, his right leg heavily bandaged.



AP PHOTOS

Kashmiris wait with injured children to be airlifted to Srinagar on Saturday at an army base about 63 miles north of the Indian city. A powerful earthquake jolted South Asia on Saturday.



Rescuers work at the site of a collapsed 10-story apartment building Saturday after a severe earthquake in Islamabad, Pakistan. Dozens of people were feared trapped in the rubble of the building. A magnitude 7.6 earthquake rocked parts of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan on Saturday.


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WORLD

# Police drop photos of suspects over Bali

## *Fugitives sought in terror bombings*

**By Mike Casey**
Associated Press writer

BALI, INDONESIA — Police took to the air Saturday to press the search for the suspected masterminds of the Bali terror bombings, using a helicopter to scatter pictures of the fugitives on another island where at least one of the pair was thought to be hiding.

Although they expressed confidence in the first days after the Oct. 1 bombings, Indonesian investigators have not announced a major breakthrough. They have yet to identify the attackers, even after having newspapers publish grisly pictures of the bombers' severed heads.

The manhunt focused on two of Southeast Asia's most-sought fugitives, Noordin Mohamed Top and Azahari bin Husin, who are alleged to be the leaders of Jemaah Islamiyah, a terror group that wants to establish an Islamic state across the region. Authorities say it has links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The men are suspected of planning the suicide attack on three packed restaurants on Bali, which killed 23 people, including the bombers, and wounded about 100. They also have been blamed for a bombing that killed 202 in Bali three years ago and other attacks in Indonesia, which is the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Noordin, nicknamed "Moneyman," is thought to be a smooth-talking recruiter and fund-raiser for the terror group. His close aide, Azahari, has been dubbed "Demolition Man" for his reputed expertise in explosives.

Police said they raided one of Noordin's hideouts before sunrise Friday but he had slipped away just hours before they stormed the home in central Java province's Purwantoro district.

On Saturday, a helicopter flew low over the nearby city of Solo and released 10,000 fliers with photographs of Noordin and Azahari and a warning that they are "dangerous terrorists."

"We hope this can help people recognize them and be aware of them," said Solo police Maj. Agus Mulyono.

The two fugitives, both Malaysians, have dodged police for years, hiding out in this nation of 220 million people that sprawls over more than 10,000 islands that stretch across 3,000 miles.

"They are probably changing their appearance every second," said the national police spokesman, Brig. Gen. Sunarko Ardanto. "That's why we need the support from the public."

Other leads being pursued included a phone call made by the wife of another top terror suspect, Zulkarnaen, who goes by one name, said central Java's police chief, Maj. Gen. Chairul Rasyid. The woman called a number in Bali just days before the attack and police were tracing the call, he said.

The police chief also said investigators thought they were close to identifying two of the three suicide bombers. Police hope figuring out who the bombers were will help them hunt down the attack's planners and perhaps give them a better understanding of Jemaah Islamiyah.

On Bali, about 100 surfers gathered for a memorial Saturday at a beach close to two of the seaside cafes that were bombed. They paddled out to sea, formed a circle, locked arms and threw necklaces of white flowers into the water.

"I hope the terrorists will think, feel and recognize what they did. I'm really upset," said Made Adiputra, 25, an Indonesian professional surfer. "I'm really sad. It's really awful to kill innocent people like that."

Crowds gaped at the wrecked restaurants Saturday as police lines were taken down and some nearby shops reopened.

With the second terror assault on the resort in three years, Balinese officials face a tough task of convincing foreign visitors that the island is a safe destination. The tourism industry is responsible for 85 percent of Bali's $1.5 billion annual economy.




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WORLD

# Despite harsh laws, some gay Arabs come out

## *Still, arrest, torture are common*

**By Donna Abu-Nasr**
Associated Press writer

BEIRUT, LEBANON — When Ahmad Mahfouz told his mother he is gay, she took him to a psychiatrist, thinking he had a disease that could be cured by antidepressants.

When that didn't work, she urged him to date a woman. He ignored her advice. "So now, whenever she sees me, she beats me with anything she can lay her hands on: a metal hanger, leather belt, her shoes."

The 19-year-old college student, a Lebanese Muslim, is unusual in his candor and willingness to be identified, though not photographed. But more Arabs are coming out as gays, or at least coming to terms with their sexuality, even though in some countries they face laws that can land them in jail, and extremists who beat them up because Islam condemns homosexuality.

On top of that, homosexuality is widely seen as a disease spread by the United States and Israel to corrupt Arabs and undermine their religious faith.

In Lebanon, gays can find refuge at the cramped, one-room office of Helem, which says it's the first Arab nongovernmental organization openly fighting for their rights. Helem was set up last year despite a vaguely worded law that punishes "unnatural sexual intercourse" with up to one year in jail.

Lebanon, with its mixed population of Muslims and Christians, has a history of religious pluralism and exposure to the West. But elsewhere, homosexuals are on their own.

Egyptian authorities use criminal articles against debauchery and prostitution to prosecute gays. They have entrapped, arrested and tortured hundreds of men thought to be gay, says a report by New York-based Human Rights Watch.

It says police agents snare gay men through Internet personal ads, and that at least 179 men have been prosecuted for debauchery since the start of 2001. Hundreds of others have been harassed, arrested and often tortured but not charged, it says.

Among them are 52 men rounded up in 2001 in a police raid on a boat-restaurant on the Nile and accused of taking part in a gay sex party. A court acquitted 29, 16 were convicted and freed pending their appeal, and a few were jailed for a year.

French President Jacques Chirac has expressed concern to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about the treatment of gays, but the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, the country's largest rights group, says homosexuality is so detested in Egypt that it cannot speak out against prosecutions of gay men.

A recent Egyptian news report posted by Al-Arabiya TV on its Web site described a Kuwaiti gay wedding party in Cairo and triggered hundreds of blistering messages. Some of them said insurgents in Iraq should be killing gays instead of innocent Iraqis.

Many claimed the United States and Israel were promoting homosexuality to strip Arab men of their manhood. Only a handful urged tolerance of homosexuality.

Whether the wedding took place is not clear. The story was detailed but didn't identify the hotel, and Egypt's attorney general, Maher Abdel Wahid, issued a statement saying no complaint was received and no investigation was ordered.

Saudi Arabia, which enforces a puritan Islamic code, also keeps gays under pressure, according to Human Rights Watch.

On March 10, it said, authorities detained more than 100 men at a party in the city of Jiddah, sentencing many of them in closed trials without legal counsel to up to two years in prison and 2,000 lashes, usually meted out 50 at a time depending on medical examinations.

Human Rights Watch said the offenses weren't spelled out, but a Saudi news report claimed the men allegedly were "dancing and 'behaving like women.'"

Last year another Saudi daily, the English-language Arab News, said 50 men were arrested for allegedly attending a gay wedding in the holy Muslim city of Medina.

Dalal al-Bizri, a Cairo-based Lebanese sociologist, says gays are more reviled than drug addicts "because homosexuality is seen as being exported to the region by a country whose armies and fleets have struck Arabs: the United States."

"It's also seen as a threat to an insecure Arab machismo that has been politically impotent and feels humiliated by its inability to do much for the Palestinians or Iraqis," she said.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian vigilantes at one point were treating gays as unforgivingly as they do informers and drug or gun dealers.

This has even led to cases of Palestinian gays finding sanctuary in Israel, where homosexuality is tolerated.

Gay Palestinians have said it's easier to find common ground with Israeli counterparts because both can relate to being oppressed.

In June 2001, a handful of Palestinians joined thousands of Israelis in Israel's Gay Pride Day.

Homophobia forces many Arab gays to lead a double life, marrying and having children while secretly pursuing gay relationships.

But others, like Mahfouz in Lebanon, refuse to play along.

A slim man with dark hair, he says he is looking for a new place to live to escape his mother's wrath, her efforts to take away his cell phone, and her attempts to stop him from listening to music she believes made him gay.

"Until I leave, I am trying to placate her by pretending to date. The woman is a lesbian friend but my mother doesn't know it," he said with a smile.

Bilal Sharaf el-Din, a 21-year-old Lebanese studying information technology, said he has told friends and sisters, but not his mother, that he's gay. Shafar el-Din, a Muslim, said he knows homosexuality is a sin in Islam but that humans shouldn't be the judges.

"It should be done up there," he said, pointing to the sky. "Until the time comes, I will enjoy myself."

There have been no recent prosecutions of gays in Lebanon, but men have been beaten up for looking effeminate or fired for being gay, said Georges Azzi, a Christian and a gay who is the only paid employee at Helem, the rights center.

He said his group tries to raise awareness by speaking at colleges. There are more gay-friendly bars, and in May the International Day Against Homophobia was observed for the first time in Lebanon.

Helem marked the occasion with a gathering of about 200 people, straight and gay, at a seaside Beirut hotel. It screened "I exist," a documentary on homosexuals of Mideast background living in the United States, and distributed buttons and pamphlets with the slogan, "You drink coffee, I prefer tea. Does that mean one of us is abnormal?"

Helem also launched "Barra" (Out), billed as the first Arab gay magazine.

Lebanon even has male belly dancers. One of them is a slim, 23-year-old bisexual who identifies himself only as Teddy, his stage name.

Teddy says his insistence on leading a "normal life" has come at a price: "People look at me as if I have descended from Mars."

With elegant black pony tail, mascaraed lashes, pouty lips and manicured nails, he said demand for his dancing is strong, though. "Sometimes, at nightclubs, people spit at me or throw drinking glasses. I don't respond because I don't want to make an issue out of it."


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WORLD

# Flood victims dig for dead

## *Mudslides kill more than 600 in Central America*

**By Mark Stevenson**
Associated Press writer

SANTIAGO ATITLAN, GUATEMALA — Dozens of Mayan Indians used hand tools to dig through hardening mud on Saturday, searching for bodies under a landslide that swallowed a Guatemalan neighborhood and pushed the regionwide death toll from a week of pounding rains to 613.

Hardest hit was the lakeside town of Santiago Atitlan, where the side of a volcano collapsed, killing at least 208 people. Officials said the victims were among 508 people killed and another 337 missing in Guatemala.

The rest of the other 105 deaths were scattered throughout El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica.

The mud-spattered body of 3-year-old Mari Taxachoy Tzina was pulled Saturday from the home where she died. Her father, Gaspar, buried her in a common grave at the local cemetery.

"That's my wife, my two daughters, my son — I'm only missing one more son," he said, explaining how he had buried almost his entire family.

"You always think about saving your family, but I couldn't," said Gaspar, a laborer who returned from work in Guatemala City to find his house gone, replaced by a blank face of mud.

Guatemala has borne the brunt of heavy rains exacerbated by Hurricane Stan, which made landfall Tuesday on the Mexican Gulf Coast before quickly weakening to a tropical depression.

Governments in Central America and Mexico were still struggling Saturday to reach isolated areas devastated by flooding and landslides. Many roads had yet to be cleared.

On the banks of Lake Atitlan, a popular tourist destination, dozens of Mayan Indians swarmed over a vast bed of caked mud that covered trees and houses, looking for those still missing after Wednesday's landslide.

Primitive wooden coffins piled up in the cemetery, waiting for bodies. Villagers held sprigs of native herbs to ward off odors as they dug mass graves for bodies that likely would be buried without names.

"Entire families have disappeared," said Diego Sojuel, of the Santiago Atitlan municipal aid committee. "In some cases, there is no one that can identify the cadavers. And in other cases, it is because of the state of decomposition that we are going to have to bury them without names."

Tourists worked alongside local residents digging trenches 10-feet deep through mud strewn with bits of tin roofing, clothing, papers and bedding.

Chris Needham, 24, of London paused to wonder aloud whether some areas might eventually have to be declared a burial ground.

"That's people's families under there," he said. "They're not going to stop digging. I wouldn't stop."

Guatemalan officials organized an air-rescue squad of their own helicopters as well as those lent by the United States and neighboring Mexico, but bad weather has limited flights.

Colombia announced Saturday it will fly in 10 tons of food, cleaning materials and first-aid equipment to help victims in Central America and Mexico.

In Mexico, President Vicente Fox visited devastated southern Chiapas state and delivered aid to hundreds living in shelters. Some victims said they still had not heard from missing family members.

"I want them to look for my brother, Leonardo Maldonado, who is 27. He lives with us, but he went to work and I haven't heard anything from him," said Maria del Carmen, an evacuee.

In Guatemala, government workers have used heavy machinery to clear fallen trees and earth from the InterAmerican Highway. The country's important Pacific coast highway remained impassable, however, after raging rivers destroyed five bridges.

The disaster started gradually in communities ringing Lake Atitlan, where creeks and rivers began spilling their banks on Wednesday as rains soaked cornfields that climb steep, deforested hillsides.

Martin Ramirez Tacaxoy, 41, a farmer, said his sister came by to wake him up to tell him the nearby river was rising.

But because the continuing rains had been so gentle, many other people went back to sleep until the wall of earth came.

"It was a roar, it was like an earthquake," said Ramirez Tacaxoy, who pulled out three of his neighbors, some severally wounded from mud that had buried them, in some cases up to their necks. "Some people on the edges where able to grab hold of coffee trees, and we pulled them out. But many remained underneath."

Survivors struggled to describe the thunderous roar of the mud that buried entire families.

"I saw it coming. I leaned up against the wall," Pablo Gaspar, 16, a firewood collector, said, gasping on his hospital bed after being rescued from the muck. "Then the wall collapsed on me."

He lost six family members, including both his parents.



AP PHOTOS



A Mayan woman grieves Saturday in a mudslide area in Panabaj, south of Guatemala City in Guatemala. A landslide buried several communities near the popular tourist destination of Lake Atitlan.

A woman is helped into a navy helicopter to be evacuated from a river Saturday in southern Mexico. Raging flood waters cut off large areas of Central America and southern Mexico, hurting efforts to rescue victims of mudslides that have killed more than 600 people.


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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-10

SECTION B
Sunday
October 9, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Nothing's static for station

Natalia Gonzalez says she loves a challenge. It's a good thing she does. She became executive director of WRBH, 88.3 FM, on Sept. 1, three days after Hurricane Katrina knocked the station's transmitter off its foundation.

"Our primary transmitting building in Chalmette was devastated," she said. "It's going to take about $350,000 to get us back up to full capacity."

Still, Natalia is feeling optimistic as Radio for the Blind and Print Handicapped, the first station of its kind in the country, begins its 23rd year.

For one thing, she got a $20,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to buy a small transmitter, and for another, she got an offer she couldn't refuse.

"When the National Guard came in and said, 'We want to help you,' I took it as a sign from God we were supposed to come back," she said.

### Opportunity knocks

Natalia was working at the station at 3606 Magazine St. on Tuesday when there was a knock at the door and a National Guardsman made the proposal: The Guard would help the station get up and running again if they could use it to do daily public service announcements to let people know what improvements are being made in different neighborhoods as residents move back into the city.

"I was like, 'Come on in. You betcha. This is great,'" Natalia said. So the National Guard will install the new transmitter on a tower in the nonprofit station's backyard, and WRBH will be soon be back in the business of turning the written word into the spoken word.

Because of the smaller transmitter, it won't be able to broadcast from Bay St. Louis to Baton Rouge like it did before Katrina, but it will provide a vital service for New Orleanians.

"It will be mostly within the city limits, but that's a start," Natalia said. "I'm hoping to be back on the air by Thursday."

### Back to life

I was glad to hear it. The wonderful little radio station that runs on volunteers, loyal supporters and faith is an important asset to New Orleans.

"It won't be 24 hours a day at first," Natalia said. "We'll read the newspaper, some magazines, and start a good book for people to listen to while they're cleaning up."

The amount of time the station will be on the air will be determined by the number of readers Natalia can locate. She is eager to hear from volunteers and concerned about those she hasn't been able to find since the hurricane.

"We have a cast of characters who are near and dear to our hearts, and I'm really worried about some of them," she said.

She has already recruited some new readers, including members of the National Guard and her husband, Guy. And she can't wait to get WRBH back on the air.

"I'm really excited about it," she said. "New Orleans needs some CPR right now, and we can play a vital role in bringing it back to life."

• • • • • •

Volunteer readers and listeners can call Natalia at (504) 899-1144 or e-mail her at npgonz@aol.com. Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@bellsouth.net or (985) 898-4825.

# Gambling plan a roll of the dice, some say

## *Announcement was a surprise to many*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Mayor Ray Nagin's radical proposal to make more casino gambling in New Orleans a key component of the city's post-Katrina economic strategy got a chilly reception Saturday from several local officials, who questioned the timing and viability of an idea they said appears to have come out of nowhere.

Nagin caught much of the city's political establishment off guard Friday afternoon when he recommended the creation of a downtown gambling district that would allow more than a half-dozen large hotels to open gambling halls that would compete with the giant Harrah's casino at the foot of Canal Street.

"I'm not sure where this came from," said state Sen. Ed Murray, D-New Orleans, a Nagin legislative floor leader who said he learned of the casino initiative only hours before the mayor's announcement.

"But I definitely don't think this is the right time to discuss this. Gambling is a very, very divisive issue. And right now we need to spend all our time reaching consensus on how to rebuild our infrastructure, bring our people back home and offer incentives to businesses to get them up and running."

Before a discussion of more gambling begins, Murray said, city and state leaders must first sit down with

*See* **GAMBLING,** *B-4*

# FALTERING SAFETY NET



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

## *Many of the 38,000 residents of New Orleans public housing are gone for good because of damage*

**By Gwen Filosa and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

In addition to the Lower 9th Ward and Lakeview, another New Orleans community was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and subsequent floodwater: public housing.

The majority of New Orleans' public housing complexes, home to about 38,000 residents, were wrecked by varying degrees by Hurricane Katrina. B.W. Cooper and St. Bernard took on several feet of water. But even Iberville, near the French Quarter, is strewn and ruined with debris.

As public housing residents returned home in the past week, they found the complexes unlivable. While discussions about the future of the developments were under way in Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C., many of the residents have made their opinion known

*See* **HOUSING,** *B-3*




ABOVE: Terrance and Kimani Phillips and Dewayne Clark, from left, move furniture from their third-floor apartment in the St. Bernard public housing complex. They won't be returning to the place where Terrance and Kimani lived since birth. LEFT: The recently redeveloped Desire public housing complex in the Lower 9th Ward sustained severe damage from water and wind.

# Property tax relief is on the way

## *But how much is still undecided*

**By Matt Scallan and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

Property owners hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will see some tax relief this year, but it's still unclear how much.

The state Tax Commission recommends that property affected by the storms be assessed at full value for the first eight months of the year, and perhaps a lesser value for the period after Katrina struck Aug. 29. But the elected assessors in the New Orleans area say that formula would put too much of a financial burden on homeowners.

"I'm inclined to have the damage reflected (in full) on the 2005 rolls in order to protect the property owner," Jefferson Assessor Lawrence Chehardy said.

Plaquemines Assessor Robert Gravolet said the normal rules of tax collection should not apply in the wake of a catastrophe such as Katrina.

"I feel we're going to try to

*See* **TAX,** *B-2*

# $100,000 theft ring busted in St. Bernard

## *Relief workers arrested in separate incidents*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

St. Bernard Parish authorities say they have broken a theft ring and recovered at least $100,000 worth of goods taken from three Louisiana parishes and in Mississippi.

Officials said they also have arrested a Red Cross volunteer from South Carolina on charges of looting as well as a four-man crew hired to clean a bank flooded by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, after they tried to make it out of the parish with more than $2,000 in wrinkled bills and coins they found in the muddy bank. In a fourth case, two people were charged with stealing 10 bulletproof vests from a Chalmette business where sheriff's detectives have set temporary operations.

St. Bernard Parish spokesman Steve Cannizaro

*See* **THEFT,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

A three-foot alligator peers from Lakeview resident Warren Pope's muck-filled pool on Saturday. Pope returned home to find Humane Society officials unsuccessfully trying to snare the reptile. 'I was swimming in this pool the Saturday night before Katrina,' Pope said.

# Not all gator tales are fish stories

## *3-foot reptile takes up residence in Lakeview*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

Did you hear the one about the 4,500-pound, 21-foot crocodile swimming through the flooded streets of New Orleans?

That's an urban myth. But a 3-foot long alligator in a Lakeview pool is the real deal, as displaced resident Warren Pope discovered Thursday when he returned home.

Pope, 43, arrived at his now-ruined, one-story brick home on St. Anthony Avenue to salvage some items when workers clearing debris from Hurricane Katrina told him, "Be careful, there's a gator back there." He walked into his back yard and found U.S. Humane Society rescuers trying to seize the swimming reptile.

"I came back here and they had a crowd of people," he said Friday, standing beside the stinky, muck-filled pool. Pope, a

*See* **GATOR,** *B-2*



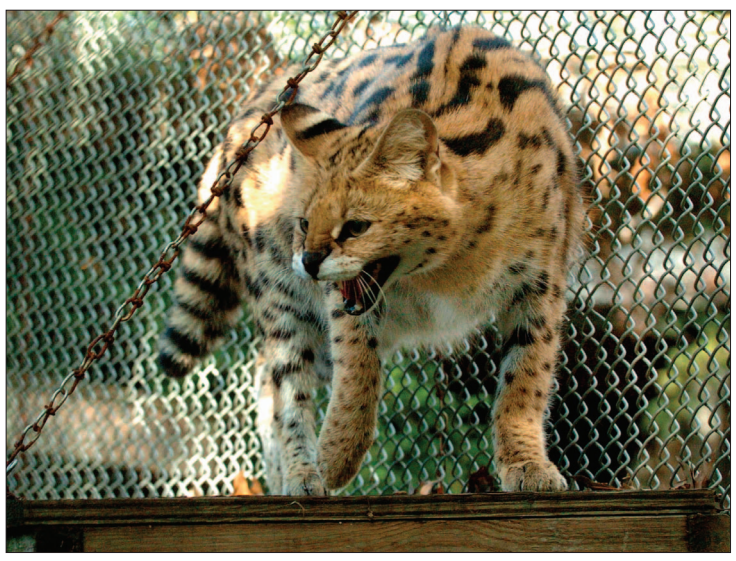

STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

From left, Marie Rush, director of veterinary services at the Birmingham (Ala.) Zoo; Alex Cole, veterinarian at the Audubon Center for the Research of Endangered Species; Dierdre Havnen, keeper at the Audubon Center; and Erin Sarrat, Audubon Center curator, carry a caracal and serval to a truck for transport Oct. 7.

# Nature institute endures wild ride

## *But facility mostly intact*

**By Sandra Barbier**
Staff writer



This serval was taken to the Birmingham Zoo because of budget cutbacks at the Audubon Center for the Research of Endangered Species forced by Hurricane Katrina. s

Two endangered cranes were killed, and thousands of trees were felled by Hurricane Katrina at the Audubon Nature Institute's endangered species research center, but the wooded enclave in Algiers weathered the storm without other serious damage.

In some ways, nature may have helped protect it, center Director Betsy Dresser said.

The dense bottomland hardwood forest surrounding the center acted as a cushion against the storm's winds, she said.

Radar images show the hurricane's eye may have passed over the center. "I think the trees really buffered the buildings," Dresser said.

The Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species, which has received international publicity for its work on animal cloning, housed about 350 animals as the storm approached, including lions, rare African antelopes and eight endangered whooping cranes, most of which rode out Katrina at the facility.

Of the center's 57 staff members, only eight, including Dresser, remained on duty Aug. 28, the day before Katrina hit, and they all evacuated that day, she said.

"They were saying it was a Category 5 storm," Dresser said.

"There was no way we could leave people here," she said. "I never thought I would totally evacuate everyone."

Dresser, however, said there were no plans to evacuate the animals. "It's hard to find places to evacuate them all to, and when you get threatened by these storms several times a year, you just can't do it," she said.

A domestic cat pregnant with the clone of a rare African sand cat was evacuated to the St. Louis Zoo, where its kitten was born dead.

"We don't know if it was the stress" of being moved, she said, "but you have to make those judgment calls and do the best you can."

Workers decided not to leave animals closed in several underground ammunition bunkers leftover from a World War II supply depot on the site, a plan that was once considered an option. Dresser and her staff weren't sure how soon they would be able to return, and they thought the animals would do better outside with plenty of food and water, she said.

"The animals did fine," she said.

The fenced enclosures for 40 endangered Mississippi sandhill cranes and eight whooping cranes contained dense natural vegetation that provided the birds with cover.

Another 19 Mississippi sandhill crane chicks, destined for placement in a national crane refuge in Mississippi, were left indoors.

One sandhill crane and one whooping crane apparently got tangled in fencing and died, but other animals, including 32 African eland; four bongos, a type of antelope; and a colony of 150 domestic cats used in the center's reproductive research, were unscathed.

Among Dresser's worries were seven lions.

"I didn't sleep," she said. "It's not knowing if they're all dead, or if there are lions out all over the place."

Relief came a couple of days after the storm.

Dresser arranged for animal keepers Jeff Vaccaro and Kelly Trimble to travel by helicopter from McComb, Miss., to the center. They landed on the Mississippi River levee Aug. 31 at dusk, she said.

"They made a beeline for the commissary," she said, which stored supplies and a gun and was the only facility they could reach through the fallen trees.

The next morning, a second helicopter picked up keepers Larry Drewett and Megan Lauber in Houma, and dropped them off after making an aerial survey that showed the lion house was intact.

Dresser said the four keepers immediately began clearing a path through the storm debris to the animals.

The center remained unreachable by road for two weeks because of downed trees and power lines, but it had at least a week's worth of food and water for animals and people, as well as a small generator, tree-clearing equipment and an emergency satellite telephone.

"That (phone) was a lifesaver," Dresser said. It allowed her to get twice-a-day updates from the keepers.

She said she also talked with other Audubon officials and zoos around the country in a daily conference call.

"Zoos and aquariums around the country were just wonderful," she said.

The president of the Houston Zoo enlisted the head of Shell Oil Co. to send more food and water by helicopter for the animals and workers halfway through the ordeal, she said.

"I think our keepers were about to cry when they saw the helicopters come in with all the supplies."

Since the storm, both the Audubon Zoo and the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas have closed, and revenue has stopped, Dresser said.

The research center has laid off 12 workers, and some animals have been temporarily transferred to other zoos to lighten the center's load. But Dresser had only praise for the center's staff.

"They did a phenomenal job," she said. "It showed me … the dedication and commitment they have."

# Assessors want to use post-storm value for year

**TAX,** *from B-1*

adjust the assessments and put as minimal a tax on the taxpayers, based on our assessment of their damages," Gravolet said.

Katrina wiped clean much of lower Plaquemines Parish. Gravolet said his hope is that affected taxpayers "would pay on the land and maybe a portion of their building, a slab or something. If they sign a homestead exemption, for all practical purposes they would probably pay nothing, which would be justified in most people's opinion."

The storm arrived at an awkward time in the property tax cycle. State law requires that tax rolls be opened for public inspection for 15 days ending on Sept. 15, in order for assessors to field complaints and consider adjustments before certifying the rolls as official later in the year. But most of the New Orleans area was under an evacuation order at the time, and Chehardy said state law does not address what happens during such an event.

"I think the law needs to be changed so that in the event of a disaster declaration, it's spelled out what should be done," he said.

State officials have given assessors in hurricane-affected parishes a 120-day extension to certify the tax rolls. But St. Tammany Assessor Patricia Schwarz Core said her office will have a tough time meeting that deadline.

"We're going to have a lot of people coming in to challenge their assessments," she said. "There are areas of Slidell that have been practically totaled."

Under normal circumstances, property taxes are due Dec. 31. But after the tax rolls are adjusted to reflect changes caused by Katrina and Rita, they must be reopened for public inspection and property owners must be given a chance to appeal the valuations – a process that could push the completion of the tax rolls into early next year. Assessors say residents seeking to change their property valuations should be prepared to document their damage.

Meanwhile, easing the tax burden on residents means squeezing off revenue for government services such as courts, police and fire protection, and code enforcement.

"I think the governments are just going to have to tighten their belts," Core said.

Assessors in coastal parishes have dealt with catastrophic storm damage before, a notable example being the May 8-9, 1995, flood. But they say a spring flood is easier to handle than a late summer hurricane because there is more time to adjust the tax rolls to account for the damage.

"In '95, we just asked people to document their damage, and we reduced their assessment by that amount," St. Charles Assessor Clyde "Rock" Gisclair said. "This time, it's harder to do that because it happened at the end of the tax year."

Adjusting the tax rolls for damage is a monumental task on a tight schedule. Chehardy said his deputies are canvassing the streets, but losses aren't always obvious from curbside, especially when they result from roof damage, rather than flooding.

"Those people are going to have to come in and show us what their damages were," Chehardy said.

Gravolet said last year's property taxes brought in about $38 million to Plaquemines. He said he wasn't ready to hazard a guess about this year's amount.

But Core said assessors in the affected parishes are united in their view that properties should be assessed for the full year at their post-Katrina value.

"How are these people going to pay these bills?" she asked. "A lot of them have lost their jobs as well as their homes. I think that if we give them some breathing room, they are going rebuild bigger and better. But if we hit them with a big tax bill, they're just going to stay in Florida or Texas."

• • • • • •

Matt Scallan may be reached at mscallan326@cox.net or (504) 467-1746.

# Gator makes himself at home in swimming pool

**GATOR,** *from B-1*

retired New Orleans police sergeant, had watched as the alligator slipped through workers' noose-like snares.

The rescuers had brought a dog cage to house the gator. When they failed to catch him, they left pet food piled on a floating raft. Pope said he has no idea how the alligator wound up in his back yard.

"I'm telling you, it's not a pet," he said.

Pope marveled at the scene: A fallen tree's crown obscured the front edges of the pool, and a line with attached buoys lay partially sunken in the greenish, opaque water. The gator surfaced, got startled, and quickly submerged.

"I was swimming in this pool the Saturday night before Katrina," Pope said. "I feel like I'm looking for Nessie."

Noel Kinler, a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologist who leads the DWF's alligator management program, said it's normal to find displaced gators after a flood.

"Obviously, we've got gators all around New Orleans," he said. "It's not unlikely at all that one would show up."

The department has had recent reports of nuisance gators in the area of Pointe a la Hache, Buras and Venice, he said. The DWF program traps and releases gators that turn up in residential areas.

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, rumors of marine creatures in the metropolitan area were rampant. On. Aug. 30, the Palm Beach Post reported Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard "told residents that at least one 3-foot shark had been spotted," though it's unclear who saw it.

A hoax that circulated on the Internet reported a 21-foot crocodile had been killed by Army troops and placed in the freezer of the "Azur hotel." Its stomach contents were to be analyzed, said the e-mail, which included frightening photos of the toothy monster.

But as rumor-busting Web site Snopes.com reported, the massive, 80-year-old crocodile had been caught in the Republic of Congo on July 6, 2003. The photos were authentic; the reports had been altered.

Pope, who now drives a taxi for United Cab Co., evacuated Aug. 28 and spent two weeks away, staying in Alexandria, Little Rock, Ark., and Asheville, N.C. He returned about three weeks after Katrina hit, borrowed a boat he found at the nearby University of New Orleans, and checked on his house.

"It looked like a swamp," he said. About 6.5 feet of floodwater still stood around his home at the time. "I didn't even know where I was."

Pope left again and stayed outside Gatlinburg, Tenn. When he returned to his house at 6049 St. Anthony on Wednesday, he didn't look in the back yard. "I looked at the house, got disgusted and left," he said.

The flood damaged much of his home and his possessions, but he maintained his sense of humor. Looking around the dead, mud-caked grass, he said, "On the plus side, I don't have to mow the lawn for a few weeks."

He and his girlfriend have been staying at her apartment in Metairie. He hasn't named his new tenant, whom he would like to evict. "I'd like to get him out," he said. "He's got to be hungry."

• • • • • •

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.

## Parish checkpoint helped detectives

**THEFT,** *from B-1*

said the detectives' busy week began Tuesday, when they began unraveling a criminal ring that eventually led authorities to $100,000 worth of vehicles, welding equipment, jet skis, a gun and other goods thought to have been stolen from St. Bernard, Orleans and Tammany parishes and from locations in Mississippi.

Maj. John Doran, chief of detectives for the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, said the arrests were made after a detective working a checkpoint on Paris Road became suspicious of two Walker men trying to exit the parish in separate vehicles, one pulling a trailer with a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle.

Doran said one of the men fled when deputies questioned him, but he was caught. Deputies then discovered the all-terrain vehicle had been stolen in St. Bernard and booked Tony Licciardi, 31, and John Fontenot, 21, with looting and simple burglary, Doran said.

Doran said both men had entered the parish pretending to be contract workers for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and bearing old St. Bernard Parish drivers licenses.

Upon further questioning, the men led detectives to others authorities say were involved in the ring. Eventually, in conjunction with the FBI, officials said they recovered most of the stolen goods at a trailer park near Picayune, Miss. A resident there, Marvin Kritzmann Jr., 30, was arrested as a principle to looting and burglary, Doran said.

An arrest warrant was issued for Danny Brown, 35, formerly of St. Bernard Parish but most recently living in the Picayune area, Doran said. Warrants also were issued for Brown's brother, Oscar Brown, and Marvin

*See* **THEFT,** *B-4*

METRO

# 'Do we rebuild as is, or do we do something different?'

**HOUSING,** *from B-1*

by packing up and leaving for good.

"Never," said Rashad Brooks, 29, inside what was once home to his fiancée and three small children inside the B.W. Cooper apartments. "I'm through with New Orleans. Too much corruption and too much politics. We're moving to Houston."

The Housing Authority of New Orleans, which relocated to Houston after the storm, says it is assessing damage and has transplanted thousands of its New Orleans tenants to Texas. And federal officials said the first priority is to decide exactly how to rebuild public housing in New Orleans.

"The big question is: Do we rebuild as is, or do we do something different?" said Alphonso Jackson, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which took over management of HANO three years ago.

Mayor Ray Nagin said he'd like to see public housing complexes rebuilt and "de-densified," with tenants comprising a mixture of income levels, along the lines of the rebuilt St. Thomas complex. He said he has gotten positive signals from Jackson.

"In talking with the secretary, he's basically committed to me that we're going to take a look at just about every project that was on the drawing board and try and accelerate it," Nagin said.

Donna White, a HUD spokeswoman, said that teams of HANO staffers and consultants to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are in the process of inspecting the various complexes to determine whether they're safe to inhabit.

Residents are not allowed to enter the developments until it's deemed safe, she said.

## Options for rebuilding

White said that it was too early to give a full assessment of the damage to the various complexes, although all 10 received some damage, she said. But she said that Florida and Desire, both recently redeveloped and both located in the devastated Lower 9th Ward, both sustained "severe" damage from floodwater and wind.

Jackson caused a stir when he recently told the Houston Chronicle that he wasn't sure the Lower Ninth Ward should be rebuilt. Jackson, who is black, also said New Orleans was "not going to be as black as it was for a long time, if ever again."

The comments were interpreted by some as a suggestion that much of New Orleans' public housing — which was home to between 5 percent and 10 percent of the city's residents, nearly all of them black — would be torn down.

Others weren't so subtle.

Days after the deadly storm, 10-term Congressman Richard Baker, R-Baton Rouge, was overheard telling lobbyists in Washington, D.C., "We finally cleaned up public housing," adding that, "We couldn't do it, but God did."

Baker later said he was misquoted, and that he meant that the complexes needed fixing.

In an interview with The Times-Picayune, Jackson said no decisions like that have been made — even for the Lower 9th. In fact, he suggested that those areas may indeed return.

"The question for the 9th Ward is: Should we rebuild the same way we did last time?" Jackson said. "Or should we rebuild at a higher level?"

Public housing in New Orleans was already in the midst of a huge transition. New Orleans had hit a stride in tearing down the relics of bricked, densely populated complexes and replacing them with "mixed-income" neighborhoods, such as the flagship example River Garden, which sits where the St. Thomas complex once did, complete with a new Wal-Mart off Tchoupitoulas Street. Major changes were also happening at the former Desire complex.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Kimani Phillips, 12, helps with the move from his family's apartment in the St. Bernard public housing complex. 'I miss my project,' Kimani said. 'The 7th Ward. I miss my hometown. I don't want to come back.'



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

The federal government recently invested $70 million in redeveloping the Desire public housing complex in the Lower 9th Ward. 'It was beautiful, but it's gone now,' said Alphonso Jackson, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 'What do we do there?'

"We put $70 million into Desire," Jackson said. "It was beautiful, but it's gone now. What do we do there? How do we do Iberville? Lafitte? Do we take those down and rebuild them? Are we going to integrate public housing into the fabric of the city, which we didn't do the first time?"

## Surveying the damage

Now the brand new Desire complex - renamed Abundance Square - sits in utter desolation. A desert of drying, cracked sludge covered the lawns and streets, but not a soul was present Friday afternoon. Several of the units were obviously vacant before the storm. The only sound echoing through the once manicured lawns was the rustling of twisted window blinds.

But thousands of New Orleans families still called the traditional public housing — such as Cooper, off Earhart Boulevard; Iberville, which borders the French Quarter and housed a number of hotel and restaurant workers; and C.J. Peete, in Central City — home.

And as Uptown and French Quarter residents came back to survey the damage, so did the residents of the public housing complexes.

Over at Cooper, Brooks returned and said his last memories of his neighborhood will be the harrowing seven days his family, including his fiancée's wheelchair-bound father, spent trapped in their flooded apartment building.

They slept on the third-floor fire escape or near the open windows because of the heat. They shook flashlights at rescuers to no avail. They watched the water rise and swallow up cars.

A police officer with a canoe finally rescued them, Brooks said, after they watched helicopters pass them by for days.

At the Lafitte complex, in Mid-City, Rose Taylor's family helped her move out of her apartment on Friday. After five years at the complex, Taylor, 43, said she and her two teenage daughters are happier in Irving, Texas.

"They got a good school system out in Texas," she said, as her relatives nodded in agreement.

'What's to come back for?'

After riding out the storm at the St. Bernard complex and evacuating by boat, then spending a month at the Holiday Inn in Houston, the Phillips family also returned Friday to pack up their things into the back of a Budget rental truck. Kimani and Terrance Phillips wore yellow plastic gloves and face masks, just like their mother, Lynette Phillips, and her boyfriend, Dewayne Clark, as they cleaned up.

Apartment E was where Kimani, 12, and his 16-year-old brother, Terrance, had lived since birth. The brothers' first task on Friday was burying their golden retriever, Kobe, in a HANO Dumpster. They found him dead on the living room rug, which they used to wrap up the carcass.

"What's to come back for?" Terrance asked, surveying the St. Bernard complex from the back of his family's rental truck. "It's quiet. Ain't nobody coming back."

His younger brother agreed.

"I miss my project," Kimani said. "The 7th Ward. I miss my hometown. I don't want to come back. I didn't want to leave until she came, Katrina."

Barbara Cager, 52, also returned on Friday. Cager, who has been staying in a Baton Rouge hotel, said she would like to return to New Orleans, but not exactly to the St. Bernard.

"I think this should have been torn down a long time ago," Cager said of the housing complex. "Too much crime."

For those like Cager who want to return, the future of low-income housing may be in trailer parks, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The first of which, outside of Baton Rouge in rural Baker, is in the process of filling up. As of Saturday, only 43 families had occupied some of the 573 trailers available, though FEMA said it has a list of 400 families ready to move in. In Louisiana, an additional 1,740 trailers have been set up at other locations across the state, with 786 occupied.

## Looking to Congress

To a large degree, what Jackson and HUD do about public housing will depend on Congress, which appropriates money to the department. It's likely that the agency will receive a massive infusion of cash: In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, for instance, between $3 billion and $4 billion was inserted into HUD's budget to help rebuild lower Manhattan.

The money was spent in a variety of ways: $700 million went into a commercial revitalization program, while another large sum was spent on creating affordable housing.

HUD officials said they expect Congress to authorize a similar rebuilding plan for New Orleans, although they did not speculate on the size of the appropriation.

It will be up to local government officials — who must hold public hearings — to come up with a spending plan.

"President Clinton ... we were talking, and he was telling me about a school model in North Carolina where they have great success," Nagin said. "One thing they did is mixed kids of different income levels. And the poor kids performed as well as everybody else. And I think with New Orleans going forward, that model works. Let's not concentrate all poor, all rich."

But for now, public housing residents must find someplace to live, and for many of them, that someplace is not New Orleans.

On Gibson Street, Nick Lewis, 29, said goodbye to his childhood home, the St. Bernard complex.

"That's a wrap right here," Lewis said, as his neighbor continued to pack up his things. "This is it."

• • • • • •

Staff writer Laura Maggi contributed to this report.

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# 'I'm not sure where this came from'

GAMBLING, *from B-1*

representatives of Harrah's, the former Bally's casino on the lakefront and the Fairgrounds, which has horse racing and is approved for slot machines under its new owner, Churchill Downs. Murray said all three entities "have made substantial investments in our community."

City Councilman Jay Batt said while he is willing to give Nagin an opportunity to sell the idea, he is not inclined to support it.

"The devil is in the details," Batt said. "But at first glance it would concern me greatly because I think multiple casinos might have the effect of damaging the character and culture of our city."

Batt said his biggest worry is that many locals, particularly the poor, would "put all their money back into these casinos." Batt noted that in the Bahamas, residents are prohibited by law from gambling in the island nation's three casinos.

"There are other ways to rebuild our city," he said. "This could be a recipe for disaster."

Councilman Eddie Sapir, who has criticized Nagin for failing to keep the legislative branch of city government informed since Katrina devastated the city six weeks ago, said he learned of the mayor's plan from the evening news.

"No one with the administration made any mention whatsoever about this to me," Sapir said, even though he sat through an all-day informational session with Nagin staffers on Thursday at City Hall.

"I really can't say what I think because I don't know much about it," Sapir said.

A Harrah's spokeswoman said her company also received no advance notice of Nagin's proposal.

"We certainly would have preferred that the mayor talk to us before he went to the press given that we have the exclusive right to operate a land-based casino in New Orleans," said Jan Jones, senior vice president for governmental relations and communications for Harrah's Entertainment.

If the agreement giving Harrah's monopoly status is violated, the company would no longer have to pay the $60 million-plus in taxes it remits to the state annually.

While Jones said Harrah's is willing to discuss the idea of multiple casinos, she said it is premature to talk about what kind of concessions the company might seek. "We think everyone needs to give thoughtful consideration to making the right decision, not just a decision," she said.

On Friday, Nagin described his proposal as an outside of the box plan designed to spark the city's shattered economy.

Under the plan, only hotels with at least 500 rooms would be eligible to build casinos. Hotels that converted to casinos would have to offer all forms of gambling, not just slots, and would have to agree to pay wages of at least $8 an hour, plus health insurance and benefits.

In a city that already offers slots, video poker, lotteries and horse racing, Nagin has said he doesn't see how more casinos would drastically alter the city's image.

Lambert Boissiere Jr., a former state senator and City Council member who played a key role in opening the downtown casino during his City Hall tenure, said he found it curious that Nagin would lay out his vision for an expansion of gambling even before a blue ribbon mayoral commission charged with mapping out a plan for rebuilding New Orleans holds its first meeting.

"It certainly looks like he's setting the commission's agenda," said Boissiere, who was recently elected 1st City Court constable.

"The mayor may be jumping the gun. I thought he wanted this committee to come up with its own recommendations," Boissiere said. "It seems contradictory to give them this assignment and then before they even sit in a room together, you suggest this."

Boissiere said the city must be careful not to scare away other businesses, including those interested in the burgeoning medical research sector, that might be interested in taking part in the rebuilding of New Orleans.

Bernard Charbonnet, a member of the New Orleans Dock Board, said the city's decision to pursue any new industry must take into consideration the city's working poor.

'We have to be careful not to revert to what we had before with our tourism-driven economy, which was essentially a servant class," Charbonnet said, noting the large percentage of the city's population that works for the low-paying service industry.

"That has to be a big part of any discussion we have about jump starting our economy."

Keith Butler, an investment banker and New Orleans native who now splits his time between his hometown and New York City, said he is willing, for now, to give Nagin the benefit of the doubt.

"I think the mayor is showing leadership" Butler said. "And I also think he is sending a signal to his commission about the fast tempo he'd like to see things done. This can be done fairly quickly and he's suggesting that he'd like this done quicker rather than slower."

If Nagin's plan moves forward, Butler said it would make sense for the city to replicate the jobs profile used in Las Vegas.

'There are more rungs to the salary ladder in a hotel that has a casino than a stand-alone hotel," Butler said.

"Also, under the system of neighborhood (riverboat) casinos we have here, that focuses largely on residents, there is no big money coming into the community. As I understand the mayor's plan, it would focus on tourists."

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## More arrests made Thursday, Friday

THEFT, *from B-2*

Kritzmann Sr., both of Mississippi, Doran said.

The week's second looting case came Thursday, Cannizaro said, when deputies patrolling a Chalmette neighborhood stopped a vehicle driven by Red Cross volunteer Marcus Wood, 38, of South Carolina. Cannizaro said Wood said he was in the area delivering meals, but a female passenger, whose identity is not being released, told deputies that Wood had been entering homes and taking property.

Wood was booked with looting, though Cannizaro said deputies did not recover any stolen property in Wood's vehicle.

More arrests were made Friday, when deputies stopped the vehicle of a North Carolina work crew along a parish highway. The four men had been cleaning the building of a Regions Bank branch at the intersection of St. Claude and Friscoville avenues, Cannizaro said. In a search of the car, deputies said they found a bag with more than $2,000 in bills and coins that the workers had recovered in the bank.

Booked with theft were Juan Guzman Cota, 21, Jesus Antonio Rubiro, Emeteryu Solano Brakamonte, 45, and Fermin Serelo, 34, all from the Winston-Salem area.

The same day, deputies arrested two men accused of stealing 10 bulletproof vests from Associated Terminals in Chalmette, where detectives have been operating since Katrina hit, Doran said.

Thai Richard, 26, of Lockport, was booked with possession of stolen property and Jacob Lagman, 19, of Chalmette, was booked with theft. Both were Associated Terminals employees, authorities said.

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# From the pews, different takes on religion and casinos

## *Mississippi recovery opens up debate*

**By Matt Apuzzo**
Associated Press writer

BILOXI, MISS. — In the churches that minister in the shadows of Biloxi's tattered casinos, religious opposition to gambling is colliding with the region's economic reality.

Mississippi is considering allowing its coastal casinos to rebuild on land, a move that would help repair the state's $2.7 billion gambling industry following Hurricane Katrina. But while pastors and politicians in the state capital haggle over slots and sinning, many in the pews here have a pressing concern: survival.

"We have a lot of casino workers here and we don't take a stand. It's all about jobs," said Ersell Mason, a deacon at the Lighthouse Apostolic Holiness Church, the remains of which sit just up the street from many of the region's casinos. "God wants you to come to him and be a Christian. You can still do your job and come to him."

Some state lawmakers made God a player in the debate last week over the legislation that would allow the coastal casinos, currently restricted to barges, to creep 800 feet on shore. Supporters say that would give them more stability in storms, but opponents worry it would be a foothold for inland gaming.

State Rep. Deryk Parker, a Democrat whose Lucedale district is more than an hour northeast of the coast, held up a hand-lettered sign during hearings last week reading "casino" with the letters "sin" written in red.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is my Mississippi, too," he said. "And I don't want that type of reputation for my state, for me or my children."

The House narrowly passed the legislation last week; debate on the bill is expected to resume Monday afternoon in the Senate. It would expand a 1990 state law that authorized casinos while restricting them to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico or the Mississippi River.

With a membership that includes about 25 percent of the state's population, the Mississippi Baptist Convention is one of the most powerful anti-casino forces in the state. About 50 Baptist pastors from across the Mississippi converged last week on the Capitol in Jackson, urging legislators not to allow casinos on land.

That message was repeated Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Gulfport, which normally holds services just blocks from the casinos but had to move to the local high school after the hurricane.

D. Saxon, 77, of Gulfport, said he wanted to see gambling eliminated from the community. But he acknowledged that many in the church survived off the casinos, either by working for them or by working in related industries that benefit from the tourism.

**"We have a lot of casino workers here and we don't take a stand. It's all about jobs. God wants you to come to him and be a Christian. You can still do your job and come to him."**

ERSELL MASON
a deacon at the Lighthouse Apostolic Holiness Church, the remains of which sit just up the street from many of the region's casinos

"As long as it's legal, it's an honest living," said Saxon.

Fellow church-goer Tommy Truhett said the region would find other, better work if the casinos left.

"The answer to our problems is not the gambling. The answer to our problem is not the politicians," Truhett said. "The Lord is the answer."

At the Vietnamese Martyrs Church in Biloxi's Point Cadet neighborhood, where nearly half the Catholic parishioners work in the casinos, the answer is different.

"Casinos, that gives us jobs," said Jackie Trieu, whose daughter started work at a casino just days before the storm. "If they rebuild, it's going to give everybody jobs again."

Her 21-year-old daughter, Angela, said it's unfair to bring God into the debate in Jackson.

"I don't think they should have a say," she said. "They have jobs up there. They're not down here."

# Waveland's wiped-out workers still on job

## *'I think we've cried all we can'*

**By Holbrook Mohr**
Associated Press writer

WAVELAND, MISS. — Police Chief James Varnell and a dozen officers clung to a bush outside the police station when Hurricane Katrina pushed in a wall of water that swept away patrol cars like they were toys.

"We lost everything," Varnell said.

Like many towns along the Gulf Coast, Waveland had no way to respond after Hurricane Katrina because the storm had swept away all its vehicles: police patrol cars, fire engines and heavy equipment.

Firefighters had no body bags, no way to transport the dead, and nowhere to take them. They had to search for victims on foot and resorted to using bicycles.

"We went from two stations with all new equipment to nothing in eight hours," Waveland Fire Chief David Garcia said.

Even a month after the storm, Garcia shares the bay of his fire station with the mayor's office, which set up shop at two small tables.

"You have to laugh at it," Garcia said, pointing to a sign on one of the desks that said mayor's office and city hall. "I think we've cried all we can."

A spokesman for the National Association of Police Organizations, John Terrill, said every coastal town in Mississippi lost vehicles, along with most parishes around New Orleans.

"Especially in New Orleans, Gulfport and Waveland, these guys are on the job and they're living in cars because they have nothing left," Terrill said. "But they are still out their helping people, and that really shows the character of these people in uniform."

Officials in Biloxi say about a third of its police fleet, or 17 cars, was either destroyed or damaged. The city lost two pumper trucks that were in service, two spares and five staff vehicles.

Pascagoula lost a "substantial number" of its police cruisers, but officials have not yet put a number on it, police Capt. Jamie Hunter said.

One Pascagoula officer pulled his police motorcycle into the department's lobby so dispatchers would have a radio after their emergency generator was destroyed.

Varnell, who now runs his police department from the parking lot of the station, said guns, computers and even uniforms were lost. All but three of his 27 employees, including himself, lost their homes.

"But we did what we had to do," he said.

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**RE: Local Union 689, New Orleans, Louisiana**
**Notice of Emergency Trusteeship Hearing**

Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on **October 17, 2005** at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)** to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.
Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.
The hearing will be conducted via telephone at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)**. Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free **1-800-423-1988** and provide the operator with the following code **(788833)**. Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: **Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**.

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AP PHOTO

A worker sweeps up at Beau Rivage in Biloxi. Hurricane Katrina sent a 27-foot wave crashing through the heart of the $800 million hotel and casino. Repairs may take up to 16 months to complete.

# Casino 'family' coping together

## *Beau Rivage workers share woes*

**By Vicki Smith**
Associated Press Writer

BILOXI, MISS. — Mike Davis wipes the sweat from his brow, replaces his ball cap and steps into the shade of a tent in the parking lot of the once lavish Beau Rivage Casino. It's only 10 a.m., but the sun is beating down, the pavement heating up.

Davis, who was an executive here before Hurricane Katrina, scans the chairs, sees a woman sitting alone, asks how she is.

"Sit down," she invites. These days, everyone wants to share their story. It's a connection, part of the healing. When people say they need two minutes, they really need 10.

The woman is the wife of a security guard Davis has never met. But leaning in close, he peers into the screen of her digital camera. She wants to show him the 300-year-old oak the hurricane blew into her driveway, to tell him about the wind, the rain, the mud.

"I'm so sorry. I wish there was something I could say," he says. "At least we're still here."

Davis lost nearly everything in his home on Heron Bayou in Ocean Springs, but he can't bear to spend the day cleaning it. Here, he can be of use. Here, he can flash a smile, offer a hug, point someone to the right relief tent.

"As soon as we opened up, it meant something," he says. "We were doing something to heal our community."

A community is how he and others see the casino crew, before and since the storm.

Some 3,400 people worked at the Beau Rivage, the posh sister to The Bellagio in Las Vegas and the biggest of 13 casino properties on the coast. Katrina sent a 27-foot wave crashing through the heart of the $800 million Beau, putting them all out of work in one awful moment.

MGM Mirage, the owner, committed to rebuilding the Beau Rivage a week after the storm. It's paying employees for 90 days and helping them find work. While other casinos stand dark and empty, the Beau is alive with hundreds of people coming for paychecks and medical care, towels and toiletries _ or just a chance to visit.

"We talked about bringing in grief counselors, but after the first day or so, we realized we could get through it together," Davis says. "We were a close community before, and this has just made us closer."

Relations within the community have changed, though. Davis was once assistant director of convention sales, a 38-year-old, clean-shaven executive who moussed his hair, dressed in a suit and spent his mornings in an air-conditioned office calling clients. Now, he wears a goatee and sunglasses with his T-shirt and shorts.

He fetches a bottle of water for an overheated housekeeper, then Saltines for an older woman feeling queasy. He loads cases of water onto a dolly for a woman who used to make the coffee.

They are people he would never meet, never speak to, never wait on. But that was before Katrina, the storm that, at least for a while, made class irrelevant: Rich and poor alike were left without power, telephones and running water. Everyone had to scramble for food, for gas, for help.

"I'm out here sweating every day, trying to get everything going, and the people who are ordinarily here sweating all day are strolling in all cool at 9:30," Davis says. "I think it's the coolest thing in the world."

At first, he didn't know how many co-workers had survived Katrina, but each day he sees another face and his world grows a little bigger.

Davis wanders off to the job opportunity tent, figuring he needs to show his face so he can be rehired a year from now, or whenever the casino reopens. But in less than two minutes, he's rushing off to help someone else.

"I don't know if I'm getting paid or not getting paid. But it doesn't matter," he says. "It's therapeutic."

The Beau Rivage is paying 120 people to write relief checks for the American Red Cross. Besides giving the charity a much-needed source of labor, this arrangement shortens lines for the casino workers and others on the receiving end.

One such person, an elderly man in a polo shirt and woven hat, sits down across from Sherry O'Brien, who was, until the storm, a blackjack dealer on the graveyard shift.

She checks the cheat sheet she has scrawled on the linen tablecloth _ $360 for one person, $665 for a family of two, and so on _ and writes him a check for the proper amount.

"I'm doing something to help. And it really does," she says. "This is something concrete."

O'Brien turned 41 on Sept. 1, three days after Katrina. Everyone forgot her birthday.

She grows sad thinking about it, then shakes herself back to reality. Though many friends and several relatives lost their homes in the storm, O'Brien's Biloxi apartment was unscathed.

It's a bit crowded now for her and 12-year-old son, Blake. Her pregnant 20-year-old daughter, Ashley, has moved in, along with fiance Chris Gruich, their dog Jack and squirrel Chi-

*See* **CASINO,** *B-7*

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**CASINO,** *from B-6*

no. Overnight, the housing market vanished, and the young couple couldn't find a place to rent.

"I've lived here all my life, and all the historic buildings I've known all my life are just gone. The Gulfport I've always known, it's going to be starting all over," O'Brien says. "It's just so sad to see some people leaving to start new lives, and you wonder if they're ever going to come back."

Sometimes, she thinks, she hasn't suffered enough. She listens to strangers' stories and tries to be vague when asked how she fared.

Writing checks eases the guilt.

"Everything's changing," she says, thinking about the $53,000 a year she made dealing cards and the $8 an hour she now earns. "I have to learn to live on a whole different budget. But we'll make it.

"Sometimes you just realize how short life is," she says. "You should go home every day and hug your children because you just don't know what's going to happen."

Tonight, she will take her children to their favorite Mexican restaurant, among the first in Gulfport to reopen. They will wait a while to be seated, surrounded by workers who have come to rebuild the coast, then Ashley will order her usual _ queso dip and an enchilada burrito, no beef. It is a treat no one takes for granted anymore.

"This is a life-changing event for all of us," O'Brien says.

She feels the magnitude most of all when she's driving, seeing the scale of the destruction.

That's also when it hits Mike Davis.

It's afternoon now, and he has been picking his way along the Biloxi beachfront in his Toyota 4-Runner.

There are not words for what lies in ruins: The Broadwater Hotel, where he first worked after high school. The shell of The President casino, now resting a half-mile from its site on the wrong side of the street. Battered Beauvoir, the estate of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

He's joined now by Alice El-Hamaki, ordinarily the Beau Rivage director of housekeeping. The drive shakes them, and after getting out of the truck, they hug _ and together they cry.

El-Hamaki remembers a game she played with her daughter, counting motels with the name "inn" between Biloxi and her home in Bay St. Louis. There were about 20, she recalls. Now, there are none.

"I wasn't prepared for that driving down the beach," Davis says. "I expected the debris, but there's not a house, a business that's still standing for miles."

After helping set up a Red Cross distribution center outside a damaged movie theater, sweeping broken glass while others erect tents, Davis is back in the truck _ and soon snarled in knots of traffic on Interstate 10 to Ocean Springs. Ordinarily, it is a 20-minute drive. Today, it takes 90.

His old self would have been tense. Even angry. But lines have become a way of life.

Finally, Davis is home. He walks into his house to find friends have ripped out the soggy drywall. The water-logged ceiling sags, and in some spots it has collapsed. It looks better, he thinks.

The first two days here were far worse. Davis and wife, Dina, were cleaning out their office when they discovered scrapbooks and photo albums, left behind when they fled the storm, were ruined. So was the baby book for 6-year-old son Trevor.

"You don't have to lose your entire home to be devastated," Davis says.

Tonight, as they will every night for the next few months, Davis and his wife will sleep in an old, borrowed bed at their best friends' home. Trevor sleeps in the same room, on a futon.

"Work is easy to go to," Davis says. "This is hard because this is real."

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# Family regrets leaving elderly relative behind

## *Nursing home patient dies after evacuation*

**By Gillian Flaccus**
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — As Hurricane Katrina swirled toward land, Viola King fretted about her 100-year-old mother, helpless and bedridden at the Lafon Nursing Home.

She agonized for days. Should she bring her mom along on an 18-hour drive to Houston? Or should she leave her at the home, in New Orleans, where the staff said they would move fragile patients to safety on the second floor?

She opted to leave Rosalie Daste where she was. But a day after Katrina passed, a levee broke near the home in the eastern part of the city, and King immediately regretted her decision.

She watched from afar as floodwaters swamped the city. She imagined her mother sitting quietly in a corner as the water rose. She pictured her waiting patiently, confused about why no one came to change her diaper, scared because King wasn't there to feed her dinner.

More than anything else, King said, she was upset that her mother might think she was alone.

"She might have been off somewhere in a corner, because she was not the kind of person who would demand attention," King said. "I was afraid that she would just sit there and go unfed."

King kept a sleepless vigil in Houston, overwhelmed by feelings of powerlessness and guilt and remorse at the decision she had made — emotions that plague her still, more than a month later.

The plight of the elderly is among the most disturbing stories to emerge from the wreckage of Katrina. At least 140 elderly patients in New Orleans nursing homes and hospitals died in the storm and its aftermath; dozens more who were living independently may have perished.

In some cases, elderly patients too sick to move were abandoned by caretakers too frantic to save them. In others, older residents were stranded for days in floodwaters with no food and water. Those who were rescued often were deposited alone in shelters or faraway hospitals with no identification or medical records.

In the chaos of the storm's aftermath, their horrified relatives watched from afar. There was no way of knowing what had happened to their loved ones.

In Houston, Viola King was riveted by televised scenes of hurricane victims plucked from roofs by helicopters or hacked out of attics. The family searched the news for signs of a rescue at Lafon; they imagined Daste suffering on the second floor of the home as the temperature rose and drinking water ran out.

Desperate for news and frantic to alert officials to the patients trapped at Lafon, Daste's family worked around the clock for three days, posting inquiries on Web sites and calling repeatedly on phone lines that didn't work.

Then, there was relief. The patients had been rescued by buses.

The family's jubilance did not last long. Daste's granddaughter, Jelynne LeBlanc Burley, an assistant city manager in San Antonio, Texas, spent all night on the phone trying to find her, only to learn that her grandmother hadn't made it on the first bus — and the second bus turned around after the driver was spooked by a large explosion.

Finally, the great news: Daste was alive. She had been evacuated on another bus and airlifted to a hospital somewhere in the Southeast.

With no contact from Lafon, the family called hospitals in seven cities in six states, at one point keeping a nurse in Nashville on the line for 4 1/2 hours as she tried to help them. They dispatched Daste's great-grandson to military bases around Houston where C-130 planes landed; they had heard that Daste had been flown out on a C-130.

"No one contacted us, and we weren't able to reach any state agency or any official of any kind," King said. "I cannot describe in words the kind of frustration and anxiety we felt."

Rosalie Daste wasn't always so helpless. For most of her long life, she was the touchstone for three generations, pushing and pulling her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren along until they met her impossibly high standards.

She had the equivalent of an eighth-grade education and worked a series of menial jobs as a cafeteria worker and a maid at Gulf States Energy, now Entergy.

But when her husband died in 1950, Daste took over his Baton Rouge grocery store and managed eight rental properties — including a 16-apartment complex and a coin-operated laundry — while raising four children alone.

No one in Daste's family ever wanted to put her in a nursing home. But as she aged, the world began to close in on her.

She watched three of her four children — two daughters and one son — die before her. Then her bones began giving out: She fractured a hip, then her pelvis, then a vertebra.

About four years ago, she began to forget family names. She would leave the stove on.

At first, King tried to let her live independently, moving her into an apartment next door to where she lived with King's mother-in-law. Then King herself moved in and alternated weeks lifting and feeding her mother with a 24-hour hired nurse.

In 2001, the burden was too much. King checked her mother into Lafon, a Catholic facility.

The home where King put her mother is now a wreck.

Twenty-two bodies were found there as the waters pulled back, the spots marked with red spray paint. Some were wrapped in sheets in the chapel; others were sprawled in hallways, near elevators and in community rooms. Some relatives still haven't found the remains of patients who died there.

State Attorney General Charles Foti has launched an investigation into the deaths at Lafon.

Rosalie Daste was not among those who perished at Lafon. Marcia Galatas, a granddaughter, finally tracked her to St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe two weeks after Katrina.

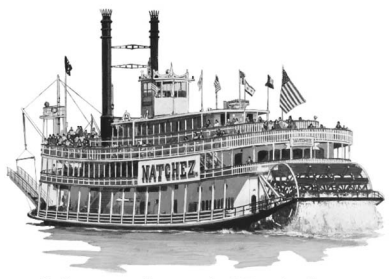
Daste was dying. She had water in her lungs, she was in kidney failure caused by severe dehydration and she had a bacterial infection in her blood.

King and Galatas drove through the night from Houston, arriving at her bedside around noon on Labor Day. What they saw shocked them: Daste was covered in bruises, her veins bulged and the skin had been torn from her elbows.

She died eight hours later.

King isn't sure Daste knew her daughter and granddaughter were there. She hopes so.

"I apologized to her first, and I asked for her forgiveness. She held my hand and seemed to respond to my presence," King said.

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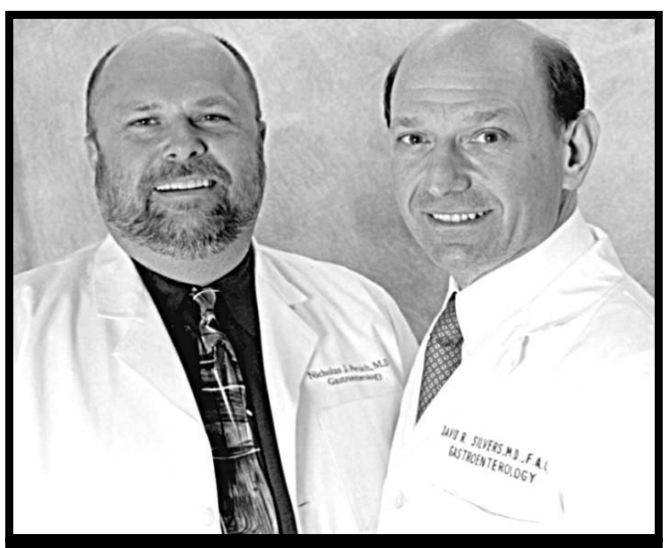
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# 'Brightest' evacuees weigh options

*Creative minds finding opportunities elsewhere*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

Like many displaced New Orleanians, Sheryl Smith and her husband, Clint, have some big decisions ahead of them.

Sheryl Smith, a lifelong New Orleanian now in Houston, wanted to return home, but her house on St. Roch Avenue fared poorly in the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina. Clint Smith, a lawyer for a small technology company in New Orleans, also hoped to return home. They miss the rituals of life in New Orleans: going to Mass, finding pickled meat in the red beans, shopping at neighborhood markets.

"There are all those little things, those really uniquely New Orleans things," she said.

In the meantime, they feel their roots starting to sink into Houston. Sheryl Smith, an anesthesiologist, has received several job offers. Her three children, who attended Lusher and Ben Franklin schools in New Orleans, ended up at a prestigious international school in Houston, where they're mingling with children of oil executives and diplomats from all over the world. Her kids, all soccer players, were fascinated to discover that Homecoming at the international school revolves around a soccer game. And they've been quick to make friends: When Hurricane Rita threatened, a family from the school invited the Smiths to evacuate with them to their ranch in Texas' Hill Country.

Sheryl Smith still hopes to return home with her children after the school year, but she admits that no decision has been made. "For right this second, I don't have an immediate plan to return home," she said. "I'm just hoping that we'll just bide our time and it will be revealed to us what path we'll take."

## Those with skills can move

Although a fair amount of attention has been given to the notion that many of the city's poorer residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina may not return, some believe that people like the Smiths and other bright, entrepreneurial, creative people may not return either. No one knows, of course, because nothing quite like Katrina has happened before in the United States, but generally, those with the most education and resources tend to be the most mobile.

"It's usually the best and the brightest (who relocate)," said William H. Frey, a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution and demographer at the University of Michigan Population Studies Center who has studied population trends in Louisiana. "The people with the education and more skills and more national networks, they might be more likely to take opportunities elsewhere."

To be sure, thousands of New Orleanians of all backgrounds want nothing more than to come back to the city as soon as possible. And the fact that many have deep roots in the city makes it more likely that those professionals will return. Meanwhile, there may be an influx of risk-takers who spy opportunity in the rebuilding of New Orleans, giving the city a fresh jolt of people with entrepreneurial skills.

But for now, many New Orleanians are caught between not knowing what awaits them back at home and tempting new opportunities for work and for their children's education. Some professionals say they have been getting warm welcomes in the communities where they've landed. Academics and scientists have received offers of research space at other universities, where jobs may eventually open. Cities such as San Francisco and Boulder, Colo., have been courting musicians, according to WWOZ general manager David Freedman. And schools such as the Santa Fe Art Institute, Yale University and Williams College have offered artists studio space or teaching opportunities while New Orleans is shut down, according to Lynda Frese, an art professor at University of Louisiana in Lafayette.

## Big worry for city

The potential for a post-Katrina "brain-drain" is a major concern for local business leaders.

"It's a huge concern. It occupies almost every meeting I'm in all day long," said Mark Drennen, head of Greater New Orleans Inc., of the risk of losing the city's professional class. "We absolutely cannot afford to lose any of those people.

"Those are the people we need to grow our economy. Those are the people who will be creating jobs for everybody."

Drennen said that in an effort to get people back, GNO Inc. is trying to get Congress to appropriate money for bridge loans to help local business people stay solvent until they can get their Small Business Administration disaster loans or collect on business interruption insurance. GNO Inc. is also trying to get trailers for small businesses so they can house their workers.

Richard Bachmann, chairman and chief executive of the New Orleans-based Energy Partners Limited, worries that the longer companies and their workers stay away from New Orleans, the more likely it is that they'll settle elsewhere. "It's just all too easy to stay in Houston," Bachmann said.

Marion LaNasa, director of communications for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Michoud Operations, says about 400 workers have returned to New Orleans, and the company plans to bring back the remaining 1,600 as soon as conditions are ripe. Until then, those engineers, skilled technicians and other employees have been temporarily placed at other Lockheed Martin facilities in Texas and Alabama, but with housing and water still a problem in New Orleans, there is a risk that the longer people are away, the more likely they'll stay.

"It's certainly a risk to any business in New Orleans," LaNasa said. "In the case of Lockheed Martin, the work is here and the work remains. The question is, how quickly can we get the workforce to migrate back to the New Orleans area and find housing to support their families?"

## Stiff competition

Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, whose office has been working on developing the "cultural economy" based on Louisiana music, food and the arts, has said he thinks that some displaced New Orleanians will discover attractive things about the communities in which they've landed, but they'll also realize that most places lack the soul of New Orleans. To make sure Louisiana wins people back, the state needs to act quickly and seize the opportunities to fix long-standing problems in the rebuilding effort, like the schools.

"At the end of the day, we're competing for citizens," Landrieu said in a recent interview.

But some, such as public relations and marketing consultant Julie Sardie, have already made the decision not to come back. Sardie's home on Park Island is fine, but the storm swept away any projects or political campaigns for her to work on. Fortunately, an engineering firm for which she'd previously done work, MWH, offered her a job two days after the storm in its government relations practice.

"Everything I was doing was related to stuff in New Orleans, so I had nothing to represent. I had to think quickly," Sardie said. "I really don't have a reason to be in New Orleans right now."

Sardie's two adult children and their families have moved to Dallas and Vermont because of work and school opportunities, and she said that many of her friends also think they might not come back.

"My peers, a lot of them are moving on," Sardie said. "They get their kids in school. They really don't want to uproot their kids. I've heard a lot of people saying, 'I'm not going back.' "

Still, Sardie said, it's hard being away. "Sometimes, I'm completely overwhelmed trying to get around Houston. How do you go from being the 'Princess of Pampy's' to 'Nobody knows your name?' " Sardie said, referring to the Broad Street restaurant where she was a regular.

Others, such as Lakeview residents Laura Sampson and her husband, John Schewe, lost their home and their business. They say no matter how much they want to come back to New Orleans, they don't think they can. They're staying at a friend's condominium at the beach to put together and sell a self-study course in massage that they designed, but they're considering moving to Georgia or Tennessee.

## Choice of jobs

"We really don't know if we can make our living (in New Orleans). I know that a lot of my clients have been displaced, and we don't know if they come back if they'll have the disposable income for massage," Sampson said.

"It's so hard because we just loved our lives in New Orleans. We felt like we were where we wanted to be. To feel like giving all of that up, it's gut-wrenching," she added.

John Vollenweider says doesn't want to make any rash decisions about his family's future. Vollenweider, who works in business banking at Hibernia Corp., is working at Hibernia's McKinney, Texas, office at least through the end of the year. His daughters have enrolled in Catholic schools in the area, and his wife, a teacher in the archdiocese school system, feels that she'd have her choice of jobs, at higher pay, in the fast-growing Dallas-Plano area.

Vollenweider's house in Kenner suffered some flood damage during Katrina, as it did during the May 1995 floods, and he said he is tired of evacuating from hurricanes. His office on Clearview Parkway was damaged, and he said he thinks that several co-workers won't return.

Meanwhile, he's noticed that housing in Texas is affordable, there are no potholes on the roads, and there are lots of parks. Area business leaders have been welcoming, even offering to help spouses find jobs. Vollenweider plans to come back to Louisiana to fix his house, but he doesn't know what will happen from there.

"You get out and you see what's available and you see what you can do with your life. There's a lot of opportunities," Vollenweider said. "It's very tempting."

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MONEY

# Insurers' mobile units aid those with claims

## *Good, bad luck is at 'tent city'*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

Anthony Marengo went to the disaster relief center in Chalmette to pick up five bags of ice Thursday morning, but the hurricane victim left with an unexpected pledge worth $280,000 from his insurance company.

"It shocked me," said Marengo, a plumber whose two-story house in Meraux was wrecked by Katrina. "We're running some water lines down in Toca and needed some ice, so I came over here. But when I saw there wasn't anyone in line at State Farm, I decided to find out what was going on with my claim."

State Farm is one of four insurance companies with trailers at the disaster relief center, which opened Monday in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart store on East Judge Perez Drive. Other tenants include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross and the Pastors Relief Council, which is serving two hot meals a day and handing out ice and boxes of food to hurricane survivors.

The center, or "tent city" in hurricane lingo, is drawing hundreds of former St. Bernard residents each day. Some come to look for friends they haven't seen in more than a month. For others, the visit is strictly business.

Marengo arrived at 9 a.m., about an hour after the place came to life. Fifteen minutes after taking a seat under State Farm's tent, Marengo was on the phone with his adjuster, who quickly determined that Marengo is among the thousands of homeowners whose properties were destroyed by flood water. After getting Marengo's current address in Zachary, the adjuster promised to send a check worth $280,000 – the maximum amount of coverage Marengo had under his flood insurance policy.

Though he will still have to meet with the adjuster to discuss missing shingles and other wind damage, Marengo is amazed he could close out his flood-insurance claim without anyone from State Farm visiting his home, which was inundated with eight feet of water.

After a slow start, the insurance industry has cranked up the money machine. At State Farm, which paid out about $500 million in Katrina-related claims in the first month after the catastrophic storm, the insurer is now writing checks worth about $100 million a day, according to Bill Gourgues, a claim team manager who is running the operation in Chalmette. With 33 percent of the homeowners' market, State Farm is the largest residential insurer in Louisiana.

Representatives of Allstate, the state's second largest residential insurer, declined to provide claims data on the storm. But company spokesman Mike Trevino said the process of paying policyholders has ramped up considerably in the last week or so.

For insurers, Katrina has been a logistical nightmare. Under standard procedure, companies can't pay a claim until an adjuster has visited a customer's property. But access to the most heavily damaged parts of the New Orleans area has been sharply restricted, making it impossible for most policyholders to get their money and move on with their lives.

To address the problem, FEMA – which oversees the federal flood insurance program – announced Sept. 20 that it would dispense with many of its usual requirements in order to speed the arrival of big checks to storm victims. Instead of requiring a site visit, FEMA authorized insurance companies to pay off claims on properties "where it is readily apparent that flood damage covered by the policy will exceed the amount of insurance purchased."

Though flood insurance is backed by the federal government, it is sold by insurance companies, which are also responsible for handling claims.

To determine which properties qualify for the expedited process, insurers were told to review aerial photographs, flood data and policyholder information. FEMA said the process could be used for homes that "have been washed off their foundations, affected for long periods by standing water or when only pilings or a slab remain."

In St. Bernard Parish, that covers most of the 24,000 homes that were damaged by Katrina, according to state and local officials.

After touring several hundred homes this week, an Allstate representative said he was appalled by the devastation. "I didn't see any homes that weren't totally destroyed," said Paul Tracey, a field operations manager for the company.

To make it easier for policyholders to file or check on their claims, insurers have set up dozens of mobile response units, usually in the parking lot of a big retailer such as Home Depot or Wal-Mart. The Chalmette operation, however, is one of the few in which more than one insurance company is represented.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Anthony Marengo, 46, of Meraux talks with State Farm insurance adjuster Tim Andrew, right, at a disaster relief center in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart store on East Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette. At the makeshift center, Marengo was promised a check worth $280,000 – the maximum amount of coverage Marengo had under his flood insurance policy

St. Bernard Parish Councilman Mark Madary said local officials got the idea for the center after visiting a similar operation in Mississippi.

"It's like a Wal-Mart,'' Madary said. "You want people to be able to do everything in one location. It takes the stress out of driving around the town."

The most popular tent is run by FEMA, where the average wait for a face-to-face meeting with a representative ran about 45 minutes this week. Most of the conversations involved the Small Business Administration's disaster-loan program, which provides up to $240,000 for homeowners affected by the storm.

When she got to the center Thursday morning, Frances Reilly hoped she wouldn't have to fill out an application for an SBA loan. But after meeting with a representative from Allstate, Reilly said she had no choice.

"Allstate is screwing us," said Reilly, whose Chalmette home was destroyed by flood water. "I'm not buying homeowners' insurance again. It's not worth the paper it's written on."

Reilly said flooding caused most of the damage to her property, which was hit with 6 feet of water. But she said Katrina's winds also tore off part of her roof, wrecked her fence and ripped loose a 52-foot patio cover.

Though an Allstate adjuster agreed to max out her flood insurance policy and cut her a check for $105,000 to cover her losses, Reilly said the company balked when she asked for additional help under her homeowner's policy. Reilly said she will need an additional $100,000 to cover her actual losses.

"They're telling us that it's all flood," Reilly said. "All they're going to give us is a $4,000 roof. That's it. No contents or nothing. It's just disgusting."

While her husband picked up lunch from the Red Cross van in the parking lot, Reilly waited in line at the FEMA tent, filling out a loan application. She said she'll need the money if she ever hopes to rebuild.

Allstate representatives declined to comment specifically on Reilly's claim, but they have repeatedly told state officials that they simply can't pay for Katrina-related damages if they are not caused by wind. They said that's the purpose of flood insurance, which is governed by rules established by the federal government.




Residents of St. Bernard Parish pick up ice and boxes of food from at a disaster relief center in Chalmette, called "tent city" in hurricane lingo. Insurance companies, FEMA, the Red Cross and Pastors Relief Council are all staging in the parking lot.

For many policyholders in St. Bernard Parish, those distinctions don't come home until they visit the disaster relief center. Some leave crying. Others are jubilant just to hook up with their adjuster.

"Our biggest problem right now is communication," said Bossier City adjuster Charlie Urban, who is running Allstate's operation in Chalmette. "It's practically impossible to get a call through down here, so they come to us and we connect them with their adjuster. We're basically facilitating communication."

Urban said the assignment can be stressful.

"They're in a state of shock," he said of the company's policyholders. "They're wondering where they're going to go from here, where they're going to live. It's a terrible situation."

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Jeffrey Meitrodt can be reached at meitrodt@cox.net

# DEATHS

**Harold W. Anderson**
**Lynn P. Bertaut Jr.**
**Gerald J. Campeaux**
**Philippina Caronna**
**Walter Thomas Cosse**
**Charles I. Forman**
**Myrtle M. Grosskopf**
**Joseph Barton Hughes**
**Joseph J. Krebs**
**Mrs. Alice Ory**
**Anna May Dusenbery Roule**

### ANDERSON

Harold W. "Noonie" Anderson, Jr., age 39 years, died at Conroe, TX on September 8, 2005. Beloved son of Alice Pattison Anderson and Harold W. Anderson, Sr. loving father of Renae and Jenae Anderson. Brother of Kim A. Dubroc, Kelly A. Juneau, Angela A. Crews and Richard Anderson. Brother-in-law of Charles Cunningham, Billy Juneau, and Keith Crews. Uncle of Krystal Dubroc, Chayse Juneau, Cory and Cody Cunningham, Keith Jr., Amber and Robert Crews. Also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to a Memorial Mass from the Jefferson Home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 North Causeway Blvd on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 12 o'clock Noon with Father Martin Smullen officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home after 10:00 AM. in lieu of the usual remembrances, memorials may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation, 3701 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. Information 835-2341

### BERTAUT

Lynn P. Bertaut Jr., age 55 of Metairie, LA departed this life on September 20, 2005 at his daugher's home in Franklin, TN after a brief and courageous fight against metastatic melanoma. Adoring and beloved husband of Norma Dominguez Bertaut. Much beloved father of Rebecca Bertaut Vaughn and Christa Bertaut Gonzales. Grandfather ('GB') of Wyatt and Sawyer Vaughn. Father-in-law of Billy Vaughn and Michael Gonzales. Son of Lynn P. Bertaut, Sr. and Gerry Bertaut. Brother of Robert, Elizabeth B. Themes, Julie B. Bell, and Tina B. Festi. Founder and CEO of On-Line Systems Research. He will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held in Metairie, LA at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Alive Hospice of Nashville, TN or the American Cancer Society. Friends may call 504-339-9995

### CAMPEAUX

Gerald J. Campeaux, passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 in Cahttanooga, TN. Beloved husband of the late Joan M. Campeaux. Loving father of Daniel G. Campeaux, Gerard "Jay" Campeaux, and the late Steven G. Campeaux. Brother of Marilyn Campeaux, Lorraine Theobold, and the late Howard J. Campeaux. Grandfather of Jeffrey, Jason, Catherine, Ashley, and Matthew. Father-in-law of gail Maus, Sandy Campeaux, and Jeanine Campeaux. Special friend of Bess Theriot. Retired accountant for Bunzl Mac-Pak. Relatives, friends, members of AARP "Heart of Metairie" Chapter 4924, and employees of Bunzl Mac-Pak are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Chapel, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA, on Monday October 10, 2005 at 2:00 pm. A temporary burial will follow at Pinecrest Cemetery. Visitation on Monday from 12:00 pm until service time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2200 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Suite 214, Kenner, LA 70062. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please view and sign the family guest book at www.lakelawn-metairie.com

### CARONNA

Philippina Caronna, on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 6:00 am. Daughter of the late Michele Caronna and Maria Vitrano. Sister of the late Rosalie, Savina, Louis, and Peter Caronna. Sister-in-law of Mrs. Dolores Caronna and Mrs. Antionette Caronna. Age 98 years. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo Home 1717 Veterans Memorial Boulevard on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 10:00 am. Interment at St. Roch Cemetery #2. Visitation after 9:30 am Tuesday. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### COSSE

On this very heavenly day October 2, 2005 God opened his loving arms and welcomed a special angel to His rest, Walter Thomas Cosse, 30. His death was of natural cause. Walter willing and lovinigly will watch over his loving wife Karen Presley Cosse, his son, love of his life, Ty Michael Cosse, mother, Barbara Comer Cosse, father, Thomas Cosse, brother, Thomas "Tommy" Cosse, Jr., Mother and father-in-law, Michael and Debbie Presley, grandfather, Walter J. Comer, nanny, Patty tufaro, godfather, Leo Cosse, uncle, Pete Tufaro, and aunt, Mary Landa, godchild, Richard "Braden" Prince, and cousins: Melisssa and Paris Prince, Peter Tufaro, Jr., Timothy Cosse, Kim Shreve, Rodney Cantrell, Missy Graham, Jackie Moore, Robin Landa-Detwiller. Sister-in-law to be Amy Kimball. Deceased but never forgotten grandmothers, Hazel D. Comer, Gloria Cosse. Walter was a life long resident of St. Bernard Parish, graduate of Brother Martin and Nunez Community College. He was a dedicated and gracious employee of Metal Pro Industries. Walter had many other treasured family and friends. His knowledge, talent, and dimpled smile will remain with us forever. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Church on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 10:00 am. Visitation will be held on Sunday October 9, 2005 from 5pm-9pm at the temporary location of Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home 1717 Veterans Boulevared Metairie, LA 70005. God Saved him and took him to his golden palace in peace forever.

### FORMAN

Charles I. Forman, 90, a 35 year resident of Metairie died Saturday, October 1, 2005 at the Veterans Hospital in Atlanta, GA, where he was staying after the evacuation. Charles was born in Brooklyn, NY and was a proud Veteran of World War II, serving in the Army. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 51 years, Florence (nee Berman), daughters Susan of Cape Coral, FL and Charlotte of Metairie. Granddaughters Leah Day and Lauren Bond, Great-grandchildren Rachel and Connor Bond all from New Jersey. Due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, a memorial service will be held in the Metairie area at a later date.

### GROSSKOPF

Myrtle M. Grosskopf, age 71 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, LA. Mrs. Grosskopf is the beloved wife of Robert E. Grosskopf, Sr. for the past 54 years. Mother of Robert E. Grosskopf, Jr. and his wife Catherine Grosskopf of Boston, MA and Pamela L. Mashon and her husband Kurt Mashon of Hammond, LA. Grandmother of Meghan and Margot Grosskopf, and Zachary and Alexandra Mashon. Daughter of the late Charles R. Lesher, Jr. of Jupiter, FL and the late Mary Jane Hamm. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Mrs. Grosskopf was a retired Office Supervisor for Analytical Studies in Metairie, LA. She was a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Service in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 315 Ridgelake Dr, Metairie, LA 70001, on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf to the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at the above address. All Faiths Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### HUGHES

Joseph Barton Hughes on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 2:40 AM at his residence. Beloved husband of 67 years to Ruth Curry Hughes. Loving father of Helen H. Whittington and Michael S. Hughes. Grandfather of Kim W. Michel, Tonia W. Merrick, Michael S. Hughes, Jr., Bobby, Jason, Jennifer Louise and Emily Lauren Hughes and the late Billy D. "Bubba" Whittington. Great grandfather of Nicholas, Michael, Shane, Megan, Garrett, Jacob, Dakota, Colby and Shelby Hughes and Adriana Milyn Michel. Son of the late Joby Eugene and Mealie Adeline Wilkinson Hughes. Brother of the late Ada Holloway, Roy, Stanford, Verdin and Theo Hughes. Mr. Hughes was born in Leady, MS and lived in Covington for the past 55 years. He was a retired rigger with Brown & Root/Prestressed Concrete Products. He worked with the construction of the first Causeway Bridge in 1955 and the second Causeway in 1968, the I-10 Twin Spans, I-10 & I-55 Manchac Bridges, BonneCarre Spillway Bridges and the bridges across Escambia Bay to Pensacola, FL. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 2:00 PM from the chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave, Covington, LA. Interment to follow in Garden of The Pines Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM. Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com

### KREBS

Joseph J. Krebs, Jr. passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Mr. Krebs, the former Chairman and CEO of J.J. Krebs and Sons, Inc., an engineering consulting firm now known as Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc., retired in December 1995, and served as a consultant to the firm until his death. A 1950 Tulane graduate in Civil Engineering, he was a member of Tau Beta Pi Honorary Fraternity. In 1976, he was appointed to the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans and served for five years as Commissioner, and as President and Chairman of the Board in 1980. Mr. Krebs led the Board's first trade mission to the People's Republic of China and the Far East in 1984. The same year, he was elected Chairman of the Board of the Chamber/New Orleans and the River Region and served for many years in various Chamber organizations. From 1981 to 1986 he was a member of the Greater Jefferson Port Commission, and in 1986 became a member of the Jefferson Economic Development Commission, on whose board he served until 1991. Mr. Krebs has also been a Board member of the Louisiana Council for Fiscal Reform, Jefferson Business Council, Commitee for a Better Jefferson, Bureau of Government Research, World Trade Center, Greater New Orleans Foundation and the American Public Works Association, and the Board of Trustees of Loyola University. In addition, Mr. Krebs served for many years on the Board of Directors of LP&L and NOPSI, and as an Advisory Board member of Entergy. Mr. Krebs received the C. Alvin Bertel Award from the New Orleans Traffic and Transportation Bureau, recognizing his contributions to the effort to keep New Orleans competitive with other ports and to enhance its position in the development of trade and industry vital to the economy of Louisiana. His lists of awards also includes the Joseph W. Simon Award from the Chamber/New Orleans and the River Region for his superlative and honorable service to their organization, The Young Leadership Council's 25 Role Models of 1987, and the 1988 Construction IndustryAssociation of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana's "Honor Award". In 1994, Mr. Krebs was inducted into the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame. Mr. Krebs was an active parishioner of St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church, and served on many committes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, including as Chairman of the Archbishop's Community Appeal in 1991. Joseph J. Krebs, Jr. is survived by the former Betty Prillmayer, two married children, David and kathy, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Services will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Leitz-Eagan Funerla Home on Veterans Blvd. in Metairie, with visitation from 9:00 to 11:00, followed by a Catholic Mass at Leitz-Eagan at 11:00. Interment will follow at Garden of Memories in Metairie.

### ORY

Mrs. Alice Ory, age 83, passed away Thursday September 29,2005 in Fulton County Georgia. Mrs. Ory had been residing with her son in Ocean Springs, MS for the past several years and due to Hurricane Katrina, had evacuated to Georgia where she unfortunately died after a long battle with heart failure. Prior to residing with her children in both Baton Rouge and Mississippi, she had been a lifelong resident in New Orleans. She was a retired Civil Servant from the Port of Embarkation and a member of First Presbyterian Church of Gentilly. She was preceded in death by her husband Octave J. Ory of Garyville and New Orleans, LA and by her parents Arthur and Ana Salguero, also of New Orleans. Surviving family includes a brother, Gilbert Whitefield of Lady Lake, FL; a daughter and son-in-law, Janis and Raymond Hebbler of Baton Rouge, LA; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Tracy Ory formerly of Ocean Springs, MS; grandchildren, Christopher Ory of Lafayette, LA, Laura and Christina Hebbler both of Baton Rouge, LA, Morgan, Chandlar and Hayden Ory all formerly of Ocean Springs, MS. Due to the recent disaster, there are no plans for a memorial service at this time. The family request that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the American Red Cross. Arrangements by Whitley Garner at Rosehaven Funeral Home, Douglasville, GA 30134

### ROULE

Anna May Dusenbery Roule passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at the age of 89. Beloved wife of the late Jack Bullock and by previous marriage, the late Harry Joseph Roule. Loving mother of Wayne Dusenbery, Darryl L. Roule, Harry J. Roule, Gerard M. Roule and Mary R. Messina. Daughter of the late Annie Lapeyrouse Dusenbery and Teless Dusenbery. Sister of Gene Dusenbery and the late Clarence Dusenbery, J.C. Dusenbery, Raymond Dusenbery, Marie Jeansonne and Hanson Dusenbery. Proud grandmother of Darryl L. Roule Jr., Deanna Hill, Melissa Roule, Stephanie Hobgood, Christian Roule, Sarah Roule, Ryan Roule, Andrew Messina and the late Dr. Criss Roule-Graham. Mrs. Roule is also survived by a host of great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation to be held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 444 Metairie Rd, Metairie, LA on Monday, October 10th from 11:30AM-1:30PM. A Funeral Mass will begin at 1:30PM. A private burial will take place at Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.
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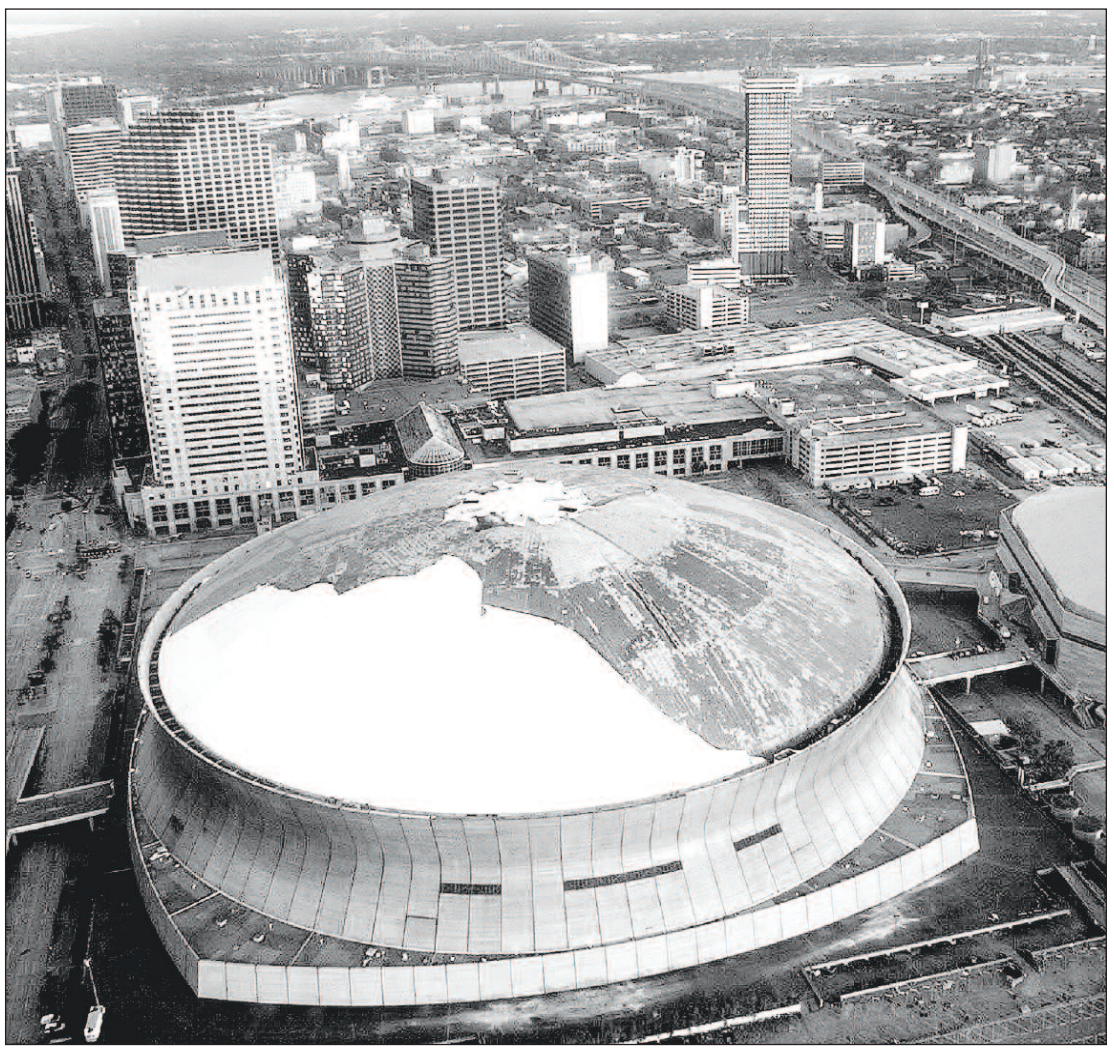
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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

The Superdome roof was mangled by Hurricane Katrina, and the interior was damaged during its days as a shelter after the storm.

## Rehab the Dome with storms in mind

Katrina demonstrated the need to upgrade the Superdome. If the Dome is going to be used as a hurricane shelter, it must be rebuilt to serve as one.

By raising the playing surface of the Dome to the plaza-level concourse, the Dome floor would be 15 to 20 feet higher than street-surface level. The new plaza would become all club seating, the much smaller loge area would be converted to all suites. By raising the playing field, terrace seating would be much closer to the action and therefore more sellable to the public. The Dome is a free-standing structure; the interior can be gutted and completely reconfigured for football-only seating. As for the lower "basement," let your imagination run wild as to what could be done with that vast open space.

Even if Dome capacity is reduced, so what? Are we going to build for a Super Bowl we might get once every decade, if we are lucky? Instead, let's aim for better and closer seating for the fans, more suites for Tom Benson and almost no chance of rising floodwaters over the new ground floor. Rebuild the Dome roof to handle the 150 mph winds, if at all possible, and chalk it up to hurricane mitigation. Construct an elevated connection to Interstate 10 to handle emergency and transport vehicles.

If the city is looking forward to rail service to Baton Rouge, would it not make sense to utilize the railroad tracks that have a back-door connection to the Dome and the New Orleans Arena? Does anyone believe that Louisiana can now afford a new open air facility with retractable roof? Maybe in 2025, but until then, the Dome may have to be home.

**Ed Ernewein**
*Jefferson*

## Why no rush to open schools?

Despite the fact that Jefferson and St. Tammy parish schools are already open, and state Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard says at minimum seven Uptown schools are in good condition, no east bank New Orleans public schools are scheduled to reopen. While the good news is that some Algiers schools might open in November, it will be more than a month after the neighboring Algiers Catholic schools open for their students.

Since there is no plan in place to rehire teachers at those West Bank schools, how long will it be before top teachers follow their students to surrounding parishes?

I wonder if this is being done to save money or to keep the poor from returning to New Orleans – or is it just plain incompetence?

**Paul Lawrence**
*New Orleans*

## Head for the hills

Let's not do what does not make sense. Rehabitation of the 9th Ward, St. Bernard Parish, parts of Lakeview and anyplace else that was substantially under water and will always be at risk does not make sense.

There are many high and dry, beautiful and almost empty parishes in Louisiana just waiting for habitation. We can be sure that many parishes would welcome new business, talent, our rich culture, etc. Sure, it won't be like the old neighborhood, but the old neighborhood will never be the same again. We need to tell people to accept it, get over it and get moving.

Look ahead to a better future. Do not plan to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on coastal restoration. Move inland. We need to be safe and not sorry for wrong and costly decisions.

Moving to the high ground makes more sense than expensive dikes, canals and pumping stations.

**Frank K. Smith**
*Mandeville*

## Texas moves in on workers

We are working hard to "Jump Start Jefferson" with businesses leading the way. We are working with out-of-state FEMA and parish contractors to "Keep Jefferson Clean."

But at the same time we are jamming the roadways with illegal signs and posters advertising who is open and who is not, and Houston is luring our displaced workers with job fairs and a truly organized employment recruitment effort.

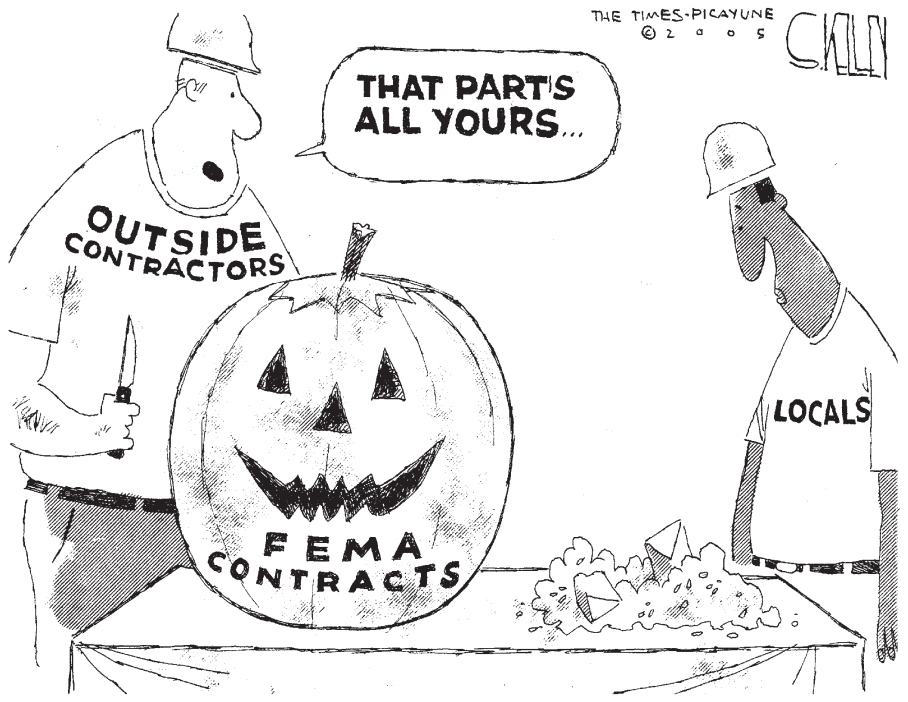
Jefferson Parish uses wire signs; Houston uses job fairs. When the workers are gone permanently, our parish president will really have something to cry about: an eroded tax base. Where is the effort by the region's Chamber of Commerce? Where is JEDCO?

What is being done to organize and counter Houston's effort? Where is the economic leadership?

Probably waiting for the next Mardi Gras parade.

**Chad Sherman**
*Marrero*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Building a new New Orleans

The city of New Orleans is reeling. Hurricane Katrina emptied it for more than a month: no people, no commerce. Six weeks after the storm, it is just beginning to sputter back to life. In essence, this is a city that must be rebuilt from scratch.

There could be no more dire situation for a mayor to face.

But Mayor Ray Nagin's vision of a downtown casino district running along the city's prime business corridor and one of its most-storied streets is a dreadful idea. This is not what the new New Orleans should be.

The mayor admitted Friday that he is desperate to kick-start the city's economy, and his proposal certainly smacks of desperation. New Orleans has too much to offer to sell itself for a quick buck to the gambling industry.

True, the old New Orleans – the city that charmed every visitor with its matchless food and music, the city that shared its bounty with the rest of the nation – seems irretrievable at the moment. How do we get from a city awash in muck and debris back to our place as the jewel of the Mississippi River? How do we rebuild a city after three-fourths of it has been full of water for days on end, when our people are scattered across the nation?

We will do it with thoughtfulness and creativity. We will do it by focusing on the city's strengths and figuring out what sort of economy would be good for the future of New Orleans. We will do it by rebuilding our universities and our port. We will do it by finding entrepreneurs and visionaries who will create smart jobs with good paychecks. We will do it by tapping into the abundance of talent among our own people. We will do it with the generosity of the federal government, although that help seems awfully slow in coming.

Ray Nagin was elected mayor because he promised a fresh take on the city's long-standing problems. He was a successful businessman, and he exuded creativity and energy. He talked Friday about the need to think "outside the box," but his casino plan is a tired old idea, not the inventive thinking we expect of Mayor Nagin.

This is not a finicky city. New Orleans has always had a bawdy side. But there is a difference between being the City that Care Forgot and Las Vegas South. Mayor Nagin argues that no amount of gambling and its tacky trappings will turn New Orleans into a new Las Vegas. New Orleans' distinctive culture, cuisine and history will keep it true to itself, he says.

That is precisely what is wrong with his idea. Putting a half dozen casinos along Poydras and Canal streets is a betrayal of all that is unique about New Orleans. Tourists came to the city in droves because of its incomparable personality. They came because they could feel the influence of 300 years of history.

There are practical problems with Mayor Nagin's casino idea. State law allows only one land-based casino in New Orleans, and Harrah's pays the state a minimum of $60 million a year for the privilege of that license. If Gov. Kathleen Blanco and the Legislature were to entertain the mayor's idea, they would put that hefty paycheck at risk.

They shouldn't take that route, but not merely because of contractual concerns. They shouldn't go along with Mayor Nagin because this is an awful idea.

New Orleans is hurting. There are whole neighborhoods in ruins, there are thousands of people who have no home to come home to any time soon. Despite all that, the city is still there underneath the mess. The talent still exists. The history still exists. The powerful river that reaches into the heart of this nation still exists.

Don't sell us short, Mr. Mayor. Find a better way to recreate New Orleans.

## It's called a fast track

Anyone whose life or property depends on the integrity of a levee system would agree that the Army Corps of Engineers needs to find out what went wrong during Hurricane Katrina, but the pace of that investigation needs to match the urgency of the repair schedule.

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief engineer for the corps, told a Senate hearing Thursday that the probe will take a "short period of months." When the 2006 hurricane season is less than eight months away, though, and the investigation has to be complete before repairs can begin, "short" does not describe "months."

Sen. David Vitter expressed understandable frustration with the delay. "The timetable is inadequate. That is a disastrously unambitious schedule – I'm tired of living by the old corps schedule."

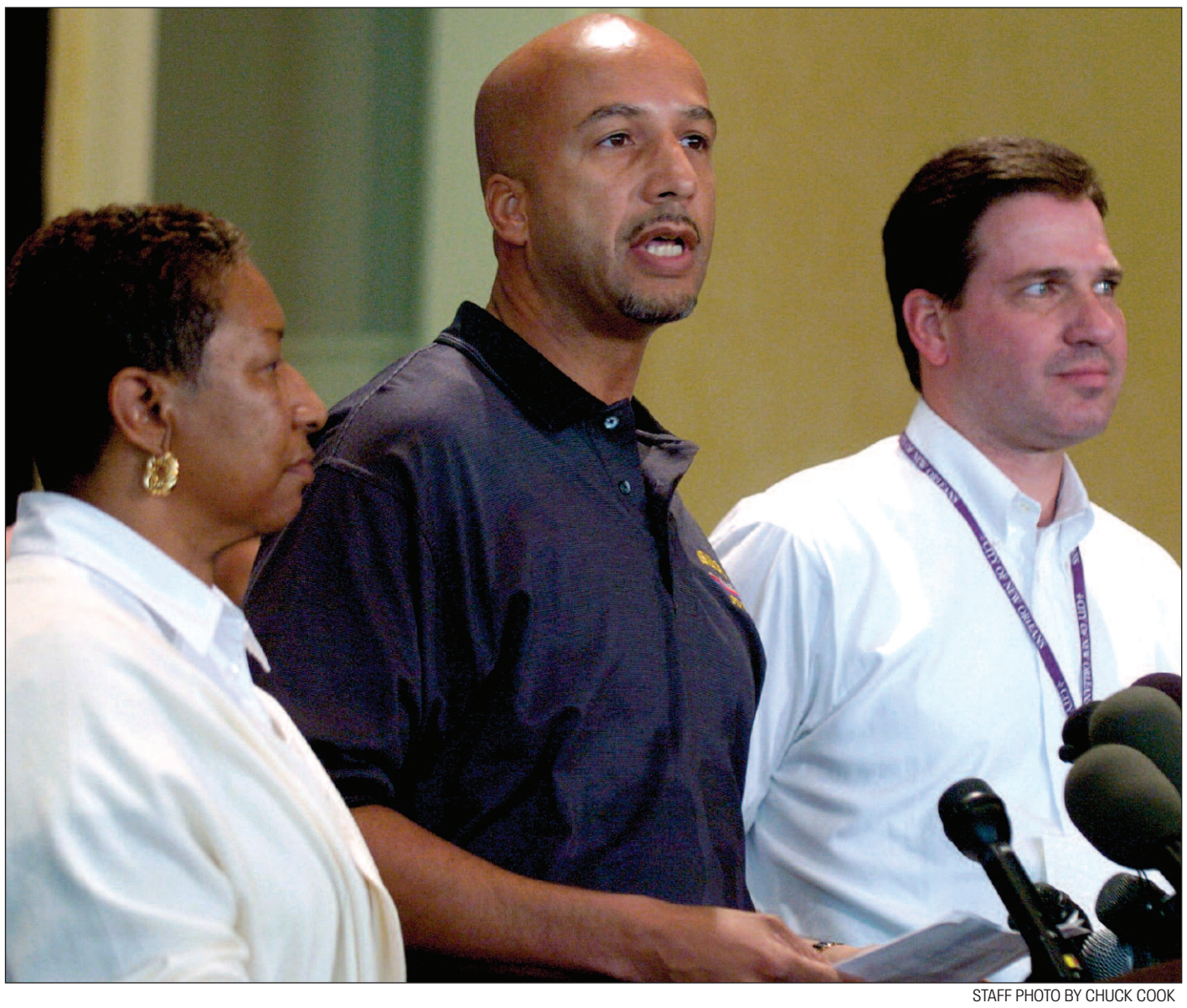
What Sen. Vitter wants to see is something far more ambitious: the levees repaired to pre-Katrina levels before June and a system that can stand up to a Category 5 storm by the time hurricane season starts.

He's right to insist on something stronger than the old levee system, which was designed for a slow-moving Category 3 storm. If such a feat could be accomplished before June 1 turns up on the calendar, it would hasten our economic, physical and psychological recovery.

Local officials were already disappointed that the corps had committed only to rebuilding the levees to their pre-Katrina state. To hear, now, that even that goal might not be met is beyond frustrating. It's frightening.

Any schedule that risks leaving the metro area unprotected by June 1 is unacceptable. The corps needs to do whatever is necessary to ensure that the investigation is wrapped up quickly and that levee repairs are finished in time.

## OTHER OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin announces his Bring New Orleans Back committee at a press conference Sept. 30. Flanking the mayor are Barbara Major and Mel Lagarde, directors of the committee.

# WAITING FOR THE BUCKS TO ROLL IN



JAMES GILL

We have a "once in a 300- or 400-year opportunity" to make a bunch of money, according to Mayor Ray Nagin, although how he measures the timeline is not clear, Bienville not having established New Orleans until 1718.

Still, Nagin should be right. So much money will be flowing into the city from government and private donations that posterity could trace its prosperity to Katrina's free-spending aftermath. The feds have so far allocated $62.3 billion to the relief effort, and much more has been requested, while the efforts of former Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton, for instance, will raise a bunch more.

But reconstruction wouldn't be reconstruction without the carpetbaggers, who evidently still have a better eye for the main chance than the locals.

Of contracts worth $1.5 billion handed out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the rush immediately after the storm, about 80 percent were either no-bid or so vaguely worded that it was virtually impossible to determine whether they had been honored. Acting FEMA Director David Paulison told a Senate committee that many of the contracts would be canceled and put out on bid, but it is obvious that Katrina has meant a lot of easy money for corporations with friends in high places.

No corporation has more friends in high places than Halliburton, of course, which was not too stretched in Iraq, or too embarrassed by accusations of profiteering there, to take on lucrative contracts for post-Katrina rebuilding. Disasters, natural or man-made, seem to be mother's milk to Halliburton and other corporations with political ties.

Nagin made his prediction of an economic boom at a seminar for local small business owners, not all of whom were impressed. They complained of being frozen out and facing ruin while invaders from all over the country make a killing.

The same theme emerged at the Senate committee hearing, where Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., took Paulison to task for giving Louisiana companies the cold shoulder and also wondered why firefighters volunteering to help the recovery were required to undergo several days of sensitivity training first. Well, you wouldn't want to be rescued by a brute with no manners, would you?

Down in New Orleans, meanwhile, Nagin gave the impression that he could use a little sensitivity training himself, declaring that Louisiana residents should be given preference over "Mexican workers."

Kathleen Blanco, vowing to pressure the feds into hiring more locals, said that of the recovery contracts so far awarded, 44 percent, accounting for 31 percent of the price tag, went to Louisiana companies.

That's a lot of moolah, and it is obvious that by no means can every small Louisiana business be facing bankruptcy. Outside the city the recovery has already lined many pockets. "Anyone in the supply business from Gonzales to Baton Rouge is doing very well," one seminar participant reported.

The recovery job is too huge to be done without importing expertise and labor from other states, and there should be plenty of work to go around. According to Nagin, every year for the next 10 some $10 billion will be spent on recovery,bringing "an opportunity to create wealth not only for yourself but for your children and your children's children."

A lot of those desperate businessmen present seemed to fear that unless they get a break soon, it will be other people's children and grandchildren who inherit the loot. The current generation of locals needs the feds to pick up the pace.

So far, the Small Business Administration has received 1.6 million disaster loan applications and has managed to approve nine in Louisiana. "These numbers must change," Blanco said, and nobody was inclined to contradict.

At this rate some of our guys will be waiting another 300 or 400 years.

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James Gill is a staff writer.

# WE'RE UP, AND WE'RE DOWN



STEPHANIE GRACE

To hear Mayor Ray Nagin tell it late last week, the post-Katrina prognosis for his city is pretty darn promising.

New Orleans is sitting on "a once in a 300- or 400-year opportunity" to rebuild and ultimately prosper, an ebullient Nagin told a gathering of local business owners trying to get a piece of the massive federally funded reconstruction.

"You are sitting in a city and a region where we will probably spend a minimum of $10 billion a year for the next 10 years," he said. "You are in a position to create wealth not only for yourself but for your children and your children's children."

That was Thursday.

Two days earlier, the same mayor of the same devastated city was in a very different mood, as he announced, "with great sadness," his plan to fire half the municipal work force. The layoffs are "pretty permanent," he said, and even more could come later.

The problem, Nagin said Tuesday, is that the city has no revenue stream to speak of, and doesn't expect the spigot to reopen any time soon.

He didn't elaborate, but he didn't need to, because the state of the three pillars of municipal funding is starkly obvious. Sales tax has dried up. Property tax revenue will be late in coming and much reduced, once thousands of ruined homes are reassessed at their post-storm values. And hotel/motel taxes are way down, with the vast majority of rooms still out of service, and others rented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is exempt from the tax.

Nagin has railed against mixed messages coming from the city, state and federal government about the quality of the drinking water – which was finally certified by the state in much of the east bank Friday – calling it "schizophrenia." But as his own wild mood swings last week show, there's a lot of that going around.

Drive around New Orleans, and you see two cities. One resembles a less-congested version of its old self – livelier each day, lit up by night and slowly filling with people ready to get back to business. The other remains utterly foreign, with sad-eyed mourners in protective gear and rented trucks arriving each morning but departing by dark, leaving an eerie, pitch-black landscape behind.

Talk to New Orleanians who've moved back, as well as those who are still deciding whether and when to do so, and the topic invariably turns to just how they're supposed to feel about, well, everything.

The questions are at once global and intensely personal:

Will businesses, even the ones that want to stay in New Orleans, be able to function if there's no place for their workers to live?

Can we count on the cavalry, as Nagin put it, to stick around? Or has donor fatigue already set in up in Washington?

Has President Bush finally stopped dropping in for those staged, numbingly routine photo ops?

Which favorite corner haunts will reopen, and which old friends will be around to share a toast when they do?

How can we resume our lives, as Nagin has urged us to do, if we can't put our kids in school?

How is a city full of night owls supposed to function under a curfew, anyway?

And is it really, truly OK to drink the water?

It's hard to spend any time at all in New Orleans these days without finding yourself veering between hope and suspicion, ease and discomfort, and of course, joy and despair. There have been many terrible days, as Tuesday surely was for Nagin and those 3,000 employees on the block. But in some places, for some people, there have been more and more good days, too.

Considering where we all were a month ago, that's not such a bad way to live – at least until we can manage to get our equilibrium back.

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Stephanie Grace is a staff writer. She can be reached at sgracenola@yahoo.com.

# What were they thinking?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

When the definitive history of the Iraq war is written, future historians will surely want to ask Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush each one big question.

To Saddam, the question would be: What were you thinking? If you had no weapons of mass destruction, why did you keep acting as though you did? For Bush, the question would be: What were you thinking? If you bet your whole presidency on succeeding in Iraq, why did you let Donald Rumsfeld run the war with just enough troops to lose? Why didn't you establish security inside Iraq and along its borders? How could you ever have thought this would be easy?

The answer to these questions can be found in what was America's greatest intelligence failure in Iraq – and that was not about weapons of mass destruction.

Let me explain. While visiting the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr last week, I spent a morning watching the commanders of the Iraqi navy hold a staff meeting, while their British and U.S. advisers looked on. On the one hand, you felt as if they were doing a pretty good imitation of a British command briefing. On the other hand, the slightly ragged quality left you feeling that if you pulled the British and U.S. advisers out tomorrow, the whole Iraqi navy would collapse. The human capital and institutional foundation are simply not there yet. "How these guys ever fought the Iranians for eight years, I will never know," a British trainer remarked to me.

After that staff meeting, a British Royal Navy officer who was escorting me suggested that we go to Basra to see the flea market there. He said I could find anything I wanted, because so many Iraqis have had to hock basic household goods – stereos, refrigerators, air-conditioners, cars – to survive the last decade under Saddam.

Message: Failing to find weapons of mass destruction was a big intelligence failure. But the even bigger failure – the one that is the source of all our troubles today – was the failure to understand just how devastated Iraq's society, economy and institutions had become – after eight years of war with Iran, a crushing defeat in Gulf War I and then a decade of U.N. sanctions.

But I think Saddam knew how busted and bankrupt his country and army were. Therefore, he never wanted to completely erase the impression that he had weapons of mass destruction. Saddam lived in a den of wolves. The hint of weapons of mass destruction was his only deterrent shield left against his neighbors, his enemies at home and the West. (This was alluded to in the Duelfer weapons report.) So he tried to allow just enough U.N. inspections to clear him, while playing just enough cat and mouse with the United Nations to leave the impression that he still had something dangerous in the closet.

The Bush team, and the CIA, not only failed to learn that Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction, they failed to appreciate how devastated Iraqi society really was. The Bush team, listening largely to exiles who had not lived in Iraq for years, thought that there were much more of an Iraqi middle class and more institutions than actually existed. So Bush thought taking over Iraq would be easy. That is the only way I can explain his behavior.

This intelligence failure about Iraqi society is what is killing us today. Because what really happened after the U.S. invasion is that what little Iraqi state existed just fell apart in our hands, like a broken vase. And then Rummy let the shards get looted. So yes, when the Bush team says rebuilding Iraq is like rebuilding Germany, it's half right. It is like rebuilding Germany, but not post-World War II Germany. It is like rebuilding medieval, pre-modern Germany – the Germany of clans and feudal fiefs, before there was a state.

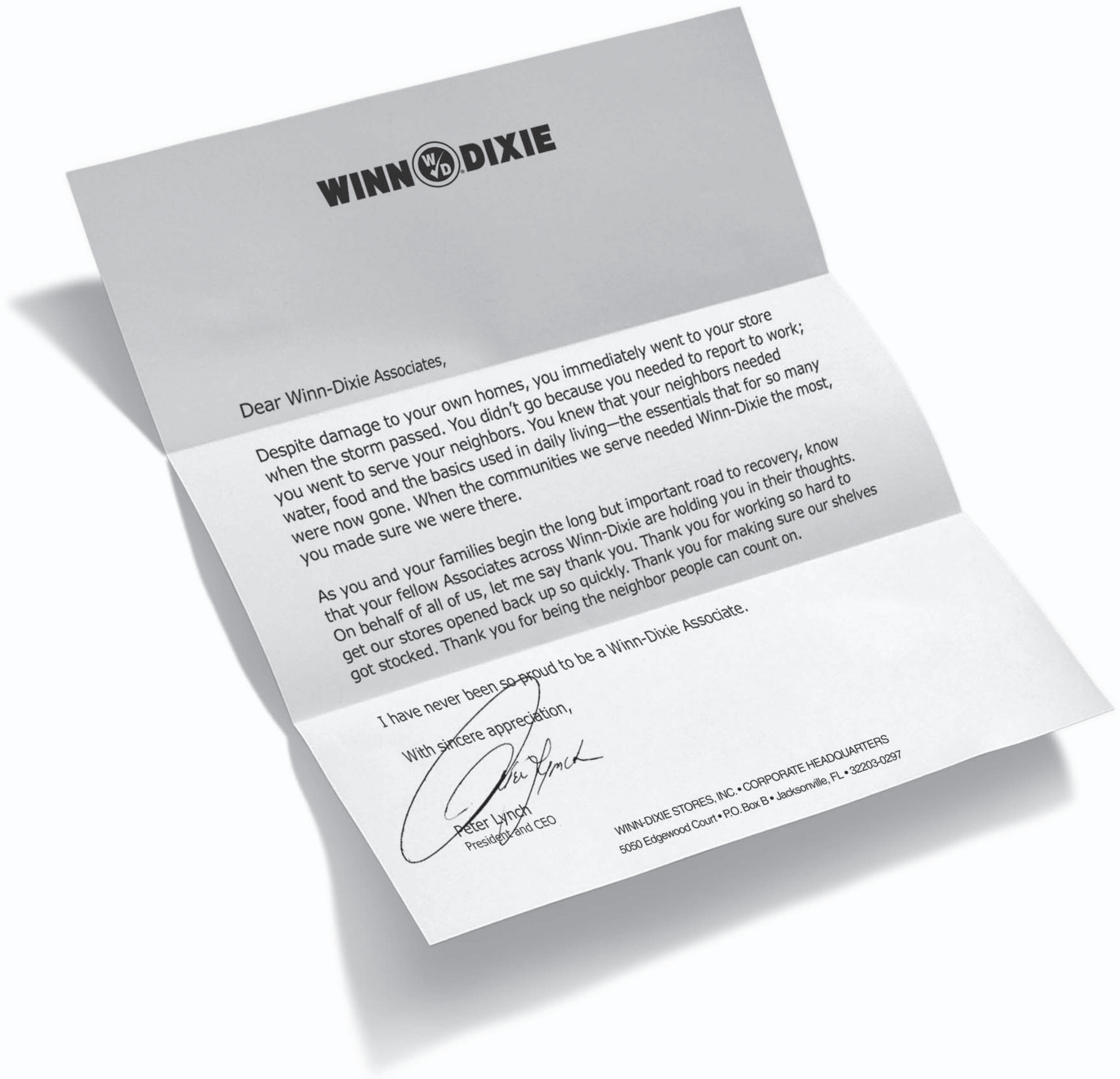
As this column has long insisted, we are not doing nation-building in Iraq. We are doing nation-creating. It is hugely important, but hugely difficult. I can only assume the CIA didn't know how broken Iraq was, because if the president knew and still put in so few troops, it was criminal.

Sadly, what Iraq desperately needs most from the U.S. today are aid workers, State Department advisers and technical experts from every agency of the government who can help rebuild Iraq's human capital. But people are afraid to go. And who can blame them? We have never established basic public order there, because we never had enough troops.

The president's speech on terrorism Thursday was excellent. He made clear, better than ever, why winning in Iraq is so important to the wider struggle against Islamo-fascism. But it only makes me that much angrier that he fought this war as though it would be easy – never asking for any sacrifice, any military draft, any tax increases or any gasoline tax – and that he tolerated so much incompetence along the way.

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Thomas L. Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times.



WINN-DIXIE

Dear Winn-Dixie Associates,

Despite damage to your own homes, you immediately went to your store when the storm passed. You didn't go because you needed to report to work; you went to serve your neighbors. You knew that your neighbors needed water, food and the basics used in daily living—the essentials that for so many were now gone. When the communities we serve needed Winn-Dixie the most, you made sure we were there.

As you and your families begin the long but important road to recovery, know that your fellow Associates across Winn-Dixie are holding you in their thoughts. On behalf of all of us, let me say thank you. Thank you for working so hard to get our stores opened back up so quickly. Thank you for making sure our shelves got stocked. Thank you for being the neighbor people can count on.

I have never been so proud to be a Winn-Dixie Associate.

With sincere appreciation,

Peter Lynch
President and CEO

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Winn-Dixie has been serving its neighbors in the Southeast for 80 years. We have endured with our neighbors the devastating destruction of hurricanes, floods and fires. We have also enjoyed incredible and uplifting times as well and we are grateful for every one of them. Although we were able to re-open most of our stores damaged by Hurricane Katrina, we still have some locations that are not yet ready to serve customers. We know many of our neighbors are facing similar challenges with their homes and businesses.

Our community's resiliency will be its strength in its recovery. Brick by brick, neighborhoods will be rebuilt. We will help each other carry the load. That's what good neighbors do.

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Please visit your local Winn-Dixie store during our **Open House Job Fair**, Thursday through Sunday, October 20-23, 2005 from 9 am to 7 pm or apply online at **https://wss.unicru.com/winn-dixie**. Join the Winn-Dixie team!!!

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The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5

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*When Katrina's winds blew out windows in the CBD, he was there. When levees failed and floodwaters rose, he was there. And as shock turns to anger, and pleas for help turn to demands for accountability, one broadcaster's voice rises above all the others.* **Garland Robinette is on the air.**

# *The* voice of New Orleans



DAVE WALKER
*On the Air*

A reluctant oracle of the post-Katrinapocalyptic airwaves, Garland Robinette would rather be back in his Uptown home, painting and tending to his late-in-life family.

Instead, the WWL AM-870 afternoon talk host has become a galvanic moderator of intense civic debate about New Orleans' recovery, an evangelical firebrand for competence preaching to listeners who've seemingly grown comfortable with corruption.

The arrayed stations of the United Radio Broadcasters of New Orleans are his forum.

The cross-talk is provided by the usual-suspect news sources and hundreds of angry, ruined, displaced, confused, tired callers.

Listening in are uncountable thousands of evacuees, literally powerless stay-behinds and interested expatriates around the world.

**"Garland is the soul of WWL right now . . . he's at the epicenter of recovery from Katrina."**
DIANE NEWMAN
WWL program director

Robinette narrated Katrina's offensive on the city as the wind blew out WWL's studio windows.

On Sept. 1, he was on the microphone again when besieged New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin called in to make his angry, desperate plea for relief aid.

Lately, Robinette has been snapping at call-in politicians who've overestimated his tolerance for Louisiana politics-as-usual when New Orleans' utter existence seems to be stake.

Settling business-insurance uncertainty — "I think it's a gigantic bomb waiting to go off," he says — has been another topical cause.

*See* **WALKER,** *C-2*



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY TONY O. CHAMPAGNE

# SASHA WARD, 25, FAIR GROUNDS HOUSEKEEPER

**HOME:** *Gentilly*
**HAVEN:** *St. Louis, Mo.*

MY STORM STORY



*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

WE left New Orleans on Sunday before the hurricane and I was grabbing everything I wanted to keep. I didn't know if I would be able to come back and get my things. I thought about my jewelry and I said, 'Let me grab my jewelry box.' Then I grabbed my baby's jewelry box, too.

"My favorite thing is my tennis bracelet. I just got it at a jewelry show at the Convention Center. It's not real diamonds but it's real silver. Then I have my necklace. It's two C's back-to-back and it stands for Chanel. I bought that out at Lakeside at one of those little booths in the middle. And the pearls my sister gave me.

"I'm so glad I brought my baby's jewelry box. Every day she wakes up and she goes through it. She's 4.

"My sister, she stays here in St. Louis. We all came here — 13 people in that one house. That lasted about two weeks. It was crowded, chaotic, you had no privacy. But mealtimes were nice. Everybody would get together and cook. I cooked stuffed bell peppers, my mom cooked some gumbo.

"I'm at the Days' Inn now. About twice a week, people bring dinner for us — different organizations. Once these other people from an organization gave us a brown paper bag and they had a whole room full of groceries and everybody was making a bag of groceries.

"I definitely plan to go back to New Orleans. I hope it's like it was before. I don't think they're going to have all the same people there. A lot of people are going to stay where they're at.

"Poor people live different in New Orleans than they do here. If you go into Hollygrove or Pigeontown, you go back there and it looks horrible. It's way worse than here. It looks like the 1930s.

"Here . . . the houses are in better shape. The people are in better shape financially than poor people in New Orleans. They don't seem as poor. That bothers me. It should be the same everywhere.

"But I don't want to stay here. I want to go home. I miss home. I miss my friends. I miss my crawfish."

*— As told to Elizabeth Mullener September 30, 2005*



Sasha Ward and her 4-year-old daughter look through the jewelry box rescued from their New Orleans home.



ANGUS LIND

# Doctor do-it-all

*Brobson Lutz did a little bit of everything for French Quarter residents after Katrina*

Back when the western territories of this country were first being settled, people got their news from telegraph offices, overnight stagecoach stops, general stores and . . . saloons.

Fast-forward from the Wild West to the devastation, confusion and chaos of days-after-Katrina New Orleans.

With communication lines down, cell phones worthless, no power to the TV set, no newspaper delivery — except via Web site — those in the area of the French Quarter found information about the medical support they were looking far from a couple of French Quarter bars, Molly's at the Market and Johnny White's Sports Bar.

"That's where people were getting information — from the bartenders," said Dr. Brobson Lutz, the former city health officer and now an appointed badge-carrying assistant coroner. "They've always been the group leaders down there."

**"We treated about every cut, laceration and puncture down here in the Quarter, Treme and the Bywater."**
DR. BROBSON LUTZ

So they directed those in need of medical attention to Dumaine Street, where a group of volunteers from California, the Bi-County EMS Services, had set up four or five units including a disaster command van in the street. Many street people had moved into Johnny White's and the word spread about the California operation.

Molly's, said Lutz, was dispensing information but was closing at 6 p.m. As for Johnny White's, he said, "I don't think they have a key — they couldn't close."

The owner of the EMS service, Kelly Bumpus, had bought a home in the 900 block of Dumaine Street a couple of years ago, said Lutz, who found the first aid operation because he lives in the 1000 block.

"We treated about every cut, laceration and puncture down here in the Quarter, Treme and the Bywater," Lutz said. "They heard about it from the bars — that's where they were getting their info."

Ironically, he said, FEMA had contracted for a first aid station in the ballroom of the Royal Orleans, but nobody knew about it. When he went over there to check it out, Lutz said, "I had to use my badge to get in."

Not exactly an advertisement for assistance.

"If you want to provide first aid, you have to have visibility. This clinic was holed up inside the Royal Orleans, a nice air conditioned clinic — but nobody knew they were there," he said.

Meanwhile, the Dumaine

*See* **LIND,** *C-4*

# *The* voice of New Orleans



**"I don't open the microphone without being scared."**

**WALKER,** *from C-1*

"Garland is the soul of WWL right now," said Diane Newman, WWL program director. "He could be a man who's semi-retired, painting pictures, just worrying about his wife and little girl. Instead, he's at the epicenter of recovery from Katrina."

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**A janitor-turned-broadcaster-**turned-corporate-PR-guy-turned-semi-retired-fine-artist, Robinette took the WWL job a few months ago as a favor to old friend David Tyree, who'd been diagnosed with a recurrence of prostate cancer.

But then Katrina — and WWL's giant signal, which grows to a national footprint at night — made Robinette a lightning rod above New Orleans' fractured electronic-media landscape.

"When I was in television, you kind of looked at radio as something over there," he said. "Small, not very powerful and pretty much an entertainment vehicle. That was about it.

"It's become something where, I'll mention something about the Bush administration and we'll get a call from Washington. I'll mention something about the governor and we'll get a call from the governor. I ask the mayor on the air to please give us a call and we get a call.

"TV didn't work that way. On TV, you can't say to a city councilman, 'Come on, that's bull - - - - politics, and you and I both know it."

Thanks to WWL's Internet stream of the URBONO signal, listeners around the world know it, too.

Robinette now gets listener feedback, via e mail, from Australia and Germany.

"To call it a bizarre situation is an understatement," Robinette said. "It's like asking somebody my age, ready for the retirement home and right on the verge of senility, 'Incidentally, you can talk to the world.' "

The weight of the work, its importance to listeners huddled throughout the parishes of south Louisiana all the way to, say, New South Wales, doesn't escape him.

"I don't open the microphone without being scared," he said.

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**Robinette wasn't frightened** by Katrina's pass through New Orleans, however much the day resembled a scene from science-fiction cinema.

"Windows were popping out while I was on the air," he said. "The ceiling was beginning to vibrate and the doors were bulging. It was the strangest broadcast I've ever done in my life, and I've done some strange ones.

"Somebody handed me a piece of paper showing the storm bending to the east. I thought, 'Wow, we're lucky again.' We certainly got some bad wind damage. It certainly did feel like a close one, but boy were we lucky and home free.

"It didn't ever feel like a moment in history. It did feel dramatic. I don't think I've ever been in a building that was literally exploding before."

And yet . . .

"I spent some time in a place called Vietnam that would make this look pretty calm," said Robinette, twice awarded the Purple Heart. "It didn't seem to me to be real spooky."

**"I spent some time in a place called Vietnam that would make this look pretty calm."**

What was spooky came the next morning, when it became evident that floodwater was filling the city.

A respected environmental reporter during his days as Angela Hill's co-anchor/husband at WWL-TV, Robinette immediately recognized the implications of knee-high water on LaSalle Street, which the night before had been dry.

He'd done so many stories about the levees being topped by storm surge from The Big One, so many scary reports about impending doom in the sinking city, so many segments about vanishing wetlands, that assignment editors and talk producers and news directors long ago started mocking his pitches to do more.

"I certainly didn't realize the magnitude of the tragedy until I saw the water," he said. "When I saw the water, I thought, 'Oh, my God. Everything that they laughed at me for is coming true.' "

When anyone official says the severity of the Katrina aftereffects were a surprise, Robinette starts to simmer.

"They're lying," he said. "They're lying through their teeth. We knew about that storm for 35 years.

"It makes me so mad I can't see straight. It's like standing and yelling 'Fire!' for 15 minutes and then having people saying, 'I didn't know I was on fire.' "

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**Robinette escaped the burning, flooding city,** but kept working, first from Jefferson Parish, later Baton Rouge.

When nothing at home had improved by Sept. 1 and the cable-news footage resembled a horror show, the level of suffering in the wasted city seemed to be worsening.

"I hate to admit it, but I got very, very angry in the aftermath of the storm, probably much more so than I should have been," he said. "I did several rants, criticizing specific people and specific things.

"All of a sudden, my producer said, 'The mayor is on the line.' "

The next few minutes of airtime, an exhausted excoriation of relief efforts by Nagin that ended with both men struggling to control their emotions, have been replayed and downloaded and transcribed and transmitted around the world.

Also replayed in memory by many who heard it live.

"I think it was the horrors he had seen, where he'd been, what he had been going through," Robinette said. "It might've been one of those moments in time, sharing the same wavelength. Once he started, I guess my anger combined with his and kind of escalated.

"I'm just a little old radio guy, but when they write the history of Katrina, I think Mayor Nagin's angry message was the turning point of us getting help."

Still, Robinette today would rather the unforgettable exchange had ended differently.

"I'm at the point now where it don't matter," said Nagin then, his rage nearly vented. "People are dying. They don't have homes. They don't have jobs.

"The city of New Orleans will never be the same."

There was dead air, more than a dozen seconds of it.

Anguish bleeding from his voice, Robinette broke the quiet.

"We're both pretty speechless here," Robinette said. "I don't know what to say."

"I've got to go," Nagin said.



WWL RADIO PHOTO

Winds blew out the windows of WWL-AM's studio and offices the morning of Aug. 29. 'I don't think I've ever been in a building that was exploding before,' talk-show host Garland Robinette said.

"Keep in touch," Robinette said. "Keep in touch."

Robinette wishes he'd held his composure just a few seconds longer.

"It felt embarrassing, to tell you the truth," he said. "To break down and cry in front of millions of people . . . didn't feel real good. It didn't feel like a particularly proud moment.

"If I could do it over again, obviously that's the part I would clip off."

• • • • • • • • • • •

**The clip file for Robinette** shows he left WWL-TV in 1990 to buff the corporate image of the New Orleans mining giant Freeport-McMoRan Inc., a company he'd dogged as a reporter.

He spun off his department into a standalone public relations firm, Planit Communications Inc., in 1993.

Most of the Robinette references in The Times-Picayune over the past decade are art-gallery listings.

The avocation, which started with doodles on his WWL-TV scripts, eventually became a passion. His specialty became portraits.

Then came the May announcement about him becoming Tyree's permanent replacement.

"It was simply a favor to a friend who had cancer," Robinette said. "I thought I'd warm his chair until he got back."

Tyree died Sept. 12 in Alva, Okla., to where he'd moved to be near family.

Robinette hadn't talked to Tyree since Katrina hit, but was not surprised by the news that, according to his relatives, Tyree had followed the Katrina tragedy closely via cable TV.

"During all this catastrophe, I think you lose sight of somebody battling for their life," Robinette said. "Everything else starts to consume you."

• • • • • • • • • • •

**Robinette, 62, and his wife, Nancy,** have an 8-year-old daughter.

Their home survived Katrina with very little damage.

"Not a shingle out of place," he said. "No floodwater, nothing.

"Isn't that ironic? A house that wasn't touched by Katrina that's not worth anything."

You'd think Robinette would be singing the same tune as the radio personalities who read the scripted "We'll be back!" promos that perpetually air on United Radio broadcasts.

But no. Robinette's airtime is a no-cheerleading zone.

"It doesn't much matter whether it's untouched or not," he said of his house. "There's nothing to go home to.

"I'm right in the middle of this thing. It's bizarre and I don't know what to make of it.

"I was very happy being an anonymous artist. I was extremely involved with my daughter and my wife. I have the best family in the history of the world.

"I yearn, like we all do, for what I had six weeks ago."

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TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at davewala@yahoo.com.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

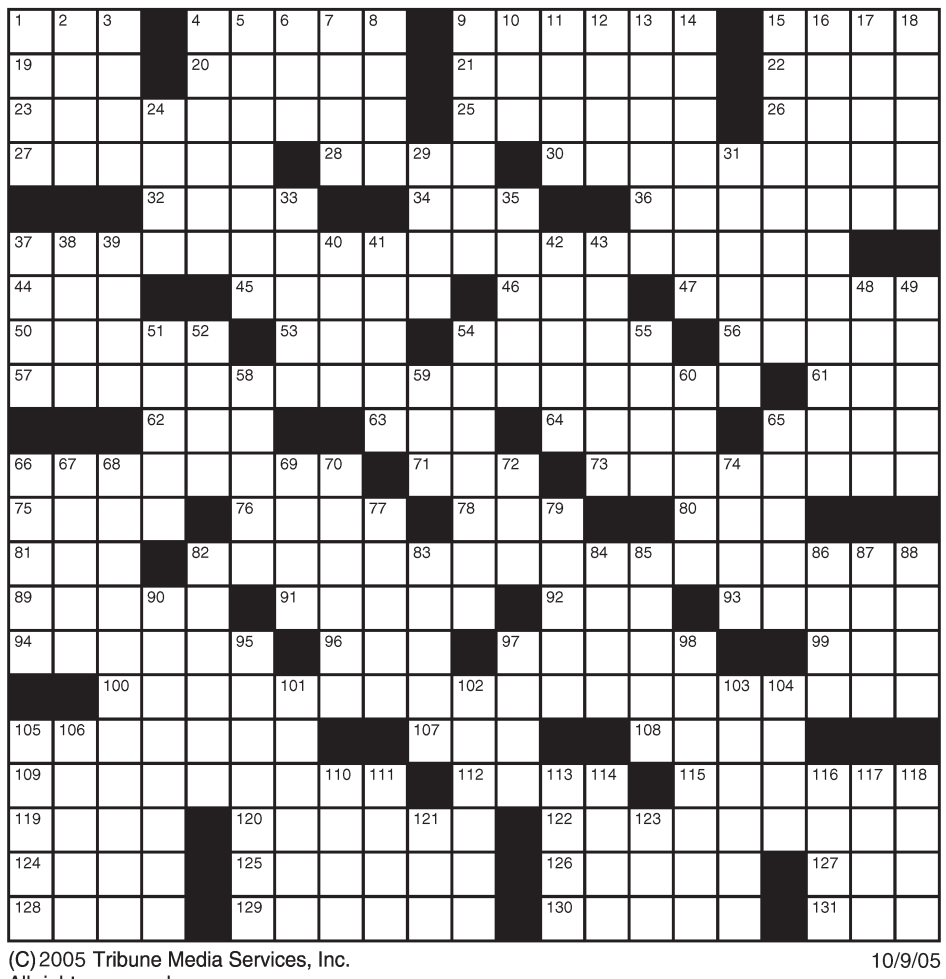
By Alan P. Olschwang, Huntington Beach, California

## THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**
1 Old French silver five-franc piece
4 Angle
9 Ultimatum phrase
15 University of Utah team
19 Light pat
20 Martinique volcano
21 Supporting pillar
22 Silents actress Negri
23 Start of Herm Albright quote
25 Moseyed
26 Head locks
27 Mortise mates
28 Extremities
30 Hints at
32 5th-century pope
34 Very wide shoe width
36 Paid for
37 Part 2 of quote
44 Affirmative vote
45 Stun gun
46 Stray from the straight and narrow
47 Stiffening agent
50 Vicuna relative
53 Kind of trick
54 Small singing groups
56 Pearl Harbor farewell
57 Part 3 of quote
61 Kilmer of "Batman Forever"
62 Billy __ Williams
63 Andes tuber
64 Rick's love in "Casablanca"
65 Fender flaw
66 "Rocky Horror..." dance
71 Part 4 of quote
73 Slithering hissers
75 Type of lily
76 Tender spot
78 More in Mexico
80 Pull from a jug
81 __ the cows come home
82 Part 5 of quote
89 __ Martin (007's car)
91 Hissy fits
92 Afore
93 Befuddled
94 Japanese religion
96 Sprocket
97 Seasonal sleigh-rider
99 Tolkien tree
100 Part 6 of quote
105 Mustard, for one
107 Heflin or Johnson
108 Oxford or brogue
109 Travel from place to place
112 Doe or stag
115 Kind of lizard
119 Stat starter?
120 "Peer Gynt" dancer
122 End of quote
124 Eur. particle accelerator location
125 Type of drum
126 French landlord's due
127 Medic
128 Scottish Gaelic
129 Bacon and Lamb creations
130 Facilitated
131 Fractional ending

**DOWN**
1 French state
2 May or Ann
3 "Once __ a midnight dreary..."
4 Small upright piano
5 Frees from captivity
6 Mr. Baba
7 Actress Campbell
8 Ager of parents?
9 Irish dramatist
10 CD-__
11 Italian isle
12 Break in the action
13 Small silvery fishes
14 Long, long races
15 Sudden disruption
16 Kitchen appliance
17 Upper crust
18 Indian lute
24 Arias, often
29 Letter opener?
31 River ends, often
33 Potato State
35 January in Juarez
37 "Clan of the Cave Bear" protagonist
38 Spill the beans
39 Manila volcano
40 Jacob's twin
41 Part of MGM
42 Small antelope
43 Fairy-tale baddies
48 Plainsong
49 Heeds the sentry
51 PC accessory
52 Not many at all
54 Serious shocks
55 Mobutu __ Seko
58 Leavening agent
59 Dangerous insulation mtl.
60 Seine tributary
65 Railroad hub
66 Informal farewells
67 Cork populace
68 Enhancing devices
69 Propels with oars
70 Kissed frog
72 Light brown
74 __ colada
77 T.S. __
79 Furtive fellow
82 Chant
83 State's number-2 job
84 Birthplace of Camembert
85 Abominable snowmen
86 Friendly lead-in
87 Lady's guy
88 "Music __ charms..."
90 Tete-a-tete
95 Manage
97 Rational
98 Sports figure
101 Gaucho grasslands
102 Female addresses
103 Talked to Lassie?
104 Orleans egg
105 Homer's enchantress
106 Additional
110 Curry and Conway
111 Sundance's girl
113 To be in Toulon
114 Mother of Zeus
116 Protuberance
117 Small manmade cave
118 Impress clearly
121 Judge __ Bean
123 USNA grad



Answers Monday in Living

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10/9/05

## TRIP TIPS

### Airfare sales

Delta has reduced fares on domestic sale; tickets must be bought at least seven days in advance of travel and by Tuesday; all trips must be completed by Nov. 17. You must spend at least three nights away or travel over a Saturday night; best fares are for travel Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

According to www.smarterliving.com, the top rated Singapore Airlines started an international airfare sale for flights to Asia and Europe; departures are from Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Buy tickets by Oct. 14 for travel that begins by Nov. 20 and is completed by Nov. 30. A site called www.bookingbuddy.com claims there are lower fares on Icelandair from New York to Frankfurt and on Malaysia Airlines for Los Angeles to Taipei.

American Airlines has started a Hawaii sale for travel through Dec. 15, with cheapest fares on Mondays through Thursdays. In this case, as in all other sales, competing airlines have matched the rates. As of press time, there was no set deadline for purchase.

### North Carolina leaves

While temperatures are FINALLY dipping below the 90s in southern Louisiana, the first shades of fall are touching up the leaves in Western North Carolina. It's about a 12-hour drive from the New Orleans area, and it may be tough to find a hotel room, but it can't be as difficult as it's been in Baton Rouge the past month. Check out the fall color report and activities from the mountains to the coast at www.visitnc.com or call (866) 653-2837. For the week's fall fishing activities, go to www.visitnc.com/fallfish.asp or call (888) 234-7462.

### Gulf Shores

Gulf Shores and Orange Beach were spared the heavy damage of Katrina, according to the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau Web site, www.gulfshores.com/crisis. There are hotels, houses and apartments ready and waiting for those who want to escape to the beach. Call (800) 745-7263.

**Compiled by Millie Ball**

# Fly the dwindling skies

## *Louis Armstrong International is open for business, but flights are few and ticket refunds can be tricky*

**By Millie Ball**
Travel editor

IT'S not like a long-planned trip to California was at the top of a displaced New Orleanian's mind a couple of weeks ago. But when he checked on his 7 a.m. Continental flight to Oakland, Calif. the Monday before his Thursday trip, he discovered there was no such flight anymore out of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

At least a Thibodaux resident was notified by e-mail from Southwest that his nonstop flight to Nashville for this weekend's LSU/Vanderbilt game had been canceled. And once he and his wife reworked their trip by flying to another city and changing planes, they realized they'd better check flights for their upcoming trip to Italy. Good thing they did.

In each of these cases, the result was a lot of time fiddling with flight schedules on the Internet, and even more time on the phone - on hold, mainly - and talking to airline agents. The good news for both travelers was there were no penalties, just frustration and, in the case of the domestic flights, longer layovers. The European trip actually ended up with better connections. You never know.

At least the situation is improving. A government relief worker said that in the early days after Katrina, the few flights into New Orleans and Baton Rouge were overbooked. "People were just showing up and hoping they'd get on the plane. The airlines were offering bonuses to give up seats, and it seemed like half the passengers didn't have seats."

The reason is simple. The week before Hurricane Katrina, there were 174 daily flights into and out of New Orleans, said Michelle Duffourc, public relations manager for Louis Armstrong airport. By Nov. 9, there should be 26.

The situation changes all the time, of course, but here's what the New Orleans flight roster was at midweek; when available, we've also added each airline's refund or exchange policies for tickets from (or to) New Orleans purchased before Aug. 27.

**CONTINENTAL:** four daily round trip flights to Houston International and one to Newark.

**NORTHWEST:** two daily to Memphis, Detroit and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

**AMERICAN:** two daily flights to Dallas/Fort Worth. Those who bought tickets but no longer plan to travel from or to New Orleans before Oct. 31 can obtain a refund or apply the value of a ticket to a flight to another city; an additional fare may be applied, but there will be no change fee. Those who have tickets for travel Nov. 1 to July 21, 2006 can receive a refund in the form of a voucher for future travel; however, a refund is possible if the flight was canceled.

**SOUTHWEST:** The carrier that normally has more flights in and out of New Orleans than any other airline currently has just two round trip flights to Houston Hobby airport. All reservations made before the storm for flights through Jan. 9, 2006 were canceled and are not being reinstated. Customers who have paid reservations can request a refund or apply the money towards a future flight. Go to www.southwest.com or call (800) 435-9792.

**DELTA:** four flights to and from Atlanta, and one to Cincinnati. Passengers may be eligible for refunds for flights booked by Aug. 27 for travel through Oct. 31 on Delta, Delta Song, Delta Connection and Delta code flights. Even if a flight is not canceled, passengers can make a one-time change without a penalty fee for flights through Oct. 31. Tickets must be re-issued by that date. Customers flying to or from New Orleans or Gulfport, Miss., can fly to or from any other airport used by Delta in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi or Texas, with no fare adjustments or penalties before Oct. 31.

**JETBLUE:** one daily flight to and from New York City's JFK. Customers who have existing reservations for travel to or from New Orleans may rebook without change fees or fare differences; travel must begin within one year of the date of cancellation. Online changes are subject to a $20 change fee and any additional fare increases. Customers who request a refund will be given a full refund for any New Orleans reservation through the end of the current JetBlue schedule.

**UNITED:** daily flights to and from Chicago O'Hare and Denver; scheduled to add a daily flight to and from Washington Dulles on Oct. 31. Those who hold tickets for flights through Oct. 31 can request a refund or re-route themselves to another city, which may be subject to a higher fare; penalty restrictions will be waived. For pre-booked travel Nov. 1 to Jan. 5, 2006, it's possible to change plans for the same or a new destination without penalty, although there may be a higher fare.

**AIRTRAN:** one round trip to Atlanta.

**USAIRWAYS:** daily flights to and from Philadelphia, Charlotte, N.C., and Washington Reagan starting Nov. 9. Passengers with tickets that were issued before Katrina for travel through Nov. 8 can change the tickets without a fee. If the flight has been canceled, would-be passengers can apply for a refund. Changes must be made by Nov. 8, but travel can take place up to a year from the date the original ticket was issued. Those who were traveling to or from New Orleans can change their cities of origin and/or destination.

To retrieve the latest information from the airport about arrivals and departures of daily flights, check www.flymsy.com.

Millie Ball can be reached at travlinmillie@aol.com.



One of the two daily Southwest Airlines flights to Houston pulls into the gate at Louis Armstrong International Airport.
STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

## BEWARE THE $645 PARKING SPACE

**Owners of cars parked in the airport lots before Aug. 29 would do well to retrieve them since they're being charged the normal rates of $15 a day in short-term parking and $10 in long-term parking.**

**To put that into perspective: If you parked in the short-term lot to get out of town the day before the storm hit and return home today retrieve it, you'll have to pay the parking lot attendant $645 to get out of the lot.**

**If there are extenuating circumstances why an owner cannot retrieve a car, e-mail fparker@parking.com.**

Millie Ball

## BOOKS

# 'Great cities always recover'

## *A new book about the Great California Earthquake of 1906 offers hope for victims of the Great Hurricane of 2005*

**By Susan Larson**
Book editor

In times of trouble, nothing is more diverting — or instructive — than tales of another, different disaster. So it is with Simon Winchester's "A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906" (HarperCollins, $27.95). Winchester, who has made the slow march of geological time itself the impetus for a page-turning breeze, is at his best in this most recent work, which has lessons for New Orleans in this post-Katrina period.

He begins with Neil Armstrong's 1969 walk on the moon, a salutary event that gave mankind a new view of the planet, "a view that in time compelled humankind to take stock." So it is with the New Geology, which views the planet as a whole. Remember the Gaia hypothesis? Taking the large, planetary view, Winchester guides us through the geology of the event, explicating plate tectonics, from the calderas of Iceland over to the San Andreas Fault, such a lovely and dangerous place to live, right up to the Alaska pipeline and the Denali Fault.

The clash of geology and the urban setting that took place April 18, 1906, was dramatic. Winchester draws on San Francisco's rich history, and the cast of characters is fascinating: the Big Four, the men who created much of the city's destiny, Collis Huntington, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker; 4-year-old Ansel Adams, who fell down and broke his nose during the quake; already well-known photographer Arnold Genthe, who would borrow a camera and begin shooting immediately; even the actor John Barrymore, who was in town when the quake hit, as was the singer Enrico Caruso.

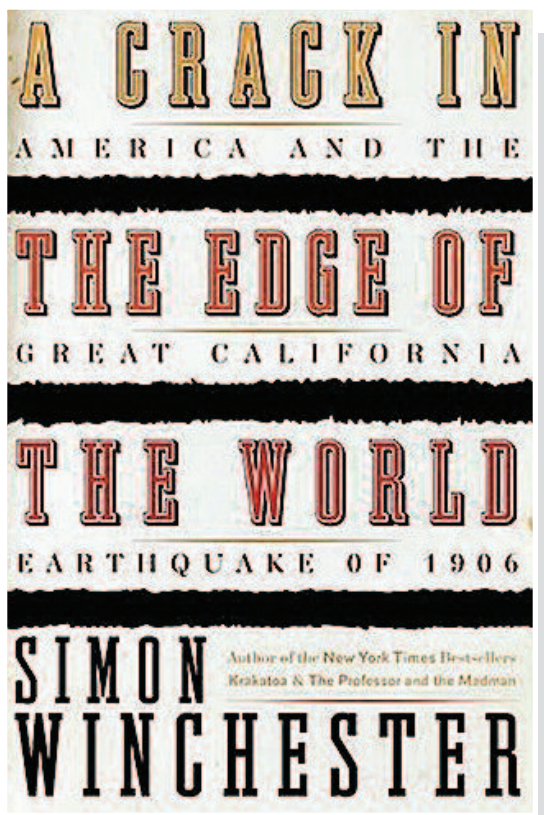
Chronicling the cataclysmic 8.5-magnitude quake itself, Winchester describes how people were stunned in the silence that followed, and spoke to each other in whispers, while some fell to their knees in the streets. Harvard psychologist William James, for one, was "delighted to be there," and Winchester describes how some "thought themselves lucky to be enfolded in an event of truly historic significance."

But the destruction was humbling: 28,818 buildings were destroyed, estimates of the dead rose from 500 to more than 3,000 over the years; 225,000 of the city's 400,000 citizens became homeless.

Of the dreadful aftermath, Winchester writes, there was more than enough tragedy to go around: fires that broke out across the city; political upheavals; insurance scandals; urban planning debates; the racist fallout for the beleaguered Chinese population; the beginnings of the Pentecostal movement, inspired by the belief that the quake was God's vengeance on a sinful city; the fascinating lack of art inspired by the event; the rush to rebuild and the chance for civic greatness "swiftly and thoughtlessly passed up."

But, as Winchester writes, the city came back, for cities exist where they do for reasons — reasons that spring from the human heart as well as the marketplace.

"Trials of any kind — war, pestilence, natural or human violence, with wholesale death or total physical destruction, or both, being the hardest of all — may slow that growth or cause some other setback; but such things are just setbacks, and before long the city returns to its old self, ready to see what more fate can hurl at it, to challenge and strengthen and temper the will to survive. It may not always entirely regain its pre-disaster status — San Francisco had to cede much to Los Angeles, for example. But generally, so far as their respective quiddities are concerned, great cities always recover."




Like New Orleanians in 2005, San Franciscans of nearly a century ago felt the very earth shift beneath their feet. But, as Winchester reminds us in his lovely prose, "all that humans do, and everywhere that humans inhabit, is for the moment only."

Book editor Susan Larson can be reached at slarson05@gmail.com.

# Holy Days and hobnobbing in Houston

By Nell Nolan
Society columnist

"It was such a wonderful dinner with all the foods we grew up with," said Orleanian-in-Houston Roselle Ungar about a special gathering for Rosh Hashana. The meal, which was set up as a private dinner with tablecloths and fresh flowers, as well as traditional dishes, was hosted by Houstonian Ziggy Gruber at his spot, Kenny & Ziggy Delicatessen. He closed the restaurant for the event.

Among the New Orleanians present were Roselle and husband Stanley Ungar, Eric and Jayne Stillman and children, and Matt and Sherri Tarr with their kids. Ziggy sat at the head of the table and, according to Roselle, entertained them as they relished all the dishes associated with the Jewish New Year. Several of the menu items were chopped liver, chicken soup with kreplach, and stuffed cabbage rolls.

"He was so generous," continued Roselle, who explained that the tie-in was the Jewish Federation of New Orleans and that of Houston.

As for a return to the Crescent City, Roselle mentioned that Stanley was commuting and that they are planning to return by Oct. 19. "We'll be so glad to go home," she added.

In another location, but still in Houston, Diane Franco established just that.

"I'm walking into my parents' home," she said, using her cell phone and referring to the temporary Houston digs of Bill and Jane Goldring, her mom and dad. Diane and husband Alan had gone to Houston for a bar mitzvah prior to Katrina and have stayed. "We thought we would be away for just a few days," she said. She, too, talked about some commuting and finished with, "We would like to be back in New Orleans as soon as we can. We will come out of this strong."

Arlene Barron was on the move, too, when I contacted her. (She and Paul were driving.) As concerns the Jewish Community Centers in New Orleans, she said that the Uptown/St. Charles Avenue center would open in a couple of weeks.

"When people start returning to New Orleans" she said, "they will need a relief from their stress, a place to work out." She added that the JCC is "eager to get back to serving the community." As for husband Paul Barron, Arlene said that's he's been working with Tulane President Scott Cowen "to get the university up and running." Dr. Cowen and much of the Tulane force have been set up in Houston, too.

"We wish we were home," bemoaned temporary-Houstonian Carol Asher, whose New Orleans home had 3 feet of water. "But we were among the lucky ones, everyone's OK," she said about herself and husband Harold. They will move to Covington around the middle of October and then plan their eventual return to the city. "New Orleans is our home and now is the time to commit."

Also in Houston are Pam and Jack Lyles, whose 155-year-old St. Charles Avenue home in the Garden District was open last December for the Holiday Home Tour of the Preservation Resource Center. They stayed through Katrina and "the house was fine," but left during the mandatory evacuation.

Jack is originally from Houston and the couple have lived in that Texas city, which became their immediate destination when they evacuated. In one car there were family members and five animals. Their son, Taylor, who normally matriculates at Newman (which is slated to reopen on Jan. 3, 2006), is now at St. John's in Houston. Then, it's a return to the Crescent City.

"We're going back to New Orleans," said Pam, adding that, although her husband's business, Mardi Gras Motors LLC, was ruined, they wanted to return and help the city "get back on its feet."

"It's going to be a long haul in New Orleans," she observed, "and there will be another whole focus and commitment when we go back."

# Doctor tends to heart of city

LIND, *from C-1*

Street operation was busy, even operating a respirator by generator for a lung disease patient and finding substitution meds for a troubled Vietnam veteran living in Bywater.

Lutz is what you might call —in the realm of the Vieux Carre's quirky and eccentric denizens — a distinguished French Quarter character, a devotee of Galatoire's, Antoine's and the delicacies at the Royal Street Grocery Store deli at St. Ann and Royal.

He's originally from Athens, Ala., but is, after all these years, as New Orleans as you can get, a familiar and friendly voice on the airwaves, debunking health rumors and providing insights to many medical questions, especially infectious diseases.

How he wound up in the Crescent City is another story, however.

In his senior year in high school, he and a couple of classmates "got on the Hummingbird train out of north Alabama and came to New Orleans." At the Union Passenger Terminal, they got a cab and told the driver "to take us to the finest hotel in New Orleans."

"He took one look at us," Lutz recalled, "and brought us straight to the Lafayette Hotel, a fleabag flophouse." The year was 1965 and they came just in time for Hurricane Betsy. "We went through Betsy in the bar at the Lafayette Hotel," he said.

After graduation, he went to Vanderbilt where he graduated in pre-med and chemistry before coming to Tulane Medical School in 1969.

His first encounter with medical misinformation came during another well-documented storm, Camille, which ravaged the Gulf Coast that same year. There was a new head of the public health school, Lutz said, and he was convinced that an outbreak of typhoid fever was going to occur in Mississippi.

So off they went to inoculate everyone. It has long since been proved that there is no correlation between outbreaks of typhoid fever and cholera following a hurricane. "All we did was give a lot of cleanup workers a lot of sore arms," he said. "There is absolutely no increase in typhoid fever or cholera following a storm."

It's just another urban myth, of which there are no shortages, he said.

"There are a tremendous amount of rumors," he said, about what to do and what not to do, health-wise." But to get really sick, he said, "You'd have to drink water that's been contaminated by sewage, and I think most people wouldn't drink out of the Mississippi after a hurricane."

Lutz also said he generally recommends that people follow the advice of public officials but "unfortunately, they don't always give good advice."

When one health official started talking about cholera and typhoid fever, "I knew we were in trouble," he said. "Because it usually starts with poisonous snakes and snakebites, and alligators — concerns about them eating people. Even Aaron Broussard was seeing great white sharks in Metairie — I'm pretty sure that's what I heard.

"It probably was a garfish."

Lutz went home to Alabama for a couple of days when the water pressure disappeared, fearful of fire. But he couldn't stay there. He came back to his home, to help and assist others in the Quarter area — an area he sees changing.

"I see the Quarter coming back to what it was before the war — a residential neighborhood of 20,000, not the 2,000 it is today.

"From the standpoint of repopulation, I would be very surprised if more than 200,000 people came back - more likely 150,000. There isn't the infrastructure to support a greater population. I see New Orleans as really being an adult city for the next few years, like the French Quarter has been for years. People with grade school kids are going to be scarce."

That, of course, is one man's opinion - but one who has seen a lot and talked to a lot of people and fully understands it will take some time for conventions and tourism to return.

"The French Quarter is and always will be the heart that pumps the blood of this city," he said. "And now it will be more a place for Orleanians to live than to come and party."

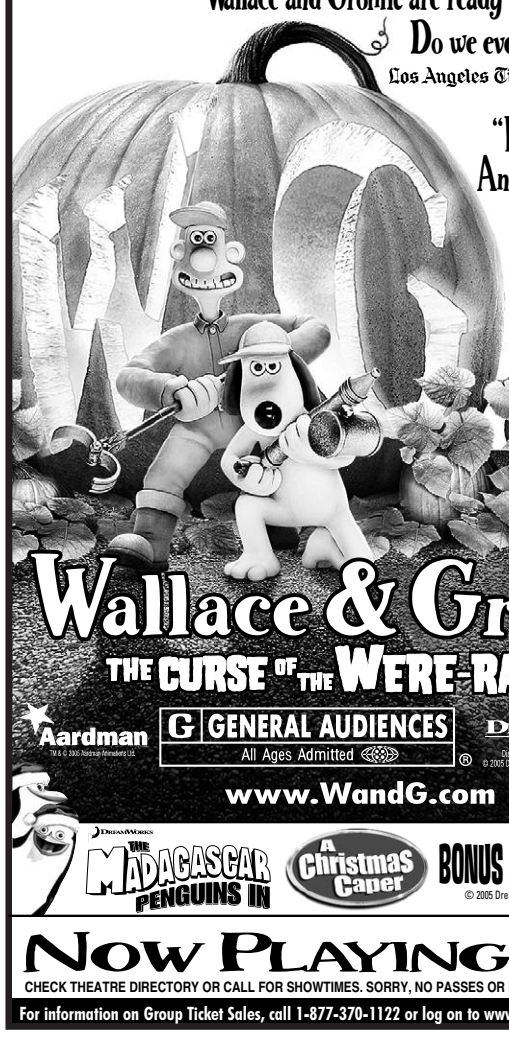
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Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at anglind@aol.com.

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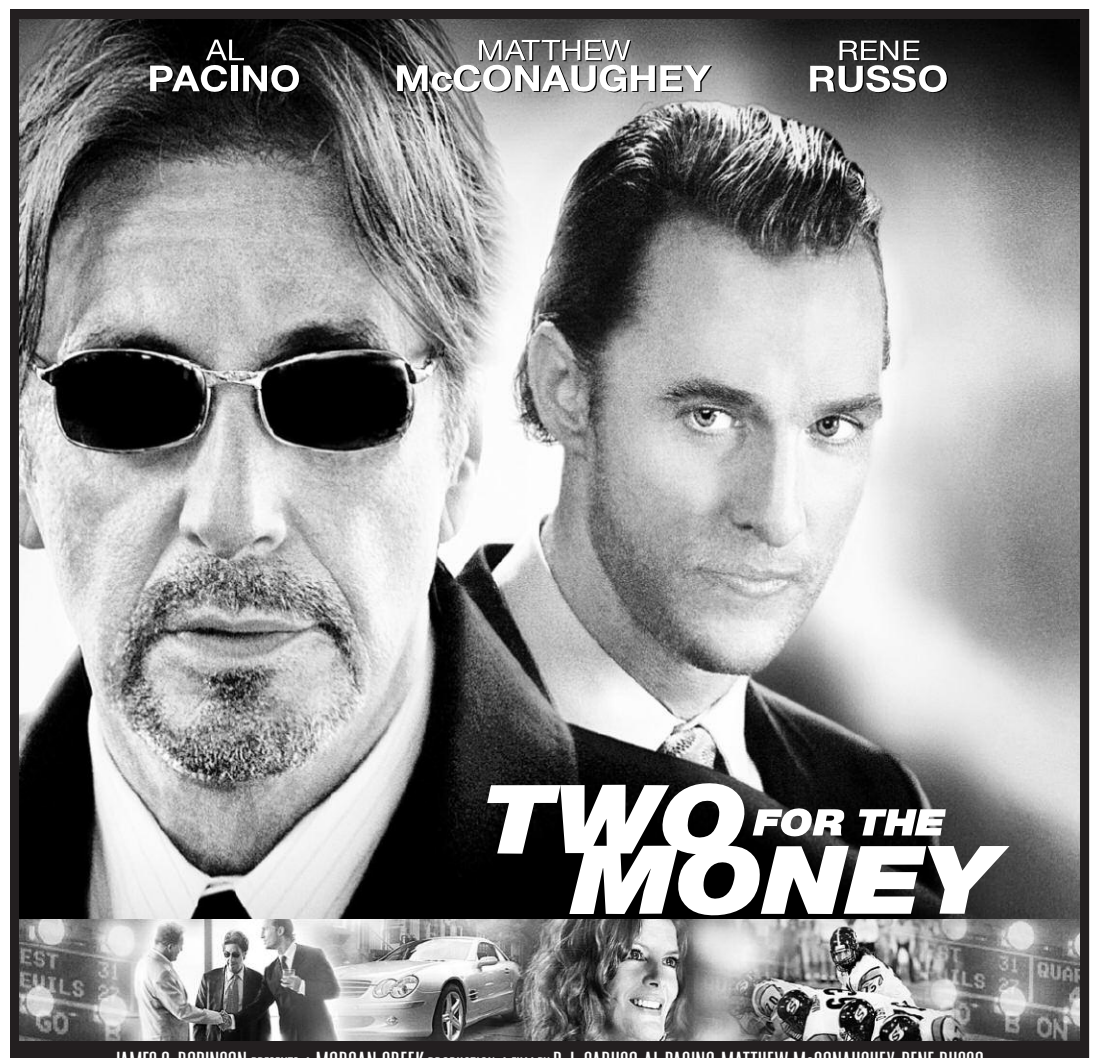
"ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST FILMS."
JIM SVEJDA, KNX/CBS RADIO

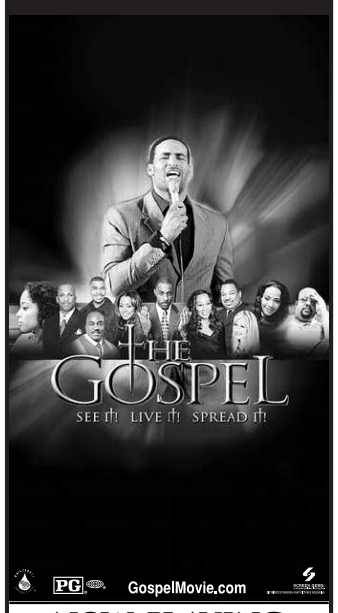
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GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(✓) 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:55
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# SPORTS

SECTION C-5
Sunday, October 9, 2005

# Texas finally beats Sooners

*Brown ends skid in Red River Rivalry*

**From wire reports**

DALLAS — The game was over, the "Eyes of Texas" had been sung and Vince Young still was on the run.

The Texas Longhorns finally had beaten the Oklahoma Sooners - stuck it to 'em, 45-12 - and more than 30,000 people wearing burnt orange were on their feet turning five years of frustration into sheer joy. Young had as much to celebrate as anyone, so he whipped up a few more cheers by going along the stands slapping hands and posing for pictures.

"We wanted them to feel everything we were feeling," Young said. "It was a great moment for all of us."

Young showed the Sooners how much he's developed since their last meeting, throwing three touchdown passes and guiding the No. 2 Longhorns to a victory with so many meaningful implications.

It starts with Texas (5-0, 2-0 Big 12) shattering its longest losing streak in this 100-game series since the 1950s, and it means the Longhorns have cleared a huge hurdle in pursuit of their first national championship since 1969.

Young redeemed himself for last year's shutout and continued a winning streak he's been building ever since. Although that 12-game run includes beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl and winning at Ohio State, this one means the most to Coach Mack Brown because it ends the year-round question of when he'll beat Oklahoma. Doing it with aggressive play-calling helps his image, too.

"We've had a tough time in this series. I'm not proud of that, and I feel responsible for that," Brown said. "To see the kids out on the field with the fans, the interaction after the game, is something you feel really good about."

The Sooners (2-3, 1-1) looked nothing like the clubs that drummed the Longhorns by a combined scored of 189-54 the past five years. Then again, they're not.

Oklahoma has only six starters back and came into this game unranked for the first time since its last loss to Texas, in 1999. Star running back Adrian Peterson, who gained 225 yards against the Longhorns last year, was limited to three early carries for 10 yards because of a sprained ankle.

# PACK MENTALITY




STAFF PHOTO BY BILLY TURNER

The Favres are a constant in Kiln, Miss. Favre's on the Bayou is the family restaurant, which is located in Hancock County. The entire county sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Katrina.

*Kiln, home of gritty Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre, comes together and starts healing*

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer

KILN, MISS. — Monday night, the Kiln faithful pour into the Broke Spoke bar to watch football.

Though phone service is difficult, if not impossible, to find and people still are cleaning up homes ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and some are living in tents, one of the Kiln's favorite sons, Brett Favre, is playing. That is enough.

So much of the Kiln shows up to cheer.

Brett gives them, as he always does, everything he has. It is not enough. The Packers lose to the Carolina Panthers 32-29, falling to 0-4. A fourth-quarter comeback, one of Favre's specialties, falls short with a fourth-down pass.

The Kiln exhales a tired breath when the ball hits the ground.

Can't seem to win anything right now. Can't seem to get up. Can't seem to clean up. Can't seem to come back all the way. In a word, the Kiln can't.

But you can't find anyone who says the Kiln, or Brett Favre, won't be back one day.

It's Tuesday at noon.

Steve Haas plops a beefy arm onto the old wooden bar. He asks a visitor, "What'll you have?"

It's dark and cool inside the wood-frame old bar located in the middle of the Kiln. The large room is lit only by fluorescent bulbs above the pool tables. Kenny Chesney sings about friends dying too early in life in a new video that is playing

*See* **FAVRE,** *C-6*

# Ugly victory would suit Saints

*Only meaningful stat is in win column*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff Writer

GREEN BAY, WIS. — The Green Bay Packers have lost their past three games by a total of six points — a trend the Saints would be more than happy to continue this afternoon at Lambeau Field.

The Saints (2-2) would be perfectly content to win by one point, just as they were content with a three-point victory at Carolina in Week 1 and a mundane 19-7 victory over Buffalo last week.

**SAINTS at PACKERS**
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Entering this season with more of a "slow and steady wins the race" attitude under new offensive coordinator Mike Sheppard, the Saints showed remarkable patience in the Buffalo victory, nursing a six-point lead into the fourth quarter without feeling pressure to make the quick strike.

"I think the philosophy is more just win, you know. Not how we win. And I think for the first time since I've been here, it hasn't been one of those, ëWe need to score 40 points," said offensive tackle Wayne Gandy, who came to the Saints from Pittsburgh as a free agent in 2003. "I came from somewhere where it was more like we're doing now. Then when I first got here, it was like, ... As fast as you can get in the end zone, let's go.' And to win 21-17, even a win, it would always be, ... Well, we've got to do better.'

"And now it's like, we won 19-7, it's a win. Nobody cares what the score is. After 10 wins, nobody's going to be like, ... Well, you only won by two points.' We're going to be sitting here celebrating because we're in the playoffs."

The Saints' must-score philosophy had more to do with their defense than their offense. After the 2000 season, the Saints' defense became a deficiency, ranking in the bottom half of the league the past four years, including last in 2004.

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-6*

# LSU DUELS WITH VANDY

LSU receivers Dwayne Bowe (80) and Craig Davis celebrate in the end zone after Bowe's touchdown reception in the first quarter against Vanderbilt on Saturday night in Nashville, Tenn.

**For complete game coverage, SEE NOLA.COM**



AP PHOTO

# Scott says rebuilding job not done

*But he expects team to show improvement*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Despite having talented point guard Chris Paul and more athletic players capable of executing his offense, Hornets coach Byron Scott isn't predicting a playoff run for his team this season.

But he said if this season turns out to be anything like last season when they finished at 18-64, it would be considered unacceptable by his standards.

"If we win 23 games, then we didn't do what we were supposed to do as a basketball team and I didn't do what I was supposed to do as a basketball coach," Scott said. "I don't have to win 35 games, but I feel we have to improve.

"Nineteen or 20 wins this season are not enough. Are we setting our goals higher? Yes, we are. If we win 33 games, we think it would be a successful season. Right now, we're farther along than we were at the end of the season, I think we're better on both ends of the court right now than we were at the end of the season."

Maybe that's why owner George Shinn continues to make a concerted push to sell season tickets for the 35 games to be played at the 19,675-seat Ford Center. He has been telling many of those potential fans, who will be seeing NBA basketball for the first time, that once they come, they'll want to come back.

Perhaps, it would be hard for Shinn to keep saying that if the Hornets fared as they did last season when they lost 30 of their 41 home games.

But Scott isn't worried about having higher expectations, not after what he's seen so far from his players after the first week of training camp at Southern Nazarene University. At last year's camp, the Hornets generated more news off the court than on it. Former point guard Baron Davis had already demanded to be traded through his agent before camp started, and he was upset for months about a new team policy that banned his personal trainer from visiting the practice facility.

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-8*

# WORLD OF SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

**KENSETH SETS RECORD:** Matt Kenseth set a track qualifying record in winning the pole for the Banquet 400 in Kansas City, and is hoping it will put him in position to win today and get back into the race for the Chase for the Nextel Cup championship. Kenseth is seventh in the standings, 111 points behind leader Tony Stewart. Kenseth won the last time he won the pole. The 2003 Winston Cup champion, whose uneventful title run led NASCAR to overhaul its title format, won Aug. 26 at Bristol, his only victory of the season. This is his third career pole. "We had a good car lately, and it's been a lot of fun to drive them," said Kenseth, who ran a lap of 180.856 mph in his Ford on Saturday. "We haven't had good cars until last couple of months." The top five qualifiers all broke Jimmie Johnson's track record of 180.373 mph, set in 2003. No other title contenders made it into the first two rows, and only half of the Chase field will start in the top 10. Carl Edwards, sixth in the standings, will start fifth. Greg Biffle, sitting fifth, will start eight. Stewart will start ninth, and defending champion Kurt Busch, 10th in the standings, qualified 10th.

**NASCAR WANTS TEAM LIMITS:** NASCAR plans to limit the number of teams a car owner will be able to field in the Nextel Cup series, chairman Brian France said. "We're going to make some adjustments in policy to balance the playing field a little better and really go after new ownership in the industry, really benefit and help the teams like the Wood Brothers, the Pettys, Cal Wells, independent teams that are finding themselves in ever increasing difficulties to compete," France said. He said the limit would be phased in during the next few seasons. "It won't happen tomorrow," France said. "But it would phase down from five to four to some other number." All of the top teams in NASCAR are multicar teams, with Roush Racing and Hendrick Motorsports leading the way with five and four cars. The benefits of running more than one car are clear: additional tests under current testing limits, information sharing among the teams, multiple sponsorships that provide great resources, and sometimes on-track cooperation among teammates.

**RAIN STIFLES GP:** Rain soaked the track at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka, Japan, leaving world champion Fernando Alonso and other top drivers at the back of the grid for today's Formula One race. The morning run was hampered by overnight rain, although conditions improved by the time qualifying started. But with 10 minutes left, heavy rain returned for the last four starters - Alsonso, seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, Kimi Raikkonen and Juan Pablo Montoya. The four drivers have won 16 of the 17 races this season.

## GOLF

**AROUND THE WORLD:** John Bickerton shot a 2-under 69 to take a one-stroke lead over Stuart Little after the third round of the Abama Open de Canarias in Tenerife, Canary Islands. Bickerton was at 7-under 206 after beginning the day two shots behind Little (72).

## NFL

**AROUND THE LEAGUE:** Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Tommy Maddox strained his right calf in practice and is doubtful for Monday night's game at San Diego. Charlie Batch who has played only a few downs the past three years, is expected to be Ben Roethlisberger's backup for the first of the Steelers' three Monday night games. Jerome Bettis, the No. 5 rusher in NFL history, could play for the first time since injuring a calf during the third of the Steelers' four exhibition games. . . . The Chicago Bears signed kicker Robbie Gould and placed linebacker Joe Odom on injured reserve. Starter Doug Brien, a former Saint, has struggled this season, missing three of four field-goal attempts.

## BASEBALL

**WASHINGTON AWAITS CALL:** Members of the Oakland Athletics coaching staff have yet to be called in for interviews for the team's managerial vacancy. Third-base coach Ron Washington, a native of New Orleans, has an interview scheduled Tuesday with the Florida Marlins for their manager job, open since Jack McKeon stepped down. Washington said he also expects to be a candidate for the job vacated by Lou Piniella in Tampa Bay once the Devil Rays hire a general manager. Washington, whose entire family was displaced from New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina, said Saturday that A's general manager Billy Beane vowed at the end of the season to interview the Oakland staff if things didn't work out with third-year manager Ken Macha.

# Saints defense has improved this season

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

But this year, the Saints defense has been stingy in spurts, especially in the second half of games — though the results have been skewed by the Saints' two penalty-and turnover-ridden losses.

Getting back into their groove last Sunday, the Saints held an opponent to fewer than 10 points for just the fourth time since 2000.

They held Buffalo to 67 yards passing — the lowest total since Saints coach Jim Haslett took over in 2000.

"I think if we play with a lead, we're a much better team," said Haslett, who agreed with Gandy's outlook on the team's past philosophy. "I think it's because we didn't think we were very good on defense, and we thought we needed to score a lot of points. And consequently, our offensive coordinator (Mike McCarthy) wanted to score a lot. And we thought that was a way to win games.

"But now we think we're better on defense, and we think we have a better chance of winning if we control the ball and keep the defense off the field."

A large part of the Saints' philosophy stems from wanting to take advantage of tailback Deuce McAllister — arguably their most valued weapon.

McAllister had his first 100-yard game of the season against Buffalo, running for 83 of his 130 yards in the fourth quarter.

"We know if we take our time and everybody executes, one play at a time, we're a heck of an offense," McAllister said. "It's when you rush things that you don't do what you normally do."

By emphasizing the run, the Saints have somewhat de-emphasized the passing game. But that, too, has been a way of maximizing quarterback Aaron Brooks' skills.

In the Saints' two victories this year, Brooks threw for just 192 yards and 172 yards, respectively. But he threw zero interceptions (compared to five in the two losses this year) and led them on a game-winning two-minute drive at the end of the Carolina game.

By not being asked to hit the home run, Brooks has been able to follow the adage, "Take what the defense gives you."

At Carolina, he completed six passes to tight end Ernie Conwell for 71 yards. Against Buffalo, Brooks ran seven times for 33 yards — including a four-yard touchdown scamper that he checked to on a called pass play.

"He sees the hole, he takes it," Haslett said, saying Brooks' read on the touchdown was a result of the repetition of plays in the Saints' simpler, abbreviated playbook this season. "It's repetitive plays. The quarterback and the offense feel much better with what we're doing."

The Saints offense has been more patient and methodical, looking to create third-and-short situations and put together long offensive drives, rather than trying for long passes and falling into third-and-long.

In both victories, the Saints won the time of possession battle, despite gaining just 291 yards against Carolina and 333 yards against the Bills.

Against Buffalo, the Saints gained a perfectly-balanced 167 yards passing and 166 yards rushing.

Gandy said the idea is not to intentionally lessen Brooks' role but to stop "making him feel like he has to win the game all by himself."

And Gandy said Brooks has no problem sacrificing numbers for victories.

"I think that in Aaron's seven or eight years in the league, he's had those two or three seasons where he's put up big numbers that show, ... Hey, I can throw the ball.' And I think now in his career, winning is the ultimate measure of success.

"I'm quite sure he would take 210 yards and a Super Bowl ring."

# Battered Kiln vows to rebuild

**FAVRE,** *from C-1*

on the bar's three televisions.

The only customer, a man wearing a red-and-white local trucking company hat, two or three days of stubble, smoking a nub of a Marlboro, plays video poker in a cubicle in the corner of the bar.

The smoke drifts out of the cubicle into the larger room like one of the many dogs that walk through the Kiln unattended.

It's lunchtime, but no one but Haas and a couple of others are home.

The big sign, BROKE SPOKE, written in large black letters on top of a Confederate flag, is back in its place on the front of the place where people have written names and their addresses all over the outside wall. The sign was blown into the woods beyond the bar by Katrina. But Haas, who rode out the storm in Florida, came back after two days, found it and nailed it back into place. The bar was closed a week while Haas waited for electricity.

"We're getting back to normal," says Haas, whose famous friend, Brett Favre, is the catalyst for the bar's popularity and notoriety. Haas has known Favre since he was in the fifth grade.

Normal is a matter of perspective, one imagines. Outside the bar, two women are lying on sleeping bags inside a large tent beneath the shade of a massive oak.

Since he returned to this town of 2,000 or so, Haas has been cooking and serving a free meal in the evenings. He has to go to the Picayune Wal-Mart or the Gulfport Sam's Club to get supplies, but he does it willingly.

"It ain't no big deal," he says. "There was never a doubt that things are going to come back around here. No one around here will ever lay down. They'll work hard until it does come back."

### No quit in them

Mark Smith, a local contractor, says people are just waiting to get going.

"The people around here are just waiting for insurance people. They're hurting, they're starving. They can't hire anyone like us to get the trees off their roofs because they're scared to move things. We can't go out and start work. That's our biggest problem.

"Hey, we've done a lot of work for free. The amount of work is unbelievable. I worked (Hurricane) Ivan last year, and it was a thunderstorm compared to this. They better hope to God they never see anything like this again."

Outside the Broke Spoke, normal is fleeting, tempting. In sparkling sunshine, a fire truck races down Highway 43, howling as it zips past the few cars stopped at the red light in the center of town. The fire truck, however, is from Fairfax, Va., having come to help the Kiln get back in operation.

Across the four-way stop from the bar, at Dolly's Quik Stop, they're feeding a long line of hungry contractors, electrical company workers and persons tired and dusty. Dolly's, which closed but two days before opening with no gas but lots of cold beer, serves delicacies like Hannah's Pigs Feet, and behind the counter there are what are advertised as "new Boudin Balls."

A large roach skitters across the floor of the diner/service station, and flies are dancing on and off the spaghetti meat sauce, but the customers are wolfing down the food. Indeed, the corn dogs are brown-crispy outside and juicy inside.

"Z" Bilbo and her husband, Thomas, are eating lunch at one of the booths. They've been in the Kiln nearly all their lives. They say they've followed Brett "somewhat."

Thomas sips coffee from a white cup next to an ashtray filled with butts. He reflects on what he has seen. "Things look pretty normal around here now. You can have a cup of coffee and some air conditioning. But go down this road here to Waveland or go down to Jourdan River Shores, and they had 18 feet of water in their homes. It's coming back. Sure it is."

The Kiln almost feels like fate is piling on the Packers, who are off to the worst start of Favre's career going into today's game against the Saints. "It's terrible, terrible," Haas says. "But at least the Saints have won a couple, so we can fall back on them. We pull for both teams."

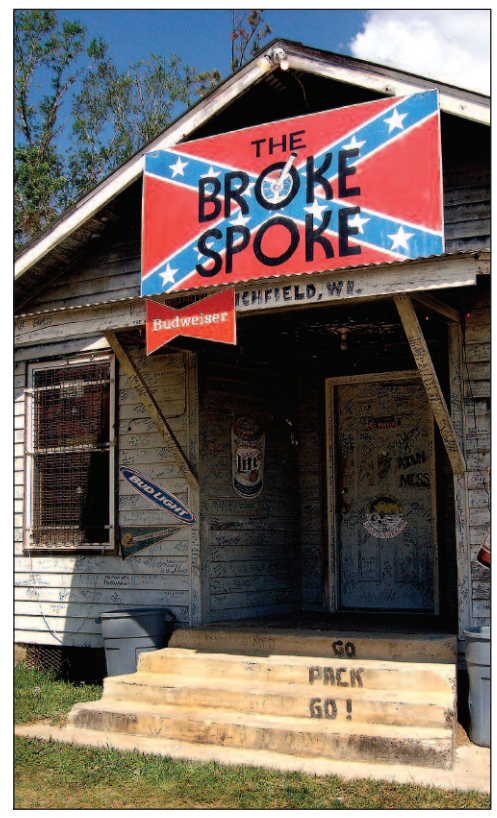
Eliott Neceise watched the Monday night game using rabbit ears on his TV set to get a local station. He had to find them from a closet because he was used to cable TV, and cable doesn't exist here yet.

"It's coming back around here, but it's slow, very slow," Neceise says of the Kiln. Neceise says the Kiln is kind of like the Packers on Monday night. "They started slow, but they came back. It wasn't a win, but it was respectable."

Packers coach Mike Sherman says the reason the Monday night game was respectable was primarily Favre, who threw four touchdown passes. "He brought us back to within a field goal, and we had a makeshift offensive line and people blocking their butts off for him, trying to get that win, and it just didn't happen. But I think the team has responded to him the same this year as they have in the past."

No one connected to the Packers said they believe there is any quit in Favre, no matter the start, no matter what has happened to his family or the Kiln.

Sherman says, in fact, that when adversity comes to his quarterback, the team responds well.




STAFF PHOTO BY BILLY TURNER

Steve Haas, owner of the Broke Spoke bar, says: 'We're getting back to normal.'

"There's no question," Sherman says. "The greatest example of his effect on his teammates is we play that Monday night (in 2003) against Oakland right after his dad passed away and how that team responded to that adversity, the situation he found himself in, playing a game right after finding out your dad passed away. The team responds very positively to him when he's in need."

"He's the leader of the pack," says Packers wide receiver Donald Driver. "If he has a positive attitude, I think everybody in the locker room will have a positive attitude. We all stick together."

They stick together in the Kiln, too.

See, the Kiln is inching closer to recovery. Little attention is being paid to cutting grass, but they're closer to getting the debris out of the way.

Outside Dolly's, which features a huge mural of a Green Bay Packers helmet and the words "Kiln Mississippi Packers" on a wall to the side of the building, there's a sheet of plywood nailed to two posts. Five telephones are perched on each side of the plywood, with telephone cords running from the bottom of the phones. Those are about the only land lines in the area.

You want to make a call around here, you come to the makeshift South Central Bell telephone office in the parking lot. Even cell phones have been hit-and-miss. Immediately after the storm, many people in the county gathered at the foot of the old Highway 90 Bay Bridge because, for some reason, that was the only place you could get a signal. It was like a scene out of the movie "War of the Worlds." The first thing to go was the phone service. Cell phones are operating now, Dolly's customers say.

The Hancock Bank, which proudly opened in 2000, is operating, though the strip mall it is located in absorbed heavy damage. Sheet metal from roofs is put off in a corner like an offending child.

Three miles down Highways 43/603 at Hancock North Central High School, the statue of Brett Favre, outside Brett Favre Field, is fine. It's still heaving touchdown passes. The school, which is fighting back as slowly as the town it is near, is the place Favre played quarterback for his father. It was a staging area for distribution of goods to the needy in mid-September, and emergency vehicles are still at the school.

The Hawks played their first football game, a 42-6 loss to the Gulf Coast's top-rated team, Ocean Springs, on Sept. 30. They lost nearly a third of their team because of Katrina, including seven starters. They're playing a seven-game schedule, with 25 junior-high players filling out the roster.

It could have been worse. Just a mile from the school, at Stennis International Airport, Katrina turned a hangar into sheet-metal Swiss cheese. The estimated cost of repair for the airport is $1.4 million, which has been approved by the federal government.

Up Highway 603, Bruno's Bar, with the spray-painted rebel flag on the concrete-block wall out front, is closed as is the Cajun Connection, a seafood restaurant nearby. At the end of that road, at the very entrance to the Kiln, the post that holds the sign that says "Welcome to the Kiln, home of Brett Favre," broke. The sign rests next to the post. Down, but not out.

### More despair

Ironically, this was supposed to be a more tranquil season for Favre, who at the age of 35 certainly can see retirement coming fairly soon, though he denies that the Packers' start will have anything to do with that decision.

In the past couple of years, along with his father's death, Favre's wife, Deanna, who rode out the storm at the couple's ranch in Hattiesburg, Miss., with their two children, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She successfully underwent treatment. Pain and worry have been constant companions in Favre's house.

"He's had adversity in his life before this season," Sherman said, "and this is just another chapter in the book, so to speak, and a big chapter obviously. He's holding up quite well, as he usually does. He's almost hardened by it, because of so many things that have happened to him. He almost handles it too well."

Sherman told Favre to forget the team's workouts in Green Bay in the offseason and go home and come back ready to "knock down the door."

The door was blown down Aug. 29 when Katrina came calling.

### A harrowing night

The city's most famous residents aren't to be seen this day. Ten miles or so from Dolly's, Favre's mother, Bonita, and her family are cleaning up, down Irving Favre road, named after Brett's father.

"They're at home," Haas says, "because they lost everything. They have a lot of do."

A family of three comes by a visitor, stopping politely to ask if they can help. They say they're heading into the compound and will bring Bonita out. They never do.

A half-mile from the entrance to the compound is a field littered with tents, 14 of them. The road out to the Favre compound is a testimony to the power of the storm. Storm surge and the incredible winds attacked house after house. Some are sticks of wood, families' lives spoken of by chunks of garbage. Everyone has a tarp. Everyone has a sign, most with their addresses painted on them. The strip mall across from the entrance to the compound that was filled with a gourmet coffee house, a sign of unique progress in this old town, is heavily damaged.

Some signs tell visitors they will be shot if they are found looting.

Favre's family rode out Katrina in a terrifying day and night at the family compound, located behind a large black security fence. The family home was built in 1950 and rode out monster hurricane Camille in 1969. They figured they were safe.

The compound features a two-story pool house that serves as an office for Brett's brother Jeff. It was built on a hill about 25 feet above the Rotten Bayou to the west and Mill Creek to the east.

Those waters flow together and wedge into the Jourdan River near town. That river and the surge from the Gulf was what flooded much of the subdivisions on Highway 43.

Bonita and her 87-year-old mother, Izella "Meemaw" French, had to seek refuge in the attic of the home when the floodwaters from the storm suddenly invaded. Within five or 10 minutes, Kiln residents say, the water was onto everyone. Favre's mother scrambled up stairs much like the former Southern Mississippi quarterback has run from pass rushers all these years ... with abandon.

Bonita told a Houston TV station that she risked her life to save a trophy case filled with Brett's memorabilia near the entrance to her home as the water rose in her house. She says she managed to clear the bottom two shelves but didn't get the rest.

After two days, she finally got in contact with her son by hailing the TV truck and borrowing their satellite phone to make a call to Brett. At one point the family had only the clothes they were wearing when the storm hit.

### Sports aids comeback

In the Kiln, they're tough folks, they tell you without much prompting.

Customers pile into Dolly's wearing no shirts and skin the color and consistency of leather.

They're coming back, they maintain.

Brett has been instrumental in relief efforts for his home county since Katrina, pouring resources and money into the work. Favre friend and business associate Clark Henegan helped drive a truck from Madison, Wis., with supplies. The 18-wheeler had chainsaws, generators, diapers, baby formula, work gloves and boots, canned food and dog food, all donated through Favre's Web site, www.brettfavre.com.

Favre's 4ward Foundation in Hattiesburg helped ensure 30 semis were sent during the month of September. Cash totaling $198,000 was provided. The Packers also worked hard, collecting donations as part of the NFL's Hurricane Relief Weekend, during which the Saints played the New York Giants in the Meadowlands.

A friend of Haas, who had a second Broke Spoke in Green Bay for five years, also brought plenty of help to the area.

"Sports is helping bring people back," Haas says. "We were packed Monday night, and we'll be packed (today). After the football game, we'll put it on the car racing and watch that. We'll enjoy it all day."

Both Haas and Smith say the Kiln is part Packers fans, part Saints fans and all rebuilding.

The Favre family left the Kiln for Green Bay on Saturday to help the Packers host a Katrina relief effort. Brett's brothers Scott and Jeff, sister Brandi, Bonita and Deanna signed copies of the book, "Favre," at the Lambeau Field Atrium. The book is published by Rugged Land Books.

In the Kiln, that's highly appropriate.

# Packers' exec's heart still with New Orleanians

## *Jones spearheaded fundraising effort in Wisconsin*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
NFL Columnist

GREEN BAY, WIS. — Although he's 18 years removed from the Big Easy, the river still runs deep for John Jones, the designated successor to Green Bay Packers president/CEO Bob Harlan when Harlan retires following the 2006 season.

These are difficult times for J.J., a friend and former Times-Picayune colleague. His football team is winless through the first quarter of the season, and Hurricane Katrina has left his hometown battered, bruised and slowly recovering in intensive care.

Though Sunday games don't equate with personal tragedy, each can exact a toll on the human spirit.

"We're 0-4 but we're only a game and a half out of first place (in the NFC North),'' Jones said. "That's what we're playing for. We've got five division games in our last 12, so we are still very much in the division race. We certainly think we're a better ball club than our record shows. But until we prove it on the field, we don't make excuses. We've got to win a football game."

Like most of us who evacuated New Orleans for safe havens, Jones watched the events of Aug. 29 unfold on cable and network television. Like most he went to bed that night believing the city had escaped Katrina's wrath, only to learn the next morning that breaches in the city's levee system were causing widespread flooding.

"I could only watch about five minutes at a time,'' said Jones, whose family home near the intersection of St. Charles and Jackson Avenue served as an annual gathering for revelers on Fat Tuesday. "It was so overwhelming to see the city destroyed the way it was destroyed.

"It was eery seeing the overhead scenes from helicopters, and then recognizing neighborhoods by the tops of trees or street lights or intersections. It was difficult to comprehend for anyone who had grown up in New Orleans to see those neighborhoods underwater. I've always known the city to be a survivor in so many of these storms. But once the levees went, I think everyone knew what that meant."

In the days and weeks following Katrina, Jones helped spearhead a relief effort under the Packers' good name. The community of Green Bay initially raised $100,000, a figure that was matched at the team's home opener in Week 2 against the Cleveland Browns.

Packers' quarterback Brett Favre and his family also felt Katrina's fury, losing homes and lifelong belongings in Kiln, Miss., and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Jones estimates that the Brett Favre 4-ward Foundation already has contributed more than $500,000 to Red Cross relief efforts.

In other words, the Packer Nation feels our pain.

"In Green Bay, there's an emotional connection to New Orleans because of Super Bowl XXXI and the way Packers fans were welcomed in New Orleans," Jones said. "Because of the way our people enjoyed themselves and the way the city made us feel so welcomed, and then winning the game there, I think the attachment to the Superdome and those memories played a part in the donations we were able to raise on game day.

"Everyone I had spoken to had already made a contribution to the Red Cross before our game day came up. Still, so many folks stepped forward. It's a great statement about Green Bay and how Green Bay cares about New Orleans."

The Packers and Favre hope to make a statement on the field today - that recent reports of their demise are premature. Jones points to the NFC North standings, where Chicago and Detroit share the lead with 1-2 records, a half-game ahead of Minnesota at 1-3.

With five of their last 12 games coming against the Bears, Lions and Vikings, the Packers haven't given up hope of winning the division and advancing to the playoffs.

"Everyone's thoughts and prayers are with New Orleans, and I'm sure that team will feel a special warmth from Packers fans when they come on the field because of the recent circumstances,'' Jones said. "I think everybody in Green Bay and the Packer community has a very special spot in their hearts for the Saints, owner Tom Benson, their front office, Coach Jim Haslett and his players and what they're going through. They've been so resilient, so strong under such tough conditions.

"I know I have a great deal of respect for the organization and the people working there. But once the ball's kicked off, we're playing to win."

Proving once again that you can take the boy out of New Orleans but you can't take New Orleans out of the boy, Jones has his own Monday tradition in Green Bay during the NFL season.

"Like red beans and rice, the Saints' score is one of the first things I look for each Monday," Jones said. "Just knowing what the organization is going through and how much it must mean to the people of New Orleans and Louisiana, the Saints are always with me. When the Saints started playing in '67, that was one of the biggest events I can remember for New Orleans. There's such an emotional attachment that Saints fans have for their team. I think it will always be that way."

### SAINTS WOULD RATHER NOT FACE WINLESS PACKERS

### WEEK 5 NFL PICKS

**SAINTS - PLUS 3 - AT GREEN BAY:** Hell hath no fury like an 0-4 Packers team at home, or something like that. This game could define the Packers' season, one way or the other. The Saints would have been better off if Green Bay had rallied to beat Carolina on Monday night. Packers 26, Saints 24.

**TENNESSEE - PLUS 3 - AT HOUSTON:** Unless the Texans picked up an offensive line during the open week, the Titans should contain quarterback David Carr and running game. The Texans will remain winless unless the team feels the pain of owner Bob McNair, who lost his city's bid to secure Super Bowl XLIV. Titans 19, Texans 13.

**CHICAGO - PLUS 3 - AT CLEVELAND:** These teams are expected to be jockeying for position for two of the top 10 picks in the 2006 NFL draft. Too bad they're not playing baseball. . . . White Sox 9, Indians 4 (heading to the ninth).

**TAMPA BAY - MINUS 3 - AT NEW YORK JETS:** Jets' coach Herman Edwards hands the ball to 42-year-old quarterback Vinny Testaverde and makes the sign of the cross. It seems like a potential ambush for the undefeated Bucs, who have it going their way under Jon Gruden. Buccaneers 23, Jets 16.

**SEATTLE - PLUS 3 - AT ST. LOUIS:** A battle between NFC West coleaders in a division that could have a champion with an 8-8 record. Rams quarterback Marc Bulger might throw 60 times. Seahawks likely will be without wide receivers Bobby Engram and Darrell Jackson. Rams 29, Seahawks 23.

**NEW ENGLAND - PLUS 3 - AT ATLANTA:** Toughest game of the week to pick. The Patriots are smarting from a whipping against San Diego and haven't lost back-to-back games since December 2002. Michael Vick comes in with a bum knee. But the Patriots are banged up on both offense and defense and may not have defensive end Richard Seymour. Flip a coin. Patriots 24, Falcons 23.

**MIAMI - PLUS 2 - AT BUFFALO:** Quarterback Kelly Holcomb takes over the Bills' offense that has scored just two touchdowns in the past 14 quarters. Yawn! Dolphins' defense smothers Willis McGahee, and Gus Frerotte does just enough. Fish 24, Bills 9.

**BALTIMORE - PLUS 1 - AT DETROIT:** The question is, will either of these teams score? In other words, first team to 10 wins. The Lions have amassed 36 points in three games; the Ravens 30. Give the edge to the Ravens, but I'm not sure why. Ravens 12, Lions 9.

**INDIANAPOLIS - MINUS 14 - AT SAN FRANCISCO:** Let's see, rookie quarterback Alex Smith, starting for the first time, goes head-up against Peyton Manning, who finally got on a roll last week. The defenseless 49ers do not defend the forward pass very well, which suggests this could be a walk by the bay for Manning and wide receiver Marvin Harrison. Colts 31, 49ers 16.

**CAROLINA - MINUS 3 - AT ARIZONA:** Arizona returned home from Mexico City with its first win and few reported cases of Montezuma's Revenge. Panthers' quarterback Jake Delhomme slices and dices the home team in front of an estimated 35,000 fans at Sun Devils Stadium, a third of the crowd at their game against the 49ers south of the border. Panthers 30, Cardinals 17.

**PHILADELPHIA - MINUS 3 - AT DALLAS:** Eagles are rolling under quarterback Donovan McNabb. Cowboys are stinging from a disturbing loss to the Raiders in the Black Hole. Philly takes over sole possession of the division lead with win and Redskins loss. Eagles 23, Cowboys 16.

**WASHINGTON - PLUS 7 - AT DENVER:** There were few prognosticators at the start of the season who thought this game might actually be meaningful. The Broncos are playing well under Jake Plummer, who will have his hands full against the good Washington defense. Redskins' running back Clinton Portis fails to exact revenge against his former teammates. Broncos 24, Washington 16.

**CINCINNATI - PLUS 3 - AT JACKSONVILLE (SUNDAY NIGHT):** Lots of folks like the Jaguars in primetime. Quarterback Byron Leftwich seems overdue for a big game, especially at home. But I'm going to ride the Marvin Lewis train for another week. Cincy stays undefeated. Bengals 20, Jaguars 16.

**PITTSBURGH - PLUS 3 - AT SAN DIEGO (MONDAY NIGHT):** Great primetime matchup, a preview of the playoffs, perhaps. The Chargers are coming off a confidence-building road victory at New England; the Steelers had the week off after losing at home to the Patriots. Chargers 20, Steelers 16.

**BYE WEEK:** Kansas City, Oakland, New York Giants, Minnesota.

**LAST WEEK:** 10-4, straight up; 8-6, against the spread.

# SAINTS AT PACKERS

**Kickoff:** Noon at Lambeau Field, Green Bay, Wis.
**Coaches:** Saints Jim Haslett (44-40 sixth season, all with Saints); Packers Mike Sherman (53-31, sixth season, all with Packers)
**TV:** FOX **Radio:** 870-AM

### KEEP AN EYE ON

**BRETT FAVRE:** Forget for a moment the Packers quarterback ranks among the best to ever play the game, and that he may be nearing the end of his storied career. Favre, who turns 36 Monday, has been worth watching on a game-by-game basis throughout his 15-year career. True to form, the free-wheeling playmaker is tied for second in the NFL with nine touchdown passes this year and tied for second in the league with eight interceptions.

The Saints have shown total respect for Favre all week despite his team's struggles this season, stressing they need to keep after him until the whistle blows on every play, because he's not afraid to throw across his body, on the run, or on his heels. They also stressed the need to keep their intensity level high the entire game, because Favre is one of the most dangerous fourth-quarter QBs in NFL history.

In three career games against the Saints (two victories, one loss), Favre has completed 68 of 106 passes for 728 yards with seven touchdowns, one interception and a passer rating of 102.2.

**MIKE MCKENZIE:** The Saints cornerback spent his first five seasons in Green Bay before forcing a trade to New Orleans last October after a lengthy holdout. Needless to say, McKenzie won't be the most popular player on the field today when he makes his return to Lambeau Field.

### GAMEPLAN

The Packers running game is woeful, and the Saints need to take advantage. Green Bay ranks 28th in the NFL with 73.8 rushing yards per game. And Pro Bowl tailback Ahman Green is expected to miss today's game with knee and quadriceps injuries. The Packers' problems started in the offseason, when they lost standout linemen Mike Wahle and Marco Rivera via free agency. Fullback William Henderson has struggled this year, losing playing time as a result. Then, this past Monday night at Carolina, starting center Mike Flanagan (hernia) and left tackle Chad Clifton (ankle) went down with injuries. Clifton may return to the lineup after practicing some for the first time this week on Friday, but the Saints would love to shut down the run and apply some pressure to Favre. When Favre does throw the ball into coverage, as he is willing to do to allow his receivers to make plays, the Saints defensive backs need to make big plays.

### KEY MATCHUP

**SAINTS RUN GAME VS. PACKERS NT GRADY JACKSON**
Jackson, the massive former Saint, is the Packers' best space-eating run stopper, but the Saints can wear him down if they stick to the run game as they did last week against Buffalo. Last week, Saints tailback Deuce McAllister gained 83 of his 130 yards in the fourth quarter. The Saints' interior linemen are a bit banged up, but guards Kendyl Jacox (ankle) and Jermane Mayberry (shoulder) should both be in the starting lineup.

### BY THE NUMBERS

The Saints are making their first trip to Lambeau Field since 1989. Since then, the teams have played three times in the Superdome, with the Saints winning their last meeting in 2002, 35-20. Ö The Packers have lost their past three games this season by a total of six points. Ö The Saints defense ranks sixth in the NFL against the pass this year, allowing 178.8 yards per game. Ö Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks has started 75 consecutive games, including the playoffs, since 2000. Brooks joined the Saints that year after being traded from the Packers, who drafted him in the fourth round in 1999.

### FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"They're not an 0-4 team. Not with that quarterback. That quarterback's explosive enough to win every game. That's not an 0-4 team. We're treating it like it's a team that we saw last year. It's a playoff team and they won a lot of games over the last four years. We're going to deal with it that way." — Saints coach Jim Haslett on facing the winless Packers.

**— compiled by Mike Triplett**

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# Snyder injured, Smith returns to practice

## *Hornets forward listed day-to-day*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets forward Kirk Snyder pulled his right hamstring during Saturday's practice and is listed as day-to-day.

Snyder shot free throws after he received treatment from the team's medical staff. But Coach Byron Scott said Snyder was scheduled to receive more treatment following practice. Snyder had been excelling in camp, showing quickness to get to the basket and score.

Meanwhile, after sitting out the past four days of camp because of a groin pull, second-year guard J.R. Smith returned to practice.

"I thought I did pretty good for the first day back," Smith said. "I hadn't played in a week, and today I missed some easy shots that I know I should make. There were points on the court where I used to get to quickly, but I couldn't do it today. Give me a couple of days, and I'll be all right."

**SHORTENED TIME:** Scott shortened practice by 30 minutes as a reward for the teamís hard work. The Hornets have practiced for nearly three hours each day until Saturday.

"I knew today they were going to be a little tired," Scott said. "The one thing I don't want is when you are tired, you can lose your focus and get hurt. I felt at that time we had done enough on both ends of the court, so I gave them a break."

**TOP BATTLE:** The best battle in camp, according to Scott, is at point guard between top draft pick Chris Paul and Speedy Claxton. Paul is projected to be the starter and Claxton is in the final year of his contract. Claxton was acquired in a February trade from Golden State in exchange for Baron Davis.

"Chris and Speedy get after it every day and they've got so much respect for each other," Scott said. "It's great competition, and all it's going to do is make both guys better."

Another competitive battle has been between Rasual Butler and Bostjan Nachbar, who are competing for the starting small forward spot. Butler was acquired in an August trade from the Miami Heat.

**FINDING HOMES:** When the Hornets started training camp last Tuesday, all of the players were housed in a hotel and they were transported to Southern Nazarene University by bus for practice. Since then, several players have found either houses or apartments.

# Hornets say they're more focused this season

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

Unlike then, the players now mostly talk about how they performed on certain drills after practice and what restaurant they're going to meet at for dinner.

"Everybody is just more focused," second-year guard J.R. Smith. "We've got more guys who want to be here, learn and play in this offense. So that just makes it a lot easier."

Unlike last year, Scott does not have to spend most of his time trying to develop minor-league caliber players into respectable NBA backups. It was a regular occurrence at last yearís camp.

Although 13 of the 17 players in camp have less than three years experience in the NBA, the majority of them are talented.

Forward Kirk Snyder, obtained in an August trade from the Utah Jazz, has been exceptional at scoring off the fast break. Forward David West hasn't been timid to take shots, something he did often during last year's injury-riddled season. Backup center Chris Andersen is physically stronger, which has made him more effective in the post. And Paul, the teamís top draft pick, has shown no sign of difficulty learning the offense.

"Guys understand what he wants and everybody came in decent shape," West said. "This year we want to put ourselves early in position to get some wins. All we can do is keep learning and developing."

Most of the players wonít say how many victories theyíll get this season, but they havenít forgotten their (Southwest) division is considered the toughest in the league with defending NBA champion San Antonio, the Dallas Mavericks, Houston Rockets and Memphis Grizzlies, who all made the playoffs last season.

"We're more comfortable with everything," veteran forward P.J. Brown said. "Last year we had to learn a new system and new philosophy. Now we know what he wants and he knows us a lot better. So I think everything is smoother this year."

Although General Manager Jeff Bower thinks it's too early to predict victories, he has been impressed with what he's seen so far.

"I think the expectations of Scott was experienced by the players last year and they learned what was expected and they have met those so far," Bower said. "We've got a very professional group here who has something to prove. First and foremost, I see a great teacher in Byron, who has an understanding of what success is all about and has been there."

Whether that means 30 to 35 victories remain uncertain. But Scott said his rebuilding job is not completed yet.

"We pretty much know right now that we're going to be in the lottery again, and that's fine, we got Chris out of the lottery," Scott said. "We got J.R. Smith, luckily drop down to us (in the 2004 draft), and we added Kirk in a trade, who was supposed to be in the top 10 (in the 2004 draft).

"So we got three first-round picks and we're going to add another one (2006 draft). That's a part of rebuilding, sometimes you have to do it through the draft. If you can get lucky and get a great free agent, the rebuilding goes along quicker."

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

# Yanks, Angels washed out

## *Game 4 rescheduled, to be played today*

**By Ronald Blum**
AP sports writer

NEW YORK — Even Chone Figgins couldn't have splashed his way through this.

The white tarpaulin over the Yankee Stadium infield billowed in the wind Saturday and a steady rain fell. More than 3½ hours before it was scheduled to start, Game 4 of the AL playoff series between the Los Angeles Angels and the New York Yankees was postponed.

Major League Baseball and the Fox network reset the game for tonight. If the Yankees win and force Game 5, that one would be Monday afternoon or evening in Anaheim, Calif., a quick turnaround for teams fighting to gain a berth against the Chicago White Sox in the AL Championship Series.

"It's out of our control," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We'll play at midnight if they tell us to play at midnight. We'll be ready."

A New York victory would tie the best-of-five series 2-2, forcing the teams to fly across the country in the middle of the night. Players would not get to sleep until 5 a.m. PDT or so, about 12-14 hours before they would have to play a fifth game. A day game Sunday would have eased the travel, but television networks prefer to have games between large-market teams in prime time.

"Is it unfair? In a sense, yes," Yankees bench coach Joe Girardi said. "But I think we all know why we're doing it that way, and that's part of what makes this game tick. It's what keeps salaries up."

Baseball officials spoke with Fox and Game 4, at first rescheduled for 8:15 p.m., was moved up to 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Bud Selig declined comment.

"I've got my hands full here," he said before any questions could be asked.

Los Angeles took a 2-1 series lead with an 11-7 victory in the rain Friday night, beating up on Randy Johnson and getting another great defensive play from Figgins, whose diving catch of Gary Sheffield's liner to center saved one or two runs and blunted New York's comeback from a 5-0 deficit. After the Yankees went ahead 6-5, Anaheim rallied for two runs in the next inning, with Figgins hitting a go-ahead single.

Scioscia decided to stick with Jarrod Washburn as his Game 4 starter and leave 21-game winner Bartolo Colon for Game 5 if it's needed. Colon planned to return to California later Saturday to get rest.

"Our confidence in Jarrod is high," Scioscia said. "Bart can use an extra day. It's been a long season for a lot of guys. We're going to have Bart and back him up with John Lackey if we need him in Game 5."

The Yankees will start Shawn Chacon in Game 4. Mike Mussina, who beat Colon in Tuesday's opener, remained in California and would start Game 5.

"We left Mike Borzello with him, who is our bullpen catcher," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "They have been doing regular workouts. Mike is very responsible, I think you all know that. So I'm not really concerned about the fact that he'll be ready to pitch."

A day off probably benefits the Angels more than the Yankees. Relievers Brendan Donnelly (14 pitches), Scot Shields (36), Kelvim Escobar (26) and Francisco Rodriguez (13) all were used in Game 3.

"This day off is big for us," Scioscia said. "We have to be able to shorten a game against the Yankees, and the only way to do that is to have Scot Shields and Donnelly, and Kelvim Escobar and Rodriguez where they need to be."

Johnson, chased after 62 pitches and booed lustily by the Yankee Stadium fans, could wind up in the bullpen for a Game 5, and perhaps even for Game 4. His 1 1-3 innings for Arizona in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series helped end the Yankees' string of three consecutive World Series titles.

The 42-year-old left-hander was dressed in a suit instead of sweats and jeans Saturday, ready for the Yankees' coat-and-tie dress code in case another trip to the West Coast was necessary.

"I think I could pitch today if I had to," he said. "It's part of my job to help this team win, isn't it? If the opportunity comes along, they say: `Can you pitch?' then I'm going to say, `Yeah.' I mean, I've never turned the ball down."

After being given a $48 million, three-year deal by the Yankees to win big games and getting blown out Friday, he was asked whether he would embrace the chance to pitch in relief.

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# Late touchdown lifts Destrehan past Ehret

By Mike Strom
Staff writer

Destrehan scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including the game-winner by quarterback Jai Eugene on an eight-yard run with three seconds remaining, to get past Ehret 21-14 in a District 5-5A game Friday in Destrehan.

Playing on the road with a severely depleted roster caused by the evacuation of Hurricane Katrina five weeks ago and having practiced only two weeks, Ehret pushed Destrehan to the max.

Destrehan (5-0) was forced to score two fourth-quarter touchdowns and twice benefited from good fortune in preserving the state's No. 4 ranking in Class 5A.

Eugene scored the winning touchdown on a dash up the middle, and Travis Brignac kicked his third extra point to help the Wildcats avoid overtime. The winning drive of 35 yards was set up when Ehret's Clarence Ussin was hit by a punt and Wildcats linebacker Robert Roy recovered the loose ball with 34 seconds remaining.

Ehret (1-1) was snake bit earlier in the final period when Chris Mitchell's one-yard quarterback sneak for an apparent touchdown was negated by Coach Billy North's call for a timeout as the 25-second clock wound down to the final ticks. The Patriots got the play off and Mitchell scored what would have been his third rushing touchdown at the 4:23 mark that could have given the Patriots a 21-7 advantage.

"It was bad luck," North said. "We called time because we thought the clock was running out. It still was a great football game. Destrehan is a great team, and they made some plays at the end. They deserve credit. I was really proud of our kids, the way they came back, the way they've practiced. I'm proud that they're home."

Destrehan dominated the second half, particularly on the ground, gaining 150 of its 215 rushing yards to shake loose from a tie at 7 at halftime. Raynor Derkins carried 23 times for 114 yards, and Jermyl Lawrence added 34 yards on six carries, including a 17-yard run that produced tie at 14 with 8:07 remaining.

Lawrence's touchdown culminated a 15-play, 98-yard drive that followed Ehret's ill-fated timeout at the goal line. The scored allowed Destrehan to overcome four turnovers, including three lost fumbles.

Mitchell's running and passing accounted for 194 of Ehret's 211 yards, but the Patriots managed 78 yards in the second half. Mitchell ran 25 times for 84 yards and completed eight of 14 passes for 110 yards. Mitchell had one second-half completion, for five yards.

"I didn't think it was going to be that close, but I've got to give them credit," said Derkins. "We battled and we had to fight to win. Thank the Lord."

"I saw them last week (in a 15-14 victory against Higgins), and I knew they were athletic," said Destrehan coach Steve Robicheaux. "My hat's off to Billy North and his staff. They played down to the very last minute. Truthfully, I didn't expect it to be like this."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Destrehan's Chris Richard, left, closes in on Ehret quarterback Chris Mitchell in Friday's District 5-5A game.

# Strong second half propels Rebels

By Pierce W. Huff
Staff writer

A mistake-prone St. James team, ranked fourth in Class 2A, made for a happy homecoming for the Riverside Rebels on Friday.

Riverside took advantage of five turnovers (three fumbles and two interceptions), one nine-yard punt and caused a safety in a 29-19 victory against St. James in both team's District 10-2A opener.

It was the teams' first meeting since St. James defeated Riverside 27-14 in 2003.

The Rebels (4-1, 1-0) led 9-7 at halftime and clinched the victory by scoring 20 points in the second half off of miscues by St. James (3-2, 0-1).

Riverside increased its lead to 15-7 in the third quarter when senior Collin Yeargin intercepted a pass by Phillips and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown. But the Rebels were penalized for illegal procedure on the extra-point kick, and then Jordan Poirrier missed wide left on the second attempt.

Riverside running back Jarid Caesar made the score 22-7 when he ran up the middle for a one-yard touchdown. Ceasar's run came two plays after Benny Gomez intercepted a pass by Phillips and returned it 40 yards to the St. James' five-yard line.

Caesar had a one-yard touchdown run up the middle to make the score 29-7 in the third quarter. The score came three plays after a nine-yard punt by the Wildcats' Terry Isom.

But St. James' Jason Zenon returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown to make the score 29-13.

Wildcats running back Luther Ambrose had a one-yard touchdown run up the middle to make the score 29-19 with 6:48 remaining. The run capped an eight-play, 46-yard scoring drive. Ambrose was held to no gain on a run for the two-point conversion.

Riverside led 7-0 in the first half when St. James tied the score when running back Juarelle Narcisse ran up the middle for a one-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

The Wildcats had a chance to take the lead after an eight-yard punt by Riverside's Cavin Richmond on the previous possession. But the possession ended when Riverside's Jade Falgoust recovered a St. James fumble on an option play at the Rebels' 16-yard line with 10:51 remaining in the first half.

# Bulldogs rally with touchdown, interception

By Tammy Nunez
Staff writer

Not much went right early for Fontainebleau on Friday night in a District 4-5A game against Covington at Jack Salter Stadium.

But one drive and one interception meant everything in a fourth quarter riddled by interceptions, fumbles, rotating quarterbacks and penalties.

With the Bulldogs clinging to a one-point lead, Fontainebleau's Blake Leblanc intercepted a pass by Kayman Gassen, one of four Covington quarterbacks, with 42.2 seconds remaining to seal Fontainebleau's 13-12 victory that kept the Bulldogs (2-0, 2-0) undefeated.

The stage was set on the only successful Fontainebleau drive of the second half. The Bulldogs put together a nine-play, 76-yard drive that lasted four minutes to take a one-point lead that held up thanks to Leblanc's interception. Daniel Cassisa scored his second touchdown of the night - on a three-yard run - to tie the score at 12 with 3:26 left. Alex DeFrank kicked the extra point for the 13-12 edge. The kick was key after a point-after attempt was blocked earlier.

Despite all of Covington's yards through the air and on the ground and favorable field position all night, the Lions couldn't manage a touchdown. The Lions (0-2, 0-2) haven't scored a touchdown all season and used four field goals by Stephen Mire to stay ahead most of the game.

Mire hit a 25-yard, go-ahead field goal with 1.7 seconds left in the first half to give Covington a 9-6 lead. Mire's fourth field goal — a 24-yarder with 7:59 left in the fourth quarter - gave the Lions a 12-6 edge.

Covington starting quarterback Michael Steele threw for 123 yards, but was intercepted three times in the second half.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Covington running back Patrick Henry is brought down by two Fontainebleau defenders Friday night. Henry left the game late in the second quarter with a leg injury.

# Wildcats end losing streak vs. Hahnville

By Lori Lyons
Staff writer

This time, there was no test for cardiac patients, no last-second miracle play. This time, East St. John overcame a couple of early mistakes to take a 35-20 victory over Hahnville on Friday night in Reserve.

It was the first victory for the Wildcats (4-1, 1-0) against Hahnville since 1999, and the first for Coach Larry Dauterive since his arrival in Wildcat land in 2000.

And he got this one thanks to Johnny Owen, a transfer from Brother Martin in the wake of†Hurricane Katrina.

Owen ran for 254 yards and three touchdowns on 25 carries. Alternating series with Stanley Jackson in the first half, Owen scored his first two touchdowns on runs of††four and seven yards. His third was an 80-yard sprint. By halftime, Owen had rushed for 105 yards. The Wildcats ran for 391 yards and finished with 471 total.

East St. John's defense played a big part in the victory. Hahnville was held to 53 yards rushing and 11first downs. Quarterback Early James threw for 211 yards, completing 18 of 49 passes, with two interceptions.

But the Wildcats had to overcome a couple of miscues early — two fumbles inside the Tigers' five-yard line and a missed 26-yard field goal kept East St. John in the first quarter.

East St. John drove right down the field on its first possession, but on first-and-goal at the seven, Stanley Jackson fumbled as he crossed the goal line, and Hahnville's Kemon Jacobs recovered.

On their second possession, the Wildcats again drove right down the field. On third-and-two at the Hahnville five, Owen was hit behind the line and fumbled. Jacobs again recovered.

But Hahnville could not convert either turnover into points. And East St. John did much better on its fourth possession. The Wildcats drove 74 yards on eight plays, and this time finished the job. On first-and-goal from the four, Owen sprinted around left end for the touchdown less than a minute into the second quarter.

Thanks to a short field following a Hahnville punt, East St. John went up 14-0 with 4:17 left in the half.

The Wildcats took four plays to drive 43 yards, with Owen scoring from the seven.

# Bulldogs have little trouble with Spartans

By Billy Turner
Staff writer

The hardships just keep coming for Salmen.

The Spartans were more than 30 minutes late for Friday night's game at the Pound in Lutcher because they found themselves in heavy traffic leaving New Orleans. This came after they had lost much of the season and all their equipment in recent weeks to Hurricane Katrina.

Then the Spartans got to play Lutcher.

More hardships ensued. Lutcher took a 30-point halftime lead on the way to a 44-21 victory against overmatched Salmen.

The teams meet again in two weeks at Northshore High School, where Salmen students are attending school.

Salmen ran 39 first-half plays to Lutcher's 16, but still trailed big as the Bulldogs averaged more than 14 yards per play.

Lutcher scored first, on a 26-yard run by Rashad Webster, but Salmen ñ which has only 27 players ñ came back to tie it on an 11-yard run by freshman Ben Humber, the Spartans' first touchdown of the season. They lost last week to West Jeff 34-3.

But that was it.

Lutcher scored on an interception return by Chaddrick Adams of 40 yards, on a 62-yard run by quarterback Khymest Williams, one of six quarterbacks the Bulldogs played, and on two touchdown passes from recent transfer Blaine Gauthreaux. Gauthreaux threw one touchdown pass to Juan R, Johnson of 59 yards on his first play and then hit Williams with a 28-yard scoring pass with eight seconds left in the first half.

Lutcher gained 237 yards in the first half. Salmen's Danny Zimmerman, a transfer from Jesuit, was 1-of-13 for two yards with two interceptions in the first half.

# Missed opportunities doom Mandeville

By Jim Derry
Staff writer

Mandeville's home opener came five weeks later than originally planned. In Friday's game against Ponchatoula, it looked as if they wanted to wait another week.

The Skippers squandered numerous opportunities and their quarterbacks threw five interceptions, and Ponchatoula held on for a 12-2 District 4-5A victory at Skipper Stadium.

Mandeville (0-2, 0-2) started the game with an 11-play, 65-yard drive that stalled at the Wave 19, and a missed field goal attempt turned the ball over to Ponchatoula (2-1, 2-0).

On their final possession of the first half, the Skippers drove to the Wave 1. But with eight seconds remaining and no timeouts, they tried an off-tackle play to Johnny Priola, his only run of the night. He was stopped at the line of scrimmage as the clock ran out with Ponchatoula holding a 6-0 lead.

The Wave's only score of the half came on a 37-yard interception return by Nakeyial Traxler late in the second quarter.

Not much changed for Mandeville in the second half. After having to punt on its first two drives, the Skippers started the fourth quarter with another excellent chance to score after Blake Fleming recovered a Prentiss Bovia fumble at the Wave 22-yard-line. But three plays later, Sean Baham threw his third interception of the game.

**FRIDAY'S METRO SCORES**

**District 4-5A**
Fontainebleau 13, Covington 12
St. Paul's 26, Slidell 22
Hammond 26, Northshore 22
Ponchatoula 12, Mandeville 2
**District 5-5A**
West Jefferson 39, Assumption 36
East St. John 35, Hahnville 20
Destrehan 21, Ehret 14
**District 9-2A**
Varnado 21, Pope John Paul II 14
**District 10-2A**
Riverside 29, St. James 19
St. Charles 37, Donaldsonville 6
**District 7-1A**
Kentwood 58, Northlake Christian 0
**District 9-1A**
West St. John 44, White Castle 2
**Non-district**
Holy Cross 27, Vandebilt Catholic 20
Shaw 28, Walker 14
Pearl River 40, Christian Life 13
Lutcher 44, Salmen 21

FRIDAY'S ROUNDUP

# Hammond nips Panthers; Curtis wins

From staff reports

**HAMMOND 27, NORTHSHORE 22:** The Panthers inability to tackle Hammond running back Matt Betts proved to be the difference in Friday's District 4-5A game in Slidell. Betts' 33-yard pass reception followed by his one-yard touchdown run with a minute remaining lifted Hammond (1-2, 1-1) and extended Northshore's (0-2, 0-2) losing streak to 14 games.

**JOHN CURTIS 27, CHOCTAWHATCHEE (Fla.) 21:** Joe McKnight caught a touchdown pass and broke up a fourth-down pass late in the fourth quarter to lead the Patriots to victory Friday in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. McKnight's pass breakup came as Choctawhatchee (2-4) faced fourth-and-10 at the Curtis 15 with one minute remaining.

**SHAW 28, WALKER 14:** Tailback Daniel Borne rushed for 219 yards on 27 carries, and quarterback Darold Hughes passed for 113 yards and ran for a touchdown as the Eagles won their season opener in Walker on Friday. Borne scored three touchdowns in the first half on runs of eight, four and six yards; he had 162 yards in the first half.

**WEST JEFFERSON 39, ASSUMPTION 36:** Running back Kevin Grant ran for 222 yards and three touchdowns as the Buccaneers (2-0, 1-0) won their District 5-5A opener. Grant had touchdown runs of two, 41 and 38 yards and scored on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Ryan Jackson.

**ST. CHARLES 37, DONALDSONVILLE 6:** Comets running back Chris Jones rushed for 144 yards and three touchdowns as third-ranked (Class 2A) St. Charles (5-0, 1-0) easily defeated fifth-ranked Donaldsonville in the District 10-2A opener for both teams. St. Charles led 14-6 at the half on two touchdowns by Jones. Casey Robottom added a 23-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

**WEST ST. JOHN 44, WHITE CASTLE 2:** Rams quarterback Olajuwon Hall threw for two touchdowns, and Jaron Howard rushed for 133 yards on nine carries as West St. John (1-4, 1-0) broke a four-game losing streak in the District 9-1A opener for both teams.

**KENTWOOD 58, NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN 0:** The Kangaroos (3-1, 1-0) totaled 373 yards in winning their District 7-1A opener against Northlake (0-2, 0-1) in Kentwood. Kangaroos quarterback Alfred McKnight accounted for four touchdowns.

**ETC.:** Cabrini will play basketball this season and is in need of approximately 10 playing dates in the month of November and December, Coach Tony Labella said. The Crescents, 34-7 last season after winning the Class 4A state championship in 2004, also have openings for their Dec. 12-15 tournament, Labella said. For information, call Labella at (504) 231-0651 or (225) 766-6663.

# Shockley, Bulldogs upend Volunteers

## *Georgia continues mastery at Neyland Stadium*

**By Elizabeth A. Davis**
AP sports writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – D.J. Shockley and No. 5 Georgia stayed undefeated and on course for a trip to the Southeastern Conference championship.

Starting for the first time against a top-10 team, Shockley went 16-of-27 for 207 yards and ran 11 times for 51 yards as the Bulldogs won for the third straight time in Neyland Stadium, beating No. 8 Tennessee 27-14 on Saturday.

An erratic season continued for the Volunteers (3-2, 2-2), and their offense showed more ineptness with two costly fumbles.

Georgia (5-0, 3-0) led 13-0 in the third quarter after Brannan Southerland's 1-yard touchdown run and two field goals by Brandon Coutu.

Tennessee needed help from its defense to avoid a shutout.

Jonathan Wade set up the Vols' first touchdown when he intercepted Shockley and returned it 34 yards to the Georgia 1 in the third quarter. Rick Clausen sneaked over the pile to score on the first play, giving the Vols the momentum. But it didn't last long.

Shockley fumbled on Georgia's next series in Tennessee territory, but the Vols turned it over again. Tra Battle recovered Josh Briscoe's fumble, but the Bulldogs failed to score on the ensuing possession.

Tennessee got it back at its 1 and had to punt. Thomas Flowers returned it 54 yards for a touchdown with 8:50 to go.

Thomas Brown added an 18-yard touchdown run with 1:44 left to pad Georgia's lead. The Vols scored their second touchdown as time expired, a 24-yard pass from Clausen to Robert Meachem.

The Bulldogs got a boost in the SEC East standings when Florida lost to Alabama last week, and Georgia has a favorable schedule to win the division. The Bulldogs' most difficult remaining league games are against Florida later this month and at home against Auburn in November.

And Shockley helped alleviated any fear Georgia fans had about his ability to adequately replace four-year starter David Greene.

Tennessee came into the game with the SEC's top rush defense, but this time the Bulldogs' defense was better. The Vols were held to 48 yards on the ground. Gerald Riggs had 52 yards rushing on 19 carries.

The Bulldogs had 405 yards of total offense.

Clausen, already hampered by a sore left Achilles' tendon, could not pull off the kind of rally he led at LSU, but coach Phillip Fulmer didn't let backup Erik Ainge play.

Clausen was 21-of-36 for 310 yards and had two turnovers in the first half.

DeMario Minter intercepted Clausen's pass at the goal line and stopped an eight-play drive.

Clausen fumbled on the Vols' following drive as he was chased by Darrius Swain, who was credited with the force and recovery.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCORES

**EAST**
- Akron 13, Buffalo 7
- Boston College 28, Virginia 17
- Brown 37, Fordham 14
- Cent. Michigan 14, Army 10
- Colgate 16, Princeton 10
- Cornell 27, Harvard 13
- Holy Cross 13, Lehigh 10
- Lafayette 14, Columbia 7
- Maryland 38, Temple 7
- Massachusetts 27, Northeastern 0
- Navy 27, Air Force 24
- Penn 53, Bucknell 7
- Pittsburgh 38, Cincinnati 20
- Towson 23, Rhode Island 14
- West Virginia 27, Rutgers 14
- Yale 13, Dartmouth 0

**SOUTH**
- Alcorn St. 22, Prairie View 10
- Florida 35, Mississippi St. 9
- Florida St. 41, Wake Forest 24
- Furman 34, Appalachian St. 31
- Ga. Southern 45, W. Carolina 7
- Grambling St. 37, MVSU 22
- H-Sydney 44, Emory & Henry 6
- James Madison 38, Maine 2
- Louisiana College 55, Austin 11
- McNeese St. 46, Texas Southern 28
- Miami 52, Duke 7
- Mississippi 27, The Citadel 7
- Richmond 38, Villanova 20
- South Carolina 44, Kentucky 16
- Tenn.-Martin 46, Tenn. Tech 16
- VMI 34, Charleston Southern 12
- Virginia Tech 41, Marshall 14
- William & Mary 42, N. H. 10
- Wofford 14, Elon 9

**MIDWEST**
- Baylor 23, Iowa St. 13
- Dayton 25, Drake 17
- Indiana 36, Illinois 13
- Kansas St. 12, Kansas 3
- Minnesota 23, Michigan 20
- Missouri St. 24, N. Iowa 21
- Northwestern 51, Wisconsin 48
- Pittsburg St. 70, Panhandle St. 0
- W. Kentucky 37, Illinois St. 34, 2OT
- Youngstown St. 45, Indiana St. 0

**SOUTHWEST**
- Missouri 38, Oklahoma St. 31
- NW St. 10, Sam Houston St. 6
- Texas 45, Oklahoma 12

**WEST**
- Southern Cal 42, Arizona 21
- TCU 28, Wyoming 14
- UNLV 13, San Diego St. 10
- Utah St. 24, San Jose St. 17

# Lackluster Southern Cal pushes past Arizona

## *Ore, Hokies maul Thundering Herd*

**From wire reports**

Another lackluster start for No. 1 Southern California ended up in a victory that took more time than expected.

LenDale White scored four touchdowns, rushed for 179 yards and USC beat visiting Arizona 42-21 Saturday for its 27th consecutive victory.

Playing at the Coliseum for the second time this season, the Trojans (5-0, 3-0 Pac-10) also won their school-record 23rd home game.

Dwayne Jarrett added two touchdowns for the Trojans, who hit the road again for their next two games, including next week at Notre Dame.

White and Reggie Bush, who had 110 yards, each ran for 100-plus yards for the third consecutive game. Steve Smith added seven catches for 134 yards.

After rallying from an 18-point halftime deficit at Arizona State and a 13-point first-half deficit at Oregon the last two weeks, the Trojans again looked stagnant early against the Wildcats (1-4, 0-2).

**No. 3 VIRGINIA TECH 41 vs. MARSHALL 14:** Branden Ore rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown for the Hokies.

Virginia Tech (6-0) led 14-7 at halftime, but got a 19-yard field goal from Brandon Pace, a 15-yard fumble return by Vince Hall and a 48-yard scoring pass from Marcus Vick to David Clowney in a span of 3:29 of the third quarter to lead 31-7.

Vick finished 11-for-16 for 163 yards. He also threw an interception, his second this season, on a ball that glanced off Josh Morgan's hands to Chris Royal. Ahmad Bradshaw had 99 yards on 22 carries to lead Marshall (2-3).

**No. 4 FLORIDA STATE 41 vs. WAKE FOREST 24:** Drew Weatherford threw for 351 yards and three touchdowns as the Seminoles blew open a close game with three quick scores in the final quarter.

Florida State (5-0, 3-0 ACC) rolled up 585 yards and 27 first downs, but its nationally ranked defense struggled against the pesky Demon Deacons. Wake Forest (2-4, 1-2) closed to 20-17 on a 31-yard touchdown run by Chris Barclay, who finished with 125 yards.

But the Seminoles scored three touchdowns in the next 9 minutes to take a 41-17 lead. Weatherford completed 20 of 31 passes and also scored on a 1-yard run.

**No. 9 MIAMI 52 vs. DUKE 7:** Kyle Wright threw for three touchdowns in a 5-minute span of the second quarter, helping the Hurricanes shake off a slow start.

Tyrone Moss ran for 82 yards and a pair of touchdowns - his third multi-score game in four weeks - for Miami, which established season-highs for points and yards. Ryan Moore made a career-high seven catches for 87 yards and a touchdown for Miami (4-1, 2-1 ACC), winners of four straight.

Wright completed 18 of 31 passes for 255 yards, with three touchdowns and two interceptions before being replaced midway through the third quarter by Kirby Freeman, who threw for 47 yards and the first two touchdowns of his career.

**No. 13 FLORIDA 35 vs. MISSISSIPPI STATE 9:** Dallas Baker had a career-high 123 yards receiving and a touchdown, and Florida rebounded from its first loss of the season.

The Gators also avenged last year's 38-31 defeat in Starkville, one of the most embarrassing losses in school history that cost Coach Ron Zook his job. Florida (5-1, 3-1 SEC) showed some improvement following last week's loss to Alabama, but continued a trend of offensive inconsistency.

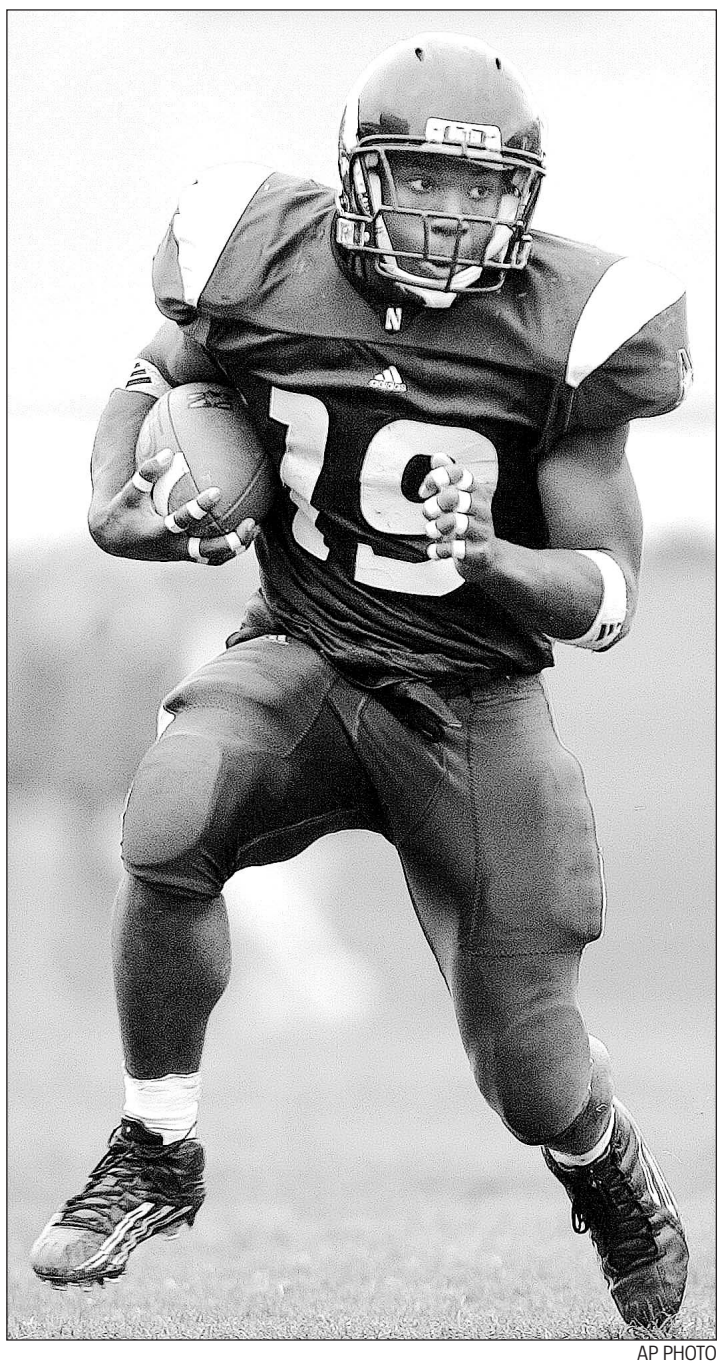
Chris Leak finished 18-of-33 for 244 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions. The defense finished with six sacks, three turnovers and two safeties against the Bulldogs (2-4, 0-4).

**NORTHWESTERN 51 vs. No. 14 WISCONSIN 48:** Freshman Tyrell Sutton ran for 244 yards and three touchdowns, and Reggie McPherson's interception sealed the victory.

Northwestern scored on seven straight possessions and finished with 674 yards of offense.

Brett Basanez completed 26 of 36 passes for 361 yards and three touchdowns for the Wildcats. Sutton's 1-yard run in the third quarter put Northwestern (3-2, 1-1 Big Ten) ahead for good, 23-17, and his 62-yarder late in the fourth made it 51-34.

Wisconsin's Brian Calhoun became the first Badger with more than 100 yards rushing and receiving in a game, carrying 23 times for 122 and catching 11 passes for 128.



AP PHOTO

Northwestern running back Tyrell Sutton ran for 244 yards and three touchdowns, leading the Wildcats to a 51-48 upset over 14th-ranked Wisconsin.

John Stocco was 24-of-31 for 326 yards and four touchdowns with two interceptions for Wisconsin (5-1, 2-1).

**No. 18 BOSTON COLLEGE 28 vs. VIRGINIA 17:** Quinton Porter threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns, and linebacker/fullback Brian Toal scored on a pair of 1-yard dives.

Porter, who missed the last two games with a sprained right ankle, finished 25-of-37 for the Eagles (5-1, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference). Toal, who plays fullback on short-yardage situations, has five touchdown runs this season.

The Eagles won despite missing three field goals, being penalized 11 times for 111 yards and losing defensive end Mathias Kiwanuka, who was ejected in the third quarter for punching a Virginia lineman. Marques Hagans led Virginia (3-2, 1-2), going 21-of-35 for 195 yards and two touchdowns.

**MINNESOTA 23 at No. 21 MICHIGAN 20:** Jason Giannini kicked a 30-yard field goal with 1 second left, helping Minnesota snap a 16-game losing streak to the Wolverines.

On third-and-10 from the Minnesota 26, Gary Russell ran 61 yards to set up the winning kick for the Gophers (5-1, 2-1 Big Ten).

Michigan (3-3, 1-2) is off to its worst start since also having a 3-3 record in 1990. Garrett Rivas had two chances to break the 20-20 tie for the Wolverines, but he missed a 42-yard field goal late in the third quarter and a 34-yard kick early in the fourth.

# Nicholls State loses in OT

**From wire reports**

Jerome Brooks scored the winning two-yard touchdown run in overtime as Stephen F. Austin overcame a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Nicholls State 27-21 Saturday in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Brooks put SFA (4-1, 1-0 Southland) ran 23 yards on the play before the winning score. Nicholls State (1-3, 0-1) had the first possession in overtime, but Alex Romero missed a 35-yard field-goal attempt.

Zeke Dixon was 20-of-37 for 217 yards and three touchdowns for the Lumberjacks, who trailed 21-7 in the fourth quarter before SFA forced overtime when Dixon found Tyrol Williams for an 18-yard touchdown with 32 seconds remaining.

Chance Dennis caught nine passes for 92 yards and a touchdown. Louie Runnels caught one pass, a 25-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

Broderick Cole led Nicholls State with 95 yards rushing and three touchdowns, including a 45-yard burst in the third quarter. The Colonels attempted three passes and completed none.

Anthony Harris added 97 yards on 11 carries for Nicholls State, which scored three touchdowns in a span of less than eight minutes in the second half.

Brooks finished with 37 yards on seven carries.

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# For ecosystems, the catastrophe is temporary

By Bob Marshall
Outdoors editor

Hurricanes, ecologists tell us, are natural events and man-made disasters.

The native residents, the plants and critters, of the ecosystems which hurricanes churn through have adapted to these visits over tens of thousands of years. Humans never have. We try to fight nature's raw power with our intellect, constructing levees and "storm-proof" buildings. We always lose. Then we call it a "natural disaster."

If you hold on to those thoughts while continuing to read, your Sunday won't seem so gloomy.

That's because the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, an agency staffed with natural scientists trying to manage wild resources for settled humans, made some serious progress last week tallying the cost to humans of the recent natural visits by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The bottom lines are not pretty. Katrina and Rita are long gone, but the impacts of their passing will stay with the outdoors community for many years.

Some of those impacts include:

▶ The almost total destruction of the coastal fishing infrastructure, including roads, marinas, docks, fuel stations, bait houses, lodges and other accommodations. The hit to the state's economy is in excess of $300 million from the recreational industry alone. Charlie Smith, the executive director of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association, says 550 of the 600 guides are out of business. The state has asked FEMA for $19 million to help that sector of the fishery. Damage to the commercial fishery — oysters, shrimp, and more — will cost the state another $2 billion. Some segments of that struggling industry may never come back.

▶ Coastal wildlife habitat was pummeled so severely, the DWF has closed rabbit and deer seasons from the Pearl to the Sabine rivers.

▶ Coastal wetlands suffered a severe loss of vegetation for wintering waterfowl. Agricultural fields in southwest Louisiana that attract ducks and geese have been flooded with saltwater for more than a week, and may be useless to birds. Seasons will not be canceled, but biologists doubt birds arriving at traditional wintering grounds will stay for very long.

▶ Barrier islands important to protecting fragile interior marshes from storm surges have been sheared to the water line, or below. Many coastal restoration projects and wildlife projects on coastal management areas have been severely damaged.

▶ Federal and state agencies still are waiting for low tides to get an accurate measure of coastal marsh losses, but preliminary estimates are not good. St. Bernard suffered "significant" erosion of salt marshes and destruction of large sections of fresh and brackish marshes in the outflow area of the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated marsh losses on its refuges along the Mississippi River delta and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin to be around 150,000 acres.

▶ Storm tides that pushed into freshwater habitat surrounding western Lake Pontchartrain and the Lake Maurepas basin have resulted in large areas of low oxygen, causing fish kills and damaging aquatic plants. The Blind, Amite and Tickfaw rivers have been impacted. Similar losses are anticipated in southwestern Louisiana.

▶ The DWF has suffered a stiff blow to its finances. Agency officials say lost revenue from lower hunting- and fishing-license sales will take a $12 million to $14 million bite out of its $98 million budget, which is totally self-generated. Further losses can be expected from downed timber on DWF lands (about $30 million), and loss of oil and gas royalties from wells closed on agency lands. DWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau said the agency will do some general "belt-tightening" and doesn't anticipate layoffs or program cuts for now. However, the agency's future solvency will depend largely on how much disaster aid it can get from FEMA.

It was gloomy news for us humans. But John Roussel, DWF assistant secretary for fisheries, put it in perspective.

"These resources will recover, I'm confident of that," he said. "They always do after storms like this. It's just pretty tough on the people who rely on these things while we're waiting for them to come back."

It can be a downright disaster — for us. But it's only temporary.

# Finding fish easier than finding a launch in St. Tammany

*After hurricane, accessibilty an issue*

By Andrew Canulette
Staff writer

Like thousands of south Louisiana anglers, Edwin Bedford wasn't certain what effect Hurricane Katrina would have on the local fishery.

But unlike many of those fishermen, Bedford didn't care to wait until Sept. 30 to find out. That was the date state agencies, including the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, beckoned anglers to the water with official word that the quality of Lake Pontchartrain and its estuaries was sound.

Bedford appreciated the information, but it was something he already knew.

Itching to return to his boat and his favorite pastime, the Mandeville resident called fisheries agents a few days before Hurricane Rita threatened the Gulf Coast. He liked what they told him, and was just as happy with what he and his girlfriend caught - 17 speckled trout and eight redfish - along the north shore of the lake near Goose Point.

"There was not one red flag to throw up," Bedford said. "So I felt OK going out to catch fish. (The water) was a little murky, but it wasn't bad. The Thursday before Rita, it was pretty clean."

Subsequent trips into the lake have produced a mixed bag. The day before Rita hit, he was skunked. Last week, he caught six nice specks near Green Point. Bedford said he's hoping for better things as south Louisiana heads into what routinely is one of the best times to catch large specks.

"I can see it being a very good fishing season," he said. "There's a lot of water, a lot of salt. And when the weather cools off, it can only get that much better."

But the enthusiasm among north shore anglers is tempered when they discuss accessibility to the fish. Once one of the most vital access points to the area fisheries, St. Tammany Parish — south Slidell especially — was one of the areas hardest hit by Katrina. Launches and marinas were destroyed, many bait-and-tackle stores still have any existing windows shuttered and boats remain scattered along roadsides.

Bedford was able to access the lake via the public launch on Mandeville's lakefront, the usual starting and finishing point for his outings. It's one of the few operating launches in St. Tammany post-Katrina.

LDWF biologist Harry Blanchet said there are two parts to a fishery — the fish, of course, but also the infrastructure that supports the industry. It's the latter of the two that concerns him.

"I know quite a few recreational and commercial fishermen," Blanchet said. "And they're just chomping at the bit to get back out there. (But finding) fuel, launches, just a few extra minutes when they actually can go do something (has been difficult.)"

Mandeville mayor Eddie Price, an avid outdoorsman, said less than a half-dozen boats per day have used the launch since the storm. That hasn't stopped the conversation among a growing number of local anglers who are eager to wet a line.

**"I can see it being a very good fishing season. There's a lot of water, a lot of salt. And when the weather cools off, it can only get that much better."**
EDWIN BEDFORD
South Louisiana angler

"I'm one of them," Price said. "I'm going kind of stir crazy. Most weekends, I'm fishing if I have time. Or I'm in a duck blind, deer hunting, whatever. But yeah, people have been ready to get out on the water. I've been hearing that."

Finding a spot to launch is a tricky proposition on the north shore right now. After finding an established spot, special attention must be paid to the debris tossed into the water by the storm. Anyone attempting to use an available launch should bring supplies (gasoline, artificial lures, food, water, etc.) with them to the site with the exception of the Marina del Ray launches near Madisonville.

Following is a rundown of several St. Tammany Parish launches and their current status:

▶ Tite's Place, U.S. 11 south of Slidell.

Little remains of this decades-old launching spot. A small skiff that was once for rent is submerged in a canal. An oxygen canister for one of Tite's bait tanks floats nearby, and sheet metal that was once an overhang near the launch rattles in the wind. The launch itself is littered with debris.

Owners could not be reached for comment on the possibility of reopening.

▶ Rigolets Marina, U.S. 90 south of Slidell

Owner Lester Ralph said a friend caught redfish off the dock of his marina a few days ago. But Ralph has more pressing concerns than angling right now.

The marina, which provides access to Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne and Lake Catherine and the Biloxi Marsh, is in massive disrepair. The bait and seafood store was gutted by wind and storm surge, and a nearby pavilion lost large chunks of floorboard. The wharves are covered with collapsed lumber and marsh grass.

Ralph said he hopes to have his business operational by Jan. 1. Meanwhile, a launch has been cleared and is free for public use. That launch is located to the right as you enter the marina. Ralph cautioned to be aware of debris in the water.

Supplies are not available.

▶ Salt Bayou, just off Louisiana 433 south of Slidell

Once home to the popular Salt Bayou Lounge and its nearby launch, parts of Salt Bayou Road were being used as staging areas for a South Carolina electrical company last week.

▶ Slidell public launch

Slidell chief of staff Reinhard Dearing said this launch in Heritage Park in Olde Towne was damaged, though there has been some usage. Supplies are not available.

▶ Lake Road launch, Lacombe

This launch, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is open to the public, said Byron Fortier, supervisory park ranger for the Southeast Louisiana Refuges system.

"I don't think that's a problem (using the launch)," Fortier said. "The refuge (Big Branch Marsh NWR) isn't closed, it's just the wooded portions that are closed. If you want to go out into the marshes, you can use the launch."

Supplies are not available. Glockner's, a Lake Road business which once sold staple items for anglers, was destroyed by Katrina.

▶ Cane Bayou launch, east of Mandeville on U.S. 190

This popular access point for kayaking anglers is closed because of excess debris, Price said. A local paddling group has offered to clean the site.

▶ Mandeville public launch

Open for use. Bring supplies.

▶ Mandeville fishing pier

The pier that was completed earlier this year was gashed by Katrina. Walkways were scuttled, floorboards fell and part of the pier collapsed. Nearby Sunset Park, which allows access to the pier, is also closed.

"It probably won't be six months until that's open," Price said. "But we'll reestablish the pier. That's one project that will not be put on hold."

▶ Marina del Ray, Louisiana 22 near Madisonville

An employee at this marina just east of the Tchefuncte River said both concrete backdowns are in operation. Cost is $5 per launch.

Marina del Ray also has fuel, ice, food and drinks for sale. The facility is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week.

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▶ Madisonville public launch

This launch is closed. A bridge on Louisiana 1077 leading to the ramp has been closed since Katrina.

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The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 263 | MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

## Fourteen months after Hurricane Charley, more than 1,000 Floridians still live in trailers, a situation Louisiana hopes is not repeated here

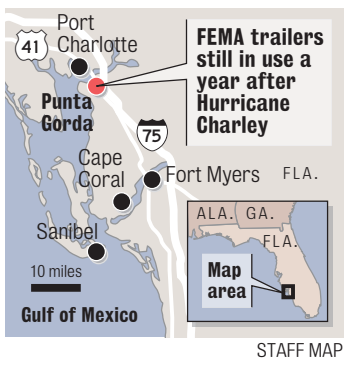
# 'FEMA VILLAGE'

**By Laura Maggi**
Staff writer

CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLA. — The gritty, gray sand gets into everything. It swirls around the rows upon rows of identical white trailers whenever a car drives by or a breeze blows in off the Gulf. There are no trees and not much grass, although weeds have pushed up through the gravel beneath the roughly 500 mobile homes that comprise what locals call "FEMA Village."

The trailers have been a haven for many who lost their homes when Hurricane Charley made an unexpected turn and blasted through this sleepy nook of southwest Florida more than a year ago.

But the encampment – tucked between Interstate 75 and the county jail near the small town of Punta Gorda, miles from stores and other amenities – also shows what can go wrong when the federal government quickly sets up temporary housing for a large group of people who don't have any place else to go and won't for a very long time.



STAFF MAP

"They put us out in the middle of nowhere," said Lynn Casagrande, whose four children constantly track the ubiquitous gray dust into their three-bedroom mobile home.

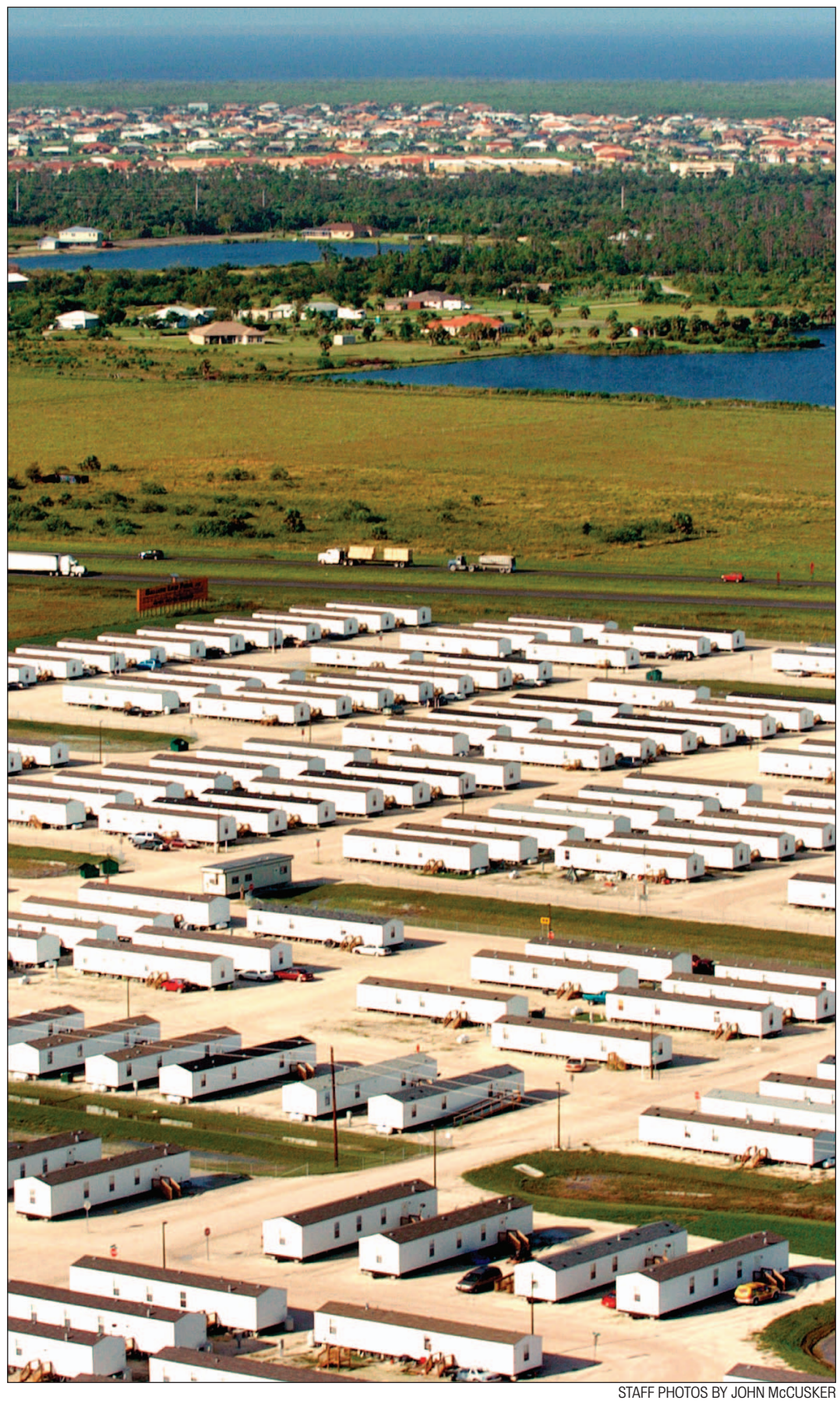
With more than 1,000 people still living in the mobile homes 14 months later, Charlotte County offers a few lessons about what Louisiana officials and residents might expect as the state sets up similar parks to deal with the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While initially grateful to have roofs over their heads, Casagrande and other residents now express growing frustration over living in close quarters in a remote location that makes it hard for people without cars to get to a job or run basic errands. Crime is a nagging problem, with complaints about drug-dealing, petty thefts and fights.

"Nobody likes walking through here at night," said Daniel Peak, a 15-year-old resident who said he and a few of his friends have been beaten up by older men at the park. The Federal Emergency Management Agency eventually set up a security post at the gate to the park, which some residents said made them feel safer and others complained just made it harder for friends and family to visit.

Residents talk hopefully about moving out of the village, but for many who have been at the trailer park since last fall, there is no place else to go. The park has decreased in size in recent months, as more financially stable residents have moved out, with the number of mobile homes shrinking from about 550 to

*See* **'FEMA VILLAGE',** *A-11*


STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER



ABOVE: The Federal Emergency Management Camp filled with trailers in Punta Gorda, Fla., is separated by miles from stores and amenities and residents say it is hard to get to jobs because little public transportation is available. LEFT: FEMA public information officer Mildred Acevedo waves to a carload of residents as they drive through the camp.

# *If you rebuild it,* WILL THEY COME BACK?

## *Many N.O. firms find Texas a nice fit*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – If there's one message that's clear from New Orleans business executives temporarily running their companies out of Houston, it's that time is running out quickly for them to make permanent decisions about whether they will return to the storm-damaged Crescent City.

▶ **Many residents still unwilling to return to city, A-6**

As federal, state and local politicians debate packages of incentives to rebuild New Orleans from the destruction of Hurricane Katrina and lure former and new companies into the area, many displaced Louisiana corporate decision-makers say

*See* **RETURN,** *A-6*

# FEMA isn't hiring La. companies, workers

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Less than a week after Hurricane Katrina swept through southeast Louisiana, a federal government purchasing agent came calling at Brian Bent's RV dealership in Metairie with a promising business proposal.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was planning to house thousands of evacuees temporarily in travel trailers and the agency wanted to throw some of the business to local dealers.

Bent said he arranged to acquire 500 RVs and followed up

*See* **CONTRACTORS,** *A-9*

# 911 tapes guide team as search ebbs

## *Holes in ceilings indicate survivors*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

After only 40 days, the 911 tapes already read like historical artifacts, each summary matter-of-factly capturing slivers of the horror and havoc wrought by Katrina in the first few hours and days after the storm.

But as the search for victims wraps up the next couple of days, the backlist of emergency calls that went unanswered has become the critical paper trail to whatever grim remains are yet to be discovered.

"Nine people trapped in house. No food or water."

"Mother with children: 5, 3 and infant."

"You're looking at calls from people in every possible crisis and every one has its own story behind it. It's pretty eerie to consider what these people must have been going through," said Louisiana state trooper Mark Fontenot before he set out Sunday for another day of breaking down doors and slogging through ruined houses.

Before leaving Troop B headquarters in Kenner, Fontenot looked over the computerized printout with his partner David Flauss. As Sunday's work started, they were down to the last few dozen calls, most of them

*See* **SEARCH,** *A-4*



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

In a home on Center Street, Mark Fontenot looks under a large bookcase being lifted by Saunders Craine and David Flauss, rear, to make sure no people or animals are underneath.

**DAY 42** • Katrina death toll in Louisiana: **1,007** • Former St. Bernard resident delivers cars to parish cops, A-2 • Half of disaster losses uninsured, A-3 • Jazz funeral held for Austin Leslie, B-1 • Horse-drawn buggies are back, B-1

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# Former resident gets St. Bernard moving

## *He delivers cars to parish police*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Ask Brent Smith where he's from, and he'll tell you, "I'm from Chalmette," even though he has lived outside Chicago for the past 10 years.

As he watched Hurricane Katrina stagger St. Bernard Parish during the past five weeks, Smith, 44, had to take action. He called a former classmate at Chalmette High School, state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi, and St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack Stephens.

He asked a simple question: "What do you need?""

And this week he delivered: six police cars, two pickup trucks and two sport utility vehicles, along with radios, lights and sirens.

Donated by the McHenry, Ill., County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Keith Nygren, the cars were just what Stephens had ordered.

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office lost 111 of its 136 patrol units in the hurricane, Stephens said. Not that the cars were missed in the initial aftermath: "The first six days, we used nothing but boats," Stephens said.

But since then, they have been sorely missed, and now, Stephens said, "activity is starting to pick up," with more arrests for looting and burglary.

The Sheriff's Office received cars from California authorities and the DEA is sending others, but the most important thing about the units donated from Illinois is that they are ready to roll, Stephens said.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Chalmette native Brent Smith, left, brings in an 18-wheeler loaded with vehicles last week to donate to resource-strapped St. Bernard Parish. Smith, who lives in Illinois, gathered contributions from people in the Chicago area. 'They saw this was my roots,' Smith said of the donors. 'Their hearts went out to the victims of the hurricane.'

"It's on the ground. It's got light bars ready. … I can attach magnetic emblems" on the doors," he said Wednesday, after accepting the donation. "I hope they will be on the street tomorrow."

Stephens also received two Chevrolet Blazers, and the St. Bernard Parish Fire Department was given two pickup trucks.

Members of St. Bernard Parish's 34th Judicial District Court Bar Association raised $4,500 to pay to transport the vehicles to Chalmette.

But it wasn't just vehicles that Smith gathered.

A 1978 graduate of Chalmette High School and heavy equipment operator, he organized a drive outside the International Union of Operating Engineers' Local 150 near his hometown. People dropped off enough supplies, including water, bleach, clothes and generators, to fill five semi-trailers.

The trailers are poised for shipment from Chicago, Smith said.

To get the police cars, he said, he went to a National Rifle Association banquet that friends were hosting. "I bought two tables," then passed out about 300 wish lists of supplies and equipment from friends and officials in St. Bernard.

He said he sought publicity from the community newspaper, which had featured him in a story two years ago after he killed a 12-foot alligator on a trip back to Chalmette.

"They called it the Bayou Battle," he said, so he christened his own Katrina relief effort the "Bayou Battle."

"They saw this was my roots," Smith said. "Their hearts went out to the victims of the hurricane."

Smith said he is hoping to collect more donations, especially surplus vehicles, from McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler.

"He's been hustling that whole area," Boasso said.

Boasso also has done some hustling, gathering trucks and two airplanes full of supplies and equipment from citizens and businesses. The Bayer Co. is sending a truck full of products, including diabetic glucometers, and the Timberland shoe company sent a truckload of shoes, he said.

Boasso said he is working with the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Kiwanis Foundation to get donations from major charitable foundations. The goal is to raise $100 million to rebuild St. Bernard Parish, he said.

For Smith, his biggest supporters were his wife and children, his in-laws and his wife's grandmother, who staffed the donation site every weekend. "A 90-year-old lady was out there helping me," he said.

Smith was on hand Wednesday as the vehicles arrived at Boasso's trucking and container yard in Chalmette. There were smiles all around during the reunion.

Firefighter Shaun Murphy, another Chalmette High classmate of Smith's, grabbed Smith in a big hug. "You came back home," he said.


**BOHEMIA SPILLWAY**

In compliance with Act 1364 of 1997 the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District (OLD) has been notified by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of the names of individuals who have been certified as the successors to owners of property and mineral rights in the Bohemia Spillway. A list of those names follows this notice. If your name appears on this list please complete the form below and return it to George L. Carmouche, APLC, P.O. Box 84263, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, so that arrangements can be made for a return of the property and/or mineral rights.

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**TRACTS #110 & #119** Phillips Land Company, Inc.


# No need to fear: Flu shots will be here

## *Supply plentiful, but old, young, ill will get first crack*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

In a year brimming with enough calamities to break even the staunchest Louisianian, health officials have some good news: There will be no flu-shot shortage this year.

Unlike last year, when panic gripped the United States after contamination deprived the country of nearly half its expected supply, no glitches are expected in the system that provides the inoculations to millions of Americans.

The four manufacturers under contract to provide vaccines are expected to deliver as many as 90 million doses, which should be more than enough for the people who get immunized each year, said Lola Russell, a spokeswoman for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Louisiana's Office of Public Health is expecting about 120,000 doses, which will go to nursing homes and to parish health units for people who are most susceptible to flu and its complications, said Dr. Frank Welch, medical director of the agency's immunization program.

Doctors in private practice and privately run clinics order their own; those numbers are not included in the amount sent to states, he said.

Despite the apparent abundance, state and federal health departments are asking Americans to keep their sleeves rolled down until the most vulnerable citizens — the very young, the very old, the chronically ill and people who are around them — can get the shots first.

It is important to vaccinate as many people in these groups as possible because they are most susceptible not only to influenza but also to potentially fatal complications such as pneumonia, Russell said.

This grace period lasts until Oct. 24, the start of the nationwide vaccination campaign, she said.

That date was picked to give people at greatest risk enough time to get their shots before administering the vaccines to the general population, Russell said.

### Shots given at shelters

In addition to people in these groups, about 15,000 people in hurricane shelters across Louisiana were given flu shots because of the high probability that the disease could spread quickly in crowded quarters, Welch said.

"Our approach to shelters was phenomenally successful," said Welch, whose staff was joined in that immunization

*See* **FLU SHOTS,** *page A-3*




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# Half of losses fall through insurance cracks

## *Disasters force many to dig deep into pockets*

**By Bruce Taylor Seeman**
Newhouse News Service

In late 1997, the people of Grand Forks, N.D., received a gift from the people of Reading, Pa.: 2,500 winter coats, plus $4,500 cash for hats, gloves and snow pants.

The donation went unnoticed across most of the waterlogged Northern Plains, still recovering from spring floods that killed 11 and destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses.

But it's the kind of assistance, experts say, that is absolutely vital given the unavoidable truth about natural disasters: Often about half of total losses are not covered by insurance.

In Grand Forks, for example, where only about 20 percent of homeowners carried flood insurance, uninsured losses ranged from entire homes to the city water system.

"People certainly got assistance, but it wasn't enough to rebuild and repair their homes," said Barbara Kramer, a social worker who helped run a mental health program after the Grand Forks disaster. "They had to dive into their saving and their kids' college savings. Some had to put off their retirements."

Total price tags on disasters have risen in recent years. Some of that might be blamed on fiercer hurricanes along with the increasing number of people living in places vulnerable to extreme weather, analysts say.

According to Munich Re, a German reinsurance company, insurance companies paid more than $91 billion in losses from weather-related natural disasters in the 1990s, nearly four times the weather-related claims distributed in the 1980s. And last year's hurricane season was a record-setter: four massive storms that caused $45 billion in damage.

"We're placing ourselves in harm's way more," said Beverly Cigler, a public policy and administration professor at Pennsylvania State University. "The more people who live on coast lines, in canyons in California, on fault lines, the more it's going to cost you."

Disaster recovery costs have also risen because developers cleared forests and wetlands that act to soften violent weather, and because growth in high-risk areas has created more infrastructure to damage — new roads, bridges, sewage systems and other costly infrastructure, Cigler said.

### Insurance gap looms

The double-whammy of hurricanes Katrina and Rita will set a new record for disaster costs. Total loss estimates from Katrina alone range from $100 billion to $125 billion. Between $40 billion and $60 billion of that total will be covered by insurance, according to Risk Management Solutions of Newark, Cal.

But what are the uninsured losses, how are they absorbed, and what have communities done to buffer themselves in case Mother Nature delivers another sucker punch?

When misfortune strikes, it doesn't take long for a homeowner or business operator to calculate uninsured losses. The task is more difficult on a large scale. In a disaster, uninsured losses are typically not tracked and can take many forms.

A waterlogged store without flood insurance incurs uninsured losses. So does a homeowner who carries a $150,000 policy on a $200,000 house that burned in a firestorm. A store shut down during a disaster cleanup might absorb losses through missed business. A city with inadequate insurance may get stuck fixing damaged schools or bridges.

After the Jan. 17, 1994, Northridge earthquake, many homeowners discovered their policies were not enough to fix their homes, lets alone the extras. "Earthquake policies are generally for a house and its contents," said David Unnewehr, a senior research manager for the American Insurance Association. "If you have a swimming pool or out buildings, they are not covered."

The 10-second, pre-dawn tremblor that rocked Los Angeles was horrific — 61 dead and more than 1,500 seriously hurt. A magnitude 6.7 quake, it was not the "big one" that some feared, but it created enormous challenges. Freeways were flattened. Buildings collapsed. Utility pipes were severed. About 450,000 homes and 7,000 businesses were damaged.

### Ballooning costs

With earthquakes, much of the damage is hidden within walls. The price tag on Northridge, originally estimated between $1 billion and $2 billion, multiplied over time to $40 billion. Of that, about two-thirds was not covered. The Small Business Administration processed about 125,000 low-interest business and home loans worth about $4.1 billion. Grants from FEMA and other federal agencies softened losses further, but not completely.

California officials said the catastrophe revealed a huge vulnerability: only about 13 percent of victims had earthquake insurance. Some said it was too expensive. Others didn't know they lived over a fault line. Even the insurance industry was caught off guard.

"The insurance companies said, 'Wait a minute: This earthquake comes from a fault no one knew about? OK. We're done. No more of these policies,'" said Nancy Kincaid, a spokeswoman for the California Earthquake Authority.

A year after the earthquake, more than 250 people had filed lawsuits, accusing insurance companies of delaying payments and leaving people uninsured. Many insurers stopped offering policies.

As a remedy, the state created the earthquake authority, which collaborates with private insurers and typically offers insurance policies with 15 percent deductibles. The policies don't provide for total loss coverage, but Kincaid said 730,000 Californians have signed up.

The changed insurance system has recast the insurance expectations. Before the quake, Kincaid said, policies were expected to cover everything, including "swimming pools, your gazebo, your grandmothers's china." But the state-sponsored system is "catastrophic insurance, to keep you from being in a tent city, or an Astrodome."

### A problem in past storms

Other disasters have highlighted the pain of uninsured losses.

Among the four hurricanes that blasted the U.S. last summer — Jeanne, Ivan, Frances, Charley — total economic losses range from $6.9 billion to $15 billion. Including federal flood insurance, all had uninsured losses of 40 percent or more, according to data provided by the Insurance Information Institute and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

For Hurricane Andrew, the nation's costliest catastrophe before Katrina, more than half of the total price tag of $35.6 billion was uninsured. That storm forced 11 insurance companies out of business and inspired the state of Florida to get into the insurance business. Today, about 775,000 Floridians, mostly coastal property owners, get high-cost coverage through the state-run Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

At root of the problem was an insurance industry shift: After Hurricane Andrew and other disasters, most insurers stopped providing full coverage of homes — "guaranteed replacement" — and switched to providing coverage to a pre-specified amount — called "enhanced replacement."

Some who lost their homes faced much higher premiums or no company willing to insure their home. Some homeowners sued. State officials, after receiving 859 complaints, collected more than $14 million for homeowners via mediation and other methods, the state reported.

State legislators passed laws aimed at protecting consumers, including requirements that insurers explain premium increases and warn consumers at least 20 days before canceling a policy.

# Vaccines handed out at crowded shelters

**FLU SHOTS,** *from A-2*

drive by people from churches, CDC, the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Red Cross and Louisiana State University.

The vaccine is being manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, Chiron and Medimmune.

The first three companies produce injectable vaccines containing killed flu virus; Medimmune makes a spray with a live virus that has been safely weakened. Shots are approved for anyone who can receive the vaccine, but the mist is recommended for healthy 5- to 49-year-olds.

All vaccines have the same goal: to trigger the immune system to produce antibodies in response to the virus in the shot.

This takes about two weeks, Russell said.

The vaccine's effectiveness may last longer than a year, she said, but people should get flu shots annually because the vaccine's composition changes from year to year, based on what scientists think will be the dominant strains during the next flu season.

### Won't make you ill

Because the viruses in the shots are inactive, people cannot contract flu from an injection. However, the CDC recommends that people not be immunized if they are highly allergic to eggs, in which the flu-shot viruses are grown; if they had an acute reaction to a flu shot; or if they have a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, an illness characterized by fever, nerve damage and muscle weakness.

Concern about Guillain-Barre arose in 1976, when the swine-flu vaccine was associated with developing the condition. A study showed the risk to be about 1 in a million, according to the CDC.

Side effects of a flu shot can include soreness, redness or swelling around the shot site; low fever; and aches.

People who are urged to be immunized include those 65 or older; people with chronic illnesses and those who live or work near them; all children 6 months to 23 months old; people with respiratory problems; and women who will be pregnant during flu season.

Flu is caused by a virus that infects the respiratory tract. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, a dry cough, a runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. Some prescriptions are available, but they must be taken within two days of the onset of symptoms.

### Season of sickness

Although flu cases in Louisiana have been reported as early as summer, the season in the United States starts in autumn and lasts into spring, with a peak from late December through March.

It is impossible to get an exact count of flu cases because they can be reported only by doctors and not everyone seeks medical treatment.

The CDC estimates that 15 million to 60 million Americans get the flu each year. Of that number, the agency estimates that about 200,000 people are hospitalized and about 36,000 Americans die of flu and its complications.



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# Closure is sought for all 911 calls



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Louisiana state troopers David Flauss, Sam Capaci and Mark Fontenot, from left, search for the name of a tenant whom a caller believed might have been trapped in a home on Friscoville.

**SEARCH,** *from A-1*

from the hardest-hit areas of devastated St. Bernard Parish:

"Needs medicine. Diabetic. High Blood Pressure."

"Trapped in bedroom. Water up to neck."

In normal times, Fontenot and Flauss are narcotics detectives. Now they are part of the last dwindling group of first responders assigned to what had been a massive, round-the-clock search-and-rescue operation.

In the first five days after the storm, the Coast Guard, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and a flotilla of fishers and leisure boaters rescued thousands of people from rooftops, attics and floodwaters. With the arrival of FEMA, the military and outside police agencies, the second phase was a methodically mapped-out, house-by-house canvass.

About three weeks ago, with rescuers finding fewer and fewer survivors, the job became less urgent, but in many ways more solemn. The search participants dwindled down to the Louisiana State Police and a large contingent of police officers from various parts of New Jersey.

Between the two agencies, officers pinpointed the location of more than 150 bodies, many of them in houses that already had been subjected to an initial search.

Sgt. John Ryan, a trooper from Toms River, N.J., compared the devastation to what he saw in Manhattan after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. He said that responding to calls from the 911 list, even those more than a month old, was one of the most important things he's ever done.

"When you find a body you can't help thinking about what this person had to go through before they died. It's tough to put it in words," Ryan said. "But we were determined to answer all of the calls ….After everything we went through with 9/11, I think all of us in New Jersey understand how important it is to respond to these calls."

In the past few weeks, the search based on 911 calls has continued to painstakingly add to the state's body count, which topped 1,000 Friday.

Fontenot and Flauss were praying they didn't add to the total Sunday.

"Believe me, it doesn't break our hearts to go inside these houses and find absolutely nothing," Fontenot said. "Our squad hasn't had that many bodies, but we have had a few. One is enough to make you stop in your tracks."

Before heading to St. Bernard, Fontenot and Flauss stop to deliver food and water to a holdout in Treme, a diabetic 67-year-old man living in his brother's empty house. The troopers found Raulston Johnson at the St. Philip Street house more than a week ago, after he was flooded out of his Gentilly home, then got fed up with staying at an evacuation shelter in Houston.

"I'd just as soon sit here," Johnson said, gratefully accepting a case of water and box of meals-ready-to-eat from Fontenot, Flauss and two other troopers.

With Johnson in good shape, the troopers passed the police checkpoint into St. Bernard Parish and began deciding which houses to hit first.

The task is especially tough for Fontenot and Flauss, both of whom lived in St. Bernard Parish and lost everything. But between the two, they seem to know every street.

The 911 printouts they are using have been culled from an original list of 14,374 calls that automatically rolled over to the State Police headquarters in Baton Rouge when local emergency services were cut off by the hurricane, Sgt. Mark Sheridan said.

About half the calls are from relatives and friends checking on loved ones, Sheridan said. The other half are from the victims themselves, many of them elderly, infirm or people who were simply caught by fast-rising water.

"We're trying to bring closure to every single 911 call. It means a lot to say that every call was investigated and cleared," Sheridan said.

"It's sort of a sacred duty in law enforcement."

The first stop for Fontenot and Flauss is 1117 Friscoville in Arabi.

"Trapped on roof ... supposed to be sending helicopter."

The men donned their protective gloves, boots and facemasks. The front door was open, so they let themselves in. Inside the mother-in-law

*See* **SEARCH,** *A-5*

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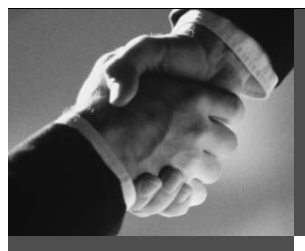
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STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Raulston Johnson, left, thanks Louisiana state troopers Sam Capaci and Mark Fontenot, right, for their delivery of MREs and water to his brother's home on St. Philip Street, where Johnson is staying.

**SEARCH,** *from A-4*

apartment, they find evidence of a survivor: a couple of used MRE packages, a hole sawed through the ceiling and into the attic, the rusted saw lying on the mud-caked floor.

After checking each room and finding them empty, Flauss checks off the 911 entry as "Cleared/Entered."

The next stop is based on a call from someone in the Philippines checking on a person at 101 Center St.

"No contact since storm."

The address doesn't exist, so they move on. They check another house at 1819 Center St. People cleaning out debris from a house next door assure them that the woman who lived there made it out safely.

Next, they go to 1956 Benjamin St., a street near the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet where a storm surge lifted dozens of houses from their foundations and moved them around like Monopoly game pieces.

"Trapped on roof. Melissa, Michael and one child. Water rising."

After bashing through the front door, the troopers are find the all-too familiar stench of mold and decay and the sight of waterlogged debris. In this house, like so many others nearby, the ruins are all jammed to one side of the house, pushed there by the powerful flood currents. The back of the house was emptied so thoroughly of furniture, the ceiling that crashed down is lying flatly and neatly on the floor.

At Melissa and Michael's house, the evidence is telltale. Hole in the ceiling. Hole in the roof. Long coiled rope next to the hole.

The next few houses lead to the similar results: massive heartache, but thankfully no bodies. On the floor of one house is a stack of large binders with a ruined football card collection. In the bedroom of another, a dead perch.

The troopers, through the muffled tones of protective masks, point out the most amazing discoveries. But at another house on Benjamin Street, they find something that leaves them speechless.

A ceramic Virgin Mary lawn statue has, somehow, perched itself in the rafters of the house's attic. The troopers retrieve the statue, virtually unscarred, and place it gently on a countertop.

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# Tax breaks could be big lure, some say

**RETURN,** *from A-1*

they are seeing firsthand why so many businesses long ago migrated to Texas.

Among the Houston attractions, they say, are a business-focused environment, safer streets, better schools and, not least on the list, no state personal income tax.

Business leaders would like to see some of those things high on the list of priorities for a retooled New Orleans.

"If New Orleans passes on this opportunity to improve itself, then we're not going to be a company headquartered in New Orleans. I guess that's our bottom line," said Dean Taylor, chairman and chief executive officer of Tidewater Inc., an offshore energy shipping service now operating out of Houston but in theory still based on Poydras Street.

Just four days after Hurricane Katrina erased the people and businesses from New Orleans, the Houston media already was recording stories about Crescent City companies deciding to move their operations to Texas permanently. For New Orleans' corporate boosters, it was an old theme with a painful new twist.

Even the person who chairs the business retention committee for Greater New Orleans Inc., which is the area's leading economic development group, was displaced to Houston. Bill Herrington, a Hibernia National Bank executive, took the daunting committee assignment before Katrina.

"If there was a problem before, it's a much bigger problem now," Herrington said. "I can assure you there are wealthy individuals who have relocated to Texas. Now that they're there, why would they go back?"

Richard Bachmann, chairman and chief executive of Energy Partners, an oil and gas exploration and production company that until Katrina was based on St. Charles Avenue, said businesses need the basics of infrastructure – effective levees, water supply, power, roads, police and fire protection – to even consider operating in New Orleans again.

"Nobody's coming back to the city if we haven't solved the basic issues," Bachmann said. "We can all drink bottled water, but we don't want to take showers in water if it glows."

## Leveling the playing field

While business leaders are looking for a strong signal from authorities in the near future that those matters will be taken care of, government officials must also take action to create a competitive local and state tax and regulatory environment, he said.

"This state is not competitive in terms of costs of doing business in the state," Bachmann said. "And that's got to be on the agenda too."

Herrington and others are hoping government policies post-Katrina will align with a new way of thinking about creating jobs and wealth in Louisiana. Although Hibernia has committed to returning to its New Orleans headquarters, some of the bank's client base is in doubt, and Herrington has contact daily with people making decisions about whether to return.

"Wealth creates wealth," Herrington said, echoing a sentiment shared by a number of top New Orleans business executives in Houston last week.

As Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and city and parish officials in the New Orleans area press for state and federal government recovery programs, they should keep their eye on the goal of luring business decision-makers and successful people in the private sector who have money to invest in business ventures and jobs, the executives said.

The New Orleans region is bound to get a boost of business activity as billions of federal dollars flow into the region for rebuilding projects. But for business and people to repopulate the area for the long term, incentives should be created to make Louisiana at least as attractive as Texas is financially to company chiefs, including personal and corporate tax laws, said Chris Dicharry, a partner with the Kean Miller law and consulting firm who has worked on business recruitment initiatives.

Spending money to rebuild the city and creating a host of government-backed low-cost financing programs for businesses are necessary steps that state and federal authorities ought to take, Herrington said.

But that's not enough, because "financing doesn't drive an economy," Herrington said. "There has to be something else to drive that. If you have a vibrant economy, the financing is going to follow."

## Proposed tax breaks hailed

U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, has expressed similar concerns and wants to see legislation that would create a dramatically lower tax bill for people who choose to move to the New Orleans area. Rather than depending too much on mammoth spending programs to spur rebirth of the city, which will have an impact over a few years, government tax breaks and other financial incentives would generate longer-term growth by appealing to the entrepreneurial spirit of people across the country willing to make a move and a long-term commitment to New Orleans, he said.

Among the programs favored by Herrington is a Blanco proposal for a 50-percent federal income-tax holiday for five years for people who work in the Katrina impact area.

Jay Lapeyre, president of Laitram LLC, a New Orleans-based manufacturer of food processing equipment currently in Houston, said such incentives hold other advantages.

**"If New Orleans passes on this opportunity to improve itself, then we're not going to be a company headquartered in New Orleans. I guess that's our bottom line."**

DEAN TAYLOR
chairman and chief executive officer of Tidewater Inc.

"The incentives don't fall prey to the political problem of corruption the way subsidies do," Lapeyre said.

Tax incentives would seem less like a Louisiana money grab, said Mike Dumas, chief financial officer of the New Orleans ocean transport company Intermarine LLC, temporarily working out of Houston.

The state's first major congressional initiative for a recovery package, orchestrated by Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, was a $250 billion proposal that was well-intentioned, Dumas said, but "just the way it came across was that it was just a grab by Louisiana politicians." As a result, Louisiana's credibility was hurt – some editorial writers called it the "Louisiana Looters Bill" – and from now on "everything's going to be viewed with a lot of skepticism" in Washington, he said.

Intermarine had 45 people in its New Orleans office before Katrina, and "we'd love to be able to take them all back at the end of the day," Dumas said. "Whether we'll be able to do that is still up for discussion. We're trying to keep them motivated to stay with the company."

If tax incentives would help those people hang on to some of the money they earn, then the employees might be more willing to accept the risks of going back to New Orleans.

"We're not asking for any kind of a handout," Dumas said. "Really what we're asking for is to be able to hang on to more of what we do make, (and) then we can turn that over to the community, to make more investments."

Greg Rusovich, president of Transoceanic Shipping, an international company that moved back to its main location in Kenner after the storm, said he is very concerned about the drain of wealth and brains from New Orleans.

"If employers come back and wealth comes back, then that wealth will stimulate more growth," Rusovich said. "It will stimulate more people to come back."

Businesses dislocated from New Orleans are watching to see how infrastructure will be rebuilt and how the new incentives to create wealth will be structured, Taylor said. But they won't wait and watch much longer before making important decisions.

"We're going to know pretty early on, I think, whether it's going to be an effective process or not," Taylor said.

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Robert Travis Scott can be reached at roberttravisscott@yahoo.com or (225)342-4197.

# Some still tentative about coming back

**Martha Carr**
Staff writer

It's been more than a week since Mayor Ray Nagin reopened New Orleans to residents in the city's least-affected neighborhoods, hoping many would jump at the chance to return to their homes for good.

But by the look of things Sunday, lots of locals apparently are staying where they are for now, despite the fact that tap water has been deemed drinkable and electricity is being restored to many neighborhoods.

First kept away by grim reports of dangerous floodwaters, a tainted water warning and chaos in the streets, many residents are now saying they are unwilling to resettle in the city until more power is restored, schools reopen and vital businesses, such as groceries and pharmacies, are back up and running.

Others say they are more than a little concerned about Nagin's recent proposal to create a downtown gambling district, a move that could influence their decision whether to return.

"The mayor needs to put the citizens first, not the tourism industry," said Leo Collins as he climbed over a mound of debris in his flooded home in the 1800 block of Dante Street. "He's trying to generate money, but if people aren't here, you have no city. As for the gambling, it will only bring more violence and corruption."

Karl Flair is among the city's few residents who can return anytime. His home in the 1100 block of Fern Street didn't flood, and the power is on. All the house really needs is a good cleaning.

But Flair said he and his wife have gotten comfortable in the motor home where they are living in Hammond. It's close to his wife's job, there's no traffic, and it's debris-free. For those reasons, they've decided to take their time moving back.

"Life is just simple where we are now," Karl said as he shoveled dead leaves off the curb. "We will come back. It just may be a few weeks."

Other, more pioneering, types moved back to their homes this weekend, with plans to see what the coming days and weeks bring. Mike Waters and his partner Brian Broussard sipped wine on the steps of their Bayou St. John-area apartment Sunday, celebrating the first day back with power.

Right now, they have few neighbors. But they are hopeful that more residents will join them soon.

"Every day we see more and more activity," Waters said.

As for the trash and debris that litters their block, Waters said, "We'll just have to suck it up. If you live here, you can't walk around with a mask on your face forever."

French Quarter residents Jamie Dell'Apa and Mary Milewski are also giving things a try. The couple moved back to their Creole townhouse on St. Ann Street this week, and say they – like so many – can't imagine life in any other place. Still, they'll have to see how things go.

"We figured that we had to come back to the house, repair the damage, and see its value after that," said Jamie, who has lived in the Quarter for seven years. "After we are on the ground for a while, we can decide if it's worth staying or leaving."

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Martha Carr may be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.

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# Coastal La. gets look at Rita damage

## *Most structures were blown away*

**By Doug Simpson**
Associated Press writer

HOLLY BEACH — The little house at the beach had been in Louella Touchet's family since 1975, a weekend getaway for swimming, fishing and crabbing.

She returned Saturday to find it gone, blown down and washed inland by Hurricane Rita.

"Well, we have 30 years of good memories," she said, gazing over the mushy, wet sand where the home once stood.

Homeowners in Holly Beach and other coastal Louisiana towns returned for the first time since the storm hit more than two weeks ago, bringing winds of more than 100 mph and floods up to 9 feet. Some of the worst damage occurred in Cameron Parish, where Holly Beach and other small towns overlook the Gulf of Mexico.

Holly Beach was a town of about 400 houses _ most of them modest vacation homes _ none of which were left standing after the storm. Some concrete foundations remain, along with mangled steel girders, crushed cars and pickups, stray toilets, bent bicycles and other debris.

James Cox, a sheriff's deputy, bought his home here 10 years ago and had been one of the community's dozen or so permanent residents since. His wood-framed, three-bedroom house is now gone; the storm left behind a handful of items heavy enough to resist the waves, he said.

"I found just a few things, my barbecue pit, power tools, welding table, my dad's lawn mower," he said.

Nearly all the area's residents evacuated, authorities said. Freddy Richard, Cameron Parish's chief of emergency preparedness, said he knew of one man who rode out the storm in the parish courthouse, one of the few structures left standing. The man was unharmed.

The high evacuation rate was due partly to the strong memories of those old enough to recall Hurricane Audrey, which struck in 1957 with a 13-foot storm surge and gusts of up to 180 mph that flattened Cameron, Holly Beach and other towns. Some 390 died in Louisiana.

Hurricane Rita struck early Sept. 24, about 15 miles west of here, along the Texas state line, with top sustained winds of 120 mph. Nobody was killed in Louisiana.

John Richard, 82, said Audrey was worse — it pushed all the splintered debris inland, leaving little in Holly Beach to clean up. His family rebuilt, but Rita has destroyed the replacement, leaving the concrete slab, a sink, a bent shower pipe and not much more.

Parish officials now are enforcing a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew. Residents are allowed to clean up their homes and stay overnight if they have supplies, but those caught on the streets during the curfew are ticketed, Richard said. Less than 30 percent of the homes left standing in the area had electricity Saturday, and none did in the coastal towns, according to Entergy Corp.

Despite the destruction, most who returned Saturday said they would put up some kind of home on the coast again.

Robert Romero's rental property in Johnson Bayou remained standing, but had been so full of floodwater that it will have to be torn down and rebuilt. He said his red brick house next door would cost $70,000 to clean.

Romero said he gave no thought to moving somewhere away from the threat of hurricanes. He'll live in hotels or with family in Texas until he can dry out the walls and kill the mold.

"You want to go to California and fight earthquakes? You want to go to Oklahoma and fight tornados? No. This is our home," Romero said.

Many said they would restore their demolished property, but in a different way — with a mobile home that can be towed off when a storm threatens.

"I'll get me a big RV and a big truck and move it on out when something like this is going to happen," Cox said.

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# Job seekers in luck across Gulf Coast

## *Restaurants and hotels especially short-handed*

**By Brett Martel**
Associated Press writer

The message is clear on storefront marquees, brightly colored banners and the handwritten signs taped by merchants inside windows across New Orleans: Businesses reopening after Hurricane Katrina have a surplus of jobs, and not enough workers to fill them.

The shortage is obvious at the city's fanciest hotels, where a lack of staff means maid service is offered just once a week. It is just as glaring at fast-food restaurants, where long lines of cars snake through parking lots because most have only enough workers to operate drive-through windows. It's virtually impossible to pass through any functioning part of town without seeing "Now Hiring" posted somewhere.

And the demand for workers is similarly dire on the Mississippi coast.

"Two months ago, if you were looking for a job, it probably wasn't that easy," said Darren Aucoin, manager of a Shoe Carnival store in Gretna, which saw minimal flooding and was relatively quick to get power and water back. "Now if you can't find a job, you're not trying."

Burger King, which first reopened its New Orleans restaurants by busing kitchen crews about 80 miles from Baton Rouge, has now taken the unprecedented step of offering $6,000 bonuses to hourly employees agreeing to work full-time for at least a year in the metropolitan area.

Most of the people who've been able to return to New Orleans have been either wealthy or in the middle class, in part because their neighborhoods were damaged the least — leaving a hole for business owners who depend on unskilled labor.

"The service industry and unskilled-labor jobs are the ones really in demand, and the people in that category have not come back," said John Trapani, a professor and vice dean at Tulane University's business school. "There will be a shortage of labor until population starts to return, and who knows what percentage is going to return and when?"

The demand by service businesses for workers is set against a parallel demand for people to work in hurricane clean-up. Some employers have turned to immigrant workers from Central and South America to fill those jobs.

But with thousands of people from Mississippi and New Orleans scattered across the country, scores of more ordinary jobs remain open.

All along Highway 49 in Gulfport, Miss. are signs advertising jobs. Most are variations on this theme: "Now hiring for all positions."

One of those looking for workers is Rolf Howard, the general manager at Applebee's, which is operating with half its normal staff despite seeing its sales more than double since the storm.

Howard was able to reopen a week after Katrina. But many of his employees have relocated and can't return because there was no place to live. To fill in behind them, Howard says, he can no longer afford to be picky.

"We're not even being superselective. We can't afford to. We are literally hiring every day."

In New Orleans, a large "Now Hiring" banner hung in Shoe Carnival's storefront window. And Aucoin said he had increased staff by nearly double from pre-storm levels because of a spike in sales with some shoppers replacing shoes destroyed in the floodwaters.

He declined to say how much better business was, but said he understood why. Residents in areas where power and water are back have returned faster than most stores could reopen, leaving those first few that were up and running flooded with customers looking to replace household items or simply to get out of the house for some shopping therapy.

"It really is a great opportunity for businesses that can open to take advantage of this before the city gets back into economic equilibrium," Trapani said.

A Best Buy electronics store had a line of customers out the door earlier this week. A large banner read, "Now hiring at all locations." The store had set up a computer station a few feet inside the front door for applicants.

Kelly Cahill, controller at the Arden Cahill Academy in Gretna, said the private school put many of its regular employees' families to work as they tried to clean up in time to reopen for students this month.

"We've had anybody's boyfriend or husband, anybody that wanted to come by — basically anybody that needed work, we gave a job to for cleanup," she said.

The few restaurants open have been packed. They've had to shorten operating hours because of curfews but still have to lengthen servers' shifts because there aren't enough employees to do a complete shift change in a given day.

"We're pulling 12-hour shifts," said Nicole Blais, a server at Houston's in suburban Metairie. She was brought in from a New Orleans location that hasn't been able to reopen. "When they reopened they only had a couple servers back, so they started hiring, but whatever people they didn't have to train they were desperate for."

Houston's is still hiring, she said, and with the restaurant always jammed, the money's been good for people like her who rely on tips.

In downtown New Orleans, hospitality industry workers are in short supply, especially in the hotels that now are trying to house as many relief workers and contractors as they can.

Pressure will mount on businesses to increase lower-level wages to entice hourly workers back, Trapani said. They'll also have to help employees address immediate housing needs, and some already have.


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# 'There is a legitimate and real frustration out there'

CONTRACTORS, *from A-1*

with an e-mail to FEMA. As instructed, he wrote "LA vendor" in the subject line. He got no response. Then he called. And called. More than a month after Katrina, Bent said he still hasn't heard anything from the agency. In the meantime, FEMA has contracted for more than $700 million in travel trailers — with more than 99 percent of the business going to companies outside Louisiana.

Federal officials from President Bush on down have talked about the importance of hiring contractors in the hurricane disaster region to help boost an economy that was decimated by the storm. But, in large part, it hasn't happened.

Of the 140 contracts FEMA awarded through Oct. 3 for such things as travel trailers, prefabricated homes, satellite phones, computers and even mosquito control, just two went to Louisiana companies. The pair of contracts accounted for less than half of 1 percent of the $1.6 billion total.

"The business is going to Florida, Indiana, Georgia," Bent said. "How were they hurt by the hurricane? They weren't, but they'll profit from it. That's not right."

Local firms complain that they are being frozen out because FEMA is putting a premium on past relationships.

Federal officials acknowledge that as they race to respond to disasters, they frequently turn to private firms they have worked with before, those that have been screened for financial stability and those that have a proven track record. Small, local companies with few connections often end up being shut out.

The largest retail contract for travel trailers went to an Indiana company whose general manager said connections probably played a role in getting the work. Tom Stinnett Holiday RVs in Clarksville, Ind., secured a $37 million contract about two weeks after Katrina. The company has been in business since 1956 and is one of the largest RV retailers in the nation.

In addition, General Manager Dave Knable said that the company's sales manager had the ear of FEMA contracting agents from having worked with the agency before. The sales manager was able to e-mail proposals to key FEMA officials when other, less-connected firms were forced to fax in their pitches.

"I guess that helped us get a leg up on others," Knable said.

Local firms frozen out of the federal contracting took some solace in comments Thursday by acting FEMA Director David Paulison, who told a Senate committee that he would rebid the noncompetitive contracts awarded since the storm struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. But Paulison was vague on the details and it wasn't clear whether it would apply to all orders already placed, some which have already been delivered.

At the committee hearing, Paulison was also questioned about why local workers were being displaced by out-of-towners. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he had been informed that 75 Louisiana electricians employed at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse were told that their jobs are being eliminated now that the work is being switched to Kellogg Brown & Root, a subsidiary of the Texas-based Halliburton Corp. Levin also said that maintenance workers at the New Orleans Superdome, who were paid $15 an hour with benefits, are losing their jobs to "out-of-state workers who agree to work for $12 an hour with no benefits."

Paulison promised to look into it, saying that FEMA is "working diligently to get most of these contracts down to the local workers."

One Louisiana company has found itself in the thick of the post-Katrina work. Soon after the storm, the Baton Rouge-based Shaw Group landed two contracts worth up to $100 million each with FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agreements cover a wide variety of duties ranging from roof repairs to pumping the floodwaters out of New Orleans and fixing the breached levees.

Neither of the contracts was competitively bid. A Shaw Group spokesman said the company got the work because of its long-standing business relationship with FEMA dating back to Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

"We've performed for them," Shaw spokesman Chris Sammons said. "We're a known quantity."

Shaw says it has gone out of its way to hire local talent. Eighty percent of its subcontractors are Louisiana businesses, 62 percent are small firms and nearly 30 percent of the small businesses are women-owned, African-American-owned or other "disadvantaged" enterprises, Sammons said. Those figures are a stark contrast to FEMA's own minority-hiring track record.

About 1.5 percent of the $1.6 billion in FEMA contracts has gone to minority- or women-owned businesses, records show, despite federal guidelines calling for at least 5 percent. Efforts to reach FEMA about the discrepancy were unsuccessful.

Bill Lott, an African-American business owner with a 25-year-old construction firm Triple L Management in Shreveport, said he has been unsuccessful even getting an audience with FEMA officials to pitch his ideas. He has proposed building one-, two- and three-bedroom modular homes for hurricane evacuees that could be placed on their lots while they rebuild.

"We need to talk to someone who can make a decision," said Lott, who has done work for the federal government, but not FEMA. "I just don't have the horsepower to get in front of the right people."

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the largest contracts were awarded for removing the shattered homes, cars and other debris Katrina left. The Army Corps of Engineers gave four contracts worth up to $500 million each with an option for $500 million more. Two went to Florida companies and one each was given to companies in Minnesota and California. All had pre-existing contracts with the agency.

The contracts specified that preference for subcontractors should be given to firms in the areas hit hardest by the hurricane. That is happening, but would-be subcontractors say the payoff isn't very profitable.

Mike Moreno, chairman and CEO of the New Iberia-based Dynamic Industries, has been trying to get a piece of the debris-removal business. But, he said, the prime contractors are hiring multiple layers of subcontractors, all taking a slice of the profit. By the time a firm is hired to physically cart off the debris, he said, there's little money to be made.

"They are making a significant amount of money and subcontracting the work to three or four different companies for $15 a cubic yard. Then they are subcontracting. Now it's $7 a cubic yard for the guy who is actually doing the work," Moreno said. "I could pay the subs $10 a cubic yard and would charge $12. The government would save money and the subcontractors would earn some."

Concerned that Louisiana is losing out on economic development opportunities, Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, filed a bill last week that would mandate that at least 30 percent of the contracts be awarded to local, small businesses.

"There is a legitimate and real frustration out there," Jindal said. "We can either help businesses get back as soon as possible or we will be spending that much more money in direct assistance later."

Bent, the owner of RV Rendezvous in Metairie, said he was still grappling with the frustration of FEMA not returning his calls when the phone rang two weeks ago with bad news of a different sort.

It was an RV dealer in Florida who had just won a multimillion-dollar contract from the federal agency. The dealer wanted to know whether Bent could spare workers to help prepare a new fleet of trailers for delivery in Louisiana.

"I couldn't believe it. That took a lot of guts," Bent said. "Everyone in this area has lost half their staff to the hurricane ... It just kills me that we had to suffer everything we did with Katrina and now nobody is even attempting to call us to get a piece of the pie."

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From left, Lynn Casagrande, Marie Millery and Jeffery Cahill are among the more than 1,000 Hurricane Charley victims still living in a Punta Gorda, Fla., FEMA encampment 14 months after the storm.

## ONE YEAR AFTER HURRICANE CHARLEY, FLORIDA FEMA TRAILERS ARE

# ANYTHING BUT TEMPORARY



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

The landscape at the FEMA camp in Punta Gorda, Fla., is one lacking neighborhood character: It's just row after row of look-alike white trailers.

**'FEMA VILLAGE',** *from A-1*

about 460. Some of those trailers have been shipped to the Gulf Coast for victims of Katrina and Rita.

It's mostly the low- to moderate-income residents who have been left behind as the Charlotte County area experienced an unprecedented building boom, pushing many of the rents out of reach.

Many expect something similar to happen in the New Orleans area, where tens of thousands of homes may have to be bulldozed or significantly renovated because of flood damage, removing a lot of low-cost housing from the market.

FEMA has set up a rental-assistance program for victims of Hurricane Katrina, but for many evacuees in Louisiana this won't be helpful because of the limited availability of rental housing in much of the state.

Homeowners with enough space and the proper infrastructure can get a trailer from FEMA to set up on their own property while they fix up their houses. But for renters or those who don't meet the requirements, the state and federal governments are turning to the concept of setting up trailer communities similar to the one near Punta Gorda.

One local official had this recommendation for Louisiana: Think small.

"It has to be smaller," said Bob Hebert, the recovery director for the county, echoing a recommendation of many FEMA Village residents who said their new home lacks any sense of real community.

Transportation also will be a key, Hebert said. With a population of just 160,000, Charlotte County does not have a public transportation system, leaving low-income trailer park residents who lost their cars in the storm with few options. As important, Hebert said, the state should be pushing FEMA to place people as close to possible to their original communities, so they can help rebuild businesses, homes and churches.

FEMA and state officials say their top priority is getting as many people as possible into better living conditions, noting that there were about 23,000 people in shelters in Louisiana late last week, while countless others are crammed into hotel rooms and the homes of relatives or friends.

And while there are problems with the Florida trailer village, James McIntyre, a spokesman for the federal agency, said the troubles are not much different than what occurs in any community.

"They had no more issues there than any other small development would have," he said.

While smaller would be better, Gov. Kathleen Blanco wants to respect the wishes of parish officials from the area hit by Hurricane Katrina who are trying to get as many people home as possible, said Kim Hunter Reed, the governor's policy director. Many of the planned locations for trailer communities will have 200 or fewer units, although a few local governments have asked for parks that can hold more people, she said.



Cody Adair runs to his mother, Tammy, at the FEMA camp in Punta Gorda, Fla., after attending school. Initially happy to have shelter, camp residents now are frustrated over their situation.

Finding places for the parks has not been easy as some communities have expressed concern about being able to support more refugees. The sites also must be equipped with basic infrastructure for sewer, water and electricity. Those pressures seem to push government toward bigger parks in more remote areas.

New Orleans families began to move last week from Baton Rouge-area shelters to a collection of 573 travel trailers set up in Baker, a town about 10 miles north of the capital city. After spending weeks in shelters living in close contact with strangers, evacuees rejoiced at their new situation, happy to finally have some semblance of privacy.

But the populating of the Baker site was going more slowly than expected, with 100 families placed there as of Saturday, according to McIntyre. He blamed the slow pace in part on the fact that some families who had been slated to move could not be located, sometimes because the parents were working during the day.

But he acknowledged that some evacuees who have been living in shelters for more than a month want to wait for temporary housing to be built closer to their homes in the New Orleans area.

As with the site near Punta Gorda, the Baker location is out of the way, a good distance from the parts of Baton Rouge that are more likely to have jobs for evacuees. It also is more than 80 miles from their homes in New Orleans. As more of these sites are set up – there are currently 786 occupied trailers across the state – some could be in even more distant locations.

"That is why the governor said from day one: These need to be communities with wrap-around services," Reed said. These services, which the state would help FEMA provide to each trailer park, include helping people find employment, job training and counseling to deal with the trauma of losing their homes and possessions in the storms.

In Baker, bus service is limited, particularly at night and on the weekends. Dwight Brashear, general manager of the Capital Area Transit System, said there are plans to expand the number of buses that go by the site. The system is prepared to expand service to any of the areas where FEMA sets up in Baton Rouge, such as an expected park near the city's airport.

Officials with social services agencies in Charlotte County said providing hurricane victims with such help is essential, but said they have had a tough time reaching the residents of FEMA Village who they know need assistance.

"We are not allowed in there," said Ana Romillo, executive director of the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. She said nonprofit groups want to go door-to-door to offer services, but FEMA's security policy requires them to be invited by a resident.

Romillo said organizations such as hers could provide valuable assistance helping low-income residents figure out budgets so they could save money to pay for deposits on rental property that would get them out of the temporary housing.

FEMA provides disaster victims with 18 months of housing assistance, which has caused some Charlotte County residents to panic as the deadline looms in February, she said. County officials say they do not expect

*See* **'FEMA VILLAGE',** *A-13*

# Rescuers struggle to reach quake victims

## *20,000 death toll expected to rise*

**By Sadaqat Jan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — Rescuers struggled to reach remote, mountainous areas Sunday after Pakistan's worst-ever earthquake wiped out entire villages, buried roads in rubble and knocked out electricity and water supplies. The death toll stood at 20,000 and was expected to rise.

In this devastated Himalayan city, wounded covered by shawls lay in the street, and villagers used sledgehammers to break through the rubble of flattened schools and homes seeking survivors.

The quake collapsed the city's Islamabad Public School. Soldiers with white cloth tied around their mouths and noses pulled a small girl's dust-covered body from the ruins, while the body of a boy remained pinned between heavy slabs of concrete.

The United Nations said more than 2.5 million people need shelter after the magnitude-7.6 earthquake along the Pakistan-India border. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Relief said it urgently needed 200,000 winterized tents.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf complained of a shortage of helicopters needed to ferry in relief workers, food and medical supplies, and appealed for international help.

In Washington, President Bush said eight U.S. military choppers were being moved to help in rescue efforts, and he promised financial assistance. India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan, also offered assistance, as did Israel, which has no relations with the Muslim nation.

"We are handling the worst disaster in Pakistan's history," chief army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said.

The quake was felt across a wide swath of South Asia from central Afghanistan to western Bangladesh. It swayed buildings in the capitals of three nations, with the damage spanning at least 250 miles from Jalalabad in Afghanistan to Srinagar in northern Indian territory. In Islamabad, a 10-story building collapsed, killing at least 24 people.

Late Sunday, helmeted rescuers found a survivor after hearing his cries for help. The thin man in a blue shirt, looking dazed, emerged on his own with little help and stood in front of a crowd of cheering onlookers. One rescuer patted his head, and the man waved and pumped his fist in the air.

Pakistan said the death toll ranged between 20,000 and 30,000. India reported more than 600 dead, and Afghanistan said four were killed.

"We have enough manpower but we need financial support ... to cope with the tragedy," Musharraf said in Rawalpindi, according to the state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan.

He also appealed for medicine and tents.

Musharraf told the British Broadcasting Corp. he knew of as many as 20,000 people killed, and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told CNN about 43,000 people were injured.

Musharraf said the only way to reach many far-flung areas was by helicopter because roads were impassable.

"Our helicopter resources are limited," he told the BBC. "We need massive cargo helicopter support."

Most of the devastation occurred in northern Pakistan. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered about 60 miles northeast of the capital, Islamabad, in the forested mountains of Pakistani Kashmir.

"I have been informed by my department that more than 30,000 people have died in Kashmir," Tariq Mahmmod, communications minister for the Himalayan region, told The Associated Press.

Troops "have not started relief work in remote villages where people are still buried in the rubble, and in some areas nobody is present to organize funerals for the dead," he said.

The USGS said there were at least 25 aftershocks within 24 hours, including a 6.2-magnitude temblor.

Dozens of villages were cut off from rescuers by quake-induced landslides. Relatives desperate to find their loved ones dug through flattened homes and schools with bare hands.

In Muzaffarabad, a city of 600,000 that is the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, residents said they faced food and gasoline shortages. There was no electricity, and people collected water from a mountain stream.

"People are relying on local fruit, and they have little food to eat. I went out to get bread, and could only get a couple of apples," carpet seller Gul Khan said.

Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said 11,000 people in Muzaffarabad were killed.

At least 250 pupils were feared trapped at the Islamabad Public School, and dozens of villagers, some with sledgehammers, pulled at debris and carried away bodies. Several bright backpacks dotted the rubble. Nearby, a man cried over a child's body.

"The communication infrastructure and systems are down and we can't get help to us, that should be the priority," principal Mushtaq Ahmed Kahn said.

Hundreds of people waited at bus stations, hoping to leave. The body of a man lay on a roadside, and a family pushed a body in a cart.

The military hospital collapsed, and residents said there were bodies inside. Doctors set up a makeshift clinic in a park.

"The situation is very bad. Surgeries are being conducted on soccer fields. There are not enough doctors," Ozgur Bozoglu, a member of a Turkish search-and-rescue team, GEA, told Turkey's NTV television.

Helicopters and C-130 transport planes took troops and supplies to damaged areas Sunday. When confronted by urgent appeals from villagers, Musharraf responded, "For heaven's sake, bear with us."

Bush said he spoke with Musharraf and "told him that we want to help in any way we can."

"Thousands of people have died, thousands are wounded, and the United States of America wants to help," Bush said from the Oval Office.

Aziz said the American helicopters would be drawn from coalition military operations in neighboring Afghanistan.

But Maj. Andrew Elmes, spokesman for NATO's 11,000-strong force, said it was outside the mission's mandate to operate beyond Afghanistan.

The United Nations, Britain, Russia, China, Turkey, Japan and Germany offered assistance. An eight-member U.N. team of top disaster coordination officials arrived in Islamabad on Sunday.

Aziz said the Pakistani death toll was 19,396 dead, and it was expected to rise.

Officials said Balakot, in the North West Frontier Province about 60 miles north of Islamabad, was one of the hardest-hit areas. Near the ruins of one collapsed school, at least a dozen bodies lay in the streets. More than 200 pupils were feared trapped inside the rubble of a four-story school.

Dozens of villagers pulled at the debris and carried away bodies. Faizan Farooq, a 19-year-old student, said he had heard children under the rubble crying for help immediately after Saturday's disaster.

"Now there's no sign of life," he said Sunday. "We can't do this without the army's help. Nobody has come here to help us."

There was no sign of government help in Balakot. The quake leveled the town's main bazaar, crushing shoppers and strewing gas cylinders, bricks, tomatoes and onions on the streets.

Residents carried bodies on wooden planks. The corpses of four children, aged between 4 and 6, lay under a sheet of corrugated iron.

On the Indian side of the border, at least 54 soldiers were killed when their bunkers collapsed, said Col. H. Juneja, an Indian army spokesman.

The death toll in India exceeded 650 Sunday.

Most of the deaths were in the Jammu-Kashmir border towns of Uri, Tangdar and Punch and Srinagar.

Hundreds of angry villagers blocked area roads, protesting the slow pace of rescue efforts.




AP PHOTOS

Rescuers work at the site of a collapsed 10-story apartment building Saturday after a severe earthquake in Islamabad, Pakistan. Dozens of people were feared trapped in the rubble of the building. A magnitude 7.6 earthquake rocked parts of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan on Saturday.


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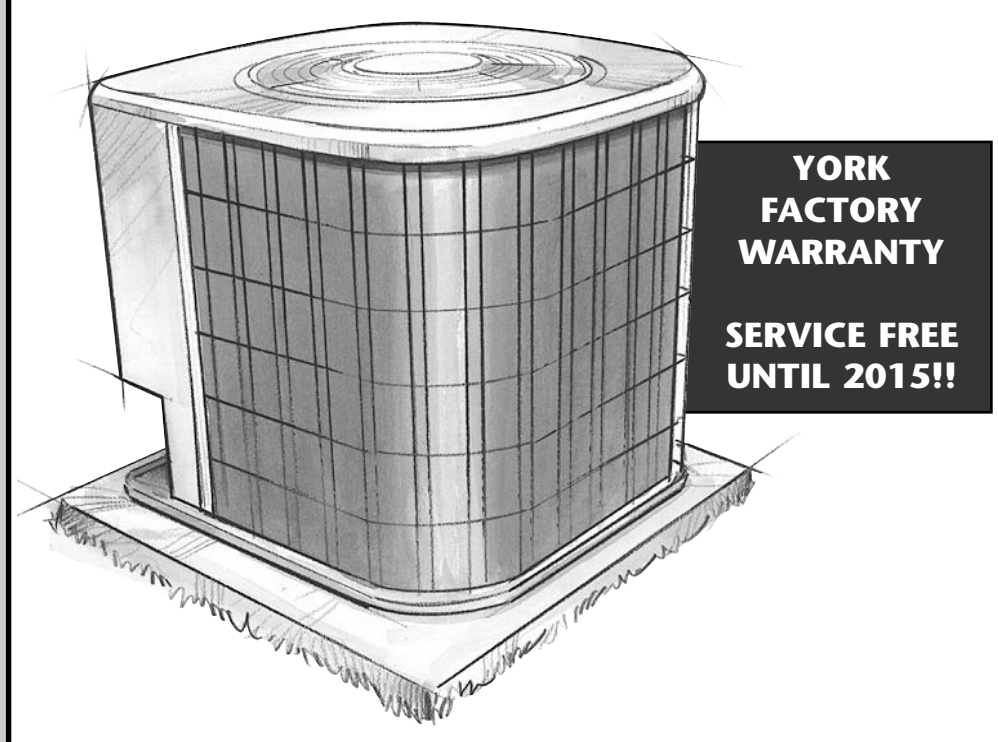
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# More than a year later, encampment remains

**'FEMA VILLAGE',** *from A-11*

FEMA to abruptly end the agency's involvement with the park, but wonder whether they eventually will have to take over and help residents find other housing.

A FEMA Village spokeswoman said agency staff who do monthly checks on the residents offer guidance on finding new housing. And county agencies will begin to hold "resource days" nearby to help residents get the assistance they need, Hebert said.

Even with state and local agencies trying to provide services, it will take a good deal of effort to make the closely packed travel trailers in Baker into a real community, the Florida mobile home residents said.

The county installed two small playgrounds in FEMA Village, each including a plastic jungle-gym and a picnic table, but many families do not let their younger children play there because the spots have become teenage hangouts with a rough and sometimes threatening atmosphere.

"They have a lot of fights," said Casagrande, who lives next to one of the social hotspots. "My TV is 10 feet from my bed, but I can't hear it over the noise."

For their part, teenagers don't have much to do except gather at the playgrounds. There aren't many social or recreational opportunities nearby, and the alternative is biding time in the mobile homes.

Generational friction seems almost inevitable. Elderly residents in particular complain that the young people play their music too loud, especially considering that the thin-walled mobile homes are set about 10 yards apart.

For families, the three-bedroom mobile homes were a huge step up from the travel trailers – similar to those in Baker – they initially lived in for a couple months after Charley hit in mid-August of last year.

"My daughter became claustrophobic," said Sarah Cahill, who lived in a 30-foot-long trailer with her three children and husband for a few months until they were able to move into the mobile home last November.

McIntyre said the overarching plan is to build out mobile homes for evacuees while the trailer sites are being set up, so that they can eventually be moved. "Travel trailers were always meant to be interim housing until we can get more permanent solutions," he said.

If the New Orleans rental market follows the same pattern as Charlotte County after Hurricane Charley, evacuees could find that temporary housing isn't going to be that temporary.

About half of the housing units in the area were damaged by the storm, including 10,000 that were destroyed, said Loraine Helber, housing coordinator for the county.

The scarcity of apartments initially drove up the rents, which local housing officials said typically have doubled or tripled from previous levels. Much of the public housing demolished in the storm has yet to be rebuilt, with the first units expected to be ready for occupants in about a year.

In Florida, the housing shortage has been exacerbated by retirees who come from their homes in the north to spend their winters in the Punta Gorda area, with its historic district by the water and lush landscaped lawns. Private developers have been targeting that market, not concentrating on rebuilding more affordable multi-family apartment buildings, Helber said.

Local officials in Charlotte County said the extra time needed to offer incentives to private developers to get into the affordable market has kept housing prices high, although they have come down somewhat from their initial spike.

Some residents of the FEMA park have been able to save money because they don't have to pay rent for the trailers and are only required to cover the cost of utilities. Cahill's family has worked out a deal to purchase a trailer from the federal agency, which they hope to soon move to a nearby lot they have rented.

But other residents haven't had as much success.

"To me, this is mine right now," said Diana Hardemon, a single mother of three who was almost evicted because her water was turned off after she quit her job because she didn't have anyone to watch her children.

Since being hired by Cahill's husband, who works as a handyman, she has been trying to put money aside to get a new place, but it has been difficult. "It is very hard to save money when you are a single parent … and your kids need things constantly," Hardemon said.

Before the hurricane, Casagrande said her family was much more stable: working-class, but with two incomes.

But the succession of hurricanes that struck Florida late last summer drove Casagrande's then-husband to the brink and he left the state, although he eventually came back when their 4-year-old son was hit by a car at the trailer park during the spring. The boy has begun to walk again after spending the summer in a wheelchair, she said.

Casagrande said the stress from the hurricane ruined her marriage, although she and her ex-husband are on amicable terms and he helps with the family's precarious finances. She is not working and has been unable to save money to get out on her own, noting that her former landlord doubled the rent after fixing up the house she had rented for years.

While they would like to get out of FEMA Village, it just isn't possible right now. "I have no place to go with my kids," she said.

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Staff writer Laura Maggi can be reached at laura_maggi@yahoo.com.


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**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREES Service.** Local Owned/Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

**LAW OFFICE** OPEN Personal Injury & Criminal Defense. Call Christopher B Edwards, 504-366-1121

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**ELDERLY CARE** Residential home living for elderly persons, private pay, Metairie, LA. Call 504-837-2047

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

### 2360 Moving

**FRANK'S DISCOUNT** MOVING Low hourly rates. Call 504-914-2742

### 2380 Painting/Paperhanging

**VICK'S PAINT** SERVICES LLC Interior/Exterior Painting & Pressure Washing LA State Lic FREE ESTIMATES Carl-Lee Vicknair 225-869-8201

**DARRYL'S WALLPAPER** HANGING. Free Estimates! Family trade. 504-328-2644

**Holman's Painting** and Pressure washing, interior/exterior, sheet rocks and roofing. 504-341-6491 or 504-919-7996

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**KILCREASE PLUMBING** LLC Comm'l/resid'l, water heaters, LMP#3252, lic'd for gas 504-234-1075

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**MONTE'S PLUMBING** REPAIRS Gas repairs, drains unclogged, $39.95. Senior citizen discounts, owner operated. 504-908-3778

**NOELS PLUMBING** LLC New Construction, Repairs & Renovations. LMP 5080. 504-909-7275

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2415 Pool Service

**Professional Pool** Restoration Complete inground pool repair/restoration. Acid wash: $450+ Resurface: $2500+ 817-564-1516 www.professionalpoolrestoration.com

### 2420 Printing & Duplicating

**COMPLETE PHOTO** RESTORATION BY ORLEANS COLOUR. 32 years experience. Call 504-512-3277

## Service Directory

### 2430 Professional

**Architect Economical** 38 years exp. houses and commercial, Fast, Call 504-957-4166

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**FEMA AND** SBA pkg. Having problems filing w/ FEMA & SBA? I can help! CAll Richard Lassalle Tax & accounting consulting 504-957-9238

**Photographer Digital** images of property on CD's. $25/property. 504-885-8343

**RGA Environmental,** Inc. Moisture & Mold Testing; Asbestos Consulting: Insurance Assessments; Remediation Planning: Worker Health & Safety. Call Maggie Carrington 504-818-8807 or 800-776-5696

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**HOUSE LEVELING,** house gutting, roofing/repair, mold removal. Call 225-268-6276

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**General Contractor/Commerical** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOF Repairs** starting at $85. Local company, slate, tile and shingles. All work guaranteed. 985-809-0502

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any &** all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Metairre, Kenner, Riverridge & Harahan. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Established Profitable** Auto Repair Shop on busy Mandeville Highway for sale. With or without building. Retiring for medical reasons. Call evenings: 985-264-0445

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

## Service Directory

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**AUDITOR Est** Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Seeks Part time Bookkeeper/Secretary with knowledge of Quickbooks, Peachtree, and Word Processing. Fax resume: 504-838-0287

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**GROWING COMPANY** In Mandeville seeks Bookkeeper. Successful candidate will have two plus years of experience in accounts payable, and capable of multi-tasking in a fast paced environment. Experience with Great Plains of QuickBooks a plus. Fax resumes to: 985-727-7281

**HR/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR,** Bilingual & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PROCESSOR - Wanted for immediate hire. F/T permanent positions with benefits. Experienced only. Fax resume 985-641-1125. EOE

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**CHALLENGING CAREER** OPPORTUNITY. Leading automobile dealer is expanding its sales force. We are searching for individuals who are highly motivated, have good work ethic, and want to be rewarded for their efforts. WE OFFER Absolute best pay plan in the industry - Earn $45,000-$80,000 1st year, Finest sales training available, Paid while training, 5 day work week 40-45 hrs/wk, Scheduled time off, 401K, Vacation after 1 year, Hospitalization, Great inventory to sell from, Auto experience acceptable but not required. Be a part of a team with the finest reputation in the city, the largest Buick dealer in the state. Sell the hot new Sierra Pickup and the new Yukon XL. Call for appointment. Contact Ralph Roemershauser, CROWN BUICK, 2121 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70001. 504-455-6666.

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Experienced Automotive** Salesperson needed for fast growing Mercedes/Volvo Dealership in Pensacola, FL. 1-800-876-4931

**INSIDE SALES** REPRESENTATIVES Waco Inc., a leading distributor of filters for air, liquid and gas filtration, seeks an Inside Sales Representative to join our Baton Rouge, LA branch. The Waco Inside Sale Representative will be responsible for new sales opportunities as well as building and maintaining successful customer relationships. Position requires constant customer interface to meet branch sales goals and perform customer service activities and some warehouse functions. The ideal candidate should possess a minimum of 3-5 years inside sales/customer service experience, preferably with an industrial distributor or manufacturer. PC proficiency on MS Office/AS400 products is a plus. We offer competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package and an annual performance bonus tied to branch profitability. This is an excellent opportunity to join a leading-edge distributor of filtration products. For immediate consideration, please send resume and salary requirements to: dwosczyna@wacofilters.com or fax to 1-800-500-8895

**Kitchen &** Bath Designer - Campbell Cabinet Co is now accepting resumes for kitchen & bath designer for inside sales in our Harahan location. The position requires reading blue prints, designing & selling kitchen & bath cabinets. Mail resume to P.O. Box 23884, Harahan, LA 70183.

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

The Times-Picayune

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4095 Legal

**PARALEGAL Old** Metairie Law Firm on Metairie Road looking for part and full time Paralegals. Minimum 5 yrs exp. Good Salary, Benefits, Free Parking & Flexible Hours. Fax resume to: 504-828-0024 or email kieferlaw@aol.com

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Established Furniture Company. looking for highly motivated self starter. Excellent working environment, salary and benefits. Apply in person at 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner LA.

**KENNER OFFICE** MANAGER Word, Excel, QuickBooks Pro. Experience helps. Fax 504-468-9523

**MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR** Permanent position. Responsible for maintenance, repair, & upkeep of facilities. Previous supervisory exp a+. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am to 10:30 am, M-F.

**MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR** 7-10 years experience in maintaining/servicing electrical mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment in an industrial environment in facilities maintenance. Minimum 2-3 years supervisory experience of maintenance personnel in an industrial setting. Experience with maintenance building electrical, HVAC, lighting and plumbing systems. Must have knowledge and understanding of industrial processes and preventative maintenance programs. Must have formal training in the maintenance trades or the military. Must be able to read and interpret technical and maintenance manuals. Call 305-622-4523 or fax resume to: 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** needed for National Company in Bogalusa. Good benefits. Send resume to 2032 Columbia St. Bogalusa LA, 70427 or fax 985-735-6992

**Project Manager** needed at large commercial general contracting firm for New Orleans area projects. Must have 10 years experience in commercial general contracting and good computer skills. Fax resumes to 713/465-9837.

### 4105 Marine

**DECK HAND** $150/day. Must have 1 year experience on Fleet towboat. 7 days on, 7 days off, live on boat. 504-416-2128

**Marine Personnel** Exp inland Captains and Deck hands. Captain's pay starting at $300-$325 per day, plus benefits. Call 504-737-6994

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

**Tow Boat** Pilots To start immed. ly, must be posted from New Orleans Harbor and West Canal, 200 ton or Master or Mate of towing license req., $330-$350 per day, health ins. incl.d, 28/14 schedule, 225-806-9376

### 4110 Mechanical

**EXPERIENCED MECHANIC** Must have own tools. Call: 504-468-2527

**A/C MECHANICS** & INSTALLERS WITH EXP WANTED FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS TOP PAY AND BENEFITS WITH WELL EST LOCAL COMPANY. CALL C.J. CHRISTINA'S 504-739-9983 AFTER 6PM

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. GM techs for fast growing service department in Baton Rouge area. Full benefits available, top pay for top techs. Mon.-Fri. Email resume to: gmtechnician@hotmail.com

**BODY MECHANIC,** experienced and 1 experienced body helper. 504-464-1133 or 504-982-6200

## Employment

### 4110 Mechanical

**Briggs Equipment** has immed. opening for Forklift Tech. and CDL Drivers. We offer top wages + Excellent benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, health insurance, company stock plan. For more info. Call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

**Busy Chevrolet** Dealership is currently seeking GM trained Service Technicians for immediate openings in Richmond Virginia. Assistance with relocation, guaranteed salary/signing bonus, medical/dental plans with coverage starting immediately, employee stock ownership/401K, weekends off. For more information contact Robert Lawhorne at: 804-323-7600 or Rlawhorne@whitlowchevrolet.com

**CERT DETROIT** DIESEL 71/53 SERIES MECHANIC/SHOP SUPV Immed Opening Guar 40 hr/some O/T 985-892-0056/fx 985-892-4061

**DIESEL CRANKSHAFT** AND CAMSHAFT GRINDER MACHINISTS Pay based on experience. 504-347-8061

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please Call Becky 985-876-3000

**EXPERIENCED Mechanics** needed for outdoor power equipment dealership. Competitive pay, benefits available. Fax resume to: 985-893-5198 or apply in person at Evergreen Tractor, 1017 Highway 190 Bypass, Covington

**GOLF COURSE** MECHANIC Money Hill Golf and Country Club. Must have knowledge of golf course equipment, be motivated and detail oriented. Please call 985-893-7251

**MACHINIST Miami** based office seeking to fill 2 positions with experience with CNC, mill, and grind-hard chrome. Will perform all setup procedures for machining components utilizing available equipment. For more information call 305-622-4523 or fax 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**MECHANIC Aerial** Access Equipment is seeking an experienced mechanic. Excellent compensation package including medical, vacation, holiday and 401k retirement benefits. Apply in person at 1808 Engineers Rd, Belle Chasse, LA or fax resume to 504-392-2090

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day/wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC, SERVICE** TECHNICIAN, OFFICE CLERK Openings Available Immediately. 985-892-6304

**NORTH SHORE** TOYOTA Needs 10 Technicians, 5 Lube Technicians and 5 detail personnel. Business is booming, come work for the fastest growing dealership on the North Shore. Toyota experience a plus, ASE certifications a plus. Benefits, 401K, health, dental, life, paid vacations, uniforms, training. Please apply in person 68500 Hwy 190 Service Rd, Covington, La 70433. 985-893-7778

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**RADIATOR REPAIRMAN,** MECHANIC Experience needed. Helpers also needed, Regis Radiator Service, Call 504-341-9118

**TECHNICIAN Wanted,** G.M. experience a plus, 401K, paid vacation, accepting applications at Golden Motors, see Richard. No phone calls. E.O.E.

### 4120 Medical

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL** CENTER In need of part time Tech to assist in procedures & clean instruments. Experience preferred but not required. St. Tammany area office. Please fax resume to 985-645-9393

**CANNON HOSPICE** is OPEN Has Immediate needs for following: Apply in person or fax to 504-648-1806. Rn's, LPN's/nights, Cna's, Asst. DON, Medicaid/Medicare AP, Unit Secretary, Bereavement w/MSW or LCSW. Competitive salary & benefits avail.

**CERTIFIED PHARMACY** TECH/CASHIER And Cashier. Pleasant atmosphere. Apply at the Medicine Shop 999 Robert Blvd, Slidell, 9-5:30 M-F.

**CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT** - 2 positions. X-ray certification helpful. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-885-0762

**CLINICAL STAFF** - (LCSW, LPC, LMFT) Needed for Management positions in growing community based mental health org. To learn more & submit resume: www.sbcs.us, Steininger Behavioral Care Services, 499 Cooper Landing Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08002. Fax: 856-773-0210

**COLLECTIONS CLERK** Experience in Medicare Insurance posting. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**DENTAL ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST** Experienced, West Bank. Call 504-367-6135.

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS** needed. Upper Scale Dental Office located on the West Bank looking for 2 exp. assistants accustomed to treating quality patients. 504-392-0221

**Dental/Office Asst** Full Time needed for busy Mandeville Family Practice. Mail resume to 20121 Helenberg Rd. #1; Covington, LA 70433

**Direct Service** Prof. for Non-Profit. Care of elderly & disabled. Must have high school diploma, own transportation, car ins. Pls. call 504-512-2243, 504-228-6850.

**FRONT DESK** RECEPTIONIST Full time for busy Metairie office. Typing, filing, computer literate. Fax resume to: 504-888-9323

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**LPN FT** with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**LPNs &** CNAs, Home health, full or part time. West bank area. 504-361-5710 or 504-228-5900

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**MEDICAL OFFICE** CLERK FT for busy W. Bank cardiology office. Bi-lingual Spanish preferred. Call Susan at 504-349-6365. Fax Resume to: 504-349-6355

**MEMORIAL HOSPICE** Positions North Shore/South Shore: DON, RN, LPN, CNA, volunteer coordinator, chaplain. 1-888-643-2041 or fax 985-626-8773. Written Inquirers: PO BOX 650 Mandeville, 70470.

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**MRI Technologist-Expanding** outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologist with preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience required. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

## Employment

### 4120 Medical

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**PCAs &** CNAs Needed for a personal care service agency. Call Roz @ Archangel: 504-366-0494

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, excellent hours, PT owned and operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! HIRING NOW FOR LPNs, CNAs, DIETARY TECHS, HOUSEKEEPERS, & RECEPTIONISTS. VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE. FT/PT/PRN (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PROGRESSIVE HOME** HEALTH CARE. WE ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING WITH: RNs/PTs/OTs/Aides/Sitters. WE CAN FILL YOUR SCHEDULE. ALL AREAS: HOUMA, NORTHSHORE, BATON ROUGE, WESTBANK, EASTBANK, NEW ORLEANS. FAX RESUMES TO: 504-263-8320

**RECEPTIONIST Metairie** Dental Office, experienced only, Fax Resume to: 504-835-8136

**REGISTERED DENTAL** HYGIENIST Algiers area. Mon-Thurs, 7:45-5:15. Call Kathleen 504-394-5330

**Reliable Community** Alternatives, Inc. - DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF/PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT - Individuals who are compassionate, reliable, possess excellent writing skills & are willing to work with the elderly and/or individuals w/disabilities in their home or in the community. Various shifts avail immediately. Call 504-779-4740. Or apply in person at 5416 Veterans Blvd, suite 315, Metairie. Must pass criminal background.

**RN Full** time, immediate opening for RN. Hospice experience preferred. Minimum of 3 years of nursing experience required. Washington/St. Tammany Parish area. References required. Fax resume to 985-732-9193 or call 985-735-5293

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**ST CHARLES** Healthcare, Making Home, home again. LPN'S, at St Charles Healthcare We're back to our normal routine, at making a home for our residences & employee. We are a long-term care facility, located in the heart of New Orleans, & are seeking staff members for the following areas: LPN's, CNA's, Cooks, Housekeeping. If you are interested in helping us make home, home again, please apply at: St Charles Healthcare ATTN: Tansy Magendie, 1539 Delachaise St, New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-895-3953

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: $8.00/hr all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**ST. JOHNS** REHABILITATION HOSPITAL We're open!!! St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 405 Folse Rd in Harahan is open and seeking candidates in the following areas. RN'S, CNA'S, LPN'S, RN-Admin/Charge Nurse. Interested candidates may apply in person (ask for Barbara Loverde) or fax resume to: 504-739-9202. St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. 405 Folse St. Harahan LA, 70123, 504-738-3339

**SURGICAL TECHNICIAN** Full time for physician practice, to assist in clinic and surgery. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**WE ARE** Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

## Employment

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8131/985-320-1111

**ARCHITECT Metairie** A/E Firm Has Immediate Opening For One Licensed Architect. Min 5yr Experience. ACAD Exp Req. Ability to deal w/Owners & Contractors Etc. Send Resume to MEYER ENGINEERS LTD. PO Box 763, Metairie, LA 70004, Fax: 504-887-5056 Or Email: MEYER@MEYER-E-L.COM

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT** - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** to collect electric utility storm damage data in southeastern Mississippi. This is a 2 month contract. Many full-time outdoor positions with 50 hours workweeks, $14.50 per hour paid weekly, paid on-the-job training, vehicle compensation at $5.50/hour, and per diems or lodging while traveling. Must have a good driving record and reliable transportation, enjoy physical outdoor work and be able to travel during the week throughout southeastern Mississippi. Email resume to: Recruiter35@osmose.com or fax 985-871-0605. www.osmose.com EOE M/F/D/V

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY** Mechanical, I & E, Insulation, Planners/Schedulers for assignments in New Orleans Area. Fax resume to 225-667-1979

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**WE ARE** ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4145 Retail

**Enlace, the** largest and fastest growing Spanish Yellow Page Directory in the U.S., is looking for Outside Sales Representatives to work directly with local retailers and manufacturers to create online and print advertising. Talent for speaking Spanish is not required. We offer an excellent compensation package which includes a Base Salary + Commission, and full benefits. Email resumes: atincher@cobaltpublishing.com

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**RETAIL F/T,** exp in Nursery, Lawn & Garden & Pet. Paid Vacation/Holidays & benefits. Serious only, send resume to: 103 N Magnolia Dr, Covington 70433

**RETAIL Sears** We are holding a Job Fair on October 12 from 9am-12pm at the Sears located at North Shore Square Mall: 150 North Shore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70460. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Base Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, in-home HVAC Service Technicians (product services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit number 2026, Automotive unit number 6118. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**SEARS We** are holding a Job Fair on October 14 from 1pm-4pm at the Sears Clearview location: 4400 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA 70006. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, In-home Laundry and Lawn & Garden Technicians (Product Services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit #1226, Automotive unit #6326. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**STORE MANAGER/OPERATOR** For successful West Bank Convenience store, experience necessary, top pay, apply now! 985-796-3001 or 504-577-6557

### 4147 Security

**INNER PARISH** SECURITY Is now taking applications for an experienced and licensed alarm technician. Paid Weekly. You may call us at: 1-800-446-0698 or visit us on the web at: www.ipsc.biz

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T. Must be 21. Call Scheuering Security 504-834-1088

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

## Employment

### 4147 Security

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Cell 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS** HIRING NOW MANDEVILLE, 674-0086 SLIDELL, 643-7400

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 PKP locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**CHILDCARE POSITIONS,** PT/FT. At Children's Cottage in Mandeville. Call 985-626-1676

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR** An immediate position is available at an independent school for a full-time secondary mathematics instructor who is willing to relocate to Natchez, MS. Interested parties please submit a resume and letter of application to Post Office Box 1323, Natchez, MS 39121.

**Teachers! Kindercare** Learning Center in Feitel, is now accepting applications for P/T and F/T teaching positions. Successful candidates will have to have at least 1 year of childcare experience, and/or a degree. Please apply in person at the following Kindercare Learning Center, between the hours of 10am-3pm: 1040 Joe Buccaran Dr. Feitel, LA 70458

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**Union Carbide** Corporation a wholly owned subsidiary of the DOW Chemical Company has the following opportunities available: Process Technician #0500979 Check out our website at www.careersatdow.com for complete job descriptions and responsibilities. To be considered for a position, visit us online (Limited testing seats will be available) www.dowcareers.com/tech (Click on Job Title or Job #) Smoke-free/drug-free environment We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C INSTALLER** Experienced, Full Time and Part Time needed. Call for more 504-259-7272

**A/C INSTALLERS** & SHEET METAL INSTALLERS - Call Blue Flame, Inc. 504-733-9112

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** IMMEDIATE OPENING N. Shore Area. Exp'd. Good Pay + Benefits. 985-966-0075

**A/C TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. Call 504-833-1164

**AC HELPER** Wanted. Full time, no experience needed. Benefits available. Call 504-416-7363

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**Alarm Technician/Install** Wanted. Please call Bill. 504-837-7400

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**APPLIANCE TECH** Dial One hiring experienced tech, best pay, best benefits. Apply in person at 5003 River Rd. 504-736-9545

**Architect 3-5yrs.** exp. Northshore firm. Resume to architectresume@bellsouth.net

**AUTO GLASS** INSTALLER Exp a Must 5yrs+ 985-249-1496/985-718-9356 Vernon/Steve, N.Shore only

**B &** B Electrical Services ready to serve all your electrical needs. now hiring electricians, helpers, laborers paying time and a half. (504)891-9773 (504)466-7833

**BEST PAY** IN AREA - Need Drywall crews, Painters, Carpenters, Shingle crews. 504-270-6937

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR ALARM** INSTALLER - Wanted. F/T, Please Call Kenneth 504-831-4888 or 504-460-3417

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CABINET INSTALLATION** HELPER A great opportunity to join our home installation team. Training program provided, competitive wages and benefits. Covington area business for 15 years. Call Mr. Shaw at 985-809-9200. EOE.

**CARPENTERS &** LABORERS - Needed for local construction co. Residential & commercial experience required. 504-464-7789

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**Carpenters and** Laborers needed for new const. uptown. Local/displaced? Will try to help u get housing. REDDING CONST. 504-415-3292/504-598-3227

**CARPENTERS' HELPER/PAINTERS'** HELPER/LABORER. Good pay. Call for information 985-845-3640

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, ROOFERS** and LABORERS- Experienced, Top Pay. 504-723-8028, 504-919-0782 (Local)

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS/HELPERS Needed,** Experienced. Please call 504-348-0236 leave message

**CARPET/FLOORING INSTALLER,** excellent pay + bonus, exp pref, tons of work! 504-512-3277

**CBD Bldg** needs maintenance engineer - a/c, electrical, plumbing ,data/phone , etc. Also need sheetrock wks. Call Bret 504-915-0649

**CERAMIC TILE** INSTALLERS, Interlock Pavers, and Brick Layers needed. 504-779-8154

**COMMERCIAL CABINET** Shop seeks experienced, motivated, creative cabinet maker, will train the right person, computer skills helpful. Apply 5716 Plauche St, Harahan or send resume to dperrier@aol.com

**Commercial Electricians** needed. Local work. Please Call 501-580-7857

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** TESTING FIELD TECHNICIAN Entry level or experienced. Apply at 724 Central Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121 504-733-9411 EOE. M/F/D/V

**CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC,** immediate opening for experienced. Carpenters in commercial/Hospital renovation and repairs, locals proffered. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION SUBS** Needed for all phases, Licensed & Insured. Please call 504-415-3614

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**CRANE OPERATORS** Needed in Greater New Orleans Area. 800-510-0782

**DIRECTTV SATELLITE** INSTALLERS Experience required. Also Sales reps needed. South LA and MS areas. 1-888-669-9786

**DRYWALL HANGERS,** FINISHERS, Demolition Persons. Immediate openings with established company, top pay. Call 504-352-4005

**DRYWALL/METAL STUD** MECHANICS, interior work, good pay, permanent F/T positions, experience only please. 504-416-5775

**DUMP TRUCK** Drivers, Back hoe operators, dozer operators. Overtime available. 985-373-0261 or 985-875-0546

**ELCTRICIAN/HELPERS/FOREPERSON Commercial** Experience and Hand Tools Required for work in Greater New Orleans Area. Pleas Call Tom Branighan Electric, 504-456-7493 or email tbielec@bellsouth.net

**ELECTRICAL HELPERS** $10.00 per hour. Immediate employment opportunities. No experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have reliable transportation. Apply in person, Monday through Friday, 8AM until 3PM, New Orleans Electrical JATC, 3200 Ridgelake Dr., Suite 301, Metairie, LA.

**Electrical Mechanic** needed. Please call 504-329-1505 for more information

**ELECTRICIAN Residential** and commercial experience. Call 504-338-6965/504-931-5837

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial work site, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** Exp. for Debris in Metairie. Bobcat, Loader/Rotor/Truck Drivers. 954-464-5273 or 954-650-4669. $15-$20 per hour.

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,** Immediate openings! All Northshore sites. Call: 985-966-0113

**EXP SMALL** ENGINE MECHANIC for 2 & 4 cycle work. call Chris at 504-779-5296 or 504-427-4705

**EXP. DOZER/EXCOVATOR** BOBCAT OPERATOR for HEAVY EQUIPMENT 504-455-6222

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRIC** MOTOR MECHANICS, Exp Submersible Pump Mechanics, Exp Pump Mechanics, and Helper Trainees. Paid holidays. Call 504-469-8481/8a-5p

**EXPERIENCED LICENSED** ELECTRICIANS and helpers with tools, call Jim at 504-416-0172

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Exp'd working partner needed to run company. Please call 504-465-0209

**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

**FIBERGLASS INSULATION** INSTALLERS Needed. Strong company, great benefits and pay! Larry at Guardian Installed Svs. (985)709-2216

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**Fire/Water Damage** Technician, Surfpro of the North Shore, exp. proffered but willing to train, must have good driving record. Fax resume to 985-898-6373 or call 985-898-0022

**FLEET MECHANIC** To start immediately to work on trucks, pressure washers & pressure pumps. Good pay rate & benefits 504-329-2831

**FLOORING HELPER** wanted. Metairie area. 504-913-6965 for more information.

**FLOORING TRAINEE** - Why pay to learn a trade? Earn $8-$10/hour. Will train you to be a Wood Floor Mechanic. Mechanics earn up to $45K. 985-867-8171

**FURNITURE BUILDER/FINISHER,** skilled workmen needed for upscale shop. Apply at: 7420 Zimple St. or call: 504-865-9622

**General Contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, Cement Finishers, Diesel Mechanic, Sheet Rock Hangers & Finishers in the New Orleans area. 504-915-5795 or 504-915-7666

**GENERAL HEATING** & A/C Needs exp Installers, Service Technicians and helpers. We offer full benefits, health plan, 401k, paid vacation. Work for the company that has been here for 50 years! Call Layne: 504-235-5501 or fax: 985-419-0993

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS TECH** trainees needed for New Orleans co, top pay + commission. Call 504-915-4461

**GLASS TECHNICIAN/** GLAZER Experience preffered, but not req. Mon - Fri 7:30am- 4:30pm. Great pay! Call 504-430-6932

**GLASS TECHNICIANS** Flat and auto needed, Please Call 504-400-6799

**HANDYMAN in** Covington area, full or part time. Call 985-237-0817

**HANDYMAN Part** time. Must have own tools and transportation. Please call 504-737-9268.

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T Manufacturing Maintenance Mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Company has immediate need for Experienced manufacturing personnel. Established Manufacturing Company needs full time Manufacturing Equipment Operators. Applicants must be dependable and able to read and follow directions. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Excellent pay and company assisted family health/dental insurance available immediately. Temporary FEMA housing available at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters RD, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6050 or 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

**HB VENTURES** Hiring hosemen & squigee men, Barge washers, top pay, w/ safety awards & biwkly incentives, 504-915-3143, 382-6912 or 348-2336

**HIRING Electricians** and Helpers in Slidell, Covington and Metairie, 504-833-3492

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/ Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**HUTCO INC** Is Hiring For Welders, Fitters, Blasters Painters, Plant Operators, Hydroblasters, Electricians, Outside Machinists, Tackers & Laborers. Call 504-348-7818

**HVAC DUCTMAN/HELPERS,** Rob's Heating & Air Conditioning. Apply at 930 Avenue G, Marrero, LA or Call 504-348-7128.

**HVAC INSTALLERS &** SERVICE TECHS NEEDED. Immediate openings for experienced only. Please call 341-8526.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**Immediate Openings** for Offshore Construction work WELDERS, RIGGERS, FITTERS, PAINTERS Qualified candidates should have a minimum of 2 years offshore experience, welding certifications, safe working habits, and be able to pass a drug screen and physical. For more information, please call Jana at our remote personnel office at 361-289-8292 to provide callback information.

**INSTALLERS Needed,** Quarles Insulation. Please call 504-466-9213

**INTEGRATED Airline** Services Is Hiring For RAMP AGENTS. Must Have Valid Drivers License. Competitive Wages. Must be able to pass 10yr background check. Call 504-468-1401

**JANITORS Permanent** positions $8-$10/hourly. All aspects of janitorial work. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am - 10:30am, M-F.

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks experienced Mill Work People in all categories including Door Unit Assembly. Also looking for Carpenter's Helpers with at least some experienced, Please Call 504-340-2471 for information.

**K&P Roofing** and Remodeling, experienced roofers needed, top pay. Contact Kevin at 504-415-9342 or 985-652-7138

**KITCHEN EQUIPMENT** TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. 504-833-1164

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continu

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**PRODUCTION WORKERS** 4 days, 40 hours/week, employees needed for our Fabrication and Assembly teams, training provided, competitive wages, full and part time positions available. Covington area. Call Randy or John 985-809-9200 EOE

**Project Manager/Estimater** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

**Qualified electricians** and helpers needed. Please call 504-368-3503

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**ROOF Exp.** to measure/esti. only. $300+ a day. Need truck/ladder. 888-281-7433.

**ROOFERS** - Needed. Shingle & flat crews, New Orleans & Baton Rouge area. Call 504-779-3232 or 504-559-9106

**ROOFERS COMMERCIAL,** local company seeks exp. flat roofers only. Top wages. 504-464-9181

**ROOFERS NEEDED!** TOP PAY Helpers - $100/Day Call (504) 416-4324

**ROOFERS Wanted,** Experienced, Good Pay. Must have transportation. 504-469-0353

**ROOFERS, SHEET** METAL Mechanics and Helpers needed immediately. Orleans Sheet Metal Work and Roofing inc 504-822-4892

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**ROOFING Crews** needed, top pay. Contact Roof Pro 734-678-8067

**ROOFING CREWS,** top pay, own tools and transportation required. Call 985-781-8364

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING Relocation** opportunity for high-skilled slate, tile, copper mechanics. Housing assistance for longterm year-round work. Suburban Philadelphia, PA contractor est 1939. 888-RKI-ROOF

**SCS Now** Hiring: Laborers, Grinders, Warehouse w/computer skills and w/out. Assembly Welders. Job is in Kenner LA and West Bank area. 207 Bonn St. in Harvey LA. Call 504-348-4855 or 1-800-310-0131

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SIDING Installers** and Helpers Wanted, Top Pay. Call 504-491-5812

**SIDING INSTALLERS** W/ exp., good pay, F/T. Troy Leger T&L Siding 985-969-9621/504-382-8788

**SKILLED ROOF** TECHS To start immediately. Please call 504-416-1831 for more info.

**Southern Precision** is looking for CNC Machinist for Immediate Employment. Great Pay! Apply in person 9am to 4pm 108 Pintail St., St. Rose

**SURVEYOR (Office)** Min 5 yrs. exp. in Land Survey. Auto CAD, LDD exp. req. FT, PT, All Welcome. Call 703-934-0900, E-mail: lbarker@psaltd.com, fax 703-934-9787, www.psaltd.com

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**TREE MEDICS** is hiring now, start work today. Ground workers, tree climbers, bucket operator, bobcat operator, excavator operators, truck drivers, grapple truck drivers/operators. Start $10-$25/hour. Apply in person at 500 Clearview Pkwy, or call 225-955-2502

**Union Electrical** Helper Positions. $10.00 per hour. No experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have reliable transportation. Apply in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 P.M. N.O. Electrical JATC, 3200 Ridgelake Dr., Suite 301, Metairie, LA.

**USED CAR** & SERVICE DEPT. PORTERS NEEDED Apply M-F, 10am-3pm, See Ralph Roemershauser, 2121 Clearview Pkwy. Metairie, LA. 504-455-6666.

**Vinyl Siding/Gutter/Patio** Installers, experienced. Call 985-290-9649/985-290-9648

**WATERPROOFING &** Painting contractor. how hiring painters, water proffers & labors. Call Tony 504-415-5350

**WB Machine** Shop needs CNC Mill Operator. No programming exp. req. Apply 8am-4pm at Torq/Lite, 1914 Engineers Rd. Belle Chasse, LA 504-394-1400 or fax resume to 504-394-0404

**WELDERS, FITTERS,** TACKERS, GENERAL LABORERS Immediate positions, 10-12 hours/day. Call 1-877-376-0801 or 504-376-8700

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**Whitfield's A/C** & Heating in Pearl River is looking for experienced A/C installers, helpers, and technicians for permanent positions. Please call Kirk at 985-863-0911 or 985-960-0285.

### 4165 Warehouse

**LABORERS 50** (Warehouse/Construction). $8-$15/hour. Housing, 124 Trudeau St, Metairie. 504-712-1133

**NIGHT ORDER** SELECTOR, Requirements: Work Sun - Thurs, some Overtime and Holiday work 6 mos verifiable warehouse experience required. Experience operating warehouse equipment is required capable object weighing up to 90 Plus pounds. Willing to work in varying temperatures. Job stability. Previous overnight experience is preferred. Apply in person from 10am-3pm on Wednesday 10/12 or Friday 10/14 ONLY. Sysco 1451 River Oaks Dr West, Harahan La. Allow 2 hrs for application process. EOE AAP Male-Female.

**OFFICE DEPOT** WAREHOUSE POSITIONS - PT Receiving shifts 04:00am & 06:00am and PT Loaders, Order Pickers and Equipment Operators shifts 12pm, 2pm and 3pm. Apply in person at 150 Riverbend Blvd, St. Rose, LA. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

## Employment

### 4165 Warehouse

**Sm. Construction** Co seeks warehouse person to assist in shop, must know city. 504-468-2527

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE /** DRIVERS: ACI Distribution, EOE, drug screen, physical & references required. Auto & Flat Glass Delivery Drivers, and Warehouse Workers. Duties include: Driving truck, delivering windshields & glass in the City & Territories. Glass handling experience a plus! Class D or CDL & clean driving record required. Apply at ACI, 5716 Jarvis St., Harahan. Call 504-733-6606

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE POSITION** Good benefits, $9/hour. Harahan location. Fax resume to 504-733-8208 or mail to P.O. Box 10451 Jefferson, LA 70181

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**$9/HOUR PLUS** BONUSES. Citywide Maid Service. Daytime Flexible Hours. 504-866-1234. For Northshore (Cov, Mand, Slid, Hamm). 985-867-1495

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**ASSISTANT MANAGERS/CASHIERS** Gas/Convenient Store, great opportunities/benefits, xlnt starting pay, pd. vac., great work environment. Now accepting applications for managers/Assistant Managers/Cashiers. Apply at Shell Harbor Market at 2963 US Highway 190 in Mandeville or send resume to P.O. Box 73492 Metairie, LA 70033.

**Blueroof &** Debris Removal Inspectors. For info call DQSI(985)809-3970 ASAP

**CAREGIVER Need** sitter for handicap elderly lady. Please call 504-454-1296

**Caregiver, after** school care for our special needs child in Mandeville. 985-237-9464

**CASHIER** - Hotel Gift Shop, Downtown. AM/PM Shifts. Call 723-0023

**CERAMIC TILE** AND MARBLE HELPERS No Experience Necessary. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**CONSTRUCTION/ROOFING SALESMEN.** Transportation req., will train. 504-885-3738/504-416-9633

**Counter Help,** Creole Bagelry, hours of operation 7am-2pm. Call Bernadette: 985-649-6151 or 985-788-5252

**Does your** job offer family freedom and financial security? Call 484-542-1631

**DRY CLEAN** and Laundry Presser needed. 751 Veterans Blvd. Call 504-615-3868, 504-835-0876

**EMBROIDERY Retail** store in Mandeville seeking full time employee. Exp a plus. Call 985-624-9718 or fax to 985-624-9719

**Experienced graphic** designer needed. Skill in Dreamweaver, Photoshop & Illustrator a must. Please email resume to advertising@tlwproductions.com

**EXPERT DRY** CLEAN PRESSER and Expert Wet/Shirt Presser. Apply as soon as possible 3910 Highway 22, Mandeville. Dry Cleaning By Louis.

**Fliers Distributor,** must have own transp., attach fliers in Metairie area. 504-400-6799

**FLYER/LEAD CANVASER'S** Needed for Construction Co., hrly wage, 504-885-3738 or 504-416-9633

**FOREVER SPRING** FLORIST Hiring Experienced Designer. Call 504-348-0560 Westwego

**French Quarter** Valets and Cashiers Needed. Professional and good driving records. Apply Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm, 716 Iberville St. EEO

**Front Desk/Veterinarian** Assistant, full time/part time, immediate openings, Cypress Point Animal Hospital, Mandeville. Call: 985-626-4462

**GROUNDSKEEPERS needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartments. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**HARDWARE CLERK-duties** consist of cutting and threading pipe, cutting glass and loading cement. Lapalco Hardware Please call 504-367-2020

**HIRING NOW** CASHIERS & ATTENDANTS Shell Convenient Stores, All Shifts, Competitive Pay, Insurance, Please Apply At: 711 East Boston Street, Covington, LA. 985-898-2663

**HOUSE CLEANERS** Monday-Friday days, paid training, CAR REQUIRED. Merry Maids, 504-849-0411

**JANITORIAL NO** EXP NEEDED,FT/PT. COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS. APPLY @ ESPLANADE MALL MGMT OFC OR CALL 504-466-2500.

**JANITORIAL WORK** $7/hour. Needed Immediately. Evenings, Metairie. Call 985-652-1388

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**Lawn** - Byrd Lawn And Handyman currently hiring FT and PT help, on the North Shore, $8-$10/hour, Call Dan 985-516-8816

**LAWN MAINTENANCE** help needed. Outdoor work, $10.00 and up. Call 504-887-0393

**Lawncare Business,** help needed, no exp needed. Drivers also needed w/ good license for crew leader. 985-262-3367

**Medical Courier/Ofc** worker needed, must be over 21, clean MVR. Hours M-F 5am-1:30, some weekends. GREAT benefits, $8/hr. Call 639-3407 or apply at 1921 Corp. Sq, Ste A, Slidell

**Motor Vehicle** Inspector (break tag), must be Louisiana licensed. 504-368-3687/504-621-2572

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER All** Day, Mon.-Fri. Must own car and have clean driving record. Background check. Mandeville home. 985-626-9285

**PCA'S** - Needed to work with developmentally disabled individuals. Must have HS diploma, own transportation, car insurance, & drivers lic. $6.00/hour to start. Vacation, sick, & tuition reimbursement avail after 1 year of F/T employment. Apply at: 2200 Veterans Blvd, #205, Kenner, 10a-2p Mon-Fri

**PET GROOMER** Needed for upscale boarding kennel, great pay, start now. 985-845-9444

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**Pet Groomer,** Experienced Groomer needed. Established clientele. percentage based salary. Call 985-542-6300 (Hammond)

**PORTER Needed** in new Orleans. Call 504-522-3287

**Positions: MIG/TIG** exp. welder, alum & steel. Warehouseman w/ mechanical ability. AQUA-AIR 639 Manhattan, Harvey.

**Preschool/Childcare Attendant,** Precious Angels Daycare seeking experienced Childcare Attendant. 504-363-5400

**QUALITY CONTROL** ASSISTANTS Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for Quality Control Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities, and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediately and work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour. Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-359-3018

**RECEPTIONIST/VETERINARIAN ASSISTANT** Full-time for Banfield, The Pet Hospital. Apply at 45 Park Place Dr. (Inside Petsmart) 985-867-9224

**RIVER OAKS** MANAGEMENT Now Hiring qualified managers, assistant managers, maintenance men and grounds keepers, Apply at 139 Enterprise Drive, Gretna LA., 504-367-9273.

**Russell's Rug** Cleaning Co. in Met. Looking for reliable, strong workers for F/T Empl Call 504-382-1724 3704 Robertson St. (off Airline)

**SALES Mandeville** co seeking salespersons, must have 3+ yrs sales exp, fax 985-674-5386

**SEAMSTRESS experienced,** needed for ladies boutique. Call 985-727-2993

**State All** Fuel Center. Needed Cashiers and Deli workers. Call 504-394-5530

**Tank Wash** Personnel, Oakley Trucking Inc. is now accepting applications for Tank Wash personnel. Entry level position. Some mechanical experience preferred. Excellent benefit package, including health and life insurance, 401K, vacation and holiday pay. Experienced applicants only need apply. Please come by to fill out application at 191 Transport Dr. Reserve, LA. Apply in person and ask for Skip McGriff.

**TLC Linen** Services, Located in the Bywater area is looking for production employees. If you're looking for long-term employment, please call 504-945-1148 or 504-415-7076 Experienced laundry workers preferred.

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**VET ASSISTANT** Full time. Must be flexible and have customer service experience. Interviews Thurs., Fri. and Sat.from 10am-3pm. Bring resume to Banfield, located inside Elmwood PetSmart. 504-733-7313

**VETERINARIAN TECHNICIANS** & KENNEL ASSISTANT, Needed for Mandeville Veterinary Specialty Hospital. Experienced preferred, but we are willing to train the right people. Some weekend hours req. Excellent benefits including group health insurance, 401K, paid vacation, discount on pet care. Pay based on experience. Call Shelly at 985-626-4862 or fax: 985-626-4852

**Welding supply** company needs experienced office clerks with basic computer skills. Also drivers with a CDL Class B Hazmat. Please apply in person 2700 Hessmer, Metairie.

**MERCHANDISE**

### 5020 Appliances

**AIR CONDITIONER** CONDENSER, Used, (3) 2 @ $150, 1 @ $300. Please Call 504-559-9060

**GE Gas** Free Standing Range, 2 years old, excellent condition, $300. 504-812-1701

**REFRIGERATOR** - 19 ft., frost free, Sears, clean, $101. Call 504-443-1666 or 504-975-5863

**REFRIGERATOR Amana** 25.6 Cu.Ft., white, side by side, 2 yrs old, exc. cond, $700. Call 985-875-7970

**REFRIGERATOR, Kenmore,** 27 cubic, $500. Washer/Dryer, Kenmore, $75 each. 504-296-9433

**STOVE, Oven,** Dishwasher & Microwave. Sold as set for $800 or best offer. Call 985-892-7481

**WASHER/DRYER SET** - GE, electric dryer, good condition, $400. 504-739-1046

### 5070 Building Materials

**MOBILE Construction** Offices, 8x36, new or used with bath and air. Call Jobsite Trailer Corp 877-699-6280/ www.jobsitemobileoffices.com

### 5085 Cemetery/Funerals

**PLOT Single** For Sale, Rest Lawn cemetery, Avondale LA, Asking $2000, 251-645-2611

### 5110 Computer, Etc.

**COMPUTERS, PIII** & PII, complete set, $250. DESK, $100. CHAIR, $45. FAX, $45. PRINTER, $45. SCANNER, $45. 985-707-5659

### 5165 Home Health Supplies

**POWER WHEELCHAIR,** Pronto M71, less than 1 yr old. $2000 firm. 985-845-7075, 985-373-7358

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**ARMOIRE/ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** Oak, 2 years old, 42wx75hx21d, excellent condition. $400. 985-892-4759

**BEDROOM SET** 5 piece, queen sized, mattress and box spring, solid wood, some scratches, $600. 4 dinette chairs, no table, $80 or best offer. 985-764-3933 or 504-473-8965

**FURNITURE LAZY** BOY Oversized Couch and Chair, $1000. Recliner, $150. Marble top coffee table, 2 end tables, console table, $750. 985-875-2617, by appt only. Covington/ Mandeville

**Oak entertainment** center/3 piece, 100 inch wide/78 inch tall, glass doors/storage cabinets on bottom, $501. 985-626-4194

**Queen bedroom** set, triple dresser/mirror/nightstand/headboard, bed frame/new linens $275 or best offer, 2 bar stools, $15 each. Larry 504-218-5668/Marie 504-833-4745

## Merchandise

### 5170 Household Furnishings

**Round oak** table set, $150, queen bed set w/ frame/headboard, $200, 2 dressers, $75 ea., lthr. sofa, $125. 504-391-0208

**SOFA &** LOUNGE CHAIR Natuzzi Leather, tan, 2 years old, $1000. Paid $6000. 985-792-0110

**SOFA SLEEPER,** Denim with matching overstuffed Rocker, and coordinating oak coffee table. No Water Damage. Like New $1000 OBO. White Upholstered Sofa, No Water Damage, Good Condition. $200 OBO. Moving Must Sell! Please Call 504-833-4221

**SOFA, 90"** Custom black leather, 6 mos old, no flood. Was $4000, Sell $1100. 985-875-0004

**SOFA/LOVESEAT Blue,** exc cond, $450. 6 chairs, table, china, buffet, bar $650. 504-887-2959

**SOFA/LOVESEAT Reclining** (Mauve) Brass/glass tables, 1 lg picture. $200 all. 504-737-3145

**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

**Stereo +** CD, Nakamichi, 6 disc + tape, amp, and B & W speakers $150. 2 Custom chairs, $175. 504-738-0348/504-491-1145

**TABLE, oak** Trestle, 5 chairs total, 4 side, 1 with arms. $500. Please call 985-624-2678

### 5180 Jewelry

**HONEST JEWELRY** BUYERS Cash paid for Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Watches, & Jewelry. 535 St. Louis Street. Call 504-415-9906 or 504-460-4958.

### 5200 Musical

**PIANO, full** size, Story & Clark, $600, you pick up, Metairie, 512-809-6058

### 5210 Office Furniture/ Supplies

**DKI OFFICE** FURNITURE Truck Load Sale, new and used desks, chairs, files, panel systems, work stations, and much much more! 5530 Jefferson Highway 504-734-8424

**COPIER, Toshiba** 2050, doc feeder, extra toner, $370/obo. 504-885-0188

**OFFICE FURNITURE** 40%-50% off. Call Doug at GBP Direct, 504-388-6631

### 5240 Restaurants/ Bar Equipment

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT:** New ranges, fryers and refrigerators. Immediate delivery or will hold. 504-427-0992 CONVENIENT STORES: Deli scales, coolers and freezers. Immediate delivery or will hold. Call 504-427-0992

### 5290 Tools, Equipment, Machinery

**1999 New** Holland 555E, Backhoe (Rubber Tire), w/ Cabin. Good Cond. $29,000. 504-712-9024

**BOB CAT** 553 Hydraulics, diesel, 300 hours. $10,500. 504-393-1744 or 504-912-1226

**DOZER 1992** Komatsu, 6 Way Blade, New Under Carriage, Good Cond. $21,000. 504-712-9020

**FRONT LOADERS,** DOZERS, SKID STEARS, CUSTOM EXCAVATORS and other machinery. Available for immediate sale. 504-431-7906

**GENERATOR, 10.5KW,** 42 amps continuous, Onan/Cummings. Very light use, superb cond! Orig. price $12,000 asking $4500. 512-825-5227 or cwplatt@quik.com

**GENERATORS** - 4 KW Dayton, $600; 5 KW Honda, $2,000. Call 504-737-2668

**GUTTER MACHINES** 5 in. seamless, 6 in. seamless, both on trailers, ready to work. $20,000 ea. 504-400-0790, 504-834-2911

**MARINE CARGO** CONTAINERS, 8 by 20 foot and 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

**MORBARK 2400** Whole Tree Chipper w/ auto feed, 688 hours, 185 horsepower, JD Diesel, tandem axle, extra parts included, in LA. $28,000. Call 504-467-6336 ext10 leave message

**NIKRO Air** Duct Cleaning Equipment w/cargo trailer. $12,500. Call 985-705-6606

**Stump Grinder;** 35 hp Vermeer 630B. (985)974-9896, (985)386-8417

### 5315 Utility Trailers

**DUMP TRAILERS,** 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740

**THIBBS 1996,** 40' Flatbed, goose neck trailer, $4200/OBO. Call Greg 985-707-4663

### 5340 Wanted

**PBS FRONTLINE** wants your Katrina home videos from Aug. 26th on, before, during & after Storm. Will pay for quality footage. Email: info@rainmedia.net

**PETS/LIVESTOCK**

### 6000 Dogs

**Basset Puppies** CKC, 4 Females. Available 10/15. $300 each. 985-502-8404

**Boston Terriers** CKC Registered, Mini-Pins/hounds. $200 up. 985-848-5423

**CANE KORSO** Pups, ICCS 7 weeks old, 1 male, 5 females, $1500. 225-933-0762 225-654-0509

**CHIHUAHUA PUPS,** Long Hair, $300 each. Also 1 adult Male, $100. 504-858-0830 985-781-0221

**DOBERMAN PUPS** AKC 8 weeks, 3 females, 2 males. 504-454-1773, 504-831-0728

**Full Blood** Rat Terrier Puppies, Born 7/26/05. $150. Call 985-878-2804

**German Shepherd** puppies, AKC, parents on site, Call for information 504-717-9893

**GERMAN SHEPHERD** PUPS AKC, CKC, Micro Chipped. 504-348-1501 or 504-913-7350

**Labrador, Yellow,** 12 weeks old with AKC papers and shots, $250, 504-329-1938

**LHASA APSO** WANTED, small female, black and white, papers not required, please call 504-433-5924 or 337-255-6056

**MALTESE AKC,** pups. Baby Doll. Multi Ch. Blood. Regular & Tiny. Also YORKIES, 504-737-1234

**Min Pin** Pups, Ready to go! Shots & Dew Claws. Black/Tan & Red, Chocolate. $300 & up. 985-871-7790

**Miniature Schnauzers,** AKC, first shots, wormed, 6 weeks, $400 each, 504-481-8445/504-495-7363

**Old English** Bulldog Pups CKC, 2M, 4F, $800. Visit beardsbulldogge.com or call 504-301-1129

## Pets/Livestock

### 6000 Dogs

**Pomeranian Pups,** $300-$500. Pomeranian adults, $200+. Call 504-347-4124 or 504-756-6496

**RAT TERRIER** PUPS - Registered, 5 weeks old, 3 males, $125/each, call 504-481-3357/818-2248

**SCHNAUZER Minis,** AKC, Salt/Pepper males, $350. Black/Silver males, $450. 985-542-8403

**SHELTIE PUPS** - CKC, Please call 504-250-3893

**Wanted: Little** Yorkie Dog, Female, about 2 years old, to love. Call 504-738-9567

### 6020 Horses/Cattle/ Livestock

**ALICIA-BAHAYA HAY,** $3.90 per bail. $30 per roll. Call 985-502-2000

**RECREATION**

### 6530 Boats/ Accessories/Services

**'00 Kenner** 23 foot, 225 EFI Mercury, excellent condition, extras, low hours. $16,000. Call 504-416-3703/504-689-4304

**'06 River** Time HOUSEBOAT. Brand new, 52 ft, deluxe. 2 115 HP Mercs, fully self contained. Sleeps 6, 651-450-1496 for more info. $165,000 Will deliver.

**'66 HATTERAS** 41' GREAT LIVE-ABOARD. Excel Cond! Sleeps 6, 2 heads, full Kit, no H-damage. Only $65,000 Rick 985-845-9827

**'69 HATTERAS** CONV. 34' No H-damage, 85% restored, slip avail $36,000/BO Rick 985-845-9827

**'98 Boston** Whaler Outrage 23', 225 HP Johnson, garage kept. $32,900. 504-885-0900

**30' Trojan** Sportfisherman twin 260hp, gas, 800 hrs. nice A/C, genset, shower, radar, sleeps 4 or 5. 601-924-0406

**65 Foot** Trawler/ Home, Safe, Twin Diesel, A/C, Can deliver, $250,000. 361-249-2995

**EVINRUDE 150HP,** Ficht, bought new in '03, Low hrs, mint condition. Will test run. $5000. Please Call 985-893-4579 or 985-373-7587

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Franklin** Imperial Trlr40'/93 Olds Cierra clean, 8x10 metal shed. As is, where is in Seattle tlr park. $22,000. 206-660-3238

**'00 Rockwood** 25' travel trailer; pristine cond; sleeps 4; $12,000; 318-435-9264.

**'00 Trail-Lite,** sleeps 7, nice, 35ft, loaded. $8000/OBO. ATLANTA arrange delivery call 504-231-6331

**'01 Jayco** Eagle 5th wheel, 33 feet long, sleeps 9, super slide, lots of cabinets, $17,000. 601-736-8975

**'01 Trail** Lite 21' Travel Trailer with hitch, sleeps 7, like new, tow with 6 cylinder, $8500. 504-342-7286

**'01 Wildwood** 30BHSF, 31 ft. with slide, very good condition. $15,000/OBO. 985-768-8338

**'02 Cherokee** 24' Light Travel Trailer, Like new, sleeps 6, will deliver. $11,000. 504-348-9340 or 504-421-5788

**'02 Holiday** Rambler Vacationer. 2 slides. 1 and 1/2 baths. $79,000. 985-789-2879

**'02 Keystone** Cougar 28 foot, 5 th wheel slide-out, $20,000. Call 504-453-5517

**'02 Sportsmen** 30Ft Travel Trailer, double slide out, like new, sleeps 6, $18,000. Call 318-251-8307 or 318-265-2300

**'02 Trail** Lite, 20' Travel Trailer, 1700 lbs. $10,000. Call 985-758-3567 or 504-756-6732

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 MONTANA** 5th Wheel, 34 foot, 3 slides. Rear living. Good condition $25,000 985-652-6950

**'03 Shasta** 24', bunk beds, dinette, front bd, A/C, microwave, 2 dr ref., finance & delivery avail. $10,599. 1-866-243-1716 www.northtownmotorhomes.com

**'03 Weekend** Warrior 27', sleeps 6-8, kitchen, bath, mini suite, cable TV, micro, appl., self-contained w/generator, $17,000. 504-834-1112

**'04 Celebrity** 5th Wheel, 40 foot, 3 slides, washer/dryer, excellent. Brooklyn, MS. Free delivery. $36,000 407-973-7107

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Crossroads** 30'TT, all alum, rear LR, queen, lg slide, like new. $25,000. 504-621-8327

**'04 Jayco** 27BH Travel Trailer. Like new. Will deliver. $12,500. Call 985-809-8087 or 504-416-9374.

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Fleetwood,** sleeps 6, fully contained, asking $15,000, 504-838-0396 or 504-957-6620

**'05 JAYCO** Jay Feather 29Y TT, fiber glass sides, bunk beds, slide out, plus hitch. Warr. Mint. $19,500. 985-646-3428

**'05 Sunny** Brook, 41ft, 5th Whl, 2 slides, gen., cargo area, loaded, $49,000, 504-915-1068

**'05 Trail** Bay Travel Trailer, 27' w/slideout, sleeps 6, barely used, $17,000. 504-329-5248 or 504-328-7500

**'06 JAYCO** 25' travel trlr. new, sleeps 6, slide out, $21,900. 504-831-8900, 504-453-4441

**'06 JAYCO** JAYFLIGHT 28RLS $23,800. Call 504-341-8555 or 504-234-6844.

**'86 Prevost** XL 96K 8V92 5SP Allison 15K Gen 5K inv All Elec New tires - $85,000. 858-755-3484

**'92 29ft** Prowler, pull behind, fully furnished, excellent condition. $10,500. 504-292-9924

**'93 Gulfstream** Conquest 102 Class C Motor Coach, slps 8, good cond, $21,500. 504-813-7880

**'94 Allegro** Bay 37 foot, super slide, washer/dryer, 33,000 orig. mi., $24,500. For more call 601-876-1837/601-876-4174

**'94 Winnebago** Brave 34 ft, w/ '90 Honda, tow bar. Sleeps 6, fridge, stove, queen bed, microwave, shower, cruise, 4.0 Onan gen., AM/FM/Cass, new muffler, exc. tires, & exc. cond. Car & RV $23,500. 202-418-2462/804-720-1462

## Recreation

### 6550 Campers/ Motor Homes

**'96 Arrow** Lite 21Ft, 2 double beds, very good condition, $7200. Call 504-451-0899

**'96 Pace** Arrow Vision, $40,000/OBO. Please Call (504)628-4688 for info

**'97 Coleman** Seapine travel trailer/pop-up new roof great condition. $3500. Call 504-469-2910, 504-481-3916

**'97 Jayco** Jay Series 1208 Pop-up, sleeps 8, garage kept, exc. cond. $4500, Call 504-577-3733 or 985-781-1517

**'97 RV** 35' Gulfstream, Ford 460 26K Ex Cond. $37,000 Seattle Pay flight/gas 206-660-3238

**'98 Coachman** 29'Trailer $8500,1996 Jayco 26' $7500. Avail. now in Lafayette. Craig @ 817-572-4414

**'98 DUTCHMAN** 5th WHEEL CAMPER Excellent condition! Sleeps 6. Diningroom, Livingroom slide out. $17,000. If possible delivery for $1,000! 419-674-4313

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**'99 Pace** Arrow Vision RV. 36', 2 slides, washer/dryer, low mileage. $65,000. 985-785-8384

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**03 31'** Class C Camper Triton V10, 11K, A/C, gen, gas fridge/heat, slide-out, slps 8, warr. Grt cnd! $46,500 985-264-9326

**1998 35'** Travel Supreme 5th Wheel Camper. 3 slideouts. Washer/Dryer. Mint condition. Located in Morgan City. $27,500.00. Will Deliver. 985/385-1164

**1999 Jayco** 3610 Designer, 37.5 ft, generator, washer/dryer, $23000. 662-231-9172

**90 Winnebago** Chieftain, 28', sleeps four, clean bed, AC/Heat, TV, refrigerator, freezer, oven, microwave. $12,000. 985-624-5076 or 985-264-9739

**95 Allegro** Bay 32', 62K, 454-gas, new stuff, $28,500. will deliver, 501-834-2719

**BRAND NEW** '06 SURVEYOR 23' Travel Trailer, Fully loaded, $17,000. 504-915-2829

**Dewalt 4300** kw gen.$1,800; 3" Honda Pump $1600, Poulan c.saw $200 All new in box/delv to N.O. Craig 817-572-4414

**FLEETWOOD TERRY** DAKOTA 2003 - Fiberglass, Ultra light, great shape, $10,500. 504-270-6937

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

**RV For** rent! Sleeps 8, full bath, generator, AC, from $75/day, can deliver. 404-488-3282.

### 6570 Fishing/Hunting

**COLT AR15** w/15 clips, $2000. Sig Sauer P-220, 45acp, LNIB $700. 504-481-3360

### 6590 Motorcycles/ATV

**'01 Honda** Shadow 600 Has everything, black with chrome, 60 mpg. $3000. Call 985-705-3995.

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

**'98 Yamaha** Blue 98 YZF-R-1. $4,000. Call 985-264-3116 or 985-246-1128.

**RESIDENCES FOR SALE**

### 7505 Above Canal

**220-222 Audubon.** Priced to sell, no flood damage! Condos for sale. 2 BR, 1 BA. Asking price $225,000 Call 504-577-0077

**28 Newcomb** Pl. Priced to sell, no flood damage! Condos for sale. 4 BR, 2 BA. Asking Price. $390,000 Call 504-577-0077

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 504-343-6747 OBO Must sell

**Beautifully refinished** executive residence. No flood, on Melpomene. One-half of duplex. 1000 square feet. $240,000 unfurnished; $260,000 furnished. Call 225-769-8335. Agents protected

**NEVER FLOODED,** furnished, Garden Dist. 2/2 condo, gated parking, security, hdwd flrs, pool, 5 min. from downtown. $319,000 504-390-7000

**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

### 7508 Warehouse/CBD

**Newly renov,** 1bd/1ba condo Gated parking, EXC cond fitnes ctr $209,999 504-723-4141

### 7535 Mid City/City Park

**4923 IBERVILLE,** Tri-plex, 3BR owners. Gar. Cent A/H. Dry. $399K. L. Nugent RE 504-250-3364

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

### 7540 Lakeview-Lakefront

**Lakeshore West** house on corner lot, 320 Topaz St. no flooding, some Pre

WORLD

# Landslide areas are declared cemeteries

## *Hundreds are buried under feet of mud in Guatemala*

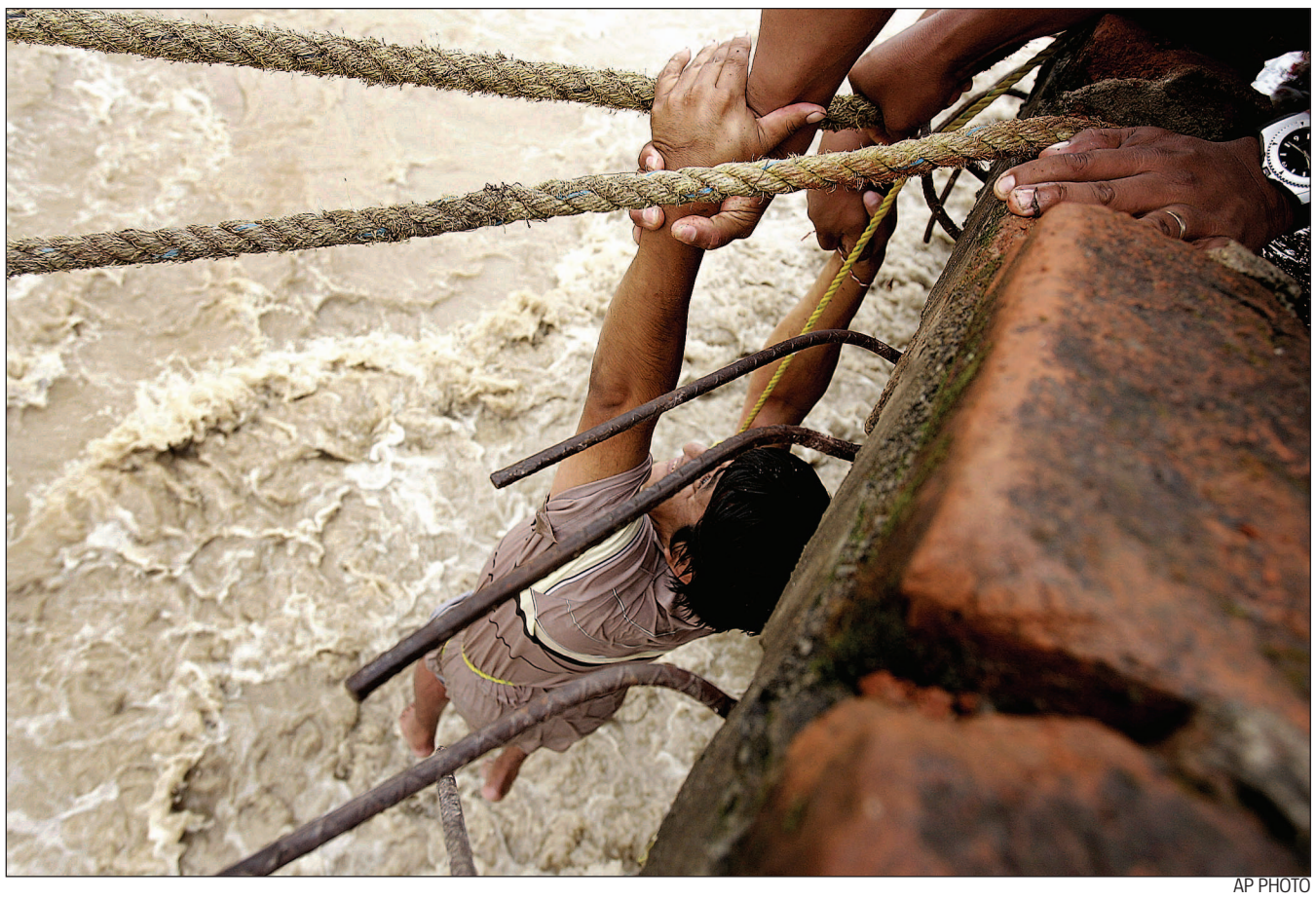
**By Mark Stevenson**
Associated Press writer

GUATEMALA CITY — Dozens of foreign tourists fled devastated lakeside Mayan towns on foot and by helicopter Sunday as Guatemalan officials said they would abandon communities buried by landslides and declare them mass graveyards.

Villagers who had swarmed over the vast mudslides with shovels and axes digging for hundreds of missing gave up the effort Sunday, five days after Hurricane Stan made landfall on the Gulf of Mexico coast, bringing torrential rains before weakening to a tropical depression.

More than 640 people died and hundreds more were missing across Central America and southern Mexico after a week of rains. In hardest-hit Guatemala, 519 bodies had been recovered and reburied. Some 338 were listed as missing.

"Panabaj will no longer exist," said Mayor Diego Esquina, referring to the Mayan lakeside hamlet in Guatemala covered by a half-mile-wide mudflow as much as 15 to 20 feet deep. "We are asking that it be declared a cemetery. We are tired. We no longer know where to dig."



AP PHOTO

A man who tried to recover his belongings from his flooded house is rescued after he went into the Coatan river in Chiapas, Mexico. Raging floodwaters have cut off large areas of Central America, hampering rescue efforts.

Esquina said bodies were now so rotted that identification was impossible. He said about 250 people were missing in Panabaj. Only 77 bodies were recovered, he said.

Promised dogs trained to detect bodies failed to arrive in time, and "we don't even know where to dig anymore," Esquina said.

Vice President Eduardo Stein said steps were being taken to give towns "legal permission to declare the buried areas" as hallowed ground.

Attention turned to aiding thousands of hungry or injured survivors as helicopters, including U.S. Blackhawks and Chinooks, fanned out across Guatemala to evacuate the wounded and bring supplies to more than 100 communities still cut off by mudslides and flooding.

As some foreign tourists worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Mayans in traditional cotton blouses and broad sashes to dig for missing victims, others hiked around mud-choked roads or boarded government helicopters in the second day of evacuations from the area around Lake Atitlan.

Helicopters went to the nearby town of San Andres Senetabaj to fly out an estimated 20 Scandinavians trapped since mudslides cut off the area several days ago. About 50 more tourists were hiking out of the lakeside town of Panajachel.

"We got about 400 (tourists) out last night, and were expecting more today," said Solomon Reyes of Guatemala's Tourism Ministry.

In some areas the arrival of the Guatemalan military only complicated matters. Villagers in Panabaj refused to allow in the army because of memories of a 1990 massacre there during the country's 36-year civil war.

But U.S. military helicopters from Joint Task Force Bravo based at Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras joined the rescue efforts with a half-dozen Blackhawk helicopters and one Chinook transport helicopter, running flights through dense clouds and heavy fog.

"We're still in search-and-rescue mode," said Army Maj. Bob Schmidt. "We're in the saving-life-and-limb thought process."

The U.S. craft delivered some medical supplies and personnel and evacuated children needing medical care.

In El Salvador, authorities reported 71 deaths from the rains, after two people were swept away by floodwaters in San Salvador on Saturday.

The rest of the dead were scattered throughout Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica and southern Mexico.

Mexican President Vicente Fox visited devastated Chiapas state Sunday as floodwaters began to recede.

"The important thing is that the worst is over," Fox said. "Now comes the reconstruction."


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### Residences for Sale

**7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate**

**1332 Aris** Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

**3-2 Home** Only $13,000! For Listings Please Call 1-800-429-7008, Extension G568

**3B/2BA House** in Folsom Subdiv., $1200/mo., 12 month contract, avail now., call 985-966-7867 (8am-6pm)

**4-2 FORECLOSURE!** Only $18,000! For Listings 1-800-429-7008, extension R235

**FREE Homes** For Sale List E-Mailed To You! www.LaPlace-Homes.com The Home Company Realtors 985-652-SOLD(7653).

**FSBO Lockport** LA, High land + 10ft elevation! Furnished 2 story brick, 4BR/2BA, 2 kits, bsmt workshop + 2 car gar w/apt above, on 3/4 AC lot, $280,000. 985-532-2368 or 601-736-2056

**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

**Lafourche Parish** 3BR, 1BA, Brick Home 30 mi From NO. Totally Remodeled. Sits on 3 Lots in quiet area. No Storm Damage! $125,000. 985-537-3188 or 985-859-8077

**Lafourche Parish,** 2500 sq. ft. home (carport) w/app. 900 square foot mother inlaw apt. on rear of property. (160'W x 193'D.) fenced yard w/conc. slab all around house, app. 900 sq. ft. 3 section garage. sewer treatment, central air/heat, quiet, crime free, older neighborhood in Raceland area. call (985) 209-2368 $159,000

**LOW MORTGAGE** RATES Local Co. with fast, personal service. 100% financing avail. We will come to you. Signature Mortgage. 504-338-6555 or 866-784-4442

**Uptown on** Magazine! Grand, two-story house among all the antique and boutique shops! 3 bedrooms plus loft. Older couple has decided to reduce their worries and move to a townhouse. This house is NOT damaged by recent events! Includes sought-after COVERED parking for 2-4 vehicles. For more info, please call 214-893-0410

**COMMERCIAL-OFFICES**

**7670 For Sale/ Comm./Offices**

**CHILD CARE** BUSINESS. Ready for operation, perfect cond. $22,500. 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

**GRETNA Commercial** building 1968 SF front area includes ofc. s, work area and holding cooler, back includes 1200 SF cooler, 1260 SF freezer, warehouse space and loading dock, lease or sale, For appt. Please Call 504-392-6759

**Hammond 4,255** sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**KENNER- 3,800sf** OFFICE AND MULTI-USE BUILDING, 3326 Fla Ave. $420,000. 504-491-8335

**MANDEVILLE** - SMALL RESTAURANT, full service, established, turn key operation, serious inquiries only, $150,000. Call 504-236-0297 or 985-727-1725.

**OLD GRETNA** 2 properties, 516, 518 Lafayette St. C-1 shop, 1400 square feet with 1/2 bath. Currently a woodworking shop with 3 phase power. Also included 2 bedroom, 2 bath, shotgun, 1080 square feet, $180,000. 504-908-3669

**RECONDITIONED Mobile** offices. Call Jobsite Trailer Corp 877-699-6280/ www.jobsitemobileoffices.com

**Slidell: 3440** sqft building on Front St., parking and extra lot included - $310,000. 228-342-0642 or 228-342-0619

**7680 For Sale Warehouses/Indus.**

**HAMMOND LA.** 3+ ac on Hwy, 25,000sf metal building, side street entrance, 4 overhead doors, glass front. Avra O'Dwyer Real Estate 228-342-0734

**KENNER Refrigerated** warehouse, 2255 Aberdeen, 80'x120', 2 offices, dry storage, cooler, freezer, processing rm, 2 bay loading dock. For appt call 985-705-1178

**SW MICHIGAN** 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

**7690 Rent/Lease/ Comm./Offices**

**Atlanta/Alpharetta, GA.** FREE RENT. 1700-5200 sq. ft., new, modern, convenient to Highways/ Airport. 404-936-7720

**CBD, between** 4000-8000 sq ft, office in Arts district, classic structure, 504-931-0954

**Commercial Space** for temp relocation. 600-5,000 sqft. In Mandeville near hwy 59 & hwy 1088. 985-626-7608

**Covington 2500** square foot office/retail space. (Collins Blvd). 985-871-0771 985-264-0620

**Covington ofc** space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/ month. 985-867-9186

**French Quarter** 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehouse storage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**LULING 3,700** sq. ft., office/ multi-use for lease, $18.50/sq. ft. annually. Will build to suit. Please Call 985-785-1399 or 504-421-3311

**Mandeville office** space 22,000 square ft, grey carpet, central air, 5000 square ft open with no partition, glass enclosed on one side, plenty parking, state of art design, ready for occupancy. Terms negotiable. 3 miles from Causeway bridge. Jim 504-368-2404/504-390-1944

**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Immediately** available: Office space from 407 sq. ft. - 2,427 sq. ft., in the Wagner and Truax building. 2121 N. Causeway Blvd. Rates: $13.00 RSF - $14.50 RSF. Full service 2 year lease required. Call Agent 504-831-6694

**Metairie, Causeway** at I-10. 7200 SF of PRIME RETAIL SPACE. Showrm, Warehouse, 18-Wheeler Door 504-831-0747/504-495-2925

**NO FLOOD** ZONE! For Lease, Lacombe/Mandeville on Highway 190 West. All or Part, Build to Suite. 3 Acres, C2 Property, 400 Ft. Highway Frontage. 504-818-6233

**Office for** rent-Met. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013,opt1

**Office Williams** Blvd. 600 SF, $600, plenty of pking, Borngesser Realty Co. 504-454-0800

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

**Rental property** in Prime Uptown area, Salon/Day Spa & equip. for sale, not flooded, low price. 970-946-0464

**River Ridge** LA, 2000 Sq Ft of commercial lease space avail. 7 miles from New Orleans CBD w/ commercial kitchen, showers, and lg parking area. $4750/mo + util. 504-390-7560

**Up to** 4800 SQ FT Office Space Available near NO Intl. Airport. 504-712-9020

**7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.**

**Algiers Space** Available. Mobile Office, Container, Storage, Truck Yard. Utilities Available 504-394-STOR or 985-652-2771

**HAMMOND LA.** Hwy, 5000 - 25,000sf avail, overhead doors, glass front. Avra O'Dwyer Real Estate 228-342-0734

**Kenner 3600** sq. ft., 3 offices, 2 overhead doors, Williams/Veterans area. Warehouse R.E. Co. 504-831-4380

**METAIRIE COMMERCIAL** WAREHOUSE Great Location! No Damage. High & Dry. 504-400-6799

**METAIRIE PRIME** WAREHOUSE - with office & bath, 10'x'10' ent. door, approx 1450 sq ft, water paid, $950/mo. 504-723-0657

**Warehouse space** for rent. 3,000; 4,000; & 5,000 sq. ft. dry storage available. Louisiana & Tchoupitoulas neighborhood. Call (504)628-4688.

**7730 Miscellaneous**

**COVINGTON Commercial** property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

**COVINGTON LC1** approx .0653 ACs, off Hwy 190, in growing area, $250,000, 504-347-1509

**GARAGE FOR** RENT 500 Square foot. $200/mo. Metairie Area. Call 504-858-9770

**MONEY TO** LEND! Commercial Mortgages. 504-610-2169

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

**7735Investment Property**

**Metairie, 2** Doubles and 2 Singles $550,000. Please call 504-834-1459.

**NEW ORLEANS/METAIRIE,** Selling multiple invest prop., 4 plexes, 6 plexes, etc. 504-250-7116

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

**7737Waterfront Property**

**BARATARIA, LA** Land Lease 5252 Privateer Blvd, zoned u, cleared/dry, $1000/mo 504-340-3158

**BOGUE CHITTO** RIVER - 31 acres in Franklinton. Water, electrical & road. Perfect for camps, homes or park. Large sand beach, fishing & boating. $315,000/best offer. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

### Real Estate for Sale

**7740 Acreage/ Farm & Timberland**

**CLARK COUNTY,** MS. 120 Acres, excellent hunting. Call 601-271-7720 for more information

**FRANKLINTON** - 8 acres. Close to shopping, schools & hospital. $8,500/acre. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**FRANKLINTON** - Beautiful hilltop 3.08 acre property, just minutes from Gemstone Golf Course. $39,000. 985-750-2816

**SOUTH MARION** COUNTY MS 158 acres, 2 small ponds, located approx. 85 miles North of New Orleans. 10 acres in pines, fronts 2 blacktop roads, exc deer hunting, excellent home sites. $5000/ acre. Please call 601-736-7954, 601-519-7175

**7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots**

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

**7770 Jefferson Lots**

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**C-1 LOT.** Just off Veterans. High & dry, 50'x150', 740 Phosphor, $350K cash. 504-458-6927

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

**HARAHAN CONDO** Renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 BA. $175,000. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**RIVER RIDGE** - 66'x93', dead end street, 504-737-1326

**7780 West Bank Lots**

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

**7790 North Shore Lots**

**ABITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**COVINGTON AREA** 200x260 corner lot, cleared, bridge over lagoon, well, 2 fountains and rock waterfall, $120,000. Call 985-966-6742

**FRANKLINTON** - 2 lots, 200'x100' each. Near the Bogue Chitta River, $4,000/both. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**OLD LANDING/COVINGTON** 136 ft on deep Tchefuncte River, $290,000. 985-626-9130

**PEARL RIVER** .75 acre, Sewer and well, fenced with large workshop. $30,000. 504-975-2903

**7795 River Parish Lots**

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

**Lot for** sale 75 x 116 Evangeline Rd. in Montz St. Charles Parish $65,000 cleared and filled. Please call 985-307-0099 or 504-666-0468

**7800 Mississippi Lots**

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

**7805 Miscellaneous Lots**

**MADISONVILLE High** and Dry. 2+ acres, $100,000. Please call 985-845-7209

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

**METAIRIE 6** Lots, N. Cumberland & Boone St. $95K each or will build to suite. 504-301-8580

**7810 Mobile Home Lots**

**LOTS FOR** RENT! NEW PARK - WESTBANK. Please Call (504)201-6320

**7840 Wanted to Purchase**

**CASH Storm** damaged prop, Comm'l, homes, land. Fair prices, quick closings 1-877-355-7253

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. For more info, call 1-877-893-1799

**7860 Other States**

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2 + brdm, Fullgaming Bsmnt, Hottub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all, includes all season cabin. New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229K Call 480-866-0954 Owner.

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2+ bedroom, Fullgaming Basement, Hot tub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all,includes all season cabin.New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229,000. Call 480-688-0954 Owner.

**SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**7905 Real Estate Mgmt.**

**French Quarter** Realty open for business, properties for sale or lease. Call 225-933-6042

**RENTALS FURNISHED**

**7915 Above Canal**

**FRENCH QUARTER** High/Dry Condo, Furnished, 1 BR, 1 BA for lease. Avail now! $1500 per mo. or fsbo $220,000. Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**NAPOLEAN/St. Charles** 1 bedroom, $600 plus util./deposit, Single/couple proffered, no smoking. 504-461-9055/504-259-1030

**UPTOWN 1** and 2 bdrm apts furn/unfurn, water incl. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**UPTOWN 1** bedroom, never flooded, near park, $1,500/ month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN 2** bedroom, dry, near Audubon Park, $2,000/month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN Victorian** home, 2 bedroom apartment, no flooding, $2,500/month. 225-474-3589

**7917 Below Canal**

**French Quarter** 4 stories/condos and office space. Ground floor business, 1400 SF, 2nd floor condo 1600 SF, 3rd floor condo 1500 SF, 4th floor condo 1400 SF, patio, balconies. 1 block from river, 10 blocks to Canal St. Prefer to lease entire building. All condos furn. at this time. Jim 504-368-2404 504-390-1944

**French Quarter** 5 star luxury 1 and 2 bedroom suites, pool, spa, Internet, business services. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717/www.ruedumaine.com

**French Quarter** Bourbon St. Condo. Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchenette, balcony, $2900/mo. Call 504-628-7187

### Rentals Furnished

**7960 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)**

**KENNER/METAIRIE Housing** for working crews, dorm style, kitchen, washer/dryer, with or w/o 2 possible hot meals, space avail for up to 100 people. Reasonable rates. 504-712-6918

**7965 West Bank**

**CORPORATE/EXEC Completely** furn. home for rent, now, 4 BR, 3 BA, 4000sf, gated subd., maid srvc., $8000/mo. Agent 504-393-7690

**NEAR AVONDALE,** Rooms for rent, TV & cable, share kit and bath. $125/wk & up. 504-430-4610

**TIBERLANE ESTATES,** 4000SF Home, 5 BR, 4 BA, Must See! Corporations welcome! 504-259-0659

**7970 Mandeville/Covington**

**ABITA SPRINGS** Great displacement rental, 3 br, 2 ba on 3.5 ac, $1200/mo, completely furn w/satellite, short term avail. Nice house only 10 mi from I-12. Chuck 985-789-5188

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

**COVINGTON** - 3 rooms avail, short term, mo/mo, furnished. Call 504-952-6771 for details

**8015 Country**

**FOLSOM Almost** new 4 bedroom trailer, furnished, $2000/ mo. plus deposit, available Oct. 15th, Please Call 985-373-5094

**NORTHSHORE 1500** square feet, fully furnished, 1 hour, 50 minutes from New Orleans, non-smoking, no inside pets. $1600/ month. 504-712-9024

**ROOMMATES**

**8030 Rooms**

**Algiers 2** vacant furnished rooms. Price negotiable. Call 504-975-8342

**Saint Rose** Furnished room, includes all, $125/week, Call for details 504-452-9818

**RENTALS FURNISHED**

**8045 Miscellaneous**

**Above/Below Canal,** Luxury french quarter & Garden District Apts. All newly renov., many amenities, many have pvt balconies & patios, 504-529-7662

**Colorado Backcountry** Realty www.pjdrei.com 719-221-3137

**RENTALS UNFURNISHED**

**8062 Above Canal**

**2bdrm/1ba w/d** near Adbn Pk; 1bdrm avail. short term; 861-7528 or 225-234-7382.

**4935 Constance** St, Half Camelback, newly renovated, 2BR, 1.5BA, wood floors, high ceilings, storage, central AC, off street parking. No pets, no smoking. No flood damage. $1500/month. 504-442-1431

**920 Peniston** - 3 rms, bath & kit, fenced yd; 4512 Pitt - LR & DR, 2 BR, w/d, cent a/h. Both hardwood flrs, 504-899-5481

### Rentals Unfurnished

**8062 Above Canal**

**ABOVE CANAL** High/Dry Apts, 1BR, quiet, above Nap, 1 blck off St.Chrls, no pets. $700-+/mo, 12 mo. lease. 504-458-3554

**Near Magazine** St. Efficiency $425 or 1 bedroom, $525. Furnished kitchen, W/D. No dogs. Lease/dep. 504-831-44541

**UNIV. AREA** #15 Cromwell, 5 bdrm/3 BA, gar., $2200, upper, 4 bdrm/2 BA, $2000. 504-391-8292

**Uptown Condo** 2 bed/2 1/2 baths. Office w/wirelss. Furn. $2000/mo. 504/289-3361

**UPTOWN One** and two BR apartments avail. recent renovations, Please Call 504-722-9606

**UPTOWN-High/Dry, 1108** Felicity, 2 bedroom. 910 Washington, 1 bedroom, pet ok. 504-237-1739

**8063 Warehouse/CBD**

**1205 Charles** Ave. 1 bedroom, 1 year lease, Building has been totally renovated recently, fitness center, secure parking & pool. $1450/month. Mr. Pont 305-773-7739

**8080 Mid City/City Park**

**4512 Eve** St. 3 Bedroom House, not flooded, $1200 mo + $1000 Dep. Call 504-390-7613

**8090 Metairie – Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)**

**421 N** BENGAL RD 3 Br, 1 Ba, never flooded, great shape, cent A/C, $1500/Mo, 504-717-5704

**8100 Metairie – Jefferson/ Below Causeway**

**2 bedroom,** 1 bath House, near Ochsner, $800 per month Call for details @ 504-835-2897

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

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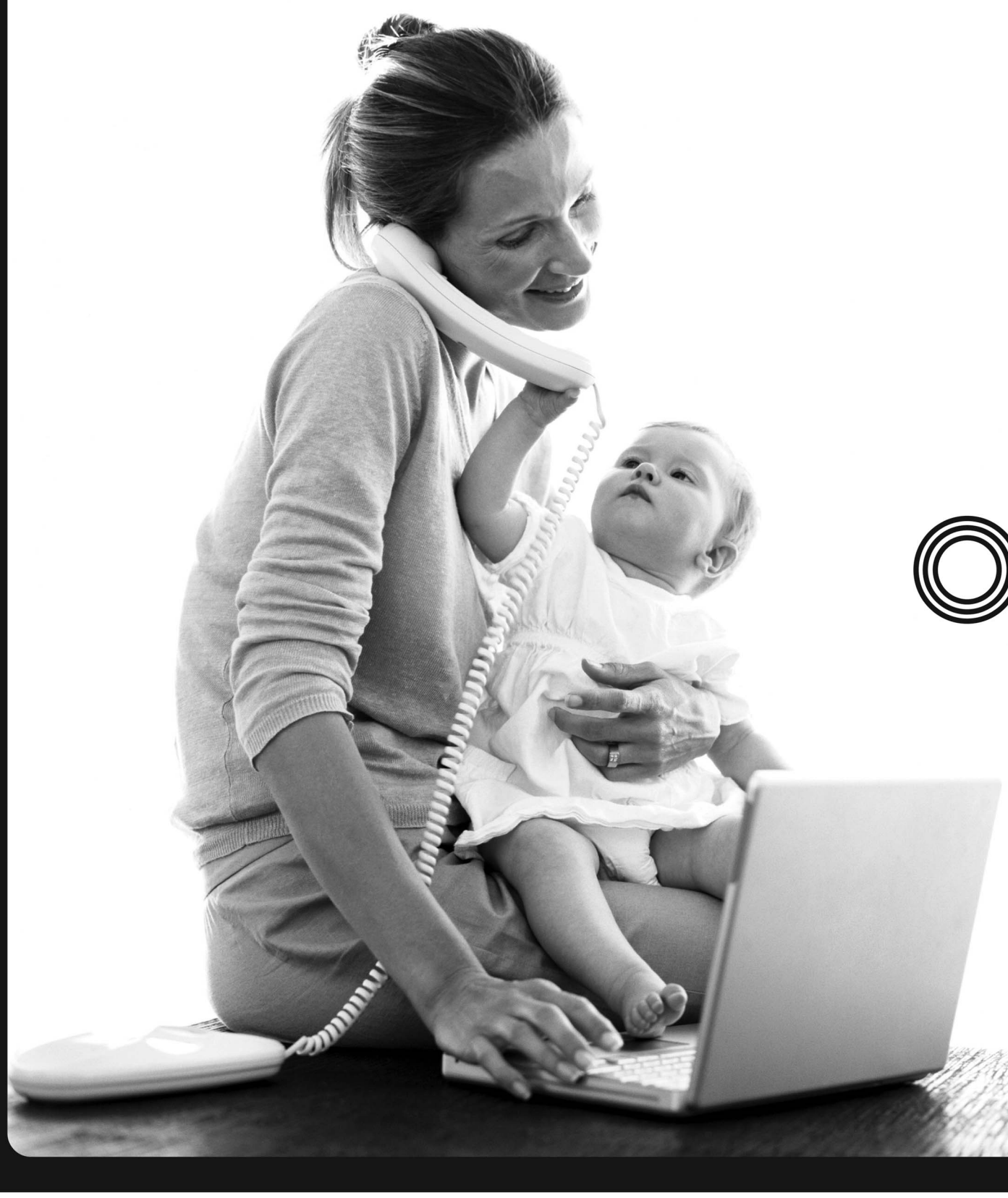
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METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Monday
October 10, 2005



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Searching an ache that doesn't ease

In 1995, Antoinette Rudolph made a pact with God. Her son Jeffrey had just been in a motorcycle accident. The doctors gave him 72 hours to live.

"She prayed that if the Lord would just let her see him open his eyes again, she would care for him, no matter how he came back to her,"recalled Catherine Rudolph, Jeffrey's sister.

God and Antoinette Rudolph kept their respective ends of the bargain.

The accident left Jeffrey with paralysis on one side and substantial brain damage. But he was alive and his mother cared for him as she had promised.

Then in the confusion of Hurricane Katrina, mother and son got separated. "The night of the storm my brother and my dad were at home. My mother was ill. She was in the hospital," Catherine Rudolph said. "The Coast Guard had to get them out of the house.

"They were brought to the Superdome in New Orleans. From there they were brought to the Astrodome, where my dad got sick."

### Into thin air

In Houston, the doctors tended to Joseph, the patriarch of the Rudolph family, in a makeshift examination room in the Astrodome. "When they pulled the curtains, Jeffrey disappeared. They brought my Dad over to the nursing home, and we haven't heard from or seen Jeffrey since."

As a result of his accident, Jeffrey, 29, is not able to communicate even basic information. "He is limited to certain things he knows," his sister said. "He knows his name. He knows his family name. He knows his birthday. He can't tell you his address or his phone number."

Even in the best of times, finding a lost loved one is difficult. But the Rudolphs are facing some extraordinary circumstances. Mrs. Rudolph was airlifted from Charity Hospital to a facility in Fort Worth.

Catherine was relocated to Burleson, Texas. Mr. Rudolph is in a nursing home in Houston.

It takes six hours to drive to Houston from Burleson.

But the police there seem to have more important things to do than search for a missing man. The people running the Astrodome are no longer posting photos and descriptions of the missing.

"Every one of the Houston police that we gave fliers to, they put them back in our hands," Rudolph said. "They said, 'No, we didn't see him,' and gave them back. When we went back to the Astrodome, all the pictures of the missing people are down." The family has called the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army. No one has called them back.

### Keep on going

I met the Rudolphs as they drove around New Orleans a week ago in the vain hope that Jeffrey might have made his way back home.

The family was handing out fliers with Jeffrey's picture and the family's contact information.

"All we are doing is praying and hoping and wishing," Catherine said.

• • • • • •

Anyone with information on Jeffrey Rudolph's whereabouts should call the family at (504) 314-5051 or (504) 314-5192, or e-mail elietp@gmail.com.

# New Orleans police are taped beating man, 64




AP PHOTO

Robert Davis, center, gets punched and pulled Saturday night on Conti Street near Bourbon Street. Davis was booked on charges of public intoxication, resisting arrest, battery on a police officer and public intimidation. Three of the five officers involved are New Orleans officers, and two others appeared to be federal officers.

## AP producer also punched on film

**From staff and wire reports**

Two New Orleans police officers repeatedly punched a 64-year-old man accused of public intoxication, and another city officer assaulted an Associated Press Television News producer as a cameraman taped the confrontations.

At a news conference Sunday night, Capt. Marlon DeFillo said three officers have been suspended without pay and and charged with simple battery of Davis, of the 3100 block of Metropolitan Avenue.

He said there was an additional charge of battery on the AP producer, Rich Matthews.

"We have great concern with what we saw this morning," Defillo said after he and about a dozen other high-ranking police department officials watched the APTN footage Sunday. "It's a troubling tape, no doubt about it."

The suspended officers are all from the 8th district: Robert EVangelist, a three-year veteran; Lance Schilling, an eight-year veteran and Stewart Smith, who is a three-year veteran.

The APTN tape shows an officer hitting the man at least four times in the head Saturday night as he stood outside a bar near Bourbon Street. The suspect, Robert Davis, appeared to resist, twisting and flailing as he was dragged to the ground by four officers. One of the four then kneed Davis and punched him twice. Davis was face-down on the sidewalk with blood streaming

See TAPE, B-2

# Students help teacher repair battered home

## 'I pretty much put myself in his shoes'

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Usually John Ellis, a 19-year veteran earth science teacher at East St. John High School in Reserve, captivates students with dazzling helium explosions and witty banter. But recently the tables turned and eight of Ellis' students took the role of educator and gave him a lesson in giving.

When the students heard that Ellis' Metairie home had suffered 2 feet of water damage, they grabbed gloves and boots and sprang into action to help repair it.

"I pretty much put myself in his shoes," said senior Ricky Dixon, who immediately volunteered to help clean Ellis' home. "The same thing could have happened to me."

The students spent several hours over two weekends removing waterlogged carpet and drywall from Ellis' home so that a contractor could begin work.

"It was uninhabitable," Ellis explained. "I needed to clean it out so that the contractor could

See REPAIRS, B-2

# SAD TO SAY GOODBYE

## But chef's jazz funeral a symbol of hope after heartache

**By Brett Anderson**
Staff writer

New Orleans said farewell to one of its favorite sons in a way only New Orleans can.

And the goodbye, to many, symbolized a way to welcome back the unique city's soul and character that they believe will fuel its rebuilding in the wake of disaster and call its displaced denizens home.

The first second-line in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina began on Sunday with a prayer. The message that followed was a sign of the times.

"For the press, just to be clear," shouted Todd Higgins, one of several Black Men of Labor members who donned gold printed shirts to lead the second-line and, as it happened, serve as cultural translators for the media members who appeared to outnumber regular participants.

"This is a funeral procession," Higgins continued, "and there is a clear distinction between a funeral procession and a parade."

With that, the notebook and camera-toting reporters fell back en masse, and the Hot 8 Brass Band blew the first mournful notes of "Just A Closer Walk with Thee" in honor of chef Austin Leslie. The celebrated face of Creole soul food died of a heart attack last week in Atlanta following an arduous evacuation from his flooded Gentilly home.

See LESLIE, B-2



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

The jazz funeral honoring chef Austin Leslie makes its way through the streets around North Claiborne Avenue and Broad Street.

# Eviction business hopping in Jeff

## Many tenants, landlords at odds after the storm

**By Matt Scallan**
East Jefferson bureau

Lolita Bellott has tenant trouble in a duplex she owns in Kenner.

"One of my tenants isn't paying the rent. Now she tells me that I should get the money from FEMA," she said. "Why should I go to FEMA? She's the one who's living there."

Bellott is one of hundreds of landlords who have been besieging justices of the peace in Jefferson Parish, who adjudicate most eviction cases, after Hurricane Katrina.

"My phone never stops ringing. My answering machine is full," said Justice of the Peace Steve Mortillaro, whose office on Conlin Street was badly damaged by the storm.

Katrina created a catastrophic domino effect in the housing market that has resulted in a severe shortage of rental properties. Tens of thousands of

See EVICT, B-4

# Buggies return to Quarter

## Drivers find business slow, but gratifying

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

Telltale signs of Hurricane Katrina's recent visit were hard to miss in the Vieux Carre early Saturday afternoon. National Guard soldiers gathered near the Mint and workers on ladders tacked tarp sheets to a few roofs. The always-open Café du Monde was shuttered. Damaged awnings hung over sidewalks at crazy angles.

But the Quarter continued to recover. The rotting-garbage stench had faded and people tapped on laptop computers outside an espresso bar along Decatur Street. Doors of art shops were open wide, a young girl performed on her violin and, at

See BUGGIES, B-2

# Producer ordered to stop taping

**TAPE,** *from B-1*

down his arm and into the gutter.

Meanwhile, a fifth officer ordered APTN producer Rich Matthews and the cameraman to stop recording. When Matthews held up his credentials and explained he was working, the officer grabbed the producer, leaned him backward over a car, jabbed him in the stomach and unleashed a profanity-laced tirade.

"I've been here for six weeks trying to keep ... alive ... Go home!" shouted the officer, who later identified himself as S.M. Smith.

DeFillo said "the videotape was the key in determining our course of action ... when you have video it takes away that question mark."

The decision to suspend the officers was made by acting superintendent Warren Riley who is en route from Houston to attend to personal business and in consultation with public integrity chief Ronnie Swain and acting chief of operations, Steve Niholas.

On the battery of the producer, DeFillo said, "Maybe he was under stress. Maybe he reached the point were he was at a breaking point. It's not normal for a police officer to react that way with a member of the news media."Ninety-nine percent of officers are going about their jobs as they ought to. There's no excuse for officers not to maintain his standards ... We recognize the public's demand for accountability."

"We came to the consensus that the actions of the officers did not conform to our training and to our rules and regulations."

The assaults come as the department, long plagued by allegations of brutality and corruption, struggles with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the resignation last month of Police Superintendent Eddie Compass.

He could not answer why the officers were doing this.

"They tried to apprehend the suspect with verbal commands, then pepper spray, neither of which worked. And they resulted to force."

Other officers at scene corroborated need for use of force, said, calling the specific force head-punching.

Police said Davis, 64, of New Orleans, was booked on public intoxication, resisting arrest, battery on a police officer and public intimidation. He was treated at a hospital and released into police custody.

"The incidents taped by our cameraman are extremely troubling," said Mike Silverman, AP's managing editor. "We are heartened that the police department is taking them seriously and promising a thorough investigation."

Davis, who is black, was subdued at the intersection of Conti and Bourbon streets. Three of the officers appeared to be white, and the other is light-skinned. The officer who hit Matthews is white. Defillo said race was not an issue.

Three of the five officers, including Smith, are New Orleans officers, and two others appeared to be federal officers. Numerous agencies have sent police to help with patrols in the aftermath of Katrina.

Under normal circumstances, it takes unusually offensive behavior to trigger an arrest on Bourbon Street. But New Orleans police have been working under stressful conditions since the hurricane.

Officers slept in their cars and worked 24-hour shifts after the storm. Three-quarters lost their homes and their families are scattered across the country.

"Our police officers are working under some very trying times," Defillo said. "So it's a difficult time, but it doesn't excuse what our jobs are supposed to be."

# Chef built career on fried chicken, peppers

**LESLIE,** *from B-1*

The second-line commenced at 2:30 p.m. from Pampy's Creole Kitchen on North Broad Street, the 7th Ward restaurant where Leslie most recently churned out his famous fried chicken, stuffed bell peppers and oysters Rockefeller before Katrina closed it.

"What's this?" asked owner Stan "Pampy" Barre. He was staring down at what appeared to be a memorial: three thin tree branches entwined over a corroded liquor flask in front of the flood-ravaged restaurant's front door.

"Whatever it is, it's got to be for Austin."

Including media, the second-line was still small, numbering roughly 50 people, but the noise was more than enough to capture the attention of the few residents who met the ensemble when it made its turn at North Dorgenois Street.

A construction crew stood atop a forklift at the corner of Aubry Street as marchers danced to "I'll Fly Away" amid scum-dusted cars and downed trees.

"This is New Orleans, baby," Gralen B. Banks announced into the cameras. "You're looking at it."

Felix Rainey, Leslie's stepson, was standing nearby, clutching the program from Leslie's funeral, which was held on Friday in Atlanta.

"Everybody from New Orleans in Atlanta was dancing in the street," he said of the Atlanta service, where a similar jazz funeral was held. "My mama's going to bring Austin's ashes into New Orleans from Atlanta when it's time. Then we'll have a big second-line. This is only an appetizer."



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Fred Johnson holds up a photo of chef Austin Leslie as the Black Men of Labor and Hot 8 band second-line through the streets of New Orleans.

Its members scattered throughout the country by the hurricane, The Hot 8 made do with seven musicians on Sunday. "We got one trumpet player who couldn't make it, and another one on the road with another band," said trombone player Jerreau Fornett.

"This makes you forget the city is shut down," said snare drummer Dinerral Shavers. "If you don't pay attention to the houses, you'd never know."

The Hot 8 was playing "Hey Pocky Way" as the procession made the turn on Laharpe Street, past a tilted sycamore tree, the words "1 Dead" spray-painted on its trunk.

"I don't believe it, but I'm seeing it," Daniel Jackson said into his cell phone.

He was sitting in a trailer in front of his sister's battered house in the 2400 block of Laharpe.

"You know what this makes me feel?" Jackson said after hanging up. "Like this is going to be something."

The procession paused again on North Robertson Street, at the former site of Chez Helene. A slab of concrete is all that remains of the restaurant where Leslie first gained national recognition in the 1970s and '80s.




A memorial to chef Austin Leslie pops up at Laharpe and North Robertson streets.

The chef's popularity, as well as the restaurant's, was such that both served as the inspiration for "Frank's Place," a network television show that ran for one season in 1987.

"I was on the vice squad when we used to come here," Barre said. He was standing in front of the barren lot, clutching a photo of Leslie wearing his signature captain's hat. "We used to order Number 9s: fried chicken, stuffed peppers, and potato salad. I grew up on Number 9s."

Barre predicted that the second-line's impact would dwarf its size.

"CBS is going to put this on the evening news," he said. "I hope all those displaced New Orleanians see this, get goose bumps and come home."

• • • • • •

Keith Spera contributed to this report.

# Postcard symbol of French Quarter is back

**BUGGIES,** *from B-1*

Jackson Square's edge, an artist tried to interest a couple of state troopers — one from Louisiana, another from New York — in his oil-on-canvas pieces.

Then, a few yards away, came a familiar refrain: A buggy driver cajoling passers-by, offering a ride and breezy history lesson.

"Hey guys, want to go?"

"No, we're just walking."

"Have a great day!"

Business is a long far from good, but the mule buggies are on the streets. Their return prompted Quarter veterans to step onto second-floor balconies or out of their shops and applaud. A postcard symbol is back.

"It perks up your spirits to see the mules out there," said Dennis Gemelli, 56, one of a handful of drivers for Royal Carriages who returned to his buggy seat at midday Friday. "It's obviously been slow ... but it's gratifying. It's mainly relief workers, getting a historical perspective on the city they're helping to rebuild."



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Melvin 'Prime Time' Landor accentuates the French Quarter's positives for his passengers as he and his mule, Lizzie, wheel past refrigerators discarded after Hurricane Katrina. Up front beside Landor on Saturday was Tonya Smith, a relief worker from Savannah, Ga., who was to leave New Orleans on Sunday.

Royal Carriages is just one of four carriage operations holding city permits for hauling visitors around the Quarter, but it is the oldest and largest, and was the first to return after Katrina to the staging point next to the Jackson Square gardens.

During the treacherous days immediately after the hurricane, four Royal Carriages workers kept 37 mules fed and watered at the company's stable in the Faubourg Marigny, as flood waters lapped at the door and soldiers demanded that the workers evacuate. The animals ultimately were moved to a Covington farm where the company in normal times sends its mules to recuperate from their street labors, said company owner James Lauga Jr., grandson of the man who launched Royal Carriages in 1941.

Now the company is trying to regain its high-profile place in the tourism district, fielding just 10 to 15 of its usual contingent of 36 drivers, offering discounts and operating during reduced hours on weekends.

In its first day back in business, Royal Carriages had pulled in roughly 50 customers, far less than the several hundred it typically would draw on a breezy, sunny October day. The business will lose money for a while, Lauga said Saturday as he waited beside the buggy staging area.

"We came out yesterday for the first day, tried to put some commonplace items back in the Quarter," he said. "We're taking anything we can get at this point, just to be visible."

Many drivers are dispersed so far they can't get to work, Lauga said. Those on hand can blend their own storm tales with snippets of New Orleans history. Lucila Madden, 40, took part on a flatboat rescue operation near the Lakefront, one that collected dozens of people, including 14 nuns. The eastern New Orleans home of Melvin "Prime Time" Landor, 57, a buggy driver for more than three decades, was lost to the flood. Lauga got more than four feet of storm-surge water in his Slidell home.

"We're all kind of displaced at this point, but this does a lot of good for us, I tell you what, just being out here," Lauga said as Landor sized up a rare passing family, offering to take their baby along for free.

A woman in the group vetoed the idea; they strolled toward the artist.

But within moments Landor had coaxed one visitor into a buggy seat, then another. He didn't wait for a full load, guiding the mule gently into a Decatur Street unhurried by car traffic, talking all the while: "To our left is the Moonwalk, it was built in 1976 and it was named after our former mayor, Moon Landrieu ..."

# 'These are the future leaders of the world. I'm so proud of them'

**REPAIRS,** *from B-1*

come in. When the students heard that I was going to get a crew to do the cleanup, they volunteered."

For two Sundays the group ripped out rugs, drywall and other ruined items. The crew met in LaPlace and by 8 a.m. the group was in full gear. They barely stopped for sandwiches and chips at noon.

"Instead of just stopping for lunch the kids swooped in and grabbed a handful," Ellis said. "These guys all worked like Trojans."

The group broke up the hard labor with the occasional practical joke.

"They were clowning," said senior Taja Cooks. "Warren Prout (another student) kept throwing Sheetrock on our side."

Ellis, 56, worked with the crew until his foot began to swell.

"Diabetes is a bear," he said.

Richard Mackenzie, a sophomore, said he volunteered because he was aware of Ellis' condition.

"He's disabled," MacKenzie said. "I knew he couldn't do it all by himself."

Originally junior Kwovadus Ford's family warned him against working on the house because of the threat of infected water. However, Ford said, he received a tetanus shot and forged ahead. Before the students stepped in, hopes of moving back into the Metairie house anytime soon were pretty bleak for Ellis, his wife, Judy, and their dog, a red, white and black Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Maggie, he said.

The three are living with a co-worker because of a lack of housing in St. John the Baptist Parish, which has been flooded with thousands of displaced residents.

The Ellises have spent endless hours searching for a FEMA trailer, with no success. But the student's work considerably sped up the repair process, he said. Ellis recently said that his house would be ready by Christmas, if not Thanksgiving.

"It was mind-boggling," Ellis said. "I just adore these kids. They are just so special. These are the future leaders of the world. I'm so proud of them."

And while the students were willing to work for free, Ellis insisted on paying each worker $20 an hour with his FEMA relief money.

"They worked every penny of it," Ellis said. "They told me they would have done it for free. You could feel the love in the room."

By the end of one workday, everyone was covered in all types of debris and soaked with water.

"It was a mess," Dixon said. "It was fun though."

His co-laborers echoed Dixon's sentiments.

"I felt good," said sophomore Warren Prout. "I knew I did something good and helped out."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

John Elllis watches Kwovadus Ford help rejuvenate his home. 'When the students heard that I was going to get a crew to do the cleanup, they volunteered,' Ellis said. He paid them anyway.

Ellis was overcome with emotion.

"You could tell they had done a good day's work," said Ellis, who still tears up when he talks about his students. "I almost started crying. They kept saying, 'Mr. Ellis, it's going to be OK.' That was so cool."

# Historic Miss. coast buildings are in ruins

## *Walter Anderson's enclave now rubble*

**By Holbrook Mohr**
Associated Press writer

BILOXI, MISS. — The beachfront cottage where Jefferson Davis wrote his memoirs stood for a century and a half in the shade of towering oak trees, but Hurricane Katrina reduced it to rubble in just a few hours.

Like nearly all historical homes on Mississippi's Gulf Coast, the cottages at Beauvoir were swept away by Katrina's winds and storm surge.

"It's a horrifying site," said Todd Sanders, a coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. "It's hard for me to put into words."

The main house at Beauvoir, built in 1852, survived the storm better than most buildings. A blue tarp covered a hole in the roof, and the house itself has been gutted, but Sanders believes it can be saved.

Other famous homes on the coast, with their large columns and wraparound porches, are simply no longer there.

"Businessmen from New Orleans and upcountry planters always built the finest homes," Sanders said. "They built these estates along the water, (and) now they're gone. Beauvoir, the Longfellow House and a couple of others are the only antebellum houses that remain on the coast."

The Longfellow House was built in 1850 and remains largely intact on Beach Boulevard in Pascagoula. The home, which took its name from a local legend that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once stayed there, now towers over the bare foundations where neighboring homes once stood.

**"Businessmen from New Orleans and upcountry planters always built the finest homes. They built these estates along the water, (and) now they're gone. Beauvoir, the Longfellow House and a couple of others are the only antebellum houses that remain on the coast."**
TODD SANDERS
Coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Homes such as Beauvoir and the Longfellow House can be saved if the restoration process is swift enough to stabilize the structures before they are further deteriorated by the elements, Mississippi Heritage Trust director David Preziosi said.

But it will be up to local leaders and property owners whether the homes that were destroyed are rebuilt.

"We've lost a great deal of our cultural history," Preziosi said. "Even if you rebuild one, you lose an actual piece of history."

A dozen miles west of Biloxi, down a tree-lined gravel road in Ocean Springs, the family of late artist Walter Anderson sifted through what's left of two homes built in the 1830s. The artist's son, John Anderson, wiped his brow and said, "There's nothing left."

At least 16 buildings were destroyed at the Shearwater artist community made famous by his father's nature works, including Shearwater Pottery's showroom and a vault that housed most of the painter's work.

"You expect to see something, boards or something. But there's nothing there," he said in a soft voice.

Blue tarps covered what was left of the Sullivan House, designed by renowned architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Only two of the original four structures remained after the storm, but the wood shell of those _ painted nearly the same hazy blue as the nearby Gulf _ has been heavily damaged.

An uprooted tree and scattered debris is all that's left on the site of the Dantzler House, which once faced the Gulf of Mexico with wide porches and tall white columns. It was home to a Mardi Gras museum.

"It sort of erases a part of the past," Preziosi said. "You no longer have that visual history."

The Brielmaier House, built in 1895 and home to the Biloxi Visitor's Center, was known for its Victorian woodwork and arched lattices before Hurricane Katrina leveled it.

And the Pleasant Reed House, built by a freed slave around 1887, once gave a glimpse into the lives of a black family in early 20th-century Biloxi. Now, nothing remains but the chimney.

"A lot of the collections in the house were moved before the storm, but the actual house is gone," Preziosi said. "Even if you rebuild one just like it, it's not his house. It's not the one he built."

Preziosi said the Pleasant Reed House would likely be rebuilt, but it's hard to know if any other homes would be resurrected. In the meantime, preservationists are wondering how Katrina will change the way the past is viewed.

"It's making us look at the way we can preserve the history of the coast," Sanders said. "We've lost major character-defining buildings. These were buildings that defined the community."

# Bayou fishers floundering in cycle of idleness in Ala.

## *Boats sit around; plants unable to process catch*

**By Bob Johnson**
Associated Press writer

BAYOU LA BATRE, ALA. — Connie Johnson, captain of the shrimp boat "Empty Pockets," stood on the dock with his crew, wishing there was a way to get back out to sea.

He said the boat's name seems appropriate now that they've been wiped out by Hurricane Katrina.

"We're shrimpers, and we can't do anything. We're just sitting here broke and we can't make a dollar," Johnson said.

Johnson's plight is repeated all across the once-thriving seafood industry on the Alabama coast, where fishers are frustrated by a double-whammy: Most of them are grounded, and flooded-out processing plants are closed.

Fishers can't get into the ocean to catch fish, shrimp and other sea delicacies because they have no money to buy fuel and because fishing will be mostly impossible until the water is cleared of debris from the storm.

If the boats do start catching fish and shrimp, there's no place to take the catch because all of Bayou La Batre's more than 50 seafood processing plants were shut down by Katrina. The plants are struggling to find needed equipment to get open, but owners say there will be no reason to open if there's no seafood to process.

It's left most people in the industry that's the town's lifeblood wondering how to break the cycle and start fishing again.

"We've got young'uns to feed. We had two feet of water in our houses. So how can we make the money to fix our houses if there's nothing to do?" said Stephanie Ladner, wife of commercial fisherman Keith Ladner. "People want to fish so they can eat."

She said she has been cleaning beach rental houses to make money while her husband's boat has been grounded.

Bayou La Batre Mayor Stan Wright told former President Clinton last week that the town's seafood industry was already hurting before Katrina, mostly because of competition from foreign imports and low prices.

"But Katrina just put the icing on the cake," Wright told the former president, who was on the Alabama coast looking for ways to distribute $100 million in privately raised hurricane relief.

The seafood plants, most on the edge of the bayou that meanders through town, were buried under a sea of water and mud by Katrina.

"We lost everything — the boilers, the ice machines, all of the refrigeration. This is the worst we've ever had it," said 77-year-old Corrine Cain, who along with husband, Norwood Cain, 75, is co-owner of Waterfront Seafood. She said the roof of the two-story building was all that was showing at the worst of the flooding caused by Katrina.

But the Cains, who are living in a trailer outside their flooded home, are not giving up and are determined they will soon be unloading shrimp again at the seafood plant they founded in 1965.

"I knew we weren't going anywhere when I first saw what happened and the mud was everywhere and the furniture was all turned upside down. We're here to stay. In a month, we'll be going full blast," Norwood Cain said.

Down the bayou, at Sea Pearl Seafood Co., manager Leon Ladnier said he hopes to have the plant, which has 70 employees, back up and running by the end of this week. But he said one problem is finding the parts needed to operate a seafood plant, since all the town's plants are trying to replace the same equipment. He also said reopening the plant depends on the shrimpers and fishermen being able to get back to work.

"Fuel is so high and right now if they go out and get a catch, there's nowhere to unload it," Ladnier said.

Fishers and shrimpers say the debris must be cleaned up before they can use their nets to get a good catch.

"You can't get shrimp with so much garbage out there. You'd tear your nets up," Johnson said.

Some boats have been hired to go out and clean up debris dumped out to sea by Katrina, but Johnson is upset that his crew has not gotten a fair share of that work.

Johnson took Empty Pockets upstream and tied it up to escape Katrina's fury. Other boats were not so lucky. Dozens of shrimp boats and other vessels still sit on dry land in the woods on one side of the bayou, where they were blown in floodwaters during the storm.

But Eric Poole, who describes himself as one of the last commercial gill fishermen on the coast, has his small boat ready to go, if only there was a seafood business to serve.

"There's nowhere to go. There's no one to fish for. All of the fish houses got blown away. The price of gas has gone up. The price of equipment has gone up," said Poole, who was staying near his boat in case there were fish to be caught or if he was needed for debris clearing.

Poole said despite the storm, high fuel prices and other problems, he will keep on fishing.

"This is more or less a traditional thing for us," he said, pointing to a handful of fishermen standing near their boats. "We've all done this all of our lives. It's what we've always done. It's an honorable tradition. It's in the Bible."

# Tropical Storm Vince forms in far eastern Atlantic Ocean

## *Season is second busiest on record*

**By John Pain**
Associated Press Writer

**This season has been one of the deadliest and costliest in the U.S. in the last century. Hurricane Katrina killed more than 1,100 people on the Gulf Coast and is expected to cause more than $34 billion in insured losses.**

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Vince formed Sunday in the far eastern Atlantic, making this hurricane season the second busiest on record, forecasters said.

The 20th named storm of the season formed between the Azores and the Canary Islands in waters that are cooler than what is typically needed for a tropical storm, said Chris Sisko, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

But the storm, which had top sustained winds of about 50 mph, posed no threat to land. That's because it wasn't expected to survive for long due to the cooler waters and other weather systems in the area, Sisko said. Water temperatures are about 73 to 75 degrees, below the 80 degrees usually needed for a tropical storm.

Forecasters said this appears to be the farthest east and north that a tropical storm has formed in recorded history in the Atlantic.

"Vince is a very odd one," Sisko said.

Only one other Atlantic season had more tropical storms and hurricanes since record keeping began in 1851 — there were 21 in 1933.

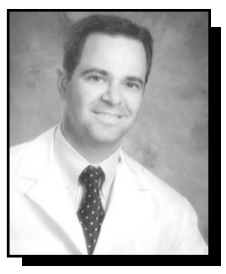
The hurricane season began June 1 and ends Nov. 30. After Vince, only one name is left for storms this season — Wilma. After that, storms are named after letters in the Greek alphabet. That has never happened before in more than 50 years of regularly naming storms.

This season has been one of the deadliest and costliest in the U.S. in the last century. Hurricane Katrina killed more than 1,100 people on the Gulf Coast and is expected to cause more than $34 billion in insured losses.

At 10 a.m. CDT, Vince's center was located about 515 miles east-southeast of the Azores and about 140 miles northwest of the Madeira Islands. It was moving northeast at about 5 mph.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE DECLARING EXTREME PUBLIC EMERGENCY UNDER LA. REV. STAT. 38:2212(D)**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Bid Law, La. Rev. Stat. 38:2211, et seq., mandates that all public work contracts exceeding $100,000 must be advertised and let by contract in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Louisiana Public Bid Law;
WHEREAS, the Public Bid Law provides that in the event of an extreme public emergency that has been certified by a public entity and notice of such public emergency has been published in the official journal of the public entity that the advertising and bidding requirements of the Public Bid Law shall not apply;
WHEREAS, the impact of Hurricane Katrina resulted in catastrophic damage to the New Orleans Lakefront Airport and other property and facilities owned and operated by the Orleans Levee District;
WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina caused an extreme public emergency for the Orleans Levee District, as defined in Section 2211 of the Louisiana Public Bid Law, La. Rev. Stat. 38:2211;
WHEREAS, at an Emergency Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District held on September 22, 2005, the Board unanimously adopted a Resolution certifying that an extreme public emergency exists as a result of the damage caused to the property and facilities of the Orleans Levee District caused by of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and the resulting flooding of the City of New Orleans, and authorized the issuance of notice declaring such extreme public emergency to be published in the official journal of the Orleans Levee District in accordance with the provisions of La. Rev. Stat. 38:2212(D).
ACCORDINGLY, notice is hereby given of the adoption of said Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District certifying that a public emergency exists for all purposes provided under the Louisiana Public Bid Law, including the provisions of La. Rev. Stat. 38:2212(D).

September 26, 2005
Max L. Hearn, Secretary
Board of Commissioners of
The Orleans Levee District

ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT — STATE OF LOUISIANA — UNION JUSTICE CONFIDENCE

October 6, 2005

**General Notice of Furlough Measures**

To: Employees who have not contacted the **Board of Commissioners Orleans Levee District** since Hurricane Katrina

From: Max L. Hearn, Board of Commissioners Orleans Levee District

Subject: **Furlough measures for employees who have not contacted the Board of Commissioners Orleans Levee Board since Hurricane Katrina**

In accordance with the requirements of Civil Service 17.4(a), notice is hereby given of an impending furlough (a layoff avoidance measure consisting of a period of up to six weeks of leave without pay) to be implemented by our department for those employees who have not contacted our agency since Hurricane Katrina. It seems reasonable to assume that such employees may never report back to work. A written plan to effect this furlough will be submitted to the Department of State Civil Service for its approval.

Our agency is proposing to affect this furlough beginning October 18, 2005 until close of business on November 29, 2005.

Once the furlough plan has been approved by the Department of State Civil Service, it will be made generally available to employees through the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District website (www.orleanslevee.com), USA Today, Times Picayune and posted at 10761 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to the Human Resources Staff at (225) 763-2062, (225) 763-2061 or the Executive Director at (225) 763-2051, fax number (225) 763-2080 at our agency.

We sincerely regret the need for this action.

Parish of East Baton Rouge
State of Louisiana

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, personally came and appeared:

**MAX L. HEARN**

A person of the full age of majority, who declared, that he is a resident of and domicile in the parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, and that he is the Executive Director and the Appointing Authority of the Orleans Levee District; and, that he does hereby delegate to both of the following named persons the authority to accept resignations of employment from classified civil service employees of the Orleans Levee District:

**Cynthia C. Taylor**
**Human Resources Director**

**and**

**Dionne H. Brown**
**Human Resources Manager**

The delegation of authority is effective this date and shall remain in effect until expressly revoked.

Thus done and passed in duplicate originals before me, and the undersigned witnesses, on this 30th day of September 2005 in the City of Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

Witnesses:

Alvin Alford

Max L. Hearn

Albert Pappalardo

Gerard G. Metzger
Notary Public
L.A. Bar #9468

**LEGAL NOTICE**
LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

**RE: Local Union 689, New Orleans, Louisiana**
**Notice of Emergency Trusteeship Hearing**

Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on **October 17, 2005** at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)** to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.
Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.
The hearing will be conducted via telephone at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)**. Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free **1-800-423-1988** and provide the operator with the following code **(788833)**. Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: **Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**.

# Dallas firm donates outfits by truckloads for teachers



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services for the St. John the Baptist Parish public school district, helped set up a clothing donation site at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School in LaPlace. LaBorde's daughter's architecture firm in Dallas has sent truckloads of work clothes to the site.

*Donated clothes a perfect fit for displaced workers*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Dressed in a multicolored purple, gold and brown blouse and a three-quarter-length brown skirt, East St. John High School teacher Karen Gipson was styling one recent day.

At first glance you wouldn't know that Gipson, a newly minted St. John the Baptist Parish English and language arts teacher, lost virtually everything as a result of Hurricane Katrina. And up until two weeks ago, the former Orleans Parish public school teacher's job status was bleak at best.

Gipson's New Orleans home took on five feet of water, and her clothes and most of her other belongings were lost forever. So, when Gipson, a former teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, was hired at East St. John, she was in serious need of work clothes.

**"It's so nice that we could get these clothes. I like to look nice. You have to look nice for these students so they have something to look up to."**

KAREN GIPSON
East St. John High School teacher

"We lost everything," Gipson said. "We are virtually homeless."

But thanks to the kindness of strangers several hundred miles away in a Dallas architecture firm, Gipson didn't have to worry long about being able to afford suitable work clothes.

A donated-clothing distribution site, at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School in LaPlace, is the brainchild of Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services for the district, who worked out a plan to assist displaced teachers such as Gipson. LaBorde's daughter Yvette Hightower, who works for the architecture firm of Mark Humphries and Partners, asked how her company could assist with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort; the firm agreed to donate clothes.

Soon, shipments of boxes and truckloads of clothes began to arrive.

"They are nice clothes," said LaBorde, whose parents once worked in the retail industry. "I've got Dillard's, Macy's and Nautica-brand clothing. They are architects. …They wear nice clothes."

LaBorde said that the clothes keep coming in.

"I just got five boxes today," LaBorde said one day last week.

Brenda Sermersky, vice president of the PTO at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary, said there are plans to move the clothes into a bigger room because of the increase in donated items. But she said there was still a need for more.

"We're helping everybody," she said.

LaBorde said the district has hired more than 30 displaced people since Katrina. Many of these employees have come to the district with the clothes on their backs and whatever they were able to grab in a hurry, she said.

Gipson went to the distribution site last week and retrieved two bags of clothes for herself and her 80-year-old mother, Yvonne Charles, who also evacuated.

Gipson said she still has to pay bills despite the fact that she was not receiving a check from Orleans Parish while school is not in session. She said she has no extra money for new clothes.

"It's so nice that we could get these clothes," she said. "I like to look nice. You have to look nice for these students so they have something to look up to."

Gipson said she is extremely grateful to the architecture firm's employees.

"It's really a blessing," she said. "They didn't have to do it. That took a big load off of me."

# With fungus among us, cleaning up is tricky

*Big Easy residents wrestle with mold*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

At eye level, the dining room of David Olivier's Uptown duplex is pristine.

Ornate, antique teacups perch on a wooden shelf encircling the room. But just a few feet below the shelf, the blue walls are tattooed with mold.

Although Olivier's two-story house is elevated, floodwaters rose to about 8 feet at 2730 Gen. Pershing St., so his Arts and Crafts home steeped in 3 feet of water until it receded. The result is rampant fungus.

Mold infiltrated his home's heating ducts, attacked its plaster and drywall, and savaged heirlooms that have been in his family for 150 years.

"It's absolutely, 100 percent overwhelming," said Olivier, a software developer. His tenant had warned him about the damage, but he didn't grasp the extent of his mold infestation until he saw it himself.

"It's an incremental awareness of the scope of the problem," he said. "It gets bigger and bigger."

Many residents in and around New Orleans have a similar problem. Assessing and dealing with mold infestations can be a complicated, intimidating and potentially hazardous process.

Olivier enlisted the help of a professional, certified industrial hygienist, Bill Sothern, who visited several neighborhoods this week to offer free advice and to film various types of mold damage to produce a "how-to" DVD.

Sothern, who wrote mold remediation guidelines for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, brought workers from an east Harlem Catholic charity, Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service.

One of the charity's environmental workers, Ray Lopez, stripped plaster from Olivier's living room, exposing the lathe beneath, as a cameraman filmed and as Sothern explained the best way to handle his infestation.

"It was very helpful," Olivier said later. "I feel like I'm taking the precautions."

Sothern is offering a two-hour training session and discussion on do-it-yourself mold assessment and remediation Saturday at 10 a.m. at Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries, 4400 St. Charles Ave. at Napoleon Avenue.

He will discuss health issues, what protective equipment and tools to use and how to safely remove mold. He will advise residents about when it's safe to reoccupy a home as well as how to rebuild and deal with contractors.

"This is really a public service," said Sothern, who will use information from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals as a reference. Some of that information is available for download at www.dhh.louisiana.gov.

Sothern said mold remediation work should be performed by professionals when the infestation covers a large area, such as more than 100 square feet.

He recommended that residents who plan to do their own remediation buy a HEPA-filtered, half-face respirator mask. A typical model is available at hardware stores for about $30.

Sothern said Sheetrock, or any paper-faced gypsum wallboard, should not be used in rebuilding your home because the mold that grows on it is potentially dangerous.

"It's just a recipe for the next mold disaster," he said. Other, slightly more expensive building materials - such as wallboards with fiberglass matte - will deter mold better, Sothern said.

When shopping for remediation contractors, he said, find one that meets Louisiana's licensing requirements. "There should be a written scope of work," he said, in which the contractor describes what will be done on a room-to-room, step-by-step basis.

It's also important the contractor establish a plan to protect the premises, the occupants and the workers, Sothern said. "Have the job inspected by the third party," he said; the inspector should not be the same person who did the work.

Sothern's company, Microecologies, has been working with the Little Sisters of the Assumption charity on community service for about 10 years, he said.

Together, they produced a DVD, "Learning About Mold," featuring homes in East Harlem.

Using footage gleaned from several local houses, including one-story, concrete slab homes in eastern New Orleans, they plan to produce a similar film for local residents.

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Bruce Hamilton can be reached at radiomars@yahoo.com.

# Pay your rent, tenants are advised

**EVICT,** *from B-1*

houses and apartments in the New Orleans area were damaged or destroyed in the storm, making livable rental property a scarce commodity as workers involved in the recovery and people whose homes were damaged search for shelter. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of residents have been thrown out of work, leaving many without the means to pay rent.

However, evictions in Louisiana are on hold until Oct. 25 by order of Gov. Kathleen Blanco. The order has spurred criticism from some landlords who contend they cannot get access to the property. Tenants have also complained that some landlords have evicted them in an effort to get more money for their rental units.

Mortillaro, who represents most of Metairie, and Kevin Centanni, a justice of the peace who represents parts of Kenner, River Ridge and western Metairie, have advice for both landlords and tenants.

For the landlords: Secure your property from further damage, and try to contact your tenants.

For tenants: Pay your rent.

**"There's a rumor out there that people don't have to pay rent because of the storm, but if the property is inhabitable, they owe the money."**

KEVIN CENTANNI,
justice of the peace

Once landlords are free to move forward with evictions, tenants who haven't paid the rent they owe could find their belongings out on the street less than a week later.

"There's a rumor out there that people don't have to pay rent because of the storm, but if the property is inhabitable, they owe the money," Centanni said.

Meanwhile, some owners of heavily damaged apartments say they're having difficulty persuading residents to leave.

Walter Morton, whose Quail Run apartment complex in Kenner suffered severe damage during Katrina, said several tenants remain in the 60-unit complex despite the damage. Morton said he's offered the tenants their deposits back if they leave so he can begin repairing the complex.

"I can't kick them out, but I can't guarantee them a safe place to live," he said. "I'm getting the contact information for the ones who leave so I can invite them back when we're finished refurbishing."

A landlord who hasn't been paid can file suit to evict a tenant in justice court. The justice of the peace can order that a "three-day notice" of a hearing be served on the tenant or nailed to the door of the rented property.

If the Justice of the Peace finds in favor of the landlord, the tenant's belongings can be moved into the street 24 hours later.

Centanni and Mortillaro say they expect a flood of eviction suits from landlords where tenants have left the area and aren't paying rent, or who have lost their jobs and can't pay, or simply have nowhere else to go.

"I'm telling everyone to document everything," he said.

• • • • • •

Matt Scallan can be reached at (504) 467-1746 or mscallan326@cox.net

**REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ISSUANCE OF BONDS (TEFRA HEARING)**

**PARISH OF JEFFERSON HOME MORTGAGE AUTHORITY**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE BONDS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOT EXCEEDING $100,000,000 OF SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS SERIES 2005B**

The Board of Trustees of the Parish of Jefferson Home Mortgage Authority (the "AUTHORITY), a public trust created by a Trust Indenture dated February 9, 1979, as amended, pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Public Trust Law contained in Chapter 2-A of Title 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 9:2341-9:2347) (the "Public Trust Act") for the benefit of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Parish"), does hereby give notice that it will conduct a Public Hearing in connection with the issuance by the Authority of not exceeding $100,000,000 aggregate principal amount of Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds, Series 2005B, in one or more series, on one or more issuance dates (the "Bonds"). The Bonds shall be issued under the Public Trust Act and authorized pursuant to the provisions of a Trust Indenture by and between the Authority and a trustee to be selected and designated by the Authority (the "Indenture"), for the purpose of providing funds for the Authority to current refund portions of one or more of the Prior Bonds so that the moneys made available from refunding the prior bonds of the Authority which would have otherwise been used to pay or redeem portions of the Prior Bonds may be used in future programs of the Authority to purchase mortgage loans or GNMA, FNMA or FHLMC certificates (the "Mortgage Certificates") backed by mortgage loans made to finance owner-occupied single family residences located in Jefferson Parish, State of Louisiana, to be owned and occupied by low and moderate income families or persons, or to utilize private activity volume cap awarded to the Authority.

The Bonds will not constitute an indebtedness, general or special, or a liability of the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana, or of the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision of the State. The issuance of the Bonds will not directly or indirectly obligate the Parish or the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision of the State, to provide any funds for the payment of the Bonds. The Bonds will not be nor shall they ever be considered a debt of the Parish or the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision of the State, within the meaning of the Constitution or statutes of the State of Louisiana and will not and shall never constitute a pledge of the credit or taxing power of the Parish or the State, or any political subdivision of the State. Neither the Parish nor the State, nor any political subdivision of the State, shall in any manner be liable for the payment of the principal and the interest on the Bonds or for the performance of any agreement or pledge of any kind which may be undertaken by the Authority and no breach by the Authority of any agreement shall create any obligation upon the Parish or the State or any political subdivision of the State.

The Authority shall conduct the Public Hearing in connection with its issuance of the Bonds on October 24, 2005 at 10:30 a.m., Central Time, at its temporary meeting place located at the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission, Administration Building, 3943 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana for the purpose of receiving comments on and hearing any objections (verbal or written) to the proposed issuance of the Bonds for the Program herein described.

The Authority invites organizations, associations and community groups with housing related interest, as well as members of the general public to submit either written and/or oral testimony on the topic of the Public Hearing. Please address all such written comments to the attention of Robert Lambert, Chairman, at its temporary meeting place located at the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission, Administration Building, 3943 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

**PARISH OF JEFFERSON HOME MORTGAGE AUTHORITY**

___/s/ Robert J. Lambert
Robert J. Lambert, Chairman

/s/ Alton L. Bourg
Alton L. Bourg, Secretary

Publication Date: October 10, 2005

**Everyone knows it's rude to talk with your mouth full. But some doomed New Orleans refrigerators, stuffed with decaying food, are getting one last gasp before they head to that sparkling kitchen in the sky.**




A knight in rotting armor awaits its date with the garbage truck Sunday on Ursulines Avenue in Bayou St. John.

# TRASH TALKING




Uncle Fester's remains or the remains of moldy leftovers? Either way it's a smelly mess sitting on a Bayou St. John street.







**ABOVE:** A junked fridge pokes fun at its surroundings Sunday on Jefferson Avenue near Pitt Street.

**LEFT:** Despite the invitation, people rummaging through Katrina refuse will probably pick over this appliance in the 4700 block of Prytania Street.

**Photos by Susan Poag**
Staff photographer

The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

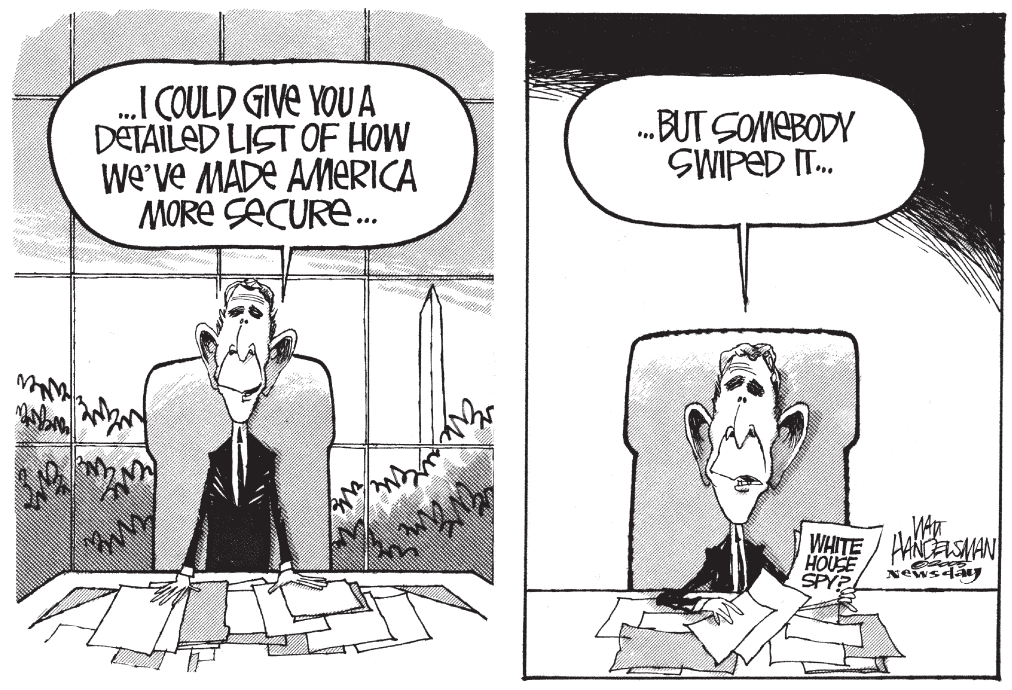
GEORGE WILKINS KENDALL
and FRANCIS A. LUMSDEN, *Publishers, 1837-1864*
ALVA MORRIS HOLBROOK, *Publisher, 1864-1867*
ELIZA HOLBROOK NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1867-1896*
NICHOLSON ESTATE, *Publisher, 1896-1914*
ASHTON PHELPS, *Publisher, 1914-1918*
LEONARD K. NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1918-1952*
JOHN F. TIMS, *Publisher, 1952-1967*
ASHTON PHELPS SR., *Publisher, 1967-1979*

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# YOUR OPINIONS



The Lower 9th Ward near the canal break is filled with debris from smashed houses and cars.

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

## Amazed at entitlement mentality

I am flabbergasted at C.B. Forgotston's allegations against Mayor Ray Nagin that the mayor discriminated against white people by not letting them return to their Lakeview neighborhood sooner.

In the rebuilding of New Orleans, C.B. Forgotston is just the type of New Orleanian who need not return. If New Orleans is to emerge as a "world class city" as I hear it being described, racism and allegations of racism at every turn must be eliminated.

How dare Mr. Forgotston charge our mayor with such an outrageous accusation when people in the other hardest-hit areas were not allowed to return as well?

I realize the people of Lakeview are a large tax base for New Orleans, and I realize their frustration of wanting to return home. However, Hurricane Katrina became the great equalizer in our city.

I am simply disgusted by the fact that people in New Orleans have always tried to throw their weight around to get what they want based upon their wealth. What makes people like C.B. Forgotston feel they are more important than the people of New Orleans East or the Lower 9th Ward?

Until today I had long forgotten about C.B. Forgotston, and I would like to keep it that way. My sentiments are the same as the mayor's: Shame on you.

**Rodney Thoulion**
*New Orleans*

## Buy local to rebuild

Since opening my retail store in 2003, I have been much more aware of the value of doing business with other locally owned businesses. Now that we are experiencing the biggest crisis of our lives, I have pledged to do business only with local merchants — at least until our community is economically healthy.

I have nothing against the chain stores and chain restaurants, but we need to keep the money here in this community. So, if I have to I will drive a little farther and pay a little more. And in most cases, I will receive better, more personalized service for my trouble.

I challenge all local business owners to make a similar pledge to buy local and ask that the general population do the same.

**Beth Lachin**
*Metairie*

## Sculpting a new city

New Orleans has major significance among American cities as a cultural wellhead. The United States must not lose this.

In response to The Times-Picayune's "Task force mania" piece, Mayor Ray Nagin needs to start with seven people on an initial operating committee. When operating committees have more than seven members they become dysfunctional. The committee's task would be to select members for a larger committee of 30 or so.

These initial seven are critical. They should include no more than one business leader. If you want a redevelopment plan that is invested with cultural values, you don't turn it over to lawyers and businessmen. You want people who know something about culture.

You need at least one environmentalist. The rest should be drawn from people of outstanding achievement as artists (painters, sculptors, musicians, writers), architects, city planners, leaders of cultural institutions, scientists, academics, medical practitioners — mostly people who do the actual work, rather than administrators.

The initial seven would then select these same kinds of people for the larger committee, into which they would merge. What's needed here is for the businesspeople and the politically connected to do their thing and get the money. But cultural and aesthetic formulations should be left to those who are qualified to make them.

Finally, the suffering of black communities must be redressed in the attempt to apply intelligent design to New Orleans' future. Without them her culture would be stripped naked.

**John Cleveland**
*New Orleans*

## Don't borrow Orleans' problems

Jim Ferrera of Marrero must surely be drinking some of the tainted water flowing from Orleans Parish taps. That would explain the delusion he is under when he says that Jefferson and St. Bernard residents would be better off by joining up with Orleans to form one parish.

Perhaps then we could all enjoy the privileges associated with being Orleans Parish residents. We could have civic "leaders" who leave thousands stranded in a flooded city while hundreds of buses sit idle, thereby endangering citizens, not to mention losing the use of all the buses.

As Orleans residents, we could enjoy the excitement of looting and shooting (or of being shot and having our homes looted). We wouldn't have to worry about being arrested for looting, because some of the police would be right alongside us, maybe even helping us to carry out some of the heavier items. We could claim that we were looting because we needed food and water, although most places that were looted had no food items.

Or maybe Mr. Ferrera thinks that our lives would be better if our kids could attend Orleans Parish schools, which consistently rank at the bottom of the scholastic scale in virtually every category.

If Mr. Ferrera wants to improve Orleans Parish, he should move there and improve it from the inside. Don't allow Orleans Parish problems to cross the river into Jefferson Parish.

**Delvin J. Adams**
*Marrero*

## Employment goes missing

I am hearing the media and politicians speculating that the greater New Orleans area may not get back its huge population of underprivileged, poverty-stricken people.

Every day I talk to doctors, attorneys, nurses, engineers and other professionals at the higher end of the salary range who are moving away due to employment opportunities that no longer exist here.

Wake up, New Orleans! We are losing our tax base and a lot of money that will now go into someone else's economy.

If this trend keeps up, all we are going to have left is a huge underprivileged population, whether the evacuees return or not, with no tax base to support them or the city.

**David Meyers**
*River Ridge*

**Letters to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**

# OUR OPINIONS

## Time to make a move

In post-Katrina New Orleans, public officials either need to come up with creative solutions to the monumental problems the city faces — or they need to get out of the way.

Orleans Parish School Board President Torin Sanders and interim Superintendent Ora Watson clearly are in the latter category. Their reaction to the storm was to give in to the mess left behind and give up on opening any east bank campuses this school year.

They came to this conclusion despite the fact that seven schools on the east bank are in good condition.

Mr. Sanders' explanation was nonsensical. For one thing, he claimed that if schools couldn't open until January, children would not spend enough time in class to make a difference. But students from city schools are in school elsewhere right now, and they will have done a semester of class work by the time they return to the city for the second half of the school year.

For another, Mr. Sanders argued that Mayor Ray Nagin didn't want the schools to try to open because of concerns about water and sanitation. That can't be right. Mayor Nagin has been urging residents and businesses to return to the city to begin to rebuild. The mayor certainly realizes that functioning schools are essential to the revival of the city.

In reaction to the can't-do attitude of Mr. Sanders and Ms. Watson, some parents and public officials on the West Bank asked to break away and form a charter system. The school system was planning to open eight West Bank schools Nov. 1, but who can blame parents for doubting the system's ability to succeed. The School Board approved the request Friday afternoon for all 13 schools on the West Bank.

The system's myriad failings were well documented long before Hurricane Katrina hit. Payroll was chronically late and frequently wrong, and system officials frittered away or lost millions of dollars. The School Board, which was elected to reform the system, couldn't seem to get past political concerns and their own egos.

Outside financial managers brought in by the state to clean up the mess had barely begun their work when Katrina struck.

The charter school proposal for the West Bank is an intriguing idea. It may be that the hurricane will force the dramatic reinvention of city schools, which seemed unlikely to ever happen under normal circumstances.

Even though the state had begun the takeover of some of the city's 73 failing schools, only a handful had been turned over to charter groups.

There are some pieces of the West Bank plan that are worrisome, though.

For one, School Board member Lourdes Moran, who is one of the leaders of the movement, crafted the plan so that the School Board will act as the charter board temporarily. She also said that she is willing to include the teachers' union in the charter discussions.

That sounds like trouble. The whole point of charter schools is to sever the constraints placed by the traditional powers in the school system. If the School Board and the union are players in the charter system, what hope is there for a fresh approach?

Even so, the notion of breaking this unwieldy, unresponsive school system into smaller pieces — and to have parents decide what they want these schools to be — is a good one.

The school system is unwilling and probably unable to get schools open on the east bank. The board — or the state — ought to be willing to approve more charter schools to give parents other options.

The board of directors of Benjamin Franklin High School Association voted unanimously last week to apply for charter status. Their hope is to open in January.

The School Board already has approved the creation of a Lusher kindergarten-through eighth-grade charter school, which has the financial backing of Tulane University. The plan is to open that campus in January.

That gives the east bank one school at this point. One school is not nearly enough. And school system leaders, as clueless as some of them are, ought to be able to understand that.

## D isn't for delete

Wouldn't it be great if word processing programs didn't limit themselves to checking spelling and grammar but also let the writer know when they're being self-involved, mean-spirited and completely out of line?

If that were the case, perhaps Lakeview resident and government watchdog C.B. Forgotston would have had the sense to delete his irate e-mail message to Mayor Ray Nagin instead of sending it.

Mr. Forgotston accused the mayor of discrimination against white New Orleanians in his re-entry plan for the city because it did not include Lakeview, which Mr. Forgotston described as "the largest, mostly white middle-class area of the city of New Orleans." He contended that keeping Lakeview residents from coming home was tantamount to hanging a "WHITES NOT WANTED" sign over Interstate 10.

That's ridiculous, of course. The mayor's re-entry plan, which allows people to return to areas that did not flood such as Algiers, Uptown, the French Quarter and the Central Business District, has opened the doors to people of all races. Lakeview's demographics are not the issue; its geography is. The area was severely damaged by Katrina's floodwaters, and residents who have returned are finding little left to salvage.

This isn't the first time the mayor's been accused of discrimination following the storm, although previous criticism suggested he was hatching a recovery plan that would keep poor African-Americans from ever coming home.

In his response, Mayor Nagin said racist comments have been the worst part of the hurricane's aftermath. "If the city is repopulated with small-minded, racist-thinking and -speaking blacks, whites and Hispanics, then we are all in deep trouble," he wrote.

He's right. This empty city needs to get its people back, but we shouldn't make any room at all for hate.

# OTHER OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Hurricane Katrina punched holes in the roof of Abramson High School in New Orleans.

# Rethinking America's schoolhouses

## *Coming construction boom offers schools opportunity*

RONALD E. BOGLE

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita uprooted thousands of pupils and severely damaged hundreds of Gulf Coast schools. Before the storms, $30 billion was expected to be spent nationwide this year on school construction. Much more is needed now.

The challenge is to invest it wisely.

We have a unique opportunity and obligation to rethink the classic American schoolhouse, to design and build schools for the educational needs of the 21st century. Some 55 million students, teachers and, increasingly, community residents spend some part of their waking hours in schools. The facilities affect learning, health, safety, self-esteem and the well-being of all using them.

Recent studies document the effect of deteriorating or badly designed schools on students and teachers alike. Outdated classroom configurations, noise, extreme heat or cold, lack of natural lighting and poor air quality all negatively influence teachers' ability to teach and students' ability to learn.

We need to incorporate new ideas in teaching and learning in how we design schools. We need to make information on quality school design and construction widely available. And we need to better engage all involved on how schools affect communities.

I served for several years on the Oklahoma City Public Schools board. I learned firsthand how tough it is to find the latest thinking in design, understand how architecture can serve the learning process, see examples of best practices, evaluate financing options and gather all the critical facts needed to guide projects of this magnitude.

My experience helped inspire the American Architectural Foundation's initiative, Great Schools by Design. It aims to improve the quality of America's schools by promoting good design, encouraging collaboration in the design process and providing leading-edge resources to local leaders.

As the communities of the Gulf Coast region and others across the country think about new or renovated schools they should:

▶ Design schools that retain and reflect the culture of the community they serve and support lasting community involvement;

▶ Build flexible classroom configurations to allow for smaller class sizes and multi-use

▶ Maximize natural lighting and natural ventilation

▶ Integrate technology throughout the school to support advanced teaching and learning and improve school safety

▶ Create spaces that incorporate outdoor environments, bringing the "outside" in to teach about the environment and sustainability

▶ Develop a dialogue process that involves all community and school stakeholders in the planning.

The educational facilities we design today are expected to last 50 or more years. While the Gulf Coast region has immediate needs for schools, it is important that we take the time to plan, design and construct these facilities to serve the unique needs of each community.

A "one-size-fits-all solution" is a sure recipe for failure. A failure we cannot afford in New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Washington or in any of the many cities needing significant investment in educational facilities.

Ronald E. Bogle is president and CEO of the American Architectural Foundation. This commentary was distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

# Not much has changed in a decade



LEONARD PITTS

Ten years later, more than 65 percent of our children are still born out of wedlock.

Ten years later, we are still five times more likely to die of homicide.

Ten years later, still fewer than half of us own our homes.

Ten years later, we still marry less, go to jail more and die sooner.

Ten years later, the promises we made that crisp Monday in October lie fallow and unredeemed.

On Sunday, it will be a decade since African-American men descended on the Mall in Washington, 400,000 strong according to the National Park Service. An independent agency retained by ABC Television said a minimum of 837,000 of us were actually there. But in the end, the event is defined not by hard numbers, but by a metaphorical one: one million.

Ten years later, two things strike me about the Million Man March. The first is a sense that we black men and our countrymen seemed to be talking about two different marches. We kept hearing that we were going to Washington to support the notorious Jew-baiter Louis Farrakhan and to attack America for its mistreatment of us. We kept saying we were going to attack our own mistreatment of our women, children and selves. And, that though Farrakhan organized the march, many of us joined it not because of him, but in spite of him. The conversation we wanted to have was bigger and more important than this regrettable man.

The second thing that strikes me is the optimism we felt. We stood in a crowd of us, generation be-bop, generation do-wop and generation hip-hop, gathered to slap backs and shake hands, to hug and laugh and be, shoulder to shoulder and man to man, serenaded by the heartbeats of African drums. On a podium far away, speakers spoke, but they were not the show. The show was us, standing there on what felt like the pivot point of change.

Yet 10 years later, here we are, still damned by numbers. Because change is not something you talk into existence. Change takes action.

Credit where it is due: Some of us did go back to our communities and work to change them. But too many of us, it seems, just went back.

And yes, I know about cops and courts, about the loan officer at the bank and the hiring man downtown and I know about the lies too many white people tell themselves, including the one that goes, "liberty and justice for all." I know about the truths some people won't, can't, face because to do so is to cut too close to their most cherished conceits and necessary self-deceptions.

But I also know that much of what is needed to fix our communities requires no white person's consent:

Get educated.

Seek a career, not a job.

Don't make children you can't support.

Understand that support means money.

Understand that support means more than money.

Marry the woman.

Model manhood for your children.



AP PHOTO

Louis Farrakhan organized the Million Man March 10 years ago, when he was photographed on Capitol Hill, above. But many of those who joined in did so not because of him, but in spite of him.

Save some money.

Buy a home.

Build a life.

Easier said than done? Yes, very much so. A guarantee of happily ever after? No such guarantee exists nor ever will.

Yet I persist in believing that for African America, changing the world lies in the embrace of these and other old-school dictums. And that revolution can be as simple as having dinner as a family, checking homework and going to church on Sunday.

I thought we understood that as we gathered under that autumnal sun. I thought this was what we meant when we hugged and laughed and made promises to the future.

But 10 years later, the future is here and it is hard to glimpse even the bare outlines of change.

There used to be a song that said, "Brother's gonna work it out." Ten years later, another autumnal sun. And we are waiting on brother, still.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL, 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@herald.com.



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

# Walking the talk

A year ago, a group of Swarthmore students decided to take on an unusual extracurricular activity: stopping genocide.

Mark Hanis, one of the students, is Jewish, and all four of his grandparents survived the Holocaust. He was troubled by the way generations of Americans acquiesced in one genocide after another — only to apologize afterward and pledge "Never Again."

So Hanis and fellow students started to raise money to help provide security to stop the slaughter in the Darfur region of western Sudan. In particular, they wanted to help pay for African Union peacekeepers.

Their Genocide Intervention Fund has now raised $250,000 and is about to hand over the first installment to the leaders of the African Union. The money may be used to pay for female African police officers to protect Darfur women from being raped.

The Genocide Intervention Fund now has an all-star cast, including the backing of former White House officials, generals and celebrities like Mia Farrow and Don Cheadle. Its spokeswoman, a Rwandan genocide survivor who is now a Swarthmore sophomore, introduced Bill Clinton at a student conference. It has opened a Washington office and is lobbying for the bipartisan Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which calls for sanctions on Sudan and a no-fly zone.

"We do lobby days, where we arrange for people to come to Washington to meet their congressional offices and say, 'I've put $20 down to protect the people of Darfur. What are you doing?' " said Hanis, who graduated recently.

So far more than 100 colleges have raised money for the fund (www.genocideinterventionfund.org), and universities have become the center of the movement to stop the slaughter. A group started at Georgetown, STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), has chapters nationwide and across Canada, and Harvard led a divestment effort by having its endowment sell stock in companies that support the Sudanese government.

In the long term, the organizers hope to encourage more education about genocide in American schools — California and a few other states have passed laws that public schools must include education about genocide — and bolster an early warning system so that the world will respond to atrocities more promptly.

"We're getting smarter at this," Hanis said. "We're building a permanent political constituency against genocide." He paused and added soberly: "Of course, there are lives lost every day."

So while President Bush is proving wimpish on genocide, the response of many ordinary Americans like Hanis has been inspiring. Aside from students, the leaders in the effort include Jewish and Armenian groups — the word genocide has special resonance for both — and religious groups.

In Dallas, Temple Emanu-El started Dolls for Darfur, which has made thousands of tiny paper dolls representing the victims of Darfur. It has sent them to senators and is preparing "advocacy kits" to help people lobby for a sterner American response to the genocide (see dollsfordarfur.org).

Then there are the big-hearted folks at Ginghamsburg Church, a large Methodist church in Tipp City, Ohio. After the pastor, Mike Slaughter, read about atrocities in Darfur, he decided to ask the congregation to spend only half as much on Christmas presents last year as they planned and to donate the rest to victims in Darfur.

The result, along with other fund-raising efforts, was $327,000 in donations; the congregation is planning the same campaign this Christmas. The money is being used to keep children alive and safe in South Darfur.

"We recognize that this is only a pittance in the face of the entire crisis in Darfur," says Karen Smith, director of operations for the church. "However, if we can successfully engage other churches across the U.S. in this call so that they issue the same challenge to their constituents, the impact could truly be God-sized."

During the Holocaust, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was as uninterested in genocide as George W. Bush is today, Arthur Koestler referred to those who demanded action as "the screamers." Today, Hanis, Smith and others like them are "the screamers," and if it weren't for them the death toll in Darfur would be even higher. Countless thousands of survivors sitting in refugee camps owe their lives to screams coming from places like Swarthmore or Ginghamsburg.

So out of the miasma of horror that is Darfur, something uplifting is taking place. Ordinary Americans are finding creative ways to respond to the slaughter, so that they personally inject meaning into those traditionally hollow words: Never again.

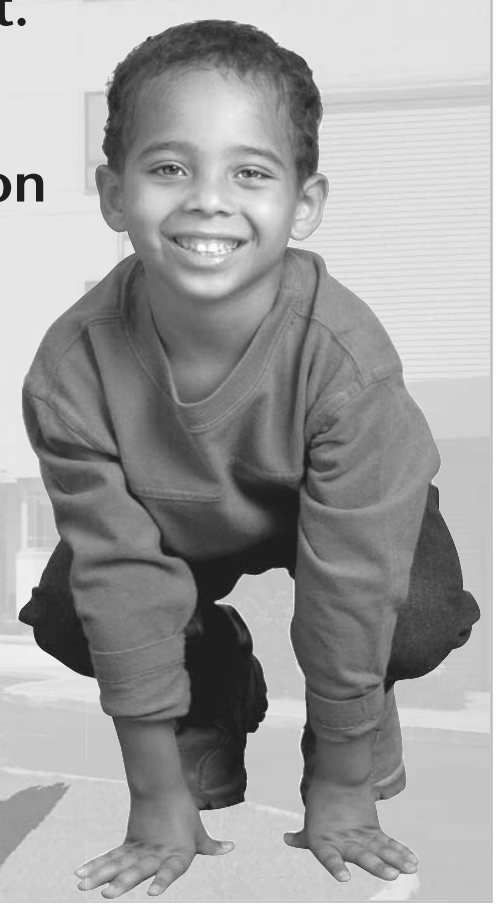
Nicholas D. Kristof is a columnist for The New York Times.

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The Times-Picayune

LIVING
For the Living section, see PAGE C-7

# SPORTS

SECTION C
Monday
October 10, 2005

1-4 PACKERS 52 • SAINTS 3 2-3

# CREAMED

## *Favre, Green Bay pack it on listless Saints in overwhelming 52-3 defeat*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Saints center LeCharles Bentley can't bear to watch as Packers linebacker Nick Barnett returns an interception 95 yards for a touchdown during the fourth quarter Sunday. New Orleans turned over the ball five times as Green Bay rattled off 52 consecutive points.

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

GREEN BAY, WIS. — Sunday's 52-3 loss to the Green Bay Packers was almost unmatched in Saints history, second only to a 62-7 defeat against Atlanta at Tulane Stadium on Sept. 16, 1973.

And yet, there was something all too familiar about it.

The Saints (2-3) have lost three games in four weeks ñ each more spectacular than the last, but all of them following the same blueprint: Turnovers and penalties equal total disaster.

"It came down to this. We had (11) penalties, five turnovers, two missed field goals, dropped balls, missed tackles and bad coverage. So it doesn't get any worse than that," Saints coach Jim Haslett said after the debacle finally ended. "We were just bad today. Green Bay played really well. I thought Brett (Favre) was outstanding.

"We just self-destructed. We were awful."

The Saints are single-handedly keeping the NFC North Division respectable this year. Two weeks ago, they traveled to Minnesota and were blown out by the then-winless Vikings.

This week, it was an 0-4 Green Bay team lying in wait.

After losing their past three games by a total of six points, the Packers were due. But no one is this due.

"We knew they were going to be hungry. So were we," Saints center LeCharles Bentley said. "But I guess they wanted it a little more than we did."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Packers linebacker Nick Barnett evades the tackle attempt of Saints running back Antowain Smith in the fourth quarter. Barnett intercepted backup Todd Bouman, the second of two the Packers returned for touchdowns. Cornerback Al Harris intercepted Aaron Brooks in the first quarter, returning the ball 22 yards for the score.

In their three losses, the Saints have combined for 38 penalties and 15 turnovers.

They seemed to have corrected the mental mistakes and sloppy play during an efficient 19-7 victory against Buffalo last week.

But in retrospect, that game looks more like a Band-aid on a bullet hole.

The frustration was evident in the Saints' postgame locker room.

"Inconsistent. You're an inconsistent ballteam as a whole. Each individual," Saints tailback Deuce McAllister said after gaining 31 yards on 11 carries and leaving the game in the third quarter with a minor knee injury. "You would hope you would only have a day like that. You can't have games like that. We've got to stop it. We're too good of a ballteam to play that way."

The rest of the Saints were just as flummoxed after this game, the disbelief evident. Especially since

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-5*

## *Saints spell relief to sputtering opponents*

Need help?

Just dial S-A-I-N-T-S.

That's what the 0-2 Minnesota Vikings did last month.

Remember?

Suddenly, Daunte Culpepper, who had been throwing nothing but interceptions, began throwing nothing but touchdown passes in a 33-16 victory.

That's what the 0-4 Green Bay Packers did Sunday.

Suddenly, a team with no rushing touchdowns had two in the first half, and scored a 52-3 blowout.



PETER FINNEY

Suddenly, the Packers had their longest run and longest completion of the season.

Suddenly, cornerback Al Harris had a gift interception, courtesy of Aaron Brooks, that eased the Packers on their way to a 14-3 lead.

Suddenly, the Packers had the second-longest interception return for a touchdown in the history of the storied franchise.

Suddenly, Brett Favre had a gift the day before he turned 36.

Suddenly, Packers fans had hope.

But here's a word of warning: All registered cheese heads should not be fooled into believing their heroes have morphed into

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-5*

# Tulane performance had familiar aroma

*Offense inept, defense shoddy in showing of season's past*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Tulane coach Chris Scelfo stood outside of Louisiana-Lafayette's athletic building following his team's 35-14 defeat to Houston on Saturday night, shepherding his players through the doors leading to the team's locker room.

Shortly after a few players passed through the double steel doors, he said: "Don't start taking your stuff off."

At first, it sounded as if he was so upset with their performance that he was going to give them a tongue-lashing and then put them on the buses for a three-hour ride back to Ruston without the opportunity to shower and change clothes.

In a way, it would have been fitting. The ride would have been a real stinker, which is the only way to describe the Green Wave's inept offense and the way the defense played in the second half.

After being held by Tulane to 105 yards and four first downs in the first half, Houston played better during the final 30 minutes to finish with 440 yards, exactly twice as many yards as the Green Wave. The Wave's offense never responded.

So, what adjustments did Houston make at halftime that baffled the Wave in the third and fourth quarters?

Scelfo said: "Not a thing. They didn't do anything different than what we'd seen on tape. They just made the plays."

It's one thing for an opponent to make plays, but Tulane helped Houston with shoddy tackling, especially in the second half. It was reminiscent of past seasons.

"(Houston) did a great job. They're a real physical team,and we missed too many tackles," defensive coordinator Eric Schumann said. "We had one third-and-long situation where we had (about) 15 missed tackles on the play. They kicked our butts, that's all."

**Analysis**

## OFFENSE – F

This offense is looking more and more like the one that started the 2004 season. With quarterback Lester Ricard having almost a season of playing time and working all summer with this year's group of receivers, much, much more was expected of the Wave's passing game.

In the past two games, however, Ricard has completed 36 of 82 passes. That's a 43.9 percent completion rate from a player who believes he should be completing at least 60 percent of his attempts.

With Ricard failing to complete passes and keep drives going, the Wave will not consistently run the ball effectively. It ran the ball well in the first half, with Matt Forte and Jovon Jackson combining for 127 yards. The Wave didn't get anything going on the ground in the second half and finished with 120 rushing yards. If Tulane's passing game doesn't click, chances are the running game won't, either. And that means Tulane won't win many games this year.

## DEFENSE – F

There's no debating the Wave played well in the first half, but without first-half statistics to review, not even Tulane players would be able to recall what they did the first 30 minutes of the game. During the final two quarters, this team was tackling as if this were 1999 (Scelfo's first season), when it allowed an average of 36 points a game.

"I don't know what it is," senior linebacker Anthony Cannon said, referring to how the defense has played in the second half.

In three of its four games, the defense has not played well in the second half. Tulane has given up 59 of its 87 points in the second half.

In the second half of those games, the Wave has allowed too many big plays. Houston was able to bunch its big plays. Houston had the ball for 10 minutes, 13 seconds in the third quarter and produced seven plays that totaled 182 yards. It would be hard for the Wave to win any games allowing that many big plays during four quarters.

"It should have never happened," Schumann said. "We kept telling them it's going to happen; we knew it was going to happen. We just didn't execute on three of those plays - two jump balls and a screen play. Then we opened the barn door."

## SPECIAL TEAMS – C

In its two games leading up to Houston, Tulane's special teams created opportunities. Against Houston, they were not a factor. The Wave's longest return was 28 yards, and the longest return allowed was 31 yards. With Izzy Route spraining an ankle on the opening kickoff, Tulane had to depend on Sean Lucas, who hasn't recovered from a bruised quad muscle, and backup Ray Boudreaux to get the job done.

Chris Beckman had a good game punting in spite of a 31-yarder in the second half. His 53-yard punt more than offset four kicks in the 30s and left him with a 40.3-yard average on seven punts.

**HOUSTON 35, TULANE 14**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 7 | 0 | 21 | 7 | — | 35 |
| Tulane | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | — | 14 |

**First Quarter**

Hou: Gilbert 40 pass from Kolb (Bell kick), 11:00.
Tul: Brown 13 pass from Ricard (Hartgroves kick), 5:29.

**Third Quarter**

Hou: Gilbert 10 run (Bell kick), 9:28.
Hou: Gilbert 42 run (Bell kick), 7:23.
Hou: Battle 1 run (Bell kick), 4:17.

**Fourth Quarter**

Hou: Kolb 8 run (LeFevre kick), 7:38.
Tul: Terranova 19 pass from Ricard (Hartgroves kick), 4:44.
A: 15,454.

| | Hou | Tul |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 20 | 18 |
| Rushes-yards | 46-248 | 37-120 |
| Passing | 192 | 120 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 11-22-0 | 13-33-0 |
| Return Yards | 44 | 14 |
| Punts-Avg. | 6-41.7 | 7-40.3 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 0-0 | 1-1 |
| Penalties-Yards | 11-112 | 2-22 |
| Time of Possession | 29:44 | 30:16 |

**RUSHING:** Houston, Gilbert 17-130, Battle 13-79, Taylor 5-25, Briles 1-8, Alridge 2-8, Otis 1-3, Kolb 7-(minus 5). Tulane, Forte 21-79, Jackson 11-71, Koch 1-2, Team 1-0, Ricard 3-(minus 32).
**PASSING:** Houston, Kolb 11-22-0-192. Tulane, Ricard 12-32-0-117, Elliott 1-1-0-3.
**RECEIVING:** Houston, Marshall 4-67, Harvey 2-60, Gilbert 2-58, Briles 1-5, Taylor 1-2, McDaniel 1-0. Tulane, Brown 6-52, Terranova 2-27, Davis 2-7, Koch 1-22, Forte 1-9, Jackson 1-3.

# McCann, Roussell run Higgins past Cox

**From staff reports**

Cox made its varsity debut Saturday night and learned two valuable lessons from Higgins: stopping the run and being able to run the ball is essential to be successful.

The Cougars did neither particularly well; the Hurricanes excelled at both in a 22-0 non-district victory in front of a crowd of 2,000 at Hoss Memtsas Stadium.

Higgins (1-1) gained all 254 of its yards rushing, and only six of 50 plays produced negative yardage. The Hurricanes averaged 5.5 yards per carry, with Corey McCann and Michael Roussell combining for 175 rushing yards and all the Hurricanes' touchdowns.

"I thought we played tough," Higgins coach Wayne Meyers said. "Both teams played tough. Basically, we ran the ball better and our defense played well."

McCann carried 21 times for 111 yards and had scoring runs of one and 20 yards. Roussell, who played offense and defense, produced 64 yards on 11 carries, and had a 14-yard scoring run. The versatile senior also stopped two Cox scoring threats with a forced fumble and interception, the latter his third in two games.

Higgins limited Cox to 83 rushing yards and 157 yards

total. The Cougars had 18 rushing yards in a first half that Higgins controlled throughout in taking a 14-0 halftime lead. Cox also had zero passing yards in the second half and finished with four fumbles, losing three, to total four turnovers.

**— Mike Strom**

**RIDGEWOOD 32, RIVERDALE 8:** Quarterback Daniel Villifranco ran for two touchdowns and Joe Copura had two scoring runs to lead the Eagles in the opener for both teams Saturday night.

Villifranco scored on runs of 28 and 25 yards. Copura ran 29 and 18 yards for touchdowns.

Riverdale's touchdown came when quarterback Nick Durr passed 15 yards to William Lee.

## VOLLEYBALL

**RIDGEWOOD DEF. IMMACULATA 25–23, 25–22, 25–17:** Lauren Mayer recorded 17 kills, 14 digs and five blocks to lead the Eagles to a non-district victory over Immaculata on Saturday. Lauren Dorgstede had 23 assists and six aces for Ridgewood (3-3). Brigette Faucheaux had 11 assists, Lauren Hartman five kills and four aces and Marcy Mobley five digs for Immaculata (2-2).

**IMMACULATA DEF. HIGGINS 25–11, 25–17, 25–14:** Brigette Faucheaux had 32 assists, and Lauren Hartman and Kayla Rauschkolb recorded 10 and nine kills to lead Immaculata to a non-district victory on Saturday. Marcy Mobley had 10 digs and Hartman and Katie Winters had four and three aces for Immaculata. Higgins (0-2) was led by Kayla Comardelle, who had 10 assists.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**CATHOLIC INVITATIONAL:** Led by individual runner-up Andy Florek, Brother Martin captured the Catholic-Baton Rouge Invitational run at the Highland Park course Saturday.

Blenk placed highest among metro area teams in the girls division, finishing third.

Florek finished the three-mile course in 15 minutes, 13 seconds, finishing one second behind winner Casey Baker of Choudrant. St. Paul's was third, and Rummel finished ninth. Covington's Brett Borne was sixth (15:49), the only other local runner in the top 10.

Sacred Heart's Meggie Schmidt placed third in the girls' race (18:51). Whitney Currey of St. Thomas Aquinas won the meet in a record time of 17:38. Courtney Schultheis of Blenk was 10th (20:12). St. Scholastica finished sixth in the girls' race.

## CATHOLIC INVITATIONAL

(At Highland Park in Baton Rouge)
**Girls**
**Team results:** 1. Episcopal-Baton Rouge, 55; 2. St Joseph's, 65; 3. Blenk, 158; 4. Menard, 179; 5. St. Michaels, 185; 6. St. Scholastica, 200; 7. Episcopal-Acadiana, 226; 8. St. Thomas Aquinas, 231; 9.Opelouses Catholic, 305; 10. Pineville 360.
**Individual results**: 1. Whitney Currey, STA, 17:38; 2. Michaela Guidry, S. Lafouche, 18:28; 3. Meggie Schmidt, Sacred Heart New Orleans,18:51; 4. Simone Dominque, Sacred Heart Gran Cocteau , 18:58; 5. Allison Fontenot, St Joseph's, 19:23; 6. Melissa White, Episcopal BR, 19:29; 7. Catilan Hodges, Episcopal BR,19:48; 9. Katie Hammel, SSA, 19:49; 10. Courtney Schultheis, Blenk, 20:12.
**Boys**
**Team results:** 1. Brother Martin, 93; 2. Catholic-Baton Rouge, 148; 3. St. Paul's, 159; 4. Episcopal-Baton Rouge, 172; 5. Pineville, 209; 6. St. Thomas More, 224; 7. St. Michael's 277; 8. Choudrant, 277; 9. Rummel, 404; 10. Live Oak, 408.
**Individual results:** 1. Casey Baker, Choudrant, 15:12; 2. Andy Florek, Brother Martin,15:13; 3. Alan Sticker, Pineville, 15:24; 4. Sean Swanner, Episcopal BR, 15:30; 5. Hank Festeroa, Choudrant, 15:40; 6. Brett Borne, Covington, 15:49; 7. David Monroe, Pineville, 15:55; 8. Alex Breaus, Vandebilt,16:02; 9. Richard Sanders, Redemptorist, 16:04; 10. Thibault Holcombe, Bolton, 16:11.

# Miles' style different, but gains acceptance among Tigers

*Fans should not live in past; Saban not returning*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

NASHVILLE, TENN. — A few thoughts and observations now that No. 10-ranked LSU has finally crawled through four games of an equally sluggish/unbelievable season:

▶ Les Miles is not Nick Saban. And that's neither good or bad - just different. While fans bemoan that Miles' practices are a tad more lax and that the guy observes rather than interjects, letting his assistants do their jobs instead of butting into drills, try coaxing a Tiger to say a discouraging word about the guy. Get over his retired stringy headset and his poofy white cap, how he doesn't look like a tough coach. Joe Paterno wears glasses thicker than the Yellow Pages dipped in pine tar. Steve Spurrier sports a visor and Bobby Bowden a straw hat. So give the guy a break and quit romanticizing about the Saban Years. Saban isn't coming back to Tiger Stadium, people. Oh wait, he is, when the Dolphins play the Saints. Never mind.

▶ Bo Pelini is not Saban, either, but man he's doing a really good impression - stunt-double worthy. If Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler had a nickel for every uncontested, unrushed attempt LSU afforded to the All-SEC performer Saturday night, he'd be broke. Sack totals are increasing weekly as these Saban holdovers grow more comfortable in Pelini's turnover-inducing scheme. Miles admitted on Sunday defenders are performing intricacies absent from the September tape. Ever since Arizona State toyed with the Tigers' heavy-zone coverage, Pelini has gradually relied on and seems to trust his superior athletes in man-to-man coverage, allowing for more blitz packages and logically, more pressure.

**Analysis**

▶ The philosophy regarding the role of LSU's starting quarterback is slowly morphing. Way back when Matt Mauck ran this offense, all the Tigers expected from the man under center was someone competent enough not to screw things up. Don't throw a crucial interception or botch a handoff. Everyone else around the quarterback would win the game as long as he didn't lose it. But considering JaMarcus Russell's exponential growth, LSU is relying on big plays from its quarterback. The sophomore from Mobile, Ala., saved the Arizona State game with a flick of the right wrist and ended the competitive aspect of the Mississippi State and Vanderbilt contests with third and fourth quarter touchdown passes, respectively.

▶ With that said, wonder if freshman Ryan Perrilloux wishes he would have stuck to his word and signed with Texas? Throughout the process, Texas quarterback Vince Young reiterated his plan to bolt for the NFL after this season, meaning Perrilloux could've redshirted and had four years, if necessary, all to himself.

▶ It's about time for an old fashioned Saturday Night in Death Valley, don't you think? Way overdue. The Tiger Nation should have plenty of pent-up, um, spirit if ESPN picks up the Oct. 22 game against Auburn.

▶ There must be a correlation between the Tigers' inconsistencies offensively, especially the loads of penalties piling up, and the helter-skelter flow of this season. As crazy as it sounds, this team desperately needed that North Texas dress rehearsal (apologies to the New Orleans Bowl staples, but it's true).

## AP TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 9, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

| | Rec. | Pts | Pvs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Southern Cal (58) | 5-0 | 1,618 | 1 |
| 2. Texas (7) | 5-0 | 1,565 | 2 |
| 3. Virginia Tech | 6-0 | 1,493 | 3 |
| 4. Florida St. | 5-0 | 1,393 | 4 |
| 5. Georgia | 5-0 | 1,389 | 5 |
| 6. Alabama | 5-0 | 1,244 | 7 |
| 7. Miami | 4-1 | 1,205 | 9 |
| 8. Penn St. | 6-0 | 1,096 | 16 |
| 9. Notre Dame | 4-1 | 1,058 | 12 |
| 10. LSU | 3-1 | 1,057 | 11 |
| 11. Florida | 5-1 | 935 | 13 |
| 12. UCLA | 5-0 | 889 | 20 |
| 13. Texas Tech | 5-0 | 794 | 15 |
| 14. Boston College | 5-1 | 656 | 18 |
| 15. Ohio St. | 3-2 | 641 | 6 |
| 16. Michigan St. | 4-1 | 581 | 19 |
| 17. Tennessee | 3-2 | 538 | 8 |
| 18. California | 5-1 | 537 | 10 |
| 19. Louisville | 4-1 | 461 | 23 |
| 20. Oregon | 5-1 | 456 | 25 |
| 21. Auburn | 4-1 | 441 | 22 |
| 22. Minnesota | 5-1 | 321 | — |
| 23. Wisconsin | 5-1 | 241 | 14 |
| 24. Colorado | 4-1 | 222 | — |
| 25. TCU | 5-1 | 81 | — |

**Others receiving votes:** West Virginia 68, Arizona St. 43, Fresno St. 42, Nebraska 18, Georgia Tech 15, Iowa 13, Virginia 6, Michigan 3, Northwestern 3, Baylor 1, Toledo 1.

Miles said the only way to coach through these problems is addressing them constantly in film study and practice.

▶ Joseph Addai's carries per game are steadily increasing as the senior proves to Miles and the coaching staff he's more than capable to carry the ball 25 to 30 times if called upon.

▶ LSU in the BCS national title game? It's not impossible. Currently, there are nine undefeated teams from major conferences (USC, Texas, Virginia Tech, Florida State, Alabama, Georgia, Penn State, UCLA and Texas Tech), leading some talking heads to fast-forward and toss out predictions on who will be this year's "Auburn" - an unblemished squad squeezed out of Pasadena. What these all-knowing on-airs are forgetting is that every one of those undefeateds besides Penn State still has an undefeated remaining on their schedule, meaning half this group is going to be automatically slashed. Among one-loss teams, LSU is the second-highest ranked in the coaches' poll (one-third of the BCS formula), staring up at 4-1 Miami.

**LSU 34, VANDERBILT 6**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LSU | 9 | 0 | 3 | 22 | — | 34 |
| Vanderbilt | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | — | 6 |

**First Quarter**

LSU: Bowe 30 pass from Russell (David kick), 12:17.
LSU: Safety, Pittman sacks Cutler in end zone, 5:33.
Van: FG Hahnfeldt 36, 3:37.

**Third Quarter**

Van: FG Hahnfeldt 48, 11:36.
LSU: FG Jackson 36, 2:29.

**Fourth Quarter**

LSU: Addai 2 run (Russell to Doucet pass), 12:32.
LSU: Doucet 8 pass from Russell (David kick), 7:42.
LSU: Highsmith 22 fumble return (David kick), 4:25.
A: 37,309.

| | LSU | Van |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 22 | 10 |
| Rushes-yards | 43-194 | 26-25 |
| Passing | 285 | 113 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 21-32-1 | 11-33-2 |
| Return Yards | 88 | 27 |
| Punts-Avg. | 4-42 | 7-44 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 5-3 | 2-1 |
| Penalties-Yards | 14-133 | 5-36 |
| Time of Possession | 34:51 | 25:09 |

**RUSHING:** LSU, Addai 24-102, Vincent 11-77, Korte 3-9, Green 1-8, Carter 1-0, Russell 3-(minus 2). Vanderbilt, Jackson-Garrison 8-56, Jennings 5-(minus 1), Nickson 3-(minus 10), Cutler 10-(minus 20).
**PASSING:** LSU, Russell 21-32-1-285. Vanderbilt, Cutler 11-32-2-113, Nickson 0-1-0-0.
**RECEIVING:** LSU, Bowe 5-98, Doucet 5-94, Green 3-34, Davis 2-13, Hester 2-8, Zinger 1-17, Jones 1-11, Addai 1-9, Vincent 1-1. Vanderbilt, White 4-34, Davis 2-22, Dunning 2-18, Bright 1-31, Bennett 1-6, Jackson-Garrison 1-2.




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# Astros' Burke ends marathon

*His home run sends Houston to NLCS against St. Louis*

**By Stephen Hawkins**
AP sports writer

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens and the Houston Astros gave a whole new meaning to word "longevity."

The 43-year-old Rocket came out of the bullpen to rescue the Astros and Chris Burke ended the longest postseason game in baseball history with a home run in the 18th inning, lifting Houston over the Atlanta Braves 7-6 Sunday and into the NL championship series.

The Braves took a five-run lead into the eighth, and were poised to send this first-round series back to Atlanta for a decisive Game 5 on Monday night. Instead, Lance Berkman hit a grand slam in the eighth and Brad Ausmus tied it with a two-out homer in the ninth barely beyond center field Andruw Jones' outstretched glove.

Then, at 6-all, the Braves and Astros began the real endurance test that wound up lasting five hours, 50 minutes.

With Clemens pitching three innings in his first relief appearance since 1984 - and this time atoning for a poor start in Game 2 - the Astros advanced to play the St. Louis Cardinals in the NLCS starting Wednesday night at Busch Stadium.

It will be the first NLCS rematch since Pittsburgh and Atlanta played in 1991-92. Last October, the Cardinals beat Clemens in Game 7, denying the Astros their first World Series appearance.

**CARDINALS COMPLETE SWEEP:** Chris Carpenter stood soaked with champagne in the St. Louis clubhouse as he reeled off everything the Cardinals are doing right this postseason.

They jumped to big leads in all three first-round games against San Diego. Carpenter and the other starters were superb and the bullpen sealed it each time. The defense turned enough double plays that the Padres never found any kind of offensive groove.

St. Louis quickly moved past overmatched San Diego, advancing to the NL championship series for the second consecutive season and fourth time in six years after finishing a division series sweep Saturday night.

"We've got a great club," Carpenter said during a brief break from dousings. "We've got to continue to play the way we've been playing in this series to continue to move on. We've got some quality guys here. We played quality games. We went out and swung the bats early."

This St. Louis team has long considered itself a World Series contender, especially hungry for another shot at winning it all after being swept by the Boston Red Sox for the championship last October.

Only two members of the Cardinals have rings: Reggie Sanders with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2001 and David Eckstein in 2002 with the Angels.

Both played key roles in Saturday's 7-4 win at Petco Park, where the Padres and their sellout crowd had little chance of slowing the Cardinals. St. Louis has carried the success from its major league-best 100-62 regular-season record right into the next phase.

The 37-year-old Sanders, in the postseason for the fifth time in six years, set an NLDS record with 10 RBIs. He hit a grand slam and drove in an NLDS-record six runs in an 8-5 Game 1 victory, then added two-run doubles in each of the next two games.

Afterward, his teammates chanted "MVP! MVP!" and "Reggie! Reggie!" through the clubhouse.

"In a short series, that's kind of what you look for," Manager Tony La Russa said. "You get a hot hitter or two, a hot pitcher or two, you swing the games. He was big in each game. I don't think he had a meaningless RBI. ... One of the things we believe about our club is that we have a bunch of guys that are prime-timers. They're not afraid to take big at-bats. He's one of them."

Eckstein, who stands all of 5-foot-7 and weighs only 165 pounds, hit a two-run homer that just cleared the left-field fence in the second - his first career postseason home run in 22 games.

Sanders' bases-loaded, two-run double came four batters later, and just like that the Cardinals had taken a 5-0 lead and knocked former teammate Woody Williams out of the game after 1 2-3 innings and 53 pitches.

"It was very important for us to go out there and set the tone early and find a way to get a win," Eckstein said. "Every game can change momentum. Especially after we had that lead, you definitely don't want to lose that lead because in that situation you could end up all of a sudden they come back, then it's a whole new ballgame tomorrow."

While St. Louis players calmly walked off the field as if having just completed a regular-season series sweep, the Cardinals let loose in the visitor's clubhouse a few minutes later with a crazy party. Some players got bubbly poured down the back of their uniform pants.

They figured they'd earned the chance for a wild, albeit brief, celebration. Everybody involved insisted it wouldn't last long before the Cardinals would return to getting ready for the NLCS.

"I think we all know what we need to do and it's just having a little fun while we're getting there," second baseman Mark Grudzielanek said.

The Cardinals never trailed in the first round, and now they will have home-field advantage for the NLCS, though the way they are playing it hardly seems to matter.

Carpenter will go in Game 1 after pitching six shutout innings in the opener against San Diego. Mark Mulder, the Game 2 winner, is still nursing a bruised left biceps he sustained on a line drive by Joe Randa and it's unclear when he will pitch.

La Russa acknowledged he started thinking about the next round before Saturday's game, brainstorming how he would set the rotation depending on the opponent.

"I was thinking it was too superstitious to think about it, but now we can," La Russa said.

The Cardinals certainly appear to have the talent for another run at a ring. They can beat opponents with pitching, defense, home runs and hit-and-runs.

What did they prove with their first-round sweep?

"That we're a good team," Grudzielanek said with a grin. "It's a great experience for anybody to be involved in something like this. It just doesn't come around too often. Fortunately we have an opportunity to get back where we were last year, and that's our mission."




AP PHOTO

Houston's Chris Burke connects for the winning home run in the bottom of the 18th inning in the Astros' 7-6 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday. Burke's blast gave Houston a 3-1 victory in the National League Division Series.

# Burden now lifted, Texas has clearer path

*Longhorns' victory over Oklahoma helps solidify ranking*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

At 6 feet 7 and 325 pounds, offensive tackle Jonathan Scott of Texas is not one to be messed with.

But we respectfully disagree with his assessment of the burden lifted by the Longhorns' 45-12 victory against Oklahoma on Saturday, ending their five-year losing streak against the Sooners.

"That chip on our shoulders is finally gone," Scott said.

Chip?

That was an 800-pound Texas-sized pasture pie.

And not just for Longhorns coach Mack Brown, but for the Texas seniors as well, because they faced the ignominy of being the third consecutive class to depart without defeating their Red River rivals.

"I thought of my teammates who never beat Oklahoma," senior linebacker Aaron Harris said. "I didn't want to leave like that."

So now he won't.

And for Texas, undefeated after the Oklahoma game for the first time since 1983, the path is clear to Pasadena and the Rose Bowl for this season's BCS championship game.

Although the Longhorns are a distant second to Southern California in the Harris and USA Today polls that make up two-thirds of the BCS standings formula, they are solidly entrenched in the No. 2 spot. Unless voting patterns change, and even if there are any shortcomings the Longhorns might have in the computers (playing Rice and Louisiana-Lafayette hurts them there), it would be almost impossible for them to be bumped out of the title game should they continue their winning ways.

"We can go further now," Harris said. "We can control our own destiny."

Of course, nothing is a given. This week, Texas plays host to Colorado (4-1), fresh off a 41-20 victory against Texas A&M. On Oct. 22, undefeated Texas Tech goes to Austin.

But nobody this side of USC looks as good as the Longhorns.

Quarterback Vincent Young polished his Heisman Trophy credentials with a 241-yard, three-touchdown passing day, freshman running back Jamaal Charles ran for 114 yards, 80 of them on a first-quarter touchdown run.

The Texas defense limited the Sooners to 171 yards, using effective alignments that pummeled redshirt freshman quarterback Rhett Bomar.

That shouldn't have been surprising. Texas was a 13-point favorite, and Oklahoma had lost twice before Saturday. When you are that superior in talent, you are supposed to win.

"Today was something we needed to fix," Brown said. "I thought we had the better team, and usually the better team wins unless they mess it up."

That was the knock on Texas. Oklahoma seemed to present as much of a mental as a physical block to the Longhorns for the past five years.

But this Texas team ñ and staff ñ was downright loose in the days leading up to the game.

Brown, whom former Longhorns running back Cedric Benson said basically played not to lose against Oklahoma, danced in the locker room with the team a couple of times and came out with a game plan that was aggressive on both sides of the ball.

"I told the guys, "Enjoy being Texas football players,' Brown said.

"Let's not back away. Don't feel the pressure. Enjoy it."

The Longhorns did just that, winding up with the most points they've ever scored against the Sooners, tying their largest margin of victory in the 100-game series.

**POLL WATCHING:** Texas' victory impressed voters in the two BCS polls. The second-ranked Longhorns went from four to nine first-place votes in the Harris Interactive poll and from two to four in the USA Today coaches poll.

That kept the Longhorns far behind USC, but widened their lead over No. 3 Virginia Tech.

LSU's victory against Vanderbilt improved the Tigers' standings in both polls. The Tigers went from No. 12 to No. 10 in the Harris poll and from 10th to eighth in the coaches poll.

Florida, which LSU meets Saturday at Tiger Stadium, is 12th in the Harris Poll and 13th in the coaches.

In the Associated Press rankings this week, LSU is 10th and Florida 11th.

Lewis Ballot ñ Ted Lewis is a voter on the Harris Interactive poll. Here is his ballot for this week: 1. Southern California; 2. Texas; 3. Virginia Tech; 4. Alabama; 5. Georgia; 6. Notre Dame; 7. Penn State; 8. Florida State; 9. LSU; 10. Miami; 11. Florida; 12. UCLA; 13. Ohio State; 14. Tennessee; 15. Boston College; 16. Texas Tech; 17. Auburn; 18. Michigan State; 19. Minnesota; 20. Oregon; 21. California; 22. Louisville; 23. Wisconsin; 24. Colorado; 25. TCU

**HANCOCK TO THE RESCUE:** How do you fix the BCS?

Hire a basketball man, naturally.

Bill Hancock, longtime coordinator for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, will be chosen the BCS' first full-time administrator early this week.

Hancock's duties will be coordinating the two polls plus the computer rankings that make up the standings formula, being the media contact person and other administrative duties. Previously, those duties fell to the media relations director for the conference, whose commissioner was the BCS coordinator, currently Kevin Weiberg of the Big 12.

Policy-making will remain in the hands of the commissioners.

Hancock is not without football experience. He began in the Oklahoma sports information department in 1971, the year of the Sooners' legendary No. 1 vs. No. 2 game against Nebraska, and for five years before joining the NCAA he was the media relations director of the Big Eight.

Hancock's employment by the BCS probably will end his association with the NCAA.

## EXTRA POINTS

**SPOILED SPORTS AWARD:** Five policemen prevented Georgia cornerback Tim Jennings from planting his school flag at the 50-yard line at Neyland Stadium following the Bulldogs' victory against Tennessee. "Where were they last year?" asked Jennings, referring to the Vols' doing the same thing after their 2004 victory at Georgia. ... Act Like You've Been There Before Award: Even if You Haven't. When Baylor broke its 37-game losing streak in Big 12 road games with a 23-13 victory at Iowa State, instead of going into any kind of flag-planting celebration the Bears shook hands with their defeated opponents and walked off the field. ...Indiana quarterback Blake Powers needed less than half a season to break the school record for touchdown passes in a season, throwing four in the Hoosiers' 36-13 victory against Illinois to raise his total to 18 in five games. ... Stat of the Week: After struggling to a 14-7 halftime lead against Marshall, third-ranked Virginia Tech outgained Marshall 200-1 in the third quarter en route to a 41-14 victory. ... Top-ranked USC rolled up 724 yards against Arizona, but that's still 250 shy of the team record ñ 978 in an 80-0 victory against Pamona in 1925. Miracle Play of the Week: SMU's Jerad Romo hit Bobby Chase for a 31-yard touchdown pass as time expired to give the Mustangs a 28-27 victory against UAB. The victory broke a 14-game road losing streak. ... Accomplishment of the Week: Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minn., played and won two games Saturday. The Eagles started the day by defeating Trinity Bible College, 59-0, and then traveled six miles to Macalester College where they won, 47-14. The double-dip was created because Northwestern, a Division III school, was having problems filling its 10-game schedule.

**COACH'S CORNER:** "I wanted to run out the clock. But I had a hunch. You guys ever have hunches? I turned to our running backs coach, Vic Adamle, and said, "We haven't broken one all day.' "

Minnesota coach Glen Mason on the 61-yard run by Gary Russell that set up the winning field goal in the Gophers' 23-20 victory at Michigan that broke a 16-game losing streak against the Wolverines.

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1-4 PACKERS 52 • SAINTS 3 2-3

# Hodge suspended one year for substance abuse

*Started every game this season*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

GREEN BAY, WIS. — CBS Sports reported Sunday evening that Saints linebacker Sedrick Hodge will be suspended for one year as a repeat offender in the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Saints officials were not immediately available to respond to the report as they were traveling back from Sunday's game in Green Bay, Wis.

Hodge, 27, missed the first four games of last season for violating the policy. The fourth-year veteran has started every game for the Saints at the strongside linebacker position this year, including Sunday's loss to the Packers.

Hodge's replacement would be James Allen, who actually entered this season as the starter before battling knee and hamstring injuries. Allen missed Sunday's game because of the hamstring injury.

Next on the depth chart after Allen is second-year backup Terrence Melton.

**DEUCE'S BUM KNEE:** Saints running back Deuce McAllister's injury added to the insult of Sunday's embarrassing 52-3 loss to the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field.

McAllister limped off the field with approximately seven minutes remaining in the third quarter after twisting his right knee at the end of a screen pass.

X-rays taken at the stadium were negative, and an MRI exam is scheduled today in San Antonio.

"I'll be all right," said McAllister, who rushed 11 times for 31 yards. "My foot got caught in the ground, and I felt something in my knee. If it had been a closer game, I think I could have put a brace on it and gone out and played.

"If I had to play a game tomorrow, I'd probably be questionable. But I plan to play Sunday, unless it's something worse than it already is."

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** In 10 words or less, Saints players and coaches were asked to explain Sunday's debacle that featured five turnovers and 11 penalties.

"We were on the bad end of the whoopin' stick,'' running back Aaron Stecker said

"We started out bad and never recovered,'' wide receiver Donte' Stallworth said.

"We started falling apart early, then it snowballed, and then it got out of control," tight end Ernie Conwell said.

"We were just plain bad,'' said left defensive end Charles Grant, who was replaced in the starting lineup by Will Smith after reporting late to a meeting during the week.

"We took a step back today," cornerback Mike McKenzie said.

Saints coach Jim Haslett, perhaps, summed it up best: "We were awful."

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Az-Zahir Hakim started for wide receiver Joe Horn, who missed his second consecutive game with an injured hamstring. Hakim caught a game-high five passes for 108 yards, all in the first half. "I could have played, but I wouldn't have been as effective as the other guys who were out there," Horn said. "But I'll come back next Sunday (against Atlanta) come hell or high water."

**INJURY UPDATE:** Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks left the game with 8:40 remaining in the third quarter in favor of Todd Bouman. Television showed Brooks standing on the sideline with his right hand wrapped in ice. "He's healthy," Haslett said. "There's nothing wrong with him. It was 42-3. I'd have taken everybody out if we had a chance. It was an opportunity for Todd to get some playing time.'' Starting cornerback Fakhir Brown missed his fourth consecutive game with a bruised knee.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Packers went three-and-out on their opening possession, the first time this season a Saints' opponent did not score a touchdown on its first possession. Also, the Saints scored on their first possession for just the second time since the final game of the 2003 season. John Carney kicked a 33-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead, and later missed two attempts from 43 yards. "On the first one, I hit it well, and it was between the uprights for 40 yards," Carney said. "On the second one, I over-corrected to the right, but the wind didn't push it."

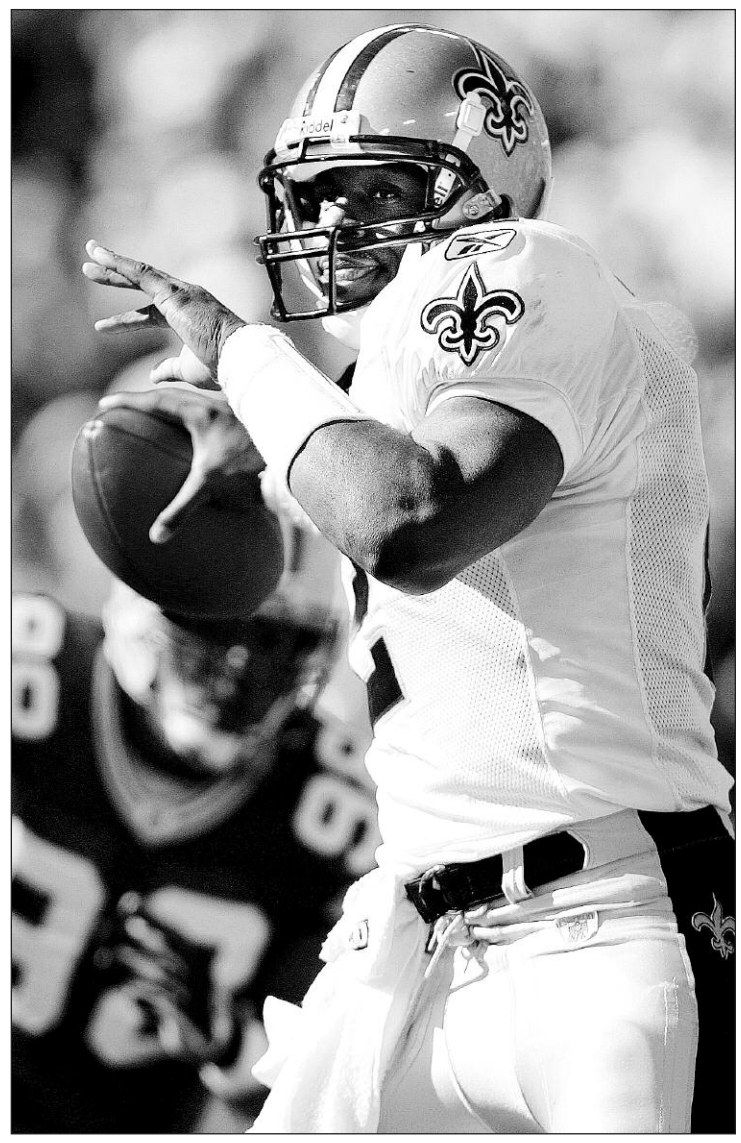
**RUSHING ROULETTE:** The Packers scored their first two rushing touchdowns of the season, both by Najeh Davenport. Davenport also turned in the team's longest run of the season, a 24-yarder in the second quarter. He gained the final 18 yards on the run after breaking free from safety Dwight Smith's grasp.

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:** Davenport left the game in the second quarter with a broken ankle, according to reports. He left the game with 54 yards on 12 carries and a career-best two touchdowns.

**THE NAME GAME:** In the first quarter, Green Bay linebacker PARIS Lenon broke up a pass intended for Saints tight end Zachary HILTON.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 2 — Interceptions by Packers cornerback Al Harris in the first quarter. He returned the first one 22 yards for a touchdown. Both passes were intended for Stallworth, who caught one pass for six yards. Plus-29 — The Packers' point differential after five games (1-4). Minus-68 — The Saints' point differential after five games (2-3).

**WORTH REPEATING:** "It has nothing to do with dropped balls or missed tackles. We can do that anywhere.'' — Haslett, when asked if Sunday's performance was linked to his team's exiled situation in San Antonio.



AP PHOTO

Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks left Sunday's game with 8:40 remaining in the third quarter in favor of Todd Bouman. Television showed Brooks standing on the sideline with his right hand wrapped in ice, but Coach Jim Haslett said Brooks is healthy.

## STATISTICS

**PACKERS 52, SAINTS 3**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — 3 |
| Green Bay | 14 | 21 | 10 | 7 | — 52 |

**First quarter**

**Saints 3, Packers 0**
Scoring play: John Carney 33-field goal. Time: 9:40. Drive: nine plays, 37 yards. Time of possession: 4:59. Key play: Aaron Brooks passes to Deuce McAllister for 22 yards on third-and-14 at the New Orleans 44.

**Packers 7, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Najeh Davenport one run (Ryan Longwell kick). Time: 3:06. Drive: 12 plays, 68 yards. Time of possession: 6:27. Key play: Brett Favre passes to Donald Driver for 13 yards on third-and-nine at the New Orleans 25.

**Packers 14, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Al Harris 22-yard interception return (Longwell kick). Time: 1:27.

**Second quarter**

**Packers 21, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Davenport four run (Longwell kick). Time: 9:33. Drive: 10 plays, 68 yards. Time of possession: 6:10. Key play: Favre passes to Robert Ferguson for eight yards on third-and-three at the 50.

**Packers 28, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Ferguson 25 pass from Favre (Longwell kick). Time: 7:12. Drive: three plays, 49 yards. Time of possession: 1:05. Key play: Favre passes to Driver for 14 yards on first-and-10 at the New Orleans 49.

**Packers 35, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Martin one pass from Favre (Longwell kick). Time: 0:33. Drive: three plays, 19 yards. Time of possession: 0:20. Key play: Green Bay recovers Ernie Conwell fumble deep in Saints territory.

**Third quarter**

**Packers 42, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Donald Lee 26 pass from Favre (Longwell kick). Time: 11:35. Drive: five plays, 78 yards. Time of possession: 2:25. Key play: Favre passes to Ferguson for 51 yards on first-and-10 at the Green Bay 33.

**Packers 45, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Longwell 26-yard field goal. Time: 3:45. Drive: six plays, 22 yards. Time of possession: 2:32. Key play: Green Bay recovers Saints fumble at New Orleans 30.

**Fourth quarter**

**Packers 52, Saints 3**
Scoring play: Nick Barnett 95-yard interception return (Longwell kick). Time: 9:20.A: 70,580.

| | NO | GB |
|---|---|---|
| First downs | 14 | 21 |
| Total Net Yards | 254 | 309 |
| Rushes-yards | 26-95 | 28-94 |
| Passing | 159 | 215 |
| Punt Returns | 4-20 | 4-22 |
| Kickoff Returns | 8-183 | 1-25 |
| Interceptions Ret. | 0-0 | 3-117 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 14-35-3 | 20-28-0 |
| Sacked-Yards Lost | 4-18 | 0-0 |
| Punts | 6-47.5 | 6-37.8 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-2 | 1-0 |
| Penalties-Yards | 11-107 | 6-36 |
| Time of Possession | 31:03 | 28:57 |

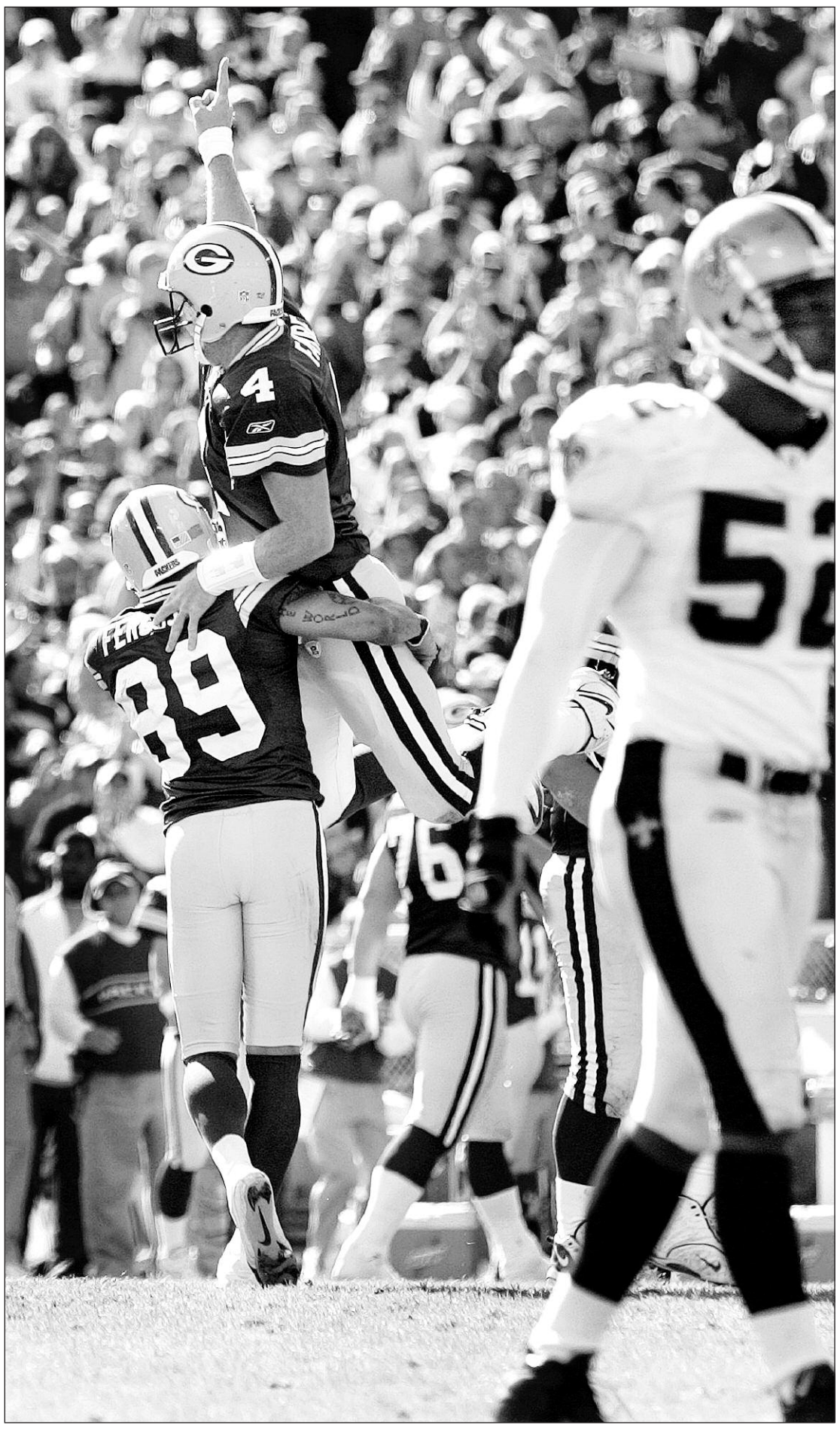
**RUSHING:** New Orleans, A.Smith 12-36, Brooks 2-32, McAllister 11-31, Stecker 1-(minus 4). Green Bay, Davenport 12-54, Fisher 7-19, Favre 1-9, R.Lee 7-7, Chatman 1-5.

**PASSING:** New Orleans, Brooks 9-22-2-146, Bouman 5-13-1-31. Green Bay, Favre 19-27-0-215, Rodgers 1-1-0-0.

**RECEIVING:** New Orleans, Hakim 5-108, McAllister 3-33, Conwell 3-24, Stallworth 1-6, A.Smith 1-4, Hilton 1-2. Green Bay, Fisher 6-40, Driver 5-48, Ferguson 3-84, Martin 2-7, D.Lee 1-26, Henderson 1-8, Davenport 1-2, Leach 1-0.

**MISSED FIELD GOAL:** New Orleans, Carney 43 (WL), 43 (WR).

# Ageless Favre still has what it takes



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre celebrates with receiver Robert Ferguson after throwing a touchdown pass, one of three in the game, during the third quarter of the Packers' 52-3 victory over the Saints at Lambeau Field. Favre completed 19 of 27 passes for 215 yards.

*Packers QB celebrates birthday day early with victory*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

GREEN BAY, WIS. — For months, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre has hinted that he might retire after the season, his 15th in the NFL.

Based on Sunday's near-flawless performance at sun-splashed Lambeau Field, team officials might consider signing their unparalleled leader and captain to a new lucrative contract.

The native of Kiln, Miss., completed 19 of 27 passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns to post a 130.9 passer rating in the Packers' 52-3 victory against the hapless Saints.

Favre, who celebrates his 36th birthday today, threw scoring passes of 25 yards and one yard to wide receiver Robert Ferguson and tight end David Martin in the second quarter and 26 yards to tight end Donald Lee in the third quarter before turning over the game to rookie backup Aaron Rodgers in the fourth quarter.

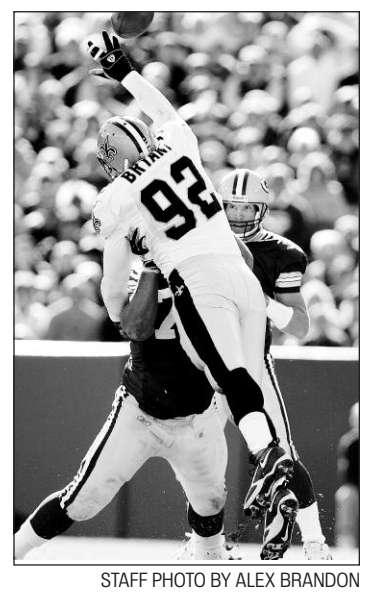
"I thought Brett was outstanding,'' Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "I don't think he's ever, ever looked his age, whatever it is. I've said it before: I think he's the greatest player to play the game and I believe that. I know he's the greatest competitor, and he proved it today."

With a sellout crowd of 70,580 looking on, Favre picked apart a Saints defense that always seemed one step behind in its pass rush and pass coverage. His only apparent hiccup came on the Packers' second play from scrimmage when he botched a handoff to running back Najeh Davenport, which he recovered at the Green Bay 20.

"They had a great game plan," Saints cornerback Fred Thomas said. "They started him out hitting short passes, and he warmed up to it. Then, he started making the deep throws and they made a lot of plays. It seems like everything they did today worked."

"He was impressive,'' said Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie, who played five seasons with Favre in Green Bay.

"Brett was phenomenal,'' Rodgers said. "The day before his 36th birthday, he looked like a 22-year-old out there."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Saints' Tony Bryant blocks a pass by Packers quarterback Brett Favre, one of his few miscues in Green Bay's 52-3 rout of New Orleans on Sunday.

The Packers (1-4) snapped a four-game losing streak, their longest losing streak since 1988.

"I know we're not 52-3 better than the Saints but I also know we're better than 0-4,'' Favre said. "That's the first time I've ever played in a game where we've scored 50 points. Who would have guessed it?"

The Packers had been competitive in all four losses, losing by a combined 20 points, only six in the last three games. But 0-4 had them last in the NFC North where Detroit holds sole possession of first with a 2-2 record.

"People are trying to write (Favre) off," Saints left tackle Wayne Gandy said. "When he was younger he had good players around him. But as you get older, you can't ask a 35-year-old man to win games by himself. He needs a little more running game and a little stingier defense. But I don't see him retiring just yet."

Saints running back Aaron Stecker said Sunday's performance indicates Favre still can play the game at a very high level.

"I went to high school in Green Bay and watched Brett Favre play," Stecker said. "Today he looked like the player I grew up watching. It doesn't matter what he says or does, as long as he's on the field, they've got a chance. He's capable of making things happen.

"It was like watching the Brett Favre of old."

1-4 PACKERS 52 • SAINTS 3 2-3



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Brett Favre and Aaron Brooks meet on the field after Favre and the Green Bay Packers beat the Saints 52-3 at Lambeau Field on Sunday.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Saints running back Antowain Smith finds little running room against the Packers, led by linebacker Nick Barnett (56). Smith finished with 36 yards on 12 carries.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Mike McKenzie reacts to the Green Bay fans who were taunting him by sticking out his tongue.

# Saints vow to 'get it fixed'

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

the Saints started the game rather well.

They forced Green Bay's offense into a three-and-out to open the game. Then the Saints' offense marched down and scored on its opening possession for just the second time since 2003 ñ taking a 3-0 lead.

Then Favre took over.

He marched his team downfield for a touchdown and a 7-3 lead. Then two plays and two penalties later, Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks threw an ill-advised pass that was intercepted by cornerback Al Harris in the left flat.

Harris returned the interception 22 yards for a touchdown.

"Sometimes you never know until you get out there on the football field," Brooks said. "I thought we came in with a great attitude, thought we were going to beat this team while they were down. But obviously that didn't happen. So we just have to move on."

As for that first interception, Brooks said, "The guy made a great play. Whether that was the changing point of the game, hey, we had times to go back down there and answer but we didn't."

Harris intercepted another pass by Brooks on the Saints' next possession ñ a deep ball that Donte' Stallworth could have broken up ñ that led to another Packers' touchdown drive.

Brooks finished 9-of-22 for 146 yards with no touchdowns and two interceptions. He was replaced in the third quarter by Todd Bouman with the Packers leading 42-3.

## THE BIG LOSS

Largest margins of Saints losses since they joined the NFL in 1967.

| Score | Margin | Year |
|---|---|---|
| Falcons 62, Saints 7 | 55 points | 1973 |
| Packers 52, Saints 3 | 49 points | 2005 |
| Vikings 45, Saints 3 | 42 points | 1988 |
| 49ers 40, Saints 0 | 40 points | 1973 |

Brooks was seen on the sideline with ice on his throwing hand, but he said it was nothing more than a "little bruise" and he wasn't even listed among the postgame injuries.

Bouman hardly created a quarterback controversy, fumbling once and throwing an interception - which was returned 95 yards for a touchdown by linebacker Nick Barnett in the fourth quarter.

"We took a step back today, we got our (Ö) kicked," said Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie, a former Packer who was making his return to Lambeau Field. "We didn't bring our A game, they did."

The Saints' secondary had been one of this team's strong suits heading into the game, ranking sixth in the NFL against the pass.

But Favre looked as crisp as ever, finding small spaces in zone coverages and leading his receivers a step ahead of the defensive backs. Favre finished 19-of-27 for 215 yards and three touchdowns.

"Favre was just on his game. It was like he was perfect," Saints cornerback Jason Craft said. "One of those things where it seemed like every pass he threw, it was on the money. He was consistent, that's for sure. He made the right throws, the right plays.

"I don't think he made any dumb passes today. You know sometimes he likes to push the ball up in there sometimes or whatever. But I think every choice that he made was the right choice."

The Saints actually outgained Green Bay 192 yards to 191 in the first half ñ despite trailing 35-3 at the break.

New Orleans committed 10 penalties and Carney missed two field-goal attempts before halftime.

The Saints' penalties were spread out among the offense, defense and special teams, but it was a particularly tough day for the offensive line. Four of the five starters were flagged for holding or false-start penalties in the first half.

"Once that starts, it shouldn't be that hard to get things turned around," guard Kendyl Jacox said of the snowball effect that has plagued the Saints. "Unfortunately it was today. We need to regroup and come back for Atlanta."

The good news for the Saints is that they have a chance to even their record and stay unbeaten in their division when they host the Falcons in San Antonio on Sunday.

The upside of inconsistency is that a big win can help erase a spectacular loss.

"Every game that we've lost, we've somehow, someway found ways to beat ourselves. We put ourselves in bad situations," Bentley said. "That being said, we've somehow, someway got to find a way to fix it."

# Saints helping their opponents make history

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

some kind of juggernaut after placing a large hickey on the head of a team that didn't show up.

This was the kind of performance, under ordinary circumstances, that would get a head coach fired, keeping in mind Hurricane Katrina had a way of changing the rules.

What happened in Green Bay was Jim Haslett's 2-2 Saints played like a bunch of disorganized deadbeats against an opponent burdened with all kinds of problems.

The Packers were without their best running back.

They have a young offensive line, even younger receivers, suspect cornerbacks, and a defense that kept surrendering big plays.

What they also have, of course, is the supreme warrior, a quarterback, his vintage years behind him, who can rally the troops as well as anyone who has played the game.

You knew Brett Favre would have the winless Packers ready.

But you hoped Haslett would do the same for the Saints.

What Green Bay did was expose all the warts in a team that has learned how to lose.

And Sunday the Saints lost in an accustomed fashion.

No discipline.

No leadership.

Nothing, really.

Nothing, that is, after a field goal drive and a quick 3-0 lead.

That's when the first of 10 first-half flags began falling (facemask, 15 yards) to give a Packers' touchdown drive life.

That's when the flags continued to fall (holding, holding again) and then, there was Brooks, with Donte' Stallworth waiting for the football, completing a pass to Al Harris to set the rout in motion.

These were the mental-zombie Saints.

These were the Haslett-Brooks-mistake-ridden Saints who didn't allow the Brett Favre Packers to break a sweat as the home team broke out of a winless season.

This was the kind of game that left senior citizen Favre, making his 230th consecutive start, thinking back to his days in NFL diapers.

The last time the Packers scored 35 points in a first half, Favre was starting his 10th game in a Green Bay uniform.

So, yes, in their own way, Jim Haslett's Saints are still making history — for their opponents.

And you know what the sad thing is for perhaps the leading underachievers in the NFC South?

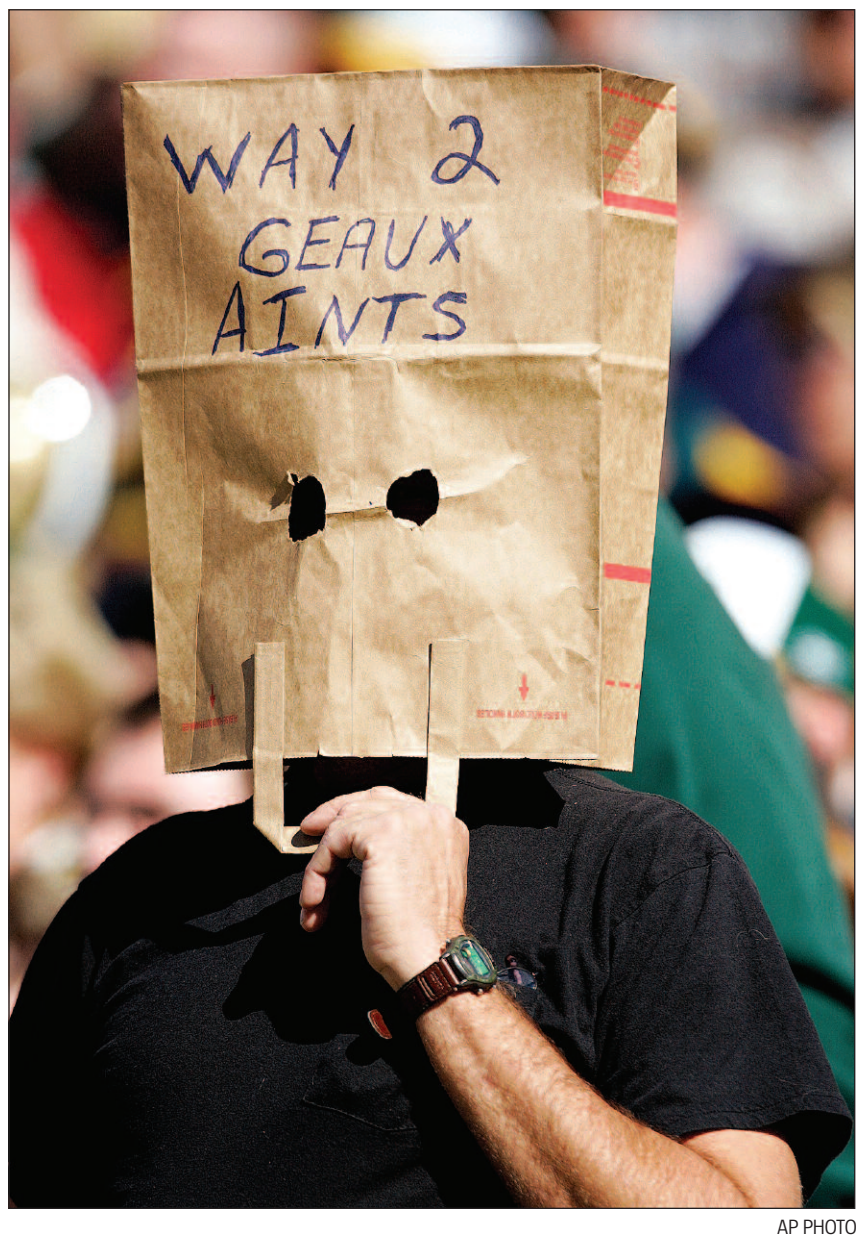
The Saints took their pathetic dive on a Sunday that told you the division was up for grabs.

Bucs lose. Falcons lose. And Michael Vick's hurting.

Come next Sunday, the Falcons visit San Antonio, where the Saints will be spending the week nursing what?

Wounded pride?

If you watched the sorriest of performances by paid professionals, you know there was none, no wounded pride, in 52-3.




AP PHOTO

Chip DeBlois of Metairie goes under cover to watch the Saints' 52-3 loss to Green Bay on Sunday at Lambeau Field.

## SAINTS REPORT CARD

Staff writers Brian Allee-Walsh and Mike Triplett

### OFFENSE

Aside from their opening series when John Carney converted a 33-yard field goal for a short-lived 3-0 lead, the Saints' offense seemed out of sync and uninspired. Quarterback Aaron Brooks struggled, completing nine of 22 passes for 146 yards, with two interceptions. Green Bay cornerback Al Harris returned one interception 22 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter. Brooks finished with a 25.9 passer rating. His replacement - Todd Bouman - didn't fare much better. He completed five of 13 passes for 177 yards (a rating of 14.6), with one interception returned for a touchdown and one lost fumble resulting in a field goal. Once the game turned one-sided, in the second quarter, Saints offensive coordinator Mike Sheppard essentially had to abandon the running game. Consequently, Deuce McAllister rushed 11 times for 31 yards before exiting the game in the third quarter with a sprained right knee.

**Grade: F.**

### DEFENSE

If you simply look at yards surrendered, the Packers only managed to get 309. But they scored 52 points on 56 plays from scrimmage and averaged 5.5 yards per play. The pass rush was non-existent (no sacks, very few hurries), thus enabling Packers quarterback Brett Favre to sit back and pick apart the Saints' secondary with relative ease. Favre posted a 130.9 passer rating, completing 19 of 27 passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns. Cornerback Jason Craft twice got beat for touchdowns and gave up a 51-yard completion to Robert Ferguson, a play on which Craft was called for pass interference. The sooner cornerback Fakhir Brown comes off the injury report, the better off the Saints' pass defense should be.

**Grade: F.**

### COACHING

Praise or criticism - each begins at the top, starting with Coach Jim Haslett. The Saints appeared to be ill-prepared to play a winless team that was coming off an emotional 32-29 loss to the Carolina Panthers on Monday night. Veteran left tackle Wayne Gandy called it a "trap game," meaning the Saints should have known they would be walking into a potential ambush. Five turnovers resulted in 31 points, and 11 penalties produced minus-107 yards. All in all, a woeful job of preparation.

**Grade: F.**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

They were hardly the reason the Saints lost, but they can hardly be let off the hook after this debacle. Two of the Saints' first-half penalties came during kickoff returns. And Saints kicker John Carney missed two field-goal attempts of 43 yards in the second quarter. The Saints' coverage units did a fine job, but the Saints did not make any significant kick returns ñ even though the Packers gave them plenty of chances, kicking off nine times. Ö One major bright spot: no fumbles.

**Grade: D**

# Patriots' Brady, Vinatieri deny Falcons an upset

*Jets deal Buccaneers first loss of season; Panthers rally late*

**By The Associated Press**



AP PHOTO

Atlanta quarterback Matt Schaub, subbing for the injured Michael Vick, threw for 298 yards in the Falcons' 31-28 loss to New England.

The Atlanta Falcons kept coming back, even without quarterback Michael Vick, but Tom Brady and the New England Patriots weren't about to lose two in a row.

Brady threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns before Adam Vinatieri kicked a 29-yard field goal with 17 seconds left to lead injury-plagued New England past the host Falcons 31-28 on Sunday. The Falcons (3-2) play the Saints (2-3) at noon Sunday in the Alamodome in San Antonio.

"We put a lot into this one," Brady said. "We've had doubters for a long time. We're just going to keep coming out and doing the hard things every week."

Matt Schaub filled in admirably for Vick, matching Brady with three touchdown passes while rallying the Falcons from deficits of 14-0 and 28-13 against the defending Super Bowl champions.

Atlanta tied the score at 28 when Schaub threw a 14-yard scoring pass to Dez White with 3:52 remaining, then went to Brian Finneran for a 2-point conversion.

New England (3-2) was coming off a dismal performance, losing to San Diego at home 41-17 and facing the possibility of its first losing streak since 2002.

But, with the Patriots backed up at their 26 on second-and-20, Atlanta cornerback Allen Rossum was called for pass interference on Deion Branch ñ the last of a stretch of four penalties in four plays that gave New England a first down at the Falcons' 44.

Patrick Pass, replacing injured Corey Dillon, broke off a 15-yard gain that set up the 19th game-winning kick of Vinatieri's career.

Vick, who has a strained ligament in his right knee, wasn't active. He watched from the sideline, dressed out in a visor and gray sweatshirt.

"He wasn't ready to play," Coach Jim Mora said. "It was an easy decision. When a player is not ready to play, you are not going to put him out there in harm's way. This team felt confident we could perform with Matt Schaub, and I think we proved that to be true."

Schaub, a second-year player from Virginia, completed 18 of 34 passes for 298 yards and didn't have any turnovers. Finneran caught five passes for 103 yards.

But the Falcons' defense couldn't slow Brady, who was 22-of-27. Branch, MVP of last season's Super Bowl, had eight catches for 107 yards. Tight end Daniel Graham had 119 yards on five receptions, including a 45-yard touchdown.

Bethel Johnson caught a 55-yard touchdown pass, and Ben Watson went 33 yards with Brady's other scoring throw.

Dillon rushed for 106 yards before he went to the locker room with an undisclosed injury late in the game. Pass rushed for 34 yards, including the first touchdown of his career in the first quarter.

**FALCONS LOSE LB:** Atlanta linebacker Edgerton Hartwell might be lost for the season because of a foot injury, Mora said.

Mora said backup cornerback Chris Cash also might be out for the season because of an arm injury. Mora said he would be surprised if either player returns this season.

"When they take them into the locker room right way, it doesn't look good," Mora said. "I would say that they are both probably done unless we get divine intervention."

Hartwell was carted off the field in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter with a right foot injury. He started all four games this season.

**JETS 14 vs. BUCS 12:** Vinny Testaverde finished 13-of-19 for 163 yards, and Curtis Martin rushed for his first two touchdowns of the season as New York (2-3) gave visiting Tampa Bay its first loss of the season.

"My goal was to get the guys to believe in me, so we can get the season turned around," said Testaverde, who joined the Jets to substitute for injured Chad Pennington and Jay Fiedler. "I think they believe in me. I believe in them."

"He made a couple of good throws for a guy who has been home eating potato chips," Bucs cornerback Ronde Barber said.

Tampa Bay played without running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams, out with foot and hamstring injuries, and stalled on offense. Michael Pittman, who filled in for Williams, finished with 13 carries for 46 yards, and Brian Griese was 27-of-42 for 226 yards with an interception.

The Jets had three sacks and limited Tampa Bay to 285 yards on 71 plays.

Tampa Bay was 2-of-14 on third down and also committed 12 penalties for 87 yards. Matt Bryant was the lone bright spot with four field goals (35, 36, 43, 30).

"They got after us early," Bucs coach Jon Gruden said. "We had sacks in our first five or six passes. That will knock any quarterback out of rhythm."

Still, the Bucs had a chance in the end. They forced the Jets to punt with one minute remaining but ran out of time trying to get into field goal range.

**PANTHERS 24 at CARDINALS 20:** Jake Delhomme threw two touchdown passes to Steve Smith, one for 65 yards in the first half and a four-yarder with 6:54 to go, to give Carolina (3-2) a come-from-behind victory over Arizona (1-4).

Delhomme completed 18 of 29 passes for 243 yards and two scores. He was intercepted once.

Arizona, leading 20-10 after three quarters, had the ball twice after Carolina's go-ahead score.

The Cardinals drove to the Panthers 33, but Marlon McCree intercepted Josh McCown in the end zone for the second time in the game. The Cardinals' last shot ended when McCown scrambled on fourth-and-10 but came up inches short at the Panthers' 49.

McCown completed 29 of 46 for 394 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

# Cowboys strike quickly to overrun Eagles

*Redskins lose first; Holcomb leads Bills past Miami*

**By The Associated Press**



AP PHOTO

Miami Dolphins coach Nick Saban reacts after the Dolphins fumbled late in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game against the Buffalo Bills. The Bills won 20-14.

Drew Bledsoe and the Dallas Cowboys jumped on the Philadelphia Eagles with two early touchdowns and turned that spark into a 33-10 victory Sunday at Irving, Texas.

The Cowboys led 17-0 before the Eagles had a first down and 27-3 at halftime, having scored on five of six possessions.

Bledsoe finished 24-of-35 for 289 yards and three touchdowns, with Terry Glenn catching the first two scoring passes. Glenn had seven catches for 118 yards. Julius Jones gained 72 yards but didn't play the second half because of an apparent ankle injury. Rookie Tyson Thompson gained 75 yards in his place as Dallas (3-2) went conservative with the game under control.

The Eagles, who came in with the league's best offense and top passing attack, were held to 129 total yards, 110 passing. Their touchdown came on an 80-yard fumble return by cornerback Sheldon Brown.

Donovan McNabb, playing with injuries to his abdomen, chest and groin, was 13-of-26 for 131 yards and four sacks for Philadelphia (3-2). Terrell Owens had five catches for 50 yards.

**BRONCOS 21 vs. REDSKINS 19:** Denver (4-1) thwarted a 2-point conversion attempt with 1:09 left, preserving a victory against Washington (3-1).

Mark Brunell's 11-yard touchdown pass to Chris Cooley drew the Redskins to 21-19. But his pass for two points was incomplete. Brunell finished 30-for-53 for 322 yards and two touchdowns.

Tatum Bell rushed 12 times for 127 yards and two touchdowns for the Broncos, including a 55-yarder. Clinton Portis led the Redskins with 103 yards on 20 carries.

Denver led 21-10 after three quarters. Nick Novak's 35-yard field goal closed Washington to 21-13 with 6:25 to go.

**BILLS 20 vs. DOLPHINS 14:** With Buffalo on the verge of squandering a 17-point lead, Nate Clements stripped Miami running back Ronnie Brown of the ball, securing the victory.

The turnover, Miami's fifth of the game, came with 1:37 left and with the Dolphins threatening inside the Bills' 30.

The Bills (2-3) snapped a three-game losing streak and gave Kelly Holcomb a win in the veteran backup's first start of the season in place of J.P. Losman.

Holcomb completed 11 of his first 15 attempts and led scoring drives on Buffalo's first three possessions. He finished 20-of-26 for 169 yards and a touchdown.

The Dolphins (2-2), coming off a bye week, committed a franchise-record 18 penalties for 108 yards.

**COLTS 28 at 49ERS 3:** Edgerrin James rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown, and Indianapolis (5-0) intercepted four passes by No. 1 draft pick Alex Smith to defeat San Francisco (1-4).

Peyton Manning went 23-of-31 for 255 yards and one score, with two interceptions, for Indianapolis. The Colts scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns, on James' 4-yard run and Troy Walters' 18-yard reception, to take command. Cato June returned an interception 24 yards for a score in the second quarter, and Dominic Rhodes rushed for an early touchdown.

Smith went 9-of-23 for 74 yards and committed five turnovers. He was sacked five times.

**SEAHAWKS 37 at RAMS 31:** Joe Jurevicius, vaulted to the top of Seattle's depth chart because of injuries, had a career-best nine catches for 137 yards and a touchdown, and Shaun Alexander ran for a pair of scores in a victory over St. Louis (2-3).

The Seahawks ñ playing without receivers Darrell Jackson and Bobby Engram ñ moved into first place in the NFC West. Seattle (3-2) ended a four-game losing streak against the Rams that included a first-round playoff loss last season.

Steven Jackson had 79 yards rushing and a touchdown and 62 yards receiving for the Rams. Chris Johnson returned the opening kickoff 99 yards for a Rams touchdown, the team's first runback in five seasons.

**LIONS 35 vs. RAVENS 17:** Kevin Jones scored two first-quarter touchdowns, and Detroit (2-2) beat Baltimore (1-3), helped in part by the Ravens' 21 penalties ñ one short of the NFL record ñ and two ejections.

Dre' Bly had two interceptions and recovered a fumble for the Lions.

Baltimore lost defensive end/linebacker Terrell Suggs and safety B.J. Ward because of ejections late in the third quarter.

The Lions never trailed and turned the game into a rout by outscoring the Ravens 21-7 in the second half.

**BROWNS 20 vs. BEARS 10:** Trent Dilfer connected with wide receiver Antonio Bryant for two touchdowns in a 38-second span late in the fourth quarter as Cleveland (2-2) rallied to top sputtering Chicago (1-3).

With the Browns trailing 10-6, Dilfer threw to Bryant for a 33-yard touchdown with 3:02 left. After Bears rookie quarterback Kyle Orton's fumble was recovered by Chris Crocker, Dilfer found Bryant on the same route in the left corner, this time for a 28-yard touchdown pass that put the Browns ahead by 10 points with 2:24 remaining.

Orton went 16-for-26 for 117 yards. Chicago running back Thomas Jones rushed for 137 yards on 24 carries, but he left midway through the fourth quarter with an injured right knee.

Dilfer, who had two interceptions in the first half, finished 22-for-34 for 218 yards.

**TITANS 34 at TEXANS 20:** Steve McNair threw for 220 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a touchdown to lead Tennessee (2-3) over Houston (0-4).

McNair surpassed 25,000 career passing yards passing, and the win was the 100th for Titans coach Jeff Fisher.

Kris Brown kicked four field goals for Houston, which has no takeaways this season.

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## COLLEGES

**TULANE SHUTS OUT USM:** Junior midfielder Jackie Obert scored in the 35th minute and rookie goalkeeper Kathryn Alario posted a career-best seven saves as the Tulane women's soccer team shut out Conference USA foe Southern Miss 1-0 at the Aggie Soccer Stadium in College Station, Texas.

The win was the first for the Green Wave (1-6, 1-3) in 2005. Southern Miss fell to 3-5, 0-3. "Jackie Obert was our player of the game," Tulane coach Betsy Anderson said. "Whether it was playing defense on corners, in the middle third of the field or putting the ball in the back of the net, she won everything in the air today."

**WILDCATS TOP TIGERS:** The LSU volleyball team lost is second consecutive match, falling 30-22, 22-30, 30-27, 30-24, to Kentucky at Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Ky. The Tigers (13-4, 3-3 SEC) have played 17 consecutive road matches. The Wildcats improved to 11-5, 4-2.

## GOLF

**WOODS WINS AMERICAN EXPRESS:** Tiger Woods made up two shots over the final three holes Sunday to force a playoff, then won the American Express Championships on the second extra hole when John Daly three-putted for bogey from 15 feet on the 16th, badly pulling his three-foot par putt. Woods closed with a 2-under 68 on Sunday at Lake Merced in San Francisco, and won the American Express Championship for the fourth time in six starts. He extended his dominance in these World Golf Championships, winning his 10th in 19 events. It was his sixth victory of the year. Daly shot 69 and had two chances to win. He missed a 16-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation, then had a birdie putt from 15 feet on the second extra hole that just grazed the left side of the cup.

**BICKERTON WINS BY FIVE STROKES:** John Bickerton won the Abama Open de Canarias, shooting a 3-under 68 to beat Stuart Little and Michael Kirk by five strokes in Tenerife, Canary Islands. Bickerton finished with a 10-under 274 total at the 6,857-yard Abama Golf Club course. "It feels fantastic, awesome," Bickerton said. "It's been a long time coming and I've been very worried about my place on Tour." Bickerton has finished second five times on the European Tour since 1993 and had been in danger of losing his European Tour card. Little, who finished in second for the first time in his career, shot a 72, while Kirk finished the final round with a 69.

## TENNIS

**DAVENPORT WINS NO. 50:** Lindsay Davenport earned up her 50th career title Sunday with a 6-2, 6-4 victory against Amelie Mauresmo in Filderstadt, Germany. The American became the 10th player to reach that milestone, relying on her big serve for her 10th straight win against Mauresmo.

"I was really, really excited to get 50 titles and get it so quickly," the 29-year-old Davenport said after winning her fifth title of the year at the $650,000 tournament.

**KRAJICECK WINS FIRST TITLE:** Dutch teenager Michaella Krajicek won her first career WTA title, beating Uzbekistan's Akgul Amanmuradova 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 in the final of the Tashkent Open in Uzbekistan.

"I'm really happy to win my first WTA title," said Krajicek, sister of the 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek. "It was a tough week - of five matches here I've won three in three sets,"

**LJUBICIC WINS CHAMPIONSHIP:** Third-seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia beat sixth-seeded Gael Monfils of France 7-6 (7), 6-0 to win the Open de Moselle in Metz, France. Ljubicic won his first final of the year after losing his previous four - three to Roger Federer at Doha, Rotterdam and Dubai, and one to Joachim Johansson at Marseille.

Moodie wins Japan Open

South Africa's Wesley Moodie recovered from an unsteady start to claim the Japan Open title with a 1-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4 win over fifth-seeded Mario Ancic of Croatia in Tokyo.

## HOCKEY

**GRETZKY WINS HOME DEBUT:** A couple of losses didn't ruin Wayne Gretzky's sense of humor. "To get my first ... it's nice," Gretzky said of his initial NHL coaching victory. "Scotty Bowman's record (1,244 wins) is pretty safe." The Phoenix Coyotes rallied for a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Saturday night. Gretzky, the NHL's career leading scorer, waited three games as a coach to celebrate a victory, something that seemed to come naturally during a 20-year playing career that included four Stanley Cups championships with Edmonton.

**PAYCHECKS DOCKED FOR ESCROW:** The first paycheck NHL players receive this season will be cut by 12 percent so that money can be placed into escrow. Players haven't been paid in 16 months, dating to the end of the regular season before the lockout. As stated in the new collective bargaining agreement, player salaries can't take up more than 54 percent of league revenues. An escrow fund was put in place to ensure that owners would get their share of the pot should salaries exceed the allowed percentage. All 13 checks that players get this season will be docked for escrow but the percentage will change. The NHL and the players' association will recalculate the percentage three more times this season, the next being in late November. The 12 percent, which accounts for 713 players, is based on a $1.8 billion revenue estimate for the season, which is probably low. Revenues were $2.1 billion during the 2003-04 season, and that figure was based on a smaller definition of revenue than the hockey-related revenue definition of the new agreement.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**EX-BLUE JAYS ANNOUNCER DIES:** Tom Cheek, who called every game in the history of the Toronto Blue Jays until last year, died of brain cancer Sunday. He was 66. Cheek, who died at his home in Oldsmar, Fla., was best known for his streak, which ended at 27 1/2 seasons on June 3, 2004, because of his father's death. He called 4,306 consecutive regular-season games, plus 41 more in the postseason, since the Blue Jays began playing in 1977.

**A'S GM TO INTERVIEW COACHES:** Oakland general manager Billy Beane will interview two members of the Athletics' coaching staff this week for the team's managerial vacancy. Bullpen coach Bob Geren, considered a front-runner to replace Ken Macha, will meet with Beane on Tuesday in Phoenix. Third-base coach Ron Washington will follow Wednesday, also in Phoenix, where the A's have their minor league complex and hold spring training. The team hasn't said who else might be candidates to replace Macha, who failed to come to terms on a new contract with the A's after proposals were exchanged last week. He left Oakland after seven years with the club, the last three as manager. Macha was scheduled to interview with the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday as they look for Lloyd McClendon's replacement. Macha lives in the Pittsburgh area and would be a convenient hire, though the Pirates plan to speak to former Dodgers manager Jim Tracy today and he appears to be the leader.

## BOXING

**CORRALES READY FOR ROUND 3:** Diego Corrales had barely picked himself off the canvas and plans were already under way for a third fight with Jose Luis Castillo. In the ring Saturday night, Corrales' promoter asked his fighter if he wanted the fight right away or if he wanted to wait a few fights instead. "Immediately," Corrales replied. Corrales could have been excused if he wasn't thinking of fighting Castillo again so soon. He had just been stopped in the fourth round by a vicious left hook that quickly finished off what had been expected to be a battle of attrition. The punch made short work of a highly anticipated rematch of the classic first fight between the two boxers, a battle won by Corrales when he got off the canvas twice in the dramatic 10th round to stop Castillo. There would be no dramatics for Corrales this time. Castillo never gave him a chance to continue fighting with a punch so devastating that Corrales crumpled to the canvas before getting up still in a daze as he was counted out by referee Joe Cortez. As he landed the big left hook, Castillo immediately raised his arms in triumph. "I knew he wasn't getting up," Castillo said. "I told everybody I was going to knock him out by the seventh round."




**Mercy Family Center has reopened and is accepting new patients**

MERCY FAMILY CENTER
A Member of Sisters of Mercy Ministries

Since 1992, Mercy Family Center has been providing comprehensive outpatient behavioral and mental health services for children, adolescents and their families.

**To schedule an appointment call 985-727-7993 ext. 30**
**email@mercyfamilycenter.com**
**or visit www.mercyfamilycenter.com and follow the "New Patient" link.**

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-8

PAGE C-7

Monday
October 10, 2005

WDSU newscasters remember their great escapes.

**Tuesday in Living**

**TODAY: PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

# Cry me a hurricane

**The stress of Katrina can be especially hard on children. It's up to parents to recognize signs of post-traumatic stress and serve as role models of emotional recovery.**

**By Barri Bronston**
Staff writer

"Well, I'm back home again. . . but now I'm starting to think that I should move away for good! Why can't things go back to normal? I'm trying to be positive, but how can I when all these negative things are happening? Someone comment to help me see a positive point to all of this."

That recent entry on Live Journal, a popular blogging site for teens, illustrates the sense of hopelessness and frustration that children of all ages could soon be experiencing — if they haven't already — in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

It's what Dr. Doug Walker, a child psychologist with Mercy Family Center, refers to as the "third wave of trauma," what happens to kids as they begin returning home following weeks or months of displacement.

"The first wave was the hurricane itself, and the second wave was relocation process," Walker said from his office in Mandeville. "The third wave is the return to life here.

"This is when we really expect more of the post-traumatic stress reaction to occur. Many of these kids are expecting to walk in their schools and have their friends there, their friends in the neighborhood, and it's not going to necessarily be the way it was or what they expected."



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

*See* **STRESS,** *C-10*

**WAYS TO HELP YOUR KIDS COPE, SEE C-10**



CHRIS ROSE

## Travelin' man

*By car or by plane, moving in and out of New Orleans can be a trip*

I'm somewhat consumed by the topic of travel because I've done so much of it lately, hopping from one bankrupt airline to the next in an effort to see my relocated family in Maryland as much as possible.

If you're from New Orleans, the likelihood of running into someone you know at even the most random of American airports has dramatically increased since the storm. So many of us seem to be on the move, coming home, leaving home, visiting family, looking for a lost dog, looking for a job . . . but where is everyone going?

While changing planes in Memphis recently, I eavesdropped on a guy who was boarding my New Orleans-bound plane. Since he talked so loudly on his cell phone, I considered it to be fair game for columnizing.

**So many of us seem to be on the move, coming home, leaving home, visiting family, looking for a lost dog, looking for a job . . . but where is everyone going?**

Anyway, I don't want to get too far into this particular point, but let's just say this guy was not your run-of-the-mill stud muffin; not a guy you're going to see on the cast of "The Bachelor," for instance.

In fact, he was round. And there's nothing all that wrong with being round; it's a personal choice and I'm not going to judge here. And he was also considerably older than me so we're talking borderline AARP zone here.

And what he was saying into the phone was that he could make $20 an hour in New Orleans hauling trees and debris and then: "All I have to do is pass the physical."

Mind you, the point of this is not to make fun of this guy. The point is: If you have two arms and two legs — or let's just say you've got three out of four — it appears that there's work for you in New Orleans if you want it.

As long as you can pass the physical.

I am so sick of airports. At Reagan National in Washington, I plugged my computer into the wall to power it up so I could write on the flight and it was still in my suitcase and I walked away for a second to chat with a friend.

By the time I returned — and we're talking four minutes here — a gate attendant had been notified by an edgy passenger about this and they were pondering the situation and I was no doubt about to be responsible for shutting down all domestic air travel for the day until I sheepishly claimed possession of this menacing tableau.

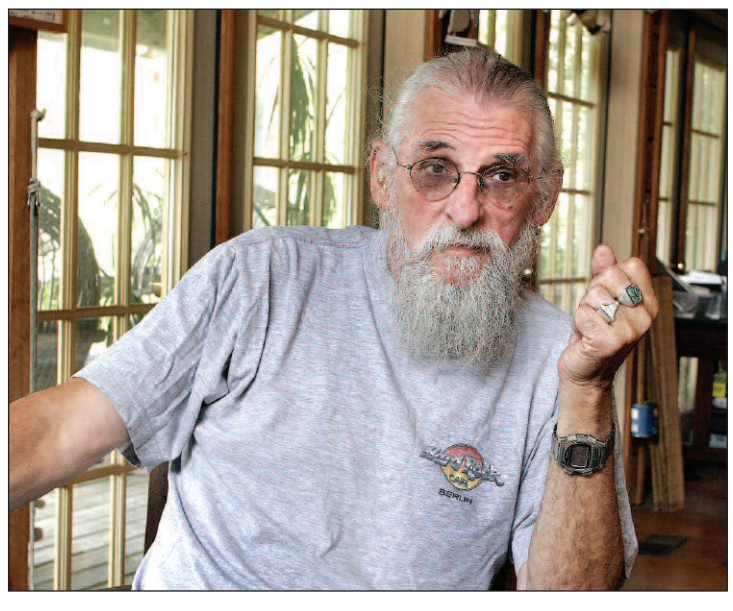
I do admit — now, looking back on it — that the power cord running into the suitcase might have looked a little suspicious. I think I'll power the thing up at home before I leave next time. Or maybe just sleep on the plane.

*See* **ROSE,** *C-10*

# ADRIAN BARON-ROBBINS, 68, ARCHITECT

**HOME:** *30-foot yacht, the Calabash, docked in Pass Christian, Miss.*

**HAVEN:** *Oxford, Miss.*



"I'VE owned this boat for 26 years. She was very much our home, since this is the only thing we owned outright in this world. She was our weekend home, our summer home, my permanent home in a sense.

"I lived 16 years in the Caribbean, 11 years in St. Lucia, where I met (my wife) Paula. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Grenada.

"In 1986 we powered the boat up the Inland Waterway (from Miami) and across Lake Okeechobee. I saw parts of America few people have seen, going through the Everglades by water. We went up to Pass Christian, made inquiries at the bait shop, and were told to find an empty slip. I thought, I've found a very nice place.

"If I had used my intelligence (before Katrina), the only way I could have saved her was to have sunk her. This was her fourth hurricane. After Ivan, she was one of the few boats floating.

"This time, (when we returned after the hurricane) the marina was empty. We went to Trinity Episcopal, about a half mile away, and there were bits of boats everywhere. So I know my boat has not survived.

"I can think of her exactly as she was when I left her. I've lived in different parts of the world, never accumulated much. She was the nicest handling boat I've ever had. She forgave a lot of my sins."

**MY STORM STORY**

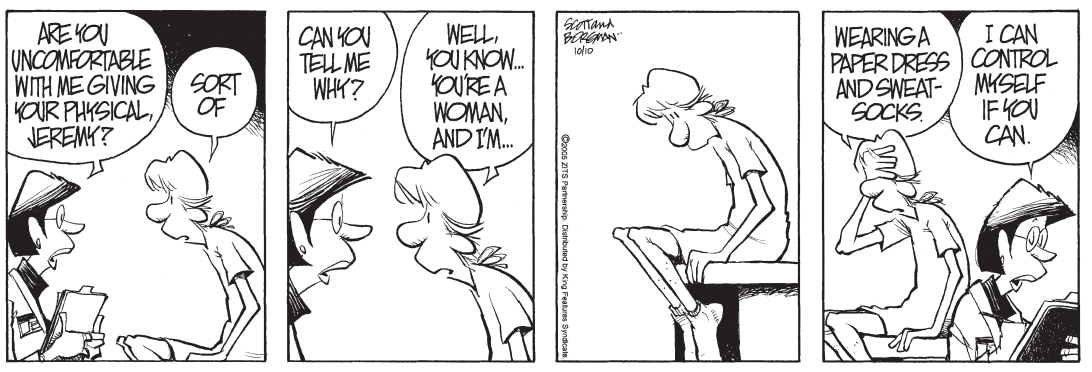


*Hurricane Katrina: In their own words*

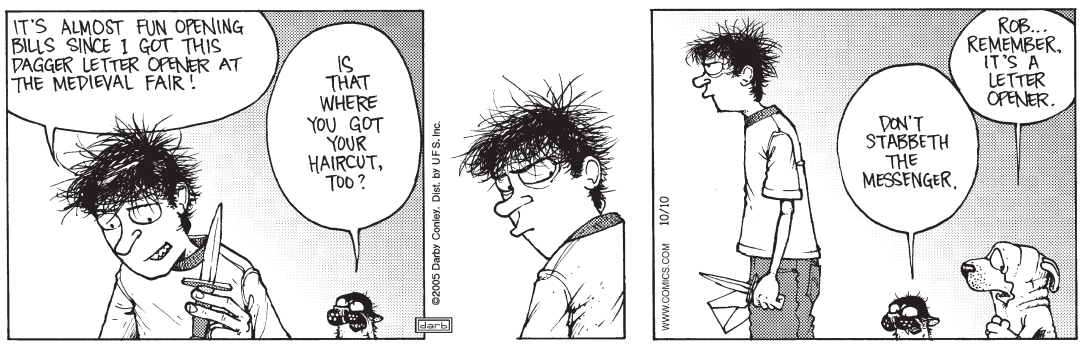
*As told to Louann Dorrough on Oct. 1, 2005*

# COMICS

## ZITS



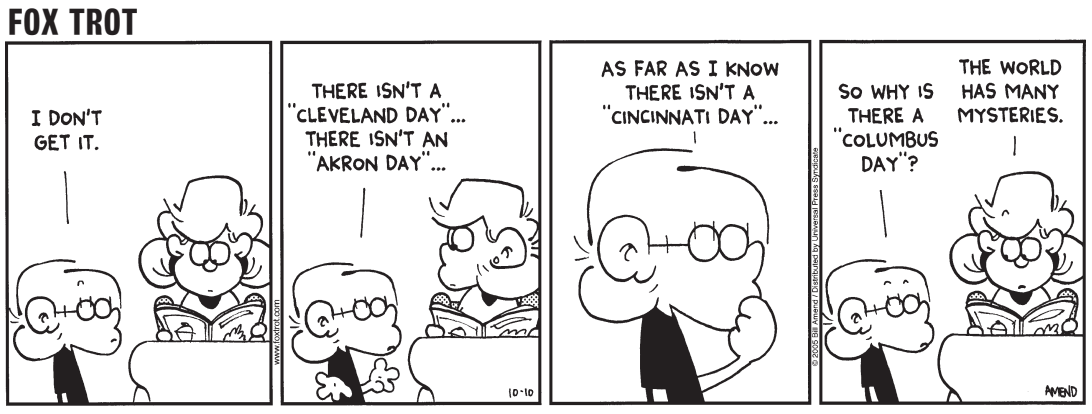

## GET FUZZY



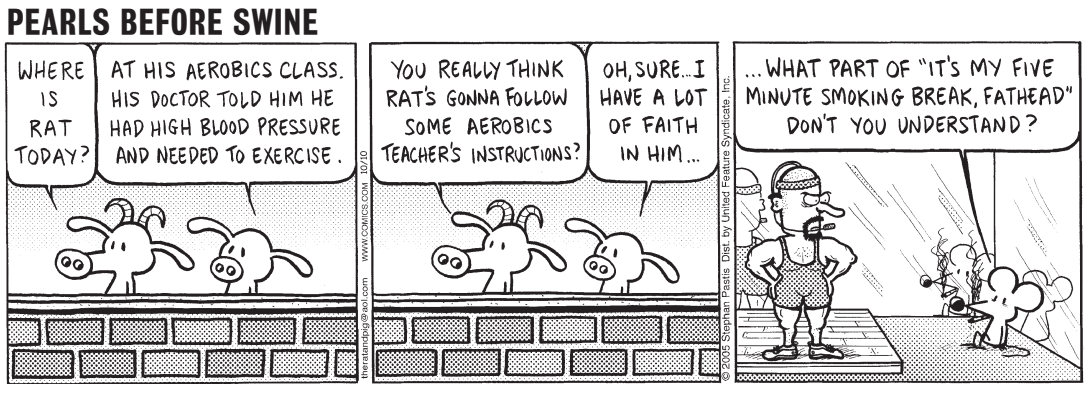

## PICKLES



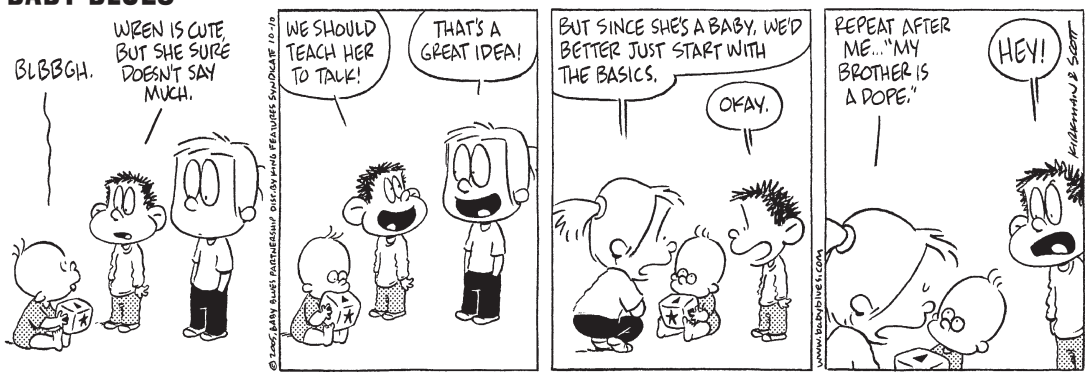

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEEXU

DARNB

NAKTIE

DIRNEH

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Answer here:*** _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHANT MOLDY SOLACE FLAXEN
Answer: What must be learned to become a diamond cutter? — MANY "FACETS"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| A1 | O1 | U1 | L1 | H4 | C3 | G2 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| A1 | A1 | E1 | K5 | P3 | T1 | R1 | Double Word Score |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| E1 | E1 | E1 | U1 | R1 | G2 | F4 | 2nd Letter Triple |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| E1 | E1 | O1 | N1 | V4 | N1 | C3 | |

**PAR SCORE 145-155**
**BEST SCORE 213**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 145-155

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACK 1 = | G2 | A1 | U1 | C3 | H4 | O1 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| RACK 2 = | P3 | A1 | R1 | T1 | A1 | K5 | E1 | | | | | | | 76 |
| RACK 3 = | R1 | E1 | F4 | U1 | G2 | E1 | E1 | | | | | | | 63 |
| RACK 4 = | C3 | O1 | N1 | V4 | E1 | N1 | E1 | | | | | | | 62 |

TOTAL 213

## WORD SLEUTH

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | T | Q | N | J | G | D | A | X | U | R | O | L | J | G |
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| S | Q | O | S | L | J | N | H | E | C | A | X | A | V | T |
| R | P | N | O | N | O | N | A | B | E | L | T | I | L | J |
| H | F | D | M | B | Y | I | O | D | X | A | I | R | A | Q |
| V | E | T | A | R | P | A | C | P | R | O | M | E | I | K |
| I | G | G | L | O | E | R | C | H | D | O | B | G | R | Z |
| A | Y | B | I | L | X | H | O | M | A | N | J | L | Y | W |
| U | P | H | A | I | B | A | R | A | I | D | U | A | S | T |
| R | T | Q | O | N | L | B | O | J | I | G | F | D | C | A |
| E | Y | X | W | V | N | E | M | E | Y | T | S | R | P | O |

Saturday's unlisted clue: WHITE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: HOME OF THE PYRAMIDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | Iraq | Morocco | Somalia |
| Bahrain | Jordan | Oman | Syria |
| Chad | Lebanon | Qatar | Yemen |
| Ethiopia | Libya | Saudi Arabia | |

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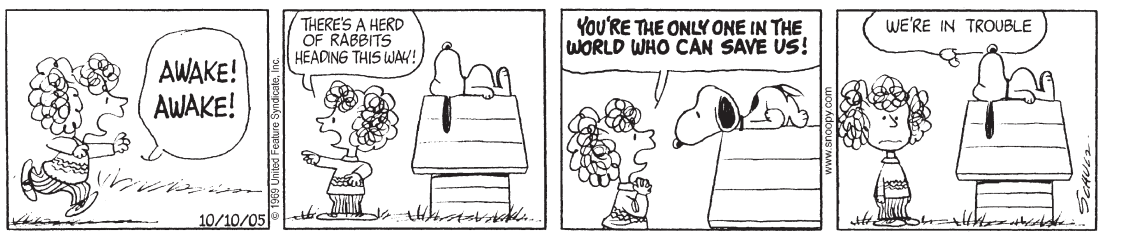
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| S | N | E | E | Y | M | W | S | O | G | U | T | L |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| A | O | O | A | T | I | I | U | R | A | P | F | C |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| Y | R | L | E | O | E | C | O | O | S | I | N | N |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| M | N | E | A | T | U | L | S | T | T | O | N | S |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| T | O | R | I | A | C | A | L | E | T | E | E | T |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| O | S | N | S | N | U | T | A | B | T | O | W | R |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| L | I | O | K | P | R | H | K | N | E | G | L | D |

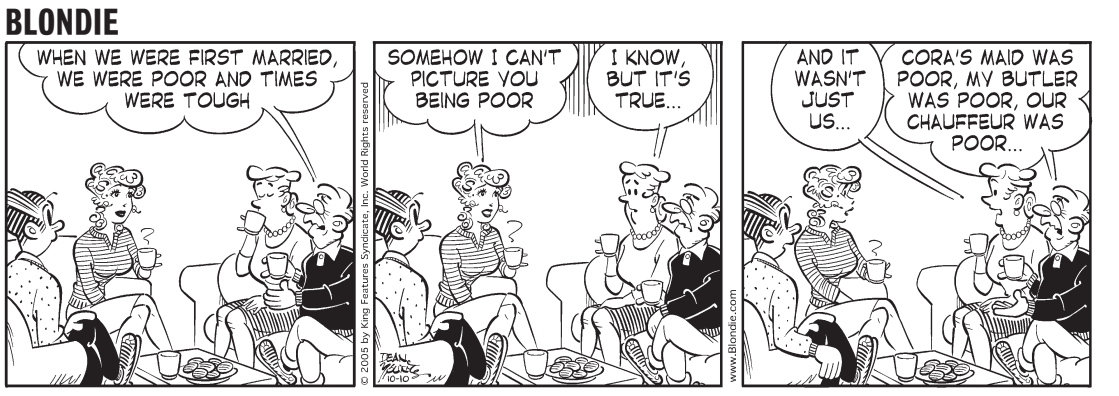
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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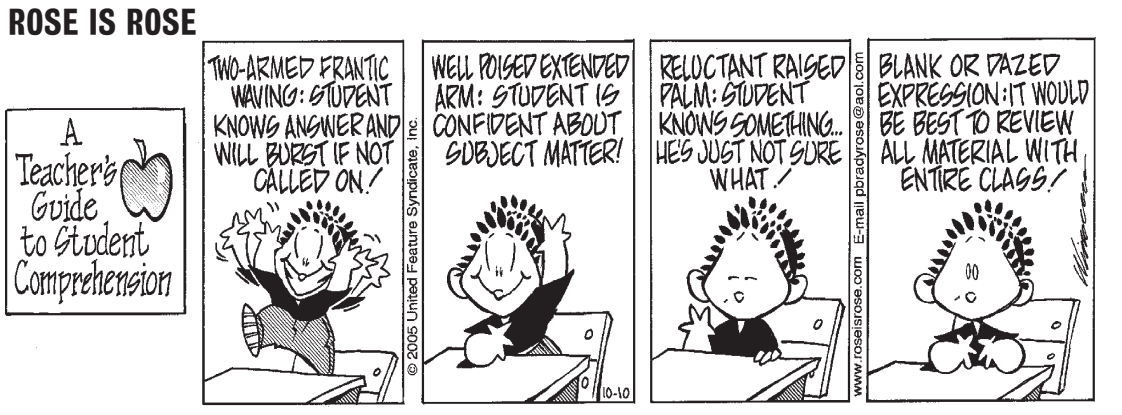
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



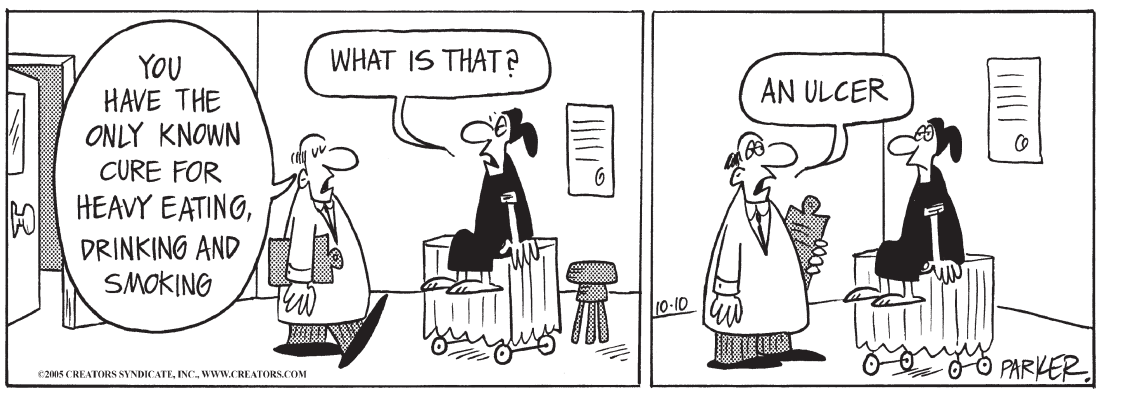

## BLONDIE



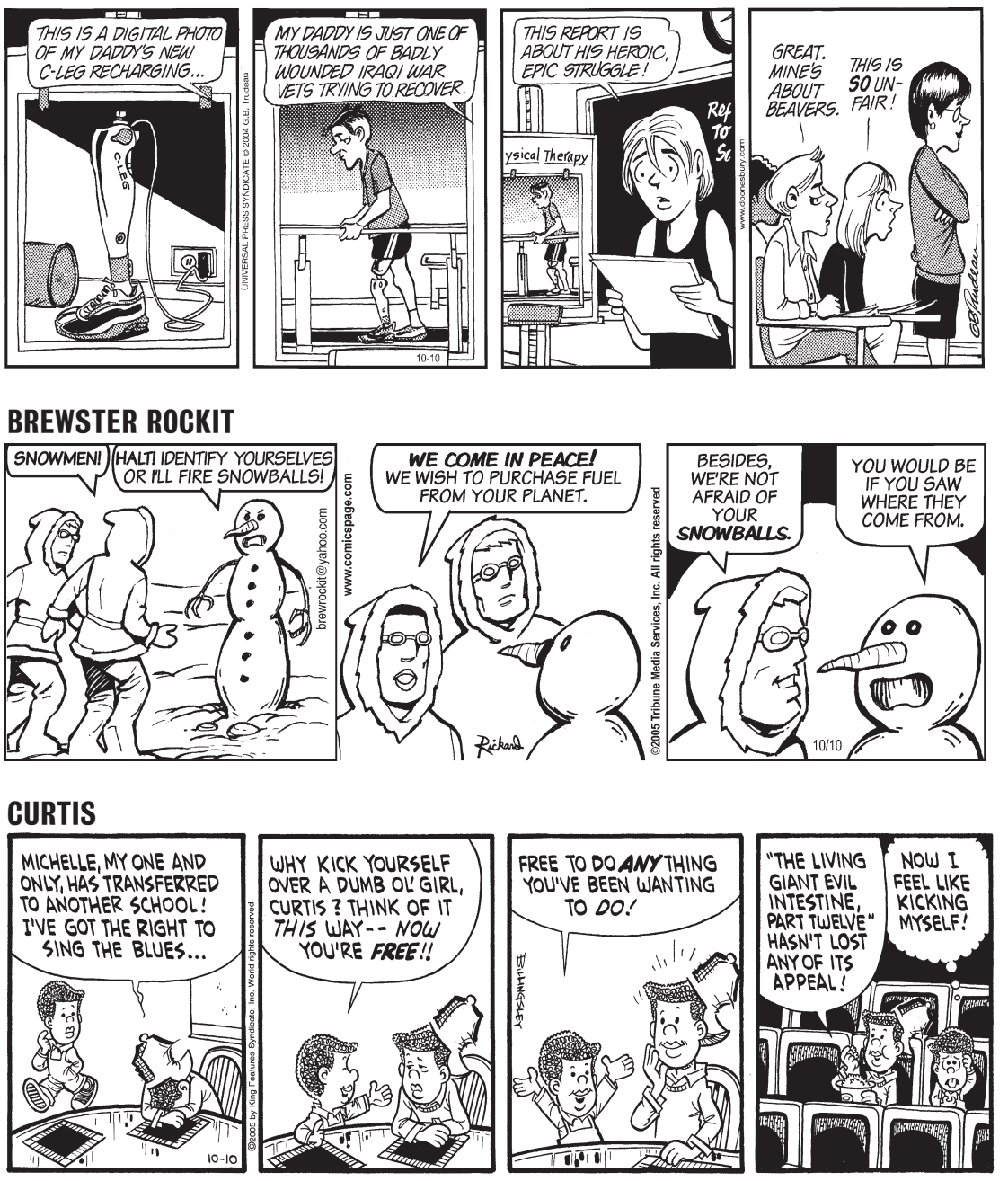

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY



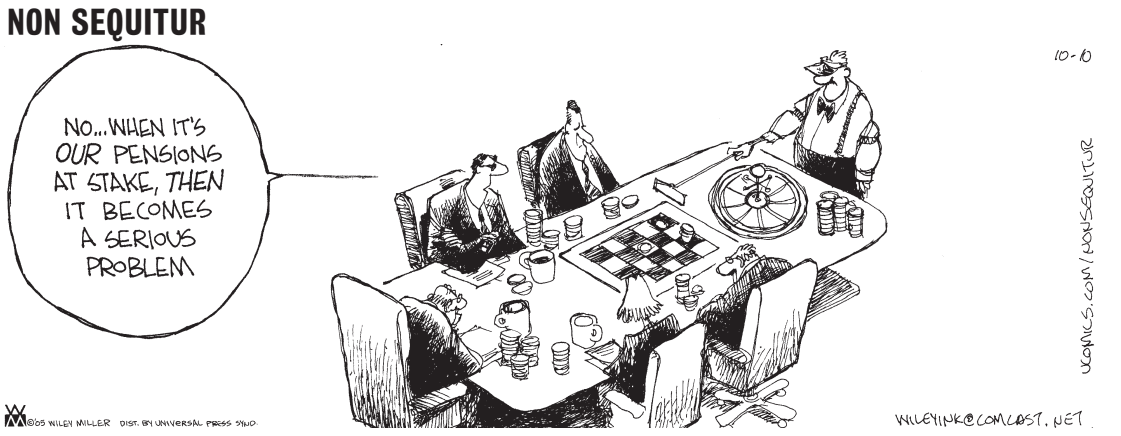

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

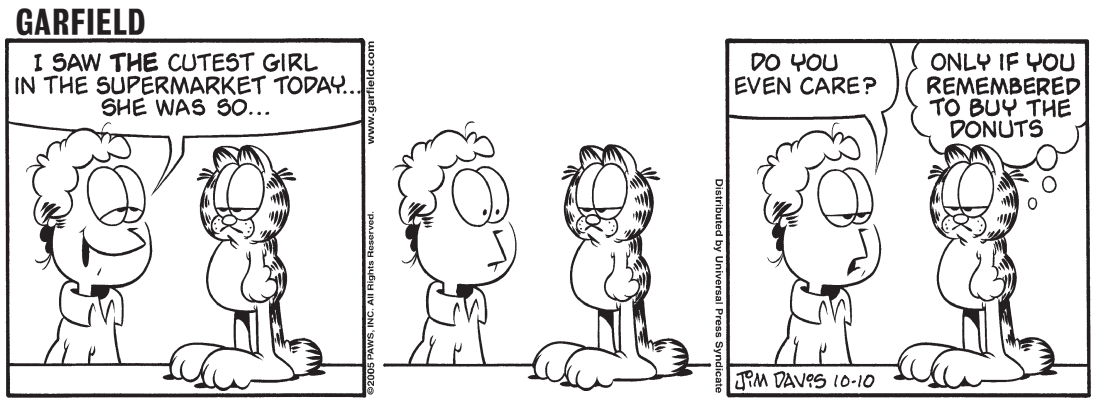



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

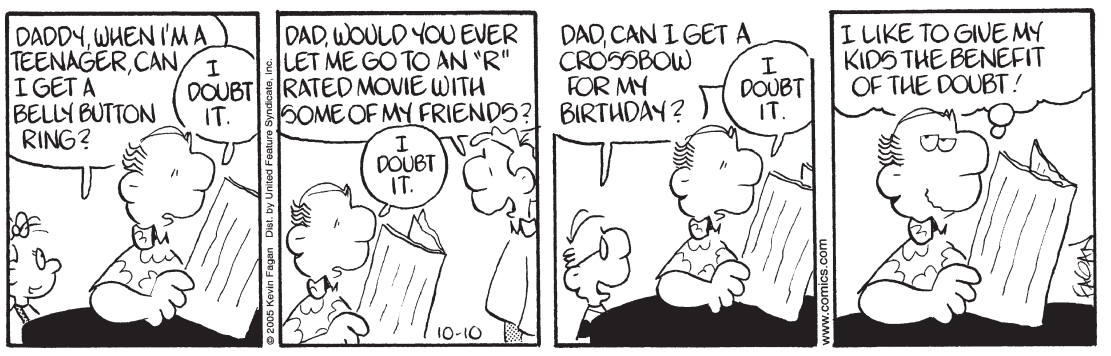


# COMICS

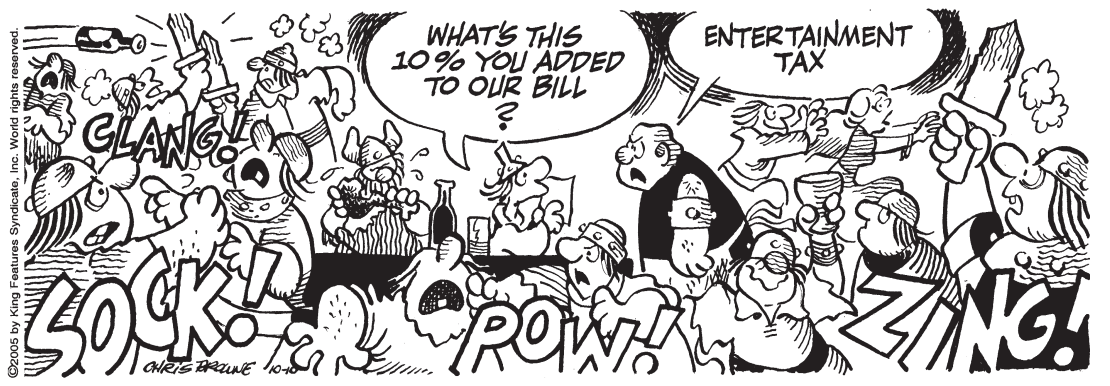
## GARFIELD



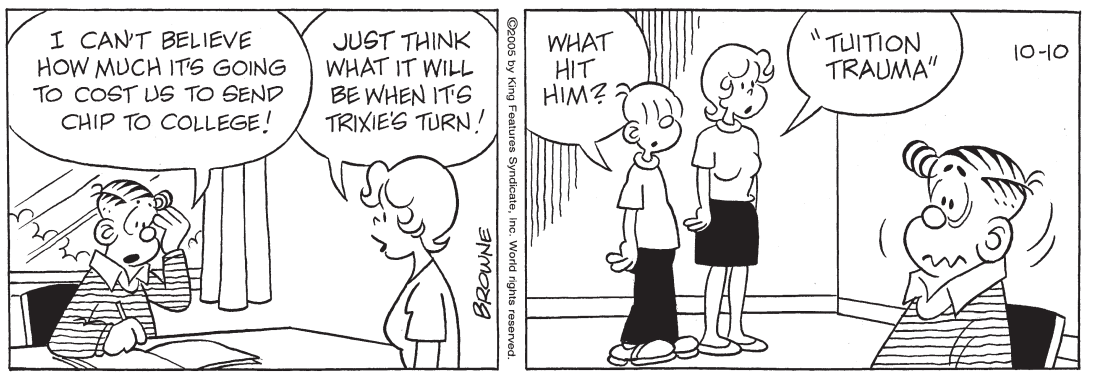

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



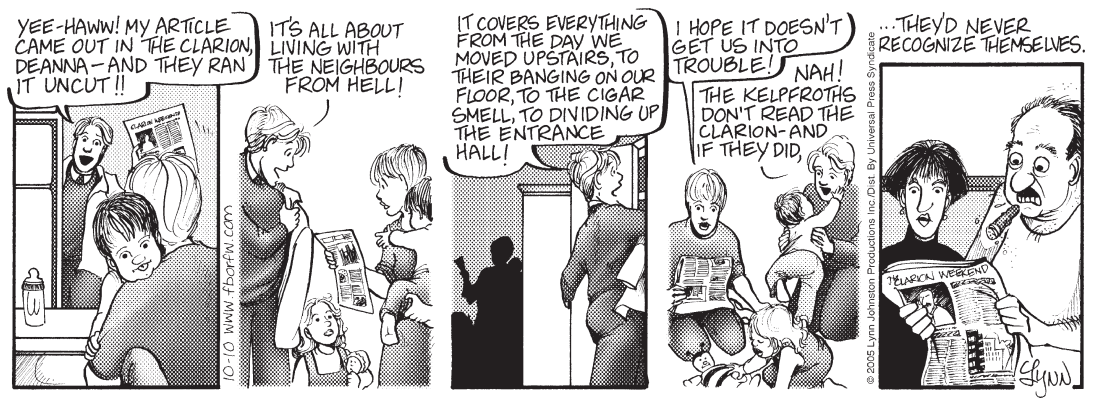

## HI & LOIS



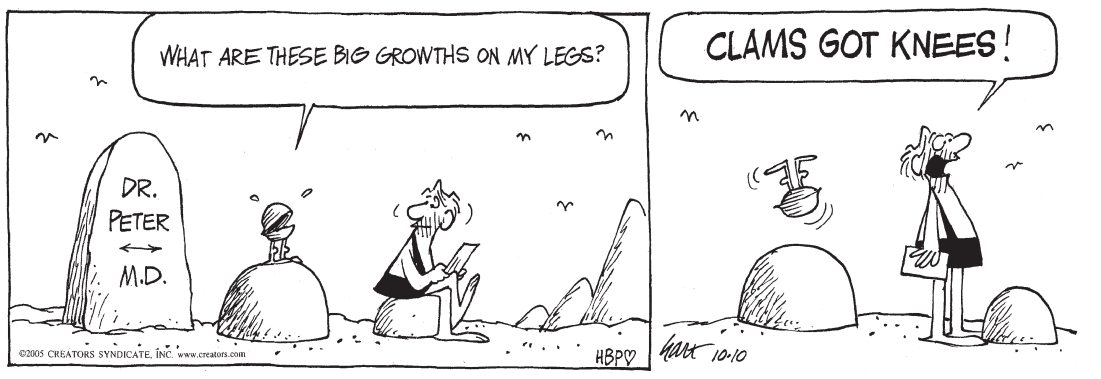

## BEETLE BAILEY



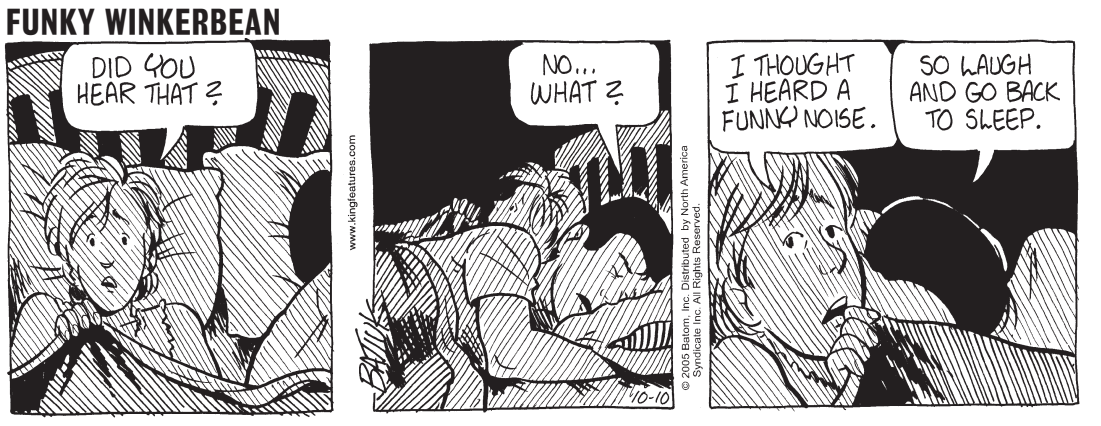

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



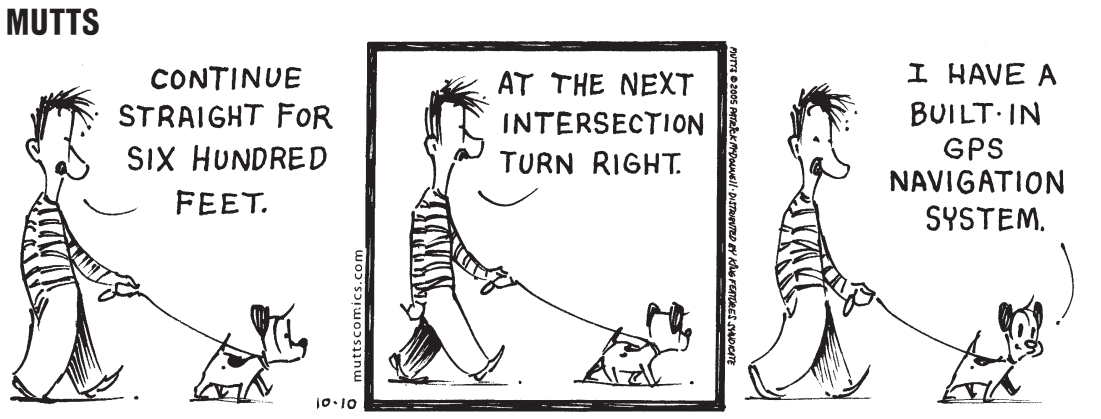

## B.C.



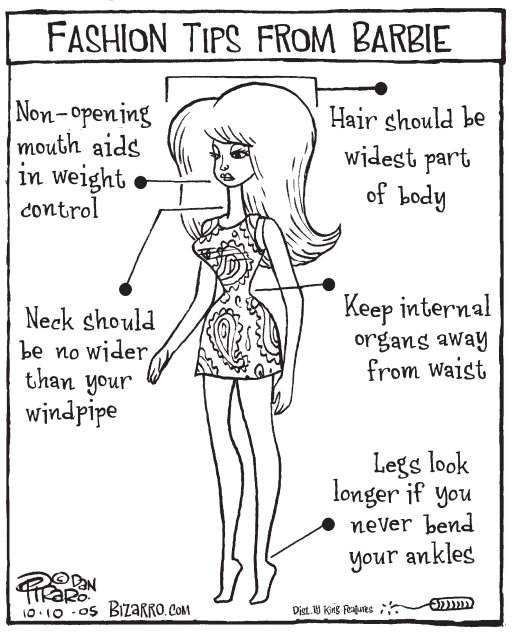

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

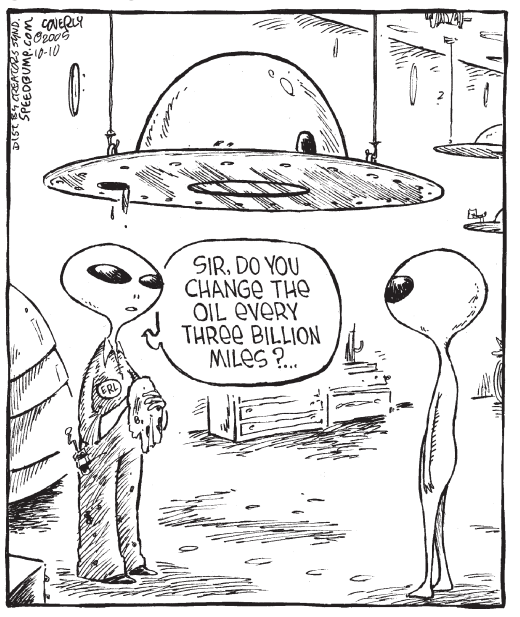



## LOOSE PARTS

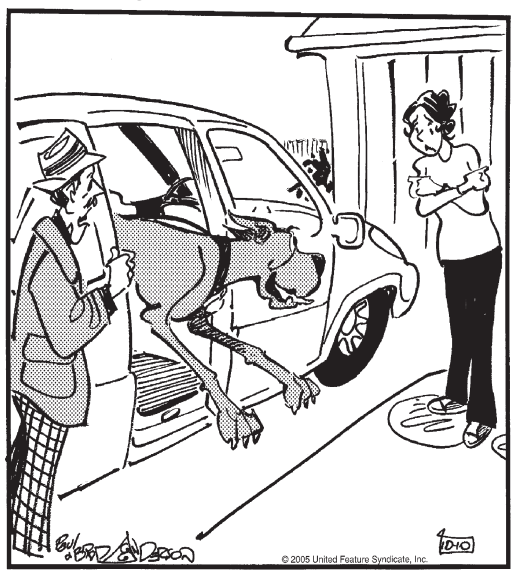



" I know, but he says he's with the band."

## SPEED BUMP

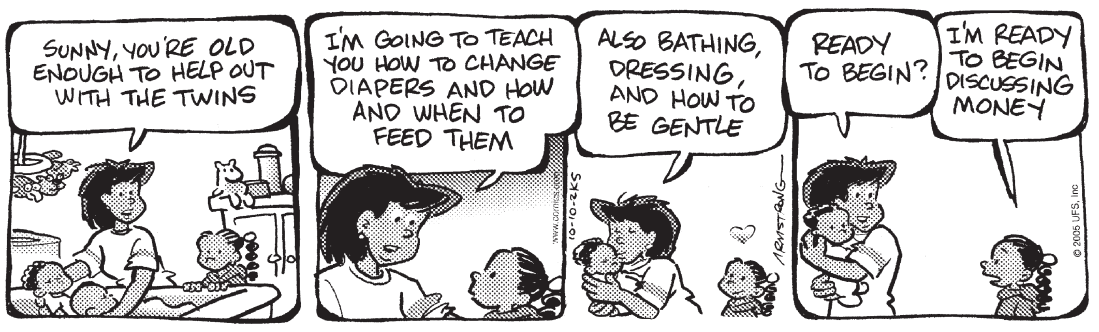



## MARMADUKE




"He orchestrated a mutiny at the obedience school today."

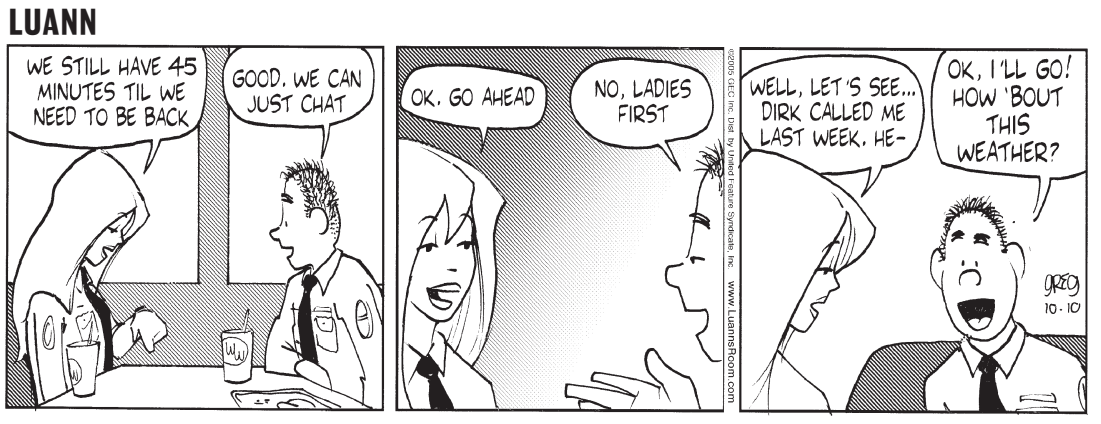
## JUMP START



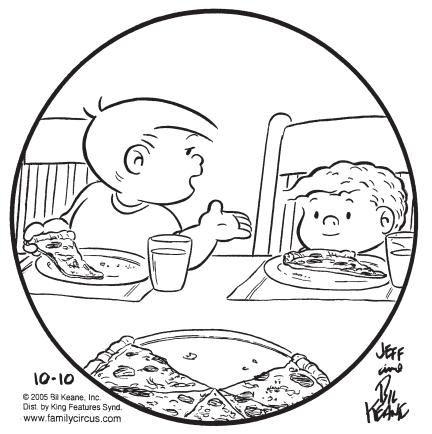

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



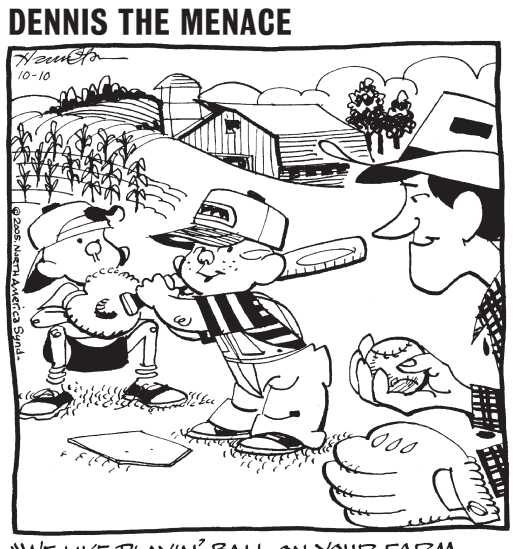

**"Daddy says the Italians invented pizza and Americans invented delivering it."**

## CLOSE TO HOME




**"For Peter's Home and Careers class, he has to take care of this computerized doll of a 23-year-old son who won't move out of the house."**

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"WE LIKE PLAYIN' BALL ON YOUR FARM, UNCLE CHARLIE, 'CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE WINDOWS EVERYWHERE."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**BEFORE BEDTIME** **Solution: 5 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | P | A | G | E | N | I | T | U | O | R | B | F | D | S |
| A | E | E | M | I | T | O | N | C | E | K | L | I | M | L |
| E | O | A | G | E | M | Y | S | L | O | E | A | S | G | A |
| B | N | H | D | V | S | O | E | S | H | P | N | N | G | R |
| E | T | D | K | A | A | M | O | S | E | O | I | E | E | O |
| L | Y | S | T | C | E | L | T | R | I | L | S | T | R | M |
| B | F | N | H | N | A | I | U | T | L | R | S | Y | H | V |
| A | A | A | T | M | M | T | A | E | E | I | R | E | Y | I |
| F | I | A | A | U | N | R | P | T | S | E | G | T | M | D |
| R | R | J | L | E | T | S | C | T | S | N | S | I | E | E |
| Y | Y | A | V | S | L | A | N | R | I | H | M | R | Y | O |
| P | (T) | D | U | E | R | E | U | D | E | A | I | O | O | S |
| E | (A) | L | E | A | R | N | N | E | E | T | L | V | U | O |
| A | (L) | P | H | A | B | E | T | R | T | R | E | A | T | N |
| I | (E) | C | P | I | H | S | D | N | E | I | R | F | H | G |

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Adventure, Ages, Alphabet, Bear, Chair, Characters, Diaper, Dream, Elementary, Ending, Fable, Fairy, Fantasy, Favorite, Friendship, Illustrations, Lesson, Milk, Morals, Name, Night, Nursery, Once, Page, Parents, Pyjama, Read, Rhyme, Room, Routine, Sheets, Shelf, Sister, Sleep, Smile, Song, Spelling, Stimulate, Tale, Teddy, Time, Tired, Treat, Values, Videos, Youth.

**Last Saturday's Answer: Suspense**

# Cry me a hurricane

## *'If you can't help yourself, how can you help your children?'*

**STRESS,** *from C-7*

Post-traumatic stress can manifest itself weeks, months, even years after a traumatic event, be it war, terrorism or a natural disaster such as a hurricane. Survivors often have persistent, frightening thoughts, memories and sometimes flashbacks of the ordeal - often on anniversaries - causing anxiety, nightmares, irritability and depression.

For kids, the extent of the trauma will vary from child to child and age group to age group. Those who spent time in the Superdome, were rescued from their homes or saw dead bodies during their escape, for example, will be at greater risk than those who evacuated before the storm and watched its impact on TV. But experts warn that even those children are at risk of developing traumatic stress.

For teens, the red flags include declining performance in school, substance abuse, sleep problems and withdrawal from family and friends. School-age children may also experience sleep problems, demonstrate aggressive behavior and develop fears of a repeated disaster.

Preschoolers could regress to earlier behavior such as thumb-sucking, bedwetting and extreme clinginess, and they may be more afraid of being alone. Even toddlers and infants can suffer from post-traumatic stress.

"They become more irritable, more clingy or more standoffish," said Dr. Mark Sands, a child psychiatrist with Mercy Family Center's Metairie office. "They are difficult to soothe."

### Parents must set an example

Sands says children take their cues from their parents, which means that despite their own sense of loss and grief, they must remain calm and refrain from voicing their fears in their children's presence. Similarly, they should make sure their children aren't around when they're on the phone venting about the storm.

"The important thing is for parents to cope," said Sands, who has temporarily relocated to Houston. "They need to put themselves at the top of the list in making sure they get the help they need."

The dynamic is analogous to the oxygen masks that must be worn when an airline cabin decompresses: First apply your own mask, then attend to your children.

"If you can't help yourself," Sands said, "how can you help your children?"

Sands says he has seen the impact of the hurricane on his own teen-age children. Although they got out of town before the storm struck, the relocation process — being away from friends, attending new schools and living with relatives — was stressful even before the second evacuation for Hurricane Rita. It's no wonder, he says, that his children just want to go home.

"They're adapting, but it is taking a lot more energy than I think anyone realized," Sands said. "They're worried about their communities, their friends, some of whom have nowhere to go back to. They're worried about things as basic as whether their favorite restaurants or coffee shops will still be open."

Such anxiety is to be expected among adolescents and could potentially impact other aspects of their lives, including school.

"They may not have the emotional energy to put into school," he said, "and as parents we have to say, 'It's OK. Do your best. There's a lot that you're having to cope with.' "

In the days immediately after the hurricane, Sands was part of a team of mental-health professionals who provided counseling services to children at the Astrodome. He said those children may find their stress intensifying over time rather than diminishing. Separation anxiety can be expected along with extreme mood swings and unusually rebellious behavior.

"We're coming into that period of time where we'll begin to see more depression," he said. "That's why it's important that parents set aside time where they can talk to their kids about what's on their mind. They really need to know that their parents are listening to them."

### Guidance counselors can help

Schools also have a responsibility to be on top of their students' emotional health, experts say. Sands and Walker, along with Dr. Joy Osofsky, a professor and psychologist at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, are part of a team of mental-health professionals working with the state Department of Education and the state Department of Health and Hospitals to minimize the impact of the hurricane on children.

Their proposal calls for school-based social workers, counselors and psychologists to monitor children's mental health, administer screenings for depression and other illnesses and provide on-site therapy for children and their families.

As part of that therapy, children should be allowed to tell their stories if they want to, Osofsky said.

"They have to deal with grief and the loss of losing so much that was meaningful to them," Osofsky said. "There may continue to be disruptions in their neighborhoods. In the case of St. Bernard Parish, there isn't even a community to go back to. What we really need to do is anticipate that this will be hard for children and help them work through their traumatic experience."

There is an abundance of research to back up what Osofsky and other mental health experts believe will be a long-term recovery. A study of 550 school-age children who survived Hurricane Andrew, which devastated Homestead, Fla., in 1992, found that a third of children had moderate to severe levels of post-traumatic stress disorder a year after the hurricane.

Another study assessed 442 children three months after Andrew and found that 27 percent had moderate levels of post-traumatic stress disorder and 29 percent had severe symptoms. Based on that study, state officials estimate that more than half of the 200,000 children and teens displaced by Hurricane Katrina will have moderate to very severe post traumatic stress symptoms, from clinginess and tantrums among young children to defiant and delinquent behavior among older children.

### No child is immune

Even children whose homes and families are intact can experience emotional problems, Walker said.

"Guilt is a big one that I've heard from the people I've spoken with," he said. "They realize that their house is OK, but Johnny's wasn't. Or they realize that their dad has a job, but Susie's dad doesn't and now they have to leave."

Walker said parents play a crucial role in the healing process, which means everything from giving your children extra hugs to encouraging them to draw pictures or write about their feelings if they don't want to talk about them.

It also means setting clear limits for "acting out" or reckless behavior, Sands said. "They need to be reassured that they're safe, but they also need structure and expectations and limits."

As parents work to get their kids back on track, they should continue to monitor their exposure to the television news, which through replays can give children the impression that the hurricane is happening — or has happened — again, said social worker Barbara LeBlanc, director of The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital.

Parents should also use good judgment in gauging how much to share with children about the family home.

"At some point," LeBlanc said, "they need to know what they lost."

Staff writer Barri Bronston can be reached at tpbarri@aol.com.

## HELPING KIDS COPE

### Common post-traumatic behaviors and what parents can do

**FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS**

**Helplessness and passivity:** Provide comfort, rest, food, water and opportunities for play and drawing. Reassure your child that you and other grown-ups will protect them. Give more hugs, hand holding or time in your lap.

**General fearfulness:** Be calm and try not to voice your own fears in front of your child. Reiterate that you aren't leaving him and that you can protect him. If you do have to leave, reassure him that you will be back.

**Confusion about the danger being over:** Shield your child from the news, which can make it seem like the hurricane is happening all over again. Continue to explain that the storm has passed.

**Reluctance to talk:** Put common feelings of children — such as anger, sadness and worry — into words. ("Children can feel really sad when their home is damaged.") Do not force conversation, but let them know they can talk to you at any time.

**Sleep problems:** Spend extra quiet time together at bedtime. Tell a favorite story with a comforting theme. Let your child sleep with a dim light on, or sleep with you for a limited time.

**Regressive behavior, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting:** Remain neutral or matter-of-fact as these may continue a while after the disaster.

**Confusion about death:** Give age-appropriate consistent explanation that does not give false hopes about the reality of death. Don't minimize their feelings over a loss of a pet or special toy. Help them say goodbye by drawing a happy memory, lighting a candle or saying a prayer.

**FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

**Confusion about what happened:** Give clear explanations whenever your child asks. Avoid scary details and correct any false information.

**Feelings of being responsible:** Provide opportunities for children to voice their concerns to you. Offer reassurance and tell them why it was not their fault.

**Fears of recurrence of the event and reactions to reminders:** Shield children from media coverage that can trigger fears of the disaster happening again. Reassure your child, as often as necessary, that he is safe.

**Retelling the event or playing out the event over and over:** Allow your child to talk and act out these reactions. Let her know that this is normal. Encourage positive problem-solving in play or drawing.

**Sleep problems:** Let your child tell you about a bad dream he may have had. Explain that bad dreams are normal and that they will go away. Do not ask your child to go into too many details of the bad dream.

**Concerns about the safety of themselves and others:** Create a "worry box" for children to deposit their written worries and concerns. Set a time to look them over and come up with answers to the worries.

**Altered behavior such as aggressiveness or restless behavior:** Encourage your child to engage in recreational activities and exercise as an outlet for feelings and frustration.

**Somatic complaints such as headaches and stomach aches:** Find out if there is a medical reason, and if not, provide comfort and assurance that this is normal. But don't give these non-medical complaints too much attention, as this may increase them.

**Concern for other victims and families:** Encourage constructive activities on behalf of others but do not burden with undo responsibility.

**FOR PARENTS OF ADOLESCENTS**

**Detachment, shame and guilt:** Provide a safe time to discuss with your teen the events and their feelings. Emphasize that these feelings are common, and correct excessive self-blame with realistic explanations of what actually could have been done.

**Self-consciousness:** Help teens understand that their feelings of vulnerability and fear of being labeled abnormal are common. Encourage relationships with family and peers for needed support.

**Acting out behavior, such as use of alcohol and drugs, experimentation with sex or accident-prone behavior:** Make sure teens know that acting out behavior is a dangerous way to express strong feelings such as anger over what happened. Limit access to alcohol and drugs and talk about the danger of high-risk sexual activity.

**Fears of recurrence and reactions to reminders:** Clarify the difference between the event and the reminders that occur after it. Explain to teens that media coverage of the disaster can trigger fears of it happening again.

**Abrupt shifts from interpersonal relationships:** Explain that the strain on relationships is normal. Emphasize the need for support from family and friends during the recovery period. Encourage tolerance for different family members' courses to recovery.

**Radical changes in attitude:** Explain that changes in people's attitudes after a disaster are common, but will return to normal over time.

**Wanting premature entrance into adulthood, such as quitting school or getting married:** Encourage postponing major life decisions. Explore other ways to make your teen feel more in control.

**Concern for other victims and families:** Encourage constructive activities on behalf of others, but do not burden with undo responsibility. Help teens to identify projects that are age-appropriate and meaningful such as clearing rubble from school grounds.

**Source: National Center for Child Traumatic Stress**

## Last Sunday's Crossword Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | C | U | ■ | S | L | A | N | T | ■ | O | R | E | L | S | E | ■ | U | T | E | S |
| T | A | P | ■ | P | E | L | E | E | ■ | C | O | L | U | M | N | ■ | P | O | L | A |
| A | P | O | S | I | T | I | V | E | ■ | A | M | B | L | E | D | ■ | H | A | I | R |
| T | E | N | O | N | S | ■ | E | N | D | S | ■ | A | L | L | U | D | E | S | T | O |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | E | O | I | ■ | ■ | E | E | E | ■ | ■ | T | R | E | A | T | E | D |
| A | T | T | I | T | U | D | E | M | A | Y | N | O | T | S | O | L | V | E | ■ | ■ |
| Y | E | A | ■ | ■ | T | A | S | E | R | ■ | E | R | R | ■ | S | T | A | R | C | H |
| L | L | A | M | A | ■ | H | A | T | ■ | T | R | I | O | S | ■ | A | L | O | H | A |
| A | L | L | O | F | Y | O | U | R | P | R | O | B | L | E | M | S | ■ | V | A | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | D | E | E | ■ | ■ | O | C | A | ■ | I | L | S | A | ■ | D | E | N | T |
| T | I | M | E | W | A | R | P | ■ | B | U | T | ■ | S | E | R | P | E | N | T | S |
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10/16/05

# Don't ever evacuate with me

**ROSE,** *from C-7*

My first Katrina-induced travel was, of course, the evacuation. I marvel to this day how my magnificently chaotic family of five managed to straighten up our house, pack our bags, secure our home and belongings and be on the road on three hours notice — and have the clothes that we threw together in such a hurry sustain us for more than two weeks.

I suppose a Category 5 hurricane rearing up your backside is a compelling incentive for effective time management.

In our mundane Pre-K life, it would usually take us four or five agonizing days to (over)pack for a simple long weekend at the beach and on the first night, someone (me) was always bound to complain that they (I) forgot some key element of wardrobe so essential to my relaxation that the vacation was now ruined in its absence.

You think leisure traveling with me is a pain? If you really want some jollies, you should try hurricane evacuating with me to some crack hotel in Vicksburg - the kind of place where the tub in bathroom has a series of yellow-brown cigarette burns along the edge. Those are family memories for a lifetime; like telling your kids they can't take off their shoes even when they're inside.

"No, James! Put down that dirty needle!"

(If you only knew how little I was exaggerating here.)

And who smokes in the tub anyway? I guess people who stay in crack hotels, I don't know.

But now my children are safe and sound in the very leafy and upscale Chevy Chase, Md. When I was visiting last weekend, there was an aluminum foil display in the newly converted playroom in my parents' house and I asked my wife what it was and she informed me that it was my daughter's science project for her Brownie troop.

"What are they doing?" I asked.

"They're growing mold," my wife said.

Growing mold. If my New Orleans daughter doesn't get the blue ribbon for that project — the state prize, in fact — then there is no justice in this world.

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

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## RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS

The Times-Picayune returned to its plant on Howard Avenue in New Orleans Monday, almost six weeks after the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina forced the company to evacuate the building on Aug. 30, the day after the storm.

Today's edition of the paper was printed on the hometown presses, following four weeks of printing at its sister paper, the Mobile Press-Register, and two weeks immediately after Katrina at the New York Times-owned Courier in Houma.

"We're thrilled to be back where we belong," said Publisher Ashton Phelps Jr. "We thank our readers and advertisers for their patience in the aftermath of the hurricane. We want our return to send a strong message that we believe in the rebuilding and the resurgence of the New Orleans metropolitan area and that we're part of that effort."

Some 240 employees of the newspaper left the building in the back of newspaper delivery trucks on the morning after the hurricane, as water from the 17th Street Canal breach rose around the plant. The paper left a team of editors, reporters and photographers in the city while other employees drove to Baton Rouge and established a temporary base there.

This week they returned to a fully functioning and thoroughly cleaned Howard Avenue facility.

**To reach the Times-Picayune's advertising, circulation, classified, city and suburban news bureaus, as well as other departments, please see a list of telephone numbers on page A-10.**

# Workers' lives were priority, Jeff says

*Pump employees' evacuation described*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

Emphasizing that no safe place exists in Jefferson Parish during a storm stronger than Category 3, parish officials on Monday defended their reasoning and detailed their timeline for evacuating some 1,100 essential employees, including more than 200 critical pump station workers, as Hurricane Katrina bore down on southeast Louisiana.

**"It's not safe putting them in this parish; we don't have anything that can withstand a (Category) 4 or 5."**
Jefferson Parish President AARON BROUSSARD, on where to put pump operators

Aware of residents' growing anger over street flooding that occurred while pump stations parishwide sat vacant for 24 to 36 hours on Aug. 28-29, top directors for Parish President Aaron Broussard said they aimed to protect employees' lives over property when they shipped workers, along with 700 parish vehicles, more than 100 miles north to Mount Hermon, La., near the Mississippi border.

*See* **JEFFERSON,** *A-18*

## PRESIDENT BUSH MAKES HIS EIGHTH TRIP TO THE GULF COAST

# DINNER IN NEW ORLEANS



AP PHOTO

Arriving at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse on Monday, six weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck, President George W. Bush confers with Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle. Bush began his two-day visit by having dinner in New Orleans with state and local officials.

# Panel surveys tough task ahead

*Midnight curfew to be enforced*

**By Frank Donze and Martha Carr**
Staff writers

The blue ribbon committee charged with crafting a strategy to resurrect New Orleans got a brutal reality check Monday when its members learned that six weeks into the recovery from Hurricane Katrina, the city continues to face daunting obstacles, from bureaucratic inertia in the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the absence of workers to provide basic services like garbage collection.

Meeting publicly for the first time, Mayor Ray Nagin's "Bring Back New Orleans Commission" listened soberly as administration officials painted a grim picture of a devastated city.

Illustrating how far the city has to go, the Nagin administration announced at the meeting that the city will begin enforcing a midnight curfew, including in the French Quarter, where the late-night partying that resumed weeks ago was marred Saturday night by the brutal beating of an elderly man. Law enforcement agents have been suspended without pay pending an investigation of the incident, which was captured on camera.

"The city is just not ready for that level of activity," Terry Ebbert, Nagin's homeland security director told the committee, which met in the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street.

While Nagin has hailed signs of recent progress like the return of drinkable tap water to much of the city, his staff told the commission that New Orleans can provide the highest level of trauma care at only one location: a military hospital inside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. That hospital is scheduled to close at the end of

*See* **REBUILD,** *A-12*

# Lucky few return to undamaged Lakeview oases

Ed Picou sweeps the sidewalk in front of his home on Amethyst Street near Lake Pontchartrain on Monday. In the East and West Lakeshore subdivisions, homeowners who live on or near Lakeshore Parkway, as well as on Amethyst and Topaz streets, returned home to green lawns and dry floors.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

*At first sight, such homes seem a mirage*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

Jeff Bloom couldn't believe it until he saw it with his own eyes.

After weeks of watching television footage about the massive floodwaters that had engulfed Lakeview, Bloom, a local sports agent, felt sure his one-story brick ranch house in the nearby East Lakeshore subdivision was destroyed.

A neighbor had told him otherwise, but the news reports were too powerful. He had to see it.

As Bloom drove through Lakeview toward his home in the 800 block of Amethyst Street last week, his hopes sank with every passing house. Doorways had water marks halfway up. Yellowish-brown film covered cars. Every tree, every lawn, was dead.

He turned onto his street.

"This is a miracle," he said. "It's like we are on an island out here."

Bloom's lawn was green, his house untouched by floodwaters. Neighbors were raking leaves and putting out refrigerators. The sky was azure blue. Birds chirped.

*See* **OASIS,** *A-17*

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# MAKING A SPLASH



AP PHOTO

Johnny Wilson, 9, walks ashore from San Francisco Bay after swimming from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park Monday. He made the 1.4-mile trip in one hour, eight minutes, and was welcomed by a crowd of schoolmates and well wishers. His effort raised about $30,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief.

# Landmine in Afghanistan kills soldier from Hammond

**By The Associated Press**

RALEIGH, N.C. — A Hammond soldier and two others from Fort Bragg have died in recent fighting in the Middle East, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Pfc. Benny S. Franklin, 19, of Hammond died in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Friday after stepping on a landmine in Helmand, Afghanistan, during patrol operations.

Franklin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

Sgt. Eric A. Fifer, 22, of Knoxville, Tenn., and Pfc. Nicholas J. Greer, 21, of Monroe, Mich., died Friday of injuries received during an attack by enemy forces using small arms. Both soldiers were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

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# Demand for Medicaid expected to increase

*Without federal aid, cuts may be needed*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE — An additional 60,000 people could become eligible for Louisiana's Medicaid program in the next six months as residents deal with the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, further straining the state's health-care budget, Health and Hospitals Secretary Fred Cerise said Monday.

Testifying before a special House-Senate committee looking into the storms' impact on state government, Cerise said the Medicaid program could face a shortfall of more than $800 million in the current budget. Unless the federal government provides some relief, the state could be forced to cut the program by up to 40 percent to keep it in balance, Cerise said.

The $5.3 billion Medicaid program finances health care for nearly 1 million indigent and disabled people in Louisiana, with the cost shared between the state and federal government. Because the program is open to anyone who qualifies by income or disability, enrollment is expected to jump sharply as hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs due to the storm.

In addition to paying for evacuees in Louisiana, the state also is expected to pay other states for the costs they incur for providing health care to evacuees.

A bill proposed by U.S. Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., calls for the federal government to pay 100 percent of the Medicaid costs for hurricane evacuees. But that legislation is bottled up on Capitol Hill. "That bill is not moving, and every day we wait the problem gets worse," Cerise said.

Cerise said the health department is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to get a waiver that would give the state flexibility and set up a special pool of money to pay hospitals for some of the care they deliver to the uninsured after Katrina.

**Because the Medicaid program is open to anyone who qualifies by income or disability, enrollment is expected to jump sharply as hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs.**

Cerise's comments came on the six-week anniversary of Katrina, as state lawmakers grew increasingly impatient with the pace of the recovery effort and what they believe is misinformation being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sen. Ben Nevers, D-Bogalusa, said he has attended three FEMA briefings where local government officials have been told that federal financial assistance would be quickly forthcoming. "I'm here to tell you that's just not happening," Nevers said.

Andy Kopplin, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's chief of staff and top adviser on storm recovery, acknowledged that communication has been a major problem, especially at the federal level. "The notion of truth in advertising is in short supply," Kopplin said.

Rep. Kenneth Odinet, D-Arabi, said he's been trying for weeks to make contact with his insurance company. "This is week six. I've got water coming through the roof of one of my houses. They won't even come out to look," Odinet said. "Next week, week seven, I'm going to file suit."

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# State agency seeks power to halve workers' hours

*Goal is to avoid layoffs in expected budget pinch*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Citing "unprecedented situations as a result of Hurricane Katrina," state Civil Service officials said Monday that they are proposing that state agencies have the power to reduce employees' work hours from 80 hours to 40 hours over a two-week pay period.

"This is a layoff-avoidance measure," Anne Soileau, acting director of state Civil Service, told the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs. "This will keep people on the payroll and get work done."

Soileau said the authority now exists to cut employees work hours by 16 hours in a two-week period, but because of pending financial problems created for state departments by Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the commission is proposing a 40-hour reduction.

The panel did not act on the proposal.

Soileau said the emergency measure will be voted on by the State Civil Service Commission when it meets Nov. 2.

**There are about 28,000 state workers in the 11-parish area affected by Katrina and an additional 18,000 state workers in Rita's disaster zone, according to Anne Soileau, acting director of state Civil Service.**

The state is facing at least a $1 billion shortfall in revenue as a result of Katrina's hit on the New Orleans area and more as a result of Rita's damage in southwestern Louisiana.

Soileau said there are about 28,000 state workers in the 11-parish area affected by Katrina and an additional 18,000 state workers in Rita's disaster zone. She told the panel she did not know what it would cost to avoid the reduction in hours or possible layoffs.

Soileau said the proposal would be good for one year but the commission could extend it. Soileau said the only state employees who would be exempt are public elementary and secondary school teachers.

She said 629 state workers have been furloughed because their whereabouts are unknown. In addition, she said 200 have been furloughed at New Orleans City Park with 12 called back to work.

A furlough "buys an agency time" and allows the employee to be called back to work, she said. An employee that is laid off must find other work.

"This is one tool the agencies can use to avoid layoffs and keep people on the payroll" at half salary, Soileau said.

Sen. Jay Dardenne, R-Baton Rouge, said the option is not good but it still makes the employee with reduced hours and pay eligible for retirement and health care benefits.

Soileau said each agency would decide how to implement the proposal.

"It is ugly, but it is absolutely necessary," said Sen. Reggie Dupre, D-Montegut, alluding to budget cuts the state is expected to make in coming months.




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# Many moving out of shelters in La.

*But plenty still have nowhere to go*

**By Laura Maggi**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — New Orleans evacuees who were forced out of their homes when Hurricane Katrina struck six weeks ago have been leaving state shelters in droves, with many people returning to the metropolitan area, state officials said Monday.

There are currently 18,000 people in shelters in Louisiana, down from 27,000 early last week, according to statistics provided by the state. While that is still a large number of people who need help finding temporary housing, it is significantly less than the almost 60,000 people in state shelters at the beginning of September.

**"People are returning home to start rebuilding."**
LISA WOODRUFF-WHITE
deputy secretary of the state Department of Social Services

"People are returning home to start rebuilding," said Lisa Woodruff-White, deputy secretary of the state Department of Social Services. Some people who are leaving shelters have found better accommodations with family or friends, while others have used rental assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to relocate, she said.

Woodruff-White said that she does not believe that people are being forced out on the streets, not even those in smaller church-run shelters that are closing. If there are people in those shelters, they are being moved to another location, she said.

Some of the people who are in shelters are not Katrina victims, but were displaced because of Hurricane Rita, which forced many people in southwest Louisiana out of their homes.

At Progressive Baptist Church in Lafayette, there are still 125 people living in a shelter from both hurricanes, said Yolanda Benoit, who is helping spearhead the church's recovery relief efforts. At one point there were as many as 200 people at the shelter, but some have found apartments in the Lafayette area, while more have returned to the dry parts of the New Orleans region, officials said.

"(There are people who) had to go home because of jobs," said Benoit, who added that the church intends to keep the facility open until people find other accommodations.

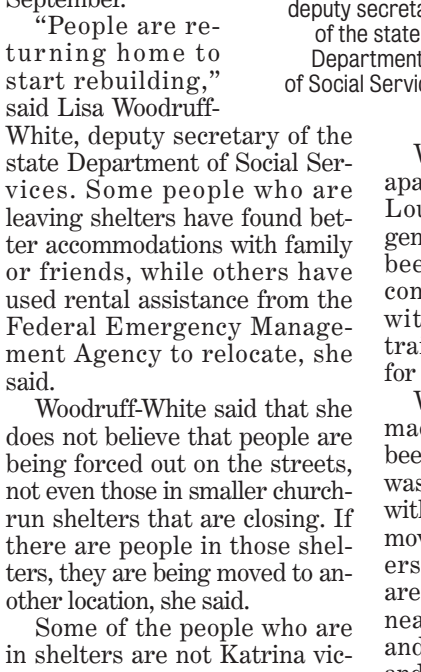
President Bush had set a goal for all people living in shelters from Hurricane Katrina to be moved to more private housing by Saturday. But it does not appear that the deadline will be met, "unless something drastic happens," Woodruff-White said. Along with the people in shelters inside Louisiana, 12,000 more people are living in shelters outside of the state.

With the lack of available apartments and hotel rooms in Louisiana, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been moving to put up trailer communities around the state with mobile homes or travel trailers that can house people for 18 months.

While progress is being made, setting up the sites has been slow going. One large park was opened last week in Baker, with roughly 390 families so far moving into the 573 travel trailers, officials said. Other sites are in the works, including one near the Baton Rouge airport and in St. Tammany, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes.

Many homeowners whose homes were destroyed will be able to get a trailer to place on their property while they rebuild.


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# Terrebonne sees chance to get levees

## *Rally pushes need for Morganza project*

**By Manuel Roig-Franzia**
The Washington Post

HOUMA — Louisiana's boot has a hole. This footwear-shaped state's southeastern coast is ringed by hurricane levees, except here in Terrebonne Parish, where Houma, the largest city in the region outside metropolitan New Orleans, is an important center of Cajun culture.

For decades, that hole in Louisiana's hurricane defenses — defenses already proven fallible during Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita — has irked leaders of this parish of boom-and-bust oil cycles that also happens to produce one of every five pounds of seafood in the state. But the big storms that bedeviled New Orleans are suddenly seen as an opportunity — a big opportunity — for Terrebonne.

During the scramble for post-hurricane money, no place in Louisiana is making a more impassioned plea for help than Terrebonne, which is trying to get its own levee constructed. While others in Louisiana are relying on big-name politicians — and are now smarting at the caustic reaction in Washington to the $250 billion aid package proposed by the state's congressional delegation — Terrebonne is pulsing with a popular uprising, complete with a showman's flourishes.

The showman is a wavy-haired Cajun named Martin Folse, a onetime media prodigy who bought his television station, KJUN, 21 years ago when he was 24, who writes country music songs and whose imagination once conjured a B-horror flick: "Nutriaman: Terror in the Swamp." To separate his parish from the much-maligned requests for alligator farm money and sugar cane research that were lumped in with pleas for levee repair and construction, Folse got creative, and moved fast.

There was the rally that drew 3,800 angry, chanting demonstrators from flooded bayou towns to the convention center in this town, a one-hour drive southwest of New Orleans. There were the quickie lyrics and the even quicker recording of an anthem: "There's a movement on the bayou tonight/Down in Point aux Chenes and Island Road to the right/It's time for action/On the bayou tonight." Next comes the bus convoy to Capitol Hill and, perhaps, a jambalaya cookout and rally at the entrance to President Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch.

"If we don't seize the opportunity now, we may never ever get the chance again," Folse said. "It's time for the feds to quit treating us like a bunch of uneducated stepchildren."

Folse's obsession — everyone's obsession here, it seems — is the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico project, a levee that would loop over 72 miles of lower Terrebonne Parish. The levee is supposed to avert a catastrophe that has yet to happen. Katrina swung east of Houma and Rita swung west of it. Rita still devastated the little Terrebonne Parish bayou towns south of Houma — places such as Chauvin, Bayou Dularge and Dulac — but the glancing blow spared Houma, where local emergency officials estimate a direct hit could kill thousands.

The Morganza levee has been a dream for decades. Terrebonne Parish has no hurricane levee, even though Houma, a city of 32,000, anchors a parish of about 100,000 people. Other parishes got levees over the years — Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard among them — but Terrebonne has remained naked. Terrebonne has been begging for the levee and has participated in countless studies with federal officials to justify it. Residents have grown more and more angry because they have never been able to seal the deal.

At Folse's rally, Cajun shrimp boat captains and housewives sat for hours on camping chairs in dusky humidity outside Houma's civic center, listening to one another scream. They waved signs Folse had printed that read "TFA," short for Time for Action, an activist group he invented on the fly while anchoring the newscast on KJUN the day after Rita. Folse turned into a crusader — and threw off any pretense of journalistic objectivity — when one of his producers showed him footage of a man wading through waist-high water. It was the same man Folse's station had filmed doing the same thing during a tropical storm two years earlier.

"We need your help — not Band-Aids — we need levees," Ernest Naquin, the 76-year-old commander of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in the fishing town of Montegut, bellowed into a microphone held by Folse during the rally.

The Ernest Naquins of the world have already begun paying for their levee, even though there's no guarantee they'll get it. Terrebonne Parish started collecting a quarter-cent sales tax to pay for its share of the levee 2 1/2 years ago. It has banked about $12 million, Levee Board President Tony Alford said proudly. But there's one little problem: Their levee will cost about $1.7 billion. They're only $1.688 billion short.

"We're to a point where it's life-or-death," Alford said. "But it seems to fall on deaf ears."

What's unique about the Morganza to the Gulf project is that almost everyone seems to say it's needed. The project is essentially a hit, aside from a few objections from environmentalists—many of which have been addressed by revolutionary "leaky levee" design features that use dozens of gates to let water and marsh creatures flow in and out. Even the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, a frequent critic of levee proposals, is enthusiastically on board, calling it a possible "harbinger of the future."

"Morganza is a test," said Mark Davis, the coalition's executive director. "We have a chance to do this in a way that has never been done before."




WASHINGTON POST PHOTOS BY MICHEL DuCILLE

Residents recently rallied in support of the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico project, a levee that would loop over 72 miles of lower Terrebonne.




A sign in Houma expresses the frustration of Terrebonne Parish residents who say the federal government has not been giving them the help they need to build hurricane protection levees.

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# Lobbyists dominate Katrina reconstruction planning

## *Utilities, canal project get boost in relief bill*

**By Alan C. Miller and Ken Silverstein**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Lobbyists representing transportation, energy and other special interests dominated panels that advised Louisiana's U.S. senators crafting legislation to rebuild the storm-damaged Gulf Coast, records and interviews show.

The Louisiana Katrina Reconstruction Act — introduced last month by Sens. Mary Landrieu, a Democrat, and David Vitter, a Republican — included billions of dollars in business for clients of those lobbyists and a total price tag estimated as high as $250 billion.

One advisory panel member who discovered that most of his fellow panelists were lobbyists called the resulting legislation 'a huge injusticeî to the state.

"I was basically shocked,'' said Ivor van Heerden, director of a hurricane public health research center at Louisiana State University. "What do lobbyists know about a plan for the reconstruction and restoration of Louisiana?"

Van Heerden is the first participant in any of the senators' working groups to provide such a detailed and scathing account of the process and its outcome. He said he was shut out after he voiced his concerns.

The result, he said, was a lost opportunity "to come up with something innovative, something the people of Louisiana and the nation could really endorse."

Among the lobby-supported interests with a stake in the relief and recovery bill:

▶ Energy utilities, Entergy Corp. and Cleco Corp. lobbyists consulted with the senators' staffs. Five days before the bill was introduced, Cleco retained the lobbying services of Lynnel Ruckert, Vitter's former deputy campaign manager and the wife of his chief of staff.

In an unusual assist to private utilities, the recovery bill includes $2.5 billion to help Louisiana companies such as Entergy of New Orleans and Cleco of Pineville restore and rebuild their electricity systems and recover losses from sustained power outages.

▶ Supporters of a controversial industrial canal project serving the Port of New Orleans. Among those serving on advisory panels were two officials of Jones Walker, a New Orleans firm that lobbies in Washington for the canal project. One of those officials was Paul Cambon, an ex-aide to former House Speaker Bob Livingston, R-La., whose Livingston Group also is a lobbyist for the canal.

The recovery bill asks Congress to give "priority consideration" to the Army Corps of Engineers' project that would build a lock along the canal at a cost of $748 million.

▶ Highway advocates. Among those on a transportation working group were lobbyists for highway projects seeking financing, including one from a company headed by former Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La.

In the bill, four Louisiana highways considered evacuation and energy supply routes would receive construction, maintenance and repair work worth $7 billion. At least two of those projects were represented by lobbyists on the working group.

The bill already has been widely criticized as excessive and opportunistic. Its price tag exceeds the high end of estimated costs of the storm and does not include the $60 billion in emergency aid already approved.

Landrieu and Vitter defend the bill as a necessary response to the region's devastation. The bill's supporters say that Louisiana is crucial to America's energy industry and that the state's ports handle 20 percent of all U.S. imports and exports each day.

"Key economic sectors took a big hit from the storm,'' said Landrieu spokesman Adam Sharp. "Standing up the region's economy will help stand up the American economy."

Sharp also said the recovery bill's final cost would be closer to $200 billion, not the estimated high of $250 billion.

Aides said the lobbyists were among those who made recommendations, but they did not draft the legislation. Lawmakers also consulted with a range of local and state officials and community and business leaders in the Gulf Coast region, the aides said.

"The lobbyists and the entities they represent tend to be among the most experienced experts available who have direct real-world knowledge of the situation on the ground,'' Sharp said. "They are advocating for a position and for a client, but usually from a vantage point of expertise that can be very beneficial to us."

Vitter's office did not return numerous calls seeking comment.

Johnston, the former senator whose clients include hard-hit New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, said the participation of lobbyists in the working groups was appropriate.

"There is no conflict of interest,'' said Johnston, a former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairman. "We represent areas that were impacted, and the needs of those areas need to be brought to the fore."

But the House's rejection Friday of a bill that would provide $750 million in federal loans to cities wracked by Hurricane Katrina suggested growing resistance to expensive reconstruction plans.

Keith Ashdown of Taxpayers for Common Sense, a Washington watchdog group, said lobbyists are trying to exploit the catastrophic hurricane.

"They are using Katrina to get funding they haven't been able to get in the past," he said. "You want to help the region, but the bill they put together has a lot of projects that aren't needed. This is congressional looting at its worst."

The working groups were set up by the senators' staffs to advise the lawmakers on a variety of topics, including housing, education and health care. After an initial meeting at a Senate office, the participants consulted via conference calls and provided recommendations.

Jan Schoonmaker, a lobbyist for New Orleans educational, health care and other interests, said most members were "part of the Louisiana family'' in Washington.

The flood-control working group on which Van Heerden served was made up largely of Washington lobbyists with strong Louisiana ties but was headed by John Barry, the author of an acclaimed history of the great Mississippi flood of 1927.

Van Heerden had overseen Louisiana's coastal restoration program as an official in the state's Department of Natural Resources and has done hurricane research at Louisiana State University since 1997. In Katrina's aftermath, the public health center he directs has been engaged in such efforts as determining how and why the flooding occurred and conducting damage assessments.

Van Heerden said he participated in the working group as an individual, not as a representative of the university.

He said he was particularly outspoken about his recommendations to limit the role of the Army Corps of Engineers. It was responsible for the levees that Van Heerden said failed to keep the floodwaters out of New Orleans.

"We hadn't restored the coast and all we had was second-rate levees," he said.

He suggested the creation of a politically independent agency along the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority to spearhead the restoration and reconstruction, but he said the lobbyists opposed the idea.

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Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.

The hearing will be conducted via telephone at **2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time)**. Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free **1-800-423-1988** and provide the operator with the following code **(788833)**. Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: **Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**.

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WORLD

# Violence surges ahead of Iraqi referendum

## *Pre-vote onslaught kills U.S. soldier*

**By Thomas Wagner**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Insurgents launched a new salvo of attacks five days ahead of a crucial constitutional referendum, killing at least 18 Iraqis and a U.S. soldier Monday with suicide car bombs, roadside explosives and drive-by shootings, police said.

Five mortar shells were fired at a hotel in the southern city of Hillah where a U.S. regional embassy office is based, with one round hitting the building and leaving a large hole in a wall, police said. No casualties were reported.

Gunmen also opened fire on a convoy of cars carrying members of an Arab League delegation that is visiting Iraq, but no one was hurt, police said.

The attacks came as Shiite and Kurdish officials continued to negotiate with Sunni Arab leaders over last-minute additions to the constitution, trying to win Sunni support ahead of Saturday's referendum. U.S. officials were acting as mediators.

But the sides appeared to remain far apart over basic issues, including the federalism that Shiites and Kurds insist on, and copies of the draft constitution already are being distributed to the public across the country.

U.S. and Iraqi officials see the referendum as an important step in the country's democratic reforms and the eventual withdrawal of U.S.-led coalition forces.

But many minority Sunnis plan to vote "no," fearing the document would create two oil-rich and nearly autonomous regions — a Kurdish one in the north and a Shiite one in the south — and leave most Sunnis isolated in central and western Iraq.

That was clear in the northern city of Mosul on Monday when about 600 Sunni politicians, tribal leaders and clerics met and urged Iraqis to reject the constitution, saying it would partition the country along secular lines. "Our rejection of the constitution is motivated by our desire for a united Iraq, not because we are Sunnis," they said in a statement.

Sunni-led insurgent groups have demanded a boycott in the vote and were launching attacks across the country, killing hundreds of Iraqis in the past two weeks.

Sunnis can defeat the charter if they get a two-thirds "no" vote in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces, and they have the potential to make that threshold in four provinces. But turnout is key, because they must outweigh Shiite and Kurdish populations in some of those areas.

On Sunday, militants killed 13 Iraqis, including a Shiite teacher who was dragged out of his classroom and shot to death at a college in the town of Samarra, north of Baghdad.

In the past 15 days, at least 338 people have been killed across Iraq, including nine American soldiers who died in a series of offensives the U.S. military has been waging in western Iraq to try to knock al-Qaida militants and other insurgents off balance and prevent attacks during the referendum on the constitution.

In Monday's worst attack, a suicide car bomb exploded near a U.S.-Iraqi checkpoint leading into the highly fortified Green Zone, where Iraq's parliament and the U.S. Embassy are located. The blast killed a U.S. soldier, three Iraqi policemen and three civilians, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Teacher Riyadh Qassim heard the blast from his nearby elementary school.

"A car bomb exploded. We ran out of school and saw two cars engulfed in flames, one of them a police car. Some of the policemen were in a panic," he said in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

The American death brought to 1,954 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the beginning of the war in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least two other suicide attackers detonated car bombs within an hour of the lethal attack, wounding four Iraqi police officers, police said. At about the same time, a suicide car bomb went off in Khaldiyah, about 75 miles west of Baghdad, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Four policemen were also killed in shootings in Baghdad.

In Kirkuk, a city 180 miles north of the capital, four Iraqi soldiers were killed in two separate roadside bomb attacks, police said. Farther to the north, two Sunni Arab political leaders, an Iraqi soldier and an Iraqi police officer died in separate drive-by shootings in Mosul, officials said.

In the attack on the 10-member Arab League delegation, gunmen in four vehicles pulled alongside the diplomats' cars on a highway in Baghdad and started shooting, said police Maj. Mousa Abdul-Karem. The convoy was driving toward a western neighborhood of Baghdad for a meeting with the Muslim Scholars Association, an Arab Sunni Muslim group.

The delegation arrived last weekend to lay the groundwork for an Iraqi "reconciliation conference" it hopes to hold after the referendum. It was the first time the pan-Arab organization has tried to take a direct role in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

It was not immediately clear who launched the attack.

In cities, towns and villages across Iraq, 5 million copies of the official text of the constitution were being distributed to voters to consider before the polls.

But all sides were still debating last-minute changes in a bid to swing some Sunnis to a "yes" vote. Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani continued to meet Monday with Sunni Arab leaders to try to convince them about the changes, officials from all sides said.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad "has a central role in the talks," said Kurdish legislator Mahmoud Othman, but he would not say whether the envoy was actually attending the meetings. U.S. officials could not be reached for comment but have confirmed in recent weeks that Khalilzad was involved in discussions about last-minute "tweaks" to the charter.

When Iraqi negotiators completed the draft constitution late last month, Sunni Arabs refused to endorse it. Some complained the negotiating process had been rushed under pressure from Washington to stick to the tight timetable that had been set for Iraq's political process.

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# Bomber in Afghanistan kills former militia commander

## *U.S. soldier killed, 3 hurt in firefights*

**By Noor Khan**
Associated Press writer

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN — A suspected Taliban militant detonated explosives strapped to himself, killing a former militia commander and two others Monday in a southern Afghan city, while a second suicide bomber was thwarted when he blew himself up as he fled police.

Firefights in the country's east, meanwhile, killed a U.S. soldier and wounded three others, while an American special forces helicopter was destroyed by fire as it made a hard landing during an offensive. All aboard escaped unhurt.

The violence came amid a reinvigorated insurgency by Taliban-led rebels that has killed more than 1,300 people in the past half year and highlighted the threat still facing Afghanistan as it slowly moves toward democracy.

The two suicide bombings brought the number of such assaults in the past two weeks to five, four of them in the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar. Suicide attacks have been far less frequent here than in Iraq, although Afghan officials have warned of plots to mimic the tactics of militants in the Mideast.

The first suicide bomber Monday struck outside the Kandahar home of Agha Shah, a former militia commander who was allied with the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance, which swept the Taliban from power in late 2001, Kandahar Gov. Asadullah Khalid said.

The blast killed Shah, a supporter of President Hamid Karzai, as well as two civilian passers-by and wounded eight people, the governor said.

Khalid said the bomber's head had been recovered and he appeared to be an Arab and was believed to be a Taliban member.

The second bombing came two hours later. Police received an intelligence report that an attacker was approaching a U.S. military base in the city. Afghan officers rushed to the area, prompting the assailant to run away before he detonated the explosives strapped to his body, Khalid said.

No one besides the bomber was hurt in the blast about a half mile from the U.S. base.

The bombings came a day after another suicide attack in Kandahar injured four British government officials. The deadliest suicide attack in the past two weeks was outside an army training center in the capital, Kabul, and killed nine people.

Meanwhile, a remote-controlled bomb exploded in a small village in western Afghanistan, wounding 13 Afghans. The blast was believed to be an attempt to kill a winning candidate in last month's legislative elections, said local police chief Sufullah, who uses only one name.

The U.S. military released a statement about an attack Sunday on its troops conducting an offensive in eastern Paktika province that killed the U.S. soldier and wounded another.

The death brought to 201 the number of U.S. troops killed in and around Afghanistan since U.S.-led forces invaded in late 2001 to oust the Taliban for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

In a second firefight, in eastern Kunar province, militants attacked a patrol, wounding two U.S. troops Monday, a separate military statement said.

Also in Kunar, a U.S. special forces Chinook helicopter caught fire and was destroyed after an engine malfunctioned and it made a hard landing during an operation last Thursday, officials said. All onboard escaped unhurt.

The accident occurred in the same region where a similar MH-47 copter was shot down in June, killing all 16 special forces troops on board, military spokeswoman Lt. Col. Catherine Reardon said.

The latest crash was the fourth this year involving Chinooks, large troop-carrying helicopters that have proved essential in battling the insurgency in remote, largely inaccessible parts of Afghanistan.

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# Death toll rises for reservists in Iraq

## *Citizen soldiers' role in combat increases*

**By Robert Burns**
AP military writer

WASHINGTON — The National Guard and Reserves are suffering a strikingly higher share of U.S. casualties in Iraq, their portion of total American military deaths nearly doubling since last year.

Reservists have accounted for one-quarter of all U.S. deaths since the Iraq war began, but the proportion has grown over time. It was 10 percent for the five weeks it took to topple Baghdad in the spring of 2003, and 20 percent for 2004 as a whole.

The trend accelerated this year. For the first nine months of 2005, reservists accounted for 36 percent of U.S. deaths, and for August and September it was 56 percent, according to Pentagon figures.

The Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve accounted for more than half of all U.S. deaths in August and in September — the first time that has happened in consecutive months. The only other month in which it even approached 50 percent was June 2004.

Casualties in Iraq have shifted toward citizen soldiers as their combat role has grown to historic levels. National Guard officials say their soldiers have been sent into combat in Iraq in numbers not previously seen in modern times — far more than were sent to Vietnam, where active-duty troops did the vast majority of the fighting.

Charles Krohn, a former Army deputy chief of public affairs, said the reservists are taking up the slack for the highly stressed active-duty Army.

"Decisions made years earlier made going to war in any significant way impossible without Guard and Reserve participation. But I can't imagine anyone postulated the situation we face today: We don't seem very anxious to bring back the draft, and we can't get enough volunteers for a war that is not universally popular," Krohn said.

Forty-five percent of all Guard and Reserve deaths since the start of the war — 220 of the 487 total — occurred in the first nine months of 2005, according to Pentagon figures. The deadliest month was August, when 49 Guard and Reserve members died.

The mounting casualties among reservists in Iraq have been overshadowed by the attention focused on a rising overall U.S. death toll, now approaching 2,000. It complicates recruiting for the National Guard and Reserve, which often attract people who think of the military reservists' role as something other than front-line combat.

Gone are the days when the National Guard and Reserve served mainly as "rear-area" support, far from the front-line fighting.

In Iraq the front line is everywhere: on rural roads where Guard and Reserve soldiers drive supply trucks, at urban checkpoints, in remote villages and at major supply bases. Some units also have been attached to active-duty units with the specific mission of conducting offensive operations.

The casualties have contributed to what has been the most challenging time for the Guard and Reserve since the military became an all-volunteer force in 1973. In addition to fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and helping keep the peace in the Balkans, the Guard in particular was called to action in large numbers for rescue and relief from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

At one point this year more than half of the combat forces in Iraq were National Guard.

"That's a first," said Army Maj. Les Melnyk, historian for the Pentagon office that manages the Army and Air National Guard. "The Guard can't claim that (level of combat) for World War II or World War I: the other major wars we fought in. Never more than 50 percent of the combat forces were Guard."

At present, of the approximately 152,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, about half are reservists: 49,000 Army National Guard, 22,000 Army Reserve and 4,000 Marine Reserve, according to figures provided by those organizations.

The trend is almost certain to be reversed next year, when the active-duty Army is scheduled to make a proportionally larger contribution to the overall force. The number of National Guard brigades in Iraq, for example, is scheduled to drop next year from seven to two.

Since the Vietnam era, the military has given the Guard and Reserve more vital support functions such as military police and engineers, so that any major conflict would involve more than just the active-duty force. Thus it was inevitable that a sizable portion of the force in Iraq would be Guard and Reserve; what has made the Iraq experience so different is the large numbers of reservists getting killed and wounded.

At least 300 soldiers of the National Guard, 78 of the Army Reserve and 93 of the Marine Corps Reserve have died in the Iraq conflict. The Navy Reserve has lost 13, the Air Force Reserve three and the Air National Guard one. Together that is one-quarter of the total U.S death toll, which stood at 1,947 on Monday, by the Pentagon's count.

Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, the Army's deputy chief of staff for operations, said in an interview that the increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve in 2005 was deliberately planned to allow active-duty units such as the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division to complete a reorganization before they returned to Iraq.

"It bought us the time we needed," Lovelace said.


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WORLD

# Survivors emerge after days in rubble

## *But supplies slow to arrive after deadly quake*

**By Sadaqat Jan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — Shopkeepers clashed with looters Monday, and hungry families huddled under tents while waiting for relief supplies after Pakistan's worst earthquake razed entire villages and buried roads in rubble. Death toll estimates ranged from 20,000 to 30,000.

British rescuers unearthed a man trapped in rubble for 54 hours, residents using their bare hands and crowbars freed two girls buried in a school for more than two days, and a woman and child were pulled to safety from a wrecked apartment building after 62 hours.

Setting aside decades-old rivalries, Pakistan said it would accept earthquake aid from India, and a top rebel commander reportedly ordered the suspension of violence in earthquake-hit areas of Indian Kashmir. Authorities in New Delhi promised delivery "on a very urgent basis."

Eight U.S. military helicopters from Afghanistan arrived in Islamabad with provisions, and Washington pledged up to $50 million in relief and reconstruction aid, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said.

"The magnitude of this disaster is utterly overwhelming," Crocker said. "We have under way the beginning of a very major relief effort."

The United Nations said more than 2.5 million people were left homeless by Saturday's magnitude-7.6 quake, and doctors warned of an outbreak of disease unless more relief arrives soon. The hardest-hit area was the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India.

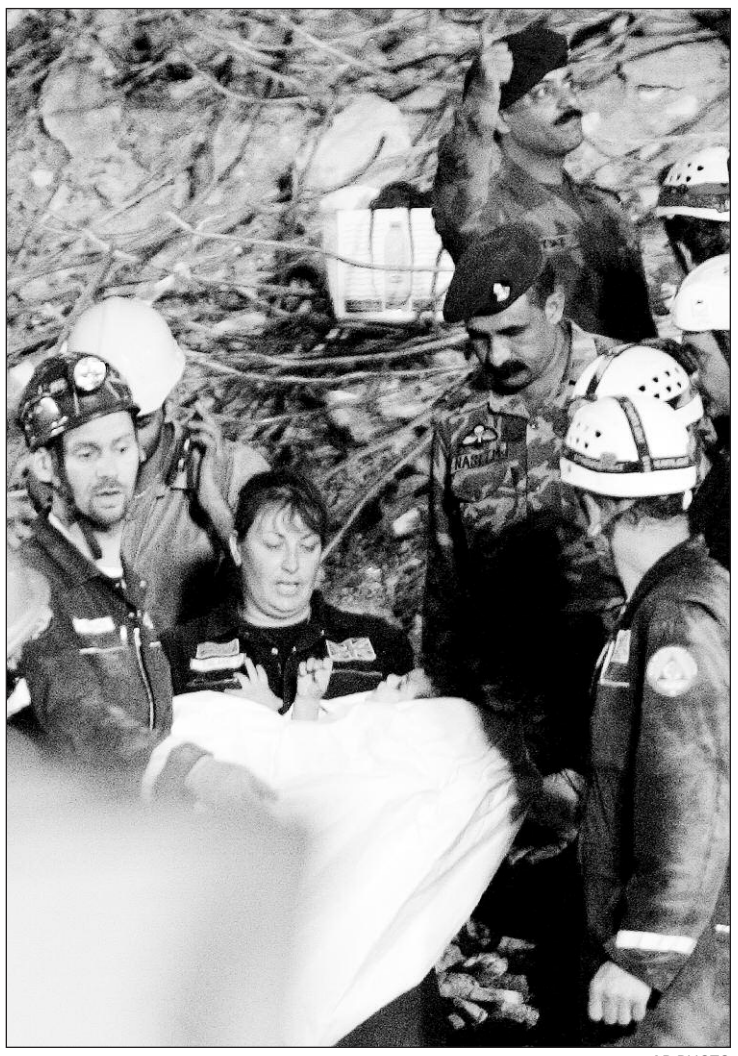
With landslides blocking roads to many of the worst-hit areas, Pakistan's army airlifted food, water and medicine into the disaster zone. International relief efforts cranked into action, and an American plane full of relief supplies landed at an air base near Pakistan's capital Monday.

Most of the dead were in Pakistan's mountainous north. India reported at least 865 deaths, but Home Secretary V.K. Duggal said it was not expected to rise much higher. Afghanistan reported four deaths.

### Rivalry on hold

With the situation dire, Pakistan set aside politics and said it would accept relief aid for earthquake victims from India — backing away from earlier refusals. The nuclear-armed neighbors have been bitter rivals since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, fighting three wars, but they have taken steps to improve relations since last year.

India will send tents, food and medicine and other aid, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said in the capital, New Delhi.



AP PHOTO

A rescuer, center, carries a 2-year-old boy from the wreckage of the Margala Towers on Monday in Islamabad, Pakistan. As the search for survivors and recovery of bodies progresses, officials put the death toll from Saturday's earthquake in South Asia at 20,000 to 30,000 people.

In another apparent gesture of good will, the chief commander of the largest Kashmiri rebel group, the Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen, reportedly ordered a suspension of violence in devastated areas of India-controlled Kashmir.

"We have directed our cadres to halt their operations in the affected areas," the private Kashmir News Service quoted Syed Salah-ud-Din as saying. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen is one of more than a dozen rebel groups fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan.

On Sunday night, suspected Islamic militants killed 10 people, including four Hindus in quake-hit villages whose throats were slit, said senior police superintendent J.P. Singh.

In Balakot, a badly hit town in North West Frontier Province, townspeople broke through concrete to rescue two girls from a shattered school. Several men brushed dust from the clothes of one girl and gave her water.

### Looting breaks out

In the shattered streets of Muzaffarabad, where at least 11,000 people died, an Associated Press reporter saw shopkeepers scuffle with looters. They beat each other with sticks and threw stones, and some people suffered head wounds. No police were nearby.

Residents of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, said looters also targeted deserted homes. Survivors lacked food and water, and there was little sign of any official coordination of relief in the devastated city of 600,000.

"Bodies are scattered in the city," said Masood-ur Rehman, the assistant commissioner of the city. "We are helpless."

An eight-member team of British rescuers using a dog, drills, chain saws and crowbars pulled a 20-year-old tailor to safety, 54 hours after a two-story building collapsed over him and dozens of others.

The man, Tariq, was wide-eyed and covered in dust when he emerged, and he begged for water.

"I haven't eaten in three days, but I'm not hungry," said Tariq, who had an injured leg and was carried away on a door. He had been trapped beneath concrete and wooden beams, and a dead body lay on both sides of him.

In the capital of Islamabad, a woman and a child who were trapped for 62 hours in the rubble of an apartment building were pulled to safety Monday night, a witness said.

The survivors were brought out to the cheers of rescuers who have been working around the clock since the earthquake struck, said Asim Shafik, a witness who lives in the area and has assisted in rescue efforts.

He said teams were working to free another child and that voices had been heard in the rubble of the upscale Margalla Towers complex, raising hopes that more people could be rescued. At least two dozen people died in the building.

### Hunger takes hold

About 2,000 people huddled around campfires through the cold night on a soccer field on the city's university campus, where most buildings collapsed and hundreds were feared buried in classrooms and dormitories. Soldiers burrowed into the concrete with shovels and iron bars.

"I don't think anybody is alive in this pile of rubble," rescue worker Uzair Khan said. "But we have not lost hope."

On the field, Mohammed Ullah Khan, 50, said a few biscuits handed out by relief workers was all he had eaten for three days. His wife, who suffered a fractured leg, was wrapped in a yellow quilt beside him.

Their three-story home collapsed in the quake. His family of 10 survived because they were on the top floor, which crashed to the ground.

"My children are now on a hillside, under the open sky, with nothing to eat," he said.

A doctor, Iqbal Khan, said there was a serious risk of diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia if drinking water and other relief supplies do not arrive quickly.

"These people feel as if there is no one to take care of them," he said.

The city had no electricity, and people collected water from a mountain stream. Shops and the city's military hospital had collapsed.

On a street near the city center, people dug holes into three or four collapsed shops and dragged out rice and other groceries.

"We haven't eaten anything for two or three days," said a 20-year-old man who declined to identify himself as he ferreted away stolen goods. "We are desperate and hungry."

### U.S. pledges help

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Sunday the earthquake was the country's worst on record and appealed for urgent help, particularly cargo helicopters to reach remote areas.

"We are doing whatever is humanly possible," he said. "There should not be any blame game. We are trying to reach all those areas where people need our help."

President Bush on Sunday promised cash and said he had told Musharraf "we want to help in any way we can."

Eight U.S. military helicopters touched down in a whoosh of dust from coalition bases from neighboring Afghanistan, diverted from action in the war on terrorism.

"There is a great need here with the damage and the destruction that has been done by this earthquake, and it's very important for the U.S. government and the U.S. military in Afghanistan to provide assistance to them," military spokesman Col. James Yonts said.

Other international aid and rescue workers flowed in. Planes arrived from Turkey, Britain, Japan and the United Arab Emirates. Russia, China and Germany also offered assistance.

Pakistan's information minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said the death toll was more than 20,000. The top elected official in the region, Sardar Sikandar Hayat, said more than 25,000 people had died and there were "countless" injured.

The province's communications minister, Tariq Mahmood, put the toll at more than 30,000.

The quake was felt across a wide swath of South Asia, with damage spanning at least 250 miles, from Jalalabad in Afghanistan to Srinagar in northern Indian territory.





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NATIONAL

# Nobel winner says U.S. can't shun nuclear threat

## *Game theorist wins prize for economics*

**By Stephen Manning**
Associated Press writer

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — The way people interact and calculate the motives of others can explain the nuclear aspirations of some smaller countries, why terrorists wouldn't unleash smallpox and how people quit smoking, said Thomas Schelling, 2005 winner of the Nobel Prize for economics.

The University of Maryland professor was cited Monday by the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences for his work on "game theory," a way of studying interactions that concludes that the behavior of an individual, group or country is dependent on the behavior of others.

Schelling's work is perhaps best known for explaining the tenuous nuclear deterrence of the Cold War. He theorized that an unspoken "taboo" existed in both the United States and Soviet Union against using nuclear weapons, with each understanding a nuclear war would lead to mutual destruction.

While the Soviet Union no longer exists, the United States still finds itself dealing with deterrence from smaller nations seeking nuclear weapons or those with small stockpiles. The United States will have to take the power of those weapons into account when negotiating with countries such as Iran and North Korea, he said.

"It will be unusual to be deterred by small countries," Schelling said Monday.

He shares the award with fellow game theorist Robert Aumann of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He said the two knew each other, but that they didn't collaborate on scholarly work. Schelling described himself as a "consumer of game theory" more than an author of the idea.

Schelling said he had heard rumors for several years that he would win the prize, but wasn't expecting the call from Sweden early Monday morning. In 1994, several other game theorists had won Nobel in economics, including Princeton University mathematician John F. Nash, subject of the movie "A Beautiful Mind."

Schelling appeared later in front of a crowded auditorium at the University of Maryland to several standing ovations. Appearing spry at age 84, he holds an emeritus position at the school.

Schelling first saw how nations interact during the five years he spent in Europe and the Truman White House following World War II. There he helped coordinate aid to nations as part of the Marshal Plan, the postwar reconstruction of Europe.

He went on to receive a doctorate in economics from Harvard University and taught at Harvard for 31 years. Nearing retirement, he was offered a post at the University of Maryland's school of public policy in 1990.

While his background is in economics, Schelling's interests took him far beyond his academic discipline. He applied game theory to such diverse topics as climate change, the behavior of crowds, racial segregation and organized crime.

For six years he headed Harvard's Institute for the Study of Smoking Behavior and Policy. A one-time smoker himself, Schelling tried three times before he successfully quit. He studied the motivations and techniques that people and groups used to end smoking habits.

"I observed a long time ago that the way people tried to manage or control their own behaviors are very much the way they try to manage and control someone else's behavior," he said.

Michael Spence, winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics, said Schelling is "a very original mind" who used game theory in ways that others had not imagined. Schelling was Spence's thesis adviser at Harvard.

"He thinks about things that other people didn't know how to think about," Spence said.

That includes the threat posed by smallpox in the hands of Islamic terrorists. Schelling recently served on a National Academy of Sciences panel that studied the threat of smallpox.

He said terrorists would face the same dilemma of mutual assured destruction that was present during the Cold War. If they released smallpox in a western country, the fast-moving disease could easily spread back to the Muslim world, harming those who the terrorists are trying to impress, he said.

"Anyone who appreciates what a smallpox attack would lead to globally might be largely deterred," he said.


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The Times-Picayune




On the Orleans Avenue neutral ground across from the American Can apartments, a sign on a discarded couch serves as a reminder to returning residents.

# Signs of the times

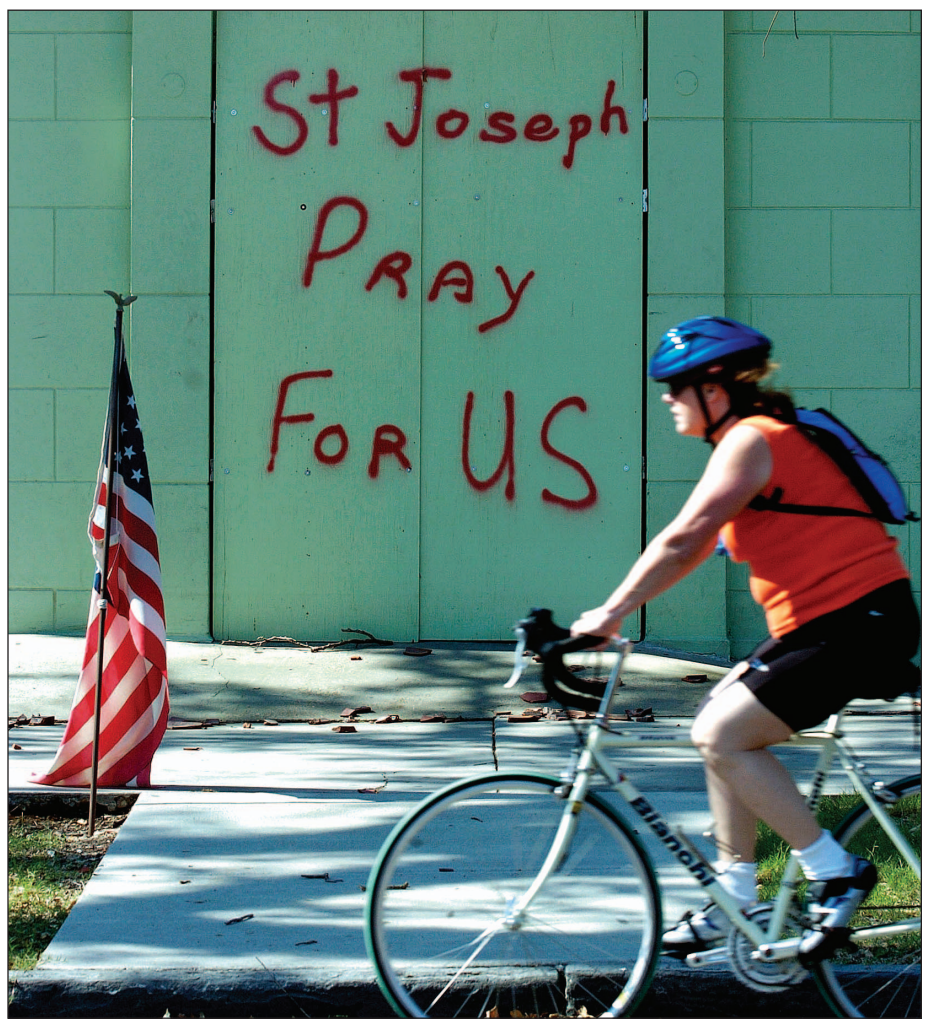
*Graffiti on boarded-up windows has been a reliable form of communication throughout the Hurricane Katrina ordeal. Now, as residents return to Mid-City near City Park and Bayou St. John, their mood can be read in their homemade signs. Spray-painted across plywood and piles of trash are expressions of hope, humor, yearning and practicality.*




A boarded-up door on Moss Street is transformed into a piece of expressionist art.




A jack-o'-lantern and a note speak of hope for better times ahead on the 800 block of Wilson Drive.



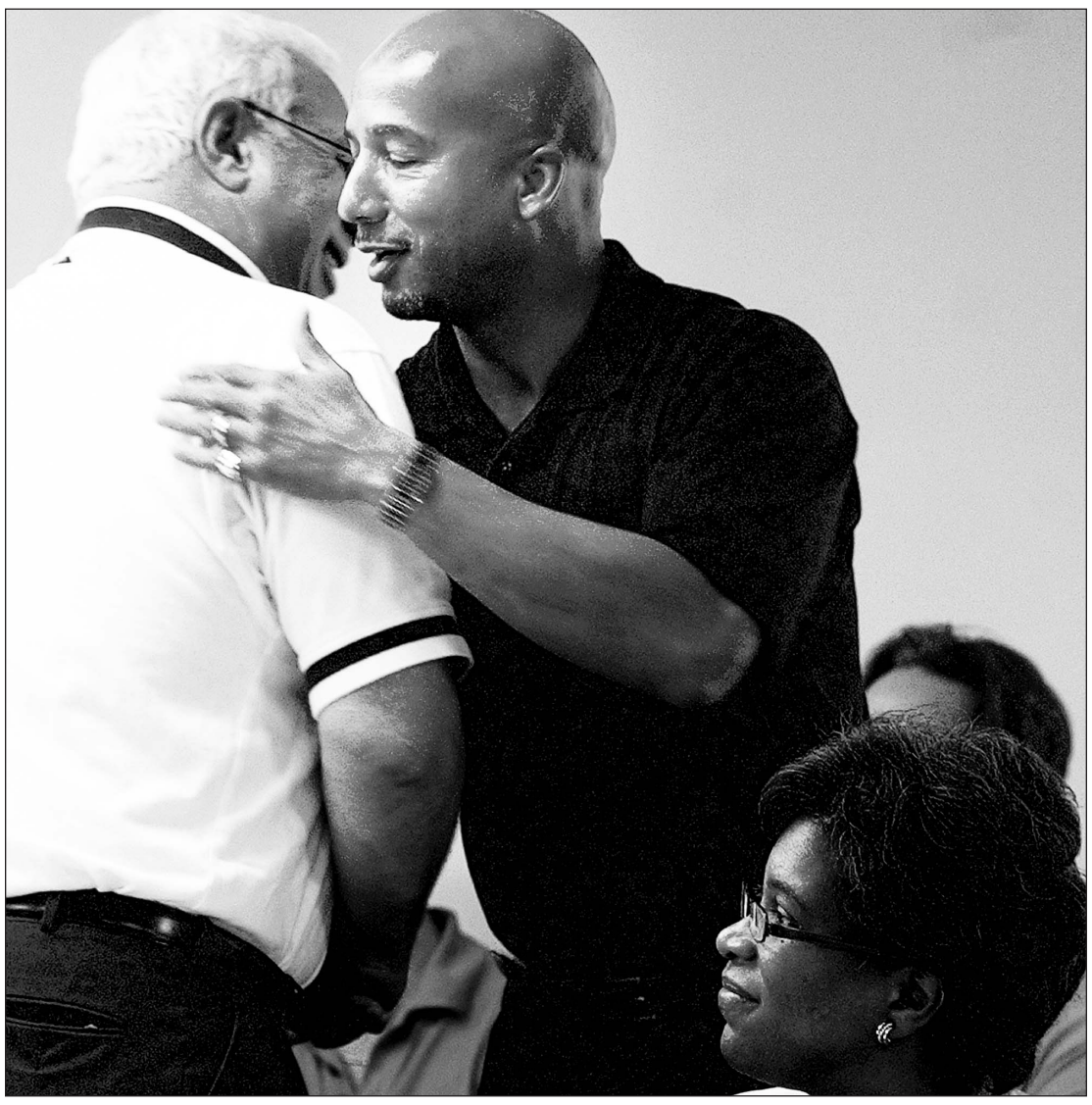




ABOVE, St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters who works against doubt and hesitation, is called on to aid in the recovery process in a message painted across Terranova's grocery store on Esplanade Avenue.

LEFT, A slow-moving car on City Park Avenue is reflected in a trash pile with a warning.

**Photos by Eliot Kamenitz**
Staff photographer



STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

Tulane University President Scott Cowen, left, greets Mayor Ray Nagin on Monday before a meeting of the mayor's Bring Back New Orleans Commission in the Sheraton Hotel. The panel took a sobering look at the city's status, including low morale at the Police Department and a lack of money for the justice system.

# Garbage pickup sporadic at best

**REBUILD,** *from A-1*

the month. Officials said they will seek an extension.

Meanwhile, police morale suffers as officers are forced to live aboard cruise ships separated from their loved ones.

"It is a department under a great deal of stress," Ebbert said. "We have got to get them back with their families ... get them back in a normal rhythm."

Police officials estimate that 80 percent of the force might be homeless and that four of the eight district headquarters were damaged, as was the training academy and the shooting range. The crime lab was destroyed, he said.

He said the city doesn't have money to continue supporting the operations of the district attorney, the criminal sheriff, the clerk of criminal court and the criminal courts.

"We have no criminal justice system functioning today," Ebbert said.

Hunting for housing

Alberta Pate, the city's top housing official, said her office is trying to locate temporary housing for officers on several vacant tracts, including one of the golf courses at City Park.

Committee members also were told that red tape is complicating efforts to find housing for evacuees while plenty of jobs go unfilled.

Boysie Bollinger, the shipbuilding magnate drafted by Nagin to serve on the committee, said Avondale Shipyards has tried to bring back locals to fill 1,000 job vacancies but has run into nettlesome regulations. Bollinger said workers who sign up for employee-only temporary housing in trailers supplied by FEMA quickly find out that by taking advantage of the benefit, their families lose their housing stipends.

"We need to bring some common sense to the process," said a frustrated Don Hutchinson, Nagin's top economic development aide.

Hutchinson said the administration's efforts to work through the FEMA regulations are often stymied by the city's inability to get straight answers from an agency inclined to pass requests up the chain of command.

"We have to get input into this process if not control," said Mel Lagarde, the health-care executive who is co-chairman of the commission. "This is not going to work."

Regular garbage pickup has resumed in the French Quarter, where the bulk of the city's commercial activity is taking place, but pickup is spotty at best elsewhere as the city's contractor, Waste Management, struggles to find workers.

City attorney Sherry Landry said the city might have to turn to the Army Corps of Engineers for help, but as of now, there are no collection dates for the rest of the city.

Casino plan criticized

For nearly four hours, the advisory committee struggled to find its footing, with members visibly overwhelmed by the task at hand. By meeting's end, the group had decided on a subcommittee structure and had agreed to work with the Urban Land Institute, a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., to create a blueprint for the city's redevelopment.

The meeting came just days after Nagin proposed a controversial plan to create a downtown gambling district, part of a package of proposals designed to attract much-needed cash into the city.

Critics of the plan have attacked the mayor for announcing the initiative before the commission's first meeting, saying Nagin was trying to set the agenda before the panel had a chance to debate ideas.

While the gambling proposal was not a major topic of discussion, some panel members expressed discomfort with the mayor's proposal to expand casino gambling by allowing large hotels to open gambling halls on their premises.

"I do have concern that we initially focus on gaming," Archbishop Alfred Hughes told Nagin. "It sends the wrong message."

Adding that the city's rebirth must focus on assets like its art, music and architecture, Hughes said "We don't need to appeal to the lesser instincts."

Nagin apologized for not alerting committee members about details of the casino concept ahead of time, but said his plan – outlined in a letter he sent last week to Gov. Kathleen Blanco – was designed to put the issue on the table before the governor calls a special legislative session next month. Nagin also said the news media largely ignored his other suggestions, including his quest for incentives to spark development of the port and the medical research sector.

Getting organized

The commission formed seven subcommittees, covering education, economic development, infrastructure, city urban planning, administration and government efficiencies, culture and health and social services. Members said they will try in the coming days to develop list of organizations with a stake in the seven areas and will appoint other community members to those committees.

Fourteen of the commission's 17 members attended the meeting. Not attending were Entergy New Orleans president Dan Packer and Liberty Bank and Trust CEO Alden McDonald. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, who is averse to air travel, participated by phone.

The commission, which plans to meet weekly for at least a month, will reconvene on Monday.

• • • • • •

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# Katrina victims sent north starting to get a little chilly

## *Some don't know about harsh winters*

**By Nahal Toosi**
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Le'Ton Jackson packed a few T-shirts and jeans before heading north to escape Hurricane Katrina's wrath. Her weekend plans turned into a weeks-long stay, and pretty soon it dawned on her: New York's winter is on the way, and she might actually need a coat.

"I already caught a cold," said the 26-year-old New Orleans resident. "It was horrible!"

For the first time in their lives, some Katrina victims from the Deep South are buying winter jackets and watching the leaves change. Many have never seen snow.

June Jarvis, 50, moved from Pearlington, Miss., to a Navy housing complex in Middletown, R.I. She knows the light jacket that served her well during the Mississippi winter will not offer much protection in New England.

She said snow might be fun "for maybe a week. And after that week, that's it. It's going to be too cold."

Relief organizations say they are taking account of the winter needs of Katrina victims who relocated to cooler climates. For the most part, that means making hurricane victims aware of such things as clothing drives and heating bill subsidies. The heating bill programs are especially crucial because home-heating costs are expected to rise dramatically this winter, thanks in part to the damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In some cold-weather states — snow has begun falling and temperatures have already dropped into the 20s and 30s in parts of the Midwest — some evacuees plan to take advantage of the seasonal delights.

Sabrina Washington, 28, has been staying at a motel in the Detroit suburb of Sterling Heights, Mich., since fleeing New Orleans with her mother and three children. She plans to visit orchards and cider mills before the first snow falls.

"Everybody's talking about the snow," she said. "I can't wait to see it. I've experienced snow before, visiting my sister in Texas, and I have some winter clothes. But I don't know how cold it's going to get here."

Linda Van Woert of Durand, Mich., a farming community 70 miles northwest of Detroit, said her son and daughter-in-law from Louisiana spent the past few weeks with her. Van Woert said the Northern climate was not an issue for her son, a Durand native, but it was for her Louisiana-born daughter-in-law.

"There were days when it dropped below 70," Van Woert said with a laugh. "She was hauling out winter coats. She was cold all the time. She said, `I don't know how we're going to survive.' I said, `Honey, this is nothing.'"

Kirk Woods, 42, said the farthest north he had been before leaving New Orleans was Atlanta. Now he is in Ashland, Mass., where he has been shopping for winter gear.

"I'm looking at the leaves," he said. "It's amazing to me. In New Orleans, you get two colors: green and dirty brown." In New England, "I see pretty yellows, a little burgundy color, light green."

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| Monday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Tuesday | 5pm FRIDAY |
| Wednesday | 5pm MONDAY |
| Thursday | 5pm TUESDAY |
| Friday | 5pm WEDNESDAY |
| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
| Sunday | 5pm THURSDAY |

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### 2020 Air Conditioning/ Heating

**FIRST 100** CALLS GET 10% OFF on initial repair. $50 off out door unit replacement, $150 off compl sys. replacement. DS A/C Service 504-239-1838

**NO SERVICE** CHARGE, SAVE! Repairs, freon, swap outs, 24hr. East or West Bank. 504-460-7359

### 2045 Appliance Repair

**MONTE'S APPLIANCE** REPAIRS Owner operated. Senior discounts. Free estimates. 504-908-3778

**NO SERVICE** CHARGE, FREE ESTIMATES Refrigerator, AC, Washer/dryer and stoves. 1 year warranty and senior discounts. East or West Bank. 504-460-7359

**Rick's Appliance** sales and service. Reasonable rates. Call 504-220-0773/504-828-1500

### 2060 Carpet/Flooring

**ACID STAIN/Scored** concrete Turn concrete into beautiful floors. Remove old flooring and replace with the look of natural stone. Commercial Residential Insured. 225-281-6446/601-454-3953.

**CARTER CONSTRUCTION** - Tile work, fences, storm repairs, and mold removal. 504-427-9721 or 504-469-7232

**CERAMIC Tile,** Marble, Stone, Granite. Installed. Free estimates! Call 504-779-8154

**FREE ESTIMATES!** Bayou Floor Co. Terry Morrison. Cell: 504-881-0309 or pager: 800-550-4602

**MODERN FLOORING** AND INTERIORS Continuing to build LA from the floor up. (Full service flooring store) New location. 5512 S Lambert. 504-488-1364

**REPAIR AND** INSTALL Hardwood Floors. FREE Estimates. Please Call 504-957-6557

**RESIDENTIAL &** COMMERCIAL CLEANING & Oriental Rugs. 225-337-1549 or 225-337-1558

**STONE MASON,** TILE SETTER Ceramic--Porcelain--StoneFree est. Call 504-495-8121

**WET ORIENTAL** RUGS? For information, call Sarouk's Shop. 504-522-3260

### 2195 Computers, Etc.

**Computer Disaster** Hotline 504-888-0408. Recovery, even if flooded. Contact us now.

### 2200 Concrete/Cement

**FAVAZA CONCRETE** CONSTRUCTION Driveways, patios, pool decks. Texture stamping, Acid staining. Lic & Ins. 504-909-7886

**Small brick** and block jobs, reliable, $200 minimum, call 985-778-8933 or 985-727-1330

### 2210 Contractors

**HOME GUTTING** ALL LOCATIONS SERVICED Licensed & Insured. Fast & Reasonable! Puckett Team 985-707-7267, 985-707-4145

**A QUALITY** BUILDERS lic./fully ins.local owned/operated. Expert in storm damages & reconst. demolitions, trash hauling, furn. mvrs, roofing & home remod. Over 25 yrs exp. Now Hiring, 985-652-0679/703-2454 or 504-256-4594

**A+ DEMOLITION** SERVICES House Gutting, Sheetrock Removal, Fully insured 504-309-6865/504-452-9552

**AAA )+** TREES Service. Local Owned/Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

**AK BAILEY** CONST. Bobcat, Heavy Constrc., Concrete, Framing & Finished Trim. 985-902-1771 or 985-969-0180

**ARM Contracting** Corp. Good Brothers Drywall. Specializing in int. remodel. Storm cleanout and interior demolition. Framing, drywall hanging, finishing, painting, stucco, eifis. Free estimates (full liability ins.) Licenced general contractor. 678-614-7946, 678-614-8758

**AUTHEMENT GLASS** COMPANY IS OPEN! Replacement Glass & Mirrors. Shower Doors-Table tops. Call Randy: 1-504-616-9015 or call Cathy: 1-504-616-9016 Local Co. 40 years exp! Email: catetching@aol.com

**BEFORE THE** STORM, WE ARE NOT A HURRICANE START-UP Locally Owned, General Contractor 30yrs experience, Insured & Licensed. Commercial and Residential, clean-up/renovations. Please call (504)416-0400 or e-mail Msean2010@cox.net

**BULLDOG CONSTRUCTION** LLC. For All Your Construction Needs. *Masonry, *Concrete, *Carpentry, *Sheet Rock and *Painting. Licensed and Insured. Please Call 985-867-5351 or Call Cell 832-865-1000

**CATASTROPHE RECONSTRUCTION** STC CONSTRUCTION, Fully Insured, Licensed, Specializing in Water and Wind Restoration, 513 10th Ave. Franklinton, LA. 70438. 985-201-1125

**Commercial Contractors** demolition or rebuild. 985-637-8765 or 985-696-8952

**DEBRIS REMOVAL** Dump truck and bobcat service. Call 504-920-1333 for more information.

**Ed Lozes** is doing flood damage removal. Call 504-258-2464/504-832-1416

**ELITE disaster** relief/renovations, lic./insured, no job too big/small, locally owned/operated. 985-707-4445/985-710-4947

**FLOODED? Interior** flood damage removal, Sheetrock/carpet removal. 504-415-5440

**GENERAL CLEAN** UP Homes, mold, dry wall, depris, pool draining and pressure washing. 504-450-1356/504-905-4472

**GUARDIAN INSTALLED** SERVICES Install fiberglass insulation/walls/attics, remove/replace. Licensed/Insured. 504-465-8742.

**HURRICANE CLEANUP** insured, Joey's Demolition and Debris Removal Service, Hauling and removal of Sheetrock, carpet, trees, sheds and other yard debris. 504-234-3559

**HURRICANE KATRINA** Clean Up & Contractor Services. Roofing, Home Repairs, Tree Removal and Yard Cleaning. No Job to Big or Small! Compassionate Rates/Senior Citizen Discounts. Locally Owned by Louis J Ruffino. Also Hiring Roofers, Carpenters and dry wall installers. Contact Louis Ruffino 985-969-1795

**HURRICANE REPAIR/CONSTRUCTION** COMMERCIAL (LA LICENSED & INSURED 30 YEARS EXP) KRC CONSTRUCTION, LLC: 504-237-3545

**Katrina clean-up,** tree and debris removal, tractor service, northshore. call 504-231-4803 or 985-845-9055

### Service Directory 2210 Contractors

**KATRINA Yard/Grounds** CLEAN-UP Commercial and Residential. Bobcat T-190 Track Loader, 16ft Heavy Duty Dump Trailer available for debris/tree removal. Landscape/Lawn Repair. New installations. Ground HOG Landscape Mgt, LLC 985-674-9001 groundhoglandscaping@hotmail.com

**LICENSED CONSTRUCTION** COMPANY Qualified for home demolition & construction debris removal. Call J.P. & Sons at 504-431-9631 for free estimate!

**Licensed Residential** Contractor Darrell Tarver License # 87680 Phone: 318-466-9143

**MCM CONSTRUCTION** Demo-rebuild, locally owned and operated, affordable prices, fully insured. 504-494-0913/504-442-1642

**MOLD ABATEMENT** Air duct cleaning, insurance claims welcome. Call 504-392-6906 or 1-800-494-2468

**MONTE'S CONSTRUCTION** All types of remodel/clean-up. Owner operated. Free est. 504-908-3778

**NOLA CONTRACTING** SERVICES. HDLC Award winner, does it all! From demo to high-end renovations. 504-220-5111 or 895-4532

**PHILLIP's CONSTRUCTION** Remodel, Restoration, and Demolition. Licensed and Insured. Call 225-413-5781

**PRESSURE CLEANING** Royal Steam Pressure Srvc. N.O. Co since 1989. 504-329-7642, 504-329-7643, 225-615-2442

**RECONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS** Tear Down, Removal of furniture, carpeting and drywall. REBUILD; Hang Drywall, Tape, Mud, and Paint. ELECTRICAL; Change Sockets, Install Appliances and Air Conditioning. Reasonable Prices. Call 504-352-4989

**ROOFING Drywall,** Louisiana general contractor. Licensed and insured. 35 years experience. 69438 Highway 59, Abita Springs LA 70420. Call: 318-381-5865 or 318-381-6994 Office: 318-766-3188

**ROOFING-FLOORING and** all other Contracting Services. Local, licensed and insured. Please Call 504-837-7868

**SHEET ROCK** DEMOLITION & COMPLETE Interior & Exterior renovation. Licensed & insured. 504-931-5231

**SHEET ROCK** DEMOLITION, debris removal. Seeking demolition work (residential/commercial). Call 504-472-0891

**SHEET ROCK** Removal, house gutting, & debris clean up. Call 985-359-1961 or 504-329-3592

**ST LISC** & INS Contractors avail for flood and hurricane work. 40 years experience locally. 504-512-4572 or 504-554-2377

**ST TAMMANY** MAINT, LLC Hurricane debris rem, house cleaning, tractor/Bobcat svc, expert tree rem, boat rescue, water pumping. 225-338-6999

**STORM CLEAN** OUT Wet Carpet, Drywall Strip, Average $1.10/SF removal. Free Estimates. 504-884-1009

**STORM DAMAGE** REMOVAL And renovation, Please Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

**TREE AND** SHEET ROCK REMOVAL, Sheet rock and painting repairs, major swimming pool repairs, concrete sand pumping and fill. Licensed and insured local contractor. Call 504-415-2039 and 504-415-4288

### 2230 Drywall

**HURRICANE RESTORATION** Drywall and Flooring removal, licensed LA contractor. Please Call 318-614-7110

**SHEETROCK REMOVAL** and repair, call George Eiffert. Office 504-737-6865, Cell 504-239-1669

### 2240 Electrical

**LACAZE ELECTRIC** Dependable Licensed/Insured 504-341-0642 or 504-236-6045

**ELECTRICAL TROUBLE?** Call the Troubleshooter. Licensed. Call 504-481-1804 or 504-237-7814

**Excell Electric** Inc. Residential and commercial, all types of repairs, state licensed/insured. 504-338-6965/504-931-5837

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICIAN** Will solve any problems, Licensed, insured, 504-416-0172

**GENERATORS Diesel,** 5500 Watts, silent, $1650. Free immediate shipping to LA 305-490-9916. All credit cards accepted.

**LESLIE ELECTRICAL** SVC LLC, residential & comm'l, lic & insured. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

**MONTE'S ELECTRICAL** SERVICE Senior discounts. Owner Operated. Free estimates. 504-908-3778

### 2250 Fencing

**NOLA FENCE** COMPANY Wood, vinyl. Huge inventory, ready to install today. 504-454-0046

**Richardson Fencing** Company, Specializing in sm or lrg jobs. 504-669-0242/504-469-2834/985-652-8945 or fax 985-651-1646

### 2265 Hauling

**20, 30yd** dumpster rental. Please call 504-431-8383

**At Your** Disposal.Commercial and residential.Same day service. Do not get stuck with housing your own trash. 504-353-3070

### 2290 Janitorial/Maid

**Complete Cleaning** Services for your home or office. Please call 504-606-7592 or 469-1701

**Kei's House** Cleaning. Insured and bonded. Available Monday-Friday. References. 504-738-9114

### 2300 Landfill & Grading

**RIVER-SAND** No clay or debris Call 504-469-1182

### 2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees

**TREES CUT** 504-338-6442 **********

**Bubba's Stump** Grinding Local; Insured. (985)974-9896 or (985)386-8417

**C.F.B INC** TREE SERVICE Tree removal, Licensed & insured. 1-866-974-TREE/ 386-804-1278.

**David's Stump** Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

**DEBRIS AND** TREE REMOVAL Free estimates. Contact Jerry at 504-393-1517 or 504-338-3128

**DWAYNE'S LAWN** & TREE SVC Sr Citizens discount. 504-319-9917

**HALF PRICE** TREE SERVICE Free estimates. Call 985-966-8581 or 850-543-9399

**HELPING HANDS** TREE & SHEET ROCK REMOVAL Pressure Washing, low rates, free estimates. 504-888-4627/610-4545/957-7324

### Service Directory 2320 Lawn/ Gardening/Trees

**HURRICANE DAMAGE** REMOVAL: Stump Grinding, Dump Truck Service, Landscape Clean Out, Lawn Maintenance, Dirt Hauling And Excavation Services Available. Please Call 504-460-5105

**MR. GRASS** LAWN CARE, RATED 1ST CLASS, QUALITY, DEPENDABLE, AFFORDABLE SERVICE 504-715-9497

**TIP TOP** CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercard accepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

**TREE AND** DEBRIS REMOVAL, Stump grinding, licensed & insured. Free estimates. 843-345-7580

**Tree Cut** & Debris Removal. Yard clearing w/ bobcat. 4 hire, 504-615-2158

**TREE CUTS** AND DEBRIS REMOVAL and Auto towing, free estimates, 504-442-2730 or 504-338-8443

**TREE Removal** & Stump Grinding Licensed & Insured Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7 Cell

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREE, STUMP** And DEBRIS REMOVAL Lic./Insured. Cert. Arborist. Visa/Mastercard. 504-416-5534

**TREES Service.** Local Owned/Operated. Insured, Fast response. Call 504-712-9024

**YARD CLEAN-UP** removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

### 2330 Legal

**ATTENTION VICTIMS** OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) at 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

**LAW OFFICE** OPEN Personal Injury & Criminal Defense. Call Christopher B Edwards, 504-366-1121

### 2350 Medical

**Doctor Yazigi** announces to New Orleans and Slidell patients the opening of Slidell office (Allergy and Asthma clinic). You can call 985-643-0497 for refills, appointments and all other needs.

**ELDERLY CARE** Residential home living for elderly persons, private pay, Metairie, LA. Call 504-837-2047

**PEROXYGEL-Hydrogen Peroxide** Antiseptic GEL. $7.50/2oz. FREE S/H. 404-323-4320 or www.martinscientific.com

### 2360 Moving

**FRANK'S DISCOUNT** MOVING Low hourly rates. Call 504-914-2742

### 2380 Painting/ Paperhanging

**VICK'S PAINT** SERVICES LLC Interior/Exterior Painting & Pressure Washing LA State Lic FREE ESTIMATES Carl-Lee Vicknair 225-869-8201

**DARRYL'S WALLPAPER** HANGING. Free Estimates! Family trade. 504-328-2644

**Holman's Painting** and Pressure washing, interior/exterior, sheet rocks and roofing. 504-341-6491 or 504-919-7996

### 2410 Plumbing

**Casebonne Plumbing** & Repairs LLC, Licensed & Insured, Licensed for Gas. 504-340-8776

**KILCREASE PLUMBING** LLC Comm'l/resid'l, water heaters, LMP#3252, lic'd for gas 504-234-1075

**MARKS PLUMBING** LLC, LMP 2877, Licensed and Insured. 504-289-0335 or 504-469-5470

**MONTE'S PLUMBING** REPAIRS Gas repairs, drains unclogged, $39.95. Senior citizen discounts, owner operated. 504-908-3778

**NOELS PLUMBING** LLC New Construction, Repairs & Renovations. LMP 5080. 504-909-7275

**REPAIRS &** REMODELING, Licensed & insured. Free estimates. 504-467-9207 or 504-915-3249

**TRI-CITY PLUMBING** Hot water heater, A/C, gas test. 1-800-472-1903. Lic. number LMP1903

### 2415 Pool Service

**Professional Pool** Restoration Complete inground pool repair/restoration. Acid wash: $450+ Resurface: $2500+ 817-564-1516 www.professionalpoolrestoration.com

### 2420 Printing & Duplicating

**COMPLETE PHOTO** RESTORATION BY ORLEANS COLOUR. 32 years experience. Call 504-512-3277

### 2430 Professional

**Architect Economical** 38 years exp. houses and commercial, Fast, Call 504-957-4166

**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**EYE CARE** by Schimek M.D. 474 Metairie Rd. EYE exams, optical, contacts 504-834-5858 OPEN

**FEMA AND** SBA pkg. Having problems filing w/ FEMA & SBA? I can help! CAll Richard Lassalle Tax & accounting consulting 504-957-9238

### Service Directory 2430 Professional

**Photographer Digital** images of property on CD's. $25/property. 504-885-8343

**RGA Environmental,** Inc. Moisture & Mold Testing; Asbestos Consulting: Insurance Assessments; Remediation Planning: Worker Health & Safety. Call Maggie Carrington 504-818-8807 or 800-776-5696

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**HOUSE LEVELING,** house gutting, roofing/repair, mold removal. Call 225-268-6276

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

**STORM DAMAGE** CLEAN-UP Sheetrocking & remodeling. High-Tech LLC 504-259-6608

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**General Contractor/Commerical** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOF Repairs** starting at $85. Local company, slate, tile and shingles. All work guaranteed. 985-809-0502

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Metairre, Kenner, Riverridge & Harahan. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

**NORTHSTAR Telephone** System, 8 lines, up to 32 extensions, auto attendant and voice mail, $2500. Installation available. 504-259-0008

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Established Profitable** Auto Repair Shop on busy Mandeville Highway for sale. With or without building. Retiring for medical reasons. Call evenings: 985-264-0445

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Insurance photos. Reasonable rates. Call 504-833-3595/473-7852

### Service Directory 2950 Repair

**E &** T's Home Improvment Drywall, carpet, shingle removal & repair. 985-758-7746/232-0552

**Water and** Mold damage equipment rental. Blowers, dehumidifiers, air scrubbers, odor removal. 985-892-2222

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**AUDITOR Est** Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Seeks Part time Bookkeeper/Secretary with knowledge of Quickbooks, Peachtree, and Word Processing. Fax resume: 504-838-0287

**CONSULTANT Knowledgeable** in MAS90/200 w/ strong comp. skills, 3-5 yrs exp., incl. sal. hist. Health/Life/Dental. Resume: PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 70001, Email: lajobs@bellsouth.net

**CORPORATE TAX** - BATON ROUGE, Baton Rouge co. seeks indiv. with solid Public Accounting or Corporate Tax background. Salary up to mid $50's. Email to ckerth@personnel-group.com

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**HR/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR,** Bilingual & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PROCESSOR - Wanted for immediate hire. F/T permanent positions with benefits. Experienced only. Fax resume 985-641-1125. EOE

**WESTBANK CPA** firm has immediate opening for a degreed accountant. Send resume and salary history to 2067 Paxton St, Harvey 70058

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Expect $300-$500/day** singing up your neighbors for roof estimates for local recordable Co. Male or Female. Easy training. 504-897-2465, 985-789-2290.

**Experienced Automotive** Salesperson needed for fast growing Mercedes/Volvo Dealership in Pensacola, FL. 1-800-876-4931

**Kitchen &** Bath Designer - Campbell Cabinet Co is now accepting resumes for kitchen & bath designer for inside sales in our Harahan location. The position requires reading blue prints, designing & selling kitchen & bath cabinets. Mail resume to P.O. Box 23884, Harahan, LA 70183.

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**Retail &** Commercial Collectors - for Metairie Collection Agency. Collection Agency Experience Req'd. Base + Commission. Fax resumes to 504-455-2814

**ROOF SALES.** Local Co. w/ state license. Pros only pls. DVD training program. 888-906-7663.

**ROOFING ESTIMATORS** NEEDED 10% commission. Call Vince 734-678-8067

**Route Sales** - Golden Flake Snack Foods. Full and part-time positions available. Competitive pay and benefits. EOE. Call for details 1-800-233-0232

**ROUTE SALES** - Termite Technician Service & Sales seeks career minded, self driven & outgoing ind. $30-$35K/year, company vehicle, hospital ins, retirement & vacation. Subject to criminal, drug & driving background check. Apply 2:30-5:30pm. Mon-Fri, BILLIOT PEST CONTROL, 201 Bark Dr, Harvey LA

**TELEMARKETERS Wanted** Our top sales people earned over $100K in 2004, Start at $10/hour plus bonus. If you wanna work in a fun and fast environment, where you will never hear "You are making to Much Money!" Call: Max 985-639-0292, 866-639-0292 or 504-274-8512

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

### Employment 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4025 Casino/Gaming

**CASINO GIFT** SHOP Kenner Casio seeks 2 part time energetic sales people. Must work evenings and weekends and pass drug test. Please Fax resumes to 504-834-0496

### 4030 Clerical

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** F/T Front desk, multi-phone lines, general office duties, A/P, A/R, computer experience necessary. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to: 504-464-4419

**ASSISTANT OFFICE** MANAGER Accounts receivable, inventory, billing, must be personable. Wholesale Siding Supply, Covington LA 1-866-877-2771

**COURIER/FILE CLERK.** Seeking responsible, full-time employee, $17,000/yr + paid benefits + mileage; good driving record w/ insured auto a must; high school diploma. Fax info to 504-833-0848 or mail to Box 38, Metairie, LA 70004-0038.

**F/T Receptionist/Secretary** for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

**GENERAL OFFICE** HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

**NOTARIAL SECRETARY** for busy Mandeville Title Company. Fax resume to: 985-845-4393

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Needed for busy construction office, must have min of 5 years office exp. M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, salary based upon exp. Email resume hr@i-55.com

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! Now seeking: **RECEPTIONISTS** VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE, FT & PT. (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or Fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**RECEPTIONIST FULL** TIME POSITION, ENTRY LEVEL. COMPUTER EXPERIENCE W/ WORD AND EXCEL. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 10890; JEFFERSON, LA 70181

**RECEPTIONIST Light** secretarial skills for large condo community. Exc benefits, no exp nec. Must have dependable transp. Apply in person Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Emerald Forest Condominiums located behind Wal-mart in Covington. No ph calls pls!

**SECRETARY Needed** for busy Real Estate Office in Metairie and in Gretna. For answering phones and data entry. Must be able to multi-task. Email resume to: rema01@bellsouth.net

**SECRETARY TO** OFFICER. Metairie Commercial Real Estate Company seeks self-starting, dependable, accurate secretary; good communication and grammatical skills a must; team player; attention to detail; Word, Outlook, and Excel proficient, salary dependant on qualifications and experience; good benefits. Send resume with salary requirement to Box 38 Metairie LA 70004-0038.

**SECRETARY, Social** Service Agency, Garden District location. Excellent computer skills a must, Windows, Word, Word Perfect, Excel a minimum. Strong written & verbal communication skills. Good organizational skills & reliability required. Good benefits. Resumes to: HR, 1233 Eighth St., NO, LA, 70115 or e-mail resumes to: jbroussard@raintreeservices.org or fax: 504-895-0204. No phone calls or drop-ins please! EOE

**SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** - Needed NOW! Heavy Phones & PC. Accuracy Essential in this fast-paced casual office. Fax Resumes: 504-443-9271 Attn Manager or Apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS** - $11/HOUR - No sales or telemktg. F/T positions avail immediately in Covington. Weekend & holiday work is required. Benefits available. Earn $9/hr while training (4-6 weeks) 985-292-1198

### 4040 Computers

**DESKTOP ENGINEER** Local Company seeking experienced Desktop Engineer. Person must have minimum 2 yrs experience in desktop computer skills in Windows NT 4.0/ Windows 2000 / Windows XP environment. Individual must have experience servicing desktop, laptops, and printers, as well as a good understanding of LAN/WAN Networking and the ability to lift 50 lbs. Good customer service skills and reliable transportation required. Certifications are a plus (MCP, Network +, Server +, A+)! This full time position offers a great working environment with a competitive salary along with full benefit package. Email: resume2005@hotmail.com

### 4045 Drivers

**BORDEN'S** - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2)BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 Airline Dr. Metairie. Monday-Friday 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

### Employment 4045 Drivers

**Briggs Equipment** has immed. opening for Forklift Tech. and CDL Drivers. We offer top wages + Excellent benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, health insurance, company stock plan. For more info. Call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

**CDL "X"** Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you live on the North Shore? Do you need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance, holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demand shiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume: 985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

**CDL Drivers** and Owner Operators, Must Have 2yrs Experienced, Home On Weekends. Call For More Information: 985-732-6793 or 985-750-5553

**CDL DRIVERS** needed, must have Hazmat and DOT certification, pre-employment drug screening. Blossman Oil Co 985-892-2401 or 985-898-2663

**CDL DRIVERS** Northshore routes only, immediate openings! Call: 985-966-0113

**CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/HOPPERS** Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

**Debris Removal** Contractor with long-term contract in New Orleans is looking for experienced, local equipment operators and class A CDL drivers for $150 per day. Contact Hines Development at 612-747-1858 (cell).

**DRIVER CDL** and Non-CDL needed to do hurricane debris hauling and dumping. Local work. 12 hours/day, 7 days/week. Clean lic. req. 941-448-4392

**DRIVER Needed** for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

**DRIVER WANTED:** CDL class B Driver/Warehouse person, drug screen reqd. Apply to SE Hardwood Flooring, 68391 James St, Mandeville, 985-875-2091/Louis

**DRIVER/COUNTERPERSON full-time.** AC and refrigeration knowledge, computer literate. Salary commensurate w/exp. Call Joe 985-649-7410 or fax resume 985-649-7411

**DRIVERS P/T** route Driver in New Orleans Area. Must have full sz P.U. truck. Guar wkly. salary. Fax to Attn: Route Driver 225-647-7848 or email eds2324@bellsouth.net Name, address, contact #, type of vehicle.

**DRIVERS** - JEFFERSON DOOR CO. West Bank Company seeks Drivers with type D lic. for local deliveries. 40 hrs work week guar. No nights or wknds. Paid health ins. & vacation. Please call 504-340-2471 for info

**DRIVERS and** DRIVER HELPERS Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**DRIVERS CDL** A & B, Temps Today Staffing. For info, call 504-468-7782

**DRIVERS LAFARGE** NORTH AMERICA INC. A world's leader in construction materials is seeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

**DRIVERS Needed,** Independent contractors needed with 1 ton flatbeds and pickup trucks. 504-733-2008

**DRIVERS Now** Hiring class D Drivers and Helpers Please call 504-382-8357

**EXPERIENCED ROLL** OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 504-835-1696.

**Full Time** Parking Lot Sweeper Driver, night work 9:00 pm till 5:30 am Duties include Driving Parking Lot Vacuum Sweeper Truck, walking with 20 lbs. back pack blower. Must have clean driving record and must pass drug test. Starting pay $70.00 per night will increase to $80.00 per night after one month probation period. Call 504-469-4633 or 504-888-9553

**LOCAL DRIVER** CDL Class A or B w/X-Endrsmnt, 2 yrs drvng exp. Clean drvng rec req'd. Full benes & exc pay. 504-394-5530

**OFFICE DEPOT** Supply Route Driver. New Orleans Metro area; Clear MVR, Chauffeur's Lic,Lifting 70#'s, and Min. 2 Years Route Driver Exp. Please apply at 150 Riverbend Blvd., St. Rose, LA

**OTR DRIVERS:** Company, O/O, Recent Grads. What? Solo drivers up to 45cpm. Teams start up to 45cpm. Big miles. Lots of home time. How? Call 800-968-7575. When? NOW! Who? GAINEY TRANSPORTATION. Why? We've got the answers.

**PART TIME** Hot shot drivers need in new Orleans area. Must have full size P.U. truck. Perfect for retirees. Fax to Attn: hot Shot Driver at 225-647-7848or email to eds2324@bellsouth.net Name, address, contact #'s and type of vehicle.

**ROLL OFF** DRIVERS - CDL License required. $12/hour. $400 signing bonus. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

**TOW TRUCK** DRIVERS - Experienced only, large & small, Jefferson Parish, 504-835-4500

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| Saturday | 5pm THURSDAY |
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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4120 Medical

**LPN FT** with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**MRI Technologist-Expanding** outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologist with preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience required. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

**NURSING** - WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**PCAs &** CNAs Needed for a personal care service agency. Call Roz @ Archangel: 504-366-0494

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, excellent hours, PT owned and operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! HIRING NOW FOR LPNs, CNAs, DIETARY TECHS, HOUSEKEEPERS, & RECEPTIONISTS. VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE. FT/PT/PRN (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PROGRESSIVE HOME** HEALTH CARE. WE ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING WITH: RNs/PTs/OTs/Aides/Sitters. WE CAN FILL YOUR SCHEDULE. ALL AREAS: HOUMA, NORTHSHORE, BATON ROUGE, WESTBANK, EASTBANK, NEW ORLEANS. FAX RESUMES TO: 504-263-8320

**PT's AND** PTA's Immediate openings in Mandeville, Slidell and Metairie. Reply ASAP to northshoretax@yahoo.com or fax 985-727-5006

**REGISTERED DENTAL** HYGIENIST Algiers area. Mon-Thurs, 7:45-5:15. Call Kathleen 504-394-5330

**Reliable Community** Alternatives, Inc. - DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF/PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT - Individuals who are compassionate, reliable, possess excellent writing skills & are willing to work with the elderly and/or individuals w/disabilities in their home or in the community. Various shifts avail immediately. Call 504-779-4740. Or apply in person at 5416 Veterans Blvd, suite 315, Metairie. Must pass criminal background.

**RN homecare** visits available in Jefferson and surrounding areas, PPS homecare exp required as it pertains to OASIS and patient care. Interim has an established office in Metairie. Call 504-834-9000, fax 985-626-7473

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**ST CHARLES** Healthcare, Making Home, home again. LPN'S, at St Charles Healthcare We're back to our normal routine, at making a home for our residences & employee. We are a long-term care facility, located in the heart of New Orleans, & are seeking staff members for the following areas: LPN's, CNA's, Cooks, Housekeeping. If you are interested in helping us make home, home again, please apply at: St Charles Healthcare ATTN: Tansy Magendie, 1539 Delachaise St, New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-895-3953

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB - We are looking for the following: *CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT, all shifts, $8.00/hour. *LPN, all shifts. *MEDICARE BILLER. *MDS COORDINATOR. Please apply: 6001 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: $8.00/hr all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

**SURGICAL TECHNICIAN** Full time for physician practice, to assist in clinic and surgery. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**WE ARE** Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**WOODLAND VILLAGE** Nursing Center located at 5427 Jex Rd. Diamondhead, Mississippi is accepting applications for all positions. Housekeeping, laundry, dietary, activities, CNA's, LPN's, RN's. Please apply in person, by fax 228-255-4833 or by email at hrwvnc@bellsouth.net

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

### 4130 Part Time

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8131/985-320-1111

**ARCHITECT Metairie** A/E Firm Has Immediate Opening For One Licensed Architect. Min 5yr Experience. ACAD Exp Req. Ability to deal w/Owners & Contractors Etc. Send Resume to MEYER ENGINEERS LTD. PO Box 763, Metairie, LA 70004, Fax: 504-887-5056 Or Email: MEYER@MEYER-E-L.COM

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT** - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

**Direct Care** Staff, Unit Mgrs, Therapists, more. Hope Haven Center Job Fair, 10/11, 2-4p. 1101 Barataria Blvd, Marrero

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** Molding Technician I - Job requires operating plastic blow molding machines (HDPE or PET), and other automated down stream equipment. Must be able to perform machine adjustments and/or minor repairs as needed. Must be able to work overtime on short notice as needed. Experience as a machine operator in a production setting a plus. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Lift Truck Operators - Job includes production and warehouse operations, transporting or finished goods, loading trailers for out-bound shipment and other related warehouse duties. Must have experience lift truck operations, mechanical knowledge, computer and communication skills. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Normal factory conditions. Very clean surroundings. Long-term established company. Benefits, holidays, and vacations. Fax resume to Attn: Human Resources, 985-543-6988. Or mail to: Human Resources, 311 Pride Ave, Hammond LA 70403. Equal Employment Opportunity

**RAINTREE CASE** MGT: Ponchatoula Office. SUPERVISOR needed to manage staff & people with MR/DD. BSW or BA in Social Services + 4 yrs. post grad exp. Salary based on educ & exp. Benefits. Send resumes to HR, 1233 Eighth Street, NO, LA 70115 or e-mail to: jbroussar@raintreeservices.org or fax 895-0204. No phone calls or drop-ins please! EOE

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**Stewart Enterprises** Inc., is looking for professionals for the following positions at the Clearview building located in Jefferson, LA. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TEAM MEMBERS: Primary duties incl. processing incoming mail and maintaining accounts payable files, contacting vendors and internal customers for info. Requires a high school diploma, exc. communication and organizational skills, PC proficiency (Excel and Word) and good data entry skills. PAYROLL PROCESSOR: Entry level position requires good organizational skills, ability to work under deadlines and basic spreadsheet and word processor skills preferred. High math aptitude preferred. EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS COORDINATOR: Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma and good organizational, communication and customer service skills. Responsibilities incl. data entry, data verification and research into employee inquiries. BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM MEMBERS: Researches and resolves all problems as they relate to contracts, provides info. to internal and external customers when poss., and gathers any nec. documentation and/or info. needed to research and resolve transactions. These positions require 2 yrs of exp. in a business setting and exc. analytical and problem solving skills. A business or accounting degree preferred. Travel is req. in this position. CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM MEMBERS: Research, analyze and follow up customer accounts. Work w/ customers to resolve collections issues. 1-3 yrs related experience. Customer service and excellent telephone skills required. AS 400 and PC experience a plus. We offer competitive salary and benefits. Interested candidates may apply by email, fax or mail. hrinfo@stei.com, Fax 504-729-1825 Stewart Enterprises, Inc. Attn: Human Resources Department 1333 S. Clearview Pkwy Jefferson, LA 70121

**WE ARE** ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4145 Retail

**Enlace, the** largest and fastest growing Spanish Yellow Page Directory in the U.S., is looking for Outside Sales Representatives to work directly with local retailers and manufacturers to create online and print advertising. Talent for speaking Spanish is not required. We offer an excellent compensation package which includes a Base Salary + Commission, and full benefits. Email resumes: atincher@cobaltpublishing.com

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**RETAIL Sears** We are holding a Job Fair on October 12 from 9am-12pm at the Sears located at North Shore Square Mall: 150 North Shore Blvd, Slidell, LA 70460. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Base Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, in-home HVAC Service Technicians (product services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit number 2026, Automotive unit number 6118. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**SEARS We** are holding a Job Fair on October 14 from 1pm-4pm at the Sears Clearview location: 4400 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA 70006. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, In-home Laundry and Lawn & Garden Technicians (Product Services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online at: www.sears.com/apply and search for unit #1226, Automotive unit #6326. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**SEARS We** are holding a Job Fair on October 14 from 9am-12pm at the Sears Parts and Repair Center location: 6405 Airline Dr., Metairie LA, 70003 across from Zephyr Stadium. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Product services: Parts Sales, Laundry Service Technicians, Lawn and Garden Service Technicians. Market Delivery Operations (Harrahan office): Materials Handling, Clerical. If unable to attend job fair, technical positions can be applied for: www.sears.com. All other positions, please apply in person at this store location or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

**STORE MANAGER/OPERATOR** For successful West Bank Convenience store, experience necessary, top pay, apply now! 985-796-3001 or 504-577-6557

### 4147 Security

**KATRINA SECURITY** GUARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Extensive overtime based on 12 hour shifts - 2 week periods. $10.00 an hour - security officers $13.50 an hour - supervisors. Housing and meals provided when needed. Need own transportation to Baton Rouge. We will provide transportation to New Orleans. Please E-mail your resume to: acgkatrina@aol.com or apply in person from (8:00 AM - 4:30 AM) at American Citadel Guard, 11848 South Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed, F/T & P/T. Must be 21. Call Scheuering Security 504-834-1088

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Post Katrina. F/T and P/T, work immediately available, free uniforms and training. Top wages and benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol, 225-273-0046

**SENTRY SECURITY** is looking for DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Call 504-460-5420 Office: 504-866-6400

### 4150 Teachers & Instructors

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**
HIRING NOW MANDEVILLE, 674-0086 SLIDELL, 643-7400

**2nd Chance** don't miss out! All 3 Planet Kids locations(Covington, Madisonville, Mandeville) are hiring for all positions. If interested in an awarding career in teaching or as kitchen manager please call Brenda at 985-845-0377 for an interview.

**CHILDCARE POSITIONS,** PT/FT. At Children's Cottage in Mandeville. Call 985-626-1676

**MANDEVILLE PRE-SCHOOL** needs creative, dependable, energetic teachers, MUST LOVE CHILDREN, 985-892-8153 or 504-577-1241

**PARKVIEW BAPTIST** Preschool and Day Care hiring Day Care Teachers and Assistants. Apply: 6301 Camphor Street, Metairie.

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**A/C INSTALLER** AND TECH. $$ Signing bonus $$, Please Call 504-282-0625

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHNICIAN For 108 unit apartment community in River Ridge. CFC cert, general maintenance. Benefits, 401K, car allowance. 504-733-6858

**A/C MAINTENANCE** TECHS for Metairie & Kenner apartments. CFC cert. Some general plumbing & elec. Competitive pay, on-call pay & car allowance, insurance, 401K & vacation. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**A/C SERVICE** TECH & Helper needed, Covington area. Call 985-893-3155

**A/C TECH** Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, Rougee Corp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

**A/C TECHNICIAN** IMMEDIATE OPENING N. Shore Area. Exp'd. Good Pay + Benefits. 985-966-0075

**A/C TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. Call 504-833-1164

**AC HELPER** Wanted. Full time, no experience needed. Benefits available. Call 504-416-7363

**AC Helpers** and Duct Cleaners. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey Louisiana, 70058. 504-227-0200

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING** MECHANIC. Experience needed. 504-416-2923

**AIR CONDITION** HELPER - Needed Metairie Area. 3yrs Experience Preferred. 504-885-7870

**ALARM INSTALLERS/TECHNICIANS** Please Call 504-733-8040

**Alarm Technician/Install** Wanted. Please call Bill. 504-837-7400

**AMERCIAN DO-ALL** Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. Call 985-237-0817

**Appliance Installers** Wanted: Earn 200-300 per day. Must have tools and a pickup truck or large van. Training available. Please call 504-628-3234 9-4 Monday - Saturday or apply in person at 180 E James Dr in St Rose

**APPLIANCE TECH** Dial One hiring experienced tech, best pay, best benefits. Apply in person at 5003 River Rd. 504-736-9545

**Architect 3-5yrs.** exp. Northshore firm. Resume to architectr esume@bellsouth.net

**AUTO GLASS** INSTALLER Exp a Must 5yrs+ 985-249-1496/985-718-9356 Vernon/Steve, N.Shore only

**B &** B Electrical Services ready to serve all your electrical needs. now hiring electricians, helpers, laborers paying time and a half. (504)891-9773 (504)466-7833

**BEST PAY** IN AREA - Need Drywall crews, Painters, Carpenters, Shingle crews. 504-270-6937

**BODY SHOP** Needs Body & Paint Tech. Lots of work & benefits. 504-738-7233 or 504-450-9679

**Body techs** and painter needed, immediate openings. Automotive Collision Experts Harvey. Call 504-329-1083

**BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM** TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years experience. Call 504-340-4294

**CARPENTERS &** LABORERS - Needed for local construction co. Residential & commercial experience required. 504-464-7789

**CARPENTERS &** SHEETROCK Workers and Laborers Needed. Call 504-522-3287

**CARPENTERS AND** HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

**Carpenters and** Laborers needed for new const. uptown. Local/displaced? Will try to help u get housing. REDDING CONST. 504-415-3292/504-598-3227

**CARPENTERS' HELPER/PAINTERS'** HELPER/LABORER. Good pay. Call for information 985-845-3640

**CARPENTERS, A/C** TECH, PAINTERS, LABORERS, APPLIANCE TECH, ROOFERS, needed by est. RE Co. Permanent Positions. Exc pay & benefits. Must have transportation. 504-628-3872, 504-388-6865 or apply at: 826 Adams St.

**CARPENTERS, ROOFERS** and LABORERS- Experienced, Top Pay. 504-723-8028, 504-919-0782 (Local)

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good** pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

**CARPENTERS/LABORERS/HELPERS Needed,** Experienced. Please call 504-348-0236 leave message

**CARPET/FLOORING INSTALLER,** excellent pay + bonus, exp pref, tons of work! 504-512-3277

**CBD Bldg** needs maintenance engineer - a/c, electrical, plumbing ,data/phone , etc. Also need sheetrock wks. Call Bret 504-915-0649

**COMMERCIAL CABINET** Shop seeks experienced, motivated, creative cabinet maker, will train the right person, computer skills helpful. Apply 5716 Plauche St, Harahan or send resume to dperrier@aol.com

**CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** TESTING FIELD TECHNICIAN Entry level or experienced. Apply at 724 Central Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121 504-733-9411 EOE. M/F/D/V

**CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC,** immediate opening for experienced. Carpenters in commercial/Hospital renovation and repairs, locals proffered. 504-628-7712

**CONSTRUCTION SUBS** Needed for all phases, Licensed & Insured. Please call 504-415-3614

**CONSTRUCTION Workers** needed immed. for renovation jobs in Jefferson Parish. 504-416-0885

**CRANE OPERATOR** Experienced needed for 17 ton. Required: Current CDL, experience should include tree work, roofing and air conditioning, etc. Salary based on experience. Call 504-366-1279 and leave message

**CRANE OPERATORS** Needed in Greater New Orleans Area. 800-510-0782

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**ELECTRICAL HELPERS** $10.00 per hour. Immediate employment opportunities. No experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have reliable transportation. Apply in person, Monday through Friday, 8AM until 3PM, New Orleans Electrical JATC, 3200 Ridgelake Dr., Suite 301, Metairie, LA.

**Electrical Mechanic** needed. Please call 504-329-1505 for more information

**ELECTRICIAN Residential** and commercial experience. Call 504-338-6965/504-931-5837

**ELECTRICIANS &** helpers wanted for residential work on N. Shore. 985-966-1646/985-727-1201

**ELECTRICIANS Needed** full time. Good driving record. Experience required. 504-733-0447

**ELECTRICIANS/EXPERIENCED HELPERS** Commercial work site, 401K health, 504-471-0298

**ELECTRICIANS/HELPERS Commercial** work. Must have transportation. Call 504-908-7576

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS** Exp. for Debris in Metairie. Bobcat, Loader/Rotor/Truck Drivers. 954-464-5273 or 954-650-4669. $15-$20 per hour.

**EQUIPMENT OPERATORS,** Immediate openings! All Northshore sites. Call: 985-966-0113

**EXP SMALL** ENGINE MECHANIC for 2 & 4 cycle work. call Chris at 504-779-5296 or 504-427-4705

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**EXP. DOZER/EXCOVATOR** BOBCAT OPERATOR for HEAVY EQUIPMENT 504-455-6222

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRIC** MOTOR MECHANICS, Exp Submersible Pump Mechanics, Exp Pump Mechanics, and Helper Trainees. Paid holidays. Call 504-469-8481/8a-5p

**EXPERIENCED LICENSED** ELECTRICIANS and helpers with tools, call Jim at 504-416-0172

**EXPERIENCED ROOFERS** NEEDED, Top pay. Must have own transportation. 504-887-8369

**EXPERIENCED SCAFFOLD** BUILDERS, HELPERS, APPRENTICE, AND WOOD CARPENTERS NEEDED Must have scaffold tools, Safety Council Card (OSHA), and reliable transportation. Drug testing required. Call or apply in person at 10389 Airline Hwy, St.Rosa LA 70087. 504-463-2045/800-882-9981 ext 2045. Or 13527 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA. 70817. 800-888-5403

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**FENCE INSTALLERS** Fence company seeks experienced employees. Must have valid drivers license. Excellent opportunity. Call 504-837-3300/504-289-3510

**FENCE INSTALLERS** needed. Good pay, plenty hours, cash paid. Call 504-454-0046

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**HANDYMAN Part** time. Must have own tools and transportation. Please call 504-737-9268.

**Harvey, LA** Manufacturing Co has immed. need for Exp Maintenance Mechanics. Established Manufacturing Co needs F/T Manufacturing Maintenance Mechanics to repair and maintain all machinery. Must have exp in troubleshooting manufacturing equip. Exp with gearboxes, hydraulics, and conveyors a plus. Need to be willing to work overtime including Saturdays. Exc pay and company assisted family health/dental Ins avail immed. Temp FEMA housing avail at plant site for employee only. Apply in person at 1255 Peters Rd, Harvey, LA or call 504-374-6074 for further info. EOE/MFVH

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**LABORERS** - Skilled Laborers needed to work in Jefferson Parish, top pay, 504-723-0657

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**Metal building** and sheet metal workmen needed, experienced. Call 504-261-4179

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**PRODUCTION LABOR** Prefer Chemical exp. $12/hr rotating shifts, $8/hr for 1 week training, $11/hr after training. long-term, Drug-screen & Record Check req'd. EOE. INTERVIEWING 10/12/05 in BILOXI AREA, between 9:30am - 4pm. Call Betty Loftin at 1-800-676-2706 or email bloftin@longshrs.com MS applicants welcome!!!

**Project Manager/Estimator** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

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**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

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NATIONAL

# Skin cancer treatment shows some promise

*Tailor-made vaccine extends patients' lifespan*

**By Paul Elias**
AP biotechnology writer

A biotechnology company developing a novel, personalized cancer treatment said Monday the vaccine showed promise in a small segment of patients with advanced skin cancer.

Antigenics Inc.'s announcement was made before the stock markets opened and the New York-based company's share price rose 67 cents to close at $5.68 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Antigenics executives and Wall Street analysts warned that the announcement Monday was based only on preliminary results gleaned from between 60 and 80 patients involved in larger, advanced experiment involving 322 patients worldwide.

The company's vaccine Oncophage didn't improve the life expectancy of the group when taken as a whole and the company said it will now focus on the segment that the drug showed promise in.

The results showed that patients with cancer less widespread than the rest of the group members who received the experimental vaccine Oncophage lived an average of about 21 months each, 50 percent longer than expected.

"It's encouraging," said Needham & Co. Inc. analyst Mark Monane. "But it's all very preliminary."

Monane estimates that about 1,400 new patients a year could benefit from Oncophage if the preliminary results hold up. Company executives said sales could reach $200 million annually.

But any regulatory approval is at least three years away, Monane said.

The beneficial results aren't "statistically significant" and can't be used for marketing approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Instead the company will have to conduct another large-scale experiment focused exclusively on the patient population that the drug showed promised on.

**"While these results aren't statistically significant, we believe that the improved survival benefit observed with Oncophage signals a meaningful clinical benefit."**
RENU GUPTA
in charge of the company's research

"While these results aren't statistically significant, we believe that the improved survival benefit observed with Oncophage signals a meaningful clinical benefit," said Renu Gupta, who is in charge of the company's research.

Oncophage is a cancer vaccine that aims to trick patients' immune system to attack the disease, a concept researchers hope will yield treatments with fewer side effects than the toxic chemotherapy now used.

Oncophage is tailor-made from tissue collected from each patient's cancerous tumors removed by cancer doctors.

# Vince weakens to tropical storm

*Only 1 name left on list for season*

**By John Pain**
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Less than a day after making this hurricane season the second-busiest on record, the former Hurricane Vince began to break up Monday over the cooler waters of the far eastern Atlantic, forecasters said.

Vince weakened to a tropical storm with top sustained winds near 40 mph in the evening, down from 60 mph earlier in the day, forecasters at the National Hurricane Center said. Vince was the 11th hurricane of the season, and the 20th named storm.

Vince's eye had disintegrated, and the storm was expected to dissipate into a frontal system by Monday night in even cooler waters, forecasters said. Wind shear also was tearing Vince apart.

At 4 p.m. CDT, the storm was centered about 170 miles west-southwest of the southwestern tip of Portugal. It was moving east-northeast at about 25 mph, a speed that would take it over Portugal by this morning, according to the hurricane center.

Vince formed Sunday between the Azores and the Canary Islands in waters that are up to 7 degrees cooler than the 80 degrees typically needed for a tropical storm, said Chris Sisko, a meteorologist at the hurricane center.

Only one other Atlantic season had more tropical storms and hurricanes since record keeping began in 1851 — 1933, when there were 21. The most hurricanes to form in a season were 12 in 1969.

The six-month season ends Nov. 30. While conditions for hurricane development get less favorable late in the season, about every other year a hurricane forms in November, hurricane specialist Richard Knabb said.

"People should be aware that the hurricane season doesn't end till November and we could get more activity," Knabb said.

Wilma is the only name left for storms this season. After that, storms are named after letters in the Greek alphabet — which has never happened in more than 50 years of regularly naming storms.

This season has been one of the deadliest and costliest in the United States in the last century. Hurricane Katrina killed more than 1,100 people on the Gulf Coast and is expected to cause more than $34 billion in insured losses.


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**German Shepherd,** AKC, Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. Call 985-867-9922

**Labrador, Yellow,** 12 weeks old with AKC papers and shots, $250, 504-329-1938

**MALTESE AKC,** pups. Baby Doll. Multi Ch. Blood. Regular & Tiny. Also YORKIES, 504-737-1234

**MINIATURE PINSCHER** - AKC pups, M/F, black/rust, blue or tan, $350 & up. 985-345-1514

**Old English** Bulldog Pups CKC, 2M, 4F, $800. Visit beardsbulldogge.com or call 504-301-1129

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**RAT TERRIER** PUPS - Registered, 5 weeks old, 3 males, $125/each, call 504-481-3357/818-2248

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**SHELTIE PUPS** - CKC, Please call 504-250-3893

**Wanted: Little** Yorkie Dog, Female, about 2 years old, to love. Call 504-738-9567

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**'06 River** Time HOUSEBOAT. Brand new, 52 ft, deluxe. 2 115 HP Mercs, fully self contained. Sleeps 6, 651-450-1496 for more info. $165,000 Will deliver.

**'66 HATTERAS** 41' GREAT LIVE-ABOARD. Excel Cond! Sleeps 6, 2 heads, full Kit, no H-damage. Only $65,000 Rick 985-845-9827

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**'98 Boston** Whaler Outrage 23', 225 HP Johnson, garage kept. $32,900. 504-885-0900

**30' Trojan** Sportfisherman twin 260hp, gas, 800 hrs. nice A/C, genset, shower, radar, sleeps 4 or 5. 601-924-0406

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**'00 35'** Georgie Boy MH with slide-out. Like new. $56000 In Dallas TX. 940-440-9185

**'00 Fourwinds** 32', Class C, Wood floors, V10 auto, very nice, nonsmoker, $35K. 214-498-2982.

**'00 Franklin** Imperial Trlr40'/93 Olds Cierra clean, 8x10 metal shed. As is, where is in Seattle tlr park. $22,000. 206-660-3238

**'00 Rockwood** 25' travel trailer; pristine cond; sleeps 4; $12,000; 318-435-9264.

**'00 Trail-Lite,** sleeps 7, nice, 35ft, loaded. $8000/OBO. ATLANTA arrange delivery call 504-231-6331

**Recreation**

**6550 Campers/ Motor Homes**

**'01 Jayco** Eagle 5th wheel, 33 feet long, sleeps 9, super slide, lots of cabinets, $17,000. 601-736-8975

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**'01 Wildwood** 30BHSF, 31 ft. with slide, very good condition. $15,000/OBO. 985-768-8338

**'02 Cherokee** 24' Light Travel Trailer, Like new, sleeps 6, will deliver. $11,000. 504-348-9340 or 504-421-5788

**'02 Holiday** Rambler Vacationer. 2 slides. 1 and 1/2 baths. $79,000. 985-789-2879

**'02 Keystone** Cougar 28 foot, 5 th wheel slide-out, $20,000. Call 504-453-5517

**'02 Trail** Lite, 20' Travel Trailer, 1700 lbs. $10,000. Call 985-758-3567 or 504-756-6732

**'03 30ft** RV Shata class C, Sleeps 8, AC, Hot Water, shower, bathroom, V-10, generator, awning, microwave. Sell $52,000 or rent $100/day. 612-229-1130

**'03 Shasta** 24', bunk beds, dinette, front bd, A/C, microwave, 2 dr ref., finance & delivery avail. $10,599. 1-866-243-1716 www.northtownmotorhomes.com

**'03 Weekend** Warrior 27', sleeps 6-8, kitchen, bath, mini suite, cable TV, micro, appl., self-contained w/generator, $17,000. 504-834-1112

**'04 Celebrity** 5th Wheel, 40 foot, 3 slides, washer/dryer, excellent. Brooklyn, MS. Free delivery. $36,000 407-973-7107

**'04 Coachman** Concord, Fully loaded, Surround Sound, 7K miles, Like New, Slide Out, One owner,$57,500. Can see in Fairhope, AL. 706-896-4927, 404-217-0419

**'04 Crossroads** 30'TT, all alum, rear LR, queen, lg slide, like new. $25,000. 504-621-8327

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Alpha** See Ya Gold, 40 ft, Alpha 400 Cummings, computer, 4 TV's, 2500 miles. Like new. $195,000. 504-833-6045

**'05 Fleetwood,** sleeps 6, fully contained, asking $15,000, 504-838-0396 or 504-957-6620

**'05 JAYCO** Jay Feather 29Y TT, fiber glass sides, bunk beds, slide out, plus hitch. Warr. Mint. $19,500. 985-646-3428

**'05 Sunny** Brook, 41ft, 5th Whl, 2 slides, gen., cargo area, loaded, $49,000, 504-915-1068

**'05 Trail** Bay Travel Trailer, 27' w/slideout, sleeps 6, barely used, $17,000. 504-329-5248 or 504-328-7500

**'06 JAYCO** 25' travel trlr. new, sleeps 6, slide out, $21,900. 504-831-8900, 504-453-4441

**'06 JAYCO** JAYFLIGHT 28RLS $23,800. Call 504-341-8555 or 504-234-6844.

**'86 Prevost** XL 96K 8V92 5SP Allison 15K Gen 5K inv All Elec New tires - $85,000. 858-755-3484

**'92 29ft** Prowler, pull behind, fully furnished, excellent condition. $10,500. 504-292-9924

**'93 Gulfstream** Conquest 102 Class C Motor Coach, slps 8, good cond, $21,500. 504-813-7880

**'94 Winnebago** Brave 34 ft, w/ '90 Honda, tow bar. Sleeps 6, fridge, stove, queen bed, microwave, shower, cruise, 4.0 Onan gen., AM/FM/Cass, new muffler, exc. tires, & exc. cond. Car & RV $23,500. 202-418-2462/804-720-1462

**'96 Arrow** Lite 21Ft, 2 double beds, very good condition, $7200. Call 504-451-0899

**'96 Pace** Arrow Vision, $40,000/OBO. Please Call (504)628-4688 for info

**'97 Coleman** Seapine travel trailer/pop-up new roof great condition. $3500. Call 504-469-2910, 504-481-3916

**Recreation**

**6550 Campers/ Motor Homes**

**'97 Jayco** Jay Series 1208 Pop-up, sleeps 8, garage kept, exc. cond. $4500, Call 504-577-3733 or 985-781-1517

**'97 RV** 35' Gulfstream, Ford 460 26K Ex Cond. $37,000 Seattle Pay flight/gas 206-660-3238

**'98 Coachman** 29'Trailer $8500,1996 Jayco 26' $7500. Avail. now in Lafayette. Craig @ 817-572-4414

**'98 DUTCHMAN** 5th WHEEL CAMPER Excellent condition! Sleeps 6. Diningroom, Livingroom slide out. $17,000. If possible delivery for $1,000! 419-674-4313

**'98 Winnebago** Aventura Dlx, gas eng., Ford chassis, 32K mi. sleeps 6, 35 ft w/ slide-out, queen BR, full BA/kit, will deliver, $45,000, 207-626-7519

**01 39ft** Marlin National RV MH. 300 Cummins Turbo. 2 slides, sleeps 6. Ready to move in to. Illness forces sale, Will deliver 863-688-8723

**03 31'** Class C Camper Triton V10, 11K, A/C, gen, gas fridge/heat, slide-out, slps 8, warr. Grt cnd! $46,500 985-264-9326

**1998 35'** Travel Supreme 5th Wheel Camper. 3 slideouts. Washer/Dryer. Mint condition. Located in Morgan City. $27,500.00, Will Deliver. 985/385-1164

**1999 Jayco** 3610 Designer, 37.5 ft, generator, washer/dryer, $23000. 662-231-9172

**90 Winnebago** Chieftain, 28', sleeps four, clean bed, AC/Heat, TV, refrigerator, freezer, oven, microwave. $12,000. 985-624-5076 or 985-264-9739

**95 Allegro** Bay 32', 62K, 454 gas, new stuff, $28,500. will deliver, 501-834-2719

**BRAND NEW** '06 SURVEYOR 23' Travel Trailer, Fully loaded, $17,000. 504-915-2829

**Dewalt 4300** kw gen.$1,800; 3" Honda Pump $1600, Poulan c.saw $200 All new in box/delv to N.O. Craig 817-572-4414

**FLEETWOOD TERRY** DAKOTA 2003 - Fiberglass, Ultra light, great shape, $10,500. 504-270-6937

**RV 1988** Hol.Rambler 34'- Very Nice!! Self contained w/ 6.5 KW Gen, bath, kitchen. Sleeps 7 - Can deliver 22,000.00 OBO 513-877-2991 Randy

**RV For** rent! Sleeps 8, full bath, generator, AC, from $75/day, can deliver. 404-488-3282.

**SOUTHWIND STORM** 1996 - 27', Sleeps 6, generator, fully loaded, good condition, $20,000. Call 318-419-5296

**6570 Fishing/Hunting**

**COLT AR15** w/15 clips, $2000. Sig Sauer P-220, 45acp, LNIB $700. 504-481-3360

**6590 Motorcycles/ATV**

**'01 Honda** Shadow 600 Has everything, black with chrome, 60 mpg. $3000. Call 985-705-3995.

**'97 Harley** Davidson 1200 Sportster, 18K miles, saddle bags, $5500.00. mike at 985-789-1590 or mrrogers72@yahoo.com

**'98 Yamaha** Blue 98 YZF-R-1. $4,000. Call 985-264-3116 or 985-246-1128.

**RESIDENCES FOR SALE**

**7505 Above Canal**

**220-222 Audubon.** Priced to sell, no flood damage! Condos for sale. 2 BR, 1 BA. Asking price $225,000 Call 504-577-0077

**28 Newcomb** Pl. Priced to sell, no flood damage! Condos for sale. 4 BR, 2 BA. Asking Price. $390,000 Call 504-577-0077

**Residences for Sale**

**7505 Above Canal**

**7542-44 Plum** St, Lusher School district. Double, 2 bedroom, 1 bath each side, furnished kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, central air, 2 driveways, no flood damage. $349,000 504-343-6747 OBO Must sell

**Beautifully refinished** executive residence. No flood, on Melpomene. One-half of duplex, 1000 square feet. $240,000 unfurnished; $260,000 furnished. Call 225-769-8335. Agents protected

**NEVER FLOODED,** furnished, Garden Dist. 2/2 condo, gated parking, security, hdwd flrs, pool, 5 min. from downtown. $319,000 504-390-7000

**NO FLOODING!** 1674-1676 Jefferson. 2 blks off St. Charles. Duplex with apprx. 4700 sq.ft. Each unit is 3 Bedrooms 2 baths. Lot 60x135. 504-975-5007

**7508 Warehouse/CBD**

**Newly renov,** 1bd/1ba condo Gated parking, EXC cond fitnes ctr $209,999 504-723-4141

**7510 Below Canal**

**Uptown 2850** SF duplex, 1525-27 Hillary. Renovated, $450,000, marble, deck. 702-292-8719

**7535 Mid City/City Park**

**4923 IBERVILLE,** Tri-plex, 3BR owners. Gar. Cent A/H. Dry. $399K. L. Nugent RE 504-250-3364

**COUNTRY CLUB** GARDENS 201 Bellaire Dr. 2 blocks off Metairie Rd. No flooding. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool. 985-845-2082

**7540 Lakeview-Lakefront**

**Lakeshore West** house on corner lot, 320 Topaz St. no flooding, some Pre-Katrina damage, $375,000, 504-621-9002

**LAKEVIEW High** Quality New Construction, Brick, Corner Lot. Approx 4000 sqft, 2 Car Gar, Pool/Sun-Dek, 1st Flr Flooded. Top Floor Perfect! Sold as is, $460,000.(previously valued at $760,000). 504-621-2001

**No Katrina** damage! lovely lakeshore home, 3/2 renov bath, stone floors, updates, 2150 sq.ft. call (713)520-1158/(504)920-2525, owner.

**7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)**

**1521 Giuffrias,** updated, move in cond. 4br/2ba, extras. $329,000. Never Flooded. 504-835-8700.

**1704 Riviere** Ave., Metairie. Sale By owner. No flood. Walk to Lafreniere Park, oak tree, split-level, 4 bed rooms 2 bath, $175,000, firm. 504-812-2580, 985-351-4314.

**1909 CLEARY** AVE., Totally renovated, 5 BR/5 BA, all ceramic, granite, & wood. Pool house, pool, 16 person Jacuzzi, 2 car electric gar., $325,000/or praise whole value. 504-250-7116

**2 HOUSES** FOR SALE. High & Dry, from $165,000. 504-455-0049

**3 BR,** 2 BA Dry in Metairie, new kitchen w/ Silestone counters, new 30 yr. roof, ceramic tile & wood flrs. 2100 sq. ft. 4522 Bisonet $299,000. 504 887-8117

**3733 Lausat** off Turnbull. 6 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, recently renovated, NO FLOODING! Call 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**6605 Hastings** Street, 3-bdrm, 2-full bath, never flooded. $190,000. 318-208-1699

**BRIDGEDALE SUBDIVISION** Never flooded, move-in condition, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $319,000 by owner. Call 504-220-3979

**FOR SALE** BY OWNER 3Bed, 2Bath, No Hurricane damage, Completely renovated, 1917 Emily st. Met, 504-837-5157

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.MetairieHomeSeller.com The Home Company Realtors (504)463-5899

**Residences for Sale**

**7545 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)**

**FSBO-4 Bed/2.5** bath. High and Dry, 8411 West Metairie Ave. NO FLOODING. Two story brick, great room and 3032 SF. Two woodburning fireplaces. $379,000. Don't dawdle, see Jac 985.637.3886 or 504-467-8867

**HIGH AND** DRY IN RIVER RIDGE 4600 SF, 5 br, 3 ba, move-in ready, $500K firm. 504-251-6688

**Home for** lease near airport & shopping center. 8008 Shirley St., Metairie, LA. 3BR/2BA/LR/DR/ Family RM/Breakfast nook.- 985-785-8895.

**JEFFERSON 705** Pecan Grove Lane, Townhome, never flooded, 504-733-9281 or 504-914-3663

**JEFFERSON, Unflooded** 3BR, 1BA W/Gar. Apt next to Oschner Hospital $275,000, 504-738-0912

**Magical home,** 10 fenced acres, pool, creek, giant oaks. $350,000. 803-349-5588, kkoepp@aol.com

**Metairie 3** bdrm, 2 bath 1700 sf No flooding 504-468-6023 www.sell-home411.com/10205

**METAIRIE FSBO,Dry,** 2BR, 1BA cottage off Metairie Rd, $174,900. 504-432-5002/210-263-9829

**MOVE IN** READY nr. EJGH, 4/2, updates, high and dry. Only $299K. Call Don 715-6509. Bill Elliott Realty 455-6203

**N. ATLANTA** ST. #1428. High and dry. 3 BR, 2 BA, office, great area, $195,000. 504-364-7922

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 4500 sf, upscale home, furnished, must see to appreciate! $1,200,000. 504-454-7722

**NORTH KENNER** High & Dry, 5 Sago, 3500 sf, Gabriel Estates, close to Lake Pontchartrain, 4BR, 3.5BA, selling at appraised value $560,000. 504-469-9312

**OLD METAIRIE** No flooding, 4550 square feet, $1,590,000, Please Call 504-610-5343

**RIVER RIDGE** Hi/dry, 4BR/2.5BA, 2450 SF. $375,000. 504-259-0635. T. Crane Inc 504-866-8666

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or lease, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, for sale $295,000 or rent $3500/mo. Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**SPECIALIZED RE** SERVICES INC. www.sresinc.com. For Sale: Homes, Condo's & Lots. All areas. Call 504-468-7979

**WE BUY** DAMAGED OR FLOODED HOUSES. Please call 504-756-6425 or 504-722-0424

**7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway**

**1209 CLAIBORNE** DR. $132K. No Flooding! 3BR/1BA, Wood Floors, Corner Lot. 504-495-3181

**136 Aris.** Old Met. Priced to sell, no flood damage! Condos for sale. 2 BR, 1 BA. Asking Price. $195,000 504-577-0077

**717 Park** Ridge, $230,000, 3br 2ba, gr, no flood, rennov 2yr ago incl new AC. 504-228-2010

**745 OAKLAWN,** No Flood, 3BR/2BA, furnished(WSH/DRYR,frig), $275,000. 504-473-1525

**BELOW CAUSEWAY** No Flooding, 2 story, 4 bdrm, 3 BA, Brick, 1017 Smith Dr. $450,000. Call 504-495-6718 or 504-289-6796

**Flood Free** Harahan 4BR, 3.5 BA, w/DBL Garage, Elevator, on double lot. Call 504-738-0912

**GRETNA 852** Morningside Dr, 3br, LR, DR/kit combine, hugh den w/fp, fenced in large backyard, no storm damage! 504-810-0950/504-701-3284 anytime

**HARAHAN 2** br 1.5 bth updated condo nvr flooded $170,000 furnshd $155,000 unfrnd 5047291557

**HARAHAN LUXURY** Beautiful Complete Renovation, 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3100 Square Feet, New Everything, Granite Tops, Wood Floors Down, Carpet Up, Great Floor Plan, Never Flooded, $448,000. Call Marlo 504-296-8967 or 504-738-3105

**HIGH &** DRY On 333 Aurora in Old Metairie. Custom built, 1 yr old, lded w/high end amenities! $859,000. Jeff: 504-234-1630 Keller Williams Realty N.O.

**Residences for Sale**

**7550 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway**

**KENNER House** for sale, 3500 square feet, $590,000, Please Call 504-610-5343

**METAIRIE Double,** $198,000. 3706/04 Roman Street. No damage...985-882-3930

**METAIRIE Never** flooded, mint cond, 5 mos old, 4BR, 2.5BA, partially furn + extras, great area, $560,000. 504-835-0354

**OLD METAIRIE** 1 BR condo, 3rd flr, high ceilings, 2330 Edenborn Ave. $100,000, 504-236-7848

**OLD METAIRIE** 8 Plex, possible Condo conversion, $500,000, Please Call 504-737-6410

**OLD METAIRIE** Duplex, 2 BR/1 BA up, 1 BR/1 BA down, never flooded, 296 Metairie Heights, $335,000. 985-796-5286

**OLD METAIRIE** un-flooded townhome, 3900 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, pool, $585,000. 316 Nursery Ave. 504-833-3292

**River Ridge,** 10124 Tiffany. 5BR/2BA, 2809 SF living, $384,900. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**WANTED: Fix-up** houses, teardowns & lots. Local Company since 1984. 504-455-0049

**7555 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)**

**235 FRIEDRICHS** Met Club Gardens. New listing. No flooding in home. Exquisite residence w/every amenity. On crnr lot. 4 beds + study, 4.5 baths, 4441 SF. 12 ft ceilings, custom everything. SHAUN TALBOT 504-975-9763

**5 BEDROOM** 4.5 BA, no flooding, some furniture incl.. Rebecca Blvd near lake. Avail immed. $750,000. Call 318-366-8794, 504-858-8383.

**Chateau Golf** course fsbo $600K, 3785sf, 1/3+ac, 4br/3.5ba, 5 Chateau Mouton. 504-458-8317

**Chateau Lakefrt** 2550 SF, $350K. 4BR/2BA, extras, 16x20 shed, pool. 850-859-9917 after 3pm.

**Chateau No** flooding! 4/2 beauty. New wood flrs, updated kit,frpl,new roof and more.$349,000(501)804-9063

**Chateau Terre** Sub-division. No water damage. 3BR/2BA, move-in cond. $169,000. 504-559-5318

**FREE Home** Seller Information www.Kennerhomeseller.com The Home Company Realtor, (504)463-5899

**HIGH &** DRY In Chateau Estates! Well maintained & spacious home on beautiful golf course lot, $537,000. Jeff: 504-234-1630 Keller Williams Realty N.O.

**HIGH AND** DRY C1 Zone, New Orleans-style Duplex. Mostly renovated, close to I10. 6 rms, 2 BAs, cent AC, carport/laund rm both sides. 504-915-5042 or 504-512-0201

**High/Dry-Kenner, 4BR,1** 3/4 BA, 1892 sqft, 208k, 1010 Minor St. 504-455-1114/460-6745

**KENNER Chateau** Estates Lakefront, 5 br, 3.5 baths, includes mother-in-law apartment. No flooding, $525,000. Call 504-305-3039 or 504-258-8381

**KENNER Chateau** Estates, no flood, great loc., 4BR, 2BA, new roof, gutters and more! $289,000, 504-469-7630/919-1208

**NEVER FLOODED** 4 br 2.5 Bath Huge master & den. Sun room. Exercise rm. Deck. $465,000. 504-466-1519 or 504-400-5756

**NO FLOOD** SETON PARK 4000 ST JAMES DR 2550 SF 4 B/3-2 BA $339K OBO 504-352-6018

**7560 West Bank**

**124 Dexter.** Kennedy Heights Subdiv. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, totally renovated, no damage, $109K. 504-236-3609 or 504-467-4252

**2 BEDROOM,** 1 Bath, central A/H, 112 12th Street, Bridge City, high & dry, $105,000/OBO. 504-341-1465or 865-688-2768

**2BR, 1.5BA** ,fireplace, garage, Picayune, NO KATRINA DAMAGE, 601-799-2626; 601-818-1047

**Residences for Sale**

**7560 West Bank**

**3/2.5. Newly** Renovated(Roof, Carpet, Paint, Floors, & More). No Storm Damage. 504-615-1720

**3Br/2Ba, approx** 2500 sq.ft., some storm damage. $115,000. Call 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

**Algiers Point** Charming 2BR/2 full bath 2-story house, 1658 sq ft. No hurricane/flood damage. Front & back yard, central heat & A/C, all appliances included. $258,000. Call Tracy 504-415-9730.

**BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA** Condo in exc cond. Frpl, alarm, pvt backyard, fully equipped kit. $159,000. 504-362-8756, 504-812-6517

**Exquisite new** townhouse for sale in gated Westbank community. Didn't flood. $360,000. Call 740-264-7531

**GREAT open** 3/2 bonus rm 1857sqft brick new kit & paint 2cargar never flooded LOTS of EXTRAS 232-5104 232-7676 1617 Appleby Ln $172,000

**GRETNA BY** OWNER. $205K. 349 Southwood Dr. Never flooded. New roof, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 flr., ext. room and storage shed, pavement all around, design garden. 832-474-2151 or 985-651-1411

**GRETNA, 4-Plex,** 2 BR, 1.5 BA, $250K: 3 BR Dbl, $160K: 2&3 BR Townhouse, $95K. 504-340-3158

**Gretna, 741** Morningside. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, $138,500. Audubon Realty 504-616-6208

**HARVEY/STONEBRIDGE on** golf course. 4 BR/2 BA, 2600 SF living, high & dry, plenty closet of space, $360,000. 504-723-1275

**HOUSING AVAILABLE &** HOUSING NEEDED! Lee Cole & Associates 504-393-7400 or email: Ron@RonMazier.com

**Interested in** buying or selling? Please Call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 or email sydneyrichoux@cox.net

**JEFFERSON PARISH** 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Den, Liv. Rm, Kitchen, Din. Rm, Utility Room, Sun-Room, Covered Patio, 756 Mystic Ave., Terrytown. No Storm Damage! 985-875-7425 or 504-416-0622

**KENNER 3800** Square foot Commercial Building @seminarsplus.com or call Ken @ 504-491-8335

**KENNER RENOVATED** HOUSE 3bd/2ba $445,000 -see @ seminarsplus.net or call Ken at 504-491-8335

**LULINGS Best** kept secret. 2700 sq. ft., 2 story, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, swimming pool, large lot, $250,000. Call 985-331-1700 or 504-421-3311

**MARRERO 3** BR/2 BA, recent remodel, no storm damage, 5428 Faith Dr, $155,000. 225-637-2016

**Marrero 3bdrm,** 2bath, over 1/2 acre, inground pool,rear yd access w/ 1bdrm guest. Both inc. all appl. 5000sf ttot. Renovated. 504-453-1631

**MARRERO 3BR/2BA,** 1800 SF, 2 car gar. New kitchen/den. Never flooded. $159K. 225-248-1440

**MARRERO New** Construction 3 New Homes. Will Be Completed in 60 to 90 Days, 2000 Sq. Ft. Living Area, 2600-2750 total Sq. Ft., Quiet Cul-De-Sac Street. 10 minutes away from CBD. No Flood or Katrina Damage! All Brick, Top Quality Construction. 5 More Lots to Build on, 5 Plans to choice from. Prices starting at $249,900. Call 504-328-1437 or 504-228-9557

**MARRRERO 604** Allo St, 3BR, 2BA, newly renovated, $129,000. 504-737-4280 or 504-931-5231

**Newly renovated,** Terry Town, never flooded, 3 BR, 1.5 BA, FSBO, $140,000. 504-366-5265

**OLD GRETNA** 1114 10th St. Renovated, did not flood. $149K. Poss rent to own. 504-258-3842

**PLEASANT RIDGE,** Luxury 4 BR, 3 BA, 4000sf, gated, avail now, furn. or not, to many extras to list, $640,000. Agent 504-393-7690

**Ready now.** 3 BR. Marrero. $130,000. Sidney, 504-388-6788. Progressive R.E. 504-361-3238

**Residences for Sale**

**7560 West Bank**

**Ready now.** 3 BR. Terrytown. $170,000. Sidney, 504-388-6788. Progressive R.E. 504-361-3238

**Terrytown 4** Bedroom, 2 Bath Lrg Living Area 689 E. Niagara Cir. $138,500. Call Ann 504-610-6952

**WEST BANK** For Sale in Avondale, 3BR/1.5BA, needs carpet and paint. $88,900. 850-501-2464

**WEST WEGO** 722 Avenue F. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1400 Sq. Ft, newly renovated. No Storm Damage $120,000. 504-304-4643

**7570Mandeville/Covington**

**112 Forest** Drive. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

**Abita 5** yr old custom built home, 4BR/2BA, 2.5 wooded acres. $250,000 firm. 985-851-6600

**ABITA SPRINGS** 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom home, double lot, completely renovated in 2002, 1200 sq.ft, Norman Rockwell setting. Only $225,000. 985-264-9326

**ABITA SPRINGS** under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Acadian on** Cul de sac 5bd/3b/2gar, pool, .49acre $389,500. Please call 985-624-9331 or www.infotube.net, ad#111805

**Beau Chene** home for rent ($2500) or lease purchase or purchase (low 300's, owner finance). 4bd, 2.5bth, large yard. 985-966-7495

**Beautiful Covington** home 3900 sq ft living,4900 sq ft total in great condition on 1.1 acres for sale by owner.The home is 2 story, 4 bdrms,3 full baths,2 half baths, huge den.The asking price is $585,000. Please call 985-869-2572 for more information.

**Beautiful raised** acadian/1AC. Mandeville best schls, 4BR/2.5BA, cust. mill wk, lg open kit/din/r, 2300 SF, lg wind.s, french drs to deck. 985-264-5269

**Covington 2** bedroom/1 bath, .5 acre, central heat/air, $80,000. 504-218-5357/985-634-0728

**Covington 3-20** Acres w/ house and barn. Either all 20 ACs or 3 and over for sale. Approximately 10 mi. north of Covington. Minutes from fire dept and School. 985-264-7057

**COVINGTON 3BR,** 2BA brick home on 1 acre with oaks. Deck and spa. $168,000. 985-893-4694

**COVINGTON 3BR/2BA,** brick, with 1-6 acres, exc cond. 15 min north of Covington, 45 min N of Slidell. $110,000 or $150,000. 985-735-6575 or 985-515-3519

**Covington Acadian** 2.30 acres, 4/3.5 and work-out room. $575,500. 504-416-1243 or 504-415-3604

**COVINGTON EXEC** ESTATE. high & dry! 3.75 acres. 4100 + square foot; excellent condition. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, bonus room. Large den, LV/DR; Master suite w/ Jacuzzi; Separate studio (perfect for mother-in-law) Three 2 car garages: Elegant entry w/ iron gate. Covered patio w/ tile floors, gazebo, green house; stocked pond & more $399,000.00 call 985 210-9571; 985 535-2889;985 817-0180. Geri or Abril.

**Covington Exec.** home, gated community, over 6400 SF total area, $890K, for more details on this esquisite home, call Sydney Richoux at 504-388-6788 Progressive Real Estate

**Covington FSBO,** 2BR, 1BA, outside storage, corner lot, $169,000, Call 985-893-8674

**Covington great** area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802/985-875-0197.

**Covington, 2,689** sq. ft. living, 3.89 acres, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, $315,000. 985-373-2199

**Covington. New** Construction 4 bedroom, 3 bath, Acadian, 2700 living, 3400 under beams square feet. Lot 2A Penny Ln. off of 8th St. $428,500. 985-807-5060

**Folsom 2** BR, 1 BA, 100 yr home, C1 lot, Near Hwy 25 & Hwy 40. $87000. 985-705-1899

**Residences for Sale**

**7570Mandeville/Covington**

**FOLSOM 2BR,** 2BA, w/guest hse, barn, pool, 10 ac, fncd, $350K, consider split. 803-349-5588

**For Sale-Owner,** Mandeville, 4bd 2ba, 1,900 sf, great schools, high & dry, big lot, 20' x 20' deck, $250,000 985-951-7832

**Lacombe Cottage,** 2000sqft. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, loft upstairs, $275,000. Call 985-630-8528

**Luxury Home,** 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in condition. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

**Madisonville New** const., 4BR/3BA, over 3200 SF living area, granite counter-tops, Re-Max R.E.P, 985-626-1561/871-4940

**Mandeville *NEW** LISTING* 5 bedroom, 2 bath, $349K. 504-214-7770 or 985-624-2820 Bill

**Mandeville 1292** Springwater Dr, Meadowbrook Sub-Division, 4 BR/3 BA, 2473 SF, $350,000. Call 504-701-8758

**Mandeville 2** Bedroom, 2 Bath 1200 sf condo in good school district $133,000. Please call (504) 259-6245

**MANDEVILLE 2** Year Od, 3BR, 2.5BA, 2660 Sq. Ft. furn on 1/2 acre lot. Additional 1200 sq. ft. warehouse on rear of property, $335,000. 985-727-7503

**Mandeville 645** BARBARA PLACE, New Golden Shores, 4 bedroom, 2 baths, 2400 square feet of living area, $250,000. 985-845-7248 or 985-630-5085

**Mandeville Condos** 1 block from Lake, 3 br - $215,000. 2 br

NATIONAL

# SEALs dive into campaign to recruit new members

*Elite group hunts terrorists*

**By Seth Hettena**
Associated Press writer

CORONADO, CALIF. — The Navy SEALs prefer to operate in the shadows, but the Pentagon's need to increase the ranks of the elite terrorist-hunting commando force is prompting an unusually splashy recruiting effort.

Navy SEAL Mitchell Hall, who won a Bronze Star in 2001 in Afghanistan, hopes to use the upcoming Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii to spread the word about the need for more recruits.

The competition will make the 31-year-old chief petty officer a spokesman for the community of self-described quiet professionals and put him in front of the cameras he spent years avoiding.

The change in recruiting methods comes amid the Pentagon's increasing reliance on special operations and the call for a 15 percent increase in SEALs over the next several years.

The SEALs have a legendary reputation as an elite, highly skilled fighting force, but it is hard to find candidates with the necessary physical conditioning.

Just to get a chance to try out, SEAL recruits must swim 500 yards, then breeze through a series of push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups and run 1.5 miles, all within strict time limits. This year, 500 of the 823 SEAL recruits — or 60 percent — failed the test in the first days of boot camp.

"We can't survive on that any longer," said Master Chief Petty Officer Andy Tafelski, 51, who has a key role in the recruiting effort. "The pipeline has to become more efficient."

For the SEALs, who consider themselves the best of the best, lowering their standards is out of the question.

Hall, 31, will be competing in the Oct. 15 Ironman — a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon — wearing a blue jersey emblazoned with a Navy SEAL insignia. He won the Navy SEAL's Superfrog Triathalon in September and now his goal is to finish among the top 100 in Hawaii's Ironman.

"When I'm out there at hour five or whatever it is, and I feel like I'm hurting pretty bad, I've had experience with the same things doing activities in the SEALs," he said.

To boost the SEALs' ranks, the Navy is also working with recruiters to begin testing potential SEALs before they get to boot camp and making sure they have the physical skills. Mentors will work with those who qualify to prepare them for what comes next.

Every SEAL must finish one of the world's toughest entrance exams, a six-month training program that typically weeds out three of every four candidates.

The Navy also is creating a SEAL rating, a formal job description, that should allow candidates to more quickly begin formal SEAL training. Previously, SEALs — the name stands for Sea, Air, Land — had to attend school to learn traditional jobs held by Navy sailors.

**"When I'm out there at hour five or whatever it is, and I feel like I'm hurting pretty bad, I've had experience with the same things doing activities in the SEALs."**

MITCHELL HALL
a Navy SEAL who who will compete in the upcoming Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii

Driving the changes is the need to add 400 men by fiscal 2008, bringing the total number of SEALs from 2,600 to about 3,000. Special operations units in the Army and Air Force also are planning to increase their ranks, and U.S. Special Operations Command is offering bonuses of up to $150,000 to keep the most experienced operators from bolting to the more lucrative private sector.

The SEALs are looking to the fill the grueling Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training program at Coronado, outside San Diego, to its full capacity of 850 students, something that has never happened, Tafelski said.


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**Franklinton, Country** home for sale, 8 years old, just updated on 2 acres. 4000 square feet living area. 4 bedroom, 4 bath. Additional acreage available. $475,000. 985-848-4473

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**'78 Mobile** 14X70 2BR/2BA, some updates, new vinyl siding, $6350, 985-839-8973/504-376-4279

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### 7665 Miscellaneous Real Estate

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**Galliano 75** miles from New Orleans, 30 minute drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Full Baths, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

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**Lafourche Parish,** 2500 sq. ft. home (carport) w/app. 900 square foot mother inlaw apt. on rear of property. (160'W x 193'D.) fenced yard w/conc. slab all around house, app. 900 sq. ft. 3 section garage. sewer treatment, central air/heat, quiet, crime free, older neighborhood in Raceland area. call (985) 209-2368 $159,000

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**MS Custom** built exec. home, 2 hi lots. Golf, 3 car gar., 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, sun rm, media rm, loft off, gazebo w/ mexican tile flr, 10 ft ceilings, murals. Many extras. $350,000. Century21. Call Marilyn 800-221-2423. Cell: 228-363-1711

**Uptown on** Magazine! Grand, two-story house among all the antique and boutique shops! 3 bedrooms plus loft. Older couple has decided to reduce their worries and move to a townhouse. This house is NOT damaged by recent events! Includes sought-after COVERED parking for 2-4 vehicles. For more info, please call 214-893-0410

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**OLD GRETNA** 2 properties, 516, 518 Lafayette St. C-1 shop, 1400 square feet with 1/2 bath. Currently a woodworking shop with 3 phase power. Also included 2 bedroom, 2 bath, shotgun, 1080 square feet, $180,000. 504-908-3669

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**Gretna next** to Gretna Courthouse. No hurricane damage. Professional and retail space for lease. Call 504-400-6749

**Kenner, Doctors** office for lease, 2050 Square feet, Williams blvd. Call Pat 504-247-2128

**LULING 3,700** sq. ft., office/ multi-use for lease, $18.50/sq. ft. annually. Will build to suit. Please Call 985-785-1399 or 504-421-3311

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**Metairie Clearview** Pkwy. No hurricane damage. Professional office space. 504-400-6749

**Metairie Dentist** office for lease, 1000 square feet. Veterans Blvd. Call Pat 504-247-2128

**Metairie Immediately** available: Office space from 407 sq. ft. - 2,427 sq. ft., in the Wagner and Truax building. 2121 N. Causeway Blvd. Rates: $13.00 RSF - $14.50 RSF. Full service 2 year lease required. Call Agent 504-831-6694

**Metairie, Causeway** at I-10. 7200 SF of PRIME RETAIL SPACE. Showrm, Warehouse, 18-Wheeler Door 504-831-0747/504-495-2925

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**Office for** rent-Met. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013,opt1

**Office Williams** Blvd. 600 SF, $600, plenty of pking, Borngesser Realty Co. 504-454-0800

**OFFICE, 2** Rooms, 1117 Veterans, Kenner. $325/month. Owner/Agent, 504-443-4455

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**WAREHOUSE SPACE** AVAILABLE 75,000 Square feet, located on Airline Hwy; 1 mile W of New Orleans Airport. Please call George at 504-736-0965 x126 or 504-232-8593

## Commercial-Offices
### 7700 Rent/Lease/ Warehouse/Ind.

**Warehouse space** for rent. 3,000; 4,000; & 5,000 sq. ft. dry storage available. Louisiana & Tchoupitoulas neighborhood. Call (504)628-4688.

### 7730 Miscellaneous

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**COVINGTON LC1** approx .0653 ACs, off Hwy 190, in growing area, $250,000, 504-347-1509

**GARAGE FOR** RENT 500 Square foot. $200/mo. Metairie Area. Call 504-858-9770

**MONEY TO** LEND! Commercial Mortgages. 504-610-2169

**RIVERTOWN Comm'l** warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus. or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### 7735Investment Property

**GRETNA 14** unit apt complex, nr. Okwd/bus, A-1 cond, ready to retire/30 yr/by owner, w/ ofc., $950,000 firm. 504-362-5912

**Metairie, 2** Doubles and 2 Singles $550,000. Please call 504-834-1459.

**NEW ORLEANS/METAIRIE,** Selling multiple invest prop., 4 plexes, 6 plexes, etc. 504-250-7116

**RENOVATED, Vacant** Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner. Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

**UPTOWN 8808-10** Jeannette. Double, no flood, $130,000 Owner/Agent. Frank Fradella Real Estate: 985-789-8717.

### 7737Waterfront Property

**BARATARIA, LA** Land Lease 5252 Privateer Blvd, zoned u, cleared/dry, $1000/mo 504-340-3158

**BOGUE CHITTO** RIVER - 31 acres in Franklinton. Water, electrical & road. Perfect for camps, homes or park. Large sand beach, fishing & boating. $315,000/best offer. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**Office for** rent-Met. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013,opt1

### 7740 Acreage/ Farm & Timberland

**CLARK COUNTY,** MS. 120 Acres, excellent hunting. Call 601-271-7720 for more information

**FRANKLINTON** - 8 acres. Close to shopping, schools & hospital. $8,500/acre. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**SOUTH MARION** COUNTY MS 158 acres, 2 small ponds, located approx. 85 miles North of New Orleans. 10 acres in pines, fronts 2 blacktop roads, exc deer hunting, excellent home sites. $5000/ acre. Please call 601-736-7954, 601-519-7175

### 7750 Eastern New Orleans Lots

**3 bedroom,** 2 bath, raised single family on 1 acre in old Mandeville. Vaulted ceiling, carport, fireplace, tile/carpet, garden tub. Must see! Sustained no flood damage - this one won't last! Century 21 Please call 985-626-4467.

**NO WATER** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sq ft, renovation 70% complete. As is $429,000. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**C-1 LOT** Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

**CENTRAL AVENUE** at Levee. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, no damage. For sale by owner. $185,000. 504-329-2954

## Real Estate for Sale
### 7770 Jefferson Lots

**HARAHAN CONDO** Renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 BA. $175,000. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**METAIRIE** - 50'x156', 1412 Helios St (between Esplanade & the Lake) $245,000. 504-487-2263

**RIVER RIDGE** - 66'x93', dead end street, 504-737-1326

### 7780 West Bank Lots

**MARRERO High** and dry, vacant, 3BR/2BA. $150,000. Nancy 225-343-9876, First Choice Realty.

**Owner finance,** $15,000 down, $1000/month. Or Sell at $110,000. 1-888-342-1431 24Hours

### 7790 North Shore Lots

**ABITA SPRINGS** New home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, walk to elem. school, $160,000. 985-264-8732

**FRANKLINTON** - 2 lots, 200'x100' each. Near the Bogue Chitta River, $4,000/both. Call 504-957-9488 or 985-839-6865

**OLD LANDING/COVINGTON** 136 ft on deep Tchefuncte River, $290,000. 985-626-9130

### 7795 River Parish Lots

**LaPlace 1213** Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel, LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agent Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

**Lot for** sale 75 x 116 Evangeline Rd. in Montz St. Charles Parish $65,000 cleared and filled. Please call 985-307-0099 or 504-666-0468

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

**Beau cntry** home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

**Mandeville Nice** Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

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**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. For more info, call 1-877-893-1799

**WE BUY** HOUSES in any condition, we can pay cash. For more info, call 1-877-893-1799

### 7860 Other States

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2 + brdm, Fullgaming Bsmnt, Hottub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all, includes all season cabin. New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229K Call 480-866-0954 Owner.

**Get Out** of Dodge, 2+ bedroom, Fullgaming Basement, Hot tub, Riverfront property, with acess to 5 lake system,3 acres in all,includes all season cabin.New roof,new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229,000. Call 480-688-0954 Owner.

### 7905 Real Estate Mgmt.

**French Quarter** Realty open for business, properties for sale or lease. Call 225-933-6042

### RENTALS FURNISHED

### 7915 Above Canal

**FRENCH QUARTER** High/Dry Condo, Furnished, 1 BR, 1 BA for lease. Avail now! $1500 per mo. or fsbo $220,000. Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

**NAPOLEAN/St. Charles** 1 bedroom, $650 plus util and deposit, no smoking, no pets. 504-461-9055/504-259-1030

**UPTOWN 1** and 2 bdrm apts furn/unfurn, water incl. DID NOT FLOOD. 504-616-3328 or 913-1008

**UPTOWN 1** bedroom, never flooded, near park, $1,500/ month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN 2** bedroom, dry, near Audubon Park, $2,000/month. 225-474-3589

**UPTOWN Victorian** home, 2 bedroom apartment, no flooding, $2,500/month. 225-474-3589

### 7917 Below Canal

**French Quarter** 5 star luxury 1 and 2 bedroom suites, pool, spa, Internet, business services. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717/www.ruedumaine.com

**French Quarter** Bourbon St. Condo. Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchenette, balcony, $2900/mo. Call 504-628-7187

### 7960 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**KENNER/METAIRIE Housing** for working crews, dorm style, kitchen, washer/dryer, with or w/o 2 possible hot meals, space avail for up to 100 people. Reasonable rates. 504-712-6918

### 7965 West Bank

**CORPORATE/EXEC Completely** furn. home for rent, now, 4 BR, 3 BA, 4000sf, gated subd., maid srvc., $8000/mo. Agent 504-393-7690

**NEAR AVONDALE,** Rooms for rent, TV & cable, share kit and bath. $125/wk & up. 504-430-4610

**TIBERLANE ESTATES,** 4000SF Home, 5 BR, 4 BA, Must See! Corporations welcome! 504-259-0659

### 7970Mandeville/Covington

**ATTENTION HURRICANE** EVACUEES Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temporary Residence or Corporate Headquarters. Avail. 225-926-5301

### 8015 Country

**NORTHSHORE 1500** square feet, fully furnished, 1 hour, 50 minutes from New Orleans, non-smoking, no inside pets. $1600/ month. 504-712-9024

### 8030 Rooms

**Algiers 2** vacant furnished rooms. Price negotiable. Call 504-975-8342

**FRENCH QTR** Furn effic room, w/free satellite TV. (504)400-5799

### 8045 Miscellaneous

**Above/Below Canal,** Luxury french quarter & Garden District Apts. All newly renov., many amenities, many have pvt balconies & patios, 504-529-7662

**Colorado Backcountry** Realty www.pjdrei.com 719-221-3137

**LAPLACE, 7** new homes furnished, 3-4 BR for rent. $2600/ month. Fax inquiries to: Vince 985-651-3009

**Luxury French** Corporate condo. Security, pool, jacuzzi, cent air/heat. 504-234-0090

### RENTALS UNFURNISHED

### 8062 Above Canal

**2bdrm/1ba w/d** near Adbn Pk; 1bdrm avail. short term; 861-7528 or 225-234-7382.

**4935 Constance** St, Half Camelback, newly renovated, 2BR, 1.5BA, wood floors, high ceilings, storage, central AC, off street parking. No pets, no smoking. No flood damage. $1500/month. 504-442-1431

**920 Peniston** - 3 rms, bath & kit, fenced yd; 4512 Pitt - LR & DR, 2 BR, w/d, cent a/h. Both hardwood flrs, 504-899-5481

**ABOVE CANAL** High/Dry Apts, 1BR, quiet, above Nap, 1 blck off St.Chrls, no pets. $700-+/mo, 12 mo. lease. 504-458-3554

**GARDEN DIST** New 2BR, 2BA 1400 SF, St Andrews, grnte ctrtops, hrdwd flr, dshwshr, fridge, CA/H. $2200+ dep. 213-804-2918

**Near Magazine** St. Efficiency $425 or 1 bedroom, $525. Furnished kitchen, W/D. No dogs. Lease/dep. 504-831-4454

**UPTOWN 5BD/3BA,** $2300, #15Cromwell; Lrg grnd flr 1BD/ 2BA, $600. 1816 1/2 Robt 504-391-8292

**Uptown Condo** 2 bed/2 1/2 baths. Office w/wirelss. Furn. $2000/mo. 504/289-3361

**UPTOWN One** and two BR apartments avail. recent renovations, Please Call 504-722-9606

**UPTOWN-High/Dry, 1108** Felicity, 2 bedroom. 910 Washington, 1 bedroom, pet ok. 504-237-1739

### 8063 Warehouse/CBD

**1205 Charles** Ave. 1 bedroom, 1 year lease, Building has been totally renovated recently, fitness center, secure parking & pool. $1450/ month. Mr. Pont 305-773-7739

### 8080 Mid City/City Park

**4512 Eve** St. 3 Bedroom House, not flooded, $1200 mo + $1000 Dep. Call 504-390-7613

### 8090 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**421 N** BENGAL RD 3 Br, 1 Ba, never flooded, great shape, cent A/C, $1500/Mo, 504-717-5704

### 8100 Metairie Jefferson/ Below Causeway

**2 bedroom,** 1 bath House, near Ochsner, $800 per month Call for details @ 504-835-2897

**METAIRIE 3** Bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Available now, no pets. 678-548-3831

**Old Metairie** 500 square foot apartment, 1BR, 1BA, never flooded, $850/month. 504-258-2768

### 8102 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Williams (Kenner)

**1, 2** & 3 BR, 1.5 BA. Info verified, Call J. Calligaro & Associates, 504-887-4825

**KENNER** - Chateau Lakefront, 25 Clevner Dr, 4 BR, 2 BA, updated, new floors, no flooding, corporations welcome, immediate occupancy, call for details, 504-231-7961 or 504-464-1883

### 8104 West Bank

**Algiers Pt,** 3 BR 2.5 BA, 2700 sq. ft, all services, $3500/mo incl. utilities. 504-813-9234

**GRETNA, 3** BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $850. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $700, stove, A/C & hkups. 504-340-3158

**Ready to** move in to, $1,100 and up. Call Sidney, 504-388-6788. Owner/agent

**RHONE PROPERTIES** Marrero 3 BR, 2 bath, 2008 James Dr, $650. Gretna, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2531 Huey P Long, $900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1711 Weyer St, $850. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2413 Claire Ave, $600. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2801 Huey P Long, $475. NO PETS. VISA & M/C. 504-366-2604

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**Panama City** FL rental; 3/2 $1500 mo unfur plus util, furn 1 br private studio apt all util furn'd $700 mo, Furn beach beauty w/ antiques $1395 mo. plus util 850-819-8067

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**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

### 8560 Cadillac

**'97 Eldorado,** white diamond, mint condition, no flood, $9950. 504-376-4113

**'98 STS,** Black/Black, loaded, $6000/OBO. No Flood Damage! 985-764-6059/504-427-7966

### 8570 Chevrolet

**'02 Malibu** no flood, pl, ps, extras, $8995. Call 504-234-2294

### 8580 Chrysler

**'04 PACIFICA** 27,000 miles, excellent condition, fully loaded. Entertainment system. $21,000. 504-606-4300

**1999 CONCORDE** Lxi 88K, White, tan leather, loaded, clean. $8000. 318-388-2719

### 8620 Ford

**'02 MUSTANG** GT, 17K miles, A.R. Rims, Falcon Tires, Flow Master, $16,500. 504-451-2858

## Rentals Furnished
### 8104 West Bank

**'02 Mustang** GT, mineral gray, 22000 miles, 5 spd, exhaust, $18,000 obo, 504915-5400

**'05 Focus** Willing to sell for payoff. Husband in Iraq. $14,000. Call 504-909-1081

**'97 Crown** Victoria, 68k miles, excellent shape, loaded, $6000. George 985-502-5839

### 8630 Honda

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'93 Accord,** Green, 122,000 miles, Auto, All Power, AC. $3500. 504-220-4513

**'95 Ford** Taurus, Only $575, For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

**97 Prelude** 95k mi., Auto, Snrf, New timing blt/water pump, extras, $6500 obo. (504)913-3171

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**'05 G35** 4 DR, 17000 miles. Blue $31,000. High and Dry. Please Call (504)416-3770

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**'98 500SL,** 49K mi, white/ beige lthr, CD, AMG rims, mint, $29,950. 504-828-0808

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**'99 Saab** 9-3 4dr a/t loaded car from North Alabama $7995 (601)551-7227

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**'01 Ram** 1500 SWB, 68k auto,TX Tk,$6995 avail now in Lafayette 817-572-4414

**'03 Chevy** Avalanche white 68000 miles, runs great, $18000 OBO, 225-673-9609

**'90 Chevy** Silverado Reliable/ Runs Great! V8/Auto, Bedliner , A/C, 60K on engine. Only $3800. 504-460-6401

**2001 Ford** F150 Super Crew Lariat 5.4L V8, tow pkg, bedlnr-cvr, allpwr, 60K mis, w/dilvr, $19995. 321-693-7102

### 8920Sport Utility Vehicles

**'00 Explorer** XLT

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

# Islands of green dot a sea of brown

**OASIS,** *from A-1*

"It was a huge sense of relief," he said.

But Bloom's little oasis is not without its own set of problems. While his home is intact, it sits on the edge of miles of ruins, with virtually all of the abutting Lakefront and Lakeview communities in shambles.

Residents of these survivor streets must decide whether to move home for good, or like their neighbors who were flooded, relocate until the larger community begins returning to life. Right now, Bloom is not sure what he will do.

"Getting around all this debris, dealing with a city with areas that will be inoperable for so long. Could I do it? Sure," he said. "Do I want to? I don't know."

It's a strange phenomenon only now revealing itself as residents in the most devastated areas of New Orleans are allowed to return. Tiny slivers of property in parts of the city, most hugging levees or located on high ridges, oddly survived Katrina's floodwaters, while their larger communities did not.

In the East and West Lakeshore subdivisions, homeowners who live on or near Lakeshore Parkway, as well as on Amethyst and Topaz streets, returned home to green lawns and dry floors. Many lucky enough to avoid serious wind or rain damage are already making preparations to return for good.

Dan Armstrong and Ed Picou said not returning to their red brick Louisiana colonial in the East Lakeshore subdivision never crossed their minds. They've lived there for 10 years. Armstrong, a real estate agent who specialized in Lakeview properties, said he knows life may be a bit uncomfortable for a while, but he's willing to stick it out once power is restored.

"I'm going to miss Robert's market, the cleaners and the dentist," Armstrong said. "But we'll deal with that."

Others have much more complicated scenarios. Take David and Stephanie Myers, who were in the middle of building their 8,000-square-foot dream home on Lakeshore Parkway in West Lakeshore. The house was virtually unscathed. But David Myers' medical practice suffered major physical damage, as did the couple's home in Mid-City, and his clients have fled.

"We were six months away from moving in," he said. "Now we are uncertain if we can even afford to finish it."

A stymied medical practice aside, Myers, an internist, said subcontractors who were lined up to work on the new house aren't available or are raising their prices. The couple also face major repairs to their existing home. Yet they want to complete the new house in what was once one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, even if it means living amid miles of construction for the foreseeable future.

"If I can financially do it, and from a logistical perspective do it, we want to live there. Absolutely, 100 percent, we want to do it," David Myers said.

On other unflooded streets, Katrina left more sobering signs.

Next to Bloom's house, a "For Sale" message is spray-painted across boarded windows.

Rob Michel, who owns a house on Amethyst, said fears about crime had him and his wife contemplating a move before the storm. Now, faced with the prospect of raising two small children in a city that is largely a disaster zone, their minds are made up.

"The debris, the dust, the whole crippling of the city, that concerned us," he said. "We just needed to get some normalcy."

Raymond Kleinpeter has found normalcy right where it has been for 17 years, on his own little plot of ground. On Wednesday, the retired phone company officer, clad in a white T-shirt and straw hat, rhythmically swept leaves in front of his 1950s white brick ranch house on Topaz Street in East Lakeshore.

Like many whose property survived the storm untouched, Kleinpeter says he feels guilty he was spared when so many others weren't. That's why he's decided to open his home to relatives and friends in need of temporary housing while they rebuild their lives.

"This is a test for me, to be sure I'll be generous and share," he said.

Kleinpeter said his homeowner's insurance company mailed him a $3,000 check after the storm to help with expenses. When the adjuster showed up last week, Kleinpeter handed him back the check, not a dime spent.

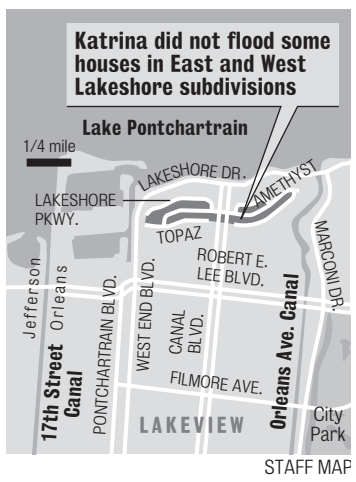
"I almost kissed him," he said.

It's all about moving forward, he said. Making a good neighborhood better. Making a great city greater.

"If I get a chance, I might even cut my grass today," he chuckled.

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Martha Carr may be reached at marthacarrweiss@hotmail.com.




STAFF MAP

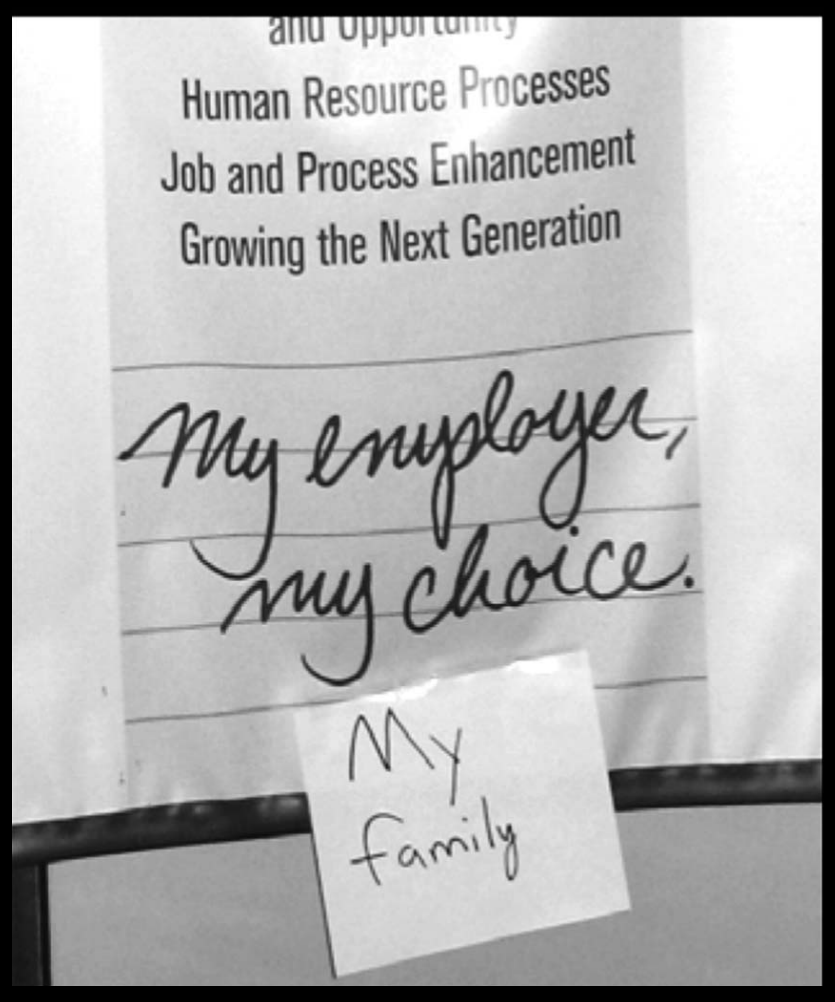


STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER



ABOVE: Bruce Ruello checks on a neighbor's home in the East Lakeshore area on Saturday. Healthy grass is a rare sight in much of New Orleans, but it can be found unexpectedly in patches near the Lakefront.

LEFT: Katie Derby works in her yard on Amethyst Street on Monday. Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina smothered most of the vegetation on nearby streets.


"We worked as a team to get through the challenges of Hurricane Katrina. We supported each other...when one of us had a more difficult moment, another was strong and intervened. Our patients were so thankful for the care that Ochsner provided...and said it would never be forgotten."

Debbie Goodlett, RN
8 West Tower Internal
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- Occupational Therapists

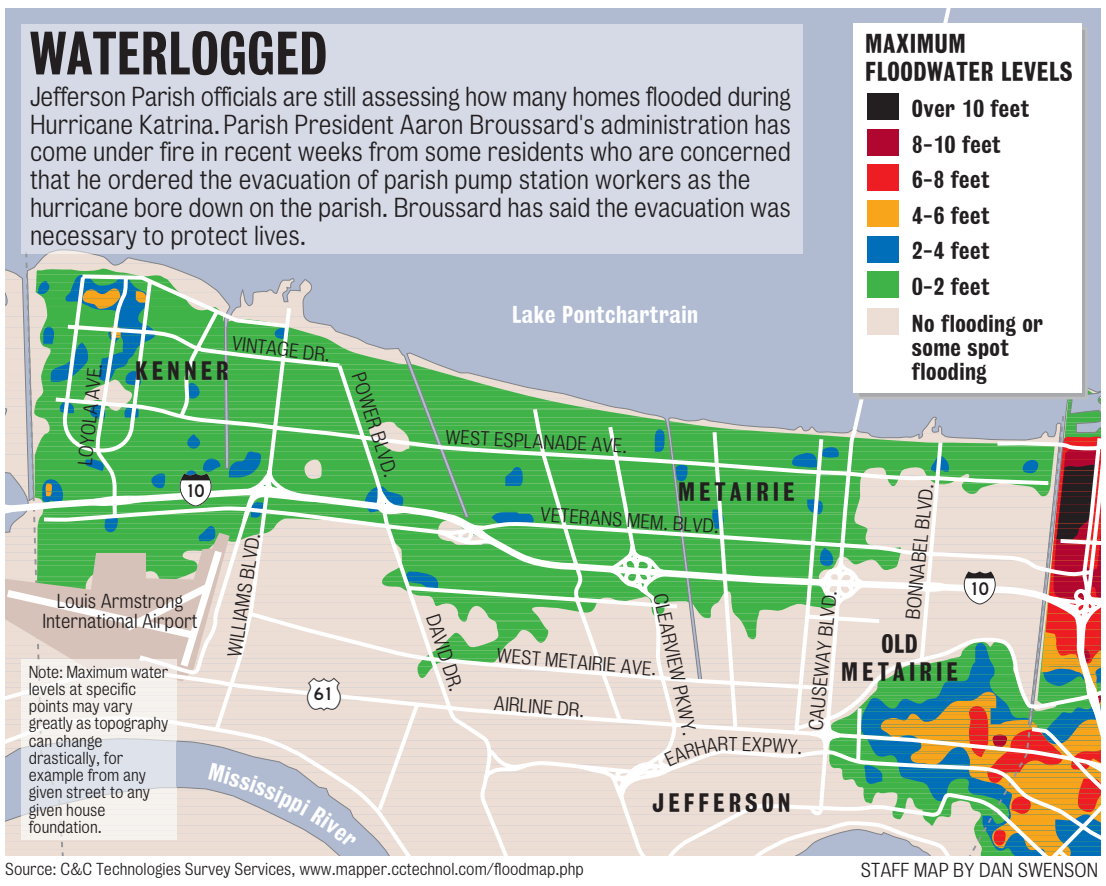
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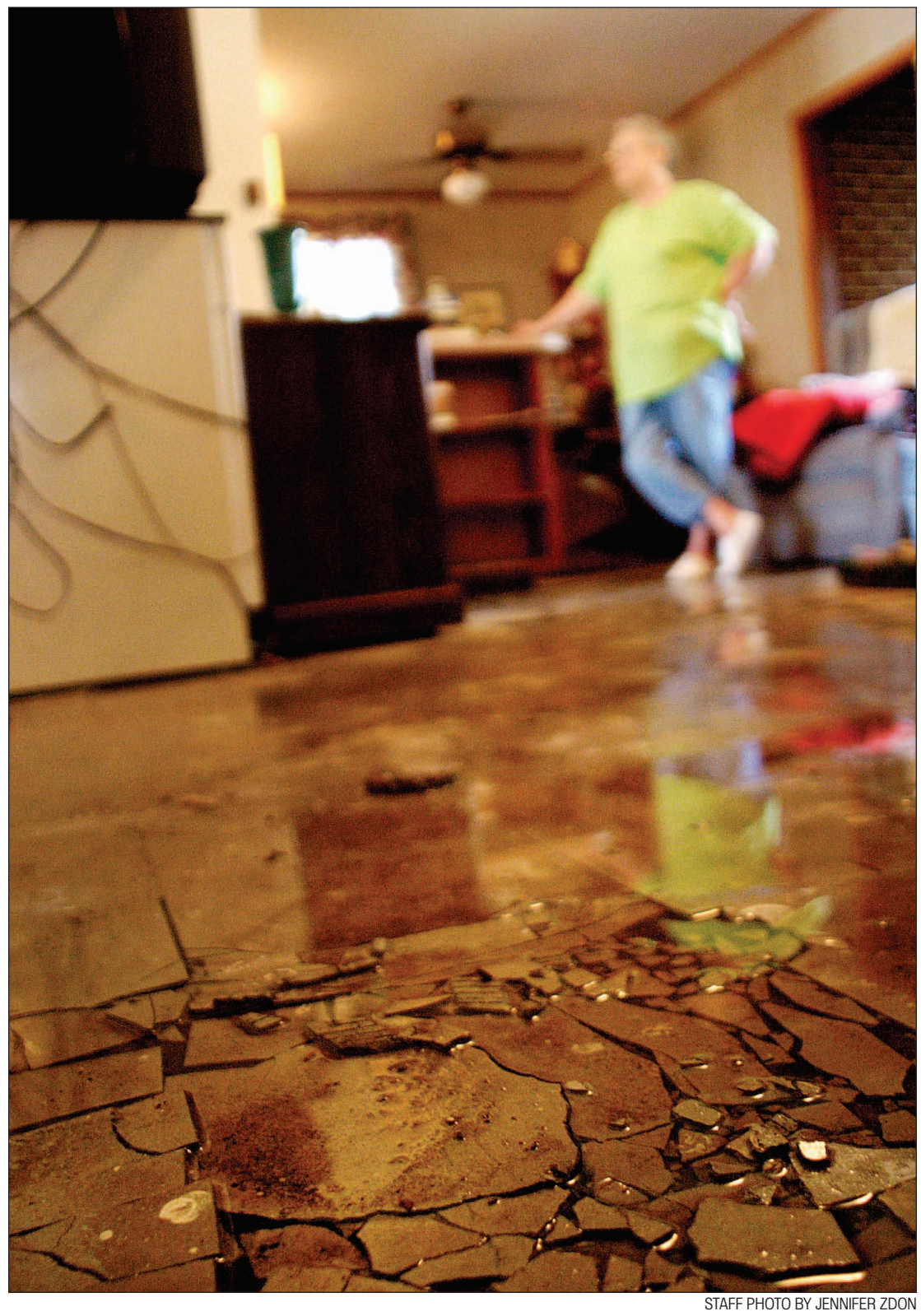
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# ‘It’s not just a matter of walking in and turning a switch with one guy’




Source: C&C Technologies Survey Services, www.mapper.cctechnol.com/floodmap.php

STAFF MAP BY DAN SWENSON



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Ernest and Rose Landry sift through their belongings as they try to drain the few remaining inches of water from their Metairie home, which flooded after the hurricane.

**JEFFERSON,** *from A-1*

Officials admitted, however, that the sheer distance to the Washington Parish schools where most workers weathered Katrina, coupled with a virtual communications blackout among evacuees and 11 top Jefferson administrators who stayed at the Emergency Operations Center in Marrero, have made them consider tweaking their “doomsday” plan, possibly to send staff westward if another storm were to approach on or near Katrina’s path.

“It’s not safe putting them in this parish; we don’t have anything that can withstand a (Category) 4 or 5,” Broussard said Monday during a three-hour meeting with The Times-Picayune. “But is the north shore the best perfect spot to put these pump operators? ... We’ve got to find higher ground to the west.”

Broussard’s top aide, Tim Whitmer, said parish officials also have thrown open their handbook for disaster planning and have considered suggestions such as training workers of Jefferson’s municipalities to man parish pump stations. Some Kenner officials, reeling in light of major street flooding there, volunteered last week to learn to operate the stations and to stay in Jefferson during dangerous storms.

However, Whitmer and directors of Jefferson’s public works, drainage and pump stations departments said reopening a pump station, especially during a time of massive flooding and gale winds, is not a simple task.

Mistakes by inexperienced personnel, they said, could hamper relief efforts and cause damage to equipment that would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and take many years to repair.

“It’s not just a matter of walking in and turning a switch with one guy,” Whitmer said, adding that the parish’s largest stations are manned by as many as 25 workers, some charged with clearing grates with rakes and hoes.

## Was flooding worse?

Further, officials said, they have begun studyingwhether the evacuation of personnel from 20 manned pump stations around 7 p.m. on Aug. 28, the day before Katrina’s landfall, exacerbated flooding in any part of the parish.

“Our belief is that there was not additional flooding because there were people not there,” said Greg Buisson, a political consultant to Broussard who spoke Monday on behalf of the parish president’s administration. “We’re probing deeper to see if that is, in fact, not true.”

In the weeks following Katrina, Broussard has touted with vehemence his decision to pull pump workers away from their stations as hurricane bands intensified across the parish. Forcing the workers, who earn “laborers” wages, to maintain their posts would have amounted to a “death sentence,” he said Monday.

Broussard said his final judgment was triggered by a mid-afternoon phone call Aug. 28 from National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield to Walter Maestri, Jefferson’s emergency management chief.

Maxfield warned Maestri that Katrina’s path had shifted west, toward the New Orleans area, Maestri said. The information set into motion Jefferson’s “doomsday” plan, created in 1998 in the wake of Hurricane Georges.

By 3 p.m., about 900 employees from public works departments, including streets, drainage and recreation, were heading toward Mount Hermon, chosen because it was north of the inundation basin below Interstate 12. Meanwhile, the 11 top administrators, including Broussard, remained at the emergency operations center. “We put life jackets on the fourth floor of the EOC and tethered boats to the roof,” said Maestri, who was among the holdouts.

Top officials also sent a directive to pump station personnel. “We told them: ‘Pump everything down. Get as much of the water out of without sucking in the walls of the canals,’ ” Maestri said. Public Works Department Director Jose Gonzalez said water levels in most canals were reduced to 8 feet or 8½ feet, the most shallow depth possible without damaging infrastructure.

Pumps cannot be left running without workers in the stations, he added.

Broussard and Maestri said they never considered assigning essential employees, including the pump operators, to ride out the storm at three Jefferson hospitals — West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital or Ochsner Clinic Foundation — that operated without pause during Katrina.

## ‘That’s not the plan’

First, parish workers did not meet triage criteria established by the Jefferson Parish Medical Society, which allows entry to those facilities only by critically ill patients for whom evacuation travel would be deadly, Maestri said. More importantly, though, the hospitals were not built to withstand serious hurricanes and therefore were not set as evacuation sites. “That’s not the plan,” Maestri said.

Further, “safe houses” capable of weathering a Category 5 storm were not available at any pump station, making it impossible to leave pump operators in place, he said. Because of limited federal financing, construction of the steel dwellings was only 35 percent complete at five parish pump stations, all on the West Bank, when Katrina struck.

When they returned to Jefferson after 7 p.m. on Aug. 29, employees found pump stations in varying states, public works directors said. All sites suffered some damage; two lost their roofs. Officials still were compiling a chronology Monday of when pumps restarted after Katrina and whether antiquated valve systems at some stations actually functioned better than compressed air systems to keep the lake from spilling into Metairie.

Broussard said, however, that the task is not as high a priority as restarting Jefferson’s economy and that the whole truth probably will come out as a result of lawsuits expected to be lodged by flood victims.

“This is going to unfold in a TV drama-like,” Broussard said. “If we’ve left anything out, subpoenas will get the rest.”

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Michelle Krupa can be reached at mkrupa@timespicayune.com or (504)€826-3785.

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

EDITORIALS • B-6

SECTION B
Tuesday
October 11, 2005



SHEILA STROUP

## Hope springs eternal for mother bird

Monday morning, Stroup and I were sharing the paper.

"This is too depressing. Give me another section," he said.

I handed him the Metro page with the story of New Orleans police officers beating up on a couple of guys, and he gave me the sports section with the story of the Green Bay Packers beating up on the Saints.

"Packers 52, Saints 3," it said, above the giant headline "CREAMED."

I have to say it felt good to be getting back to normal.

We haven't watched the Saints this season because a tree fell on our satellite dish during Katrina and nobody at DirecTV seems to care. I am starting to think this is a good thing.

We listened to the game on WWL-AM until early in the second quarter.

Then Stroup took a nap, and I tore blank pages out of my daily planner.

I haven't done a lot of planning lately.

### Best-laid plans

We did have plans for the weekend. Our daughter Shannon came home Saturday to get her winter clothes, so our plan was to 1) eat shrimp po-boys at Vasquez for lunch and 2) eat Mom's barbecue shrimp at home for dinner.

The Stroups have our priorities, and for Shannon eating shrimp is at the top of the list.

"Your barbecue shrimp better be good," she said, when she called on Friday night. She was bringing her boyfriend, Blaine, home with her for the first time, and she wanted to impress him.

She was supposed to move back to Louisiana from Auburn, Ala., and start a new job in Mandeville the day after Labor Day, but Katrina blew that plan away, at least for now. She spent a week in August getting settled in what used to be my mom's house in Covington, and then everything changed.

Now, she's working at a veterinary clinic in Greensboro, N.C., and instead of living 15 minutes from us, she's 14 hours away.

### Goodbye ... for now

Shannon has always made fun of my columns about the Stroup children leaving home. She calls them "Mom's 'little birds are leaving the nest' columns."

The first time I wrote one was when she and her brother, Keegan, left for college. I think I compared them to the purple martins outside my kitchen window who flew away in August.

I vowed not to write one of them this time. And yet... Shannon was the one of our three kids who bought the NFL Sunday package just so she could watch the Saints play, the one who brought her college friends home for Mardi Gras, the one who always said she'd come back to Louisiana to live someday. So this change in plans is taking some getting used to, that's all.

She and Blaine left Sunday afternoon. Her bicycle was on the rack on top of her Mazda, and the car was piled high with sweaters and blankets and our heaviest down comforter. She saved room for the leftover shrimp.

"I probably won't get home again 'til spring," she said, when she hugged me goodbye.

I hugged her back, happy at the thought. Little birds always come back in spring.

• • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4831.

# FBI investigating beating in Quarter

*Three N.O. officers have been suspended*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

The FBI has opened up a civil rights investigation into the actions of three New Orleans police officers and two FBI agents who were involved in the bloody beating of a 64-year-old man accused of being drunk in the French Quarter on Saturday night.

The confrontation was captured by at least two people with video cameras, providing graphic visual evidence to a national audience that has been glued to coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the storm's chaotic aftermath. The footage also captured one of the officers, Stewart Smith, accosting an Associated Press producer as his cameraman filmed the confrontation.

The police officers involved — Smith, Robert Evangelist and Lance Schilling — were suspended without pay and charged with simple battery. The FBI agents, who have not been identified, were part of a detail assigned to assist local police in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, FBI spokesman John Rook said.

Rook said the local FBI office, operating in Baton Rouge because of damage to its Lakefront headquarters, has not suspended the agents. But the local office has joined the NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau in an investigation of the beating, he said.

In addition, the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C., is reviewing the actions of both the officers and the federal agents.

"I don't know those two agents, but an investigation is under way to determine if civil rights violations occurred, and that goes for everyone involved, of course," Rook said. "It will be investigated fully."

The officers, all assigned to the 8th Police District, were trying to apprehend Robert Davis, a local man who lost his house to flooding, on a suspicion of public intoxication. The Associated Press footage shows one of the officers hitting Smith on the head several times as he stood outside a bar on Conti Street near the well-lit and heavily trafficked Bourbon Street.

A lawyer for Davis, a retired elementary school teacher who returned to the storm-struck

*See* **BEATING,** *B-2*

# GLAD THEY'RE GONE




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Trying to get into the creepy spirit, a resident has planted a faux cemetery plot at the base of a cut-down pine tree just in time for Halloween in Mandeville.

# Louisiana fisheries expect $2 billion in losses

*Infrastructure ruined; perceptions tainted*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Retail losses to the fishing industry following hurricanes Rita and Katrina are expected to top $2 billion in the next year, a staggering 73 percent of the industry's total annual value, the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said Monday.

Combined, the two storms spared no corner of Louisiana's $2.8 billion recreational and commercial fishing industry, from shrimp fleets shattered and sunk to wild crawfish bayous inundated with saltwater.

Fishing communities that escaped Katrina's pounding of southeast Louisiana – the eye of the storm came ashore at Buras with 140 mph winds and massive storm surges — were hit hard by Rita, which slammed into the southwest with heavy rains and winds topping 120 mph. In central Louisiana, particularly Terrebonne and St. Mary parishes, many docks and marinas were hit twice by the storms' outer bands.

"In essence, the impacts Calcasieu and Cameron parishes experienced with Rita were very similar to what Plaquemines and St. Bernard experienced with Katrina," said John Roussel, assistant secretary for fisheries in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. "There was total infrastructure destruction, significant flooding of all those fishing communities in those areas. They're going to have to rebuild everything."

Louisiana accounts for about 75 percent of fish products harvested in the Gulf of Mexico and is the nation's second-largest seafood producer, behind only Alaska.

*See* **SEAFOOD,** *B-2*

# St. Bernard Parish sketches out demolition processes

*'Some properties have decided their own fate'*

**By Karen Turni Bazile**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

St. Bernard Parish officials said Monday that the government will pay to demolish any structure that sustained more than 50 percent damage during Hurricane Katrina, as St. Bernard became one of the first parishes to outline rough parameters for determining which properties will be razed.

Officials said no home will be torn down without the owner's consent, unless the owner does not respond to parish communications or fails to repair a derelict property.

But severely damaged properties, which officials estimate include at least half of the parish's 26,700 homes, will likely have to be torn down. Owners who wish to save those homes would be required to make extensive changes to make them structurally sound, said Mike Hunnicutt, director of St. Bernard's Department of Community Development, usually making rebuilding more expensive than tearing a home down and building anew.

"Any home can be rebuilt. It's just to what extent and how much money you are looking to put into a particular restoration project to make this dwelling livable," Hunnicutt said. "Property owners will have a say in deciding the fate of their homes, but some properties have decided their own fate."

A team of 25 volunteer inspectors from California arrived Monday and will begin fanning through the parish this week to inspect every home and business to determine the extent of structural damage caused by Katrina. The storm flooded the parish wall to wall, and thousands of homes sat in 8 feet of water or more for weeks.



NNS PHOTO

Floodwater from Hurricane Katrina rose 10 feet inside the home of John Stroebel, right, who was accompanied by friends as he returned to salvage what he could.

The California volunteers include architects, civil engineers

*See* **DEMOLITION,** *B-2*

# February elections to go ahead

*204 of 442 precincts out of commission*

**By Frank Donze and Ed Anderson**
Staff writers

The 2006 election season in New Orleans should be in full bloom, with billboards sprouting all over town, candidates pressing the flesh and campaign operatives feverishly plotting strategies.

But Hurricane Katrina largely has emptied the city of potential voters, and many public officials wonder whether holding the scheduled Feb. 4 elections for mayor, City Council and a host of parochial positions – from criminal sheriff to all seven assessors – is feasible.

Ultimately, the decision on whether to have elections in New Orleans next year will fall to Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who already has postponed September balloting in Jefferson Parish and October voting in New Orleans and Lake Charles because of disruptions from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

But Secretary of State Al Ater and Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Clerk Kimberly Williamson Butler told lawmakers Monday that that some extraordinary measures may have to be taken but that the elections will be held.

"It is a scheduled election," Ater told members of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs. "It will be held until we see it cannot be held."

Butler said the election could not be held if it were scheduled for today, but she said she thinks there is "sufficient time to make it happen. I don't see anything that could prevent us from having an election" in February.

Butler said that 204 of the city's 442 voting precincts – mainly in the 7th, 8th and 9th Wards – have been destroyed or knocked out of commission. She said that she has not heard from many of the 2,300 election commissioners that the state election code requires New Orleans to have for citywide balloting.

"You can't have an election if half of your precincts are gone," said Sen. Charles Jones, D-Monroe, chairman of the committee. "You can't have an election if half of your commissioners are gone."

Butler said she is working with Ater on possible legislation for an expected November special session to waive the requirements that the city have the full complement of 2,300 commis-

*See* **VOTING,** *B-2*

# State fisheries turn to U.S. for assistance

**SEAFOOD,** *from B-1*

The storms' heaviest toll is expected to be borne by the shrimp industry, with losses projected at $920 million for the next year. In an industry already on the skids due to high fuel prices and competition from cheaper foreign imports, that could push some fishers over the brink, said Kurt Guidry, an economist with the Louisiana State University AgCenter who has been tracking the storms' impacts.

"Add the damages caused by hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and it's conceivable we could lose some of those shrimp producers," Guidry said.

Projected losses among other fisheries over the next 12 months include:

▶$421 million for recreational fishing, which in recent years has been the fast-growing sector of the industry as many commercial fishers turned to more-lucrative jobs as guides.

▶$354 million for saltwater fisheries, including the menhaden industry and long-line vessels that target tuna and amberjack.

▶$169 million for oysters, a figure expected to recur next year because oyster reefs take two years to recover.

▶$150 million for crabs, another industry under increasing competition from imports.

▶$33 million for wild crawfish, primarily in the Atchafalaya basin.

▶$20 million for freshwater fish.

As fishers attempt to rebound, Roussel said they should expect little financial assistance from the state given that sales and income taxes have dropped precipitously in the wake of the storms. Instead, Louisiana has requested $440 million for fisheries from the federal government, an amount largely covered by a U.S. Congress disaster relief bill co-sponsored by U.S. senators Mary Landrieu, D-New Orleans, and David Vitter, R-Metairie.

That bill includes appropriations ranging from $150 million for boats and infrastructure to $35 million for new marketing initiatives.

Proponents say the marketing cash is crucial to restoring Louisiana seafood's reputation, battered by images of fouled floodwaters being pumped out of New Orleans and into surrounding waters and estuaries. Initial tests indicate fish in those waters do not pose a threat to humans and more results are expected this week.

"Our first battle and biggest concern has been to overcome the perception that the water quality is not safe," said Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board. "Long-term, the longer we're out of the market, the harder it's going to be to rebuild our market share."

# 'We are going to rebuild bigger and better'

**DEMOLITION,** *from B-1*

and building officials. Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said it's important to get the inspections done as soon as possible.

"The quicker they get this issue resolved, the quicker we can begin the demolishing so people can rebuild and come back," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said the gargantuan rebuilding effort will also let officials correct some problems in a parish that developed largely with little or no planning.

"We are going to rebuild bigger and better, and we are going to have more green space. We are going to learn from our mistakes of the past," he said.

Hunnicutt said that generally speaking, homes that sustained high levels of water for about a week will most likely be targeted for demolition. For the most part, that involves neighborhoods north of Judge Perez Drive.

But even in those cases, homeowners adamant on rebuilding may be able to do so.

For people who don't want their home demolished, Hunnicutt said, parish administrators will work to help them determine what they must do to make their properties structurally sound. People already gutting and cleaning their homes should take photographs during every step and contact the parish for required permits before beginning any electrical work, he said.

For owners who want their homes demolished, the parish will do so and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will foot the bill, as long as the property's damage reaches half the structure or half its pre-Katrina value.

After structures are demolished, the slabs will be evaluated. If a slab is determined to be significantly damaged, officials will recommend that it be removed as well.

All demolitions will require permission from the property owner, but officials said the parish will demolish homes if owners are negligent in responding to exhaustive attempts to reach them and if the homes are damaged beyond repair.

Once property owners have completed retrieving the items they want from their homes, and they have decided they want their homes demolished, they should submit a letter of permission to parish government and proof that there is no mortgage or lien on the property, Hunnicutt said.

Hunnicutt said the parish next week will post a form letter of permission in the parish Web site, www.sbpg.net. The form will also be available at the parish government complex in Chalmette, which should be back in service in about a week.

Hunnicutt said inspectors are only evaluating properties for structural issues and won't be entering the homes, for the most part. They will be inspecting from opened doors and windows to determine the extent of damage. Owners do not need to be present.

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is doing its own contamination assessments, Rodriguez said the agency so far has not said it intends to "red flag" any areas and prohibit them from being rebuilt.

Rodriguez said residents concerned their property may have been contaminated by an oil spill from the Murphy Oil refinery in Meraux should contact the company's claim center at 1 (877) 511-1006.

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## ST. BERNARD PARISH'S DEMOLITION PROCESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Who will decide whether my home is to be demolished?**

Parish officials said that in most cases property owners will decide. Building inspectors will evaluate each property and report to the Parish Council and administrators, who will recommend to the owner whether the property should be demolished. All demolition will require permission from the property owner, unless an owner is negligent in responding to attempts to reach the owner. Owners will not have to wait for the inspection to start rebuilding, but must obtain necessary permits.

**How will officials decide whether to recommend that a building be demolished?**

Inspectors will evaluate the structural integrity of a property and will recommend demolition for cases in which damage affects more than 50 percent of the structure or when estimated repairs would cost more than 50 percent of the property's pre-Katrina value. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will examine homes for hazardous substances and contamination. The parish's recommendation will not consider the EPA report, but officials will make it available to homeowners.

**Who will pay to demolish my property?**

If the inspector's report recommends demolition and the owner concurs, the property will be demolished at no cost to the owner. Parish contractors, paid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will do the job. The slab will then be evaluated and if significantly damaged, the slab will be also removed with the house.

**Do I need to wait for an inspection before I start cleaning and gutting my property?**

No.

**I want to repair my home even if the government thinks I should demolish it. What do I do?**

You need to obtain building permits from the parish, and all repairs must follow current building standards and guarantee the structural safety of the building. You should take pictures of every step of work during reconstruction. If the property was affected by the oil spill at Murphy Oil, you should coordinate any rebuilding activities with the company's claim center at (877) 511-1006.

# Voting plan will need federal endorsement

**VOTING,** *from B-1*

sioners or to allow out-of-parish commissioners to be hired.

She said she is also looking into the possibility of using auditoriums and the New Orleans Arena to house multiple precincts if homes or public buildings cannot be used in February.

The secretary of state's office said various innovations are being considered, including the possibility of bringing voting machines to places such as Baton Rouge, Houston and Atlanta, now home to large numbers of New Orleans evacuees; allowing registered voters in far-off places to vote by mail; or some combination of the two, spokeswoman Jennifer Marusak said.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who intends to seek a second four-year term, says any discussion of postponing elections is premature. Nagin said his administration is prepared to propose a "revolutionary" electronic voting system that would allow New Orleans evacuees scattered across the nation to cast absentee ballots.

"We've been talking about this for two or three years," he said. "The technology is there."

Tampering with the election timetable could send the wrong message to locals contemplating a return home, Nagin said.

"I think that it's very important that we stay as close to our normal behavior as possible," he said

Other City Hall officials are not so sure a community still struggling to turn on lights and deliver drinkable water is ready to stage citywide elections.

"We can't even connect families together," said City Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morrell, whose district includes many neighborhoods that were nearly wiped out by Katrina. "So how do we find people to vote?"

While she said she is open to any proposal to keep elections on schedule, Morrell said she is skeptical of the process's fairness to incumbents, challengers or voters, who would be hard-pressed to make fair assessments of the candidates.

"How would you conduct an election?" she asked. "Are you just going to put names on a ballot and mail them out?

"Where do you discuss the issues? Who would finance a campaign? How could you as a challenger finance a campaign that's going to have to go countrywide? It would almost be like a presidential campaign."

As she did in deciding to postpone the fall elections, Blanco is expected to rely on the advice of lawmakers and the secretary of state, who plans to hold a series of public hearings in Baton Rouge and possibly New Orleans in the coming weeks to discuss how to proceed.

Ater said he is working on a plan for submission to lawmakers at the November special session that would waive the requirement that first-time voters cast ballots in person and not with an absentee ballot as a way to accommodate voters dispersed across the nation.

Ater also said he wants to do a mass-mailing, that could cost $500,000 to $1 million, to track down the estimated 400,000 registered voters who fled the state – about 300,000 from New Orleans alone.

He said his office is working with the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build a database of displaced voters to inform them of their rights under Louisiana election while they live out of state, and warn them that if they register in their new state of residence they will lose voting rights in Louisiana.

"If there are five voters in Boise, Idaho, I want to find them," Ater said.

Bringing voting machines outside the state needs legislative approval. That method, Marusak said, likely would be limited to cities in the Southeast.

"I don't think we'll be taking machines to Sacramento," she said.

Even then, the federal government will need to endorse whatever innovations are used to reach voters.

Under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the Justice Department must review changes in election procedures for several hundred districts in nine states, including Orleans Parish, to ensure they don't diminish minority voting representation.

Even balloting that takes place in New Orleans will have to be reviewed, because many precincts in areas that were destroyed will have to be consolidated and polling places that no longer exist will have to be relocated.

# Investigation looks into civil rights concerns

**BEATING,** *from B-1*

city over the weekend to check on his properties, said the man was searching for cigarettes when he was arrested and repeatedly punched in the head by police.

had not been drinking before he was beaten and taken into custody Saturday night, said attorney Joseph Bruno. The lawyer's comments contradict police reports that allege Davis was publicly intoxicated.

"I didn't do anything. I was going to get a pack of cigarettes and taking my evening constitutional," Davis said.

Bruno said his client did not resist police.

"I don't think that when a person is getting beat up there's a whole lot of thought. It's survival. You don't have a whole lot of time to think when you're being pummeled," Bruno said.

The footage shows Davis bleeding profusely from an apparent head wound. It also shows an officer using his foot to keep a handcuffed Davis face-down on the sidewalk as he tries to roll over on to his side.

Veteran New Orleans civil rights attorney Mary Howell, who has evacuated to Missouri, said she saw the video on national TV news and "it just made me sick."

"This is horrifying and it's sickening," Howell said. "Aside from the beating itself, the other thing that was shocking to me was the officer keeping him face-down when he's in obvious distress and trying to turn on his side so he could breathe more easily. That's the classic position for asphyxia. Those officers are lucky he didn't die."

Howell said she has contacted the Justice Department to file her own civil rights complaint about the beating.

While officials and citizens alike expressed outrage over the videotape, Lt. David Benelli, president of the Police Association of New Orleans, said it would be unfair to the officers to jump to conclusions based on the video alone.

"I saw the videotape just like everybody else on TV, and some of the actions on the videotape may be alarming," Benelli said. "But I know that a videotape shows only one segment of an event and only from one angle. Before anybody rushes to judgment, the entire incident from start to finish needs to be investigated by talking to all the witnesses, all the participants and make a rational decision on whether there were any violations."

Benelli said the officers were PANO members and will be represented by the association's attorneys. The officers were released by a judge on their recognizance Sunday.

# Orleans prisoners released from jail

**From Staff Reports**

About 750 Orleans Parish Prison inmates serving time or awaiting trial on city charges when Hurricane Katrina hit had been released as of Friday from the state or parish jails where they were moved after the storm, according to the state Department of Corrections.

They were among 935 inmates evacuated from the New Orleans jail, Corrections spokeswoman Pam Laborde said Monday.

Corrections officials cleared 750 for freedom after background checks showed no outstanding warrants for them, Laborde said. The other Orleans inmates remain in custody because there is "some kind of hold order" on them, she said.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

# Children's Hospital is calm, but ready

*Undamaged facility has light traffic as it fully reopens*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

The cafeteria served red beans and rice, staff members welcomed one another back, parents pushed strollers down the corridors and doctors cared for patients at Children's Hospital on Monday.

"I'm just so happy to be back home," said Dr. Renee Gardner, an oncologist and hematologist at Children's Hospital, the first New Orleans hospital to reopen with full services.

Among the surgeries performed Monday, Gardner did a lumbar puncture on a 14-year-old patient. Doctors also repaired a cleft lip on a 3-month-old baby. The emergency room has served about 12 patients with ailments including a sprained foot, high blood pressure and an abscess.

"We're glad they're open," said Uptown resident Pamela Martin, who brought in her daughter Ashley, 21, to have her eyes examined.

Martin said her son Christopher, 18, is asthmatic and had to use a neighbor's electricity Sunday night for his treatment. "We will be coming back," she said.

The hospital evacuated about 100 patients after Hurricane Katrina struck, said Cathleen Randon, director of public affairs. Many were airlifted to hospitals in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. The hospital has set up clinics in both cities to serve those patients.

Some support staff has been working to restore the hospital's systems since its electricity was restored about three weeks ago, she said.

The hospital called back about half of its 1,700 employees, Randon said, with plans to bring more back in phases depending on its patient load.

The building, situated on Henry Clay Avenue near Audubon Park on land several feet above sea level, was undamaged in the hurricane, Randon said. A brief tour around the operating room, emergency room and outpatient clinic area showed its interior immaculate.

The hospital's halls were not bustling Monday, but nurses and doctors were prepared. "We're ready. We just need patients," said Dr. Donald Smith outside the operating room.

None of the hospital's 201 beds were being used, but Randon said the hospital plans to serve about half its usual number of patients within the next six months.

Although Touro Infirmary's emergency room is open, Children's Hospital can accommodate adults, though they are typically referred or transferred to East Jefferson General or Ochsner hospitals.

Some of the patients at the hospital Monday were displaced residents. Lakeview couple Paul and Sherell St. Julien brought their ailing daughter Gianna, 7, from the Sensation, the Carnival Cruise Line ship where they are staying.

Johnnetta Russell brought her son from Hammond, where they have been staying since they evacuated Aug. 28. Ernest Russell, 11, has aplastic anemia and needed blood and platelets. He wore a mask and talked playfully with nurses while they waited; they planned to return to Hammond. Russell said she was surprised the hospital was open and that nothing there seemed to have changed. "It was the same," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Ashley Martin, 21, gets checked out Monday by Dr. Radha Kumar at Children's Hospital in New Orleans. The hospital reopened with full services Monday. 'We're ready. We just need patients,' another doctor said.

# Jefferson district court, clerk's office reopens today

*Judges will reset dates for hearings*

**West Bank bureau**

More than six weeks after closing because of Hurricane Katrina, the 24th Judicial District Court and the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court's office will reopen today.

While jury trials have been postponed until January, judges will be in courtrooms today and are expected to be resetting new hearing dates.

Since the court officially closed Aug. 29, judges and magistrates have worked in a rotating schedule, setting bonds, reviewing probable cause affidavits, holding first-appearance hearings and hearing emergency matters.

Petitions and other legal documents received by mail since the court closed will be "clocked in," or stamped as filed today, Clerk of Court Jon Gegenheimer said Monday.

"Let's hope there's a rush," he said. "That would be an indication that commerce is revving up." By order of Gov. Kathleen Blanco, the statute of limitations is suspended until Oct. 24, he said.

Courts were closed Monday because of Columbus Day, a preset holiday, though clerks were called in to work to prepare for today's reopening, Gegenheimer said.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeal and First Parish Court and Second Parish Court reopened Oct. 3. The state Supreme Court will reopen Oct. 25.

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**DATE:** ➜ Thursday, October 13

**TIMES:** ➜ 4:30 p.m.

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## FRENCH QUARTERBACK



STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

Percy Baulden of the New Orleans Fire Department reaches for a throw Monday from Casey Rogstad, center, of Bismarck, N.D., on Decatur Street in the French Quarter. Rogstad and Steve Inglish, left, both firefighters from North Dakota, said they will be helping out in New Orleans probably until December.

# Feds may redo St. John apartments

*Units would provide shelter for victims*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

In what could be one of the few bright spots in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, several vacant and dilapidated public housing units in Reserve may receive a facelift and new tenants thanks to a new federal initiative throughout Louisiana.

About 27 uninhabitable apartments at the St. John the Baptist Parish Housing Authority's Reserve Oaks development are being considered for renovation by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Joe Johnson, the executive director of the housing authority.

The renovations would provide temporary housing for individuals displaced by Katrina and are part of a project to rehabilitate abut 200 to 300 vacant housing units throughout the state for use by hurricane victims, said Charles Williams, the director of the joint housing solutions center for HUD.

Williams said that HUD already has received a waiver to allow anyone with a need for housing, regardless of income, to move into public housing because of the disaster.

Johnson said FEMA and HUD contacted the housing authority in September about using its complexes which include one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments to house individuals who were living in public housing in New Orleans, receiving Section Eight housing vouchers or were just displaced by the storm. In addition, there's a possibility of placing 10 travel trailers.

Johnson said all new residents would be subject to background checks and drug screenings before they moved into the Reserve complex. In addition, Johnson has proposed adding additional security to the housing complex to deal with any potential problems during and after the possible renovations. He said there is a possibility that FEMA contractors may employ some of the complex's residents

Williams said some evacuees could move into units throughout the state by the end of this week, although Johnson said he has not heard about the plans for St. John.

Since Johnson took over the housing authority about a year ago, the agency has been working to renovate vacant units in its complexes in Reserve, LaPlace, Garyville and Edgard to reduce the number of parish residents stuck on the authority's waiting list and prevent vandalism.

Authorities say the vacant units are magnets for fires, and the housing authority has been plagued by arsons at its complexes in recent years.

However, the cost of renovating the units — about $5,000 to $10,000 per apartment — has slowed the rehabilitation effort, especially in St. John where the authority is in debt. Johnson has tried to use some of the authority's staff to do minor repairs such as fixing broken windows, installing bathroom fixtures and painting, but many of the units require major work. Consequently, 70 of the authority's 300 total units are still vacant and uninhabitable, including 50 at the Reserve complex alone, Johnson said. He noted that the housing authority was seeking a $200,000 loan from HUD to do renovations.

But, Williams said that HUD has received new financing as a result of the disaster, which should facilitate many of the renovations and eliminate any burden for individual authorities.

Johnson is estimating that the housing authority could save $300,000 if the renovations are handled by the federal government, despite the fact that FEMA can only spend a maximum of $16,000 to renovate any one unit.

"Whatever they do that is less for us to do," Johnson said. "As you know Reserve's been sitting there for a while …The concentration we have (of vacant units) is out there in Reserve. To me it's a gift for them to come in and do that many units."

# Plaquemines residents can return for belongings

*Contractors ready to demolish homes*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Residents of the twice-flooded communities of Braithwaite and Scarsdale in Plaquemines Parish should be able to return to their homes to survey damage in a couple of days, parish officials said Monday.

The last of seven levee breaks in the parish's east bank protection system was filled in Monday, Plaquemines Parish Director of Operations Lonnie Greco said, allowing crews to begin draining floodwaters that rushed in during Hurricane Rita two weeks ago.

"We are pumping. We will have the water out," he said.

With the breaches closed, the Scarsdale Pumping Station is draining water at a rate of 1 million gallons a minute, Greco said.

Water remained in the Braithwaite and Scarsdale areas, but had receded into yards and streets in much of the area, Greco said.

Officials reopened most areas of lower Plaquemines on Friday for the first time since Katrina devastated the fishing communities on Aug. 29. But returning residents are not allowed to stay overnight, Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Col. Charles Guey said.

There still is no electricity, water service or sewerage anywhere in the parish's east bank and below Jesuit Bend in the west bank.

Nonetheless, officials Monday urged west bank residents to return and retrieve any belongings they want to save, as well as to sign right-of-entry forms that will allow the parish to demolish houses that washed onto levees and streets in the devastated southern end of the parish.

"We have contractors ready to move through . . . but we don't want to give them right of entry" until residents have removed personal belongings, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle said.

"What (residents) need to do is start coming down and looking through the debris," he said.

Houses need to be removed so that both the Mississippi River levee and the levees along the bay side of the parish can be repaired, he said.

Rousselle said he does not want to cause residents the same grief as that suffered by people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where authorities removed houses from highways before their owners could salvage their belongings. But he said deadline will be issued soon for those homeowners with homes on the public rights of way.

Right-of-entry forms are available at the Belle Chasse Auditorium, the Plaquemines Parish Council Building in Belle Chasse and on the parish Web site, www.plaquemines-parish.com, under "Current Hurricane Recovery Information."

Only Plaquemines residents and individuals with parish passes can enter the lower portions of the parish and they must leave before dusk, Guey said.

The area is under a dawn-to-dusk curfew.

Roads on the west bank of the parish are now open from Belle Chasse to Venice, although some water remains on Louisiana 23 in the Myrtle Grove area, and traffic must detour from onto U.S. 11 at the Empire Bridge. The detour ends at Cazazu Drive in Buras, Guey said.

Greco said private drainage pumps belonging to Citrus Lands are gradually removing floodwater at Myrtle Grove.

But he said the last breach at Scarsdale, 22 feet deep and 450 feet wide, was the worst among more than 15 breaches officials had to battle across the parish.

Also, Plaquemines Parish schools continued preparing to reopen Oct. 17, with all but about 120 of the district's 840 employees reporting to work on Monday, school Superintendent Jim Hoyle said.

So far, 2,221 of the district's former 5,200 students have filed intent forms saying they plan to return.

Sandra Barbier can be reached at sbarbier@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3300.

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# Treasure Chest casino reopens in Kenner

## *Cash-starved city, customers pleased*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Frustrated with waiting for the insurance adjuster to call and with the post-Katrina stink at his River Ridge home, John Calandro Sr. went looking for fun Monday. He wasn't alone.

Calandro was one of more than 100 people waiting eagerly when the Treasure Chest casino in Kenner reopened at noon for the first time in six weeks.

"I'm tired of being in that house," Calandro said.

"You can repeat that," said another customer, Jack Paternostro of Kenner.

The clanging of slot machines is music to the ears of Kenner officials. Since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29, Kenner has missed out on $18,101 per day in casino revenue, according to the Casino Association of Louisiana. Kenner receives $2.50 for each passenger entering the casino, as well as 2 percent of net gaming proceeds.

"Just this morning, it was so quiet," said spokesman Rob Stillwell of Boyd Gaming, which owns Treasure Chest.

Stilwell said 400 of the gambling boat's 1,031 employees were back at work on two of the casino's three gambling floors.

"We fully expect at some point to call all of our employees back to work," he said.

There weren't enough employees – or probably enough customer interest at this point – to staff the third floor, with its high-limit table games, Stillwell said.

"It's a matter of employees working right now," Stillwell said. Slot attendants and cocktail waitresses are in particularly high demand.

The casino opened on a noon-to-2 a.m. schedule, rather than its pre-Katrina 24-hour-a-day timetable. Stillwell said Boyd Gaming has no estimate of when the staffing levels or customer need will dictate returning to full capacity.

"We don't really know what to expect here," he said.

But if the diehards at the casino Monday are any indicator – have you heard about the hurricane evacuee who won $1.6 million at the slots at Evangeline Downs in Lafayette? – there is quite a customer need.

Mary Lecourt of Kenner, who likes to play penny slots, is glad to be back at what she jokingly refers to her "second home."

"We come here all the time," Lecourt said as she shuffled in the front door as fast as the crowd moved. "We're glad to have something to do."

Calandro said he hopes to be distracted from the loneliness of sitting at home listening to hurricane coverage on the television. His daughter moved to Dallas after her home in New Orleans' Lakeview area flooded.

"I'm not used to being by myself," he said.

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Mary Swerczek may be reached at (504) 467-1726 or mkswerczek@hotmail.com

# Hospitality industry also caught off guard

**CASINO,** *from B-8*

land-based gaming in Orleans Parish," Campbell said. "We have been very careful to make sure that any proposed legislation does not result in a breach of the contract by the state."

John Payne, regional president for Harrah's Entertainment, said his company is open to exploring ideas that could help the city. "We want to see the city come back, and we're willing to listen to proposals and ideas," he said. "We want to work with local and state officials to get the city back on its feet."

Payne said Harrah's hasn't thought of potential lines of negotiations, such as whether Harrah's would be willing to give up its land-based casino monopoly in Orleans Parish in exchange for the freedom to operate more hotel rooms or for Harrah's Lake Charles riverboats to be rebuilt on land. "We haven't thought that far ahead," Payne said.

Although Harrah's New Orleans has been closed since the storm, the company voluntarily has been paying its $164,000 a day in state taxes and its about $1 million a month in rent to the city. Payne said Harrah's will reopen as soon as city water, sewer and safety services are ready to handle customers.

### Riverboat group skeptical

Duty said his riverboat association was blindsided by Nagin's proposal. Any talk of adding casinos in Orleans Parish should be part of a wider, more thoughtful discussion about casino regulation, taxes and business around the state, Duty said.

"I'm not sure this is the right tool for the situation," Duty said. "If you're not supporting the industry that you have, why would you think the state would support an expansion of that industry?"

Churchill Downs Inc., which plans to install slot machines at the Fair Grounds, said it would like to learn more about Nagin's proposal. Meanwhile, the hospitality industry was also caught off guard.

Stephen Perry, president of the convention and visitors bureau, said his group has not taken a position on Nagin's idea but that the proposal is likely to be controversial among the group's members. "We were surprised at the announcement, because it requires a very complex business calculation. It has an awful lot of hurdles at the state level," he said.

Reactions from hotels that would benefit from the proposal have been lukewarm. Dan King, general manager of the Sheraton, notes that Harrah's has been an excellent partner for the hotels in recent years. While Starwood, the Sheraton's parent company, used to be in the casino business many years ago, its role is now limited to managing hotels attached to casinos, not the casinos themselves, in places like Las Vegas and the Bahamas. If Nagin's proposal were to pass, the Sheraton would hire an outside casino company to manage it.

### 'More pressing needs'

But the biggest concern, King said, is whether hotel casinos would alter New Orleans' attractiveness as a destination. "We want to make sure that we maintain our uniqueness," King said. "It needs a lot of study before it moves forward."

Mark Sanders, general manager of the Marriott, said other issues are more pressing, such as restoring flights to the Louis Armstrong International Airport, getting the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center opened, creating a marketing campaign for New Orleans, finding money for the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau and cleaning up trash around the city.

# DEATHS

Jeremiah Jeff Bishop
Samuel Adams Trufant Burguieres III
Victoria Profumo Coniglio
Verda Guidry Dauterive
Rosalie Cosentino Davis
Mary Treadaway Donewar
Harold Robert Fletcher
Eva C. Fowler
Kenneth Wilbur Gaulter
Regina B. Gerard
Charles A. Jackson
Veronica Johnson Jackson
Helen Singer Klein
Elmyre LeBlanc Levet
Larry Mackey
Violet Madeleine Linden Marciante
Vanessa Rayford Mitchell
Emanuel Montecino
Margaret Eythel Munson Odom
Laura Rotolo Pieno
Miriam Baskerville Provosty
Nicholas Revon
Deidre Tirell Robinson
Michael J. Ryan
Catherine Standige Sanders
Evelyn Malpie Schmid
Anthony J. Sconza
David Sconza
Raymond A. Terminie
Vikki Wilson

### BISHOP

Jeremiah "Jeremy" Jeff Bishop, on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Age 19 years. Beloved son of Bonnie Bishop. Fiance of Leighann Nicole Hebert. Brother of Justin Bishop and John Mulanax. Maternal grandson of the late Jerry and Juanita Bishop. Also survived by his beloved dog "Angel" and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

### BURGUIERES

Samuel Adams Trufant Burguieres III, age 26. Service was be held Friday at 1:30 PM at Dunbar Funeral Home, Dutch Fork Chapel, Irmo, with burial in Woodridge Memorial park. Sam died Monday, October 3, 2005. Born in Austin Texas, he was the son of Samuel Adams Trufant Burguieres, Jr. and Beryl Elizabeth Hoffman. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Louisiana Tech and his Master's of Business Administration Degree from Louisiana State University, and was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He was a financial specialist with Wachovia Bank, and a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church, Ruston, LA. Surviving are his wife, Jaime Carney Burguieres; son, Sam Burguieres IV; stepdaughter, Grayson Elizabeth Newman; mother of Covington, LA.; father and stepmother, Nettie of Mandeville, LA.; sisters, Sarah Burguieres Lowe of Houston, Texas, and Anne Burguieres Rappold of Madison, Wisconsin. Grandmothers, Lydia Hoffman of Metairie, LA and Gertrude Burguieres of New Orleans LA; and nieces, Hannah Rappold and Lindsey Lowe. He was predeceased by his grandfathers, Samuel Adams Trufant Burguieres and Eugene Hoffman, Jr.

### CONIGLIO

Victoria Profumo Coniglio, age 94, on Friday, October 7, 2005 in Winnfield, LA. Wife of the late Santo Coniglio. Daughter of the late Antonio Profumo and Rose Delerno. Mother of Shirley Messina and Joan Klein. Mother-in-law of Vincent Messina. Grandmother of Geralyn O'Malley, Anne Southworth, Edward Klein, Carol O'Keeffe and David Klein. Also survived by 8 great grandchildren. She was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA at Chateau Living Center for the past 5 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 11:00am. Visitation will be from 10:00am until time of service.

### DAUTERIVE

Verda Guidry Dauterive, age 84, on Thursday, October 6. Wife of the late Robert L. Dauterive. Daughter of the late Clovis Guidry and Manela Bonvillan. Mother of Aline Quinlivan, Robert Dauterive and Carolyn Miorana. Mother-in-Law of Mary Dauterive, Joseph Miorana and the late Harold Quinlivan. Sister of Shirley Henry, James Guidry and the late Ruby Bourg and Merle Williams. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was a native of Houma, LA and a resident of New Orleans, LA for the past 68 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 12:00 PM. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM until time of service.

### DAVIS

Rosalie Cosentino Davis on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Age 75, a native of New Orleans and a resident of Jefferson for the past 15 1/2 years. Beloved mother of Kathlyn D. Martino. Daughter of the late Catherine "Katie" Silvestri and Steve Cosentino. Grandmother of Christina and Jennifer Perelli. Great-grandmother of Abigail, Brittany and Trevor. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral at the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 8:00 PM. Visitation on Thursday from 5:00 PM until time of service.

### DONEWAR

Mary Treadaway Donewar on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Francis Charles Donewar. Mother of John Charles Donewar. Mother in law of Cheryl Vicknair Donewar. Daughter of the late Irene Gerrets Treadaway and Blaize J. Treadaway. Sister of Joseph, Edwin, Robert, Alvin, Donald Treadaway and the late Irwin Treadaway. Grandmother of Neil Christopher Donewar and Todd Jude Donewar. Age 84 years. A native of Algiers, LA., and a resident of Gretna, LA. She was a resident of Our Lady of Wisdom Health Care Center in Algiers and a member of John McDonogh VFW Post 3121 Ladies Auxiliary.

### FLETCHER

Harold Robert 'Woo Woo' Fletcher passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Beloved husband of Jo Ann Galloway Fletcher of 45 years. Brother of Bill Fletcher, Yvonne Fletcher King and the late Lucille Fletcher Pellegrin. Son of the late Willie Fletcher and Yvonne Fletcher Rooney. Also survived by 10 nieces and nephews. Age 73 years. Mr Fletcher was a dedicated member of the Covington Lions Club for over 35 years and served as treasurer, president and bingo chairman. He was also the former owner of the Covington Machine Works, Green Springs Motel and Beau Amis Lounge. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the memorial service from the Chapel of E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2660 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 3:00 P.M. Friends may visit from 1:00 P.M. until service time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Covington Lions Club, P.O. Box 605, Covington, LA 70433.

### FOWLER

Eva C. Fowler, 92, of Mandeville, La died Tuesday October 4, 2005 at St. Tammany Hospital in Covington, La. She was born on December 24, 1912 in Green Valley, MS. She was a long time resident of Rose Hill, MS. and Gautier, MS. She was a homemaker and enjoyed most her family, fishing, bowling and flower gardening. Survivors include her grandson, Ken Fowler and his wife Pam, of Mandeville, La. Granddaughters, Rene Fowler of Corinth, Yvonne Fowler McNair and her husband Pat of Corinth; Daughter-in-law, Chris Fowler of Corinth; Great-Grandchildren: Matthew Fowler, Kelsey Fowler, Angele Martin, Aaron Fowler, Monica McNair and Jim McNair. She was preceded in death by her husband J.I. Fowler; Sons: John Ira Fowler and George Eugie Fowler, daughter-in-law, Glenda Fowler Dailey; a grandson, Mike Fowler and 11 siblings. Services For Eva C. Fowler were held Friday at 1pm at Green Valley Methodist Church with the Rev Mullinax officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery. Colonial Chapel Funeral Home in Bay Springs, MS was in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O.Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101-9929 or the American Heart Association. Visitation was Friday 10/7/05 from 10 A.M.-Noon at the funeral home and 30 minutes prior to the service at the church.

### GAULTER

Kenneth Wilbur Gaulter, Sr., age 90, on Sunday October 2. Son of the late Wilbur Gaulter and Lulu Gammill. Father of Kenneth W. Gaulter, Jr. and his wife Tammy. Grandfather of Kenneth 'Trey' W. Gaulter, III and Whitney C. Gaulter. Mr Gaulter served 30 years active duty in the Navy and received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Theatre Campaign Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign Medal with 1 silver star and 2 bronze stars during WWII. After retirement, he worked for the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, 8th Naval District as a Quality Assurance Specialist for 19 years. Private graveside services will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in Jefferson Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 11316 River Road, St. Rose, LA. Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### GERARD

Regina B. Gerard, 53, of Metairie, LA, died Monday, October 3, 2005, from a vehicle accident in Gulfport, MS. She was a lifelong resident of the greater New Orleans area. She was preceded in death by her parents, Sydney and Eugenia Weir Bennett, Jr. Mrs. Gerard is survived by her husband, John Gerard of Metairie, LA; her son, John Gerard Jr. of Riverview, FL; and her brother, Gene Bennett of Sugarland, TX. Riemann Memorial Funeral Home, Hwy 49N, Gulfport, MS is in charge of the arrangements.

### JACKSON

Veronica Johnson Jackson departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center On Tuesday October 4, 2005. Loving Wife of Elie Jackson Jr. Devoted Mother of Terrance Johnson Grandmother of Terrance, Terrek'e and Tyrese Johnson. Daughter of The Late Jessie and Dorothy Johnson. Granddaughter of the late Charlie and Eva Knapper. sister of Ernestine Davis, Eva and Shirley Johnson, Ruby D. Becnel, Rhonda Dunbar, Charles Camel, Larry Reed, Jessie Johnson Jr, Kenneth Johnson, Stanley Gaines, and the late Andre Johnson. Also Survived by a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends. Age 49 years a native of New Orleans, La. and a resident of Marrero, La. Relatives and Friends Also Pastors, Officers, and Members of Shiloh Missionary B.C. and the neighboring Churches are invited to attend the funeral service from Shiloh Missionary B.C. 1419 4th Street Westwego, LA. On Tuesday October 11, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Rev. Woodrow Hayden Officiating (No Wake). Interment: Bright Star Cemetery-Marrero, LA. Arrangements By: Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA.

### JACKSON

Charles "Chuck" A. Jackson, of Urbana, Ohio and recently of Slidell, Louisiana died Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 10:35 A.M. in Mercy Memorial Hospital, Urbana, Ohio. He was born September 29, 1935 in Vevay, Ind., to Robert and Cecil (Carver) Jackson. He was retired from the Dept. of Transportation; State of Louisiana. Chuck served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and was a member of the D.A.V. and the American Legion in Louisiana.

### KLEIN

Helen Singer Klein at Ormond Nursing and Care Center, Destrehan, LA on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 4:30 AM. Beloved wife of the late John C. Klein, mother of Joan Klein Grush. Sister of the late Elizabeth Gilmore and Alfred Singer. Also survived by 4 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Age 94 years, a native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie for the past 40 years. A private Memorial Service was held from the Metairie Chapel of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on Saturday, October 8, 2005.

### LEVET

Elmyre "Coonie" LeBlanc Levet, a retired school teacher at immaculate conception school in Marrero, passed away on Thursday Oct. 6, 2005. Beloved wife of Jeffery J. Levet Sr., mother of Jeffrey J. Levet Jr., mother-in-law of Carolyn A. Levet, grandmother of Daniel A, Craig M. and Rachel M. Levet, sister of the late Genevieve LeBlanc Stephens, Adolph "A.C.", Amos "Mutt", Milton "Mickey" and Albert LeBlanc Jr. Age 90 years. A native of Raceland, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the chapel of MOTHE FUNERAL HOMES, INC., 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Tuesday October 11, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment McDonogh Cemetery in Gretna LA. Parlors will be open Tuesday, October 11, 2005 from 8:00 AM until service time.

### MACKEY

Larry Mackey departed this Life on Friday September 30, 2005 at 2:17 A.M. in Fortsmith, Ark. Son of Theresa Mackey. Father of Shetania and Tessa Mackey. Grandfather of Lil Fe, Shelly, Randell, Ne-Ne, and Teia. Brother of Louis and Raymond, Bernetta, Jeanetta, Katherine, Jacqueline, Cleo, Marion, Dorelia, and Sandra. Nephew of Kelly, Dolly and Louis. Also Survived by a Host of Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, other relatives and friends. Relatives and Friends of the family, are invited to attend the funeral service from Davis Mortuary Service at 6820 W. B. Expressway Marrero, LA. on Wednesday October 12, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.(NO WAKE). Visitation from 9:00 A.M. until service time. Interment: Providence Cemetery -Metairie, La. Arrangements By Davis Mortuary Service, 230 Monroe St, Gretna, La.

### MARCIANTE

Violet Madeleine Linden Marciante, on Sunday, October 9, 2005. Wife of the late Frank Marciante. Mother of June M. Camus and Anthony J. Marciante, Sr. Mother-in-law of Lloyd J. Camus, Jr. and Carolyn Marciante. Survived by 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Daughter of the late Ernest and Elizabeth Zundel Linden and sister of the late John Linden. Funeral Services were held on Monday, October 10, 2005 at Mothe Funeral Home in Harvey. Interment at Hook and Ladder Cemetery in Gretna.

### MITCHELL

Vanessa Rayford Mitchell, a retired Compensation Analyst for Hibernia Bank, passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at her home from complications related to cancer. She was 49. She was a native of New Orleans and lived in Harvey, LA since 1992. Beloved wife of 30 years, Robert J. Mitchell I, Mother of Robert II, LaVon, and the late Cornelius Mitchell. Grandmother of Raymond, Cornelius, Sterlin, Enjelle and Mercades. Sister of Robert Smith, Warren, Sherman, Shelton, Hershel Rayford, Betty Truehill, Sharon Mitchell, Gloria Ware and the late Charles Rayford. As well as a host of loving brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was the daughter of the late Warren and Nadell Rayford. She was an active member of Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral of New Orleans and the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church of Lithonia, GA. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd. Marrero, LA at 11 AM. Interment Restlawn Park Cemetery in Avondale, LA. Visitation will begin at 9 AM until funeral time on Tuesday from the funeral home.

### MONTECINO

Emanuel (Mex, Manny) Montecino, Jr. on Monday September 19, 2005. Beloved husband of Joan Lloyd Montecino. Father of Emanuel (Manny) Montecino III and Stacey M. Lapeyronnie. Son of the late Manuel Montecino and Alma Carbo Montecino. Brother of Delores M. Blanchat, Patricia M. Babin, and the late Marvel, Arden, and Carl Montecino. Grandfather of Regan Folse and Grant Lapeyronnie. Age 73 years. A native of Harvey, LA and a current resident of Gretna, LA. A Funeral Mass was held at Mothe Funeral Homes. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA.

### ODOM

Margaret Eythel Munson Odom, 91, on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 4:12 PM. A native and resident of Houma, LA. Survived by one son, George Allen Odom of Houston, TX. One daughter Sarah Odom Picard of Lafayette, LA. Four grandchildren; Allen Munson Picard, Andrew Thomas Picard, Marshall Odom and Charles Odom, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents Sylvannus Allen Munson and Eythel Wallis Munson. Her beloved husband, the late Thomas Deaton Odom. One grandchild, George Fernest Picard. She was a devoted Kindergarten Teacher at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. She was also involved in the Study Club, Terrebonne Garden Club, Kappa Delta Sorority, Terrebonne Bird Club and Graduate of Lorton Preparatory School. Parishioner, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Memorial services were held Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 11:30 AM at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, please send to St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Chauvin Funeral Home, Inc. in charge of arrangements. 5899 Hwy 311, Houma, LA. 70360

### PIENO

Laura Rotolo Pieno of Marrero, LA. on Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 10 a.m. Beloved wife of the late Anthony (Tony) Pieno. Mother of Toni Pieno Besse. Mother-in-Law of Robert Besse. Sister of the late Rosalie Talamo, Virginia Rudolph, Genevieve Castellano, Anna Licciardi, Guy (Tony) Rotolo, Anthony Rotolo and Sam Rotolo. Daughter of the late Joseph Rotolo and Marie Grace Gibina Rotolo. Grandmother of Laura B. Rudiger, Rachel Simons and Nathan Besse. Great Grandmother of Matthew Drachenberg, Patrick Rudiger, Thomas Rudiger, Joseph Simons and Audrey Simons. Mrs. Pieno was born August 30, 1912. Age 93 years. Mrs. Pieno was the recipient of SJW Senior Citizen of the Year Award. Relatives and friends of the family also Parishoners of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, S.J.W. Senior Citizens, Continental Can Company Plant #37, Sanbell Supply Company Friends of J.T.C.T. and O.W.T.C., Scando's Beauty Salon and Westside Street Rod Assoc. are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Marrero, LA. on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12 Noon. Interment in Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Visitation on Monday, October 3, 2005, from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Marrero, LA. Information: 341-9421

### PROVOSTY

MIRIAM 'QUEEN' BASKERVILLE PROVOSTY. A Mass of Christian Burial for Miriam Baskerville Provosty will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Monday, October 10, 2005, in St. Rita Catholic Church with the Rev. Pike Thomas officiating. Interment will be in Greenwood Memorial Park, Pineville, under the direction of John Kramer & Son. Queen Provosty, of Alexandria, died October 7, 2005, in Slidell, LA after a brief illness. Queen was born on January 20, 1907, in Arcadia, Louisianna, the daughter of William P. Baskerville and Mary Eva Van Hoozer. She graduated from Louisianna Tech University with a Master of Music degree and became the regional secondary school superintendant of music in Central Louisianna. In 1929, she married LeDoux Roger Provosty, Sr. and was a resident of Alexandria for 73 years. She was a member of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and St. Rita Catholic Church, the Service League, the Society of Colonial Dames, and the Twelfth Night carnival organization. During World War II, she served as a volunteer Grey Lady. Mrs. Provosty was preceded in death by her husband, infant twin daughters, two sons, Le Doux R. Provosty, Jr. and Reverend William B. Provosty. She is survived by: Three Daughters: Miriam P. Fritchie of Slidell, LA; Mary Adele P. Baus and her husband, John, of New Orleans, LA; Jeanne P. Buffat and her husband, Bill, of Abita Springs. Three Sons: L. Maurice Provosty of Pearl River, LA; Albin A. Provosty and his wife, Susan, of Alexandria, LA; J. Van Provosty and his wife, Denise, of Atlanta, GA. One Daughter-in-Law: Barbara S. Provosty of Alexandria, LA. Pallbearers will be her grandsons: LeDoux R. Provosty, III; Gustave A. Frichie III; Jean Marie Tardy, III; L. Maurice Provosty, Jr.; McDonald G. Provosty; Joshua V. Provosty; Justin F. Provosty; Thomas D. McMichael, Jr. Friends are asked to call at St. Rita Catholic Church from 12:30 p.m. until time of services on Monday, October 10, 2005. The family request memorials be sent to the LeDoux R. Provosty, Sr. Memorial Home for Children, 4322 Jeansonne Street, Hessmer, LA 71341. Notes of condolence may be sent to Kramerfunerals@aol.com

### REVON

Nicholas Revon, of Slidell, LA on Friday, October 7, 2005. Father of Jordan N. Revon and Danielle N. Revon. Son of Patricia LeJeune Herrmann, brother of Craig M. Revon and Jarret J. Revon, brother-in-law of Angel Meaders Revon. Former husband of Jacqueline Spicuzza Revon. Stepson of the late John P. Herrmann, Jr. and son of the late Lincoln L. Revon. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Graveside Funeral Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 1751 Gause Blvd. West. Slidell LA on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. visitation on Tuesday from 10:00 AM until time of service. Kindly omit flowers, donations to the charity of your choice preferred. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA

### ROBINSON

Deidre Tirell Robinson passed away at East Jefferson General Hospital on Thursday October 6, 2005 at 6:40 PM. Beloved daughter of Nadine Crawford Robinson and Nathaniel Robinson. Sister of Naitra Robinson Johnson and Jonathan Daniel Robinson. Granddaughter of Albertha Brooks and Benjamin Johnson and the late Wellington Crawford and Mildred Crawford. Sister-in-law of Trevin Johnson. Niece of Wilfred Emile Crawford. Also survived by a host of Aunts, Uncles and cousins. Age 29 years. A native of New Orleans and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 4 years. A private Jehovah Witness Service with Brother Eugene Trice officiating was held from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 3:00 PM. A private interment followed. Sign On-Line Guest Book at www.legacy.com

### RYAN

Michael J. 'Mike' Ryan on Monday, October 3, 2005. Beloved husband of Mary Fortenberry Ryan. Beloved son of Michaele 'Mike' Fasulla Bennett. Stepson of Robert J. Bennett, Jr. Father of Brandon Michael Ryan, Alesha Ryan Murphy, Michael Jason Ryan and Katilynn Nicholle Ryan. Brother of William Ronald Ryan, Warren Patrick Ryan and Wendelynn Jean Ryan. Grandfather of Brooklynn Chancy Ryan. Grandson of Helen G. Fasulla. Aged 48 years, he was born in Ft. Polk, LA, reared in New Orleans and resided in Kenner for the past 38 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral. Services from the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Interment in Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, MS. Visitation from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

### SANDERS

Catherine Standige Sanders, age 88, on Thursday, October 6. Wife of the late Joseph J. Sanders. Daughter of the late Paul J. Standige and Mary Weathers. Mother of Lorraine Ruiz, Karl Sanders, Leah Oestringer and Linda D'Aquila. Sister of Shirley Delatte, Geraldine Hewson and the late Paul Standige, Jr., Sophie Wallace, Teresa Hand, Ethel Duke, Rita Lowe, Frank Standige, Anna Mae McCarthy and Ruth Dampier. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. She was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 6 years. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM until time of service. In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations sent to Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance St., NOLA, 70130-5099.

### SCHMID

Evelyn Malpie Schmid, a resident of Pass Christian, Mississippi, died on October 4, 2005. She was 88 years old. Beloved wife of the late Peter O. Schmid. Daughter of the late Alice Cure Malpie and Gustave Malpie. Aunt of Gaynell Lyeki, Richard Bourgeois, Albert Bourgeois, the late Harold Bourgeois, William Kelly, Kathleen Edrington and June Pabst. Sister-in-law of Richard and Evelyn Schmid. Relatives and friends are invited to visit LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, on Tuesday October 11, 2005 from 9:00 AM until service time at 10:00 AM. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Arrangements by JACOB SCHOEN AND SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS.

### SCONZA

Anthony J. Sconza. Services will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2005 for Lt. Col. Anthony (Tony) Sconza, 80, of Waveland, MS who died September 5, 2005 at his daughter's home in Petal. Visitation will be held at Our Lady of Fatime Church from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM followed by a Mass. Burial will take place at the National Cemetery in Biloxi at 1 PM. Mr. Sconza was a retired engineer for the Department of Energy and served in the Army and Louisiana Air National Guard. He was a member of St. Claire Catholic Church and was active in the Knights of Columbus, International Order of Alhambra, and American Legion. He was preceded in death by a son, Steven Sconza, a granddaughter, Dena McNeese and a great-granddaughter, Hannah Meaders. Survivors include his wife, Elaine Perret Sconza of Waveland; two sons, A.J. Sconza, Jr. of Bay St. Louis and John Sconza of Slidell, LA; four daughters, Sharon Barnes of Petal, Melissa McManus of Slidell, LA, Mary Glaviana of Lumberton and Trudy Villarrubia of Biloxi; a sister, Joyce Perret of Metairie, LA; sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Hope Haven. Moore Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### SCONZA

Funeral Services were held October 1, 2005 at St. Anthony Catholic Church for Steven David Sconza, who died August 28, 2005 at Forest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, MS. He was the beloved husband of Carrie Elliott Sconza. Beloved father of Samantha and Breanna Sconza. Beloved son of Elaine Sconza and the late Anthony Sconza. Beloved brother of AJ Sconza, Sharon Barnes, John Sconza, Melissa McManus, Mary Glaviana, and Trudy Villarrubia. He was also survived by numerous relatives and friends. He was and employee of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems and an officer and member of the Knights of Columbus. He was born in New Orleans, LA and a resident of Lafitte, LA for the past eleven years. Age 42 years old.

### TERMINIE

Raymond A. Terminie, Jr. Age 63 years, at Ochsner Foundation Hospital on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 11:00 AM. A lifelong resident of St. Bernard Parish. Beloved husband of Jane Sanchez Terminie. Father of Robbie Joseph Terminie, Terry Michael Terminie, Raymond Anthony Terminie III and Kevin Sanchez. Father-in-law of Lori Terminie. Son of the late Rosie DiCarlo and Raymond A. Terminie, Sr. Brother of Peter M. Terminie, Sr. and the late Dominick P. Terminie and Mrs. Ray T. Gibson. Brother-in-law of Jean & Gerard J. Mackin, Sedenia & Sybil Terminie and Joseph Lesslie Jr. Son-in-law of Laura Graffignia. Also survived by 3 grandchildren, Kayley & Tyler Terminie and Samantha Sanchez. Employees and Retires of CSX Railroad, and United Transportation Union are invited to attend funeral services from the Jefferson home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 No. Causeway Blvd. on Tuesday, October 10, 2005 at 1:30 PM followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Rita Catholic Church, 7100 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA. Friends may call at the funeral home from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories. Information: 835-2341

### WILSON

Vikki Wilson, 58 of Metairie, LA., passed away on October 8th at East Jefferson General Hospital after a long battle with cancer. She was born on January 1, 1947, in Mooresville, N.C. She is survived by her beloved husband of 30 years Wallace 'Bill' Wilson, and beloved son Daniel Folse of New Orleans. Her parents are Harry Gonyer, Sr., of Brattleboro, Vermont, the late Helen Gonyer Grant and stepfather, Joe Grant, of Franklin, Mass. Her brothers are: Larry Brown of Mooresville, N.C.: Harry Gonyer, Jr. of Columbia, MD. and James Grant of Woonsocket, RI. Her sisters are: Margaret 'Maggie' Wagner of Slidell, LA, and Maxine LaChance of Whitinsville, Mass. In addition, she is survived by her Aunt and Uncle, Margaret and Tennyson Mann of Altavista, VA. Vikki was a member of Kenner First United Methodist Church. Vikki was a Cost Estimator for Bean Dredging Co., Cost Projection Office Engineer for T.L. James Dredging Co., and Quality Control Manager for Maharrey Houston Construction Company. She was a member of the Western Dredging Association (WEDA) and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). Vikki's motto was 'love life, live long, and laugh often.' She always said 'I just want to have fun.' Arrangements are being made through Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home at 1717 Veterans Boulevard, Metairie, LA. Please call the funeral home or check their website www.lamanapanno-falloveteransblvd.com for exact details. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the American Cancer Society. Interment will be at Glenwood Cemetery in Mooresville, N.C., at a later date.

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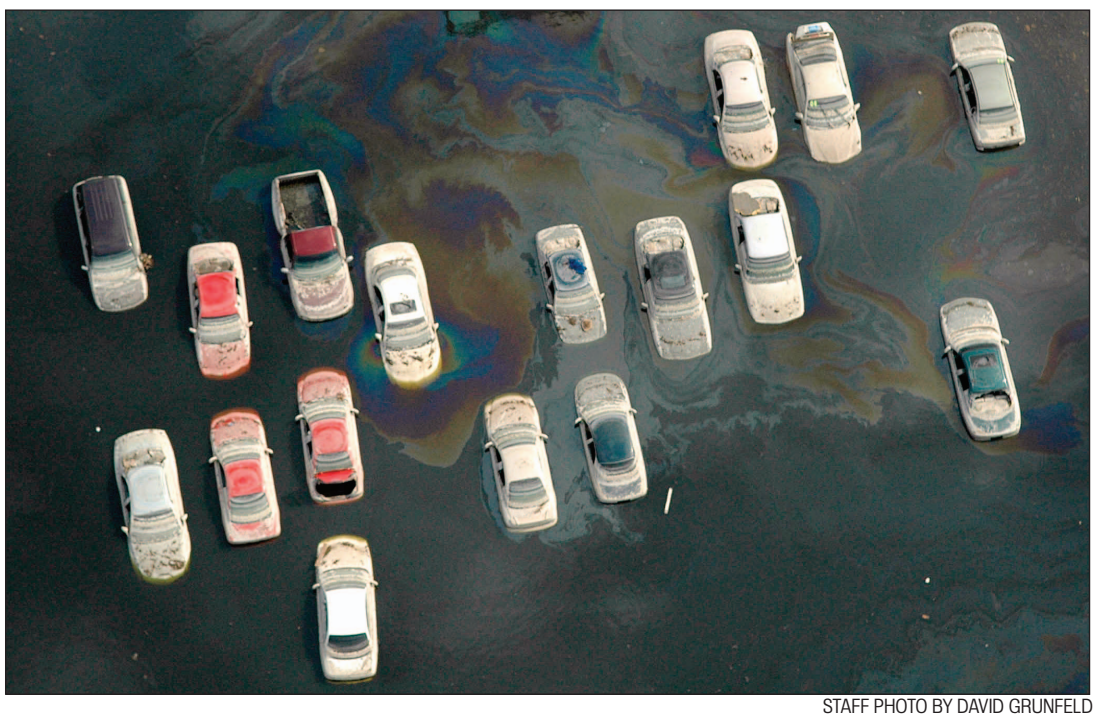
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# YOUR OPINIONS



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Cars stand half-submerged in the floodwaters of eastern New Orleans Sept. 10.

## Tie sales tax to address

Buy a car and you pay sales tax based on where you live. The Legislature needs to pass an Emergency Displaced Citizen Sales Tax. If one makes a purchase over a certain amount, regardless of where it's purchased, the sales tax (or a portion thereof) is due to the parish or city of the purchaser or final customer, as, for example, with building materials.

Citizens of New Orleans, such as myself, need things we simply can't buy in Orleans Parish. Other areas should not receive a windfall in increased sales tax revenue simply because they weren't hit as hard. And with the computer systems used by stores today this should not be a

problem. Many stores already ask for one's ZIP code for marketing purposes. I'm not advocating taking something from another parish; I'm asking that they not take from us from New Orleans. This is a regional problem and we need regional solutions.

**Clayton J. Joffrion**
*New Orleans*

## Same old brutal New Orleans

I had really looked forward to being here while we build the new New Orleans. I was ready to rip out the plaster of my fiancee's mother's flooded home and help put up new drywall. I was ready to help my friend Mike clean the muck off his floor and replace the TV the looters took from his living room. I was ready to help rebuild New Orleans until I saw that damn video. Now, I just want to move to Colorado or Virginia or somewhere where I don't have to worry about crooked cops.

The thugs don't scare me all that much. I grew up around them, and I once lived next door to a few of them. It's the crooked cops that scare me most. They scared me before Katrina, and they have me very scared after Katrina. Supposedly, Katrina cleaned out the thugs, but the crooked cops remain.

As long as the crooked cops remain, there won't be any new New Orleans, just the same old BS. And, since I have decided I don't want to live around that anymore, I guess I need to start looking for a job somewhere where the cops aren't crooked. And, here is the thing, I am a Caucasian, with a job in an office and a home in the suburbs, but still the crooked cops scare me the most.

**Ezra Boyd**
*Slidell*

## Sickened by video violence

What I've seen on TV about the New Orleans cops beating that 64-year-old man was one of the most sickening events I have ever seen. There is no way that can be justified. I hope the mayor and the chief of police realize that is the reason they don't get cooperation from the public, this is the reason some people are afraid of police.

Chief Warren Riley said that this kind of activity is done by a small percentage of his officers. We the people believe the opposite. We the people are tired of the police administrators making excuses. Their department is corrupt from top to bottom. That is the reason why I don't go into that city, I am afraid of crime from the punks in blue.

It's obvious that there is a very fine line between a cop and a crook, very fine. We the people demand these bullies in blue be fired and sent to jail like all criminals. This is not an attack on the few good cops, because I know they are also sickened by this. Unfortunately, they are a small percentage.

**Rudy Wehner**
*Chalmette*

## Let's rebuild as a region

New Orleans has a golden opportunity in its post-hurricane rebuilding effort; and so, too, do the cities of Pensacola, Fla.; Mobile and Biloxi, Ala.; Lake Charles; and Beaumont and Galveston, Texas. The 2005 hurricane season affected virtually every city, town and community from Apalachicola, Fla., to Houston. The president has offered the financial wherewithal to rebuild all of these communities. The trouble is that no elected official, especially those of Louisiana and New Orleans, can see the big picture. Together, the golden opportunity is to regionalize into one mega-metropolis.

Geographically, New Orleans is dead-center between Houston and Apalachicola. Picture if you will, a bicycle wheel with a hub and spokes. Now picture a mega-tropolis, New Orleans is the hub and Galveston, Beaumont, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Gulfport, Biloxi, Mobile and Pensacola (to name a few) are at the spokes. All roads lead to New Orleans, and to get the wheel moving add high-speed rail, high-speed travel and high-speed communications.

While FEMA is in each and every one of these communities rebuilding, why build individually? Why don't the communities group together and build as one? We could all profit. Together the northern Gulf Coast is rich in natural resources. Each city, town, village would remain intact like the neighborhoods of New York City. The benefits of rebuilding one community are greater then rebuilding individual towns.

**Thomas A. Dutel**
*Covington*

## New Orleans will rise again

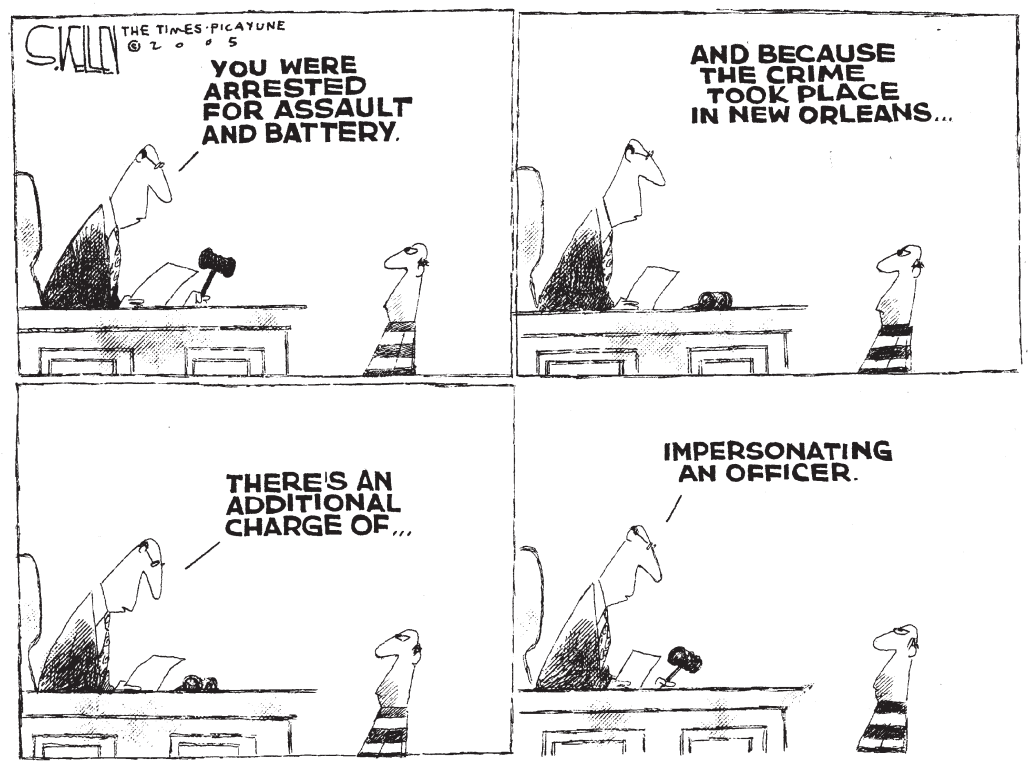
During the dark days following Katrina, I felt most encouraged and uplifted when I received The Times-Picayune. That skinny little paper was proof to me that New Orleans lived and, like the phoenix, would rise again.

The words of Sheila Stroup, Angus Lind and Chris Rose served as inspiration and also provided a much-needed source of smiles.

Thank you, Houma and Mobile, for printing our paper — and thank you, Times-Picayune, for refusing to die.

**Beverly Langford**
*New Orleans*

**Letter to the editor: tpopinion@yahoo.com**




# OUR OPINIONS

## Caught on tape

The videotape of 64-year-old Robert Davis being beaten by police outside a French Quarter bar would be sickening to watch no matter when it was shot, but police misbehavior is even more jarring now, when returning New Orleanians are counting on their police force to protect them and keep order.

Three New Orleans Police Department officers and two federal officers arrested Mr. Davis Saturday night for public intoxication, resisting arrest, battery on a police officer and public intimidation.

But no matter how drunk or disorderly Mr. Davis might have been, it's hard to fathom why police thought five officers were needed to subdue him. An inebriated bar patron isn't unusual in the French Quarter, and police ought to be able to handle such suspects without meting out the kind of violence that Mr. Davis suffered.

The video, shot by an Associated Press Television News cameraman, shows one officer striking Mr. Davis in the head at least four times; four other officers wrestled him to the ground, where another officer kneed him and hit him twice. Another officer ordered Associated Press producer Rich Matthews and the camera operator to stop recording, then grabbed Mr. Matthews, leaned him over a car and jabbed him in the stomach.

Thank goodness the camera kept rolling, despite threats and manhandling. The fact that the beating was recorded on tape removed any doubt about what happened and ensured that the NOPD would respond.

Acting Police Superintendent Warren Riley decided that the three NOPD officers — Robert Evangelist, Lance Schilling and Stewart Smith, all from the 8th district — should be suspended without pay, according to Capt. Marlon DeFillo. They were also charged with simple battery on Mr. Davis, in addition to a charge of battery on Mr. Matthews.

It's good that Superintendent Riley acted decisively and sternly with these officers. The Police Department has been plagued by rogue cops for some time. Officers have been arrested for rape, kidnapping, shoplifting and conspiracy to commit armed robbery over the last two years. During the immediate aftermath of Katrina, some officers engaged in looting and others deserted their posts. Cops that act more like criminals than law enforcement officials obviously need to go, but officers who can't control themselves or fulfill their duties are a detriment, too, and one that a recovering city can't afford.

This incident is reminiscent of tourist Levon Jones' death at the hands of bouncers who put a chokehold on him outside Razzo Bar & Patio last New Year's Eve. His death prompted the New Orleans City Council to pass an ordinance banning chokeholds and forbidding bouncers to maintain custody of suspects once police arrive. The reasoning was that police would use better judgment about use of force, and that certainly ought to be the case.

Capt. DeFillo pointed out that police officers are working under trying conditions right now, although he hastened to add that difficult times don't excuse bad behavior. They certainly don't. In fact, with the stress that civilians and police alike have suffered and will continue to endure in the weeks and months ahead, it's even more important for law enforcement officials to keep cool heads.

## Holding pattern

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is caught in the same vicious circle that's affecting the entire metropolitan area: a lack of tourists and conventioneers means too few flights and a drastic reduction in revenue, but too few flights will also hamper the return of tourists and conventioneers and the revenue they bring.

The airport is operating at 10 percent of normal revenue, and unless there's an infusion of money, it's facing insolvency. Mario Rodriguez, the airport's deputy director for planning and development, told members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that the airport needs $90 million in revenue over the next 28 months to stay in business and another $50 million for hurricane-related repairs.

The airport is standing in a long line of public facilities in the metro area that are seeking help from the federal government, and maybe that's why the congressional committee members who met there were mum when Mr. Rodriguez started talking about money. But even though the line is long, the airport must not be shoved to the back of it. The truth is, this area can't recover without it.

Tourism is critical to the New Orleans economy, and coaxing people back after Katrina will be a challenge. Even though our major tourist attractions are intact, people won't come if they can't eat at world-class restaurants, enjoy a vibrant cultural scene and be assured that there are enough people working in tourism-related jobs to make their stay comfortable. If all those pieces fall into place, visitors still won't return if it's hard to get in and out of New Orleans by air. They'll find other, easier destinations.

The damage won't be limited to tourism, either. Local businesses that want to stay put and rebuild will be hurt if they can't get people to meetings with out-of-town clients and customers. Driving to Baton Rouge or even Jackson, Miss., to catch a flight isn't a viable long-term option, and the hassles of getting in and out might make some people decide they can't stay here.

Money to fix the damage and keep the airport in business won't mean that droves of passengers will suddenly materialize. Mr. Rodriguez predicted that the traffic will be 30 percent to 40 percent of pre-Katrina levels next year and 70 percent in 2007. But without help, it's hard to see how the airport will make that progress. We can't have a city that's grounded, with only members of Congress able to fly in and out with ease.

# OTHER OPINIONS



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

A streetcar rolls down Canal Street on June 16. Mayor Ray Nagin has proposed allowing hotels on Canal to operate casinos.

## Quick-fix casino plan avoids city's real woes

I would say there he goes again, but that doesn't begin to cover it.

So now Mayor Ray Nagin, self-styled idea man, wants to turn the Central Business District into a strip, with giant casino hotels up and down Canal and Poydras streets.

It's a plan born not of hope but of desperation, the mayor fully admits — and it comes across that way, as the brainchild of a man who looked across his shattered city's landscape and didn't see much of anything to build on. Even the city's signature industry, tourism, is in huge trouble, with the Superdome and Convention Center now suddenly international symbols of desperation and dysfunction, not hospitality and fun.



STEPHANIE GRACE

Without drastic action, Nagin warned as he announced his idea, "we're going to limp along for the next three to five years."

What he didn't mention is that the city was hobbled well before Katrina struck. The economy was so out of whack that it was utterly dependent on the low-paying tourism jobs, and now it looks like many of those are gone too.

So now, along with a more sensible but utterly overshadowed scheme to draw new customers to the port, the mayor has decided to try to undo decades of poor planning, shortsighted decisions and downright crookery — on the fly.

The model appears to be Mississippi's profitable but now devastated Gulf Coast gambling strip, which thrived under the type of free-market competition that Nagin now proposes, and which will soon be rebuilt with insurance money. The motive is clearly to get up and running before that state's casinos move inland, as they've already received permission to do.

But although new casinos in existing hotels can surely be constructed quickly, swift political action is another matter entirely.

There's a long list of practical reasons why Nagin's idea won't be an easy sell, starting with Harrah's contract to operate the only land-based casino in New Orleans. It guarantees at least $60 million a year to the state — and allows the company to skip taxes altogether if they lose exclusivity. Then there's the state requirement that any expansion of gambling be subject to voter referendum.

Beyond that is the real question of political will.

While Mississippi came to terms long ago with letting casinos drive so much of its economy, Louisiana never did. Gov. Kathleen Blanco is just one official on record, pre-Katrina, as categorically opposed to expansion of gambling. Although she has promised to consider Nagin's idea, she knows perfectly well that social conservatives such as Sen. David Vitter (who has not commented on the proposal) are always ready to pounce on any hint of wavering.

About the only public official who seems taken with the idea is state Senate Finance Committee chairman Francis Heitmeier, who floated the concept to the Louisiana Political Fax Weekly even before Nagin dropped his bombshell.

But the reaction from other members of the city's delegation was hardly enthusiastic. State Sen. Ed Murray, normally one of Nagin's floor leaders, said he definitely doesn't think now is the time to discuss an expansion of gambling, when leaders are trying desperately to find consensus on more basic and immediate needs.

"Gambling is a very, very divisive issue," Murray pointed out, as if anyone needed to.

For all the many problems with Nagin's approach, though, there's the seed of something good. The mayor's condition for granting hotels casinos would be that they pay their workers a living wage, or at least a salary that exceeds the minimum wage.

That would be a change for the better for a tourism industry that has long left way too many of its workers in poverty.

The fact is that New Orleans has been dangling incentives such as tax breaks and the right to open high-margin gambling halls before the industry for years now. And nary a public official has had the guts to question the arrangement, for risk of scaring businesses away.

It's almost as if the city's cheap labor pool was the only economic development advantage it had to offer.

That's the bottom line of a desperation that dates back to well before anyone learned to hate the name Katrina, and no instant Vegas, feasible or not, is going to cure it.

What the city needs now is what it's always needed: a hard-nosed, coordinated attempt to offer better schools, to create an educated workforce that can attract better opportunities. And it needs its leaders to stop looking for a quick fix, and finally get down to business.

Stephanie Grace is a staff writer. She can be reached at sgracenola@yahoo.com.

## Will the president deliver on promise to rebuild?

Ever since President Bush promised to rebuild the Gulf Coast in "one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen," many people have asked how he plans to pay for that effort. But looking at what has (and hasn't) happened since he gave that speech, I'm starting to wonder whether they're asking the right question. How sure are we that large-scale federal aid for post-Katrina reconstruction will really materialize?

Bear with me while I make the case for doubting whether Bush will make good on his promise.

First, Bush already has a record of trying to renege on pledges to a stricken city. After Sept. 11 he made big promises to New York. But as soon as his bullhorn moment was past, officials began trying to wriggle out of his pledge.

By early 2002, his budget director was accusing New York's elected representatives, who wanted to know what had happened to the promised aid, of engaging in a "money-grubbing game." It's not clear how much federal help the city has actually received.

With that precedent in mind, consider this: Congress has just gone on recess. By the time it returns, seven weeks will have passed since the levees broke. And the administration has spent much of that time blocking efforts to aid Katrina's victims.

I'm not sure why the news media haven't made more of the White House role in stalling a bipartisan bill that would have extended Medicaid coverage to all low-income hurricane victims — some of whom, according to surveys, can't afford needed medicine.

The White House has also insisted that disaster loans to local governments, many of which no longer have a tax base, be made with the cruel and unusual provision that these loans cannot be forgiven.

Since the administration is already nickel-and-diming Katrina's victims, it's a good bet that it will do the same with reconstruction — that is, if reconstruction ever gets started.



PAUL KRUGMAN

Nobody thinks that reconstruction should already be under way. But what's striking to me is that there are no visible signs that the administration has even begun developing a plan. No reconstruction czar has been appointed; no commission has been named. There have been no public hearings. And as far as we can tell, nobody is in charge.

Last month The New York Times reported that Karl Rove had been placed in charge of post-Katrina reconstruction. But last week Scott McClellan, the White House press secretary, denied that Rove — who has become a lot less visible lately, as speculation swirls about possible indictments in the Valerie Plame case — was ever running reconstruction. So who is in charge? "The president," McClellan said.

Finally, if we assume that Bush remains hostile to domestic spending that might threaten his tax cuts — and there's no reason to assume otherwise — foot-dragging on post-Katrina reconstruction is a natural political strategy.

I've been reading "Off Center," an important new book by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, political scientists at Yale and Berkeley respectively. Their goal is to explain how Republicans, who face a generally moderate electorate and have won recent national elections by "the slimmest of margins," have nonetheless been able to advance a radical rightist agenda.

One of their "new rules for radicals" is: "Don't just do something, stand there." Frontal assaults on popular government programs tend to fail, as Bush learned in his hapless attempt to sell Social Security privatization. But as Hacker and Pierson point out, "Sometimes decisions not to act can be a powerful means of reshaping the role of government."

For example, the public strongly supports a higher minimum wage, but conservatives have nonetheless managed to cut that wage in real terms by not raising it in the face of inflation.

Right now, the public strongly supports a major reconstruction effort, so that's what Bush had to promise. But as the TV cameras focus on other places and other issues, will the administration pay a heavy political price for a reconstruction that starts slowly and gradually peters out? The New York experience suggests that it won't.

Of course, I may be overanalyzing. Maybe the administration isn't deliberately dragging its feet on reconstruction. Maybe its lack of movement, like its immobility in the days after Katrina struck, reflects nothing more than out-of-touch leadership and a lack of competence.

Paul Krugman writes for The New York Times.



JARVIS DEBERRY

## Picturing joy in life's sorrow

There's a photo of Kasonye Doyle and her mother, Linda, hanging in the front room of the house on 1541 Florence Ave. in Jackson, Miss. It is the late 1970s. The mother is pretty. Kasonye, a toddler, is pretty, too. The mother's smile is bright and shining. The baby seems completely tickled. You imagine the person behind the camera squeaking a rubber toy or shaking a rattle right and Kasonye obligingly grinning as the shutter is clicked.

After I spent Saturday and Sunday listening to Doyle's story, I wondered if the photo didn't show one of the last times her family experienced that kind of easy, uncomplicated happiness. Not long after the photo was taken, her mother would give birth to her sister Kasandra, whom they would later find out was deaf and mute. Nor did she start walking on schedule. That's when the family discovered that she had been born with cerebral palsy. In 1991, on Ash Wednesday morning, Linda Doyle's murdered body was found in the 1500 block of Lowerline Street.

Thanks to rising floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina, the picture hanging on the wall of the house in Jackson is the only photo the 31-year-old Kasonye Doyle has of her mother. Actually, it's the only photo she has of anybody.

The Tuesday after Hurricane Katrina — or was it that Wednesday? Doyle doesn't remember exactly — the Coast Guard rescued her, her children and her fiancé from a four-plex at the intersection of Milan and South Miro streets, a place she'd moved her family into just three weeks before the storm. They hadn't had the money to leave before the storm hit and chose not to go to the Superdome. They lived on the second floor, so they'd assumed they'd be OK. But as the storm raged that Monday morning the windows in her boys' bedroom and her bedroom blew out. After that, parts of the roof and ceiling fell in. Then Tuesday they looked out and saw that the water was not only high, but rising.

Leaving via helicopter meant leaving with nothing. The mother-daughter photo was brought out weeks later when Doyle insisted that a relative go back to get it. It was the single-most important thing she owned, and she had hung it prominently in the front room.

It's the only thing in the house that predates the storm. "Everything I have now came from somebody else," she said.

She doesn't know where her sister and her 1-year-old nephew are. Doyle suspects that the 26-year-old Kasandra Doyle was with a group of friends, all of them deaf and mute, in the 4600 block of Lafaye Street when Katrina hit. She can't be sure because the last time she had any contact with her sister was the weekend before the storm.

Though Kasandra's entire circle of friends was deaf and mute, she was the only one who had mobility issues, Doyle said. She's supposed to wear leg braces, but never does, and so drags both of her legs when she walks. She's also seven months pregnant. Kasandra graduated from the Louisiana School for the Deaf in Baton Rouge and uses American Sign Language to communicate. She uses a pen and paper to communicate with those who don't know sign language, Doyle said.

If I had had a life as hard as Doyle's, I don't know that I could have told my story as breezily as she told hers. Maybe she's still in shock over all the things that have happened since the end of August and hasn't allowed herself to think the worst when it comes to her sister's safety. Or maybe losing one's mother to murder makes all subsequent trials seem easy by comparison. For whatever reason, she seemed oddly joyful the two times I sat down with her.

Even as Doyle was describing her harrowing rescue, she had the smile of a person who still can't quite believe she made it through it all.

She's afraid of heights. And so she originally declined to be lifted up by the helicopter. "I was like, 'Leave me.' " But then she said a prayer: "Lord, guide me up this ladder." She closed her eyes, and soon somebody from the Coast Guard was hugging her.

At the moment she's making her home in Jackson. She hasn't found a job yet. She doesn't have transportation. But she has that photo. Wherever it hangs is where she wants to be.

Jarvis DeBerry is a staff writer. He can be reached at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

The Times-Picayune

MONEY

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# Ralph Brennan out of Convention Center post

*Entrepreneur Reuther will be named to seat*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Ralph Brennan, one of the most famous names in the New Orleans restaurant business, said Monday that Gov. Kathleen Blanco has asked him to step down as president of the board that oversees the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, a position he has held since 1996.

Brennan said an aide to Blanco, who has the authority to make appointments to the board, recently informed him of the governor's decision.

Brennan said he was told that New Orleans hospitality entrepreneur Warren Reuther would be given the seat.

Contacted Monday, Reuther said he knew his name was one of several submitted as candidates for the position, but that he had not spoken with the governor about it and did not know if a decision had been made.

A spokeswoman for the convention center said that officials there were unaware of the change. A spokeswoman for the governor's office said no official document had been filed to note the change.

Brennan said he was told nothing negative about his performance. He said replacing board members is a routine matter, particularly under a change of administration. He said he would like to remain on the board, but did not know whether that was the governor's desire.

The Convention Center experienced tremendous growth under Brennan, including the expansion of Phase III, which made the facility 1 kilometer long.

"It's been a good run," Brennan said of his time leading the board.

Plans for a Phase IV expansion were progressing until a contractor filed suit disputing the Convention Center's choice of builder for the work. The expansion was held up for more than a year until the dispute was resolved, and even then the Legislature had to take action to let the center's board adjust the contract price for construction costs because of inflation.

The expansion and its financing, which was based on hotel room taxes, in now in question after Hurricane Katrina.

Reuther is a co-owner of the Ambassador Hotel on Tchoupitoulas Street, a 165-room hotel that sustained little damage from Hurricane Katrina and has been open since Sept. 19. He also is a part owner of Hospitality Enterprises, one of the largest tourism-related service businesses in the city, although he has been in a legal dispute over control of the company with family members.

Brennan has been working to get his restaurants back on line after Katrina. His Red Fish Grill and Bacco's restaurants, both in the French Quarter, have been open about two weeks. Mr. B's, also in the French Quarter, was flooded in its basement and probably will not reopen for six months, Brennan said.

Ralph's on the Park and Café Adelaide in the Loew's Hotel are in good shape and should open soon, he said. Commander's Palace, the famous Creole Garden District restaurant primarily run by other family members, probably will open the first of next year, he said.

The Ernest N. Morial Exhibition Hall Authority has positions for 12 appointed board members, nine appointed by the governor and three by the New Orleans mayor. Don Hubbard, owner of Hubbard Mansion bed and breakfast on St. Charles Avenue, was appointed to the board Aug. 10, the first appointment Blanco has made to the Exhibition Hall Authority since she took office.

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STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Rotten meat and other items are taken away from New Orleans Cold Storage warehouse. Some 52 million pounds of chicken rotted when the freezers failed after Hurricane Katrina cut power.

# Don't you dare complain about cleaning one fridge

*Chicken parts molder in N.O. warehouse*

**By Jaquetta White**
Business writer

If you thought that putrid pot roast moldering in the back of your freezer was bad, Mark Blanchard has 52 million reasons why you're not as bad off as you might think.

Make that 52 million pounds. Of rotting chicken.

That's what Blanchard has in three warehouses in New Orleans. As executive vice president of New Orleans Cold Storage, it's his job to oversee the cleanup and dumping of all those chicken parts – leg quarters to be precise — that, had they not been stuck in a warehouse when the power went out six weeks ago, would have been on their way to Africa, or Russia or South America.

Hundreds of thousands of area homeowners, who lost power and whose refrigerators sat rotting for weeks, have a little idea what Blanchard's task is like. His job stinks, in more ways than one.

More than a month after Hurricane Katrina turned what used to be row after row of 35-foot-high frozen towers of palletized leg quarters into an immense mound of unimaginable foulness, the mess still has not been cleaned up.

Blanchard blames the slow process on bureaucratic red tape.

New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. Ltd. is a 122-year-old company that freezes and ships chicken parts to countries around the world. The company is based in New Orleans and has warehouses on Alvar Street, Airline Highway and Jourdan Road. The latter, its newest facility, held about 32 million pounds of chicken when power to the warehouse, which acts as a massive freezer set to 10 degrees below zero, went out. The other two held about 10 million pounds each.

In the days after the Aug. 29 storm, when the chicken began to thaw and then spoil, the USDA and FDA condemned it. Because the cold storage company was not equipped to dispose of the hazardous waste, the Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency contracted an Illinois company, Onyx Environmental Services, to do so, Blanchard said.

The process has been slow. Only about 40 percent of the chicken at the Jourdan Road warehouse has been trucked away to a landfill. The leg quarters in the Alvar and Airline warehouses are still there.

"A month post-hurricane and it's still not out," Blanchard said. "It is an extreme health hazard."

Blanchard said several Louisiana companies have offered to move the rotten meat, but the Army Corps has not accepted any of those offers and Onyx continues to chip away at the job.

"These are experts. They are supposed to be professionals," he said. "But the pace is very slow."

Neither the Army Corps nor Onyx returned calls seeking comments.

Blanchard said the slow removal is hindering his efforts to restart business. The company had planned to reopen in November, using the Alvar Street warehouse as its main warehouse until repairs could be made to the Jourdan Road facility, which sustained the most damage.

Cold Storage has laid off 80 employees, but Blanchard said he plans to hire them back when the warehouses get cleaned up and the company can get back to work.

"We're very anxious to get our people back to work," he said. "But all of this is out of our control."

Meanwhile, the facilities continue to torment anyone in a one-mile radius. To say that it stinks is an understatement, Blanchard said. Flies are pretty much the only thing the smell does not keep out.

"When I was there about 10 days ago with some people from the port, two of them immediately threw up when we opened the door," Blanchard said. "You cannot imagine the smell."

# Deck seems stacked against casino idea

*Harrah's monopoly, riverboat opposition create 'uphill battle'*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

For Mayor Ray Nagin's vision of putting casinos at large downtown hotels to become a reality, the state would need to overcome significant political opposition, overhaul its land-based casino rules and negotiate with Harrah's Entertainment Inc., the operator of the existing land-based casino, local gaming industry observers said.

None of those are easy, industry representatives agree. For starters, Gov. Kathleen Blanco is against gambling. Riverboats and racetracks are likely to oppose the measure. The tourism industry that is the intended beneficiary of the proposal is ambivalent. And statewide casino regulations would need to be overhauled – at the peril of losing Harrah's tax money.

"I think it's an uphill battle all the way," said Wade Duty, executive director of the Casino Association of Louisiana, a riverboat lobbying group.

In a surprise announcement Friday, Nagin proposed allowing hotels on Canal and Poydras streets with more than 500 rooms to operate slot machines, table games and video poker machines to stimulate the city's economy.

Seven downtown hotels appear to be eligible: The Hyatt Regency New Orleans, the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the New Orleans Marriott, the Astor Crowne Plaza, the Ritz-Carlton New Orleans and the Park Plaza New Orleans, formerly known as the Radisson. The Fairmont New Orleans and the Hotel Monteleone have enough rooms, but they are not on the proposed streets; others, such as the 494-room J.W. Marriott Hotel New Orleans, have the right location but are just shy of the room requirement.

Nagin's idea would gut Louisiana's existing system for casino regulation. The possibility of seven new casinos of unknown size would turn the system of limited casino licenses on its head and would require that the state re-structure the rules that govern its sole land-based casino, Harrah's New Orleans.

The Legislature would need to pass a law amending the statute that created one land-based casino at the site of the former Rivergate Convention Center in New Orleans and awarded it monopoly casino rights in Orleans Parish, said John Campbell Jr., a special assistant attorney general for land-based gaming issues. The casino operating contract between Harrah's and the state would need to be amended to reflect the changes, and that contract would need to be approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget, Campbell said.

It's also possible that any such change would require a referendum in Orleans Parish. Legislation that expands gambling, such as the law that allowed for slot machines at the Fair Grounds Race Course, often contains provisions requiring voter approval.

## Harrah's holds cards

But all of that would start with a high-stakes negotiation with Harrah's to give up its monopoly casino rights. If Harrah's and the state could not reach agreement, Harrah's could argue that the state violated its exclusivity rights, a penalty that could let the Canal Street casino get out of paying its minimum of $60 million a year in taxes to the state, Campbell said.

The casino contract was amended when the former Bally's riverboat went dockside and when the Fair Grounds was granted rights to get slot machines without triggering the no-tax provision for Harrah's. In both cases, there was an incentive for Harrah's to negotiate because it needed to mollify potential opposition to its 2001 state tax cut.

"Both parties would have to consent to and enter into an agreement to allow additional

*See* **CASINO,** *B-5*

# Hurricane damage hampers shipyards

*Northrop Grumman could lose $1 billion*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Hurricane damage to Northrop Grumman Corp.'s big military shipyards at Avondale and in Pascagoula, Miss., will cost the Los Angeles defense contractor as much as $1 billion and will reduce earnings this year by as much as 45 cents a share, the company said Monday.

With 12,500 of the yards' combined 19,800 employees back on the job, Northrop said work delays on contracts for building destroyers, amphibious assault vessels, Coast Guard patrol boats and other ships will reduce 2005 earnings by 8 cents a share from pre-storm expectations. The company will absorb more earnings charges — from 30 cents to 35 cents a share — in the final two quarters of 2005 to compensate for higher contract costs mostly resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

Northrop, which operates other defense businesses in addition to the shipyards, now expects 2005 earnings from all of its operations to total $3.55 to $3.65 per share, compared with pre-storm predictions of $3.90 to $4 per share. Revenue for the year is expected to be $30.5 billion to $31 billion, down from pre-storm amounts of $31 billion to $31.5 billion.

The storm, which hit the central Gulf Coast six weeks ago and shut down both yards, sent a 6-foot storm surge over the Mississippi plant and scattered the company's workers across the country. The Avondale yard reopened two weeks later, but with only 12 percent of the plant's normal work force.

Some work at the harder-hit Mississippi yard, formerly known as Ingalls, has been moved to the Avondale plant, but it is unclear how long those production shifts will remain.

Managers at both factories have struggled to locate their workers, find temporary housing for those whose homes were destroyed or damaged, and provide transportation to and from work.

It could take the yards a year to return to full ship production levels, said Northrop Chief Financial Officer Wes Bush during a teleconference with stock analysts Monday morning. He said the work delays occurring in 2005 should be made up in 2006 and 2007.

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Keith Darcé may be reached at (504) 826-3491 or kdarce@timespicayune.com.

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LIVING
For the Living section, see PAGE C-5

MORE SPORTS, C-9

# SPORTS

SECTION C
Tuesday
October 11, 2005

# DEUCE DONE

## *'It's tough' as Saints lose ace running back for rest of season with torn ACL*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — If nothing else this season, the Saints should at least discover their threshold for adversity.

On the heels of the second-worst loss in franchise history, the team learned Monday morning that tailback Deuce McAllister will miss the remainder of the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

McAllister planned to seek a second opinion Monday, then send the results of his MRI exam to knee specialist Dr. James Andrews for a third opinion. But the outlook appears bleak.

McAllister declined to talk until Wednesday, but before heading into the team's training room Monday afternoon, he said, "It's not what I expected."

The injury occurred midway through the third quarter of the Saints' 52-3 loss at Green Bay on Sunday. McAllister said after the game that his foot got caught in the turf as he was tackled following a two-yard pass completion.

He thought he could have stayed in the game if needed and expected to be back in the lineup this Sunday against Atlanta.

**"I felt sorry for Deuce, more than anything. But I have confidence in this team. We've overcome a lot the last couple years and the last couple months. This is just another uphill battle."**
JIM HASLETT
Saints coach

Instead, the Saints (2-3) will fight through this already-challenging season without arguably their most valuable player.

"Wow. It's tough, man. It's tough," quarterback Aaron Brooks said not long after hearing the news in a morning team meeting. "We had big plans for him this year. We wanted him to carry the load. We wanted him to get as many touches that he could handle and help this football team out. For him to go down, that's the last thing we all expected.

"The way we were struggling, we were hoping we were going to get out of this funk with him. Now that he's not going to be able to be with us, we've got to find a way to deal without him."

McAllister, 26, became the highest-paid player in Saints history less than three months ago, signing an eight-year, $50.1 million contract on the eve of training camp.

Then two weeks into the season, he became the team's all-time leading rusher, passing George Rogers' career mark of 4,267 yards.

The one saving grace is that the Saints are fairly deep at tailback, with nine-year veteran Antowain Smith and six-year veteran Aaron Stecker ready to share the load.

Saints coach Jim Haslett said the team likely will sign another running back, but it won't likely be a big name. There aren't any free agents on the market better than Smith and Stecker.

The Saints could possibly elevate un-drafted

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-4*



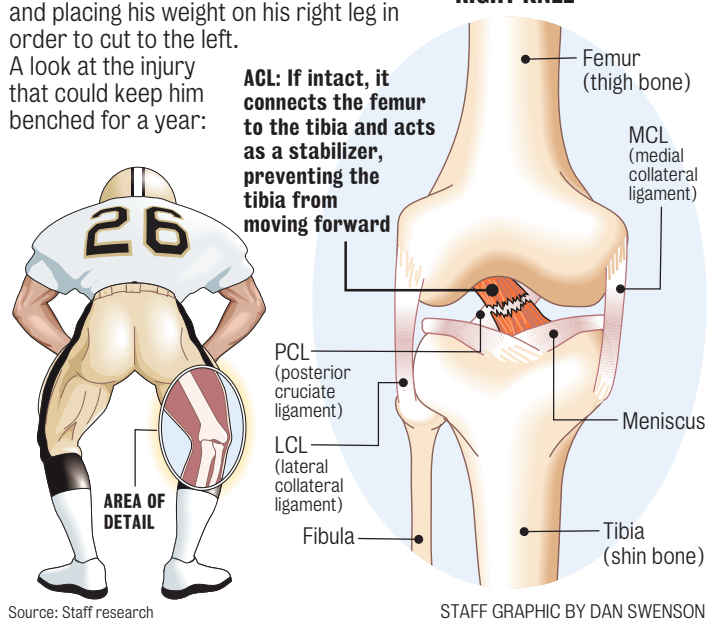
STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Saints running back Deuce McAllister tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during the third quarter of Sunday's 52-3 loss at Green Bay.

### DEUCE DOWN FOR SEASON

Saints running back Deuce McAllister tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) Sunday after catching a screen pass and placing his weight on his right leg in order to cut to the left.

A look at the injury that could keep him benched for a year:




Source: Staff research

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

## *Injury may make Saints crumble*

### *Running back's misfortune leaves N.O. little to go on*

The one player the Saints could least afford to lose, they lost.

Running back Deuce McAllister is gone and, perhaps with him, whatever realistic hopes many harbored for the Saints slinking into the playoffs.

Torn right ACL, done for the year and, if history is any barometer, not the same caliber of runner until 2007. Which means the bad — a 2-3 record after Sunday's historically pathetic 52-3 drubbing in Green Bay — just got a hell of a lot worse.



JOHN DESHAZIER

Granted, no man is an island in a team sport. An argument could be made for the value of others, though it'd be a pretty weak one to make in favor of any of the Saints after Sunday's flogging.

But McAllister isn't just the Saints' best-paid player. He's the team's best-playing player and its most valuable player. And all those

*See* **DESHAZIER,** *C-4*

# Tigers, Gators not biting, yet

## *Miles, Meyer heaping pre-game praise*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — On Sunday — traditionally reserved for rest and recuperation —Florida coach Urban Meyer fired the shot heard 'round the SEC, sparking a verbal confrontation aimed at fellow conference newbie Les Miles.

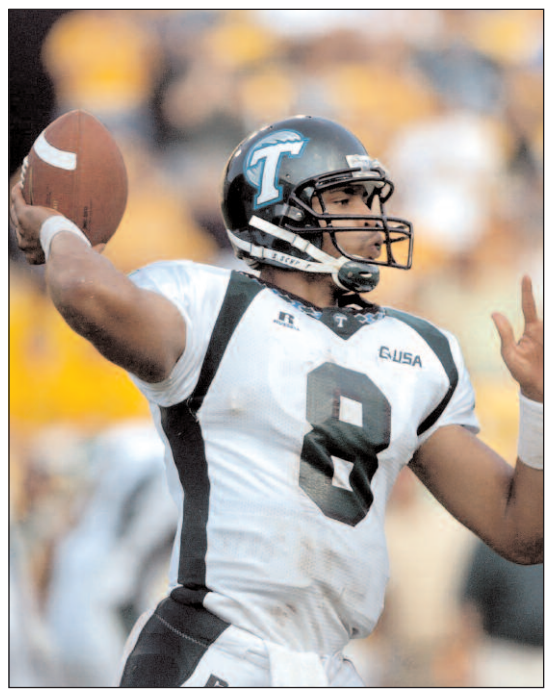
OK, that's a bit over the top. More like a verbal confrontation of calculated kindness.

Meyer did get in the first words, a heavy barrage of olive branches that would make any team blush, babbling on and on about LSU's talent like he was trying to land a job on Miles' staff instead of escaping Tiger Stadium still within a game of the SEC East lead. The harshest rhetoric used sounded borrowed from the Hallmark rack.

Mr. Miles, your rebuttal?

"Looking at Florida, they're a very talented team. Strong on offense, defense and special teams," Miles said at his weekly press conference. "They have a very capable front, as well as

*See* **LSU,** *C-3*



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

Tulane quarterback Lester Ricard's completion percentage has dipped to 51.5 this season compared to 61.9 last season.

# Ricard's performance leaving some bewildered

## *Wave QB has not matched last season's success*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — Tulane offensive coordinator Frank Scelfo believes quarterbacks get too much credit and too much blame.

But in Tulane's offense, one that even Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo admits is quarterback driven, that may not be the case. Just how well quarterback Lester Ricard plays has a significant bearing on how successful the offense performs.

After Tulane's first four games, both Scelfos are willing to concede the obvious: Ricard must improve.

In the Wave's past two games, Ricard has not played near expectations. He helped Tulane to a 28-21 victory over Southeastern Louisiana, but didn't much right in the team's 35-14 Conference USA loss Saturday, completing 12 of 32 passes.

"We've got to be more consistent on offense, and it starts with the quarterback," Chris Scelfo said. "I thought our offensive line played well, and I thought our receivers played well. We've got a quarterback system and our quarterback has to play better."

During the past two weeks, Ricard has thrown four touchdown passes and averaged 220.5 yards a game, but his completion percentage after four games this season (51.5) has dropped from last

*See* **TULANE,** *C-3*

# Claxton pointedly isn't giving up

*Guard is competing with top pick Paul*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets point guard Speedy Claxton is once again battling, trying his best to outperform top draft pick Chris Paul in a competition that Coach Byron Scott calls the most intense in training camp.

Paul was projected to be the starter almost immediately after the Hornets selected him as the No. 4 overall pick in the NBA draft in June. But Claxton, entering his fifth season in the league, came ready to compete for the starting job, especially after last year's starter, Dan Dickau, was traded to the Boston Celtics for a second-round draft pick before camp began.

Though Claxton hasn't campaigned for the job, he's trying to make a push for it in training camp. Paul still appears to have the edge, but not by much as the Hornets enter their second week of camp.

Both Claxton and Paul have displayed quickness. But Paul has been more skillful at making shots while the defense is converging on him. Both have been playmakers, often handling the ball under pressure before passing to teammates.

"Speedy goes after him, and Chris goes after Speedy," Scott said. "If they both get better from it, we obviously get better as a basketball team."

It's not the first time Claxton, who was slightly injured Monday but isn't expected to miss any practice time, has had to push himself because of stiff competition. He's had a problem moving to the top of the depth chart, though. When he played for the San Antonio Spurs in 2002-03, Claxton was in a battle with Tony Parker, who, at the time, was in his second year with the team.

Parker kept his starting job, averaged 15.2 points and was one of the stars in the Spurs' playoff run that ended with the team securing its second NBA championship since 1999 by defeating the New Jersey Nets, who were coached by Scott.

Claxton sparked the Spurs off the bench, averaging 6.2 points in the series. But he lost valuable time during the regular season when he missed 48 games with a severely dislocated right shoulder that eventually required surgery.

"Since Day One, even in high school, I've had to prove myself," Claxton said. "I think people in this league know I can play, it's just that I've got to get my full chance to show it."

Claxton, a former college star at Hofstra, was the 20th pick in the first round of the 2000 draft by the Philadelphia 76ers. He then missed the entire season with a knee injury.

He has been traded three times and has played for four teams in five seasons. He's all the Hornets have to show for their February deal that sent former point guard Baron Davis to the Golden State Warriors.

Claxton said he was stunned by the trade because he had posted career highs with a 13.1 scoring average and 6.1 assists per game, and had started 44 of 46 games for the Warriors.

"I was having the best season of my career, and to still get traded, basically I said, 'What else can I do?' " said Claxton, who becomes a free agent at the end of this season.

With New Orleans last season, Claxton played in 16 games, started three, and averaged 6.8 points and shot 37.3 percent, the lowest in his career. The only highlight games were when he scored 16 points against the Spurs in March and 18 against the Miami Heat near the end of the season.

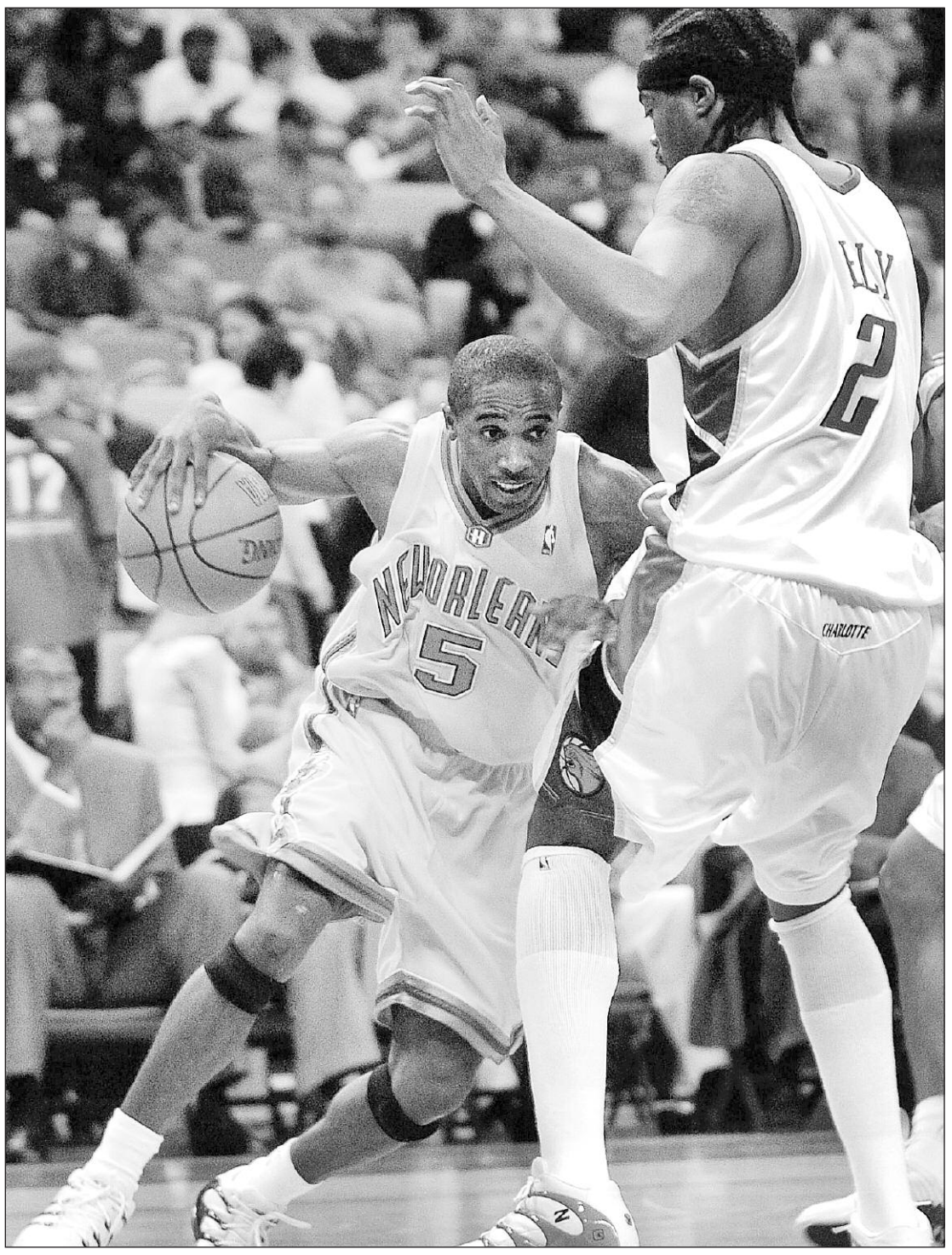
"It was more difficult than people know," Claxton said. "I just felt like my game had deteriorated when I got here. I know the people of New Orleans didn't get a chance to see my real game."

In the summer, Claxton worked constantly on improving his conditioning, taking yoga classes and lifting weights regularly.

Though 5 feet 11, 170 pounds, Claxton is showing that he can get through a pick and use his body to keep someone from going around him.

In Friday's practice when Paul caught an inbound pass near midcourt, Claxton immediately rose in front to keep him from going outside.

"He is a great player, and he brings a whole lot of competition," Paul said. "He has experience, speed, and he just knows the game. We're just trying to make each other better."



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Point guard Speedy Claxton played in 16 games for the Hornets last season, including three starts, and averaged 6.8 points while shooting 37.3 percent.

# Nets guard McInnis suffers back injury

*Warriors rookie has broken hand*

**From wire reports**

New Jersey Nets guard Jeff McInnis will miss an undetermined amount of time with a back injury.

McInnis was injured when he dived for a loose ball during practice Saturday evening. He continued to practice, but woke up in pain Sunday and was taken to Hackensack University Medical Center.

"I couldn't even walk yesterday," McInnis said after missing practice Monday. "There's some improvement, but I'm still in a lot of pain."

McInnis said he wouldn't be able to play in the Nets' preseason opener Tuesday night against Indiana.

McInnis averaged 12.8 points and 5.1 assists with Cleveland last season, and has career averages of 10.6 points and 4.6 assists in eight seasons with Denver, Washington, the Los Angeles Clippers, Portland and Cleveland.

**AUERBACH GOES HOME:** Boston Celtics patriarch Red Auerbach returned to his home Friday as his health continues to improve, The Boston Herald and ESPN.com reported Monday. "I still can't walk by myself yet," Auerbach told the paper. "I have to walk with a walker. But I'll get there."

Auerbach, 88, has been in and out of the hospital the past month for tests and a successful surgical procedure. Last month, he was in intensive care for an unspecified ailment.

"The coach is doing very well, and we're all extremely happy," Celtics public relations spokesman Jeff Twiss told the paper. "I've been keeping in touch with the coach and letting him know how things are going with the team."

Auerbach, who has spent the past 55 seasons with the Celtics, had health problems before his latest hospitalization. In June, he was not feeling well enough to attend the Celtics' annual draft party. The next month, he was unable to attend his week-long summer basketball camp, which has been in operation for more than four decades.

**DIOGU BREAKS HAND:** Golden State rookie forward Ike Diogu has a broken bone in his left hand and will miss the Warriors' first two exhibition games.

Diogu, the ninth pick from Arizona State, was injured during practice in Hawaii on Sunday. Golden State will face the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday and Wednesday in Honolulu before returning to California, when Diogu will be re-evaluated.

# Butler jumps ahead in battle at small forward

*Nachbar's experience in Scott's system is an advantage*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets coach Byron Scott put his team through a 45-minute scrimmage Monday, and forward Rasual Butler stood out.

"Rasual was just on fire and played extremely well," Scott said. "He was off the charts posting up and making jump shots."

Butler was obtained in an August trade from the Miami Heat and is battling Bostjan Nachbar for the starting small forward spot. It appears Butler has the edge after the first week of camp. But Scott said both players could likely play an equal amount once the regular season starts next month.

Butler continues to show he can make mid-range shots, and Nachbar has taken advantage of his knowledge of Scott's offense. Nachbar, obtained last December in a trade from the Houston Rockets for shooting guad David Wesley, played in 55 games for the Hornets and averaged 8.1 points last season.

"I'm not worried about that spot," Scott said. "Both of them are athletic and they can score in double figures, and that's going to help us."

In the scrimmage, the veterans were matched against the newcomers. The veterans prevailed 46-38. Center Jamaal Magloire, playing with the veterans, was effective in the post against backup center Maciej Lampe. Point guard Chris Paul ran the offense well and forward David West continues to show improvement as an offensive threat, hitting an open jumper from 18 feet near the end of the scrimmage.

"I thought he (West) played well on both ends of the court," Scott said. "He's having a real good training camp."

J.R. Smith, P.J. Brown, Magloire, Butler and Paul are working with the first team. Brown is getting some limited work at center, and backup Chris Andersen is working at center and power forward.

**STILL OUT:** Forward Kirk Snyder sat out Monday's scrimmage because of a hamstring injury. Scott said he doesn't want to rush him back. If Snyder is held out Tuesday and Wednesday, he likely would not play against the Denver Nuggets in Thursday's preseason opener at Denver, Scott said. Snyder has been sidelined since Saturday.

**PRESEASON SCHEDULE:** The Hornets will play eight preseason games, starting Thursday night in Denver. The remaining games are Saturday night at St. Petersburg, Fla., against the Orlando Magic; Oct. 18 against the Atlanta Hawks in Little Rock, Ark.; Oct. 20 against the San Antonio Spurs at Bossier City; Oct. 23 against the Denver Nuggets in Oklahoma City; Oct. 25 against the Miami Heat at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge; Oct. 27 against the Houston Rockets in Oklahoma City; and Oct. 28 against the Atlanta Hawks in Columbus, Ga.

# American cities must show united front to bid

*USOC chairman says city, state, federal officials must cooperate*

**From wire reports**

No American city will bid for the 2016 Olympics unless there is a clear partnership between city, state and federal officials, and the public sector, U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth said Monday.

Though Ueberroth initially said the USOC was looking "less favorably" on a U.S. bid, he said one still is possible.

"We want to bid, very definitely," he said at the 2006 U.S. Olympic team media summit. "(But) if you're going to win, we need to have every single person of our country lined up. If we go in ragtag, we're not going to win.

"We don't want to enter and not win," Ueberroth said. "We don't want cities spending an awful lot of money and not have a full chance to be victorious."

The USOC learned a lot from New York's failed bid for the 2012 Olympics, Ueberroth said. While the city's bid had the backing of mayor Michael Bloomberg and U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French president Jacques Chirac actually showed up in Singapore for the International Olympic Committee vote.

London was awarded the 2012 Games.

State leaders in New York also rejected a plan for a stadium in Manhattan about a month before the vote.

"The international game has changed for bidding cities," Ueberroth said. "The thing that is going to be most important is there's a federal state-private sector-city coordinated effort before anybody gets out of the blocks. That's what is needed.

"You can't just have a city step up and show their skills, and not get full support from the state, not get full support from the private sector, not get full support from the federal government," Ueberroth added. "It's really a joint bid."

Though Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco have already expressed an interest in bidding for the 2016 Games, Ueberroth urged them to slow down. USOC officials want to meet with city leaders, make sure they understand the process and gauge the seriousness of their interest before going forward.

The site of the 2016 Olympics won't be determined until the summer of 2009.

"Cities can do what they want," Ueberroth said. "We've asked them not to spend money. Don't get consultants. Don't get logos. Let's get serious about what you're going to embark on."

## Trouble in Turin

Turin Olympics officials expressed alarm Monday over a government proposal to cut $19.43 million from the budget for the Winter Games just four months before they open.

The reduction is part of $26.59 billion in spending cuts and revenue-raising measures designed to bring Italy's budget deficit within limits set by the European Union. The measures must be passed by the end of the year.

Italian Olympic Committee president Gianni Petrucci said he was "surprised and worried" over the possible cuts.

"I had the feeling that everyone, from the government to the opposition, was in agreement over the importance of the Olympics," Petrucci told Corriere della Sera. "A cut like this so soon before the games start does not permit adjustments to the schedule."

Turin organizers believed they had overcome persistent budget problems in June, when premier Silvio Berlusconi signed an agreement to cover $157.87 million for the games.

The deal allows funds to go to the organizing committee of the games through Sviluppo Italia, an agency linked to the Economy Ministry that promotes business development and investment.

TOROC deputy CEO Luciano Barra stressed that the proposed measures still must be approved by parliament.

Sviluppo Italia president Massimo Caputi told Corriere that the proposed reduction includes money allocated for a $7.29 million publicity campaign to boost sluggish domestic ticket sales. The campaign was slated to begin within a few days.

Fuel, electricity, bathrooms for athletes and other minor projects also risk being canceled, Caputi said.

The overall cost of the Feb. 10-26 Olympics is estimated at more than $3.64 billion.




AP PHOTO

If a U.S. city is going to try to be like Beijing and host the Olympics again in the future, the city and state has to do a better job of working together, says U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth.

SPORTS

# LSU, Florida raising the flag on penalties

*Game features two most penalized teams in the SEC*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — If Saturday's LSU-Florida game hadn't been moved to 2:30 p.m. for television, it might have spilled over into the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Aside from the TV timeouts and the barrage of passes expected between the Gators and Tigers, the game pits the two most penalized teams in the Southeastern Conference.

LSU is far and away the leader, averaging 88.5 yards per game, coming off a 14 for 133 yards effort against Vanderbilt. Florida leads the conference in total penalty yardage with 408 to LSU's 354, but the Gators have played six games to LSU's four. Three other teams in the SEC that have played six games have less penalty yardage than the Tigers.

Opponents have accepted 48 Florida penalties and LSU has 42 for a 10.5 average per game.

LSU coach Les Miles said, while the number is alarming, some penalties are taken with the flow of the game.

"We'll show them those penalties (on tape) and talk to them. Penalties that come with great effort on blocks down field, there's a lot of positive there. We can change their technique or where they put their hands, small things.

"Some penalties, you can accept. You don't want to coach the aggressiveness out of them."

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE:** LSU will play its first Saturday night game in Tiger Stadium this season when Auburn comes to town Oct. 22. Kickoff has been set for 6:45 p.m., and the game will be shown on either ESPN or ESPN2. That decision will be made Sunday.

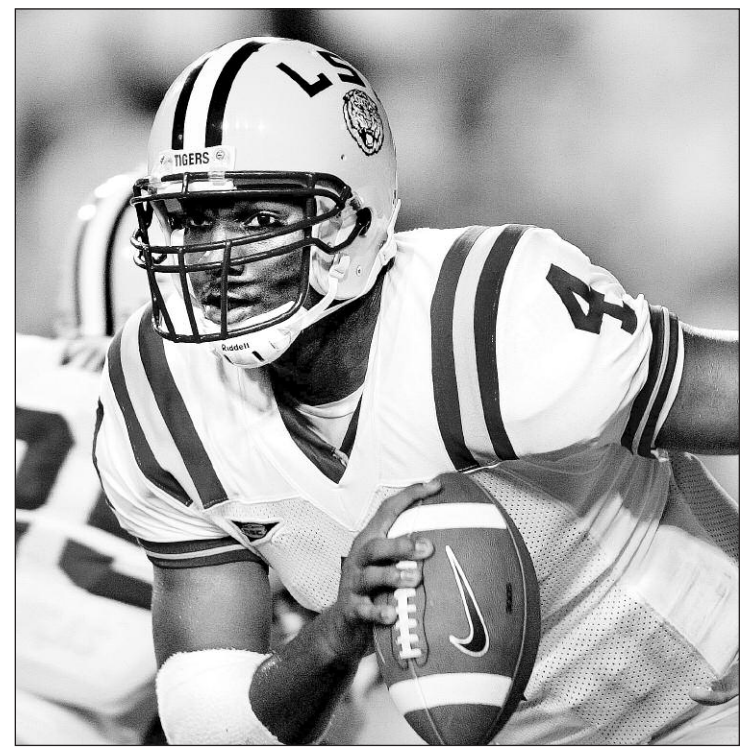
**PLAYER OF THE WEEK:** LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell was selected SEC Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against Vanderbilt. Russell completed 21 of 32 passes for 285 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. He also passed for a two-point conversion.

**INJURIES:** Miles said he expects guard Brett Helms to play this week. Helms has missed the past two games with a knee injury. Miles also said center Ryan Miller likely would miss this week and guard Pete Dyakowski was "a week away or longer." Wide receiver Craig Davis also is expected to return after suffering a concussion in the first half against Vanderbilt. Rudy Niswanger, who injured an ankle against Mississippi State, played nearly the whole game against Vanderbilt. Doug Planchard, who is currently listed as a tight end, is the third center.

Linebacker E.J. Kuale, who broke his ankle during fall camp, ran some last week, and Miles said he might dress out for the Florida game.

**SPLIT SQUAD:** Unlike Tennessee, which flew to Baton Rouge on game day because of a shortage of hotel rooms, Florida will fly in Friday. The Gators have 30 rooms in Baton Rouge and 30 in Lafayette. Players and coaches will stay in Baton Rouge and the rest of the traveling party in Lafayette. "We may have to triple up in some of the rooms to maximize space and avoid too many trips back and forth between the two," said Greg McGarrity, Florida senior associate athletic director for internal affairs. Florida also has cut the size of its traveling party from 145 to about 120, McGarrity said.

**MIA:** Through the first three games, senior Shyrone Carey was the second running back off the bench. But Carey did not play Saturday at Vanderbilt. Miles said Carey wasn't hurt, but was a victim of the game plan. "He could have played and will play in the future," Miles said.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell was selected as the SEC Offensive Player of the Week after throwing for 285 yards and two touchdowns against Vanderbilt last week.

# Price, Time Inc. settle lawsuit

*Temple coach calls it quits*

**From wire reports**

Texas-El Paso football coach Mike Price said he felt vindicated after a settlement was reached with Time Inc. over a Sports Illustrated article recounting a night of drinking at a topless bar in Florida.

"I'm one happy man right now," Price said Monday. "I can't tell you how much I appreciated my wife, Joyce, and my family's loyalty and love. Without their strength, encouragement and support, I don't know if I would have made it."

Price sued the magazine for $20 million, claiming he was defamed and slandered by a story detailing his actions the night he visited a topless bar in Pensacola, Fla., in April 2003 while head coach at Alabama.

He acknowledged being heavily intoxicated, but denied allegations of sex at his hotel that the magazine reported. Alabama fired Price a few days before the article was published.

When asked about that night at the strip club, he paused Monday and said, "I definitely would have made a different decision that one night, no question. That was a bad night."

Price said he couldn't discuss details of the settlement, reached late Friday. In a statement, the publisher did not disclose terms but said the suit was "amicably resolved."

"Mr. Price asserts that certain events were falsely reported in the story. Sports Illustrated continues to stand behind its story," the Time Inc. statement said. Time Inc. owns Sports Illustrated.

Rick McCabe, a spokesman for Time Inc., said the settlement also resolved Price's claims against reporter Don Yaeger, who wrote the article and still works for the magazine.

The lawsuit developed into a fight over the magazine's right to protect confidential sources used in the report. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in July that Alabama law did not protect Sports Illustrated from identifying a confidential source whose identity was sought by Price's attorney, Steven Heninger of Birmingham, Ala. The court said the law specifically protected newspapers and broadcast news reports, but not magazines.

McCabe declined comment on whether the magazine, or Yaeger, had turned over the names of sources used in the story.

In a phone interview Monday, Heninger said Lori "Destiny" Boudreaux, a dancer at the Pensacola bar where Price was drinking, gave a sworn affidavit saying she was Yaeger's confidential source. The affidavit was not part of the 11th circuit's record when it ruled, he said.

Heninger said her account to the magazine was based on hearsay and not direct knowledge of what happened in Price's hotel room.

"She was never in the room. No sex. She merely told Yeager there were two people there. That's all they had," he said.

Heninger also issued the following statement through Price: "We have won every legal battle at every corner. We think we have vindicated his name. Two and a half years ago we said we would, and we think we have."

**TEMPLE'S WALLACE OUT:** After eight losing seasons of not winning more than four games, Bobby Wallace said Monday he will leave at the end of the year when his contract expires.

"What we've been through, the transition we've been through, has taken a toll on me and my family," Wallace said. "It hasn't been easy."

The Owls have been outscored 297-63 and have lost five of their games by at least 25 points.

Since Wallace took over in 1998, Temple was booted from the Big East, switched home stadiums and is playing its first year as an independent before joining the Mid-American Conference in 2007.

The Owls are winless in six games this year. Their last winning season was 1990, and they haven't played a bowl game since 1979.

"Losing will wear on you, and we've lost a lot of games," Wallace said.

Wallace said he made the decision now to give Temple a jump on finding a new coach.

**MICHIGAN PLAYER LAMENTS 'LOAFING':** About 110,000 people at Michigan Stadium knew Minnesota wasn't going to throw when Gary Russell ran 61 yards to set up the Gophers' winning field goal. Why didn't the Wolverines stop him?

"After watching it, we had some guys kind of loafing," cornerback Leon Hall said Monday, two days after Minnesota's 23-20 win. "The guys that were loafing, they know. I'm sure they're down on themselves about it."

Some teammates and Coach Lloyd Carr disagreed with Hall's assessment of the pivotal play, explaining that a cornerback and a linebacker got blocked and a safety took a bad angle.

"If there would have been anybody loafing there, we wouldn't have run them down," Carr said.

The Wolverines kept Russell from scoring. But his run set up a kick that gave the Gophers their first 3-3 record since 1990.

**"Playing a game at home it's definitely is the right venue for us to finally get in our stadium and take it back."**
RUDY NISWANGER, LSU CENTER

# Both coaches hoping to satisfy fans

**LSU,** *from C-1*

secondary. On offense, they're very efficient. They do a good job of managing the clock. They run the ball, throw it and keep possession well. Chris Leak is a tremendous quarterback. Certainly, we look forward to playing them at home."

Everything out of their mouths this week should be tackboard retardant, neither coach willing to sacrifice any advantage in a made-for-network-TV interdivisional game the M&M boys desperately need for similar reasons. Lose here and Atlanta is no longer on either program's December itinerary, not to mention any tangled web of scenarios that might catapult the Tigers or Gators to the Rose Bowl a month later.

But beyond that, this is a foundation game for the winning outsider coach - a chance to gain favor with their merciless constituencies clinging to browning scraps of recent yesteryears achieved under beloved former coaches.

Blowouts of Vanderbilt and Mississippi State didn't completely erase skepticism of Miles' credentials to run a top-10 program that stemmed from a hard-to-forget, harder-to-forgive, crumbling against Tennessee. Florida is Miles' second chance at making a first impression in front of 92,000 spectators thirsting for a redeeming victory over a perennial power.

"Playing a game at home," center Rudy Niswanger said, "it's definitely is the right venue for us to finally get in our stadium and take it back."

Meyer hasn't received a free pass, either. Brought in to make the scoreboard read TILT, his heralded offensive system posted 19 total points vs. ranked SEC opponents and was completely exposed in a loss at Alabama. Without a Spurrier-style personality to excuse him from the predictable adjustment process, Florida fans are questioning the validity of Meyer's scheme succeeding outside the MAC and Mountain West.

Miles, of course, spoke of Meyer's attack with sliced-bread enthusiasm. He even required the football support staff to dig in the crates so that his coaches could examine the offensive footprints Meyer left behind during his still-young career.

"We looked at all of his Utah stuff and even looked at schools that ran like offenses or just had a similar style," Miles said. "I think we had a pretty good scouting report before we got to this point."

After a brief scroll through his personal Rolodex of college offense, LSU defensive tackle Kyle Williams said Meyer's often-imitated, seldom-duplicated system shares some traits with the looks Arkansas provided, using Matt Jones' athletic ability in a heavy pass-option mix.

"Coach Meyer has great offenses that put up a lot of points, so we have to be prepared," Williams said. "We know this offense can explode on you so we have to be ready to play every down for 60 minutes or it will come back and bite us."

# Ricard not hiding shock, disappointment

**TULANE,** *from C-1*

season (61.9). And that was after a 2004 start that is beginning to resemble the Wave's first four games this season.

Before suffering a broken bone in his right wrist and missing the final two games of the 2004 season, Ricard was on top of his game. He passed for more than 1,100 yards in his final 14 quarters.

Expectations of Ricard picking up where he left off haven't been met.

"We were hoping that would happen, too," Scelfo said. "But we have some new starters in the receiving group and you don't just pick it back up. (Last Saturday) was just one game. We've got seven left and we're going to take them one at a time.

"Lester's our guy. He's got to keep working and believing in himself. I think he's pressing a little bit. He just needs to get out there and play."

Ricard is having a hard time believing he's not playing better. Although he didn't play a full season in 2004, he worked hard with the new receivers during spring drills, and during the summer before fall practice began.

"It has been a surprise," Ricard said. "As good an offseason as I had — spring and in two-a-days — it's been shocking for me not to come out and be completing 75 percent of my passes. I'm a little disappointed right now."

Through four games, Ricard has thrown for 833 yards. In the Houston game, he completed two of nine third-down passes and was replaced after Tulane failed to get a first down on its first two possessions of the second half. Backup quarterback Scott Elliott, a redshirt freshman, replaced Ricard for the Wave's next two possessions.

"It's been a roller-coaster season, and we're only four games into it," Ricard said. "I think things are going to get better because I will not allow those things to happen again."

What was also bothering Ricard were the four passes deflected by Houston's defensive line. He also had a couple of passes deflected against Southeastern Louisiana.

"I don't know what was happening there," Ricard said. "I'd look one way then turn and throw the other way. I think our line was doing such a good job that they'd just stop rushing and put their hands up."

The poor play of Ricard stuck out, but it wasn't the only area that led to disappointment. Scelfo said the defense let the game get out of hand during the third quarter with some poor tackling.

"Defensively, we had 28 missed tackles," Scelfo said. "You can't win a game like that."

Eric Schumann, Tulane's defensive coordinator, said he thought it was the most missed tackles Tulane's defense has had in a game since he took over before the 2002 season.

"It was the tackling that was so disappointing," Schumann said. "We did some good things, but we just had too many missed tackles."

# Comets preparing to host Curtis in District 10-2A tilt

*Patriots originally scheduled to be the home team*

**By Lori Lyons**
River Parishes bureau

When St. Charles Catholic coach Frank Monica first started preparing for his team's District 10-2A showdown with John Curtis before the season, he thought it would be an away game.

Hurricane Katrina has changed that. St. Charles will host the Patriots on Friday night at 7 at Thomas J. Dupuy Memorial Stadium in LaPlace. The game originally was scheduled for Thursday at Muss Bertolino.

Monica said Patriots coach J.T. Curtis agreed to move the game because much of Jefferson Parish is still in a state of flux following the storm.

"He said the field (at Bertolino) was fine," Monica said. "Nothing wrong with it. But he wasn't sure about the scoreboard and the clock. Plus, (Bertolino) is being used as a staging area for much of the storm related relief in the area, so he agreed to come here."

No one anticipated that, when these two teams did meet, the Patriots — last year's Class 4A state champions — would have a 1-1 record.

The Patriots lost their season-opener to East St. John 16-6 on Sept. 30 and defeated Choctawhatchee, Fla. 27-21 last week.

St. Charles is undefeated and opened district play last week by defeating Donaldsonville, which entered the game 4-0, by a score of 37-6.

Monica said while he's happy to have the home-field advantage for Friday's game, he wouldn't mind traveling.

"Sometimes, we play better on the road than we do at home," Monica said. "Our fans like to travel."

The St. Charles-Curtis game highlights the heaviest week of action this prep season. A total of 23 metro area games are scheduled to play this week, the most since Katrina hit.

Rummel will debut Saturday against Grace King at Joe Yenni Stadium at 7 p.m.

In District 5-5A, Hahnville, which lost its league opener to East St. John last week, travels to Hoss Memtsas Stadium to play West Jefferson at 7 on Friday night. West Jefferson is 1-0 in 5-5A after defeating Assumption 39-36 last week.

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# Haslett felt 'helpless' as Packers routed Saints

## *Coach says errors were plentiful, but correctable*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints coach Jim Haslett said he wasn't surprised to learn that Sunday's 52-3 loss at Green Bay was the most lopsided of his coaching career.

"Oh, yeah. I felt helpless, probably like everybody else,"Haslett said Monday.

The tape review wasn't much prettier, but for better or worse he couldn't pinpoint one area of the team that was a major concern. Everyone played their part in this mess.

"If you look at each player individually, out of 55 plays, two were bad. But everyone had two bad plays,"Haslett said, pointing out some missed coverages by safeties, cornerbacks and linebackers, missed tackles across the board, penalties by the offensive line, dropped passes by the receivers and poor throws by the quarterback, among other mishaps.

"The offense self-destructed,"Haslett said. "On top of that, Brett Favre was on top of his game, and Green Bay played extremely well."

The Saints continued to struggle with mental errors and lack of focus — they committed 11 more penalties and five more turnovers for a team that ranks worst in the NFL with a minus-10 turnover differential this season.

But Haslett refused to use the team's harrowing experience of the past six weeks as an excuse. If anything, the coach said, the team had settled into a comfort zone in the past couple of weeks, and he saw no indication that such a performance was coming in practice.

When told that some national broadcasters shrugged off the loss by saying the Saints were bound to have days like this, Haslett said, "I hope not. That was enough for a lifetime."

"I don't think this has anything to do with the situation we're in,"he said. "We didn't play well."

Haslett insisted that the problems, though abundant, are correctable. He said he did not see the players give up in the second half. And the effort was there early on, even if the performance and accuracy weren't.

The coach didn't promise any major personnel or scheme changes. The major need is for a better mental focus from everyone across the board.

It is expected to help that the Saints are facing the division-rival Atlanta Falcons in San Antonio on Sunday, with a chance to even their record at 3-3, and raise their division record to 2-0.

"If you're a grown man and you like winning, it's all about your pride,"defensive end Charles Grant said. "When you're out on the field, you represent not only you, but the organization, your family, friends, the people who care about you. You have to pull yourself together."

**HODGE'S STATUS UNKNOWN:** No one confirmed or denied a report that linebacker Sedrick Hodge will be suspended for one year as a repeat offender of the NFL's substance abuse policy.

The league handles player suspensions, and the team cannot comment on a player's status. But for now, Hodge remains with the Saints, "until he doesn't show up,"Haslett said.

Hodge's agent, Brian Mackler, declined comment but did not refute the story, which was reported Sunday on CBS Sports. The NFL did not return messages seeking comment.

Hodge, 27, was suspended for the first four games of last season for violating the league's policy. He lost his starting job late last season to James Allen but has started every game this year while Allen has suffered from knee and hamstring injuries.

"Sedrick's playing real well, probably the best he's played since he's been here,"Haslett said. "If it did happen, yeah, it would be a blow. I read the media reports, but I'm not sure if that's accurate."

**INJURY UPDATE:** In addition to Deuce McAllister's season-ending knee injury, offensive linemen Jammal Brown and Kendyl Jacox also suffered ankle injuries during Sunday's loss at Green Bay. They are both questionable for this week's game against Atlanta.

Also listed as questionable: receiver Joe Horn (hamstring), linebacker James Allen (knee), linebacker T.J. Slaughter (groin), safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring) and tight end Shad Meier (knee).

**TICKET UPDATE:** The Saints have sold more than 30,000 tickets for their Oct. 30 date with the Miami Dolphins, with nearly 50,000 tickets remaining for the first of four games the team will play in Baton Rouge this season.

There are slightly more than 1,800 tickets remaining for this Sunday's game against Atlanta in the Alamodome. Tickets for both games are available through the team or through Ticketmaster.

# Smith, Stecker expected to carry load at RB

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

rookie Keith Joseph from their practice squad.

"(McAllister) is a great football player, and he's a heck of a human being," Haslett said. "I felt sorry for Deuce, more than anything. But I have confidence in this team. We've overcome a lot the last couple years and the last couple months. This is just another uphill battle.

"Our guys will be able to handle it, and we'll be fine."

McAllister's is the third season-ending injury for the Saints, who lost return specialist Michael Lewis in Week 2 and safety Jay Bellamy in Week 3.

Haslett recalled his first season with the Saints in 2000, when he lost three key players to season-ending injuries in the preseason, then lost tailback Ricky Williams to a broken ankle in Week 10 and quarterback Jeff Blake to a broken foot in Week 11.

The Saints went on to win their only playoff game in franchise history that year.

"At that time we played really well on defense, and the offensive line played really well. So that's what we're going to have to do," Haslett said. "I'm not saying it's going to be the same scenario, but I think any time you lose a great player like Deuce, everybody around him has to elevate their game."

The Saints signed Smith to a one-year contract in April. The 33-year-old back has more than 6,000 career rushing yards, including two seasons over 1,100 yards, with Buffalo in 1998 and New England in 2001. He won two Super Bowl rings with the Patriots before signing as a backup with the Tennessee Titans last season.

Stecker, 29, has started five games in his career, but three were with the Saints last season after McAllister injured his ankle, including a 106-yard effort at St. Louis.

Smith probably will start out as the primary back — especially since Stecker is coming off a recent ankle injury. But the two have very different styles and probably will be used in different packages.

"Our offense is mainly going downhill, going right at them, and Antowain is that type of running back," the 5-foot-10, 213-pound Stecker said, "whereas I'm a change-of-pace guy, I can go to the outside a little more."

The 6-2, 232-pound Smith put it a little more humbly, saying, "He's the quicker, more elusive back. Myself, I can't dodge too many people."

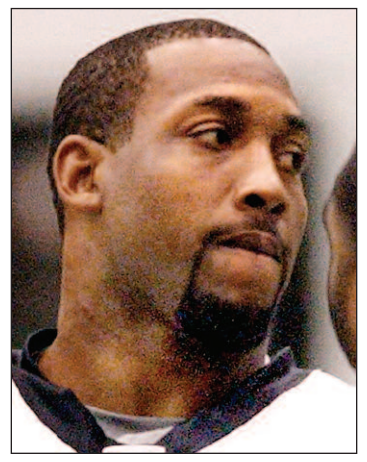
Coaches lauded Smith for an impressive training camp performance, and Smith was pleased with his output. But, he said, "The time is now."

"The main thing is we just have to come together as a team and pick up the slack in different areas and carry the load and continue on," Smith said. "And hopefully we can still go out there and continue to run the same plays as if Deuce was in the game."

Part of the reason McAllister earned such a large contract was because of his leadership — which players said was evident during a speech he gave in Monday's morning meeting.

Brooks said McAllister told his teammates he was looking forward to seeing them go back out and prove the things they can do on the football field.

"He stepped up there and he didn't talk anything about himself," Stecker said. "He just said we've got to play better. He didn't mention anything about being out and we have to pick it up for him. He just said that we're a better team than we showed on Sunday. And we've got to go out there and prove it every week."



## ANTOWAIN SMITH

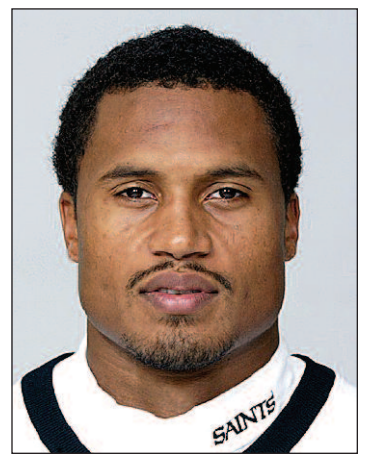
**Height, Weight:** 6-2, 232
**Age:** 33
**College:** Houston; drafted by Buffalo 23rd overall in 1997.
**Career:** Played four seasons for Buffalo, three for New England and one for Tennessee before joining the Saints as a free agent in the 2005 offseason.
**Stats:** Smith entered this season with 6,222 career rushing yards. He has rushed for more than 1,000 yards in a season twice (1998, 2001). His best season was in 2001, when he rushed for 1,157 yards on 287 carries, scored 12 touchdowns and caught 19 passes for 192 yards and a touchdown. He has 14 100-yard rushing games and has scored 51 rushing and three receiving touchdowns.

**RUSHING**

| Year | Team | G | GS | Att | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Buffalo | 16 | 0 | 194 | 840 | 4.3 | 8 |
| 1998 | Buffalo | 16 | 14 | 300 | 1,124 | 3.7 | 8 |
| 1999 | Buffalo | 14 | 11 | 165 | 614 | 3.7 | 6 |
| 2000 | Buffalo Bills | 11 | 3 | 101 | 354 | 3.5 | 4 |
| 2001 | N.E. Patriots | 16 | 15 | 287 | 1,157 | 4.0 | 12 |
| 2002 | N.E. Patriots | 16 | 15 | 252 | 982 | 3.9 | 6 |
| 2003 | N.E. Patriots | 13 | 6 | 182 | 642 | 3.5 | 3 |
| 2004 | Tennessee | 13 | 4 | 137 | 509 | 3.7 | 4 |
| 2005 | New Orleans | 5 | 0 | 26 | 73 | 2.8 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **120** | **681,644** | **6,295** | **3.8** | **51** | |

**RECEIVING**

| Year | Team | Rec | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Buffalo | 28 | 177 | 6.3 | 0 |
| 1998 | Buffalo | 5 | 11 | 2.2 | 0 |
| 1999 | Buffalo | 2 | 32 | 16.0 | 0 |
| 2000 | Buffalo | 3 | 20 | 6.7 | 0 |
| 2001 | N.E. Patriots | 19 | 192 | 10.1 | 1 |
| 2002 | N.E. Patriots | 31 | 243 | 7.8 | 2 |
| 2003 | N.E. Patriots | 14 | 92 | 6.6 | 0 |
| 2004 | Tennessee | 22 | 169 | 7.7 | 0 |
| 2005 | New Orleans | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **126** | **943** | **7.5** | **3** |



## AARON STECKER

**Height, Weight:** 5-10, 213
**Age:** 29
**College:** Western Illinois; signed by Tampa Bay as a free agent in 1999.
**Career:** Played four years for Tampa Bay, primarily on special teams, before joining the Saints as a free agent in 2004.
**Stats:** Stecker started three games at tailback for the Saints in 2004 and finished with a career-best 244 yards on 58 carries and 29 receptions for 174 yards. He was selected NFC Special Teams Player of the Week after returning a kick 98 yards for a touchdown against Tampa Bay in December.

**RUSHING**

| Year | Team | G | GS | Att | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | Tampa Bay | 10 | 0 | 12 | 31 | 2.6 | 0 |
| 2001 | Tampa Bay | 13 | 0 | 24 | 72 | 3.0 | 1 |
| 2002 | Tampa Bay | 16 | 1 | 28 | 174 | 6.2 | 0 |
| 2003 | Tampa Bay | 16 | 1 | 37 | 125 | 3.4 | 0 |
| 2004 | New Orleans | 16 | 3 | 58 | 244 | 4.2 | 2 |
| 2005 | New Orleans | 4 | 0 | 2 | -1 | 0.5 | 0 |
| **Totals** | | **75** | **5** | **161** | **645** | **4.0** | **3** |

**RECEIVING**

| Year | Team | Rec | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | Tampa Bay | 1 | 215 | 15.0 | 0 |
| 2001 | Tampa Bay | 10 | 101 | 10.1 | 1 |
| 2002 | Tampa Bay | 13 | 69 | 5.3 | 0 |
| 2003 | Tampa Bay | 9 | 48 | 5.3 | 1 |
| 2004 | New Orleans | 29 | 174 | 6.0 | 0 |
| 2005 | New Orleans | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Totals** | | **62** | **407** | **6.6** | **2** |

# McAllister's injury may be breaking point

**DeSHAZIER,** *from C-1*

who tell you different don't have a firm grasp of their football senses.

McAllister has been front and center in the minuscule offensive production that the team has mustered this season, pounded to a pulp because help from the passing game has been almost nonexistent, directed toward invisible openings again and again in the name of establishing a running game.

Without him, you wonder what the Saints' direction will be and how well the team will fare. Because the team wasn't experiencing much success even with Deuce.

Do the Saints really want to put the ball in the hands, and the burden on the shoulders, of quarterback Aaron Brooks, who has about as much talent as you could hope for in anyone playing the position but this season has played the worst football of his up-and-down Saints career?

Will they bother trying to do the same things running the ball with Aaron Stecker and Antowain Smith as they did with Deuce, despite the obvious drop-off in ability?

Can the team rely on the defense to keep it close, though early indications are that the defensive stand at the end of last season was an exception, not the rule?

When the answer to every question seems to be no, that's an indication of the expectation for the rest of the season.

The season, unforgiving, will march on. Pitiless opponents, who began marking their calendars with W's where the Saints' name falls after watching New Orleans shrivel up against the Packers, are even more emboldened today. Because to think the Saints will rally around the injury and pick up the pace is a tad optimistic; apparently, they leave much to be desired in the rally-and-pick-up department.

So, of the good to be gleaned from this, the largest slice is this: At least Deuce got paid before he blew out his knee. At least he was able to cash in on his status as an elite player and classy face of the franchise before the setback occurred.

Because pro football, as we know, is a ruthless business. Despite McAllister's contributions to the franchise on and off the field — this season, he became the all-time leading rusher in franchise history and is second in career rushing touchdowns, with 38 — he'd have had to settle for peanuts this offseason if he hadn't been able to swing a new deal with the Saints last offseason.

Problem is, at the end of the day, we still must revert to thinking about the season at hand, one that looked messy after Sunday and appears to be a complete wreck now. The team appeared listless and lifeless against a winless team with the best player on the roster in uniform. So it certainly is capable of deflating, drifting away and landing with a thud against some of the better remaining teams, including against Atlanta on Sunday.

The one player the Saints could least afford to lose, they lost.

Everything else might not be far behind.

# Martz takes indefinite leave

## *Rams coach back in hospital to clear infection near heart*

**From wire reports**

Mike Martz is out indefinitely as coach of the St. Louis Rams while he recovers from a bacterial infection near his heart.

Martz, who has been ill for more than a month and missed two practices last week while undergoing tests, was on the sideline for the Rams' 37-31 loss to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

The 54-year-old coach announced last week that he was being examined for endocarditis, a bacterial infection of the lining of the heart or a heart valve. Martz said at the time that his condition had worsened, and he began taking antibiotics Friday.

Assistant head coach Joe Vitt will lead the team in Martz's absence. Players learned of Martz's status Monday afternoon, but none would comment.

Rams president John Shaw said in a statement Monday that Martz would be admitted to a hospital to continue his treatment.

Martz spoke with a raspy voice but sounded optimistic about his health after Sunday's game. Still, he said he should have allowed offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild to run the team.

"I wasn't myself this week, the game plan wasn't clear for me," Martz said. "It's over with now, but I just feel what happened to me has affected this team, and that breaks my heart."

Endocarditis affects 10,000 to 20,000 Americans each year and in some cases can require open-heart surgery, according to Dr. Arthur Labovitz, director of cardiology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

Martz was first hospitalized Sept. 30 with what was thought to be a sinus infection. He coached two days later during a 44-24 loss to the New York Giants.

Now in his sixth season, Martz is 56-36 including the postseason. The Rams have missed the playoffs once in his tenure (2002) and reached the Super Bowl after the 2001 season, losing 20-17 to New England.

Heart problems have affected relatively young coaches before in the high-stress atmosphere of the NFL. Dan Reeves had a heart procedure while coaching Denver in his mid-40s. During the 1998 season, he underwent quadruple bypass surgery at age 54 but returned to the sidelines less than four weeks later to coach the Atlanta Falcons to the Super Bowl.

Dallas' Bill Parcells has had several heart procedures and cited health problems when he quit the New York Giants after winning his second Super Bowl with them at age 49 in 1991. He has since coached New England and the New York Jets as well as the Cowboys.

In 1988, Chicago coach Mike Ditka suffered a heart attack at the age of 49 and missed one game.

**BILLS:** Kelly Holcomb, who quarterbacked Buffalo to a victory over Miami, could return to the bench next week in favor of former Tulane standout J.P. Losman, said Bills coach Mike Mularkey.

"I'm going to leave it as it is," Mularkey said, adding he believes the lack of an announcement will keep the New York Jets, his next opponent, guessing. "We think it is an advantage as a team, when you have two different types of quarterbacks, to play it out as long as we can," Mularkey said. "I think it's an advantage regardless of what other people think."

Holcomb, an 11-year veteran, went 20-of-26 for 169 yards passing in his first start of the season. He efficiently led a short-passing attack to help Buffalo (2-3) snap a three-game skid and spark an offense that scored 29 points in its previous 14 quarters.

**FALCONS:** Coach Jim Mora said it's too early to predict quarterback Michael Vick's status for Sunday's game against the Saints in San Antonio. Vick missed last Sunday's game against the Patriots with a sprained knee.

I've got to believe Mike will make progress," Mora said Monday. "We'll see. We should have a good feel Wednesday."

Backup Matt Schaub passed for 298 yards and three touchdowns - season highs for the team - without an interception in a 31-28 loss to New England.

**LIONS:** Defensive back R.W. McQuarters could be switched to offense to help the Lions' injury and suspension-depleted receivers corps.

With Charles Rogers suspended and four wide receivers sustaining injuries in Sunday's 35-17 victory over the Ravens, Detroit's nickel back volunteered to fill in.

"He said during the game that he'd go in, and he just grabbed me in the hall and said he was still ready," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said Monday.

McQuarters played both positions at Oklahoma State, but hasn't played offense in the NFL.

**JETS:** Running back Derrick Blaylock is expected to miss six to eight weeks with a broken foot instead of the entire season.

**BENGALS:** Cincinnati activated defensive end Duane Clemons, a week after he returned from a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Clemons will be available for Sunday's game at Tennessee. To open a spot for Clemons on the 53-man roster, the Bengals waived second-year center Larry Turner.

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

| North | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 118 | 136 |
| Miami | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 82 | 71 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 68 | 83 |
| N.Y. Jets | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 61 | 85 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Indianapolis | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 106 | 29 |
| Jacksonville | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 85 | 84 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 103 | 126 |
| Houston | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 | 44 | 99 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 124 | 61 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 81 | 37 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 65 | 74 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 47 | 87 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Denver | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 101 | 87 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 91 |
| San Diego | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 127 | 88 |
| Oakland | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 89 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 136 | 98 |
| Washington | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 62 | 58 |
| Dallas | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 121 | 98 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 122 | 101 |
| **South** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 89 | 59 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 114 | 88 |
| Carolina | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 127 | 116 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 71 | 139 |
| **North** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Detroit | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 71 | 75 |
| Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 62 | 59 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 64 | 107 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 124 | 95 |
| **West** | **W** | **L** | **T** | **Pct** | **PF** | **PA** |
| Seattle | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 126 | 107 |
| St. Louis | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 128 | 148 |
| Arizona | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 94 | 134 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 79 | 160 |

**Sunday's games**
Detroit 35, Baltimore 17
Buffalo 20, Miami 14
Seattle 37, St. Louis 31
Tennessee 34, Houston 20
N.Y. Jets 14, Tampa Bay 12
New England 31, Atlanta 28
Green Bay 52, New Orleans 3
Cleveland 20, Chicago 10
Indianapolis 28, San Francisco 3
Dallas 33, Philadelphia 10
Carolina 24, Arizona 20
Denver 21, Washington 19
Jacksonville 23, Cincinnati 20
**Open:** Kansas City, Oakland, N.Y. Giants, Minnesota
**Monday's game**
Pittsburgh at San Diego
**Oct. 16**
Carolina at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, noon
Minnesota at Chicago, noon
Atlanta vs. New Orleans at San Antonio, noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
Miami at Tampa Bay, noon
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, noon
Washington at Kansas City, 3:15
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 3:15 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m
.New England at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 7:30 p.m
**Open:** Arizona, Philadelphia, Green Bay, San Francisco
**Oct. 17**
St. Louis at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

The Times-Picayune

# LIVING

COMICS • C-6

PAGE C-5

Tuesday
October 11, 2005

Chris Rose reports on a Katrina benefit in the Big Apple

Wednesday in Living



**RIGHT:** Yellow clouds of sunrise adorn a line of bald cypress trees in the Atchafalaya Basin.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF C.C. LOCKWOOD

# Coastal devotion



*He has spent a lifetime photographing the natural beauty of Louisiana's wetlands. But Katrina has made* **C.C. LOCKWOOD** *more determined than ever to capture in vivid colors the loss of the state's disappearing coastline.*

**By Chris Bynum**
Staff writer

Four days after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, Louisiana wildlife photographer C.C. Lockwood was pulling his 37-foot rafting boat off the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon when someone showed him a newspaper.

"When I saw the aerial shot of the Superdome with water all around it. I didn't even have to read the headline. I knew a hurricane had hit," says Lockwood, whose book "Marsh Mission: Capturing the Vanishing Wetlands" (LSU Press, $39.95), began to land in bookstores about the same time New Orleanians were reeling from the landing of Katrina.

When Lockwood began his Colorado rafting trip, Katrina didn't even have a name, much less a destination. But the book's epilogue is prescient: "South Louisiana is home to two million spicy, fun-loving people who have brought to the world a culture rich with good food, lively music and friendly lifestyle. Perhaps the most important function of our vanishing coastline is the protection it gives this rich culture and bountiful land against hurricane tidal surge."

The book is a record, in pictures by Lockwood and paintings by Baton Rouge artist Rhea Gary, of a year spent in the Atchafalaya Swamp. The photographer had hoped his art and the year-long mission aboard the Wetland Wanderer houseboat with his schoolteacher wife,

*See* **C.C.,** *C-8*



**ABOVE:** A flock of white ibis take flight as the sun sets over a freshwater marsh in Terrebonne Parish.

**ABOVE, LEFT:** As time goes by, nature photographer C.C. Lockwood finds it more difficult to document Louisiana's vanishing coastline because, he says, 'I can't show you what's gone.'

# The great escapes

*Armed with cameras, mikes and the occasional firearm, WDSU staffers* **Heath Allen** *and* **Richard Angelico** *worked their way to higher ground*

**ELECTRONIC EYE OF THE STORM**



*How New Orleans broadcasters covered Katrina.*
**TODAY: WDSU NEXT: WGNO**

**By Dave Walker**
TV columnist

As Hurricane Katrina approached the Louisiana coast, the main mission for WDSU's news director was keeping his staff safe.

Anzio Williams, hired just late last year, admonished his reporters against showy coverage heroics.

"People blowing in the wind, hanging on poles and stuff," Williams said. "I said, 'Guys, we're not doing it.'

"They want to be live out in the storm. Being live in the storm isn't the most important thing. It's coming back alive."

But as his news staff dispersed to locations around the city, then into a remarkable multi-city news operation piping nonstop coverage to a regional network of affiliates and onto the Internet, Williams' fears of reporters putting themselves in peril seemed to be realized.

Two reporters and a cameraman went missing for days.

The reporters whose whereabouts Williams knew — Ed Reams rode out

*See* **WALKER,** *C-8*



**Richard Angelico was in Mid-City:** 'The water in the street started to get a current and run, like a rapids almost.'



**Heath Allen was in St. Bernard:** 'The water picked me up and flew me into the building and set me down.'



CHRIS ROSE

# The haves and the hads

*New Orleanians come together in spite of a storm that divided our ranks*

I have returned to New Orleans three times since Katrina.

I have recounted in this column — perhaps in too much detail — the effects of the first two trips; the emotional and physical debilitations that mounted upon me before departing, both times in near-collapse.

On this count, I am not alone. I have seen many scars — both physical and psychological — on the people I have encountered over the past six weeks.

My neighbor Jena stayed through the storm, locked down in the psych ward of the hospital where she works — or worked, it's unclear now. She was evacuated that Friday, four days after the storm.

According to friends, she didn't speak for several days after getting out. She fell silent. She fell off the planet. God knows what she saw.

When she appeared in the neighborhood late last week, it was to retrieve some clothes before departing for Europe for two weeks to air out. Upon arrival, she discovered her living room ceiling had collapsed. She shrugged. She was her old affable self, but she said she doesn't know if she's ever coming back.

And that is the status of so many.

To say that everyone has "issues" right now is to say that Congress has "discord" or the Saints are "rebuilding."

Anxiety and sorrow seem to be our current natural states. The lines at the prescription pick-up windows at local pharmacies are longer than those at gas stations now.

Everyone's just trying to cope.

But the differences between us can be so stark sometimes; you can't tell by just looking at someone. For instance, my job, my house and my family survived all of this relatively intact and sometimes I'll be sitting next to a colleague from the paper after work and my cell phone rings.

It is some long distance well-wisher on the line — maybe a college buddy or something — who wants to know how I made out and I tell him no storm damage, we're gonna be fine, blah, blah, blah — and then I realize that the guy I'm sitting next to, a friend and colleague for years, lost everything in all of this and is hearing my phone call.

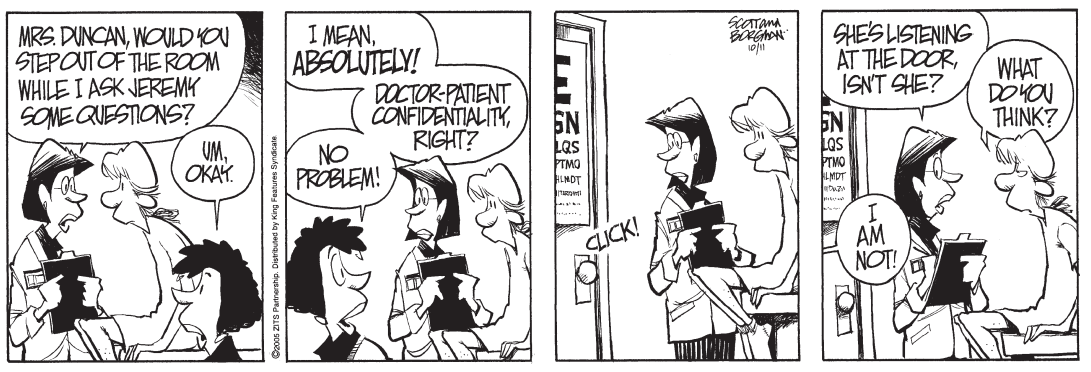
It would be easy to get survivor guilt in this, but that doesn't get you anything or anywhere. But there is an undeniable line drawn in our community ranks now. We are either the haves or the have-nots. Or, more precisely, the haves and the hads.

And we are now living and working side-by-side and once when I announced that my daughter has asked me to bring all her Barbies with me next time I visit my family in Maryland I realized the guy next to me — his kid has no Barbies.

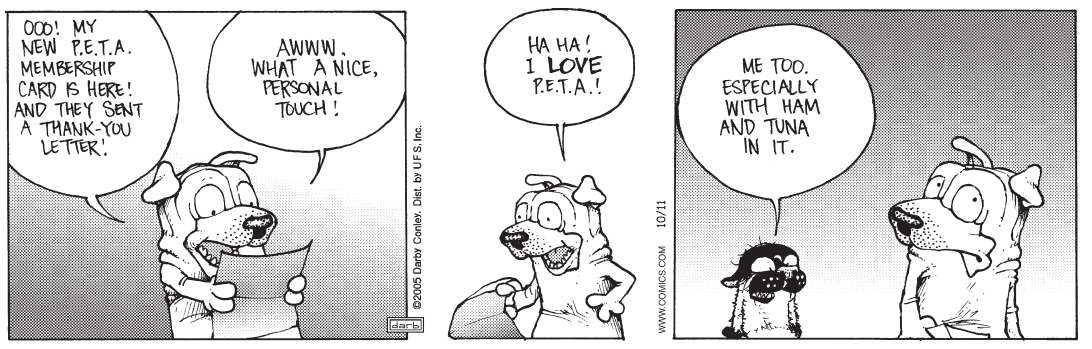
*See* **ROSE,** *C-8*

# COMICS

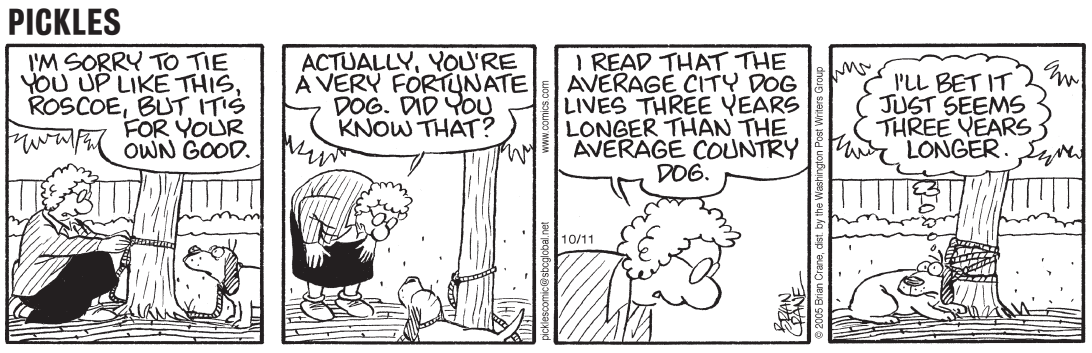
## ZITS



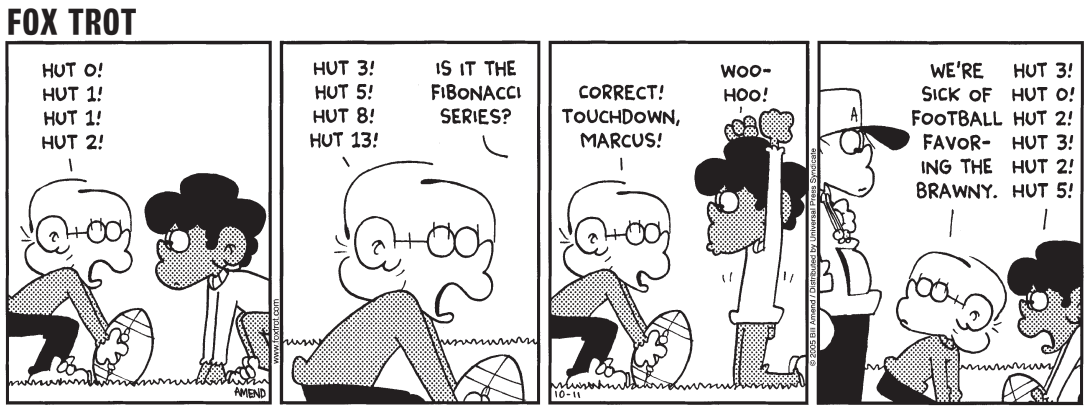

## GET FUZZY



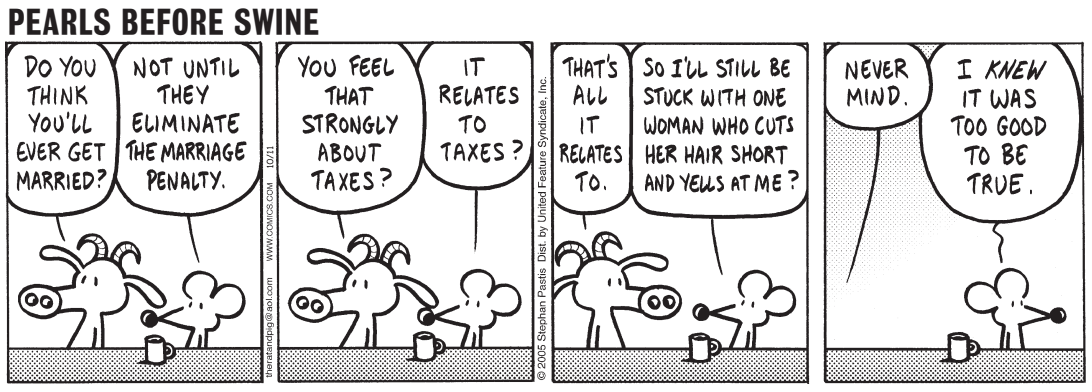

## PICKLES



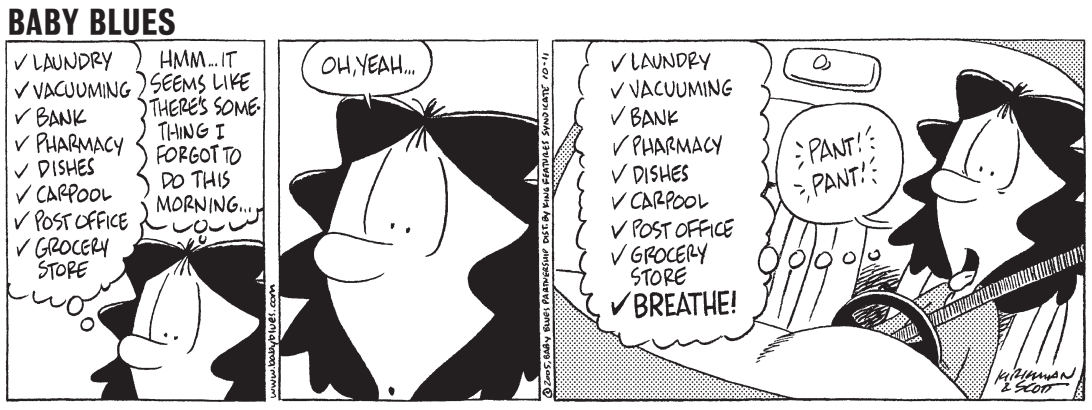

## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YASAS

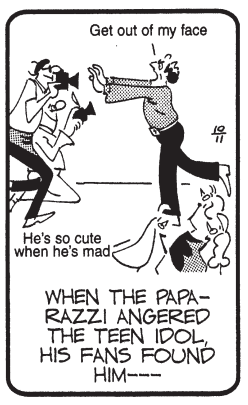
VAGRE

GLEABE

WHOALL

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**Answer here:** ( ) ( ) ( ) THE " ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE BRAND INTAKE HINDER
Answer: The baker hired a helper because he had a — KNEAD NEED

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

RACK 1: $A_1$ $I_1$ $O_1$ $C_3$ $P_3$ $N_1$ $H_4$

RACK 2: $A_1$ $O_1$ $U_1$ $P_3$ $B_3$ $C_3$ $K_5$ — Triple Word Score

RACK 3: $A_1$ $E_1$ $U_1$ $G_2$ $B_3$ $H_4$ $R_1$ — 1st Letter Double

RACK 4: $A_1$ $I_1$ $O_1$ $T_1$ $C_3$ $B_3$ $H_4$

**PAR SCORE 165-175**
**BEST SCORE 242**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL ____**
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 165-175 TOTAL

RACK 4 = 64: $C_3$ $O_1$ $H_4$ $A_1$ $B_3$ $I_1$ $T_1$
RACK 3 = 66: $B_3$ $E_1$ $A_1$ $R_1$ $H_4$ $U_1$ $G_2$
RACK 2 = 48: $B_3$ $A_1$ $C_3$ $K_5$ $U_1$ $P_3$ ( )
RACK 1 = 64: $A_1$ $P_3$ $H_4$ $O_1$ $N_1$ $I_1$ $C_3$

242

## WORD SLEUTH

K W T Q N K H D A X U R P M J
G D A X V S Q N Y K I F D A X
V T Q W O M J E H F C A Y W W
U R P I N L V J H F D B Z O X
E V T N K R R Q O Y M K I R Y
H H F C A I D Y N N E B B R Z
Y W C H S M V B T E R S T U Q
O N L E E U D S P K G U R M I
H F D L M S C O A D A R N O C
Z X W L V A H R O L L I E K D
U S R O T N A C R G Q O N B M

Monday's unlisted clue: EGYPT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: EDWARD R. —

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ameche | Cantor | Goodman | Kasem |
| Autry | Conrad | Harvey | Keillor |
| Benny | Crosby | Hope | Winchell |
| Bergen | Dorsey | Imus | |

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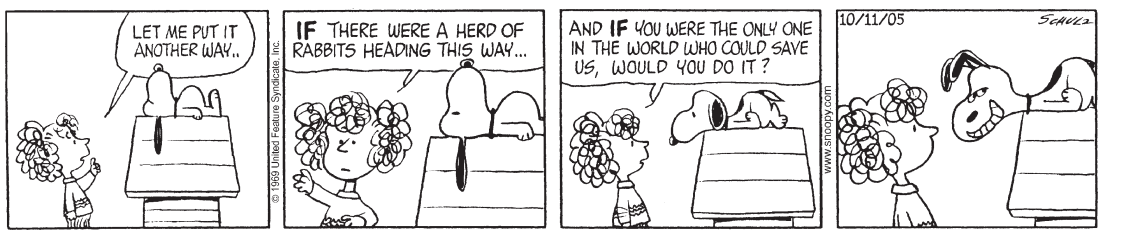
## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| A | F | S | F | E | O | K | E | C | M | G | A | F |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| E | P | E | R | S | R | T | T | H | E | L | F | I |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| O | B | N | G | A | E | R | A | Y | O | O | G | C |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| R | A | S | R | R | T | A | H | A | D | E | V | K |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| S | T | U | S | U | O | N | I | R | C | D | A | I |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| S | M | B | E | Z | A | E | D | E | E | E | L | G |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| P | L | A | O | F | L | S | A | I | L | C | S | S |

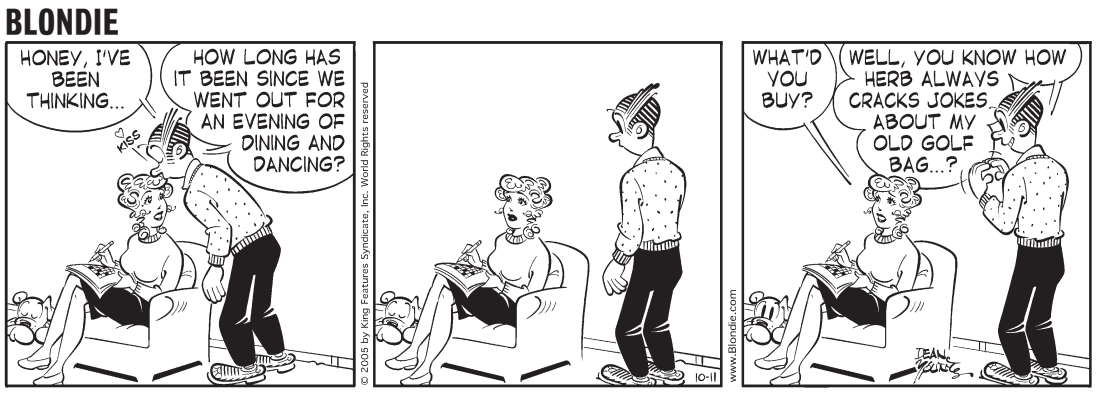
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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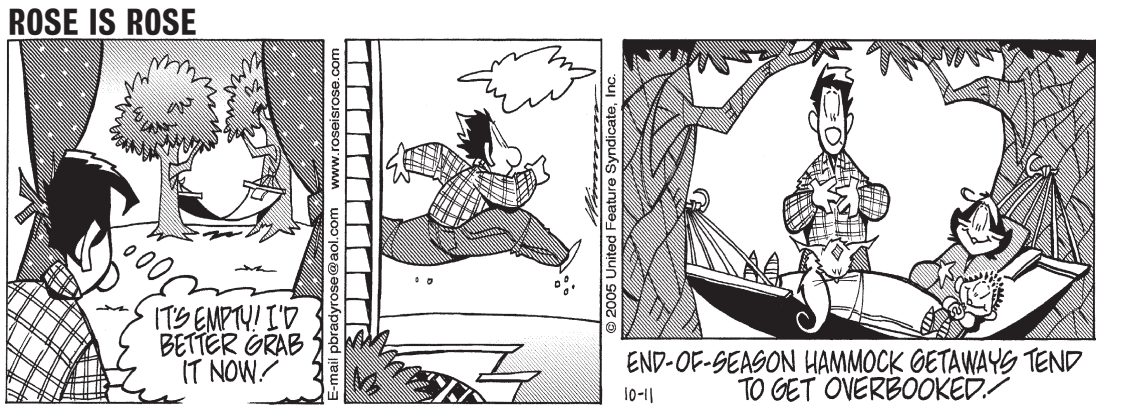
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



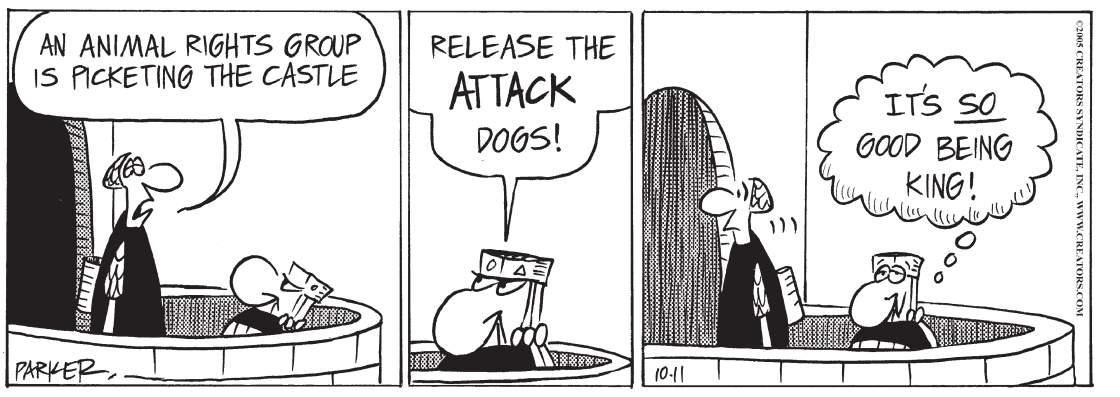

## BLONDIE



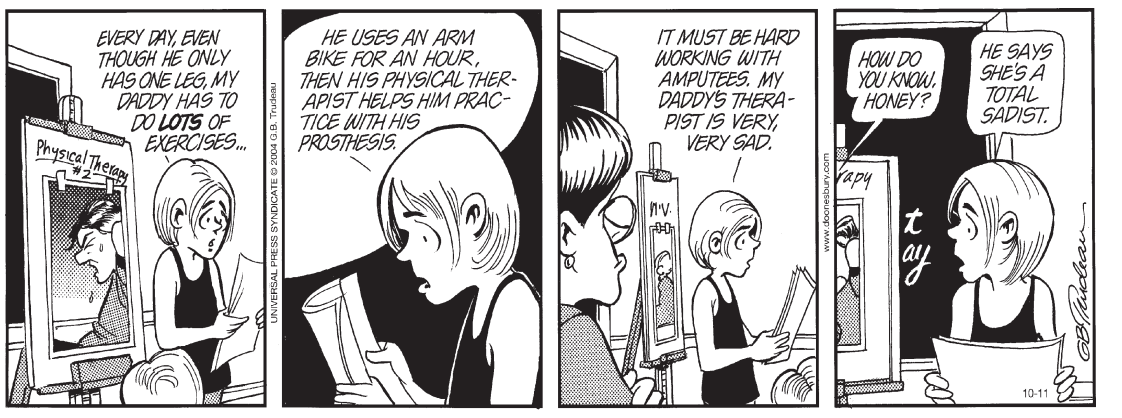

## ROSE IS ROSE



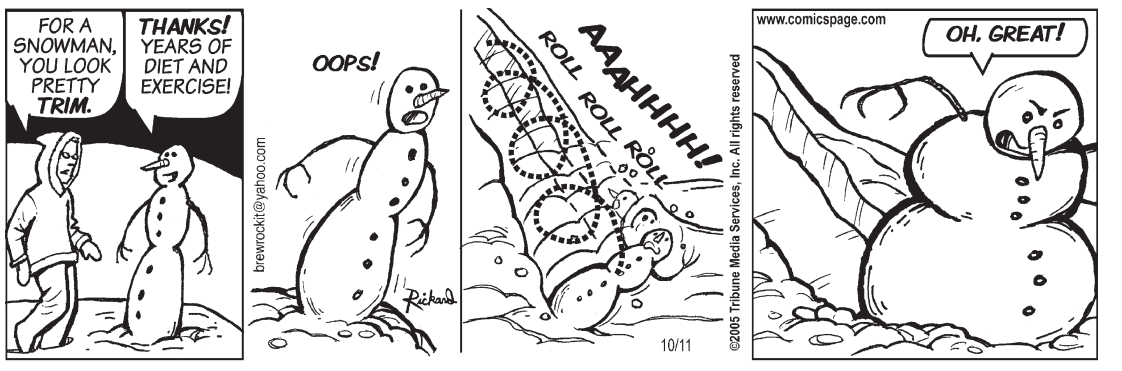

## THE WIZARD OF ID



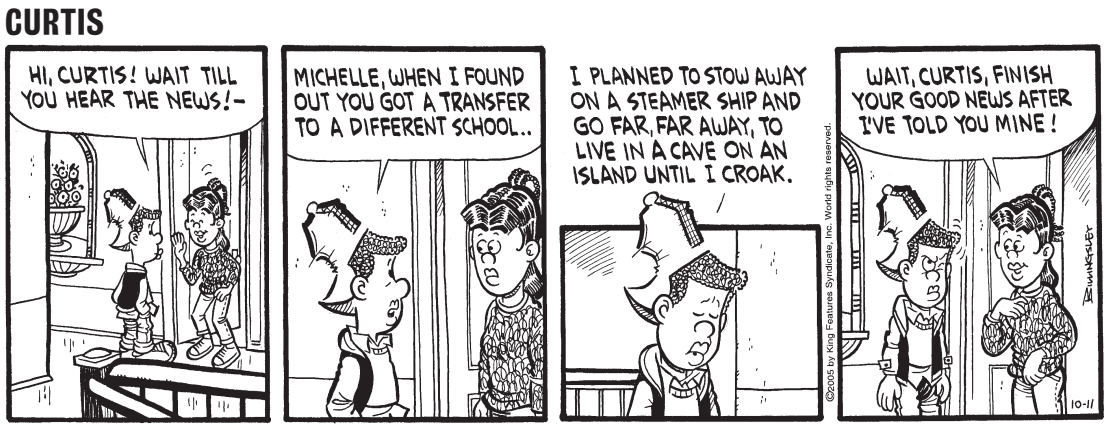

## DOONESBURY



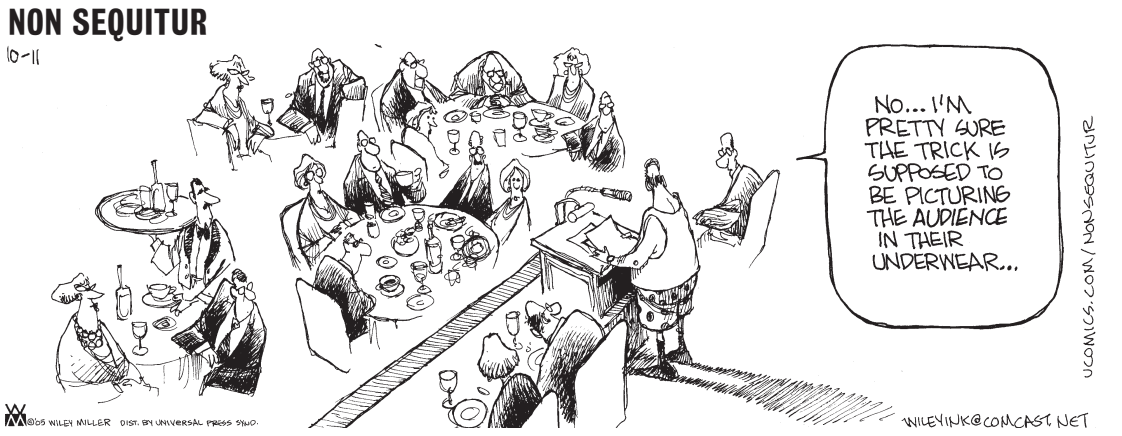

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

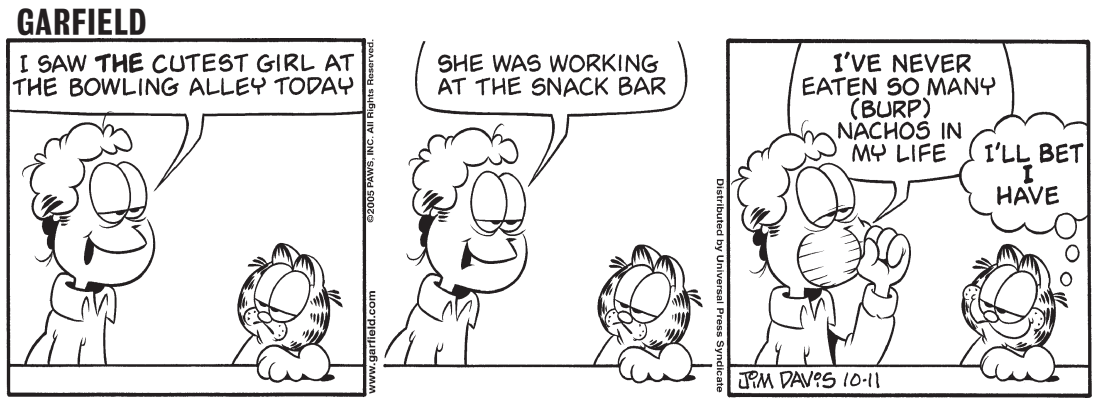



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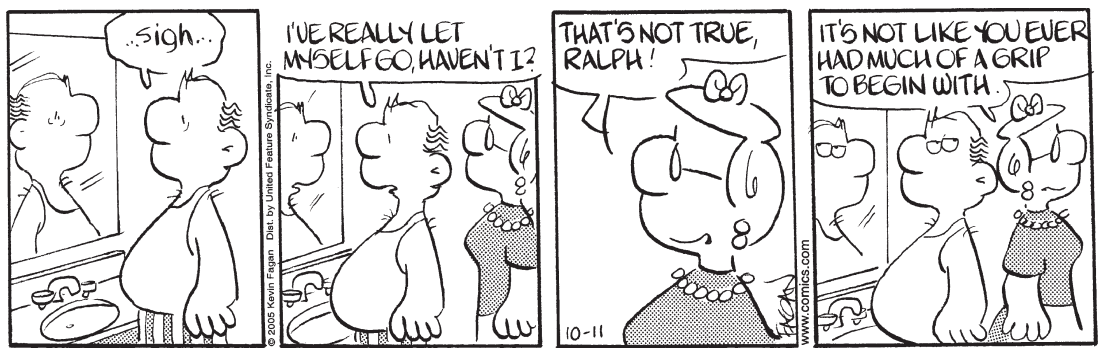


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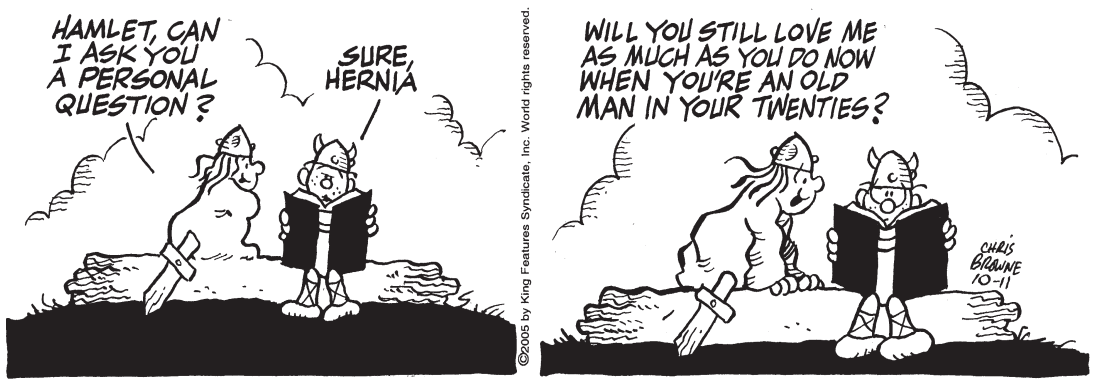
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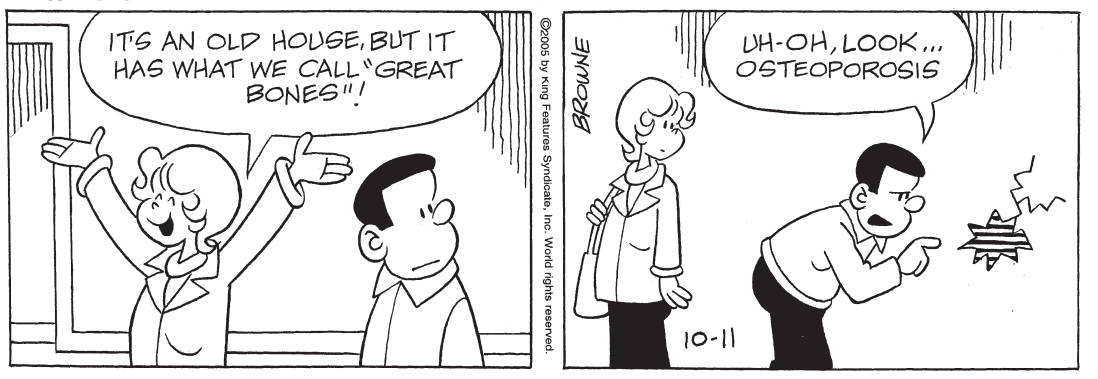

## DRABBLE




## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



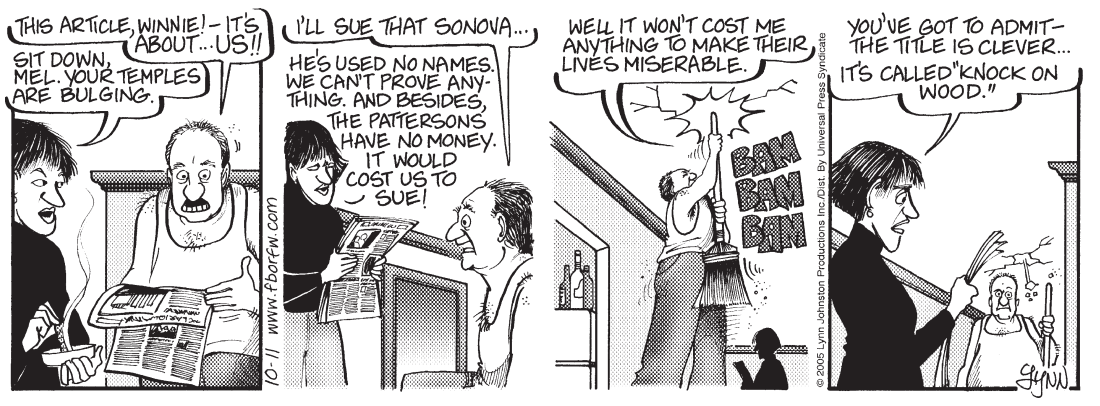

## HI & LOIS



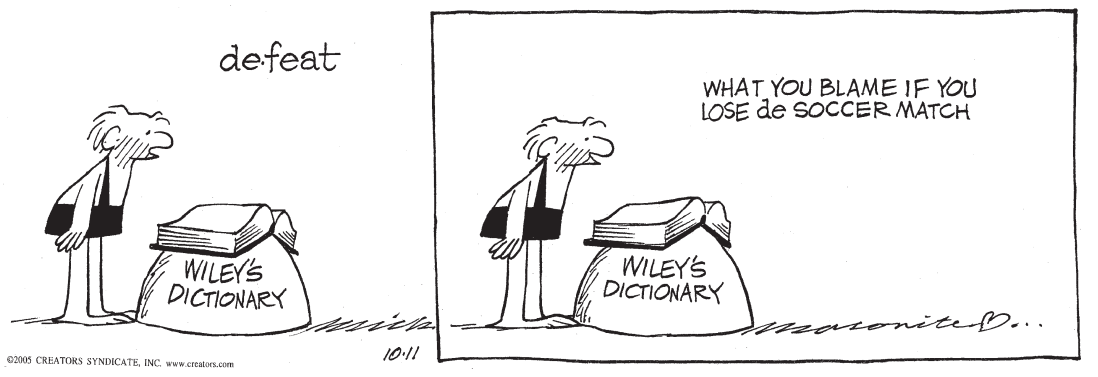

## BEETLE BAILEY



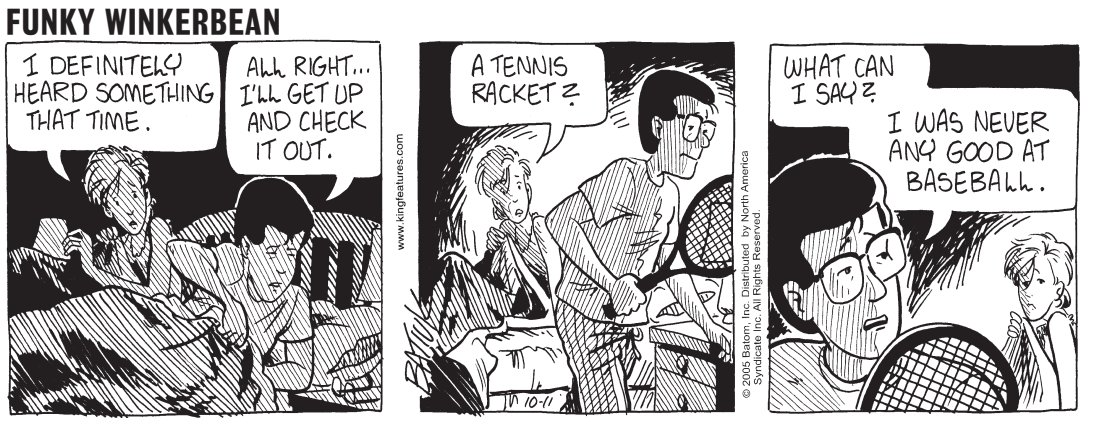

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE




## B.C.



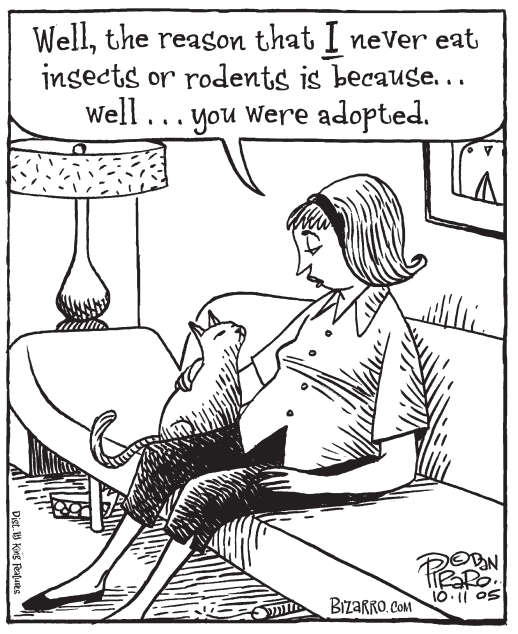

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO

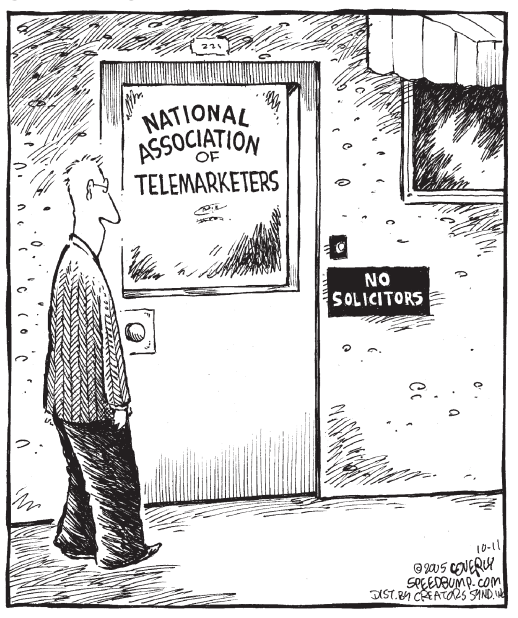



## LOOSE PARTS

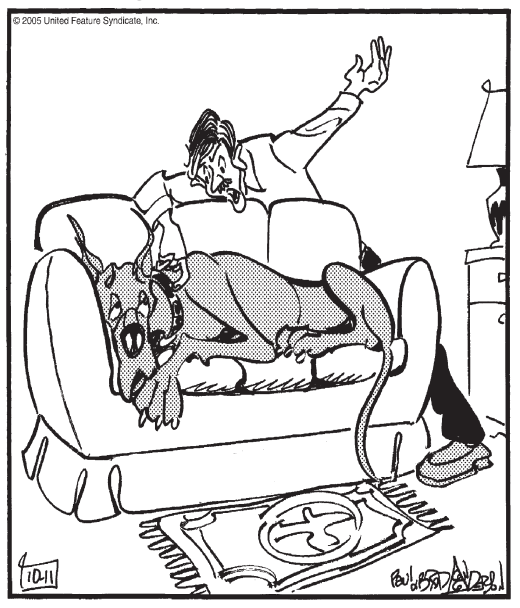



"Okay, it's two minutes to air.
Better lower in Cliff's hair right now."

## SPEED BUMP




## MARMADUKE




"The sofa is mine. The rest of the world is yours."

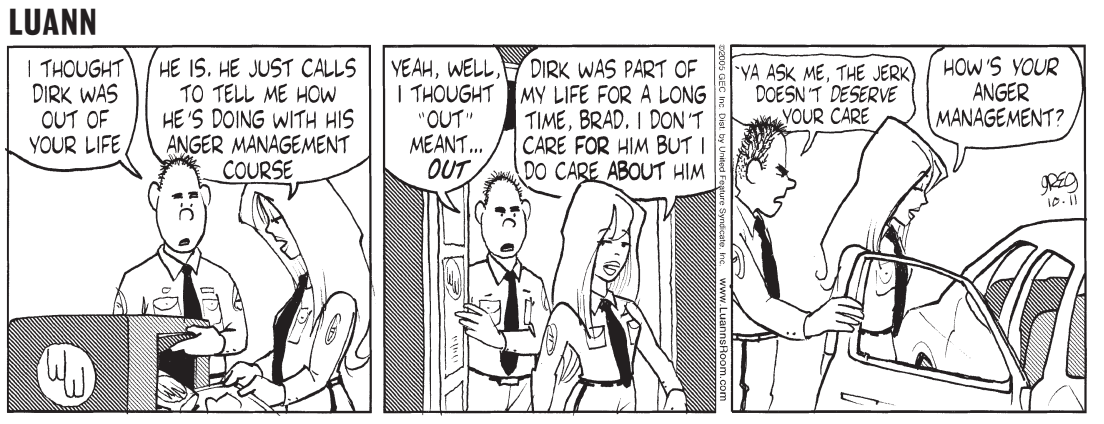
## JUMP START



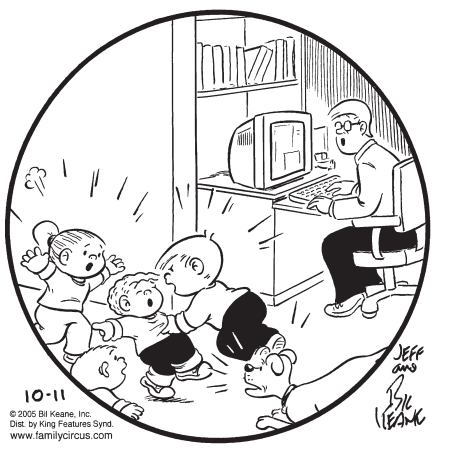

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



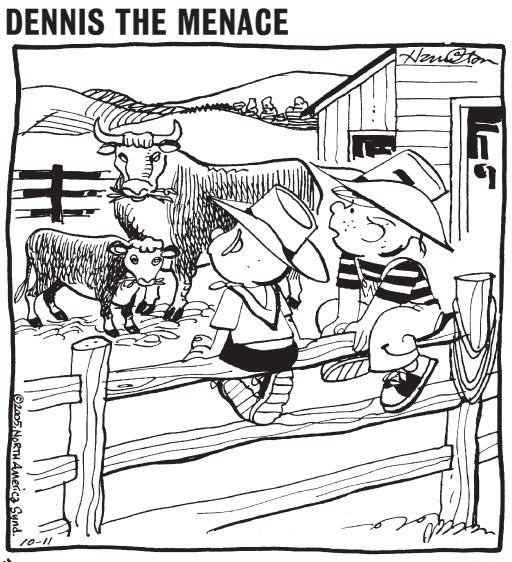

"EXCUSE ME! Am I tapping these keys too loud for you people?"

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Your HMO isn't convinced that you need surgery.
When I say 'ACTION!' start
writhing and moaning wildly."

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"...AND SINCE DADDY COWS ARE CALLED BULLS, THEN LITTLE BOY COWS MUST BE BULLETS."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**FLICKERING CANDLES** **Solution: 6 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | T | L | E | V | O | N | A | T | U | R | E | V | A | H |
| G | R | A | S | S | (T) | L | D | N | I | W | I | C | K | S |
| D | O | R | B | (L) | E | C | E | X | T | R | A | H | O | E |
| O | L | L | (E) | M | S | P | E | A | C | H | K | X | V | R |
| O | O | (M) | O | B | I | N | O | L | E | M | D | I | E | F |
| W | C | N | S | L | W | D | A | E | L | M | T | E | W | S |
| L | L | E | L | P | P | A | F | R | O | O | M | B | E | I |
| A | M | A | S | T | I | U | R | F | V | L | C | L | C | N |
| D | R | U | O | P | T | C | L | T | I | D | L | O | H | C |
| N | O | D | L | H | R | A | E | P | S | N | C | S | E | E |
| A | F | L | G | S | M | O | K | E | O | O | S | S | R | N |
| S | A | I | N | E | D | R | A | G | N | M | L | O | R | S |
| T | L | E | S | O | R | E | N | U | L | L | A | M | Y | E |
| S | N | R | U | B | D | A | T | E | K | A | C | A | V | E |
| J | A | R | S | E | M | D | E | C | O | R | A | T | E | R |

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Almond, Apple, Blossom, Blow, Burns, Cake, Cave, Cherry, Coconut, Collect, Color, Date, Decorate, Extra, Flame, Form, Fresh, Fruits, Gardenia, Grass, Have, Incense, Jars, Kiwi, Lead, Lemon, Light, Lost, Mall, Mango, Melon, Melt, Mold, Nature, Need, Novelty, Peach, Pear, Pillar, Pour, Read, Room, Rose, Sandalwood, Sell, Smell, Smoke, Sniff, Spice, Strawberry, Tall, Votive, Waxes, Wicks, Wind. **Yesterday's Answer: Books**

# Marsh missionary

**C.C.,** *from C-5*

Sue, would hammer home what statistics had not — that the erosion of coastal wetlands is a national tragedy.

Lockwood soon saw for himself how Katrina compounded that tragedy. He quickly departed Colorado and flew home to Louisiana, using connections to set-up airplane and helicopter fly-overs of New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish.

"The most shocking view was from a Black Hawk (helicopter) over southwest Louisiana," Lockwood said. "Before us was a big lake, a giant lake. The marsh was now a part of the Gulf."

Lockwood knows the wetlands like a kid knows his sandbox, having photographed them for decades. (His book on the Atchafalaya Basin, "Atchafalaya: America's Largest River Basin Swamp," was published in 1980.) When reporters come to visit him, he says, they usually want to see "the destruction, the sinking marsh." To which Lockwood always responds: "I can't show you what's gone because it's gone."

Everything Lockwood locks into photographs is in danger of being washed away or has been washed away. But it wasn't so much the precious remaining miles of marshland that caught Lockwood's attention in the post-Katrina plane rides as the absence of people on the ground, and what their displacement portended.

"I love the culture and the friendliness of south Louisiana people as much as I love the wildlife," he says. "The 'Marsh Mission' wasn't about saving the marsh for the marsh (but) wanting to save the marsh for the people who live there.

"If we had the marsh we had 150 years ago, we would have had 1,900 more square miles of marsh to slow down the surge," Lockwood explains. "The area pretty well withstood the winds. The flood came further, faster and higher because the marsh wasn't there to slow it down."

After Lockwood had thoroughly explored the city by air, he then set foot on it, spending a day and night in the French Quarter two weeks after the storm. There life had started to make rustling sounds again.

"The city may not be as big because it is so hard to protect. But we don't need a Dallas here. We need it to come back as New Orleans," Lockwood says.

He knows that restoring the state's hurricane barriers will take time, just as nature took time to diminish them.

"Over 6,000 years, the Mississippi snaked its way like a drunken garden hose to build 8,000 square miles of wetlands. So we can't expect our manmade projects to rebuild it overnight," he said. "But we need to get started. And sometime in the future, the additional marsh we help rebuild will be more protection for future storms."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF C.C. LOCKWOOD

A thunderstorm brews over Lake Salvador in Lafourche Parish, one of the areas with the most rapid coastal erosion in Louisiana.

And while technical plans to return sediment to marsh sounds like science and bureaucracy, the emotional element is now all too clear.

When Lockwood recently gave a photographic slide presentation of the "Marsh Mission" at the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators in Baton Rouge, he spoke about the marsh's role in flood control, economic development, tourism, oil infrastructure, shipping, navigation. And culture. All the words had been spoken before, but on this night, a teacher watching the presentation started to cry.

"She had lost her house and her job," Lockwood says.

What was a slide show about the disappearing wetlands was her life flashing before her eyes.

• • • • • •

Staff writer Chris Bynum can be reached at cbynum@timespicayune.com.

# WDSU reporters braved the elements

**WALKER,** *from C-5*

Katrina's attack on the region inside the Louisiana Superdome, and offered some of the first live reports of that structure's roof failure — faced danger enough.

The chaos of Katrina's early hours and days were quiet hell for Williams.

"For me, it was, 'How do we continue to bring people information and continue to try to manage resources and manage people from different cities?' " he said. "But also I'm thinking about where these guys are.

"They would literally die doing what they do, and they almost did."

• • • • • •

**On Katrina Sunday,** WDSU's anchor team was dispatched to WAPT-TV, a WDSU corporate sister station in Jackson, Miss.

Traffic delays en route caused a slight coverage glitch — the news team at Orlando station WESH-TV, another WDSU corporate sibling, appeared on WDSU's New Orleans signal for part of Sunday night — but that would be the least of the station's worries in coming days.

WDSU reporting crews were distributed in various locations around town that Williams believed beforehand to be safe havens, including the Superdome, Ochsner Foundation Hospital on Jefferson Highway and Jefferson Parish's emergency operations center.

Heath Allen and videographer Tom Fitzgerald were sent to St. Bernard Parish, where they established a base of operations inside the parish's government's EOC.

There, Katrina herself was comparatively uneventful.

"We really weren't all that concerned," Allen said. "It was just a wind storm. We were faring pretty well. As a matter of fact, a couple of times that night I went out and sat in the live truck to get away from the crowd. Every once in a while I'd do a phoner to update the anchors.

"It didn't seem that bad early on."

Power stayed on till 5 a.m Monday. At mid-morning, Allen and Fitzgerald were able to work outside, and they walked over to a nearby Wal-Mart to get some wind footage.

"I looked at my watch," Allen said. "It was 9:35 in the morning. Tom was taking pictures. Great pictures, too. There was probably 5, 6, 8 inches of water in the road."

Then Allen noticed a little water "creeping up on curb" and "bubbling up in a grate."

The men headed back to their base.

"It took a few minutes," he said. "The wind was blowing. I stopped and said, 'Let's do some kind of stand-up.' "

By the time they arrived at the EOC, water was already covering car doors in the parking lot.

In a few more minutes it had made the exterior doors of the EOC impossible to open.

"People on the inside tried to open them," Allen said. "At about that time, the doors caved in under the pressure. The water picked me up and flew me into the building and set me down.

"It was like God saying, 'Let me get that door for you.' "

En route to the building's second floor, Allen got a glimpse of the WDSU live truck being completely submerged.

"At that point, everybody was kind of standing with their jaws open," Allen said. "We all just kind of stood there looking out the windows. Everything was under water as far as you could see in every direction. The only thing you could see were rooftops.

"We did the obligatory interviews and such and took pictures, and everybody was just like, 'Yeeow.' "

At some point in the frenzy, Allen had been able to quickly contact his news director.

"He gets me on the two-way and says, 'The water's rising fast. There's a wall of water coming through here. We're going up to the second floor,' " said Williams of Allen's Katrina-Monday communication from the field. "Then I don't hear from him for another 36 hours."

• • • • • •

**Richard Angelico reported** throughout the pre-Katrina weekend then returned to his Mid-City home.

"Anzio said, 'Go home and stay with your wife and report back to work tomorrow,' " Angelico said. "That's what we did. We had prepared for the storm like most families did. We had lots of water, ice, food, stuff like that."

Williams thought Angelico had taken refuge in a hospital with his wife, Diane, a longtime University Hospital employee who was actually due to report for emergency service at Charity, but not until after the storm.

Katrina's passage was "pretty scary," Angelico said. "That was the strongest hurricane I'd ever weathered. It battered the house. The ceiling fans and chandeliers were moving back and forth like pendulums. I hadn't seen that before."

When the wind stopped, Angelico's street was flooded, a typical circumstance in his neighborhood after many hard rains.

"The water in the street was still and quiet," he said. "At some point it started to get a current and run, like a rapids almost."

And it rose, though not enough to flood inside the raised 1906 house.

But the Angelicos and their tenant were stranded.

• • • • • •

**As soon as it was safe,** Allen and Fitzgerald found a boat — manned by St. Bernard water-company employees — and headed out on a rescue run.

"We pulled people off of rooftops for awhile," Allen said. "We pulled this one couple off. It was an old man and his wife. She was just beat up, hanging on for dear life . . . scraped up from the shingles.

"Another dude was standing on his roof with a dog and a raccoon — one, two, three. The water company guys said, 'You gotta leave your dog.' He said, 'It ain't my dog. I'm leaving.' We took him back over to Chalmette High School.

"Those boys from the water company, they were terrific. They were out the instant the wind died down."

With their vehicles submerged and isolated by the spreading disaster scene around them — "No cell, no nothing," Allen said, "that was the hardest part" — there was no way to get their reportage on the air, at least not immediately.

Still, the reporting continued.

"It's what you do," Allen said. "The story is right there in front of you. You could look out the window and see a story of such magnitude that you had to tell the story no matter when it finally got out."

There were ample provisions at their second-story base, though Allen said he has no idea how subsistence was achieved.

"Loaves and fishes, pal," he said with a laugh. "Nobody knows where the food came from. The first night it was hot dogs and chili from the National Guard folks. The next night, we got back and somebody was cooking red beans and rice. We were climbing through the window on the second floor in the dark and somebody was serving red beans and rice."

By the second day, parish officials began to move their base of operations. Allen and Fitzgerald found their way to a helicopter and made their way via chopper to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Allen was able to get a cell signal and make contact with his wife, who had relocated to safe territory before Katrina. She contacted WDSU.

The men then climbed aboard a news helicopter imported from Orlando's WESH-TV and flew along the Gulf all the way to Pensacola.

"I ordered the helicopter to take them as far east as possible, take them to Florida," Williams said. "I knew that if it dropped them anywhere close they would be right back in the city."

• • • • • •

**By Wednesday,** the sounds of nighttime gunfire in his neighborhood prompted Angelico to sleep in a chair in his living room with a pistol in each hand.

By the Thursday after the storm, it was time to get out.

"So we all made the decision, me, my wife, our tenant and some friends, to leave," Angelico said. "I said, 'There's no upside to staying here. The water's not going to go down.'

"I said, 'We've got to go. We have to leave the dogs behind.' "

Angelico's wife, an SPCA volunteer, was caring for five dogs. There were also a few cats.

"It was heartbreaking," he said. "Your pets become like family members. It was a very, very difficult to do."

The group worked its way via canoe to Lindy Boggs Medical Center on Jefferson Davis Parkway, where helicopters were ferrying evacuees to safety.

From there they were airlifted to the staging area at Causeway and Interstate-10, where buses were shipping evacuees to parts unknown.

"That was just an absolute melee," Angelico said. "Everybody in uniform was walking around drinking Cokes and coffee. It didn't look like anybody was in charge."

Angelico's wife finally got a cell signal, and reached a relative in Lafayette who said another relative was already inbound to get them.

The person on the other end of the phone said, "Under no circumstance get on a bus."

About an hour later, deliverance pulled up in a pickup truck.

Angelico, his wife "and about five of our neighbors" escaped to a family rendezvous spot in Gonzalez.

There, a nephew asked: "Uncle Richard, where are your dogs?"

Angelico explained that he'd had to leave them behind.

"I said, 'Not only that, but there are two neighbors we had to leave behind, too,' " he said. "One had fallen and broken some ribs, the other had a mild stroke and couldn't make it through the water."

"Uncle Richard, I'll go get 'em," said the nephew, Marine Corp. Ross Craft of Lafayette, a sharpshooter on leave from duty in Iraq.

"Son, there's no way to get through that water to our house, and there's no way to get out," said Angelico.

"I'll get 'em, Uncle Richard," Craft said.

As recounted by Angelico, the resulting sub-saga — involving Craft, another pick-up truckload of evacuees (including the rescue cargo of the Angelico menagerie, two partially disabled neighbors plus five neighbor chihuahuas and two parrots) and a middle-of-the-night shootout with looters in the wilds of City Park — will someday make an excellent action-adventure film.

Angelico went to Lafayette for the night but got a call from Craft at about 4 a.m.

Mission accomplished.

"When I got to Gonzales, he was standing silhouetted against the dawn smoking a cigarette," Angelico said. "I couldn't believe my eyes. Somehow he got the truck through the water and ... rescued our friends we had to leave behind and our animals. It was just amazing. It was like Superman."

In Lafayette, Angelico learned that he was listed as missing on the corporate Web site of WDSU parent Hearst-Argyle Television, then made contact with corporate headquarters.

"I told them where we were, that we were alive and that everything was fine," he said. "Everything wasn't fine. But it was as fine as it was going to get."

• • • • • •

**Angelico was shortly reporting for WDSU in Baton Rouge,** from where he'd ultimately swing into western Louisiana to report on the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

Allen, meanwhile, has spent almost all of his post-Katrina work time based out of WDSU's New Orleans bureau — actually the station's Central Business District headquarters, which has also served as a base for NBC broadcast and cable network crews.

"You'd have to drag me out of here kicking and screaming with my nails scraping on the sidewalk," Allen said. "This is where you have to be, I think.

"I didn't and don't want to go anywhere else."

Williams said he's had to force many of his staffers, Allen chief among them, to take days off during the post-Katrina scramble.

At least he knows where to find him.

"Those were some emotional times, and times I'll never forget," Williams said. "Getting the first word that (Allen and Fitzgerald) were OK, getting the first word that they were in a helicopter and coming back, learning that Richie was OK . . .

"My priority has been to take care of my people. I know that if I take care of the people, they will take care of the product, the daily mission of news-gathering.

"It was probably a good two days where I felt like I had failed — failed at protecting my people."

• • • • • •

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at dwalker@timespicayune.com.

# Mourning the stuff of our lives

**ROSE,** *from C-5*

No Winnie the Pooh sheets. No bicycles. He doesn't have his wedding photo album or his family videos or his record collection or his computer hard drive or his Jazzfest posters.

Yeah, it's just stuff, but it's the stuff of our lives. Our past.

My past is intact; his is gone. And you can't help him. What am I suppose to do: offer a picture of my wife and I from our honeymoon, like those pictures that are already in the frame when you buy them at Pottery Barn?

Here's a happy memory. It's not yours, but go with it.

It's weird. I don't know if there's ever been a social restructuring like this before, an awkwardness between friends and family and co-workers. The haves and the hads, the lucky and the resigned, the depressed and the defeated.

Amazingly, many of my friends who lost everything but are still hanging around seem better adjusted than many whose possessions survived intact. Maybe it helps when there are tens of thousands sharing your pain. That kind of takes the "woe is me" element out of play.

Woe is us.

But, back to where I started here: I am out of town right now but this time, when I left, it was without tears in my eyes and shaky hands and a lost and dire sense of place and purpose.

Last week, each day an old neighbor showed back up on my block, cleaned out all the mess and moved back in. And every night, most of us sat out on my front stoop and solved the problems of the world and amid all the horror of all of this, there seems so much hope underneath.

"The pizza joint on the corner is open!" someone will say and we'll all high-five like normality is restored.

Of course, we've always been a delusional lot in New Orleans. Let me guess: You still think the Saints have a shot at the playoffs, don't you?

OK, maybe I'm stretching the analogy too far.

But the point is, here we are — a lot of us, at least — and not a damn one of us knows what the future holds but I know more people who live on my block now than I did before the storm and we're all out dragging each others' rotten-ass refrigerators to the curb and no one in the car behind me has honked once when I've stopped in the road to yell to a friend I see walking down the street for the first time because, well, really: Where is there to hurry to?

But more than that, it's a time for unforced civility. Everyone around here is always yelling: "Welcome home!" And strangers keep saying to each other: "Good luck," and you can tell they mean it this time like never before.

I mean, that's the reality, right? Luck, a few billion dollars, higher levees and a new quarterback are really all we need and we're right back on track around here.

• • • • • •

Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at noroses@bellsouth.net.

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TWO FOR THE MONEY (R)(✓) (WATCH ONLY ON THX SOUND) 12:30 3:05 5:35 8:15
FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)(✓) 12:20 2:50 4:55 8:00
IN HER SHOES (PG-13)(✓) 12:25 2:55 5:30 8:10
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE (PG)(✓) 12:00 2:40 4:50 7:45
GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(✓) 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:55
THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13)(✓) 12:10 3:00 5:25 8:05
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ROLL BOUNCE (PG-13)(✓) 11:55 2:30 4:45
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PETER FINNEY

# Saints were lowlight of big sports weekend

For at least one team whose name will go unmentioned, it was a lost weekend, something that had to do with a final score of 52-3.

For the world of sports, it was anything but.

On the golf course, two of the biggest draws in the game were going at it in sudden death — but John Daly missed a three-foot putt and handed another championship to Tiger Woods, his sixth of the year.

On the baseball field, at Minute Maid Park in Houston, the Astros and Braves played a game that lasted 350 minutes, 10 minutes short of six hours, the longest in postseason history, before a guy you'd never heard of ended it with a home run in the bottom of the 18th, sending the Astros on to battle the St. Louis Cardinals for the National League pennant.

The Astros needed a grand slam in the eighth and a tying homer with two out in the ninth to keep playing, after which they needed a couple of relief innings from ex-Yankee Roger Clemens.

At the same time, the Yankees were managing to stay alive against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, with the World Series network offering a silent prayer for New York success.

Meanwhile, on the football field, it was Geritol time, for a college coach and an NFL quarterback.

Joe Paterno, who's pushing 79, watched his Penn Staters upset No. 6 Ohio State on Saturday, and Sunday, Vinny Testaverde, who'll be 42 next month, had an old hand in the Jets handing Tampa Bay its first loss of the season.

Both stories were packed with warm, fuzzy sidebars.

Paterno has been head coach of the Nittany Lions for 39 years. He refused to be pushed into retirement when the program fell on hard times. On Saturday, along with 110,000 fans in Happy Valley, Joe watched the Buckeyes fall 17-10.

Also, Penn State went to 6-0 and climb to No. 8 in The Associated Press rankings.

Can Penn State climb higher? Who knows? This week Michigan could end the climb. For the moment, though, Paterno has proven a coach can adjust to advancing age by listening to younger assistants, and also by recruiting blue-chippers he is not afraid to play as freshmen.

When Penn State and Alabama were in town for a long-ago Sugar Bowl (Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide made a goal-line stand to win the game and the national championship), Bryant said: "Joe and I are the same in one way. We're both stubborn. We're different in another. He'll be coaching long after I'm gone." A golden prediction, it turned out.

As for Vinny Testaverde, he had no idea he'd be in uniform this year. But injuries happen as the oft-injured Vinny knows well. Testaverde, who happens to live 15 minutes from the Jets' training facility, was preparing to take his kids to school a week ago when the phone rang. The Jets had lost starter Chad Pennington and backup Jay Fiedler and were desperate.

Would an ex-Jet help? Yes.

On Sunday, the first player taken in the 1987 draft had modest stats (13-for-19 for 163 yards and one interception), but he didn't make any serious mistakes, and with the defense playing lights out, he moved the chains enough to help nudge his team into a 14-12 lead.

Whereupon, Vinny's moment of truth arrived.

In the final two minutes, with the Jets trying to run out the clock, Testaverde faced a third-and-four at his 31-yard line.

At which time, he produced his best throw of the afternoon, a 17-yarder he threaded between two defenders for a game-saving first down.

Can Vinny do it again?

Who knows?

"If my offensive line allows me to get hit only three times a game," said a quarterback now into his 19th professional season, "I'm going to play a long time."

# Thankful Astros ready for Cardinals

## *After historic victory Houston rests, prepares for NLCS rematch*

**By Stephen Hawkins**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Sure, the Houston Astros had a plan in case Roger Clemens needed relief: Now pitching for the first time in his big league career, outfielder Jason Lane.

Fortunately for the Astros, and Lane, they didn't have to go that route. Instead, they'll head to St. Louis with their rotation fully rested for the NL championship series. Andy Pettitte is lined up to start Game 1 Wednesday night.

All thanks to Clemens and Chris Burke. Clemens pitched three scoreless innings in his first relief appearance since 1984, and Burke homered in the 18th to end the longest postseason game ever and lift the Astros over Atlanta 7-6 Sunday.

"Rocket might have thrown 10, 20 innings," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "I think he was prepared to do whatever it took. And that's the way the man is. I've never seen anybody like him. He's amazing."

The Game 4 victory clinched the first-round series, and it took five hours, 50 minutes and eight Astros pitchers to win it.

"I wasn't thinking instant classic," Houston third baseman Morgan Ensberg said. "I was thinking it was a grind-out dogfight that we had to figure out someway to come out on top."

Rather than traveling for a decisive Game 5 in Atlanta, the Astros got some much-needed rest Monday. Garner gave his club the day off.

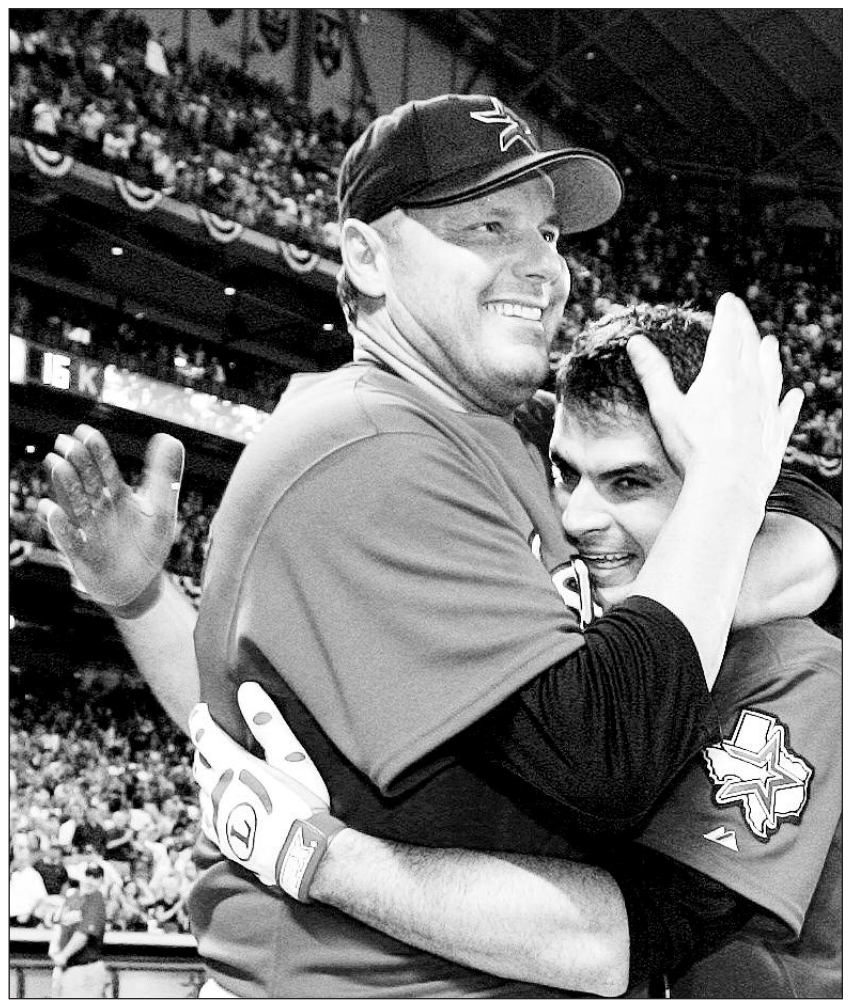
Next up is a rematch with St. Louis. The Cardinals won the NLCS in seven games last October to deny the Astros their first World Series appearance.

"We finally have another opportunity with the Cardinals. We have a shot," Houston second baseman Craig Biggio said. "You only get a few chances like this in your career."

Garner used every player on his 25-man playoff roster Sunday except Pettitte and Roy Oswalt.

Oswalt won Saturday night in Game 3, which ended just 14 hours before the series-ending marathon started, and Pettitte would have been needed for a game Monday.

The Astros still have Clemens and 20-game winner Oswalt for Games 2 and 3 in the NLCS. The only thing unclear was if the Rocket's 44 pitches on two days' rest would change the order.



AP PHOTO

Houston's Roger Clemens, left, gives a hug to Chris Burke following the Astros' 7-6 victory over Atlanta on Sunday. The Astros will be rested when they face the St. Louis Cardinals in the NLCS, beginning Wednesday.

Pitching in a relief role for the first time since he was a rookie, Clemens atoned for his poor Game 2 start. He struck out four of the 11 batters he faced and allowed just one hit.

If the game had dragged on longer, Garner was ready to use Lane, who last pitched in a game in 1999 for Southern California. And Clemens, who before throwing a pitch entered the game in the 15th in the first pinch-hitting appearance of his career, might have stayed in the game.

"I'm sure they could hide me in the outfield. Why not?" Clemens said.

The Astros are in the playoffs for the ninth time. The closest they came to the World Series was last season, when Clemens had an early lead in the seventh game of the NLCS against the Cardinals.

It didn't seem like the Astros would get another playoff chance this season when they were 15-30 in May. But Houston went 74-43 the rest of the way, clinched the NL wild card outright by winning on the final day of the regular season, and became the first team since the 1914 Boston Braves to make the playoffs after being 15 games under .500 in the same season.

"There's no doubt about it, this year has been the most special year," said Biggio, 39, who has spent all of his career in Houston and is on his sixth playoff club.

The series-clinching marathon victory over the Braves was just a microcosm of the entire season. The Astros got down big early, battled back and won at the very end.

Atlanta led 6-1 in the eighth inning Sunday before Lance Berkman, who Burke ran for two innings later, hit a grand slam. The Astros tied the game on Brad Ausmus' two-out homer in the ninth.

"It's been a grind for us for a long time," Ensberg said. "We've been playing playoff baseball since April."

And they're still playing in October.

# At least Chicago finds some support

**By Jim Litke**
AP Sports Columnist

CHICAGO — Anybody looking for the White Sox Nation is going to need more than a map.

For one thing, the team barely owns its own neighborhood.

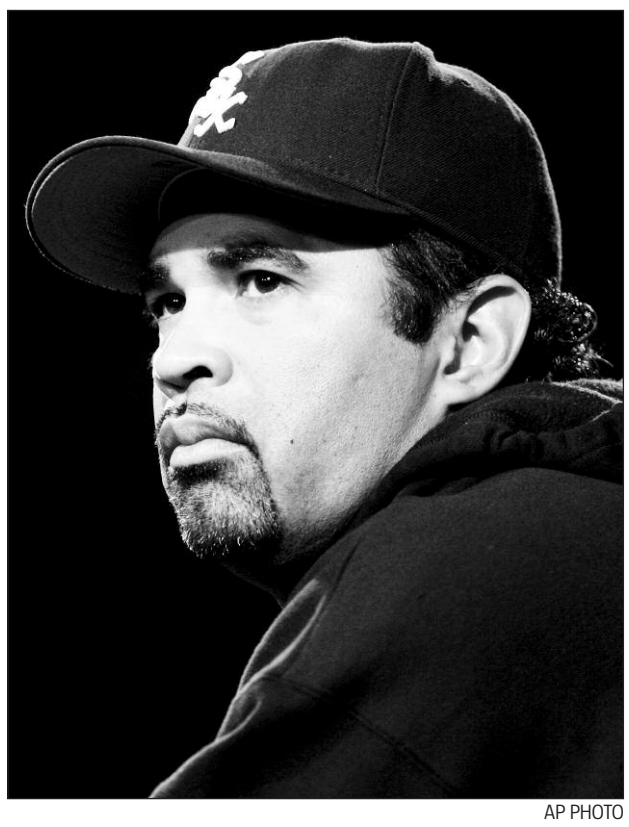
For another, the White Sox don't offer enough tradition, romance, celebrities or even anguish for most tortured souls to latch onto. With the Red Sox shedding their lovable loser tag a year ago, the Cubs have that market cornered in Chicago.

And third, even if there is such a thing as a White Sox nation, it's probably Venezuela. It's one of the few countries south of the city limits where: a.) baseball is bigger than futbol; and b.) the Cuban national team isn't the hands-down favorite.

"Oh, yeah," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "Venezuela definitely loves us."

Guillen explains this is so largely because of native sons Chico Carrasquel, who became the first Latin American All-Star in major league history while playing shortstop for the White Sox in the early 1950s, and Luis Aparicio, who took over the position, made an even bigger splash, and gave every Venezuelan kid who ever lingered on a diamond something to aspire to.

Guillen also is a hit back home. Because no sooner had the former shortstop and first Venezuelan to become a big-league manager clinched the American League Central title than he received a call from President Hugo Chavez.



AP PHOTO

Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen, who left Venezuela to become a big-league manager, says his home country loves his team.

"I would say I was honored," Guillen recalled about his appearance a week ago Sunday on Chavez's national radio show. "Not too many people like the president. I do. My mom will kill me, but it's an honor to talk to the president."

The team drew 2,343,833 fans this season, the fourth-largest attendance in franchise history and the biggest since 1993. Two decades ago, that kind of number was good enough for the White Sox to score annual attendance victories over the crosstown Cubs. But decisions may have reversed that trend.

Shortly after buying the team in 1981 from Bill Veeck, a limited partnership headed by Jerry Reinsdorf and Eddie Einhorn put some of their games on WGN's just-launched superstation. Unhappy with the ratings and cash flow, the duo decided to sell the team's games on a pay subscription channel called SportsVision. A month later, Harry Caray, the White Sox's popular announcer, switched allegiances and joined the Cubs.

"I would lose my people - cab drivers, bartenders and others," Caray was quoted at the time, "who can't afford cable TV."

The White Sox then lost fans in droves. Cubs games were carried across the country and beyond.

White Sox fans back home felt embittered and the ones who moved away felt cut off. In an article on Slate.com in August, Mike DeBonis, senior editor of the Washington City Paper, captured the feeling.

"But if they do win it all, there won't be hundreds of books and special-edition DVDs that exhaustively document the final moments of anguish and misery on Chicago's South Side," DeBonis wrote. "When the sports world's most mundane epic losing streak ends, it will go quietly."

The club had a chance to turn things around with the construction of a new ballpark in 1990. With Reinsdorf threatening to leave town, an 11th-hour legislative deal got the stadium built. But the ballpark is cold and lacking in charm.

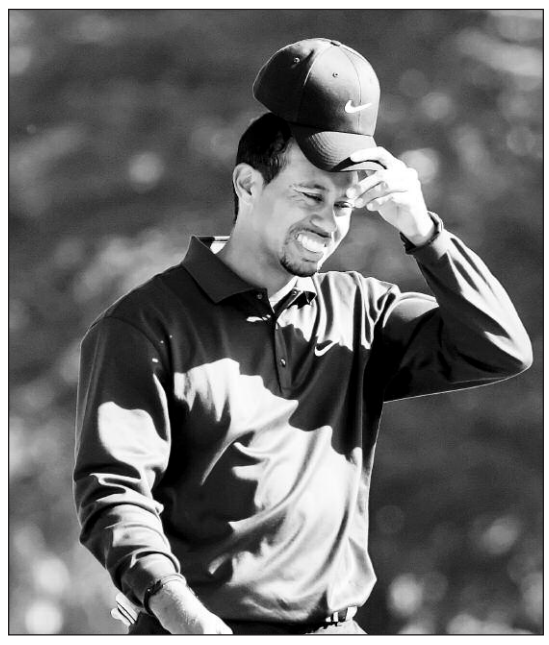
"It's been pretty comfortable here in the shadow of every other loser in baseball. And if they win, there won't be some mammoth catharsis as we slough off our losing reputation. Which is fine, too," DeBonis concluded. "Unlike Red Sox or Cubs fans, we won't have to re-evaluate our relationship with our longtime losers. Our Sox can just go on winning. Or losing. Whatever."

# THE WORLD IN SPORTS

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**PHILLIES FIRE WADE:** Ed Wade was fired as general manager of the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday after failing to get them into the playoffs in eight years on the job. "This was a very difficult decision. No one works harder than Ed," president David Montgomery said in a statement. "At the same time, we have not been able to achieve the goals we have set for the Phillies. As a result, I believe we have reached a point where a change is necessary." Philadelphia finished 88-74, one game behind NL wild-card winner Houston. The Phillies haven't reached the playoffs since 1993, and have won one championship (1980) in the franchise's 123-year history. Wade, 49, has two years remaining on his contract, and it's unknown if he will remain in the organization.

**AROUND THE MAJORS:** Relievers Ben Weber and Chris Booker and second baseman D'Angelo Jimenez left the Cincinnati Reds as free agents, rather than accept outright assignments to the minors, and the club announced that first base coach Randy Whisler won't return next season. . . . Detroit Tigers pitcher Gary Knotts was released, and pitcher Sean Douglass claimed off waivers by the Cleveland Indians.



AP PHOTO

Tiger Woods has earned $12,977,000 in World Golf Championships events, more than all but 35 golfers have earned in their entire PGA careers.

## GOLF

**TIGER STILL RULES WORLD:** The World Golf Championships were created to bring together the best players from around the globe. They have turned into an annuity for the world's No. 1 player. Tiger Woods' playoff victory over John Daly in the American Express Championship was Woods' 10th world title since this series began in 1999. He has finished out of the top 10 twice in 19 starts, both of them early exits from the Match Play Championship. The $1.3 million check Sunday brought his career earnings in the World Golf Championships to $12,977,000, more money than all but 35 players have made in their PGA Tour careers. "I've worked really hard to get to this point, to a point where I can compete," Woods said. "Each and every week, I feel as if I just play my game, I should have a chance come the back nine, and that's where you want to get to."

**MORE GOLF:** Ellendale Country Club in Houma will host a tournament Oct. 18, to raise money to assist PGA golf professionals and superintendents in the PGA Gulf States Section impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The PGA estimates that as many as 200 of its members were impacted, director of golf Rob Bradley said. The event will feature a four-person shamble, with gross and net divisions. A $200 minimum donation per person is required. To register, contact the Ellendale Golf Shop at (985) 876-4394. . . . The AJGA's 12th annual Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Junior in Mobile, Ala., will be played Oct. 7-10. The Srixon Qualifier will be rescheduled. The Audubon Golf Trail Top 100 Presented by Hilton New Orleans Riverside, scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 2, was cancelled. All those entered in the Audubon event, and those that withdraw from the Mobile event, will be granted refunds.

## HORSE RACING

**AFLEET ALEX OUT OF CUP:** Afleet Alex won't run in the Breeders' Cup Classic. Trainer Tim Ritchey and veterinarian Patricia Hogan said the Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner's leg injury is not fully healed and he won't be ready for the Breeders' Cup on Oct. 29. "The horse is doing very well clinically and has progressed remarkably well. Ö We feel it is in Alex's best interests to miss the Breeders' Cup races," Ritchey and Hogan said in a joint statement on Afleet Alex's Web site. "Unfortunately, the timing is just a little too close to demand the enormous athletic effort that would be required to race at that elite level of competition. Although perhaps a disappointment for racing, it is only a temporary one. The prognosis remains excellent for a return to Alex's elite level of competition." Afleet Alex was sidelined with a fractured left-front canon bone July 21. Surgery was performed less than a week later, and a screw was inserted in the bone. In the past two weeks, Afleet Alex had two solid workouts at Belmont Park and Ritchey was optimistic the horse could return to the races this weekend, and then run in the Classic with Horse of the Year honors up for grabs. "All involved with Alex agreed that if that was to be a possibility, then the healing process was to have been completed 100 percent for this to be considered. After the recent works, Alex was radiographed again, and although it is very subtle, it is evident that bone is still in the end stages of the healing process. We are 99 percent there, but for this horse we require 100 percent." Afleet Alex has won eight of 12 career starts for earnings of $2,765,800 for Cash Is King Stable.

## OTHER SPORTS

**TENNIS:** Aivaras Balzekas, a top Lithuanian tennis player, died after a pickup truck crashed into him and another Lynn University student as they pushed a car in Boca Raton, Fla. Balzekas, a member of the Lithuanian national team, died Sunday night at Delray Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Marlene Wotell said Monday. Balzekas and Hakki Yavuz, 21, from Turkey, were pushing a car early Saturday when a pickup driven by David Walsh, 24, of Boca Raton, plowed into them, police said. No charges have been filed. . . . Alberto Martin rallied to upset second-seeded David Ferrer 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the Stockholm Open. Vincent Spadea beat Juan Ignacio Chela 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, and Robin Soderling pulled out of the $824,000 tournament with a knee injury. . . . Sixth-seeded Fernando Gonzalez beat Tomas Berdych 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the BA-CA Trophy in Vienna, Austria. Former champion Tim Henman also reached the next round, beating Anthony Dupuis 7-5, 6-3. Oliver Marach upset Jiri Novak 6-4, 6-3, Rainer Eitzinger eliminated Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (6), 6-2.

**BOXING:** Pongsaklek Wonjongkam retained his WBC flyweight title when an injury to challenger Daisuke Naito led to stoppage of their bout in the seventh round Monday in Tokyo. A punch by Pongsaklek in the second round left a cut just above the right eye of Naito, whose bleeding caused the fight to end at 2 minutes, 38 seconds of the seventh.

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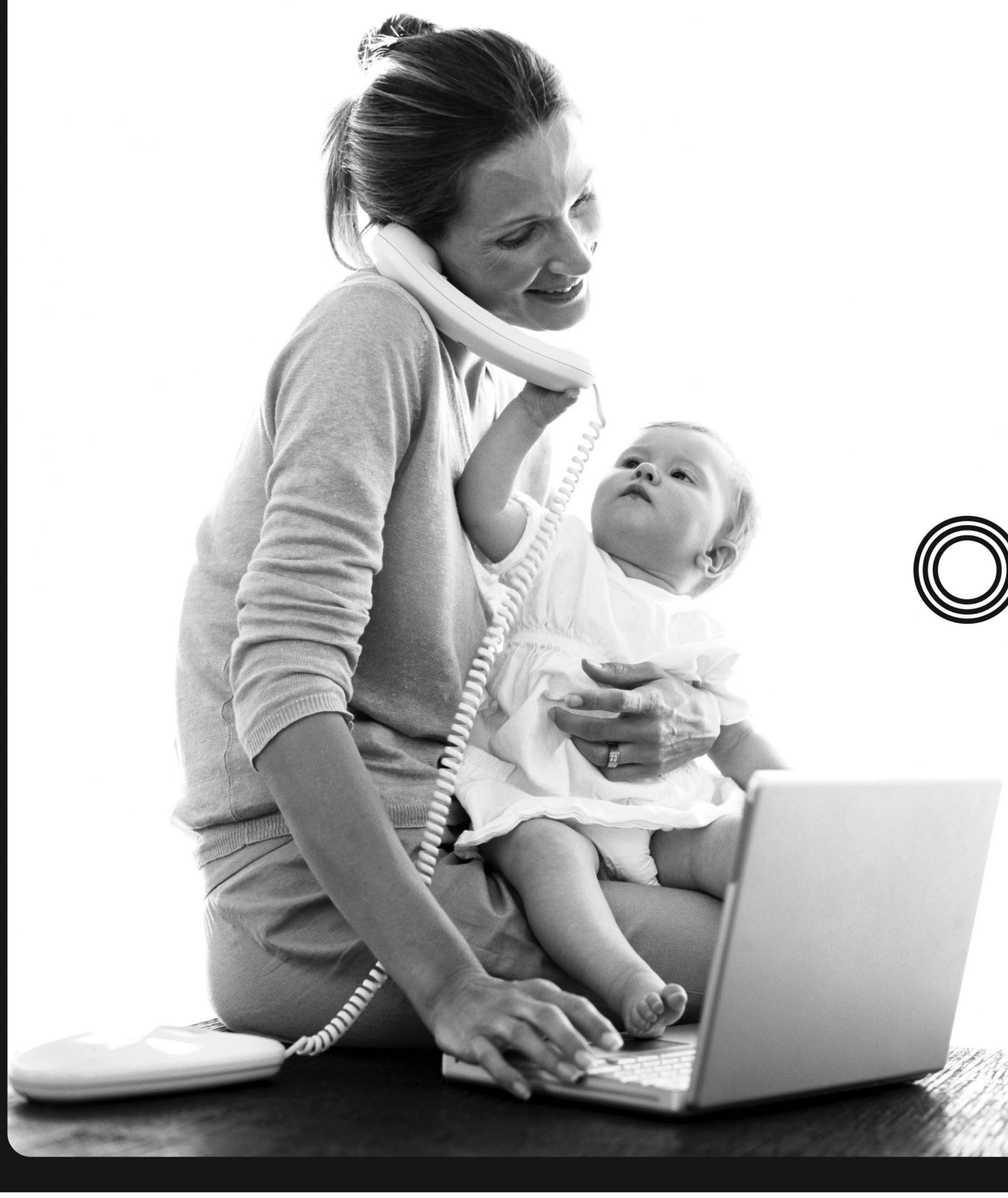
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PAKISTANI EARTHQUAKE DEATH TOLL MAY PASS 35,000 SEE WORLD, A-8


# The Times-Picayune

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50 CENTS 169th year No. 264 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION


## Grieving family awaits body

*Casket stands empty as paperwork lingers*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

Ninth Ward resident Dorothy Holloman's relatives think she would have enjoyed her funeral service on Oct. 1 in New Roads.

Her cousin from Lake Charles, Sonya Green, sang "Precious Lord," the favorite gospel hymn of the 68-year-old victim of Hurricane Katrina. Most of the 300 mourners, including members of her 1956 high school graduating class, wept as an organist squeezed out a sorrowful version of "Amazing Grace." The Rev. Robert Tanner of the New Tree of Life Baptist Church in New Orleans eulogized about the veteran cab driver's "good life."



**Dorothy Holloman**
Family is upset because her body has not been released

Only one detail of the solemn farewell troubled Yolanda Barbarin, Holloman's eldest daughter from Harvey.

"There was no body in the casket," said Barbarin, who initiated the recovery of her mother's body from Holloman's home at 2520 Tupelo St., coordinated the funeral arrangements and fretted as her mother's corpse was hauled away to the huge morgue full of Katrina victims in St. Gabriel managed by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-14*

## Senators' united front fading

*Squabbling could hurt chances for aid to La.*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Even before last week's public spat between Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter over whether to go along with the GOP's insistence that Gulf Coast communities pay back federal loans, there were signs the Louisiana delegation's united front in pursuit of Hurricane Katrina relief was shaky.

The cracks began when Democrat Landrieu and Republican Vitter announced their $250 billion bill to rebuild Louisiana, but then each filed separate versions, with Landrieu's listing her as the prime sponsor and Vitter's listing him in that category.

Among the seven Louisiana House members, only Rep. Charlie Melancon, D-

*See* **DELEGATION,** *A-18*

**PRESIDENT BUSH TO URGE HIRING OF LOCAL FIRMS**

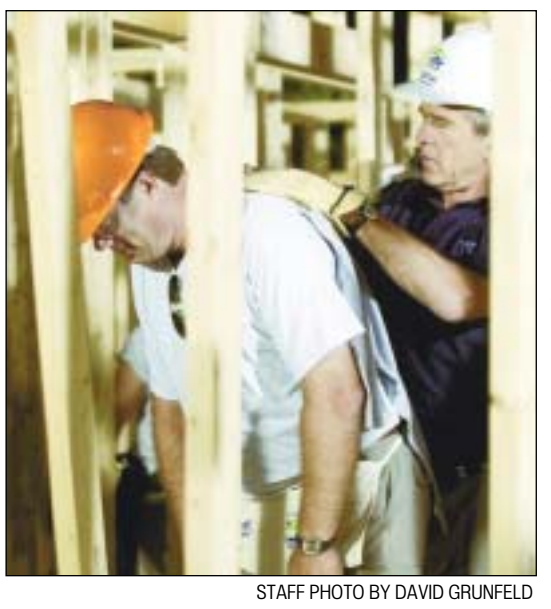
## 'Out of this devastation will come a new city'

**By James Varney**
Staff writer

Underscoring his pledge to rebuild the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, President Bush wrapped up his eighth trip to the storm-wracked region Tuesday by hammering nails in Covington and meeting with federal representatives on the West Bank.

Bush's flurry of visits follows initial criticism of the federal relief effort as woefully tardy and inept. Since then, however, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and other local officials have avoided attacks on Washington or the White House, and their comments Tuesday

*See* **BUSH,** *A-13*



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

President Bush signs the back of a T-shirt Tuesday for volunteer Jim Tomascak of Habitat for Humanity. The president visited a site in Covington where a Habitat house is being built.

## Baton Rouge set to shutter shelter



AP PHOTO

Dwight Rixner, left, of Kenner, and his wife, Gizel, right, pack up their car and four children Tuesday to leave the shelter at Baton Rouge's River Center. Behind them, daughter Chantell, 18, gets help loading the car from her boyfriend, Olen Bartholomew, also an evacuee, who was staying behind at the River Center.

*Baker trailer camp offered as option to evacuees*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — One of the largest hurricane evacuation shelters in the state will close by the end of the week, with many evacuees from the New Orleans area being moved to travel trailers set up in a small town north of Baton Rouge, officials said Tuesday.

New Orleans residents who fled Hurricane Katrina have been staying at Baton Rouge's River Center for the past six weeks, with about 470 people still there, down from nearly 6,000 just after the storm hit on Aug. 29. The number of people at the center has dropped dramatically in recent days as families move to the trailer site in Baker.

Because the River Center hosts many revenue-generating events that come through Baton Rouge, the city government has asked that the shelter be shut down, said Alisa Feldman, a Red Cross spokeswoman for the center. While addressing a legislative panel Tuesday, Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden said the convention center wasn't designed to be used as a long-term shelter.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

People who are now in shelters are being offered homes in a trailer village in Baker being set up by Federal Emergency Management Agency workers.

"We have to transition back into what the center was designed for," Holden said, adding that it had lost at least $100,000 in revenue and will need about $600,000 in repairs because of wear and tear and some deliberate damages "by a few of the people" staying there.

According to the state Department of Social Services, about 2,400 people are in shelters in Baton Rouge, and a total of about 13,000 are housed throughout the state.

Excluding some newly opened shelters welcoming back people displaced by Hurricane Rita in September, some shelters in the state will close in the next few days, said Kim Hunter Reed, the governor's aide on hurricane relief housing.

*See* **SHELTER,** *A-10*

## Some private schools may reopen

*But public schools on city's east bank will stay closed*

**By Mark Waller**
Staff writer

Five private schools on the east bank of New Orleans plan to reopen in the next few weeks, a move some of their leaders describe as fulfilling a civic responsibility to help the city rebound from Hurricane Katrina, even as some public school officials have argued against restarting their east bank schools any time before the summer of 2006.

The Rev. William Maestri, superintendent of Archdiocese of New Orleans schools, said St. Louis Cathedral Academy in the French Quarter will reopen Monday and De La Salle High School will welcome students back to its Uptown campus Tuesday. St. George's Episcopal School and Louise S. McGehee School resume classes Oct. 24, and Academy of the Sacred Heart expects to come back Nov. 7.

Eleven more Catholic schools are ready to return as soon as electricity and other services are restored, Maestri said.

"We don't have education going on in Orleans Parish," Maestri said, expressing frustration and anger with public officials. "Why aren't we having this discussion? Why aren't we having this action to get this going? I'm tired of talking about what's not opening and what's not working. Why isn't there more attention being paid to success rather than failure?"

Maestri said parents from storm-closed public schools should be granted tuition vouchers with taxpayer money to attend Catholic schools. The archdiocese has long made a priority of voucher programs, and Maestri said Catholic education leaders now are pushing them again with local, state and federal authorities, this time in the context of the Katrina disaster, but with little response.

Earlier this month, Torin Sanders, president of the Orleans Parish School Board, said no east bank public schools would reopen for the 2005-06

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *A-10*


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PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 83 LOW 68

# Storm takes toll on children

*Experts say talking can help kids cope*

**By Valerie Bauman**
Associated Press writer

JACKSON, MISS. — Brooke Anderson tries not to think about the storm that wrecked her hometown of Gulfport, Miss.

Now living in Jackson with her father, the 11-year-old went a week without a shower or clean water to brush her teeth after Hurricane Katrina. She went to bed scared each night, trying to sleep in the oppressive heat.

"It makes me very mad when I think about it, because I'm mad we had to go through this," Brooke said. "And I'm mad that Katrina wrecked my town."

Thousands of children such as Brooke are still sorting through their feelings more than a month after Katrina hit, trying to make sense of the tragedy as they get settled in unfamiliar cities and strange new homes.

It's not uncommon for children to struggle with negative thoughts and memories for months or even years after a disaster, said Robert Sevier, a psychologist from Hattiesburg.

"It's just going to be a time of transition," Sevier said. "And I think parents should expect that this is not going to resolve itself overnight."

Annette La Greca, a professor of psychology and pediatrics at the University of Miami, said it's hardest for children whose lives were threatened or for those who at least believed that they were in danger.

La Greca, who wrote a guide for helping children deal with the psychological effects of a hurricane, conducted a study after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Of the 500 to 600 children La Greca evaluated, 90 percent reported that they were still reliving the experience three months later.

Reliving the event — having constant, intrusive thoughts, or bad dreams — can be one symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder. Other symptoms include a sense of numbness, or avoidance, feeling distant from an event or avoiding anything having to do with it.

But most children will not suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, said Robin Gurwitch, a psychologist in Oklahoma City who is a member of the American Psychology Association disaster response network.

"It does not mean they will not have difficulty, it does not mean they will not need help, but the good news is that most children are not likely to develop PTSD," Gurwitch said.

More likely is for children to develop other symptoms of anxiety and stress, Sevier said.

For some children, settling into a new school also can be stressful, particularly as the months pass and they realize they may never go home.

The next obstacle for children will be the approaching holiday season. For families that lost everything, providing the same kind of Thanksgiving dinner or holiday gifts may be impossible.

Parents and teachers can help by giving children a comforting daily routine and by talking to them about the hurricane. Children respond well to a parent who keeps a positive outlook, La Greca said.

# Trailered workers to get FEMA checks

*Shipbuilder says Bush assured him*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Louisiana shipbuilder Donald "Boysie" Bollinger said Tuesday he has received assurances from President Bush that the federal government will provide trailers on company work sites for employees displaced by Hurricane Katrina without costing the workers' families their government-subsidized rental checks.

As a way of reviving the storm-shattered local economy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency had been providing travel trailers to businesses throughout southeastern Louisiana to house workers close to their jobs. But employees complained that if they moved into the trailers, their families would be unable to collect the $2,358 housing voucher that FEMA has promised to hurricane evacuees.

Bollinger, a Republican Party activist and prominent Louisiana businessman, said the restriction "destroyed the whole intent of the program" because it discouraged employees from going back to work.

With Bush in New Orleans for a dinner Monday night with local politicians and business leaders, Bollinger said he decided to take up the matter directly with the president. He said Bush told him the FEMA policy was "incorrect" and would be fixed.

"If it's the head of household living in the trailer, it shouldn't be held against a family trying to establish a productive life," Bollinger said the president told him. "I got it from the highest authority."

FEMA officials said they were preparing to make an announcement about the program, but had not firmed up the details as of late Tuesday. A spokeswoman called the situation "fluid."

Working with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, FEMA has placed about 6,000 workers in temporary trailers at their job sites. It was up to the companies to supply electricity, water and sewage hookups.

Large energy and chemical companies got first priority. Bollinger said his shipbuilding operation got 70 trailers, which have been set up at four sites in metropolitan New Orleans. The program proved so popular that hundreds of companies of all sizes signed up to enroll.

"I have a lot of people who want to come back," said Sam Lee, director of human resources at Sav-A-Center. "But they are saying I don't have a place to live. Talk to any retailer in the New Orleans area, and they will tell you the same thing: I can't get my people back."

Louisiana business owners and economic development officials said FEMA canceled the business trailer program Sept. 30 out of concern that only businesses supplying "essential services" should be given trailers to house employees. Daniel Craig, FEMA's director of the recovery division, said preference should be given to educational and medical facilities, utilities and public-works operations, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal, which obtained an internal memo.

The decision infuriated some local business leaders, who see the program as a key to rebuilding the local economy that has been decimated in the storm and is now struggling to rebuild.

"This is the one thing that could really help," said Pete Chocheles, who works with the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

Business owners expressed guarded relief as news spread that the program will be revived.

Peter Gambel, vice president of National Fruit Flavor, said that if the program pans out, it will be an important incentive to getting workers back to his syrup-manufacturing business in Elmwood Business Park. Gambel already has applied for six FEMA trailers.

"We are very excited about the prospect," he said.

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# Black ministers say they're locked out by Red Cross

*Group is starting own relief organization*

**By Jenny Jarvie**
Los Angeles Times

ATLANTA — When the Rev. Timothy McDonald arrived at a Red Cross shelter to serve baked chicken, collard greens and macaroni and cheese to evacuees, a Red Cross volunteer told him they could not accept his food.

McDonald, shocked and disappointed, approached a man who was serving food and asked him what group he was with.

"I'm with God," the man said.

"So am I," McDonald replied. "What organization are you with?"

"We're with the Southern Baptists," the man said, explaining that the Southern Baptist Convention has a partnership with the American Red Cross. McDonald's First Iconium Baptist Church, a modest black church in East Atlanta, does not.

"That's the reason they didn't want my chicken," said McDonald, pounding his fist on the pulpit. He is chairman of African American Ministers in Action, an advocacy group representing 5,000 clergy in 20 states.

McDonald's story, told at a forum on race last week in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, illustrated a rising concern. A veteran activist and community leader, McDonald expected to have a big role in the hurricane relief effort. Instead, he said, he has been locked out of the process, except as a critic.

Efforts to aid the evacuees in Atlanta have been harshly criticized in this city, which prides itself on its civil rights legacy. An estimated 50,000 hurricane evacuees have settled in the city, at least temporarily, and black ministers have rebuked government agencies and Red Cross chapters for failing to respond adequately. Many of the ministers, convinced that mainstream aid agencies will not work with them, are creating their own organizations.

Nearly 200 black ministers and community activists sat in First Iconium's pews one day last week for a hastily assembled town hall meeting.

"Unless those of us who are committed to truth and justice speak, there will be nothing but greed that prevails," said McDonald, 51. "We have been called for something like this."

McDonald then took his critique of hurricane relief on the road. At a meeting two days later hosted by Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., he pressed the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross to increase partnerships with black churches to provide services.

McDonald, who is on the board of the Red Cross' Metropolitan Atlanta chapter, says he does not know a single black church that has an arrangement with the Red Cross. As he has struggled to meet FEMA and Red Cross officials, he said, he has gradually realized that he is an outsider despite his connections.

"Black ministers have not been allowed in the door," he said. "Our eyes have been opened, too."

The Rev. Darryl Winston, pastor of the Church of Greater Works in south Atlanta and president of the Greater American Ministerial Association, said many in his community have offered to volunteer with the Red Cross but have not been contacted by the organization. "The Red Cross has the money," he said, "but the Red Cross simply does not have the grass-roots connections."

Winston has linked up with other pastors to establish a new relief organization, underwritten by church budgets, called Faith and Community Based Response to Emergency Disasters.

A spokesman for the Red Cross acknowledged that the organization needs to build its presence in poor black neighborhoods.

"This is something that has opened a lot of people's eyes," said Bill Reynolds, spokesman for the Red Cross' Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter. "There should be Red Cross resources right there in those communities. But it goes both ways. This is a great lesson that should be learned by everyone, not just the Red Cross."

A spokeswoman for FEMA, which does not contract directly with nonprofit organizations, said the agency is still attempting to educate people about its role.

Some black civic leaders are urging pastors to build a presence within mainstream organizations.

"We need to be part of anything that has millions of dollars and spends it in our community," said William Lucy, founder and president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Lucy, who worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to organize striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., is on the board of governors of the American Red Cross.

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# Portion of U.S. 90 to open in Miss.

*Restoration dug up debris and gators*

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — Mississippi transportation officials expect the first phase of restoration of U.S. 90 to be complete Tuesday.

The eastbound lanes will be available for traffic, although municipalities are expected to continue to restrict the highway's use to emergency, recovery and debris-removal vehicles.

David Seyfarth, an engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation, said drainage has been the biggest problem.

He said getting sand out of the drainage system is the least of the problems. He said high-powered vacuum trucks and pressurized sewer hogs blow 2,000 pounds per square inch of water to rinse out the drain pipes.

"It's just taking longer than we anticipated," Seyfarth said of the U.S. 90 work. "But nobody knew how long it was going to take going in."

Seyfarth said workers have also found sinks, toilets and carpet — and alligators. He said the alligators have been up to 7 ½ feet.

There was also a tree.

"I don't know how that got there," Seyfarth said.

Three contracts have been awarded for the emergency work.

The first phase has been aimed at getting at least asphalt everywhere along those two lanes, along with rudimentary traffic signals. The westbound lanes are expected to be done Oct. 25.

Complete rehabilitation of U.S. 90 will probably tie in with the completion of the two bridges in July 2007. The Mississippi Transportation Department plans to use ground-penetrating radar to help find voids in the underlying roadbed that could cause future problems, Seyfarth said.

# FEMA to rebid four large contracts

*Few deals went to minority or local businesses*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Under fire for awarding large noncompetitive hurricane recovery contracts that included few local or minority-owned businesses, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Tuesday it will rebid four large jobs.

David Paulison, director of the disaster agency, said special consideration will be given to applicants from areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina as well as to disadvantaged businesses.

"In the immediate response phase for Hurricane Katrina, our priority was to get relief quickly to those in need," Paulison said.

As of Oct. 3, two of 140 contracts awarded by FEMA had gone to Louisiana-based firms. Together, they accounted for less than one half of 1 percent of the $1.6 billion in contracts that had been awarded since the Aug. 29 storm. Minority-owned businesses accounted for 1.5 percent of the total.

Local companies struggling to stay in business after the hurricane complained they were being shut out of the massive recovery operation while work was going to large, out-of-state firms.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, FEMA awarded contracts worth as much as $100 million each to four large engineering and construction companies to set up disaster recovery centers, haul and install temporary housing, and perform other logistical duties. Fluor Corp., CH2M Hill, Bechtel Corp. and the Shaw Group landed the contracts without competition. They will be eligible to bid on a new round of contracts to provide technical assistance in future disasters, but the current work will be rebid, Paulison said.

Small companies or those run by minorities or women, or those businesses classified as "disadvantaged" by the Small Business Administration, will be eligible to bid. In the selection process, according to FEMA, preference will be given to firms in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

It's unclear how many contracts will be awarded or what they will be worth. Details are expected to be available in about a week at the Web site www.fedbizopps.gov.

Also Tuesday, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez announced the creation of a centralized hurricane information center to help small and minority-owned businesses navigate the often-complex federal contracting bureaucracy. The center, which can be contacted at www.RebuildingtheGulfCoast.gov or 1(888) 4USADOC, will not award contracts; it will only answer questions and register businesses for contracting opportunities.

At a gathering of minority-owned business representatives in Washington, Gutierrez said the Gulf region had a record of minority hiring lower than the national average before Katrina struck. He declined to say what the administration's minority-hiring target would be for the hurricane recovery effort.

"We have an opportunity here to increase the participation of minority businesses from where it was before the hurricane," Gutierrez said. "We are focused on making the future a lot better than the past."

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# Louisiana group studies levee failure

*Team hopes to speak with nearby residents*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

Louisiana is fielding its own team of engineers and research scientists to conduct an investigation into levee failures that flooded New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit, the state Department of Transportation and Development announced Tuesday.

The team will be led by Ivor van Heerden, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at LSU who questioned initial Army Corps of Engineers statements that the 17th Street and London Avenue canal breaches were caused by water topping the levee walls.

Van Heerden's theory that the pressure of floodwaters within the canals somehow caused the walls to buckle has gained credence over the past two weeks as three other forensic investigative teams sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers and National Science Foundation have inspected the breaks and other stretches of levees surrounding the New Orleans area.

Van Heerden said none of the other teams include Louisiana representatives and that the new team will help ensure that the state's interests are represented during the levee break investigation.

"That takes into account that probably 100,000 homes have been lost to flooding and more than a thousand citizens have lost their lives," he said.

Van Heerden said his group already has been contacted by a number of people living near the failed walls who are providing details about what they saw and heard during and after the storm. He said he's also searching for people living near the levee walls who have clocks that were stopped by floodwaters, which he said would help determine when the levees failed.

The team is asking the corps for a variety of documents, including preconstruction and as-built plans; construction contracts; inspection reports; and correspondence concerning the Pittman Construction Co., which documents show built the 17th Street Canal levee wall.

The group also will use computer models to re-create the way storm surge may have caused the walls to fail. Van Heerden and fellow team member Hassan Mashriqui of the LSU Hurricane Center provided storm surge modeling results to state and federal emergency planners in advance of the storm that showed water would top levees in St. Bernard Parish, eastern New Orleans, parts of the Lower 9th Ward and parts of St. Charles and Jefferson parishes. Van Heerden's prestorm models did not show water topping the 17th Street and London Avenue canals.

Joining van Heerden on the state team will be:

▶ Radhey S. Sharma, associate professor in geotechnical and geo-environmental engineering at LSU.

▶ G. Paul Kemp, director of the LSU Natural Systems Modeling Group and associate professor in the LSU School of the Coast and Environment.

▶ Mashriqui, assistant professor of research, LSU Hurricane Center.

▶ Wes Shrum, director of graduate students, LSU sociology department.

▶ S. Ahmet Binselam, manager of the New Orleans Geographic Information Systems, LSU Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes.

▶ Three independent engineers to be hired by the transportation department.

People who live near the levee walls and have clocks that were stopped by floodwaters or have other information about the levee failures are asked to call the team at (225)578-0268.

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# 6 accused of stealing aid

**By The Associated Press**

TITUSVILLE, FLA. — Police arrested four people and were searching for two other suspects who allegedly posed as displaced Louisiana residents at a Florida hotel and together stole at least $9,000 intended for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Gertrude Mazion, 44; Mary Walker, 59; Sylvia Trice, 44; and April Smith, 34, all of Titusville, were charged Monday with felony possession of fictitious identification, scheming to defraud, cheating and grand theft.

Police said they were searching for David Bovian, 50, and Trinka Daniels, 29.

Police investigating an unrelated case recognized the suspects' names on a hotel registry because each previously had been arrested in Titusville, police spokesman Warren Van Vuren said.

# First pain, then gain for storm-hit Florida

*Land prices doubled for some after Ivan*

**By Gilbert M. Gaul**
The Washington Post

PENSACOLA BEACH, FLA. — The last thing Buck Lee expected after Hurricane Ivan gutted this narrow sliver of paradise in 2004 was a land rush. Yet, only weeks after the bruising storm leveled hundreds of vacation homes on the sugar-sand beaches, a flotilla of speculators appeared.

"I couldn't believe it," said Lee, a former county commissioner who helps run the island government. "People from all over America were driving around here with their windows down and their checkbooks out, offering to buy houses on the spot."

In a season of monster hurricanes that have wreaked so much death and destruction, Pensacola Beach offers a lesson in why coastal resorts often come out of a storm more prosperous than ever, helped along by federal subsidies and tax breaks that are available no matter how many times the same area gets hit.

Although Pensacola Beach escaped Hurricane Katrina's worst, four other storms battered the town in the past year, destroying 450 homes. A year after Ivan, piles of debris still line narrow, sand-filled streets. Collapsed homes dot the Gulf of Mexico and Santa Rosa Sound. Tangles of iron and concrete are all that remain of some hotels.

Property values, though, continue to defy expectations. Lots that sold for $1 million before Ivan now garner $2 million. "You would think after seeing all of the damage, who would want to live here?" said Lee, steering his yellow Hummer past a handmade sign advertising a lot for $1.8 million.

Hurricanes, it turns out, can act as a perverse force for redevelopment along the nation's barrier islands and coasts. In a beach town, they often weed out older, less valuable properties, encouraging investors to build bigger and more expensive homes and hotels. That pushes up property values overall.

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# 100,000 evacuees expected to stay put in Baton Rouge

## *Better storm plans needed, mayor says*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — At least 100,000 displaced Hurricane Katrina victims probably will become permanent residents of East Baton Rouge Parish, Mayor-President Kip Holden said Tuesday.

Holden, who met with a joint legislative committee looking into the fallout from hurricanes Rita and Katrina, said previous projections that 50,000 evacuees would remain in Baton Rouge were conservative.

"We know, based on traffic counts, that we have 225,000 more vehicles on the roads (daily) now than we had before," Holden said. "We think that at least half will stay."

He said as many as 7,000 new students are enrolled in the East Baton Rouge public school system, more than 460 have enrolled in the smaller Baker school district in suburban Baton Rouge and the schools in Zachary in the rural part of East Baton Rouge Parish have 205 more students.

One big problem is that Baton Rouge was left unprepared and out of the planning loop to care for the evacuees, Holden said.

"The state's shelter plan was not followed and created problems for Baton Rouge," he said. The plan, he said, calls for the state to send evacuees to northern and central Louisiana shelters first, but Baton Rouge was hit with 15,000 evacuees as the New Orleans area emptied.

"There should be clear lines of authority of who is in charge," Holden said. "Many stranded New Orleans citizens called the East Baton Rouge Emergency Operations Center for rescue from rooftops and . . . from dying victims" because telephone lines and cellular towers were down or jammed in the New Orleans area, he said.

He said a task force from East Baton Rouge rescued about 1,000 storm victims. Staying at the Baton Rouge emergency preparedness office, he said "one could hear the voices of desperation of people from Chalmette calling for help because they could not get through to local officials."

Holden said the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated Baton Rouge as a staging area without making provisions for added staffing or financial aid.

"There must be better communications among all levels of government," he said. "We still do not have a designated FEMA contact.

"We need better preplanning between the state and local governments. We have some problems we have to address. We can't wait for another storm to occur. The system is out of control."

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# Hurricanes take bite out of pecan crop

**By The Associated Press**

MONROE — Cooks looking for pecans this holiday season might come up short thanks to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

After Rita whipped through the region, Ricky Pierce of Double P Farm in Monroe walked outside and looked at the thousands of pecans resting uselessly on the ground.

"It's very frustrating because you have no control over it," Pierce said.

Pierce's pecan orchard represents 65 acres of the state's 26,000 acres of pecan orchards damaged by the storms. Damage estimates ranged from 5 percent to 90 percent of the crop lost for the year with an average of about 40 percent lost in northeastern Louisiana alone, said LSU AgCenter horticulturist Charles Graham of the Pecan Research Station in Shreveport. That equates to a statewide loss of more than 53 percent of all pecans, or 4.77 million pounds, at a value between $4.8 million and $6.2 million, Graham said.

Pierce estimates he lost about 60 percent of his crop.

"I didn't make nothing last year — didn't even break even," Pierce said. "With the hurricanes the following year, that just makes me that much more in the hole."

Even "hobby crops" suffered in Monroe.

The Baptist Children's Home lost about 25 percent of the pecans on its 1,400 trees, maintenance director Dale Stone said.

Although only a few trees at each orchard in the region were lost, many were damaged and might take up to two years to recuperate. That could make for below-average crop production in the next couple years as well, although many southern and central Louisiana orchards fared far worse, said Louisiana Pecan Growers Association President Bob Williams of Williams Pecans in Newellton.

# La.'s Medicaid faces more need, less money

## *Hurricanes mangle budget, tax base*

**By Melinda Deslatte**
Associated Press writer

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana may add as many as 60,000 more people to its Medicaid rolls during the next six months because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but the health care program for the poor appears headed for the chopping block even without the new enrollees.

The hurricanes have wreaked havoc on the state's budget, cutting out a large segment of Louisiana's tax base as businesses have shuttered and evacuees have scattered. The hole in this year's $18.7 billion budget is estimated to start at $1 billion and grow from there.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration, which will have a heavy hand in determining budget cuts to deal with any state shortfalls, hasn't indicated how much of a hit the Medicaid program would be expected to take.

But if the state Department of Health and Hospitals gets cuts proportionate to those it has historically received during budget slashing, about $250 million in state dollars would be cut from the Medicaid program, according to Fred Cerise, secretary of the health department. Another $580 million in federal matching cash would then be lost, he said.

The Medicaid budget would have to be cut as much as 40 percent to deal with that loss in revenue, combined with other projected losses in the program and considering the lateness of the fiscal year that began July 1, Cerise told lawmakers Monday.

"We just don't have the ability to absorb this," he said.

Medicaid provides health care coverage for low-income people, primarily children, their parents, pregnant women, the disabled and the poor in need of long-term care. States put up a share of the costs of the program, and the federal government provides matching dollars. More than 990,000 people were enrolled in Louisiana's Medicaid program before the hurricanes.

To add to the state's financial problems, Louisiana is supposed to pick up the state costs of care for its evacuees who relied on Medicaid programs in other states where they fled the storms. And Louisiana can't control who gets Medicaid services in the other states and won't be able to cut those services.

The health department is turning to Washington for help, and Cerise said federal health officials acknowledge Louisiana has a problem. The solution that the health department is seeking, however, requires congressional intervention.

A bill stalled in the U.S. Senate would provide for federal payment of the state's portion of Medicaid costs for evacuees in other states, would require the federal government to pick up the total tab of any new Medicaid patients added in Louisiana and would give the state some money to help pay for currently enrolled Medicaid recipients in areas hit by the hurricanes.

The cost of the legislation, which includes other measures, is estimated at $9 billion. The White House is fighting the bill, saying it is unnecessary because other health care money is available for storm victims.

While state officials wait to see if Louisiana will get any federal relief, they have reduced some spending — including halving the upfront annual payment to small, rural hospitals that provide care to the uninsured.

For the past two or three years, the health department has paid the rural hospitals for an entire year of that expected care in October, only a few months into the fiscal year, according to Charles Castille, undersecretary of the department.

Cerise, citing the uncertainty of the budget, said that this time, the rural hospitals are getting only 50 percent in October. He said he hopes to pay the remaining half to the hospitals at some point in this fiscal year.


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# Admiral proposes military disaster unit

## *Troops would aid National Guard*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — A senior U.S. commander is proposing that the military create an active-duty force specifically trained and equipped to help the National Guard respond to major natural disasters like hurricanes.

The proposal by Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of U.S. Northern Command, has not yet been presented to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, according to Rumsfeld's chief spokesman, Lawrence Di Rita.

"It's one of the ideas that's out there," Di Rita said.

Keating's proposal was first reported Tuesday by The New York Times, which said that command of such a response mission would remain with the National Guard, which answers to state governors.

President Bush has said he wants Congress to consider whether to enact laws that would authorize the active-duty military to take a bigger role — possibly the lead role, in some cases — in responding to disasters that are so severe that state and local authorities are overwhelmed and unable to provide sufficient rescue and relief.

"What Admiral Keating rightly wants to do" is consider whether, in light of the lessons learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there may be a "different way to organize to have some component that was dedicated to this mission," Di Rita said.

The main Army response to Katrina was to send about 3,500 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., along with soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

About 2,000 Marines also were sent.

The Navy sent several ships and the Air Force provided transport planes and helicopters.

# State is scrambling for federal loans

## *But officials fear hard-hit parishes won't get relief*

**By Laura Maggi and Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The state has begun the process of applying for recently approved federal loans to keep local governments running, but some state officials Tuesday said they have concerns about how effective the program will be for parishes that are struggling to stay afloat after Hurricane Katrina.

Federal Emergency Management Agency accountants have been given information about St. Bernard Parish government's finances and have begun figuring out how much it will be eligible for, said Col. Jeff Smith, the deputy director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. But Smith was skeptical about how quickly money will be available and how many strings will be attached.

"We strongly object to the way this was done," Smith said. "But we are working through it."

Jerry Luke LeBlanc, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's commissioner of administration, said the administration will try to make the program work but is seeking other ways to find the money for local governments. He said that according to FEMA rules, the loans will take about 20 to 25 days to distribute, meaning that Congress will be back in session before local governments get the money.

### Repayment problems

The $750 million loan program was approved by Congress and signed by President Bush last Friday after disagreement within the Louisiana delegation about provisions that will require the local municipalities to repay any loan money they receive, a change from similar loan programs from earlier disasters. Blanco criticized this provision, calling the legislation's passage "bittersweet" because of the repayment requirement.

Instead of the loan program, Blanco had asked President Bush to waive certain requirements of the federal disaster regulations in order to let FEMA help local governments with day-to-day payroll shortfalls. Under current rules, the emergency agency can cover only overtime pay for government employees.

U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., pushed the bill through the process and concluded that Republican conservatives would block passage unless language was included to bar forgiveness of the debts.

For state officials who have just begun looking at the program, some of the issues will be resolved when FEMA finishes developing regulations for the loans and lays out its specific requirements. A FEMA spokeswoman Tuesday said the agency is "working around the clock" on the rules and hopes to have them finished "as soon as possible."

### Collateral or co-signing

State Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot said parishes that seek the loans will either need to pledge collateral — such as local assets — or get the state to co-sign on the loan. For a parish that has been wiped out, such as St. Bernard, there won't be any assets to pledge, he said.

This idea of co-signing loans has some state officials worried. "So the state is going to have to step in, but are we stepping in to back a financial transaction that may not work?" LeBlanc said. "That's a serious issue."

LeBlanc said that, according to FEMA, local authorities who get the loans will immediately have to start making payments to a so-called "sinking fund," which is cash to help secure the loan. The rule makes the loan almost pointless, he said.

"If the whole point is to access cash, for the local governments that have no cash and have no tax base, you're borrowing the money just to place it into a sinking fund," LeBlanc said.

Vitter said he has asked that the regulations not include any collateral requirements, but that he doesn't see a problem with the state co-signing for the loans.

"I just think the state is going to have to be involved in that helpful way," Vitter said. "I just want to express my deep frustration about folks in Baton Rouge who apparently are completely focused on why this can't work instead of figuring out how to make it work so we can get these communities through these very crucial next several months."

### 'Only plan on the table'

State Treasurer John Kennedy said he thinks the Blanco administration should try to work with Washington to get money for local governments as soon as possible.

"My general view of the proposal is that it is not perfect, but it is the only plan on the table," said Kennedy, who is the head of the Louisiana Bond Commission, which would need to approve any loans to local governments. "I think we ought to try to make this work."

Theriot said governments will be able to borrow only up to 25 percent of their general fund revenue. "Some of these locals are going to have a shortfall for a number of years. This is only a one-time fix," Theriot said.

Vitter said he thinks the program will be enough to keep pared-down local governments operating for the next couple months. He said he thinks he eventually can get Congress to agree to forgive the loans, but that lawmakers need to see that the state government is helping to tackle these important problems.

The city of New Orleans plans to use the loan money for municipal operations, said Sally Forman, a spokeswoman for Mayor Ray Nagin, who recently announced he is laying off half of the city's 6,000-person work force.

"At this point we're taking what we can get," Forman said.

Forman said city officials are examining the regulations tied to the loans and that she was unaware of whether any problems in getting the loans had been encountered.

### Sheriffs' group concerned

Hal Turner, executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, said his group has concerns about whether local sheriff departments would be eligible for the loans. Unlike sheriffs in most other states, sheriffs in Louisiana operate as government entities separate from parish authorities.

Whenever an issue arises over federal financing for local governments, sheriffs in Louisiana have no assurance that they will get some of the financing unless the parishes are willing to share or the legislation allows money to go directly to the sheriffs, Turner said.

For the new loan program, members of Congress have offered different opinions to the sheriff association, and so the association has asked its attorneys and the federal Homeland Security Department to try to get a clear answer.

•••••••

Staff writer Bruce Alpert contributed to this report.

Laura Maggi can be reached at lmaggi@timespicayune.com or at (225) 342-5590. Robert Travis Scott can be reached at rscott@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-4197.

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# Katrina is latest blow to struggling Mississippi town

*Founded by ex-slaves, village is tight-knit*

**By Elizabeth Mehren**
Los Angeles Times

GULFPORT, MISS. — The Reconstruction-era neighborhood of Turkey Creek already was in danger of disappearing when Hurricane Katrina came to call.

A Wal-Mart and an enormous car dealership had moved close by, taking over land that once held deep woods. A low-income apartment complex popped up, and part of Turkey Creek's old burial ground was paved for a parking lot. The community's lush wetlands were fast filling up — and the nearby airport was looking to expand, which potentially would eat up still more of Turkey Creek's open space.

"It was like an apple that had been eaten," said Derrick Evans, a seventh-generation descendant of the community's founding family. "All that was left was the core. But at least we still had the seeds."

Like the rest of coastal Mississippi, Turkey Creek was reeling four weeks after Katrina. But residents of this venerable settlement also were looking forward — reasoning that the hurricane might bring recognition to one of southern Mississippi's few historic areas to survive the storm.

"Katrina has focused interest and attention on a part of the country that nobody really knows about," Evans, 38, said. "The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a heretofore unobserved, unappreciated treasure. And Turkey Creek is one of the most interesting cultural enclaves you will find here."




SPENCER WEINER/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Derrick Evans, a descendant of the founding family, leans on a placard that Hurricane Katrina tossed off the posts in front of a destroyed home.

## Small paradise

The community took root in 1866, when a newly emancipated black man named Samuel Evans encountered a small paradise about eight miles from the Gulf of Mexico. There was a roaring creek with a canopy of trees that made it feel like the Amazon. There were alligators, large squirrels and an abundance of wild turkeys.

Evans bought 80 acres, and soon his friend Jefferson White bought 80 more. The Evans and White homesteads formed the foundation for a community that prospered while segregation kept it separate from surrounding Gulfport.

Turkey Creek had stores and industry. For generations, most of the men made charcoal or worked in a lumber treatment plant that manufactured railroad ties and telephone poles. The village had its own post office and church, and the first black school on the Gulf Coast.

At its peak, about 1,000 people lived in Turkey Creek. Many bungalows were built in the early 20th century and passed down for generations.

Nearly all of the one-story, wood-frame homes were flooded by Katrina, and about half were badly damaged.

Of the 70 homes and about 300 people in Turkey Creek, just a few of the families are white. Nearly everyone in the neighborhood is related.

"We have always been a living community, since 1866," said Martha Snelling, 56, a descendant of Jefferson White. "We have the same families living here who have been here since the beginning."

Snelling worked with the University of Southern Mississippi to develop an oral history of Turkey Creek. The tapes were destroyed when Katrina flooded the university building where they were stored, Snelling said.

## Ignored by big city

Gulfport largely ignored the small black settlement nestled within its 70 square miles. The neighborhood had to provide its own drinking water. The city — present population 72,000 — did not pave Turkey Creek's roads or put curbs on its sidewalks.

Starting about 15 years ago, Derrick Evans said, the city began to target the area around Turkey Creek for development.

Two years ago, Evans returned to Turkey Creek from Boston, where he had been teaching civil rights history at Boston College. He formed Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, a nonprofit group that wants to protect the neighborhood by turning it into an urban greenway.

In 2001, the Mississippi Heritage Trust named the neighborhood one of the state's 10 most endangered historic places. The next year, an early Turkey Creek homes joined the National Register of Historic Places.

Neither designation is enough to stop development, said Trisha Miller, a staff attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which is advising Turkey Creek as it seeks historical status.

Storm damage to many Turkey Creek homes is so extensive that, "The city might not say they are up to code, but they could be preserved as historic," she said.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently visited Turkey Creek to assess the damage.

"We're on the case," said National Trust President Richard Moe. "It was enormously important in the first place to preserve a community like this, but I think it is even more important given the tremendous losses in this region due to Katrina."

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# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Taliban suspected in attack on Afghans

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — Suspected Taliban rebels ambushed a police convoy traveling on a mountain road in southern Afghanistan, killing 19 officers in the deadliest attack ever on the fledgling police force, officials said Tuesday. Five other officers were missing and feared dead or kidnapped after the attack late Monday on a convoy of 150 police officers as they drove on a dirt road along the side of a mountain in Helmand province, Interior Ministry spokesman Yusuf Stanikzai said. Dozens of insurgents opened fire on the convoy, sparking a gunbattle that lasted until early Tuesday, when the militants fled into the mountains, he said. Among the 19 dead was Helmand's deputy police chief, Stanikzai said. Four police officers were wounded, and four police vehicles were destroyed, he said. Security forces rushed 200 extra police officers to the area and were searching houses and mountain caves, but no militants had been caught or killed, the spokesman said. Another Interior Ministry official, Dad Mohammed Rasa, said the attack was "the deadliest ever on the police" department, which was set up soon after U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban from power for harboring terrorist leader Osama bin Laden in 2001. The attack came amid a major surge in violence by Taliban-led rebels that has left about 1,400 people dead in the past six months and raised fears about the country's fragile democracy. Violence also continued in other areas.

## Guns from '04 attack are traced to Yemen

SAN'A, YEMEN — Two AK-47 assault rifles used in a deadly attack on the U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia have been traced to Yemen's Defense Ministry, according to Western and Yemeni officials, raising new fears that the country isn't doing enough to fight terrorism. The revelation comes five years after al-Qaida-linked militants bombed the USS Cole destroyer on Oct. 12, 2000, at the port in San'a, the capital, killing 17 sailors. In other developments, Yemeni militants are believed to be among foreigners fighting U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq, U.S. and Iraqi officials have said. Some Yemenis have even carried out suicide bombings in Iraq after their release from prison in Yemen under a government program, say Yemeni officials cited in local newspapers. Under the "dialogue" program, Islamic fundamentalists are let go in exchange for renouncing violence. Despite the setbacks, the United States continues to boost its security relationship with Yemen. Last week, it delivered more boats and equipment to the country's coast guard ahead of today's fifth anniversary of the USS Cole attack. Though U.S. officials publicly praise Yemen for curbing extremist groups, Western and Yemeni diplomats privately say it must do more to lock down its porous, 1,120-mile border with Saudi Arabia and prevent weapons and militant smuggling. Yemen is awash with weapons, and strong ties exist between its military and tribal groups, which make up the backbone of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's power base. The Yemeni government sometimes gives weapons to tribes to curry favor, and it is believed the AK-47 rifles in question were likely smuggled into a black market and bought by militants.

From wire reports



AP PHOTO

A Pakistani earthquake survivor, center rear, is kissed on the cheek by a loved one after he was dug out of the rubble Tuesday in Balakot, Pakistan.

# Hail, rain hamper efforts to help quake survivors

*Death toll in Pakistan may exceed 35,000*

**By Sadaqat Jan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — Heavy rain and hail forced the cancellation of some relief flights to earthquake-stricken regions Tuesday and survivors scuffled over the badly needed food — the first large-scale aid to make it overland to the devastated city of Muzaffarabad. Officials estimated the death toll would surpass 35,000.

In the latest of a series of remarkable rescues, emergency workers in the northern town of Balakot pulled a teenage boy from the rubble, 78 hours after Saturday's quake.

"He's alive!" rescuers shouted as people gave food and water to the boy and kissed him on the head.

Two survivors, a 55-year-old woman and her 75-year-old mother, were pulled from the rubble of a 10-story apartment building in Islamabad, 80 hours after they were buried. They did not appear to have suffered serious injuries.

A French search team on Monday rescued at least five children buried in a collapsed school in the northern town of Balakot, said Eric Supara, an official at the French Embassy in Islamabad.

Bob McKerrow, coordinator of relief efforts for the International Federation of the Red Cross, told CNN that "you can still keep some hope" for survivors trapped for five to seven days, although he cautioned that the cold and wet weather would become a factor.

In Indian-controlled Kashmir, rescue workers Tuesday found the bodies of 60 road workers in a bus that was buried in a landslide during the quake, the army said. The bodies were cremated on funeral pyres beside the highway they were working on, officials said.

Earlier in the day, U.S. military helicopters, diverted from neighboring Afghanistan, helped ferry wounded from the wrecked city of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-ruled Kashmir. International rescue teams joined the search for finding survivors. Teams of Britons, Germans and Turks used high-tech cameras to scan under piles of concrete, steel and wood.

Thousands of civilian volunteers, some carrying picks and shovels on the shoulders, walked north toward quake-hit towns.

The worst-hit region was Kashmir, a divided Himalayan territory of about 10 million people claimed by both India and Pakistan. Islamic rebels opposed to Indian rule of its part of the largely Muslim region have fought a 15-year insurgency that has claimed more than 66,000 lives. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir.

Bad weather compounded the misery in the region, with heavy rain and hail forcing some helicopters loaded with food and medicine to cancel or delay their flights.

That official toll in Pakistan remained at about 20,000 people, but a senior army official close to the rescue operations said government officials were estimating that between 35,000 and 40,000 died. The official asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to disclose the estimate to journalists.

Indian army spokesman J.S. Juneja said his country's death toll had risen to 1,460 with the discovery of the road workers buried in the landslide.

The U.S. Agency for International Development reported 33,180 dead in Pakistan, 865 dead in India and four dead in Afghanistan. citing its own, preliminary statistics.

The U.N. World Food Program said the first deliveries of food for 240,000 people would reach victims late Tuesday. Simon Pluess, a spokesman for the agency, said the program was prepared to feed 1 million people for a month.

U.N. officials also warned of a possible measles epidemic and the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, as the water and sanitation system is heavily damaged.

"Measles could potentially become a serious problem," said Fadela Chaib, spokeswoman for the World Health Organization. Measles is endemic in the region.

# Guatemala suspends hunt for flood victims

*As food runs low, nation relies on aid*

**By Mark Stevenson**
Associated Press writer

SANTIAGO ATITLAN, GUATEMALA — Authorities abandoned efforts Tuesday to recover bodies from a deadly landslide and turned to international agencies to help feed, clothe and treat the tens of thousands of residents who lost everything in a week of deadly rain and floods.

President Oscar Berger and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu arrived by helicopter in the hard-hit town of Santiago Atitlan to the cheers of hundreds of people who swarmed the town square, a stone courtyard fronting a 17th century church.

"We came to share the pain of all the people who lost loved ones," Berger said after hugging the town's mayor. "We are very worried about Santiago Atitlan, (but) I have the impression that we have never been as united."

Also Tuesday, Guatemalan officials raised the number of missing people to 577 from 384, while the death toll remained at 652. Another 133 people have died in El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras because of the heavy rain, partly spawned by Hurricane Stan.

Officials concerned about the possible outbreak of disease set up a perimeter around the site of a half-mile-wide and 15- to 20-foot-deep mudslide that buried the nearby community of Panabaj, about 85 miles west of Guatemala City.

Santiago Atitlan Mayor Diego Esquina said corpses were decomposing rapidly and the hillside under which they lay was still highly unstable, making further rescue efforts too risky. Residents had been digging for possible survivors with their hands and whatever tools they could find.

Berger later declared the area a high-risk zone.

More than 107,000 Guatemalans were staying in shelters after their homes were damaged or destroyed. Some outlying communities remained blocked from outside help, Guatemalan Agriculture Minister Alvaro Aguilar said.

Aguilar said the government had stored up about two months' worth of food for emergencies but used an entire month's supply just last week. He estimated that the country will need at least 22,000 tons of food during the next three months.

The government Monday night issued an urgent call to the United Nations, seeking $21.5 million in aid because its own emergency response funds would not be enough to cope with the crisis.

Several countries already have offered assistance to Guatemala, including flood-stricken Mexico. Sweden has donated $5 million, and Spain, France and Taiwan have sent aid shipments.

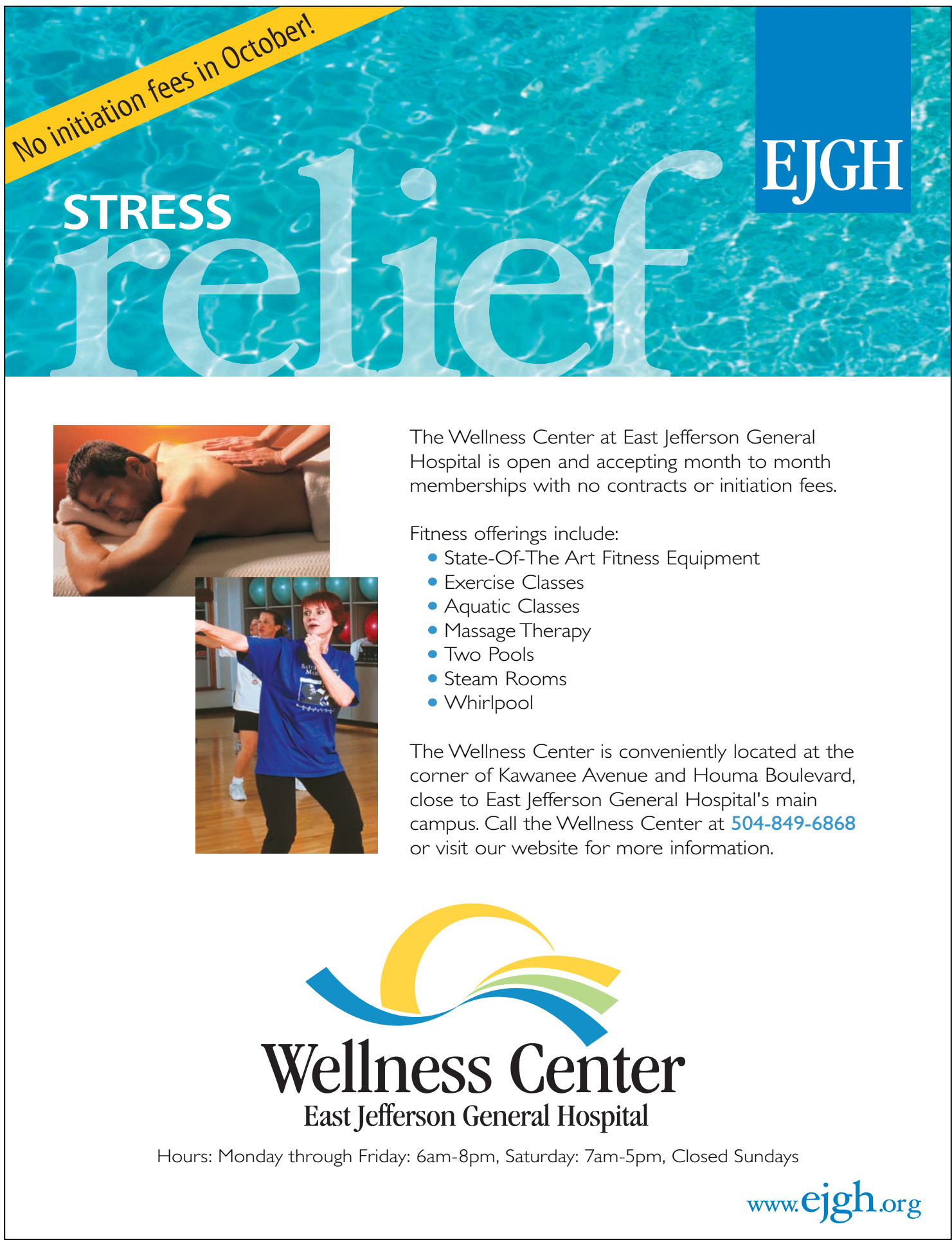
The United States has delivered 5,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 blankets, 15,000 gallons of drinking water and 11,000 gallons of fuel to victims in Guatemala, officials said. U.S. helicopters shuttled food and water to isolated villages, and a medical unit from the Arkansas National Guard also was preparing to go to the region.

The United States also was offering aid to El Salvador, Costa Rica and Mexico.

"There are so few of these kinds of problems that any one (country) can handle alone," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday while en route to meetings in Florida with security leaders from seven Central American countries. "It looks like it's a terrible natural disaster. It's heartbreaking."

Nurse practitioner Barbara Fallon, doing relief work in Guatemala with a Missouri group, Pueblo to Pueblo, said storm victims were lacking all the basics.

"They need water, food and clothes, and a way to maintain hygiene," she said.




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**RE: Local Union 689, New Orleans, Louisiana**
**Notice of Emergency Trusteeship Hearing**

Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on October 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.

Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.

The hearing will be conducted via telephone at 2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time). Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free 1-800-423-1988 and provide the operator with the following code (788833). Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

# Bomb kills 30, wounds 45 more

*In all, 44 people slain 4 days before election*

**By Sinan Salaheddin**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Insurgents determined to wreck Iraq's constitutional referendum killed more than 40 people and wounded dozens in a series of attacks Tuesday, including a suicide car bomb that ripped apart a crowded market in a town near the Syrian border, police said.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have repeatedly warned that the insurgents would step up their attacks to undermine Saturday's referendum, a crucial step in Iraq's democratic transition.

In the deadliest attack in nearly two weeks, a suicide car bomb exploded about 11 a.m. in a crowded open market in the northwestern town of Tal Afar, killing 30 Iraqis and wounding 45, said Brig. Najim Abdullah, Tal Afar's police chief. U.S and Iraqi forces routed insurgents in a major offensive there last month.

He said all the victims appeared to be civilians because no Iraqi or U.S. forces were in the center of Tal Afar, which is 260 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Insurgents also used two suicide car bombs, three roadside bombs and four drive-by shootings in the capital Tuesday to kill a total of 14 Iraqis; 29 were wounded, police said.

The worst attack involved a suicide car bomb that exploded about noon at an Iraqi army checkpoint in a busy area of western Baghdad, killing eight Iraqi soldiers and one civilian and wounding 12 soldiers, said police Capt. Qassim Hussein.

The violence came four days before Iraq's key vote on the draft constitution, which Kurds and the majority Shiites largely support and the Sunni Arab minority rejects. Sunnis are campaigning to defeat the charter at the polls, although officials from all sides have been trying up to the last minute to decide on changes to the constitution to swing Sunni support.

Many Sunnis fear the document would create nearly autonomous Kurdish and Shiite mini-states in the north and south, where Iraq's oil wealth is located, and leave most Sunnis isolated in central and western Iraq under a weak central government in Baghdad. Whether the constitution passes or fails, Iraq is due to hold elections for a new parliament on Dec. 15.

Militants are demanding that Iraqis boycott the referendum and have killed at least 384 people in the past 16 days in a series of attacks.

In another development, a top election official said Tuesday that Iraqi law will allow Saddam Hussein and thousands of other detainees who have not been brought to trial to vote in the referendum.

However, Abdul Hussein Hindawi, one of the eight highest-ranking officials on the Independent Electoral Commission in Iraq, also said the organization was still awaiting a full list from the Interior Ministry and the U.S.-led coalition of the detainees who should be allowed to receive copies of the draft constitution and to vote at Abu Ghraib prison and several other U.S. detention centers.

# Negotiators strike a deal on Iraqi constitution

**By Sinan Salaheddin**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Iraqi negotiators reached a breakthrough deal on the constitution Tuesday, and at least one Sunni Arab party said it now would urge its followers to approve the charter in this weekend's referendum.

Under the deal, the two sides agreed that a commission would be set up to consider amendments to the charter that then would be put to a vote in parliament and submitted to a new referendum next year.

The agreement would allow the Sunnis to try to amend the constitution to reduce the autonomous powers that Shiites and Kurds would have under the federal system created by the charter, negotiators said.

It boosts the chances for a constitution that Shiite and Kurdish leaders support. The United States hopes to see the constitution approved in Saturday's vote to avert months more of political turmoil, delaying plans to start a withdrawal of U.S. forces.

U.S. officials have pushed the three days of negotiations between Shiite and Kurdish leaders in the government and Sunni Arab officials, which concluded with marathon talks at the house of President Jalal Talabani late Tuesday.

A top Sunni negotiator, Ayad al-Samarraie of the Iraqi Islamic Party, said the measure would allow it to "stop the campaign rejecting the constitution and we will call on Sunni Arabs to vote yes." It was unclear if parliament would take a formal vote on the new deal.


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**Additional Information:**

- Direct deposits, automatic debits and credits and online bill payments have been processed.
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- The U.S. Postal Service is rerouting mail that was addressed to Hibernia to other locations so Hibernia can process lockbox services for commercial customers.

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[1] Interest will continue to accrue during deferment period.

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# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bushes defend high court pick

WASHINGTON — President Bush and his wife, Laura, offered a double-barreled defense of Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers on Tuesday while the White House worked to dampen opposition from the right and win confirmation for the president's pick. "Harriet Miers is going to be confirmed and people will get to see why I put her on the bench," Bush said in a television interview on NBC's "Today" show. The Bushes were in Louisiana at a Habitat for Humanity housing work site.

## GOP leader dismisses criticism from Dean

WATERBURY, CONN. — The Republican Party chairman defended the GOP's outreach to black voters Tuesday, days after Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean questioned how he could make such an appeal in view of the Bush administration's tepid response to Hurricane Katrina. Ken Mehlman told the Waterbury, Conn., chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the "party of Lincoln and the African-American people have an incredible history together."

From wire reports

# Frist accrued HCA stock outside his blind trusts

*Brother's managing of assets raises doubt*

**By Larry Margasak and Jonathan M. Katz**
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Outside the blind trusts he created to avoid a conflict of interest, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist earned tens of thousands of dollars from stock in a family-founded hospital chain largely controlled by his brother, documents show.

The Tennessee Republican, whose sale this summer of HCA Inc. stock is under federal investigation, has long maintained he could own HCA shares and still vote on health care legislation without a conflict because he had placed the stock in blind trusts approved by the Senate.

However, ethics experts say a partnership arrangement shown in documents obtained by The Associated Press raises serious doubts about whether the senator truly avoided a conflict.

In that case, the HCA stock was accumulated by a family investment partnership started by the senator's late parents and later overseen by his brother, Thomas Frist. The brother served as president of the partnership's management company and as a top officer of HCA. The senator holds no position with the company.

The senator's share of the partnership was placed in a Tennessee blind trust between 1998 and 2002 that was separate from those governed by Senate ethics rules. Frist reported Bowling Avenue Partners, made up mostly of nonpublic HCA stock, earned him $265,495 in dividends and other income over the four years.

Edmond Ianni, a former Wilmington, Del., bank executive who established blind trusts for corporate executives, questioned why the senator's brother was able to manage assets "when the whole purpose of a blind trust is to ensure lack of not only conflict of interest — but appearance of conflict of interest?"

Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, said she doesn't believe the Senate trusts or the Tennessee trust insulated Frist from a conflict because the senator or his brother were advised of transactions and could influence decisions.

"What I find most appalling is the Senate calls it a qualified blind trust when it's not blind," Clark said. "Since the Senate says it's OK, the Senate has made it a political question. It's up to the voter. But there's no doubt it's a conflict of interest."

Frist's interest in Bowling Avenue Partners and the Tennessee blind trust were listed on the annual disclosure reports he filed with the Senate. Thomas Frist's ability to influence HCA stock decisions in the partnership was detailed in separate trust and partnership documents obtained by the AP.

Those documents show Thomas Frist was listed as the "general partner" and "registered agent" of Bowling Avenue Partners. He also was listed as president of the partnership's management company.

Thomas Frist founded HCA, the nation's largest for-profit hospital chain, with his and the senator's father. He is the company's chairman emeritus.

Frist advisers confirmed the senator's brother could influence investment decisions in the Bowling Avenue partnership and said the partnership was placed in a Tennessee trust because Senate ethics rules didn't allow the nonpublic HCA shares to be included in Senate-approved trusts.

"His interests in the family partnership were not held by his Senate blind trusts because Senate rules did not permit it. Senator Frist did not control the assets in this partnership, and he annually disclosed his interests to the public as required," Frist spokesman Bob Stevenson said.

Thomas Frist did not return repeated phone calls to his office at HCA seeking comment.

# High court to examine wetlands protection

*Roberts gets his first say on property rights*

**By Gina Holland**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court set the stage Tuesday for what could be a landmark ruling on government authority to regulate wetlands and control pollution, giving new Chief Justice John Roberts his first chance to limit federal regulation of property rights.

The justices agreed to take up claims that regulators have gone too far by restricting development of property that is miles away from any river or waterway.

With more than 100 million acres of wetlands in the United States, a total area the size of California, the stakes are high, the justices were told.

The outcome could have implications for government authority in regulating construction in obviously environmentally sensitive areas, such as parts of Louisiana and Mississippi decimated by Hurricane Katrina, and even land that is not adjacent to water.

The Army Corps of Engineers regulates work on wetlands, which are home to many plants and animals.

"They define wetlands so broadly that even dry desert areas of Arizona are being called wetlands," said Paul Kamenar, a lawyer with the Washington Legal Foundation, one of the conservative groups that called on the court to intervene.

The Bush administration had urged the court to stay on the sidelines.

Environmental cases have been divisive at the court. In 2002, justices deadlocked 4-4 in a case that asked whether farmers should have more freedom to work in wetlands. In 2001, the court split 5-4 in a ruling that limited the scope of government protection of wetlands, but the decision did not go as far as environmentalists feared.

Environmentalists have been worried about how Roberts will vote in such cases.

As an appeals court judge, he suggested in 2003 that federal power is limited. He had urged the appeals court to reconsider its decision restricting a San Diego area construction project because it encroached on the habitat of the rare arroyo Southwestern toad.

The 1972 clean water law involved in the Supreme Court cases draws much of its regulatory authority from the part of the Constitution that gives Congress power to regulate commerce between the states. The same legal reasoning underpins federal environmental and civil rights protections, so the outcome of these cases could affect more than land regulations.

Bush administration Supreme Court lawyer Paul Clement said the government has long-standing power to protect waterways, even if that means limits on pollution on nearby land.

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8090 Metairie Jefferson/ Above Causeway (Kenner)

**421 N** BENGAL RD 3 Br, 1 Ba, never flooded, great shape, cent A/C, $1500/Mo, 504-717-5704

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**1, 2** & 3 BR, 1.5 BA. Info verified, Call J. Calligaro & Associates, 504-887-4825

**KENNER** - Chateau Lakefront, 25 Clevner Dr, 4 BR, 2 BA, updated, new floors, no flooding, corporations welcome, immediate occupancy, call for details, 504-296-6311

8104 West Bank

**Algiers Pt,** 3 BR 2.5 BA, 2700 sq. ft, all services, $3500/mo incl. utilities. 504-813-9234

**GRETNA, 3** BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $850. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, TH, $700, stove, A/C & hkups. 504-340-3158

**MARRERO-HILLCREST Subd,** 3 BR, 2 BA home, lrg. den + study, 2 car. $1600. 504-452-9707 O/A

**Ready to** move in to, $1,100 and up. Call Sidney, 504-388-6788. Owner/agent

**RHONE PROPERTIES** Marrero 3 BR, 2 bath, 2008 James Dr, $650. Gretna, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2531 Huey P Long, $900. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1711 Weyer St, $850. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2413 Claire Ave, $600. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2801 Huey P Long, $475. NO PETS. VISA & M/C. 504-366-2604

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**COVINGTON 2700** sq ft home, pool, 4BR, 3BA, open floor plan, frpl, 2 car gar, upscale gated comm, excellent location, $3000/mo. Avail in 2-3 weeks, 1 year lease. 985-892-5982, 612-360-5980 or 985-871-7535

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**MANDEVILLE 4BR,** 2BA, Marigny Trace Subdivision, great schools. $2300/month. 985-626-8232

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**DESTREHAN** - 2 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath Townhouse, washer/dryer hookup, $675. 504-858-4384

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**Housing Needed** for constr. workers. Will do needed repairs, including major work. 901-331-3091

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**'04, M3,** Very clean, nice car, loaded, too much to list, low miles, must sell, moving. Call 985-966-3765 or 228-669-0432

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**'00 BUICK** REGAL Grand Sport, green, lthr, loaded, sunroof, power-all, super-charged 3.8 V-6, exc, 82,000 mi. $8,100, 985-876-2489

8560 Cadillac

**'97 Eldorado,** white diamond, mint condition, no flood, $9950. 504-376-4113

**'98 STS,** Black/Black, loaded, $6000/OBO. No Flood Damage! 985-764-6059/504-427-7966

8570 Chevrolet

**'02 Malibu** no flood, pl, ps, extras, $8995. Call 504-234-2294

8580 Chrysler

**'04 PACIFICA** 27,000 miles, excellent condition, fully loaded. Entertainment system. $21,000. 504-606-4300

**1999 CONCORDE** Lxi 88K, White, tan leather, loaded, clean. $8000. 318-388-2719

8620 Ford

**'02 MUSTANG** GT, 17K miles, A.R. Rims, Falcon Tires, Flow Master, $16,500. 504-451-2858

**'02 Mustang** GT, mineral gray, 22000 miles, 5 spd, exhaust, $18,000 obo, 504915-5400

**'05 Focus** Willing to sell for payoff. Husband in Iraq. $14,000. Call 504-909-1081

**'97 Crown** Victoria, 68k miles, excellent shape, loaded, $6000. George 985-502-5839

8630 Honda

**'03 Accord** LX, Slvr, 65k hwy mi, dlr maintnd, no water, perfect. $15,500 obo. 985-764-7583

**'93 Accord,** Green, 122,000 miles, Auto, All Power, AC. $3500. 504-220-4513

**'95 Ford** Taurus, Only $575, For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, extension A261

**'97 Prelude** 95k mi., Auto, Snrf, New timing blt/water pump, extras, $6500 obo. (504)913-3171

8638 Infiniti

**'05 G35** 4 DR, 17000 miles. Blue $31,000. High and Dry. Please Call (504)416-3770

Automotive
8665 Lexus

**'93 ES300** pearl, 183K miles, New AC, CV joints and Brakes. Very dependable. $4000. 985-705-2340

8670 Lincoln

**'90 Towncar,** Does not run, needs repairs, never flooded. $450. 504-931-8235

8690 Mazda

**03' Protege,** 40,000 miles, sunroof, 6-Disc CD, $11,000. (985)951-9775

8710 Mercedes-Benz

**'98 500SL,** 49K mi, white/beige lthr, CD, AMG rims, mint, $29,950. 504-828-0808

**'99 CLK** 430, Blk/Blk, Exc Cond, 79K mis. No Flood Damage! $25K. 985-764-6059/504-427-7966

8720 Mercury

**'95 COUGAR** A/C, Automatic, V8, did not flood. Good Cond 94,000 miles. $3495. 504-908-6635

**'96 Cougar** XR-7 Coupe 2D. 169,400 miles. $3000. Excel. cond. 985-674-2135 or cell 985-264-1737, Mandeville.

8732 Mitsubishi

**'05 Eclipse** RMX 6 disc, lthr, sunroof, 4cyl. 3K mi, $18,000/negotiable. 504-912-1888

8820 Saab

**'99 Saab** 9-3 4dr a/t loaded car from North Alabama $7995 (601)551-7227

8840 Toyota

**'02 Camry** LE Great cond, silver, 54,200 mi., no flood damage, $13000. 504-782-3131

8860 Volvo

**'99 Volvo** V70 65k, White, lthr, CD, alloys, non-smkr, perfect, stored inside, $10,500/obo. 504-393-8110

8870 Under $2,000

**'95 Hyundai** Sonata, Only $500. For Listings Please Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension C207

**POLICE IMPOUNDS** from $500! For Listings Call 1-800-439-3998, Extension 2172

8872 $2,000 - $5,000

**'99 Dodge** Grand Caravan, good condition, $4000. Please Call 985-871-9595

8880 Miscellaneous

**'87 Winnebago** Chieftan 27', only 43K mi. Sleeps 4+, Nice. $12,500. 319-230-2034

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**'41 Chevy** Pickup, ready for rebuild. $3,500. Please call 504-214-2762

**'80 CORVETTE** - 34,400 original miles, all original equipment, new tires, $17,500. 985-892-5359 or 985-630-1147

8915 Pickup Trucks

**'00 Silverado** 5.3 extended cab, $13,350, Call for information 985-783-2165

**'01 Ford** F150 Ext cab, two tone red/sil, AC, CD, Tow pkg, & more. 123,000 mis, very good cond. Ready to drive, no work needed. $10,500. 985-290-3454.

**'01 Ram** 1500 SWB, 68k auto,TX Tk,$6995 avail now in Lafayette 817-572-4414

Automotive
8570 Chevrolet

**'03 Chevy** Avalanche white 68000 miles, runs great, $18000 OBO, 225-673-9609

**'03 Chevy** SSR, garage kept & covered, yellow with all options, only 1700 miles! A real collector's item. Only $34,900. Call 504-554-5505

**'90 Chevy** Silverado Reliable/ Runs Great! V8/Auto, Bedliner , A/C, 60K on engine. Only $3800. 504-460-6401

**'97 F-150,** Body in good condition, needs new engine. $3000/OBO. 504-931-2204

**2001 Ford** F150 Super Crew Lariat 5.4L V8, tow pkg, bedlnr-cvr, allpwr, 60K mis, w/dilvr, $19995. 321-693-7102

8920Sport Utility Vehicles

**'00 Explorer** XLT 49K mint GOLD V8 10,300.(504)832-1106. Missed hurricane.

**'00 Ford** Explorer 2 Door Sport 108,000 miles, Auto, No Flood! $5900/OBO. 504-756-6425

**'00 Ford** Explorer E.B. 62K, 4dr, loaded, clean, exc cond, $13500. Elizabeth 504-473-6114

**'01 Landrover** Discovery II, 4x4, 75K, exc cond, no storm damage from AL $14K. 251-232-2688

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

EDITORIALS • B-8

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LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Austin Leslie was ready to rebuild

The last time I talked to Austin Leslie, he was ready to get back to work.

The celebrated chef didn't evacuate during Hurricane Katrina. He was rescued from his attic, taken to the Convention Center, then to Arkansas and finally to join family members in Atlanta.

I called him because various food writers and well-wishers from the Southern Foodways Alliance had been calling me, asking whether I knew how he had fared after Hurricane Katrina.

He had cooked for that organization on two occasions. His signature fried chicken stole the show at an informal chicken fry-off in Oxford, Miss., last fall.

This past summer when the organization visited New Orleans, he prepared another trademark dish: black beans and rum.

"It's a new beginning for me. I'm 71 years old, but I've done it before," he said of his personal rebuilding effort after Katrina. "I'm going to use all the tools I have in my head."

### No stranger to new starts

Over the years, Austin Leslie crafted several new beginnings for himself.

First he took over his aunt's restaurant, Chez Helene, and turned that neighborhood classic into the inspiration for "Frank's Place," a network television show.

Even at the height of his fame, Leslie made a point of sharing the spotlight.

"Austin was a great chef, and a better friend to me and my husband," said Myrtle Baquet, who, along with her husband, Eddie, owned another of the city's famed eateries, Eddie's.

"If you talked to him long, he talked about the fact that Willie Mae Seaton and Leah Chase never got their due," said Rudy Lombard, whose 1978 book, "Creole Feast," featured Leslie.

Chase and Seaton are renown for their fried chicken, too, but Leslie apparently felt the stage was big enough for everyone.

On the heels of Chez Helene's success, he opened other restaurants, but by the early 1990s, the would-be empire collapsed. Soon, Leslie was cooking Creole food in Scandinavia.

"You never heard about the hard times with him. He was always upbeat. He was always an inspiration," Lombard recalled.

Returning to his hometown, Leslie and his trademark fried chicken again found receptive audiences, first at Jacques-Imo's, then at Pampy's.

### Inspiring legacy

When Leslie died in Atlanta this month, the news hit especially hard. Austin Leslie embodied that old era when many of this city's emblematic secrets were held closely by New Orleanians and the few outsiders hip enough to be in the know.

Now our people and our traditions are scattered widely. The Number 9 — the fried chicken, potato salad and stuffed bell pepper plate that was the most popular item on the Chez Helene menu — is but a memory.

It's a new beginning for all of us. But I cling to the belief that the inspiration of ancestors such as Austin Leslie, and all the various tools in our collective heads, will see us through.

•••••••

Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at lelie@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3330.

## Jeff put 'doomsday plan' to use

*But packed shelter threw wrench in plan*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

Moments after learning that Hurricane Katrina had set its sights on Jefferson Parish, government leaders set in motion the final phase of their pre-disaster program, described in a 1⅓-page outline menacingly dubbed "the doomsday plan."

Created after Hurricane Georges bypassed the area in 1998, the scenario calls for Jefferson to keep a skeleton crew at its emergency center in Marrero during the approach of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane and to send hundreds of workers 110 miles north to Washington Parish, far from the inundation plain south of Interstate 12 but close enough to return after the storm, parish records show.

The doomsday plan, part of a massive disaster strategy, has come to fruition only a few times, with eleventh-hour jogs by hurricanes Ivan and Dennis recently foiling the need for it, said Tim Whitmer, the top aide to Parish President Aaron Broussard. "In the past, we've had the bullets in the chamber, but we haven't had to pull the trigger," Whitmer said.

But as officials got news from the National Hurricane Center on Aug. 28 that Katrina would bear down on Jefferson the following day, Emergency Management Director Walter Maestri initiated "doomsday," he recalled, putting some 1,100 parish workers and 700 public vehicles on the road to Mount Hermon.

For many, however, the anticipated point-to-point journey became a wild goose chase and

*See* **PLAN,** *B-3*



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Police walk down Bourbon Street on Monday as the midnight curfew nears. New Orleans Police Department spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said the curfew is necessary because the city still lacks basic services.

## At bars in French Quarter, midnight is unhappy hour

*Authorities begin to enforce curfew*

**By Bruce Hamilton and Michael Perlstein**
Staff writers

Silence swept across Bourbon Street on Tuesday shortly after midnight as a blue line of police officers advanced down the street, shut down bars and ushered people out.

The first night after the city announced a curfew crackdown in the Quarter, businesses and patrons decried it as a strain on profits and a confusing signal from a city trying to restore its crippled economy.

Earl Bernhardt, owner of Tropical Isle and five other French Quarter establishments, said Monday night's curfew sweep was "disastrous" to his bottom line. He said he opened his tourist-oriented watering holes — including Bourbon Street fixtures such as Funky Pirate and Papa Joe's — on Oct. 1 and previously was able to keep them open as long as there was a critical mass of customers. He said a nearly packed house of patrons was swept out of Tropical Isle on Monday as the clock struck midnight.

**"A Category 5 hurricane didn't close this place. It would be a shame to see a 12 o'clock curfew close this place."**
DUSTIN ALFORTISH
bartender at Johnny White's Sports Bar

"The mayor asked us to get the French Quarter rolling and show the city we're open for business, then they turn around and do this to us. If you're going to restrict us like that, we might as well put the plywood back up," Bernhardt said.

He said bars had been doing most their business from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. as cleanup crews and insurance adjusters finished off their days.

City Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson asked acting Police Superintendent Warren Riley on Tuesday to push back the curfew in the Quarter to 2 a.m., saying the curfew is keeping a lid on the city's slowly emerging recovery.

"I don't think midnight to 2 a.m. makes a difference in how the police can perform in the French Quarter, but it makes a huge difference in the amount of income this city can have," Clarkson said.

Brad Bohannan, one of Bernhardt's managing partners, said the newly imposed curfew news came just as he was able to persuade most of his employees to return from evacuation points around the country.

"Just when we get most of our workers, now we're worried about being able to employ them." Bohannan said.

Police spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said the enforcement of the curfew in the French Quarter is necessary because "the city is fragmented in terms of hospital services, power, water and

*See* **CURFEW,** *B-3*

## Jesse Jackson's bus caravan is short on evacuees

*Non-Louisianians arrive to seek jobs*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

It was supposed to be a bus caravan of about 200 New Orleanians coming back home in search of a new start, a new job and a better future.

But when the Rev. Jesse Jackson's five-bus caravan arrived at a Piccadilly Cafeteria parking lot in Kenner on Tuesday, many of the job seekers who got off the chartered buses had never set foot in Louisiana before.

It was unclear how many New Orleanians had opted to return to New Orleans in the caravan. Officials with Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition could not say how many arrived on the buses or how many were from New Orleans. Most of the job seekers said they hailed from Mobile and Memphis. Organizers, however, said that no matter what the hometowns of the riders were, the trip was a positive first step that would encourage Louisiana residents to return and look for jobs.

For weeks, Jackson has publicly spoken about the need to return New Orleans-area residents to their hometown so that they could help rebuild their communities. On Tuesday, he declined to explain why so many of those brought to Louisiana were not residents. Details such as where they would be working and living also had yet to be re-

*See* **JACKSON,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Hurricane Katrina evacuee James Williams, center, hugs his mother, Audrey Coestly, upon seeing her for the first time since he left town more than a month ago. Jesse Jackson, back left, and his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition brought some residents back by bus on Tuesday, but also delivered many nonresidents in search of jobs.

## Mid-City, Lakeview floodwater tests are promising

*Contaminant levels close to normal rain*

**By Mark Schleifstein**
Staff writer

A new study of Hurricane Katrina floodwater samples taken in the Lakeview and Mid-City neighborhoods of New Orleans during the two weeks after the storm concludes that the water contained chemical and biological contaminants in levels very similar to water from a typical rainstorm.

"I think the chemical data are good news," said John Pardue, environmental engineer and director of the Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute at Louisiana State University, and lead author of the study. "It could have been much worse if we had been on the eastern edge of the storm."

But Pardue warned that the stormwater and the drying muck it left behind were still dangerous because so many people — evacuees, emergency responders and returning homeowners — have come into contact with it.

"You're talking about two years of stormwater in a couple days of time and the fact that people were exposed to it is troubling," he said.

*See* **TESTS,** *B-2*

## St. Bernard court is resurrected at parish prison site

*Clerk's office accepts legal filings, mold*

**By Karen Turni Bazile**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Court is again in session in St. Bernard Parish, at least on a limited basis.

In a small room in the parish prison in Chalmette, a few attorneys, court officials and sheriff's deputies stood as prisoners were marched in before 34th Judicial District Judge Robert Buckley. On Tuesday, Buckley held the first Magistrate Court hearings since Hurricane Katrina hit on Aug. 29, setting bonds on about a dozen people arrested in the past few days for offenses ranging from public intoxication to looting.

At the Parish Courthouse nearby, Clerk of Court Lena Torres accepted the first filings since the storm in a mostly bare clerk's office, with mold visible on some walls and floors sticky from glue residue where carpet had been torn out.

Deputy Clerk of Court Lena Nunez said the clerk's office accepted four new civil suits, two filings for extensions of time in

*See* **COURT,** *B-2*



STAFF PHOTOS BY CARA OWSLEY

Chief Judge Manny Fernandez speaks to an inmate Tuesday during a session of Magistrate Court held at the parish jail. Six weeks after Katrina flooded the courthouse, officials opened court Tuesday at the temporary jail site.

# St. Bernard court powers limited

**COURT,** *from B-1*

ongoing cases, and a request for a certified copy of a marriage license. Under an order approved by the district's judges, the clerk's office will be open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Senior Judge Kirk Vaughn said all courthouse officials worked hard to make Tuesday's reopening possible.

"All of our efforts have been pushing to get (the public) back into the building. We thought it was important and symbolic to be here," said Vaughn, who actually never left, sleeping on an air mattress that snugly fits in the tiny waiting room of his second-floor chambers. His office also has been the sleeping quarters of two first-floor judges, bailiffs and a host of others since the storm.

"There was talk of opening a modular courthouse (in nearby trailers), but we thought it was important to be here," Vaughn said. "We're here to stay. We've got a lot of hope for our community to come back."

The courthouse sits on St. Bernard Highway, high land by any standard in the parish, and is raised several feet. Nonetheless, it still took on about 3 feet of water in most of the offices, and as much as 7 feet of water in the clerk of court's mortgage and conveyance, civil suits and criminal records rooms.



Spc. Jacqueline Carriaga, left, and Sgt. Valerie Henderson of the Idaho Army National Guard remove rifles from the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse in Chalmette on Tuesday. The weapons were taken out so cleaning can start.

Nunez said she has sent many of the water-damaged records to a Texas company to be freeze-dried so they can be salvaged to whatever extent possible.

Torres said clerk officials from several Louisiana parishes descended on the Chalmette operation to help St. Bernard deputy clerks salvage the massive number of damaged records.

Earlier Tuesday, Chief Judge Manny Fernandez issued a seven-page order outlining what the court can and cannot do under its limited operating schedule.

Under Fernandez's order, the courts may decide, for the most part, matters that are unopposed, since there is no practical way to serve litigants or to hold jury trials. Judges can sign orders and judgments for litigation filed before Aug. 27 or for property issues, testament and estate issues.

The order issued Tuesday limits the courts' activities through Oct. 25, the date Gov. Kathleen Blanco set for legal deadlines. However, Vaughn said he's not sure what will happen at that point because it's not clear when the courthouse will be able to open for regular business.

Although the order said the court was not taking any new suits while the courthouse is in limited operation, Nunez said she felt compelled to take the four new civil suits because attorneys said not accepting the suits could jeopardize their proceedings.

Nunez said one was a custody hearing and that the other three had prescription dates, some while the courthouse was closed.

"I'm not sure who has the authority," Nunez said. "I didn't want anyone to sue the clerk's office for not accepting a suit."

Nunez said the order basically says the court is open for emergency matters.

"In the case of an emergency, who decides what's an emergency?" Nunez said. "I know what the order says, ... but people are raising questions about the authority of the ruling. If I did wrong, I did wrong."

# Eager businesses greet bus riders

**JACKSON,** *from B-1*

solved. Everyone will have a place to stay and a job, Jackson said.

State Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, who has advocated bringing Louisiana's displaced residents back to defunct military bases and state parks, said it will take time because many are apprehensive about returning. "I think this is the first step," said Fields, who has been working with Jackson. "I do think there are fears. Hopefully this ... will encourage them to see that there is a job and a home to come back for."

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who welcomed the group Tuesday, said although jobs are plentiful, his biggest concern is housing returning residents.

"Housing is the biggest struggle we have," Nagin said. "We are on the hunt right now for every available piece of land. We have identified enough space for 3,500 trailers."

Nagin said he was encouraged by the arrival of Tuesday's group.

Wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Time to Heal — A Time to Rebuild," many said they took the offer to come to New Orleans in the hope of rebuilding their own lives. Bad fortune that did not include Hurricane Katrina had displaced them, they said.

James Stewart, 44, a Memphis, Tenn., resident, said he had been homeless for four months and thanked God for the chance to start over in a new city. "My situation in Memphis had deteriorated," Stewart said. "I've never helped rebuild a city before. So I figured I'd give it a try."

The caravan began Monday in Chicago and wound its way through the cities of St. Louis, Memphis, and Mobile, Ala.

When they arrived in Kenner, Piccadilly welcomed them with a hot meal and job applications. Burger King, McDonald's, UPS and two firms looking for workers to remove debris and restore buildings in New Orleans also were present.

Travis Houston, an Uptown resident returning on a bus, didn't seem to mind that the majority of the 200 people with him weren't Louisiana residents.

As far as Houston was concerned, there were enough jobs for everyone.

"One person can change their community. One community can change a city. One city can change a nation, and one nation can change the world," Houston said. "You have got to start somewhere. Even if there are only 60 or 80 people from New Orleans, he (Jackson) got them back."

"This group can be a test case," Nagin said. "There's tremendous opportunities ... The day of minimum wages in and around the city are absolutely over."

That's why Woodrow and Shantell Arnold of New Orleans chose to come back with the Jackson group Tuesday.

After spending six weeks looking for housing in Jackson, Miss., the couple decided to try their luck here.

"I'll flip a burger," said Shantell Arnold, after hearing that Burger King is offering a $6,000 signing bonus.

Arnold said she was willing to do almost anything if it means bringing her six children back to New Orleans to rebuild their lives.

"We are not trying to wait until the first of the year to return," she said.

# AD REPORTER

*By Martin Covert*





STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES GAFFNEY

Kelly Naquin helped finish stocking the refurbished ladies' department at Dillard's at The Esplanade in Kenner Tuesday. The store, along with the fully repaired and expanded Dillard's at North Shore Square in Slidell, is scheduled to reopen today.

## *Work in progress*

**Dillard's** is scheduled to reopen today at the Esplanade in Kenner and at North Shore Square in Slidell.

District Manager Linda Sholtis reminds readers that Dillard's operates two locations at each mall — one for men's merchandise and another for women's clothing, accessories, shoes, etc. The men's Dillard's at North Shore Square opened not long after Katrina.

Dillard's at Lakeside, which suffered serious roof leakage, is not quite on the reopening timetable, says Sholtis. Similarly, there is no word on the reopening of Dillard's at Oakwood or The Plaza, both seriously damaged.

"What our shoppers in Kenner and Slidell will see is a work in progress," she says. "All of the areas may not be open, but what we have assembled is all new merchandise. Nothing that was in the stores before the storm is here now."

A facelift in the ladies departments at both stores will also greet customers. In addition, when the updated lingerie departments in the two stores are complete, "the areas will be nothing short of fantastic."

*Plus:* The size of the women's shoe department has more than doubled in Slidell, says Sholtis.

*Hours for now:* 10 to 6 daily in Kenner, 10 to 9 daily in Slidell, noon to 6 Sundays at both stores.

## *Power of hope*

More than $2.6 million has been donated to the Power of Hope Fund, which was created by **Entergy** with an additional, initial corporate donation of $1 million immediately after Katrina hit.

"Donations have been from all over the country," says Patty Riddlebarger, Entergy's director of corporate social responsibility, "but the bulk has come from people in our service areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas."

The fund is designed to help individuals and families "make the transition from temporary living situations to a permanent move back into the community."

A first deadline for applications for assistance has ended, says Riddlebarger, "and we had received more than 2,000 applications as of late Friday." An announcement of grants from The Power of Hope Fund will be made by the end of the month.



To apply for the next round of assistance to "rebuild and recover" or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.powerofhope.com. Contributions may also be sent to the fund, managed by the Foundation for the Mid South, at 134 E. Amite St., Jackson, MS 39201.

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# More detailed tests suggested

**TESTS,** *from B-1*

The biological material contained in the sludge and muck should be avoided, if possible, and any cuts or wounds should be treated immediately to avoid infections and disease, he said.

Levels of copper and zinc 10 times higher than federal acute exposure standards could have an immediate toxic effect on commercial and sport fish in Lake Pontchartrain, Pardue said Tuesday.

Because the metals were in water containing little oxygen, Pardue said, it's likely that fish avoided the contaminated water as it was first released into the lake, which would explain why there were few reports of fish kills in the days after Katrina hit.

Levels of cadmium and lead might accumulate in larger sportfish over a longer period of time, he said, and he recommended state officials consider long-term monitoring for those metals in fish, similar to monitoring done for mercury.

Pardue warned that high levels of the toxic metals remain in the sludge deposited in homes and yards as the water went down, and will continue to be carried into the lake by rainstorms.

Pardue's study was published in Tuesday's online edition of Environmental Science & Technology, a journal published by the American Chemical Society.

**"What concerns me about the EPA testing is that they only looked for things on their list. They're not thinking outside the box."**

JOHN PARDUE
environmental engineer and director of the Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute at Louisiana State University

It is the first floodwater study to go through a peer review process, in which the sampling methods and results were checked for accuracy by independent scientists.

All the metals were found in higher concentrations in samples taken along Tulane Avenue and Gravier Street, Pardue said.

That could be because samples were collected in that area a week later than in Lakeview, giving the water time to leach metals from cars, trucks and metal buildings in the area, and because there are a variety of automobile repair and refinishing shops in the area.

Pardue said capping of the contaminated soil in yards with spillway sand could reduce the chance of future contamination.

Pardue's testing also searched for several chemicals that were not being sampled for by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in similar testing during the time floodwaters covered the city.

"What concerns me about the EPA testing is that they only looked for things on their list," Pardue said, referring to a set list of chemicals that the agency tests for in flooding situations.

"They're not thinking outside the box," he said. "They're not measuring the chemicals that would be associated with home construction."

Pardue said floodwaters contained small amounts of those chemicals, including one used in aerosol paints and another used in caulking compounds and sealants.

Although not enough to be immediately toxic, Pardue said the chemicals could be found in the sludge and sediment left behind by floodwaters.

Like the earlier EPA tests, Pardue also didn't find large amounts of several cancer-causing chemicals associated with gasoline, including benzene, because they evaporate quickly.

He said the largest concentrations of benzene were found near gas stations.

But only one sample in Lakeview, at 19 parts per billion, exceeded EPA drinking water standards.

The study, authored by Pardue, several other scientists at LSU, and officials with CK Associate and EHS Technical Solutions, both of Baton Rouge, was limited to New Orleans, where there are no large chemical plants or refineries with major chemical storage.

In addition, the study said, gasoline was in short supply in the city on the day Katrina hit, thanks to brisk sales to evacuees.

The samples were taken before significant pumping of floodwater into the lake.

The report recommends more detailed research on the effects of the floodwaters, including the actual amount of human exposure, and ecological risk assessment of the contaminants.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**The Jefferson Parish Council Meeting of October 12, 2005 will be held in the General Government Building located at 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053 the business portion will begin at 10:00 AM.**

# Yom Kippur to unite Jewish community

## *Temples open doors to familiar, new faces*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

When Rabbi Robert Loewy gets up before his Metairie congregation to begin Yom Kippur services Thursday morning, this is what he'll see: hundreds of people in plain metal chairs on a concrete floor; the temple's walls gutted to expose studs and wiring; the entire contents of a major synagogue complex heaped indecorously on tables jammed against walls — the salvaged jumble of a flooded temple snatched from above the water line.

"It looks like a garage sale's going on," he said.

"And it'll look beautiful to me."

Beautiful because his people at once-flooded Congregation Gates of Prayer — those not still stuck in Houston or Baton Rouge — will be assembled to pray together on the holiest day of the year, the day beginning this evening that more than any other day tells them they are Jewish.

And beautiful as a sign that the world is returning to normal.

For 10,000 to 12,000 Jewish New Orleanians, the High Holy Days follow just five weeks after Hurricane Katrina drowned New Orleans and pummeled the suburbs in the worst disaster in the city's 287-year history.

The storm killed more than 1,000 people; scattered hundreds of thousands to distant states; flooded tens of thousands of homes and staggered the region's economy.

Nothing is normal.

In the suburbs of Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes, debris from tens of thousands of flooded households lines the curbs in ragged piles. In New Orleans the piles tend to be fewer and smaller. There are fewer people to rebuild; vast neighborhoods have barely begun even the most rudimentary reclamation.

Yet community is everything.

Driving down St. Charles Avenue recently, biomedical consultant Cliff Kern noticed an exterior light on outside Temple Sinai.

"That meant the power was back on."

He entered and saw the eternal light glowing red near the tabernacle.

"That was a seminal moment for me, for the life of the congregation. It meant we were back," he said.

In a bank in the vastness of Houston a few weeks earlier, Kern had chanced upon a fellow-member of Temple Sinai, displaced by the storm, like him.

They hugged.

At a Metairie restaurant a few days ago Loewy chanced upon a member of his congregation he hadn't been able to find in weeks.

They hugged.

"These holidays are the same — and they're not the same," said Kern, who will attend Kol Nidre services tonight at 6 at Temple Sinai. "It'll be real good to be able to get home. We'll be together again and that's really important. And I hope we'll have people from the greater community there too. That's important."

But it also will be difficult.

No Jewish congregation is intact; each service tonight and Thursday will contain the unfamiliar faces of relief workers, soldiers, visiting state troopers and others helping New Orleans recovering from Katrina.

A quarter of the Northshore Jewish Congregation is still displaced, said Rabbi Jeff Kurtz-Lendner.

On Rosh Hashanah last week he looked out over familiar faces from his own congregation, plus the strangers who had come to aid them.

"Some came to help, and some needed help, and now with this service we're helping those who came to help us," Kurtz-Lendner told his congregation.

"But for the next hour we're not going to be helper and helpee. We're just going to be a Jewish community. We're going to reclaim history and not let the hurricane disrupt it.

"We're just going to be Jews together in prayer in the synagogue, as always.

Traditionally, the High Holy Days, the first of each Jewish year, are those in which Jews are called on to reflect on their lives and to consider their relationship to God and their community.

"We're all going through this crisis together," said Kurtz-Lendner. "So now is the time to make sure our lives are on the right path. Are we looking selfishly, or are we looking inwardly? Are we looking at what we want, or how we can make other people's lives better?

We have to ask both: What the community can do for you. And what you can do for the community."

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A schedule of New Orleans area High Holy Day services can be found at www.jewishnola.com.

# Evacuation site was already full

**PLAN,** *from B-1*

posed communication and shelter problems that left hundreds of Jefferson's most essential personnel wandering around in the dark, without food, water or working telephones, in the hours before Katrina's deadly force fell on south Louisiana.

Maestri said this week that "doomsday" worked "very well" during Katrina, adding that problems did not derive from improper planning by Jefferson leaders. Other top officials, however, have said that trouble with the plan and with returning employees quickly to the parish has moved them to consider whether workers should head west, possibly to Gonzales, if another hurricane takes Katrina's path.

Arriving in Washington Parish as night fell on Aug. 28, many evacuees discovered their destination, Mount Hermon School, already filled to capacity. In convoys of utility vehicles, fire trucks, public buses and private automobiles, hundreds of workers wound through dark, piney woods, searching for other schools that could provide promised shelter from the imminent storm.

Maestri said Tuesday that putting Jefferson workers on the open road as Gulf Coast breezes strengthened to gale winds was not part of the parish's plan. Mount Hermon School, which is stocked with food and cots to host many as 1,500 parish workers at all times, allowed Katrina refugees from nearby neighborhoods into the building, essentially evicting Jefferson Parish personnel before they arrived, Maestri said.

"I don't want to criticize the Washington Parish officials for using their schools to shelter some of their own folks," he said. If they had followed the original plan agreed upon by both parishes, however, "we wouldn't have had all of this caravanning all over the place."

But Dennie Fowler, superintendent of Washington Parish schools, said his employees did not open Mount Hermon School to neighbors. Overcrowding happened because hundreds more Jefferson Parish employees than expected, plus their spouses and children, showed up, he said.

By the time Fowler turned in for the night, about 560 Jefferson residents had hunkered down at the campus, he said. "Then I got a phone call at my home that there were 770 additional people coming into Mount Hermon, and there's not room, and that's when I got on the phone and called (four other) principals and asked them to open their schools."

"I didn't expect quite that many, but that was fine," Fowler added. "We just had to hustle around at night; the electricity was already off."

The American Red Cross could not be reached for comment.

Pat Borne, an aide in Jefferson's public information office, nearly had reached Mount Hermon School about 8 p.m. only to learn by cell phone that the building was packed. On a bus with about 15 of her colleagues, Borne was diverted 15 miles to Franklinton Junior High, a site not prepared for evacuees.

After raiding vending machines for food, Borne said they realized their "doomsday" assignment — to convene at Mount Hermon School and organize to get back to work — could not be carried out with employees spread over five schools as telephone service and electricity blinked off.

"Not all of us were in one location, so where was the command post?" she recalled. The junior high crew waited as Katrina made landfall Aug. 29, then got ready to head back to Marrero.

"It was at that point that I realized that I was an evacuee and I was in somebody else's hands," Borne said. "It was like, 'Is this really happening? What's our next step? When are we going back?' A few of us tried to gather together and tried to make some decisions, because we were kind of on our own out there."

At Mount Hermon School, the same idea percolated among other parish workers, including Mike Quigley, an executive assistant to Broussard. "It's a foregone conclusion that we had to go back," Quigley said. "You've got intelligent people there who knew you had to get back. Common sense told us we had to go back."

But walking outside, that team realized that tall pine trees had toppled around the school, creating an impenetrable maze for the parish's heavy trucks. Block by block, they shifted the debris, cutting a path toward colleagues at the other schools, then south to Jefferson Parish.

Looking back, Quigley said leaving Jefferson Parish before Katrina was the right move, noting that officials would have faced stiff criticism if hundreds of public vehicles had flooded or employees had been injured in the storm.

He added, however, that a single evacuation site might not be best for all Jefferson employees, a consideration top parish officials also have admitted. "I guess in some ways, it's good to be flexible," Quigley said. "In hindsight, if you had multiple sites planned to allow you to have some flexibility, that would be the best-case scenario."

Meanwhile, Borne said that even amid the confusion in Washington Parish, most of her colleagues remained calm. In retrospect, though, she said traversing a foreign parish by night as a killer hurricane headed toward shore was not wise planning.

"Everybody was pretty subdued," she said. "I was just going with the flow, not realizing, you know, what danger I was in."

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# Clarkson wants curfew moved back

**CURFEW,** *from B-1*

garbage pickup. All we're asking is for businesses to work with the city until we can get fully operational."

Defillo also said the Quarter crackdown puts that neighborhood in compliance with the curfew that has been imposed more stringently in the rest of the city.

"It's not fair to the businesses that operate in Uptown and in the 2nd and 6th police districts. In fairness to every business in the city, it's not fair to make exceptions," Defillo said.

Clarkson, however, said she is asking for just that. "I think the French Quarter has to be exempted from that thinking," she said. "It is the hallmark of our tourism industry. We need the French Quarter to take this lead to make this statement that we're open for business."

Officers arrested seven people for violating curfew, Defillo said. He said the offense is a misdemeanor, but he did not know what punishment it carries upon conviction.

Most shops and bars in the Quarter closed before midnight Monday, but their owners lamented the loss of sales typically made later. "They're trying to control what's going on in the French Quarter, and I can respect that," said Al Rushing, co-owner of Cigar Factory. "But they're kind of contradicting themselves.

"Now you're depriving us when we're trying to get back on our feet," he said. "They're kind of handcuffing us to make money."

The Hustler Club, which typically stays open until 4 a.m. or even 6 a.m., depending on patronage, planned to issue last call at 11 p.m. "This is very much going to affect our business," manager Ben Loper said. Gesturing inside the doors at a room full of customers, he said, "It's killing us."

Since electricity was restored in the Quarter two weeks ago, many of its establishments have been drawing crowds of emergency personnel, military troops and support workers.

The business-as-usual atmosphere proceeded unchecked until Saturday night, when a television camera recorded New Orleans police officers punching a 64-year-old teacher. Three officers involved in the incident have pleaded innocent to battery; the teacher has denied police claims that he was intoxicated.

Among business owners, the enforcement of curfew two days later was widely seen as a reaction to that incident. But in announcing the curfew, local Homeland Security Director Terry Ebbert said the city "is just not ready for that level of activity," referring to round-the-clock business operations.

"There have been a lot of problems," said Mike Rushing, a Cigar Factory employee. "A lot of people are not giving the police nearly as much authority as they should."

Others said street carousing has been typical. "It's no different from any other normal night six months ago. It's nothing out of the norm," Hustler's Loper said.

"Why should we be punished for that?" said Dustin Alfortish, a bartender at Johnny White's Sports Bar. "A Category 5 hurricane didn't close this place. It would be a shame to see a 12 o'clock curfew close this place."

"We don't object to what they're trying to do. But we're not bothering anybody," said J.D. Landrum, the bar's owner. "I (have) got bills to pay. We don't want to get into any politics." Landrum said closing the bar is impossible because he has no keys.

Monday at 11:30 p.m., patrons at Molly's on the Market said they hadn't heard about the curfew. "They'll never take me alive," Keith Hurtt joked.

But as midnight approached, bars began to empty and close their doors. Outside Bourbon Pub at about 11:50 p.m., New Orleans residents Marie DeGrado and Brandi Cheek anxiously waited for their ride home. "This is the first time I've been in a bar and it actually closed," DeGrado said. "We know we have to get out."

A police cruiser crept down Bourbon from Canal Street, its lights flashing, broadcasting a warning from a loudspeaker: "Midnight to 6 a.m. curfew is in effect," it said. "If you are not inside your hotel, you will go to jail."

About a dozen officers trailed the cruiser on foot, followed by another wave of cops. As the phalanx approached, revelers shouted, "Five-oh!" and scooted deeper into the Quarter. Inside Johnny White's, customers closed the door and the bartender hushed them.

But officers entered anyway, announced the curfew and politely urged everyone to leave. "I'm just doing what the mayor told me," one officer said. The small crowd of about 12 dispersed.

Tuesday at about 12:20 a.m., as Debbie Davis and Betty Titman walked toward their hotel, they joked that they had never been turned out of a bar — by police. Absorbing the stillness on Bourbon, they said it reminded them of Ash Wednesday.

Titman's cell phone rang. "I was just kicked out of a bar for curfew," she told the caller. "But you know what? I'm going to remember this one."

Davis smiled at the scene. "It's kind of nice, actually," she said. "I like the quiet."

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# Archbishop treated for cancer

By Bruce Nolan
Staff writer

Retired Archbishop Francis Schulte has prostate cancer, but after undergoing radiation treatment in Philadelphia is well enough to travel abroad, the archdiocese of New Orleans said Tuesday.

"My understanding is that he has undergone the standard radiation treatment. He asks for the prayers of the archdiocese and the larger community," the Rev. William Maestri said.

Schulte, 77, is well enough to be in Austria on business, Maestri said. Schulte serves on the board of governors of the International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Gaming, Austria.

Schulte apparently sought medical care in his native Philadelphia weeks ago because medical care in New Orleans was disrupted by Hurricane Katrina, Maestri said.

Maestri had no information how early Schulte's cancer was detected or whether it had spread to other parts of the body.

Prostate cancer becomes increasingly common among older men. Often it is slow-growing, so much so that, depending on its stage at discovery and the patient's age, there is debate in the medical community whether to treat it or simply monitor it closely.

The American Cancer Society reports that the five-year survival rate for all men with prostate cancer is 99 percent, and 92 percent of all men diagnosed survive at least 10 years.

Schulte succeeded Archbishop Philip Hannan in 1989. He served 13 years, followed by current Archbishop Alfred Hughes.

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# Experts to give ideas for N.O.

## *Urban Land Institute to work with city*

By Martha Carr
Staff writer

They talk about it as they wait in Red Cross lines, shuffle around shelters, and gather for nightly meals in the homes of generous relatives. When New Orleans rebuilds, they say, the city must seek input from the country's brightest urban planners, so things are done right this time.

Well, it appears that just might happen.

One of the country's preeminent think tanks on land use and real estate development has agreed to work for free advising Mayor Ray Nagin's 17-member Bring Back New Orleans commission as it tackles the monumental task of creating a master plan for the city's redevelopment by year's end.

The nonprofit Urban Land Institute, based in Washington, D.C., is planning to send a team of up to 15 experts to the city in mid-November to develop strategies for everything from designing new neighborhoods to enhancing the city's business centers. All recommendations will be based on cutting-edge practices being deployed by successful developers and city planners around the world, said Rachelle Levitt, ULI's executive vice president for policy and practice.

Best of all, it will be the opinion of outside experts who have no financial stake in the outcome.

**BRING BACK NEW ORLEANS COMMITTEE**

Mayor Ray Nagin's appointments to the task force for rebuilding the city

**CO-CHAIRS**

**Mel Lagarde,** chief executive officer of HCA Delta Division health care provider

**Barbara Major,** executive director of the St. Thomas Health Clinic

**OTHER MEMBERS**

**Boysie Bollinger,** CEO of Bollinger Shipyards Inc.

**Kim Boyle,** lawyer

**Cesar Burgos,** lawyer

**Joe Canizaro,** real estate developer

**Scott Cowen,** Tulane University president

**Archbishop Alfred Hughes**

**The Rev. Fred Luter,** pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in Gentilly

**Wynton Marsalis,** jazz musician

**Alden McDonald,** chief executive of Liberty Bank and Trust

**Dan Packer,** president of Entergy New Orleans

**Anthony Patton,** president of EBONetworks.com

**Jimmy Reiss,** businessman and chairman of the Regional Transit Authority board of commissioners

**Gary Solomon,** real estate developer and banker

**Oliver Thomas,** City Council president

**David White,** Mandeville real estate developer

**HOW TO CONTACT:** The co-chairs may be reached at mlagarde@cityofno.com and bmajor@cityofno.com.

"The beauty of this process is that this group of people is very passionate about coming here," Levitt said. "They have no ax to grind, no political reason to be here. They are all screened for conflicts of interest. Their thinking will be objective and unbiased."

While the advisory team has yet to be chosen, it will be composed of high-level developers, architects, academics, financiers, planners and environmentalists interested in preserving the city's unique culture and neighborhoods, Levitt said. All will be members of the Urban Land Institute.

Founded in 1936, ULI has more than 25,000 members worldwide and conducts up to 30 advisory service programs each year. In most cases, communities pay for the research and advice, and the process can take months.

But devising a plan for New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina will be a much different task.

The timeline is much tighter, since the mayor's commission will need the input before it finalizes a master plan by the end of the year. The task also requires much more labor than normal, Levitt said. ULI's entire 20-person policy staff is working full time to compile research on the city's history, as well as to devise ways to survey as many stakeholders as possible so that team members understand the politics and preferences of the populace. Much of that work would normally be done by the city.

"Unfortunately, the city is overwhelmed with taking care of immediate needs, so we are taking on some of that responsibility," Levitt said.

While not all of the Urban Land Institute's jobs deal with redevelopment after a crisis, some do. Most recently, ULI was hired to develop a retail plan for the World Trade Center site after Sept. 11. It also crafted a downtown redevelopment strategy for Grand Forks, Minn., after the devastating 1997 floods, Levitt said.

But this crisis — by far the worst natural disaster the country has ever seen — has generated unprecedented interest from the group's members, Levitt said.

The nonprofit was introduced to the mayor's commission by developer Joe Canizaro, who sits on the panel and is also a member of ULI.

For more information about the Urban Land Institute, visit www.uli.org.

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# Harahan takes million-dollar hit from storm

## *Nearly every public building damaged*

By Matt Scallan
East Jefferson bureau

Hurricane Katrina caused about $1 million in damage to city property in Harahan, Mayor Paul Johnston said.

Virtually every public building in the city suffered some kind of injury, with the largest loss being Harahan Playground's gymnasium, where the roof was devastated and the storm re-arranged several recently purchased air-conditioning units. Water leaking through the roof damaged the gym's wood floor and stage.

"It's a big mess in there," said Johnston, who estimated the toll at about $600,000.

The playground's concessions stands, batting cage and other equipment also was damaged. City Hall, the fire station and the fence around the sewage treatment plant also suffered damage.

"The fence was leaning after (Tropical Storm) Cindy. I'm just glad we didn't have a chance to fix it before Katrina," Johnston said.

The playground's main ball field might not be in such good shape either, because several tons of ground-up trees are sitting in the middle of it.

Still, Harahan has made good progress cleaning up debris in front of people's homes, and garbage collection is beginning to catch up with what people are putting at curbside, Johnston said.

"We have some more to do, but we're pretty close to normal," he said. "About 80 percent of our residents and 80 percent of our businesses are open."

The major hurdles include finding the money to pay city workers after the next payroll and borrowing $3 million to tide City Hall over as it seeks reimbursement for its storm-related expenses. Johnston estimates that the cleanup of debris alone will cost the city some $800,000.

Harahan needs approval of the state Bond Commission to borrow money. The commission is scheduled to consider the matter on Oct. 20, Johnston said. The city is negotiating with a private lender to borrow the money.

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Matt Scallan may be reached at mscallan@timespicayune.com or (504) 467-1746.





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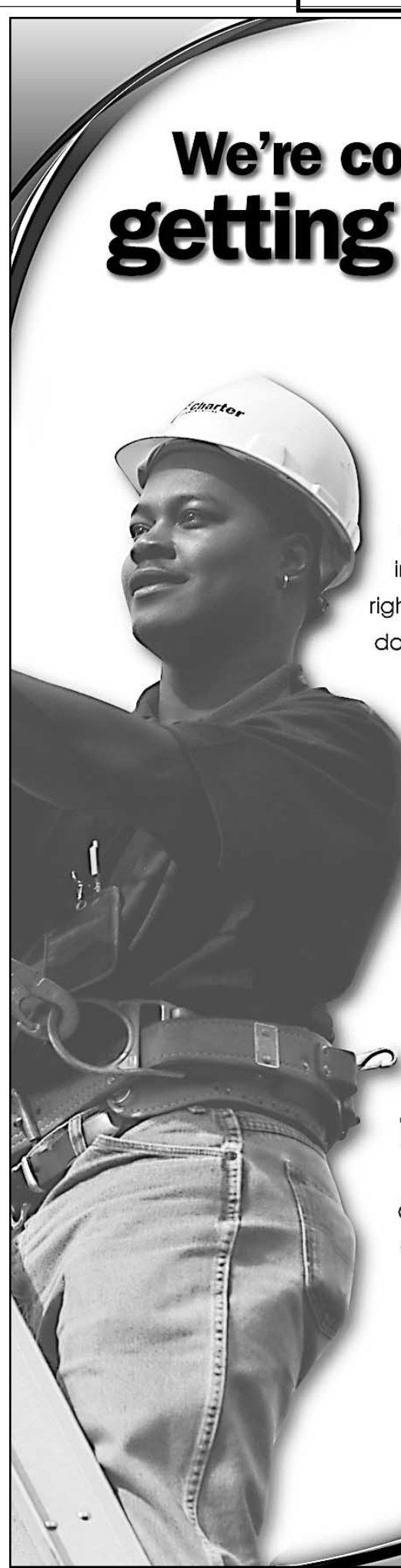

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# FEMA pulled Jeff's plug

*Antenna unhooked days after Katrina*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

As if the kick by the deadliest storm in Louisiana history didn't create crisis enough, Jefferson Parish officials say the Federal Emergency Management Agency knocked out their radio communications with field workers for several critical hours on Aug. 31, two days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

Telecommunications Director JoAnn Becnel said Tuesday that a contractor investigating the failure discovered that radio cables and equipment leading to an antenna atop the Galleria office building in Metairie had been disconnected and replaced with cables and equipment belonging to FEMA. The contractor called Becnel from the Galleria's roof.

"I told him to unplug theirs and plug ours back in," Becnel said.

FEMA spokesman Kim Pease said his agency had no knowledge of the report but is investigating whether the agency's Mobile Emergency Reponse System personnel were involved.

"They're the first on the ground. They come in with a truck fully loaded, and all they have to do is find power," Pease said. "They've already left the area, but I am contacting the person who was in charge."

The disruption lasted no more than four hours, but officials with Parish President Aaron Broussard's administration said it complicated a desperate situation. The radio failure stymied attempts by Jefferson's emergency managers, in the Emergency Operations Center in Marrero, to direct personnel on the ground at a time when much of East Jefferson was flooding, people were being rescued from rising water and thousands of displaced residents were seeking food and shelter. The storm already had knocked out conventional phone service.

Greg Buisson, a political consultant to Broussard, said that when radio communications abruptly failed that day, contract engineers were sent to check the system's two antennae, one atop the Marreo emergency center and the other atop the Galleria. The antennae communicate with each other via microwaves. When one is down, the system is skewed.

Buisson said FEMA could have added its own antenna to the Galleria tower without fiddling with Jefferson's equipment.

"If you want to add more, you have to go through a small construction process that takes several hours," he said. "If you don't want to go through that, you just pull out the amplifier that's there and put yours in."

Becnel said the antenna is one of several located on the Galleria roof and is accessed through a door marked for Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office equipment. She said technicians have assured her that Jefferson's cables were "clearly marked" as property of the parish, just as FEMA cables were marked as the property of that agency.

"I don't know how or why they picked ours," she said.

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Sheila Grissett can be reached at sgrissett@timespicayune.com

# Teachers fear losing health coverage

*After November, insurance uncertain*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Just after Hurricane Katrina, St. Bernard Parish teachers Michael and Sherry Chimento thought the worst was over. They lost their home in Chalmette and a small vacation house in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Soon after, they lost their jobs when the School Board ran out of money to pay salaries last month.

But while the Chimentos were living with a relative near Dallas last month, their world came crashing down around them again. Their youngest child, Drew, 10, was diagnosed with leukemia.

Statistics give Drew a 90 percent chance of beating the disease, but even with the best results, the Chimentos are looking at three more years of treatments at a cost of about $100,000 a year. And their health insurance, like that of the St. Bernard Parish public school district's other 1,100 employees, could expire at the end of November.

"It's an unbelievable burden to have to worry about health costs," Michael Chimento said.

The Chimentos' plea illustrates how the losses from the storm continue to mount for thousands of workers from the New Orleans area. After watching their homes, possessions and paychecks disappear, many are now grappling with the possible loss of their health insurance, one of the most expensive benefits many employers provide.

"Our employees tell us (health insurance) is the No. 1 concern until we are able to recall them to work or they can find alternate employment," said Doris Voitier, superintendent of St. Bernard's school system.

It's a crisis affecting every teacher in the system, the most devastated in southeast Louisiana. Employees were placed on disaster-related leave without pay on Sept. 30, and Voitier advised them to seek jobs elsewhere. She said last month that employees were guaranteed health insurance only through Oct. 31. But this week officials extended the term through Nov. 30 after the school district received money from the state's Minimum Foundation Program, the main source of state financing for schools.

Whether money from that program or some other money will continue to be paid to the school district is unclear.

School officials hope to reopen a temporary school in January for children of returning families and recovery workers, but they have warned that the return to normal will be painfully slow. The parish is not collecting any sales taxes, and Voitier said property values could be lowered so drastically because of the devastation that residents would not have to pay property taxes.

St. Bernard Parish school employees get their health insurance through the Office of State Group Benefits, and the district pays a premium of $1 million a month. Officials are hoping the state will funnel enough money to the district to continue health benefits and to keep a small operating staff, "so we can plan, recover, and be ready for when students move back in," Voitier said.

She said she is pleading with nearly every state and federal official and elected representative she can find.

"I'm getting ready to talk to the Louisiana School Boards Association . . . to plead our case . . . to convince our Legislature that this is a definite need for our employees," she said.

A decision could come next month, when the Legislature convenes a special session to discuss possible changes in the state's distribution of Minimum Foundation Program money, among other Katrina-related issues.

Currently, the cash is distributed on a per-pupil allowance based on a school district's enrollment as of Oct. 1, 2004. That formula, however, could change to take money from parishes that have lost schools and students and give it to systems that have enrolled the displaced students.

Voitier said that she understands other districts need an increase in state money, but that parishes affected by the hurricane need help.

"If funding (for St. Bernard schools) ceases, or is dramatically reduced in November, I have no revenues from any source," Voitier said.

If the system gets more money, Voitier said health benefits would be given first to employees who have not found other jobs and to retired employees, at least for the current school year.

St. Bernard Parish school social workers John Campbell and his wife, Ginny Campbell, who both lost their jobs last month, await news about their insurance.

Campbell, 58, who has health problems including diabetes, said he might be able to get an extension of his current coverage under the federal COBRA plan, but only for 18 months and at a much higher premium.

"It would be over $500 a month just for me," he said.

He said he can't get insurance on his own otherwise. "I have a daughter who is in the insurance business. She's told me, 'Dad, you're uninsurable.' "

Michael Chimento said news of the one-month extension of his family's insurance was wonderful, but it leaves them uncertain of the future.

"It's almost like it makes you live on the edge," he said.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DONALD STOUT

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

A fire damaged town houses at 4825 and 4827 Zenith St. in Metairie on Tuesday morning. One firefighter was treated at East Jefferson General Hospital and released, Fire Department spokesman George Rigamer said. No one was home at the time of the fire. The homes sustained fire and water damage, Rigamer said. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

# SIGNS OF CONFLICT

*Kenner, East Jeff take opposite views of illegal advertising*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

Code enforcement officials in Kenner and Jefferson Parish are taking opposite tacks on the illegal advertising signs that have spread like kudzu since Hurricane Katrina: Kenner is taking them down, while parish officials might leave them up for the rest of the year.

Kenner officials began this week to remove the signs, located on seemingly every street corner advertising everything from restaurants and job openings to cleaning services and roof repair.

"The guy from out of town that peppered the neutral ground with signs — we can't allow that," said Phil Ramon, chief of staff to Mayor Phil Capitano. "We have to try and enforce the existing code."

Ramon authorized the Code Enforcement Department on Monday to begin picking up signs because they impede drivers' views and hamper public workers trying to maintain public property. The decision makes Kenner the only area in East Jefferson where these signs are not allowed, officials said.

Kenner made an exception in the weeks after Hurricane Katrina, but code enforcement workers now are out picking up the signs. Ramon said City Hall will let businesses post signs in front of their own buildings."

"We're just not allowing the carte blanche that has been allowed to take place," Ramon said.

In unincorporated areas of the east bank, however, parish officials have not removed any signs. And the Parish Council today is expected to consider a measure to allow the signs to remain in place the rest of the year.

Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella said he thinks finding someone to fix homes, or workers to staff a business, trumps the problem of having a sign on the neutral ground. Councilman John Young said relaxing the ban on these signs is important to jump-start Jefferson businesses.

"In an unprecedented situation, you need to think out of the box," Young said.

Jefferson Code Enforcement Director Louis Savoye said the policy of Parish President Aaron Broussard's administration since soon after Katrina struck Aug. 29 has been to allow the signs because they promote businesses. Parish workers are supposed to remove them to cut grass on public property, then replace them, Savoye said.

"As of right now, the instructions are that they are to stay out to support business," Savoye said.

The parish's view makes more sense to Carlos Liriano, owner of Dreams, a Kenner check-cashing and communications business, who said his signs were removed. He said he thinks Kenner also should give businesses more of a break.

"We need to let our people know we are in business," Liriano said. "I'm really disappointed in the city officials."

He said he asked Kenner code enforcement workers about the signs on Friday, before he spent $200 on the new advertising. They told him the signs could remain up for the rest of the month, he said.

Ramon said there was never a policy to allow the signs through October.

City Councilwoman Jeannie Black said code enforcement is correct to pick up the signs as a way of improving Kenner's appearance.

"It's gotten out of hand," she said. "I've gotten some complaints from people in my district who said it looks awful."

Bridgette Moritz, store manager at Humbug, disagreed.

"They look a lot nicer than the trash that's piled up everywhere, and they're helping businesses get back on their feet," said Moritz, whose store sells dancewear, costumes and formal wear. She said she had a number of signs removed.

Signs are not being removed in East Jefferson's only other municipality. "Under normal circumstances I don't like them, but I'm leaving them alone for now," Harahan Mayor Paul Johnston said.




STAFF PHOTO BY RUSTY COSTANZA

A Kenner code enforcement officer hides his face after removing signs Tuesday from the corner of West Esplanade Avenue and Chateau Boulevard.

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Matt Scallan contributed to this report.

Mary Swerczek can be reached at mswerczek@timespicayune.com or (504) 467-1726.

# Jeff courts in slow motion

## *Lawyers, defendants are in short supply*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Absent were the crowded elevators and the long lines at security checkpoints. No courtroom drama played out and, in a few cases, attorneys appeared before judges to set new court dates for criminal and civil trials.

"Not that much happening over here today, I'll tell you that," public defender Joseph Montgomery said.

Nonetheless, the 24th Judicial District Court in Gretna reopened for business Tuesday, more than six weeks after the judiciary closed down because of Hurricane Katrina.

Chief Judge Robert Pitre was to the point in describing the road ahead: "It's going to be tough."

The 1,100 inmates at the nearby Jefferson Parish Correctional Center evacuated before the storm to state-run facilities across Louisiana and might not be returned until next month, Pitre said.

The complication is health care. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, which relied on the now-closed Charity Hospital in New Orleans, has no way to provide medical care for inmates, Pitre said. The Sheriff's Office also lost 68 correctional deputies, he said.

Also, jury trials have been postponed until January, because much of the parish's pool of potential jurors evacuated. While most criminal defendants plead guilty, judges can still hold bench trials if defendants waive their right to a jury trial, Pitre said.

"The thing that's going to set us back most is the criminal cases," he said.

Attorneys are displaced, too, including law firms that reopened outside the New Orleans area. Court staff are trying to reach them to set new hearing dates, Pitre said.

Meanwhile, the parish's indigent defense system is operating on budgetary fumes because its main income, court costs, has evaporated, said Richard Thompson, Jefferson's chief indigent defender who lost two of 40 public defenders.

"We haven't taken in a dime since Sept. 1," Thompson said. "We're living off our fund balance, which is quickly dwindling. No court costs, no money."

Aside from an annual Louisiana Indigent Defense Assistance Board grant of $180,000, enough to cover a month of salaries for his staff, Thompson's office relies on revenue generated by court costs, about $2 million a year.

First and Second Parish Courts, which handle traffic citations and minor criminal and civil matters, reopened last week. But since the storm, traffic-ticket writing understandably hasn't been a priority of law enforcement agencies, Thompson said.

Katrina also forced four judges and their staffs to move to new offices after fierce winds ripped open the roof on the Salvador A. Liberto Building.

Judge Martha Sassone and her staff spent Tuesday sifting through the bagged and boxed records that were salvaged from her chambers in the Liberto Building. Tropical Storm Cindy came ashore July 5 and opened the roof above her chambers. Katrina undid the repairs, she said. Records that were not in file cases, equipment, furniture and personal items, including artwork, were ruined, she said

"It will probably take us the rest of the week to get organized," Sassone said in her new office at the parish courthouse.

Judges Greg Guidry, Kernan "Skip" Hand and Hans Liljeberg, and their staffs, also in the Liberto Building, moved to the courthouse.

"It's definitely going to be a day-by-day experience for us," Sassone said.

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# A DIRTY JOB



STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

Calvin Melerine washes mud from his home on Delabert Street in Chalmette on Tuesday. Melerine said he has spent seven days digging mud out of his home with the help of three workers. 'I saved it in Betsy, I think I can do it again, but it's a lot more,' Melerine said. "I want to come back. The majority of the neighbors are not coming back,' he added.

# Gov. Blanco not sold on casino plan

**From staff reports**

Gov. Kathleen Blanco weighed in Tuesday on New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's proposal to let big downtown hotels offer casino gambling as a way to generate tax revenue and stimulate the city's tourism economy.

"I know Mayor Nagin is working hard to restart the New Orleans economy, and I am certainly working closely with him to do so," Blanco said. "I urge caution, however, in looking to the expansion of gambling as a quick fix to our economic problems in the city. I have never believed that gambling should be the base on which to build our economy."

Blanco said one of her solutions to revive the New Orleans area is to seek federal tax credits for individuals and businesses to create an environment that attracts people and companies.

Blanco also praised the Orleans Parish School Board for its move last week to allow more public charter schools.

# DEATHS

**Eva Armand Bonicard**
**Thelma Louise Montecino Braud**
**Michael Anthony Caluda**
**Rita Boler Carlin**
**Leo Andrew Cusimano Sr.**
**David C. Dubuc**
**Byron Joseph Duckett**
**James Fondren**
**Harry F. Galley**
**Myrtle M. Grosskopf**
**Ioannis Anthanasios Halkias**
**Marie LeBlanc Hebert**
**Yolande Izquierdo Herkes**
**Robert Wesley Hooper**
**Ignatius Liberto**
**Jane Bourg Logreco**
**Elvia Sharp Loyd**
**Evans J. Marcel Jr.**
**Aminda Mendez Monge**
**Georgette Pintado**
**Ruby L Phillips Quarrella**
**Amy Calegan Riley**
**Sandra M. Sanchez**
**Anthony J. Sconza**
**Raymond A. Terminie**
**Lawrence J. Theriot**
**Carlton J. Toups**

### BONICARD

Eva Armand Bonicard on Thursday, October 6, 2005 in Conway, Arkansas. Age 63, a native of New Foundland and a resident of Kenner for the past 36 years. Beloved wife of the late Tommie Gene Bonicard, Sr. Mother of Tommie Jr., Daniel, Robert and Ronald Bonicard. Also survived by 6 grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 10:00am. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Friends may visit on Wednesday from 6:00pm until 9:00pm and on Thursday after 9:00am.

### BRAUD

Thelma Louise Montecino Braud, age 88 years old, native of Thibodaux, Louisiana, long time resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, died peacefully at home on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 6:42 PM. Beloved wife of 66 years of the late Herald Andrew Braud who went to his eternal rest 8 months prior on February 16, 2005. Daughter of the late Cecile Caillouet Montecino, and the late Jules Montecino. Sister of the late Helen Montecino May, Clifford Joseph Montecino, and Allen montecino. Mother of four daughters; Marilyn (Mitzi) Braud Sharp, Gail Braud DeLeon, Belinda Braud Stach, and vanessa Ann Braud. Also survived by 3 grandchildren: Troy Martin Miceli, Terrell Andrew Miceli, Jenna Louise Braud; and 6 great-grandchildren, Troy Miceli, Jr., Joshua Miceli, Christopher Miceli, Michael Miceli, Terrell Miceli, Jr., and Travis Miceli. A longtime parishioner of St. Raphael. Reigned as the 2005 Queen of the Krewe of Crest with her husband as the King at Meadowcrest Living Center. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to the Funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo, 1717 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Metairie, LA, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 2 PM with Visitation for friends beginning at 12:00 Noon. Temporary internment to follow at Garden of Memories with her final resting place at Lake Lawn Park Cemetery with her husband and sister to take place at a later date. Sign on-line guest book at www.legacy.com

### CALUDA

Michael Anthony Caluda, Judicial Process Server for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office died of complications of lymphoma cancer at Baton Rouge General Hospital on Monday, September 19, 2005. He was 64. Mr. Caluda was born in New Orleans and lived in Metairie for the past 44 years. He graduated from Holy Cross High School in 1961. He was a member of F.O.P. Lodge No. 12 and a former member of the Louisiana Air National Guard. He worked as a salesman for C.J. Cristina Heating and Air Conditioning for 17 years. He is survived by 2 daughters, Desiree Elizabeth Caluda and Denise Ann Caluda Ralls; 2 grandchildren Collin and Conner Ralls; his beloved companion, Sharon Esquivel and her children Angelique and Jessica Esquivel; and her grandchildren Abriana Cain and Jeremy. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mercedes Mary Blanchard and Walter Simon Caluda. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 1:30 PM. Interment in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery No. 3. Visitation on Friday from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM and after 11:30 AM on Saturday.

### CARLIN

Rita Boler Carlin died on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at the age of 83. Beloved wife of the late James Edward Carlin. Loving mother of Mary Beth Carlin Clifford and Patricia Carlin Dedinsky. Daughter of the late Veronica Dudock and Michael Boler. Grandmother of Gavin Clifford and Alexandra Dedinsky. She was a native of Wilkes-Barre, PA and a longtime resident of Lake Worth, FL and a resident of Covington for the past few years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at SCHOEN FUNERAL HOME CHAPEN, 1414 S. Tyler St., Covington LA on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Interment will be in West Palm Beach, FL. Visitation will be on Thursday from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM.

### CUSIMANO

Leo Andrew Cusimano Sr., 66, an iron worker, passed away October 6, 2005 at his son's Dallas home. Born November 21, 1938 in New Orleans to Andrew and Elizabeth Cusimano, he loved poker and pool, and was a member of United Iron Workers Local 58 for 45 years. Leo was predeceased by his father, Andrew; wife, Lucille; and son, Richard. Survivors include his Mother, Elizabeth Cusimano; son, Leo Cusimano, Jr., and partner Tony Cuevas; daughter, Kay Philips and husband David; brother Rene Cusimano; sisters, Betty Bradford, Patsy Brockhoeft and Sylvia Calligan; grandchildren, Moon Cusimano and Lily Philips; sisters-in-law, Vickie Ardoin and Elda Marrero; and a host of extended friends and family. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, October 15, 2005 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Leo's name to the American Cancer Society.

### DUBUC

David C. Dubuc, a Sales Representative for Best Business Forms Printing Co. and an Independent Dealer for the Times Picayune, passed away on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. Age 43, a native of New Orleans, LA and a lifelong resident of Metairie. Mr. Dubuc was a graduate of Rummel High School, was active in Rummel's Alumni Association and active in the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department, a parishioner of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and a member of St. Mary Magdalen's Mens Club. Beloved husband of Gaynell Junda Dubuc. Father of Ryan J., Adam J., and Nicholas J. Dubuc. Son of Jennie Paliaro and the late Louis J. Dubuc. Son-in-law of Salvador A. Junda, Sr. Brother of Penny A., Don L., Gary M., Steven J., Robert L., and Louis R. Dubuc. Also survived by 7 nieces, 6 nephews, 7 sister-in-laws and 2 brother-in-laws. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd., on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Visitation on Friday from 9:00 AM until time of service.

### DUCKETT

Byron Joseph Duckett, Sr. departed this life on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Husband of Miranda Landix-Duckett. Father of Byron Jr., and Roniece Wright. Son of Donald and Eloise Duckett. Grandson of Ethel Nelson. Brother of Judy Duckett Perkins, and Darren Duckett. Uncle of Daniel Duckett. Brother-in-law of Derandus Landix and Marlon Perkins. Also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends. Age: 38 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Terrytown, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service. Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 12:00 P.M. Visitation from 11:30 A.M. until service time at the above named parlor. Interment: Restlawn Cemetery - Avondale, LA

### FONDREN

James "Jim" Fondren. A loving son, brother, uncle & friend, passed away at the age of 44, Saturday, October 8, 2005 in Holden, LA. He was a resident of Gretna. He is survived by his mother, Arlene Fondren, Gretna. 6 Brothers; Donald Knox & Ed Knox, both of Hammond, Jerry Knox, Byron Knox, Thomas Knox & James Knox, all of Gretna. 2 Sisters; Linda Erwin of Gretna & Brenda Crocker of Memphis, TN. His father, James Fondren and his grandparents, Clayton & Ethle Fondren preceded him in death. Visitation will be at Geisler Funeral Home in Albany, Thursday, October 13 beginning at 5:00pm with the funeral service scheduled for 7:00pm. Burial will be Friday, October 14, in Drew, MS. Geisler Funeral Home of Albany is in charge of arrangements.

### GALLEY

Harry F. Galley of Bridge City, LA on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 12 Noon. Beloved husband of of the late Roberta LeBouef Galley. Father of Gloria Daniels, Lawrence Galley, and Enola Atchley. Brother of Claude Galley, Norris Galley, Linda Billiot, Dorothy Howard, Betty DeLaolivia and the late Rita Hebert, Peter Galley, and Irene Mollinere. Son of the late Homer Galley and Jeanne Rodrigue Galley. Also survived by 4 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren. Father-in-law of Mary Ann Layne. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Chapel of Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12 Noon. Interment in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Mausoleum, Westwego, LA. Visitation at Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home on Saturday October 8, 2005 from 9am until 12 Noon. Information 504-341-9421.

### GROSSKOPF

Myrtle M. Grosskopf, age 71 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, LA. Mrs. Grosskopf is the beloved wife of Robert E. Grosskopf, Sr. for the past 54 years. Mother of Robert E. Grosskopf, Jr. and his wife Catherine Grosskopf of Boston, MA and Pamela Grosskopf Mashon and her husband Kurt Mashon of Hammond, LA. Grandmother of Meghan and Margot Grosskopf, and Zachary and Alexandra Mashon. Daughter of the late Charles R. Lesher, Sr. and Agnes Schackelford. Sister of Charles R. Lesher Jr., of Jupiter, FL and the late Mary Jane Hamm. A native of Pittsburgh, PA. Mrs. Grosskopf was a retired Office Supervisor for Analytical Studies in Metairie, LA. She was a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie, LA. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Service in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 315 Ridgelake Dr, Metairie, LA 70001, on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf to the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at the above address. All Faiths Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### HALKIAS

Ioannis Anthanasios Halkias, on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 7:47am. Beloved husband of Feroniki Lalas Halkias, father of Triantafillia Padasis and Athanasios Serafim Halkias, grandfather of Stavros Padasis, brother of Aristo, Michalis, George, and Thanasi Halkias all of Tavros, Greece. Son of the late Athanasios and Vasiliki Halkias of Athens, Greece. Mr. Halkias, 68, was a native of Athens, Greece, a resident of Greenville, South Carolina for 22 years, and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 3 years. Relatives and friends, also members of Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Holy Trinity are invited to attend the funeral service in the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Blvd at Bonnabel Blvd., on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 10:00am. Father Anthony Stratis, Officiating. Visitation at the funeral home on Thursday from 9:00am to service time. Interment will follow in Garden of Memories. Guest book may be signed online at www.legacy.com. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### HEBERT

Marie LeBlanc Hebert, On Friday October 7, 2005. Beloved wife of Arden Paul Hebert for 65 years. Mother of Carole Burch, Michael Hebert, Glenn Hebert, Gerard Hebert, Anthony Hebert, Anne Shaffer and Elaine Degelos. Daughter of the late Edward John LeBlanc and the late Beatrice Anne LeBlanc. Sister of Sally McConnell, the late Mabel LeBlanc, Janet Childers and Helen Dean. Loving Grandmother of 21 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. Age 82 years. A native of Terrebonne parish. Resident of New Orleans and Metairie for the past 65 years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd, Metairie, La. on Wednesday October 12, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation beginning at 11:00a.m. until time of Mass. Interment in Garden of Memories. Arrangements By Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### HERKES

Yolande Izquierdo Herkes, a retired department manager for Sears, died on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 7:45 om, beloved wife of the late Paul E. Herkes, Sr., mother of Paul E. Jr., Robert, and the late Donald T. Herkes, mother-in-law of Rosalinde Brisset Herkes and Sadie Herkes, daughter of the late Constance Labarriere Herkes and Angel Izquierdo Sr., sister of Lorraine Lentz and the late Angel Izuierdo, Jr., Marie Gremillion and Dolores Roering. Also survived by 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, and many nieces and nephews. Mrs. Herkes, 86, was a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. She was a member of Catholic Daughters of America Chapter 154; St. James Major Catholic Church Just For Fun Club, Sodality of Our Lady, and Sanctuary Society. The Funeral Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Interment will be in Hope Mausoleum. Visitation was at the Funeral Home on Tuesday from 10:00 am until Mass time. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### HOOPER

Robert Wesley Hooper at Promise Specialty Hospital, Baton Rouge, LA on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 4:45 pm, beloved husband of the late Rita Cunningham Hooper, father of Judith H. Smith and Nancy H. Trahan, father-in-law of George Smith and Thomad Trahan, grandfather of Jodie Oberyant, Susanne Smith, Jill Trahan, and Marcy Faust, brother of Mercedes Gleason, Rosadell Fanning, and the late Rita May Morales, Helen Angel, Eward, William, Lee, and Hubert Hooper, son of the late Rose Malbrough Hooper and Edward Christopher Hooper. Also survived by 6 great grandchildren. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd., Metairie, LA on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 1:00 pm. Interment will be in St. Roch Cemetery. Visitation was at the church on Tuesday from 11:00 am until Mass time. Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home.

### LIBERTIO

Ignatius "Nat" Liberto, born April 23, 1910, beloved husband of the late Mary Badali Liberto of 56 years and the late Imogene Reggio on Monday, October 03, 2005. He was born to the late Vincent Liberto and Mary Suriano Liberto in Garyville, LA. He worked for the Zatarain Company as a young man and founded Liberto Cleaners in 1944. He was a resident of Jefferson Parish for the last 48 years. He is the father of Dr. Vincent N. Liberto, John B. Liberto, Mary Anna Liberto Eble. Father-in-law of Catherine Vicari Liberto, Patricia Canal Liberto and John C. Ebel, Jr. Grandfather of Lucinde Liberto, Mary Beth L. Schnauder, Vincent N. Liberto Jr., Mary Pat L. Walter, Ignatius P. Liberto, John B. Liberto, Jr., Patrick J. Liberto, Lisa L. Duncan, David P. Liberto, John C. Eble, III, Salvador A. Liberto, Michelle F. Eble, Camella L. Grau, Michael I. Eble. Great-grandfather of 25. Brother of Virginia L. Koster and the late Bernard, Gasper (Jack), Josephine L. Roussel, Theresa L. Meteye, John, Anthony and Leno L. Lala. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was a member of the Airline Lions Club and the Diamondhead Community. He loved to fish and play golf. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral mass from the funeral home of Tharp Sontheimer Tharp, 1600 N. Causeway on Friday October 7, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation will begin on Friday at 12:00 noon. interment in Garden of Memories Cemetary. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Joseph Hospice Foundation, 8245 Elmwood Park Blvd. Suite 155, New Orleans, LA 70123 or charity of your choice.

### LOGRECO

Jane Bourg Logreco, age 69, passed away at East Jefferson General Hospital on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from kidney failure. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Robert Bourg and the sister of the late Elaine Bourg Ehret. She is the wife of the late Salvador R. Logreco. She is survived by a son, Robert J. Logreco, a daughter, Suzette Logreco Watson and a son-in-law, George A. Watson, III. Mrs Logreco was a native of New Orleans and was a resident of Metairie for the past 38 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Ann Church, corner of Transcontinental and Loveland in Metairie, on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will be held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Thursday from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Interment will be in St. Louis # 3 Cemetery.

### LOYD

Elvia Sharp Loyd Age 88 years, Born January 16, 1917 in Covington, LA, passed away October 8, 2005 at St. Tammany Parish Hospital. Ms. Loyd was a lifelong resident of St. Tammany Parish. She worked as a child caregiver for many years. She was the wife of the late Charles Loyd. Beloved mother of Regina L. Cleland and the late Kenneth C. Loyd and Gene A. Loyd. She is also survived by 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Relatives and Friends are invited to attend the funeral services at SCHOEN FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL of COVINGTON, 1414 S. Tyler St. Covington, LA on Tuesday October 11, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment will follow in Shepherd's Fold Cemetery. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 9:00AM until 12 noon.

### MARCEL

Evans J. Marcel Jr. 61, of Bogalusa, passed away on Friday, October 7, 2005. He was the husband of Betty Marcel, son of Shirley Marcel and the late Evans J. Marcel Sr., father of Evans J. Marcel III, Eugene Marcel, Penelope Watson, Edward Marcel, Lisa Rogue, Joyce Gann, and James F. Marcel; brother of Raymond Marcel, Bonnie Untereiner, Karen Marcel, Carol Scardina, Debra Miller, Violet Whittle, Betty Wilmore; also survived by sixteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Relatives, employees of Motiva, and Shell Oil Company, and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services. The Services will be held in the chapel of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd St., Metairie, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at 3:00 PM. Friends may visit the funeral home Wednesday beginning at 10:00 AM.

### MONGE

Aminda Mendez Monge on Friday, October 7, 2005. Age 74, a native of Tegucigalpa, Honduras and a resident of the New Orleans area for the past 66 years. Beloved mother of Kevin Rene Barney and the late Sandra M. Sanchez. Daughter of the late Maria Santiago Mendez and Miguel Turcio. Sister of the late Delia, Norma and Hilberto Mendez. Grandmother of David Sanchez, Tracy Mangles, and Mason & Connor Barney. Great-grandmother of Julian, Ashton and Hollis Sanchez, and Leila M. Phillips. Aunt of Carmen Estrada. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 2400 33rd Street in Kenner, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00am. Visitation at the church from 9:00am until 10:00am on Friday. Burial will be private. In Lieu of Flowers, Family requests donations to be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Donor Services, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, Preferred. Arrangements by L.A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home

### PINTADO

Georgette Pintado passed away on October 4, 2005 at Pontchartrain Health Care Center where she was a resident since October 2003. She is lovingly remembered as "Nanan" by the many children she cared for over many years first in New Orleans then in Metairie and lastly in Mandeville. Nanan was born in France on September 16, 1924. She moved to New Orleans in the early 1950's and lived in this area the rest of her life. She was a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Mandeville and was an active volunteer for many years. She was also a long time volunteer at the Pontchartrain Health Care Center prior to becoming a resident. She was active for many years in several Jefferson Parish Garden Clubs and won numerous awards during that time. Sister of Mrs. LeGueilaff Marie Josephe. Grandmother of Megan Tittle of Seattle, Washington. Mother in law of Marci DeRouen Tittle of Hickory Creek, Texas. She is preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Josephine Cotrel, her husband Nicholas Pintado, and her son George Tittle. Also survived by many relatives in and around Angers, France. Relatives and Friends were invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 316 Lafitte Street, Mandeville, LA on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Visitation was held from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Interment in Mandeville City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Memorial Hospice, 1045 Florida Ave., Slidell, LA 70458. Bagnell and Son Funeral Home are in charge of arrangements.

### QUARRELLA

Ruby L Phillips Quarrella passed away on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 10:45 PM at West Jefferson Medical Center, Marrero, LA at the age of 88. Wife of the late Frank J. Quarrella Jr. Mother of Carl F. and Paul V. Quarrella. Daughter of the late Carl F. Phillips and Carrie P. Phillips. Sister of the late Myrtie Thurman, Curtis, and J.C. Phillips. Mother-in-law of Colinda, and Joette Quarrella. Grandmother of Paul Jr., Carl Jr., Kimberly, Frank, Catherine, and Courtney Quarrella. Great-grandmother of Andrew, Kyrie and Gannon Quarrella. Also survived by nieces and nephews. A native of Quail, Texas and a resident of Marrero, LA for the past 12 years. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the Metairie Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2929 Metairie Rd. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 8:00 PM. Visitation from 5:00 PM until time of service. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Paul Staab for his care and compassion and a special thanks to Wynhoven Health Care Center, nursing and staff.

### RILEY

Amy Calegan Riley on Monday, October 10, 2005. Beloved wife of Timothy Riley. Mother of Danielle Camille Riley and Gabrielle Claire Riley. Daughter of Sylvia Rodriguez Calegan Alphonso and the late Lloyd Joseph Celegan, Jr. Sister of Alan, Lloyd III and Denny Calegan. Also survived by nieces and nephews. Aged 35 years, a native of New Orleans and resident of Arabi for the past 17 years. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Visitation at the funeral home from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon.

### SANCHEZ

Sandra M. Sanchez on Friday, October 7, 2005. Age 47, a native of New Orleans and a lifelong resident of the New Orleans area. Beloved mother of Tracy Mangles and David Sanchez. Daughter of the late Aminda M. Monge. Sister of Kevin Rene Barney. Grandmother of Julian, Ashton, and Hollis Sanchez, and Leila Phillips. Dear friend of Michael Acosta. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 2400 33rd Street in Kenner, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00am. Visitation at the church from 9:00am until 10:00am on Friday. Burial will be private. In Lieu of Flowers, Family requests donations to be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Donor Services, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, Preferred. Arrangements by L.A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home.

### SCONZA

Anthony J. Sconza. Services will be held today October 11, 2005 for Lt. Col. Anthony (Tony) Sconza, 80, of Waveland, MS who died September 5, 2005 at his daughter's home in Petal. Visitation will be held at Our Lady of Fatime Church from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM followed by a Mass. Burial will take place at the National Cemetery in Biloxi at 1 PM. Mr. Sconza was a retired engineer for the Department of Energy and served in the Army and Louisiana Air National Guard. He was a member of St. Claire Catholic Church and was active in the Knights of Columbus, International Order of Alhambra, and American Legion. He was preceded in death by a son, Steven Sconza, a granddaughter, Dena McNeese and a great-granddaughter, Hannah Meaders. Survivors include his wife, Elaine Perret Sconza of Waveland; two sons, A.J. Sconza, Jr. of Bay St. Louis and John Sconza of Slidell, LA; four daughters, Sharon Barnes of Petal, Melissa McManus of Slidell, LA, Mary Glaviana of Lumberton and Trudy Villarrubia of Biloxi; a sister, Joyce Perret of Metairie, LA; sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Hope Haven. Moore Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### TERMINIE

Raymond A. Terminie, Jr. Age 63 years, at Ochsner Foundation Hospital on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 11:00 AM. A lifelong resident of St. Bernard Parish. Beloved husband of Jane Sanchez Terminie. Father of Robbie Joseph Terminie, Terry Michael Terminie, Raymond Anthony Terminie III and Kevin Sanchez. Father-in-law of Lori Terminie. Son of the late Rosie DiCarlo and Raymond A. Terminie, Sr. Brother of Peter M. Terminie, Sr. and the late Dominick P. Terminie and Mrs. Ray T. Gibson. Brother-in-law of Jean & Gerard J. Mackin, Sedenia & Sybil Terminie and Joseph Lesslie Jr. Son-in-law of Laura Graffignia. Also survived by 3 grandchildren, Kayley & Tyler Terminie and Samantha Sanchez. Employees and Retires of CSX Railroad, and United Transportation Union are invited to attend funeral services from the Jefferson home of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 No. Causeway Blvd. on Tuesday, October 10, 2005 at 1:30 PM followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Rita Catholic Church, 7100 Jefferson Hwy. , Harahan, LA. Friends may call at the funeral home from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories. Information: 835-2341

### THERIOT

Lawrence J. "Larry" Theriot, on Thursday, September 1, 2005. Age 55, a native of New Orleans and a resident of LaPlace for the past 18 years. Beloved son of Alvine Theroit. Brother of Sherry T. Hartdegen and Carolyn T. Mizell. Also survived by nephews; Sean and Kevin Hartdegen and nieces; Rachael Crocker and Erica Mizell. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral at the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Visitation from 11:00 a.m. until time of service. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens and final interment in Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

### TOUPS

Carlton J. Toups, Sr. on October 8, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Rita Reulet Toups. Father of Allen, Carlton, Jr. and Kevin Toups. Son of the late Miller and Alma Laiche Toups. Grandfather of Laura, Erik, Jason, Matthew and Kyle. Great-grandfather of Konrad, Kobbi and Zachary. Brother of Cline and Carrie Mae Toups, Sandra Perriloux and the late Jerry and Herman Toups. Aged 81 years. A resident of Metairie. Mr. Toups retired from Bordons where he was a Teamsters' union representative. He was a member of St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, a World War II veteran, survivor of the Baton March and a Japanese prisoner-of-war. Relatives and friends are invited to the funeral mass on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 2:00 PM from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview. Interment in the Garden of Memories. Visitation from 10:00 AM on Wednesday October 12, 2005 until funeral time. Family prefers donations to any Katrina fund raiser.

Death Notices appearing in The Times-Picayune today also appear on nola.com for 30 days.
Express your condolences by signing a guest book on nola.com/obits
To place a death notice in The Times-Picayune, please call 866-420-3227 toll free or send an e-mail to
tpdeathnotices@classifiedsplus.net
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# YOUR OPINIONS

## Attack on Bourbon Street just business as usual

It was pitiful to see the abuse inflicted upon a 64-year-old African-American male by at least three white New Orleans police officers. However, the expression "business as usual" comes to mind.

In pre-Katrina days, innocent African-Americans were beaten by officers of the New Orleans Police Department; post-Katrina days apparently entail the same.

There is no doubt in my mind that all of these officers have been under extreme stress since Hurricane Katrina. However, so have we all. Handling pressure well is an intrinsic element of being a mature police officer. Did anyone ever think that perhaps the victim was under stress?

Anyone who has lived in New Orleans for any length of time knows the NOPD's history of abuse and corruption. I have been living in New Orleans for 40 years, and I am quite aware of it. Spokesman Marlon Defillo stated that under normal circumstances it takes unusually offensive behavior to trigger an arrest on Bourbon Street. This is so far from the truth that it is sickening.

In May 2004, my brother (who happens to be an African-American) went to a Walgreens in the French Quarter. He was attacked and beaten by two white New Orleans police officers, for no reason. Were these cops stressed out then?

Mr. Defillo further stated that it was not normal for a police officer to react violently with a member of the news media. Well, is it OK to act that way with a citizen? Perhaps this is normal behavior for some cops; it's just that this time, they got caught on tape.

If Mayor Ray Nagin wants residents of Orleans Parish to come back, he needs to address the issue of police brutality and to convince the citizens that it will not be business as usual.

**Pamela N. Cornin Simeon**
New Orleans

## Employer helps pick up the pieces

Six painful weeks have passed since Hurricane Katrina took away our homes, our neighbors and friends. Now it is time to put our lives back together, to pick up what is left and to never forgot the tremendous outpouring of generosity and kindness. It is with pleasure that I apprise you of the care that URS Corp. showed its 600 metro New Orleans employees, starting within a few days after Hurricane Katrina.

Almost immediately after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast area, URS set up an emergency hotline to locate all its employees in the area. When the company learned that one of its employees was missing a loved one, the company hired a private investigator to find him. After two long weeks, a family was reunited.

URS made arrangements to relocate us to other offices so that we could continue to work and get paid. The company also arranged to find employees temporary housing, food and transportation at reduced costs. It arranged for credit cards and phone cards for employees who needed them.

As an employee of URS, I congratulate the company. URS's generosity has helped hundreds of employees and their families cope with the loss of their homes and city.

**S.R. Fertitta**
New Orleans

## Giving hope

Thank you for the beautiful article by Keith Woods in the Oct. 9 Times-Picayune. The paper has given us hope and has kept us informed all through this challenge.

**Pat Rabig**
New Orleans

KATRINA AFTERMATH



STAFF PHOTO

City Park in New Orleans was devastated by high winds in Hurricane Katrina.

## Close City Park, rent to FEMA

City Park Director Robert Becker stated that City Park could be "totally abandoned" due to the damage from Hurricane Katrina and the lack of funding for cleanup and repairs.

Perhaps closing the park would provide the shakeup that is needed for the city of New Orleans to realize what a treasure it has, or had.

Many residents are unaware that City Park receives no public money from the city of New Orleans, amazing as that seems considering that the park is such a vital part of the city. Could the next step be that all park space north of I-610 and the space in and around Tad Gormley Stadium be used by FEMA to park trailers for displaced homeowners from the areas bordering the park?

Not a bad idea, considering that FEMA rental fees could provide a good source of park funding.

If few homes are livable in the communities surrounding the park, then who is there to use the park? City Park could be a savior for its neighborhoods.

It would be a tough decision, but one that could save the park and wake up the city administration.

**Chuck George**
New Orleans

## Mutual attraction is best

The key to New Orleans' future is in determining the "magnets" we will use to attract business and families back to the region. Tourism and the port, our long-standing magnets, are fine, but inadequate for securing an economic future for the city. So what "magnets" do we choose?

How about one of the many fledgling industries that were gaining a tentative foothold in the area before the storm?

There were the technology park near UNO, biomedical research on the lakefront and at our teaching hospitals, the burgeoning movie industry and the expansion of museums, both historical and cultural.

What magnet do we not choose?

More casinos.

They attract, all right, but what they attract are a tackier image for the city and lower-paying jobs.

It's true: If you build "it," they will come. But what will the "it" be?

**Yvonne Spear Perret**
*Metaire*
Now in Baton Rouge

## Don't citizens' lives count?

I understand Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard's decision to evacuate personnel for safety reasons, but not once did he broadcast the fact that it was to be done.

My father has had several episodes of deep leg thrombosis; my mother is in diapers with advanced Alzheimer's. Both are unable to travel long distances by car. We stayed in a three-story building on Causeway Boulevard and Interstate 10 watching the helicopter drop. We survived, albeit with no power. Once the water receded we left in the one car that would start.

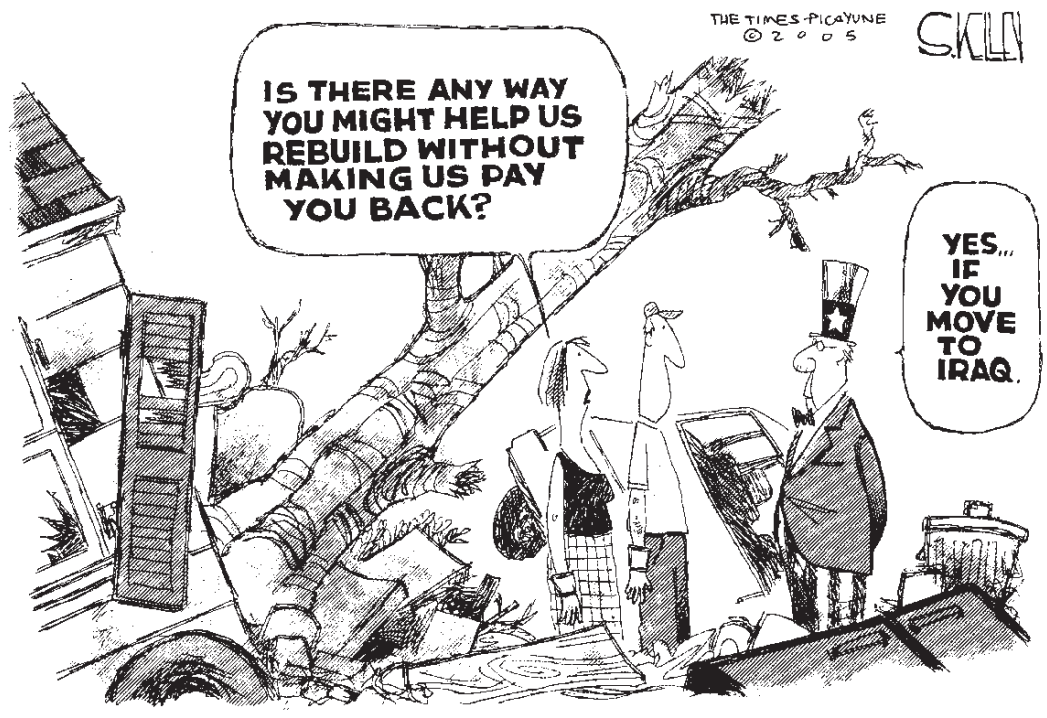
How dare Parish President Broussard think that the lives of key personnel are worth more than ours!

**Joan M. Garvey**
Metairie

**WRITE:**
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# OUR OPINIONS

## The pump debacle

Lots of people in Jefferson Parish are furious over Parish President Aaron Broussard's decision to evacuate more than 200 pump station workers as Hurricane Katrina loomed in the Gulf of Mexico. And while Mr. Broussard has vehemently defended that move ever since, residents have ample reason to be upset.

Mr. Broussard's administration suggests that the evacuation probably didn't exacerbate any flooding in the parish. The parish president himself has said that protecting workers' lives is more important than avoiding damage to property.

But this is a false choice, because moving parish employees out of harm's way may well have increased the risk to Jefferson residents who remained behind.

Even in the face of a hurricane as strong as Katrina, a great many residents will stay in their homes — because they don't have cars, because they're too ill to travel, because they're just plain stubborn. Any move by parish government that increases the chances of flooding also increases the risk to those citizens' safety.

Much of East Jefferson, like much of the rest of greater New Orleans, was built on drained swampland. An elaborate network of drainage canals and pump stations is crucial to keeping water off the streets. But for 36 hours on Aug. 28 and 29, Jefferson pump stations sat vacant, after parish officials sent a total of 1,100 workers and 700 vehicles to Mount Hermon, near the Mississippi line. East Jefferson residents whose homes took on water are right to wonder whether that decision contributed to the damage.

Mr. Broussard's concern for public employees' welfare is understandable. Existing pump stations currently aren't safe places for workers to ride out strong hurricanes. And the parish president maintains that forcing pump workers, who receive relatively low pay, to stay on the job would be a "death sentence."

But in the future, the obvious remedy is to find more adequate shelters in — or at least near — the parish and to offer greater pay to workers who accept the risk of staying on duty during hurricanes.

Sending pumping station workers to a site 100 miles away surely hampered Jefferson's ability to respond to conditions created by Hurricane Katrina. Local governments in low-lying areas need to acknowledge that, to most residents, the property damage caused by flooding is no minor matter — and that pumping water out can be a life-and-death matter for those who do not evacuate.

## Raze the old, raise the new

A bulldozer wouldn't be anyone's first choice for post-Katrina recovery, but St. Bernard residents and property owners who face that possibility will at least find out what their options are soon.

Architects, civil engineers and building officials from California who have volunteered their services will be going through St. Bernard Parish this week to inspect every building and determine how much structural damage each suffered.

This team won't decide the fate of individual property; owners will have the ultimate say over whether they restore a home or business or raze it. But for some, demolition may be the only feasible alternative. Parish officials estimate that will be true for about half of St. Bernard's 26,700 homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay the demolition cost for any structure that sustained 50 percent damage or more.

The loss of a home is terribly painful. But parish officials are wise to get answers for people as quickly as possible. People can't start rebuilding until they know whether they'll be facing extensive repair work — or starting from scratch.

Property owners will face a lot of decisions in the weeks and months to come that will affect St. Bernard's future, but so will government officials. It's good to hear people like Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez talking about the opportunity to correct past mistakes stemming from unplanned growth in the past.

"We are going to rebuild bigger and better, and we are going to have more green space," he said.

Parish officials should commit to that goal. If they do, St. Bernard residents will have more reason than ever to come home.

## Unprepared for pandemic

Louisianians will hardly be surprised to learn that our nation is unprepared for a flu pandemic. After all, the country was woefully unprepared for Katrina, and hurricanes are a more predictable risk.

When the next influenza pandemic occurs — and experts say it will — the worldwide death toll could be in the millions. It's troubling to hear Michael Leavitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, admit that the United States isn't ready.

Researchers have been saying for some time that a strain of bird flu ravaging Asia has the potential to mutate, becoming transmissible from human to human. Developing a response plan that includes faster ways to manufacture flu vaccine and sufficient stockpiles of antiviral drugs is critical, and President Bush did meet last week with major drug manufacturers to talk about the need to mass-produce vaccine quickly.

But in the same breath, the administration is downplaying the risk. Mr. Leavitt said that scientists and physicians have told him the probability of a pandemic is relatively low. He must not be talking to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which maintains that an influenza epidemic is certain to happen and may be imminent.

Downplaying the risk isn't the way to get people to take a threat seriously. Even though Mr. Leavitt called for better preparation, he undercut the sense of urgency. That's not smart. If Mr. Leavitt wants to talk about probability, maybe he should consider what happened here. The probability of a major hurricane hitting the New Orleans area in any one year was no doubt pretty low, too.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Thinking outside the board on schools



JOHN MAGINNIS

A surprise proposal made by the mayor of New Orleans last week roused controversy and opposition but nonetheless represented an innovative, bold concept that could spur on the city's recovery and lead to a brighter future for the whole community, even the state.

It was not Mayor Ray Nagin's call for downtown casinos housed in the city's largest hotels. That idea makes even less sense than when former Gov. Edwin Edwards first offered it in 1986. Not only will expanded land-based gaming not pass the Legislature, but, if it did, the state would still keep most of the money — despite the mayor's call for a 50-50 split with the city. And too much of that money would still be lost by locals, who can afford the vice even less now.

Such a change would require voiding the exclusivity contract with Harrah's New Orleans casino and its $60 million guaranteed tax payments (which it still pays at the rate of $164,000 a day despite being shut down for more than six weeks now). While New Orleans would get a jump on the comeback of destroyed casinos on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it won't be long before they are replaced with bigger and glitzier gambling palaces onshore that will recapture their old market in short order.

No, more promising was the other bold idea the mayor espoused: to set up a citywide system of charter schools that would be free of the control of the divided School Board and dysfunctional bureaucracy and that would bring in millions of dollars in aid from foundations, universities and the federal government.

A network of well-run, well-financed schools with motivated faculties could attract families back to the city the way the old mismanaged, bankrupt system attracted FBI agents. Also, nothing would improve the overall performance of basic education statewide more than to make over what was the largest and poorest-performing district.

Actually, the mayor did not conceive the plan so much as he jumped on the bandwagon that was already moving at that very hour when a split School Board approved the charter-school model for reopening the 13 schools on the city's west bank. Supportive board members envision using more charter schools to re-start schools in the rest of the city.

Behind the scenes, planning for the charter-school proposal had been going on for weeks among west bank officials, the state Department of Education, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the governor's office, according to a source familiar with the discussions.

Community representatives gradually will replace current School Board members on the new system's governing body, which would still follow state laws and accountability standards but would have more flexibility in curriculum and hiring. The operational plan, including contracting out food service and transportation, will follow one drawn up by the out-of-state turnaround firm managing the school system's finances.

Major new players would be education foundations, universities and corporations nationwide that are poised to pour millions into reinventing New Orleans schools, but only if they are out from under the control of the School Board, which, in a recent meeting, showed itself to be as quarrelsome and divided after the hurricane as before it. Also available will be a $20.9 million federal grant to expand charter schools.

Charter schools have been sprouting up around the city and the state. But it took, tragically, Katrina to wipe the dirtiest slate clean and to leave little alternative but to rebuild the system around a smaller enrollment and in a new environment.

Dissenters of the plan, including the School Board president, argued that charter schools have too spotty an academic track record to risk a wholesale conversion. Yet the best results have been achieved by national outfits like Knowledge Is Power Program, which already has set up an academy for displaced New Orleans students in Houston. All told, charter schools are less of a gamble than more casinos.

These are not the circumstances under which anyone wanted to reform education in New Orleans, but the unforgiving storm does provide the opportunity to make at least one vital aspect of community life better than it was before.

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John Maginnis is an independent journalist covering Louisiana politics. He can be contacted at www.LaPolitics.com.

# His conscience is clear, but name is mud



JAMES GILL



AP PHOTO

A car sits on a flooded street in Metairie Sept. 5 after Hurricane Katrina left large parts of Jefferson Parish under water.

One of the reasons the late Jefferson Parish President Joe Yenni's name lives on is that he is credited with significantly reducing the flood risk.

After the deluge of 1978 left water in 25,000 houses, Yenni led the charge to issue $80 million in bonds to build pumping stations and revet canals. Subsequent downpours proved less of an inconvenience, and now the parish office building and a Kenner street bear the name of Joe Yenni.

That may not be the only reason he is commemorated — he always had a reputation as an honest politician in a parish where that had begun to seem a contradiction in terms — but, if the burghers believe you'll keep them dry, winning an election is a breeze.

Right now it seems highly unlikely that posterity will ever take a stroll along Aaron Broussard Boulevard or enter the portals of the Aaron Broussard building. Broussard is not the first parish president whose name became mud, but he is the first to be blamed for depositing it in his constituents' homes.

Whether the fury directed at Broussard is justified makes no never mind. So many voters believe the Katrina floodwaters could have been stemmed had Broussard not yanked the pumping station operators from their posts that the question on many lips is not whether Broussard can get re-elected but whether he'll quit before his term is up.

His detractors, moreover, are not just householders with piles of Sheetrock and sodden furniture on their front lawns. The East Jefferson Levee Board and the city of Kenner think Broussard goofed and both have offered to operate the pumps if the parish is going to bail out when they are most needed.

Broussard is mounting a spirited defense, but one aspect of his so-called "doomsday plan" was so surpassingly idiotic that political spin is powerless. The pumping station workers were trucked to Mount Hermon, which is more than 100 miles to the north and where the ravages of Katrina predictably left them incommunicado. Every station in the parish sat idle as the waters rose after the storm.

Broussard suggests that the answer might be to send the pump workers westward next time. Does he believe his constituents will be reassured if key workers are only, say, 50 miles away the next time the floods come? If he has a yen to return to private life, this is just the kind of proposal that will make it happen.

He wouldn't get far in an election campaign promising to keep the stations running so long as the sun is shining and the birds are singing.

The Broussard administration maintains the absence of pump workers did not exacerbate the flooding, although its objectivity is open to question and it is obvious that neither Kenner, the Levee Board nor aggrieved homeowners believe it.

Broussard, whose post-Katrina television interviews did not suggest a taste of understatement, said leaving the pump workers in place would have amounted to "a death sentence." The Kenner and Levee Board employees who are prepared to do the job next time evidently figure there is a way to do the job and survive. Police and other emergency workers beavered away during the storm, and even politicians, Broussard included, stayed around.

Hazard is part of the job for many public employees in times of crisis.

Pump workers, Broussard points out, earn only laborers' wages. Well, let us by all means pay them enough to reflect the hardships and dangers, but a "doomsday plan" that leaves us pumpless in a storm is surely well named.

Protecting employees' lives, Broussard reasons, is more important than protecting property, and nobody will disagree. However, keeping the floodwaters down can save lives too, and maybe the options are not as simple as he suggests.

If they were that simple, perhaps he did the right thing. If he can persuade the voters that he did, they should put his name up in lights.

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James Gill is a staff writer.

# The left should know where cronies dwell



JOHN TIERNEY

The left has a lock on journalism and law schools.

Journalists and legal scholars have been decrying "cronyism" and calling for "mainstream" values when picking a Supreme Court justice. But how do they go about picking the professors to train the next generation of journalists and lawyers?

David Horowitz, the conservative who is president of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, analyzed the political affiliations of the faculty at 18 elite journalism and law schools. By checking all the party registrations he could find, he concluded that Democrats outnumber Republicans by 8 to 1 at the law schools, with the ratio ranging from 3 to 1 at Penn to 28 to 1 at Stanford.

Only one journalism school, the University of Kansas, had a preponderance of Republicans (by 10 to 8). At the rest of the schools, there was a 6-to-1 ratio of Democrats to Republicans. The ratio was 4 to 1 at Northwestern and New York University, 13 to 1 at the University of Southern California, 15 to 1 at Columbia. Horowitz didn't find any Republicans at Berkeley.

Some academics try to argue that their political ideologies don't affect the way they teach, which to me is proof of how detached they've become from reality in their monocultures. This claim is especially dubious if you're training lawyers and journalists to deal with controversial public policies.

I realize, from experience at six newspapers, that most journalists try not to impose their prejudices on their work. When I did stories whose facts challenged liberal orthodoxies, editors were glad to run them. When liberal reporters wrote stories, they tried to present the conservative perspective.

The problem isn't so much the stories that appear as the ones that no one thinks to do. Journalists naturally tend to pursue questions that interest them. So when you have a press corps that's heavily Democratic — more than 80 percent, according to some surveys of Washington journalists — they tend to do stories that reflect Democrats' interests.

When they see a problem, their instinct is to ask what the government can do to solve it. I once sat in on a newspaper story conference the day after an armored-car company was robbed of millions of dollars bound for banks. The first idea that came up for a follow-up story was: Does this robbery show the need for stricter regulation of armored-car companies?

We kicked this idea around until I suggested that companies in the business of transporting cash already had a fairly strong incentive not to lose it — presumably an even stronger incentive than any government official regulating their security arrangements. That story idea died, but not the mindset that produced it.

The surest way to impress the judges for a journalism prize is to write a series of articles that spur a legislature to right some evil, particularly if it was committed by a corporation. When journalists do exposés of government malfeasance, they usually focus on the need for more regulations and bigger budgets, not on whether the government should be doing the job in the first place.

To some extent, this is a problem of self-selection. Journalism attracts people who want to right wrongs, and the generation that's been running journalism schools and media businesses came of age when government, especially the federal government, was seen as the solution to most wrongs. These executives, like the tenured radicals in law schools and the rest of academia, hired ideological cronies and shaped their institutions to reflect their views.

I'm not suggesting that journalism or law schools should be forced to have ideological balance on their faculties — this is one of those many problems that doesn't require a solution by government. But it's curious how little the institutions care about it.

They keep meticulous tabs on the race and gender and ethnic background of their students and faculty. But the lack of political diversity is taken as a matter of course. As long as the professors look different, why worry if they all think the same?

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John Tierney writes for The New York Times.



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

# Grave after grave

GOURE, NIGER — Welcome to the most wretched country in the world.

Niger is dead last of the 177 nations ranked in the latest U.N. Human Development Report, based on its heartbreaking rates of poverty, illiteracy and mortality. On a 650-mile drive across the country from the Niger capital, Niamey, to this eastern city, I stopped in village after village where peasants told of young children dying of starvation in the last few months. One man named Haroun Mani had just buried three of his eight children.

"They didn't have enough to eat, and then they got diarrhea and weakened and died," he explained. None had seen a doctor; in Niger, there is one doctor for every 33,000 people.

Granted, it's difficult for Western readers who are dieting to comprehend people who are starving. But Niger seems a good place to ponder the failings of a system of international aid that is often irrational and catastrophically inept, leading to the deaths of those children — Suraj, 5, Barida, 3, and Hawau, 2 — along with millions more across the continent.

A crucial mistake is our refusal to provide substantial agricultural assistance to increase African food production. Instead, we ship tons of food in emergency aid after people have already started dying. It's like a policy of scrimping on manhole covers because we're too busy rescuing people who fall into manholes.

In Niger, it has been apparent since the beginning of this year that a food crisis was coming, but the world ignored a U.N. emergency appeal for $3 million in aid in February. Then in July, BBC television showed wrenching images of children dying. Niger promptly received more aid in the last 10 days of July than it had received in the previous eight months.

In fact, the situation is more complex than the television images suggest. The reality is that people in Niger are always starving.

One problem is that U.S. law generally requires our food aid to be purchased in American markets and transported on American ships. The upshot is that much of the donation is wasted on shipping costs, the aid is delayed, and when it arrives our grain risks depressing local prices and long-term production incentives. To his credit, President Bush has pushed to ease this requirement, but members of Congress are blocking him, because they value farmers' votes more than African lives.

Above all, we need a major new international initiative to extend the Green Revolution to Africa. Farmers in tropical Africa get only 1,500 pounds of cereal grain per acre, compared with 4,900 pounds in China. Pedro Sanchez, an agricultural expert at Columbia University, has estimated that Africans could triple food production if they used modern seeds and methods.

In the village of Angaual Goge Haouna, where seven children died in the last few months of starvation, villagers said they wanted more fertilizer above all, as well as better seeds and help exploiting a nearby lake for irrigation.

"I'm not only using the same techniques as my grandfather, I'm actually using the same implements," said Momom Bukhary, a 63-year-old man. "And this land used to be far more productive than it is now. When I was young, the annual harvest would last a full year, longer in good times. Now it only lasts three months, and then we run out of food."

In the news business, we don't lead with headlines like "Millions of Children Dying in Africa," because that's not actually news. It's the wallpaper.

Yet realities like that should inspire our priorities. And we're not even using our aid money wisely. Unless we help start a Green Revolution in Africa, we'll be back in Niger year after year — and every village will be surrounded by more tiny graves.

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Nicholas Kristof writes for The New York Times.

The Times-Picayune

ABC F1 CP

LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

Wednesday
October 12, 2005

MONEY
For complete money coverage, see PAGE C-11

SPORTS
For complete sports coverage, see PAGE C-5





Among the authors taking part in 'A Night for New Orleans' in the Great Hall at Cooper Union University in New York City were, left, John Barry ('Rising Tide'); and from above, Donna Tartt, Roy Blount Jr. and Nancy Lemann.

AP PHOTO





# Southern literature and the meaning of Britney's bra



CHRIS ROSE

NEW YORK — Much of the celebrity world wants to help out in this time of great need for south Louisiana and Mississippi.

It warmed my heart, for instance, to see that Britney Spears was auctioning off one of her bras on eBay with the promise to donate all the money to a Katrina relief fund of one kind or another.

I guess we all contribute whatever talent we can to the effort, and certainly Britney Spears has a talent for wearing bras. She has also cultivated an attraction for controversy over the years so that even something as benign as a simple transfer of used underwear into a tax-exempt charitable donation has come back to bite her on her sweet Southern backside.

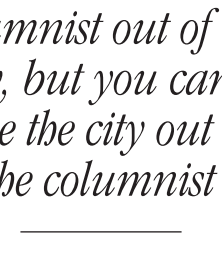
After accumulating online bids of up to $30,000, a stink was raised among competing bidders as to the true provenance of the bra; the question being not whether Britney actually owns the damn thing, but when and where she actually wore it.

This distinction may or may not have any meaning to the average newspaper reader but — trust me — it's a big deal for the type of guy who is willing to pay the comparable price of, say, a new Lexus, to own a skimpy article of clothing that has rested upon the bare flesh of pop's infamous tart. (And, I should add: I consider the readers of this column to be far from "average.")

Well, to make this story short, it turns out the bra was NOT, as originally promoted, the one that she wore for the making of her "Baby, One More Time" video — the one where she vamps as a doe-eyed Catholic school girl begging for more, more, more (and I'm not talking about algebra homework here).

But it turns out it was just from some dumb HBO promotional video she did and since she was, like, 20 when she wore this bra

*See* **ROSE,** *C-4*



ANGUS LIND

# Long road home

*You can take the columnist out of the city, but you can't take the city out of the columnist*

WEST ON LOUISIANA 451 TO LOUISIANA 1 GOING SOUTH OVER THE MORGANZA FLOODWAY THEN OVER THE SUNSHINE BRIDGE PAST SORRENTO AND ANYTHING RESEMBLING A ROAD GOING TOWARD NEW ORLEANS –

Here's what I'm thinking as I push the pedal to the metal, breaking every speed limit on every highway, knowing I'm going to write about this escapade:

What you just read was probably the longest dateline in the history of newspapers – but this has been the worst hurricane in history and this is the longest I have been away from my city in 35 years, so who cares? Just as the parking rules in New Orleans have been temporarily suspended, so have the journalism rules.

I know this because by the power of special dispensation that columnists are endowed with, I'm the one who suspended them.

After 42 days and 42 nights – by my count two days longer than Noah's flood – in the Cajun prairie and farmland of Avoyelles Parish on Bayou des Glaises, we're going home – faster than a six-legged jackrabbit.

Like gypsies, we have fled the cows and cotton fields, leaving behind as the only evidence that we once occupied a rambling 75-year-old farmhouse a strand of purple, green and gold Rex beads, resting on a sideboard.

And some cold beer in the fridge for the next displaced souls who seek sanctuary there.

Before we fled the country, we had gone into New Orleans to retrieve my aging wife's Toyota – uh, sorry, little slip of the tongue there – to retrieve my wife's aging Toyota. No way could we have packed up in one vehicle all the clothes and gear we amassed to stock the old farmhouse.

So, there we were – about to convoy in two cars absolutely crammed with computers and equipment, bags of food, four ice chests, box fans, oscillating fans, duffel bags of clothes, dirty laundry, bags of shoes, bed linens, pillows, a barbecue pit, two bags of cotton we had picked as a souvenir, a case of wine we never drank and a couple of hogs we adopted as pets.

Just kidding – no pet hogs, but we did bring home some homemade sausage. Had to – Avoyelles is hog country.

I took a look at the cars and the packing job before we pulled out and said, sure, there's enough of a crack through all this stuff to see through part of the back window. Then as I was driving, I looked through the rearview mirror at my wife's car and all I could think of was this: How can she possibly see through all those lovebugs smashed on

*See* **LIND,** *C-4*

WELCOME DISTRACTIONS




*Trivial pursuits to keep your mind off you-know-what*



## CHLOE ON 'FREDDIE'

Starring Freddie Prinze Jr. as a Chicago bachelor enduring the home invasion of multiple generations of female family members, the new ABC sitcom "Freddie" debuts Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The series has undergone a significant casting change since the show was announced in May — but not in the most important role, Zoey the teenage niece, as portrayed by Metairie expatriate Chloe Suazo.

The change, ho-hum: Madchen Amick ("Twin Peaks," "Joey") joins as the impulsive sister-in-law to Prinze's saucy chef, Freddie Moreno. If you have power, "Freddie" will be worth burning precious electrons only to monitor our local angle. Likely much better than anything they'll spin on "Freddie" is Suazo's personal story, which is:

St. Martin's Episcopal School student and mom head west to test the Los Angeles casting waters.

Suazo lands role on hot-list HBO comedy "The Comeback." Also gets cast on "Freddie." Leaves since-canceled "Comeback," which starred "Friends" alum Lisa Kudrow (hence the early, unfulfilled, heat).

Suazo charms fellow "Freddie" cast members by memorizing everybody else's lines during pilot shoot.

Suazo charms TV critics assembled for summertime Hollywood TV tour.

The next chapter airs tonight.

**— Dave Walker**

Chloe Suazo moved from Metairie to Hollywood and landed a role in the ABC sitcom 'Freddie,' bowing at 7:30 tonight on WGNO-Channel 26.

CONTINUED

THIS MOLD HOUSE

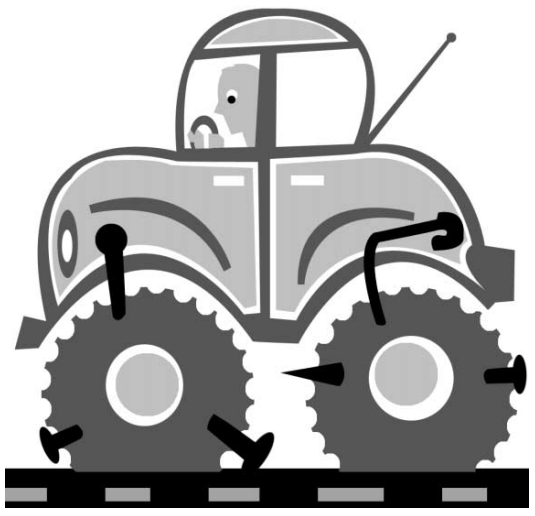
*More tips for mending your broken home*

# Tread lightly

## *Tires take a beating in the littered streets of home*

For each shingle that Katrina huffed and puffed to the ground, somewhere lurks the tack that used to hold it to a roof. Even drivers with steel-belted nerves may fear to tread. Here are tips for combating potential punctures and dealing with those you can't avoid.

**CLEAR A PATH.** Keep your driveway or parking spot free of tacks, nails and other sharp metal debris by using a magnet. Professional roofers use 4-foot-wide magnets on wheels to pick up the tacks, simply pushing the contraptions around in wide swaths like lawnmowers and letting the tacks come to them. Roofing supply stores sell these super-size magnets for about $140. More economical versions, available at home improvement and hardware stores, include Lowe's Mag Vac magnetic broom, a foot-wide



magnet on a 4-foot-long pole, which costs about $20. Home Depot's Rolling Sweep Magnet is similarly sized but the pole telescopes from 3 feet to 4½ to 5 feet for easy storage. It costs about $25.

**WORK IN BRIGHT DAYLIGHT,** when the glint of the sun may make such objects easier to see. Or, this might be a good chance to actually use that metal detector your kid got two Christmases ago.

**INSPECT YOUR TIRES.** Look closely at your tires often. You might catch tacks before they have time to fully puncture the tire.

**KEEP EMERGENCY SUPPLIES.** Carry Fix-a-Flat, a product that inflates and then seals punctured tires. Note: Directions on the can say to drive the car a couple of miles immediately after use so that the increased air pressure helps spread the sealant evenly. While the repair is "lasting and durable," directions also recommend having the tire checked by a professional as soon as possible. Fix-a-Flat is widely available at discount and auto stores for $3.50 to $5. Keep flares in your car in case you get a flat on a dark street. Buy a car-charger for your cell phone.

**CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT.** Make sure your jack and spare are in good condition, and that you know how to use them. Know the specs on your spare – how many miles can it travel safely and at what speeds? With space-saver tires, avoid speeds above 50 mph. If you must leave the spare tire on for more than a day or two, check the tightness (torque) of the wheel. See the American Automobile Association at www.csaa.com for instructions. Also consult the owners' manual of your car.

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Have a tip to share? Send your solutions to hurricane-related household problems by sending an e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you. To read other tips, visit www.nola.com/newslogs/tpmoldhouse/

**Karen Taylor Gist, staff writer**

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH HARRISON

# The back roads point the way back home

**LIND,** *from C-1*

her windshield?

I also thought this: We looked either like two kids going off to college for the first time or two people who had just looted a house. I won't comment on my charming, youthful bride, but I see my face in the mirror every morning and in no way, shape or form does it even remotely resemble the look of an apprehensive 18-year-old heading off to matriculate in undergraduate school for four years or more.

So I don't think any state trooper who might have pulled me over would have bought into that.

"Sorry, officer, I didn't realize I was speeding; I'm in a hurry to get to college."

"Let me see your license, sir."

"Here you are, officer."

"You're a little old for a student; you a professor?"

"Well, I do profess some things."

"Let me ask you something, professor: What's all this stuff in your car?"

"Uh, I found it and I'm taking it back."

"Sure, you are."

"Honest. Their insurance will cover it. Er, I mean my insurance will cover it. I'm having a bad day."

"It's just beginning. Get out of the car."

Of course that never happened. But you hallucinate after being displaced and disoriented for so long. And when I passed a car whose back window had been soaped with the message "New Orleans Refugee Going Home!!" I realized I should have done the same – that was like a free pass. No one would dare pull over a senior refugee.

A couple of thoughts after a lot of miles and a lot of time behind the wheel: This state's back roads are quite serviceable. The quickest way for me to get back and forth to New Orleans from where I was in Avoyelles Parish was through Baton Rouge. But after hearing the horror stories about traffic and gridlock there, I never tried it.

The west side of the river, on Louisiana 1, was always moving, even though it was only one lane in either direction. And the Sunshine Bridge over the Mississippi River at Donaldsonville will never ever need a traffic report, since there is no traffic to report.

Finally, if you ever have to evacuate again, and you are fortunate enough to have a car with a CD player, the four-CD set named "Doctors, Professors, Kings & Queens: The Big Ol' Box of New Orleans" may be the greatest collection of New Orleans, Cajun, zydeco and Louisiana music ever put together.

From Ernie K-Doe, Henry Butler, Allen Toussaint and Tim Laughlin to Lil' Queenie & the Percolators, Dr. John, the Red Stick Ramblers and Geno Dalafose, this music will ensure your heart stays where it belongs.

And when I got near Orleans Parish, as I crossed the railroad tracks from River Road to Oak Street and Leake Avenue and officially entered the city, I opened the sunroof, rolled down all the windows and cranked up one of my all-time favorites as loud as I could stand it:

That would be Kermit Ruffins' "Drop Me Off in New Orleans."

When I turned onto my street, I cranked it up one more notch and pumped my fist through the sunroof. "Son, I said, you're home."

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Columnist Angus Lind can be reached at alind@timespicayune.com or at (504) 826-3449.



AP PHOTO

Jimmy Mac, right, performs with friends including Zonder Kennedy, left, and Skip Ward, second from right, at the 'Night for New Orleans' benefit. Proceeds from the New York City event went to the Acadiana Arts Council.

# Books, benefits and Britney

**ROSE,** *from C-1*

rather than – what, 16? – its market value is diminished for reasons that are way too creepy to go into.

The end result was that Britney withdrew the bra from eBay, resulting in one less portable trailer home available for some poor evacuee stuck in Oklahoma and one more jewel-encrusted bra cluttering up what I imagine is a closet full of jewel-encrusted bras of now-dubious market value in Britney's Malibu mansion.

Now, I tell you this story for two reasons: One is that I have not written about Britney Spears in this column for several months and that seems so . . . unnatural; I thought her appearance here might signal one of those much-sought-after signs of return to normalcy in our broken-apart community.

I also mention it as a way of introduction to my involvement in a literary fundraiser in New York on Monday night — the main story I want to tell you here — but I just don't get the sense that if the first sentence of this column had been: "The diminutive novelist Donna Tartt read a poem by Edgar Allen Poe the other night to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina," that I would have fully clinched your attention.

Then again, perhaps I underestimate you, the above-average reader, but that's happened before so let's move along.

My job at the NYC event — sponsored by the very highbrow BookForum magazine — was to emcee a night of readings by some of America's great authors, all of them with some kind of tie to New Orleans or Mississippi.

Along with Tartt — a Mississippi native who recounted a spellbinding tale of the panic that struck her "people" during Hurricanes Betsy and Camille — the roster included Southern humorist Roy Blount Jr., New Orleans-raised novelist Valerie Martin, former French Quarter hang-about and literary lion Robert Stone and New Orleans native and novelist Nancy Lemann, whose attempt to tell of the feelings that stir in her from Katrina's wrath left her unable to finish her talk — all these weeks later — and she walked away from the podium simply too sad to go on.

Also present were writers John Barry and Mike Tidwell, whose books "Rising Tide" and "Bayou Farewell" — two of the most passionate and urgent works of nonfiction published over the past decade — foretold exactly what would happen if and when a storm like Katrina ever slammed us.

Barry and Tidwell have now been elevated past the mere nomenclature of "auteur" to that of "visionary." Before her untimely departure, Lemann announced that Barry and Tidwell should immediately be appointed president "or something like that" and it does raise the point: Why are all of America's smartest people sitting alone in library carrels and coffee shops trying to change the world with written words while people whose primary accomplishment in life was to make a pile of money get to actually run the world?



Britney Spears attempted to do her part for hurricane relief by auctioning her bra on eBay.

This, we'll discuss at our next book club meeting.

Moving along now: The BookForum event, billed as A Night For New Orleans, was a night of passion and pathos, of humor and absurdity, of laughter and tears.

It was, in short, a celebration of what makes the people of New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi and the South what we are. It was held at the Great Hall at Cooper Union University in Manhattan, the very same room — using the very same podium — from which Abraham Lincoln rendered forth what historians consider the most formative and important speech of his life in the winter of 1860; that "Four score and seven years ago" thing in Gettysburg comes in a close second.

But what was I doing there? Good question. I guess the organizers just wanted a little local cred in the program, a little show from someone who's been on the streets for this battle and has sustained himself on Salvation Army beef stew and MREs for the past seven weeks rather than salmon at Nobu in Manhattan.

I feel I did a creditable job representing my newspaper, my town, my state. They love us up there, and I thought this was important to tell you since the only other story about New York residents that this paper has run since Katrina hit was about a bunch of Giants fans who were jerks to Saints fans a few weeks ago when the two teams met on "Monday Night Football." I'm willing to bet not one of those Giants fans has ever read Donna Tartt's "The Secret History."

But the people who do that kind of thing — read, that is — get the concept of "us." They think we're all nuts — the term "eccentric" was bandied about a little too liberally at the event, I thought — but they get us.

About 150 people ponied up 35 bucks apiece for the night and it all goes to the Acadiana Arts Council, which will create a series of grants and foundations that will put money directly into the hands of south Louisiana writers, artists and musicians whose livelihoods have been threatened by this whole Katrina/Rita mess.

It ain't no MTV jewel-encrusted bra, but it's money, walking-around money that our people are going to need until we get music fired up in our streets again. Because until we bring live music back to New Orleans juke joints and the dance halls of southwest Louisiana, all we've got to listen to is the radio. And I've already had about as much Britney as I can take.

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Columnist Chris Rose can be reached at chris.rose@timespicayune.com; or at (504) 352-2535 or (504) 826-3309.

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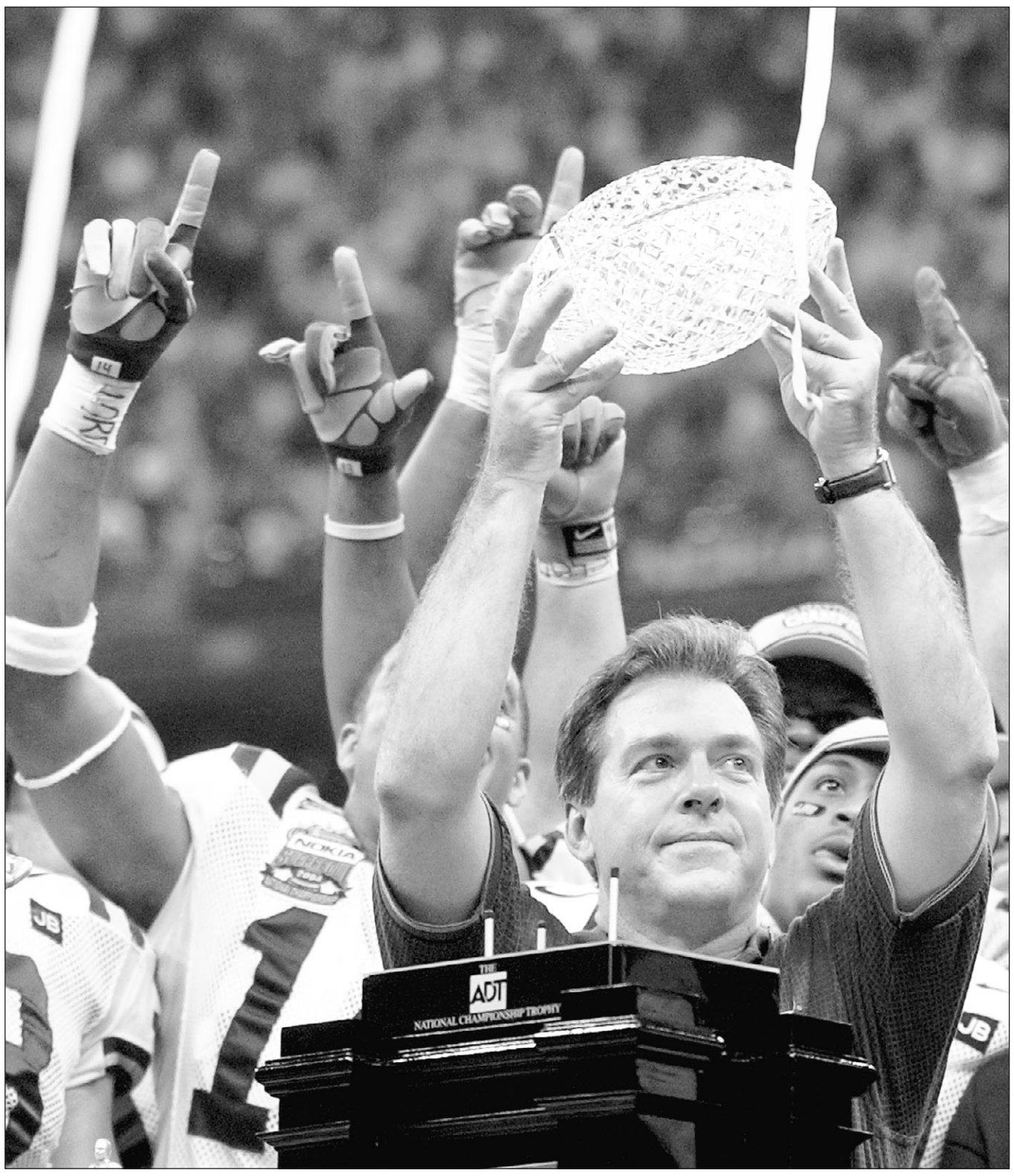
# SPORTS

PAGE C-5
Wednesday, October 12, 2005

LHSAA will decide today where championships will be played
See C-9

After several attempts at refining a troubled BCS system, officials are slowly beginning to admit a playoff is the only answer

# TWEAKED OUT



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Coach Nick Saban hoisted the 2003 BCS national championship trophy after LSU defeated Oklahoma 21-14 in the Sugar Bowl. However, Southern Cal was chosen the AP national champion, creating one of several controversies the BCS has endured since its inception.

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

The BCS could be only one of its annual train wrecks away from going directly to some sort of a playoff system.

At least that's the view of BCS coordinator and Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg.

"If the majority of the folks agreed to take a look at something like that, it could possibly happen," Weiberg said. "It's hard to predict what would trigger our presidents changing their minds about the structure.

"But, if we have another year with three major teams unbeaten and one left out of the championship game or some additional situation, that could cause folks to at least think about it."

Last season, Southern California, Oklahoma and Auburn finished the regular season undefeated, with the Tigers being left out of the title game.

In 2003, USC finished atop The Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN polls. But, in the BCS standings, the Trojans finished third, behind Oklahoma and LSU.

LSU went on to claim the BCS national title by beating the Sooners in the Sugar Bowl; USC was crowned the AP national champion.

Of the seven BCS title games to date, only in 1999 and 2000 were the participants the only two undefeated teams from the six automatic bid conferences.

And every year has resulted in a "tweaking" of the system.

"One can only acknowledge that there has been a fair amount of controversy associated with the BCS," Weiberg said. "In part, that's because some people have assigned expectations to it that it was not capable of handling.

"It was not a playoff structure."

However, starting next year, the

See BCS, C-8

# Saints acquire Dolphins tailback

*Chatman has not played this season; N.O. releases CB Booker*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — With Deuce McAllister lost for the season, the Saints traded for backup Miami Dolphins tailback Jesse Chatman on Tuesday.

Chatman is not expected to push incumbents Antowain Smith or Aaron Stecker for playing time, at least early on, but if the fourth-year tailback meets certain incentives, the Saints will owe Miami a seventh-round draft pick in 2006.

AT SAN ANTONIO
**SAINTS VS. FALCONS**
Noon Sunday
8

"We're happy with Antowain and Aaron. We're good to go with those guys. We just wanted to get another guy into the program here," Saints general manager Mickey Loomis said. "Obviously, you want to have three guys in your program. And we liked Jesse during free agency. We just didn't have room for him then."

Chatman, 26, had not played for the Dolphins this season and became expendable when former Saints running back Ricky Williams returned this week from his four-game suspension.

See SAINTS, C-10

# N.O. picks up pace at Tiger Stadium

*About 50,000 tickets remain for Oct. 30 game vs. Dolphins*

**By Jimmy Smith**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Approximately 50,000 tickets remain unsold for the Saints' 2005 home-state debut, but the team is confident Louisiana fans will make the Oct. 30 game against the Miami Dolphins at Tiger Stadium a financial success, Saints executive vice president of administration Arnold Fielkow said.



**Tom Benson**
His Saints to play four games at Tiger Stadium

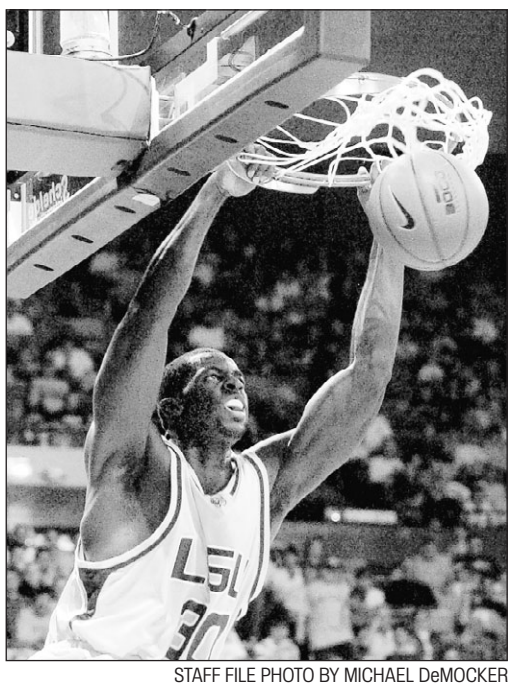
Even if the stadium is half full, Fielkow said he doesn't believe Saints owner Tom Benson will view it as a sign that hurricane-ravaged Louisiana can't support the team.

"We've taken the position consistently that the long-term issues will resolve themselves down the road," Fielkow said Monday night after briefing the media about the team's marketing plans for the four games scheduled at LSU, including the first that features the return of former Tigers coach Nick Saban, now the head coach of the Dolphins.

"Right now, everyone in our organization from the football team to the business side is focused simply on the next few months and being as successful

See BATON ROUGE, C-10

Former LSU forward Brandon Bass is attempting to earn a spot on the Hornets' roster. However, he realizes that playing time in the NBA developmental league might ultimately be his ticket to a permanent roster spot with the Hornets.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

# Bass' journey to NBA has potential Tulsa detour

*Developmental league option for forward*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — In early August, when most of the Hornets' players were home with their families, rookie Brandon Bass spent two weeks going through extensive workouts with Coach Byron Scott.

Bass wanted to get a jump on things before training camp started, especially after finding out about a new rule that allows some first- and second-year players to be assigned to the NBA developmental league for skills development, regardless of if they make the regular-season roster.

"I think about the (developmental league possibility) a lot," said Bass, who played at LSU last season and was chosen the SEC Player of the Year before the Hornets selected him in the second round of the June draft. "There are some things you can't control, so all I can do is go as hard as I can in practice to avoid going that way."

Under the new guidelines, a player can be assigned by his NBA team to the developmental league for as long as his team deems necessary. No player may be given more than three assignments to the D-league in a season, and no NBA team can have more than two players on assignment at the same time.

The eight-team NBA developmental league begins its 48-game schedule Nov. 18. The Hornets — along with the Chicago Bulls, Indiana Pacers and Milwaukee Bucks — are affiliated with the Tulsa 66ers.

"It's a resource that I have at my disposal, especially if you want to keep guys that you want to affiliate with in the future," Scott said. "They might get some experience going down there playing."

Eight of the 17 players on the Hornets' training camp roster are eligible to be assigned to the developmental league. Although guard J.R. Smith, top-draft pick Chris Paul and second-year player Kirk Snyder are eligible, they are not likely to be sent down because of their projected impact this season.

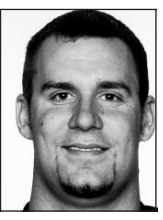
Bass could face the prospect of playing limited minutes this season because of the team's depth at power forward. A developmental league assignment could give him needed playing

See HORNETS, C-7

*Sports briefs, TV listings, and upcoming schedules*

# SECONDLINE

## THE SPORTS SCENE



**Ben Roethlisberger**
Hyperextended left knee in Monday night game

**INJURED ROETHLISBERGER MAY PLAY:** Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger** might be available for this week's game after a knee injury forced him to be carried off the field last night on a cart. Roethlisberger, who went 13-1 as a rookie starter for the Steelers last season, hyperextended his left knee and bruised a bone when he was injured during the Steelers' 24-22 victory over the San Diego Chargers on Monday night, the team said. Roethlisberger, 23, was injured in the final minute of the game when Chargers lineman **Luis Castillo** rolled into the quarterback's leg, bending his knee backward. He remained down on the field for several minutes before being carried off the field. An MRI exam Tuesday found no structural damage in Roethlisberger's knee. Steelers coach **Bill Cowher** said Roethlisberger hasn't been ruled out for this week's home game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. "We'll see how the week progresses," Cowher said in a news conference. "I think we all have a deep sigh of relief in regards to the prognosis." If Roethlisberger can't play, **Charlie Batch** would start against the Jaguars. Roethlisberger, the Steelers' first-round draft pick last year, has thrown for 913 yards for Pittsburgh (3-1) this season, with seven touchdowns and no interceptions.

**NFL**

### Hold that record

Mark Tauscher's perfect mark ended on a dubious flag. The Green Bay Packers' right tackle had never been whistled for holding in his six-year NFL career, which followed an unblemished run at the University of Wisconsin. He was penalized in the second quarter Sunday for holding New Orleans defensive tackle Brian Young, whom he cut-block on the play. The officials apparently misidentified the culprit, because rookie right guard Will Whitticker appeared to be holding on the play. Asked if the officials got it right, Coach Mike Sherman said: "I don't think so. But I couldn't see who it was." Sherman said the game film showed Tauscher cut-blocking his man as he was supposed to. "I didn't see a penalty," Sherman said. "I'm sure the TV copy may show something different, but I was confused myself on who they penalized there." No matter. Tauscher's perfect run of 75 NFL games, including 73 starts, without a penalty — not even one that was declined — is history.

**SUGGS BREAKS THUMB:** Cleveland Browns running back Lee Suggs broke his right thumb during Sunday's win over Chicago and could miss a month. Suggs had two screws surgically inserted into his thumb Monday, the latest setback for the injury-prone back. Suggs missed Cleveland's first two games with an ankle sprain sustained during training camp. Last season, the 25-year-old missed three games with a neck injury and three more with an injured toe. He sat out the first nine weeks of his rookie season with a shoulder injury suffered while he was at Virginia Tech. The Browns have had high hopes for Suggs, who rushed for more than 100 yards in his final three games in 2004, but hasn't stayed healthy long enough to have a major impact. Suggs was in for only three plays in Sunday's game, but didn't touch the ball. Rookie wide receiver Braylon Edwards will remain in the hospital for at least another day following surgery to cut out an infection in his right arm. Edwards continues to receive antibiotics at the Cleveland Clinic for the infection, which has yet to be identified by doctors, the team said. The first-round pick has been hospitalized since Saturday, when he had an operation to clean out the infection that caused his arm to swell significantly.

**EAGLES SIGN ONE, CUT TWO:** Linebacker Zeke Moreno signed a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles. A former standout at Southern California, Moreno spent four seasons with the San Diego Chargers after being selected in the fifth round of the 2001 draft. The Eagles released linebacker Mike Labinjo and defensive end Alonzo Jackson. Labinjo started the season opener against Atlanta after middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter was ejected during a pregame brawl.

**OLYMPICS**

### Turin faces budget gap

Turin Olympic organizers are considering sweeping cutbacks for next year's Winter Games because of a budget shortfall that could reach $63.72 million. The Italian government is proposing a $19.24 million cut in Olympic spending, adding to an existing gap of $44.48 million. "If the government doesn't intervene, I alone cannot absorb this imbalance, and presumably I would have to cut some things," Turin organizing committee CEO Cesare Vaciago said. Vaciago listed possible cuts in personnel, advertising, free public transport, cleaning and maintenance for the Feb. 10-26 games and the Paralympics which follow in March. He stressed the cuts would not involve security, which is being paid for by the Interior Ministry. Turin organizers thought they had overcome persistent budget problems in June when Premier Silvio Berlusconi signed a deal covering $156.29 million for the games. The money was used to outsource some of TOROC's activities to Sviluppo Italia, an agency linked to the Economy Ministry that promotes business development and investment. That money is needed to cover most of the $44.48 million budget shortfall Sviluppo Italia has run up due to extra expenses. "If the promise is not kept, I will be forced to downsize certain activities," Vaciago said.

**COLLEGES**

### Cornerback needs surgery

Wake Forest cornerback Kevin Patterson might need surgery to remove his appendix, putting him in doubt for Saturday's game at No. 14 Boston College. Patterson was admitted to a hospital Monday night after experiencing abdominal pain, coach Jim Grobe said. "I think he's got some infection," Grobe said. "My guess right now is it's going to come out." Patterson had a similar episode this summer, when hospital doctors believed he had appendicitis. He was released without further treatment after the pain subsided.

**ECU PROMOTES ASSISTANT:** East Carolina assistant baseball coach Billy Godwin was promoted to interim head coach, a day after the school suspended Coach Randy Mazey for unspecified reasons. Athletic Director Terry Holland said he had carefully monitored Godwin's hiring in June after the recent dismissals of the school's football and basketball coaches. Mazey's suspension is expected to be the first procedural step toward his eventual firing. The university will conduct a national search for his replacement, but Holland said he is confident in Godwin for now.

**GOLF**

### Nicklaus caddie dies

Angelo Argea, who spent two decades as Jack Nicklaus' caddie and became an iconic figure among for his shock of silver hair, died of liver cancer. He was 75. Argea died Monday night at the home of his nephew, according to close friend Bill Taylor. Nicklaus was traveling from the Bahamas and planned a statement later Tuesday, his spokesman said. Argea went to the Palm Springs Classic in 1963 to caddie for a Las Vegas hotel executive when he was told more caddies were needed for the pros. He signed up with Nicklaus, believing the reigning U.S. Open champion would not show up because of a hip injury. Nicklaus showed up, won the tournament, and he won in Las Vegas later in the year with Argea at his side. "Jack figured he better lock me up, take me with him," Argea said in an interview with Golf magazine this year. They went on to win about 40 tournaments together, including the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship.

**HORSE RACING**

### Hurricane Run out

Hurricane Run, winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, won't run in the Breeders' Cup because of a cough. Trainer Andre Fabre said that his 3-year-old colt — considered the favorite for the Breeders' Cup Turf at New York's Belmont Park on Oct. 29, wasn't in top form. "I felt he wasn't doing too well," Fabre said by telephone from Chantilly. "He coughed for two days last week. We'll have to wait until next year." Hurricane Run, owned by Michael Tabor, is the second highly regarded horse to drop out of the Breeders' Cup, a one-day, eight-race extravaganza that usually determines division champions. Afleet Alex, the Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner, was declared out of the BC Classic on Monday because his leg injury hasn't fully healed. Hurricane Run has won six of seven career starts for earnings of $2,776,959. The colt also won the Irish Derby and the Prix Niel, a tuneup for the Arc. His only loss was by a neck to Shamardal in the French Derby. Fabre said Hurricane Run will remain in training and run again next year.

**TENNIS**

### Johansson advances

Defending champion Thomas Johansson edged 18-year-old Ervin Eleskovic 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4) to reach the second round of the Stockholm Open in Stockholm, Sweden. The top-seeded Swede, who beat Andre Agassi in last year's final, was pushed hard by Eleskovic, Sweden's top junior player. Qualifiers George Bastl and Julien Benneteau also advanced. Bastl beat Tomas Cakl of the Czech Republic 6-4, 7-5, and Benneteau topped Paul-Henri Mathieu of France 6-1, 6-3. Agassi pulled out last month with an injury.

**MIRZA PULLS THROUGH:** Sania Mirza recovered from a second-set lapse to beat Henrieta Nagyova 6-1, 4-6, 6-0 to advance to the second round of the Thailand Open in Bangkok. The 18-year-old player, seeded fifth, was up and down in her game but strong at the end to win the match in 74 minutes. Antonella Serra-Zanetti defeated fourth-seeded Shinobu Asagoe 7-6 (2), 6-4 in the day's biggest upset. Third-seeded Gisela Dulko beat Jamea Jackson 6-4, 7-5, and No. 6 Conchita Martinez took local hopeful Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-3, 6-2. Suchanan Viratprasert carried Thailand's hopes into the second round by beating Hsieh Su-wei 6-2, 7-6 (1).

**STEPANEK, ROBREDO MOVE ON:** Third-seeded Radek Stepanek reached the second round of the BA-CA Trophy by beating Luis Horna 6-7 (2), 6-0, 6-3 in Vienna, Austria. Horna lost nine straight games after taking the first set, smashing his racket several times in frustration. No. 5 Tommy Robredo reached the second round, ousting Ricardo Mello 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, and Ivo Minar beat Kevin Kim 7-6 (0), 6-3.

## TV/RADIO

**BEST BET**

▶ **Astros vs. Cardinals, 7 p.m.** 8
Houston's Andy Pettitte and St. Louis' Chris Carpenter face off in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series.

**ALSO ON THE TUBE**

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

▶ Angels vs. White Sox, 7 p.m. FX

**SOCCER**

▶ 2006 World Cup qualifier: Belarus vs. Norway, 1:30 p.m. FSWLD
▶ 2006 World Cup qualifier: Belgium vs. Lithuania, 3:30 p.m. FSWLD
▶ 2006 World Cup qualifier: Panama vs. U.S. National Team, 7 p.m. ESPN2
▶ 2006 World Cup qualifier: Austria vs. Northern Ireland, 7 p.m. FSWLD

**ON RADIO**

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

▶ Astros at St. Louis, 7 p.m., 1560-AM

TV and radio information is provided by the stations and is subject to change.

## UP NEXT

**SAINTS**

**Sunday:** vs. Falcons in San Antonio, noon
**Oct. 23:** at St. Louis, noon
**Oct. 30:** vs. Miami in Baton Rouge, 3 p.m.

**LSU**

**FOOTBALL**

**Saturday:** vs. Auburn, 6:45 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. North Texas, 7 p.m.
**Nov. 5:** vs. Appalachian State, 7 p.m.

**OTHER SPORTS**

**Today:** men's tennis at ITA Southeast Regionals, TBA.

**TULANE**

**FOOTBALL**

**Friday:** vs. UTEP in Ruston, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 22:** at UCF, 5 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. Marshall in Mobile, 6 p.m.

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

# Tracy takes Pirates job

*Cubs decide to keep coaching staff intact*

**From wire reports**

The Pittsburgh Pirates hired Jim Tracy as manager, a week after he parted ways with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pittsburgh signed the 49-year-old Tracy to a three-year contract. He replaces Pete Mackanin, who was named interim manager when Lloyd McClendon was fired Sept. 6.

"With his experience and winning records as a major-league manager, we feel he is the perfect fit to manage our team," Pirates general manager Dave Littlefield said of Tracy in a press release.

Tracy led Los Angeles to the National League West title in 2004, only to finish in fourth place with a 71-91 record this season. He had a 427-383 record in five seasons in Los Angeles.



**Jim Tracy**
427-383 in five seasons with Dodgers

The last-place Pirates finished at 67-95, tied with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Colorado Rockies for the second-worst record in Major League Baseball. Pittsburgh has had 13 consecutive losing seasons.

**CUBS RE-SIGN COACHES:** Pitching coach Larry Rothschild has signed a one-year contract to return to the Chicago Cubs after a weighing an offer to go to the Detroit Tigers and be reunited with manager Jim Leyland.

Rothschild was Florida's pitching coach and Leyland the manager when the Marlins won the 1997 World Series. Leyland was hired last week to manage the Tigers; Detroit's general manager, Dave Dombrowski, was the Marlins' GM in that championship year.

"It was a very tough decision," said Rothschild, who will begin his fifth season with the Cubs next year. "Probably for about five or six days I went back and forth a lot, talking to people. With Dave Dombrowski and Jim, we won a World Series and I had a relationship with both of them. That made it tough, but in the end my obligation was more important."

The Cubs will bring back their entire staff, including manager Dusty Baker for a fourth season, from last season's disappointing 79-83 finish, good for fourth in the NL Central.

Bench coach Dick Pole, hitting coach Gene Clines, first base coach Gary Matthews, third base coach Chris Speier and bullpen coach Juan Lopez will all return. Sonny Jackson also will return as a special assistant to Baker.

**OJEDA SIGNS WITH ROCKIES:** The Colorado Rockies acquired catcher Miguel Ojeda on a waiver claim from the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday.

Ojeda appeared in 59 games this season with Seattle and the San Diego Padres. He has a career .221 average with 13 homers and 57 RBIs in 182 games.

**DETROIT HIRES EX-PIRATES:** New Detroit manager Jim Leyland took his Pittsburgh connection to the extreme Tuesday by filling out his coaching staff with five others who also wore Pirates uniforms.

Like Leyland, two of them — Lloyd McClendon and Gene Lamont — were former Pittsburgh managers. McClendon will run the bullpen and Lamont will be the third base coach.

Former Pirates players Rafael Belliard, Don Slaught and Andy Van Slyke also were hired. Belliard was added as infield coach, Slaught as hitting coach and Van Slyke as first base, outfield and baserunning coach.

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

## HOUSTON ASTROS VS. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

A look at the best-of-seven National League championship series between the Houston Astros and St. Louis Cardinals:

**Schedule: All games on** 8 Game 1, today at St. Louis (7:19 p.m.); Game 2, Thursday at St. Louis (7:19 p.m.); Game 3, Saturday at Houston (3:25 p.m.); Game 4, Sunday at Houston (3:35 p.m.); Game 5*, Monday, at Houston (7:20 p.m.); Game 6*, Oct. 19, at St. Louis (3:20 p.m.); Game 7, Oct. 20, at St. Louis (7:20 p.m.)
*If necessary.

**Season Series:** St. Louis won 11-5.

**PROJECTED LINEUPS**

**REGULAR SEASON STATS**

**Astros:** 2B Craig Biggio (.264, 26 HRs, 69 RBIs, 17 HBP), CF Willy Taveras (.291, 3, 29, 71 infield hits, 34 SBs), 3B Morgan Ensberg (.283, 36, 101), LF Lance Berkman (.293, 24, 82, 91 walks), 1B Mike Lamb (.236, 12, 53), RF Jason Lane (.267, 26, 78), SS Adam Everett (.248, 11, 54); C Brad Ausmus (.258, 3, 47).

**Cardinals:** SS David Eckstein (.294, 8, 61, 11 SBs), CF Jim Edmonds (.263, 29, 89), 1B Albert Pujols (.330, 41, 117, 16 SBs), RF Larry Walker (.289, 15, 52 in 100 games), LF Reggie Sanders (.271, 21, 54 in 93 games), 2B Mark Grudzielanek (.294, 8, 59), C Yadier Molina (.252, 8, 49), 3B Abraham Nunez (.285, 5, 44).

**PROJECTED ROTATIONS**

**Astros:** LH Andy Pettitte (17-9, 2.39 ERA, won last seven decisions, 14-2 with 1.56 ERA last 20 starts), RH Roy Oswalt (20-12, 2.94, career-high 241 2-3 innings), RH Roger Clemens (13-8, major-league-best 1.87 ERA), RH Brandon Backe (10-8, 4.76).

**Cardinals:** RH Chris Carpenter (21-5, 2.83), LH Mark Mulder (16-8, 3.64), RH Matt Morris (14-11, 4.11), RH Jason Marquis (13-14, 4.13) or RH Jeff Suppan (16-10, 3.57).

**RELIEVERS**

**Astros:** RH Brad Lidge (4-4, 2.33, 42/46 saves, 103 Ks in 70 2-3 IP), RH Dan Wheeler (2-3, 3 saves, 2.21 in 71 games, 69 Ks), RH Wandy Rodriguez (10-10, 5.33 in 25 games, 22 starts), RH Russ Springer (4-4, 4.73), RH Ezequiel Astacio (3-6, 5.67 in 22 games, 14 starts), RH Chad Qualls (6-4, 3.28 in 76 games), LH Mike Gallo (0-1, 2.66).

**Cardinals:** RH Jason Isringhausen (1-2, 2.14, 39/43 saves), RH Julian Tavarez (2-3, 3.43, 4 saves), LH Ray King (4-4, 3.38), RH Cal Eldred (1-0, 2.19), RH Brad Thompson (4-0, 2.95, 1 save), LH Randy Flores (3-1, 3.46, 1 save).

**MATCHUPS**

Central rivals meet in first NLCS rematch since Braves-Pirates in 1991-1992. Cardinals beat Astros in seven games last year, rallying against Clemens in Game 7 at Busch Stadium. The home team won every game in the series. ... Cardinals swept three-game series in St. Louis in April and again in July. ... Carpenter dominated Houston this season, going 4-0 with a 1.85 ERA in five starts. He pitched two complete games, including a shutout, and had two wins in games started by Clemens. ... Pettitte was 0-1 in three starts against St. Louis despite a 1.35 ERA. Oswalt was 1-2 with a 5.21 ERA in three starts. ... Sanders hit .429 with five HRs and 13 RBIs against Houston. ... Ensberg hit .339 against St. Louis with five HRs. ... Biggio was hitless in 12 at-bats and struck out twice against Mulder. ... Pujols had four homers, eight RBIs and 12 runs against the Astros. Walker 1-for-9 against Clemens this year.

**WATCH FOR**

▶ Houston's rotation. The Astros couldn't set up their rotation the way they wanted for last year's NLCS. With Clemens unavailable until Game 3, the Cardinals faced Backe and Pete Munro in Games 1 and 2, and Oswalt got only one start. This time, Houston has postseason stalwart Pettitte — who was out with elbow injury last year — going in the opener and Oswalt and Clemens to follow, and should need only one start from outside of that trio.
▶ Up For a Test? Cardinals were never in jeopardy of losing in first round, outscoring Padres 19-2 in first five innings. They probably can't expect things to come so easily against Houston's pitching.
▶ Houston's Problem. Inconsistent offense was Astros' biggest problem during season. The Astros got much of their offense in last year's NLCS from Beltran, and may need Ensberg, Berkman, or somebody else to carry them this time.
▶ Role Players on a Roll. The Cardinals' lineup is dangerous enough with Pujols and Edmonds. If Sanders, Eckstein and Nunez hit the way they did in the first round, St. Louis has enough weapons even for a staff as good as Houston's.
▶ Astros Time? Houston needed eight tries before it finally won a playoff series. After first-round victories the last two years, are Astros ready to advance to World Series for first time? With Clemens, Biggio and Bagwell all nearing the end of their careers, Astros may not get a better chance.

# Santana helps Angels advance

**By Janie McCauley**
AP sports writer

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — With an injured ace and a struggling slugger, the Los Angeles Angels turned to a few seasoned veterans and a poised rookie pitcher making his postseason debut.

And the Angels eliminated the Yankees playing the way they did all year: with solid defense, aggressive at-bats and another strong night by the entire pitching staff.

Ervin Santana bailed out the Angels when Bartolo Colon left early with a stiff shoulder, Adam Kennedy hit a go-ahead triple that sent Yankees outfielders Gary Sheffield and Bubba Crosby crashing to the ground, and Los Angeles advanced to the AL championship series with a 5-3 victory over New York on Monday night in the decisive Game 5 of their first-round series.

"It shows you something about this team. Different guys know how to step up," catcher Bengie Molina said between champagne showers from younger brother, Jose.

Garret Anderson homered and drove in two runs, and the Angels produced enough offense despite getting no RBIs in the series from reigning AL MVP Vladimir Guerrero.

Less than 24 hours after arriving in California, the Angels headed to Chicago for Game 1 the ALCS against the White Sox, which was played on Tuesday night.

Santana, who started the season at Double-A, replaced Colon in the second inning and got the win by allowing three runs and five hits in 5⅓ innings. He "had flashes of brilliance" according to Angels manager Mike Scioscia and left to a standing ovation with one out in the seventh after allowing a leadoff homer to Derek Jeter.

"I don't have to be nervous," Santana said. "It's a baseball game."

George Steinbrenner's $203 million Yankees again learned that money doesn't buy success. Even with Randy Johnson coming out of the bullpen for 4⅓ shutout innings, New York was eliminated by the Angels in the first round for the second time in four seasons, scoring 20 runs in the five games with four homers — all solo shots.

"It was a street fight," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I'm more disappointed than last year. I felt deep down that we would get it done."

After the game, New York's charter flight was delayed, and the team didn't get back to Yankee Stadium until around noon EDT Tuesday.

"Our team played hard, but we let our fans down," Steinbrenner said in a statement. Just like last season, when the Yankees lost four straight against Boston after taking a 3-0 ALCS lead, Alex Rodriguez and Sheffield were virtually invisible when New York needed their bats most. Rodriguez, the $252 million man, hit into a double play after Jeter's leadoff single in the ninth.

"This is as low as it gets," Rodriguez said. "It's one of those things you can't figure out. ... I've got to take a long look in the mirror at myself because I didn't do my part. I mean, you win and lose as a team, but I didn't show up."

After winning four World Series in their first five seasons under Torre, the Yankees are without a title since 2000.

**"I think about the (developmental league possibility) a lot. . . . I just want to have a long career. . . . That's been my dream."**

BRANDON BASS, second-round draft pick of the Hornets

# Bass has NBA dreams

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

experience before returning to the Hornets.

Rookie free agent forward Sean Banks, who has shown promise as an offensive player during camp, also could be affected by the new rule.

However, Scott said he won't make any decisions on who may get waived or be sent to the developmental league until he can make thorough evaluations. The Hornets' preseason opener is Thursday's night against the Denver Nuggets.

"I really never thought about the developmental league," Banks said. "But, whatever is necessary for the team, I'll do it. I don't really care about playing time. If I sit here on the bench all year, I will learn. Right now, I'm just trying to play like a robot and not mess up on a play. You have to sacrifice until you can master the system."

Most of the Hornets' rookies, like Bass and Banks, are struggling to make an impact in camp because they are still learning the offense. Bass has shown that he has the necessary physical strengths to play in the league, but he's sharing minutes at power forward with P.J. Brown, David West and Jackson Vroman.

"I know that I have to work even harder," Bass said.

With less than a month before the regular season begins, General Manager Jeff Bower said he is like most of the general managers in the league — trying to weigh whether it's more beneficial to have a developing player remain with his NBA team or be assigned to the developmental league.

"I think it's really going to be a work in progress all year," Bower said. "But we really have a great advantage with our location so close to Tulsa that access is so easy for any game or practice to monitor and stay in touch."

Although Smith is opposed to the league's implementing a 19-year-old age requirement, he has no problem with younger players being sent to the developmental league to improve their skills before returning to the NBA.

"There are certain players who just don't have it yet, and this gives them a chance to play and develop," Smith said.

Bass hopes his development will come only from the NBA, and not from playing in Tulsa.

"I just want to have a long career," he said. "That's been my dream."

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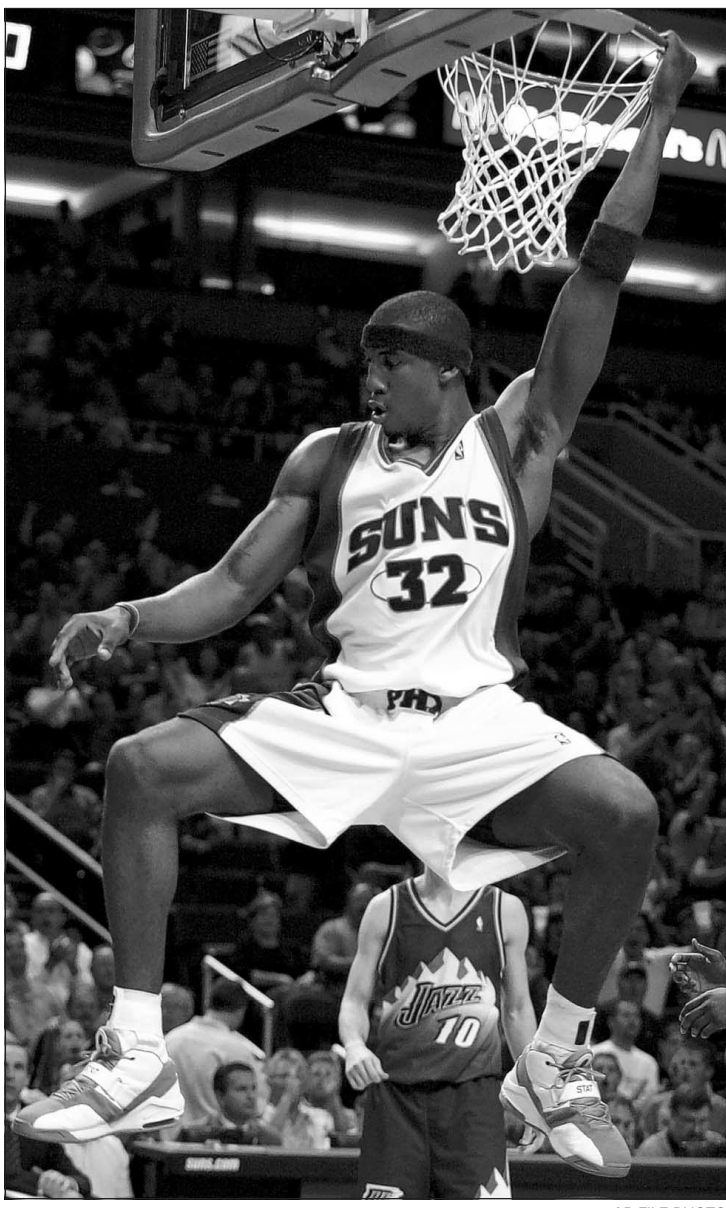
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STAFF FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Hornets rookie forward Brandon Bass, who faces the prospect of playing limited minutes this season because of the team's depth at power forward, is eager to prove his value through playing time in the NBA developmental league.

AROUND THE LEAGUE



AP FILE PHOTO

Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, who signed a $73 million contract last week, had knee surgery Tuesday and will be sideline for up to four months. He is expected to return around the All-Star break, Feb. 17-21.

# Knee surgery to keep Stoudemire out four months

*Suns $73 million star sought opinions from three doctors*

**From wire reports**

The Phoenix Suns will be without all-star forward Amare Stoudemire for about four months after he underwent surgery to repair damage to his injured left knee Tuesday.

The extent of the injury was determined during "diagnostic" surgery by team doctor Thomas Carter, who then proceeded with the repair, Suns president Bryan Colangelo said.

Stoudemire, who turns 23 next month, signed a five-year, $73 million contract extension last week, the maximum allowed under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement with the players union.

Colangelo said the team knew of Stoudemire's knee problem during contract negotiations, but was not aware of the extent until Tuesday's surgery. The team projects Stoudemire to return around the All-Star break Feb. 17-21.

Carter detected the defect in an MRI exam several weeks ago and initially dealt with it through treatment and rest.

Stoudemire first talked about the soreness several weeks ago. After it worsened during last week's training camp in Tucson, he sought the opinions of three doctors before giving Carter the go-ahead for arthroscopic surgery.

In a news release, the Suns said Carter repaired a joint surface defect roughly one centimeter in diameter on the inside of his left knee.

Considered the cornerstone of the franchise, Stoudemire has improved each season and was a main component of a team that won a league-best 62 games last season.

The 6-foot-10, 245-pound forward was fifth in the NBA in scoring at 26 points per game last season, his third in the league. He averaged 30 points in the playoffs, 37 in the Western Conference finals against Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs.

Stoudemire's loss will leave the Suns with a vastly different team through most of the regular season. With the trade of Quentin Richardson and the departure of Joe Johnson via free agency, the only starters from last season's team will be the NBA's most valuable player, Steve Nash, and all-star Shawn Marion.

"It's out of our control, so we've got to go out and make the most of what we have and not worry about the piece we're missing," Nash said after Tuesday's practice. "We'll try to build our team and hopefully be a better team when he returns."

Stoudemire had been bothered by soreness in the knee for several months. He had worked out last week in training camp, but sat out the team's scrimmage and final practice to have the knee examined by three doctors.

**SUPERSONICS HIRE CONSULTANT:** Seattle hired former Cleveland coach Brendan Malone as a consultant.

A longtime NBA assistant, this will be Malone's second stint as a consultant with Seattle. He held the same position in 1996 when Seattle reached the NBA Finals.

Malone was an assistant with Cleveland last year, but was promoted to interim coach after Paul Silas was fired with 18 games left. Malone went 8-10.

Malone was the first coach of the Toronto Raptors in 1995 and previously was an assistant with the New York Knicks, Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons.

**GETTING BACK TO BASICS:** Dwane Casey sat down with Minnesota point guard Troy Hudson once this summer and popped in what the new Timberwolves coach called an X-rated videotape.

The subject? Hudson's defense last season, and much of the film wasn't pretty.

"I told him, 'We can't have that. This is not acceptable,' " Casey said.

Hudson and the rest of the Timberwolves repeatedly were burned by the pick-and-roll during a disappointing season, and that's one of several areas Casey has emphasized in his defensive-oriented approach to getting Minnesota back in the playoffs.

It's a simple play, the pick-and-roll, but it's tough to guard if players aren't in the right spot — or if they're not at full speed.

HORNETS' NOTES

# Injury bug takes big bite out of Hornets

*Rookies show why they pursue NBA over singing careers*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

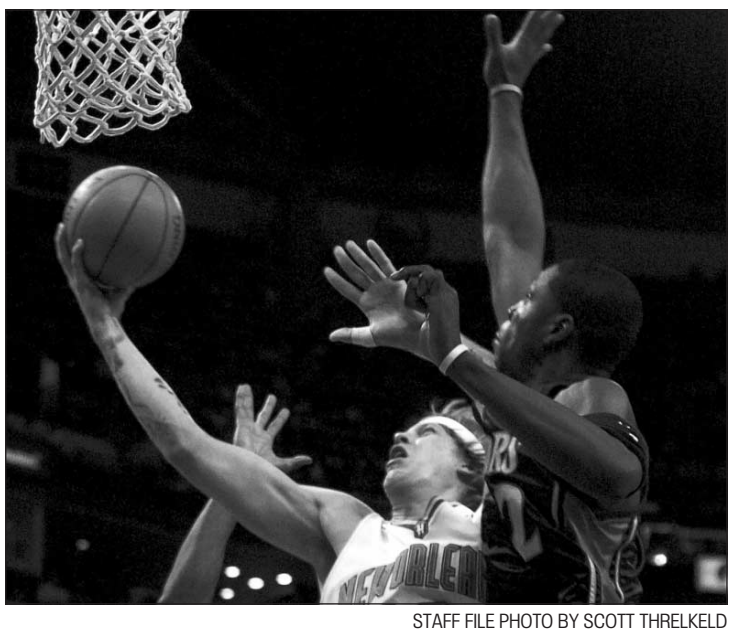
OKLAHOMA CITY — The Hornets can't seem to shake the injury bug in training camp.

Bostjan Nachbar, Chris Andersen, Kirk Snyder and Speedy Claxton were held out of Tuesday's practice because of injuries.

Nachbar has a sore lower back and Andersen has a sore right shoulder. Both are listed as day-to-day. Snyder (hamstring) and Claxton (right toe) were held out as a precaution by Coach Byron Scott.

The Hornets open the preseason Thursday night against the Denver Nuggets at the Pepsi Center.

**ROOKIE CONCERT:** The only thing missing after Tuesday's practice was a stage to perform, but that didn't stop the Hornets' four rookies from having to sing in front of their coaches and veteran teammates.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

The Hornets' Chris Andersen, left, who has a sore right shoulder, was held out of Tuesday's practice because of injuries.

Earlier this week, they were told by center Jamaal Magloire that they had to look up the lyrics from either an Elvis Presley or Madonna song. The only player who had a problem doing it was former European star Arvydas Macijauskas, who said his English wasn't good enough yet to sing songs. So he was allowed to sing a song in his native Lithuanian.

Former LSU player Brandon Bass started the show, singing Elvis' hit song, "Blue Suede Shoes." Bass even did a brief dance move before he was done.

Most of the players said afterward they thought top-draft pick Chris Paul performed the best, singing Madonna's former hit song, "Vogue."

It was the second consecutive year Hornets rookies have been required to sing in training camp. This time no one refused like last season when Nate Williams declined and was forced to complete a run in a set time specified by Scott. Williams eventually sang to the team but was waived before camp concluded.

"The one thing about all four guys today, they had a little more showmanship than our guys last year," Scott said. "This is tradition around the league, period."

**PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS:** Backup center Maciej Lampe made one of the best moves in Tuesday's practice when he used a crossover dribble in the lane to beat David West to the basket for a layup.

Macijauskas made a fabulous play near the end of the five-on-five drills, when he made a 3-pointer just before the 24-second shot clock expired. Forward Rasual Butler continues to play effectively at small forward, consistently hitting mid-range shots and making few mistakes.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# New Orleans Bowl to be played in Lafayette

*Game will match Sun Belt champ vs. Conference USA team*

**By Ted Lewis**
Staff writer

LAFAYETTE — The first goal was to keep the New Orleans Bowl alive.

The second was to find a Louisiana alternative to the Superdome.

Both goals were met with Tuesday's official announcement that the game will be played Dec. 20 at Louisiana-Lafayette's Cajun Field.

"The day after Katrina, we were already saying we have to find a way to play this game," said Jay Cicero, CEO of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, which owns the event. "We knew we could have to move, and Lafayette was the first place that came to mind.

"It couldn't have worked out any better."

The only obstacle to playing the game in Lafayette was clearing about 3,500 hotel rooms for the visiting teams and fans.

That was made more difficult when Hurricane Rita landed more evacuees in the city. As of Tuesday, not only were Lafayette's approximately 4,800 hotel rooms fully occupied, but there also were more than 1,000 people still housed in the Cajundome.

However, Gerald Breaux, executive director of the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that all projections are that enough rooms will be cleared by December. ULL housing could be used by some groups, such as the bands.

"We expected there would be a lot of support here, but it has been far more than we could have imagined," said Billy Ferrante, the bowl's executive director. "They have cleared every hurdle."

The game, matching the Sun Belt Conference champion against a team from Conference USA, has averaged about 24,000 in attendance during its four-year run in New Orleans with an estimated economic impact of $10 million to $14 million.

Cicero said he expected an aggressive local ticket sales campaign would mean a crowd around that same number if not more, depending on the visiting teams, because this year's date is a week later than in the past.

ULL president Ray Authement said the bowl game is an excellent opportunity to showcase Lafayette and Cajun culture to the country.

"Lafayette is very close to New Orleans in our food, our culture and especially our hospitality," he said. "We are going to make the New Orleans Bowl feel at home and certainly make it a unique and enjoyable experience for our visitors."

Ferrante said that the normal bowl events would be held, including a joint team banquet on the day before the game. There could be some hurricane relief activities as well.

Cicero said financing for the game should be not a problem if ticket sales are about normal. The New Orleans Bowl will be the first Sports Foundation-sponsored event since Katrina.

"The Sports Foundation can play a role in the recovery of New Orleans," Cicero said. "We've got several events scheduled in the coming years and several more that we're bidding on.

"It was important to demonstrate that we are still functioning, even if it is temporarily in another city."

Cicero also said that, if the Superdome remains closed through next season, he would expect the bowl to return to Lafayette.

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# Knights reverse winless nightmare

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — George O'Leary's Central Florida team has won three consecutive games. No lie.

The second-year coach has turned the Golden Knights into contenders, and they are the only undefeated team in Conference USA. This past weekend, they defeated Memphis 38-17, becoming just the third team since 1955 to win three games in a row one season after going winless (Boston College 1979 and South Carolina 2000).

Central Florida (3-2, 2-0) features a duo of talented receivers — Brandon Marshall and Mike Walker. The fact that one team has two of the top C-USA receivers is notable, but the fact that both men played defense last year is astonishing.

In the secondary, Marshall was the team's leading tackler in 2004 with 51; Walker led the team with three interceptions. Now as receivers, they are in the top five in C-USA in receiving yardage — Walker is third (452), Marshall is fourth (446). Also, Walker is third in C-USA with 35 catches, and Marshall leads the league with six touchdown catches.

The Golden Knights will face Southern Mississippi this weekend in Hattiesburg, Miss.

**ALL C-USA, ALL WEEKEND:** This weekend is the only weekend in this season where all 12 C-USA teams will play in conference games. Tulane (2-2, 1-1) hosts UTEP (3-1, 1-1) in an ESPN game Friday at 7 p.m., and five more games are on Saturday, including Memphis (2-3, 1-2) at Houston (3-2, 2-1), CSTV's National Game of the Week.

**BIG GAME — MORE TO COME?** East Carolina quarterback James Pinkney is coming off his best game statistically, a 355 passing-yard effort against Rice. He was 22-for-34 with three touchdowns, and he also ran for 32 yards — a team high.

Pinkney also showed his poise, leading the team on a 68-yard drive for the winning score against Rice in the fourth quarter. Then he tacked on an 81-yard touchdown pass in the waning minutes.

Pinkney's Pirates (2-3, 1-1) play Southern Methodist (2-2, 1-1) for the first time in both schools' history.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Rice (0-4, 0-2), which hosts Tulsa (3-3, 2-1), finally will play a home game. It played the first four on the road and its originally scheduled home opener against Navy (Oct. 22) was postponed because of Hurricane Rita. . . . Memphis, Rice, Tulsa and UCF are the schools that have not had a quarterback throw for 300 yards in a game this season. . . . The UAB-Marshall game features two of the top three passing offenses in C-USA. The Blazers (3-2, 1-1) lead the league with an average of 305 pass yards per game; the Thundering Herd (2-3, 1-1) is third (274.8). . . . Memphis, which plays Houston, has won three of the past four meetings against the Cougars, averaging 46 points per game in those wins.

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# RB Jackson regains starting role

*Senior to make first start of the season*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — When the season started, Tulane's Jovon Jackson had failed to reclaim the starting tailback spot from sophomore Matt Fortè.

But after four games, the senior from St. Petersburg, Fla., is back in the Green Wave's starting lineup. Following two weeks of hard running, Jackson will make his first start at tailback against Texas-El Paso on Friday night.

"He's earned it," Tulane running back coach Greg Davis said. "He's just running the ball a little bit harder. He's running with authority and moving the pile."

Last week against Houston, Jackson rushed for 71 yards on 11 carries. It was the second time this season he has rushed for more than 50 yards while backing up Fortè, who had 79 yards on 21 attempts against the Cougars.

"Everything's been the same for me," Jackson said. "I've been preparing myself and things have been going well for me."

What has helped Jackson move back into the starting lineup has been his power. He has been hit many times at the line of scrimmage during the past few games, but it hasn't stopped him from gaining yards. He has carried the ball 39 times for 164 yards this season and has lost only three yards in four games.



AP PHOTO

Tulane's Matt Fortè is brought down by Houston's defense during a Conference USA game Oct. 8 in Lafayette. Senior tailback Jovon Jackson will replace Fortè in the starting lineup Friday night against Texas-El Paso.

"He's a senior and a guy who has a lot of confidence right now," Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo said. "He's getting a lot of yards after contact, which he should be doing because he's strong. If we give him a crease, he's going to get positive yards and keep us ahead of the chains."

Jackson has had three career 100-yard rushing games.

**RETURN LEADERS:** Although the Green Wave didn't get much help from its special teams against Houston, it still has the top punt and kickoff returners in Conference USA. Izzy Route leads the league in kickoff returns, averaging 30 yards per return, while Sean Lucas' 13.3-yard average leads the conference in punt returns.

The biggest problem for the Green Wave is it lost Route last week on the opening kickoff to a sprained ankle. The previous week against Southeastern Louisiana, Route returned a kick 97 yards for a touchdown.

"I don't know if we'll get him back (for the UTEP game)," Scelfo said. "It's very doubtful we'll get him back. It's important from the standpoint that he's one of our playmakers. When you lose a playmaker, it takes away from the production."

Tulane averaged 22 yards per return last week with Cary Koch, Ray Boudreaux, Ade Tuyo and Lucas returning kickoffs.

Before the injury, Route was one of the Green Wave's starting cornerbacks.

**NOT MUCH ACTION:** During the past few seasons, Tulane had trouble keeping its tight ends healthy, which prevented it from running double-tight end sets. This season, the Wave has three healthy tight ends in Bobby Hoover, Jerome Landry and Gabe Ratcliff and often uses two tight ends in short-yardage situations. But it has forgotten all three also are pretty good receivers.

In four games, only Hoover, a senior, has caught a pass. He has two receptions for nine yards.

Together, the three have 55 career receptions. Hoover has caught 37 career passes.

**THE SHORT END:** A short week is probably the last thing Tulane needed after being thrashed by Houston last week. Not only does the Green Wave have a quick turnaround, no off day, three days of practice and a walk-through before Friday night's game, but UTEP, the preseason favorite to win C-USA's West Division, has been off since its 21-20 loss to Memphis on Oct. 1.

**WORTH REPEATING:** "We got physically whipped in the second half. It's the first time this year that's happened." — Scelfo on Houston's domination last week.

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# Attitudes changing regarding playoffs

**BCS,** *from C-5*

framework is in place for the "plus-one" format many have advocated as the first step toward a playoff, Weiberg said.

Under the double-hosting format, the two teams playing for the championship would be determined at the end of the regular season as is now done, but that game would be played a week after the four BCS bowls — Sugar, Orange, Fiesta and Rose — at one of those sites.

In the "plus-one" format, two of the bowls would serve as semifinals for the title game, also to be played a week later. Or, in another proposal, the two championship game participants would be determined after the bowls.

"Certainly, the structure we're going to next year is friendly to leading into plus-one," Weiberg said. "And we know our TV partners would be supportive of that model. I've personally been interested in looking at it. But making changes now would take the consent of all of the parties involved."

That would take some doing.

First, it's an option that a majority of the presidents, who would make the ultimate decision on a playoff, are opposed to.

Oregon president David Frohnmayer, chairman of the Presidential Oversight Committee said he doesn't see any chance of the plus-one plan being adopted before the double-hosting plan is even tried.

"We're not to that point yet," he said. "It took a long time to get to where are now and we have to give the double-hosting model a fair shake first.

"There are always some unlikely things happening that would raise the stakes, but I can't see there being any rapid momentum to going to a plus-one. There's not going to be a lot of interest in reopening this debate for a while."

But attitudes appear to be changing.

"I think we're seeing individual presidents and chancellors speaking more openly about alternatives," Weiberg said.

Among those is Ole Miss chancellor Robert Khayat, the SEC representative on the BCS' Presidential Oversight Committee.

Nobody is satisfied with the current setup, Khayat said, adding that his conference "wouldn't tolerate" another season in which one of its teams goes undefeated and doesn't play for the championship.

But Khayat also sees taking the step toward a playoff as one fraught with stumbling blocks.

"No. 1 is maintaining academic integrity," he said. "I know some people think that's a throwaway line, but there is a major commitment not to let this encroach on the academic calendar.

"Also, I know our conference doesn't want to do anything to undermine our championship game and to hurt the bowl system. What happened to Auburn last year was pretty outrageous, but somebody has to be the gatekeeper."



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville and the Tigers were undefeated last season but left out of the BCS national championship game. Because of what seems to an annual controversy, college officials are beginning to embrace the idea of some type of playoff system.

Restructuring the TV contracts would become more complicated because, starting next year, Fox owns the rights to the Sugar, Fiesta and Orange bowls, and the title games in 2007, 2008 and 2009. ABC retains its rights to the Rose Bowl, plus will air the 2010 championship game.

Of suggestions that the contracts could be redone, Fox spokesman Dan Bell said, "We are perfectly happy with the deal we have in place with the BCS and are looking forward to beginning our coverage next season."

ABC spokesman Mike Humes said his network did not want speculate on something that might or might not happen.

Another element to consider is the increased access to the BCS gained in 2004 — after the implied threat of judicial or legislative action — by the coalition of schools from conferences without automatic bids.

That was done by going from four BCS games to five, increasing the number of BCS teams from eight to 10. But under the plus-one format, the number of BCS teams would shrink back to eight, unless a sixth game was included.

BCS sources have said that the coalition, led by Tulane president Scott Cowen, probably prevented going to a plus-one format in 2006.

San Diego State president Stephen Weber, the coalition representative to the oversight committee, declined to comment on the matter.

The four BCS bowls have expressed concern about their game being a semifinal because of the likelihood of fans not spending the traditional three or four days in the bowl cities.

But the bowls would have the least amount of clout in the matter.

"We'll adapt to whatever requirements are presented to us," said Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan. "If we have another disaster with the BCS this year, the public outcry would be unbelievable."

Already this season there has been controversy.

The Harris Poll, created by the BCS to replace the AP poll when that organization requested that its rankings no longer be used in the formula, suffered an early embarrassment when six of the original 114-person panel — made up of former coaches, administrators and players plus current media members — withdrew.

Then, in the first week of the poll, someone voted for a winless Idaho team and three other teams with losing records.

Last week, two panelists failed to vote, and it was revealed that, unknown to the BCS or the panelists, votes for highly ranked teams could be added if a panelist left them off his ballot. While the process, known as "trimming," was done for valid statistical reasons, it was discontinued.

A more public controversy is likely next week when the first set of BCS standings for this season is released.

Although USC and Texas are ranked 1-2 by a wide margin in the USA Today and Harris Interactive polls, which make up two-thirds of the standings formula, the Longhorns' relatively weak strength of schedule brings them down in the six computer rankings that make up the other third of the formula.

That has them projected third behind Virginia Tech in the first standings, with Florida State and Georgia a close fourth and fifth, according to Jerry Palm of CollegeBCS.com. However, Palm added that, in all probability, Texas would wind up No. 2 in the standings should the Longhorns win out.

Still, the strong possibility of more than two unbeaten teams at the end of the season exists. Southern Cal, UCLA, Texas, Texas Tech, Virginia Tech, Florida State, Penn State, Georgia and Alabama go into this week's games undefeated, and as many as five could finish the regular season that way.

That would create a Category 5 brouhaha.

Even three unbeatens would result in a situation similar to last year's with the resulting turmoil.

Georgia coach Mark Richt said it is far too early to worry about a scenario where his team goes undefeated but is shut out of the title game. He added, if that did happen, "We would be fired up. I imagine everybody would be."

Weiberg, for his part, said he would love to end the first eight years of the BCS and his two-year term as coordinator with a minimum of controversy.

"Starting next year, we're going to have a different look and we don't know yet what that structure will lead to," he said. "It's a big step if we start down the path to a playoff because there will be pressure to expand it. I don't think we're anywhere close to that, but we'll just have to see what happens."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Tigers' shuffle on O-line continues

*Consistent starting lineup not possible because of injuries*

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU's offensive line continues to be a work in progress because of injuries, but Tigers coach Les Miles is looking forward to that unit having a set lineup.

Herman Johnson got his first career start against Vanderbilt at right guard, and senior Nate Livings, whose career has been a shuffle between guard and tackle, moved to right tackle in place of Brian Johnson, who was hurt but played.

Herman Johnson played next to redshirt freshman center Ryan Miller, who was making his first career start but is now sidelined with a hyper-extended right knee.

Coaches often say the offensive line is a group that needs repetition and consistent personnel to work cohesively. Until a few more players get healthy, LSU might have to keep shuffling.

"Injuries, guys that are getting nicked. . . (guard Brett) Helms probably will return to action this week, (guard) Pete (Dyakowski) is a week away or longer. We wish those guys were around, and the lineup would be solidified," Miles said.

Helms or Will Arnold will play left guard, with Livings back at right guard and Brian Johnson at right tackle — that is, if no one else gets hurt.

LSU also is dealing with an injury problem at center. Miles said Miller is probably out this week, and Rudy Niswanger is slowed by an ankle injury suffered against Mississippi State.

Niswanger was able to take over for Miller and finish the Vanderbilt game without re-injuring his ankle. Seldom used Doug Planchard, who also is a tight end, is Niswanger's backup this week.

"We've got a lot of good guys on the offensive line," Niswanger said.

"They (coaches) want everybody to get out there and get experience because what we want is the best five guys on the field at one time. If that takes spelling some guys and bringing them back in . . . we're fortunate to have talented enough players to do that and still succeed with the offense."

**FAMILIAR LOOK:** LSU's defense against Vanderbilt looked like it did in former coach Nick Saban's days, with cornerbacks playing press coverage and linebackers and defensive backs blitzing. LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini is not speaking to the media because he felt he was unfairly portrayed early this season, according to LSU sports information Michael Bonnette.

But Miles said Saturday's results are due to gradual improvement rather than a change in philosophy.

"We see less busts, and people understand where they are supposed to be," Miles said.

Defensive tackle Kyle Williams said it has to do with confidence and comfort.

"When you have corners out there confident in what they're doing and coaches confident in what their doing, you can throw a whole lot more things at the quarterback and the offense," Williams said.

"Week by week, we get a little better and a little better. It comes with game experience of our new scheme. There's only so many things you can do in practice to simulate a game and game speed, but when you get an opportunity to go through your calls playing against a football team, everybody has nailed down schemes and playing better and it came to a head last Saturday."

To win Saturday, LSU is going to have to do the same with Florida and quarterback Chris Leak, who has showed he could handle pressure in Tiger Stadium.

As a freshman, he was harassed and sacked six times, but still guided the Gators to a 19-7 victory, completing 18 of 30 passes for 229 yards and two touchdowns, beating blitzes both times.

**FRIENDLY COMPETITION:** End Melvin Oliver said he and fellow end Chase Pittman have a friendly sack contest going with tackles Williams and Claude Wroten. "We've got them 6-2 right now," Oliver said with a smile.

Of LSU's 15 sacks this season, 11 have been by defensive linemen.

# Experience pays off as Mesa, Pioneers dominate

CRESCENT CITY 50
•
DESIRE STREET ACADEMY 14

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

Crescent City and Desire Street Academy opened the season against each other in stark contrast.

Crescent City, which entered the season as a District 10-1A contender, had 27 players on its roster and was missing four starters after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf South. Desire Street, which had its Ninth Ward campus flooded and had to move to Niceville, Fla., was playing in its first game ever.

The differences between Crescent City and Desire Street showed in Monday's District 10-1A game at Tony Porter Field on the St. Martin's campus as the Pioneers dominated en route to a 50-14 victory against the Lions.

Desire Street had a turnover on its first offensive play when Crescent City's Corrie Nix recovered a fumble at the Lions' 30 after a 10-yard pass completion from quarterback Kerry Matthews to receiver Byron Weber.

One play later, running back Andrew Bartholomew darted through the middle of the Desire Street defense for a 30-yard touchdown run. He ran for the two-point conversion to make the score 8-0.

"There is no excuse," Desire Street coach Byron Addison said. "You can say that we didn't practice for two weeks and this was our first contact since the jamboree, but (Crescent City) made the plays and we didn't."

Crescent City (1-0, 1-0) increased its lead to 14-0 when quarterback Jared Mesa threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to receiver Kevin Ivey.

Mesa threw a 79-yard touchdown pass to receiver Luis Sobalvarro to make the score 20-0 in the first quarter.

Crescent City drove 26 yards on four plays for a touchdown on its next possession. Bartholomew had an 11-yard touchdown run, and Mesa ran for the two-point conversion, which made the score 28-0 with 10:44 left in the first half.

Running back Justin Bruzeau finished Crescent City's first-half scoring with a one-yard touchdown run, which made the score 35-0 with 2:33 remaining.

PREP FOOTBALL

# Roth happy for second chance

*Rummel players still are trickling in from afar*

**By Bill Bumgarner**
Staff writer



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Coach Jay Roth is looking forward to getting back to X's and O's as Rummel prepares to start its season.

As the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina were rising, the football fortunes of three Catholic League members were abating.

The destruction caused in Orleans Parish at Brother Martin, Jesuit and St. Augustine initially reduced the league to a fraternity of two: Rummel and Holy Cross, who were set to meet for the district championship on the 10th playing date.

But now, there may be an old face back on the Catholic League block.

Jesuit likely will announce this week that it will enter the district race. Jesuit will face Rummel on Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. at Joe Yenni Stadium. Rummel closes the regular season Nov. 5 against Holy Cross at 2 p.m. at Yenni.

The Raiders will face their first opponent, King, on Saturday at Joe Yenni at 7 p.m.

Although the school is platooning students and its enrollment has swelled to about 3,000 students, Rummel has not added any players from other schools, Coach Jay Roth said. Rummel, which opened practice with 95 players, had 60 last week and 70 this week.

"And they are still trickling in," Roth said. "We have one player who has been in a shelter for six weeks in Jennings and can't get home. We have players living in garages and homes with just the studs. One player stepped on a roofing nail; another sliced his finger helping families. Some are working because they can't pass up the money. But our coaching staff was lucky because we had no real severe damage."

The same could not be said for Roth's brother Randy, a former Rummel player, whose 150-year-old home in Pascagoula, Miss., was wiped out.

"It was built around the Civil War and made it through every hurricane until this," Jay Roth said.

The Raiders will be playing without running back Chris Jones, who is enrolled at St. Charles, defensive back P.J. Smith, who is attending John Curtis, and punter Robby Broach, also a standout pitcher, is enrolled at Hahnville.

"I can't blame them for going," Roth said. "We did not know if we were going to have a season."

Rummel will – at least for four weeks.

"We have a second chance at a season we thought we would never have," Roth said. "I tell them to be thankful for everything they have, compared to others.

"There will be no excuses. We (local teams) all have the same hardships; many of the players are out of shape; lots of good players are missing. This is like August. Yes, it's October but we're still 0-0."

# Storms affecting districts, playoffs

*LHSAA to decide sites of state title games*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK COOK

Unlike some high schools in the metro area, Fontainebleau and Covington began district play recently.

In 25 years of playing football, Riverdale has never won a district championship or advanced to the state playoffs. In a little more than two weeks, however, the Rebels, who were 2-8 last season, will face East Jefferson in a winner-take-all game for the District 9-4A title.

Such is the landscape of Louisiana high school football in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Districts across southeast and southwest Louisiana were shredded by the two devastating storms, leaving those programs that remained scrambling to fill unexpected open dates and complete their seasons.

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association reports that 46 schools (or 15 percent of the 301 football-playing members) currently are not playing the sport, but that number represents a work in progress as more schools opt to play a partial schedule or pack their equipment away. Nineteen schools played their first game of the season this past week on the sixth playing date, and another 13 are attempting a comeback, LHSAA assistant commissioner B.J. Guzzardo said. That leaves at least 33 others that have foregone making a return in 2005.

Additionally, a total of 275 games were canceled through the first six weeks of the season, with 16 of the state's 49 football districts directly affected by the storm.

"I feel like that we're moving around the state a bit crippled," LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry said. "We've got some parts of our state that are injured. So we're moving along crippled, but we're getting around. We'll make it to our destination."

The destination is the five state championship games that comprise the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic, which like most everything else in the southeast portion of the state must be relocated from their traditional home in the damagedSuperdome.

The LHSAA Executive Committee is scheduled to award site locations for those games at 2 p.m. today at a special meeting in Baton Rouge. LSU, Independence Stadium in Shreveport, Southeast Louisiana and Louisiana-Monroe have submitted proposals to serve as substitute hosts.

Many of the 160 slots in the five 32-team playoff brackets also figure to have a new look.

Under LHSAA rules, districts reduced to one team still automatically send that team to the playoffs as district champion. Champions from districts with two teams will be decided by one game, raising a debate over how weakened this year's playoffs will be.

"I don't really like the situation the way it's set up because it can allow some undeserving teams to advance to the playoffs," said Riverdale coach Chad Comeaux, whose team has a postseason berth riding on its Oct. 28 meeting with East Jefferson. "You could go 1-4 and go to the playoffs. To me, it doesn't seem right if you go to the playoffs at 1-4.

"But you play by rules, and if that's the way the rules are set up, then you do what you have to do. This (season) is for the kids. I do know that if we do go to the playoffs that it will be (quite) a moment for this school."

There also has been an outcry over potential inequities in the power rating system used to fill the 32-team brackets, with teams playing only a handful of games possibly taking the place of others playing a full schedule. Henry said he is adamantly against changing the power rating system once a season has begun.

Regardless, the show must go on.

"We're crippled, we're not at full speed," said Henry. "(The playoffs) are not going to be as strong or as comprehensive. We knew that and we know that. We're just grateful to have the playoffs. That's the way I see it."

## WHO'S PLAYING

Metro-area schools fielding football teams:

**CLASS 5A**
District 4-5A: Covington, Slidell, Fontainebleau, Northshore, St. Paul's, Hammond, Ponchatoula, Mandeville.
District 5-5A: Ehret, Assumption, Destrehan, Hahnville, East St. John, West Jefferson.
District 7-5A: Bonnabel, King, Higgins.
District 8-5A: Rummel, Holy Cross.

**CLASS 4A**
District 8-4A: Shaw, Vandebilt, Cox.
District 9-4A: Riverdale, East Jefferson.
District 10-4A: Salmen.

**CLASS 3A**
District 9-3A: Pearl River, Albany, Independence, Loranger, Bogalusa, Amite, Franklinton.
District 10-3A: De La Salle, Lutcher.

**CLASS 2A**
District 9-2A: Pine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope John Paul II, Sumner, Springfield, Varnado.
District 10-2A: Curtis, St. Charles, Donaldsonville, St. James, Riverside.
District 11-2A: Fisher, St. Martin's.

**CLASS 1A**
District 7-1A: Christian Life, Dunham, Northlake Christian, Southern Lab, Kentwood.
District 9-1A: Ascension Catholic, East Iberville, North Iberville, St. John, West St. John, White Castle.
District 10-1A: Crescent City, Desire Street, Ecole Classique, Ridgewood.

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY'S GAME**
**NON-DISTRICT**
▶ Bonnabel vs. Riverdale at Joe Yenni, 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY'S GAMES**
**DISTRICT 4-5A**
▶ Covington at Hammond, 7 p.m.
▶ Mandeville at Fontainebleau, 7 p.m.
▶ Northshore at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.
▶ Slidell at Ponchatoula, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 5-5A**
▶ Hahnville vs. West Jefferson at
▶ Hoss Memtsas, 7 p.m.
▶ Ehret at East St. John, 7 p.m.
▶ Destrehan at Assumption, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 8-4A**
▶ Cox at Vandebilt, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 9-3A**
▶ Franklinton at Pearl River, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 9-2A**
▶ Pope John Paul II at Pine, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 10-2A**
▶ Riverside at Donaldsonville, 7 p.m.
▶ Curtis at St. Charles, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 7-1A**
▶ Southern Lab vs. Northlake Christian at Southeastern Louisiana University, 7 p.m.
**DISTRICT 9-1A**
▶ West St. John at St. John, 7 p.m.
**NON-DISTRICT**
▶ Higgins at Bogalusa, 7 p.m.
▶ Salmen vs. East Jefferson at
▶ Joe Yenni, 7 p.m.
Holy Cross at Lutcher, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY'S GAMES**
**NON-DISTRICT**
▶ Crescent City at Fisher, 7 p.m.
▶ Rummel vs. King at Joe Yenni, 7 p.m.
▶ Ridgewood at St. Martin's, 7 p.m.

SCOUTING REPORT: FALCONS

# If Vick can play, Saints to have their hands full

By Brian Allee-Walsh
Staff writer

Will he or won't he?

No one knows for sure if injured Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick will play against the Saints in an NFC South showdown Sunday at the Alamodome.

Vick believed he could have played in the Falcons' 31-28 loss to the New England Patriots on Sunday at the Georgia Dome, but Coach Jim Mora thought otherwise, resting the two-time Pro Bowl quarterback in favor of second-year backup Matt Schaub, who played well in defeat.

Vick practiced sparingly last Wednesday through Friday, but was downgraded to questionable Saturday.

He remains questionable against the Saints with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

"He wasn't ready to play," Mora said. "He simply wasn't healthy enough to go out and play (against the Patriots). It was an easy decision.

"I have to believe Mike will make progress (this week). We should have a good feel Wednesday."

Feel or not, don't look for a definitive announcement coming out of the Falcons' training facility in Flowery Branch, Ga., until later in the week. It might not come until Sunday morning, thereby forcing Saints coach Jim Haslett and defensive coordinator Rick Venturi to prepare for Vick and Schaub.

Schaub acquitted himself, completing 18 of 34 passes for 298 yards and three touchdowns and leading the Falcons back from 14-0 and 28-13 deficits to tie the score at 28 with four minutes remaining.

But Schaub is no Vick, arguably the NFL's most electrifying player.

Vick's presence means everything to the Falcons, who lost to the Philadelphia Eagles in last season's NFC championship game.

Consider:

▶ Since Vick joined the Falcons as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 draft, the Falcons are 26-13-1 when he plays and 9-20 when he doesn't.

▶ The Falcons are 3-0 against the Saints when he plays and 1-4 when he doesn't. Injuries have sidelined him for five games when the teams have played.

▶ In those three games, he has completed 43 of 76 passes for 576 yards and four touchdowns. He also has rushed 27 times for 215 yards (8.0 yards per carry) and four touchdowns.

Will he or won't he? Stay tuned.

## Last meeting

The Saints won 26-13 on Dec. 26, 2004, at the Superdome. Schaub played for the injured Vick, completing 17 of 41 passes for 188 yards. He threw two interceptions and was sacked for a safety. Michael Lewis sealed the Saints' victory with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

## Falcons on offense

Schaub, a third-round pick from Virginia in '04, is a solid backup when given the opportunity, but Vick provides an extra dimension to their offense when he decides to leave the pocket. Vick becomes an elusive running back capable of scoring from anywhere on the field. He carries a 83.0 passer rating into Sunday's game, completing 44 of 77 passes for 495 yards and four touchdowns. He also has 32 carries for 233 yards and one touchdown. . . . Tight end Alge Crumpler (19 catches for 257 yards and two touchdowns) has given the Saints fits the past several seasons, especially on seam routes. Other targets include wide receivers Brian Finneran (19-238-1), Michael Jenkins (12-217-1) and Dez White (2-25-1). . . . Baton Rouge native Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett complement each other in the running game. The thunder (Duckett) and lightning (Dunn) tandem has combined on 132 carries for 655 yards and five touchdowns.

## Falcons on defense

Atlanta is faced with replacing starting middle linebacker Ed Hartwell for the remainder of the season. Hartwell, the team's most significant off-season acquisition, tore his right Achilles tendon against the Patriots. Potential replacements include starting weakside linebacker Keith Brooking and versatile linebacker/special teams ace Ike Reese. Backup cornerback Chris Cash also is lost for the season with a broken arm. . . . The Falcons' strength lies with the defensive line. Rod Coleman, Chad Lavalais, a standout at LSU, and Antwan Lake comprise a three-man rotation at tackle. Ends Patrick Kerney and former Saints draft pick Brady Smith provide the up-field push off the edge. . . . Cornerback Deangelo Hall leads the team with three interceptions.

## Falcons' special teams

Free agent rookie Michael Koenen has emerged as a versatile kicking specialist. He made veteran punter Toby Gowin expendable and handles the punting and kickoff duties. Against the Patriots, Koenen kicked a 58-yard field goal as time expired in the first half, the second longest field goal in franchise history. Morten Andersen holds the club record with a 59-yarder against the San Francisco 49ers in 1995. . . . Todd Peterson has converted all six field-goal attempts inside the 50. Koenen is averaging 42.7 yards per punt. . . . Return specialist Allen Rossum has been held in check. He is averaging 3.7 yards per punt return and 23.1 yards per kick return.

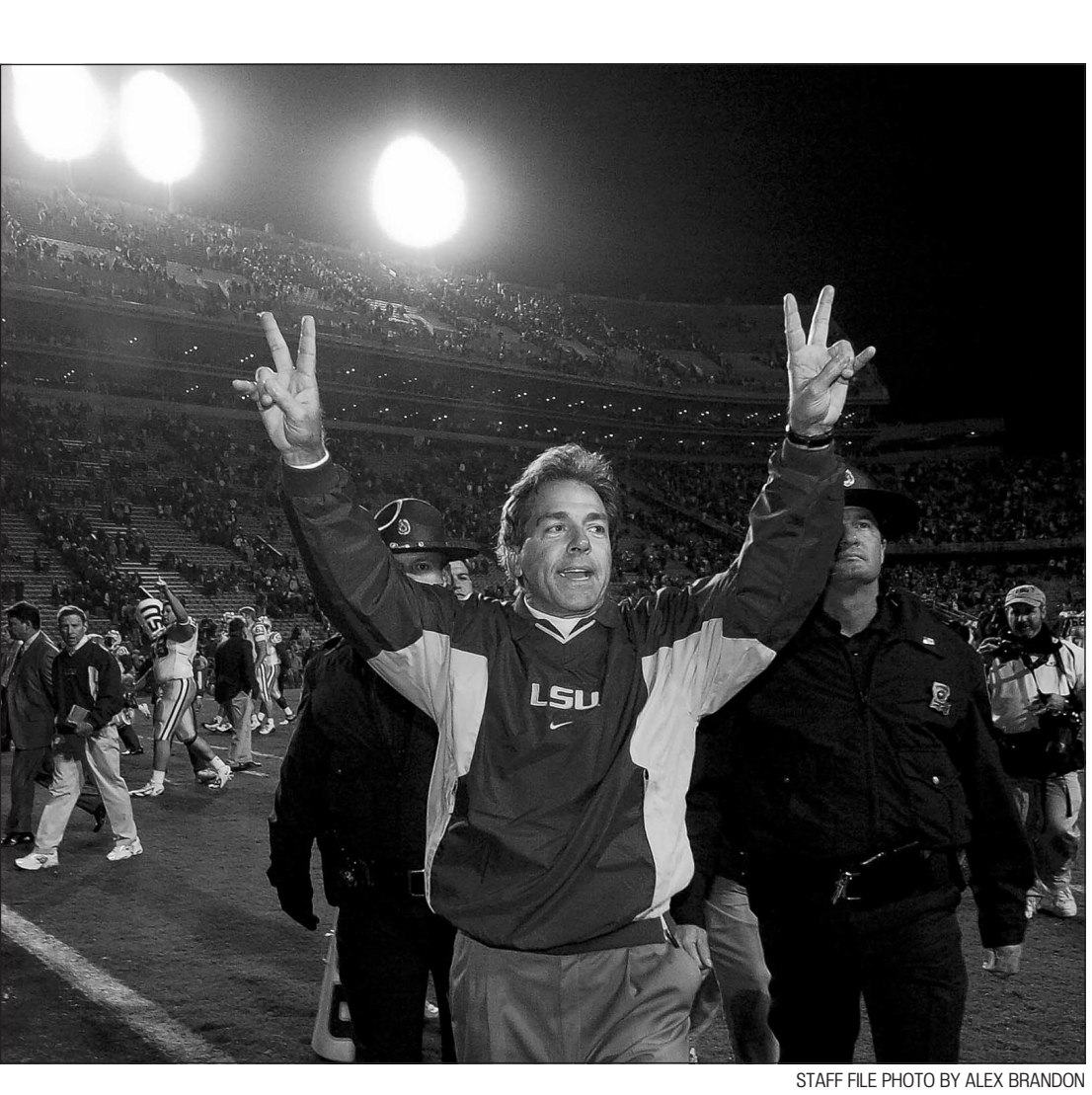
**BY THE NUMBERS:** 5 — Games in which Vick has eclipsed 100 yards rushing, most by a quarterback in NFL history. That includes a postseason game against the St. Louis Rams on Jan. 15, 2005, when he set a league record for a quarterback with 119 yards.

**WORTH REPEATING:** "This train has left the station and there is no turning back." — Falcons owner Arthur Blank on his personal crusade to bring a Super Bowl championship to the city of Atlanta.

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# Saints take stock, staying upbeat



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Dolphins coach Nick Saban, who guided LSU to the BCS championship in his final season in Baton Rouge, returns to Tiger Stadium when the Saints play Miami on Oct. 30.

**BATON ROUGE,** *from C-5*

as we possibly can, and the long term will take care of itself. We've been in Louisiana for 38 years and have tremendous fans. We understand that we're in some difficult and unusual times. All we can ask our fans is to continue to support us, and we'll do our part by marketing successfully and aggressively and hope that the football team puts together a good football season."

Fielkow and director of regional sales Mike Feder have placed a team of six staff members in Baton Rouge for pregame sales, a number that will swell after Sunday's game against the Atlanta Falcons at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Through Monday, the Saints had sold 30,000 tickets for the game against the Dolphins, which also will feature the return of former Saints running back Ricky Williams and entertainment from the LSU Marching Band.

"We've got a lot of tickets to sell in a short period of time," Fielkow said. "We need the support of our fans. It would be a tremendous statement for the state and the entire region for people to be able to come out on a Sunday afternoon and spend three hours" thinking about something other than the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"And, if the crowd is just 50,000," Feder said, "we'll work harder."

Fielkow said the Saints will spend considerable resources in marketing the four games in Baton Rouge, and Feder said the team will continue to concentrate its efforts on a regional pitch to areas such as Lafayette, Alexandria and Lake Charles.

"One of the strengths of our franchise is that 30 percent of all our season ticket holders came from an area 50 miles outside of New Orleans," Feder said. "We've always been a regional franchise."

The Saints could potentially sell about 70 suites in Tiger Stadium, though LSU suite owners were given first preference for their use at Saints games. That figure represents nearly twice as many as the Alamodome, but only a little more than half as many as the 137 in the Superdome.

LSU senior associate athletic director Dan Radakovich said fans this week will be able to purchase parking passes for Saints games at LSUsports.net for $20 per game.

Tickets are available at the customary Saints ticket outlets, such as Ticketmaster.

Fielkow, who pushed for more than four games to be played in Baton Rouge, doesn't believe the Saints' uncertain plans for 2006, nor the decision to base team operations in San Antonio and play three "home" games there will adversely affect the way the team is viewed in Louisiana this year.

"I can only hope that fans understand that we truly are in some uncharted territory here," Fielkow said. "Everybody who lives in this region, from a football perspective, from a non-football perspective, we're all going through a very difficult time. We're all doing the very best job we can. I have faith in Saints fans. Because of that, I think there'll be good response.

"And I think that everybody, at the end of the day, will be happy with the decision made a month ago to play in both cities."

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# Painful reality: Athletes more than familiar with ACL injuries

*Saints' McAllister one of many forced to miss rest of season*

By Benjamin Hochman
Staff writer

When Dr. William O. Roberts heard about Deuce McAllister's injury — a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the right knee — he sighed: "New Orleans has had enough rough times."

The ACL is a devastating injury — it's a season-ender and it requires extensive rehabilitation. Even after the average six to nine months an athlete sits out, "You can lose some of that quickness off the blocks, so to speak, and the ability to cut," said Roberts, past president of the American College of Sports Medicine. "The sensation of what makes some running backs really great is never back again. But there are a lot who come back to where they were."

McAllister, the Saints' star running back, joined the list of hundreds of athletes who have injured the ACL, an acronym as prevalent in sports as ERA or RBI.

The ACL is the middle of the knee, and its main function is to provide rotational stability. It is a crucial ligament for athletes, who depend on changing direction. The ACL can be torn by an unfortunate hit to the knee, but often the injury happens when an athlete changes direction or comes to a quick stop, which overextends the knee joint. When a tear occurs, an athlete will hear a pop or a series of pops.

"I can name player after player who has come back from the injury and performed at the same level from before," said Dr. Roch Hontas, an orthopedic surgeon based in Mandeville. "The only problem is the player has to miss a season."

Said Dr. Margot Putukian, director of athletic medicine at Princeton: "It's usually the most severe knee injury that you generally see in sports."

For some athletes like McAllister, the initial injury does not hurt too much. That doesn't mean it isn't severely injured. Putukian remembers a case when a basketball player hobbled into the trainer's room during a game.

"The kid tore his ACL, I checked him out, and I told him that he had a significant injury to his knee," she recalled. "Our media guy came in and said, 'Is he going to be available for the second half?' I said, 'No.' The player said, 'Yes. I'm fine, I can run on this.' . . . I saw him not that long ago and we were joking about it. He said, 'I was so mad at you. I thought you were wrong.' "

But for others, the pain is instantaneous. Sometimes, there are associated injuries, such as a meniscus tear or a bone bruise, which adds to the anguish.

Chris Long is the first-year coach of Louisiana Tech's women's basketball team, and he has seen numerous players hit the hardwood with an ACL injury. It must have hurt, he thought.

But when his ACL popped at age 29, Long said, "It felt like a bomb went off in my knee."

"When I went down," said Tulane tight end Jerome Landry, who tore his ACL in 2004, "I thought I'd never play again."

After the initial injury, an athlete must wait 10 days to three weeks to have surgery, said Dr. Greg Stewart, the new director of sports medicine at Tulane and a team physician since 1986.

"If you don't wait for the swelling to go away — and the person doesn't get full extension of the knee — it actually takes them longer to come back from the rehab than if you wait," Stewart said. "The wait lets the knee basically settle down."

Joni Crenshaw was a sophomore Alabama basketball player when she went up for a rebound and came down with an ACL pop in her right knee.

"It's an unmistakable feeling," said Crenshaw, now a Louisiana Tech women's basketball assistant. "There's no question — you know what's happening. . . . The key for me is range of motion. If you're not able to straighten your leg out the first couple of days, that scar tissue will get tough, and you won't ever get full range of motion. It's critical to straighten your knee out. You're always going to be able to bend it.

"My right knee now feels better and stronger than my left one."

When the ligament is replaced, doctors generally use the middle part of a knee cap tendon or a hamstring tendon.

The downside is some people return from the injury but have knee cap tendinitis, such as the injury suffered by Randy Livingston, the former Newman and LSU basketball star who never became a professional star.

Another option is using a tendon from a cadaver. But, as Roberts said, "If you're a little old lady, that's one thing. But if you're going to play football, you want your own tissue in there as much as possible. It's case-by-case, but the benefit of having your own tissue is — it's yours, and it's probably stronger."

"The nice thing about (a cadaver's tendon) is you can get a bigger tendon, and you don't have as many problems with the tendinitis," Stewart said. "But a lot of people get freaked out about having a dead person's tissue in your body.

"Once they put it in your body, it has to go into a process where it dies and the body has to start growing in and make it a ligament. That's the biggest problem, as opposed to the true rehab."

The rehab isn't a jog in the park. Actually, it takes a lot of rehab just to do that.

For many athletes, it takes about half a year to rehabilitate the knee. Crenshaw's surgery was performed by Dr. James Andrews, the famous orthopedist who put her on a "fast track" of four and a half months. She had sessions three times a day, and continued to work vigorously, even during the following seasons.

"Every day I did leg weights, jump rope, leg press," Crenshaw said. "We made sure we strengthened the muscles around the knee, too."

"In rehab, you start with bending the leg, then putting weight on it, then lifting," said Tulane's Landry, who missed last season but is back on the field. "The worst thing is you lose all your strength sitting out. Your leg gets so small. My left leg is still smaller than the other one."

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Benjamin Hochman can be reached at BenjaminHochman@aol.com.

# New Orleans nabs Miami tailback

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

Chatman, a bowling ball runner at 5 feet 8, 245 pounds, spent his first three seasons backing up LaDainian Tomlinson with the San Diego Chargers. He was impressive in that role last season, running 65 times for 392 yards (a six-yard average) and three touchdowns.

A product of Eastern Washington, Chatman has gained 428 yards on 79 carries in his career.

To make room for him on the roster, the Saints released cornerback Fred Booker, whom they plan to re-sign to their practice squad.

The Saints have not yet placed McAllister on injured reserve. He was waiting on further opinions on his injury.

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The Times-Picayune

MONEY

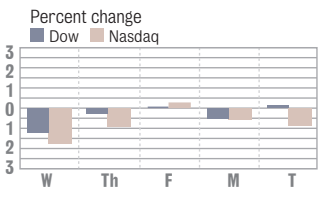
PAGE C-11
Wednesday
October 12, 2005

## MARKET TRACKER

**DOW JONES** 14.41 — CLOSE: 10,253.17

**NASDAQ** 17.83 — CLOSE: 2,061.09

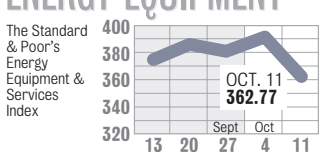
**INDEX TRACKER**




**OIL** — South La. Sweet Crude: $1.18 — $63.88/barrel — Year ago: $54.67

**NATURAL GAS** — Henry Hub: 40¢ — $13.68/mcf — Year ago: $5.79

## ENERGY EQUIPMENT




## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Sugar refinery to reopen

The prospect of any business reopening in hurricane-ravaged St. Bernard Parish is sweet, but it will be especially so when **American Sugar Refining Inc.'s** operation in Chalmette opens in December. The sugar refinery was flooded by Hurricane Katrina, but the company said electricity has been restored and the plant should be working in December. American Sugar, which has refineries in three other states, sells its products under the Domino name.

### Stressful trend

It seems that New Orleanians were stressed out even before Hurricane Katrina swept through. A report released Tuesday lists New Orleans as the ninth-largest market for high blood pressure medication among Medicare participants. Fifty-nine percent of Medicare participants in New Orleans bought the medicine in the past year. Lexington, Ky., was the largest market. The data was collected before Katrina. Scarborough Research, a New York-based market research firm, conducted the study.

### Still pitching N.O.

Rae-Anne Mena's job has gotten even more important in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Mena, who works for the admissions office at Loyola University in New Orleans, is still making the rounds at college fairs and talking up the school, even though it's closed temporarily. "Are you under water?" several prospective students asked her at a recent college fair at the University of New Hampshire. Some offer friendly encouragement, others crack jokes within earshot. "I hear their best major now is scuba diving," one man said to his son as they walked past.

### No pearl to be found

It's too early to tell for sure, but Louisiana's oyster industry may have taken a hit from Hurricane Katrina. "I can't imagine that the oyster industry hasn't suffered significant damage," said Dr. Robert Romaire, resident director of the Louisiana State University AgCenter's Aquaculture Research Station in Baton Rouge. Crawfish and catfish producers apparently avoided physical or biological damage to their operations because most of these industries were out of the area affected by the storm.

### Paychecks still flowing

The paychecks will keep coming to many employees displaced by Hurricane Katrina, according to a new survey. And more than 70 percent of the large firms with displaced employees say they'll provide severance if layoffs occur. The Hurricane Katrina: Special Pay Practices Survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting reflects the practices of 31 large organizations in a variety of industries and with a collective work force of more than 3 million.

# Local rents expected to skyrocket

*Tighter market means higher prices*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Rents in metro New Orleans will go up, in some cases by as much as 10 percent, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, real estate specialists say.

"I would be shocked if rents don't go up at least 10 percent considering that the housing (supply) took such a blow," said Jacquelyn Bruchi of Shadowlake Management Co., which manages nearly 3,000 apartments in the metro area.

The destruction of much of the local housing supply will be a key factor in driving up rents. Of the 50,000 apartment units in large complexes around the area, as many as 20 percent have been destroyed, said Larry Schedler, a broker with Larry G. Schedler & Associates. In addition, many landlords and property owners will be incurring additional expenses that will likely push up rents.

Most of the complexes that were destroyed will be rebuilt under stricter building codes that call for more expensive, hurricane-resistant materials. And most landlords will see their insurance costs double, an expense that Schedler expects to be passed on to renters.

"The average 200-unit complex, depending on age, probably was paying $375 to $425 a year per unit for insurance. It's not unreasonable that that will potentially double," Schedler said. "Landlords from Houston to Jackson to Baton Rouge have Katrina to thank for a solid market" when it comes to rents and occupancy figures, Schedler said. "Never in my 20 years in this business have I seen 'no vacancy' signs on apartment buildings. I've only seen those on hotels."

There are numerous anecdotes about landlords refusing to take advantage of already dislocated and traumatized households. Some are refusing to accept rent payments for September, even though the law says they can require payment as long as the unit is habitable. Many tenants mistakenly believe that a mandatory evacuation order, the lack of potable water and the lack of electricity

*See* **RENT,** *C-12*



AP PHOTO

Rick Quinn, Copa Casino's chief executive, said Monday in Gulfport, Miss., while checking damaged slots, 'Quite frankly, the priority was getting the paper money out . We're still working on getting the last of the nickels out of here.' Most of the slot machine inventory will be destroyed, because they were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

# Hurricane out-wrestles Miss. one-armed bandits

*Slew of slot machines are damaged by Katrina*

**By Adam Goldman**
Associated Press Writer

GULFPORT, MISS. — C.J. "Mac" McClendon spent years installing slot machines on the Gulf Coast. These days, he is exhuming them.

When Hurricane Katrina leveled the Gulfport and Biloxi area, it silenced about 18,000 slot machines at Mississippi's floating casinos. Some of the one-armed bandits were washed into the sea. Looters ran off with others. And about 75 percent were destroyed.

"I can't think of anything that is even close to this," said Mike Ulmer, North American casino services manager for **International Game Technology**, or IGT, the world's largest maker of slot machines.

Damage is greater in Louisiana. More than 12,000 electronic gambling devices — slot machines and video poker machines — at the 10 Mississippi coast casinos were roughed up by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the state, but few were damaged. Most machines that will need to be replaced are at the Belle of Orleans, which was knocked from its moorings on Lake Pontchartrain, and at the two **Harrah's Entertainment Inc.** and two **Isle of Capri Corp.** properties in Lake Charles.

"It's not going to be on the scale of the Mississippi replacements," said Wade Duty, executive director of the Casino Association of Louisiana, a lobbying group for riverboat operators.

The bigger story in Louisiana is the video poker machines lost at bars, restaurants and truckstops in parishes

*See* **SLOTS,** *C-12*

# Cable, phone service spotty

*Some flickers of progress seen*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Telecommunications service remains spotty in New Orleans and many suburban communities six weeks after Hurricane Katrina decimated the underground and overhead wires that carry telephone conversations, Internet traffic and cable television signals.

Many people returning to their homes and businesses are finding electricity and water flowing, but no dial tone in their phones and no picture on their screens.

"It's frustrating," said Erin Bernard, who has been without cable at her home in the 300 block of Marigny Avenue in Mandeville since Katrina hit.

"The children are missing their regular programs and my husband is missing his football games," she said.

Repair crews have been working on cable lines in the Bernard's neighborhood, but service is still out at their house. "I just don't understand," she said.

In some areas where neighborhoods remain largely empty, dead telecommunications systems have only intensified the feelings of isolation for the few people who have returned home.

The region's cable companies, **Cox Communications**, which operates south of Lake Pontchartrain, and **Charter Communications**, which operates north of the lake, say they have repaired damage to their major

*See* **CABLE,** *C-12*

# Oil production still sluggish

*Gulf recovery will take some time*

**By Ronette King**
Business writer

Oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico continues to crank up after being shut down by Hurricane Katrina.

As of Tuesday, nearly 71 percent of daily oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, or 1.06 million barrels, remained down, according to the federal agency that monitors energy production and capacity. The daily capacity is normally 1.5 million barrels.

More than 60 percent of daily

*See* **OIL,** *C-12*



AP FILE PHOTO

Nearly 71 percent of daily oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, or 1.06 million barrels, remained down Tuesday. President Bush, on board Marine One, took an aerial tour Sept. 27 of an oil rig off the coast of Louisiana damaged by Hurricane Rita.

# Fed boosted rate to keep worries low, record shows

*Impact of storm a big concern*

**By Martin Crutsinger**
AP Economics writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve felt the need to keep boosting interest rates in September partly out of concern that a pause might mislead people into thinking it was too worried about the economic impact of Hurricane Katrina.

Minutes of the Sept. 20 closed-door discussions revealed increased worries among Fed policy-makers about inflation because of a spike in the price of gasoline and other energy products following hurricane-related production shutdowns caused by Katrina. But the Fed officials said they believed the hit to economic growth from Katrina would prove to be temporary.

Because of this view, the Fed expressed concerns that not raising rates at the September meeting would send the wrong signal about the Fed's view of the underlying soundness of the economy.

"A pause in policy tightening at this meeting had the potential to mislead the public both about the committee's perceptions of the fundamental strength and

*See* **FED,** *C-12*

# Gasoline prices in N.O. creep up

**OIL,** *from C-11*

gas production, or 6 billion cubic feet per day, also remained down Tuesday, the Minerals Management Service reported. The daily capacity is normally 10 billion cubic feet per day.

Total oil production shut down between Aug. 26 and Tuesday was equivalent to nearly 10 percent of the Gulf's yearly production, or 547.5 million barrels. For the same period, 7.4 percent of the Gulf's annual natural gas production has been delayed.

Production is expected to pick up over the rest of the year, although some capacity won't return until 2006, said Gene Gillespie, senior energy analyst at Howard Weil energy firm. Although oil prices have fallen slightly in recent weeks and hover near $65 a barrel, some wonder if prices would be substantially lower if it weren't for production delays caused by the hurricanes, he said.

As of Tuesday, 20 percent of the nation's refining capacity was still down, according to the American Petroleum Institute. Together, hurricanes Katrina and Rita damaged more offshore drilling rigs than any storm in recent times, hitting two areas of the Gulf that are peppered with offshore production platforms and drilling rigs. Rita swatted the western Gulf after Katrina hit the central Gulf. The Gulf supplies 29 percent of the country's oil and 21 percent of its natural gas.

Federal energy regulators project energy demand to be down 600,000 barrels per day this winter, in part because cooler temperatures haven't yet arrived, said Bob Yawger, vice president of energy futures at Man Financial in New York. This time of year there is a seasonal slowdown in energy demand, between the end of summer driving season and before winter temperatures kick in.

Gasoline prices, like oil prices, have dipped slightly in the weeks since the storms. In the first week after Katrina, gas prices rose an average 46 cents a gallon, according to the American Petroleum Institute. But over the next two weeks, as pipelines, refining and production resumed, prices declined 28 cents a gallon nationwide.

In New Orleans, AAA reported that a gallon of regular gas averaged $2.88 this week, two cents higher than a month ago.

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# Market putting squeeze on renters

**RENTS,** *from C-11*

renders the unit useless. But under Louisiana law, such units are deemed habitable and renters are responsible for payments whether they evacuated or not. If a unit is severely damaged, tenants do not have to pay. But questions arise when a unit is damaged but habitable. That, a spokesman with the Louisiana attorney general's office said, is when tenants need to negotiate with their landlords as repairs are made.

The local rental market is experiencing a crunch as a result of the large number of people seeking housing. Some apartment complexes have waiting lists of 300 or more applicants. Many leasing offices, according to Bruchi, are limiting their hours because they simply cannot accommodate all the interested consumers.

And rents are already creeping up in some places. Before the storm, the owner of three condos at 1205 St. Charles Ave. had the units on the market unfurnished for $1,200 a month. Now he is listing them furnished for $2,000, said leasing agent Corinne Fox of Prudential Gardner Realtors Inc.

Fox said some people are pulling their homes off the for-sale market to take advantage of the booming rental market. "Some families know they're not coming back. They've moved, got the kids in school, and new jobs," she said.

The owner of a 2,000-square-foot home on Perrier Street was willing to lease the house, furnished, for $3,000 a month instead of selling it. And an Irish Channel family that doesn't plan to return is willing to take $1,500 a month for their 2,400-square foot home.

"Their point wasn't to take advantage, but to just pay the mortgage" while helping out a returning family, Fox said.

But how high rents will go, and for how long, is the big question, said Ivan Miestchovich, an associate professor of finance, head of the University of New Orleans Center for Economic Development and the new director of the UNO Real Estate Market Data Center. Some believe that in 16 months the market could reverse course as construction and relief workers pull out of the metro area and ease the demand for housing.

By then, homeowners may also be giving up the rentals they currently occupy and moving back into renovated homes.

Landlords, meanwhile, are fuming about an executive order issued by Gov. Kathleen Blanco that prohibits them from evicting tenants in the wake of the storm. The order is preventing landlords from accessing apartments that, in some cases, have been abandoned by tenants. Many property owners would like to get into the damaged units to begin repairs, but the governor's order, which runs through Oct. 25, prevents them from doing so.

Henry Shane, chairman of Favrot & Shane in Metairie, said the ban on evictions is preventing many landlords from addressing moisture damage, which threatens the health of tenants trying to occupy undamaged units and prevents property managers from getting units in shape for storm victims desperately seeking housing. Favrot & Shane owns about 8,000 apartment units, most in East Jefferson.

"We don't want any rent, we'll return their deposits. We just want possession to restart the rebuilding process and eliminate the dangerous conditions and stop further deterioration" of the units, Shane said.

But Monday, Roderick Hawkins, deputy press secretary for Blanco, said he expected one of two things to happen this week: Blanco may amend her executive order, possibly allowing landlords to evict or remove tenants' belongings and repair units, or the Louisiana Supreme Court may take action on the eviction matter, allowing landlords to take over the units.

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# Much damage occurred after storm

**CABLE,** *from C-11*

network lines in areas that weren't badly flooded, but outages persist because of damaged feeder lines to neighborhoods and individual buildings.

And new damage continues to occur to regional phone and cable networks as storm repair crews unknowingly sever overhead and underground wires, according to spokespeople for the companies

That's what happened Saturday in the 1600 block of Colony Place in Metairie when a front-end loader cut through an above-ground tube holding a bundle of cable TV wires that was buried under a pile of storm debris, Cox spokesman Steve Sawyer said.

The mishap shut down cable service throughout the neighborhood, he said.

"We continue to incur more post-storm damage than we had before the storm," Sawyer said.

Cable and telephone services are largely unavailable in heavily flooded areas in Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Cable outages remain widespread in Uptown neighborhoods in New Orleans and in some northern St. Tammany communities, while phone service remains down in large parts of Uptown and Bywater.

In New Orleans, repair crews have focused on neighborhoods along the Mississippi River from the Industrial Canal to the Jefferson Parish line. Those areas largely escaped flooding and were the first sections of the city reopened by Mayor Ray Nagin for repopulation.

Sawyer said the seemingly slow pace of the restoration effort reflects the level of damage wrought by Katrina.

"We don't know of any cable system in the United States that has ever suffered the amount of damage that we suffered," he said. "This takes time. You can't just go out and pop things back on poles."

Still, there was some good news on the telecommunications front Tuesday.

Cable service from Cox was expanded in several sections of the French Quarter, including Decatur Street, where the TV flickered on for the first time in six weeks at Coop's Place.

Patrons visiting the bar and cafe for the past several weeks haven't been able to watch their favorite sports events while downing a beer and eating cheeseburgers. "We could have made some people pretty happy if we had been able to show football games," bartender Laura Roe said Tuesday.

Coop's managers plan to show football games and professional baseball playoffs this weekend, but a new problem with the TV might prevent that from happening.

"Now we can't change the channel on the set," Roe said.

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# Lot of slots ravaged by storm

**SLOTS,** *from C-11*

that flooded. About 5,000 video poker machines were shut down because of Katrina. Louisiana State Police and lawmakers worry that some of those machines, which generate about $4.6 million per month, won't be restored because the businesses that operated them were wiped out.

In Mississippi, IGT and other big slot makers are picking through the twisted casino barges, trying to salvage machines and reclaim the ones they leased to the gambling companies. They have not found much to save at the 13 casinos that dotted the Mississippi coast.

"Imagine throwing your computer into the ocean, drying it out and seeing how it works," McClendon said.

On Monday, McClendon and two IGT technicians descended on the Copa Casino in Gulfport to remove the 17 IGT-owned machines from the approximately 1,250 ruined one-armed bandits there.

The casino barge was lifted from its moorings and tossed onto the asphalt, where ocean waves continued to pound it, drenching the machines in salt water.

State gambling regulators are supposed to keep track of every slot machine, but Katrina has made that task unrealistic. It is unclear how many were swallowed up by the sea.

"Basically, it's impossible to account for each and every one of those lost," said Larry Gregory, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

# Inflation outlook increased

**FED,** *from C-11*

resilience of the economy and about its commitment to fostering price stability," the minutes stated.

The Fed did boost the federal funds rate to 3.75 percent at its Sept. 20 meeting. It was the 11th consecutive increase since the Fed began gradually raising rates in June 2004.

The increase was approved on a 9-1 vote with Fed Governor Mark Olson dissenting. The minutes explained that Olson preferred pausing in the rate hikes until the Fed had a better view of how severe the impact from Katrina would be on the U.S. economy.

Since the Fed meeting, a number of the members of the Federal Open Market Committee — the panel of Fed board members in Washington and regional Fed bank presidents that sets interest rates — have expressed concerns in various speeches that inflation pressures have increased because of a sharp spike in energy costs.

Right after Katrina hit, crude oil prices briefly topped $70 per barrel in intraday trading in New York, while the nationwide average for gasoline climbed for a time above $3 per gallon.

On inflation, the Fed staff revised its inflation outlook higher for 2005 for overall inflation, reflecting the impact of higher energy prices, but said that overall inflation should be slightly lower for 2006.

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*Mardi Gras won't be derailed, a delegation of Carnival krewes and planners assures the N.O. council*

# READY TO ROLL

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Mardi Gras.

Luminaries from across the Carnival spectrum marched into City Hall on Wednesday to decree that they stand ready to stage a scaled-down, post-Katrina version of the Greatest Free Show on Earth in 2006 that will serve notice that the Crescent City is alive and well.

The news was greeted with glee by New Orleans City Council members, who pledged their collective support to make it happen.

"Mardi Gras is the spirit of New Orleans and we thank you for bringing this to us," a beaming Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said as she greeted representatives of the krewes of Rex, Zulu, Endymion, Proteus, Muses, Shangri-La and Pygmalion. "We feel privileged to be saying, 'Go for it!' "

No one from Mayor Ray Nagin's administration attended

*See* **CARNIVAL,** *A-16*

# Residents scatter with the wind

*And some might stay where they landed*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

After enduring endless lines for gasoline and fighting would-be car thieves in Lafayette, Hurricane Katrina evacuee Kevin O'Connor's decision to flee Louisiana for the farthest-flung part of the nation was guided by one overriding desire: comfort.

"We went up through all the little roads between Lafayette and Maine, just like a shooting star," the Uptown bartender said, recounting the two-week trek he made with his girlfriend. "We made our way through Arkansas toward Indiana, where we spent a few days at her family's house. Then on to Ohio, where we tried to rest for a few days but ended up blow-

*See* **EVACUEES,** *A-18*

▶ **Evacuee finds refuge in Alaska, A-17**

**"Fifty-three years down the drain, but we're all alive and well. We're all grateful for that."**
FRANK SHOCKLEY, family patriarch

# Tammany subdivision takes brunt of storm



STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Avery Estates residents crowd in to hear St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis talk about their neighborhood Tuesday at the Slidell Library. Mobile homes were thrown against or wrapped around trees, or blown across roads and onto other residences. Thousands of oak, pine, pecan and other large trees in the subdivision were snapped like twigs or ripped from the ground.

*Homes are flooded, ruined or blown away*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

After his Navy service in World War II, Frank Shockley settled in southeast Louisiana, got married and started a small dairy farm with brother-in-law Philip Knieper on 80 acres southeast of Slidell.

In 1952, he built a home there just off Shortcut Highway and Avery Drive at the entrance to what was to become rural Avery Estates, a large-lot subdivision near the northern edge of Fritchie Marsh.

As the family grew, Shockley added on to the house three times. The site eventually became a cluster of homes where four of his five sons, their wives, children and his grandchildren and infant great-grandchild lived.

Until Aug. 29.

That's when the winds of Hurricane Katrina roared through the area and pushed a 22- to 24-foot storm surge through the back of the little subdivision and up to 10 feet in the front section nearest the highway.



Frank Shockley, 81, looks for the right tool to help him install a utility pole Tuesday at his home in Avery Estates.

Most of the family had evacuated to Shockley's native Arkansas before Katrina struck. Their homes in ruins, they're now staying in shelters and apartments in the Slidell area. What they saw when they returned to the family compound was, until then, unimaginable.

There are few, if any, areas of St. Tammany Parish where the devastation is more concentrated in such a small area.

Thousands of oak, pine, pecan and other large trees were snapped like twigs or ripped from the

*See* **AVERY,** *A-23*

# Ravages of storm revealed at last to locals

*Homecoming harsh in hardest-hit ward*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

The floodwaters washed away entire city blocks in the Lower 9th Ward, leaving its 14,000 residents grappling with what to make of the present, let alone the future, of a neighborhood that struggled with blight, crime and poverty long before Hurricane Katrina punched through the city's levee system.

Wednesday — the first day that some Lower 9th Ward residents were officially allowed in to see what, if anything, they could salvage — made their choices painfully clear.

"It's gone," Donald Barard, 70, said as he surveyed his former neighborhood at Caffin and North Claiborne avenues Wednesday. Barard lost two

*See* **9TH WARD,** *A-14*

# Twice the tragedy

*Mother of fallen soldier loses home*

**By Brian Thevenot**
Staff writer

A black cross and a pair of dog tags dangling from her neck, Denise Godbolt walked slowly, breathing deeply, as she braced the first look at her flood-ravaged Lower 9th Ward apartment. In the six months before Hurricane Katrina, she had transformed it into a shrine to a son killed in battle.

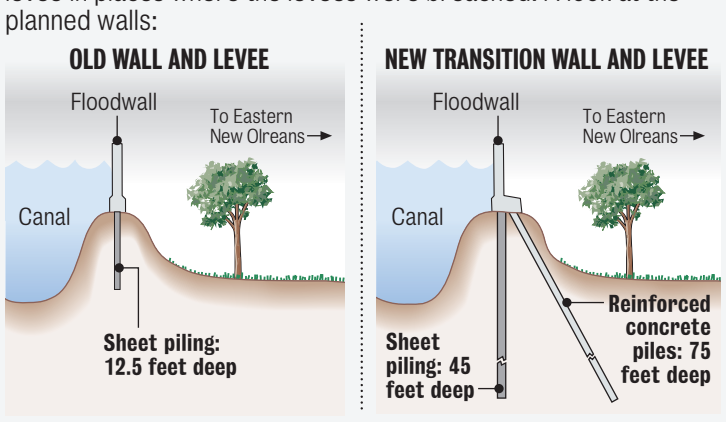
Behind her stood her surviving son, Charles, and one of her dead son's war comrades, Jonathan Meziere, whose arms bore scars from the same

*See* **IRAQ,** *A-14*

# New levee walls will be built deeper, stronger

**BUILDING A STRONGER LEVEE**

Engineers plan to replace the old I-wall levees along the Intracoastal Waterway in eastern New Orleans with a deeper inverted L-shaped levee in places where the levees were breached. A look at the planned walls:




Source: Army Corps of Engineers

STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

*Corps still not sure why they failed in storm*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to repair New Orleans area levee breaches caused by Hurricane Katrina with fortified walls much stronger than the originals, design documents show.

Where some floodwalls — consisting of a concrete section mounted on a steel base — collapsed, the corps wants bulkier concrete walls and significantly deeper steel anchors reinforced with concrete piles.

Corps officials say the new designs are intended to compensate for structural weaknesses caused by the breaches — and for uncertainty over the strength of the original designs.

"At this time, we haven't fully understood the failure mechanisms at all of these locations," said Walter Baumy, chief of the engineering division of the corps' New Orleans district. He said the corps is getting feedback from engineering teams investigating the breaches and incorporating that into the designs.

"They are going to be heftier, more conservative," he said of the new wall sections.

The designs, in multimillion-dollar contracts put out for bid this week, are

*See* **LEVEES,** *A-16*

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# Home loan program unveiled

*Low rates tailored for coast storm victims*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — One of the nation's largest mortgage investors announced Wednesday that it will launch a $1 billion program for low-interest loans to help up to 10,000 low-income Louisiana and Gulf Coast homeowners recover from Hurricane Katrina.

Freddie Mac, a corporation that uses bulk purchases of residential mortgages as an investment vehicle, is working with the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and the Mississippi Home Corp. to create loans for repairs and home purchases at about 1 percent below market rates.

Qualified borrowers may buy or repair homes in a federally designated Katrina disaster area. Borrowers also can use the loans to buy a house in a different part of Louisiana if they had a mortgage on a principal residence in a storm disaster area as of Aug. 28, the day before Katrina hit.

"We have confidence in the area," said Freddie Mac Chairman Richard Syron, who was in the state capital Wednesday for the announcement. "We fully expect we're going to get paid back on these things."

People who buy or repair homes can work through the usual mortgage companies to inquire about the loans, Syron said.

To supply money for the loans, the state housing agency will issue tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds. Freddie Mac is committing to buy up to $1 billion of those bonds, ensuring a relatively low rate.

The initiative is an expansion of an existing program. Freddie Mac decided to pursue the program after President Bush signed the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act on Sept. 23, which waives the first-time home-buyer requirement on loans from mortgage revenue bonds and raises the cap on home repair loans from $15,000 to $150,000 for Katrina victims.

The loans must be made by Jan. 1, 2008.

Congress relaxed the requirements of the usual low-income mortgage program.

In the Katrina program, families of three or more can earn up to 140 percent of an area's median income and be eligible. The purchase price of the house can be up to 100 percent of the average area purchase price.

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**"Black people and poor people bore the brunt of the devastation, because — for the most part — they lived most often in the lower-lying, more flood-prone sections of the region."**
BROOKINGS INSTITUTION report

# Report blames racial, class divisions

*New Orleans left its black people, poor at risk*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

The sharp racial and income disparities in New Orleans disproportionately placed black and poor people in harm's way, making the disastrous impact of Hurricane Katrina plainly foreseeable, a new report says.

"What was happening to greater New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina greatly worsened the aftermath," said the report by the Brookings Institution, an independent, nonpartisan think tank in Washington, D.C. "Black people and poor people bore the brunt of the devastation, because — for the most part — they lived most often in the lower-lying, more flood-prone sections of the region."

Federal and local government policies, specifically those regarding public housing, isolated those who were most vulnerable to the storm because of income and neighborhood, Brookings found.

People in flooded areas were more likely to lack cars, which became critical during evacuation. Some 150,000 people in the metropolitan area had no car. One in five people in the flooded parts of the city had no car, versus one in 10 elsewhere.

The black poverty rate in New Orleans was three times higher than the white poverty rate: 35 percent compared with 11 percent. Poor blacks were five times as likely to live in areas with extreme poverty rates: 43 percent of poor blacks lived in areas of concentrated poverty while only 11 percent of poor whites did.

In 2000, the black median household income in New Orleans was about half that of white households: $21,461 compared with $40,390.

## Suggestions for rebuilding

The 48-page report, released Wednesday, not only blames government policy for placing the poorest residents at risk during a Category 4 hurricane, but outlines ways to rebuild New Orleans so that such a situation never happens again.

"To strike at poverty, the federal government will need to rebuild the metro's shattered neighborhoods and do it in a way that knits together a divided region," the report said.

New Orleans residents need wide, long-term access to federal housing vouchers, which would spur home ownership, the report said. The city's low-wage economy needs to be replaced, not revived, the report added, and local businesses and workers deserve first crack at jobs in the region's reconstruction.

Families returning to New Orleans should not be segregated in high-poverty neighborhoods, as so many were before Katrina, said Amy Liu, deputy director of the Metropolitan Policy Program.

"If we are going to build affordable housing, then we need to make sure that the affordable housing is built in much more economically integrated neighborhoods," Liu said.

## Recent worsening

New Orleans long has struggled with poverty, yet the intense isolation of poor black people was a pattern that developed only in recent decades, the report said. By 2000, the city had become highly segregated by race and had high concentrations of poverty.

"In 2000, city neighborhoods such as the Garden District, Lakeview and Audubon were all more than 85 percent white, while neighborhoods such as the Lower Ninth Ward, B.W. Cooper and Pontchartrain Park were all almost 100 percent nonwhite," the report said. Some 50,000 of the city's poor residents lived in 47 extremely poor census tracts in 2000.

No less than 84 percent of the city's poor population was black. Almost all of the extremely poor neighborhoods were predominately African-American: Gert Town, the 7th Ward, the Lower 9th Ward and public housing developments.

Children in single-parent households also were sharply hurt by Katrina: 46 percent of all children living in flooded areas when the storm hit had only one parent, compared with 31 percent in dry areas. In all, 57,300 children whose neighborhoods flooded had only one parent.

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# FEMA is urged to holster gun ban

**By Kevin McGill**
Associated Press writer

BATON ROUGE — Under pressure from gun rights groups, FEMA said Wednesday it is reconsidering a ban on firearms at a trailer park established to temporarily house Hurricane Katrina victims.

"We've got attorneys who are looking at that as we speak, and they're trying to figure out who wrote the rules, what the intent was," FEMA spokesman Butch Kinerney said.

The dispute involves a nearly 600-trailer encampment that opened last week near Baton Rouge. Katrina evacuees will be allowed to stay there rent-free while they try to find permanent housing.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it has been general policy at FEMA for several years to prohibit guns at such parks anywhere in the country.

But the National Rifle Association threatened to sue, and another gun rights group, the Second Amendment Foundation, said it was looking at legal action.

"Whether it's a national disaster, whether it's by nature like Katrina or a flu pandemic or an earthquake, the Constitution can't be thrown out the window," NRA leader Wayne LaPierre said.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office had asked that guns be banned at the encampment because the trailers are close together and have thin walls, according to spokesman Deputy Fred Raiford.

FEMA spokesman James McIntyre said guns would have been prohibited without the Sheriff's Office request.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Louisiana engineer on levee team:** A story published Wednesday incorrectly said no members of three forensic investigation teams looking at levee failures in New Orleans are from Louisiana. Gordon Boutwell Jr., founder of Soil Testing Engineers Inc. of Baton Rouge, is a lead engineer for the American Society of Civil Engineers team.

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# N.O. public school enrollment may be halved

## *Only 50-60 schools needed, Picard says*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — A rebuilt Orleans Parish public school system will need less than half of the 126 buildings it now has because student enrollment in the next few years is expected to drastically decline, Education Superintendent Cecil Picard told lawmakers Wednesday.

Addressing a joint meeting of House and Senate Education committees, Picard said that based on "the best wild projections we are looking at right now," the number of students in New Orleans public schools for the near future should be about 30,000, less than half last year's enrollment.

Ten years ago, Picard said, there were 87,000 students in the system, and last year the count had fallen to about 63,000. In the days before Hurricane Katrina hit Aug. 29, about 55,000 students had enrolled.

Picard estimated the system might need 50 to 60 structures, many of which could be new, built with federal education and disaster-relief dollars.

For schools that are more than 50 percent damaged, Picard said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay the cost of replacing them at their pre-Katrina value. He said there are about 100 schools that have not received a detailed inspection but he expects at least 45 of them will have to be replaced, based "on people who have done an eyeball assessment."

Rep. Austin Badon, D-New Orleans, a member of the House Education Committee, said it is still too early to project what the enrollment in the city's public schools will be. "There is no way for anyone to know," he said. "It may be 35,000; it may be 20,000.

"People have already started their lives in other places, but some may come back because of sentimental values or they may be long-term, dedicated people of New Orleans."

In response to a question from Sen. Jay Dardenne, R-Baton Rouge, Picard said that about 75 percent of the schools that have been damaged or will have to be destroyed are rated as academically unacceptable on test scores.

"I don't want to rebuild those failing schools," Dardenne said. "We dare not squander the opportunity to do it right. I am not comfortable it is going to be done right."

Picard said his office will oversee the spending, so that new and better schools can be built. "The people of New Orleans will make that decision" of which schools to rebuild or abandon, Picard said.

### Financial problems

Picard said he will ask lawmakers in the November special legislative session to rework the formula the state uses to finance classroom needs at the local level.

He said 28 parishes are facing near-bankruptcy by the end of the school year, and their financial problems have worsened by taking in additional students from closed schools in parishes hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He said the legislation might allow the state Board of Education to rework the state's $2.6 billion formula on a "month-to-month basis," as displaced students head back to their original school districts.

About 186,000 elementary and secondary school students were displaced by the two hurricanes and more than 41,000 of them have moved to other districts in the state, while 70,000 were evacuated and are attending schools in 47 states, including about 48,000 in Texas and 8,000 in Georgia.

### Federal aid requested

Picard said he has requested a $2.4 billion federal aid package to pay operational costs of damaged schools or those that closed and may be reopening in the weeks ahead. The aid also would be used to pay the salaries and benefits of an estimated 12,000 displaced teachers and support personnel, and to replace lost state and local revenues the schools normally would receive.

Other items Picard said he will ask Gov. Kathleen Blanco to place on the agenda of the Nov. 6-18 special session include a temporary increase in the size of classes at all levels of education, a one-year suspension of the LEAP test for fourth- and eighth-graders unless local school boards want to administer it; and bills to change the amount of time students will have to attend classes this year.

State law requires a student to attend a minimum of 160 days of school out of a 177-day year.

Picard said some local school boards already have started rearranging regular and holiday schedules and lengthening school days to make up class time lost from Katrina and Rita.

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Ed Anderson can be reached at eanderson@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5810.

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# Morial denounces proposals to cut benefits for victims

## *Don't rob poor to pay for rebuilding, he says*

**By David Pace**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Paying for Hurricane Katrina relief and reconstruction by cutting federal spending on programs that benefit the poor would add a new insult to those who suffered most in the storm, Urban League President Marc Morial said Wednesday.

Morial, mayor of New Orleans from 1994 through 2002, said Congress instead should offer a three-year tax holiday to people making less than $50,000 a year who live in the hurricane-devastated region and agree to return. And businesses in the region that agree to pay workers a living wage should get a 50 percent tax cut, he said.

"Instead of burdening those already down and those already out, we must help them get back up and move forward," Morial said in a speech at Georgetown University Law Center.

Congress has provided $62 billion in emergency relief money for victims of Katrina, and estimates of the total reconstruction bill approach $200 billion.

To begin paying that bill, House GOP leaders last week proposed cutting another $15 billion from federal benefit programs, such as Medicaid, food stamps and farm subsidies, that already are slated for $35 billion in spending cuts. The House plan also would make across-the-board cuts to agency budgets.

Morial didn't offer an alternative for paying for Katrina costs, but he said there was no discussion of budget cuts and budget crises when Congress responded to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Forget the political case, how about the moral case?" he said. "How about the case that what is right in New York City and Wall Street is right for any part of the nation?"



**Marc Morial**
Former mayor wants Congress to pass 'Katrina bill of rights'

Morial reiterated the Urban League's call for a "Katrina bill of rights" that would guarantee victims "the right to recover, the right to vote, the right to return, the right to rebuild and the right to work."

To implement those rights, he said, Congress should extend unemployment assistance to the 500,000 people left jobless by the storm and create a victim compensation fund similar to the one that disbursed $7 billion after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Morial also said all federal Katrina contracts that are being rebid should include provisions setting aside half the money for local companies and a fourth for minority contractors.

State and local officials also need to ensure that evacuees will be able to continue to vote in their home states, he said, in order to ensure their continued voice in rebuilding decisions.

Echoing proposals by some in Congress, Morial also said an independent agency, similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority, should be created with multiyear federal financing to direct and oversee the reconstruction effort.

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Sen. DAVID VITTER

# Senator says loan plan has room to improve

*Officials balk at repayment proviso*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE — U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said Wednesday that a $750 million loan program he helped steer through Congress last week is far from perfect and he will work to make it more favorable to Louisiana.

"This is not about whether this Community Disaster Loan program is the perfect program. It's not," Vitter said at an afternoon news conference. "It is the only viable plan that we have."

The program, which President Bush signed last Friday night, lets local governments that saw their tax bases devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita borrow money to help meet payrolls and other essential expenses.



**Sen. David Vitter**
Urges state officials to make plan work

But unlike similar loan programs approved after other disasters, governments in Louisiana must pay back any money they receive, without hope of debt forgiveness. That came as a disappointment to state officials, who said Louisiana municipalities deserve the same type of federal grants that other disaster-devastated cities have received in years past.

State officials also have complained about a provision in the bill requiring local governments to immediately begin paying money into a sinking fund to help secure the loans, which presents a problem for parishes experiencing severe cash-flow problems. Vitter said he has been assured that the sinking fund provision will be eliminated as the Federal Emergency Management Agency writes the rules for the program.

## Hope for change

Standing alongside state Treasurer John Kennedy, a Democrat, Vitter urged state officials to put partisanship aside and to try to make the program work, warts and all. In the meantime, he said he is confident in his ability to persuade Congress to eliminate the provision barring debt forgiveness.

Vitter said he opposed the provision as the bill was being debated, but became convinced that the bill could not pass without it.

Vitter also warned that the state would hurt its chances of getting a better deal on Capitol Hill if it turns its back on the loan program. "Our response to this, I think, will greatly shape the future response of the U.S. Congress to our continuing needs," Vitter said. "If we reject this plan . . . the response of many folks in Congress will be, 'Well, we tried. Good luck, Louisiana.' "

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said she is worried some local governments will end up borrowing money they won't have the ability to pay back when the loans are due. "We don't want to make dishonest people out of desperate people," Blanco said.

## FEMA rules

The governor has asked Bush to waive certain requirements of federal disaster regulations to allow FEMA to reimburse local governments for routine operations. Current rules only allow governments to be reimbursed for expenses directly related to the disaster, such as debris removal and overtime pay for emergency workers.

Vitter and Blanco both said Louisiana's history of corruption has created an unfair perception among some lawmakers. "It's insulting. It's very insensitive and nearly inhumane," Blanco said.

Kennedy said the program isn't perfect, but it's the best that Louisiana is likely to get at the moment. "There is no Plan B, not that I've seen," Kennedy said. "This is the plan. We have no choice but to make it work."

Kennedy took issue with comments from Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc, who said earlier this week that the loans will take up to 25 days to distribute. "I don't know where Jerry's getting that," he said. "All you have to do is fill out the application and the federal government is even going to provide an accountant to work with each individual local government."

Tom Ed McHugh, who heads the Louisiana Municipal Association, said he hasn't received feedback from his members yet about the loan program but predicted that many recipients will have trouble paying back the money. "If you ask them do we want the loan or nothing at all, they'll probably say we want the loan . . . knowing full well that their ability to repay is going to be extremely limited," McHugh said.

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Jan Moller can be reached at jmoller@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5207.

# Business leaders looking for some answers

*They want incentives to return to N.O.*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — A group of 48 New Orleans business leaders met with about half a dozen state lawmakers in Houston on Tuesday to express their concerns about the city's future and the lack of clear communication about a hurricane recovery plan, according to people who attended the meeting.

Most of the business executives are living and working in the Texas oil town, pondering whether to move back to New Orleans.

The meeting was arranged through the efforts of former Lt. Gov. Jimmy Fitzmorris, Energy Partners Chairman Richard Bachmann, who is residing in Houston, and state Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi.

Other state lawmakers who attended the meeting included Sen. Ken Hollis, R-Metairie, Rep. John Alario, D-Westwego, and Sen. Max Malone, R-Shreveport, according to those who participated.

Hollis said the basic message from the business people was that "Every minute of every day, we're getting more comfortable over here" in Texas.

Foremost, the group was looking for concrete commitments that the New Orleans levee system would be repaired in a timely manner to withstand a Category 5 hurricane, Hollis and others said. The executives have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the company does not make investments that will be washed away by another storm, Hollis said.

**"Bottom line, we're just trying to keep up the hope, and we're doing everything we can do as legislators to get them some final answers so they can plan for their business,"**
Sen. WALTER BOASSO
Arabi Republican

In the meantime, the lack of a state income tax combined with the business-friendly environment and better schools in Texas have made the executives seriously question whether to return, Hollis said.

John Kallenborn, head of Chase Bank's Louisiana operations, said the business leaders expressed frustration with what they described as a lack of communication from city and state leaders about a plan of action to rebuild the city.

Kallenborn has been working between New Orleans and Baton Rouge since Hurricane Katrina, but was visiting Houston to join the meeting and to speak with other Louisiana clients who have moved at least temporarily to Texas. Chase has committed to continue operating in New Orleans.

By pointing out a number of positive developments, such as the increased business activity in Jefferson Parish and the demand for local housing, Kallenborn said he thought he and others brought an upbeat tone to the meeting.

In his discussions with New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who did not attend the meeting, Kallenborn said the mayor made two main requests of President Bush this week. The first was for federal help to build a better levee system, and the second was for federal incentives for businesses and individuals to move to New Orleans to work or live. The incentives would phase out after a few years, or if the city's population built up to 500,000, the approximate number before Katrina.

The business executives were looking for programs like those to spark their interest in returning to the city, Kallenborn and Hollis said.

State Sen. Edwin Murray, D-New Orleans, who attended the meeting, said most people in the group intend to come back, and the meeting ended on a positive note. Members of the business group will return with specific suggestions for state legislation, Murray said.

"Bottom line, we're just trying to keep up the hope, and we're doing everything we can do as legislators to get them some final answers so they can plan for their business," Boasso said.

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# Communication lags hurt military's storm response

**By Robert Burns**
AP military writer

WASHINGTON — The military's response to Hurricane Katrina was the largest and fastest in U.S. history, but it was hampered by an early disconnect with state and local authorities, a senior Pentagon official said Wednesday.

Paul McHale, the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, said the military should have learned more from its experience in previous natural disasters, including Hurricane Andrew in south Florida in 1992.

Communication with state and local authorities in Louisiana and Mississippi was so poor in the hours immediately after Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29 that military commanders had to use couriers for messages, McHale said.

"Early situational awareness was poor, a problem that should have been corrected following identical damage assessment challenges during Hurricane Andrew," McHale said in a group interview with Pentagon reporters.

"Military command and control was workable, but not unified," he said, adding that while National Guard planning was well-executed it was not well-integrated with the Pentagon's Joint Staff and Northern Command.

By the end of this week, only about 250 active-duty military personnel will remain as part of Joint Task Force-Katrina, which was created to coordinate the federal military response in Louisiana and Mississippi. At its peak, the task force had 22,000 military personnel from all services. They were in addition to as many as 50,000 National Guard troops that operated there.

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# Coast forum studies rebuilding

**By The Associated Press**

BILOXI, MISS. — It is the private sector that holds the key to rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast, battered by Hurricane Katrina but not defeated, Gov. Haley Barbour said Wednesday.

In remarks to several hundred people attending the Mississippi Renewal Forum in Biloxi, Barbour said that while the federal government had been a good partner since the Aug. 29 hurricane, "In my view, the ultimate determiner of what the coast will be like . . is going to be the private sector."

The forum, bringing together coast officials, architects, engineers and recovery experts from across the country, is a six-day planning event for the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal.

The commission has until the end of the year to develop a blueprint for rebuilding the six-county Gulf Coast region.

Coast residents, many of whom were poor before the storm, have shown strength of character and have improved Mississippi's image nationally in the way they are rebounding from tragedy, the governor said.

He said those people are now counting on the commission members to provide good ideas for rebuilding.

"What these people have done is just breathtaking, and that is one reason why I am committed to the success of this commission," Barbour said.

Former Netscape CEO Jim Barksdale, named by Barbour to head the commission, said ideas for rebuilding should be geared toward the private sector.

# FEMA refusal to share evacuee data draws fire

## *Policy thwarts hunts for displaced people*

**By John Pomfret**
The Washington Post

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is restricting the release of information on Hurricane Katrina evacuees, complicating efforts by families to find loved ones and by law enforcement officials searching for parolees and convicted sex offenders.

Citing privacy concerns, FEMA has rejected a request by Texas officials for access to its database of the more than 100,000 evacuees who have registered for state aid, according to the governor's office. FEMA has also declined requests from five states to cross-check a database of convicted sex offenders and parolees against a list of evacuees requesting federal assistance, law enforcement officials said.

FEMA officials have started prohibiting workers at a large shelter here from sharing information about evacuees, even with family members, unless the evacuees have signed release forms. In many cases, relief workers said, such forms were lost or never presented in the chaos of the exodus. FEMA authorities made similar restrictions when they took over management of shelters in Beaumont, Texas, last week.

"If we find someone, we've been instructed to tell family members, 'He or she is alive and well in San Antonio,' and that's it," said Rene Gauna, a city employee working at a FEMA-managed shelter at the old Kelly Air Force Base. "We're no longer allowed to release new addresses or telephone numbers or tell people where their loved ones have moved."

Jack Heesch, a FEMA spokesman in San Antonio, said it is standard agency policy not to release "any information on anyone" to protect a person's privacy, a position generally supported by civil liberties groups. He said FEMA is prohibited from releasing information on Katrina's victims to facilitate family reunification or even to prevent "double-dipping," the abuse of federal aid by victims.

Federal privacy law is intended to protect people from identity theft and from other misuse of their personal information, but state aid officials say the regulations should be balanced against the enormity of Katrina.

FEMA is beginning to take over more shelters to lessen the financial burden on states and local communities, prompting concern that it will become even more difficult for families to find loved ones.

Edwin Coleman's family has already run into obstacles. Coleman, 80, a retired inventory clerk, was rescued from his New Orleans home four days after Katrina flooded the city. His daughter, Edwina Coleman, had been looking for him ever since and heard from friends that he was in San Antonio. When she contacted the city's biggest shelter, officials refused to release any information on her father, saying they could not find proof that Coleman had signed a privacy waiver.

After questions from a Washington Post reporter Monday, the shelter released information on Coleman and the two were reunited by telephone. "I'm glad I was found," said Coleman, who said he signed a waiver but it apparently was lost. "People have been good to me, but things have been awfully confusing."

"We were doing these kind of ad hoc reunifications all the time before FEMA came in," said Gauna, the San Antonio official. "Now we've been told it's against the law."

Since the hurricane, Web sites with information about evacuees have become common on the Internet. Private Web sites, such as one managed by the Red Cross, and those of state governments provide a varying degree of information about evacuees. Some include new addresses and telephone numbers. Others include little other than a name and last known residence.

Arkansas maintains an extensive Web site with detailed information on 29,000 evacuees. No privacy waivers were sought "because the benefits in this case so outweighed the risks," according to Alice Stewart, spokeswoman for Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee.

The Red Cross said on its Web site that all the information was obtained through waivers. Privately, several Red Cross officials acknowledged that in the rush to facilitate family reunifications and care for Katrina's victims many waivers were not signed or were lost.

Shannon Perez, Texas communications director for Service Employees International Union, one of the nation's largest labor organizations, has faced similar obstacles trying to find 314 members from New Orleans who are believed to be in Texas. Perez said she wants to find them because the union has raised $1 million for SEIU members hurt by the hurricane.

"We have money for these folks but we can't access the information," she said. "Either the databases are incomplete or we're not allowed to find out where our members are."

For law enforcement, the lack of access to FEMA information also is an irritant. Louisiana has provided states with a list of the 1,340 convicted sex offenders and 10,000 parolees who were registered in New Orleans.

In some regions, law enforcement officials met planeloads of Katrina evacuees and ran criminal background checks on all of them, prompting criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union. This occurred in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Kentucky and other states to where evacuees were airlifted.

"If a busload of seniors went to Texas to see a Cowboys game, would they do a background check on them? Why are these people any different?" said Christopher Calabrese, a lawyer at ACLU headquarters in New York. Local prosecutors have requested that FEMA cross-check its database with one that includes convicted sex offenders and parolees but have been rebuffed.

In a conference call on Oct. 3 with representatives of law enforcement agencies from Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Florida and Texas and from the Department of Justice, the federal attorney wanted to focus on the potential for fraud in the post-hurricane recovery. But, said Cliff Herberg, the first assistant district attorney in Texas' Bexar County, the call was quickly hijacked by local law enforcement concerns about potential criminals.

With a database of approximately 30,000 evacuees in San Antonio, FEMA by far has the most accurate knowledge of who is in his region, Herberg said. "We are not proposing background checks on everyone. We just want known parolees and sex offenders, and FEMA won't do it."

Herberg said law enforcement can be exempted from the privacy act when it demonstrates a need. "This is not a fishing expedition," he said. "We are putting these people in homes and shelters across the nation. We have the Louisiana lists. We've got to know who they are."

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## LOUISIANA

# New Iberia to vote on future of police

**By The Associated Press**

NEW IBERIA — New Iberia voters will decide Saturday whether they want a return to a full-scale city police department or continue using the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office for most law enforcement duties.

The referendum will ask voters to decide whether to empower the mayor to dissolve the contract with the Sheriff's Office and re-establish the Police Department. Mayor Daigre Curry said that if voters turn down the proposal, she will move to get rid of the Police Department's few remaining officers.

A group that favors bringing back the police, Citizens for Public Safety, has raised about $3,000, according to campaign finance reports, and spent much of that money on radio advertising and signs.

A group that favors keeping the Sheriff's Office, Citizens for Good Government, had not filed a finance report with the state ethics agency.

Troy Comeaux, chairman of Citizens for Good Government, said Tuesday that he is working on getting the group properly filed with state ethics officials. Comeaux said his group's message is that a vote against the ballot proposition Saturday is a vote against new taxes.

Comeaux said a recent report by the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce has shown that the city has already saved money through the contract.

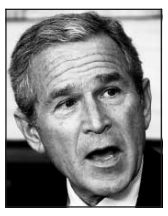
Citizens for Public Safety Chairman Hervin "John" Romero said the issue is about effective police protection. He said that although deputies have done good work, public safety in the city will be a concern because of the political nature of the office of the sheriff.

## WASHINGTON

# Bush uses Miers' religion as selling point among GOP

*Aides reaching out to conservatives*

**By Nedra Pickler**
Associated Press writer



**President Bush**
'Part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion,' he says



**Harriet Miers**
Church membership invoked in lieu of judicial record

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Wednesday his advisers were telling conservatives about Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers' religious beliefs because they are interested in her background and "part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion."

"People are interested to know why I picked Harriet Miers," Bush said at the White House. "They want to know Harriet Miers' background. They want to know as much as they possibly can before they form opinions. And part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion."

Bush, speaking at the conclusion of an Oval Office meeting with visiting Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, said his advisers were reaching out to conservatives who oppose her nomination "just to explain the facts."

He spoke on a day in which James Dobson, conservative founder of Focus on the Family, said he had discussed the nominee's religious views with presidential aide Karl Rove.

Not even a congressional recess nor Bush's preoccupation with hurricane recovery and affairs of state has shrouded the continuing controversy surrounding his selection of Miers to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Debate about Miers' credentials was prominent on the Sunday TV talk shows and has continued to occupy considerable attention on the Internet.

Some of Bush's conservative critics say Miers has no judicial record that proves she will strictly interpret the Constitution and not, as Bush says, "legislate from the bench." They say Bush passed up more qualified candidates to nominate someone from his inner circle.

Miers is Bush's second pick for the court. He chose John Roberts for the bench, initially to succeed O'Connor, but then gave Roberts the nod for chief justice when William Rehnquist died. Roberts was confirmed by the Senate on a vote of 78-22.

On a radio show broadcast Wednesday, Dobson said he discussed Miers with Rove on Oct. 1, two days before her nomination was announced. Dobson said Rove told him "she is from a very conservative church, which is almost universally pro-life," but denied he had gotten any assurances from the White House that she would vote to overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

Dobson said Rove told him that Miers had been a member of Texas Right to Life. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said she was not a member of the organization "that I'm aware of."

"My understanding is that she attended some events, some fund-raising events that they had," McClellan said.

Miers bought a $150 ticket to a 1989 fund-raising dinner for another antiabortion group, Texans United for Life, according to the president of the group, now called the Texans for Life Coalition.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said the Senate and the rest of America deserve to know what Dobson and the White House know about Miers.

# Formerly jailed reporter testifies

*It's her 2nd appearance over CIA name leak*

**By Pete Yost**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — New York Times reporter Judith Miller on Wednesday completed her testimony before a grand jury investigating the leak of a CIA officer's name, summoned for a second appearance to discuss a previously undisclosed conversation she had had with Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff.

Miller and her attorney, Robert Bennett, emerged from the courthouse after she gave more than an hour's worth of testimony to grand jurors. Both declined to comment.

The appearance came a day after Miller surrendered previously undisclosed notes on her June 23, 2003, contact with I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Cheney's chief of staff, about former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson.

The Times said she was summoned specifically to discuss the notes and the conversation with Libby. The paper said the reporter has not escaped legal jeopardy yet because prosecutors have not lifted the contempt order that put her in jail for refusing to testify earlier in the investigation. Miller was released from jail Sept. 29 after Libby released her from her promise of source confidentiality, and she agreed to testify.

Libby has testified to the same grand jury. Cheney was interviewed by prosecutors in the criminal investigation more than a year ago.

The special counsel, Patrick Fitzgerald, is investigating whether a crime was committed when administration officials became involved in leaking the identity of Wilson's wife, CIA officer Valerie Plame, in 2003.

At the time, Wilson was among a growing number of critics suggesting the administration had twisted prewar intelligence about Iraq's nuclear weapons programs to exaggerate the threat from then-President Saddam Hussein.


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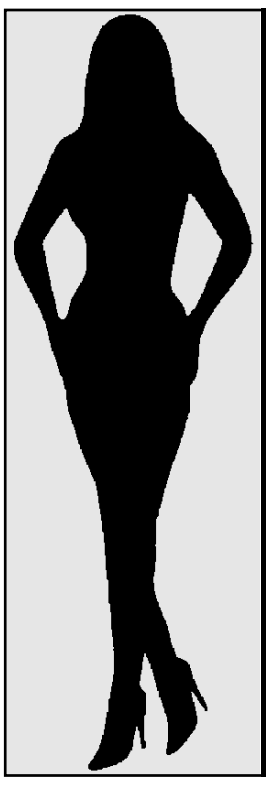
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# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Couple's 16th child may not be their last

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. — Michelle Duggar just delivered her 16th child, and she's already thinking about doing it again. Johannah Faith Duggar was born Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds, 6.5 ounces. The baby's father, Jim Bob Duggar, a former state representative, said Wednesday that mother and child were doing well. He said Johannah's birth was especially exciting because it was the first time in eight years the family has had a girl. Jim Bob Duggar, 40, said he and Michelle, 39, want more children. "We both just love children, and we consider each a blessing from the Lord. I have asked Michelle if she wants more, and she said yes, she will accept them," he said. The Discovery Health Channel filmed Johannah's birth and plans to air a show about the family of 18 next May. The Learning Channel is doing another show about the family's construction project, a 7,000-square-foot house. Michelle Duggar had her first child at age 21.

## Cops: Ga. man took Cessna for joy ride

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA. — A man was arrested on charges of stealing a charter jet and taking it on a 350-mile joy ride from Florida to Georgia, police said Wednesday. The circumstances of the theft were not clear, police spokesman Darren Moloney said. The incident "appears to be a joy ride." Daniel Andrew Wolcott, 22, of Buford, Ga., was charged with felony theft and misdemeanor reckless conduct. Investigators said they made the arrest after interviewing five people who said they were on the 10-passenger, $7 million Cessna Citation 7 when Wolcott flew it. The plane, which is owned by Pinnacle Air, was found Monday at the Gwinnett County Airport-Briscoe Field near Atlanta, police said.

From wire reports

# Priest sex abuse hushed, files say

*Court forces release of Los Angeles records*

**By Laura Wides**
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Newly released records of sex abuse claims against 126 priests that are at the core of hundreds of lawsuits against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles show that church officials for decades moved accused priests between counseling and new assignments.

Attorneys for 500 alleged victims and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles had previously agreed to release the information, but attorneys for accused clergy succeeded in blocking publication, arguing it would violate priests' privacy rights. An appellate court last month ordered the documents to be released after nearly three years of legal wrangling.

The records conform with the pattern of the abuse crisis that erupted in the American church nearly four years ago. In many cases, the church provided years of therapy to accused clergy, believing the men could be rehabilitated, then assigned them to new parishes, which often resulted in new claims against them.

Still, the Los Angeles Archdiocese appears to have so far avoided the damaging full disclosure forced on other American dioceses by judges and grand juries.

Church officials late Tuesday released summaries of their personnel records. By comparison, the files a judge unsealed in the Archdiocese of Boston, where the abuse crisis began in early 2002, contained doctors' reports, memos from diocesan officials about meetings with distraught parents and other details that revealed an insensitivity to victims. The documents enraged Catholics and forced Cardinal Bernard Law to resign as Boston archbishop.

Raymond Boucher, the lead plaintiffs' attorney in Los Angeles, said the newly released information was a first step, but that complete personnel files should be made public.

"The significance of these files is that they provide a little more information for the public about the church's knowledge and frankly their participation in the molestation of children, but until the (entire) files are made public, we're not going to be satisfied," he said.

Archdiocese attorney J. Michael Hennigan called Boucher's concerns that the summaries might be whitewashed "nonsense."

"Ray has not seen the files themselves and has no basis to say that beyond speculation," he said. "These are accurate descriptions of the content of the files, without disclosing confidential communication."

The records cover priests who were ordained as far back as the 1920s. Cardinal Roger Mahony had overseen many of the men. A spokesman for Mahony has repeatedly insisted the cardinal wanted to reveal the information but was barred by confidentiality laws.

David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, accused Mahony of "shameless posturing as some sort of reformer," while he used legal maneuvers to block a full accounting of his role in the crisis.

"Mahony is grasping at straws to convince his flock that he's not as awful as many of his colleagues," Clohessy said. "And as he has for years, Mahony is trying anything he can dream up to avoid having to fully reveal how little he did to safeguard innocent kids from abusive clerics."

The documents offer details in numerous cases, though much of the information has already been published. In many of the files, there was little mention of child molestation. Instead, euphemisms such as "boundary violations" were used to describe the conduct.



# Flu shots slow reaching doctors

*That could be trouble for high-risk patients*

**By Lauran Neergaard**
AP medical writer

WASHINGTON — Delayed vaccine shipments to some health departments and doctors' offices are hindering efforts to protect the highest-risk patients even as grocery stores open mass flu-shot clinics.

Federal health officials insist there will be plenty of vaccine in a few more weeks.

A manufacturer barred from the U.S. market last year, Chiron Corp., is to resume sales soon, a move that is expected to boost the nation's ultimate supply to 91 million doses, said Dr. Ray Strikas of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But until Oct. 24, flu shots were supposed to be reserved for the elderly, babies, people with asthma and others at highest risk. The CDC is getting complaints that many high-risk patients won't be reached by then, leaving them to compete for shots.

A survey of 120 local health departments around the country last week found all but six reporting delays in getting any vaccine or only partial shipments, said Patrick Libbey of the National Association of County & City Health Officials.

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WORLD



AP PHOTO

Pakistani soldiers and civilians carry wounded people from the recent earthquake into a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter to evacuate them back to the capital Islamabad, at an army base in the northern Pakistani town of Muzaffarabad, Wednesday.

# International effort pours food, supplies into Pakistan

*Millions still lack shelter, medicines*

**By Sadaqat Jan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — Rescue efforts gave way to aid relief, as hopes faded Wednesday of finding more survivors in Pakistan's devastated quake zone. Still, miracles emerged amid the misery: A Russian team rescued a 5-year-old girl trapped for nearly 100 hours under the rubble of her family home.

Trucks and helicopters with aid from dozens of countries choked roads up to the crumbling towns of the Himalayan region of Kashmir, but the hungry and homeless in hard-hit areas remained isolated four days after the temblor.

"No country is ready for such a disaster," President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said in a nationally televised address, acknowledging delays in his government response but saying that relief operations were now fully under way.

The 7.6-magnitude quake Saturday demolished whole towns, mostly in Kashmir, divided by a cease-fire line between Indian and Pakistani territories. The death toll was believed to be more than 35,000, with tens of thousands injured.

A strong aftershock shook the capital Islamabad early Thursday, causing buildings to move for a few seconds. It was not immediately clear what the aftershock's magnitude was or if it caused any damage.

U.S., Pakistani, German and Afghan helicopters delivered tents, blankets and medical equipment and brought back dozens of badly injured people on each return flight. The choppers flew in clear skies after stormy weather forced the suspension of flights Tuesday.

"The problem we are seeing right now is that there's so many injured Pakistanis, we just can't take back everyone. We are limited for space," U.S. military spokesman Col. James Yonts said at a base near Islamabad.

At a landing zone in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's portion of Kashmir, doctors selected only the most severely injured for evacuation.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Islamabad, where Pakistani leaders appealed for tents, water, blankets and clearing equipment.

"We will be with you in your hour of need. We will be with you not just today but also tomorrow," Rice said at a news conference with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

Aziz said small aircraft were able to land at the airport in Muzaffarabad, but C-130 transport planes still were only able to airdrop equipment and supplies.

# Embattled Syrian official dies

*Interior minister's death called suicide*

**By Albert Aji**
Associated Press writer

DAMASCUS, SYRIA — Syria's interior minister, who ran Lebanon for many years and was one of several top officials caught up in the U.N. probe of the slaying of that nation's former prime minister, died Wednesday. The country's official news agency said he committed suicide in his office.

The death of Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kenaan, just days before the final U.N. investigation report is due, was a new and startling sign of turmoil in Syria, whose authoritarian regime is girding for the chance that the U.N. report might implicate high-ranking officials in the assassination of former Lebanese premier Rafik Hariri. Hariri was killed by a bomb in February as his convoy drove through Beirut.

Hours before he died, Kenaan, 63, told a Lebanese radio station: "I believe this is the last statement that I can make." He confirmed speaking to U.N. investigators but denied a recent report that he told them about corrupt Syrian officials.

President Bashar Assad told CNN in an interview earlier Wednesday, before Kenaan's death was announced, that if the U.N. murder probe had any material proof of Syrian involvement, those involved would be charged with treason and could be handed over to an international court.

Many Lebanese believe that Syria played a role in Hariri's killing. The Syrian government has denied involvement, but Syria dominated Lebanese political life until mass demonstrations and international pressure forced it to withdraw its troops from Lebanon at the end of April.

The big question in Syria is how long Assad can last if the probe indicates his government played a part in Hariri's death. The regime is not very popular, but it has little opposition and any revolt would likely be pinned on the United States, which Syrians blame for the Iraqi insurgency.




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WORLD

# Chinese get to see latest space launch

**By Joe McDonald**
Associated Press writer

BEIJING — Chinese exulted at their country's second manned space flight Wednesday after the government eased its secrecy and showed the launch of two astronauts on live television, scoring a success in a costly program that communist leaders hope will win them respect abroad and public support at home.

Children in Shanghai watched in class and hundreds of people gathered around a giant video screen at Beijing's main railway station to see astronauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng blast off from a base in China's desert northwest.

"I am feeling really emotional," said a construction worker at the Beijing train station, who would give only his surname, Liu. "This is a proud moment — not only for China, but for Chinese people all over the world, and for humankind."

The flight came two years after China launched its first astronaut into orbit in October 2003, becoming only the third nation able to send a human into space on its own, after Russia and the United States.

None of that flight was telecast live, apparently out of fear that something might go wrong. But on Wednesday, Chinese viewers were allowed to see the liftoff and live scenes of Fei and Nie in their cockpit as they roared skyward.

The manned space program is a key prestige project for the communist government. Chinese leaders hope that patriotic pride at its triumphs will shore up their standing amid wrenching economic change and public anger at corruption and a growing gap between rich and poor.

WAR IN IRAQ

# Compromise gets Sunnis on board

## *Suicide bomber kills 30 Iraqis at army center*

**By Thomas Wagner**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — The speaker of Iraq's parliament said Wednesday that lawmakers had approved a last-minute compromise on the draft constitution aimed at gaining Sunni support just days before a nationwide referendum on the charter.

In ongoing violence aimed at thwarting approval of the document, a suicide bomber killed 30 Iraqis at an army recruiting center in a northwestern town.

The lawmakers gathered for about an hour at a special session of the National Assembly to hear a set of amendments to the constitution that are at the heart of the compromise, which was reached Tuesday night.

The session, attended by 157 of the body's 275 members, ended without a vote on the measure. Parliament speaker Hajim al-Hassani said a vote was not necessary and that the amendments were approved.

"Today with the presence of the National Assembly members, it is considered to be adopted," al-Hassani told The Associated Press. The deal had already been accepted by the main parties in parliament.

Earlier in the day, Iraq's president, prime minister and other leaders praised the compromise, reached after marathon talks among Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish negotiators that were shepherded by U.S. officials.

The deal was meant to address the concerns of Sunnis, who until now have been campaigning to defeat the charter in Saturday's referendum. The breakthrough compromise greatly increase the likelihood that voters will approve it.



AP PHOTO

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, center, joins hands with other officials Wednesday as the Transitional National Assembly approved a set of last-ditch amendments to the proposed constution to win Sunni support.

"The new amendments on the draft open wide horizons and give everyone another chance to have a proportional role to participate in the political process to build the new Iraqi government," al-Hassani said earlier. "The political process in Iraq, in spite of all its many complications, is going forward."

The draft constitution already has been printed by the United Nations, and millions of copies are being distributed to voters. Any new additions probably would have to be announced in the media.

Under the deal, the two sides agreed on a mechanism to consider amending the constitution after it is approved in the nationwide vote. The next parliament, to be formed after Dec. 15 elections, will set up a commission within four months to consider amendments.

The amendments later would have to be approved by the entire parliament and submitted to another referendum two months later.

Sunnis hope to have a larger representation in the next parliament and want to try to water down the autonomous powers that Shiite and Kurdish regions will hold under the constitution's federal system.

But the current additions give no guarantee that the Sunnis will be able to push through the changes in the future, only that they will have the chance to try.

Washington welcomed the compromise as a positive step but cautioned that it would likely do little to quell insurgent violence.

"We have always emphasized the importance of encouraging as broad a participation in the political process as possible. We believe the political process should be inclusive," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

But McClellan added that the Bush administration expected to see "continued violence because the terrorists understand how high the stakes are in Iraq."

Sunnis had feared that the constitution would fragment Iraq because it allows Shiites and Kurds to create mini-states in the oil-rich north and south, leaving Sunnis in a poor central zone.

Sunni-led insurgents have been wreaking violence in a bid to wreck the referendum and scare voters away from the polls. At least 433 people have been killed in militant violence in the last 17 days.

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# PEOPLE

# Actress lays down the Law: Wedding is off

**Compiled by J.E. Bourgoyne**

**Sienna Miller** and **Jude Law** have ended their engagement, months after he apologized for an affair with his children's nanny, according to a published report.

A London-based representative for Miller, who became engaged to her "Alfie" co-star last Christmas, refused comment Wednesday on the story, which was posted on People magazine's Web site. The magazine did not name any sources.



**Jude Law**
Actor's affair with nanny soured engagement



**Sienna Miller**
Actress reportedly seeing Law's friend Daniel Craig

Public Eye, the London firm that represents Miller, said it would not comment on her personal life.

Law's publicist, Simon Halls, also said Wednesday he wouldn't talk about the report.

British media reported this week that Miller, 23, had been seeing Law's friend **Daniel Craig** while Law was fighting to win her back. Miller and Craig appeared together in the 2004 film "Layer Cake."

Miller was quoted last month as saying, "There's nothing going on between me and Daniel. We were in a movie together two years ago."

## The happy couple

**Ashton Kutcher** and **Demi Moore**, who had refused to confirm their Sept. 24 wedding, have opened up their photo album.

Photos published Wednesday by OK! magazine, which paid an undisclosed sum for the pictures, show the couple tying the knot in a Kabbalah ceremony at their Beverly Hills, Calif., home.

Kutcher, 27, is wearing a cream Brooks Brothers suit and a fedora. Moore, 42, is wearing a white Lanvin gown.

Moore's ex-husband, **Bruce Willis**, and their three daughters, **Rumer**, 17, **Scout**, 14, and **Tallulah**, 11, attended the ceremony. Other guests included actor **Wilmer Valderrama**, Kutcher's "That '70s Show" co-star.

It was the first marriage for the actor, whose film credits include "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Guess Who?"

Moore's marriage to Willis ended in 2000. She was married to rocker **Freddie Moore** from 1980 to 1984.

## Cancer fighter

**Joan Kennedy**, former wife of Sen. **Edward Kennedy** and mother of Rep. **Patrick Kennedy**, was recovering Wednesday from breast cancer surgery.

Kennedy, 69, underwent a lumpectomy Tuesday at Massachusetts General Hospital, according to a person close to the family who, at the family's request, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Kennedy will be treated with radiation and was expected to be released from the hospital later Wednesday, the person said.

Sen. Kennedy said that he was optimistic his former wife would beat cancer.

"Joan's a fighter and she has the great love of her children and support of all of us," he said. "We're very hopeful of the outcome. We obviously send her our love and wish her the best."

The surgery comes just months after a legal battle with her children, who argued she was unfit to care for herself due to chronic alcoholism.

The children had temporary guardianship over Kennedy, but sought to make it permanent after she was found passed out on a Boston sidewalk in March with a concussion and broken shoulder.

A settlement, reached in June, calls for two trustees to manage her estate and a guardian to supervise her personal affairs.

## Cheers to baby

**Woody Harrelson**, who plays a father of 10 in the new movie "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio," said he's going to be a real-life dad for a third time.

"The wife is preggers ... and we've narrowed it down to me," he told **David Letterman**, according to an interview transcript.

It will be the third child for Harrelson and his wife, **Laura Louie**.

## Today's birthdays

**Lady Thatcher**, former British prime minister, is 80.
Playwright **Frank D. Gilroy** is 80.
Gospel singer **Shirley Caesar** is 67.
Actress **Melinda Dillon** is 66.
Singer-musician **Paul Simon** is 64.
Actress **Pamela Tiffin** is 63.
Musician **Robert Lamm** (Chicago) is 61.
Actor **Demond Wilson** is 59.
Country singer **Lacy J. Dalton** is 59.
Singer **Marie Osmond** is 46.
Rock singer **Joey Belladonna** (Anthrax) is 45.
Actress **Kelly Preston** is 43.
Country singer **John Wiggins** is 43.
Actress **Tisha Campbell-Martin** is 37.
Olympic silver-medal figure skater **Nancy Kerrigan** is 36.
Country singer **Rhett Akins** is 36.
Rock musician **Jan Van Sichem Junior** (K's Choice) is 33.
Rhythm-and-blues singers **Brian** and **Brandon Casey** (Jagged Edge) are 30.
Singer **Ashanti** is 25.


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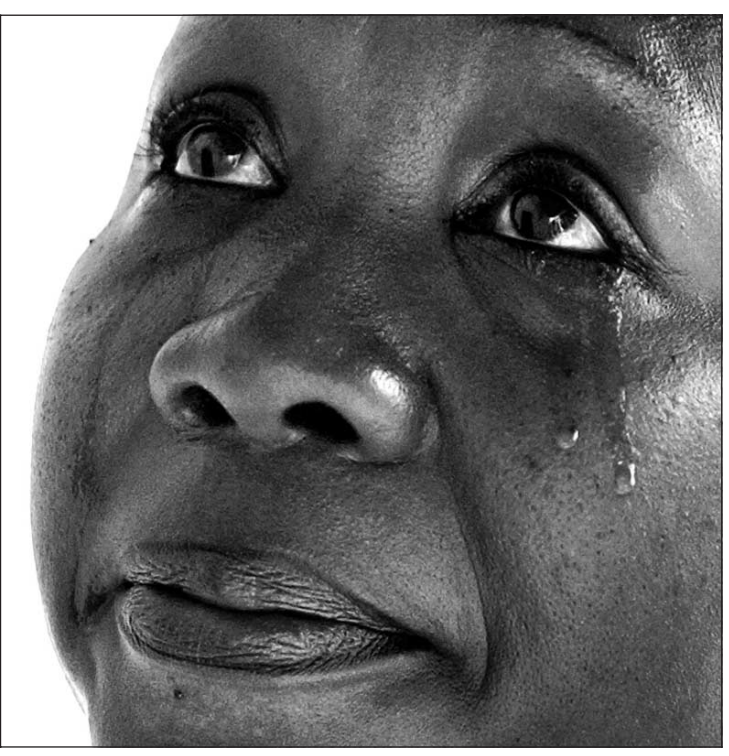
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# Woman hands out cash to help storm victims



'God knew what he was doing,' forcing her to evacuate to Natchitoches, Denise Godbolt said. Since her son died, 'I've never been able to really find peace, but now it's so peaceful, so quiet, and I can think.'



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

Denise Godbolt is comforted one of her dead son's war comrades, Jonathan Meziere, outside her 9th Ward home Wednesday after recovering the flag that draped her son's casket.

**IRAQ,** *from A-1*

to stake out a new life.

As she did in the wake of her son's death, Godbolt seeks divine purpose in this second tragedy. When her son died, she pronounced his funeral, at a now-flooded church a few blocks from his home, "a rejoicing day." Just six months later, she trusts the storm forced her to Natchitoches for good reasons.

"God knew what he was doing," she said. Since her son died, "I've never been able to really find peace, but now it's so peaceful, so quiet, and I can think."

Godbolt probably wouldn't have returned to the 9th Ward at all, except to pluck the treasured artifacts of her son's short life from the mangled, moldy wreckage of her household. Now at the door, the scene overwhelmed her.

"I didn't want to come back," she said, wiping back streams of tears. "That's all his things, . . . his flag, everything. I didn't want to come and see all his things like this."



**Sgt. Lee Godbolt**
Was killed more than six months ago while serving in Iraq

A few minutes later, Godbolt found the neatly boxed flag that had adorned her son's casket. It got a little wet, but it could be cleaned and saved. The next tears were of joy.

"Look! Look!" she said, opening the cover of the triangular box, the flag neatly folded inside. "He knew I was trying to take care of his things; I did the best I could. I carried out as much as I could."

As Meziere and Godbolt's surviving son helped her pull out other salvageable memorials, each was a reason to rejoice: the helmets and battle gear, the medals and certificates, the newspaper clippings, prayers and letters. Through a year of unimaginable hardship, Godbolt has focused on victories, however small. First she turned pain into pride for her son, and now the ruin of her home is turning into the start of a blessed new life.

"Every time I see her, she's got a smile on her face," said Meziere, who works at the National Guard Armory near Godbolt's home in Natchitoches.

### Left at last minute

Denise Godbolt almost didn't leave before the storm. But at the last minute, she yielded to the advice of friends and relatives and took off in the 1994 Cutlass Ciera Lee Godbolt once drove, and that she had since adorned with a painting of his face.

She had the image airbrushed on the car after police recovered it from car thieves. They had stolen it on his birthday, one stark reminder of the how mean her neighborhood could be. Other times, people stole the American flags that she put up in her front yard and on a staircase. At night, she slept with two-by-fours blocking her front and bedroom doors.

After creeping in traffic for eight hours on Airline Drive, the car gave out. One wheel fell off after its lug nuts came loose. She wanted to save the car; she loved that painted hood — even if the car, to anyone else, would have been nothing special. She tried to walk to a roadside emergency call box to phone authorities, but she could barely see. The storm had hit by then, and the wind and rain blinded her.

"I couldn't see. I couldn't walk. The wind was blowing my arms back," she said.

So she hopped into a car with her sister, traveling just ahead of her. She still hasn't found the Oldsmobile, but hopes it will turn up in a State Police impound lot.

Godbolt and her family went first to Alexandria, where they stayed with a friend of her sister, Mae Hagan, in a house with 17 people. Then she moved on to Natchitoches to join Charles. The place struck her as so friendly, so calm, a perfect new home. One woman she met worked at the gas station, the liquor store and the library.

"It's like Mayberry," she said.

Before long, she knew she wasn't coming back. She's rented a trailer that also houses her sister and her family, and family friends.

Godbolt began visiting churches and shelters, handing out money, she and Meziere said. A friend of Meziere's from a Catholic charity in California heard of Godbolt's dual tragedies and sent him $1,000 to give her. She didn't keep a dime, passing out the gift in $200 increments to churches in Natchitoches for the benefit of storm victims. She also donated about $1,000 of her own money, she said.

The clergy were perplexed at a storm victim donating to storm victims, Godbolt said. "I told them my hurricane came six months ago."

### Shared qualities

Lee Godbolt died March 26, as he, Meziere and other soldiers returned to Camp Liberty in Baghdad to retrieve an interpreter. As they parked just outside the gates, a blue Bongo truck, a pickup not much bigger than a golf cart, pulled up next to the vehicle and exploded, detonated by the suicide bomber inside. The blast instantly killed Godbolt and another Louisiana National Guardsman, Sgt. Isiah Sinclair, 31, of Natchitoches.

Lee Godbolt had never worried, and never seemed to show fear — if he even felt it, Meziere said.

"He was funny, laid-back. You could never get mad at him," Meziere said, pointing at a clipped newspaper photo that showed Godbolt lying on a lawn in bright sunshine, smiling and goofing off. "That's Lee," Meziere said.

Meziere sees many of the same qualities in his buddy's mother, and the two of them have become close.

Her ability to smile even while cleaning out her ruined home reminded him of the first time he met her, on leave from Iraq shortly after Lee Godbolt died.

Meziere had come to console a mother on behalf of her fallen son. It didn't work out that way.

"She ended up consoling me," he said.

Wednesday, she was the same, taking breaks to talk and trade hugs with visiting relatives, friends and neighbors. She often put her own troubles aside to offer encouraging words to those more beaten down by the storm.

"Did you see your church?" friend Janie Marchaud asked her.

Denise Godbolt nodded, knowing Philadelphia Ministries, just a few blocks away, resembled her devastated home.

"I'm still trying to wake up. It's like a nightmare," Marchaud, tears welling in her eyes, told Godbolt as they traded hugs.

As the hours passed and the soldier's mother salvaged more mementos, her face brightened and her tears dried. After enduring a war that took her son and a storm that took her home, any obstacle that lay ahead will seem like a blessing, she said.

"It hit me below the belt for a few minutes," she said of her first view of the house. "But I'm coming around. This isn't my home — I'm just passing through. I just came to pick up a few of his little things. But he lives in my heart. This old world can't take that away from me, and it can't take away my happiness and my joy."

.....

Brian Thevenot can be reached at bthevenot@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3482.

# Some vow to rebuild; others see no point

**9TH WARD,** *from A-1*

Street house, to the hurricane. His residence in eastern New Orleans was washed out, too, along with his hopes for rebuilding the hardest-hit parts of the city.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Barard bought a house in the Lower 9th when he got married and began to raise a family. But Katrina did him in.

But even before the storm, he said, the quality of life in the city had been steadily declining. "If my kids were small, I wouldn't raise them here," said Barard, who retired five years ago after 23 years in the transportation department of Lockheed Martin.

A few blocks away on St. Maurice Street stood Troy Green, 28, who was figuring he could rebuild his flood- and wind-damaged double, along with his barbershop on the first floor near the garages. But he doesn't want to live in New Orleans anymore.

"I think my house could be fixed. I did a lot of work on it myself," Green said, lugging out possessions to his front porch. "I probably wouldn't stay here, not in Orleans Parish. Probably Jefferson Parish, on the west bank."

### A bleak picture

The Lower 9th, a predominantly African-American community where 36 percent of the population lived below the poverty line and a quarter of households had income of less than $10,000, sits in ruin. Its families are scattered in different states, and in different states of employment and financial standings. Some have said goodbye for good. Others vow to come back. Someday.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson chose

*See* **9TH WARD,** *A-15*


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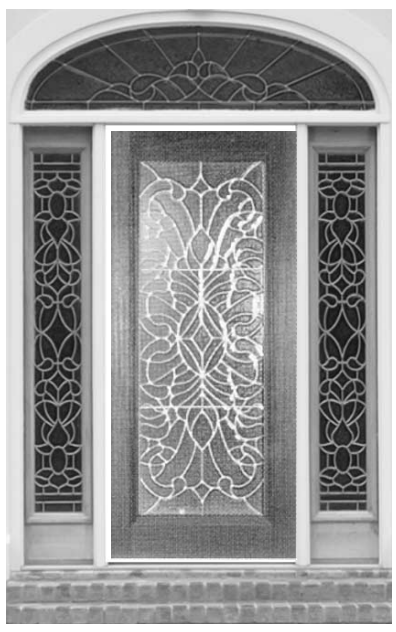


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Please be advised that a hearing will be convened before the Independent Hearing Officer on October 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) to determine if the emergency trusteeship imposed over Local Union 689 by the International Union on September 20, 2005, shall continue.
Trusteeship was imposed in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina to assist Local Union 689 to locate our members, refer our members to work, protect the Local Union and its assets, and assure that the rights and interests of our members are served and protected during this crisis.
The hearing will be conducted via telephone at 2:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time). Any member wishing to participate in this hearing may call toll free 1-800-423-1988 and provide the operator with the following code (788833). Once you have joined the call, you will be asked to identify yourself and to provide your membership number if possible. Members may also make written submissions in advance of the hearing to the following address: Peter F. Vaira, Esq., Independent Hearing Officer, Suite 2650, 1600 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.



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# Returnees still blocked from part of 9th Ward

**9TH WARD,** *from A-14*

the Lower 9th as a pulpit for his plan to bring back New Orleanians to the city as it is rebuilt.

"Jobs are here," Jackson said Wednesday at a news conference off Caffin Avenue, where he delivered a busload of about 200 people back to the city, though he has since acknowledged that at least 150 of the 200 people he bused into New Orleans were not local evacuees and that most were not even from southeast Louisiana. "For the most part, housing is not."

The Lower 9th on Wednesday was a dusty, bleached-brown picture, covered with drying, cracked sludge left over from the filthy floodwater that only recently receded. Entire houses have disappeared, and others are peeling off their foundations. Children's tricycles are stuck in chain-link fences. Cars are ruined. Power lines, garbage and God knows what else cover streets near the Industrial Canal, where the water breached the levee.

Electricity and water service aren't back, and Mayor Ray Nagin had the National Guard and city police block off the worst-hit part of the area.

## Coming home

Beverly Ladmirault, who bought her home on Egania Street after Hurricane Betsy pummeled the Lower 9th Ward in 1965, said her home didn't appear to have structural damage. However, her brother, Earl Johnson, was unable to get into the house he bought 30 years ago, in the 6400 block of North Johnson Street, because of the still-horrid conditions.

The Lower 9th should be rebuilt, Ladmirault said. "Of course. All my sisters and brothers, we all live here," she said. "Everybody's house is underwater. Thank goodness my son moved to Picayune, Miss., last year. I'm able to stay with him."

Many former Lower 9th Ward residents, homeowners in one of the city's poorest corners, have already moved on to new lives in Texas and other states.

"I love it," Keokuk Lewis said of Hurst, Texas, her family's new home. "It's quiet and big. And there's not a liquor store and fried-chicken stand on every corner."

Lewis, a licensed practical nurse, and her husband, Reginald, a truck driver, are optimistic about landing jobs in Texas and shopping for a new home. "You can buy more house for your money in Texas," Lewis said. "One-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars in Texas could get me 2,000 square feet, custom built. One-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars can't get me nothing in New Orleans."

Her mother, Celestine James, also owned a home in the Lower 9th, next to four empty lots.

"Where am I going to live at?" James said of New Orleans. "The mayor's telling me to come back. What am I coming back to? Everybody don't live on Bourbon Street."

## 'No plan for return'

Jackson called on the Federal Emergency Management Agency to place trailers in City Park and on golf courses and military bases to help displaced residents start over near home. People could still vote in Orleans Parish and travel for work and family obligations, he said.

"Just as there was no plan for rescue or relocation, there is no plan for return," Jackson said.

James' plan doesn't include returning.

She grew up in the Desire public housing complex and raised her children in the Lower 9th Ward. But over the years she watched the historic neighborhood turn into a haven for drugs and crime, she said, without even a decent sit-down restaurant. James, also a nurse, said she will miss her hometown but is eager to start fresh in Texas.

"I love New Orleans," she said. "But I see now, this showed me I can go somewhere else and I can live. I can make it."

Mark Brink's muffler shop at 5229 St. Claude Ave. isn't going anywhere, though. Brink and his older brother, Freddie Brink III, swept and shoveled out debris from the building, which took 5 ½ feet of water from Katrina. They talked about a new line of business: Buying catalytic converters from wrecked cars and trucks to resell the bit of platinum inside each one.

"From Claiborne to the river is OK," Mark said of the Lower 9th Ward, where he has run the shop since 1984. "I'm going to focus on recycling the catalytic converters and do mufflers on the side."

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# Plan is to restore levees before June

**LEVEES,** *from A-1*

part of the corps' effort to restore pre-Katrina levels of storm-surge protection to the city by the start of the 2006 hurricane season in June, a schedule political leaders consider key to protecting and reassuring the public that it is safe to return to and live in the city. Baumy said the effort could cost $400 million.

Katrina's storm surge did a number on the region's levees, overflowing some and bursting through others. Concrete-and-steel floodwalls along canals and waterways sustained more than two dozen breaches, according to an engineering survey completed last week.

## Learning about weakness

The steel-and-reinforced-concrete vertical wall used along many local waterways, known as an "I-wall" design, has proved to be unexpectedly weak in many areas, including the 17th Street and London Avenue drainage canals. There, engineers who have studied the breaches believe that sections collapsed without being topped by storm-surge waters, pointing to a possible role for human error of design, construction or maintenance in the flooding of large portions of the city.

But even in other areas where floodwaters topped levees, engineers surveying the damage said last week they are concerned with the high number of breaches and apparent weaknesses in the system.

Robert Bea, a geotechnical engineer at the University of California, Berkeley, who is on a National Science Foundation team investigating the breaches, said the corps is applying knowledge about weak soil conditions gained from the failures.

"They are alert to deeper, weaker (soil) layers and are trying to compensate for that," he said. "A levee is like a chain, and it will break at its weakest link."

For example, the documents show the corps intends to demolish a particularly vulnerable half-mile-long section of the floodwall along the Intracoastal Waterway south of eastern New Orleans, where storm surge topped the wall, then breached or moved multiple concrete sections. The old I-wall section will be replaced with a fortified "kicker pile wall."

## Much deeper base

The old wall's sheet pile base is 12.5 feet deep. The new wall's base will be 45 feet deep. Instead of a simple vertical wall, the concrete wall section will be an inverted L-shape, anchored by the sheet pile and additional reinforced concrete piles driven diagonally into the ground.

In an adjacent breached area, plans call for replacing a wall with a sheet pile base 5 feet deep with 20-foot-deep piling.

The engineering challenges for the effort are significant. In some cases, topping eroded the normally dry side of the wall, scouring a hole 25 or 30 feet deep that is now packed with sandbags and other fill material that will have to be removed.

"That disturbed the site conditions quite a bit," Baumy said "So we tried to drive them (the sheet piles) down much deeper to cut off any seepage problems. It's a crude way of sealing a breach, dropping sandbags from a helicopter."

Don Basham, the corps' chief of engineering and construction, said Katrina's damage had weakened entire levee structures, making it unwise to just restore the previous configuration

"You've got whole different foundation characteristics to start from, so it starts you looking to a whole new set of parameters of how to replace that wall," he said.

The corps has not yet made public proposed designs to repair the 17th Street and London Avenue canal breaches. Baumy said designers were still working but that they expected to have them out within weeks. Corps officials have said they want to learn more about the floodwall failures before they repair the breaches in case the investigation reveals design flaws that could lead to a failure next year.

## Speed is an issue

Interim plans for the 17th Street and London Avenue canals call for a temporary sheet-pile dam connected to the existing concrete wall, extending 50 feet out into the canal and running parallel to the breached area. That will allow the corps to dredge the area and study what went wrong, then keep it dry while a new wall section is built, Baumy said.

The new sheet pile depth for the 17th Street Canal is 45 feet. Documents for the London Avenue Canal were not available. Corps officials have not said what the old sheet pile depth is in the canal flood walls, but Bea said that based on his observations, it might be 10 to 20 feet.

Bea said he was concerned with the speed at which the corps is moving ahead with the new designs, fearing it could lead to trouble down the road. "When I see that sort of scrambling, I worry," he said.

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# Ill wind won't kill Mardi Gras spirit

**CARNIVAL,** *from A-1*

the 30-minute discussion.

But in an e-mail late Wednesday, Nagin said he was buoyed by the interest of so many krewes in rolling next year. "This shows the spirit of our city when so many people who have already experienced loss are willing to ensure together on their own to ensure that the 150th Mardi Gras is not defeated by Katrina," he said.

Next year's Carnival season kicks off Jan. 6 and culminates on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28.

But many officials have speculated whether a storm-ravaged city that has slashed 3,000 jobs and watched its tax revenue evaporate can handle the expense and logistics associated with Carnival.

The message from krewe leaders was that New Orleans can't afford not to hold the event.

Bill Grace, a former Rex who leads the Mayor's Mardi Gras Advisory Committee, said there are practical reasons to keep the 150-year-old tradition alive, citing economic impact studies showing that Carnival produces $900 million in annual spending and more than $50 million in direct tax benefits to government.

"But it also would be symbolic," Grace said, "to let everyone know this city is back on its feet and ready to invite people back."

That sentiment was echoed by Stephen Perry, president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, who joined the krewe captains, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, float builder Blaine Kern and Carnival historian Arthur Hardy in the presentation.

In addition to providing a "reaffirmation of our culture and history," Perry said a Carnival next year will "put people back in our hotels, back in our restaurants."

All told, leaders of 24 of the krewes that paraded this year in Orleans Parish have said they would like to give it a go next year.

Kern, whose Mardi Gras World tourist attraction in Algiers has been serving as a makeshift military outpost, said he is confident the city will find many out-of-towners willing to fill in for locals who won't be in a position financially to participate in the big party next year.

"I've been approached by hundreds of firefighters, police, nurses, doctors and military personnel who want to come back and ride," he said.

Before the city can greenlight a parade season, council members acknowledged that a number of issues must be addressed, including assurance from the Police Department that New Orleans can provide adequate security for locals and visitors alike.

Council President Oliver Thomas said he thinks public safety can be ensured by calling on the National Guard, the State Police and suburban law enforcement agencies to help out a beleaguered New Orleans Police Department.

Sgt. Joe Valiente, the department's chief liaison with Carnival krewes, told the council that he thinks interim Police Superintendent Warren Riley is in "full support" of a 2006 Carnival season.

When Valiente said he could put together a plan of action in about three weeks if the council gives the NOPD a mandate to do so, Thomas shot back, "Mandate!" A second later, Councilman Jay Batt, who invited the Carnival community to appear, added, "You got it!"

With some krewes likely to be facing their own financial difficulties, the council is expected to waive rules that require a minimum numbers of riders, floats and marching bands. Those regulations were established several years ago to guard against krewes staging shoddy productions.

Other concerns expressed by krewes include parade routes, the piggybacking of parades, the availability of hotel rooms and the condition of Carnival ball venues such as the Morris F.X. Jeff Municipal Auditorium and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Perhaps the most nettlesome question will be whether the city will be forced to slay the most sacred of cows: New Orleans' prohibition against the commercialization of Carnival. In recent years, suburban parishes have allowed businesses to sponsor floats and riders to toss doubloons and certificates that can be redeemed for free or reduced-price products.

New Orleans, however, has been steadfast in opposing the practice.

But Councilman Eddie Sapir said the extraordinary situation that the financially crippled city finds itself in may call for the council to revisit the ban.

"We never want to commercialize Mardi Gras," Sapir said.

But he said that if everyone involved is "very clever and we don't cross that line, we may be able to get millions of dollars from sponsors this year and this year only."

Though he has no clear plan in mind at this time, Sapir said there might be a way for corporations to write checks to the appropriate (city) departments to help out.

"I think we can find plenty, plenty good, clean sponsors for a good, clean event," he said.

Grace said his advisory committee plans to meet later this month and report back to the council on what type of "flexibility" might be needed to get parades rolling.

Landrieu, whose position places him in control of the state's Culture, Recreation and Tourism department, said holding a Carnival season in 2006 will demonstrate that the city is capable of staging other big events, from the Jazz & Heritage Festival to the Zurich Classic golf tournament.

"Mardi Gras embodies everything we're about," Landrieu said, "from the frivolousness of how we deal with things to the earnestness of how we deal with things."

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# N.O. City Council defers vote on resident rule

By Bruce Eggler
Staff writer

With little discussion, the New Orleans City Council voted 4-2 Wednesday to defer for six months a vote on the explosive issue of whether to relax the city's residency requirement for police officers.

Council members Renee Gill Pratt, Cynthia Hedge Morrell, Eddie Sapir and Cynthia Willard-Lewis voted to defer the issue over the objections of Jay Batt and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. Council President Oliver Thomas was absent for the vote.

Under current law, all city employees, including police, must have their "domicile," or principal residence, in the city in order to be hired or promoted. Workers already on the payroll are allowed to continue living outside Orleans Parish but are ineligible for promotion unless they relocate.

Debate on the issue has followed racial lines to a large extent. Black people have traditionally been more apt to support the residency requirement, and white people more apt to oppose it. New Orleans' population is about two-thirds black, while its suburbs are mostly white, and some supporters of the requirement fear that lifting it could lead to an increase in the percentage of police officers who are white.

Citing the extensive damage to the city's housing caused by Hurricane Katrina, Batt had proposed an ordinance saying that suspending the requirement for police was "necessary to retain and recruit law enforcement officers."

Clarkson wanted to amend the ordinance to make firefighters, emergency medical service workers and Sewerage & Water Board employees also exempt from the domicile requirement. But the council voted to defer action on her amendment as well as Batt's ordinance for six months.

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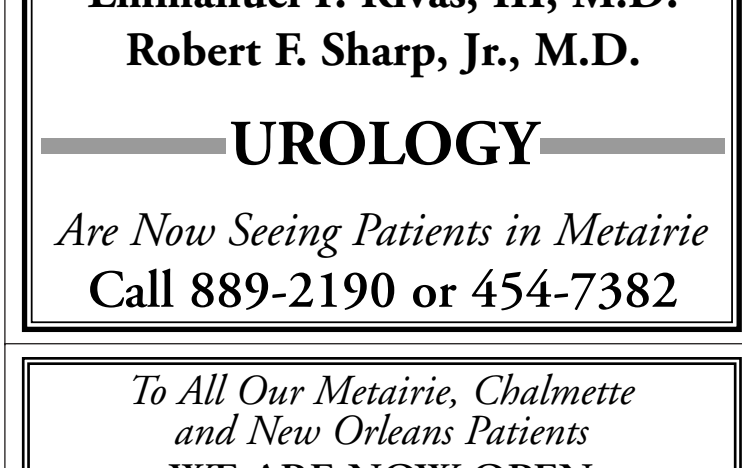
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# Evacuee goes from the Big Easy to the Big Freezy

## *Local woman finds refuge in Alaska*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

New Orleans native Gloria Williams enjoys the view of the snow-capped mountains near Anchorage, Alaska, but she hopes her exile in the Land of the Midnight Sun will set with a sweet homecoming.

Alaska is beautiful, Williams said Wednesday by phone, with its crisp air, warm hearts and native cultures. But for the 66-year-old nursing supervisor, New Orleans is home, though water-warped, near-lifeless and more than 3,000 miles away.

**"But the minute I can move back, I will. I lived my life there. New Orleans is home, and I'm going back home. But by the grace of God, I made it out."**
GLORIA WILLIAMS

"For diehards like me, that have something to go home to, we're coming home," Williams said. "I love New Orleans. We're not a dying breed at this point, not yet."

She misses her pre-Katrina routine: waking just after 4 a.m. each day, opening the doors of the Delgado STD clinic just after 6 a.m., shutting down at 4:30 p.m. Once home she'd sweep the porch and sidewalk of her Short Street home in Carrollton. Then it would be off to St. Francis De Sales for dance practice or Bible study.

"You never know what you have until you don't have it," she said. "You don't know how soothing it was for me. My job, church." All that has changed. Now she takes her morning walks and entertains fantasies of returning home one day.

### Long, strange trip

Wednesday about 10 a.m., Williams gazed from a window of her eldest son's Anchorage apartment, smiling upon a mountainous horizon that was dashed with white tops and cloudy halos. The scene is much softer than those seared into her mind, from her last days in New Orleans, where she worked as part of a first-response team inside the Superdome.

She expected to be there only a few days, so when she arrived Sunday morning, all she had in hand was a few uniforms and enough diabetes medicine to last a couple of days.

Soon, floodwaters around the Dome rose, and the number of evacuees inside swelled to dangerous levels. The lights and air conditioning had failed. By Tuesday, the group had decided to gather a few needy patients and head across the street to the New Orleans Arena, where they stayed until Thursday.

Williams' medicine was running extremely low. Her normal dose, a pill in the morning and one at night, was cut in half. To preserve her pills, she pinched some down the middle, nibbling on one pill throughout the day. She ate crackers and drank water to survive. National Guardsmen arrived that Friday and airlifted the group to safe ground, where they boarded buses for Dallas. At the time, Williams had no idea where she was going, how her 47-year-old son had fared in the flood or where she was going to find medicine to stave off "diabetic fits."

"All I had was $5 in my pocket and four dirty uniforms," she said. Once in Dallas, a doctor in the group booked a room. She found a phone and called her son, who asked her to come to Alaska.

Her son, Andre Williams, 50, placed "a million" phone calls and located his younger brother, Darrius Jones, 47, to soothe his mother's soul. Jones had evacuated to Baton Rouge with relatives. Jones, who moved in with his mother this year from Atlanta, fled their home once water began to seep into their garage. He took his mother's Toyota and fled the city. Jones grabbed some jewelry, his mother's purse and the boom box she used for dance practice before leaving. The car, with the items inside, was stolen in Baton Rouge, he later told his mother.

"I wasn't going anywhere without knowing where my youngest son was," she said in a motherly manner.

Andre Williams arranged for a plane ticket to be waiting for his mother the next morning. During a layover in Las Vegas, she broke down in tears. Her city was underwater, and her future seemed just as soggy.

"New Orleans was chaotic, such a mess," she said, breaking down in tears. "I didn't want to leave the way I did."

Williams understood that she couldn't go home. She was going to Anchorage, and that was it. Home wasn't an option. As she cried, walking to the gate of her flight to Alaska, a young woman with a cell phone pinned to her ear placed a hand on her back.

"She said everything's going to be all right," Williams said. "The blessed young thing."

### Kindness of a stranger

Williams appreciated the gesture and kept on her way. She found a seat in the waiting area, cracked a newspaper and cried some more. The woman came back 20 minutes later. She said her mother was a nurse in Seattle. She asked Williams for the address to where she'd be staying in Alaska. Williams assumed the nice young woman wanted to check on her, knowing she was being displaced by Katrina.

The woman picked up her cell phone and walked away chattering into it. "She came over to me not long after and said 'I travel a lot by air, so I have some extra miles.' "

A week later, an envelope addressed to Williams arrived at her son's one-bedroom apartment. Written on a note inside the envelope, the woman detailed how she had made arrangements for Williams to fly home once New Orleans was opened for residents to return.

"To check on stuff," Williams said the woman wrote. "Not only did she give me air fare to New Orleans, she gave me a ticket to come back to Alaska if things didn't work out," Williams said. She said she read the letter that day and cried.

Williams' journey has led her 3,411 miles from home to a place where the culture and climate could not be more different from New Orleans.

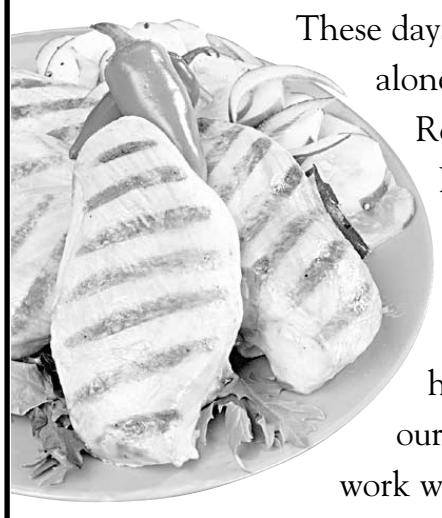
"I can see the snow-capped mountains, see true native Eskimos, native Indians. And everybody is just warm and openhearted. It's like everyone is trying so hard to help you," Williams said. "But the minute I can move back, I will. I lived my life there. New Orleans is home, and I'm going back home. But by the grace of God, I made it out."

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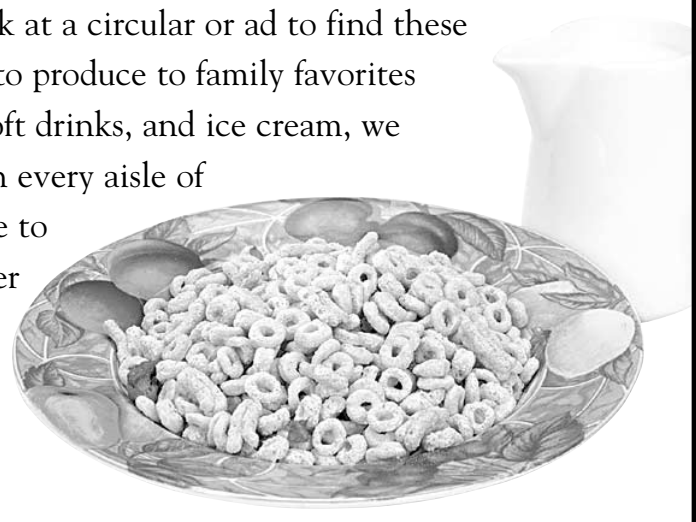


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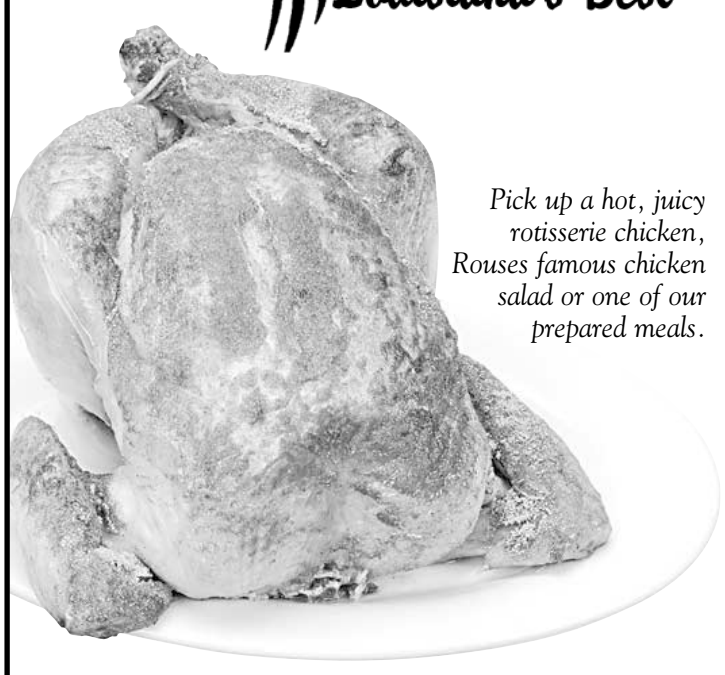


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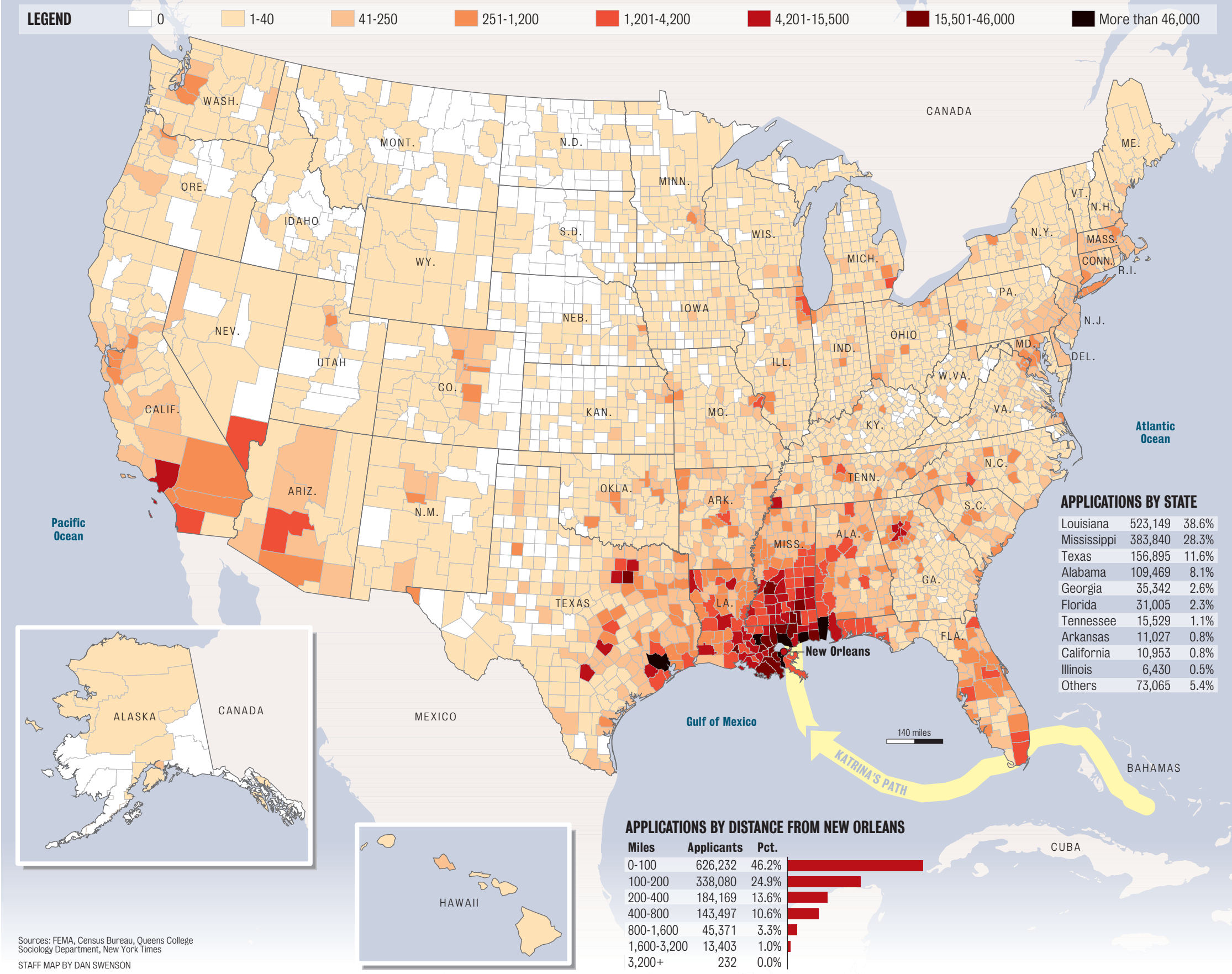
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# KATRINA'S EXODUS

The displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina have filed for disaster assistance with FEMA in nearly every county in every state. A look at the distribution of 1.36 million individual applicants who registered with FEMA:




## APPLICATIONS BY STATE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Louisiana | 523,149 | 38.6% |
| Mississippi | 383,840 | 28.3% |
| Texas | 156,895 | 11.6% |
| Alabama | 109,469 | 8.1% |
| Georgia | 35,342 | 2.6% |
| Florida | 31,005 | 2.3% |
| Tennessee | 15,529 | 1.1% |
| Arkansas | 11,027 | 0.8% |
| California | 10,953 | 0.8% |
| Illinois | 6,430 | 0.5% |
| Others | 73,065 | 5.4% |

## APPLICATIONS BY DISTANCE FROM NEW ORLEANS

| Miles | Applicants | Pct. |
|---|---|---|
| 0-100 | 626,232 | 46.2% |
| 100-200 | 338,080 | 24.9% |
| 200-400 | 184,169 | 13.6% |
| 400-800 | 143,497 | 10.6% |
| 800-1,600 | 45,371 | 3.3% |
| 1,600-3,200 | 13,403 | 1.0% |
| 3,200+ | 232 | 0.0% |

Sources: FEMA, Census Bureau, Queens College Sociology Department, New York Times

STAFF MAP BY DAN SWENSON

# 'I haven't had a bad meal here yet'

**EVACUEES,** *from A-1*

ing out a tire and then blowing out the spare on our way out. Then up to New York, through Massachusetts and on to my sister's summer house in Kennebunkport for a while until we ended up here, in Bar Harbor, Maine, which is where I grew up."

In the wake of the storm, residents of the New Orleans area remain scattered across all 50 states, with high concentrations of residents across the South and in major metropolitan areas, according to a map showing where hundreds of thousands of Katrina evacuees have applied for federal assistance.

From Oahu, Hawaii, to the deepest regions of New England, most selected their evacuation locations based on where they had family or close friends. Some now say they're desperate to return, while others have turned their evacuation into a vacation, or "evacu-cation." Still others don't think they'll ever return and are now signing mortgage papers in their new communities.

"We ended up in Hawaii, because we have friends there," Uptowner Kristin Isenberg said. "And they gave us a call after the storm, and they said, 'Why don't you come stay with us? You can enroll the kids in school and stay as long as you need.' We were originally thinking about going to stay with my husband's family, but Hawaii just sounded a little more pleasant than Albany, New York. And I said, 'This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Let's go stay in Hawaii for a couple months and make lemons into lemonade.' And it's been wonderful."

Loyola University philosophy professor and temporary Albany resident Terence Hoyt said he has no complaints.

"I like it," he said from his parents' house in the upstate New York town. "I think it's one of the nicest places in the country to live in, particularly in the fall."

Though O'Connor, Isenberg and Hoyt all said they're planning to make their way back to the city in the weeks or months ahead, others won't be so quick to return.

### Setting down roots

Joe Doucette, an Uptowner before the storm, just got approval for a mortgage on a house in Charlotte, N.C., and said he won't even be thinking about coming back for at least a year.

"We have a 2-year-old, and we have to take that into major consideration," he said. "If we didn't have her, I think we'd be stuck in down there or at least more likely to go back."

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin previously asked parents to think carefully about returning to the city with children.

If he feels the city's ready, Doucette, a contractor, said he can always turn around the Charlotte house he's planning to fix up for a profit in a year. If not, he said, that's OK too.

"Charlotte's a nice place," he said. "I haven't had a bad meal here yet."

His friend Ted Sheppard, who was planning to team up with Doucette for some contracting work before Katrina, said he's comfortable with his family in Savannah, Ga., and unlikely to return.

"I don't think it's going to be a place for my children, and, even when it is, I think it's going to take a really long time for that to happen. And when it does happen, we'll probably be pretty well settled here," he said.

That said, Sheppard said he's planning to fix up his Broadmoor home, which took 6 feet of water, and either base his business from there or rent it out.

"I want to be part of the effort to rebuild New Orleans," he said.

### Sense of place

Sociologists say residents' decisions to return are based on a variety of factors, not the least of which is their attachment to the city.

"If you lived in Chicago or

*See* **EVACUEES,** *A-22*

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### 1440 Slidell

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**Enviro-Cure Services,** Inc. providing 25 years of bio-contaminant mitigation to government, residential, and insurance industry. 1-877-700-4-MOLD. www.Mold-Be-Gone.com/www.Aenvirocure.com

**EYE CARE** by Schimek M.D. 474 Metairie Rd. EYE exams, optical, contacts 504-834-5858 OPEN

**FEMA AND** SBA pkg. Having problems filing w/ FEMA & SBA? I can help! CAll Richard Lassalle Tax & accounting consulting 504-957-9238

**Photographer Digital** images of property on CD's. $25/property. 504-885-8343

**RGA Environmental,** Inc. Moisture & Mold Testing; Asbestos Consulting: Insurance Assessments; Remediation Planning: Worker Health & Safety. Call Maggie Carrington 504-818-8807 or 800-776-5696

### 2440 Refrigeration

**Residential &** Commercial Refrigeration & A/C repairs. CJ Roth Maint. 504-339-2926

### 2445 Remodeling/ Renovations

**FLOODED? Moisture** check with meter before sheet rocking. Dried with turbo blowers & dehumidifiers. 504-834-7880 or 985-727-3112 or cell 404-245-4922

**HOUSE LEVELING,** house gutting, roofing/repair, mold removal. Call 225-268-6276

**SHEETROCK and** carpet removal, air duct sanitizing and odor removal, credit cards accepted. 504-343-5445

**STORM DAMAGE** CLEAN-UP Sheetrocking & remodeling. High-Tech LLC 504-259-6608

### 2450 Roofing & Guttering

**LOCAL ROOFING** ***FREE ESTIMATES*** All Types of Roofing. *Roofs Avail w/in 2-3 weeks* We Also Do Gutters. Tarping Available. Competitive Pricing Licensed & Insured. 1-866-551-ROOF

**A+ ROOFING** SERVICES Free Estimates/Fully Insured 504-392-8328/504-452-9552

**FAST Expert** Roof Repair and Re-Roof. Southern Roofing and Construction 504-710-2126

**General Contractor/Commerical** Roofer L.A. Lic# 28019 specializing in commercial and public construction and reconstruction. For info call Horizon Group at (504)400-7978 or visit us at www.hgne.com

**J&J RENOVATION** SERVICE Roofing, building, & remod. Free Est. Lic/ins 504-208-0799/638-5315

**MR. ROOF** RATED 1ST CLASS, QUALITY, DEPENDABLE, AFFORDABLE SERVICE. 504-715-9497

**RE-ROOFING FLATS** AND REPAIRS. Phil 504-390-8045 or 228-216-8045

**ROOF REPAIRS** All types, 30 years experience, free estimates. 504-460-8173

**ROOF Repairs** starting at $85. Local company, slate, tile and shingles. All work guaranteed. 985-809-0502

**ROOFING Established** local contractor, fully lic. and insured, Insurance Co. approved, member Home Builders Assoc. of Greater New Orleans, all types of roofing, metal work, fencing. List starting now. Fairway Development Corp. 504-833-7259

**ROOFMASTERS ROOFING-any** & all roofing jobs/siding/metal/woodwork. 1-225-756-5449 or 1-866-466-2557

**SMALL ROOF** REPAIRS Flat & Shingles. Metairre, Kenner, Riverridge & Harahan. 504-952-3507

### 2460 Siding

**B &** C SIDING Siding, overhang, windows and custom work. Over 20 years of experience! Call Sam at 504-388-9854

**PAYLESS SIDING** AND REPAIRS, Also Hurricane clean-up, Please Call 504-818-0142

### 2495 Telephones

**LAN-TEL, voice** and data services. Telephone and data wiring, Jacks replaced. 504-920-3600

**NORTHSTAR Telephone** System, 8 lines, up to 32 extensions, auto attendant and voice mail, $2500. Installation available. 504-259-0008

### 2496 Transportation

**150 PERSON** QUARTER BARGES, LEASE OR CHARTER, PASSENGER & VEHICLE FERRIES, DIESEL GENERATORS, 60KW TO 1000 KW CALL AMERICAN MARINE YACHT BROKERS INC. 321-480-3500, 321-868-0007

**A REGAL** LIMOUSINE DAILY TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM BATON ROUGE, HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE OR HOUSTON. CALL FOR RATES 800-887-3352

**AIR BOATS** FOR HIRE, All Sizes, Please Call 504-416-2646 or 504-392-9292

**MINIFLOAT Available** now. Can haul up to 20,000 pounds Call 985-871-8871.

### 2499 Welding

**Mobile Welding** Service. Fully equipped, steel demolition, fabrication, repairs. Licensed, insured, certified. Please call 504-495-5645, 504-889-0155

### 2500 Miscellaneous

**Apron Inventory** available! 6 colors, hand bags and canvas bags available. We are a textile manufacturer open for business in Kenner. 504-468-2343

**CARGO CONTAINER** 8'x8'x20' DELIVERED $3,300 CASH 281-702-9303

**Cargo Container** 8x8x20ft. Delivered, $3300 cash. Please call 281-702-9303

**Cleaning Crews,** residential, reasonable rates. 850-390-6989

**Dari-Eaz Commercial** Dehumidifiers & Air Movers Lease or Rent Call for Details Yamira 787-781-4260 x15

**Expert photo** restoration. Katrina discount. Eric Hatch Photo, 513-494-2625 or email info@ekhphoto.com

**For a** FAST & FAIR Ins. settlement Call ACS Claims Consultants, we work 4 U! 1-866-482-6326

**For Flood** Insurance call the National Flood Insurance Agency at 1-800-914-7910

**Hurricane clean-up** supplies, personal protective equip., gloves/bags/rags/boots/respirators/fall protection/safety vests, mold remediation products. Distribution Int'l in New Orleans/St Rose at 504-468-1800

**NEED SIGNS** FAST! 12x18 signs as low as $5.00/ea. Call 504-455-1756

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT** New & Used. Cresco/Resco, huge inventory, ready to ship. 800-343-4320

**WORKPLACE HEALTH** AND SAFETY TRAINING authorized OSHA, general industry, and construction trainers available to train employees on site. Customer Service and Supervisory trainers also available. Please fax your requirements to 985-764-1154 or call Charlotte 504-234-6676

## EMPLOYMENT

### 4010 Accounting & Bookkeeping

**ACCOUNTANT/HUMAN RESOURCES** MANAGER Quickbooks, billing, A/R, A/P in Human Resources experience needed for Metairie, LA CPA firm. Competitive salary + benefits. Send resume by fax to 504-837-0123 or email prebowe@rebowe.com.

**AR Clerk,** Deposits, Collections Calls, Data Entry, Filing, Phones, jgaubert@steamsolutions.com, Fax: 504-523-3688

**AUDITOR Est** Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** Seeks Part time Bookkeeper/ Secretary with knowledge of Quickbooks, Peachtree, and Word Processing. Fax resume: 504-838-0287

**CONSULTANT Knowledgeable** in MAS90/200 w/ strong comp. skills, 3-5 yrs exp., incl. sal. hist. Health/Life/Dental. Resume: PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 70001, Email: lajobs@bellsouth.net

**CORPORATE TAX** - BATON ROUGE, Baton Rouge co. seeks indiv. with solid Public Accounting or Corporate Tax background. Salary up to mid $50's. Email to ckerth@personnel-group.com

**Degreed Accountant** with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

**East Bank** manufacturing co seeks Accountant or Bookkeeper to manage finances. Min 10 yrs experience. Fax resume to 713-812-3555 or email to dw77024@yahoo.com

**EXCITING RESTAURANT** ACCOUNTING Company looking for A/P Clerk. Experience in QuickBooks & Great Plains a plus. E-mail resume to: rgthompson@semolina.com or fax to 225-926-8976

**Full Charge** Bookkeeper Metairie based real estate company is seeking a mature, experienced, self motivated full charge bookkeeper. Experience in Excel and general accounting software required. Please apply via fax to (504) 838-8713 or by e-mail to jobs@safeguardit.com.

**HR/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR,** Bilingual & ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PROCESSOR - Wanted for immediate hire. F/T permanent positions with benefits. Experienced only. Fax resume 985-641-1125. EOE

**N.O. Law** Firm continues to grow and seeks an experienced A/R - A/P accountant with Juris experience preferred. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to Human Resources, 5100 Village Walk, suite 200, Covington LA 70433

**WESTBANK CPA** firm has immediate opening for a degreed accountant. Send resume and salary history to 2067 Paxton St, Harvey 70058

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ASST MANAGERS/LEASING** for Metairie & Kenner apartments. Strong customer service & sales background. Vacation, insurance, 401K, commissions. Mail resumes to 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**COLLECTION MANAGER** Great collection team needs aggressive, strong leader. A collection agency manager. Health insurance, very favorable pay. Bally Financial. 1-800-561-4882 Louie

**CONSTRUCTION SALES** - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete and masonry access. and equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary requirements to: CS&E 14020 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge 70817.

**EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT** MANAGER - Company in Metairie area needs aggressive, articulate, career-minded individuals that are quick on their feet. Progressive pay scale for production and performance. Email resume to: smartautomotive@hotmail.com or fax resume to: 504-353-3053

**Expect $300-$500/day** singing up your neighbors for roof estimates for local recordable Co. Male or Female. Easy training. 504-897-2465, 985-789-2290.

**Kitchen &** Bath Designer - Campbell Cabinet Co is now accepting resumes for kitchen & bath designer for inside sales in our Harahan location. The position requires reading blue prints, designing & selling kitchen & bath cabinets. Mail resume to P.O. Box 23884, Harahan, LA 70183.

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** - National Mortgage Banking Company seeks to hire Experienced Loan Officers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners. We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**MARKETER** - Experienced for a growing health care company. Call 225-647-4182

**PHONE AGENTS** - FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. Hourly Guarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

**Retail &** Commercial Collectors - for Metairie Collection Agency. Collection Agency Experience Req'd. Base + Commission. Fax resumes to 504-455-2814

**ROOF SALES.** Local Co. w/ state license. Pros only pls. DVD training program. 888-906-7663.

**Route Sales** - Golden Flake Snack Foods. Full and part-time positions available. Competitive pay and benefits. EOE. Call for details 1-800-233-0232

**ROUTE SALES** - Termite Technician Service & Sales seeks career minded, self driven & outgoing ind. $30-$35K/year, company vehicle, hospital ins, retirement & vacation. Subject to criminal, drug & driving background check. Apply 2:30-5:30pm. Mon-Fri, BILLIOT PEST CONTROL, 201 Bark Dr, Harvey LA

**Salesperson's, Top** pay, immediate openings, Call Today! 985-781-8364

## Employment

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**TELEMARKETERS Wanted** Our top sales people earned over $100K in 2004, Start at $10/hour plus bonus. If you wanna work in a fun and fast environment, where you will never hear "You are making to Much Money!" Call: Max 985-639-0292, 866-639-0292 or 504-274-8512

**ULTRA COMPUTER** SYSTEMS, Louisiana's largest volume Hewett Packard dealer is seeking Outbound Account Managers. Salary plus commission. Send resume to jobs@ultracomputer.com

**WE ARE** ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

**HOUSEKEEPER Full** Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company in Metairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**PAINTERS Full** Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Metairie. Guaranteed 40 hours, Monday-Friday. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PORTER needed** for Large Apartment Community in Metairie. Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

**PROPERTY MANAGERS** For Metairie and Kenner apartments. 3 years exp. Customer service & comm skills. Salary, vacation, insurance, 401K. Mail resumes 4971 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, 70001, fax 504-455-8674, or email jobs@1st-lake.com

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! Full Time job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie. apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4025 Casino/Gaming

**CASINO GIFT** SHOP Kenner Casio seeks 2 part time energetic sales people. Must work evenings and weekends and pass drug test. Please Fax resumes to 504-834-0496

### 4030 Clerical

**ASSISTANT OFFICE** MANAGER Accounts receivable, inventory, billing, must be personable. Wholesale Siding Supply, Covington LA 1-866-877-2771

**AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP** Looking for Receptionist/Customer Service. Pleasant & dependable. Dealership experience preferred. Please send email to: rebecca@rainbownorthshore.com

**Bi-lingual Office** Asst needed 8-5 Mon -Fri. Start Immed. $8-$12/hr. 504-455-1756

**COURIER/FILE CLERK.** Seeking responsible, full-time employee, $17,000/yr + paid benefits + mileage; good driving record w/ insured auto a must; high school diploma. Fax info to 504-833-0848 or mail to Box 38, Metairie, LA 70004-0038.

**F/T Receptionist/Secretary** for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

**GENERAL OFFICE** HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

**GENERAL OFFICE** WORK Growing fast paced Slidell ins off. No exp nec. Please mail resume to 103 Galleria Blvd Slidell LA, 70458

**NOTARIAL SECRETARY** for busy Mandeville Title Company. Fax resume to: 985-845-4393

**OFFICE ASSISTANT** Needed for busy construction office, must have min of 5 years office exp. M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, salary based upon exp. Email resume hr@i-55.com

**OFFICE HELP** - Experience with Integri Claims, data entry a must. Call 281-960-9560

**OFFICE HELP** NEEDED, Computer data entry, knowledge of Excel & Word Proficiency and phone skills. Call 281-960-9560

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! Now seeking: **RECEPTIONISTS** VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE, FT & PT. (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or Fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**RECEPTIONIST FULL** TIME POSITION, ENTRY LEVEL. COMPUTER EXPERIENCE W/ WORD AND EXCEL. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 10890; JEFFERSON, LA 70181

### 4040 Computers

**DESKTOP ENGINEER** Local Company seeking experienced Desktop Engineer. Person must have minimum 2 yrs experience in desktop computer skills in Windows NT 4.0/ Windows 2000 / Windows XP environment. Individual must have experience servicing desktop, laptops, and printers, as well as a good understanding of LAN/WAN Networking and the ability to lift 50 lbs. Good customer service skills and reliable transportation required.

The Times-Picayune

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4060 Engineering

**CIVIL ENGINEERS** Entry, Mid & Sr level, BSCE Req, MS & PE pref. Exp in Land Development Eng. pref. PACIULLI, SIMMONS & ASSOCIATES. We offer high salaries & comp. benefits. Offices in Fairfax & Loudoun, VA. E-mail: lbarker@psaltd.com, fax 703-934-9787, www.psaltd.com

**CONSTRUCTION Contractor** has opening for experienced Auto Cadd detailer/drafter in Lacombe area to prepare shop drawings. Fax resume to: 985-882-1534

**Electrical foreman** and electricians needed - long term Must be dependable and drug free, fax resume to 267-0019

**ENGINEERS AutoCad** Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors. All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing, phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

**METAIRIE BASED** Engineering firm, seeking ME's CE's & Cheme's EE's for plant and project work at local refineries. e-mail resume to joebrinz@eisllc.net

**Oil &** Gas Consulting Firm based & operating in Metairie, LA is looking for exper struct, facility and I&E engrs along w/ Struct, Piping and I&E CAD designers all w/ a minimum of 10 yrs. Offshore oil & gas experiences. Forward resumes to csuchand@keystoneengr.com

### 4065 Financial

**CONSUMER FINANCE** COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

**LARGE BALANCE** COMMERCIAL COLLECTORS WANTED. Must be willing to relocate to sunny central Florida. Salary, commission, bonuses, and benefit package. Only serious, experienced, committed people need apply. Long term position. Call Robert Eskin. Hatmaker and Associates: 1-800-215-7002 ext. 111

**LOAN ORIGINATORS** AND PROCESSORS Needed immediately. Mandeville company. Experienced only. 60% commission. 985-727-1607

**VICE PRESIDENT** OF Finance for Marion military institute. Marion, Alabama. 334-683-2362

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salon

**Carmen and** Santos Salon Hair Stylists, Shampoo and front desk help needed. Apply in person @ 3409 Florida Ave. in Kenner. Tel. 467-7356 ask for Edie.

**COSMO SALON** A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. CALL 985-781-1991.

**EXPERIENCED BARBER** for busy Algiers Baber Shop. Call 394-4247 or 450-4585

**GEORGY'S HAIR** STUDIO Now Hiring, Assistants & Hair Dressers. Full Time & Part Time. Heather 504-465-9590 or 504-258-5529

**Hair Stylist** and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

**Hair Stylist,** busy salon, F/T or P/T, excellent pay, no Sundays. 504-813-4106/504-835-9279

**Hair Stylists** (2) for Renaissance Salon & Spa. Belle Chase Area. Call Alexis 504-628-3494.

**HAIR STYLISTS** Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346 or 504-669-0548

**SHAMPOO ASSISTANT,** MANICURIST, RECEPTIONIST: Metairie Salon. Full Time. 504-885-6094

**UPSCALE SALON** IN METAIRIE. WILL BE EMPLOYING TWO COSMETOLOGISTS!! Our 30 year old, national company provides: .Guaranteed annual compensation of $30,000+ per year for your first two years of employment. .Employee benefits package includes medical, dental, life, paid time off, long and short-term disability insurance and 401(k) .Attractive work hours (every Sunday and Monday off, with no Friday or Saturday evenings). .Great working conditions (private styling rooms, built-in clientele provided, no walk-ins). .Ongoing training provided free of charge by the Company. .Convenient location (near I-10 and N Causeway Blvd).No resumes required. All interviews will be kept strictly confidential.You may contact us by:.TELEPHONE - 800-251-2658 x3036 .FAX - 561-361-7682 .E-MAIL - rkarson@hcfmw.com Call for your interview today!

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**All employees** of Court of Two Sisters. Let us know where you are! Call collect (504) 522-7273 Mon-Fri 9am-3pm or e-mail edavid@courtoftwosisters.com.

**ALL POSITIONS** At least $9 Per Hour. Popeyes has immediate job opportunities in New Orleans area Call 800-735-0330 today!

**ASSISTANT MANAGER/Bar** Help $7/hour + tips. Full/Part time. Daiquiri Shoppe, 7115 Westbank. Expressway Marrero

**BARTENDER WANTED.** Apply 7001 Veterans Blvd. Metairie. 504-455-9087

**Bartenders Needed.** Full Time. Apply in Person: 4520 South I10 Service Road, Metairie.

**BARTENDERS, SERVERS,** DISHWASHERS Experienced only. Male and Female encouraged to apply. Full or part time considered. Apply in person only, Wed.-Fri. 10am-7pm Franks Marina Grille, 100 Marina del Ray Dr. Madisonville. 985-792-4000

**BENNIGANS RESTAURANT** Now Hiring All Positions. Apply 7 days a week, 2-4pm, 3010 Holiday Dr., WEST BANK.

**BOURBON STREET** NIGHTCLUBS accepting applications for managers, DJ's, MC's, Bartenders and Shot Salespeople. Call 504-410-2335 or email resume to jobs@karnocompanies.com

**BRENT HOUSE** HOTEL - Front desk, exp req'd. Apply in person 1512 Jefferson Hwy, New Orleans, 70121.

**BRENT HOUSE** HOTEL - Housekeeping, exp req'd. Apply in person 1512 Jefferson Hwy, New Orleans, 70121.

**BUS/KITCHEN Help** needed. Apply at Lido Restaurant 1019 Ave. C in Marrero

**CHEFS Line** Cooks, Utility and front of the house Personnel, apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd, Luling. 985-785-1399

**COOK/Experienced Sandwich** maker. Apply in person, Mandeville Seafood. 1770 Highway 59.

**COOKS AND** WAIT STAFF, Immediate pos available for experienced workers. Call 985-661-9692 or apply online, at www.wingery.com for Slidell Location.

**COOKS: Now** hiring! P/T, F/T avail. Wayne Jacob's Smoke House & rest. 769 W. 5th St, Laplace 70068. Apply in person after 2pm. Call 985-652-9990

**COUNTER HELP** Wanted, full time/part time, mornings and evenings. Apply in person at Short Stop Po Boys. 119 Transcontinental Dr. Metairie

**DAYTIME COUNTER,** MANAGEMENT KITCHEN AND BUSING Positions Available. Pleasant work atmosphere, Flexible hours, and Excellent Pay. Apply in Person: Caffe! Caffe! 3900 Highway 22, Mandeville.

**DAYTIME SERVERS** AND LINE COOKS With flexible hours. Apply within: Petunia's Place, 2020 Hwy 59, Mandeville. 985-674-3436

**EMBERS, The** ORIGINAL BOURBON HOUSE, located in the French Quarter is accepting applications for all positions. Call 504-410-2335 or email your resume to: jobs@karnocompanies.com

**EXPERIENCED KITCHEN** STAFF - Apply in person at JUNIPER 301 Lafitte St.

**EXPERIENCED SOUS** CHEF Must have at least 5yrs experience in upscale ALC dining & banquets with versatile skills & organizational ability. Excellent salary commensurate with experience. Benefits package includes 401K, health insurance, and vacation. Send resume to: Baton Rouge Country Club, Attn: Chef, 8551 Jefferson Hwy., BR, LA 70809 or fax to 225-925-0365

**FOOD AND** BEVERAGE SERVERS. Admiral's Cove, a Private Country Club in Jupiter FL, Seeks exp servers, for both seasonal and year round. Exc pay and benefits. Free meals and uniforms. Call 1-888-249-8680 for more information. EOE/DFWP.

**FOOD SERVICE** DIRECTOR/ FOOD PRODUCTION MANAGERS Educational food service experience, personnel and hands on management, experience preferred. Competitive wages, direct deposit, 401K, health, dental and vision. Must pass pre-employment drug screen. E-mail resumes w/salary history and references to: HR12@ablmanagement.com EOE

**FOOD SERVICE** MANAGER - LSU Dining has an immediate opening for an experienced Food Service Manager with 3-5 years high volume experience in the restaurant/quick service field. Multi concept experience a plus. Qualified applicants should fax resume & cover letter to David Heidke at 225-578-0834. EOE M/F/V/D

**FRONT DESK,** NIGHT AUDITOR AND SALES MANAGER Hampton Inn and Best Western is now hiring, apply at 4288 Highway 51. LaPlace. Or e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net fax: 985-651-3009

**GENERAL MANAGER** Locally Owned Boutique Hotels. 100 Rooms. Part of Garden District. The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275 for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

**GIORLANDO'S RESTAURANT** Experienced Line Cook, Dishwasher, and Front Counter Server. Apply 2-4pm, 741 Bonnabell Blvd, Old Metairie. 504-835-8593.

**HOUSEKEEPING/FRONT DESK** CLERK Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

**HOUSTON'S Restaurant** Server & Kitchen now hiring dishwashers/all kitchen pos. $13/hr.& frt of house pos. Must be frdly, prof, out-going & team ornted. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9am - 11am.

**KITCHEN HELP** Mon.-Thurs. 4am-1pm AND BAR HELP Mon.-Fri. 12pm-7pm. Apply in person B & R Restaurant and Lounge, Bridge City, Avondale shipyard area. 504-453-6619

**KITCHEN STAFF** Harahan area restaurant seeks staff members, several positions available. Great hours. Please call 504-737-0033, Mon.-Fri. from 2pm-5pm

**Major hotel** franchise in Westwego, Louisiana is seeking an experienced motel manager. Priority will be given to displaced hurricane Katrina victims. For further details, call 225 892 0899 or fax your information to 225 753 5113 or email your resume to tri526@aol.com.

**Mena's restaurant** now hiring breakfast cooks, short order cooks, prep cooks, dishwashers, and servers. 504-251-4646 or 504-525-0217

**MR ED'S** RESTAURANT All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie. 838-0022

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring SOUS CHEF AND PASTRY CHEF. Great benefits, pay. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F or at rgratia@muriels.com No phone calls please!

**MURIEL'S JACKSON** SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring Wait Staff, Line Cooks, Asst. Server, Runners, Hosts, Bartender. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm - 5pm, M - F. No phone calls please!

**PIZZA BAKERS,** PREP COOKS, DISHWASHER Apply in person, Mark Twains Pizza 2035 Metairie Rd.

**RALPH BRENNAN** RESTAURANT GROUP - Red Fish Grill, 115 Bourbon St; BACCO, 310 Chartres St. Now hiring all positions at our award-winning French Quarter restaurants. Apply in person Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm. Benefits, health ins, vac, 401K. Info 504-598-1200

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/Lounges

**RISTORANTE FILIPPO** Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY AND DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

**SERVERS,Bussers,hostess, Line** Cooks & Dishwashers, exp. only. Aply in person, Annadele's Plantation Restaurant, 71495 Chestnut St. Covington

**SHIMMY SHACK** NOW HIRING Working Chef, salary open. Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

### 4080 Household

**Caregiver, Live-in** for Mother. Metairie area. 504-782-7709

**House Keeper** Needed Bilingual in Gretna area. 504-920-2500/ 504-812-9453/504-309-6775.

**HOUSEKEEPER** - Spanish speaking needed in Gretna area. 504-920-2500 or 504-812-9453 or 504-309-6775

**HOUSEKEEPER wanted,** full-time, Mandeville area. Please call 985-626-0080

**MOTHERS HELPER** NEEDED 5 days/week, HouseKeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salary dependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER** - P/T, references required, Covington. Please call 985-502-8181

**Part Time** Sitter for elderly lady, in Mandeville. Light housekeeping. No-smoking. Call Linda 985-237-9144

### 4090 Insurance

**Fast pace** Slidell Ins Ofc looking for exp FT secretary, ins exp pref'd but not req'd. Mail resume 100 Galleria Blvd ste 4, Slidell LA 70458 or email sbowman@sfbcic.com

### 4095 Legal

**Experienced Notarial** Secretary(LA), salary commensurate w/experience. Fax resume to 985-645-9148 or mail to P.O. Box 649, Slidell, LA 70459.

**Legal Secretary** for Metairie Office. Apply at 3829 Veterans Blvd., Suite 205 or fax resume to 504-455-4480

**LEGAL SECRETARY** Needed in Kenner, experience a must. A competitive salary offered. Please fax resume to: 504-467-7732

**LEGAL SECRETARY/PARALEGAL** Wanted for North Shore Law Firm. 2 Years experience required. Call Laura 985-727-1712

**LEGAL SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** West Bank personal injury law office. Experience preferred. Fax resume to: 504-831-4470

**PARALEGAL Old** Metairie Law Firm on Metairie Road looking for part and full time Paralegals. Minimum 5 yrs exp. Good Salary, Benefits, Free Parking & Flexible Hours. Fax resume to: 504-828-0024 or email kieferlaw@aol.com

**REAL ESTATE** ATTORNEY For Mandeville Title Agency who can examine abstracts. Please fax resume to 985-845-4393

### 4100 Management

**ASSISTANT MANAGER** Established Furniture Company, looking for highly motivated self starter. Excellent working environment, salary and benefits. Apply in person at 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner LA.

**CARPET STORE** MANAGER Pel Hughs Flooring, A Division of Pel Hughs Printing. A 51yr old N.O.Comp is seeking an exp'd mgr for flooring store in Mid City. Positions for sales associates and installers also avail. Call 504-835-7616 to arrange interview

**MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR** Permanent position. Responsible for maintenance, repair, & upkeep of facilities. Previous supervisory exp a+. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am to 10:30 am, M-F.

**MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR** 7-10 years experience in maintaining/servicing electrical mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment in an industrial environment in facilities maintenance. Minimum 2-3 years supervisory experience of maintenance personnel in an industrial setting. Experience with maintenance building electrical, HVAC, lighting and plumbing systems. Must have knowledge and understanding of industrial processes and preventative maintenance programs. Must have formal training in the maintenance trades or the military. Must be able to read and interpret technical and maintenance manuals. Call 305-622-4523 or fax resume to: 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** needed for National Company in Bogalusa. Good benefits. Send resume to 2032 Columbia St. Bogalusa LA, 70427 or fax 985-735-6992

### 4100 Management

**STORAGE MANAGER** Immed opening for a bright, energetic, aggressive person w/exc computer, prof, phone & people skills to manage state-of-the-art Cent storage center in Metairie. Duties also incl RV Motorhome rental business, apt business. Some wknd work req. Avg 48 hr wk. 3 or more yrs retail exp req. Only people looking for immed employment need to fax resume to Fred 831-4840 or email Lucky3828@aol.com. Resume must incl starting salary requirements and educational background

### 4105 Marine

**DECK HAND** $150/day. Must have 1 year experience on Fleet towboat. 7 days on, 7 days off, live on boat. 504-416-2128

**FLEET DECKHANDS** AND LIVEON ENGINEER/OILER - ARTCO FLEETING NEW ORLEANS IS NOW HIRING FULL TIME EXPERIENCED AND INEXPERIENCED PERSONNEL! Benefits include: health life, dental, Rx, AD&D, and disability insurance plans. 401(k) with company match, stock purchase, a separate pension plan, holiday and vacation pay. apply at 8400 River Road, Waggaman, LA, 70094 or call 504-431-1488. Temporary housing provided for employees.

**Marine Personnel** Exp inland Captains and Deck hands. Captain's pay starting at $300-$325 per day, plus benefits. Call 504-737-6994

**MTV Capts** $308-$318/day. Tankerman $185-$215/day. Excl benes. 504-361-7744

**Pilots, Deck** Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

**Tow Boat** Pilots To start immed. ly, must be posted from New Orleans Harbor and West Canal, 200 ton or Master or Mate of towing license req., $330-$350 per day, health ins. incl.d, 28/14 schedule, 225-806-9376

### 4110 Mechanical

**EXPERIENCED MECHANIC** Must have own tools. Call: 504-468-2527

**AUTO BODY** TECHS experience needed. Call 504-341-7100 or 985-624-8422 Champs Collision

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN** Needed immediately. GM techs for fast growing service department in Baton Rouge area. Full benefits available, top pay for top techs. Mon.-Fri. Email resume to: gmtechnician@hotmail.com

**Briggs Equipment** has immed. opening for Forklift Tech. and CDL Drivers. We offer top wages + Excellent benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, health insurance, company stock plan. For more info. Call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

**Busy Chevrolet** Dealership is currently seeking GM trained Service Technicians for immediate openings in Richmond Virginia. Assistance with relocation, guaranteed salary/signing bonus, medical/dental plans with coverage starting immediately, employee stock ownership/401K, weekends off. For more information contact Robert Lawhorne at: 804-323-7600 or Rlawhorne@whitlowchevrolet.com

**CERT DETROIT** DIESEL 71/53 SERIES MECHANIC/SHOP SUPV Immed Opening Guar 40 hr/ some O/T 985-892-0056/fx 985-892-4061

**DETROIT DIESEL** MECHANIC, at least 2 years experience, good pay & benefits, call 837-9900

**DIAGNOSTICS MECHANIC** Experienced, J.R.'s Auto Repair. Call 504-464-0061

**DIESEL CRANKSHAFT** AND CAMSHAFT GRINDER MACHINISTS Pay based on experience. 504-347-8061

**DIESEL MECHANICS** - Experienced with own tools. Parts Positions Available. Large Heavy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Excellent Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please Call Becky 985-876-3000

**EXPERIENCED Mechanics** needed for outdoor power equipment dealership. Competitive pay, benefits available. Fax resume to: 985-893-5198 or apply in person at Evergreen Tractor, 1017 Highway 190 Bypass, Covington

**GOLF COURSE** MECHANIC Money Hill Golf and Country Club. Must have knowledge of golf course equipment, be motivated and detail oriented. Please call 985-893-7251

**LARGE EQUIPMENT** MECHANIC Large Landscape Co. looking for mechanic to do maintenance and repair of Bobcats, trucks and equipment having diesel engines, hydraulics and airbrake systems. Also preform odd jobs in the yard. Benefits, wage related to exp. Call John 504-391-1800, ext. 213

### 4110 Mechanical

**MACHINIST Miami** based office seeking to fill 2 positions with experience with CNC, mill, and grind-hard chrome. Will perform all setup procedures for machining components utilizing available equipment. For more information call 305-622-4523 or fax 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**MECHANIC Exp,** full line tech. Must have tools. 5 day/wk. 6229 Jefferson Hwy. 504-737-4096

**MECHANIC, SERVICE** TECHNICIAN, OFFICE CLERK Openings Available Immediately. 985-892-6304

**NORTH SHORE** TOYOTA Needs 10 Technicians, 5 Lube Technicians and 5 detail personnel. Business is booming, come work for the fastest growing dealership on the North Shore. Toyota experience a plus, ASE certifications a plus. Benefits, 401K, health, dental, life, paid vacations, uniforms, training. Please apply in person 68500 Hwy 190 Service Rd, Covington, La 70433. 985-893-7778

**Pro Engine** Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

**RADIATOR REPAIRMAN,** MECHANIC Experience needed. Helpers also needed, Regis Radiator Service, Call 504-341-9118

**SHOP MECHANIC** Large landscape co. is seeking exp mechanic for inspection and repair of Toro and Echo Small engine equipment. Exp. in electric and hydraulic systems required. Benefits, wage related to exp. Call John 504-391-1800, ext. 213

### 4120 Medical

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL** CENTER In need of part time Tech to assist in procedures & clean instruments. Experience preferred but not required. St. Tammany area office. Please fax resume to 985-645-9393

**CERTIFIED PHARMACY** TECH/ CASHIER And Cashier. Pleasant atmosphere. Apply at the Medicine Shop 999 Robert Blvd, Slidell, 9-5:30 M-F.

**CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT** - 2 positions. X-ray certification helpful. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-885-0762

**CLERICAL WORKERS** Mandeville Medical Office is seeking 2 full-time employees. Must have prior exp working in a physician's office. Duties will include answering phones, scheduling cases, verifying insurance benefits, insurance billing and collections. Must be able to multi-task and have excellent organization skills. Salary equal with exp, benefits available. Please send resume to Clerical Position, PO Box 8588, Mandeville LA 70470

**COLLECTIONS CLERK** Experience in Medicare Insurance posting. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** With exp., needed for Metairie practice. Fax resume to 504-888-9335 or bring in person to 4325 Loveland St. Phone: 504-888-9333

**DENTAL ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST** Experienced, West Bank. Call 504-367-6135.

**DENTAL ASSISTANTS** needed. Upper Scale Dental Office located on the West Bank looking for 2 exp. assistants accustomed to treating quality patients. 504-392-0221

**DENTAL FRONT** DESK Coordinator needed for busy dental office, must have exp. 985-641-4180

**DENTAL HYGIENIST** Algiers. Mon-Thurs, 7:45-5:15. Call Kathleen 504-394-5330

**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/CORRID** Needed in Metairie office, experienced only. Fax resume 504-834-3167

**Direct Service** Prof. for Non-Profit. Care of elderly & disabled. Must have high school diploma, own transportation, car ins. Pls. call 504-512-2243, 504-228-6850.

**FLOOR MANAGER:** $25,000. Managing staff to better serve the residents and family members in a LTC facility. Must be a people person that can command respect. No health care certification needed. GREAT BENEFITS! Fax resume: 504-602-0012 or Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan

**GUEST HOUSE** OF SLIDELL IS NOW HIRING THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

**LPN FT** with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093

**LPN Needed** for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington. $15/per hour. Call 985-893-2279

**Mainland Asset** Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs, Apply within: Belmont Village Apts720 Carrollwood Village Drive., Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

**MEDICAL BILLER** for West Bank Medical Office. Full Time. Fax resume: 504-436-2224

**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST** for West Bank Medical Office. Full Time. Fax resume: 504-436-2224

### 4120 Medical

**Metairie Small** Animal Hospital now hiring for all positions. Come join our team! You can apply in person 101 Metairie Road in Metairie.

**MRI Technologist-Expanding** outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologist with preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience required. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

**NURSE MANAGER** POSITION Ambulatory Surgery Center opening soon in Metairie. Come join a professional and enthusiastic team. Management and surgery experience a MUST. Fax resume to (504)846-3057

**NURSING -** WOODLAND VILLAGE, Millennium Management's Woodland Village on Tullis Drive in New Orleans has re-opened its doors to our residents and our employees. We are currently seeking candidates in the following areas: RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Housekeeping and Dietary Aides. Interested candidates may apply at Woodland Village, 5301 Tullis Drive, New Orleans LA 70131. Or call 504-394-5807

**PCAs &** CNAs Needed for a personal care service agency. Call Roz @ Archangel: 504-366-0494

**Pharmacist &** Pharm. Tech. Certified, experience, full time, benefits, Independent Pharmacy. 985-764-1181

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Occu-Health, Inc. seeks Physical Therapist in the Physical/Occupational Therapy Clinic at Branch Medical Clinic, New Orleans, LA. For consideration, send resume w/salary requirements, licenses & certifications - email: ohi@ohi-corp.com; fax 859-873-7982. EOE

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST** Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, excellent hours, PT owned and operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845

**POSITION Open** for a well organized Receptionist at a busy pediatric practice, exp pref. M-F 8a-5p, occasional Sat's 8a-12p. Fax resume: 985-871-7600

**POYDRAS HOME** OF NEW ORLEANS (A Private, Non-Profit Retirement Community) "A Legacy of Caring since 1817". NOW OPEN!! SIGN-ON BONUS & NEW INCENTIVES!! HIRING NOW FOR LPNs, CNAs, DIETARY TECHS, HOUSEKEEPERS, & RECEPTIONISTS. VARIOUS SHIFTS AVAILABLE. FT/PT/PRN (Former staff should check in at Poydras Home). Please call Vonda at 504-897-0535 or fax resume to 504-897-9494.

**PROGRESSIVE HOME** HEALTH CARE. WE ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING WITH: RNs/PTs/OTs/ Aides/Sitters. WE CAN FILL YOUR SCHEDULE. ALL AREAS: HOUMA, NORTHSHORE, BATON ROUGE, WESTBANK, EASTBANK, NEW ORLEANS. FAX RESUMES TO: 504-263-8320

**PT's AND** PTA's Immediate openings in Mandeville, Slidell and Metairie. Reply ASAP to northshoretax@yahoo.com or fax 985-727-5006

**PT's, OT's,** ST's. Triton. FT/PT therapists, assts. N.O. Area. Exc. benefits/pay. Fax resume:1-800-8486,email: triton1@eatel.net. Call 1-888-762-8668

**Reliable Community** Alternatives, Inc. - DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF/PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT - Individuals who are compassionate, reliable, possess excellent writing skills & are willing to work with the elderly and/or individuals w/disabilities in their home or in the community. Various shifts avail immediately. Call 504-779-4740. Or apply in person at 5416 Veterans Blvd, suite 315, Metairie. Must pass criminal background.

**RN homecare** visits available in Jefferson and surrounding areas, PPS homecare exp required as it pertains to OASIS and patient care. Interim has an established office in Metairie. Call 504-834-9000, fax 985-626-7473

**RN's, LPN'S,** and CNA's. Urgent needs per diem, UNI Staffing. Call 972-872-1736

**RN's/LPN's We** need you! Local contract/Per-Diem plentiful, NHO Staffing 504-456-5590

**RNs $6000-$8000/mo.,** $600 travel, housing, health ins. Call Bonnie(RN) 504-469-4308

**ST CHARLES** Healthcare, Making Home, home again. LPN'S, at St Charles Healthcare We're back to our normal routine, at making a home for our residences & employee. We are a long-term care facility, located in the heart of New Orleans, & are seeking staff members for the following areas: LPN's, CNA's, Cooks, Housekeeping. If you are interested in helping us make home, home again, please apply at: St Charles Healthcare ATTN: Tansy Magendie, 1539 Delachaise St, New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-895-3953

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB - We are looking for the following: *CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT, all shifts, $8.00/hour. *LPN, all shifts. *MEDICARE BILLER. *MDS COORDINATOR. Please apply: 6001 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448

**ST. ANTHONY'S** HEALTHCARE & REHAB If you are a current employee and would like to return, please contact us. We are seeking staff in the following areas: LPN's: all shifts, Certified Nurse Asst's: $8.00/hr all shifts, Housekeeping, Laundry. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr., Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448 9am-4pm

### 4120 Medical

**SURGICAL TECHNICIAN** Full time for physician practice, to assist in clinic and surgery. Apply at 1111 Medical Center Blvd, North Tower suite 804, Marrero LA, between 9 and 5pm.

**THE PONTCHARTRAIN** HEALTH CARE CENTER, CNA'S $10/hr Interim pay - All shifts available, LPN's, Housekeeping, Laundry, Dietary & Maintenance. Contact: Dale Cooney Administrator, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 dale@pontcare.com EEOC

**WE ARE** Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**WOODLAND VILLAGE** Nursing Center located at 5427 Jex Rd. Diamondhead, Mississippi is accepting applications for all positions. Housekeeping, laundry, dietary, activities, CNA's, LPN's, RN's. Please apply in person, by fax 228-255-4833 or by email at hrwvnc@bellsouth.net

**X-RAY TECH** & MEDICAL ASSISTANT P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871, or call: 504-466-4870

### 4130 Part Time

**CNA's and** Direct Support staff needed for work with individuals with developmental disabilities receiving one-on-one independent living services. Must have reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance. Duties include assisting individuals with activities of daily living, accessing community activities, and training on specific skills. $7.25/hr, mileage reimbursed, training provided. Submit application at 320 Hammond Hwy; Ste. 300; Metairie, LA

**HOME INSTEAD** SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship & Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. Call 504-717-0905

**LEASING CONSULTANT** Needed to work every Sat and Sun. Apply at: 3600 Loyola Drive, Kenner.

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**Alarm &** Camera Technician. Immediate positions available, Experience preferred. Top pay, benefits. Tommy's Lock & Alarms. 985-542-8431/985-320-1111

**Architect 3-5yrs.** exp. Northshore firm. Resume to architectresume@bellsouth.net

**ARCHITECT Metairie** A/E Firm Has Immediate Opening For One Licensed Architect. Min 5yr Experience. ACAD Exp Req. Ability to deal w/Owners & Contractors Etc. Send Resume to MEYER ENGINEERS LTD. PO Box 763, Metairie, LA 70004, Fax: 504-887-5056 Or Email: MEYER@MEYER-E-L.COM

**CFO/CONTROLLER**
**$100K+** DOE Prefer MPA or CPA for Metal Bldg. Component Mfg. in Gulfport, MS. Fax resumes to Goldin 228-896-4653

**CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT** - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

**Direct Care** Staff, Unit Mgrs, Therapists, more. Hope Haven Center Job Fair, 10/18, 2-4p. 1101 Barataria Blvd, Marrero

**DIRECT TV** INSTALLERS. Experience helpful but not necessary. Must have own vehicle and tools. 225-261-4277

**Horticulture Tech** for Interior Landscaper. BTR or NO area. Exp. and/or degree req. Benefits, Reg. hours. 504-832-9999, ext 33

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** Molding Technician I - Job requires operating plastic blow molding machines (HDPE or PET), and other automated down stream equipment. Must be able to perform machine adjustments and/or minor repairs as needed. Must be able to work overtime on short notice as needed. Experience as a machine operator in a production setting a plus. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Lift Truck Operators - Job includes production and warehouse operations, transporting or finished goods, loading trailers for out-bound shipment and other related warehouse duties. Must have experience lift truck operations, mechanical knowledge, computer and communication skills. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Normal factory conditions. Very clean surroundings. Long-term established company. Benefits, holidays, and vacations. Fax resume to Attn: Human Resources, 985-543-6988. Or mail to: Human Resources, 311 Pride Ave, Hammond LA 70403. Equal Employment Opportunity

**POYDRAS HOME** of New Orleans is NOW OPEN! Now hiring for: DIRECTOR OF DIETARY SERVICES. Please call Vonda: 504-897-0535 or Fax resume: 504-897-9494 EOE

**RAINTREE CASE** MGT: Ponchatoula Office. SUPERVISOR needed to manage staff & people with MR/DD. BSW or BA in Social Svcs + 4 yrs. post grad exp. Salary based on educ & exp. Benefits. Bring resumes / complete applications to 1233 Eighth St, NOLA,70115 or e-mail resumes to: jbroussar@raintreeservices.org or fax 895-0204.No phone calls please! EOE

### 4140 Professional/Technical

**Smiling School** Photographers LIFETOUCH Reliable vehicle a must, No experience necessary, Must be able to lift 40 lbs. Part-time, seasonal. 504-469-0044/225-265-1900

**Sr. Civil/Structural** & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

**Stewart Enterprises** Inc., is looking for professionals for the following positions at the Clearview building located in Jefferson, LA. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TEAM MEMBERS: Primary duties incl. processing incoming mail and maintaining accounts payable files, contacting vendors and internal customers for info. Requires a high school diploma, exc. communication and organizational skills, PC proficiency (Excel and Word) and good data entry skills. PAYROLL PROCESSOR: Entry level position requires good organizational skills, ability to work under deadlines and basic spreadsheet and word processor skills preferred. High math aptitude preferred. EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS COORDINATOR: Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma and good organizational, communication and customer service skills. Responsibilities incl. data entry, data verification and research into employee inquiries. BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM MEMBERS: Researches and resolves all problems as they relate to contrac!

**ts, provides** info. to internal and external customers when poss., and gathers any nec. documentation and/or info. needed to research and resolve transactions. These positions require 2 yrs of exp. in a business setting and exc. analytical and problem solving skills. A business or accounting degree preferred. Travel is req. in this position. CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM MEMBERS: Research, analyze and follow up customer accounts. Work w/ customers to resolve collections issues. 1-3 yrs related experience. Customer service and excellent telephone skills required. AS 400 and PC experience a plus. We offer competitive salary and benefits. Interested candidates may apply by email, fax or mail. hrinfo@stei.com, Fax 504-729-1825 Stewart Enterprises, Inc. Attn: Human Resources Department 1333 S. Clearview Pkwy Jefferson, LA 70121

### 4145 Retail

**Buffalo Exchange,** a resale clothing store, is looking for energetic people who love fashion & a fast-paced retail environment. PT/FT positions w/ benefits. Will be interviewing 10/19-20 @ 3312 Magazine St. Apply online @ buffaloexchange.com

**Enlace, the** largest and fastest growing Spanish Yellow Page Directory in the U.S., is looking for Outside Sales Representatives to work directly with local retailers and manufacturers to create online and print advertising. Talent for speaking Spanish is not required. We offer an excellent compensation package which includes a Base Salary + Commission, and full benefits. Email resumes: atincher@cobaltpublishing.com

**Langenstein's of** Metairie All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce, cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401

The Times-Picayune

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

ALL ADVERTISING IS PREPAID USING CREDIT CARDS. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISERS SHOULD CALL 225-215-0899 TO PLACE AN AD.

## Employment

### 4160 Trades/Skills

**FIELD TECHNICIANS** for a Construction Materials Testing Firm. Vehicle required. Please Call (504)227-2273.

**Fire/Water Damage** Technician, Surfpro of the North Shore, exp. proffered but willing to train, must have good driving record. Fax resume to 985-898-6373 or call 985-898-0022

**FIRST CLASS** WELDER 8am-5pm. $16.88 per hour. 40 Hours per week. Temporary position, approximately 7 months. Perform maritime welding for repair and maintenance of fishing vessels. 1 Year's experience in the job offered or as a First Class Welder in any industry required. Employment offered by Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. Contact LA Office of Workforce Development, Job Order LA 166488. West Jefferson Career Center, 1900 Lafayette St., Gretna, LA 70053

**FLOORING HELPER** wanted. Metairie area. 504-913-6965 for more information.

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** & Helpers needed. Top pay! Call for info: 504-329-5533 or 504-689-2051

**FLOORING INSTALLERS** carpet, ceramic and wood, immediate work, top pay! Must have own van and tools. 877-577-1277 ext 5

**FLOORING TRAINEE** - Why pay to learn a trade? Earn $8-$10/hour. Will train you to be a Wood Floor Mechanic. Mechanics earn up to $45K. 985-867-8171

**FLORIDA DERGROUND** UTILITY CONTRACTOR seeking LABORERS, PIPE LAYERS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS and FOREMEN. Experience preferred. All positions available now. Call 386-738-3637.

**FULL-TIME POSITION** EXPERIENCED PROCESS PRESSMAN for Copy Cat's Printing in Hattiesburg, MS. Salary DOE. Excellent benefits package. Call 601-582-3019.

**FURNITURE BUILDER/FINISHER,** skilled workmen needed for upscale shop. Apply at: 7420 Zimple St. or call: 504-865-9622

**FURNITURE Upholsterer,** Expd. Knowledge with antiques a plus. Call 985-386-7728

**General Contractor** has immediate openings for Carpenter, Laborers, Welders, Pipe Fitters, Cement Finishers, Diesel Mechanic, Sheet Rock Hangers & Finishers in the New Orleans area. 504-915-5795 or 504-915-7666

**GENERAL HEATING** & A/C Needs exp Installers, Service Technicians and helpers. We offer full benefits, health plan, 401k, paid vacation. Work for the company that has been here for 50 years! Call Layne: 504-235-5501 or fax: 985-419-0993

**GENERAL LABOR** Needed: Experienced foreman, tree trimmers, boring/cable placement operators and general laborers. West Bank area. Call 504-263-1996

**GLASS TECH** trainees needed for New Orleans co, top pay + commission. Call 504-915-4461

**GLASS TECHNICIAN/** GLAZER Experience preffered, but not req. Mon - Fri 7:30am- 4:30pm. Great pay! Call 504-430-6932

**GLASS TECHNICIANS** Flat and auto needed, Please Call 504-400-6799

**GRANITE FABRICATORS** and Installers, excellent pay, 401K, health ins., 40 plus hours weekly. Call or apply in person at Jenkins Tile Company 12260 Industriplex Blvd., Baton Rouge LA. 225-751-3970

**HANDY PERSON** Partime, $12/hr, Up-town. Electrical & Carpentry background. Tools & transportation required! 861-1500

**HANDYMAN in** Covington area, full or part time. Call 985-237-0817

**HANDYMAN Part** time. Must have own tools and transportation. Please call 504-737-9268.

**HIRING Electricians** and Helpers in Slidell, Covington and Metairie, 504-833-3492

**HIRING EXP.** Backhoe & Bobcat operators, CDL Drivers, labors. 504-737-6077, call b/t 9-3

**Hiring Experienced** Siding Installers/ Crews. Call 985-652-8699 for more information

**HIRING: Shipfitters,** welders, pipefitters, electricians, sheet metal workers, sheet metal mechanics, pipe welders. 1-877-263-2719

**HOME IMPROVEMENT** Roof repairs: Experienced with all types of roofing. Carpentry: interior and exterior experience. Sheet rock finish and install experience. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. 504-442-6288

**HUTCO INC** Is Hiring For Welders, Fitters, Blasters Painters, Plant Operators, Hydroblasters, Electricians, Outside Machinists, Tackers & Laborers. Call 504-348-7818

**HVAC DUCTMAN/HELPERS,** Rob's Heating & Air Conditioning. Apply at 930 Avenue G, Marrero, LA or Call 504-348-7128.

**HVAC INSTALLERS** & SERVICE TECHS NEEDED. Immediate openings for experienced only. Please call 341-8526.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** For certified A/C Technicians, Journeyman Plumbers & Plumbers Helper. Top and benefits. Call 985-789-0769 or 985-781-2693

**INDUSTRIAL SIGNS:** Exp Sign Installer & Helper, CDL/Air brakes 5 yrs exp. 504-736-0600

**INSIDE MACHINIST** Boland Marine & Mfg Co., looking for inside Machinist. Must have at least 3 to 5 years experience. Must have working knowledge of pumps, valves, hydraulics and steam equipment, overtime available. Taking applications at 1000 Tchoupitoulas St. Monday through Friday, 8:00pm till 4:00pm. 504-581-5800

**INSTALLERS Needed,** Quarles Insulation. Please call 504-466-9213

**INTEGRATED Airline** Services Is Hiring For RAMP AGENTS. Must Have Valid Drivers License. Competitive Wages. Must be able to pass 10yr background check. Call 504-468-1401

**JANITORS Permanent** positions $8-$10/hourly. All aspects of janitorial work. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am - 10:30am, M-F.

**JDINTERIORS is** now seeking cabinet builders, carpenters, painters and helpers. Call 504-736-9542, 504-231-1617

**JEFFERSON DOOR** CO. West Bank Company seeks experienced Mill Work People in all categories including Door Unit Assembly. Also looking for Carpenter's Helpers with at least some experienced, Please Call 504-340-2471 for information.

**KITCHEN EQUIPMENT** TECHNICIAN Commercial work. Needed immediately. Top pay and benefits. 504-833-1164

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR** In the New Orleans Area: Immediate first and second shift full time openings for energetic, hard working individual. (Company paid, out of state training for permanent full time position in New Orleans, LA) Fast growing nationwide company with great opportunity for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit and criminal background check and a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 pounds shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not required. Starting pay is $9/hour plus excellent opportunity for daily and monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits package after one year of employment. If you are interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 and leave us a message with your information.

**LABORERS -** Skilled Laborers needed to work in Jefferson Parish, top pay, 504-723-0657

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** Permanent position. $8-$10/hourly. Trash pickup, bed maintenance, tree maintenance (from ground). Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am to 10:30 am, M-F.

**LANDSCAPING LABORERS** Hard workers need. Some landscaping experience preferred, not required. GOOD $. HAVE OWN TRUCK $$. Paid Daily. Please contact Steven 985-774-3487, 985-641-2141

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** CREW. $8-$12/hourly depending on experience. Call 504-442-5394

**Licensed Plumbers** & Exp Helpers wanted for work on North & South Shores. 504-723-0880

**Local Co.** hiring roofing, sales/estim for greater NO/Northshore, great pay. 504-394-1122

**LOOKING FOR** SKILLED CARPENTERS and Labor with roofing skills for Mandeville and surrounding areas. Must be hard working, reliable and trustworthy. Call L & M and Sons LLC. 985-951-7684 ask for Lynn

**MACHINIST 1st** Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

**MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT** Permanent position. $8-$10/hourly. Assist with the overall upkeep & maintenance facilities. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am to 10:30 am, M-F.

**MANUFAB Hiring** Welders, 1st Class Machinist, Fitters, Tackers, CDL-A Truck Driver. 4 day work week, benefits. Apply at 129 Third St., Kenner Mon-Thurs, 8-4pm. or call 504-466-2368 for more details. EOE.

**MECHANIC &** HELPER for Keith's Auto Repair, 4219 Jefferson Highway. 504-837-4965

**MECHANIC -** Small Engine West Bank, Diesel & Gas Engines, Competitive Salary. 504-367-1257

**Metal building** and sheet metal workmen needed, experienced. Call 504-261-4179

**METAL BUILDING** MECHANIC Top pay, Monday-Friday, Please Call 504-466-1511.

**METAL STUD** - Drywall Mechanics needed. Call for details @ 504-722-8058

**NEED PROFESSIONAL** PAINTER San & Clark. Neat work, puddy. Bobby 1-985-795-0860/504-296-8389

**Office Manager/Sales/Assistants** to run busy contracting company. Call 985-781-8364

**OFFSHORE/ONSHORE WORK** Premier Industries, Inc. FITTERS/WELDERS, FITTER HELPER/TRACKERS, EXPERIENCED RIGGERS, RIGGER/CRANE OPERATORS, OFFSHORE SUPERINTENDENTS/FOREMEN. All positions require a minimum or 3 years recent offshore experience. BARGE PILE DRIVING FRICTION CRANE OPERATOR Must have experience driving piles with a friction crane from a floating barge. SUB-ARC WELDER Top pay. All positions receive: Group medical, dental plan, long and short term disability, life insurance, 401K plan. Must pass physical and drug screen. Apply in person at: 3450 Peters Rd. Harvey, LA. EOE

**OUTSIDE MACHINIST/MILLWRIGHT** Mechanical experience needed in rebuilding of machinery, including pumps, valves, diesel engines, gearboxes, alignment and rigging, etc. Pay based on experience. Benefits include: 401K, overtime available, Medical, Safety Incentive, Holiday and Vacation pay. Apply at Boland Marine & Mfg Co. 1000 Tchoupitoulas, New Orleans, LA. 504-581-5800

**PACORINI USA** needs Crane Operators, Forklift Operators and Laborers for Maritime work in the Port of New Orleans. Plenty of work with lots of overtime! For information please call: 504-341-8550 & you must reference job with Pacorini USA

**PAINT/ BODY** TECH - Experience in painting and body repairs for heavy and medium trucks and bodies. Full time Mon. -Fri. with benefits for established full service truck/ trailer repair shop. Apply at: 1000 Industry Rd., Kenner. Call 504-733-0037. Fax 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com

**PAINTERS, Residential** Homes, exp., must have own transportation, F/T work, 985-966-6011

**PAINTERS/CARPENTERS experienced,** needed on North Shore, good pay. Call 985-626-4577

**PAINTERS/Painters Helper,** start immediately. Great pay. Call 504-362-1645 for details.

**PAINTERS/SHEET ROCK** FINISHERS Must have own transportation. 504-469-4609 ACMEDCP@msn.com

**Plumber Experienced** journeyman repair plumber. Experienced only need apply. 504-340-8776

**PLUMBERS, LICENSED** and HELPERS needed. Call Sidney Lapuyade Plumbing, Inc. 504-834-7750

**PLUMBERS, Louisiana** licensed Journeyman repair plumber. Competitive salary, health, dental, 401k, paid vacation, commission. Experienced only. 985-845-9390

**PLUMBING MECHANICS** and experienced helpers, benefits. Call 504-833-6650

**PRESS OPERATOR/BINDERY** Experience necessary, AB DICK/Ryobi/Heidelberg. Call 504-835-0678

**PRINTING Experienced** Pressman Heidelberg Printmaster, IMMEDIATE HIRE! Call 504-464-1075.

**PROFESSIONAL SHEET** ROCK INSTALLER w/ Floating exp. Must be able to blow texture Call Norman 504-560-3766

**Project Manager/Estimater** for North Shore Comm G.C., 5-10 yrs exp. computer proficient, salary based on exp. Send Resume to: The UPS Store, 857 Brown Switch Rd. Box# 310, Slidell, LA, 70458-5335

**Qualified electricians** and helpers needed. Please call 504-368-3503

**RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIANS** AND HELPERS - Experienced. Apply now!! Call 985-892-3210

**RESIDENTIAL TRIM** CARPENTERS Needed with 5 years experience. Call 504-329-3175

**Residential/Commercial restoration** estimator wanted for locally owned and operated construction company. 504-849-9955

**Residential/Commercial restoration** job supervisor wanted for locally owned and operated construction company. 504-849-9955

**ROOF Exp.** to measure/esti. only. $300+ a day. Need truck/ladder. 888-281-7433.

**ROOFERS -** Needed. Shingle & flat crews, New Orleans & Baton Rouge area. Call 504-779-3232 or 504-559-9106

**ROOFERS COMMERCIAL,** local company seeks exp. flat roofers only. Top wages. 504-464-9181

**ROOFERS Need** Roofers, excellent pay. Experience preferred. 504-232-0705 or 504-227-2740

**ROOFERS NEEDED!** TOP PAY Helpers - $100/Day Call (504) 416-4324

**ROOFERS Wanted,** Experienced, Good Pay. Must have transportation. 504-469-0353

**ROOFERS, SHEET** METAL Mechanics and Helpers needed immediately. Orleans Sheet Metal Work and Roofing inc 504-822-4892

**ROOFING AND** SHEET METAL WORKERS needed immediately. Hiring all positions. Please Call 504-733-1109

**ROOFING CREWS** For Metairie Area wanted, $60 a square for seal tab. Call 504-881-1000

**ROOFING CREWS** Needed, must own Dumpsters to haul trash. Call 504-460-8173

**ROOFING CREWS,** top pay, own tools and transportation required. Call 985-781-8364

**ROOFING MECHANICS/HELPERS,** New Orleans. Top Pay! Call 504-258-4424 or 504-258-0066

**ROOFING RUNNER,** exp'd, needed immediately to check on jobs. Triangle Roofing 504-469-0353

**SCS Now** Hiring: Laborers, Grinders, Warehouse w/computer skills and w/out. Assembly Welders. Job is in Kenner LA and West Bank area. 207 Bonn St. in Harvey LA. Call 504-348-4855 or 1-800-310-0131

**SHEET METAL** MECHANIC Service Technicians, and Helpers. Brister-Stephens. Call 985-893-1110 or 504-468-3719

**SHEET ROCK** HANGERS AND DRYWALL FINISHERS, Wanted, Experienced. New Orleans Paint and Drywall Services. Call Danny Herrin 504-466-1653 or 504-251-1680

**SHEETROCK FINISHERS** & Painters, Experienced only! Top pay. Call for info @ 504-915-3392

**SIDING CREW** Needed for vinyl and Cement, experienced only. For info call 985-960-2534.

**SIDING INSTALLERS** W/ exp., good pay, F/T. Troy Leger T&L Siding 985-969-9621/504-382-8788

**SKILLED ROOF** TECHS To start immediately. Please call 504-416-1831 for more info.

**Slidell Lawn** Co. needs an experienced worker, must have own transportation. 985-774-1580

**Southern Precision** is looking for CNC Machinist for Immediate Employment. Great Pay! Apply in person 9am to 4pm 108 Pintail St., St. Rose

**Stewart Interior** Hiring metal framers, drywall hangers, & plasters. 504-301-0535

**SURVEYOR (Office)** Min 5 yrs. exp. in Land Survey. Auto CAD, LDD exp. req. FT, PT, All Welcome. Call 703-934-0900, E-mail: lbarker@psaltd.com, fax 703-934-9787, www.psaltd.com

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**Vinyl Siding/Gutter/Patio** Installers, experienced. Call 985-290-9649/985-290-9648

**WAREHOUSE/ DRIVER** Clean License required. No CDL. West Bank. 504-367-1257

**WEEKS MARINE** INC. in Covington is now hiring Crew Coordinator with 3 plus years experience in HR field or related area. Knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices and procedures includes recruitment, employment, records management, employee/labor relations and organization development. Email resume to: mailhr@weeksmarine.com or fax to 985-875-2575. EEO/M/F/V/D.

**WELDER Boland** Marine & Mfg Co. looking for Combination Fitter/Welder. Must be exp. Fitter and able to pass test for tig, wire, and stick welding. Position requires knowledge of fabrication shop equipment. Overtime available. Taking applications at 1000 Tchoupitoulas St. Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. 504-581-5800

**WELDERS, FITTERS,** TACKERS, GENERAL LABORERS Immediate positions, 10-12 hours/day. Call 1-877-376-0801 or 504-376-8700

**WELDERS/FITTERS/MACHINE OPERATORS/GENERAL** LABORERS Apply in person: 8am-4pm, Monday - Thursday at Ludwig Building Inc. 521 Time Saver Ave. Harahan or call 504-733-9167

**Whitfield's A/C** & Heating in Pearl River is looking for experienced A/C installers, helpers, and technicians for permanent positions. Please call Kirk at 985-863-0911 or 985-960-0285.

## Employment

### 4165 Warehouse

**Production Employee** Cargill, Incorporated Grain & Oilseed Chain Immed. opening avail. in Plant Operations. We are looking for individuals with: Strong communication, reading, writing & math skills; Good attendance record & work ethics; Reliable transportation; High school diploma or equivalent; Ability to operate heavy machinery/equipment; Ability to perform heavy lifting; Ability to climb to a significant elevation. Flexible work schedule is desired. Applicants should be willing to work shifts, wkends, holidays & OT. This is an exc oppt'y for qualified individuals interested in a team environment and who want to continuously learn and grow in their jobs. Cargill offers a competitive sal & benes pkg. Successful applicants will be req'd to pass a company paid physical exam that includes drug & alcohol screening. Apply in person: LA Job Service, General DeGaulle. New Orleans, LA 70114. 504-364-5625

**LABORERS 50** (Warehouse/Construction). $8-$15/hour. Housing, 124 Trudeau St, Metairie. 504-712-1133

**OFFICE DEPOT** WAREHOUSE POSITIONS - PT Receiving shifts 04:00am & 06:00am and PT Loaders, Order Pickers and Equipment Operators shifts 12pm, 2pm and 3pm. Apply in person at 150 Riverbend Blvd, St. Rose, LA. M/F, V/D EEO/AA

**Sm. Construction** Co seeks warehouse person to assist in shop, must know city. 504-468-2527

**VENTURE LOGISTICS** is hiring in Lacombe area. Fork Operators - 15. Casepickers - 10. Yard Driver - 1. Dispatcher - 1. Good starting wage. Benefits after 90 Days. Call 985-726-7642 or fax 985-726-7607

**WAREHOUSE PERSON** Experienced forklift operator. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Benefits include health insurance and profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

**WAREHOUSE PERSON/DRIVER** Must be 21 yrs of age, good driving record. Wholesale Siding Supply, Covington LA 1-866-877-2771

**WAREHOUSE PERSON/DRIVER** Must be 21 yrs of age, good driving record. Wholesale Siding Supply, Jefferson LA 504-734-7384

**Warehouse workers** needed, earn 9 to 11 dollars per hour. Ability to speak English a plus, but not necessary. Apply at Hackbarth, 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA. (504)468-9390.

**WEST BANK** WAREHOUSE - searching for a reliable warehouse person w/great inventory skills, forklift/light computer experience. Apply in person or send resume to: 181 Grefer Lane, Harvey LA, 70058.

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$ ABLE** TO START IMMEDIATELY $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$18-25 Neat, hard-working people needed for a fast-paced, fun work environment. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Get in on the ground floor, we are rebuilding a company after Katrina. $2000 A MONTH TO START. $1500 SIGN ON BONUS CALL NOW 504-202-2475

**$10/HOUR PLUS** BONUSES. Citywide Maid Service. Daytime Flexible Hours. 504-866-1234. For Northshore (Cov, Mand, Slid, Hamm). 985-867-1495

**Auto Detailers** No experience necessary, will train, Please Call 504-888-3379

**BE YOUR** OWN BOSS! Newspaper Carrier For The Advocate in the Mandeville area. Initially $375 minimum per week. Please call Tommy @ 1-800-960-6397 ext. 0227. Must have reliable transportation, experience pref.

**Blueroof &** Debris Removal Inspectors. For info call DQSI(985)809-3970 ASAP

**BOUQUET WORKERS** No exp. nec., apply in person 11966 River Rd, St. Rose, No Tuesday/Friday.

**CAREGIVER Need** sitter for handicap elderly lady. Please call 504-454-1296

**Caregiver, after** school care for our special needs child in Mandeville. 985-237-9464

**Carpet &** Furniture Cleaning, 2 people needed. No experience. Call 504-469-0157

**CASHIER -** Hotel Gift Shop, Downtown. AM/PM Shifts. Call 723-0023

**CERAMIC TILE** AND MARBLE HELPERS No Experience Necessary. Benefits. 504-734-1002

**CHARVETS GARDEN** CENTER, LANDSCAPE LABORERS. Bobcat and irrigation experience. Start $10.00 and up, Benefits. Apply in person, 4511 Clearview Pkwy. 504-888-7700

**CHILD CARE** Position in Metairie Pre-School. F/T and P/T. 504-833-2808

**CHILD CARE** TEACHER High School diploma and Exp working with children, must be willing to work flexible hours, permanent position. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, LA. Hours: 8am to 10:30 am, Tu-F.

**Construction workers** needed in Edgar area. Call 504-392-3373 Monday-Friday 8am-3:30pm.

**Control Building** Services is searching for housekeeping staff and floor techs for immediate hire in the New Orleans area. Full and part time positions available. If interested call 504-455-7704 or 504-247-3254

**Control Building** Services is searching for housekeeping staff and floor techs for immediate hire in the New Orleans area. Full and part time positions available. If interested, call 504-455-7704 or 504-247-3254

**Counter Help,** Creole Bagelry, hours of operation 7am-2pm. Call Bernadette: 985-649-6151 or 985-788-5252

**Custodian Full** Time. Luxury Condo building need reliable maint custodian $11.00/hr. Call John at 504-220-6928 or E-mail Johntaylor@soniatrealty.com

**DAYCARE CENTER** in Kenner requires help. Call Faye 504-464-0232 for more information

**DISPATCHER -** Experience preferred for Jefferson Parish towing company. 504-835-4500

**Dispatchers, 9** positions available at the Charter Communications location in Slidell, the Nations 4th Largest Broadband communications business in the country. We offer competitive salaries, and excellent benefits. all selected candidates will be required to submit to a drug screen, and criminal background check. Please apply online at: www.charter.com. Charter Communications is an EEO employer.

**Does your** job offer family freedom and financial security? Call 484-542-1631

**DRY CLEAN** and Laundry Presser needed. 751 Veterans Blvd. Call 504-615-3868, 504-835-0876

**Dry Cleaner** taking applications for all positions, 8128 Willow St. 504-861-7812/881-0299

**EMBROIDERY Retail** store in Mandeville seeking full time employee. Exp a plus. Call 985-624-9718 or fax to 985-624-9719

**Environmental Workers** Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of Hurricane Katrina, possible short and long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

**EXP. PEST/TERMITE** CONTROL TECHNICIAN - Permanent position. 504-494-3101 or 504-583-1197

**EXPERT DRY** CLEAN PRESSER and Expert Wet/Shirt Presser. Apply as soon as possible 3910 Highway 22, Mandeville. Dry Cleaning By Louis.

**Fliers Distributor,** must have own transp., attach fliers in Metairie area. 504-400-6799

**French Quarter** Valets and Cashiers Needed. Professional and good driving records. Apply Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm, 716 Iberville St. EEO

**Front Desk/Veterinarian** Assistant, full time/part time, immediate openings, Cypress Point Animal Hospital, Mandeville. Call: 985-626-4462

**Gas /** Convenient Store, great opportunities / benefits, xlnt starting pay, paid. vac., great work environment. Now accepting applications for Managers / Assistant Managers / Cashiers. Apply at Shell Harbor Market at 2963 US Highway 190 in Mandeville or send resume to: P.O. Box 68 Luling, LA 70070.

**GROUNDSKEEPERS needed** to maintain the grounds, pools & creeks at Metairie & Kenner apartments. Apply in person at 5245 Citrus Blvd, River Ridge.

**HARDWARE CLERK-duties** consist of cutting and threading pipe, cutting glass and loading cement. Lapalco Hardware Please call 504-367-2020

**HIRING NOW** CASHIERS & ATTENDANTS Shell Convenient Stores, All Shifts, Competitive Pay, Insurance, Please Apply At: 711 East Boston Street, Covington, LA. 985-898-2663

**Hort Spray** techs needed. Will train. Northshore. Please call Lobbs, 504-469-6773.

**HOUSE CLEANERS** Monday-Friday days, paid training, CAR REQUIRED. Merry Maids, 504-849-0411

**Insulation Installers,** Coastal Co. double footage pay, 284 Iris St. Jefferson LA. Apply between 7am-12pm. 504-833-2922

**Janitorial Looking** for 2 workers for positions in Westbank and 2 positions in Eastbank. Call for details 504-722-7959

**JANITORIAL NO** EXP NEEDED,FT/PT. COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS. APPLY @ ESPLANADE MALL MGMT OFC OR CALL 504-466-2500.

**Laborers needed,** dependable, FT & PT in Orleans, Jefferson & River Parish areas. Call 504-884-1418

**Laborers for** warehouse and truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

**Laborers needed** for Grounds keeping Lawn Service Please Call 504-460-4124

**LAWN &** LANDSCAPE WORKERS Pay depending on experience, Mandeville area. Call 985-845-1788

**Lawn -** Byrd Lawn And Handyman currently hiring FT and PT help, on the North Shore, $8-$10/hour, Call Dan 985-516-8816

**LAWN MAINTENANCE** help needed. Outdoor work, $10.00 and up. Call 504-887-0393

**Lawncare Business,** help needed, no exp needed. Drivers also needed w/ good license for crew leader. 985-262-3367

**MAINTENANCE/JANITOR:**
**Part-time** Mntc/Janitor position available, up to 18 hrs/wk M through F. Must be able to pass background check. Must have general knowledge of cleaning procedures and substances, of materials and methods necessary to perform minor repairs, and must possess the necessary skills to complete the job. Valid driver's license req. Able to lift up to 50 pounds and climb a ladder. Must be dependable! Applications accepted at 1233 Eighth St., NOLA, 70115 or e-mail resumes to: jbroussard@raintreeservices.org or fax: 895-0204. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE! EOE

**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER All** Day, Mon.-Fri. Must own car and have clean driving record. Background check. Mandeville home. 985-626-9285

**NEED F/T** Sales Rep, Fork Lift Driver, Mechanic, and Warehouse Manager. Call 504-467-3024. or Fax Resume 504-467-5095

**NEW ORLEANS** COUNTRY CLUB is now hiring: GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE. No experience needed; salary based on experience. Apply in person at 1001 Manson Ave., Metairie, LA 70001, Mon.-Fri. 9am-4pm.

**PCA'S -** Needed to work with developmentally disabled individuals. Must have HS diploma, own transportation, car insurance, & drivers lic. $6.00/hour to start. Vacation, sick, & tuition reimbursement avail after 1 year of F/T employment. Apply at: 2200 Veterans Blvd, #205, Kenner, 10a-2p Mon-Fri

**Positions: MIG/TIG** exp. welder, alum & steel. Warehouseman w/ mechanical ability. AQUA-AIR 639 Manhattan, Harvey.

**Preschool/Childcare Attendant,** Precious Angels Daycare seeking experienced Childcare Attendant. 504-363-5400

**QUALITY CONTROL** ASSISTANTS Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for Quality Control Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities, and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediately and work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour. Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-359-3018

**QUALITY CONTROL** ASSISTANTS Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for Quality Control Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities, and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediately and work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour. Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-359-3018 or Fax: 985-359-3030

**RECEPTIONIST/VETERINARIAN ASSISTANT** Full-time for Banfield, The Pet Hospital. Apply at 45 Park Place Dr. (Inside Petsmart) 985-867-9224

**Red White** and Blue Thrift Store now hiring. Apply in person 6001 Jefferson Highway.

**RIVER OAKS** MANAGEMENT Now Hiring qualified managers, assistant managers, maintenance men and grounds keepers, Apply at 139 Enterprise Drive, Gretna LA., 504-367-9273.

**SERVICEMASTER now** hiring part-time and full-time positions. 504-362-4700

**Shores Cleaners** needs experienced wool presser, shirt presser and counter help. Metairie area. Call 504-837-5935

**SMILING COUNTER** PERSON Coffe/Donut Shop. 5:30am-12:00pm. P/T. $7.75 + tips. Great Env. 674-9240 Daylight Donut

**State All** Fuel Center. Needed Cashiers and Deli workers. Call 504-394-5530

**Tank Wash** Personnel, Oakley Trucking Inc. is now accepting applications for Tank Wash personnel. Entry level position. Some mechanical experience preferred. Excellent benefit package, including health and life insurance, 401K, vacation and holiday pay. Experienced applicants only need apply. Please come by to fill out application at 191 Transport Dr. Reserve, LA. Apply in person and ask for Skip McGriff.

**Tire Tech** Experience required, Monday -Friday, 7am-6pm. Overtime and paid holidays, no weekends. Apply at Tire Shack Inc. 9194 Highway 23. Belle Chasse, LA. 70037

**TLC Linen** Services, Located in the Bywater area is looking for production employees. If you're looking for long-term employment, please call 504-945-1148 or 504-415-7076 Experienced laundry workers preferred.

**TRAILER MECHANIC** TRAINEE Helper/Trainee needed for semi-trailer repair shop, great opportunity to learn a trade. Welders encouraged to apply. Full time with benefits. Please apply: 1000 Industry Road, Kenner. Call: 504-733-0037. Fax: 504-733-0099. Email: jacksonmet@aol.com. Jackson Truck and Trailer Repair

**Truck Stops/Convenient** Store, great opportunities/benefits, exc starting pay, paid. vacations, great work enviro. Now accepting apps. for Supervisors, managers, assistant managers, and cashiers in the Metropolitan, Raceland, St. Charles Parish, St. John area. Apply at Phillips 66 in Luling and Ama on River Rd or Shell on Hwy 90 in Boutte or send resume to P.O. Box 68 Luling, LA 70070.

**VETERINARY ASSISTANT** needed. Apply at 1102 North Lee Rd, Covington. 985-892-1471

**Veterinary Assistant** wanted for Hickory Knoll Veterinary Hospital in Harahan. Apply at 1625 Hickory Ave, or e-mail manager@hickoryknoll.com

**WANTED EXPERIENCED** TREE CLIMBERS and Ground workers. $17.00-$25.00/hour. Call 504-382-1645

**WAREHOUSE FORKLIFT** & GENERAL LABOR jobs available now. Call 504-835-3137.

**Welding supply** company needs experienced office clerks with basic computer skills. Also drivers with a CDL Class B Hazmat. Please apply in person 2700 Hessmer, Metairie.

### 4310 Employment Wanted - Household

**Domestic Help** Wanted, Preferably Mexican Decent, Green Card Required. 985-778-6629

### 4320 Employment Wanted - Miscellaneous

**20 +** years purchasing exp, some exp in Marketing Administration & A/R & A/P. 985-764-0318

## MERCHANDISE

### 5020 Appliances

**APPLIANCES For** Sale, Refrigerator with ice maker, $300. Electric range, Self cleaning oven, $350. Microwave and cart, $65. No Storm Damage. 504-367-5833 or 504-453-6259

**DRYING CENTER** Maytag w/extra large capacity & top steaming cabinet, 6 months old, Paid $1200 sell for $600. 504-329-9852

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**SOFAs, kitchen** sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

**

# Question remains: Who was in charge?

**BROUSSARD,** *from A-1*

hospitals. He further called Young's comments at Wednesday's council meeting a "sanctimoniously hypocritical" maneuver to gain political favor that contrasted with Young's silence Aug. 28 as Broussard decided to evacuate pump station staff.

"At no time do I remember you telling me that we should not send the pump operators away," Boussard said. "I think you're politically perfect. . . . However, in an emergency situation, you were invisible.

"It will be a rainy day in hell . . . before I tell a pump operator that they will stay in any structure . . . during a Category 4 or 5 storm," Broussard said. "You say you're sensitive to life. I say you're full of s- - -."

## 'Doomsday' debate

The exchange, which drew gasps from an audience accustomed to civility in the council chambers, cast wide open the growing public debate over why the parish's "doomsday" plan calls for pump operators to retreat to Mount Hermon, near the Mississippi border, and whether their protracted return after Katrina exacerbated house flooding and jeopardized the lives of residents who did not evacuate.

In pitting two of the parish's most powerful elected leaders, it also raised the question of who was in charge as Katrina hurtled toward Jefferson Parish and how information about the status of canals and pump stations was gathered as winds strengthened and water levels in canals and Lake Pontchartrain rose before the storm.

During major storm events, Broussard generally has stationed himself at the parish's Emergency Operations Center in Marrero, assuming additional executive authority granted by law during a declared emergency such as Katrina. Meanwhile, he has assigned the council's seven members to monitor conditions inside the parish or supervise satellite government operations elsewhere in case Jefferson is washed away.

Broussard said Wednesday that in the hours leading up to Katrina, he relied on Young to provide status reports on levees and pump stations in East Jefferson. Broussard said he assumed that responsibility himself on the West Bank. Young, however, disputed the point and said Wednesday was the first time Broussard had buttonholed him to that task.

"You know very well that you did not assign me to the pump stations during this hurricane," Young said.

"You are a liar, sir," Broussard replied.

Later, Young said he was based in East Jefferson to provide updates at Broussard's request, eventually hunkering down at East Jefferson General Hospital. Young said he phoned the EOC on Aug. 28 about 8 p.m. to report that water levels in several canals were high and should be pumped down, only to learn from Broussard's top aide, Tim Whitmer, that pump station operators already had evacuated.

Whitmer said he did not remember that exchange, though he said it might have happened. "I simply do not recall that specific phone call," he said.

Young, however, was adamant, adding that although Broussard said he put his faith in him to monitor East Jefferson conditions, the parish president never conferred with him about policy decisions, including the pump operators' evacuation, before or during the storm.

Broussard "never consulted me on the east bank," Young said after the meeting. "I was not the decision maker. I wasn't the point man. I was not the go-to guy. There was an emergency declaration, and (Broussard) was the decision maker. And I was constantly reminded that this was not my call and the parish president was the only one who has the authority to make that call."

Broussard told the council that even as anger continues to swell among residents whose homes flooded while pump stations sat empty, he again would send pump operators outside Jefferson if another strong hurricane approached, though he might dispatch them to a different location.

"The destination was logical," Broussard said later. "As for the question of closer, is there an area where access back in will be easier and therefore the reentry back will be quicker? We're looking into that."

In the case of a Category 3 storm, Broussard said he might consider keeping operators in the parish, though he was not sure if any building in Jefferson could withstand that level of hurricane.

## 'I'm not campaigning'

The council's six other members stayed silent during the Young-Broussard exchange, with Council Chairman Tom Capella weighing in only to call for an end to the dialog after several minutes. The debate hit a climax when Broussard accused Young of using the pump-station issue to launch his own bid for the parish presidency in 2007.

Broussard said he intends to run for a second term that year. Young said he has not ruled out a race in two years for parish president, though he added that his demand for a new evacuation policy is not about winning votes.

"I'm not campaigning," Young said. "I'm not even thinking about the next election. This is not politics. This is about protecting life and property."

•••••••

Michelle Krupa can be reached at mkrupa@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3785.

# West Nile cases increase, but not because of storms

*Most bites occurred before Katrina hit*

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana has confirmed 30 new cases of West Nile virus, but they don't appear to have anything to do with the hurricanes that hit the state, the state epidemiologist reports.

"The gloomy predictions of large outbreaks of West Nile did not come through and may not materialize before the end of the season," Dr. Raoult Ratard said.

He said most of the cases apparently were from bites before hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The few cases that appear to have developed after the hurricanes were mostly in the Baton Rouge area and the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, where the virus was heavily present before the hurricanes, Ratard said in a news release late Tuesday.

In all, 129 cases have been diagnosed this year, 74 of them dangerous infections of the brain or spinal fluid; 37 of less-serious West Nile fever; and 18 without any symptoms, often found when people who didn't know they were infected gave blood. Six people have died, none of them since the last report.

The new cases included four in New Orleans, three each in Rapides and Caddo parishes, two each in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes, and one each in Beauregard, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Jefferson, Livingston, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, St. Tammany and Vernon parishes.

The Shreveport and Monroe areas of north Louisiana, neither of which was hit by the hurricanes, have the largest numbers of cases, Ratard said.

To avoid West Nile virus, residents should apply mosquito repellent, wear long sleeves and long pants, and avoid wearing perfumes or colognes when outside for prolonged periods of time. Also, remove any standing water from around your home and make sure your windows and doors have secure screens.

"In comparing this year to other West Nile seasons in Louisiana, the pattern this year appears similar to 2003 and 2004, rather than in 2002, when the state saw a massive outbreak of the disease," Dr. Ratard said. "We do not anticipate seeing such an outbreak this year, even after the recent storm activity."

In 2004, there were 114 cases of West Nile and seven deaths, and in 2003 there were 122 cases and seven deaths from the disease. In 2002, the state had 329 cases and 25 deaths.

At this time last year and the year before, about 75 cases had been diagnosed.

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### 8620 Ford

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**'02 Mustang** GT, mineral gray, 22000 miles, 5 spd, exhaust, $18,000 obo, 504915-5400

## Automotive

### 8620 Ford

**'05 Focus** Willing to sell for payoff. Husband in Iraq. $14,000. Call 504-909-1081

**'97 Crown** Victoria, 68k miles, excellent shape, loaded, $6000. George 985-502-5839

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### 8740 Nissan

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## Automotive

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## Automotive

### 8920 Sport Utility Vehicles

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**'98 Ford** Explorer XLT, 65k miles, great condition with ext warranty. $7000. 504-417-2649

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# METRO

SECTION B

Thursday, October 13, 2005

EDITORIALS • B-10



SHEILA STROUP

## In search of a flock dispersed

Once the water from Hurricane Katrina was gone, Coleen Landry sneaked into City Park.

"There was nobody here but me. I felt like the little girl in 'The Secret Garden,' " she said.

She went to check on the swan family she had been photographing all summer and to see how the park's ancient live oaks had fared.

"See these oaks? They stood their ground," she said. "But the swans were nowhere to be seen."

Coleen went back again and again, looking for the five cygnets that hatched in May, but she didn't find them, their parents or the pair the parents had raised two years ago.

Then one day she saw one of the 2-year-olds swimming with some geese in Bayou St. John.

"I got so excited I almost jumped out of the car," she said. "I just wonder what happened to her sister."

### A grieving mother

A few days ago, Coleen learned that four swans had shown up in Audubon Park after the hurricane, so she went to see whether they were part of her little family.

"It's the mother and three babies," she said, after checking. "The mother really looks like she's grieving. They do that when they lose a mate."

The swans are in a lagoon with plenty of duckweed to eat, and it appears that some of the other waterfowl they hung out with in City Park have migrated with them.

Coleen is hoping that somehow, somewhere, the father, the other two cygnets and the other 2-year-old survived Katrina and are paddling around in some bayou or lagoon. The young swans' feathers would be white by now, and they would be nearly as big as their dad.

"I wonder if anyone has seen them," she said. "The parents were so good at taking care of their babies, and I'd love to get them back together."

### Defender of oaks

Coleen was on the board of the Friends of City Park for 14 years, and she must be one of the best friends the park has.

Besides looking out for the swans, she is chairman of the Live Oak Society, which is dedicated to protecting, preserving and honoring the live oak, a hallmark of the park.

"As long as I'm chairman, I plan to stick to that," she said.

She is concerned about the live oaks, both in City Park and in the rest of New Orleans. In the park, the ancient oaks need tender loving care now because the ground beneath them is like concrete.

She hopes that when the Army Corps of Engineers start cleaning up, they'll bring in a mulcher and turn the tons of debris into wood mulch to put under the oaks.

"That would get rid of the mess and feed the trees," she said.

She is also upset to see live oaks around New Orleans being bulldozed when they should be saved.

"You don't just cut down a tree because it's hurt; you cut off the bad parts and you nurture it," she said. "Take away all the trees, and you've got a naked city."

•••••••

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4831.

# Voodoo music fest to return, for a day

*It will honor those helping with recovery*

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

The Voodoo Music Experience is back — sort of.

The two-day music festival, initially scheduled for City Park on Halloween weekend, was moved to Memphis, Tenn., in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

But producers announced Wednesday that they'll stage Voodoo in both cities: as a free, invitation-only concert for police, firefighters, military and National Guard members, and rescue personnel on Oct. 29 at Riverview Park behind Audubon Zoo, and as a ticketed event on Oct. 30 at AutoZone Park in downtown Memphis.

The New Orleans concert, which also will be open to those who purchased Voodoo tickets before Sept. 22, boasts most of the heavy-hitters from the initial lineup: Nine Inch Nails, Queens of the Stone Age, the New York Dolls, the Secret Machines and DJ Tiesto, plus a dozen local favorites, ranging from trumpeter Kermit Ruffins, the Rebirth and New Birth brass bands, trombone collective Bonerama and keyboardist Jon Cleary to rockers World Leader Pretend, Cowboy Mouth and Supagroup.

The New York Dolls and Cowboy Mouth also will perform in Memphis, along with Cake, the North Mississippi Allstars, the Decemberists and Better Than Ezra. Additionally, Dr. John, the Neville Brothers and Ivan Neville's DumpstaPhunk are scheduled for a free show in Memphis, part of a Halloween weekend concert series.

"The New Orleans show is for the community, first and foremost the people who are rebuilding the city," Voodoo producer Stephen Rehage said. "Memphis is the fund-raising side."

Rehage said Nine Inch Nails frontman Trent Reznor first suggested moving part of Voodoo back to New Orleans. Reznor lived for several years in a Garden District mansion and operated a recording studio on Magazine Street.

*See* **VOODOO,** *B-4*

'WE CAN'T RESCUE A CITY OF PETS'




STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN McCUSKER

Nancy Cleveland of Los Angeles, a Muttshack rescuer, set a trap to try to catch the cat she found at this home.

# Pet rescuers arranging fewer happy reunions

*Animals being found are hungry, scared*

**By Doug MacCash**
Staff writer

Mark Percy said he thought he had seen a ghost when he pushed open the flood-swollen door of his parents' home in eastern New Orleans and encountered the family's black cocker spaniel, Sabu.

The dog was still alive despite being entombed in the dank, moldy ranch house for more than five weeks. Sabu had been stashed in the attic at the onset of the flooding, but in the intervening days, he had fallen through the damp ceiling onto the ground floor. "He scared me to death," said Percy, 20, marveling at the emaciated creature that rolled in the dry grass and lapped pellets of kibble from the sidewalk. "He's a soldier. At best, I thought somebody got him. I thought he'd be dead."

The somebody that Percy hoped would have gotten the trapped dog was one of the hundreds of animal rescuers from across the country who wandered New Orleans in the days and weeks after Hurricane Katrina, checking lists of pet-owner addresses, listening for barks, looking for furred faces in windows and otherwise searching for trapped animals. Their hand-marked vehicles, crowbar house break-ins and caged survivors were a leitmotif of

*See* **PETS,** *B-2*




Muttshack rescuers left this message to indicate where they brought pets found at this home.

# La., Miss. fish not tainted, tests find

*No high levels of chemicals, bacteria*

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

Fish caught off the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines show no signs of contamination from oil spills and foul floodwaters pumped out of New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, dispelling — for now — fears that Gulf of Mexico seafood was dangerously tainted.

The region's fishing industry remains crippled as thousands of boats, marinas and processing plants were destroyed, and it remains unclear when fleets will return to the water. But federal officials say the marine resources on which commercial and recreational fishers depend escaped problems so far.

Test results released this week showed no high levels of chemicals or harmful bacteria in dozens of fish tissue samples taken by scientists aboard a Na-

*See* **FISH,** *B-2*

# Woman rescues Jewish scrolls

*N.O. temple Torahs plucked from muck*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Working alone with a shovel in her back yard two weeks after Hurricane Katrina, a Christian woman in River Ridge honored Jewish tradition and carefully buried the ruined sacred Torahs of a flooded New Orleans synagogue, to the relief of its distressed members who could not care for the scrolls themselves.

Becky Heggelund's willingness to bury the seven Torahs of Congregation Beth Israel lifted a huge load of anxiety from the members of the 102-year-old Orthodox congregation, the synagogue's leaders said. "She was the only one we could find to step in on our behalf. Her respect for our faith and our tradition was just a beautiful trib-

*See* **SCROLLS,** *B-2*

# N.O. considers bypassing historic preservation law

*Mayor's proposal draws criticism*

**By Bruce Eggler and Gordon Russell**
Staff writers

An unsigned proclamation by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin that would temporarily suspend the powers of city agencies that normally must sign off before buildings in the city's older neighborhoods can be torn down has preservationists fearing a spate of hasty demolitions of historic structures.

The precise intent of the declaration, which is undated, is unclear. City officials already have the power to tear down buildings without review if an inspector deems the structure to be in danger of "imminent collapse."

The order — which applies to the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission, its Central Business District counterpart and the Housing Conservation District Review Committee, which reviews demolition applications in old neighborhoods not governed by the HDLC — would have to be filed in Civil District Court and with the state to give it the force of law.

The proclamation seems to give the Nagin administration broader latitude to raze buildings in the city's older neighborhoods, not including the French Quarter. But city officials did not offer any explanation of why they sought the extra authority.

*See* **DEMOLITIONS,** *B-2*

# Worst-off animals often adopted first

**PETS,** *from B-1*

the storm and flood's aftermath.

But though animal rescues continued this week in largely empty neighborhoods, and though the resilience of domesticated animals — from house cats to lap dogs to exotic birds — was sometimes astonishing, time was no longer on their side.

Amanda St. John, the founder of Muttshack, a volunteer rescue organization based in Los Angeles, said the condition of the animals being brought to Muttshack's Hayne Boulevard headquarters in Lake Castle Private School had deteriorated since the first weeks of the rescue. Predictably, the animals were becoming "skinnier and sicker and quieter."

"A lot of homeowners are coming home to dead and dying animals," she said.

The disposition of the animals had also changed. Gone were the gregarious dogs prancing toward their rescuers, replaced by sullen frightened creatures who had begun adapting to life on the street. Cages in the rescuer's canine compound were marked with red labels designating animals too hostile to handle.

One recent afternoon, Karen O'Toole of Chicago and Nancy Cleveland of Los Angeles, two of Muttshack's most dedicated rescuers, cruised the gray junk-strewn New Orleans neighborhoods — neighborhoods that were sometimes disheveled even before Katrina — conducting still another stray cat sweep. As their white van lurched from place to place, braking abruptly at any sign of life, they tore open small packages of pet food, tossing them from the moving vehicle like beads from a Mardi Gras float. The two women's hands were punctured and scratched from handling cats.

"Now we're seeing strays everywhere," O'Toole said. "Whether their owners were told to leave them off or if they were released when the owners evacuated, there are poodles to pit bulls running loose. In a normal city, a stray can rummage through the garbage at a restaurant or convenience store, but here there's nothing. We put out food everywhere, but there's a handful of us, we can't rescue a city of pets."

In the course of a few hours, O'Toole and Cleveland collected four stray cats from t cages that had been set and tried unsuccessfully to coax a wary dog toward them on Ursuline Street. John Williams, a neighbor watching the scene, said the dog looked "like a damn hyena." But that furtive stray seemed tame compared to the pair of wildly barking pit bulls on Gov. Nicholls Street. Too violent to safely noose, they were fed in place.

"Animals act differently now," O'Toole said, "not because they're mean but because they're scared. Cute little poodles will tear your head off."

To emphasize the grimness of the situation, the women broke from the hunt from time to time to give macabre tours of houses and yards where, despite their efforts, animals have perished. A chow in the Lafitte public housing development seemed to have melted into the rug where he starved to death. A mummified pit bull hanged from his leash on an eastern New Orleans fence where he may have strangled as flood waters receded. A cat skeleton peeked from beneath a pile of rubble. The rescuers recall a small dog, alive but too weak to move, that had presumably been put out with the trash in front of a home. Another dog, found in a bathroom, barely had the strength to raise its head to greet rescuers.

"This is an animal holocaust," Cleveland said.

### Some pets abandoned

Though the ad hoc animal rescue operation that saved the lives of thousands of pets in the weeks after Katrina is a humanitarian success, controversy simmers around the zealotry of some of the rescuers, who blithely broke into homes to save animals they felt were in jeopardy, regardless of whether they had been contacted by animal owners. O'Toole and Cleveland believe the lives of the animals outweighed the rights of the owners.

"I thought when they opened the city, people would rush back to get their pets," O'Toole said, "but some people have just abandoned them. We were told to no longer be going into people's residences as of last Wednesday, but we're working in neighborhoods where the houses are condemned."

As an example of their approach, Cleveland and O'Toole mentioned breaking into every apartment in a complex in eastern New Orleans that they believed had been abandoned and doomed to demolition. O'Toole said she had learned to divine the presence of dogs and cats by certain exterior clues. If she saw a dog figurine in a window, she would search for a dog. If a house had an abundance of house plants or decoration, she would suspect a cat.

"I've never felt bad about breaking a window once," said O'Toole.

Back at the Hayne Boulevard headquarters, a dog handler walked a terribly skinny German shepherd on the parking lot. The animal's head was tilted disconcertingly to one side, the apparent result either of chemical toxins or a severe ear infection. He paced unsurely in tight circles. Elsewhere on the parking lot a skeletal chow was bathed to remove dirt and possible pollutants. The dog had gone deaf and blind for unknown reasons. Another chow, also blind and rescued from beneath the same house, lay forlornly in a cage in the veterinary station.

"Now the animals we're seeing are much more critical," said Muttshack veterinarian Sabra Lucas of Troutville, Va. "We're seeing a lot of chemical burns, skin sloughing, emaciation, severe dehydration — basically, they're just starved."

### No euthanasia

Despite the near-death condition of some of the animals, the veterinarians have euthanized none. St. John says that, curiously, the most damaged animals are often the first to be adopted once they've reached evacuation sites. "Old people take old dogs, people with heart conditions take dogs with heart conditions, people with a limp take dogs with a limp," she said.

Several owners have appeared at the Muttshack compound to retrieve lost pets, or surrender ownership, but the majority of the animals remain unclaimed. These castaways are cataloged, photographed and implanted with microchips to help reunite them with their owners, should their owners reappear, before they're taken away to "no-kill" shelters, then foster homes across the country. The animal shelter at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, a clearing house for thousands of rescued animals, closed Oct. 10.

Even at the height of the rescue effort, the reuniting of animals and their owners has been a hit-or-miss endeavor, plagued by mistaken identities, clerical errors and miscommunication. St. John believes that though Muttshack continues occasionally to reunite animals with their owners, the possibilities are becoming slimmer.

Everybody who had an animal had a lottery ticket," she said. "If we found your dog, if anyone found your dog, you won the lottery. The truth is, the chances of winning are small."

St. John expects Muttshack to remain in New Orleans until January.

# Contaminants often build up

**FISH,** *from B-1*

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel. Earlier results revealed no high levels of petroleum products.

"So far, so good," said Steve Murawski, chief scientist for NOAA-Fisheries.

Oil spills caused by Katrina sent more than 8 million gallons of crude into southeast Louisiana bayous and rivers, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. And 224 billion gallons of floodwaters were pumped out of New Orleans following Katrina and Hurricane Rita, sending toxic heavy metals such as lead, copper and cadmium into Lake Pontchartrain.

"There's been so much speculation about the toxic soup" of floodwater being pumped from the city, Murawski said. "But we haven't detected any bacteria or hydrocarbons or any of the chemicals we were looking for. . . . This doesn't mean we're all clear and good to go. What it means is we haven't detected anything yet."

Murawski explained that some contaminants can build up in fish tissue over months or years, necessitating continued tests in coming months. The first round of sampling targeted Atlantic croaker, blue crabs and bigeyed tuna, which NOAA considers "indicator" species — barometers for contamination in general.

A separate battery of tests focusing on shrimp, which support a $500 million industry in the Gulf of Mexico, is pending.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is doing similar work in Lake Pontchartrain. To date, no major problems have been found, said Chris Piehler, a senior environmental scientist with the agency.

Although elevated levels of bacteria from sewage were found in some parts of the lake, state officials have insisted proper handling and thorough cooking will kill any dangerous organisms. No emergency closures for recreational or commercial fishing have been issued in Louisiana since the storm with the exception of oysters. The entire coastline remains closed to oyster harvesting.

Initial tests of oyster meat revealed some with high levels of fecal coliform bacteria from sewage, an outcome many in the industry had expected because oysters feed by filtering out small particles in the water, said Mike Voisin, a Houma oyster farmer and chairman of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force.

But Voisin said the oysters should "clean themselves out" by the same filtering process, and he predicted some areas in central Louisiana soon could reopen to harvesting.

As for other marine life, the studies done at state and local levels have revealed the fear of contamination to be "a nonevent," said John Sackton, editor of Seafood.com, a fishing industry news service.

Sackton cited a recent wholesale price increase of 17 cents a pound for large shrimp, from $3.98 in July to $4.15 in October.

"This is a sign there is not a market impact from the worries about water contamination," he said. "The market is reacting more to a supply issue than anything else."

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# Grill cover is a makeshift shroud

**SCROLLS,** *from B-1*

ute," said congregation President Jackie Gothard.

It means that they need not worry about their old Torahs as they gather to observe Yom Kippur today in a donated Kenner hotel. The service will be led by a rabbi dispatched from New York with his own Torah.

A self-described unaffiliated Christian, Heggelund worked as a secretary at Beth Israel for eight years during the 1990s, she said.

She bonded emotionally to the congregation and its members, attending many of their weddings and funerals. "I learned to love the religion and the basis for it," she said, adding that she came to understand its rituals and values, including Jewish reverence for the Torah.

The Torah is the center of Jewish life and law, and in the Orthodox tradition the exact record of God's own words. As a result, the handwritten scrolls containing the first five books of the Bible are any community's most precious possessions.

Their construction, repair and handling are surrounded by a ritual of veneration.

"We don't worship idols, and we don't have icons or relics," congregation President Jackie Gothard said. "But the closest thing we do have is the Torah scroll."

Torahs are ritually produced on parchment only by specially trained scribes. The Hebrew calligraphy is precise and must be flawless. Rigorous tradition dictates how the sections of parchment are joined. Tradition also dictates how letters and words can be repaired after decades of use at weekly synagogue prayer.

And tradition prescribes that at the end of their usefulness, they must be ritually buried in a cemetery among deceased Jews.

That was not possible shortly after Katrina struck the city. In fact, it is not possible yet.

Like other Katrina evacuees, members of Beth Israel scattered through Louisiana and Texas.

They left their seven Torahs behind in the temple's ark. Most were over a century old. Some had been with the congregation since its founding, Gothard said.

"We evacuated with no idea what the extent of this would be," she said. "We were like everybody else. We figured we'd be gone two or three days, we'd come back, clean up, that would be it."

But for weeks after Katrina, there was no returning to Beth Israel, located on Canal Boulevard in Lakeview, less than half a mile from the infamous breach in the 17th Street Canal.

The synagogue was filled with eight feet of water.

About two weeks after the storm, Gothard received word that the scrolls had been rescued from the temple by Isaac Leider of ZAKA, a New York-based Jewish rescue and recovery organization.

Leider was prepared to take them to Baton Rouge, but Gothard wanted to keep them closer. Heggelund was the only person around New Orleans that Gothard could find who would be likely to know how to treat the scrolls, Gothard said.

In fact the animal-skin scrolls, precious though they were, had melted after two weeks immersion in a foul mess. Five had disintegrated into formless goo. Two others were clearly beyond repair," Heggelund said.

"It was very painful, because I knew how precious these were. But by this time, they were also biohazards. You know the smell coming out of everybody's refrigerators? That's what this smelled like."

Heggelund removed their velvet covers, the silver crowns atop the wooden spindles, the decorative silver breastplates and pointers. She cleaned them and put them away for safekeeping.

To keep the scrolls from touching the ground, she laid them on a vinyl tablecloth on her backyard deck and dug a huge hole, six feet by six feet by four feet deep, she said.

She wrapped the scrolls in the tablecloth, bundled that into a vinyl barbecue grill cover as a makeshift shroud, then filled the pit with dirt.

They remain there.

In time, they will be retrieved and disposed of properly in a Jewish cemetery, according to Jewish tradition, said Gothard.

That would be after Yom Kippur, observed in a hotel donated by friends of Gothard's — Kent and Ken Patel.

They are Hindu.

"Isn't this whole thing amazing?" asked Gothard's husband, Sol.

# New rule's intent not quite clear

**DEMOLITIONS,** *from B-1*

Nagin spokeswoman Sally Forman said the document "speaks for itself." She said she did not know whether the mayor plans to sign it.

The proclamation says that in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, "the application of the rules, regulations and review of those commissions and agencies is logistically impossible and impractical." It then gives Nagin the authority "to suspend the provisions of any regulatory ordinance prescribing the procedures for conduct of local business or the orders, rules, or regulation of any local agency" in cases where complying with those laws would cause delays.

Greg Meffert, Nagin's chief technology officer and the mayoral aide who oversees the City Planning Commission and the HDLC, said Tuesday that he's not sure what the order means in practical terms. But he sought to allay the fears of preservationists and HDLC board members that the administration will ignore the preservation agencies and their concerns.

Meffert said the Landmarks Commission "has an active, vibrant role in what we're doing. Their input is definitely being heard. They're helping us preserve whatever historic architecture we can."

Inspectors from the agency have been in the field, checking buildings in historic areas for structural damage, Meffert said.

He said all of the city's oversight boards and agencies — including the HDLC, the Planning Commission and the Vieux Carre Commission — will see staff cutbacks as a result of the massive layoffs Nagin announced last week.

But that doesn't mean the agencies will disappear or become irrelevant and that wholesale demolition of historic buildings will be commonplace — quite the contrary, Meffert said. "We understand we don't want to be Baton Rouge South," he said.

The New Orleans HDLC, which regulates buildings in local historic districts outside the CBD and French Quarter, on Tuesday held its first meeting since Katrina.

"The HDLC is open and operating as close as possible to normal procedures," Chairman Jesse LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc said he was aware that Nagin had been contemplating signing an order suspending the commission's operations. But until he's notified that it has been signed, he said, the commission would continue operating as usual.

Representatives of the Louisiana Landmarks Society and Preservation Resource Center expressed concern about the effects of the order, and Meg Lousteau, executive director of the landmarks group, said it might be challenged in court.

Janet Howard, president of the watchdog Bureau of Governmental Research, questioned the wisdom of the proposal.

"Whether the city's damaged housing stock is something that can be preserved is a major issue that should be debated as part of a planning process," Howard said. "Eliminating the procedural safeguards for historic neighborhoods would be tantamount to making the decision before the community has had the discussions."

Howard compared the proposed suspension of the HDLC and other panels to Nagin's announcement last week — without any public debate or discussion — of a plan to create a casino zone along Canal and Poydras streets.

"These things should be flowing out of a planning process," she said.

A preliminary survey by the Landmarks Commission's staff found that 115 buildings in seven local historic districts had been seriously damaged by Katrina and that 56 more were "compromised." The survey did not include the Holy Cross neighborhood, much of which was flooded.

But LeBlanc said he was hopeful that state and federal officials understand the importance of preserving the city's old neighborhoods and historic architecture, and that they will not automatically seek to bulldoze every damaged building. "FEMA is committed to the preservation of New Orleans," he said of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We'll be actively fighting to preserve every building we can," said Scott Sewell, vice chairman of the commission and a prominent Republican with ties to the Bush administration.

# AD REPORTER

By Martin Covert






STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES GAFFNEY

Kirschman's employees (from left) Justin Petersen, Charles Tassin and Cliff Darby transport a shipment of new mattresses for a customer at the Metairie store this week. The company's West Bank and Covington locations are also fully operational.

## *Up and running*

**Kirschman's,** one of the area's oldest family-operated chain of stores for furniture, appliances and electronics, is "up and running and fully functioning" at locations on the West Bank Expressway in Gretna, on Highway 190 near I-12 in Mandeville/Covington and also in Baton Rouge and Lafayette.

Fourth-generation Kirschman's family member Michael Kirschman says the store on Veterans near I-10 in Metairie is open "at a limited capacity, because we did suffer damage" from Katrina. "And we expect to reopen our Gulfport store (I-10 near Highway 49) in less than 30 days," he says.

The Slidell Kirschman's on North Shore Boulevard will remain closed while the company concentrates on the Gulf Coast restoration.

The once-busy Kirschman's on Chef Menteur Highway in Gentilly is closed because of structural and water damage in that hard-hit neighborhood, says Kirschman.

As you would expect, "refrigerators and mattresses are being sold in record numbers at all locations," he says.

Goods are being trucked directly to the stores, and most customers are taking that merchandise themselves. The stores are offering limited delivery, says Kirschman. The company's distribution center on Almonaster near I-10 in eastern New Orleans is "structurally fine," he says, "but our work force has been scattered," which has made delivery difficult.

Credit cards are accepted, and Kirschman's house charge accounts are still good options for payment.

## *Hearing well*

**Audibel Hearing Healthcare** has reopened offices at 3929 Veterans (in the Iberia Bank Building) in Metairie, at 1601 Highway 190 in Covington and at 429 W. Airline in LaPlace.

The company also operated undamaged locations in Hammond, Gonzales and Bogalusa.



Audibel's Keith Stroud says offices on Canal Boulevard in Lakeview and Jean Lafitte in Chalmette were essentially destroyed by Katrina, and he is looking for a new location in Orleans Parish. The company's Slidell office on West Gause is currently being repaired and should reopen next month.

*Better yet:* "If your hearing aid was lost or damaged during the flooding or devastation of Hurricane Katrina, you may qualify for a free replacement, thanks to the generosity of the manufacturer," says Stroud, who has been in the hearing aid business in Louisiana since 1958.

The company is also currently offering free hearing tests, as well as repairs on existing hearing devices at the offices that are now open.

*Appointments, details:* 780-7102 in Metairie, 985-892-9421 in Covington, 985-653-8896 in LaPlace.

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# Postal workers return, and so does mail

*Home delivery resumes for some*

**By Joan Treadway**
Staff writer

Postal workers who opted to take temporary assignments outside Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina are starting to move back to the New Orleans area, speeding up the revival of the local mail delivery system.

As of Tuesday, mail services were re-established for every ZIP code in New Orleans, he said. Postal carriers are making street deliveries wherever possible, and over-the-counter service is available for all others. In Jefferson, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, postal service is fully operational, except in a few isolated areas where debris covers the roads or there is roadway damage, Lewin said.

The U.S. Postal Service offered out-of-state duty to many workers when it became apparent that mail couldn't be sent out from the city and many of the surrounding parishes immediately after the storm, said Dave Lewin, a state spokesman for the agency: "Now every day, a few more are returning home."

More than 4,000 postal employees lived and worked in the area before Katrina, he said. He did not know how many left or how many had returned.

Mail carriers who are returning are being greeted warmly by both returning residents and the diehards who never left, he said Wednesday. Last week, he said, he was with carriers when they re-entered the French Quarter and "people were hugging them, applauding them and taking photographs of them."

The agency said it realizes that hurricane survivors are waiting for important items, such as FEMA checks, to come through the mail, Lewin said.

But the agency remains understaffed and is delivering only first-class mail, such as personal letters, and Priority Mail packages — not advertising materials or periodicals, he said.

It will take many months to reopen the flooded main post office on Loyola Avenue, he said. But mail is being delivered to the Central Business District, including ZIP codes 70112, 70113 and 70130, and to the Vieux Carre, ZIP code 70116.

In areas that are accessible, carrier delivery service is being provided in Algiers, which covers ZIP codes 70114 and 70131. Limited retail service is available at the Algiers station from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Over-the-counter mail service is available at these locations: the Carrollton station, 3400 S. Carrollton, for ZIP codes 70118, 70125, 70178 and 70185; the Mid-City Station, 501 N. Jefferson Davis Parkway, for 70119 and 70179; and the Uptown station for ZIP codes 70115, 70122, 70124, 70175, 70182 and 70184. These sites are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Outside the French Quarter but within the 70116 ZIP code, mail can be picked up at the Uptown station at 2000 Louisiana Ave. during the same time frame.

"The only major issue in St. Tammany Parish is Slidell's main post office, which was flood-damaged," he said. "We are making repairs and expect to be open in about four weeks, and we are currently operating out of the West Slidell station."

The rest of St. Tammany is enjoying a fully operational service, he said.

The postal service re-established mail service for residents and businesses in St. Bernard Parish on Wednesday, he said. Customers from that parish can now pick up their mail at a temporary postal annex set up next to the Covington Post Office at 1775 N. Columbia St.

# Beaten retiree pleads innocent

*Man's lawyer calls charges groundless*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

The 64-year-old retired teacher whose beating by three New Orleans police officers in the French Quarter was taped by a TV news crew pleaded innocent Wednesday to public intoxication, resisting arrest and public intimidation.

Robert Davis, his left eye still bruised and swollen, ducked into a waiting car without commenting after his midmorning arraignment at the temporary criminal court at the city's Amtrak station.

His attorney, Joseph Bruno, said the charges against his client are groundless. Inside the makeshift courthouse, Bruno met briefly with city officials to discuss having the charges dismissed, and they agreed to continue their talks. A trial date for Davis was set for Jan. 18, and he was released on his own recognizance.

Bruno repeated Davis' contention that he hasn't had a sip of alcohol in 25 years. He said it was odd that Davis was never asked to take a breath test, despite the public drunkenness charge lodged against him. Police spokesman Capt. Marlon Defillo said police typically do not test suspects for public intoxication and usually depend on an officers' expertise holding up in court.

Davis was trying to buy cigarettes Saturday night at a store on Conti Street near Bourbon Street when he asked a police officer about the time of the curfew, Bruno said.

Another officer intervened, prompting Davis to tell the officer that the interruption was "rude and unprofessional," Bruno said. When Davis proceeded to cross the street to purchase cigarettes, the officer he addressed and two others sucker-punched him from behind and pummeled him, leaving him dazed and drenched in blood, he said.

The officers' attorney, Frank DeSalvo, said police were only trying to subdue Davis and that their actions were justified because of Davis' resistance. Davis had stumbled into a police horse, had slurred speech and had been belligerent toward officers before his arrest, DeSalvo said.

"I see an incident of a man trying to be brought under control who doesn't want to be brought under control," DeSalvo said.

The day after the beating, the officers were charged with simple battery and suspended without pay. They are under internal investigation by the Police Department as well as the U.S. Justice Department, which has opened a civil rights probe.

Bruno said Davis had returned to the city to inspect his flooded house in the 9th Ward after spending about six weeks as an evacuee in Atlanta. He said that when the beating took place about 9 p.m., his client had eaten dinner and was trying to buy cigarettes before returning to the hotel where he was staying.

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# State's vocational schools anticipate building boom

*Construction workers' training likely free*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

Post-secondary vocational schools in Louisiana are gearing up to provide entry-level construction training to thousands of workers who can become part of a post-Hurricane Katrina building frenzy, state officials say.

Information is being collected on potential students through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and classes could begin as early as next week, said Jim Henderson, senior vice president for workforce training for the system.

East Jefferson and West Jefferson vocational campuses are expected to offer two- to three-week courses in basic construction skills, including use of tools, blueprint reading and safety measures, officials said.

Those completing the classes will have an excellent shot at construction jobs in south Louisiana that pay $12 to $13 an hour, and can later obtain training for specialized, higher-paying jobs, such as in the plumbing or electrical trades, they said.

The workers will earn credentials that can be used to land good jobs across Louisiana or in other states, vocational educators say.

"Before Katrina struck, construction was already a high-growth, high-demand industry in Louisiana, with a work force of 127,170 and projections of growth to over 160,000 by the year 2010," Henderson said. "Meeting this unparalleled surge in demand, post-Katrina, will be critical to the rebuilding of the state."

Depending on demand, the courses may also be offered at off-campus sites convenient to displaced workers, including trailer parks set up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. One state vo-tech school in Orleans Parish and another in Slidell aren't available because they were hit hard by the hurricane.

"Sidney Collier (in New Orleans) looks like a total loss, and Slidell, they're still waiting for an assessment," Henderson said. "It's severely damaged."

Delgado's main City Park campus and Nunez Community College in Chalmette ordinarily might offer such training, but they are temporarily closed because of flood damage.

Students are not expected to be charged for the courses, because schools will tap state and federal job training funds, officials said.

The engineering and building company Fluor Corp., hired by FEMA to help create trailer parks for storm victims, asked state officials for help in filling vacancies and the vocational system responded aggressively, said Dickie Jones, human resources director.

"We're hiring those folks now," he said. "Several thousand people will be employed by us and our subcontractors. I would assume that there's going to be some short-term and some long-term employment. . . . Hopefully, whether you work for Fluor or you work for anybody else, you will continue your training. We open up a whole new career path."

Persons interested in enrolling in the trade courses should call a state vocational school in their area, call a state information desk at 1(866) 310-1586, or check the Web site www.lctcs.net. Key local contacts include Louisiana Technical College's Jefferson Campus in Metairie at (504) 736-7072 and its West Jefferson Campus in Harvey at (504) 361-6464.

# Private schools continue reopening

*Demand grows as parents return*

**By Mark Waller**
Staff writer

Three more private schools on the east bank of New Orleans plan to reopen in the coming weeks, making at least eight that are poised to return while Orleans Parish public schools remain closed.

Ecole Bilingue, an Uptown school that immerses its students in the study of French, is planning to return Monday for the first time since Hurricane Katrina struck Aug. 29. Its affiliated nursery school, normally at a separate site, also will operate at the school's Calhoun Street campus because of storm damage to the nursery school.

Victor Papai, a board member at Ecole Bilingue, said Wednesday that the school is resuming classes to serve the needs of parents who must get back to their jobs in the New Orleans area.

The school will accept students from other French immersion programs that remain closed, he said. It previously had 140 students in the elementary school grades. It expects about 40 to return Monday, including a few children displaced from other schools.

Opening on Oct. 24 will be St. Paul Lutheran School in the Faubourg Marigny, where 208 students attended kindergarten through eighth grade before Katrina. Principal Sue Schiller said she doesn't know how many to expect back.

"I know I've been getting calls from parents saying, 'We need to get back to work. When are you going to open again?' " Schiller said.

Schiller said she expects to accept some displaced students at the 166-year-old school.

And in a letter to parents on Tuesday, Gary Mannina, headmaster of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, announced a Nov. 2 return to the Carrollton school.

State records indicate St. Andrew's enrolled about 160 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade during the last full school year. Mannina's letter did not address how many might come back in November.

Other east bank New Orleans schools that have announced imminent returns are Academy of the Sacred Heart, De La Salle, Louise S. McGehee, St. George's Episcopal and St. Louis Cathedral Academy.

Some Orleans Parish public school officials have argued they cannot open east bank schools before the summer of 2006 because of lost instruction time in the weeks after Katrina hit. Some Catholic education leaders have criticized public officials for moving too slowly in re-establishing educational services to New Orleans.

Two east bank magnet schools, now part of the Orleans public system, hope to reopen in January as charter schools with more independence from the School Board. Several West Bank public schools in New Orleans, which also will operate as charter schools, are aiming to return next month.

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# St. Tammany Parish jail getting back to normal

*But Katrina's taste is still lingering*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

Though operations at the St. Tammany Parish jail have largely returned to normal, Sheriff Jack Strain said this week that Hurricane Katrina's effects on the Covington facility linger.

Among the most apparent signs of the storm's aftermath is the last family to relocate from emptied inmate quarters: a courthouse deputy, his pregnant wife and six children who are awaiting a trailer to replace their Slidell home.

More significantly, Strain said, Katrina cut a chunk of the jail's revenue as the facility sent about half of its inmates to six northern Louisiana jails.

Yet the biggest problem at the jail became but a memory when the Sheriff's Office rigged generators to the city's water pump within a week of the storm. Strain said the sole chink in the jail's armor — its reliance on city water — crippled operations for several days, as the nearly 1,000 inmates and guards lived under one roof without working toilets.

"Inmates are not a friendly group of people. Whenever they are confined in their own excrement, they get kind of rowdy," Strain said. "We had at least three situations where they — I don't want to say that it was approaching a riot situation — but where deputies had to go in and contain them.

"So the simple water problem, though it may seem simple to some, really became an operations problem here."

Strain said that despite the generator at the jail, the air conditioning system was rendered useless by the lack of city water. He said tempers soared right along with the temperatures inside the cinder block building.

"It really was a nightmare," Strain said. "Thank goodness we were in the process of getting rid of those prisoners, as it were, to bring down the numbers of people using the facilities."

Warden Marlin Peachey drove to Hammond to call other Louisiana wardens, hoping to follow through with a standing plan to clear out inmates to make room for possible post-storm looters. He found space for 409 of the 880 inmates in East Carroll, Evangeline Madison and Richland parishes.

St. Tammany deputies transported about 80 inmates, while the out-of-town jails used their own vans to pick up the remaining transfers.

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# Katrina puts squeeze on Slidell budget

*$5 million shortfall expected, mayor says*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

**Slidell's revenue base — sales, property and utility taxes and fees — was badly hurt by the storm, including damage to 40 percent of the housing stock, the shuttering of many smaller businesses and a government still working out of the maintenance barn on Bayou Lane.**

Slidell faces a shortfall of at least $5 million in its already tight $35 million budget as a result of expenses related to Hurricane Katrina, Mayor Ben Morris told the City Council on Tuesday night.

Finance Director Sharon Howes and her staff are working on projections of income and expenses for the next three to six months, Morris said. "I can tell you it's not especially pretty," he said of the early financial forecast.

A little more than three months into the new fiscal year, the costs of rebuilding and recovery continue to mount. Morris said the city is talking with a local bank about a line of credit and looking at a low-interest loan from the state to keep the government operating.

Slidell's revenue base — sales, property and utility taxes and fees — was badly hurt by the storm, including damage to 40 percent of the housing stock, the shuttering of many smaller businesses and a government still working out of the maintenance barn on Bayou Lane.

Most city buildings, including City Hall and the adjacent Finance Department, were flooded by Katrina. City offices soon will relocate to a dozen office trailers, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, on the overflow parking lot for nearby Heritage Park.

Slidell already has received $4.66 million from FEMA. That payment represents 100 percent of the cost of operations above the norm, Morris and Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing said. Additional submissions will be made to the agency.

However, Howes and others noted, the cost for buildings, vehicles, equipment, relocation expenses and similar losses from the hurricane are only 75 percent reimbursable. The city will have to come up with the 25 percent match unless FEMA waives it.

The Schneider Canal drainage station, whose pumps have protected most of devastated south Slidell from lesser storms in recent years, must be rebuilt, Morris said. That project alone will cost $3 million or more.

The administration began taking steps last spring to keep balanced the previous-year budget, stretched thin by escalating fuel, utility, employee health care costs, and sluggish sales tax performance. That tax represents almost half of the city's annual budget.

Those measures are continuing, Morris said Tuesday. About 25 of the city's employees have left since the hurricane, and very few of them, if any, will be replaced anytime soon, he told the council.

And, with the exception of a new operations center at high-ground Slidell Municipal Airport and an amphitheater at Heritage Park, all capital improvements work has been frozen, he said.

Despite the gloomy financial outlook, Morris said he's not considering layoffs of any civilian or police personnel at this time.

"I'm not desperate — yet," he said.

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# Company makes U-turn on travel trailer plans

*Workers to live in Lacombe*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

In the face of mounting neighborhood opposition, Textron Marine and Land Systems has scrapped plans to house displaced workers in 200 travel trailers at the Oak Harbor Golf & Country Club near Slidell. Instead, Textron will put the trailers in Lacombe, a top company official said Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, representatives of Oak Harbor Estates said that unless a compromise was reached, they would go to court to block Textron's proposal to put trailers on the golf course.

The efforts of Textron, which has its main plant in eastern New Orleans and an assembly finishing plant in Slidell, to deliver on $660 million in Army contracts for armored security vehicles for the war in Iraq were set back several months by Hurricane Katrina.

Company officials hope to resume full operations by late November but need to find places for their hurricane-displaced workers to live, said Clay Moise, Textron's vice president for marine and combat vehicles.

In a meeting last week with representatives of Oak Harbor, a huge upscale residential complex of eight residential sections, Textron asked about placing the trailers on the driving range for as long as a year.

"Almost 40 percent of our (1,200-person) work force lives in St. Tammany, some of them in Oak Harbor," Moise said. "Many of the people who are protesting are themselves disadvantaged by the storm. Half of Oak Harbor is destroyed, including my mother's home."

But as word spread of that meeting and St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis' promise to try to help the company, the opposition grew. Textron officials continued looking at other sites and settled on Lacombe west of Slidell.

Of the possible sites looked at around Denham Springs, Lacombe, Picayune and Slidell, Moise said, Lacombe was the early front-runner.

Textron will lease the land from a developer. The developer has built streets and installed water, sewerage and drainage systems for a new subdivision but will forgo further development to allow the trailers, Moise said.

He said he wasn't certain of the subdivision's name or specific location.

Earlier, David Corne of The Inlets in Oak Harbor said an emergency meeting of the eight section presidents would be held once a specific presentation was received by Textron about its trailer proposal.

"The associations will fund a legal action if it comes to that point," he said.

About 60 anxious, poster-waving residents of the area showed up on Oak Harbor Boulevard in front of the golf club to protest the plan at what they thought was to be a meeting between Davis and Textron officials.

Davis said later Wednesday that after receiving an e-mail from Textron recently, he didn't call or arrange any such meeting. He said he simply suggested Textron officials meet with homeowners to discuss what they would like to do.

Corne couldn't be reached for comment on Textron's plans to put the trailers in Lacombe.

Donald Muth, who lives in Masters Point, had initiated petitions from residents who wanted to take legal action against any effort to set up trailers against their will and were willing to donate $100 each to the cause.

Advised later of Textron's decision, Muth nevertheless remained skeptical. "I would still feel more comfortable if I could see something in writing, like Textron's not coming here. I hope he (Moise) is correct."

•••••••

Paul Bartels can be reached at pbartels@timespicayune.com or (985) 645-2854.

# Fest's second day still in Memphis

**VOODOO,** *from B-1*

"It was his idea," Rehage said. "He initiated it. He said, 'New Orleans is a special place. I want to play for those people.' "

Nine Inch Nails and the other headlining acts are donating their services. Any profits from the Memphis event are earmarked for local cultural organizations and charities offering hurricane relief.

They include the New Orleans Restoration Fund, an offshoot of the Entertainment Industry Foundation; Mercy Corps; Habitat for Humanity; Bring New Orleans Back; community radio station WWOZ 90.7; and local arts collective YA/YA Inc.

Building awareness of the effort to resurrect New Orleans is also a goal, Rehage said.

"On a national level, people see it on TV, there's a great outpouring of support, and then they put it on the back burner," said Rehage, whose house flooded. "We want to say that it's important to stay focused on rebuilding New Orleans. Don't forget about us."

Tickets to the Memphis show went on sale Wednesday for $35 each.

Details on ticket redemption, refunds and the full schedule are available at www.voodoomusicfest.com.


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**This applies to members from the following parishes:**

*Hurricane Rita parishes:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Calcasieu | Iberia |
| Cameron | Vermilion |

*Hurricane Katrina parishes:*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assumption | Orleans | St. James | Tangipahoa |
| Jefferson | Plaquemines | St. John the Baptist | Terrebonne |
| Lafourche | St. Bernard | St. Mary | Washington |
| Livingston | St. Charles | St. Tammany | |

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

# Schools will counsel storm-affected pupils

## *Therapy also given to displaced workers*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Starting three new schools within a month is hard enough, but losing a home, escaping near-death conditions and not knowing if your parent is alive can take its toll on anybody Just ask Frankie Burbank, an 18-year-old senior who attended McDonogh 35 Senior High School in New Orleans before transferring to Destrehan High School last month.

Burbank has lived through a nightmare. She was separated from her mother, who elected to stay behind in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina to care for her disabled husband.

Burbank and eight members of her family went to a Shoney's Inn in Metairie to ride out the storm. The restaurant held for a while, but they had to evacuate when it started to flood and the roof collapsed.

Mental health experts say those affected by Hurricane Katrina will need counseling in the upcoming months, and schools are taking notice.

Some districts have formulated plans to assist students, teachers and other employees with counseling, as many attempt to return to a semblance of normalcy and complete the academic year.

Since the storm, St. John the Baptist Parish public schools hired six employees to identify affected students, and Giselle Juneau, coordinator of pupil appraisal in the district is the driving force behind the district's efforts.

"If a child doesn't have an outlet, that (stress) can build and fester and the symptoms they have normally could get worst," Juneau said

The employees will spend the next few weeks meeting with each displaced student — about 1,400 — in groups of seven. The employees will assess every displaced student, Juneau said.

"We're not doing counseling," Juneau said. "We're giving them a little place and a little group so they can talk and so we can identify children who need more individual support and counseling."

St. Tammany Parish reopened public schools on Oct. 3 with 1,800 displaced students. The district is providing administrators, teachers and parents with informational packets informing them how to deal with traumatic stress and how to spot signs in children.

"The student's response to loss and how they are re-engaging in the learning process is important to us," said St. Tammany's schools Assistant Superintendent Maria C. Guilott. "We are approaching this from many different angles. We are working at building our community and working at building hope."

Counselors also are ready to provide services for students, Guilott said.

"They will do it as long as the children need it," Guilott said. "Our counselors have worked with grief and loss before."

Annette Houston, a business teacher at East St. John High School, a school in St. John Parish that has absorbed about 300 displaced students, said she has noticed some displaced students are having a hard time adjusting.

"Some are coping better than others," Houston said. "We don't know everything these kids saw when they were evacuating and in these shelters."

Houston said she favored counseling for displaced students.

Burbank finally got a telephone call from her mother, Marylen Burbank, two weeks after the storm. Burbank said she never gave up hope that her mother was alive.

"I kept watching the news to see where she was placed," Burbank said.

When Burbank was reunited with her mother in San Antonio, Texas, she learned that her mother had spent five days stranded on the roof, with nothing to eat. She was eventually airlifted to safety and then taken to San Antonio.

"I know she's a brave woman," Burbank said. "She found old paint and brush to make a sign" for rescue workers to see."

Burbank joined about 1,600 displaced students two weeks ago when they attended St. Charles Parish Public schools for the first time.

The district does not have a special counseling plan like St. John, but the staff has been alerted to spot signs of trauma, said Rochelle Cancienne, director of public information for the district.

"The counselors that we have in place are addressing any needs that these displaced students may have," said Cancienne. "Administrators at the schools are aware of the circumstances and are directing them (students) to the counselors. There is definitely an awareness."

St. John gathered all of the mental health providers in the district last week to formulate a way to address the stress that many of its students and staff are facing.

The district increased its enrollment by 21 percent when it absorbed 1,360 displaced students, according to the Louisiana Department of Education.

"All the mental health providers will set the parameters for what they plan to do with individual counselors at the schools," explained Ann LaBorde, executive director of personnel and legal services for the St. John public school district. LaBorde said the district also plans to provide counseling to staff members. The district hired around 40 displaced teachers after Katrina, but the counseling will not be limited to displaced employees.

Burbank said she looks forward to continuing her senior year at Destrehan High and will accept counseling if it is provided.

"Just because of all of the things others went through, and it could have been me," she said. "We still don't know if our friends or loved ones are dead. The (recovery) process is not promising. It takes a long time."

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John-John Williams IV can be reached at jwilliams@timespicayune.com or (985) 652-0958.

**"We can't continue having this sporadic pickup."**
SEAN ROUSSEL, councilman

# St. John Parish may cancel garbage pickup contract

## *Post-Katrina trash continues to pile up*

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

As complaints about garbage collection in St. John the Baptist Parish have continued to pile up after Hurricane Katrina, several council members have suggested that the parish consider terminating the company's contract and seeking new service.

Councilman Ronnie Smith, the chairman of the parish's solid-waste committee, along with several other council members, spent a large chunk of Tuesday's council meeting chastising Waste Management officials for failing to pick up garbage and trash on the regularly scheduled days before and since Hurricane Katrina disrupted service.

In fact, Smith went one step beyond complaining and told Waste Management officials that if service does not improve he will ask the council to terminate the company's contract in 30 days.

Waste Management's performance has come under fire several times since Hurricane Katrina hit the area on Aug. 29, causing widespread evacuations and damage. The company has struggled to deal with increased garbage, worker shortages and difficulties reaching its main dump sites. The company is recruiting out-of-state workers and has increased the pay of its current workers, but still is having problems retaining many of those employees, said Brian Brining, a district manager for Waste Management.

Although the company recently returned to a somewhat normal collection schedule for regular garbage pickups, it still has not fully resumed its collection of bulky items and debris, although that could happen by next week. The company actually suspended that service after Katrina in an effort to concentrate on emptying garbage cans, Waste Management spokesman Rene Faucheux said.

But Smith said that the company still is doing a poor job of emptying garbage cans six weeks after Katrina made landfall. Smith said the council's office has been deluged with calls from throughout the parish about cans that are not being emptied on their scheduled days, or not emptied at all.

Councilman Sean Roussel echoed Smith's complaints, and noted that the company has done a poor job of notifying the council of when it is behind schedule, so that council members can notify their constituents.

"We can't continue having this sporadic pickup," Roussel said.

Councilman Cleveland Farlough actually asked the council to consider waiving the garbage fee for the month of September because of the spotty pickup. He said that St. Charles Parish, which was more heavily damaged by Katrina than St. John, has already taken that step.

Farlough, along with Councilman Richard "Dale" Wolfe, said that Waste Management was failing to adequately collect trash long before Katrina and residents are tired of paying for a service they do not receive.

"People are telling me they don't want any more excuses, any more explanation . . . They just want it fixed," Farlough said.

However, parish Finance Director Jeffrey Clement said that waiving that fee would mean that the parish would have to come up with about $236,000 for Waste Management, which is how much the company receives monthly for garbage collection. Clement said the parish's solid-waste fund does not have any reserves to finance a fee waiver.

Councilman Steve Lee said the parish's contract does not allow it to pass the cost of the fee waiver along to Waste Management, which makes issuing the waiver "fiscally irresponsible."

Councilman Allen St. Pierre noted that the council could soon have residents asking for a fee waiver whenever they are dissatisfied with their garbage service if it grants one this time.

"It can't be done," Lee said, before he and six other council members voted against Farlough's motion. "We've been told by our legal counsel it can't be done."

Farlough and Wolfe voted for the measure. Council members Jaclyn Hotard, Lee, Sherry McTopy, Lester Rainey Jr., Smith, St. Pierre, and Roussel voted against the proposal.

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Allen Powell II can be reached at apowell@timespicayune.com or (985) 652-0952.

# Mold workshop set for today

The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans will hold a workshop and is distributing free cleaning supplies to help residents and businesses returning to the city in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

A free workshop on mold remediation will be held today at 4 p.m. at the PRC's headquarters at 923 Tchoupitoulas St.

At its warehouse at 2801 Marais St. and at its headquarters, the PRC is distributing hundreds of five-gallon buckets containing gloves, masks, bleach and other items that can be used to clean flood-damaged houses and businesses.

One bucket per family is available.

The PRC is working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on several initiatives to help homeowners and small-business owners get their properties cleaned up and back in service.

For information, call Michelle Kimball at 636-3049.

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The Times-Picayune
# OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF HARAHAN
CITY OF HARAHAN LEGALS

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**Councilmen**
Scott Blanchard
Louis M. Butler
Provino Mosca
Roy R. Richardson
Tiffany Scot Wilken

**Chief of Police**
Peter dale

**City of Harahan**
6437 Jefferson Hwy.
Harahan, LA 70123
Telephone (504) 737-6383

**Harahan Police**
6441 Jefferson Hwy.
Harahan, LA 70123
Telephone (504) 737-9763

## PUBLIC NOTICES

The following resolution was offered and seconded unanimously by the Council of the City of Harahan.
RESOLUTION

A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Three Million Dollars ($3,000,000) of Indebtedness by the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana, providing certain terms of said Indebtedness; making application to the State Bond Commission for the approval of said Indebtedness; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. Preliminary Approval of Indebtedness. Preliminary approval is given to the issuance of not exceeding $3,000,000 of Indebtedness (the "Note") of the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer"), pursuant to L.A. R.S. 39:1430, and other constitutional and statutory authority, for the purpose of paying current operating expenses of the Issuer, and paying the costs incurred in connection with the issuance thereof. Said Note may be drawn down from time to time and shall be payable from and secured by a pledge of the revenues of the Issuer's general fund and other available funds of the Issuer. The Note shall bear interest at a variable or fixed rate or rates not to exceed eight percent (8%) per annum, to be determined by subsequent proceedings of this Mayor and Council at the time of the sale of the Note, and shall mature in annual installments due no later than ten (10) years from the date of issuance. The Note shall be issued in fully registered form, shall be sold to the purchasers thereof at a price not to exceed 100% of par, plus accrued interest, if any, and shall have such additional terms and provisions as may be deemed necessary by this Mayor and Council.

SECTION 2. State Bond Commission. Application is hereby made to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for approval of the issuance and sale of the Note and for consent and authority to proceed with the issuance and sale of the Note as provided above, and Bond Counsel is directed to make application to the State Bond Commission in accordance with the foregoing on behalf of the Issuer.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Intent. Prior to the delivery of the Note, the Issuer anticipates that it may pay a portion of the costs of the project from the General Fund or other available revenues. Upon the issuance of the Note, the Issuer reasonably expects to reimburse any such expenditures of other available funds from a portion of the proceeds of the Note. Any such allocation of proceeds of the Note for reimbursement will be with respect to capital expenditures (as defined in Reg. 1.150-1(b)) and will be made upon the delivery of the Note and not later than one year after the later of (i) the date such expenditure was paid or (ii) the date on which the project was placed in service. This Section is intended to be declaration of official intent within the meaning of Reg. 1.150-2.

SECTION 4. Employment of Bond Counsel. A real necessity is hereby found for the employment of special bond counsel in connection with the issuance of the Notes, and accordingly the law firm of Foley & Judell, L.L.P., Bond Counsel, is hereby employed as Bond Counsel to handle all matters of a legal nature in connection with the negotiation, sale, issuance and delivery of the Notes. Said special bond counsel shall prepare and submit to the Issuer all proceedings necessary for the due authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Notes, shall counsel the Issuer as to the issuance and sale of the Notes and shall furnish their opinion covering the legality and tax-exemption of the Notes. The fee of special Bond Counsel in connection with the issuance of each series of the Notes is hereby fixed at a sum not to exceed that permitted by the Attorney General's fee schedule for each issue or issues of revenue bonds based on the principal amount of the Notes actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for, plus "out-of-pocket" expenses; provided, however, that said fee shall be contingent upon the sale, issuance and delivery of the Notes. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for his approval of the employment herein provided for.

SECTION 5. Additional Authority. The Mayor and/or Clerk of the Issuer are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out all of the provisions of the Resolution, including without limitation the execution of a commitment letter (with an 8% interest cap) from the purchaser of Note.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

| Members | Yeas | Nays | Absent | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scott Blanchard | __X__ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Louis M. Butler | __X__ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Provino Mosca | __X__ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Roy Richardson | __X__ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Tiffany Scot Wilken | __X__ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 29th day of September, 2005.

s/s__Margaret G. Broussard_____
_s/s_Paul D. Johnston_____
Clerk
Mayor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the City of Harahan will conduct a Public Hearing on October 20, 2005 at Harahan City Hall, 6437 Jefferson Highway, at 7:30 p.m. for the following:

1. An Ordinance to prohibit any department of the City of Harahan or the City of Harahan from entering into any lease purchase or lease-purchase agreement for the acquisition of motorcycles
In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact City Hall at 737-6383, describing the assistance that is necessary.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

/s/s PAUL D. JOHNSTON_
MAYOR
CITY OF HARAHAN
October 13, 2005

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE BONDS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PARISH OF JEFFERSON HOME MORTGAGE AUTHORITY

NOT EXCEEDING $30,000,000 SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS
(ONE OR MORE SERIES)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Parish of Jefferson Home Mortgage Authority (the "Authority"), a public trust duly created by a Trust Indenture dated February 9, 1979, as amended, pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Public Trust Law contained in Chapter 2-A of Title 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 9:2341-9:2347) (the "Act") for the benefit of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Parish"), of its intention to issue not exceeding $30,000,000 aggregate principal amount of Parish of Jefferson Home Mortgage Authority Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, on one or more issuance dates (the "Bonds"). The Bonds will be issued to provide funds to finance the purchase of certain qualifying mortgage loans under the 2005C Single Family Mortgage Loan Program of the Authority within the Parish of Jefferson. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to the Act and authorized pursuant to the provisions of a Trust Indenture (the "Indenture"), for the purpose of providing funds for the Authority to (i) finance the purchase of mortgage loans and/or mortgage-backed securities issued by FNMA or GNMA with respect to mortgage loans on owner-occupied residential immovable property owned by low and moderate income persons in the Parish of Jefferson to be originated by participating mortgage lenders; (ii) refund certain outstanding obligations of the Authority; (iii) make deposits into certain funds as may be required to secure the Bonds and successfully market the Bonds; (iv) pay capitalized interest, if any, on the Bonds; and (v) pay the cost of issuance associated with the Bonds.

The Bonds shall be limited and special revenue bonds of the Authority and not of the Parish of Jefferson. The Bonds shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times (not exceeding thirty-five (35) years from their date of issuance), bear interest at such rate or rates and carry such registration and exchangeability privileges as shall be provided for in the Indenture. The Bonds shall be issuable, in one or more series, on one or more issuance dates, in such denominations, be fully registered without coupons, carry such registration and exchangeability privileges, be payable in such medium of payment and such place or places, and be subject to such terms of redemption as such Indenture may provide. The Bonds shall be payable from and secured equally and ratably by a pledge of the revenues of the Authority and all other payments and receipts received directly or indirectly from mortgage loans, all funds established by the Indenture and the rights and interest of the Authority, directly or indirectly, in and to the mortgage loans and the proceeds and collections of the Authority therefrom, subject to application for the purposes and under the conditions as set forth in the Indenture. The Authority will in the Indenture
enter into such covenants with the future holder or holders of the Bonds as to the issuance of future bonds, the carrying of insurance, if any, the keeping of books and records, and other pertinent matters as may be deemed proper by said Board to assure marketability of the Bonds, consistent with the provisions of the Act.

The Indenture shall also include remedies in case of a default and such additional covenants, agreements and provisions as are judged advisable or necessary by the Authority for the security of the holders of the Bonds, including sinking funds and revenues for the payment of principal and interest, all as provided by the Act.

The Bonds shall be sold by the Louisiana State Bond Commission (the
enter into such covenants with the future holder or holders of the Bonds as to the issuance of future bonds, the carrying of insurance, if any, the keeping of books and records, and other pertinent matters as may be deemed proper by said Board to assure marketability of the Bonds, consistent with the provisions of the Act.

The Indenture shall also include remedies in case of a default and such additional covenants, agreements and provisions as are judged advisable or necessary by the Authority for the security of the holders of the Bonds, including sinking funds and revenues for the payment of principal and interest, all as provided by the Act.

The Bonds shall be sold by the Louisiana State Bond Commission (the "Commission") in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and said Bonds shall, before the delivery thereof, be approved by the Commission as well as by said Board.

The Bonds shall not constitute or create an obligation, general or special, debt, liability or moral obligation of the State or the Parish or any political subdivision thereof, within the meaning of the Constitution or statutes of the State or otherwise and shall never constitute or create a charge against the faith and credit or the taxing power of the State or the Parish or any political or governmental subdivision thereof. The issuance of the Bonds shall not directly or indirectly obligate the State or the Parish to provide any funds for their payment. Neither the State or the Parish nor any political or governmental subdivision thereof shall in any manner be liable for the performance of any agreement or pledge of any kind which may be undertaken by the Authority nor shall any breach thereof by the Authority create any obligations upon the State or the Parish.

The terms and provisions of the mortgage loan program to be financed through the issuance of the Bonds are subject in all respects to modification to conform with any governmental requirements, including, but not by way of limitation, requirements or guidelines established by the Commission.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that the Authority will meet in open and public session on **November 14, 2005**, at 10:30 a.m. at its temporary meeting place, **Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission, Administration Building, Conference Room, South Toll Plaza, 3943 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana**, for the purpose of hearing any objections to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. If a petition is presented to the Authority at this open and public meeting, duly signed by not less than 5% of the electors of the Parish voting at the last special or general election objecting to the issuance of the Bonds, then said Bonds will not be issued until approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the Parish who vote in a special or general election held for the purpose of approving the issuance of the Bonds in the manner provided by the Act, and such petition must be accompanied by a certificate of the Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters certifying that the signers of the petition are qualified electors of the Parish of Jefferson and the number of signers amounts to not less than 5% of the electors of the Parish in number voting at the last special or general election.

**This is not an offer to sell nor the solicitation of any offer to buy the Bonds. This is solely a notice of intention to issue bonds by the Authority as mandated by the provisions of La. R.S. 9:2347(A)(1).**

PARISH OF JEFFERSON HOME MORTGAGE AUTHORITY

BY: /s/ Robert J. Lambert
Robert J. Lambert - Chairman

BY: /s/ Alton L. Bourg
Alton L. Bourg - Secretary

**Publication Dates:** October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 2005.

# Schools starting to show rebound

## *Jeff Catholic school attendance is up*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Catholic schools in Jefferson Parish have enrolled almost 1,000 more students than they had before Hurricane Katrina, the superintendent of New Orleans area Catholic education said Wednesday.

Before Katrina struck Aug. 29, Jefferson Parish Catholic schools served 18,255 students. Now, in their second week open since Katrina, 19,239 students are attending, said the Rev. William Maestri, schools superintendent for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

He attributed the growth largely to an influx of students who formerly attended schools in New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish, where no public or Catholic schools have reopened in New Orleans. He said he did not have a breakdown of how many students came from each parish.

The numbers in Catholic schools contrast to those in Jefferson public schools, which saw enrollment drop more than 30 percent when they reopened Oct. 3. But the public schools have posted steady increases since then. Jefferson Parish schools Superintendent Diane Roussel said she expects the public schools soon to reach 75 percent of the pre-Katrina student population, which was about 50,000 students.

The overall shift accelerates, at least in the short term, a trend long apparent in a parish that has been among the leaders in the United States for percentage of children in private schools.

Maestri and Roussel delivered their reports to the Jefferson Parish Council.

Maestri said 31 out of 32 Jefferson Catholic schools are back in operation. The exception is St. Joseph the Worker in Gretna, which he said suffered wind and rain damage.

Catholic schools are providing free lunches to all students during October, to help parents as they re-establish themselves in the New Orleans area after evacuating from the storm, Maestri said.

"I imagine the enrollment will continue to rise for some time," he said after his presentation to the council. "These numbers are not a movie. They're a snapshot."

Council members praised the Catholic schools for their strong comeback.

"With the schools opening, that really helps us jump-start Jefferson, because it brings our population base back," Councilman John Young said. "The schools were really a key, in my opinion, in bringing us back."

Roussel told the council that the turnout in Jefferson public schools has been stronger than expected, based on the experiences of Florida school systems rebounding from hurricanes.

She said about a third of the students in some Florida school systems returned on the first days back after hurricanes there, while Jefferson saw more than half its students return last week. Jefferson has reopened all but five of its 84 schools.

"Jefferson is back," Roussel said. "I know it by the traffic, and I know it by the number of children registering.

"If you average it out," she said, "we're taking in a thousand a day."

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Mark Waller may be reached at mwaller@timespicayune.com

# Magnet schools still attracting debate

## *Jefferson to revisit hot-button issues*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank bureau

While still grappling with concerns over enrollment, finances and the hours of the school day after Hurricane Katrina, the Jefferson Parish School Board also will dive into two hot-button magnet school issues at its meeting today.

In addition to possibly tweaking the school calendar, the board will vote on two motions that prompted sparks earlier this year: a plan to relocate the Patrick Taylor Science and Technology Academy and plans to create separate magnet school systems on each side of the Mississippi River.

The dual system motion, proposed in August by board members Karen Barnes and Cameron Henry, calls for creating an elementary and middle magnet school in West Jefferson and expanding an existing East Jefferson magnet middle school over the next four years to include high school.

East Jefferson houses a magnet elementary and middle school in addition to the Taylor school in Elmwood. A magnet high school is slated to open in Gretna in the fall next year.

The call for dual systems, an outgrowth of deep political tension and concerns earlier this year about parent-provided transportation to the magnet schools, capped months of board infighting about how to proceed with Jefferson's fledgling magnet school initiative, which began in 2004.

Henry said he is confident the board will approve his motion and that system administrators have assured him the district can financially and logistically handle the endeavor, even in light of Katrina.

The success of the district's first magnet schools proves there is a need for more, Henry said. "We had more students than spots," he said. "Logistically, (the plan) helps out the school system."

Board member Mark Morgan, a longtime opponent of the dual system, conceded the votes are in place to pass the plan. But he said there are still no specifics on where the West Bank magnet schools will be, a critical problem since the area has been overcrowded for years.

"This is divisive," he said. "It divides the east bank and the West Bank. Historically, that's always been a problem with the School Board."

The board also will consider shifting the Taylor school to Deckbar School in Jefferson beginning next fall and putting the Deckbar students at Rudolph Matas Elementary School. Taylor is housed in a school system office building in Elmwood.

Deckbar Principal Barbara Doublet remained lukewarm to the idea, saying the school, which serves students throughout East Jefferson with behavioral problems, is better situated at its own campus.

"These children cannot take change," she said. "They are used to one place and doing things a certain way."

In May, the board ignited a controversy by abruptly voting to move Taylor to T.H. Harris Middle School in Metairie. The proposed move, which showcased tension between Taylor students and employees at the Elmwood building, was eventually killed because of strong backlash from parents.

Board members said the Elmwood location could not handle the projected growth of the school and lacked basic amenities such as a gymnasium and cafeteria.

Parents argued that the school needed its own culture and that sharing a campus could jeopardize the national grant financing the program.

At the time, the board directed Superintendent Diane Roussel to submit a relocation plan by Nov. 1. A committee of parents, administrators, teachers and even students drafted the current proposal.

The board will deal with a third controversy when it re-examines its revised school year calendar. Last month, it approved a plan calling for classes to begin an hour earlier beginning Oct. 10 to recoup 24 days of lost teaching because of Katrina. Under the calendar, high schools would have started at 6:15 a.m.

Board members said they were swamped by complaints from parents, forcing Roussel to scrap the plan.

Alternatives include adding more time to the end of the day or slicing holidays, the latter a move board officials initially said they wanted to avoid because of traditionally low attendance when classes are held on holidays.

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Rob Nelson can be reached at rnelson@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3796.

## BACK WHERE THEY BELONG



Nurse Greta Vinet embraces Huey Ronquille as he returns to the Marrero Healthcare Center after evacuating for Hurricane Katrina. Staff Sgt. William Kendrick, left, and 12 other members of the Arkansas National Guard helped the residents get off the bus that brought them from Many.

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER



As Bernadette Rogers returns to her home at the Marrero Healthcare Center, she is comforted by occupational therapist Sasha Thomas. The center reopened Wednesday for 42 residents who had evacuated to Many.

As Hurricane Katrina approached, 42 residents of the Marrero Healthcare Center evacuated to Many. On Wednesday, they returned at last, to the warm embraces of their caregivers.

# Trailers cropping up near Westwego

## *Federal employees, Jeff cops to move in*

**West Bank bureau**

Almost a hundred RVs are being set up at Bayou Segnette State Park outside of Westwego to house federal employees and Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Families of 63 federal employees — 47 from the Minerals Management Service and 15 from the National Park Service — are slated to move in beginning this weekend, state and federal officials said. At least 10 deputies also are expected to live at the site, with possibly more to follow.

"This is going to be for people who work and reside in this area," said National Park Service director Fran Mainella, who visited the campground for a tour of the 32-foot trailers on Wednesday.

Any remaining trailers could be opened up to the general public, park officials said. The federal government is leasing the 98 camp sites from the Louisiana Office of State Parks for $16 each per night, which works out to $572,320 over the 12-month lease.

Similar trailer communities are planned at Fairview Riverside State Park in Madisonville and Tickfaw State Park near Springfield, said Stuart Johnson, assistant secretary for state parks.

# Tree crew did what storm couldn't

## *Lot cleared without Mandeville permit*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

A heavily wooded Mandeville lot owned by a politically connected engineer was recently clear-cut without city approval.

So far, city officials have accepted the explanation from Shelby LaSalle that the removal of trees from the site was unintentional and the result of a misunderstanding with a contractor. The incident will be discussed at tonight's City Council meeting.

LaSalle said Wednesday that he is "devastated, embarrassed and humiliated" by the clear-cutting of the lot on West Causeway Approach, which was done without a building permit. Normally, lot owners apply for a permit and the city tree inspector does a tree inventory and




STAFF MAP

identifies trees that must be saved during the lot clearing based on a consultation with the owner and a review of the building plans.

LaSalle said the clear-cutting was a mistake by Boh Bros. Construction Co. workers who were supposed to clear away downed limbs and damaged pine trees on the commercially zoned property. The lot is next to the new offices of Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Inc., at 1580 West Causeway Approach.

Workers brought in bulldozers, trucks and other equipment on Sept. 28 and in short order stripped the 120-by-240-foot lot of all vegetation.

Councilwoman Zella Walker had the incident added to tonight's City Council agenda for discussion. "I just want to make sure we are all satisfied about what happened and how," she said.

Council President Trilby Lenfant said she accepts LaSalle's explanation and apology to the city and that she wants tonight's discussion to focus on whether the city's land-use law needs to be amended to tighten language about city rules for land clearing.

Mayor Eddie Price said he was upset to see the lot cleared but is convinced that LaSalle did not intend for it to happen.

"He does a lot of volunteer work for the city, and he is a good resident and corporate citizen," Price said. "Shelby shares our vision for Mandeville, and I know he would never attempt to undermine any city regulatory provisions."

City Hall will not issue a misdemeanor citation against LaSalle, which would require him to appear in magistrate court where he could be fined as much as $500 per day until the lot is restored to its pre-cleared state, Price said.

"We will not do that; that could take 20 years or more for the trees to grow back, and it would be unrealistic to fine someone $500 per day until then," he said.

City Planning Director Louisette Kidd said she was "very upset" when she learned of the clear-cutting after city inspector Bill Wohler stumbled upon it Sept. 28.

"But Shelby has been so contrite about it, so upset that it happened and apologizing so much to us that I am satisfied that it was a very unfortunate error," she said.

She said the discussion tonight should also focus on the penalty provisions in the city ordinance.

LaSalle said the lot was heavily forested with tall pines and grasses. He said several limbs and some of the trees were downed or broken by Hurricane Katrina. "Boh Bros. contacted me and offered to clear the debris on the lot. I clearly said that I just wanted the limbs and broken trees taken out. It got misunderstood, and they just clear-cut the entire lot," he said.

LaSalle's firm is a longtime consultant for the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Commission, and numerous Causeway contracts have been awarded over the years to Boh Bros. He has also done several consulting projects for the city of Mandeville and other municipalities in St. Tammany Parish, as well as for parish government.

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Richard Boyd can be reached at rboyd@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4816.

*They were the last people allowed to go home. Residents of the Lower 9th Ward did just that on Wednesday, finding the same mold, muck and mire that coats so much of the city. So little saved, so much lost.*



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

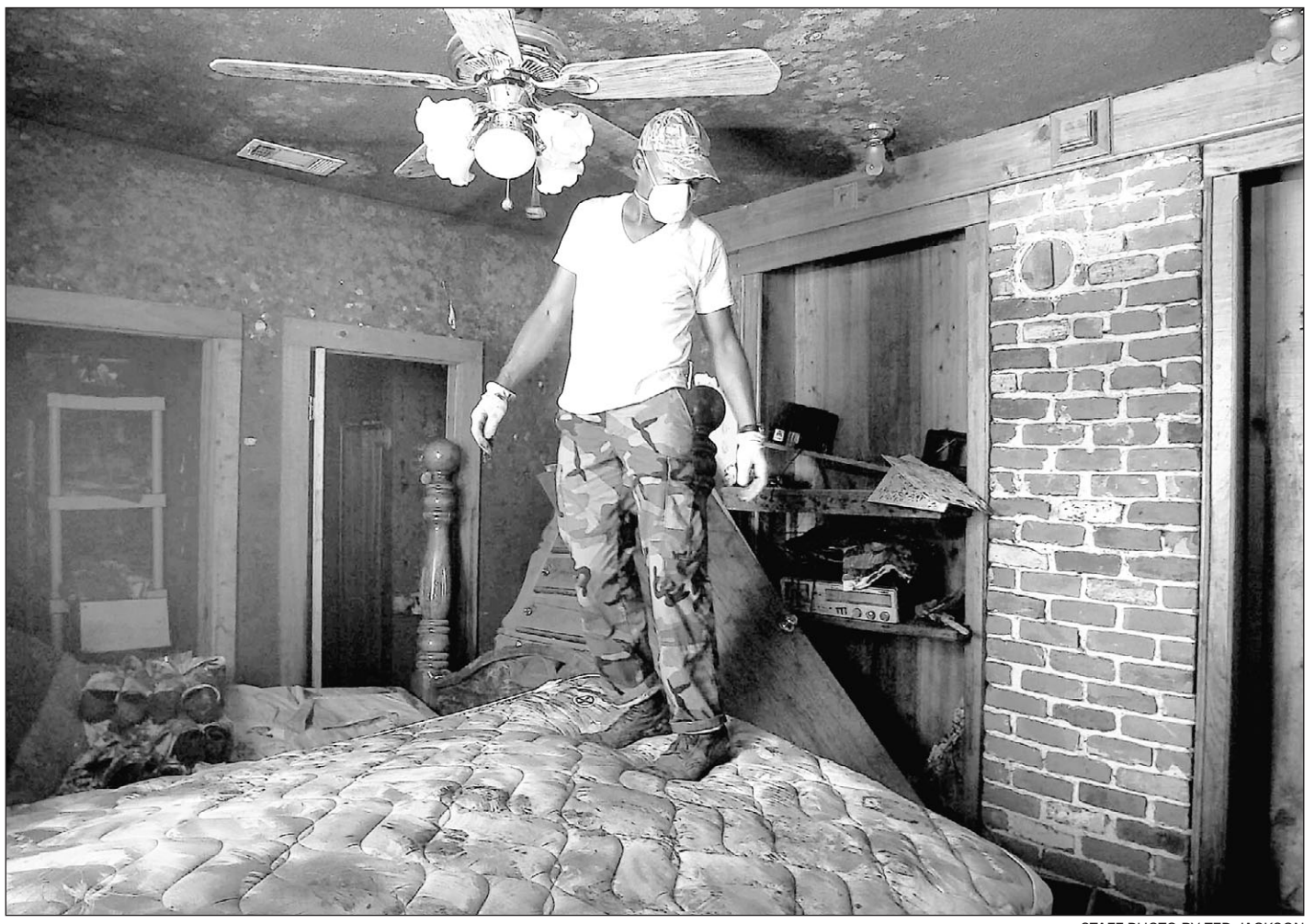
Joyce Dunmore of the Salvation Army hugs Paulette Brown after praying with her in the median of Claiborne Avenue in the 9th Ward. Brown and her sister saw her devastated house for the first time since Katrina floodwaters burst through the levee. At right are Vyruss Hayes and Cyrethia Dye, both of the Salvation Army.

# A COMMUNITY LOST

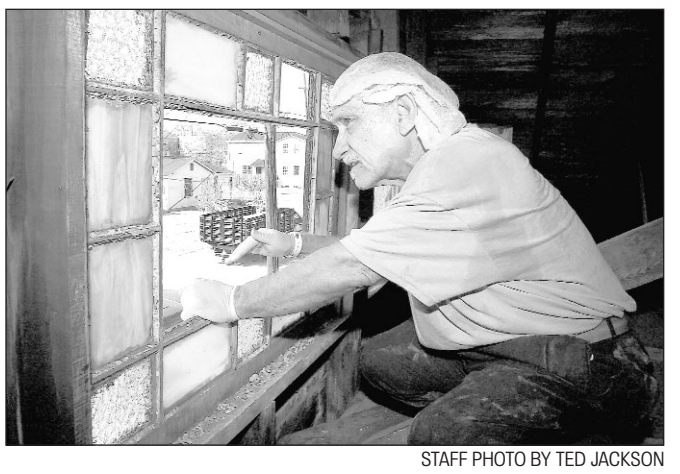


STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

The mantel over the Robinson household in the 9th Ward on Burgundy Street is mute testament to how little there was to salvage in the house. The home took on more than 6 feet of water from Hurricane Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

ABOVE: Alfred Barbarin, 78, peers through the attic window from which he was rescued from rising floodwaters. Forty years ago, Barbarin rode out Hurricane Betsy, and had to be rescued with a boat. Asked whether he would ride out a third one, he said he would just have to see how he felt.

LEFT: Terry Jackson surveys his bedroom at his home in the Lower 9th Ward for the first time since Katrina wrecked the city. Jackson bought the former crackhouse in 1997 and renovated it himself, and vows he will do it again.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Clarence Robinson of Burgundy Street in the 9th Ward recovers a pair of his eyeglasses, caked with mud from Katrina's floodwaters.

# CLEARING THE SLATE

## *Debris squads remove soggy mounds from curbs in Jefferson Parish*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau



STAFF PHOTO BY DONALD STOUT

The westbound lanes of West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie are given over to hurricane recovery for a time. These trucks were among more than 800 on the job in Jefferson Parish on Tuesday.

Lynn LaBrot stood in the driveway of her Metairie home and cradled her toy poodle, Kibble, while a modified log-loader mounted on the back of a truck grappled with the remains of her Chinese elm tree.

The six-man crew finally freed the stubborn stump and dropped it into the back of a dump truck already brimming with her neighbors' Hurricane Katrina storm debris. LaBrot's block had been taken over by massive trucks and track hoes, which obstructed the streets and churned up swirling clouds of white wallboard dust.

But only Kibble seemed even remotely bothered by the roaring diesel cacophony. Judging by the smiles and waves from human beings on the street, the workers seemed to be the most popular guys in Jefferson Parish.

"Well, them and the garbage men," LaBrot said.

The campaign to rid Jefferson Parish curbs of piles of brush, construction materials and other soggy residential remains has been chugging along at a steady pace. Debris squads like the crew that tackled LaBrot's neighborhood, in the 4700 block of Hessmer Avenue, have already carted off more than one million cubic yards of the stuff, said Deano Bonano, the parish official in charge of debris collection.

Despite their progress, mounds of storm detritus remain a common sight on both sides of the Mississippi River. It's an ominous indication of the monumental task that lies ahead. Before it's all over, Bonano estimates, more than 4.5 million cubic yards of debris will be collected in Jefferson Parish alone.

"It'll be the largest cleanup in U.S. history," he said. "In my 18 years, nothing has even come close to this."

The Army Corps of Engineers is heading up storm-debris collection in unincorporated Jefferson Parish, Westwego and Jean Lafitte, and Grand Isle will join the list by the end of the week, Bonano said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is picking up the tab. The job does not include regular household garbage, which is the responsibility of parish contractor Waste Management.

Kenner, Harahan and Gretna have hired others to handle storm cleanup.

From a conference room in Lafreniere Park in Metairie, officials with the corps and its main contractor, CERES Environmental, have kept tabs on the more than 800 trucks buzzing around scooping up storm debris. Every morning, teams of workers head out into assigned zones. They barricade a portion of a street, tackling the job house by house, one block at a time.

On Hessmer Avenue on Tuesday, a track hoe and a small, crane-like loader pushed and lifted wooden boards, furniture, roofing tiles, mattresses and tree brush into a truck, which raced off to a dump site once it was full. Another truck waiting a block back zipped in to take its place.

Foreman Gary Warlick said the crews carry on like that from dawn to dusk. The work is monotonous and time-consuming. But it always seems to draw a crowd of grateful residents.

"Boy, am I glad to see you," Dave LaBrot told one truck driver as he walked outside to join his wife.

It is a common reaction.

"We get a lot of free water, coffee and doughnuts," Warlick said. "People have been real nice. And everybody has been very understanding."

So far, the crews have made a first pass by more than 75 percent of residences. That has taken about four weeks, Bonano said.

But it will take many more months and several more passes before the job is done. As the crew from subcontractor Durr Heavy Construction moved down Hessmer, Dave LaBrot used a little red wagon to cart to the curb a load of shingles just loosened by his roofer. Another neighbor dumped more broken wooden fencing on the street.

"Obviously, this is going to be an ongoing process," Bonano said. "Be patient. We're coming."

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Michelle Hunter can be reached at mhunter@timespicayune.com.

# Jeff waste hauler declared in default

## *Council upset over Katrina response*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

ReactingWednesday to the tide of complaints from residents exasperated at the mounds of garbage accumulating on their curbs, the Jefferson Parish Council declared its refuse hauler, Waste Management, in default of its contract.

Marc Ehrhardt, a spokesman for Waste Management, said the company is exploring its options on how to respond to the parish's move.

The parish had given Waste Management a wrist slapping even before Hurricane Katrina struck, forcing the company to use its garbage trucks over a weekend to collect recycling material that sat unclaimed for two weeks. The council's frustration hardened after Waste Management was slow to mobilize its work crews after the storm, allowing spoiled food and other fetid material to pile up in streets, officials said.

Deano Bonano, the parish administrator who oversees garbage collection, said Waste Management did not resume service until nearly three weeks after the storm. Today, six weeks after Katrina, he said the company still has not returned to the twice-weekly pickup required by its contract.

"We had problems with them all summer," Bonano said. "Then the storm came and exaggerated the situation."

In normal times, Waste Management circulates 40 trucks to handle refuse throughout the parish. Although it shipped 10 additional trucks into the parish after the storm, Bonano said the backlog of uncollected garbage is so large that the company needs to double its fleet to chip away at the piles.

"They are so far behind the curve that they're never going to catch up," Bonano said.

Waste Management issued a written statement late Wednesday afternoon arguing that it would have been unsafe to truck employees into Jefferson Parish immediately after the hurricane. The company managed, however, to have the parish landfill up and running within 48 hours of the storm.

"Louisiana law recognizes that performance of services is excused entirely or in part when events like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita make the performance of contracts impossible for a time," Tim Hawkins, the company's market-area vice president, said in the statement.

On Wednesday, the council authorized Parish Attorney Tom Wilkinson to notify the bond company that insures the contract that Waste Management is in default. The bond company, Travelers Casualty and Surety, will either force the company to comply, bring in another hauler to deal with the refuse, or compensate the parish for the full annual value of the contract, which expires in 2009 and is worth approximately $11 million this year.

If the parish is successful in placing the company in default, Wilkinson said the parish will inherit the trucks now operated by Waste Management. The council would then have to decide whether to hire another private hauler or use its own employees to operate the trucks.

The contract Waste Management signed with the parish requires it to remove all bagged garbage plus downed tree limbs, refrigerators and other household appliances. Because the hurricane produced such a heavy volume of debris, the Army Corps of Engineers is paying private contractors to haul away ruined vegetation, drowned carpets and soggy Sheetrock. The Environmental Protection Agency is handling refrigerators and other goods that contain hazardous materials.

While the overall volume of garbage has increased since the storm, Bonano argued that Waste Management is actually performing less work than its contract demands because the federal government is handling all refuse except the regular bagged garbage.

While Waste Management represented the clearest problem for the parish, council members were also frustrated Wednesday with what they called slow removal of storm debris by the Army Corp of Engineers, which has 800 trucks in the parish.

Councilman Chris Roberts said he is relaying complaints from his constituents but has no recourse to make pickup move faster because it is federal money, not parish money, that is paying for the removal of storm debris.

To address the situation, the council hired Richard C. Lambert Consultants to dispatch inspectors who can direct the Army Corps to neighborhoods that sustained the heaviest damage. The company is earning roughly $6,500 a week for its services and is expected to work for the parish for another month.

"They are our eyes and ears in the streets," said Tim Whitmer, the parish's chief administrative aide.

Bonano said Wednesday the parish created a map highlighting sections of the parish that flooded and has asked the Army Corps to place twice as many crews in those areas. However, he cautioned that the quantity of debris is so large that it could take months to clear it all away.

Between Oct. 1 and Oct. 10, contractors working for the Army Corps removed 1.1 million cubic yards of ruined vegetation and storm debris from the parish. That figure does not include the regular bagged garbage that is the responsibility of Waste Management.

"That's a lot of debris, ladies and gentlemen," Bonano told the council members.

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Kate Moran can be reached at katherine_moran@yahoo.com.

Patricia Elizabeth Navarre Barrois
Antonia Bell
Brock Hunter Bollinger
Eugenie Landauer Boyle
Gilbert J. Bruce, Jr.
Joyce Busher
Irvin Andrew Butler
Frank Cornelius Cole, Jr.
Clarence Common
Charlene Root Cook
Edward B. Cook
Warren Edward Craig, Sr.
Mildred Ruiz D'Angelo
Mark Henry Davis, Sr.
Jessie Pedigo Delhommer





Audrey Vitter

# Sen. Vitter's mother dies at age 84

Audrey St. Raymond Vitter, mother of Sen. David B. Vitter, died Saturday of congestive heart failure in Atlanta. She was 84.

Mrs. Vitter was born in New Orleans and lived in Cambridge, Mass., during World War II. She lived in New Orleans until Hurricane Katrina, when she evacuated to Atlanta.

She graduated as valedictorian from St. Joseph Academy High School and she received a scholarship to Ursuline College. After graduation from college, she earned a master's degree in social work from Tulane University.

She was active at St. Rita of Cascia Parish as president of the Sodality, and founder of the Samaritan Ministry to the Infirmed and Elderly. She was a leader in the Parish Renew Program from 1983 to 1986 and co-chaired the committee to write the history of St. Rita Parish in 1999. She received the Order of St. Louis Medal from the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Survivors include four sons, Albert L. Vitter III, J. Mark Vitter, Jeffrey S. Vitter of West Lafayette and Sen. David B. Vitter of Metairie; two daughters, Martha L. Jackoniski of Atlanta and Donna L. Vitter of Paris; 15 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date.

Patterson Funeral Home in Atlanta is in charge of arrangements

Lanier Henry Devine
Carolyn C. Diecidue
Victoria Jones Diggs
David C. Dubuc
Philip Falls, Jr.
Mary Love Miller Favorite
Raymond Richard Fitzgerald
Gertrude Foret
Myrtle M. Gorsskopf
Hazel Derbers Guidry
Marie LeBlanc Hebert
Edward Charles Hellbach
Leonard H. Hellmers, Jr.
Judith Smith Kleinpeter
Maxine Lewis Landry
Louis Anthony Larrieu, Jr.
Glenn Edward LeBlanc
Louis A. LeBoeuf, Jr.
Donald L. Lockhart
Alan Louis Lombard
Margie Acosta Maisano
Corrine Dubroica Marsalis
John E. Martin
Arthur L. Matthews
Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat
John David McDonald
Katherine Estelle Kenmure Melvin
Johm I. Meyers, Jr.
Thelma Murray
Annie Eliser Norman
Lynn Raymond Petit
Leon Chachie Preston
William Frank Rachuba, Jr.
Esther Johnson Rodgers
Hazel Haase Rodriguez
Jacquelyn Marie Roth
Linda Weaks Sanchez
Arankja Jeanette Sauvage
Yvonne Scott
Betty Mae Gaskin Stipelcovich
Della Lacombe Tassin
Dr. Joseph Patrick Tedesco, Jr.
Lawrence J. Theriot
Vivian Dufrene Welker
Anna Mary Wood

### East Jefferson

**Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home**
Mildred Ruiz D'Angelo
**Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home**
Edwin Charles Hallbach
Donald L. Lockhart
John David McDonald
Katherine Estelle Kenmure Melvin
**L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home**
David C. Dubuc
Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat
Della LaCombe Tassin
Lawrence J. Theriot
Anna Mary Wood
**Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home**
Charlene Root Cook
Gertrude Foret

### New Orleans

**All Faiths Funeral Home**
Myrtle M. Grosskopf
**Professional Funeral Services**
Philip Falls, Jr.
**Jacob Schoen & Son Funeral Home**
Hazel Derbes Guidry
Marie LeBlanc Hebert
**Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home, Inc.**
Victoria Jones Diggs

### St. Tammany

**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc.**
Brock Hunter Bollinger
**Honaker Funeral Home, Inc.**
Edward B. Cook
Carolyn C. Diecidue

### Westbank

**Davis Mortuary Service**
Irvin Andrew Butler
Mary Love Miller Favorite
Louis Anthony Larrieu, Jr.
Arthur L. Matthews
**Murray Henderson Funeral Home**
Leon Chachie Preston
**Mothe Funeral Homes**
Patricia Elizabeth Navarre Barrois
Judith Smith Kleinpeter
Maxine Lewis Landry
Louis A. LeBoeuf, Jr.
Alan Louis Lombard
Esther Johnson Rodgers
Hazel Haase Rodriguez
Linda Weaks Sanchez
Betty Mae Gaskill Stipelcovich
Vivian Dufrene Welker
**Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home**
Clarence Common
**Westside-Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home**
Gilbert J. Bruce, Jr.
Jessie Pedigo Delhommer
Margie Acosta Maisano
Lynn Raymond Petit
William Frank Rachuba, Jr.
Jacquelyn Marie Roth
Aranka Jeanette Sauvage
James Edward Underwood

### Others

**Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Home**
John E. Martin
**Edmond Fahey Funeral Home**
Mary Henry Davis, Sr.
**Forest Park The Woodlands Funeral Home**
Dr. Joseph Patrick Tedesco, Jr.
**Gross Funeral Home**
Joyce Busher
**Hall Davis & Sons Funeral Service**
Warren Edward Craig, Sr.
**Roller McNutt Funeral Home**
Yvonne Scott
**Stephens Funeral Homes, Inc.**
Thelma Murray
**Williams & Southall Funeral Home**
Antonia Bell

**BARROIS**
Patricia Elizabeth Navarre Barrois, a retiree of Chevron, died on Monday, October 10, 2005 at Ochsner Foundation Hospital. She was 64 years. Beloved wife of Jerrod Charles Barrois, Sr. Mother of Connie Jean Barrois (Lance) Pierce, Jerrod C. (Christie) Barrois, Jr., Rocky A. Barrois, Tracy J. (Lorri L.) Barrois and Michael W. ((Lawanne) Barrois. Step mother of Jerrod C. Barrois III. Daughter of the late Rita Loar Navarre and Lawrence Joseph Navarre. Sister of Deloris Adams, Barbara Adams, Debbie Baham, Lawrence J. Navarre, Jr., Rodney P. Navarre and Lois N. Beck. Grandmother of Kasey, Crystal, Stephanie, Heidi, Brian, Rocky, Brandon, Michael, Chaz, Johnatan, Cody and Jenna. Great grandmother of Jacob, Sydney and James Jr. Survived by numerous nieces and nephews. A resident of Belle Chasse, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family, also employees and retirees of Chevron and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office are invited to attend a Funeral Mass to be celebrated at MOTHE FUNERAL HOME, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open Thursday from 6:00 PM to midnight and Friday from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Information, 504-366-4343.

**BELL**
Antonia Bell, a Louisiana State employee with the Office of Family Support in New Orleans, LA. She died Saturday, October 1, 2005 in Dallas, TX. She was 41. A native and resident of New Orleans, LA. Visiting at Nelson Chapel A.M.E. in Napoleonville, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 from 9:00 AM until Religious Services beginning at 11:00 AM. Conducted by Rev. Richard Starks. Burial at Mt. Olivet Mausoleum in New Orleans, LA. Survived by 1 sister, Joyce Bell of New Orleans, LA; 1 brother, David Bell of New Orleans, LA. Also a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Preceded in death by both parents: Lawrence and Pearl Jupiter Bell. Arrangements by Williams & Southall Funeral Home Napoleonville, LA.

**BOLLINGER**
Brock Hunter Bollinger on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington, LA due to complications during delivery. He is survived by his parents, Brandon and Myra Miller Bollinger; a brother, Bray Charles Bollinger; a sister, Bree Faith Bollinger; grandparents, Melvin and Kety Miller and Sheila and Charles Bollinger, Jr.; great-grandparents, Mrs. Norma Miller, wife of the late Henry Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil White, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bollinger, Sr., Mr. and Mars. C.B. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Stevens and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ardeneaux.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Graveside Services at White Cemetery on Hwy. 40 (15 miles North of the Robert exit at I-12) in Husser, LA on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. Visiting hours will take place after the Committal Services.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brock Hunter Bollinger Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1843, Covington, LA 70434.
Offer condolences online at www.ejfieldingfuneralhome.com.

**BOYLE**
Eugenie ''Genie'' Landauer Boyle, age 40, died Monday, August 29, 2005. Wife of Mark W. Boyle. Mother of David Shane Watson and Danielle Sherie Watson. Step-mother of Mark W. Boyle, Jr. Daughter of Diane Lamulle Hoffman and David Landauer. Step-daughter of Elaine Landauer. Sister to Beatrice H. Strain, David L. Landauer, Deanne L. Dendinger, Alyce L. Thibodeaux, Glenn G. Thomas, Ameila T. Southerland and the late Lucien O. Thomas. Survived by many nieces and nephews. She was a native of Metairie, LA and resided in Chalmette, LA the past 19 years.
Relatives and friends of the family and employees and patrons of Johnny and Joyce's of Chalmette are invited to a Memorial Mass on Friday, October 14 2005, at 12:00 noon in the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen Church, 6425 W. Metairie Avenue, Metairie, LA. Visitation 10:00am until service.

**BRUCE**
Gilbert J. Bruce, Jr., at his residence on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 1:30 PM. Beloved father of Eileen Bruce McCroskey of Franklinton, LA. and Thomas Bruce. Son of Gilbert J. Bruce, Sr., and the late Mary San Angelo Bruce. Brother of Gail Jacob, Ronald Bruce, Michael Bruce, Diane Barrett, James Bruce and Dominic Bruce. Grandfather of Faith Bruce, Gabryele McCroskey, Romy Bruce and Katie Bruce. Father-in-law of Clifton McCroskey. Nephew of Whitney and Angela Dufrene.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Interment will be private. Visitation on Friday from 11:00 AM until funeral time. For information, call 341-9421.

**BUSHER**
Joyce Busher, age 81 years, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died Friday, October 7, 2005 at home. She was born March 4, 1924 in Ontario, Canada to Ronald Wilson Busher and Gladys Eleanor Newham Busher. She was predeased by her parents and a brother, ''Baby'' Busher. She leaves behind a family and family of friends who will miss her dearly, including one daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn and Charles B. Richardson III of New Orleans, LA; and two grandchildren, Kate Ellen Richardson and Charles B. Richardson IV both of New Orleans.
Funeral Services will be 2:30 p.m. Saturday, October 15, 2005 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs, AR with Pastor Sherry Adams officiating. Visitation Saturday from 1:30-2:30 p.m.
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the YMCA, 130 Werner Street, Hot Springs, AR 71913 or the charity of your choice.

**BUTLER**
Irvin (Shop Head) Andrew Butler departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center on Saturday October 8, 2005. Father of Vernon, Wayne, Kevin and Craig Butler, Diedre Davis and Patrice Sims. Brother or Irma Lewis of Los Angeles, CA. Devoted Godfather of Elaine Dillon Carter. Also survived by 19 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends. Age 76 years. A native of Vacherie, LA and a resident of Marrero and Harvey, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Friday October 14, 2005 at 12:00pm. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 Westbank Expressway
Marrero, LA

**COLE**
Frank Cornelius Cole, Jr., retired supervisor with Bell South, passed away on September 7, 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He was 77. Beloved husband of the late Genevieve Carrington Cole, and grandfather of the late Ralph L. Hermann III. Survivors include his daughters, Cindy Cole Hermann and Cathy Cole Hightower, and his grandson William James Hightower IV. He is also survived by numerous friends and family members.
A Memorial Service will be held some time in the future, please call 504-832-2045 or 504-737-3444 for more information.

**COMMON**
Clarence ''Papa Jim'' Common, a retired, Custom-Homebuilder, died Sunday, September 25, 2005 of natural causes at Woodland Village in Algiers, LA. Mr. Common was eighty-five years old. He was born in New Orleans, LA and lived in Gretna, LA all of his adult life. He is survived by his son, Larry Common Sr., a very devoted daughter-in-law Olivia Common; two grandchildren, Trenice Common and Tracy L. Common; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Charles Common and Johnny Cooper; four sister-in-laws; and a host of nieces and nephews.
Papa Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Olivia F. Common; his parents, Charles and Martha Cooper; his daughter, Jacquelyn Common; three brothers, William Sr., Edward and Emmanuel Lombard; three sisters, Atella Lombard, Clematine Gibson and Ruth Norris and one grandson, Larry Common, Jr. Clarence ''Papa Ji'' Common will be sadly missed by everyone whose lives he has touched.
Funeral Services at New Hope Baptist Church, 434 7th Street, Gretna, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. Visitation at 10:00 A.M. Rev. Arthur Piper - officiating. Interment Restlawn Memorial Cemetery, Avondale, LA.
Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home.

**COOK**
Charlene Root Cook of Bucktown, LA on Monday, October 10, 2005. Mrs. Cook is the wife of Dennis W. Cook Sr. Daughter of the late Charles Henry and Helen Hereford Root. Mother of Michael G. Allen, Shawn D. Allen, Dennis W. Cook, Jr., Charmaine C. Vickers,

# DEATHS

and William C. Cook. Sister of the late Charles Henry Root III. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend visitation on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N.Causeway Blvd at 43rd Street in Metairie, LA., from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Graveside Services will follow at the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA.

## COOK

Edward B. Cook, of Slidell, LA. on Monday, October 10, 2005 at Northshore Regional Med. Center. Husband of Tressie Smith Cook. Father of Brian, Michael, Cathy and Tracey Cook, all of New England. Step father of David Meyer and Jeffrey Moore. Brother of Clarence A. Cook. Brother-in-law of Janet Cook. Also survived by 7 grandchildren, one great grandchild, three step grandchildren: David Meyer, III, Justin and Chase Meyer.
Graveside Services and interment will be held at the MillCreek Methodist Church Cemetery, Laurel, Miss., on Thursday morning, October 13, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

## CRAIG

Warren Edward Craig, Sr. died on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital. Age 65 years. Mr. Craig was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is survived by wife, Margaret S. Craig, 6 daughters: Patricia Craig, Cheryl Craig-Rose, Antoinette Hicks, Wendolyn Craig-Frith, Warnett Craig-Netter and Warlene Craig, 3 sons: Warren E. Craig, Jr., Rodney Craig and Aaron Craig. Also survived by 1 sister: Shirley White of Oakland California; 2 brothers: James Craig, Jr., Roland Craig, 29 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren.
Visitation from 9am to 11am and religious services at 11am on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at Hall Davis & Sons Funeral Service, Ltd., 9348 Scenic Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA., 225-778-1612, Interment Providence Memorial, 8200 Airline Dr., Metairie, Louisiana. Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. officiating. For info call 225-778-1612

## D'ANGELO

Mildred Ruiz D'Angelo at Teche Regional Medical Center, Morgan City, LA on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at 2:27pm. Beloved wife of the late Frank Joseph D'Angelo, Sr. Mother of Fran D. Urso, Cathryn D. Leaumont and Frank Joseph D'Angelo, Jr. Daughter of the late Bertha Legandre and Ulysses J. Ruiz. Sister of the late Cyril C. Ruiz. Also survived by 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Age 79 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 49 years.
Relatives and friends of the family, also officers and members of St. Louis King of France Busy Bee's, Jefferson Parish Golden Agers and the Bowling League are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Funeral Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. at Bonnabel Blvd., on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 12:00 noon followed by interment in St. Patrick #3 Cemetery. Visitation on Friday, October 14, 2005 from 10:00am until funeral time.
Sign the on-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com. Funeral Information: 504-831-9901.

## DAVIS

Mark Henry Davis, Sr., 48 of Pass Christian, MS. died Saturday, October 8, 2005 in Kiln, MS. He was born in El Pasco, TX and a resident of Pass Christian, MS. He was a 1st Mate with the K-Sea. He is preceded in death by his father, Richard Davis. He is survived by 2 children, Mark Davis of Lafitte, LA and Mindy Lynn Davis of Las Vegas, NV. Mother and Step father, Ila Davis & Buck Burkhart of Kiln, MS; 2 sisters, Becky Sloane and husband George of Bay St. Louis, MS, Amy Elizabeth Davis of Zephyrhills, Fl; granddaughter Alex Finndley, also many nieces and nephews. The visitation will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2005 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm at the Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS with a 3:00 pm Funeral Service. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge of arrangements.

## DELHOMMER

Jessie Pedigo Delhommer, on September 17, 2005 at 5:45 AM. Beloved wife of the late George J. Delhommer. Mother of Patricia Cavallo, Donna Green and the late Dianne Delhommer. Daughter of the late Carl Pedigo and Iva Mince Pedigo. Sister of Jane Heuer and the late William Pedigo and Sue Erickson. Grandmother of Jay Cavallo, Christie Cavallo, A.J. Green, III and Kayla Green. Great-grandmother of Sarah Cavallo and Katie Cavallo. Mother-in-law of Victor Cavallo and Alvah Green, Jr. and grandmother-in-law of Tina Cavallo. Mrs. Delhommer was a native of Malden, MO and a resident of Marrero for over 50 years.
Funeral services were held on September 21, 2005. Interment was in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expresway, Marrero, LA.

## DEVINE

DEVINE
Mr. Lanier Henry Devine at Harris Methodist H.E.B. Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas. A retired professional mechanical engineer, died on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 9:38 p.m. Age 82 years. A native of San Antonio, TX and resident of Mandeville, LA for 25 years. A graduate of Texas A & M with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Past President of La Heat Pump/Assn., Sam P. Wallace Construction and Resor Plumbing and Heating. A member of Louisiana Engineering Society and parishioner of Our Lady of the Lake Church. A U.S. Navy veteran, Pacific Theatre - World War II.
Survived by wife, Mary Ann Kane Devine; stepsons: Edward William Michel and Lewis Charles Michel; sister, Mary Frances Berry; 4 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchildm many nieces and nephews. Son of the late William Webb Devine and Isabel Lamar.
A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA.

## DIECIDUE

Carolyn C. Diecidue, of Slidell, LA, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at her residence in Pearl River, LA. Former wife of Harry Epstein. Beloved wife of Salvador F. Diecidue for 21 years. Mother of Ronald Epstein, Richard Epstein, Michael Epstein, Steven G. Diecidue, Caron Epstein Guidroz, Pennie Diecidue Carr, Peggie Diecideu Sava, Sallie Diecidue Jones and the late Salvador F. Diecidue, Jr. Daughter of the late Ruffin J. and Lillian Hermen Carlos. Sister of Ruffin J. Carlos, Jr. and the late Ruth Carlos. Also survived by 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Age 71 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Slidell, LA for 25 years.
She was a 1953 graduate of Touro School of Nursing and received her Master's degree from Tulane University. She was Director of Home Health, Hospice, D. M. E. and Private Services at Mercy Hospital. She was a parishioner and Eucharistic Minister at St. Luke the Evangelist and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Churches in Slidell.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 910 Cross Gates Blvd., Slidell, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. Interment in FOREST LAWN CEMETERY, Slidell, LA. Visitation Friday at the church after 1:00 p.m.
Arrangements by HONAKER FUENRAL HOME, INC., Slidell, LA.

## DIGGS

Victoria Jones Diggs died on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Daughter of the late Mack Jones Sr. and Francis Ross Butler. Wife of the late Nathan Diggs Sr. Mother of Carol Nevis and the late Evelyn Harris. Sister of Frank Jones Sr., Sterling Jones Sr., the late Earl, Mack Jr., Joseph Jones Sr., Albert Butler and James Lewis Sr. Also survived by grandson, Roosevelt Williams Jr.; 5 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. A native of Gibson, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Visitation was held on October 11, 2005 at Gertrude Geddes Willis-Terrebonne Funeral Home - 617 Bond St. (Houma, LA) from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM. Followed by a Funeral Service at 10:00 AM. Rev. Albert Michel from Macedonia B.C., Marrero, LA officiated. Interment Mount Pilgrim B.C. Cemetery. NO WAKE.
Gertrude Geddes Willis Funeral Home Inc. in charge, 504-522-2525 or 985-872-6934. You may sign the Guest Book on nola.com/obits.

## DUBUC

David C. Dubuc, a Sales Representative for Best Business Forms Printing Co. and an Independent Dealer for the Times Picayune, passed away on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. Age 43 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a lifelong resident of Metairie, LA. Mr. Dubuc was a graduate of Rummel High School, was active in Rummel's Alumni Association and active in the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department, a parishioner of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and a member of St. Mary Magdalen's Mens Club. Beloved husband of Gaynell Junda Dubuc. Father of Ryan J., Adam J. and Nicholas J. Dubuc. Son of Jennie Paliaro and the late Louis J. Dubuc. Son-in-law of Salvador A. Junda, Sr. Brother of Penny A., Don L., Gary M., Steven J., Robert L. and Louis R. Dubuc. Also survived by 7 nieces, 6 nephews, 7 sister-in-laws and 2 brother-in-laws.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN & SON, 2607 Williams Blvd., on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Visitation on Friday from 9:00 AM until time of service.

## FALLS

Philip Falls, Jr., age 83 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 5, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital.
Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2005, 12:00 noon at Nineveh Baptist Church, 1009 Wilker Neal Avenue, Metairie, LA. Interment will follow at Providence Memorial Park. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until time of service. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.
He leaves to cherish his many precious memories five sons: Philip and John L. Lacoste, Adam and Gerald Brousard and Tyrone Joseph; seven daughters: Paulette, Yolanda and Diana Lacoste, Linda Thomas Johnson, Judy Williams, Debra Leonard and Ada Murray; and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Jean Lacoste Falls; mother, Violet Falls, father, Philip Falls, Sr.; and three sons: Philip Falls III, Alvin Joseph and Gary Boursard.
The family has entrusted his services to:
PROFESSIONAL FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.
''Divine Service for a Divine People''
1620 Elysian Fields Ave., N.O., LA 70117
Information: 504-948-7447

## FAVORITE

Mary Love Miller Favorite departed this life at Hamptons Hospice Hospital in Houston, TX on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at the age of 69. Beloved wife of Lionel Favorite. Mother of Terryl Favorite, Sr., Jerryl Favorite, Linda Favorite-Patterson, Eric Favorite Sr., Lisa Favorite-Hillard and Kennith Favorite Sr. Daughter of the late Isadore and Lillybell Miller. Sister of Lionel Miller Sr. of Austin TX and the late Bobby Miller. Mother-in-law of Linda T. Favorite, Patricia T. Favorite, Keith Hillard, Sr. and Patrice V. Favorite. Sister-in-law of Doris Banks, Pellie Ann Moody, Ann Miller, Marion Talpon, the late Ella Mae White, Ernestine Cambell, John Favorite Jr. and Jessie Favorite. Beloved niece of the late Laura (Aunt Sweetie) Smith. Loving godmother of Ruth M. Payne. Devoted cousin of Ethel M. Davis, Elnora R. Scott, and Evelyn Hill. Preceded in death by 1 grandchild and 1 great grandchild. Also survived by 16 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends; pastors, officers and members of Life Center Cathedral, Second Highway B.C., Come into the Light Ministries, Morning Starz B.C, Lil Zion B.C. # 3, and all neighboring churches; employees of Cytec Industries, NSA Cuillier Career Center, Tulane Medical Center, Pellerin Milor and TSA/USNR are invited to attend the Funeral Service at St. Mary B.C., 6223 6th Ave., Marrero, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Wilbert Tross - officiating. Visitation from 8:00 A.M. until service time at the church. Interment Providence Cemetery, Metairie, LA.
Arrangements by
Davis Mortuary Service
6820 Westbank Expressway
Marrero, LA

## FITZGERALD

Raymond Richard Fitzgerald, age 76 years, on September 19, 2005 in Dallas Texas. He was a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA before evacuating to Dallas, TX as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Beloved husband of Mary Caire Fitzgerald. Father of Fr. Raymond R. Fitzgerald , S.J. and Lucy Fitzgerald Smedstad. Grandfather of Andre K. Smedstad and Katarina M . Smedstad. Father-in-law of Ole Martin Smedstad. Brother of Louis J Fitzgerald and the late Ellen Meynard, Lorraine Marks, William Fitzgerald and Sr. Mary Eleonora Fitzgerald, R.S.M. Son of the late William Alexander Fitzgerald and Amy Richard Fitzgerald. Mr Fitzgerald was a graduate of St. Aloysius High School, Soule Business College and Loyola University.
A private Memorial Mass was held for the immediate family in Dallas, TX. Internment will be at St. Louis III at a later date.

## FORET

Gertrude Foret, 79, of New Orleans, passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, in Hammond, Louisiana. She is the wife of the late Melvin R. Foret Sr. Daughter of the late Alvin J. and Velma Gautreaux Comeaux. Mother of Patricia Foret Labarre, Melvin R. Foret Jr., and Beverly Foret Couch. Mother-in-law of Peter Labarre Jr., Cheryll Foret, and Brian Couch. Sister of the late Hazel Glynn, Amelia Ardeneaux, Mildred Tizzard, and Peggy Pollock. She is also survived by four grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and ten step-great-grandchildren. She is retired from Wemco Industries, a former resident of Chateau Living Center in Kenner, and a former member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Alfred E. Flynn Post.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A funeral Mass will be celebrated in the chapel of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd St., Metairie on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Friends may visit at the funeral home on Friday beginning at 9:00 AM. Burial will be in St. Vincent Cemetery on Soniat Street.

## GROSSKOPF

Myrtle M. Grosskopf, age 71 years, passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, LA. Mrs. Grosskopf is the beloved wife of Robert E. Grosskopf, Sr. for the past 54 years. Mother of Robert E. Grosskopf, Jr. and his wife Catherine Grosskopf of Boston, MA and Pamela Grosskopf Mashon and her husband Kurt Mashon of Hammond, LA. Grandmother of Meghan and Margot Grosskopf, and Zachary and Alexandra Mashon. Daughter of the late Charles R. Lesher, Sr. and Agnes Schackelford. Sister of Charles R. Lesher Jr., of Jupiter, FL and the late Mary Jane Hamm. A native of Pittsburgh, PA. Mrs. Grosskopf was a retired Office Supervisor for Analytical Studies in Metairie, LA. She was a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Service in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 315 Ridgelake Dr, Metairie, LA 70001, on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 2:00 pm.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mrs. Grosskopf to the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at the above address
ALL FAITHS FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements.

## GUIDRY

Hazel Derbes Guidry, life long resident of New Orleans for 86 years, died at 11:45 a.m. Monday, October 10, 2005, in Atlanta, GA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral Mass in the chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie at 2:00 p.m. Visiting at the funeral home after 12:00 Noon Friday. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery.
Hazel was the beloved wife of the late Henry Joseph Guidry, Jr., mother of John Henry Guidry and Joan Guidry Porter of Roswell, GA., mother-in-law of Arthur Lemarie Porter, Jr., grandmother of Rachelle Porter Brotman of Ladera Ranch, CA. and Matthew David Porter of Sacramento, CA., great grandmother of Austin Gregory Brotman and Aiden Gabriel Brotman; daughter of the late Hazel Generes and Albert Joseph Derbes, Sr.; sister of the late Delia Derbes Lampton, Arthur J. Derbes, Sr., Dr. Vincent J. Derbes, Vera Derbes Schexnayder and Albert J. Derbes, Jr. She was a parishoner of St. Pius X Catholic Church. Services under the direction of Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Directors.

## HEBERT

Marie LeBlanc Hebert, On Friday October 7, 2005. Beloved wife of Arden Paul Hebert for 65 years. Mother of Carole Burch, Michael Hebert, Glenn Hebert, Gerard Hebert, Anthony Hebert, Anne Shaffer and Elaine Degelos. Daughter of the late Edward John LeBlanc and the late Beatrice Anne LeBlanc. Sister of Sally McConnell, the late Mabel LeBlanc, Janet Childers and Helen Dean. Loving grandmother of 21 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. Age 82 years. A native of Terrebonne Parish and resident of New Orleans and Metairie, LA for the past 65 years.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend Funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd, Metairie, LA on Wednesday October 12, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation beginning at 11:00a.m. until time of Mass. Interment in Garden of Memories.
Arrangements by JACOB SCHOEN & SON FUNERAL HOME.

## HELLBACH

Edwin Charles Hellbach on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at West Jefferson Hospital. Son of the late Margaret and Andy Hellbach. Brother of Andree Zeansonne, Catherine Licali and Stephen Hellbach. Age 49 years. A native of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Visitation October 14, 2005 at Leitz Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, Donations to Bridge House.

## HELLMERS

Leonard H. Hellmers, Jr., a resident of New Orleans, LA, died at the age of 65 at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital (Jefferson Parish, LA) from complications associated with kidney cancer. He was born in New Orleans, LA on December 5, 1939, and attended William Frantz Elementary School (kindergarten), St. Paul Lutheran School (grades 1-8), and F.T Nicholls High School (grades 9-12), from which he was graduated in 1957 as a National Merit Scholar. He studied chemistry, physics, and mathematics as an undergraduate at Tulane University and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Leonard was a Private First Class in the United States Army. He was selected to attend the Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey in California where he studied Italian, and was assigned as a linguist in the US Army Security Agency, serving primarily in Frankfort, Germany. Following his honorable discharge, Leonard resumed his academic career at what was then LSU New Orleans (todays UNO), where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. An interest in theater drew him to Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he earned a Master of Arts and eventually a Doctor of Philosophy degree. He was a college professor in the theater departments of Wesleyan University in Watertown, Connecticut and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Leonard left the academic world and became Research Director for the marketing research firm ASI in southern California. Following the death of his father in 1984, he returned to the family home in New Orleans to care for his widowed mother and sister Eileen, where for a time he operated his own marketing research business. At the time of his death, he was retired. Leonard's interests were many and varied, reflected in his large personal library. He had a special interest in and performed independent research on the origins of language. He was a musician, and played the string bass.

## KLEINPETER

Judith Smith Kleinpeter on Monday, September 12, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Ernest Cornelius Kleinpeter. Mother of Connie K. Hebert, Judith K. Lotz and Susan K. Edmonson. Daughter of the late Alice Isemann Smith and Alonzo G. Smith, Sr. Sister of Ruth Ross, Alonzo Smith, Jr., the late Alpha Rapp, Lois Chabonnet, Edna Mae Smith, Helen Kleinpeter, Lester, Lynn and Emmett Smith. Also survived by 7 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, age 92 years and a lifelong resident of Gretna, LA. She was a member of Gretna Presbyterian Church. Funeral Services were held at Gretna Presbyterian Church on Monday, September 19, 2005. Interment followed in Hook and Ladder Cemetery. In her memory, donations may be made to Gretna Presbyterian Church, 101 11th Street, Gretna, LA. 70053. Mothe Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## LANDRY

Maxine Lewis Landry died Saturday, October 8, 2005 of cancer at her home in Marrero, LA, surrounded by family and friends. She was 70. She was a native of Marrero, LA and a 1952 graduate of L.H. Marrero High School. She travelled extensively, living with her husband and family for a time in Brooklyn, NY; Beirut, Lebanon; and Lagos, Nigeria before returning to the United States.
She worked for many years as a secretary at Morgan City High School, Chevron Oil, New Orleans Publishing Group and Dolan Communications. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, R. Ray Landry; and her three sons, Robert, Mark and Dwight Landry; daughters-in-law, Sandra Knowles Landry and Regina Verdin Landry; brothers, Joseph Robert Lewis and Thomas Wayne Lewis; sisters, Gloria Lewis Des Roche, Patricia Fisher Van Scoy and Deana Lewis Lambert; brothers-in-law, Jerrold Des Roche and Allen Landry; sister-in-law, June Mendoza Lewis; and five grandchildren: Jennifer Landry Monssen, David, Danielle, Robert A.E. and Alexis Landry.
Funeral Services and Catholic Mass were held Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at Mothe Funeral Home, Marrero, LA, with interment in Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA.
Donations in her memory may be made to West Jefferson Home Health and Hospice, 128 Wright Ave., Gretna, LA 70056.

## LARRIEU

Louis ''Skipper'' Anthony Larrieu, Jr. departed this life at St. Francis Cabrini Hospital on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. Beloved husband of Madella Maneau Larrieu. Father of Michael Larrieu, Louis Larrieu III, Jeniece Cennett, Lucille Johnson, Victoria Sebourn, Vincent Larrieu, and Malcolm Larrieu. Son of the late Louis Anthony Larrieu, Sr., and Elnora Spears. Brother of the late Lucille Haynes. Survived by 22 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends. Age 75 years. A native opf New Orleans, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends, also priests and parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial from St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 455 Ames Blvd, Marrero, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00am. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery, Westwego, LA.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 Westbank Expressway
Marrero, LA

## LeBLANC

Glenn Edward LeBlanc, age 53 years, passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 26, 2005. He was born and educated in New Orleans, LA and lived many years in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan where he was buried. Glenn was the beloved son of Edward and Madelyn LeBlanc. He is survived by brothers: Paul and Edward LeBlanc; sister, Diane Andries; 4 nephews and 3 nieces.

## LeBOEUF

Louis A. LeBoeuf, Jr. of Gretna, LA on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 4:26 pm at age 78 years. Beloved husband of the late Marilyn Keller by 1st marriage and of the late Sadie McGuire by 2nd marriage. Father of Pat, Ricky, and the late Louis A. LeBoeuf, III and Mrs. Sheila Colley and Cathi Schultz. Son of Adelaide Fink LeBoeuf and the late Louis A. LeBoeuf, Sr., Grandfather of Dawn 'Sunny' Fleisch, Katelyn, Louis IV, Patrick, and Ryan LeBoeuf, David and Bradley Colley,, Richard and Matthew Brunner, Stacie Vicknair and Jessica Walther. Also survived by 8 great-grandchildren.
Louis was a decorated veteran of WWII and a 4th generation owner of LeBoeuf Insurance Agency. He served the City of Gretna as an Alderman for 26 years and as Mayor pro-tem from 1979-1987. He was a native of Algiers, LA and a lifelong resident of Gretna, LA.
A Funeral Mass was celebrated in the chapel of MOTHE FUNERAL HOME, Harvey, LA on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 1:30 pm. Interment followed in the family tomb at Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA.

## LOCKHART

Donald L. Lockhart, age 57, on Friday, October 7, 2005. Husband of Darlene Beaver Lockhart. Son of the late Charles ''Ed'' Lockhart and ''Linnie B'' Carter. Brother of Jeanette Castaneda, Brenda Headley and the late Douglas Lockhart. Uncle of Melinda, Melissa, Michael A., Michael H. and Nolan. He was a native of Clanton, AL and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 51 years.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Service from LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Visitation will be from 8:00 AM until time of service. Interment to follow in the Garden of Memories on Airline Drive, Metairie, LA.

## LOMBARD

Alan Louis Lombard, on Sunday, October 9, 2005, at Ochsner Foundation Hospital. Age 47 years. Beloved husband of Sandra Pritchett Lombard. Son of Anthony Louis Lombard and Janice Schaunder Lombard. Stephfather of Brian Ditta and Marie Nesom. Father-in-law of Brad Nesom, Sr. Grandfather of Brittany Nesom and Brad Nesom, Jr. Brother Paul Lombard and Wendy Lombard. Son-in-law of Donald Pritchard and Betty Pritchard. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Avondale, LA. Mr. Lombard was a Mechanic with Hollywood Doors. He was a 1976 graduate of West Jefferson High School.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Saturday, October 15, 2005, at 11:00 AM at MOTHE FUNERAL HOME, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Mr. Lombard.

## MAISANO

Margie Acosta Maisano at Alexandria, LA on September 24, 2005. Age 80 years. Wife of Victor Maisano. Mother of John Maisano and Juana M. Ortego. Daughter of the late Valerie Pellegrin and Abel Acosta. Sister of Clara McKone, the late Willie Acosta, Roy Acosta, Able Acosta, Curnest Acosta, Joan Ferguson and Clifford Acosta. Mother-in-law of Clyde J. Ortego.
Relatives and friends of the family were invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in St. Roch Cemetery was private. Visitation at the Funeral Home on Monday, October 3, 2005 was from 10:00 a.m. until service time.
WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL handled arrangements. Information: 504-341-9421.

## MARSALIS

Corinne Dubroca Marsalis of Metairie, LA on Friday, September 30, 2005 in Cleveland, Ohio. Beloved wife of the late James R. Marsalis, Sr. Daughter of the late Ralph A. Dubroca and the late Ruth Haydel Dubroca. Mother of James R. Marsalis, Jr. and Thomas R. Marsalis. Mother-in-law of Linda C. Marsalis. Grandmother of Jeremy R. Marsalis and Joy A. Marsalis Wantz. Great-grandmother of Dylan K. Wantz and Thomas R. Marsalis. Sister of the late Ralph A. Jr., James T., Sidney C., Eual A. Dubroca, Jean D. Sellers and Jacqueline D. Simoneaux Tanoose. Born on January 29, 1915 in Luling, LA.
Memorial Service on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 3:00 PM at Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church, 215 Phosphor Ave., Metairie, LA. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

## MARTIN

John E. Martin, age 81 years, died Saturday, October 8, 2005. Mr. Martin was a native of Selma, AL and a longtime resident of Metairie, LA. He was a former World War II Navy veteran who served in the South Pacific and on the USS Borie. John attended the University of Alabama and became a co-owner of Metro Contract Hardware in New Orleans. He was an architectural hardware consultant for 50 years. He was a member of the National Hardware Association and was a Protestant.
Survivors include his beloved wife, Gloria Gallagher Martin of Metairie, LA; a dear sister, Mildred Crisman of Selma, AL; two loving children, Mrs. Sherry Riley (and husband, Danny) and Mrs. Debra Placilla (and husband, Bill) both of Tallahassee, FL; seven devoted grandchildren, Marlo Ransdell (and husband, Joey) of Gainesville, FL, Lisa Munroe (and husband, Hugh) and Michael Schultz both of Tallahassee, Clint Edwards of Selma, AL, Ben and Justin Placilla both of Tallahassee and Sarah Harris (and husband, Chris) of Washington, D.C.; a great-grandchild, Brooke; two sisters-in-law, Angela Persons (and husband, Lewis) of Tallahassee and Peggye Gallagher; and many other nieces and nephews.
The services were held at 3:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Home, Timberlane Road Chapel, Tallahassee, FL (850-893-4177).

## MATTHEWS

Arthur L. (Fat) Matthews departed this life at Chandler Health Center Odyssey Hospital, San Antonio, TX on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 1:00A.M.Father of Arthur L. Nicholas, Lawrence Henry, Ronnie, Darryl, Rev. Reginald Nicholas, Sr., Tony, Arthur and George, Patricia Hunter, Patricia Griffin, Carol Hill, Sandra, Wanda, Felicia, Keisha and Eloise and the late Haywood Nicholas. Brother of the late Clarence, Willie, Charles, Dorothy and Geraldine. Son of the late Viola and Willie Matthews. Devoted friend of Glonice Pashall. Also survived by 29 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, 3 daughters-in-law, 1 son-in-law, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.Age 80 years. A native of Point Coupee, LA And a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends also pastors, officers, and members of Olive Branch B.C., Rock of Ages B.C., St. Mary B.C., and Progressive B.C. and a neighboring churches are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 9:30A.M. Rev. Woodrow Hayden - Officiating. Interment Woodlawn Park Cemetery, Westwego, LA.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 Westbank Expressway
MARRERO, LA

## MAZERAT

Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat, on September 13, 2005, at Grand Prairie Health Center, Grand Prairie, Texas. Displaced by Hurricane Katrina. She was born on October 10, 1909, in New Orleans, LA. Beloved wife of the late Sidney J. Mazerat, Jr. Cherished mother of Sylvia Mazerat Norton, and husband Thomas, and Sidney J. Mazerat III. Grandmother of Peggy Norton Dunn and husband Kevin, Branden Strom and Michelle Norton Stanton and husband, Stephen. She was the daughter of the late Vito Scorsone and Mary Valley Scorsone. She was the sister of the late Cora Leonardi, Louis Bacon, Ruby Bellerino, Viola Cali, Joseph and Francis Scorsone. She is also survived by a loving sister-in-law, Georgiana Scorsone; many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Aged 95 years, 11 months and 3 days. A resident of Terrytown, LA for 45 years and a parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church.
Vetina retired after many years with Maison Blanche Co. and Marks Issacs Co. Department Stores. She was a member of the Terrytown Golden Agers. Our heartfelt thanks to her caregivers, Dr. Thomas P. Melancon, for years of friendship and caring; her home health care assistants; the nursing staff at West Jefferson Medical Center, during her stays there; the special staff members at Meadowcrest Living Center; and the kindness shown to her in her final days at Grand Prairie Health Center, by their staff, the special members of Vitas Hospice, by our new caring friend, Abel Rodriguez, by our loving cousin Jeanne Rasco, and our friends Lorraine Stennett, Suzanne Taitte, Ann Mayo, Becca Crowell and the Rev. Kris Bauta. She was loved by all who knew her, for her loving and caring nature and her special humor and the happiness she spread around her.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN & SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation on Friday from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM ! and Saturday from 9:00 AM until time of service. A Private Interment will be held in Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

## McDONALD

John David McDonald, age 49 years, on Friday, October 7, 2005. Son of Daniel R. McDonald, Sr. and Beverly Pizzuto. Father of Mandy M. Brescher, Erin C. Brescher, Sr. Grandfather of Michael J. Brescher, Jr., and Tyler J. Brescher. Brother of Michael D. McDonald, Sr., Daniel R. McDonald, Jr., Mark G. McDonald and Thomas C. McDonald. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 44 years.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM until time of service.

## MELVIN

Katherine Estelle Kenmure Melvin on Sunday September 18, 2005. Beloved daughter of the late Felix and Estelle Kenmure. Sister of the late Edward and James Kenmure and Claire R. McDonnell. Also survived by a hoist of nieces and nephews. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA.
The Funeral Mass was held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., Metairie on Wednesday September 28, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Temporary interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery, final resting place Greenwood Cemetery.

## MEYERS

John I. Meyers, Jr., passed away on October 9, 2005 at the age of 75 of cancer. John was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, and was a resident of Mandeville, LA. for the past 26 years. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Dorothy L. Meyers; two sons, John E. Meyers of Jacksonville, Florida and Jeffrey A. Meyers of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and their wives, Michelle and Erin Meyers; five grandchildren, Matthew Parker, Trevor, William and Renee Meyers; sister, Helen Vannatta of Vancouver, Washington.
John retired from Exxon where he worked for 43 years. He held his Bachelors and Masters in Mechanical Engineering. He was a member of the American Legion. He also served his country in the Army for four years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Service on Friday, October 14, 2005 at St. Timothy United Methodist Church, 335 Asbury Drive, Mandeville, LA. 70471. Visitation from 9:30 am - 11:00 am. Service at 11:00 am. Bagnell & Son Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to American Cancer Society.

## MURRAY

Memorial Services for Thelma Murray, age 98 years, formerly of New Orleans, LA and Bay St. Louis, MS will be held at a later date.
Survivors include a son, Jerry Murray of Mandeville, LA, formerly of Waveland, MS. Mrs. Murray died Wednesday, October 12, 2005 in Meridian, MS.

## NORMAN

Annie Eliser Norman, on August 31, 2005 at St. Charles Specialty Hospital in New Orleans, LA. Age 91. Beloved wife of the late Flory Norman. Mother of Gayle Hess. Grandmother of Connie Hobbs of Keller TX, Michael and Merlin Hess and the late Norman Hess. Sister of Melton Eliser of Marrero, Clarence Eliser of Desoto, TX., and the late Ethel Champagne, Maggie LeBlanc, Eva, Pearl, Roaslie, Maurice, Leo, Emile and Louis Eliser. Also survived by 7 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchildren.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to a Memorial Mass on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 1:00 PM at St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church, 10021 Jefferson Highway, River 

**The Times-Picayune**

*Founded in 1837*

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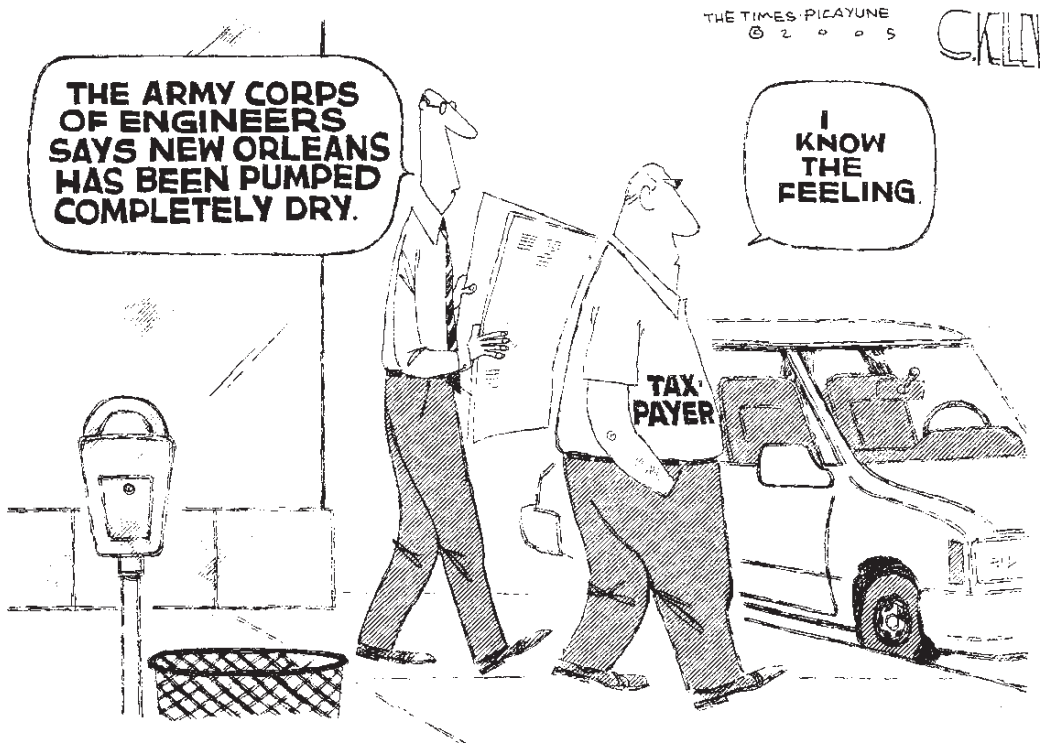
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## YOUR OPINIONS

# The police have been through more than most

After numerous viewings of the videotape involving New Orleans police officers and the 64-year-old retired elementary school teacher, we also are disturbed.

The Fraternal Order of Police will not attempt to justify the behavior of the three officers. We will, however, insist that the officers receive proper legal representation and are afforded the due process that is their right. We will wait, as we all should, for the investigation.

Further, we will work with the New Orleans Police Department to assure that all officers suffering through the ordeal of Hurricane Katrina have access to psychological testing and counseling.

Lastly, we will urge the citizens to refrain from passing judgment on the men and women of the New Orleans Police Department.

While the vast majority of our citizenry packed up their families and evacuated to high ground, our police officers remained. While many of us were amazed at the dramatic rescues shown on television, our police officers were wading through chest-deep water to save victims of this storm.

While many of us were turning off our televisions rather than watch the images of bloated bodies being removed from flooded residences, our police officers were living it, feeling it and smelling it, and reliving it again at night as they tried to sleep.

While most of us have used the seven weeks since Hurricane Katrina to begin our recovery process, file our insurance claims and to wait on our phones for FEMA and Red Cross to answer, police have been working 12 to 18 hours per day.

Let us, as police officers, understand that the citizens we serve also suffered.

Let us, as civilians, realize that lawful police orders must be obeyed immediately.

Let us agree that wrongdoing by police officers or civilians will not be tolerated. Let's all of us work together to rebuild our great city.

**Sgt. Jim Gallagher**
*(Retired)*
*Fraternal Order of Police*
Mandeville

# Pumps have fatal flaw

It appears the Jefferson Parish pumping system is at its weakest during the most critical times due to a need to have humans on location.

If the pumping system were designed correctly, it would operate under the worst conditions. In case of an emergency, operators should be able to activate automated grate cleaning equipment, emergency generators and emergency stop and start. Most of the Jefferson Parish flooding would then be avoided.

Some pumping equipment could be damaged during a storm. It is still less costly to repair damaged pumps than it is to allow a great part of the east bank of Jefferson to be flooded.

Let's build an automated pumping system without dependence on human operators, before the next Katrina.

**Mike Babin**
River Ridge




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Hurricane Katrina evacuees Reginald Wallace, right, and Robert Rooks apply for jobs in New Orleans as Jesse Jackson, top center, addresses a roomful of people who rode with him Tuesday to a Piccadilly Cafeteria in Kenner.

# Just adding to the chaos

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's grand publicity stunt to bring home 600 displaced New Orleans residents to "help rebuild the city" has done nothing but add to the growing chaos.

Thankfully, the 600 people turned out to be 200, because many of those 200 people that he managed to scrounge up from other states and bus into the city aren't even from New Orleans.

Now we have an additional 200 non-residents competing for precious few places to live with homeless New Orleanians who want to return home and get back to work. Jackson has done nothing but compound the problem.

Go home, Jesse. The real residents of New Orleans don't want, nor do we need, your kind of help.

**Sue Ferrer**
New Orleans

# Many stayed for the worst

Bravo and kudos to Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee for not sending his troops out of harm's way to north Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina.

Thanks to East Jefferson Hospital and its staff and to the pumping station operators in Orleans Parish. Even though they were fighting a losing battle, they stayed the course during our time of need.

Their jobs were to be there in the event of emergencies, and they were.

**Hugh J. Cowan**
Metairie

# A win-win answer? Too simple

Everyone is so quick to say that there is no place for displaced New Orleanians to stay. I say balderdash!

The only thing that the mayor and his hand-picked committee have to do is find a functioning hotel or motel in the area that could hold 200-plus people and bill FEMA for the lodging. People should be required to go out and seek employment immediately, or forfeit the room.

Such joint cooperation among the mayor, FEMA and the hotels would jump-start business in New Orleans and give employment to displaced residents. But no, I guess that's too simple.

**Terrence Butler Sr.**
New Orleans
Now in Slidell

# If police are 'busy,' crime drops

Re: "Crime rate barely a blip on the radar," Oct. 9.

The crime rate is barely a blip because when police refuse to accept crime reports, there is a perception of no crime.

Such was the case Oct. 7 when looters broke into a Marina Lake house on Breakwater Drive belonging to my husband and me.

The house had been destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. The crime took place while we were packing what we managed to recover. I had just witnessed these same individuals looting our neighbors' houses. However, when my husband and I tried to file a report, we were told by a 3rd District detective that the police were too busy taking care of much bigger crimes and that there was no place to jail these individuals.

Further, the detective refused to go into our house to take pictures or to collect important evidence that included a flashlight and screwdriver with the burglar's fingerprints on it.

We not only had fingerprints but we even had the names of the three looters and the license plate of their truck. Even with all this evidence, no report was filed.

Mayor Ray Nagin made a public statement that looters would be dealt with severely. Evidently, such is not the case.

**Nancy Broadhurst**
New Orleans
Now in Crowley

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## OUR OPINIONS

# Midnight blues

New Orleans was beloved for its nightlife in the days before Katrina, and giving visitors and returning residents something to do is crucial to the city's recovery. So it was jarring early Tuesday when, just after midnight, police officers began moving down Bourbon Street and shutting down bars. The sweep was part of a new effort to enforce the city's midnight-to-6-a.m. curfew more strictly.

Many business owners in the Quarter view the crackdown as a reaction to the beating Saturday of a 64-year-old former teacher by New Orleans police officers. But strict enforcement of a midnight curfew does nothing at all to prevent a repeat of that incident, and it has been bad for business in the French Quarter.

City Councilwoman Jacqueline Brechtel Clarkson has asked acting Police Superintendent Warren Riley to push the curfew in the Quarter back to 2 a.m. That request is more than reasonable.

Keeping people off the streets at night may well have played a role in keeping crime down in New Orleans since residents began returning. Yet the overall policy has a downside and not just for the hospitality industry in the Quarter. It also hems in all companies that normally have employees who work late-night or early-morning hours. (Full disclosure: This newspaper is such a business.)

The public safety benefits of the curfew policy have to be balanced against the need to restart the local economy. Instead of tightening up the curfew, city officials ought to be rolling it back.

# Regulations before jobs?

By now, it's almost a cliché: Greater New Orleans can recover from Hurricane Katrina if evacuees come back and have good jobs waiting for them when they arrive. And in fact, there are private employers in the region who desperately want to hire evacuees right now.

But certain Federal Emergency Management Agency policies are discouraging workers from returning. Those policies must be revised immediately.

The hurricane created havoc in the local housing market, and FEMA had been providing trailer homes to some business owners so that returning workers could stay near their jobs. That made sense.

But the agency also stipulated that when returning workers opted to live in those trailers, their families would have to forfeit federal rental assistance — even when some family members stayed behind in their evacuation sites. The possibility of losing access to the $2,358 housing vouchers could be enough to keep some workers from coming back.

It's understandable that FEMA would want to keep any one family from receiving more aid than it's entitled to. But at this point, the agency's top priority should be to help revive the local economy.

Fortunately, shipyard owner Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, a major Republican donor, brought the issue directly to President Bush's attention. Mr. Bollinger says the president told him FEMA's policy was "incorrect" and would be changed.

The White House needs to make sure that FEMA makes good on the president's comments. Katrina devastated the local economy and scattered local residents far and wide. Making it harder for employers to bring evacuees back to work is the last thing FEMA ought to be doing.

# The tyranny of tiny minds

The day will come when people will get worked up over the camper in a neighbor's driveway or sign stuck in the public right of way, and their aggravation will be reasonable. But we haven't yet reached that point in post-Katrina Louisiana.

Unfortunately, though, not everyone understands that compassion and flexibility are more important to recovery than rigid enforcement of every rule.

In St. Tammany Parish, for example, some homeowners associations are notifying residents that campers or trailers on their property violate restrictive covenants.

The seven-member board of Crestwood Estates subdivision near Covington sent letters last week demanding the removal of all mobile homes by Oct. 11. The letters also pointed out that the lots in the subdivision "are for single-family residential purposes only."

Homeowners who have been housing family members and friends left homeless by Hurricane Katrina are understandably distressed. The letter, signed by Chairman Todd McCormick and board member Roy Woodman, says that it's been five weeks since the storm — as if five weeks is too long to be hospitable.

"We as a community must persist in taking steps toward returning our subdivision to its normal state," the letter says.

It's hard to see how giving homeless friends and family the boot will help Crestwood residents return to normal, unless small-mindedness is their natural state. Obviously it isn't. Crestwood homeowner Colleen Oltmann has been using her house and father's camper to shelter her parents, her sister's family, her brother and his girlfriend. About half of Crestwood's residents have similar situations, another resident said.

Mr. McCormick now says that the letter could have been worded better. He says residents can seek variances for things that are prohibited by deed restrictions. If that's the case, it would have been easy enough to send a cordial letter telling people how to apply for a variance. The board ought to do so now and include an apology, too.

Mr. McCormick and the other members of the homeowners board should ask themselves how they'd want to be treated if they found themselves without homes. During a crisis, deed restrictions should hardly be the most pressing concerns.

The Times-Picayune

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LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

Thursday
October 13, 2005

MONEY See C-11

SPORTS See C-5

AFTER BEING EVACUATED TO AUSTIN, **BIG CHIEF KEVIN GOODMAN** PLANS TO REKINDLE THE FLAMING ARROWS' MARDI GRAS INDIAN TRADITION IN HIS NEW TEXAS HOME

# TRIBE *on the move*





PHOTO BY AMY SMITH

Big Chief Kevin Goodman of the Flaming Arrows leads a band of expatriate New Orleanians during a benefit show in Austin.

**By Keith Spera**
Music writer

AUSTIN — For more than a century, the Mardi Gras Indians have symbolized a unique New Orleans culture.

On Fat Tuesday, the various tribes paraded through mostly African-American neighborhoods in elaborate Indian "suits," painstakingly sewn by hand for months on end. The Indian rhythms and chants passed down from one generation to the next inform and invigorate New Orleans music, from the Dixie Cups' 1965 smash "Iko Iko" to the Neville Brothers' catalog and beyond.

Before Katrina, it was inconceivable that the Mardi Gras Indian tradition could take root anywhere other than the city of its birth.

Post-Katrina, at least one Big Chief plans to rekindle that tradition in Austin.

Big Chief Kevin Goodman leads the Flaming Arrows, the downtown Mardi Gras Indian tribe founded in 1963 by his father. For 43 of his 45 years, he has either "masked Indian" or participated in some other way. He has even nurtured his family tribe's third generation by masking his 5-year-old daughter, Kevon, and 6-year-old son, Dillon, with the Young Flaming Arrows.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

In 2004, Kevin Goodman did not mask. Instead, he sewed an Indian suit for his young daughter Kevon Goodman.

However, in the wake of Katrina and its hellish aftermath, "my spirit for Mardi Gras was just gone," Goodman said recently. "But after we got to Austin and folks started showing us love and giving us hugs and welcome, it made me want to give something back.

"(My Mardi Gras spirit) is coming back more and more. When you already have something in your soul and heart, it's not hard to get it back."

Goodman grew up in the 7th Ward, "back o' town" near the intersection of Frenchmen and North Rocheblave streets. His father,

*See* **CHIEF,** *C-4*

# Drawing the line

## *Newsman Bob Woodruff calls it as he sees it*



**DAVE WALKER**
*On the Air*

Though there's been some revisionist reporting lately on the degree to which New Orleans was plundered by its own residents during the lawless days after Hurricane Katrina, vivid scenes of such will always stay with Bob Woodruff, who covered the aftermath for ABC News.

"It was a 'Mad Max' world," he said. "I've never before seen such open looting. We can all understand people taking water and food, the basic necessities.

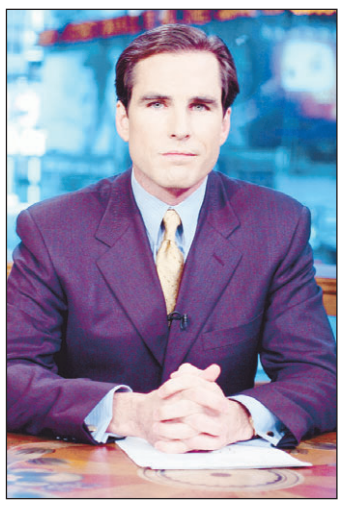
"But bags of shoes?"

Like many journalists in the outlaw zone, Woodruff witnessed open ransacking.

He did so by walking into besieged stores with a camera running and talking to the perpetrators.

"There seemed to be no shame," he said. "They had no fear, either, of us documenting them doing it.

*See* **WALKER,** *C-4*



Encounters with looters left a lasting impression on ABC newsman Bob Woodruff.

# THIS MOLD HOUSE

*More tips for mending your broken home*

## What is restoration dry cleaning?

Can textiles such as drapes, linens, rugs and clothing be saved through this special dry cleaning method?

Your local dry cleaner may be fantastic at getting out red wine, but when it comes to mold, dye migration and water stains, your best chance at reclaiming your textiles will come from a specialist.

**WHAT MAKES A DRY CLEANER A RESTORATION SPECIALIST?**
The machines that restoration dry cleaners use agitate at higher speeds and the specialists stock detergent formulas specially created for each contaminant, such as mold, soot or smoke. Many have the time-tested ability to eyeball the damaged items and tell if they are worth restoring.

**HOW BEST TO USE A RESTORATION DRY CLEANER?**
Insurance companies often dispatch these individuals to homes and businesses to assess what can be saved. The cleaners can do on-site inventories. In a catastrophe such as Hurricane Katrina, however, insurance companies are more likely to issue a check and close out the case than inquire about reclamation of specific items. Because restoring fine textiles is often less expensive than replacing them, it may be in your best interest to hire a restoration dry cleaner.

**HOW TO NEGOTIATE WITH A CLEANER?**
Insurance companies often only pay if the cleaner successfully cleans the item. Try to negotiate a similar deal, but expect the company to be choosy about what it agrees to restore.

**HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE DAMAGE ON YOUR OWN?**
The answer varies depending on the type of stain.

**Mold:** If mold is still "fuzzy," you have a chance of saving the textile. If the growth has advanced to dark spots that cover a majority of the item's surface, it may be too late. If an item was in a room where mold grew, it still should go through an "extract and kill" sequence so that the spores can be eradicated.

**Dye migration:** If items were in a drawer and the dye from one garment transferred to the other, the stained garment can likely be saved by lifting out the dye.

**Water stains:** Most water marks can be removed.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR WITH PARTICULAR ITEMS?**

**Window treatments:** If only the bottom few feet of your draperies got wet, there is a chance that they can be restored. Many drapes already have some degradation due to their exposure to sunlight. Hold curtains to your ear and pull on the fabric. If you hear it crack or tear, it is an indication of sun damage and that item may shred in the restoration process.

**Rugs:** First use a vacuum that can extract the water and then hang the rug to dry. The age and wear and tear on the rug will affect the restoration. Valuable wool rugs can be taken to an Oriental rug specialist.

**Bedding and towels:** If the linens were even in a room with mold, they must be decontaminated.

**Tablecloths:** Cloth tablecloths should be treated as any other textile.

**Down feather-filled items:** A mattress pad should be tossed as the cost of restoration is similar to the cost of a new one. The fabric of a down-filled comforter can be saved, but the feathers should be replaced.

To find a restoration dry cleaner, check with your dry cleaner, your insurance agent or The Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network at (888) 379-2532 or crdn.com.

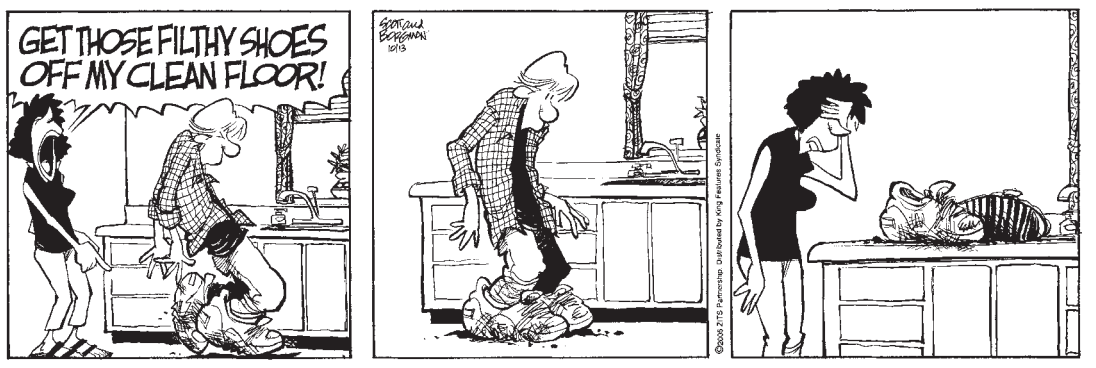
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Have a tip to share? Send your solutions to hurricane-related household problems via e-mail to tphousetip@yahoo.com. Please include your name, address and telephone number, so we can contact you. To read other tips, visit www.nola.com/newslogs/tpmoldhouse.

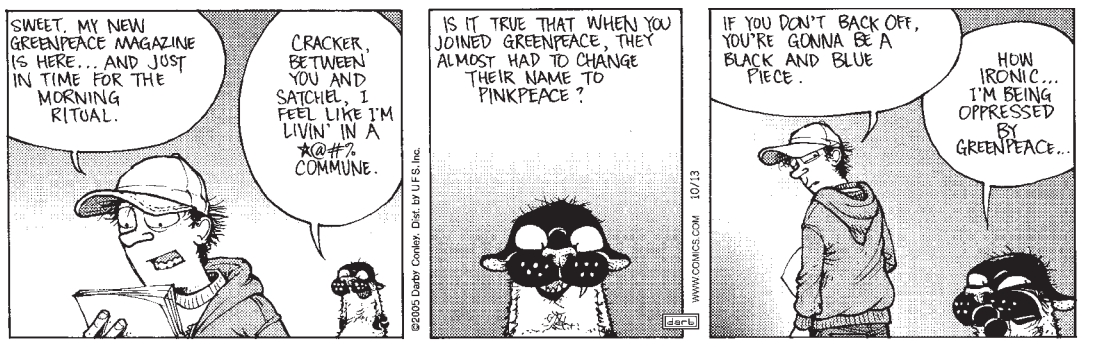
**Karen Sommer Shalett, staff writer**

# COMICS

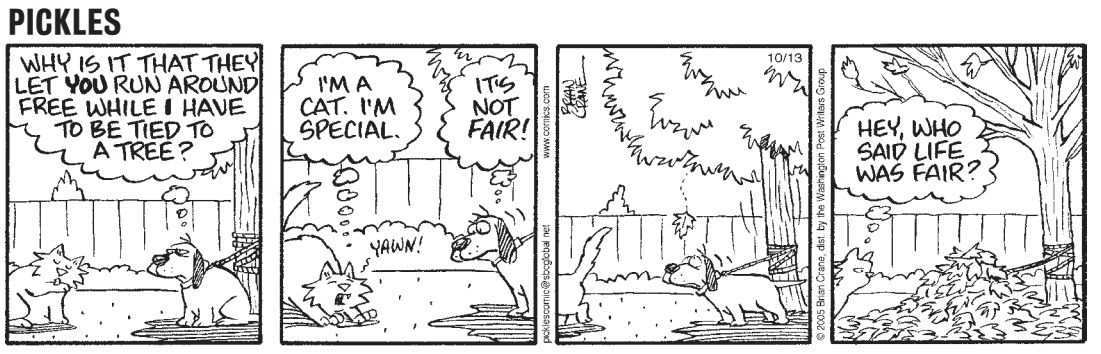
## ZITS



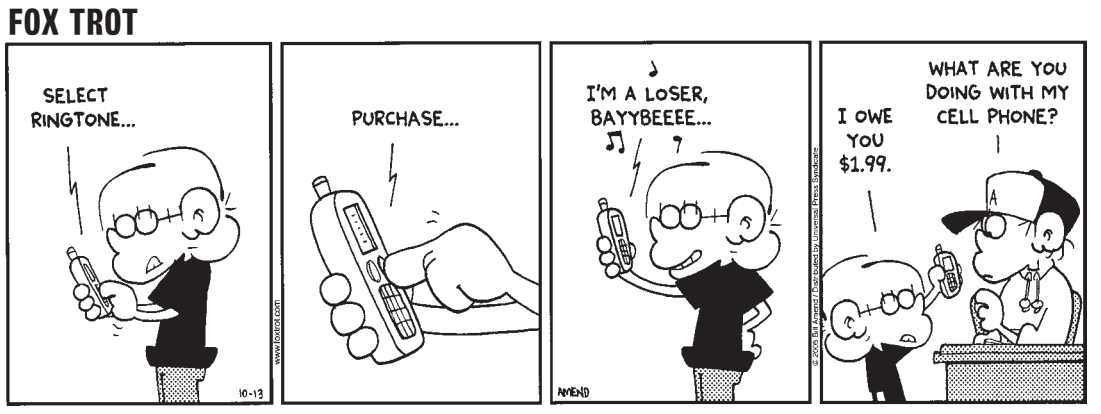

## GET FUZZY



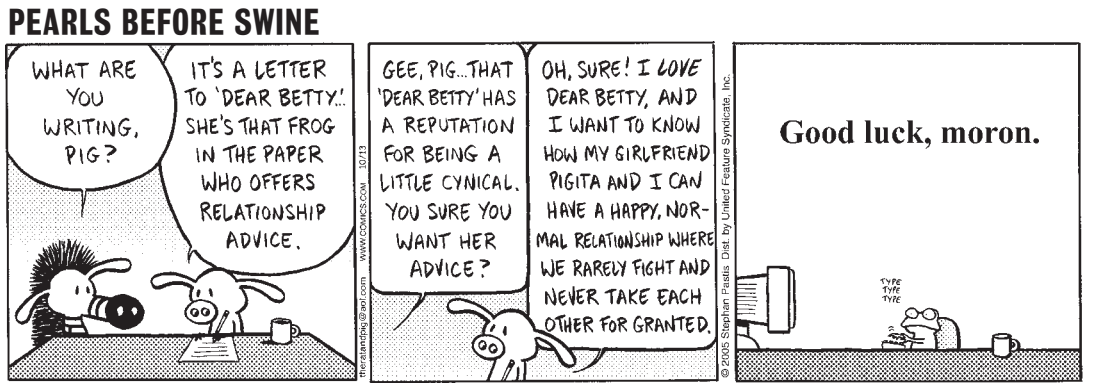

## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COPHE

LEVVA

DREEME

DYOMLE

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer: "○○○○○○○○○"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEARY FLUKE BRIDLE ANSWER

Answer: Where the connoisseur went for a good cabernet — TO THE WINE "SELLER"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $D_2$ | $W_4$ | $M_3$ | Double Word Score |
| | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $O_1$ | $Y_4$ | $R_1$ | $F_4$ | $F_4$ | $P_3$ | |
| | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $R_1$ | $H_4$ | $D_2$ | $L_1$ | $N_1$ | |
| | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $C_3$ | $B_3$ | $P_3$ | $D_2$ | 1st Letter Triple |

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
BEST SCORE 224

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 160-170

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $P_3$ | $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $D_2$ | $I_1$ | $C_3$ | $A_1$ | $B_3$ |
| $H_4$ | $A_1$ | $N_1$ | $D_2$ | $L_1$ | $E_1$ | $R_1$ | |
| $P_3$ | $A_1$ | $Y_4$ | $O_1$ | $F_4$ | $F_4$ | | |
| $M_3$ | $I_1$ | $A_1$ | $O_1$ | $W_4$ | $E_1$ | $D_2$ | |

RACK 4 = 70
RACK 3 = 61
RACK 2 = 17
RACK 1 = 76
TOTAL 224

## WORD SLEUTH

G C Z N X U S S Q N L J G E C
Z X V T O T E M L E H E F R L
P N L J H I E G O G G L E S E
C A Y W R V T T N R A Y P N R
L K I U S P R I N T G T E C A
B Z J E X W N A S U S S R P P
O N O (S W I M M I N G) E M U P
I H L J A N I G E D A E M B A
S A Y R O G N I T F A R D X W
U T T R U N N I N G A F T S Q
G N I L C Y C P O W N L K J H

Wednesday's unlisted clue: CLOCK

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: HEAD PROTECTION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apparel | Freestyle | Running | Training |
| Cycling | Goggles | Shoes | Transition |
| Drafting | Injuries | Sprint | Warm-up |
| Flats | Ironman | Swimming | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| P | B | L | A | R | A | E | E | S | E | L | L | T |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| X | R | O | A | U | O | U | T | R | V | N | A | S |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| E | N | T | Y | E | E | D | A | N | T | Y | N | D |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| T | A | N | N | I | I | O | T | E | H | D | W | S |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| O | F | P | K | N | S | N | L | O | T | A | O | W |
| 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| T | S | U | U | R | I | L | E | E | T | U | E | I |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| A | D | X | D | O | G | U | N | E | R | E | Y | D |

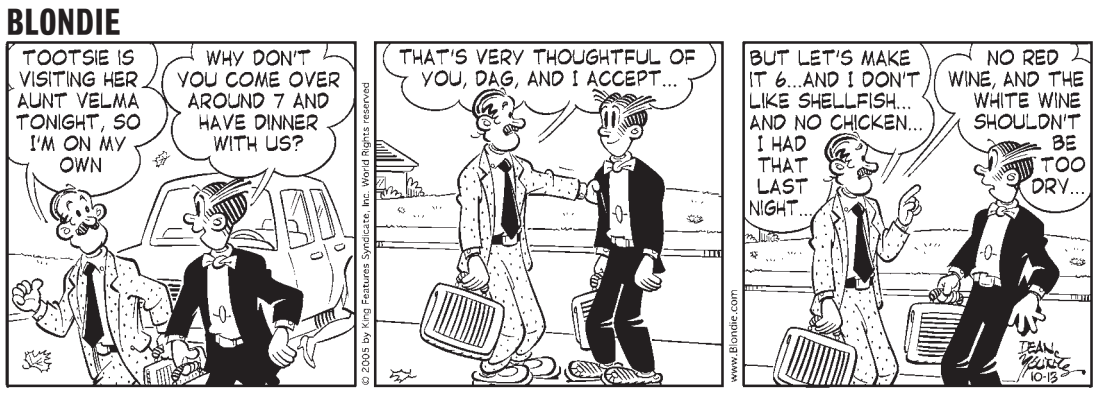
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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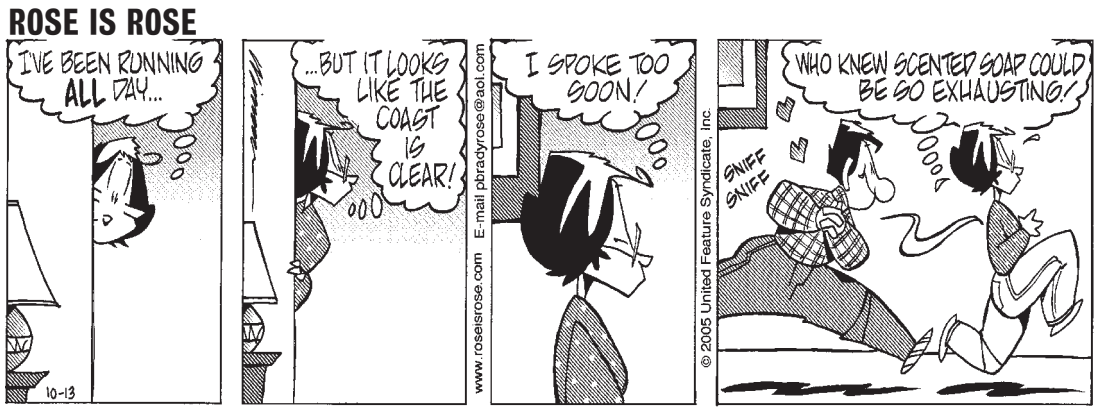
## CLASSIC PEANUTS



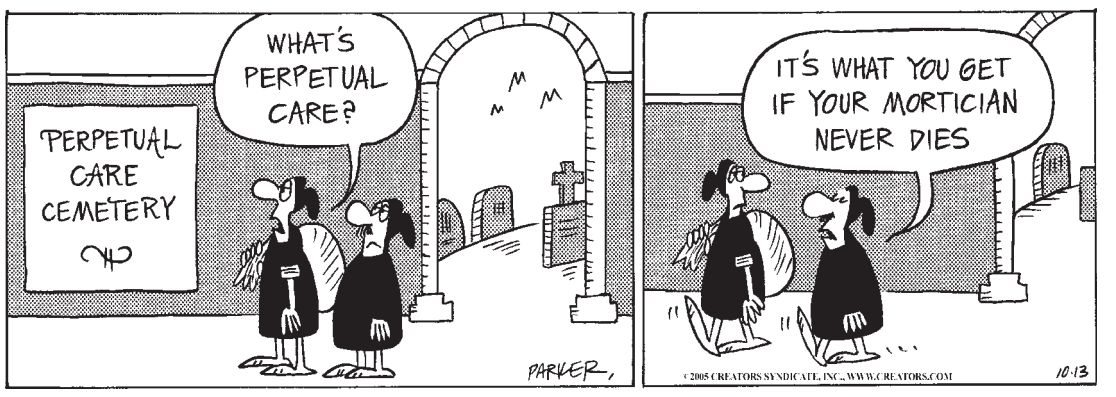

## BLONDIE



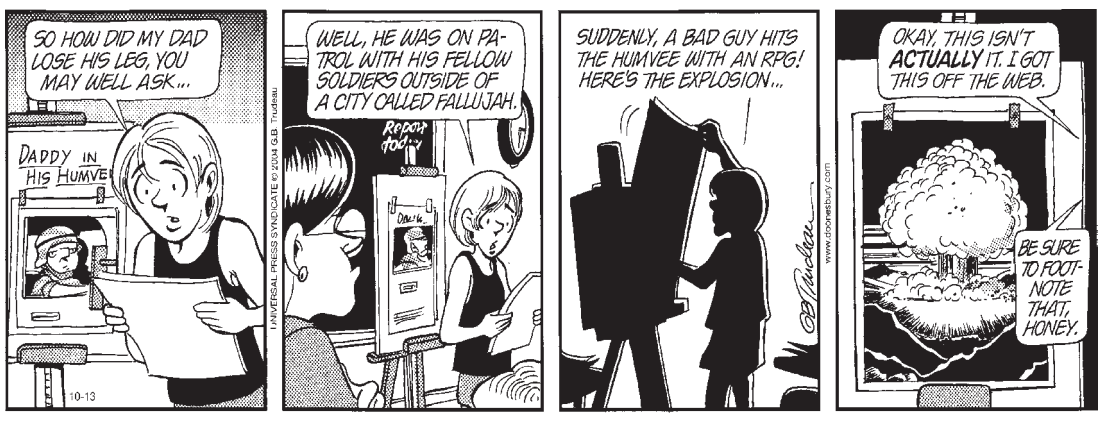

## ROSE IS ROSE




## THE WIZARD OF ID



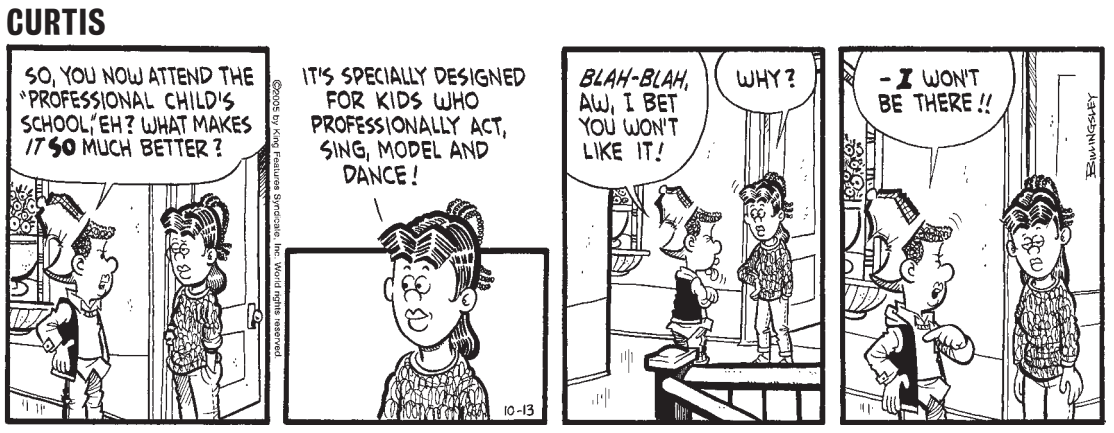

## DOONESBURY



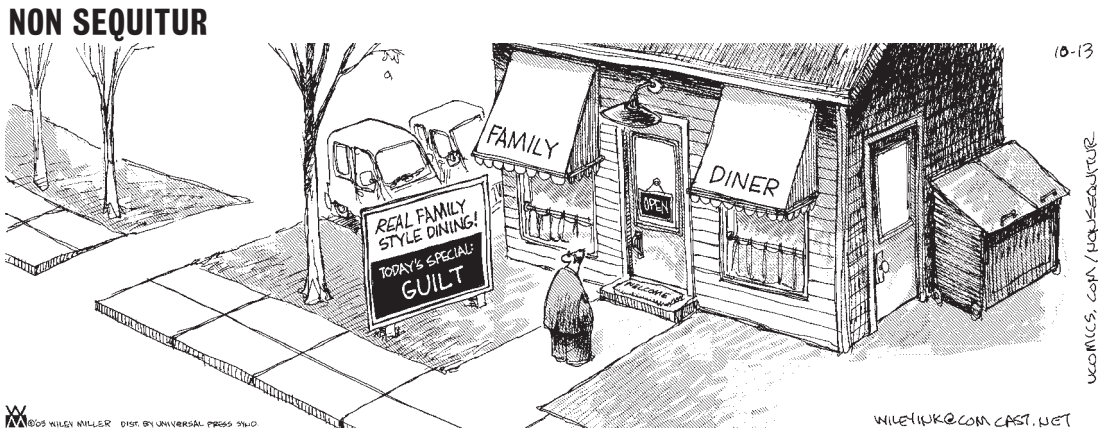

## BREWSTER ROCKIT




## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR

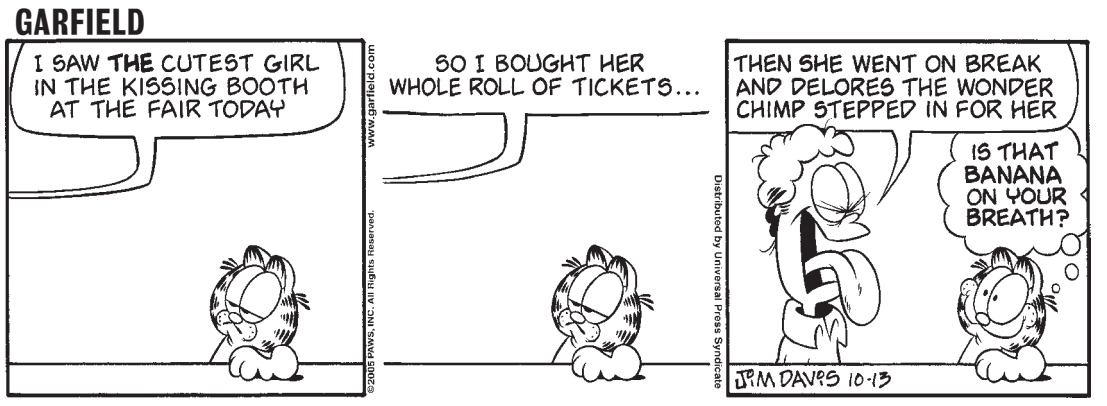



## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



# COMICS

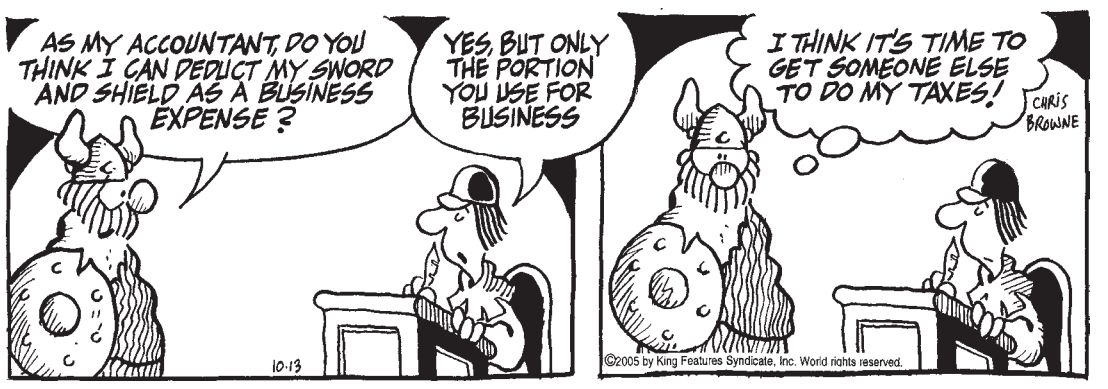
## GARFIELD



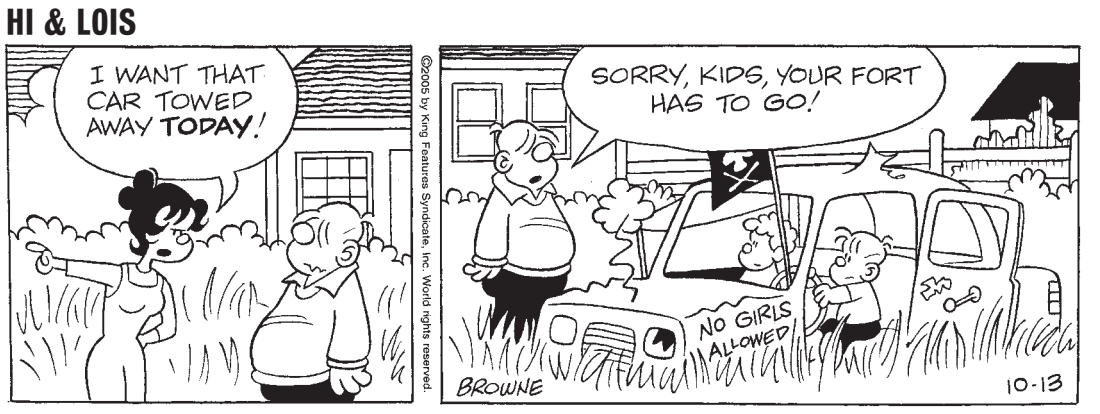

## DRABBLE



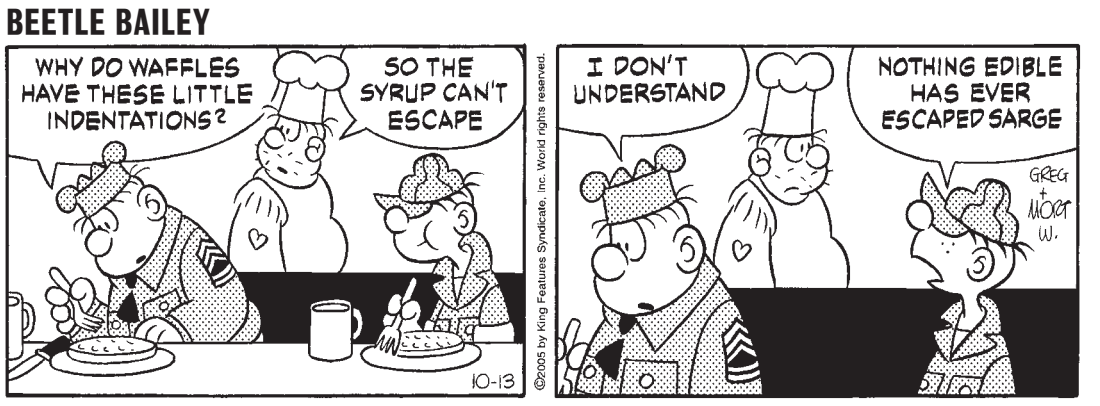

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



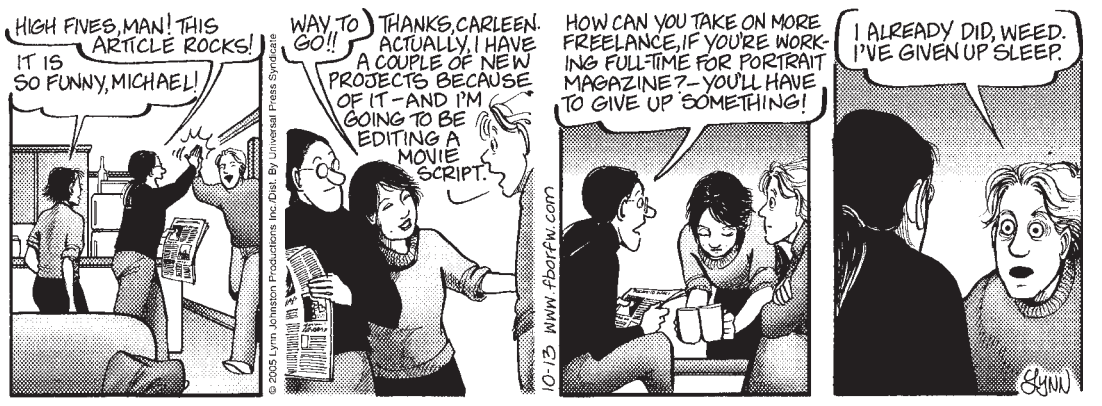

## HI & LOIS



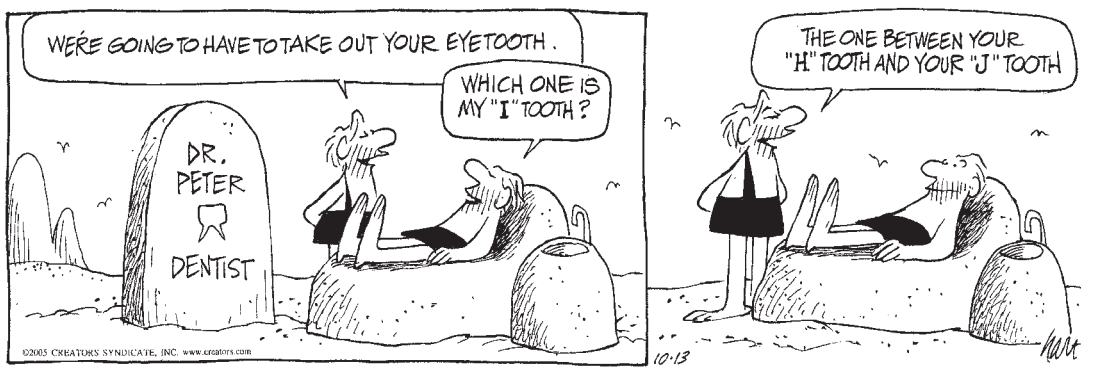

## BEETLE BAILEY



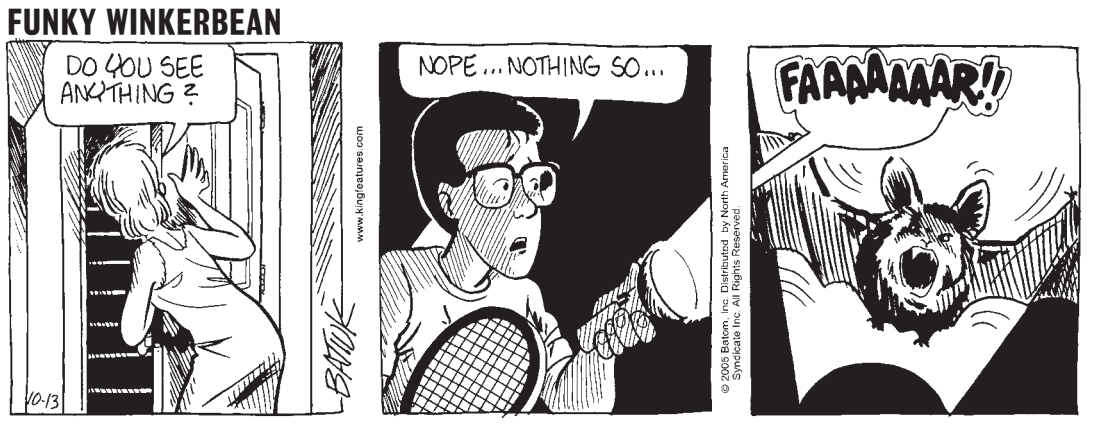

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



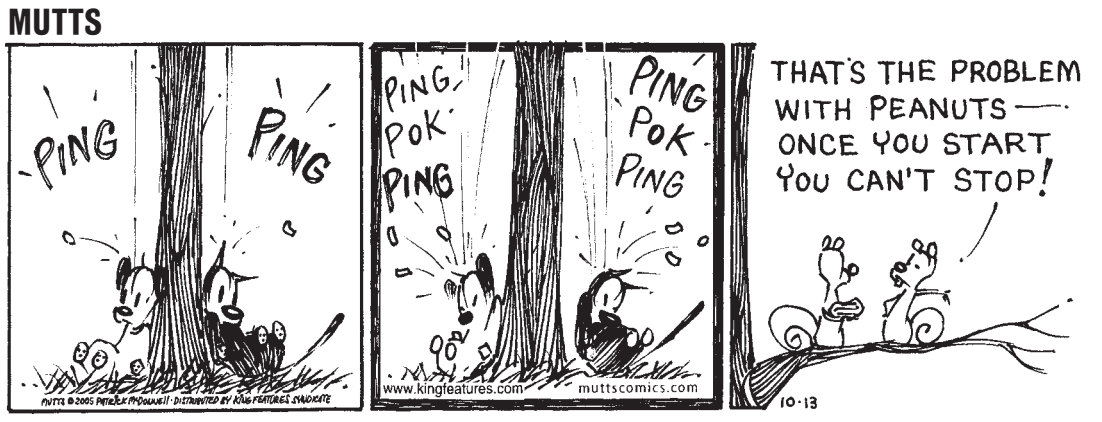

## B.C.



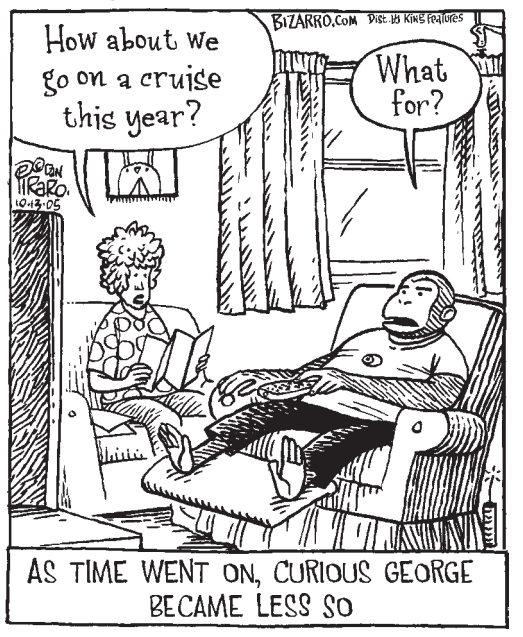

## FUNKY WINKERBEAN




## MUTTS




## BIZARRO




## LOOSE PARTS




"Welp ... there's another one just blown in."

## SPEED BUMP

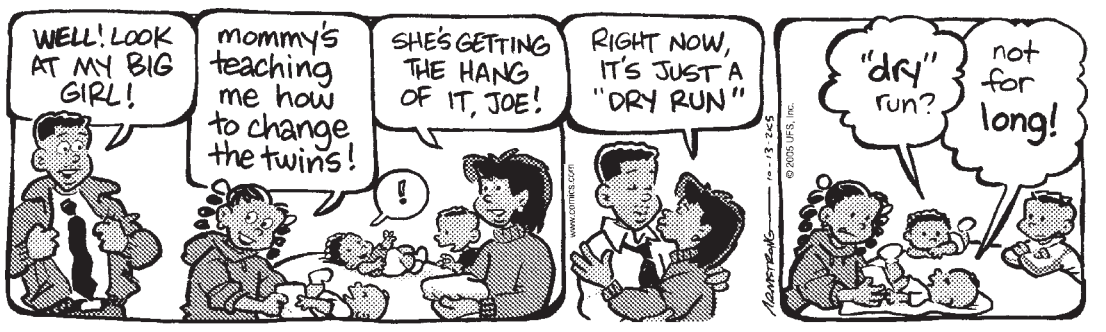



## MARMADUKE

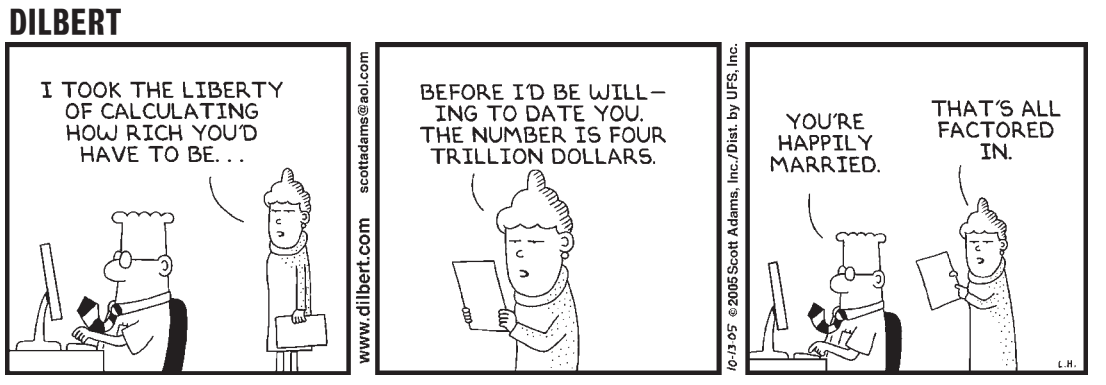



"Don't you want to stay low-mileage?"

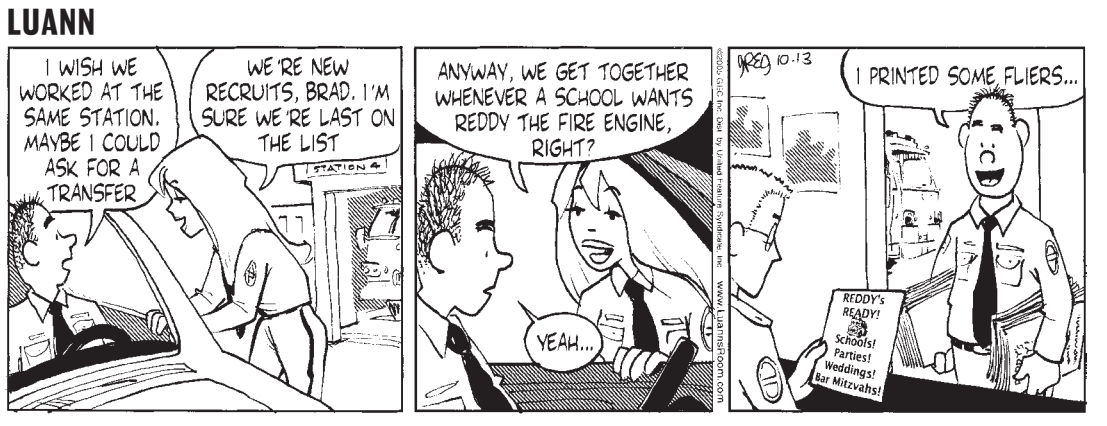
## JUMP START



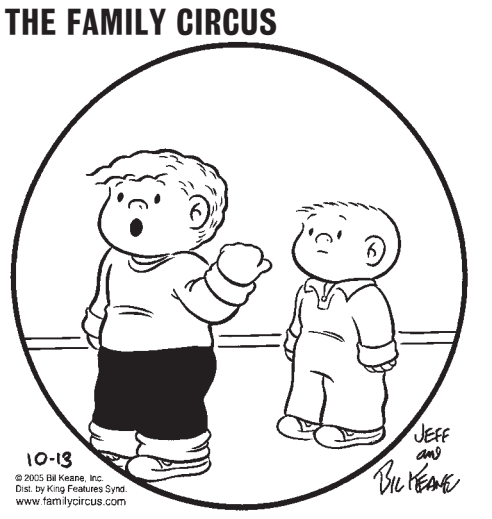

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



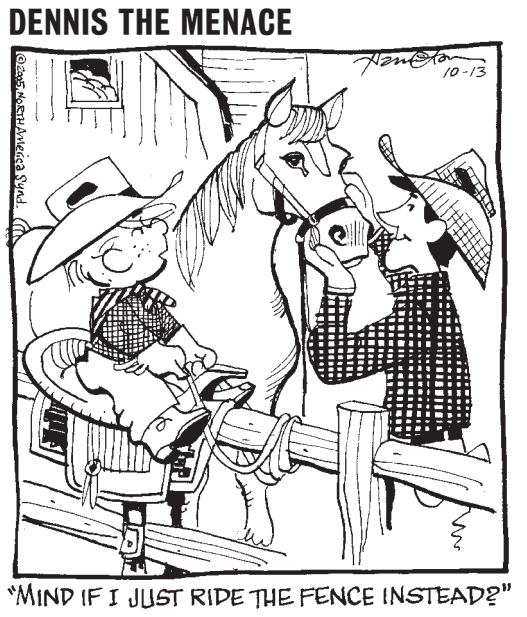

"PJ talks in scribbles."

## CLOSE TO HOME




Robin has an awkward moment at her third-grader's open house.

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"MIND IF I JUST RIDE THE FENCE INSTEAD?"

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**PARTY, PARTY, PARTY** — **Solution: 5 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | H | C | Y | L | I | M | A | F | I | R | S | T | D | N |
| T | O | A | S | T | G | A | S | N | T | F | I | (G) | N | O |
| N | C | R | P | N | R | B | G | E | R | C | S | (N) | D | T |
| O | C | D | O | P | A | I | U | P | H | E | W | (I) | A | E |
| M | A | S | T | S | Y | D | H | O | G | U | E | (S) | T | S |
| C | S | R | H | B | C | O | C | T | N | L | E | H | E | N |
| S | I | E | A | S | N | O | B | B | I | R | T | N | C | O |
| P | O | B | K | E | L | F | P | M | G | C | W | M | W | O |
| E | N | Y | V | A | Y | U | S | E | A | O | I | O | O | L |
| C | R | O | T | D | C | E | N | Z | L | M | L | N | R | L |
| I | L | E | N | F | S | A | Z | C | A | B | P | E | G | A |
| A | E | A | N | S | I | I | L | I | H | A | B | Y | P | B |
| L | C | G | I | N | P | F | L | L | R | I | E | A | O | O |
| B | I | K | E | W | I | S | H | W | S | P | L | R | O | W |
| S | E | M | A | G | A | D | U | L | T | C | L | D | L | S |

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Adult, Aging, Baby, Balloons, Bash, Bell, Bike, Blow, Bows, Cake, Calls, Candy, Cards, Cheer, Child, Chocolate, Clap, Clown, Date, Dinner, Family, Fifty, First, Food, Games, Gift, Grow, Guests, Happy, Horoscope, Hugs, Icing, Kisses, Love, Lunch, Mail, Money, Month, Notes, Occasion, Open, Pizza, Pool, Prize, Ribbons, Sign, Sing, Smile, Song, Special, Sweet, Thirty, Toast, Trip, Wish, Wrap, Yard. **Yesterday's Answer: Slogan**

CONTINUED

# TRIBE *on the move*



PHOTO BY AMY SMITH

Big Chief Kevin Goodman, flanked by Flaming Arrows queens Annie Jenkins, left, and Joell Williams, expects to stage Mardi Gras in Austin next year. 'New Orleans is not going to be ready,' he said.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

Prior to Mardi Gras 2004, Kevin Goodman's then-4-year-old daughter, Kevon, modeled her Indian suit for her father.

## CHIEF, *from C-1*

Theodore "Big Chief Merk" Goodman, established the Flaming Arrows in that neighborhood. After his father died in 1996, Kevin Goodman took over leadership of the tribe.

He was working as a house painter and living in an apartment in eastern New Orleans when Katrina struck. The apartment flooded. He retreated to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, enduring several days without supplies or official aid.

"Our bodies were torn down spiritually, mentally, physically. We were drained. We were left for dead," he said.

"My brains were about to burst. It was so sad. No food, no water, elderly people without medicine. I wouldn't want anybody to go through that."

A helicopter finally transported him to Louis Armstrong International Airport, where he boarded a chartered flight to Austin.

"I didn't know I was going to Austin," he said. "At the airport, they said, 'FEMA is going to fly you to Austin.' "

After arriving in the Texas capital, he and other evacuees bunked in a makeshift shelter at the Austin Convention Center.

"Coming from the Convention Center in New Orleans to the Convention Center in Austin, it was like coming from hell to heaven," Goodman said. "We had everything we needed — water, food, shelter. All the people in Austin have shown us a lot of love and made us feel at home."

During the two weeks he spent at the shelter, he orchestrated a second-line parade. The day of the parade, Lola Stephens, co-owner of the East Austin soul food restaurant Nubian Queen Lola's Cajun Kitchen, was volunteering at the Convention Center. She invited Goodman, along with other displaced musicians, to stage a benefit for themselves at her restaurant on Sept. 11.

He also picked up gigs at the Continental Club and networked with locals through the Austin Music Co-op. On Sept. 26 he joined Cyril Neville and an Austin/New Orleans amalgamation at Antone's, the famed downtown blues club. Goodman contributed background harmonies and tambourine to "Big Chief," "Let's Go Get 'Em" and other Big Easy standards, as female members of the Flaming Arrows danced in front of the stage.

"They say this is a place for music lovers, and so far we're fitting right in with all the musicians," Goodman said. "We're trying to make Austin our home."

He has moved into an apartment near the University of Texas, subsidized by aid organizations. Come February, he does not expect to lead the Flaming Arrows through the streets of the 7th Ward. "New Orleans is not going to be ready," he said. "Time is too short."

Instead, he's planning to relaunch the Flaming Arrows in Texas.

"We'll parade in Austin," he said. "All the people that came to see us in New Orleans can come see us in Austin. They say they have a small Mardi Gras here. We're going to make it big.

"We're trying to get the New Orleans vibe and keep the flame in Texas. If we can pull off Mardi Gras in Austin, New Orleans is in trouble."

He hopes to flesh out the Flaming Arrows — only his Spy Boy, Second Chief and two of the tribe's queens have joined him so far in Texas — with new recruits.

"It doesn't matter the race, creed, religion," he said. "I'll be teaching classes on sewing .... I'll be educating people on the lyrics, the dancing, the culture."

His Indian suits, like those of other downtown tribes, sport elaborate geometric designs rendered with feathers, beads and sequins; two of Goodman's old costumes, including the red one he wore in 2003, are on display at the Backstreet Cultural Museum in Treme. One may be part of a New Orleans culture exhibit planned for the Voodoo Music Experience, which organizers moved from City Park to Memphis on Halloween weekend.

The floodwaters in eastern New Orleans destroyed the purple, green and gold suit he'd begun sewing for Mardi Gras '06. He plans to craft his Austin suit in a different color.

"Since this is the first time in Austin, I may do a white suit, or a light lavender," he said. "A fresh start. Clean."

He's also putting down Austin roots in another way. During a break at Antone's, he wrapped an arm around Annie Jenkins, his girlfriend and a Flaming Arrows queen.

"She's got a little chief in here, a papoose," he said, rubbing her belly. "He's going to be born in Austin."

•••••••

Music writer Keith Spera can be reached at kspera@timespicayune.com or at (504) 826-3470.

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Enter by 32nd St.
WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (G)(✓) 11:50 2:00 3:50 5:40 7:40
TWO FOR THE MONEY (R)(✓) (WATCH ONLY ON THX SOUND) 12:30 3:05 5:35 8:15
IN HER SHOES (PG-13)(✓) 12:25 2:55 5:30 8:10
GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(✓) 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:55
THE GOSPEL (PG)(✓) 12:15 2:45 5:15 7:50
FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)(✓) 12:20 2:50 4:55 8:00
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE (PG)(✓) 12:00 2:40 4:50 7:45
THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13)(✓) 12:10 3:00 5:25 8:05
ROLL BOUNCE (PG-13)(✓) 11:55 2:30 4:45
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# Woodruff has seen it all

## WALKER, *from C-1*

"One looter came out of a store and I asked, 'Do you realize that's wrong? To steal things like bags of shoes?' He said he didn't speak English."

Woodruff has had a piece of pretty much every big news story for ABC in recent years, and is often mentioned as one of the squadron of correspondents in line to replace the late Peter Jennings as anchor of the flagship evening newscast "World News Tonight."

He got into the globetrotting-correspondent game via an unusual route. Holding a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, Woodruff was teaching law in Beijing when the Tiananmen Square uprising caught the world's attention. Hired by CBS News as an interpreter, he caught the broadcast-news bug.

The presence of news crews at Tiananmen Square documented a moment in history that might've otherwise been cloaked in cover-up by the Chinese government.

Many of the electronic journalists who worked in New Orleans last month have mentioned that the reaction they got from suffering stay-behinders was gratitude for providing a similar service, by documenting their plight and the aftereffects of inept relief efforts.

"One of the most amazing things was when we went into the convention center on Thursday," Woodruff said. "People were so desperate for someone from the outside, someone even remotely of authority, to come in there and listen to them.

"When we walked in we were given a standing ovation, my crew and me."

Woodruff said that's only happened once before in his career, when he was covering ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia.

"It was a very frustrating moment," he said. "All we could really do was get word out, put their pictures on TV and maybe somebody would respond."

Commentary in recent weeks has recognized a flowering of passionate reportage in much of the post-Katrina coverage. Woodruff said the nature of the story made for simple line-drawing.

"I think people in journalism felt good about the mission," he said. "It's not waking up to take an advocacy position.

"Most stories are complex, with many sides. This is one of those stories that was essentially one-sided – people were in dire need of help.

"To me it was almost like covering a forest fire. There is evil – a fire that needs to be put out. The good guys have hoses.

"This is not the Iraq invasion. There's a lot of complexity to a story like that."

Woodruff, who was embedded with a Marine recon division during the invasion of Iraq, has worked in ABC's London bureau covering various crises in Europe and Asia, and as ABC's reporter covering the U.S. Justice Department.

Like many of the national correspondents who came to New Orleans, he'd also seen the devastation wrought by the Asian tsunami.

Though the scope of the big wave's hit was much wider, what Woodruff saw in New Orleans reminded him in many ways of what he saw in Indonesia.

"The similarities were striking," he said. "I remember being struck in Indonesia during the tsunami coverage by seeing a body on the street corner underneath a traffic lamp. It was two and a half weeks after the tsunami came through, and I was shocked by the body still being there.

"I never thought in a million years that I'd see that in the U.S. A week and a half after the hurricane, there were still bodies lying around."

On Jackson Avenue, Woodruff said, he saw one neighbor bury another after the body had been left untouched for several days.

"And you realized that people of this town just wanted some dignity at a time when they were denied the very basics of human dignity."

•••••••

TV columnist Dave Walker can be reached at dwalker@timespicayune.com or at (504) 826-3429.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

Young Tigers can't wait to get on the court
See C-8



## Brooks shoulders greater burden

*With McAllister out, game in his hands*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks' job just got tougher with the loss of two-time Pro Bowl running back Deuce McAllister to a season-ending knee injury.

Then again, that's why club owner Tom Benson pays Brooks the big bucks.

"I'm not overly excited about it, but I am looking forward to the challenge," Brooks said Wednesday. "I mean, I'm not too happy about losing our star running back, but that's the National Football League.

**AT SAN ANTONIO**
**SAINTS VS. FALCONS**
Noon Sunday
8

"Hey, what can you do about it? It is what it is. I've got to stay strong and be optimistic and stay positive for these guys and keep moving on and do the best I can."

Coach Jim Haslett reminded Brooks of that during Wednesday's practice.

"Guys were moping around yesterday because Deuce got hurt," Haslett said, "and I asked Aaron, 'How'd you get your job? Jeff Blake got hurt, right? No one had any remorse. You came in and led the team to its only playoff win ever.' If Jeff Blake hadn't gotten hurt, the Saints might never have a playoff win.

"You know how I got my job (with the Buffalo Bills)? The guy ahead of me never went to

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-7*



JOHN DESHAZIER

## Will the 'real' Saints stand up?

The Saints now look to the past for aid, a tricky proposition when you consider that few players on the current roster were Saints the last time the team required this kind of resuscitation, in 2000.

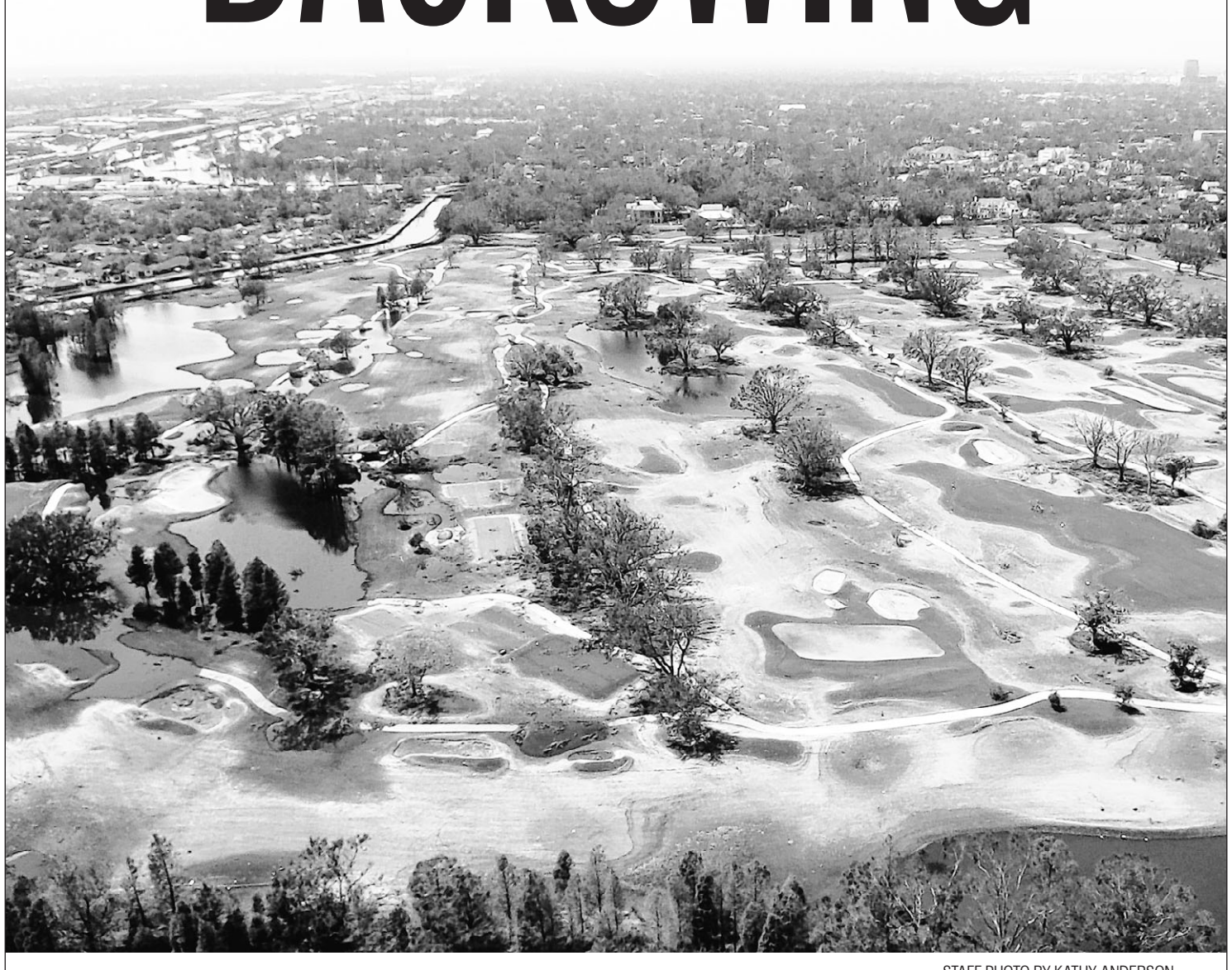
Those Saints were a sight to see, a collection of throwaways, past-their-primes and never-weres, bonding together like a fist and pounding away during the most adverse of times, riding their devil-may-care attitude to a division title and the first — and only — playoff victory in franchise history.

The 2005 Saints, too, are a sight to see. A sore one, so far, with precious few faces from 2000. So, it remains to be seen what can be gleaned from that earlier team, particularly when this team seems to not glean many positive lessons even from week to week.

*See* **DeSHAZIER,** *C-7*

*Golf courses in the New Orleans area, many of which recently underwent major renovations, have taken a huge step back with the destruction by Hurricane Katrina.* **Now many wonder if the golf industry can recover.**

# BACKSWING



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Bayou Oaks Golf Course is one of many courses devastated by Hurricane Katrina. 'Even if we could get the debris cleared up and get trailers to operate out of, we don't have anybody to do anything,' City Park executive director Bob Becker said.

**By Richard Meek**
Staff writer

As New Orleans continues to recover in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the golfing community is casting a wary eye toward an uncertain future.

The golfing arena took a double hit from Katrina: The availability of public golf courses has dropped because of water and wind damage, and the displacement of such a large number of people potentially could cause a significant drop in patrons.

"The economic impact is in the millions of dollars," said Robert Brown, director of the Gulf States Section of the PGA. "And those are dollars you can't recoup. For every day a facility is closed, the golf pro can't make up those rounds. We won't know the full effect for two to three years. My sense is that some courses won't survive down the road."

"I don't know if it will ever recover," said Gordon Digby of Kemper Management Group, the company that manages Bayou Oaks Golf Club. "We don't know who's coming back."

Digby and the golfing community appear to have cause for concern. Bayou Oaks, the city's flagship public golfing facility with 54 holes, received as much as eight feet of water on the course for several weeks and suffered an estimated $25 million in damage. All three courses are closed, as is the nearby driving range, which also suffered substantial water damage.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

A portion of the clubhouse roof rests on the course at the Golf Club of New Orleans at Eastover. Owner Donnie Pate has set the spring of 2007 as the earliest opening date. The 36-hole facility will be scaled back to its original 18-hole layout.

Flood waters also ravaged The Golf Club of New Orleans at Eastover, and owner Donnie Pate has set the spring of 2007 as the earliest opening date. The 36-hole facility will be scaled back to its original 18-hole layout.

Oak Harbor in Slidell also suffered significant water damage. No opening date has been set for that course. TPC of Louisiana, owned by the PGA Tour, sustained significant damage from water

*See* **GOLF,** *C-10*

## Shreveport to host prep title games

*City, stadium to cover expenses*

**By Mike Strom**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — It's hard to beat free.

Shreveport and Independence Stadium offered just that Wednesday during an impressive presentation that secured northwest Louisiana the host role for this year's state high school football championships.

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association executive committee unanimously approved moving all five of the state championship football games to Shreveport in lieu of the Superdome, which sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Shreveport and Independence Stadium will pay for all expenses associated with staging the event. "We feel like we have the facilities, we feel like we will have the hotels available by the time of the game and we feel like we can put on a good environment for the kids," said Shreveport mayor Keith Hightower, who participated in Shreveport's impressive 20-minute presentation.

For the first time, the Nokia Sugar Bowl Prep Classic will be staged in a three-day span. The Class 3A state championship game is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. The 2A and 4A title games will be played Dec. 9, and the 1A and 5A finals are Dec. 10. Kickoff times for the final two days will be determined later, LHSAA commissioner Tommy Henry said.

Independence Stadium, annual host to the Independence Bowl, is an outdoor stadium with a seating capacity of 50,000 and features a similar artificial playing surface as that used by the Superdome. The venue was selected over stadiums at LSU, Louisiana-Monroe and Southeastern Louisiana University. LSU's proposal targeted only the two Saturday games because of this year's increased use of Tiger Stadium, which also is being used by the Saints and Tulane. Louisiana-Monroe and Southeastern Louisiana University sought all five games. LSU proposed a fee of $27,000 for the two Saturday games.

"I look at this as being about more than just money," Henry said. "Money is important, but you want first-class facilities. These (sites) are all first-class facilities. The proposals we sent out were a request for help. This was not a bidding process. We asked these people for help, and they all said that they will."

The state volleyball championships were awarded to Comeaux High School in Lafayette on Nov. 9-12. The tournament was forced to move from the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner due to damage incurred by Hurricane Katrina.

## Paul, Smith set to take first steps as Hornets icons

*Maturity is key for both young starting guards*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets guards Chris Paul and J.R. Smith have the same circle of friends, which includes young NBA stars LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony.

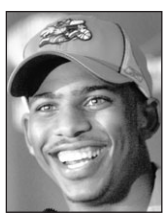
Their friendship goes back to several years ago, when they all participated in national AAU summer tournaments. Now James and Anthony act as the league's top ambassadors in reaching out to help young NBA players faced with some of the same obstacles they experienced in 2003, when they were two of the most-hyped rookies in the league since Michael Jordan.

James was the high school megastar from Akron, Ohio, and No. 1 overall pick in the 2003 draft, going to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Anthony was the freshman sensation who led Syracuse to the national championship in New Orleans before declaring for the NBA draft and being selected third overall by the Denver Nuggets.

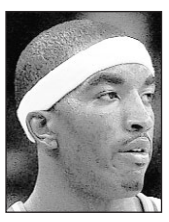
"I spoke to Carmelo yesterday," Paul said. "The thing he says is, 'just play and not worry about what's going on the outside.' I think a lot of times other people try to put pressure on you. But the game is played between you and your teammates, and you have to go out and play your heart out."

At 20, Paul and Smith are not even old enough to drink or enter a casino, but they are the faces and future of the Hornets' franchise. They are the team's dynamic backcourt duo, capable of breaking down de-

*See* **HORNETS,** *C-6*



**Chris Paul**
Scott says he's wise beyond his years



**J.R. Smith**
Can't wait to play game alongside Paul

*Sports briefs, TV listings, and upcoming schedules*

# SECONDLINE

## THE SPORTS SCENE



**SAM PERLOZZO**
Signs three-year contract with Orioles

**O'S TAKE INTERIM TAG OFF PERLOZZO:** The interim tag is gone: **Sam Perlozzo** is the new manager of the Baltimore Orioles. Perlozzo, who took over for **Lee Mazzilli** on Aug. 4, signed a three-year contract Wednesday and will guide a team trying to end a run of eight straight losing seasons. Perlozzo went 23-32 after replacing Mazzilli. But he asked that he not be judged on wins or losses because of the steroid suspension of first baseman **Rafael Palmeiro**, the termination of the contract of pitcher **Sidney Ponson** and injuries to outfielder **Sammy Sosa** and second baseman **Brian Roberts**. "We like the way he guided the Orioles in the second half under very difficult circumstances," said **Mike Flanagan**, who was hired as the team's executive vice president Tuesday. Perlozzo, 54, said he hoped to get the job two years ago, but the Orioles instead hired Mazzilli. "It's certainly something that I've wanted for a long time," said Perlozzo, who was born in Maryland. "I'm tickled to death. We're ready to move forward. . . . I always felt in due time I would be rewarded. I totally believe this was the time it was supposed to be." In 2002, Perlozzo was a finalist for the Mariners' job. But **Bob Melvin**, a rookie manager whom Perlozzo once coached in the minors, was chosen instead. Melvin was dismissed after last season and replaced by **Mike Hargrove**.

**OLYMPICS**

### Coach K to lead U.S.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski was picked to coach the U.S. basketball team for the 2006 World Championships and 2008 Beijing Olympics, a source told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Krzyzewski was chosen during a USA Basketball conference call last week, said the person, who did not wish to be identified because the announcement has not been made. Official word is supposed to come Oct. 29. The American men finished sixth at the 2002 World Championships in Indianapolis and third at the 2004 Olympics. The team at the Athens Games was without several top NBA players and was coached by Larry Brown. Krzyzewski, who has led Duke to three national championships, would be become the first college coach to run a U.S. men's basketball team at the World Championships or Olympics since NBA players began playing in international competition in 1992. Krzyzewski was an assistant on the U.S. Dream Team at the 1992 Barcelona Games that was coached by Chuck Daly.

**JOHNSON TO HEAD QUALIFYING TEAM:** Davey Johnson will manage a U.S. team of minor leaguers next month in Phoenix in a regional Olympic qualifying tournament. Johnson led the United States last month at baseball's World Cup in the Netherlands, where his team finished seventh. He has managed for 14 seasons in the majors with the New York Mets, Cincinnati Reds, Baltimore Orioles and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He also coached the Dutch team at the Athens Olympics. "I'm looking forward to again having the opportunity to wear the uniform of the United States, and to the challenge this time of making sure that America advances to the 2006 continental qualifier in Cuba," he said. USA Baseball announced the hiring Wednesday for the qualifier Nov. 15-19. Four of the six countries will advance to the next qualifier in Havana in August. The U.S. baseball team failed to qualify for the Athens Olympics. "Davey brings a consistent managerial style to Team USA that we have not had in recent years," USA Baseball executive Bob Watson said. Joining Johnson's staff are Rick Eckstein (bench coach), Marcel Lachemann (pitching coach) and Mike Barnett (hitting coach). USA Baseball is in the process of selecting a 24-man roster for the round-robin event, which includes Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

**HAYES, EIGHT OTHERS MAKE HALL:** Bob Hayes, the only man to win an Olympic gold medal and a Super Bowl ring, will join Evelyn Ashford, 1980 hockey coach Herb Brooks and the 1984 U.S. men's gymnastics team in this year's class for the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. Gymnast Shannon Miller, figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi, swimmer Rowdy Gaines and Jack Shea also were selected for the Hall. Paralympian Diana Golden-Brosnihan and NBC sports chief Dick Ebersol also will be inducted Dec. 8 in Chicago. "This is an incredibly humbling experience for me and without a doubt the greatest award I've ever received," Gaines said Wednesday after the selections were announced during the U.S. Olympic Committee media summit. "To join some of the greatest athletes in history, I really can't put it into words. It really is amazing." Hayes was dubbed the "World's Fastest Human" after he won a pair of gold medals at the 1964 Olympics. He tied the world record in the 100 meters, then anchored the 400 relay team that set a world record. After his track and field career, Hayes spent 11 years in the NFL and was part of the Dallas Cowboys' team that won the Super Bowl after the 1971 season. Hayes died of kidney failure in 2002. Ashford won five Olympic medals, including four gold. She won the 100 meters at the Los Angeles Games, and helped the Americans win three straight golds in the 400 relay at the 1984, '88 and '92 Games. Ashford made five Olympic teams, but only competed in four because of the United States' boycott of the 1980 Games. Brooks led a team of college players to the "Miracle on Ice" victory over the Soviet Union in the 1980 semifinals. The Americans went on to win the gold medal, their only one since 1960. Brooks also played on the 1964 and '68 teams, and was the last player cut in 1960. He died in a car accident in 2003.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

### Penn RB commits suicide

Two days after one of the best games of his career, Penn running back Kyle Ambrogi committed suicide, the university and police said. The 21-year-old senior, who died at his suburban Havertown home Monday, had been battling depression, the Daily News reported Wednesday, quoting the player's family. "I knew my brother had been having some problems," Ambrogi's brother, Greg, a sophomore defensive back on the team, told the paper. "I thought he was getting better. I can't believe it happened. I can't cry yet." Haverford Township police chief Gary Hoover told The Associated Press that Ambrogi's gunshot death wasn't being investigated as a criminal matter. Quakers coach Al Bagnoli called the player "one of our shining lights." The brothers had a big day Saturday in Penn's 53-7 rout of Bucknell. Kyle, a backup, carried five times for 18 yards and two third-quarter touchdowns. Greg scored a touchdown after recovering a fumbled snap in the second quarter.

**TIME WANTS SETTLEMENT THROWN OUT:** Time Inc. asked a judge to throw out its settlement and dismiss defamation claims of former Alabama football coach Mike Price over a Sports Illustrated article recounting his night of drunken partying at a Florida strip club, court documents showed Wednesday. In a motion filed in federal court, Time claimed Price and his lawyer, Steve Heninger, violated an agreement to make only limited public comments about the deal, reached last week to resolve Price's $20 million defamation suit against the magazine, which Time publishes. Heninger denied violating the settlement's terms. U.S. District Judge Lynwood Smith made no immediate ruling Wednesday on the motion, filed late Tuesday, but he did grant Time's request to seal court documents related to terms of the settlement.

**BC LINEMAN DOUBTFUL:** Boston College lineman Mathias Kiwanuka is "highly unlikely" to play against Wake Forest because of a right knee injury that may have happened when he was hit after the whistle against Virginia. Kiwanuka said Wednesday he has a sprained or slightly torn medial collateral ligament in his right leg. He already had a sore ankle. No. 14 Boston College (5-1, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) has a bye week after Saturday's game, then plays on Thursday, Oct. 27, against third-ranked Virginia Tech.

**TENNIS**

### Sharapova escapes upset

Top-ranked Maria Sharapova avoided losing her homeland pro debut when Anna-Lena Groenefeld retired with an ankle injury while controlling play Wednesday in the Kremlin Cup at Moscow. Groenefeld won 6-1 in the first set of the second-round match, and was leading 4-2 in the second set when she had to quit. Groenefeld tried to continue after receiving treatment, but served two double faults with tears in her eyes and retired. "I know that I did not win this match fairly," Sharapova said. "I do not like such victories." Sharapova has six career victories due to an opponent's retirement, but this was the first in which she was trailing. In men's first-round action, Daniele Bracciali upset top-seeded defending champion Nikolay Davydenko 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Cyril Saulnier rallied to upset second-seeded Dominik Hrbaty 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. In the quarterfinals, Sharapova will play another Russian, Elena Likhovtseva, who rallied to upset fifth-seeded Patty Schnyder 1-6, 6-4, 6-3. Two-time defending champion Anastasia Myskina and former winner Mary Pierce staged comebacks — third-seeded Pierce, the 1998 champion, beat Flavia Pennetta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals. Myskina, seeded sixth, ousted three-time champion Magdalena Maleeva 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 and will face Kveta Peschke in the second round today.

## TV/RADIO

**BEST BET**

▶ **Astros at Cardinals, 7 p.m.** 3
Underdog Houston and St. Louis battle in the second game of the National League Championship Series.

**ALSO ON THE TUBE**

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

▶ Clemson at North Carolina State, 6:30 p.m. ESPN
▶ Harding at Arkansas-Monticello, 7 p.m. CST

**CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

▶ Montreal at Saskatchewan, 2 p.m. CST

**GOLF**

▶ Madrid Open, 8 a.m. GOLF
▶ Michelin Championship, 3 p.m. USA
▶ Samsung World Championship, 4 p.m. GOLF

**AUTO RACING**

▶ UAW-GM Quality 500 qualifying, 6 p.m. SPD

**ON RADIO**

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

▶ Astros at Cardinals, 7 p.m., 1560-AM

TV and radio information is provided by the stations and is subject to change.

## UP NEXT

**SAINTS**

**Sunday:** vs. Falcons in San Antonio, noon
**Oct. 23:** at Rams, noon
**Oct. 30:** vs. Dolphins in Baton Rouge, 3 p.m.

**HORNETS**

**Today:** at Nuggets, 8 p.m.
**Saturday:** vs. Magic in St. Petersburg, Fla., 6 p.m.
**Tuesday:** vs. Hawks in Little Rock, Ark., 7 p.m.

**LSU**

**FOOTBALL**

**Saturday:** vs. Florida, 2:30 p.m.
**Oct. 22:** vs. Auburn, 6:45 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. North Texas, 7 p.m.

**OTHER SPORTS**

**Today:** men's tennis at ITA Southeast Regionals qualifying, 9 a.m.

**TULANE**

**FOOTBALL**

**Friday:** vs. UTEP in Ruston, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 22:** at Central Florida, 5 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. Marshall in Mobile, 6 p.m.

**HORNETS/NBA**

# Snyder returns to work from injured hamstring

*Center Andersen only Hornet who will miss game*

**By John Reid**
Staff writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Hornets forward/guard Kirk Snyder, who had been sidelined since Saturday with a hamstring injury, practiced Wednesday.

Snyder went through the workout without limitations and said he is ready to play in tonight's preseason opener against the Denver Nuggets.

"This is a new situation, and you want to be out there and showcase what you do best," Snyder said. "The coaches are used to seeing you, and any time you can get out there is important."

The Hornets obtained Snyder in a trade from the Utah Jazz in August, and they're hoping he can come off the bench to provide help at shooting guard and small forward.

Snyder entered camp as one of the team's best conditioned players. During a running drill during the second day of camp, he lapped several of his teammates.

Hornets spokesman Scott Hall said backup center Chris Andersen, who has a sore knee and shoulder, is the only player who has been ruled out from tonight's game. Hall said Andersen's knee injury is the reason he's not playing. With Andersen out, Maciej Lampe could play more behind starting center Jamaal Magloire.

Forward Bostjan Nachbar (sore lower back) and point guard Speedy Claxton (right toe) were held out of Tuesday's practice by Coach Byron Scott, but they returned Wednesday.

**SHORTENED WORK:** Scott put his team through a shortened 1½-hour practice Wednesday at Southern Nazarene University before they boarded a chartered flight to Denver.

"We got in a little up-and-down work and some five-on-five," Scott said. "I just wanted to shorten it a little bit today."

**EVALUATING:** Players whom general manager Jeff Bower and Scott will be evaluating tonight include forwards Brandon Bass and Sean Banks, shooting guard Arvydas Macijauskas, Snyder and point guards Alex Garcia and Troy Bell. Nachbar and Rasual Butler are in a close battle to earn the starting small forward spot. But Nachbar is projected to start tonight, with Butler expected to play an equal amount.

"I want to get a real good look at some of the new guys we have in an actual game situation," Scott said. "I'm also curious how the first five do as well. This game will give us a good idea of where we are."

On Saturday night, the Hornets will play the Orlando Magic in St. Petersburg, Fla.

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John Reid can be reached at jreid@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3405.

# Guards expect to grow together

**HORNETS,** *from C-5*

down defenses with Paul's accurate passing and shooting and Smith's soaring dunks. They make their debut tonight in the Hornets' preseason opener against the Denver Nuggets at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

"I can't wait for us to get out there finally," Smith said.

Paul was the No. 4 overall pick in the June draft after guiding Wake Forest to 48 wins in two seasons. Although he wasn't the first point guard selected, many draft experts rated him as the top prospect at the position because of his scoring and ballhandling. After going 18-64 last season and trading point guard Baron Davis to Golden State in February, the Hornets were desperate to land a player like Paul.

"He's a very mature young man, and he knows what he wants to do out there on the court," Coach Byron Scott said. "You can tell by the way he plays that he's a little ahead of his years."

The day before the Hornets started training camp at Southern Nazarene University, Scott said he wouldn't be surprised to see Paul win the league's rookie of the year award this season.

"I think he kind of liked that I said it, because it's a challenge for him," Scott said. "He probably was thinking about it anyway, and he loves challenges.

"The maturity of J.R. has skyrocketed, as well, just being around Chris."

During the first two months of last season, Smith struggled to meet Scott's expectations as a defender. It wasn't until after the Hornets traded veteran guard David Wesley to the Houston Rockets last December that Smith began to play extended minutes, even when he made mistakes defensively. But his confidence surged, and so did his overall play.

Starting in January, he was selected Western Conference Rookie of the Month three consecutive months.

"What motivates me is when people think I can't do something. I'm just going to do it," Smith said. "Once I show I can do something, it really gets me pumped."

Smith now concentrates as much on his defensive play as he does dunking.

Paul is likely to go through some adjustments during the season, too. But the team is pushing his development at a far more accelerated pace than what Smith experienced last season. Paul is going to be the starting point guard, and he may have to direct some veteran players to where they're supposed to be on the court when certain plays are called.

"The best I can do is hold up my end of the bargain," Paul said. "I have to be a constant professional, keep a level head. The one thing that I have been blessed with is basketball sense. I've always been able to read defense and learn plays quickly. I still get nervous before every game, but I'm ready for what's ahead."

Smith said he's going to help Paul every step of the way to insure a smooth transition.

"It's definitely a responsibility when they make you the face of the franchise," Smith said. "We have to go out and lead by example."

New Orleans **HORNETS** (0-0) at Denver **NUGGETS** (0-0)

**Time/place:** 8 p.m., Pepsi Center (19,099)
**Notable:** Preseason opener for both teams. . . . Hornets backup center/forward Chris Andersen is out with a sore left knee. . . . First-round draft pick Chris Paul will start for the first time. . . . The Hornets' starters are expected to play 1 1⁄2 quarters before Scott begins evaluating players trying to earn a roster spot. . . . One of the top matchups tonight will be Paul against Denver backup point guard Earl Boykins, who is only 5 feet 5 but is one of the quickest players in the league. . . . In an intrasquad scrimmage Tuesday, forward Carmelo Anthony led the Nuggets with 26 points.

**HORNETS**

| Player | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | PPG* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bostjan Nachbar | F | 6-9 | 221 | 7.0 |
| P.J. Brown | F | 6-11 | 239 | 10.8 |
| Jamaal Magloire | C | 6-11 | 259 | 11.7 |
| J.R. Smith | G | 6-6 | 220 | 10.3 |
| Chris Paul | G | 6-0 | 175 | 0.0** |

**Reserves:** S. Banks**, F, 0.0; B. Bass, F, 0.0**; T. Bell, G, 1.8; R. Butler, F, 6.5; S. Claxton, G, 10.6; M. Lampe, C, 3.1; A. Garcia, F, 5.5; A. Macijauskas, G, 0.0**; K. Snyder, G, 5.0; J. Vroman, F-C, 4.8; D. West, F, 6.2.

*last season's scoring averages
**rookie

**NUGGETS**

| Player | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | PPG* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carmelo Anthony | F | 6-8 | 230 | 20.8 |
| Kenyon Martin | F | 6-9 | 240 | 15.5 |
| Marcus Camby | C | 6-11 | 235 | 10.5 |
| Andre Miller | G | 6-2 | 200 | 13.6 |
| Greg Buckner | G | 6-4 | 210 | 6.2 |

**Reserves:** E. Chenowith, C, 0.0**; N. Dixon, C, 0.0**; D. Johnson, G, 7.1; V. Lenard, G, 9.7; E. Watson, G, 7.7; T. Smith, F, 3.2**; B. Russell, G-F, 4.4; M. Pope, F-C, 0.4; Nene, F, 9.6; E. Najera, F, 5.2; J. Hodge, G, 0.0*; L. Kleiza, F, 0.0**.

# Injury to Cavs' James a mystery

*Stoudemire was 'fortunate' in surgery*

**From wire reports**

LeBron James winced with pain at times during practice Wednesday, a day after he woke up with a strained chest muscle.

James sat out the Cleveland Cavaliers' exhibition game Tuesday night against Boston and is listed as questionable with a strained left pectoral muscle for Friday night's home exhibition game against Philadelphia.

He began experiencing pain Tuesday. But he said he is baffled about how he was injured in an exhibition game Monday night against Washington.

"I don't know where it came from," James said. "I don't remember getting elbowed in the chest. I woke up yesterday morning and it was hurting. It's something I've never felt before."

He said he wouldn't have been able to play Tuesday night, even if it had been a regular-season game.

"I'm not 100 percent right now, but I'm getting there," he said.

**BRASWELL CUT BY HEAT:** Miami waived Kevin Braswell, two days after the veteran guard help beat reigning NBA champ San Antonio with a buzzer-beating layup.

Signed as a free agent Oct. 3, Braswell had four points, one assist and one rebound in six minutes against the Spurs, his only game with the Heat.

Braswell spent last season with the Florida Flame of the NBA Developmental League, where he averaged 11.3 points.

**STOUDEMIRE FORTUNATE:** Amare Stoudemire's surgery was limited to repairing torn cartilage in his left knee, a "best-case scenario" for the Phoenix Suns' All-Star, said the doctor who performed the surgery.

Although other players have struggled to come back at full strength after microfracture surgery, Suns team doctor Thomas Carter said Stoudemire doesn't have the same obstacles to overcome.

"The rest of the knee was absolutely normal," Carter said Wednesday, one day after Stoudemire's surgery. "It's a best-case scenario when you go in there and there's nothing else wrong with the knee."

Stoudemire, 23, will be sidelined for about four months. The surgery came just days after he signed a five-year, $73 million contract extension.

Stoudemire won't be able to bear weight on the knee for four weeks. During that time, he'll spend six to eight hours per day on a continuous passive motion machine to speed his recovery by continually moving the knee.

SAINTS' NOTES

# N.O., McAllister make it official

*Saints put tailback on injured reserve, sign third-year safety*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Saints placed tailback Deuce McAllister on injured reserve Wednesday, officially ending his season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

The Saints replaced him on the roster with third-year safety Siddeeq Shabazz, who spent his first two seasons with the Oakland Raiders and Atlanta Falcons before spending this preseason with the Washington Redskins.

Shabazz (5 feet 11, 200 pounds) primarily will play special teams and add some depth to a position depleted by injuries to Jay Bellamy and Mel Mitchell.

The New Mexico State product was drafted in the seventh round by the Raiders in 2003. He played in 15 games for the Falcons last season, with nine tackles in the regular season and two in the playoffs.

"We wanted to sign him last week, but we couldn't find a roster spot," Saints coach Jim Haslett said of Shabazz. "He's a guy that's extremely fast, very smart. He'll know Atlanta (this week's opponent) a little bit, but we brought him in to play special teams and learn the safety spot."

**HODGE MIGHT BE CLEARED:** Starting linebacker Sedrick Hodge believes he will be able to avoid a one-year suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy. Hodge said he missed a drug test while on vacation during the offseason and believes the matter can be cleared up by producing proof that he was away.

Haslett said the only information he received that Hodge would be suspended was from a CBS Sports report Sunday. Hodge served a four-game suspension for violating the policy last year.

**VICK PRACTICES:** Falcons quarterback Michael Vick reportedly took a good portion of the team's snaps during Wednesday's practice after missing last Sunday's game against the New England Patriots with a sprained right knee.

Atlanta lost to the Patriots 31-28.

Falcons coach Jim Mora said he expects Vick to continue practicing all week. The team will evaluate his status on a day-to-day basis. The quarterback is listed as questionable.

The Saints were preparing to face Vick in practice Wednesday, with athletic rookie quarterback Adrian McPherson acting as Vick in the scout-team offense.

Vick has won all three times he has faced the Saints — he has missed five games against the Saints because of injuries over the past four years.

**HORN DOES, TOO:** Saints receiver Joe Horn was involved during most of Wednesday's practice and is expected to try to return from a hamstring injury that has sidelined him the past two weeks.

He remains questionable but insisted he will "definitely" play.

"One hundred and 55 percent, definitely," Horn said. "Unless something ungodly happens."

Horn had been promising he would play the past two weeks, however, and he even qualified his promise Wednesday by saying later, "In my heart, I'm 150 percent ready to play."

**OTHER INJURIES:** Saints offensive tackle Jammal Brown (ankle) did not practice and is "questionable at best" to play this week, according to Haslett.

Defensive end Darren Howard did not practice, resting a lingering knee injury, but is expected to play. Linebackers James Allen (hamstring) and T.J. Slaughter (groin) and safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring) have not practiced since being injured Oct. 2 against Buffalo.

Linebacker Terrence Melton (ankle) also did not practice.

**RUBBING IT IN:** Horn said his kids have been giving him a hard time all week about the Saints' 52-3 loss at Green Bay.

Horn said when he got home Sunday night, his 11-year-old son challenged him to a game of Madden 2006.

"He said, 'I'm Green Bay, and you're the Saints. I'm gonna beat you as bad as they did,' " Horn recalled, admitting he laughed pretty hard about it, despite being upset and embarrassed by the loss.

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

# Giants' Shockey gets $31.2 million deal

**From wire reports**

Jeremy Shockey, the New York Giants' flamboyant and sometimes spectacular tight end, signed a five-year, $31.2 million contract extension on Wednesday.

Shockey's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, said the deal makes him the NFL's highest-paid player at his position. It includes a $3 million signing bonus for Shockey, who had two years left on his contract.

Shockey, New York's first-round pick in 2002, caught 74 passes for 894 yards as a rookie and was voted to the All-Pro team and the Pro Bowl.

He has been bothered by injuries the past two seasons, although he made the Pro Bowl again in 2003. Last season, he was the Giants' leading receiver with 61 catches, but complained at times about having too many blocking duties in a controlled offense designed to help rookie Eli Manning break in at quarterback.

With Manning blossoming this season, Shockey has caught 17 passes for 251 yards and two touchdowns in four games.

**CARDINALS RELEASE DAVEY:** Former LSU and New England Patriots quarterback Rohan Davey was released by Arizona.

The Cardinals had signed Davey after starter Kurt Warner injured his groin three weeks ago. Warner is expected back.

**FALCONS LOSE TWO STARTERS:** Atlanta placed linebacker Ed Hartwell and cornerback Chris Cash on injured reserve.

Hartwell, a starter and key free-agent offseason pickup, and backup Cash sustained season-ending injuries in Sunday's loss to New England. Hartwell had surgery Monday to repair a torn right Achilles' tendon. Cash broke his right arm.

**PANTHERS' BACKFIELD HURTING:** Stephen Davis and DeShaun Foster were among four injured running backs to miss practice with Carolina.

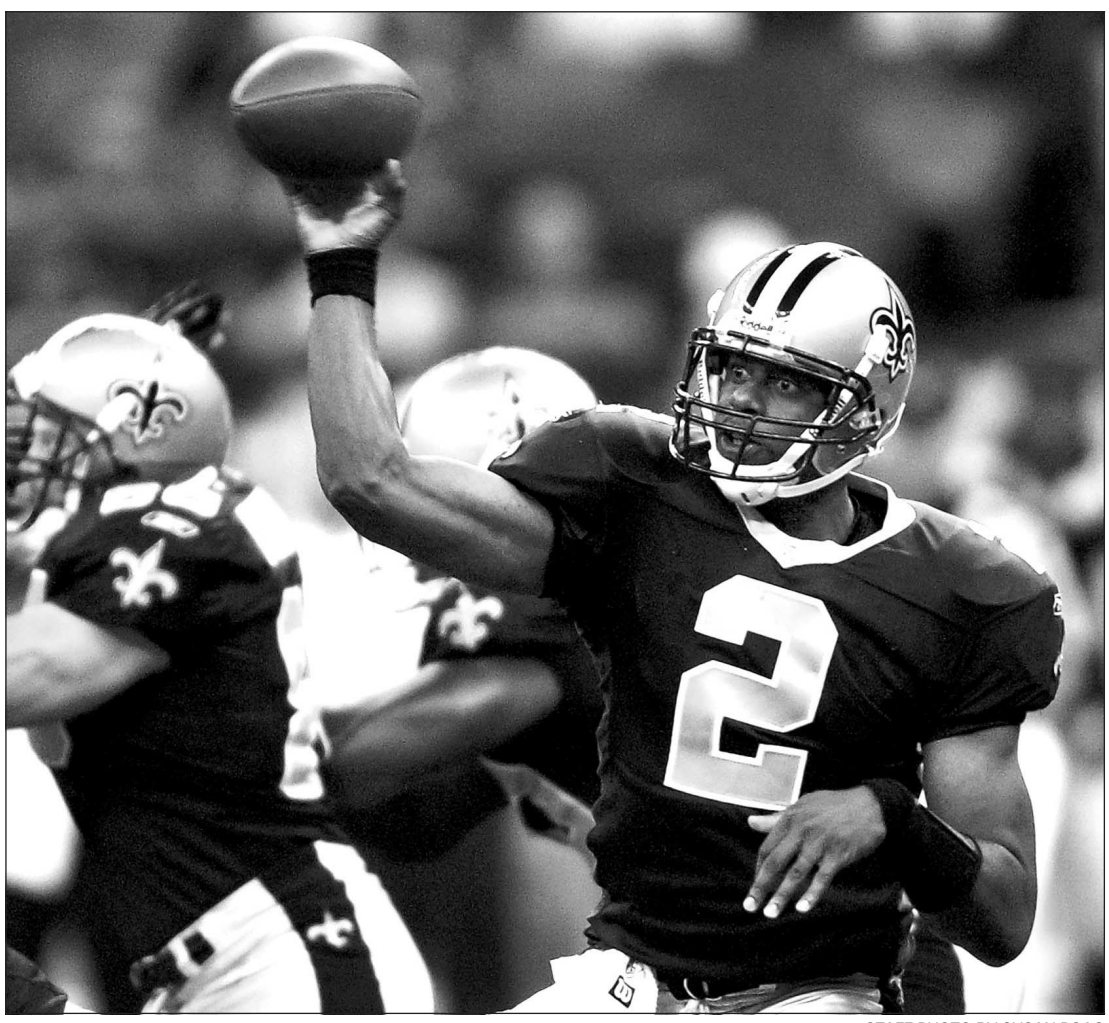
They have knee injuries and are questionable for Sunday's game against the Detroit Lions. Rod Smart (groin), who also returns kicks, and fullback Brad Hoover (shoulder) also missed practice.

## AFC

**NFL FINES THREE:** Tampa Bay's Ronde Barber was fined $30,000 by the NFL for punching an official during Sunday's game with the New York Jets.

Baltimore's Terrell Suggs and Ed Reed, a former Destrehan High School standout, were fined $15,000 each for making contact with an official during the Ravens' game in Detroit.

**EDWARDS OUT OF HOSPITAL:** Cleveland Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards was released from the hospital but might not play for a month while recovering from an infected right arm.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks says he, like his teammates, must guard against trying too hard to overcome the absence of star running back Deuce McAllister. 'I think it's important for me not to try to do too much because when you try to do too much, bad things happen,' Brooks said.

# Coaches say Brooks' role won't change

**SAINTS,** *from C-5*

training camp. So this is an opportunity for somebody to step up. If you lose a great player on your team, other players have to pick it up. I think this team will rally around this, I really do."

Because of the nature of his position, Brooks naturally shoulders a great offensive burden. But Saints coaches say Brooks' role on game day won't change dramatically with Antowain Smith and Aaron Stecker sharing McAllister's duties in the backfield.

"Aaron's got to take a little more control of this team," Haslett said. "I don't think he should do any more than he's doing. I don't think he should force anything else upon himself. But I think everybody needs to pick up their game, including him."

"Aaron is a smart guy," Saints offensive coordinator Mike Sheppard said. "So when he sees that the offense is the same, then he's going to understand that all he has to do is get the ball to the playmakers. We're going to keep rolling. If Aaron just does a nice job of playing quarterback, then we feel we have enough playmakers in there to be able to move the football and get points and help our team win."

After opening with a 23-20 victory at Carolina in Week 1, the Saints have fallen on hard times. They have lost three of their past four games, including a 52-3 blowout at Green Bay on Sunday.

Brooks struggled as the score suggests, completing nine of 22 passes for 146 yards with two interceptions before his exit midway through the third quarter. Packers' cornerback Al Harris returned the first interception 22 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter.

After five games, Brooks has thrown two touchdown passes and seven interceptions and has a passer rating of 62.6, 27th among starting NFL quarterbacks.

"All A.B. needs to do is keep on doing what he's doing," Saints wide receiver Joe Horn said. "Everybody has to raise their level of play, not just A.B. Everybody else has to pick up the load around him. Guys have got to fill in and do their jobs. They've got to do what Mr. Benson pays them to do."

"Aaron's going to have to step up and take more of the load because we might have to change up what we do some on offense," Saints tight end Ernie Conwell said. "You don't have No. 26 back there to carry the ball 25, 30 times a game. I've been in this situation before at St. Louis. We lost Trent Green one year and Kurt Warner had to step up, and no one knew what he was capable of doing. All of a sudden, we had a huge turnaround, and we won the Super Bowl. And the rest is history."

"There are some tendencies for people to step up and get out of character and try to do too much," Saints cornerback Fred Thomas said. "I did it a couple of times myself and put myself in a bad situation. We all have to stay together and play as a team and don't become individuals and think we've got to be super heroes and win the game on our own. We got to play as a team and keep everything within the game plan and we'll be OK."

Brooks agreed with Thomas, saying players must guard against trying too hard to overcome McAllister's absence.

"I've just got to be me," Brooks said. "I've just got to be the leader I am and encourage guys a little more. Guys have got to be more accountable, but I think it's important for me not to try to do too much because when you try to do too much, bad things happen."

Opinions varied from players when asked if opponents might consider changing their defensive strategy with McAllister out of the lineup.

"I don't think defensive coordinators will game plan differently because of our style of play or because Deuce is down," Horn said. "We're a downhill football team."

"Obviously, when you have Deuce back there, defenses have to account for him all the time," Conwell said. "I'm sure teams are going to adjust to some degree, but we are who we are. We're not going to revamp this whole offense in a week, or, for that matter, even during the course of a season."

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# Fumbling, bumbling Saints need help

**DeSHAZIER,** *from C-5*

Can the season-ending injury to running back Deuce McAllister become a rallying point, like season-ending or season-interrupting injuries to quarterback Jeff Blake, running back Ricky Williams and a host of others five seasons ago? Only if the current Saints, who are far more intimate with the pleasures of mediocrity than the ecstasy of winning seasons and playoff appearances, somehow can find it within themselves to break the cycle and smash through the franchise's personal glass ceiling.

Why the pessimism over the on-field product? Better question: From what, so far, has there been reason to draw optimism?

There's been no carryover from a 4-0 finish last season, which was supposed to have been the representation of the "real" Saints, as opposed to the guys who lost eight of their first 12 games of the season. The adrenaline rush of playing on behalf of the displaced citizens of a Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Gulf Coast has petered out.

So it doesn't seem logical to believe the 2-3 Saints are going to get signficantly better.

When a team is talking about fixing the exact same things it has vowed to fix the previous four years — illogical penalties, head-scratching turnovers, an inability or unwillingness to stop the run — it can't blame its fan base for losing patience and belief.

It can't have ill feelings toward anyone who refuses to invest emotionally in it, anyone who prefers to remain even-keeled and analytical rather than suffer through the wild mood swings that go along with rabidly buying into a team that wins one, loses two, wins one, gets embarrassed in two, wins two, loses one and on and on until it finishes at or near .500 and out of the playoffs.

But the team should be more than peeved at itself. Because this far into the same regime, having this many repetitions in the same system and this many opportunities to learn from penalties, there's no way the Saints still should be talking about the same housecleaning problems, none of which have anything to do with being displaced.

It should be astounding when the team commits 10 penalties and two or three turnovers, not routine. By now, the team should be a well-oiled machine.

Instead, the current Saints need to look to the past for help.

True, some veteran additions have had success elsewhere, sometimes having to crawl out of holes en route to doing so. But strange things seem to happen to them when they're wearing a Saints jersey.

Either they lose their roadmaps to the postseason, or they can't find enough willing followers in their new locker room.

And now, everyone in that locker room must dig. In the end, fans must hope they find the kind of resolve that hasn't manifested itself in a playoff berth since the 2000 season.

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BASEBALL

# White Sox look rusty in Game 1

*Road-weary Angels grab lead in ALCS*

**By Rick Gano**
AP sports writer

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox's offense looked a bit rusty, even if they insisted a three-day layoff had no bearing on their performance in Game 1 of the American League championship series.

They had trouble getting down bunts when they needed them, couldn't steal their way into scoring position or deliver run-scoring hits against the Los Angeles Angels — a team that was supposed to be weary after two long trips.

"Anytime you don't hit well and don't throw up a lot of offense, it looks flat," Paul Konerko said after a 3-2 loss Tuesday night. "It doesn't matter if you had days off or if it is the middle of the season or whatever.

"We didn't play well and we lost by a run. If we tighten up our game a little bit, it will be better for us. That's what we do, why we are here and we've been successful doing that all year."

While running up an AL-best 99 wins and then sweeping the defending champion Boston Red Sox in the first round, the White Sox were able to manufacture runs while also showing power with 200 homers.

Joe Crede hit a solo homer off Paul Byrd and A.J. Pierzynski had a run-scoring single, but there were numerous missed opportunities for a team that has squandered home-field advantage in its first ALCS appearance since 1993.

"We hit a lot of balls hard. We had some chances, we just didn't get them in," Pierzynski said. "I thought we were fine at the plate. We just didn't get a big hit."

Jose Contreras gave up three runs and seven hits in 8⅓ innings, good enough to win on most nights. Instead, he took his first loss since Aug. 15 after running off eight straight wins to close the regular season and then beating the Red Sox in the division series opener a week ago.

"I feel bad for Jose. He pitched great and we didn't come through for him," Konerko said.

For example: Needing a run and a big hit in the eighth, Konerko flied out with two on.

Needing a sacrifice in the ninth after Carl Everett reached on an error to start the inning, Aaron Rowand bunted into a force and a potential rally fizzled. Crede then struck out with a runner on to end the game.

"I felt we were ready to come back," Crede said. "We just weren't able to capitalize, not able to execute when the opportunity came along."

The White Sox had speedy leadoff hitter Scott Podsednik on twice but couldn't get him around; once he was thrown out trying to steal.

They tried a little bit of everything from No. 3 hitter Jermaine Dye bunting and popping out to start the sixth, and Pierzynski trying unsuccessfully to steal in the seventh when he apparently misread a sign.

"(Dye) tried to get on base, make things happen and when you're batting third, he thought the third baseman was playing back," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "He just wanted to make something happen to start the inning."

Pierzynski, who didn't steal a base in the regular season, said he thought a play was on when he took off for second.

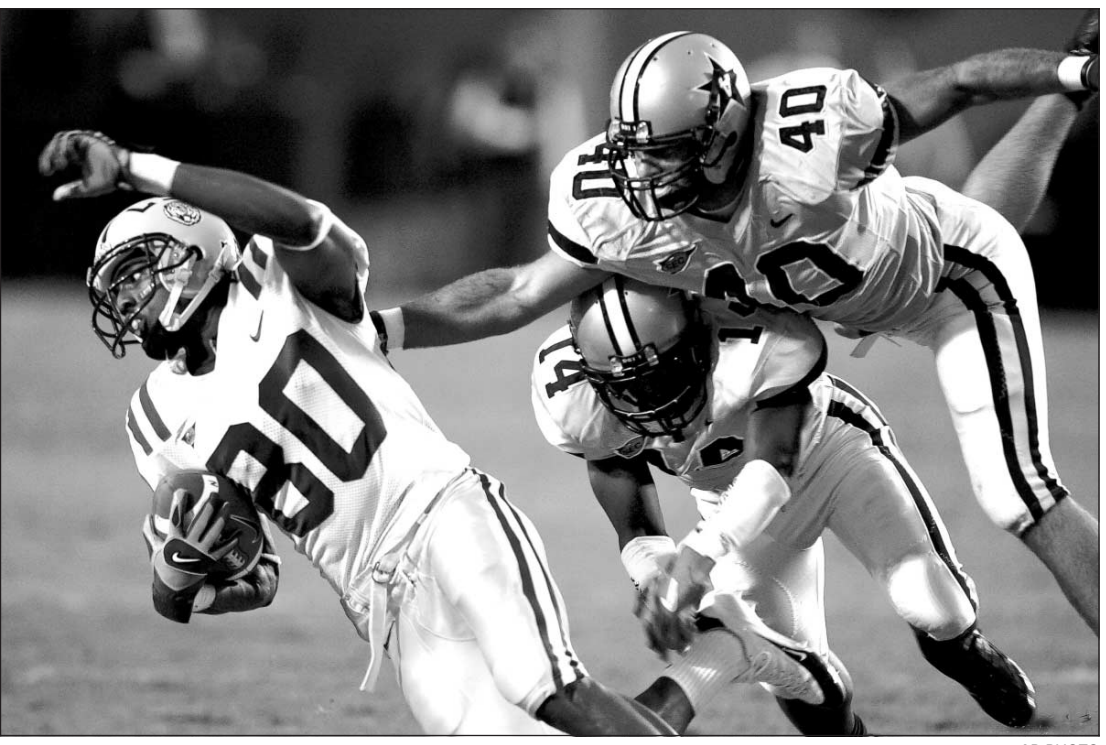
"I saw hit-and-run," he said. "Did I miss a sign? I guess I did. . . . That's what happens."

Juan Uribe reached on an infield single, starting the eighth, but Podsednik couldn't get down a bunt and then was called out on strikes.

▶ Game 1 box score, C-10

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



AP PHOTO

LSU receiver Dwayne Bowe (80) catches a pass against Vanderbilt on Saturday night in Nashville, Tenn. Bowe has caught three touchdown passes in the past two games.

# Bowe's loquacity quiets opponents

*LSU wide receiver's verbage a barometer of on-field success*

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Welcome back, Dwayne Bowe, to the land of the loquacious.

**LSU VS. FLORIDA**
2:30 p.m.
Saturday 4

If the colorful, free-flowing vocabulary the junior wide receiver used this week is an indication, it feels good to re-establish residence back home.

After taking a two-game verbal sabbatical, Bowe finally provided himself plenty of material to talk about, catching three touchdown passes combined against Mississippi State and Vanderbilt, and doubling his season totals in receptions and yards during one extra-productive quarter in Nashville, Tenn.

"I told JaMarcus (Russell) right before the game started, 'I'm hot, I'm ready, I'm feeling it.' So he just fed me."

Interesting choice of words, considering the cold night temperature in Vanderbilt Stadium kept Bowe from the first pregame warm-ups. While Early Doucet, Skyler Green and the gang went through the scripted motions, Bowe laid in the treatment room, receiving attention on the same ankle injury that scratched him from the Arizona State debut.

Bowe finally came out of the tunnel when the linemen emerged, much later in the pregame routine.

Fortunately for Bowe, it didn't take long to get loose and feel comfortable.

First play from scrimmage: Russell to Bowe, 17 yards.

Third play from scrimmage: Russell to Bowe, 30 yards, much of it after the catch.

Sixth play from scrimmage: Russell to Bowe, 30 yards for a touchdown.

"That first drive made me feel like my normal self," Bowe said. "Focusing in. Nothing distracted me. Like we were in the huddle, I told JaMarcus, 'Hey man, I'm hot.' There were a lot of plays I would have gotten the ball again, but the O-linemen missed assignments or they blitzed and it caused disruption in JaMarcus' view.

"If those didn't happen, I would have at least had 180 on them."

Bowe showed his ability to separate from defenders on the post-pattern touchdown, waiting for Russell's floated pass to finally land, slowing up to get two feet in when one would have done.

"If I would have keep running, I would have run right out the gate," Bowe said.

In the first quarter, Bowe caught five passes for 98 yards and the touchdown, and was on pace to break some school and possibly conference single-game records when, all of the sudden, he vanished. Not only did Bowe not catch another pass, Russell looked his way just once more, throwing an incompletion.

"He has his days when he'll just throw to Early and Skyler," Bowe said. "I tell the (receivers) if they score, that's six — I'm going to get three and they are going to get three."

Asked if Russell offers subtle hints on whether he's going to shine or be shunned, Bowe simply said, "It just happens."

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# Palmer has potential to be NFL star if Price is right

*Miners coach sees similarities between Miners QB, brother*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — When UTEP coach Mike Price watches his quarterback, he sees a Heisman Trophy winner.

Sort of.

"They look so much alike, they look like twins," Price said of Carson and Jordan Palmer, the latter Price's starting signal-caller.

**TULANE VS. UTEP**
7 p.m.
Saturday
in Ruston

Jordan Palmer sure looks like his older brother, the Cincinnati Bengals quarterback whose 2002 season for Southern California was bronzed. But the comparisons go beyond the mug shot.

"(Carson Palmer) had a more prolific high school career because Jordan only played one year in high school as starting quarterback," said Price, whose team plays Tulane on Friday in Ruston. "But as far as their sophomore years in college, I think they're pretty equal."

Jordan Palmer now is a junior, a second-year starter and budding star. There won't be a Heisman hootenanny for him this season, at least, and he probably isn't the even the best quarterback in Conference USA. But he has a strong arm, an infectious attitude and pedigree.

When asked if Jordan Palmer could be an NFL quarterback, Price said, "No question. We'll see how he does this year. He's been doing good. We'll see how he finishes the season before I make any prediction. But I think he has NFL ability."

Last season, the 6-foot-5, 230-pound Palmer emerged — as did his team, which went 8-4 after three losing seasons. Palmer threw for 2,818 yards and 26 touchdowns, the most by a UTEP quarterback in a single season. He ranked 28th in the nation in passing efficiency (136.4), and in games he threw two or fewer interceptions, UTEP was 7-2.

The Miners entered this season, their first in C-USA, as front-runners to win the Western Division and play in the conference's inaugural championship game. So far, the Miners are 3-1, 1-1.

Palmer spearheads the potent pass offense, which averages 298 yards per game, second in C-USA (Tulane's pass defense also is second, allowing 158 yards per game). Palmer's 293.8 passing yards per game trails only UAB's Darrell Hackney (298.4). And Palmer has eight touchdowns and six interceptions; his passing efficiency is down from last year, settling at 119.9, eighth-best in C-USA.

"I'm definitely not where I'd like to be," said Palmer, 21. "I'm still forcing the ball and making some bad decisions, and at quarterback, that's all it really comes down to — decision-making and trying to put your team in a position to win. I don't think I've done a great job at that so far, but I still have a lot of games left. And when you do make mistakes, it's obvious and apparent that you're going to learn from it."

"Because of his position and having so much authority and touching the ball so much, he's just going to continue to improve," said Price, who coached NFL-bound quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe and Ryan Leaf at Washington State. "And he works so hard off the field, and he watches a lot of tape, day and night. He's going to do nothing but get better."

According to Palmer and Tulane coach Chris Scelfo, credit for UTEP's pass success goes to the offensive line. And there are plenty of sure-handed receivers. Yes, Chris Francies (15 catches) will miss Friday's game with a rib injury, but there's Johnnie Lee Higgins with his team-high 21 catches and five scores, and Jayson Boyd with 12 receptions.

"They execute," Scelfo said of the UTEP offense. "They don't do anything fancy, they just line up — and they don't ask (Palmer) to do a whole lot."

Said Palmer: "I feel like I've got a long ways to go, but at the same time, I've got so much talent around me, it's going to speed that process up."

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**AROUND THE STATE**

### LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE AT ARKANSAS STATE

6:30 p.m. today in Jonesboro, Ark.

The Ragin' Cajuns (1-4, 0-1 Sun Belt Conference) led 10-7 after three quarters last week against Florida Atlantic but gave up 21 fourth-quarter points in a 28-10 loss. Freshman running back Tyrell Fenroy rushed for 82 yards on 16 carries for ULL and scored on a one-yard run to cap the first drive of the game. . . . The Indians (2-3, 1-1), who have averaged 35 points and 403 yards per game, haven't played since losing at Louisiana-Monroe 31-27 Oct. 1. Arkansas State running back Antonio Warren, who ranks seventh in Division I-A in rushing with an average of 131 yards per game, didn't play in that game because of a sprained ankle.

Compiled by Bob Fortus

## SEC NOTES

# Auburn plans one-day trip

**By Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Availability of hotel rooms continues to be an issue for teams playing at Tiger Stadium.

Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said he is assuming there won't be enough available when his team comes to Baton Rouge to play LSU on Oct. 22. Therefore, Auburn will make it a one-day trip.

Tuberville said the school has been assured there will be enough rooms, but that evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and recovery workers continue to occupy rooms. Florida is flying in Friday, but is splitting its traveling party between 30 rooms in Baton rouge and 30 in Lafayette.

**ARKANSAS:** Running backs Darren McFadden and Felix Jones became the first pair of freshmen to rush for at least 100 yards in a game in Arkansas history.

They combined for 227 yards and four touchdowns in a 44-15 victory against Louisiana-Monroe. Jones is the second freshman to have two 100-yard games in a season. The first was quarterback Matt Jones in 2001.

**GEORGIA:** After playing third fiddle to Tennessee and Florida in preseason rankings, the No. 5 Bulldogs are in the driver's seat for the SEC East title.

The Bulldogs have the No. 1 offense in the Southeastern Conference, averaging 455.6 yards per game, seventh in the nation. Quarterback D.J. Shockley is the conference's No. 1 rated quarterback in passing efficiency.

**KENTUCKY:** The Wildcats are off this week, which is just as well.

At least the football team won't have to worry about being overshadowed by the start of basketball practice Friday. Midnight Madness never fails to draw large crowds.

**OLE MISS:** The Rebels offense hasn't had much to smile about, but one move has paid off.

Mico McSwain moved from safety to running back early in fall camp and has rushed for 391 yards in five games. He is averaging 7.5 yards per carry and is 11 yards behind the freshman mark of former Rebel Deuce McAllister, now with the Saints.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Syvelle Newton, a quarterback last season who moved to wide receiver this season, now might get a chance at tailback.

He practiced there this week after showing his running ability at quarterback against Kentucky on Saturday.

**TENNESSEE:** The Volunteers are seemingly out of the race for the SEC East title with losses to Florida and Georgia after being the preseason favorites to win the conference title.

"If I could sprinkle magic dust on it, heck, I'd fix it," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said.

Making things worse, Jason Allen, Tennessee's best defensive back and an expected high draft pick, is out for the season with a dislocated hip suffered in the second quarter against Georgia.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### MEN

# Brady likes team's attitude

*Young, talented Tigers ready to make impact in up-tempo scheme*

**Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Basketball practice hasn't started for LSU yet, but Tigers coach John Brady likes the way his team shows up.

Searching for an indicator from a team that will have seven freshmen and four players who have Division I experience, Brady proudly brings up the Sunday night gatherings.

"If I call a meeting at 6 p.m., they're in there sitting down at 5:45 p.m.," Brady said at Wednesday's media day. "These guys are there — early. They're eager."

"This is the best group in terms of their approach to the work, managing of their time this early and being receptive to what we want to do."

Brady likes what he sees, calling the enthusiasm the best of any of his teams to this point.

He'll get a more practical understanding of this year's team when it begins practice Saturday. LSU will try to build on last season, when the team earned its second NCAA berth in three years. The Tigers were eliminated in the first round after a miserable performance against UAB.

Despite being short on experience, the Tigers, who were 21-11 last season, will be one of the tallest and most athletically gifted teams Brady has fielded in his nine seasons at the helm. They lost SEC Player of the year Brandon Bass to the NBA, but return SEC Freshman of the Year Glen Davis and add potential impact freshman forward Tasmin Mitchell.

The Tigers will have to work around the absence of starting point guard Tack Minor, who is out until December because of a violation of academic policy. But Brady believes the team will develop playing the most difficult schedule of his tenure.

Players also notice something special about the prevailing attitude.

"Everybody is willing to learn, get better," said Davis. "That shows a lot about the team. All this summer, we've built a bond. We're building something strong. We're taking a serious approach."

Height and athleticism is something Brady hasn't had in abundance on the roster since the days of 7-footer Jabari Smith and 6-9 Stromile Swift. The Tigers have seven players 6-8 or taller, but it's not just the height that creates optimism. These are players that can run. Brady is hoping it translates into a swarming defense that can block shots and reach into passing lanes and deflect passes that the Tigers can turn into easy baskets.

Brady's teams usually play man-to-man defense, with enough zone thrown in to change the pace. But defense this season could evolve into something entirely different, with many players getting a chance to play.

"You'll see more of a wide open, sort of it-looks-like-we-haven't-practiced-defense-yet-we-have sort of thing because of the versatility of our guys," Brady said. "If we can extend the floor in our half-court defense, we're going to be able to touch some balls normally we may not have in the past."

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### WOMEN

# Augustus focuses on lone remaining prize

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — The "Old Lady" does as the photographer instructs, flashing the same Colgate smile Sports Illustrated used to introduce her to the world, way back in the day.

Hold the basketball — her scepter — up in the air like that, the cameraman says, as LSU's senior guard poses in the House that Pete built — but Seimone redesigned.

Rows upon rows of plush purple seats, fit for royalty but intended for a swelling season-ticket base, surround the necessary cog in Skip Bertman's grand experiment to turn women's basketball into the new baseball at LSU. Seimone Augustus, the backyard prodigy, has more than kept up her end of the lopsided agreement she signed four years ago, transforming an entire program and local public perception of an ignored sport, in exchange for a bachelor's degree she earned this summer.

But the youthful daydreams of filling the PMAC with multiple national championship banners gave way on LSU basketball media day — the first of many lasts — to the reality that Augustus has six months to win the lone piece of hardware missing from her case.

"The legacy, it's cemented with something that can't ever be replaced by people that win five, six, seven or eight championships. I think she's OK with that," LSU coach Pokey Chatman said. "But then there's the competitor in her that has a certain level of ability and has played a high level of basketball. Why the heck would you not want to win the ultimate prize?

"Would she feel like she's fallen short? I feel in the short-term, you always do. In the long-term I think she's smart enough to realize what she's done."

Post-bracket favorites to win the national title last March, LSU and Augustus exited again in the national semifinals, losing to eventual champion Baylor. Even without WNBA Rookie of the Year Temeka Johnson and interior players Tillie Willis, Wendlyn Jones and Crystal White, the Lady Tigers are a consensus Top 10 among preseason magazine polls (Athlon ranks LSU No. 1).

"That's the only thing on my mind right now," Augustus said of cutting down the nets in Boston. "I mean, I've received every accolade and I'm very appreciative of them, but if I could trade all that in to get a national championship I would. Because that means more to me.

"I think we've always had what it takes to be a national champion, we just have to pull it all together," Augustus said. "It's leadership. It's team chemistry. Bonding. Everything off-the-court as well as on-the court."

Don't expect Augustus to inherit occasional duties at point guard (as Connecticut's Diana Taurasi did when Sue Bird left), because in LSU's motion offense, as Chatman said, "everyone is a point guard."

Considering LSU plays every Final Four participant from last season and 2004 (UConn, Minnesota, Michigan State, Baylor and Tennessee) on its schedule, Augustus should have a fairly accurate barometer of where her story might end before the postseason begins.

"It's something I want to do before I leave, but if it doesn't happen, I mean, we've had a lot of exciting moments here and it wouldn't be a damper on what we've done here," Augustus said. "But it would put something else on my résumé — national championship."

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# Comets have what it takes to stay with Curtis

*Attractive matchups dominant this week*



LORI LYONS

Football fans in the River Parishes weren't exactly overjoyed when the Louisiana High School Athletic Association put John Curtis in District 10-2A.

The Patriots have dominated the state's prep football scene for decades, establishing itself as a football powerhouse. Since 1975, Curtis has won a state-record 19 football titles.

But over the years, the Patriots have also turned themselves into a prep pariah. Nobody wants Curtis — not in their classification, not in their district, perhaps not even on their field. The Patriots were placed in Class 2A last year after 4A principals voted not to allow them to play up in classification.

And that meant a trip to sugar cane country, where Donaldsonville, St. James and St. Charles awaited.

Curtis will head to the cane fields of LaPlace tonight with a 1-1 record to face St. Charles. Four of the Patriots' games had to be canceled because of Hurricane Katrina. On Sept. 30, what should have been their fifth playing date, the Patriots lost their season opener to East St. John 16-6. Last week, they pulled out a 27-21 victory against Choctawatchee High School of Fort Walton, Beach, Fla., 27-21.

Despite two hurricanes, an ever-changing schedule, an influx of displaced students from Orleans and Jefferson parishes and the coming and going of several displaced athletes, St. Charles has managed to remain undefeated this season. This week the Comets moved up to No. 2 in the Class 2A poll.

St. Charles has outscored its opponents 185-32. The offense is averaging 274 yards, and the defense is holding opponents to 117. Running back Chris Jones, who transferred from Rummel, rushed for 144 yards and three touchdowns last week. Receiver Casey Robottom has 24 catches for 398 yards and six touchdowns. He also has returned two kickoffs and a pair of punts for touchdowns.

No one has wanted to play against Curtis over the years, but this is a different season, and St. Charles can more than handle its own: St. Charles 35, Curtis 33.

This week's other games:

Destrehan 27, Assumption 24: The Wildcats have had to pull their past couple of victories out at the end.

East St. John 35, Ehret 27: Watch East St. John's Johnny Owen run.

West Jefferson 36, Hahnville 30: The Tigers couldn't stop Owen last week. They'll have trouble with Kevin Grant.

Lutcher 28, Holy Cross 24: The patched-together Tigers put together a great victory last week. But Lutcher is getting stronger every week.

Riverside 24, Donaldsonville 12: The Rebels will be flying high after last week's victory.

West St. John 28, St. John 27: If any team can beat the Eagles, it's this one.

Last week: 7-1. Season: 11-3.

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# Jesuit set to begin season

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer

Jesuit, which went unbeaten in the regular season last year, finally will have a chance to do it again this football season.

The Blue Jays will begin a three-game season Oct. 22, when it plays against Holy Cross at Joe Yenni Stadium, according to Jesuit athletic director Frank Misuraca. The teams will play at 2 p.m.

Brother Martin also will return, with either one or two games. The Crusaders will play Jesuit on the final playing date, and Brother Martin athletic director Barry Hebert is trying to secure an opponent and a site for a game on the ninth playing date. The Crusaders will not be eligible for district honors.

Blue Jays football coach Vic Eumont was in California on Monday, preparing to return. His home in Lakeview was destroyed by flooding, as was all the material and files in his office at the school located on Banks Street.

"I guess I will live out of my car," Eumont said. "But it's important to give these kids a chance to play." Practice will begin Saturday or Sunday in the morning. Jesuit students will be attending St. Martin's from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Eumont evacuated to Memphis with his wife when the storm came, but after seeing there was nothing left, went to California to stay with relatives.

Many of the Jesuit players have played at various locations. Danny Zimmerman, expected to be the starting quarterback, has been starting for Salmen.

Eumont said he has no idea which of his players will show up to practice, but he's sure he will have a smaller squad. Misuraca said he believed there were 38 players registered.

"They're scattered across the country," Eumont said.

Jesuit, part of District 8-5A, normally plays its home games at Tad Gormley Stadium. That stadium was flooded, so Misuraca scrambled to find places to play.

Other games scheduled include one against Rummel on Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. and one against Brother Martin on Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. Both will be at Joe Yenni Stadium.

Jesuit's swimming team, which has won multiple state championships, began practicing Monday and will compete in the state championships in November. Jesuit cross country runners will compete for state honors as well.

Basketball will be a problem because the gym floor buckled badly, according to Misuraca. "We will be looking for a place to practice and play games for the coming year."

Hebert said the Crusaders' football coaching staff, including head coach Wayde Keiser and whomever is teaching at the transition site at Baton Rouge-Catholic, where the Brother Martin students will be until the school opens on Jan. 17, will coach the team.

"We're just trying to give the kids an opportunity to play a couple games in their Brother Martin uniforms," Hebert said. "We're doing (this) for the kids, trying to have some fun."

# DOGGED DETERMINATION

*Brother Martin's Andy Florek has not let misfortune alter his course toward getting a state cross country title*

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

In the world of Brother Martin cross country runner Andy Florek nothing means more than meticulous training and winning the next race.

When Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf South, forcing Florek and his family to relocate twice, Florek still trained. He ran through the parks and streets of Houma and Baton Rouge to keep himself in shape.

And when Brother Martin competed in its first meet of the season two weeks ago, Florek was there, sprinting to a first-place finish that led the Crusaders to the team championship.

This is shaping up to be Brother Martin's year, with Florek cast in the lead role.

In a way, Florek has the season set up just the way he wants it.

Katrina didn't hinder Florek; in many ways it strengthened him. It was terrible experience when his family home received an inch of water in the garage and wind damage. And it was an inconvenience when his family relocated twice, but the time away from New Orleans allowed Florek the chance to concentrate more on his running.

"The storm opened my eyes a lot," Florek said. "It made me tough and hard. It made me mentally tough, because I had to make myself run on my own."

Katrina showed him that his training regimen was sound enough to handle any distraction. He kept on running, more than 30 miles a week with varying paces on different days.

Florek began the season by winning the St. Joseph's Invitational in Baton Rouge with a three-mile time of 15 minutes, 57 seconds. Last weekend, he finished second, but set a school record with a time of 15:15 at the Baton Rouge-Catholic Invitational.

Brother Martin coach Dennis Panepinto said the strong finish created a day of mixed emotions for Florek.

"On one hand he had the best time in Brother Martin history, and on the other hand he lost," Panepinto said.

Florek returns to training this week. His goal is to break the 15-minute barrier.

Panepinto, who has worked with Florek since the runner was an eighth-grader, knows that Florek will work hard enough to achieve anything he desires.

"He was a little kid jumping up and down and getting in my face when I first started working with him," Panepinto said. "I call little, young guys here puppies because they're always jumping around, but by the time they get to be seniors they get to be big dogs."

That's what Florek has become, Panepinto said.




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Brother Martin cross country runner Andy Florek said his continued training in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina helped strengthen his mental toughness.

## STATE CROSS COUNTRY POLL

| GIRLS | BOYS |
|---|---|
| 1. Episcopal (9) 99 | 1. Brother Martin (9) 99 |
| 2. St. Josephs 87 | 2. Catholic Baton Rouge (1) 89 |
| 3. Ruston (1) 55 | 3. Episcopal Baton Rouge 69 |
| 3. Blenk 55 | 4. St. Pauls 62 |
| 5. St. Michael 46 | 5. West Monroe 51 |
| 6. Menard 41 | 6. Pineville 45 |
| 7. St. Scholastica 32 | 7. Ruston 29 |
| 8. St. Thomas Aquinas 31 | 7. St. Michael 29 |
| 9. Barbe 28 | 9. St. Thomas More 25 |
| 10. Iowa 17 | 10. Iowa 14 |

# Skippers stay perfect in district

Mandeville def. Fontainebleau 3-0: Rachel Mauti had 16 kills and two aces to lead the Skippers to a 25-19, 25-23, 25-22 victory in a District 4-I match Tuesday. The 9-1 Skippers are 4-0 in district. Mandeville's Rachel Lindelow dished out a team-high 12 assists.

St. Martin's def. Blenk 3-0: Maggie Rusch had 16 kills, and Jaimie Rozza served 11 aces and had 10 kills to lead the Saints (5-0) to a 25-21, 25-17, 25-13 victory against Blenk (2-2) on Tuesday. Amelia Hendnekson had eight kills.

Sacred Heat def. Lafayette 3-0: Suzanne Haydel had 24 kills, 13 digs and an ace to lead the Cardinals (11-6) to a 25-13, 25-5, 25-13 victory against the Lions (18-5) on Tuesday. Sacred Heart's Hayley Childress added 12 kills.

Lutcher def. St. James 3-0: Katie Duhe and Tristian LeBland combined for 13 kills to lead the Bulldogs to a 25-18, 25-13, 25-13 victory against St. James on Tuesday. Duhe led Lutcher (15-8) with eight kills.

Higgins def. Bonnabel 3-1: Kristen Lyvers had 10 kills, and Britney Collura had 10 assists to lead the Hurricanes to a 25-18, 19-25, 25-21, 25-20 victory in a non-district match against Bonnabel (0-5) on Tuesday at Higgins. Melissa Durrett had six aces for Higgins (2-5). Kayla Bartholomew had five kills.

Riverdale def. Higgins 3-2: Jessica Stephens and Amber Fuller each had 10 kills, and Amanda Guchereau served seven aces to lead the Rebels to a 24-26, 25-22, 19-25, 25-15, 15-13 non-district victory against Higgins on Monday at Higgins. Maritza Casiano had six assists for Riverdale (4-1).

Football

Today's game

Bonnabel (1-0) vs. Riverdale (0-1)

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Joe Yenni Stadium.

Last week: Bonnabel defeated Fisher 20-7. Riverdale lost to Ridgewood 32-8.

Last year: Did not play.

Notable: This is a non-district game. Three Bruins' players who had transferred to East St. John have returned to Bonnabel. Riverdale's William Lee scored the Rebels' touchdown last week on a pass reception.

# WHERE Y'AT?

*Catching up with metro-area athletes displaced by Hurricane Katrina*

**By Billy Turner**
Staff writer

They were so happy, genuinely happy, to be on the cover of the Orleans Parish edition of The Times-Picayune high school football section.

The bold type spoke volumes for these guys: "Ascending Order," read the headline.

This was their year. This was their time.

On the cover were McDonogh 35's center Rashad Williams, guard Julius Nero, guard Justin Francois, guard Charles Stevens and tight end Derrick Johnson, but it also could have included tackle William Walker, guard Josh Keelen and guard Quincy Hooks.

The picture could also have included standout players and college prospects such as Ronald Cousin or running backs Alfred Reese, son of head coach Wayne Reese, and John Donald.

"I really feel like we were going to be one of the best (Class) 4A teams around," Wayne Reese said.

Reese, who had coached for more than two decades in the metro area, called them the best group he ever had. The players were big: Walker tipped the scales at 300 pounds. They were athletic: Nero at 6 feet 3, 265 pounds was exceedingly quick. They were smart: all had grade-point averages 2.9 or better.

The players talked about the opportunity they had as they approached, for most of them, their senior season. McDonogh 35, which finished 7-3 last season was picked to win its district after being moved to Class 4A, had never received as much attention; it was the school's first cover story.

The cover story was published Thursday, Aug. 25. By Saturday, the players were evacuated. On Monday, Aug. 29, Hurricane Katrina hit. McDonogh 35's dream season was gone, as was its players.

The players are scattered. Walker is playing in Maryland, Keelen is at Istrouma, Nero in Houston, Williams at a military school in New Jersey and Hooks is at Scotlandville Magnet.

McDonogh 35 also has four players at Southern Lab, including Reese's son, and Cousin. Southern Lab was winless until the McDonogh 35 kids arrived.

"They're all doing well," Wayne Reese said. "The problem is all our kids were taking prep courses for college. Some of those wouldn't transfer. But they're all doing well, all playing."

**MORE AT LAB:** Four St. Augustine football players are attending Southern Lab. Strong safety/linebacker Chad Jones, receiver Shelby Skipper, offensive lineman Rishaw Johnson and quarterback Eric Rogers have been playing for Southern Lab the past four weeks.

Jones, a 6-foot-3, 180-pound junior, has started four games.

"Chad is basically a kid who has all of the material that you need to be a star," Southern Lab coach Michael Roach said. Johnson, a 6-4, 295-pound junior, has started on the offensive line.

Skipper, a 5-6, 145-pound senior, doesn't start, but he is one of the players in Southern Lab's receiver rotation. Rogers, a 6-foot, 175-pound senior, is a backup quarterback and played in his first game last week.

Southern Lab (2-3, 0-1 District 7-1A) will travel to play Northlake Christian on Friday at Southeastern Louisiana University's Strawberry Stadium.

**TEXAS EPISCOPAL:** Episcopal High in Houston has several metro-area athletes, including five football players. Newman's Doug Prechter, brothers Bryan and Michael Poppler, and Country Day's Cooper Johnston and Matt Stone are at Episcopal. Stone is the starting quarterback. He inherited the job when Episcopal's quarterback suffered a knee injury at the beginning of the season. Newman assistant coach Nowell Hesse has joined the Episcopal junior-varsity football coaching staff.

**MORE NEWMAN:** Two other Newman players are in the Houston area. Hunter Freiberg is playing for St. John's of Houston, and Robbie Evans is at Stratford. Closer to home, Newman's Alex Adams and Andy Lass are playing for St. Martin's, which opens its season Saturday against Ridgewood.

**AROUND THE HORN:** Three Brother Martin baseball players have relocated. Center fielder Phillip Freeman is at Captain Shreve, pitcher Andrew Valez is at Dutchtown and shortstop Ryan Hebert is at Denham Springs. Crusaders wide receiver Casey Moriarity is at St. Charles, which plays John Curtis on Friday. . . . Shaw wide receiver Josh Hill, attending St. Piux X in Houston, caught six passes for 138 yards in his first game at the school.

*(Editor's note: The Times-Picayune is running a weekly notebook on metro area student-athletes displaced by the storm who are now competing at schools around the state or nation. Please e-mail us at tpprepsa@yahoo.com with the information. Include a number and contact so that we can verify the information.)*

## PREP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S GAME

**NON-DISTRICT**

▶ Bonnabel vs. Riverdale at Joe Yenni, 6:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

**DISTRICT 4-5A**

▶ Covington at Hammond, 7 p.m.
▶ Mandeville at Fontainebleau, 7 p.m.
▶ Northshore at St. Paul's, 7 p.m.
▶ Slidell at Ponchatoula, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 5-5A**

▶ Hahnville vs. West Jefferson at
▶ Hoss Memtsas, 7 p.m.
▶ Ehret at East St. John, 7 p.m.
▶ Destrehan at Assumption, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 8-4A**

▶ Cox at Vandebilt, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 9-3A**

▶ Franklinton at Pearl River, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 9-2A**

▶ Pope John Paul II at Pine, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 10-2A**

▶ Riverside at Donaldsonville, 7 p.m.
▶ Curtis at St. Charles, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 7-1A**

▶ Southern Lab vs. Northlake Christian at Southeastern Louisiana University, 7 p.m.

**DISTRICT 9-1A**

▶ West St. John at St. John, 7 p.m.

**NON-DISTRICT**

▶ Higgins at Bogalusa, 7 p.m.
▶ Salmen vs. East Jefferson at
▶ Joe Yenni, 7 p.m.
Holy Cross at Lutcher, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY'S GAMES

**NON-DISTRICT**

▶ Crescent City at Fisher, 7 p.m.
▶ Rummel vs. King at Joe Yenni, 7 p.m.
▶ Ridgewood at St. Martin's, 7 p.m.

## COURSE UPDATE

All of the golf courses in the New Orleans area suffered some damage from Hurricane Katrina. Some have reopened, others face uncertain futures. A look at the damage from the courses and their status:

| Course | Damage | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Abita Springs CC | Trees | Open (public accessible) |
| Audubon GC | Trees | Open Nov. 5 |
| Bayou Oaks | Water, trees | Closed |
| Beau Chene CC | Trees | Open |
| Belle Terre CC | Trees, water | Open (public accessible) |
| Chateau CC | Trees | Open (available to members of other country clubs only) |
| Colonial CC | Trees | Open |
| Covington CC | Trees | Open (public accessible) |
| GC at Eastover | Water, trees | Closed (open spring 2007) |
| English Turn CC | Trees | Nine holes to open in mid-October; 18 to open in early November |
| Lakewood CC | N/A | Closed |
| Metairie CC | Tree, water | Open Dec. 1 |
| Money Hill CC | N/A | Open |
| New Orleans CC | Water | Closed |
| Oak Harbor | Water | Closed |
| Ormond CC | Trees | Open (public accessible) |
| Pinewood CC | Water, trees | Back nine open today, front nine in 2-4 weeks (public accessible) |
| Royal GC | Trees | Open |
| Timberlane CC | N/A | Open members only until 10 a.m., public accessible after 10 a.m. |
| TPC of Louisiana | Trees, water | Closed |
| Willlowdale CC | Trees | Open (public accessible) |

# Damage to courses called 'catastrophic'

**GOLF,** *from C-5*

and wind. There has even been some informal discussion of moving the Zurich Classic of New Orleans away from the TPC in the event that if the tract is not ready for the 2006 event.

And the Joe Bartholomew Golf Course, which was set to reopen in Pontchartrain Park after several months of renovation, was under water and its status is unknown. Compounding the problem at Bartholomew is that it was operated by the city, and Mayor Ray Nagin announced last week the layoff of 3,000 employees.

"There will be a big change in the local golfing scene," said Dennis McGrail, the director of golf at English Turn Golf and Country Club. "We're all taking a big hit because it hit during September. That's one of the biggest months for everybody, and we lost that revenue."

But there is good news. English Turn is scheduled to open its back nine in the middle of October and the full 18 in November. Audubon Golf Club is scheduled to open Nov. 5, and Colonial Country Club opened Saturday.

"The course fared well and is in great shape," said Colonial head pro Steve Schmitt.

Courses in surrounding areas, including Ormond Country Club, Belle Terre Country Club, Abita Springs Golf and Country Club, Royal Golf Club, Timberlane and Willowdale Country Clubs already have opened.

Pinewood Country Club, a semi-private facility, opened the back nine this past Saturday. Head pro James Leitz said he hopes to have the front nine open within a month.

The shelving of Bayou Oaks and Eastover by Katrina may have the most significant impact on the community. Bayou Oaks was the largest public golf facility in the area, and Eastover was the most popular site for charity golf tournaments that raised millions of dollars for local nonprofit organizations. Losing those courses removes 90 holes from the city's golfing inventory, the equivalent of five courses in an area already noted for its shortage of public golfing facilities.

"This may be a blessing for some courses," Brown said. "The attrition of the facilities hopefully will match the attrition of the population. The golfers that played at City Park or Eastover will want to play golf. So they will have to go to other facilities."



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

The outer roof of the clubhouse has blown off and the grass has died at the Golf Club of New Orleans at Eastover, the city's most popular host of charity golf tournaments that raised millions of dollars for local nonprofit organizations.

### Clubhouse ruined

Digby termed the damage to Bayou Oaks "catastrophic."

"The clubhouse is ruined, the maintenance equipment is ruined, and the carts are ruined," he said. He added that the 200 carts housed in the cart shed cost $3,700 each. The storm also moved a 10,000-gallon fuel tank 100 yards from its site. Digby said Kemper has furloughed all of its approximately 100 employees that worked at the course, and has been actively assisting them in finding other employment.

"Even if we could get the debris cleared up and get trailers to operate out of, we don't have anybody to do anything," said Bob Becker, executive director of City Park. Becker added the park has laid off 90 percent of its employees, reducing a workforce of approximately 235 employees to 15.

He said he is encouraged by grass growing into some of the flooded areas of the course. Digby said before any of the three courses could reopen, it would have to be cleared of downed trees, and some of the greens would have to be rebuilt. The fairways also would have to be resprigged.

"We would like to get at least one course open, but I don't know how we could do that," Becker said. "We have no staff or equipment. We can't do anything."

Digby said if money was available to complete the work and buy equipment, at least one of the courses could be open by June.

Even when Bayou Oaks is able to rebuild, some question remains as to how many courses will reopen. Digby and Becker agree that decision will be mandated by the population that returns to the Crescent City. Already this year, City Park closed the South Course because of a lack of play.

"If we lose 100,000 people, do we really need 54 holes?" Digby said. "We just don't know, and it's too early to tell."

Becker said the future of Bayou Oaks and the park lies with FEMA.

"If we get the funding, we really have the opportunity to upgrade the courses," he said. "If we don't get the money, there won't be anybody at City Park."

The situation at Eastover may be equally as dire. Jimmy Headrick, the former head pro who was laid off after spending 18 years at the eastern New Orleans facility, said the course sustained substantial damage from flood waters, which rose from the two canals that knife their way through the 36-hole layout.

He said the canals empty into Lake Pontchartrain, and when the lake backed up, so did the canals, flooding the golf course, cart shed and clubhouse with more than eight feet of water.

Jay Maumus, Eastover's tournament director, said the club hosted 238 tournaments last year, raising more than a combined $1 million for local charitable organizations. He said the annual Child's Wish tournament was scheduled for September, and that added an estimated $75,000 to the agency's coffers.

The Cystic Fibrosis tournament, hosted annually by Archie Manning, raised more than $100,000 from its annual event.

"It's going to take a big chunk out of the budgets of some of the charities," Maumus said. "There's no inflection of money. And all of the money that was raised in the tournaments stayed local. It's a real big hit to the charities because it was a major part of the fund-raising for some of them."

Pate said the course will welcome back the charity tournaments and added the facility will be less dependent on the tourism/convention industry. He also said approximately $2 million will be spent refurbishing the original 18 holes, and that the land used for the extra nine holes for the Teeth of the Gator and Rabbit courses will be sold for residential development.

### Personnel concerns

Even when some of the courses reopen, they may face other challenges in staffing and attracting play. Some courses already have laid off their staffs, and others have lost staff members to relocation or more lucrative jobs in the construction industry throughout the area.

Leitz of Pinewood said his staff has dwindled to him and his 21-year-old son, who are cutting the grass and clearing debris.

"I think many courses are going to have to rely on volunteers to help around the course," said Leitz, who added the course lost more than 600 of its signature trees. "We'll all be stretched financially."

There's also the question of the city's population, as displaced residents begin to move back. Additionally, the ability to rebuild the city's tourism industry also will have a direct impact on the future of the area's golf courses.

"We have a lot of concerns about the immediate future," English Turn's McGrail said. "It depends on our local leaders and politicians and their plans to rebuild the city. I don't know if a rebuilt New Orleans will be more attractive to those who want to play golf. New Orleans was never a big golfing destination to begin with."

Despite the concern, most agree that the future looks bright for the golfing community and the New Orleans area.

"The city is not going anywhere," Becker said. "The heart of the city's economy survived. It will be a different place in many ways. It's a great opportunity to build a great city and correct some of our problems. But if you're not optimistic, then you should get out."

•••••••

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# SCOREBOARD

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

**NFC**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 136 | 98 |
| Washington | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 62 | 58 |
| Dallas | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 121 | 98 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 122 | 101 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 89 | 59 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 114 | 88 |
| Carolina | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 127 | 116 |
| **New Orleans** | **2** | **3** | **0** | **.400** | **71** | **139** |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 71 | 75 |
| Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 62 | 59 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 64 | 107 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 124 | 95 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 126 | 107 |
| St. Louis | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 128 | 148 |
| Arizona | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 94 | 134 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 79 | 160 |

**AFC**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 118 | 136 |
| Miami | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 82 | 71 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 68 | 83 |
| N.Y. Jets | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 61 | 85 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 106 | 29 |
| Jacksonville | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 85 | 84 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 103 | 126 |
| Houston | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 | 44 | 99 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 124 | 61 |
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 105 | 59 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 65 | 74 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 47 | 87 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 101 | 87 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 91 |
| San Diego | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 149 | 112 |
| Oakland | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 89 |

**Sunday's games**

Atlanta vs. New Orleans at San Antonio, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, noon
Minnesota at Chicago, noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
Miami at Tampa Bay, noon
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, noon
Washington at Kansas City, noon
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 3:15 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 7:30 p.m.
Open: Arizona, Philadelphia, Green Bay, San Francisco

**Monday's games**

St. Louis at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

## COLLEGE

**Standings**
**SEC**

**East**

| | Conference W | L | PF | PA | All Games W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Georgia | 3 | 0 | 67 | 39 | 5 | 0 | 159 | 59 |
| Florida | 3 | 1 | 103 | 75 | 5 | 1 | 176 | 92 |
| Vanderbilt | 2 | 1 | 65 | 81 | 4 | 2 | 141 | 131 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 2 | 78 | 80 | 3 | 2 | 95 | 90 |
| S.Crolina | 1 | 3 | 80 | 118 | 3 | 3 | 149 | 153 |
| Kentucky | 0 | 2 | 44 | 93 | 1 | 4 | 123 | 191 |

**West**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 3 | 0 | 92 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 148 | 58 |
| Auburn | 2 | 0 | 76 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 190 | 47 |
| LSU | 2 | 1 | 98 | 43 | 3 | 1 | 133 | 74 |
| Arkansas | 0 | 2 | 37 | 52 | 2 | 3 | 147 | 154 |
| Mississippi | 0 | 2 | 33 | 58 | 2 | 3 | 84 | 95 |
| Miss. St. | 0 | 4 | 26 | 123 | 2 | 4 | 85 | 143 |

**CUSA**

**East Division**

| | Conference W | L | PF | PA | All Games W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UCF | 2 | 0 | 61 | 30 | 3 | 2 | 114 | 106 |
| UAB | 1 | 1 | 72 | 54 | 3 | 2 | 144 | 106 |
| So Miss. | 1 | 1 | 50 | 41 | 2 | 2 | 119 | 91 |
| ECarolina | 1 | 1 | 48 | 61 | 2 | 3 | 121 | 146 |
| Marshall | 1 | 1 | 29 | 36 | 2 | 3 | 98 | 122 |
| Memphis | 1 | 2 | 75 | 95 | 2 | 3 | 140 | 119 |

**West Division**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 2 | 1 | 106 | 81 | 3 | 2 | 161 | 129 |
| Tulsa | 2 | 1 | 94 | 78 | 3 | 3 | 173 | 152 |
| UTEP | 1 | 1 | 64 | 68 | 3 | 1 | 119 | 98 |
| Tulane | 1 | 1 | 45 | 45 | 2 | 2 | 87 | 87 |
| SMU | 1 | 2 | 51 | 74 | 2 | 4 | 103 | 178 |
| Rice | 0 | 2 | 54 | 86 | 0 | 4 | 85 | 200 |

**SWAC**

**Eastern**

| | Conference W | L | PF | PA | All Games W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ala. St. | 5 | 0 | 195 | 86 | 5 | 1 | 209 | 113 |
| Jack. St. | 2 | 1 | 80 | 79 | 2 | 3 | 101 | 119 |
| Ala. A&M | 2 | 2 | 54 | 81 | 4 | 2 | 123 | 95 |
| MVSU | 2 | 3 | 110 | 142 | 2 | 3 | 110 | 142 |
| Alcrn St. | 1 | 2 | 32 | 65 | 2 | 2 | 56 | 72 |

**Western**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grambling | 3 | 0 | 137 | 29 | 3 | 1 | 144 | 77 |
| Texas So | 1 | 2 | 53 | 58 | 1 | 3 | 81 | 104 |
| Ark.-PB | 1 | 2 | 44 | 78 | 1 | 4 | 70 | 122 |
| Southern | 1 | 3 | 108 | 96 | 1 | 3 | 108 | 96 |
| PrView | 0 | 3 | 17 | 116 | 1 | 3 | 56 | 128 |

**Sun Belt**

| | Conference W | L | PF | PA | All Games W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ULM | 2 | 0 | 59 | 48 | 2 | 4 | 104 | 201 |
| Troy | 1 | 0 | 13 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 88 | 144 |
| Ark. St. | 1 | 1 | 93 | 55 | 2 | 3 | 176 | 126 |
| NTexas | 1 | 1 | 24 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 128 |
| Fla. Atl. | 1 | 1 | 49 | 38 | 1 | 5 | 88 | 198 |
| Fla. Inter. | 0 | 1 | 24 | 66 | 1 | 3 | 71 | 163 |
| MTenn. | 0 | 1 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 38 | 72 |
| ULL | 0 | 1 | 10 | 28 | 1 | 4 | 93 | 171 |

## BASEBALL

### MLB

**Division series**
**(Best-of-5)**
**American League**

**Chicago 3, Boston 0**
Chicago 14, Boston 2
Chicago 5, Boston 4
Chicago 5, Boston 3
**Los Angeles 3, New York 2**
New York 4, Los Angeles 2
Los Angeles 5, New York 3
Los Angeles 11, New York 7
New York 3, Los Angeles 2
Los Angeles 5, New York 3

**National League**

**St. Louis 3, San Diego 0**
St. Louis 8, San Diego 5
St. Louis 6, San Diego 2
St. Louis 7, San Diego 4
**Houston 3, Atlanta 1**
Houston 10, Atlanta 5
Atlanta 7, Houston 1
Houston 7, Atlanta 3
Houston 7, Atlanta 6, 18 innings

**League Championship Series**
**(Best-of-7)**
**American League**

**Tuesday, Oct. 11**
Los Angeles 3, Chicago 2, Los Angeles leads series 1-0
**Wednesday, Oct. 12**
Los Angeles (Washburn 8-8 or Gregg 1-2) at Chicago (Buehrle 16-8)
**Friday's game**
Chicago (Garland 18-10) at Los Angeles, 7:10 p.m.
**Saturday's game**
Chicago (Garcia 14-8) at Los Angeles, 7:15 p.m.
**Sunday's game**
Chicago at Los Angeles, 7:15 p.m., if necessary
**Tuesday's game**
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:20 p.m., if necessary
**Wednesday, Oct. 19**
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:20 p.m., if necessary

**National League**

**Wednesday's game**
Houston (Pettitte 17-9) at St. Louis (Carpenter 21-5)
**Thursday's game**
Houston at St. Louis, 7:19 p.m.
**Saturday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 3:25 p.m.
**Sunday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 3:35 p.m.
**Monday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 7:20 p.m., if necessary
**Wednesday, Oct. 19**
Houston at St. Louis, 3:20 p.m., if necessary
**Thursday, Oct. 20**
Houston at St. Louis, 7:20 p.m., if necessary

**Tuesday's late box**

### ANGELS 3, WHITE SOX 2

| Los Angeles | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Figgins 3b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .333 |
| OCbrera ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| VGrrero dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| GAndrsn lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .250 |
| BMolina c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Erstad 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| JRivera rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| SFinley cf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .333 |
| AKnndy 2b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| **Totals** | **33** | **3** | **7** | **3** | **0** | **4** | |

| Chicago | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Podsednik lf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .333 |
| Iguchi 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Dye rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Konerko 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| CEverett dh | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Ozuna pr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Rowand cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| Pierzynski c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Crede 3b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | .250 |
| Uribe ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| **Totals** | **33** | **2** | **7** | **2** | **1** | **3** | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 012 | 000 | 000 | —3 7 1 |
| Chicago | 001 | 100 | 000 | —2 7 0 |

**E**—Figgins (1). **LOB**—Los Angeles 4, Chicago 6. **HR**—Crede (1), off Byrd; GAnderson (1), off Contreras. **RBIs**—OCabrera (1), VGuerrero (1), GAnderson (1), Pierzynski (1), Crede (1). **SB**—Figgins (1), Erstad (1). **CS**—Podsednik (1), Pierzynski (1). **S**—

| Los Angeles | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Byrd W,1-0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 73 | 3.00 |
| Shields H, 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 0.00 |
| FrRdrigz S,1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0.00 |

| Chicago | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cntrras L,0-1 | 8⅓ | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 102 | 3.24 |
| Cotts | ⅓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0.00 |

Byrd pitched to 1 batter in the 7th.**Inherited runners-scored**—Shields 1-0, Cotts 1-0. **HBP**—by Byrd (Rowand). **T**—2:47. **A**—40,659 (40,615).

## BASKETBALL

### NBA PRESEASON

**Western Conference**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Houston | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Memphis | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| **New Orleans** | **0** | **0** | **.000** | **½** |
| San Antonio | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |
| Portland | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |
| Seattle | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |
| Utah | 0 | 0 | .000 | — |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Phoenix | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Golden State | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Sacramento | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| New York | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Toronto | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Boston | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Orlando | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Charlotte | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Atlanta | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Detroit | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Milwaukee | 0 | 0 | .000 | 1 |
| Chicago | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1½ |
| Indiana | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1½ |

**Tuesday's games**

Orlando 104, Atlanta 93
Detroit 87, Chicago 76
Houston 105, Philadelphia 91
Cleveland 96, Boston 86
New Jersey 105, Indiana 103
Dallas 96, Sacramento 83
L.A. Lakers 101, Golden State 93

**Wednesday's games**

Utah at Toronto
San Antonio vs. Philadelphia at Columbia S.C.
Chicago at Memphis
Milwaukee at Minnesota
Orlando at Houston
Charlotte vs. Atlanta at Birmingham Ala.
Seattle at Portland
Dallas at L.A. Clippers
Golden State vs. L.A. Lakers at Honolulu

**Today's games**

**New Orleans at Denver, 8 p.m.**
Milwaukee at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Washington vs. San Antonio at Salem N.C., 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Charlotte, 6:30 p.m.
Utah at Indiana, 7 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 8 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 18 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 11 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 11 |

**Northeast Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ottawa | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 18 | 9 |
| Montreal | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 12 |
| Buffalo | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 12 |
| Boston | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 14 |
| Toronto | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 16 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 6 |
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| Washington | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 19 |
| Carolina | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 10 |

**Western Conference**

**Central Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 11 |
| Nashville | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 15 |
| Columbus | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| St. Louis | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 17 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edmonton | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 11 |
| Vancouver | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 8 |
| Colorado | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 9 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| Calgary | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 20 |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 9 |
| Anaheim | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 10 |
| Dallas | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 9 |
| San Jose | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 15 |
| Phoenix | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 |

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

**Tuesday's games**

Ottawa 4, Montreal 2
Toronto 4, Philadelphia 2
St. Louis 4, Chicago 1
Dallas 3, Phoenix 2
Los Angeles 3, Edmonton 1

**Wednesday's games**

Montreal at Atlanta
Washington at Carolina
Vancouver at Minnesota
Nashville at Colorado
Columbus at San Jose

**Today's games**

Boston at Florida, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

**Friday's games**

Toronto at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Anaheim, 9:30 p.m.

## TENNIS

### THAILAND OPEN

**Wednesday's results**
**WTA at Rama Gardens Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand**
**Purse: $200,000 (Tier III)**
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

**Singles**
**First Round**
N. Vaidisova (2) d. A. Spears, 7-5, 6-2.
N.Petrova (1) d. N. Llagostera Vives, 6-1, 6-2.
**Second Round**
G. Dulko (3) d. V. Ruano Pascual, 6-2, 6-3.
S. Peer (8) d. S. Perry, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (2).
S. Foretz d. M. Sucha, 7-6 (7), 6-3.
**Doubles**
**First Round**
C. Martinez and V. Ruano Pascual (1) d. N. Grandin and M. Muller, 6-1, 6-1.
C. Chia-jung and R. Fujiwara d. D. and S. Klemenschits, 5-3, retired.
S. Asagoe and G. Dulko (2) d. S. Obata and T. Musgrave, 6-2, 6-3.

### STOCKHOLM OPEN

**Wednesday's results**
**ATP at Kungl. Tennishallen in Stockholm, Sweden**
**Purse: $798,200 (Intl. Series)**
**Surface: Hard-Indoor**

**Singles**
**First Round**
M. Ancic (4) d. K. Beck, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
C. Rochus d. Jose Acasuso, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2.
O. Rochus (5) d. F. Niemeyer, 6-2, 6-4.
A. Waske d. T. Behrend, 7-5, 6-4.
J. Bjorkman d. W. Moodie, 6-4, 6-2.
X. Malisse d. J. Monaco, 7-6 (3), 7-5.
J. Nieminen (7) d. N. Massu, 7-6 (1), 6-2.
**Second Round**
D. Sanguinetti d. George Bastl, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.
T. Johansson (1) d. Vince Spadea, 6-3, 6-4.
**Doubles**
**First Round**
S. Aspelin and T. Perry (3) d. C. and O. Rochus, 5-1, 5-4 (7).
J.Bjorkman and T. Johansson d. S. Huss and W. Moodie (4), 5-3, 5-3.
M. Garcia and S. Prieto d. M. Kohlmann and A. Waske, 5-3, 5-4 (3).
**Second round**
L. Paes and N. Zimonjic (1) d. W. Black and C. Haggard, 5-4 (8), 2-5, 5-2.
**Note:** At selected ATP tournaments, doubles sets are first to five with tiebreaks played at 4-4.

### KREMLIN CUP

**Wednesday's results**
**At Olympic Stadium in Moscow**
**Purse: Men, $1 million (Intl.); Women, $1.3 million (Tier I)**
**Surface: Carpet-Indoor**

**Singles**
**Men**
**First Round**
M. Youzhny (3) d. L. Dlouhy, 6-4, 6-3.
G. Rusedski (5) d. M. Llodra, 6-3, 6-1.
C. Saulnier d. D. Hrbaty (2), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
I. Kunitsyn d. F. Santoro, 6-4, 6-4.
D. Bracciali d. N. Davydenko (1), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.
**Second Round**
N. Kiefer (6) d. F. Mayer, 6-4, 6-3.
M. Mirnyi (4) d. T. Gabashvili, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.
I. Andreev (7) d. A. Clement, 6-2, 6-4.
**Women**
**First Round**
V. Zvonareva d. M. Kirilenko, 6-2, 6-3.
A. Myskina (6) d. M. Maleeva, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.
**Second Round**
M. Pierce (3) d. F. Pennetta, Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
M. Sharapova (1) d A.-Lena Groenefeld, 1-6, 2-4, retired.
E. Likhovtseva, d. P. Schnyder (5), 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.
**Doubles**
**Men**
**First Round**
P. Mukhometov and E. Smirnov d. Artem and Dmitri Sitak, 5-2, 5-3.
D. Hrbaty and J. Levinsky (4) d. G. Muller and D. Tursunov, 5-3, 5-3.
**Note:** At selected ATP tournaments, doubles sets are first to five with tiebreaks played at 4-4.
**Women**
**First Round**
C. Black and R. Stubbs (1) d. I. Benesova and M. Tu, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
V. Douchevina and D. Safina d. E. Dementieva and M. Krajicek, 6-2, 7-5.
M. Koryttseva and G. Voskoboeva d. S. Kuznetsova and A. Molik (3), 6-4, 6-0.
E. Gagliardi and M. Emilia Salerni d. A.-Lena Groenefeld and M. Maleeva, walkover.
K. Peschke and F. Schiavone def. A. Myskina and F. Pennetta, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1.

## GOLF

### PGA

**Money Leaders**
**Through Oct. 9**

| | Trn | Money |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Tiger Woods | 19 | $9,913,024 |
| 2. Vijay Singh | 27 | $7,733,503 |
| 3. Phil Mickelson | 20 | $5,699,605 |
| 4. David Toms | 23 | $3,843,713 |
| 5. Jim Furyk | 24 | $3,664,769 |
| 6. Kenny Perry | 22 | $3,483,655 |
| 7. Chris DiMarco | 22 | $3,432,548 |
| 8. Retief Goosen | 15 | $3,185,275 |
| 9. Sergio Garcia | 19 | $3,089,875 |
| 10. Fred Funk | 27 | $2,668,874 |
| 11. Justin Leonard | 22 | $2,550,491 |
| 12. Padraig Harrington | 13 | $2,390,906 |
| 13. Adam Scott | 17 | $2,358,692 |
| 14. Luke Donald | 17 | $2,336,695 |
| 15. Davis Love III | 21 | $2,211,796 |
| 16. Ben Crane | 18 | $2,183,882 |
| 17. Sean O'Hair | 26 | $2,150,887 |
| 18. Tim Clark | 23 | $2,081,737 |
| 19. Scott Verplank | 22 | $2,048,613 |
| 20. Billy Mayfair | 28 | $2,017,965 |
| 21. Olin Browne | 25 | $1,967,350 |
| 22. Stuart Appleby | 21 | $1,926,132 |
| 23. Bart Bryant | 22 | $1,906,252 |
| 24. Jason Bohn | 26 | $1,877,809 |
| 25. Mark Calcavecchia | 24 | $1,876,510 |
| 26. Peter Lonard | 25 | $1,865,304 |
| 27. Brandt Jobe | 23 | $1,857,971 |
| 28. Ted Purdy | 32 | $1,836,368 |
| 29. Joe Ogilvie | 28 | $1,800,923 |
| 30. Zach Johnson | 28 | $1,796,441 |
| 31. Fred Couples | 20 | $1,784,029 |
| 32. K.J. Choi | 23 | $1,765,374 |
| 33. J. Maria Olazabal | 16 | $1,764,227 |
| 34. Vaughn Taylor | 29 | $1,761,907 |
| 35. Shigeki Maruyama | 26 | $1,743,981 |

### LPGA

**Money Leaders**
**Through Oct. 9**

| | Trn | Money |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Annika Sorenstam | 16 | $1,992,604 |
| 2. Paula Creamer | 21 | $1,332,254 |
| 3. Cristie Kerr | 20 | $1,301,524 |
| 4. Lorena Ochoa | 20 | $1,165,932 |
| 5. Jeong Jang | 22 | $990,821 |
| 6. Natalie Gulbis | 23 | $937,761 |
| 7. Hee-Won Han | 23 | $781,364 |
| 8. Meena Lee | 23 | $761,416 |
| 9. Candie Kung | 21 | $708,417 |
| 10. Gloria Park | 23 | $699,462 |
| 11. Marisa Baena | 17 | $694,371 |
| 12. Catriona Matthew | 22 | $689,134 |
| 13. Birdie Kim | 22 | $672,787 |
| 14. Wendy Ward | 21 | $638,267 |
| 15. Lorie Kane | 22 | $631,931 |
| 16. Heather Bowie | 21 | $618,327 |
| 17. Soo-Yun Kang | 20 | $578,459 |
| 18. Pat Hurst | 21 | $574,417 |
| 19. Rosie Jones | 17 | $572,303 |
| 20. Juli Inkster | 17 | $521,095 |
| 21. Carin Koch | 19 | $469,245 |
| 22. Karrie Webb | 19 | $467,684 |
| 23. Liselotte Neumann | 19 | $459,991 |
| 24. Michele Redman | 21 | $454,167 |
| 25. Mi Hyun Kim | 23 | $441,044 |
| 26. Christina Kim | 26 | $437,943 |
| 27.

The Times-Picayune

# MONEY

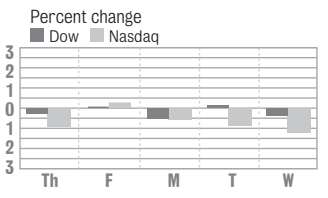
PAGE C-11
Thursday
October 13, 2005

## MARKET TRACKER

**DOW JONES** 36.26 ▼ CLOSE: **10,216.91**

**NASDAQ** 23.62 ▼ CLOSE: **2,037.47**

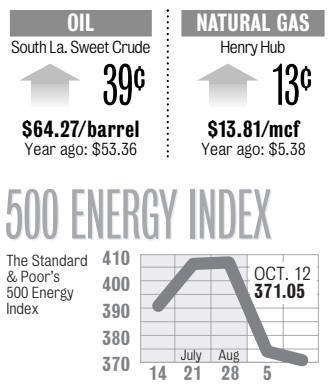
**INDEX TRACKER**




**OIL** — South La. Sweet Crude: 39¢ ▲ **$64.27/barrel** Year ago: $53.36

**NATURAL GAS** — Henry Hub: 13¢ ▲ **$13.81/mcf** Year ago: $5.38

**500 ENERGY INDEX**




## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Post-Katrina retail

Welcome to the new post-Katrina retail market. As retailers in Uptown New Orleans slowly reopen their doors, it's clear that businesses are focusing on providing what their customers need most. At the **Winn-Dixie** on Tchoupitoulas Street, large displays of AM/FM radios, bleach, brooms and other cleaning supplies were grouped near the front of the store. Cases of bottled water were stacked near each checkout station.

### Business center opens

What's being called the first business recovery center in the New Orleans area has opened in Metairie. The office, which helps hurricane-whacked businesses to get back on their feet, will be staffed with representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Louisiana Insurance Commission, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission and small business development centers along with some accountants and others. The center is at 5210 West Esplanade and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is sponsored by JEDCO, Jefferson Parish, the Jefferson Parish Business Council and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

### Tree damage estimated

Forestry experts and leaders in the industry say preliminary estimates of the economic devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina exceed $600 million in timber damage and reduced prices for damaged trees. The Louisiana State University AgCenter estimates that more than 50 percent of the trees in some of the parishes in southeast Louisiana were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They also say that only about 30 percent of those trees will be salvaged. "The hurricane damaged many large valuable trees in southeastern Louisiana," said AgCenter forest products specialist Todd Shupe. "Now, many of these valuable trees will likely sell at pulpwood prices — a fraction of their previous value."

### Storm contracts landed

**Trussco Inc.**, the environmental unit of Carencro-based **Omni Energy Services Corp.**, has been retained by various oil and gas companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico to assist in environmental cleanup resulting from hurricane-related oil spills. Trussco work crews have also completed work on the New Orleans Arena and should begin work on the Superdome over the next few days.

### Oil activity updated

**McMoRan Exploration Co.** said Wednesday that its Long Point exploratory well on Louisiana State Lease 18090, located onshore in Vermilion Parish, has been drilled to 19,000 feet. The Long Point site is one of five prospects McMoRan is actively exploring. The others are JB Mountain Deep at South Marsh Island Block 224; Cane Ridge at Louisiana State Lease 18055; Elizabeth at South Marsh Island Block 230; and Cabin Creek at West Cameron Block 95.

# Storm-struck skyline mending

*Major office towers opening as repairs are completed*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Although it appears the New Orleans area's major office towers were devastated by Hurricane Katrina, several of them are open, and even some heavily damaged buildings are expected to open by mid-November.

For example, the Galleria in Metairie, with hundreds of windows and some of its siding ripped away by the storm's winds, is expected to open Nov. 14, said Mike Campbell, general manager of the **Feil Organization** . Occupancy at the Galleria was 97 percent at the time of the storm, he said, and he "has not heard of one tenant that does not plan to return."

Meanwhile, Place St. Charles on St. Charles Avenue has opened, though tenants are just starting to trickle in, said Mike Siegel of **Corporate Realty**, which manages and leases the building as well as being headquartered there.

**Hibernia National Bank** recently announced plans to move into nine floors of Place St. Charles, one of the largest lease deals in recent years, and Siegel said he didn't think the storm would delay the move.

Also open is Canal Place, despite a fire at the mall during Katrina's aftermath. The office tower was unaffected by it, said Siegel of Corporate Realty, which manages the property.

The World Trade Center at Canal and Poydras streets opened Wednesday.

Joe Rault said the Xerox Center at 2400 Veterans Memorial Blvd. in Kenner had some roof damage and moisture intrusions but is open and tenants are returning.

*See* **OFFICES,** *C-12*



STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

Work to repair Hurricane Katrina damage is under way at the former Amoco Building at 1340 Poydras St. on Wednesday. Sandra Corrigan, senior vice president of Regis Realty, which manages and leases the building, said the property is being secured with plywood. It lost hundreds of windows during the storm.




STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Workers stack archival books on shelves Wednesday at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Abstractors use the books to research the ownership of properties before real estate closings.

# Orleans home closings still stalled after Katrina

*Computer part needed for work to arrive today*

**By Greg Thomas**
Real estate writer

Home sales still cannot be completed in Orleans Parish, despite ongoing efforts by officials to relocate the archive, mortgage and conveyance departments from the flooded basement of the Orleans Parish Civil District Courthouse to the Convention Center.

The demon this time is a missing computer part needed to connect the recorder of mortgages' computers to a main server of the Civil District Court at its temporary location on Worth Street in Gonzales. The part, ordered last week, is expected to arrive today. Employees are planning to work over the weekend and hope to have the computer system up on Monday.

Realtors and others estimate that hundreds of sales are in limbo until the computers are working and the books set up.

*See* **RECORDS,** *C-12*



Sorting through decades of New Orleans notarial archives is a monumental task for clerk Kathleen Vega and other employees of the city's displaced archive, mortgage and conveyance departments.

# New spacecraft not your father's Apollo

*Northrop/Boeing unveil latest model*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — One of the two major competitors to build the next era of American space vehicles unveiled its design model Wednesday, and it looks a lot like NASA's old Apollo spacecraft.

But executives with **Northrop Grumman Corp.** and the **Boeing Co.**, which are putting together a joint proposal to NASA, said that their Crew Exploration Vehicle benefits from significant technological advances not available for the old Apollo program. The new spacecraft is scheduled to take astronauts and payloads to the international space station by 2012 and

*See* **CEV,** *C-12*



NORTHROP GRUMMAN ARTIST RENDERING

The new Crew Exploration Vehicle is scheduled to take astronauts and payloads to the international space station by 2012 and back to the moon by 2018.

# Boats slipping tether of N.O.

*Paddlewheelers will sail in B.R., Memphis*

**By Rebecca Mowbray**
Business writer

The three paddlewheelers of the **Delta Queen Steamboat Co.** will resume carrying passengers on vacations on American waterways in April and May, but they won't be leaving from New Orleans, at least for awhile.

The storied Delta Queen steamboat, National Historic Landmark, will begin operating from Baton Rouge on April 21, and will be joined by the American Queen paddlewheeler in Baton Rouge on May 31. Their sister boat, the Mississippi Queen, will begin operating out of Memphis, Tenn., on April 23, as it normally does in the spring.

But Bruce Nierenberg, president of the New Orleans company, which operates river cruise vacations that appeal to upscale retirees, said the Baton Rouge itineraries don't mean the vessels are gone for good.

"That's strictly just to get the boats back to service," Nierenberg said. "We didn't know what the New Orleans availability would be. We know that they can operate out of Baton Rouge, so we scheduled that first cruise from there."

Since Hurricane Katrina, about 60 people from the company's administration have been working out of the Buffalo, N.Y., headquarters of the Delta Queen's parent company, the **Delaware North Cos. Inc.** In a press release, the company characterized this move as "indefinite."

Another 15 people who work in marine, hotel and technical operations have been working in Memphis, because two of the Delta Queen vessels sail fall voyages in that region. Some 400 to 500 employees continue to work on the boats.

About 50 to 75 people who were not able to move with the company to Buffalo were laid off at the end of last month, Nierenberg said.

The temporary move to Buffalo marks a new chapter for the Delta Queen Steamboat Co., which shut down in bankruptcy in 2001 after its previous owner failed in a bid to expand the company and move it to Florida. Delaware North bought the business at a bankruptcy court auction in 2002 and resuscitated it in New Orleans. In 2000, the threat of losing the iconic Delta Queen, as well as a

*See* **RIVERBOATS,** *C-12*

# Retaining displaced tenants is key concern

**OFFICES,** *from C-11*

Greg Riera, head of leasing for **Jones, Lang, LaSalle Americas Inc.**, said 1555 Poydras St. and 1515 Poydras St. will open today. Both buildings sustained some flooding but little other damage.

The storm has only somewhat slowed the move of Tulane School of Medicine into the nearly 200,000 square feet of space at 1555 Poydras, one of the largest and most significant leases inked earlier this year, Riera said.

The Dominion Tower, on the other hand, may be the slowest building to reopen. It sits next to the Superdome, and debris that flew from the stadium caused significant damage to the property.

Judah Hertz of the **Hertz Investment Group** said Dominion's exterior has been sealed but that repair estimates for the interior are beginning. Hertz would not say when the property would be ready.

Hertz also owns Poydras Center, the Texaco Building and the LL&E Building, all on Poydras Street. Hertz said LL&E, which had roof damage and lost ground-floor windows, "is targeted to open next week." He said the Texaco Building will open the following week and Poydras Center the week after that.

One Lakeway, Two Lakeway and Three Lakeway, the mirrored office properties facing Lake Pontchartrain in Metairie at the foot of the Causeway, sustained much the same kind of damage as most other high-rises in the city. But leasing manager Bruce Sossoman said One Lakeway will open Monday. No exact date for opening Two or Three Lakeway has been firmed up. He said all three buildings would be in full service by Nov. 15. Three Lakeway, the tallest of the three buildings at 34 stories, lost more than 100 windows, the most damage of any of the buildings.

Adding to the good news, Sossoman said occupancy was at 90 percent before Katrina and that since then, many small tenants have signed leases to move in, which will raise its occupancy to 95 percent.

The Pan-American Life Insurance Building on Poydras, from the street, appears intact, but it did sustain some damage to its roof, said its director of corporate marketing, Tom Richert. Though the company has temporarily relocated to Dallas and Baton Rouge, its marketing and sales team will return to Poydras Street at the end of the month.

Technically, the building is open, Richert said, and a plan to phase in other tenants, including the balance of Pan-Am employees, is being discussed now.

The Freeport-McMoRan Building at 1615 Poydras St., which is owned by **Stewart Capital**, also appears unscathed from the street but did take on some moisture. The building is closed, and officials were unavailable for comment late Wednesday.

Representatives of the Energy Centre on Poydras Street, owned by **IPS REIT** of Toronto, could not be reached for comment late Wednesday. Several real estate specialists said the building appears to be in good shape.

At 1250 Poydras St., leasing manager Bill Moody said contractors think repairs could be wrapped up in two weeks. Asked if tenants are planning to return, he said, "It's a mixed bag." He could not give a date when the building would open.

At 1340 Poydras St., formerly the Amoco Building, Sandra Corrigan, senior vice president of Regis Realty, which manages and leases the building, said the property is being secured with plywood. It lost hundreds of windows.

She anticipates that tenants will be allowed to move back within two weeks, although many will have to tolerate plywood over the windows.

•••••••

Greg Thomas can be reached at gthomas@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3399.

# Hundreds of shelves installed in office

**RECORDS,** *from C-11*

Stephen Bruno, New Orleans' custodian of historical records, scrambled to find space for his office and that of Recorder of Mortgages Desiree Charbonnet and Register of Conveyances Gasper Schiro at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in the immediate wake of the storm.

Hundreds of metal and wooden shelves have been installed in the Convention Center-based office, which is located next to the Riverwalk parking lot. Those shelves will hold the books abstractors use to research the ownership of properties before real estate sales can close. This research is used to prove that properties being sold do not have liens or existing mortgages on them.

The mortgage and conveyance offices are somewhat computerized, with mortgage records back to 1987 and conveyance records back to 1985 searchable by computer.

Without the computers, no abstract work can be performed and no deals can go to closing.

**Munters**, a document restoration firm, retrieved the real estate records from the offices and used 17 refrigerated trucks to freeze dry them and transport them to Boston.

Deputy Register of Conveyances Donald Gunaldo said that Munters has said the conveyance books should return Nov. 18 and the conveyance office should be "fully functional by Nov. 24." The three departments opened Monday for intake of documents. These included some purchase agreements and commercial leases, but none involved large transfers or lease transactions.

Negotiations are ongoing to permanently relocate all three offices at 1340 Poydras St., but that office building was seriously damaged by Katrina's high winds, resulting in hundreds of broken windows and water intrusion.

Real estate records in Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Tammany parishes were not damaged in the storms and are open for searches. The St. Bernard records, though not available for searches, are intact.

•••••••

Greg Thomas can be reached at gthomas@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3399.

# Vessels helping in relief operations

**RIVERBOATS,** *from C-11*

proposed merger between **Entergy Corp.** and **Florida Power & Light Co.**, jump-started a move to make New Orleans more business friendly.

But Nierenberg said the move to Buffalo shouldn't signal anything about the company's future. "We don't know. That's why we used the word 'indefinite,' " he said on the phone from Buffalo. "New Orleans is a great place to run a business. The only reason to be here is that we couldn't be there."

Gary LaGrange, president and chief executive of the Port of New Orleans, where the Delta Queen Steamboat Co. rents office space, said he's not overly concerned. "I'm not going to press any panic buttons. We have no reason to believe they won't come back," LaGrange said.

In the meantime, Nierenberg is putting his vessels into service to help with the relief efforts.

The American Queen has been chartered by an energy company to house workers through March. The vessel, which normally travels on inland waterways, sailed into the Gulf of Mexico for the first time and docked at a location along the Gulf Coast that's kept secret because of Department of Homeland Security regulations. To sail the paddlewheeler into the ocean, the vessel was retrofitted to make it more seaworthy, then it hugged the coast in churning to its destination.

Delaware North also is negotiating private and government charters for the Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen from December through March.

"If New Orleans doesn't come back, I don't know how I'm going to come back," Nierenberg said.

•••••••

Rebecca Mowbray can be reached at rmowbray@timespicayune.com or at (504) 826-3417.

# Michoud to work on Lockheed prototype

**CEV,** *from C-11*

back to the moon by 2018.

The Northrop Grumman/Boeing design is of more than passing interest to New Orleans because **Lockheed Martin Corp.**'s Space Systems unit is the other major competitor for the new space vehicles. If it is the winning contractor, Lockheed Space Systems might well do at least a portion of the work, if not the major construction, at the Michoud Assembly Plant in New Orleans. The company already has said it will build much of a prototype of the vehicle at the local plant.

Potential sites for development of the new spacecraft under Northrop Grumman/Boeing could include facilities in California, Houston, central Florida and Huntsville, Ala.

Leonard Nicholson, the Northrop Grumman/Boeing team's deputy program manager, said that though it's too early to project costs, or personnel decisions, he would expect whatever management team wins the final NASA contract to rely on the "expertise" of workers who put together components of the shuttle program. The shuttle system, which has relied on Michoud for external fuel tanks, is being phased out to make way for the new crew exploration vehicles.

Though similar in appearance to the Apollo spacecraft that lifted astronauts to the moon in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the model for the new spacecraft put together by Northrop Grumman/Boeing teams is nothing like "your father's Apollo" in terms of capacity and safety features, according to Doug Young, the program manager.

Though only slightly heavier, the proposed spacecraft will carry up to twice as many astronauts as the three that traveled on Apollo and carry substantially more fuel, allowing for longer space missions. The design, according to Young, incorporates redundant features allowing for the safe return of astronauts even in the case of serious system failures.

The spacecraft, according to NASA specifications, must be designed so that it could be used for both manned and unmanned missions.

Young said the expanded capability is all because of major advances in technology.

"Look back 12 or 15 years at what we carried around for music, like a Sony Walkman; you had 14 songs on a tape, and now we got iPods with hundreds of songs that are a 10th the size," Young said.

Lockheed executives are expected to discuss their design efforts for the new NASA spacecraft in the next several days, according to company spokesmen.

•••••••

Bruce Alpert can be reached at bruce.alpert@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7861.

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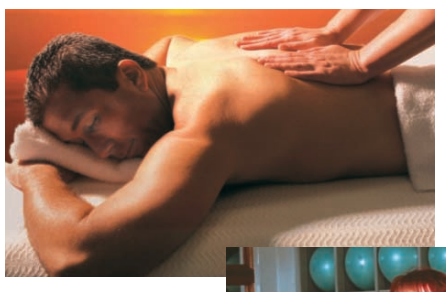
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# The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 169th year No. 266 | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION


# Hope, despair in eastern N.O.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA

Clarence and Karen Edwards rip up flood-damaged property in the living room of their Little Woods home in eastern New Orleans. 'We plan to clean it up and see what happens,' Clarence Edwards said. 'What we can do, we'll do.'

## *Some vow to rebuild, others bid farewell*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

Karen Edwards was prepared to give up her home of 27 years. Before she returned Monday to her house in Little Woods, at the far edge of eastern New Orleans, she resigned herself to the terrible possibility that she might have to let go and live elsewhere.

Her neighbor warned her when she arrived: "You don't want to go in." The one-story, brick-and-wallboard house had been filled with a few feet of floodwater, and the damage was considerable. But after a couple days, Edwards had steeled her resolve to rebuild.

"I'm getting used to it," she said. "Now there is some hope."

Eastern New Orleans, which contains 67 percent of the land in Orleans Parish and about 20 percent of its population, is among the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina. The community was extensively flooded and the ruin of its neighborhoods is so thorough that many residents have nothing left to salvage. But some are eager to repopulate.

"We plan to clean it up and see what happens," Clarence Edwards said. "What we can do, we'll do."

Karen Edwards, who grew up in the Lower 9th Ward and witnessed Hurricane Betsy's havoc as a teen, said she is emotionally attached to her house on Forum Avenue.



Tim Brown, 47, holds a wedding photo he salvaged from his Bullard Avenue home. Residents were not permitted access into eastern New Orleans until Oct. 5.

"This is our house," she said. "It's the only home we've ever owned." She glanced down at her collection of decorative eggs, spilled from their shelves across the floor. Her sons' graduation photos hung on the wall: young men in robes smiling from stages at LSU and McDonogh 35 High School.

The Edwardses, temporarily displaced to Clinton, Md., said they are frustrated by a lack of information from city officials and the slow recovery of the area's infrastructure. Residents were not permitted access into eastern New Orleans until Oct. 5; the area lacks water and

*See* **EAST,** *A-19*

# Hospital deaths to be probed by Foti

## *Reports of euthanasia spark investigation*

**By John Pope**
Staff writer

Based on allegations that Memorial Medical Center doctors considered putting frail patients to death in the first days after Hurricane Katrina, state Attorney General Charles Foti has ordered an investigation of all hospital and nursing home deaths after the storm.

In response to a request from Foti, Orleans Parish Coroner Frank Minyard said he has supervised autopsies of 35 Memorial Medical Center patients at the temporary morgue at St. Gabriel.

The procedures include tests for narcotics such as morphine that could be used to put people to death. The test kits were shipped to a Pennsylvania laboratory for processing, and Minyard said he does not know when the results will arrive.

Kris Wartelle, a Foti spokeswoman, said the investigation is expected to be finished in two weeks.

The bodies of 45 people were removed from the hospital. Of those, 11 people had been in the hospital morgue before the storm, and 34 people, most of them weak patients in a long-

*See* **HOSPITALS,** *A-20*

# Reason for failure could delay floodwall fix

## *Work could extend into '06 storm season*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — If investigators find that design flaws caused the failures of New Orleans canal floodwalls during Hurricane Katrina, fixing the problem could delay the restoration of the levee system to its pre-storm strength, pushing work into the next hurricane season, Army Corps of Engineers chief Carl Strock said Thursday.

"If what we are talking about is putting levees back at the same elevations, putting floodwalls back at the same elevations but perhaps with different foundations, I still think it's conceivably possible" to finish by the June 2006 target date, Strock said.

"If we find that the entire foundation of the 17th Street Canal or London Avenue Canal is suspect, and we have to go and do a massive rebuilding of

*See* **FLOODWALLS,** *A-19*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Red Cross volunteer Beccy Callaghan and Marylyn Hyams, 8, of New Orleans laugh together at the River Center in Baton Rouge, which is scheduled to close today.

# Shelters shutting; next step uncertain

## *Many evacuees still lack permanent homes*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — With 65,000 people leaving emergency shelters in the past two weeks across the country, President Bush is nearing his goal of emptying the barracks-style accommodations by Saturday.

What is less clear, especially in Louisiana, is how many people have been able to get into a permanent home and begin the task of rebuilding their lives after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Statistics from the American Red Cross show that many people are still in temporary housing, with roughly 600,000 hurricane victims living in hotel rooms across the country as of Wednesday, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency picking up the tab.

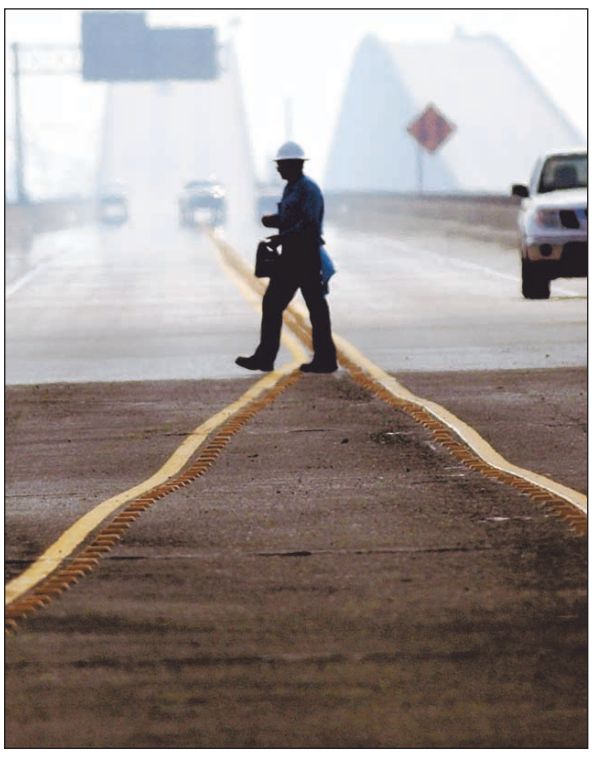
In Baton Rouge, volunteers and operators at the shelters that are remaining open report that about six weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the New Orleans area, they still get daily calls from people looking for places to stay. Some of these evacuees are trying to get back to New Orleans from other states, while others need to move because their shelter is closing.

"I had more calls over the weekend than since the hurricane first started," said Jane Peterson, a volunteer who has been helping run a small shelter at the Antioch Family Church in suburban Baton Rouge.

Even if people do have roofs over their heads, critics of the federal and state housing policies after the storms said that officials need to start focusing on finding better — and in many cases cheaper — solutions.

"Until you have a place to stay, you can't create any sense of rebuilding your lives and of healing," said Jim Kelly, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities in New Orleans.

*See* **SHELTERS,** *A-20*



After final safety checks, the former eastbound bridge between New Orleans and Slidell will open today to two-way traffic about 3 p.m. The speed limit will be 50 mph.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

# Former eastbound twin span opens to 2-way traffic today

## *Other bridge expected to be ready in Jan.*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

Interstate 10 traffic over Lake Pontchartrain resumes today, after construction to restore one of the twin bridges wraps up ahead of schedule.

The former eastbound bridge between New Orleans and Slidell will open to two-way traffic between 3 and 4 p.m. after Boh Brothers Construction crews complete final safety checks and lane markings, said Mark Lambert, spokesman for the state Department of Transportation and Development.

The speed limit will be 50 mph. Westbound vehicles must merge onto the bridge near the lakeshore in Slidell, then cut back over to the westbound interstate lanes when they reach eastern New Orleans.

Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge battered both spans, leaving the westbound bridge in worse shape. The transportation department asked Boh Brothers to restore the less-damaged span to two-way traffic by Oct. 31.

Project supervisor John Horn said crews had to reposition 171 of the eastbound bridge's 433 sections that shifted up to 5 feet but remained atop support pilings. Another 39 sections that

*See* **BRIDGE,** *A-20*


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MOSTLY SUNNY
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# Companies flood Washington with lobbyists

*Many seek role in rebuilding of Gulf Coast*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Hurricane evacuees aren't the only ones looking to the government for assistance these days. A long line of private companies has formed at the door of the U.S. Capitol, some seeking help getting back in business after Katrina and others trying to land contracts to deal with the destruction or to participate in the rebuilding.

The crush has created a boom for Washington lobbyists experienced at getting the ears of key policymakers and navigating the labyrinths of federal agencies.

"We see this after every major disaster or tragedy," said Larry Noble, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. "People are putting forward their wish lists and saying it's all connected to the hurricane. We saw it after 9/11. Everyone was saying then that it was national security."

With Congress busy writing a tax-relief bill designed to boost businesses along the Gulf Coast, companies and lobbyists are jostling for position to get their voices heard.

Capital One Corp. is part of a coalition of banks and investment firms that have long pushed Congress for tax credits to kick-start construction projects in the name of "community development." With New Orleans looking to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the group saw a fresh opportunity to push its cause. To help, Capital One hired the Cypress Group, a Washington lobbying firm that employs Patrick Cave, former aide to Rep. Richard Baker, R-Baton Rouge, a senior member of the House Committee on Financial Services.

Some companies in the storm-battered Gulf states have hired lobbyists just to guide them through unfamiliar Washington terrain.

### A familiar face

Pat Ryan, chief operating officer of Southern Recycling, has been trying to buy some of the scrap metal mixed in with the tons of debris left in wake of the two storms, but he hasn't been able to get the attention of the Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing debris removal. So he hired someone who used to oversee the corps: former Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana.

As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Livingston set the corps budget for years in the 1990s. Now, as a Washington lobbyist, Livingston has an insiders' understanding of how to get the corps' attention.

"Part of the whole problem is knowing who to talk to to get something done," Ryan said. "We were looking for someone to tell our story."

Andrew Leveris, president and CEO of Dow Chemical Co., didn't need a lobbyist to tell his hurricane story to senators. He was invited to testify about his company's post-hurricane concerns last week.

Dow's Louisiana operations weathered the storms. So Leveris used his testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to press for more offshore drilling for natural gas, a cause that gas-powered industrial plants championed long before Katrina and Rita damaged production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

"If prices remain at or near current levels, manufacturers will be driven out of the market, and many may not return," Leveris said.

### Entergy seeks help

At the same hearing, Entergy Corp. Vice President Curtis Hebert predicted dire consequences if Congress didn't help bail out the utility: a doubling of electric rates in New Orleans. Entergy's New Orleans operation filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last month after losing 123,000 customers to the storm and facing more than $1.5 billion in damage.

The company is looking for a financial bailout much like Congress gave to the airline industry after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It would also like to get a slice of the $60 billion Congress gave to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for relief and recovery efforts. But a federal law, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act, prohibits payments to investor-owned companies such as Entergy.

Entergy urged Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and David Vitter, R-La., to include a waiver of the Stafford Act in the hurricane-relief bill they were writing. So did CLECO, a central Louisiana power company that sustained $126 million in damage in the two storms. CLECO hired Adams & Reese, a Washington lobbying firm that employs the wife of Vitter's chief of staff. Entergy spokesman Morgan Stewart said no special connections were necessary to get the senators to include the waiver in their bill. He said the company was invited to submit suggestions.

"We've had a great relationship with them for a long time," Stewart said.

With dozens of hurricane-related bills filed over the past month, some companies have instructed their lobbyists to keep an eye out for those that can help or hurt their businesses.

The Gulf South Pipeline Co. is especially worried about any plans to move or alter the levees in metropolitan New Orleans because it has miles of oil and gas pipelines buried inside. If the pipelines have to be moved, the company would likely look to Congress to help pay the bill.

In the short run, Gulf South is hoping to persuade Congress to help pay for debris removal from its right-of-way property snaking throughout the disaster zone. FEMA is paying to remove debris only from public property — for now.

"The private sector isn't eligible," said Curtis Moffatt, a lobbyist at the firm Van Ness Feldman. "The issue is whether there will be other federal money available."

### Stones for sale

Not all companies with Washington lobbyists are looking for tax breaks or federal financial bailouts. At least one is just looking to unload some rocks.

The Brutz Group, which owns mines in Michigan, hired the Washington lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt & Farber to shop around 250 million tons of jaspilite stone. Michael Levy, a lobbyist at the firm, said the stone is denser than granite and would be terrific for, say, levees. He is keeping close tabs on the Army Corps of Engineers and its building plans in New Orleans.

"He would like sell a big lump of it at very low prices," Levy said. "This is a moment in history where they know there is a huge demand."

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## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

**Month incorrect:** An article in the Money section on Thursday about problems at the register of conveyances and recorder of mortgages offices incorrectly reported the month when conveyance officials believe records will return from Boston, where they are being dried out, making the office totally operational. Those dates are sometime between Oct. 18 and 24.

**Consulate open:** The Panama Consulate in the World Trade Center in New Orleans is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help people and maritime businesses displaced by hurricanes Katrina or Rita, Vice Consul Maria "Pilar" Pitty said. That is contrary to information given by the consulate office in Houston and published in Thursday's East Jefferson Picayune section. The New Orleans contacts are phone (504) 525-3458, (504) 525-3459 or (504) 329-3314, fax (504) 524-8960 or e-mail mariapitty@bellsouth.net or rita@consulateofpanama.com

# FEMA amends guidelines on housing subsidies

*Workers in trailers don't lose eligibility*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Employees can live in government-supplied trailers to be close to their jobs without forfeiting their families' rent subsidies, federal officials said Thursday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it will provide 17-foot travel trailers so displaced workers can live near their jobs and get back to work, a move designed to stimulate the economy of south Louisiana decimated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In a policy shift, FEMA also said workers whose families did not return to the area would still be eligible for the $2,358 housing subsidy available to evacuees.

"If workers and families are in different locations and it's not feasible to commute, we will pay for both," agency spokeswoman Nicol Andrews said. "We will do whatever we can to help people get back to work and back to life."

FEMA had balked at allowing families to get the rent subsidy if they also were getting a trailer from the government, a decision criticized by local businesses desperate to get workers back on the job. Louisiana shipbuilder Donald "Boysie" Bollinger said President Bush told him during a trip to New Orleans on Tuesday that the FEMA policy was "incorrect" and would be fixed.

Under the program, businesses seeking trailers need to apply to the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. The state agency will then prioritize requests and send them to FEMA, which will deliver the trailers. Businesses are responsible for hooking up water, sewer and other utilities.

The program was a big hit before FEMA terminated it two weeks ago out of concern that people unaffected by the hurricanes might be moving into the trailers. Now, employees' FEMA numbers are required with each application.

Pete Chocheles, of the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, said that through September, companies in Jefferson Parish had requested 2,000 trailers from FEMA. About 700 were delivered before the program was put on hold.

After Hurricane Rita in late September, priority was given to oil and gas companies in an effort to get the industry back on its feet quickly.

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# Cleanup crews say firm is refusing to pay up

## *Workers allege OMNI changed time sheets*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

Weeks after completing the first push through the debris-strewn streets of post-Katrina New Orleans, a group of subcontractors has rallied around its claim that a Slidell contractor arbitrarily docked workers' pay and refuses to address their complaints.

The crews said OMNI Pinnacle slashed their time sheets long after they completed the work, despite their own monitors signing off on the recorded hours each day. They also complained that the general contractor withheld a 20 percent retainer in violation of their contract allowing just 10 percent.

Most of all, the subcontractors said they're fuming that their questions have been all but ignored by OMNI Pinnacle, which has staging areas in Algiers and Pearl River.

"They're telling me they ain't got time to deal with it," said Greg Littleton of Virginia, Ill., who received $485,240 after submitting a $785,270 bill for the work his 200-man crew performed for several weeks around the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, among other sites. "They've had ample time. The last day we worked was the day Rita hit. I've had enough."

Brian Reine, managing member of OMNI Pinnacle LLC, posed rhetorical questions when asked to explain why his company cut time sheets to 10 hours a day after the fact, instead of ordering the crews to limit their hours at the beginning.

"Do you know when the sun comes up in the morning?" Reine said. "When do you think it's safe? . . . What time was curfew in the city of New Orleans?"

The week after the storm, the sun rose at about 6:35 a.m. and set at about 7:25 p.m. in New Orleans, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Sally Foreman, Mayor Ray Nagin's spokeswoman, did not respond to an interview request about whether the city restricted cleanup crews to 10 hours a day.

### Company denies wrongdoing

Reine predicted in the days after Katrina struck that his disaster response company stood to make more than $100 million from contracts he had secured beforehand with New Orleans and St. Tammany Parish. This week he deflected questions about the subcontractors' gripes.

"That's all just a bunch of bull," he said. "You bring me some names of people and companies that worked for me that have any kind of problems, and I'll show you any kind of document you want."

When asked by a reporter for a time and place to review the names and documents, Reine hung up the telephone.

As in other disaster cleanups, subcontractors said, they went immediately to work for OMNI on verbal agreements that were put into writing days into the project. Each was assigned to work within a geographical boundary on any given day. They trudged through sludge, occasionally stumbled across bodies and encountered military officials who commandeered their equipment.

**"My crew was subject to disease, dead bodies and not getting paid, living in tents, dodging mosquitoes and eating MREs. We were subject to all of this. We agreed to go into it, and we done it. But we should get paid for it."**
TODD LEGER, Sunrise Lawn Care

### Hours allegedly crossed out

Robert Wendt, project manager for ADS Timber of Baton Rouge, said his struggle represents the typical case of a crew that worked for days in dangerous conditions on the promise of good pay.

On Sept. 14, for instance, he and seven workers submitted their hours as 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. But when he received a smaller payment, the 11 hours on the time sheets were crossed out and replaced with 10 hours.

Before Wendt received the smaller-than-expected check, an OMNI representative said he had to sign a waiver that declared the check was "payment in full" or he would receive nothing.

"The quote was, 'You can't get a check until these are properly filled out,' " Wendt said.

Weeks later, Wendt is still trying to claim subsequent checks that OMNI secretaries have told him were ready only to tell him otherwise after he had set out on the 180-mile round trip to Behrman Park in Algiers.

"You call up and your checks are ready, then you go all the way down there and you get the run-around," Wendt said. "I don't actually have a count of how many times we were lied to."

### 'We should get paid for it'

Todd Leger, who worked for OMNI under his Evangeline Parish lawn care business, Sunrise Lawn Care, said he dedicated himself to the project, thinking he would come close to paying off his house after weeks of hard labor. But after all the work, he said, he's still in the hole and the resulting tension is threatening to shatter his marriage.

"My crew was subject to disease, dead bodies and not getting paid, living in tents, dodging mosquitoes and eating MREs," Leger said. "We were subject to all of this.

"We agreed to go into it, and we done it. But we should get paid for it."

Leger said the only response he has received from Reine is that he bears the burden of proving that he worked the 12 hours he originally claimed, not the 10 hours now reflected on his altered time sheets.

But fellow subcontractor Bert Ward said the scales are tipped in OMNI's favor, because there's no shortage of work crews from around the country who want a piece of the massive ongoing cleanup project.

"One can drop out, and four are in your place," said Ward, who lives in Citronelle, Ala. "That's why the bigs can get away with this."

Ward enlisted Baton Rouge lawyer Roth Walsh to review his complaints with OMNI along with those from five or six other subcontractors. Walsh said Thursday that their only recourse may be to file a lawsuit.

"It looks like OMNI is not living up to their end of the bargain," he said after reviewing Ward's contract. "And if this turns out to be true, we will pursue any and all means necessary to see that they collect any money owed to them."

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# City may hire extra workers for absentee ballots

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — If tens of thousands of voters who evacuated New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina are still away from their homes early next year, the city may have to hire extra workers to deal with absentee ballot applications for Feb. 4 elections, officials said Thursday.

Secretary of State Al Ater said almost 300,000 registered New Orleans voters left the city after Hurricane Katrina.

"We don't have enough personnel now," he said. "We have employees scattered in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi."

The comments came as a task force assembled by Ater started looking at possible ways to reach New Orleans voters who have been displaced and want to cast ballots in the February municipal primary.

Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R-New Orleans, said that besides having more personnel to handle an expected avalanche of absentee ballots, Orleans Parish Voter Registrar Louis Keller will need a larger office on a temporary basis.

Ater said he is talking to the Federal Emergency Management Agency about supplying temporary buildings and 200 to 500 generators to power voting machines if full power is not restored in New Orleans by the election.

Ater said that if new workers are needed they must be hired soon and trained. Ater has asked Gov. Kathleen Blanco to include on the agenda of a Nov. 6-18 special session the authority to conduct elections among large numbers of voters who have been displaced by the hurricanes and send them notifications about their rights under state law, rights they could lose by registering to vote in another parish or county out of state.

Ater has indicated he would like to cross-check his list of registered voters with lists from FEMA or the American Red Cross to get current addresses of voters and inform them of their rights.

But Sen. Chris Ullo, D-Marrero, warned that if some groups or individuals get letters and others do not, Ater could be held liable and the election results could be challenged in court and voided.

Ater said his plan is to run newspaper, radio and television ads in the markets where New Orleans voters are, outlining how to obtain absentee ballots and telling them that they would forfeit their right to vote if they reregister in another parish or state.

State Rep. Charles Lancaster, R-Metairie, chairman of the House committee that oversees Ater's office, said the task force should work on consensus legislation to reach voters displaced from New Orleans and other areas by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita "without doing something negative to our election system. I want to make sure we do elections and we do them right."

Bruneau said no one should lose the right to vote, but warned Ater the state needs to be very careful.

Bruneau said he does not see the need for broad, sweeping powers to be vested in the hands of the secretary of state or two legislative committees that would have to approve whatever emergency plan the office devises.

"This is a book we are writing for the first time," he said.

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# Not everyone's laughing at Vitter's hurricane humor

## *Senator draws fire for 'partisan' jabs at Blanco*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Days after Louisiana officials pledged to work together to help get federal aid to repair damage from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Sen. David Vitter, R-La., rekindled the partisan firefight by offering a caustic evaluation of the state's response to the disasters.

Speaking Wednesday to the Lafayette Parish Republican Executive Committee, Vitter responded to a question about Democratic Gov. Kathleen Blanco's performance during the storms by saying he would be willing to sign a recall petition. Vitter also responded to praise for his own post-hurricane performance by saying, "It's easy to look like a giant in a land of pygmies."

Vitter said his remarks, reported Thursday in the Baton Rouge Advocate, were meant as a joke and that he would not apologize to Blanco. "It was an off-the-cuff joke, and I think that was recognized by everyone there," Vitter said. "The response was a lot of laughter, and I think it was taken as such."

But the comments were the latest sign of deep political differences at a time most officials are calling for unity. Vitter and Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu had clashed earlier over details of a federal loan program for local governments in need of cash to pay essential employees.

"There are no winners in the game they're playing," said Elliott Stonecipher, a political analyst and demographer in Shreveport.

Although Stonecipher predicts that Blanco will experience the biggest fallout from the feud, since she is up for re-election in 2007 while Vitter's seat is safe until 2010, he said the infighting is likely to hurt the whole state as Louisiana asks Congress for more aid in the weeks ahead. "The place for him to make a difference is in being much more statesmanlike, much less partisan," Stonecipher said.

Blanco's office declined to respond to Vitter's comments. But her administration continued to complain about the $750 billion loan program that Vitter steered through Congress last week.

In a conference call with reporters, Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc said the program is proving cumbersome and that it leaves local governments in an awkward position because they have to start repaying the loans almost immediately. In previous disasters, Congress has allowed the president to forgive loans if the local governments could not repay.

"We're waiting for the feds to tell us how this is workable," LeBlanc said. "They themselves are having trouble in trying to execute the provisions of this loan program."

Stonecipher said Vitter's comments about Blanco reinforced the reputation he earned years ago as politician with a propensity to ruffle feathers.

"This is the Vitter that we knew so well before his ambitions were maybe a little bit more clear," Stonecipher said. "These kinds of quotes are the kinds of things that David Vitter is likely to say, and whether he turns them into a joke or not they are illustrative of what he feels."

As a guest on a Baton Rouge radio show Tuesday, Vitter criticized Blanco's handling of the Katrina aftermath and Landrieu's role in the Senate debate on the loan package.

He said Blanco should have called a special session of the state Legislature two weeks ago to deal with problems from the hurricane instead of planning a session for November. He also criticized Landrieu for delaying a vote on the loan package.

"I can tell you, in the Congress, where it matters, it is not helping, it's hurting," Vitter said of Landrieu's questions about the program.

A spokesman for Landrieu said she was trying to warn senators about the possible snags the legislation would likely present to local authorities trying to obtain the money.

"I believe Sen. Landrieu realized these hurdles beforehand, which is why she tried to work with the Republican leadership to help them understand the nuances of Louisiana local governments," said Brian Richardson with Landrieu's office. "But unfortunately what she had to say fell on deaf ears."

Pollster Bernie Pinsonat of Southern Media and Opinion Research said Vitter is being forced to walk a fine line between trying to get the state as much help as possible while maintaining support among conservatives who fear that the state will waste any money it is given. He said Vitter's comments in Lafayette were a bid to reconnect with a conservative base that was rattled by the senator's support of a $250 billion proposal to rebuild New Orleans that has been roundly criticized as excessive.

Vitter joined Landrieu in proposing the package, which has drawn fire from all corners, conservatives and liberals alike.

"He was burned politically by having his name attached to that," Pinsonat said. "Now he's trying to show that he's a Republican fiscal conservative and he's not part of the tax-and-spend crowd. On the other hand, there's the local government crowd that's desperate, . . . and they don't feel the loan program is much help."

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# Dillard has plans to offer classes starting in January

## *University to use Elmwood location*

**By Coleman Warner**
Staff writer

Dillard University will offer classes at a Tulane University center in the Elmwood business park and possibly in a Tulane office building in downtown New Orleans in January as the historically black institution recovers from massive Hurricane Katrina damage, a Tulane executive said late Thursday.

The classes, to be taught by Dillard professors, will be the largest off-campus operation for Dillard or Xavier universities during the spring semester, Tulane Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Lester Lefton said.

The downtown Tulane building that could house Dillard classes is at 1555 Poydras St.

Dillard and Xavier students can attend Tulane or Loyola University classes on a space-available basis in the spring. How many can do so hasn't been determined.

They will hold a visiting-student status that will allow for credits to be transferred easily to their home institution, and they won't pay tuition in addition to what they already have paid to Tulane or Xavier, said Lefton, who is serving as facilitator for a working group of executives from Tulane, Loyola, Xavier and Dillard.

Lefton spoke at the end of a daylong planning meeting at a Tulane office in Houston that included 23 officials from the four New Orleans institutions.

"This is a work in progress," said Lefton, who also is Tulane's provost. "This is our first meeting. We broke into task forces to address a wide range of issues."

Xavier and Dillard were hit with extensive flooding, with Dillard believed to have had far worse damage because of a number of low-elevation buildings on the Gentilly campus. Tulane sustained extensive damage from flooding, but it primarily faced only wind damage on the river side of Freret Street. Loyola had little damage.

Xavier tentatively plans to reopen its campus near South Carrollton Avenue in January.

Services to Dillard and Xavier students will offered by Tulane and Loyola at no additional charge, as the four institutions help one another maintain a sense of identity in the coming year, campus officials said in a news release this week.

"The New Orleans area universities are a vital part of the state's economy and higher education community," said Loyola's president, the Rev. Kevin Wildes. "It's imperative that we are all able to resume operations and welcome back our students in January 2006."

The University of New Orleans launched regular classes this week, although at a fraction of the scale of its normal operations, at its Jefferson Parish branch on Causeway Boulevard in Metairie. UNO's top administrators, who have been temporarily working out of the Louisiana State University system offices at the LSU campus in Baton Rouge, are setting up new offices at the Jefferson center as repairs are done on UNO's Lakefront campus. The main UNO campus was partially covered by floodwaters after Katrina.

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# Council seeks to keep daylight a while longer

## *Keep clocks ahead to work, city pleads*

**By Bruce Eggler**
Staff writer

If the New Orleans City Council has its way, daylight-saving time will be extended in the city past its normal end Oct. 30 to give homeowners and others an extra hour of evening daylight to work on their hurricane-damaged property.

The council Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution, introduced by Councilman Jay Batt, asking Gov. Kathleen Blanco to issue an executive order extending daylight-saving time in Orleans Parish "until further notice."

Otherwise, the resolution says, the workday would in effect be reduced by one hour starting Oct. 30.

The resolution was one of a flock of hurricane-related measures the council dealt with this week. Other measures concerned issues such as banning the burning of debris in Orleans Parish, urging Blanco and the Legislature to suspend the collection of sales tax on construction-related materials, and creating a citizen committee to advise the council on hurricane recovery.

### Other matters

By the other measures, all approved by unanimous votes, the council:

▶ Banned the burning of debris in the parish because of fears that such fires would get out of control and would release dangerous pollutants into the air. The ban will be in effect for as much as one year but will be reviewed within 120 days to decide whether it can be ended.

▶ Urged Blanco to suspend the collection of sales tax on construction materials in Orleans Parish until the Legislature can meet to consider a longer-term exemption, which the council requested remain in effect for at least one year. The council also authorized the city to stop collecting city sales tax on such items.

▶ Authorized creation of an 11-member Advisory Committee on Hurricane Recovery to advise the council on ways to "facilitate the city's post-hurricane recovery efforts." Council members view the panel as a rival to the 17-member group of community leaders Mayor Ray Nagin has created to recommend ways to rebuild the city. Only one council member, Oliver Thomas, sits on Nagin's group.

Each council member would have a representative on the 11-member group, with the other four members appointed by the state's two U.S. senators and the city's two U.S. representatives. The group is supposed to hold its first meeting within two weeks.

### Hire local residents

▶ Urged "all employers, both public and private, to give first preference in hiring and job training to the returning survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita" and supported the right of all displaced New Orleans residents to return to their homes and "participate in the rebuilding of their communities."

▶ Urged the Coast Guard, the state and the Port of New Orleans "to order that motor vessels and barges be removed from inland waterways" 72 hours before the anticipated arrival of a hurricane. The measure was prompted by reports that pounding by a runaway barge helped break the Industrial Canal levee, flooding the Lower 9th Ward.

▶ Asked the Nagin administration to direct the public to "place storm and flood debris a distance away from cable communications boxes, fire hydrants and regular household garbage" and urged contractors to "use the utmost care and caution to avoid damage to cable or other utility connections and fire hydrants" while removing debris.

▶ Asked the Aviation Board to consider modifying the leases of vendors at Louis Armstrong International Airport whose business has been drastically reduced since Katrina.

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# Trailers planned near airport on site where houses were razed

## *Kenner, Armstrong singing same tune*

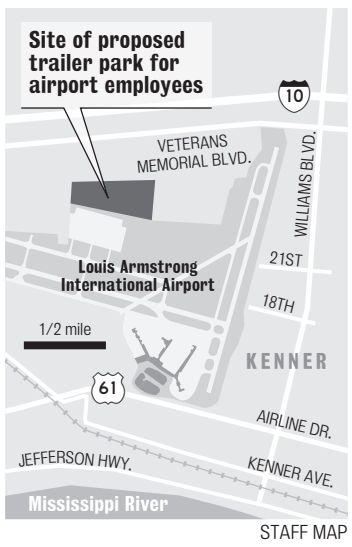
**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

A decade ago, Louis Armstrong International Airport bought out hundreds of homeowners who had alleged in a lawsuit that airport noise harmed their health. The houses were razed, and as part of the deal the land was ruled off limits for residential use.

But with housing space at a premium in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Kenner officials are eyeing some of the still-vacant buyout property as a spot for temporary housing for essential workers.

"This is an emergency situation," said Phil Ramon, chief of staff in Mayor Phil Capitano's administration. "We're looking for housing for our employees, FEMA workers and police officers who need a place to live."

Katrina's flooding created a severe housing shortage in the New Orleans area. Many residents have lost their homes, and thousands of government workers and contractors are in town trying to find temporary quarters.



STAFF MAP

The area that Kenner officials are considering is between the intersection of 20th Street and Connecticut Avenue and the airport fence line.

The Federal Aviation Administration paid for the $60 million buyout, and Armstrong's aviation director, Roy Williams, said FAA approval is needed before the property may be used for housing. But he doesn't expect any difficulty in getting it.

"For one thing, it's a short-term situation. And because our traffic is so far below normal, you're not going to have the exposure to noise that you would have had before," he said.

Armstrong's air traffic is down from a pre-Katrina average of 174 flights per day to 25 per day, although airport officials say they expect growth in the next few months.

The airport is planning its own trailer park just east of the facilities of the two companies that service private and corporate aircraft. The New Orleans Aviation Board approved the construction of a site for as many as 350 trailers for its employees and their families, and those of the Transportation Security Administration, which screens baggage.

Ramon said Kenner will let the airport speed construction of the park, provided all the water, sewer and electrical hookups are done by certified plumbers and electricians.

"This is one area where we're working together," Ramon said. "We told them to keep us informed and that we'll worry about the permit later."

Ramon added that Kenner officials got the idea for the location of the city trailer park when the airport considered using the 20th Street area for its project.

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Matt Scallan can be reached at mscallan@timespicayune.com or (504) 467-1746.

# Dispute over runway lands in Jefferson Parish

## *Ruling came days before Katrina hit*

**By Matt Scallan**
Kenner bureau

The reconstruction of the east-west runway at Louis Armstrong International Airport was finished two days before Hurricane Katrina hit, but the courtroom fight over whether the airport needed Kenner's approval for the project continues.

The state 4th Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans has ruled that the dispute should be heard in the 24th District Court in Jefferson Parish, rather than in Orleans Civil District Court. The ruling was released Aug. 26, three days before Hurricane Katrina struck, but because of the storm's chaotic aftermath, airport officials said they were unaware of the decision until this week.

The New Orleans-owned airport filed suit in Orleans court after Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano threatened to shut down the construction project unless the airport obtained a Kenner building permit. The work proceeded while the suit was pending, and Kenner sought to move the suit to Jefferson's court.

In the suit, the airport argued that it was simply maintaining the existing runway and didn't need a city permit, under a 1994 agreement between Kenner and the airport. Kenner argued that because the rebuilt runway would be wider than the existing one, the airport needed city approval.

The appeals court's 3-2 decision reverses a ruling by Orleans Judge Ethel Simms Julien that the case should be heard in New Orleans. Judges David Gorbaty, Michael Kirby and Edwin Lombard were in the majority. Judges Joan Armstrong and James McKay III were in the minority.

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# Man booked with posing as evacuee

**By The Associated Press**

BARBERTON, OHIO — A man who police say conned relief workers into thinking he was a Hurricane Katrina evacuee has been charged with felony theft by deception.

Frank Edwards Jr., 32, of Barberton allegedly used a Mississippi identification card to get $574 intended for food, clothing and shelter from the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

He also called the Federal Emergency Management Agency's toll-free number to get another $2,000, police said.

Edwards had a valid Mississippi ID because he lived there for a short time in 2004, authorities said. But an anonymous caller tipped off the Red Cross to the alleged scam.

Edwards was being held in the Summit County jail in lieu of $10,000 bond.


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**"The administration is trying to pretend they didn't know this work was going on."**
MARK MORGAN, Jefferson Parish School Board member

# School Board member accused of illegal deal

*But Morgan says repair contract was authorized*

By Rob Nelson and Mark Waller
Staff writers

An unexpected political bombshell exploded at the Jefferson Parish School Board meeting Thursday as members accused their colleague Mark Morgan of illegally authorizing a contract reportedly worth more than $5 million to repair three West Bank schools severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina without approval from the board or school system.

In addition, board member Gene Katsanis, suggesting Morgan's actions could be criminal, is pushing for a full-fledged investigation, calling for a board committee to refer the case to the Jefferson Parish district attorney's office, the U.S. attorney's office and the state Board of Ethics.

Meanwhile, Morgan defended his actions, saying he had received legal clearance from a board attorney and that the administration was aware of the work occurring at West Jefferson High School, Homedale Elementary School and the Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, a magnet school slated to open next fall.

Morgan, often a political outcast since joining the board last year, blamed the controversy on lingering bad blood between him and other board members.

## Work at 3 schools

Board members Libby Moran, Martin Marino and Katsanis took aim at Morgan, with Katsanis saying he and Marino toured the three schools Tuesday and discovered work in progress that had not been approved.

"Mr. Marino and I walked onto that campus, we saw four people sweeping the steps, with brooms sweeping the steps, and the steps were no more than 8 foot wide," Katsanis said of the work at Thomas Jefferson. "Every wall in that building was gutted. Every tile was sitting in a plastic bag."

Katsanis said 43 people were working at Thomas Jefferson. Doing such extensive work, beyond basic storm remediation, during emergency times, Katsanis said, is particularly inappropriate at a school not scheduled to begin taking students until next year, while other schools have more urgent needs.

"You do not exceed your authority or go beyond the limits of the law," Katsanis said, referring to Morgan. Marino said Morgan's actions are "basically almost malfeasance."

Morgan said he evacuated to Memphis, Tenn., and returned to Gretna on Sept. 2. The next day, Morgan said, he began touring schools and took note of the extreme damage at the three schools in his district.

He said he grew frustrated that Superintendent Diane Roussel's administration was failing to respond to the needs of schools in his district. He said he personally paid for tarpaulins to cover roofs.

"At this point I became highly critical of the administration and their efforts to repair my schools," Morgan said. "Day after day of good weather went by and nothing was done in my district."

## Board attorney consulted

After Thursday's meeting, Roussel said members of her administration entered the parish to begin recovery as soon as it was possible.

"We came in as quickly as we were allowed to come in, even with passes," on the first days after the storm, she said. "Most of us could not even get to our houses."

Days later, Morgan said, he met with parish officials and asked what companies they were using for repairs and cleanup. He was referred to Certified Cleaning and Restoration in Metairie, Morgan said, adding that the company handled repairs at Jefferson Parish's Elmwood government center, the Joseph S. Yenni Building.

Morgan said board attorney Olden Toups told him that a board member would have the authority in emergency situations to sign a contract for school repairs. On Sept. 10, Morgan signed an "emergency work authorization" with the restoration company to allow repairs relating to water damage, debris removal and carpet removal, among other items.

Morgan said he never discussed a price with the company and directed the business to consult with the administration before proceeding with the work. Below his signature on the contract, Morgan wrote, "follow up by Dr. Roussel," referring to the superintendent. The contract does not detail a price or list the three schools.

Roussel said at Thursday's meeting that she met with officials from the company at a Sept. 14 School Board meeting in Baton Rouge.

"I informed those gentlemen that Mr. Morgan had no authority to contract business with them," Roussel said. She said she then told them to stop the work immediately and to contact the school system's assistant superintendent for facilities, David Taylor, to follow proper channels in securing any other work. After that, she said, the company did secure other work in the school system through Taylor.

"Not to disparage his concern or his work or anything else," Roussel said of Morgan, "but my word is my bond. I am a person of my word, and I know what happened."

## Stoppage ordered

Work on the three schools began Sept. 11, the day after the emergency authorization was signed, Morgan said. After the board meeting three days later, according to the company, Morgan said, Roussel directed them to the system's facilities department and gave the green light for the work to proceed.

On Thursday Roussel told the board, "I have never seen a contract until Mr. Grant showed it to me yesterday," referring to board attorney Jack Grant.

"The administration is trying to pretend they didn't know this work was going on," Morgan said after the board meeting. Roussel ordered a work stoppage at the three schools Tuesday.

Officials with Certified Cleaning and Restoration could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Addressing the board on whether a member can individually enter into contracts, Grant said, "The resounding answer is no."

Grant said Toups' advice allowing Morgan to contract with workers in an emergency was limited to putting tarps on roofs.

"I don't want you to think that absolves anybody," Grant said of the legal advice.

Roussel said the price tag at all three schools is about $5.3 million, more than the system has spent on storm remediation at all other schools combined. "People just can't be spending public dollars without any authorization," she said.

Morgan said the company told him it has not sent an invoice. Board attorney Grant said no documentation of the exact costs exists.

# Storm recovery workers raise Gulfport crime stats

*Drug, traffic arrests up in Miss. county*

By The Associated Press

GULFPORT, MISS. — Public safety trends post-Katrina show an increase in traffic violations, illegal drugs and property crimes. And, according to authorities, crimes by out-of-state residents who are here to help with hurricane recovery.

Now that law enforcement agencies have switched from rescue efforts to recovery, they report a steady increase in traffic violations, traffic accidents and crashes caused by drivers without insurance.

They also report that traffic stops, in many cases, lead to drug arrests, which have tripled in Harrison County's unincorporated areas, according to Sheriff George Payne. Patrol officers and investigators countywide also report an increase in property crimes.

"It's requiring extra manpower every shift," said Payne, whose deputies, along with local police agencies, have help from 155 out-of-state officers. After the hurricane, an estimated 700 visiting officers came to help.

An increase in arrests of out-of-state visitors, however, is not surprising, Payne said.

"If you study other areas that have been through a disaster on a smaller scale, they've had the same trend. When you have thousands of out-of-state workers coming in, you're going to see an increase in the opportunity kind of crimes from people who don't live here."

Take Tuesday, for instance. At least seven of the 26 people jailed in Harrison County on felony charges are from out of state.

A man arrested in Gulfport was listed as a fugitive on a cocaine distribution charge from Wayne County, Ind. Two others were wanted for auto theft from Scott City, Md.

Most arrests of out-of-state residents involve people who have come to work or serve as volunteers, said Sheriff's Capt. Tony Sauro, who coordinates visiting officers' work from a command center in Gulfport.

"A lot of those we're arresting are relief workers or construction personnel, people from every imaginable agency," Sauro said. "A lot of them are driving with a suspended license and no insurance. Wouldn't it be a shame to be victimized all over again by somebody that came here to help?"

Officers overlooked tagless vehicles and numerous traffic violations just after the hurricane, he said, "but that's changing. We've got to hold people responsible. We'd rather do it before they hurt or kill someone."

Visiting officers also help local patrol officers keep an eye out for criminal activity, said Long Beach Deputy Police Chief Wayne McDowell.

On Tuesday, officers in Long Beach arrested four construction workers from Texas. They were charged with trespassing and possession of stolen property.

They're accused of picking up tools including a bench grinder, a chain saw, floor jacks, wrenches and screwdrivers.


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# Relief workers worried about donation fatigue

## *So many disasters tend to numb givers*

**By Greg Barrett**
The Baltimore Sun

First there was Hurricane Katrina. Then Hurricane Rita. Then Hurricane Stan and the subsequent mudslides that spawned more death, destruction and homelessness this month in Central America.

Then, last weekend, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake in South Asia killed more than 35,000 people and left more than 2 million homeless.

By all accounts, relief organizers cannot recall being hit by such a succession of large-scale natural disasters, dating back 10 months to the Southeast Asia tsunami. It is, they fear, enough to spread the charity thin and play havoc with nonprofit budgets.

As the nation's robust philanthropic community approaches the annual giving season — traditionally between the end of October and the first of the year — officials of charities large and small say they worry about "disaster fatigue" and what some nonprofit analysts call "the CNN effect."

"The urgency of the news motivates people initially to give ... but then that wanes," said Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy, a charity watchdog group based in Chicago. "There is a saturation point where people don't want to think about disasters any longer, and they will just tune them out."

Even before Saturday's earthquake in Pakistan, donations to the American Red Cross Katrina fund had slowed, from $409.1 million in the first week to $200.5 million the second week and $94.1 million last week. Tuesday, officials there said it was too early to tell what effect the earthquake might have on the fund.



AP PHOTO

Guatemalans protect bags of food dropped off Wednesday by U.S. soldiers in a helicopter near Guatemala City. 'This is unprecedented. We haven't seen this many large-scale emergencies all at once,' said Sean Callahan of Catholic Relief Services, which is responding with aid to Pakistan, India, Guatemala, El Salvador and southern Mexico.

"The local chapters are nervous, and the fund-raisers are anxious about what will happen," said Lauri Rhinehart, a 14-year veteran of the Red Cross and its director of disaster fund raising. "In my time here, I've never seen the activity at this organization at this frenzied of a pace across the board."

To date, the Red Cross effort to raise more than $2 billion for Katrina relief is about $900 million short. It has spent $400 million more than it has raised. Last month, it took out a loan for $150 million, she said.

"We're going to go back and look at our fund-raising strategy ... but we are not waiting to raise it before we spend it," Rhinehart said. "We will pull the money from somewhere."

As if looking for reassurance, Red Cross officials recently reviewed the giving trends of Americans after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. They were encouraged by the longevity of the giving, but only as it could be applied to a single emergency and a snapshot in time.

"This is unprecedented. We haven't seen this many large-scale emergencies all at once," said Sean Callahan of the Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services, which is responding with aid to Pakistan, India, Guatemala, El Salvador and southern Mexico, and is also providing relief in the conflict-torn Darfur region of western Sudan, where an estimated 2.4 million are homeless.

"It's just one thing after another overseas and, in addition, the U.S. gets hit with its worst-ever (natural) disaster," said Callahan, who is headed to Pakistan today. "Not only are people pulled to help their brethren overseas, but they also are trying to help the people down South."

According to research conducted by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University and published by the Giving USA Foundation, the nation's generosity swells after disasters and overall charity is on solid footing. Nearly $3 billion was given in response to the Sept. 11 attacks; last year, a record $248.5 billion was given to the nation's nonprofit organizations, including religious groups.

"People raised these same sorts of issues after 9/11 and after the tsunami: Will it pull away the giving to other philanthropic sources and causes and disasters?" said Bob Ottenhoff, president of GuideStar.org, a database of financial and program information collected on the nation's 1.5 million nonprofits. "In those cases it did not. People not only responded generously to the requests around those two causes, but they continued to give to their traditional causes."

Catholic Charities USA has collected $53 million for Katrina victims, the most it has generated for a single disaster and about $21 million more than it collected after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

But this week, its officials brainstormed about ways to jump-start a campaign that has lost strength. They discussed returning to donors who have already contributed to its hurricane relief fund and asking them to give again, this time with the long-term needs in mind, said John Keightley, the senior vice president for planning and external relations.

The nonprofit also considered using specific relief objectives — such as housing for a defined period for a particular group of homeless — and trying to "sell it as a packaged program" to corporations, Keightley said.

"It can be more of a plan now than a response," he said. "You recognize that this is part of a broader context (of global disasters), but you can't get beaten down by it or too afraid of it."

Right now, the Red Cross is pulling from its general disaster relief fund to aid wildfire victims in California and flood victims in Kentucky.

"Our mission isn't just the highly visible disasters," Keightley said. "Though it's that too."

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# Award trimmed in DA bias case

## *But $2.5 million still owed over firings*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

A federal judge has modestly reduced the original $2.8 million verdict that a jury awarded to the 43 employees fired by Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan after he took office in 2003.

U.S. District Court Judge Stanwood Duval eliminated monetary awards given to seven of the plaintiffs who the jury found would have probably lost their jobs during any transition at the office, no matter who assumed the district attorney post, reducing the verdict from $2.8 million to $2.48 million.

The amended verdict includes neither the attorney's fees for the winning plaintiffs' lawyers nor the interest that federal law allows.

With interest, which starts ticking on the day the lawsuit was filed in May 2003, the new judgment would cost about $2.7 million if paid today.

A magistrate judge has yet to rule on attorney's fees, but the plaintiff's lawyers have asked for more than $1.4 million to pay for their work on the lengthy case.

Jordan, the city's first black district attorney, wrongly used race as a factor in firing dozens of white employees after taking office, a jury found in March after a trial. Jordan was sued as a public official.

As a first step toward building his staff, Jordan fired 53 of 77 white workers who were not lawyers — investigators, clerks and child-support enforcement workers — and replaced almost all of them with black employees.

The ten jurors, eight white and two black, gave the fired workers $1.9 million in lost wages and damages, including the seven administrative workers who had served Harry Connick and who they said would have likely been replaced by his successor.

Duval later ordered Jordan to pay front pay, or "future lost wages," to 39 former employees who asked for it, inflating the judgment to $2.8 million. Four of the plaintiffs conceded they had no front pay claim because they most certainly would have been replaced by a new district attorney.

The amended judgment is a modest win for Jordan, who is appealing the entire verdict and asked Duval to reduce the jury's original award.

Duval amended the verdict Sept. 30, taking away various money awards from Helen Draughon, Trudy Guerrera, Linda Hellmer, Frank Lippert, Cathy Orgeron, Katherine Theriot and George Vogt III.

Hellmer lost the most of the lot, having been given $141,538 in back pay and benefits and front pay and benefits from the jury. Orgeron had won the smallest amount of the seven, $3,485 in back pay.

Clement Donelon, the plaintiffs' lead attorney, said he was disappointed by the judge's decision but not surprised.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

## CLEAN SWEEP

New Orleans resident Linda Ireland, donated cleaning supplies in hand, is thrilled to get sponges from Red Cross volunteer Chris Kirsch. Residents picked up cleaning supplies, food, water and ice at a Red Cross distribution point in a parking lot at Jena and Freret streets Thursday. The site operates each day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until supplies run out. Other locations are open at 2027 S. Carrollton Avenue, Esplanade Avenue and Rampart Street, 820 Jackson Ave. and Basin and St. Louis streets.

# Cop suspended in beating had psychiatric treatment

## *He may have tried suicide 10 years ago*

**By Michael Perlstein**
Staff writer

One of the three New Orleans police officers suspended and charged in connection with the videotaped beating of a retired teacher in the French Quarter received psychiatric treatment after an apparent suicide attempt in the mid-1990s, but was hired as a cop about a year later when he passed the department's psychological tests, according to his attorney and three people who worked with the officer before he joined the force.

Lance Schilling, charged with simple battery along with fellow 8th District officers Robert Evangelist and Stewart Smith, was treated after he fell ill from self-inflicted carbon monoxide inhalation, according to three people he worked with at the Rendon Inn, a Broadmoor restaurant and bar.

Steve Daney, a former cook who described Schilling as "a good, good friend," said Schilling had bouts of depression, but he had never known him to be violent or even discourteous. As for the apparent suicide attempt, Daney said, "He was young. He was 18 or 19 years old. We all go through those kind of issues when we're young and we think the world is falling apart."

Joseph Bruno, attorney for beating victim Robert Davis, said he forwarded information about Schilling's psychiatric history to the FBI, which is helping in the police investigation and a parallel civil rights investigation by the U.S. Justice Department. He said that despite the length of time since the 1990s incident involving Schilling, the background is relevant.

"I think it's a very important piece of information and it may go to the heart of what happened," Bruno said. "What I've been saying all along is that this is not an indictment of the whole Police Department, but just a few bad apples."

Schilling's attorney, Frank DeSalvo, said he is aware of his client's history, but doesn't think it played any role in the arrest of Davis, 64, a local man whose videotaped beating near Bourbon Street on Saturday has aired repeatedly on national television amid questions about the catastrophe-strained New Orleans Police Department. DeSalvo said Schilling lost his home in the storm, but the stress of that personal loss didn't affect his job performance.

"I know that when you see the arrest, it seems overzealous. But their performance was perfectly within the realm of reason," DeSalvo said, arguing that expressions of shock by Mayor Ray Nagin and other officials don't take into account all the circumstances surrounding Davis' public intoxication arrest.

### The videotape

Television news footage of the arrest shows Evangelist and Schilling striking Davis repeatedly, leaving the suspect covered in blood from an apparent head laceration. Moments later, Smith is seen berating a television news producer in a profanity-filled tirade as he backs the newsman against a car and jabs a finger at him.

DeSalvo, in an interview Thursday, backed off his earlier statements that Schilling and Evangelist hit Davis only in the back and neck, but said whatever actions they took were necessary because Davis was trying to lower his arms to his waist.

"When he dropped his hands to his waistband, the officers are trained to assume he's going for a weapon. That's what the punches were about. Officers who don't assume a suspect is going for a gun end up dead," DeSalvo said.

DeSalvo said those split-second actions by the officers will make up the bulk of evidence in any criminal or civil case against them. He said nearly decade-old psychiatric issues shouldn't even be admissible in court.

"I understand his attorney is talking about using the suicide attempt, but I don't know how they'll get that information into a courtroom," DeSalvo said. "I believe he's trying to use that to show negligent retention, making the city liable for hiring him and keeping him. But I don't think it's going to fly."

### Hiring standards

Lt. David Benelli, president of the Police Association of New Orleans, said the fact that Schilling passed the city's hiring standards to become an officer should make any past medical history a moot point.

Daney said he is having difficulty coming to grips with the behavior he saw "over and over and over" while watching news accounts of the beating.

"Lance and I are good, good friends, but I'm so angry at him," Daney said. "I'm angry at him and the other officers. I know they're going through a lot of stress, but our military in Iraq is going through a lot of stress and they don't go around beating up civilians.

Davis, who lost his 9th Ward house in flooding from Katrina, said he hasn't had a sip of alcohol in 25 years and was merely looking for a place to buy cigarettes when the confrontation took place. He said he asked an officer about the time of the curfew, when he was interrupted by another officer, with whom he exchanged words. He said he was "sucker-punched" by the second officer after he turned and walked away.

### Background info sketchy

As for the backgrounds of Evangelist and Smith, police disciplinary records that usually provide such information have been unavailable because of the post-Katrina chaos. But this is not the first incident for Evangelist that prompted an administrative investigation, though he ultimately was cleared of any wrongdoing.

In the pre-dawn hours of Sept. 7, 2004, Evangelist was one of two passengers in a police squad car driven by officer Leonard D'arensbourg. D'arensbourg was driving the wrong way in a commuter lane of the Crescent City Connection when he collided head-on with a Chevrolet Blazer, killing the driver of the Blazer, Tommie Varnado, 51.

Evangelist and a woman the officers picked up at a New Orleans bar were injured. A police report of the crash showed that Evangelist broke his foot, elbow and three ribs. Bartender Melissa Rose was knocked unconscious, suffering a broken nose, facial cuts and broken ribs.

Evangelist was placed on desk duty while his role in the accident was investigated, but he resumed regular patrol duties after he was cleared, Benelli said. D'arensbourg is awaiting trial on a negligent homicide charge.

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# St. Bernard seeks to save schools

## *Money for benefits to run dry after Nov.*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The St. Bernard Parish School Board voted Wednesday to cancel its contract with teachers and other employees so that the district can avoid laying off workers and continue providing health insurance benefits to regular and retired employees.

"We're trying to protect their benefits for as long as possible," St. Bernard Parish schools Superintendent Doris Voitier said after the meeting, held at the state Department of Education building in Baton Rouge. The School Board will be able to pay for health insurance coverage through the end of November, but it is requesting money from the state to continue the coverage beyond that.

Teachers and other school system employees are not being paid.

Besides trying to protect worker benefits, Voitier said, the board is seeking to maintain an operational system so that it can reopen one or two schools. The goal is to have a high school for about 500 students and a combined elementary and middle school for about 800 students in January, she said.

School Board attorney Al Bordelon said that under the contract with the St. Bernard Parish Association of Educators, the board could be obligated to lay off its employees because the board cannot fulfill any of the terms in the contract, such as pay and tenure hearings. "We can't pay them. We don't have any money," he said.

He said the board could declare the contract null because of an "act of God." Employees were placed on emergency disaster leave, "so that they are technically still employed," he said.

Voitier said the school district has enough money to pay for health insurance for about 1,100 active and 500 retired employees only through the end of November.

In addition to seeking money from the state to extend the insurance benefits beyond November, the board will ask the state to continue paying the parish at least part of its Minimum Foundation Program allowance, the main source of state money for education, so it can maintain a staff of about 120, or return 10 percent of its essential staff, to plan the reopening of the two schools.

Meanwhile, a St. Bernard Parish representative at Wednesday's meeting pressured board members not to wait for children to return to the parish, but to open a school or classroom immediately. "Have a ribbon-cutting and say the schools are open. If you don't do that, you are cutting the throat of St. Bernard," said Alan Abadie, an attorney who said he was speaking for Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez and Sheriff Jack Stephens.

But board members and Voitier said schools can't open until the parish has emergency medical service and other essential services, and a school site is provided with utilities and declared environmentally safe for children.

"We all want our schools open, and open as quickly as possible," School Board member Diana Dysart said.

Voitier said the Federal Emergency Management Agency has for the first time created an educational strike force through which all requests and approvals for schools are being funneled. On Wednesday, federal workers began taking air and soil samples at what remains of the district's existing schools.

"Because it deals with children, they are putting more stringent guidelines on us than any other public entity," Voitier said. Any site for a temporary school will have to be approved as safe, as well as have water, sewerage and other utilities. Voitier said educators also must plan for children's welfare outside school, possibly with before- and after-school care while parents are working on the parish's recovery.

School officials have been trying to get permission to apply its prestorm federal grants and allocations for those uses, she said.

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# Debris fuels fire fears

By Allen Powell II
River Parishes bureau

The clusters of wood chips and tree limbs piled near the corner of McReine Road and River Road in LaPlace do not look threatening, but for more than a month they've kept Guy Reine awake at night.

Reine, 63, says his insomnia, along with his tirades against Parish President Nickie Monica at the past two St. John the Baptist Parish Council meetings, is driven by extreme fear and anger.

Reine is afraid that a fire will start in the storm debris collected by the parish and kill him and his family in their homes across the street. And he is angry because he thinks Monica doesn't really care.

"All this craziness you've seen me doing . . . I hate it, but it's about these kids here," said Reine, who has one daughter and three grandchildren living on his 17 acres across from the dump site. " I go to bed every night for the last month wondering if someone is going to go over there (to that debris) and throw a match."

The object of Reine's ire is one of six dump sites throughout the parish that are being used to store debris from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita until it can be taken to a larger dump site in the Bonnet Carre Spillway. The dump sites, which handle tree limbs, wood chips and trash, are being operated by contractors for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Reine says he understands that sacrifices have to be made in light of Katrina. But he is bothered that the parish has not secured the site to prevent unauthorized access and has not been active in mitigating that risk by ensuring that the wood chips are regularly sprinkled with water. Moreover, Reine said he is upset because Monica promised him that the site would be cleared more than a week ago.

Parish Chief Administrative Officer Natalie Robottom said the parish knows of Reine's concerns and is working to alleviate some of them. While she acknowledged that some of the promises made to Reine about the removal of debris and the watering of wood chips have not been carried out, she said that was a result of broken promises by outside contractors hired by the Corps of Engineers, not an unwillingness by the parish.

Robottom said the parish asked the contractor to water the wood chips several times, and it was done regularly before Hurricane Rita. But she said that since Rita, she could not say how often the chips are being watered. She said the parish depends on the contractor to carry out assignments and has not been monitoring the process.

Now that the corps' contractor has secured enough trucks, Robottom expects the dump sites will be cleared soon.

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# Don't give up, parish urges

## *Plaquemines council focuses on services*

By Karen Turni Bazile
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The Plaquemines Parish Council on Thursday held its first meeting since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the parish, and its members told residents the focus now is to get the parish running the way it was before the storms.

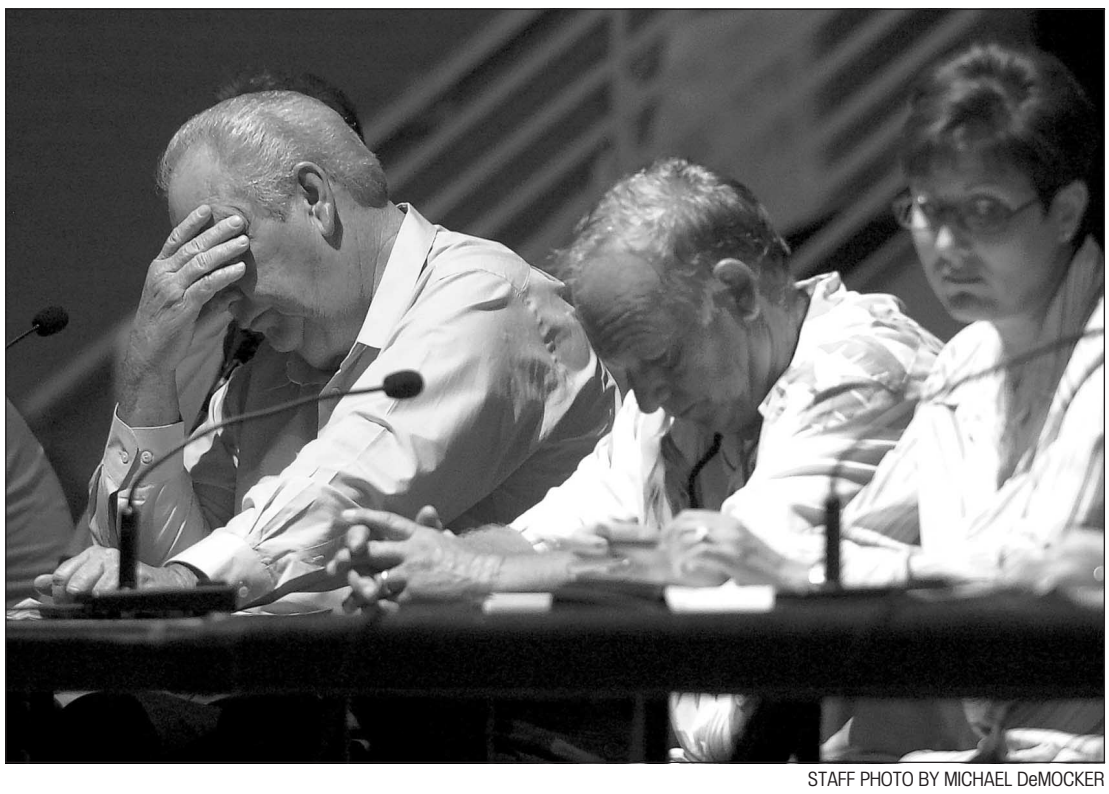
"We wanted to get a sense of services that we need to provide to the people for recovery and rebuilding, and it gives us a chance to give out info," Parish Council Vice Chairman Steve Vaughn said of the meeting, held in makeshift chambers in Belle Chasse High School's auditorium.

The council's normal chambers at the Magnolia Center in Pointe a la Hache were destroyed by floodwaters and winds from Katrina.

About 75 people attended the meeting, which was also videotaped for broadcast on the local government access channel.

Councilwoman Lynda Banta asked residents for patience as the government tries to re-establish services and to come back as soon as essential services are available.

"Just don't just give up on our community," Banta said. "When I met with (President Bush) I told him my biggest concern was that we are so small, are we going to be forgotten? He assured us we would not be forgotten."



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

The emotional toll of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was clear Thursday as fatigued Plaquemines Parish Councilmen Jerry Hodnett, left, and Mike Mudge, and clerk Missy Leblanc attend the council's first meeting since the hurricanes, held in the auditorium at Belle Chasse High School.

In fact, Parish President Benny Rousselle said he got Bush to sign a note promising to support the rebuilding of Plaquemines.

Council Attorney Kevin Conner told the audience that the council's powers are severely limited during the state of emergency declared by Rousselle. But Conner said that declaration also makes the parish eligible for much-needed federal aid.

Residents asked a number of questions during the meeting, but the overriding theme appeared to be apprehension about the parish's levee system.

"The No. 1 question should be the levees," retired 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Robert Lobrano said. "Do I take my insurance money and rebuild with only a Band-Aid holding the levee together?"

Lobrano who lives in Belair, about 11 miles south of Scarsdale on the parish's east bank, said a breach in the parish's back levees put 11½ feet of water on his property during Hurricane Katrina, flooding his home built 10 feet off the ground. His home flooded again during Hurricane Rita — and still has water in the garage, he said.

Rousselle said he has commitments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical support so National Guardsmen can rebuild levees owned by the parish and private companies. Meanwhile, the corps has promised that federally owned levees will be rebuilt to pre-Katrina levels in time for the start of the 2006 hurricane season on June 1.

Rousselle also said he has asked Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to set up two sites with 500 trailers, one in Davant on the east bank of the Mississippi River and one in Diamond on the west bank. But, he said, FEMA has approved two sites, each with only 150 small travel trailers that can house about four people.

Besides hammering out details on the trailer site locations, Rousselle said he also has met with Coast Guard officials and Sen. David Vitter, R-La., about removing stranded boats and about temporary housing for employees.

Rousselle also said he needs citizens who want their homes demolished by the government to sign a right of entry form — available online at www.plaqueminesparish.com, at the Belle Chasse council office or at the Disaster Relief Center in the Belle Chasse Auditorium on Louisiana 23.

Rousselle said he thinks 90 percent of structures south of Myrtle Grove on the west bank and 95 percent of all structures south of Woodlawn on the east bank should be demolished.

Vaughn said residents with questions can call the government at (504) 392-6690, (504) 297-5600, (866) 833-4432 or (888) 683-8210.

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Karen Turni Bazile can be reached at kturni@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3800.

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# Baby girl marks milestone in N.O.

By Steve Ritea
Staff writer

When Heidi Poche and her husband were deciding on a name for their daughter — the first baby born in a New Orleans hospital, according to Touro Infirmary, since the crippling storms — two names were not on the short list.

"No Katrina, no Rita," she said from her hospital bed Thursday. "We love the name Camille and it was even turning my stomach."

So instead they settled on something safe: Julia Marie, who was born at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces. "If they name a storm after Julia, I don't know what I'll do," she said.

Poche, her husband Stephen and their two other children, 4-year-old Sarah and 19-month-old Ellie, returned to their undamaged home in Algiers almost two weeks ago after spending nearly a month with family friends in Baton Rouge, where they evacuated before Katrina.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Stephen and Heidi Poche show off their new addition, Julia Marie Poche, who was born at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday to become the first baby born in a New Orleans hospital since Hurricane Katrina.

Although she was initially skeptical about returning to New Orleans, Stephen made trips into the city beforehand to haul out the refrigerator and get the house ready for his family. And with cleanup progressing well on the West Bank, now "it's looking like a normal day with a little tree damage" over there, she said.

Since the storm, Poche said she had been keeping up with Touro's status on the Internet and began to doubt that Dr. Laura Sporl, who delivered Ellie, would be able to deliver her third child.

She was planning to have her baby at West Jefferson Medical Center until Monday, Poche said, when Sporl called and announced, "I'm coming home."

Poche also was among the first patients at Touro, which officially reopened Wednesday with 50 of its normal 500 beds available, a spokeswoman said.

"All the nurses were so excited to have a real live patient," Poche said.

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Steve Ritea can be reached at sritea@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3396.

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# Pearl River having population surge

## *Gulf Coast evacuees seek high ground*

**By The Associated Press**

PICAYUNE, MISS. — Pearl River County sits on the first high ground off the Gulf Coast, equidistant between New Orleans and Gulfport and easily accessible by either.

That setting has resulted in a post-Katrina population boom for a normally laid-back county with only a couple of towns and an easy way of life.

"Where it used to take you five minutes to get across town, it now takes 20," said Tom Milar, Picayune's deputy police chief. "The growth rate of this county has moved up 10 years."

Milar estimates that Picayune's population is nearly 40,000 people now. Before the storm, there were only 13,500 residents, he said.

A few miles further north on U.S. 59, the city of Poplarville has also experienced growth but not quite on Picayune's level.

Poplarville Mayor Billy Spiers said traffic is bad there, too, and his town had only 2,700 residents before the storm, most of whom he knew by sight.

"I wouldn't be scared to say there are 4,500 people now," Spiers said. "I've seen faces I never saw before the storm."

All these new faces have presented a multitude of challenges for both cities that go beyond bumper-to-bumper traffic, Milar and Spiers said.

Police in both places are stretched thin, and the hope is that FEMA will provide grants to allow the two police departments to permanently increase their numbers.

"We went from 12 accidents a week to 40 accidents a week," Milar said. "Calls for service went from 4,000 per month to 7,000 per month."

In addition, schools have had to bear the weight of numerous new students.

Spiers said several teachers have told him there are a couple hundred new students in Poplarville's school system, which had already been under a little strain before the storm.

It is hard to say where all these people are staying, too, as FEMA has been slow in setting up trailers in the county, both officials said. In Poplarville, Spiers said a lot of New Orleans residents had vacation homes that they've moved into.

In Picayune, Milar said there are no rentals available anywhere, so homes are being pushed to beyond capacity.

"Property values increased 20 percent overnight," Milar said. "In one place, there's 30 people staying in one house. Lots of two-family houses are now four-family houses."

This overcrowding will bring benefits though.

"In restaurants . . . you can't get in at lunch time," Spiers said. "And gas lines are long all day. The city will reap the benefits in sales tax."

The county is bound to experience significant economic growth from the sudden population boom, something the mayor and Picayune City Council have been meeting weekly to capitalize on, Milar said.

Milar and Spiers said most people they talk to say they are staying put, too.

"It looks like we're gonna be in it for the long haul," Milar said.

# Girl puts her mouth where her money is

**By The Associated Press**

BRANDON, S.D. — An 8-year-old girl with a big heart and loose tooth found a creative way to help people displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Briton Nordmeyer of Brandon sent her tooth to the Red Cross chapter in Sioux Falls, S.D., hoping the tooth fairy would leave money there instead of under her pillow.

The tooth poked a hole through the envelope and fell out, but her letter made it.

After word spread of her generosity, a $500 check came in from an anonymous donor, said Jeff Stingley, director of the Sioux Empire Red Cross chapter.

Briton had told her mother she wanted to do something for children who lost everything in the storms.

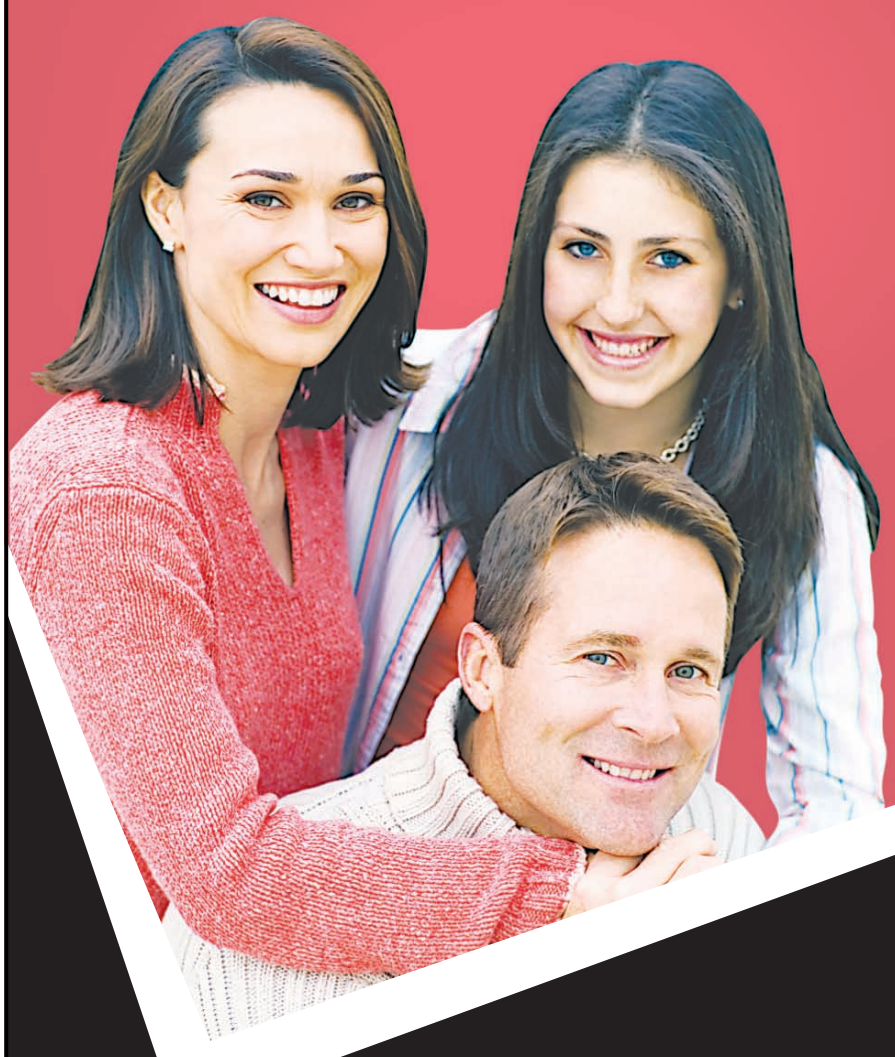
"It's really nice to help them get new food, homes, schools, toys, lots of stuff to help them," Briton told KELO-TV of Sioux Falls.

Stingley said Wednesday the $500 anonymous check was the only one that mentioned the tooth but that he thinks Briton's story prompted other donations to the chapter.

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LOUISIANA

# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Police chief retiring on eve of key election

NEW IBERIA — The city's police chief, who heads what little is left of the New Iberia Police Department, has announced his retirement just days before voters decide whether to revive the agency. Robert Feller, a 36-year department veteran, said Wednesday that he had been considering retirement before his agency was slashed last year to a handful of officers in favor of a contract with the Iberia Parish sheriff for most law enforcement services. On Saturday, voters will decide whether to revive the department or keep the contract with the sheriff. Mayor Hilda Curry said that if voters decide to stay with the sheriff, she will move to eliminate all of the Police Department. The city made the contract with the sheriff as a money-saving move, but backers of re-establishing the Police Department say no savings have been realized.

## Jailer accused of sex with Caddo inmate

SHREVEPORT — A Caddo Parish sheriff's jailer has been accused of having sex with an inmate. Herbert Paul Simons, 50, of Shreveport was arrested Monday and booked into Caddo Correctional Center on one count of malfeasance. He was fired from his position as a jailer at the center the same day, sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said. Chadwick said Simons, who had worked at the jail for two years, was arrested just hours after sheriff's investigators received allegations that Simons had sex with a male inmate earlier that day. Although the alleged act was consensual, according to Chadwick, state law prohibits guards from having sex with inmates.

## Medicare defrauders sentenced to prison

MONROE — Two men have been sentenced to federal prison for a fraud involving Medicare funds and their operation of a rehabilitation hospital in Columbia. Jedd Jones, 44, was ordered Wednesday to serve a year and a day in federal prison, while his former business partner in the Riverbend Rehabilitation Hospital, William Clark, was sentenced to 30 months. Both had faced 20 counts including conspiracy to commit Medicare fraud, making false statements, money laundering and health care fraud. They were indicted in March 2003. In April, Clark and Jones each pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud. The other charges were dropped. Clark and Jones concealed their controlling interest in Riverbend so the hospital would pay their consulting and management company fees from March 1996 to March 2000, prosecutors said. The practice is illegal when one party controls both companies. U.S. District Judge Robert James ordered restitution totaling more than $4 million.

From wire reports

# Caddo coroner's office, lab probed

**By The Associated Press**

SHREVEPORT — Two grand juries will investigate allegations of forged death certificates, fake documents and financial improprieties at the Caddo Parish coroner's office and a forensics laboratory owned by the parish's recently deceased coroner, prosecutors say.

Caddo Parish District Attorney Paul Carmouche said his office is investigating the authenticity of a deathbed letter in which Dr. George McCormick named one of his staff members to a top post in the office. McCormick died Sept. 20 of a heart attack.

The investigation also includes allegations of forgeries on some death certificates handled by the office, Carmouche said.

Authorities also have seized billing records and unfinished autopsy reports from McCormick's forensics laboratory in Bossier City.

Carmouche said evidence will go to a grand jury next month.

"This case is a little different than normal in our experience," he said. "We are continuing to get information about the coroner's office, some of which may be true, some of which may be just rumor. We decided to subpoena a number of the witnesses we're talking to, have them come in front of the grand jury under oath and see if we can get to the bottom of some of this."

Bossier Parish District Attorney Schuyler Marvin said another grand jury will investigate billings at McCormick's laboratory. He said it was too early to say whether he anticipates indictments.

# Former LSU worker found dead in jail

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — A former Louisiana State University employee apparently put a plastic bag over his head and suffocated in jail a day before his sentencing on a child pornography charge, authorities said.

Ron Brown, a former university public relations worker, probably killed himself early Wednesday in the West Baton Rouge Parish Jail, Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Wayne Pilar said. Where Brown got the bag was unclear, Sheriff Mike Cazes said.

An autopsy was ordered.

Brown, 60, of Denham Springs, pleaded guilty in November to sexual exploitation, enticing for illegal sexual activity, and receiving and possessing child pornography. He faced up to 60 years in prison at his sentencing, which had been set for Thursday.

U.S. Attorney David Dugas said authorities were investigating Brown's death.

Brown's attorney, Thomas Damico of Baton Rouge, said his client had been worried about the impact that news coverage of the sentencing might have on his family.

WASHINGTON

# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Common Cause seeks Frist stock probe

WASHINGTON — A government watchdog group has filed a complaint with the Senate ethics committee requesting a probe into whether Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's ownership of HCA Inc. stock in a family trust posed a conflict of interest. Common Cause told the Senate panel that the shares, contained in a limited family partnership established by Frist's parents, was a conflict of interest because he knew he owned the shares and was informed of transactions between 1998 and 2002. Frist has stated in the past that there was no conflict as the Senate considered healthcare legislation because his shares in the hospital chain were held in a blind trust. "It seems apparent from these recently published reports that Sen. Frist faced a genuine conflict of interest long before his recent sale of HCA stock," Common Cause President Chellie Pingree wrote in a letter to the panel. The Associated Press reported about the family trust, which was not part of his Senate-approved blind trust, this week. The Securities and Exchange Commission last month authorized an investigation of Frist's order in June to sell blind-trust shares of HCA, a Nashville, Tenn., company founded by Frist family members.

## Delay phone records subpoenaed in Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS — A Texas prosecutor subpoenaed records for the home telephone of former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and the phone of his political campaign Thursday. Also subpoenaed by prosecutor Ronnie Earle were records for two numbers for DeLay's daughter, Danielle DeLay Ferro. DeLay is facing charges of money laundering and conspiracy in a Texas campaign finance case. The subpoenas list telephone numbers, but not whom they belong to. They ask for information about the calls and the numbers' subscribers, voice mail service, billing information, long-distance calls made from or charged to the numbers and special features. "The thing is no big deal," said Bill White, Austin attorney for DeLay. Earle's office declined comment on the subpoenas. He has said the investigation is continuing. DeLay denies any wrongdoing.

From wire reports

# Budget debate is brewing as Republicans look for cuts

## *Demos say programs for poor need funds*

**By Andrew Taylor**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats and their allies are ramping up a campaign against GOP plans to cut the federal budget to help finance hurricane relief. Republicans are convinced the cuts are an issue around which they can rally their core supporters.

At issue are Republican plans to trim $35 billion or more from federal benefit programs such as Medicaid, farm subsidies and food stamps. The budget-cutting effort — the first such plan in eight years — has been in motion since the spring but has attracted renewed attention after Hurricane Katrina.

Republicans claim momentum as the enormous costs of Katrina have brought renewed attention to the problem of budget deficits. For them, the debate is an opportunity to reclaim their budget-cutting credentials with conservatives who think the GOP has been too loose with the federal checkbook during its years in power.

"Politically, Republicans now need to be visibly engaged on behalf of something that resonates with their own voting base," said Mike Franc, vice president of government relations at the Heritage Foundation. "Where else do you turn to get your base excited?"

For Democrats, just the opposite is true. Trimming the budget means at least some politically polarizing cuts to high-profile programs such as food stamps and Medicaid, giving them an opportunity to tar Republicans as targeting the less fortunate.

"Paying for hurricane relief on the backs of the poor is not going to be a winning issue for Republicans," Democratic strategist Jim Jordan said. "It's like they wake up every day determined to reinforce their own negative stereotypes."

In fact, the content of the upcoming budget bill is not at all clear. Under Congress' arcane budget process, legislative committees have been given a set of deficit cut targets to achieve through any combination of spending cuts, new revenues — or even spending increases, as long as they are paid for with cuts elsewhere.

In the Senate, GOP moderates vow to limit cuts to programs aimed at the poor such as Medicaid and food stamps. And cuts to the student loan program would affect lenders rather than students. In fact, student aid would increase by $5.5 billion under a Senate measure already approved by the Health, Educations, Labor and Pensions Committee.

There is no shortage of demands to use some of the savings in the upcoming bill to pay for new spending unrelated to hurricane relief. The powerful lobby for doctors is pushing to reverse a 4 percent cut in their Medicare payments. Among the pet programs lawmakers hope to fund with spending cuts elsewhere in the budget are subsidies for dairy farmers and money for updated radios for first responders.

Republicans also note that the $35 billion in deficit savings over five years is a relative pittance in a budget slated to total about $14 trillion over the same period. And large chunks of that savings are expected to come from new sources of revenue such as auctioning off the public airwaves to wireless communications companies and from drilling leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

In the House, GOP leaders promise to up the ante from $35 billion to $50 billion, but budget experts in the Senate say that chamber has its hands full just trying to produce the lower figure.

Some political analysts say the budget debate is fraught with risks for Republicans. And if they are successful in forcing a bigger dent in spending, it may mean greater political opportunities for Democrats.

"It's real important to the conservatives in Congress that are pushing it," said Thomas Mann, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "But whether they can produce something that's impressive enough to satisfy their (conservative) constituents without opening themselves to harmful political attacks from Democrats is uncertain."


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# White House says Miers won't quit

## *Despite criticism, she'll stick it out*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The White House on Thursday dismissed the possibility that Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers might withdraw if she encounters heavy fire in her Senate confirmation and suggested her nomination was becoming embroiled in "side issues like religion."



**Harriet Miers**
Supreme Court nominee

Asked if there were any circumstances under which she would ask that her name be withdrawn, presidential spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters: "No one that knows her would make such a suggestion."

"And no one that knows her record and her qualifications would make such a suggestion," McClellan said.

Conservative critics have complained that Miers lacks a clear judicial philosophy and have questioned whether she is the best-qualified nominee, given that she has never been a judge and has little public record.

President Bush and White House officials have sought to reassure conservatives by emphasizing Miers' evangelical faith. "Part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion," Bush said Wednesday.

Yet in a combative exchange with reporters, McClellan on Thursday said: "You all want to focus on side issues like religion."

"We've always talked about her record and her qualifications," McClellan said.

# Undercover spy to lead secret agency

## *CIA manager's job to oversee human spying*

**By Katherine Shrader**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A top CIA manager who remains undercover will soon oversee traditional human spying activities for the entire intelligence community, a position created in the post-Sept. 11 intelligence overhaul.

Publicly, he is referred to simply as "Jose."

His posting as director of the new National Clandestine Service ends weeks of debate over whether the CIA would retain its primacy over the government's traditional human spywork, as an increasing number of U.S. national security agencies take on these types of assignments.

Jose will now broadly coordinate operations for the CIA, FBI, Defense Department and other agencies involved in human intelligence, or the information gathered by people, rather than by technical means.

"This is another positive step in building an intelligence community that is more unified, coordinated and effective," National Intelligence Director John Negroponte said in a statement Thursday about the new service.

Forming a National Clandestine Service was one of more than 70 recommendations from President Bush's commission on weapons of mass destruction, which released a bruising report in March about the current capabilities of the 15 agencies that make up the U.S. intelligence community.

The report concluded that the "toughest targets remain largely impenetrable" to human spying operations.

CIA Director Porter Goss drafted a plan that would place the National Clandestine Service under his chain of command. The plan's acceptance is viewed as a victory for the CIA.

Intelligence veterans have said for months that any arrangement that somehow undermined the CIA's role as the top producer of human intelligence would hurt the agency's clout and deepen problems with agency morale.

In a statement, Goss said the decision represents "an expression of confidence in the CIA" from Bush and Negroponte. "No agency has greater skill and experience in this difficult, complex, and utterly vital discipline of intelligence," Goss said.

With Thursday's announcement, Jose is promoted from his current position as chief of the CIA's most well-known division, its clandestine service, formally called the Directorate of Operations. He will have two deputies: one that oversees the daily activities of that CIA directorate and another that coordinates the work of the entire intelligence community.

According to a CIA fact sheet, the goal is to create standards for training, conduct and intelligence-gathering techniques that will apply across the various intelligence agencies.

The new service will also be responsible for ensuring intelligence operations don't conflict with each other. On the ground level, for instance, that may mean ensuring procedures are followed to prevent the FBI and CIA from recruiting the same source.

# Easing air quality rules proposed

## *White House plan benefits power plants*

**By John Heilprin**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration proposed new regulations Thursday that could let the nation's dirtiest power plants release more air pollutants each year — and possibly undercut lawsuits aimed at forcing companies to comply with the Clean Air Act.

The proposal follows a June federal court ruling that said power plants can throw more pollutants into the air each year when they modernize to operate for longer hours.

It's the latest in a series of attempts by the Environmental Protection Agency to make the nearly 30-year-old Clean Air Act rules for coal-fired power plants more industry-friendly. Some changes were held up by lawsuits from environmentalists and state officials.

"We are now doing to smokestacks what we did to tailpipes," said EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, who predicted the regulations would spur greater technology innovation.

"We want to remove any unnecessary regulatory obstacles," he said. "We're focused on practical, achievable results that don't get delayed by years of litigation."

The EPA proposal affects the nation's 600 coal-burning power plants, which represent 55 percent of the nation's electric generating capacity. Industry officials say the plants are getting cleaner. But they continue to produce millions of tons of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide blamed for smog, acid rain and soot, and other fine particles that lodge in people's lungs and cause asthma and other respiratory ailments. They also remain a big source of mercury, which works its way up the food chain after being absorbed by fish.

EPA "is embracing industry-backed loopholes that undermine basic protections for millions of Americans breathing harmful smokestack pollution," said Vickie Patton, an attorney who handles air quality issues for the advocacy group Environmental Defense.

Proponents say other EPA and state regulations would prevent that from happening.

"The heavy lifting of emissions control is already ensured by tough new EPA rules on interstate emissions and mercury control," said Scott Segal, director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, which represents electric utilities.

Utilities are legally obligated to continue to cut their pollution, said Dan Riedinger, spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute, another trade group. He said it was "a gross distortion of the facts" to conclude that power plants would increase pollution.

But an analysis of EPA data by Environmental Defense shows many East Coast power plants won't install new controls to clean up sulfur dioxide by 2015, despite EPA's predictions.

In June, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Duke Energy Corp. didn't need permission from EPA or states when it improved eight power plants in North Carolina and South Carolina from 1988 to 2000. But EPA seems to depart from another ruling in June, by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In a challenge by New York to EPA's air programs, that court said "Congress directed the agency to measure emissions increases in terms of changes in actual emissions," not by hourly rates.

# Gingrich may run for president

**By The Associated Press**

MOBILE, ALA. — Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Thursday he might run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008 — unless some candidates promote his ideas.

"There are circumstances where I will run," Gingrich said before a speech at the University of Mobile.

Asked under what circumstances he would enter the race, Gingrich, 62, said, "My hope is that five or six candidates are going to jump up, steal all of my ideas, and I will be able to relax and go golf."


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# Woman booked with cutting open pregnant neighbor

By Ramesh Santanam
Associated Press writer

PITTSBURGH — A woman clubbed her pregnant neighbor over the head with a baseball bat, drove her to the woods and cut her belly with a knife in an attempt to steal her baby, police say.

Police said Wednesday's attack on Valerie Oskin was stopped before her baby was taken after a teenager on an all-terrain vehicle came across the women.

Oskin, 30, later underwent an emergency Caesarean section at a hospital. State police Thursday said she was in critical condition and her baby in stable condition. She was believed to have been in her third trimester of pregnancy, authorities said.

Peggy Jo Conner, 38, of Ford City, Pa., was arraigned Thursday on charges of attempted homicide and aggravated assault and was jailed without bail.

The assault began Wednesday morning, when Conner hit Oskin several times with a bat, Andreassi said. Conner put Oskin and Oskin's 7-year-old son in her car, dropped the boy off at a family member's home and drove the pregnant woman about 15 miles to a secluded area about 50 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, Andreassi said.

There, Conner cut Oskin across her abdomen with a razor knife, authorities said.

"She was sliced over an old (Caesarean) scar and severely bleeding," Trooper Jonathan Bayer said.

A 17-year-old boy on an ATV spotted Conner kneeling next to the pregnant woman on the ground, Bayer said. The boy rode home and told his father, who called authorities, who arrested Conner at the scene.

# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Black student who defied Wallace dies

ATLANTA — Vivian Malone Jones, one of two black students whose effort to enroll at the University of Alabama led to George Wallace's infamous "stand in the schoolhouse door" in 1963, died Thursday. She was 63. Jones, who went on to become the first black person to graduate from the school, died at Atlanta Medical Center, where she had been admitted Tuesday after suffering a stroke, said her sister, Sharon Malone. "She was absolutely fine Monday," Malone said. Jones, a retired federal worker who lived in Atlanta, grew up in Mobile, Ala. She had enrolled at historically black Alabama A&M University in Huntsville when she transferred to the University of Alabama in 1963. The move led to then-Gov. Wallace's infamous stand in defiance of orders to admit black students. Jones and James Hood, accompanied by then-Deputy U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, enrolled after Wallace finished his statement and left. At an appearance last year in Mobile, she recalled meeting with Wallace in 1996, when the former governor was in frail health. He died in 1998. "I asked him why did he do it," she said. "He said he did what he felt needed to be done at that point in time, but he would not do that today. At that point, we spoke — I spoke — of forgiveness."

## 7th day of rain tangles Northeast

TRENTON, N.J. — A seventh straight day of rain across much of the soggy Northeast trapped motorists in their cars, delayed airline flights and sent streams surging over their banks Thursday. Flood warnings covered parts of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, and residents in some New Jersey communities were urged to evacuate their homes. Northern New Jersey received as much as 4½ inches of rain in 48 hours, and forecasters said some areas of the state could get 2 inches more by Friday. A deluge over the weekend dumped about 5 inches across the state and as much as 10 in a few spots. The rain was expected to continue through Saturday. Across the Northeast, at least 10 people have died since last weekend because of the downpours, and four others were missing in New Hampshire. "We're just bracing for the next storm," said Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney. "But we're not building an ark just yet."

## 4 polio cases found in Amish community

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Four children in a Minnesota Amish community have become infected with the polio virus, the first known infections in the U.S. in five years, state health officials said. Health officials said the cases do not pose a threat to the general public because most people have been vaccinated against polio. But they said they expect to find more infections within the Amish community because some of its members refuse immunizations on religious grounds. None of the children has shown any symptoms of the paralyzing disease. About one in 200 people who contract the polio virus suffer paralysis because of it; others typically shed the virus after weeks or months. None of the four children had been vaccinated. Three are siblings; the fourth is an infant from another family. Officials would not identify the Amish community but said it consisted of 100 to 200 people. Dr. Harry Hull, the state epidemiologist, said the infections were traced back to an oral vaccine that was administered in another country, probably within the past three years. Use of oral polio vaccine containing the live virus stopped in the United States in 2000. The live-virus vaccine caused an average of eight cases of polio a year in the United States.

From wire reports


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# THE NEWS IN BRIEF

## Playwright Pinter wins Nobel Prize

LONDON — In honoring British playwright Harold Pinter on Thursday, Nobel Prize judges have again chosen an artist of literary achievement and political contention. The 75-year-old Pinter, widely considered to be the most influential British playwright of his generation, is also an unrelenting critic of U.S. involvement in Iraq and of the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair. "I think the world is going down the drain if we're not very careful," a frail but defiant Pinter, who has been treated for throat cancer in recent years, said to reporters outside his London home. Pinter will receive $1.3 million for winning the Nobel.

## Bird flu case puts Turkey on high alert

KIZIKSA, TURKEY — A team in white, full-body protective suits scoured a village in western Turkey on Thursday for any poultry that farmers might be hiding or that could have escaped destruction after the European Union confirmed a virulent strain of bird flu had been detected in the region. The Turkish government said it has contained the outbreak of the H5N1 virus, which scientists worry might mutate into a human virus and spark a pandemic. Bird flu was detected after 1,800 turkeys died on a farm in Kiziksa, 80 miles southwest of Istanbul. Authorities have destroyed some 8,600 turkeys and chickens in the area and placed the village under quarantine, but hundreds of poultry apparently escaped the destruction. "Normally it would be over, but a few people are hiding their chickens," said one veterinary official.

From wire reports



AP PHOTO

Many earthquake survivors now must sleep in the street in Balakot, Pakistan. An aftershock jolted parts of the country Thursday, panicking the hungry, homeless survivors of last weekend's devastating quake.

# U.N.: Time is running out for some quake survivors

*As winter nears, need is desperate*

**By Zarar Khan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — With snow falling in parts of Kashmir, harried relief workers tried to reach remote areas on foot Thursday as the U.N.'s emergency relief chief warned time was running out for many survivors of South Asia's massive earthquake.

U.N. Undersecretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland flew by helicopter to the Kashmiri city of Muzaffarabad, where he said millions of people urgently needed food, medicine, shelter and blankets. The U.N. estimates 2 million people are homeless ahead of the Himalayan region's fierce winter.

"I fear we are losing the race against the clock in the small villages" cut off by blocked roads, Egeland said. "I've never seen such devastation before. We are in the sixth day of operation, and every day the scale of devastation is getting wider."

The plea came after a 5.6-magnitude aftershock jolted parts of Pakistan early Thursday, forcing a rescue team to suspend efforts to save a trapped woman. She died before the rescuers returned to the precarious rubble.

The quake death toll was more than 35,000, and tens of thousands were injured. India has reported more than 1,350 deaths in the part of disputed Kashmir that it controls.

Carrying water, juice and milk, a relief team from Britain-based Plan International flew in a helicopter to villages in northern Mansehra district in North West Frontier Province and found death and misery.

"The whole valley is smelling awfully," said Dr. Irfan Ahmed, the aid group's health adviser. "People were hungry and panicking."

"Conditions are going from bad to worse. These people don't have any shelter. Also, the school has collapsed, and the children were in those classrooms," he said.

The 5.6-magnitude aftershock early Thursday was centered 85 miles north of Islamabad, near the epicenter of Saturday's 7.6-magnitude quake that demolished whole towns.

# U.S. military directs copters to Pakistan

*Aid may improve opinions of America*

**By Matthew Pennington**
Associated Press writer

BALAKOT, PAKISTAN — With a whoosh of dust, the twin-rotor Chinook helicopter circled a scene of devastation in the quake-flattened town of Balakot in northern Pakistan and landed on a riverbank, in front of hundreds of bedraggled survivors of southern Asia's earthquake.

Within minutes, the U.S. Army crew had disgorged its cargo of tents — donated by the Iranian Red Crescent — and filled the hulking copter with 12 badly injured people on stretchers and shrouded by blankets.

In a move that could boost America's battered profile in the Islamic world, the U.S. military has diverted eight heavy-lifting helicopters from the war on terrorism in neighboring Afghanistan to help earthquake victims. It's due to send another two dozen helicopters from further afield in the days ahead.

"I don't have a bad feeling about America," said Wali ur-Rehman, who lost four children in the quake and cradled a surviving son, 2-year-old Kalil, in his arms. "It's a long, long way away, and they are helping us."

Six days after the temblor, the injured, many with open fractures that have become infected, were still pouring in from outlying villages to Balakot. From the air, it appeared that the ground has been pulled out from under the town. Buildings were spread-eagled, tin roofs were grounded.

Local police and rescue workers estimated 2,000 to 3,000 people had died in Balakot, including hundreds of children buried in three destroyed schools. Many more were feared dead in outlying villages, which have seen little of the aid that has gravitated toward the town.

The U.N. undersecretary general and emergency relief coordinator, Jan Egeland, flew over Kashmir by helicopter Thursday and warned that time was running out for the tens of thousands left homeless by the quake.

"I fear we are losing the race against the clock in the small villages" cut off by blocked roads, Egeland said. "I've never seen such devastation before."

Fateh Sher, 22, a medical student volunteer in Balakot, said the American helicopter missions would change people's opinions of the United States — whose Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice promised long-term aid during Pakistan's "hour of need."

"The media and all others who come here can see that America can help us," Sher said.

Another volunteer, Irfan Haider, was more circumspect.

"America always helps, like they did during the tsunami," he said, referring to the assistance given by the U.S. military to parts of Indonesia, Thailand and other nations hit by the devastating waves that killed tens of thousands of people in December.

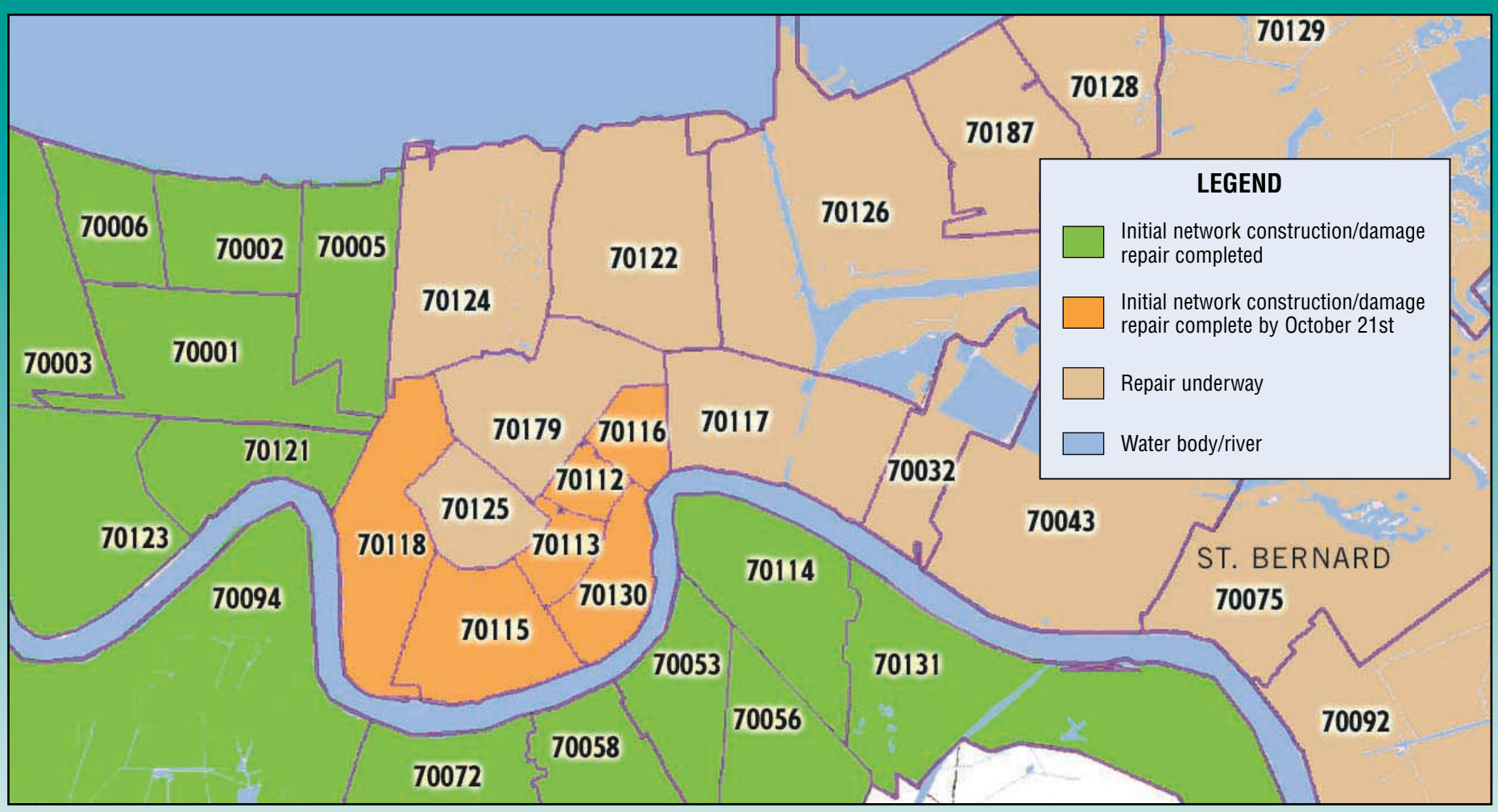
"But I think the U.S. should not help Israel. America's politics are still a problem," Haider said.

Pakistan's government is a strong ally in the war on terrorism, but its 150 million mostly Muslim people deeply resent the United States.

"Miss Behavin' " — the lewd logo of the Chinook — was covered with green gaffer tape to respect "cultural sensitivities," said Chief Warrant Officer Mark Jones, the chief pilot.

"This is a good job," he said. "You see the people. They are scared and they're hurting. It's good to know we are getting them out to hospital, especially the kids."


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# Rebels hit Russian city, dozens dead

*Attack opens new front in long war*

**By Fatima Tlisova**
Associated Press writer

NALCHIK, RUSSIA — Militants attacked police and government buildings in Russia's volatile Caucasus region Thursday, taking hostages and turning a provincial capital into a war zone wracked by gunfire and explosions that left at least 85 people dead, mostly insurgents.

Chechen rebels claimed responsibility for the offensive in Nalchik, the capital of the mostly Muslim republic of Kabardino-Balkariya, as a new front opened in the Kremlin's decade-old battle against Islamic insurgents.

The rebels' struggle against Russia, originally a separatist movement, increasingly has melded with Islamic extremism in the past decade and fanned out beyond Chechnya's borders to encompass the entire Caucusus region.

The insurgent strategy of simultaneous attacks on facilities in Nalchik, a city of 235,000, was similar to a rebel siege last year in another Caucasus republic, Ingushetia, in what appears to be an attempt to target areas outside Chechnya and keep Moscow off-balance.

Kabardino-Balkariya is the fifth of seven republics in the mountainous region to be hit by the spillover of violence from the struggle in Chechnya. The insurgents are trying to exploit tensions among a variety of ethnic groups in the impoverished region as well as native Muslims and the ethnic Russians, who are Christian.

President Vladimir Putin, beleaguered by attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians and underscored his failure to bring the southern area under control, ordered a total blockade of Nalchik to prevent militants from slipping out. He told security forces to shoot any armed resisters.



AP PHOTO

A Russian officer walks a man down the street in Nalchik, Russia, after militants launched simultaneous attacks on police and government buildings.

Thursday's fighting began about 8:30 a.m. Thursday after police launched an operation to capture about 10 militants in a Nalchik suburb. All 10 suspected militants were killed, Russian Deputy Interior Minister Alexander Chekalin said.

Gunmen staged simultaneous attacks against three police stations, the city's airport and the regional headquarters of the Interior Ministry and Federal Security Service in what appeared what appeared to be an effort to divert police.

The attack at the airport was repelled, the facility was placed under military control and all flights were canceled, news reports said.

The militants also attacked the regional headquarters of the Russian prison system, the Emergency Situation Ministry's press office said. Interfax said a border guards' office also came under attack.



# Security soaring ahead of Iraqi vote

*Checkpoints go up, polls barricaded*

**By Hamza Hendawi**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Hundreds of Iraqi police and army troops fanned out across Baghdad on Thursday, setting up checkpoints and fortifying polling stations with barbed wire and blast barriers two days ahead of a historic constitutional referendum.

From the city's Shiite stronghold of Kazimiyah to its southern approaches in the notorious "Triangle of Death," the capital's usually chaotic traffic was down to a tiny fraction. Many stores didn't bother to open and others shuttered early ahead of a 10 p.m. curfew.

By nightfall, Baghdad streets were almost emptied of civilians. The large army and police presence, combined with the scarcity of people and vehicles, gave the city a disquieting calm.

Similar security precautions were in place across much of Iraq in anticipation of a spike in attacks by insurgents who want to derail the political process. Nearly 450 people have been killed in violence over the past 18 days.



AP PHOTO

Iraqis grieve for the two Iraqi policemen killed when a car bomb hit their patrol vehicle in Kirkuk, Iraq, on Thursday. In the past 18 days, nearly 450 people have been killed in Iraq as the insurgents try to scare voters away from the polls Saturday.

In the so-called Triangle of Death, a mainly Sunni area known for kidnappings and killings, Iraqi troops searched cars under the watchful eyes of comrades manning machine-gun positions. U.S. helicopters hovered over the area.

U.S. military spokesman Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch provided an upbeat assessment of the security situation ahead of the vote, arguing that the insurgent danger was far less than on the eve of the Jan. 30 parliamentary election. Also, Iraq's security forces total 200,000 now, compared to 138,000 in January, Lynch said.

In a clampdown to safeguard the vote, Iraq's borders closed Thursday at midnight and will reopen Sunday. Baghdad's International Airport will be shut Friday and Saturday. Private vehicles are banned for two days starting Friday evening. A nationwide 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew began Thursday and remains in force until Sunday.

If the charter is adopted, a general election will be held in two months to elect a full-term parliament. If it fails, an election will still be held in December but only for another interim chamber that will try again to draft a charter.

The constitution will fail if it falls short of a simple majority or is rejected by two-thirds of voters in three of Iraq's 18 provinces.

Underlining fears of a surge in violence, President Bush on Thursday sought to rally U.S. troops in Iraq, saying, "The enemy understands that a free Iraq would be a blow to their vision.

"We put in motion something that can't be stopped, and that is the march of freedom," he told soldiers based in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit in a video conference.

There are 156,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a total that has been rising in recent weeks as the 101st Airborne returns, along with lead elements of the 3rd Corps Support Command. The last-minute amendments to the draft constitution adopted Wednesday were designed to win Sunni Arab support but did not meet all their demands — primarily for a clear assertion of Iraq's Arab identity and a reduction of wide powers accorded to provincial governments that Sunnis say could lead to Iraq's breakup.

# Saddam likely to face murder charges next week

**By Mariam Fam**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein likely will face charges of premeditated murder, torture and forced expulsion and disappearances when he goes on trial next week for a 1982 massacre of Shiites, a court official said Thursday.

Saddam and seven other defendants are accused of killing 143 Shiites in the village of Dujail, north of Baghdad, after a failed assassination attempt against Saddam.

Prosecutors have not announced the exact charges, which are expected when the trial opens on Wednesday. Investigating Judge Raid Juhi told reporters in Baghdad that the charges would focus on the areas of "crimes of premeditated murder, forced expulsion of residents, torture and forced disappearances of individuals."

Saddam could face the death penalty if convicted.

Juhi also reaffirmed that there would be no postponement of the trial's start, which Saddam's attorneys had sought to review documents they received Sept. 25.

"The special tribunal has enabled the representatives of the defense through all legal means to completely review all the evidence, documents and investigation papers," he said.

The trial is expected to be the first of about a dozen involving crimes committed by Saddam and his regime.


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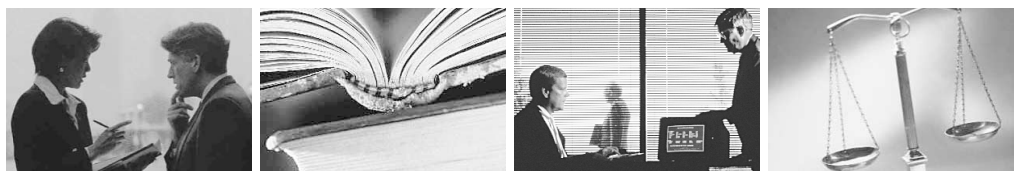
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Our team members are available at the following cell phone numbers & e-mail addresses:

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# Crews working to restore power to east

**EAST,** *from A-1*

sewage service, and most of it lacks electricity.

### Fearing the unknown

"Nobody official is talking about what the plans are for what's happening here now," Karen Edwards said. "The movers and shakers and decision-makers all live Uptown," Clarence Edwards said. He said he was troubled by rumors that his neighborhood would be bulldozed.

On that point, officials agree: "No home will be bulldozed unless the owner and the city determine it will be," said state Rep. Austin Badon Jr. "The homes will not be bulldozed," said state Sen. Ann Duplessis. Both New Orleans Democrats, their districts encompass eastern New Orleans.

District E City Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis, whose home in Lake Barrington West was flooded, said crews have been working aggressively to restore power since before residents were permitted re-entry. An industrial corridor that includes Textron Marine and Land, Folgers Coffee and Lockheed Martin has electricity, she said, and crews were working to light Interstate 10.

She said residents should communicate with Entergy to request service. A longtime resident of eastern New Orleans, she plans to rebuild and encourage the area's recovery. "We are not backing off," she said.

Duplessis, whose Eastover Country Club home took on 8 feet of water, said restoring power as well as ensuring that the area is safe are key considerations. "We just don't have all the answers yet," she said. "As soon as I can come back, I'm coming back. We're all in the same boat. We're not just sitting around hoping something happens."

### Life litters front yard

Badon visited his gutted home in Lake Forest Estates on Wednesday. "That's my life there on the front yard," he said, gesturing to the house's disgorged contents piled by the curb. He acknowledged that residents face serious challenges when they return, but he remains optimistic they can rebuild.

"I'm not letting some little storm run me away from my home," he said.

Badon said electricity and water should be restored throughout the area within four weeks, though it will take longer in the outlying areas such as Village de L'est. The Department of Environmental Quality "has not found anything in the soil, air or water that says we cannot rebuild," he said.

He said insurance rates will rise, and local legislators are depending on the congressional delegation to prevent them from becoming too expensive. "We can't afford it at the city and state level," he said. "We've got to have some federal assistance."

But property values also will rise, he said, and eastern New Orleans will revive. "This was such a nice, family-oriented area of the city," he said. "We have a unique opportunity to make it better. We need to take advantage of that."

His next-door neighbors on Waterford Boulevard also want to rebuild, but they want several questions answered first. "We are going to repair the home," Sylvia Duke said as she walked through the gutted shell of her Acadian-style house, whose oak floors and cypress wainscoting were torn out.

Duke, who owns a home health agency, said she was frustrated that she couldn't reopen her business because her 35 employees cannot get local housing. "The longer we keep them out, the less likely they are to return," she said, noting that one nurse left for Dallas, where she had four job offers.

Duke said she wants to see an improved education system, safely rebuilt levees and a "stable tax base" before she would live in New Orleans again. Otherwise, she said, the couple will sell their home and relocate.

### Signs of life

A few signs of rebuilding are evident in the area. Outside Eastover, whose golf course is scorched with desiccated mud, a vinyl banner announces, "It Ain't Over — It's Eastover. We Are Rebuilding," and a telephone number is listed for the Eastover Development Co. No one answered at the number Wednesday and Thursday.

In Barrington Park on Wednesday, Joe Rochon was busy salvaging items from the house his father built 30 years ago on Bullard Avenue. His father died in May 1999, but he said his mother, Gloria Rochon, is eager to restore the house and return to live there.

The brick home had about 5 feet of floodwater, but its metal roof was undamaged. "I think it's feasible," Rochon said. "It's going to have to be gutted. It has a lot of memories. We'd like to see it restored. If my father were alive today, that's what he would want to do."

Rochon said his mother would return even if the neighborhood were barren, devoid of former neighbors as well as local shops. "That's how it was 30 years ago," he said. Rochon and his two brothers plan to be nearby. "We're around to help her," he said.

### 'I won't be back'

Other displaced eastern New Orleans residents are determined not to return. After Larry Cole cleaned out his apartment at Lakeland Manor on Wednesday, he was heading back to Jackson, Miss. That's where he wound up after a helicopter plucked him from atop the nearby levee at Hayne Boulevard on Sept. 1.

"I'm moving out. I won't be back," he said. "There's nothing to come back to. There's too much destruction."

Emma Porter planned to remain in Atlanta, where she had been staying with a family of 14 until Saturday, when she moved into an apartment. She returned Wednesday to her home on Dwyer Avenue, which had stood in 4 feet of water. It was scarred with mold and her muddy possessions were scattered around its interior.

"This is devastating, just having to sit here waiting for an adjuster," she said. "This leaves me with absolutely nothing. How can I start over?" She pointed to a china cabinet in which glasses still held cloudy water. In the kitchen, the refrigerator lay upended, its corner on the counter where the flood moored it. "I can't salvage anything," she said.

Porter held back tears. She wasn't looking forward to the drive back to Baton Rouge, where she would catch the bus to Atlanta, a trip that took her 10 hours. Thinking about rebuilding was impossible, and thinking about the future was too much to bear.

"I can't think past today," she said. "I truly feel like I'm on the verge of a nervous breakdown." She wanted to curl up in a closet and pretend it never happened, she said, "or pinch myself and say, 'Hey, it was all a bad dream.' "

•••••••

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at bhamilton@timespicayune.com



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLIS LUCIA

Eileen Livaudais retrieves a family photo from the dining room of her Bullard Avenue home. Eastern New Orleans, which contains 67 percent of the land in Orleans Parish and about 20 percent of its population, is among the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina.



Sheephead Street between Hayne Boulevard, bottom, and Wales Street appears abandoned. District E City Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis said power crews have been working aggressively to restore power since before residents were permitted re-entry.

# Temporary repairs to be made at canals

**FLOODWALLS,** *from A-1*

that levee and add additional structures there, then that might be more than we can do before next hurricane season."

The issue is key to the resettlement of the New Orleans area, which is going more slowly than officials had hoped. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and other officials are urging residents to return. But after Katrina flooded the city Aug. 29 and Hurricane Rita dealt a second blow about three weeks later, questions have been raised about the short- and long-term safety of the levee system.

Many parts of the city's hurricane protection system — such as at the Industrial Canal, also known as the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and the St. Bernard back levee — were clearly overwhelmed by Katrina's storm surge, he said, so work will start on them soon. The corps put contracts out for bid earlier this week to repair eight breach areas.

But in the 17th Street and London Avenue canals, engineers who have studied the levees say water did not overflow the concrete walls but that they broke as soil beneath them gave way. That could indicate a design or construction problem. Engineers from the corps, American Association of Civil Engineers and the National Science Foundation are investigating the levee system, looking for clues to what caused the breaches.

### Plan B

Strock said he hopes the corps will have enough information and a plan on how to address the 17th Street and London Avenue breaches in 30 to 60 days. In the meantime, the corps intends to install temporary steel dams to patch them.

If investigators conclude that the foundations of those floodwalls are faulty, he said, "What we might do is go full bore, focus our efforts right now on the Inner Harbor while we design the fixes for the others, and then turn our attention to those and go at those full bore."

Strock said that if the investigation shows the canals need completely new structures, then the corps will examine all options, including floodgates at the mouth of the canals.

"We must restore this level of protection by hurricane season next year," he said. "It may not be repairing the floodwalls; it may be doing something in a more permanent fashion across the fronts of these canals to take the surge off before it gets into the canals."

Assuming the corps gets financing, Strock said, he believes it can pursue such an alternative solution without going through the laborious process of getting a new authorization from Congress. As long as the corps provides the same level of storm protection already authorized, he said, he believes there's significant flexibility on what structures it can build to provide it.

The corps originally proposed floodgates for the canals when the system was constructed more than two decades ago, he said, but local officials expressed concern that closed floodgates would limit the pumping stations' ability to get water out of the city during a storm.

### Looking for answers

Strock said the corps is determined to get to the bottom of what caused floodwall breaches in the drainage canals.

"These were very visible, clearly defined breaks in the levees, and the fact that they did occur in canals, in restricted parts, indicates there is something that needs to be looked at there," he said.

But he cautioned against jumping to conclusions, noting that the levee system is complex and that some walls were overwhelmed. If the corps designed for a particular set of flood and wind conditions in canals, he said, and "if we find out that we designed against those conditions and those conditions were not exceeded, then we'll conclude we did have a failure of something, either design or construction."

He also addressed concerns by some critics who have questioned whether the corps should investigate itself when it could turn out that its errors played a role in the disaster.

"If it does develop that we have a design or construction problem in there, then we will accept accountability for that," he said. "I don't know what form it takes — shoot me at sunrise or whatever. But we will own up to that because we have to. If there's any problem there, we need to know because we cannot afford to put back a system that's flawed."

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# Only 1,800 families have FEMA trailers

**SHELTERS,** *from A-1*

The number of people in shelters in Louisiana has dropped from 40,500 at the beginning of the month to just about 9,300 people recorded in shelters Thursday, according to state statistics. Nationwide the shelter population has shrunk to almost 17,000 on Thursday, from 83,718 living in shelters on Oct. 1.

State officials have speculated that this decrease is due to people returning to the New Orleans area as various parts of the city opened up. Others have found their way to relatives or friends, occasionally in other states, they said.

Lois Hankton and her family had journeyed through four different shelters — including one in Arkansas — before finding their way to the Antioch Family Church last week. Hankton, who said she has yet to receive any money from FEMA, asked the agency to put her in a travel trailer.

Outside the Baton Rouge River Center, a shelter that is scheduled to close today, former Lower 9th Ward resident Darryl Hood said he was told that there aren't any more travel trailers available in the 573-unit park that opened in Baker last week.

Hood, who was evacuated to Tyler, Texas, from the Superdome, said that after a few weeks he eventually made his way back to Baton Rouge and doesn't want to go into the nearby shelter that officials say will be the next interim home for about 100 of the people left at the center.

"I'm tired of going from shelter to shelter. I want to see a living room set," Hood said.

While FEMA has pledged to pay the rent of dislocated storm victims for up to 18 months, trailers are the main solution that has been embraced by the federal agency and state government. But setting up trailer communities or placing the units at houses that were damaged has been painfully slow, with only 1,852 families placed into travel trailers as of Thursday, according to agency statistics.

Overall, 4,662 families in Louisiana have been placed in trailers, hotel rooms leased by FEMA or cruise ships docked in New Orleans, said James McIntyre, an agency spokesman. Another trailer site is under construction in Baton Rouge, with another 37 sites in the final stages of lease negotiations, he said.

Some Baton Rouge shelter residents have been skeptical of the Baker trailers, about 80 miles from New Orleans, saying they are holding out for temporary housing closer to their homes.

Policy experts from both ends of the political spectrum have been critical of the trailer policy, arguing that evacuees from the New Orleans area would be better served if the government helped place them in private-market apartments — even if that means they could not immediately return to Louisiana.

But officials with Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration have repeatedly stated that returning people to Louisiana is a primary goal, arguing that those coming back could benefit from the jobs that will be created during the rebuilding effort.

Vice Adm. Thad Allen, who is in charge of the federal response to the hurricanes, echoed this priority at a press conference Wednesday, announcing television commercials that will be broadcast throughout the country to notify displaced residents about the opportunity for temporary housing in the state.

"Our goal is to go out and find the folks that left New Orleans," said Allen, who noted that Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin have emphasized their desire to have people return to the state. Nagin made visits to shelters in the state Wednesday and Thursday to reinforce that message.

That priority has warped the federal housing response, said Ronald Utt, a research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation. Utt and other housing experts have said it makes more sense to expand federal voucher programs that subsidize rental costs and allow people to resettle in other areas.

"I think as a consequence you are ending up with a program that is excessively costly and socially destructive," Utt said.

For example, the Red Cross has estimated that the cost of all the people staying in hotel rooms is $137 million and rising with no clear date on when people will be moved someplace else. At the same time, FEMA has several contracts with companies worth up to $100 million apiece to build out the infrastructure and find sites for trailer communities.

People who have been running the smaller shelters around the state said that as FEMA and the state look to bring people back from out of state, they are still trying to work with the residents who remained here.

Pastor Bobby Richard, of the Hope Alive Community Worship Center in Broussard, said he and other religious leaders in Acadiana have formed a coalition to help find better housing for people who have been in shelters. They are trying to move people staying at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette to smaller church shelters, where they will try to get them into an apartment or something within 30 days, he said.

While FEMA is setting up trailers and mobile homes in the area, Richard said he isn't waiting for that to happen and is sending out church members to help shelter residents apply for apartments. This has been much more effective than sending the residents out on their own, he said.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT DUKE

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin gets an earful during his visit to the River Center shelter Thursday in Baton Rouge. Volunteers and operators at Baton Rouge shelters that are remaining open report that about six weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the New Orleans area they still get daily calls from people looking for places to stay.



Kevon Burfect, 5, of New Orleans pulls up tape with volunteer Matthew Davis, 19, at the River Center in Baton Rouge as the shelter has begun cleaning up for its closing. Statistics from the American Red Cross show that many people are still in temporary housing, with roughly 600,000 hurricane victims living in hotel rooms across the country as of Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Work continues Thursday on the eastbound lanes of Interstate 10 twin spans. Project supervisor John Horn said crews had to reposition 171 of the eastbound bridge's 433 sections that shifted up to 5 feet but remained atop support pilings. Some 39 sections that crashed into the lake were replaced with undamaged ones from the westbound bridge.

# Causeway tolls will resume next week

**BRIDGE,** *from A-1*

crashed into the lake were replaced with undamaged ones from the westbound bridge.

### Alternate U.S. 11 plan

Lambert said transportation officials were still considering whether to route twin span traffic in one direction while sending traffic in the opposite direction across the U.S. 11 bridge. But he said such a plan is unlikely unless peak traffic in one direction tops 70 percent. He said the open U.S. 11 bridge has experienced only 60 percent surges in either direction.

"It's real problematic to try to send traffic northbound (in) two lanes on Highway 11," Lambert said, "because once they get there, you've got this tremendous load of traffic, and where do they go?"

Boh Brothers' early completion of the $30.9 million twin span project's first phase earned the contractor $1.1 million, the state's maximum bonus of $75,000 for 15 days.

Lambert said the project's second phase to reopen the westbound bridge is on schedule. Crews will install temporary spans in place of the bridge's 265 missing spans by Jan. 14.

### Causeway tolls to resume

The 24-mile Lake Pontchartrain Causeway between Mandeville and Metairie will resume toll collection Monday at 10 a.m. General Manager Robert Lambert said he was waiting for the I-10 bridge to reopen before charging the usual $2 and $3 tolls on southbound traffic.

Lambert said he expects Causeway traffic to dip some but to remain at least 10,000 vehicles a day higher than the pre-Katrina average of 30,000.

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# Administrator denies euthanasia reports

**HOSPITALS,** *from A-1*

term care center within the hospital, died after Katrina blew through.

Published reports on the inquiry have relied heavily on allegations from Dr. Bryant King that doctors had discussed giving patients lethal doses of narcotics and that an administrator had suggested praying about it.

King could not be reached for comment Thursday, and two Memorial staff doctors who were at the hospital until the last patient left said no such discussions ever took place.

The administrator who allegedly urged praying denied doing so, said Steve Campanini, a spokesman for Tenet Healthcare Corp., Memorial's owner.

The administrator, whom Campanini declined to name, "authorized me to say that there was no such meeting and that Dr. King either misspoke or is a liar," Campanini said.

Memorial, the massive Napoleon Avenue hospital between Clara and Magnolia streets, has been the focus of attention because of reports of doctors struggling to care for patients in darkness and stifling heat after generators failed and floodwaters surrounded the building.

Under these trying circumstances, "physicians and staff ... performed heroically to save the lives of their patients," Campanini said in a statement.

And if anyone had thought of mercy killing, "I'm of the opinion ... that it would have been brought up through proper channels in the medical staff," said Dr. Glenn Casey, the hospital's head of anesthesiology. "That never happened."

The crisis at the hospital began shortly after Katrina blasted the New Orleans area Aug. 29. It ended Sept. 2, when the last patient was evacuated. Memorial has been closed since then, and Campanini said Tenet has not decided whether to reopen it.

In the days after the storm, the medical staff met every eight to 12 hours to discuss plans to treat and evacuate patients, said Casey, a 23-year staff member.

Euthanasia "was never discussed," he said.

Dr. Richard Deichmann, an internal-medicine specialist who was at the hospital until the last patient left, was "really surprised" by King's charges, said his wife, Cecile Many. Deichmann was traveling Thursday and could not be reached for comment but had discussed the allegations with his wife.

Despite such denials, the allegations "are serious enough for us to launch a full-scale investigation," Wartelle said.

The inquiry grew out of the investigation of the deaths of 34 residents at St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard, Wartelle said.

The owners of that nursing home have been booked with 34 counts of negligent homicide.

Investigators from the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in Foti's office are "looking into deaths that could have occurred because of the disaster," Wartelle said. "They want to see whether there might have been negligence or abuse."

In a message published on www.nola.com, The Times-Picayune's Web site, in the days after the storm, King's sister, Rachelle King, said her brother had told her discussions of putting patients to death were under way.

Hospital management "decided to selectively withhold food and water from patients," she wrote. "Doctors are being forced to decide who gets to live and who will starve to death."

Campanini denied that allegation, saying, "Our focus was on saving lives and getting people out."

King is a hospitalist, a doctor who tends to other physicians' patients while they are hospitalized.

He was a contract doctor, not a staff member, and he had been at Memorial about a month before Katrina, Campanini said.

"He was not an insider," Campanini said. "He was not a part of the management group that was in charge."

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John Pope can be reached at jpope@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3317.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS 1003-1050


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### 1445 River Parishes

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MARDI GRAS FLOAT
915-8950

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### 3520 Colleges/Schools

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Accepting applications 581-7800 Personnel Consulting Group

East Bank manufacturing co. seeks ACCOUNTANT or BOOKKEEPER to manage finances. Min 10 yrs experience. Fax resume to 713-812-3555 or Email dw77024@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ GENERAL BOOKKEEPER Needed for Westbank book publisher. For full details go to: www.pelicanpub.com/jobs.htm

### 4010 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

N.O. Law Firm continues to grow and seeks an experienced A/R - A/P accountant with Juris experience preferred. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to Human Resources, 5100 Village Walk, suite 200, Covington LA 70433

ACCOUNTANT/HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Quickbooks, billing, A/R, A/P in Human Resources exp for Metairie, LA CPA firm. Competitive salary + benefits. Send resume by fax to 504-837-0123 or email prebowe@rebowe.com.

### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Growing Harahan co. has immediate opening in AP, Basic AP & Excel knowledge or exp. needed. Competitive benefits pkg. including Medical Ins., 401k & more. Send resume & salary history to PO Box 23734, Harahan, LA 70183

AR Clerk, Deposits, Collections Calls, Data Entry, Filing, Phones, jgaubert@steamsolutions.com, Fax: 504-523-3688

AUDITOR Est Birmingham AL CPA firm, CPA & 1 - 5yr exp preferred, some travel req'd. Fax resume 205-991-5450

**Bourbon St Gentlemen Club**
now hiring experienced
**BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT**
APPLY in person **225 Bourbon Street. Mon-Fri, 12pm-2pm.**

BOOKKEEPER/ Acct clerk Harvey Co seeks exp. acct/bk to handle P/R, G/L, & cost control. Computer skills req. Excel a +, sal. depends on exp. Fax resume 504-361-7731, or email steppertowinginc@aol.com

Busy Covington CPA Firm Needs Data Entry/Bookkeeper. 20-40 hrs per wk. Flexible hours, Quickbook exp helpful. Email resume to: epiner@epinercpa.com or fax to 985-892-9320

CFO/CONTROLLER $100K+ DOE. Prefer MPA or CPA for Metal Bldg. Component Mfg. in Gulfport, MS. Fax resumes to Goldin 228-896-4653

CONSULTANT Knowledgeable in MAS90/200 w/strong comp. skills, 3-5 yrs exp., incl. sal. hist. Health/Life/Dental. Resume: PO Box 275, Metairie, LA 70001, Email:lajobs@bellsouth.net.

CORP. TAX - Baton Rouge Baton Rouge co. seeks indiv. with solid Public Accounting or Corporate Tax background. Salary up to mid $50's. Email to ckerth@personnel-group.com

Covington Company seeking Bookkeeper with minimum of 4 years experience. Knowledge of bank reconciliations, sales taxes, payroll taxes and general ledger accounting required. Salary open. Send resume in confidence to PO Box 1303, Covington, LA 70434.

**Covington CPA firm seeks 2-5 years experienced degreed accountant. for AP, AR, GL, and tax work. Quick Books preferred. Send resume & salary requirements to: 115 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433. Attn: MGR.**

**Westbank Construction Co.** Seeks Exp. Bookkeeper. Fax resume to: 504-347-1522

### 4010 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

Degreed ACCOUNTANT with Construction experience. Apply in person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-11am 1208 Bert St., Laplace, LA

EXCITING RESTAURANT ACCOUNTING Co looking for A/P Clerk. Exp. in QuickBooks & Great Plains a plus. E-mail resume to: rgthompson@semolina.com or fax to 225-926-8976

Full Charge Bookkeeper Metairie based real estate company is seeking a mature, experienced, self motivated full charge bookkeeper. Experienced in Excel and general accounting software required. Please apply via fax to (504) 838-8713 or by e-mail to jobs@safeguardit.com

NEW TODAY
**Metairie CPA Firm has Tax/ Acctg/Consultant** positions. Min 3yrs exp., compet. salary/ benef., No travel. Respond: CPA Firm, PO Box 8685, Met. LA 70011

### SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER

for sm CBD firm, Quickbooks, payroll, tax report. Exc pay, park fringes fax resume 504-525-5179

WESTBANK CPA firm has immediate opening for a degreed accountant. Send resume and salary history to 2067 Paxton St, Harvey 70058

### 4020 Agents & Sales

NEW TODAY
**$ AVON ''FREE STARTUP'' 1-800-348-8730, 504-628-9084**

**********

**High Volume Dealership Survived the Storm!**
**Now Hiring:**
**EXP. SALES PEOPLE**
**Please call 504-481-0779 or 504-363-1945**

**********

**PHONE AGENTS**
FT Inside Sales Agents Needed NOW! Day and evening shifts. HourlyGuarantee, Commissions & Bonuses. Fax Resume: 504-443-9271 or apply in person:1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

Commercial Collection Agency - Rausch-Milliken is still up and running in Metairie LA. We are experiencing tremendous growth. We need experienced Sales People and experienced Commercial Collectors also Spanish speaking Collectors. Salary, Bonuses, hospitalization, 401(k) etc. Sales applicants contact Van, Collections applicants contact Chuck 504-837-6995

NEW TODAY
**CONSTRUCTION / ROOFING**
*** Salesman ***
Local company w/state license. Will train. Trans required.
**ALSO NEEDED**
*** Flyer/Lead Canvaser ***
**504-885-3738 or 504-416-9633**

### 4020 Agents & Sales

CONSTRUCTION SALES - LA/MS Area, for distributor of concrete & masonry access. & equip, engr or const exp helpful, knowledge of concrete forms a plus. Send resume & salary reqs to: CS&E 14020 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70817.

**CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASST.**
**Monday-Friday. Experience preferred, Metairie, 885-1133**

INSIDE SALES PHONE REP, $11/hour & 5% commission Shift: 6am-1:30pm M-F. Cold calling & established accounts provided. Call: 504-734-8588

**Jani-King**
**the World's #1Commercial Cleaning Franchise is now accepting applications for Inside Sales and Outside Sales Positions. Fax resume to (504) 441-9709 or email to mgomez@janikinggulfcoast.com**

Kitchen & Bath Designer - Campbell Cabinet Co is now accepting resumes for kitchen & bath designer for inside sales in our Harahan location. The position requires reading blue prints, designing & selling kitchen & bath cabinets. Mail resume to P.O. Box 23884, Harahan, LA 70183.

LOAN ORIGINATORS - National Mortgage Banking Co seeks to hire Experienced LoanOfficers. Will train Professional Insurance Agents & Financial Planners.We are open, writing business, and closing loans, licensed in 46 states. Fax confidential resume to 504-324-0371

**High Volume Dealership Hiring Sales People**
**No exp. necessary. Please call 504-481-0779 or 504-363-1945**

### 4020 Agents & Sales

"OUTSIDE SALES ESTIMATORS NEEDED"
Immediate openings for Outside Sales Estimators. Must have reliable transportation, good measuring/math skills, ability to draw specs, personable attitude & ability to LEARN FAST!! Fill out application at 213 Grefer, Harvey, in Rathborne Indus. Park or fax resume to 504-361-9600, call 504-361-5000 for directions only.

PROFESSIONAL FLOORING SALESMAN Baton Rouge based flooring company heavily involved in Jefferson Parish is looking for qualified professionals to measure and sell. Where ya at Gary? 1-866-53FLOOR

NEW TODAY
**Residential & Commercial ROOFING ESTIMATOR.**
**340-0807, 340-4977**

### 4020 Agents & Sales

**ROOFING SALES - COMML**
Min. 3 yrs. exp w/flat.
1-888-365-7663

ROOF SALES, Local Co. w/ state license. pros only pls. DVD training program. 888-906-7663

ROUTE SALES - Termite Tech Service & Sales seeks career minded, self driven & outgoing ind. $30-$35K/yr, company vehicle, hospital ins, retirement & vac. Subject to criminal, drug & driving background check. Apply 2:30-5:30pm.Mon-Fri BILLIOT PEST CONTROL, 201 Bark Dr, Harvey LA

Exp. Sales Exc. for Interior Landscaper. Exc. Outside sales ability. Salary,benefits,bonus. Resume w/salary req to dheroman@HeroMan.biz

Salespersons, Top pay, immediate openings, Call Today! 985-781-8364

### 4020 Agents & Sales

### 4020 Agents & Sales

***RAY BRANDT AUTOMOTIVE GROUP NOW HIRING AT ALL LOCATIONS***

**TOYOTA • NISSAN INFINITI • DODGE • HYUNDAI**

Immediate Openings Available for Technicians

Will Pay Top Dollar for Qualified Technicians

***PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON***

**The Times-Picayune**
**NEWSPAPER DEALERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Terrebone/Lafourche area
Dealership available in Montegut/Chauvin
For more information, please call John Ross
**985-594-9956** or **985-209-1825**

St. Tammany Parish Dealerships available in Mandeville/Covington/Folsom
For more information,
please call Clay Welty/Bonnie
Ragan at **985-898-4857** or **985-850-1182**

## . . . 3 EASY WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR AD'S RESULTS . . .

**1** On the first day your ad runs, use the **NEW TODAY** artwork and let our readers know your ad is **BRAND NEW!**

NEW TODAY
Bedroom Set, Antique Oak Must Sell. $1,000 or Best Offer. 000-0000.

**2 SAY IT WITH BOLD TYPE**
Make your ad stand out for faster response! Call **822-SELL** (7355) or **1-800-925-0000** for details.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2000 MUSTANG GT Red, 5 spd. $17,000 CALL 000-0000 | **2000 MUSTANG GT** Red, 5 spd. $17,000 **CALL 000-0000** |

**3 AD WRITING TIPS**
1. Start your ad with the item you are selling or a benefit headline
2. Abbreviate as little as possible
3. Describe your item or job position in detail
4. Include the price of the item you are selling
5. Use white space, larger type and graphics to make your ad stand out and be visually compelling

**Call 822-SELL (7355) and a sales representative will be happy to assist you.**

## Employment

### 4020 Agents & Sales

LATTER & BLUM INC/REALTORS® Since 1916

Get Your Real Estate License! Join the #1 Real Estate Company In the Gulf South

* We do not participate in pyramid schemes or pay our agents bonuses to recruit. "#1 Relocation Department in the Gulf South!" *Real Estate School Tuition Reimbursement! *97% Commission Plans! *NO Franchise Fees! *NO Non-Compete Agreement! *NO Competing Managers! *NO Transaction Fees! *NO Administration Fees! *NO Desk Fees! *Best Commission and Benefits Package In Town! * Branch Managers are licensed Real Estate instructors for LA Real Estate Commission * Finest real estate training program in Gulf South - FREE to new agents *FREE post licensing training hrs *Our Agents Don't Have The Out Of Pocket Expenses That Agents Have To Pay At Other Firms!

We take an interest in your career and help you succeed! Legendary Service to our community Since 1916! **www.latter-blum.com** **1-225-763-3435**

From Lawn Mowers to Lincolns Find it Everyday in The Times-Picayune Classified

ServiceMaster now hiring a Cleaning Manager Supervisor with exp in project cleaning and floor/carpet maintenane. Fax resume to 504-833-4144.

### 4020 Agents & Sales

TELEMARKETERS Wanted Our top sales people earned over $100K in 2004, Start at $10/hr + bonus. If you wanna work in a fun and fast environment, where youwill never hear 'You are making to Much Money!' Call: Max 985-639-0292, 866-639-0292or 504-274-8512

TERMINEX HELP WANTED

Permanent positions available for the right individuals. $500 per week to start. Apply 2329 Edenborn Ave.-Metairie. 70001.

504-834-7330

NEW TODAY

Termite & Pest Control Sales

Experience determines high pay potential. Apply in person: Safeguard, 1840 Commercial Dr., Harvey. Call 504-367-0077 for directions.

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

ALL POSITONS LEASING MAINTENANCE HOUSEKEEPING PAINT SHEETROCK Appl 800 Joe Yenni Blvd. Resident Service bldg #838 889-6838

HOUSEKEEPER Full Time Housekeepers needed for large Property Management Company inMetairie. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

Housekeeper needed Fax application to 832-8147

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

** HOUSEKEEPER ** Tonti Properties seeking exp. person for attractive apt. community in Destrehan. Great pay, benefits, 401(k) + insurance. Must be dependable w/good transportation. Apt. discount avail. Fax resume to 985-764-0711 or call 985-764-1659.

Leasing Consultant needed ASAP. Fax application to 504-832-8147

* LEASING * * PAINTING * * MAINTENANCE * * PATROL * Needed for Kenner apt. complex. Apply @ Relais Esplanade, 1201 W. Esplanade, 464-0533.

Leasing professional needed for lg Met. apt property. Must have computer skills. Sales exp.& a creative mind needed. Tax credit exp. helpful. Exc benefits. Fax resume to: 504-833-4453

Get your money's worth in The Times-Picayune Classified

Mainland Asset Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maint Techs. Apply within: Belmont Village Apts, 720 Carrollwood Village Dr., Gretna, or email main@belmontvillage.net

Mainland Asset Services Property Manager, Asst Mgr., Leasing, Maintenance Techs. Apply within: Belmont Village Apts, 720 Carrollwood Village Drive, Gretna, LA or email main@belmontvillage.net

Maintenance Man needed ASAP. A/C certified. Apply in person 2500 S. I-10 Service Rd., Metairie, La.

PAINTERS Full Time Painters needed for Large Property Management Company in Met Guaranteed 40 hours, Mon-Fri. Good Benefits. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie

PORTER needed for Large Apartment Community in Met Good Benefits, Full Time. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Metairie.

### 4021 Apartment Personnel

SERVICE TECHNICIAN Apartment Service Technician needed in Metairie Area. Must be A/C Certified, Plumbing, Electrical required. Good Pay, Great Benefits! FullTime job guaranteed. Apply 2723 North Hullen, Met apartmenthomesbytonti.com

### 4023 Banking

Hancock Bank Job Line 1-800-506-4441

### 4025 Casino/Gaming

CASINO GIFT SHOP Kenner Casio seeks 2 part time energetic sales people. Must work evenings and weekends and pass drug test. Please Fax resumes to 504-834-0496

CASINO MANAGERS VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. F/T, Training provided, N.O. based. Exc salary & benefits. **Call HR Dept. 414-256-1702**

### 4030 Clerical

NEW TODAY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

For busy office. Termite and pest control and roofing combined. Pay based on experience. Standard M-F office hours. Apply in person: Safeguard, 1840 Commercial Dr., Harvey, LA 70058. Call 504-367-0077 for directions.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST, F/T Front desk, multi-phone lines, general office duties, A/P, A/R, computer experience necessary. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to:504-464-4419

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER Accounts receivable, inventory, billing, must be personable.Wholesale Siding Supply, Covington LA 1-866-877-2771

### 4030 Clerical

ARCHITECT'S OFFICE/CBD SECRETARY/RECEPT

Having extensive experience with Corel Word Perfect, MS, Office (Word, Excel) and QuickBooks. Good benefits & working conditions. Call 504-522-6525 (fax) 504-522-9641, email: hegedusarchitect@aol.com

Bi-lingual Office Asst needed 8-5 Mon-Fri. Start Immed. $8-12/hr. 504-455-1756

Busy Metairie construction co seeks F/T Receptionist. Excel & Word a must. Pay rate based on exp. Fax resume 504-887-3482

Salvation Army seeking case-workers to assist clients affected by the disaster. For more info please call: 866-SAL-4WRK.

COURIER/FILE CLERK. Seeking responsible, full-time employee, $17,000/yr + paid benefits+ mileage; good driving record w/ insured auto a must; high school diploma.Fax info to 504-833-0848 or mail to Box 38, Metairie, LA 70004-0038.

GENERAL OFFICE HELP salary $6.50/hour. Apply 2300 W 21st Ave, Covington.

GENERAL OFFICE WORK Growing fast paced Slidell ins off. No exp nec. Please mail resume to 103 Galleria Blvd Slidell LA, 70458

IMPORT CLERK

National wholesaler looking for qualified import clerk to work closely with suppliers, custom house broker, steamship lines, etc., for timely clearance of imports and delivery to warehouse. Experience with original documents for custom clearance, payment of ocean freight, wharfage charges, and applicable duties and taxes helpful. Excellent organizational and communication skills required. Proficient computer skills required for other duties/ projects. Excellent salary and benefits program. Send resume, in confidence, to: **Employment Coordinator P.O. Box 53333 New Orleans, La 70153**

OFFICE ASSISTANT Needed for busy construction office, must have min of 5 years officeexp. M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, salary based upon exp. Email resume hr@i-55.com

OFFICE HELP - Experience with Integri Claims, Data Entry a must. Call 281-960-9560

OFFICE HELP NEEDED, Computer data entry, knowledge of Excel & Word Proficiency and phone skills. 281-960-9560

PART-TIME SECRETARY Permanent 20 hrs per week. Flex schedule. Multi-task, efficient & energetic. Accounting & Windows knowledge required. Uptown Sales Office, $13/per hrs., 504-861-1500.

PEAKE BMW has immediate position for full time Receptionist/Cashier. Must posses professional appearance & attitude ad be able to work in a past paced environment. Dealership exp preferred. 10 Key calculators and computer exp a must. Tentative hours Mon-Fri- 8:30am-5:30pm and every other Sat. 8:00am-5:30pm. Apply in person 2630 Veterans Blvd. Kenner

Production Planning: Food manufacturer has an immediate opening for an individual who has superior organizational, mathematical and communication skills. Applicantshould possess good people skills and the ability to communicate overthe phone, for this challenging career in the scope of food processing. Previous computer and detailed follow-up skills are req'd. Salary (dependenton experience) and excellent benefit package. Degreed candidates pref'd. Send resume & salary reqs. to: employment@peppersource.com

F/T Receptionist/Secretary for busy Metairie Office. Typing, Filing, Computer Literate. Fax Resume 504-734-9369

AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP Looking for Receptionist/ Customer Service. Pleasant & dependable. Dealership experience preferred. Please send email to: rebecca@rainbow-northshore.com

RECEPTIONIST FULL TIME, ENTRY LEVEL. COMPUTER EXP. W/ WORD AND EXCEL. SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 10890; JEFFERSON, LA 70181.

LEGAL SECRETARY Needed in Kenner, experience a must. A competitive salary offered. Please fax resume to: 504-467-7732

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST - Needed NOW! Heavy Phones & PC. Accuracy Essential in this fast-paced casual office. Fax Resumes: 504-443-9271 Attn Manager or Apply in person: 1919 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 300, Kenner. 9-5 Weekdays

SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST NEEDED! APPLY NOW! Please call 985-892-3210.

SECRETARY TO OFFICER. Metairie Commercial Real Estate Company seeks self-starting,dependable, accurate secretary; good communication and grammatical skillsa must; team player; attention to detail; Word, Outlook, and Excel proficient,salary dependant on qualifications and experience; good benefits. Sendresume with salary requirement to Box 38 Metairie LA 70004-0038.

### 4030 Clerical

NEW TODAY

SECRETARY TRAINEE St. Rose. Will Train. Part/ Full-time, 504-466-8222.

NEW TODAY

Typist. Typing & WP5.1 req. Elmwood area. $9 per hr. Benefits. Send resume to: Office Manager, PO Box 23687, NOLA 70183-0687

### 4045 Drivers

NEW TODAY

F. CHRISTIANA & CO. Now Hiring EXP. Class A & B CDL DRIVERS **Benefits:** Health Ins., 401k, Life Ins., Paid Vacation, ** HURRICANE BONUS ** Apply in person M-F 8a - 5 p **7251 River Rd., Marrero, LA** 504-348-3391

BORDEN'S - ROUTE SALES. Must have Class B CDL license. 5 Day work week. 401K, bonuses, hospitalization. Apply in person: (2) BORDEN'S LOCATIONS. 10232 AirlineDr. Met., Mon.-Fri. 9am-Noon, 1-800-640-7631. 64367 Hwy.41, Pearl River, Mon. 3-5pm, Wed. 8am-noon, or call 1-800-574-7468

Briggs Equipment has immed. opening for Forklift Tech. & CDL Drivers. We offer top wages + excellent benefits incl. paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, health insurance, company stock plan. For more info call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

Wanted: Two truck drivers to haul debris in Chalmette area. Must have clean CDL license. Be dependable and have reliable transportation. Have work for 2 years. $14 per hr for right person. 11 hrs a day for 6 to 7 days per week. Call Ted 337-298-9693 or after 5PM 337-896-4878.

CDL 'X' Endorsement Drivers. Are you the best? Do you live on the North Shore? Doyou need to be home everyday and make $45,000-$50,000 w/medical insurance,holiday pay, 401k, life insurance, uniforms, and a set schedule? Do you demandshiny new Peterbilts? Then we need YOU! Call 985-863-9041 or Fax resume:985-863-9095 for immediate hiring

CDL DRIVERS Southern Regional Run, home wknd, 1 yr exp over the road 985-643-8530/290-3888

CDL DRIVERS Peterbuilts & KW's. Home every night. Make Thousands. Mandeville. 228-263-2115

CDL DRIVERS/DRIVERS/ HOPPERS Must be 27, Call 985-892-8790 or 985-893-5496

CDL DRIVERS Experienced. LaPlace Concrete. Good pay. Excellent benefits. Call after 3pm, 985-652-1636

CLASS D DRIVERS Now hiring, St. Rose Nursery, apply in person 11966 River Rd, St. Rose.

Collection Agency needs aggressive Collector. Make thousands. Mandeville. 228-263-2115

DISPATCHERS/SALES PERSON, F/T, dispatching & sales, must be organized & quick on feet. Exc pay. 504-353-3042

NEW TODAY

Immediate Openings for Delivery/Warehouse Crew MATTRESS DIRECT 1-888-897-5871

DRIVER Needed for tri axel Mack Dump Truck in the New Orleans/West Bank area. Good pay, experience necessary. Call 504-391-2767

EXP. ROLL OFF DRIVERS 504-343-1696

DRIVERS Class B needed for debris removal, 12 hours/day, 7 days/week, 2 years exp, clean record. Call 864-809-3045

DRIVERS With F-250 or larger pickup to haul gooseneck trailers for debris removal. For more information, please contact Ashley. 863-699-5585

DRIVERS & HELPERS Now hiring! Class D, Mandeville area. Please call 985-626-0080

DRIVERS - Jefferson Door Co. West Bank Company seeks Drivers with type D lic. for local deliveries. 40 hrs work week guar. No nights or wknds. Paid health ins.& vacation. Please call 504-340-2471 for info

DRIVERS/Equipment operators full time. Local company, excellent pay. Please contact Lisa Diggs 504-239-0932

DRIVERS & DRIVER HELPERS. Commission based with a minimum. Benefits include health ins. & profit sharing 401K. Fax resume to 985-871-0355

DRIVERS CDL A & B Temps Today Staffing. For info, call 504-468-7782

DRIVERS Needed for PODS. Starting pay $10/hour. Plus CDL license a must. New Orleans. Call 225-214-7637 for more info.

DRIVERS Needed Independent contractors needed with 1 ton flatbeds and pickup trucks. 504-733-2008

### 4045 Drivers

DRIVERS Lafarge North America, Inc.

A world's leader in construction materials isseeking CDL class A and B Truck Operators for our North Shore, South Shore, Bayou, and River Parish areas. Immediate openings, excellent benefits, flexible hours. Requirements include experience with air brakes, ability to lift 50 lbs, and pass a drug screen test. 504-834-6613

DRIVERS P/T route Driver in New Orleans Area. Must have full sz P.U. truck. Guar wkly. salary. Fax to Attn: Route Driver 225-647-7848 or email eds2324@bellsouth.net Name, address, contact #, type of vehic

NEW TODAY

DRIVERS W/CLASS B LICENSE

Vacuum truck operators. Work in New Orleans area. $16 an hr, 10-12 hrs a day, 6-7 days a wk Call Rick Mumalo 205-862-0239

EXPERIENCED ROLL OFF Truck Drivers needed. Call between 9am-4pm, 835-1696

Full Time Parking Lot Sweeper Driver, night work 9:00 pm till 5:30 am Duties include Driving Parking Lot Vacuum Sweeper Truck, walking with 20 lbs. back pack blower. Must have clean driving record and must pass drug test. Starting pay $70.00 per night will increase to $80.00 per night after one month probation period. Call 504-469-4633 or 504-888-9553

LOCAL DRIVER CDL Class A or B w/X-Endorsement, 2 yrs driving exp. Clean driving record req'd. Full benefits & excellent pay. 504-394-5530

LOCAL HOT SHOT/Delivery service needs Owner operators with pickups, 1 ton Flatbeds, and Gooseneck trailers, 504-469-2001

NEW TODAY

Martin Transport, Inc.

Professional Drivers Needed LOTS OF HOME TIME No tank exp req'd (w/2yrs T/T) Join the Martin Team Today! Local and regional hauling. Liquid & Drybulk. Must have a good driving record, current CDL, 23 years of age or older & DOT qualified. Excellent Rates & Co. Driver Benefit Package. * Exc. Pay & Bonus Program * Annual Safety BONUS * Tenure BONUS * Referral BONUS * Quarterly Safety BONUS * Holiday BONUS * Quarterly Service BONUS * Driver Away BONUS * Group Medical & Dental Ins. * Prescription Drug Card * Hospital Sick Pay * $50,000 Group Life Insurance - $100,000 AD&D * Two weeks paid vacation based on previous year * 401K plan w/Company Match * Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) * Many Additional Benefits **Call Mike 1-888-380-5516 LaPlace, Louisiana or call Jimmy 1-800-817-9106 Baton Rouge, LA**

Motorcoach Operators Exp'd, LA Trailways has immed. openings for CDL B/P Drivers, clean MVR Record. DOT Phys, Drug Screen Req. 504-348-1177

PART TIME Hot shot drivers need in new Orleans area. Must have full size P.U. truck. Perfect for retirees. Fax to Attn: hot Shot Driver at 225-647-7848 or email to eds2324@bellsouth.net Name, address, contact #'s and type of vehicle.

PICK-UP TRUCK Drivers Needed. Laborers Needed. Call 504-468-1952

ROLL OFF DRIVERS - CDL License required. $12/hour. $400 signing bonus. Call 504-737-6015 or 504-382-0873

NEW TODAY

ROOFING PRODUCTS INC Seeks long term CDL Drivers/ Warehouse/Forklift Oper. Competitive pay & benefits. Apply at 4955 River Rd, Jefferson

Route/Service Sales to existing customers. HS Diploma/GED required, college preferred. some heavy lifting. Apply in person, mail or fax resume to: UniFirst, 2710 Sharon St. Kenner, LA 70062, fax: 504-466-2777

TOW TRUCK DRIVER needed. AAA Towing 504-340-7075 or 504-329-3974

TOW TRUCK DRIVERS - Experienced only, large & small, Jefferson Parish, 504-835-4500

TRUCK DRIVERS Class A or B, experienced, good pay, local work. Please call 321-228-6335

Truck Driver w/CDL local. Apply 4820 Bradley, Jefferson, LA 70121

DRIVERS NEEDED Apply in person 2320 8th St. Harvey, LA. 9am-3pm.

### 4060 Engineering

TECH-SERV Professional & Technical. Call 341-8550

### 4060 Engineering

CADD DRAFTMAN Immediate opening at Aqua-air. Apply at 639 Manhattan, Harvey.

There's no place like Classified To buy, sell, or hire

CIVIL ENGINEERING - Metairie A/E Firm Has Immediate Openings For Civil Engineer, EIT, and Inspector For Civil Engineering Design and/or Construction AdministrationFor Highway, Drainage, and Sewerage Projects. Send Resume to Meyer Engineers LTD. PO Box 763, Metairie, LA 70004, Fax: 504-887-5056 Or Email: meyer@meyer-e-l.com

CIVIL ENGINEERS Entry, mid & sr level. BSCE req, MS & PE pref. Exp in land development eng. pref. PACIULLI, SIMMONS & ASSOC. We offer high salaries & comp. benefits. Offices in Fairfax & Loudoun, VA. E-mail: lbarker@psaltd.com,fax 703-934-9787, www.psaltd.com

CONSTRUCTION Contractor has opening for experienced Auto Cadd detailer/drafter in Lacombe area to prepare shop drawings. Fax res.: 985-882-1534

**Cudd Pressure Control** is seeking an **Equipment Design Engineer** for dynamic and growing oilfield manufacturer. Duties: perform stress analysis for various equipment; will be working with hydraulic, electrical and pneumatic systems. Must posses a Mechanical Engineering Degree with min. 2 yrs experience; ability to use AutoCAD, FEA program(s) and/or Solid Works. Respond to: **CPCI, PO Box 39, Lindsay, OK 73052**

### 4060 Engineering

ENGINEERS AutoCad Designers, Project Managers, Construction Managers, Inspectors.All Disciplines. Oil and Gas and Katrina Recovery projects. Skansi Staffing,phone 504-394-9868, fax 394-2527. SkansiStaffing@cmaaccess.com

Looking for experienced Sheet rock, painting and roofers. Please Call 504-416-5585

Met. Based Engineering firm, seeking ME's CE's & Cheme's EE's for plant & project work at local refineries. e-mail resume: joebrinz@eisllc.net

NEW TODAY

Oil & Gas Consulting Firm

Based/operating in Metairie seeks Structural, Facility, I&E Engrs; Structural, Piping, I-E CAD Designers. Min 10 yrs offshore oil/gas exp. Send resume: csuchand@keystoneengr.com

★ *It's Easy To Place a Classified 822-SELL*

Oil & Gas Consulting Firm based & operating in Metairie, LA is looking for exp. STRUCTURAL, FACILITY AND I&E ENGINEERS along w/STRUCTURAL, PIPING & I&E CAD DESIGNERS all w/ minimum of 10 yrs. Offshore oil & gas exp. Forward resume: csuchand@keystoneengr.com

### 4060 Engineering

**TRAFFIC ENGINEER Regional engr to work in Mobil, AL or Jackson, MS areas. Min 5 yrsexp and PE req'd. Send resume and cover letter to HR Dept., RE: TE1, P. O. Box 9637, Mobile, AL 36691, EOE, M/F/D/V, Pre-employment Drug Screen Req.**

### 4065 Financial

Commercial Collection Agency - Rausch-Milliken is still up and running in Metairie LA. We are experiencing tremendous growth. We need experienced Sales People and experienced Commercial Collectors also Spanish speaking Collectors. Salary, Bonuses, hospitalization, 401(k) etc. Sales applicants contact Van, Collections applicants contact Chuck 504-837-6995

CONSUMER FINANCE COLLECTOR Experience Necessary. Please Call 504-469-8300

NEW TODAY

Experienced Licensed Louisiana Mortgage Loan Originator for Westbank office. Dianne 504-391-0027

LG BALANCE COMMERCIAL COLLECTORS WANTED. Must be willing to relocate to sunny central Florida. Salary, commission, bonuses, and benefit package. Only serious, experienced, committed people need apply. Long term position. Call Robert Eskin. Hatmaker and Associates: 1-800-215-7002 ext. 111

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/ Lounges

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/ Lounges

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/ Lounges

### 4023 Banking

### 4023 Banking

### 4023 Banking

### 4023 Banking


**Put some confidence in your career.**

**Position: Tellers and Financial Service Representatives**
**Market: New Orleans, LA**
As an associate for Regions Financial, you'll not only be part of one of the top financial institutions in the nation and a trusted financial sales professional in your market, you'll be working for one of America's Most Admired Companies as recently ranked by *FORTUNE*. On top of that, you'll receive a $1,000 signing bonus, as well as a highly competitive salary.

**Responsibilities:**
- To professionally and accurately handle banking transactions and deliver excellent customer service.
- Promote and sell bank products and services.

**Requirements:**
- Must have high school diploma or equivalent.
- Minimum of six months' customer service and cash-handling experience.
- The ability to sell bank products.
- A passing score on a pre-employment test.

As one of the top 15 financial institutions in the country, Regions Bank offers a stable work environment, an outstanding benefits package and career advancement opportunities. Apply online at www.regions.com or call 225-924-9341. Applications can also be picked up at the following Regions banking centers:

Williams Boulevard | **Kenner**
Citrus Boulevard | **Harahan**
William David Parkway, Veterans Boulevard, Belle Chasse, Lapalco, Barataria Boulevard, Lake Avenue, Airline Drive | **New Orleans**

Everyday confidence. REGIONS BANK

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SWEET FIRE & ICE
Upscale Casual Dining – Bakery – Fireside Martini Lounge

**NOW HIRING ALL COOK POSITIONS**

**$2400 SIGNING BONUS FOR FULL TIME COOK POSITIONS**

Apply in Person at Sweet Fire & Ice • 701 Veterans Blvd. • Metairie
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 10am-3pm or CALL US AT (504) 831-3437

ALSO HIRING ALL OTHER POSITIONS

E.O.E • Pre-employment drug screen



**Reopening Oct 17th in Metairie!**

All Hourly positions: Front of House & Back of House!

**Bravo! Cucina Italiana,** an award winning, high-volume, upscale-casual and high-energy restaurant is seeking experienced, professionals for the reopening of our Metairie location.

**We offer great pay and benefits (including 401(k)).**

Please stop in any time!

**Bravo! Cucina Italiana**
**3413 Veterans' Memorial Blvd. • Metairie, LA 70002**
**Call 504-828-8828**

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EOE

Learn more about our exciting restaurants at www.bestitalianusa.com


# Dial-A-Professional

## SERVICE DIRECTORY 2010-2500




Accounting/ Income Tax 2010
Air Conditioning/ Heating 2020
Alterations/Sewing 2030
Antique Restoring 2040
Appliance Repair 2045
Automotive Repair 2046
Carpenters 2050
Carpet/Flooring 2060
Catering/Cooking 2065
Child Care 2075
Computers, Etc. 2195
Concrete/Cement 2200
Contractors 2210
Countertops 2215
Doors/Windows 2225
Drywall 2230
Electrical 2240
Fencing 2250
Furniture Cleaning & Repairs 2255
Firewood 2260
Garages 2262
Hair & Nail Salons 2263
Glass Repair 2264
Hauling 2265
House Leveling 2268
House Washing 2270
Insulation 2275
Iron Works 2280
Janitorial/Maid 2290
Landfill & Grading 2300
Landscaping/Ponds 2310
Lawn/ Gardening/Trees 2320
Legal 2330
Medical 2350
Moving 2360
Painting/ Paper Hanging 2380
Patio/Decking 2390
Pest Control 2400
Plumbing 2410
Pool Service 2415
Printing & Duplicating 2420
Professional 2430
Refrigeration 2440


## SERVICE DIRECTORY 2010-2500




Remodeling/ Restoration 2445
Roofing & Guttering 2450
Siding 2460
Security 2470
Senior Citizens/ Disabled/Hdcp. 2480
Shoring 2485
Storage 2490
Stucco 2493
Telephones 2495
Transportation 2496
TV/VCR 2497
Word Processing/ Typing 2498
Welding 2499
Business Misc. 2500


## SERVICE DIRECTORY 2010-2500



### 2020 Air Conditioning/ Heating

FIRST 100 CALLS GET 10% OFF on initial repair. $50 off out door unit replacement, $150 off compl sys. replacement. Diaz A/C Service 504-239-1838

A/C CENTRAL Service call $25. Condensers installed as low as $695. 504-341-3375

COOLING & HEATING Repair and Replacement State Licensed, Insured 504-874-3666 or 504-874-0234

NO SERVICE CHARGE, SAVE! Repairs, freon, swap outs, 24hr. East or West Bank. 504-460-7359

Searcy AC, Heating & Ref. Sales & Service. 504-234-5401

AIR DUCT Cleaning & Sanitizing, Oder Control. 343-5445

AAA Air Duct Cleaning & Mold Foggers, 329-7657

### 2045 Appliance Repair

Rick's Appliance sales and service. Reasonable rates. Call 504-220-0773 504-828-1500

### 2060 Carpet/Flooring

ACID STAIN/Scored Concrete. Turn concrete into beautiful floors. Remove old flooring and replace with the look of natural stone. Commercial Residential Insured. Call 225-281-6446 / 601-454-3953

MODERN FLOORING & INTERIORS continuing to build LA from the floor up. (Full service flooring store) New location. 5512 S Lambert. 504-488-1364

CARTER CONSTRUCTION - Tile work, fences, storm repairs, and mold removal. 504-427-9721 or 504-469-7232

RESIDENTIAL & COMM'L CLEANING & Oriental Rugs. 225-337-1549 or 225-337-1558

WET ORIENTAL RUGS? For information, call Sarouk's Shop. 504-522-3260

REPAIR & INSTALL **Hardwood Floors. Free Estimates** Please call 504-957-6557

Stone Mason, Tile Setter -Ceramic--Porcelain--Stone, Free est. Call 504-495-8121

VINYL TILE INSTALLATION 7 days a wk 227-9389, 813-6080

### 2075 Child Care

Childcare in my Metairie home. Nurse. 12 Years Exp. Refs. (504) 887-4326

CHILD CARE in my Covington home. 7am-6pm. Please call 985-875-7545

### 2195 Computers

Professional DATA RECOVERY 50% off for Katrina damage www.inteldatarecovery.com. (408) 318-0496

COMPUTER DISASTER HOTLINE 504-888-0408. Recovery, even if flooded. Contact us now!

TCB Network Solutions 504-342-4293

### 2200 Concrete/Cement

KENT'S CONCRETE WORK removed, replaced, lic, ins, good prices, 348-9800, 723-9800

Gonzales Cement Concrete & Bulldozer Work 436-0196

### 2210 Contractors

Accord Engineering, Inc. Complete property restoration Contractor from clean up to reconstruction of your residential, commercial and industrial properties. Lic # 813435 with hazardous substance removal endorsement. Contact Dennis York 504-940-4890 or email at dyork@accordeng.com. We support your rebuilding efforts.

### 2210 Contractors

RECONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS Tear Down, Removal of furniture, carpeting and drywall. REBUILD; Hang Drywall, Tape, Mud, and Paint. ELECTRICAL;Change Sockets, Install Appliances and Air Conditioning. Reasonable Prices. Call 504-352-4989

ROOFING Drywall, Louisiana general contractor. Licensed and insured. 35 years experience. 69438 Highway 59, Abita Springs LA 70420. Call: 318-381-5865 or 318-381-6994Office: 318-766-3188

**CALAWAY CONSTRUCTION house gutting , sheet rock removal & replacement, crpty &more, Lic & Ins. since 1999. Photos: calawayconstruction.com, 504-554-2389**

TREE AND SHEETROCK REMOVAL, Sheetrock and painting repairs, maior swimming pool repairs, concrete sand pumping and fill. Licensed and insured local contractor. 504-415-2039 and 504-415-4288

AFFORDABLE HURRICANE CLEAN-UP: House stripping, sheetrock removal, flooring removal, furniture removal & mold treatment. Our prices won't be beat! 504-416-8455

BULLDOG CONSTRUCTION LLC. For All Your Construction Needs. *Masonry, *Concrete, *Carpentry,*Sheet Rock and *Painting. Licensed and Insured. Please Call 985-867-5351 or Call Cell 832-865-1000

**BFS SERVICES** Specializing in residential tear out, drywall installation & painting. Local, licensed & insured. 25 yrs experience. Call **985-290-5581 or 985-847-9080**

HURRICANE CLEANUP Joey's Demolition & Debris Removal Service. Insured Hauling and removal of sheetrock, carpet, trees, sheds and other yard debris. 504-234-3559

CATASTROPHE RECONSTRUCTION STC CONSTRUCTION, Fully Insured, Licensed, Specializingin Water & Wind Restoration, 513 10th Ave. Franklinton, LA. 70438. 985-201-1125

RAYS WEST BANK DISASTER RECOVERY CONTRACTOR No job too small or too big. Licensed & insured. Call 504-606-2835 anytime.

BUILDERS & REMODELERS Licensed Builder & Remodeler. Complete Home repair. Tearout and rebuild. Roof work. Call 1-877-664-5205 or 1-225-664-5205

NEW TODAY

* HOUSE GUTTING* Complete Removal. Sheetrock, Flooring, BLEACH AFFECTED AREAS, HAUL Materials, 20 yrs. Exp. Affordable. Refs. 931-9109

### 2210 Contractors

LICENSED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY Qualified for home demolition & construction debrisremoval. Call J.P. & Sons at 504-431-9631 for free estimate!

ST TAMMANY MAINT, LLC Hurricane debris rem, house cleaning, tractor/Bobcat svc, expert tree rem, boat rescue, water pumping. 225-338-6999

McGee Truck/Dozer Service. Dump truck, dozer, backhoe, & frontend loader. Stump removal! 504-352-0765, 985-725-1870

Big Easy Restoration, LLC Residential Contractor Licensed - Insured - Local 1-800-210-8248 - 24 hour

RILO'S INSPECTION SERVICE Removal of yard debris, Home Renovations, Carpet Removal. 504-367-2862 or 504-270-6994

MOLD ABATEMENT Air duct cleaning, insurance claims welcome. Call 504-392-6906 or 1-800-494-2468

Katrina clean-up, tree and debris removal, tractor service, northshore. call 504-231-4803or 985-845-9055

ST LISC & INS Contractors avail for flood and hurricane work. 40 years experience locally. 504-512-4572 or 504-554-2377

GUARDIAN INSTALLED SVCS Install fiberglass insulation/ walls/attics, remove/replace. Licensed/Insured. 504-465-8742.

SHEET ROCK DEMOLITION, debris removal. Seeking demolition work (residential/ commercial).Call 504-472-0891

Level Homes LLC. Gut, clean, repair. Licenced & insured. 985-212-9356

Renaissance Properties Mold Remediation, La. Lic. contractorCall 368-1401

HOUSE GUTTING, Cheap and fast, available Friday 10/14. Call 985-785-8172

SHEET ROCK Removal, House gutting & debris clean up. 985-359-1961 or 504-329-3592

STORM DAMAGE REMOVAL & renovation. Call 504-228-3151 River Rose Properties.

Commercial Contractors demolition or rebuild. 985-637-8765 or 985-696-8952

STORM CLEAN OUT Wet Carpet, Drywall Strip, Aver $1.10/sf removal. Free Ests.504-884-1009

Gut, clean, remove sheetrock/ floors, repair. Licensed & insured. 985-212-9356

Hallmark Contr, gen'l repair, remod,demo 833-7223, 388-7223

**The Works - One Call We Do It All Free est. 504-905-8338**

### 2230 Drywall

CLEAN UP & RESTORATION. Fast & Reliable! Locally owned ! Call 504-382-8357

### 2230 Drywall

**SHEETROCK, HANGER & DRYWALL FINISHER, HANG, TAPE, FLOAT, TEXTURE, PAINT. SINCE 1985 EXC REFS. LIC, 504-583-7696, 985-796-9579**

COMPLETE RESTORATION Locally owned and operated. Please call 504-382-8357

A1 SHEETROCK REMOVAL Company. Quality, dependable, affordable service. 504-715-9497

Affordable Dry Wall Removable, will start 2 jobs today, Licensed and insured, 504-450-0888

### 2240 Electrical

**ELECTRICIAN** Licensed & Insured, Does own work! Small & large jobs. **915-5652 or 915-5653**

LESLIE ELECTRICAL SVC LLC residential & comm'l, lic & ins. 985-651-2315/504-292-9636

### 2250 Fencing

**STORM FENCING all types of fences. 40yrs exp. Lic, bonded & ins. 800-673-3006.**

### 2265 Hauling

**24' CARGO VAN, w/lift, & DRIVER CLASS A, CDL, 985-725-2498**

**Hauling Anytime day/night Best Prices. 245-9225, 234-5664**

20, 30yd dumpster rental Please call 504-431-8383

### 2270 House Washing

Power Washing 504-909-4166 985-690-9912; insured; 6yrs exp.; resi. & comm.

### 2290 Janitorial/Maid

Kei's House Cleaning. Insured and bonded. Available Monday-Friday. References. 504-738-9114

### 2320 Lawn/ Garden/Trees

TIP TOP CRANE & TREE SERVICE. Specialize in difficult removals, bobcat/bucket truck-available, large lot excavating, fully insured and bonded, visa and mastercardaccepted. Call Toll Free: 1-866-4TIPTOP (1-866-484-7867)

Action tree removal, bobcat & debris hauling, licensed/insured, insurance claims welcome, reasonable rates, 504-228-6767

Garden Works Lawn/Garden Clean-up, Pressure Wash Tree Cutting/Removal. Lscp Restoration. 504-301-3231 or 234-2003

YARD CLEAN-UP removal of dead shrub/tree, preparation of soil for replanting. 504-352-4989

C.F.B INC TREE SERVICE Tree removal, Lic. & insured. 1-866-974-TREE/ 386-804-1278.

### 2320 Lawn/ Garden/Trees

TREES CUT 504-338-6442

TREE TRIM/RMVL Fence rpr Flower beds, Dirt, Cement, Brick, Sodding, Drainage 466-1710

GARDENER 25 yrs experience. Trees, Gut houses, Removal, Haul 504-737-8792/504-615-4077

DEMOLITION, TREE, TRASH & DEBRIS REMOVAL! 504-319-5501 OR 479-3007

A CERTIFIED TREE SERVICE - 20 yrs exp. All phases of tree care. 1-877-7MY-TREE

Tree Service. Trimming, Take Down. Reasonable rates. Licensed & Insured. 225-413-5880

STORM DAMAGED TREES CUT, small jobs. Reliable. Please call 504-491-9381

TRASH, DEBRIS, TREES cut up and removed. References. 504-319-5501, 479-774-3007

TREE Removal & Stump Grinding Lic. & Ins. Contractor 1-800-561-4882 24/7Cell

LOCAL SPECIALIST INSURED Since 1980, 504-456-0502

David's Stump Removal Service. Licensed and insured. 985-643-5255 or 504-491-1373

HALF PRICE TREE SERVICE Free estimates. 985-966-8581 or 850-543-9399

DEBRIS & TREE REMOVAL Free estimates. Contact Jerry at 504-393-1517 or 504-338-3128

**Tree Removal & Trimming. Fast Service! 504-237-6188**

**AFFORDABLE TREE** Trim & Removal. Free est. 504-874-4920

Trees cut 1/2 price, licensed and insured, Call 504-450-0888

**Stump Grinding Service Free estimates, 915-0348**

### 2330 Legal

ATTENTION VICTIMS OF FLOOD WATERS of Hurricane Katrina's 17th Street Canal Levee breach. Call the Law Office of Frank D'Amico Jr, (The Strong Arm) 504-525-7272 or 1-800-804-3603

### 2350 Medical

NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

If you are a study participant of NOCCR and are taking investigational medication, it is important that you call 1-877-820-1999 to discuss study enrollment.

Drs. Kewalramani announce re-opening of clinic at 3301 St. Charles Avenue. Call 899-3031 for appointments.

### 2350 Medical

Doctor Yazigi announces to New Orleans and Slidell pat

## Employment

### 4065 Financial

LOAN OFFICER North Shore Mortgage looking for qualified loan officers with proven track records. Please call 985-951-7792 or fax resume: 985-951-7793

Nationwide mortgage company has positions available in Mandeville for licensed mortgage originators. Established customer base preferred although leads are available. Salary + commission. Email resume to: mgr2368@alliedhomenet.com -EOE EOH

Nationwide mortgage co has positions available in Mandeville for licensed mtg. originators. Est. customer base preferred although leads are available. Salary + comm. Email resume to mgr2368@alliedhomenet.com -EOEEOH

VICE PRESIDENT OF Finance for Marion military institute. Marion, Alabama. 334-683-2362

### 4068 Hair & Nail Salons

EXPERIENCED BARBER for busy Algiers Barber Shop. Call 394-4247 or 450-4585

BUSY SALON NOW HIRING - Hourly, Commission. Cuts Plus, 985-893-9001, Cov. or Mandeville

CARMEN & SANTOS SALON Hair Stylists, Shampoo and Front Desk help needed. Apply in person @ 3409 Florida Ave, Kenner. 467-7356 ask for Edie.

COSMO SALON A Very Busy Upscale Salon Is Now Hiring FT Hair Stylists. Call 985-781-1991.

GEORGY'S HAIR STUDIO Now Hiring, Assistants & Hair Dressers. Full & Part Time. Heather 504-465-9590 or 504-258-5529

Hair Stylists (2) for Renaissance Salon & Spa. Belle Chase Area. Call Alexis 504-628-3494.

Hair Stylist and Nail Technician needed. Metairie salon/Veterans Hwy. location. Booth rental. Karen Mattingly 504-888-3300 or 504-259-6130

HAIR STYIST Needed! Tuesday-Saturday. Able to take walk-ins. Call 504-888-4000

HAIR STYLISTS Needed Immediate openings, West Bank Fantastic Sam's. Please call 504-348-2346or 504-669-0548

Harahan salon seeks PT or Ft mancurist/pedicurist,ASAP, Call 504-737-6011

**IMAGE MAKERS NEEDS**

Hair stylists, nail tech, massage therapists, shampoo assistant. % or booth rental. Call 504-466-6976 or 782-9020

NEW TODAY

**NOW HIRING**
**HAIR STYLISTS & MANICURIST**

@ SALON SIERRA, located in old Metairie, 834-0024

**UPSCALE SALON & SPA**

SEEKING Receptionist, Housekeeping, Stylist Asst. & Nail Tech. EXP PREF'D. APPLY 441 METAIRIE RD

UPSCALE SALON IN METAIRIE. WILL BE EMPLOYING TWO COSMETOLOGISTS!! Our 30 year old,national company provides: Guaranteed annual compensation of $30,000+ per-year for your first two years of employment. Employee benefits package includes medical, dental, life, paid time off, long and short-term disability insurance and 401(k). Attractive work hours (every Sunday and Monday off,with no Friday or Saturday evenings). Great working conditions (private stylingrooms, built-in clientele provided, no walk-ins). Ongoing training provided free of charge by the Company. Convenient location (near I-10 and N Causeway Blvd). No resumes required. All interviews will be kept strictly-confidential. You may contact us by: TELEPHONE - 800-251-2658 x3036. FAX 561-361-7682. e-mail: rkarson@hcfmw.com. Call for your interview today!

**Westbank Beautician (m/f) w/clientel for busy shop. 366-0882, 340-7738, 368-2964**

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/ Lounges

A+CERTIFIED computer tech, $25 per hour. Contact younger.m@gmail.com for more

ALL POSITIONS! At Least $9 Per Hour. Popeyes has immediate job opportunities in the New Orleans area. Call 800-735-0330 today!

ASSISTANT MANAGER/Bar Help $7/hour + tips. Full/Part time. Daiquiri Shoppe, 7115 Westbank Expressway Marrero

BARTENDER WANTED. Apply 7001 Veterans Blvd. Metairie. 504-455-9087

NEW TODAY

**BARTENDERS Needed for French Qtr Daiquiri $8 HR. Apply in person 200 Bourbon**

Bartenders, Servers, Dishwashers. Experienced only. Male and Female encouraged to apply. Full or part time considered. Apply in person only, Wed.-Fri. 10am-7pm, Franks Marina Grille, 100 Marina del Ray Dr., Madisonville. 985-792-4000

**BARTENDERS**
**Apply: 34 Westbank Expwy**

NEW TODAY

**BARTENDERS needed at The Iron Horse Saloon in Gretna. Call 504-382-2675.**

Bourbon St. nightclubs accepting applications for Managers, DJ's, MC's, Bartenders & Shof sales people. Call 504-410-2335 or email resume to ; jobs@karnocompanies.com

BRENT HOUSE HOTEL Front desk, exp req'd. Apply in person 1512 Jefferson Hwy, New Orleans, 70121.

BUS/KITCHEN Help needed. Apply at Lido Restaurant 1019 Ave. C in Marrero

CHEF- Move to Florida and be our personal chef! Salary $50,000. Write to: C.A.Falcone, Box 339, Hobe Sound, FL 33475

SHIMMY SHACK NOW HIRING Working Chef, salary open. Line Cook, Waitresses, full time and part time. Apply at: 1855 Dock Street, Harahan, LA.

CHEFS, Line Cooks, Utility and front of the house personnel. Apply Dougie V's Plantation Restaurant, with emergency relief team, 13899 River Rd. Luling. 985-785-1399

Chops Bistro & Martini Bar now hiring: GM, Executive Chef & all other positions. Contact Kristin Wahl 504-218-8967 (leave a message), Wahl0725@aol.com or 504-305-4250

COOKS: Now hiring! P/T, F/T avail. Wayne Jacob's Smoke House & rest. 769 W. 5th St, Laplace 70068. Apply in person after 2pm. Call 985-652-9990

COOKS AND WAIT STAFF, Immediate pos available for experienced workers. 985-661-9692 or apply online at wingery.com for Slidell Location.

DAYTIME SERVERS & LINE COOKS w/flexible hours. Apply within: Petunia's Place, 2020 Hwy 59, Mandeville 985-674-3436

EMBERS, The ORIGINAL BOURBON HOUSE, located in the French Quarter is accepting applications for all positions. Call 504-410-2335 or email resume to: jobs@karnocompanies.com

EXP'D KITCHEN STAFF Apply in person at: JUNIPER 301 Lafitte St.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVERS. Admiral's Cove, a Private Country Club in Jupiter FL. Seeks exp servers, for both seasonal and year round. Exc pay and benefits. Free meals & uniforms. Call 1-888-249-8680 for more information. EOE/DFWP.

Maintenance Engineer, Front Desk, Night Auditor & Sales Mgr Hampton Inn & Best Western Apply 4288 Highway 51 Laplace. fax: 985-651-3009, e-mail Employment@cajunlodging.net

BRENT HOUSE HOTEL Housekeeping, exp. req'd. Apply in person 1512 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, 70121.

### 4070 Hotels/ Restaurants/ Lounges

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR/ FOOD PRODUCTION MGRS. Educational food service exp., personnel & hands on mgmt, exp pref'd. Competitive wages, direct deposit, 401K, health, dental & vision. Must pass drug screen. E-mail resumes w/ salary history & refs. to: HR12@ablmanagement.com EOE

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER - LSU Dining has an immediate opening for an experienced FoodService Manager with 3-5 years high volume experience in the restaurant/quickservice field. Multi concept experience a plus. Qualified applicants shouldfax resume & cover letter to David Heidke at 225-578-0834. EOE M/F/V/D

**Foodservice Positions**

Valley Services, Inc., has foodservice positions available at Times Picayune corporate cafeteria in New Orleans. Cooks, line servers, cashiers, and other foodservice workers are encouraged to apply. All shifts available. Previous foodservice experience required. Call Cyril to schedule an interview at 504-453-5697. EOE.

GENERAL MANAGER Locally Owned Boutique Hotels 100 Rms Part of Garden District.The Prytania Park & Queen Ann. Also, Front Desk Manager. Phone 504-885-9275for appt. or email akhalpern@aol.com

Housekeeping/Front Desk Clerk Help Wanted, Call or Stop by Deluxe Motel 985-641-8800

HOUSTON'S Rest Server & kitchen now hiring dishwashers/ all kitchen pos. $13/hr.&frt of house pos. Must be frdly, prof, out-going & team ornted. Apply in person: 4241 Veterans Blvd. Interviews 9am-11am.

Jazz Seafood & Steakhouse now hiring: Managers, Kitchen Manager, all other positions. Taking applications, 4pm-5pm daily.

KITCHEN HELP Mon.-Thurs. 4am-1pm AND BAR HELP Mon.-Fri. 12pm-7pm. Apply in person B & R Restaurant and Lounge. Bridge City, Avondale shipyard area. 504-453-6619

KITCHEN STAFF Harahan area restaurant seeks staff members, several positions avail. Great hrs. Please call 504-737-0033, Mon-Fri, 2-5pm

Maior hotel franchise in Westwego, Louisiana is seeking an experienced motel manager.Priority will be given to displaced hurricane Katrina victims. For further details, call 225-892-0899 or fax your information to 225-753-5113 or email your resume to tri526@aol.com.

MR ED'S Restaurant All positions, FT/PT. TOP PAY! Apply: 1001 Live Oak, Metairie.838-0022

MURIEL'S JACKSON SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring SOUS CHEF AND PASTRY CHEF. Great benefits, pay. Local references required. Apply in person 12pm-5pm, M-F or at rgralia@muriels.com No phone calls please!

MURIEL'S JACKSON SQUARE 801 Chartres St at St Ann is hiring Wait Staff, Line Cooks, Asst. Server, Runners, Hosts, Bartender. Local refs req'd. Apply in person 12pm-5pm, M-F No phone calls please!

RALPH BRENNAN RESTAURANT GROUP - Red Fish Grill, 115 Bourbon St; BACCO, 310 Chartres St. Now hiring all positions at our award-winning French Quarter restaurants. Apply in person Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm. Benefits, health ins, vac, 401K. Info 504-598-1200

RISTORANTE FILIPPO Now hiring all positions available: WAIT STAFF, PANTRY & DISHWASHERS. Call apply: 504-835-4008

Servers, Bussers, Hostess, Line Cooks & Dishwashers, exp. only. Apply in person, Annadele's Plantation Restaurant, 71495 Chestnut St, Covington

NEW TODAY

**ST. ROSE Restaurant needs Kitchen Workers, Mon-Fri 8am-2:30pm. Call 465-1331.**

NEW TODAY

**SUBWAY HIRING**

For Covington & Slidell locations. Manager for Slidell and all hours for both locations. Call 985-643-0200 10 to 4, 985-845-2203 lv. msg.

**WESTBANK RESTAURANT Taking applications for short order & fry cook. Apply 2730 Mt. Kennedy, Marrero or call 504-340-8506**

### 4080 Household

I need a housekeeper twice/wk west bank in Algiers, must have references and transportation. call 504-458-2636

HOUSEKEEPER - Spanish speaking needed in Gretna area. 504-920-2500 or 504-812-9453 or 504-309-6775

HOUSEKEEPER wanted, full-time, Mandeville area. Please call 985-626-0080

MOTHERS HELPER NEEDED 5 days/week, Housekeeping, cooking, care for 1 child, Salarydependant on experience, C. Davis (504)912-0341

NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER All Day, Mon.-Fri. Must own car and have clean driving record. Background check. Mandeville home. 985-626-9285

NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER - P/T, references required. Covington. Please call 985-502-8181

Nanny needed to live in our home every other week. Must own a reliable car to transport twins to school, $250/week. 601-365-9247. Picayune, MS (30 min. from Slidell)

### 4090 Insurance

NEW TODAY

**FIELD CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVE**
**AMERICAN NATIONAL PROPERTY and CASUALTY CO**

Recognized as a dynamic leader in the personal lines insurance industry, is seeking candidates for a **Field Claims Representative** in our Mandeville, LA office. A college degree or equivalent experience in construction/housing industry is required, along with the completion of advanced property school. Must have at least 3-5 years property adjusting experience; knowledge of computerized estimating software is desired. Must be able to work with claimants and company staff in a professional manner and be familiar with Louisiana statutes and standard property policies and endorsements.

**Qualified candidates should fax their resume and salary history to: 417-887-2814 or e-mail: lchoate@anpac.com**
**ANPAC Human Resources**
**American National Corp Cntr**
**1949 East Sunshine**
**Springfield, MO 65899-0225**
**Equal Opportunity Employer**

### 4095 Legal

REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY For Mandeville Title Agency who can examine abstracts. Please fax resume to 985-845-4393

LEGAL SECRETARY/ PARALEGAL Wanted for North Shore Law Firm. 2 Years exp reqd. Call Laura 985-727-1712

LEGAL Secretary/Receptionist West Bank personal injury law office. Experience pref. Fax resume to: 504-831-4470

Legal Secretary for Metairie Office. Apply at 3829 Veterans Blvd, Suite 205 or fax resume to 504-455-4480

### 4095 Legal

Exp. Notarial Secretary(LA), salary commensurate w/ experience. Fax resume to 985-645-9148 or mail to P.O. Box 649, Slidell, LA 70459.

*Times-Picayune Classified 822-SELL*

PARALEGAL Old Metairie Law Firm on Metairie Road looking for part and full time Paralegals. Minimum 5 yrs exp. Good Salary, Benefits, Free Parking & Flexible Hours. Fax resume to: 504-828-0024 or email kieferlaw@aol.com

The Covington Law Office of Christine Remy & Associates seeks trial attorney to handle family law cases. Mail resume & salary requirements to: P. O. Box 1690, Covington, LA. 70434

### 4100 Management

ASSISTANT MANAGER Established furniture company looking for highly motivated self starter. Excellent working environment, salary and benefits. Apply in person at 2500 Williams Blvd, Kenner LA.

### 4100 Management

CARPET STORE MANAGER Pel Hughs Flooring, A Division of Pel Hughs Printing. A 51yr old N.O.Comp is seeking an exp'd mgr for flooring store in Mid City. Positions for sales associates and installers also avail. Call 504-835-7616 to arrange interview

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR Permanent position. Responsible for maintenance, repair, & upkeep of facilities. Previous supervisory exp a+. Apply in person at 333 Sala Ave., Westwego, Hrs: 8am-10:30 am, M-F

NEW TODAY

**Now Hiring: Managers, Assistant Managers & Customer Service Representatives.**
Full time & Part time. Apply Online at www.uhaul.com or call: 985-340-1106 E.O.E. Employer

OFFICE MANAGER needed for National Company in Bogalusa. Good benefits. Send resume to 2032 Columbia St. Bogalusa LA, 70427 or fax 985-735-6992

### 4100 Management

MANAGER Sign And Graphics Business has an excellent opportunity for an experienced individual managing all aspects of operation. I.E. Customer relations, production, quality control, etc. Generous compensation package and benefits. Email resume to: david@htsigns.net.

**RESTAURANT MGRS**

Are You tired of working nights? Need a 5 day work week? Need $30K plus $6k in bonuses? Need Health Insurance? Send Your resume to: Northpark Car Wash, 985-649-2313.

ServiceMaster now hiring Janitorial Manager. Must be reliable, organized, with good people skills. Fax resume 504-833-4144

NEW TODAY

**WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS & MANAGERS**

familiar w/handling green coffee Willing to relocate to Midwest. Resumes: wlogistics@gmail.com

### 4100 Management

STORAGE MANAGER Immed opening for a bright, energetic, aggressive person w/exc computer, prof, phone & people skills to manage state-of-the-art Cent storage center in Met. Duties also incl RV Motorhome rental business, apt business. Some wknd work req. Avg 48 hr wk. 3 or more yrs retail exp req. Only people looking for immed employment need to fax resume to Fred 831-4840 or email Lucky3828@aol.com. Resume must incl starting salary req. & educational bkgrnd

### 4105 Marine

NEW TODAY

**50 -100 Ton Crew Boat Capt.**

Work in New Orleans area, top pay plus insurance, will assist in housing. Call1-225-268-4259

Dawn Services LLC hiring Off-Shore Captains, Mates & Deck hands. Call 504-362-8994

DECK HAND $150/day. Must have 1 year experience on Fleet towboat. 7 days on, 7 daysoff, live on boat. 504-416-2128

### 4105 Marine

NEW TODAY

**COOK/DECKHAND**

To work on offshore quarter barge. Taking applications at: 1304 Mac Arthur Ave., Harvey Tues. - Thurs 9-11am or 2-4pm.

FLEET DECKHANDS AND LIVE-ON ENGINEER/OILER - ARTCO FLEETING NEW ORLEANS IS NOW HIRING Full Time Experienced And Inexperienced Personnel! Benefits include: health, life, dental, Rx, AD&D, and disability insurance plans. 401(k) with company match, stock purchase, a separate pension plan, holiday and vacation pay. Apply 8400 River Road, Waggaman, LA, 70094 or call 504-431-1488. Temporary housing provided for employees.

**Marine Const. Co. needs Welders/Fitters/Pile Drivers/Concrete Forman/ Supts in La/MS Gulf Coast Area. Please call 985-359-3700, fax 985-359-3702. Benefits after 120 days.**

Pilots, Deck Hands, Fleet Work, and Trips to Mile 300. Benefits, 504-466-8190

### 4105 Marine

NEW TODAY

**GULF LOGISTICS**

**EXP'D OFFSHORE DECKHANDS**
**Top pay & safety bonus. Call 1-877-693-3889**

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Sell it in Classified!

**822-SELL**

Tow Boat Pilots to start immed. Must be posted from New Orleans Harbor and West Canal, 200 ton or Master or Mate of towing license req., $330-$350 per day, health ins. incl., 28/14 schedule, 225-806-9376

### 4105 Marine

**WANTED: PUSHBOAT PILOTS TO RUN CANAL**
**$340 to $350/day**
**AND**
**$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS**

14/7 Schedule. Low Insurance Premiums. Free Dental Insurance. Matched 401K Plan. Free Disability Insurance. Christmas and Quarterly Bonuses.

**EXPERIENCE A MUST!**
CALL (225) 473-4310
M-F 8 AM TO 4 PM

### 4110 Mechanical

**$3000 SIGN ON BONUS**

Auto Technicians. $500-$600 wkly + commission. Call 337-235-2105, 337-278-6086 or 800-761-6080

**ASC CERTIFIED TECH**

3 to 5 yrs. exp. Pay based on exp. Call 985-796-1456

AUTO Body techs experience needed. Call 504-341-7100 or 985-624-8422 Champs Collision

### 4110 Mechanical

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN Needed immediately. GM techs for fast growing service dept. in Baton Rouge area. Full benefits available, top pay for top techs.Mon.-Fri. Email resume: gmtechnician@hotmail.com

Briggs Equipment has immed. opening for Forklift Tech & CDL Drivers. We offertop wages + Excellent benefits including paid vacation, sick leave, 401K, healthinsurance, company stock plan. For more info. Call 504-733-5640. EOE/M/F/D/V

**BRYAN MITSUBISHI**
Hiring:
**(3) TECHNICIANS**
**SERVICE ADVISOR**
**(3) DETAILERS**

Import exp helpful but not necessary. Benefits & 401K available. Apply in person: 8213 Airline Hwy or call Mickey 293-1070.

DETROIT DIESEL MECHANIC at least 2 years experience, good pay & benefits. 837-9900

DIAGNOSTICS MECHANIC Experienced, J.R.'s Auto Repair. Call 504-464-0061

EXPERIENCED MECHANIC Must have own tools. Call 504-468-2527


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- Must be computer literate.
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PORTER
CAPTAIN/WAITER
LINE COOKS
CASHIERS
BANQUET STAFF
SECRETARY

Apply in person M-F:
3100 19th St., Metairie, LA 70002
*DRUG FREE WORKPLACE*

## Employment

### 4110 Mechanical

Busy Chevrolet Dealership seeks GM trained Service Techs for immediate openings in Richmond Virginia. Asst. w/ relocation, guaranteed salary/ signing bonus, medical/dental plans w/coverage starting immediately, employee stock ownership /401K, weekends off. For info. contact Robert Lawhorne at: 804-323-7600 or Rlawhorne@whitlowchevrolet.com

Come be part of a winning TEAM! As a global player for over 30 years in the industrialservice arena, we have lived up to our name through our employees. We are the largest leak sealing/emissions control/field heat treating/NDT InspectionCompany in the U.S. Many positions available. Hiring individuals who strive to succeed and understand that safety is 1st in everything we do!Experienced/entry level in the following disciplines: Mechanical Technicians in Leak Repair/ Field Machinists/Exp. w/ Boiler Repair/Technical BoltingSpecialist. Comp DOE. Must complete physical/drug/ alcohol screening. Call 225-644-4839 fax 225-647-3805. EOE M/F/H

DIESEL MECHANICS - Exp'd w/own tools. Parts Positions Avail. Lg Hvy Duty Truck Dealership now hiring at all locations; Harahan, Houma, Port Allen. Exc. Benefits, Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Screening & Physical. Please Call Becky 985-876-3000

**DIESEL TECHNICIANS**
$5,000 SIGNING BONUS!
Mack Truck Dealership Now Hiring! Exp. Techs. Top Pay. Unlimited Income Opportunity. Medical, 401(k), vacation, uniforms. Call Service Dept 504-467-9630

Experienced EXHAUST MECHANIC. Must have own tools. Apply in person: 2115 Belle Chasse, Hwy, Terrytown.

Experienced Exhaust Mechanic. Must have own tools. Apply in person: 2115 Belle Chasse Hwy Terrytown

Fleet Maintenance MECHANIC Needed. Diesel exp. & good driving record required. Salary $12-$16/hr DOE. 504-736-0166

GOLF COURSE MECHANIC Money Hill Golf and Country Club. Must have knowledge of golfcourse equipment, be motivated and detail oriented. Please call 985-893-7251

Large Equipment Mechanic Large Landscape Co. looking for mechanic to do maintenance & repair of Bobcats, trucks & equipt having diesel engines, hydraulics & airbrake systems. Also perform odd jobs in the yard. Benefits, wage related to exp. John 504-391-1800 ext 213

MACHINIST Miami based office seeking to fill 2 positions with experience with CNC, mill, and grind-hard chrome. Will perform all setup procedures for machining components utilizing available equipment. For more information call 305-622-4523 or fax 305-622-4443 or email: steven.feinberg@goodrich.com

**MARINE DEALER needs In/ Out-board Technician. $20 hr. Mandeville. 800-561-4882, 24/7**

MECHANIC, SERVICE TECH, OFFICE Clerk openings available immediately. 985-892-6304

NORTHSHORE TOYOTA Needs 10 Technicians, 5 Lube Technicians and 5 detail personnel. Business is booming, come work for the fastest growing dealership on the North Shore. Toyota exp. a plus, ASE certification a plus. Benefits, 401K, health, dental, life, paid vacations, uniforms, training. Please apply in person 68500 Hwy 190 Service Rd, Covington, La 70433. 985-893-7778

Pro Engine Sales has immediate openings for Automotive Technicians. Call 504-464-7481

SHOP MECHANIC
Large landscape co. is seeking exp mechanic for inspection and repair of Toro & Echo Small engine equipt. Exp. in electric & hydraulic systems required. Benefits, wage related to exp. Call John 504-391-1800, ext.213

**TRANSMISSION SHOP - HELP WANTED!** Apply 2409 Delaware Ave, Kenner, 464-1803

### 4120 Medical

**NEW TODAY**
**HealthWest REHABILITATION HOSPITAL**
**ALL POSITIONS OPEN**
**Full Time & PRN**
**Rehab Experience Required**
**Apply in Person.**
**3201-B Wall Blvd.**
**Gretna, LA 70056**

**NEW TODAY**
**Medical Specialist of N.O. Seeking MEDICAL ASS'T & MEDICAL BILLER for N.O. uptown office. Fax resume to: 504-891-8156.**

**NEW TODAY**
Medical Office Biller. Exp. only, for Northshore Clinic. Exc. benefits, competitive salary. **Call 985-871-6020 or fax resume to: 985-871-6027**

**NEW TODAY**
**EXP. BILLING PERSON**
For Westbank medical center. Fax to: 504-348-9813

Business Office Manager. Immed. opening for a Business Office Manger in a new Ambulatory Surgery Ctr in Metairie. Must have strong background in mgmt, accounting, finance, computer skills (Excel, Word, Quickbooks) and exp. in the following areas: A/P, P/R, A/R, Collections, Medical Billing and Coding (ICD9 and CPT4). ASC Experience strongly desired. Looking for dynamic individual who can thrive in a fast paced environment. Mail Resumes & salary requirements to: Kushner LaGraize LLC. 3330 West Esplanade Ave. Ste100 Metairie, LA. 70002, Attn: Lal Leaber or E-mail: Lal@kl-cpa.com

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT - 2 positions. X-ray certification helpful. Fax resume and salary requirements to 504-885-0762

CLERICAL WORKERS Mandeville Medical Office is seeking 2 full-time employees. Must have prior exp working in a physician's office. Duties will include answering phones, scheduling cases, verifying insurance benefits, insurance billing and collections. Must be able to multi-task and have excellent organization skills. Salary equal with exp, benefits available. Please send resume to Clerical Position, PO Box 8588, Mandeville LA 70470

CNAs, Dietary and Housekeeping Staff. We offer competitive salaries. Jefferson Health Care Center, 2200 Jefferson Highway, Jefferson, LA 70121. Call 504-837-3144 or apply in person.

**CNA's & Direct Support Staff**
needed for work with individuals with developmental disabilities receiving one-on-one independent living services. Must have reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance. Duties include assisting individuals with activities of daily living, accessing community activities, and training on specific skills. $7.25/hr, mileage reimbursed, training provided. Submit application at 320 Hammond Hwy Ste. 300, Metairie LA

**COMFORCARE SENIOR SERVICES** has immediate openings for qualified CNA's/ Companion. Service area includes Jefferson, Orleans & St. Tammany parishes. For interview call 985-781-6619

CONCERNED CARE HOME HEALTH has openings for a comptroller and biller in our Covington office, RNs, LPNs, and CNAs in Metairie, Westbank and Slidell. Please fax resume to: 866-536-6094 or call: 888-698-2302

**NEW TODAY**
**EXP'D DENTAL ASSISTANT**
Vicinity Oakwood Shopping Ctr., Vietnamese speaking preferred but not necessary.
**Call 362-1776 or 232-2818**

DENTAL ASSISTANT & FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Needed for busy Dental office. Computer experience needed. Call 504-361-5367

**EXP. DENTAL ASSISTANT**
Metairie, SBE, Benefits
Fax Resume to: 504-883-3777

**EXP. DENTAL HYGENIST**
P/T, Metairie
Mail resume to: PO Box 7096 Metairie, LA 70010

**DENTAL ASST/FRONT DESK**
Exp. 2 to 4 flex days. 215 St. Ann Dr., Ste 5, Mandeville, or fax 985-626-1287

**NEW TODAY**
**SURGICAL/DENTAL TECHNICIAN**
needed for busy oral surgery office. FAX resume w/salary requirements to: 504-340-2423.

**Dental Assistant/Receptionist needed for Metairie Office. F/T position available immediately. Exp.preferred. Fax resume to: 504-456-8471**

DENTAL ASSISTANTS needed. Upper Scale Dental Office located on the West Bank looking for 2 exp. assistants accustomed to treating quality patients. 504-392-0221.

DENTAL ASST With exp., needed for Metairie practice. Fax resume to 504-888-9335 or bring in person to 4325 Loveland St. Phone: 504-888-9333

DENTAL FRONT DESK Coordinator for busy dental office, must have exp. 985-641-4180

**DENTAL FRONT OFFICE**
Metairie, Mon-Fri, SBE
AR, AP, typing, light accounting, ICD-9/CPT, computer literate, transcription. Mail resume to: PO Box 7096, Metairie, LA 70010

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/ CORRID Needed in Metairie office, experienced only. Fax resume 504-834-3167

Direct Service Prof. for Non-Profit. Care of elderly & disabled. Must have high school diploma, own transportation, car ins. Pls. call 504-512-2243, 504-228-6850.

FLOOR MANAGER: $25,000. Managing staff to better serve the residents and family members in a LTC facility. Must be a people person that can command respect. No health care certification needed. GREAT BENEFITS! Fax resume: 504-602-0012 or Apply in person: 405 Folse St, Harahan

Jackson Parish Hospital seeks full time RNs & LPNs for acute care. Must have current license & CPR Certification. For additional information contact: Administration, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd. Jonesboro, LA 71251

THE PONTCHARTRAIN HEALTH CARE CENTER, CNA'S $10/hr Interim pay - All shifts avail. LPN's, Housekeeping, Laundry, Dietary & Maintenance. Contact: Dale Cooney Administrator, 1401 Highway 190, Mandeville, LA 70448 985-626-8581, Fax: 985-727-4661 dale@pontcare.com EEOC

LPN FT with Pediatric Experience for a busy Pediatric Clinic. Fax resume 985-893-0093.

LPN needed for immediate opening, long term private pediatric nursing case in Covington.$15/hr. 985-893-2279

**NEW TODAY**
**Ormond NURSING & CARE CENTER**
LTC Facility located in Destrehan, currently has openings for:
**HOUSEKEEPING**
**Laundry Supervisor**
**MEDICAL RECORDS**
**SOCIAL SERVICE DIRECTOR**
**CNAs**
**DIETARY POSITIONS**
All interested candidates may fax resume and/or apply in person:
**22 Plantation Road**
**Destrehan, LA 70047**
**Fax: 985-764-1374**

**NEW TODAY**
**CONTRACT MEDICAL ASST in Children's Health Clinic. Fax Resume to: 504-737-1679**

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT NORTHSHORE**
Medical Assistant needed for a busy Oncology practice. Minimum 2 years experience required. Great benefits. Salary DOE. Fax resume to 985-542-8672, Attn HOS/MA

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Northshore Mandeville OB/Gyn in need of experienced NA. Fax resume to 985-792-5130

**NEW TODAY**
**Medical Assistant & Front Desk Receptionist needed for E.N.T. office. Experience with Medtron preferred. Fax resume to 985-845-2277**

MEDICAL ASSISTANT NORTHSHORE MANDEVILLE OB/GYN IN NEED OF EXP'D MA. FAX RESUME TO 985-792-5130

**NEW TODAY**
Medical Asst. needed for Northshore Clinic to assist with EKG's, V/S and general office duties. **Call 985-871-6020 or fax resume to: 985-871-6027**

**MEDICAL BUSINESS SECTY**
W/P, transcription, ICD-9/CPT AR, AP, acctg, computer literate Metairie, Mon-Fri, SBE
Fax Resume to: 504-883-3777

Medical Oncology Billing Personnel needed, 5 year experience necessary. 504-723-7053

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST for West Bank Medical Office. Full Time. Fax resume: 504-436-2224

MEDICAL BILLER for West Bank Medical Office. Full Time. Fax resume: 504-436-2224

MRI Technologist-Expanding outpatient facility in S. FL seeking MRI technologistwith preferred CT background. Min. 2 yrs. experience req'd. Mon.-Fri. w/benefits available. No call, holidays, or weekends. Fax resume to Suzanne: 772-223-7008.

NURSE MANAGER POSITION Ambulatory Surgery Center opening soon in Metairie. Come join a professional and enthusiastic team. Management and surgery experience a MUST. Fax resume to (504)846-3057

NURSE MANAGER POSITION Ambulatory Surgery Center opening soon in Metairie. Come join a professional and enthusiastic team. Management and surgery experience a MUST.Fax resume to: (504)846-3057

**OT/COTA PT/PTA NEEDED**
Home Health. Fax 540-869-9880
Call 540-535-8183 (cell)
Email therapycoverage@cox.net

OT/SLP/PT The Futures HealthCore seeks OT/SLP/PTs to work in schools, group homes skilled nursing facilities, early intervention, and hospital settings. Futures is looking to help those therapists who were unfortunately displaced due to Hurricane Katrina. Opportunities are available in MA, DC, VA, MD, MI,CT, and RI. To learn more contact Vara at 1-800-218-9280 or Fax resume to 1-866-656-6111 or e-mail to vlipworth@futureshealth.com or visit www.futureshealth.com.

Pharmacist & Pharmacy Tech. Certified, experienced, full time, benefits. Independent pharmacy, 985-764-1181

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECH/CASHIER And Cashier. Pleasant atmosphere. Apply at the Medicine Shop, 999 Robert Blvd, Slidell, 9-5:30 M-F.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST**
Occu-Health, Inc. seeks Physical Therapist in the Physical/ Occupational Therapy Clinic at Branch Medical Clinic, New Orleans, LA. For consideration, send resume w/salary requirements, licenses & certifications - Email: ohi@ohi-corp.com; Fax 859-873-7982. EOE

PHYSICAL THERAPIST Out-Patient clinic on the North Shore, great pay, exc. hrs, PT owned/operated, profit sharing, tremendous growth potential. Fax resume to 985-893-2654 or call 985-893-2845.

**NEW TODAY**
**Medical Specialist of N.O. Seeking PHYSICIANS. Positions for office & home visits. Salary based on experience. Fax CV to: 504-891-8156.**

PHYSICIAN rural hospital seeks a family practice physician to relocate to Jonesboro, LA. & assume an existing F/T practice. For additional info. please call or respond to: Administrator, Jackson Parish Hospital, 165 Beech Springs Rd, Jonesboro LA 71251. Ph 318-395-4221. Fax 318-395-4259

### 4120 Medical

PROGRESSIVE Home Health Care. We Are Fully Functioning With: RNs/PTs/OTs/Aides/ Sitters. We Can Fill Your Schedule. All Areas: Houma, Northshore, Baton Rouge, Westbank, Eastbank, New Orleans. Fax Resumes To: 504-263-8320

**PT & OT needed for for home visits in the Westbank, Metairie, & Kenner areas. Fax resumes to 985-652-1809**

PT's AND PTA's Immediate openings in Mandeville, Slidell and Metairie. Reply ASAP to northshoretax@yahoo.com or fax 985-727-5006

P/T Ophthalmology office looking for a friendly, energetic **RECEPTIONIST.** Fax resume to: 504-457-2018.

Reliable Community Alternatives, Inc. - DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF/PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT- Indiv. who are compassionate, reliable, possess exc. writing skills & are willing to work with the elderly and/or individuals w/disabilities in their home or in the community. Various shifts avail immediately. Call 504-779-4740. Or apply in person at 5416 Veterans Blvd, suite 315, Met. Must pass criminal bkgrd

RN homecare visits available in Jefferson and surrounding areas, PPS homecare exp required as it pertains to OASIS and patient care. Interim has an established office in Metairie. Call 504-834-9000, fax 985-626-7473

RNs $6000-$8000/mo., $600 travel, housing, health ins. Call Bonnie(RN) 504-469-4308

GUEST HOUSE OF SLIDELL is now hiring the following positions: Nurses, CNAs, dietary staff, clerical. Apply in person at 1051 Robert Boulevard. Slidell LA 70458 or call 985-643-5630

RN'S, LPN'S, and CNA's. Urgent needs per diem, UNI Staffing. Call 972-872-1736

65RT TECH, medical asst., front desk, lab tech positions. Experienced only. Urgentcare experience preferred. Alfa-wasserman exp. for lab position. 7-day operation, full-time & part-time. Fax 985-690-8301, Email:sleonard@dhos.us, phone 985-707-4067

**SALES $2500+++**
1-800-429-0003

**SITTERS - CNA's - PCA's Needed for in-home personal senior care. All shifts avail. Call M-F, 9a-3p, 504-486-5044.**

Slidell Memorial Hospital Job Line 985-649-8756

Special People, Special Positions! Hiring Experienced RNs for 8-13 week hospital contracts in Wisconsin. Travel & Housing provided. Earn up to $41/hour! Please contact Erin Noon toll free at 866-864-0969 or e-mail enoon@guardianhealthstaff.com Visit us on the web: www.guardianhealthstaff.com

ST. ANTHONY'S Healthcare & Rehab - We are looking for the following: *CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT, all shifts, $8.00/hr. *LPN, all shifts, *MEDICARE BILLER.*MDS COORDINATOR. Please apply: 6001 Airline Dr, Metairie, LA 70003 or call: 504-733-8448

**Surgical tech, medical asst.**
for busy Dematology practice. Fax resume to: 605-888-8221

TECHNICIAN/MED. OFFICE ASS'T for Metairie Retina Practice. Fax resume: 504-455-9545.

THERAPY Here we grow again!! Nexion Health for: Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation,now seeking Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist.To apply please contact: Cheryl Ledet, Marrero Healthcare Center, 5301 August Ln, 504-341-3658 or fax to: 504-347-3754. EOE Nexion

**ULTRASOUND TECH**
**for busy cardiology clinic. Able to do Echos & Vascular. Fax resume: 985-892-1013**

**WAL MART**
**PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY TECHNICIANS**
Wal-Mart Pharmacy Division is searching for Registered Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians in the **Greater New Orleans area.** Must possess current Louisiana pharmacist license, or current technician's license. Must be energetic, a team player, and interested in a career with the World's Largest Retailer. We offer unparalled Opportunity for Career Advancement, Competitive Salary, Bonus Program, 401(k), Stock Options, Company Funded Profit Sharing, Flexible Schedules, and Lunch Breaks.
For more information, please call 479-277-1413 and leave a message for Beth Green. You may also fax resumes to 479-277-4332, or send a text resume e-mail to beth.green@wal-mart.com.

WAL MART is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V www.walmartstores.com

WE ARE Hurricane Katrina Survivors! Hurray, we are back home at: St. Joseph Nursing & Rehab Center. Come join our team. RNs, CNA, LPN positions avail on each shift. Come by and discuss our various competitive wages and bonus pay rates that are avail. Apply in person at: 405 Folse St, Harahan.

**WESTBANK DENTAL, Exp. Dental Asst. needed. Mon-Thurs. Call 504-491-5505**

WOODLAND VILLAGE Nursing Center loc. at 5427 Jex Rd. Diamondhead, MS accepting applications for all positions. Housekeeping, laundry, dietary,activities, CNA's, LPN's, RN's. Please apply in person, by fax 228-255-4833or by email at hrwvnc@bellsouth.net

X-RAY TECH & MEDICAL ASST. P/T, needed for Kenner physician office. Fax resume: 504-466-4871 or call 504-466-4870

### 4130 Part Time

**NEW TODAY**
**$ AVON ''FREE STARTUP'' EARN 50% 504-393-2063 ISR**

Friendly **HOME HELPERS** needed to assist seniors & others with packing & organization of home contents. $8-$10/hrly. Call Mon-Fri, 9a-3p, 504-486-5044

HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE. CAREGIVERS Needed To Provide Non-Medical Companionship& Help For Seniors. ALL Shifts Avail. 504-717-0905

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

Academy of the Sacred Heart seeks a full-time Chemistry teacher, a part-time English teacher and a full-time IT Technician with network hands on experience to assist in troubleshooting software and hardware problems. Position also includes moving, setup, repair and support of desktops, laptops, printers and related network equipment. Direct contact w/students & faculty. Send cover letter and resume via email to: Lynne Lieux, RSCJ, at llieux@rsci.org

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART seeks a full-time Chemistry teacher, a part-time English teacher and a full-time IT Technician with network hands on experience to assist in troubleshooting software and hardware problems. Position also includes moving, setup, repair and support of desktops, laptops, printers and related network equipment. Direct contact w/students & faculty. Send cover letter and resume via email to: Lynne Lieux, RSCJ, at llieux@rsci.org

Architect/Intern needed, design & production, AutoCAD, comm'l projects, Lachin Oubre & Assoc. 504-835-8013, lachinmw@yahoo.com

ARCHITECT Metairie A/E Firm Has Immediate Opening For One Licensed Architect. Min5yr Experience. ACAD Exp Req. Ability to deal w/Owners & Contractors Etc.Send Resume to MEYER ENGINEERS LTD. PO Box 763, Metairie, LA 70004, Fax: 504-887-5056Or Email: MEYER@MEYER-E-L.COM

**NEW TODAY**
**BMET II POSITION**
Immediate opening in Norfolk Virginia area, applicant must have exp. servicing ventilators, sterilizers and general bio medical equipment. Submit resume with salary history and cover letter with 3 verifiable business and personal references by fax to Mr. David Kiviaho 985-643-8418. Excellent salary, commission, benefit package and company car provided.
**ADVANCED BIOMEDICAL**
**57382 ALLEN RD STE A**
**SLIDELL, LA. 70461**
**1-800-383-8962**

### 4140 Professional/ Technical

**BUYER**
National wine and spirits distributor has an immediate opening for a qualified Buyer. Applicants should have 3-5 yrs purchasing experience along with proficient computer and analytical skills. Excellent organization & communication skills req'd to interact with vendors, sales depts., carriers, & other branches. Excellent salary package & benefits. Send resume in confidence to:
**Employment Coordinator**
**P.O. Box 53333**
**New Orleans, LA 70153**
**EOE**

Construction Superintendent - Needed for local const. co. 5 yrs min exp in resid & commercial const req'd. 504-464-7789

DIRECT TV INSTALLERS Experience helpful but not necessary. Must have own vehicle and tools. 225-261-4277

**NEW TODAY**
**Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.**
located in Livingston parish, is experiencing rapid growth and is increasing our work force with qualified team players deserving of a rewarding career. We are a state of the art facility with 400 employees and are ranked as one of the largest and fastest growing fire truck manufacturers in the nation. We are offering career opportunities to experienced personnel in the areas of management, supervision, engineering, maintenance, quality control, and production (welding, mechanical, electrical, paint & trim). We offer competitive pay with progression development and benefits including but not limited to paid vacation & holidays, partially paid health insurance for employees and their families, dental, vision, disability and a 401(k) with a company match. **To learn more about our company, available positions and benefits, please visit our web site at www.ferrarafire.com. Click on company, employment & current openings. If you would prefer, please contact our corporate human resources department directly by calling 1-800-331-3473 ext. 3017 fax 225-567-7667 or email to craigl@ferrarafire.com**
If you are looking for an exciting place to make your career then we are the place for you!
EOE / M / F

**FT & PT FIREFIGHTERS**
**Exp. High school diploma or equivalent. Must pass drug test. Call 504-349-5178, M-F, 8-4:30pm**

Horticulture Tech for Interior Landscaper. BTR or NO area. Exp and/or degree req. Benefits, Reg. hours. 504-832-9999, ext 33

Horticulture Technician for Interior. Exp and/or degree req. Benefit Pkg, Career Position. BR or NO area 504-832-9999, ext 33

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS Molding Technician I - Job requires operating plastic blow molding machines (HDPE or PET), & other automated down stream equip. Must be able to perform machine adjustments and/or minor repairs as needed. Must be able to work overtime on short notice as needed. Exp. as a machine operator in a production setting a plus. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Lift Truck Operators - Job includes production & warehouse operations, transporting or finished goods, loading trailers for out-bound shipment & other related warehouse duties. Must have exp. lift truck operations, mechanical knowledge, computer & communication skills. Requires High School diploma or the equivalent. Normal factory cond. Very clean surroundings. Long-term established company. Benefits, holidays,and vacations. Fax resume to Attn: Human Resources, 985-543-6988. Or mail to: Human Resources, 311 Pride Ave, Hammond, LA 70403. Equal Employment Opportunity.

**LAB TECH**
Beverage concentrate mfg seeking individual with chemistry background to work in QC Lab. Exp. with QA, Lab Eqt. required. Send resume to: info@nationalfruitflavor.com

**NOW HIRING 3 LICENSED PHARMACY TECHNICIANS**
Exp. preferred. Apply in person Carr Drugs, 17A Westside Shopping Ctr. North, Gretna near Academy Sporting Goods. 504-366-1200

POYDRAS HOME of New Orleans is NOW OPEN! Now hiring for: DIRECTOR OF DIETARY SERVICES. Please call Vonda: 504-897-0535 or Fax resume: 504-897-9494 EOE

From Lawn Mowers to Lincolns Find it Everyday in The Times-Picayune Classified

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR**
For ½ day program in Algiers. Early Ed/elem. degree. preferred. Fax resume to Woodlands Presbyterian Early Learning Center, 504-394-7852 or mail to P. O. Box 880, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

PROFESSIONAL RECRUITERS...Recruit Nationally, Live Locally. Strategic Staffing Solutions, IT Services Provider to Fortune 500 companies, is expanding the New Orleans Recruiting team! The New Orleans branch is seeking four experienced professional recruiters to recruit for global companies with positions throughout the U.S. Amazing opportunity to learn Technical recruiting, work with market leading tolls, learn market leading techniques and earn upwards of $100K! Company offers full benefits, paid parking and professional environment. To be considered, candidate must have one year of agency/staffing recruiting experience, and Internet recruiting experience human resources experience will also be considered, if done extensively. If you are a professional recruiter, this is your change to learn, grown, and earn up to your full potential!!!!!!! Email your resume to ibosworth@stralegicstaff.com

Sr. Civil/Structural & Piping Designers. Min. 15yrs refinery/ chem. plt experience. Reply to resumes@talson-inc.com

Stewart Enterprises Inc., is looking for professionals for the following positions at the Clearview building located in Jefferson, LA. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TEAM MEMBERS: Primary duties incl. processing incoming mail and maintaining accounts payable files, contacting vendors and internal customers for info. Requires a high school diploma, exc. communication and organizational skills, PC proficiency (Excel and Word) and good data entry skills. PAYROLL PROCESSOR: Entry level position requires good organizational skills, ability to work under deadlines and basic spreadsheet and word processor skills pref'd. High math aptitude pref'd. EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS COORDINATOR: Qualified applicants must have a high school diploma and good organizational, communication and customer service skills. Responsibilities incl. data entry, data verification and research into employee inquiries. BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM MEMBERS: Researches and resolves all problems as they relate to contracts, provides info. to internal and external customers when poss., and gathers any nec. documentation and/or info. needed to research and resolve transactions. These positions req. 2 yrs exp. in a business setting and exc. analytical and problem solving skills. A business or accounting degree pref'd. Travel is req. in this position. CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM MEMBERS: Research, analyze and follow up customer accounts. Work w/ customers to resolve collections issues. 1-3 yrs related exp. Customer service and exc. phone skills req'd. AS 400 and PC exp. a +. We offer competitive salary and benefits. Interested candidates may apply by email, fax or mail. hrinfo@stei.com, Fax 504-729-1825 Stewart Enterprises, Inc. Attn: Human Resources Dept. 1333 S. Clearview Pkwy Jeff. LA 70121

**TITLE CLOSER /ADMIN.**
Exp'd notary/closing processor to head up and run the back run the back office of large regional title agency. High degree of computer skills necessary. Candidate must have outstanding technical expertise and experience in the title business. This individual will be supervising and coordinating all administrative functions of the organization. Send resume' to: Box 1268 Times-Picayune, 3800 Howard Ave., N.O. La. 70125. **All replies held strictly confidential.**

WE ARE ALIVE AND WELL!! Newton and Associates has weathered the storm and we are back to full operations in our corporate office. In addition to our current staff we are offering all people w/ sales experience a new home. We are expanding our primary and client srvc.s depts. Please Call Victor McCullough 800-509-6060 Ext:364

### 4145 Retail

BUFFALO EXCHANGE a resale clothing store, is looking for energetic people who love fashion & a fast-paced retail environment. PT/FT positions w/ benefits. Will be interviewing 10/19-20 @ 3312 Magazine St. Apply online @ buffaloexchange.com

BUFFALO EXCHANGE A resale clothing store, is looking for energetic people who love fashion & a fast-paced retail environment. PT/FT positions w/ benefits. Will be interviewing 10/19-20 @ 3312 Magazine St. Apply online @: buffaloexchange.com

**Langenstein's of Metairie**
All positions in all departments; kitchen, meat, produce,cashier, stock, and deli. Benefits, paid vacation and 401K. Apply at 800 Metairie Rd, Metairie 70005

**MERVYNS**
**Now Hiring**
**Seasonal Part-time**
**Customer Service Associates**
**Please apply in person**
**At the Kenner store**
**1401 W Esplanade**
**504-464-8834**

Sales Professionals. Most rewarding comp plan in the industry. Exec level Potential. call now 1-800-660-1507

SEARS We are holding a Job Fair on Oct. 14 from 1-4pm at the Sears Clearview loc.: 4400 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Met., LA 70006. We're hiring for a variety of F/T & P/T hourly positions: Commission Sales, Automotive, Merchandiser, Loss Prevention, Cashiers, In-home Laundry & Lawn & Garden Techs (Product Services) If unable to attend job fair, please apply online: www.sears.com/ apply and search for unit #1226, Automotive unit #6326. Product Services apply at www.sears.com or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

SEARS We are holding a Job Fair on October 14 from 9am-12pm at the Sears Parts & Repair Center location: 6405 Airline Dr., Metairie LA, 70003 across from Zephyr Stadium. We're hiring for a variety of Full and Part Time hourly positions: Product Services, Parts Sales, Laundry Service Technicians, Lawn and Garden Service Technicians. Market Delivery Operations (Harahan office): Materials Handling, Clerical. If unable to attend job fair, technical positions can be applied for: www.sears.com. All other positions, please apply in person at this store location or email resume to ps8256h@sears.com. Sears is an EEO/AA employer. We support a drug free workplace.

### 4147 Security

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS, Full time & Part time. North Shore Square. IPC International Corporation, the nationwide leader in mall security, seeks highly motivated individuals to join our team at North Shore Square Mall in Slidell. We require good communication skills & a strong desire to learn; must speak & write fluent English. We provide benefits for FT, a stable work environment & excellent growth potential. HS Diploma/ GED, Valid DL and clear criminal history are required. Please apply to IPC in person at the Mall Security Office. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**SECURITY OFFICERS**
Full & pt, armed & unarmed. Applicants can apply in person 9am-5pm at Clearview Mall or call 837-7772 for more info.

SECURITY OFFICERS immediate openings, pay from $1,100/wk. Please call Stealth Security at 1-800-427-0000

Allied Barton Security Services, the largest American-owned security services company, is now hiring.
SECURITY OFFICERS
New Orleans Area $12 hour
Must be 18 years of age;
must be able to pass a criminal background check & drug screen, and possess a H.S. diploma, GED, or 10 years verifiable employment history. Please apply in person at the Oakwood Center, 197 Westbank Expressway, Gretna, LA.
call 1-800-313-9612 for more information. EOE, M/F/D/V

SECURITY OFFICERS Vinson Guard Svc Inc. is accepting applications for un-armed and armed sec. officers. Start at $10/hr, we provide free training, benefits pkg. & uniforms. Day, evening & night shifts avail. Apply: at 955 Howard Ave. 8a-4p. 525-0591

SECURITY OFFICERS Post Katrina. F/T & P/T work immediately avail. Free uniforms & training. Top wages & benefits, Call New Orleans Private Patrol,225-273-0046

**NEW TODAY**
**SECURITY POSITIONS**
Local company hiring Full & Part time positions in New Orleans & Hammond. Min. 6 mo exp. Must pass drug screen & background check. Call 504-329-0481 or 504-834-3100 & leave voice msg

SENTRY SECURITY is looking for 7 DISASTER RELIEF OFFICERS in the New Orleans Metro area. Licensed & transportation req'd, exp pref'd. Call 504-460-5420 Ofc: 504-866-6400

### 4150 Teachers/ Instructors

Child Care positions avail in Metairie area. P/T and F/T. Call Larrine at 504-836-2464

Local college seeks ED.D or PHD to lead an education academic dept. Credentials could include a doctorate in elementary education, curriculum, and instruction, middle grades, or educational leadership w/exp. in the elementary classroom or masters' or specialists emphasis in elementary ed. Send Vita 5400 Ezell St., Graceville, FL 32440.

Loving Person to work with children ages 6 months to 5 yrs as Teacher's Aide. Mon-Thurs 8:15-2:45. Call 985-641-8378

PARKVIEW Baptist Preschool & Day Care hiring Day Care Teachers and Assistants. Apply: 6301 Camphor Street, Metairie.

### 4160 Trades/Skilled

HVAC INSTALLERS & SERVICE TECHS NEEDED. Immediate openings for experienced only. Please call 341-8526.

A/C TECHNICIAN Immediate opening. N/Shore Area. Exp'd. Good Pay/Benefits. 985-966-0075

A/C Exp. Service Mechanic Blue Flame Inc. 733-9112

A/C Installation & Sheetmetal Installer. Blue Flame 733-9112

A/C TECH - Experienced and CFC certified, hand tools. Lenox dealer in Kenner, RougeeCorp. 504-441-6453, 504-441-6454.

AC HELPERS and DUCT CLEANERS. Help Wanted. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person. 720 Grefer Ave. Harvey LA, 70058. 504-227-0200

MACHINIST 1st Class Machinist wanted. New Orleans machine and Sab. 504-833-1443

ALARM TECHNICIAN / INSTALL Wanted. Please call Bill 504-837-7400

AMERICAN DO-ALL Needs Electricians/Plumbers/HVAC & Appliance Techs. 985-237-0817

APPLIANCE TECH Dial One hiring exp'd tech, best pay, best benefits. Apply in person at: 5003 River Rd. 504-736-9545

APPLY NOW all commercial and residential electricans 40 hours plus overtime, call (985)892-3210, Mandeville, La.

ARCHITECT 3-5yrs. exp. Northshore firm. Resume to: architectresume@bellsouth.net

**Professional Auto Detailer** will train, must be reliable/work 6 days wk. pay on exp 504-453-4278

Auto Glass Installer. Exp a Must 5yr+ 985-249-1496/985-718-9356 Vernon/Steve, N. Shore only

EXP'D DRYWALL MECHANICS CARPENTERS, PAINTERS & LABORERS for Fastway Drywall & Renovations. Locally owned & operated. Please contact Anthony, 504-833-4824

BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM TECH Wanted full time, at least 5 years exp. Call 504-340-4294

**NEW TODAY**
**Mike Giacona's**
**M&M Framing**
**Framers & Laborers 432-8523**
**START TODAY!!**

CARPENTER-Trim, 20 plys yrs exp, must have all tools, salary nego, vac/holidays paid, drug-test, ref's req'd. 504-828-8586

CARPENTERS & LABORERS - Needed for local construction co. Residential & commercial experience req'd. 504-464-7789

### 4160 Trades/Skilled

CARPENTERS, PLUMBERS, MILL RIGHT JOURNEYMEN, ELECTRICIAN helpers Full Time. Local company, exc pay. Contact Lisa Diggs 504-239-0932

CARPENTERS Wanted. Max Foote Construction Company, Inc. is accepting applications for Carpenters, $23/hr. Apply at Kenner WWTP No. 3, #1 West 30th St.,Kenner, LA 70065. Call (504)468-8624 for more information. We are a drug-free workplace and EOE.

CARPENTERS & SHEETROCK Workers and Laborers Needed. Call 504-522-3287.

**Carpenters, Helpers Needed Must have transp 504-473-8797**

CARPENTERS/LABORERS/ HELPERS needed, experienced. Call 504-348-0236 leave message

CARPENTERS/LABORERS Good pay with plenty of hours, cash paid. Call 504-382-2675

CARPENTERS & HELPERS needed for Metairie co. Must have transportaion. 504 460-7626

CARPENTERS & HELPERS Experienced. Metal stud, wood stud, drywall, and shingles. Call 985-966-4914

CARPET/FLOORING Installer. Excellent pay + bonus. Exp pref, tons of work! 504-512-3277

CHIMNEY SWEEP - Experienced. With good driving record. Unlimited earning potential. Call J.B. Taylor, 504-348-2223

Christian Contractor from Madisonville seeking, clean cut, honest, reliable and experienced CARPENTERS and OTHER TRADES, to work in West St. Tammany. Call JT, 985-845-2313

Class A Manual and/or CNC Machinist. Min 5 yrs exp. Exc. benefits. Call: 225-869-7360, Quality Machine Works.

Cole's Rental World of Covington & Mandeville needs F/T Counter Personnel, CDL Drivers and Mechanics. Benefits/OT. Some heavy liffing req'd. 985-892-2991 and 985-626-9743

COMMERCIAL CABINET Shop seeks exp'd, motivated, creative cabinet maker, will train the right person, computer skills helpful. Apply 5716 Plauche St, Harahan or send resume to dperrier@aol.com

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN Voice/Data, Local contractor is seeking a skilled technician. Must have exp. installing, terminating, testing and troubleshooting CAT 5, 5E and fiber, minimum 4 yrs exp needed. Must have own hand tools and transportation, benefits include holiday, vacation, health insurance. Send Resume to: P.O BOX 10460, Jefferson LA, 70181.

CONTRACTOR Hiring Drywall Finishers, Painters & Helpers in St Tammany Parish. Contact Spectrum Coating Inc at 985-768-8268/985-809-1710

CRANE OPERATORS Needed in Greater New Orleans Area. 1-800-510-0782

CRANE OPERATOR Experienced needed for 17 ton. Required: Current CDL, experience should include tree work, roofing & air cond, etc. Salary based on experience. Call 504-366-1279 & leave message

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

**EARN EXTRA MONEY**

**Jobs Available Now!**

Deliver the BellSouth Real Yellow Pages telephone book in the River Region area. Daily work with flexible daylight hours. Payment issued upon satisfactory completion and verification of your work. You must be 18 or older, have a valid drivers license, social security card, and insured vehicle.

**Come to office at:**
**Living Way United Church**
**810 Walnut St.**
**Laplace, LA 70068**
**or call**
**1-800-422-1955**
**8A - 4:30P Mon-Fri**

Environmental Workers Environmental Restoration is looking for workers to assist in the clean up efforts of Hurricane Katrina, possible short and long term travel required. EOE. Apply online at www.erllc.com

EVACUEES: Attorneys, paralegal, spanish translators, all required immediately! Mobile,AL. 5 years minimum experience for paralegals & translators. Dynamicinteresting work. Full benefits, relocation & housing assistance available.EOE. Fax resume to: 251-343-5554

EXP. PEST/TERMITE CONTROL TECH - Perm. position. 504-494-3101 or 504-583-9197

**Exp'd Floral Designer & Sales Personnel** for Mandeville Florist. Apply: 1805 N. Causeway

**EXP FLORAL DESIGNER**

Apply in person with resume
**4825 Gen Meyer Ave.**

Front Desk/Veterinarian Assistant, full time/part time, immediate openings, Cypress Point Animal Hospital, Mandeville. Call: 985-626-4462

NEW TODAY

**GLASS HELPER NEEDED**
**Creative Glass & Metal, 70259 Hwy 59, Abita Springs. 985-892-9586**

HARDWARE CLERK-duties consist of cutting & threading pipe, cutting glass & loading cement. Lapalco Hardware, Please call 504-367-2020

HOME CENTER SERVICE. Full-time position in the New Orleans area to service and maintain products in major home center store. Seeking self-motivated person. Merchandising experience a plus. Transportation required. Medical, Dental, Life, and 401(k)benefits. Send resume together with salary requirements. Fax: 630-925-2505 or lorraine_czaja@detailatretail.com. EOE

HOME CENTER SERVICE Full-time position in the New Orleans area to service and maintain products in major home center store. Seeking self-motivated person. Merchandising experience a plus. Transportation required. Medical, Dental, Life, and 401(k)benefits. Send resume together with salary requirements. Fax: 630-925-2505 or lorraine_czaja@detailatretail.com. EOE

Hort Spray techs needed. Will train. Northshore. Please call Lobbs, 504-469-6773.

INSULATION INSTALLERS, Coastal Co. double footage pay. 284 Iris St. Jefferson LA. Apply between 7a-12p. 504-833-2922

Janitorial looking for 2 workers for positions in Westbank and 2 positions in East bank. Call for details: 504-722-7959.

NEW TODAY

**LABORER/MACHINE OPERATOR NEW ORLEANS AREA:**

Immediate 1st & 2nd shift full time openings for energetic hard working individual. (Company paid out of state training for permanent position in New Orleans) Fast growing nationwide co. with oppty for advancement. Interested candidates must pass a drug test, credit & criminal background check & a physical. Must also be able to lift 60 lbs shoulder high continuously. Mechanical skills a definite plus but not req'd. Starting pay is $12/hr plus exc.oppty for daily & monthly bonuses. Comprehensive benefits pkg. after one year of employment. If interested, please call 1-877-294-2646 & leave us a message with your info

Laborers for warehouse & truck helpers, needed immed., Betty Breaux Temporaries, 2 forms of ID needed. 504-835-3787

Laborers needed for Grounds keeping Lawn Service Please Call 504-460-4124

EXP'D LANDSCAPE WORKERS WANTED. 504-891-0406

Landscape Laborer 7 AM-4 PM. 6.76 per hour, 40 hrs week, OT $10.14 hr varies, temp position, approx. 10 months. 29 openings, mow, cut, water, edge lawns: rake and blow leaves; dig holes and trenches; pull, chop weeds, prune and haul topsoil and mulch. Must be able to pass drug test. No exp. nec. Employment offered by English Turn. Report or send resume to LA Office of Employment Security, Job Order #166801, West Jefferson Career Center, 1900 Lafayette St. Gretna, LA 70053

LAWN & LANDSCAPE WORKERS. Pay depending on exp., Mandeville area. 985-845-1788

Lawn - Byrd Lawn & Handyman currently hiring FT and PT help on the North Shore, $8-$10/hr. Call Dan 985-516-8816

Lawncare Business, help needed, no exp needed. Drivers also needed w/ good license for crew leader. 985-262-3367

NEW TODAY

**Local Co Hiring SALES, DELIVER & MGRS. Pays $130+Daily. Vehicle provided 504-467-5383 or 337-781-1077**

NEW TODAY

**METER READERS**

Immediate openings w/utility contractor for Meter Readers. Good pay, paid training, holidays & vacation. Benefits available. Must have valid LA Driver's license. Be able to pass criminal background check & drug screen. Call: 1-800-229-3449, to schedule interview. EOE.

NEW ORLEANS COUNTRY CLUB is now hiring: GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE. No exp. needed; salary based on experience. Apply in person at 1001 Manson Ave., Metairie,LA 70001, Mon.-Fri. 9am-4pm.

Truck Stops/Convenient Store, great opportunities/benefits, exc starting pay, paid. vacations, great work enviro. Now accepting apps. for Supervisors, managers, assistant managers, and cashiers in the Metropolitan, Raceland, St. Charles Parish, St. John area. Apply at Phillips 66 in Luling and Ama on River Rd or Shell on Hwy 90 in Boutte or send resume to P.O. Box 68 Luling, LA 70070.

PCA'S - Needed to work with developmentally disabled individuals. Must have HS diploma, own transportation, car insurance, & drivers lic. $6.00/hour to start. Vacation, sick, & tuition reimbursement avail after 1 year of F/T employment. Apply at: 2200 Veterans Blvd, #205, Kenner, 10a-2p Mon-Fri

**PET GROOMER**

Average $14/hr. Will train.
Call 985-649-6436

**PORTER/TRUCK WASHER**

Needed for heavy duty truck dealership. Full time positions with OT & benefits. 301 Hord St. Harahan. 504-733-7711

Preschool/Childcare Attendant, Precious Angels Daycare seeking experienced Childcare Attendant. 504-363-5400

**PSYCHIC READER POSITIONS**

**Full or part time. Apply Sun-Wed., 10am-6pm, 327 CHARTRES ST. 421-7983**

**PT DECORATOR for bakery, with FT potential. Call 985-626-1952, or apply 2203 Florida Ave, Mandeville**

**QUALITY CONTROL ASSISTANTS**

Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for QualityControl Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities,and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediatelyand work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour.Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA70068. 985-359-3018

Red White and Blue Thrift Store now hiring. Apply in person 6001 Jefferson Highway.

RIVER OAKS MANAGEMENT Now Hiring qualified managers, assistant managers, maintenancemen and grounds keepers, Apply at 139 Enterprise Drive, Gretna LA., 504-367-9273.

## Employment

### 4170 Miscellaneous

QUALITY CONTROL ASSISTANTS Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for Quality Control Assistants to assist us with debris clean-up in the New Orleans Area. Prefer experience with USACE quality control system, construction activities, and safety. Inspectors must be reliable, able to start immediately and work seven days a week/12 hours per day. Hourly rate is $12-$15 per hour. Apply at: LaPlace Office, 948 Cambridge Drive, Suite 102, LaPlace, LA 70068. 985-359-3018 or Fax: 985-359-3030

NEED F/T Sales Rep, Fork Lift Driver, Mechanic, & Warehouse Manager. Call 504-467-3024 or Fax Resume 504-467-5095

SERVICEMASTER Now hiring! Part-time & Full-time positions. Call 504-362-4700

Short and long term work available IMMEDIATELY for skilled and unskilled workers. CALL NOW 504-833-5200

NEW TODAY

**SIGMA COATINGS USA**

**A GLOBAL LEADER IN PROTECTIVE COATINGS**

has immediate openings at its Harvey manufacturing facility. Become part of this dynamic organization that offers a stable work environment, advancement potential, training and development opportunities, competitive wages and outstanding benefits including medical, dental, vacation, 401(k) and life insurance. **We currently have immediate openings for PAINT MAKERS, MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL and GENERAL LABOR.** A successful candidate will have the skills necessary to read and follow detailed directions, work at a fast pace and have a high attention to detail. High school diploma and successful completion of drug test, background check and physical is required. Chemical manufacturing experience and forklift operation a plus.

Apply in person at
**1401 Destrehan Ave**
**Harvey, LA**
**M-F from 8am- 4pm. EOE**

Tech Experience required, Monday -Friday, 7am-6pm. Overtime and paid holidays, no weekends. Apply at Tire Shack Inc. 9194 Highway 23. Belle Chasse, LA. 70037

NEW TODAY

**Termite & Pest Control Service Tech**

Experience determines high pay potential. Apply in person: Safeguard, 1840 Commercial Dr., Harvey, LA 70058. Call 504-367-0077 for directions.

**JANI-KING**
**The World's No. 1 Commercial Cleaning Franchise**

is now accepting applications for the following parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany, Washington, St. Charles, Terrebonne, St. John, Lafourche, and Plaquemines.

**Apply in person**
**Monday-Friday, 9 am - 2 pm**
**at 520 Elmwood Park Blvd,**
**Suite 130, Jefferson, LA.**

TLC Linen Services, Located in the Bywater area is looking for production employees.If you're looking for long-term employment, please call 504-945-1148 or 504-415-7076 Exp'd laundry workers pref'd.

**TLC SERVICES**
**Now hiring route utility drivers. High school grad with chaufeur's license required. To reply call 945-1148**

VETERINARY ASSISTANT needed. Apply at 1102 North Lee Rd, Covington. 985-892-1471

Veterinary Assistant wanted for Hickory Knoll Veterinary Hospital in Harahan. Apply at 1625 Hickory Ave, or e-mail manager@hickoryknoll.com

**WANT TO JOIN A WINNING TEAM?**

Retirement community looking for a devoted, reliable, self-started for several positions. Available NOW. Apply i person, 4112 Jefferson Highway, 10am-2pm

Warehouse workers needed, earn 9 to 11 dollars per hour. Ability to speak English a plus, but not necessary. Apply at Hackbarth, 180 James Drive East, St Rose, LA (504) 468-9390

Weekend work $20+hour. Looking for people to set up and pick up party inflatables, must own truck or trailer., St Tammany only! Call CJ 985-727-2711

Positions: MIG/TIG exp. welder, alum & steel. Warehousemen w/ mechanical ability. AQUA-AIR, 639 Manhattan, Harvey.

## Employment Wanted

### 4310 Household

Domestic Help Wanted, preferably Mexican decent, green card required. 985-778-6629

### 4320 Miscellaneous

20 + yrs purchasing exp, some exp in Marketing Administration & A/R & A/P. 985-764-0318

## MERCHANDISE 5010-5340

| | |
|---|---|
| Antique/Collectibles | 5010 |
| Appliances | 5020 |
| Art/Posters/Photos | 5030 |
| Auctions | 5040 |
| Baby Items | 5050 |
| Books/CDs/Albums | 5060 |
| Building Materials | 5070 |
| Cameras/ Equipment, Etc. | 5080 |
| Cemetery/Funerals | 5085 |
| China, Crystal, Silver | 5087 |
| Christmas Trees, Etc. | 5090 |
| Coins/Stamps | 5100 |
| Computers, Etc. | 5110 |
| Crafts | 5120 |
| Flea Markets | 5130 |
| Flowers/Plants/ Vegetables | 5140 |
| Garden/ Lawn Equipment | 5150 |
| Good Things To Eat | 5160 |
| Home Health Supplies | 5165 |
| Household Furnishings | 5170 |
| Jewelry | 5180 |
| Lighting/Fans | 5190 |
| Musical | 5200 |
| Office Furniture/ Supplies | 5210 |
| Outdoor Furnishings | 5220 |
| Radio/Stereo | 5230 |
| Restaurant/ Bar Equipment | 5240 |
| Salon/ Store Equipment | 5245 |
| Satellite Equipment | 5250 |
| Sewing/Stitchery | 5260 |
| Telephones | 5280 |
| Tools, Equipment/ Machinery | 5290 |
| Toys/Games | 5300 |
| Tugs/Barges/ Workboats | 5305 |
| TV/Video/Movies | 5310 |
| Utility Trailers | 5315 |
| Wearing Apparel | 5320 |
| Miscellaneous | 5330 |
| Wanted | 5340 |

### 5010 Antiques/ Collectibles

**Amer. Flyer, Lionel Trains**
**Old Toys WANTED BY HOBBYIST Call 504-473-7756**

Check Friday's Lagniappe "Flavor of the City" Listings For More Antiques & Collectibles

Check Friday's Lagniappe "Flavor of the City" Listings For More Antiques & Collectibles

Antique Coin Machine, $100 obo. Call 504-734-7962 or 495-2423

Clawfoot Bath Tub, Cast Iron & Porcelain $100....504-583-2736

### 5020 Appliances

Dishwasher, almond $25, Free elec stove works, 504-512-0156

## Merchandise

### 5020 Appliances

Bonneval's 835-0374
Washer/Dryer/Refrig
Like new $150up 3207 Met. Rd

APPLIANCES For Sale, Refrigerator with ice maker, $300. Electric range, Self cleaning oven, $350. Microwave and cart, $65. No Storm Damage. 504-367-5833 or 504-453-6259

DRYER, G.E., ELECTRIC BEAUTIFUL $60. 504-887-2942

DRYER, electric, Maytag, 3 mos old $450. 2 M/Waves $50 ea. Rotisserie $50. 985-845-2232.

DRYING Center Maytag w/ extra lg capacity & top steaming cabinet, 6 mo old, Paid $1200 sell for $600. 504-329-9852

REFRIGERATOR Amana 25.6 Cu. Ft., white, side by side, 2 yrs old, exc. cond, $700. Call 985-875-7970

STOVE, Oven, Dishwasher & Microwave. Sold as set for $800 or best offer. Call 985-892-7481

USED CONDENSOR $100. 985-307-0300

Pre-Storm Reno, Wall oven & microwave GE $450, Jetair downdraft cooktop $400, Magtag dishwasher $125, 504-512-0156

WANTED: Like new elec range top, dishwasher & washer, will pay $450. 504-467-8888

WASHER & DRYER-Kenmore Super Duty Heavy Load. Excellent Cond. $375 Total. 779-9339

Washer/Dryer, Kenmore, Heavy Duty, large capacity, $300, m985-626-9271

Washer/dryer, Kenmore, electric, $200/pr, 504-583-0743, 583-2722

### 5030 Art/Posters/Photo

REWARD offered for lost Nichols Wedding Album, Family Pictures and Videos. 985-727-1382

### 5050 Baby Items

Bouncer, Car Seat, Tree Swing, Safety Rail, $75. 431-7779

### 5070 Building Materials

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING
Galvalume & Colors fm $9.95/sq
NEW-USED-SURPLUS STEEL
From $.15 per lb.
Beams-Plate-Pipe-Culvert
Barb Wire-Field Fence-Posts
Goldin Metals, Harvey 361-3622

Get your money's worth in The Times-Picayune Classified

**Flooring, Designer laminated NEVER USED. STILL IN BOX. 85¢ SF, 30% THICKER, 1720 SF, will split. 504-827-2896**

STANDING SEAM Mach - Lok, 24 gage, jobsite roll formed, also R&AG panel. 601-799-4282

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING
Galvalume & Colors fm $9.95/sq
NEW-USED-SURPLUS STEEL
From $.15 per lb.
Beams-Plate-Pipe-Culvert
Barb Wire-Field Fence-Posts
Goldin Metals, Harvey 361-3622

### 5085 Cemetery/ Funerals

Lakelawn Mausoleum 2 interments, North bldg, unit 3, rm M, Crypt 9, tier E, $5K 985-764-8581

Lakelawn Park and Mausoleum, Abbey crypt, holds 6, $8000. Call Linda 985-893-9123

PLOT Single For Sale, Rest Lawn cemetery, Avondale LA, Asking $2000 251-645-2611

### 5110 Computer, Etc.

COMPUTERS, PIII & PII, complete set, $250. Desk, $100. chair, $45. fax, $45. printer,$45. scanner, $45. 985-707-5659

### 5150 Garden/ Lawn Equipment

LAWN mower, good shape $80, Weed Eater $20, 431-7280

LAWN TRACTOR Craftsman 42' cut, 15.5 Hp w/extras. $900. Call 504-341-6817

RIDING LAWN MOWER Murray, 30 inch cut, 12hp, 5 speed. $150. Call 504-392-2369

### 5165 Home Health Supplies

POWER WHEELCHAIR Pronto M71, less than 1 yr old. $2000 firm. 985-845-7075, 985-373-7358

### 5170 Household Furnishing

ARMOIRE/Entertainment Center, Oak, 2 years old, 42w x 75h x 21d, excellent condition. $400. 985-892-4759

**Baby Furn Ensemble: White** Incl. bed, matt, dresser, glider, & changing tbl. **$500;** Boys bunk bed w/attached desk & bkshelf, matching hutch, dresser & matt, **$500. Call 504-367-3865**

BED: Queen Size Bed, $100. Great Cond. Call 504-461-5570.

BED FRAME, KING: Four post, cherry, (mattress). $700. Please call 504-343-1600

BEDROOM SET, Beautiful solid Oak, king bed/wall unit, dresser, armiore. Paid $4,200. Asking $1,500/best. 985-796-3932

BEDROOM SET, 5 pieces, black, including queen size bed. $1500 for all. Call 225-296-0371

black/creme quilt twin, assorted towels,10@$1 ea, 985-626-9271

Bookshelves, chrome & glass, $50 each,5 04-430-7652

DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS Beautiful Italian provincial (Pecan finish), drop leaf table seats 6, 4 side chairs, 2 captain chairs, upholstered seats. $500. Call 985-778-3055

DINRM tbl w/8 chrs & 2 china cabs $1500. Wood & glass coffee & end tbls $225. Wood & iron coffee & end tbls $175. Entertainment cntr $100. 985-845-2232

**DR Set w/6 chairs $250 obo; Complete Qn Cherrywood BR Set $500 obo. Complete LR Sectional Sofa Set, includes lamps, 3 glass tbls $500 obo. ALL-Great Shape 504-461-5570**

NEW TODAY

**Sofa & matching Wing Back Chair, like new $550; Cherrywood Coffee & 2 end tables, exc cond $150. 504-218-5952**

SOFAs, kitchen sets, mattress sets all sizes, book shelfs, coffee tables. 504-887-8115

SOFA SLEEPER, Denim w/ match. overstuffed Rocker, and coordinating oak coffeetable. No Water Damage. Like New $1000 OBO. White Upholstered Sofa, No Water Damage, Good Cond. $200 OBO. Moving Must Sell! Please Call 504-833-4221

Stereo + CD, Nakamichi, 6 disc + tape, amp, and B & W speakers $150, 2 Custom chairs, $175. 504-738-0348 504-491-1145

Table, round, oak set, $150, queen bed set w/ frm/hdbd, $200, 2 dressers, $75ea, lthr. sofa, $125. 504-391-0208

### 5180 Jewelry

Ring: Certified Princess Cut Wedding Ring w/diamonds on side. Gold Band. Total wt 1.25. Paid $2,670. Sell for $800. Call 985-502-6802

## Merchandise

### 5190 Lighting/Fans

**Case Skid loader, X60 model w/trailer, $21,500. Hot tar kettles & equip & roofing equip. Call 626-274-8809**

### 5200 Musical

Speakers, 2-Nady audio 12" w/ stands. 4 channel powered mixer 2 microphones & all wiring incl. $500, 504-352-5468

Organ; Hammond B-2 w/Leslie 147. Beautiful Cond. $4900. Warranty/Delivery 504-866-9314

PIANO, full size, Story & Clark, $600, you pick up, Metairie, 512-809-6058

### 5210 Office Furniture/ Supplies

COPIER, Toshiba 2050 doc feeder, extra toner
$370/obo 504-885-0188

OFFICE FURNITURE 40%-50% off. Call Doug at GBP Direct, 504-388-6631

### 5230 Radio/Stereo

Bearcat Scanner. Good cond. $100. 450-7715

### 5240 Restaurant/ Bar Equipment

11x11 walk in cooler, $3000. Call 833-6500

GROEN 2/3 40 Quart steam kettle w/stand, 1 year old, $3500. Chip warmer w/stand by Carter Hoffman, $1000. 65LB Ceicelware Fryer, $400. 985-373-5948

AIRLINE Restaurant Equip., New & used. 824 Dakin St, Jefferson, LA 70121. 504-828-4700

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT: New ranges, fryers & refrig. Immediate delivery or will hold. 504-427-0992. CONVENIENT STORES: Deli scales, coolers & freezers.Immediate delivery or will hold. Call 504-427-0992.

RESTAURANT, COFFEE HOUSE & CAFE EQUIPMENT 985-307-0874 for more infor

Restaurant Equip. New & Used. Cresco/Resco, huge inventory, ready to ship. 800-343-4320

### 5290 Tools, Equipment Machinery

**1650K multi graphic printing machine w/water syst, very good cond, $4,995, 225-926-8778**

**500 GALLON FUEL TANK**

$400 985-893-7093

BOB CAT 553 Hydraulics, diesel, 300 hours. $10,500. 504-393-1744 or 504-912-1226

Bobcat T-300 attachment and trailer, 504-348-0100

NEW TODAY

**'70 Grove TM 600-60 ton hyd. truck crane.** Max boom & jib. Dual winches. New Michelins. Very good cond $37,500obo Will certify. 251-605-7922

DOZER 1992 Komatsu, 6 Way Blade, New Under Carriage, Good Cond $21,000. 504-712-9020

Dresser Dozer TD8H LGP, 6 way blade, 25' goose neck, '99 Ford F350 Crew Cab, $55K. 985-516-8838 or 985-516-1931

FORKLIFT, 4000 lbs Comatsu, LP gas, not flooded, $5,200, 504-430-6743

Front Loaders, Dozers, Skid Stears, custom Excavators & other machinery. Available immediate sale. 504-431-7906

GENERATOR, 10.5KW, 42 amps continuous, Onan/Cummings. Very light use, superb cond! Orig. price $12,000 asking $4500. 512-825-5227 or cwplatt@quik.com

GENERATOR - Professional Grade HONDA 6500W. Used for 5 days. $2500. 985-960-7000

GENERATOR - 4 KW Dayton, paid $1,200. Sell $600. Used for 2 days. 504-737-2668 or 504-460-0197.

GENERATOR, 5500 KW, still in box, paid $750, sell for $575. Call 504-214-2693

GENERATOR - 4 KW Dayton, pd. $1,200. Sell $600. Used 2 days. 504-737-2668 504-460-0197

Generator - 6kw diesel, on tlr, $1500; GRAPPLE BUCKET for Bobcat, $3,500, 504-616-7575

GENERATOR 8125 watt Generac, contractor grade, 13hp. $1600. 985-785-2076, 985-785-9023

GENERATOR Generac 3550 watt generator, brand new, sell at cost. Please call 504-304-7063

GENERATOR New, 400 watt, wholesale, $550. Free delivery. Call 985-893-7867, 202-436-5289

NEW TODAY

**GENERATORS * 504-738-5800**

Natural Gas/Propane, for home or business, 7kw-125kw

Generators Diesel, 5500 Watts, silent, $1650. Free immediate shipping to LA, 305-490-9916. All credit cards accepted.

GUTTER MACHINES 5 in. seamless, 6 in. seamless, both on trailers, ready to work.$20,000 ea. 504-400-0790, 504-834-2911-

**Macsimizer top & bottom, loaded w/tools. Retired, must sell $17K/obo. 504-650-5511**

MARINE CARGO CONTAINERS 8 x 20 ft & 40 foot lengths. Call Roy 1-888-375-0738

Stump grinder; 35 hp Vermeer 630B (985) 974-9896, (985) 386-8417

**TRACTOR 36hp Belarus 3011, only 115 hrs, 2-cyl, air cooled diesel w/all attachments $8000 Burt's Tractor 601-928-7488**

WELDING MACHINE - Miller Spectrum 701 Industrial 3 -Phase Plasma Cutter, asking $1,000. Raceland area. Recently serviced. 985-532-3433.

### 5310 TV/Videos/Movies

27" Console Magnavox TV, $80. 504-650-5511

32" COLOR TV, Curtis-Mathes, exc-cond. $175. Call 985-845-2232

### 5315 Utility Trailers

17' Mako trailer, Yamaha 115, less than 30 hours, $4250, call 985-789-2730

THIBBS 1996, 40' Flatbed goose neck trailer, $4200/OBO. Call Greg 985-707-4663

TRAILER galvanized, 4x5, big tool box, 3rd wheel, $495, 504-467-8888 for more info.

TRAILERS-DUMP, 6 by 12, enclosed cargo and utility, $5500. Call for more 985-878-2740.

UTILITY TRAILERS FOR RENT, 5x12 and 5x15. 504-610-3400, 341-0284.

### 5330 Miscellaneous

DAYCARE CENTER going out of business. All Contents for Sale. Make Offer. 504-340-5329

DINOSAUR SPACE WALK 15x15, $2000/obo. 5000 Generator, used 1 season, $550/obo. Mandeville985-867-3626

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS $100 Takes All. 504-491-3665

INFLATABLE Obstacle Course, 25 foot, $2200. 13x13x8 inflatable space walk, $1000 or both for $3000. 504-235-3948

TREADMILL, Precor, incline, Top-line. Newly replaced boards and belts. Pd $3500. Sell $2000/firm. Call 985-710-0580

### 5340 Wanted

**Seeking a 20' all aluminum boat w/cabin, w/200 hp mtr, approx $9,000, 337-828-0876**

PBS FRONTLINE wants your Katrina home videos from Aug. 26th on, before, during & after storm. Will pay for quality footage. Email: info@rainmedia.net

## PETS/LIVESTOCK 6000-6080

| | |
|---|---|
| Dogs | 6000 |
| Cats | 6005 |
| Birds | 6010 |
| Miscellaneous Pets | 6015 |
| Horses/Cattle/ Livestock | 6020 |
| Stud Service | 6030 |
| Boarding/Stables | 6040 |
| Animal Care/ Services/Supplies | 6050 |
| Grooming | 6060 |
| Lost | 6070 |
| Found | 6080 |
| Pet Memorials | 6090 |

### 6000 Dogs

BASSETT PUPPIES, CKC, 4 Females. Available 10/15. $300 each. 985-502-8404

## Pets/Livestock

### 6000 Dogs

Beagle Puppies, AKC reg. 6 wks old. 504-328-9388 or 504-343-7307

BEAGLES, AKC, well started 10 month old females, $200 each. 985-845-7480 Madisonville

Black Lab Mix, 7 months old, female, free to good home. 225-571-1791 or 985-882-2631

Boston Terriers CKC Registered, Mini-Pins/hounds. $200 up. 985-848-5423

**Boston Terrier Pups, AKC, CBL, , Health guaranteed, $600, 1-228-832-5749**

CANE CORSO Pups, ICCS 7 weeks old, 1 male, 5 females, $1500. 225-933-0762, 225-654-0509

Chiapom Pups m & f, CKC, 6 wk S/W, small $450. 985-892-6475 www.palacepups.com

CHIHUAHUA Tea Cups, CKC, 2 females. 4months, $600 each, Chihuahua/Pom mix, male, $300, 985-848-9796

DACHSHUND Puppies, Mini, AKC, Shots, Wormed, 1 male, 1 female, $200 Cash. 504-495-4396

DACHSHUND AKC, male, chocolate & tan, all shots 3.5 mos, $250, 504-466-5262

DACHSHUND MINI AKC/CKC, reds, B and tan Dapples, males $250, fem $300. 985-345-6543

ENGLISH Bulldog female, 5mos, AKC $900, S/W, Cash only. 985-848-9796

German Rotweiller, M, CKC, 4 mos old, all shots/worm, wt 40 lbs, will del. $425. 601-319-0865

German Shepard Pups XL, AKC, 985-747-1445 or 687-9118, www.kbark9.com

GERMAN SHEPHERD, AKC Championship lines, beautiful and large! $350. 985-867-9922

GERMAN SHEPHERD Pups AKC, parents on site, Call for information 504-717-9893

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS AKC, CKC, Micro Chipped. Call 504-348-1501 or 504-913-7350

**German Short Hair Pointer Puppies, 9 weeks old, AKC, 985-893-0142**

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS, AKC, 6 wks, males & females, parents on site, $275. 225-665-2100

NEW TODAY

**Golden Retrievers-Beautiful 3 wks old, 1 male, 1 fem, AKC, Ch. sire, $400. 985-893-9310**

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS CKC, 6 weeks, shots and wormed. $350/each. 504-442-8334

Jack Russell Terrier Puppies, Male and Female, shots and wormed, smooth and broken coat. $200 and up. 985-345-1965

Labrador, Yellow, 12 weeks old with AKC papers and shots, $250. 504-329-1938

LG mixed breed, FREE to good home, approx 3mos, 733-4158

Maltepoos females, $450. Males $400. Please call 985-748-9282

MALTESE- 2 AKC Reg male pups, shots & wormed. Now taking deposits, 601-798-3775

Maltese/Shih Tzu Mix, females, $450. Males, $400. Call 985-748-9282

MALTESE 2 males, AKC, $700 each, Maltese/Shih Tzu mix, male $400, Cash 985-848-9796

MALTESE AKC, pups. Baby Doll. Multi Ch. Blood. Regular & Tiny. Also Yorkies, 504-737-1234

Min-Pin puppies, CKC, M, black & rust, health guarnanteed, 504-250-3893

Miniature Schnauzer Pups, ready in 4 weeks, taking dep, M & F avail, $500. 985-641-3784

PEKINGESE AKC PUPPIES 2 MALES AND 2 FEMALES CALL 504-437-0876

**POMERANIAN PUPPIES BORN 7/4 601-569-2468, 601-347-4046**

Pomeranian Pups, $300 & up, CKC or AKC, 1 Male, 1 Fem, Small 504-347-3563, 504-628-0883

POMERANIAN PUPS Precious, AKC registered, small, 985-652-1252 OR 504-616-9357

POMS AKC Ch. sired, Red Sable, M. $500. Lt. Cream Toy F, $650. DOB 7/04. Also young adult M. 985-845-1478

**Poodles (Toy), CKC, shots, reddish brown or cream, 13 wks, $400/up, 504-885-9679.**

RAT TERRIER, MINIATURE, AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION. 504-368-7788

RAT TERRIER PUPS - Reg., 5 weeks old, 3 males, $125/each. Call 504-481-3357, 818-2248

SCHNAUZER Minis, AKC salt/pepper, m, $350. black/silver, m, $450. 985-542-8403

SHELTIE PUPS - CKC Please call 504-250-3893

Shih Tzu, Malti-poo, and Pom Puppies. Small. Cash only. 985-796-0709 or 985-502-7374

**SHIH TZU. Brown Female. All shots & wormed. Avail. immediately $500 601-441-5764**

WANTED: Little Yorkie Dog, Female, about 2 years old, to love. Call 504-738-9567

**WEST Highland Terriers BORN 7/4 601-569-2468, 601-347-4046**

Yorkie Pups. Cute, 2 males, 2 females. $650 females, $550 males. 985-748-9282

YORKIE TERRIERS. Males, CKC, shots & wormed. $800. Please Call 504-738-1050

**PET MEMORIALS**

Remember your beloved Dog in a Pet Memorial in the Times Picayune Pet Memorial class 6090. You can run your memorial any day. Deadline is 3 days prior to publication. You can run with or without photo. Cost of $28 for 14 lines plus $2 for each additional line. A photo measures 14 lines. Call Times Picayune Classified Department 504-822-7355 or 1-800-925-0000. Mon-Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From Lawn Mowers to Lincolns Find it Everyday in The Times-Picayune Classified

### 6005 Cats

4 Kittens Rescued from Hurricane. Need homes. 888-2808

Scottish Fold Kittens, folded ears, $650. Straight ears, $300. 504-554-7009

FREE KITTENS, males and females, 7 weeks old, born right before Katrina. 504-391-3438

FREE KITTENS very social to a good home. 985-264-3874

Mix colored kittens. 12 wks old. Free to good home 504-341-0137

PERSIANS: 12 wks, Calico, Blk, Smokes $100 up. 8 mo HIMMIE fl pt M, Adult M, proven $150. Call 985-845-1478

**PET MEMORIALS**

Remember your beloved Cat in a Pet Memorial in the Times Picayune Pet Memorial class 6090. You can run your memorial any day. Deadline is 3 days prior to publication. You can run with or without photo. Cost of $28 for 14 lines plus $2 for each additional line. A photo measures 14 lines. Call Times Picayune Classified Department 504-822-7355 or 1-800-925-0000. Mon-Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 6010 Birds

PEACOCK: Male. Born May 5. Beautiful, Tamed, hand fed. $75. 985-845-1478

**PET MEMORIALS**

Remember your beloved Bird in a Pet Memorial in the Times Picayune Pet Memorial class 6090. You can run your memorial any day. Deadline is 3 days prior to publication. You can run with or without photo. Cost of $28 for 14 lines plus $2 for each additional line. A photo measures 14 lines. Call Times Picayune Classified Department 504-822-7355 or 1-800-925-0000. Mon-Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 6015 Miscellaneous

**PET MEMORIALS**

Remember your beloved Pet in a Pet Memorial in the Times Picayune Pet Memorial class 6090. You can run your memorial any day. Deadline is 3 days prior to publication. You can run with or without photo. Cost of $28 for 14 lines plus $2 for each additional line. A photo measures 14 lines. Call Times Picayune Classified Department 504-822-7355 or 1-800-925-0000. Mon-Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 6020 Horses/Livestock

STALLS now avail in Met. on MS levee 837-1867, 975-8554

### 6050 Animal Care

**150 Reef Tank w/lights, filter, wave master, other accessories, $1000/obo. 504-650-5511**

### 6070 Lost

NEW TODAY

**LOOKING FOR OLIVER MALE LAB MIXED**
**Friendly, lovable, responds to his name. Black with white under lower jaw about 80 lbs. LAKEVIEW AREA, all shots, neutered REWARD. CALL 504-289-2852 OR 504-840-7659**

## Pets/Livestock

### 6070 Lost

NEW TODAY

**SHELTIE COLLIE**
**$200 REWARD**
**Sable & white, 14 yrs old lost by Excnios Rd Off of Hwy 40, Folsom, LA during Katrina. 504-453-7935, 504-491-9143**

**LOST CAT - REWARD $500 Half Persian, grey color, with white under neck. Call 504-239-1900, 504-467-0421, 504-388-4525 and 504-469-0744**

**German Shepard Mix, Male neutered, last seen St. Rose, w/black lthr collar, reg. in St. Bernard/Meraux vet, $500 REWARD, 504-352-0181**

**REWARD**
Male Black & Tan Dachshund. Last seen Mon. afternoon-10/10 at 2551 Met Rd. 884-1005, 738-3520

**Reward: For Yellow Lab, 3 yrs. old. Miss him very much. Huntwyck Sub. (985) 641-6292, (985) 768-8802**

Jack Russell Terrier, white/brown patches, orange color, M, lost Robin Ln, 504-738-5183

2sm dogs, rat terrier type, 1brn, 1blk, Old Met, Bore/Causeway, Oct 12, 504-723-4233 or 723-2582

**Cockatiel, Yellow & Gray,M ''Rico'' Metairie,Haring Rd, Oct11 Very Sweet 504-889-1407**

CAT, tortoise shell, blk/brown, green eyes, 1½yr, lost in Chamale, Slidell 8/29. 504-756-6457

**Black Lab, fem orange collar $100 reward! Vic Jeff Hwy & Central Ave 504-833-4241**

### 6080 Found

Rottweilers (2) very sweet. Identify. 464-4012, 723-4797

German Shepherd. Very Sweet. Identify. 464-4012, 723-4797

Lg Male Un-neutered dog, rust w/white markings. 975-5971

Med F dog, blk w/brwn/wh marks "Doby mix" 975-5971

Med. Size Female Dog, Brownish/Rust Color. 737-3893

Male dog, mostly black, Algiers Holy Cross area 453-8391

PUG, fem, blk on Lafitte/Larose LAB, brwn on Ramsey 341-3475

Rescued Black Lab in lower Plaquemine 985-748-5487 aft 6

Lg. black mixed female, friendly Metairie 9/26-27. 831-3488

Beagle, Male, Neutered, Plump, Avondale, Sept 25, 504-301-9752

Black Cocker Spaniel male, Metairie Rd. area. 504-453-9852

## RECREATION 6510-6630

| | |
|---|---|
| Airplanes | 6510 |
| Bicycles | 6520 |
| Boats/Services/ Accessories | 6530 |
| Sailboats/Services/ Accessories | 6540 |
| Jet Skis/Watersports | 6543 |
| Campers/ Motor Homes | 6550 |
| Campgrounds/Parks | 6555 |
| Camping Equipment | 6560 |
| Fishing/Hunting | 6570 |
| Hot Tubs/Spas/ Swimming Pools | 6580 |
| Motorcycles/ATV | 6590 |
| Sporting Goods | 6600 |
| Sports/Fitness | 6610 |
| Rental | 6620 |
| Miscellaneous | 6630 |

### 6520 Bicycles

NEW TODAY

**Recumbent Bike by Vision Fitness,9mo $500..985-893-7665 or 985-630-0988 (cell) aft 5pm**

### 6530 Boats/Services Accessories

14-16' Galv. Boat/Utility Trailer Ready to Roll. $385. 504-467-8888

15' V HULL Flat Boat, 25hp Suzuki motor, tilt trailer, steering, used 4x's, $4000. 504-466-2783

15½' alum rivet flat, limited V

## Residences For Sale

### 7570 Mandeville Covington Area

MANDEVILLE 2 Year Old, 3BR, 2.5BA, 2660 Sq. Ft. furn on 1/2 acre lot. Additional 1200sq. ft. warehouse on rear of property, $335,000. 985-727-7503

Beautiful raised Acadian/1 AC. Mandeville best schls, 4BR/2.5BA, cust. mill wk, lg open kit/din/+, 2300 SF, lg wind.s, french drs to deck. 985-264-5269

COVINGTON 3BR/2BA, brick, with 1-6 acres, exc cond. 15 min north of Covington, 45min N of Slidell. $110,000 or $150,000. 985-735-6575 or 985-515-3519

LUXURY HOME, 3775 sq.ft., 5 BD, 4 bath w/pool and spa - always high and dry. Move-in cond. A must see! (985)845-3693/(985)264-0454

MANDEVILLE, Hidden Pines Subdiv, great Mandeville school zone, approx 1600 sf, no storm damage, avail now, 2586 Rue Pinckney. $160,000. 504-577-0383

NEW TODAY

**BRAND NEW! Covington duplex on 1 ac. 2 story. 3BR/2BA + 1 car carport each side. $250,000, 985-215-6679**

Mandeville 2 Bedroom, 2 bath 1200 SF condo in good school district $133,000. Please call (504) 259-6245

Mandeville 1292 Springwater Dr, Meadowbrook SubDivision 4 BR/3 BA, 2473 SF, $350,000 Call 504-701-8758

Madisonville New Const., 4BR/3BA, over 3200 SF living area, granite countertops, Re-Max R.E.P, 985-626-1561/871-4940

Mandeville-New Listing, 725 Aurora, 3BR, 2BA, $189K. Call Wayne 985-845-7730; Wayne Waddell Realtors 985-869-0034

For Sale-Owner, Mandeville, 4bd 2ba, 1,900 sf, great schools, high & dry, big lot, 20' x 20' deck $250,000 985-951-7832

NEW HOMES: MANDEVILLE & COVINGTON. Prices starting at $139,900 to $192,000. Several to choose from. Tim: 985-502-2003

112 FOREST DRIVE. Executive Home, 3965 Living, 1 year old, 1 Acre, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2min. to bridge. 985-626-9000

NEW TODAY

**Covington 2BR, 1BA on 1 acre Front porch, 1 car carport. $95,000 985-215-6679**

NEW TODAY

**Covington 4br, 2½ba on 1 ac., 2 story, front & back porch, 2 car carport $235K 985-215-6679**

206 Pineland Dr, Pineland Pk Ests. Appr 4300 s/f, $399K. Agts prot. By appt. only, 504-508-9310

Mandeville Condos 1 block from Lake, 3 br - $215,000. 2 br - $199,000. 985-502-2000

ABITA - 5yr old custom built home, 4br/2ba, 2.5 wooded acres $250,000 firm 985-851-6600

FOLSOM 2BR, 2BA, w/guest hse, barn, pool, 10 ac, fncd, $350K,consider split 803-349-5588

PONCHATOULA - 3900sf acadian home. 40x60 shop, 11+ ac., pond. $315,000. 985-386-7621

COVINGTON, 2,689 sq. ft. living, 3.89 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, $315,000. 985-373-2199

COVINGTON 3BR, 2BA brick home on 1 acre with oaks. Deck and spa. $168,000. 985-893-4694

Mandeville 3BR, 2BA, 1532 Sq ft, 2 car gar, nr Causeway. $159,000. Owner 985-727-1687

MADISONVILLE High & Dry! 2 + Acres, $100,000. Please call 985-845-7209

5 Mandeville Rentals in Downtown Mandeville, $249K, Call 985-630-1757

ABITA SPRINGS under construction, $199,000-$250,000. Call 504-915-7802, 985-875-0197.

Covington great area, under construction, $199,000-$225,000. 504-915-7802, 985-875-0197.

NEW TODAY

**Covington, New Const, 3BR 2full ba, $275,000. 985-502-0156**

### 7580 Slidell

WELL Maintained home in Slidell's Country Club Estates. Never flooded, 3 bedroom,2 bath on large corner lot. Call 985-641-3836 for more info.

SLIDELL, CROSS GATES 5 years old, 4 bedroom , 2 bath, no flood damage, 2312 square feet living space, $268,500 CALL 985-788-0183

WHISPERWOOD 4 bedroom, 2 bath, never flooded! 1500sf, new roof! must sell, $131,000. 985-290-2172

FSBO Cross Gates No flooding 4BR, 2BA, lr, frml dr, grt rm., fp, .55 ac., MANY AMENITIES! $239,000 (985)726-0393

62189 NORTH 16TH ST. Off 3rd St. Hwy. 11. Lease to buy or sell! 3 BR, 2 BA, total electric. 8 yrs old. 985-774-9993

SLIDELL 5 BR/3 BA, 2.98 acres, no flood/damage. Raynell B Wallace Realtor ML#694142 985-960-1984 985-781-5459

**BRIER LAKE S/D $250,000** 3bd, 2ba, 2201 sf liv, 2826 sf total, wd firs, lg fmly rm, 985-259-1488

127 MORROW DR. 3 BR, 2 BA, never flooded, great schls., lake. $139,000. 504-909-4166

### 7590 River Parishes East Bank

Ormond Country Club
on the 18th green. Over 4800 sqft. Custom built, 6br, 4ba. 504-736-0544, 504-669-4452 www.mauriceguillot.com

189 THOROUGHBRED AVE, Montz/Laplace. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1800 sq ft. brick home, frpl. In St Charles school sys. $153,000. 504-382-3978 or 504-460-7004

FREE Homes For Sale List at www.LaPlaceHomeBuyer.com The Home Company Realtors (985)652-SOLD(7653)

LA PLACE, Riverlands, 2 story, 4 bedroom, 24x24 shed, $155,000 Call 985-651-8468

La PLACE 3Br +study, 2 bath, 1642 SF, 2 car garage, no damage, asking $200K. 504-559-0958

HOME FOR SALE 2233 Greenwood Dr. Laplace 504-952-1877

### 7600 River Parishes West Bank

**BOUTTE. $120,000. New const, 3br 2ba, 1200 sf, 504-341-7743, 504-376-4113**

NEW TODAY

**Luling - 518 Paul Fredricks, Newly renov 2 BR 1 BA, carport, shed, $65K. 504-289-2775**

318 S. Sashion Blvd., New 4BR, 2BA Home, New Subdiv., 2700 SQ, $314,900. 504-722-0424

### 7612 Washington Parish

4BR, 3 BATH, 2558 living, fireplace, pool/hot tub, 20.5 acres, pond, storage bldg $450,000 985-516-0237

Home on 6 acres, pond. 2BR, 1.5BA, 1200 sq.ft. Also trlr. in back. $148,000. 985-839-0053

### 7613 Ascension/ Livingston/ Baton Rouge Parishes

BRAND NEW HOME, Denham Springs, 3br/2ba, gated subdivision, 1,650 s.f., 2-car garage,fenced yard, full kitchen, ready to move in! $197,000 Call: 504-638-5343 (Mark)

Ascension Parish, 2 & 3 br mobile homes. $450-$550. $350dep. 225-647-9899, 225-978-9612

## Residences For Sale

### 7615 Mississippi

Poplarville House, barn and shop, 400+ acres. Also 60 acres. Please Call 601-365-9093 or 601-365-3310

New construction, 3 BR, 2 bath, Mediterranean style home in upscale gated community $187,000. 601-795-0015

See lormanplantation.com open house 10/16/05. Call 662-871-1676.

Lawrence County, 3BR/3BA, enclosed gar, 3800 sq.ft plus, 3 acres. $325,000. 225-819-1877

2BR, 1.5BA, fireplace, garage, Picayune, NO KATRINA DAMAGE, 601-799-2626; 601-818-1047

### 7620 Gulf Coast

VANCLEAVE, MS. 2000 SF, Ranch-style, 3BR, 2BA, 4 acres, large kit, great rm, fplc, huge master BR/BA, 3 yrs old, fncd and prvt. Asking $300K. Call 228-297-8949 or 228-297-8923

**NEW CONSTRUCTION BAY ST. LOUIS AREA**
**Minutes from Jordan River, 1700sf, 3br/2ba, Ready in 45 days, $195,000, 504-296-0573**

Bay Minett, AL. 3 bdrm, 2 full BA, gar. Approx 1700 sq ft home w/ sm mobile home park adjoined. Hwy 31 South, North of I-10. Appt only. 251-937-3130.

### 7625 Country

50 Acres near Magnolia MS. Paved road frontage, all utils avail. Fenced, open & wooded, slightly rolling. Good hunting & homesites. Won't divide. $2500 acre. 601-783-6594, 601-810-0065

LOCKPORT, LA. Beautiful new 3 bdrm, 2 ba home. No storm dmg, 30 mins from New Orleans. $250,000 or long term lease. 504-717-3116, 504-885-4515

### 7635 Mobile/ Manufactured Homes

1998 16x80 Cavalier M.H., 3 Brs, 2 bas, walk-in closets, furn. Very clean, good cond. $30,000. 985-898-0609 or 985-630-0378.

2004 80x16, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, unfinished Mobile Home $8000. 985-290-7467

'78 Mobile 14X70 2BR/2BA, some updates, new vinyl siding, $6350, 985-839-8973/504-376-4279

Beautiful double wide mfg home. 3Br/2ba on 1.63 acres in Albany La. 225-567-9712

GOLDEN MEADOW 3BR/2 ba, 16X80, needs relocation, new metal roof, $21K 985-397-3093

Houses avail, single wide 14x70! Office units avail. 866-944-4415 www.whalenenergy.com

Mobile Home 1983 (12x60) 2 bdrm, 1 ba. Needs HVAC, update/repair. Must be moved $5500 P.R.La. 985 285-4412

NEW & USED 16'x80', low down payment, $275/month; New & Used Double Wides, $350/month. Includes delivery, set up & a/c. Call Brian, 225-413-2048

River Ridge on rented lot. 2br, 1bth, ac/ht, w/d, furnished, $8,000. 832-474-0525

Slidell 2005 16x80 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, set up in park. $45,000. 985-290-7467

SPRINGER DISCOUNT
Mobile homes. A licensed dealer for over 19 years has 3 bedroom single wides (wind zone II), now ready for delivery. Cash discounts! Financing available. Will work with insurance companies to lease a manufactured home until a new home is built. We also move & re-level damaged homes. 662-456-9833

## Residences For Sale

### 7665 Miscellaneous

1332 ARIS Large 3500 sq. ft. ready to renovate, serious offers only, (225)773-0793

600 Carrollton Ave. $325,000
Old Met. Townhome 3BR 2.5BA 1907SF No damage! 835-2896

FSBO Lockport LA, High land + 10ft elevation! Furnished 2 story brick, 4BR/2BA, 2kits, bsmt workshop + 2 car gar w/ apt above, on 3/4 AC lot, $280,000. 985-532-2368 or 601-736-2056

Galliano 75 mi. from New Orleans, 30 min. drive to Houma. Over 5500 SF, 6 BR, 3.5 Full BA, 137 193rd Street. Great School District, No Flood Damage! $379,000. Call Mitch 504-339-6050

Lafourche Parish 3BR, 1BA, Brick Home 30 mi From NO, Totally Remodeled. Sits on 3 Lots in quiet area. No Storm Damage! $125,000. 985-537-3188 or 985-859-8077

Lafourche Parish, 2500 sq. ft. home (carport) w/app. 900 square foot mother inlawapt. on rear of property. (160'W x 193'D.) fenced yard w/conc. slab all around house, app. 900 sq. ft. 3 section garage. sewer treatment, central air/heat,quiet, crime free, older neighborhood in Raceland area. Call (985) 209-2368. $159,000

LOW MORTGAGE RATES Loc. co w/fast, personal service. 100% financing avail. We will come to you. Signature Mortgage. 504-338-6555, 866-784-4442

Mandeville $60,000 buys you easy living in a 57' houseboat on the water. 985-845-3916

## Commercial

### 7670 For Sale Commercial/Offices

Downtown Shreveport Office Bldg. ½ blk from Court house. 3 flrs, 9600 sqft. Close to Riverfront, LA Boardwalk, Convention Center, I-20 & I-49. Front display windows. Lease or purchase. Owner fin. available. $165,000. 318-631-3940

Covington Commercial, 74176 Highway 25, 5.85 acres, Zone C2, with highway 25 frontage, property has 3500sf renovated home, suitable for office building, 1/4 miles from 190 Bypass, $785K, Lee Denny Realty, 985-809-0777 or 985-630-1757

POPLARVILLE, MS. Restaurant and Convenient Store on 100 acres. Approximately 6 months old. Includes Gas Pumps And All Equipment for Store and Restaurant. Call Anytime 601-365-9093 or 601-365-3310

Commercial building on Hwy 190 West Slidell. 7,000 sqft. 2 bdrm apr in rear. $295,000. Additional 3 acres of residential waterfront behind building for $149,000. 985-768-8034

From Lawn Mowers to Lincolns Find it Everyday in The Times-Picayune Classified

OFFICE BUILDING - Immediate occupancy, approx 3000 sqft, off Causeway, Metairie Rd, 7 office spaces + more. Contact SMSISBEST@aol.com for info

Attention hurricane evacuees Covington, Deep Tchfeuncte River. 4BR Exec. Home for temp residence or corp headqrtrs. Avail. 225-926-5301

Slidell: 3440 sq ft building on Front St., parking & extra lot included, $310,000. 228-342-0642 or 228-342-0619

Hammond 4,255 sf Class A Office Building in Hammond Beezie Landry Stirling Properties (985) 898-2022

**2222 Magazine St, $395k Historical Commercial property, w/parking, new roof & a/c, renovated, 504-258-7540**

Child care business. Ready for operation, perfect cond. $22,500. 504-362-7902/504-352-7836

Hammond Convenient Store for Sale, w/ gas pumps. $200,000. 504-416-7934 or 985-386-2991

NEW TODAY

**MARRERO C-1, 2 apts, 2 parking lots & large warehouse, $295K. 504-348-0100**

### 7680 For Sale Warehouse/ Industrial

SW Michigan 16,000sf & 77,000sf, mfg/wh/ofc for sale/nnn-lease. Neg Terms. pearson@qtm.net

### 7690 Rent/Lease Commercial/Offices

Mandeville office space 22,000 square ft, grey carpet, central air, 5000 sqft, open with no partition, glass enclosed on one side, plenty parking, state of art design, ready for occupancy. Terms negotiable. 3 miles from Causeway bridge. Jim 504-368-2404/504-390-1944

Available for Lease, 4000 s/f in 2- story pristine Garden Dist. Mansion on St. Charles St. car line, 18' ceil., orig. wood flrs, marble mantels, util. all work. No Katrina damage. 235-3654

NEW TODAY

**GRETNA FOR LEASE**
2 Suites, 1500 sq. ft. each. $2000 & $2200. Across from Gretna Courthouse. Available immed.
**NO deposit required. Call 782-9211 or 905-0844**

Harahan no flood zone! For lease in Elmwood area. Approximately 2000 ft office building. Excellent condition, 12 mo lease req, must see. Call 504-737-7336,8-5 or 504-554-8383

## Commercial

### 7690 Rent/Lease Commercial/Offices

NO FLOOD ZONE! For Lease, Lacombe/Mandeville on Highway 190 West. All or Part, Build to Suit. 3 Acres, C2 Property, 400 Ft. Highway Frontage. 504-818-6233

French Quarter 631 Elysian Fields, prime loc., 3 office/reception area/incl. warehousestorage, 3 stops on street car to convention center, $10,000/mo. 504-232-6147/985-871-7717

Covington ofc space, 2 rooms & priv BA, built in book shelf, priv ent., plenty of prkg! 2 Blocks from Saint Tammany Hospital. $750/month. 985-867-9186.

Office space for lease. 800 sq ft, 4 rooms + lobby. $725/mo. East Mandeville, near Hwy 59 & I088. 985-674-2135 or cell 985-264-1737.

Uptown New Orleans, furnished office 1500 SF & apt 1500 SF. Util, phone and DLS internet incld. Avail immed. $6000/Mo. 504-896-7679/504-391-1622

NEW TODAY

**Bogalusa La, Dr Suite or Prof Office Space. 1200sf, Priv entr, lobby, reception area. 201-970-6211 or 985-732-9067**

Commercial Space for temp relocation. 600-5,000 sqft. In Mandeville near hwy 59 &hwy 1088. 985-626-7608

Atlanta/Alpharetta, GA. FREE RENT. 1700-5200 sq. ft., new, modern, convenient to Highways/Airport. 404-936-7720

Rental property in Prime Uptown area, Salon/Day Spa & equip. for sale, not flooded, low price. 970-946-0464

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
90 mi north of NOLA in Greensburg, LA. 2 adjoining suites. 1800 sq. ft. total. Call 225-222-6605

Professional Office Space near Clearview & Vets. 675 sqft. 1st floor. 887-3510 or 416-8788

Uptown Office space in great building, several to select from. From $250 up. 352-1010

OFFICE FOR RENT-MET. 2rms. cpy ph fx intnt $400/rm. Dennis 504-309-0013, opt1

Kenner 4228 Williams Blvd, 625 sq ft, 2 pvt ofc, reception, BA, prkg, negot. 504-450-4685

Mandeville Office/Retail. 2500 sqft. Highway 190 service rd. 985-624-3800.

MADISONVILLE 1250 square feet office space available, $1000 a month. 985-966-1028

COVINGTON Law Office Space Available. Office Services Available. Call 985-893-9962

Metairie Dentist office for lease, 1000 square feet. Veterans Blvd. Call Pat 504-247-2128

Kenner, Doctors office for lease, 2050 Square feet, Williams blvd. Call Pat 504-247-2128

NEW LISTING

**Covington - 1200 sf office space; also 2000 sf warehouse reasonable rent, 985-809-8065**

DOWNTOWN Canal/Rampart, Office/restaurant spaces, 1100sf up. 407-247-0563

### 7700 Rent/Lease Warehouse/ Industrial

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE. 75,000 Square feet, located on Airline Hwy; 1 mile W of New Orleans Airport. Please call George at 504-736-0965 x126 or 504-232-8593

Warehouse space for rent. 3,000; 4,000; & 5,000 sq. ft. dry storage available. Louisiana & Tchoupitoulas neighborhood. Call (504)628-4688.

Metairie Prime Warehouse - w/office & bath, 10'x10' ent. door, approx 1450 sqft, water paid, $950/mo. 504-723-0657

Vets frontage nr airport 10,000sf warehouse w/loading dock, 4260sf office space 469-9678 email sales@ma-international.com

Warehouse Space Available - 5,625 sq.ft. and Up Bridgewater Prop. 's 733-9638

4500 Sq Ft Warehouse, Mandeville. $7.50 per ft. 985-966-0549

### 7705 St. Tammany

Covington Commercial property, ready to build in heart of downtown Covington. 985-869-2020

### 7730 Miscellaneous

RIVERTOWN Comm'l warehouse for sale or rent, 2800 SF open area, perfect for bus.or converted dorm. Upstairs living quarters, 3 BR, 2 BA, 1200 SF, Call Judy 504-469-9545 ext. 126

MOVE HOME! Rebuild in days affordable Mini Dome-Home Kits. Concrete/Steel. Studios & 1BR w/lofts. Fast EZ assembly. CALL 203-994-5860

GARAGE FOR RENT 500 Square foot. $200/mo. Metairie Area. Call 504-858-9770

## Real Estate For Sale

### 7735 Investment Property

**INVESTOR WITH CASH**
seeking to buy all types of property in Greater New Orleans area. Call Tom 577-7779
DEMAND REALTY 837-3000

Harvey. 12 BR, 8 BA, 2 story dble. 6 BRs, 4 BAs ea. side. 1 side crpt ready to move in. 90% compl. As is. Asking $250,000. 504-296-8210/504-723-3205

UPTOWN 8808-10 Jeannette. Double, no flood, $130,000 Owner/Agent. Frank Fradella Real Estate: 985-789-8717.

HARVEY WB no flood! 8 units 4-3br, 3-2br, 1-1br, dbls need TLC $455K Ownr/agt 504-340-8249

RENOVATED, Vacant Four-Plex, $189,000. Doubles, Singles, Office Buildings. Broker/Owner Kenner Realty, 504-443-4455

Gretna 14 unit apt. complex Nr Okwd/bus. A1 cond. No wtr Ready to retire, 30yr, by owner w/ ofc. $950K 504-362-5912

Metairie & Kenner 4 plexes 736-0544, 669-4452. www.mauriceguillot.com

### 7740 Acreage/Farm & Timberland

SOUTH MARION COUNTY MS 158 acres, 2 small ponds, located approx. 85 miles North of New Orleans. 10 acres in pines, fronts 2 blacktop roads, exc deer hunting,excellent home sites. $5000/acre. Please call 601-736-7954, 601-519-7175

20 TO 80 ACRE TRACTS
High rolling hills, Large Oak trees, Asphalt road frontage, 45 min. North of Covington. $2800. per acre. 601-795-6990

WASHINGTON PARISH 1-14 acres, parcels. $500 down, $99 mo. 985-848-5060/ 985-515-9221

CLARK COUNTY, MS. 120 Acres, excellent hunting. Call 601-271-7720 for more info.

### 7750 Eastern N.O. Lots

NO WATER 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2700 sf, renovation 70% complete. As is $429K. 504-813-8343

### 7770 Jefferson Lots

Industrial lot for lease. Kenner 100'x120', $700. Fenced, water, electricity. Borngesser Realty Company, 504-454-0800

GABRIEL Gated, beautifully lscped Sub. 2 lots, future Marina, large rear yd, no flooding, 504-887-2911 or 504-417-0505

R-2. 120X80, 2716 Kingston, Kenner/Vets/Loyola, $145,000. 504-813-8342, 737-6886

METAIRIE - 50'x156', 1412 Helios St (between Esplanade & the Lake) $245,000. 504-487-2263

C-1 LOT Kenner, near Airport, 120x117, dead end street, cleared, $159,000. 504-468-8882

### 7780 Westbank Lots

Jesuit Bend - 100'X208' lot on private road FOR SALE, , asking $85,000/obo, 504-512-8945

Owner finance, $15,000 down, $1000/month. Or Sell at $110,000. 1-888-342-1431 24Hours

### 7790 Northshore Lots

OLD LANDING/COVINGTON 136 ft on deep Tchefuncte River, $290,000. 985-626-9130

NEW LISTING

**LACOMBE 35x134 lot $30,000 neg. 985-661-1510; 985-768-1536**

NEW TODAY

**Commercial LOT for LEASE. C-2 zoned. 60x180. 985-892-5626**

### 7795 River Parish Lots

LaPlace 1213 Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel,LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agents Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

Lot for sale 75x116 Evangeline Rd. in Montz St. Charles Parish $65,000 cleared and filled. Please call 985-307-0099 or 504-666-0468

## Commercial

### 7795 River Parish Lots

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LaPlace 1213 Cinclair Loop, La Place, 1400 square feet. $134,900. 1413 Van Arpel,LaPlace, 1600 square feet, $139,900. 1832 Cinclair Loop, LaPlace, 1750 square feet. $144,900. Agents Protected. 985-536-9700 (day) 985-535-6797 (night)

LOT FOR SALE!
in Evangeline estates. Cleared, filled & ready to build. 182.71 x 231.95 x 126.71 x 282.40 Call 504-915-2512 $120,000

### 7800 Mississippi Lots

SUMRALL AND HATTIESBURG 5 Acres of land, on Black Top Rd. $30,000. 601-408-4666

Sumrall 2 Story Bldg, completely reblt, residential & Comm, $85k. 601-408-4666 Ask for Ken

Beau cntry home on 62 ac. 40 min abv Slidell $750K Claudette Blanchard Broker 985-707-5307

### 7805 Miscellaneous Lots

Mandeville Nice Lot, 75x120, Quiet Street, $65,000. 985-626-9023 or 985-373-2072

### 7810 Mobile Home Lots

**Mobile home spaces for rent in Washington Parish. Singles & dbl wides. Call for avail 985-732-5182, 985-966-5440**

### 7860 Other States

GET OUT OF DODGE, 2 + bdms, Full gaming basement, hottub. Riverfront property, with access to 5 lake system; 3 acres in all. Includes all season cabin. New roof, new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in beautiful north woods of Wisconsin. Only $229K Call 480-866-0954. Owner.

Get Out of Dodge, 2+ bedroom, Full gaming basement, hot tub, Riverfront property,with acess to 5 lake system, 3 acres in all, includes all season cabin. New roof, new 3 bdrm septic and 2 year old drilled well. Located in Beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin. Only $229,000. Call 480-688-0954 Owner.

## Real Estate Services

### 7880 Mortgage Loans

www.eurekahomestead.com 100% No doc loans! 225-214-4837 Equal Housing Lender/FDIC

### 7905 Real Estate Management

French Quarter Realty open for business, properties for sale or lease. Call 225-933-6042.

## REAL ESTATE RENTALS 7915-8150

## RENTALS FURNISHED

| | |
|---|---|
| Above Canal | 7915 |
| Warehouse/CBD | 7916 |
| Below Canal | 7917 |
| St. Bernard Parish | 7920 |
| Gentilly | 7925 |
| Eastern N.O. | 7930 |
| Mid City/City Park | 7935 |
| Lakeview-Lakefront | 7940 |
| Met.-Jeff. Above Causeway | 7950 |
| Met.-Jeff. Below Causeway | 7955 |
| Met.-Jeff. Above Williams | 7960 |
| Westbank | 7965 |
| Mand./Cov. | 7970 |
| Slidell | 7975 |
| Riv. Parish-East Bank | 7985 |
| Riv. Parish-West Bank | 7990 |
| Tangipahoa Parish | 7995 |
| Gulf Coast | 8005 |
| Country | 8015 |
| Residence | 8020 |
| Mobile Homes Camps/ | 8022 |
| Hunting Leases | 8025 |
| Rooms | 8030 |
| Hotels/Motels | 8035 |
| Vacation Rentals | 8040 |
| Miscellaneous | 8045 |
| Rentals To Share | 8050 |

## RENTALS UNFURNISHED

| | |
|---|---|
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| Warehouse/CBD | 8063 |
| Below Canal | 8065 |
| St. Bernard Parish | 8067 |
| Gentilly | 8070 |
| Eastern N.O. | 8075 |
| Mid City/City Park | 8080 |
| Lakeview-Lakefront | 8085 |
| Met.-Jeff. Above Causeway | 8090 |
| Met.-Jeff. Below Causeway | 8100 |
| Met.-Jeff. Above Williams | 8102 |
| West Bank | 8104 |
| Mand./Cov. | 8106 |
| Slidell | 8108 |
| Riv. Parish-East Bank | 8110 |
| Riv. Parish-West Bank | 8112 |
| Tangipahoa Parish | 8114 |
| Gulf Coast | 8116 |
| Country | 8118 |
| Residence | 8120 |
| Mobile Homes Camps/ | 8125 |
| Hunting Leases | 8130 |
| Miscellaneous | 8135 |
| Rentals to Share | 8140 |
| Rentals Wanted | 8150 |

## Rentals Furnished

### 7915 Above Canal

Beautifully furn.homes. Uptown & Fr Qtr, pvt pool/tennis, off St Pking, 1&2BR, $1300-$2750. util incld 504-259-3030

DRY beautiful furniture, Wife died. 3 bdrm, elevator. Lease, let's talk. Owner. 352-1010.

UPTOWN 1 bedroom, never flooded, near park, $1,500/month. 225-474-3589

UPTOWN 2 bedroom, dry, near Audubon Park, $2,000/month. 225-474-3589

UPTOWN Victorian home, 2 bedroom apartment, no flooding, $2,500/month. 225-474-3589

1126 ST. CHARLES Apt, W/D $1800 And Office Building $2400, Pkg, CH/A incl. 228-348-1192

Atlanta Properties, Inc. 8426 Oleander, 4BR, 2BA nice area, minor work. 504-368-1401

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FQ Rentals 2BR/2Ba or 3BR/1Ba sht/lng term, furn/unfurn $1650 to $2800 985-630-6686 or 305-531-4208

### 7935 Mid City/City Park

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Harding Dr; 3br; 1bath; fridge, range, w/d, hvac; screen porch; yard; 1280 sq.ft.; refs. req. avail.11/15; 1500/mo (504)524-4407; (504)495-0191

Harding Dr, 3br/1bath, fridge, range, w/d, hvac; screenporch, yard, 1280 sqft, refs, req, avail 11/15, $1500/mo, (504-524-4407/ (504)495-0191

FQ Rentals 2BR/2Ba or 3BR/1BA, sht/lng term, furn, unfurn, $1650 to $2800. 985-630-6686 or 305-531-4208

### 7940 Lakeview Lakefront

Newly Reno 1BR, Slps 6, cen a/h, granite, wd flrs, 425 Virginia St. No flood $2500. 504-296-3176

### 7950 Metairie-Jefferson Above Causeway

**6220 Riverside Dr, Ste 686, CONDO, Met, LA, 2bd, 2ba, all util pd, $1250, 504-638-0017**

### 7960 Metairie-Jefferson Above Williams

KENNER/METAIRIE Housing for working crews, dorm style, kitchen, washer/dryer, with or w/o 2 possible hot meals, space avail for up to 100 people. Reasonable rates. 504-712-6918

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**Credit Cards Welcome! Marina Cafe and Yacht Club www.warrenproperties.com Equal Housing Opportunity**

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La Place, 7 New Houses for rentals, 3 - 4 bedrm, starting $2200/mo. Fax inquires to Vince 985-651-3009 or email vince@cajunlodging.net

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FOR RENT. 1 ROOM OF CONDO IN THE HEART OF THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT AVAILABLE FOR DAILY OR WEEKLY RENT. PRICE IS VERY NEGOTIABLE. CALL 504-415-2756 AND ASK FOR MIKE.

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Laplace area, room for rent in my home, phone, cable incl. $125 wk. Bkgrd chk. 985-479-1463

### 8040 Vacation Rentals

Panama City FL Rental; 3/2 $1500 mo unfur plus utils. Furn 1 br private studio apt, all utils furn'd $700 mo. Furn beach beauty w/antiques $1395 mo. plus utils. 850-819-8067

### 8045 Miscellaneous

Luxury French Corporate condo. Security, pool, jacuzzi, cent air/heat. 504-234-0090

## Rentals Unfurnished

Job Hunting? Your search is over Check The Times-Picayune Classified. Everyday

### 8062 Above Canal

**6302 CAMP ST.**
Spotless 1 BR/1 Bath, 1 blk to Audubon Pk. High ceils, hdwood flrs, all appls, incl. Beautiful area! No flooding. No smokers. No pets. Lease. $1000 mo. Shorter terms negotiable. 504-897-5296, 504-858-1027

5420-22-24 Magazine Street Rental 2 residential units, 900 sq ft shotgun, 2000 sq ft retail/office space electric & water on. No floor, near Audubon Park. $4200/mth-bldg. Available 11/1. 985-626-4882

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Liv/din, furn kit, W/D, cen a/h, priv patio, off st pking, $985; Call 494-4307 or 401-1701

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421 WEBSTER - 2 blks to park. 2 bdrm ½ dbl. Hdwd flrs, hi ceilings, stove, refrig, cen a/c, W/D. Beautiful. $1500; 621-7795

920 Peniston - 3 rms, bath & kit, fenced yd; 4512 Pitt - LR & DR 2 BR, w/d, cent a/h. Both hardwood flrs, 504-899-5481

GARDEN DIST New 2BR, 2BA 1400 s/f, St Andrews, grnte ctrtops, hrdwd flr, dshwshr, ref, c a/h $2200+ dep. 213-804-2918

JOSEPH 1400, 1 blk to ST Charles, 3 blks to park, 2br, 2ba, ch/a, $1500/mo. Pets ok! 504-931-5640

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1 block off St. Charles Ave. efficiency & 1 bdrm apts, never flooded. 504-432-6796

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1205 Charles Ave. 1 bedroom, 1 year lease. Building has been totally renovated recently, fitness center, secure parking & pool. $1450/month. Call Mr. Pont at 305-773-7739

COTTON MILL, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3rd floor, Great View. No Damage, New Everything. 504-669-7702

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808 Ely Flds 2br furn kit,c a/h,lg yd,w/d hkp1260sf$1250. 931-2525

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Home for lease near airport & shopping center, 8008 Shirley St. Metairie, LA. 3br/2ba/lr/dr/family rm/breakfast nook, 985-785-8895

3 and 2 bedroom apts. for rent in uptown. Call 504-722-9225/ 225-923-0733 x102.

2513 Millie St., 3 bdrm, 

# PEOPLE

# Thatcher's 80th birthday fit for a queen

**Compiled by J.E. Bourgoyne**

**Margaret Thatcher** turned 80 Thursday with a rare return to the limelight: a posh party attended by the queen and the former prime minister's two successors, all celebrating Britain's "Iron Lady."



**Margaret Thatcher**
'Iron Lady' parties on

Although she has grown frail after a series of small strokes, Thatcher looked healthy as she arrived at the party about 15 minutes late, a delay that an aide said was because she took a congratulatory phone call from **President Bush**.

Wearing a navy blue coat and dress, a string of pearls and — as always — a matching handbag that was her trademark, she smiled and paused for photographs before slowly making her way into the plush Mandarin Oriental Hotel near London's Hyde Park.

Earlier in the day, her assistant **Gilly Penrose** said Thatcher was feeling good about her milestone birthday.

"Her house is looking like a florist's and she's very much enjoying it," Penrose said. "She's very philosophical about (her age), because she's very active still."

Heading the high-powered guest list were **Queen Elizabeth II**, and her husband, **Prince Philip**; Prime Minister **Tony Blair**; and **Sir John Major**, Thatcher's immediate successor at No. 10 Downing St.

The queen shook Thatcher's hand on arrival.

Thatcher has become more reclusive in recent years and given up most public speaking on her doctors' advice, but she remains a powerful force 15 years after leaving office as Britain's first female prime minister.

## All is lost

**Josh Holloway** and his wife reportedly were robbed at gunpoint in their Honolulu home.

There was no indication the robber recognized the 36-year-old actor, who plays hunky con man Sawyer on the ABC castaway drama "Lost," television station KHON reported.

The robber rousted the couple from bed early Wednesday, took cash and credit cards and drove off in Holloway's Mercedes-Benz, the station said.

## For mom, not me

**Charlize Theron** says marriage doesn't suit her, but she's not ruling out the possibility of becoming a mother someday.

In an interview on "Access Hollywood" that aired Tuesday, the actress, 30, said she was "happy for people who want to get married."

But, she said, "it's not my thing."

Theron's mother, **Gerda**, was married this past weekend.

"I'm extremely happy in my relationship," said Theron, who has dated **Stuart Townsend** for several years. "I would love to have kids."

Townsend and Theron, who won an Oscar for her role in 2003's "Monster," appeared in the films "Trapped" and "Head in the Clouds."

## Motley stunt

**Tommy Lee** was burned Wednesday when a pyrotechnics stunt went wrong at a Motley Crue concert in Casper, Wyo.

Lee was taken to a hospital for treatment, but was not badly hurt, said Sgt. **Doug Beran** of the Casper Police Department. Beran declined to discuss details of Lee's injuries, citing privacy considerations.

The drummer, 43, who was injured toward the end of the band's set, played one more song before the concert was cut short, Beran said.

**Tom Morton,** a reporter for the Casper Star-Tribune, said Lee appeared to be injured when sparks began flying as he swung above the stage, suspended from a wire, back and forth among several drum sets.

## Today's birthdays

Actor **Roger Moore** is 78.
Country singer **Melba Montgomery** is 67.
Fashion designer **Ralph Lauren** is 66.
Singer **Cliff Richard** is 65.
Singer-musician **Justin Hayward** (The Moody Blues) is 59.
Actor **Harry Anderson** is 53.
Actor **Greg Evigan** is 52.
TV personality **Arleen Sorkin** is 49.
Golf Hall-of-Famer **Beth Daniel** is 49.
Singer-musician **Thomas Dolby** is 47.
Singer **Karyn White** is 40.
Actor **Jon Seda** is 35.
Country singer **Natalie Maines** (The Dixie Chicks) is 31.
Singer **Usher** is 27.
Actor **Jordan Brower** is 24.


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'97 LINCOLN TOWN CAR
Silver $7,995
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'98 LINC CONTINENTAL
Beige $6,995
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'83 MERCEDES 380SL
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'59 Olds 2 dr, runs & drives, needs work $2500 obo (poss. trade) 347-6238; 920-4302

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'99 FORD F150 XLT Extend - cab/Long-bed, xlnt cond, $8950, '99 Ford Ranger, 4 cyl auto, air, low mi., $5950. 504-650-9870

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'04 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad
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'01 CHEVY C1500 s/c LS SWB low mi. Free warranty. $13,450. Call 620-0000

**Automotive**

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'03 DODGE Ram 2500 SLT crew cab diesel. Free warr. $22,995 Call 620-0000

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'04 Dodge Ram Quad Cab SLT
#P4728 $15,995 1-800-556-7247

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'95 Ford F150 No Flood. Cold AC clean, runs great, $3700 obo. Call 250-8729 or 828-0659

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1997 Ford F-150 Lariat Extend Cab, 82k, Very Clean $6250obo ..... 504-915-9307

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'99 Ford F250 Diesel, A/C, Western hauler bed, exc. cond, 104K, $15,900. 504-258-7123

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'01 FORD F350 Crew Cab diesel, low miles. $21,995 Call 620-0000

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'01 FORD F150 Super Crew Lariat, 5.4L, loaded, clean, clean, , $12,500, 985-788-3280

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'02 FORD F150 XLT s/c V8, low miles. Free warranty. $12,995. Call 620-0000

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Extended Cab, Sport, Red
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(504)885-3000

'04 FORD F150 XLT
Super crew 23K mi $20,474
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'04 FORD SPORT TRAK low miles - loaded - won't last $18,675
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'04 FORD Sport Trac low miles MBG $17,995. Call 620-0000

**Automotive**

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crewcab pw pl Low mi. $22878
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'99 Lexus RX300 $20,995
'03 Lexus GX470 $43,995
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'00 Lexus LX470 $32,995
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2005 Jeep Liberty Renegade
$17,970. Call 1-888-509-6459

2002 Mitsu Montero Sport
Loaded $18,495 1-888-509-6459

'05 NISSAN MURANO SL all power - one owner. Must sell $25,282.
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

1999 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR, blak/silv, gar kept. Superb cond. new tires, $16,500 504-888-0786

'05 PATHFINDER SE snrf - loaded - alloys - $24,832.
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

'92 Nissan Pathfinder XE, V6, no flood. AC works great, std, 4 W/D, new tires, $2800, 985-789-0785

'04 HONDA PILOT
All power - one owner - must sell $22,725
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

'02 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS
V6, auto, all power
$13,995 Call 1-800-556-7247

'03 SORENTO EX loaded free warranty. $14,995. Call 620-0000

'97 Chevy Suburban, 350 Vortec, rebuilt transmission, towing package, super chip, Flowmaster, lots of new parts, $4,500. 504-722-0084

1999 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS
#640669C, fully loaded
$9,995 1-800-556-7247

'99 GMC Suburban, excellent cond, loaded, pewter, $12,999/obo. 985-630-5928

BEST CHEVROLET
1999 CHEVY TAHOE
Unique 2 Door Sport, 2WD, Low Miles! (504) 468-9817

'99 CHEVY TAHOE
Leather loaded must sell $4992
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

PORSCHE OF N.O.
(504) 456-3723
2004 VW Touareg V8
Grey, 29k Miles, $36,900

AUDI OF N.O.
(504) 456-3723
2005 VW Touareg V8
Silver, 8k Miles, $47,900

BEST CHEVROLET
2002 MAZDA TRIBUTE
Leather, Extra Clean
Priced Right! (504) 468-9817

BEST CHEVROLET
2004 MAZDA TRIBUTE ES
Leather, Priced Right!
(504) 468-9817

2004 JEEP WRANGLER X
Low miles AC $16,995
Call 1-800-556-7247

2002 NISSAN XTERRA
#650771A $14,995 1-800-556-7247

'03 XTERRA auto, loaded, free warranty. $13,995. Call 620-0000

2003 GMC YUKON XL
$21,490 1-888-509-6459

**8925 Vans**

'00 Dodge Ram 1500, handicap conv. w/lift, 58k, tilt, a/c, $21,500, 504-366-7951, 427-4256

'00 CHEVY ASTRO VAN
Xtra clean - $4995
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

'97 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY alloys - CD - rear a/c - pw - pl $4978
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

NEW TODAY
'00 Dodge Caravan, 7 Pass, loaded, 85K mi, No storm or wtr damage, $5,000. 601-749-4419

**Automotive**

**8925 Vans**

'00 Dodge Gr. Caravan, all opts, immac. $4995. (504) 885-8844

'02 DODGE B1500 CARGO VAN
V8 $10,975 1-888-509-6459

'04 DODGE Caravan SE low miles. MBG $10,995. Call 620-0000

2004 DODGE CARAVAN
$13,995 1-888-509-6459

2005 DODGE CARAVAN
Automatic, CD, A/C
$13,995 1-800-556-7247

'95 Ford Windstar, very good cond, 1 owner, rear ac, pw, pl, $3200, 504-340-1899

'98-'03 Ford E250 Cargo Vans. Contractor vans with ladder racks & bins. Call 816-694-2277

2004 FORD FREESTAR SES
Fully loaded, rear A/C
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1989 GMC 2500 Conversion Van Runs Great, 130K, No Flood. $1450/OBO. 985-649-4507

03 GMC Safari, lt brn, 6dr, very clean, dual AC, AM/FM cass CD 82k $6750. 504-913-2735

'01 Honda Odyssey XL minivan. 60,000 miles. $12,900 OBO (985) 331-8553

'02 ODYSSEY EX-L VAN
White $18,995
LEXUS OF N.O. 207-3100

2004 KIA SEDONA
Loaded, low miles
$12,995 1-888-509-6459

'05 KIA SEDONA loaded low miles. $13,995 Call 620-0000

NEW and Used Handicapped Accessible Vans, Hurricane Katrina Discount, 504-738-2634.

'05 NISSAN QUEST SE V6 rear - a/c - pw - pl $19,989
Local & toll free 1-800-619-9931

'97 Plymouth Grand Voyager, 130,000 miles, good cond, never flooded, $3200. 504-920-5646

'98 TOYOTA SIENNA LE, auto, V6, $1800. Not Running. Flood Damage. 504-722-6754

2000 Toyota Sienna Van LE, V6, a/c, power, CD, gold, 80K mi. $10,500. 504-710-6714

2002 Toy Sienna XLE, lthr,Pwr sliding drs, loaded, 30K, $16,900, 504-888-0909

**8930 Heavy Trucks, Trailers**

(2) 2004 F450 Superduty Crew Cab dual rear wheel 6.0 Diesel eng., auto trans, AC, 10' trash/landscape body with electric hydraulic body. (1) New (1) Used. (1) 2001 Ford F550 Cab Chassis, 7.3 Power stroke diesel. Auto, AC. All priced to sell - will deliver. Call 386-462-2802, 800-580-4776. Ask for Lance.

'00 Travis Walking Floor Trailer 127 cu.yd., w/tarp. LIKE NEW, pulled less than 40K mi. Contact Bud Cather 580-254-1944

'97 THOMPSON SCHOOL BUS, Diesel, A/C, air doors, lift, excellent condition, $25,000/best. Call 504-416-6495

6½x10' PJ Hyd Dump Trlr, Brand new, dual axle. H.D. Bumper pull $6900 504-915-5197

'05 Dump Trailers, 20 foot, dual tandem, from factory. Call Ted at 864-449-2266

'05 Load-Trail Hydraulic dump trailer, 6' sides, $5800 985-222-6755

Algiers - 2 houses, 2 gar, 1 ofc w/shp, 1.6 ac, 5M. to CBD, room for RVs. $650K. 504-258-6813

DUMP TRUCKS
Please call: 504-416-1293

**8940 Parts & Accessories**

Used Automotive Shop Equipment. Racks, Brake Lathes, Tireman, Etc. Shopsmith. Most acc. still in boxes. 915-8950

**8950 Repair**

Water and Mold damage equipment rental. Blowers, dehumidifiers, air scrubbers, odor removal. 985-892-2222

Carburetor rebuilt $59.95 & up; Auto Repair; Tires. 834-6401

**8965 Miscellaneous Services**

Ford 8 lug 16 inch wheels and tires, $300, used batteries, $10 each, other tires available, junk vehicles removed, Jefferson only. 504-256-7879

**NOTICES 9905-9945**

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**Notices**

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**9920 Auctions**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR AUCTION
St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2 doing business as Slidell Memorial Hospital gives public notice that the hospital will be holding a sealed bid auction of surplus equipment on:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
AT 1PM

The auction will be located at 1150 Robert Blvd., Slidell, La 70458. At this time the seal bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The surplus equipment consists of approximately 130 pieces of fitness equipment. The equipment consists of but is not limited to Elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, stair climbers, air-dyne bicycles, abdominal machines, dumbbells, rowing machines and Nordic tracks.

Items will be available for viewing on November 3rd, 10th, and on the 15th between the hours 9am and 12:30pm. Each item will be labeled with a number and a sealed bid should be placed on each numbered item. The winning bidder will have 48 hours to dismantle and remove equipment at their own expense and labor. Highest bidder not present will be notified by phone.

Please direct all questions to the Purchasing Department of Slidell Memorial Hospital at 985-649-8520.

HENDERSON AUCTIONS
Livingston, La. 225-686-2252
Marvin A. Henderson,
Auctioneer #136-2000

**9930 Legal Notices**

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary
Bureau of Health Services Financing

Minimum Standards for Home Health Agencies
Emergency Preparedness
(LAC 48:I.9121)

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing hereby amends LAC 48:I.9121 as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and R.S. 40:2116.31-40. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted a rule revising the regulations governing the licensure of home health agencies in February of 1995 (Louisiana Register, Volume 21, Number 2). This rule was subsequently amended in November of 1996 to revise the provisions contained in 9165 through 9169, 9173, 9177 and 9193 (Louisiana Register, Volume 22, Number 11) and in December 2001 to amend provisions of the February 1995 and November 20, 1996 rules (Louisiana Register, Volume 27, Number 12). The Department now proposes to amend the December 20, 2001 rule to revise the provisions governing emergency preparedness requirements for home health agencies. This action is being taken to prevent imminent peril to the health and well-being of Louisiana citizens that have been evacuated as a result of natural disasters or other emergencies. It is anticipated that the implementation of this emergency rule will be cost neutral for state fiscal year 2005-06.

EMERGENCY RULE
Effective October 15, 2005, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions contained in the December 20, 2001 rule governing emergency preparedness requirements for home health agencies.

Title 48
PUBLIC HEALTH - GENERAL
Part I. General Administration
Subpart 3. Licensing and Certification

Chapter 91. Minimum Standards for Home Health Agencies

9121. Emergency Preparedness

A. The home health agency shall have an emergency preparedness plan which conforms to the current Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) model plan and is designed to manage the consequences of natural disasters or other emergencies that disrupt the home health agency's ability to provide care and treatment or threaten the lives or safety of its clients. The home health agency is responsible for obtaining a copy of the current Home Health Emergency Preparedness Model Plan from the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness.

B. At a minimum, the agency shall have a written plan that describes:

1. the evacuation procedures for agency clients who require community assistance as well as for those with available caregivers to another location;

2. the delivery of essential care and services to agency clients whether they are in a shelter or other locations;

3. the provisions for the management of staff, including distribution and assignment of responsibilities and functions;

4. a plan for coordinating transportation services required for evacuating agency clients to another location; and

5. assurance that the agency will notify the client's family or caregiver if the client is evacuated to another location.

C. The home health agency's plan shall be activated at least annually, either in response to an emergency or in a planned drill. The home health agency's performance during the activation of the plan shall be evaluated and documented. The plan shall be revised if the agency's performance during an actual emergency or a planned drill indicates that it is necessary.

D. Any updates or revisions to the plan shall be submitted to the parish Office of Emergency Preparedness for review. The parish Office of Emergency Preparedness shall review the home health agency's plan by utilizing community wide resources.

E. As a result of an evacuation order issued by the parish Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), it may be necessary for a home health agency to temporarily relocate outside of its licensed geographic service area. In such a case, the agency may request a waiver to operate outside of its licensed location for a time period not to exceed six months in order to provide needed services to its clients and/or other evacuees of the affected areas. The agency must provide documentation as required by the Department.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2116.31-40.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 18:57 (January 1992), amended LR 21:177 (February 1995), LR 27:2249(December 2001), LR 31:

Interested persons may submit written comments to Ben A. Bearden at the Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CHALMETTE REFINING, L.L.C.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Chalmette Refining, L.L.C., Agency Interest Number 1376, have entered into a proposed settlement agreement concerning the State's allegations of environmental violations by Respondent at its facility in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, which all allegations are set forth in several Enforcement Numbers MM-PP-01-0008, WE-CN-02-0005, MM-CN-02-0108 and WE-CN-99-0170.

The Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments on the proposed settlement for the next forty-five (45) days. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written comments to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, Post Office Box 4302, Baton Rouge LA, 70821-4302, Attention: Ted R. Broyles, II, Senior Attorney, Legal Affairs Division. All comments will be considered by the Department in reaching a decision on whether to make the settlement final.

Terms and conditions of the proposed settlement may be reviewed at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Records Management, Room 127, Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

Pursuant to La. R.S 30:2050.7(D), the Department may hold a public hearing regarding this proposed settlement when either of the following conditions are met: 1) a written request for public hearing has been filed by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five members (25) members who reside in the parish in which the facility is located; or 2) the secretary finds a significant degree of public interest in the settlement.

For further information, you may call the Legal Affairs Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3985. To request a copy of the proposed settlement, submit a completed Public Record Request Form (DEQ Form FSD-0005-01). The form and instructions for completion may be found on the DEQ Website at the following address: http://www.deq.state.la.us/pubRecords/default.htm.

Notice of Application to Establish a Branch of a State Member Bank

IBERIABANK, 200 West Congress St., Lafayette, LA 70501, intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board and the Louisiana Commissioner of Financial Institutions for permission to establish a branch located at 5900 Mounes, Metairie, LA.

The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application, including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs. You are invited to submit comments on this application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 1000 Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4470. The comment period will not end before October 29, 2005, and may be somewhat longer. The Federal Reserve's procedures for processing the application may be found at 12 CFR Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 CFR 262.25. If you need more information about how to submit Community Reinvestment Act comments, contact Ms. Joan Harroff Buchanan at (404) 498-7345. Other questions on the application may be directed to Mr. David W. Smith at (404) 498-7228. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.

Any person wishing to comment on this application with the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions may file his or her comments, in writing, with the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095. The Office of Financial Institutions is not required to consider any comments received more than 30 days after the date of publication of this Notice. The Public Section of the application will be available at the Office of Financial Institutions for public inspection during the regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This notice is published pursuant to Part 303.7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and LAC 10:I.Chapter 5 of the 'Louisiana Register.'

IBERIABANK
200 West Congress St.,
Lafayette, LA 70501
By: Daryl G. Byrd
President and Chief Executive Officer

**9930 Legal Notices**

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE BETWEEN THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CHALMETTE REFINING, L.L.C.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Chalmette Refining Company, L.L.C. have entered into a proposed consent decree concerning the State's allegations of environmental violations by the Chalmette Refining Company, L.L.C., at its Chalmette petroleum refinery facility in Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

The Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments on the proposed Consent Decree for the next forty-five (45) days. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written comments to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of theSecretaryy, Legal Affairs Division, Post Office Box 4302, Baton Rouge LA, 70821-4302, Attention: Ted R. Broyles, II, Senior Attorney, Legal Affairs Division. All comments will be considered by the Department in reaching a decision on whether to make the consent decree final.

Terms and conditions of the proposed Consent Decree may be reviewed at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Records Management, Room 127, Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70892.

Pursuant to La. R.S 30:2050.7(D), the Department may hold a public hearing regarding this proposed Consent Decree when either of the following conditions are met: 1) a written request for public hearing has been filed by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five members (25) members who reside in the parish in which the facility is located; or 2) the secretary finds a significant degree of public interest in the settlement.

For further information, you may call the Legal Affairs Division of the Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3985.

**9945 Successions**

22nd Judicial District Court
for the Parish of St. Tammany
State of Louisiana
No. 2005-30363 Division "A"
SUCCESSION OF
RAFE SILVERSTEIN JR.

WHEREAS the Testamentary Executor of the above Estate has made application to the Court for the sale at private sale, of the immovable property hereinafter described, to-wit:

A CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all of the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the SECOND DISTRICT of the CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, in within Zone One of the Lakefront Development of the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, known as LAKESHORE SUBDIVISION and designated as LOT 18 of SQUARE NO. 5 on a map titled "Lakeshore on Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans, Louisiana, Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, dated May 3, 1951, File No. L.D. 2932, revised September 11, 1951, and on a map titled Square No. 5 of Lakeshore, New Orleans, Louisiana, Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, dated May 3, 1951, File No. L.D. 2932-S. Both maps were prepared by A.L. Willoz, C.E; according to plan of survey by J.J. Krebs & Sons, C.E. & S., dated 6/9/55, and recertified 2/3/61, said Lot 18 is situated in Square No. 5, bounded by LAKESHORE PARKWAY, AMETHYST STREET AND RUBY STREET, commending at a distance of 476 feet from the corner of Lakeshore Parkway and Amethyst Street, measuring 68 feet front on Amethyst Street, with a width in the rear of 73.430 feet, and a depth on each sideline of 117 feet.

The improvements thereon bear the Municipal Nos. 517 Amethyst Street.

Upon the following terms and conditions, to-wit:

The sum






# TO OUR COMMUNITY

It is hard to believe that the natural disaster called Katrina happened barely two months ago. Without question, all of our lives have been changed forever by this event. Soon, we will begin to measure time by whether an event happened before or after Katrina. In years to come, we'll ask each new acquaintance where they were when Katrina hit, just as we already do with other milestone national tragedies.

The Ochsner family of physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, employees and volunteers rode out the storm together on our Main Campus keeping our patients safe and cared for while the hurricane raged outside. For some patients what was needed was a gentle hand, words of reassurance and continuation of our plan of care. For others who came to us after the storm, many for the first time, the needs were far greater: a lung operation, heart bypass surgery, kidney and liver transplants, outpatient dialysis or intensive care for their babies. None of these services ever stopped—before, during or after the storm—except for a brief moment to shake our heads in wonder at the power of nature.

Together, we continued helping our patients by being available to you in the many communities of Louisiana where Katrina sent you—the North Shore, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. We have been open in all of those locations serving all members of your family, of every age, no matter if their condition was routine or complex.

Working closely with our colleagues in Baton Rouge, we quickly set up a lifeline to the external world, making it possible to bring our staff and employees to the parts of the region that needed medical care the most. On the North Shore, operations also were reopened swiftly—no small task in the wake of the storm.

We thank our employees everyday for everything that they did—yet we know that our thanks can never be big enough. We marvel not only at their stamina, courage and commitment but also at their ability to keep a sense of humor amid the challenges we faced.

Our hard work has been supported by the extraordinary efforts of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services workers, rescue workers, volunteers and healthcare workers in facilities across the region who have given all they can in these unprecedented times. We are grateful to them and to our partners and vendors who made sure that we had essential stocks of supplies before and after the storm.

For those of you just coming home, we welcome you back. We urge you all to look after your own health and the health of your families. We can help you do that as normalcy returns.

Ochsner is a vital part of the New Orleans and Louisiana healthcare system that you can depend on today. At Ochsner, it is our mission to put patients first…everyday…just as we did throughout Katrina and beyond.

With heartfelt good wishes for you and your family,

Patrick J. Quinlan, MD
*Chief Executive Officer*

Warner Thomas
*President and COO*

Ochsner

www.ochsner.org

The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B
Friday, October 14, 2005

EDITORIALS • B-6

2



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Mayor falls short on vision

Hurricane Katrina was responsible for a great unmasking in America.

If the talking heads are to be believed, no one knew that abject poverty existed in this nation until the sheets were blown back in New Orleans.

Another great poverty was unmasked by the storm, and it wasn't in the Superdome or in the Convention Center. It is the poverty in the thinking of our mayor.

I do not make this observation lightly. These are fragile, desperate, dangerous times. There is far too much at stake to stoop to petty name calling. But every time Ray Nagin makes a statement about his vision for our future, I am more fearful than I was even in those frightful days immediately after the hurricane when the national news media pronounced New Orleans nearly dead and our enemies said we were not worth reviving.

This indictment of the mayor and his ideas does not emanate from me. The mayor's wounds in this regard are self-inflicted.

### Relying on casinos

Last week, he challenged himself and his citizenry.

"Now is the time to think outside the box." Nagin said. "Now is the time to think about a bold vision for a cash-strapped city. We need solutions."

What was the mayor's "bold vision?" What was his idea of thinking "outside the box?"

Casinos.

Even people who like casinos wouldn't consider them bold or innovative. The dubious success of Las Vegas has already spawned dozens of clones around the country. Does our mayor think it bold to chase a trend that's decades old?

And is it wise for him to announce plans to compete directly with the casinos on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi when, at the moment, we are in a virtual partnership with that state to get federal funds for rebuilding? The Republican governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour, is far closer to the president than our own Democratic governor. It's a bad time to antagonize him.

My most charitable analysis is that the mayor's vocabulary, not his thinking, is limited. Perhaps he simply doesn't understand the meaning of the phrase "bold vision." But considered in context, this copy cat approach has been emblematic of the Nagin administration. He destroys that which he does not understand in the hope of replacing it with the shiny, shallow, new stuff he does understand.

### Lack of understanding

What can we conclude from the mayor's rush into the cold arms of organized gambling?

I conclude that Nagin really does not understand New Orleans. Though born and bred here, he fundamentally doesn't understand those things that make us great.

He understands why people love Las Vegas. But he doesn't understand our city. His city. I wish he was more thoughtful. I wish he was less generic. I wish there was time for him to take a crash course in New Orleans culture. I wish that the poverty of the mayor's vision had not been unmasked just when boldness is so desperately required.

•••••••

Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at lelie@timespicayune.com, or at (504) 826-3330.

# Layoffs hit NORD, library hardest

*Many city workers get last paycheck today*

**By Frank Donze**
Staff writer

It goes without saying that the drastic reductions in the municipal workforce ordered by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin were brutally painful. But in a city left largely devoid of children by Hurricane Katrina, the deepest cuts are the most predictable.

The budget ax that officially falls today when many City Hall workers receive their last paychecks came down hardest on the New Orleans Recreation Department and the public library system, which each lost more than 90 percent of its personnel.

The bulk of the remaining employees in both agencies — 20 with NORD and 19 in the libraries — will be concentrated in Algiers, a relatively unscathed section of New Orleans that appears to be recovering faster from the storm than any other.

Plans call for operating only the main library on Loyola Avenue and the Algiers Regional Library.

Until full electrical power has been restored to the city's east bank and services like schools, groceries and department stores are operational, Nagin has said that New Orleans will not be a good place for children to live.

"These are crippling cuts for every aspect of government," said city Finance Director Reggie Zeno, who relied on individual department heads to identify essential workers needed to provide the most basic services to a population estimated to be less than 100,000.

As the number of residents grows in the coming months, Zeno said, the Nagin administration hopes to slowly bring back workers or make new hires.

"When the situation improves, we want to phase in employees," he said. "Of course, that depends on whether we get

*See* **CUTS,** *B-2*

HOME SWEET AQUARIUM



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

King Midas, a 300-pound green sea turtle that was evacuated after Katrina to the Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston, Texas, returns to his New Orleans home in the Gulf of Mexico Exhibit at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas.

# Audubon Institute lays off 700

*Zoo, aquarium, two centers have skeleton crews*

**By Valerie Faciane**
Staff writer

Nearly 700 employees of the Audubon Nature Institute have been laid off, leaving only a couple hundred workers to tend the institute's four main facilities — Audubon Zoo, Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, and the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species on the West Bank — according to an institute official.

"While it was a gut-wrenching and unpleasant task, from a financial standpoint it was necessary," said Larry Rivarde, senior vice president

*See* **AUDUBON,** *B-2*

*King Midas comes home to aquarium*

**By Susan Langenhennig**
Staff writer

With a moist purple towel draped over its broad shell and its flippers slapping the sides of the white travel crate, King Midas, a 300-pound green sea turtle, came home to the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas on Thursday, the first animal evacuee to return to the aquarium since Hurricane Katrina.

Eight staff members lifted the massive turtle from the crate, walked a few feet to the edge of the Gulf of Mexico exhibit and lowered him into the water with a splash. Immedi-

*See* **TURTLE,** *B-2*

# RTA back on track slowly, surely

*Everyone rides free on skeletal service*

**By Bruce Eggler**
Staff writer

The big Regional Transit Authority bus rumbled along a nearly deserted St. Charles Avenue on Wednesday morning, carrying three passengers from Carrollton toward the Central Business District in lonely, air-conditioned comfort.

A day later and an hour earlier, another bus on the same route seemed practically packed by comparison, with about 20 passengers riding at least part of the way to Canal Street.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the RTA is offering skeleton service, operating 28 buses on 13 New Orleans routes.

The ridership also is skeletal, totaling just over 2,000 in the first week after service resumed Oct. 2.

Before Katrina, the agency

*See* **RTA,** *B-3*

# Classes, festivals fall victim to Katrina

*St. Charles parks seek federal assistance*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

St. Charles Parish residents were largely spared the losses suffered by their neighbors to the east.

But in the weeks following Hurricane Katrina, pressing needs, hard times and a sense of propriety forced locals to lay by the wayside a number of recreational and seasonal diversions to address the devastation that had engulfed the region.

Festivals were canceled, recreation was put on hold, and community education classes were postponed until next semester. These Katrina casualties, although small in scope, demonstrate just how far the effects of the storm reverberated, touching nearly every aspect of life, from the serious to the mundane.

Community education classes, offered through the School

*See* **ST. CHARLES,** *B-2*

# Hard-hit areas to see flood of adjusters

*Entire grids will be evaluated at a time*

**By Manuel Torres**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Hundreds of insurance adjusters on Monday will begin evaluating entire areas of St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes at a time, instead of going house to house — the start of a plan intended to speed up claims for thousands of Katrina-ravaged homeowners.

Parts of Arabi in St. Bernard and the entire east bank in Plaquemines are set to be the first zones targeted by a pilot program that insurance companies and government officials negotiated over the last three weeks.

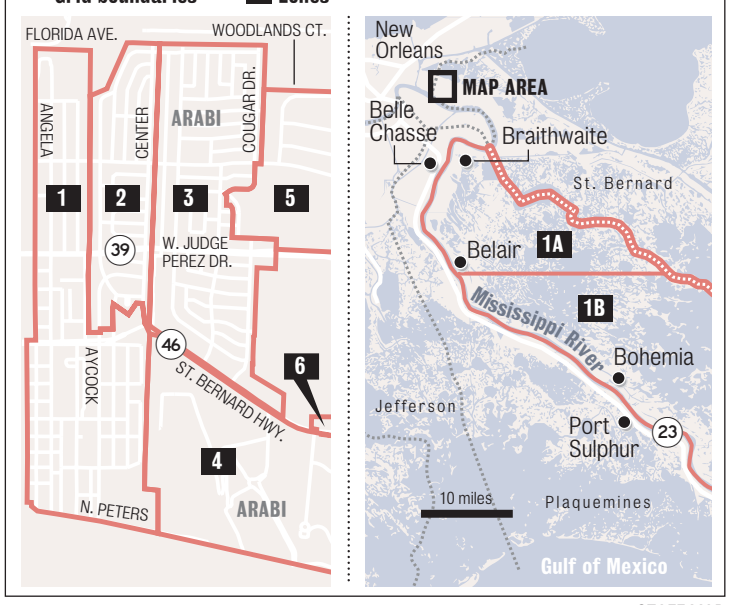
In what would be a first in the state, officials are hoping to increase the number of insurance adjusters — and their rate of progress — working in some of the storm's hardest-hit areas by getting companies to work together in assessing a block, or even an entire neighborhood, instead of the usual house-by-house assessments.

Amy Whittington, spokeswoman for state Commissioner of Insurance Robert Wooley, said the mass evaluations will be easier for flood claims, as all of

*See* **ADJUSTERS,** *B-3*

## ADJUSTERS' TERRITORY

Starting Monday insurance companies will begin working in a coordinated effort to adjust claims for St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish properties damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Adjusters will begin area 1 in St. Bernard Parish and areas 1A and 1B in Plaquemines Parish. Other areas would be done in the future.




Source: Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance's office. STAFF MAP

# Aquarium lost about 10,000 animals

**AUDUBON,** *from B-1*

and managing director for the zoo, park and Nature Center.

The 690 axed full- and part-time employees included 420 from the zoo, 220 from the aquarium, and the remaining 50 from the research center and Nature Center, Rivarde said. The remaining nearly 200 employees — both full and part time — now are spread out among the facilities.

"It's sad for us," said Karyn Noles-Bewley, senior vice president and managing director of the Aquarium, IMAX and Woldenberg Riverfront Park, who said 95 full-time and 125 part-time employees from her staff were let go. Only 48 full- or part-time employees remain.

The Audubon staff is like family, she said, "It's more sad than anything."

The layoffs took effect Oct. 7, another blow to the aquarium, which sustained structural damage and lost about 10,000 of its 15,000 animals when their life-support system was compromised during the storm.

"Our water quality began to decline, because even though the generators were operational, it does not provide us with sustained levels of power to maintain all our exhibits at optimal water-quality levels," she said.

Getting the facilities back up running will be costly.

The nonprofit institute has launched a new Web site and fund-raising campaign to help raise $60 million for rebuilding the aquarium and zoo, along with other facilities. The American Zoo and Aquarium Association has wired $500,000 to the institute for its employees and their families, the animals and the facilities.

Although no date has been set for the opening of the institute's facilities, Rivarde said he is confident that "Audubon will come back. Audubon will be a thriving entity once again."

Many workers stayed at the aquarium during the storm to care for the animals but were forced to evacuate after floodwater began rising on Canal Street. In their absence the aquarium was staffed by members of the New Orleans Police Department 6th District Communications Center, as well as the institute's President and CEO Ronald Forman, she said.

The evacuated staff were back on the job at the aquarium as soon it was safe for them to return to the city, Noles-Bewley said.

Current full-time staff members are working shifts, "living at the aquarium — sleeping on cots and eating MREs — to care for the animals, repair the facility and work toward reopening the aquarium," she said

Noles-Bewley said the aquarium evacuated some animals after the storm because of the uncertainty about when electricity would be restored, availability of generator fuel, and food shipments for animals. Evacuees included King Midas, a giant sea turtle who was sent to Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston and returned Thursday to his New Orleans home in the Gulf of Mexico exhibit; 19 penguins and two sea otters that went to Monterey Bay Aquarium in California; a sea dragon sent to the Dallas World Aquarium; and raptors and birds sent to the Houston zoo.

Among the animal casualties were the popular sand tiger sharks in the Gulf of Mexico exhibit, she said.

The aquarium emerged from the storm with roof damage that caused leaks throughout the facility, damage to the exterior glass in the Mississippi exhibit and the Amazon atrium and to the mechanical system, and failure of pumps and motors throughout the system, Noles-Bewley said.

Woldenberg Riverfront Park and Aquarium Plaza also were damaged, she said.

"There's not a tree left in the plaza," Noles-Bewley said. "We lost about 40 trees in Woldenberg Park and the Aquarium Plaza, our lighting system in the park was damaged and our irrigation system was damaged."

In the face of the setbacks, Noles-Bewley said the aquarium has received an outpouring of support from aquariums across the country.

"We have already received offers from other aquariums to provide us with animals for our reopening — more sand tiger sharks and brown sharks — and our colleagues at other aquariums have offered their boats, staff and resources to assist us in collecting animals so we may open," she said.

Rivarde said all of the institute's facilities suffered structural damage resulting from Katrina.

The Nature Center in eastern New Orleans received the most damage from both flood and wind and may have to be rebuilt, Rivarde said. He said the facility's five to six buildings took on about 4 to 5 feet of water.

"We're probably looking at having to rebuild the whole facility," he said.

For the most part, wildlife at the zoo and Nature Center were spared because of the institute's hurricane plan, but two baby otters didn't survive, he said.

The majority of zoo animals remained in their habitats and were cared for by personnel who "did a Herculean job," said Rivarde. He said the only animals to be evacuated were five sea lions that are at Moody Gardens in Galveston until they are brought back to the zoo.

The Nature Center animals were transferred to the zoo before the storm and are safe, Rivarde said

"All are safe and sound and well-fed. The only thing they miss are the guests."

## PAYROLL AX

Nearly 38 percent of the city's 6,498 workers have been laid off.

| Agency | Positions | Positions reduced | Percent reduced |
|---|---|---|---|
| Council | 76 | 30 | 39 |
| Mayor | 100 | 34 | 35 |
| CAO | 159 | 98 | 62 |
| Law | 96 | 49 | 51 |
| Fire | 777 | 7 | 1 |
| Safety & Permits | 109 | 50 | 46 |
| Police Department | 2,296 | 291 | 13 |
| Sanitation | 81 | 50 | 62 |
| Health | 333 | 133 | 40 |
| Human services | 63 | 48 | 76 |
| Finance | 173 | 113 | 65 |
| Property management | 133 | 55 | 41 |
| Civil service | 37 | 25 | 68 |
| Public works | 258 | 199 | 77 |
| Recreation | 404 | 384 | 95 |
| Parkway | 221 | 120 | 54 |
| Library | 213 | 194 | 91 |
| HDLC | 7 | 2 | 29 |
| Vieux Carre | 7 | 5 | 71 |
| City planning | 24 | 15 | 63 |
| Mosquito control | 42 | 7 | 17 |
| Museum | 44 | 34 | 77 |
| Neighborhood 1 | 98 | 59 | 60 |
| Workforce | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| NHIF | 18 | 10 | 56 |
| Coroner | 25 | 13 | 52 |
| Juvenile | 59 | 29 | 49 |
| Muncipal court | 121 | 78 | 64 |
| Traffic court | 166 | 147 | 89 |
| Criminal district court* | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Clerk criminal district court | 89 | 39 | 44 |
| French Market | 42 | 29 | 69 |
| Municipal yacht | 20 | 16 | 80 |
| Rivergate Development | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Canal St. Development | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Audubon Institute | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Aviation Board | 192 | 75 | 39 |
| **Totals** | **6,498** | **2,437** | **38** |

*Criminal district court's budget is largely financed by the state.
Source: City of New Orleans

STAFF GRAPHIC

# Police officers take over for civilians

**CUTS,** *from B-1*

the resources to fund the salaries. We've got to have the resources. Until then, we'll be moving forward as best we can to rebuild government."

The preliminary tally provided by Nagin staffers shows that the city's 6,498-member, pre-Katrina workforce lost 2,437 employees (37.5 percent) as the administration adjusts spending to account for the loss of virtually all tax revenue.

And while that number is below the 3,000-layoff estimate made by the mayor nearly two weeks ago, Nagin aides said Thursday that the process is ongoing. Once the Sewerage & Water Board submits its layoff list, they say, the total likely will be at or near the mayor's forecast.

At this point, all city department heads, most of whom serve at the mayor's pleasure, remain on the payroll, Zeno said.

And the only rank-and-file positions spared from the cuts are those with a direct impact on public safety, including police officers and firefighters, emergency medical workers who run ambulance services and electrical and health inspectors needed to get commerce up and running.

But even those employees must cope with the loss of civilian support personnel.

For example, the Police Department lost 291 of its nearly 2,300 employees, including dozens of clerical workers, 60 communications specialists and about 150 school crossing guards, positions the administration says are not needed at this time because so many public schools remain shuttered on the city's east bank.

Police officers will take over administrative functions formerly handled by civilians.

The Fire Department, which has relatively few administrative jobs, fared better than any other large city agency, losing only seven of its 777 positions.

Zeno said the Sanitation Department, a critical component in the city's recovery from Hurricane Katrina's destruction that employs a private contractor to handle garbage collection, will continue to function, albeit at a reduced level.

Nonetheless, the agency, which is receiving help from private companies hired by the Army Corps of Engineers, lost 50 of its 81 staff positions.

Other areas of government that were hit hard include:

- Public Works, which lost 199 of its 258 positions, including nearly 100 parking control officers and dozens of street maintenance workers. A skeleton crew will continue to enforce parking regulations.
- Health, which lost 133 of its 333 employees. City officials said most of the department's health professionals are being kept on the payroll.
- Law, which lost 49 of 96 workers, most of them staff attorneys.
- Civil Service, which lost 25 of 37 jobs. The agency, which oversees hiring and firing of city workers, is not expected to be very busy for the next several months, officials said.
- Traffic Court, which eliminated 147 of its 166 jobs. The court is expected to see a greatly reduced workload in the near term because so much of the city, including eastern New Orleans, the Lower 9th Ward, Gentilly and Lakeview, remains largely uninhabited.

At Louis Armstrong International Airport, 74 civil service employees and 25 temporary employees were laid off, leaving 117 permanent employees and six temps.

Aviation Director Roy Williams said the facility will be able to get by for now because of the reduced traffic at the airport.

For example, he said the airport doesn't need as many firefighters on a shift as it did when traffic averaged 174 takeoffs and landings per day, compared with the current level of 25.

Administration officials said that as business picks up at Armstrong International, they plan to increase staffing accordingly.

The mayor's office slashed 35 percent of its 100-member staff and the City Council lost nearly 40 percent of its 76 employees.

Zeno said the reductions in the executive and legislative branches likely mean that job titles will no longer have much importance.

"Everybody works for the city and there may be some shifting of responsibilities," he said. "We're looking to make maximum use of the staff we have left. People will be cross-trained and they'll be asked to perform tasks they may not have performed previously."

Zeno said the administration is getting closer to closing a deal for a $50 million line of credit that will help the city make payroll for the next month or so.

But beyond that, he said the city is counting on its share of a $750 million loan package approved recently by Congress for municipal governments across the Gulf Coast crippled by Katrina.

As spelled out in the legislation, Zeno said the city is counting on 25 percent of its basic annual operating budget, or about $120 million. The state is coordinating distribution of Louisiana's portion of aid.

"If the federal loan doesn't come through, we're really in bad shape," Zeno said. "Without it, we may not have enough cash to fund any payroll, including police and fire. Needless to say, the federal money is critical."

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Staff writer Matt Scallan contributed to this report. Frank Donze can be reached at fdonze@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3328.

# Soccer, baseball return to parish

**ST. CHARLES,** *from B-1*

Board, were suspended for the fall semester for the first time since the program's inception in the 1970s.

"We've been delayed by hurricanes, but we never had to cancel a semester," said Gwen Cashio, senior secretary for student and community services. "We were so crushed because we had such a nice program to offer."

Cashio said the School Board canceled 203 community classes, which ranged from knitting to ceramics to culinary instruction, in response to a number of concerns.

Officials were unsure of the status and availability of the school facilities, where the classes are taught, and worried about staffing and attendance, Cashio said.

The program, which attracts about 1,000 students per semester, will be back for the spring semester, she said.

"I think people are going to be ready to get back to it," Cashio said. "People are looking for that release — let's do something fun and get back to normal, regular life."

The Alligator Festival, an annual tradition sponsored by the St. Charles Parish Rotary Club and held in Luling, also was canceled for the first time in its 25-year history. The festival, typically held at the end of September, draws a crowd of about 40,000, said Flint Distefano, the event's coordinator.

But organizers felt that it was inappropriate to hold festivities this year.

"We just thought it was improper to put a bigger burden on anyone that ought to be spending money on necessities," Distefano said.

The parks and recreation department was hit with setbacks by Katrina, namely widespread damage to its facilities.

According to Director Larry Matson, damage left by Katrina remains scattered throughout St. Charles Parish in the form of shattered fences and broken utility poles that rim the storm-ravaged parks and baseball fields.

But despite extensive damage and post-storm upheaval, the parks and recreation department is in the process of getting back on track.

Matson said he is applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency aid to repair 20 of the parish's 26 parks, where damage includes broken scoreboards, battered baseball dugouts, wrecked fences and downed electric poles.

The department was forced to suspend youth football and cheerleading for the season because of a shortage of referees and field space, Matson said. Some other programs, such as girls and boys basketball, were postponed, with registration scheduled to start Oct. 24.

The department has released an updated schedule. Youth soccer is up and running, having started on a limited schedule in early October, and adult flag football teams are playing. Fall baseball is also under way at Destrehan High School, although it, too, is being played on a limited basis.

In the meantime, Matson said, residents eager to resume their pre-Katrina lifestyles have been contacting the recreation department with queries about teams and startup schedules.

"They've been saying these kids need to get out and play and get back to their normal lives," he said. "And we all do, too."

# AD REPORTER

By Martin Covert





Universal Furniture's Ernie Bonnoitt helps a customer make decisions this week at the company's Kenner store. The West Bank Universal is scheduled to open today after extensive repairs.

STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES GAFFNEY

## *Another opening*

**Universal Furniture** is scheduled to open its West Bank location at Manhattan and the West Bank Expressway in Harvey today. This marks the second Universal to reopen after Katrina. The Kenner location at 2500 Williams has been open for nearly three weeks.

The company's Ernie Bonnoitt says the Kenner store was not damaged by the storm, and that shoppers have been depending on Universal for much-needed appliances and bedding.

Half of the roof was blown off the Harvey location, but it has been tarped and temporarily repaired, giving shoppers an additional Universal to help replace items lost in the storm.

Bonnoitt reports that Universal's venerable St. Claude Avenue location took the hardest of hits from Katrina. Extensive flooding wreaked havoc on the inventory, but the company plans to refurbish and reopen early next month.

Universal's store and warehouse on Broad and Earhart were also damaged. No word yet on reopening.

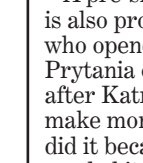
Special financing and "everyday low pricing" is, of course, being advertised by Universal. "We were here to help our community and our customers after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, after the floods in intervening years, and now we're determined to make a difference after Katrina," says Bonnoitt.

*More info:* 602-6800.

## *Pampering*

**Dr. Cynthia Mizgala** (pictured), the plastic surgeon, had scheduled a grand opening of her new offices in mid-September. Those plans were obviously scrapped, but the new center, which includes complete spa services as well as surgical procedures, is now up and running at 4720 I-10 Service Rd. at Clearview, next to Tulane-Lakeside Hospital.

Mizgala's new offices, in suite 105 of the medical complex, offer everything from Botox injections and facials to breast surgery and tummy tucks.



"Right now, we are offering free facials to emergency personnel who have been working so hard to get the area moving again," says Mizgala, who has been practicing locally since 1993.

The new location also offers manicures and pedicures, microdermabrasion and other pampering and appearance-improving services.

"We're seeing people now who are stressed out from the work they've been doing to get back into their homes," says Mizgala. *Appointments:* 885-4515 or www.awomanplasticsurgeon.com.

## *Free film*

Rene Brunet of **The Prytania Theatre,** Uptown at 5339 Prytania St. says the theater, **Hibernia National Bank** and the Louisiana Film Commission will host a free, open-to-the-public showing of "Waiting" tonight at 7.

The comedy about waiter-buddies, filmed at Bennigan's in Metairie, is billed as a hit for people who liked the "American Pie" genre of movies.

A pre-show buffet at 6 p.m. is also promised, says Brunet, who opened the undamaged Prytania only a few weeks after Katrina. "I didn't do it to make money," says Brunet. "I did it because the people needed it, and I believe in 'the show must go on' philosophy."

Beginning Saturday, The Prytania will show "In Her Shoes" with Cameron Diaz and Shirley MacLaine daily. *More info:* 891-2787.

# Aquariums, zoos took in evacuees

**TURTLE,** *from B-1*

ately Midas dove deep, swimming in broad strokes across the 400,000-gallon tank.

The small assembly of staff members cheered. Ron Forman, Audubon Nature Institute president and chief executive officer, stood at the exhibit's edge, a big smile on his face.

"It's so great he's back," Forman said. "This has been an emotional time. Our staff has been sleeping here for seven weeks, working really hard."

Approximately 10,000 animals perished in the chaotic days after the storm as water quality deteriorated in the tanks. Midas, though, was one of many animals the staff was able to save. The turtle was evacuated to the Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston, Texas.

The penguins and sea otters were shipped to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California, where the penguins are now on exhibit. Some salt and freshwater fish were taken to the Dallas World Aquarium, said Melissa Lee, director of public relations.

The famous white alligator, all birds and the leafy seadragons, a threatened fish species related to seahorses, also survived.

Even clown fish pulled through. "The Nemos made it," assistant curator Rich Toth said.

Animal caretakers stayed at the facility during and after the hurricane, trying to save as many animals as possible. Forman said he secured 4,000 gallons of fuel for the generators running the aquarium's life support systems, but the water quality eventually started to break down in the tanks. "The water started to darken. We didn't have any fresh water coming in. As we got into the sixth or seventh day, the fish started to suffer and die," he said.

Offers of help came rushing in from zoos and aquariums throughout the nation, Forman said. "The Monterey aquarium sent a private plane," he said. "Tears were in (Audubon staff members') eyes as they watched our animals leave. They built this aquarium and to see it dying was really hard."

After rescuing animals and removing dead ones, staffers turned to the task of filtering and cleaning the exhibits. On Thursday, the crystal clear water in the Gulf of Mexico display sparkled as several large tarpon and a few redfish made laps around the tank. "This is a testament to our filtration systems. They're fantastic," Toth said.

Forman attributed the quick cleanup of the facility to the devoted aquarium staff. "Our staff left their families and dedicated themselves to saving these animals," he said.

Although the Audubon Institute had to lay off employees, he said zoos and aquariums across the country offered displaced staff members jobs.

# Cities seek storm cleanup payback

*Some of them may go broke*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

With some St. Tammany Parish municipalities on the verge of going broke, state Rep. Pete Schneider said Thursday he was trying to unravel a seemingly impregnable wall of bureaucracy and free up government reimbursements for Hurricane Katrina clean-up costs.

"Time is of the essence. We have municipalities in this parish that can't hold on much longer if they don't get those reimbursements," a frustrated Schneider said.

At a legislative subcommittee public hearing Wednesday in Mandeville looking into storm related matters, Schneider, R-Slidell, and state Reps. Tim Burns, R-Mandeville, and Mike Strain, R-Abita Springs, got an earful from St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis, Mandeville Mayor Eddie Price and Madisonville Mayor Peter Gitz.

All three said they had learned that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has dispatched money to Baton Rouge to provide 100 percent federal reimbursement costs to the municipalities for their immediate post-Hurricane Katrina costs in clearing trees and other debris to get streets open. But they said the money was being held up until a state audit could be done on each application.

"We are in tough times here; we need our money back," Price said.

Davis said the situation is so serious that two municipalities will go broke in two weeks without reimbursement. Later, outside in the parking lot of the Paul Spitzfaden Community Center, he identified them as Pearl River and Folsom.

Davis was outside along with Price because Schneider, after hearing the complaints, turned the meeting over to Strain and went into the parking lot with his cell phone to call state Auditor Steve Theriot. After getting him on the phone, they went into a room and using a speakerphone, Davis and Price repeated their complaint. Gitz had returned to Madisonville.

As it turned out, the holdup is not with the auditor or audits, but with the military.

"There is not going to be an audit before issuing the checks but apparently some colonel has to approve the issuing," Schneider said. "And even more baffling, the checks will actually be cut in Carville."

By late afternoon Thursday, Schneider was still trying to determine when money would be coming to St. Tammany Parish. If need be, he said he would contact Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who is de facto commander-in-chief of the state National Guard.

Price testified at Wednesday's hearing that using a 76-hour 100 percent reimbursement plan for street tree removal, the city hired Coastal Waste Management and spent $400,000 of city money before the Army Corps of Engineers moved in and took over the debris removal process under contract to FEMA which will cover the remaining costs.

"Here we are six weeks later and we don't have the reimbursement. We were down $300,000 for our August sales tax collections before Katrina and we know that September collections will be practically zero. We need our money back," Price said.

Gitz said he raided limited town coffers for more than $200,000 to finance initial clean-up until FEMA and the corps set up operations and took over. "We need our money back as soon as possible," he said.

Earlier in the week Folsom Mayor Marshell Brumfield, who did not attend the Wednesday meeting, said the village spent $120,000 initially for clean-up and is waiting for reimbursement. Pearl River officials said last week they spent more than $100,000 and are waiting for FEMA reimbursement. Abita Springs Mayor Louis Fitzmorris said his town spent about $300,000 and "desperately" needs reimbursement.

During the nearly three-hour hearing, the three legislators also heard pleas from law enforcement, fire and city and town officials for state financial help in improving communications systems and obtaining more generators to keep essential services going after storms destroy electrical distribution systems.

The three are members of the House Subcommittee on the Northshore Parishes of the House Special Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long Term Revitalization. Schneider is chair of the subcommittee and is conducting a series of hearings in St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa parishes.

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# Buses replacing streetcars for now

**RTA,** *from B-1*

carried an average of 855,000 riders a week.

But despite long waits between buses on some lines, business seems to be building.

Ridership nearly doubled between Monday and Tuesday of this week, from 528 to 946, though it fell slightly Wednesday.

One reason for the growing ridership: Everybody rides for free these days and will continue to do so for as long as six months, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency picking up the tab through the Federal Transit Administration.

The 35 historic St. Charles Avenue streetcars survived the hurricane and subsequent flooding without damage, but mud and debris still cover the streetcar tracks in many places, and many of the poles holding the cars' electric power line were damaged, meaning that buses will continue on the route for the foreseeable future.

Besides the St. Charles line, other routes in service are Marigny-Bywater, Tchoupitoulas, Magazine, Jackson, Louisiana, Leonidas and six West Bank lines: Algiers Loop, Gen. Meyer, Pace Boulevard, Aurora Express, Algiers Local and Gen. de Gaulle.

The Marigny, Louisiana and Leonidas routes are somewhat different than they were before Katrina. Details can be found on the RTA's Web site, www.norta.com.

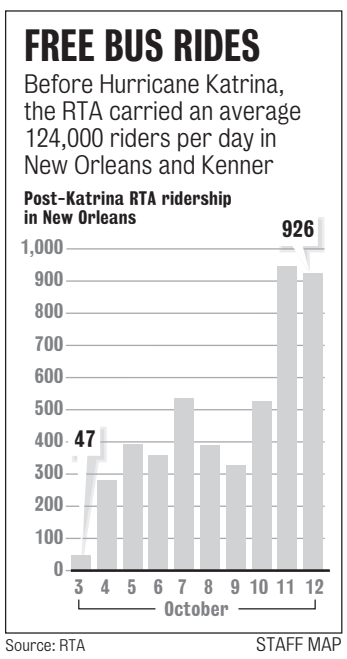
The RTA also operates the Kenner Loop route in Kenner, though not the bus lines that run through East Jefferson between Kenner and New Orleans, which are operated by Jefferson Transit. Daily ridership on the Kenner Loop has varied between 50 and 228 since it resumed Oct. 2. That line is charging a 40-cent fare for adults, half the normal rate.

Except for two weekday-only lines in Algiers, buses operate seven days a week, but service does not begin until 8 a.m. and the last trip ends by 6 p.m., a real drawback for many potential riders.

One reason for the short hours is that the bus drivers are living in Baton Rouge and must be bused to and from New Orleans each day, said Pat Judge, the RTA's director of public affairs.

He said the agency is looking at ways to expand the service, both in hours and in the number of lines operating.

"Additional lines and service will be considered as buses, fueling and maintenance services can be secured," Judge said. "Temporary housing continues to be a critical need for RTA operators, maintenance workers and administrative staff."




**The RTA also operates the Kenner Loop route in Kenner, though not the bus lines that run through East Jefferson between Kenner and New Orleans, which are operated by Jefferson Transit. Daily ridership on the Kenner Loop has varied between 50 and 228 since it resumed Oct. 2. That line is charging a 40-cent fare for adults, half the normal rate.**

Changes in service will be announced on the agency's Web site.

In a report to the City Council this week, Judge also said:

▶ About 190 buses were lost to flooding. The remaining fleet is either in service or is being recovered after temporary use by the National Guard and others in the hurricane's aftermath.

▶ All 24 streetcars on the year-old Canal Street line were flooded and their running gears are inoperable. One car was shipped to Pennsylvania this week for damage assessment.

▶ At the urging of Mayor Ray Nagin, the RTA is considering using a number of the undamaged St. Charles streetcars on the Riverfront streetcar line. Although the Riverfront track appears to be undamaged, six of the seven Riverfront cars are inoperable.

▶ The RTA's staff of 1,300 is dispersed over a wide geographic area and many are homeless.

▶ The agency's administrative offices in eastern New Orleans suffered severe water and roof damage. The A. Philip Randolph bus barn on Canal Street and the eastern New Orleans bus facility and maintenance building were flooded and badly damaged.

▶ An undetermined number of LIFT vehicles and paratransit vans used to transport people with disabilities were damaged, but many are still operable.

▶ Union Passenger Terminal, where Amtrak service resumed this week, is being served by the Algiers Loop and Gen. Meyer lines, which run to Canal and Rampart streets.

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Bruce Eggler can be reached at beggler@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3320.

# Slidell mayor wants to keep corps contract

*Slow debris removal cause for complaints*

**By Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

Although he's not happy about the slow progress, Slidell Mayor Ben Morris says he has no intention of breaking the city's contract with the Army Corps of Engineers for removing tons of storm debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm not upset with the corps or their contractors," he said this week. "I understand the logistics of what has to be done. I think they're doing a hell of a job with what they've got to work with."

Complaints have mounted in recent weeks about the snail's pace of moving the mounds of wood chunks, limbs, ripped-out wallboard, ruined appliances and other debris off front lawns and street curbs.

Morris himself has been among the complainers. But asked whether Slidell was considering canceling its agreement with the corps, he responded, "Absolutely not."

The city simply can't afford to pay 25 percent of the cost under the traditional federal reimbursement procedure to remove the 1 million-plus cubic yards of debris in the city and take it to dump sites, he said.

The city initially hired Gulf States Contractors for storm debris pickup. Then the corps offered Slidell a better deal financially: The corps would act as general contractor, hire the subs and pay the entire cost.

Morris and the City Council signed off on the deal. The corps selected Ceres Environmental Services of Brooklyn, Minn., to oversee the debris removal project. Gulf States, a Smith Enterprises company, was chosen as the lead subcontractor.

As of Oct. 6, 285,247 cubic yards of debris had been hauled away by Gulf States and its small army of haulers. By Thursday, another 51,854 cubic yards had been removed for a total of 6,129 truckloads to date, Public Works Superintendent Dan Yeates said.

Gulf States and its haulers are attempting to load and run 70 trucks a day. Each load ranges from 27 to 75 cubic yards of limbs, logs, tree stumps and, in separate trucks, construction debris, Yeates said.

Meanwhile, the fact that the Gulf States loads are uncompressed, coupled with unusually heavy traffic through the Slidell area, is slowing the massive cleanup operation, city officials and haulers say.

The work is expected to be going on another six months, Morris warned residents. "This is not a fast process," he said. "The tonnage out there is staggering."

In contrast, the cleanup in the much larger unincorporated area of St. Tammany Parish is moving much faster. But unless the Federal Emergency Management Agency waives the 25 percent "local match," the parish will have to pay that much of the cost.

The parish hired Omni Pinnacle, one of the Reine family companies, for its debris cleanup. Some 280 crews are now at work on parish streets and roads, parish officials say.

As of Thursday, parish spokeswoman Suzanne Parsons Stymiest said, Omni and its subcontractors had picked up almost 1.5 million of the estimated 6 million to 7 million cubic yards in the unincorporated area.

The Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the disposal of yet another category of ruined "white goods": refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioning units, and washers and dryers damaged by the hurricane. They're also supposed to be placed in a separate area.

# Plan speeds up assessment process

**ADJUSTERS,** *from B-1*

St. Bernard and most of Plaquemines flooded Aug. 29 during Hurricane Katrina. Many of those same areas flooded again when Hurricane Rita passed by on Sept. 25.

"There are areas where companies can actually say, 'OK, all this block was flooded,' " Whittington said. "But for wind damage, they may still have to do it house to house."

Officials in both parishes pushed for the mass assessments, arguing that until residents settle their insurance claims they are unlikely to begin tearing down and rebuilding damaged structures.

The plan will divide both parishes into grids or sections of about 1,000 homes each, with 25 sections designated in St. Bernard and nine in Plaquemines. Adjusters will complete one grid at a time, allowing for reconstruction efforts to begin in each area as adjusters move out.

But officials Thursday emphasized that no demolitions have been scheduled yet. St. Bernard officials last week said they will make recommendations to homeowners as to whether their homes suffered enough damage to warrant a tear-down, but it'll be up to each property owner to decide whether to demolish or repair a home.

Whittington said hundreds of adjusters from multiple companies are expected Monday to begin work in the first grids of each parish. She said one large company, which she would not name, is sending 300 adjusters to the two parishes.

"It's a large effort," she said.

The first grids, where work will begin Monday and extend through the week, include the following areas:

▶ In St. Bernard: Parts of Arabi roughly bounded by Florida Avenue to the north, the Orleans Parish line to the west, the Mississippi River to the south and Aycock and Center streets to the east.

▶ In Plaquemines: All east bank areas, from the St. Bernard Parish line to the community of Bohemia.

Wooley's office sent maps of the grids to insurance companies this month, so they could identify customers in the area and prepare to handle their claims. Wooley said the firms are trying to contact their customers to let them know which day they can expect adjusters to evaluate their homes.

Officials will review at the end of the week how many homes were completed and make adjustments for the remaining grids.

Manuel Torres can be reached at mtorres@timespicayune.com or (504) 352-2543.

Christ Church Cathedral
The Episcopal Cathedral
2919 St. Charles Ave
www.cccnola.org
Sunday Services
Holy Eucharist at 7:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (choral) and 6:00 p.m.
Christian Formation for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
The Episcopal Church Welcomes All

**The Board of Commissioners**
OF THE
**Orleans Levee District**
10761 PERKINS ROAD, SUITE A
BATON ROUGE, LA 70810
TEL. 225-763-2040

October 6, 2005

Ms. Anne Soileau, Acting Director
Department of State Civil Service
P.O. Box 94111
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9111

Dear Ms. Soileau:

In accordance with Civil Service 17.8, the Board of Commissioners, Orleans, Levee District is requesting approval to implement a furlough without pay for its employees who have not contacted our agency since Hurricane Katrina. The reason for this request is that we assume these employees may never report back to work, and we therefore do not wish to continue paying their salaries. We request the furlough apply to the Orleans Levee District, in the following geographic areas: Orleans Parish. We purpose the furlough for all the employees listed in this plan to begin on October 18, 2005 and end at close of business on November 29, 2005. This would equal **240** hours of furlough for all the affected employees.

Since we are not proposing the furlough of all of our employees, our agency asks for an exception to the regular layoff avoidance rules, as provided for by Civil Service Rule 17.3 be approved, thus allowing our agency to furlough only those employees who have not contacted us since Hurricane Katrina. As a second part of this exception request, we propose to list the names of those who will be covered by this furlough measure, instead of those who will be excluded from it. The reason for this request is that this proposed list will be shorter than that of those who have contacted our agency since Hurricane Katrina.

In the event that any of the affected employees should contact our agency before the effective beginning date of the furlough, our agency will not include them in the furlough.

In the event that any of the affected employee(s) should contact our agency during the period of the furlough, our agency will place him or her on special leave, annual leave, or direct the employee back to work, instead of furloughing him or her. In this unprecedented type of furlough, we cannot foresee the recall schedule from furlough for these employees, since we do not know who may respond or when. Those not responding will be furloughed the entire period of time stated in this plan, and therefore, there will be no recall from furlough for them. Since the normal recall provisions stated in Civil Service Rule 17.8 are not applicable in this furlough, we ask for an exception to any specific recall schedule, subject to our planned actions stated above in this plan.

The employees and their job titles we are proposing for this furlough are as follows:

| Employees | Job Titles |
|---|---|
| Wayne Beaulieu | Mobile Equip. Master Mech. |
| Vanessa Coleman | Guard |
| Kevin Davis | Trades Apprentice |
| Raynetta Hammler | Police Officer 3 |
| Alvin Hartford | Mobile Equip Oper. 1 |
| Kevin Kazmierczak | Fireman Advanced |
| Stanley McRae | Laborer |
| Joseph Oliver | Bridge Operator 2 |
| Lester Rosiere | Mobile Equip. Master Mech. |
| James Watson IV | Laborer |

If you require additional information, please contact Cynthia C. Taylor, Human Resources Director at (225) 763-2062 or at **ctaylor@orleanslevee.com** at our agency.

Thank You Sincerely,
Max L. Hearn • Executive Director




STAFF PHOTO BY DONALD STOUT

## COURT CRASH

An accident Thursday morning between a Red Oldsmobile Cutlass and a Ford F-150 pickup truck in Metairie sent two women to East Jefferson Hospital. The car landed against the Jefferson Parish 1st Parish Court building. Sgt. Greg Lonero, standing, and Deputy J. Simmons, kneeling, check out the pickup for impact. The accident is under investigation.

# CLAMORING CLERGY

## *Pastors push for leadership roles in rebuilding city*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

Pastors of the small- and medium-size black churches that once anchored New Orleans neighborhoods in thick webs of financial and emotional support have begun to call for a larger voice in the rebuilding of the flood-damaged city.

Those calls began Tuesday in a meeting of nearly 50 pastors laboriously pulled together for a discussion at Holy Faith Temple Baptist Church in Treme.

In two hours of discussion, it became clear, most had lost their churches. Their congregations were scattered, and many had lost their homes and everything they own.

But the topic of the moment was whether the city was willing to make a place for their community leadership on the panel of business, financial and cultural leaders charged with making threshold decisions on how to rebuild New Orleans.

"In the black community the church is the hub of our life," the Rev. Moses Gordon said. In planning to restore New Orleans "we must take our rightful places and have the kind of influence God wants us to have."

Several were especially dismayed that Mayor Ray Nagin has proposed a broad expansion of casino gambling to energize the city's ravaged economy. "Some things are already being proposed that don't necessarily give us the answer," Gordon said.

Although dramatic, the proposal is widely seen as a long shot at best, given substantial political and legal obstacles.

Nagin's 17-member Bring Back New Orleans Commission contains only one black clergyman, the Rev. Fred Luter of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

Luter is a boyhood friend who leads a powerful congregation that before Hurricane Katrina had more than 12,000 members. But nearly all the pastors gathered in Treme — leaders of much smaller neighborhood churches typical to New Orleans — clearly thought his appointment did not address their concerns.

First among those was making sure that thousands of reconstruction jobs would be dealt preferentially to returning New Orleanians, they said.

And they wanted education restored as quickly as possible so families with children could return to New Orleans.

Some were worried about the way that has begun to happen.

The Rev. Arthur Wardsworth, who pastors two churches in Algiers, complained that a move to charter Algiers' public schools and distance them from the Orleans Parish School Board is also a way to steer education out of the hands of black elected officials. In an interview later, Wardsworth said he is not opposed to charter schools in principle but believes that the post-Katrina chaos has provided charter-school advocates cover to quickly break off Algiers schools without adequate public discussion.

That discussion pointed the way into a deeper and more problematic concern for many: a fear that those planning the revival of New Orleans want a "gentrified" community with a much-reduced black presence.

"There's an element in this city that doesn't want this city to look anything like it did before Katrina," said Wardsworth, to general approval.

The pastors were pulled together by Gordon, whose Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church is closed and badly damaged, and the Rev. W. Franklyn Richardson, a prominent pastor and former general secretary of the National Baptist Convention, USA, from Mount Vernon, N.Y.

In the weeks after Katrina, Richardson began to use his regional and national contacts to assemble short-term aid to displaced families and clergy stripped of their congregations and their income.

The Katrina Church and Community Relief Fund has raised $99,000 and distributed $75,000 to local families and individual pastors, he said.

Longer term, Richardson, who helped lead the Treme meeting, hopes the organization can use local churches to steer capital and economic aid into shattered New Orleans neighborhoods.

Assembled from temporary homes as far away as Houston, the pastors who gathered Tuesday shared their stories of personal and professional loss.

Many thanked Richardson for aid he has already steered their way. And all explicitly thanked God for what meager blessings they retained.

"My church was in the Lower 9th. I guess that tells you everything," was a typical introduction. Many added that they had lost their homes.

In interviews later, many said they were living on a spouse's income, supplemented by gifts from preaching in other churches and the charity of friends.

"This suit and the shoes I have on are about all I own," said the Rev. Sam J. Johnson, who received a $1,000 grant from Richardson's fund.

Johnson said his Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church No. 2 in Central City had just finished a renovation of more than $1 million when Katrina struck.

With the project done, the church and its meeting rooms were beautiful, he said.

"Now you look in there, and it's like it's a hundred years old," Johnson said.

•••••••

Bruce Nolan can be reached at bnolan@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3344

## Volunteers needed to clean Magazine

**From staff reports**

In what New Orleans officials hope will be the first in a series of business corridor cleanups, Magazine Street shopowners, with the help of area residents and the National Guard, will sweep the Uptown thoroughfare clean of hurricane debris Saturday.

The all-day volunteer effort — dubbed "Let's Clean Magazine!" — will begin at 9 a.m. at Magazine and Napoleon Avenue.

Volunteers are being asked to bring gloves, brooms, dustpans, rakes and garden clippers. Additional cleaning supplies will be provided by area merchants.

Anyone interested in participating in the project can call Margaret Beer at (281) 703-8456 or send an e-mail to mbeer@mayorofno.com.

The mayor's office is encouraging business owners and residents of other commercial areas to help organize similar cleanups.

## Kenner aid site opening earlier

**Kenner bureau**

Because of declining numbers at the Red Cross drive-through financial assistance site in Kenner, officials are moving up the start time to 7:30 a.m. and will not let applicants line up before that time, Kenner officials said Tuesday.

Almost since the site opened a week ago, Red Cross officials had been filling up the site, a parking lot near the Louis Armstrong International Airport, with hundreds of cars each night before the center opened at 9 a.m. But no more.

"Motorists are warned not to come before 7:30 a.m., as you will be turned away," a Kenner statement said.

At the site, volunteers sign up disaster victims for financial assistance. Those who qualify are mailed a check of about $350 per person, depending on the number of people in a household, within three days.

The site will close at various times each day depending on the demand.

Applicants are asked to bring a driver's license or other form of identification and a utility bill, and Social Security cards for children.





**Wallace Moll**

# Wallace Moll, 79, career law enforcer

**East Jefferson bureau**

Wallace Moll, a retired chief deputy of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, died Sunday at River Region Hospice in River Ridge. He was 79.

Mr. Moll was born in New Orleans and lived in Metairie for the past 41 years.

He was a special agent in the Army's Criminal Investigation Division and worked for the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the State Police before joining the Sheriff's Office in 1980, shortly after Harry Lee was first elected sheriff. He retired in 1986.

"I appointed Wally Moll as chief deputy because of his vast law enforcement experiences," Lee said.

"I thought he did a bang-up job for me."

Lee said he met Moll while he was a federal magistrate and Moll was with the ATF.

"I had no law enforcement experience when I was elected, and Wally was a big help for me," Lee said.

Mr. Moll had been a senior special agent in the ATF for 27 years and a State Police detective assigned to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

He served on the staff of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Institute for 20 years.

Mr. Moll was a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Louisiana Peace Officers' Association, National Sheriffs' Association, the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, the Fraternal Order of Police, the American Legion, the New Orleans Scottish Rite, the Jerusalem Temple, the Ionic Lodge and the National Rifle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Crusella Newitt Moll; a daughter, Cynthia Moll Roos; and a brother, Melvin Moll.

Funeral services were held Thursday at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be in Metairie Cemetery.

# N.O. courts carry on in Gonzales and B.R.

## *Jury trials on hold as system regroups*

**By Susan Finch**
Staff writer

Many of New Orleans' courts are up and running, even if they aren't in New Orleans.

Orleans Parish courts and parochial offices normally housed in the Civil Court Building on Loyola Avenue are conducting legal business at a temporary location in Gonzales.

There, judges sign pleadings, conduct contradictory hearings, hold conferences and conduct nonjury civil trials. The judges also may schedule other matters at 453 South Blvd., Baton Rouge, which houses the offices of the State Pardon Board.

No jury trials are scheduled because massive evacuations have made assembling a jury pool nearly impossible, a court spokesman said. The clerk of Civil District Court, the clerk of 1st City Court, the civil sheriff of Orleans Parish, and the constable of Orleans Parish are working at 1026 E. Worthy St., Gonzales. Operating hours for the court and the parochial offices are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The recorder of mortgages, the registrar of conveyances, and the Office of Notarial Archives resumed operations Monday at the New Orleans Convention Center. The status of Criminal Court is more complicated.

Until recently, the judges were taking turns presiding at first appearances, or bond settings, for suspects arrested in New Orleans at Hunt Correctional in St. Gabriel. But Magistrate Gerard Hansen has relocated to the Union Passenger Terminal, which has served as a makeshift criminal justice center in the weeks after Hurricane Katrina.

The judges will continue traveling to Hunt on a rotating basis through next week to set trial dates and review the status of inmates to make sure nobody is in jail who shouldn't be.

But starting Oct. 27, the judges will have access to a makeshift courtroom in the "show-up room" at the House of Detention, Chief Judge Calvin Johnson said.

Courts will ramp up considerably after Oct. 25, the end of what Gov. Kathleen Blanco declared a "court holiday" for the system to get back in shape after back-to-back hurricanes effectively shut it down.

By Nov. 1, "We'll be doing preliminary hearings and real status hearings and dealing with issues in terms of setting trial dates," Johnson said.

The court's Tulane and Broad headquarters building likely won't be ready to handle jury trials until February, he said. Johnson meets with fellow members of the city's criminal justice system on Tuesday mornings at the attorney general's office in Baton Rouge.

"We are working seven days a week to get our system operating in a fashion whereby we can do the things that need to be done," he said. "We're going to get it done."

Johnson bristled at recent comments from Mayor Ray Nagin that the city doesn't have a functioning criminal justice system.

He said he made several efforts to invite Nagin representatives to attend the regular Tuesday meeting, but has received no response.

"I guess he's just uninformed about where the system is and what we are doing," Johnson said.

Likewise, people who think the hurricanes washed away their legal troubles are woefully mistaken, he said.

"If they think because of Katrina, everybody is going to walk out the door, they've got another think coming," he said. "Some people really believe that. That's just not going to happen."

Traffic Court resumed operations Monday at the Algiers courthouse on Morgan Street, and the four court divisions will convene weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second floor. Additionally, traffic court continues operating at Baton Rouge city court building, 232 St. Louis St., to serve New Orleans motorists who haven't returned home.

Orleans Parish Municipal Court continues operating at Union Passenger Terminal pending construction of a temporary court facility inside the Textile Building near Orleans Parish Prison.

### ORLEANS COURTS OPEN — SORT OF

The clerk of Civil District Court, the clerk of First City Court, the civil sheriff of Orleans Parish, and the constable of Orleans Parish are working at 1026 East Worthy St., Gonzales, LA, 70737. Contact numbers for the relocated court and parochial offices are listed below. For future updates, contact orleanscdc.com

- Orleans Parish clerk of District Court, (225)647-9200, (225)647-9296 (fax)
- Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson (Div-A), (225)647-9748
- Judge Rose Ledet (B), (225)647-9748
- Judge Sidney H. Cates IV (Div-C),(225)647-9748
- Judge Lloyd J. Medley Jr. (Div-D), (225)647-9746
- Judge Madeleine M. Landrieu (Div-E), (225)647-9746
- Judge Yada T. Magee (Div-F), (225)647-9746
- Judge Robin M. Giarrusso (Div-G), (225)647-9746
- Judge Michael G. Bagneris (Div-H), (225)647-9746
- Judge Piper Griffin (Div-I), (225)647-9743
- Judge Nadine Ramsey (Div-J), (225)647-9746
- Judge Hebert Cade (Div-K), (225)647-9743
- Judge Kern Reese (Div-L), (225)647-9743
- Judge Paulette Irons (Div-M), (225)647-9743
- Chief Judge Ethel Simms Julien (Div-N), (225)647-9749

- First City Court, (225)647-9778
Judge Charles Imbornone, Section A
Judge Angelique Reed, Section B
Judge Sonja Spears, Section C
- First City Court evictions, (225)647-9769
Orleans Civil Sheriff, (225)647-9787
- The recorder of mortgages, the registrar of conveyances, and the Office of Notarial Archives resumed operations Monday at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.
Recorder of mortgages, 504-670-7040
Registrar of conveyances, 504-670-7022
Office of Notarial Archives, 504-670-7000

**TRAFFIC COURT**

- Call 364-4062 to schedule an appearance, discuss an outstanding ticket, check on driver's license status, DWI cases or other pending matters. Traffic Court resumed operations Monday at the Algiers courthouse on Morgan Steet.
- For New Orleans residents in Baton Rouge, a satellite traffic court has been set up at 232 St. Louis St., Room 121-B. Call (225)389-8421 to schedule an appearance or appointment.

Doris Rose Alston
Suzanne Capers Breene Andalman
Ethel Streckert Anglada
Leroy Blue, Jr.
Alfred Byrd, Jr.
Warren Edward Craig, Sr.
Stephen Michael Crockett
Sallie Bee Crouch
Alphonse Davis, Sr.
Vincent J. DeSalvo
Lanier Henry Devine
James Everett Eaves
Norman T. Evans
Ronald Ernest Gaudreau
Jean Ann Teston Gervais
Anna Facaine Green
Dorothy Davis Green
Leonard H. Hellmers, Jr.
John Bernard Kunkel, Jr.
Carl A. LaSalle, Jr.
Robert F. Laurent
Mildred D. Lococo
Mary Bonano Mangerchine
Vernon Alton Martinez, Sr.
Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat
John David McDonald
Hilda B. Miller
Enoble Morton, Jr.
Lynn Raymond Petit
William Frank Rachuba, Jr.
Elizabeth Brown Rose

# DEATHS

Thaddeus Jude Samuel
Hunter Sterling
Bobbie Jean Stevens
Augustine Franklin Taylor
Elsie Perry Thornton
Frank Turner
James Flynn Unangst
Donald Veazey
Patricia White
Nancy Wilkens

## East Jefferson

**Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home**
Ethel Streckert Anglada
Mary Bonano Mangerchine

**Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home**
Suzanne Capers Breene Andalman
Jean Ann Teston Gervais
John Bernard Kunkel, Jr.
John David McDonald
Bobbie Jean Stevens
James Flynn Unangst

**L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home**
Leonard H. Hellmers, Jr.
Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat

**Richardson Funeral Home**
Leroy Blue, Jr.
Alfred Byrd, Jr.
Sallie Bee Crouch
Hunter Sterling
Elizabeth Brown Rose
Augustine Franklin Taylor
Frank Turner

## River Parishes

**Baloney Funeral Home**
Enoble Morton, Jr.
Thaddeus Jude Samuel

## St. Tammany

**Honaker Funeral Home, Inc.**
Anna Facaine Green
Amelia Cornelia Kottemann

## Westbank

**Davis Mortuary Service**
Doris Rose Alston
Carl A. LaSalle, Jr.

**Murray Henderson Funeral Home**
Stephen Michael Crockett
Alphonse Davis, Sr.

**Mothe Funeral Homes**
Elsie Perry Thornton

**Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home**
Patricia White

**Westside-Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home**
Vincent J. DeSalvo
Dorothy Davis Green
Vernon Alton Martinez, Sr.
Hilda B. Miller
Lynn Raymond Petit
William Fank Rachuba, Jr.

## Others

**Brown-McGehee Funeral Home**
Ronald Ernest Gaudreau

**Carney & Mackey Funeral Home**
Nancy Wilkens

**Falgout Funeral Homes, Inc.**
Mildred D. Lococo

**Hall Davis & Sons Funeral Service**
Warren Edward Craig, Sr.

**Bill Head Funeral Home**
Donald Veazey

### ALSTON
Doris Rose Alston departed this life at her residence on Friday, August 26, 2005. Beloved wife of Fredrick F. Alston. Mother of Brian C. James and Craig N. James Sr. Stepmother of Kristina Alston and Katherine Alston. Daughter of Wesley and Julia Rose Sr., Sister of Nealey Rose, Jr., Thomas Rose, Alvin J. Rose, Dorethea Rose Lebeauve, Audrey Rose Green, and Catherine Rose Brickley. Also survived by 3 Grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Age 58 years a native and resident of New Orleans, La. Relatives and Friends, also Pastors, Officers, and members of Second Baptist Church and neighboring churches are invited to attend funeral services. The services were held at Davis Mortuary on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.. Rev. Taza Green Officiated (No. Wake). Interment: Westlawn Cemetery-Gretna, La. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, La.

### ANDALMAN
Suzanne Capers Breene Andalman passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at age 78. She was born in Buffalo, NY on December 10, 1926 to Fannye Belle Pintard Breene, her mother and lifelong best friend. At age 19, Suzanne contracted bulbar polio, survived and rose to champion the March of Dimes by serving as its Chicago, Illinois Chapter President from 1957-59. In 1960 Suzanne returned to New Orleans with her 2 sons. Mrs. Andalman owned and operated the ''Tops and Bottoms'' ladies clothing shop in Kenner. She was a member of Kenner Professional Women's Association and was proclaimed the Kenner ''Business Woman of the Month'' in 1991. She finished her distinguished career serving area families and excelling as a Memorial Counselor for the Garden of Memories Cemetery.
Survived by her two beloved sons Mark Brian Andalman of Dallas (and is wife, Diana), Barry Owen Andalman of Destrehan (and his wife, Denise), two devoted granddaughters, Jennifer and Julia Andalman of Dallas.
Visitation will be Saturday, October 15 from 12:00pm - 2pm at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home at 4747 Veterans Blvd. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 pm in the Chapel. Burial will follow at the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Metairie.

### ANGLADA
Ethel Streckert Anglada at Sugar Land Health Care Center, Sugar Land, TX on Monday,October 10, 2005 at 2:36 PM. Beloved wife of the late Hessel Anglada. Mother of Patricia Anglada Vintrella. Mother in law of the late Carlo J. Vintrella. Grandmother of Angela Vintrella Pramann and Carla Vintrella Naquin. Great grandmother of James A. Pramann III, Kristle Pramann, Michael Naquin and Mark Naquin. Daughter of the late Louisa Carr Streckert and William M. Streckert. Age 101. A native of Sand Island, AL and former resident of Biloxi, MS, resident of New Orleans and Metairie, LA for the past 43 years.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral service from the the Metairie Chapel of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd, corner of Bonnabel Blvd., on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12:00 Noon followed by temporary interment in Garden of Memories, Metairie, LA. Visitation on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 10:00 AM until funeral time. Information 831-9901. Sign On-Line Guest book at www.legacy.com

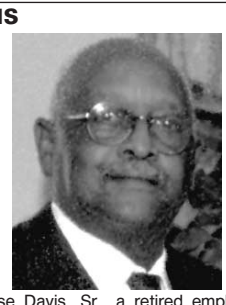
### BLUE
Leroy Blue, Jr., a retired self employed landscaper, on Monday, October 10, 2005 at River Regions Hospice. The loving husband of Rose Clark Blue. Father of Shelia B. Pullins and Kim Marie Blue. Grandfather of Leroy A. Pullins and Rose M. Pullins. Great-Grandfather of Kyla T. Pullins. He also leaves to cherish him memories a sister-in-law, Louise Johnson, and a host of relatives and friends. He also leaves his church family Oakland Baptist Church, where he served on the Deacon Board. He was a member of the Masonic Hall Nehemiah # 72.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers, and members of Oakland Baptist Church and all neighboring churches are invited to attend services from Oakland Baptist Church, 1400 Third Street, Kenner, LA. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10 o'clock AM. Visitation will begin at 8 AM. Reverend Charles Hurst officiating. Interment Mt. Pilgrim Cemetery in Ama, LA.
RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME
IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS

### BYRD
Alfred ''Lil Alfred'' Byrd, Jr. on Monday, October 3, 2005 at East Jefferson General Hospital. He was a graduate of Alfred Bonnabel High School in Kenner, LA. He was the beloved husband of Sadie Williams-Byrd. Father of Joy, Alfred III, and the late Jamel. The son of Alfred and Emma Byrd. The grandfather of Jaren and Jamani. The brother of Debra Williams, Jackie Ray, Brian, and Chad Byrd, all of Kenner. The grandson of Viola Nelson. The great uncle of Rev. Robert Lee, Jr. of Clayton, LA. He is also survived by 16 uncles, 15 aunts, and a host of family and friends.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastor, officers and members of St. Michael B.C. and all neighboring churches; employees of Roosevelt Middle School and Cytec Industry are invited to attend the funeral services from St. Michael Missionary Baptist Church, 315 James St., Kenner, LA on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Leroy Sanders officiating. Interment Providence Memorial Park.
RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME In Charge

### CRAIG
Warren Edward Craig, Sr. died on Sunday, October 9, 2005 at Baton Rouge General Hospital. Age 65 years. Mr. Craig was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is survived by wife, Margaret S. Craig, 6 daughters: Patricia Craig, Cheryl Craig-Rose, Antoinette Hicks, Wendolyn Craig-Frith, Warnett Craig-Netter and Warlene Craig, 3 sons: Warren E. Craig, Jr., Rodney Craig and Aaron Craig. Also survived by 1 sister: Shirley White of Oakland California; 2 brothers: James Craig, Jr., Roland Craig, 29 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren.
Visitation from 9am to 11am and religious services at 11am on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at Hall Davis & Sons Funeral Service, Ltd., 9348 Scenic Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA., 225-778-1612, Interment Providence Memorial, 8200 Airline Dr., Metairie, Louisiana. Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. officiating. For info call 225-778-1612

### CROCKETT
Stephen Michael ''Shepard'' Crockett departed this life on October 6, 2005 at West Jefferson Medical. He was the son of Audemease C. and Robert Lee Cage. The husband of Alona G. Crockett. The father of Stephen and Phyllis Mosley and Edward De Jean. Stepfather of Samuel and Williamena Griffin. Brother of Stephanie C. Davis (Billy), Vivian C. Bonney (Nathaniel), Phyllis C. Thibodeau (Kevin), Diana and Conway Crockett and Kenneth Martin. Grandparents Gertrude and T. Earl Streeter. Great aunt Willie Mae Monroe. Godmother Bertha Lucas. Also servived by a host of neices, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandchildren,and friends. He leaves at the age of 46 and was a native of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives, friends and members of Sunrise Baptist Church are invited. Services at Murray Henderson Funeral Home, 1209 Teche St., New Orleans, LA. Elder James Cheattam Pastor on Saturday October 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation 9:00 a.m. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA.

### CROUCH
Sallie Bee Crouch on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at Longterm Acute Care in Fort Worth, TX. Beloved Wife of the late Floyd Douglas Crouch. Mother of James A., Alphonso, Delores and Dorothy Crouch, and Gladys C. Boyd. Sister of Walter, John, Henry, and Zeberdee Graham. She is also survived by 59 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers, and members of Sweet Home Christian Center, Mt. Pisgah M.B.C. of Fayetteville, N.C. and neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral services from Richardson Funeral Home, 11112 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge, LA. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12 noon. Visitation at 11 AM. Reverend Eugene Wilson officiating. Interment Providence Memorial Park. RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME
IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS

### DAVIS

Alphonse Davis, Sr., a retired employee of Ochsner Foundation Hospital and an employee of Orleans Parish School System, died of heart failure on October 8, 2005, at a daughter's home in Gretna, Louisiana. He was 74 years old. He was a native of New Orleans, LA. Beloved husband of Josephine Butler Davis; brother of Alexander Davis, Jr.; father of Alphonse Gregory (Sayonara) Davis, Sherylynn Davis (Willie) Harris, Bruce Alexander (Mary) Davis, Carmen Davis (Theodore) Miles, Wanda Davis (John) Haynes, Jeffery Burton Davis, Carey Brian Davis, Jevelle Lillian Davis, Brad Derrick Davis, Shaundra Davis (Gregory) Dawson, Todd Dexter Davis, Craig Anthony Davis, Jannalynn Davis (John) Breaux, Jolene Davis (Kevin) Nash, Jolette Davis (Clement) Parker; 34 grandchildren; six great grand children; and a host of, nephews, nieces, friends and co-workers.
Services will be held on Saturday October 15, 2005 at 12 o'clock noon, Regular Baptist Church, 901 5th St., Gretna, LA. Visitation from 9:45 until 11:45 a.m.
Services entrusted to MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME.

### DESALVO
Vincent J. DeSalvo on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 11:30 PM. Beloved husband of the late Beulah C. DeSalvo. Father of Jerrie Protti, Barbara Jimenez and Vincent J. DeSalvo Jr. Brother of the late Peter DeSalvo, Samuel DeSalvo, Joseph DeSalvo, Gus DeSalvo, Martin DeSalvo, Steve DeSalvo and Pascal DeSalvo. Son of the late Nicholas DeSalvo and Antonia Alascia DeSalvo. Also survived by 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.
Relatives and friends of the family, also Patrons of Vince's Seafood, LA., Seafood Assoc., La. Restaurant Assoc., and Members, of Lion of Juda Church are invited to attend the Funeral Services from the Chapel of Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, La. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12 noon. Interment in Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Visitation at Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 9AM until 12 Noon. Information 341-9421

### DEVINE

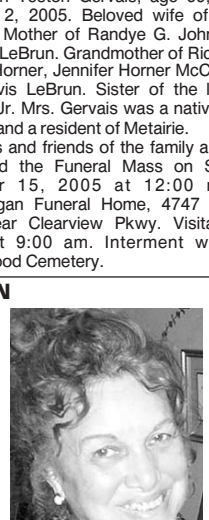
Mr. Lanier Henry Devine at Harris Methodist H.E.B. Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas. A retired professional mechanical engineer, died on Monday, September 26, 2005 at 9:38 p.m. Age 82 years. A native of San Antonio, TX and resident of Mandeville, LA for 25 years. A graduate of Texas A & M with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Past President of La Heat Pump/Assn., Sam P. Wallace Construction and Resor Plumbing and Heating. A member of Louisiana Engineering Society and parishioner of Our Lady of the Lake Church. A U.S. Navy veteran, Pacific Theatre - World War II.
Survived by wife, Mary Ann Kane Devine; stepsons: Edward William Michel and Lewis Charles Michel; sister, Mary Frances Berry; 4 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchildm many nieces and nephews. Son of the late William Webb Devine and Isabel Lamar.
A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA.

### EAVES
James Everett Eaves on Monday, October 10, 2005 in Houston, TX.
Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at Christ the King Episcopal Church, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

### EVANS
Norman T. Evans on September 20, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. in Houston, TX. Age 78 years. Beloved husband of 35 years to Rosemary Russo Evans. Father of Jason Evans, Angela Westberry, Ronald Evans, Wayne Evans, Jeanne McDougall and Doris Ann Wood. Stepfather of Michelle Holmes and the late Antonio Chighizola. Son of the late Ramsey Evans and Ruth Herrin. Brother of Doris Williams, Charlie Herrin, Ed Herrin, Glenn Herrin and the late Elwood Herrin. Stepbrother of Harry McIntyre. Also survived by a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Former Deputy Sheriff of St. Bernard Parish.
A Memorial Mass will be held at Enon Baptist Church, Hwy. 16, Enon, LA on Saturday, October 15th, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

### GAUDREAU
Ronald Ernest Gaudreau a native of Bogalusa, LA and a resident of Pembroke Pines, FL died Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the age of 59. Survivors include his daughter, Kristin (Darren) Matranga of Pearl River, LA.; 2 sons: Darby Allen (Maria) Gaudreau of Pembroke Pines, FL & Brandon Scott (Traci) Gaudreau of Hutto, TX; 5 grandchildren: Josh, Taylor, Angela Marie, Cody, and Chase; 2 sisters: Patricia (Jerry) Arabie of Pembroke Pines, FL and Lori Gaudreau of Hickory, LA; 3 brothers: Charles (Ginger) Gaudreau and David Gaudreau, both of Pembroke Pines, FL and Jeff Gaudreau of Bossier City, LA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roland and Anna Gaudreau. Services will be held in the chapel of Brown McGehee Funeral Home on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 2 P.M. Interment will follow at John R. Pierce Cemetery, Sun, LA.
Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Sunday morning from 10 A.M. until service time.

### GERVAIS
Jean Ann Teston Gervais, age 69, died on October 2, 2005. Beloved wife of Pete H. Gervais. Mother of Randye G. Johnson and Roselyn LeBrun. Grandmother of Richard and Barrett Horner, Jennifer Horner McCoy, Ryan and Travis LeBrun. Sister of the late Jack Teston, Jr. Mrs. Gervais was a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12:00 noon at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd. near Clearview Pkwy. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

### GREEN

Anna Facaine Green, of Slidell, LA on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at River Ridge Hospice. Beloved wife of Arthur Green, Jr. Mother of 2 sons, A. Keith Green and Brian J. Green and 2 daughters: Karen G. Scott and Velina Green Carter. Daughter of the late Joseph and Bertha Sylvas Faciane. Sister of Ervin, Michael and Gregory Faciane, Thelma F. Doucette and Joyce F. Rieux. Also preceded in death by 4 brothers and 1 sister. Also survived by 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, and by numerous nieces and nephews. Age 66 years. A native of Slidell, LA and a lifelong resident, Mrs. Green was a homemaker and parishioner of St. Genevieve Catholic Church.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral Mass at SAINT MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, Robert Blvd., Slidell, on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:30 A.M. Interment in FOREST LAWN CEMETERY. Visitation on Saturday at church, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM with a Rosary at 10:00 AM. Arrangements by Honaker Funeral Home, Inc., Slidell, LA.

### GREEN
Dorothy Davis Green at Many Northshore Nursing Facility in Many, Louisiana on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Age 81. Wife of the late Alfred Green and by second marriage, the late Leonard Boyer, Sr. Daughter of the late Sylvia James and Robert Davis. Mother of Charles R. Green, Sr., Bryant Boyer, Sr., Darryl Boyer, Cathy Boyer Pappion and the late Leonard Boyer, Jr. and Ronald Boyer. Sister of Fanny Jackson, Vivian Davis Coleman, Josephine Hadley and the late Clara Berry, Mercedes Bibbs and Robert Davis, II. Grandmother of 13 and great grandmother of 8, also, survived by a host of other family and friends.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services from St. Paul Baptist Church, 1521 Monroe Street, Gretna, Louisiana on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Interment in McDonogh Cemetery. Visitation on Friday. October 14, 2005 from 8:00 AM until service time at the church. Westside/Leitz/Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. 341-9421.

### HELLMERS
Leonard H. Hellmers, Jr., a resident of New Orleans, LA, died at the age of 65 at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2005, at East Jefferson General Hospital (Jefferson Parish, Louisiana) from complications associated with kidney cancer. He was born in New Orleans on December 5, 1939, and attended William Frantz Elementary School (kindergarten), St. Paul Lutheran School (grades 1-8), and F. T. Nicholls High School (grades 9-12), from which he was graduated in 1957 as a National Merit Scholar. He studied chemistry, physics, and mathematics as an undergraduate at Tulane University and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.
Leonard was a Private First Class in the United States Army. He was selected to attend the Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey in California where he studied Italian, and was assigned as a linguist in the US Army Security Agency, serving primarily in Frankfort, Germany. Following his honorable discharge, Leonard resumed his academic career at what was then LSU New Orleans (today's UNO), where he earned a Bachelor's degree in mathematics. An interest in theater drew him to Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he earned a Master of Arts and eventually a Doctor of Philosophy degree. He was a college professor in the theater departments of Wesleyan University in Watertown, Connecticut, and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.
Leonard left the academic world and became Research Director for the marketing research firm ASI in southern California. Following the death of his father in 1984, he returned to the family home in New Orleans to care for his widowed mother and sister Eileen, where for a time he operated his own marketing research business. At the time of his death, he was retired. Leonard's interests were many and varied, reflected in his large personal library. He had a special interest in and performed independent research on the origins of language. He was a musician, and played the string bass professionally during his high school and college years.
Leonard was the oldest child of Leonard and Meta Wegener Hellmers, both of whom are deceased. He is survived by his sister Janet and her husband, Wolfgang Neumann, Leonard's brother-in-law and longtime friend; his brother Norman and his wife Patricia O'Brien Hellmers; and, by his younger sister, Eileen. He is also survived by six nieces and nephews, Katrina Neumann Arceneaux, Krista Neumann Kettler, Kirsten Neumann Fortson, Erik Neumann, Jennifer Hellmers Bjornstad, and Jeffrey Hellmers, by five grand-nieces and nephews, Erika and Evan Arceneaux, Katherine and Benjamin Kettler, and Soren Bjornstad, and by many relatives and friends.
The family thanks the staffs of East Jefferson General Hospital and the Oncology-Hematology office of Drs. Brinz, Burroff, Gurtler, and Russo for their many kindnesses, and especially Dr. Angelo Russo, whom Leonard trusted and admired.
Following cremation, his remains will be interred in the Hellmers family tomb in Metairie Cemetery. No services are planned at this time.
Donations in his memory may be made to the Hurricane Restoration Fund of St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2624 Burgundy Street, New Orleans LA 70117.

### KUNKEL
John Bernard Kunkel, Jr., age 82, on Thursday, October 13. Husband of Violet Rost Kunkel. Son of the late John Kunkel, Sr. and Josephine Hauerkan Kunel. Father of John B. Kunkel, III and Kathy K. Matherne. Father-in-law of Nanette Kunkel. Grandfather of Kayla and Kaysie Willig , Matthew Kunkel, Catherine Matherne and the late John B. Kunkel, IV. Brother of the late Dee Gahn and Rosemary Fredoraff. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 32 years.
The relatives and friends of the family and invited to attend the Memorial Service from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

### LaSALLE
Carl A. LaSalle, Jr. departed this life on Friday, Ooctober 7, 2005 at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Beloved husband of Jessie LaSalle. Devoted father of Alecia LaSalle. Son of Carl (Bobbie) LaSalle, Sr. and Vanessa (Clarence, Sr.) Page. Grandson of Anthony and Yvonne LaSalle. Brother of Deion Jackson and Tennille Ancar. Stepbrother of Courtney (Darrin) Elliott, Latoya and Alendria Page, David McGowan and Clarence Page, Jr. Brother-in-law of Chuck Jackson and Ryan Ancar, Marion Garcia, Desiree (Rodgers) Plaisance and Carrie Ganier. Son-in-law of Freddie, Jr. and Joyce Plaisance. Godfather of Tevin Berry, Jada Adams, Brain Tallet and Joseph Bailey. Also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends. Age 32 years. A Resident of Westwego, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of Greater St. John Baptist Church, Mount Pilgrim B.C. and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Mount Pilgrim B.C., 922 Estalote Ave., Marrero, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Rev. Harold F. Clark - Officiating. (NO WAKE). Visitation from 8:00 a.m. until service time.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
230 Monroe St., Gretna, LA

### LAURENT
Robert F. Laurent passed away September 9th, 2005. Age 75 years. Beloved husband of Bettie Durbin Laurent. Father of Brenda Laurent Uhle and Bobbie Tassin McDonald. Grandfather of Paula and Samantha Uhle, Bryan Tassin and Evan McDonald. Father-in-law of Paul Uhle and Kenny McDonald. Brother of Anna Love and Johnny Laurent. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Harahan, LA for the past 41 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Graveside Service at the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Metairie, LA on Saturday, October 15th, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
In lieu of flowers, donations to Canon Hospice.

### LOCOCO
Mildred D. Lococo on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 7:45 A.M. in Destrehan, LA. Beloved wife of the late Charles Almeda by first marriage, the late Elson M. Delaune by second marriage and the late Victor J. Lococo by third marriage. Mother of Charles E. Almeda, Elson M. Delaune, Elaine Delaune Waldron, Robert A. Delaune and Curtis W. Delaune. Daughter of the late Charles and Fannie Patient Richardson. Sister of the late Wayne Richardson, Elmer Richardson, Floyd Richardson, Hazel R. Proctor, Leitha R. Carbeth and Beava R. Taylor. Also survived by 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. A resident of Lockport, LA. Age 86 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Religious services at Falgout Funeral Home, 600 Church St., Lockport, LA on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. Interment Holy Savior Cemetery, Lockport, LA. Visitation from 9:00 AM until funeral time, Saturday at Falgout Funeral Home.
Falgout Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

### MANGERCHINE
Mary Bonano Mangerchine at Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Jefferson, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 4:40 PM. Beloved wife of the late Julius J. Mangerchine. Mother of Michael J., Richard D. and Cheryl Rainey. Sister of Catherine Trahan and Shirley Roser. Daughter of the late Jacob Bonano and Leah Spellman. Also survived by 9 grandchilden and 11 great-grandchildren. Age 76 years. A native of New Orleans, LA. and resident of Harahan, LA. for the past 17 years.
Relatives and friends, also members of Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 3267, American Legion Auxiliary Post 0397, Knights of Columbus, The Dragons, The Golden Ages, The Fun Seekers and The Silver Trotters are invited to attend the funeral service from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 10:00 AM until funeral time. Information call 831-9901. Sign on Guest book at www.legacy.com

### MARTINEZ
Vernon Alton Martinez, Sr., of Marrero, LA, on Thursday, October 6, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Miriam Adam Martinez. Father of Glenn Paul Martinez, Patricia Castine and Vernon Martinez, Jr. Brother of Dorothy Natale, Helen Breithoff, and the late Ruby Clause and Charles Martinez. Father-in-law of Gyron Martinez and Joseph Castine. Son of the late Albert Martinez and Arsilia Falcon Martinez. Grandfather of Christy Meyer Patterson, Vernon A. Martinez, III and Amanda Lynn Martinez. Also survived by several nieces and nephews.
Relatives and Friends of the Family were invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Chapel of WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. Interment followed in Westlawn Park Cemetery, in Gretna, LA. Visitation was held on Monday evening, October 10, 2005 from 6:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. and again on Tuesday morning, October 11, 2005, from 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M., at WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME.
Information: 341-9421.

### MAZERAT

Vetina Elise Scorsone Mazerat, on September 13, 2005, at Grand Prairie Health Center, Grand Prairie, Texas. Displaced by Hurricane Katrina. She was born on October 10, 1909, in New Orleans, LA. Beloved wife of the late Sidney J. Mazerat, Jr. Cherished mother of Sylvia Mazerat Norton, and husband Thomas, and Sidney J. Mazerat III. Grandmother of Peggy Norton Dunn and husband Kevin, Branden Strom and Michelle Norton Stanton and husband, Stephen. She was the daughter of the late Vito Scorsone and Mary Valley Scorsone. She was the sister of the late Cora Leonardi, Louis Bacon, Ruby Bellerino, Viola Cali, Joseph and Francis Scorsone. She is also survived by a loving sister-in-law, Georgiana Scorsone; many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Aged 95 years, 11 months and 3 days. A resident of Terrytown, LA for 45 years and a parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church.
Vetina retired after many years with Maison Blanche Co. and Marks Issacs Co. Department Stores. She was a member of the Terrytown Golden Agers. Our heartfelt thanks to her caregivers, Dr. Thomas P. Melancon, for years of friendship and caring; her home health care assistants; the nursing staff at West Jefferson Medical Center, during her stays there; the special staff members at Meadowcrest Living Center; and the kindness shown to her in her final days at Grand Prairie Health Center, by their staff, the special members of Vitas Hospice, by our new caring friend, Abel Rodriguez, by our loving cousin Jeanne Rasco, and our friends Lorraine Stennett, Suzanne Taitte, Ann Mayo, Becca Crowell and the Rev. Kris Bauta. She was loved by all who knew her, for her loving and caring nature and her special humor and the happiness she spread around her.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass at the Kenner Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN & SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation on Friday from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM ! and Saturday from 9:00 AM until time of service. A Private Interment will be held in Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum.

### McDONALD
John David McDonald, age 49, on Friday, October 7, 2005. Son of Daniel R. McDonald, Sr. and Beverly Pizzuto McDonald. Father of Mandy M. Brescher, Erin C. McDonald and Christopher D. McDonald. Father-in-law of Michael J. Brescher, Sr. Grandfather of Michael J. Brescher, Jr. and Tyler J. Brescher. Brother of Michael D. McDonald, Sr., Daniel R. McDonald, Jr., Mark G. McDonald and Thomas C. McDonald. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 44 years.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview, on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until time of service. Interment will follow in Garden of Memories on Airline Highway, Metairie, LA.

### MILLER
Hilda B. Miller, a resident of Wynhoven Nursing Home, at Capital Nursing Home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 4:50 am. Age 97. Beloved wife of the late John F. Miller, Sr. and mother of Inez McKneely. Grandmother of Terri M. Ducote, Deborah M. D'Aunoy and John A. Miller. Great grandmother of Mathew, Jeffrey and Jacob Ducote, Christopher, Amanda and Kaley D'Aunoy and Kelly Miller. Also survived by son John F. Miller, Jr.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:00 Am from Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway. Interment in Westlawn Park Cemetery. Visitation at the funeral home on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 9:00 AM until service time. Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Info: 341-9421.

### MORTON
Enoble Morton, Jr. of Marrero, LA at West Jefferson on Tuesday, October 11, 2005. Companion of Rosemary Clark. Father of Noble Clark, Monica, Monique Phillips, Shaneen Morton and Valerie Morton. Stepfather of Karen Alexander, Hope Coleman, Katina Davis, Antoinette, Shawn and Torrance Clark. Brother of Mary Winnfield, Alvin, Robert, Vernon, Roger, Howard, Joyce and the late Roseann Morton. Also survived by (31) grandchildren, (4) great grandchildren, (4) brother-in-law, (11) sisters-in-law, a host of nieces and nephews and friends. A native of Moonshine, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA. Age 60 years.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of the St. Luke B.C. and neighboring churches, employees of Avondale Container are invited to attend the funeral services on on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 11:00 AM from the St. Luke B.C., St. James, LA, Rev. Joseph Thomas officiating. Burial church cemetery. Visitation at the church after 9:00 AM.
The Baloney Funeral Home, L.L.C.
399 Earl Baloney Dr.
Garyville, LA 70051
(985) 535-2540
In charge of arrangements.

### PETIT
Lynn Raymond Petit of Harvey, LA on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 10:45 p.m. Beloved husband of Gloria Cantrelle Lanoux Petit. Father of Perryl L. Petit, Jane L. Smith and Gloria Lanoux. Brother of Ursula and Merlin Petit, the late Allen and Hilton Petit, Esther Murphy, Minerva Champagne and Irma Gagneaux. Grandfather of Pierce Petit, Mary Smith Harri, Ashley M. Smith and the late Tanya Tassin. Great-grandfather of Cameron Cochran. Son of the late Octave and Elbe Petit.
Relatives and friends of the family, also officers and members of Waggaman Golden Age Club, Marrero VFW and Marrero-Harvey Senior Center and employees and retirees of Cytec Industries were invited to attend Funeral Services from the Chapel of WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY, Marrero, LA on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Interment Westlawn Cemetery. Visitation on Saturday, September 17, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

### RACHUBA
William Frank Rachuba, Jr., a Vietnam Veteran 101st Airborne, a member of the Terrytown Volunteer Fire Dept., employee of Entergy - Waterford 3 and a resident of Terrytown, LA, at West Jefferson Medical Center on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 1:04 p.m. Age 57 years. Husband of Pamela Androes Rachuba. Son of Eloise Held and William Frank Rachuba, Sr. Brother of Reggie Rachuba Sr., Danny Rachuba and Debbie Dobronich. Brother-in-law of Patti and Kevin Estopinal, Kim Androes Bobinger, Forrest Dobronich and the late Mark Androes. Son-in-law of Gus J. Androes Jr. and the late Marilyn Androes. Uncle of Nina F. and Michael Shephard, Reg Rachuba, Jr., Justin Land, Brittany B. Bobinger, Courtney Dobronich and Craig Estopinal. Great uncle of Victoria ''Tori'' and Christopher Shephard.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. from the Chapel of WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY, Marrero, LA. Interment in Westlawn Park Cemetery. Visitation at the Funeral Home on Thursday, October 13, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and again on Friday morning 8:00 a.m until service time.
WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME in charge of arrangements. Information: 504-341-9421.

### ROSE
Elizabeth Brown Rose on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at St. Joseph Hospice in Baton Rouge. Wife of the late Reverend Joseph Rose. Mother of Betty Austin Verrett. Son-in-law of Reverend Shannon L. Verrett and four grandchildren: U.S. Marine Julius T. Verrett, Sha'Vonte, Niamke', and Chinara Verrett. Three great nephews and one great niece: Earl Jr., Harold Sr., Keith Lewis, and Jo-Verna Lewis Austin and a host of great nieces, great nephews, God-children and other relatives. She was the Mother of the church, a member of the Deaconess Board, Willing Workers and a Mentor to all women. Age 93 years. A native of Powhatan, Louisiana and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastor, officers and members of Second Highway B.C. of Marrero, Pastored by Royal Jackson, Sr. and all neighboring churches are invited to attend services from Second Highway B.C., 5313 August Ave., Marrero. Rev. Joseph Johnson, officating. RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME in charge. Interment: Restlawn Cemetery in Avondale.

### SAMUEL
Thaddeus (Ted) (Gas-Man) Jude Samuel of Edgard, LA at Canon Hospice on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. Son of Norman and Mildred Lumar Samuel. Husband of Olita Jasmine. Father of LaKeyta K. Samuel. Brother of Mayta Samuel, Margo (Louis) Joseph, Myra (Lawrence) Borne. Brother in law of Janice Eubanks (Robert Lee), Dora Nevers, James Nevers (Eddie), Edward, Sidney, Albert, and Willie Jasmine. Survived by caregiver Felma Louise, a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

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ASHTON PHELPS SR., *Publisher, 1967-1979*

ASHTON PHELPS JR., *Publisher*

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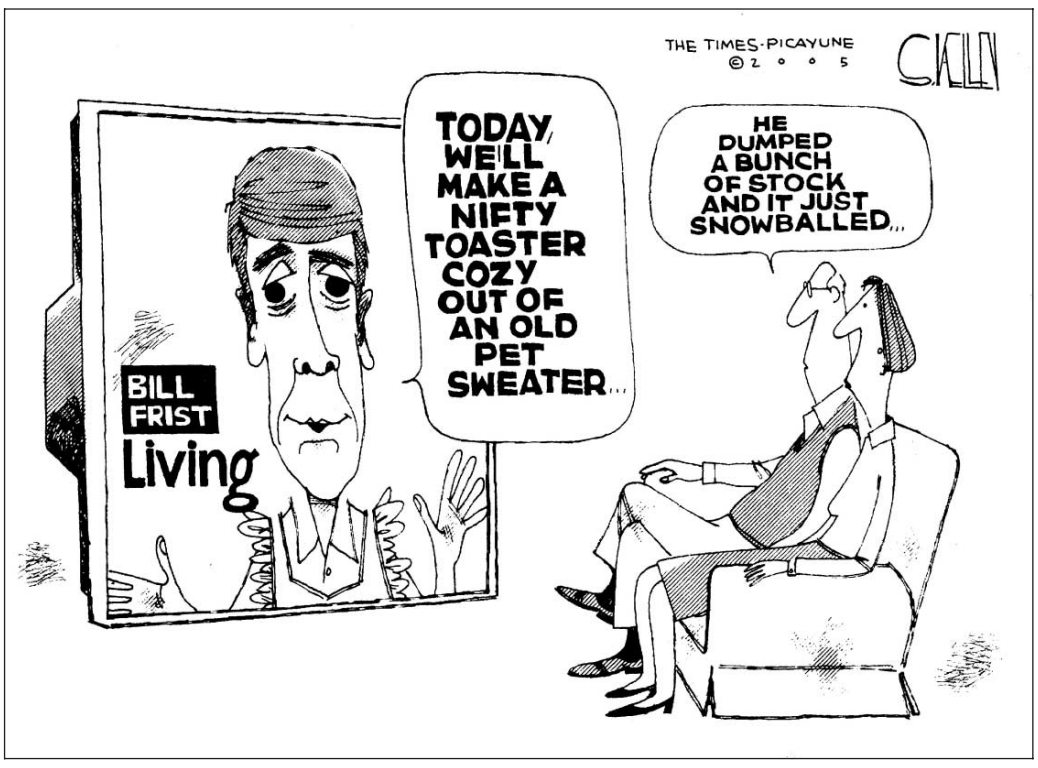
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# YOUR OPINIONS

## Tax on foreign oil and gas would revitalize state

Gov. Kathleen Blanco and the Legislature must soon face the task of rebuilding New Orleans and south Louisiana. They should consider a tax on foreign oil and gas processed in Louisiana.

Such a tax could invigorate our economy, restore our wetlands and bring our people home.

Hurricane Katrina's damage to Louisiana was no surprise to those who have studied coastal erosion and flood control in south Louisiana. As they use our natural resources and harm our wetlands, major oil companies profit from politics tilted in their favor.

While other states turn them away, these companies process foreign oil and gas in Louisiana virtually tax-free to supply America petroleum products. They have crushed all previous attempts to modernize Louisiana's 85-year-old system for taxing oil and gas. The major oil companies must now acknowledge their moral obligation to assist Louisiana in this unprecedented time of need.

I propose a 4 percent tax on oil and gas processing to generate $4.8 billion per year. I would use the proceeds to eliminate the state income tax, the state severance tax, the state sales tax on business utilities and the state corporate income tax. This will leave $1.2 billion, which could be bonded to yield $10 billion for immediate coastal restoration and levee repair.

The impact at the gas pump will be spread across the country, and I estimate no more than a nickel a gallon.

The people of Louisiana welcome the president's offer of federal assistance, but how soon after the news crews leave New Orleans will the deficit-ridden U.S. government turn its attention elsewhere?

Louisiana needs consistent funding to overcome hurricane devastation.

**Foster Campbell**
*Public Service Commission*
Shreveport

## Jackson exposed

Finally, the Rev. Jesse Jackson has revealed his true nature — a lying, camera-hogging hypocrite. Why else would he bring 200 people — most of whom are out-of-state strangers — to New Orleans?

He said he was bringing 600 evacuees home to go back to work — a big, fat lie. Perhaps he couldn't find 600 evacuees who wanted to work. Then he has the gall to say that it's Mayor Ray Nagin's job to find them housing. Where? As he well knows, there is nowhere left in New Orleans to live that isn't already occupied.

If the Rev. Jackson is so concerned about these evacuees, then I suggest that he take them to his home and find them jobs. It will be a long time before New Orleans can provide housing for anyone, working or not.

**Judy Johnson**
Harahan

## Golfers don't need high ground

Let's let FEMA (if it ever gets its act together) put their trailer park for displaced New Orleanians on the golf course in Audubon Park.

It has excellent public transportation, a great location and is currently only used by a few rich.

Let them build a course in the Lower 9th Ward. Few will mourn a flooded golf course.

**J. Michael Malec**
New Orleans
Now in Gloversville, N.Y.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

Giraffes at the Audubon Zoo dodge debris to feed Sept. 7, a week after Hurricane Katrina passed.

## They all axed for you

As we rebuild our homes and lives following Katrina, I would like to remind the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area to please remember the Audubon Nature Institute.

The staff at the Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium have suffered much due to lack of visitors and therefore lack of revenues with many being laid off recently. I hope and pray that the animals at the zoo aren't the next casualties.

It takes a huge sum of money to operate the zoo, to feed the animals and to pay for veterinary care and utilities. It would be truly tragic to see our magnificent zoo slip into disrepair and neglect. By all means, take care of your own homes and families first, but if you can spare any money to help the zoo and aquarium, please do so.

**Keith L. Bryant**
Mandeville

## Jeff decision made no sense

As a longtime resident of Jefferson Parish with a recently flooded home, I am extremely annoyed at the excuses from the public officials whom we entrusted with our well-being.

The explanations for the unmanned pumping stations make no sense. Our leaders tell us that essential pump personnel were spared a "death sentence" and evacuated because no buildings in the parish could withstand the force of Hurricane Katrina. On the other hand, the lives of other essential employees, as well as the physicians, nurses, administrative staff and patients at the two parish hospitals, were apparently deemed expendable, as no attempt to evacuate these facilities was even considered. The lives of essential police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians also must have been low priority. Most such personnel were required to work or be fired! It is now clear who was intended to be placed in the body bags that we heard so much about.

"Katrina" comes from the Greek word for cleansing. The question is now or the next election. Either way, credibility is lost.

**Nick Moustoukas, M.D.**
Metairie

## No reason for police brutality

Let us assume, but not concede, that Robert Davis was drunk, provoked New Orleans police officers and resisted arrest. None of these conditions justifies the brutal and bloody beating he received from the three officers. Shame!

The videotape of the incident revealed the presence of several other NOPD officers, more than enough force to subdue a 64-year-old man without resorting to such violence. Why did these other officers fail to take action to stop this excessive response?

Locals and tourists who enjoy the many attractions of New Orleans need assurances from the mayor and police chief that such police brutality will no longer be tolerated.

**John S. Batson**
Jefferson

**WRITE:**
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# OUR OPINIONS

## No time to fight

The squabbling between U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter needs to end. Right now.

Louisiana doesn't send a large delegation to Capitol Hill. So even at the best of times, the state's two senators and seven representatives need to be able work together for the common good.

That level of cooperation is more crucial now than ever before. The two catastrophic hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast this year have threatened the future of the New Orleans area and Louisiana as a whole. Our state cannot recover without significant help from Washington, and that will not happen if Louisiana's two senators keep picking at each other.

In the aftermath of Katrina, the two senators did agree to introduce a $250 billion redevelopment bill. Of course, many observers outside the state scoffed at a package that they viewed less as a serious relief proposal than as an ill-considered grab for federal money. And even then, the two senators ended up filing separate versions of the bill.

Their disagreement widened during the debate over legislation authorizing $750 million in post-disaster loans to local government agencies. In an unusual step, this measure specifies that the loans cannot be forgiven. Sen. Vitter voted for the bill; Sen. Landrieu voted against it.

Both senators offer defensible reasons for their positions. Sen. Landrieu maintains that Congress shouldn't place more restrictive conditions on loans to Louisiana than on loans to other disaster-stricken areas, and she is absolutely right. But Sen. Vitter has suggested that his position was more realistic. Top Republican lawmakers in the House, he suggests, are deeply skeptical of Louisiana politicians' ability to spend aid money effectively. Without the added restriction, the bill might never have have passed.

It's unfortunate that the two could not reach a common position on the bill. But what's alarming is their very public squabbling. The senators argued about strategy on the Senate floor and refused to yield time to allow each other to respond to questions.

Sen. Landrieu, a Democrat, and Sen. Vitter, a Republican, are unlikely to agree on every issue. And honestly, they don't even have to like each other. But each senator has an obligation to put the welfare of the state before any personal or political differences. If Louisiana's two senators can't come up with a way to help the state move forward, it doesn't set a very good example for the rest of the Senate.

## The Saints go marching in

Not long ago in a land that seems very far away, Saints fans were looking forward to the start of football season with optimism.

The offseason had been good to the team, and coach Jim Haslett and his staff seemed to be making smart moves.

Then came Hurricane Katrina, which upended our homes and uprooted us all. Even then, and even though owner Tom Benson seems enamored with the idea of moving the Saints to San Antonio, fans still clung to their team. We were all hoping for some magic, something to distract us from the mud and misery around us.

Then came New York: Giants 27, Saints 10.

And Minnesota: Vikings 33-16.

And Green Bay: Packers 52-3.

And then came the saddest development of the season. Deuce McAllister, the brightest light on the team, was lost with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

As one doctor put it, "New Orleans has had enough rough times."

Yes, more than enough for a lifetime.

Suddenly, the little joy left in this season has vanished.

Mr. Benson could make fans feel a little better, though. He could commit to keeping the Saints in New Orleans. He could help find a quick, economical way to refurbish the Superdome and make it the premier stadium it once was.

The NFL wants the team to stay. Reportedly, his top staff wants the team to stay. The New Orleans area needs the Saints to stay put and help rebuild this community.

Tom Benson has the power to make sure that happens. He ought to jump at the chance to help the people and place that have been so good to him for so many years.

Going into this season, the Saints urged fans to "believe." Saints fans have been believers for years. Now Mr. Benson ought to show the people in this struggling community that he believes in us.

## Election recommendation

This newspaper makes the following recommendation for Saturday's ballot.

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ST. TAMMANY PARISH
PEARL RIVER

*To levy a 1/4-cent sales tax for sewerage*

**YES**

The town of Pearl River is asking residents to approve this new quarter-cent sales tax that would be dedicated to operations of the town's sewerage system. The tax would be in effect for 10 years. Pre-Hurricane Katrina estimates showed that the tax would generate about $70,000 a year. If approved, the tax rate in the town would increase to 9 percent.

It appears that the town has managed its system well over the years, but it is seeking to raise revenue to upgrade and replace parts on its aging facilities.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Beware upsetting our high-strung police



JAMES GILL

Cops making a nighttime arrest on Bourbon Street will routinely throw in a public intoxication charge which, justified or not, is very hard to beat. Often, of course, it is justified.

You wouldn't want to bet that anyone hanging around there is stone-cold sober, unless a gang of evangelicals happens to be looking for souls to save.

But any sobersides caught up in the Vieux Carre sweep just has to take his medicine. The presumption is that anyone who falls foul of the police has committed excessive revelry. No blood-alcohol tests are required, and judges rely on what police department spokesman Marlon Defillo terms the arresting officer's "expertise."

When three cops are working together, their combined expertise should enable them to spot a drunk at a hundred paces.

It is unlikely, therefore, that the cops who beat up and arrested Robert Davis last weekend could really have thought he was blitzed, if, as he says, no liquor has passed his lips since a bender in 1980.

Davis was booked not only with being drunk but with resisting arrest, battery on a police officer and public intimidation — the standard litany of charges cops reach for when a citizen makes them mad.

The cops, caught by a news cameraman, looked pretty burly, but they must be delicate souls if they really found Davis, a 64-year-old retired elementary schoolteacher, as big a handful as the charge sheet suggests. The video does not give the impression that the cops found Davis intimidating. He was pretty much helpless as they delivered a pummeling. You'd be a sucker to take their word for anything.

Davis pleaded not guilty in court Wednesday and got a January trial date, but the charges will surely be dismissed long before then. It is not easy for the courts to defer to the expertise of cops who lay a drunk charge on a citizen whose temperate intimates vouch for his temperate habits.

It is possible that the cops made a mistake, albeit one that would bring their departments fallibility to a new level. More likely, though, their real expertise is in lying. Every police department has its share of officers who are happy to fit up citizens with bogus charges, confident that the courts will take their word for it.

We evidently have our share of such officers here, although police union chief David Benelli points out that the camera caught the assault from only one angle and that due process needs to take its course. Fair enough. Those goons are entitled to a presumption of innocence.

Their trial is set a week later than Davis', but few defendants face such damning evidence as this. The video makes for pretty disgusting viewing, but credit the officers' lawyer, Frank DeSalvo, with giving us a good laugh nevertheless. They arrested Davis, DeSalvo said, because he was stumbling drunk and they were trying to protect him.

Let us all hope we never need protection from such cops as these. Davis sure wasn't stumbling after they got through, because they had smashed him to the ground. He seems to have had no idea that the cop repeatedly punching him in the back of the neck was doing it for his own good.

Even if, as DeSalvo contended at a press conference Wednesday, Davis was not the innocent stroller he claims to be, no provocation from an elderly citizen can warrant such a violent reaction. These cops are toast. Once the criminal case is over, Davis will probably have a sure-fire civil claim. But that is by no means the end of the travails the police department has heaped on the city.

Officers allegedly rode around after the storm in Cadillacs removed from a dealership, while some 250 are under investigation for possible desertion.

Two days after the Davis beating, a couple of cops had an ugly run-in with relief workers handing out food in the park on Washington Square. The stress of Katrina has left a lot of us a bit ratty, no doubt, but the Police Department seems to be returning to the days when it was regarded as a public enemy, before it was restored under the Marc Morial administration.

The department has suffered "a massive collapse," Morial told Agency France Presse, and we "are almost faced with rebuilding" it. Amid all the investigations of corruption in his administration, Morial has been pretty quiet lately, and must have relished the rare opportunity to make us yearn, in one respect at least, for the good old days when he was in charge.

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# We're all tired; sorry, it's no excuse



JARVIS DEBERRY




STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Police enforce the midnight curfew on Bourbon Street Monday.

I lost my home to Hurricane Katrina.

I reported to work the Sunday before the storm and was in New Orleans that Monday. Though I left Tuesday with dozens of Times-Picayune employees, I have been at work virtually every day since.

I haven't beaten anybody up in the French Quarter.

Other reporters at this newspaper also lost homes to Hurricane Katrina.

They've been at work, too. They haven't beaten anybody up in the French Quarter.

You, dear reader, may have lost your home to Hurricane Katrina. I don't know if you've been able to return to work or if you've lost your job, but I feel safe in my assumption that you haven't beaten up anybody in the French Quarter either.

Earlier this week, Lance Schilling and Robert Evangelist, two New Orleans police officers from the 8th District, were booked with beating up a 64-year-old man on Bourbon Street. Videotape shows the officers pummeling the man with their fists. A third officer, Stewart Smith, is captured on videotape menacing an Associated Press cameraman who had the audacity to film what the police officers were doing.

An attorney for the cops has gone on a campaign to convince you and me that we didn't see what we saw. Lt. David Benelli, president of the Police Association of New Orleans, when he was interviewed on a local television station trotted out the standard line about how the accused are entitled to due process (should anybody ever get anything less?), but he managed to say one thing that was original.

He asked the public to understand that police officers are under a tremendous amount of stress and that many of them have continued to work despite the loss of their homes.

Benelli did not say that the officers beat Robert Davis because they had lost their homes. After all, that would have been an admission that the cops are guilty. But he did suggest that we ought to try to be understanding given the fact that so many officers lost so much.

We all could use an extra dose of understanding these days, but none of us is entitled to that much.

Neither the stress of seeing people trapped on rooftops, the stress of losing one's home, nor the stress of working long hours gives anybody leave to beat up another. If that were the case, I'd have license to go out now and take out my frustrations on the first person I saw.

These days, it is near impossible to get booking information on anybody arrested for a crime in New Orleans. For that reason I don't know that any of the three officers arrested for beating Robert Davis lost a home during the storm. Public records indicate that Robert Evangelist lives in an apartment complex in Algiers. That doesn't mean he didn't suffer loss, of course, but the west bank wasn't hit as hard as the part of the city across the Mississippi River.

At the end of the day it doesn't matter if or how much the officers suffered. It doesn't mitigate a beating.

I don't know if Robert Davis was drunk. (He says he hasn't had a drink in 25 years.) I don't know if he's telling the truth when he says that a cop started hitting him when Davis told him he was rude and unprofessional to interrupt Davis' conversation with another officer

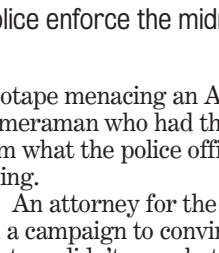
But if the officers are so confident that they were acting appropriately, what explains the anger unleashed on the cameraman filming the action? Are we supposed to believe the officers were angry because they were caught on tape following procedure and acting within the law?

No. No more than we are to believe that their fury had anything to do with Hurricane Katrina. Stress can do a lot of things. But it can't make us beat people up against our wills.

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Jarvis DeBerry is an editorial writer. He can be reached at (504) 826-3355 or at jarvisdeberry@gmail.com.

# Harriet Miers, in her own vapid words



DAVID BROOKS

Of all the words written about Harriet Miers, none are more disturbing than the ones she wrote herself. In the early '90s, while she was president of the Texas bar association, Miers wrote a column called "President's Opinion" for The Texas Bar Journal. It is the largest body of public writing we have from her, and sad to say, the quality of thought and writing doesn't even rise to the level of pedestrian.

Of course, we have to make allowances for the fact that the first job of any association president is to not offend her members. Still, nothing excuses sentences like this:

"More and more, the intractable problems in our society have one answer: broad-based intolerance of unacceptable conditions and a commitment by many to fix problems."

Or this: "We must end collective acceptance of inappropriate conduct and increase education in professionalism."

Or this: "When consensus of diverse leadership can be achieved on issues of importance, the greatest impact can be achieved."

Or passages like this: "An organization must also implement programs to fulfill strategies established through its goals and mission. Methods for evaluation of these strategies are a necessity. With the framework of mission, goals, strategies, programs, and methods for evaluation in place, a meaningful budgeting process can begin."

Or, finally, this: "We have to understand and appreciate that achieving justice for all is in jeopardy before a call to arms to assist in obtaining support for the justice system will be effective. Achieving the necessary understanding and appreciation of why the challenge is so important, we can then turn to the task of providing the much needed support."

I don't know if by mere quotation I can fully convey the relentless march of vapid abstractions that mark Miers' prose. Nearly every idea is vague and depersonalized. Nearly every debatable point is elided. It's not that Miers didn't attempt to tackle interesting subjects. She wrote about unequal access to the justice system, about the underrepresentation of minorities in the law and about whether pro bono work should be mandatory. But she presents no arguments or ideas, except the repetition of the bromide that bad things can be eliminated if people of good will come together to eliminate bad things.

Or as she puts it, "There is always a necessity to tend to a myriad of responsibilities on a number of cases as well as matters not directly related to the practice of law." And yet, "Disciplining ourselves to provide the opportunity for thought and analysis has to rise again to a high priority."

Throw aside ideology. Surely the threshold skill required of a Supreme Court justice is the ability to write clearly and argue incisively. Miers' columns provide no evidence of that.

The Miers nomination has reopened the rift between conservatives and establishment Republicans.

The conservative movement was founded upon the supposition that ideas have consequences. Conservatives have founded so many think tanks, magazines and organizations, like the Federalist Society, because they believe that you have to win arguments to win political power. They dream of Supreme Court justices capable of writing brilliant opinions that will reshape the battle of ideas.

Republicans, who these days are as likely to be members of the corporate establishment as the evangelical establishment, are more suspicious of intellectuals and ideas, and more likely to believe that politics is about deal-making, loyalty and power. You know you are in establishment Republican circles when the conversation is bland but unifying. You know you are in conservative circles when it is interesting but divisive. Conservatives err by becoming irresponsible. Republicans tend to be blown about haplessly by forces they cannot understand.

For the first years of his presidency, George Bush healed the division between Republicans and conservatives by pursuing big conservative goals with ruthless Republican discipline. But Harriet Miers has shown no loyalty to conservative institutions like the Federalist Society. Her loyalty has been to the person of the president, and her mental style seems to be Republicanism on stilts.

So conservatives are caught between loyalty to their ideas and loyalty to the president they admire. Most of them have come out against Miers — quietly or loudly. Establishment Republicans are displaying their natural loyalty to leadership. And Miers is caught in the vise between these two forces, a smart and good woman who has been put in a position where she cannot succeed.

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David Brooks writes for The New York Times. His e-mail address is dabrooks@nytimes.com.



BOB HERBERT

# The joke's on the poor

A Page 1 article in The New York Times on Tuesday carried the following headline: "Liberal Hopes Ebb in Post-Storm Poverty Debate."

I might have started laughing if the subject weren't so serious. Who in their right mind — liberal, moderate, Rotarian, contrarian — could have possibly thought that George W. Bush and his GOP Wild Bunch (Dick Cheney, Karl Rove, Tom DeLay et al.) had suddenly seen the light ("Eureka! We've been wrong!") and become serious about engaging the problem of poverty in America?

The article noted that some liberal activists had hoped that the extraordinary suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina might lead to a genuine effort by the administration and Congress to address such important poverty-related matters as health care, housing, employment and race.

After all, the president himself had gone on national television from the French Quarter of the stricken city of New Orleans and promised "bold action."

"As all of us saw on television," said Bush, "there is also some deep, persistent poverty in this region as well. That poverty has roots in a history of racial discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America. We have a duty to confront this poverty with bold action. So let us restore all that we have cherished from yesterday, and let us rise above the legacy of inequality."

I assumed that most people watching the president realized that he was deeply embedded in a Karl Rove moment. The speech was a carefully scripted, meticulously staged performance designed primarily to halt the widespread criticism of Bush's failure to respond more quickly to the tragedy.

As the president spoke, it never occurred to me that anyone would buy into the notion that Bush and his supporters would actually do something about poverty and racism. Someone who believed that could probably be persuaded to make a bid on eBay to buy the Brooklyn Bridge.

Bush is the standard-bearer par excellence of his party's efforts to redistribute the bounty of the United States from the bottom up, not the other way around. If there's one thing the president has been good at, it has been funneling money to the rich. The suffering wrought by Katrina hasn't changed that at all.

One of the first things the president did in the aftermath of Katrina was to poke his finger in the eyes of struggling workers by suspending the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act in the storm-ravaged areas. Passed during the Great Depression, the law requires contractors on federally funded construction projects to pay at least the prevailing wage in the region.

This is one more way of taking money from the working poor and handing it to the wealthy. A construction laborer in New Orleans who would ordinarily be paid about $9 an hour, the prevailing wage in the city, can now be paid less. So much for the president's commitment to fighting poverty.

Poverty has steadily increased under Bush, even as breathtaking riches (think tax cuts, cronyism, war profiteering, you name it) have been heaped upon those who were already wealthy. Class divisions are hardening, and economic inequality continues to increase dramatically.

Bush's political posturing (his speeches, his endless trips to the Gulf Coast) is not meant to serve as a beacon of hope for the downtrodden. It is a message to middle-class voters, who have become increasingly disturbed by the president's policies and were appalled by the fact that he seemed unmoved by the terrible suffering that followed Hurricane Katrina.

The man who campaigned as a compassionate conservative and then turned the federal government into a compassion-free zone is all but handing out press releases that say, "I care."

He cares all right. About his poll ratings. In the end, much of the money to help lower-income victims of the recent storms will most likely be siphoned from existing, badly needed and already underfunded programs to help the poor and near-poor.

A real effort to fight poverty and combat discrimination? From this regime? You must be joking.

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The Times-Picayune

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# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

Friday
October 14, 2005



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG



*The combination of wind, heat and floodwater proved deadly to many New Orleans landscapes. But a scientific survey of post-Katrina plant and soil conditions found some reassuring signs of life.*



New Orleans Botanical Garden volunteer Mary Biundo stands near a budding camellia that survived Hurricane Katrina.

LEFT: LSU AgCenter scientist Ed Bush and Orleans Parish horticultural agent Karen Blackburn take a soil sample on Northline Street in Old Metairie.

FAR LEFT: Althea blooms amidst the brown.

# Plant life among the ruins



A group of horticulture scientists and researchers fan out over the New Orleans Botanical Gardens in City Park while surveying the effects of Hurricane Katrina on local landscapes.

**By Judy Walker**
Staff writer

First, the good news. The old-timers and the natives fared better than the newcomers in the lush local landscape that flooded after Hurricane Katrina. Native live oaks and cypress trees, and historic garden favorites such as gardenias, crape myrtles, althea and crinums, are the few bright living spots in an otherwise drab Orleans and Jefferson parish landscape.

Now, the bad news. Magnolia trees throughout the region are dead or perishing since they wither in saturated soil or water that covers the roots. And, as so many homeowners found out the hard way, it's really not good to have pine trees close to your house.

Those are some of the conclusions of a caravan of Louisiana State University plant scientists and state agriculture and forestry staff who recently surveyed flood effects on landscapes, trees and soils in areas in Kenner, Old Metairie, central New Orleans, Lakeview, City Park and the New Orleans Botanical Garden.

What they saw resembled the back side of the moon more than lush Metairie, where state master gardener coordinator Robert Souvestre grew up, and semitropical New Orleans, where consumer horticulturist Dan Gill has been the go-to gardening guru (and Times-Picayune garden columnist) for years.

*See* **PLANTS,** *C-4*

# 'Tuna' helper

*The return of local theater benefits Katrina victims and cures the blues*

**By David Cuthbert**
Theater writer

If laughter and antidepressants are the best medicine in these trying times, you can't do much better than "Greater Tuna" at the Skyfire Theatre in Covington.

The production is notable on several fronts. It is the first post-Katrina theater produced in the area. (Hurrah!) Owner-producer Zachary A. Casey said the Skyfire suffered no hurricane damage. "This place was built in 1941 and it's like a bunker," he said. "In previous storms, it's been used as an evacuation center."

The tickets are "pay what you will," with all proceeds going to the Northshore Pelican Foundation, a nonprofit orga-

*See* **'TUNA,'** *C-4*



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

**GREATER TUNA**

**What:** Comedy by Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and Ed Howard, in which two actors play 20 characters.

**Where:** Skyfire Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire St., downtown Covington.

**When:** Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Oct. 29, and Sunday at 3 p.m.

**Tickets:** "Pay what you will," benefits Northshore Pelican Foundation and Katrina victims.

**Call:** (985) 875-7577, or www.skyfire.tv.

'Greater Tuna' stars Sean Patterson and Gary Rucker chat backstage at the Skyfire Theatre in Covington.

# It's good to be back, dawlin!



*Performer Becky Allen feels at home in the French Quarter, but the folks in Jackson, Miss., just don't get her*

**By Millie Ball**
Staff writer

Over-the-top actress Becky Allen and her mother flitted into the Guy Keefer salon in the Omni Royal Orleans last Friday to tell salon owner Dickey Smith they were back in town.

They'd evacuated to Jackson, Miss., and stayed with relatives, said Allen, who's in her mid-50s and was dressed in a rather subdued fashion for her: dangling earrings, oversized black beads, black tights, a loose black top cut down to there with a rhinestone mosquito hawk pin at the plunge point, red vest to her knees. Her blonde hair hung below her shoulders. She and her mother tried to do each other's roots while they were away, they said.

Jackson wasn't a bit like home. "People stared at me in Jackson," Allen said. "I was wild to them. I couldn't diminish myself enough so people wouldn't stare at me," she said, all wide-eyed. "I mean, I didn't wear my eyelashes; I didn't wear makeup. But they all knew I was crazy."

Allen said she was in Wal-Mart one night when a man asked what religion she was. "He said, 'Are you Buddhist or Catholic or what?'

"And I said, 'I'm from New Orleans.'

"And he said, 'You don't have to tell me that!' "

Her mother, Myrtis Butzman, said she went to a red hat society meeting for women over age 50, where the conversation was about crocheting and cooking. "I'm 92, and I told them I'm going to learn to crochet when I'm old!" said Butzman. A trim woman who looks as if she's in her early 70s, she wore a conservative cream-colored pantsuit. Her blondish hair was short and cut in a stylish blow-dry style.

"I normally go to the gym three hours a day," Butzman said. "This is what I always show people I can do." She sat down in a nearby chair and raised her right leg straight above her head.

Allen said there were nine family members at her uncle's house in Jackson, plus four dogs and three cats. "I'd get up at 7 a.m. to go to the bathroom and someone would come in and say 'Hi!' all chirpy. They'd say, 'You want breakfast?!'

"But you know what, we all got along. We had no TV. We

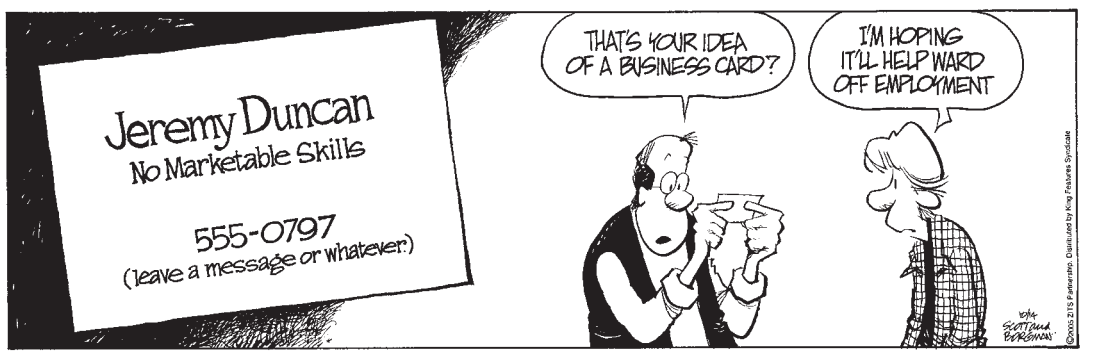
*See* **ALLEN,** *C-4*

Thu, Oct 13, 2005 2:06 PM 10140502living



# COMICS

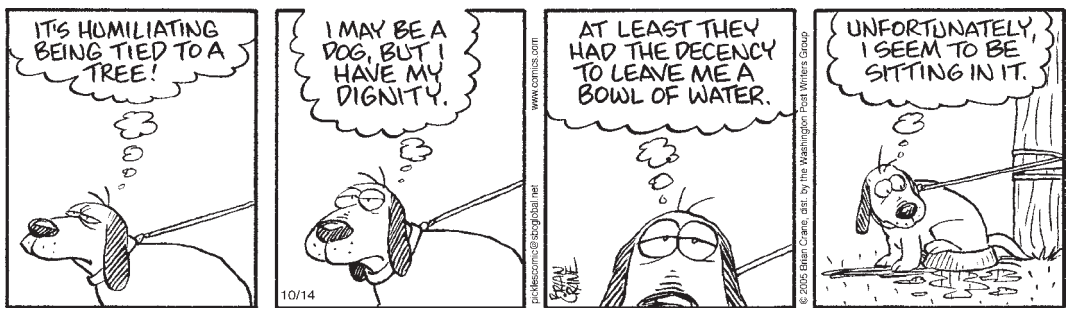
## ZITS



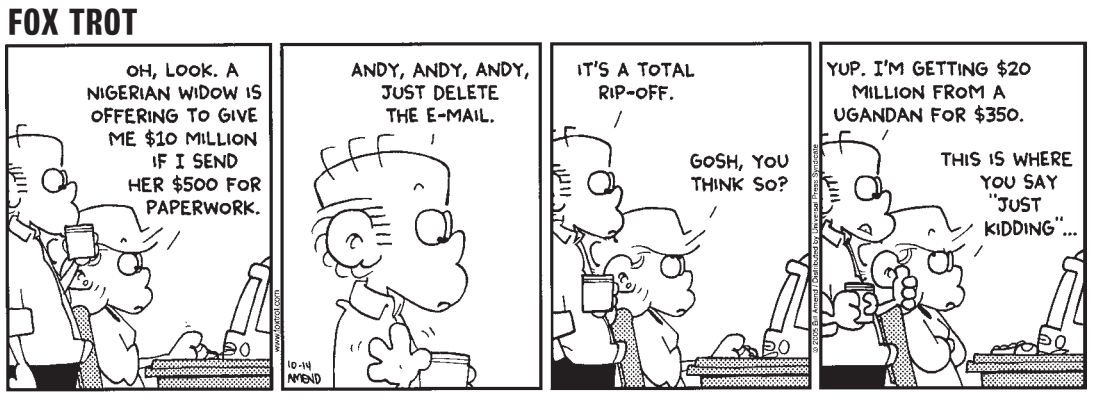

## GET FUZZY



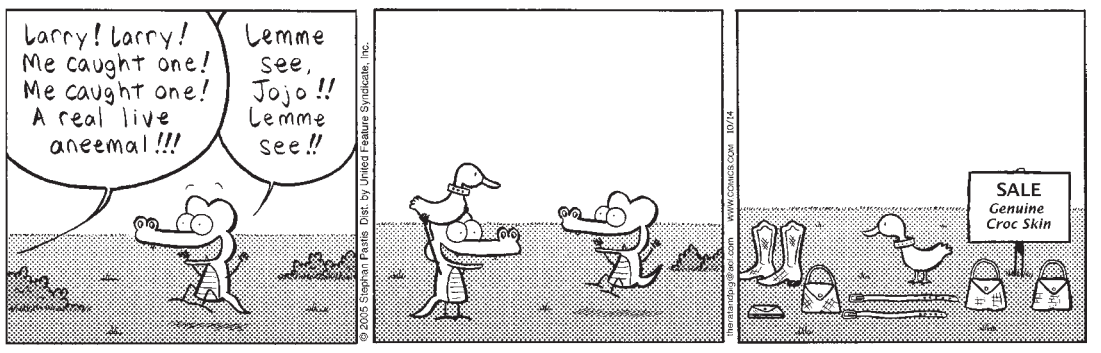

## PICKLES




## FOX TROT




## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## BABY BLUES




## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACCOO

NALFK

TEEBEL

QULLAS

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www.jumble.com




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

***Answer here:*** " ○○○○○ " OF ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EPOCH VALVE REDEEM MELODY
Answer: What the scrawny worker did in the darkroom — "DEVELOPED"

## SCRABBLEGRAMS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |
| $E_1$ | $I_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $D_2$ | $H_4$ | $S_1$ | 2nd Letter Double | RACK 1 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $N_1$ | $W_4$ | $L_1$ | $M_3$ | $L_1$ | | RACK 2 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $A_1$ | $I_1$ | $I_1$ | $G_2$ | $B_3$ | $N_1$ | $D_2$ | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $D_2$ | $N_1$ | $R_1$ | $W_4$ | | RACK 4 |

**PAR SCORE 145-155**
**BEST SCORE 217**

**FOUR RACK TOTAL** ____
**TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers).

**ANSWER KEY**

PAR SCORE 145-155

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $R_1$ | $E_1$ | $W_4$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $N_1$ | $D_2$ | RACK 4 = | 61 |
| $A_1$ | $B_3$ | $I_1$ | $D_2$ | $I_1$ | $N_1$ | $G_2$ | RACK 3 = | 83 |
| $M_3$ | $E_1$ | $L_1$ | $L_1$ | $O_1$ | $W_4$ | | RACK 2 = | 11 |
| $H_4$ | $I_1$ | $D_2$ | $E_1$ | $O_1$ | $U_1$ | $S_1$ | RACK 1 = | 62 |
| | | | | | | | TOTAL | 217 |

## WORD SLEUTH

S D A X V L T Q O M J H F C S
A Y W U R P I N L T J R Y R E
H F D R E N D A N G E R E D Y
B Z B X U V A A T B A H T R E
R Q A O M F I N M T C K U I E
H F M D B G Y I I A R F Z T K
Y W B V T L L L O H K O I R I
Q O O N D C O P I C C H H L L
Y K O D I S H F I O W D C S T
A H U Z D A E H G I B X W V A
U C S E H C T A P K C A L B C

Thursday's unlisted clue: HELMET

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: PANDA'S MAIN DIET

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Big head | Climber | Oily fur | Solitary |
| Black patches | Cuddly | Poachers | Thick fur |
| Catlike eyes | Endangered | Short tail | White |
| China | Giant | Shy | |

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## WISHING WELL

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| E | C | X | S | T | C | U | L | V | A | R | H | O |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| A | A | C | P | V | E | O | L | C | U | R | E | I |
| 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| A | I | Y | E | C | S | H | H | S | N | F | E | S |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| T | I | E | Y | I | O | C | D | R | K | I | D | U |
| 3 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| S | N | S | F | S | O | E | R | B | R | E | H | L |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| O | U | L | N | B | M | A | E | T | U | E | L | D |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| I | N | I | Y | G | E | N | E | G | N | T | D | S |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CLASSIC PEANUTS



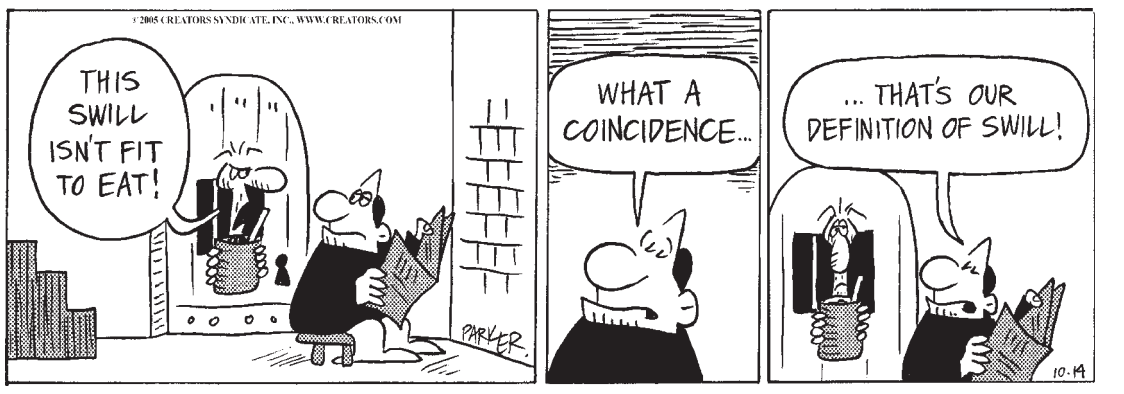

## BLONDIE



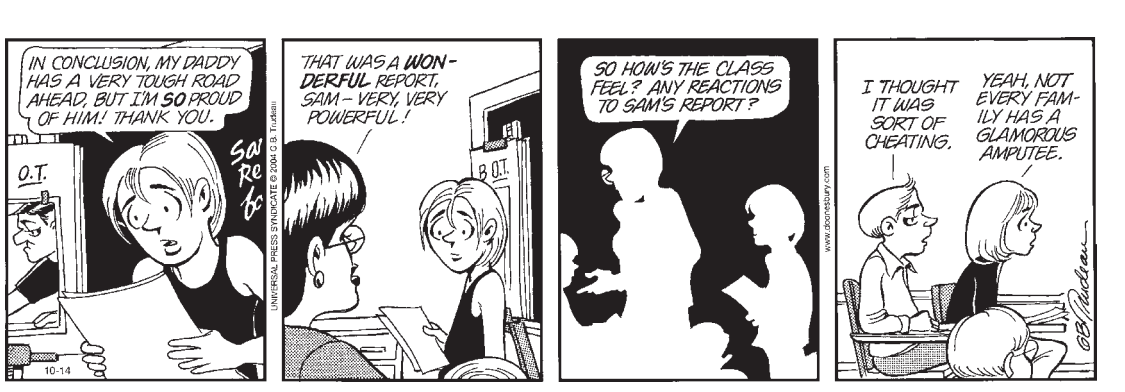

## ROSE IS ROSE



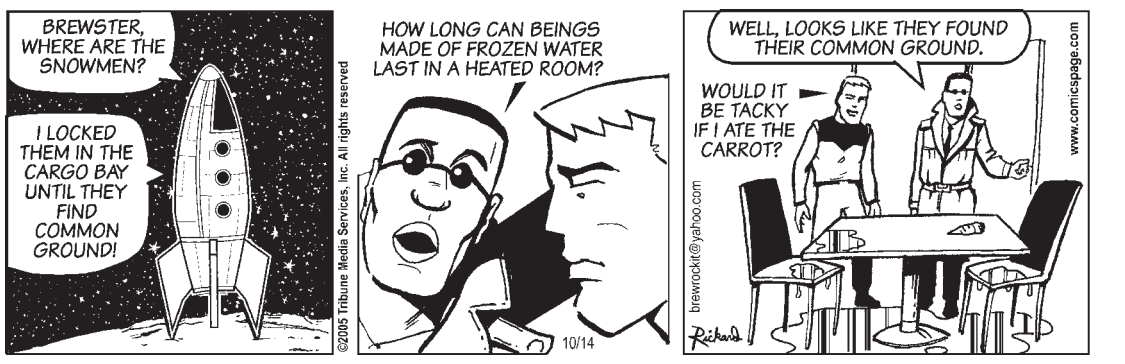

## THE WIZARD OF ID




## DOONESBURY




## BREWSTER ROCKIT



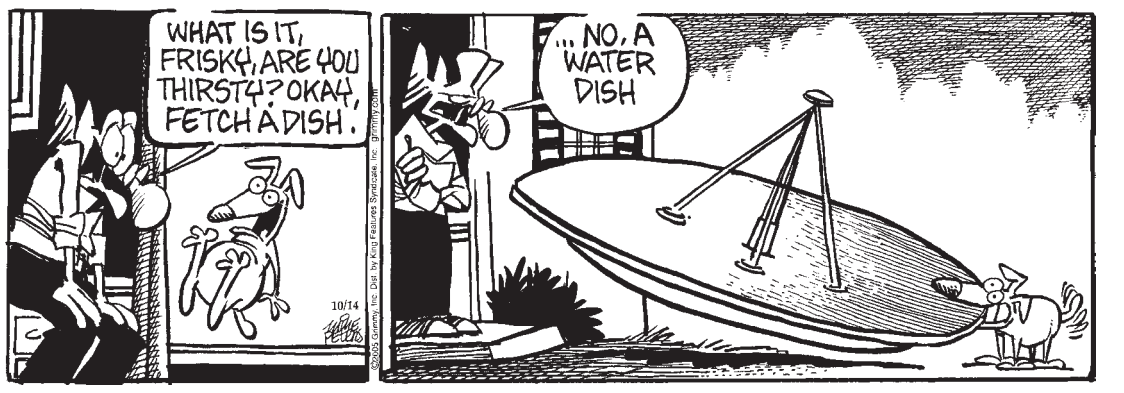

## CURTIS




## NON SEQUITUR




## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

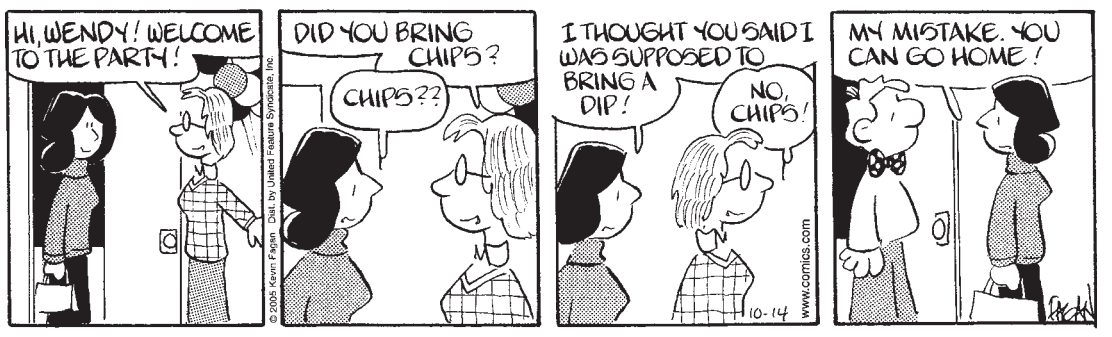


# COMICS

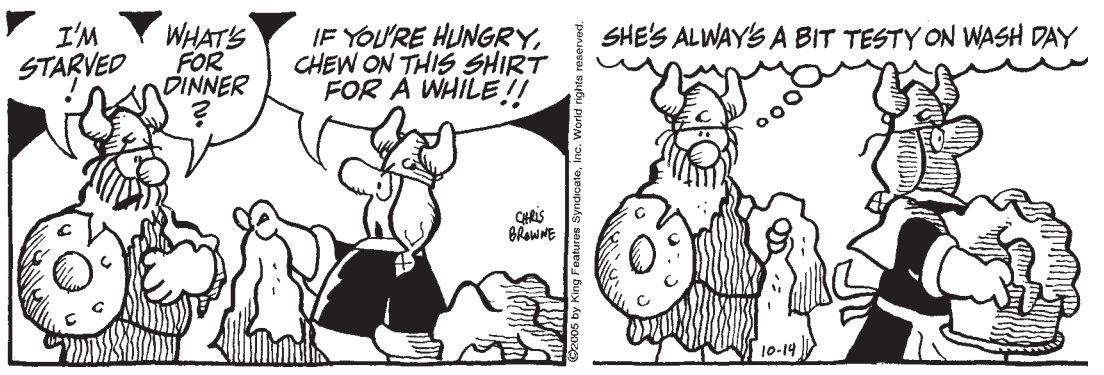
## GARFIELD



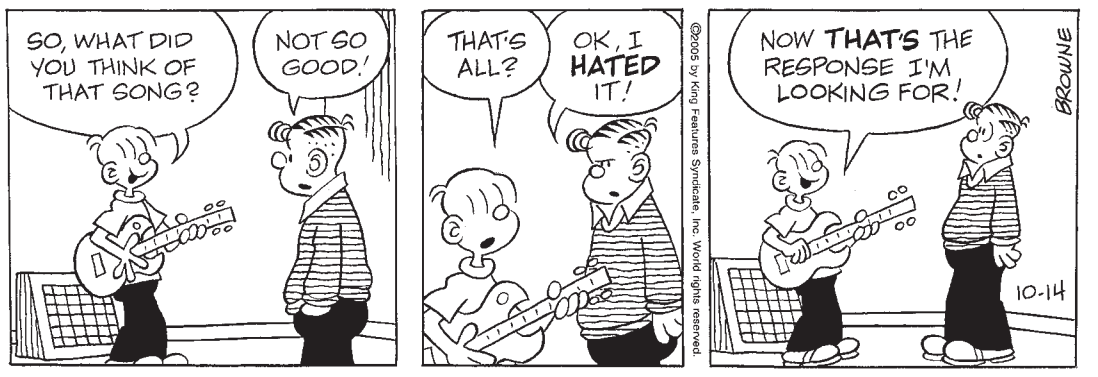

## DRABBLE



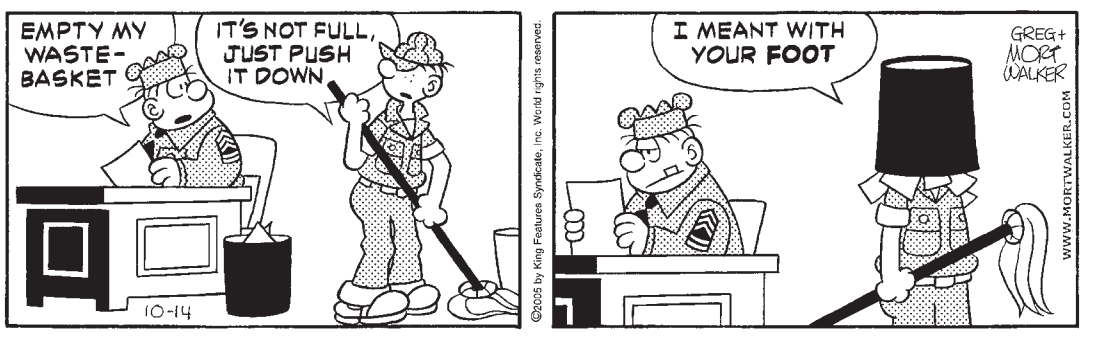

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



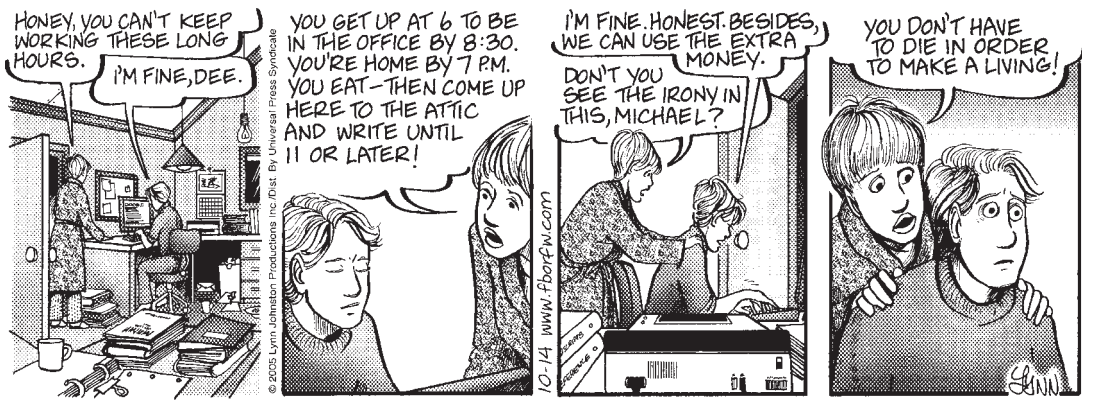

## HI & LOIS



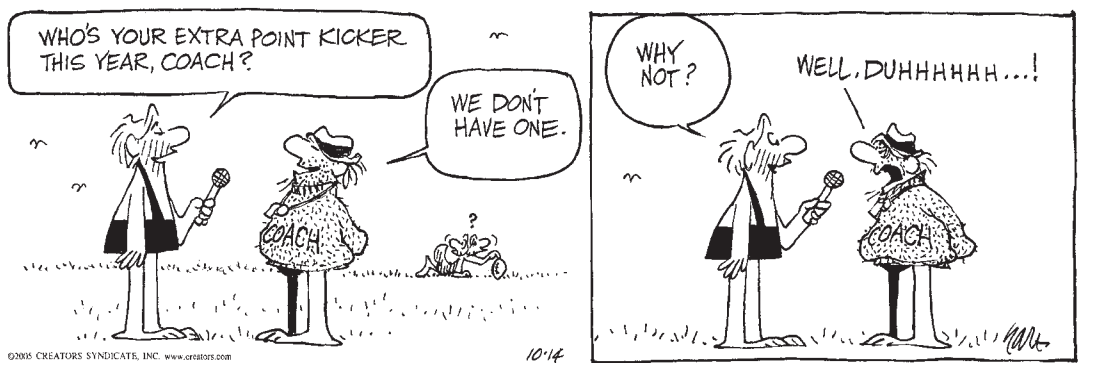

## BEETLE BAILEY




## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

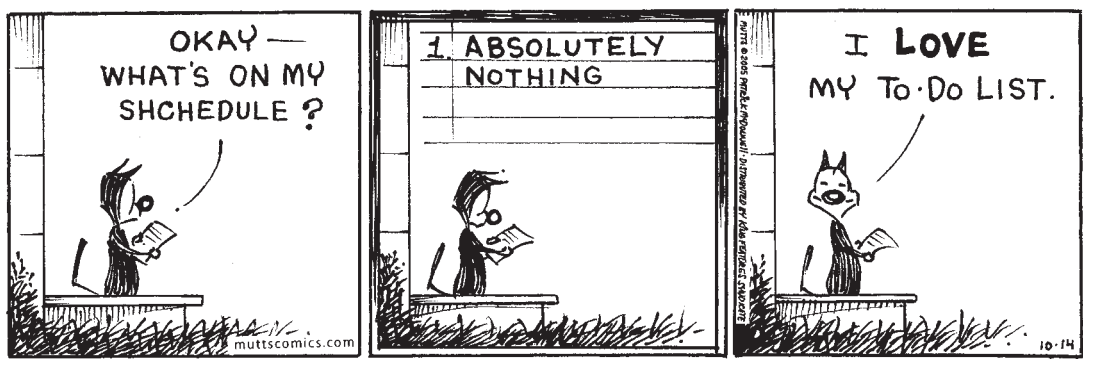



## B.C.

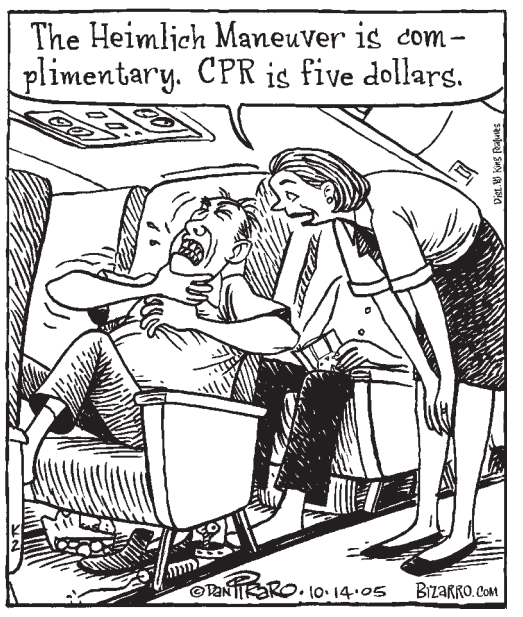



## FUNKY WINKERBEAN

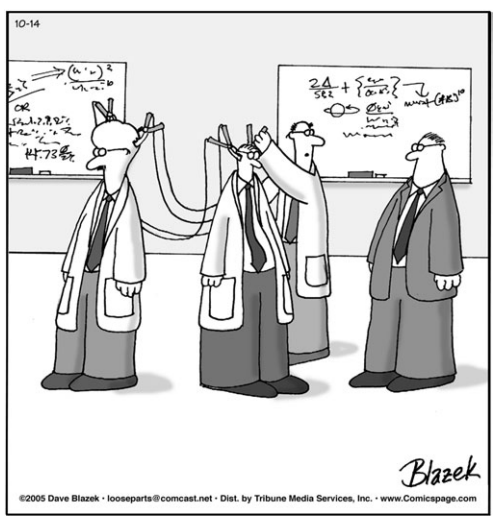



## BIZARRO

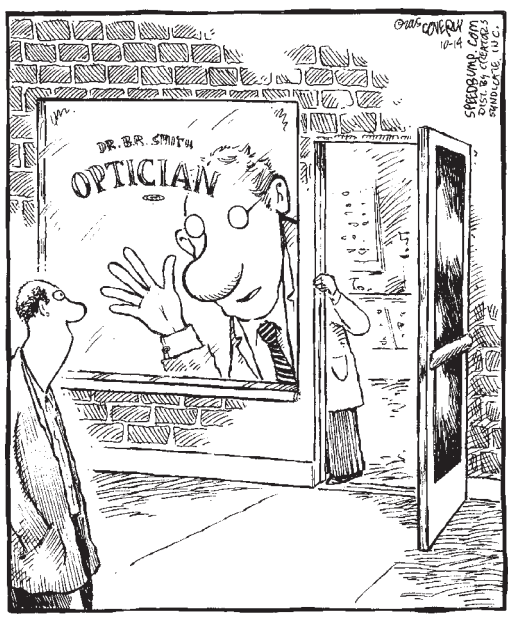



## LOOSE PARTS

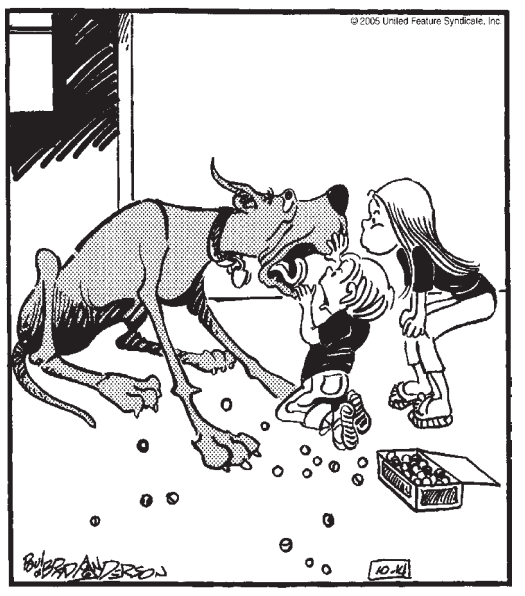



"It's okay, sir. Lindeman just needs a jump."

## SPEED BUMP

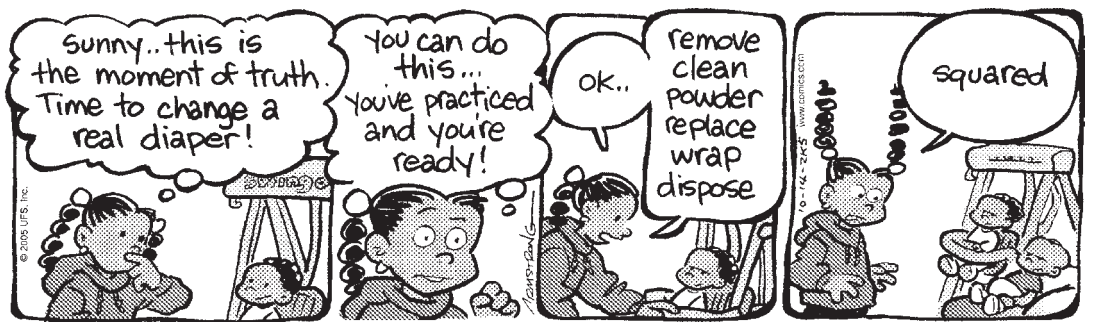



## MARMADUKE

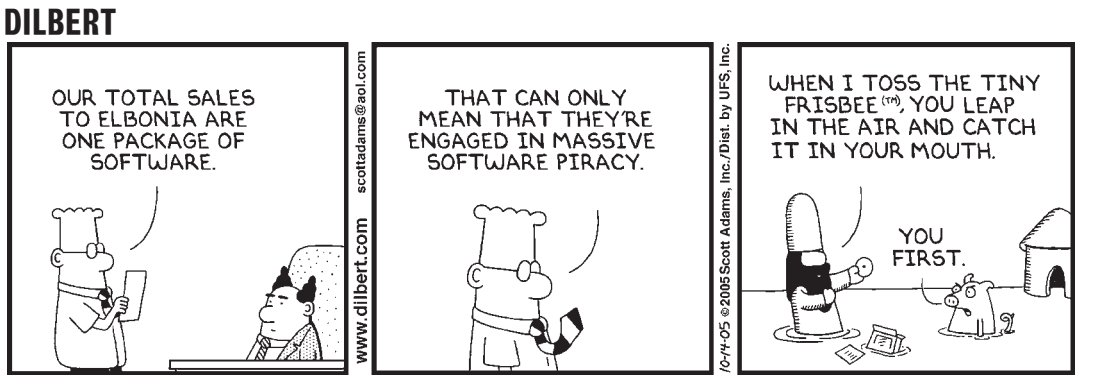



"Bring me a flashlight. My red shooter is missing."

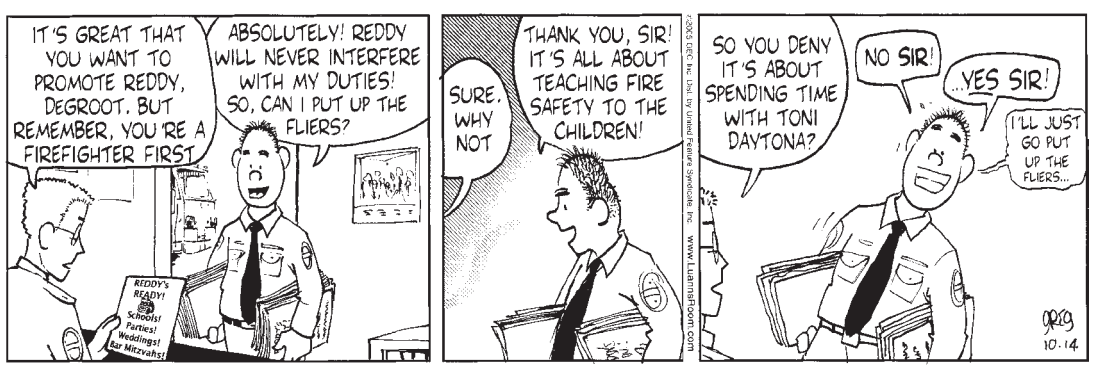
## JUMP START



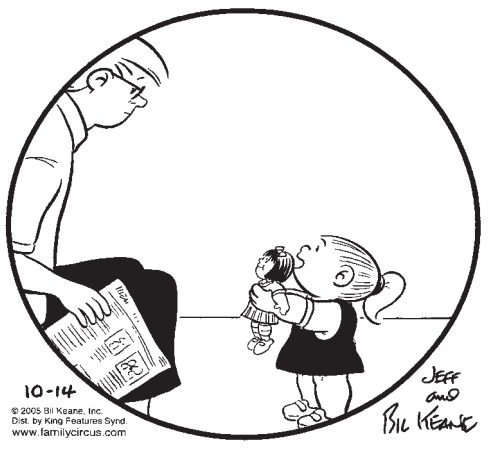

## DILBERT




## LUANN




## THE FAMILY CIRCUS




"When my doll grows up she wants to be a collectible."

## CLOSE TO HOME




"Just stave them off! I'm putting for eagle!"

## DENNIS THE MENACE




"IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, PARDNER. LET'S GO ROUND UP SOME COOKIES."

## WONDERWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**JUST JEANS** — **Solution: 6 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | F | L | A | R | E | D | N | E | L | S | E | L | A | S |
| G | L | I | T | T | E | R | E | O | S | E | R | O | T | S |
| I | A | B | T | R | R | L | E | P | T | O | C | D | T | E |
| E | N | E | A | T | O | E | A | P | P | T | O | I | I | R |
| B | N | R | L | T | I | U | N | X | P | I | O | L | R | D |
| R | E | A | T | B | R | N | S | D | E | I | R | C | E | P |
| I | L | T | E | R | A | O | G | E | Y | D | Z | S | A | T |
| T | S | I | R | D | O | R | F | U | R | B | A | N | S | H |
| C | I | N | A | B | G | H | U | M | E | S | T | E | R | S |
| H | R | (G) | T | T | L | Y | S | D | O | S | V | M | O | I |
| E | P | (N) | I | H | S | A | W | D | I | C | A | N | L | L |
| S | A | (O) | O | G | G | I | C | O | R | D | U | R | O | Y |
| I | C | (L) | N | I | M | I | E | K | A | M | S | F | C | T |
| R | D | E | L | L | I | W | T | D | E | D | L | O | F | S |
| W | A | R | M | A | N | U | F | A | C | T | U | R | E | S |

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Acid wash, Alteration, Attire, Beige, Black, Britches, Capri, Colors, Comfortable, Corduroy, Cotton, Cuffs, Dress, Durable, Edgy, Fitting, Flannels, Flare, Folded, Liberating, Light, Long, Loose, Make, Manufactures, Men's, Pants, Price, Relaxed, Ripped, Rise, Sales, Short, Slender, Stores, Stylish, Tight, Trendy, Trousers, Twilled, Urban, Vest, Warm, Zipper.

**Yesterday's Answer: Dance**

Thu, Oct 13, 2005 5:04 PM 10/14 fri liv CMYK

CONTINUED

## PLANTS, *from C-1*

As Gill and Souvestre surveyed, they called the names of the plant life, living and dead.

"I think I just saw a Norfolk Island pine."

"The yews here didn't make it."

"That's our first holly we've seen live."

"Look how the wind shredded the leaves on these fotinas."

At the Jefferson Parish LSU AgCenter office in Kenner, the horticulturists picked up Jefferson and Orleans parish horticultural agents Ginger Fortson and Karen Blackburn, among others.

Dozens of soil samples were taken, their locations noted on a GPS locator so they can be retested in the same spot. Ed Bush and Jeff Kuehny started sampling in a Kenner park, where Gill immediately noticed that improper staking led to the uprooting of many young trees that should have survived.

"One thing homeowners will want to know is what condition the soil will be in," Blackburn said as she held a plastic bag for a soil sample. "They will want to find out about salinity, any salts or oils or anything they may need to be cautious about. Do they need to amend their soils? How are plants going to react?"

One of the big landscaping concerns is the salinity of floodwater, so samples were taken in areas where fresh water covered the landscape, as well as in other areas where the mildly salty brackish water from Lake Pontchartrain stood for days.

The visual surveys by Souvestre, Gill and Fortson focused on the few green or even blooming plants. They found lots of Bermuda grass greening up, although the St. Augustine and centipede turf grasses were killed.

Home landscape losses will depend on the amount of floodwater and how long it stood, the horticulturists said. Smaller sago palms that were covered with water were dead, but older ones, whose fronds were above the water line, seem to be thriving. In general, azaleas and any shrubs that stood in water for days drowned and are dying of root rot, a classic flood condition, Gill said.

Even small, subtle changes in elevation make a difference in what lives and dies.

"You can see in this ligustrum, look at the pattern of damage," Gill said. "The slightly lower one is succumbing to root rot, but the slightly higher ones are going to make it."

Urban forester Hallie Dozier, of the AgCenter's department of renewable natural resources, had spent the previous two weeks looking at and photographing storm-damaged trees in other Louisiana parishes.

"I especially wanted to come here because all the other damage I saw was wind," Dozier said. "I really wanted to see the effects of the flood."

She took dozens of digital photographs, as did everyone in the group. She aimed her camera at a pine tree broken off 10 feet above the roofline of a house, a classic example of pine damage.

"They break up high," she said. "They are really bad trees to have near your house, because they break and are so big when they hit something. Typically, they're not going to hit anything, but if they do, you are big-time out of luck."

Because of the diversity of plant materials available, the group went to Old Metairie, where floodwater marks rose four or five feet on upscale homes.

"I used to send people who wanted shady landscapes to Old Metairie" to get ideas, Gill said, "because it had the most beautiful ones. And they will be back again, I guarantee you."

In landscapes where significant tree loss occurred, the most difficult thing for many gardeners will be switching from a shady landscape to a sunny one with a whole different palette of plants, Gill said.

Fortson said she thinks that lost shade will cause air temperatures as well as air conditioning bills to rise.

"Just one tree planted in the right place in a residential lot can make as much as 35 percent difference in your cooling costs," she said.

At the New Orleans Botanical Garden, the vivid colors of thriving water lilies were a bright spot against the background of formal hedges of dead boxwood, their geometry surrounding thorny sticks that were once rose bushes.

Longtime garden volunteer Mary Biundo had talked her way past security guards and was surveying surviving plants in the butterfly garden. Like everybody else, she was noting the silver lining in the dead landscape.

"In a way, the garden was getting out of hand, and this is kind of a catharsis," she said. "I love it out here. I'll be back."

Botanical Garden Director Paul Soniat was perspiring along with the few other workers cleaning up, one of whom was City Park Director Bob Becker, dragging a big branch. (Three weeks ago, City Park furloughed all but 11 of its 260 workers.) Soniat said he relates the devastation of the garden to its barren condition when he started there in 1982.

Now, at least, he said, they have the framework of the garden, mostly intact buildings and infrastructure, and a generous foundation that is paying the garden staff for a couple of months.

"Luckily, we have the Azby Fund, a great donor for us, which has come in and supported our relief and rebuilding efforts, and that's a major thing," Soniat said. "We wouldn't be able to do this right now without them. It's stabilized our staff, plus gives us some money to fix our buildings and hopefully buy some plants. It's going to be a long struggle."

The most plant materials lost were several big magnolias in the back of the garden, Soniat said, and the garden will have to start over with "pretty much all the perennials and shrubs. But we needed to clean up anyway, right?

"The garden fared much better than other parts of the park. It's all relative."

The goal is to get the Pavilion of the Two Sisters open by January, Soniat said. The new Conservatory of the Two Sisters is structurally perfect, but most plant materials in the fern and rain forest exhibits were cooked by the combination of floodwater and high temperatures.

Electrical failures meant the greenhouse vents couldn't be opened.

Two of the garden's newest features, the Japanese Garden and the cactus collection, recently installed in a renovated greenhouse, looked relatively untouched. One of the park employees told Gill that New York police officers guarding the nearby New Orleans Museum of Art had watered and saved some of the cactus.

Amid the general garden gloom, Fortson pointed out what was thriving: "Hibiscus, rose of Sharon, japonicas, camellias, sasquanas, they're all good," she said. Coral vine was blooming on one of the overhead trellises. Even a few of the antique roses were in full flower.

"Those are the old garden plants that have always been used here," she said. "The plants you see in historic gardens are the ones that seemed to fare the best."

Gill agreed. "Look at those crape myrtles," he said. "Those are all new leaves." But he soon gestured elsewhere: "See that tree that laid down and died? That was a pink-flowered tabuea, probably the only one in the South."

One of the things that bothered him more than the plant loss, Gill said, was the garden's ruined library, many volumes in a small room used by the master gardeners. It had local gardening history books that went back for decades and cannot be replaced, he said.

And some of the plant losses did affect him directly.

"See that clematis?" he said, pointing to an umber mass on the garden's front fence. "It's a tropical species, and it's been there since the 1980s. It came through the 1989 freeze beautifully. I would always tell people (who asked about clematis) to go out to City Park and look at the one on the fence."

Finally, the caravan wound through the streets of Lakeview. The convivial group grew more somber, noting more and more dried dust, then cracked mud, an inch thick on the ground, on cars, on downed limbs, on drowned homes.

"The mud is definitely localized," Souvestre said. "This is where we should be taking samples. Can we grow anything in it?"

By this time, late in the day, Dozier said she had reached her hurricane maximum and had to take a break.

"I just keep thinking how many hearts are broken," she said.

One person asked Souvestre if people here will replant. He shrugged.

"Spring is spring," he said. "People will be tired of winter."

• • • • • • •

Staff writer Judy Walker can be reached at jwalker@timespicayune.com or at (504) 826-3485.

# Plant life among the ruins



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

LSU horticulture professor Dan Gill was delighted to find water lilies in full bloom in the pool in front of the Conservatory of the Two Sisters in City Park.

# Salvation in the oaks

## *Landmark trees damaged, but hanging in there*



David Zeringue, an Agriculture Environmental Specialist with the State Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, takes a GPS reading amoung the live oak trees on Northline Street in Old Metairie.

**By Judy Walker**
Staff writer

One of City Park's famous Dueling Oaks, under which disputes were settled by swordplay or pistols in old New Orleans, was fatally uprooted by a hurricane in 1949. Now, Hurricane Katrina has dealt the remaining Dueling Oak what experts call "a major hit." About a third of its major interior limbs fell, said Tom Campbell, director of the state's urban forest program.

As a New Orleanian, Campbell knows how much the beloved live oaks mean to the citizenry. The Anseman Oak looks pretty good, he said, and the Ancient Grove of the oldest live oaks in City Park "did pretty well."

"I kind of had a nice drive down St. Charles Avenue the other day," Campbell said. "Actually, it wasn't nice, but I came out of it pretty optimistic. Live oaks are kind of like a sculpture of what's happened to them over the years.

"A lot of them lost small limbs, and they'll be OK. The ones that were standing in water for a long time might be a different story."

He said that once they leaf out next spring, live oaks "will be significantly normal looking. And once the debris is picked up, you don't see what was, just what is.

"So even though the crown is less full and significant limbs have been lost, it's going to look pretty dad-gum good on St. Charles and in the Ancient Grove."

Another of the area's landmark oak trees — Seven Sisters Oak, the mammoth tree near the lakeshore in Mandeville that is acknowledged as the largest live oak in Louisiana — fared better than the Dueling Oak. Its seven major trunks are intact.

"It's taken a beating but it's still standing," said Ginger Fortson, a Jefferson Parish extension horticulturist who lives on the north shore and visually surveyed the tree. "It lost a few little limbs, but it looks to be in good shape."

# Nice town, but it's no New Orleans

## ALLEN, *from C-1*

had no gas for the generator so we had to siphon it from the cars."

The salon's phone rang, and Allen asked, "You want me to get that?" Dickey Smith is one of her best friends, and the salon was short staffed. The receptionist is staying in Atlanta. A stylist isn't coming back. Another is, but wasn't back yet, so Allen went into receptionist mode.

"Guy Keefer salon."

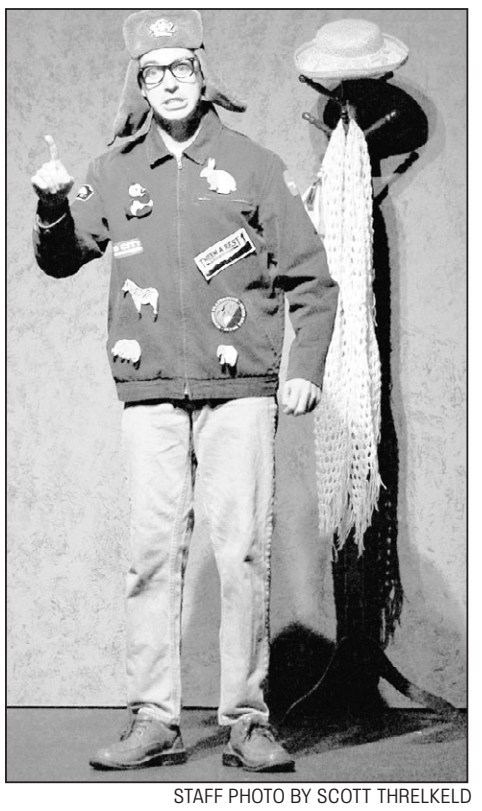
"We went to Vicksburg for gambling," Butzman said. "And my family did social things, so I went to Wal-Mart and I got one good outfit — good slacks and a good top. And I'd take it off every night and hang it up and wear it again the next night."

Allen said she and Brett Messmer, her roommate, went out for sushi one night and after their first sake asked for a second round. "The man said, 'You split.' It's a dry county or something. He was the sake police.

"I said, 'I gotta go back to New Orleans.' "

• • • • • • •

Staff writer Millie Ball can be reached at mball@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3462.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT THRELKELD

Petey Fisk, who runs the Greater Tuna Humane Society, is one of 20 roles Gary Rucker plays in 'Greater Tuna,' which opened last week at the Skyfire Theater in Covington.

# Two actors, 20 characters

## 'TUNA', *from C-1*

nization raising money for local storm victims.

The play reunites two of our best and most enjoyable actors. Once rivals, stringbean Gary Rucker and husky Sean Patterson have practically become a comedy team, most recently in "The Bible" at Le Petit Theatre, as Patchwork Players cohorts for the past several seasons, as co-stars at the Tulane Shakespeare Festival and as co-directors of family fare at Le Petit.

"Greater Tuna," the much-produced comedy by Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and Ed Howard, is the quick-change comedy in which two actors play 20 characters of all ages and sexes in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas, a Southern-fried "Peyton Place" where all the housewives are desperate and all the men bigoted, demented or just good ol' boys.

"Tuna" is usually played by middle-aged actors and works best that way. But the younger Rucker and Patterson are such inventive performers, with an effortless rapport, that the laughs are there in abundance, along with a poignant moment or two.

Lassoing the loco characters together are periodic reports by the radio team of Thurston Wheelis (Patterson) and Arless Struvie (Rucker) of radio station OKKK, where the big news in Texas' third smallest town is that the local hanging judge has been found dead in bed, clad only in a "one-piece Dale Evans swimsuit."

Rucker's best characterizations are bitchy biddy Vera Carp, of the Smut Snatchers, who want certain books and dictionary words removed from the high school library; sleazy, secretive juvenile delinquent Stanley Bumiller and sensitive Petey Fisk, who heads up the Greater Tuna Humane Society and can't bear to put an animal down. Luckily, Rucker also plays little Jody Bumiller, who keeps bringing the animals home.

Patterson has the juicy role of malicious, gray-haired geriatric Aunt Pearl Buras, who gloats over the coffin of the judge who jilted her in the long ago, saying that she'd vowed there'd come a day when she'd sing over his grave, "And Judge, I feel a song comin' on!" He's also the Rev. Spikes, whose eulogy for the judge is an endless series of bombastic clichés ending with, "I never heard the man say 'Die' – he just did."

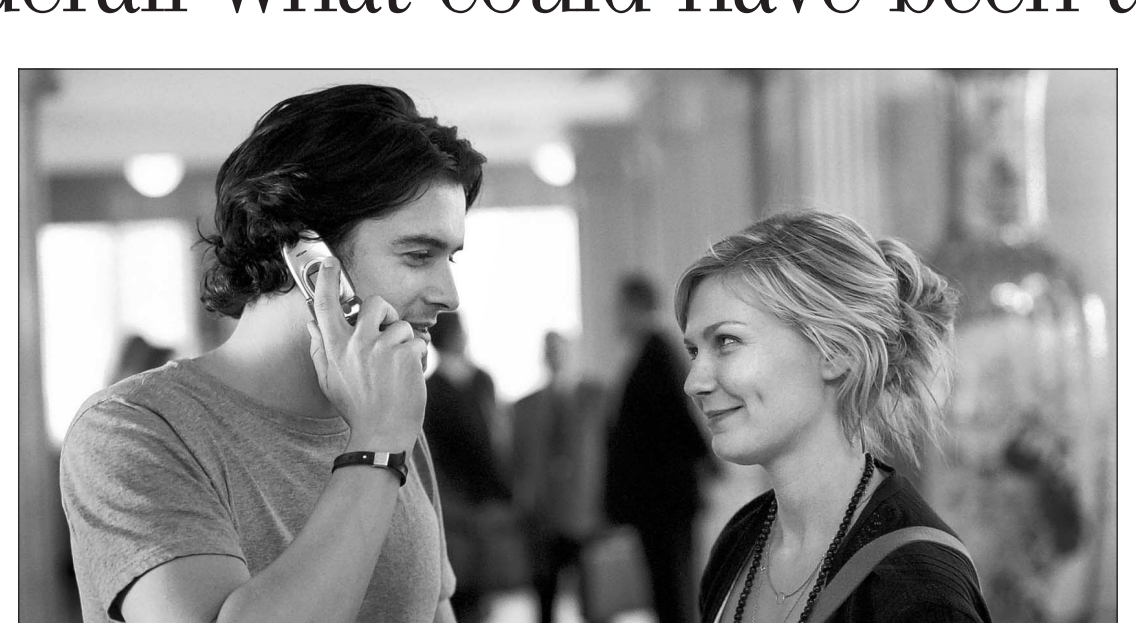
Patterson's a hoot, too, as R.R. Snavely, given to UFO sightings and touchingly funny as the long-suffering Bertha Bumiller.

You may have been eating so much of it lately that anything with "tuna" in the title puts you off. But "Greater Tuna," ably directed by George Sanchez, is a mood elevator better than anything the doctor might prescribe.

MOVIE REVIEW

# Detours derail what could have been a pleasant journey

**By Stephen Whitty**
Newhouse News Service


Orlando Bloom, left, and Kirsten Dunst star in 'Elizabethtown,' directed by Cameron Crowe.

Most movies start with a character at the beginning of a journey. There's something they need to have or know. There are people they have to meet, and lessons they have to learn.

"Elizabethtown" plays in reverse.

Its hero begins the movie at the end of a journey. He has a great job, a beautiful girlfriend, a tight-knit family. But then he loses it all, all at once. And as he flies off to Kentucky to prepare for his father's funeral, he begins another trip, back into his past.

"Elizabethtown" has been on its own surprising journey. After a few false starts and re-cast roles — at one point, director Cameron Crowe intended to make this with Ashton Kutcher and Jane Fonda instead of Orlando Bloom and Susan Sarandon — the film debuted at the Toronto Film Festival. Praise was scarce, and complaints about its off-on-a-tangent plot sent Crowe home again, promising to trim down the side trips.

He's done that, to a point, cutting the film by about a quarter of an hour and losing a third-act twist that undercut the film's own point. But he's failed — or, perhaps, simply refused — to rethink the whole movie, leaving it in all its arbitrary disorder. And while that gives rise to some of the movie's more offbeat pleasures, it also remains its greatest problem. What once felt like whimsy in Crowe's "Singles" or "Jerry Maguire" has lapsed into self-indulgence.

The movie begins as a corporate comedy, with Alec Baldwin playing the same sort of crazed captain of industry he played in "Along Came Polly," and Bloom — without a sword in his hand, for once — very good in his first modern turn as the firm's boy blunder, Drew. Then it segues into a domestic drama, with Sarandon charmingly scattered as Bloom's mom and brand-new widow, and Judy Greer sweetly stressed as the good-girl daughter.

And then the movie goes on a road trip.

Drew takes a flight back to the hometown his father was visiting when he died, ostensibly to collect the body and say a few kind words to some long-lost relatives. But on the flight back he meets Kirsten Dunst's chatty Claire, a flighty flight attendant who tries to serve her passengers nurturing words of advice. And then he gets to tiny Elizabethtown, Ky., where he eventually turns into the lost young man (c.f. "Garden State," or better yet, "The Graduate") redeemed by the love of a quirky young woman.

Drew's passivity is a bit of a problem — at least those other movie heroes wanted something — although not as much as the movie's plotting, which can grow forced. For example, Drew is a sneaker designer who's wasted eight years and $1 billion on a new shoe style; while the numbers might work for a studio spreadsheet, they don't make much sense in terms of the footwear business. (In fact, the entire movie — plucky guy learns to get back on his feet after a flameout — sounds a lot more like Crowe's life after "Vanilla Sky" than anything Phil Knight and Nike ever went through.)

And yet there's plenty to like here, much of it precisely because the movie is so overstuffed with ideas. There are the dynamics of family, with an emphasis on its supports and affection (Crowe may be one of the few filmmakers willing to admit to a happy childhood). There are deeply realized, delicately nuanced performances from Bloom and a delightfully mischievous Dunst. And, as usual, there's the eclectic Crowe soundtrack, which plays like your best friend's finest mix tape.

Like most journeys, "Elizabethtown" could have used a bit more planning; its detours make back-seat drivers of us all. Why didn't Crowe condense some of the family sideshows? Or cut the long and unfunny memorial service completely, and go straight from Bloom and Dunst's morning-after quarrel to his father's funeral and Bloom's final road trip? Enough of the director's cut. It's time to give fans the audience's cut.

But then that's what rentals — and remotes — were made for.

## ELIZABETHTOWN

★★½

**Plot:** Romance develops unexpectedly during a Kentucky patriarch's elaborate memorial.
**What works:** The cast is engaging, and there are plenty of quirky laughs here.
**What doesn't:** This road movie gets off track early on and never quite finds its way home.

**Starring:** Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst and Susan Sarandon. **Director:** Cameron Crowe. **Running time:** 2 hours 3 minutes. **Rating:** PG-13, for language, some sexual references and alcohol abuse. **Where:** Hollywood 9, Holiday 12.



DEAR ABBY

*Jeanne Phillips*

# Be prepared before disaster hits

**DEAR READERS:** In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and projections from the National Weather Service indicating that there are more to come, it is apparent that too many of our citizens are at a loss about how to prepare for a natural disaster.

Wanting to help not only the hurricane survivors, but also to offer information so that ALL of us will be better prepared for potential disasters in the future, I turned to my friends at the Federal Citizen Information Center in Pueblo, Colo.

True to form, they have come through with an excellent publication from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: "Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now." It explains how to assemble an emergency supply kit and develop a family plan that can be invaluable in all kinds of emergencies. The booklet is free. It's available in both English and Spanish, and can be ordered by writing to: Preparing Makes Sense, Pueblo, Colo. 81009, or by calling toll-free: 1-888-878-3256 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

For survivors of the hurricanes, and for those individuals who want to help with the recovery effort, one of the best online sources is www.FirstGov.gov. This Web site has links to help locate loved ones, register online for government assistance, replace your vital personal documents, locate state and local services, as well as volunteer opportunities.

Because scam artists are always quick to take advantage of those in need as well as those who want to help, www.FirstGov.gov offers sound advice for avoiding frauds and schemes, and making sure the charity that you donate to is reputable. (Free copies of "Preparing Makes Sense" can also be ordered online at FirstGov.gov.)

While my prayer is that our country will be spared future disasters, my goal today is to encourage you to send for this free publication and to further protect yourselves and your loved ones by using the resources at www.FirstGov.gov.

*Love, Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** At a friend's wedding last weekend, my best friend's husband propositioned me. He said if I ever wanted "something on the side" to give him a call. I was floored. I had always considered him to be a creep, but never thought he would pull something like that.

I told him it would never happen, but if I ever considered it, it certainly wouldn't be with my best friend's husband. He said that that's why I was the perfect candidate — because I would never say anything to her.

What should I do? I don't want to tell her and have that be the reason she splits up with her husband, but I think she should know her husband is on the prowl. She has two small children with this loser, and although he seems to be a good father, apparently he's a bad husband.

*Appalled in Huntington Beach, Calif.*

**DEAR APPALLED:** Considering the number of sexually transmitted diseases there are that can have serious, lasting health implications, you'd be doing your best friend a favor by speaking up. One way to lead into it would be to ask if her husband had had "a lot to drink" at the wedding, because "this is what he said to me." She should consult her doctor about being checked for STDs — as well as asking for a referral to a marriage counselor, because her marriage is in trouble.

•••••••

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To become a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $5 to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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# FRIDAY'S CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Historic New Orleans Collection Exhibits** 533 Royal St. "The Terrible and the Brave: The Battles for New Orleans, 1814-1815." An exhibit of artwork, original documents, vintage weapons, military equipment and uniforms plus an interactive media component with sounds, images and commentary from noted scholars, detailing the British invasion and American defense. The exhibit reopened Oct. 11. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-3 Tues.-Sat. Free admission. Call 523-4662.

**French Quarter Vampire Tour** Meets in front of Saint Louis Cathedral, facing Jackson Square. Haunted History Tours resume guided walks, visiting sites associated with the creatures of the night, 8:30 (arrive 15 minutes prior to departure). $20 adults, $17 seniors, $10 children 12 and younger. Call 861-2727. For other tour information, visit www.HauntedHistoryTours.com.

**Chinchuba Haunted House** 1131 Barataria Blvd., Marrero. The house is open, 7-11 today-Sat. Admission is $10. See chinchubashauntedhouse.com.

**The Scream Factory** 319 E. Lockwood, corner Columbia St., Covington. Professionally designed haunted house with state of the art special effects is open this weekend, today-Sun. 7:30-11 (tickets go on sale at 7). Tickets are $10. Not reccommended for young children. Call (877) 666-3327.

**Hickory Cornfield Maze and Pumpkin Festival** 36524 Ed Yates Road, Hickory. Get lost in a 6.5 acre corn field, featuring a newly designed labyrinth, 5-9 today. Admission is $6.75, $4.75 ages 6-11 and free for children younger than 5. The Pumpkin festival takes place every Saturday through Nov. 12 with hayrides, pumpkin painting, face painting, corn cannons, logic mazes and more, 10 a.m.-6. Separate fee. Maze Sunday hours are 1-7. Call (985) 863-9662, www.HickoryMaze.com.

**International Rice Festival** Parkerson Avenue at Court Circle South, downtown Crowley. One of the largest and oldest agricultural festivals takes place with a livestock show, rice cooking and eating contests, parades, a frog derby, carnival rides, crafts, car show, queen's contest and continuous live entertainment, 11 a.m.-11 today; 10 a.m.-11 Sat. Call (337) 783-3067, www.ricefestival.com.

## NIGHTCLUBS

**Boomtown Casino** 4132 Peters Road, Harvey. 366-7711. The Bucktown All Stars, 8.

**Le Bon Temps Roule** 4801 Magazine St., 895-8117. Slim Nelson Trio, 8.

**Le Pavillon Hotel** 833 Poydras St., 581-3111. Barbara Lane on piano, 6.

**Maple Leaf Bar** 8316 Oak St., 866-9359. Juice, 8.

**Margaritaville Cafe** 1104 Decatur St., 592-2565. Jesse Moore, 6.

**Snug Harbor** 626 Frenchmen St., 949-0696. Ed Petersen & the Ultimate Test featuring Steve Masakowski (no cover), 8.

## THEATER

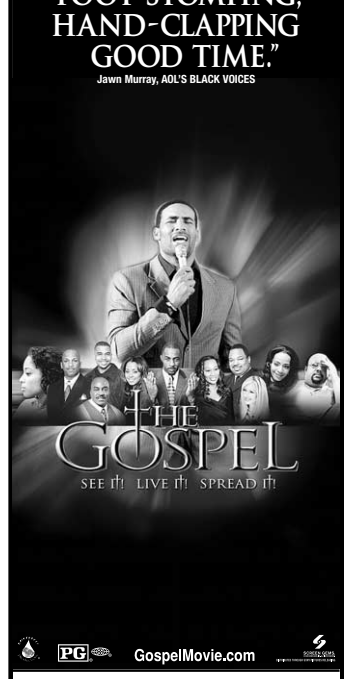
**Greater Tuna** Skyfire Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire St, Covington, (985) 875-7577. The Jaston Williams-Joe Sears-Ed Howard comedy about the goofy and scandalous goings-on in Tuna, Texas, the state's third smallest town. George Sanchez directs Gary Rucke and Sean Patterson, who each play 20 roles, both male and female. Performance tonight at 8. Admission is "Pay what yuou will," with proceeds going to the Northshore Pelican Foundation, a non-progfit organization to help citizens recover from Hurricane Katrina. "Greater Tuna" runs Fri-Sat at 8 through Oct. 29. One matinee this Sunday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m.

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**Have an item?**

Send information on entertainment events open to the public to: Lagniappe Calendar of Events, The Times-Picayune, 3800 Howard Ave., New Orleans, La. 70125. Information must be received 10 days prior to event. Events are listed on the day they occur. All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted.


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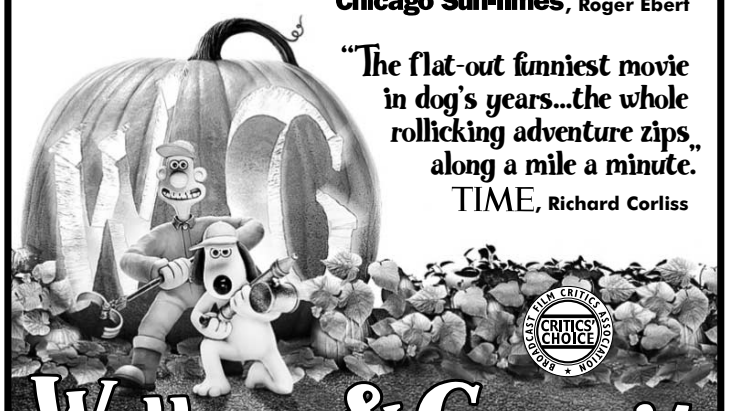
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WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE RABBIT (G)(√)
FRI & SAT 11:55, 2:25, 5:00, 7:25, 10:05
SUN 11:55, 2:25, 7:25, 10:05
TWO FOR THE MONEY (R) (√) 12:25, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:45
THE GOSPEL (PG)(√) 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
IN HER SHOES (PG-13) (√) 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:15, 10:50
FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13) (√) 12:10, 2:50, 4:55, 7:55, 10:25
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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

PAGE C-6
Friday, October 14, 2005

nola.com The Hornets' exhibition game vs. Denver wasn't completed at press time. Visit nola.com for coverage.

# Falcons not satisfied with '04 outcome

*Only standard good enough for Mora is winning Super Bowl*

**By Brian Allee-Walsh**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — The star-crossed Atlanta Falcons gave their long-suffering fans reason to boogie in 2004, advancing to the NFC championship game, for only the second time in franchise history, under rookie coach Jim Mora.

And, while the Falcons appear to be legitimate playoff contenders again, provided quarterback Michael Vick stays healthy, naysayers quickly point to their erratic past.

**AT SAN ANTONIO**
**SAINTS VS. FALCONS**
Noon Sunday
8

In 39 NFL seasons, the Falcons have never posted consecutive winning records. Not under Norm Van Brocklin, Leeman Bennett, Jerry Glanville or Dan Reeves.

"That's unbelievable," said Mora, who will bring his 3-2 Falcons into an NFC South showdown against the Saints at the Alamodome on Sunday. "I kind of equate it to what my dad went through in New Orleans. They had never had a winning season until he got there.

"I thought about that this offseason: I thought, here I am, at an organization, that in 40 years has never had back-to-back winning seasons."

The New England Patriots provide additional perspective on the Falcons' futility. Consider: Bill Belichick's Patriots have won consecutive Super Bowl championships, including three of the last four, and are attempting to become the first team in league history to win four of five.

*See* **SAINTS,** *C-8*

**After Hurricane Katrina swamped his school, St. Augustine's Bernard Griffith is left wondering about his storied program's lost year**

# MISSING TRADITION



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCCUSKER

St. Augustine basketball coach and athletic director Bernard Griffith guided the Purple Knights to four state championships.

**By Pierce W. Huff**
Staff writer

It figures that St. Augustine basketball coach Bernard Griffith landed on his feet in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

His résumé is hard to ignore. Griffith, who guided the Purple Knights to four state championships in his 20-plus years as coach, is now an assistant with the Dallas Mavericks, where former St. Aug player Avery Johnson is the head coach.

Despite his good fortune, Griffith said he would much rather be home, teaching, coaching and guiding St. Augustine's athletic programs.

That probably won't happen this year. The school was submerged in six feet of water from flooding, and its interior was destroyed. Officials hope to have the school back in operation next school year.

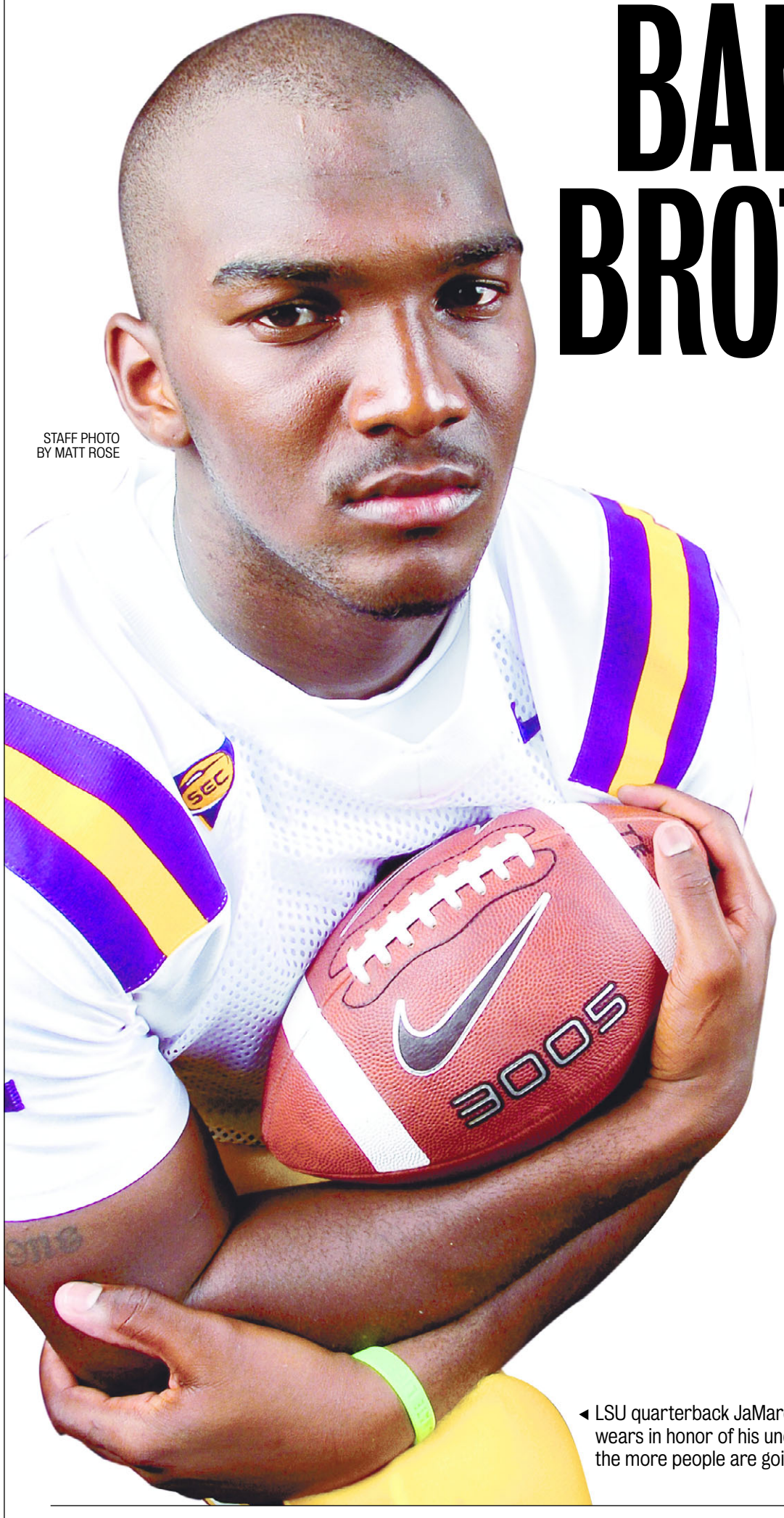
Griffith said not having St. Augustine athletics in New Orleans is almost like no red beans and rice on Monday or no Mardi Gras.

"It's almost like we don't exist anymore," said Griffith, who also is the school's athletic director. "We're missing, and we were an integral part of the community. The school gave the city something to identify with, whether you loved us or hated us.

*See* **ST. AUGUSTINE,** *C-9*

**LSU QB JaMarcus Russell wears a lime-green band** *on his left wrist in honor of his uncle, 'Ray-Ray' Russell, who is in need of a heart transplant*

# BAND OF BROTHERS



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

**DJ 'RAY-RAY' RUSSELL**



MOBILE REGISTER PHOTO

Radio personality Ray Russell, uncle of LSU's JaMarcus Russell, was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy in late January.

**By William Kalec**
Staff writer

MOBILE, ALA. — Alicia Keys is fading in the rear speakers of Fords and Buicks driving on Dauphin Street, and it's 9:48 a.m. in Mobile, Ala. — last call for WBLX's Official Gulf Coast Wake Up Party.

Ray "Ray-Ray" Russell, DJ/comedian/fighter, cups headphones over his ears.

**LSU VS. FLORIDA**
2:30 p.m. Saturday
4

Paid to fill these next couple minutes with the typical nonsensical banter stay-at-home moms and high school seniors religiously tune in for, Ray-Ray and sidekick Kelly Mac spark up a seamless dialogue until the conversation suddenly detours into the ridiculous.

They're talking about rolled R's, now — you know, like Catwoman used incessantly in the old Adam West Batman series.

"Come on, try it," Mac insists. "R-r-r-ray, R-r-r-ray."

Ray pauses, leaning into the microphone.

"RRGJKJHL-RAY," he says, a great impression of a fork in the garbage disposal.

"No, you've got to relax your tongue. Make it soft and delicate," Mac says, the blatant

*See* **RUSSELL,** *C-7*

◀ LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell says the lime-green band he wears in honor of his uncle motivates him. 'The more I do on the field, the more people are going to see this (band) and know it's not a joke.'

**LSU COACH LES MILES**



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

# Tiger Stadium game is crucial for Miles, Meyer



PETER FINNEY

Recent history tells us the Florida Gators left LSU's past two football coaches with different memories.

As different as white and black.

For Gerry DiNardo, we go back to an October evening in 1997, the time Steve Spurrier's Gators arrived in Baton Rouge as the No. 1 team in the country and lost 28-21. It was historic not because it was DiNardo's greatest victory in five years, but because it marked LSU's only victory ever over a top-ranked team at Tiger Stadium.

For Nick Saban, we return to Tiger Stadium exactly six years later, the day a freshman quarterback named Chris Leak ran and passed Ron Zook's Gators to a

*See* **FINNEY,** *C-7*

**FLORIDA COACH URBAN MEYER**



AP PHOTO

# Wave defense eager to make stand against UTEP

*Past two performances has it facing gut check*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer

RUSTON — When Tulane's defense ranked No. 1 in the nation after allowing 352 yards in its first two games, Green Wave coach Chris Scelfo cautioned that it had yet to go up against an "offensive juggernaut."

The Green Wave has played two games since Scelfo's warning, and its defense has fallen to No. 12. The slide could continue tonight when Tulane takes on Texas-El Paso, the favorite to win Conference USA's West Division.

"Two weeks ago, we were the No. 1 team in the nation, and to play like that on national television left us with a bad feeling," Tulane senior linebacker Antonio Mason said of the Wave's 35-14 loss to Houston. "We look at this as a big game to bounce back.

**TULANE VS. UTEP**
7 p.m. today in Ruston ESPN

"The stage is definitely set. It's back on ESPN, so we can redeem ourselves from what we showed last week."

It isn't just the poor performance in the loss to Houston from which Tulane is trying to recover. In the past two games, the Wave's defense has let the game get out of hand in the second half.

Tulane was gouged by Division I-AA Southeastern Louisiana for 226 of its 309 yards in the third and fourth quarters. Houston's offense dominated the Wave in the second half with a series of big plays. The Cougars had seven plays in the third quarter that totaled 182 yards

*See* **TULANE,** *C-9*

*Sports briefs, TV listings, and upcoming schedules*

# SECONDLINE

## THE SPORTS SCENE

**FG MEET TO HAVE 34 STAKES RACES:** A schedule of 34 stakes races worth more than $3.5 million headlines the 37-day Fair Grounds meet beginning next month at Harrah's Louisiana Downs in Bossier City, Fair Grounds president and general manager **Randall Soth** announced Thursday. The Fair Grounds-at-Louisiana Downs season begins Nov. 19, with the Gentilly Stakes for 2-year-old Louisiana-breds on turf serving as the opening day feature. The opening day feature will be the first winter in 92 years that live racing will not be conducted on Gentilly Boulevard in New Orleans. The Fair Grounds sustained damage from Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29, and will instead run its 134th season in Bossier City. "We are most grateful to the management of Harrah's Louisiana Downs, the Louisiana HBPA and the various regulatory agencies, most notably the Louisiana State Racing Commission, for working with us to bring the Fair Grounds meet to Louisiana Downs," Soth said. Four graded stakes will be conducted as part of the meet, beginning with the $400,000 Grade II New Orleans Handicap on Jan. 7. Three Grade III events will be part of "Road to the Derby" Kickoff Day on Jan. 14, all with $200,000 purses. Along with Kickoff Day, the other major event day on the schedule is the 15th annual Louisiana Champions Day on Dec. 10, featuring seven Thoroughbred and three Quarter Horse stakes worth $1 million in purses. The traditional holiday feature, the Thanksgiving Breeders' Cup Handicap, is slated for Nov. 24. It is one of six stakes to feature added money from the Breeders' Cup Stakes program, the most ever in a Fair Grounds season. A total of $225,000 is available for Breeders' Cup-nominated horses. The deadline for stall applications for the Fair Grounds-at-Louisiana Downs meet is today. Horsemen can contact the Churchill Downs or Harrah's Louisiana Downs racing office, or visit the Fair Grounds' Web site at www.fairgroundsracecourse.com for more information.

**NBA**

### LeBron hospitalized

Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star forward LeBron James remained hospitalized with pain in his chest from what the team called a strained muscle. James was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for tests Wednesday night, hours after he was wincing during practice. James said he doesn't know how he got the injury, which team doctors initially diagnosed as a strained left pectoral. General Manager Danny Ferry said tests on James have not shown anything abnormal, and his understanding is that James' heart "is not an issue."

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

### A´s seek to interview Hershiser

The Oakland Athletics received permission to interview Texas pitching coach Orel Hershiser for their vacant manager's job, Rangers spokesman Gregg Elkin said. Oakland is looking to replace Ken Macha, who failed to reach a contract extension with the club last week. The 47-year-old Hershiser, a three-time All-Star and 1988 Cy Young Award winner with the Dodgers, has been the Rangers' pitching coach the past three seasons.

**GOLF**

### Women allowed to qualify

Women golfers could be playing at next year's British Open. The Royal & Ancient Golf Club, the governing body for the sport outside the United States, said it was changing its entry rules to allow women to qualify for the oldest of the four majors. Any woman finishing in the top five — including ties — in any of the four majors can try for the Open through regional and final qualifying. In addition, any women meeting the entry requirements for international qualifying, final qualifying and the Open itself can enter at these stages directly.

**BAIRD HOLDS ONE-SHOT LEAD:** Briny Baird shot a 10-under 62 to take the first-round lead in the Michelin Championship in Las Vegas, with the players going low on the tournament's two desert courses. Baird played at the TPC at Summerlin, where the par is 72. The other course being used for the first two rounds, the TPC at The Canyons, is a par 71. Ryan Palmer shot a 9-under 62 at The Canyons, and Charles Howell III had a 9-under 63 at Summerlin.

**WIE BEGINS PRO CAREER:** Michelle Wie made her debut as a professional golfer with a 2-under-par 70 in the first round of the women's World Championship in Palm Desert, Calif. Wie had four birdies through her first 12 holes before giving back two strokes with a pair of bogeys to finish in a six-way tie for 12th at the Bighorn Golf Club, six shots behind leader Annika Sorenstam. Sorenstam had eight birdies during her round.

## TV/RADIO

**BEST BET**

▶ **White Sox at Angels, 7 p.m.** 8
After a controversial win in Game 2 of the American League Championship Series, the White Sox head to Anaheim for Game 3.

**ALSO ON THE TUBE**

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS**

**Saturday**
▶ Cardinals at Astros, 3 p.m. 8
▶ White Sox at Angels, 6:30 p.m. 8

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

**Today**
▶ Texas-El Paso vs. Tulane, 7 p.m. ESPN
**Saturday**
▶ Alabama at Mississippi, 11 a.m. 4
▶ TBA, 11 a.m. 26
▶ Wisconsin at Minnesota, 11 a.m. ESPN
▶ Rutgers at Syracuse, 11 a.m. CST
▶ Northwestern at Purdue, noon ESPN2
▶ Miami at Temple, noon FSS
▶ Florida at LSU, 2:30 p.m. 4
▶ USC at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m. 6
▶ TBA, 2:30 p.m. 26
▶ Troy State at Louisiana-Monroe, 2:30 p.m. CST
▶ UAB at Marshall, 4 p.m. 49
▶ UCLA at Washington State, 5:30 p.m. FSS
▶ Kansas vs. Oklahoma, 6 p.m. TBS
▶ Southern Arkansas at West Georgia, 6 p.m. CST
▶ Georgia at Vanderbilt, 6:15 p.m. ESPN2
▶ Florida State at Virginia, 6:45 p.m. ESPN

**METRO PREP FOOTBALL**

**Today**
▶ Holy Cross at Lutcher, 7 p.m. CST

**NBA PRESEASON**

**Today**
▶ Grizzlies at Heat, 7:30 p.m. NBA

**HORSE RACING**

**Saturday**
▶ Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup, 4 p.m. ESPN

**AUTO RACING**

**Today**
▶ Dollar General 300 qualifying, 1:30 p.m. SPD
▶ Dollar General 300, 7 p.m. TNT
**Saturday**
▶ UAW-GM Quality 500, 6 p.m. 6

**TENNIS**

**Saturday**
▶ Kremlin Cup, 6 a.m. TEN

**GOLF**

**Today**
▶ Madrid Open, 8 a.m. GOLF
▶ Samsung World Championship, 2 p.m. GOLF
▶ Michelin Championship, 3 p.m. USA
▶ Adminstaff Small Business Classic, 4 p.m. GOLF
**Saturday**
▶ Madrid Open, 7 a.m. GOLF
▶ Samsung World Championship, noon 6
1 p.m. GOLF
▶ Michelin Championship, 2 p.m. USA
▶ Adminstaff Small Business Classic, 4 p.m. GOLF

**HOCKEY**

**Today**
▶ Dallas at Vancouver, 9 p.m. FSS

**ON RADIO**

**NBA PRESEASON**

**Saturday**
▶ Hornets vs. Magic, 6 p.m., 1280-AM

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

**Saturday**
▶ Cardinals at Astros, 3 p.m., 1560-AM

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

**Today**
▶ Texas-El Paso vs. Tulane, 7 p.m., 88.3-FM
**Saturday**
▶ Florida at LSU, 2:30 p.m., 870-AM

TV and radio information is provided by the stations and is subject to change.

## UP NEXT

**SAINTS**

**Sunday:** vs. Falcons in San Antonio, noon
**Oct. 23:** at Rams, noon
**Oct. 30:** vs. Dolphins in Baton Rouge, 3 p.m.

**HORNETS**

**Saturday:** vs. Magic in St. Petersburg, Fla., 6 p.m.
**Tuesday:** vs. Hawks in Little Rock, Ark., 7 p.m.
**Thursday:** vs. Spurs in Bossier, 7:30 p.m.

**LSU**

**FOOTBALL**

**Saturday:** vs. Florida, 2:30 p.m.
**Oct. 22:** vs. Auburn, 6:45 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. North Texas, 7 p.m.

**OTHER SPORTS**

**Today:** swimming and diving at the Purple and Gold Intrasquad, 3 p.m.; volleyball vs. Mississippi State, 6 p.m.; soccer at Alabama, 7 p.m.; men's tennis at ITA Southeast regionals, TBA. **Saturday:** track and field at Chile Pepper Festival, 10 a.m.; men's golf at the Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate, TBA; men's tennis at ITA Southeast Regionals, TBA. **Sunday:** volleyball vs. Ole Miss, 1:30 p.m.; soccer at Auburn, 2 p.m.; men's golf at the Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate, TBA; men's tennis at the ITA Southeast Regionals, ITA

**TULANE**

**FOOTBALL**

**Friday:** vs. UTEP in Ruston, 7 p.m.
**Oct. 22:** at Central Florida, 5 p.m.
**Oct. 29:** vs. Marshall in Mobile, 6 p.m.

**OTHER SPORTS**

**Today:** tennis in the Region III Championships, all day; women's soccer vs. Tulsa, 7 p.m.; volleyball at SMU, 7 p.m. **Saturday:** tennis in the Region III Championships, all day. **Sunday:** tennis in the Region III Championships, all day; women's soccer vs. SMU, 1 p.m.; volleyball at Tulsa, 1 p.m.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

# LSU QB comforts ailing uncle

**RUSSELL,** *from C-6*

innuendo possibly perking a few ears.

"RRGGGHH-RAY," Ray spits, the perfect segue to his show-closing inspirational message, "Always remember, wherever you go, that's where you are."

Thursday morning's 6-10 shift concludes with an uplifting song of hope and faith — a brief getaway from the all-day hip-hop and R&B. Ray bangs out a promo, checks messages at his cubicle/shrine to his nephew, LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell, and is gone. The 38-year-old smooth talker slides into a green Cadillac Escalade and rolls out of the parking lot, passing station vans featuring his cartoon likeness on the door. Even if he didn't have an LSU novelty license plate that clashes with the elephants and War Eagles seen around town, everyone would still recognize Ray-Ray. That's everyone — from the hostess at Ruby Tuesday to the guy manning the weed-whacker section at Lowe's.

"Hey, I just have a good time," he explains. "This is my city and these are my people. They're good to me."

But beneath this always-enthusiastic on-air bravado rested a secret he refused to immediately share with anyone, especially JaMarcus. It happened in late January, mere weeks before spring football. JaMarcus and Matt Flynn were both trying to make a positive first impression on Les Miles and gain a nose in the race for the starter's job. That's enough stress. JaMarcus didn't need this emotional boulder strapped to his thick shoulders, Ray thought.

So in April, shortly after LSU's final scrimmage, Ray-Ray announced on the radio that cardiologists determined recent bouts of fatigue and weakness were caused by cardiomyopathy, a disease that inflames the heart and, if not discovered and treated, eventually leads to malfunction. The community responded, creating fund-raising drives to raise the difference of whatever insurance would not cover as the Russell family searched for answers.

"I was just wondering how this could happen," JaMarcus said. "He doesn't smoke. He doesn't drink. He works out, at times. He was always kind of a big guy, but never really that big. I just wondered how he could get in that situation."

As much as it hurts to spend Saturday on his couch, in front of the big screen, there's no way Ray can drive to Baton Rouge. Not this weekend. It'd be too strenuous, too risky. On Sunday, Ray has an appointment in Birmingham, where he'll learn more about the severity of his condition, which will determine his position on the donor list and date to receive a heart transplant.

"I feel about as good now as I have for a while," Ray said. "But there is that uncertainty, you know. So every time I talk to JaMarcus it's about football. It's about (LSU coach) Les Miles or (offensive coordinator) Jimbo Fisher or the receivers or the schedule and the defense they play that week. It's not about me. I think we both want an escape from what I'm going through."

### Opening doors

Ray was JaMarcus' original ambassador to the backstage, the credentialed world he'd frequent soon enough, courtesy of a blessed right arm. When the Senior Bowl came to Mobile annually, JaMarcus stayed glued to Ray's hip, absorbing the nuances and culture of a professional environment, checking out how soon-to-be millionaires acted in front of their eventual employers.

This is how you act, Ray said to his impressionable nephew. This is how you get to this level.

"I wasn't going to let him fall through the cracks," Ray said. "I was always the guy to tell him what he needed to hear. You got your hangers-on — guys who tell you you're the greatest. Forget that. I wasn't going to let that happen. The wolves weren't going to get to him."

Right before JaMarcus' recruitment turned silly, Ray was scheduled to perform at a comedy club in Rochester, N.Y. It was 2001, he says, right after JaMarcus' junior season. He flew out of New Orleans on a magnificent Fat Tuesday — sunny, 80 degrees. When Ray landed, a blanket of snow and something called wind chill welcomed him up north. The next day he'd return to New Orleans, 79 degrees.

Expectedly, the rapid climate shifts toyed with Ray's body, temporarily masking a much more serious condition as nothing more than a cold.

"I'm in the airport, 15 minutes, and I lose my voice," Ray said. "I had no idea there was fluid in my lungs and fluid around my heart. I got home and said, 'Man, I might be ready to kick the damn bucket.' So I drove myself to the hospital."

There, doctors discovered Ray had congestive heart failure and prescribed medication and suggested a change in diet, specifically lower sodium intake. Following guidelines, Ray didn't have any further significant complications until this past January when he took a decongestant that interacted with his other drugs.

Certain his condition had worsened, Ray sought a second cardiologist's opinion.

He didn't go home that night. Not right away, choosing instead to park his car in an empty lot with the engine and radio off. All alone, Ray cried.

"First thing you think about is, 'Where do we go from here?' " Ray said. " 'What are we going to do? How am I going to take care of my family? How is this going to play out?' But I had to do it. I knew not all sickness means death, but they told me if I went any further (without treatment) I wouldn't be here more than a year and a half."

As JaMarcus later learned, asking Ray to hold down more than a single potato chip was a challenge as excess pounds rapidly slid off his uncle's frame. After his scheduled stint at the station, Ray would sometimes sleep from 11 a.m. straight through to the beginning of the next morning's shift. To quell any suspicion from JaMarcus, Ray tagged along to the LSU spring game. The family parked behind the south end zone and headed toward the Lawton Room, across the street from Mike the Tiger's cage — approximately the length of a football field apart. Ray stopped four times. Don't worry, he told the rest of them, he'll catch up. Go ahead.

Making the trip, in hindsight, was completely ill-advised and set Ray back at least two weeks, he figures. When JaMarcus returned home for spring break, he offered Ray a diversion from the gloom-and-doom talk that surrounded him like a fog.

"I was thinking a lot about the situation he was in and how in the world we were going to get him to be better," JaMarcus said. "I kinda figured if God was ready, he wouldn't have given him this time to bounce back. He would have taken him when he had a chance.

"I just talked to him because the more people that came to see him was only making it worse. They all wanted to know how he was doing and asking him questions that kept his condition on his mind. So I just opened up my playbook."

Ray's glassy eyes followed his nephew's fingers, examining with renewed focus Fisher's jumble of O's dancing around X's.

"He was all slumped over," JaMarcus said. "As soon as I pulled it out, he sat up in his chair. He'd asked, 'So if you do this, then . . .' and I'd tell him my reads and options. He liked that. He needed that."

### 'Wear my band'

Though he did nothing to conceal or hide it, JaMarcus wore his own secret throughout training camp. It surely was photographed unintentionally dozens of times considering the number of lenses LSU's quarterback attracted in August. And it's impossible no reporter noticed the lime-green band around JaMarcus' left wrist. It was right there. Unobstructed.

But hardly anyone bothered to ask. Instead, they were too busy with whether he and Ryan Perrilloux were friends, what it's like to house Fats Domino after Hurricane Katrina and other unimportant matters.

Aware of Ray-Ray's popularity in the Mobile area, the Alabama Organ Center adopted the radio personality as a spokesman for donation awareness, presenting him a "DONATE LIFE" wristband they intended to mass produce by the fall. Knowing re-enforcements were on the way, Ray bequeathed one of the originals to JaMarcus.

"Dude, I need you to wear this," Ray said as Russell was about to leave for school. "Wear my band. When people ask you what it's about, tell them. It's for organ donation."

But hardly anyone — in the QB-competition obsessed media, anyway — bothered to ask. Regardless, JaMarcus kept it on as LSU traveled to Arizona State. On the first drive, ESPN aired a close-up of JaMarcus checking his play-call armband; beneath it shined a fluorescent gesture of compassion and respect.

Ray — hosting eight friends — excused himself from the living room.

"I'm a big sissy, man," Ray said, cracking up. "I didn't get teary-eyed but I got emotional. After everybody had left, the party was over and I was cleaning up the cups, it hit me, man. I cried."

When told that story, JaMarcus' normally steady voice turned soft.

"It's motivation to me," he said. "The more I do on the field, the more people are going to see this (band) and know it's not a joke.

JaMarcus tugs at the band, snapping it against his skin.

"I haven't taken it off since I got it," he said. "I put it on upside-down. It's still upside-down, now. I won't even take it off to change it. If it breaks or tears I got new ones to put on. This is my way of showing him I love him."

•••••••

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# LSU defense seeks to thwart Leak

**FINNEY,** *from C-6*

19-7 upset over an LSU team that came in ranked No. 6.

For the two coaches, the fallout was as different as the two final scores.

A week after fans tore down the goal posts, the Tigers lost to Ole Miss and failed to contend for the SEC championship during DiNardo's last three seasons.

A week after losing to Florida, Saban's Tigers ran the table, won eight in a row to finish 13-1 and capture a national championship.

So much for recent history.

Question of the moment: What will the Florida Gators mean to Les Miles?

And, while we're at it, what will LSU mean to Urban Meyer?

For these two rookie SEC coaches, facing one another at Tiger Stadium on Saturday, you resurrect the old cliché: a must victory.

It wasn't long after Miles' Tigers let a 21-0 halftime lead against Tennessee evaporate that Meyer's Gators had their heads handed to them by Alabama, a crushing 31-3 whipping that turned Gatorland upside down.

The two scores triggered a bundle of questions from both camps that may be answered Saturday, keeping in mind another loss virtually will knock the loser out of a shot to win its division (LSU in the West, Florida in the East) in the race for the conference title.

LSU fans want to know: Can a Tigers' defense that performed effectively against two overmatched foes, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt, do half as well as Bama did against the Gators' spread-option offense?

From Florida comes a question in two parts: Can the spread option that worked wonders for Meyer at Bowling Green and Utah, and landed him a $2 million annual salary in Gainesville, pay dividends against upper-echelon SEC defenses? Also, is Leak the kind of quarterback to handle Meyer's offense?

A natural dropback passer, Leak has been battling the intricacies of an attack best suited to an option QB. However, until the debacle in Tuscaloosa, his athletic ability managed to overcome many of the negatives.

Bama pressured Leak, sometimes with a three-man rush, and punished him throughout a game that turned into a mismatch. "Chris," said Meyer, "was running for his life."

One statistic that has Gators fans worried: Against the Vols and Crimson Tide, the spread option produced one touchdown and 19 points.

After a 35-9 beating of Mississippi State, Meyer said, "I thought we'd be much further along. I think Chris is an excellent college quarterback, but we'd like to do some more things. We've had a lot of other breakdowns than the quarterback. It's not fair to slap it all on Chris."

Meyer can only hope his junior quarterback will have the kind of game he produced as a freshman at Tiger Stadium, the day Leak took charge after the Tigers grabbed a quick 7-0 lead on a punt return by Skyler Green.

So what is Les Miles' wish?

It would probably go like this.

From sophomore JaMarcus Russell, the kind of performance he had as a freshman in the Capital One Bowl, when he went 12-of-15 with two TDs against Iowa.

From senior defensive tackles Claude Wroten and Kyle Williams, it is the simple message of "punish the quarterback before he punishes us."

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COLLEGES

# Gators' coach downcast

**Jim Kleinpeter**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — LSU coach Les Miles and his counterpart at Florida, Urban Meyer, know about short honeymoons.

Both first-year coaches have been criticized early in the season. The griping started in the first game for Miles, who was sure to spend his first year in the shadow of his predecessor, Nick Saban.

For Meyer, who rode into Gainesville, Fla., on a tidal wave of hype, reality set in last week. The first boos of his new regime came Saturday as Florida struggled to a 3-3 tie with Mississippi State in the second quarter. The Gators eventually prevailed by a more acceptable score of 35-9 against the undermanned Bulldogs. However, fans who welcomed Meyer from Utah as an offensive genius with his spread-option attack want to know where's the much-anticipated juggernaut?

Some of it is fans being fans. After all, the Gators are 5-1 and ranked No. 11 as they prepare to meet LSU in Tiger Stadium on Saturday. Florida leads the SEC in pass offense (258.2 yards per game), in which it is 29th in the nation, and is averaging 412 yards total offense.

But the offense has sputtered against the SEC's elite. The Gators were embarrassed by Alabama 31-3 and scored one touchdown against Tennessee in a 16-7 victory. Florida needed two safeties and a blocked punt for a touchdown to help put weak Mississippi State away.

There are obvious explanations. The Gators still have talented front-line players, but depth is wafer-thin, and injuries have hit hard on offense. And history suggests that Meyer's complex processes take time to learn. Yardage and point averages increase significantly in the second year of implementation of the attack, which blends elements of option running with a spread-out passing game.

But, even given that, Meyer is disappointed.

"I thought we'd be much further along in our offense," he said. "I thought we would have identified a tailback so we can jump on his back and go play a little bit. I thought by now we'd have four or five legit playmakers at wide receiver.

"The injury to (wide receiver) Andre Caldwell set us back because he was really coming along. It's frustrating for our players and for me. Whenever you start taking players out of the lineup, you're going to hurt. That has set us back a little."

When offenses fail, the quarterback gets the first finger point. Chris Leak isn't particularly suited to the option part of the attack. He's more of a drop-back passer who is mobile but not a particularly good runner. Making matters worse, he went the whole week before the Mississippi State game without throwing in practice because he reinjured his shoulder against Alabama. He needed a cortisone shot to play last week.

Leak hasn't gotten much help. The offensive line has been horrendous, allowing 20 sacks. Tailback DeShawn Wynn has been slowed by a shoulder injury, but poor play by backups forced him into the lineup last week. Jemalle Cornelius' bad ankle has reduced the receiving corps to two capable bodies, Dallas Baker and Chad Jackson, who leads the SEC in receptions and yards.

Last week, Leak threw an interception on the first play of the game and had 65 passing yards at halftime. He left the game for six plays with his arm hanging at his side, but returned to go 11-of-17 for 180 yards and one touchdown in the second half.

"Obviously, it's tough for him to throw with two or three guys in his face," said Florida center Mike Degory.

Between the injuries and the first year of the system, Meyer said he has had to pare down the playbook.

"It's not the spread offense right now," he said. "I think what we've done is squeeze it down because that's how we beat Tennessee — play great defense, play great field position."

SAINTS/NFL

# Saints ready to showcase Plan B

## *Smith, Stecker set to fill in for McAllister*

**By Mike Triplett**
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — Although they already had a capable backup in Aaron Stecker, the Saints targeted veteran tailback Antowain Smith in free agency for a specific reason.

The 6-foot-2, 232-pound straight-ahead runner has a similar build and style to starter Deuce McAllister. The way the Saints figured it, if Smith had to come in, they could continue to operate the same power running game they have built the offense around.

Unfortunately for the Saints, McAllister went down for the season last Sunday in Green Bay, but they hope planning ahead pays off.

"It was one of their pitches (during free agent visits). The same kind of big guy, the same hard-nosed runner," said Smith, who was asked if he feels like the offense will continue without much of a dropoff. "We have no choice. We've got to make it go."

The Saints probably will add more of a wrinkle to their offensive game plan with Stecker expected to see more playing time, too. Stecker (5-10, 213) is a more elusive back who can get around the corner and catch passes out of the backfield.

At the very least, the Atlanta Falcons should have some difficulty trying to plan for both running styles.

Smith, 33, said he won't mind if he's limited to 10 or 15 carries, as long as he's getting his job done.

Smith said it's an advantage for a featured tailback to get 20 carries or more in a game, but he said he won't be demanding such a workload.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Saints running back Antowain Smith (32) no longer worries about whether he'll get 20 or 25 carries in a football game. Instead, he's just happy to contribute, saying, 'Oh, no, no, no. I did that when I was younger. I'm old now.'

"Oh, no, no, no. I did that when I was younger. I'm old now," Smith said with a wide smile. "I have no problem with sharing the wealth now."

Smith, who became a full-time backup for the first time in his career last year in Tennessee, said he still feels he has plenty left. But he also is satisfied with his career accomplishments, having gained 6,295 career rushing yards with two 1,100-yard seasons in Buffalo and New England and two Super Bowl rings with the Patriots.

"I've been a starting running back in the league most of my career," Smith said. "I've had 1,000-yard seasons. I've won two Super Bowls. What more can you ask for?"

Maybe another 1,000-yard season and another trip to the playoffs? The Saints sure wouldn't mind.

"He's a guy that loves football. He's conscientious about it," Saints coach Jim Haslett said after rattling off Smith's résumé. "Maybe not as fast as he used to be, but he's a big man."

**INJURY UPDATE:** Saints receiver Joe Horn (hamstring) practiced for the second straight day, but he remains questionable after missing the past two games. Haslett said Horn is not at 100 percent yet. Horn has been insisting that he plans to play.

Saints defensive end Darren Howard (knee) has not practiced yet this week and remains questionable. Howard's knee has bothered him for years, flaring up on occasion, but it's been more about dealing with pain and discomfort than risking long-term damage. He saw a doctor about the knee Thursday.

Also not practicing for the Saints were offensive tackle Jammal Brown (ankle), linebackers James Allen (hamstring), T.J. Slaughter (groin) and Terrence Melton (ankle) and safety Mel Mitchell (hamstring). All are listed as questionable, but only Brown and Melton seem to have a realistic shot of playing.

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (knee) also practiced for the second straight day and is expected to start against the Saints. Haslett said that's what his team is planning on: "We prepare for Vick," Haslett said. "We'll deal with (backup Matt) Schaub if he plays."

**SOLD OUT:** The Saints announced Thursday that they sold all 65,000 tickets for Sunday's game, the second of three being played at the Alamodome this season. When tickets went on sale last month, the Falcons game immediately was the top seller, largely due to the appeal of Vick.

**A POOR MAN'S VICK:** Saints rookie quarterback Adrian McPherson earned some comparisons to the speedy and strong-armed Falcons quarterback when the Saints drafted him in the fifth round this year. And this week, he has been able to put those similarities to good use. McPherson has been acting as Vick in the scout-team offense.

McPherson said it's been fun and exciting because he normally plays receiver on the scout-team offense, while Todd Bouman serves as the opposing quarterback. McPherson also hopes it's a chance to impress the coaches and improve as a player.

Haslett said McPherson did impress him, and he told the quarterback so after Wednesday's practice.

**DUNN CAN RELATE:** Falcons tailback Warrick Dunn was affected as much by Hurricane Katrina as any NFL player. The Baton Rouge native said he has family members who lost everything in New Orleans and that he still has 25 people living in his house in Baton Rouge. Dunn has been one of the most proactive professional athletes in the Gulf Coast relief effort, challenging all professional athletes to give what they can.

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# State may reduce its payment to Saints

## *With team elsewhere, contract issues remain*

**By Ed Anderson**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — The $15 million state payment due to the New Orleans Saints in July could be reduced because the team will not be able to play its games in the Hurricane Katrina-wrecked Superdome this season, officials said Thursday.

"It will be between $3.3 million and $15 million," Superdome attorney Larry Roedel said.

Roedel and Superdome Commission chairman Tim Coulon said no decision has been made on how much the payment will be.

Roedel said based on language in the contract, the state could pay a pro-rated portion of the $15 million next year, two-ninths of the games that are supposed to be played in the Dome, or about $3.3 million.

Coulon said there are conflicting provisions in the contract that will have to be resolved in negotiations with Benson and the Saints. "The Dome is not available for use for anyone," Coulon said.

Roedel said that there are provisions in the contract that deal with forces of nature preventing games from being played, relocation expenses and other major items that have to be resolved.

Saints attorney Phil Wittmann said that the team can decide by Nov. 29 — 90 days after Katrina struck — to terminate its lease with the state. He said he has not spoken to Benson about that option but expects to do so in the days ahead.

"All of our talks have been geared toward getting four home games played in Tiger Stadium and three in the Alamodome," he said.

"We have not decided on whether to play in the (Superdome) next year or not," Wittmann said. "We want to wait to hear what our engineers tell us" about the soundness of the facility. The Dome lost a protective covering on its roof and was home to at least 20,000 evacuees in the days after Katrina.

The state's contract with the calls for payments of $186.5 million over 10 years with the amounts escalating from $12.5 million in 2002 to $23.5 million in 2011. The state has had trouble making the $15 million payments in the past two years and has either issued notes or borrowed the money from the state Department of Economic Development.

Roedel said the contract calls for the Saints to play at least nine games in the Superdome. But because of damage to the stadium and the Saints' training facility in Metairie, owner Tom Benson has shifted the team's base of operations to San Antonio.

The Saints will use LSU's Tiger Stadium for four home games and the San Antonio Alamodome for two other home games. They also played their Oct. 2 home game against Buffalo in the Alamodome. The only games the team played in the Superdome were two preseason games.

State officials estimate the cost to repair the stadium could be $400 million to $500 million.

Neither Coulon nor Roedel would estimate how much money the state may owe the New Orleans Hornets of the National Basketball Association because they are playing most of their home games in Oklahoma City this year because of Katrina damage to the New Orleans Arena.

Coulon said the state has signed a $5 million contract to get the Dome cleaned up from the storm and evacuees' damage and another $2 million contract to get a temporary roof on the stadium. Work on both projects should, start next week, he said.

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# Falcons aiming to stay winners

**SAINTS,** *from C-6*

For Mora, last season's 11-5 record, NFC South championship and trip to the NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles provided a glimpse into the team's future.

But, to run with the more successful teams on a consistent basis, the Falcons must first walk tall.

"I didn't feel that we had great success last year," said Mora, who inherited a team that finished 5-11 in 2003 under Reeves and interim coach Wade Phillips. "I feel like we had a great year. But I don't want our standard to be winning 11 games and getting to the NFC championship game. I want our standard to be winning the Super Bowl.

"I can tell you this: At no point during the season did we ever sit back and say, 'Wow! We're sure doing good.' Nor at the end of the year did we sit back and say, 'We had a hell of a year.' We fell short of our goal. That's what I want it to be around here. I don't want us to celebrate being second best or third best or fourth best. I don't think you need to do that. That's the wrong thing to do."

Mora, 43, prides himself on doing things the right way, a philosophy adopted from working with many of the game's most respected coaches and executives, such as Bill Walsh, Don Coryell, Steve Mariucci, Bobby Beathard, Jim Finks, Ernie Zampese, and, of course, his father, the longtime Saints and Indianapolis Colts coach.

The younger Mora wasted little time making his presence felt, becoming just the 11th coach to win a division title since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970.

"Jimmy's done a good job with that team," Saints coach and longtime friend Jim Haslett said. "He's got a lot of ideas and has good football instincts. Being the son of a football coach for all those years kind of rubs off on you."

"The players love him," Falcons running back and Baton Rouge-native Warrick Dunn said. "He's young, energetic. He gets in your face. He's a guy who can challenge you, but do it in the right way. Guys respect that. You have to take chances to play well and to win games. He thinks like us. So when you see that, you kind of respect that and you want to go out and play for him."

Said Mora: "I think the players believe that I'm in the boat with them, and whatever I ask them to do, I'm going to demand of myself and my coaches. My dad was that way."

With help from team owner Arthur Blank and General Manager Rich McKay, Mora wants to prove that the Falcons are not a one-hit wonder.

"We were disappointed that we didn't win in Philadelphia," Blank said, "but our resolve could not be any stronger or determined than it is. I've said many times that I will not rest until I have the opportunity to wear a Super Bowl ring on behalf of our fans, and I know that Rich McKay, Jim Mora and all of our players, coaches and staff feel the same way.

"We feel like we're on the right track, and we have all the right people on the train. This train has left the station and there's no turning back."

Mora, too, believes the right people are on board.

"We got rid of some guys who really didn't fit into what we wanted to accomplish," Mora said. "We wanted to lay the groundwork and do the things that we think are right to build a winning program. We've got the support of our owner and GM and an organization that is committed to winning. Plus, we've got guys like Mike Vick, Warrick Dunn, Alge Crumpler, Patrick Kerney and Keith Brooking. We've got a good base of high character players that we can build upon."

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# St. Louis releases Hawthorne

**From wire reports**

Safety Michael Hawthorne, who lost his starting job in last week's loss to the Seahawks, was released by the St. Louis Rams.

Hawthorne, signed to a free-agent contract in the offseason, started the first five games at free safety. Mike Furrey replaced him in the second quarter of a 37-31 loss to Seattle and tied for the team lead with a career-high nine tackles, including seven solo.

In recent weeks, Rams coaches have been critical of the lack of discipline at the safety position, and Hawthorne was out of position on several plays last week. The overall defense has struggled, allowing 81 points the past two games.

Hawthorne, who is in his sixth year from Purdue, played with the Saints from 2000-02 and the past two seasons with the Green Bay Packers.

**GIANTS' PETERSON OUT:** New York Giants cornerback William Peterson is expected to miss a minimum of four to six weeks with a lower back injury.

Peterson, who is in his fifth year in the NFL, missed the Giants' 44-24 win over St. Louis on Oct. 2 after experiencing pain in his lower back and has not practiced since. The Giants had a bye last week.

Peterson has been examined in the past week and a half by Dr. Frank Cammisa, the Giants' spine specialist, and a second spine specialist in California, Dr. Robert Watkins.

Peterson, who missed 11 games in 2003 with a stress fracture in his lower back, said he initially noticed the pain in a game against the Saints on Sept. 19.

**STEELERS DUO HURT:** Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and receiver Hines Ward missed practice for the second consecutive day. Roethlisberger hyperextended his left knee in Monday's 24-22 victory at San Diego, and Ward has a nagging hamstring injury.

**TAYLOR MISSES PRACTICE:** Jaguars running back Fred Taylor missed part of practice with a sprained right ankle and was downgraded to questionable for Sunday's game at Pittsburgh.

Taylor injured his ankle late in last week's victory over Cincinnati. He ran 24 times for a season-high 132 yards, but sat out the final series after turning his ankle on a 2-yard run with about four minutes to play.

Taylor, who has 105 carries for 401 yards and one touchdown, missed the final two games last year after tearing ligaments in his left knee.

**DAVIS BACK, FOSTER AILING:** Carolina Panthers running back Stephen Davis and fullback Brad Hoover returned to practice, while backup rusher DeShaun Foster missed his second day because of a sprained knee.

Both Davis and Hoover remained questionable on the injury report, and coach John Fox was noncommittal about his starting backfield's status for Sunday's game at Detroit.

Foster, also questionable for the Lions game, has 373 total yards from scrimmage, second on the Panthers to wide receiver Steve Smith.

Running back Rod Smart, the team's k ick returner, also is doubtful for Sunday's game.

**BILLS' VILLARRIAL RETURNS:** Chris Villarrial returned to practice after spending Sunday night in the hospital because of an intestinal disorder that doubled him over in pain and limited his breathing, forcing him to miss Buffalo's 20-14 victory over Miami.

Without divulging the exact nature of the condition, Villarrial said he is taking medication and expects to play when the Bills host the New York Jets on Sunday.

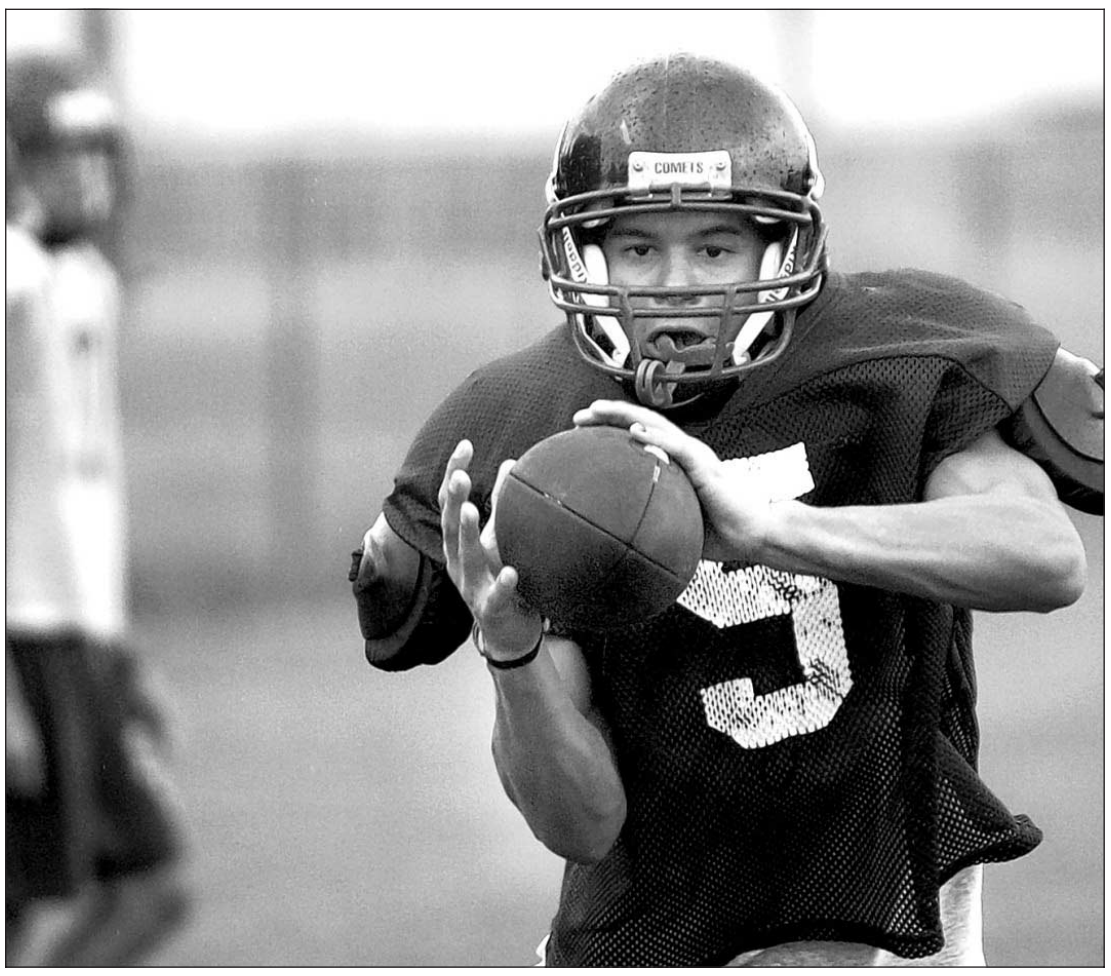
Listed as probable on Buffalo's injury report, Villarrial was released from the hospital Monday and held out of practice as a precaution Wednesday.

**FREENEY TOO TIGHT:** Indianapolis Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney left practice early after having difficulty loosening up. Freeney walked off the field carrying an ice pack, but Coach Tony Dungy said Freeney was not expected to miss Monday night's game against St. Louis.

# Robottom's Burden lessened

## *He has helped lead St. Charles to 5-0 record*

**By Lori Lyons**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

In five games this season, St. Charles' Casey Robottom has caught 24 passes for 398 yards and six touchdowns and returned two punts and two kickoffs for touchdowns.

Heading into this football season, the burden was heavy on St. Charles Catholic wide receiver Casey Robottom.

The Comets, last year's District 10-3A champions, were heading into new territory — a new classification and district — without much of what made them so successful last season. Gone was running back Tyrell Fenroy, who had rushed for more than 2,000 yards. Gone was quarterback Jesse Martin, who had passed for more than 1,700 yards. And coming was 19-time state champion John Curtis, forced down from Class 4A to 2A and into the same district with the Comets. The two will meet tonight in a District 9-2A showdown.

But the Comets were returning Robottom, a 5-foot-11 senior who caught 34 passes for 696 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. Much of his team's expectations for success had been placed firmly on his shoulders.

"I did feel it, actually," Robottom said. "With Tyrell (Fenroy) gone, I knew I'd have to step up my game."

But thanks to Hurricane Katrina, Robottom's burden has been lightened ever so slightly. After the storm shut down virtually every school in Jefferson and Orleans, St. Charles — the lone Catholic high school in the River Parishes — received an influx of more than 100 students. The football team got about 18 players. Some have left. But one who stayed is running back Chris Jones, formerly of Rummel. He rushed for 144 yards and three touchdowns last week and has helped take some of the heat off Robottom.

"It has helped take some of the pressure off," Robottom said. "Having (Jones) play well has opened up the passing game a little. I think it's made us a better team. We have more weapons."

Coach Frank Monica agrees.

"It's definitely helped us," Monica said. "With Chris' running, Casey doesn't have to win the game. (Quarterback) Phillip Sutton doesn't have to win the game. Chris doesn't have to win the game. We can spread it all around."

But more often than not, when the Comets win, it involves Robottom, who was all-district in football, baseball and basketball last year. In five games this season, he has caught 24 passes for 398 yards and six touchdowns, his longest a 55-yard catch. He also has returned two punts and two kickoffs for touchdowns.

"He's the best I've ever coached on the high-school level or the college level," Monica said. "He's made catches that are just unbelievable. But, to our fans who have watched him, it's routine. It's just Casey. He's really, really good when the ball is in the air. He plays a lot taller than he is."

But Robottom said his favorite thing is to return kicks. He returned two — one for 98 yards — for touchdowns against Pine.

"It's just you against the other team," he said.

Robottom and the rest of the Comets are hoping for their best game tonight when Curtis comes to town. The Patriots have played only two games this season, losing to East St. John 16-6 and defeating Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Choctawhatchee High 27-21. Many of the Patriots who had scattered to other schools have since returned.

"If they have a weakness, it's got to be in the tuba section," Monica joked. "They have no weaknesses. They're not fancy. They've been running the same thing for years, and you know what they're going to do. You just have to try to stop it."

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# CAPSULES

**Hahnville (4-1, 0-1) at West Jefferson (2-0, 1-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m., at Memtsas Stadium.
**Last week:** East St. John defeated Hahnville 35-20. West Jefferson defeated Assumption 39-36.
**Last season:** Hahnville defeated West Jefferson 24-21 in the regional round of the Class 5A state playoffs.
**Notes:** District 5-5A game. West Jeff defenders insured last week's victory when defensive end Derandus Frye's pass rush resulted in defensive back Joshua Smith's interception on a fourth-and-seven play from the West Jeff 29-yard line with 1:55 remaining. Senior fullback Kevin Grant rushed for 226 yards and three touchdowns on 22 carries. Sophomore Edward Robinson is averaging 127.5 rushing yards and 14.2 yards a carry with a team-leading four touchdowns.

**Ehret (1-1, 0-1) at East St. John (3-1, 1-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** East St. John defeated Hahnville 35-20. Destrehan defeated Ehret 21-14.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 5-5A game. Ehret is trying to avoid an 0-2 start in district, and is still starting six players two ways and facing one of the state's deepest teams. Plus, the Patriots have lost linebacker Brandon Washington, who had to return to the Houston area to assist his mother, Ehret coach Billy North said. Ehret's Chris Mitchell had 11 tackles playing safety in addition to playing every snap at quarterback last week. East St. John's Johnny Owen, a relocated Brother Martin student, rushed for 254 yards and three touchdowns on 25 carries against Hahnville, and the Wildcats piled up 471 total yards.

**Higgins (1-1) at Bogalusa (0-3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Higgins defeated Cox 22-0. Bogalusa lost to Independence 30-0.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Higgins welcomes starting tailback Joshua Brumfield back this week from storm evacuation. Brumfield's return will allow two-way standout Michael Roussel to be used as a wingback and receiver in addition to safety. The Hurricanes are averaging 244.5 rushing yards and 5.9 yards per carry. Corey McCann is averaging 103 rushing yards and 5.7 per carry. Bogalusa has been outscored 70-0 by Independence and Amite, two of Class 3A's top-ranked teams. All three of Bogalusa's losses have been in District 9-3A play.

**Cox (0-1) at Vandebilt (2-3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Cox lost to Higgins 22-0. Vandebilt lost to Holy Cross 27-20.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 8-4A game. Cox expects to have top running back Eddie Lacey and defensive end John Weber back from hurricane evacuation. Quarterback Rudy Chattman is expected back next week, a move that will allow Edward Scott to return to receiver. The host Terriers lost to Holy Cross via an 85-yard fumble return for a touchdown in the closing minutes. Vandebilt was attempting a game-winning 25-yard field-goal attempt on the play.

**Salmen (0-2) vs. East Jefferson (1-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m., at Joe Yenni Stadium.
**Last week:** Salmen lost to Lutcher 44-21. East Jefferson defeated Grace King 34-14.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Salmen quarterback Danny Zimmerman was slated to be the starting start quarterback for Jesuit this season. Warriors quarterback Jaeson Hoffman started his season in grand style, completing six of eight passes for 100 yards.

**Destrehan (5-0, 1-0) at Assumption (2-3, 0-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Destrehan defeated Ehret 21-14. Assumption lost to West Jefferson 39-36.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 5-5A game. These teams last played in 1994; Destrehan won 27-13. Assumption receiver Carl Francis caught five passes for 86 yards and three touchdowns and had 16 carries for 74 yards and another touchdown last week. Destrehan rushed for 206 yards last week, led by Raynor Derkins' 114 yards on 23 carries.

**Holy Cross (1-1) at Lutcher (2-3)**
**Time:** 7 p.m
**Last week:** Holy Cross defeated Vandebilt 27-20. Lutcher defeated Salmen 44-21.
**Last season:** Did not play
**Notes:** Non-district game. Holy Cross got its game-winning touchdown on an 85-yard fumble return by Phillip LeBlanc. Vandebilt was attempting a 25-yard field goal when the holder missed the snap. The Tigers were outgained 282 yards to 164 and were held to seven yards rushing. Lutcher got two touchdown passes last week from David Gautier, a transfer from West St. John.

**John Curtis (1-1, 0-0) at St. Charles (5-0, 1-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Curtis defeated Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Choctawhatchee 27-21. St. Charles defeated Donaldsonville 37-6.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 10-2A game. St. Charles has outscored its opponents 185-32. Last week, Chris Jones rushed for 144 yards and three touchdowns as the Comets defeated previously unbeaten Donaldsonville. St. Charles held the Tigers to 88 yards.

**Riverside (4-1, 1-0) at Donaldsonville (4-1, 0-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Riverside defeated St. James 29-19. Donaldsonville lost to St. Charles 37-6.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 10-2A game. Riverside rushed for 214 yards last week, led by Jarid Caesar's 185 yards and three touchdowns. But the Rebels had zero passing yards. The Riverside defense held St. James to 175 yards. Donaldsonville was held to 88 yards. Quentin Foster scored the Tigers' lone touchdown on a 46-yard fumble return.

**West St. John (1-4, 1-0) at St. John (4-1, 1-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** West St. John defeated White Castle 44-2. St. John defeated North Iberville 68-26.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** District 9-1A game. West St. John got its first victory of the season by gaining 289 yards. Rams quarterback Olajuwon Hall threw for two touchdowns, and Jaron Howard rushed for 133 yards. St. John wingback Chase Blanchard ran for three touchdowns and caught another to finish with 283 all-purpose yards. He also was voted homecoming king.
SATURDAY'S GAMES

**Rummel (0-0) vs. King (0-1)**
**Time:** 7 p.m., at Joe Yennis Stadium
**Last week:** King lost to East Jefferson 34-14. Rummel did not play.
**Last season:** Rummel won 28-0.
**Notes:** Non-district game. Marvin Jackson is the Raiders' lone tailback. King had three turnovers in the loss to East Jeff.

**Ridgewood (1-0) at St. Martin's (0-0)**
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Last week:** Ridgewood defeated Riverdale 32-8. St. Martin's did not play.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** The Saints have a roster of about 30 players, which is minus eight starters, including kicker Ben Bologna, running back-defensive back Aaron Hyatt and lineman-linebacker Michael Gieger, who are attending Baton Rouge-Episcopal. Ridgewood will welcome the return of running back Lawren Duvernay, who had been in West Virginia. Ridgewood's Daniel Villafranco passed for 114 yards and running back Joseph Corpura rushed for 113 yards last week.

**Crescent City (1-0) at Fisher (0-2)**
**Time:** 2 p.m.
**Last week:** Crescent City defeated Desire Street Academy 50-14. Bonnabel defeated Fisher 20-7.
**Last season:** Did not play.
**Notes:** Non-district game. This game originally was scheduled for tonight, but a malfunction of Fisher's stadium lights during the Bonnabel game necessitated a day game. Quarterback Brad Navero rushed for more than 100 yards and Fisher's lone touchdown. Navero has scored both Gator touchdowns. Crescent City defensive back Ray Jeanfreau had six tackles, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and an interception last week. Running back Andre Bartholomew rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown.

# Players miss game atmosphere

**ST. AUGUSTINE,** *from C-6*

"St. Augustine was almost like your heart and soul, because for some reason it tends to stick with you. Tradition is the main thing at St. Augustine. If you're in New Orleans and you ask people what school they went to, and you're in an adult setting, they don't start telling you the universities they went to, but if they went to St. Aug that's the first thing they are going to say."

This school year, one of the city's most storied athletic programs will be silent. No St. Augustine Marching 100 band at football games. No jam-packed St. Aug gym for Catholic League basketball games. No Purple Knights track team trying to defend its Class 5A state championship.

The track team will be one of the school's tough-luck stories this season. The squad would have been the favorite in the indoor and outdoor state meets.

The Purple Knights returned the nation's top high school 800-meter runner, senior Karjuan Williams. He is enrolled at New Bern High in New Bern, N.C., located about 120 miles southeast of Raleigh.

Williams and several other returning contributors from last year's team would have given the squad a solid nucleus.

"I really think that if we had a chance to run this year, we could win that thing," track coach Darren Dixon said.

Though not much was expected from the Purple Knights' football team, Griffith said he thought the squad would have improved.

St. Augustine entered this season looking to rebound from a 3-6 finish in 2004, and Griffith thought the program was headed in the right direction under Coach Tyrone Payne. The highly touted prospects who failed to jell into a winning team last season had graduated and were replaced by younger, harder workers who were eager to live up to the Purple Knights' winning ways, he said.

"I thought the football team, with a play here or there this season, could have been in pretty good shape," Griffith said.

Instead, the players have moved on; four are playing at Southern Lab.

Chad Jones, one of those players, said he'll miss playing in Tad Gormley Stadium. "A lot of people are going to miss St. Aug," Jones said. "We had a lot of fans come from all over to see us play games."

Griffith also was expecting his basketball program to improve this season. He said the team was on the upswing, returning most of its top players from last season, when it finished 15-14, 3-7 (tied for fourth) in the Catholic League.

Griffith maintained St. Augustine's winning tradition when he took over as coach more than 20 years ago. He won four state championships, one national championship and posted numerous district titles and playoff appearances. He also coached numerous professional basketball players through the years, including Johnson.

"We did things that were meant to be eye-catching," Griffith said. "We had guys go to college and the pros, we won district championships, and we raised the level of play."

This year, all Griffith and St. Augustine are left with is what might have been.

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# INSIDER

**TULANE (2-2, 1-1 in C-USA) VS. UTEP (3-1, 1-1)**

## THE VITALS

**Kickoff:** 7 p.m. at Joe Aillet Stadium in Ruston
**Coaches:**
Tulane's Chris Scelfo (33-42, seventh season); UTEP's Mike Price (11-5, second season)
**TV/Radio:** ESPN/no radio in New Orleans; north shore WJSH-FM (104.7) and Baton Rouge WSKR-AM (1210)

## KEEP AN EYE ON

**TULANE RUNNING BACK JOVON JACKSON:** The brawny senior is expected to start his first game this year, after a sturdy showing in last week's loss to Houston. Jackson has been getting carries in previous games — 11 to Matt Fortè's 21 last week — but hasn't been the featured back. His smashmouth style has been productive at times. Tulane's offensive line has been spotty at holding back defenders for Fortè, who likes to run to the outside. Jackson will face the No. 3 run defense in Conference USA in the Miners, who allow 141.8 yards per game.

## GAMEPLAN

Last week, Tulane had to vastly improve its run game. Now, it's the passing game that needs work. Quarterback Lester Ricard had one of his worst showings against the Cougars, and the Wave expects the junior to get into a rhythm against the UTEP defense. Tulane's defense had its worst game against Houston, but it wasn't all bad; the defense made some key stops, but many were in the first half. The beleaguered Wave must play four quarters of intense football because UTEP has a high-scoring attack that doesn't let up (29.8 points per game, second-best in C-USA).

## KEY MATCHUP

**UTEP'S OFFENSIVE RHYTHM VS. TULANE'S DEFENSIVE RHYTHM:** Who will set the tone? UTEP's offense relies on its potent passing game, which will be hampered with the loss of senior receiver Chris Francies, who has the nation's third-longest string of games with a reception (37) but is out with bruised ribs. UTEP quarterback Jordan Palmer leads a pass offense that averages 298 yards per game, second in the conference. Tulane's defense, anchored by three senior linebackers, has allowed only one score in the first half all season. Tulane's defense has allowed 56 first downs, the fewest allowed among C-USA teams.

## BY THE NUMBERS

7 — Points scored by a Tulane opponent in the first half. 80 — Points scored by a Tulane opponent in the second half. 4 — Home sites for Tulane this season (Shreveport, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Ruston). 48 — Tackles by Wave linebacker Anthony Cannon, a team-high. 1 — Interceptions by a Wave cornerback this year (Jeremy Foreman).

## ODDS AND ENDS

This is the first game that Tulane does not have to travel to play — the Wave is based at Louisiana Tech this semester, where tonight's game will be played. . . . The Miners will be missing their sack leader, senior defensive tackle Chris Mineo, out for the remainder of the regular season with an ankle injury. . . . Tulane defensive end Michael Purcell has started the past two games, combining for seven tackles, a sack and a forced fumble. . . . Wave opponents are 0-for-4 on fourth-down conversions. . . . Tulane is 6-for-10 on fourth-down conversions this season (60 percent) compared to 27-for-73 on third downs (37 percent).

## FROM THE COACH'S MOUTH

"They don't have a weakness on defense. They're great." — UTEP coach Mike Price on Tulane's defense, ranked 12th in the country.
Compiled by Benjamin Hochman

# Miners likely to test Green Wave's defense

**TULANE,** *from C-6*

and led to 21 consecutive points.

"It was definitely a reality check," strong safety Tra Boger said. "It was another reminder that no matter where we're ranked, we just have to go out there and play as best and as hard as we can."

The Wave's defense, Mason said, cannot sit back and think too much about what it failed to do the past two games. He said the defense must use that time concentrating on righting its slide.

"We just have to look forward," Mason said. "Since we don't have any bye weeks, we don't have time to reflect on what's happening. We just have to go to the next game and wipe it from our memories."

But erasing last week's game will not be easy. UTEP's offense is just as potent as Houston's. The Miners rank third in the conference in scoring offense (29.8 points a game) and second in passing (298).

"Of course, we'd like to think it's going to be easier staying focused. But, right now, we're just looking to turn things around," Boger said. "We just have to get back to the basics and play fundamentally sound and let it take care of itself."

What could help Tulane's defense this week, Wave defensive coordinator Eric Schumann said, is UTEP's offensive philosophy is much different from Houston's.

"They do a little trickery, but not like Houston. With Houston, every play is a trick play, and we put such an emphasis on getting a handle on the trickery that it probably hindered (the players)," Schumann said. "The big thing is to get back and play the base defense.

"UTEP has a base offense, and they try to match you up and exploit individuals. They do have some reverses and run a little bit of bootleg, but it's not a half a game of it."

UTEP's passing, led by quarterback Jordan Palmer, gets most of the attention, but it has a running attack that Tulane will have to stop to have a chance to win.

Last week, the Wave gave up 130 yards to Houston's Ryan Gilbert, the No. 2 rusher in C-USA. UTEP's Tyler Ebell, averaging 80.8 yards a game, is third in the conference.

Although the Green Wave allowed 277 rushing yards against Houston, it still is No. 1 in the conference against the run (117.2) and in total defense (275.2). With that in mind, Boger said it lends hope for the defense's return to being a force.

"You're going to have your ups and downs in everything you do," Boger said. "It's how you respond to those down times that really measures your character."

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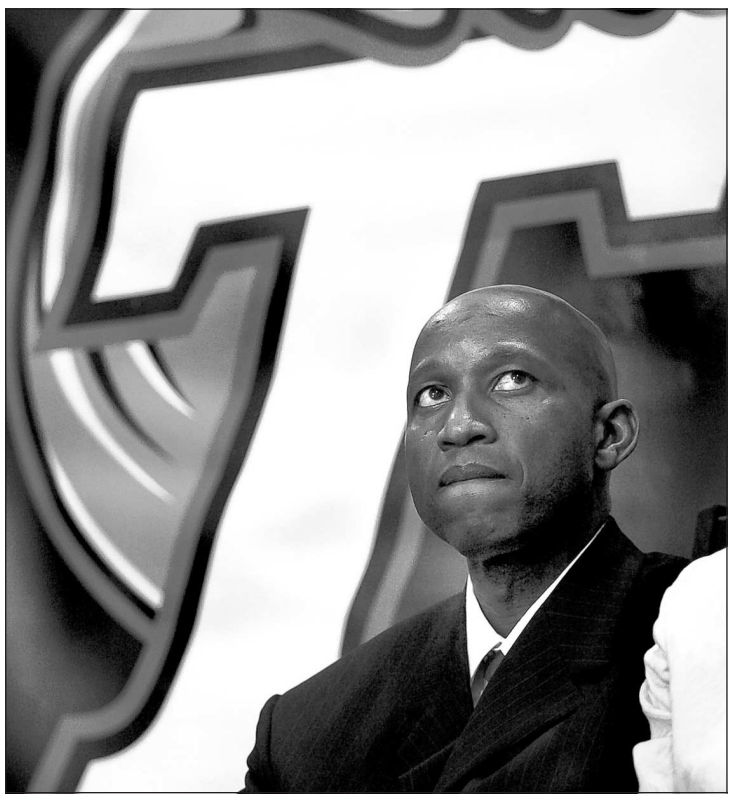

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Dickerson coping with new kind of 'madness'

*Tulane coach says players need practice, not 'sideshow' now*

**By Fred Robinson**
Staff writer



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Tulane men's basketball coach Dave Dickerson said he hasn't lost focus on doing what he was hired to do — rebuild Tulane's basketball program. But he said he's also paying more attention than ever to what his players may really need, someone to talk to.

Just two months ago, Dave Dickerson, Tulane's new men's basketball coach, had visions of Midnight Madness giving the Green Wave's 2005-06 season its first spark of enthusiasm.

"You know, Lefty Driesell is the one who started Midnight Madness at Maryland," Dickerson said of his former coach.

When Tulane officially begins practice Saturday, Dickerson won't have the opportunity to inject Green Wave fans with the same late-night enthusiasm. Dickerson isn't going to find many Tulane fans at Texas A&M in College Station, home for the men's team since Hurricane Katrina.

"That's going to be different for me," Dickerson said. "We're going to celebrate the start of basketball season by having each other to be around.

"We're two weeks behind as far as getting into basketball shape. Practice is what we need right now; we don't need a sideshow."

Not only will the opening of basketball season have a different twist for Dickerson, but the first part of the Green Wave's season will be played before its adopted fans. The team isn't scheduled to return home until the end of the first semester. And for now, that's not a big deal for Tulane's players.

"It's been tough, but we couldn't have been put in a better place," said senior center Quincy Davis. "The hospitality and support here have been unbelievable."

Because of what Dickerson and his players have gone through the past six weeks, it has forced him to look at things a little bit differently.

"The thing that I'm excited about is just being a basketball coach and the anticipation of having a season," Dickerson said.

Dickerson said he hasn't lost focus on doing what he was hired to do — rebuild Tulane's downtrodden basketball program. But he said he's also paying more attention than ever to what his players may really need, someone to talk to.

"I can't describe the personal stories," he said. "I think I talk to them more about life now. You try to make sure as coaches that we know our players as people. You don't want to let anything slip through the crack. The biggest thing is we understand everyone has been affected by this situation."

And when Dickerson asks a player how he's doing, it's no longer just a greeting; it's a sincere question.

"And you listen to how they answer," Dickerson said. "It's important to have frank conversation. We have to be emotionally prepared first, then mentally and physically ready to play basketball."

Tulane's players have much more than basketball on their minds. They have not returned to New Orleans since evacuating Aug. 28, and after getting reports from people who have been back to the city, Davis wonders whether not returning should be an option for the team.

"We've thought about getting back, and we know it's going to be different," Davis said. "From what I've heard, (the city's) dead. Even if the university gets back up and running, it can't survive without the city. I don't think it would be a bad idea to stay here."

Sophomore guard Taylor Rochestie said he can't be too concerned about what's going to happen in a few months.

"I'm just worrying about the first semester," he said. "I'm just fortunate we do have a season and a place to stay. I'd love to get back, but there are so many variables."

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# Green Wave women small in numbers, big on desire

*Stockton's team has 10 players, but no seniors, this season*

**By Benjamin Hochman**
Staff writer

RUSTON — The basketball team has only 10 players.

Three potential starters are out for the year.

And there isn't one senior on the roster.

That's enough to make a coach peruse the 401K.

Then, try moving the team to a campus 866 miles away, missing half of preseason conditioning and, oh yeah, wondering about where some players will live once they return to their tattered homes.

"I've never gone into a season worrying less about wins and losses as I do about maintaining and keeping everybody strong and tough to get through this," said Lisa Stockton, the veteran coach of the women's team at Tulane.

The Wave, 11-16 last season, jetted to Lubbock, Texas, with a gym bag full of uncertainty. After missing three weeks of a six-week conditioning program, the team got back into a routine at Texas Tech, home for the semester and the non-conference season.

"Lubbock is definitely a little boring compared to New Orleans," said junior guard Jami Montagnino, who averaged 7.5 points last year. "But it's a good college-based community that's been supportive of our team.

"When we first got here, we were shorthanded on toiletries, towels, sheets and stuff. They supplied us with all types of gifts and gift cards to go get groceries and clothes, and they said they'd support us during our games. They're making this our second home."

The 10 players share a dorm floor and have bonded since Hurricane Katrina. Forward Alendra Brown, a New Orleans native, said she loses herself when she's with her teammates or on the court, and she looks forward to the official start of practice Saturday.

"It was a disaster, but you really don't realize it until you go to your room and you're like, 'I'm in Lubbock, Texas,' " said Brown, a sophomore from McMain whose family's home had 10 feet of water. "It's still unbelievable. . . . I'm still trying to realize it — 'Oh my God, I'm actually homeless.' "

But there are two positives in the eyes of the coach — the players are closer and the freshmen make up the most mature freshman class Stockton has coached.

Montagnino has been the rock.

"I can't say enough about this kid," Stockton said. "This situation brings out the best in certain people, and she's become more vocal, and her toughness is really contagious. She's one of those players who won't let our team feel sorry for ourselves."

The Wave is without its leader in assist and minutes, D'Aundra Henry, who has been medically redshirted for the season. Two promising post players, Destiny Drew (knee) and Cashmir White (back), have suffered career-ending injuries.

"With only 10 players, we'll use everybody," Stockton said. "Everyone's investing in it, thinking, the team needs me."

Though the schedule is not complete, Tulane is expected to play the majority of its non-conference games at Texas Tech or nearby Lubbock Christian University. Tulane expects to be back on its New Orleans campus in 2006, playing its conference schedule at Fogelman Arena.

"More than likely we will probably lose some games (from our schedule)," Stockton said. "It will be tough for all of our opponents to get there."

Tulane's schedule is expected to be completed by Tuesday, but the team does know the Nov. 23 game against Howard will be in Lubbock. The Wave will play its first Conference USA game at Texas-El Paso on Nov. 25 — the Miners are scheduled to come to Fogelman on Feb. 4. The Nov. 28 game against LSU will be in Baton Rouge. Tulane will travel to Tucson, Ariz., for a tournament Dec. 3-4, and the Dec. 12 home game against Southeastern Louisiana will be pushed into 2006, during C-USA play.

"I just think it's important for our players to keep as much of their season as we can," Stockton said.

The coach and the players are confident about the future — as confident as they can be post-Katrina. The Wave has two commitments for next season. While the team's uniforms and equipment were damaged in the storm, Nike has been very generous. And, because the team doesn't have any seniors, there is not as much of a rush to recruit for immediate impact.

Said Stockton: "The good news is we have no seniors. The bad news is we have no seniors."

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Benjamin Hochman can be reached at bhochman@timespicayune.com.

## SCOREBOARD

### FOOTBALL

#### NFL

**NFC**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 136 | 98 |
| Washington | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 62 | 58 |
| Dallas | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 121 | 98 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 122 | 101 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 89 | 59 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 114 | 88 |
| Carolina | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 127 | 116 |
| **New Orleans** | **2** | **3** | **0** | **.400** | **71** | **139** |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 71 | 75 |
| Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 62 | 59 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 64 | 107 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 124 | 95 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 126 | 107 |
| St. Louis | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 128 | 148 |
| Arizona | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 94 | 134 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 79 | 160 |

**AFC**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 118 | 136 |
| Miami | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 82 | 71 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 68 | 83 |
| N.Y. Jets | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 61 | 85 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 106 | 29 |
| Jacksonville | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 85 | 84 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 103 | 126 |
| Houston | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 | 44 | 99 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 124 | 61 |
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 105 | 59 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 65 | 74 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 47 | 87 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 101 | 87 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 91 |
| San Diego | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 149 | 112 |
| Oakland | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 76 | 89 |

**Sunday's games**

**Atlanta vs. New Orleans at San Antonio, noon**
Carolina at Detroit, noon
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, noon
Minnesota at Chicago, noon
Cincinnati at Tennessee, noon
Cleveland at Baltimore, noon
Miami at Tampa Bay, noon
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, noon
Washington at Kansas City, noon
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 3:15 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
New England at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 7:30 p.m.
Open: Arizona, Philadelphia, Green Bay, San Francisco

**Monday's games**
St. Louis at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

### BASEBALL

#### MLB

**Division series (Best-of-5)**
**American League**
**Chicago won series 3-0**
Chicago 14, Boston 2
Chicago 5, Boston 4
Chicago 5, Boston 3
**Los Angeles won series 3-2**
New York 4, Los Angeles 2
Los Angeles 5, New York 3
Los Angeles 11, New York 7
New York 3, Los Angeles 2
Los Angeles 5, New York 3
**National League**
**St. Louis won series 3-0**
St. Louis 8, San Diego 5
St. Louis 6, San Diego 2
St. Louis 7, San Diego 4
**Houston won series 3-1**
Houston 10, Atlanta 5
Atlanta 7, Houston 1
Houston 7, Atlanta 3
Houston 7, Atlanta 6, 18 innings

**League Championship Series (Best-of-7)**
**American League**
**Tuesday, Oct. 11**
Los Angeles 3, Chicago 2
**Wednesday's game**
Chicago 2, Los Angeles 1, Series tied 1-1
**Today's game**
Chicago (Garland 18-10) at Los Angeles, 7:10 p.m.
**Saturday's game**
Chicago (Garcia 14-8) at Los Angeles, 7:15 p.m.
**Sunday's game**
Chicago at Los Angeles, 7:15 p.m., if necessary
**Tuesday's game**
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:20 p.m., if necessary
**Wednesday, Oct. 19**
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:20 p.m., if necessary
**National League**
**Wednesday's game**
St. Louis 5, Houston 3, St. Louis leads series 1-0
**Thursday's game**
Houston at St. Louis
**Saturday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 3:25 p.m.
**Sunday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 3:35 p.m.
**Monday's game**
St. Louis at Houston, 7:20 p.m., if necessary
**Wednesday, Oct. 19**
Houston at St. Louis, 3:20 p.m., if necessary
**Thursday, Oct. 20**
Houston at St. Louis, 7:20 p.m., if necessary

**Wednesday's late boxes**

**WHITE SOX 2, ANGELS 1**

| Los Angeles | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Figgins cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .143 |
| OCbrra ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .375 |
| VGrrero rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| BMolina dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .143 |
| GAndrsn lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .125 |
| Quinlan 3b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | .333 |
| Erstad 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .286 |
| JMolina c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| DaVnon pr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Paul c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| AKnndy 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .200 |
| **Totals** | **30** | **1** | **5** | **1** | **0** | **4** | |

| Chicago | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Podsednik lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .286 |
| Iguchi 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .167 |
| Dye rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .250 |
| Konerko 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .125 |
| CEverett dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .125 |
| Rowand cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .143 |
| Pierzynski c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .143 |
| Ozuna pr | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Crede 3b | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .375 |
| Uribe ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| **Totals** | **32** | **2** | **7** | **2** | **1** | **9** | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 000 | 010 | 000—1 |
| Chicago | 100 | 000 | 001—2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 3 |
| | 7 | 1 |

**E**—VGuerrero (1), Paul (1), Washburn (1), Uribe (1). **LOB**—Los Angeles 4, Chicago 7. **2B**—OCabrera (1), Rowand (1), Crede 2 (2). **HR**—Quinlan (1), off Buehrle. **RBIs**—Quinlan (1), Dye (1), Crede (2). **SB**—Ozuna (1). **S**—AKennedy, Iguchi. **DP**—Los Angeles 1 (GAnderson and AKennedy); Chicago 2 (Buehrle, Uribe and Konerko), (Uribe, Iguchi and Konerko).

| Los Angeles | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washburn | 4⅓ | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 77 | 0.00 |
| Donnelly | ⅓ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0.00 |
| Shields | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 0.00 |
| KEscbr L,0-1 | 2⅔ | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 39 | 0.00 |

| Chicago | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buehrle W,1-0 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 99 | 1.00 |

**Inherited runners-scored**—Donnelly 3-0. **HBP**—by Washburn (Iguchi), by Buehrle (BMolina). PB—Pierzynski. **T**—2:34. **A**—41,013 (40,615).

**CARDINALS 5, ASTROS 3**

| Houston | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biggio 2b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .000 |
| Taveras cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .000 |
| Berkman lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Ensberg 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Lamb 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| Lane rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .000 |
| AEverett ss | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .500 |
| Ausmus c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .333 |
| Pettitte p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| Burke ph | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Springer p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Astacio p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| JVizcno ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| **Totals** | **31** | **3** | **7** | **3** | **3** | **4** | |

| St. Louis | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | Avg. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eckstein ss | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .500 |
| Edmonds cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| Pujols 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | .333 |
| RSanders lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | .333 |
| LWalker rf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .250 |
| Isrnghsn p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| GrdzInk 2b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .250 |
| YMolina c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 |
| Nunez 3b | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .667 |
| Crpntr p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .000 |
| Taguchi rf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| **Totals** | **28** | **5** | **8** | **5** | **3** | **5** | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 000 | 000 | 201—3 |
| St. Louis | 210 | 020 | 00x—5 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | 0 |
| 8 | 1 |

**E**—Eckstein (1). **LOB**—Houston 6, St. Louis 4. **2B**—Berkman (1), Ensberg (1). **HR**—Burke (1), off Carpenter; RSanders (1), off Pettitte. **RBIs**—Ausmus (1), Burke 2 (2), Eckstein (1), Pujols (1), RSanders 2 (2), Carpenter (1). **S**—Pettitte, Carpenter 2. **SF**—Ausmus. **DP**—Houston 2 (Ensberg, Biggio and Lamb), (Lamb, AEverett and Lamb); St. Louis 1 (Grudzielanek, Eckstein and Pujols).

| Houston | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pettitte L,0-1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 92 | 7.50 |
| Springer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 0.00 |
| Astacio | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 0.00 |

| St. Louis | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crpntr W,1-0 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 96 | 2.25 |
| Isrnghsn S,1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 0.00 |

**T**—2:29. **A**—52,332 (50,345).

### BASKETBALL

#### NBA

**Western Conference**

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Memphis | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Dallas | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| **New Orleans** | **0** | **0** | **.000** | **1** |
| San Antonio | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portland | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Utah | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Denver | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Minnesota | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Seattle | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Clippers | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Golden State | 1 | 1 | .500 | ½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 1 | 1 | .500 | ½ |
| Phoenix | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Sacramento | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 1 | .500 | ½ |
| New York | 0 | 0 | .000 | ½ |
| Boston | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Toronto | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Atlanta | 1 | 1 | .500 | ½ |
| Orlando | 1 | 1 | .500 | ½ |
| Charlotte | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | — |
| Detroit | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Milwaukee | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Indiana | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1½ |
| Chicago | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2 |

**Wednesday's games**
Utah 102, Toronto 101, OT
Philadelphia 100, San Antonio 88
Memphis 86, Chicago 82
Milwaukee 92, Minnesota 89
Houston 84, Orlando 80
Atlanta 109, Charlotte 105
Portland 82, Seattle 75
L.A. Clippers 95, Dallas 80
Golden State 112, L.A. Lakers 81

**Thursday's games**
**New Orleans at Denver**
Milwaukee at Detroit
Washington vs. San Antonio at Salem, N.C.
New Jersey at Charlotte
Utah at Indiana

**Today's games**
Toronto vs. Boston at Manchester, N.H., 6:30 p.m.
Memphis vs. Miami at San Juan, Puerto Rico, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday's games**
**New Orleans vs. Orlando at Tampa, 6 p.m.**
New York vs. New Jersey at Bridgeport, Conn., 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Portland vs. Denver at El Paso, Texas, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 16**
Maccabi Tel Aviv at Toronto, noon
Dallas at New York, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 5 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 8 p.m.

### TENNIS

#### BA-CA TENNIS TROPHY

**ATP**
**Thursday**
**At Wiener Stadthalle**
**Vienna, Austria**
**Purse: $684,300 (Intl. Gold)**
**Surface: Hard-Indoor**
**Singles**
**Second round**
Fernando Gonzalez (6) d. Carlos Moya 6-4, 7-5.
Juan Carlos Ferrero (7) d. Nicolas Lapentti 6-4, 6-4.
Feliciano Lopez (8) d. Olivier Marach 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5.
David Nalbandian (1) d. Rainer Eitzinger 6-1, 7-5.
Jean-Rene Lisnard d. Jurgen Melzer 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Ivan Ljubicic (4) d. Tommy Haas 6-3, 6-4.
**Doubles**
**Quarterfinals**
Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor (1) d. Nicolas Almagro and Tommy Robredo 5-3, 5-1.
Gaston Etlis and Martin Rodriguez (4) d. Agustin Calleri and Fernando Gonzalez 5-2, 5-4 (5).
Cyril Suk and Pavel Vizner (3) d. Nicolas Lapentti and Feliciano Lopez 5-2, 5-1.

#### STOCKHOLM OPEN

**ATP**
**At Kungl. Tennishallen**
**Stockholm, Sweden**
**Purse: $798,200 (Intl. Series)**
**Surface: Hard-Indoor**
**Singles**
**Second round**
Olivier Rochus (5) d. Julien Benneteau 6-4, 6-2.
Paradorn Srichaphan d. Alexander Waske 6-2, 6-3.
James Blake (6) d. Christophe Rochus 6-7 (9), 7-5, 6-2.
Alberto Martin d. Xavier Malisse 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Jonas Bjorkman d. Mario Ancic (4) 7-5, 7-6 (7).
Rainer Schuettler d. Jarkko Nieminen (7) 6-3, 3-0, retired.
**Doubles**
**Quarterfinals**
Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley (2) d. Karol Beck and Robert Lindstedt 5-3, 4-5 (3), 5-1.
Simon Aspelin and Todd Perry (3) d. Ervin Eleskovic and Johan Landsberg 5-3, 2-5, 5-1.

#### KREMLIN CUP

**ATP-WTA**
**At Olympic Stadium**
**Moscow**
**Purse: Men, $1 million (Intl.); Women, $1.3 million (Tier I)**
**Surface: Carpet-Indoor**

**Men**
**Singles**
**Second round**
Dmitry Tursunov, d. Filippo Volandri (8) 6-1, 7-6 (6).
Mikhail Youzhny (3) d. Paul Goldstein 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.
Daniele Bracciali d. Jan Hernych 6-3, 7-6 (6).
Andrei Pavel d. Cyril Saulnier 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-5.
Igor Kunitsyn d. Greg Rusedski (5) 7-6 (5), 6-3.
**Doubles**
**Quarterfinals**
Mahesh Bhupathi and Martin Damm (2) d. Philipp Mukhometov and Evgueni Smirnov 4-5 (4), 5-3, 5-1.
Dominik Hrbaty, and Jaroslav Levinsky (4) d. Nicolas Kiefer and Andrei Pavel 0-5, 5-4 (3), 5-4 (5).
Igor Andreev and Nikolay Davydenko d. Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Razvan Sabau 5-2, 5-1.
Max Mirnyi and Mikhail Youzhny (3) d. Daniele Bracciali and Filippo Volandri 5-2, 5-1.

**Women**
**Singles**
**Second round**
Svetlana Kuznetsova (8) d. Vera Zvonareva 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.
Francesca Schiavone d. Amelie Mauresmo (2) 6-1, 6-1.
Anastasia Myskina (6) d. Kveta Peschke 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.
Dinara Safina d. Samantha Stosur 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Elena Dementieva (4) d. Sesil Karatancheva 6-0, 6-1.
**Doubles**
**Quarterfinals**
Cara Black and Rennae Stubbs (1) d. Eva Birnerova and Andreea Vanc 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
Lisa Raymond and Samantha Stosur (2) d. Emmanuelle Gagliardi and Maria Emilia Salerni 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Vera Douchevina and Dinara Safina d. Mariya Koryttseva and Galina Voskoboeva 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (5).

#### THAILAND OPEN

**WTA**
**At Rama Gardens Hotel**
**Bangkok, Thailand**
**Purse: $200,000 (Tier III)**
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**
**Singles**
**Second round**
Yuan Meng d. Sania Mirza (5) 7-5, retired.
Antonella Serra Zanetti d. Melinda Czink 6-3, 6-3.
Nadia Petrova (1) d. Saori Obata 6-3, 6-2.
Conchita Martinez (6) d. Catalina Castano 6-2, 6-0.
Nicole Vaidisova (2) d. Suchanan Viratprasert 6-3, 6-1.

### GOLF

#### MADRID OPEN

**Thursday's results**
**European PGA at Club de Campo in Madrid, Spain**
**Purse: $1.2 million**
**Yardage: 6,967; Par: 71 (36-35)**
**First Round**

| | |
|---|---|
| Robert Karlsson | 32-31—63 |
| Mark Roe | 32-31—63 |
| Darren Clarke | 32-32—64 |
| Raphael Jacquelin | 31-33—64 |
| Christian Cevaer | 33-33—66 |
| Alastair Forsyth | 33-33—66 |
| Brett Rumford | 33-33—66 |
| Graeme Storm | 33-33—66 |
| Jose-Filipe Lima | 33-33—66 |
| Francois Delamontagne | 35-32—67 |
| Robert-Jan Derksen | 34-33—67 |
| Gary Emerson | 34-33—67 |
| Martin Erlandsson | 34-33—67 |
| Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano | 34-33—67 |
| Anders Hansen | 34-33—67 |
| Maarten Lafeber | 33-34—67 |
| Jose Manuel Lara | 31-36—67 |
| Stuart Little | 33-34—67 |
| Henrik Nystrom | 32-35—67 |
| Jose Maria Olazabal | 33-34—67 |
| **Also** | |
| Paul Lawrie | 34-34—68 |
| Santiago Luna | 35-34—69 |
| Ian Woosnam | 36-33—69 |
| Paul Broadhurst | 36-35—71 |
| Marc Cayeux | 36-35—71 |
| Costantino Rocca | 36-35—71 |
| Colin Montgomerie | 35-37—72 |
| Darren Fichardt | 38-36—74 |
| Sandy Lyle | 36-38—74 |
| Ignacio Garrido | 40-34—74 |
| Seve Ballesteros | 36-41—77 |

### HORSE RACING

#### FAIR GROUNDS

**STAKES SCHEDULE**
Nov. 19 (Sat.) $ 50,000 guar. Gentilly 2YO La. bred 1 mile* (T) Nov. 9
Nov. 20 (Sun.) $ 50,000 guar. Sarah Lane's Oates 2YO La. bred fillies 1 mile* (T) Nov. 9
Nov. 24 (Thur.) $ 75,000 guar. Thanksgiving Breeders' Cup Handicap 3YO/up 6 furlongs Nov. 16
Nov. 26 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Pago Hop 3YO fillies 1 1/16 miles* (T) Nov. 16
Nov. 27 (Sun.) $ 75,000 guar. Woodchopper 3YO 1 1/16 miles* (T) Nov. 16
Dec. 3 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Dr. A.B. Leggio Memorial Breeders' Cup 3YO/up fillies & mares 7 furlongs Nov. 23
15th ANNUAL LOUISIANA CHAMPIONS DAY
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Quarter Horse Juvenile 2YO La. bred QH 350 yards Final:
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Quarter Horse Derby 3YO La. bred QH 400 yards Nov. 1
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Juvenile 2YO La. bred C&G 6 furlongs
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $ 50,000 guar. Starter Handicap 3YO/up La. bred 1 1/16 miles
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Lassie 2YO La. bred fillies 6 furlongs
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Sprint 3YO/up La. bred 6 furlongs
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Turf 3YO/up La. bred 1 1/16 miles* (T)
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Ladies 3YO/up La. bred F&M 1 1/16 miles
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $150,000 guar. Classic 3YO/up La. bred 1 1/8 miles
Dec. 10 (Sat.) $100,000 guar. Quarter Horse Classic 4YO/up La. bred QH 440 yards
Dec. 17 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Furl Sail Handicap 3YO/up fillies & mares 1 mile* (T) Dec. 7
Dec. 18 (Sun.) $ 75,000 guar. Col. E.R. Bradley Handicap 3YO/up 1 1/16 miles* (T) Dec. 7
Dec. 24 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Truly Bound Breeders' Cup Handicap 3YO/up fillies & mares 1 1/16 miles Dec. 14
Dec. 31 (Sat.) $ 40,000 added Louisiana Futurity 2YO La. bred C&G 6 furlongs Closed
Dec. 31 (Sat.) $ 40,000 added Louisiana Futurity 2YO La. bred fillies 6 furlongs Closed
Jan. 1 (Sun.) $ 75,000 guar. Sugar Bowl 3YO 6 furlongs Dec. 21
Jan. 7 (Sat.) $400,000 guar. New Orleans Handicap Gr. II 4YO/up 1 1/8 miles Dec. 24
Jan. 7 (Sat.) $ 50,000 guar. Red Camelia 4YO/up La. bred F&M 1 mile* (T) Dec. 24
Jan. 8 (Sun.) $ 50,000 guar. Dixie Poker Ace 4YO/up La. bred 1 mile* (T) Dec. 24
'ROAD TO THE DERBY' KICKOFF DAY
Jan. 14 (Sat.) $200,000 guar. Risen Star Gr. III 3YO 1 1/16 miles Dec. 31
Jan. 14 (Sat.) $200,000 guar. Silverbulletday Gr. III 3YO fillies 1 1/16 miles Dec. 31
Jan. 14 (Sat.) $200,000 guar. Bayou Breeders' Cup Handicap Gr. III 4YO/up fillies & mares 1 1/16 miles* (T) Dec. 31
Jan. 14 (Sat.) $200,000 guar. Duncan F. Kenner Breeders' Cup 4YO/up 6 furlongs Dec. 31
Jan. 15 (Sun.) $ 75,000 guar. Bedanken 3YO fillies 1 mile* (T) Jan. 4
Jan. 21 (Sat.) $200,000 guar. Fair Grounds Breeders' Cup Handicap 4YO/up 1 1/16 miles* (T) Jan. 11
Jan. 21 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Crescent City Derby 3YO La. bred 1 1/16 miles Jan. 11
Jan. 22 (Sat.) $ 75,000 guar. Black Gold 3YO 1 mile* (T) Jan. 11
Jan. 22 (Sun.) $ 50,000 guar. Battler Star 3YO La. bred fillies 6 furlongs Jan. 11
*approximate distance on turf
**Racing Dates:**
November 2005 (6): 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27
December 2005 (19): 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,28,29,30,31
January 2006 (12): 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,20,21,22

### HOCKEY

#### NHL

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Jersey | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 8 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 18 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 11 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 11 |

**Northeast Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ottawa | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 18 | 9 |
| Montreal | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 15 | 12 |
| Buffalo | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 12 |
| Boston | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 14 |
| Toronto | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 16 |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 8 |
| Carolina | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 12 |
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| Washington | 2 |

# FEMA says cruise ships cheaper than hotels

**SHIPS,** *from C-11*

are cost-effective," said James McIntyre, a FEMA spokesman. "We will not be moving people off the cruise ships and upsetting their normalcy just to fulfill the hotels' request."

In September, FEMA chartered three cruise ships from **Carnival Cruise Line** to be used in the relief efforts. Two of them, the Ecstasy and the Sensation, are docked in New Orleans, and a third, the Holiday, is in Mobile, Ala.

When the cruise ships were first brought under contract, the vessels provided immediate housing with safe water, electricity and sewerage at a time when those services didn't exist on land. But now that hotels have basic services, and there are as many as 9,000 hotel rooms open in Orleans Parish, Perry said there's no reason for emergency workers to continue to stay on the ships.

"It's time for FEMA to start contracting with local businesses," Perry said. "We need those people in the hotels. We feel very, very strongly about this."

FEMA said it was puzzled by the hospitality industry's stance, because the request for the cruise ships came from the city.

"Our understanding from the city was that they wanted to keep as many of the hotel rooms available as possible for the contractors and residents that would be returning and would need lodging," said Coast Guard Cdr. Craig Lloyd, who acted as liaison to the city after Hurricane Katrina. "We're supporting the city on this. The request came from the city for the cruise ships."

FEMA further argued that it was cheaper to house emergency workers on cruise ships than in local hotels. It costs the government an average of $168 per person per day on a cruise ship for lodging, three meals a day and laundry service. By contrast, FEMA said, it costs about $190 per day just for lodging at New Orleans hotels.

The cost of housing relief workers and evacuees — and whether they would be better off in shelters, cruise ships, hotels, trailers or apartments — has generated controversy in recent weeks.

The federal government is paying up to $236 million to charter the ships: $192 million to rent the ships, as well as reimbursement of up to $44 million for port, sewerage and fuel costs. The three ships can house 5,556 people at standard double occupancy, or as many as 7,012 people including berths that are capable of holding three or four passengers. That means that the government is paying about $185 to $233 per person per day, depending on how many people are onboard.

Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu's office said it plans to take the lead in resolving the issue and is working on a letter expressing the hospitality industry's concerns.

•••••••

Rebecca Mowbray can be reached at rmowbray@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3417.

# Fed hints at further increases

**RATES,** *from C-11*

markets, especially the U.S. Treasury securities market, where interest rates have risen, tugging mortgage rates with them.

According to Freddie Mac, the U.S. housing agency that sells guarantees for home loans, this week's 6.03 percent for 30-year mortgages is the second highest level of the year. Thirty-year rates were at 6.04 percent the week of March 31.

This week is also the third time this year mortgage rates have been above 6 percent — an important psychological level. When rates were below 6 percent, they helped spur home buying and refinancings of home loans that allowed Americans to spend their way out of the most recent economic downturn.

# Officials say city is back

**WTC,** *from C-11*

Perry said the convention announcement is one of the first new conventions the visitors bureau has booked since Hurricane Katrina.

"In the past few weeks we haven't been working on the future, but on the present," he said.

Perry said the visitors bureau has reconfirmed about 10 conventions for next year and is working on the details for 32 others. But nearly 30 had to be canceled, he said.

Although the world trade center event will not be among the largest the city welcomes — the Shanghai meeting had about 650 attendees — Perry said it's the mid-sized groups that keep the convention industry busy.

"This is the exact size of meeting New Orleans is famous for. And we're very excited about it," he said.

What's more, he said, the international event "will send a signal across the planet that New Orleans is not only back but thriving," he said.

•••••••

Jaquetta White can be reached at jwhite@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3494.

# Penalty is 2nd-largest fine ever of its kind

**SAMSUNG,** *from C-11*

consumers of the benefit of competitive prices," Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said.

Samsung said the company "strongly supports fair competition and ethical practices and forbids anti-competitive behavior." Spokeswoman Chris Goodhart declined to identify the seven employees or say whether they still worked for Samsung.

Samsung received grand jury subpoenas in connection with the investigation during 2002 and put aside $100 million late last year to pay potential criminal penalties.

Samsung's top competitor, **Hynix** of Seoul, agreed earlier this year to plead guilty to price fixing and pay a $185 million fine. Last September, rival **Infineon Technologies AG** of Germany agreed to a $160 million fine. Another competitor, **Micron Technology Inc.** of Boise, Idaho, has been cooperating with prosecutors and was not expected to face charges.

The government accused the companies of conspiring in e-mails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings to fix prices of memory chips between April 1999 and June 2002. The chips are used in digital recorders, personal computers, printers, video recorders, mobile phones and many other electronics.

The government said the victims of the alleged price fixing were **Dell Inc.**, **Compaq Computer Corp.**, **Hewlett-Packard Co.**, **Apple Computer Inc.**, **International Business Machines Corp.** and **Gateway Inc.**

Barnett said Apple and Dell raised computer prices to compensate, and other companies responded by reducing the amount of memory installed in computers they sold but kept consumer prices the same.

The investigation started in 2002, a year after memory chip prices began to climb even though the high-tech industry was in a tailspin. At the time, the increases were attributed to tight supplies, although then-Dell Computer CEO Michael Dell blamed them on cartel-like behavior by chip makers.

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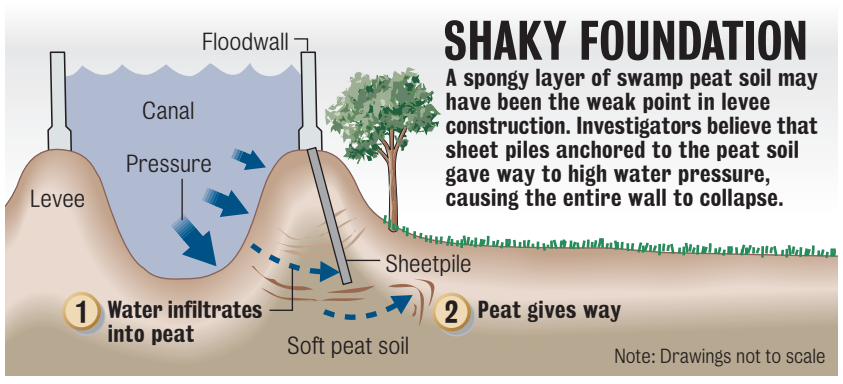
GUESS WHO'S NOT COMING TO DINNER IN N.O. SEE LIVING


# The Times-Picayune

2

50 CENTS 169th year No. 267 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION


# Soft soils under levee sank city




**SHAKY FOUNDATION**
**A spongy layer of swamp peat soil may have been the weak point in levee construction. Investigators believe that sheet piles anchored to the peat soil gave way to high water pressure, causing the entire wall to collapse.**

## *Swamp peat was poor anchor, engineer says*

**By John McQuaid**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Soil tests indicate that a soft, spongy layer of swamp peat underneath the 17th Street Canal floodwall was the weak point that caused soil to move and the wall to breach during Hurricane Katrina, an engineer who has studied the data says.

"The thing that is remarkable here is the very low strength of the soils around the bottom of the sheet pile" base of the floodwall, said Robert Bea, a geotechnical engineer at the University of California, Berkeley, who examined the test results. Bea is a member of the

*See* **FLOODWALL,** *A-11*

# Curfew in N.O. pushed back to 2 a.m.

## *Quarter bar owners cheer extended hours*

**By Brian Thevenot and Lynne Jensen**
Staff writers

Bowing to pleas and protests planned by French Quarter denizens, New Orleans officials appeased them late Friday by extending the city's midnight curfew to 2 a.m.

The new curfew, 2 to 6 a.m., applies only to lesser-damaged areas of the city that have been fully opened to residents since Hurricane Katrina. The open ZIP codes — 70112, 70113, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131 — cover parts of Uptown, the Garden District, the Central Business District, Central City and Algiers. For the rest of the city, the curfew remains 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Tropical Isle club owner Earl Bernhardt said Mayor Ray Nagin answered the pleas of French Quarter bar owners.

"It was a wise decision on his part," Bernhardt said. "That's what a politician is supposed to do: listen to his constituents. Thankfully, he did."

In a written statement, Nagin

*See* **CURFEW,** *A-12*



Lower Plaquemines residents aren't dealing just with flooded homes. They're finding the full fury of Katrina, 'like a bomb went off.'

# NOTHING TO COME HOME TO



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

**By Matthew Brown**
West Bank bureau

After several days sifting through the rubble that was once the Plaquemines Parish fishing community of Buras, Jane Bogart-Smith has found only enough possessions to fill a half-dozen boxes and one plastic barrel.

Raging Mississippi River floodwaters stirred by Hurricane Katrina ripped her house to shreds and scattered her belongings up and down Louisiana 11. A month later, Hurricane Rita breached the weakened levee system and reflooded the lower half of Plaquemines, further jumbling the ruins of Bogart-Smith's home — part of a mess of destruction that stretches nearly 50 miles from Myrtle Grove to Venice, the southernmost tip of the narrow parish that juts far into the Gulf of Mexico.

As the second round of floodwaters slowly dries, many residents of lower Plaquemines finally are

*See* **PLAQUEMINES,** *A-25*

ABOVE, Jane Bogart-Smith of Buras surveys her property from what used to be her garage roof. 'We need a bulldozer,' said Bogart-Smith, 55.
TOP, Fishing boats were tossed alongside Louisiana 11.

# Broussard trying to fire chief of levees

## *He had blasted parish for storm decisions*

**By Kate Moran**
East Jefferson bureau

Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard said Friday he is moving to sack the head of the East Jefferson Levee District, who publicly questioned the Broussard administration's decision to evacuate drainage pump workers as Hurricane Katrina hurtled toward the Gulf Coast.

Broussard sent a letter asking Gov. Kathleen Blanco to remove Patrick Bossetta as levee board president and to install Bobby Bourgeois, one of Broussard's deputy chief administrative assistants, as an interim board member.



**Patrick Bossetta**
Criticizes Broussard: 'The mark of a true leader is admitting his mistake'

The request was the latest sign that the Aug. 28 evacuation of the pump operators has become a political powder keg for Broussard. Bossetta was among the first to go public second-guessing the administration, but other critics have come forward in Kenner, on the Parish Council and especially among the residents whose homes Katrina flooded.

Broussard cited Bossetta's remarks in a written statement disclosing that he had written to

*See* **LEVEE,** *A-15*

# School health coverage revamped

## *Employees not on job face pricey changes*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

New Orleans public school employees who do not return to work will see a dramatic change in their health benefits starting Dec. 1, when their existing coverage becomes a catastrophic insurance plan that requires employees to pay the first $5,000 to $10,000 of medical bills.

Only about 26 of the district's estimated 7,000 employees are now working for the system. Although as many as eight schools are expected to open on the West Bank next month, a board majority voted to charter them last week, removing those schools from their union obligation to rehire district employees. Board Vice President Lourdes Moran, who pushed the chartering effort, said they plan to hire New Orleans teachers, however.

The district also is attempting to reopen up to seven undamaged schools on the east bank in January.

Sajan George, the chief oper-

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *A-15*



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Property manager Tati Mataconis shows a room at the Severn Pointe apartment complex where the damaged, moldy walls have been removed. Yet the apartment renter's belongings remain in the room, hindering the repair process. The managers are unable to contact the renter.

# Landlords say Blanco order worsens housing shortage

## *They can't evict people who aren't returning*

**By Robert Travis Scott and Greg Thomas**
Staff writers

Landlords in the New Orleans area say they have thousands of apartments that could be rented to meet the crying need for housing in the region, but executive orders by Gov. Kathleen Blanco are preventing them from taking the legal steps to free up the space.

The problem has become a hot-button issue in the business community, which is groping for housing options for employees and families willing to move back into the area.

Several apartment managers say they have waiting lists of hundreds of people seeking a place to live.

"Government officials continue to report on the housing shortage while failing to acknowledge the hundreds and hundreds of apartments that stand vacant or in need of repairs, yet remain inaccessible to landlords due to the governor's order," said Suzanne Rouse, a manager at Tonti Management, a Metairie firm.

Blanco spokesman Roderick Hawkins said the governor could amend her executive order or that the state Supreme

*See* **EVICTIONS,** *A-9*

LA. DEATH TOLL FROM HURRICANE KATRINA: **1,035**

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SUNNY, PLEASANT
HIGH 83 LOW 63

# Average Social Security checks to top $1,000

*But higher costs may eat up 4.1% raise*

**By Larry Lipman**
Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Social Security beneficiaries will get a 4.1 percent cost-of-living increase next year, pushing the average monthly check for retirees above $1,000 for the first time.

The increase, worth $39 for the average beneficiary, is the largest since a 5.4 percent jump in December 1990.

The annual adjustment — known as a "COLA" — began in 1975 and is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of one year to the next.

The higher payments to 48 million beneficiaries will show up in January. A similar 4.1 percent increase in Supplementary Security Income benefits to 7 million people will begin Dec. 30.

The announcement of the Social Security COLA comes a month after Medicare announced a $10.30 increase in premiums for next year, a 13 percent increase. By law, the Medicare premium increase cannot be larger than the Social Security increase.

William Novelli, chief executive officer for AARP, the nation's largest organization for people 50 and older, said the unusually high Social Security adjustment normally would be welcome news for beneficiaries, "but this COLA is being eaten up by rising gasoline and heating costs, another double-digit increase in the monthly Medicare Part B premium and escalating health-care bills."

Barbara Kennelly, president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, noted that the average increase for a retired beneficiary will be $39 a month, but retirees who choose the new Medicare prescription drug benefit will see their Medicare payments rise about $43 a month.

Combined with winter heating bills anticipated to be 30 to 50 percent higher than last year, the increased Medicare costs mean many retirees are likely to have less money to spend next year, she said.

"Approximately half of the seniors now receiving Social Security rely on it for most of their income. The COLA is the only raise they'll see, and yet it is already disappearing before their eyes," Kennelly said.

The increase raises the average benefit from $963 to $1,002 a month, and the maximum individual retiree benefit from $1,939 to $2,053.

In addition to the annual cost-of-living adjustment, the Social Security Administration also announced that the cap on wages subject to the 12.4 percent payroll tax — split between workers and employers — would increase from $90,000 this year to $94,200 next year.

Of the nearly 160 million workers who pay Social Security taxes, about 11.3 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the wage cap, it said.

The age for retirement with full Social Security benefits will increase by two months next year.

# Rove before grand jury for final time

*Bush aide at center of CIA leak probe*

**By Pete Yost**
Associated Press writer

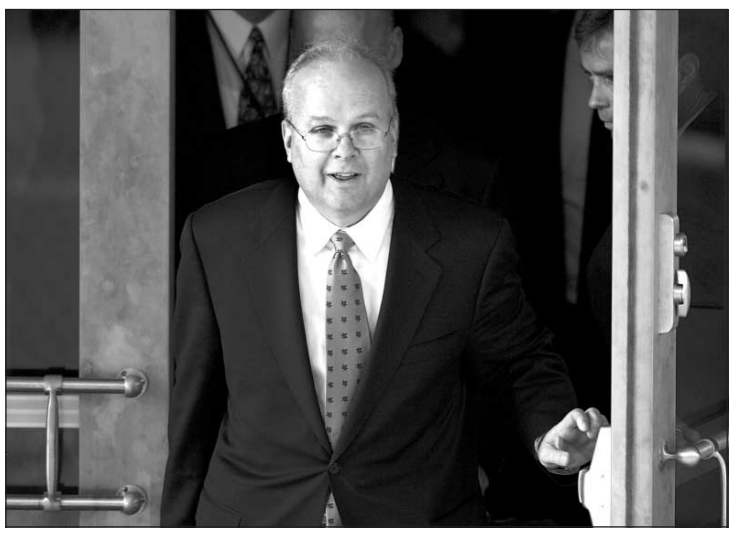
WASHINGTON — Karl Rove testified to a grand jury for the fourth and final time Friday, smiling as he emerged from hours of questioning about his possible role in the leak of a covert CIA officer's identity.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that statements in the summer that Rove retained the president's confidence remained true. However, McClellan declined repeatedly to utter words of confidence outright.

Prosecutors had warned Rove before his latest grand jury appearance that there was no guarantee he would not be indicted. The grand jury's term is due to expire Oct. 28.

"Karl continues to do his duties as deputy chief of staff and senior adviser to the president," McClellan said. "What I said previously still stands."

Rove spent about four and one-half hours inside the federal courthouse, and left without commenting to reporters.



AP PHOTO

Karl Rove, President Bush's top political advisor, leaves U.S. District Court in Washington Friday. Rove testified for the fourth time Friday before the grand jury in the CIA leak probe, following public disclosure of his conversations with two reporters about the identity of a covert officer at the spy agency.

His lawyer, Robert D. Luskin, said Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald "has not advised Mr. Rove that he is a target of the investigation and affirmed that he has made no decision concerning charges. The special counsel has indicated that he does not anticipate the need for Mr. Rove's further cooperation."

Fitzgerald has a variety of options as he weighs whether anyone broke a law that bars the intentional unmasking of a covert CIA officer. Defense lawyers increasingly are concerned Fitzgerald might pursue other charges such as false statements, obstruction of justice or mishandling of classified information.

Until three months ago, the White House had denied that Rove and Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, were involved in leaking the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame in 2003.

The White House denials gave way to "no comments" following revelations in July that Rove and Libby had been sources for Time magazine reporter Matt Cooper in a story that identified Plame, the wife of Bush administration critic and former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson.

New York Times reporter Judith Miller testified twice in recent days about three conversations she had with Libby in June and July 2003 regarding Wilson and Plame.

Cheney on Friday was asked about Libby's earlier grand jury testimony and conversations with Miller.

"I'm simply not at liberty to discuss the issue. I understand you've got to ask those questions, but it is an ongoing investigation and we're under instructions not to discuss the matter," Cheney told Fox News Channel.

McClellan told reporters, "The president made it very clear, we're not going to comment on an ongoing investigation. We're aware of all those things. But we've got a lot of work to do and that's where we're focused."

The exposure of Plame's name came after Wilson publicly criticized the administration, saying it had twisted prewar intelligence on Iraq. The criticism came as the U.S. military engaged in a fruitless search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The existence of such weapons was the primary reason the administration gave to justify going to war.

Eight days after Wilson made his allegations, columnist Robert Novak identified Wilson's wife as a CIA operative, saying she had suggested her husband for a mission to Africa for the agency.

Wilson's trip on behalf of the CIA led ultimately to his conclusion that the administration had manipulated intelligence to exaggerate the Iraqi threat.

Novak said his sources were two senior administration officials. Rove spoke to Novak about Wilson's wife and is apparently one of Novak's sources. The other is still a public mystery. Novak is believed to have cooperated with Fitzgerald's investigation, though he has declined to comment.

# Officials: Census in 2010 in jeopardy

*Cuts by Senate may doom game plan*

**By D'Vera Cohn**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The next census is five years away, but it is already in trouble.

Not the same trouble that dogged the 2000 census, which was plagued by partisan battles over the quality of the door-to-door count and whether the official tally should be statistically adjusted to compensate for people who were missed. Then, congressional Republicans were intent that the Census Bureau had enough money to do the best possible door-to-door count, so sampling would not be needed.

This time, Census Bureau officials have said that sampling would not be practical. Now they are having money trouble. For the second year in a row, the Senate approved an appropriation that Census Bureau officials said is so low they would have to pull the plug on their game plan for the 2010 head count. The replacement, they said, would provide less information and end up costing more in later years.

Last year, the bureau and its supporters successfully persuaded House-Senate conferees to go with the higher House-approved budget figure. Census officials and their allies in social science, civil rights and business groups have mobilized again, but this year they are making their case in a tougher environment, as soaring spending for hurricane relief and the war in Iraq is prompting talk of across-the-board budget cuts.

# Delay's campaign blasts prosecutor

*Derogatory info is his counterattack*

**By John Solomon**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Tom DeLay is using his congressional campaign to distribute to voters derogatory information about the Texas prosecutor who has indicted him, and to raise more money for a re-election bid that has been affected by the criminal case.

"Help Tom fight back," reads one of the solicitations on the www.TomDelay.com Web site that voters are being directed to as part of an Internet-based campaign paid for by DeLay's re-election committee.

Contributors, voters and others who sign up can get regular e-mails and an electronic "tool kit" from DeLay's campaign with the latest disparaging information his legal team has prepared on Texas prosecutor Ronnie Earle.

"Join thousands of conservatives across the country in the fight against liberal DA Ronnie Earle," recipients are told.

Recipients are offered a full dossier about the Democratic prosecutor and his "baseless political indictment," with subjects like:

▶ "Ronnie Earle's previous misuse of his office," which highlights failures in Earle's career such as his unsuccessful case against Republican Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison in the 1990s.

▶ "Earle asks for a Do-Over," which focuses on the prosecutor's decision to seek a re-indictment of DeLay on different charges after the congressman's lawyers raised technical questions about the first indictment.

▶ "Coming Soon: The Ronnie Earle Movie," which highlights reports that Earle allowed a film crew to follow him during parts of the investigation.

Legal experts said DeLay's use of congressional campaign donations to attack Earle probably was permissible, though it could lead to legal questions about whether he was trying to influence potential jurors for his trial.

"He clearly is aiming at the jury pool and aiming at voters, hoping to generate as much sympathy as he can," said Larry Noble, the government's former chief election enforcement lawyer. "And it shows DeLay never misses a beat when it comes to fundraising, no matter how dark things get."

Bruce Yannett, a former Iran-Contra prosecutor, said DeLay's campaign effort might raise questions of trying to taint the potential jury pool, but the legal standard for making such a case is difficult to meet.

Nonetheless, Yannett said he could not imagine former President Reagan overtly using his campaign to attack prosecutors during the 1980s investigation of the Iran-Contra affair. "It does seem a little unusual," Yannett said.

DeLay has been indicted along with several colleagues on charges he conspired to launder illegal corporate contributions to Texas state candidates. He denies the charges.

Earle, apparently, hasn't been solicited by the campaign. "I haven't seen it and have no comment," the prosecutor said when reached Friday. Earle has strongly denied politics has anything to do with his prosecution.

Don McGahn, a lawyer for DeLay's campaign, said the use of the campaign for the anti-Earle effort was "perfectly legal" and had nothing to do with trying to sway jurors.

The indictment "is obvious big news in Texas so it is obviously something the campaign should address for the voters whom it affects," McGahn said. "The intent is just for people to understand the truth. There is no other purpose here."

"Ronnie Earle is wrong on the facts. Ronnie Earle is wrong on the law," the Web site states as it analyzes the twists and turns in the case in the most favorable light to the congressman.

It also gives readers their own tools, letting them send a letter to newspaper editors in support of DeLay, contact a radio talk show or e-mail DeLay's statement to friends.

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# Budget deficit eases for '05

*But amount is still third-highest ever*

**By Andrew Taylor**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The federal deficit hit $319 billion for the budget year just ended, down from last year's record red ink though a surge in Katrina-driven spending threatens to drive it up again.

The improvement from the record $413 billion recorded in the 2004 budget year, which the Treasury Department reported Friday, is largely due to a surge in federal revenues from an improving economy.

The figures were released three days before Congress returns from a recess and commences a struggle to cut $35 billion from federal benefit programs over the next five years to help defray hurricane recovery costs. Friday's deficit figures underscored that even if lawmakers agree to such savings, they would have a barely visible effect on the overall red ink figure.

Despite the improvement from last year's budget gap, the 2005 shortfall was still the third-highest ever recorded. The government's 2005 budget year ended Sept. 30.

Because hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit in August and September, only about $4 billion of the $62 billion in emergency aid provided for the storms was actually spent in fiscal 2005, according to a senior Treasury official. Congressional analysts figure another $30 billion of that aid will be spent in the budget year that began Oct. 1, though more spending is likely to be approved in coming weeks.

The most recent White House estimate for the new fiscal year projects a $341 billion deficit, but that was issued before the hurricanes hit.

Republicans emphasized that the figure was an improvement from earlier deficit projections.

At the beginning of this year, the White House projected a $427 billion shortfall for 2005, which would have set another record in sheer dollar terms. The Congressional Budget Office forecast a gap of $365 billion, although both lowered their forecasts as the year progressed.

The improvements were due to a surge of 15 percent in federal revenues over 2004 levels. Meanwhile, spending went up 8 percent.

# Texas judges will vouch for court nominee

*Move seen as effort to bolster support*

**By Deb Riechmann**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Stunned by conservative opposition to Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers, President Bush next week will bring in former judges from her home state of Texas to trumpet her qualifications for the nation's highest court.

The event is part of an administration effort to refine its push for Miers after its initial strategy failed to quiet vocal opposition from members of the president's own party.

The Republican critics, who suggest Bush passed over candidates with long records of conservative rulings from the bench, said that if the White House strategy continues to amount to a "trust me" message, they'll continue to grumble.

On Friday, press secretary Scott McClellan repeatedly used the words "qualified" and "well-qualified" to defend Miers and said she deserved a fair hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Conservative opponents say emphasizing her resume is part of a retooled White House tack.

The White House also has sought to dampen opposition from the GOP's right flank by noting that Miers attended an evangelical church in Texas that is almost universally pro-life. The president earlier this week spoke of how religion was "part of Harriet Miers' " life.

That further inflamed some critics, rubbing against the grain of judicial conservatism — the idea that judges should strictly interpret the Constitution and that their opinions should not be colored by personal beliefs on such issues as abortion.

Bush has announced his allegiance to judicial conservatism by saying repeatedly that judges shouldn't "legislate from the bench." To erase any doubt, McClellan stressed that Miers was "firmly committed to strictly interpreting our Constitution and our laws."

So far, Miers' conservative critics have not been persuaded.

The National Pro-Life Action Center on Friday called on Bush to withdraw his "ill-advised" nomination. Gary Bauer, a leading conservative, wrote his supporters on Friday: "The nomination of Harriet Miers has split conservatives unlike anything I can remember. The debate will not end, in fact it will become more intense."

Manual Miranda, a former counsel to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, said White House advisers are meeting next week to regroup and hone their message. The White House did not confirm that such a meeting was scheduled.

"They need to stop what they're doing — a series of ham-fisted messages such as pushing the religious issue and suggesting that she's someone that can be counted on to vote a certain way," Miranda said. "That gives no comfort to conservatives because the bottom line with conservatives is that she's un-credentialed."

On Monday, as senators return from visits to their districts, Bush is hosting a White House event with former justices of the Texas Supreme Court. Miers will be meeting with more senators next week and is expected to return a 12-page questionnaire to the judiciary panel early next week.

Three former justices wrote to Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on Friday trumpeting her credentials to wear a Supreme Court robe.

"These accomplishments can only be attributed to Harriet Miers' legal brilliance," the letter said. "They demonstrate her unquestioned ability and the confidence she has uniformly earned from her peers."

Some conservatives caution against a rush to judgment.

She deserves a chance to prove herself, said Ronald Cass, dean emeritus of Boston University School of Law and co-chairman of the Committee for Justice, which backs Bush's nominees for the bench.

"If Miers' performance at those hearings is not that of a person who seems ready to interpret the Constitution thoughtfully, she will lose my support," he said. "If she comes across as an experienced, intelligent lawyer committed to law-bound judging, then she should gain public support from conservatives now criticizing her nomination — though the damage to our party at that point might be irreparable."

The White House also is rebutting criticism that Miers lacks knowledge of constitutional law. McClellan said a White House counsel deals with laws governing war powers, presidential powers and pardons and executive privilege as well as constitutional amendments. "She's really quite an expert on dealing with the realities of the struggles between the executive branch, the legislative branch — and I'm going to say — the judicial branch," White House chief of staff Andy Card told C-SPAN on Thursday.

# IRS doesn't do well on audit

*Missing equipment brings some heat*

**By Mary Dalrymple**
AP tax writer

WASHINGTON — Treasury inspectors who went looking for equipment used by the law enforcement arm of the IRS couldn't find 10 percent of a random sample of the division's radio, video and communications devices.

The inspectors for tax administration looked for 700 pieces of equipment, including firearms, used by criminal investigators at the Internal Revenue Service.

They found the firearms but couldn't locate 70 other items, according to a report by Inspector General Russell George. The missing equipment, from video and photography gear and portable radios to fax machines, had been purchased for more than $240,000.

Auditors also discovered that IRS criminal investigators were prepared to write off more than $1.3 million in equipment as lost in 2004 and 2005.

"Unless (the department's) management takes action to improve the controls and procedures over this equipment, they will continue to be at risk of losing control of more investigative equipment," George concluded in the report.

Nancy Jardini, chief of IRS Criminal Investigation, in a letter to the auditors agreed to implement the recommended changes and agreed the agency must do a better job of tracking its equipment.

However, she also said that the 70 items that investigators couldn't locate were not necessarily lost, and that the $240,000 price tag inflates the value of older equipment.

IRS criminal investigators pursue tax, money laundering and bank secrecy crimes. The department has 40,000 pieces of equipment purchased for about $128 million.

The auditors, who provide independent oversight of IRS operations, said lost investigative equipment like radios could compromise ongoing investigations.

Investigators also raised alarms about missing identification badges, known as pocket commissions, questioning whether they could be used in ways that damage IRS credibility or national security.

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WAR IN IRAQ

# 3,663 Iraqis die under interim regime

*Government has been in power 6 months*

**By The Associated Press**

Today's vote on Iraq's constitution takes place nearly six months after the country's first elected government took power, and during that period at least 3,663 Iraqis have been killed in war-related violence, according to an Associated Press count.

The current interim government took power April 28 after long negotiations that followed parliamentary elections in January.

The AP gathered the statistics on Iraqi dead on a daily basis from hospital officials, Iraqi police, the Iraqi military and other government officials.

The Iraqi deaths include civilians, bodyguards, police, security forces and the military. They do not include the nearly 1,000 Shiite pilgrims killed in an Aug. 21 stampede on a Baghdad bridge that began when rumors spread through the crowd that a suicide bomber was among the faithful.

As of Thursday, the AP count also showed that at least 395 members of the U.S. military had died in the same period.

Since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, at least 1,970 members of the U.S. military have died, according to a separate AP count.

# On eve of vote, insurgents cut power

*Iraqis to cast ballots on constitution today*

**By Hamza Hendawi**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Insurgents sabotaged power lines Friday, plunging the Iraqi capital into darkness and cutting off water supplies on the eve of a landmark vote on a constitution that would define democracy in the country.

The charter, hammered out in months of bitter negotiations, is supported by a Shiite-Kurdish majority but has split Sunni Arab ranks after last-minute amendments designed to win support among the disaffected minority.

In Friday sermons across the nation, the message from Shiite pulpits was an unequivocal "yes," but it was not unified in Sunni Arab mosques — varying from "yes," "no" and "vote your conscience."

Amid security concerns, Iraqis were hunkered down for most of the day in their homes, with the streets of the Iraqi capital almost empty hours before a 10 p.m. curfew and the country sealed off from the outside world as borders and airports were closed for today's referendum.

The widespread power outage blamed on insurgents hit soon after sundown, when Muslims break their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan, leaving Baghdad's skyline black except for pinpoints of light from private generators.

Water also ran out in homes in some parts of the capital, and water pressure waned in others as tanks ran out. Power appeared to be returning slowly. The blackout was not expected to affect today's balloting, because paper ballots will be used, not machines.




AP PHOTO

The boots of a man wounded Friday in a roadside bombing lie on the ground as a U.S. military vehicle secures the area in Baghdad. The U.S. military has warned of an upsurge of violence leading up to today's referendum on a constitution.

Insurgents, meanwhile, detonated a bomb outside the Sunni Islamic Party's office in central Baghdad, then set fire to the party's main office in Fallujah. Nobody was injured in what were apparently symbolic attacks against that group's recent decision to support the charter.

Today's referendum, a key stop in Iraq's passage to democratic rule that the United States hopes will pave the way for withdrawing foreign troops, takes place as American and Iraqi forces battle an enduring Sunni-led insurgency in Baghdad and areas to the west and north.

"Besides Allah, we need this constitution to protect us," said Rajha Abdul-Jabar, 49, a Sunni Arab mother of five married to a Kurdish dentist. "I, my husband and our children will go and vote yes tomorrow," she said in the small convenience store she runs.

Kurds, a sizable minority that is mainly Sunni, fully support the charter.

Jameel Safar, 30, a Kurd in Baghdad, said the charter will safeguard Iraq's unity, but later added: "The Kurds are entitled to everything. We have a right to our own nation like everyone else."

Although there has been a lull so far this month in major insurgent attacks in Baghdad, the U.S. military has warned of an upsurge in violence to coincide with the vote.

Mahmoud al-Saaedi, an Electricity Ministry spokesman, said power lines were sabotaged between the northern towns of Kirkuk and Beiji leading to the Baghdad region. He did not specify how insurgents damaged the lines, but militants in the past have used bombs to hit infrastructure.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi army troops and police officers, meanwhile, formed security rings around the nation's estimated 6,000 polling stations and set up checkpoints on highways and inside cities.

The capital's usually congested streets were virtually deserted by late afternoon. Most shops did not open at all, and those that did closed early. Lines of cars a mile long waiting to fill up at gas stations provided one of the few signs of normalcy.

Ratification of the constitution requires approval by a majority of voters nationwide.

However, if two-thirds of voters in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces vote "no," the constitution will be defeated. Sunni Arab opponents have a chance of swinging the ballot in four volatile provinces — Anbar, Nineveh, Salahuddin and Diyala.

In Baghdad, security was particularly tight in flashpoint areas where insurgents are active, such as the Sunni Azamiyah district in the north and Dora and Ghazaliya to the west.

Iraq's Kurdish President Jalal Talabani and Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari appeared on television late Friday to make last-minute appeals for a "yes" vote.

Talabani also called on the Sunni Arab insurgents to lay down their arms and join the political process. "Our dear brothers, the way to achieve your legitimate demands and rights is through political struggle . . . and not terrorism or violence or boycotting," he said.

Most of Iraq's Shiites, about 60 percent of an estimated 27 million population, were expected to approve the charter, especially after Shiite spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called on followers to do so.

In an effort to familiarize voters with the draft, local television stations aired readings of amendments adopted this week, too late to be included in the U.N.-printed text distributed to Iraqis.

Those amendments persuaded the Iraqi Islamic Party, the country's largest Sunni Arab political group, to drop its opposition to the draft and call on its supporters to vote in favor of the constitution. The move split Sunni Arab ranks and boosted the chances for the charter's passage.

The minority, which had been dominant under Saddam Hussein, opposes a federalist system enshrined in the constitution that will let Shiites and Kurds form miniature states in the south and north. The draft was passed despite Sunni objections, but the issue remains.

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# Method for applying foam likely at fault

*Problem grounding shuttle till at least May*

**By Marcia Dunn**
AP aerospace writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — Inadequate methods of applying and repairing foam on the space shuttle's fuel tank probably contributed to the dangerous loss of a chunk of the insulation during Discovery's launch 2½ months ago, a NASA investigation team concluded Friday.

So much work is needed to understand the problem and correct the deficiencies that shuttle flights are on hold until at least May, and possibly even next summer.

NASA's Richard Gilbrech, head of the investigation team, said no one may ever know exactly what caused a 1-pound, 3-foot section of foam to break off Discovery's external fuel tank in late July. It was a scary repeat of what happened during Columbia's doomed flight in 2003.

Gilbrech's team suspects workers inadvertently crushed the foam while conducting repairs in that area, or handled it in such a way that resulted in damage. The tank was worked on considerably more than previous ones because of all the post-Columbia modifications.

In addition, thin lines may have been introduced into the foam when it was sprayed onto the tank, weakening the material.

"We don't think in and of itself crushed foam alone could have been the cause of the foam coming off," Gilbrech said. "We believe it was potentially a combination" of things.

The investigation team found no evidence of negligence, said Gilbrech, who is deputy director of NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia. Workers followed procedures, "it's just we didn't really have an appreciation for the significance that this handling damage could have."

Numerous tests are planned in coming months to establish just how sensitive the foam is and whether it can be easily crushed by workers. Foam is about as well understood right now as steel was during the Industrial Revolution, Gilbrech said.

Another possibility is that the 1-inch layer of underlying foam may have cracked because of thermal stresses, causing the layer on top to pop off, Gilbrech said.

"We're attacking all fronts and trying to learn as much as we can, but I don't know that we'll ever pinpoint one of those potentials as the root cause," he said.

NASA already has introduced new techniques for applying foam and is limiting workers' access to vulnerable areas.

Some redesign work will be required in the spot where foam came off Columbia and resulted in a fatal blow to the wing. During Discovery's liftoff, an 8-inch piece of foam broke off that same area. In all, worrisomely large foam chunks flew off in five spots.

Shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said it is too soon to set a launch date for the next shuttle mission but cited May as a possibility. It depends on progress made at the fuel tank assembly plant in New Orleans, which was in the path of Hurricane Katrina.

It will be December before the factory's entire 2,000-person staff is back on the job, Hale said. Only 500 are now working.

Space operations chief Bill Gerstenmaier said 18 more shuttle flights are planned to the international space station and possibly one to the Hubble Space Telescope before the fleet is retired in September 2010.

# Russia seeks rebels behind attack

*Militants may hide along with civilians*

**By Mike Eckel**
Associated Press writer

NALCHIK, RUSSIA — Russian security forces combed a city of shattered glass and bloodstains Friday, searching for militants amid fears they may have melted into the civilian population to regroup after fierce attacks that left at least 108 people dead.

Authorities claimed that all pockets of active fighting had been put down a day after the attacks and President Vladimir Putin promised all such violence will be put down "hard and consistently," but the bloodshed underlined the spreading violence in the restive Caucasus region.

As officials announced successful operations to liquidate rebels on Friday, it became clear that security forces had rescued nearly 20 hostages in various offices around this southern Russian city — and killed dozens of militants.

The head of the regional government, Gennady Gubin, said Nalchik, a city of 235,000 people, was being searched for rebels, according to the Interfax news agency.

"It is bad that such bandit raids are still possible here (in Russia)," Putin said. "It's a great tragedy that we are sustaining losses among law enforcement officers and peaceful civilians."

Chechen rebels have claimed involvement in Thursday's attacks on police and security facilities. The fighting in the Kabardino-Balkariya republic near Chechnya has raised fears that Islamic militants who have been fighting Russian forces for most of the past decade were opening a new front in the troubled Caucasus region.

Rebels for years have harassed Russian forces in Chechnya with roadside bombs and homemade explosives but the Nalchik attacks appeared to be part of a strategy to target areas outside the volatile republic and keep Moscow off-balance.

Russian officials said the 2002 seizure of hundreds of people in a Moscow theater, the 2004 school hostage-taking in the southern city of Beslan that killed 330 and other terror attacks were conducted by the Chechen militants with support and guidance from the al-Qaida.

However, no firm evidence exists suggesting the two groups are coordinating their strategies.

Chechen insurgents like Shamil Basayev — the main warlord in Chechnya's decade-old fight against Russian forces — have long infiltrated republics like Kabardino-Balkariya in the mostly Muslim region.

# Dutch arrest 7 terror suspects

**By Sebastian Rotella**
Los Angeles Times

PARIS — Dutch police arrested a known teenage extremist Friday and six other suspects for allegedly plotting to assassinate Dutch politicians and to attack the headquarters of the Dutch intelligence service, authorities said.

The group, they said, has links to a cell broken up last year after the Nov. 2 assassination of Theo Van Gogh, a filmmaker and descendant of the artist Vincent Van Gogh.

As anti-terror agents carried out raids in Amsterdam, an outlying suburb and The Hague, well-armed police guarded the Netherlands' intelligence service headquarters, Parliament and other government buildings in The Hague. Authorities said the security deployment came in response to an imminent threat posed by the suspects as they prepared to buy automatic weapons and explosives to carry out attacks.

The accused ringleader is Samir Azzouz, 19, a Dutch citizen of Moroccan descent acquitted in April of charges he plotted to bomb the Amsterdam airport, according to Vincent Van Steen, a spokesman for the AIVD intelligence service.

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# Europe scrambles against bird flu as disease nears

## *Alarm grows with new cases in Turkey*

**By Emma Ross**
AP medical writer

LONDON — Senior veterinary officials from around the European Union agreed Friday on new measures aimed at preventing a lethal strain of bird flu from entering the bloc, a day after it was confirmed on the continent's doorstep in Turkey.

The officials also moved to calm fears on a continent with vivid memories of mad cow disease, saying there was no reason to avoid cooked chicken because bird flu is killed in seconds when the meat is cooked.

The new measures, agreed upon after two days of emergency talks, focus on infection-control measures on farms and expanding early detection systems to high-risk areas, such as wetlands frequented by wild birds, said a statement issued late Friday by the EU.

The EU has banned poultry imports from Turkey and Romania, where bird flu was also detected this week. Officials in the two countries destroyed more fowl on Friday.

In Turkey, Betul Demirel of Seker Pilic poultry company said the sector had come "close to a standstill" after people stopped eating poultry products. "There is an 80 percent decrease in sales," since the outbreak began, she said.

Turkish veterinary officials in protective plastic suits, masks and goggles were trying to catch the remaining birds in the village of Kiziksa, where the virus was detected, and to persuade villagers who were hiding their chickens to surrender the birds.

Officials carried out medical tests on nine people in a neighborhood where 40 pigeons reportedly died, but released them from medical observation Friday after determining they did not likely have bird flu.

EU health officials assured Europeans it was safe to eat poultry and that human infection with bird flu was rare. It was too early to determine whether there had been an impact on poultry consumption across the continent.

Preliminary tests found bird flu in a duck and a chicken from Romania, but definitive test results on whether it is the virulent H5N1 strain are not expected until Saturday at the earliest. The lethal strain, blamed for the deaths of 60 people in Asia, was confirmed in Turkey on Thursday.

Officials in the Balkans sought to soothe fears by showing they weren't afraid of fowl.

Romanian President Traian Basescu on Friday urged his people to continue eating chicken, saying his wife is cooking it at home. In Hungary, where the Poultry Product Board reported the sale of chicken immediately fell 10-15 percent when the outbreak started, Agriculture Minister Jozsef Graf ate a roasted leg of chicken Friday at a downtown food market.

The risk of contracting bird flu from handling raw packaged chicken bought in supermarkets is considered negligible, said Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organization for Animal Health, adding that no such cases have ever been recorded.

During the late 1980s and 1990s, mad cow disease severely hurt the beef industry in several European countries. Exports from affected countries were banned and thousands of cattle were destroyed to stop the spread.

The World Health Organization moved Friday to calm fears about bird flu by stressing that the risk of people getting infected is very low.

Since the outbreak began in Asia two years ago, 117 people have become infected. They were mostly poultry farmers and others involved in plucking and preparing sick birds, handling cockfights or playing with ducks and drinking duck blood.

However, concerns over infection ran high in Greece, where citizens were reported to be crowding pharmacies to buy the antiviral Tamiflu drug, as well as flu vaccines, which experts say are useless against bird flu.

The rush prompted the health ministry to issue a public appeal against panic-induced shopping for vaccines.

Deputy Health Minister Thanassis Yiannopoulos told private Alter television on Friday, "We must not all rush to the pharmacy to buy vaccines, because the people who really need them will not have any."

Seasonal flu vaccines are considered important for the elderly, young children and people with heart disease and chronic respiratory diseases. However, swiftlystamping out the outbreaks in poultry is important for human health because the further the virus is allowed to spread, the more opportunities it has to mutate into a form that passes easily to and between people, sparking a human flu pandemic.

Authorities were combing areas along the path of migratory birds for dead birds, and rushing any samples to laboratories for testing, Agriculture Ministry official Beytullah Okay said.

Experts believe the disease came from wild birds migrating through Turkey from the Ural Mountains in Russia to Africa.

# Bird-flu resistance is found in ill girl

## *Officials advising stockpiling 2 drugs*

**By Malcolm Ritter**
AP science writer

NEW YORK — Bird flu virus found in a Vietnamese girl was resistant to the main drug that's being stockpiled in case of a pandemic, a sign that it's important to keep a second drug on hand as well, a researcher said Friday.

He said the finding was no reason to panic.

The drug in question, Tamiflu, still attacks "the vast majority of the viruses out there," said Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Tokyo and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The drug, produced by Swiss-based Roche Holding AG, is in short supply as nations around the world try to stock up on it in case of a global flu pandemic.

Kawaoka said the case of resistant virus in the 14-year-old girl is "only one case, and whether that condition was something unique we don't know."

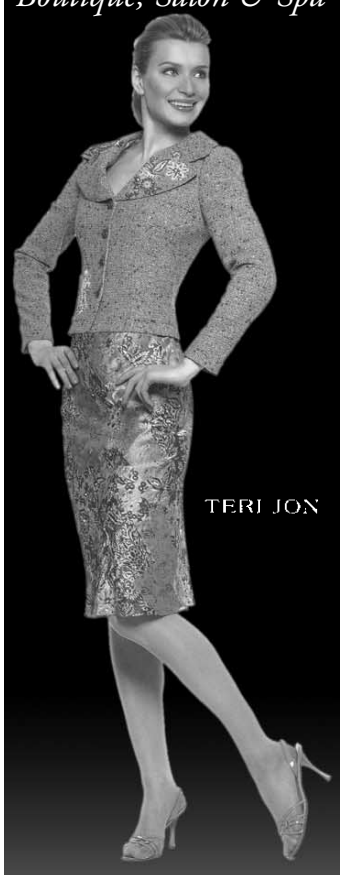
He also said it's not surprising to see some resistance to Tamiflu in treated individuals, because resistance has also been seen with human flu.

In lab tests, the girl's Tamiflu-resistant virus was susceptible to another drug, Relenza, which is made by GlaxoSmithKline.

Kawaoka and colleagues report the case in the Oct. 20 issue of the journal Nature, which released the study Friday. The researchers conclude that it might be useful to stockpile Relenza as well as Tamiflu.

There's no evidence that so-called H5N1 viruses, like the one recovered from the girl, are becoming generally resistant to the class of drugs that includes Tamiflu, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday.

Both Tamiflu and Relenza are being stockpiled by the U.S. government. Doctors have good reason to believe Tamiflu would be effective at combating a pandemic strain of bird flu, although it's not clear how long people would have to be treated or what doses they'd need, Dr. John Treanor said.


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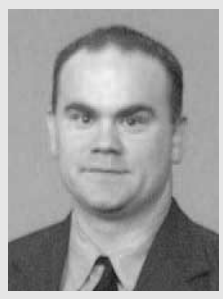

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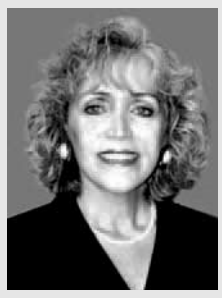

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STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Evacuating tenants left a mess behind at the Severn Pointe apartment complex in Metairie. The tenants have not returned, so the apartment cannot be rented to someone else.

# High court considers special eviction rule

**EVICTIONS,** *from A-1*

Court could resolve the issue.

## Original order extended

The controversy stems from a suspension of legal deadlines ordered by Blanco after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the state and left court systems in the New Orleans area in disarray.

The first order Sept. 6 basically delayed legal actions until Sept. 25 on a broad scope of malpractice and civil cases, including eviction proceedings, and was generally greeted as a sensible step to prevent confusion and to protect the rights of parties in lawsuits. State officials also were concerned about the potential for price gouging by landlords who might cancel old leases and replace them with much higher rents.

Blanco later extended the order until Oct. 25. Meanwhile, many tenants who fled the New Orleans area have not returned or contacted their landlords. Rental managers have been unable even to begin the legal remedy of the eviction process, in which tenants and landlords would be permitted to present their cases. Apartment managers who want to repair damaged properties have in some cases been legally hamstrung and unable to move out people's possessions or take control for the rehabilitation.

"The governor may have intended well at the time this order was issued," Rouse said. But now, weeks later, "this order is doing greater harm to Louisiana citizens here now looking for housing ... and to housing providers trying to provide it."

In response to "many inquiries" about the issue, state Attorney General Charles Foti wrote a letter Oct. 3 to judges, justices of the peace and clerks of courts emphasizing that Blanco's order "has the effect of suspending all eviction proceedings until Oct. 25." Foti also asked the state Supreme Court to consider a special rule for evictions, according to spokesmen for Foti and the court. They would not elaborate on the intent of the request.

The Supreme Court is considering the request, spokesman Robert Gunn said Friday.

## 'Unable to mitigate damage'

The Apartment Association of Greater New Orleans Inc. wrote Blanco on Sept. 28 asking her to reconsider her order, pointing out that tenants couldn't be reached, that their belongings were being destroyed by moisture and mold, and that the units were further deteriorating by allowing the items to remain.

"Owners are left behind with abandoned, wet, molding belongings from residents," wrote Tammy Esponge, an association executive. "As you can imagine, all resident contact information has changed, (and) emergency numbers cannot be reached, therefore we are unable to mitigate damage as the insurance companies suggest."

Esponge said mold is attracting insects and causing bad odors and severe moisture in the units.

"We are asking that you work with the multifamily (housing) industry and help us come up with a reasonable solution for owners to regain possession of their units," Esponge wrote.

Esponge said she has not heard back from Blanco.

## Many units survive storm

Larry Schedler, a broker specializing in the multifamily housing market, said he believes that 20 percent of the local apartment market has been destroyed, mostly the 7,000 units in eastern New Orleans.

But in most apartment complexes, probably half the units have slight or no damage, and yet the landlords are facing the brick wall of Blanco's order in removing tenants' possessions or repairing the properties, Schedler said.

Several apartment managers in the area reported a similar situation and said they had long lists of people who have signed up to rent apartments as soon as the units become available.

Henry Shane, chairman of Favrot & Shane, which has about 8,000 units, mostly on the east bank of Jefferson Parish, said he has 1,800 units abandoned in which he would like to implement the eviction process. He, too, wrote Blanco asking to "give me control of my property and help me protect the welfare of the residents (in undamaged units) living next to this stuff."

Stonebridge Manor in Gretna has a waiting list of more than 300 people. Shane's company estimates that out of the 50,000-unit market of apartments in complexes of 100 units or more, "there are probably 20,000 to 30,000 units sitting in the same situation."

The housing shortage is presenting a serious dilemma for local employers trying to get back on their feet.

"The housing issue is one of the most difficult yet critical issues to get the whole parish back," said Alan Donner, vice president of business development for East Jefferson General Hospital, which is open but struggling to find lodging for staff and their families. "There are limited resources, and the demand far exceeds the supply."

The hospital opened a trailer park with 66 units in River Ridge and is renting 72 rooms at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, but still has a "couple hundred families with unmet needs," Donner said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency told the hospital that it would get preferential treatment on housing, but the assistance has been "slow and trickling," and various promises "have evaporated," Donner said.

## No place to go

Adelina Morris, a dietitian assistant at the hospital who evacuated to Dallas and wants to come back to work, said she has looked in vain for a place to rent while her Carrollton home is repaired. She wants to bring her extended family back to New Orleans.

"What am I supposed to do?" Morris said.

James Garner, a New Orleans real estate lawyer, said that although the governor's executive order may seem onerous to landlords, he believes "the intentions of the governor were good. In some situations the order was necessary. But like most things in life, it's impossible to promulgate one large rule that envisions every circumstance."

But Semmes Favrot, a private practice attorney for Favrot and Shane, said that although he has sympathy for the plight of evacuated tenants, six weeks after the storm should be ample time for them to contact landlords and state their intentions about returning or not.

•••••••

Robert Travis Scott can be reached at rscott@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-4197. Greg Thomas can be reached at gthomas@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3399.

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# FEMA still spending on no-bid contracts

## *Despite assurances, it has rebid only 4*

**By Lara Jakes Jordan**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The government is spending $347 million on Hurricane Katrina-related contracts that were awarded with little or no competition, despite a public pledge by FEMA's chief to reopen no-bid agreements.

In its most recent weekly spending report to Congress, the Homeland Security Department detailed 73 contracts awarded on a basis of "other than full and open competition." Most of the contracts on the Oct. 13 list provided travel trailers, communications systems and food from the disaster relief fund run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Last week, FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison told senators, "All of those no-bid contracts, we are going to go back and rebid." Later that day, FEMA officials said they would rebid only four contracts of up to $100 million each, a point that spokesman Larry Orluskie repeated Friday.

"A lot of the contracts that were previously awarded without competition are completed or are beyond the point where it would be economically feasible to re-compete," Orluskie said. He did not know how many of the contracts were completed.

"The whole competition process doesn't happen overnight," said Orluskie, defending contracts that were quickly awarded as Katrina loomed. "And when it's about saving lives and protecting property, you need it now."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said the largess of noncompetitive contracts is a product of poor planning by FEMA before Katrina hit, and will result in a "substantial waste of taxpayer funds."

"At least some of these contracts are for ongoing services, and those agreements certainly should be rebid as quickly as possible," Lieberman, the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

As of Oct. 10, FEMA had awarded $2.3 billion in contracts for Katrina recovery efforts, agency documents show. The new totals show that no-bid and limited competition agreements make up about 15 percent of all hurricane relief contracts.

At an Oct. 6 hearing of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, Paulison defended the initial need for no-bid contracts to get help to hurricane victims as quickly as possible. But he said those agreements should be reopened to competition to prevent waste or abuse of federal funds and save taxpayers money.

"I've been a public servant for a long time, and I've never been a fan of no-bid contracts," Paulison said at the hearing.

Paulison's testimony came as fiscal watchdogs pummeled FEMA for approving noncompetitive, open-ended or otherwise vague spending agreements that audits historically have cited as being highly prone to abuse.

"Our hope had been that he was actually given the authority to make federal contacting more competitive, but it doesn't look like it," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight.

FEMA is rebidding contracts to four firms: Bechtel Corp., Fluor Corp., the Shaw Group and CH2M Hill. Those contracts were approved before or as Katrina hit. Each of the agreements has a $100 million spending cap, but the four companies had spent only a combined $132 million as of last week, FEMA officials said.

Of the remaining 73 limited-competition contracts, the largest is for $50 million with Clearbrook, LLC, of Mobile, Ala., which provides prefabricated housing. A $37.3 million contract is for hotel rooms by CS&M Associates of New Orleans.

# Curfew in N.O. pushed to 2 a.m.

## *Quarter bar owners cheer extended hours*

**By Brian Thevenot and Lynne Jensen**
Staff writers

Bowing to pleas and protests planned by French Quarter denizens, New Orleans officials appeased them late Friday by extending the city's midnight curfew to 2 a.m.

The new curfew, 2 to 6 a.m., applies only to lesser-damaged areas of the city that have been fully opened to residents since Hurricane Katrina. The open ZIP codes — 70112, 70113, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131 — cover parts of Uptown, the Garden District, the Central Business District, Central City and Algiers. For the rest of the city, the curfew remains 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Tropical Isle club owner Earl Bernhardt said Mayor Ray Nagin answered the pleas of French Quarter bar owners.

"It was a wise decision on his part," Bernhardt said. "That's what a politician is supposed to do: listen to his constituents. Thankfully, he did."

In a written statement, Nagin said he was trying to strike a balance between safety and late-night commerce with the extended hours.

"We are taking steps to accommodate business while also ensuring public safety," he said.

### New clientele

Although some bars have been repopulated by prestorm regulars, most of Bernhardt's patrons are now "Red Cross workers, medical personnel and insurance adjusters who are working long hours" and don't show up until 11:30 p.m., Bernhardt said.

The midnight curfew was killing his business, he said.

"There was no way we could have made it, money-wise," he said.

The new curfew marks a reversal of a midnight curfew Nagin said would be strictly enforced in the wake of a nationally televised beating by New Orleans police of a man on Bourbon Street.

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In recent days, many Bourbon Street bars have reopened in the Quarter, and some local staples have been open for weeks. Johnny White's never closed, and Molly's at the Market reopened immediately after the storm.

But many popular destinations for both locals and tourists, including Pat O'Brien's and the House of Blues, remain closed.

### Eager to return to normal

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Monaghan vowed to abide by the new extended hours, however, which he called an acceptable short-term compromise. But bar owners are eager to return to the old status quo, he said — no closing time.

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Sanchez said Coop's has been obeying the midnight curfew but will stay open the extra two hours.

"I really didn't think it was going to happen until next week," she said.

•••••••

Brian Thevenot can be reached at bthevenot@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3482. Lynne Jensen can be reached at ljensen@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3310.

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**"Think of a layer cake. In the middle I've got my icing. All of a sudden, I push on the top of my piece of cake, and what it's moving on is this weak, slick icing. The whole thing moves."**

THOMAS ZIMMIE, civil engineer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

# Levees compared to spongy layer cake

**FLOODWALL,** *from A-1*

National Science Foundation team that is studying the levee system's performance during Katrina.

Bea said other data shows the same peat layer also runs under the London Avenue Canal breaches and probably was instrumental in those collapses as well.

Investigators are focusing on the 17th Street and London Avenue canal levee walls because, unlike other parts of the system, they apparently were not topped by Katrina's storm surge. That could mean a design or construction flaw is to blame for the collapses, and for the flooding of much of central New Orleans.

Army Corps of Engineers officials say they must determine whether human error played a role in the breaches. If it did, they say, they may have to rebuild the canal walls immediately so they don't pose an additional risk during next year's hurricane season.

Investigators from the corps, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Science Foundation have spent the past two weeks examining the floodwalls and other parts of the levee system. At the two drainage canal breaches, they say the culprit appears to be the layer of peat around or not far beneath the base of the walls.

## Graphs show problem

The Corps of Engineers has not yet released the results of soil borings in the breached areas to the outside investigators. But the corps included some soil boring data for the 17th Street Canal breach this week in a contract for temporary repairs posted on its Web site. The Times-Picayune asked Bea to examine the results.

The canal walls consist of a concrete cap on a steel sheet pile base, driven 17 ½ feet deep at 17th Street and 16 feet deep at London Avenue, corps design documents show. Bea said the soil boring data shows the peat layer starts about 15 feet to 30 feet beneath the surface and ranges from about 5 feet to 20 feet thick.

Signs of trouble appear in graphs in the corps' soil data showing the "shear strength" of the soil, its ability to resist deformation and lateral motion. In one boring, at 27 feet, the soil strength is near the bottom of the scale, about 0.02 tons per square foot. Eight feet deeper, the strength is 0.25 tons per square foot, more than 10 times greater. At 70 feet, the strength even greater: 0.6 tons per square foot.

The data also show the soil at the peat level has a high water concentration. Put together, those data indicate it would be very vulnerable to the stresses of a large flood, Bea said.

At 17th Street, the soil moved laterally, pushing entire wall sections with it. Bea and other engineers say that as Katrina's storm surge filled the canal, water pressure rose in the soil underneath the wall and in the peat layer. Water moved through the soil underneath the base of the wall. When the rising pressure and moving water overcame the soil's strength, it suddenly shifted, taking surrounding material — and the wall — with it.

"Think of a layer cake. In the middle I've got my icing. All of a sudden, I push on the top of my piece of cake, and what it's moving on is this weak, slick icing. The whole thing moves," said Thomas Zimmie, a civil engineer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute who is on the National Science Foundation team and surveyed the levees this week.

## Swampy soil

The Lakefront area used to be a swamp, and was filled over the decades as development advanced northward toward Lake Pontchartrain. But the soft swamp and river soils — layers of mud, peat, sand and silt — remain under the surface and can pose problems for those trying to anchor structures in them. The normal solution, engineers say, is to drill piles as deep as possible so that they go all the way through weak layers and are more firmly anchored.

The contractor who built the 17th Street Canal reported problems drilling the sheet pilings in the soil. Segments of the wall leaned slightly when the concrete was poured, according to a legal ruling in a contract dispute over the matter. An administrative law judge ruled that was because of the unusual bracing system used to build the structure rather than unexpected soil conditions.

Bea said that while the investigators have theorized the corps missed the peat layer in soil tests before the wall was built, the data they now have shows the peat would be hard to miss.

"The soil profile that we've got in front of us is showing that peat layer is large in extent, not narrow. They are mapping it between multiple borings. My suspicion, or fear, that they had missed it between two borings is not justifiable. It looks like it's about a thousand feet wide. That used to be a swamp. We built levees and cut canals in it, but never went in there and took out the peat."

•••••••

John McQuaid can be reached at john.mcquaid@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7889.

## DECEASED IDENTIFIED, RELEASED

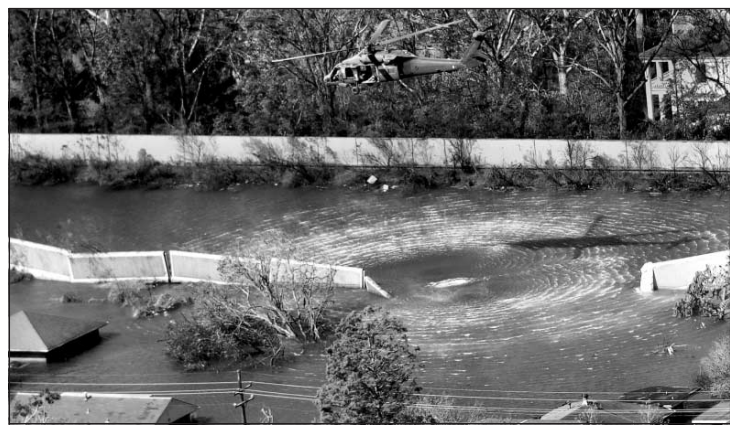
As of Friday, the death toll from Hurricane Katrina was 1,035. The Department of Health and Hospitals has released the names of 59 victims, bringing the number of those identified to 132.

**THE NAMES RELEASED FRIDAY ARE**

| Name | Age | Parish |
|---|---|---|
| Bertha Acosta | 85 | St. Bernard |
| Alford Hollis | 66 | St. Bernard |
| Frank Ashley | 81 | Orleans |
| Errol Borges | 65 | Jefferson |
| Joelynn Bourgeois | 57 | Jefferson |
| Xavier Bowie | 57 | Orleans |
| Gloria Bowser | 81 | Orleans |
| Loretta Boyd | 77 | unknown |
| James Casby Jr. | 52 | Jefferson |
| Lawrence Celestine | unknown | unknown |
| Arnecker Coleman | 35 | Orleans |
| Darrel Coleman | 54 | Orleans |
| Clarence Commons | 85 | unknown |
| Myrtle Cook | 58 | Orleans |
| Walter Cosse | 30 | unknown |
| Nicholas Cuquet | 79 | Orleans |
| Robert Dexter Jr. | 63 | Orleans |
| Harold Dupas | 77 | Orleans |
| Mary Gordon | 51 | Orleans |
| Marcus Grant | 57 | Orleans |
| Charles Gulotta | 74 | Orleans |
| Gladys Henry | 83 | Orleans |
| Bonitacia Hotard | 77 | Jefferson |
| George Hutcherson Jr. | 78 | Orleans |
| Thomas Jolly | 85 | Orleans |
| Cornelius Jones | 79 | Jefferson |
| Claris Krause | 87 | Orleans |
| Mary Labat | 84 | St. Bernard |
| Carla Landry | 44 | Orleans |
| Leroy Larive | 85 | Orleans |
| Gladys Leblanc | 89 | unknown |
| Thomas Lee | 52 | Orleans |
| Carl Levasseur | 49 | Orleans |
| Todd Lopez | 42 | Orleans |
| Willie McCray | 71 | Orleans |
| Earl Meyer | 80 | St. Bernard |
| Stephen Mosgrove | 60 | St. Bernard |
| Matthew Muhoberac | 79 | St. Bernard |
| Norman Parr | 69 | St. Bernard |
| Dorothy Pichon | 76 | Orleans |
| Leon Preston | 70 | Orleans |
| Richard Reysack | 81 | St. Bernard |
| Jeanne Rickie | 93 | Orleans |
| Elizabeth Rose | 93 | Jefferson |
| Darlene Saia | 54 | St. Bernard |
| Robert St. Pe | 60 | Orleans |
| Antonia Sanfilippo | unknown | unknown |
| Catherine Schneider | 81 | Orleans |
| Pamela Segnal | 45 | Orleans |
| Naomi Sherrod | unknown | unknown |
| Bennie Singleton | 74 | Orleans |
| Willa Smith-Varnado | 67 | Orleans |
| Betty Stiplecovich | 51 | Plaquemines |
| Daniel Tappan | 73 | unknown |
| Rodney Thomas | 82 | Orleans |
| Daisy Tobias | unknown | unknown |
| Beulah Toups | 94 | Jefferson |
| Iretha Watson | 89 | Orleans |
| Arnold White | unknown | unknown |

**PREVIOUSLY RELEASED NAMES**

| Name | Age | Parish |
|---|---|---|
| Jose Ares | 83 | Orleans |
| Justin Babin | unknown | Jefferson |
| Della Badeaux | unknown | Orleans |
| Arthur Batieste Jr. | 75 | Orleans |
| Lawrence Batiste | 83 | Orleans |
| Gladys Beatty | unknown | Orleans |
| Edith Bennett | 84 | Orleans |
| Bulah Boss | unknown | Orleans |
| Johnny Brinston | 67 | Orleans |
| Danny Brumfield | 45 | Orleans |
| George Bumgartner | 95 | Orleans |
| Lloyd Buras | unknown | Orleans |
| Thomas Burke | 48 | Orleans |
| Evelyn Burns | 97 | Chalmette |
| Frances Cox | 77 | St. Bernard |
| Wessie Crutchfield | 73 | Washington |
| William Deadman Jr. | 71 | Orleans |
| Maggie Dennis | 89 | Orleans |
| Ethel Dugar | 61 | Orleans |
| Lorraine Duvernay | unknown | Orleans |
| Emmett Everett | 61 | Orleans |
| Theresa Foster | unknown | Orleans |
| Ruby Frazier | 76 | Orleans |
| Caroline Fuhrmann | 92 | Jefferson |
| Ernest Gilmore | 51 | unknown |
| Dulce Marie Gonzalez | 80 | Orleans |
| Maria del los Gonzalez | 52 | Orleans |
| Gulda Haines | 50 | Orleans |
| Carrie Hall | 78 | Orleans |
| Azemo Hall | 78 | Orleans |
| Mary Hamilton | unknown | Orleans |
| Isabelle Hebert | 52 | Orleans |
| Amelia Hose | 102 | Orleans |
| Alice Hutzler | 90 | St. Bernard |
| Emelda Jackson | 78 | Orleans |
| Myrtle Jackson | 75 | Orleans |
| James Jackson Sr. | unknown | Orleans |
| Aleria Jefferson | 69 | Orleans |
| Preston Johnson | 25 | unknown |
| Ella Jones | 80 | Orleans |
| Ruby Joseph | 94 | Orleans |
| Elias Kapnissis | unknown | unknown |
| John Laur | 85 | Orleans |
| Willie Martinez | 84 | Orleans |
| Arthur Mason | 88 | Orleans |
| Reba Massey | 37 | unknown |
| Jessie May | 79 | Orleans |
| Matthew McDonald | 41 | Norwich, Conn. |
| Wilda McManus | 70 | Orleans |
| Rose Migllore | unknown | unknown |
| Helen Mortellaro | 83 | Orleans |
| Veola Mosby | 79 | Orleans |
| Elaine Nelson | 90 | Metairie |
| Helen Olivier | unknown | Orleans |
| Peter Pelitere | unknown | Jefferson |
| Thelma Pinkney | 76 | Orleans |
| Elizabeth Riehm | 82 | Jefferson |
| Rufus Rivers | 77 | St. Bernard |
| Jean Robin | 78 | Orleans |
| Eva Rodrigue | 93 | St. Bernard |
| Alma Ryburn | 83 | unknown |
| Rose Savoie | 90 | Orleans |
| Elaine Seeger | 90 | Orleans |
| Isaac Shanks | 43 | Jefferson |
| Edward Sparks | 54 | Orleans |
| Onita Stewart | 70 | Orleans |
| Ronald Taylor | 51 | unknown |
| Frank Trapolin | 92 | Orleans |
| Mable Veal | 75 | Orleans |
| James Wilder | 72 | Orleans |
| Roy Williams | 3 | Orleans |
| Paul Williams Jr. | 60 | Orleans |
| Jason Zito | unknown | unknown |



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

Soil tests indicate that a soft, spongy layer of swamp peat underneath the 17th Street Canal floodwall was the weak point that caused soil to move and the wall to breach during Hurricane Katrina, an engineer who has studied the data says. He said other data shows the same peat layer also runs under the London Avenue Canal breaches, above.

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at Slidell Memorial Hospital. 985-649-8688

## The Board of Commissioners
OF THE
## Orleans Levee District

10761 PERKINS ROAD, SUITE A
BATON ROUGE, LA 70810
TEL. 225-763-2040

October 6, 2005

Ms. Anne Soileau, Acting Director
Department of State Civil Service
P.O. Box 94111
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9111

Dear Ms. Soileau:

In accordance with Civil Service 17.8, the Board of Commissioners, Orleans Levee District is requesting approval to implement a furlough without pay for its employees who have not contacted our agency since Hurricane Katrina. The reason for this request is that we assume these employees may never report back to work, and we therefore do not wish to continue paying their salaries. We request the furlough apply to the Orleans Levee District, in the following geographic areas: Orleans Parish. We purpose the furlough for all the employees listed in this plan to begin on October 18, 2005 and end at close of business on November 29, 2005. This would equal **240** hours of furlough for all the affected employees.

Since we are not proposing the furlough of all of our employees, our agency asks for an exception to the regular layoff avoidance rules, as provided for by Civil Service Rule 17.5. We request that an exception to the rule 17.3 be approved, thus allowing our agency to furlough only those employees who have not contacted us since Hurricane Katrina. As a second part of this exception request, we propose to list the names of those who will be covered by this furlough measure, instead of those who will be excluded from it. The reason for this request is that this proposed list will be shorter than that of those who have contacted our agency since Hurricane Katrina.

In the event that any of the affected employees should contact our agency before the effective beginning date of the furlough, our agency will not include them in the furlough.

In the event that an affected employee(s) should contact our agency during the period of the furlough, our agency will place him or her on special leave, annual leave, or direct the employee back to work, instead of furloughing him or her. In this unprecedented type of furlough, we cannot foresee the recall schedule from furlough for these employees, since we do not know who may respond or when. Those not responding will be furloughed the entire period of time stated in this plan, and therefore, there will be no recall from furlough for them. Since the normal recall provisions stated in Civil Service Rule 17.8 are not applicable in this furlough, we ask for an exception to any specific recall schedule, subject to our planned actions stated above in this plan.

The employees and their job titles we are proposing for this furlough are as follows:

| Employees | Job Titles |
|---|---|
| Wayne Beaulieu | Mobile Equip. Master Mech. |
| Vanessa Coleman | Guard |
| Kevin Davis | Trades Apprentice |
| Raynetta Hammler | Police Officer 3 |
| Alvin Hartford | Mobile Equip Oper. 1 |
| Kevin Kazmierczak | Fireman Advanced |
| Stanley McRae | Laborer |
| Joseph Oliver | Bridge Operator 2 |
| Lester Rosiere | Mobile Equip. Master Mech. |
| James Watson IV | Laborer |

If you require additional information, please contact Cynthia C. Taylor, Human Resources Director at (225) 763-2062 or at **ctaylor@orleanslevee.com** at our agency.

Thank You Sincerely,
Max L. Hearn • Executive Director

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# Nagin says he's trying to help businesses

**CURFEW,** *from A-1*

said he was trying to strike a balance between safety and late-night commerce with the extended hours.

"We are taking steps to accommodate business while also ensuring public safety," he said.

### New clientele

Although some bars have been repopulated by prestorm regulars, most of Bernhardt's patrons are now "Red Cross workers, medical personnel and insurance adjusters who are working long hours" and don't show up until 11:30 p.m., Bernhardt said.

The midnight curfew was killing his business, he said.

"There was no way we could have made it, money-wise," he said.

The new curfew marks a reversal of a midnight curfew Nagin said would be strictly enforced in the wake of a nationally televised beating by New Orleans police of a man on Bourbon Street.

Three police officers who punched and tackled 64-year-old Robert Davis, a retired teacher, have been charged with simple battery and suspended without pay, pending an inquiry. The officers charged Davis with public intoxication, resisting arrest and public intimidation. Both Davis and the officers have plead innocent.

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Monaghan vowed to abide by the new extended hours, however, which he called an acceptable short-term compromise. But bar owners are eager to return to the old status quo, he said — no closing time.

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Sanchez said Coop's has been obeying the midnight curfew but will stay open the extra two hours.

"I really didn't think it was going to happen until next week," she said.

Bernhardt, whose homes in Slidell and Biloxi, Miss., were destroyed by Katrina, said it is important for the mayor to support bar owners who responded to his request to reopen "to show the nation that New Orleans is going to make a comeback."

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Brian Thevenot can be reached at bthevenot@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3482.

Lynne Jensen can be reached at ljensen@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3310.

# RECONNECTED

*It may not be called the twin span any more, but the I-10 bridge is open again*

**By Meghan Gordon**
St. Tammany bureau

As cars and trucks rumbled into New Orleans behind them, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta on Friday praised the early completion of repairs to half of the Interstate 10 twin spans as a critical step in restoring commerce and residents to the metro area.

Traffic flowed in both directions across the former eastbound-only bridge, which sustained the least damage when Hurricane Katrina's tidal surge ripped entire 65-foot slabs off their supports.

Blanco said the state's $30.9 million contract with Boh Bros. Construction Co. to restore both bridges by mid-January represents a model for Louisiana to follow as it launches countless rebuilding projects. She said officials "cut through red tape" to secure the competitive bid within nine days of the storm. Crews were on the job within two weeks.

Boh Bros. will receive $1.1 million, the maximum incentive, for completing the 45-day project in 28 days.

"This is a magnificent milestone," Blanco said from atop a trailer bed parked across the closed westbound span south of Slidell. "Seven weeks ago, we would have never thought that we would have to be reopening this span that has connected our worlds so profoundly. We lost the momentum of our lives. It symbolized the separation that was created between St. Tammany Parish and Orleans and well beyond."

Mineta acknowledged that the severed interstate had crippled roadways in St. Tammany Parish, as traffic funneled onto the few remaining routes to New Orleans.

"The people of New Orleans and Slidell are getting more than their bridge back," Mineta said. "They are getting an end to detours, they are getting new opportunities for drivers and suppliers to come back into the Crescent City, and they are getting hope again that this city's rebirth will happen as fast and as sure as this bridge was repaired."

Behind the wheel of a sport utility vehicle, Blanco drove Mineta across the bridge from eastern New Orleans before the ceremony, during which she described the trip as the most "meaningful drive I've taken in my life." The pair greeted St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis and Slidell Mayor Ben Morris, who thanked the officials for the fast-track project that they said will alleviate significant daily traffic tie-ups.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Traffic was heavy Friday afternoon on both the repaired Interstate 10 span and the Highway 11 bridge, bottom. Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the state's $30.9 million contract with Boh Bros. Construction Co. to restore the twin spans by mid-January represents a model for Louisiana to follow as it rebuilds after Hurricane Katrina.

"It's going to be great getting some of the pressure relieved off Highway 11, Gause Boulevard and everywhere else," Morris told Mineta.

The contractor's next task will be to restore traffic to the 5.4-mile westbound bridge. The second phase's target completion date is Jan. 14, but Boh Bros. stands to gain the same bonus for early completion or face a daily $75,000 penalty for late work.

Project supervisor John Horn of Volkert Construction Services said the second phase is about 25 percent complete.

.....

Meghan Gordon can be reached at mgordon@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4827.

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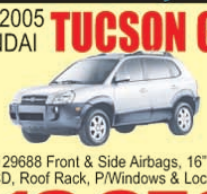
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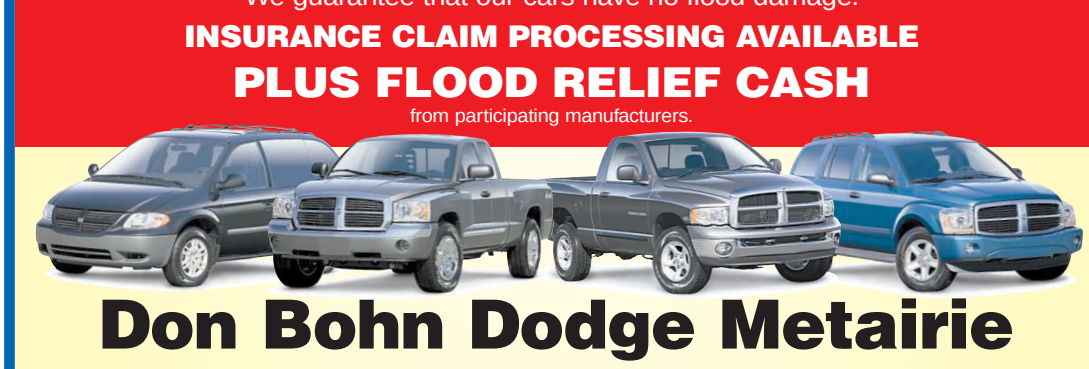
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# Sewage treatment plant getting back online

## *Partial processing of raw waste set to restart Sunday*

**By Joan Treadway**
Staff writer

New Orleans' raw sewage, which has been dumped into the Mississippi River since shortly before Hurricane Katrina, will be partially treated before being released into the river starting Sunday, officials said.

Untreated sewage has been dumped into the river since Aug. 28, the day before Katrina hit, when high winds had kicked up and it was expected the east bank treatment plant would lose power, said Marcia St. Martin, executive director of the Sewerage & Water Board.

After the storm, the plant, which is in the Lower 9th Ward, not only lost power but also was heavily flooded after an Industrial Canal levee burst, said David J. Smith, southern regional vice president for Veolia Water, the Houston corporation that runs the plant under a contract with the board.

Both the board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pressed the corporation to reactivate the plant, at 6501 Florida Avenue, as soon as possible.

As of Sunday, the plant will be sending water "that is partially treated and fully disinfected into the river," Smith said.

A temporary release of raw sewage is allowed during emergencies under the board's permit from the EPA, St. Martin said.

"It's a definite step forward," said Bill Honker, an EPA spokesman in New Orleans. Honker said the agency did not view the discharge into the river as a major problem because so few people were in the city. But as evacuees return and the population grows, he said, "There would have been an increased threat of health problems down the river."

The repairs that led to this development were accomplished with the help of the Navy, which airlifted equipment into and out of the site by helicopter because the plant was not reachable by road until this past Monday, he said. The Army Corps of Engineers also used all-terrain vehicles to move in equipment.

The project involved removing two 1,000-horsepower motors from the plant and sending them to be cleaned, Smith said. The motors drive the site's two largest pumps, which normally send fully treated water into the Mississippi.

By Friday, one motor had been returned to the plant and the other was expected to be back in place today, he said.

Each pump handles 60 million gallons of treated water a day, he said. The plant is designed to handle 122 million gallons daily, but this full capacity will not be required initially because so many residents remain displaced, he said. Even if one of the pumps fails to operate, the other one should still be able to meet the current need for 20 million gallons daily.

This first phase also involved bringing in two huge generators to power the pump's motors, because the plant still has no electricity, he said. The water sent into the river as of Sunday will have been disinfected through chlorination, and additionally, a small amount of human waste will have been removed.

In later phases, to be implemented in the next 60 days, all waste will be taken out of the water, he said.

The plant's three other smaller pumps also will be put back into operation, in a plan meant to coincide with the return of more evacuees.

Smith has presented the estimated cost of the whole job, $156 million, to St. Martin, who can now try to collect the sum from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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# British rations rejected for storm victims

## *Mad cow fears keep meals in cold storage*

**By Ceci Connolly**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the early days of September, as military helicopters plucked desperate New Orleanians from rooftops and Red Cross shelters swelled with the displaced, nearly 400,000 packaged meals landed on a tarmac at Little Rock Air Force Base and were whisked by tractor-trailer to Louisiana.

But most of the $5.3 million worth of food never reached the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Instead, because of fears about mad cow disease, the rations routinely consumed by British soldiers have sat stacked in a warehouse in Arkansas for more than a month.

Now, with some of the food set to expire in early 2006 and U.S. taxpayers spending $16,000 a month to store the meals, the State Department is quietly looking for a needy country.

In a disaster recovery effort that has been criticized as slow and inefficient, the long and costly journey of the British rations is a tale of good intentions colliding with a cumbersome bureaucracy.

No fewer than six federal agencies had a role in accepting, distributing and rejecting the food. Even now, there remains disagreement within the Bush administration about which office shipped the meals to 14 locations in Louisiana and which is responsible for paying the mounting storage fees.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency "knew from e-mails the stuff was moving out there, but we never had control or said anything about it," spokeswoman Kim Pease said. "It was under control of" the U.S. Agency for International Development, he said.

But USAID spokesman Kevin Sheridan said his agency simply provided logistical support, helping deliver to the Gulf Coast region foreign donations that were acquired by the State Department.

A spokesman for the British Embassy, citing diplomatic protocol in requesting anonymity, said he was puzzled by the turn of events.

"There was a specific request for emergency ration packs, and we responded to that," he said. "We had no reason to believe there would be a problem."

What is clear is that by late on Sept. 8, inspectors from the Agriculture Department halted distribution because the packaged meals violated import laws that "no beef or poultry of any kind is accepted from Great Britain," spokeswoman Terri Teuber said.

At the same time, it appeared the urgent need for food had subsided as evacuees reached shelters. "There is no question that different consideration would have been given to the situation if people were going hungry," Teuber said.

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# Catastrophic plan to take effect Dec. 1

**SCHOOLS,** *from A-1*

ating officer installed by turnaround firm Alvarez & Marsal, said the plan is a financial compromise, allowing the severely cash-strapped district to continue functioning and, it is hoped, open some schools without leaving its employees out in the cold.

The catastrophic plan would not require employees to pay any premiums, but individuals who seek medical attention or get prescriptions would be responsible for the first $5,000, and families would have to pay the first $10,000. Under the current plan, employees pay $15 to visit a doctor's office and up to $45 for prescriptions.

Continuing the current plan for all employees would cost the district $3.6 million a month, compared with $1.9 million a month the district will spend on the catastrophic plan.

Initially unsatisfied with the catastrophic plan, board members asked George and other officials last week to offer another alternative, despite warnings that the delay would inhibit the district from beginning the less-expensive plan Nov. 1 and thereby cost the district an extra $1.7 million.

On Friday, board members ended up rejecting the alternative, a self-insured plan they deemed too costly and problematic, and unanimously approved the catastrophic plan. That plan covers employees through June 30.

Teachers union President Brenda Mitchell has said the plan is not reasonable or affordable for employees.

A sudden infusion of federal money could always allow the district to return its furloughed employees to their current health plan, but counting on that money is a gamble, George said, that could hamper the district's ability to reopen schools if the money does not come.

Also Friday, George said the decision to charter all 13 West Bank schools would not help nor hinder the district's financial picture, although several voiced opposition.

The district would continue to own school buildings and be responsible for their condition, George said, and lease them at no cost to the charters. A new board overseeing the schools would initially be populated by School Board members, who would eventually rotate off in favor of members of the Algiers community.

Mitchell, for one, said the district ought to put a moratorium on any more charters, saying that although she supports them, "I think we're rushing into this."

Florida Woods, president of the district's principals association, accused "some of you board members" of "taking advantage of a tragedy to wrest control of our schools."

Moran, who said she has received enthusiastic praise and criticism alike for the effort, said the movement was primarily designed to take advantage of a recently announced $20.9 million federal grant to expand, repair and create charter schools.

Although interim Superintendent Ora Watson said she "resents" suggestions that "schools could not open if not for chartering," George said at a meeting last week that the district had about $74.5 million on hand but needed $209 million to open schools on the West Bank.

The district's tentative plan to open seven schools on the east bank in January will similarly rely on the federal government lifting restrictions on $61 million in grants the district has been awarded. The district also is desperately hoping state lawmakers gathering next month do not decide to shift $16.5 million New Orleans receives each month through the Minimum Foundation Program to other districts that have enrolled thousands of the city's students.

However, more east bank charters are reportedly already in the works and could upend that plan in the weeks or months ahead. Two board members considered swing votes on the issue also indicated a willingness to consider more.

Board member Heidi Daniels, who voted for the West Bank charter plan last week, said she could support more if she is satisfied with their curriculum and staffing plans. Phyllis Landrieu, who walked away from her seat and did not vote last week, said she was initially miffed by the lack of advance warning she had, but is now "comfortable" with the plan and willing to consider other charters even though they are "not the only way" to go.

In another matter, George said the state's contract with Alvarez & Marsal, the New York turnaround firm brought in to take over the district's troubled finances before the storm, will be shortened from two years to 18 months — ending in December 2006 — although they will still do the same amount of work.

Hurricane Katrina has required the company to bring in more staff and expand its duties, including managing claims to insurance companies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and overseeing repairs or construction of new schools, he said.

FEMA could reimburse $4.2 million of Alvarez & Marsal's costs, George said.

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# Unmanned pumps political powder keg

**LEVEE,** *from A-1*

Blanco. He also criticized Bossetta for failing to inform him that Metairie was flooding after Katrina passed Aug. 29.

Bossetta suggested at a levee board meeting Oct. 4 that the levee district take responsibility for pump stations to ensure they are staffed during hurricanes. He said pump workers are essential employees who should be required to remain at their posts, or at least be sheltered nearby, so they can return quickly after a storm subsides.

When he found out Friday, through rumor rather than official channels, that he would be removed, Bossetta redoubled his critique of the Broussard administration.

"Everyone makes mistakes. The mark of a true leader is admitting his mistake," Bossetta said. "The mistake was sending the pump station personnel out of East Jefferson. The half truths being perpetrated on the citizens of Jefferson by the emergency operations center under the direction of Aaron Broussard are truly a travesty."

Levee board members are appointed by the governor, four of them on recommendation of East Jefferson legislators and one — in this case, Bossetta — on recommendation of the parish president. Bossetta was first appointed under Parish President Tim Coulon's administration and was reappointed after Broussard succeeded Coulon in 2004.

Broussard said Bossetta did not call to warn him about flood-water rushing into Old Metairie from New Orleans on Aug. 30, after the breach developed on the New Orleans side of the 17th Street Canal. In his statement, Broussard said he was "shocked" that he had to hear about the plundering waters from residents who called Jefferson's emergency operations center in Marrero.



**Aaron Broussard**
'I have lost confidence in Mr. Bossetta's leadership ability'

"I believe Mr. Bossetta failed miserably in his primary fiduciary responsibility to protect the citizens of East Jefferson," Broussard's statement said. "His failure, in my opinion, constitutes gross negligence. I have lost confidence in Mr. Bossetta's leadership ability, and we are still in hurricane season."

Broussard also said that the sandbags placed on Airline Drive to dam the waters from New Orleans were placed there under his orders, rather than those of Bossetta.

Bossetta said he has no doubt that he was removed because of the criticism he lobbed at the administration, not for his failure to communicate during the disaster.

Greg Buisson, a political consultant to Broussard, said Bossetta was venturing "outside of his jurisdiction" when he proposed that the levee district take control of the pump stations, owned and operated by parish government.

Bossetta continued to lay blame for the flooding at the feet of Broussard, saying active pumps would have kept the parish dry because Katrina brought limited rainfall and the levees all held firm within Jefferson Parish.

"Our levees, although they do need additional height, would hold and indeed did hold," Bossetta said. "I am proud of the East Jefferson Levee District maintenance and police departments, who unselfishly did a heroic job during the events of Katrina and Rita."

Broussard administration officials said this week they are not prepared to draw conclusions about why East Jefferson flooded.

The governor has not yet decided whether to remove Bossetta. Bourgeois, the replacement put forward by Broussard, is a former executive director of the levee district.

Alan Alario, another member of the levee board, would not comment on Bossetta's removal, except to say, "Now is the time for recovery. It's not the time for politics."

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# Many state employees could face job loss

## *Health plans might be cut by $1 billion*

**By Jan Moller**
Capital Bureau

BATON ROUGE — More than 18,000 state employees could lose their jobs and nearly $1 billion could be cut from health-care programs for Louisiana's poorest citizens as the state scrambles in the months ahead to balance a budget devastated by the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Commissioner of Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc said the state's $7.2 billion general fund could face a $1.5 billion shortfall this year as sales, income, corporate and other taxes fall far short of projections made before the storms. The overall state budget is $18.7 billion, which includes federal dollars, fees and other income.

"Please understand, we are not here to create a gloom-and-doom scenario. The numbers are the numbers," LeBlanc told the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

The presentation was the most detailed account to date of how the storms are likely to affect the state budget, detailing how much would have to be carved from every state agency and laying out a step-by-step plan for how the cuts would be implemented.



**Jerry Luke LeBlanc**
Official fingers hurricane impact

The scenario presented to legislators assumes that $1.5 billion would need to be trimmed from the general fund, but the exact amount of the shortfall won't be determined until the state's revenue forecasting panel meets later this year.

### The biggest hit

Under LeBlanc's projections, the biggest hit would come to health-care programs, mainly Medicaid, which would lose about $301 million in general-fund dollars and almost $1 billion when matching federal financing is included; education would be trimmed by $280 million and social services would face a $43 million cut.

Everything from road maintenance and termite protection to child welfare and job-training program would eventually fall under the ax. "We have a state government to manage; it is in trouble and we have some tough decisions ahead of us," LeBlanc said.

If state agencies decided to lay off employees to make up the shortfall, 18,186 workers would lose their jobs. The actual toll would likely be less severe, as an estimated 6,000 of the state's 85,469 employees still have not reported for work since the storms and are in danger of being furloughed.

If the forecasting panel declares that the budget is in deficit, Gov. Kathleen Blanco has the authority to trim about $308 million through across-the-board cuts to state agencies without seeking approval from the Legislature. The state also could tap one-third of its rainy-day fund, or $153 million, through a two-thirds ballot by the Legislature without going into session.

### Special session?

After that, a special session will be required to make additional cuts and to borrow the balance of the rainy-day fund. If Blanco makes all the cuts she is authorized to make, and the state taps the entire rainy day fund plus a $150 million projected surplus from the fiscal year that ended June 30, the Legislature would still need to trim more than $581 million to balance the books.

Blanco has called a 13-day special session of the Legislature starting Nov. 6 to address storm-related issues, but major decisions on state spending are not expected to come until lawmakers meet again in a second special session that's expected to convene in January.

Some lawmakers said the state shouldn't wait that long to start making deep cuts. "Every month we wait it becomes a bigger percentage of the budget," Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Jefferson, said.

LeBlanc's projections are preliminary, and assume that the state won't be getting additional dollars from the federal government. It also doesn't account for new costs that might be associated with the storm. The state Department of Health and Hospitals, for example, has projected that 60,000 people could be added to the Medicaid rolls because of the storm. It also does not account for costs the state would incur if it began to furlough its workers, who would then be eligible for unemployment and other benefits.

Sen. Jay Dardenne, R-Baton Rouge, said the Legislature should start the entire budget process anew, with different priorities, rather than simply making cuts to existing programs."

Although program cuts are virtually certain, another possibility for the state is to borrow money to make up some — or all — of the shortfall. Although the state typically sells bonds only to finance infrastructure projects such as roads and government buildings, the state Constitution allows the state to incur debt "if the funds are to be used to repel invasion; suppress insurrection; (or) provide relief from natural catastrophes."

LeBlanc said he doesn't think it's feasible to cut $1.5 billion in what's left of the fiscal year. "I do not believe that at the end of the day . . . that in one-half of a fiscal year that you can cut this amount of money and not effectively shut down the entirety of state government."

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Jan Moller can be reached at jmoller@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5207.

# Hundreds file for bankruptcy since Oct. 1

**By The Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE — Hundreds of Louisiana residents hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have flocked into bankruptcy court to seek protection from debtors.

In the New Orleans-based federal bankruptcy court of the Eastern District of Louisiana, 439 claims were processed on Wednesday, making 1,554 since Oct. 1. That's a tenfold increase from last year.

"Unfortunately, it's been especially busy in the last two weeks," Baton Rouge lawyer Bruce Deuhne said. "A lot of these people are so confused. We're still seeing people show up and they're hit with huge losses from the hurricane, and then with huge losses from the financial consequences."

Louisiana's three district bankruptcy offices have processed 28,604 bankruptcy filings since Jan. 1, which is more than all of 2004.

"The debtor lawyers that I know, and I know most in the state, are very, very busy," said David Rubin, who chairs the Baton Rouge Bar Association's bankruptcy law section.

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# Casino storm tax break blasted

## *65 in House sign letter to president*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sixty-five members of the U.S. House of Representatives are asking President Bush to exclude gambling facilities from the list of Gulf Coast businesses eligible for tax breaks aimed at boosting rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

The 51 Republicans and 14 Democrats who signed the letter to Bush — none from the Louisiana delegation — said that most casinos are hugely profitable and carry insurance, making government assistance a luxury at a time the priority should be help the most "needy and the vulnerable" victims of the hurricane.

"With budget deficits growing to historic levels, we need to make sure tax dollars are going to those who truly need the government's help," lawmakers said in the letter put together by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., a longtime gambling foe. "Tax beaks for the gambling industry do not make sense."

Frank Fahrenkopf, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association, said getting casinos back and operating in Louisiana and Mississippi is critical to reviving the economies of the two states.

"From the governors to state legislators to mayors and city council members, every individual political leader tasked with rebuilding their state and communities will tell you the Gulf Coast's recovery is directly linked with the full recovery of the gambling industry," Fahrenkopf said.

### Nagin pushes casinos

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has proposed an expansion of gambling in his city that would allow hotels with 500 or more rooms to offer casino gambling, although opposition from Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and others make the proposal a long shot.

The debate over the next phase of financing for hurricane recovery efforts will occur amidst intense discussions about budget cuts and deficit reduction. Proposals include trimming another $15 billion from federal benefits programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and farm subsidies on top of the $35 billion in reductions incorporated in an earlier House budget plan.

Some Democrats have suggested temporarily pushing aside tax cuts enacted during President Bush's first term, or at least putting off votes on proposals to make some of those cuts permanent and perhaps eliminating cuts that have not yet been implemented. Most Republicans are expressing a preference for spending cuts.

House GOP leaders have rejected a proposal to delay implementation of next year's prescription drug benefit for the nation's 41 million Medicare recipients, but have expressed support for an across-the-board 2 percent cut in discretionary spending.

While arguing that everything should be on the table to help avoid significantly adding to the federal deficit, Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said tax cuts as the best way to keep the national economy strong and promote business investment in the Gulf Coast.

### Jindal hopeful

Jindal expressed hope that the need to help deal with rising costs of Katrina relief, and the ongoing war in Iraq, will spur serious discussions about Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid reform that that can generate big savings, without necessarily cutting benefits.

But the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said that the Republicans are disproportionately targeting programs that benefit the poor and middle class in its grab bag of Katrina spending offsets. It said that the conservative House Republican Study Committee would trim $375 billion over 10 years, or about 40 percent of its proposed budget cuts, on programs that primarily benefit low income Americans.

"The cuts proposed in Medicaid and other low-income programs would significantly reduce aid to the most vulnerable Americans, while cuts in programs such as Medicare and school lunches would reach into the pockets of millions of Americans who are not affluent," the Center said in a recent report.

The center said that Republicans could achieve $200 billion in budget savings over 10 years simply by canceling two tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit wealthy Americans — one a repeal of a law that was to phase out personal exemptions for high-income taxpayers and the other a repeal of a measure that limits itemized deductions. The two tax cuts are scheduled to begin phasing in next year.

### Leads GOP charge

Rep. Mark Pence, R-Ind., who is leading the GOP charge for spending reductions, said he has no doubt that canceling planned tax cuts, which he calls a tax increase, will slow the economy.

"Let us have the courage to make the tough choices to find the means to pay for the cost of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath through reductions in government spending," he said.

National Urban League President Marc Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, in a speech at Georgetown Law School, said he might buy into the spending-cut philosophy if the Congress had imposed similar fiscal discipline when it cut taxes, and provided assistance for other disasters, including the destruction of the World Trade Center in the 2001 terrorism attacks.

"Katrina has given us an opportunity – not just to put up new buildings and stronger levees, as we must – but to put the principles that we have aspired to for so many years into real practice," Morial said of programs that will help tens of thousands of poor people achieve real economic opportunity.

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Bruce Alpert can be reached at bruce.alpert@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7861.

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# Idaho senator says fraud part of La. culture

## *More lawmakers join debate on storm relief plan*

**By Bill Walsh**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — A U.S. senator from Idaho is the latest to slam Louisiana's reputation for political corruption as Congress considers whether to spend billions of dollars on hurricane recovery.

Sen. Larry Craig, a Republican, told his home state constituents that fraud is as much a part of the fabric of Louisiana as it is in Iraq and that flooded sections of New Orleans should be abandoned.

"Fraud is in the culture of Iraqis. I believe that is true in the state of Louisiana as well," Craig was quoted as saying Thursday in the Lewiston (Idaho) Morning Tribune.

The McCall (Idaho) Star News, quoted him saying "Louisiana and New Orleans are the most corrupt governments in our country and they always have been. . . . A rookie cop in New Orleans, they pay him or her $17,000 starting pay and then wink and say you better make the rest of it on the street."

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Craig is in a position to back up his opinions with actions by withholding support for hurricane-related spending.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. blasted Craig's comments as "old stereotypes" and "ignorant remarks." But Louisiana's sometimes shady political past has clearly become part of the hurricane-recovery debate in Congress.

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., has urged his colleagues not to let Louisiana politicians get their hands on the $62 billion appropriated so far because of "mind-boggling incompetence" in dealing with the storm and Louisiana's "long history of corruption."

Earlier this week, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, was slightly more diplomatic, but just as worried. Collins, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, urged Senate leaders to quickly take up legislation to strengthen oversight of hurricane-related spending. She said it is becoming "increasingly evident" that federal relief efforts are "vulnerable to widespread abuse and waste."

As Craig toured his state during the congressional recess, he also had some thoughts on redeveloping New Orleans that may be worrisome to people in flood-ravaged neighborhoods contemplating rebuilding.

The Morning Tribune quoted him as saying there is growing Senate support for abandoning whole sections of New Orleans flooded by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He mentioned the Lower Ninth Ward as an example.

"I'm not humorous when I suggest we should turn it back to what it was, a wetland," Craig was quoted as saying.

The comment echoed a remark by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., in the days after Katrina hit Aug. 29. He said that whole neighborhoods of the city should be bulldozed.

Landrieu conceded that the state has a checkered political past, but also noted other states with ethically challenged politicians. She mentioned House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, who was recently indicted on money laundering and conspiracy charges.

She called Craig's references to the Ninth Ward, "absolutely offensive."

"I remain hopeful that these hurtful remarks were not reported as he intended," Landrieu said.

A Craig spokesman said Friday that the senator stands by the comments, but the spokesman added they weren't intended to reflect on Landrieu personally.

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Bill Walsh can be reached at bill.walsh@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7817.

# Generator safety study is planned

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Investigators will look into improving generator safety after misuse of the portable power sources killed at least five people and sickened dozens more following Hurricane Katrina, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday.

Many Katrina victims relied on portable generators after the hurricane knocked out most of the power in the Gulf Region.

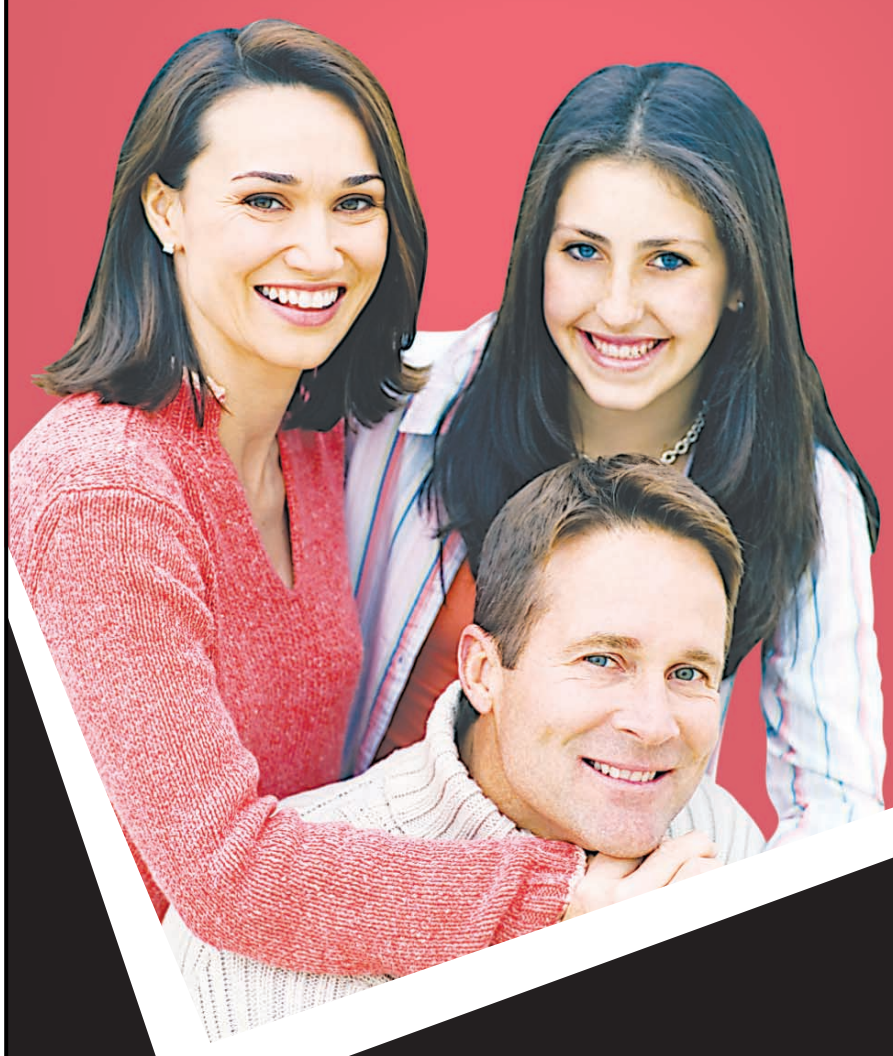
Portable generators can emit carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can kill or severely poison those inhaling the gas in poorly ventilated areas.

Calling the investigation a priority, CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton in a statement directed his staff to "consider all potential methods for improving portable generator safety," including implementing an automatic cutoff that would shut down a generator when CO levels reach certain levels.

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# Iraq prepared him for St. Bernard

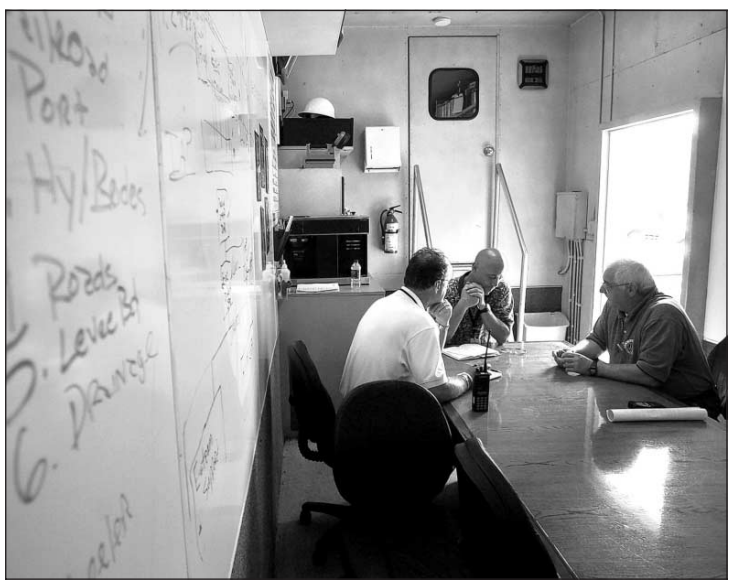
## *Parish hires expert in rebuilding cities*

**By Karen Turni Bazile**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

Shirley Campbell, a resident of Arabi for about 50 years, asks David Dysart, right, which school he went to in St. Bernard Parish. Dysart, who is helping oversee the rebuilding of the parish, surprised her when he said he was from Kansas.



Davd Dysart, back right, sits at the head of a table during a meeting in a portable trailer with Phillip Truxillo, left, of Entergy, and Alan Abadie, right, with the St. Bernard Parish government. Dysart, who helped rebuild Fallujah, Iraq, as a Marine Corps officer, is now working as a civilian to help the parish rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

U.S. Marine Reservist Lt. Col. David Dysart knows how to rebuild St. Bernard Parish – flooded rim to rim by Hurricane Katrina – because he's done it before.

Dysart was the man the U.S. military relied on the rebuild Fallujah, Iraq.

Sent to the parish as part of the military's support efforts in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, parish officials decided to keep Dysart after his military tour was complete.

"We hired him because of his experience," Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez said. "He's the only guy we know of who has experience putting a complete city back together."

Rodriguez said that Dysart, who now holds the position of the director of reconstruction for St. Bernard Parish, will help organize the recovery and ensure the parish gets proper federal aid and reimbursement.

"We wanted him longer, but he said all he needed is to be here for four months, and we will be able to run this ourselves," Rodriguez said.

Dysart, who served as the director for the Civil Military Operations Center in Fallujah, was charged with rebuilding the city that lies below sea level by the Euphrates River.

After armed forces overtook the city in November 2004, they cut electrical power and damaged pumping stations where insurgents were holed up.

Five days after the offensive started, Dysart, who was with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, began his efforts to rebuild the infrastructure in the city.

About 80 percent of Fallujah's 26,000 homes had been damaged, with 50 percent rendered uninhabitable by the offensive and flooding brought on when the pump stations stopped operating. Those housing statistics mirror St. Bernard.

Even with his experience in Iraq, Dysart called the destruction in St. Bernard "unsurpassed in this country. There are lots of comparisons to Fallujah. It sent chills down my arms when I first came here."

St. Bernard Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said parish officials were so taken with Dysart's abilities that they asked him to join their team after his military tour ended.

They are paying him $10,000 a month, the same pay and benefits he received as a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Reserves, DiFatta said. The parish expects that money to be reimbursed by FEMA.

"We're proud to have him on board," DiFatta said. "His expertise will surely expedite" the process of rebuilding the parish and bringing back its residents.

Parish Chief Administrative Officer Danny Menesses said Dysart's newly created position is above all other parish departments.

"He is a facilitator and a tool to help me with all things that are not a normal part of operating government," Menesses said. "He is helping coordinate every aspect that comes with a disaster of this magnitude."

Dysart said the parish also has hired an outside disaster management company, Response Management Associates, to manage the mounds of federal and state assistance coming through the parish is such a short time.

Despite the accolades from officials, Dysart, 44, from Kansas City, Mo., is quick to deflect attention.

"I'm not down here to save the parish," Dysart said. "The parish is doing what needs to be done.

"They have an excellent vision for the future of the parish. They are fighting hard to make sure that this parish survives and has a rebirth for the future.

"My job is only to assist."

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Karen Turni Bazile can be reached at kturni@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3300.

# Many in N.O. plan to stay away, poll finds

## *40 percent of locals are tossing in towel*

**By Will Lester**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Four in 10 residents of New Orleans who sought Red Cross help after Hurricane Katrina say they don't expect to return home — an exodus that could dramatically change that city, a poll of those hurricane survivors found.

Black residents were twice as likely as white ones to say they would not return. Almost nine in 10 whose homes are no longer livable say they don't expect to return, the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll found.

The poll indicates tens of thousands of Gulf Coast-area residents are pondering whether to go back to their homes in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama or relocate, according to the poll released Thursday night. Two in 10 said they would definitely not or probably not return to the hurricane ravaged areas, while another 13 percent said they probably would return home.

The hurricane that leveled many coastal communities along the Gulf Coast and inundated New Orleans at the end of August has left many people still struggling to get a grip on their emotions, the poll found.

A majority of those polled said they still harbor feelings of depression, sadness, anger and stress more than a month after the hurricane hit. They were asked in an open-ended question what kind of emotions they have been feeling in recent days — and a fourth of those polled said they were feeling better or almost normal.

Asked how they felt when the hurricane hit, more than eight in 10 said their feelings ranged from terror to sadness to feeling anxious and lost.

Among the poll's other findings.

▶ Asked what helped them get through the hurricane and recovery period, people mentioned family most often, followed by faith.

▶ Three-fourths said they had feared for the life of elderly relatives as the storm moved through.

▶ Nearly four of 10 who had jobs are out of work.

▶ Half said they had feared for their own lives, and half said they had been separated for at least a day from a relative they had been living with.

▶ Four in 10 went without food for at least a day, and almost as many went without drinking water for a day.

▶ Almost half, 44 percent, of those who had been separated from family members said they were still separated from a member or members of their family.

▶ More than a third said they are having trouble sleeping and experiencing feelings of anxiety and depression.

▶ A third said their home was either destroyed or damaged so badly they couldn't live in it.

▶ Half of those polled said they were either living outside their own home — either with a friend or relative in a home or apartment rented after the storm, or in a motel or shelter.

The sample was drawn from a database of people who applied for help from Red Cross and interviews were done on landline phones and by cell phone.

The poll of 1,510 adults among the 470,000 who registered for help from the Red Cross was taken from Sept. 30-Oct. 9 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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# Houston school offers N.O. kids bit of home

## *More than 300 students attend New Orleans West*

**By Pam Easton**
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — Far from the French Quarter, children driven from New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina are doing their schoolwork amid reminders of home.

At New Orleans West, a charter school set up for storm victims in a small, once-shuttered brick elementary school, the student uniforms are the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold.



**Towana Pierre-Floyd**
'I have lost what they have lost, likely'

The school's symbol is a Texas Lone Star with a Louisiana fleur de lis in the middle. And the principal wants to find a Louisiana flag to fly atop the Texas flag.

More than 300 youngsters in kindergarten through eighth grade attend the school.

The teachers and administrators are also Katrina victims from New Orleans. Keeping New Orleans schoolchildren together, and matching them with teachers from their hometown, are seen as a source of comfort.

"It soothes me in a real sense to know that I can connect with those students. I am from where they are from. I have lost what they have lost, likely," said teacher Towana Pierre-Floyd, 22.

Many of the children are from the impoverished neighborhoods hit hard by Katrina.

Many of their homes were flooded, and many still don't know where some of their relatives and friends are. Their belongings are covered with mold, mildew and mud.

Like other students, Ceyonne Riley, 10, is using donated school supplies and backpacks.

"I don't want to start over, but now we have to," she said as she took a break from a culture class where students sang "Lean on Me."

Ceyonne proudly displayed one of her few possessions, a digital watch her mother recently bought her.

She knows of only one other student from her school in New Orleans who is in Houston with her. Other than that, she does not know where any of her classmates ended up, nor if they are OK.

The school 350 miles west of New Orleans tries to get the students to talk about Katrina and confront their anxieties, though the results are not always what teachers had in mind.




AP PHOTO

New Orleans West teacher Towana Pierre-Floyd, standing, works with students Monday in Houston. Pierre-Floyd, 22, was teaching in her native New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina struck. She now teaches at New Orleans West, a structured charter school set up for students and teachers displaced by the storm.

One teacher encouraged students to debate such issues as the federal government's response to Katrina. "It got out of hand," Principal Gary Robichaux said. "There was too much emotion.

"Once you opened the bottle, it all came out."

Teachers are now using other methods, including putting pictures of the flooded city on large pieces of butcher paper and allowing students to write down the feelings evoked by the images.

"I feel bad because my home is not the same," one student wrote about a picture of New Orleans under water.

Another wrote: "I cry some times."

"I feel sad for all the people," scribbled a third.

Dr. Britta Ostermeyer, a psychiatrist who directs a Harris County health program, said the school is a good idea for those planning to return to Louisiana.

"If you put the students with other students from New Orleans and their own teachers, in the short run, they are going to feel more supported and might have a better sense of belonging," she said. "They all feel, 'We are from New Orleans and are going to make it together.' "

But in the long run, if parents decide to stay in Houston, it would be better for the students to begin getting used to their new surroundings, she said.

The principal said many of the students plan to return to New Orleans.

But in the meantime: "They feel at home here. We went through the same thing they went through."

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# PEOPLE

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**Compiled from wire reports**

What would **Bob Saget** say about this?

**Mary-Kate Olsen**, who shared the role of Michelle Tanner with her twin sister, **Ashley**, on the '80s comedy "Full House," has left college — at least for now — early in her sophomore year.

"Mary-Kate Olsen has not dropped out, she has simply taken an approved leave of absence to devote more of her time and energy to her business," Olsen's publicist, Michael Pagnotta, told The Associated Press.



**Mary-Kate Olsen**
Taking time to focus on business

The 19-year-old actress' decision to take the leave of absence was reported Friday by People magazine on its Web site.

Mary-Kate wants "to focus on her increasing responsibilities as co-president of Dualstar Entertainment Group and to pursue personal interests," the magazine quoted Pagnotta as saying.

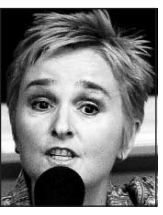
Ashley, also co-president of Dualstar, remains at New York University.

### Pain puffed away

**Melissa Etheridge** says she smoked medicinal marijuana to help with the side effects of chemotherapy during her treatment for breast cancer.

The 44-year-old singer, who was diagnosed over a year ago, is now cancer-free.

"Instead of taking five or six of the prescriptions, I decided to go a natural route and smoke marijuana," Etheridge said in an interview to air Sunday on "Dateline NBC."



**Melissa Etheridge**
'I decided to go a natural route'

When asked how her doctors reacted, Etheridge said, "Every single one was, 'Oh, yeah. That's the best help for the effects of chemotherapy.' "

The singer says she smoked marijuana every day for her pain and symptoms and "the minute I didn't feel it, I stopped."

The use of marijuana with a doctor's recommendation is legal in California and nine other states, but is against federal law.

### Grand tour guide

**Ellen DeGeneres** will get a fancy tour guide when she takes her talk show to Manhattan next month.

New York Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** has agreed to show DeGeneres around the city during the comedian's Thanksgiving Week visit.

"We'll go see some theater, and we'll hang out and do some stuff there. We'll go to clubs," DeGeneres said during Thursday's taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

"You'll go to the clubs," Clinton replied.

DeGeneres also congratulated Clinton on her 30-year marriage to former President Clinton.

"He's the kind of person you really want to be married to for 30 years because he washes dishes," Clinton said.

### Wed for a spell

**Tori Spelling**'s husband has filed for divorce, a little more than a year after the couple married.

The couple separated last month. Actor-writer **Charlie Shanian** is seeking spousal support from Spelling, according to papers filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Spelling, best known for her role as Donna on TV's "Beverly Hills, 90210," met Shanian on stage in 2002 during the Los Angeles production of his romantic comedy "Maybe, Baby It's You."

### Party on, Garth

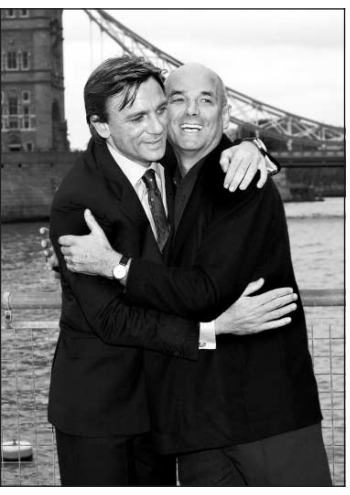
**Garth Brooks** will be among the performers at the Grand Ole Opry's 80th birthday bash airing tonight from Nashville, Tenn., on the Great American Country network.

Brooks has performed at several charity events since he announced his retirement in 2000.

The singer, 43, remains retired from performing, but is participating in the 80th birthday celebration to pay tribute to the Opry and its heritage, the Grand Ole Opry said in a recent statement.

### Today's birthdays

Historian **Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.** is 88.
Singer **Barry McGuire** is 70.
Actress **Linda Lavin** is 68.
Actress **Penny Marshall** is 63.
Actor **Victor Banerjee** is 59.
Singer **Tito Jackson** is 52.
Britain's Duchess of York, **Sarah Ferguson**, is 46.
Chef **Emeril Lagasse** is 46.
Singer **Eric Benet** is 35.



AP PHOTO

**BONDING:** Actor Daniel Craig, left, is congratulated by director Martin Campbell after Craig was unveiled as the new James Bond during a news conference in east London on Friday. The next Bond film to be shot will be a remake of 'Casino Royale,' due in theaters next year. Craig replaces Pierce Brosnan in the Bond series.


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STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

The lines approaching the Crescent City Connection toll booth are a little more congested than usual due to a variety of reasons attributed to Hurricane Katrina, including less staff to man the booths, the high-occupancy lanes being currently closed and the many new commuters without toll tags.

# CCC traffic down, but backups aren't

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

It flies in the face of reason that despite fewer vehicles crossing the Crescent City Connection this week, motorists are still seeing backups at the toll plaza in Algiers.

But that was the case, as bridge officials resumed toll collections Monday after six weeks of allowing motorists free passage because of Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent recovery operations.

"We expected less traffic," said Randy Paisant, assistant director of the Crescent City Connection. "We didn't expect this much backup."

Indeed, about 50,000 vehicles passed through the toll plaza Wednesday, but on a typical weekday before Katrina, the number was 90,000, Paisant said.

The blame lies in no one place, he said.

"Some of that may be attributed to out-of-town people," Paisant said. "They're not accustomed to the toll plaza. Some of this will settle down with time."

Toll tag use has dropped about 12 percent compared with pre-Katrina days, Paisant said. One explanation for this, he said, is that emergency vehicles that had toll tags don't have them now.

"We can move almost twice as many vehicles through the toll tag lanes than the cash lanes in an hour," Paisant said.

Exacerbating the delays, he said, are "inconsiderate" drivers who do not have toll tags but use the five toll-tag-only lanes to get close to the plaza and then cut into the cash lanes where the delays are longer. Out-of-town motorists unfamiliar with the plaza also find themselves unwittingly in the toll tag lanes and are forced to do the same, Paisant said.

While emergency vehicles get free passage, many such vehicles are unmarked, meaning toll collectors have to verify their status. For instance, many National Guard troops are using unmarked vehicles, he said.

Fewer toll collectors are working, meaning one manned booth is closed. Paisant said the bridge employed 41 toll collectors before Katrina, but only 20 are back at work. More employees want to return to work but are unable to because their homes were lost and they do not have temporary housing, Paisant said.

**Fewer toll collectors are working, meaning one manned booth is closed. Paisant said the bridge employed 41 toll collectors before Katrina, but only 20 are back at work.**

Meanwhile, the high-occupancy vehicle, or transit lanes, are closed because emergency communications equipment is located on the bridge.

Resuming toll collection was necessary because it is the sole source of revenue for operations and maintenance for the bridge and the U.S. 90 Business thoroughfare from Bridge City to Claiborne Avenue, Paisant said. Before the storm, the CCC collected roughly $50,000 a day, he said.

The state has an insurance policy that covers three weeks of revenue, less expenses, in the event that toll collection is suspended.

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Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3791.

# Evacuees in B.R. shelters are on the move again

*Some like trailers, others long for home*

**By Laura Maggi**
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Since Hurricane Katrina slammed into her hometown more than six weeks ago, Glenda Delay has sought refuge in three emergency shelters. With the shelter at Baton Rouge's River Center all but closing down Friday, she was on the move again, planning to take four young nieces on a bus trip to join her daughter in South Carolina.

"This is another place where we have to leave," Delay said Friday morning, leaning against a security barricade waiting for a ride to a local nonprofit agency to get money for the bus tickets. "I'm tired."

Officials had announced earlier this week that they would be closing what had been one of the largest evacuation shelters in the state, sending many residents to a newly created trailer park in Baker or, once that filled up, other nearby shelters.

By Friday afternoon, Baton Rouge city officials had determined that about 60 to 65 people could go to a Baker church shelter, while roughly 30 people categorized as "special needs" residents could stay at the River Center for the next few days. An aide to Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden said officials decided to keep the convention center open for those evacuees after a request from Vice Adm. Thad Allen, who is running the federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The city is trying to get public facilities, as well as privately owned buildings that have been used as shelters by churches and other groups, back to their "intended functions," said Irma Plummer, the assistant chief administrative officer in the mayor's office.

There were still more than 1,700 people in Baton Rouge shelters Friday, compared to 6,700 people who were at the River Center alone in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The number of people in shelters across the nation also has been rapidly shrinking, down to about 15,600 as of Friday, according to statistics kept by the state Department of Social Services.

Some shelter residents at the River Center chafed at having to be moved again, saying they did not want to take the trip 10 miles north of the city to Baker. Others were looking for more private accommodations, hoping to eventually get one of the travel trailers that are being put up around the city in parks by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Local officials said the 570-unit Baker trailer park has filled up, but another is under construction near the Baton Rouge airport and more are under consideration. Some people staying in Baton Rouge shelters have declined trailers in the area, saying they are hoping for housing closer to the New Orleans area.

For Donald Smith, the shelter at the Baker Municipal Auditorium wasn't such a bad move, although it was the third shelter he has been at since the storm. He left one in Arkansas a couple of weeks ago in an attempt to move closer to New Orleans.

The more bucolic setting of the Baker shelter — next to a small park and the local library — seemed an improvement from the sprawling convention center in downtown Baton Rouge.

"It's a pretty nice place," said Smith, 47, who noted that younger evacuees might be frustrated with the more suburban atmosphere in Baker.

Even John Hubbard, a Lower Ninth Ward resident who had vowed for several days not to move to a Baker shelter, said he liked his new surroundings, even if it is yet another emergency shelter. "I changed my mind. I like Baker," said Hubbard, pointing to the park with picnic benches.

Delay, who lived in the Carrollton area, said she is hoping her trip to South Carolina will be temporary and she can make one last trip — back to New Orleans.

Her daughter, who has been staying in a hotel, plans to move into an apartment this weekend. They will live there for a while, but Delay said she hopes to return to the city in a few months once it is more suitable for children.

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Laura Maggi can be reached at lmaggi@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5590.

# LaPlace man, 21, held in nightclub shootings

**By Allen Powell II**
River Parishes bureau

St. John the Baptist Parish deputies have booked a LaPlace man with attempted first-degree murder in connection with two shootings at a Reserve nightclub on Oct. 8.

Lorenzo Eugene, 21, of 1508 Lafreniere St., is accused of shooting a 17-year-old man and a 25-year-old man at Dreams Nightclub on River Road. Eugene has been booked with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated battery, illegal use of weapons and aggravated obstruction of a highway or commerce. Eugene is being held at the Sherman Walker Correctional Facility in LaPlace in lieu of $350,000 bond.

According to sheriff's reports, Eugene and several of his friends approached the 17-year-old victim outside the nightclub shortly after 1 a.m. and got into an altercation with him because he was a resident of Garyville. The victim was struck once in the mouth with a gun and then shot once in his left side when he attempted to flee. The victim was able to make it to the front of the nightclub before he collapsed and was taken to River Parishes Hospital.

The 25-year-old man was shot in the thigh by what appears to have been a stray bullet while he stood near the bar inside of the club. That victim, who was not involved in the altercation, was also taken to River Parishes Hospital for treatment.

Maj. Mike Tregre, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Office, said deputies were able to apprehend Eugene thanks to witness descriptions. Deputies are still searching for several other suspects, although Tregre would not release their names or say how many of them are being sought.

# Registrar moves to Clearview Mall

**East Jefferson bureau**

Residents from anywhere in Louisiana may register to vote, or change their registration to reflect post-Katrina addresses, beginning Monday at Clearview Mall in Metairie.

The service is available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at a temporary site set up in the center of the mall by the Jefferson Parish registrar of voters. Registrar Dennis DiMarco moved his east bank operations to the mall after Hurricane Katrina damaged his suite at the Joseph S. Yenni Building in Elmwood.

The registrar's West Bank office at 5001 West Bank Expressway in Marrero remains open for these and other services.

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**Slidell, LA:** Wal-Mart parking lot at 167 North Shore Blvd.
**Metairie, LA:** Lakeside Shopping Center near Pottery Barn at 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on corner of North Causeway Blvd.

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# Rescuers end their search for victims of earthquake

## *As hope fades, toddler found alive in rubble*

**By Zarar Khan**
Associated Press writer

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN — Rescue workers abandoned the search Friday for survivors trapped in the rubble of last week's earthquake, although individual efforts continued, with an 18-month-old girl pulled alive from the ruins of her home.

A top U.N. official warned that reconstruction of the devastated region will cost billions of dollars and take as long as a decade. Weather forecasters said heavy rains expected in the quake zone this weekend could disrupt efforts to provide food and shelter to an estimated 2 million people ahead of the harsh Himalayan winter.

With Pakistan's death toll from the Oct. 8 earthquake estimated at more than 35,000, Jan Egeland, the U.N. undersecretary-general and emergency relief coordinator, said the search-and-rescue phase was over.

"It's a cruel reality," he said. "But after a week, very few people survive."

Still, a doctor, Mazhar Hussain, told Pakistan's GEO television and the British Broadcasting Corp. that his rescue team had pulled the toddler, unconscious but alive, from under the door of her collapsed house, which had protected her. Her mother and two brothers were found dead nearby, but her father survived.

"Her right hand is broken, and she has a fracture in her left leg," he said on GEO, speaking from Balimang, where the girl was found.

Egeland, who traveled to hard-hit areas, said he feared bottlenecks of relief supplies.

"If we don't work together, we will become a disaster within a disaster," he said. He said it would take billions of dollars and "five to 10 years" to rebuild.

In Islamabad, police launched a criminal investigation into the collapse of a 10-story luxury residence that was the capital's only structure to fall in the magnitude-7.6 quake, killing at least 40 residents.

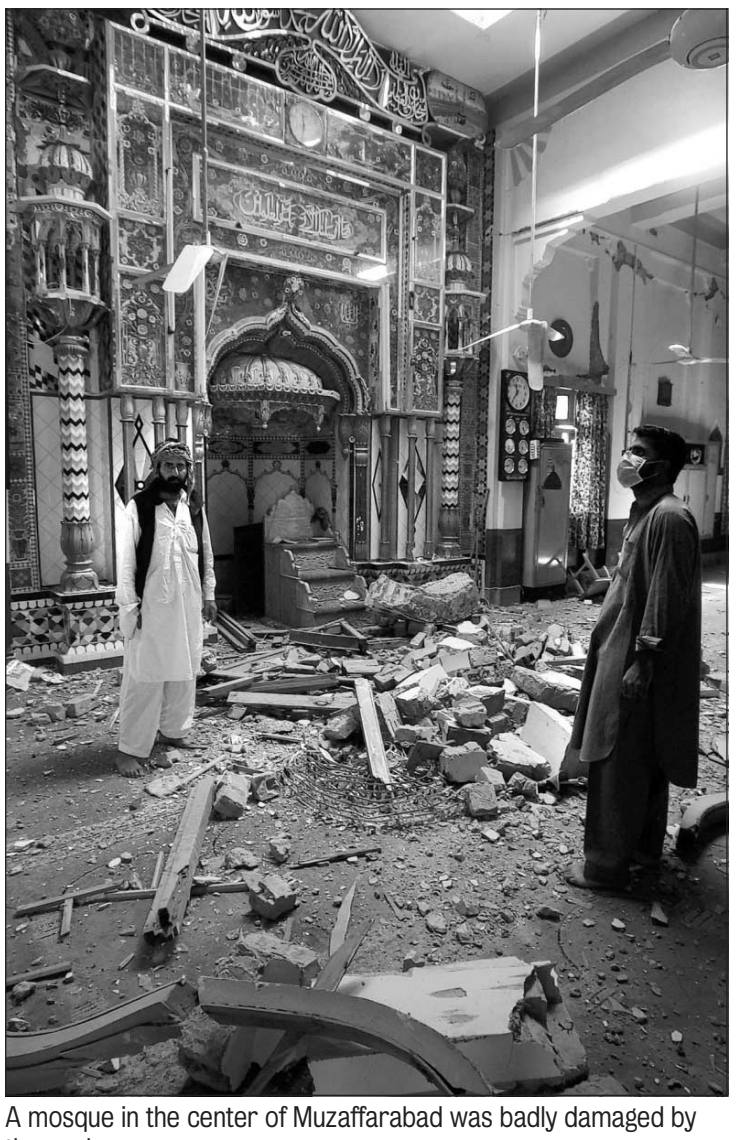
"We will arrest all those who didn't perform their duty well," said the city police chief, Sikandar Hayat. "They might be the builders, contractors or supervisors."

Most of Pakistan's deaths were in the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, where snow has started to fall in some areas.



AP PHOTOS

People affected by the devastating Oct. 8 earthquake gather for the distribution of aid in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, on Friday. The death toll from the quake in Pakistan is estimated at more than 35,000.



A mosque in the center of Muzaffarabad was badly damaged by the quake.

India has reported more than 1,350 deaths in the portion of Kashmir it controls.

Mohammed Hanif, a senior meteorologist in Islamabad, said rain was expected in Kashmir and other parts of Pakistan over the next day.

"Rains with thunderstorms will definitely disrupt relief operations in earthquake-hit areas," he said.

Earlier this week, rains and hailstorms grounded helicopters flying food and other supplies to devastated areas.

Many exhausted relief workers dealt with the added burden of fasting during the day for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Water and electricity were restored to parts of Muzaffarabad, a Kashmiri city of 600,000 in the heart of the quake zone. Authorities were working to bring power back to outlying villages.

The country's relief commissioner, Maj. Gen. Farooq Ahmad Khan, said Pakistan expected to get 2 million blankets and 100,000 large tents before the onset of winter. He said 200,000 houses had been destroyed.

UNICEF said the international relief effort must focus on helping children at risk of death from cold, malnutrition and disease. The U.N. agency said it was sending high protein bars, boots and sweaters for children, blankets, water containers, plastic tarpaulins, tents and medical supplies.

Pakistani military helicopters and copters from other countries flew in and out of a sports stadium in Muzaffarabad, where a temporary hospital had been set up. The helicopters ferried aid workers to isolated villages, including those in the Neelum and Jehlum valleys, and brought back hundreds of injured people.

Pakistan's information minister, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said helicopters from other nations had helped save 6,000 injured people by ferrying them to hospitals. On Friday, 45 helicopters flew a total of 80 sorties, he said.

The U.S. military has deployed 13 helicopters to Pakistan, and has been dropping relief supplies by air from C-130s. It also prepared to send a 36-bed Mobile Army Surgical Hospital from Germany, as well as a water purification crew.



AP PHOTO

Earthquake victim, Abdul Razak, 10, from Kashmir, recovers from having his left arm amputated at a hospital in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Friday. Dozens of Pakistani earthquake victims have lost limbs because of delays in getting the injured from isolated villages to a place with proper health care.

# Amputations are widespread amid quake

## *Most unable to get the proper treatment*

**By Matthew Pennington**
Associated Press writer

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN — Thirteen-year-old Riffat Nazir's right leg was trapped under the door frame when last weekend's quake brought her family's two-story mud house down around her in Kashmir.

It took three days for her family to dig out their dead and give them a proper Muslim burial, and three more before they could transport the girl to a hospital near the Pakistani capital. By then, doctors had no choice but to amputate.

Dozens of Pakistani quake victims have lost limbs because of delays in getting the injured from isolated villages to a place with proper health care.

At Rawalpindi General Hospital, where Nazir was recovering Friday from the operation to amputate her right leg below the knee, surgeons have performed more than 200 major operations in the past six days, mostly on patients suffering crushed limbs.

Helicopters have transported a flood of patients from the quake zone to the north, where few hospitals were left standing after last Saturday's 7.6-magnitude temblor. Rawalpindi's three main hospitals and three others in nearby Islamabad have been choked by the crisis.

"The patients are coming late and suffering gangrene in their wounds," said Dr. Kamran Saeed, an orthopedic surgeon who had performed eight of the 25 or so amputations carried out at Rawalpindi General in recent days.

"You cannot save the leg or arm. You have to save the life of the patient," he said.

Injured people stranded in remote villages in the mountains of Kashmir and many outlying areas — where thousands have died — have seen no rescue workers. They often have had to rely on relatives carrying them for hours on foot to have a chance of survival.

Riffat's mother, Rahila Bibi, said that in their village of Hollian, all 60 houses were toppled by the quake, killing about 100 people. Bibi lost two sisters and more than 25 relatives in all. Two other sisters were injured and remain stranded in the village.

"The house was demolished. The cattle are dead, and we have nothing to live on. Everything is destroyed," said Bibi, wiping tears from her tired eyes with the colored shawl that was coiled loosely around her head.

Villagers using simple tools and their bare hands toiled six hours to free Riffat from beneath the heavy baked mud and timber of the simple five-room house.

It took another three days to locate all the family's dead relatives and bury them quickly — regarded as a spiritual necessity for Muslims.

Finally, six villagers helped carry Riffat 15 hours on a charpoy — a traditional rope-mattress bed that sits outside many homes in rural Pakistan — to the nearest town on a narrow dirt road blocked by landslides.

After that, they traveled by vehicle for another five hours to the main city in Pakistan's part of Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, where after a day's wait, a foreign helicopter brought the girl and her mother to the hospital in Rawalpindi. A day later, she underwent an operation.

Now Riffat lies recovering in bed, blood dripping into her veins from an IV bag and a gray teddy bear at her bedside. She'll spend the next two weeks at least in the hospital and will be fitted with a prosthesis after the wound fully heals in six to nine months.

All but the maternity and pediatric wards at Rawalpindi General have been devoted to the quake emergency — the worst crisis to test the hospital since 1988, when an ammunition dump in this garrison city exploded, killing hundreds.

While the flow of patients slowed Friday compared to previous days, beds for arriving quake victims were still spilling out into the reception area. Doctors, assisted by medical students, have been working around the clock, sleeping when they can.

Saeed said the general emergency care given to patients brought from the quake zone had been "excellent," although sometimes overtight bandaging and tourniquets by inexperienced medics — without clinic or hospital buildings to work in — have made things worse, obstructing the flow of blood to a wounded limb.

So far, the hospital has treated 947 patients from the earthquake, of which only two have died, said Dr. Shahzad Rehan, the medical superintendent. He expected more amputations would be necessary as others victims like Riffat finally arrive at the hospital.

# Muslims in region take comfort in faith

**By Tini Tran**
Associated Press writer

BALAKOT, PAKISTAN — On prayer mats set atop the roof of one flattened mosque, the men bowed their heads in silence, seeking solace amid the rubble.

For devout Muslims in the quake-ruined town of Balakot, it was the first time Friday prayers had been held since last weekend's devastating quake. They came by the hundreds — some carrying shovels, some wearing face masks — all looking for spiritual comfort.

"God is angry with me, but I cannot be angry with him," said Fazlur Rahman, 67, who lost his daughter in the disaster. "This is a test of my faith. I have nothing else."

His weather-beaten face crumpled with pain as he talked about his 25-year-old daughter, Shaziya, who was buried under the debris when their home buckled under the 7.6-magnitude quake, which killed an estimated 35,000 people in Pakistan.

"She had asked me to bring her something to eat. I walked away only a moment when everything collapsed. She didn't even have time to cry out. I rushed back to her and shouted her name, but there was no reply," he said, thrusting his scarf into his mouth to muffle his sobs.

He came alone to the Syed Ahmed Shaheed Mosque, now a pile of twisted pylons and smashed concrete on the banks of the Kunhar River.

"The prayers satisfy me," he said. "They lessen my pain."

In Balakot, a town of about 60,000 people that was largely leveled by the quake, survivors have little else to cling to but their faith. Once a picturesque spot at the foot of the mountains that drew local tourists, the town has few buildings standing whole and none of its mosques left.

Despite the devastation, the devout arrived in the hundreds for Friday prayers.

**Notices**

**9930 Legal Notices**

The Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest rules by USEPA/USDOT shall become effective September 5, 2006. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) will no longer have authorization to require hazardous waste handlers to acquire from LDEQ and use the Louisiana Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest. After the effective date of the new manifest rules (September 5, 2006), Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest forms must be obtained only from EPA-registered and approved sources. These sources must apply for registration by submitting the required information regarding the strict manifest form printing and tracking requirements specified by the new rule and then obtain express authorization by the EPA to be a manifest form printer/provider. The LDEQ will not become an EPA manifest form printer/provider. However, the LDEQ has anticipated the need for Louisiana Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest forms based on previous order statistics and will have supplies up to the rule effective date of September 5, 2006. Until the effective date of the new rule, LDEQ will continue to make its current supply of manifest forms available to hazardous waste handlers that must use the forms in compliance with the applicable regulations in LAC 33:Part V, Louisiana Hazardous Waste Regulations. If these supplies become exhausted before the effective date of the new rule, LDEQ will refer hazardous waste handlers' requests for manifest forms to any other available source that provides manifest forms under its authorization and regulations, i.e., EPA, other authorized manifest state, EPA-approved new manifest form supplier, etc. After the effective date of the new rule (September 5, 2006), the LDEQ will refer manifest form requests to the EPA registry of approved new manifest form providers/printers.

You may access the Federal Register, 70 FR 10814 (March 4, 2005), to read the complete final rule. Contact Mr. James Miller, Office of Environmental Services, for further information at 225-219-3245 or James.Miller@la.gov.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

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Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Sewage Sludge
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LAC 33:VII.301 and 303, and
IX:6901, 6903, 6905, 6907,
6909, 6911, and 7135 (OS066E)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allow the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and of R.S. 30:2011 and 2074, which allow the department to establish standards, guidelines, and criteria, to promulgate rules and regulations, and to issue compliance schedules, the secretary of the department hereby declares that an emergency action is necessary in order to prevent the unauthorized disposal of sewage sludge in treatment works treating domestic sewage and other areas unprepared to receive the waste stream.

Sewage sludge is managed by three different programs within the state and the EPA. The multiple permitting process is a cumbersome and expensive process for both the state and the regulated community, hence, inadequately permitted and/or designed facilities to accept the waste, which is produced in a persistent manner. The potential for dumping of sewage sludge presents a potential health risk to the public and the environment in areas of the state that are under-developed for receiving the waste. This emergency rule attempts to streamline and expedite the permitting process by removing the solid waste requirements for the management of sewage sludge from the solid waste regulations (LAC 33:Part VII). Sewage sludge will be managed by LAC 33:IX.Chapter 69 that is reflective of and equivalent to the Clean Water Act Section 503 program at the federal level.

This Emergency Rule is effective on September 1, 2005, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning OS066E you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

This Emergency Rule is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations, and is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70123; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Adopted this 1st day of September, 2005.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of
Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Mercury-Containing
Devices and Electronics
as Universal Wastes
(LAC 33:V.109, 305, 1501, 2201, 3801, 3806, 3810, 3813, 3821, 3823, 3841, 3843, 3845, 3855, 3877, 4301, and 4911) (HW088E)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), which allows the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and under the authority of R.S. 30:2011, the secretary of the department hereby declares that an emergency action is necessary in order to implement rules to add mercury-containing devices and electronics, including cathode ray tubes (CRTs), destined for recycling as universal wastes.

Under the Emergency Rule, metallic mercury must be recovered, recycled, reused, or sequestered, and not incinerated, landfilled, or released in any way; electronics, including CRTs, must be sent for dismantling and recovery of components, in a way that prevents releases to the environment. Large amounts of debris and waste must be disposed of as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is desirable to divert as many electronics and mercury-containing devices as possible away from disposal sites. By including these wastes as universal wastes, the opportunity exists to divert these items for recycling, thereby improving the environment and simplifying recovery. The department has proposed a rule to promulgate these regulation changes.

This Emergency Rule is effective on October 3, 2005, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning HW088E you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

This Emergency Rule is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations, and is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Adopted this 3rd day of October, 2005.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

POTPOURRI

Department of
Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Grant Parish Ozone
Maintenance Plan
(0510Pot2)

Under the authority of the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, R. S. 30:2001 et seq., the secretary gives notice that the Office of Environmental Assessment, Plan Development Section, will submit a proposed revision to the ozone maintenance plan for Grant Parish. This revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is mandated under Section 110(a)(1) requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

According to the Phase 1 Implementation Rule published April 30, 2004 (69 FR 23951), areas that are designated attainment for the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and are designated attainment for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS with an approved maintenance plan must submit a revision.

A public hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. on November 29, 2005, in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, please contact Vivian H. Aucoin at (225) 219-3575 or at the address listed below. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposal.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the SIP revision no later than 4:30 p.m., November 29, 2005, to Vivian H. Aucoin, Office of Environmental Assessment, Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314 or to FAX (225) 219-3582 or by e-mail to vivian.aucoin@la.gov.

A copy of the SIP revision for Grant Parish may be viewed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the DEQ Public Records Center, Room 127, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, or at the Northeast Regional Office located at 1823 Hwy. 546, West Monroe, LA.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel

POTPOURRI NOTICE

Department of
Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Solicitation of Comments on
Revision of Comprehensive
Toxic Air Pollutant Emission
Control Program
(LAC 33:III.Chapter 51,
Subchapter A) (0509Pot3)

The Department of Environmental Quality is proposing to revise the Louisiana Air Toxics regulations in LAC 33:III.Chapter 51, Subchapter A. LAC 33:III.Chapter 51, Subchapter A was originally promulgated in December 1991 pursuant to R.S. 30:2060. There have been several revisions to the regulations since; however, the department is considering a comprehensive review of Subchapter A. Revisions will be proposed to revise dated language in the regulations and update the Louisiana Ambient Air Quality Standards to ensure protection of human health and the environment by applying the most recent and best scientific data available.

The Department seeks written comments from interested parties for consideration as we develop rule revisions for proposal. The comments may suggest areas or topics for revision or propose revisions to the regulations. Comments are due no later than 4:30 p.m., November 20, 2005, and should be submitted to James Orgeron, Office of Environmental Assessment, Air Quality Planning Section, Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314 or to FAX (225) 219-3240 or by e-mail to james.orgeron@la.gov. After the comment period has ended, a stakeholders meeting will be scheduled and held.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive

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The Times-Picayune

METRO

SECTION B

Saturday, October 15, 2005

DEATHS • B-4
EDITORIALS • B-6



# Inmates fighting for their freedom

## *Hurricanes delay court hearings*

**By Gwen Filosa**
Staff writer

Defense attorneys in New Orleans are fighting to free inmates stuck behind bars — without conviction or hearings — in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which forced an evacuation from the parish prison days after the storm struck.

At least two motions have been filed on behalf of such inmates, including a federal case on behalf of 94 women shipped to the state's maximum security prison in Angola for safekeeping after floodwaters threatened the local jail.

Gyntrella Gettridge was booked into Orleans Parish Prison with criminal trespass, accused of sleeping near a ferry, six days before Hurricane Katrina hit the city. Gettridge, 31, wound up being evacuated to Angola, where she lived for three weeks before U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey ordered her and 59 others released on Sept. 22.

Gettridge and 59 others named in the civil action have been freed, while attorney Nick Trenticosta works on the cases of the remaining 34 women locked up. The 94 were all misdemeanor cases, Trenticosta

*See* **INMATES,** *B-3*

JEFFERSON POLITICS

# Katrina can't cool 4th-term ambitions

**ALSO: Cash-strapped mayors implore Bush for meeting**

**By Mary Swerczek**
Staff writer

Kenner City Councilman Marc Johnson missed the deadline last month to turn in enough signatures to be able to ask voters for a chance to run for a fourth term.

But citing Hurricane Katrina's effects, Johnson said he plans to file a court petition for a time extension, which could make him the first city official to use the petition process to bypass term limits.



**Marc Johnson**
Councilman seeks extension to complete petition drive

"But for Katrina, I would be finished and running for a fourth term," Johnson said Friday.

On April 1, Johnson filed the text of his petition supporting a re-election bid with election officials and was given 180 days to gather signatures from one-third of the voters in his district. That date would have been about Sept. 28 or 29.

"We were not there to accept

*See* **POLITICS,** *B-2*

# Amid destruction, the doctors are in

## *Makeshift facilities aid city on the mend*

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

Inside the tan and Army-green tents opposite the now-condemned University Hospital, health care workers from Charity and University hospitals have created a medical facility, complete with everything from heart monitors to X-ray machines, as a first line of defense in protecting the city's fragile public health care system.

Although not a military operation, health care workers at the temporary facility have teamed with the Army, which is running a combat hospital inside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, to fill the void left by the closure of Charity Hospital.

The public facility was opened this week by Louisiana State University to replace most of the services that for the Past month had been provided by the USNS Comfort. The Navy ship departed the Poland Avenue wharf last week.

The temporary site in the 500 block of South Johnson Street will address basic medical needs as the city begins to repopulate.

Many of those who return will be without health insurance, said Dr. Cathi Fontenot, medical director for the Medical Center of Louisiana. For now, the services will be free. Over the next few weeks, more such clinics will open throughout the city, she said.

Fontenot, who oversees Charity and University hospitals, both of which were damaged by Hurricane Katrina, envisions a new medical complex to replace the ones she lost.

"We are still, in my heart of hearts, looking for a new facility," Fontenot said, adding that her staff is adapting to the current environment. "Our people can work anywhere."

Called EMEDS, or Expeditionary Medical Support, the units at South Johnson are similar to those used to treat wounded soldiers in Iraq and

*See* **DOCTORS,** *B-2*




STAFF PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Pvt. Todd Ostendorf, left, and Spc. Gary Mayfield move supplies around Thursday at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Army has established a field hospital at the center to help fill New Orleans' health care void.

## MAIN MISSION




STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

More than six weeks after Hurricane Katrina roared through New Orleans, the underpass at the railroad tracks and Canal Boulevard is still under water. The culprit, apparently, is not floodwaters but a broken water main. The dip has been pumped out only to fill up again, though workers are determined to dry it out once and for all.

NEW ORLEANS POLITICS

# Too many cooks in kitchen, again

**ALSO: Lack of cooperation; Incredibly insensitive; Lawyer gets ovation**

**By Bruce Eggler**
Staff writer

Former Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Michael Brown took a lot of heat last month when he tried to blame his agency's problems in responding to Hurricane Katrina on what he called Louisiana's "dysfunctional" governmental and emergency management systems.

But people observing the goings-on in New Orleans government this week might conclude that Brown had a point.

Example A: Ignoring arguments that the city and state already had more than enough task forces and advisory boards trying to plan post-Katrina reconstruction, the City Council followed through Wednesday on the plan it had announced earlier to create its own 11-member advisory committee.

That's in addition to panels created by Mayor Ray Nagin, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu.

It was clear from council members' comments that the main motivation for forming the new group was pique that, in their view, Nagin has been ignoring the council in seeking advice on how to revitalize the city.

Councilman Eddie Sapir said he did not even know the name of Nagin's group, widely publicized in the media as the Bring Back New Orleans commission, and said the council managed to get a representative on it only after "some strong, strong urging."

Council President Oliver Thomas, a longtime Nagin ally who was named to the commission, agreed. "They didn't want me on it," he said.

Councilwoman Renee Gill Pratt said Nagin's group contains only one woman and is not

*See* **ORLEANS,** *B-3*

# Public school rolls rise in Jeff

## *Increase called sign of robust rebound*

**By Mark Waller**
East Jefferson bureau

Jefferson Parish public schools have added almost 6,000 more students since reopening two weeks ago, bringing the total to 34,552, or 70 percent of its enrollment before Hurricane Katrina.

Public school officials on Friday hailed the numbers as a sign of strong recovery for both the school system and the community in general, although Catholic school officials this week reported their Jefferson Parish turnout to be even stronger, with more students enrolled in the parochial schools than before Katrina.

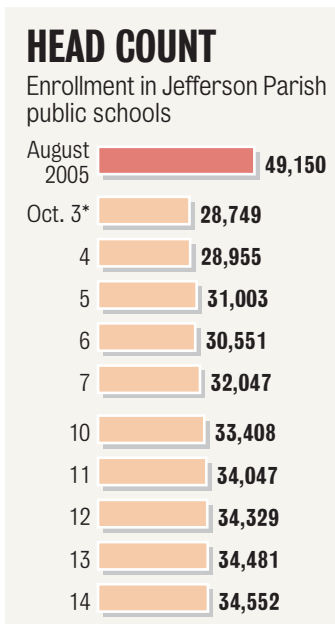
"The important point is we're at 70 percent," said Leigh Barton, assistant superintendent for research in Jefferson public schools. "Other people may not consider that quite an accomplishment. I think it speaks volumes to the rebuilding of Jefferson Parish."

School system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said on Friday the schools expect a surge in January when parents move back for the new semester.

On Oct. 7, at the end of their first week back, the schools counted 32,047 students. On Monday, 33,408 students enrolled.

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *B-2*

**HEAD COUNT**
Enrollment in Jefferson Parish public schools




*First day of classes since Aug. 26

Note: The August 2005, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14 figures are enrollment figures. Others are attendance figures, which typically consist of total enrollment minus absences on those days.

Source: Jefferson Parish public school system

STAFF CHART

# Jeff schools revamp Post-Katrina calendar

## *Students lose days off vacation time*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank bureau

Slicing into holidays and converting previously planned half-days into full days, the Jefferson Parish School Board has unanimously adopted a revised school-year calendar.

The board first amended the calendar Sept. 29, calling for the school day to start an hour earlier. That plan was scrapped after board members reported strong public backlash to the schedule, under which high schools would have started at 6:15 a.m.

At the time, officials said the state had not informed them how many of the 24 class days lost to Hurricane Katrina the system would have to make up.

According to Jefferson administrators, state officials have said seven days will have to be recouped, but the state Department of Education said no decision has yet been reached.

Department spokeswoman Meg Casper said the state wants to petition the Legislature to allow state Superintendent Cecil Picard to approve revamped calendars on a case-by-case basis. Casper said she did not know how Jefferson arrived at its seven-day figure.

Under Jefferson's latest revised calendar, students will lose one day of winter and spring break and several "records day" for teachers will now be full days for students.

The new calendar is as follows:

- ▶ Nov. 11, end of first marking period.
- ▶ Nov. 18, report cards issued.
- ▶ Nov. 21-25, Thanksgiving break.
- ▶ Nov. 28, parent conferences for elementary and high schools, half day for those students.
- ▶ Nov. 29, parent conferences for middle and special schools, half day for those students.
- ▶ Dec. 17-Jan. 1, winter vacation.
- ▶ Jan. 2, school resumes.
- ▶ Jan. 16, Martin Luther King holiday.
- ▶ Jan. 20, end of second marking period.
- ▶ Jan. 27, report cards issued.
- ▶ Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, Mardi Gras holiday.
- ▶ March 20-24, standardized testing week.
- ▶ March 24, end of third marking period.

*See* **CALENDAR,** *B-2*

# Army attacks health care crunch

**DOCTORS,** *from B-1*

Afghanistan. It's a 24-hour clinic for people with minor health problems. Pharmacy and dental services also are available.

Patients with serious trauma or in need of major surgery are sent to the Army's field hospital at the Convention Center. Once there, a patient can stay for two days. Those in need of longer-term care are sent to Ochsner Foundation Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital or West Jefferson Medical Center.

"We have been here for several weeks," said Dr. Jennifer Avegno, a Charity Hospital doctor working at the Convention Center. "This has never, ever happened before. The military has never partnered with civilians before."

Army Maj. Paula Lodi, an administrator for the combat military hospital, said the civilian medical staff complements her unit's efforts by assisting walk-in patients.

The Army's function is to fill the void created by the closure of Charity.

"The void of Charity is the trauma services," Lodi said. "We do trauma and acute care."

The 205-member unit, which treated soldiers during a tour of duty in Iraq, hasn't seen much bloodshed in New Orleans. There hasn't been a shooting or a murder in the city in weeks.

Most patients need treatment for injuries suffered while repairing their homes. Some have fallen off ladders, others have stepped on nails. One man came in Thursday with second-degree burns on his hand from a blow torch.

"We're seeing everything that you would see in an emergency room," Avegno said. "We have full surgical capabilities. There are some limitations that we have, but not many."

### Back on the job

Aisha Brooks ate lunch in her car outside the Convention Center on Thursday as her husband was wheeled into surgery.

Brooks said she brought him to the facility to have a nail removed from his foot.

"He didn't feel it go in his foot," Brooks said of her husband, who was injured as he checked on their storm-damaged home in Harvey. "He was told if he had waited one more day, he would have lost his foot."

At the South Johnson Street site, patients sat patiently awaiting treatment in an air-conditioned triage tent.

Daniel Lowery Jr., a respiratory therapist, stood in the parking lot turned medical center and looked across the street at University Hospital, where he used to work.

Though he could no longer go inside the condemned building, Lowery said it was comforting to work beside those with whom he rode out the storm just weeks before.

Word was spreading that they were back. More patients would be coming soon. The staff is ready, he said.

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Tara Young can be reached at tyoung@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3323.

## JOY AND PAIN




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Mary Britz, a dental hygienist from Yakuma, Wash., and Cpl. Daniel Huber, with U.S. Public Health Services, identified two hurricane victims Friday using dental records at the DMORT facility in St. Gabriel. The team is always happy when an ID is made, because that means a family will get closure.

# Refuse hauler refusing to keep on trucking

*Subcontractor cites contract, corps woes*

**By Richard Boyd and Paul Bartels**
St. Tammany bureau

A bureaucratic tangle and contract disputes threaten to prolong the already slow-moving pickup of tons of storm debris along city streets and leave dozens of haulers either unpaid or only partially paid in Slidell, Mandeville, Covington and Pearl River.

The cleanup of the mess left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina ground to a halt, at least temporarily, Friday when the lead subcontractor walked off the job and said the company will pull out of Slidell and Covington if the problems aren't cleared up soon.

Joe Schaefer, the Army Corps of Engineers' mission manager for storm cleanup in St. Tammany Parish, said later that corps officials would work through the weekend to resolve the problems.

"Yes, that's our goal, to get it cleared up by Monday," he said, adding that he was in the middle of a meeting and couldn't comment further at that time.

Officials with Gulf States Contractors, a Smith Enterprises company in Slidell, said they will stay on the job if the corps is true to its word.

Debris cleanup in unincorporated areas of St. Tammany is being handled by Omni Pinnacle under a separate contract.

The debris haulers in the parish's municipalities complained that they aren't being paid by the contractor, Ceres Environmental Inc. of Brooklyn Park, Minn., hired by the corps to oversee the cleanup in the parish. Ceres has not responded to a reporter's requests for comment.

Gulf States is picking up tree, construction and other debris in all three cities through an interim agreement with Ceres, which replaced Ashbritt Inc. of Pompano Beach, Fla. Ceres has a one-year contract with the corps that is worth up to $500 million for cleanup work in Louisiana.

But after seven weeks on the job, Gulf States has been unable to get a permanent contract with Ceres, and the corps has shut down Mandeville's temporary dump site four times on grounds that the road leading into it is too dusty, Smith Enterprises chief Chris Jean said Friday.

Jean said Gulf States simply cannot continue to work under such conditions, which include a dispute with Ceres over the interim contract.

"I'm out of pocket over $8 million," Jean said. "I've been paid about $1.7 million."

City officials complained about the situation Friday morning in a meeting with Schaefer and other officials.

Mandeville Mayor Eddie Price said he would ask the City Council to fire the corps if the problems aren't fixed by Monday. Other local officials made similar threats.

"I am at wit's end," Price said. "These corps people don't see the urgency in this trying to restore Mandeville. . . . We can't work with the corps. I don't understand their mindset."

Because of the situation, he said, Mandeville apparently will have no debris pickup over the weekend.

Slidell Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing said Gulf States had agreed to continue working in Slidell over the weekend because of the promise to end the problems.

"Hopefully by Monday there will be a contract in place between Ceres and Gulf States," Dearing said. Otherwise, he said, he'll urge cancellation of Slidell's agreement with the corps.

Dearing noted, and Gulf States confirmed, that Gretna terminated its contract with the corps a week ago because of similar problems. Gulf States has remained on the job there under a direct contract with Gretna.

Terminating the contracts with the corps could mean that the cities struggling to recover from the devastation left Aug. 29 by Hurricane Katrina would have to pay 25 percent of the cleanup cost for at least the remainder of the job.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency would reimburse them for the 75 percent, the traditional procedure that parish government chose when it hired Omni Pinnacle for cleanup in the unincorporated areas.

Price said 25 percent could have dire consequences for Mandeville's already troubled budget. The city is reeling from a $300,000 decline in August sales tax collections and a near-zero collection for September, he said.

Slidell Mayor Ben Morris said earlier this week that his city's strained finances couldn't spare a dime. The city faces a potential $5 million revenue shortfall in its $35 million budget, which took effect July 1.

Price earlier in the week pleaded with some state legislators for help in trying to cut through a bureaucratic logjam and get a FEMA reimbursement of $400,000 the city paid Gulf States to clear city streets of trees, downed power lines and debris within 70 hours of the storm.

Jean said Gulf States is now out "about $8 million for the debris removal" for which it hasn't been paid. "We can't continue this drain. We are making our payroll, but we have to get paid by the corps' contractor and we have to have a contract before we can continue."

Jean and Dearing said the major sticking point is less about money than about potential legal settlements.

Immediately after the storm, Jean said, Gulf States had the lead subcontract with Ashbritt. "Three weeks into it, the corps comes in and tells all these mayors that they will take over the operation, that FEMA will bear 100 percent of the cost, and they will do all the paperwork. All the mayors took them up on the offer."

The trouble came when the corps replaced Ashbritt with Ceres, Jean said.

"We got paid for our initial work by Ashbritt, but we have had no payments from Ceres and no contract until their lawyer called our lawyer at 10 p.m. Wednesday with an offer we rejected," he said.

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Paul Bartels can be reached at pbartels@timespicayune.com or (985) 645-2854. Richard Boyd can be reached at rboyd@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4816.

# Roussel trumpets rise in Jeff rolls

**SCHOOLS,** *from B-1*

By Friday, Jefferson officials counted 4,540 displaced students on their rolls, with 2,817 from New Orleans, 931 displaced from one part of Jefferson to another, 383 from St. Bernard Parish and the rest from several other parishes.

"Even though 100 percent of the people aren't back, I think it's a rapid rebuilding," said Jefferson Superintendent Diane Roussel, who predicts the system will soon reach 75 percent. Roussel said high percentages of natives living in the New Orleans area mean people have strong attachments and many will likely return.

Roussel said Jefferson has posted much stronger turnout than Florida school systems reported after hurricanes, even though Katrina's disruption was longer.

But the Catholic schools in Jefferson Parish appear to be doing even better, in terms of percentages returned. This week Archdiocese of New Orleans officials reported enrollment at 19,239, which is almost 1,000 more students than the Catholic schools had before Katrina. Catholic school officials attributed the growth to the influx of displaced students.

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Mark Waller can be reached at mwaller@timespicayune.com or at (504) 883-7056.

# 7 days recouped under new schedule

**CALENDAR,** *from B-1*

▶ March 30, half day for secondary students, full day for elementary students.

▶ March 31, report cards issued.

▶ April 6, parent conferences for elementary and high schools, half day for those students.

▶ April 7, parent conferences for middle and special schools, half day for those students.

▶ April 13-17, spring break.

▶ April 18, school resumes.

▶ May 31, full day for all students.

▶ June 1, full day for elementary students, half day for secondary students.

▶ June 2, records day, no school for students.

# Councilman says he's almost got the signatures

**POLITICS,** *from B-1*

the petition," Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters Dennis DiMarco said, adding that he encouraged Johnson to seek the judge's order. "This is really unprecedented that we've had such devastation and wholesale closure of office buildings."

The registrar's office opened its West Bank location last week, but its east bank office is still shuttered.

Johnson, who has represented the 1st District since 1994, is the first Kenner politician to attempt the petition drive.

Kenner voters in 1995 amended the City Charter to limit council members to two consecutive terms. Voters gave politicians the choice to seek additional terms by accumulating signatures from a third of the voters in their districts.

Johnson was unsure Friday how much time he will request for his extension, but said it will probably start on the day that Kenner Mayor Phil Capitano declared a state of emergency in the city, Aug. 28.

"I will be asking for that time back," he said.

Johnson didn't have an exact count of the signatures he had assembled before Katrina.

"I'm very close to the 2,100," he said, estimating that he has gathered at least 1,600 of the 2,100 required names.

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**MAYORS SEEK MONEY:** Struggling to make ends meet during their own recovery after hurricanes Katrina and Rita decimated their communities and government finances, the five mayors of Jefferson Parish's smaller municipalities wrote to President Bush this week seeking a meeting to talk about their needs.

Westwego Mayor Robert Billiot penned the letter dated Oct. 10, the same day that Bush visited the Gulf Coast for the eighth time since Katrina and had dinner in the French Quarter.

"We have not received an invitation" to meet with you "nor have we heard from any of your staff," Billiot wrote. "We are all local government entities and elected officials burden by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita."

The letter was written on behalf of the other mayors: Ronnie Harris of Gretna, Tim Kerner of Jean Lafitte, David Camardelle of Grand Isle and Paul Johnston of Harahan.

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West Bank Bureau Chief Andrea Shaw contributed to this story.

# AD REPORTER

*By Martin Covert*






Assistant front-end manager Lisa Simmons handles the crowds at the Uptown Winn-Dixie Marketplace on Tchoupitoulas Street, one of a wave of Winn-Dixie stores reopening throughout the area.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY



Acting Deli manager George McArthur brings out the first of the rotisserie chickens to be cooked in the deli of the now reopened Winn-Dixie.

## *Groceries*

**Winn-Dixie** has opened 29 of the 43 supermarkets in the New Orleans division.

Thanks to the unscathed, million-square-foot distribution center in Hammond, the corporation was able to reopen a number of stores in the area immediately after the storm, says spokesman Patrick McSweeney. "We were up and running a day after the hurricane," he says.

By Aug. 31, two days after Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi, Winn-Dixie was able to reopen stores in Luling, LaPlace, Hammond and other cities west of New Orleans. Winn-Dixie stores on Airline and Jefferson Highways are up and running, and the Veterans store, "on the dry side" of the 17th Street Canal on Veterans near Heritage Plaza, opened Sept. 15.

McSweeney says the Uptown Winn-Dixie on Tchoupitoulas at Jefferson Avenue reopened last week and continues to be repaired and restocked. Manager Marla Hubble says even the deli is back in operation, serving to-go meals, cooked entrees and hot lunches.

The Winn-Dixie on Lapalco in Gretna is set to open by the end of the month, says McSweeney.

"Depending on the level of damage to the stores and our neighborhoods, we are getting everything back to normal as quickly as possible," says McSweeney.

"Our customers continue to express their gratitude to the managers and the staff at each store — most of which were open until 10 p.m. the night before Katrina hit. As people move back in, they are telling us how glad they are to be able to shop for the things they need to get their lives and homes going again."

Although the staff has been depleted by people who have yet to return or who are not able to return to their homes, stores are operating at full capacity where possible.

*Job fair:* An open house and job fair for new Winn-Dixie employees will be held this Thursday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all locations that are open. *Online applications:* winndixie.com.

*Pharmacies:* Winn-Dixie also plans to open pharmacy units in portable housing next to a number of store locations without those services beginning this weekend, says McSweeney.

# Rising waters threatened local jail

**INMATES,** *from B-1*

said, and scores of them were awaiting release when the hurricane hit.

"We had one person who was reading tarot cards without a license," Trenticosta said. "Whoever is holding them in custody can find out their release date and release them. That didn't happen."

Attorney Rick Teissier filed a motion in state court in an effort to have 14 inmates awaiting trial when the hurricane struck released immediately. The 14 defendants include Glenwood Brown, 54, booked with aggravated battery; Stanford Beasley, 51, who is accused of dealing cocaine and marijuana, and Tyrone Fisher, 39, booked with public drunkenness and violating parole.

While all 14 have been locked up for more than 45 days, none has been formally charged with any crime, Teissier said in his motion, filed Friday in Baton Rouge, where some aspects of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court have temporarily relocated.

"None have been interviewed by any public defender since Hurricane Katrina," the motion says, "and many have never even met a public defender."

Yet parish court officials say they are up and running, holding bond hearings at the state prison in St. Gabriel. Gov. Kathleen Blanco gave the Orleans court system until Oct. 25 to recover from the back-to-back hurricanes.

Chief Judge Calvin Johnson has said that by Nov. 1, the Criminal District Court judges from Tulane and Broad will be holding preliminary hearings and setting court dates, but trials at the storm-battered courthouse may not start again until February.

Defense attorneys, however, say the disaster exposes weaknesses in the Criminal District Court system.

"The catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina has exacerbated the fundamental flaws previously existing within the system for providing indigent defense," Teissier wrote, adding that the lack of financing for indigent defense and staggering caseloads have been longtime pitfalls.

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Gwen Filosa can be reached at gfilosa@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3304.

# Water Department calls slow in Jeff

**East Jefferson bureau**

Customers trying to call the parish's east bank Water Department office are urged to have patience because the office's phone system remains damaged, officials said.

The department, located in the first floor of the Joseph S. Yenni office building, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Elmwood, is not operating at full capacity and repairs are not expected to be completed for a week.

Customers may experience a busy signal or a lengthy waiting period before being connected to a representative and are reminded that the parish's two water department offices are open during weekdays.

To open a new account, customers must show a valid Louisiana driver's license and Social Security card, along with a deposit of up to $100. To cancel an existing account, customers must give the date water service will be terminated and a valid address for the final bill.

The telephone number for the Water Department is 736-6060.

# Rooting friends held for looting, instead

*They were trying to save friend's treasures*

**By Richard Boyd**
St. Tammany bureau

When Daniel and Maude Griffis went to their friend's destroyed home in Eden Isles on Sept. 15, they were trying to be helpful, hoping to retrieve some of their friend's soft drink collectibles from the rubble. What they got was a trip to the St. Tammany Parish jail in Covington, booked with looting.

After reviewing a flurry of correspondence from the Griffises and their friend, Austin Graham, and talking to all involved, the district attorney's office this week dropped the police charge and will not prosecute the Slidell couple.

"We have a very high bar for considering dismissing looting cases in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but after extensive review, we are satisfied that these two people were just trying to help their friend with whom they share a hobby of collecting certain soft drink memorabilia," said Rick Wood, a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

Maude Griffis said the experience of being arrested and having their names appear in a newspaper account of those booked with looting after Hurricane Katrina "has been very embarrassing for us. We were just trying to help out our friend before the cleanup crews came down his street and smashed up and hauled away his collection."

But when a Kentucky state trooper, assisting in St. Tammany Parish after the storm, drove down Pebble Beach Drive south of Slidell and saw the Griffises, of Lafitte Drive in Slidell, digging in rubble, he called a St. Tammany deputy who placed the couple under arrest when they could not prove they were at their own home.

After the arrest, Graham sent a notarized statement to District Attorney Walter Reed's office saying that he had evacuated for the storm and asked his friends to check on his property and try to recover as much of his collection as possible. Wood said he followed that up this week by signing a form to dismiss the charges.

Graham had hired someone to gut his flooded house and put items curbside for pickup by debris removal contractors. That included a lot of his collectibles and antique vending machines. He said he asked his friends to try to save as much as possible before it got destroyed.

Although their effort was interrupted by the trip to jail, they got out on $30 bonds each and returned to Graham's home the next day, risking arrest again.

"By then the bulldozers had come and a lot of his collection was hauled away," Daniel Griffis said. "But before the arrest, I had set aside a lot of it and the bulldozers had not touched it. We managed to salvage a pickup load of his collection and we are holding it and cleaning it for him while he tries to figure out what to do with his house and his life."

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Richard Boyd can be reached at rboyd@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4816.

# Flooded citizens likely are bored with boards

**ORLEANS,** *from B-1*

inclusive of the whole community. Actually, the 17-member group has two female members.

Council members have complained almost since the day Nagin took office that he has does not communicate with them. He has repeatedly promised to do better but has often been upset over what he sees as politically motivated opposition to his plans by some council members.

As usual, no high member of the administration attended the council meeting, making clear that even in the wake of the greatest natural disaster in the city's history, communication across the hallway that separates the mayor's City Hall office from the council's offices has not improved.

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**'MEAN-SPIRITED' LAWSUIT?:** In another example of lack of cooperation among local officials, Nagin on Friday blasted Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman for filing what Nagin called an "incredibly insensitive and mean-spirited" motion in federal court seeking to hold the city in contempt for failing to pay Gusman money due him for housing city prisoners in Parish Prison.

Until Katrina forced evacuation of the prison, Gusman was billing the city about $3 million per month.

Gusman said the city failed to pay its bills for July and August, the last two months before Katrina hit, leaving his office unable to meet the "limited payroll (needed) to be able to continue to rehabilitate facilities damaged by" the storm. Without those facilities, he said, he cannot house people arrested by the Police Department.

"At a time when we are working diligently to rebuild New Orleans, I find this action incredibly insensitive and mean-spirited," Nagin said. "We just had a round of painful layoffs. If this motion is successful, it could force further layoffs of our police officers and other city workers."

Saying that the city has "lost all revenue sources for operating expenses," Nagin called on Gusman to "drop this counterproductive lawsuit and join us to lobby both the state and federal government for the financial resources we desperately need to bring New Orleans back."

Gusman responded with a statement pledging "to work with the mayor on all public safety issues" and to join the city in lobbying federal and state officials.

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**WILSON EYES MAYORAL RUN:** Hard as it is to believe someone might actually want to be mayor of a city in the desperate situation facing New Orleans, it appears there may be no shortage of candidates to try to unseat Nagin in the mayoral election scheduled for February.

Former City Councilwoman Peggy Wilson said Friday she is giving "very, very serious" consideration to running and could make an announcement in early November.

She said she is working on lining up support. Asked if she is having success raising money in the current crisis, she said, "I am indeed."

Wilson said she has heard talk of at least five other potential major candidates, though none of them has announced. Some are unlikely to run if Nagin remains in the race.

The only candidates who announced before Katrina were community activist and former state Rep. Leo Watermeier and radio announcer James Arey.

Wilson said she thinks Nagin is vulnerable because "a lot of people think he's leading the city in the wrong direction."

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**COUNCIL APPLAUDS LAW FIRM:** Council members managed to agree on one thing this week, giving local lawyer Russ Herman a loud ovation after he said his law firm would provide free legal advice to every New Orleans police officer and firefighter who stayed on the job during and after Katrina and whose home was destroyed or badly damaged.

Herman said his firm — Herman, Herman, Katz and Cotlar — will handle insurance claims and other paperwork and will help the city workers find a lawyer to file suit if necessary, provided the police officer or firefighter pledges to remain in or return to the city.

Herman's firm has received several contracts from the council in recent years, though for amounts far smaller than some other local firms.

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Bruce Eggler can be reached at beggler@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3320.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**State Project No. 700-92-0011**
**Federal Aid Project No. HP-9201 (501)**
**Proposed I-49 South**
**SIU 1 – Raceland to the Davis Pond Diversion Canal**
**(Lafourche and St. Charles Parishes)**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will conduct Public Hearings in support of the construction of Interstate 49 (I-49) South from the interchange of Louisiana Highway 1 (LA 1) and Louisiana Highway 308 (LA 308) at US 90 in Lafourche Parish east to the Davis Pond Diversion Canal in St. Charles Parish. The proposed I-49 South will be a control of access interstate.

**The Public Hearings will be Open House events; interested citizens are invited to arrive at any time during the times on the dates and at the locations listed below.**

**4:30 pm to 8:30 pm**
**Thursday, November 10, 2005**
**Emergency, Recreation, and Community Center**
**241 Recreation Drive**
**Raceland, Louisiana 70394**

**4:30 pm to 8:30 pm**
**Tuesday, November 15, 2005**
**St. Charles Parish Courthouse**
**15045 River Road (Highway 18)**
**Hahnville, Louisiana 70057**

The Hearings will include a continuously playing recorded presentation of the project information. A court reporter will be continuously available to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to make verbal comments on the record. Representatives of the DOTD and the project team will be present to provide information relative to the general location and design features of the roadway, social, economic, environmental, including wetlands and floodplain data, and other impacts of the project, the relocation assistance program, and any other matters of interest. All interested citizens are invited and encouraged to attend. Additional info on the project, including the complete text of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), can be found at http://www.i49south.org

Detailed information relative to the project is available to those interested through copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Copies of the DEIS are available for public review and copying at the following locations: Raceland Public Library – Raceland, St. Charles Parish Library West Regional Branch – Luling, St. Charles Parish Library Hahnville Branch – Hahnville, New Orleans Public Library – New Orleans, UNO Earl K Long Library – New Orleans, State Library of Louisiana – Baton Rouge, ULL Edith Garland Dupre Library – Lafayette, DOTD Environmental Section office located 1201 Capital Access Road, Room 201E, Baton Rouge, LA, FHWA office located at 5304 Flanders Dr., Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA. Copies of the DEIS are available for review and/or purchase at the Department's District 02 Office located at 1440 US Hwy 90, Bridge City, LA 70094.

Should anyone require special assistance due to a disability to participate in this Public Hearing, please contact Mr. Wayne Nguyen of the DOTD Environmental Section, 1201 Capital Access Road, Room 504D, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, or by telephone at (225) 242-4513, at least five working days prior to the Public Hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits in lieu of, or in addition to, verbal statements made at the Public Hearings must be submitted to the address below and postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2005. Written statements also may be submitted through that date by electronic mail directly to i49sotuh@dmjmharris.com or through the link on the website. All comments must include the name and address of the person commenting. Do to the interruption in communications resulting from Hurricane Katrina, the resubmission of comments submitted prior to October 1, 2005, is recommended.

**Future I-49 South • (Raceland to Davis Pond Diversion, SIU 1) • c/o DMJM Harris**
**2822B O'Neal Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

# Algiers tenants raise uproar

## *Forest Park apts. closing for repairs*

**By Rob Nelson**
West Bank bureau

Dozens of residents and community activists protested outside the Forest Park Apartments in Algiers on Friday, rallying against a decision by the complex to shut down the property to make repairs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

In a letter dated Wednesday, complex officials informed residents that starting Sunday no one will be allowed to live in the 284-unit complex because of health and safety reasons and because major repairs necessitate a complete closure.

"All utilities will be turned off, and all gates will be locked on that date," the letter said.

Residents blasted the decision, likening the move to evictions, which are currently illegal under an executive order by Gov. Kathleen Blanco that is set to expire Oct. 25.

Estimating that 80 percent of the units are damaged, Rodney Howington, the complex's property manager, said he is not evicting residents.

Residents are not being charged rent for September or October and will be given the first opportunity to return to the complex once repairs are complete, he said.

In addition, residents' security deposits are being returned, Howington said.

Outside Forest Park's rental office, dozens of protesters, armed with signs and chants of "Stop the evictions," gathered to decry their forced relocation.

"We feel like we can live here," resident Charlestine Jones said. "We have no place to go."

Anthony Mitchell, who has lived in the complex for about 20 years, called the situation unfair and insensitive and said he will not return to the neighborhood.

"My thing is, all the apartments back here aren't bad," said Mitchell, who had packed his car for Kenner, where he will stay with a friend. "I think they're going to fix it up and then raise the rent."

Howington said the renovation work will require a shutdown of electricity and water, making conditions in the complex unlivable during the work.

The scene grew tense after several residents squeezed their way into the rental office. Workers then called the police.

Eventually, Howington agreed to meet with tenants individually as police helped form a line of residents outside the door. The situation seemed to end without incident.

# Contractors hiring in St. Bernard

**St. Bernar bureau**

Contractors working in the reconstruction of St. Bernard Parish have scheduled a job fair for today and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kaiser Terminal Camp Lighthouse in the St. Bernard Port.

The camp is in the port's Chalmette facility off of St. Bernard Highway.

Companies and businesses will be hiring parish residents for all types of positions needed to rebuild St. Bernard, including plumbers, electricians, heavy-equipment operators, commercial drivers, general contractors, carpenters, roofers, welders and mechanics.

**The demonstration was triggered by news that Parish President Aaron Broussard on Wednesday extended to Oct. 26 an emergency order which, under state law, lets him commandeer private facilities.**




STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

More than 100 employees representing all departments at Meadowcrest Hospital in Gretna lined the sidewalk in front of the hospital Friday to protest the continued use of the hospital as a dormitory for the National Guard and others. The hospital was commandeered by Jefferson Parish following Hurricane Katrina after patients were evacuated and the 700 staff and their family members left.

# Layoffs feared at hospital commandeered by Jeff

## *Employees protest as dispute deepens*

**By Paul Purpura**
West Bank bureau

Carrying signs bearing slogans such as "Patients or Politics," about 100 Meadowcrest Hospital employees demonstrated Friday outside the West Bank facility, saying they could lose their jobs if Jefferson Parish doesn't release the hospital it commandeered six weeks ago to house workers after Hurricane Katrina.

The demonstration was triggered by news that Parish President Aaron Broussard on Wednesday extended to Oct. 26 an emergency order which, under state law, lets him commandeer private facilities. That order had been set to expire today, and Meadowcrest employees said the extension means jobs could be lost.

"We should be in there working," said Shan Hurling, an emergency room registered nurse. "The state of emergency is over. It's time to rebuild."

"Standing out here walking on this grass isn't helping" people, said her husband Red Hurling, also an emergency room registered nurse.

Following federally mandated notification requirements, Meadowcrest on Monday will formally tell its 700 employees, including a medical staff of 400, that they may lose their jobs, hospital spokeswoman Sandra Cordray said. Another 100 contract personnel in food service, housekeeping and physical therapy work at Meadowcrest, she said.

"Potentially those jobs are at risk," she said.

Broussard commandeered Meadowcrest days after Hurricane Katrina swept through the area. Hospital employees and patients already had evacuated the facility.

Broussard has said he took over the hospital to provide housing for medical and emergency personnel and National Guard troops.

The parish president, who met with Meadowcrest officials this week and plans another meeting on Monday, could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Before learning that the parish will hold onto Meadowcrest an additional 12 days, hospital officials had hoped to begin preparations today to reopen the emergency room and limited outpatient services around Nov. 1, said Steve Campanini, a spokesman for Tenet Healthcare Corp., which owns Meadowcrest.

In light of the extension, "The number of employees we can keep at that hospital depends on when we get the hospital back" and which medical services the facility will be able to provide, Campanini said.

Jefferson Parish Council President Tom Capella said Friday that Broussard has assured him he will release Meadowcrest as soon as housing is found for people staying at the hospital.

"It is the parish president's call at this point," Capella said. "I have expressed my concern to him" that Meadowcrest officials get the hospital back as soon as possible. "We want every employee back."

The emergency order extension came a week after the parish-owned West Jefferson Medical Center made an unsolicited offer to buy Meadowcrest, its competitor on the West Bank, for $15.7 million.

In turn, Meadowcrest officials on Oct. 7 sued West Jefferson, saying in the lawsuit that the parish hospital was positioning itself to expropriate Meadowcrest. The lawsuit asks a federal judge to stop the expropriation.

The lawsuit, coupled with the timing of Broussard's extension of the emergency order, has led employees to cry foul.

"Are we worried about land grabbing or serving the community here?" said Christian Harris, a Meadowcrest emergency room charge nurse.

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Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3791.

# Mayor reconsidering storm firings, demotions

## *Gretna council cites lack of 'compassion'*

**By Dennis Persica**
West Bank bureau

Gretna Mayor Ronnie Harris said he will consider rescinding actions against two city supervisors who were demoted and three employees who were fired in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

A special council meeting Thursday to discuss future policy on which city employees must work during hurricanes quickly became a forum for the disciplinary actions against several employees who either didn't show up for work as the city prepared for Katrina or left their jobs once the storm hit.

Harris said he first fired, then demoted, two "mid-level managers" and a mechanic in the Public Works Department because they didn't show up for work as Katrina approached. He said he also fired three employees who were laborers or equipment operators when they left their jobs after the storm.

The City Council asked Harris to reconsider the disciplinary actions and said the mayor should have shown more compassion for the workers, some of whom had elderly parents or pregnant wives to bring to safety. Council members also said there was not clear city policy in the face of an emergencies such as a powerful storm.

"I believe we did have a policy," Harris told the council.

Once City Hall personnel are told to leave as a storm approaches, remaining city employees, including drainage operators and streets department workers, are deemed essential to the city's effort and are paid time and a half for every hour they work, Harris said.

"We needed every able body on hand" during Katrina, the mayor said, "and we also needed superintendents."

The absence of the two mid-level supervisors was especially critical and had an effect on the morale of other employees, Harris said, adding that he didn't feel the supervisors who left their posts could be effective leaders when they returned.

None of the disciplined employees was named publicly during the meeting, which lasted just over an hour. The council asked that Harris give the supervisors their old jobs back and rehire the fired employees.

Harris, who said the mechanic has since found a better-paying job, said he wanted to consult with his department heads before making a final decision on the council's request.

In a way, Thursday's discussion replicated the controversy going on at the parish level, where Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard's decision to evacuate critical pump operators has drawn criticism. In Gretna's case, however, the argument has been over Harris' desire that all essential city employees stay on the job during hurricanes.

Councilman Wayne Rau alluded to the parish controversy, referring to the parish's plan to evacuate pump operators in hopes of getting them back on their jobs a few hours after a storm passed. But when the parish pump operators tried to return, they found the trip back to be a slow one because of downed trees blocking the roadway.

"A well-intended plan in that particular situation didn't work out," Rau said.

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Dennis Persica can be reached at dpersica@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3783.



# J. Everett Eaves Jr., insurance executive

**From staff reports**



J. Everett Eaves Jr.

J. Everett Eaves Jr., a prominent New Orleans insurance executive, died Monday in Houston. He was 83.

Mr. Eaves was a lifelong resident of New Orleans and graduated from the New Orleans Academy and Tulane University. He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II.

He was the president of J. Everett Eaves Inc., an insurance agency founded by his father.

Mr. Eaves was active in civic affairs and served on many boards, including those of Southern Baptist Hospital, the Holman Center and Children's Hospital, where he was chairman of the board. He also was a member of the vestry at St. Martin's Episcopal Church and a trustee of Metairie Park Country Day School.

He was a member of the Louisiana Club, the Boston Club, the New Orleans Country Club, the New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club and several Carnival organizations.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Russell Eaves; three daughters, Nancy Barret Eaves, Sara Brandon Eaves and Mary Shelley Cowan; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral will be held today at 10:30 a.m. at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Destin, Fla. A memorial service will be held later in New Orleans.

## FEELING THE LOVE




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Matt Heller, a psychology professor from Trinity International University in Chicago, carries debris off the neutral ground of South Claiborne Avenue in Central City as more than 100 Trinity faculty members and students spent their fall semester break helping clean up the area as part of an Urban Impacts project.

# Miss. schools trying to figure how to pay bills

## *Reserves dwindle; big loans are sought*

**By Cathy Hayden**
The Clarion-Ledger

JACKSON, MISS. — St. Martin's Middle School in Ocean Springs was flooded to the ceiling. Tables floated on the rising waters and became stuck in the structural supports. The city's middle and upper elementary schools also were flooded by Hurricane Katrina.

One school district has spent almost all of its reserve fund. Another wants to borrow millions of dollars just to stay afloat.

Katrina's destruction has left officials at the hardest-hit school districts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast trying to figure out how to pay the bills.

Buildings must be cleaned, utility bills paid and buses maintained. And bills for replacing textbooks, furniture and buses must be paid without putting budgets in the hole.

"If we had not had $1.8 million in reserves, right now we would be defunct," said Kim Stasny, superintendent of Bay St. Louis-Waveland schools.

The district on Nov. 1 expects to become the last in Mississippi to reopen since the Aug. 29 hurricane hit the state. Coast school officials are still tallying the financial loss to buildings, buses, books and other materials, but the state estimates it will top $1.2 billion.

Bay St. Louis and Waveland were among those worst hit. Before Katrina, the district was receiving about 40 percent of its financing through property taxes on homes and businesses. The rest of its money comes through state and federal aid. The district still receives its monthly state money, allowing it to continue paying teachers.

State Superintendent of Education Hank Bounds has sought a congressional appropriation that includes $253.6 million to offset the loss of tax revenue over the next four years in the 28 hardest-hit districts. That request is still pending.

Stasny has asked to borrow $10 million from the Mississippi Development Bank through a special governmental fund to help meet payroll in coming months. It's part of $100 million set-aside so local governments can keep essential services running.

"Our collections for the rest of the (school) year are going to be low. In January and February, it's going to come to a screeching halt, I'm afraid," she said. "Many of our businesses were destroyed. Our ad valorem (property tax) is going to be nil and I don't know when we'll get that rebuilt."

North Bay Elementary had 6 to 8 feet of water inside, the new gymnasium floor at Bay High is rippled and mold is growing in every building. Furthering the problems, local evacuees broke into Bay High to use it as a shelter, and more than 300 people wound up staying there. But some of them ransacked the school, carrying off athletes' sneakers and jerseys, among other things. "We had a lot of damage, just from that," Stasny said.

In the Hancock County system, Lynel Necaise, the district's business officer, has concentrated on ordering textbooks and furniture so her schools can reopen. The district will have portables to replace two destroyed elementary schools.

# DEATHS

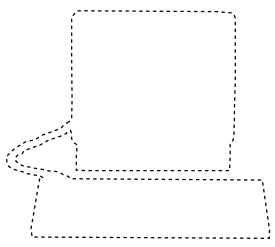
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The Times-Picayune

## DEATHS

John T. Bauer
Jack R. Cain
Jarrell Hall Carra
Warren Collins
Samuel J. Corte
Alphonse Davis, Sr.
Gloria C. Bono Deibel Montoya
Betty Jane Ogea Dialynas
Perry Roy Dozier
J. Everett Eaves, Jr.
Albert Evans
Owenia Evans
Lynette Allen-Coleman Foster
Jessie N. Jobe
Luella LaFrance
Gloria Mae David McFarland
Marie Cecile Richard
Elizabeth Brown Rose
Bobbie Jean Stevens
Beulah Cheramie Toups
James Flynn Unangst
Anthony Harold Vybiral
Mattie B. Walls
Patricia White
Elma Wilson
Anna Mary Wood

### East Jefferson

**Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home**
Bobbie Jean Stevens
James Flynn Unangst

**L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home**
Betty Jane Ogea Dialynas
Perry Roy Dozier
Gloria Mae David McFarland
Anna Mary Wood

**Richardson Funeral Home**
Elizabeth Brown Rose

**Jacob Schoen & Son Funeral Home**
Gloria C. Vonon Deibel Montoya

### St. Tammany

**Schoen Funeral Home**
Samuel J. Corte

### Westbank

**Davis Mortuary Service**
Lynnette Allen-Coleman Foster
Mattie B. Walls
Elma Wilson

**Murray Henderson Funeral Home**
Alphonse Davis, Sr.

**Mothe Funeral Homes**
John T. Bauer
Beulah Cheramie Toups

**Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home**
Albert Evans
Leulla Lafrance

### Others

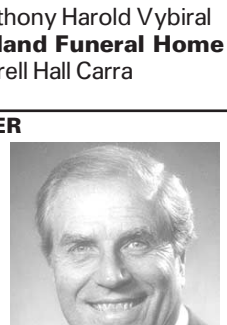
**Geisler Funeral Home**
Marie Cecile Richard

**Hartman Funeral Home**
Jack R. Cain
Jessie N. Jobe

**Palms Funeral Home**
Anthony Harold Vybiral

**Restland Funeral Home**
Jarrell Hall Carra

### BAUER



John T. Bauer, a retired business executive, died on Monday, October 10, 2005. Age 80 years. A native of Brooklyn, NY and a resident of New Orleans, LA for the past 28 years. He was a graduate of City College of New York and was a parishioner of St. Cletus Catholic Church. Mr. Bauer served in the U.S. Army in the Battle of Europe in World War II. He was past Chairman of Service Corps of Retired Executives, a member of the Timberlane Country Club and past President of Local Paper Corp.
He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra G. Bauer. Son of the late John Bauer, a native of Brooklyn, NY and the late Hannah Shea Bauer, a native of Waterville, Ireland. Father of Sheri L. Bauer. Grandfather of Hannah L. Bauer. Brother of Veronica Vellia of N. Bellmore, NY and the late Walter Bauer, formerly of New York City, NY.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend funeral services at Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Monday morning from 9:00 AM until service time.

### CAIN

Jack R. Cain, 77, of Slidell, LA died there October 12, 2005 at North Shore Regional Medical Center. Visitation is 5 to 8 PM Saturday at HARTMAN FUNERAL HOME of McComb, and noon Sunday until services there at 2 PM. The Rev. Rob Westbrook will officiate. Burial will be in East Fork Cemetery in East Fork.
Mr. Cain was born January 28, 1928 in Mississippi to James Q. Cain and Francis Boyce Cain. He was retired from C.S.X. Railroad. Mr. Cain was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Billie J. Cain. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Cain of Slidell; one son, Michael G. Cain of Slidell; three brothers, Bryant Cain, Walter Cain and James ''Coot'' Cain; and one sister, Linda Anderson.
Pallbearers will be Bryant Cain, Rusty Shaw, David Hewitt and Rodney Shaw. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Lung Association of Maryland, Inc., Executive Plaza 1, Suite 600, 11350 McCormick Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland, 21031.

### CARRA

Mrs. Jarrell Hall 'Jerry' Carra, a retired electron microscpoist for the USDA Southern Regional Research Center, died Friday, October 7, 2005, in Dallas, Texas. She was 84. Mrs Cara was born in Mansfield, LA, on July 20, 1921 and graduated from Louisiana Tech University. She moved to New Orleans in 1944 and lived in Metairied for the past 20 years. She was a parishioner of St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church and was a member of the Young Elders. She was proceeded in death by her husband, Stephen Manuel Carra; son, Michael Brian Carra; parents, Mary Ruth Christian Hall and Guy Bridges Hall, Sr. She was survived by her daughter, Stephanie Carra Jeansonne; son-in-law, Timothy Jeansonne; grandson, Brian Michael Carra, and daughter-in-law, Debra Girior.
A memorial service was held 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 10, 2005 at Restland Funeral Home in Dallas, Texas. A Memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church in Metairie. RESTLAND FUNERAL HOME, 972-238-7111.
www.restlandfuneralhome.com.

### COLLINS

Warren ''J'' Collins died of cancer at 70 on Monday, October 10, 2005, in Huntsville, Ala. Born in Oklahoma City, Okla., and reared in Coffeyville, Kan., he lived in New Orleans since 1975, after retiring as a master sergeant from the U.S. Air Force. Collins is survived by his wife, June Barnett Collins; daughters Vilynsia Montgomery of Edmond, Okla., and Bonnita Hamilton, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; brothers John Collins, Omar Pendleton and Glen Pendleton, all of Oklahoma City; and sister Eleanor Fingal of Wichita, Kan. Funeral Services will be held at Royal Funeral Home in Huntsville, AL. A Memorial Service will be held at a date to be announced in New Orleans.

### CORTE

Samuel J. Corte died on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the age of 90. He was the son of the late Rosaria Tusa and Joseph Corte. Mr. Corte is the father of Joseph E. Corte, Sam A. Corte, Sandra Corte Thornhill, Diane Corte Ligi, Brian P. Corte and Christine M. Corte. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at SCHOEN FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL of COVINGTON, 1414 S. Tyler Street in Covington on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will be on Monday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

### DAVIS



Alphonse Davis, Sr., a retired employee of Ochsner Foundation Hospital and an employee of Orleans Parish School System, died of heart failure on October 8, 2005, at a daughter's home in Gretna, Louisiana. He was 74 years old. He was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana; graduated from Booker T. Washington Senior High School; and attended Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.
Beloved husband of Josephine Butler Davis; brother of Alexander Davis, Jr.; father of Alphonse Gregory (Sayonara) Davis; Sherylynn Davis (Willie) Harris; Bruce Alexander (Mary) Davis; Carmen Davis (Theodore) Miles; Wanda Davis (John) Haynes; Jeffery Burton Davis (Atlanta, GA); Carey Brian Davis; Jevelle Lillian Davis (Atlanta,GA); Brad Derrick Davis; Shaundra Davis (Gregory) Dawson; Todd Dexter Davis; Craig Anthony Davis; Jannalynn Davis (John) Breaux; Jolene Davis (Kevin) Nash (Las Vegas, NV); Jolette Davis (Clement) Parker; 34 grandchildren; six great grand children; and a host of nephews, nieces, friends and co-workers.
Services will be held on Saturday October 15, 2005 at 12 o'clock noon, Regular Baptist Church, 901 5th St., Gretna, LA. Visitation from 9:45 until 11:45 a.m. Interment at Providence Mausoleum. Friends, co-workers, pastors and members of Mt Zion United Methodist Church; Greater Antioch F.G. Baptist Church; Franklin Avenue Baptist Church; Life Center Cathedral; Ben Hill United Methodist Church (Atlanta, GA); Ebenezer Baptist Church; Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church ; First African Baptist Church; employees of Carver Senior High School; Ochsner Foundation Hospital; National Emergency Rescue and Response Training Center (College Station, TX); Jefferson Parish School Board; Gaylord's Palms Resort (Kissimmee, FL); Saint Monica Catholic School; Infistar Corporation (Atlanta,GA); Georgia Pacific (Atlanta,GA); DFACS (Las Vegas, NV); Walgreen's Drug Store; Tenet Health Care Corporation; and customers of Davis' Deluxe Restaurant are invited to attend.
Arrangements are entrusted to MURRAY HENDERSON Funeral Home.

### DEIBEL-MONTOYA

On Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 6:37 A.M. the Lord called home Gloria C. Bono Deibel Montoya to be with Him in heaven. Wife of the late Joseph A. Deibel, Sr. and Monty Montoya. Daughter of the late Casemeni Dimarco and Vincent Bono. Sister of the late Nash Bono, Marie Bono, Rosalie Wilson, Josephine Baird and Francis Peppo. Survived by daughter Diann Deibel Marchese and son Joseph A. Deibel, Jr. Son-in-law John J. Marchese. Daughter-in-law: Pattie Cohen Deibel. She had 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was 78 years old, born in New Orleans and lived in Harahan for the past 38 years. She was past president of V.F.W. Ladies Aux. 3267 and a parishioner of St. Rita's Church. She died peacefully at Canon Hospice on Clearview Parkway. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to: The Akula Foundation, PO Box 850715, New Orleans, LA. 70185-0715.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the temporary location of JACOB SCHOEN AND SON FUNERAL HOME, 1717 Veterans Blvd., on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Visitation will be held on Sunday October 16, 2005 at 6:00 to 8:00 PM and again on Monday, beginning at 9:00 AM until service time, all from the funeral home.

### DIALYNAS

Betty Jane Ogea Dialynas on Thursday, October 6, 2005 in Galveston, Texas. Born December 3, 1938 in Palmetto, Louisiana, Betty is the daughter of the late Gus J. Ogea and Clarisse Vigie Ogea Curtis. Sister of the late Raymond W. Ogea. Step-daughter of the late John W. Curtis. Devoted companion of the late Peter Ropanica. She is also survived by a nephew, Gralyn K. Ogea; sister-in-law, Joy O. Oelhafen; brother-in-law, Ira Oelhafen: an aunt, Gertrude Vigie; many cousins and friends, including Melissa Goodreaux, Betty Darby, Samantha Casanova, and Karen Ludlow; and her beloved Schnauzer, ''Tres Baybee''. During the tenure of her life, Betty attended and graduated from Palmetto High School, Draugn's School of Business and Delgado Community College. She had been employed by Morris Klinger, M.D. for 27 years as well as Leonard Glade, M.D. for a short period of time. She had been a resident of New Orleans and Kenner, LA for 42 years. She had also been a member of Encircler 191 Order of the Easter Star for over 25 years and a member of Airline Baptist Church, while attending bible study at Bible Fellowship Church. She would like to issue sincere thanks and appreciation to the Escort employees, the Doctors and Nurses at Ochsner Foundation Clinic and Hospital, and to all that have walked with her through this journey called life.
Relatives and friends of the family, also the Croatian Community are invited to attend a visitation at the Kenner Funeral Home of L. A. Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. A Service will be held on Monday, October 17, 2005 at First Penteostal Church, Bayou Rouge in Palmetto, LA at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon. Interment to follow at the First Pentecostal Church Cemetery.

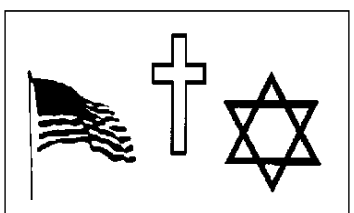
### DOZIER

Perry Roy Dozier on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Beloved husband of Kay Rome Dozier. Father of Ricky Dozier of Florida; a stepson, Ronald R. Scharwath, Jr.; and stepdaughter, Donna Jackson, of Kenner. Grandfather of 3 step-grandchildren, Leslie Michel, Robert Scharwath and Matthew Scharwath all of Kenner, LA. Brother of Marie Deshotel of Bunkie, LA Lola Harris and husband Lance of Bunkie, Gay and husband, Bascom Dupre and Elaine Lemoine, husband, Austin, of Plaucheville, LA, the late Lola Franks, Minne Fontenot and Barbara Hibbs. Son of the late Shelby and Louisiana Keller Dozier. Mr. Dozier was a member of Square and Compass Lodge No. 417 and Bayou Pelicans camping club. Age 70 years, a native of Cottonport, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA for the past 35 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. Friends may visit from 6:00 p.m. until time of service.
In lieu of flowers, please make donations to River Regions Hospice, 507 Upstream St., River Ridge, LA 70123 or Shriner's Children's Hospital, 3100 Sanford Ave., Shreveport, LA 71103.

### EAVES



Insurance executive J. Everett Eaves, Jr. died Monday, October 10, 2005. He was 83.
Mr. Eaves was a lifelong resident of New Orleans and graduated from New Orleans Academy (NOA) and Tulane University. He served in the Marine Corps during World War II and in Post War China.
Mr. Eaves was the President of J. Everett Eaves, Inc., an insurance agency founded by his father.
He was active in civic affairs and served on numerous boards, including Southern Baptist Hospital, The Holman Center, and Children's Hospital where he served as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Eaves served on the vestry of Martin's Episcopal Church and was a trustee of Metairie Park Country Day School.
He was a member of the Louisiana Club, Boston Club, NOCC, and the New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club and participated in numerous carnival organizations
He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Russell Eaves; three daughters, Nancy Barret Eaves, Sara Brandon Eaves, and Mary Shelley Cowan; and nine grandchildren.
A service will be held at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Destin, Florida on Saturday, October 15, 2005, for the family, with plans for a memorial to be scheduled in New Orleans at a later date.
In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Children's Hospital or the Coffeen Nature Preserve, 146 Coffeen Hill Road, San Rosa Beach, Florida 32459 in the name of J. Everett Eaves.



You can now add a photograph, U.S. flag, cross or Star of David to your Death Notice

Ask your funeral director for details.

### EVANS

Albert Evans died on Sunday, October 9, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Thelma E. Evans. Father of Thelma A. Evans, Minnie Pritchett, Dorothy Evans Bryant, Rebecca Williams, Glenda Elvenia Williams and the late Percy E. McCane. Brother of Junius Evans and the late Alice Evans Butler and Ike Evans. Brother-in-law of Thaddeuola Savory and Alfreda Evans. Grandfather of of Joseph Pittman, Jr. and Ashleigh N. Pittman. Also survived by a host of other grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.
Relatives and friends of the family, also Pastor, Officers and Members of Gallilee B.C. Employees and staff of LSU Health Sciences Center and Jo Ellen Smith Convalescent Center are invited to attend the funeral services at Rhodes Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil St. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m. Rev. James Casmiere - Officiating. Interment Resthaven Cemetery.
Arrangements by RHODES FUNERAL HOME, 1020 Virgil St.

### EVANS

Owenia (Doll) Evans departed this life at Capitol Nursing Home in Baton Rouge on Monday, October3, 2005. Wife of the late Ervin Evans, Sr. Mother of Edward, Carol, Ethel Scovell, Nancy, Ervin, Jr., Ruth Jones, Donald, Marcella Ussin and Anthony Evans. Beloved daughter of the late Authur and Ethel Lawrence. Also survived by 33 grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Age 81 years. A native of Assumption Parish, LA and a resident of Bridge City, LA.
Relatives and friends also, Pastors, Officers and Members of the St. Mark B.C. and neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral service from St. Mark B.C., 106 Highway 1014, Labadieville, LA on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 11 AM. Visitation from 9:30 AM until service time at the above named church. Interment: St. Mark Cemetery - Labadieville, LA. Arrangements By: Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA.

### FOSTER

Lynnette ''Mimi'' Allen-Coleman Foster departed this life on Wednesday, September 29, 2005 at 5:00 P.M Wife of Keith Foster. Mother of Kendra Converse and Kristopher Coleman. Daughter of the late LeRoy and Carrie Allen. Sister of Matthew McClendon, Kenneth Allen, Ruby Allen, LeRoy Allen, Jr. , Ronald Allen, Reginald Allen, Gregory Allen, Kem Allen, Michael Allen, Lisa Allen-George, Linda Allen, Chris Allen, Elizabeth Sturdivant, Arlene White, Jane Williams, LaVerne Haywood and Bernette Carter. Also survived by 2 grandchildren Chaz and Chyna Convese. 1 Son-in-law Quinton Converse, 9 sisters-in-law and 1 devoted aunt Bernadine Cohen and a host of other relatives and friends.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of Living World Full Gospel Ministry and all neighboring churches are invited to attend the funeral service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 W.B. Expressway Marrero, LA. on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Pastor Preston Clark-Officiating. (No Wake). Interment: Restlawn Cemetery-Avondale, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 W.B. Expressway, Marrero, LA

### JOBE



Jessie N. Jobe on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 of Congestive Heart Failure at Willis Knighton Piermont, Shreveport, LA. Age 83 years, a retired long time resident of Metairie, LA. A native of McComb, MS.Mother of Darrell I. Jobe, Jr. of Shreveport, LA., Williams A. Jobe, of Denham Springs, LA. and Katherine J. Pruitt, Monticello, AR. Preceded in death by her parents Enoch and Essie Nunnery; her husband Darrell I. Jobe, DDS and 1 sister, Josie N. Coon. A member of Metairie Baptist Church, Metairie, LA.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the services at Hartman Funeral Home on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Visitation Saturday from 11 AM until 12:45 PM. Rev. Tracy Hipps, officiating. Cemetery Hollywood Cemetery, McComb, MS.
Pallbears: William T. Carr III, Herbert O. Pruitt, David J. Pruitt, Michael A Pruitt, William A. Jobe, Jr. and Shawn M. Alexander.

### LAFRANCE

Luella Lafrance passed on Monday, October 3, 2005. She was born on December 25, 1906, to the late Willie and Mary Stokes. Wife of the late Victor Lafrances, Sr. She is the mother of Eva Lafrance, Leanna Griffin (James Griffin), Leona Fite and the late Victor Lafrance, Jr., Rose (Enoch) Lewis, Emile (Dorothy) Lafrance, Juanita (Arthur) Etienne and five deceased children. She was preceded in death by nine siblings. Ms. Luella is survived be 37 grandchildren, 74 great grandchildren, 60 great great grandchildren and 4 great great great grandchildren.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral service on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 9:00 AM at D.W. RHODES FUNERAL HOME, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, LA. Interment: Westlawn Cemetery. Arrangements by Rhodes Funeral Home.

### McFARLAND

Gloria Mae Davis McFarland on Saturday, October 8, 2005. Beloved wife of James McFarland. Mother of Deidra McFarland Miller. Mother-in-law of John D. Miller. Daughter of Ella Louise White and William Davis, Sr. Grandmother of Daniel P. Day, Jr. and Jamaica M. Miller. Also survived by 4 step-grandchildren. Sister of Joyce Ann Rhodes and William Davis, Jr. Age 59 years, a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA for the past 7 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Service at Pentecostal Church of Kenner, 2128 18th St. on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.
Arrangements by L. A. Muhleisen & Son.

### RICHARD

Mrs. Marie Cecile Richard in Ponchatoula, LA on October 8, 2005. Age 65 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Ponchatoula, LA. Survivors: son, Randal Cefalu and husband, Gregory ''Butch'' D'Affano, Revere, MA; son, Salvador Cefalu, Jr., New Orleans, LA; 2 sisters: Enola ''Nola'' Sturgeon, Tacoma, Washington and Ethel Mae Cefalu, Houma, LA; brother, Joseph Richard, Metairie, LA; grandchild, Jamie Ingold, Belle Chase, LA; numerous nieces and nephews; former husband, Salvador Cefalu, Sr. Preceded in death by: sister, Bernice Salinger.
Memorial Service were at Geisler Funeral Home, Ponchatoula, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005.

### ROSE

Elizabeth Brown Rose on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at St. Joseph Hospice in Baton Rouge. Wife of the late Reverend Joseph Rose. Mother of Betty Austin Verrett. Son-in-law of Reverend Shannon L. Verrett and four grandchildren: U.S. Marine Julius T. Verrett, Sha'Vonte, Niamke', and Chinara Verrett. Three great nephews and one great niece: Earl Jr., Harold Sr., Keith Lewis, and Jo-Verna Lewis Austin and a host of great nieces, great nephews, God-children and other relatives. She was the Mother of the church, a member of the Deaconess Board, Willing Workers and a Mentor to all women. Age 93 years. A native of Powhatan, Louisiana and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastor, officers and members of Second Highway B.C. of Marrero, Pastored by Royal Jackson, Sr. and all neighboring churches are invited to attend services from Second Highway B.C., 1533 Haydel Drive, Marrero. on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Viewing Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 7:30 AM until 9:30 AM. Rev. Joseph Johnson, officating. RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME in charge. Interment: Restlawn Cemetery in Avondale.

### STEVENS

Bobbie Jean Stevens, age 69, passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at Ormond Nursing Home after a long battle with Alzheimers. Beloved wife of Robert Stevens for 46 years. Mother of Brian Stevens and Pamela McKelroy. Grandmother of CJ and Ethan McKelroy and Sarah and Cade Stevens. Daughter of the late Speck Peterson and Muriel Stringfellow. Mrs. Stevens was a native of Monroe, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Memorial Service on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 2:00 pm at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Pkwy. Visitation will begin at 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions to, Alzheimer's Association of Louisiana, 3717 Government St., Suite 7, Alexnadria, LA 71302 are preferred. Contributions may also be made by calling 1-800-272-3900.

### TOUPS

Beulah Cheramie Toups, on Thursday, September 1, 2005. Age 93 years. Beloved wife of the late Cleo Joseph Toups. Daughter of the late Antoine Cheramie and the late Josephine Savoie Cheramie. Mother of Ruth T. Posey, Nelda T. Esteve and the late Roy Toups, Noris Toups and Doris Toups. Sister of Edith Kiffe and the late Widman Cheramie, Albert Cheramie and Zoe Cheramie. Also survived by 8 Grandchildren, 15 Great Grandchildren and 9 Great-Great Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two Grandchildren, Terry Schieffler and Marc Posey.
Relatives and Friends of the Family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Saturday, October 15, 2005, at 11:00 A.M., at MOTHE FUNERAL HOME, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA. Interment will follow services in Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Visitation on Saturday, 8:30 - 11:00 A.M.

### UNANGST

James Flynn ''Zeke'' Unangst, proprietor of Zeke's Restaurant in Metairie, LA, on October 13, 2005 at Memorial Hospital in Houston, TX. Survived by his companion Jan G. Ezzell. Beloved son of Shirley Flynn Unangst and the late Clement W. Unangst. Brother of Patricia Darlene Unangst, Richard Daniel Unangst and Joseph Clement Unangst. Uncle of Scott Richard Unangst. Aged 49 years. A graduate of Delgado's Culinary Arts School. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans.
The relatives and friends of the family and patrons of the restaurant are invited to the Funeral Mass on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena's Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. at Metairie Rd. Interment in St. Patrick #3 Cemetery. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time. Rosary service at 11:30 a.m. Funeral arrangements by Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home.

### VYBIRAL

Anthony Harold Vybiral, age 38, of New Orleans, LA, formerly of Freeport, TX passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 after a courageous battle with head and neck cancer. At the time of his death he was employed by Valero Energy Corporation.
Anthony will be deeply missed by all that knew him. He is survived by his fiance, Teresa Hultz; mother, Janet Hinson; 1 brother, Al Vybiral; extended family, Link and Janet Stanaland; and many other relatives and friends.
A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00pm on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at First United Methodist Church, 219 N. Arcola, Angleton, TX 77515.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701.
Online condolences may be sent @ www.palmsfuneralhome.com.

### WALLS

Mattie B. Walls departed this life on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Mother of Lillie Mae Harris, John Frank Bradley, Carrie Mae Tigler, and Michael Richard Walls. Sister of B.W. Curtis and Nellie James. Also survived by 9 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends. Age 80 years. A native of Copiah County, MS. and a resident of Harvey, LA.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Service from Second Pleasant Grove B.C. 1829 Pailet St., Harvey, LA. on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 W.B. Expressway, Marrero, LA.

### WHITE

Patricia (Pat) White a devoted homemaker was called to her eternal home on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 9:05 P.M. at Rapides Medical Center in Alexandria, La. She was 54. Beloved wife of Henry White. Mother of Shawanda Johnson Pierre, Noyata White Finch of New Orleans and Rhonda Nelson of North Las Vegas. Daughter of Rozitta Lola Johnson and the late Ernest Johnson, Sr. Sister of Lillie Green Brown of LaPlace, LA., Wilhemina Walker of Marrero, LA., Lola Turner, Margaret Wilson, April Johnson, Earl Johnson and the late Leonard Johnson of New Orleans, La. Grandmother of Shakierria Pierre, Michael and Niaquanda Finch, Jana Boudreaux, of New Orleans and Tommy and Tamia Nelson of North Las Vegas. Daughter-in-law of Mary White and the late William White. Sister-in-law of David Brown of LaPlace, LA., Johnny Walker of Marrero, LA., Ernest Turner, Bernard Wilson, Trina Johnson, Robert and Shirley Hullen, Roosevelt Winsey, Thaddeus and James White of New Orleans, LA., Great-niece of Velena Porter and the late Olbear (Sharlow) Charlow. God mother of Wynoka Green Favorite of LaPlace, Wendell Davis and Veronica Boudreaux of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the services on October 15, 2005, at Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, La. Visitation for 10:00 am until sevice at 11:00 a.m. Invited are Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, L.L.A. Longshoreman Local 3000, Hilton Riverside New Orleans, Windsor Court Hotel, Charity and Touro Hospital of New Orleans. Interment in Providence Memorial Park, Airline Hwy., Metairie, LA. Funeral arrangements entrusted to D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home.

### WILSON

Elma Wilson departed this life on Monday, October 3, 2005 at Medical Center of Lewisville. Mother of Karen Young Hess and Denise L. Young. Grandmother Nathan Ballansaw, IV and Donnika Hess. Daughter of the late John and Clara Wilson. Sister of the late Lawrence, Robert, Fred, Irven, John and Elizabeth Wilson, Velma Hawkins, Clara Cook and Florence Butler. Also survived by 6 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. Age 91 years. A native of Vacherie, LA. and a resident of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA. on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Interment: McDonoghville Cemetery, Gretna, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA.

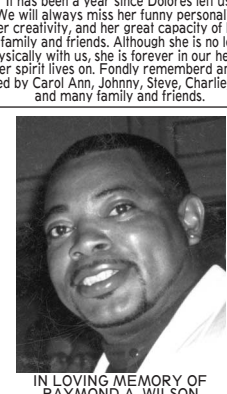
### WOOD

Anna Mary Wood on Monday, October 10, 2005. Age 90 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 9 years. Daughter of the late Elizabeth Butscher and Benjamin Wood. Also survived by her cousin and care giver, Jacquelyn Wack, and many other cousins. She was a graduate of Sophie B. Wright High School and a librarian at Tulane University's Howard Tilton Library for 43 years. Ms. Wood was a parishioner of St. Angela Merici Catholic Church.
Relatives and friends of the family were invited to attend the funeral. Services were held at the Metairie Funeral Home of L.A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2929 Metairie Rd. on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 2:30 PM. Visitation was from 11:00 AM until 2:30 PM on Friday. Temporary interment was in Jefferson Memorial Gardens, St. Rose LA, with final interment to be in Greenwood Cemetery.

## MEMORIALS



MEMORIAL FOR
SANDRA DOLORES FONTAINE
Born: July 15, 1964 Died: Sept. 6, 2004
It has been a year since Dolores left us.
We will always miss her funny personality,
her creativity, and her great capacity of love
for family and friends. Although she is no longer
physically with us, she is forever in our hearts,
and her spirit lives on. Fondly rememberd and sadly
missed by Carol Ann, Johnny, Steve, Charlie, Karen
and many family and friends.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RAYMOND A. WILSON
October 15, 1964 August 4, 2004
There are tears and fond remembrance
Dearest Ray-Ray for you still,
For you held a place within my heart
That none can ever fill.
Loved and Missed By, Wife
Also Missed by Family and Friends

Restoring our city.

Preserving our legacy.

For 133 years, we've had a long legacy of serving the families of New Orleans. Even today, this spirit of dedication and caring still lives on in each member of our staff. We weathered the devastation of Katrina and have emerged from it with an even stronger sense of hope and pride in the community we are privileged to serve.

Although our properties have experienced some damage from the storm, we are pleased to announce that we are currently serving families. We're here to help the families of New Orleans during their times of greatest need. Please call today for caring assistance and more information.

Lake Lawn Metairie
Funeral Home & Cemeteries
(504) 486-6331
lakelawnmetairie.com

All Faiths Funeral Home
(504) 486-0880
allfaithsfunerals.com

Mount Olivet Cemetery & Mausoleum
(504) 283-4358

St. Bernard Memorial
Gardens & Funeral Home
(504) 279-6376
stbernardmemorial.com

St. Vincent de Paul Cemeteries
(504) 945-9012

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The Times-Picayune

*Founded in 1837*

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# Stop playing, get to work on rebuilding our city

We need a new beginning in New Orleans, one that does not depend on tourism or sports. We need to focus on education and business.

We need to step out of our teen years, and into adulthood as a city. Just as an adult can put away his partying and sports, and go out and earn a living to support his family, so must our city.

New Orleans cannot function on tourism anymore. After Sept. 11, many people said that we needed to get our head out of the sand and bring in business, because tourism dropped dramatically. Mayor Ray Nagin was elected primarily because he was a successful businessman, and promised to increase businesses in the city.

Today, we are bankrupt. Our city was devastated, not by a hurricane, but by the incompetence, greed and downright neglect of the Levee Board, mayors (past and present) and the City Council. All the above should hang their heads in shame because they knew, or should have known, that the levees weren't safe as far back as 1998!

Grow up, New Orleans. Stop playing and protect your people. Once we get the levees repaired, once we get viable businesses up and running, once our children are in schools that are safe, clean and staffed with qualified teachers, then we can talk about bringing sports teams back.

For now, we must do the mundane, the un-fun. We don't need to listen to jazz yet, either, as the mayor suggested. The sounds of running water, air conditioners, traffic and phones ringing is music enough to most of our hurting ears.

**Janet MacArthur**
New Orleans
Now in Germantown, Tenn.

# The party's not over

During the past five weeks, the Gulf Coast has been devastated by two of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record, Katrina and Rita. The destruction has been mind-boggling and has left New Orleanians and the nation with lasting impressions of human suffering and desperation. In an unprecedented event, not seen since the Civil War, New Orleans, a major metropolitan city, was almost completely evacuated and all commerce came to a halt.

As we reflect on the past and future of New Orleans, we have two choices. We can acquiesce to the forces of nature and wallow in our own self pity, or we can draw upon the strength of our history and ancestors.

Our history has been a turbulent one. Yet, what our history has taught us is that we are a resilient people. And just as we have rebuilt in the past, we will rebuild a bigger, taller, and better New Orleans, one in which we preserve not only our rich history and culture, but also one in which we ensure our economic prosperity.

I have spoken about the future of Mardi Gras. My statement is simply, "we will have Mardi Gras in 2006." In reality, the simple truth is that we must have Mardi Gras in 2006 to announce to the nation and the world that we are alive and well, and that the party continues.

Let this be our philosophy: we may be down, but we are only resting for the bigger party yet to come.

Finally, if you believe in our city as I do, you have to know that our brightest and most prosperous days still lie ahead.

**Blaine "Mr. Mardi Gras" Kern**
New Orleans



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Police roll down Bourbon Street just before midnight Monday, announcing the curfew over a loudspeaker.

# Being tired is no excuse

The police beating video reminds me of something I would see on the news during Mardi Gras, not when our city has just been hit by the worst natural disaster in history. Our city is going through enough right now, and it is more upsetting to see the Police Department act so irrationally.

While the media have been reporting that fatigue of the officers might have played a role in the outburst, that is absolutely no excuse to beat a man or curse out a member of the Associated Press and tell him to "go home." I myself and a number of other people in New Orleans are working extremely long hours and are very tired. It is stories like this that discourage the people of our great city, giving them the idea that the Police Department is not even capable of protecting us.

We are all tired and we all could use a long break, but we aren't going to get that for a while. We need to work together — especially the people that have been put on the streets to protect us as we rebuild New Orleans.

**Ellie Rodriguez**
Metairie

# Mayor betrays loyal officers

Shame on Mayor Ray Nagin for prejudging the police officers involved in the Bourbon Street incident.

These officers were loyal and dedicated and stayed through the storm and the aftermath to protect us. They may have lost their homes. The mayor said he did not know what the "old man" did, but whatever it was, he did not deserve what happened. But that "old man" was big and strong enough to keep four strapping police officers struggling with him for over 2½ minutes before he could be cuffed. He refused to obey initial verbal commands, and Mace proved ineffective. Those officers resorted to blows only when the "old man" could not be subdued otherwise.

The blows were few in number and did not involve night sticks or other objects that might cause serious harm. I personally do not see any evidence of brutality, let alone criminal wrongdoing, from the tape; yet without a complete investigation, and from having seen only a portion of the tape, the mayor has publicly condemned them.

It is unprecedented in the history of the NOPD that officers have been charged criminally with a municipal offense before an internal investigation was completed. The mayor has, to put it simply, sold them out.

**Ken Bowen**
New Orleans

# Generosity from afar

Newspapers, TV and radio are constant reminders of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. It consumes our every waking minute and, at times, invades our dreams. Meanwhile, across the country, people are meeting and planning how they can provide services — free of charge — that will alleviate our troubles for a while and put a smile on our faces.

Such a generous act was provided at our home on Monday afternoon when firefighters from Illinois came to help cut down a massive oak tree in our backyard. They would accept no money and then thanked us for allowing them to help!

Gentlemen, your goodwill and kindness shows us that America does love New Orleans and wants to see her bloom again.

**Matthew and Cindy Spence**
Metairie

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## OUR OPINIONS

# The silent treatment

Not everyone who says they are searching for a hurricane evacuee has good intentions: identity thieves or abusive ex-spouses might be among those with malignant goals who are seeking information about residents who fled the area.

But the Federal Emergency Management Agency's efforts to protect the privacy of evacuees goes too far when it prevents law enforcement officials from finding parolees and convicted sex offenders.

FEMA won't let Texas officials have access to the records of 100,000 evacuees who have applied for state aid, according to a report in The Washington Post. FEMA also refused requests by five other states that asked to cross-check databases of sex offenders and parolees against the list of evacuees who've applied for federal aid.

That policy makes no sense. Hurricane victims certainly should enjoy the same privacy as other people, but convicted sex offenders or those serving parole shouldn't be able to elude law enforcement officials. The post-hurricane confusion shouldn't become an opportunity for people to vanish.

FEMA's new tight-lipped stance is also hampering families who are trying to find each other. The agency is directing shelter workers to confirm only that an evacuee is alive and in a given city. They aren't supposed to reveal phone numbers and addresses unless the evacuee in question signed a release form. The trouble is, many forms were lost in the chaos that followed the storm.

People whose lives have been horribly disrupted by Hurricane Katrina can't begin to move forward if they're still searching for scattered family members. If the lack of a piece of paper is preventing reunions, the least FEMA can do is get the word out to evacuees that they need to file a new release form.

Privacy is important, but so is getting lives and families back together.

# Importing ideas

The New Orleans metro area needs to be in control of its own fate, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't look elsewhere for guidance in rebuilding.

Soliciting ideas from the smartest, most creative experts available is something that state and local leaders ought to do. The involvement of the nonprofit Urban Land Institute is a good sign that the Nagin administration isn't thinking too narrowly in seeking advice for the city's revival.

The prestigious Washington, D.C.-based think tank on land use and real estate will advise Mayor Ray Nagin's Bring Back New Orleans commission on everything from neighborhoods to business centers. And it's doing so at no charge.

A team of 15 experts, yet to be named, will arrive next month. Rachelle Levitt, vice president for policy and practice, says there's keen interest in this project. That's understandable: it's hard to imagine a more interesting challenge for an urban planner than bringing a city back from a catastrophe of this scale.

The institute developed a retail plan for the World Trade Center site after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and also helped Grand Forks, Minn., with its downtown redevelopment plan following a 1997 flood. But Katrina is in a class by itself.

What the city stands to gain is cutting-edge recommendations based on what successful developers and planners all over the world have done. And it will come from objective experts who shouldn't have political or economic agendas.

Given the scope of what needs to be done here, it will be all too easy for people to focus inward, but looking outward is far wiser.

# Let 'em have it

North shore municipalities that opened their coffers to clean up trees and debris blocking roads after Katrina can't get anyone to cut them a check for reimbursement, even though the Federal Emergency Management Agency has sent the state money to cover 100 percent of such costs.

Frustrated mayors and parish officials told state legislators Thursday that they are in desperate straits because of the delay. Two, Pearl River and Folsom, will go broke in two weeks without the money, St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis said.

That's inexcusable. Cities that are struggling to maintain services in the face of huge revenue losses shouldn't face the prospect of going under because of an inefficient bureaucracy.

Officials can't even find out what the problem is. Mr. Davis, Mandeville Mayor Eddie Price and Madisonville Mayor Peter Gitz said that money was being withheld until a state audit was done on each application. But when legislators contacted State Auditor Steve Theriot, he said that wasn't the case.

Instead, state Rep. Pete Schneider said that "some colonel" has to approve applications before they can be issued.

That's a pretty muddled way to do business, and it's incomprehensible that the state and FEMA can't do a better job cutting through the snarl of red tape for these cities.

Maybe the government needs to appoint someone like the Special Man to distribute this money, especially since so many municipal governments are having to deal with the mess of not one, but two, hurricanes.

Towns like Mandeville, Madisonville and Pearl River spent their own money in good faith. Someone should just say, "let 'em have it."

## OTHER OPINIONS

# A melancholy welcome to St. Bernard



MANUEL TORRES

*Suburban Report*

My new neighbors tell me I would have liked Halloween.

It was the biggest event of the year in the Lexington Place subdivision in Meraux, where my wife and I had bought a home just over a week before Katrina hit. We were moving to the parish as I prepared to join The Times-Picayune's St. Bernard bureau. We were looking for a kid-friendly neighborhood for our two young boys, and everyone guided us to Lexington.

Halloween, we were told, was more than a celebration here — it was a production. Neighbors tried to outdo each other with displays that would have made light-extravaganza-hog Al Copeland proud. The lights, smoke machines and super-sized inflatable monsters attracted so many trick-or-treaters that on Halloween sheriff's deputies closed traffic into the subdivision at 5 p.m.

"Get lots of lights and lots of candy," was the first piece of neighborly advice we received.

Then came Katrina.

In place of scary-looking jack-o-lanterns and orange lights, the neighborhood is now littered with nature's perverse "decorations": crushed cars and upside-down boats perched atop fences and homes.

Somebody's shed crashed onto my sun room, and I think the pickup truck that's rammed into my backyard belongs to a guy from the street behind us. Down my block, the storm's surge lifted an entire house, slab and all, and deposited it on a front lawn across the street.

"It looks like a real horror flick," a neighbor across the street said recently when we met.

She was with her husband, both like myself clad in what has become St. Bernard's fall fashion — rubber boots, gloves, dust masks.

They built their home 14 years ago, watched their kids grow there, and like most in the parish, lost it all in the storm. The salvaged contents of their three-bedroom house fit in a Rubbermaid box.

Like them, I felt like an exiled St. Bernard resident.

**In place of scary-looking jack-o-lanterns and orange lights, the neighborhood is now littered with nature's perverse 'decorations': crushed cars and upside-down boats perched atop fences and homes.**

We talked the small-talk of the time. Sorry about all this. How's your family? Where are you now? Do you plan to come back?

The last one is the tough one.

This kind of destruction was just not what anybody in St. Bernard expected to see in our lifetime. But here we are. This muck-ridden place that bears only a ghostly resemblance to the community of just a few weeks ago is where I plan to be, along with my colleagues at the paper who also lost their homes in St. Bernard. We'll be here to cover the story of how we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and try to get on with life again.

People around the newsroom still occasionally come by to ask me in a hushed tone, like there was a death in the family, "What are they going to do with you now?"

They mean now that our office on Judge Perez Drive is destroyed and the future of the parish is uncertain. I used to give long answers about the prospects for reconstruction. Now I have a stock response: A news bureau, like the rest of the parish, is much more than just a building. It's a state of mind.

And St. Bernard is still very much alive in the minds of many residents, who cry as they express their love of the place, and almost ask for apologies for not being able to answer if or when they will return.

Like them, I don't have all the answers yet.

But lately I've been feeling the urge to start designing an oversized Halloween display.

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St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau chief Manuel Torres can be reached at mtorres@timespicayune.com or at (504) 352-2543.

# Miss. myth spins faster than Katrina

ROBERT S. McELVAINE

CLINTON, MISS. — In the weeks since Hurricane Katrina struck, Haley Barbour, the Mississippi governor and former Republican national chairman, has been dividing his time between dealing with the disaster and spinning a myth. He has received more assistance from the Bush administration in the latter endeavor than in the former. Much of importance about the political future of the United States is riding on whether the public accepts this fiction as fact.

At the end of a "Primetime" program two weeks after the storm, host Ted Koppel summarized the Mississippi Myth and showed that he had bought it: "We have focused tonight exclusively on New Orleans, because the system seemed to work in Mississippi."

One reason why the Katrina catastrophe has not done for President Bush what the terrorist attacks did four years ago is that, this time, there was no external enemy against which to unite the American people and direct their anger. Instead, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Bush himself became the "them." Their response was to shift blame to Democratic officials in Louisiana.

**Mississippi Gov. Barbour has set himself up as the head cheerleader for Bush and FEMA. He repeatedly has dismissed all criticism of federal response to the catastrophe.**

But since Katrina ravaged Mississippi as well as Louisiana, the crisis presents something akin to a controlled experiment to determine with whom the preponderance of the responsibility for negligence in the response rests.

Because Barbour is a Republican, the Bush team was not in a political position to shift blame to the state government in Mississippi. Barbour, moreover, fancies himself a contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. He plainly sees Katrina as an opportunity to build for himself a Rudy Giuliani-like reputation for crisis leadership.

Throughout the calamity, Barbour has not been willing to criticize the Bush administration or federal relief efforts. On the contrary, he has set himself up as the head cheerleader for Bush and FEMA. He repeatedly has dismissed all criticism of federal response to the catastrophe.

"That's all cooked up by the news media and a few enemies of George Bush," he contends. "The federal government has been fabulous in our state."



AP PHOTO

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, right, talks with Lt. Dean Jenkins with Indiana Conservation and other volunteers in Vancleave, Miss., Tuesday. Barbour visited to thank volunteers assisting in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

One definition of "fabulous" in my dictionary is "resembling a fable, absurd." If that was what Barbour meant, his statement was accurate.

Michael Brown, who is still on the FEMA payroll as a consultant, echoes the Barbour-Bush line that the system worked in Mississippi. He claims that he had no problems in this state. Let's not mince words: That is a lie.

In fact, as any number of Mississippians in the heavily Republican region flattened by Katrina will attest, FEMA was every bit as incompetent in Mississippi as it was in Louisiana. "You can try to throw as much as you can on the backs of Louisianians," the conservative Democratic Rep. Gene Taylor of Mississippi told Brown at a House committee hearing, "but I'm a witness as to what happened in Mississippi. You folks fell on your face."

Most prominent Mississippi Republicans have not concurred with Barbour's rosy assessment of federal disaster efforts. Sen. Trent Lott flatly stated that Mississippians "are disenchanted" with the federal response in their state.

By nine days after the storm, Lott had concluded that FEMA wasn't up to the job. "We're just going around them," said the former Senate Republican leader. When the Harrison County sheriff told Lott that FEMA was diverting supplies, Lott's response was to the point: "If anyone from FEMA tries to confiscate anything, arrest them."

Republican Rep. Charles W. Pickering Jr. also has severely criticized FEMA on several counts.

Barbour's disingenuous assessment notwithstanding, the system plainly did not work in Mississippi. What actually happened in Mississippi under a supposedly competent and efficient Republican governor was so similar to what happened in Louisiana that it constitutes compelling evidence that, while there were also obvious breakdowns at the local and state levels, the basic failure was at the federal level.

The truth is that in this crisis Mississippi is the non-exception that proves the federal rulers wrong.

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Robert S. McElvaine is chairman of the Department of History at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. He wrote this column for the Baltimore Sun.



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

# Winning the race

What if we were really having a national discussion about what is most important to the country today and on the minds of most parents?

I have no doubt that it would be a loud, noisy dinner-table conversation about why so many U.S. manufacturers are moving abroad — not just to find lower wages, but to find smarter workers, better infrastructure and cheaper health care. It would be about why in Germany, 36 percent of undergrads receive degrees in science and engineering; in China, 59 percent; in Japan, 66 percent; and in America, only 32 percent.

It would be about why U.S. 12th graders recently performed below the international average for 21 countries in math and science, and it would be about why, in recent years, U.S. industry appears to have spent more on lawsuits than on R&D. Yes, we'd be talking about why the world is racing us to the top, not the bottom, and why we are quietly falling behind.

And late in the evening, as the wine bottles emptied, someone at the national dinner table might finally say: "Hey, what if we were really thinking ahead? What if we asked some of the country's best minds to make a list of the steps we could take right now to enhance America's technology base?"

Fortunately, two senators, Lamar Alexander and Jeff Bingaman, asked the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine to form a bipartisan study group to produce just such a list, which was released on Wednesday in a report called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

The report's key recommendations? Nothing fancy. Charles Vest, the former president of MIT, summed them up: "We need to get back to basic blocking and tackling" — educating more Americans in the skills needed for 21st-century jobs.

Among the top priorities, the report says, should be these:

(1) Annually recruiting 10,000 science and math teachers by awarding four-year merit-based scholarships, to be paid back through five years of K-12 public school teaching. (We have too many unqualified science and math teachers.)

(2) Strengthening the math and science skills of 250,000 other teachers through extracurricular programs.

(3) Creating opportunities and incentives for many more middle school and high school students to take advanced math and science courses, by offering, among other things, $100 mini-scholarships for success in exams, and creating more specialty math-and-science schools.

(4) Increasing federal investment in long-term basic research by 10 percent a year over the next seven years.

(5) Annually providing research grants of $500,000 each, payable over five years, to 200 of America's most outstanding young researchers.

(6) Granting automatic one-year visa extensions to foreign students in the U.S. who receive doctorates in science, engineering or math so they can seek employment here, and creating 5,000 National Science Foundation-administered graduate fellowships to increase the number of U.S. citizens earning doctoral degrees in fields of "national need." (See the rest at www.nationalacademies.org.)

These proposals are the new New Deal urgently called for by our times. This is where President Bush should have focused his second term, instead of squandering it on a silly, ideological jag called Social Security privatization. Because, as this report concludes, "Without a renewed effort to bolster the foundations of our competitiveness, we can expect to lose our privileged position."

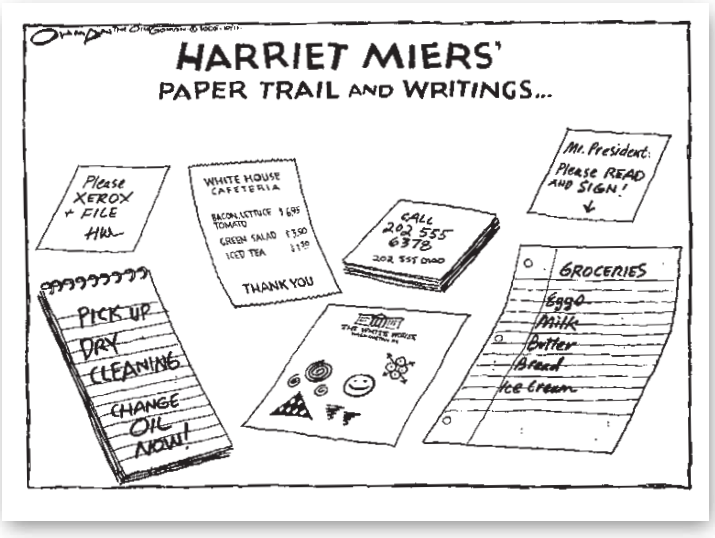
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Thomas Friedman writes for The New York Times. His e-mail address is thfrie@nytimes.com.

# DRAWING CONCLUSIONS *Recent editorial cartoons from around the country*




MIKE LUCKOVICH *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*




JACK OHMAN *The Oregonian*




MIKE PETERS *Dayton Daily News*

The Times-Picayune

MONEY See C-11

SPORTS See C-6

# LIVING

COMICS • C-2

SECTION C

Saturday
October 15, 2005

*Although uninvited guests named Katrina and Rita blew many couples' nuptial plans out of the water, one local couple still set sail last weekend on the sea of matrimony. And a rescheduled bridal show can help steer other displaced brides and grooms in a similar direction.*



STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

'It was the day we had planned for more than a year,' says Jamie Dill, wiping away a tear on her wedding night, six weeks after Hurricane Katrina.

# Wedded blitz

**By Maria Montoya**
Staff writer

Jamie Dill's invitations were sealed and mailed. Her gown picked out. Bridesmaids and groomsmen good to go. The wedding of her dreams a month away from reality.

Then came Katrina.

While many brides-to-be across the area panicked, Dill remained steadfast. She'd waited five years to marry her high school sweetheart, Jason Ledet. Displaced or not, she wanted her wedding to go on as planned.

"As we watched everything that was going on, we knew we had to have the wedding no matter what," Dill said of her Oct. 8 nuptials. "Even if it wasn't going to be anything like we planned it, we had to have the wedding. It was the day we had planned for more than a year."

As Dill and Ledet walked down the aisle at St. Henry's Catholic Church on Gen. Pershing Street, they were excited not only for their new status as man and wife, but for the fact that their family could focus on celebration rather than devastation for the first time since Aug. 29.

For most other brides-to-be in the affected areas, however, Katrina and Rita are causing wedding rescheduling nightmares.

*See* **WEDDING,** *C-4*

WEDDING VENUES, C-4

## THE ULTIMATE BRIDAL SHOW

**What:** Displaced brides who need help reorganizing their weddings due to Hurricane Katrina and/or Rita can register for services and meet with area vendors that are now operating.

**When:** 1 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Fashion show at 4 p.m.

**Where:** Marriott Hotel, 5500 Hilton Ave., Baton Rouge.

**Cost:** $6 per person, with a portion going to the Red Cross.

**Call:** (225) 752-9183 or visit the Web site at www.theweddingmarket.com.

## HOW TO RESCUE YOUR HURRICANE-DELAYED WEDDING

**Assess your contracts.** Before making any calls, examine the fine print in written agreements you might have made. Many contracts have an "act of God" clause that releases you from your contract.

**Be patient.** Chances are the folks you were working with in planning your wedding are Katrina or Rita victims too.

**Make contact, not assumptions.** Most brides have room blocks for their events, but not all hotels are able to honor those arrangements because contract and relief workers are occupying most of the city's habitable hotel rooms. If you want to go ahead with your date, contact the hotel to confirm that your event will go on as scheduled.

**Be open to new ideas.** Many businesses are up and operating, and smaller hotels and venues are accepting new weddings and are willing to work with displaced brides.

**Prioritize.** Determine what is most important to you so you can decide if it's better to stick with the original date and make adjustments or wait for the wedding you originally planned.

Source: New Orleans wedding planner Robin Legendre

# MAGAZINE, STREET OF DREAMS, REAWAKENS

## COMEBACK TRAIL *Signposts on the road to normalcy*

**FOR SHOPPERS,** one of the many storm-tarnished gems in New Orleans' crown is poised to shine again. Everyone is invited to head to Magazine Street today with brooms, rakes and garden clippers in hand to participate in a volunteer cleanup effort.

The cleanup crew will gather first at Napoleon Avenue and Magazine at 9 a.m. before dispersing throughout a six-mile stretch of the shopping mecca. In conjunction with the effort, several boutiques and spas have readied themselves to throw open their doors today, if they hadn't already.

For instance:

**Weinsteins** *(4011 Magazine St.)*, **Filly** *(5418 Magazine St.)*, **Trashy Diva** *(2048 Magazine St.)*, **Winky's** *(2038 Magazine St.)* and **Metro Three** *(2032 Magazine St.)* will be offering everything from haute couture to cheeky T-shirts reading "Nagin for President."

**Neophobia** *(2022 Magazine St.)*, **Talebloo Antiques** *(2015 Magazine St.)*, **Melange Sterling Silver** *(5421 Magazine St.)*, **Retro-Active** *(5418 Magazine St.)*, **Hugh Martin Home** *(4222 Magazine St., #A)* and **Plum** *(5430 Magazine St.)* have both functional and quirky home furnishings in stock.

**Aidan Gill** *(2026 Magazine St.)* is open for shaves, haircuts and single malt scotches, while **Belladonna** *(2900 Magazine St.)* has a limited menu of manicures, pedicures, facials and massages, as well as Halloween decor mixed in with its still burgeoning housewares department. The spa **Charlotte Williamson** *(4864 Magazine St.)* has opened its doors, too.

**Savvy Gourmet** *(4519 Magazine St.)* is hosting Saturday night open houses at which shoppers can find any number of cool cooking gadgets. **Scriptura** *(5423 Magazine St.)* and **Stationer of New Orleans** *(3947 Magazine St.)* will be open as well with their selections of stationery and accessories.

Once the street has been brought back to its original patina, expect even more retailers to join the mix. Bryan Batt of **Hazelnut's** *(5515 Magazine St.)* is organizing a Nov. 5 grand opening of the street, hoping that by then, "open for business" signs will have replaced wooden storm boards on every block.

**— Karen Sommer Shalett, staff writer**

## EATING OUT




Emeril Lagasse appeared on the cover of Cigar Aficionado magazine this month, but he hasn't appeared in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina.

# WHERE'S EMERIL?

*Celebrity chef has been a New Orleans no-show since the storm*

**By Brett Anderson**
Restaurant writer

Emeril Lagasse has, in the way only Emeril Lagasse can, appeared to be everywhere recently.

Everywhere but New Orleans.

Since Hurricane Katrina forced the closure of Lagasse's three New Orleans restaurants and layoffs within his company, the quintessential celebrity chef has maintained a rigorous schedule of appearances, and not just on his two television shows, "Emeril Live" and "Essence of Emeril," both of which air daily on the Food Network.

There are the "Good Morning America" segments every Friday and, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, big-ticket charity events in New York City, Las Vegas, Miami and elsewhere. You'll also find him on the covers of the October issues of Gourmet and Cigar Aficionado magazines.

Earlier this month saw the release of his 11th cookbook, "Delmonico: A Restaurant With a Past," prompting a publicity tour kick-off on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno."

The busy schedule, Lagasse said, is one of the main reasons he hasn't gotten around to visiting New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina hit the city Aug. 29.

"I know this is a major catastrophe, but I work so far in advance. My things are planned, my people are planned," Lagasse said Wednesday from Raleigh, N.C., another book-tour stop. But even in absentia, Lagasse contends, "I don't know anyone out there who's been more rah-rah for the city of New Orleans in the last couple of weeks."

In terms of people reached, Lagasse may be right. As arguably the most recognizable restaurant chef in the world, and perhaps the most famous personality in Louisiana, Lagasse commands a large audience whenever he speaks.

But for Lagasse, New Orleans is more than home. The chef, a Massachusetts native, fixed his star to the city's culinary reputation when he took over the kitchen at Commander's Palace in 1983, and both the man and the city have benefited tremendously. Emeril's, Emeril's Delmonico and NOLA, the chef's New Orleans restaurants, are part of a nine-restaurant empire that includes locations in Las Vegas, Orlando, Miami and Atlanta. Emeril's Homebase, the company that oversees all his business

*See* **EATING OUT,** *C-5*

CONTINUED

# Wedded blitz





STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DEMOCKER

ABOVE: Despite damage to the church roof (upper left) caused when a tree fell on it during Hurricane Katrina, Jamie Dill and Jason Ledet exchange rings during their wedding at St. Henry's Catholic Church in New Orleans as maid of honor Laurie Barrecca looks on.

LEFT: Ledet walks past downed limbs and a collapsed basketball goal in the church courtyard before the ceremony.

**WEDDING,** *from C-1*

Hotels are filled with rescue workers, leaving no room at the inn for out-of-town wedding guests. Many restaurants, banquet halls and churches are in shambles, and those that are up and running are scrambling to reassemble their service staffs. Families throughout the Gulf Coast are scattered and, in many cases, financially or emotionally wrecked.

These aren't exactly the ingredients for wedding-day magic. But help for displaced brides is on the way, says wedding planner Allie Wester, who has organized a wedding show for hurricane-harried brides-to-be.

At "The Ultimate Bridal Show" Sunday at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Wester plans to register affected brides for services being offered by vendors throughout the state, many of them at lower-than-usual prices. A handful are even willing to donate their time at cost.

"People all across the industry are just wanting to help every one of the girls who's been impacted by either one of the hurricanes," Wester said. "Some of them have lost everything, while others may just need help with bits and pieces of their wedding."

The event was originally scheduled for last month, but had to be rescheduled as Hurricane Rita approached.

A portion of the $6 admission fee will go to the Red Cross, according to Wester.

In addition to the usual wedding-show trappings, such as a fashion show and a honeymoon giveaway, experts will be on hand to offer advice for prospective brides dealing with the now-complicated details of finding venues and vendors.

"I wanted to do something to help and this is what I know best, weddings," Wester said. "A lot of us are hoping this will be a fun day for the brides — a distraction from all the disaster they may be facing in their lives."

Wester said brides should know she is working with vendors to make sure that donated services go only to those truly in need. Documentation and proof that a wedding was in the works pre-Katrina and Rita will be required from brides-to-be looking to register for relief.

"We may not be able to give a bride her date back, but we want to help any way we can," Wester said, "because weddings are a big part of getting back to a normal way of life."

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Ledet couldn't agree more. Going ahead with their original date was symbolic to the couple. Katrina damaged their St. Rose home, but would not destroy their wedding plans.

"You have to just go with your heart," Jamie said. "A bride shouldn't automatically postpone or cancel just because our city is suffering. The city needs our help to rebuild and families need to get back to normal, and nothing says normal more than a having a wedding."

Plus, Jason added, in such stressful times, a party can bring some welcome relief.

"It's all about what is important to you," Jason said on his wedding day. "A big party with hundreds of people just wasn't possible at this time, but to me the only thing that mattered was my bride saying 'I do.' And today, she did."

• • • • • • •

Staff writer Maria Montoya can be reached at (504) 826-3446 or at mmontoya@timespicayune.com.

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# Where the weddings are

## *How some New Orleans-area ceremony spots are coping post-Katrina*

**Astor Crowne Plaza**
*739 Canal St., www.astorcrowneplaza.com*

Sales Manager Don Zimmer reports that all weddings and wedding room bookings are canceled until January. The hotel is working to reschedule events starting in mid-January.

**Audubon Nature Institute's Aquarium and Zoo**
*riverfront and Uptown, www.audubooninstitute.org*

Anyone who had an event planned for this year will get first choice of available dates for next year, according to Richard Buchsbaum, vice president of food and beverage. "There are some real mixed emotions from everyone, but overwhelmingly all of our clients are telling us they want their event to be in New Orleans no matter what," he said. "It's tremendous how much everyone wants to see the city rebuilt."

**Café Amelie in the Princess of Monaco Courtyard**
*912 Royal St., (504) 412-8965*

Chef Jerry Mixon and owner Susan Hoffman are reopening their doors this week. They've already heard via e-mail from most of their prospective brides and estimate that 85 percent are rescheduling for later this year and next year. "There are a good number of brides out there that we'd love to help," Mixon said. "We'd hate to see anyone left without a venue, so we are open and ready to get some parties planned."

**Elms Mansion**
*3029 St. Charles Ave., (504) 258-3352*
*faithelms@yahoo.com*

Faith Roche, co-owner of the Elms, reports, "We lost our homes in Lakeview, but thank God the Elms grounds are untouched." The mansion's first wedding will take place the first week of November and Roche expects to have several weddings happening by mid-November. Displaced brides can reach Roche at the phone number and e-mail listed above.

**Magnolia Plantation**
*818 Elmwood Park Blvd., Harahan, (504) 733-5020*

"Elmwood is high and dry," said Colette Sterbcow of Magnolia Plantation, where the next wedding will take place Oct. 22. Sterbcow reports that most of her vendors have checked in and she is working with brides who need to reschedule or cancel. "We're trying to give everyone the time they need to figure out how to go forward with their event," she said. "We want to try to work with whatever needs a bride might have at this time."

**Muriel's Jackson Square**
*801 Chartres St., (504) 568-1955*

Sales Manager Annie Flettrich is preparing for Muriel's first post-Katrina wedding on Oct. 29. She said any bride set on doing a New Orleans-style soirée "should know that most of the Quarter and parts of Uptown are looking more normal every day."

**New Orleans City Park**
*(225) 342-4933 or (504) 554-1775*

There are varying levels of damage to the facilities and gardens at City Park. Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker says the staff is still assessing the damage and focused on getting the Botanical Gardens and Pavilion of the Two Sisters restored. "We are asking anyone with an event scheduled between now and December to reschedule with our catering coordinator," Becker said.

**New Orleans Opera Guild Home**
*2304 Prytania St., (281) 469-2296*

Spokeswoman Elaine Trouard says the Garden District structure has some water damage and several windows were blown out by high winds. The members of the Opera Guild hope to have events resume by mid-January. Prospective brides forced to cancel will be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis.

**Omni Royal Orleans**
*621 St. Louis St., (504) 529-5333*

Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, the Royal Orleans is one of the few hotels still offering weddings and honoring room blocks for events on a large scale. Denise Weaks, director of sales, says a good number of the hotel's staff have returned. "We are committed to making sure everything is perfect for the brides who have their events planned with us," she said.

**Ritz Carlton**
*921 Canal St., (904) 491-6655*

No events will be scheduled until the Spring of 2006, according to Char Schroeder, a spokeswoman for the hotel. "Brides really want to have their weddings in New Orleans," Schroeder said. "I'm excited to say most of our brides will be (rescheduling) their events in the spring."

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*amwww.allsaintsneworleans.org*

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*www.staugustinesmet.org*

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*www.stm]parish.org*

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
3245 Manhattan BlvdHarvey366-0123
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*http://stmarksharvey.home.att.net*

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3643 Aurora Drive, Algiers
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# Emeril a no-show

**EATING OUT,** *from C-1*

operations as well as the name of his New Orleans headquarters on St. Charles Avenue, brings in nearly $200 million in annual revenue, according to Gourmet.

Almost seven weeks after New Orleans fell victim to the worst natural disaster in the country's history, it's fair to question the chef's priorities. His business has taken a hit — while none of his restaurants flooded, Emeril's was looted and Delmonico damaged by wind. But the company is diversified, geographically and otherwise. With revenue streaming in from sources as disparate as toothpaste endorsements, branded cookware and wildly popular restaurants in still-thriving locales, Lagasse is certainly doing a whole lot better than the city that launched him.

At the very least, one imagines the folks in Raleigh would understand if the chef postponed his book signing to survey what has been lost, and personally provide a lift to those who lost it.

Instead, Lagasse said, he deliberately laid low after the storm.

"I stayed out of the media purposefully for the first couple of weeks," he said. "I didn't think it was the right thing to do."

Lagasse did not emerge from Katrina personally unscathed. His West Bank mansion was damaged, but not destroyed, and the house he was renovating on the Mississippi coast was, as he put it, reduced to "two sticks." While his wife and children evacuated safely, he had to arrange to move his daughter's wedding ceremony to Las Vegas from New Orleans, where the nuptials were scheduled for the weekend after the storm.

In the days after Katrina hit, Lagasse said, "I was the guy that spent 18 hours a day on the telephone, finding people, moving people, (checking on) the other six restaurants . . . now I've got a third less revenue. I was running the business, and the business is about people."

Before Katrina, Lagasse employed 380 people in New Orleans. His management team is still intact, he said, and many restaurant employees were relocated to other operations in Las Vegas, Atlanta and Florida. He can't say how many of his New Orleans employees are still on the payroll.

"My problem is, I got everybody all over the place. Some are in Atlanta, some are in Orlando, my assistant's in L.A.," Lagasse said. "We had layoffs at Homebase, but we tried to have as few as possible."

One Homebase employee no longer on the payroll said she was informed of her job status during a Sept. 12 phone call from a supervisor. "This is your last day," the employee was told. "There will be no more paychecks."

Another Homebase employee said she called her supervisor the Wednesday after the storm to inform him of her willingness to work from afar. "The following Wednesday he called and said that I was being let go," she said. "There was no mention of any sort of coming back."

The quick layoffs contrasted sharply with Dickie Brennan and Company's decision to keep all of its roughly 400 full-time employees on the payroll, with checks including tips for wait staff.

Coupled with Lagasse's relatively low profile in the weeks following Katrina, the cutbacks — which, according to an employee still working for Homebase, included accountants assigned to Lagasse's local restaurants — bred uncertainty as to whether the chef would return to New Orleans at all.

Lagasse's first public comments about the future of his restaurants were made Sept. 16 on "Good Morning America."

"I want to give people jobs, believe me," Lagasse said, according to the transcripts. "I want to get back there and rebuild and want to be a part of the community. My heart is with my staff."

Later in the segment, Lagasse said, "I can't wait to get back in there."

A month later, he still hasn't. But he insists that he will. Eventually.

"I can't be more positive about New Orleans," he said. "That's my home. That's Homebase. As soon as we can get open, believe me, we'll be open."

A multitude of issues is holding Lagasse back from saying exactly when he'll reopen his local restaurants. He's worried about the health risks, about supplies, about staffing, about another hurricane. His brother and both parents, all Homebase employees, are on the ground, reporting back to him.

"I lost pretty much all our refrigeration," Lagasse said. "That stuff is all custom built."

It's also too early to tell how much of his restaurants' world-class wine collections made it through the storm.

"I've got to make a decision shortly," he said, "but putting a date on it, I can't really answer that right now."

In the meantime, Lagasse said he will continue to appear on television and at book signings. He's due to sign books at a Sam's Wholesale Club in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

When pressed to explain why he has yet to make an appearance in New Orleans, Lagasse re-emphasized his ongoing fundraising efforts for victims of the storm. On Tuesday, an eight-course dinner for 20 prepared by Lagasse and chef Mario Batali was auctioned off for $100,000 at a benefit in New York City. Lagasse said the money will go directly into the Emeril Lagasse Employee Disaster Relief Fund, which was set up to benefit all non-management employees in his company, including those who were laid off.

"I did a thing at the Smithsonian with Cokie Roberts, talking positive about New Orleans," Lagasse said, referring to another recent book signing, this one at George Washington University. "I do that stuff every day. Unfortunately, I'm not on the local Channel 6 in front of the broken window at Emeril's."

If he had been, Lagasse no doubt would have attracted the attention of every major media outlet reporter and camera crew in New Orleans to cover the devastation. The message blasted around the world would have been priceless: I'm a New Orleanian. I'm here to help. I'm coming back.

That's the message another New Orleans celebrity chef, Paul Prudhomme, sent out Sept. 20 during an appearance on MSNBC's "Hardball With Chris Matthews."

"We're feeding anybody in sight," Prudhomme said via satellite from the French Quarter. "If you're hungry, we want to feed you. . . . If you're in the military, we especially want to feed you.

"That's my job, to lift people up with great food."

That Lagasse, one of popular culture's great media masters, took a pass on the chance to put his own mega-celebrity to good use at such an unprecedented moment is just one of many post-Katrina mysteries. What isn't a mystery is that plenty of people have managed to do what Lagasse has yet to attempt: serve food to people in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Everyone has obstacles.

On the first night that New Orleans water was certified drinkable, sommelier Jeff Kundinger, whose Lakeview home was destroyed by Katrina, donned a coat and tie to work the floor at Cuvée. Chef Bob Iacovonne labored essentially alone in the kitchen. His pastry chef and both his sous chefs were rattled by the storm. "None of them are coming back," he said.

The menu that night included a shrimp and fried mirliton Napoleon, a Cuvée signature, and crab-topped salmon in brie orzo. Producing food of that quality in post-Katrina New Orleans requires hunger, courage and sacrifice. And as anyone who has eaten in post-Katrina New Orleans has come to understand, being the recipient of such a gesture is more nourishing than mere food could ever be.

When he could sell cookbooks to an audience of millions, why would Lagasse bother?

•••••••

Restaurant writer Brett Anderson can be reached at banderson@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3353.

# Calendar

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Let's Clean Magazine!** Meet at the corner of Magazine and Napoleon at 9 a.m. Neighbors, residents and volunteers are asked to participate in a community-wide volunteer effort to assist the small business owners of Magazine Street reopen by helping to clean up their businesses. Bring gloves, brooms, dust pans, rakes, garden clippers. Other cleaning supplies provided. Call 891-2984, 782-5222 or (281)703-8456.

**Historic New Orleans Collection Exhibits** 533 Royal St. "The Terrible and the Brave: The Battles for New Orleans, 1814-1815." Hours are 9:30 a.m.-3 Tues.-Sat. Free admission. Call 523-4662.

**French Quarter Vampire Tour** Meets in front of Saint Louis Cathedral, facing Jackson Square. Haunted History Tours resume guided walks, 8:30 (arrive 15 minutes prior to departure). $20 adults, $17 seniors, $10 children 12 and younger. Call 861-2727.

**The Scream Factory** 319 E. Lockwood, corner Columbia St., Covington. Open today-Sun. 7:30-11. Tickets are $10. Not for young children. Call (877) 666-3327.

**Chinchuba Haunted House** 1131 Barataria Blvd., Marrero. Open 7-11. Admission $10.

**Hickory Maze and Pumpkin Festival** 36524 Ed Yates Road, Hickory. Corn field has newly designed labyrinth, 10 a.m.-9. Admission $6.75, $4.75 ages 6-11 and free for children younger than 5. Pumpkin festival 10 a.m.-6. Call (985) 863-9662.

**Old Farmers' Day** Todd Brunett Dairy Farm, two miles north of Loranger. Farm related activities and demonstrations, including hay cutting, sugar cane grinding, weaving, blacksmithing, campfire cooking and more, 10 a.m.-4 today-Sun. Gates open at 9 a.m. Admission is $8. Refreshments sold. Free for children younger than 6. Call (985) 878-2360.

**Puppet Show** Hammond Library, 314 E. Thomas St., Hammond. The Tangipahoa Parish Traveling Puppet Theatre presents "The Underseas Adventures of Baby Bear and Goldilocks," 10:30 a.m. Free. Call (985) 345-0937.

**Rendez-Vous Des Cajuns** Liberty Theater, Eunice. T-Joe Romero & la Gros Chemin Playboys and Corey Ledet & his zydeco band are featured on the live Cajun radio program and TV show, 6 (ticket window opens at 4) Sat. Tickets are $5, $3 for children. Call (337) 457-7389.

## NIGHTCLUBS

**The Bengal** 4612 Quincy St., Metairie. 456-0986. The Molly Ringwalds, 10.

**Le Bon Temps Roule** 4801 Magazine St., 895-8117. Anders Osborne with Sol Fiya, 8.

**Le Pavillion Hotel** 833 Poydras St., 581-3111. Barbara Lane on piano, 6.

**Margaritaville Cafe** 1104 Decatur St., 592-2565. Jesse Moore, 6.

**Southport Hall** 200 Monticello Ave., Jefferson, 835-2903. Ratt Poison, 10.

## THEATER

**Greater Tuna** Skyfire Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire St, Covington, (985) 875-7577. The Jaston Williams-Joe Sears-Ed Howard comedy about the goofy and scandalous goings-on in Tuna, Texas, the state's third smallest town. George Sanchez directs Gary Rucke and Sean Patterson, who each play 20 roles, both male and female. Performance tonight at 8. Admission is "Pay what you will," with proceeds going to the Northshore Pelican Foundation, a non-progfit organization to help citizens recover from Hurricane Katrina. "Greater Tuna" runs Fri-Sat at 8 p.m. through Oct. 29. One matinee this Sunday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m.

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FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)(√) 12:10, 2:50, 4:55, 7:55, 10:25
THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)(√) 12:00, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
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## DEAR ABBY

*Jeanne Phillips*

# Lover has many acquaintances

**DEAR ABBY:** I got the surprise of my life three years ago when my husband of 28 years asked for a divorce. Not long after the divorce became final, I ran into "Tim," an old high school classmate, and fell head over heels for him. He stays at my house every weekend and is on his own during the week.

Last week I used Tim's e-mail account to send an e-mail. When I pulled up the account, I discovered that for the past three years, the man I'm in love with has been seeing five other women! He reminded me that he has been a bachelor for 20 years and has many female acquaintances. He sees nothing wrong with going out with them, and sees one of them once a week.

I am extremely uncomfortable knowing that Tim has been seeing other women and wasn't upfront with me about it. I was under the impression that we had an exclusive relationship. Are my feelings unreasonable?

*Shocked in Ohio*

**DEAR SHOCKED:** If Tim lied to you about having an exclusive relationship, then you have reason to be angry. However, if he did not — and exclusivity was important to you — you should have made certain it was discussed. Surely, if Tim was deceiving you, he wouldn't have given you his password. Now that you know his feelings about monogamy, it's up to you to decide whether you will tolerate an open relationship, because it appears that's all he's willing to have. P.S.: At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I suggest that you be checked for STDs.

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**DEAR ABBY:** Please settle a disagreement my wife, "Angela," and I are having. We heard from some friends that Angela's nephew was being married. Angela saw her nephew on a couple of occasions, and he never once mentioned that he was even engaged. The wedding was held in July. We did not receive an invitation. Now an announcement has arrived in the mail stating that they are married. Angela has heard through the grapevine that the bride is registered for wedding gifts at a local department store. I say we should send them a card since we were neither notified of the engagement nor invited to the wedding. Angela is very upset over this because she has always felt close to her nephew — but apparently her feelings weren't reciprocated. She thinks we should send a nice gift. What do you think, Abby?

*Confused and Sad*

**DEAR CONFUSED AND SAD:** You and your wife are in no way obligated to send a gift to her nephew and his bride. However, because your wife feels she would like to send something, a "token" gift would be suitable — and very generous under the circumstances.

•••••••

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 24 and find myself in a situation where my relationship with my boyfriend may be coming to an end. The breakup isn't the part I fear the most. It hurts, but time heals and I know I will be OK. What I'm dreading are the inevitable questions I'll be getting about why it happened. Why can't people — especially family — just accept things for what they are? Talking about it won't make it any better. How should I respond to people who ask me questions? I want to be polite but still make it clear that questions only make it worse.

*Sad in Chicago*

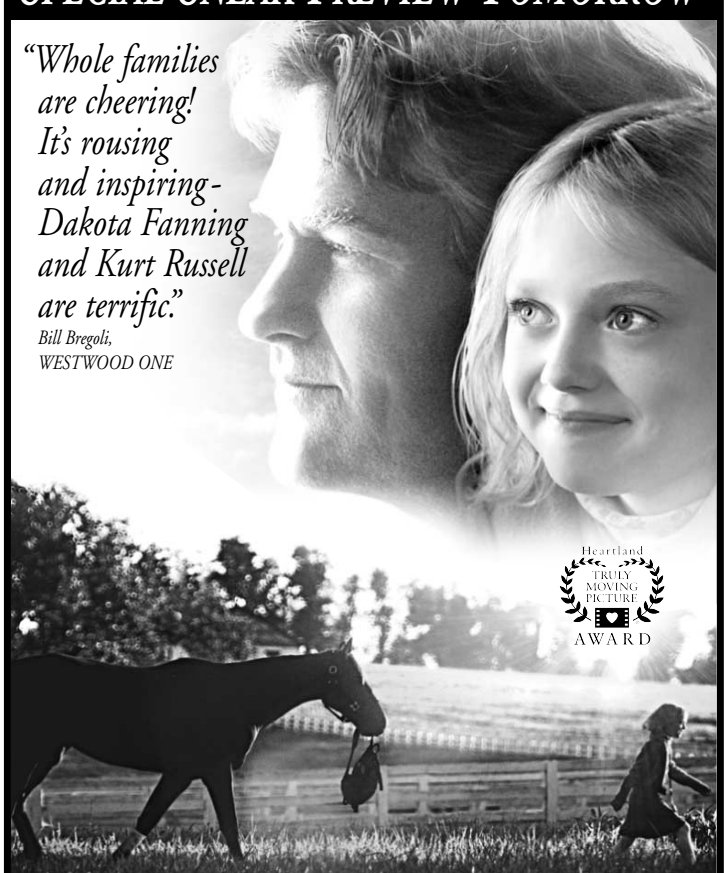
**DEAR SAD:** Here's the mantra. Say, "It's really too painful to discuss right now, and I'd appreciate it if you would drop the subject." And if the questioner is insensitive enough to persist after that, repeat it. Then change the subject.

Missing that little something extra?
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The Times-Picayune

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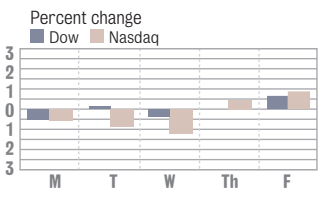
PAGE C-11
Saturday
October 15, 2005

## MARKET TRACKER

**DOW JONES** 70.75 — CLOSE: 10,287.34

**NASDAQ** 17.61 — CLOSE: 2,064.83

**INDEX TRACKER**

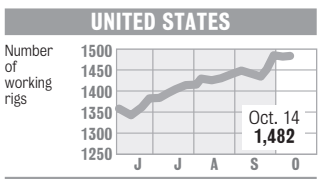



**OIL** — South La. Sweet Crude: 3¢ — $63.18/barrel — Year ago: $53.06

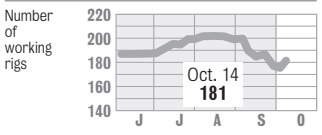
**NATURAL GAS** — Henry Hub: 70¢ — $12.80/mcf — Year ago: $5.77

## RIG ACTIVITY

**UNITED STATES**




**LOUISIANA**




## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Bankruptcy court busy

Hundreds of Louisiana residents affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita have gone to bankruptcy court to seek protection from debtors before tougher new restrictions go into effect Monday. In the federal bankruptcy court of the Eastern District of Louisiana, based in New Orleans, 439 claims were processed Wednesday, bringing the total since Oct. 1 to 1,554. That's a tenfold increase from last year. "Unfortunately, it's been especially busy in the last two weeks," Baton Rouge lawyer Bruce Deuhne said. "A lot of these people are so confused. We're still seeing people show up, they're hit with huge losses from the hurricane, and then with huge losses from the financial consequences." Louisiana's three district bankruptcy offices have processed 28,604 bankruptcy filings since Jan. 1, which is more than all of 2004.

### Katrina hurts Hancock

Hurricane Katrina took a bite out of **Hancock Holding Co.**'s third-quarter earnings. The Gulfport, Miss., company reported third-quarter net income Friday of $1.44 million, down from $15.4 million during the same quarter a year earlier. On a per-share basis, the company earned 4 cents, down from 47 cents in the same quarter a year earlier. Katrina cost Hancock more than $26 million before taxes, including storm-related provisions for credit losses, direct expenses tied to the storm, and fees and service charges that were waived to help bank customers affected by the storm. Excluding Katrina's impact, Hancock's third-quarter earnings would have been $18.81 million, or 57 cents per share.

### Seafood industry not gone

Louisiana seafood products making their way to the market now are safe — despite disruptions and losses the industry sustained because of Hurricane Katrina, according to experts at the Louisiana State University AgCenter. Oyster beds in the Gulf of Mexico east of Terrebonne Parish are closed, but shellfish harvested from other areas are safe to eat, said Dr. Jon Bell, a seafood technology professor at the AgCenter. Bell said the westernmost portions of the Louisiana oyster beds were never closed and that they produce about one-third of the state oyster harvest.

### Rig count rises

The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States increased by one this week to 1,482. Of the rigs running nationwide, 1,262 were exploring for gas and 215 for oil, **Baker Hughes Inc.** reported Friday. Five were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, the rig count was 1,225.

# Flood maps' release delayed

*Rebuilding effort won't have to wait*

**By Jeffrey Meitrodt**
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — Though federal officials were on the verge of releasing new flood maps for New Orleans just before Hurricane Katrina struck the city in late August, those maps won't be released for at least another year, which means people interested in rebuilding their flooded homes can move forward without waiting to see what the new maps look like, representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency told state lawmakers Friday.

In fact, it could take as long as five years for the agency to issue new maps, said Carl Watts, a compliance expert with the National Flood Insurance Program, which is overseen by FEMA.

The maps are used by local officials to determine the minimum elevation needed for homeowners to avoid damage from a "100-year flood." In New Orleans, homeowners have been required to build at those elevations since the city joined the flood insurance program in the early 1970s.

FEMA hasn't updated the flood maps in New Orleans since 1984. Until the agency issues new maps, homeowners and contractors can rely on the older maps for elevation requirements, Watts said. He said those maps can be found on FEMA's Web site, as well as the city's Office of Safety and Permits.

Of the 256,000 homes covered by federal flood insurance in the seven-parish metropolitan area, more than 155,000 stand at elevations that are too low to protect them from a 100-year flood, according to flood insurance data supplied by FEMA.

In the past, those properties were able to qualify for discounted flood insurance because they were built before the city joined the program. But under local building codes, any house that sustained damage estimated at 50 percent or more of its market value will have to be brought into compliance with the current elevation requirements, Watts said.

For instance, if it cost $49,999 to repair a house worth an estimated $100,000, the property owner would not have to build at a higher elevation — even if all of the neighboring houses had to be raised, Watts said. However, if the repairs on that house cost $50,000 or more, the property owner would have to meet the current elevation requirements.

State Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, said those kinds of calculations could prove costly for many of his constituents, who haven't been forced to meet the elevation requirements because they were living in homes that predated the city's first flood maps. What happens, he asked, if Katrina

*See* **MAPS,** *C-12*

*Biggest price rise in 25 years fueled by energy costs*

# INFLATION JUMPS 1.2%

**By Martin Crutsinger**
AP economics writer

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices soared last month by the biggest amount in a quarter-century, propelled by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the record gasoline costs in their wake. The storms caused industrial production and consumer confidence to plunge, raising new worries about the economy's ability to bounce back.

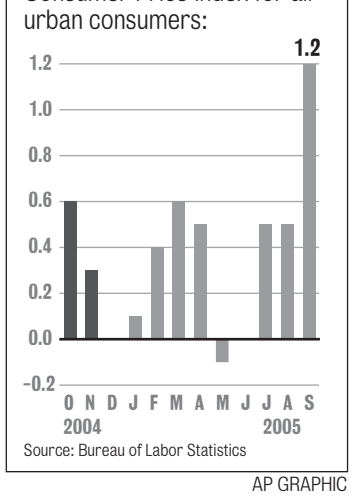
The Labor Department reported Friday that inflation jumped 1.2 percent last month. Ninety percent of the increase came from a record-shattering 12 percent surge in energy prices, reflecting tight supplies after widespread shutdowns of refineries and oil and natural gas production along the Gulf Coast.

Those shutdowns contributed to 1.3 percent drop in industrial production in September, the biggest falloff in 23 years.

On the consumer front, retail sales managed to eke out just a

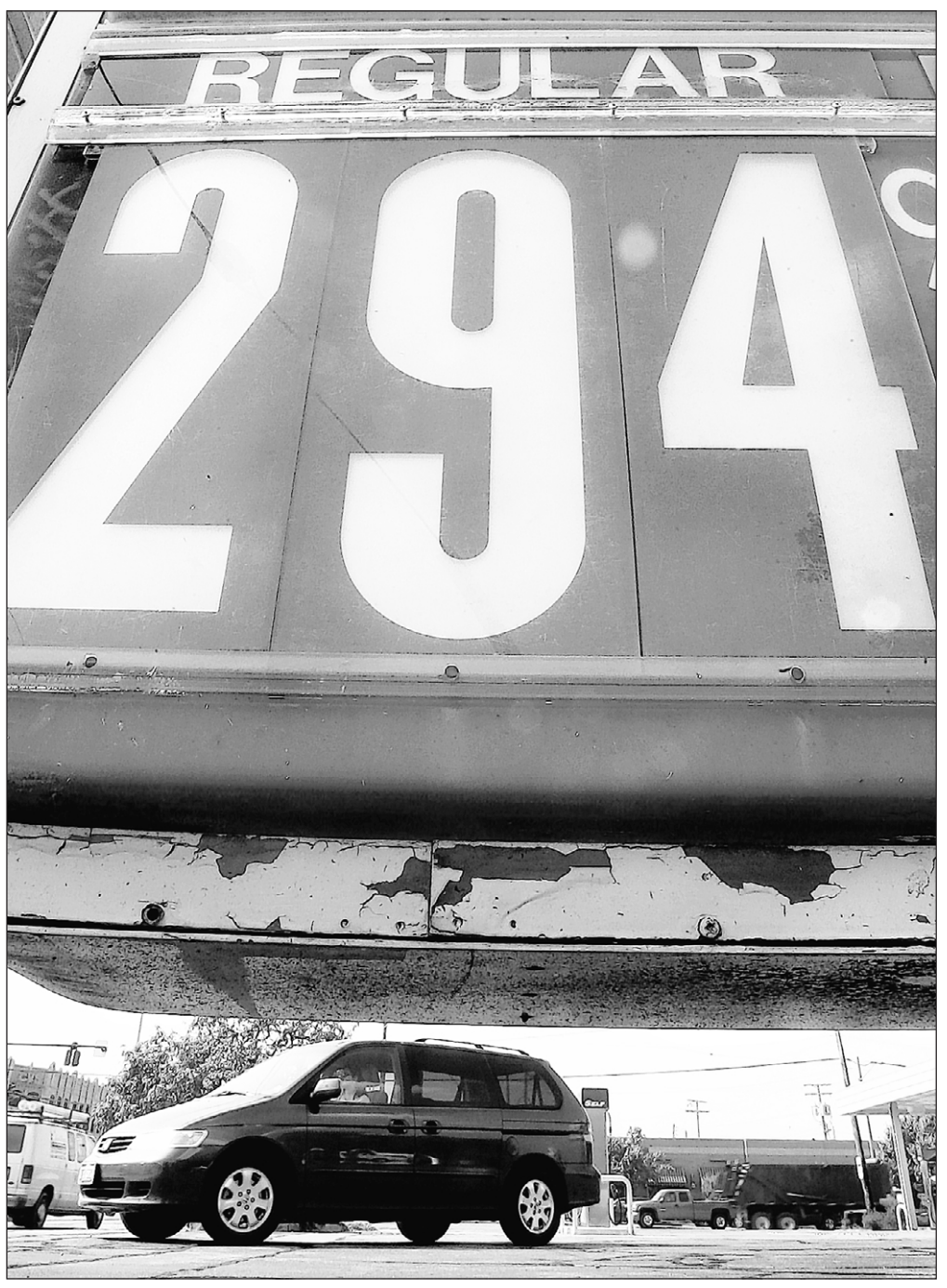
*See* **INFLATION,** *C-12*

**TRACKING INFLATION**
The percent changes from the preceding month of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers:




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

AP GRAPHIC




AP PHOTO

The price of gas looms large at nearly $2.95 a gallon for regular unleaded at a Sunoco station in Solon, Ohio, on Monday. The average retail price of gasoline is $2.94 a gallon nationwide, or about $1 a gallon higher than a year ago, according to AAA. Analysts said they did not expect a sharp move lower anytime soon because of the persistent supply constraints caused by back-to-back hurricanes.

# Web page loses donation button

*PayPal halts storm relief on sex site*

**By Keith Darcé**
Business writer

Internet payment service **PayPal** has pulled the plug on hurricane donations to a New Orleans dot.com because the company's Web site helps men connect with each other for sex and sells sexually explicit videos.

**CFS.com**, which operates the "Cruising for Sex" Web site, fired back in court, asking a California judge in San Jose to force PayPal to restore the donation link on the New Orleans company's site.

"At no time . . . did CFS.com use PayPal to send or receive payments or donations for sexually oriented goods or services," the company claims in its lawsuit.

The rift surfaced shortly after CFS.com founder and COO Keith Griffith added a PayPal link to the company's Web site on Sept. 1, three days after Hurricane Katrina tore through the central Gulf Coast and devastated New Orleans. PayPal is the leading conduit that allows Internet users to pay for goods or services online.

The link was created to raise money for the company's New Orleans employees, who were forced to evacuate and faced uncertain losses in the wake of the storm.

After about $2,000 was raised through the link, PayPal shut down the operation.

The hurricane donation link appeared on the same page as solicitations for escort services, as well as a separate donation link to support the Web site.

"Our policy clearly states

*See* **WEB PAGE,** *C-12*

# Hibernia vote is next month

*Shareholders face revised sale offer*

**By Mary Judice**
Business writer

**Hibernia Corp.** shareholders will meet Nov. 14 at the Houstonian Hotel in Houston to vote on the new terms of the bank's merger with **Capital One Financial Corp.**

The closing of the merger, which shareholders approved in August, was postponed twice after Hurricane Katrina hit in late August and new merger terms were negotiated.

Shareholders meeting in Houston will have to vote again on the merger agreement and make new declarations as to whether they want to turn their Hibernia shares in for Capital One stock, cash or a combination of the two.

In a proxy statement outlining the new merger proposal, Hibernia said it "expects to experience substantial employee and recovery costs."

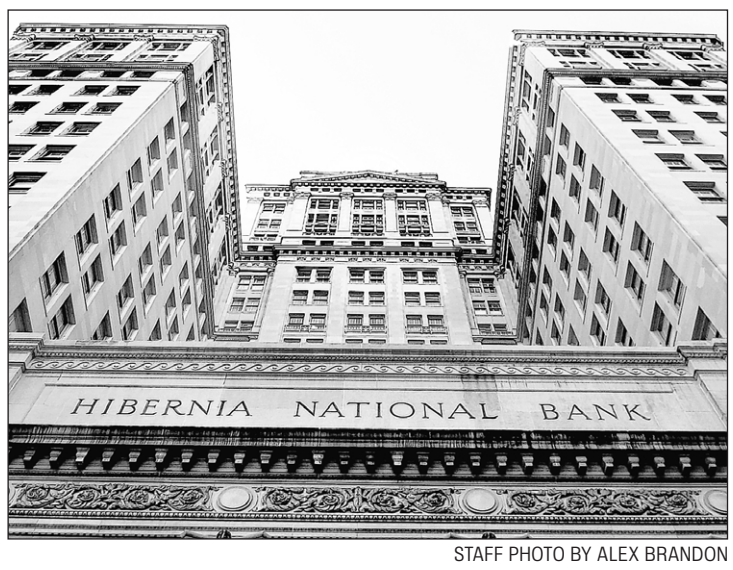
Hibernia said its consumer, mortgage, auto, commercial and small business loan portfolios have been affected because borrowers may not be able to repay loans and because the collateral pledged for some loans may have been damaged.

The bank also said it may have difficulty competing with banks that were not impacted.

Hurricane Katrina forced Hibernia to initially close 129 branches, which represented 5 percent of its deposits.

In early September, Herb Boydstun, Hibernia chief executive, said decisions on reopening some of the branches would depend on how the surrounding areas redevelop. On Friday, the bank had reopened all but 27 branches in the New Orleans area.

*See* **HIBERNIA,** *C-12*




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The Hibernia Bank on Carondelet Street may still become part of the Capital One network of banks, as Hibernia shareholders meet Nov. 14 to reconsider Capital One's revised merger proposal.

SUNDAY

LSU TIGERS TOP FLORIDA GATORS, 21-17 SEE SPORTS

# The Times-Picayune

$1.50 169th year No. 268 | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005 | HURRICANE EDITION

## Housing shortage hinders rebound

*Employers scramble to shelter workers*

**By Martha Carr**
Staff writer

Textron Industries and Land Systems was a company on the ball.

Days after Katrina devastated its eastern New Orleans assembly center, executives were tracking down the company's 1,200 employees, rebuilding the plant, and searching for housing to bring highly skilled craftsmen back to work.

But seven weeks and tons of bureaucratic red tape later, the company — a defense contractor with strong government connections — is still awaiting delivery of the 200 Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers it needs to house key workers temporarily.

Meanwhile, production on the armored vehicles needed to protect U.S. soldiers in Iraq has dropped from 30 a month to eight.

If Textron has had a hard time dealing with FEMA, the problems confronting businesses with fewer government connections are only more daunting.

"I cannot imagine being a midsized nonpublic company in the middle of a hurricane zone trying to navigate these bureaucratic waters," said Clay Moise, Textron's vice president of marine and combat vehicles. "Fortunately, we have a lot of connections, being a government contractor, and it still took us this long. If we weren't, we would have been in a world of hurt."

Textron's frustrations are shared by thousands of business owners who are grappling with what has emerged in recent weeks as the single most critical issue to the region's rebirth: finding housing for workers.

Almost two months after Katrina put an abrupt end to commerce, many companies remain shuttered for the sole reason that their employees have nowhere to live. Others are running at a fraction of their usual staff while they wait for FEMA's slumberous

*See* **HOUSING,** *A-10*



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

The smashed gate to the bus barn on Patterson Street in Algiers Point allowed Jabar Gibson to make good on his pledge to lead an unofficial evacuation of Algiers residents.

**To some he is a thug, but to the 60 people on the school bus he commandeered as Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters rose, Jabar Gibson is nothing short of a hero.**

# TAKING THE WHEEL




HOUSTON CHRONICLE PHOTO BY CARLOS RIOS

Jabar Gibson, 20, sits behind the wheel of a bus he commandeered and drove from Algiers to Houston, along with about 60 evacuees. Gibson's load was the first to arrive at the shelter of the Astrodome.

**By Josh Peter**
Staff writer

HOUSTON — Across the street from the Astrodome, in the alcove of a motel where the night manager sits behind bulletproof glass, a young man leaned against a faded stucco wall.

A grin crept beneath his wispy mustache when a stranger approached.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

His name is Jabar Gibson.

The first bus to arrive in Houston loaded with Hurricane Katrina evacuees from New Orleans was not operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or any other government authority. It was an Orleans Parish school bus, its driver too young to drink but already a convicted car thief. His cargo: 60 of New Orleans' poorest residents, the youngest a week-old infant and the oldest 59.

It was known as the "renegade bus." Gibson, 20, was its renegade driver.

Gibson acknowledges he stole the bus, although in what has become Katrina lingo, he "commandeered" it to rescue himself and his neighbors. While the storm's floodwaters ultimately did not advance into Algiers, there was no way of knowing that in the chaotic Tuesday morning after the storm. Water was filling up the east bank, Mayor Ray Nagin was on the radio that afternoon predicting several feet on St. Charles Avenue, and panicked residents crossed the bridge to the West Bank, telling tales of impending doom.

"The police was leaving people behind. I had to pick up people on the bus. The police didn't want to do nothing. We stepped up and did what we had to do," said Gibson, who declined to say more because he since has agreed to a movie deal that prohibits interviews.

*See* **BUS,** *A-21*

## Pump workers say they wanted to stay

*Facing danger part of the job*

**By Michelle Krupa**
West Bank bureau

Even as they followed orders to abandon their stations before Hurricane Katrina slashed ashore, some of Jefferson Parish's pump operators asked why they couldn't stay.

Why couldn't some volunteers, possibly as many as 30 workers on the West Bank alone, ride out the hurricane in a parish building, they asked, or even hunker down inside pump stations while their colleagues evacuated 100 miles north, as dictated by the parish's "doomsday" plan?

"The question was raised, yes," said Jimmy Aragon, who oversees West Jefferson's 14 staffed pump stations and was among the last wave of 236 pump workers to evacuate Aug. 28, the night before Katrina's landfall. "But we were told that West Jefferson (Medical Center) was full. They were housing firefighters and policemen.

"But there wasn't a choice," he said. "Everybody was ordered to go. There was no choice. We couldn't have stayed if we wanted to."

With thousands of Jefferson homes now in various states of ruin because of flooding, the order by Parish President Aaron Broussard

*See* **PUMPS,** *A-18*

▶ **Other workers stayed behind to weather the storm, A-19**

## Church group heeds the call

*N.O. congregation unites via phone*

**By Bruce Nolan**
Staff writer

"In my Father's house are many rooms," the Scripture says. And Thursday the storm-tossed flock of the Irish Channel Christian Fellowship found themselves together in an unfamiliar, even disembodied place: Scattered from Louisiana to Tennessee to Colorado, three dozen church members assembled on a telephone conference call in cyberspace and clung together through the hiss and warble of the phone signal.

Together apart, they sang and prayed. They told their stories of exile and loss from Hurricane Katrina. They

*See* **CHURCH,** *A-25*

## Facing massive destruction from Katrina, St. Bernard Parish residents try to summon the courage to rebuild.

**By Paul Rioux**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

Shuffling like a tightrope walker on planks resting atop splintered wood and twisted metal surrounding his smashed home, Walter Alfonso carried an ice chest filled with mud-covered porcelain angels.

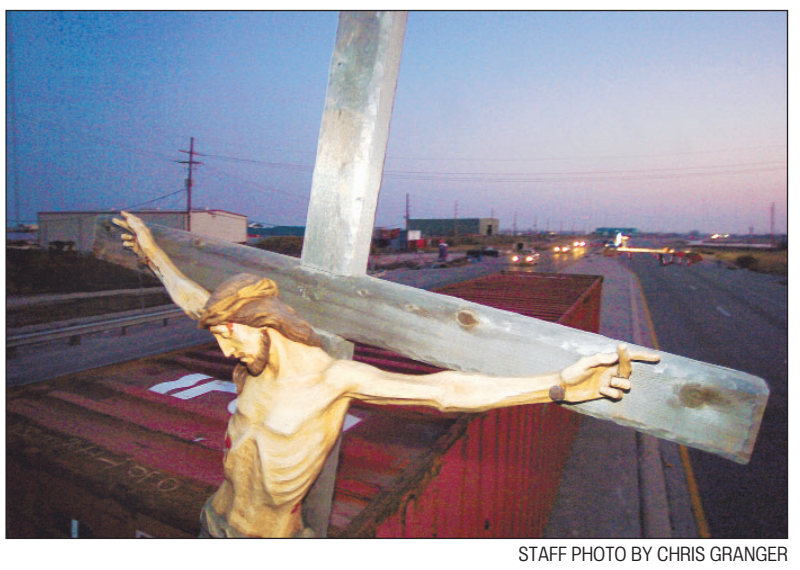
"This is all I could find," said Alfonso, 79, as he emerged from a labyrinth of debris left by Hurricane Katrina, which lifted and slammed his house into four others in Yscloskey, a fishing village in eastern St. Bernard Parish.

While his wife, Pauline, scrubbed the angels in a bucket of bayou water, Alfonso spoke about growing up in Yscloskey with a fondness that belied the hardships he had endured.

He said he quit school in second grade after his father died. As an 8-year-old, he began working as a fisher. He recalled setting out each morning in a skiff with a friend twice his age to check their crab traps in Lake Borgne.

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *A-14*

▶ **How did parish landmarks fare? A-14**



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A large crucifix, accompanied by the words 'Keep the Faith,' stands on Paris Road in an apparent effort to bolster the spirits of residents returning to the storm-ravaged parish.

INSIDE

BEGINNING TODAY
KATRINA'S LIVES LOST
*The life stories behind the storm victims,* Living, C-10

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| Deaths | B-7 | Travel | C-13 |

SUNNY
HIGH 85 LOW 62

# Marchers in D.C. call for unity

*Black activists focus on poverty*

**By Jonathan Tilove**
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Black Americans thronged the National Mall in Washington on Saturday in an assemblage of mutual affirmation, demanding more of their nation and of themselves.

"It's nothing but black folks in love with each other from one end to the other," said Jamil Muhammad, national spokesman for the Nation of Islam, gazing out from the podium on a sunny fall day following a week of rainy weather.

The Mall was not as thick with people or moment as the Million Man March, whose 10th anniversary this gathering commemorated. That march, the largest public coming together of African-Americans in the nation's history, stunned America with its sheer size and its air of bliss. It was historic and, for many who attended, a moment of personal transformation.

But the crowd Saturday was ample enough to stretch, if loosely, the length and breadth of the Mall, giving the gathering the grandeur and scope of a successful occasion. Organized mostly below the radar of the national media, and with far smaller expectations, Saturday's event achieved the formidable goal of not being a letdown to those who made the trek.

Proceeding with little of the advance controversy of 10 years ago, mostly over the leadership of Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, the Millions More Movement also succeeded in presenting a more complete portrait of black America, and its leadership, in a united front.

"We have seen an unprecedented gathering of the leaders of black America coming together to speak with one voice," declared Farrakhan. "The whole spectrum of black thought was represented on this stage, in front of the Capitol of the United States of America. This tells us that a new day is dawning in America."



AP PHOTO

Participants gather on the National Mall for the Millions More Movement march on Saturday. Thousands of African-Americans marked the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March.

"If there is a million, or less, or more," he said, "the meaning of this day will be determined by what we do tomorrow to create a movement, a real movement among our people."

Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, described a program, soon to be presented by the caucus, calling not only for the rescue of those hundreds of thousands, many of them black and poor, displaced by Hurricane Katrina, but also to eradicate poverty in America in the next decade.

The event's agenda was broad, ranging from reparations for slavery to the creation of a national black board of education, black control of the businesses that serve the black community and the creation of an independent black political movement.

"Any nation of 40 million should have their own political movement," said political scientist Ronald Walters, who advised Jesse Jackson in his presidential campaigns.

But mostly, for those who came, it was an occasion of shared identity and purpose.

"It's a really wonderful, positive force to see the beauty of black people of all hues from all different parts of the country and across the planet to come together in one spot and say, 'We're one," said Kofi Jones, an artist and activist from Cincinnati and one of the organizers of the National Hip Hop Political Convention.

As Munir Bahar marched across the Mall with a platoon of young men from the Brother-to-Brother mentorship program he founded as a student at Morgan State University, Norman Winchester, a supervisor in an auto parts plant in Detroit, recorded the scene on his video camera.

When Bahar barked, "Present arms," the young men in dark pants, white shirts and red ties, raised their right hands skyward in the Black Power salute.

"Young bloods," said Winchester, narrating his video. "Here is the future. That's what we have to look forward to."

Unlike 10 years ago, this gathering was not focused solely on men, and there were efforts, especially from the podium, to reach out to other communities of color — to Latinos and Native Americans especially. But the crowd was almost entirely African-American, and more male than female.

"It's a celebration," said Deborah Gilchrest, a mental health rehabilitation technician who came from High Point, N.C., with her husband, Kevin, who runs a barber shop and beauty salon there.

"We need to unite as a people, or perish as individuals," Kevin Gilchrest said.

# Rivers crest in soggy N.Y. region

*Prolonged rain is finally tapering off*

**By Todd Zeranski**
Bloomberg News Service

Record rainfall in the New York metropolitan region will begin to taper off tonight, allowing swollen rivers to crest and begin to recede, easing flooding in low-lying areas, according to the National Weather Service.

A low-pressure system that stalled off the mid-Atlantic coast brought 2.75 inches of rain yesterday in New York's Central Park, for a total of 11.71 inches since Oct. 7, the third wettest October since 1903, the weather service said.

Parts of New Jersey, southern Connecticut and the Hudson Valley are flooded. The Passaic River in New Jersey and the Ramapo River in New York and New Jersey are especially swollen, Peter Gabrielsen, a National Weather Service hydrologist, said in a telephone interview from Bohemia, New York.

"We're having a month's worth of rainfall in a week," Gabrielsen said. "This type of weather system isn't unusual for this time of year. What is unusual is that it's staying around, it's not leaving."

In Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, the Ramapo is expected to crest at 13.6 feet (4.15 meters), about two feet above the flood stage of 11.7 feet, by this evening, the weather service said. The Quinnipiac River in Wallingford, Conn., reached 7.7 feet this morning, inches from its 8-foot flood stage, forecasters said.

On Long Island, "extreme high tides with wave action" caused beach erosion and damaged boardwalks at Fire Island National Seashore, said Chief Ranger Wayne Valentine.

"We're still getting the full brunt of it," Valentine said. "Because of the rain and the winds, you can't even drive the beach. There is no beach right now.'

New Jersey on Friday partially activated its Office of Emergency Management in response to flood warnings caused by rising waters.

"We're at about the peak of the flooding. The local areas, the floodwaters will maintain their heights and recede" beginning this evening, Gabrielsen said.

At least 10 deaths in the Northeast have been blamed on the weather in the past week, the Associated Press reported. Four people were reported missing in New Hampshire, the AP said.



AP PHOTO

Brian Johnson, in kayak, receives a sump pump from his father-in-law, Bud D'Orsi, along a flooded street in Cranston, R.I. A week of steady rain has produced extensive flooding in the Northeast.

## WHO'S ON TV

Television news shows

**SUNDAY MORNING**
**Topics:** Temporary housing; school vouchers in New Orleans; rebuilding homes
**Guests:** Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen; the Rev. William Maestri, Archdiocese of New Orleans; Phyllis Landrieu, Orleans Parish School Board; state Rep. Austin Badon, D-New Orleans; Jim Donelon, Louisiana Insurance Commission
**8:30 a.m.,** 4

**MEET THE PRESS**
**Guests:** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.; and former FBI Director Louis Freeh
**10 a.m.,** 6

**FOX NEWS SUNDAY**
**Guests:** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill.
**9 a.m.,** 8

**FACE THE NATION**
**Guests:** U.S. Sens. Joseph Biden, D-Del., and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.
**10:30 a.m.,** 4

**CNN LATE EDITION**
**Guests:** U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad; U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va.; Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari; and Dr. Irwin Redlener of the Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness and Children's Health Fund.
**10 a.m.,** CNN

**60 MINUTES**
**Topic:** Opium production threatens the growth of democracy in Afghanistan
**Topic:** Former NFL linebacker Bill Romanowski discusses steroid use
**Topic:** Bird enthusiasts search for ivory-billed woodpecker, long thought to be extinct
**6 p.m.,** 4

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# NATION & WORLD

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Protest turns violent at Nazi parade in Ohio

TOLEDO, OHIO — A crowd that gathered to protest a neo-Nazi march Saturday turned violent, throwing baseball-sized rocks at police, vandalizing vehicles and stores, and setting fire to a neighborhood bar, authorities said. Mayor Jack Ford blamed the rioting on gang members taking advantage of a volatile situation. He said he was declaring a state of emergency and setting an 8 p.m. curfew. He also asked the Highway Patrol for help. "It's exactly what they wanted," Ford said of the group that planned the march, which was called off because of the rioting. At least two dozen members of the National Socialist Movement, which calls itself "America's Nazi Party," had gathered at a city park just before noon and were to march under police protection. Organizers said they were demonstrating against black gangs they said were harassing white residents. About 150 police officers in helicopters and on horses and foot chased bands of youths throughout the afternoon. A group pounded on a convenience store and overturned vehicles. A fire was set in a nearby bar. At least six people were arrested. Police Chief Mike Navarre said officers had a report of a man shot in the area, but they had not found a victim. No other injuries had been reported, Navarre said.

### Train crash, fire force evacuation

TEXARKANA, ARK. — Hundreds of homes were evacuated Saturday after a liquid propane gas tank was hit by a Union Pacific train car, exploding in a ball of fire and leaving a plume of smoke over the south end of the city, a police spokesman said. Officers went door to door and urged thousands of people to move to the north side of town while firefighters put out the blaze. The air quality was of most concern because a train car carrying vinyl acetate caught fire, police spokesman Chris Rankin said. Rankin said fumes from the chemical are "most definitely poisonous." The evacuation was suspended about four hours after the 5 a.m. crash, when police were told the fire was under control. Police on the scene said several structures were destroyed by fire, Rankin said. Local hospitals said seven people had been treated for respiratory problems or possible exposure to fumes. Wadley Regional Medical Center was in the evacuation area, and several patients and nurses complained of nose and eye irritation, spokeswoman Shelby Brown said.

### Times reporter pleads forgetfulness

WASHINGTON — Notes by The New York Times' Judith Miller that were turned over in a criminal investigation contain the name of a covert CIA officer, but the reporter has told prosecutors she cannot recall who disclosed the name, the newspaper reported Saturday. The prosecutor in the case asked Miller in recent days to explain how Valerie Plame — misspelled in those notes as "Valerie Flame" — appeared in the same notebook the reporter used in interviewing her confidential source, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, according to the Times. In response to questioning by Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, Miller replied that she "didn't think" she heard Plame's name from Cheney's aide, Lewis "Scooter" Libby. "I said I believed the information came from another source, whom I could not recall," Miller wrote, recounting her testimony for an article that the newspaper posted on its Web site Saturday afternoon. "Valerie Flame" actually was the name in the notebook, and the Times said Miller should have written Valerie Plame.

From wire reports



AP PHOTO

An Iraqi soldier checks men waiting in line Saturday in Samarra to vote in Iraq's constitution referendum. Iraqis voted 'yes' or 'no' on a proposed constitution. There was little violence to mar the election.

# Large Sunni turnout targets constitution

*Their numbers reflect desire to defeat it*

**By Lee Keath**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Sunni Arabs voted in surprisingly high numbers on Iraq's new constitution Saturday, many of them hoping to defeat it in an intense competition with Shiites and Kurds over the shape of the nation's young democracy after decades of dictatorship. With little violence, turnout was more than 66 percent in the three most crucial provinces.

The constitution still seemed likely to pass, as expected. But the large Sunni turnout made it possible that the vote would be close or even go the other way. Washington hopes the constitution will be approved so that Iraqis can form a legitimate, representative government.

Whole families turned out at voting stations, with parents carrying young children, sometimes in holiday clothes. Men and women lined up by the hundreds in some places or kept up a constant traffic into heavily bunkered polls, dressed in their best in suits and ties or neatly pressed veils — or in shorts and flip-flops, weary from the day's Ramadan fast.

"I'm 75 years old. Everything is finished for me. But I'm going to vote because I want a good future for my children," Said Ahmad Fliha said after walking up a hill with the help of a relative and a soldier to a polling site in Haditha, a western Sunni town.

Some 9 million Iraqis cast ballots, election officials said, announcing a preliminary turnout estimate of 61 percent.

A day that U.S. and Iraqi leaders feared could become bloody turned out to be the most peaceful in months, amid a heavy clampdown by U.S.-Iraqi forces across the country.

Insurgents attacked five of Baghdad's 1,200 polling stations, wounding seven voters, but there were no suicide bombings or other major attacks. Four Iraqi soldiers were reported killed by attacks far from polling sites.

"The constitution is a sign of civilization," Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said after casting his ballot. "This constitution has come after heavy sacrifices. It is a new birth."

The country's Shiite majority — some 60 percent of its estimated 27 million people — and the Kurds — another 20 percent — largely support the charter, which gives them autonomy in the northern and southern regions where they are concentrated.

The Sunni Arab minority, which dominated the country under Saddam Hussein and forms the backbone of the insurgency, widely opposes the draft, convinced its federalist system will tear the country into Shiite and Kurdish mini-states in the south and north, leaving Sunnis in an impoverished center.

Most Sunnis appeared to be voting "no" even after one major party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, came out in support of the draft because last-minute amendments promised Sunnis the chance to try to change the charter later.

The bar for Sunni opponents to defeat the constitution is high: They must get a two-thirds vote in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces. They were likely to reach that threshold in the vast Sunni heartland of Anbar province in the west. They must snatch the two others among the provinces of Salahuddin, Ninevah or Diyala, north of Baghdad.

# Survey finds morale is bleak at DHS

*Employees denigrate Homeland Security*

**By David E. Rosenbaum**
© 2005, The New York Times

WASHINGTON — At the Department of Homeland Security, only 12 percent of the more than 10,000 employees who returned a government questionnaire said they felt strongly that they were "encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things."

In the agency, which has responsibility for protecting the country against terrorism and responding to natural disasters, only 3 percent of employees said they were confident that personnel decisions were "based on merit."

Fewer than 18 percent said they felt strongly that they were "held accountable for achieving results." And just 4 percent said they were sure that "creativity and innovation are rewarded."

In each of these instances and many others, the responses of the Homeland Security employees were less favorable than those of all the other departments and large agencies surveyed by the federal Office of Personnel Management.

"It shows there is something fundamentally wrong at the organization," said Peter Cappelli, professor of management and director of the Center for Human Resources at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

"If you were on the board of directors of a company and you got results like this," Cappelli said, "you would lean on the managers to fix the problem or get rid of them."

The department was created by law in 2002 and was not fully in operation until late 2003. It brought together workers from established agencies with widely varying histories, missions and cultures, including the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Secret Service, the Customs Service and the Transportation Security Administration.

Asked about the survey, Russ Knocke, press secretary for the department, said the morale problems occurred because "the Department of Homeland Security was a merger of 22 agencies, a start-up all at once, and a number of the agencies experienced some growing pains the first couple of years."

"This is a unique circumstance," Knocke said. "This is not like a business in the private sector or even other departments in the federal government. It's a unique department with a great sense of urgency for fulfilling its responsibility."

The survey was taken by the Office of Personnel Management in 2004. Forms with 88 multiple-choice questions were sent to 276,424 federal employees selected at random, and 147,914, including 10,473 from the Department of Homeland Security, returned completed questionnaires. The department employs 180,000 workers.

This month, Scott Lilly, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal research institute, used the survey to publish the first comparison of how employee attitudes in various agencies compared with one another.

Of 30 Cabinet departments and large independent agencies, the employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation had the highest morale, Lilly found.

In terms of positive answers, by Lilly's calculations, the Department of Homeland Security ranked dead last on half the questions.

The department finished in the top half of the 30 departments and agencies on only one question. More than 56 percent strongly agreed with the statement "The work I do is important." That placed Homeland Security employees second only to those at the Veterans Affairs.

# Iraqi women wary of constitution

*Some fear losing out to fundamentalists*

**By Ellen Knickmeyer**
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Three school years' worth of unbaked clay pieces have piled up in Hanna Milla's darkened office at Iraq's National Museum of Modern Art: rounded vases, stern masks, a lumpy hawk on its post, all shaped by the hands of young students and smoothed by Milla's coral-tipped fingers. And all waiting to be fired in kilns that have sat cold for years.

Teachers in the museum's warren of classrooms and halls last ran the kilns in January 2003, as students and instructors prepared for what would be their last exhibition as war closed in.

At the exhibition that night, the instructors — almost all female — mingled with students and artists, sipped drinks and eyed the displays. For the women, it would be the last late evening for years.

As in all wars, Iraqi women have largely retired to the dark corners, forced to yield the center to men waving guns. Saturday's vote on a constitution will not improve their lives, Milla and her colleagues say; at this point, they cannot imagine anything that would. They just hope it won't make their lives any worse.



AP PHOTO

An Iraqi woman casts her vote Saturday in Baghdad in Iraq's constitutional referendum. Some say Saturday's vote on a constitution will not improve the lives of women.

As the constitution was being drafted by rival factions battling for control of Iraq, the women who make up more than 50 percent of the population were never treated as more than a side issue.

President Bush has depicted women's rights as one of the reasons Americans are fighting in Iraq. A Western official in Baghdad said Friday that the proposed constitution is "a good constitution for women, and very frankly that's something we were very insistent upon."

The draft that went before voters Saturday specifies equality regardless of gender and reserves 25 percent of the seats in the National Assembly for women.

But it also would give each Iraqi household the option of using religious law to decide matters of inheritance, divorce, alimony and other family issues. Rights advocates have said they fear that women will be coerced by male relatives into accepting the least favorable interpretations of religious law.

The constitution also would set aside seats for Muslim clerics on the Supreme Court, which would weigh the constitutionality of all laws. That alarms proponents of women's rights.

"They call this constitution a tent, but they pulled Iraqi women out of this tent," said Zakiya Khalifa Zaidi, 73, a well-known actress who is now an activist.

"The constitution was written in a very tense atmosphere," Zaidi said. "That's why we lost many of our rights amid the chaos."

Hajim Hasani, speaker of the National Assembly, agreed, saying, "Women lost ground in the constitution."

# Quake death toll continues to rise

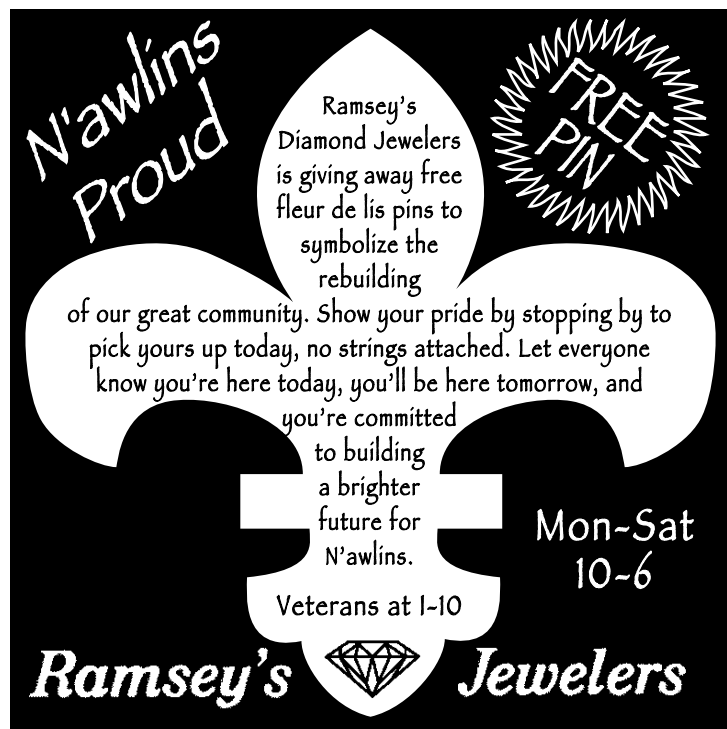
**By Carlotta Gall**
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MUZAFFARABAD, KASHMIR — The death toll from the earthquake in South Asia a week ago has risen to 38,000, with 62,000 people injured, as more bodies have been pulled from the rubble, the senior military spokesman for Pakistan, Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, said Saturday.

President Pervez Musharraf warned that the toll was likely to increase even more as recovery teams reached the more remote towns and villages.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and one of the most damaged towns in the region, doctors warned that many more people were going to die because of the lack of medical facilities in the earthquake zone and the long delays in transporting victims to medical care.

"There's nowhere to put the patients," said Dr. Dominique Gladin, of the French nongovernmental aid group Service d'Aide Medicale Urgente, which has a team of 47 in Muzaffarabad.



# World not ready for bird flu, some say

*U.S. official touring Asia has grim outlook*

**By Margie Mason**
AP Medical writer

HAIPHONG, VIETNAM — After wandering amid cages of birds and rabbits at an open-air market in Hanoi, after watching the gutting of a freshly slaughtered chicken, and after visiting a Haiphong family sickened by bird flu, the United States' top health official came to a grim conclusion: Preventing the start of a global flu outbreak is just about impossible.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt was wrapping up a fact-finding mission Saturday in the region hardest-hit by bird flu. He said his tour of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam has painted a clearer picture of just how daunting it would be to identify and contain an outbreak if the virus mutates to a form easily spread among people. It could skip across borders and oceans, killing millions and crippling entire nations.

"Can we create a network of surveillance sufficient enough to find the spark when it happens, to get there fast enough?" he said. "The chances of that happening are not good."

Leavitt, who is expected in Indonesia today, told reporters the trip has given him a realistic view of the challenges in Asia where people and animals living closely together is rooted in the culture.



AP PHOTO

A Romanian health worker carries domestic birds before gassing them in the village of Vulturul, about 180 miles east of Bucharest, on Saturday. Romanian authorities called for calm and placed an eastern region under quarantine Saturday as tests confirmed that the deadly strain of a bird flu virus that has devastated flocks and killed dozens of people in Asia has moved into eastern Europe.

"I was at a market in Cambodia and talked with a pig vendor who traveled 600 kilometers (373 miles) the night before to sell her pigs," he said. "She had carried them on the top of a bus in a box next to a load of chickens, and I was sitting next to her ... with several other baskets of geese and several baskets of turkeys and ducks and then right next to pigs."

He said the U.S. government was considering ways to help offset the economic loss to Asian farmers forced to slaughter infected flocks, but help would be limited. Without subsidies, poor farmers resist killing their sickened livestock.

Leavitt doesn't believe that the United States, or the rest of the world, is prepared for a flu pandemic. While bird flu has rarely spread person-to-person and has infected just 117 people in two years, most health experts expect it to mutate one day to a more contagious form. The current virus has killed about half of the people it infects, although no one knows how deadly a new form of the bug might be.

The drug that seems most effective against bird flu is Tamiflu, which was created to treat ordinary human flu but is now in short supply and can't be made fast enough because of pandemic fears.

Leavitt has been talking with drug and vaccine manufacturers to try to increase the stockpile should a catastrophic outbreak reach North America. The government now has enough Tamiflu to treat about 4.3 million Americans.

Production of a new vaccine has just started, and Leavitt said the United States may help finance some of the $100 million production burden.

Earlier this month, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan suggested patent rules might be suspended in an outbreak to allow other companies to make generic forms of Tamiflu, produced by Swiss-based Roche Holding AG.

# Cash runs out on Medicare perk

*Low-income seniors may pay the price*

**By Robert Pear**
© 2005, The New York Times

WASHINGTON — About 192,000 Medicare beneficiaries with low incomes face a steep increase in costs because Congress has not renewed a program that paid their monthly premiums, the Bush administration said Saturday.

An e-mail notice sent Friday night to Congress said legal authority for the program expired at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. So the low-income beneficiaries, who are 65 and older or disabled, will have to pay the premiums that until now were paid for them by the federal government.

The basic Medicare premium, $78.20 a month, will rise to $88.50 in January. Premiums are normally deducted from Social Security checks.

"The administration has no authority to reinstate the program," the notice said. "Congress must act. The president's 2006 budget proposed a one-year extension of the program. Without a reinstatement of the program, these 192,000 beneficiaries will be individually responsible for the payment of their Medicare Part B premiums."

Under the program, the federal government can pay premiums for Medicare beneficiaries with incomes from $1,097 to $1,464 a month. That amounts to $13,164 to $17,568 annually.

The House and the Senate have passed separate bills to reinstate the program. The cost, about $200 million a year, would be offset by denying federal payments under Medicaid and Medicare for Viagra and other drugs for erectile dysfunction.

Congress left Oct. 7 for a 10-day recess without resolving differences between the two houses on the legislation.

Kevin Concannon, director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, said, "Congress just walked away and left a lot of poor people hanging. It's frustrating and disheartening. We hope Congress will extend the program, but there is no guarantee."

If Congress, scheduled to reconvene on Monday, does nothing, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said, beneficiaries will have to pay Medicare premiums for October and subsequent months. Several months' premiums could be deducted at once from a person's Social Security check.

The agency said that if the Social Security Administration receives a list of names in November, "the beneficiary will see his or her December check reduced by $234.60" — the amount for October, November and December at $78.20 a month.

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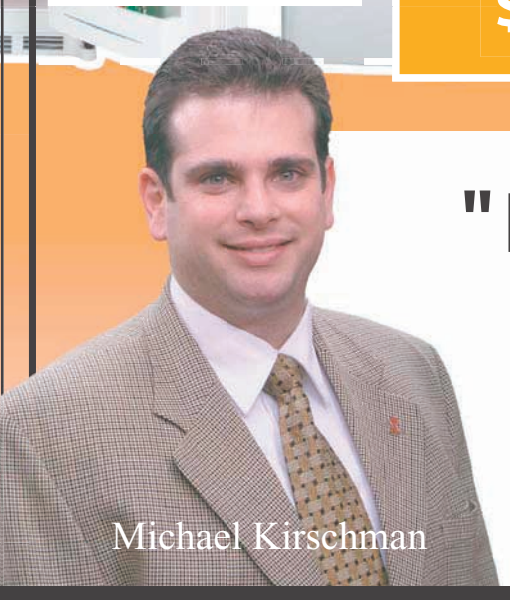
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# Some say there's more to Miers

## *Bush nominee touted as tough, tenacious*

**By Donna Cassata**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — For all that talk about Harriet Miers' being a paper-pushing idolizer of the president, acquaintances say there is another side to her.

The Supreme Court nominee is a tough, ambitious lawyer who willingly used her spurs in cowboy country, a competitor who clawed her way to Texas' legal pinnacle and a behind-the-scenes player who held her own and then some in the White House's West Wing, they say.

Observations, testimonials and tidbits from friends and former colleagues have put Miers' life in sharper focus and shaped the debate over whether the 60-year-old White House counsel can survive the conservative maelstrom over her nomination.

The Dallas City Council was her lone elective office. That run, however, paled in comparison with hard-nosed campaigns for president of the Dallas Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas, which required strong political skills. Miers was the first female president of both groups.

"Law firms are pretty cutthroat," said Lorelee Bartos, Miers' campaign manager for the council race in 1989.

Miers, one of 12 women in her Southern Methodist University Law School class, has a track record of surmounting challenges and stiff opposition. She was the first woman hired by her Dallas law firm, in 1972, and the first female president of Locke, Purnell, Rain & Harrell.

"You don't get to be those things without having that fortitude in you," Bartos said.

Miers developed a reputation as a meticulous, persistent inquisitor and worked for clients such as Microsoft Corp. and the Walt Disney Co. Some critics have complained about a singular focus on dotting I's and crossing T's at the expense of the big picture.

### 'Tough and smart'

Miers' acquaintance with Bush, whom she met in the 1990s, led to a professional relationship marked by unwavering loyalty since Bush was Texas governor.

When the newly elected president needed a White House staff secretary in 2001, he turned to the person he had relied upon as a candidate to research any weaknesses that could be exploited by his opponents. She later served as deputy chief of staff for policy and now, counsel.

"You need to be tough and smart and articulate and prepared. She's all those things," Brett Kavanaugh, an assistant to the president and staff secretary, said in a phone interview. In White House meetings, Miers "always gets to the heart of the matter," said Kavanaugh, a former associate counsel.

She was in charge of the White House selection of a chief justice nominee, vetting candidates' records and often playing the tough questioner.

> **"You need to be tough and smart and articulate and prepared. She's all those things."**
> BRETT KAVANAUGH
> assistant to the president

"We'd be talking about somebody's background," said Leonard Leo, now on leave as executive vice president of the Federalist Society, the conservative group whose headlined speakers have included Supreme Court justices and Bush administration officials.

"There would be a moment of silence when she was clearly thinking about what was being said and then she would challenge it, asking, 'But what specifically in those opinions strongly suggests that this is someone who ascribes to judicial restraint?' " Leo said.

### Big-time Bush backer

Recently released birthday greetings and well-wishes between Bush and Miers sound like the adult equivalent of high-school mash notes.

"Dear Governor GWB, You are the best Governor ever — deserving of great respect!" Miers wrote in 1997.

A regular at Camp David and the president's Texas ranch, she wrote of her hope that Bush twins Jenna and Barbara would recognize that their parents are "cool."

Such gushing language shows another side of Miers, who lists her favorite movie as "The Sound of Music" and would prefer ice cream for her last meal.

She also is known as a self-effacing, intensely private person who rarely talks about herself and would cringe at the dissection of her life and career.

Conservative columnists are clamoring for Miers to withdraw her nomination, citing her lack of a judicial record. Internet blogs are cattily complaining about her hairstyle and use of black eyeliner.

For all of the unanswered questions about Miers, her devotion to Bush has never been in doubt.

In "Ask the White House" online chats, Miers was the loyal soldier, never deviating from the administration line. Her 1984 red Mercedes with aging campaign bumper stickers is a mainstay in the White House parking lot — a reminder of the long hours she puts in for her boss.

She realized a long time ago that she would never be a beauty queen. In a speech in May, she recalled that like other little girls, she used to watch Miss America when she was growing up and imagine someday having the looks to traverse a runway draped in an ermine robe.

"As they say in Washington, that was a stretch," Miers told an audience of friends, family and former colleagues in her deliberate, Texas drawl. Her aspirations later focused on medicine, then the law.

### Conservative credentials

The legal profession became her life. She never married, and frequently travels from Washington to Dallas to be with her ailing mother, Sally, 91, who is in a nursing home. Like the president, she has a brother named Jeb — one of three brothers. A sister, Catherine, died in 2003.

Years ago, concern about his sister's living alone in Dallas prompted one brother to buy Miers a .45-caliber Smith & Wesson. Texas Supreme Court Judge Nathan Hecht, a friend, said Miers kept the gun for a long time but was a lousy shot.

Hecht also was part of Miers' religious conversion from Roman Catholic and occasional worshipper at Episcopal and Presbyterian services to an evangelical at Valley View Christian Church in Dallas.

At age 34, Miers was baptized by full immersion, consistent with the church's teachings.

Looking to assuage conservatives, White House officials have cited her conservative religious beliefs while arguing that she would not let them influence her judicial opinions. Hecht has said Miers believes life begins at conception and opposes abortion.

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NATIONAL

# Fraud trial focuses on Botox knockoff

## *1,000 patients may have been injected*

**By David Royse**
Associated Press writer

Plastic surgeon Frederic Corbin was intrigued last year when he saw an ad for a product that offered the same protein used in the wildly popular wrinkle treatment Botox — only much, much, cheaper.

"My initial reaction was, 'Hmm, Botox now has some competition,' " recalled Corbin, who practices in Beverly Hills, Calif.

But when he received a vial of the botulinum toxin in the mail, he was puzzled by the warning: "For Research Purposes Only. Not for Human Use."

He says he returned it and more or less forgot about it until he heard about four people last December whose mysterious paralysis was linked to the use of a Botox knockoff.

Authorities have found that dozens of doctors around the country bought unapproved botulinum, which in its raw form is one of the most potent neurotoxins on Earth. And investigative documents indicate that more than 1,000 people may have been injected with it, many unaware they weren't given federally approved Botox.

The company accused of selling the unapproved toxin and marketing it as a Botox substitute goes on trial next month in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"We don't know how dangerous it is. It's not as well controlled as the commercially available product," said Dr. Thomas Rohrer, a Boston dermatologic surgeon who has written extensively about botulinum, which he describes as more powerful than cyanide.

Tucson, Ariz.-based Toxin Research International and owners Chad Livdahl and Zarah Karim, who are jailed awaiting the trial, are accused of defrauding people who thought they were getting a safe, approved Botox treatment.

No one is known to have been hurt by TRI's toxin; the four paralyzed people were injected with a toxin bought straight from the manufacturer that supplied TRI, not from the company itself.

Eric and Bonnie Kaplan were allegedly injected by Dr. Bach McComb, who also injected himself and his girlfriend, Alma Hall. Federal prosecutors say McComb worked as a consultant for TRI.

Attorneys in the case say McComb injected himself and the others with the wrong dose. They have all partially recovered. But last December, when McComb, Hall and the Kaplans lay paralyzed on ventilators and unable to swallow or see, investigators searching the clinic where McComb worked found marketing materials from TRI.

Although TRI hasn't been directly linked to the paralysis case, authorities say the Arizona company told other doctors its product was safe and on its way to being approved for people.

According to case documents, at least 180 doctors — plastic surgeons, dermatologists, naturopaths — ordered Botulinum Toxin Type A from TRI.

TRI attorney Ben England said "we disagree" that TRI was acting fraudulently, and declined to elaborate.

Most doctors who bought the toxin haven't been publicly named, and officials say many patients don't know they got the unapproved toxin.

In Salem, Ore., Dr. Jerome Lentini is one of the few who has been criminally charged, accused of injecting a TRI toxin into hundreds of patients, many of whom signed a consent form that implied they were getting FDA-approved Botox.

# Americans tarry when it's time to marry

## *People near coasts are waiting longer*

**By Stephen Ohlemacher**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Couples in the Northeast are hearing wedding bells later than men and women elsewhere in the country — especially in Utah, where younger newlyweds are the norm.

A Census Bureau study released last week found many regional differences in the marrying habits of Americans, with those near the East and West coasts generally waiting longer to get married than those in Middle America. The study also found that Southerners are the least likely to live together without getting married.

"Later marriage is very strongly associated with higher levels of education," said David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. "That's why people in the Northeast have such a late age of marriage."

The age when couples get married also can be influenced by religion and whether they are willing to live together without getting married, Popenoe said.

"It delays marriage," Popenoe said of living together before marriage. "Men marry too late from the point of view of women, especially educated men. It leaves more women single, or marrying beyond the age of childbirth."

The median age for first marriages in the United States is 26.7 years for men and 25.1 for women. That is roughly a year older than a decade ago for both, said Martin O'Connell, chief of the Census Bureau's fertility and family statistics branch.

Men wait longer than women to marry in every state, and no one gets married younger than couples in Utah, where the median age is 21.9 for women and 23.9 for men. At the other end of the spectrum, men and women in Washington, D.C., both wait until they are about 30.

"Big cities tend to have high ages for marriage," said Zhenchao Qian, associate professor of sociology at Ohio State University.

The Census Bureau analyzed data from the American Community Survey from 2000 to 2003, developing state-by-state averages on marriage and fertility for the first time.

Among the study's findings: 29 percent of all new mothers were unmarried. Among the unmarried mothers, half were poor, compared with 12 percent of married mothers who lived in poverty.

The states with the most unwed new mothers also tended to be the ones with the highest percentage of new mothers living in poverty.

West Virginia, Mississippi and Louisiana had high percentages of unwed mothers living below the poverty line.

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# PEOPLE

## Producer: 'Accident' killed kung fu master

**Compiled from wire reports**

**Bruce Lee**'s former producer, **Raymond Chow**, says the kung fu star's sudden death at age 32 is a straightforward case of taking the wrong medicine.

Lee died of an edema, or swelling of the brain, in the home of Hong Kong actress **Betty Ting Pei** in 1973. The coroner described his passing as "death by misadventure."

The circumstances of Lee's death fueled speculation that drugs were involved and that Lee was having an affair with Ting.

Chow, one of the founders of Golden Harvest studios, said Lee died because he took headache medication that he was "hypersensitive" to at someone else's home, refraining from referring to Ting directly.

He said Lee was sensitive to one of the three ingredients in the medication, equigesic.

"The bottom line is it was an accident," Chow told The Associated Press during a recent interview.

## 'ER' delivery

**Ming-Na** has given birth to her second child, an 8-pound, 9-ounce boy named **Cooper Dominic Zee**.

"Mother and baby are doing great," her husband, actor-producer-playwright **Eric Zee**, told The Associated Press.



**Ming Na**
Star of show about fertility clinic has second child

Ming-Na, 41, played Dr. Deb Chen on "ER." This season, she appeared on the NBC drama "Inconceivable," about a fertility clinic, which has been pulled from the network's schedule.

Cooper was born Wednesday at 2:23 p.m. at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, Calif. He joins his 4-year-old sister, **Michaela**.

## Parenting by Perot

Two-time presidential candidate and Texas billionaire **Ross Perot** is offering some parenting advice: Keep your kids away from the TV. Give them boxes to make forts. And let them have imaginary friends, Perot said.

Such activities stimulate the brain's synapses and boost creativity, which will do wonders later in life in the workplace, he said.

Perot, a pioneer of the data processing industry, spoke at a ceremony where he received a technology development award. The American Computer Museum of Bozeman in Montana presents the annual award.

Creative skills start at an early age, he said, so parents should encourage their kids to be imaginative.

"And just think, if you are not creative, you cannot do what these people did," Perot said, motioning to his fellow award winners. "They're wired."

## Back to 'Life'

**Ricky Martin**, whose hits include "Livin' La Vida Loca," says the fame and fortune he experienced in the late 1990s left him feeling bored and embittered.



**Ricky Martin**
'I was starting to become a victim of fame'

"There was a moment (in 2002) when I was onstage and I was just so angry," Martin says in the Oct. 24 issue of People magazine.

"I thought, 'Something is wrong. I have the applause, I have a great band behind me, I live comfortably'. . . . I was starting to become a victim of fame. Everything was too serious, and I wasn't enjoying it."

Soon afterward, he quit the stage and began touring the world. Now back in the United States, the 33-year-old singer says he's looking forward to his Latin American tour this fall.

His new album, "Life," was released last week.

## Horse power

A daughter of New York's billionaire Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** won $16,000 in a horse jumping event.

**Georgina Bloomberg**, 22, defeated **Michael Whitaker** of Great Britain on Friday to win the knockout event in the Las Vegas World Invitational show jumping contest.

"I've had the mare since she was 6 years old," Bloomberg said of Nadia, a 10-year-old Dutch warmblood mare. "She's a great speed horse."

## Petty prize

**Tom Petty** will receive the Century Award, Billboard's highest honor for creative achievement, at this year's Billboard Music Awards.

The show will air live on the Fox network from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Dec. 6.

"This award comes at a particularly nice time, as the Heartbreakers and I go into the 30th year of our career," the 54-year-old rocker said in a statement released Thursday. "I'm very honored that Billboard has acknowledged me."



**Tom Petty**
Singer to get Billboard's Century Award in Las Vegas

Previous award recipients include **George Harrison**, **Buddy Guy**, **Billy Joel**, **Joni Mitchell**, **Carlos Santana**, **Chet Atkins**, **James Taylor**, **Emmylou Harris**, **Randy Newman**, **John Mellencamp**, **Annie Lennox**, **Sting** and **Stevie Wonder**.

## Today's birthdays

Actress **Angela Lansbury** is 80.
Former presidential adviser **Charles Colson** is 74.
Actor **Barry Corbin** is 65.
Actress **Suzanne Somers** is 59.
Rock singer-musician **Bob Weir** (The Dead) is 58.
Actor **Daniel Gerroll** is 54.
Actor-director **Tim Robbins** is 47.
Actor-musician **Gary Kemp** is 46.
Singer-musician **Bob Mould** is 45.
Actor **Randy Vasquez** is 44.
Rock musician **Flea** (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 43.
Jazz musician **Roy Hargrove** is 36.
Actress **Terri Vaughn** is 36.
Singer **Wendy Wilson** (Wilson Phillips) is 36.
Rapper **B-Rock** (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 34.
Actress **Kellie Martin** is 30.
Singer **John Mayer** is 28.
Actor **Jeremy Jackson** is 25.


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# Red tape suffocating companies struggling to survive

**HOUSING,** *from A-1*

temporary housing program to assign them trailers.

Still others have tried to make it on their own, signing master leases on apartments or setting up small trailer cities on company property, at considerable expense.

Even some of the region's top Republicans, typically loathe to criticize the Bush administration, say they are boggled by the logjam.

"If FEMA would have said early on that anybody who has a home with utilities could get a trailer, and any employer who wants to help facilitate housing can get trailers, think of how much more quickly they could have moved," said U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, who has been fighting the agency for weeks to work through bureaucratic hurdles. "These are some of the low-hanging fruit. They should have been some our early victories."

The region's housing problem has compounded the already acute difficulty employers face in rehiring laborers and service industry workers, such as housekeepers and waiters, a group that is dependent on the availability of low- to moderate-income housing in the best of times. Companies that have tried to attract new workers say it's virtually impossible, even with signing bonuses, benefits and hourly wages that in some economic sectors have been pumped up by double-digit percentages.

That's because FEMA's trailer program applies only to workers from the disaster zone who have lost use of their homes. New workers from undamaged areas don't qualify. The region's remaining rentals also are either booked up or out of reach for new laborers.

Add to the mix FEMA's failure thus far to open a trailer city anywhere in the New Orleans area, and the result is a mix of problems that many fear will drive more and more businesses to neighboring boomtowns such as Houston and Baton Rouge.

"Metro New Orleans is going to die if we don't get people back in here to work," Moise said.

## Bureaucratic blockages

In the days after Katrina's devastating blow, Dane Revette, energy director for the state Department of Economic Development, had one thing on his mind: helping the area's petrochemical plants get back in business.

With a heavy proportion of the nation's gasoline supply produced at refineries in Louisiana, Revette knew that the industry's biggest obstacle would be finding a place to house workers. So he called FEMA for help.

He was shocked at what he heard.

The massive federal agency had no program to provide temporary housing for businesses. According to its policies, only individuals, families and those receiving public housing could qualify for trailers. That just wouldn't do, Revette said.

So he proposed a new program, to allow businesses to apply for trailers on site as long as they had sewer, water and electricity hookups. FEMA agreed to try it, and within five days of the storm, Revette was shepherding the first shipment of 20 trailers to the Motiva refinery in Norco. Trailers to other plants followed in short order.

But the honeymoon didn't last long. FEMA soon halted the program, saying the state's Economic Development Department had inadequately recorded FEMA identification numbers that would prove that qualified disaster victims were living in the trailers, he said. Revette assigned more state workers to collect the data and things eventually got rolling.

Then Hurricane Rita threatened. Once again, trailer deliveries were stopped for a time.

Then on Sept. 30, the wheels of bureaucracy screeched to a halt a third time, when Daniel Craig, director of FEMA's recovery division, wrote a memo saying the trailers could go only to businesses providing "a service essential to the restoration of the community," Revette said. Essential services, according to FEMA, include education, emergency and medical facilities, utilities and public works agencies. Period.

That disruption lasted 10 days, while 2,462 trailer orders languished. Before that, FEMA had delivered only 2,298 trailers to businesses in the disaster zone, state officials said.

"It boils down to this: If you work in an operating room, you are required to make an immediate decision. If you are a National Guardsman in Iraq, you have to make immediate decisions," said Don Pierson, assis-

*See* **HOUSING,** *A-11*

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# FEMA's trailer program falling short of local needs

**HOUSING,** *from A-10*

tant secretary for the state Economic Development Department. "But in a governmental situation, people have a tendency to seek approval from authority and notify their supervisors. Agencies like FEMA need to come on the ground with people who can make decisions, as opposed to being worried about whether they are violating Rule 6b(c)."

Business owners say they don't care whether the FEMA trailers are located on company property or at a worker's home. What does matter is that workers get trailers in a timely manner so they can get back to their jobs.

But FEMA has performed below par even in its longstanding trailer-assistance programs for individuals and families, many say.

According to an Oct. 6 report in The Wall Street Journal, FEMA ordered only 125,000 trailers and mobile homes post-Katrina, despite the fact that more than 300,000 families were left without homes. Six weeks after the hurricane struck, only 6,200 of the trailers were ready to be occupied.

Local officials also have criticized the slow pace. In one case, St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis threatened to lead a caravan of local residents, with pickup trucks and trailer hitches, to commandeer empty trailers from FEMA holding sites. The federal government has since stepped up deliveries to that parish.

## 'A slow process'

Coast Guard Capt. Tom Atkin, chief of staff for Vice Adm. Thad Allen, the official in charge of the federal relief effort, said Friday that FEMA's priorities right now are "housing, housing and housing."




STAFF PHOTO BY DONALD STOUT

Christian Lienemann works on a customer's car Thursday at his auto shop, Mobile Auto Tech, on Cleary Avenue in Metairie. Wind and water damage from Hurricane Katrina rendered Lienemann's home unlivable, and he and his wife, Toni, are living next to their business in a trailer they bought after the storm.

"That is the single focal point," agreed Ted Monette, FEMA's deputy coordinating officer for Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

Monette said the relief agency had initially been using multiple contractors to provide trailers in each parish but that the process became "unwieldy." Both men acknowledged that they have been questioned by members of Congress and local officials about the pace of the effort.

About 10 days ago, Monette said, the contracts were reconfigured, with one contractor apiece being assigned to St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, and three to New Orleans. Fluor Corp., CH2MHill and the Shaw Group will provide trailers to New Orleans, while Fluor is assigned to St. Bernard and CH2MHill to Plaquemines Parish. In addition, housing "strike teams," composed of federal and local officials, are trying to find spots suitable for trailers on public and private lands, Monette said.

He estimated that about 100,000 families in the region are in need of temporary housing. Only 1,852 such families had been placed in travel trailers as of Thursday, according to FEMA statistics. FEMA also has opened only one large trailer settlement, in Baker, about 80 miles from New Orleans.

FEMA spokesman James McIntyre said a second park is under construction in Baton Rouge, and another 37 sites scattered throughout the region are in the final stages of lease negotiation.

By the end of the month, a few sites should be ready for families to move in, Monette said. He could not say how many people the trailer parks would accommodate or where they would be situated.

"It's going to be a slow process," he said.

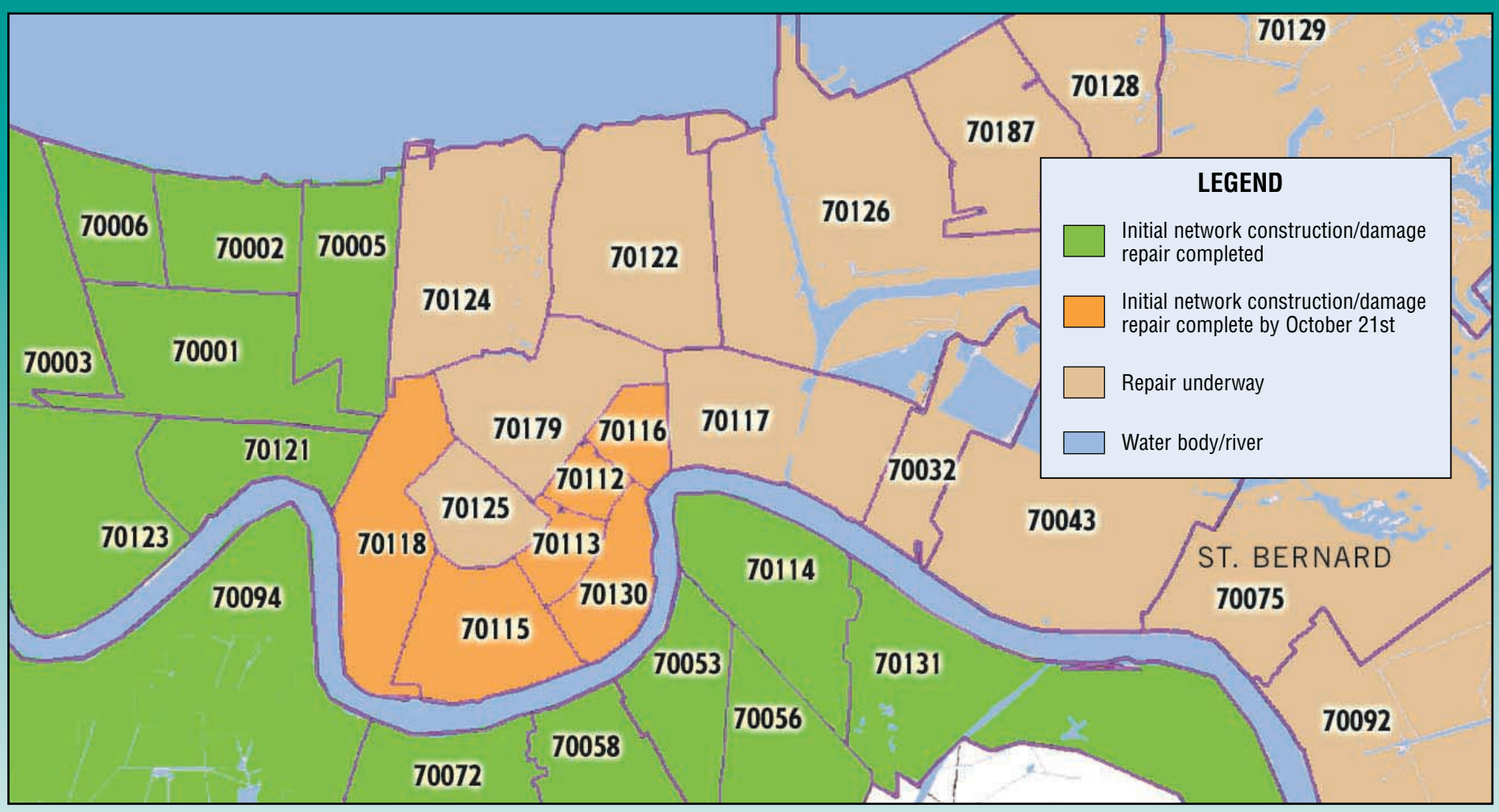
Rodney "Bosco" Metoyer, a concrete worker from the

*See* **HOUSING,** *A-12*

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# Trailer city in New Orleans is urged

**HOUSING,** *from A-11*

Lower 9th Ward, said he is one of many New Orleanians "dying to get back to the city to work." But with no car and no place to live, things look hopeless.

"I applied for a FEMA trailer, but I'm just in line waiting on the process," said Metoyer, who is now in a shelter in Baker. "I'm way out here; I'm stuck."

Before Katrina, Metoyer, 48, was doing concrete work for his father-in-law's company, CC&D Construction. Now he spends his days shuffling around the shelter, hoping and praying he can return home soon. His best chance, he said, is landing in a trailer community in the New Orleans area, near the millions of dollars in cleanup and construction work now going to out-of-state laborers.

But so far, FEMA officials have not said when, or where, such a temporary community might open.

"No work, no work," he said. "I need work."



Steve Maguire, director of process improvement and temporary mayor of Kamp Katrina, a temporary housing area for employees of Northrop Grumman's Avondale shipyard, talks with Paul Wineburg, a foreman from New Orleans, on Thursday.

STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

## Privatized solutions

To cope with the housing issue, some employers, such as shipyard giant Northrop Grumman Corp., decided to create their own solutions rather than depend on government assistance.

The company, which employed 6,800 people at its Avondale shipyard before Hurricane Katrina, contacted FEMA early on but was told the trailers would be available only to individuals and families, not corporations, according to the company's vice president of operations, George Yount.

So it moved on.

At its own expense, the shipbuilding giant erected "Camp Katrina," an assemblage of temporary buildings that house bunk rooms, TV lounges and laundry facilities. The shipyard also persuaded the Navy to dock a "living" barge, with room to house as many as 500 workers, at the shipyard. The company now has living quarters for almost 900 workers, and there are no restrictions: Both new and old workers are allowed to stay.

"We had been told from the get-go that the (FEMA) trailers were for families, so I didn't waste time whining about that," Yount said. "I needed a solution."

But not all companies have the means, or desire, to set up temporary housing in the parking lot out back.

Ralph Brennan, who presides over a company with three New Orleans restaurants, saw his staff plummet from 350 to 80 after the storm. Brennan couldn't even fully staff his Bacco restaurant in the French Quarter on Monday, when President Bush and his wife, Laura, popped in for a meal with little advance notice.

Though most of his managers are back, Brennan said he expects to lose two-thirds of his hourly workers. So he has raised workers' hourly pay by 25 percent and is considering partnering with another company to set up a FEMA trailer colony. But it's not something his company is excited about.

"We would rather operate our core business," said the company's marketing director, Charlee Williamson, "than be in the travel trailer park business."

## Nowhere to put new hires

Henry Shane, of all people, should have a leg up on housing for employees. As co-owner of Favrot & Shane, the largest apartment owner in the state, his company manages more than 8,000 apartments on the east bank of Jefferson Parish alone.

But his situation illustrates how complex the post-Katrina housing and employment dilemma can be.

Shane said he lost about 50 of his groundskeepers and laborers after the storm, jobs he desperately needs filled to get his complexes running normally. If those laborers wanted to come back, he might be able to help them get FEMA trailers or arrange for places to stay with colleagues. But none are calling, either because they've found better work elsewhere or are settling into new communities.

So Shane has started advertising for new workers to fill those jobs, and he has sharply increased wages to compete in the unusually tight labor market. That effort is failing, however, because he has nowhere to put the new hires.

Even at the higher wages, the new workers rarely qualify to rent his units, which are typically leased by tenants making $80,000 or more, he said. The demand for those units also is through the roof, with banks and law firms requesting hundreds at a time. So far, Shane has had to limit customers to five apartments apiece.

"There is no such thing as cheap housing anymore," Shane said. "That's all underwater or out of the mix. Those that were cheap on the West Bank are probably raising rents. New Orleans east is not an option. The biggest issue is that we are totally without housing for workers who want to come in to make a good laborer's wage."

As a result, Shane, like many other employers, has turned to contractors who bring in large crews of mostly Hispanic laborers to kick-start his business. These aren't the full-time employees he needs, but they take care of the short-term reconstruction problem, and they are willing to sleep wherever: his apartment complex's recreation room, an empty warehouse, makeshift cabins.

"If you are from Florida and Texas and have 500 workers, I'm your man," Shane said.

Shane also is battling an edict signed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco that prohibits landlords from evicting tenants until Oct. 25, even if the apartments are destroyed and the tenants have not come to collect their belongings.

Until the moratorium is lifted and the thousands of damaged apartments can be rebuilt, FEMA needs to get creative about ways to bring workers into the city, Shane said.

Most promising would be the creation of small trailer settlements in the New Orleans area, so workers can get to their jobs and rebuild their homes at the same time. Shane personally has loaned land in the Elmwood area for that purpose, as has Northrop Grumman, which offered the government 40 acres in Waggaman.

Other organizations in New Orleans also have asked for trailer cities, including City Park and Southern University at New Orleans, both of which need the rent money they envision flowing from such encampments to help pay their own expenses.

"I don't know what the long-term answer is," Shane said. "But in the short term, they need to get some units closer to the area."

Others say what's needed is a beefed-up federal response that includes quicker delivery of trailers to businesses and more flexibility on who is eligible to use them.

Then there is the sentiment held by businessman and Republican Party activist Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, who owns Bollinger Shipyards and is struggling to fill 600 jobs that pay between $16 to $18 an hour.

"At some point we have to incentivize our citizens to come back," Bollinger said at a recent meeting of Mayor Ray Nagin's Bring New Orleans Back commission. "It's nice to be watching TV all day long, sitting by the swimming pool and getting three squares a day. When is the government going to realize they have to force them back?"

•••••••

For information on applying for FEMA trailers, call the governor's recovery help line at (866) 310-7617 or visit www.ledforward.louisiana.gov/assistance_center.html. Individuals can apply for trailers at (800) 621-3362 or www.fema.gov.

Coleman Warner and Gordon Russell contributed to this report.

Martha Carr may be reached at mcarr@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3306.

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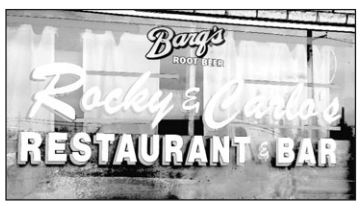
Paul Mott
President

Sat, Oct 15, 2005 7:44 PM 16a1.jumps



# What became of St. Bernard's most famous sites?

### ROCKY AND CARLO'S RESTAURANT




You haven't really tasted St. Bernard's culture until you've tried the baked macaroni and cheese smothered in beef gravy at Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant in Chalmette. Founded in 1965, the iconic Italian eatery serves up a steady diet of irreverent banter from the waitresses and generous mess-hall portions, levying 25-cent fines against anyone who requests a doggie bag.

The wood-paneled restaurant flooded during Katrina, but repair work began last week, and the owners have vowed that waitresses will once again greet diners with the familiar, "What can I get ya, Dawlin'?"

### CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD



The battlefield was the site of the Jan. 8, 1815, Battle of New Orleans, a decisive American victory over the British in the War of 1812. The triumph made Gen. Andrew Jackson a national hero and ended the Britain's efforts to regain control of the former colonies. The battlefield and adjacent Civil War-era Chalmette National Cemetery could reopen as early as January, after crews remove downed trees and repair damage to the Malus-Beauregard House, built in 1833.

### BLACKIE CAMPO'S MARINA



For generations of New Orleans area anglers, Blackie Campo's Marina at Shell Beach has been the launching point for dreams of landing the big one in St. Bernard's world-class fishing waters. In continuous operation since 1931, the marina has made the name "Blackie" as synonymous with fishing as "Archie" is with football.

Katrina's 25-foot tidal surge washed away all the boats and boat houses, leaving only the steel beams of the hoist rising above the mud. With the commercial fishing industry devastated by the storm, Campo, 87, has said he's unsure when he might rebuild the marina.

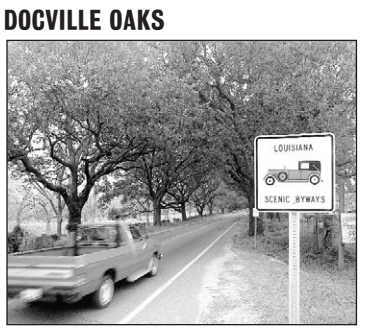
### ISLENOS MUSEUM



Established in 1980, the Islenos Museum chronicles the hardscrabble history of the Canary Island settlers sent to St. Bernard in the 1770s to protect the Spanish colony from a feared British invasion. Many of the soldier-farmers later sold their land to sugar plantations and made a living as fishers and trappers on the tranquil bayous and marshes in lower St. Bernard, where their descendants still work as commercial fishers.

Housed in a Creole cottage dating from the 1840s, the museum was split in half by a massive water oak that fell on the roof. Several other historic buildings at the complex had relatively minor damage, but the museum has been closed indefinitely.

### DOCVILLE OAKS




This canopy of live oak trees on St. Bernard Highway in Meraux is one of the most prized natural features in a parish known for its scenic beauty. Transported from the Olivier Plantation in Model A wreckers, the trees were planted in the 1930s by Dr. Louis A. Meraux, who was sheriff of St. Bernard from 1924 until his death in 1938. Hurricane Katrina's 145-mph winds snapped large branches from many of the defoliated oaks, but none of the trees was felled and all are expected to survive.



STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS GRANGER

David Watson, 18, whose mother, Genie, died during Hurricane Katrina, plants a muddy American flag in a pile of debris in Meraux. Watson and a friend, Lee Richards, were cleaning the house to make some extra money.

# TEST OF STRENGTH

**ST. BERNARD,** *from A-1*

"I remember we got 30 cents for a bushel of crabs. It was tough, but I had no choice," he said.

As an adult, Alfonso continued to make his living fishing and trapping muskrats, much like his Isleno ancestors, the Canary Islanders sent by Spain to settle St. Bernard Parish in the 1770s. And, like his ancestors, he rebuilt his home when it was destroyed by the occasional hurricane, first in 1956 and again in 1965 after Hurricane Betsy.

"There was no FEMA or flood insurance back then, but we had each other," he said. "This time it's different, though. Everybody's wiped out and there's no one to lean on."

Nearly every one of St. Bernard's 26,700 homes was flooded by Katrina's 25-foot storm surge, and authorities have said most will have to be bulldozed.

With few inhabitable structures, more than 400 recovery workers sleep on an old cruise ship provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. And, until recently, parish officials met in a cramped oil refinery office, with fly strips dangling from the ceiling, to discuss the daunting task of essentially rebuilding their community from scratch.

Contrast that with New Orleans, where the French Quarter emerged virtually unscathed along with other historic neighborhoods, including parts of Uptown and Treme. In Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes, schools have already reopened. And, in Plaquemines Parish, where the storm devastated fishing villages along the Mississippi River, Belle Chasse suffered little damage and is buzzing with economic activity, providing a solid base for rebuilding.




STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Drawing obvious inspiration from actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, residents of a home on Paris Road in Chalmette made their sentiments known with a sign on their garage, reflecting the tenacity of many in St. Bernard in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In St. Bernard, the road to recovery is much steeper. The parish's tax base was wiped out overnight, and just one in four homeowners had flood insurance, raising serious questions about how to finance a reconstruction expected to cost at least several billion dollars. Meanwhile, the fishing industry, which has been under pressure from cheap imports and farm-raised seafood, faces fresh challenges, especially if damage to oyster beds proves to be as severe as feared.

Experts say the devastation could accelerate a pre-storm trend of commercial fishers selling out to wealthy recreational fishers, who could afford to lose their vacation homes if and when the area gets hit by another big storm.

But the parish also has some demographic factors working in its favor. It is the least transient parish in the New Orleans area, with many families calling St. Bernard home for several generations. According to the 2000 census, 65 percent of St. Bernard residents were living in the same house they occupied five years earlier, compared to 56 percent in New Orleans and 54 percent in St. Tammany Parish.

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *A-15*




Part of the menu, right, stayed intact when Hurricane Katrina swept through Chalmette and Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant. Trevor Raphael, right, and Bobby Dickerson, left, both with Gioe's Trucking and Demolishing, prepare the wall for demolition. The owners of the restaurant hope to reopen as soon as possible.



Worn out from a day of cleaning the family house in Meraux, Brandon Waguespack, 16, hangs his head as he takes a break from picking up and sweeping away debris.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

# Parish goes from tight-knit to hard-hit

**ST. BERNARD,** *from A-14*

"Even in communities without such deep roots, there is more continuity to a way of life than most people realize," said Russell Dynes, a sociology professor at the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center.

"When a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina strikes, it looks very bleak at first, but people will undergo great hardships to return and rebuild," he said. "It's home, after all, and the cruise ship isn't."

## 'The Parish'

Although St. Bernard is technically a suburb of New Orleans, residents cherish the parish for its small-town feel, as a place where everyone seems to know one another and where it's not uncommon to find three generations of a family living on the same block.

Until the 1940s, most residents made their living as farmers, fishers and trappers on the tranquil bayous and marshes in the lower half of the parish, where sediment from the ever-shifting Mississippi River delta began forming thin ribbons of land 4,000 years ago.

After World War II, suburban tracts sprouted in Arabi, Chalmette, Meraux and Violet in western St. Bernard as economic pressures forced many to trade a life on the water for blue-collar jobs in the area's two oil refineries and other factories. The towering 500-foot Kaiser Aluminum Plant smokestack remains a landmark years after the factory was shuttered.

In the wake of Katrina's flooding, some residents say they are drawing strength from St. Bernard's long history of overcoming adversity, whether it was the Isleno farmers and fishers who repeatedly rebuilt their storm-battered palmetto huts in the 18th century or the refinery workers who repaired their ranch-style homes after hurricanes Betsy and Camille in the 1960s.

That sort of resilience and self-reliance was on display after the Aug. 29 hurricane. With outside help slow to arrive, local authorities and a flotilla of volunteers in private boats rescued hundreds of people from rooftops.

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *A-16*

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# 'We're going to rebuild ... bigger and better'

**ST. BERNARD,** *from A-15*

"Living in an area that catches every storm that boils out of the Gulf will breed a certain toughness in a people," said Lawrence Powell, a Tulane University history professor. "That may be the parish's best hope for rebuilding."

Perhaps no one embodies that toughness more than Parish President Henry "Junior" Rodriguez. Just a month after being released from a hospital intensive care unit where he was treated for complications from gall bladder surgery, Rodriguez, 69, rode out the storm at the parish government complex in Chalmette and lived on the roof for three days with other parish officials.

"There are plenty of tough SOBs here who aren't going to let a storm push them around," Rodriguez said. "I'm not saying it's going to be easy, but we're going to rebuild St. Bernard bigger and better."

## Fighting despair

Parish officials said one of the biggest obstacles to rebuilding is helping residents overcome the initial shock and sense of hopelessness many experienced when they saw their ruined homes for the first time.

Some people who returned with moving vans, and the intention of hauling away a truckload of belongings, left with a few things stuffed in a garbage bag.

"The cleanup phase is the hardest, because all you see is the destruction," Parish Councilwoman Judy Hoffmeister said. "But once the first new houses start going up, I think it will give people a real psychological boost."

In their public comments, council members have been fiercely optimistic about the parish's future. "We lost seven homes in my immediate family, and we're going to build seven new ones," Parish Council Chairman Joey DiFatta said. "Even my 80-year-old mother is coming back."

Parish officials said they view the devastation as a clean slate to address long-standing problems, such as drainage, bottlenecks on east-west thoroughfares, and levees that could be higher and stronger.

"We want to focus not on what St. Bernard was, but on what it could be," DiFatta said.

Dynes said talk of rebuilding St. Bernard "bigger and better" isn't necessarily empty optimism.

"There are all kinds of examples throughout history of renewal and rebirth after catastrophes. Look at London after World War II or San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake," he said.

Devastated communities seeking to rebuild face a "classic chicken-and-egg dilemma," said John Lindsay, chairman of the Department of Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies at Brandon University in Manitoba.

"In order to get the economy back up and running, you need people to return," he said. "But for people to be able to afford to move back, they need jobs."

Parish officials hope to make the transition by helping residents find temporary housing and jobs with contractors clearing storm debris.

"I signed a $122 million contract for cleaning up this mess, and I want as much of that money to stay in St. Bernard Parish as possible," Rodriguez said.

He said the parish is seeking federal funding for 6,000 travel trailers that residents could park in their driveways and live in while rebuilding their homes.

Parish officials are also working to replace the cruise ship, which costs FEMA $52,000 a day, with a small city of trailers and mobile homes near the government complex.

## Overly optimistic?

Rodriguez said he hopes to have 20,000 to 25,000 people living in the parish a year from now, or about a third of the pre-storm population of 68,000. That's a more optimistic view than you'll get from patrons of Lehrmann's Bar and Seafood in Chalmette, one of just a few parish businesses that have reopened.

"I'd say that out of 50 people, half say they aren't coming back. Most of the rest aren't sure, and only a few say they definitely plan to return," co-owner Pat Lehrmann said.

The biggest concern on nearly everyone's mind seems to be the levee system that was overwhelmed by Katrina's powerful storm surge.

The Army Corps of Engineers has said it will rebuild the levees to pre-storm levels before the next hurricane season begins. But that's little comfort to some.

"That obviously wasn't good enough before Katrina, and it certainly won't be good enough now that even more of the coastline has disappeared," said Carol Larmeu, 66, whose home on Perrin Drive in Arabi had water nearly to the roofline.

Others are concerned that even if they rebuild their homes, they won't be able to recreate St. Bernard's tight-knit community of people who prided themselves on looking out for one another.

"I don't want to come back unless my neighbors do," said Joan Fleetwood, 66, as she used a metal detector to search the muck in her Arabi home for a medallion her mother had given her just before she died. "I know people say this all the time, but my neighbors really are like family to me."

Rodriguez said he's not worried about the parish losing its cherished sense of community. If anything, he said, the storm will bring people closer.

"The people who come back are going to be diehard St. Bernard residents," he said. "They're going to be the kind of people who will come back again if we get wiped out next year."

That includes Donald Bordelon, who survived the storm on the roof of his Arabi home. When the floodwaters receded eight days later, he climbed down and began gutting the house in preparation for rebuilding it.

"This is my home, pure and simple," said Bordelon, who has continued to reside in the house despite not having electricity or running water. "I know that doesn't mean much to some people who pick up and move every few years, but it means everything to me."

## Uncertain future

St. Bernard residents returning to see what they can salvage from their ruined homes are

*See* **ST. BERNARD,** *A-17*

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# Eastern half of parish is decimated

**ST. BERNARD,** *from A-16*

greeted at the parish line on Paris Road by a large crucifix and a spray-painted sign that reads, "Keep the Faith," an attempt to prepare them for the postapocalyptic destruction they are about to encounter.

Block after block of homes in western St. Bernard subdivisions have waterlines at least 6 feet high, and as many as 1,200 houses in Chalmette and Meraux were slimed by a million-gallon crude oil spill at the Murphy Oil Refinery.

In the eastern half of the parish, beyond the levee protection system, many structures were simply washed away.

The roads running through the fishing villages of Alluvial City, Yscloskey, Hopedale and Delacroix are lined with pilings supporting nothing, skeletonized buildings draped with marsh grass, and porch steps leading eerily to nowhere. Many residents have spray-painted their addresses on the road so insurance adjusters will know where their homes used to be.

The storm even swept away the sign at the end of Delacroix Highway that said, "Fin de la Tierra," meaning End of the Earth.

Major questions loom about financing for the reconstruction. DiFatta said he would like to see the federal government establish a grant program that would give residents as much as $100,000 to rebuild their homes in St. Bernard.

"These people are going to have to rebuild their lives somewhere," he said. "It might as well be here."

But some observers said such a large-scale federal bailout is unlikely.

"I can't see the political storms aligning to allow that," said Powell, the Tulane professor. "I wish them well, but the view from the man on the street is, 'Why rebuild something if it's just going to flood again? Why not let it return to nature?' "

Sheriff Jack Stephens, who has laid off more than half his 400 employees, predicted eastern St. Bernard will become a fishing resort as commercial fishers give way to recreational fishers, who prize the area for its redfish and speckled trout.

"Fishermen have been selling their land to sportsmen for years," Stephens said. "The storm is only going to speed that up by giving people another reason to leave."

Stephens said he is one of just five year-round residents in Fort Beauregard Marina Estates, an upscale subdivision with more than 100 lots near Shell Beach.

"The rest of the people just come down a few times a year to go fishing," he said.

Dynes said catastrophes often speed up cultural and economic changes that were already under way.

"If the commercial fishing industry was waning before the storm, this could put it under even more pressure," he said.

DiFatta said a shift from commercial to recreational fishing wouldn't necessarily be unwelcome.

"It could be a win-win situation for everyone," he said. "The fishermen get decent money for their land, the sportsmen get access to some of the best fishing in the world, and we start to get our tax base back."

### Off to Missouri

Larry Barton, an oyster harvester from Hopedale, has little hope of returning to the water anytime soon. His fishing boat was swept away and deposited in a field. A casket from a nearby cemetery rested against it.

"You're talking about bulldozers and bonfires throughout St. Bernard for months," he said. "After that, it could take three to five years to reseed all the oyster beds wiped out by the storm."

For now, he plans to keep the lot where his home was reduced to a pile of cinderblocks and work for his brother's construction company in Missouri.

"We'll all find jobs somewhere, but it might not be where we want," he said. "There's nothing like the smell of the salt air and the freedom of being on the open water."

Meanwhile, Alfonso said that after 79 years of living on the water, he plans to move inland, probably to Hammond.

"This storm was bad, but the next one will be even worse," he said. "We've got less and less protection."

But with the danger comes breathtaking natural beauty. Alfonso said he will miss living on the open marshland where he could watch the sun rise and set from his raised home while listening to the marsh grass rustling in the wind.

"People here like to call this God's country, and I agree," he said. "But I'm worried that God might be taking it back."

.....

Paul Rioux can be reached at prioux@timespicayune.com or (504) 352-2545.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Shrimper Le Tran, 51, pulls up a small fish caught from the side of his 60-foot shrimp boat, "Sweet Carol." The vessel made it through Hurricane Katrina with minor damage in Bayou Bienvenue near Chalmette. Another shrimp boat, top center, didn't fare so well.

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# Community anything but high, dry

**PUMPS,** *from A-1*

to remove pump operators, possibly against their will, and to ship them to shelters near Mississippi has drawn a growing chorus of criticism, prompting questions about why the call was made and whether it imperiled residents who did not evacuate.

Several veteran pump employees who did leave their posts and later returned to restart the pumps, told The Times-Picayune last week that they supported Broussard's decision at the time it was made, when National Weather Service reports forecast "a most powerful hurricane with unprecedented strength."

To allow the operators to remain at their posts would have been "a death sentence," according to Broussard, who called the workers out when Katrina was aimed at Jefferson Parish and was forecast as a Category 5 monster, with sustained winds of 165 miles per hour and a "life-threatening" storm surge of 18 to 22 feet. Broussard has vowed to stick with the same evacuation plan if another strong hurricane approaches on the same path.

The pump workers said, however, that they could support a plan to use shelters closer than Washington Parish during strong storms, noting that communication problems plagued their re-entry after Katrina and probably delayed draining Jefferson of floodwaters by several hours. Some said they would not oppose keeping pump workers inside the parish, an option Councilman-at-large John Young pushed last week.

Without fail, the workers said that as part of government's rank and file, they would have stayed at their posts during Katrina if assigned, even in light of desperate meteorological warnings. Some even said they reported to work the day before the storm, prepared to stay despite the danger.

"I called my wife up, and I said, 'If we do stay for this storm, some people may not make it,' " said Kenneth Babin, a pump operator for 21 years and a father of two. "She knows that's my job title. Whatever they direct me to do, that's what I do. I know what's the risk when I took this job."

### Catch-22

For the pump employees, most with more than 20 years in the parish drainage department, Katrina marked the first evacuation during a storm or heavy rain. Unlike many residents, they knew far in advance that the parish's emergency handbook called for removal of essential employees and the shutdown of pump stations, which are staffed by as many as 25 workers and cannot operate without human labor, in advance of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane.

But the decision to leave Jefferson Parish, where no building has been certified to withstand a hurricane stronger than Category 3, was not made without pause, said Bill Duplaisir, an operations manager who oversees 70 pump employees. Joining a convoy of 700 public vehicles that left the parish Aug. 28 about 6 p.m., Duplaisir said he knew some residents had not evacuated and that shuttered pumps endangered their lives.

"That's a Catch-22 situation," he said last week. "You're damned if you do, and you're damned if you don't. It crossed my mind that there are people still here and we're leaving, but if we stay, we die. What purpose does that serve?"

Indeed, pump workers said they did not trust the stations' engineering to protect them in a Category 4 or 5 hurricane, a belief bolstered in 2001 by the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, which found no building in Jefferson equipped for such a storm.

"Most of these stations, if we get a 10- to 15-foot storm surge, pretty much all the equipment we have here would be under water. Plus, you have 4,160 volts in some of these stations," Babin said, noting the increased threat of electrocution and of power surge, which could severely damage equipment, if diesel generators were functioning at the height of a hurricane.

### Communications failures

The pump operators said that after Katrina's landfall, problems with cell phones, satellite phones and text messaging systems hampered their return. Duplaisir said his crew did not know the status of Interstate 10 or Interstate 55 as they headed home from Franklinton and could not connect with top officials who rode out the storm in Marrero, or even with state troopers, to help spirit them home.

"We were coming back blind, and without proper communications. If the communications system had been up and running, we could have been back by 3 p.m" Monday, Duplantier said, adding that it wasn't until 9 p.m. that he reached the foot of the Causeway, where floodwaters forced pump workers to hitch rides with 2 ½-ton National Guard trucks to get to their stations.

Babin said arriving to that scene, knowing that his task for 21 years has been to keep the parish dry, was shocking. His empathy for property loss, however, would not be detached, as Babin learned when he crossed the river to visit his own house, in a basin served by the Estelle Pump Station.

"I lost everything I own," he said. "I'm in the exact same position. My heart goes out. . . . But I still wouldn't say we abandoned our post. We just did what we were told."

George Davis, an operator at the St. Charles Parish line pump station in Kenner, said he has fielded complaints from flood victims angry about Broussard's evacuation order.

"We catch a lot of flak," Davis said. "They give us a lot of ribbing over that. I just say, 'I'm just the low man on the totem pole.' I don't feel responsible. I don't know if we would have stayed if we would have avoided that or not."

### Clear hindsight

With so-called "safehouses" in design or construction at the parish's 20 staffed pump stations, Broussard has said keeping workers at pump stations in strong storms could become an option. But Aragon and Davis said they are not fully confident in those structures.

"They're kind of saying that it's going to be OK, but that remains to be seen," Davis said.

One pump drainage employee, who asked not to be identified because he said he feared he would be fired for second-guessing the evacuation plan, said he would have ridden

*See* **PUMPS,** *A-20*

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# Some workers at jobs during worst of storms

## *Emergency personnel evacuate within parish*

**By Michelle Hunter**
East Jefferson bureau

On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, as 1,100 Jefferson Parish government workers made their way north to Washington Parish, Wes Mobley and about 20 of his employees with Sodexho food services company prepared to hunker down in the cafeteria of West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero.

Their goal was to feed the more than 2,000 patients, doctors, nurses and others who sheltered at the hospital, which never closed its doors.

The Sodexho workers slept on air mattresses on the kitchen floor, serving 5,000 meals a day under the same miserable conditions shared by most everyone who rode out the hurricane in the New Orleans area: no electricity, no bathrooms, no running water and no air conditioning.

But leaving was not an option, said Mobley, whose company holds the food services contract with West Jefferson. Their services were just as critical to hospital operations as the physicians.

"There's never a situation in which we don't stay," he said.

Sodexho's troops are among the thousands who remained in Jefferson Parish throughout the storm. While the parish government employees drove to safety north of Lake Pontchartrain under the parish's "doomsday" plan, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and workers at some hotels rode out the storm.

"I felt a civic responsibility," said Dr. Charles Thomas, a surgeon who sent his family off to safety and spent 18 days treating the sick and injured at West Jefferson.

At Ochsner Foundation Hospital in Jefferson, essential personnel such as doctors, nurses, technicians, and maintenance and janitorial staff are divided into two teams when storms threaten, said Mike Hulefeld, vice president of clinical services. Team A works through the brunt of the storm and up to five days after. Until Katrina, Hulefeld said the hospital had never had to send in Team B.

But the hospital weathered the storm, caring for 400 patients with the help of more than 1,000 employees. Ochsner has no plans to evacuate, even during Category 4 or 5 storms, Hulefeld said.

"Our goal and our responsibility is to care for this community and care for the people who are here during the storm, whether they should be or not," he said.

More than 1,000 employees of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, about 60 percent of the department, were required to stay for the storm, Chief Deputy Newell Normand said. While clerks and other support staff were given the go-ahead to evacuate with their families, the patrol division, the investigations bureau, the traffic division, the corrections department and the 911 center were on duty and stationed around the parish.

Workers took shelter at West Jefferson Medical Center and the department's main office in Harvey on the West Bank, Normand said. In Metairie, they were quartered at the east bank lock-up on Metairie Road, East Jefferson General Hospital, Omega Hospital, the Landmark Hotel and the Four Points Sheraton.

"We evacuate within the parish," Normand said.

Sheriff's Office vehicles were parked on the second and third floor of parking garages around the parish or on the West Bank Expressway to keep them from flooding.

The Sheriff's Office fared well during the storm, Normand said. The department lost fewer than 30 of its 1,400-plus fleet due to damage.

As a general rule, the Sheriff's Office does not evacuate for hurricanes. But Normand couldn't say that day would never come. It might depend on the severity of the storm. But on Aug. 28, when Katrina was taking aim on New Orleans as a Category 5, Normand said evacuation was not a consideration.

It also wasn't an option for some parish hotels. More than 600 people, including employees, their families, a handful of tourists and a number of local officials and law enforcement agencies headed to the Airport Hilton in Kenner for shelter. By the time the call for a mandatory

*See* **HOLDOUTS,** *A-20*

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Merger Consideration Election packages allowing you to choose the type of consideration you prefer to receive if the merger of Hibernia and Capital One Financial Corporation is completed have also been mailed. If you do not receive this package by October 15, call Computershare at **1-866-469-6745** for a duplicate **merger consideration package**. The deadline for submitting merger consideration elections is November 11, so do not delay in calling about a duplicate package if you do not receive your package.

**Additional Notice to Hibernia Employees**

If you are an employee who participates in Hibernia's Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) and/or Retirement Security Plan (RSP), your voting and merger consideration election instruction forms for the ESOP and/or RSP have been mailed to you. If you do not receive that package by October 21:

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Call Mellon Investor Services at **1-888-867-6202** for duplicate **Merger Consideration Election Instruction Forms**.

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# Evacuation angers flooded residents

**PUMPS,** *from A-18*

out Katrina at one of Jefferson's public hospitals in order to return to his pump station quickly after the winds died down, an option Broussard has eschewed, saying those buildings cannot withstand a Category 4 or 5.

"If I could have stayed where I wanted to stay, which was the hospital, I'd have found a hole somewhere to hide in," the pump worker said. "There were a few of us, some of my fellow co-workers, (who wondered) if the policemen and firemen were holed up there, if it was good enough for them to stay in, why can't it be good enough for a few operators?"

But Duplaisir said heroic statements made in hindsight, knowing that Katrina actually made landfall as a Category 4 storm 50 miles southeast of lower Marrero, should not bolster criticism of the evacuation. Had the storm jogged just a bit, he said, Jefferson could have taken its burnt.

"Look what happened at the Superdome and at Methodist Hospital," he said. "They'd have been rescuing us off the tops of the buildings just like they were everyone else. We got lucky this time. The hospital didn't go under water. But look what happened in New Orleans."

•••••••

Michelle Krupa can be reached at mkrupa@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3785.

# When guests stay, so do hotel workers

**HOLDOUTS,** *from A-19*

evacuation went out, General Manager Craig Mouney said his hotel had accepted responsibility for the guests.

"What else can we do?" he said. "We'd be putting people on the street. At that point, you're putting them in harm's way. You just hunker down and pray for the best."

Many agencies opted for partial evacuations. A consortium of West Bank fire departments operated with a skeleton crew of about 35 firefighters, compared to the more than 100 that can serve on an average day, said Don Robertson, chief of the Marrero-Harvey department. Those firefighters retreated to West Jefferson Medical Center when the storm worsened.

About half of the East Jefferson Levee District's police force evacuated with parish workers to Franklinton Junior High School in Washington Parish, a new strategy based on Katrina's forecast strength, Chief Rocky Daigle said. During most hurricanes, all officers are on call with the option of staying at the Airport Hilton or at their own homes. But the storm's magnitude prompted Daigle to make sure at least half of the 23-officer force and their vehicles were safe.

"None of them really wanted to go," Daigle said. "To the 'T,' they wanted to stay. But it was my decision to go ahead and send them off. We had never dealt with a Category 5."

Should there ever be a next time, Daigle said, he'd probably try to get equipment to higher ground and put the officers up at the Airport Hilton.

# FEMA moves to clear out shelters

## *But some struggle to obtain housing*

**By Kevin McGill**
Associated Press writer

GONZALES — Lisa Austin couldn't hide her excitement Saturday as she pushed a shopping cart full of luggage out of the cavernous convention hall in Gonzales, where she had lived for nearly seven weeks.

The broken windows and soaked carpets in her house in New Orleans had been repaired, and she was heading home.

"I've never missed my home as much as I miss it right now," she said.

Watching her leave the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, Ray Schiavo was as frustrated as Austin was happy.

He said he had been waiting weeks to get into a rental house in Metairie, but miscommunication and red tape with the Federal Emergency Management Agency had left him stuck without the check he needs to get back on his feet.

"I've got a job waiting for me. I've got a house waiting for me. But I'm still here," Schiavo said.

FEMA largely succeeded in moving some 270,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees out of shelters by Saturday, a self-imposed deadline, estimating that 95 percent had gone on to other housing options.

As of Saturday afternoon, 14,468 people remained in shelters, according to state and federal officials. Louisiana shelters held 9,003 of them, and the remainder were spread among 11 other states.

Despite progress, there still are families like Dolores Meinke's, stuck in shelters they are trying to leave.

The 73-year-old's home was nearly destroyed by floodwaters in New Orleans. She and her family have been trying to arrange to put a trailer on property her nephew owns in the Pearl River area.

Before they can do that, though, they have to travel to the property and get a notarized letter granting them permission to put the trailer there.

Vice Adm. Thad Allen, the Coast Guard commander in charge of FEMA's response to Katrina, said last week that nobody would be forced out of any shelter because of the Saturday deadline and that federal staff would work with the remaining evacuees to help them find more permanent housing.

FEMA ascribes the slow pace to difficulties in land acquisition, gaining permits and to disruptions caused by Hurricane Rita.

Katrina displaced an estimated 1.5 million people when it struck Aug. 29. Shelter population peaked at about 273,000 in the days after the storm, according to FEMA.

"It is a monumental effort that FEMA has undertaken and we understand that that effort is going to take time, but we had hoped it would come about quicker than it has," said Mark Smith, spokesman for Louisiana's Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Michael Logan is one of the dwindling few. He finds himself still in the Cajundome in Lafayette, trying to qualify for a FEMA camper trailer he could put on his damaged coastal property.

"I hope — that's all I can do is hope, because I ain't going to get no answers — that they can just set me up with a place, a camper trailer," Logan said. "I told them just set it up, I'll do all the other work."

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STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

This bus, taken from the Algiers bus barn with the intention of evacuating residents of the Fischer housing development, didn't make it to Texas. Its driver crashed it into a metal trash bin.

# Riders first denied entrance to Astrodome in Houston

**BUS,** *from A-1*

Somehow, school bus No. 0235 made it to Houston, enduring near-mishaps, mechanical problems and brushes with police. Somehow, desperate residents of the Fischer housing development who had viewed Gibson as a hoodlum suddenly trusted him as their hero. The kid got a school bus. He got them out of there.

His act of heroism came less than two weeks after his most recent arrest. Gibson, who said he was expelled from high school in the 10th grade for fighting and claims he is known by police as the "kingpin" of the Fischer development, led police on a high-speed chase Aug. 18. It ended with a car wreck, four police officers suffering minor injuries, and the arrests of Gibson and Otis Louis, 22. Information on the status of that case was unavailable from the Orleans Parish district attorney's office.

Gibson faces a pending charge of possession of crack cocaine stemming from a June arrest. In 2002, he pleaded guilty to felony car theft charges and was sentenced to two years probation.

"I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, a lot of times," Gibson said. "But all that's behind me now. I'm trying to be a new me. . . . I feel like the Lord, all the problems I was going through, he just turned it around for me."

## Getting out

Though Gibson is saving his story for Hollywood, interviews with six people who rode the bus, drivers of other commandeered school buses, Gibson's friends, as well as law enforcement and Red Cross officials, provide an account of what transpired:

The Tuesday morning after Katrina hit, Gibson decided it was time to go. So he and three friends hit the streets with a piece of hose pipe and a plastic jug to siphon gas.

By 5 p.m. they'd filled a jug,




It was from this peg inside the bus depot on Patterson Street in Algiers Point that Jabar Gibson got the key that took bus No. 0235 and a load of evacuees to Houston in the aftermath of Katrina.

but the truck they planned to use to escape wouldn't start. A mechanic who lived at Fischer said he'd try to fix it, but by 11:30 a.m. the next day, Wednesday, he was still under the hood.

Finally he climbed into the driver's seat and turned the ignition key and pressed hard on the accelerator. The engine roared.

Gibson and his friends hustled toward the car, just as a school bus rattled down L.B. Landry Avenue toward Fischer.

Gibson waved the driver down and asked where he got the bus. Algiers Point, said the man, driving off.

Gibson looked at his friend, Dennis "Chopper" Landry.

"Now we got a way to get everyone out of here," Gibson said. Gibson, Landry and Terrance "Chili" Henderson, along with a few others, piled into the truck and headed for Algiers Point.

Word began to spread through Fischer: "They're going to get buses!"

The wooden doors to the bus barn had been blown out or bashed in — it was hard to tell which because the hurricane had torn shingles off the roof and ripped holes in the wooden building. Inside, the door to the

*See* **BUS,** *A-22*

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# Have stolen school bus, will travel

**BUS,** *from A-21*

front office was open. Gibson and the others got bus keys that were hanging on the inside of the wooden door.

They found the bus numbers matching their keys. None of the young men had ever driven a bus, but they cranked them up and drove through a front gate already torn off its hinges.

"Everybody pack your bags and get ready," hollered Shelinda "Sheba" Clark as the buses came into view. "The levee's going to bust!"

Gibson pulled up in the first school bus. Six others pulled behind the front building and onto LeBoeuf Street. A few minutes later came the eighth and final bus, trailed by the police.

With the last bus still rolling, its young driver jumped out and ran. One of the officers jumped on the rolling bus and stopped it just before it smashed into Gibson's. The officer stepped out and strode toward Gibson's bus, already loaded with about 60 people.

"Everybody off the bus," he ordered, and the passengers dragged their bags back onto the sidewalk.

Gibson handed the second officer the keys and made his plea.

"We need the buses to get the babies and elderly out of here," he begged her.

His plea continued. The woman listened. A few minutes passed.

She handed the keys back to Gibson.

"Keep the buses," she said, and the officers climbed into their squad car and left.

The passengers reloaded. Gibson climbed behind the wheel and stared at the unfamiliar panel behind the steering wheel. He fiddled with some of the buttons. He had no specific destination, just Texas, and he asked someone for directions.

A woman a few seats behind him stood up and shrieked.

"Let me off the bus! You're all going to drown and die!" she said.

It was Makivia Horton, five months pregnant, and one of the 24 people who had escaped the east bank over the bridge and boarded Gibson's bus. Other passengers tried to calm her as her fiance blocked her path to the aisle. Horton kept screaming.

Suddenly a woman sitting across the aisle pulled out a handgun. She shouted at Horton and told her to sit down and shut up.

Someone grabbed the gun.

"If she wants off the bus, let her off the bus," Gibson said, "because once I start, I ain't stopping."

"Everything's cool," Horton's fiance said, and off pulled Gibson, with the young passengers waving and screaming at those who stayed, mostly adults who gave up spots on the bus to make sure the infants, children and elderly got out.

Two other buses trailed Gibson's as they cruised down Landry and pulled onto the West Bank Expressway, headed west out of town on U.S. 90.

### Slipping by

Less than 10 minutes into the ride, they passed two mail trucks, apparently commandeered by about a dozen people, now standing on the side of the road and being questioned by two police officers.

Gibson knew if the cops stopped him and discovered he was driving a bus without being licensed to do so, not to mention out on bail with felony charges pending, he might be headed for jail rather than Texas. He eased his foot off the accelerator and quietly slipped by.

Passengers said his inexperience as a bus driver showed at times, with the vehicle weaving onto the shoulder of the road on curves, with Gibson struggling to control it.

"It's OK," an older woman told other passengers. "That's my son driving."

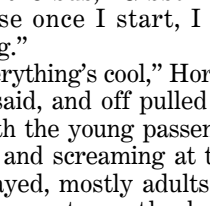
Indeed, Bernice Gibson sat in the back of the bus near Gibson's 9-month-old daughter and the baby's mother.

Despite his mother's confidence, others worried. And though they didn't know it, there were things to worry about. When Gibson and the other drivers took the buses, they didn't notice the papers posted outside the doors of the

*See* **BUS,** *A-23*

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# Riders' oasis was store in Berwick

**BUS,** *from A-22*

papers listed 41 buses that needed repairs.

At the bottom of one list was No. 0235. The bus' transmission was due for service and it had a broken radiator cap, both potential causes of a breakdown.

Unaware of the mechanical concerns, Gibson sped down the road toward Texas with two other buses driven by his friends traveling alongside. About 90 minutes into the trip, one of the other drivers, Martin, waved at Gibson and motioned for him to stop. Martin's gas needle was hovering around empty, and he was afraid he'd run out of gas and get left behind.

They decided to abandon Martin's bus, dividing the passengers onto the other two buses. Suddenly, Gibson's bus was so cramped that people were squeezed four to a seat while others sat or stood in the aisle.

A second bus soon had a problem.

Gibson noticed that a back tire on the bus driven by Henderson was going flat. He pointed to the rear wheel, but Henderson kept driving until the bus began to swerve and slide.

At about 3:30 p.m. they pulled off the road in Berwick, a few miles west of Morgan City, and drove to a Conoco gas station that had only three working pumps. But one pump had diesel, and the station sat next to a laundry and a small convenience store.

Before anyone got off his bus, Gibson warned them not to steal or do anything stupid. Then passengers poured into the convenience store.

Phuoc Nguyen, 29, and a member of the family that owns the store, stood behind the cash register. As the horde of people filled the store, Nguyen said he considered setting off the silent alarm at his feet that would bring the Berwick police and fire departments. But he didn't.

Next door, they were filling up the buses with diesel fuel.

Someone told the station owner, Michael Borel, about the leaking back tire on one of the buses. Borel, 40, and a self-described "coonass," said he'd call for help.

Borel called police instead. Five minutes later, they arrived. But there was only one squad car and two buses.

Gibson pulled away and left the other bus behind.

As the bus clipped along, he kept glancing in the rearview mirror. No sign of the police or the second bus.

They were on their own. If bus No. 0235 broke down, they'd be stranded.

Meanwhile, someone alerted Texas state troopers about the "renegade" school buses headed their way. Their orders were to stop the vehicles on sight.

### 'Do what's right'

No. 0235 rolled on another four hours before Gibson pulled into another gas station, near Lake Charles. Instead of calling the police, the cashier gave the passengers two ice chests, two cases of water and important information: The Astrodome in Houston was opening its doors as a shelter for Katrina evacuees.

It was night when the bus crossed into Texas, where they met a trucker who offered to lead them to the Astrodome. The bus somehow went unnoticed by Texas state troopers, and it was nearing midnight when the old home of the Houston Oilers and Houston Astros came into view.

The children broke into wild cheers.

Back in New Orleans, the first FEMA bus would not pick up evacuees at the Superdome until later that day — those at the Convention Center would wait two more days — but Gibson, even with Texas law enforcement out to stop him, had safely evacuated a busload of New Orleanians to Houston.

TV cameramen and reporters rushed to greet the bus and said officials had been waiting on buses from the Superdome and that Gibson's had been the first to arrive. Immediately recognizing the situation, Gibson told the reporters he had come from the Superdome, but his story did not match what other passengers said.

Security guards watched the scene carefully. They'd been instructed to accept only chartered buses carrying evacuees from the Superdome. This clearly was no chartered bus.

A battalion of guards blocked the gates. Gibson climbed off the bus. So did Sheila Nathan, her teary-eyed toddler and three other grandchildren. Eventually, the bus was empty, its passengers on the street. The police discovered that these evacuees were not from the Superdome. This was not one of the official buses.

Some of the evacuees were crying. Others were pleading. A few were cursing. Suddenly, reporters discovered what was happening — the police were refusing entry — and descended

*See* **BUS,** *A-24*

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# Driver: Problems are now history

**BUS,** *from A-23*

on the bus and its passengers. They clustered around.

"Now we don't have nowhere to go," Gibson told the reporters. "We heard the Astrodome was open for people from New Orleans. We ain't ate right, we ain't slept right. They don't want to give us no help. They don't want to let us in."

The media interviewed others, too, then sought out officials. They found Robert Eckels, who by virtue of his position as judge of Harris County, ran the Astrodome. For almost 20 minutes, Eckels huddled with other officials and discussed the tense situation.

Then he climbed into his silver Lexus and, heading for the exit gate, stopped in front of a knot of reporters. Wearing a weary smile, he answered questions. Someone asked about "the renegade bus."

"That bus that arrived earlier was (driven by) a young man who had loaded up a bunch of kids and just gotten into the bus and driven here," Eckels said. "It was not one of those buses (from the Superdome). At this point, our plan, our agreement, is to take the Superdome buses."

Eckels drove off, exiting through the same gate through which police refused to let the yellow school bus enter. Minutes later, a more sympathetic official arrived on the scene: Margaret O'Brien-Molina, a gray-haired woman of 53 and head of the Red Cross chapter in Houston.

She'd heard about the "renegade bus." She'd heard about Eckel's decision. She'd heard about the wailing babies.

Striding past the policemen, O'Brien-Molina walked outside the gate and approached the desperate passengers. Nathan, with her 5-year-old toddler in her arms, began to lose strength and composure. She fought back tears as she told the crying child she could no longer hold her. O'Brien-Molina scooped the girl into her own arms, kissed her on the forehead and ushered the passengers back onto the bus.

She issued a command to police: Move aside. The school bus is coming through.

The officers opened the gate, and bus No. 0235 rumbled through. Gibson was still behind the wheel, his face bathed in the lights of TV cameras. Trailing behind, another bus motored in. It was unrelated to the renegade bus, this one filled with elderly evacuees, a few in wheelchairs and several in need of medical attention.

Twenty minutes later, inside the Astrodome, O'Brien-Molina led a tour of the building and explained the setup for about 10 reporters. Then she spotted the 5-year-old girl she'd held in her arms. The girl was lying on a cot next to her grandmother. Yes, she explained, she understood that Houston had agreed to accept only the 23,000 evacuees from the Superdome and that their obligation would grow more difficult by accepting Gibson and other evacuees.

"We've got to make sure that we can take care of them," she said. "On the other hand, you got to do what's right."




STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

A book called 'Prayers and Promises' rests on the steps of one of the Orleans Parish school buses taken from the bus depot in Algiers Point after Hurricane Katrina.

## Confessing his story

Then Gibson did what was right. He told Houston sheriff's deputies the whole story, about how he'd stolen the bus, got permission to keep it from a New Orleans police officer and embarked on a 12-hour trip to the Astrodome. Sheriff's deputies said they were concerned mainly with finding the other buses, and eventually all but two were tracked down.

One of the buses had gotten stuck in mud in Fischer's grass courtyard and never made it out. A young driver accidentally rammed another bus into a trash bin and abandoned it when the vehicle started leaking transmission fluid. The passengers on Henderson's bus, separated from Gibson's at the Berwick gas station, did not make it to Texas and ended up in a shelter in New Iberia.

Eventually, Constance Haynes, the resident council president at Fischer who watched the buses leave before evacuating in her own car the next day, learned about Gibson's journey and the national attention.

Upon returning recently to Fischer after spending more than a month in assorted shelters, Haynes grinned and said, "I've always had a soft spot for the thugs. . . . Those boys have big hearts. . . . They're heroes."

But as New Orleans Police Department spokesman Garry Flot searched for the officer who allowed Gibson to take the school bus, he said the department had no precedent for how to deal with a "hero" facing criminal charges.

Police apparently are not searching for Gibson. He's staying with Landry in a hotel room that costs $49.99 a night.

"He could go from thug to hero from hero to thug again," Flot said.

Gibson still faces a court date on the crack cocaine charge.

"That's in the past," Gibson said. "That ain't me. Everybody does wrong things. But right now I feel like I done something right."

.....

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# Services may be resumed on Nov. 6

**CHURCH,** *from A-1*

expressed their yearning to be together physically. And each one gave thanks for tiny blessings in a world of hurt.

"I find there's a strong sense of isolation when you're in this evacuation mode," their pastor, the Rev. Cornelius Tilton, said after the call was over. "What I liken it to, we're almost in the Diaspora, like the Jews after the fall of Jerusalem.

"We needed to reconnect, do some healing and let people know they're not out there all by themselves."

Tilton, their pastor of 17 years, had not seen most of the church's 70 members since Aug. 28, the day before Katrina stuck.

The storm blew out dozens of stained glass windows and damaged the roof of the congregation's 149-year-old building on the relatively high ground of First Street near the Mississippi River.

But many church members were hard hit by the storm that flooded 80 percent of the city. They were stranded where they fled.

Many said they had no house to return to.

## Storm roll call

In the weeks since Katrina, Tilton has learned the whereabouts of nearly all his flock. More recently he began to lay plans to bring them together, at least by telephone, to hear each other's voices for the first time since the storm.

For an hour and 15 minutes their electronic assembly was a borderless blend of worship and fellowship.

They began the encounter with exultant group praise, each church member in each new apartment, each loaned bedroom — and a few in their battered New Orleans homes — singing alone into the phone, "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made."

Tilton called a storm roll and each church member checked in with a short story:

There was Pat Barnes, who said she would not return from Clarksville, Tenn.; young Alex Santemas, a newly enrolled senior in high school in La Junta, Colo., where it was "different, safer," although "small town life is hard"; and Tracy Stewart, who announced her engagement and plans to marry back in New Orleans.

She was smothered in congratulations.

"I miss church, but I'm so glad you're all safe," said Diane Phillips from her home in Algiers.

## An ache to return

One after another, Irish Channel's members told their stories of evacuating for what they thought would be two or three days. Many told of subsequent wanderings from city to city as New Orleans drowned and days turned to weeks.

A few, like Barnes in Tennessee, said their relocation seemed permanent.

Most said they ached to return.

"I'm like a child without a toy, not being able to play the organ every Sunday," said Diane Peterson Gray from Port Hudson.

Yet many said they felt blessed in the midst of privation.

"I've been blessed to be able to help people," said Phillips, back in New Orleans. "I know they would have done the same for me. I'm low on food, low on money. I don't know what's going to happen next, but I'm not going to lose my faith in God."

A chorus of murmured "amens" floated back over the line in response.

"God didn't bring us this far just to leave us," the pastor's brother, Gerald Tilton, said. "I've seen things in the last month I can do without ever seeing again. But I know it's part of a divine plan. It's all gonna be all right. I'm just gonna keep on keepin' on.

"But I want to see you all again."

"Amen," they murmured.

## Church update

For 75 minutes they updated and encouraged each other. They shared Scripture. Pastor Tilton went over the birthdays come and gone, and congratulations and laughter floated through the air.

He updated them on church business. Their scheduled donation of $700 to support eight students in Ghana would be made on time, he said.

He briefed them on his own condition. He was shuttling weekly between his temporary home in Houston and New Orleans, where he looks in on some church members and where, as president, he hopes next month to reopen Christian Bible College.

He told them he hoped to resume services at thechurch home Nov. 6, but that they would continue to meet by telephone, on Thursday nights.

He exhorted those who found new church homes. "Wherever we find ourselves we have to be a blessing to others," he said.

But he reminded them too, that their New Orleans church would continue to need their financial support as it rebuilds.

## 'Victors, not victims'

When it seemed time, Tilton began to draw the call to a close. "Remember, you are not victims, but victors," he said.

As a final act he summoned his invisible flock to call out their individual praises to God — an invitation that produced a drawn-out, heart-felt collision of "Hallelujahs," "Praise him!" and "Glory's" that finally died away into a soft babble of voices.

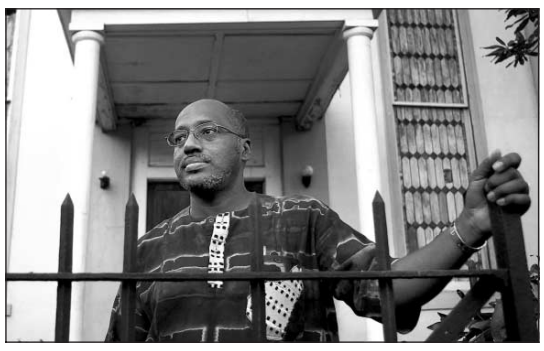
The background hiss and crackle gave way to a deepening silence as members began to drop off the line.

Then one last unidentified voice asked:

"When you want to get some shrimp?"

•••••••

Bruce Nolan can be reached at bnolan@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3344



The Rev. Cornelius Tilton, pastor of Irish Channel Christian Fellowship, led worship services last week by telephone.

STAFF PHOTO BY CARA OWSLEY

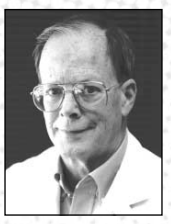
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**Questions:**
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# Storms serve as national wake-up call

## *Across U.S., people prepare for 'Big One'*

**By John Pomfret**
The Washington Post

BERKELEY, CALIF. — Maureen Katz grew up with earthquakes, and when a 1989 quake rattled the San Francisco Bay Area, killing 62 people and collapsing freeways, she still found those tremors "a thrill ride."

It took distant hurricanes to change Katz's mind. Not long ago, she and some neighbors met to discuss preparing for "The Big One," the long-expected next major rupture of the San Andreas Fault that would dwarf the one that ravaged San Francisco in 1906. They drew up a list of supplies and, this being liberal Berkeley, had a politically tinged discussion about buying guns.

From civilians to bureaucrats to businessmen, firefighters, mayors and sheriffs, the twin hurricanes that pounded the Gulf Coast have touched off a nationwide conversation about disaster preparedness. The mantra, being repeated by civilians and government officials alike, is: We are on our own.

The response differs fundamentally from the nation's reaction to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Then the primary ingredient was a fear that seemed to naturally lead people to accept the government's agenda of how to respond. This time, Katz and others interviewed for this story note, another emotion has taken its place: outrage — primarily at the government's botched response — a far more empowering sentiment, Katz added.

"I don't think I really believed the infrastructure had been so badly eroded that they really would take three days to get water to people, and it ended up taking them even longer," Katz said. "I had this basic belief that help would be there, but watching Katrina I realized it's not going to be there, and I have responsibility for my kids."

In the days after that meeting with their neighbors, Katz, her husband and their two elementary-school-age children had purchased an enormous waterproof box that now anchors their back yard. They stuffed it with a four-day supply of water, protein shakes, power bars, a change of clothes, flashlights, transistor radios, multipurpose tools, dried fruit, duct tape, dog food, rope and bleach — to purify water in a pinch.

The rethinking of the danger preparedness is occurring coast to coast in private homes and in government offices.

In Memphis, there is talk of positioning food caches in preparation for a major earthquake like the one in 1812 that leveled the city. In New Jersey, the governor has begun reviewing the security of chemical plants in case of a terrorist attack. In Los Angeles, which has faced earthquakes, urban unrest and wildfires, officials now are urging residents to stock five to seven days of food and water instead of their previous recommendation of three. A federally funded study in May estimated that as many as 18,000 people could die and hundreds of thousands could be left homeless if a major earthquake were to hit Los Angeles.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have also prompted officials to go back to the drawing board on the critical issues of evacuation plans and temporary housing, said Sandra Hutchens, director of the L.A. County Sheriff's Office of Homeland Security. "The hurricanes brought home how much work we still have to do," she said.

"I never, ever considered an evacuation strategy in San Francisco that would require the entire city to evacuate," said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom of his city of 750,000, where a city-funded study in 2003 estimated that an earthquake registering 7.9 on the Richter scale would level more than 45,000 buildings. "I'd have to have five aircraft carriers collecting dust, waiting off the coast."

Among officials nationwide, the hurricanes have prompted hearings on disaster preparedness, talk of tougher restrictions on building in coastal areas and along earthquake fault lines — an increasingly common practice during the recent nationwide real estate boom — and reevaluations of the qualifications of disaster preparedness officials.

"Everyone is now taking a look at how we are situated and asking questions like, 'Do we have the best and brightest in place?' " said San Francisco's Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White.

Politicians, eager to traffic in pork or preparedness or both, also predict the disasters will smooth the way for expensive government bonds to upgrade infrastructure. Next year, Newsom said, he plans to ask San Francisco's voters to approve the city's most expensive general bond issuance ever, an estimated $800 million plan to retrofit San Francisco General Hospital. Newsom said its chances of passing are better because the hurricanes have brought disaster preparedness to the front of many people's minds.

Local and state officials also believe the disasters will breach a fire wall erected by the Department of Homeland Security after the Sept. 11 attacks. Under the federally funded Urban Area Security Initiative, local governments were given large grants to train for terrorist attacks but are prohibited from using the money to prepare for natural disasters.

"We've broadened the discussion," Newsom said. "After 9/11, ne'er did I hear a word about Mother Nature. It was all about bioterrorism, dirty bombs, the prospects of another airliner being used. It's understandable. In the past, the focus was always on Mother Nature. Now we've got to balance the two, and that's the lesson of Katrina."



WASHINGTON POST PHOTO

Maureen Katz stands in her yard in Berkeley, Calif., in front of a waterproof box she and her family recently bought and filled with emergency supplies. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have spurred many people to make disaster plans.

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# Multiple probes are an exercise in hostility

## *Bickering lawmakers duplicating efforts*

**By Mary Curtius**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Rep. Thomas Davis III of Virginia thought he was offering lawmakers political catnip when he called former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown to testify before his committee last month.

The Republican chairman of a special House panel investigating the government's handling of Hurricane Katrina, he figured the chance to publicly question Brown would prove irresistible to the Democrats who had stayed away, regarding his probe a whitewash of the federal government's handling of the disaster. But the partisan chasm that has widened since Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast proved more powerful than the lure of confronting the bureaucrat blamed by many for much of what went wrong with the government's response.

House Democrats maintained their boycott and continued to criticize the probe as a Republican effort to minimize the federal government's inaction. Davis also failed to persuade his Senate counterpart, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, to attend.

Nor does he expect Democrats to relent this week and join his panel's questioning of Michael Chertoff, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees FEMA.

The controversy surrounding the committee illustrates how far Congress has strayed from the bipartisan, joint House-Senate inquiry that Republican congressional leaders announced last month into the actions of local, state and federal officials in the wake of Katrina.

Instead, three separate, overlapping investigations are under way — the one in the House, one in the Senate and one by the White House. They are expected to produce three reports about missteps made by government officials — and offer three sets of recommendations for fixing what went wrong.

And that, said Richard Falkenrath, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a centrist think tank in Washington, is bad news for the nation.

"The thing that we might lose is an opportunity to get on a better trajectory in terms of preparing this country for catastrophic disasters," said Falkenrath, who served in the Bush administration's Homeland Security Department.

Other congressional observers and outside experts caution that none of the findings might be considered definitive, and could be contradictory.

House and Senate members have cooperated before in conducting major inquiries, most recently following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. After public pressure, however, an independent commission also was set up to investigate the attacks.

Democrats pushed for a similar independent panel for the Katrina probe. But the White House and the GOP congressional leaders balked at this idea.

In addition to the probe Davis is running, Collins and the ranking Democrat on her committee, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, are conducting the Senate investigation. Frances Townsend, President Bush's homeland security adviser, is spearheading a White House inquiry.

Each probe is churning out its own requests for documents from the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and other government agencies. The House and Senate committees are conducting their own hearings, and sometimes will question the same witnesses.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Democrats had no faith that the Davis-led panel would mount an aggressive inquiry into the Bush administration's role in the response to the hurricane, because Republicans refused to give Democrats equal representation on the committee.

"The American people want to see Congress work together," said Ron Bonjean, spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "When the Democrats choose not to join a committee that has been set up based on democratic majority traditions, it is disappointing and bothersome. They are only hurting themselves."

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# Hurricanes show cost of failing to learn from previous storms

## *Floyd foreshadowed evacuation calamities*

**By Spencer S. Hsu**
The Washington Post

On Sept. 25, White House press secretary Scott McClellan defended the tumultuous evacuation of 3 million Texans from the path of Hurricane Rita, saying, "This was an unprecedented number of people who were being evacuated." His comments echoed sentiments offered by Texas' governor, a senator and several mayors.

In fact, the evacuation was the largest in U.S. history — at least since 1999.

Barely six years ago, in a lesson seemingly forgotten by U.S. authorities, Hurricane Floyd prompted the headlong flight of more than 3 million people from coastal Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

The result, as summarized in a 240-page report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, foreshadowed the anarchy on freeways leading away from Houston last month: 18-hour traffic jams outside Charleston, S.C.; complaints that two-way highways were not quickly converted into one-way exit routes; and shortages of food, water and other supplies for hundreds of thousands of exhausted evacuees.

The repeated cycle of calamity, response and criticism highlights a persistent flaw in the nation's disaster preparedness: the inability of emergency agencies to learn from past mistakes, even those committed in recent years, say current and former government officials.

Personnel turnover, constantly changing priorities and split responsibilities among federal agencies and state and local governments sap the nation's ability to break patterns of bureaucratic failure, experts say. From establishing compatible communications systems for first responders to enforcing baseline preparedness standards for cities and states, goals remain frustratingly out of reach.

Heightened debate over the military's role in domestic preparedness is also familiar ground. On Sept. 3, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff declared that the sluggish response to the "ultra-catastrophe" wrought by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast required officials to "break the mold" of disaster response and improve on an eight-month-old National Response Plan. President Bush proposed enabling "the Defense Department to become the lead agency in coordinating and leading the response effort" on Sept. 25.

But 13 years earlier, authorities said that Hurricane Andrew had delivered a "mega-catastrophe" to south Florida. Then-Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., called for an expanded domestic role for the military; others called for improvements to a year-old Federal Response Plan, the NRP's precursor.

Within five months, the Pentagon retooled its response to domestic disasters, issuing its first directive to speed "military support to civil authorities."

Yet the changes did not take root in time to help Katrina's victims.

"We shouldn't be in the same situation, especially now that we have a department whose mission is to increase our preparedness," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and head of the Senate investigation into the Katrina response.

Arnold Punaro, an aide to Nunn for 24 years and a major general in the Marine Corps Reserve, said the problem is not a shortage of plans or policies but a failure to practice and execute existing powers. "The problem with lessons learned is people unlearn them and make the same mistakes over and over again," he said.

John Koskinen, the federal official in charge of preparing for the year 2000 software flaw, said a deeper concern is the assumption that disaster preparedness is someone else's problem — state and local government's or the military's.

Nine months after Hurricane Floyd rolled up the Southeast's coastline and struck North Carolina as a Category 3 storm, consultants PBS&J of Tallahassee, Fla., prepared a detailed evacuation assessment for FEMA and the corps.

"Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina experienced the largest evacuation effort in American history," FEMA said in a Sept. 14, 2000, news release. "Traffic engineers estimated that 3 million people took to the highways in what was to become a frustrating effort. Instead, they created the largest, longest, and most incredibly snarled traffic jam ever known."

Floyd's large size and "uncertain path" created "unanticipated volumes of evacuees," who fled areas not considered unsafe, the PBS&J report stated, circumstances shared with Hurricane Rita last month.

Although the four Southeastern states updated their evacuation models and rebuilt some highways, the message never reached far enough over the Gulf, said PBS&J Vice President Donald Lewis.

The Floyd-affected states updated their computer population and evacuation models to track inland vehicle movements. The improvement would have cost Texas" $100,000 at the most," Lewis said, but it wasn't done.

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The Ochsner family of physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, employees and volunteers rode out the storm together on our Main Campus keeping our patients safe and cared for while the hurricane raged outside. For some patients what was needed was a gentle hand, words of reassurance and continuation of our plan of care. For others who came to us after the storm, many for the first time, the needs were far greater: a lung operation, heart bypass surgery, kidney and liver transplants, outpatient dialysis or intensive care for their babies. None of these services ever stopped—before, during or after the storm—except for a brief moment to shake our heads in wonder at the power of nature.

Together, we continued helping our patients by being available to you in the many communities of Louisiana where Katrina sent you—the North Shore, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. We have been open in all of those locations serving all members of your family, of every age, no matter if their condition was routine or complex.

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We thank our employees everyday for everything that they did—yet we know that our thanks can never be big enough. We marvel not only at their stamina, courage and commitment but also at their ability to keep a sense of humor amid the challenges we faced.

Our hard work has been supported by the extraordinary efforts of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services workers, rescue workers, volunteers and healthcare workers in facilities across the region who have given all they can in these unprecedented times. We are grateful to them and to our partners and vendors who made sure that we had essential stocks of supplies before and after the storm.

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# Sign of times for Alabama hotels: No vacancy

## *Katrina recovery affects entire region*

**By Garry Mitchell**
Associated Press writer



AP PHOTO

Joy Ward of Hattiesburg, Miss., shops for pottery from Holley Hill Pottery in Holley, Fla., on Friday while attending the 34th annual National Shrimp Festival, based in Gulf Shores, Ala. The festival resumed this year after being canceled last year because of Hurricane Ivan.

MOBILE, ALA. — With storm evacuees filling nearly 10,000 rooms in Alabama, high hotel occupancy rates have perked up the Alabama Gulf Coast economy in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which otherwise has dealt a blow to tourism in the area.

Besides evacuees, workers in construction, cleanup and relief activities in Louisiana, Mississippi and southwest Alabama for weeks have filled many hotel rooms, particularly in a 30-mile radius of Mobile, which has about 5,600 rooms.

"The biggest problem has been people getting frustrated at not finding a room," Comfort Suites manager Miroj Rajbhandari said. "It's good for the hotel to be full, but not because of a natural disaster."

Rajbhandari expects his 64-room hotel in Mobile to be full through November.

At Bayou La Batre Inn and Suites, the storm-damaged fishing village's only motel, front desk clerk Annette Rice said Katrina's floodwaters did not get inside. The motel's 40 rooms have been rented by a mix of guests.

"We have quite a few guests from Mississippi," she said. "We're about the closest one to the state line."

Mobile Marriott manager Tony Dughaish, president of the Hotel and Motel Association, expects Mobile will remain "center stage" in the hotel market because of its proximity to storm damage in New Orleans and Biloxi.

"All these contractors and insurance adjusters are stationed in this area," he said.

Although some volunteers in the storm recovery slept in tents in nearby D'Iberville, Miss., near Katrina's major damage, some of the larger, more expensive hotels in Mobile had vacancies this week. But those with rooms are keeping them.

Marvin Davis, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's operations in Mobile, said he had attempted to change hotels for the next two weeks, but decided to keep his current room in the port city to avoid a long commute from another location.

Alabama tourism officials welcomed the hotel bonanza but worried the lack of rooms could be a negative for the tourism industry. Mobile and Baldwin counties account for 35 percent of the state's tourism spending.

Tourists won't visit if they can't find a room to rent.

Although many rooms have been taken by government and relief workers, Victoria Kling of the American Red Cross said there were 30,960 hurricane evacuees this week in 9,986 rooms in 544 hotels in Alabama.

Rental homes, apartments and condos also were snapped up within days of the Aug. 29 hurricane, the nation's most destructive.

"We rented 48 of 53 houses in two days after the storm," said Marti Nabors, office manager for Roberts Brothers, one of Mobile's largest real estate firms. The company had about 400 single-family homes and this week had only eight properties available, Nabors said.

Besides the no-vacancy problem, Katrina closed some major tourist attractions, such as the Dauphin Island Ferry, Battleship Park in Mobile and the 405-room Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa at Point Clear. It cut attendance at others, such as the Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Theodore.

Gulf Coast attractions lost tour bus business when Katrina wiped out the Mississippi coast casinos. Bellingrath, for example, draws sightseers off Interstate 10, from casinos and New Orleans, gardens Director Bill Barrick said.

Bellingrath, world-famous for its azaleas and other floral displays on placid Fowl River, had minor storm damage and reopened in mid-September. Attendance fell about 30 percent, but Barrick expects it will rebound for traditional Christmas festivities.

Still repairing from Hurricane Ivan last September, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach officials revived the four-day National Shrimp Festival, which kicked off Thursday with large crowds under sunny skies. It was canceled last year because of Ivan damage.

Brandy Johnson at the Regatta condominiums in Gulf Shores said it's good to bring back the Shrimp Festival, which usually attracts about 200,000 visitors, if only to prove the resort survived Katrina.

"Everybody thinks Gulf Shores isn't here," she said.

Katrina, which devastated Dauphin Island and Bayou La Batre, spared Gulf Shores and nearby beach resorts.

"The impression in the Midwest and other parts of the country is that Alabama's beaches were blown away just like our sister states. That's not the case at all," state tourism Director Lee Sentell said.

He said there are about 60,000 hotel and motel rooms in Alabama and they generally have about a 60 percent occupancy rate. It will be at least another month before lodging tax revenue totals for September are available to register the Katrina impact.

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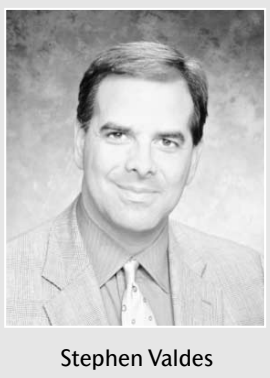
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# Canine flu has pets sick as, well, a dog

*Potentially fatal bug no mere kennel cough*

**By Jim Fitzgerald**
Associated Press writer

CHESTNUT RIDGE, N.Y. — Every inch the pampered purebred, Curry stands like a statue for his haircut at the Best Friends Pet Resort and Salon.

He looks, and is, perfectly healthy. But Curry, a fluffy white bichon frise, was one sick puppy a month ago. And the Best Friends kennel was forced to close for three weeks after more than 100 other dogs began showing signs of what turned out to be a new disease: canine influenza virus, or dog flu.

"He was extremely lethargic, having a hard time breathing," said Curry's owner, Margaret Ragi of Upper Saddle River, N.J. "The life just wasn't there in his eyes. We were really worried."

Lots of dog lovers are worried these days. Experts say the flu is spreading steadily through the nation's dogs, with no vaccine available to curb it. Perhaps 5 percent of its victims are dying.

Researchers recently found to their surprise that the virus had crossed over from horses to dogs, striking greyhounds at racetracks in 11 states. Now it has been found in pets, with cases documented in California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Washington state.

"One-hundred percent of dogs will be susceptible," said Edward Dubovi, director of the animal virology lab at Cornell University. "I would expect to see this infection moving thorough groups of dogs until a large percentage gets infected and there are a lot of immune dogs."

Cynda Crawford, a veterinary immunologist at the University of Florida, said researchers are getting positive readings on 30 percent to 40 percent of the blood and tissue samples sent in by veterinarians who think they might be treating a dog with influenza. The symptoms include a cough, low-grade fever and a runny nose.

Exactly how many dogs have died is unclear. Crawford said many of the animals were young and otherwise healthy.

Many pet owners and veterinarians have been fooled because some of the symptoms mimic a common, less dangerous bacterial infection known as kennel cough.

As with human influenza, dog flu is most easily contracted in gathering places: kennels, dog shows, animal shelters, even dog runs in parks.

That has resulted in a lot of lonely dogs, as pet owners keep them home to avoid the flu. Several days after the kennel in Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., reopened, there were just six dogs in "doggie day care," down from the usual 17, and just 50 boarding, down from 150, said manager Kelly Kurash.

The suburban New York kennel had closed Sept. 10 after staffers realized the illness going around was not kennel cough. Dogs were sent home or to hospitals, and one sheepdog died a few days later.

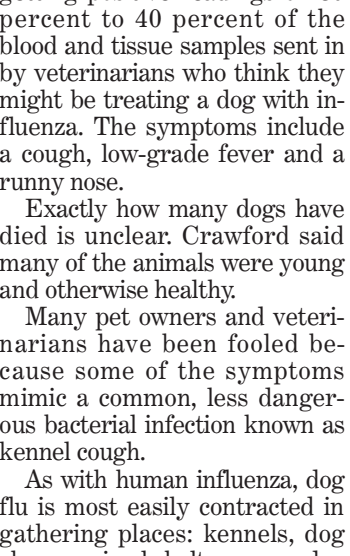
"We knew we were dealing with something more serious," said Deborah Bennetts, spokeswoman for the Best Friends chain, based in Norwalk, Conn. "It seemed to be spreading, and some dogs were getting seriously ill."

Tests on the dogs confirmed the new virus.

Best Friends had the entire building disinfected and the air conditioner filters changed. When the kennel reopened Sept. 30, some dogs were turned away. At the 42 Best Friends kennels in 18 states, "we're not allowing any dog that has boarded within the last two weeks or has been at a dog show or some kind of group setting like doggie day care," Bennetts said.

Dubovi said researchers are at work on a vaccine, but it could be months before it becomes available.

Some vets fear another upswing in cases at Thanksgiving and Christmas, when, as in the late summer, many people go away and put their dogs in kennels.



AP PHOTO

Curry, a 5-year-old bichon frise, sits in his owner's home Wednesday in Upper Saddle River, N.J., after recovering from the canine influenza virus. The bug has proved fatal for many dogs around the United States.

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WAR IN IRAQ

# Saddam trial to focus on '82 massacre

*Iraqi officials aim for quick conviction*

**By Robert H. Reid**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Iraqi authorities have chosen a little-known case to launch the prosecution of Saddam Hussein because it affords the best chance for a speedy conviction — and because it gives the long-suppressed Shiite majority a first crack at the former Iraqi dictator.

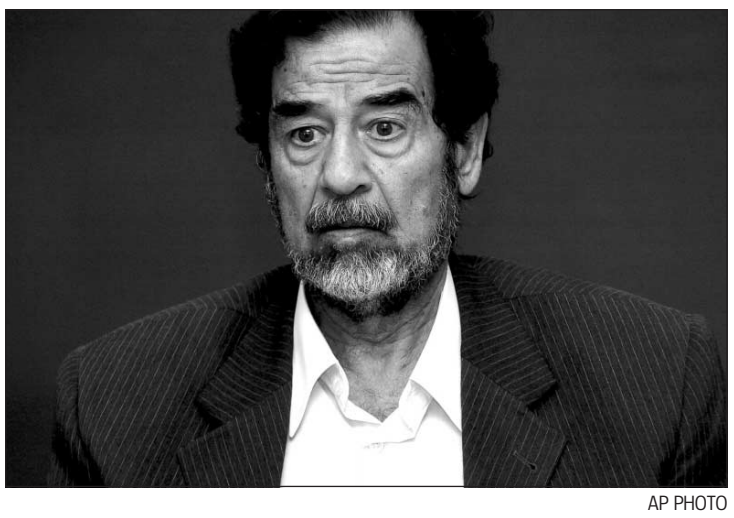
But the decision to push ahead with the trial, due to start Wednesday in the capital's heavily guarded Green Zone, also carries some high risks for Iraq.

The timing, four days after the contentious constitutional referendum, and the case itself may fuel fears among Sunni Arabs that the Shiite Muslims who now control Iraq are more interested in settling scores than in providing justice.

The trial focuses on the role of Saddam and seven allies in a 1982 massacre in Dujail, a heavily Shiite town 50 miles north of Baghdad. About 150 people were executed and up to 1,500 others imprisoned and tortured after Shiite militants there failed to assassinate Saddam.

The toll pales against the thousands of Kurds who were gassed to death in Halabja in 1988 or with the thousands of Shiites slaughtered after a 1991 uprising — or even with the countless Iraqis whose lives were ruined by Saddam's regime.

But a comprehensive trial covering all of Saddam's alleged crimes could take years to complete, especially in the midst of a bloody insurgency being waged largely by the ousted president's fellow Sunni Arabs.



AP PHOTO

Trial begins Wednesday for former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, centering on the roles he and seven allies played in a 1982 massacre in Dujail, a heavily Shiite town 50 miles north of Baghdad. About 150 people were executed and up to 1,500 others imprisoned and tortured after Shiite militants there failed to assassinate Saddam.

So Iraqi leaders and their American advisers — who seem keen to avoid a repeat of the U.N. trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic that has dragged on since 2002 — chose this case.

Milosevic has skillfully manipulated his proceedings to win back a measure of support among his fellow Serbs, many of whom believe the trial is unfair.

Iraqi officials hope to avoid that, and are aiming for a speedy conviction — likely followed by a death sentence. For months, Iraqi officials have hinted they have seized documents tying Saddam directly to the massacre.

"The Dujail case is the easiest to put together as far as evidence-gathering and preparation is concerned," one of the judges on the Iraqi Special Tribunal told The Associated Press. "There are documents that have been seized and verified concerning the case."

His identity, and those of others on the tribunal, are being kept secret to deter reprisals by Saddam loyalists or other insurgents.

Saddam's legal team, in turn, seems likely to ask for an immediate delay when the trial starts Wednesday, arguing it has not been allowed to see key documents and has not had sufficient time to prepare a defense.

Saddam himself has challenged the entire legitimacy of the court that will try him. The judges are Iraqis appointed under an interim Iraqi government created by the U.S. occupation authorities.

It is likely the court will grant an adjournment for some weeks, after the initial two days.

## 'Electoral propaganda'

Nevertheless, Iraq's government hopes to get quickly back on track — and hopes a conviction will send a clear signal to Sunni Arabs that Saddam is never coming back and encourage them to come to terms with the new Iraq.

Officials are also gambling that the trial will remind all Iraqis of the brutality of the former regime at a time when the incessant violence of the insurgency has many people pining for the relative stability during Saddam's 23-year rule.

However, it is unclear how the trial will be perceived in the towns and villages of the Sunni heartland. Sunnis reared in a culture of vendetta killing may take an entirely different view of the crackdown in Dujail in reprisal for an assassination attempt.

Some mainstream Sunni leaders suspect the decision to start the trial within days of the constitution referendum is aimed at rallying Shiites ahead of parliamentary elections in December.

"Saddam should be judged sooner or later, but trying him following the referendum is only for electoral propaganda," said Alaa Mekki of the Sunni-led Iraqi Islamic Party.

Many Sunni Arabs already are angry about the proposed constitution, seeing it as an attempt to weaken their community imposed by the Shiite Muslim majority and the allied Kurds, both of which were oppressed by Saddam's regime.

If the trial is not perceived as fair, it could worsen sectarian tensions.

## Dujail massacre

The events in Dujail began July 8, 1982, when Saddam and his entourage visited the farming community for a meeting with tribal leaders. The town was a stronghold of the Shiite Dawa Party, which was staging terrorist attacks on Saddam's secular regime to protest his then-ongoing war with predominantly Shiite Iran.

*See* **SADDAM,** *A-35*

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# Tribunal to test Iraqi justice

**By Anthony Deutsch**
Associated Press writer

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS — With just two weeks before the trial's start, one of Saddam Hussein's defense lawyers waited in his London office for a courier to bring formal notice of the charges against his client. It didn't arrive.

"This is a joke," said Abdel-Haq Alani. "How can we prepare a defense in a few days?"

The Iraqi Special Tribunal that will try Saddam beginning Wednesday is a work in progress as Iraq tries to build a democratic tradition while seeking to adhere to international norms of justice in dealing with allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

There will be some differences from recent international tribunals that have handled such cases, the most significant being that Saddam faces the death penalty as a possible punishment. Also, he is being tried by his own countrymen.

He is being taken before a formal court, however. Romania's communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, was executed by firing squad alongside his wife following a summary military court hearing in a 1989 uprising, while Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was lynched with his mistress by communist partisans in 1945.



The bodies, from left, of Achille Starace, former secretary of the Fascist Party; Italian dictator Benito Mussolini; and Mussolini's mistress, Clara Petacci, hang by their heels in front of a filling station in Milan, Italy, on April 29, 1945, after being executed near the city by communist partisans — without a formal trial.

AP FILE PHOTO

Human rights advocates hope the course of justice for Saddam will generally follow the model of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who was flown to a U.N. war crimes court in the Netherlands in June 2001 to face charges of genocide and crimes against humanity in the Balkans.

The Milosevic trial has proceeded for more than three years with meticulous care to ensure the appearance of fairness, although critics say the judges have gone overboard in making that point.

They also complain that the court's allowing Milosevic to defend himself has given him a podium to promote his political agenda back home in Serbia rather than to contest the 66 charges against him.

Michael Scharf, a former State Department attorney who helped train Iraqi judges for Saddam's trial, said the Iraqi Special Tribunal's statute safeguards Saddam's rights and is founded in international law.

He argues that letting Saddam take the stage like Milosevic would be a mistake.

"It is not an international right to be able to defend yourself. Milosevic was erroneously given that opportunity and ended up resurrecting his reputation back home, restoring his legacy and making him look like a martyr," Scharf said. Saddam's defense will look very similar to that of Milosevic, Scharf predicted, with his lawyers trying to turn the tables and incriminate the former dictator's Western enemies.

Alani, Saddam's London-based attorney, expects the court to appoint a lawyer to defend Saddam rather than allow him to conduct his own defense.

"At the end of the day, it is little more than a political farce and has nothing to do with law. This is Saddam in a lynch court, being tried by enemies," Alani said.

Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said the Iraqi tribunal risks jeopardizing its legitimacy if basic rights are not afforded Saddam.

"We have real concerns about shortcomings in the law and procedures of the tribunal that raise questions about the fairness of the trial," Dicker said.

Saddam's trial, he said, is a further development in the emergence of an international system of justice that began with the trials of German and Japanese leaders after World War II and continued with the creation of special courts to judge war crimes in Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the 1990s.

But the Saddam trial diverges from the rules of those courts, Dicker said. It lowers the bar for reaching a conviction so that "beyond a reasonable doubt" is no longer required. And the prosecution didn't give Saddam's lawyers adequate time to prepare, disclosing their evidence less than a month before the trial's start, he said.

"For justice to be done, the trial has got to be fair," Dicker said. "If it is not fair, it will simply be a political show trial."

# Sunnis: Timing may rally Shiites

**SADDAM,** *from A-34*

Dawa believed the visit was a chance to strike back for the execution of its key figures, including a party founder, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqr al-Sadr.

As Saddam's motorcade entered town, Dawa gunmen opened fire from palm groves, triggering a gunbattle that lasted for hours. Iraqi army helicopter gunships and infantry rescued Saddam, who allegedly promised no reprisals.

But Iraqi secret police reportedly rounded up whole families, razed the town's fruit groves, destroyed houses and systematically executed nearly 150 people, some as young as 13. Others were herded off to prison.

Despite the brutality, the Dujail massacre generated little international attention. Few foreign journalists were based in Iraq at the time, and the world's interest was focused on the war in Lebanon, where Israeli troops were besieging the capital of Beirut.

At the time, Western governments also were more concerned with Islamic extremism than Saddam's brutality, because of the 1979 rise to power of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran.

Indeed, Western governments rarely spoke out against measures taken by Arab leaders to crush Islamic fundamentalists.

Five months before Dujail, for example, Syrian President Hafez Assad had slaughtered an estimated 20,000 people in the extremist hotbed of Hama and razed the city to the ground. There was little protest internationally, beyond statements of condemnation by human rights groups.

Dujail, at the time, was merely a footnote in comparison.

Furthermore, the Dawa Party was widely perceived in the West as an instrument of the Iranian intelligence services. A year after Dujail, U.S. officials accused Dawa of bombing the American Embassy in Kuwait.

Now, however, the Dawa Party is part of the Iraqi government, and its members include Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.


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# Rice finds success with diplomacy

*'It's Powell's policy without Powell'*

**By Paul Richter**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — For four years, Secretary of State Colin Powell and his team faced off against administration hawks on one foreign policy issue after another, and usually went down in defeat.

These days, his successor, Condoleezza Rice, is pushing nearly identical positions, and almost always winning.

An administration that was criticized in its first term for an assertive, go-it-alone approach has reversed ground again and again, joining multinational efforts to keep nuclear arms from North Korea and Iran, mending ties with Europe, and softening a hard line on the United Nations and International Criminal Court.

"She's clearly trying to accomplish a number of the goals that Powell was going after, until he found himself stymied," said Stewart Patrick, who served in Powell's policy planning office.

A former senior State Department official put it more bluntly: "It's Powell's policy without Powell."

## Second-term shift

The shifts have surprised many people in the foreign policy community, who had expected a different approach from Rice. As President Bush's first-term national security adviser, she was a blunt advocate for the tough White House line.

But Rice's course says a lot about the arc of the administration's foreign policy in the second term. The new diplomacy of compromise has grown in part from the way that the continuing burden of Iraq has limited U.S. options. After a period of military action and assertive self-interest following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States has been obliged to give ground to other countries to solve problems.

Rice's stance also raises intriguing questions about how much her instincts really differ from those of her predecessor. Although her ringing rhetoric suggests she shares the neoconservative view that America must move aggressively to reshape other countries, her actions over the past nine months hint at an old-fashioned "realist," someone willing to deal with flawed regimes and settle for less-than-perfect solutions.



**Condoleezza Rice**
Calls for Saudis to expand democratic participation

The new direction stems partly from the fact that Rice has shifted from a neutral post as national security adviser to a job in which she is more removed from the influence of other powerful administration figures — such as Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — while facing daily pressure from foreign leaders, current and former officials and other experts say.

The foreign policy change shouldn't be overstated, experts said. Despite course adjustments, the Bush team remains highly assertive in its dealings with other countries. In many ways, the Bush team remains skeptical of international institutions.

Even so, the change has been undeniable.

## Aid to North Korea

The most striking shift to an approach like Powell's came three weeks ago, when Rice's envoy to the talks on the North Korean nuclear issue joined a tentative deal that promises the regime of Kim Jong Il energy aid, light-water nuclear reactors and security guarantees if it forswears nuclear weapons.

Powell's State Department wanted the kind of engagement with the North Koreans that led to last month's deal. But the more hawkish officials who dominated in the first term hoped they could force an agreement from Pyongyang without concessions, and allowed the State Department officials only limited contacts.

In 2002, when Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly wanted to try to open a discussion with North Korea, other senior officials decided that he could travel to Pyongyang only in the company of other U.S. aides, who would keep an eye on him.

"They made sure that there couldn't be anything like the kind of engagement that led to this (new) deal," said a former Powell aide, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the comparing the two leaders' approaches.

On the Iran nuclear issue, Powell pushed to have U.S. officials work with European countries. Powell obtained clearance from the White House to begin working in that way, but only over the objections of others in the administration, who argued that the Europeans would be too conciliatory and that their efforts would yield nothing.

In March, Rice took a significant additional step in that direction by announcing the administration's official support for the efforts of Britain, France and Germany to work out a deal.

Another important foreign policy shift came in April, when the administration for the first time set aside its strong objections to the International Criminal Court.

Administration officials, led by U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, who was then the State Department's arms control chief, had taken an unyielding line on the court, which was created to judge war crimes and genocide cases. Bolton argued that the tribunal infringed on U.S. sovereignty and could lead to trials by foreign judges of U.S. troops, and military and civilian leaders.

But in April, U.S. officials abstained from voting on a U.N. resolution, thus allowing the United Nations to recognize the court's jurisdiction over cases arising from the fighting in Sudan's Darfur region. Powell had recommended an abstention months earlier, former aides said.

## 'A different period'

Bush administration officials say that policies have changed along with circumstances.

"We're in a different period," said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of departmental policy. "We had to respond militarily after 9/11. . . . Now the overriding goal is to try to help the Iraqis and Afghans achieve political victories and build new states. There aren't military solutions to either of those problems."

Nicholas Burns, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, said in an interview that Rice had emphasized from the beginning of her term that she intended to stress diplomacy and international institutions to advance Bush's agenda. He cited the administration's approach in the North Korean and Iranian talks, the International Criminal Court resolution, and the U.S. decision at last month's meeting of the General Assembly to soften ambitious demands for U.N. management reform.

*See* **RICE,** *A-37*





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# U.S. eases hard-line stance on N. Korea

**RICE,** *from A-36*

At the same time, Burns said, "we're prosecuting a war on terrorism with military and intelligence means, and we'll be tough as nails where we have to be."

Some analysts argue that Rice's vigorous effort to promote the president's showcase "democracy promotion" campaign in the Middle East lines her up with neoconservatives. But there is a debate over how aggressive the administration's democracy promotion effort has turned out to be.

In June, Rice took a bold step with a speech in Cairo that challenged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to reform his government. But when the Sept. 7 presidential election drew widespread criticism, the administration responded in a muted fashion, pointing out two of the election's shortcomings, yet calling it a "landmark" step.

Rice, who calls her approach "practical idealism," has repeatedly called for Saudi Arabia to broaden democratic participation, while emphasizing that it must do so in its own way and at its own pace.

James Dobbins, a former Bush administration envoy who directs Rand Corp.'s International Security and Defense Policy Center, said the democracy promotion effort cannot be portrayed as contributing to a new moderation in administration policy.

Yet dealings with individual countries, with the possible exception of Syria and Lebanon, are "being pursued with some degree of pragmatism," he said. "They've been looking for incremental progress rather than dramatic change."

# Primaries making both parties edgy

## *Senate race prospects are shifting rapidly*

**By Ronald Brownstein**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A few weeks ago, Democrats feared they might not attract even a single first-tier candidate to challenge Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, one of their top targets for 2006.

Now, to the surprise of Democratic leaders in Ohio and Washington, two serious candidates are pursuing the nomination: Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and attorney Paul Hackett, the Iraq war veteran whose strong bid for a U.S. House seat in a special election this summer rocketed him to celebrity status in the party.

If Hackett doesn't step aside, as some in the Democratic establishment hope, the party faces the prospect of an expensive and divisive primary in a Republican-leaning state where Democrats usually need every dollar, and every last vote, to prevail.

"I would guarantee it's going to get nasty," said David Woodruff, Hackett's campaign manager in the House race. "We are going to have an aggressive campaign."

The possible Ohio collision is one of several Senate primaries that loom as wild cards as the two parties devise their strategies for the 2006 campaign. Each party confronts the risk that its nominees in key states will be weakened by intraparty fights before the survivor can take on the opposition in the general election.

The single most damaging primary could occur in Rhode Island, where conservative Stephen Laffey is challenging moderate Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee in a heavily Democratic state. A sharply contested primary could also complicate GOP chances in Tennessee.

But it appears that primaries may cause more headaches for Democrats than Republicans next year.

In addition to Ohio, candidates are competing for Democratic Senate nominations in Montana and Rhode Island, two other states with Republican incumbents who are top targets for Democrats. And full-scale primaries are developing in Maryland and Minnesota, two states where retirements have left Democrats defending open seats.

Some Democrats regard this proliferation of primaries as evidence that ambitious politicians see 2006 as a good year to be running under the party label. If Democrats have too many candidates in some states, they said, Republicans appear to have too few, after their preferred challengers to Democratic incumbents chose not to run in states such as North Dakota, West Virginia and Florida.

Others note that primaries can help the surviving candidates by sharpening their campaign skills and organization and generating more attention from the media. "For some candidates, it gets them up to speed," said Gary Jacobson, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego.

But many Democrats worry that these contests will divert resources and divide local parties, especially in the states with targeted Republican incumbents.

"Primary candidates spend months publicly beating one another up and spending money that should otherwise be hoarded for use against the other party," Democratic consultant David Sirota wrote recently in The American Prospect, a liberal magazine. "Meanwhile, incumbents rise above it all ... stressing their credentials as statesmen."

As of now, the primaries developing for open seats could generate one major confrontation for each party next year.

In Maryland, Democratic Rep. Benjamin Cardin is the favorite in what could become a crowded field to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Paul Sarbanes. But with former National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President Kweisi Mfume also running, Democrats could be hurt if the race opens racial divisions, especially since Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, an African-American, is the virtually certain Republican candidate.

In Tennessee, meanwhile, Republicans are nervously watching an ideological free-for-all among conservative former Reps. Ed Bryant and Van Hilleary and more moderate former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker that could complicate their chances of holding the seat being vacated by retiring Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

But it is the primaries in races involving incumbents that are prompting the most handwringing on both sides.

In Rhode Island, Laffey is already strafing Chafee in a race that appears likely to generate more acrimony than the state's Democratic Senate primary. Chafee could lose support in the center if he tacks right to squeeze out Laffey, or he could or depress general election turnout among conservatives if he doesn't.

If the Ohio race between Sherrod Brown and Hackett develops, Democrats will have contested primaries in three of the six states where GOP incumbents are considered politically vulnerable.

In Rhode Island, Secretary of State Matt Brown and former state Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse are competing to oppose Chafee or Laffey. In Montana, state auditor John Morrison and state Senate President Jon Tester are battling for the nomination to oppose Republican Sen. Conrad Burns.

Each of these races could pivot on the same dynamic. Matt Brown, Tester and Hackett in Ohio are positioning themselves as populist outsiders and their opponents as more conventional career politicians.

With Whitehouse considered a likely winner over Brown, and Morrison a less decisive favorite over Tester, the potential for a primary that sparks the most disunity among Democrats seems greatest in Ohio.

Hackett attracted a nationwide Democratic following when he caustically denounced President Bush and the Iraq war in his close race in the special House election in a heavily Republican district around Cincinnati in August.

After Hackett's showing, Democrats courted him to challenge DeWine, a second-term moderate whose poll numbers have sagged amid scandals engulfing Ohio Republican Gov. Robert Taft. The pursuit of Hackett intensified after Sherrod Brown, a staunchly liberal former Ohio secretary of state, indicated in August that he wouldn't run.

On Oct. 3, Woodruff announced that Hackett intended to run. Three days later, Brown decided to enter the race.

Already the prospective race has divided Democratic activists on the Internet, with many angrily accusing Brown of betrayal, and others, like Sirota, declaring Brown a stronger candidate against DeWine.

Some political operatives believe Hackett will step aside for Brown, who would likely receive strong support from party leaders and organized labor in a primary.

In an interview with Mother Jones magazine published this week, Hackett said that in a recent phone conversation he thought that Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., head of the party's Senate campaign committee, was nudging him to quit the race. Phil Singer, the committee's spokesman, denied the allegation.

Woodruff said Hackett planned to announce his candidacy with a bus tour beginning in Cincinnati on Oct. 24. And Hackett this week hasn't sounded very deferential.

"To me, a race between two professional politicians is a no-brainer win for DeWine," Hackett told Mother Jones.

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WORLD

# Vatican rethinks policy on gay priests

## *Ban to be dropped in favor of oversight*

**By Brian Murphy**
AP religion writer

For more than four decades, the Roman Catholic Church has followed both the rules and reality concerning gay priests.

The Vatican — as far back as 1961 — has made it clear they are not wanted. But many seminaries continued to tolerate what one conservative theologian calls a "lavender subculture" that has brought perhaps thousands of homosexual men to ordination.

Now those parallel worlds are coming under new and uncomfortable scrutiny.

The Vatican is putting the finishing touches on a document that strengthens its view that gay orientation and the priesthood are essentially incompatible. But the text — which could be released as early as next month — reportedly will not impose a blanket ban on gay priests. Instead, it may demand years of chastity before entering seminary and prohibit any public acts deemed to support the sexually active gay community.

If true, the Congregation for Catholic Education will be mostly bolstering existing Vatican positions rather than shutting the door completely on gay clerics as many liberal Catholics have feared. The question then becomes: What message is the Vatican hoping to send?

Experts in church policies don't expect widespread purges of gay clerics from parishes, schools and seminaries. Many places — particularly in Europe and the United States — are suffering under priest shortages and couldn't risk further losses.

What's more likely, they say, is that bishops will gain new leverage to dismiss or sideline clergymen considered in open defiance of the document. Also, the Vatican statement may serve as a foundation for much more intensive screening of seminary candidates to try to identify — and possibly reject or discourage — those who are gay.

"It could end up restricting entry into the priesthood to heterosexuals, which is a de facto extension of the existing teachings," said Scott Appleby, a professor of religious history at the University of Notre Dame. "Even worse, it would place homosexuals into the position of hiding their orientation, lying and suppressing their identity or not entering the church."

**"There can be little doubt that over the centuries that there have been great priests, bishops — and maybe even popes — who by today's criterion would be deemed homosexual in orientation. It's not the nature of one's temptations — be they sexual or something else — it's how to deal with these temptations."**

the Rev. RICHARD JOHN NEUHAUS
editor of the New York-based religious and public affairs journal First Things

Even some conservative Catholics wonder whether the church could become bogged down in internal contradictions from its own rules: If a priest remains celibate and loyal to other Catholic tenets, why does his sexual orientation matter?

"This is where it gets very tricky," said the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the New York religious and public affairs journal First Things.

He sees the upcoming document as an attempt to curb "a growing influence of gay lifestyles, or what's been called a lavender subculture," in seminaries and other church institutions.

But this can indirectly strike at one of the core elements of the Catholic priesthood: the belief that the call for a vocation can come to anyone. Estimates of the number of gays in U.S. seminaries and the priesthood range from 25 percent to 50 percent, according to the Rev. Donald Cozzens, a former seminary rector and author of "The Changing Face of the Priesthood." Credible global statistics are unavailable.

"There can be little doubt that over the centuries that there have been great priests, bishops — and maybe even popes — who by today's criterion would be deemed homosexual in orientation," Neuhaus said. "It's not the nature of one's temptations — be they sexual or something else — it's how to deal with these temptations."

No place is this more an issue for church leaders than in the United States, where the nation's bishops were launching a new campaign Friday to attract seminarians.

The sex abuse scandals have forced an unprecedented introspection into the clergy and how to train future priests.

In September, Vatican-directed inspectors started visiting all 229 American seminaries. Part of their mission is to seek any "evidence of homosexuality" at a time when some Catholics have put forward the highly contested premise that gay priests were more likely to be responsible for criminal behavior such as serial, same-sex molestations.

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, who leads the U.S. military archdiocese and is coordinating the seminary evaluations, strongly opposes any openings for gay men in the priesthood.

But apparently the document will offer some avenues — however narrow — for gay priests.

Earlier this month, a senior Vatican official said the document may allow gay men into seminaries if they have lived a chaste life for at least three years. Other possible stipulations reportedly being discussed include forbidding gay seminarians or priests from making public comments or acts that would draw attention to their sexual orientation.

Bishop William Skylstad, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he was heartened by reports indicating that the document may be "much more nuanced" and "far more sensible" than an outright ban.

The Vatican has often visited the issue of homosexuality, reflecting an unbending theological opposition but also an acknowledgment that discrimination based in sexual preference is unjustified.

A key document from 1961 said gay men should be barred from the priesthood. In 2003, homosexuality was described as a "troubling moral and social phenomenon" in a document by the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict XVI this year.

Vatican teaching also holds that gay people are "intrinsically disordered." The church, however, says gays and lesbians should be treated with compassion and dignity.

Declining vocations and relaxing the rules on priestly celibacy are among the main topics among 250 bishops and other prelates from around the world gathered at the Vatican to examine various aspects of the Catholic Mass and make recommendations to the pope. The three-week meeting wraps up Oct. 23.

But synod participants say the document on gay priests has been barely mentioned, reflecting the imbalance between the intense interest in the United States and limited impact in other regions.

"In the synod, nobody is talking about that," the Rev. Josep Maria Abella Battle, superior general of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "I know in America there is a lot of worry."


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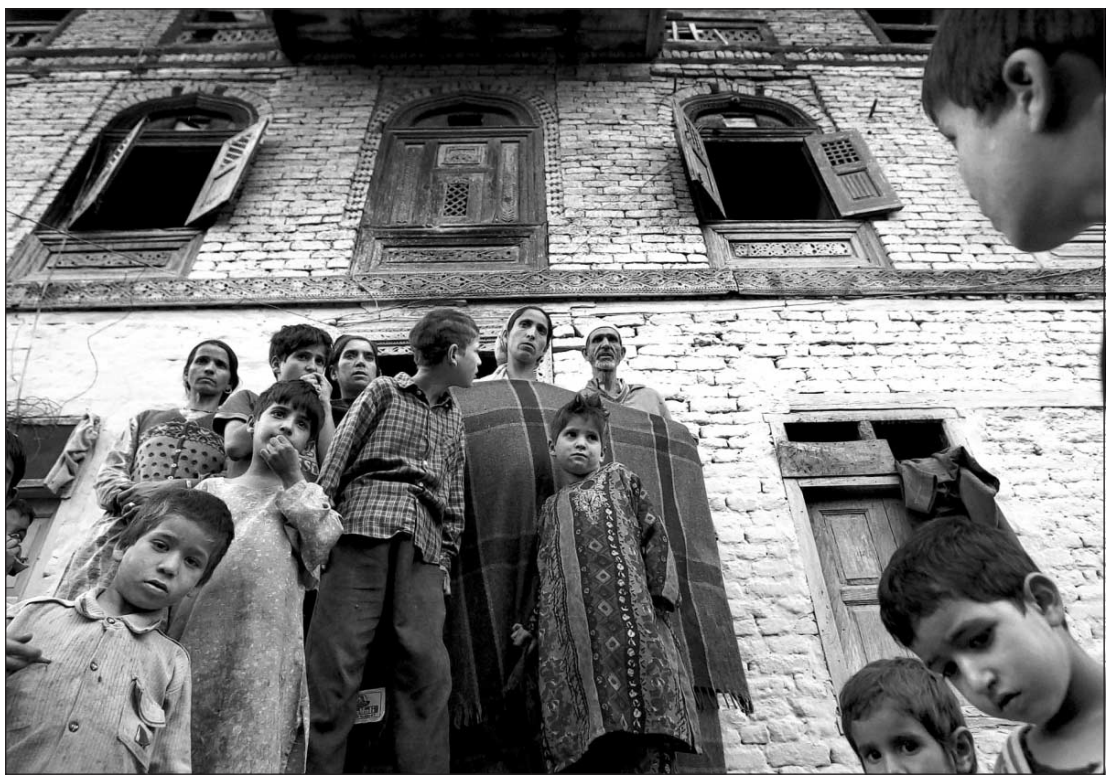
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# Relief blanket takes bureaucratic trek

## *Disaster aid effort tangled in red tape*

**By Neelesh Misra**
Associated Press writer



AP PHOTO

Rukhsana Ganai holds a blanket last week given to her as relief by the government, five days after the quake struck Indian Kashmir, at Tilgam, about 25 miles north of Srinagar, India. The 685-mile journey of the thin woolen blanket from New Delhi, reflects the often long, bureaucracy-filled process of disaster relief in India.

TILGAM, INDIA — The wool blanket — gray-blue-and-green plaid with fringe — started out in a New Delhi government supply office. Loaded onto a rickety yellow truck with tents and other Indian-made blankets, it traveled north to earthquake-stricken Kashmir.

That took one day.

The blanket sat for two more days in the town of Baramulla because quake victims did not have the right paperwork. On Wednesday, the blanket was taken to another town but held up again, this time by a Hindu holiday.

By Thursday afternoon — five days and 650 miles after it left the Indian capital — the blanket was in the hands of a retired farmer with one kidney and 20 grandchildren. He was grateful but wondered how this thin piece of cloth, just 3 by 5 feet, could possibly save his family.

The blanket's journey reflects the long, bureaucracy-tangled process of disaster relief in India, a country of more than 1 billion people that every year faces some of the world's deadliest natural disasters, often with thousands killed and wounded and thousands made homeless.

After a 620-mile trip, government aid workers unloaded the blanket Monday from the truck and packed it with other supplies into the deputy commissioner's compound in Baramulla. The garrison town — a base for Indian soldiers defending their portion of divided Kashmir from the Pakistani side — is surrounded by villages destroyed by Saturday's 7.6 magnitude earthquake.

An estimated 143,000 people in Indian Kashmir were made homeless by the quake. Around Baramulla, when the blanket arrived, hundreds of people already had spent two nights sleeping outside in freezing Himalayan temperatures made worse by rain and snow.

But none of the tents or blankets could be distributed, because victims did not have request slips stamped and signed by the officer in charge. They spent Tuesday night, again, outside.

"It was raining last night, and it was very cold. But we could not send out these blankets," said Khursheed Ahmed Ganai, an aid volunteer.

Wednesday morning, the top officer, A.G. Malik, was surrounded by agitated villagers demanding request slips. They accused Malik of playing favorites and settling scores, of letting religious or political affiliations determine who got help.

"Only those with the long arms, those with political links, are getting aid," said Mohammed Amin Quereshi, shouting curses outside Malik's office.

"He is not giving me the paper slip because they are ignoring the Hindus," shouted Vijay Kumar, a member of the minority in the Muslim-majority state.

Malik denied the charges, suggesting there were conflicts over where to deliver the aid and to whom. "People come up with all sorts of recommendations for aid distribution," he said.

Some villagers stood outside and looked longingly at the stacks of tents and blankets.

"We are sleeping under the naked sky," said Latif Ahmed Gilani.

Overnight, from Tuesday to Wednesday, six children in Kashmir died of hypothermia from sleeping outdoors.

Wednesday afternoon, Mohammed Ramzan, a tax official overseeing relief work, arrived in Baramulla from a town 18 miles away. He asked for 1,500 blankets and 55 tents for 97 villages. He supplied a letter from his boss and photocopies of earthquake damage as credentials.

Malik gave him the coveted requisition papers — but only for 200 blankets and 10 tents.

Soon, the plaid blanket and the other goods were back on a truck.

After an hour-long journey along a poplar-lined mountain highway, past horse-driven carts, careening trucks and quake-destroyed villages, the blanket arrived at the local tax collection office in Pattan — another hub for dozens of devastated villages.

More than 18,700 people around Pattan were affected by the quake. Night was coming and the air was getting nippy. Ramzan promised villagers standing around waiting for the aid truck that tents and blankets would be handed out right away.

Then his boss, local tax collection chief Mohammed Shafi, weighed in: Aid distribution had to be supervised by a panel of four officials, and he was the only one present.

"The others haven't come to work today," Shafi said. "It's a government holiday."

The holiday Durga Puja marks a Hindu celebration of the victory of good over evil.

Eight miles north of Pattan, the village of Tilgam overlooks the snow-covered peaks of the Pir Panjal mountain range.

Thursday morning, Abdul Jabbar Ganai, a 65-year-old a rice farmer who retired after having a kidney removed, waited for a promised aid shipment. Ganai is the patriarch of a large extended family. Before the quake he, his three sons, their wives, and their 20 children all lived together in a traditional mud-and-wood house with intricately carved doors and latticed windows.

The exterior of the house still stands; the inside was an unlivable mass of bricks and rubble.

His grandchildren were roaming the mud paths of the village barefoot. They had nothing to eat, and the family was spending its nights huddled around a fire.

By noon, the aid had not arrived. So Ganai took a public bus to the Pattan tax office and got in line with a few hundred others. All four tax officials were present and aid was being handed out.

Two hours later Ganai had some supplies — including the plaid wool blanket — but it hardly seemed enough.

"For a family of 28, I have been given three blankets and one tent. What do I do with this?" he asked.

"Oh well, at least some of the children can sleep tonight."




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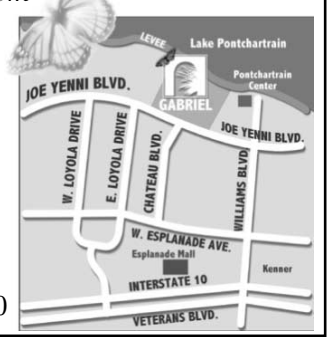
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# Gas on in most repopulated areas

**GAS,** *from A-40*

So far, Entergy crews have removed a half-million gallons of water from the city's 170-year-old gas system, or enough to fill more than 300 Olympic-size swimming pools. And they still have hundreds of miles of pipes to go in the most badly flooded parts of the city.

Entergy crews are clearing the pipes by isolating sections and sucking out the muck with pumps.

Five Entergy workers spent a recent morning digging a hole in the neutral ground at South Carrollton Avenue and Fig Street to expose a 9-foot section of gas main. Using a metal sleeve that wrapped around the pipe and a specialized drill, they cut a 2½-inch-wide hole into each end of the exposed 12-inch steel main. Through the holes they inserted inflatable cloth barriers that temporarily blocked the flow of water and gas to the pipe's mid-section.

The middle section of pipe was cut out and caps placed on the open ends of the main.

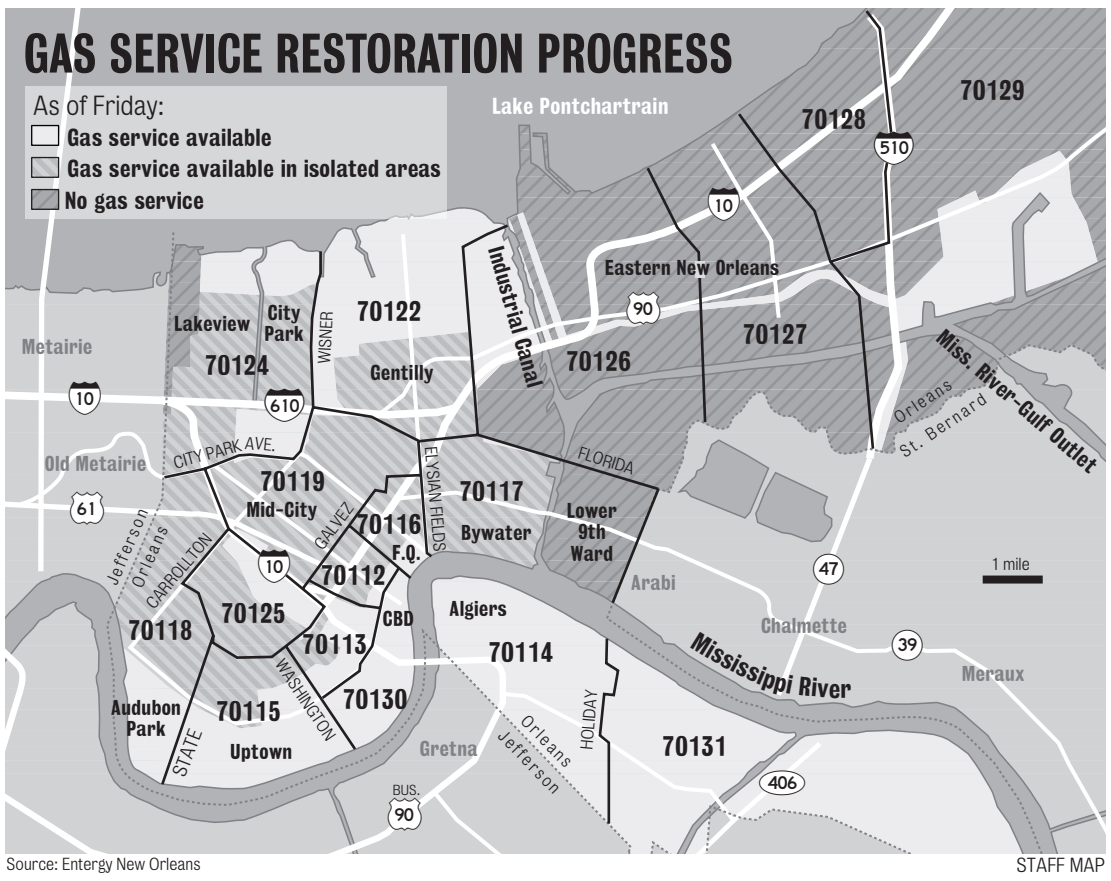
The new caps, coupled with others installed earlier on the same pipe dozens of blocks away, created an isolated section that could be cleared with pumps.

That work is being repeated all over the city.

The job is somewhat easier in more modern neighborhoods such as eastern New Orleans, where younger and more resilient pipes are able to tolerate high-pressure levels, said Dennis Ziegeler, a trainer with Entergy and 42-year veteran of the company's gas system.

Workers in those areas simply fill the pipes with pressurized air and blow out the water and debris through openings in the network, Ziegeler said.

Though gas is flowing again in the pipes running under most of the New Orleans neighborhoods that have been officially repopulated, many people returning to homes and businesses are finding their pipes empty.




Source: Entergy New Orleans STAFF MAP

Though not as critical as electricity and water, gas is an important service for 315,500 homes and businesses in the region. Cooking is virtually impossible without the service for people with gas stoves. And the service will become more critical for people with gas heaters as temperatures dip in the coming weeks.

In New Orleans, gas is available to 59,000 of Entergy New Orleans' 145,000 gas customers, or 41 percent, but only 12,000 meters have been turned on, said Rusty Burroughs, regent manager of Entergy's gas operations.

In the suburbs, Atmos has restored gas services in the parishes of Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany and the upper portion of Plaquemines Parish, Atmos spokesman Carl Weber said.

Gas service remains shut off for most or all of eastern New Orleans, St. Bernard Parish and lower Plaquemines Parish, areas that sustained the most damage from winds, storm surge and flooding and remain largely unpopulated.

After focusing on clearing flood water and debris from pipes in unflooded areas that are inhabitable, Entergy crews last week began working their way from neighborhoods along the Mississippi River toward the city's mid-section and the Lakefront.

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Keith Darcé can be reached at kdarce@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3491.

**"There are enough companies still open to where the insurance marketplace is still open."**
DAVID DANIEL, independent insurance agent

# Insurers have money to pay, expert says

**INSURANCE,** *from A-40*

**State Farm**, which controls 35 percent of the local homeowners' insurance market and is the state's largest carrier, has written dozens of policies in the New Orleans area since late August, said Dick Luedke, spokesman. But other large players have a moratorium on new business.

**Allstate Insurance**, the state's second-largest carrier, has had a moratorium on new homeowners policies since Katrina hit on Aug. 29, said April Eaton-Robinson, spokeswoman. However, the company has begun writing new automobile policies in the southern part of the state. And the company will write new homeowners coverage for existing policyholders.

"We will provide replacement policies for current customers who lost their homes and need a rental policy or need another homeowners policy," Eaton-Robinson said.

**St. Paul Travelers**, with 3 percent of the local business, was writing new policies in the state before the storm but has a temporary moratorium in place, said Jennifer Wislocki, spokesperson.

Agents are restricted from writing new policies "while we evaluate our position in the state," Wislocki said.

And **AAA Homeowners Insurance** is not writing in the 10 coastal parishes because of the damage sustained and an inability to determine the situation, said Mike Right, spokesperson. The carrier has 6,000 homeowner policies in the state.

"I think there are one or two" insurance carriers left that are writing new policies, said Don Beery, vice president and partner of Eustis Insurance. And those carriers who are writing policies will not cover newly purchased property until any damages are repaired, Beery said.

David Daniel, owner of the independent insurance agency **Daniel and Eustis** in Baton Rouge, said the moratoriums are not extensive enough to cause a problem for consumers who are displaced and buying new homes in Baton Rouge.

"There are enough companies still open to where the insurance marketplace is still open," Daniel said.

Insurance carriers often pull back on issuing new policies in areas that have just been hit with a disaster that results in a large number of insurance claims. Such curtailments help companies minimize their exposure in certain regions. Last year after four hurricanes hit Florida, some smaller companies pulled out of that state altogether and larger carriers stopped writing new business, said Jeff Grady of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents.

Grady also said insurance companies pushed up their rates between 15 and 30 percent after the hurricanes.

But Louisiana insurance reforms adopted by the state Legislature in 2003 have helped strengthen the local market.

The reforms made it easier for insurance companies to seek rate increases. They also combined two state-subsidized programs aimed at homeowners in flood-prone areas south of Interstate 10.

Insurance companies had found it difficult to compete with the state-sponsored FAIR and Coastal insurance programs, as they were called, because neither passed their full costs on to policyholders. The 2003 reforms merged the two programs into a newly created **Citizens Property Insurance Corp.**, an insurance program for those who can not get coverage on the open market at reasonable prices. It provides that policyholders shoulder a greater portion of the costs through deductibles and rates that are typically 10 percent higher than market rates. The plan can pay off excess liability by issuing bonds.

The Citizens plan remains a viable option for consumers who are having trouble getting insurance in the wake of Katrina. Since the hurricane, Citizens has written 400 to 500 new policies, mostly in northern Louisiana, said Terry Lisotta, executive director. Normally the state writes 2,500 to 3,000 new policies a month. Citizens has no limits on the amount of business it can write. However, buildings must be inspected to determine that they are not damaged before they can be covered by the plan.

In addition, the agency has provided temporary coverage to 700 new customers statewide. Such temporary coverage is often used to allow a consumer to go to a home closing.

Today, Citizens has 135,000 policyholders, Lisotta said, and 61,000 claims to process for Katrina. The plan has set aside reserves of $12,000 per claim, or a total $732 million, plus expenses for a total $900 million liability. He said claims have ranged from $300 to $35,000. The cap on an individual claim under this plan is $500,000. Citizens does not handle flood insurance claims, which are insured under a federally sponsored program.

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Mary Judice can be reached at mjudice@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3496.

# 'We're going to be the good news story'

**PLUSH,** *from A-40*



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

From left, Plush Appeal owner Daryl Fletchinger, his wife, Catherine, and daughter Alyssa, along with operations manager Garrett Plaisance, stand amid boxes of ruined toys in one of their warehouses.

But Fletchinger, like so many of his cohorts who have begun to repopulate New Orleans, is determined to rebuild. And his story is emblematic of the struggles of so many.

"We're going to be the good news story," he said. "We're tired of bad news. Certainly, there are a lot of obstacles, but it's important for people not to lose hope. I don't think giving up on the city is a viable alternative."

Returning to business, however, will be a viable alternative only after more work than Fletchinger ever imagined. The greatest challenges so far have been keeping customers, finding employees and securing money to rebuild.

Plush Appeal manufactures, imports and distributes stuffed toys that are used mostly in the claw vending machines found at carnivals, bowling alleys and the like. The company was preparing to ship its Halloween line when Hurricane Katrina forced it to shut down its Toulouse Street and North Cortez Street locations. What remains of that line is a soggy, molding mess of furry dogs and bears and monkeys strewn across the floor in boxes and bags. All will be destroyed.

The Mardi Gras Spot manufactures, imports and distributes beads and other Mardi Gras paraphernalia for about 45 New Orleans area Carnival krewes. The Mardi Gras Spot store opened at the beginning of the year to sell those products to individual consumers as well as to krewe members year-round.

Now that Plush Appeal's Halloween line has been wiped out, the company has turned its attention to its Christmas products. Using Nov. 1 as its deadline, Fletchinger and his small staff are plowing ahead toward restocking at least a part of the company's warehouse with goods to get out to clients.

"This month is absolutely crucial because I need to start shipping Christmas as soon as possible," he said. "Our customers that have Halloween merchandise in their machines want to have Christmas merchandise in their machines Nov. 1."

The good news for Fletchinger is that his customers are largely outside of Louisiana and spread throughout all 50 states, Canada and South America.

"That business is unaffected," he said.

Other local small businesses will not be so lucky.

"The biggest problem I would anticipate is (lack of) customers," said Paul Marshall, a professor of management at Harvard University School of Business. Small businesses "usually have customers nearby," he said.

Fletchinger, however, is worried that every day he is unable to supply his customers is another day that the customers can start buying merchandise from his competitors.

"It's difficult to get your customer base back when they've developed a rapport with your competitor," he said.

Already, money at the small company has become scarce. Fletchinger has begun spending from the company's reserves while waiting for relief to come.

He's bought two trailers to house employees, and laptop computers to replace the many desktop machines that were lost, all without federal or insurance assistance.

"Let's put it this way: Our insurance company, they told us they would give us money. We haven't seen it," he said.

Securing loans through the Small Business Administration hasn't been any easier.

"The paperwork is very extensive," he said. "The records they're requiring are extensive."

And getting those records has been a challenge in itself. The company lost all of its records in the flood and it has taken weeks to make contact with banks, accountants and insurance companies.

Though he understands that those institutions, too, have been hurt, his company is running short on time.

"We work on a hand-to-mouth system," he said. "The factories need money. If they don't have money, they can't buy material. If they can't buy material, they can't make our products. If they can't make our product, then we can't do business."

Another concern had been to what scale Carnival will return next year. Worry about the season has been tempered by the announcement Wednesday from some Carnival krewes that they will parade.

"The question is, do we scale back the orders some?" he said. "There's not one contract that we will not be able to honor, whether it's on the plush side or the bead side."

But like all other businesses in the New Orleans area, Plush Appeal and The Mardi Gras Spot are struggling to bring workers back.

To bring his workers closer, Fletchinger bought two 29-foot camper trailers for $75,000 in Lafayette. He's furnished them with pillows, linens and other necessities. The trailers sleep eight people each, he said.

He's spent $2,500 more on two laptops so they can begin to get back to work.

"That's another thing about this," he said. "Expenses that you never expect come along daily."

Even with all those worries, Fletchinger was giddy recently at the thought that reopening could happen soon. The trailers he ordered had arrived and workers had begun to return.

"What we're doing here on our own is coming along faster than expected. We're throwing every possible able-bodied man at this project," he said. "I think we're going to be better, bigger, stronger.

"If there has been one good thing, it's that the people who are doing the debris and trash removal have been coming the last couple days," he said. "They've been hauling wet inventory away. I don't know whose company this is or whose guys they are, but God bless them. That's been our pleasant surprise."

But in the post-hurricane environment, every blessing or pleasant surprise seems offset by a disappointment. That came later in the day for Fletchinger, when he was told that **BellSouth Corp.**, the company's telephone provider, would need another month to restore service to his facilities.

"That is a disastrous announcement," he said. "It really took a little of the wind out of the sails of my entire staff. It's hard to believe that it's going to take a whole month to get our phone service up and running."

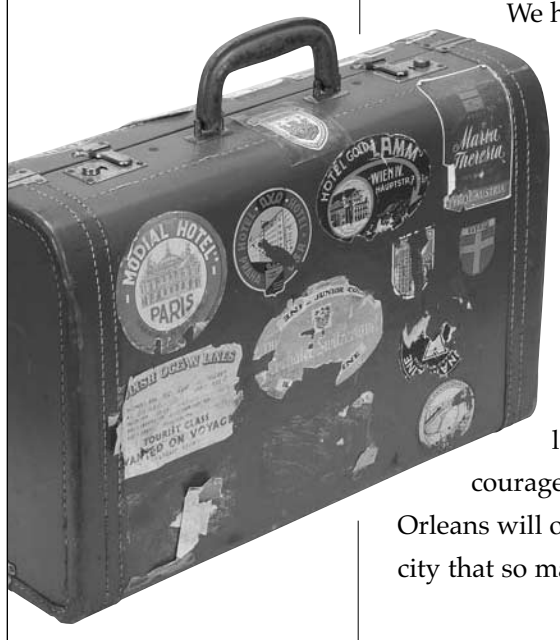
But a few minutes later, his mood cheered again.

"We're a 'never say die' bunch," he said.

•••••••

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**There's No Place Like Home.**




BUT THERE IS A PLACE LIKE HOUMA.

We have temporarily moved our New Orleans operations to our offices in Houma at 1340 W. Tunnel Blvd. As a part of the New Orleans community since 1923, we understand the strong ties that so many have to our city. We are committed to returning and helping restore our "home" as soon as we are able. This is a difficult time for many of our friends, and our hearts go out to all of those that have lost so much. But by working together and courageously facing the obstacles ahead, New Orleans will once again be the charming and enchanted city that so many will always call "home".

**"Home" is where your heart is.**

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# FUND TRACKER *Weekly spotlight on mutual fund performance*

## MUTUAL FUNDS IN 401(k) AND 403(b) PLANS OF MAJOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS

| Fund name | Last Fri. NAV | Week % chg | 13-wk % chg | YTD % chg | 3 yr ret./ rank | Fund obj. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AIM INVESTMENTS A:** | | | | | | |
| Constl p | 23.01 | -1.0 | ... | **+0.7** | +41.1/E | XG |
| GlGrA p | 18.88 | -1.2 | +1.5 | **+3.6** | +55.8/D | GL |
| PremEqty | 9.78 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-1.0** | +35.5/D | LC |
| **AMER CENTURY INV:** | | | | | | |
| EqInco n | 7.89 | -0.9 | -3.6 | **-1.4** | +47.0/D | EI |
| GNMAI n | 10.22 | -0.5 | -0.2 | **+1.4** | +8.3/C | MT |
| Growthl n | 19.31 | -0.7 | -3.4 | **-2.0** | +35.7/C | LG |
| IncGro n | 30.24 | -1.5 | -3.3 | **-0.2** | +56.0/D | XV |
| IntlGrol n | 9.55 | -0.3 | +5.4 | **+5.4** | +59.0/E | IL |
| StrAgg n | 7.82 | -1.3 | -0.6 | **+1.4** | +49.9/D | XC |
| StrConv n | 5.52 | -0.7 | -1.0 | **+0.6** | +28.2/D | MP |
| StrMod n | 6.75 | -1.0 | -0.7 | **+1.4** | +41.7/B | BL |
| Ultra n | 28.32 | -0.1 | -3.1 | **-4.0** | +35.6/C | LG |
| Vista n | 14.64 | -2.9 | -1.3 | **+0.8** | +59.5/C | MG |
| **AMERICAN FUNDS A:** | | | | | | |
| AmcapFA p | 18.08 | -0.4 | -2.8 | **-0.2** | +51.3/C | XC |
| AmMutlA p | 26.08 | -0.7 | -2.9 | **-0.1** | +46.5/E | XV |
| BalA p | 17.59 | -0.5 | -2.7 | **-0.7** | +43.8/A | BL |
| BondFdA p | 13.25 | -0.7 | -0.3 | **+0.7** | +27.4/A | AB |
| CapInBldA p | 52.38 | -1.2 | -0.4 | **+1.2** | +53.6/A | MP |
| CapWGrA p | 35.73 | -0.9 | +3.9 | **+7.0** | +96.3/A | GL |
| EupacA p | 39.28 | -1.1 | +6.7 | **+10.2** | +89.1/B | IL |
| FundInvA p | 33.24 | -1.2 | +0.3 | **+4.0** | +67.1/A | LV |
| GwthFdA p | 28.72 | -1.1 | -0.1 | **+4.9** | +64.8/B | XG |
| IncoFdA p | 18.01 | -1.3 | -2.4 | **-0.2** | +52.5/B | MP |
| InvCoAA p | 30.66 | -0.9 | -1.7 | **+1.0** | +49.8/D | LV |
| NewPerA p | 28.73 | -1.3 | +2.8 | **+3.6** | +76.2/B | GL |
| WshMutA p | 29.95 | -0.7 | -3.6 | **-1.3** | +46.8/E | LV |
| **DAVIS FUNDS A:** | | | | | | |
| NYVen A | 31.71 | -0.7 | -0.4 | **+3.3** | +63.4/A | LC |
| **DIMENSIONAL FDS:** | | | | | | |
| USLgVa2 n | 19.23 | -1.9 | -2.4 | **+3.2** | +78.1/A | XV |
| IntVa2 n | 16.19 | -0.4 | +6.8 | **+8.0** | +127.7/A | IL |
| **DODGE&COX:** | | | | | | |
| Balanced n | 79.51 | -0.6 | -0.2 | **+2.2** | +55.3/A | BL |
| Stock | 131.87 | -0.8 | -0.1 | **+2.9** | +77.9/A | XV |
| **DREYFUS:** | | | | | | |
| BasicS&P | 24.75 | -0.8 | -2.9 | **-0.8** | +47.8/A | SP |
| EmgLead | 44.83 | -1.2 | -1.8 | **+1.4** | +75.9/B | SG |
| **FIDELITY ADVISOR I:** | | | | | | |
| Balancedl | 15.97 | -1.4 | -0.7 | **-1.0** | +27.9/D | BL |
| EqGrl n | 47.71 | -0.6 | -2.0 | **-0.7** | +40.2/E | XC |
| Eqlnl | 28.49 | -1.0 | -2.5 | **+0.7** | +57.3/B | EI |
| GrOppl n | 30.31 | -1.3 | -2.7 | **-0.7** | +43.8/B | LC |
| IntBdl n | 10.92 | -0.5 | -0.3 | **+0.7** | +13.0/A | SB |
| Ovrseal | 18.62 | -0.6 | +3.8 | **+5.3** | +80.3/C | IL |
| **FIDELITY INVEST:** | | | | | | |
| AggrGr r | 16.40 | -1.8 | -2.6 | **-1.2** | +69.1/B | XG |
| AMgr | 15.89 | -0.4 | -1.4 | **-0.2** | +30.5/D | MP |
| AMgrGr n | 14.63 | -0.4 | -2.2 | **-1.3** | +36.5/C | MP |
| AMgrIn | 12.77 | -0.7 | +0.5 | **+2.6** | +29.4/D | MP |
| Balanc | 17.73 | -1.4 | -0.8 | **+3.7** | +59.8/A | BL |
| BlueChipGr | 40.81 | -0.5 | -3.0 | **-1.9** | +33.1/D | LC |
| Contra n | 60.74 | -1.2 | +0.9 | **+7.1** | +57.7/C | XG |
| DisEq n | 26.11 | -1.4 | -2.3 | **+3.2** | +48.7/B | LC |
| DiverIntl n | 30.89 | -1.2 | +5.4 | **+7.9** | +96.5/B | IL |
| DivGth n | 27.58 | -0.3 | -3.3 | **-2.3** | +36.1/D | LC |
| EqutInc n | 51.14 | -0.9 | -2.4 | **-0.9** | +55.0/B | EI |
| EQII n | 23.28 | -0.9 | -2.9 | **-1.2** | +55.1/B | EI |
| GNMA n | 10.87 | -0.5 | -0.3 | **+1.4** | +9.7/B | MT |
| GroCo n | 57.34 | -0.8 | -1.1 | **+2.3** | +74.0/A | XG |
| GroInc | 36.02 | -0.5 | -2.7 | **-1.9** | +29.9/E | LC |
| IntBd n | 10.29 | -0.4 | -0.2 | **+0.8** | +12.6/A | SB |
| InvGB n | 7.36 | -0.7 | -0.4 | **+1.3** | +14.6/B | IB |
| LowPr rn | 39.37 | -1.7 | -2.8 | **+1.7** | +89.8/B | MV |
| Magellan n | 102.38 | -0.7 | -3.1 | **-1.1** | +37.5/D | LC |
| OTC | 34.56 | -1.1 | -3.3 | **-0.4** | +53.4/D | XG |
| Puritan | 18.13 | -0.7 | -1.6 | **...** | +41.8/B | BL |
| STBF n | 8.86 | -0.1 | +0.3 | **+1.3** | +9.4/B | SB |
| USBI n | 10.88 | -0.6 | -0.5 | **+1.1** | +13.8/C | IB |
| **FIDELITY SPARTAN:** | | | | | | |
| EqutIndx n | 42.01 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.7** | +48.2/A | SP |
| 500Indx nr | 82.30 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.7** | +48.2/A | SP |
| **FRANK/TEMP FRNK A:** | | | | | | |
| BalInv p | 60.16 | -1.4 | -2.8 | **+3.3** | +77.8/D | MV |
| IncoSerA p | 2.40 | -1.6 | -3.7 | **+0.2** | +63.5/A | MP |
| SMCpGrA | 35.16 | -1.3 | -0.9 | **+2.9** | +75.4/A | MG |
| **FRANK/TEMP TEMP A:** | | | | | | |
| DevMktA p | 21.12 | -2.8 | +5.5 | **+14.9** | +149.8/C | EM |
| ForeignA p | 12.95 | -1.0 | +4.2 | **+5.3** | +71.1/D | IL |
| GrowthA p | 23.69 | -0.9 | +1.9 | **+3.5** | +71.5/B | GL |
| WorldA p | 18.86 | -1.2 | +2.1 | **+6.3** | +76.2/B | GL |
| **HIBERNIA FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| CapApB p | 17.96 | -0.9 | -3.5 | **...** | +37.9/D | LC |
| LA Mun | 11.11 | -0.3 | -0.6 | **+1.2** | +10.1/D | SS |
| TotalRet | 9.55 | -0.7 | -0.8 | **+0.4** | +7.7/E | IB |
| **IVY FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| IntlA p | 25.34 | -0.4 | +7.7 | **+8.4** | +66.4/E | IL |
| **JPMORGAN A CLASS:** | | | | | | |
| CorePlusBd | 7.77 | -0.5 | -0.5 | **+1.3** | +13.6/C | IB |
| EqIndx p | 27.02 | -0.8 | -2.9 | **-1.0** | +46.3/C | SP |
| InvCon p | 10.91 | -0.5 | -0.8 | **+1.1** | +23.6/E | MP |
| InvGr&InA p | 12.96 | -1.0 | -1.6 | **+0.6** | +43.4/E | XV |
| InvGrwth p | 13.85 | -1.1 | -1.7 | **+0.7** | +51.5/C | XC |
| LgCpGrA p | 15.00 | -0.8 | -2.6 | **-2.9** | +32.4/D | LG |
| **JANUS :** | | | | | | |
| Balanced n | 21.39 | -0.9 | -0.9 | **+1.9** | +28.0/D | BL |
| FlxBond | 9.45 | -0.6 | -0.6 | **+0.6** | +13.7/C | IB |
| Mercury n | 21.60 | -0.9 | +0.2 | **+0.1** | +51.7/A | LG |
| Twenty | 46.12 | -0.5 | +1.0 | **+2.9** | +60.1/A | LG |
| **LORD ABBETT A:** | | | | | | |
| AffiliatdA p | 14.35 | -0.8 | -1.0 | **-2.1** | +57.4/B | LV |
| **MFS FUNDS A:** | | | | | | |
| EmGrA p | 31.99 | -1.6 | -1.4 | **+0.1** | +52.6/D | XG |
| **MERRILL LYNCH I:** | | | | | | |
| BalaCapl | 26.37 | -0.6 | -1.6 | **-0.3** | +37.3/B | BL |
| BasVall | 29.66 | -1.1 | -2.9 | **-2.0** | +58.4/B | LV |
| **NORTHERN FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| Technly n | 10.97 | -1.3 | -4.7 | **-7.2** | +57.6/D | TK |
| **PIMCO ADMIN PIMS:** | | | | | | |
| TotRetAd n | 10.57 | -0.7 | -0.5 | **+1.6** | +15.7/B | IB |
| **PIMCO INSTL PIMS:** | | | | | | |
| TotRet n | 10.57 | -0.7 | -0.4 | **+1.8** | +16.6/A | IB |
| **PRICE FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| Balance n | 19.44 | -0.8 | -0.8 | **+1.4** | +42.4/B | BL |
| BlueChipG n | 30.49 | -0.8 | -3.0 | **-1.4** | +45.1/A | LG |
| Eqlnc n | 25.79 | -1.0 | -3.3 | **-1.1** | +54.8/B | EI |
| Eqldx n | 31.91 | -0.8 | -2.9 | **-0.9** | +47.4/B | SP |
| IntStk n | 13.89 | -0.1 | +7.1 | **+7.4** | +73.0/D | IL |
| MidCap n | 52.55 | -1.7 | +0.3 | **+5.4** | +86.4/A | MG |
| NwHrzn n | 30.22 | -1.8 | -3.2 | **+3.4** | +99.7/A | SG |
| Newlnco n | 8.96 | -0.6 | -0.5 | **+1.5** | +15.2/C | AB |
| **SCUDDER FUNDS S:** | | | | | | |
| GrEurGro | 28.90 | -2.1 | +3.7 | **+6.5** | +75.5/D | EU |
| **TIAA-CREF FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| BondPlus | 10.12 | -0.6 | -0.5 | **+1.2** | +12.8/C | IB |
| GroInc | 12.15 | -1.0 | -2.1 | **+0.5** | +44.4/B | LC |
| GroEqty | 9.08 | -0.9 | -2.0 | **-1.0** | +37.9/C | LG |
| IntlEqty | 11.36 | -1.0 | +7.0 | **+6.5** | +89.4/B | IL |
| MgdAllc | 11.04 | -0.9 | -1.1 | **+0.6** | +41.2/C | MP |
| **VANGUARD ADMIRAL:** | | | | | | |
| 500Adml n | 109.38 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.7** | +48.5/A | SP |
| TotStkAdm n | 28.42 | -1.0 | -2.8 | **...** | +56.3/B | XC |
| **VANGUARD FDS:** | | | | | | |
| GNMA n | 10.25 | -0.5 | -0.1 | **+1.8** | +10.1/A | MT |
| HlthCare n | 137.57 | -0.5 | +1.9 | **+9.8** | +54.9/B | HB |
| IntlGr | 20.08 | -0.6 | +6.4 | **+6.5** | +84.2/C | IL |
| Morgan n | 16.47 | -0.8 | -2.1 | **+0.9** | +54.9/C | XG |
| Prmcp r | 62.64 | -0.8 | -0.5 | **+0.5** | +75.2/A | XC |
| USGro n | 16.46 | -1.0 | -1.5 | **+1.7** | +38.3/B | LG |
| Welltn n | 30.34 | -1.0 | +0.1 | **+2.6** | +46.0/A | BL |
| Wndsr n | 17.68 | -1.1 | -3.8 | **-1.4** | +69.2/B | XV |
| WndsII n | 31.19 | -1.3 | -2.5 | **+2.5** | +68.0/A | LV |
| **VANGUARD IDX FDS:** | | | | | | |
| 500 n | 109.38 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.8** | +48.2/A | SP |
| SmCap n | 26.95 | -1.9 | -3.8 | **+0.5** | +94.4/B | SC |
| TotBond n | 10.03 | -0.7 | -0.7 | **+1.1** | +12.0/C | IB |
| TotIntl n | 13.53 | -0.8 | +6.0 | **+7.4** | +94.4/B | IL |
| TotStk n | 28.42 | -1.0 | -2.8 | **-0.1** | +55.9/B | XC |
| **VANGUARD INSTL FDS:** | | | | | | |
| Instldx n | 108.49 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.7** | +48.7/A | SP |
| InsPl n | 108.49 | -0.8 | -2.8 | **-0.7** | +48.8/A | SP |
| TBIst n | 10.03 | -0.7 | -0.6 | **+1.2** | +12.4/C | IB |
| **VICTORY FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| ConvSecA | 12.24 | -0.5 | -0.3 | **-1.7** | +33.1/D | MP |
| **VILLERE & CO.** | | | | | | |
| VillereBalanc | 15.41 | -1.7 | -4.6 | **-0.9** | +64.5/A | BL |

### WHAT'S ON THE LIST

The list above includes the 50 largest mutual funds plus many funds found in 401(k) and 403(b) retirement plans of major local employers. If your employer's retirement plan offers a mutual fund not listed here, please call (504) 826-3418 to see if it can be included. Please identify the fund by its group name, fund name and ticker symbol. Pension plans and individual stocks cannot be listed. The lists of Top 10 and Bottom 10 Performing Funds and The Top 5 Funds by Objective are drawn from all funds on the market.

### HOW TO USE THIS CHART

This chart is designed to let you track the performance of your mutual fund, and compare it against the performance of others. Heres what to look for, column by column: **Last Fri. NAV** refers to the net asset value, or per share value, for each fund at the end of the trading day Friday. **Week % chg** is how much, on a percentage basis, the fund grew or decreased in value during the previous week. **13-wk % chg** indicates performance over the past 13 weeks. **YTD % chg** indicates performance since Jan. 1. The next column, **yr return/rank**, shows performance over time relative to other funds, and will change week to week. If this is the first Sunday of the month, it shows **1-yr return/rank**, which is the performance over the past year; the second Sunday, the column will be **2-yr return/rank**, showing cumulative performance over the past two years; and so on, up to five years cumulative performance, in those months with five Sundays. The **rank** gives a letter grade, A-E, for each fund. An A fund is in the top 20 percent of all funds with the same objective. A B fund represents the next 20 percent, on down to an E fund, which is performing in the bottom 20 percent of funds with like objectives. The last column, **Fund objective**, indicates what kind of fund it is. Funds are categorized based on what their objective is, such as investment in certain industry sectors, long-range growth, international stocks, etc. See below for a key to the abbreviations in this column.

## TOP 10 PERFORMING FUNDS

| Funds ranked by 1-week return | Fund objective | Pct. load | Assets (millions) | Total return (Pct.) 1 wk. | 1 yr. | 5 yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ProFunds Inv Cl: UltraJapan | PR | NL | 158 | **+3.9** | +50.1 | -45.9 |
| **ProFunds Inv Cl:** UltShSmCp | SQ | NL | 134 | **+3.5** | -23.4 | NS |
| **ProFunds Serv:** UlShtSmCp p | SQ | NL | 5 | **+3.5** | -24.3 | NS |
| **JapanSmCo n** | PR | NL | 85 | **+3.3** | +24.5 | NS |
| **Fidelity Invest:** Japan n | PR | NL | 977 | **+3.0** | +28.6 | -14.2 |
| **Price Funds:** Japan n | PR | NL | 270 | **+2.8** | +29.8 | -9.5 |
| **ProFunds Inv Cl:** RRatesOpp | MP | NL | 449 | **+2.5** | -5.3 | NS |
| **ProFunds Serv:** RRatesOpp p | MP | NL | 38 | **+2.5** | -6.3 | NS |
| **Dimensional Fds:** Japan n | PR | NL | 139 | **+2.4** | +28.8 | +80.0 |
| **Rydex H Class:** LCpJapnH p | PR | NL | 125 | **+2.4** | +21.4 | -40.0 |

## BOTTOM 10 PERFORMING FUNDS

| Funds ranked by 1-week return | Fund objective | Pct. load | Assets (millions) | Total return (Pct.) 1 wk. | 1 yr. | 5 yrs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ProFunds Inv Cl: PrecMetal n | AU | NL | 117 | **-7.8** | +10.8 | NS |
| **US Global Investors:** EstnEuro p | EM | NL | 968 | **-6.8** | +43.1 | +382.3 |
| **Fidelity Selects:** Gold rn | AU | NL | 837 | **-5.3** | +16.0 | +199.1 |
| **Amer Century Inv:** GlblGold n | AU | NL | 699 | **-5.1** | +8.0 | +249.3 |
| **Rydex Investor:** PrecMetls | AU | NL | 206 | **-4.9** | +.2 | +143.9 |
| **US Global Investors:** GldShr | AU | NL | 91 | **-4.9** | +14.5 | +258.4 |
| **US Global Investors:** WldPrcMin n | AU | NL | 332 | **-4.8** | +16.5 | +312.7 |
| **RiverSource/AXP A:** PrecMt | AU | 5.8 | 69 | **-4.8** | +4.6 | +191.0 |
| **ING Funds Cl A:** PrecMtlA | AU | 5.8 | 93 | **-4.8** | +12.2 | +215.5 |
| **PIA Funds:** OCM Gold t | AU | 4.5 | 79 | **-4.8** | +4.2 | +267.4 |

## THE TOP 5 FUNDS BY OBJECTIVE, 6-MONTH RETURN (Pct.)

**CAPITAL APPRECIATION**
- Managers Funds: SMicCpGr np +15.8
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** 2020FocZ +12.2
- **JennisonDryden A:** 2020FocA +12.0
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** BlendZ +11.8
- **JennisonDryden A:** BlendA +11.7

**GROWTH**
- Del Inv Instl: SelGrowI +17.7
- **Forum Funds:** WinslGrGr r +17.6
- **Delaware Invest A:** SelGrA p +17.5
- **Delaware Invest C:** SelGrC p +17.1
- **Delaware Invest B:** SelGrB t +17.1

**EQUITY INCOME**
- Waddell & Reed Adv: DivIncomA p +5.1
- **Ivy Funds:** DividIncoA p +5.0
- **AmanaInco n** +4.9
- **RiverSource/AXP Y:** DEI n +4.8
- **RiverSource/AXP A:** DEI +4.7

**GROWTH AND INCOME**
- Managers Funds: SMicCpGr np +15.8
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** 2020FocZ +12.2
- **JennisonDryden A:** 2020FocA +12.0
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** BlendZ +11.8
- **JennisonDryden A:** BlendA +11.7

**BALANCED, MIXED PORTFOLIO**
- Bruce Fund +14.5
- **Waddell & Reed Adv:** AssetS p +11.8
- **Waddell & Reed Adv:** AssetSB t +11.3
- **Waddell & Reed Adv:** AssetS C +11.3
- **Ivy Funds:** AssetStrA p +11.2

**MID CAP**
- Needham Funds: GrowthFds p +11.5
- **GAM Funds:** GamericaA p +10.4
- **Brandywine Fds:** Advisors np +10.3
- **Mellon Funds:** MidCapStk +8.0
- **BlackRock A:** USOppA +7.6

**SMALL CAP**
- Managers Funds: SMicCpGr np +15.8
- **RHJSmCp** +10.5
- **Royce Funds:** PremierI nr +9.8
- **Royce Funds:** ValuePlus +9.8
- **Federated A:** SmCoGr p +9.7

**GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL**
- Van Eck Funds: GlHardA +19.6
- **Oppenheimer A:** IntlSmlCoA +16.8
- **Amer Century Inv:** IntlOppt n +16.3
- **Oppenheimer C&M:** IntSmCoC t +16.3
- **Oppenheimer B:** IntSmCo t +16.2

**EUROPE, LAT AMER, PAC RIM**
- Price Funds: LatAm n +33.9
- **ProFunds Inv Cl:** UltraJapan +31.2
- **Scudder Funds S:** LatAmer n +30.8
- **Merrill Lynch I:** LatAmI +30.6
- **Merrill Lynch A:** LatAmAt +30.4

**EMERGING MARKETS**
- ING Funds Cl A: RussiaA p +26.0
- **Price Funds:** EmgEurope +25.6
- **Lazard Instl:** EmgMktI +19.7
- **Lazard Open:** EmgMktOp p +19.7
- **Oppenheimer A:** DevMktA p +19.1

**HEALTH/BIOTECH, SCI & TECH**
- ProFunds Inv Cl: Internet +20.8
- **Fidelity Selects:** Broker n +19.8
- **WirelessFd** +18.8
- **Columbia Funds:** Tech Z n +17.2
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** HlthSciZ +15.7

**UTILITIES**
- JennisonDryden A: UtilityA +14.4
- **JennisonDryden Z&I:** Utility Z +14.4
- **JennisonDryden B:** UtilityB +14.0
- **JennisonDryden C:** UtilityC +13.9
- **Evergreen A:** UtilityA +11.1

**SHORT-TERM GOV'T BOND**
- Oppenheimer A: LtdTrmMu +3.3
- **Oppenheimer C&M:** LtdTmMuC t +3.0
- **Oppenheimer B:** LtdTmMuB t +2.9
- **Oppenheimer Roch:** LtdNYA p +2.6
- **Oppenheimer Roch:** LtdNYC t +2.3

**GENERAL TAXABLE BONDS**
- PIMCO Instl PIMS: DiverInco +3.1
- **Loomis Sayles:** StrIncA +3.1
- **AllianceBern A:** GlStrIncA p +2.8
- **Loomis Sayles:** StrIncB +2.7
- **Loomis Sayles:** StrInc C +2.7

**GENERAL MUNI, INSURED MUNI**
- Eaton Vance Cl A: NatlMun +3.7
- **Eaton Vance Cl B:** NatlMunB t +3.3
- **Eaton Vance Cl C:** NatlMC t +3.3
- **Oppenheimer A:** AMTFrMuA +3.2
- **Oppenheimer B:** AMTFrMuB +2.9

**LONG-TERM CORP BOND**
- Loomis Sayles: LSBondI +3.3
- **Loomis Sayles Inv:** LSFxdInc +3.2
- **Loomis Sayles:** LSBondR +3.2
- **MorganStanley Inst:** CrPlFInst n +2.3
- **MorganStanley Inst:** CorPlFxIn n +2.3

**LONG-TERM TREAS/GOVT**
- HussmnTtlRet r +3.3
- **Amer Century Inv:** Tar2025 n +2.9
- **Wasatch:** USTryFd +2.7
- **Amer Century Inv:** Tar2020 n +2.2
- **Vanguard Admiral:** LTsryAdml +2.1

**INTERMEDIATE BONDS**
- MorganStanley Inst: Muni n +2.2
- **Delaware Invest A:** MN IntmT A +2.1
- **Columbia Class Z:** ORIntMuBdZ +1.7
- **Schroder Funds:** MuniBdI +1.7
- **Delaware Invest A:** TxIntA p +1.6

**SINGLE-STATE MUNICIPAL DEBT**
- Oppenheimer A: CAMuniA p +4.7
- **Oppenheimer B:** CAMuniB +4.3
- **Oppenheimer C&M:** Calif Mun C +4.3
- **Oppenheimer A:** NJMuniA +4.0
- **Oppenheimer A:** PAMuniA p +3.8

**MORTGAGE**
- TCW Galileo Fds: TotlRetBdI +2.1
- **TCW Galileo N:** TotRtBdN p +2.0
- **JPMorgan Sel Cls:** MtgBckdSl n +1.6
- **JP Morgan Ultra:** MtgBacked +1.6
- **TCU USDrGv** +1.4

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND FOOTNOTES

**AB:** Long-term investment-grade corporate bond. **AU:** Gold oriented. **BL:** Balanced. **EI:** Equity income. **EM:** Emerging markets. **EU:** European region. **GL:** Global (includes U.S.). **GM:** General Municipal Bond. **GT:** General taxable bond. **HB:** Health/Biotech. **HC:** High-yield taxable bond. **HM:** High-yield municipal bond. **IB:** Intermediate-term investment-grade corporate bond. **IG:** Intermediate-term Treasury/government debt. **IL:** International (outside U.S.). **IM:** Intermediate-term municipal bond. **LC:** Large-cap core. **LG:** Large-cap growth. **LT:** Latin American. **LU:** Long-term Treasury/government debt. **LV:** Large-cap value. **MC:** Mid-cap core. **MG:** Mid-cap growth. **MT:** Mortgage. **MP:** Mixed portfolio (stocks & bonds). **MV:** Mid-cap value. **NM:** Insured municipal bond. **PR:** Pacific region. **SB:** Short-term investment-grade corporate bond. **SC:** Small-cap core. **SE:** Sector (specific industries). **SG:** Small-cap growth. **SM:** Short-term municipal debt. **SP:** S&P 500. **SQ:** Specialty. **SS:** Single-state municipal debt. **SU:** Short-term Treasury/government debt. **SV:** Small-cap value. **TK:** Science & Technology. **UN:** Unclassified. **UT:** Utility. **WB:** World bond. **XC:** Multi-cap core. **XG:** Multi-cap growth **XV:** Multi-cap value.
**FOOTNOTES: e:** Extra capital gains distribution. **s:** Stock dividend or split. **x:** Extra cash dividend. **f:** Previous day's quote. **n** or **nl:** No up-front sales charge. **p:** Fund assets are used to pay for distribution costs. **r:** Redemption fee for contingent deferred sales load may apply. **t:** Both p and r. **y:** Fund not in existence for one year. **NE:** Data in question. **NS:** Fund did not exist at the start date. **NA:** No information available. Mutual fund information and rankings by Lipper Analytical Services.

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# Natural beef horns in on sales

*Stores stampeding to sell new product*

**By Jeff Barnard**
Associated Press writer

BROTHERS, Ore. — Back in 1986, with red meat becoming a dirty word in a more health-conscious United States, a group of cattle ranchers gathered in Doc and Connie Hatfield's barn to talk about finding a new market for their beef.

After hearing from a trainer at a health club, they chose what has come to be known as natural beef — produced without growth hormones or antibiotics, and fed exclusively vegetable feeds — and market it directly to natural food stores, where they could get a premium price.

"We were going broke. We were whining about how tough things were," said Connie Hatfield, one of the founders of the co-op Country Natural Beef, widely sold as Oregon Country Beef. Then "we found out about the market for antibiotic- and hormone-free beef."

Thanks to concerns about mad cow disease, the success of natural foods stores and Americans' growing desire to know where their food comes from, natural meat is one of the beef industry's fastest-growing sectors. Over the past 10 years, Oregon Country Beef has gone from processing 3,400 head a year to 40,000. Since the mad cow scare in 2003, production has more than doubled, with a 73 percent increase over the past year.

Estimated at $500 million to $550 million a year, the market for natural and organic beef accounts for less than 1 percent of overall U.S. beef production, but is growing about 20 percent annually, while overall beef production of 24.6 billion pounds this year is down from 25.1 billion in 1995, according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture definition, almost anyone can slap a "natural" label on minimally processed beef. But through the efforts of ranchers and natural beef marketers, natural beef has come to be defined as raised without antibiotics or growth hormones, and never fed the meat byproducts that can carry mad cow disease. Organic beef must meet strict regulations, including the requirement that cattle eat only organic feed.

One of the pioneers and industry leaders is **Coleman Purely Natural** in Golden, Colo. Chairman Mel Coleman Jr. said the company will be pressing the USDA to make the "natural" label for beef more definitive.

The growing demand has moved natural beef into mainstream stores. For example, **Laura's Lean** meats are sold in **Albertson's** and **Fred Meyer** stores in Oregon, and shoppers on **Fresh Direct**, a New York-based Internet grocer, can choose from USDA choice top sirloin steak for $4.99 a pound and **Creekstone Farms** antibiotic-free choice top sirloin for $5.99.

At the Newport Avenue Market in Bend, Ore., where all the beef sold is **Oregon Country Beef**, most customers are looking for taste and tenderness, meat manager Randy Yochum said.

But many are also like swim instructor Ulani Levy, whose father is a toxicologist, and who's concerned about antibiotics in her food and hormones given to cattle to make them grow faster.

"I'll be eating this the rest of my life," she said, packages of natural T-bone steaks in her hand.

Still, Coleman said he can count on the fingers of both hands the outfits doing more than $1 million a year in sales.

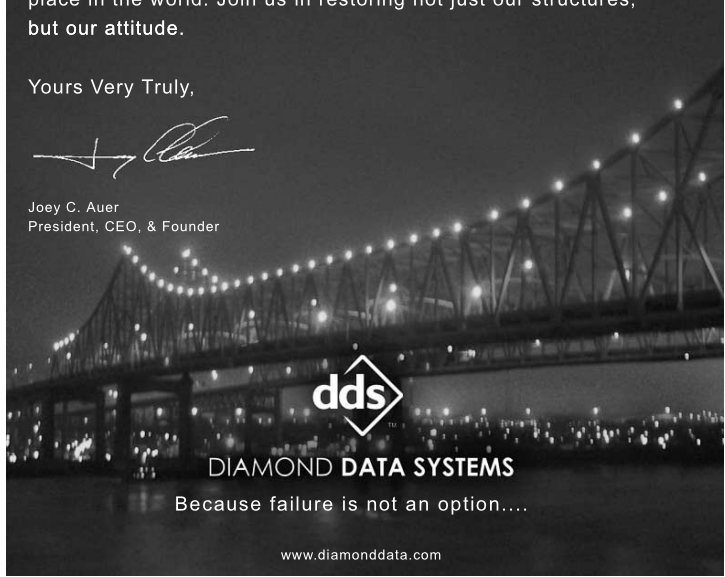
Oregon Country Beef made a key move last year when it made a deal with Burgerville, a Vancouver, Wash., chain dedicated to locally produced and sustainable foods, to produce all their hamburger.

Oregon Country Beef's growth has also been tied to getting into dozens of **Whole Foods Markets**, a chain with 176 stores in the United States, Britain and Canada, and 65 more in development.

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Joey C. Auer
President, CEO, & Founder




CHARLES A. JAFFE

*Your Funds*

# Fund basics worthy of reviewing

Alfred from Daytona Beach, Fla., dropped me a note, pointing out that my recent two-part quiz helped him learn about mutual funds, but did not answer his burning question.

"I bet there are a lot of questions that don't really teach people like me how funds work, but which might help us learn how to better work with our funds," Alfred wrote. "Maybe you could answer one of those for me."

He's right, of course. Investing in funds involves more than just knowing how a fund operates. With that in mind, here are a few recent basic questions from readers who wanted to know more about funds than "what's happening now."

**Question, from Alfred in Daytona Beach:** I want to put a few hundred dollars into mutual funds for my grandchildren, but my broker tells me that he can't do it in the funds I own now. There must be a way to open a small account. Can you tell me how to do it?

**Answer:** Many funds waive account minimums for accounts that are registered for children, so start by investigating the funds you currently own (your broker may not be aware of the rules, as many load funds do not normally offer low minimum investments).

What's more, many funds will waive account minimums simply for agreeing to make regular deposits drawn electronically from a bank account. So even if a fund says it has a $10,000 or $25,000 minimum, call its service line to see if the amount can be waived.

If you want to shop low-minimum funds or those that waive minimums, check out the Web site of the Mutual Fund Education Alliance, www.mfea.com. In the 'mutual fund center' there, the Alliance has a section on funds you can get into for $50 or less, as well as low-minimum funds.

One warning about funds with low minimums: Carrying a lot of small accounts comes at a price, typically above-average expenses.

**Question, from Jules in Timonium, Md.:** I am a new investor, and I own three funds, two large-cap growth funds and one small-cap fund. I could invest a little more, and I am wondering if I should put it into the same funds or into something different. How many funds should I buy?

**Answer:** This is not a right-or-wrong answer question. Many life-cycle funds are designed to be a one-size-fits-all asset-allocation option, growing more conservative as the investor ages; you could argue that they are appropriate as a complete portfolio in a single fund.

The bigger issue is that proper portfolio construction centers on buying different asset classes, and never holding too many funds in one category. Most studies show that four funds in one category — like large-cap growth — creates a 'closet index fund,' where the performance tends to mimic an index for that asset type, but the costs are those of active management.

So adding additional funds makes sense, provided they cover bonds, or international stocks, or something not currently represented in the portfolio. If the next purchase is another large-cap growth fund, however, the diversification effect is reduced; that's not building a portfolio, it's assembling a collection, which can be a mistake.

**Question, from an anonymous e-mailer:** How do I decide if I should take my funds' dividends in cash, or reinvest the money in the fund?

**Answer:** Again, there is no right answer, but it mostly depends on needs. If you own a fund in a taxable account, you will owe taxes on any payouts you receive whether you take the money or roll it back into the fund, so the decision comes down to a few issues:

► Do you need the cash? Most equity funds make a payout near the end of the year, and if you will need cash to pay taxes or cover other expenses, taking a distribution in cash certainly beats the accounting headaches that can come from selling shares to scare up liquid assets.

► Do you want to increase your holdings in the fund? If you need to rebalance — moving some of your cash to an asset class that holds a less-prominent position in your portfolio — or simply want to set a limit because a fund represents too big a chunk of your overall assets, take the money and move it elsewhere.

If you own several funds run by the same firm, find out if the company offers a cross-reinvestment program. This allows you to take the distribution you get from one fund and automatically roll it into a second fund, a kind of automatic rebalancing plan.

•••••••

Got a basic fund question like these that you want to see answered in print? Send it to Chuck Jaffe, senior columnist for MarketWatch, at jaffe@marketwatch.com or at Box 70, Cohasset, MA 02025-0070.

## MARKET WEEK

*This week's closings*

**ENERGY PRICES**

**SOUTH LOUISIANA SWEET CRUDE**
UP 39¢ for the week
WEEK CLOSE: $63.18
YEAR AGO: $55.06
(Dollars per barrel)

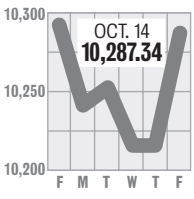
**NATURAL GAS**
DOWN 94¢ for the week
WEEK CLOSE: $12.80
YEAR AGO: $5.77
(Dollars per million BTU)

**30 YR. T-BONDS**
UP .05
WEEK CLOSE: 6.03%

**S&P 500**
DOWN 9.33
WEEK CLOSE: 1,186.57

**NASDAQ**
DOWN 25.52
WEEK CLOSE: 2,064.83

**DOW JONES**
DOWN 4.97
HIGH: 10,287.34
LOW: 10,216.59




# MONEY WATCH

YOUR GUIDE TO PERSONAL FINANCE

# How to right your financial ship



MARY JUDICE

*Money Matters*

It's been seven weeks since I last wrote, and, needless to say, much has happened in all of our lives.

Most of our finances have been turned upside down.

We've learned a lot about federal assistance, the Red Cross and how to access help. From those first frantic days after Hurricane Katrina when getting cash was a major accomplishment, to now when we're talking about rebuilding and wonder how we will put our lives back together, it has been a roller-coaster ride fraught with uncertainty.

And it's not over. That's the subject of this column.

If you're like most of us, you have your ups and downs. There are so many decisions to be made.

I ran into my doctor this week, and he admitted that he is very confused. Having lost his home and car, and not knowing how he will restart his practice, he doesn't know where to start.

He's not alone.

We have many decisions to make, both financial and non-financial.

Managing has never been more important. I think it's a good idea to track your spending, which for me is a natural curb on spending. Not only do you know how much you are spending, but you may be able to better distinguish needs and wants.

It's smart to keep your expenses in check, because though you may currently have reprieves on credit card bills, taxes and mortgage payments, these debts will come due soon.

Here are a few other tips to follow:

► Keep logs on your conversations with insurance adjusters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, bankers and the like. For most of us, the past six weeks have been a blur with days running together. You may need to get back in touch with these people or review decisions you have made. Keeping a diary will help you keep track of whom you have talked to and when.

► Save receipts for most expenses, because they may be tax deductible and you may be able to make insurance claims for some of the expenses. I haven't researched this fully, and we are not far enough along in the process to know how all of this will be handled. But it will be good to have the necessary documentation if you need to itemize expenses.



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY TONY CHAMPAGNE

► Times like this call for organization. While The Times-Picayune was publishing from Baton Rouge, I borrowed a nephew's backpack, bought some file folders and began to create a file system for work and for my personal business. Now I'm in the process of emptying the backpack and creating permanent files.

► Take pictures of damage and let your insurer know that you have these pictures. And follow through on claims. I understand that some of them are more complicated, such as receiving a settlement check for a totaled car. You may need to give your insurer power of attorney so your totaled car can be towed. This will allow you to move ahead in getting your life back in order.

Also, as you settle claims you will have a better idea of the resources you have to start over.

During our six weeks in exile, I collected a bevy of questions from readers who managed to get through to us in Baton Rouge and from my colleagues who are working through the same quandaries you are facing.

There were issues of how shopping for a car and a home simultaneously will affect your credit score, how to handle mortgage payments, whether FEMA checks are taxable and when you can apply for federal assistance.

I will deal with these and other questions of immediate importance going forward. And I will attempt to recap the legislative solutions that have been implemented.

It's good to be back. I look forward to hearing from you.

•••••••

Mary Judice can be reached at mjudice@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3496.

## THE MOTLEY FOOL

*In Elizabethan days, Fools were the only people who could get away with telling the truth to the King or Queen. The Motley Fool tells the truth about investing, and hopes you'll laugh all the way to the bank.*

**ASK THE FOOL**

### Gift shares

**Q: Can I give single shares of stock as holiday gifts? If so, how?**
T.D., Oradell, N.J.

**A:** This is a wonderful gift idea that could transform your loved ones' financial futures.

There are several Web sites where you can buy one share of a stock as a gift. Examples include www.registerstock.com, www.oneshare.com and www.frameastock.com. It's not the smartest way to invest for yourself, though, as you might end up paying $15 or more in fees to buy one $30 share of stock (that would put you down 50 percent from the get-go). But if it's a gift, then the recipient ends up with a $30 stock that might be worth $60 or more one day. It sure beats giving a sweater that never gets worn.

If you're buying stock for yourself, take commissions and fees into account. Try to not pay more than 2 percent or 3 percent of an investment's value in fees. (For a $500 investment, that would be $10 or $15.) Learn more about how to invest effectively with just a few dollars via direct investment plans or dividend reinvestment plans (DRIPs) at www.dripcentral.com and www.fool.com/School/DRIPs.htm.

•••••••

**Q: What is the Federal Reserve?**
C.Y., Martinsville, Ind.

**A:** Founded by Congress in 1913, it's the central bank of the United States. In its own words, the Fed's duty is "conducting the nation's monetary policy by influencing money and credit conditions in the economy in pursuit of full employment and stable prices; promoting the stability of the financial system; providing banking services to depository institutions and to the federal government; and ensuring that consumers receive adequate information and fair treatment in their interactions with the banking system." Learn more at www.federalreserve.gov.

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### 529 plans 101

Saving for a college education is a daunting task, especially with many schools charging more than $20,000 per year. To maximize savings while minimizing taxes, many folks are using Coverdell IRAs (formerly known as Education IRAs) and custodial accounts. There's also a (relatively) new option you should consider: the 529 plan.

A 529 plan allows you to either prepay tuition for qualified colleges or save funds in a tax-free account to be used to pay higher education costs. You can do this for any child in your life — your kid, your grandkid or the kid next door who mows your lawn. (If you're going back to school, you can even set up a 529 plan for yourself.) You don't necessarily have to live in the state of the plan that you choose, either.

A 529 plan allows you to sock away huge sums of money — more than $200,000 in some states — versus the maximum annual Coverdell IRA contribution of $2,000. Most 529 plans have no age or income limitations, so higher-bracket taxpayers can participate. Another advantage is that the person who establishes the account decides when distributions may be taken.

Also, 529 plan earnings aren't taxed, so you can build a big war chest much faster than if you had to pay taxes on the investment gains and income every year. When the money is used to pay for qualified college expenses, the earnings are federal tax-free. (This is true through 2010, at least.)

There are some drawbacks to 529 plans, though. If the student doesn't go to college, there may be a 10 percent penalty on the earnings, depending on the circumstances. Additionally, the funds in the 529 plan account are managed by plan administrators, not by you (which is actually a plus for some folks). Finally, once the money is in the plan, it must stay there — or in another 529 plan.

Still, 529 plans are many people's best bets. Some are much better than others, though. Learn more at www.savingforcollege.com, www.collegeboard.com, www.fool.com/college and "The Motley Fool's Guide to Paying for School" (Motley Fool, $12.50) by Robert Brokamp.

**THE MOTLEY FOOL TAKE**

### Healthy Amazon

Online retailer Amazon.com (Nasdaq: AMZN) took another step toward redemption recently when Standard & Poor's raised its rating from B+ to BB-. This means that although Amazon's creditors aren't exactly staring at investment-grade paper, at least they're getting closer.

The timing of the upgrade is sweet, considering that U.S. retail sales dipped by 2.1 percent in August, the nation's worst showing in nearly three years. It's also a handy retort to cynics who figured that the company was a likely bankruptcy candidate a few years back, given its red ink at the time.

In fact, Amazon, a Motley Fool Stock Advisor (www.fooladvisor.com) recommendation, is in much finer shape these days. This past quarter, the company's free cash flow rose by 37 percent on a 26 percent spike in sales. And today's Amazon is also a global force, with 45 percent of its worldwide sales coming from outside the United States.

The higher rating means creditors should offer lower borrowing rates, perceiving loans to Amazon as less risky. Then again, Amazon's been working on a better plan to achieve the same end: It's been paying off its debt. It now sports $1.5 billion in long-term debt, quite a bit less than the $2.3 billion on its balance sheet at the end of 2002. Sales have nearly doubled in that time, too. This is a healthy, growing company.

**NAME THAT COMPANY**

Not long after the Wright brothers took flight in 1903, my founder turned a shipyard into an airplane factory. Business stalled after World War I, so for a while I made furniture and boats. You may have heard of my B-52s or my Stratoliners, or you may have flown on one of my 707s, 727s, 747s or even my Air Force One. I've also made subway cars and wind turbines, among other things. Since 1996, I've merged with or bought part of Rockwell International and Hughes Electronics and merged with McDonnell Douglas. I moved my headquarters from Seattle to Chicago in 2001. Who am I?

**LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER**




I was founded in 1833, when two fellows began selling herbs, roots, leaves, bark and vegetable extracts. Today I'm the 16th-largest corporation in America, raking in more than $50 billion annually. I'm the leading provider of supply, information and care management products and services to the health care industry, helping firms reduce costs and streamline processes. I provide pharmaceutical and medical-surgical supply management, such as health care information technology for hospitals and physicians, and hospital and retail pharmacy automation. Based in San Francisco, I employ more than 24,000 people worldwide. Who am I? (Answer: McKesson)



**WRITE TO US!**

Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to Fool@fool.com or write:

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197 West Bank Expy.
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Express Locations
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**Kenner** Esplanade Mall, 1401 W Esplanade Ave., 504-471-4967
**Metairie** Lakeside Mall, 3401 Veterans Blvd., 504-833-3305
**New Orleans** The Plaza Mall, 5700 Read Blvd., 504-244-1060
**Raceland** Wal-Mart, LA Hwy. 1, 985-532-6454
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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B

Sunday, October 16, 2005

DEATHS • B-7
EDITORIALS • B-10



SHEILA STROUP

## *Exile clings to stories about N.O.*

The first time I talked to Dorothy McLeod after Hurricane Katrina, she asked me to send her some copies of The Times-Picayune.

"Are you sure?" I said. "They aren't going to make you feel any better."

Yes, she was sure, she said.

I'd been worrying about my friend for 2 ½ weeks, and the note I'd received from her that day was heart-rending. "Oh, my God! Oh, my God!" it began. "I have a $1 watch on my arm from Walgreen's, which is the only thing left to my world."

Dot, in her 70s and in poor health, had left her home in Gentilly and gone to stay at the Days Inn in eastern New Orleans, as she always did when a hurricane threatened. She was evacuated from the rooftop by helicopter and, after a series of harrowing experiences, ended up in the Alzheimer's unit at a nursing home in Fort Worth, Texas.

"It was the only place they had room for me," she said.

### Taking it all in

I had misgivings when I packed three weeks' worth of papers and sent them off to her.

The first one, from Sept. 2, had an unforgettable image of a woman on her knees outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, begging for someone to come to the aid of the people stranded inside.

"HELP US, PLEASE" the headline read.

Day after day, the headlines told the never-ending story the world was trying to understand: "7th day of hell." "Disease, fire threaten city." Day after day, words and images captured the devastation, the loss.

Most mornings, it was painful for me to make it through the one paper that landed at the end of our driveway. How would Dot make it through 21?

When I called her on the phone, she answered my question. She said she had been reading one paper each day as if she were at home.

"I keep the box taped up so nobody will steal them," she said.

### Looking for closure

She said that at first she was thinking about cutting out some of the pictures and putting them in a scrapbook.

"But I want to save everything. I read the stories again and again," she said.

When I asked her if she wanted me to send her another stack of papers I'd been saving for her, she said yes. She was almost to the bottom of the box.

"I want to see the things I didn't see on television, stories about my neighborhood," she said.

She had lived in her little house near Elysian Fields Avenue since 1955. Katrina left 8 feet of water in it.

"We shopped at Ferrara's, three blocks away," she said "They called it a supermarket, but it was a family affair. Everybody knew everybody."

When she could no longer get around, her friend Henry Kraft would go there to shop for her.

Now Henry has evacuated to Tennessee, and he wants her to move there, too.

"Henry says, 'The past is past,' but I just don't know," Dot said. "I want to go home and have everything be like it used to be. I just don't have a home to go to."

• • • • • • •

Sheila Stroup can be reached at sstroup@timespicayune.com or (985) 898-4831.

*Brooms and garbage bags in hand, volunteers hit* **Magazine Street** *to scrub things down and show that the commercial corridor is again ready for business*

# CLEAN SWEEP



STAFF PHOTOS BY RUSTY COSTANZA

Gary Sells and his wife, Marcia Finkelstein, clean a Magazine Street marker on Saturday during a well-attended scouring of the Uptown business artery.



Melanie Toomey, second from left, of Spanish Fort, Ala., dumps leaves into a garbage bag held by Bridget Breaux of Mid-City.

**By Tara Young**
Staff writer

There was a time when Roux Merlo wouldn't have dreamed of placing flower pots on the sidewalk in front of his T-shirt shop on Magazine Street.

But on Saturday, as nearly 300 residents and a National Guard unit fanned out along the thoroughfare in a city-sponsored cleanup, the pots seemed appropriate. Merlo, whose family owns All American Tees, said he'd never seen Magazine Street so clean.

"This was always dirty," Merlo said, as a street sweeper drove by. "Every day, I would come out and clean. Now I can put out plants. . . . I see this street bustling. There's going to come a time that this street is going to be better than before."

A popular 6-mile corridor stretching from downtown to Audubon Park, Magazine Street before Hurricane Katrina was a destination for everything from antiques to pedicures to vintage clothing. Although it escaped the brunt of Hurricane Katrina's wrath, the street fell victim to heaping piles of rancid garbage and foul-smelling refrigerators, now curbed in front of homes. Though some shop owners were ready to open after the storm, many said such sights and smells wouldn't be good for business.

So on Saturday, the city organized a massive cleanup with the help of the National Guard, which supplied rakes, brooms, dust

*See* **SWEEP,** *B-4*

# Charter school proposal halted

*Lawsuit claims public didn't have input*

**By Steve Ritea**
Staff writer

An Orleans Parish Civil Court judge has ordered the School Board to stop its plans to charter public schools on the West Bank or anywhere else in the city, granting a motion by an Algiers community group that alleges the decision was made without adequate public input.

Judge Nadine Ramsey, operating from the court's interim home in Gonzales, approved a temporary restraining order late Friday afternoon. School Board attorney Regina Bartholomew said Saturday the district plans to file a motion this week asking the order be dissolved. A hearing on the matter is also expected this week or early next.

School Board Vice President Lourdes Moran, who pushed for the chartering, called the court action "just a hiccup," adding: "This will be resolved and we will move forward."

The order does not prevent the state Board of Elementary and Secondary

*See* **SCHOOLS,** *B-2*

# Damaged cars flood N.O. sites

*City workers towing about 100 each day*

**By Trymaine D. Lee**
Staff writer

Tatum Pilot pulled a few tattered white rags from the back seat of her dusty blue Geo Prizm and wiped down its front, side and rear windows. She plopped in, stroking the dashboard seductively. She closed one eye, then slowly slid a key into the ignition. After sputtering a bit, the engine growled, then rattled triumphantly.

"I'm just so thankful," Pilot said with a sigh. Hopping from her car, she pointed to the hundreds of other vehicles that had been towed to a city-operated site at North Claiborne Avenue and St. Louis Street, under Interstate 10.

*See* **CARS,** *B-2*

# Shelter from the storm

*LaPlace church ministers to the body and mind of evacuees filling its makeshift shelter*

**By John-John Williams IV**
River Parishes bureau

Metairie resident and well-known musician Freddy Staehle has found friends, family and faith since Hurricane Katrina spelled disaster for thousands of people on the Gulf Coast.

After riding out the storm in a Kenner motel, only to be chased away by the destruction and looting, the Staehle family made its way to Baton Rouge to stay with relatives. But with 18 people sharing one house, tensions soon boiled.

*See* **SHELTER,** *B-4*



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Aisjah Hicks, 3, lies with her grandmother, Yvonne Hicks, at New Wine Christian Fellowship in LaPlace.

# Grocery in Kenner truly is full-service

*Store owner houses displaced residents*

**By Mary Swerczek**
Kenner bureau

It was raining the day Fred Duncan returned to his south Kenner business, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina. In the three-story apartment complex next door, he saw a man sweeping out the rain that had fallen through the roof, which had been blown off by the hurricane.

"I went into a couple of their apartments, and it was raining on their heads," Duncan remembered. "I said, 'You all come over here.' "

Duncan first sheltered about 14 people in a vacant room in the Duncan Food Mart building at 1005 Third St. During the day, cots and mattresses are lined up against the wall. At night, one resident said, the bedding is moved to the center of the floor in front of an industrial-sized fan.

But as a few have found space at relatives' houses and two have gone to the hospital, the shelter now houses seven people. Duncan gives them hot meals cooked in his grocery store and lets them use a bathroom and shower.

*See* **GROCERY,** *B-5*

# Katrina claimed 150,000 vehicles in N.O.

**CARS,** *from B-1*

Many of the cars in the makeshift tow yard, which stretches for nearly 10 blocks from St. Louis Street to Gov. Nichols Avenue, fared much worse than Pilot's Geo. The cars, trucks and SUVs without busted windows had rusted wheels or flat tires or bore scars of vandalism. Most were powdered in a ghostly gray haze — residue from the floodwaters they'd soaked in for several days, if not weeks.

The fiberglass and steel corpses are being dragged from the streets as part of an effort to clear the more than 150,000 "clearly waterlogged" vehicles strewn across the city's highways, byways and neutral ground. Officials said the North Claiborne lot is one of a few city properties where vehicles are being towed. So far, the city has scooped up more than 2,268 vehicles.

"Its been a tough task for us," said Parking Division administrator Richard Boseman. "We only have six drivers back out of 30 . . . It was sort of overwhelming at first, but I think we're hitting a stride, catching our rhythm."

## A monumental task

The city has towed an average of 100 cars a day, Boseman said, hitting a high one day last week with 160 tows.

John Shires, director of the Department of Public Works, said his small staff of tow truck drivers is working with the State Police and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to ensure the cars are being towed, guarded and stored safely. The most populated areas of the city and routes used by first responders — police, firefighters and medical personnel — are being cleared first, Shires said.

The State Police are logging each vehicle's identification number, which will be entered into a database and sent to the Department of Motor Vehicle, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and insurance companies.

"We don't want any of these vehicles getting out of the state," Shires said, "or sold." Officials fear that cars damaged during the flood will be slipped back into the market and sold to unsuspecting buyers.

John Rogers, an environmental scientist with the state DEQ, said the towing and cataloging of the city's flood-foiled vehicles is a monumental task.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL DeMOCKER

Flood-damaged vehicles are lined up for blocks under Interstate 10 along North Claiborne Avenue. The city has towed an average of 100 waterlogged vehicles each day to various sites around New Orleans.

"It's huge," Rogers said. "This operation will take months, not weeks. It looks like people got surprised by the high water and just left in whatever could take them out."

The DEQ is working with the city and the State Police antifraud unit to designate and manage environmentally sound tow sites. The organization also acts as a liaison between the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, the city and State Police.

Rogers suspects a third of the city's abandoned cars will end up in one of the aggregation lots. The others will be picked up by insurance companies. Officials estimate that 68,000 claims have been placed with state insurance companies. The cars that are left in the lot will remain until insurance companies take them.

Pilot was fortunate. She was able to locate her vehicle and drive it off the lot, which officials are urging against. Shires hopes people will wait for their insurance companies to contact them before fiddling with their vehicles, driveable or not.

"I'm lucky," Pilot said, "I didn't get any water like those over there." Pilot fled her home in the Iberville housing complex two days after Hurricane Katrina struck. Pilot parked her car on a high point in the center of the nearby Winn-Dixie parking lot, in the 1500 block of St. Louis Street.

## The smell from hell

On Friday about 1 p.m., Joe Messina backed a flatbed tow truck under the interstate at Kerlec street, off North Claiborne Avenue. He was dropping off an older black Camaro. "The real problem with towing these cars," he said authoritatively, "is the stink. Just when you thought you smelled the worst of them and think you got used to it, you get one that's even stinkier."

Messina, 34, is a driver with Car Crushers, a tow company contracted by the city to do some of its dirty work. "The ones that sat in the water the longest smell the worst," Messina said. "Off Carrollton and Tulane, Broad, I don't think I've seen any car that wasn't totally under water."

Rogers said vehicles that have dried out are likely safe to the touch, posing no real health hazard. "As long as the car has dried sufficiently, the E. coli should be dead," he said. Many of the flooded vehicles in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes were contaminated with petroleum-tainted water, he said. In a city-owned parking lot next to the St. Louis Winn Dixie, hundreds of cars, with their doors ajar, trunks popped and bodies rusting, seem to lay wounded or dead, begging to be put out of their misery.

"My car wasn't like this when I left it," said Anthony Owens, 49, of Gentilly. Owens buried his head under the hood of his 1990 Toyota Celica, emerging after a minute or so of tinkering. "I know it's still a good car," Owens said, assuring himself that the broken back window and dented passenger door was "no big deal."

Owens said he bought the car a year ago from an older woman in the neighborhood who kept it clean and mostly used to run errands and get to church. The day after Katrina, Owens said he parked the car on the Claiborne Avenue overpass to avoid the rising flood water. Though Owens said he found shelter in Baton Rouge, concern over his car's post-hurricane condition nagged at him.

Earlier this week, a friend in the Police Department told Owens where he could find his car. He made it back to the city Thursday, found his damaged car and visited his flood-ravaged home. "It's going to be all right," Owens said. "Got to keep it rolling, man. Got to keep it rolling."

•••••••

Trymaine D. Lee can be reached at tlee@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3301.

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# Charters proposed to jump-start N.O. schools

**SCHOOLS,** *from B-1*

Education from approving the charters, which could come up at its Thursday meeting, Bartholomew said. It does freeze any further action, however.

In her ruling, Ramsey said the board's decision shows "a flagrant disregard of the constitutional right of public participation in government."

The judge added: "It is in this time of crisis, when the citizens of Orleans Parish are concerned about the very future of their communities, that the role of public input is crucial. The people of New Orleans are entitled to participate in the process that will potentially change the landscape of their public educational system."

The motion was filed by Willie Zanders, an attorney known for his legal actions against the district, on behalf of Rev. Arthur Wardsworth, pastor of Second Good Hope Baptist and Mount Pilgrim Fourth Baptist churches in Algiers, and the Algiers Group. Wardsworth described the group as a 2-year-old organization of about 70 mostly African-American community leaders there.

The motion accuses Moran and the board, which voted 4-2 to approve the charters Oct. 7, of violating open meetings law when their plan was not laid out during an agenda item on the plan for reopening West Bank schools, Moran said. It also accuses them of not seeking more community input.

The issue came up later in the meeting and public comment was allowed.

Wardsworth stressed that he is not opposed to charter schools, but said they shouldn't be rushed through without adequate community input.

"Let's slow down a minute," he said. "Is this the best thing for us? I'm just echoing the sentiments of the community."

State Rep. Jim Tucker, R-Algiers, floated the idea to a group of about 20 business and community leaders, including Wardsworth, at an invitation-only meeting Oct. 5, two days before School Board members approved the charters. More were invited and did not attend, he said.

The charters have been planning to follow a schedule originally set by the district to open eight of 13 undamaged schools in Algiers sometime in November to students across the city. Although the current School Board would initially oversee the West Bank charters, members would eventually begin rotating off in favor of members of the Algiers community.

Officials from the turnaround firm charged with righting the district's troubled finances have painted a less-than-rosy picture, saying the district's ability to open schools this academic year is dependent on concessions from the federal government as well the political climate in Baton Rouge, where some state lawmakers meeting in special session next month have discussed shifting education funds out of New Orleans and into other districts now educating the city's students.

Moran said the chartering effort was principally designed to take advantage of a recently announced $20.9 million federal grant to expand, repair and create new charter schools.

Charters could be the only way to get West Bank schools open in November, Moran said.

"We have families that want to come back, and this is being done to accommodate them," she said.

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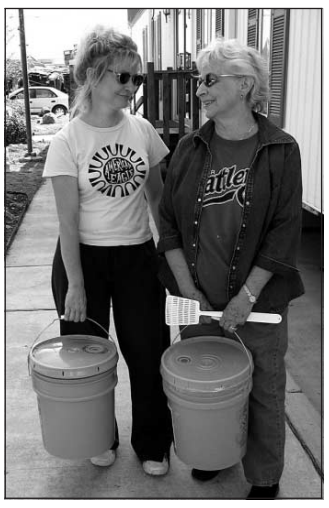
Steve Ritea can be reached at sritea@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3396.

# AD REPORTER

By Martin Covert





Cutting a roll of dollar bills at the reopening of GulfCoast Bank on East Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette this week are (from left) board member Dieter Hugel, St. Bernard Parish Councilman Ricky Melerine, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John Weimer, St. Bernard Parish Councilwoman Judy Darby Hoffmeister, Gulf Coast Bank President Guy Williams, St. Bernard Sheriff Jack Stephens and St. Bernard Councilman Joey DiFatta. At right are daughter and mother Kathleen Jeanfreau and Janet Hager, Gulf Coast Bank customers from Chalmette who received free "flood buckets" of cleaning supplies from the bank, courtesy of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.



Among the first customers back to banking at Gulf Coast in Chalmette were (from left) Adam Frey and Carl Ignatik, greeted by Gulf Coast Bank President Guy Williams, Branch Operations Manager Toni Pyatt and Manager Gus Riess.

## *In Chalmette*

**Gulf Coast Bank and Trust** reopened this week in a temporary trailer branch behind the original location at 8216 W. Judge Perez Dr. in Chalmette.

The bank set up tents Thursday, under which customers and emergency-relief workers dined on smoked sausage, jambalaya, turtle soup and baked chicken prepared by Patton's Caterers of Chalmette and Slidell. The Crescent River Band with Frankie Mann played while customers met with tellers inside the temporary office on site.

Gulf Coast Bank President Guy Williams was showing off the branch building, which has already been gutted for renovations, even though signs of flood water are still visible to the top of the first floor of the two-story building.

"We will have this original location up and running within 90 days," says Williams.

Gulf Coast Bank has also already gutted its Lakeview location on Harrison Avenue between Canal Boulevard and Marconi, and plans to open "as soon as possible."

The Lower St. Bernard Office and the East Judge Perez Drive Gulf Coast Bank remain closed.

Branches in the CBD, Metairie, Kenner, Terrytown, Covington and Baton Rouge are operating as normal.

The new Chalmette facility is currently open from 9 to 3 weekdays. *More details:* 1-866-312-9016.

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PART I OF A IV PART PUBLIC SERVICE SERIES. HURRICANE KATRINA IN JEFFERSON PARISH.

# What happened?

**Days before Katrina made landfall, the attention of Jefferson Parish government turned to evacuating our community and bracing for the storm. As the hurricane passed, we committed ourselves to bringing our citizens home and rebuilding our community. The work of restoring Jefferson to normal continues. However, unanswered questions and persistent rumors about flood control in Jefferson Parish consume some of our citizens. Below is an account of the events as they unfolded.**

## A CALL TO REMEMBER

Midday Sunday, August 28th. The telephone call Jefferson Parish officials hoped would never happen ... did. National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield telephoned Jefferson Emergency Management Director Dr. Walter Maestri. His words were intense and firm. 'This is the one," he said. "This is no test." That call set off a planned chain of commands called "Doomsday."

## THE DOOMSDAY PLAN

In the hurricane season of 1998, tens of thousands fled from Hurricane Georges. The lessons learned from that near miss helped Jefferson Parish officials develop the "Doomsday Plan," a comprehensive strategy for protecting Jefferson's citizens and property in the event of a monstrous hurricane. The Doomsday Plan is implemented when it is evident that a Category 4 or 5 hurricane will make landfall at or very near Jefferson Parish. Under Doomsday, a select few parish administrators weather the storm in Jefferson. All other essential personnel, except first responders in the police and fire departments, are evacuated to safe haven north of I-12 to clear the "flood inundation zone." This is done to save lives and ensure that following a catastrophe, essential government employees can return to restart and rebuild the parish.

## NO PLACE IS SAFE

The decision to house key personnel outside Jefferson was not made lightly. Studies by the LSU Hurricane Center and professional engineering firms had revealed that **NO** public building in Jefferson Parish is built to withstand a Category 4 or 5 storm. Jefferson's own Emergency Operations Center is not certified to stand up to the force of such a powerful hurricane. Given this fact, it is the decision of emergency officials to put lives before property and evacuate all citizens from Jefferson Parish - ALL CITIZENS.

## ABOUT THE PUMPS

Approximately 200 men and women are needed to operate Jefferson's complex network of 22 manned pump stations. Some pump station facilities date back to 1918, while the most recent station came online this year.

Understanding the intricate nuances of each machine requires skill and years of hands-on training for pump operators. Additionally, the pump stations are equipped with massive grids/screens to protect the system from sucking in debris. During a major storm, pump station screens become clogged by fallen trees, furniture, mattresses, garbage cans, and more. Front end loaders and Bobcats must be used to keep the screens clear so the pumps can operate efficiently. Each station requires a crew of pump operators and screen cleaners, between 10 and 30 people (depending on the station size), to operate effectively and safely.

## AT THE PUMPS

As pump station crews prepared for Katrina, they pumped every canal to the lowest possible level. Screen cleaners cleared all grids of debris, however, as winds increased to more than 50 mph, heavy equipment became unsafe to operate. With debris cleared and canals pumped down, the pumps were turned off and sealed from the onslaught of rising and rushing waters from Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf. All that could be done at the pumps to prepare for the pending storm was accomplished.

## CONVOY TO SHELTER

With Katrina at Category 5 status and only hours from landfall, Jefferson Parish moved approximately 3000 pieces of equipment and almost 1200 employees to safe haven. Two waves of convoys crossed the Causeway and I-55 to pre-determined shelters. At 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 28th, with winds already at tropical storm strength, the final convoy crossed to safety, including Jefferson's 200 pump station personnel.

## RETURNING TO OPERATE

Katrina made landfall at 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 29th, and pump station crews immediately prepared to return. The journey back was treacherous. Crews chainsawed their way along tree-laden streets and highways, risking death if they touched downed power lines.

Parish leaders attempted to return the pump station personnel by helicopter, but no pilot would fly in the still tropical storm strength winds. Communication systems were down, some destroyed. Parish officials dispatched a team from Jefferson to help the crews on the northshore return.

## WHAT WE FOUND

At approximately 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 29th, pump station personnel began arriving at their posts to find many stations damaged by winds. At some stations, the water level in the lake was high and prevented some of the electric pumps from operating. Some facilities suffered roof damage and structural damage. In some cases pump station operators had a difficult time starting pumps because of mechanical and/or electrical problems caused by wet conditions within the stations.

Ironically, some pumps with manual shutoff valves offered the parish greater protection against a forceful backflow surge. Other pumps, using compressed air as a backflow preventer, were not as reliable and some water pushed through those pumps back into drainage canals.

## THE DECISION

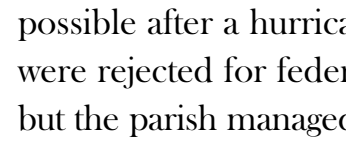
The decision to shelter pump crews away from pump stations was made by emergency officials. The decision put saving lives ahead of saving property. It is also designed to help Jefferson Parish return to its feet quickly after a major storm. Between 8 and 10 inches of rain fell in a six hour period, and the pumps funded by Congress allow us to pump no more than 5 inches of rainfall in that time. In Old Metairie, the floodwall breach at the 17th Street Canal caused water to flow through New Orleans then west into Jefferson. Jefferson Parish built a dam across Airline Drive and other connecting streets to prevent further flooding in Old Metairie and Rio Vista.

## SAFE HOUSES ON SITE

In recent years, we have urged the Federal Emergency Management Agency and others to help us erect a SAFE HOUSE at every manned pump station so we can keep crews on hand to get pumps back up and running as soon as possible after a hurricane. We were rejected for federal funds, but the parish managed to allocate local funds to construct some safe houses. When Katrina hit, the construction of five safe houses was approximately 35% complete, and others were being planned.

## MORE TO COME

Because we believe you deserve the entire story and all the reasons behind our government's decisions, we will continue this correspondence over the next three days, answering commonly asked questions and projecting into the future with a dedicated page on "Where we go from here."



Walter Maestri, Ph.D.
Director, Emergency Management,
Jefferson Parish

*This is a paid public service of Jefferson Parish.*

**TUESDAY**
Questions answered.

### Saturday, August 27

**5:00 a.m.**
Category 3 Katrina targets New Orleans

**Noon**
Jefferson begins evacuation to prevent citizens from fleeing in night

**4:00 p.m.**
Contraflow begins

### Sunday, August 28

**1:00 a.m.**
Katrina declared Category 4

**7:00 a.m.**
Katrina declared Category 5

**Midday**
"Doomsday Plan" is implemented after parish warned "this is the one" by Hurricane Center.

**Afternoon**
Canals are pumped to lowest levels; screens are cleared of all debris; vital equipment is moved to safe haven

**7:00 p.m.**
200+ pump crew members evacuated to northshore

### Monday, August 29

**6:10 a.m.**
Katrina makes landfall as Category 4 (145 mph winds)

**10:00 a.m.**
Eye over New Orleans
Pump operators start return

**7:00 p.m.**
Pump operators begin arriving at pumps; at some damage and high water prevent pumping

# Evacuee rediscovers religion

**SHELTER,** *from B-1*

Finally, Staehle and his family of five made it to LaPlace, to a shelter set up at the New Wine Christian Fellowship.

"I've been away from religion for such a long time," said Staehle, a professional drummer who has played with artists such as Mick Jagger, Ringo Starr, Carly Simon and Eric Clapton.

He and his family are now living in the shelter with his wife, Barbara; three children, Adrian, 15, Amanda, 10, and Meghan, 17; and a granddaughter, Jordan, 1. "The hand of God directed me here. I know that I am in the Lord's house."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

Hurricane evacuee Kedra Smith, 23, prays at New Wine Christian Fellowship in LaPlace.

## A clear need

Seeing a need to help people in crisis, the Rev. Neil Bernard's congregation opened the shelter after being notified of a group of over 40 people who were living in front of Home Depot on Airline Highway in LaPlace for several days after Katrina passed Aug. 29.

"They had been in LaPlace, moving from place to place outdoors," Bernard said. "They weren't received well and were moving from place to place. They just wanted something to eat. We just responded."

The church converted its massive sanctuary into a makeshift shelter. Now, over 100 cots line the walls of the room surrounding the stage and seats where church services are regularly held.

The shelter, which Bernard says is the only one in the River Parishes, has housed over 550 people since Katrina hit. Bernard estimates that well over 1,000 people have received some type of help from the shelter. There have also been two childbirths to take place in the shelter since it opened.

"Some walked all the way from New Orleans to the River Parishes. We've had people who have escaped from rooftops," he said. "One man was released from the emergency room and had no place to go. Stories like that make it worth it."

The shelter provides about 600 meals a day.

"When people are hungry, you feed them," Bernard said. "When they are naked, you clothe them. When they are homeless, you take them in."

Eventually, the church wants to help find permanent housing or FEMA trailers for every person at the shelter, Bernard said.

The church has been flooded with support in Katrina's wake.

## Pulling together

Former LSU standout and current NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal recently sent a truckload of water and other supplies to the shelter. A tuck full of watermelons arrived two weeks ago from Maryland. Area stores and hotels have provided items ranging from clothing to soap and shampoo. Teams of volunteers, including teachers and students, have helped cook and serve meals.

Staehle said his family left the acrimony of the relative's home in Baton Rouge on Sept. 13. They piled into a 1986 Chevrolet and headed for the unknown. With their apartment in Metairie heavily damaged by the storm, the Staehles had no particular destination.

A 911 operator told Freddy Staehle about the New Wine shelter in LaPlace.

"We each had a bag of clothes," Staehle said. "We had a little food. We filled the trunk with basic things."

Staehle said his family was immediately welcomed with open arms. At first Staehle was a little apprehensive about his new surroundings.

"This experience in the church has been one of the best experiences I've had in 20 years," Staehle said. "I'm completely grateful."

## Slow-motion aid

Staehle is currently in the process of looking for housing. He has twice applied for temporary housing from FEMA.

"I haven't received it," Staehle said. "There are so many people that have applied. They (FEMA) are doing the best job with what they can do."

Staehle's prominence in the music world has not kept him and his family from hard times.

"That makes me feel bad, not being able to provide for my family," Staehle said.

Staehle's family has remained in relatively good spirits.

"It could be worse," said Staehle's daughter, Meghan, who is the mother of a 1 ½-year-old girl named Jordan. "It's still annoying and aggravating . . . wanting your own things and own space. This place is a lot nicer than the other place we were at."

The Staehles have claimed a small space near the entrance of the shelter. A pink tent used by Staehle's daughter, Amanda, uses marks the spot. The Staehles have lined up six cots next to each other. Bags and other personal items surround the sleeping area.

"I know there are a lot of families that are worse off than us," Staehle said. "They haven't found shelters like this."

Staehle said the Katrina experience has forced him to do some soul searching and turn over a new leaf. He has attended church services regularly since arriving at the shelter. He was even baptized three weeks ago. Staehle said he plans to attend church services even after he and his family leave the shelter.

"I'll be back for service," Staehle said. "I even told Rev. Bernard that I would play the drums. They provided us with shelter. This church has done such a great service to these people."

.....

John-John Williams IV can be reached at jwilliams@timespicayune.com or (985) 652-0958.

# Sweeps of other streets are on the way

**SWEEP,** *from B-1*

pans, gloves and other supplies. The Army Corps of Engineers followed in trucks, removing refrigerators and other large items thrown out on the streets after the storm.

"This whole concept of 'Let's Clean Magazine' is to help the small-business owner get ready for commerce," said Margaret Beer, who helped organize the effort for the city.

As the city begins to repopulate, there will be a need for more businesses like the ones on Magazine, she said.

Mayor Ray Nagin, who came to the cleanup wearing jeans and a "Bring New Orleans Back" T-shirt, said he was encouraged by the number of people who came out Saturday.

"It's not surprising," Nagin said, surveying the crowd of volunteers. "They love this city."

Nagin said that while Magazine is the first street the city has chosen to tackle, other landmarks such as Canal Street will soon follow.

Many of the volunteers who participated in the cleanup Saturday were in the process of restoring their own homes, while others suffered only minimal damage.

Volunteer Dorothy Nelson, who came back after the storm to find that the only damage to her Uptown home was two broken windows, said it's going to take a lot more than a street-cleaning effort to revitalize New Orleans.

"I went through Lakeview yesterday, and I was horrified at what I saw," said Nelson, adding that the whole community will need to work together to rebuild the city. "The more we rely on people other than the federal government, the better off we'll be."

The volunteers were a welcome sight to Laura Hourguettes, who owns Lili Vintage Boutique. The cleanup brought more people than she's seen in weeks to Magazine, the shop owner said.

The street as a whole suffered little damage, said Hourguettes, who recently replaced a storefront window broken by a woman who stole only one dress.

"It was a cute dress," said Hourguettes, with a chuckle. "It was a little crocheted number that people liked. She broke the window and put it on."

As she prepared to reopen Saturday, Hourguettes said she hopes her clothing store will attract just as many passionate, law-abiding shoppers.

Now that the trash is gone, business will pick up, said Susan del Corral, who recently reopened New York Pizza on Magazine.

"This is going to be the big turnaround right here," del Corral said. "No one wanted to come back because it stinks. I wasn't going to come back until I could get rid of my trash."

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Tara Young can be reached at tyoung@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3323.

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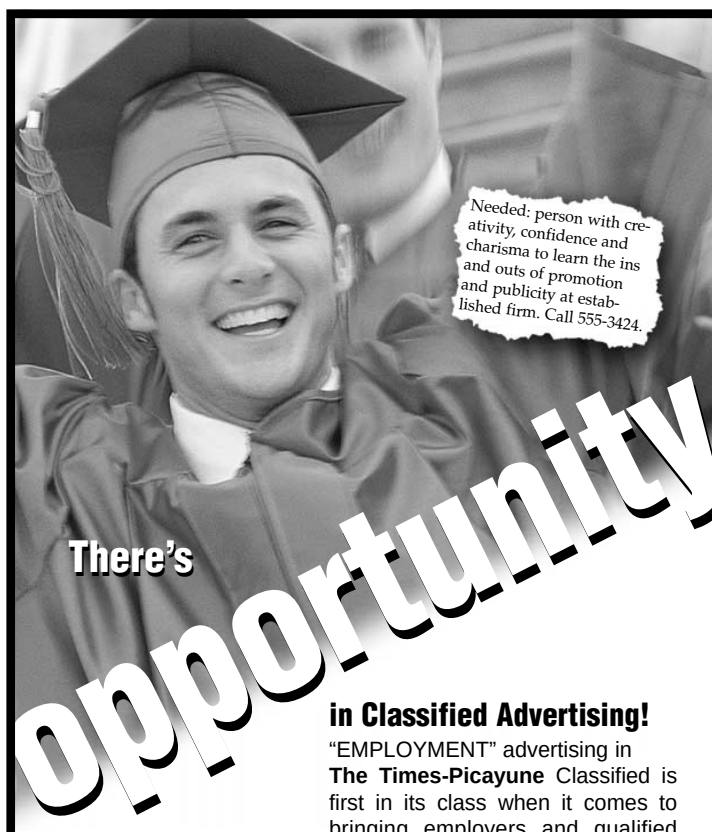
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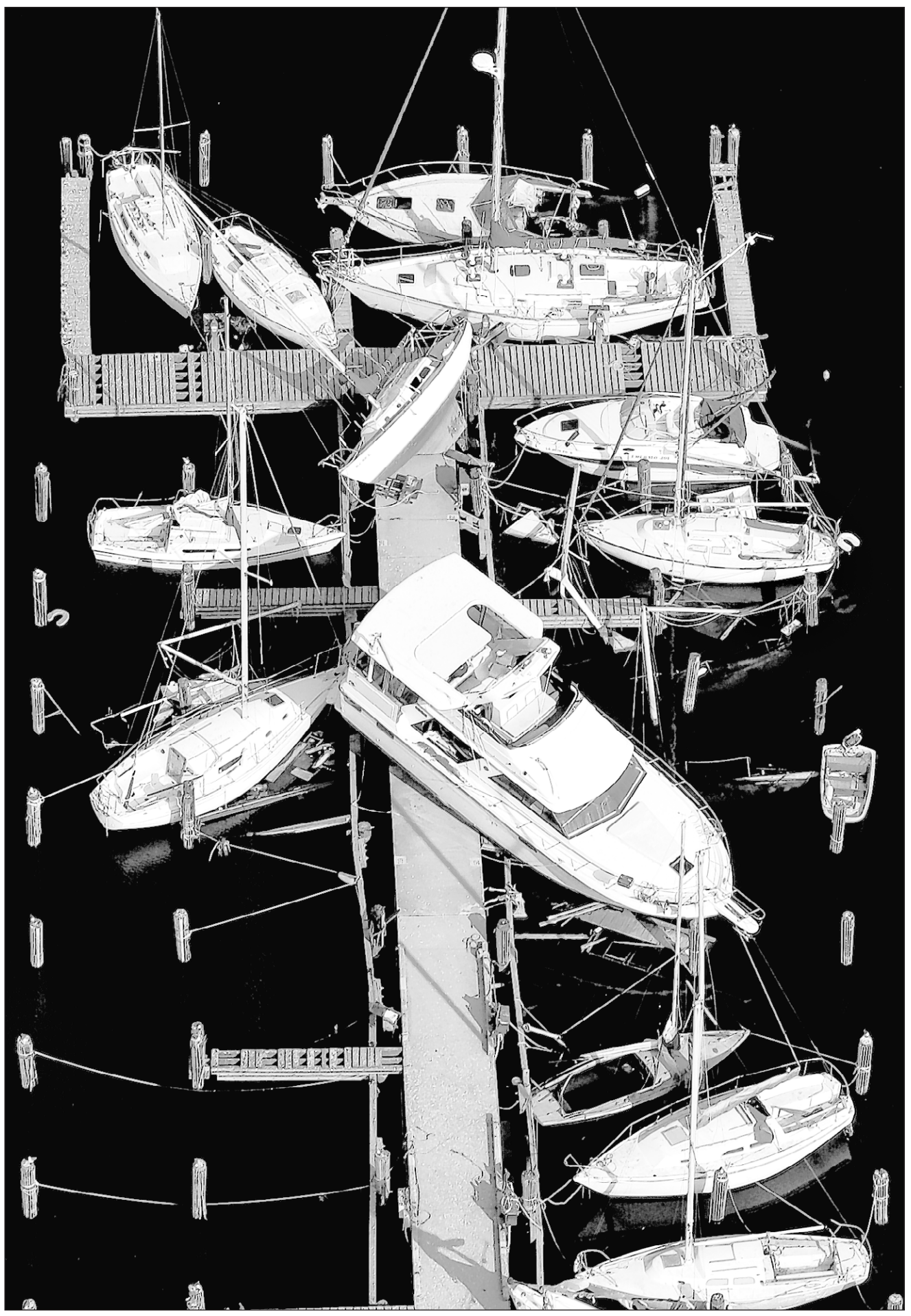
**NINTH WARD:** The water has been drained, but a wayward barge remains across a road in the heavily damaged 9th Ward.

# ABOVE THE FRAY

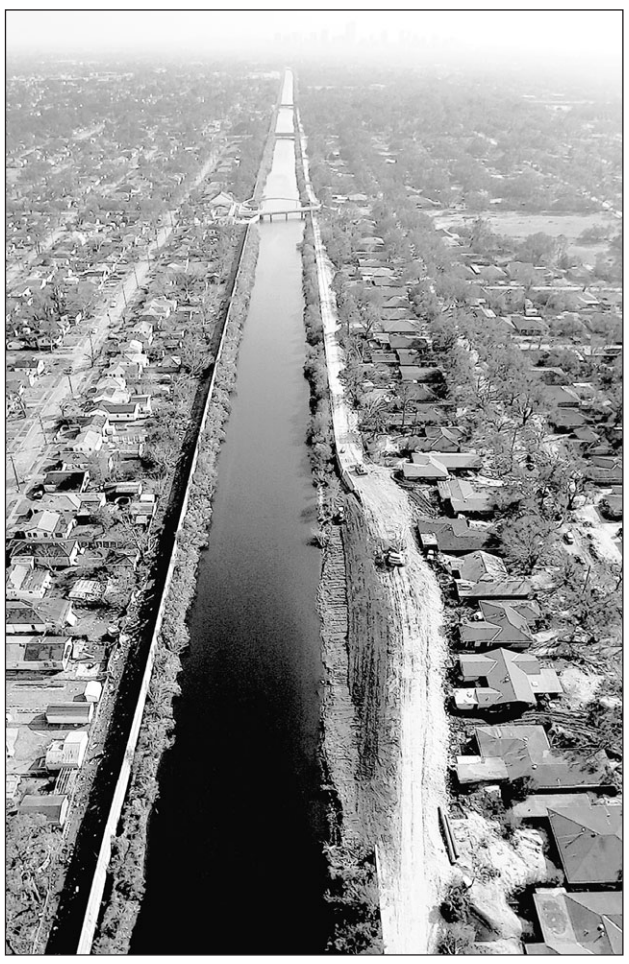
More than a month after Hurricane Katrina left the New Orleans area in shambles, the situation on the ground is improving slowly — restaurants are opening, trash is being cleared and bars in the French Quarter can stay open past midnight.

**But from above, scenes of widespread devastation remain.**

**By John McCusker** Staff photographer

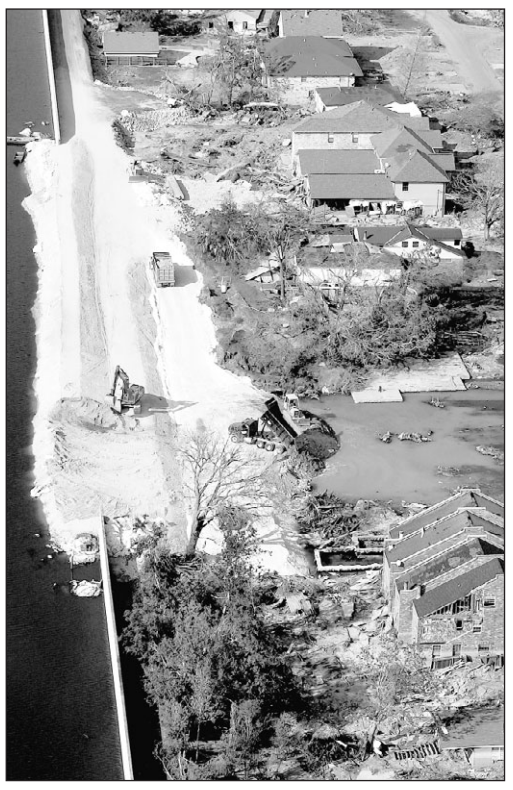


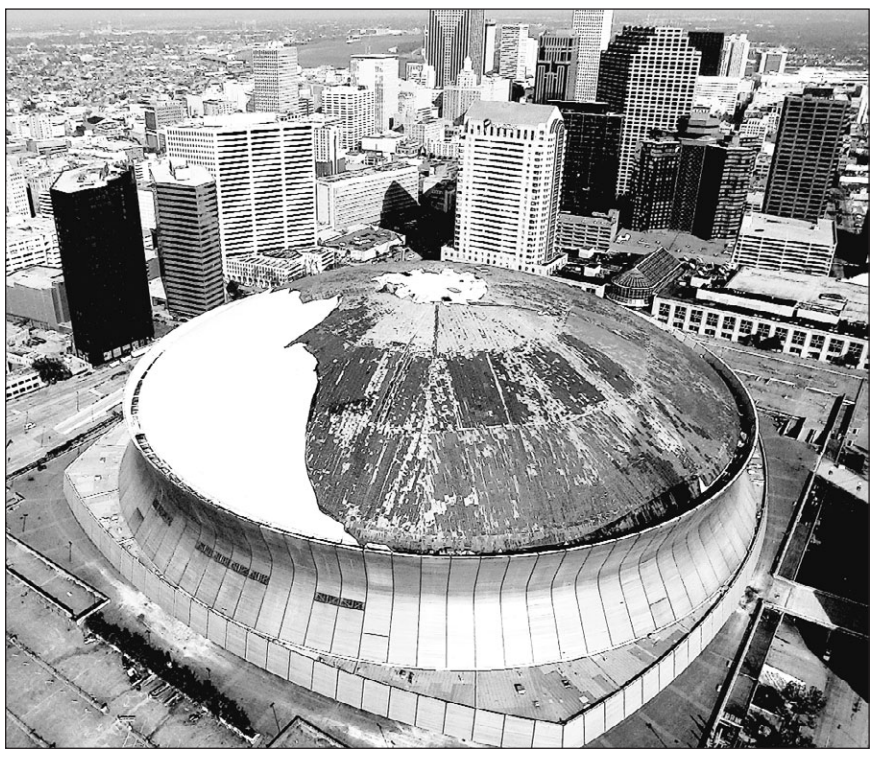
**WEST END:** Boats tossed like they were toys remain grounded at the Municipal Yacht Harbor.



**LONDON AVENUE:** The floodwall break that contributed to flooding of the city is now patched.

**LAKEVIEW** Crews continue to work Friday at the 17th Street Canal breach, which let floodwaters pour into the neighborhood after Katrina made landfall.





**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT:** The Louisiana Superdome is one of many buildings in the area in need of a new roof. The Saints will play Atlanta today — in San Antonio.

# Hospitals in Miss. evaluate crisis plan

## *Lessons from Katrina studied nationwide*

**By Nicole Lee**
The Sun Herald

GULFPORT, MISS. — As hospitals along the Gulf Coast recover from Hurricane Katrina, administrators at two facilities that managed to stay open through the storms say their No. 1 challenge was communication — internally and with police, fire and emergency responders.

Experts say communication gaps are a weak spot in the disaster-preparedness plans of hospitals nationwide. As first responders prepare for the next disaster — whether it's a hurricane or a public health threat such as avian flu — they're looking to use the lessons from Katrina to heighten preparedness across the county.

Hospitals are constantly preparing for the worst. Last year, facilities across Mississippi were given satellite phones and radios to ensure information was relayed effectively, said Jim Craig, the director of health protection at the state's health department.

That would have worked, said William Peaks, the chief executive officer of Garden Park Medical Center in Gulfport, if Katrina's winds and rain hadn't damaged the hospitals' satellite dishes.

"There was a time period when we were kind of on our own," he said.

When the storm came, the receiver on Garden Park's satellite dish had to be recalibrated. Peaks said the hospital had short-wave radios, but they were rendered inoperable when the towers they rely on for transmission were damaged.

During Katrina, the hospital's roof was damaged, and its first floor — which houses its emergency room, operating rooms and radiology services — flooded 4 to 6 inches deep. So far, $4 million has been spent on repairs.

In a perfect world, all hospitals, health care facilities and public safety personnel would use a standardized communication system when disaster strikes, said Colleen Conway-Welch, the dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Conway-Welch has helped coordinate the National Center for Emergency Preparedness, which trains health care providers and emergency responders how to react in mass casualty situations.

"In all of these plans, there is a huge paralysis of communication in these areas," she said. "I'm not sure that any hospital could be able to respond" to a disaster on Katrina's level.

She advised hospitals to examine the locations of their generators and any other equipment that might be vulnerable to natural disaster or terrorist attack.

When their cell phones died, the staff members at Memorial Hospital at Gulfport relied on human "runners" to relay information, said Gary Marchand, Memorial's CEO and president. Luckily, Marchand said, Memorial includes in its disaster-preparedness plan someone responsible for monitoring TV broadcasts and posting updated information on a bulletin board.

As a result, walkie-talkies and antennae for TVs will be added to Memorial's disaster plan, Marchand said. And a "single source of communication" among health care facilities and federal, state and county governments would make the response more flexible, he said.

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# Bettie Conley Helis, oil industry pioneer

**By John Pope**
Staff writer


Bettie Conley Helis

Bettie Conley Helis, a successful businesswoman who became an early mentor to other women trying to build careers in the male-dominated oil industry, died Sept. 17 in Sarasota, Fla. She was 87.

Mrs. Helis, a resident of the New Orleans area since 1947, died while visiting her daughters in Sarasota after leaving home when Hurricane Katrina approached.

She began her career as a secretary in the oil company founded by William G. Helis Sr. and managed by his son, William G. Helis Jr., after his death.

In the 1980s, she married the younger Helis. She became a philanthropist when she continued Helis' charitable work after his death in 1988.

Principal beneficiaries included the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, WYES-TV, Tulane Summer Lyric Theater and the New Orleans Opera Association, said Kathy Schersten, one of her daughters.

Although she lived well and was driven around in a black Buick, "she never threw her weight around," said Shirley Aronoff, a longtime friend. "She never changed a bit from the time I knew her 40 years ago when she was a secretary."

A native of Eau Claire, Wis., who attended Eau Claire Teachers College, she moved to New Orleans in 1947 with her first husband, Robert Conley, when the Missouri Pacific Railroad transferred him to Louisiana.

Shortly after they arrived, she went to work at the Helis firm, and she continued after her divorce eight years later, Schersten said.

"She was a career woman and single mom before career women and single moms were around," Schersten said.

As she continued her 40-year career, eventually rising to become personnel director, she realized that women needed to be taught how to succeed in the oil business, Schersten said.

Mrs. Helis was a founder of the New Orleans chapter of the Desk & Derrick Club, an organization for women in the oil industry designed to recognize promising women and nurture their careers. She was president of the local and national organizations.

In recognition of her generosity, Mrs. Helis was named a fellow of the New Orleans Museum of Art and a member of WYES' Producers Circle. She was a member of the women's guild of the New Orleans Opera Association and the Ladies Philoptochos Society, a charitable organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States.

In addition to Schersten, survivors include another daughter, Dyane Young of Sarasota; two stepsons, John P. Hanemann II of St. Francisville and William C. Hanemann of Pearlington, Miss.; a stepdaughter, Cassandra Helis Citro of Los Angeles; a grandchild; and a great-grandchild.

A funeral was held Sept. 20 in Sarasota. A New Orleans service will be held at a later date at the Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home chapel. Burial will be private.

---

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Joy Alice Creel Walker
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**ALEXANDER**
Willie T. Alexander Jr. died on September 24, 2005. Son of Willie Alexander of N.O., LA and the late Bernadine Joseph. Stepson of Bernard Joseph of N.O., LA. Father of Madonna A. Speese of Kansas City, NO. Father-in-law of Kenneth Speese II of Kansas City, MO. Brother of Terry, Karen and Wayne Joseph and Walter McGinnis of N.O., LA, the late Bernadine Foley and Gwendolyn Alexander. Also survived by 2 grandchildren, Natasha Alexander and Kennedi Speese both Kansas City, MO and a host of other relatives and friends. A native and a resident of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 at Gertrude Geddes Willis - Terrebonne, 616 Bond St., Houma, LA from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Followed by a Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. NO WAKE. Interment Port Hudson National Cemetery, Zachary, LA
You may sign the guest book on nola.com/obits.
GERTRUDE GEDDES WILLIS FUNERAL HOME, INC. in charge.

**AMEDEE**
Whitney Raymond Amedee on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. Age 91 years. A native of Vacherie, LA and a resident of Hahnville, LA. He was a retired salesman for Lafourche Life Insurance Company, Raceland, LA. Husband of Virginia Turbin Amedee. Son of the late Ambroise Amedee and Floresca Waguespack Amedee. Father of William (Bill) Amedee and wife, Barbara, Janet A. Oubre and husband Roland, Kathleen (Kathy) A. Wright and husband, James and David Amedee and wife, Katherine. Brother of Msgr. Francis Amedee of Thibodaux, LA,

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We are grateful to the members of our team who have been on call to help at a moment's notice. And we thank the thousands of first responders who have helped the Gulf Coast through the nation's most fierce natural disaster. The dedication and sacrifices of all these men and women is further evidence that justice isn't only about law books and courts. It is the continuing effort to do what is right.
Our team members are available at the following cell phone numbers & e-mail addresses:
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# DEATHS

Gerald Amedee of Terrytown, LA, Carmen A. Bourgeois of Kenner, LA, Evelyn A. Zeringue of Donaldsonville, LA, Shirley A. Crocker of Kenner, LA, the late Clifton Amedee, Nolan Amedee, Laurent Amedee, Norman Amedee and Ernest Amedee. He is survived by 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one grandchild, Mary Catherine Wright.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 1 Rectory Ln., Hahnville, LA with interment at St. Charles Mausoleum, Luling, LA. Visitation will be held at the Church from 9:30 a.m. Monday until time of service.
Mass in lieu of flowers would be appreciated.
FALGOUT FUNERAL HOMES, INC., Raceland, LA in charge.

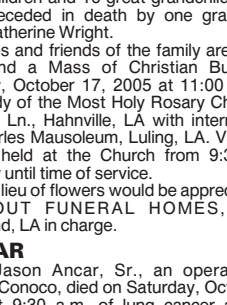
## ANCAR

Louis Jason Ancar, Sr., an operator for Phillips-Conoco, died on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. of lung cancer at Riley Hospital. He was 54. He was born in Diamond, LA and resided there until his death. He is the beloved husband of Rose M. Ancar. The father of Louis Jason Jr., Ryan Joseph and Mark James Ancar. The grandfather of Mark James Ancar, Jr. The son of Augustine and the late Gerald Ancar, Sr. The brother of Gerald Jr., Rene, Dwayne, Elmo and the late Adrian Ancar. Also survived by three nieces, four nephews, two daughters-in-law, four sisters-in-law, a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.
A Wake will be held at Rhodes Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, LA on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. Visitation will be held on Monday. at St. Cletus from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time. Interment Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA.

## BACON

Byron Andrew Bacon, IV on Wednesday, September 7, 2005. Beloved son of Peggy Gaubert Bacon and Byron A. Bacon, III. Brother of Jessica L. Bacon. Grandson of Rose Mary LeMasters, the late Charles T. LeMasters, Bonnie Coffe and Byron A. Bacon, Jr. Step-grandson of Susan Bacon. Age 25 years, a native of Jefferson, LA and a lifelong resident of Kenner, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Monday.

## BAUER



John T. Bauer, a retired business executive, died on Monday, October 10, 2005. Age 80 years. A native of Brooklyn, NY and a resident of New Orleans, LA for the past 28 years. He was a graduate of City College of New York and was a parishioner of St. Cletus Catholic Church. Mr. Bauer served in the U.S. Army in the Battle of Europe in World War II. He was past Chairman of Service Corps of Retired Executives, a member of the Timberlane Country Club and past President of Local Paper Corp.
He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra G. Bauer; hus daugher, Sheri L. Bauer; his granddaughter, Hannah L. Bauer and his sister, Veronica Vellia of N. Bellmore, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Bauer, a native of Brooklyn, NY and Hannah O'Shea Bauer of Waterville, Ireland and one brother, Walter Bauer formerly of NYC, NY.Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend funeral services at Mothe Funeral Homes, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park, Gretna, LA. Parlors will be open on Monday morning from 9:00 AM until service time.

## BIRDLOW

Warren (Woody) Birdlow died of a stroke on Monday, October 10, 2005 at St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee, WI at 5:00 a.m. Husband of Dorothy Birdlow. Son of the late Daniel Birdlow and Pearl Jenkins Crosby. Brother of the late Alvin and Leonard Birdlow. Nephew of the late Frank Birdlow. Also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Age 80 years.
Relatives and friends of the family; also pastors, officers and members of New Hope Baptist Church and all neighboring churches; and employees of WESCO Electric Company are invited to attend Funeral Services at New Hope Baptist Church, 434 Seventh Street, Gretna, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Arthur Piper, Jr., officiating. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. Interment in Christian Social Cemetery, Gretna, LA.
MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME in charge.

## BOUDREAUX

Thomas J. 'Tommy' Boudreaux, Jr. on Monday, September 26, 2005. Beloved father of Sean B. Boudreaux. Son of Yvonne Burmaster Boudreaux and Thomas J. Boudreaux. Brother of Greg P. Boudreaux. Grandson of the late Irvin and Lena Boudreaux, Elvin and Yvonne Burmaster. Age 31 years, a native of Marrero and lifelong resident of Harvey, LA.
Relatives and Friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Mass to be celebrated at St. Rosalie Catholic Church, 600 2nd Avenue, Harvey, LA. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11 AM. Family will receive friends after 10 AM. Interment Hook and Ladder Cemetery.

## CLEMENT

Alcee' Paul Clement, a devoted carpenter and music lover, passed away Sunday, September 18, 2005 at 4:30 a.m. in Los Angeles, CA. Age 42. A native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie, LA for 38 years. Beloved son of Loretta Compter Clement and the late James H. Clement, Sr. Brother of Nicholas John Clement, James Harrison Clement, Jr. and Deborah Anne Clement. Uncle of Beverly Marie Clement.
A joyous ''New Orleans'' celebration was held in Los Angeles, CA to honor his life.

## COLLINS



Wynisha Feion ''Nisha'' Collins, a beautician, died Tuesday, October 11, 2005. Daughter of Cynthia Collins and the late Wendell Jackson. Sister of Jasmine Collins. Granddaughter of Doretha Collins, Alvin Collins, Sr. and Mabel Jackson. Godmother of Lizz, Angel and Kailyn. Great-niece of Alfreda Jackson. Also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends. A lifelong resident of Algiers, LA. Age 25 years.
Relatives and friends of the family; also pastors, officers and members of Mt. Olive and Second Baptist Churches and all neighboring churches; and L.B. Landry Senior High School Class of 1998 are invited to attend Funeral Services on Monday, October 17, 2005 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1124 LeBoeuf Street, Algiers, LA. Rev. Nathaniel Jimcoily, officiating. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. Interment in McDonogh Cemetery, Gretna, LA.
MURRAY HENDERSON FUNERAL HOME in charge.

## CORMIER

Lucy Barrois Cormier on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at North Oaks Hospital, Hammond, La. Age 94 years. Beloved wife of the late Amos J. Cormier, Sr. Daughter of the late Stephen Marcelin Barrois and the late Catherine Yuratrich Barrois. Mother of Amos J. Cormier, Jr. Mother-in-law of Aurele Moinet Cormier. Grandmother of Amos J. Cormier III and his wife, Leola, Arthur A. Cormier, Mack M. Cormier, Jene A. Cormier and Meran M. Cormier. Sister of the late Leontine ''Fee'' Collins, Odile B. Muhoberac, Steve ''Toot'' Barrois, Jr., Anthony ''T-Zo'' Barrois, Frances ''Chaten'' Pelas, Salvador ''Dut'' Barrois and Elodie ''Tabeau'' Turlich. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews..
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Belle Chasse, LA. Interment will follow services in St. Patrick Cemetery, Port Sulphur, LA. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA and on Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 a.m., also at the funeral home.
In lieu of flowers, Masses preferred.

## CORTE

Samuel J. Corte died on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the age of 90. He was the son of the late Rosaria Tusa and Joseph Corte. Mr. Corte is the father of Joseph E. Corte, Sam A. Corte, Sandra Corte Thornhill, Diane Corte Ligi, Brian P. Corte and Christine M. Corte. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at SCHOEN FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL of COVINGTON, 1414 S. Tyler Street in Covington on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Visitation will be on Monday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon.

## CRAWFORD

Marlene Renee Crawford, a native of Bogalusa, La. and a resident of Bush, La., died at her residence Wednesday morning at the age of 50.
Survivors include a daughter, Tina Mae Creel of Bush, La., Son, Patrick Shane Creel of Independence, La., and grandchildren, Julian Creel of Independence, La., and Hailey Franks of Bush, La., and expecting twin boys; Parents, Marian and A. C. Crawford of Bush, La; 2 Sisters, Ylanda Leonhardt of Sun, La., and Rose Crawford of Bush, La; 2 brothers, Charles Crawford of Bush, La., and Raymond Crawford of Bush, La. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.
She was preceded in death by her sister, Leavada Crawford; son, Albert Dale Creel; cousin, Les Crawford; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cornett.
A Memorial Service will be held at Hebron Baptist, 79596 Hwy 41, Bush, La., on Monday, October 17, 2005, at 2:00; p.m. with Bro. Kevin Shill officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from 12:00 p.m. until service time at 2:00 p.m.
Bagnell & Son Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## DAVID

Lena ''Mamou'' David, age 56 years, her companion, Arnold White and her grandson, Kirk Nolan David, age 9 were sadly taken from us on Sunday, September 25, 2005 as a result of a traffic accident in Livonia, LA. The family was returning to their home in Westwego, LA after having evacuated for the second time. All were natives of Westwego, where they were greatly loved and will be greatly missed.
Lena is survived by her daugthers, Christine David and Hattie David; her son, Kirk J. David; her sister, Sunny Ann Billiot; her brother, Joseph R. Billiot; and her five grandchildren, Ashley, Amanda and Christian Labra, Hector Mata, Jr. and Adriana Bustillo. She was preceded in death by her mother, Lenovia Welch.
Kirk is survived by his father, Kirk J. David; his mother, Billie Jean Linson; his grandfather, Nolan David; and grandmother, Naomi Linson.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services from WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Cemetery, Westwego, LA. Visitation on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until funeral time.
For information call, 504-341-9421.

## DEATON

Wanda L. Deaton on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at Ochsner Foundation Hospital. Beloved wife of 55 years of Roy J. Deaton. Mother of Cary Joseph Deaton, Lydia Anne Deaton Juge, Brad Thomas Deaton and Donald Girard Deaton. Grandmother of Cary Joseph Zurcher, Andrew Lalande Juge, Joanna Zurcher, Ashley Corrine Deaton and Bradley Thomas Deaton, Jr. Sister of Jerry Lowder Blair and Bill Thomas Lowder. Also survived by her Lab Abby. Age 75 years. A longtime resident of Metairie, LA.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in Garden of Memories. Visitation on Monday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until funeral time.

## DESSOMMES

Rhoda Richter Dessommes, of New Orleans, Louisiana and of Pensacola, Florida passed away peacefully on October 3, 2005 in Dallas, Texas. She was 64 years old. She is survived by her beloved husband of 42 years, Michael Andre Dessommes; six children: Genevieve Dessommes Denny (David), Paul Michael Dessommes, Louis LeJeune Dessommes, Marie Elise Dessommes (Bastiaan Knottenbelt), Yvonne Dessommes Preisman (Jason) and Isaac Martin Dessommes; two grandchildren, two sisters, two brothers, one sister-in-law; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by one son, Andre Philippe Dessommes.
Funeral services were held October 7, 2005 at the Church of the Incarnation at University of Dallas in Irving, Texas.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Touro Infirmary Foundation, P.O. Box 41318, Baton Rouge, LA 70835 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

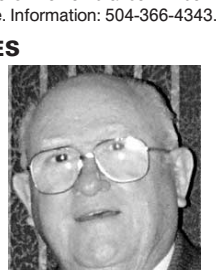
## DICKMANN

Iris A. Berges Dickmann on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Beloved wife of Calvin C. ''Pete'' Dickmann. Mother of Randy M. Dickmann and Rebecca D. Berkstresser. Mother-in-law of Lyn Wright Dickmann and John Berkstresser. Daughter of the late Rose Gaile Berges and Louis R. Berges. Sister of L. Roland Berges. Sister-in-law of Gayle Sutton Berges, John P. Dickmann and Carol Borne Dickmann. Grandmother of Jennifer Dickmann and Ryan Berkstresser. Age 72 years. A native of Algiers, LA and a resident of Mongtomery, TX.
A Funeral Mass was celebrated at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Tuesday, October 11, 2005. Interment followed in Westlawn Memorial Park.
Donations in her memory may be made to Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church for Hurricane Katrina damage restoration, #500 Eliza Street, Algiers, LA 70114.

## FLEMING

Quentin J. ''Boots'' Fleming on September 7, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Adelaide Kron Fleming. Father of Gary J. and Philip A. Fleming. Son of the late Agnes Landry Fleming and James P. Fleming. Brother of James P. Fleming, Jr., the late Edward Fleming and Elsie F. Primm. Grandfather of Jason Alan and Jeremy Dwayne Fleming. Loving companion of Betty M. Albert. Age 85 years. A native of Algiers, LA and a resident of Marrero, LA for the past 13 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend Funeral Services at Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Parlors will be open Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. A Service of Remembrance will be held at a later date. Information: 504-366-4343.

## FLORES



Louis J. Flores, age 87 years, died on Saturday, October 8, 2005 of heart failure. Mr. Flores retired from the Times Picayune after 47 years of service. He was a long-time resident of Metairie, LA but had been living at Azalea Estates in Slidell at the time of his death.
Mr. Flores is survived by his daughter, Gail Flores of Metairie, LA and his daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Mark Moody of Slidell, LA. He is also survived by his grandson, Dr. Matthew J. Moody of Austin, Texas. Mr. Flores was preceded in death by his wife, Anna May d'Hemecourt Flores; and his grandson, Brian P. Moody.
Due to Hurricane Katrina, interment will take place at a future date at Lake Lawn Park Cemetery.
Family requests Masses and donations to the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association or St. Michael's Special School in New Orleans.
LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements. Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.lakelawnmetairie.com.

## GARIBALDI



Marie Brule' Garibaldi, a devoted mother of nine children and active volunteer in civic and Catholic organizations in New Orleans, LA, for many years, passed away on Friday, October 7, 2005 at 9:40 p.m. at Woodbury Senior Living Center, after being relocated to Minnesota due to Hurricane Katrina. She was 90. Mrs. Garibaldi graduated from Corpus Christi Grammar School and McDonogh 35 High School in New Orleans. Mrs. Garibaldi was the first African-American recipient of the Archdiocese of New Orleans' Regina Matrum (''Mother of the Year'') Award in 1969, an honor presented to a Catholic mother for the exemplary living of her faith through her dedication to her family, her Church, and her community. She was a very active member of St. Joan of Arc Church in New Orleans, where she was the Grand Lady of the Knights of St. Peter Claver at St. Joan of Arc Church in New Orleans, as well as a member of the Sodality and Altar Society. She was also president of St. Joan of Arc School's Parent Teachers Association and was chair of the Church's Bazaar.
She was preceded in death by her husband, Augustin Garibaldi, a son, Augustin B. Garibaldi, and two of her daughters, Alfreda Garibaldi Leonetti and Agnes C. Garibaldi, both of whom taught in the St. Paul (MN) Public Schools since 1966 and 1969, respectively. Survivors include her daughter, Debra G. Shropshire of New Orleans, five sons: Arnold, Amadee and Alvin of New Orleans; Antoine of Erie, PA; and Christopher Garibaldi of Minneapolis, MN; two brothers, Manuel and Steven Brule'; a sister, Theresa Porter Burrell of Los Angeles, CA; daughters-in-law, Donna, Lynne, Betty, Carol, Leslie and Debra; sons-in-law, Alphonse Shropshire and Robert Leonetti, sisters-in-law Mary, Lena and Lillian Brule'', 24 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and many other relatives.
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at Our Lady of Lourdes, Minneapolis, MN.In lieu of f lowers, donations may be made to Saint Joan of Arc School, 919 Cambronne Street, New Orleans, LA 70118.

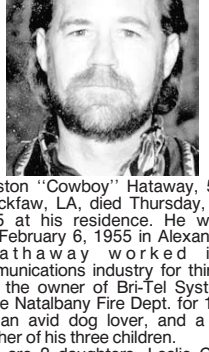
## HAINS

Gilda Marie Washington Hains, age 50, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, August 28, 2005 in New Orleans, LA. Beloved wife of the late Hebert Hains and loving mother of LeShawn R. Hains. Daughter of Carl Washington, Sr. and the late Ethel Cecile Lawrence Washington. Adoring and beloved sister of Carl III, Brian, Anthony, Harrell, Sheila, the late Calvin and Carl Washington Jr. Survived by step-mother, Janice Washington; sisters-in-law, Barbara, Kimberly and Francis Washington. Also survived by 3 grandchildren, Kendall, Christine, Kyron; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA. She attended F.T. Nicholls High School and Dillard University. Her life was truly a special blessing and special gift from God to all who knew her. We were truly blessed to have known such a loving, kind hearted, unselfish, caring Child of God. She will be greatly missed. ''The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched...but are felt in the heart.''
Remains were cremated on 4 October 2005 with arrangements by Winnfield Funeral Homes of Baton Rouge, LA. Offer condolences online at www.legacy.com.

## HARRISON

Kevin Bradley Harrison, age 25 years, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. Husband of Lisa Zanca Harrison. Father of Bradley Kevin Harrison. Son of Kenneth B. Harrison III and Gail Conzelman Harrison. Brother of Heather Harrison and Caitlin Harrison. Also survived by his grandmothers, Dorothy Conzelman and Valerie Blush. He was a native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA for the past 25 years.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Service from First Baptist Church, 1400 Williams, Blvd., Kenner, LA, between W. Metairie and Airline, on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until time of service.
In lieu of flowers, donations to a Donation Account for Bradley K. Harrison, Hibernia Bank, Bonnabel Branch, 1501 Veterans Blvd., Metairie, LA 70005.
Arrangements entrusted Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home.

## HATAWAY



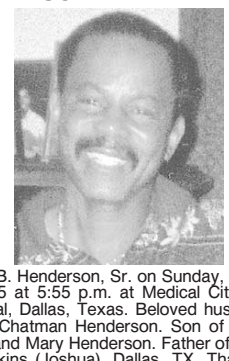
Britt Preston ''Cowboy'' Hataway, 50 years old of Tickfaw, LA, died Thursday, October 13, 2005 at his residence. He was born Sunday, February 6, 1955 in Alexandria, LA. Mr. Hathaway worked in the tele-communications industry for thirty years and was the owner of Bri-Tel Systems. He was in the Natalbany Fire Dept. for 18 years. He was an avid dog lover, and a devoted loving father of his three children.
Surviving are 2 daughters, Leslie Canale of Covington, LA and Lindsey Hataway of Tickfaw; son, Preston Corey Hataway of Covington; father, James Edward Hataway of River Ridge, LA; mother, Dawn Webster Hataway of River Ridge; sister, Haviland Hataway of Marrero, LA; grandson, Preston Michael Canale of Covington.
Friends will be received on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 6:00 until 9:00p.m. and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until services at 11:00 a.m. at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home, Hammond, LA. Services will be held at the Funeral Home Chapel, Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Billy Robbins officiating. Interment will follow in the Pinecrest Cemetery.
Email condolences to: hmckneely@i-55.com / subject line: Hataway.

## HEBERT



Sara Cook Hebert on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at Ochsner Clinic Foundation. Wife of the late Joseph Isadore Hebert, Jr.; mother of Annabelle Hebert and Joseph Allen Hebert; mother-in-law of Cynthia Dietz Hebert. Born in Rayville, LA, December 22, 1915 to Myrabelle Henry Cook and Allen Jefferson Cook. A resident of New Orleans for 60 years.
She was a longtime member of the board of the Poydras Home; founded and directed the Coterie Program at Valencia Club; directed the Ice Breakers program; and created Savoir Vivre, an etiquette course she taught for years. Mrs. Hebert was also executive secretary of Le Debut des Jeunes Filles de la Nouvelle Orleans and manager of the Stratford Club.
Donations preferred in memory of Sara Cook Hebert to Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Pulmonary Research Fund, Philanthropy Division BH240, 1514 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70121. (www.ochsner.org/philanthropy).
Funeral services will be held Monday, October 17, 2005, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 631 State St., New Orleans, LA 70118. Visitation from 1-2 pm followed by a Mass at 2 p.m. A private burial will be at a later date. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## HENDERSON



Glenn B. Henderson, Sr. on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 5:55 p.m. at Medical City Dallas Hospital, Dallas, Texas. Beloved husband of Gloria Chatman Henderson. Son of the late Louis and Mary Henderson. Father of Teasha H. Perkins (Joshua), Dallas, TX, Thalesa H. Mc Kalpain (Damon), North Carolina, Aisha Henderson and Glenn B. Henderson Jr. Brother of Mary Louise Young, (Oliver) Lydia J. Henry (Kermit), Emelda Patrica H. Moody (Morris), Joseph Raheem (Rosalie), Ivory Leon Henderson (Marie) of Alaska and the late Bernard E. Henderson. He is survived by 7 loving grandchildren.
Mr. Henderson graduated from L.B. Landry High School and was a Pumper at International Matex Tank Terminal in Harvey, LA.
Services were held Friday, October 7, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Officiated by Rev. Norman Francis at Rhodes Funeral Chapel, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, LA.




You can now add a photograph, U.S. flag, cross or Star of David to your Death Notice

Ask your funeral director for details.

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Steven Hightower, MD and Luis Linares, MD
Touro Radiation Department is open and staffed by Dr. Steven Hightower and Dr. Luis Linares.
Steven Hightower, MD and Robert Swanton, MD
Dr. Steven Hightower has also re-joined Dr. Robert Swanton at West Jefferson Medical Center.
Thomas Weatherall, MD and Michael Hayman, MD
Dr. Thomas Weatherall and Dr. Michael Hayman continue their practice at Slidell Memorial Hospital.
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# DEATHS

## HUNTER
Emilda Lucille Williams Hunter died on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at West Valley Convalescent Hospital in West Hills, CA. She was 91. She was born in Ama, LA to the union of Louis Williams and Ella Thomas Williams. She lived in New Orleans, LA for the past 72 years. She evacuated from the Lafon Nursing Facility of the Holy Family during Hurricane Katrina. She attend Zion Travelers First Baptist Church for the past 70 years.
Emilda leaves to mourn her son, Chalmers Levy Hunter (Marian); her daughter, Jacqueline Hunter Jackson; her grandson, Chalmers Levy Hunter II; her granddaughter, Erin Jackson Earls (Dennis); one sister, Abbie Barnes; three sisters-in-law, Victoria, Josephine and Ellastine Williams; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Her husband, Williard Louis Hunter, preceded her in death in 1947. Her oldest son, Williard Louis Hunter, Jr., preceded her in death in 1999.
Funeral Services were held at Simpson Family Morturary, Englewood, CA on Thursday, October 13, 2005. Interment Roosevelt Memorial Park, Gardena, CA.

## JACKSON
Veronica Johnson Jackson departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Loving wife of Elie Jackson, Jr. Devoted mother of Terrance Johnson. Grandmother of Terrance, Terrek'e and Tyrese Johnson. Daughter of the late Jessie and Dorothy Johnson. Granddaughter of the late Charlie and Eva Knapper. Sister of Ernestine Davis, Eva and Shirley Johnson, Ruby D. Becnel, Rhonda Dunbar, Charles Camel, Larry Reed, Jessie Johnson, Jr., Kenneth Johnson, Stanley Gaines, and the late Andre Johnson. Also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Age 49 years. A native of New Orleans, LA. and a resident of Marrero, LA.
Relatives and friends also pastors, Officers and Members of Shiloh Missionary B.C. and neighboring churches are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Shiloh Missionary B.C., 1419 4th Street, Westwego, LA. On Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 10:00 AM. Rev. Woodrow Hayde is officiating (No wake). Interment: Bright Street Cemetery - Marrero, LA. Arrangements by Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, La.

## JAMES
Hubert D. James, age 83 years, passed away Friday, October 14, 2005 at his residence. He was a native of Laurel, MS and a resident of Pearl River, LA. Mr. James retired from Kaiser Aluminum as an electrician. He was a member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church and was a WWII U.S. Army Veteran.
He was the husband of the late Lilah Gene James; the father of the late Robert M. James; and the brother of the late Glenn James. Mr. James is survived by two daughters, Donna James Rushon and Cynthia James Meyer; two sons-in-law, Bill Rushon and Joseph Meyer; and a sister, Marie Sheldon.
A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by SCOEN FUNERAL HOME, Covington, LA.

## JOHNSON
Genevia Isaac Johnson of Edgard, LA at St. Charles Hospital, Luling, LA, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005. Wife of the late Early Johnson. Mother of Herbert LaGrange, Sr., Olevia Macon, the late Charles and Ulysses LaGrange. Preceded in death by sisters and brothers. Survived by 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren, daughters and son-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A native of Edgard, LA and resident of Baton Rouge, LA. Age 87 years.
Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers and members of the Canaan B.C. and neighboring churches; and employees of Luling Living Center are invited to attend the Funeral Services on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. from the Canaan B.C., Killona, LA. Rev. H. Wolfe - officiating. Interment New Jerusalem B.C. Cemetery, Edgard, LA. Visitation at the Church after 9:00 a.m.
THE BALONEY FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., 399 Earl Baloney Dr., Garyville, LA 70051, (985) 535-2540 in charge of arrangements.

## KIRKPATRICK
Winnifred Caroline Lieb Kirkpatrick died of gall bladder cancer at Canon Hospice on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, at the age of 76. A homemaker, she was born in Cambria County, PA. She resided in Nicktown, PA, Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, and St. Charles, MO, and was a 40 year resident of Kenner, LA. She graduated from Spangler High School and also graduated as a registered nurse from Altoona School of Nursing in Altoona, PA. She was an avid bridge player and a member of PEO Chapter P Sisterhood, East Jefferson Newcomers, Welcome Wagon, and AARP. She was a parishioner of St. Philip Neri Church in Metairie, LA.
She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Edward Kirkpatrick, Sr.; her son, William Kirkpatrick; her parents, George and Gwennie Lieb of Nicktown, PA; her sisters, Caroline Lieb and Rose Kirsch; and her brother, James Lieb. Surviving are her children, Edward Krikpatrick, Jr., Linda Biven and Nancy LaBorde; daughter-in-law, Susan Kirkpatrick; sons-in-law, Ted Biven and Glenn LaBorde; seven grandchildren, Ryan and Brett Kirkpatrick, Timothy, Kurt and Garrett Biven, Renee Isaacs and Michelle LaBorde; one great-granddaughter, Krislyn Kirkpatrick; four nieces; and eight nephews.
A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 AM on Saturday, October 22, 2005, at Ascension of Our Lord Church, 1900 Greenwood Drive, LaPlace, LA. A private burial will be held in Nicktown, PA, at a later date.
The family requests prayers and masses.
Please sign and view the family guestbook at www.lakelawnmetairie.com.

## LALLY
Flora Guarisco Lally, at Canon Hospice Elmwood, on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 5:30 a.m. Beloved wife of the late Ernest J. Lally, Sr. Mother of Flora Lally St. Pe and Ernest J. Lally, Jr. Grandmother of Angela, Bridgette, Michael and David. Also survived by 6 great-grandchildren. Daugther of the late Maria Prima Guarisco and Philip Guarisco. Sister of Mary Guarisco Bourgeois. Preceded in death by 7 other brothers and sisters. Age 89 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Metairie, LA for the past 65 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 448 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Followed by private interment. There will be visitation at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church ONLY on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until funeral.
Sign the on-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com. Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Information: 504-831-9901.

## LaTOUR
Pershing Joseph LaTour (P.J.), born June 20, 1918, in Ville Plate, and a longtime resident of Donaldsonville, LA, he died Friday, October 14, 2005 at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. He was the former CEO and President of General Mud Services, Inc. A veteran of World War II, he was a French interpreter for the Navy in the Pacific Theatre. He was a past exalted ruler of the Elks Lodge and past president of Riverdale Golf Club. A lieutenant and captain in the Krewe of Louisiana, he escorted the queens at the Washington, DC Mardi Gras Ball for 15 years. P.J. was an accomplished Cajun musician having masterfully played the accordion and harmonica.
He is survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, Polly, son and daughter-in-law George and June Dupre LaTour; daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Freddy Tamayo; daughter, Janet (Boco) LaTour and son Billy LaTour, and daughter-in-law, Patricia Dill LaTour, Janel LaTour, Vernon Robin; siblings, Jack and Fay LaTour, Jerry and Reginald Keller, Delores and Dave Elston; grandchildren, Brandon and Julianne LaTour, Timothy and Cindy, Quincy Stewart, Jessie Fernando and Miguel Tamayo, Zack and Nina Robin and Ben, Seth, Katie and Julia LaTour; great-grandchildren, Lillian, Tucker, Leah, Braden, Alexander, Christopher, Savannah; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Liseau LaTour; and son, Joe LaTour; and several siblings. His long and loving marriage to Polly was always his greatest source of pride. A lifelong raconteur, his joie de vivre and kindness will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved hime.
Visitation at Ourso Funeral Home, Donaldsonville, LA on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. with the Reverend Phil Spano celebrating Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Smoke Bend, LA. Interment at Ascension Catholic Mausoleum. His son Joe will be interred as well.
OURSO FUNERAL HOME, Donaldsonville, LA.

## LAUVE
Jessie J. Lauve, Sr. of Waggaman, LA on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 4:04 p.m. Beloved husband of Bonnie Chappuis Lauve. Father of Jessie (Jay) Lauve, Jr. and wife, Patsy. Grandfather of Angela Lauve and (Lil) Jay Lauve and wife, Karen. Great-grandfather of Lance and Madison Lauve. Son of the late Louis and Estelle Lauve. Brother of Amay, Pearl and Ned Lauve, Peggy Friloux, the late Lawrence Minkey, Roy Lauve, Hazel Friloux and Stella Troxler. Mr. Lauve was a lifelong resident of Waggaman, LA. Age 83 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Chapel of WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Followed by interment in Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery, Waggaman, LA. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME.
Information: 504-341-9421.

## LEBOURGEOIS

Stacie Katherine LeBourgeois passed away in her sleep on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. She was 20 years old and a lifelong resident of St. Bernard Parish. Beloved daughter of Tina LeBourgeois Schiro and John K. LeBourgeois. Sister of Shannon LeBourgeois Smith and sister-in-law of Robert Smith. Goddaughter of Marnell Thames and Stephen ''Boo'' LeBourgeois. Granddaughter of the late Jacob J. Schiro, Sr. and Carmen Renaud Schiro of New Orleans, La. and the late Herman I. LeBourgeois, Sr. and Mary Leader LeBourgeois of White Hall, LA. Also survived by a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Stacie was a student at Chalmette High School. She touched the lives of everyone who met her and she will be sadly missed.
Relatives, friends, faculty and staff of Chalmette High and the St. Bernard Parish Special Education Officed are invited to attend the wake and funeral. Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 4:00 PM-9:00 at Ourso Funeral Home, 13533 Airline Hwy., Gonzales, LA. and again on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 8:00 AM until funeral mass at 11:00 AM conducted by Rev. Frank Lipps. Interment will follow in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans, LA. at 2:00 PM on Monday, Octobewr 17, 2005.

## MAISANO
Margie Acosta Maisano at Lecompt, LA on September 23, 2005 at 11:30 p.m. Age 80 years. Wife of Victor Maisano. Mother of John Maisano and Juana M. Ortego. Daughter of the late Valerie Pellegrin and Abel Acosta. Sister of Clara McKone, the late Willie Acosta, Roy Acosta, Able Acosta, Curnest Acosta, Joan Ferguson and Clifford Acosta. Mother-in-law of Clyde J. Ortego.
Relatives and friends of the family were invited to attend the Funeral Mass from Westside/Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in St. Roch Cemetery was private. Visitation at the Funeral Home on Monday, October 3, 2005 was from 10:00 a.m. until service time.
WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL handled arrangements. Information: 504-341-9421.

## MANGERCHINE

Mary Bonano Mangerchine at Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Jefferson, LA on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 4:40 PM. Beloved wife of the late Julius J. Mangerchine. Mother of Michael J., Richard D. and Cheryl Rainey. Sister of Catherine Trahan and Shirley Roser. Daughter of the late Jacob Bonano and Leah Spellman. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Age 76 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Harahan, LA for the past 17 years.
Relatives and friends, also members of Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 3267, American Legion Auxiliary Post 0397, Knights of Columbus, The Dragons, The Golden Ages, The Fun Seekers and The Silver Trotters are invited to attend the funeral service from the Metairie Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd., corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 10:00 AM until funeral time.
Information call 831-9901. Sign on Guest book at www.legacy.com.

## MARTINEZ
Inez Louise Martinez on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 6:00 a.m. Daughter of the late Aline Loubere Martinez and Edward Martinez. Sister of the late Aline Campesta, Edward, Francis, Wilbur, Rene and Arthur Martinez. Also survived by nieces and nephews. Age 81 years. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of the Metairie Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation after 9:00 a.m. Tuesday.
Arrangements by Jacob Schoen & Son Funeral Home.

## MATHERNE

Leona Babin Matherne, on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Len R. Matherne, Jr. Mother of Nedra Cain, Myrna ''Ticka'' Schmidt, Len R. Matherne, Jr., Elaine Nicoll and the late Sylvia Cook and Emile J. Matherne. Grandmother of Melvin Cain, Kathy Schmidt Fradella, Timothy Cain, Karen Cain Nettles, Suzanne Schmidt Cognivich, Dawn Matherne Erdal, Len Matherne, Sterling Nicoll, Kimberly Cook, Brad Matherne, Jason Nicoll, Lindsay Matherne and the late William Schmidt, III. Also survived by 13 grandchildren. Sister of the late Margaret Evans Ramsey, Silomon ''Bic'', Pellum, Bernard ''Dye'' Babin, Altea Burns and Estelle LeBlanc. Daughter of the late Leon Babin and Sylvie Braud Babin. Age 90 years. A native of Duplessis, LA and a resident of New Orleans, LA for 67 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Interment in Garden of Memories.

## McMILLAN
James Jeffery ''Jeff'' McMillan died on October 13, 2005 at LSU Medical Center in Bogalusa, LA at the age of 48 years. A native and lifelong resident of Bogalusa, LA, he was employed at Joe Miles & Son Lumber Company for more than thirty years and at death was a quality control officer.
Survivors include three children, Timberly Lynn McMillan of Bogalusa, Jeremy Lance McMillan of Bogalusa and Zachary Alexander McMillan of Foxworth, MS; his mother and father, Ludy Jane Thomas McMillan and James Wesley McMillan of Bogalusa; two sisters, Cheryl McBeth and her husband, L.O. and Lesa Wheat and her husband, Keith all of Franklinton; two brothers, Richard McMillan of Lumberton, MS and Danny McMilland and his wife, Shannon of Bogalusa; his beloved friend and companion, Vicky Lyn Gaither and her daughter, Evelyn Thomas of Bogalusa. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
Funeral Services will be conducted from the Chapel of Brown-McGehee Funeral Home on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Lynn Martin, officiating. Interment will be in McGehee Cemetery, Bogalusa, LA. Visitation will be on Saturday from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

## MEILLEUR

Evangeline Foy Meilleur died Tuesday evening, October 11, 2005 at Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge, LA. She was 57, a native of New Orleans, La. and a retired school teacher of Orleans Parish School System. Evangeline is survived by her two daughters Monica A. Meilleur and Alaina M. Meilleur; three grandchildren Daneia Brown, Aleia Singleton and Zipporah Singleton; two sisters, Eunola Foy Mansion and Bernadette Foy Richardson; three brothers, Leroy Foy, Sr., Julien Foy, Sr., Rodney G. Foy and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by parents Rene Foy, Sr., and Nellie Dolliole; three brothers Rene Foy, Jr., Alvin Foy, Sr., and Daniel Foy, Sr., and one sister; Sr. Christopher Foy, SSF.
Visiting at Allen Chapel AME Church, 6175 Scenic Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA. 70805, Tuesday, October 18th from 8 a.m. until religious service at 10 a.m. Interment at St. Patrick #3 in New Orleans, La. at 1 pm. Rhodes United Fidelity Funeral Home in charge of arrangements, Baton Rouge, LA. 225-383-1663

## MESSINA
John A. Messina, a retired plumber and restaurant owner, passed away on Sunday, October 9, 2005 in Longview, TX. Age 98 years. Beloved husband of the late Cecile Falco Messina. Loving father of Dale Messina and the late Carmel Tebbe Messina. Brother of Dorothy Dimarzio and Elvira Lecorgne. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 448 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA., on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 1:00PM. Interment will be private. Visitation at church on Tuesday from 11:00AM until service time.
LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME is in charge of arrangements.
Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.lakelawnmetairie.com.

## MORGAN

Martha Ann Leeson Morgan, beloved wife and mother, passed away at home in Baton Rouge, LA, October 3, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. of Primary Liver Cancer. She was only 46 years of age. She is survived by her husband, Matthew Charles Morgan; four sons, Matthew Christian, Daniel Leeson, Patrick Joseph and Charles William; her parents, Robert A. and Donna V. Leeson of New Orleans, LA; her brothers, Robert A. Leeson, Jr. of St. Augustine, FL and Dr. Jeffry A. Lesson of Metairie, LA.
Martha grew up in New Orleans where she attended the Aurora Gardens Academy, Dominican High School and after high school trained to be a Medical Ultrasonographer at Charity Hospital and worked at many of the New Orleans hospitals. She married and moved to Baton Rouge, LA where she became a highly respected Medical Untrasonographer and mother. She had been very active in scouting and was a true athletic Mom. Martha also was very active and had many friends at the Bethany World Prayer Center. She was especially fond of her Prayer Circle Group. Through Christ, she touched many lives and was deeply loved. She will be missed by all.
A Memorial Service was held 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Bethany World Prayer Center North in Baker, LA.

## NEEDOM

Cynthia ''Cindi'' Nelson Needom, a Project Manager, on Sunday, August 28, 2005, at Bally's Resort in Tunica, MS of a Pulmonary Saddle Embolus. Age 52 years. Beloved wife of Donald Needom on New Orleans, LA. Daughter of the late Dale Nelson, Sr. and Shirley K. Nelson of Laplace, LA. Loving mother of Charles Fahrenholtz, Jr. and Naomi Fahrenholtz. Stepmother of Dawn Needom and Gretchen Needom. Sister of Dale Nelson, Jr., Raoul Nelson, Craig Nelson, Bruce Nelson, Andrea Walker and Naomi Nelson. Also survived by two grandchildren. A native of Lynwood, CA and a resident of New Orleans, LA. Mrs. Needom formerly worked for Canal Barge Company.
A Memorial Gathering will be announced at a later date at the family residence in New Orleans. MOTHE FUNERAL HOMES, LLC is in charge of local arrangements.

## PACACCIO
Thomas ''Soot'' A. Pacaccio, at River Region Hospice, River Ridge, LA, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Beloved husband of Gladys Strassel Pacaccio. Father of Angela Pacaccio Williams, Nick T. Pacaccio and Rickie J. Pacaccio. Father-in-law of Suzanne Chatelain Pacaccio and Diane Bienlich Pacaccio. Grandfather of Jamie Lynn Bergeron, Dawn, Douglas and Tommy Pacaccio, Richard Sass III and the late Tricia Lynn Pacaccio. Brother of the late Tony, Ralph and Joseph Pacaccio, Mary Wirth and Angelina Mussachia. Son of the late Angela Calabrese Pacaccio and Nicola Pacaccio. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Age 85 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Kenner, LA for the past 36 years. A Navy veteran of WWII, served in the Pacific Theater.
Relatives and friends of the family, also employees of Jefferson Parish & Retif Oil and Fuel Co. are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Metairie Funeral Home of LAMANA-PANNO-FALLO, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. at the corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Followed by interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. until funeral time.
In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to River Region Hospice, 507 Upstream St., River Ridge, LA 70123.
Sign the on-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com. Funeral information: 504-831-9901.

## PATTERSON
Herman Patterson, Jr. of New Orleans, LA passed away on September 22, 2005 at Northeast Baptist Hospital, San Antonio, TX. He graduated from Southern University School for the Deaf with a certificate in Shoe Repairs. Herman was a master shoe repairman for 40 years at Tip Top Shoe Repairs on S. Carrollton Ave. for the Sanopadre Family.
Husband of Dolores Camp (1st marriage) and Vernice Patterson (2nd marriage). Stepfather of Vernon August and Ray Dantzler. Survived by 1 sister, Delores P. Smith; nephews, Kevin R. Smith (Barbara) and Kenneth Smith (Thea); great-nephews, Kevin Jr., Kenneth Jr., Antoine and Warren; great-nieces, Tamica and Ziekia; cousins and friends. Brother-in-law of the late Warren Smith.
A funeral was held on Friday, September 30, 2005 from the St. Phillip Catholic Church, Vacherie, LA. Burial was in Church Cemetery. THE BALONEY FUNERAL HOME, L.L.C., Garyville, LA handled the arrangements.

## PERICONE
Joseph Pericone, Jr. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 in Baton Rouge, LA. Loving father of Cathy L. Pericone. Brother of Julia Riedl and Pete Pericone and wife, Darlene. Also survived by loving family: L.J. Hartman; Linda and David Thomas; Peggy and Craig Gelpi and children, Wendy Riedl and Jay and children; Lisa and Jeff Irby and children; and David and Margaret Pericone and children. Age 73 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of St. Bernard for the past 43 years.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Mass at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home Chapel, 4747 Veterans Blvd., near Clearview Parkway, on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to L.S.U. Katrina Student Relief Fund, katrinasrf.com or the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity at helping .org.

## POCHE'

On October 10, 2005 very early in the morning Joseph Poche' Sr. ceased from his labor and was called to his reward.
Joseph, who was often called ''Bailey'' was born August 2, 1915 to Eugene and Camille Poche of Wallace, LA. He was the beloved husband of Louise Pierce-Poche for 68 years. To this union was born 6 children: Joseph, Roosevelt, Don and Barbara Towers, Melvin and Gloria Ann Poche' preceeds him in death.
Mr. Poche' was a faithful member of Greater Providence Missionary Baptist Church for more than 30 years,until his health failed, he was an active member of the Deacon Board.
He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife, 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchidlren, 1 sister, Selena Crockett; one sister-in-law, Cecula Allen; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Age 90 years. A native of Wallace, LA and a resident of Kenner, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family; also pastors, officers and members of Greater Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Little Zion Baptist Church and all other churches are invited to attend services at Richardson Fuenral Home, 11112 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge, LA 70123 on Tuesday, October 18, 2005. Viewing of body at 9:00 a.m. Funeral 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Officiated by Rev. Helen McMurray.
RICHARDSON FUNERAL HOME in charge.

## RICHARD
Mrs. Marie Cecile Richard in Ponchatoula, LA on October 8, 2005. Age 65 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and resident of Ponchatoula, LA. Survivors: son, Randal Cefalu and partner, Gregory ''Butch'' D'Addario, Revere, MA; son, Salvador Cefalu, Jr., New Orleans, LA; 2 sisters: Enola ''Nola'' Sturgeon, Tacoma, Washington and Ethel Mae Cefalu, Houma, LA; brother, Joseph Richard, Metairie, LA; grandchild, Jamie Ingold, Belle Chase, LA; numerous nieces and nephews; former husband, Salvador Cefalu, Sr. Preceded in death by: sister, Bernice Salinger.
Memorial Service were at Geisler Funeral Home, Ponchatoula, LA on Friday, October 14, 2005.
Make donations in memory of Marie Richard to Habitat for Humanity International for Katrina victims.

## ROY
Dr. Mark J. Roy, Jr., age 68 years, born November 2, 1936, died Friday, October 14, 2005. A native of Natchez, Mississippi and a resident of Thibodaux, LA. Survived by: his wife of 41 years, Loretta Caplis Roy; sons, Dr. Mark J. Roy III and Joseph Roy; daughters, Jane Roy Tassin and Maggie Roy Constant; daughter-in-law, Theresa Roy; sons-in-law, Chet Constant and Daryl Tassin; grandchildren, Michael and Lauren Diez, Victoria and Francis Roy, Caroline and Philip Constant and Loretta Tassin. Preceded in death by his parents, Col. Mark J. Roy and Jane Gillespie Roy; and parents-in-law, Joseph Caplis and Antoinette Serwich Caplis.
Dr. Roy was born in Natchez, MS, graduated from Springhill College in Mobile, Alabama, served in active and reserve duty for the US Army, graduated with a Doctor of Optometry degree from University of Houston; practiced Optometry for 39 years in Thibodaux, was an active member of St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, a charter member of the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, twice past president of the Optometry Association of Louisiana, member of the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus. He loved spending time with his family, fishing, traveling and outdoor cooking.
Visitation 8:00 a.m. until funeral time on Monday, October 17, 2005 at St. Joseph Life Center, Thibodaux, LA. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery, Thibodaux, LA.
Memorial contributions may be made to E.D. White Catholic High School, St. Joseph Elementary School or Springhill College.
LANDRY'S FUNERAL HOME, INC. in charge of arrangements.

## SABELLA
Carlo ''Kelly'' Sabella, a retired Pipefitter, 70 years old, died Saturday, September 17, 2005, at his home in Pochatoula, LA. A native of Metairie, LA. Survived by sons, Matthew Morgan of Slidell, LA and Robert Morgan of Mississippi; daughters, Carla S. Barrios of Ponchatoula, Joy Germany of Mississippi and Tanya Baust of Atlanta; fourteen grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren. Brother of Rose S. Danna and Gasper Meo of Metairie, LA. Preceded in death by his wife, Velma Thibodeaux Sabella; parents, Annie Ferrara Sabella and Sam Sabella; and brother, Peter Sabella.
Visitation and Funeral Services were held Monday, September 19, 2005 from McKneely & Son Funeral Home, Ponchatoula, LA. Interment in Bedico Community Cemetery, Bedico, LA.

## SCHNEIDER
Catherine Mary Blanda Schneider, in New Orleans, LA on August 29, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Robert E. Schneider, Jr. Mother of Robert E. Schneider III, Leon Herman Schneider, Joseph P. Schneider and P.H. Fred. Survived also by her sister, Phyllis Blanda; and brother, Sebastian Blanda; 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A native of New Orleans, LA, she was married 57 years. She grew up working in the family grocery business in the Carrolton area and later in life retired as a sitter for the elderly. She was a great cook and devoted to her family. She was known for her fiery disposition, strong courage, sharp wit, and unfailing energy.
Private Graveside Services will be conducted Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 1:00 PM. at Lake Lawn Mausoleum under the direction of Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Directors.
The family guest book may be signed on line at www.legacy.com.

## SPORT
Bonnie Jean Tanner Sport was born to Mildred Ruth Perron Tanner and Leslie Paul Tanner on April 16, 1929 in Meridian, MS. She died while evacuating from Hurricane Rita on September 22, 2005. She left a loving family consisting of her husband, Harry C. Sport; and 5 children, Terry Young, Paula Maggard, Holly Strahan, Clay Sport and Lisa Dulaney. She also leaves 9 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 3 step great grandsons, and 1 step great great grandson. Also she leaves her loving brother, Paul Tanner, his wife Nell and his three children.
There will be a celebration of her life at Clayton-Thompson Funeral Home in Groves, TX on Friday, October 21, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. with the burial service at Greenlawn Cemetery, Groves, TX following.
The family requests, in lieu of flowers, please send your donations to the American Cancer Society, The National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
Please send memory cards to Harry C. Sport at 4740 Harrison, Groves, TX 77619.
She was a most beautiful person who touched many, many lives and will be greatly missed.

## UNANGST
James Flynn ''Zeke'' Unangst, proprietor of Zeke's Restaurant in Metairie, LA, on October 13, 2005 at Memorial Hospital in Houston, TX. Survived by his companion Jan G. Ezzell. Beloved son of Shirley Flynn Unangst and the late Clement W. Unangst. Brother of Patricia Darlene Unangst, Richard Daniel Unangst and Joseph Clement Unangst. Uncle of Scott Richard Unangst. Aged 49 years. A graduate of Delgado's Culinary Arts School. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans.
The relatives and friends of the family and patrons of the restaurant are invited to the Funeral Mass on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena's Catholic Church, 105 Bonnabel Blvd. at Metairie Rd. Interment in St. Patrick #3 Cemetery. Visitation on Monday, October 17, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time. Rosary service at 12:30 a.m.
Family prefers donatins to St. Michael's Speical School, 1522 Chippewa St., New Orleans, LA.
Funeral arrangements by Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home.

## UNDERWOOD
James Edward Underwood, at his home on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Beloved son of Diane Westgate Underwood and the late Joseph D. Underwood. Brother of Verne Underwood of Medford, OR; Steve Underwood of Portland, OR; Rebecca Underwood of Cedar Rapids, IA and Gerald Underwood of Colorado Springs, Co. Also survived by his many friends at Cytec Industries.
Relatives, Friends and employees of Cytec Industries are invited to attend a Memorial Service at First Baptist Church, 921 Paul Maillard Rd., Luling, LA. on Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Arrangements handled by WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA. For information, call 341-9421.

## VIDONNE
Vivian ''Bibbie'' Vidonne on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Beloved wife of the late George Vidonne. Daughter of the late Isabella Butler Baker and George Baker. Sister of the late Valerie Baker Harding, Vada Baker Romero, Verlin ''Jack'' Baker, Sr. and Vester ''Betty'' Baker, Sr. Sister-in-law of Flo Baker, Leoncia Baker and Notile Vidonne. Sister-in-law of Ethel and Murphy Vidonne. She will be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and friends. She will be especially missed by Valerie and Chip Claverie, Tommy, Brian, Scott, Michael, Alissa and their families. Age 92 years. A native of Algiers, LA and a longtime resident of Gretna, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family, also members of St. Joseph Catholic Church and Gretna Presbyterian Church are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated from the chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 2100 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. Visitation at the funeral home on Monday from 1:00 p.m. until Mass time.

## WALKER
Esther Buras Walker, on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at Rayville, LA. Beloved wife of the late Arthur J. Walker. Survived by her children, Yvette T. Walker, Robert J. Walker and his wife Hannah Leake Walker, Joyce Ann Wintzell and her husband Henry Wintzell; 7 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren; also many nieces and nephews. A granddaughter preceded her in death. Mrs. Walker, age 85, was a native of Buras, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral at the Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. at Bonnabel Blvd. on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 12:15 PM with visitation from 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM. Interment will be at a later date in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens.
Arrangements by Jacob Schoen and Son Funeral Home. Guest book may be signed on line at www.legacy.com

## WALKER
Mrs. Joy Alice Creel Walker, age 74 years, of Jefferson, LA, died Friday, October 14, 2005 in Satsuma. Mrs. Walker was a native of Biloxi, MS and a longtime resident of Jefferson, LA. She was a registered nurse with Ochsner and Hotel Dieu Hospitals. She was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church.
Survivors include her husband, Robert ''Bob'' Walker; one son, Robert ''Gene'' Walker; and two grandchildren.
Funeral Services will be held Monday, October 17, 200t at 1:00 p.m. at the Pass Road Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes in Biloxi, MS where friends may visit one hour before service time. Burial will follow in Biloxi City Cemetery.
View & sign register book at www.bradfordokeefe.com.

## WHITE
Arnold Henry White, on September 25, 2005, as a result of a traffic accident. Companion of the late Lena David. Beloved father of Jerry White of Chalmette, LA. Son of the late Henry White and Dorothy Rodriguez White. Brother of Michael, Mitchell, Patrick and Garrick White. Grandfather of Kirk Nolan David.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services from WESTSIDE/LEITZ-EAGAN FUNERAL HOME, 5101 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 12:00 noon. Interment in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Cemetery, Westwego, LA. Visitation on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until funeral time.
For information, call: 504-341-9421.

## WHITE
Edward Earl White, Jr. departed this life in Irving, TX on Sunday, October 9, 2005. Companion of Carla Taylor. Father of Pasha White and Darius Edward White. Son of Edward and Joann White. Grandson of Emma Spencer and the late Ernest Spencer, R.B. and Bessie Lou White. Brother of Nicole, Chantel, Bianca White, Michael A. White and Jackie O. White. Nephew of Carlene Cole and Debbie Johnson. Also survived by a host of other relatives and friiends. Age 35 years. A native of New orleans, LA and Lithonia, GA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 10:00A.M. Visitation from 9:00a.m. until service time at the above named parlor. Interment Restlawn Cemetery, Avondale, LA.

Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 Westbank Expressway
Marrero, LA

## WILLIAMS
Nicole ( Nikki ) Williams on Saturday, October 1, 2005 at Memorial H

The Times-Picayune

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## YOUR OPINIONS

# Regulations may raise the cost of new homes

Much has been said about rebuilding our city, and many politicians have stated that we should rebuild better and higher. As the victims have seen over the past four weeks, the media and activists with personal agendas have exaggerated many statistics. Let us be careful not to run hastily into the adoption of more regulations, which could raise the cost and lower the availability of housing in our hometown.

Home builders do not object to building codes and, in fact, endorse guidelines for quality construction. However, the Home Builders Association is deeply concerned about the ability of our citizens to afford a new home.

Much discussion has come from the academic world as well as from the sellers of building codes, suggesting that we should adopt codes similar to those used in Florida. What I would like our leaders to consider is the difference between Katrina and the Florida storms.

Katrina was a flooding event; the Florida storms were wind events. The homes in the New Orleans area survived the storm, but not the flood from the levee breaks. It would make terrific sense to invest in our levees.

Purveyors of the new building code predict that it would add 1 percent to 2 percent to the cost of building a home. The Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans' assessment is more like 8 percent, or $6.50 per square foot. This would add $13,000 to the price of a 2,000-square-foot home.

This price increase will raise the yearly salary needed to qualify for a home loan by $3,600. For working families, the extra $300 per month could be the difference between renting and owning a home.

Let's build better and higher, but let's be sure to consider our police, firemen, teachers and other middle-income home buyers as we rebuild.

**Phil Hoffman**
*President*
*Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans*
Metairie

# Neighbors should learn compassion

Regarding the homeowners' association members in the Crestwood subdivision in Covington, where is their compassion? They were inconvenienced by Katrina, but their lifestyle did not change. I wish they could walk a mile in a Katrina victim's shoes.

Try being homeless or put in a shelter — then maybe you will forget about "keeping up appearances" and think more about being your brother's keeper. This goes for you too, Oak Harbor.

Also, where is the coverage of the devastation rendered to the less-affluent neighborhoods of Slidell? Take a drive out Short Cut and view Tammany Mobile Home Park, Northshore Mobile Home Park and Avery Estates. Apple Pie Ridge is gone too.

These homes were tossed about like an angry toddler throws his toys. Hundreds of families were displaced. These folks have nothing to come back to. There is nothing left of the camps along Highway 90. But all we see is New Orleans, New Orleans, New Orleans. There is life (or lack of it, now) somewhere besides New Orleans.

It would be nice for the rest of the world to see and help these folks too. They are the backbone of the work force, and commerce will suffer for the lack of housing and assistance available for them.

How soon we forget the little folks and the tragedies that happened just weeks ago.

**Rebecca Hartsell**
Slidell
Now in Covington




STAFF FILE PHOTO

The Ritz-Carlton, formerly the Maison Blanc building, on Canal Street.

# Casinos will boost recovery

I completely disagree with The Times-Picayune's assessment of Mayor Ray Nagin's casino plan. This plan is excellent.

Before Katrina, New Orleans had been looking for ways to revitalize Canal Street. Canal has been in disrepair and consequently has been discouraging our top industry tourism. The mayor's casino plan will inevitably lead to hotels jockeying for CBD real estate in order to reach the 500 room minimum and increase gaming space. To do this they will buy out many of the vacant storefronts and rundown business. The casino plan will lead to rising real estate value in the CBD, which will give the small business owners larger payoffs.

Mayor Nagin needs to ensure the historical integrity of the CBD by starting a strict commission regulating the casinos and demanding that during the construction process the building facades in our beautiful downtown are kept intact. In other words, the casinos need to work within the structures available. This will keep our architecture's integrity, while ensuring that we have a truly unique gaming setting.

Mayor Nagin's plan may not be traditional, but it will be the fastest way to bring large amounts of revenue to the city, while improving our No. 1 industry and encouraging the redevelopment of the CBD.

**Mike Spoo**
New Orleans
Now in Lafayette

# Those who stayed need help

If there has ever been a dysfunctional organization, it is FEMA. It cannot be disputed that the money is being distributed in an unfair and inconsistent manner.

Initial funds were distributed only to those who evacuated. My family stayed because we have livestock, and we feared that had we left we may not have been able to get back to tend to our animals.

We lived for 31 days without electricity, 27 on a generator. We spent close to $1,000 to buy fuel. People in my area missed work, paychecks were short and our expenses were high. We've had to clear trees, rebuild fences and cover roofs without the benefit of money from FEMA.

I'm not comparing my losses to those who lost their homes or loved ones. But I, like many others who chose to stay home, could've used some emergency funds.

I guess next time, I'll have to evacuate too, and then maybe I won't feel so stressed over finances.

**Mary L. Thompson**
Folsom

# Trouble follows, insurance lags

Our home had minimal damage that our insurance will likely not cover and we did not receive displacement money from them. My husband's company transferred him to Florida for six to nine months and we also rented a house outside Baton Rouge, not knowing how long before life would be normal. We put our kids in a Catholic school only to receive a bill for tuition even though we prepaid at home.

We received food stamps, FEMA and Red Cross assistance. Then Hurricane Rita flooded the home we are renting and ruined all of our belongings. They are not covered by our insurance because your flood insurance doesn't travel with you!

It's wonderful that FEMA and other agencies exist, but what real assistance is out there? How can we be forced to pay thousands of dollars every year in insurance that doesn't have to pay you because of their many loopholes?

**Tracey Smith**
Terrytown
Now in Baton Rouge



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New Orleans, LA 70125
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E-mailed letters should bear the subject line "letter to the editor." Do not send a letter as an e-mail attachment such as .doc or .txt. We cannot open such files. All submissions become the property of The Times-Picayune and will not be returned; submissions may be edited and may be published or otherwise reused in any medium.

## OUR OPINIONS

# A promise to stay

The state and federal governments have long maintained a major presence in greater New Orleans. And they should continue to do so, even after Hurricane Katrina.

Especially after Hurricane Katrina.

From the Louisiana Supreme Court to military bases to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, state and federal facilities represent a key part of the local economy, and the loss of any of them would be a blow to a metro area that has already suffered plenty. Employees at some key government facilities have already found quarters elsewhere; the medical school at Louisiana State University, for example, is operating in Baton Rouge.

Given the stakes, New Orleans area residents need to be reassured that any such moves are only temporary.

President Bush, Gov. Kathleen Blanco and members of Congress and the state Legislature ought to promise that state and federal agencies operating in this metro area before the hurricane struck will remain afterwards. That commitment should be simple and unconditional: No disinvestment, no withdrawal, no retreat.

Such a promise would guarantee that good public-sector jobs will remain in the metro area year after year into the indefinite future, and that alone would have a significant economic impact. More important, a no-disinvestment promise would also be a sign to private-sector companies that top government officials are confident in the metro area's ability to rebuild.

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, some clueless members of Congress sniffed that New Orleans should not be rebuilt at all — a mindset that did not bode well for the metro area's future. Since then, though, federal and state officials have given little indication that they plan to pull existing operations out of our region for good.

Truth is, if government agencies start withdrawing from this metro area, they probably won't do so as quickly or overtly as a few businesses have. Take Ruth's Chris Steak House. That restaurant chain, which was founded in New Orleans by the legendary Ruth Fertel, moved its headquarters from Metairie to the Orlando area because of the hurricane. Executives soon announced that the company's move out of state would be permanent.

Public officials might be less willing to abandon Southeast Louisiana at its time of greatest need. But they might lose interest as people outside the metro area turn their attention elsewhere. And the presence of government jobs in greater New Orleans could be threatened by the tendency of bureaucracy to take the path of least resistance. For instance, state officials might decide not to rebuild Charity Hospital (or replace that time-honored but troubled institution with programs of comparable medical, educational and economic value). LSU officials could conclude that it's easier to put the Health Sciences Center near the system's flagship campus in Baton Rouge.

That would be a mistake. And when local officials in the metro area deal with their state and federal counterparts, they need to stress the benefits of remaining in greater New Orleans.

State and federal leaders clearly recognize the importance of rebuilding this region. "There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans," President Bush said in a nationally televised speech from Jackson Square last month. "Out of this devastation will come a new city," he said during a visit last week.

These were stirring words. They need to be backed up by a commitment to stay in the New Orleans area beyond the reconstruction period.

In many ways, prospects for the metro area have been improving dramatically. Flooded areas were pumped dry much sooner than initial estimates suggested. Most parishes in the metro area are back in business. Stores that have reopened are flooded with customers who are eager to get on with their lives. Neighborhood by neighborhood, the power on the east bank of Orleans Parish is coming back on.

Still, this metro area faces a gargantuan task. And the adrenaline rush that helped New Orleanians withstand the first few weeks of the Katrina crisis has given way to the long, slow grind of rebuilding. And residents of this metro area need to know, in no uncertain terms, that our state and federal governments will support us the whole way.

## JAZZ AND RAZZ



► The Rev. **JESSE JACKSON** has talked incessantly of the need to get New Orleanians home to rebuild their community. But the job seekers he brought here on a five-bus caravan last week were mostly from other places, like Mobile and Memphis — a situation he refused to explain. His posturing has done nothing to help New Orleans or the people from the city who lost homes and jobs.



► Communications were critical during Hurricane Katrina and its immediate aftermath, but Jefferson Parish officials say the **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY** removed the radio cables and equipment leading to an antenna on the Galleria office building and replaced it with equipment belonging to FEMA. That irresponsible action knocked out radio communication for the parish for several hours on Aug. 31, two days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.



► **BOH BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION** finished repair work on the eastbound bridge of the Interstate 10 twin spans sooner than expected, allowing the state highway department to open it to two-way traffic more than two weeks ahead of the Oct. 31 deadline. Crews repositioned 171 bridge sections that had been moved by Katrina's storm surge and replaced 39. Work on the more severely damaged westbound bridge is on schedule for a Jan. 14 reopening.

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## Nagin, Blanco asked to detail response

*Senate panel probes actions after storm*

**By Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — A Senate investigatory committee has asked Gov. Kathleen Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin for a detailed accounting of their response to Hurricane Katrina.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs has asked Nagin for:

▶ A description of "all actions taken to evacuate or attempt to evacuate individuals without personal transportation and those with medical conditions and special needs."

▶ All documents from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6 that refer to the levee system; lawlessness, looting or other law enforcement, public safety or public order issues; the situation at the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center; and the "evacuation of the Superdome/Convention Center or other areas of New Orleans."

▶ Any information that reflects on the "failure or inadequacy of emergency communications, and accounts of desertions" at the Police Department as well as conflicts responding to the disaster with federal, state and city agencies.

The committee has asked Blanco for:

▶ Information related to evacuations planned or carried out by the state.

▶ All documents from Aug. 23 to Sept. 6 related to requests or offers of assistance by federal, state, local and nongovernmental agencies.

In letters to Blanco and Nagin, committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, and ranking Democrat Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut said they understand city and state officials are busy overseeing recovery efforts.

*See* **PROBE,** *A-6*

The **complex** and **painfully slow** operation to identify the dead of Katrina has frustrated families and officials alike

# LONG WAIT FOR CLOSURE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

Dr. Louis Cataldie, commander of the mortuary response team, holds up a fingerprint card Friday in the makeshift morgue in St. Gabriel. 'I won't welcome you here, because none of us wants to be here,' Cataldie told visitors last week.

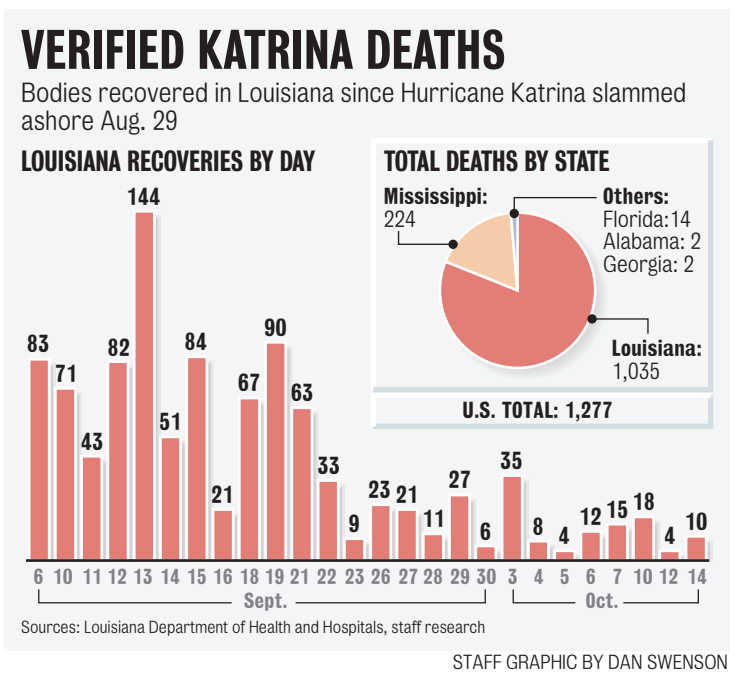
*"Do Anybody Hear Do Anybody Care About the Remains down There At St. Gabriel's Morgue" — From the poem "The Forgotten" by Earline Eleby-Coleman*

**By Robert Travis Scott**
Capital bureau

ST. GABRIEL — No president, governor or mayor of a major city has visited the makeshift morgue for Hurricane Katrina victims in the east bank village of St. Gabriel next to the Mississippi River, a mere dot on the map that has become a focal point of grief and controversy weeks after the tragic storm.

But visitors of other sorts are defining its place in Katrina's aftermath. There were two sisters outside the well-guarded gates Friday afternoon, tearfully pleading for information — any information whatsoever — about the body of their 80-year-old mother, who they say died at the Ernest

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-8*




STAFF GRAPHIC BY DAN SWENSON

## Flooded homes may get tax relief

*But governments would lose revenue*

**By Gordon Russell**
Staff writer

In a rare bit of good news for those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Katrina, it appears that a consensus is emerging on a package of proposals that would protect owners of properties trashed by the storm from the added insult of a hefty tax bill.

The dark cloud to that silver lining, of course, is that local governments already bled dry of sales tax money and other revenue streams are likely to face further shortfalls in the coming year.

While officials are still trying to get a handle on the damage in the hardest-hit parishes, Tom Arnold, assessor for New Orleans' 5th District and the president of the city's seven-member board of assessors, said the valuation of property in the city will likely be cut by about 60 percent.

In St. Bernard Parish, the devastation is so complete that Assessor Marlene Vinsanau plans to ask for a two-year tax amnesty for all businesses and residents, saying she can't in good conscience try to levy taxes on anyone.

Assessors in the New Orleans region, along with those responsible for collecting taxes, have had a series of meetings in recent weeks with Elizabeth Guglielmo, chairman of the Louisiana Tax Commission, to try to come to agreement on what needs to be done. Among the ideas that have gained wide currency in the group:

▶ All properties damaged by hurricanes should be reassessed immediately, not just property that has flooded, as current law holds.

▶ Homeowners forced out of their houses by storm damage should be allowed to continue enjoying a homestead exemption — a privilege that now requires that a property be "owned and occupied" — provided they sign

*See* **TAXES,** *A-7*

## Honk if you're sick of traffic

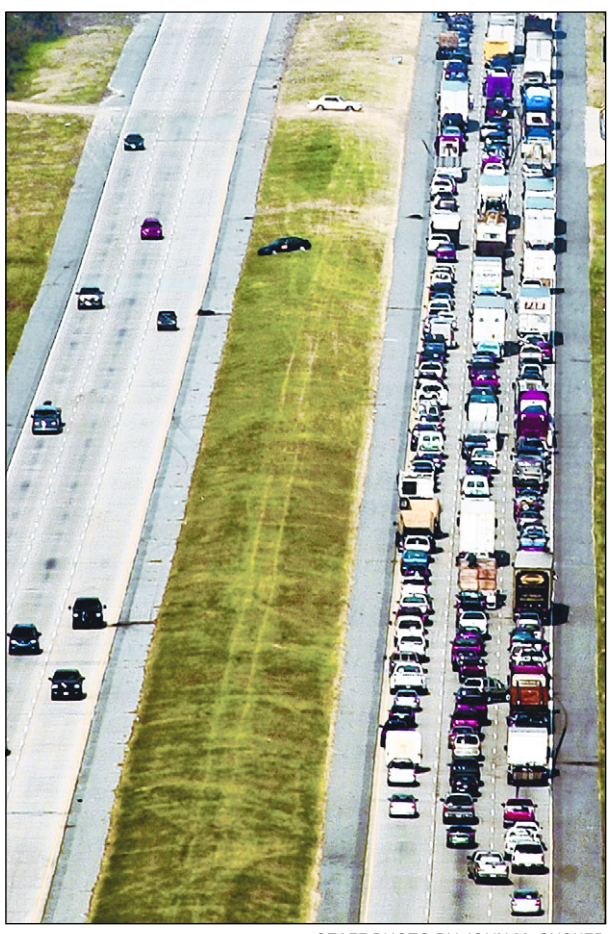
*Motorists being driven to the brink*

**By Sheila Grissett**
East Jefferson bureau

Welcome to the post-Katrina world of New Orleans area traffic, where driving is more dangerous, bottlenecks shift to new spots, rush hour rears up at unpredictable times, and lines of cars, trucks and trailers, many filled with out-of-town contractors or government workers, seem to jam most major thoroughfares.

As parts of the region repopulate and recover from the Aug. 29 hurricane, southeast Louisiana's demographics are fluctuating wildly amid the fluid demands of disaster response and businesses reopening. Congestion has returned to some of its usual haunts, only now it is fueled a bit less by home-and-work commuters and more by

*See* **TRAFFIC,** *A-5*



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

Storm damage to the Interstate 10 twin spans has closed one bridge, and the other has been opened to two-way traffic, limiting capacity and backing up traffic between Slidell and New Orleans.

**"New Orleans was our womb, and for most of us, it was going to be our grave."**
TIMOTHY BORDENAVE, a displaced Creole

## Now scattered, Creoles fear loss of culture

*Hurricane severs community's roots*

**By Susan Saulny**
© 2005, The New York Times

NATCHITOCHES PARISH — It is peaceful on the Cane River, beyond the fluffy tops of high cotton and towering magnolia trees, but it is not home. For the New Orleans Creoles now living there and elsewhere around Louisiana, their city was far more than home: It was homeland, the capital of an ethnic nation unique in the United States.

"New Orleans was our womb, and for most of us, it was going to be our grave," said Timothy Bordenave, who is living in a cottage in Natchitoches, a five-hour drive from the city, describing the lifelong connection to New Orleans felt by many of the city's Creoles, the population of mixed-race families who trace their roots to the city's French and Spanish colonial era.

The Creoles have been more distinctly connected to a place — New Orleans — than perhaps any other American ethnic group except their rural Louisiana neighbors, the Cajuns. But unlike the Cajuns, who settled in Louisiana after

*See* **CREOLES,** *A-10*


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MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 81 LOW 61

WORLD

# Death toll shoots up in hard-hit Kashmir

*Rains after quake may increase count*

**By Tini Tran**
Associated Press writer

BALAKOT, PAKISTAN — Pakistani officials predicted Sunday that many more thousands of dead would be found in earthquake-ravaged Kashmir as heavy rains in the Himalayan region drenched homeless survivors in mud and misery.

The latest estimate of at least 40,000 deaths in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir alone would mean more than 54,000 people were killed when the magnitude-7.6 quake hit the mountains of northern Pakistan and India. That represents a jump of 13,000 from the official count of known dead.

A spokesman for the prime minister of the region warned that the cold and wet could cause further deaths among the 2 million or so people thought to be homeless.

About a fifth of the villages in the quake zone remained cut off eight days after the tremor turned villages scattered across lush mountainsides into death traps, and the bad weather over Kashmir halted aid flights by helicopters.

Central government officials in Islamabad said early in the day that confirmed casualties totaled 39,422 dead and 65,038 injured for all of Pakistan, including more than 13,000 killed in North West Frontier Province. About 1,350 deaths were reported in India's part of Kashmir, for a total of just less than 41,000.

But a spokesman for the state government chief in the Pakistani portion of Kashmir, which suffered the worst quake damage, said later that officials think the death toll would rise rapidly as teams search more debris.

"The death toll is not less than 40,000" in just Pakistani Kashmir, said Abdul Khaliq Wasi, a spokesman for Sikandar Hayat Khan. He stressed that number was only "a closest estimate" and did not reflect the number of bodies recovered.

Khan, the Kashmiri prime minister, gave an even worse prediction to Pakistan's Geo television.

"Some people fear that the death toll could be 100,000, and they may be right," he said.

A precise death toll will be difficult to determine because many bodies are buried under collapsed buildings and landslides.

"The United Nations is still operating on the government's official numbers," said Andrew MacLeod, humanitarian affairs officer with the U.N. Coordination and Assessment Team. "There are regions that still have not been reached, and the death toll is not final."

Maj. Gen. Farooq Ahmed Khan, the Pakistani relief commissioner, voiced fears about the chill downpours that were making conditions even more miserable for quake survivors forced to live in the open.

WAR IN IRAQ

# Iraq constitution seems assured of passage




AP PHOTO

Adel Lami, left, chief of the Independent Electoral Commission in Iraq, follows the work of election employees as they enter data from Saturday's constitution referendum in Baghdad. The final tally is not expected before Tuesday, but early counts indicate that Sunni opposition failed to block its passage.

*Five U.S. soldiers killed in bomb blast*

**By Lee Keath**
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Iraq's landmark constitution seemed assured of passage after initial results Sunday showed that a strong push by minority Sunni Arabs to veto fell short — a major step in the attempt to establish a democratic government that could set the stage for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Opponents failed to secure the necessary two-thirds "no" vote in any three of Iraqi's 18 provinces, according to counts that local officials provided to The Associated Press. In the crucial central provinces with mixed ethnic and religious populations, enough Shiites and Kurds voted to stymie the Sunni bid to reject the constitution.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani issued a decree setting Dec. 15 for Iraqis to go to the polls again, this time to elect a new parliament. If the constitution passes, the first full-term parliament since Saddam Hussein's fall in 2003 will install a new government by Dec. 31. If the charter fails, the parliament will be temporary, tasked with drawing up a new draft on which to vote.

But the outcome could further divide the nation, with many Sunnis fearing the new decentralized government will deprive them of their fair share in the country's vast oil wealth. Large numbers of Sunnis voted "no," and some of their leaders were already rejecting the apparent passage.

While a strong Sunni turnout in Saturday's referendum suggested a desire among many to participate in Iraq's new political system, there were fears that anger at being ruled under a constitution they oppose could push some into supporting the Sunni-led insurgency.

"If the constitution was passed, the attacks will definitely rise against the occupation forces, and the security situation is going to be worse," said Sheik Abdul-Salam al-Kubaisi, a prominent cleric with the influential Sunni Association of Muslim Scholars, which government officials accuse of links to the insurgency.

In a sign of the relentless danger, five U.S. soldiers were killed Saturday by a bomb in Ramadi, a hotbed of militants west of Baghdad, the military announced. It was the deadliest attack on U.S. troops since a Sept. 29 bomb blast in the same town also killed five soldiers. A Marine was also killed by a bomb Saturday in the town of Saqlawiyah, the military said.

The most recent deaths brought to at least 1,976 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the war began in 2003, according to an AP count.

President Bush congratulated Iraqis on the referendum, which across the country saw few attacks and no deaths of voters in violence, and said the new constitution was a victory for opponents of terrorism.

**The outcome could further divide the nation, with many Sunnis fearing the new decentralized government will deprive them of their fair share in the country's vast oil wealth.**

On Sunday, U.S. military helicopters, Humvees and armored vehicles were helping transport the last ballot boxes from polling stations to counting centers in the provincial capitals. Those centers were making initial counts, then were to truck the ballots to Baghdad for the final tallying, which was likely to begin today.

In Baghdad's main counting center, workers tallied votes from the region around the capital. The center was shaken Sunday when militants fired two mortars into the Green Zone, the heavily guarded district where the U.S. Embassy, Iraqi government offices and the counting site are located. But the mortars did not hit the center and caused no casualties or significant damage.

Provinces in the south, where most of Iraq's Shiite majority are concentrated, racked up big "yes" numbers — more than 90 percent in favor in most places. Results were not yet available from Kurdistan, but the Kurdish voters, more than 80 percent, celebrated as they went to the polls to mark their new dominance of the country.

Between 54 percent and 58 percent of voters showed up Saturday in most parts of the south, according to U.N. elections chief Carina Perelli. The drop could reflect a belief that the constitution's victory was a sure thing or a vein of discontent among Shiites.

"Why should I care? Nothing has changed since we have elected this government: no security, no electricity, no water," said Saad Ibrahim, a Shiite resident of Baghdad's Karrada. "The constitution will not change that. The main issue is not getting this constitution passed, but how to stop terrorism."


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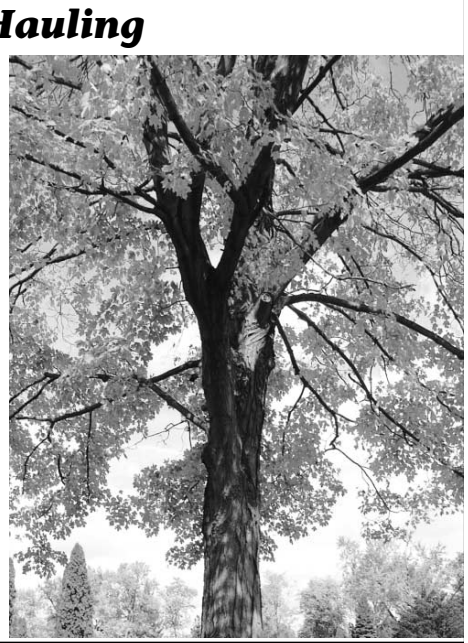
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# Contacts with reporter questioned

## *Advice offered on testimony called 'troubling'*

**By Pete Yost**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — New details about Judith Miller's decision to cooperate in the CIA leak probe are raising questions about whether Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff and his defense lawyer tried to steer the New York Times reporter's testimony.

The dispute arose as the newspaper on Sunday detailed three conversations that Miller had with the Cheney aide, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, in the summer of 2003 about Bush administration critic Joseph Wilson and Wilson's wife, covert CIA officer Valerie Plame.

The issue over the contacts between representatives for Miller and Libby has arisen even though Libby's lawyer insists his client granted an unconditional waiver of confidentiality more than a year ago for the reporter to testify.

The criminal investigation into the leaking of Plame's identity is nearing an end, and two Democratic senators said any Bush administration aide indicted in the probe ought to step aside.

Bush should return to the standard he first set when he said that anyone involved in the leak would be fired, rather than stick to a later statement that anyone convicted of a crime would be ousted, said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Presidential aide Karl Rove and Libby "have been implicated directly in an effort to discredit Joe Wilson," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat. Durbin told "Fox News Sunday" if Rove or Libby are indicted, "the tradition is they should be removed."

Rove gave grand jury testimony Friday — his fourth appearance. He was warned in advance by the prosecutor, Patrick Fitzgerald, that there is no guarantee he would escape indictment.

Rove did not initially tell investigators that he had a conversation with Time magazine reporter Matt Cooper about Wilson and his wife's status as a CIA officer.

"There's no question that, when you don't reveal something that appears to be material to an investigator initially, it raises questions in a prosecutor's mind and perhaps a grand juror's mind," said Joseph diGenova, a U.S. attorney in the Reagan administration.

"But it's also true, for those of us who have had witnesses as government attorneys and as defense attorneys, that people do forget things," he told ABC's "This Week."

In urging her to cooperate with prosecutors, Libby wrote Miller while she was still in jail in September, "I believed a year ago, as now, that testimony by all will benefit all. . . . The public report of every other reporter's testimony makes clear that they did not discuss Ms. Plame's name or identity with me."

One of Miller's lawyers, Robert Bennett, said on ABC that Libby's letter was "a very stupid thing to do."

When asked whether he thought Libby's letter was an attempt to steer her testimony, Bennett said, "I wouldn't say the answer to that is yes, but it was very troubling."

In a first-person account in the Times, Miller said that in her recent grand jury testimony, Fitzgerald asked her "whether I thought Mr. Libby had tried to shape my testimony."

Miller said she told the special counsel that Libby's letter could be perceived as an effort by Libby "to suggest that I, too, would say that we had not discussed Ms. Plame's identity." But she added that her notes of the conversations "suggested that we had discussed her job" at the CIA and not her name.

Miller wrote Plame's name in the same notebook she used when taking notes of her Libby interviews in 2003, but the reporter said she did not think she had gotten the name from Libby. She said she could not recall from whom she got the name.

The Times reported that over a year ago Tate passed along to Miller lawyer Floyd Abrams information about Libby's grand jury testimony — that the White House aide had not told Miller the name or undercover status of Plame.

Miller told the newspaper that Abrams gave her the following description of a conversation Abrams had with Tate: "He was pressing about what you would say. When I wouldn't give him an assurance that you would exonerate Libby, if you were to cooperate, he then immediately gave me this, 'Don't go there,' or, 'We don't want you there.' "

In an e-mail to the Times on Friday, Tate called Miller's interpretation "outrageous." "I never once suggested that she should not testify," Tate wrote. "It was just the opposite. I told Mr. Abrams that the waiver was voluntary."

Tate added, " 'Don't go there' or 'We don't want you there' is not something I said, would say, or ever implied or suggested."

# $1.2 million raised for DeLay's war chest

## *3-month influx set record, aide says*

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Cash in the campaign coffers of Rep. Tom DeLay rose to $1.2 million during the past three months, although much of the money came before the former majority leader was indicted in Texas.

DeLay raised about $920,000 in the three months that began July 1 and ended Sept. 30 in anticipation of a March primary race. His Democratic challenger in the November election is expected to be former Rep. Nick Lampson, who lost his seat in 2004 after he was forced to run in a new district under a redistricting plan pushed by DeLay.

Aide Shannon Flaherty said Sunday that the fund raising set a new record for DeLay. His previous three-month top haul was $800,000, she said.

DeLay, R-Texas, was required to step aside as House majority leader when a grand jury in Texas charged him with conspiracy on Sept. 28. A charge of money laundering came on Oct. 3. Both filings stem from a state campaign finance investigation led by Texas prosecutor Ronnie Earle.

DeLay has denied wrongdoing. He is scheduled to appear in court Friday in Austin, Texas.

Most of the money DeLay raised came from individuals. But he also gained heavy support from Winstead, Sechrest and Minick, a law firm based in Dallas that gave a total of $125,650.

# Rice praises Miers' 'probing intellect'

## *Focus on her religion leaves many uneasy*

**By Hope Yen**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Criticism of Harriet Miers as an unqualified crony of the president is unfounded, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday, praising the Supreme Court nominee for a "probing intellect" that will make her a great justice.

President Bush earlier this month chose Miers, a longtime confidante who has never been a judge, to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Since then, Miers' nomination has divided conservatives who support the president and those who say it was a risky choice because she was a blank slate on issues such as abortion and gay rights.

Three Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is expected to hold confirmation hearings next month, criticized what they called vicious attacks by the Republican right. They said Bush had made Miers' confirmation more difficult by highlighting her conservative religious beliefs, which was seen as an effort to close a growing split among the GOP.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said she remained open to voting to confirm Miers, citing in part the conservative criticism.

"The way she's being beaten up by the far right is very sexist. People should hold their fire and give people an opportunity to come before a hearing," Feinstein said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Rice said she has worked closely with Miers, the White House counsel and a former deputy chief of staff, on international legal issues such as a president's wartime powers.

"She's got a very probing mind and a probing intellect," Rice said on "Fox News Sunday."

"She is the kind of person who is — if there have been four arguments given, Harriet's going to look for the fifth," said Rice, who was interviewed from London at the end of a diplomatic trip.

Referring to Miers' critics, Rice said, "I think that when they get to know her in the hearings, in the confirmation hearings, that they're going to see a woman of extraordinary talent, extraordinary integrity and somebody who would be an extraordinary Supreme Court justice."

Asked whether she urged Bush to select Miers, Rice said, "I'm not in the habit of recommending Supreme Court justice nominees to the president."

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, meanwhile, took issue with Bush's emphasis of Miers' religious beliefs.

"It's going to make for a very difficult line of inquiry at our hearing, but we have to understand what she's all about, what her values and beliefs are, so we can make an informed judgment," said Durbin, who serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bush on Wednesday said: "People are interested to know why I picked Harriet Miers. They want to know Harriet Miers' background. They want to know as much as they possibly can before they form opinions. Part of Harriet Miers' life is her religion."

Durbin said he did not think Bush "did her a favor this last week by bringing up her religion as part of the reason why she should be considered positively as a nominee."

Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, another Democrat on the panel, called the religious references inappropriate, saying it showed that Bush was desperate.

"I call that groping. It sounds like a man who is going down and decides to try to throw something to his supporters," said Biden on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Feinstein said her questioning during the hearings will focus on whether Miers can rule independently and show a "breadth of knowledge" in topics including the separation of church and state, states' rights and the separation of powers.

"This is a very pivotal appointment," Feinstein said. "I'm more interested in her judicial philosophy, whether she is going to be able to be independent, whether she will be able to cut the umbilical tie to the president and call things as she sees them."

Joining Feinstein on the program, Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said Miers was "highly qualified" and rejected calls from some conservatives that she withdraw her nomination.

"Let's give her an opportunity to be heard before the committee," said Warner.

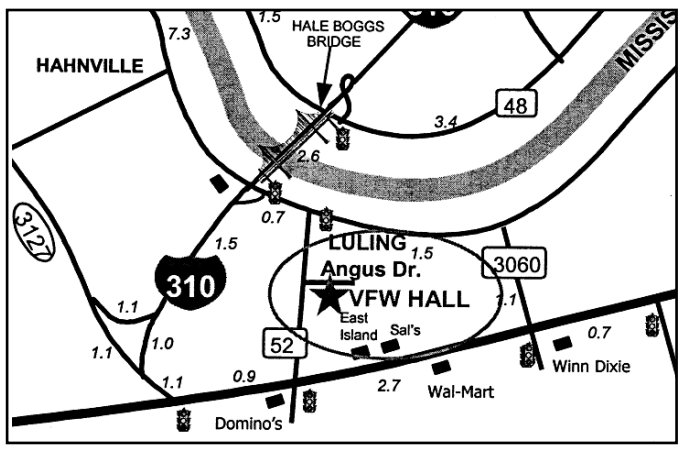



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# Storm system threatens Gulf Coast

## *Warning in effect for Cayman Islands*

**By Jay Ehrhart**
Associated Press writer

GEORGE TOWN, CAYMAN ISLANDS — A tropical storm warning was in effect Sunday for the Cayman Islands and residents began preparing for the worst. The U.S. Gulf Coast could be affected later in the week, forecasters said.

The system could become Tropical Storm Wilma, which would make it the 21st named storm of the season, tying the record for the most storms in an Atlantic season, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The only other time so many storms have formed since record-keeping began 154 years ago was in 1933.

At 8 p.m., the tropical depression was centered about 150 miles southeast of Grand Cayman, forecasters said. It was nearly stationary over the past several hours and had sustained winds near 35 mph. Depressions become tropical storms when their winds reach 39 mph.

Long-term forecasts show the storm would likely move west and north, putting the storm in the Gulf of Mexico later this week. Forecasters said water temperature and other conditions were favorable for it to become a significant hurricane.

"Once storms get into the Gulf of Mexico, I'm aware of only one storm on record that dissipated," hurricane specialist James Franklin said. "It has almost nowhere to go except land somewhere."

A hurricane watch was issued for the Cayman Islands, meaning hurricane conditions could be felt there within 36 hours. A tropical storm warning, indicating tropical storm conditions within 24 hours, also was posted.

The depression is expected to bring 4 to 6 inches of rain in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, with as much as 12 inches possible in some areas, forecasters said.

In the Cayman Islands, 51-year-old Susan Craig was ready.

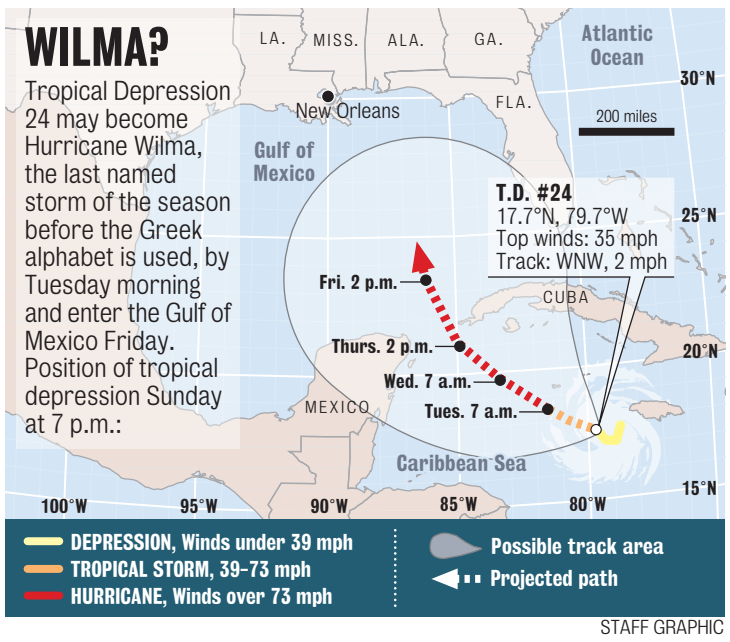
"I still have all the supplies from the previous storms this season, basically a lot of peanut M&Ms, so I am ready just in case," she said.

The chairman of the Cayman Islands' National Hurricane Center, Donovan Ebanks, said authorities had been monitoring the weather for several days.

"Because of where it is, and the fact that it is projected to become a tropical storm by tomorrow and possibly a hurricane in a couple of days, we've decided to go ahead and issue a tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch," he said.

In Jamaica, officials issued a flash flood warning for northwestern parts of the island. Jamaica's office of disaster preparedness said several businesses had been flooded in Montego Bay.

Hurricane season ends Nov. 30. Wilma is the last on the list of storm names for 2005; there are 21 names on the yearly list because the letters q, u, x, y and z are skipped. If any other storms form, letters from the Greek alphabet would be used, starting with Alpha. That has never happened in six decades years of regularly named Atlantic storms.




STAFF GRAPHIC

# Tourists stay loyal to New Orleans

## *Despite devastation, they're coming back*

**By Matt Sedensky**
Associated Press writer

Jeanie Reavis has come for Mardi Gras and Jazzfest and Creole Christmas, taking dozens of trips to the city she loves. She will head to New Orleans again Monday, undeterred by the destruction she witnessed on her TV screen from 700 miles away. She says she has to.

"Everyone thinks I'm crazy, but everyone that knows me knew that as soon as it was open I'd be getting down there," said the 54-year-old secretary from Loami, Ill., near Springfield. "I really need to see it."

With the French Quarter, the city's main tourist draw, spared from most of Hurricane Katrina's wrath, visitors are beginning to trickle back and others are vowing to keep upcoming reservations.

Reavis will visit New Orleans with her husband, as they have more than 30 times before, though this time will be more a pilgrimage than a vacation.

"For me, New Orleans is my favorite place in the world," Reavis said. "My only reservation is that I'm sure I'm going to cry when I see it."

She may be surprised.

Bourbon Street is already alive with drink-guzzling, bead-tossing, music-blaring action, though much of it is generated by relief and reconstruction workers, reporters, locals and military personnel, who represent a big chunk of New Orleans' current population.

"The city's coming back to life," said 41-year-old Treila Griffin of St. Joseph, Mo., enjoying a cigarette and a drink served in one of the city's trademark cups shaped like a hand grenade. "They're not going to let it take them down, that's for sure."

The dichotomy of the city is stark.

Revelers enjoy a weekend night at a strip club or on the balcony of a bar, while other residents return to neighborhoods nearly washed away by the storm. Restaurants that are open grapple with inadequate staffing and use paper and plastic instead of china and glass, while some New Orleanians debate bulldozing their homes or whether to return at all.

"You've got to start rebuilding somewhere," said Eric Bansch, a 21-year-old student from College Station, Texas, visiting New Orleans with friends. "They can still party. That's what I like to see."

Kim Priez, vice president of tourism for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the city officially is reopening to travelers Jan. 1, though she frequently is encountering those who can't wait.

"It's not going to be quite where we used to be," Priez said. "But if they know that, then we're welcoming them."

Priez notes that businesses are slowly reopening, but many remain shuttered. Visitors who previously made reservations are advised to call hotels to be sure they've reopened. The status of landmark establishments is as varied as everything else here: Revered beignet stop Cafe Du Monde is to reopen Wednesday, but the National D-Day Museum likely will remain closed for months.

Steve Litvin, a hospitality and tourism professor at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, said he'd be surprised if New Orleans sees many visitors in the next year.

"Tourists can go wherever it is they wish, when they wish," he said. "When a tourist picks their destination of choice, the choice will be someplace without problems. Why go somewhere that will provide anything less than a wonderful experience?"

It's clear, though, that the emotional attachment of many to this city — its architecture, food, music and everything else that makes it unique — would bring them back.

Mike Zaborowski knows he may not be able to do everything he'd like when he visits Nov. 2 from Newark, Ohio, but he's not willing to cancel a trip he's been planning since last year.

"It's not that I want to see the devastation," the 51-year-old park ranger said. "I just want to enjoy the French Quarter like I did all the other years."

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# Police note uptick in traffic accidents

**TRAFFIC,** *from A-1*

convoys of trucks, heavy equipment and utility crews.

New pockets of gridlock are engulfing the north shore, in part because Katrina crippled a major bridge, and every weekday the traffic volume between New Orleans and Baton Rouge rivals that generated by an LSU home football game.

Rolly Ann Smith of Slidell leaves home on workdays at 5 a.m. to reach her temporary Entergy office on the West Bank at 6 a.m., a schedule she redesigned specifically to get her on the road home at 3:30 p.m. Without that lead time, Smith can't beat the traffic that clogs the two-lane U.S. 11 bridge across Lake Pontchartrain, and her one-hour commute home turns into a three-hour grind.

"Today I didn't get to leave work on time, so I'll probably be spending the night on the interstate," she said Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Commuters such as Smith got a little relief Friday when one of the Interstate 10 twin spans opened to two-way traffic, but things are still far from normal.

And similar scenarios play out daily for tens of thousands of residents forced to live, work or educate their children somewhere new.

"By the time you get home at 6 or 7 or later, you're so stressed out and tired that you don't want to do anything or talk to anybody," Smith said. "You basically just take a shower and go to bed so you can up and make the drive again the next morning."

I-10 commuters shuttling between temporary homes in Baton Rouge and workplaces or former homes in the New Orleans area — as well as those living close to New Orleans but commuting to interim workplaces in Baton Rouge — now routinely get out of their vehicles to stretch and compare notes when wrecks bring miles of traffic to a standstill. In East Jefferson, police say, eastbound traffic often is stacked up to the 12-mile bridge over the Bonnet Carre Spillway and LaBranche Wetlands.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN McCUSKER

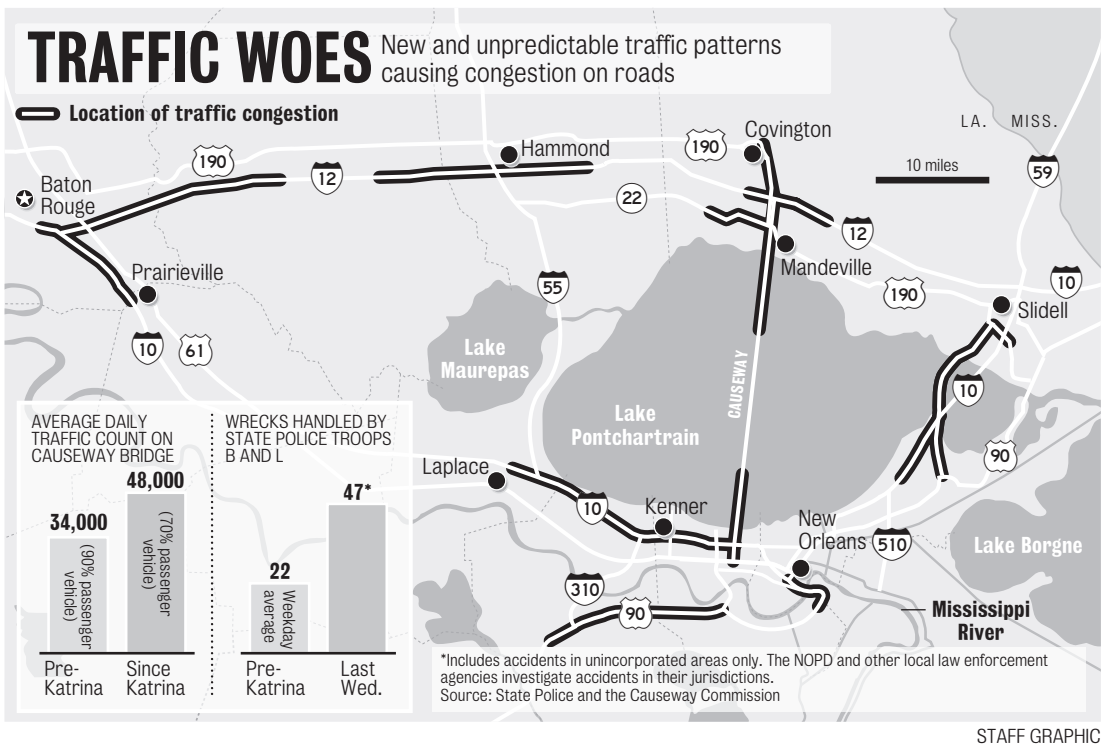
Crews used concrete slabs from the westbound Interstate 10 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain to repair the eastbound span, which opened to two-way traffic Friday. Hurricane Katrina tossed slabs from both spans into the lake. Boh Bros. Construction Co. has a contract with the state to finish restoring both bridges by mid-January.

Paralegal Margaret Beyer knows all about the morphing congestion. She drives from her home in Metairie to work in Baton Rouge at the temporary headquarters of displaced New Orleans law firm Adams and Reese.

"I leave at about 7:15 and get to work about 9 — on a good day," she said. "On the worst day I've had, it took 2 ½ hours to get here and four hours to get home."

Daytime traffic volume along I-10 through East Jefferson and New Orleans has risen so much in recent days that the state Department of Transportation and Development has returned to performing night work on the Pontchartrain Expressway overpass rehabilitation project.

"We didn't have to do that before," said Brian Buckel, the department's chief project engineer in New Orleans.




STAFF GRAPHIC

## 'Like evacuation traffic'

Along with motorists, the normal bottlenecks along I-10 have shifted west. No longer does the split at Interstate 610 clog with commuters streaming from the New Orleans Central Business District to suburban parishes.

These days, westbound afternoon traffic doesn't usually start stacking up until Clearview Parkway, as people pour out of their flood-damaged Metairie and Kenner neighborhoods for the drive west toward temporary living quarters closer to Baton Rouge. The bulge remains solid until it passes through the two-lane chokepoint at Interstate 310.

"It's like evacuation traffic out there," said Lt. Chris Bodet of State Police Troop B, a traffic manager and chief architect of Louisiana's hurricane contraflow plan. "It's like every day is a mini-evacuation. People have cleaned out their houses and have all their belongings packed in their vehicles and on top of their vehicles.

"The same thing is happening on Highway 11 across the lake as well, especially with the folks from St. Bernard getting to go in now and salvage things from their homes," Bodet said. "And they're all leaving just ahead of dusk, which further exacerbates rush-hour traffic."

Traffic analysts also report increased congestion along the West Bank Expressway, due in part to the army of trucks hauling storm debris to Waggaman area landfills, and on the north shore, where backups on West Causeway Approach and along Louisiana 22 to Madisonville have become commonplace.

## Causeway crush

Bodet speculates that congestion is worse nowhere than in St. Tammany Parish, where a post-Katrina population explosion is creating such havoc that all eight lanes of the U.S. 190-Interstate 12 interchange often come to a standstill.

Traffic on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway also has been heavy, and even though the partial reopening of the twin spans

*See* **TRAFFIC,** *A-6*

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# Causeway traffic jumps 41 percent

**TRAFFIC,** *from A-5*

might help to some degree, southbound traffic leading to the bridge is sure to slow even more with the resumption of tolls today.

Some 48,000 vehicles are now using the bridge daily, up 41 percent from its pre-Katrina load of 34,000 cars, according to Causeway Commission figures. General Manager Robert Lambert said he doesn't see volume dropping much lower than 40,000 any time soon.

"I expect our traffic to continue to be above pre-Katrina levels for quite some time because of all the construction," Lambert said.

Another twist: Before Katrina, 90 percent of the Causeway's traffic was passenger vehicles. Today, it's 70 percent.

"They have gone from 3,400 trucks a day on the bridge to about 14,000 trucks a day," Bodet said. "It's not just the volume of traffic that is increasing. It's the complexion of traffic that's changing as well.

"There's a different kind of commuter today, and they're driving different vehicles," he said. "The secretary in the sedan is now the laborer in a truck. You may not have business commuters pouring into the CBD every morning, but you've got a pile of people going in, and most of them are driving trucks.

"Add to that displaced residents driving slower than usual and moving in clusters with all their belongings, and you've got some unusual driving patterns to contend with," he said. "But it's something everyone has to bear with and deal with."

### 'Like the Wild West'

Driving now is riskier business, too.

On Wednesday, State Police from the Mandeville-based Troop L investigated 28 wrecks, compared with a pre-Katrina weekday average of 10. Kenner-based Troop B responded to 19 wrecks Wednesday, up from a pre-hurricane norm of 11.

Law enforcement officials say drivers are speeding, running red lights and rubbernecking in record numbers. And road debris — be it insulation and tree limbs flying off uncovered trucks or grandma's rocking chair tumbling from the roof of the family van — is making for hazardous driving and creating additional delays.

A flatbed wrecker on I-10 recently ran over bedding and linens on the Transcontinental Drive overpass in Metairie. The material got caught up in the wrecker's undercarriage, spilling hydraulic fluid all over the interstate.

"It turned in to an unnecessary three-hour ordeal, and this is now common," Bodet said. "It's like the Wild West out here, with stuff flying everywhere and people running into each other."

Lambert said driving habits on the Causeway, for weeks closed to all but emergency vehicles, worsened as restrictions were loosened to allow reconstruction personnel and, ultimately, the general public.

"We began to see a complete change in motorists' driving habits and attitudes," he said. "They began not paying attention to civil law. We were seeing road rage, hand gestures, threats, speeding — all of that.

"We couldn't allow it to continue," said Lambert, who has since stationed police and maintenance vehicles at strategic points all along the bridge.

"We began having police units driving in the middle at 68 miles per hour," he said. "That prevents speeding and passing to the right. We had to take back control of the bridge, and we did."

On the lake to the east, Friday's reopening of one of the I-10's twin bridges, both damaged by Katrina, is likely to bring some relief to motorists who have been using the U.S. 11 and U.S. 90 bridges nearby. But Mark Lambert, a spokesman for the Department of Transportation and Development, cautioned drivers not to expect miracles.

"The only thing that will really help the situation is less congestion or substantially more lanes, and I don't see any of that happening anytime soon," Lambert said. "The department is recommending to Congress more than a half-billion dollars worth of construction projects, and a number of them would provide some short-term and long-term relief to this traffic."

It remains to be seen how much money Washington will send.

"We'll get what we get, and until then, we've got what we've got," said Lambert, a former Slidell resident now living in Baton Rouge. "It used to take me 35 to 40 minutes to get to work, and now it takes anywhere from an hour and 10 minutes to an hour and a half.

"I try different routes, but none of them work."

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Sheila Grissett can be reached at sgrissett@timespicayune.com.

# Oversight on Katrina spending sought

**PROBE,** *from A-1*

But they said it's important for Congress to investigate the flawed response to the hurricane by federal, state and local officials and asked that the information requested be provided by Nov. 3.

### A lot of red faces

The storm, which hit the New Orleans area Aug. 29, caused widespread damage as high winds tore at buildings and levee breaches sent water pouring into many neighborhoods. Tens of thousands of people were stranded for days as flooding, violence, confusion and miscommunication hindered rescue attempts.

The head of a House committee investigating Katrina rescue and relief efforts said that if there is any good news emerging from the botched rescue efforts, it's that government officials at "all levels" are so embarrassed by the inadequate initial response that there's almost certain to be a much better reaction the next time there's a hurricane, disease outbreak or a terrorist attack.

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., who is leading the House investigation, said he is not interesting in producing a document outlining blame. "We want to be able to report what happened and where, what decisions were made, and try to talk about what went right and what went wrong, so that we can learn by our mistakes," Davis said in an interview.

He said his panel is scheduled to resume hearings Wednesday, with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. The committee had investigators in Louisiana last week to interview local officials and examine documents, Davis said.

### Blanco to testify

A date will be set soon, he said, to hear testimony from Blanco and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour. Davis' committee is being boycotted by House Democrats who want an independent panel, such as the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, to evaluate failures associated with the government's response to Katrina. Some Democrats from Gulf communities affected by the storm, including Reps. William Jefferson of New Orleans and Charlie Melancon of Napoleonville, have participated in previous hearings as nonvoting members.

The Senate panel has scheduled a hearing for Thursday on "Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans: A flooded city, a chaotic response." It hasn't released a witness list for the session.

Collins and Lieberman, meanwhile, sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee and Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada asking them to schedule a vote on committee legislation that would establish a special inspector general to audit Katrina-related relief efforts and a chief financial officer to oversee federal expenditures on the disaster.

"It has become increasingly evident that federal efforts to respond to the effects of Hurricane Katrina are vulnerable to widespread abuse and waste," committee members said in the letter. "Reports abound of questionable contracting, unused and wasted resources, misallocated assets and crippling confusion. These reports have shaken federal confidence in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security and other federal relief agencies."

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Bruce Alpert can be reached at bruce.alpert@newhouse.com or (202) 383-7861.

# Call hotline for free N.O. debris pickup

**From staff reports**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced a hotline for free pickup of hurricane debris in Orleans Parish.

Landowners can call toll-free 1 (800) 849-1355 for information and to give permission for corps contractors to go onto their property. The contractors are removing hurricane debris from front yards, public lands and rights of way.

The corps asks people to separate debris this way:

- Vegetation and woody debris;
- Construction debris, including building materials such as drywall, lumber, carpeting and furniture;
- Household and garage hazardous waste such as oils, batteries, pesticides and paints;
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# Blanco urged to include tax issues in next session

**TAXES,** *from A-1*

a statement swearing they intend to reoccupy the property when it's livable. Homeowners would still be limited to a single exemption.

r The dates that the tax rolls in affected parishes will be open for inspection, the review period and the dates that bills will be mailed out should all be pushed back to give assessors time to take stock of the damage. A drop-dead deadline may be set, but one hasn't been agreed upon yet.

▶ Taxpayers who own damaged properties should be given the opportunity to request that they pay taxes in installments. Such a provision exists under current law, but the Dec. 31 deadline to apply would be extended.

"We're just trying to change the law to cover hurricanes," Arnold said. "We can't do anything until we get the legislation. If the law doesn't change, we can only reassess the flooded areas."

Guglielmo said there is a consensus that current law has "shortcomings" with respect to storm-damaged property and that the only way to fix it is through new legislation. Guglielmo, an appointee of Gov. Kathleen Blanco, said the commission will ask the governor to include property tax issues in her call for a special session.

Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said the governor is reviewing proposals for the session, but no decisions about the call have been made.

"We're seeing what absolutely needs to be in the call as an urgent matter and what can perhaps wait until January," Bottcher said.

### Challenges for assessors

It's not clear what would happen if the Legislature doesn't take up the matter. In normal times, tax rolls are finalized before the end of the year, and tax bills are mailed out in December or January. But Blanco has already issued an executive order giving three extra months to assessors in the hardest-hit parishes.

How much time assessors will need to revalue property in their parishes varies from place to place.

St. Tammany Parish Assessor Patricia Schwarz Core said the damage to her parish was "substantial" — and worse in certain areas, such as the Eden Isles subdivision — but acknowledged that it was minor in comparison with St. Bernard Parish.

Core hopes to have properties in her parish revalued by the end of the year. Vinsanau of St. Bernard hopes to wipe the books clean for 2005 and then begin reassessing as properties come back into use, a process that could take years.

In the more lightly damaged areas, assessors will rely to a degree on property owners to account for their lost property values by providing pictures, insurance data and repair estimates.

Jefferson Parish Assessor Lawrence Chehardy, for instance, said he is developing a form for property owners to fill out explaining their losses. The estimated losses will have to be backed up with some evidence, he said.

But in heavily flooded areas, assessors say they plan to take a broad-brush approach. In New Orleans, for example, Arnold said assessors are working with Greg Meffert, Mayor Ray Nagin's chief technology officer, to use software that shows peak water levels to allow for more efficient mass appraisals.

The notion of pro-rating assessments for 2005 — putting damaged properties on the roll at full value for the first eight months of the year, and at reduced value for the last four — appears to have lost steam, although assessors say they think some local government officials may still favor such an approach.

Guglielmo said the Tax Commission does not plan to lobby for such a method.

"The problem is that the amount of tax relief you would provide would be minimal compared to the damage that's been suffered," Chehardy said. "Homeowners and business people have suffered in some cases damage that they may not be able to recover from. To hit them with a tax bill substantially the same as the one they would have gotten without the damage would be counterproductive."

### Will rates go up?

Another lingering question — one that may or may not be addressed with legislation — is what happens to the tax rate once the rolls are revised. Some assessors and business leaders worry there could be a push to raise the millage rate to compensate for lost property value.

And, in fact, some fear that the reassessment likely to occur in the next few months could trigger a "roll forward" of the tax rate. State law requires that after each constitutional reassessment, tax rates must be adjusted so that the change in valuation does not result in a change in revenue.

In normal years, that means the tax rate is rolled back, after which local officials may roll it forward after holding a public hearing.

John LeBlanc, director of the Tax and Finance Council of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, said he doesn't believe the Katrina reassessment would qualify as a "constitutional reassessment," which generally occurs every four years and which could trigger the roll forward. But he thinks legislation may be needed to ensure it doesn't happen.

"Obviously, we have suffered a reduction in values in the affected areas, and we need to make sure reductions don't trigger increased taxes on the other taxpayers in the parish," LeBlanc said. "That's not a way to get people to stay, and it's not a way to get people to come back. To the extent that it's unclear in the law, the more it needs to be clarified."

Arnold said he doesn't think there'd be much support for any tax increase, no matter how desperately local governments need money.

"Even the mayor's people agree that if they roll up from 171 mills to 350 mills, that's not going to encourage people to stay," he said.

### Turning to feds

A dicier question may be what happens to special millages dedicated to paying off general obligation bonds. The tax rates for such obligations are set each year based on the tax roll turned in by the assessor, and it's not clear what would happen if local governments refuse to raise rates to pay off the bonds.

"They're required to levy enough taxes to pay for those bonds," LeBlanc said of local taxing authorities. "If there's only a few taxpayers, that means a few taxpayers paying the whole thing. How's that going to work?"

Arnold said local governments will have to rely on federal relief.

"That's why we have people in Washington, D.C., to help us out," he said.

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Staff writer Karen Turni Bazile contributed to this report. Gordon Russell can be reached at grussell@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3347.

# Communication snafus not new

*First responders still looking for answers*

**By Jennifer C. Kerr**
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Police and other emergency agencies responding to Hurricane Katrina were plagued by the same communications problems exposed by the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, yet a solution is still considered years away.

At issue is the ability of emergency responders, including firefighters and police, to talk to one another on their radios within the same city and across multiple cities and regions. "Interoperability" is the technical term.

Tight space on the radio spectrum, bureaucratic disagreements over how to resolve the problem and the sheer number of local, state and federal agencies involved in disasters have all complicated the search for an answer.

In addition, the problem is an expensive one to address. Highlighting the resources needed, the Homeland Security Department alone has provided more than $1.5 billion since 2001 to cities and states for radios and other equipment — just for starters.

"It's a big, complex problem," said Harlin McEwen, chairman of the Communications and Technology Committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

A project in San Diego illustrates how difficult it is getting officials from local, state and federal governments to agree on what will work and then coordinating efforts to see that the plan is carried out.

It took about 30 days to put in place the technology needed to improve communications. But it took about two years to get all the agencies — police, fire, federal officials and others — to agree to the plan, said David Boyd, the director of interoperability at the Homeland Security Department.

Progress has been made in recent years in the day-to-day radio communications for many cities. But events such as the Sept. 11 attacks and Katrina — catastrophes that involve many different agencies — expose the vulnerabilities that remain.

While officials look for better ways to coordinate efforts, there is a move in Congress to free up more radio spectrum to help emergency agencies communicate better in New York and other large metropolitan areas.





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# Official: Some may never be identified

**DEATHS,** *from A-1*




STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Nancy Eleby, left, and her sister Earline Eleby-Coleman stand with Eleby-Coleman's son, Taylor, 5, in front of the morgue Friday to ask for the release of their mother's remains. Clementine Eleby died Sept. 1 at the Convention Center, and she would have turned 80 on Friday.

N. Morial Convention Center on Sept. 1 and then seemingly vanished into an overwhelmed bureaucracy.

Inside are other visitors. Working, eating and sleeping in campground conditions, about 135 medical and forensic specialists from around the country have interrupted their lives to decipher the identities of the dead for the sake of the living.

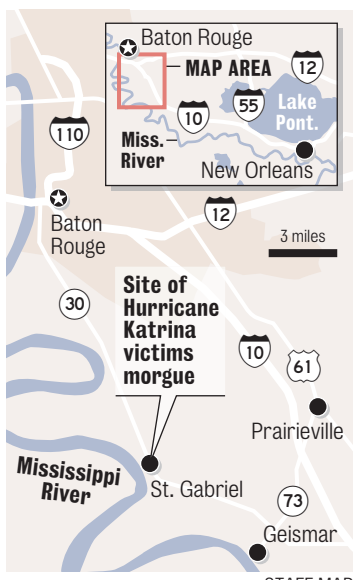
And then, passing one by one through a frigid postmortem assembly line, there are the collected "individuals" — the staff does not call them "bodies" or "corpses" — that as of Friday numbered 842. They, too, are visitors, but it is unclear how long they will stay.

Of the bodies, 294 are "complete unknowns," and 82 have offered clues that officials think might reveal the identities. Only 132 individuals had been released to families, and 128 are waiting to be released once relatives can be contacted.

In a category that disturbs some family members awaiting news, about 200 other identified bodies are scheduled for autopsies, a process that could take days or weeks. Authorities say they are withholding information about those individuals until after the autopsies because of a concern that families will rush to plan funerals and then be disappointed by the delay in receiving the remains.

That is the current measure of death for the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, called DMORT, a federal operation directed by state officials that was opened to a news media inspection late Friday. The facility is handling more than 80 percent of the dead from Hurricane Katrina.

"I won't welcome you here, because none of us wants to be here," said DMORT commander Dr. Louis Cataldie as he introduced himself.




STAFF MAP

## Sluggish pace

Since the storm, Cataldie has led what he calls a "horrible" and painfully slow process of collecting and identifying the dead that even he admits has been unfair to grieving families, many left in the dark about the fate of their loved ones. Some bodies might not be identified for months, a year, or maybe more, Cataldie said. Some may "never, ever be identified."

He and other officials at the St. Gabriel center say the conditions left by the storm made their job complex. For example, many of the dead were "floaters" who lay in water or mud for days, swelling the bodies and rendering their appearances indistinguishable by race or gender. The number of wallets or other identification found on the bodies was "minimal," Cataldie said.

Clothing was ragged, "animal activity" had removed flesh and many fingerprints were unreadable. Many died away from their homes. Bodies were found washed up on house porches that were not their own.

Once the bodies are examined, the next step would be to find information to match the traits, but that has proved hard to come by, officials say. For example, doctors consider dental X-rays one of the best ways to identify a victim, but they are looking for a needle in a haystack unless they know where the dead person's dental records are kept.

At a Louisiana State University medical center in New Orleans, the dental X-rays kept on higher shelves survived, but the ones on lower shelves were below the flood line and ruined. A New Orleans city clinic gave the mortuary center 1,700 dental X-ray pictures that were soaking wet. At St. Gabriel last week, the small film strips were laid upon a patio to dry in the sun, anchored by small rocks to keep the wind from blowing them away.

A squad of dental experts with a fleet of computers in one of the mortuary trailers began the dental matching process on Thursday, about six weeks after the storm. Comparing postmortem X-ray images of the dead with images from past dental appointments, the crew quickly began making progress. They found three matches during a three-hour period Friday evening, leading to shouts of "yeehaw" and wide smiles all around.




About six to eight autopsies per shift are performed in the St. Gabriel morgue. Once information like X-rays, fingerprints and personal effects is gathered, crews of analysts try to match them with information supplied by relatives.

## Discouraging work

The morgue has taken over a group of one-story brick government buildings that was once a school and still serves as St. Gabriel's town hall. The complex is festooned with dozens of large tents and truck trailers for dining, showers, decontamination, refrigerators and generators, creating a constant humming noise outdoors.

The staff comes from all reaches of the country, many in military or local government positions. They volunteer for the job, and the federal government pays them a salary to work 12-hour daily shifts for two weeks. During that time they don't leave, sleeping on cots and dining together under a tent mess hall. Chaplains and psychologists are on hand for support, all part of the "self-contained community."

Reminders of death are everywhere, and comforts are few. The mornings begin with a group prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and a song, such as "Amazing Grace" or "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." A staff-adopted dog named Iber captured their hearts but soon left with a departing dentist. Children have mailed them art for the walls, one piece with an angel and winged crosses floating on clouds.

A two-page memorandum to the staff from Michael Chertoff, the nation's homeland security chief, is taped on an outdoor marker board. The edges of the memo are crinkled and the corners torn except where the tape is holding the pages down. The last line of the message says, "Keep up the great work."

## Looking for answers

DMORT's inner sanctum is the examination morgue, a brightly lit, tented space inside a giant steel warehouse. Large

*See* **DEATHS,** *A-9*



# Workers also live, sleep at center

**DEATHS,** *from A-8*

ducts chill the air and blow a constant wind inside. The morgue staff wear protective suits, covering them head to toe.

All the bodies come through here. Each is escorted by a staff member throughout the staged process, starting with a cleansing in a shallow pool of special solutions and then on to checkpoints for measurements, personal effects, fingerprints and X-rays. A staff member uses a hand-held device to extract samples for DNA testing from each person's right tibia.

Autopsies are performed at the stage labeled pathology, which can handle six to eight bodies per shift. Perhaps more than any other factor, autopsies set the pace of progress at the mortuary center.

The bodies are moved "Head First — Please," as instructed by a sign. Paperwork is kept in plastic-bagged envelopes. Identification is attached to the body bags, but no ID tag is fastened to the corpses.

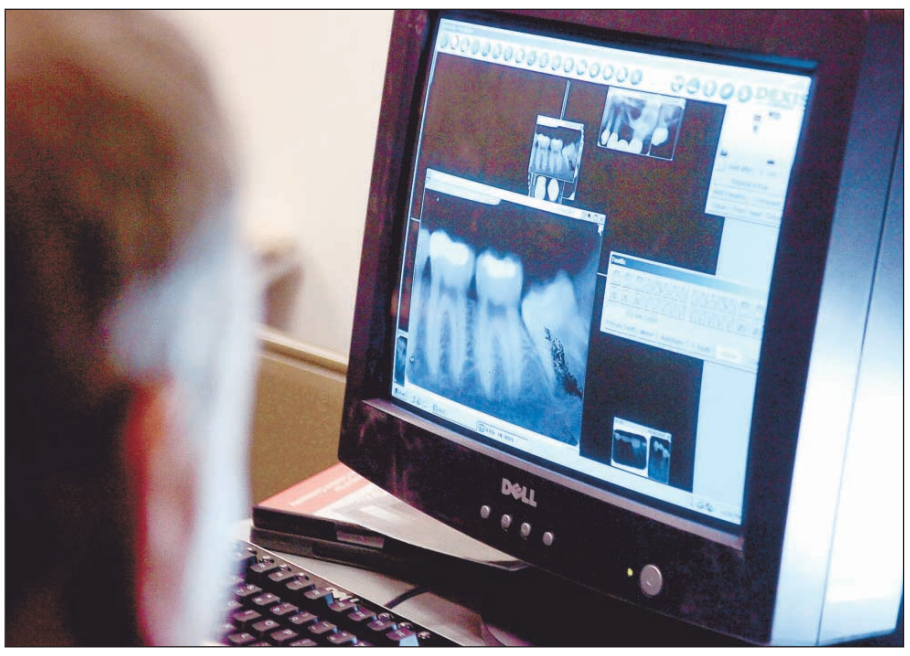
Once the information is gathered, crews of analysts try to match the individuals with information supplied by family members or friends. The staff does not contact relatives. That is done by the Family Assistance Center, an operation occupying a former Jumbo Sports retail store in a Baton Rouge strip mall, operated by the health department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Even the Family Assistance Center was built on a premise that underestimated Hurricane Katrina, said Bob Johannessen, a spokesman for the state health agency. The center started with computer databases designed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to handle plane crashes or collapsed buildings, tragedies in which lists of the dead were probably available. The system had to be rethought after Katrina.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Coast Guard Capt. Don Fletcher, left, of Clearwater, Fla., works with Capt. Daniel Huber of U.S. Public Health Services to identify bodies using dental records. Work has proved difficult, with some dental records ruined or damaged by floodwaters in New Orleans.



Dental experts began examining records Thursday in what is considered one of the best ways to identify bodies, many of which are badly disfigured. Although records have not always been easy to find, progress is being made: Three matches were found during a three-hour period Friday evening.

## Suffering in uncertainty

One of the harsh realities in the weeks after Katrina was that rescuers took the living and left the dead to be collected later, separating family members from the bodies of their loved ones.

Among the distressed people in that situation were Earline Eleby-Coleman and her sister Nancy Eleby, who say their mother, Clementine Eleby, died at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Sept. 1 before the stranded throngs there were evacuated.

Aware that members of the news media were gathering outside the St. Gabriel center on Friday afternoon, the sisters showed up to tell a story of how they tried repeatedly and failed to get any information from DMORT, the governor's office, FEMA or anyone else about their mother, who would have celebrated her 80th birthday Friday.

Nancy Eleby clutched a sign that read, "Free the Soul's held hostage at St. Gabriel morgue" while her sister distributed a poem she wrote titled "The Forgotten," an aching appeal to authority figures for help.

"Officials say be patient and wait, we have to be careful and make no mistakes; But I know there is a better way, to speed up the process each and every day," the poem reads.

The sisters were not allowed into the center, but journalists, once inside, stormed Cataldie with questions about the Elebys' plight, and he agreed to meet with the women. Cataldie said four bodies were recovered from the Convention Center, but he would not say why the mortuary team was unable to determine whether Eleby was among them.

On Saturday, Eleby-Coleman and a state official reported that Cataldie and the sisters had a positive meeting and that new information from the sisters had given all of them high hopes that Clementine Eleby would soon be discovered among the center's bodies.

In the meantime, Eleby-Coleman said, "I can't stop crying, and I can't sleep." She recognized that her desperate request, launched from the street, had kicked authorities into high gear in a way that higher-ups had failed to do. She said she hopes others can get similar attention.

"We hope and pray that everyone can find peace with knowing where their loved ones are," she said.

Robert Travis Scott can be reached at (225) 342-4197 or rscott@timespicayune.com.

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JACQUES DETIEGE
a New Orleans businessman now living in Houston

# Natchitoches may be Creole center

**CREOLES,** *from A-1*

being expelled from Canada by the British, the Creoles lived in the birthplace of their culture.

And now, after the recent storms and the blows they dealt to Creole communities around New Orleans, scattering them to states from coast to coast, many Creoles fear that without a geographical base, their already fragile culture and their identity could be lost.

"The Creole culture was already dying, and now I think it's gone," said Julie Sardie, a New Orleans marketing executive who is living in a transplanted Creole community in Houston. Sardie's mother, Jackie, added, "We're just sick, suffering so bad over not the loss of our houses, but the loss of our home, our culture, the things we did."

## Multicultural crossroads

Many Creoles trace their roots to immigrants and slaves from the former French and Spanish colonies in the Caribbean, particularly Cuba and what is now Haiti. Historians say it was New Orleans' position as a crossroads and port town that allowed for the easy mingling of races and nationalities that in turn gave birth, in the 18th century, to a part-European, part-Afro-Caribbean society that grew to about 20,000 people in Louisiana by the mid-1800s.

The Creole culture that developed over generations, known for a distinctive cuisine, language and music, contributed to New Orleans' identity and helped define Louisiana to the world. Before Hurricane Katrina, experts estimated that 10 percent to 20 percent of black people in New Orleans — 30,000 to 60,000 people — considered themselves Creole by ancestry, but even more lived lives influenced by the culture because of their proximity to it.

And now most are gone.

With their geographic underpinnings swept away, many New Orleanians of Creole descent are trying to figure out how best to preserve a community separated from both its birthplace and its home base.

"Everywhere you go they're trying to exist, but it's like the life's been drained out of them," said Sardie, who is in touch with the large group of displaced New Orleans Creoles in Houston. "I just want to cry."

Bordenave, who manages a blues restaurant, said: "We can exist outside New Orleans, but it's easier and more natural to live in an atmosphere that reflects our history, love of music and architecture, eating and celebrating."

## Dreaming of return

As for going back home, Bordenave family members are taking a wait-and-see approach, as are many. They wonder whether the new New Orleans will be anything more than a hollow imitation of the old city.

"We'll give it a year, then consider other options if New Orleans doesn't work out," said Curtis Bordenave, Timothy's brother, an electrical contractor whose family name appears in stone at one of the city's oldest cemeteries. Leaving the city would not be easy, he said, not "when you loved a place and it was good to you."

When they were in New Orleans, the Sardies — Roman Catholics all, as are most Creoles — could tell what holiday they were celebrating by what dish was on the table, they said. Gumbo des herbes meant Holy Thursday; crawfish bisque was saved for Good Friday; and a "cowan," or turtle, feast, signaled the arrival of Easter Sunday. Christmas celebrations began on the night of the 24th and usually included midnight Mass and a revillon dinner featuring file gumbo.

And though most of the country associates Carnival with a single day — Fat Tuesday — in New Orleans the Mardi Gras season opens Jan. 6, the 12th night after Christmas. For people such as the Sardies and the Bordenaves, Carnival time was not so much about catching beads in the French Quarter as going to black-tie or masquerade parties and debutante balls in quieter parts of the city.

"Oh God, I'm going to miss that so much," Jackie Sardie said. "During Mardi Gras we might go to 15 or 20 dances. We really believed in clubs, parties and dances. It's something I fear we will never have again."

## Oasis amid decay

For many, these things were the only good reasons to be in New Orleans.

"We didn't stay there for the city administration or the great benefits: The crime and the schools were horrible," Sardie said. "We put up with all of that because our culture was there. That's the only reason we were there."

Many, though, had already left, with some lighter-skinned Creoles living as white people in other parts of the country. Large numbers of Creoles also departed Louisiana after World War II, frustrated with the slow pace of racial progress in the South.

An even older diaspora existed before the Civil War, and it grew in the 1890s after Homer Plessy, a Creole New Orleanian, lost his Supreme Court case against John Howard Ferguson. Plessy had been jailed for sitting in a car reserved for white citizens on the East Louisiana Railroad. He challenged the restriction as unconstitutional. The decision in Plessy v. Ferguson ushered in the "separate but equal" standard for the races.

The Creoles who left New Orleans in the past, however, generally planned their moves as families. Last month the evacuation scattered people haphazardly, not even giving them a chance to say goodbye or tell one another where they were going. Families that had lived within blocks for generations ended up in different states.

"The people I saw in church every Sunday: Where are they?" asked Jacques Detiege, a businessman from New Orleans now living in Houston. "People I've known since I was a kid, I have no idea what happened to them."

The Creoles in New Orleans were an economically diverse group. Some lived in simple but historic houses in the Treme area near the French Quarter, while others were concentrated in Gentilly and in more modern, upscale neighborhoods in eastern New Orleans. Large swaths of the latter two areas were damaged beyond repair in the flood and might be condemned.

## Death knell or awakening?

This enormous displacement is not without precedent, said James Wilson, assistant director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. The Cajuns, who were expelled from Canada in the late 1700s, managed to carry on against the odds, Wilson said.

"They were able to preserve and maintain their way of life even though only a small fraction resettled in south Louisiana," he said. "They were forced to adapt and learn English, and this produced a backlash, a strong connection to their identity. The Creoles have gone through the same thing, as an outside group. They've learned to survive and maintain their distinctiveness."

In fact, many Creoles think their recent trials will make them only stronger.

"Katrina was not a death knell for Creole culture, quite the opposite," said Janet Ravare Colson, the assistant director of the Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. "I think it was an awakening. People want to know about their heritage now more than ever."

Colson said the number of people contacting the 7-year-old center for information has spiked since Hurricane Katrina, and that she could hardly handle the demand on the center's limited budget.

Some Creoles say the area around Natchitoches, which already had its own sizable Creole community many generations old, will become the new center of the culture.

Mary Bordenave, Curtis' wife, is among those who wonder whether the Creoles will emerge better off because of the adversity. "Maybe this was a great thing for the Creoles," she said.

## Endangered spirit

Sybil Kein, a retired English professor and New Orleans native whose Gentilly home was destroyed in the flood, said: "We'll meet on the Cane River. We're going to have a whole lot of Creoles there because for many of us, we can't think of any other place outside of New Orleans we'd want to be."

However, what will happen to New Orleans without its Creoles is unclear.

"Much of what made New Orleans unique was the Creole influence," said Mary Gehman, an assistant professor of English at Delgado Community College and the author of several works on Creole history. "With the razing of large areas of condemned buildings and replacing them with modern housing with faux touches, the displacement of neighborhoods, the emphasis on a Las Vegas-style entertainment destination in the new New Orleans, I fear little will survive of the original spirit of the place."





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# Burial offers storm victim's family peace at last

*After six weeks, body's journey now complete*

**By Aaron Sharockman**
St. Petersburg Times

BELLE GLADE, FLA. — Kathleen Bowie waited six weeks to mourn her husband, a trucker she met and married in less than a month, and someone she still loved though he kept girlfriends most everywhere he traveled.

She, like many others, had seen the picture of his death in New Orleans — stiff on a plywood board, wrapped in a green bed sheet, surrounded by flood waters. Xavier Bowie died the day after the storm when his liquid oxygen tank ran out. A girlfriend ferried his shrouded corpse on a plywood raft in search of help.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, people focused so much on saving the living, there was no time to treasure the dead.

Saturday, under a white, flat roof in a Baptist Church on another town's Canal Street, the Bowie family finally said goodbye.

Xavier Bowie, 57, drinker, carouser, Baptist. Died, Aug. 30, 2005, New Orleans. Buried Oct. 15, 2005, Belle Glade. Fla.

One of his sons, Xavier Bowie Jr. saw him in New Orleans along with his mother not more than a week before he died. His father had been diagnosed with lung cancer nine months earlier. His silver hair had fallen out from chemotherapy.

"We had our differences," the younger Bowie, 33, said. "But we talked for two hours I made peace with my father."

Death heals wounds, but not scars.

Xavier Bowie drove trucks after four years in the Navy. First at the Glades Sugar Mill, in Belle Glade, then around the country. He was a partier by many accounts, perfect for New Orleans, his family agreed.

A year ago he nearly died after a night of gambling and drinking. On the drive home, he made a wrong turn. He was jumped, hit in the head with a pipe, "and left for dead," said son Jim Bowie, 32, who visited him shortly afterward.

That was the last time Jim Bowie saw his father.

Twenty years ago Xavier Bowie left his four sons and daughter, Alisha Hall, in Belle Glade with their mother, his wife Kathleen.

"He could be tough," said Jim Bowie, who admitted there was a lot about his father he never understood.

Added his sister, Hall, "We had our good times, and bad times of course."

Family members recalled both on Saturday during a 90-minute service at Mount Calvary Baptist Church. The Rev. Skylyn Hagins, an old friend, spoke with a driving cadence, mixing scripture with memories of Bowie.

Son Anthony Bowie, 31, who now lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla., read a poem while brass ceiling fans rattled overhead. Xavier Bowie Jr. wept.

"Katrina did not kill him," said Hagins. "God called him home."

The image of Bowie's death, however, became an immediate icon of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. It also was how his sons realized their father had died.

It was one of the first pictures that described the human toll from the flood. It filled the pages of the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times and dozens of others.

In the picture, Evelyn Turner, who described herself as Bowie's common-law wife, sits on the plywood, wiping tears away with a white washcloth with mud caked to her right knee.

Bowie was diagnosed with lung cancer in December. He ran out of bottled oxygen the day after Katrina flooded Bowie's New Orleans neighborhood. Turner, 54, waded out from their house on Annette Street for help.

By the time she returned, Bowie was dead.

Turner, who is now staying with relatives in Shreveport and did not attend Saturday's funeral, then wrapped Bowie in a sheet. With the help of friends, she floated him down the main road.

There, she met a man in a flatbed truck who took the two of them to the corner of Poydras Street and Loyola Avenue. They rested him on a grassy bank at the foot of City Hall, a block from the Superdome and waist-high water.

"I could feel that something happened," said Jim Bowie, whose aunt, Ethel Bowie Thompson, died of lung cancer while living in New Orleans last November. Xavier Bowie had moved to New Orleans to live with his sister. "I just knew he wouldn't make it."

The road home was a six-week circuitous trip for a lifelong truck driver who, in his profession, was certainly used to such things.

From the grass in front of City Hall, Xavier Bowie's body was taken to St. Gabriel, a city to the west of New Orleans that became a clearinghouse for the dead. There, it sat for weeks.

Jim Bowie tried to make the drive once to rescue his father's body, but he only made it as far as Columbus, Ga., before the approach of Hurricane Rita turned him away.

Xavier Bowie's body finally

*See* **BURIAL,** *A-13*

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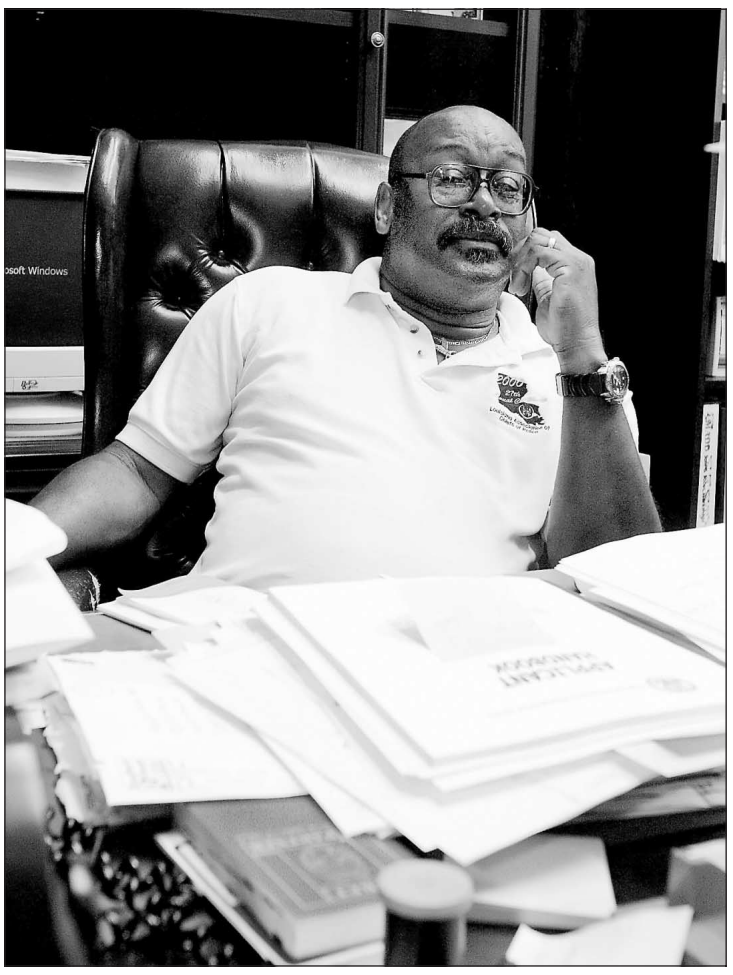
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# Delta towns hit hard by storm surge of evacuees




AP PHOTOS

Nicole Johnson works as a cashier at a convenience store in Waterproof, a small town on the Louisiana side of the Mississippi River that has seen an influx of evacuees. She wonders what kind of jobs will be available in a community that can't offer opportunities to its own young residents.



'We have hopes and dreams like everybody else,' says Police Chief Earl Pinkney, who grew up in Tallulah. 'That's what hurts, that the potential here is so great.' Tallulah and other communities in the cash-poor Delta are reeling from decades of poverty, racism and, now, a hurricane.

## *Weak economies can't withstand the new influx*

**By Errin Haines**
Associated Press writer

MIDNIGHT, MISS. — Midnight, Miss., is little more than a faded general store, a towering cotton gin, a Baptist church and shotgun homes scattered along a few narrow streets.

The view is the same across the Southern Delta: row houses with peeling paint, sagging facades and tired wooden boards clustered between the cotton fields.

And that was before Hurricane Katrina damaged many of the towns and brought thousands of unemployed, homeless new residents.

Stanley Bates lives in Midnight in a skinny maroon house a few hundred feet from the church and the gin. For years, he has worked the fields during cotton season, which has dwindled from four months to three weeks.

The work is hard, and it pays only $5.15 an hour, but it's the sole payday for the 300 or so people here. And when the season's over, Bates said, "We right back where we started."

Decades before Katrina struck the Gulf, the storm that hit the Mississippi-Louisiana border was named Poverty. It left Midnight and neighboring towns slumped along the two-lane highways like grandmothers in rocking chairs, watching life pass them by.

Midnight is a sorry town, a throwaway, Bates says, looking with cloudy eyes at his cramped, worn hands.

"We were suffering before that damn hurricane came," he said.

New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and Alabama were Katrina's most obvious casualties, but the predominantly black, perennially poor Louisiana and Mississippi Delta is also reeling — its legacy of poverty and racism magnified by the storm.

For years they have been waiting: waiting for better jobs, for decent housing, for good schools.

What they got instead is a flood of jobless and homeless hurricane refugees from the coast — people seeking help from towns that can barely help themselves.

Overnight, populations grew by the hundreds in Delta towns that were the end of the road for evacuees who went as far as they could on one tank of gas.

"Before we got any evacuees, we were already struggling," said Lake Providence Mayor Isaac Fields Jr., who estimated his northern Louisiana town of 5,000 swelled by 1,000 in the days leading up to and immediately following Katrina.

Fields had no idea so many would be coming. After all, Lake Providence is 280 miles from New Orleans, and there's not much waiting when you get there.

"We want anybody who wants to stay to stay," Fields says. "But we don't have the jobs to offer them."

But finding work might be a snap compared to finding a place to live. With up to 200 people on the affordable-housing waiting list before the hurricane, those who blew in after the storm have little hope of finding a home in the city any time soon.

Like the rest of the Delta, it's not the best place for an evacuee to make a fresh start — unless you're a much-needed teacher, retiree or someone with entrepreneurial pluck.

Tallulah is poor but proud, with well-kept yards abutting trailers and shotgun houses. Walnut Bayou and warm brick facades are welcoming. The town motto is painted on the water tower: "Tallulah: A City on the Move."

"We have hopes and dreams like everybody else," says Police Chief Earl Pinkney, who grew up in the Louisiana town. "That's what hurts, that the potential here is so great,"

Here, folks who have little themselves have given evacuees clean clothes, a bed, a hot meal, prayers, money and toiletries. Friends, relatives, churches and community organizations were often several steps ahead of the federal government and charity agencies.

"We're down home. We take people in," said Mississippi Valley State University English professor Ron Hudson, a native of Itta Bena.

The plantation legacy created a village mentality that makes those who have the least among the most generous. Here, they say, you give what you have to those who need it more.

Workers never did make much when cotton was king, but they could usually find work. But economic changes and technical advances in the farming industry since the Great Depression of the 1930s destroyed that life, and nothing has arrived to replace it.

"As agriculture declined and as machines took over, the Delta became increasingly poor," Jackson State University economics professor McKinley Alexander said. "The people who remained were either elderly or least prepared to enter the work force."

White landowners abandoned the fields — and masses of black laborers. Some blacks headed north for manufacturing jobs.

According to 2000 U.S. Census figures compiled by the Mississippi Urban Research Center at Jackson State University, at least a third of the nearly 454,000 people living in the Delta's 18 counties are below poverty level. In some counties it's 40 percent. The national average is about 12 percent.

Most of the homes here are at least 25 or 30 years old, and worth an average of $56,000 — less than half the national average home value. Thirteen of the counties are more than 50 percent black. Nationally, African-Americans' average household income is $29,423, compared to $44,867 for white Americans.

Many who fled here to escape Katrina are new to the Delta, but others are people who grew up here and moved away.

"The problem is, what's going to happen if these people choose to settle in and remain there?" Alexander said. Money from FEMA or the Red Cross could create a temporary boom in towns where evacuees have landed, he said, but that will soon run out.

Fields, who was born and raised in Lake Providence, does not like talking about the poverty there. Since becoming mayor three years ago, he has adopted the motto "New Vision, New Voices," and dreams of the day the empty landscape might be filled with industry.

But for now, "it's just like a sore," Fields said. "Poverty means you have people suffering, not being able to take care of themselves."

Brian Cain tried to get to Mississippi but only made it to the state line. For days, he slept on the levee in historic town of St. Joseph, until he walked past Wenda Fry's front yard three weeks ago.

He offered to mow her lawn, noticed she had a vacant trailer around back and asked if he could move in. She agreed.

Before long, Mayor Ed Brown noticed the slim, scrappy 46-year-old working in Fry's yard and offered him a job on the spot.

"I been working ever since," Cain says. "I do anything."

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**Covington, LA:** Sav-A-Center parking lot next to Home Depot, 50 Park Place
**Slidell, LA:** Wal-Mart parking lot at 167 North Shore Blvd.
**Metairie, LA:** Lakeside Shopping Center near Pottery Barn at 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd. on corner of North Causeway Blvd.

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at West Jefferson Hospital. 504-349-1480

Thomas Weatherall, MD and Michael Hayman, MD
at Slidell Memorial Hospital. 985-649-8688

# PEOPLE

## 2 movies to tell opposite sides of battle

By The Associated Press

In making a movie about U.S. Marines in the battle of Iwo Jima, **Clint Eastwood** became concerned that he was telling only half the story.

So he made another movie.

The two films — "Flags," telling the story of six men who raised an American flag on Mount Suribachi, and the tentatively named "Lambs Before the Wind" on the Japanese side of the battle — are scheduled for simultaneous release next fall.

Eastwood had difficulty articulating to Time magazine why he took on the ambitious projects.

"I don't know — sometimes you just get a feeling about something. You have a premonition that you can get something decent out of it," he told the magazine in an interview in this week's issue. "You just have to trust your gut."

Nearly 7,000 American troops and more than 20,000 Japanese died in the battle from February to March 1945.

Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot dead volcano at the tiny, teardrop-shaped island's southern tip, was where five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised a U.S. flag on Feb. 23, 1945. The flag-raising — the second one that day on the mountain — was captured in the famous photograph by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

Eastwood, 75, has won two best-director Oscars, for "Million Dollar Baby" and "Unforgiven."

## Mean mom?

**Madonna** says she's the disciplinarian with 9-year-old **Lourdes** and 5-year-old **Rocco**.

The former material girl told Newsweek that she doesn't let her children watch TV or look at magazines. She says milk and ice cream are also off-limits.

"When Daddy gets home, they get chocolate," Madonna said. "I'm the disciplinarian."

She's also strict about laundry duties: If Lourdes leaves dirty clothes on the floor, "we take all of her clothes and put them in a bag, and she has to earn all of her clothes back by being tidy," Madonna said. "She wears the same outfit every day to school until she learns her lesson."

## Award is sweet

**Vanna White** stopped by her hometown of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Saturday to honor a local ice cream parlor for all the sweet treats dished out there.

White gave Original Painter's Homemade Ice Cream an award from the Turner South cable network program "Blue Ribbon," whose viewers voted Painter's the best ice cream in the South.

It didn't take much to get the "Wheel of Fortune" star back. She loves the ice cream, especially the maple nut, and Painter's dubs one of its concoctions the "Vanna Banana" sundae.

Co-owner **Dominic Mantzanas** said White acts like just another patron.

"She stays to chitchat with the customers — one of the nicest people you'd ever meet," Mantzanas said.

## Today's birthdays

Actress **Marsha Hunt** is 88.
Actor **Tom Poston** is 84.
Actress **Beverly Garland** is 79.
Actress **Julie Adams** is 79.
Daredevil **Evel Knievel** is 67.
Country singer **Earl Thomas Conley** is 64.
Singer **Jim Seals** (Seals & Crofts) is 63.
Singer **Gary Puckett** is 63.
Actor **Michael McKean** is 58.
Actress **Margot Kidder** is 57.
Actor **George Wendt** is 57.
Actor **Bill Hudson** is 56.
Actor **Sam Bottoms** is 50.
Astronaut **Mae Jemison** is 49.
Country singer **Alan Jackson** is 47.
Movie director **Rob Marshall** ("Chicago") is 45.
Animator **Mike Judge** is 43.
Actor-comedian **Norm Macdonald** is 42.
Singer **Rene' Dif** is 38.
Reggae singer **Ziggy Marley** is 37.
Singer **Chris Kirkpatrick** ('N Sync) is 34.
Rapper **Eminem** is 33.
Singer **Wyclef Jean** is 33.
Actress **Sharon Leal** is 33.
Rock musician **Sergio Andrade** is 28.

## Admirers remember John Paul's pontificate

By The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI praised his predecessor, John Paul II, as a beloved man whose moral authority was recognized well beyond the Catholic church, as the faithful marked the anniversary Sunday of the 1978 election of the first Polish pontiff.

Karol Wojtyla, archbishop of Krakow, Poland, was elected on Oct. 16, 1978, to lead the Roman Catholic church. The selection of the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years stunned many around the world. John Paul's pontificate was the third longest in history.

John Paul's "moral authority was recognized as well by many non-Christians and nonbelievers, as shown by the moving demonstrations of affection during his illness and the strong condolences after his death," Benedict said in his traditional Sunday noon remarks to pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square.

John Paul helped galvanize Poles at home in opposing the Communist regime that ruled their predominantly Roman Catholic country at the time of his election. He was credited with playing an important role in the demise of East bloc communism in the decade after the start of his papacy.


# Notice to Hibernia Safe Deposit Box Owners

For customers who have safe deposit boxes with Hibernia, we would like to assure you that all safe box vaults are intact and have not been compromised by any unauthorized person. However, some of the safe deposit boxes in flooded areas may have sustained water damage. Because of the condition of these branches and the ongoing clean-up process, we cannot allow customers access to the branch. Flood-affected safe deposit boxes are being relocated to a secure location in Jefferson Parish. **Customers are asked to call 1-800-478-6428 to schedule an appointment and receive details on how to access their box, remove the contents, and close the box.** Access to Hibernia safe deposit boxes will be by appointment only.

The Main Office Branch downtown, at 313 Carondelet Street, is available for appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8am and 5pm. Call 1-800-478-6428.

The following branches had safe deposit boxes that were affected by the flood. Appointments to access your box at our secure location are being taken for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between 8am and 5pm. Call 1-800-478-6428.

**Canal Blvd.** 7033 Canal Boulevard
**Crowder** 8304 I-10 Service Road East
**Eastover** 5696 Bullard Avenue
**Lakefront** 6307 Elysian Fields Avenue
**Mid City** 4121 Canal Street
**Poydras** 1515 Poydras Street

The following branches were also affected and appointments will be for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between 8am and 5pm, once the boxes have reached our secure location. Call 1-800-478-6428.

**Arabi** 6735 Saint Claude Avenue
**Civic Center** 8117 West Judge Perez Drive
**Courthouse** 951 West St. Bernard Highway
**Gentilly** 2141 Caton Street
**Good Children** 925 East Judge Perez Drive
**St. Claude** 3157 Saint Claude Avenue
**University** 6235 South Claiborne Avenue
**West Esplanade** 4949 West Esplanade Avenue

For the Pontchartrain Branch in Slidell, please visit between 3pm and 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. These boxes did sustain some water damage but are not being relocated.

The following branches did not sustain any flood damage but are not yet reopened. Requests for appointments will be taken by calling 1-800-478-6428.

**Jefferson Avenue** 830 Jefferson Avenue
**Kenner** 2510 Williams Boulevard
**Riverbend** 1100 South Carrollton Avenue
**Veterans** 2201 Veterans Boulevard

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The Times-Picayune

# METRO

SECTION B

Monday, October 17, 2005

EDITORIALS • B-4
DEATHS • B-6



LOLIS ERIC ELIE

## Fractured voices lost in winds

Last month, Community Labor United, a group formerly based in New Orleans, held a retreat in South Carolina. Since then, the group has been meeting by conference call.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation co-hosted its meeting last month with the Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, among other groups. That meeting was held in Baton Rouge.

When the Louisiana Coalition, "a nonpartisan, nonpolitical collaborative" consisting of dozens of New Orleans community groups, announced its formation last month, it planned to hold regular meetings in Baton Rouge. Earlier this month, Viking Range Corp. convened a meeting of New Orleans restaurateurs to discuss the rebuilding of our restaurant culture. The meeting was held in Greenwood, Miss., the company's corporate hometown.

On Nov. 7 and 8, ACORN will hold a community forum on rebuilding New Orleans. They too will hold it in Baton Rouge.

### Divided attention

Community organizing has never been an easy business. But it's made even more difficult when the community you are organizing is spread out over a dozen states, not all of them contiguous.

And how do you get people to focus on the big picture when the insurance company hasn't been calling them back or the kids aren't comfortable in their new school, or Uncle Fred is still missing, or the blue roof people have yet to say when they'll be able to place the protective covering over your leaking home? Community groups have always operated at a disadvantage. Corporations and political parties have paid staffs whose job is to influence public policy. Millions of dollars can be at stake, and that's enough money to keep the attention of a lobbyist solidly focused on the task at hand.

But most of the time, individual citizens have a lot less at stake. While a penny here or there in tax breaks could mean millions in aggregate for a corporate taxpayer, an individual citizen might not find it worthwhile to attend all the meetings held to discuss such a measure.

### Influence in doubt

The unevenness of this matchup is even more acute in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. These community groups are trying to organize when there is no community, at least not in a geographic sense. We may all have ties to pre-flood New Orleans, but we don't all live in or near its old boundaries.

In the past, even when communities organized petition drives, met with their representatives on the City Council, and solicited expert opinion in support of their positions, they usually lost their battles in the City Council chambers or the mayor's office.

How can they hope to be successful in this new environment when so much is at stake?

The truth is, it may already be too late. The mayor and the governor have already named their blue ribbon rebuilding commissions. Representatives of community-based organizations have not been given seats at the table.

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Lolis Eric Elie can be reached at lelie@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3330.

# Mass in St. Bernard draws 1,500 faithful

*Turnout 'heartwarming' despite uncertain future*

**By Sandra Barbier**
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

About 1,500 St. Bernard Parish residents hungry for a taste of their lost community returned Sunday morning to attend Mass celebrated by Archbishop Alfred Hughes in the blacktopped parking lot at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Chalmette.

Hughes called the turnout "extraordinary and heart-warming," but residents and Hughes both said they would be cautious about returning to stay in the parish, which was inundated from end to end by Hurricane Katrina and a tidal surge that breached levees meant to protect it.

"I think the decisions on churches (in St. Bernard) are related to flood control," Hughes said following the Mass, which was concelebrated by priests and deacons of St. Bernard Parish's seven Catholic parishes.

"I think it is very important that we

*See* **MASS,** *B-2*



Friends Donna Lauga, left, and Betty Colombo — who both had at least eight feet of water in their homes during Hurricane Katrina — hug Sunday during Mass in the parking lot of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Chalmette.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

# There's still no place like home



Shiela Dees stands in the kitchen of her Murano Road home. Like many homes in Venetian Isles, it filled with mud.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT ROSE

Although their boats and homes were torn asunder by Hurricane Katrina, Venetian Isles residents say they want to rebuild in the subdivision that lies outside levee protection.

*Residents remain loyal to subdivision*

**By Bruce Hamilton**
Staff writer

Although their houses are built on a thin strip of unprotected waterfront property near the Chef Menteur Pass, residents of Venetian Isles are returning to their ravaged houses and vowing to rebuild.

"I'm coming back. Most of the people are coming back," said Evelyn DaSalla, a retired club owner. "We're outside the levee, but we're safer because that water went right back out."

She and her husband, retired New Orleans police officer Clement DaSalla, said their house was the second one built on Trieste Street. "We picked this lot when it was woods," he said.

Standing in their back yard, where their broken dock snaked atop the shore, the DaSallas pointed across the water at Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. They described an easy lifestyle of birding and fishing that made their home special.

"It's a different kind of life," she said. "It's a wonderful, wonderful place to live."

The couple are living in Ponchatoula, but said they are eager to return. "Maybe we'll be back here in a year and a half," Clement DaSalla said. "And it will be nice."

On Friday, Hurricane Katrina's elemental fury was obvious throughout the subdivision. Roofs had been sheared, siding peeled like thin rinds. Homes lay eviscerated, their interiors exposed. Boats and vehicles were stranded hundreds of feet from where they stood before the storm.

The house at 4450 Trieste was fused with another across its cul-de-sac; it had been lifted from its foundation and spun around. "Do Not Destroy" was written on its side in green spray paint.

Venetian Isles was developed in the 1960s by New Orleans East Inc., which opened its initial phase in April 1965. Built beside Chef Menteur Highway, its network of canals promised easy access to Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico.

It has flooded before, notably because of Hurricanes Betsy and Camille. In an Aug. 31, 1969, Times-Picayune article, the tract's developer said it received "far less damage" from Camille, when its older homes had as much as 3 feet of water. Residents said Katrina brought a surge of more

*See* **ISLES,** *B-3*



A house on San Remo Drive sits collapsed on its foundation. Venetian Isles has been hard hit each time a major storm roars through the area.

# Portions of N.O. still in the dark

*Streetlights must wait for Entergy reports*

**By Leslie Williams**
Staff writer

As night falls in New Orleans, homeowners and renters returning to Uptown and other neighborhoods find themselves sometimes awash in darkness while walking city streets.

Streetlights work on one block, but not another. Only light from the moon and stars illuminates some shadowy corridors of five or more blocks — a state of affairs that will persist a bit longer.

Entergy does not intend to repair city streetlights until it completes an assessment of damage to the lights in Algiers and the six east bank ZIP codes taking the lead in Mayor Ray Nagin's repopulation plan, said Amy Stallings, a spokeswoman for the energy company.

The report on Algiers should be finished in a week, and the one on the six ZIP codes should be completed in two weeks, she said.

The city, which pays Entergy to maintain its 53,000 streetlights, then will decide which repairs will occur first, Stallings said. Toppled light poles, broken fixtures and severed wires are

*See* **DARK,** *B-3*

# WHAT IS SO FUNNY?

*Humor helping locals muddle through*

**By Lynne Jensen**
Staff writer

The pile of flood-ruined rugs and furniture outside the Massett home in Lakeview is more than a collection of what the couple lost after Hurricane Katrina. It's a still-life lesson on how New Orleanians will survive the storm.

Rather than toss her collapsing oak dining table to the curb, Marie Massett shaded it with a

*See* **HUMOR,** *B-6*

# St. Charles official urges study of levee

*Despite dodging Katrina bullet, parish still at risk*

**By Jenny Hurwitz**
River Parishes bureau

St. Charles Parish residents have faced myriad changes since Hurricane Katrina slammed the metro area. But Emergency Operations Director Tab Troxler contends that at least one aspect of parish life has remained constant.

Pre-Katrina, the parish faced a high risk of devastating flooding if hit by a slow-moving Category 2 storm, Troxler said. And now, post-Katrina, parish residents face that exact same risk.

"Nothing has really changed," Troxler said of the parish's vulnerability. "I just know now that I have a platform to express this."

In the face of this possibility, and in the wake of the devastation brought on by Katrina that crippled other parishes in the region, officials are considering embarking on a surveying study to determine levee elevations parishwide. It comes as part of what emergency workers deem a necessary first step to creating a disaster-resistant community, Troxler said.

Troxler began pushing for the survey after attending a meeting with officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C., earlier this week, where he learned that the agency is looking to update its storm surge and hurricane models.

As part of that update, the parish must provide recent elevation information to NOAA.

The last time the parish completed a comprehensive elevation survey was in 1995, as part of a drainage study for both the east and west banks.

That drainage study, which began in 1991, spanned four years and cost about $2 million, whereas a survey assessing the elevation of levees throughout the parish could take four to six months and cost up to $250,000, Troxler estimated.

The east bank's hurricane levee can withstand up to a 6-foot storm surge, caused by a tropical storm or a Category 1 hurricane, Troxler said. The levee, which still is under construction, eventually will be able to weather up to a Category 2 hurricane, he said. The parish's west bank, which does not have a hurricane levee in place, could withstand tropical storm conditions only, Troxler said. Parish President Albert Laque said he is contacting potential contractors and assessing costs. He hopes to bring a proposal before the council within the next few weeks, he said.

Since the start of hurricane season, Troxler has been warning parish officials that a slow-moving Category 2 hurricane could inflict considerable damage, flooding homes on both banks with 5 to 10 feet of water.

"Many people are saying, 'Could our parish look like St. Bernard?' " Troxler said. "And I'm saying, 'Yes.' "

Since 1995, when the drainage study was completed, the parish's elevation has changed drastically, thanks to coastal erosion. Now, scientists estimate that parts of the parish are sinking as much as a ¼-inch to an inch annually, with rates of sinkage varying throughout the parish, Troxler said.

Troxler pointed to one specific area, at the corner of Lakewood Drive and U.S. 90 in Luling, which was measured last year at 2.3 feet above sea level. Since 1995, that area has sunk about 5 inches, he said.

However, he cautioned that all homeowners across the parish should be concerned about the subsiding elevations, not just those living in certain neighborhoods. "The message should never be that living in Destrehan is safer than living in Luling," he said. "We're all in the same boat."

According to Troxler, a footprint detailing the range in elevations throughout the parish could help in the planning and development of future infrastructure, forcing officials to create a better network of storm-resistant shelters or multipurpose structures, built on higher ground, that could double as emergency operation units and withstand Category 4 or 5 conditions.

A study also would provide scientific proof of the risk facing residents, encouraging them to build their homes higher and to retrofit existing structures for greater protection, he said.

Unfortunately, Troxler said, it's difficult to rally support for such surveys because people are willing to pay for only programs that deliver immediate results.

The process of updating the parish's resistance against hurricanes will be a long, multiphased effort that will not happen overnight, he said.

But, he argued, with public support, it could be possible to build a community that is more resilient and does not face the constant risk of flooding.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," Troxler said. "Hopefully, these (recent) storms will be a catalyst for that."

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Jenny Hurwitz can be reached at or jhurwitz@timespicayune.com or (985) 652-0959

# Two drivers killed in Tammany collisions

*No citations issued in weekend crashes*

**From staff reports**

Two people died in separate weekend collisions in St. Tammany Parish, State Police said.

Alvin Meliet, 50, of 485 Laura Drive North, Mandeville, died Sunday at 4:23 a.m. at Louisiana Heart Hospital after the four-door 2002 Honda he was driving rear-ended an eighteen-wheeler on Interstate 12 near Airport Road in Slidell.

Meliet's car struck the tractor-trailer, driven by Terry L. Hoyt of Clinton, and went out of control, spinning counter-clockwise onto the median. The car came to rest facing south, police said. Both vehicles were traveling eastbound about 2 a.m., when the crash happened.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts, police said. The tractor-trailer driver had not been cited Sunday night, police said.

On Saturday about 5:30 p.m., Derrick S. Sandifer, 27, of Franklinton, died at LSU Medical Center at Bogalusa, during surgery after he was injured in a three-vehicle crash on Louisiana 16, west of Louisiana 21, near Sun, police said.

The right tires of an eastbound 2005 Ford Power work truck driven by Steven Bailey, 25, of Granbury, Texas, went off the road while he was negotiating a curve. He abruptly steered the truck onto the highway and sideswiped the rear of a 1992 GMC pickup driven by Celeste Tufts, 23, of Mount Hermon, which was traveling in the opposite direction, police said.

Meanwhile, a 1994 Toyota, driven by Sandifer, also traveling in the opposite direction, veered left to avoid the Ford but hit it head-on, police said. Mike Carroll, 25, of Mount Hermon, a passenger in the Toyota, was taken to Lakeview Hospital in Covington for serious injury. Bailey told police that Sandifer struck his vehicle while Sandifer was trying to pass the GMC, investigators said.

Sandifer was not wearing a seat belt, but the other drivers were, police said.

No citations were issued, pending investigation by Trooper Huey Galmiche.

# Pedestrian hit by police car

**From staff reports**

A pedestrian was seriously injured Sunday morning in LaPlace when he was struck by a State Police car driven by a visiting officer, State Police said.

About 5:40 a.m., the unidentified man was crossing U.S. 51 from west to east, in the middle of the block just north of Woodland Place, when he was hit by a marked car driven by Trooper Jeff Cupples. Cupples was on his way from his temporary home in LaPlace to New Orleans to work with the antilooting task force, said Trooper Omar Landrum, police spokesman.

The pedestrian, who received head and internal injuries and a broken right thigh, was taken to River Parishes Hospital in LaPlace, police said. Cupples is from Troop G in Bossier City.

Speed and alcohol were not factors in the crash, which is being investigated by Trooper Greg Marchand. No citations are pending, Landrum said.

# Hughes, residents still wary of return

**MASS,** *from B-1*

encourage people to come back when it's safe," Hughes said. "There's obviously a desire to rebuild, but we want to make sure as we move into the next hurricane season that people are not in peril."

Hughes' sentiments were echoed by Meraux resident Ronnie Blanchard, who with his wife, Lisa, and youngest daughter, Raeanna, attended the service. The Blanchards had evacuated to Baton Rouge, but just moved into an apartment in Metairie.

Asked if they will return, Ronnie Blanchard said, "We're undecided at this time, because of the speculation of whether or not the parish is going to improve the levee system.

"I'm very concerned that the future storms that are increasing in velocity will once again overrun us, and all of the rebuilding that we do with hundreds of thousands of dollars that we put back in our lives . . . will be taken away," he said.

Except for the momentary roar of a gray helicopter flying overhead and the brief hum of the generator of a nearby work vehicle, most of the Mass was held against a backdrop of sunlit silence. In his sermon, Hughes contemplated the tremendous losses, but he warned listeners that no loss is as great as the loss of heaven. And, he asked the crowd to consider the good that could come from the devastation, such as a simpler, less materialistic lifestyle, and more cooperation between church and state and among people of differing ethnic backgrounds.



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIOT KAMENITZ

Archbishop Alfred Hughes celebrates Mass on Sunday in Chalmette. St. Bernard Parish Councilman Craig Taffaro thanked Hughes for 'starting the spiritual birth of St. Bernard.'

The service began with a guest choir from St. Mark Catholic Church in Gonzales and the congregation together singing, "Amazing Grace." After the Mass, Federal Emergency Management Agency contractors from the parish emergency base at the Port of St. Bernard served chicken salad and slices of pie. St. Bernard Parish Councilman Craig Taffaro thanked Hughes for "starting the spiritual birth of St. Bernard." Another council member, Mark Madary, said he hoped the service was for people "to say hello, not goodbye."

But Madary sympathized with elderly residents who experienced the flooding in Hurricane Betsy decades ago, and now Katrina. He also railed against FEMA for refusing to provide trailers for temporary housing in the parish until electricity, water and sewers are restored.

Madary said the parish is ready to supply electricity to trailers on residents' lots.

"We have electricity overhead," and 2,000 temporary poles on order to hook up the trailers, he said.

"Whatever roadblock FEMA wants to throw up, parish government is going to take down. Even if it means stationing water in tanks along the street . . . so people can come back, we'll do it," he said.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor's pastor, the Rev. Danilo Digal, said the crowd was "a very powerful sign the church is still alive in St. Bernard." Digal predicted residents will return, even if it takes three or four years.

Masses will continue to be held each Sunday at 11 a.m. on the playground at Our Lady of Prompt Succor, with the priests of each church parish taking turns, Danilo said. Mass also will be celebrated every Sunday at 11 a.m. at Assumption Church in Braithwaite in Plaquemines Parish.

# AD REPORTER

*By Martin Covert*





STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES GAFFNEY

Commercial lending assistant Brandy Dominguez (right) helps a customer at the up-and-running Metairie Road branch of First Bank and Trust.

## *First Bank!*

**First Bank & Trust** was among the first locally owned and managed banks to have the majority of its branch offices back up and operational after Hurricane Katrina.

That's the word from Vice President Stephen Dickey, who says, "In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath," says Dickey, "First Bank was also able to open its doors to other banks that had no place to service its customers."

First Bank's offices in Harvey, Elmwood, Algiers, Metairie Road and Baton Rouge are doing full-service business now, and the branches in Kenner and the CBD are being repaired.

*Plus:* First Bank has introduced a competitively priced Certificate of Deposit, from which all proceeds will be "dedicated to offering loans to small business owners in the area, assisting in the rebuilding effort," says Dickey. The "Katrina Recovery CD" is advertised at a current three-year interest rate of 4.25 percent.

First Bank has also sponsored standing-room-only seminars in conjunction with the Small Business Administration, designed to help business owners jump-start their return to the New Orleans area. *More info:* 586-2620.

## *Bergeron revives*

**Bergeron Chrysler Jeep** and **Bergeron Volvo** at 3525 Veterans in Metairie suffered "more than a million dollars in damage to our dealership and inventory," says dealer Denis Bergeron III.

The staff was able to move nearly the entire fleet of vehicles from the acreage and showroom prior to Katrina's arrival, but many of those cars, vans and trucks were damaged by wind-blown debris. No flood waters went through the dealership, says Bergeron, but serious roof damage wrecked much of the dealership's showroom and service buildings.

"This was the biggest hit we took in 40 years," says Bergeron.

Bergeron, however, is now fully operational at the same location, operating from offices in trailers on the adjacent pre-owned lot.

Bergeron says he sees "a daunting challenge ahead. We've lost entire zip codes of customers. But we're selling cars. We're all in this together, and this dealership is here to help." *More:* 888-2131.

## *Heart Hospital*

**Louisiana Heart Hospital** (LHH) on Louisiana Highway 434, just north of I-12 at exit 74 on the north shore, is hiring displaced health care professionals from other facilities in the New Orleans and north shore areas and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. LHH is also offering office space to physicians who lost their offices to Katrina.

LHH, which remained open during the storm and its aftermath, suffered only minor damage. The day after Katrina hit, hospital doctors even performed open-heart surgery. For three weeks after the storm, community leaders and other officials met daily at the hospital to coordinate recovery.

"We just completed the orientation process for 40 new hires from other facilities, and we are looking to hire more," said Chris Coffey, vice president of Business Development.

LHH has also made 7,200 square feet of professional space available on an intermediate or long-term basis to doctors, while physicians in the adjacent medical building have also made room for colleagues.

*More information:* 985-690-7500 or louisianahearthospital.com.

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If you or your clients were among the thousands affected by Hurricane Katrina — as was our firm — The Rigby Group can assist you with **calculation of lost income** due to the storm.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT ROSE

Debris, including a house that flew from across the canal, surrounds what's left of the James Roos' home on Murano Road. 'I'm going to rebuild and live here 'til I die because I truly love this place,' the 78-year-old said.

# Residents were drawn to lifestyle of Venetian Isles

**ISLES,** *from B-1*

than 10 feet.

But some houses were spared significant damage from Katrina. Marion Britsch's home at the end of San Remo Drive, built on piers, is 18 feet above sea level, she said. "We were high and dry," she said from her porch. "My bedrooms look like the day I left them."

The roof and a few windows were damaged, but she said parts of the house were OK. Her husband and son were busy fixing it Friday, and an electrician had made repairs. "We need power, and we need water," she said.

The Britsches are staying in Slidell in a trailer, but they plan to return. "Definitely we're coming back," she said. "Most of the people here are ready to come back. I know of no one that has just walked away."

She attended an Oct. 5 funeral in Baton Rouge for the Rev. Arthur "Red" Ginart, pastor of the nearby St. Nicholas of Myra Church, who died in the hurricane. She said it was well-attended by Venetian Isles residents, and everyone she spoke to planned to return.

Harry Bode, a contractor, returned to his house on Florence Street on Friday to meet insurance adjusters. The gabled roof of his two-story wood-frame house had been ripped away. "I feel fortunate," he said. "At least I had something to come back to."



Cars and boats alike were tossed like toys when Hurricane Katrina hit Venetian Isles in eastern New Orleans.

**"It's a different kind of life. It's a wonderful, wonderful place to live."**

EVELYN DASALLA
Resident of Venetian Isles

Bode, whose family lived in the house only three months, said they would like to return, but it probably won't happen soon. "We love it out here, but not right now," he said.

Others also were circumspect, saying they will wait to see what their insurance claims yield. "I'm in kind of a limbo state," said Jay Gibson, who was cleaning up his Trieste Street home with his mother, Esther Gibson. "You've just got to take it one day at a time."

Gibson was concerned about his insurance coverage. He was dealing with separate adjusters, and he said his flood claim was OK, but he was uncertain about his homeowners claim. Other residents had similar concerns — they said flood policies were being honored, but homeowners claims were being resisted.

Vera Sue Smith, who rode out the storm with her husband, James P. Smith, in their brick home on San Marco Drive, said she doesn't know whether they can rebuild. She was concerned her insurance payment would be capped at $250,000, which would not be enough, she said.

"We don't know whether they're going to allow us to" rebuild, she said, referring to the possibility of new building regulations or mandatory insurance compliance rules. "We're going to do something, but at this point, my hands are tied."

•••••••

Bruce Hamilton can be reached at bhamilton@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3378.

# 2 homes destroyed by fire

*Treme blaze damages 2 other homes*

**By Bob Ussery**
Staff writer

The cause of a three-alarm fire that collapsed two Treme residences into piles of flaming rubble and partially burned two other houses is under investigation by New Orleans firefighters.

When firefighters were dispatched to the 800 block of North Johnson Street on Saturday at 8:27 p.m., a two-story home on the lake side was engulfed in flames shooting 12 to 15 feet into the street, District Chief Gary Haydel said. That residence collapsed first.

Meanwhile, to the Dumaine Street side of the first home, an unoccupied one-story residence at 831 N. Johnson also was burning. Firefighters kept that building from burning completely.

The first firefighters on the scene also could see flames spreading to the two-story home on the other side of the first building. That house burned and collapsed, but firefighters kept flames from taking another home, at 811 N. Johnson.

Haydel said radiant heat set fire to a pile of debris across from 831 N. Johnson. And an hour after the fire broke out, a cottage at 818 N. Johnson began to smoke, also across from the fire. Firefighters burst into the apparently vacant home and kept it from burning. Haydel said radiant heat or embers could have set that house to smoldering.

Haydel said the block appeared to be devoid of residents except for one person on the porch of another residence across from the fire. There were no spectators.

"Usually there are all kinds of people at a fire like this," Fire Superintendent Charles Parent said at the scene.

Electrical service on the block was still out in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Fire officials could not immediately tell if there was anyone in the collapsed homes.

Chief Norman Woodridge said 40 firefighters fought the fire. Fire hydrants were working and there was no problem with low water pressure.

# Algiers, 6 east bank ZIP codes are priorities for electrical utility

**DARK,** *from B-1*

among the reasons the streetlights are out, she said.

The city lost service on Aug. 29. Utility crews began restoring power Sept. 4 at the Crescent City Connection and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. All of Algiers had electrical power Saturday, and restoration of service to the east bank ZIP codes at the heart of the mayor's rebuilding effort — 70115, 70116, 70118, 70112, 70113 and 70130 — were "substantially complete," she said.

Meanwhile, "we continue to do work to restore power to other more severely damaged areas of the city," Stallings said.

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Leslie Williams can be reached at lwilliams@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3358.




STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

The lights don't extend much beyond St. Charles Avenue looking toward the lake on Napoleon Avenue in New Orleans on Thursday. The power is still off in many areas.

# Ain't that a shame? Singer finds shambles

*Fats Domino's home, mementos wrecked*

**By the Associated Press**

Visiting his home for the first time since he was rescued from rising floodwater in a boat, Fats Domino found his piano overturned among mud and debris and his house in ruins.

Despite the destruction, the 77-year-old musician found a few bright spots during the tour with WWL-TV: a favorite shirt that survived unblemished and a bust that made it through the storm unbroken.

But those were the exceptions. More common were his electric keyboard, sitting against a wall covered in dried mud, mildew and mold, and his white grand piano overturned, broken and stained with the filth that flowed into the Lower 9th Ward along with the floodwater.

The water reached well over eight feet, brushing the bottoms of chandeliers inside the home.

Domino's fate was not known for several days after the Hurricane Katrina-spawned floods hit the low-lying neighborhood. He was rescued in a boat along with other family members from an upper-floor balcony.

The side of the balcony was spray-painted with a premature farewell when it was feared Domino had not survived. "R.I.P. Fats. You will be missed." Below that were spray-painted messages from authorities who searched Domino's and others' homes for bodies after the flooding receded.

**NOTICES 9905-9945**

| | |
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## 9905 Bids & Proposals

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by West Jefferson Medical Center Purchasing Department 1101 Medical Center Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072

until 2:00 P.M. on November 16, 2005 for:

RELOCATION OF ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT
WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER
4413 WICHERS DRIVE
MARRERO, LA 70072

and described in general as:

INTERIOR RENOVATION OF 3,300 SF OF THE SECOND FLOOR
4413 WICHERS DRIVE
FOR RELOCATION
ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT
WEST JEFFERSON
MEDICAL CENTER

in accordance with drawings and specifications prepared by:

ANTHONY J. GENDUSA JR
AIA ARCHITECT INC
712 NORTH ALEXANDER STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119
504-486-0222

Bids received after the above time will not be accepted. At 2:00 P.M. on the same day, in West Jefferson Medical Center, Purchasing Dept., Marrero, LA, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bidders, subcontractors, and suppliers may secure copies of the proposed contract documents from West Jefferson Medical Center - Purchasing Department, 1101 Medical Center Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072, 504-349-1190, for a deposit of $100.00 Per set. The full deposit for up to one set will be refunded to each general contractor/ bidder who submits a bona fide bid. For additional sets and for sets issued to subcontractors or material suppliers, the refund will be one-half of the deposit. Refunds will be made only for sets of documents returned to the West Jefferson Medical Center, postpaid, in satisfactory condition, complete, bound, and unmutilated, within ten calendar days after bid opening.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 11:00 A.M. on, November 2, 2005. Failure to attend the mandatory pre-bid conference will be grounds for disqualification. Vendor must sign-in and be in attendance.

All those attending will meet in the:

4413 Wichers Drive -
Second Floor
Marrero, La. 70072

BID # 1858

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed Proposals As Listed Below Will Be Received By The:

LSUHSC-LSU AG Center Bldg.
Purchasing Department
101 Efferson Hall, Room 214
Baton Rouge, LA. 70803

Until times and dates indicated, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read:

BID TITLE:
Dental Biomaterial Equipment

BID NUMBER:
000689

BID DUE DATE:
November 16, 2005 @ 11:00 AM

All inquiries and requests for specifications should be addressed via email to: dholme2@lsuhsc.edu

Specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Department. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities. LSUHSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 9920 Auctions

"Auction Notice" Pursuant to Iron Mountain's warehousemean's lien granted by UCC 7-209, all non- medical records belonging to New Orleans General Hospital tht are stored by Iron Mountain will be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction held at Iron Mountain 900 Distributors Row, Harahan, La. 70123 on Monday November 7, 2005 at 9:00 AM.

"Auction Notice" Pursuant to Iron Mountain's warehouseman's lien granted by UCC 7-209, all records belonging to Inhouse Vault Service that are stored at Iron Mountain will be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction held at Iron Mountain 900 Distributors Row, Harahan, La 70123 on Monday November 7, 2005 at 9:00 Am.

HENDERSON AUCTIONS
Livingston, La. 225-686-2252
Marvin A. Henderson,
Auctioneer #136-2000

## 9930 Legal Notices

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

8-Hour Ambient Ozone Standard and Nonattainment New Source Review
(LAC 33:III.11.504, 607, 711, 2201, and 2202) (AQ253E1)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and under the authority of R.S. 30:2011, the secretary of the department hereby finds that imminent peril to the public welfare exists and declares that an emergency action is necessary to implement rules concerning the revised primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and transitional provisions for nonattainment new source review under the revised standard.

This is a renewal of Emergency Rule AQ253E, which was effective on June 15, 2005, and published in the Louisiana Register on June 20, 2005. The department is drafting a rule to promulgate these regulation changes.

On April 30, 2004, EPA enacted 8-hour ozone NAAQS classifications, effective June 15, 2004 (69 FR 23858). The revised 8-hour NAAQS is more protective than the existing 1-hour ozone NAAQS. In order to transition from the existing 1-hour standard to the new 8-hour standard, EPA adopted a rule for implementation of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS-Phase 1 (the 'Phase 1 Implementation Rule') on April 30, 2004 (69 FR 23951). In the Phase 1 Implementation Rule, EPA revoked the 1-hour standard in full, including the associated designations and classifications, effective on June 15, 2005.

Litigation by a number of stakeholders pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit challenged various aspects of the Phase 1 Implementation Rule, resulting in EPA's agreement to reconsider several portions of the rule through renewed notice and public comment. EPA only recently made final decisions on reconsideration, thus clearing the way for effectiveness of the Phase 1 Implementation Rule (70 FR 30592, May 26, 2005). As a result, Louisiana is required to adopt the 8-hour revised standard and measures to implement such standard. This Emergency Rule is necessary to address two of the most immediate aspects of implementation: 1) revision of LAC 33:III.711 to replace the 1-hour primary ambient air quality standard with the 8-hour standard; and 2) revision of nonattainment new source review provisions for parishes that were reclassified from severe under the 1-hour standard to marginal under the 8-hour standard (parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge). Because such parishes are still in nonattainment and because EPA has not yet developed guidance for nonattainment new source review under the 8-hour standard, the department is adopting measures to ensure that these parishes continue to make progress toward attainment while still accommodating growth. Regulatory changes will also delete references to the 1-hour standard and substitute the 8-hour standard, and take other actions to transition to the 8-hour standard. The attainment date for the Baton Rouge area under the 8-hour standard is June 15, 2007. Failure to adopt this rule on an emergency basis (i.e., without the delays for public notice and comment) would result in imminent peril to the public welfare as the department would not have the authority to enforce the 8-hour standard.

This Emergency Rule is effective on October 13, 2005, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning AQ253E1, you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

This Emergency Rule is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations, and is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2005.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Expedited Penalty Agreement
(LAC 33:I.801, 803, 805, and 807) (OS054E6)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allow the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and of R.S. 30:2011 and 2074, which allow the department to establish standards, guidelines, and criteria, to promulgate rules and regulations, and to issue compliance schedules, the secretary of the department hereby declares that an emergency action is necessary in order to implement expedited penalty agreements.

This is a renewal of Emergency Rule OS054E5, which was effective on June 10, 2005, and published in the Louisiana Register on June 20, 2005. This version of the Emergency Rule adds a new Stage II Vapor Recovery violation and edits the violations to LAC 33:III.2132.F, adds new Underground Storage Tank (UST) violations and penalty amounts for LAC 33:XI.711 and 905, and updates the UST citations. The Emergency Rule will abate the delay in correcting minor and moderate violations of the Environmental Quality Act. Delays in enforcement reduce the effectiveness of the action, unnecessarily utilize resources, and slow down the enforcement process. In the past three years alone, the Enforcement Division has received 8,139 referrals and has issued 4,259 actions. Currently strained budget and resource issues pose imminent impairment to addressing minor and moderate violations. This Rule will provide an alternative penalty assessment mechanism that the department may utilize, at its discretion, to expedite penalty agreements in appropriate cases. The report to the Governor by the Advisory Task Force on Funding and Efficiency of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recommended this action as a pilot program. The legislature approved the report and passed Act 1196 in the 2003 Regular Session allowing the department to promulgate rules for the program. This Emergency Rule allows the operation of the pilot program to commence immediately, without the delay and inflexibility of a permanent rule. It will also allow the department to gather information to formulate a long-term rule and to evaluate the environmental and public health benefits and the social and economic costs of such a program in order to justify these requirements for the permanent rule.

This Emergency Rule is effective on October 8, 2005, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning OS054E6 you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

This Emergency Rule is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations, and is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Adopted this 3rd day of October, 2005.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary

Mercury-Containing Devices and Electronics as Universal Wastes
(LAC 33:V.109, 305, 1501, 2201, 3801, 3806, 3810, 3813, 3821, 3823, 3841, 3843, 3845, 3855, 3877, 4301, and 4911) (HW088E)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), which allows the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and under the authority of R.S. 30:2011, the secretary of the department hereby declares that an emergency action is necessary in order to implement rules to add mercury-containing devices and electronics, including cathode ray tubes (CRTs), destined for recycling as universal wastes.

Under the Emergency Rule, metallic mercury must be recovered, recycled, reused, or sequestered, and not incinerated, landfilled, or released in any way; electronics, including CRTs, must be sent for dismantling and recovery of components, in any way that prevents releases to the environment. Large amounts of debris and waste must be disposed of as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is desirable to divert as many electronics and mercury-containing devices as possible away from disposal sites. By including these wastes as universal wastes, the opportunity exists to divert these items for recycling, thereby improving the environment and simplifying recovery. The department has proposed a rule to promulgate these regulation changes.

This Emergency Rule is effective on October 3, 2005, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning HW088E you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

This Emergency Rule is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations, and is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Adopted this 3rd day of October, 2005.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT
DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY
HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina struck the southeastern part of the state of Louisiana and Hurricane Rita struck the southwestern part of the state causing severe flooding and damage, which has threatened the safety, health and security of the citizens of the state of Louisiana, along with private property and public facilities;

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, and Hurricane Rita caused severe flooding and damage in the City of New Orleans and rendered the 911 Emergency Telephone System inoperable, requiring temporary facilities to continue the vital work of the 911 Emergency Telephone System as administered by the Orleans Parish Communication District, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana created by Act 155 of the Louisiana Legislature in 1982;

WHEREAS temporary communications facilities are urgently needed on the City Park Avenue site in the City of New Orleans, which site is currently leased by the Orleans Parish Communication District and is the intended location of a permanent communications facility;

WHEREAS the urgent need for a temporary communications facility will not admit to the formalities of compliance with R.S. 38:2212;

WHEREAS due to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, and Hurricane Rita, the calling of a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Parish Communication District impractical due to the pressing duties of the Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Commissioners of the Orleans Parish Communication District have been polled and agree that this Resolution is necessary to preserve the lives and property of the citizens of the City of New Orleans;

NOW THEREFORE I, DAN GILBERT, Deputy Director of the Orleans Parish Communication District, under the authority of R.S. 38:2212 D.(1)(a) do hereby declare that an emergency exists as defined in R.S. 38:2212 A.(6)(a) and publish this notice in compliance with R.S. 38:2212 D.(1)(a).

This ad is published to enable the public, appropriate government, organizations, and persons engaged inexcavation-related activities to recognize a hazardous liquid pipeline leak, to report it to the operator or the fire, police, or other appropriate public officials.

Indications of a leak might include: 1) A strange or unusual odor in the vicinity of a pipeline 2) A hissing or roaring sound (caused by natural gas or product escaping from a pipeline) 3) Flames originating from an opening in the ground or 4) The boil effect of bubbles escaping from the surface of a water body.

If you become aware of a pipeline leak, 1) LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY, 2) Avoid driving near escaping gas, 3) Avoid direct contact with the escaping gas or liquids, 4)Avoid creating sparks or sources of heat which could cause the natural gas to ignite and burn. If you find yourself in a suspected gaseous area, do not light a match, start an engine, or even switch on an electric light. 5) Notify the pipeline operator and/or the local police department as soon as you reach a safe area. Call collect. Give your name, a description of the leak and its location. If you do not know who the pipeline operator is, call your local fire police, or sheriff's department, or the state police. Advise them of the nature and location of the emergency.

If you see someone digging near a pipeline or doing other construction work, or if you plan to do such work near a pipeline yourself, please call the telephone number shown on the pipeline sign and let the pipeline company know so damage can be avoided. This ad provided by Newfield Exploration Company.

## 9945 Successions

24th Judicial District Court
for the Parish of Jefferson
State of Louisiana
No. 616-604 Division "J"
SUCCESSION OF
Florentine A. Weber
a/k/a
Florence A. Weber

NOTICE OF FILING
TABLEAU OF
DISTRIBUTION

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of this estate and all other persons herein interested to show cause within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice, if any they have or can, why the Tableau of Distribution filed by Winnie G. Flaig, Executrix, should not be approved and homologated and the funds distributed in accordance therewith.

Danielle Hal
CLERK OF COURT
Atty: Phyllis C. Coci
Publication: T.P. Oct. 17, 2005

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## YOUR OPINIONS

# Close front doors when storm comes knocking

Approximately 30 years ago there was a plan put together by the Army Corps of Engineers that, had it been implemented, would have substantially mitigated the destruction caused by the storm surge on both the south and north shores of Lake Pontchartrain.

The plan was to put gates (with levees) at the passes from the Gulf of Mexico into the lake. That would have been at the Rigolets and at the Chef Menteur passes.

The gates would have been open at all times except upon the approach of a hurricane.

The structures would interrupt the push of water from the Gulf into the lake. Flooding might still occur but at a greatly reduced level. In a lower category hurricane, house flooding may not even happen.

The Corps took this project seriously. It was killed because some people thought that the project would result in a "dead lake," i.e., a lake with no sea life in it.

I am not criticizing those people. They may have been right. But, I know that this is why the project was killed because one of the leaders of the opposition told me the story himself. And, about three weeks before I left office as mayor of Slidell, someone at the Corps of Engineers confirmed the story to me.

But, three decades or more have passed. Improved technology or design may eliminate potential damage to the lake.

It is time to reconsider this project.

The levees can be repaired, strengthened and doubled in height. But, if the "front door" is left open, the Gulf waters will continue to be a battering ram pushing Lake Pontchartrain into the city and onto the north shore.

**Sam Caruso**
Former mayor
Slidell

# Casinos mean quick revenue

Businesses will relocate here only when it makes business sense to do so. In the meantime we should not discount Mayor Ray Nagin's proposal to allow hotel-casinos to develop in the area.

Hotel-casinos are a business that could show immediate profits and become a large draw to tourists all over the United States.

New Orleans will always be different from Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Hotel-casinos would just be an added spice.

Bringing hotel-gaming to the city will give us a starting point. Gaming-hotels could provide immediate jobs. Those jobs could provide immediate demand for homes to be rebuilt, neighborhoods to redevelop, schools to be rebuilt and even churches to provide spiritual guidance to the return of old and the influx of new people.

Hotel-casinos turned desert sand into gold in Las Vegas and a sleepy Mississippi Gulf Coast into a money engine providing the state of Mississippi with a large percentage of its income. Atlantic City, for all the denigrating reports one may hear, has in truth seen a great deal of growth in jobs, tourism and public infrastructure directly related to hotel-gaming.

We will always have the unique New Orleans flavor, but right now we need immediate help, right now we need action. We really need to give the mayor's proposal immediate and serious consideration before allowing our good neighbor to the east to eat the whole pie before we even get to the kitchen table.

**Jerry King**
Gretna



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Jefferson Parish residents began to clean up Sept. 5, the first day they were allowed back into their homes after Hurricane Katrina. Martha Grinstead, left, and her son, Carl Moten, returned to her home in Lincolnshire in Marrero and found a watery mess inside.

# Dumping on Jeff president

Re: "His conscience is clear but name is mud," Other Opinions, Oct. 12.

I strongly disagree with the column by James Gill. What rubbish it is to think Aaron Broussard is not worthy of having his name adorn parish property.

One must not forget a man of Broussard's talents. I propose naming the landfill for all the trash and debris from Hurricane Katrina the "Aaron Broussard Center." I am sure many residents will offer to pay for the Broussard sign.

So no more trash talking — Broussard is worthy of this honor.

**Blake Parkinson**
Kenner

# Give evacuees brooms, shovels

I question the logic and am repulsed by the arrogance of those who question the right to work of certain ethic groups, namely our Latin American neighbors who are currently employed in the clean-up of metropolitan New Orleans.

The clean-up crews in New Orleans are housed and fed and paid to perform needed services that the residents either won't or can't perform. How did the Mexicans and Hondurans get here? Certainly not with FEMA checks. The evacuees in shelters around the country have not been detained. They have been welcomed with open arms; they have been fed, clothed and received thousands of FEMA dollars to spend as they choose. But they have not chosen to buy a bus ticket or a plane ticket or made any effort to return so they can help rebuild their community.

If Mayor Ray Nagin is concerned about the 3,000 city employees who must be let go, give them a broom and shovel and put them to work. Why not start a campaign to get to work?

**Peter M. McEnery**
New Orleans

# Make New Orleans great

I am a third-generation New Orleanian. I love New Orleans and hope to raise my family here.

However, since Hurricane Katrina came to town and the levees broke, I am left asking myself many questions.

The mayor has been given a golden opportunity to make New Orleans a bigger, better and cleaner city. But the news I read makes me sad, very sad. I am left to wonder, what is the mayor's plan? Does he have one or does he just pull ideas out of a hat? Does he think things through?

Now is the time to clean house, to make a new start. We must ask the citizens of the city to help. Many are already there. We shouldn't criticize those from outside ("the Mexican work force") who have come to help.

We should focus on the big picture. Reach out to businesses, large and small. Talk to the council men and women. Ask them what their constituents are feeling, or just ask the citizens. Hold town meetings.

Let's consolidate the school system. Make sure all public school teachers are certified. Have a real litter campaign, have it start at home.

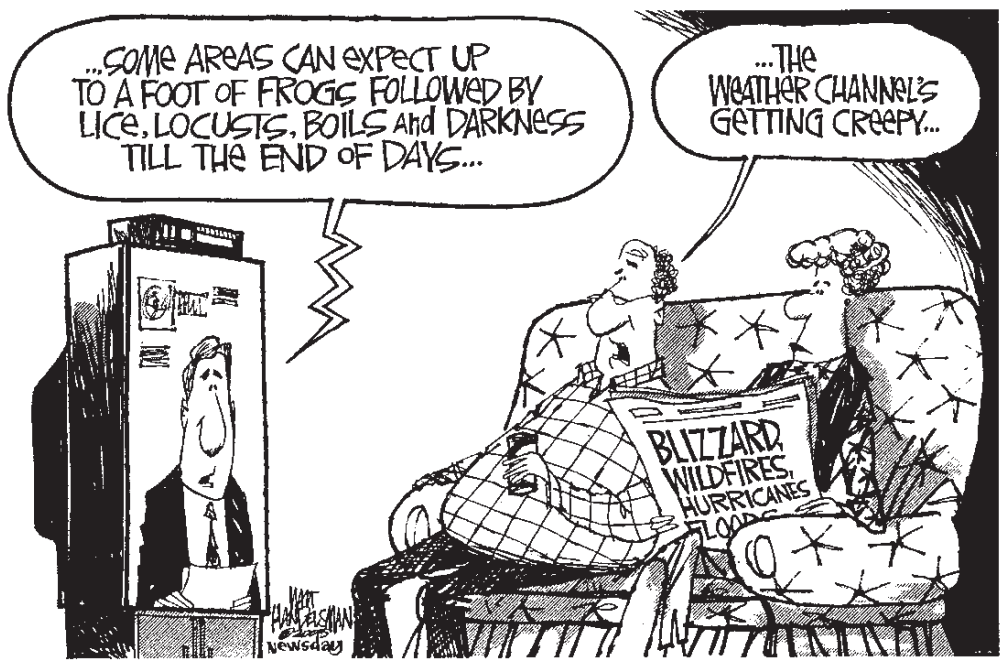
Now is the time to make New Orleans great. Please don't let us down, again.

**Anne Goliwas**
New Orleans

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## OUR OPINIONS

# Preserving the city's character

New Orleans is steeped in history, and its buildings tell the story of almost 300 years of life along the lower Mississippi River.

Greek revival mansions, Creole cottages, high-ceilinged shotguns and Arts and Crafts bungalows all evoke a particular time and style. This place has more architecturally and historically significant houses than almost any U.S. city.

As New Orleanians move into the reconstruction phase of life after Katrina, it is crucial to salvage as many of those historically valuable buildings as possible. In that light, the proclamation issued by Mayor Ray Nagin to suspend the authority of city agencies that are supposed to sign off on demolitions of historic buildings is disturbing.

The mayor apparently has not signed the proclamation to bypass the Historic District Landmarks Commission, its Central Business counterpart and the Housing Conservation District Review Committee, and he shouldn't. Such a move would be bad policy, and there is no reason to take such a drastic step.

The city has the power to tear down buildings that are in imminent danger of collapse without going through a review process. Inspectors can determine which buildings are about to fall down and are therefore a hazard to the public. If a historic building is not in danger of crashing in on itself, it shouldn't be demolished without going through a review process.

There may well be ways to streamline that process, and the HDLC seems to be trying to do just that in the aftermath of Katrina. It ought to be a fairly simple matter to tell which buildings are barely standing and which are banged up but salvageable.

With the city making deep cuts in staffing, the HDLC, Vieux Carre Commission and other oversight agencies may find it more difficult to do their jobs, and the city should make every effort to ensure that inspectors and other essential staff are available.

Greg Meffert, the Nagin aide who oversees the City Planning Commission and the Historic District Landmarks Commission, promised last week that the HDLC will have "an active, vibrant role" in what the city does in historic neighborhoods.

Mr. Meffert's assurances aren't sufficient, though. He had no background in planning or historic preservation when he was put in charge of those departments, and the administration did not make preservation a high priority before the hurricane.

Fortunately, many of the city's older buildings survived the storm in decent shape, a testament to the strength of their design and craftsmanship. Even in areas of the city that took a beating from Katrina, many historic buildings can and should be restored. New Orleans had a dearth of affordable housing before the storm. As people return to a city with so many houses in shambles, finding a place to live will be a challenge.

Some houses — maybe many houses — will have to be bulldozed in the coming months. Where historic buildings can be saved, though, there should be every effort to do so.

If we knock them down willy-nilly, New Orleans won't look like New Orleans anymore.

# People first

The number of Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in temporary shelters has steadily declined in recent weeks, but not everyone has worked out stable housing arrangements. Far from it.

Hundreds of thousands are still living in hotel rooms. Some people who've left large shelters, such as Baton Rouge's River Center, have merely moved into smaller shelters. Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state officials are focusing on putting people in temporary trailers. But that process is slow. And the result could be anything but desirable, if thousands of evacuees end up marooned in makeshift trailer villages in isolated parts of Louisiana.

The first priority should be to do what's best for individual evacuees — to help them move into homes near jobs. In a great many cases, that would mean helping evacuees find private apartments. Even if those units are located out of state.

In some cases, evacuees could be placed in temporary trailers located near work sites or their former homes. But when that's not possible, people should not be forced into so-called "FEMA villages" in out-of-the-way locales. One such camp has already been established in Baker, and more are likely on the way.

In difficult circumstances, temporary trailer villages may be the best option. Kenner wants to house essential employees temporarily on vacant land near Louis Armstrong International Airport, and the airport itself has similar plans. Unfortunately, other temporary trailer parks could be much larger and more isolated than those set up at major employers' request.

The trailer camp that FEMA established last year in Charlotte County, Fla., shows what can go wrong. Residents moved in — temporarily, they thought — after Hurricane Charley pushed them from their homes. For those who still live there 14 months later, it's hard to find jobs and run errands, and crime is a significant problem.

So far, Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration has insisted that returning evacuees to Louisiana should be a primary goal during the recovery process. Cynics say the Blanco administration doesn't want to send potential voters out of state. A more charitable view is that sending evacuees elsewhere might look like an admission of failure on Louisiana's part.

And in truth, New Orleans area residents tend to have an intense attachment to home and deserve the opportunity to return. Some metro area employers are already complaining about the difficulty of finding workers, and seeking those jobs ought to be an option for evacuees.

Still, FEMA and the Blanco administration need to recognize that some families will have trouble gaining traction in a metro area where the housing market is in turmoil and a number of schools are out of commission. Evacuees shouldn't be kept in limbo indefinitely. Government officials should not begrudge them the right to get on with their lives.

## OTHER OPINIONS

# Closer look at Bush comes a little too late



PAUL KRUGMAN

George W. Bush, I once wrote, "values loyalty above expertise" and may have "a preference for advisers whose personal fortunes are almost entirely bound up with his own." And he likes to surround himself with "obsequious courtiers."

Lots of people are saying things like that these days. But those quotes are from a column published on Nov. 19, 2000.

I don't believe that I'm any better than the average person at judging other people's character. I got it right because I said those things in the context of a discussion of Bush's choice of economic advisers, a subject in which I do have some expertise.

But many people in the news media do claim, at least implicitly, to be experts at discerning character — and their judgments play a large, sometimes decisive role in our political life. The 2000 election would have ended in a chad-proof victory for Al Gore if many reporters hadn't taken a dislike to Gore, while portraying Bush as an honest, likable guy. The 2004 election was largely decided by the image of Bush as a strong, effective leader.

So it's important to ask why those judgments are often so wrong.

Right now, with the Bush administration in meltdown on multiple issues, we're hearing a lot about President Bush's personal failings. But what happened to the commanding figure of yore, the heroic leader in the war on terror? The answer, of course, is that the commanding figure never existed: Bush is the same man he always was. All the character flaws that are now fodder for late-night humor were fully visible, for those willing to see them, during the 2000 campaign.

And Bush the great leader is far from the only fictional character, bearing no resemblance to the real man, created by media images.

Read the speeches Howard Dean gave before the Iraq war, and compare them with Colin Powell's pro-war presentation to the United Nations. Knowing what we know now, it's clear that one man was judicious and realistic, while the other was spinning crazy conspiracy theories. But somehow their labels got switched in the way they were presented to the public by the news media.

Why does this happen? A large part of the answer is that the news business places great weight on "up close and personal" interviews with important people, largely because they're hard to get but also because they play well with the public. But such interviews are rarely revealing. The fact is that most people — myself included — are pretty bad at using personal impressions to judge character. Psychologists find, for example, that most people do little better than chance in distinguishing liars from truth-tellers.

More broadly, the big problem with political reporting based on character portraits is that there are no rules, no way for a reporter to be proved wrong. If a reporter tells you about the steely resolve of a politician who turns out to be ineffectual and unwilling to make hard choices, you've been misled, but not in a way that requires a formal correction.

And that makes it all too easy for coverage to be shaped by what reporters feel they can safely say, rather than what they actually think or know. Now that Bush's approval ratings are in the 30s, we're hearing about his coldness and bad temper, about how aides are afraid to tell him bad news. Does anyone think that journalists have only just discovered these personal characteristics?

Let's be frank: The Bush administration has made brilliant use of journalistic careerism. Those who wrote puff pieces about Bush and those around him have been rewarded with career-boosting access. Those who raised questions about his character found themselves under personal attack from the administration's proxies. (Yes, I'm speaking in part from experience.) Only now, with Bush in desperate trouble, has the structure of rewards shifted.

So what's the answer? Journalists who are better at judging character? Unfortunately, that's not a practical plan. After all, who judges their judgment?

What we really need is political journalism based less on perceptions of personalities and more on actual facts. Schadenfreude aside, we should not be happy that stories about Bush's boldness have given way to stories analyzing his facial tics. Think, instead, about how different the world would be today if, during the 2000 campaign, reporting had focused on the candidates' fiscal policies instead of their wardrobes. •••••••

Paul Krugman writes for The New York Times. His e-mail address is krugman@nytimes.com.

# Broussard's fate just part of the picture



DREW BROACH

*Jefferson Report*



AP PHOTO

President Bush walks with Lt. Gen. Russ Honore, Hurricane Katrina task force chief, and Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, center, as Bush arrives in New Orleans Tuesday.

Before we go off recalling or indicting Aaron Broussard, as some of his constituents insist, let us step back and consider how we arrived at this point.

Jefferson Parish was created 180 years ago to provide local government for the few hardy souls who made their home in the swamps. In retrospect, we can conclude that anyone who lived here then was foolish to risk life and property against the meanderings of the Mississippi River, the tidal surges from the Gulf of Mexico and the occasional catastrophic hurricane.

But live here, and reproduce, they did. And with each successive disaster, the taxpayers here and elsewhere in the country made incremental improvements against Mother Nature. Levees now contain the river (virtually all the time). The swamps have been leveed and drained to keep Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico out (most of the time). Huge custom-made pumps efficiently move internal rainfall out of neighborhoods (well, some of the time).

After the 1978 flood, our political leaders went hat in hand to local taxpayers and to Congress, got some money and made more improvements. Same after the 1995 flood, which persuaded Congress to establish the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control project and locals to raise property taxes.

So on Aug. 28, what did the parish president know and when did he know it?

Broussard had a Category 5 hurricane bearing down on Jefferson Parish and threatening a direct strike within 18 hours. He had levees and a drainage system that, while incrementally improved over the past 180 years at a cost of billions of dollars, provided Category 3 protection at best. He had, according to an LSU study, no buildings in which to survive a Category 4 or 5 storm.

And he had on the shelf a plan, written during his predecessor's administration, to remove all but a handful of employees, including the operators of the drainage pump stations, to safety far away, rather than subject them to death at their posts and taxpayers to ruinous lawsuits.

What happened in the next 12 hours or so, of course, is that Katrina weakened to a Category 4 or perhaps 3 and veered a bit east, largely sparing Jefferson Parish. Wind damage here turned out to be minimal. Thirty people died in Jefferson, but thousands survived, including many public employees in public buildings.

Thousands of homes in Metairie, Kenner, Terrytown and elsewhere flooded, however. Did they flood because the pump stations were left empty?

Maybe so.

Did they flood because the storm surge was higher than the discharge level of the pumps, leaving us spitting in the wind even had the pumps been staffed and running?

Maybe so.

Did they flood because the internal rainfall exceeded the capacity of the canals to remove the runoff?

Maybe so.

The answers will all come out in lawsuit, as our energy shifts from anger to analysis. In the meantime, conventional wisdom holds that Broussard is toast. But if all we do is to end one political career, the lessons of Hurricane Katrina will be lost on everyone except Broussard.

The larger lesson for those of us still living in reclaimed swamp is that Katrina was not, at least for Jefferson Parish, the Big One. For our lives and property to survive a direct hit by a Category 5 hurricane, we need not just safe houses for pump operators, but stronger, higher levees and higher discharge levels on the pumps. Katrina showed that in East Jefferson. Even Rita showed that along the Harvey Canal and in Jean Lafitte.

We're unlikely to pay for all this ourselves. So again we turn to the rest of the country, through Congress, where such projects long have been considered pork barrel.

Our challenge, then, regardless of whether we direct our anger at Broussard, is to direct our attention to making another round of incremental improvements to our protection. That will take an involved citizenry, persuasive public officials and a sympathetic Congress.

And whether we are up to this challenge is a question of far greater importance than whatever revenge we exact on Aaron Broussard.

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Drew Broach is the East Jefferson bureau chief. He can be reached at dbroach@timespicayune.com.

# Of faith, works and nominee Harriet Miers



CAL THOMAS

The White House and other supporters of Harriet Miers' nomination to the Supreme Court are using religion when it suits them and not using it when it doesn't.

During John Roberts' confirmation hearings for chief justice, his supporters said questions about his Catholic faith, or suggestions that there are "enough" Roman Catholics already on the bench, smacked of anti-Catholic bigotry and should be avoided. Some invoked the constitutional clause prohibiting a "religious test" for high office.

Now comes Harriet Miers, and the White House seems to be promoting her evangelical faith as a qualification. The message is that evangelical Christians and pro-lifers can trust her because she is one of them. That has not always been the case with previous nominees to high office with similar spiritual and political pedigrees.

The question is: What difference would her faith make in her job should she be confirmed?

Her friend, Texas Supreme Court Judge Nathan Hecht, was asked on Fox News Sunday (Oct. 9) how Miers could separate her faith from her work. Hecht replied it is "easy" because, "Legal issues and personal issues are just two different things. Judges do it all the time. In fact, a judge is going to take an oath that says I'm going to judge rightly in cases, which means that you have to set aside your personal views in deciding the case. And if you don't do that, you're either a bad believer in your views, a bad judge or both."

From that answer comes this question: If Harriet Miers can easily set aside her faith on the job, what is the point of nominating someone with such faith? Why not nominate someone of no faith and the question would never come up? Is faith good only for the confirmation process, but not the job?

I'm all for "people of faith" in government, but what kind of faith? Is it faith in a God who is hauled out at convenient moments and then returned to His box when He isn't needed, or is it a God who informs, converts, strengthens and directs in every area of one's life?

If Harriet Miers is "pro-life" and if she believes, as has been reported, that aborting a pre-born child is the taking of an innocent human life, why should she not be expected to favor overturning Roe v. Wade if the opportunity presents itself? Not to do so would be hypocritical.

Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo delighted his fellow liberals when he engaged in his own version of faith-works separation. Cuomo said that while he accepted the teaching of the Catholic Church that abortion is the taking of innocent human life, as governor he could not impose that view on others who do not share it. But Cuomo could, and did, enforce his church's teaching that capital punishment for convicted murderers is wrong and during his three terms as governor he used his power to bar executions.

During her confirmation hearings, Harriet Miers will be asked if she could set aside her conviction that abortion is wrong and uphold a legal doctrine created in the mind of one man, Justice Harry Blackmun, who sold it to six of his eight colleagues.

There are religions that teach life does not begin until the moment a baby takes its first breath. If an adherent to one of those faiths is ever nominated to the Supreme Court, should such a person be required to separate that "faith" from judging? Just what is being asked of Harriet Miers and what is she prepared to concede, deny or affirm?

Yes, decisions should be based on the Constitution, but according to which interpretation? Like the Bible, in which Miers believes, there are liberal and conservative interpretations. The Declaration of Independence makes four references to "our Creator," Supreme Judge," "Divine Providence" and "Nature's God." Its author, the deist Thomas Jefferson, rightly claimed that individual rights come not from man and his institutions, but from above.

Harriet Miers should not be required to deny her faith as the price of confirmation, but neither should she be allowed to hide her intent to use it, or lose it, once on the bench.

The Apostle James wrote, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). Will the faith of Harriet Miers die on the court, or will her works die? Inquiring minds not only want to know; we need to know before passing judgment.

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Cal Thomas writes for Tribune Media Services. Contact him at www.calthomas.com.



LEONARD PITTS

# Bad cops should save the excuses

Say what you want about the incident in New Orleans. Just spare me one word.

Please do not say "stress."

For those who missed it, here's the scene: It is Saturday night in the fabled French Quarter. Police are arresting one Robert Davis, a 64-year-old former schoolteacher.

As an Associated Press camera records the episode, an officer on horseback moves into the frame, apparently to block the camera's view. But the camera operator, shooting over the horse's flank, captures officers pinning the old man to a brick wall and one apparently delivering vicious blows to the head. Davis is then wrestled to the ground, several officers on top of him. Another tape, this one shot by CNN, shows him writhing handcuffed in a pool of blood. When he tries to roll over, an officer's foot shoves him back.

Police say he was arrested for public drunkenness, battery and public intimidation. Davis later told reporters he had simply asked an officer on horseback about the curfew time when another officer barged into the conversation. Davis called that officer unprofessional and walked away at which point, he says, the cop hit him from behind.

Which brings me back to that word I don't want to hear.

Actually, I'm hearing it already. Observers are explaining what happened by pointing out that New Orleans police have suffered great hardship since Hurricane Katrina. We are reminded by reporters and civic leaders that they've been working 12-hour shifts and that most are homeless. Daniel Winn, who works at a bar, told The New York Times, "Look at what these cops have gone through. Sleeping in their cars, lost their families. They can't control their behavior."

If that's true, heaven help us all. So before we cue the violins consider three things.

One: Davis, though arrested for public drunkenness, says he hasn't had a drink in 25 years. He apparently wasn't tested for blood alcohol, but if the man's been a teetotaler since the Reagan years, it should be easy to prove. Which would blow holes in the stated reason for his arrest.

Two: The image of out-of-control cops painted by Davis is supported by footage showing one officer cursing at and roughing up an AP producer after the arrest.

Three: You don't generally try to block people from seeing what you're doing, as the officer on horseback did, unless you know what you're doing is wrong.

Three cops have been arrested on battery charges and suspended without pay. I have no idea what will happen to them in the court of law. I fear the verdict in the court of public opinion.

That fear is rooted in the fact that we are often loath to hold police accountable. Indeed, some of us are still making excuses for the miscreants who bashed Rodney King's head in. Some folks just find it convenient to look the other way as extra-legal "justice" is dispensed. They assuage conscience by assuring themselves the bad guy must've had it coming.

And stress is such a convenient excuse. Who doesn't understand stress?

Problem is, that explanation dishonors every harried cop in the Big Easy who somehow manages to do his or her job professionally. Heck, if stress is an excuse, everyone in town should get a free whack at somebody.

I am not without sympathy for the burdens borne by New Orleans' finest. For that matter, I have sympathy for Davis, who, before he was beaten, had enjoyed a free dinner served to those left homeless by the storm.

But sympathy is not a blank check for misbehavior.

"It's a difficult time, but it doesn't excuse what our jobs are supposed to be," police spokesman Marlon Defillo told a reporter.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

•••••••

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald. His e-mail address is lpitts@herald.com.

# METRO




STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

A message of humor and hope graces a refrigerator in front of a Mid-City home on Oct. 9. More spray-painted refrigerators, with slogans such as "Please send to George W. Bush," line French Quarter streets.

# Heard the one about the garden of the month?

**HUMOR,** *from B-1*

Zulu umbrella, stuck in the branches of a battered river birch tree, and set it with wine glasses, candles and slightly molded silk flowers. The backdrop, which also served as a photo opportunity for National Guardsman, was an American flag and a hand-made sign mocking federal powers that be.

"I have a really weird sense of humor," Marie Massett said, cleaning out her 1940 raised cottage now reeking of bleach.

"Come see my life," Massett said, making her way over buckled floors into a front bedroom. "Forty-two years of marriage, and this is all that's left, packed up into five garbage bags."

Gone is the cedar hope chest her husband, Irvin, gave her as a traditional pre-wedding gift, demolished by post-hurricane flood water that emptied from the 17th Street canal into Lakeview and beyond. Saved is the tiny porcelain bride and groom that stood atop their wedding cake.

"It's a little worse for wear, sort of like us," Marie Massett said.

## Laughing it up

Like the Massetts, many people throughout the city are mitigating grief, and expressing subsequent anger, with humor.

Smelly refrigerators, some spray-painted with slogans such as "Please send to George W. Bush," line French Quarter streets. Kermit the Frog, wearing a dust mask, stood strapped to a light post along the Esplanade ridge. Plywood leaning on a picket fence protecting a dead lawn near Marconi Drive proclaimed "Garden of the Month."

Black and white mannequin heads sat facing one another on the neutral ground near a St. Claude Avenue beauty shop.

Bumper stickers and coffee mugs bearing sayings such as "Make levees not war," and "Proud to swim in New Orleans" are popping up in shops and on the Internet.

Utility poles along Moss Street bear colorful paintings by Bayou St. John resident and local artist Maggie Mae, who said she wanted to brighten up the neighborhood's post-storm palette of brown and gray.

In temporary exile in the French Quarter after a pillar-to-post existence in towns such as Bunkie and Breaux Bridge, Mae grabbed her half-finished canvases and scribbled sayings such as "Gone fishing" across them.

"It's what we're about," Mae said. "We look at things differently. We look at the lighter side. That's how we survive our football team for God's sake."

## Commercial success?

Becky Anderson took time from ripping nearly everything from her home on Pontalba Street to snap a photo of a Ziplock bag containing the dry baptismal gown her daughter wore 29 years ago.

It was the only thing she could salvage from her grandmother's armoire, now awaiting the garbage truck. "But maybe I will get to make a commercial," said Anderson, who, like so many, doesn't have enough insurance to cover her loss.

Listing the contents of a home is tedious, and attempting to assign value to many items is futile, said Irvin Massett, eyeing the stack of vintage record albums he collected over the decades.

"Bing Crosby on a 78: How are you going to put a value on that?" Massett said.

One valued piece of music saved by the Massetts is a cassette tape by local singer Benny Grunch, known for his "Ain't Dere No More" list of places such as Schwegmann's, McKenzie's and K&B, no longer on the city map.

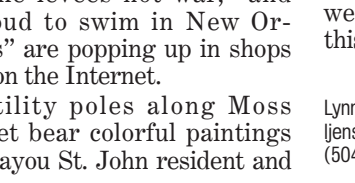
Time for a new record, Marie Massett said: "New Orleans — ain't dere no more."

As hopeless as that sounds, the Massetts believe that the city will bounce back.

"Katrina was the first disaster," she said. "The second is coming back to what's left. But we are going to fight to save this little house."

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# DEATHS

Helen D. Allen
Louis Jason Ancar, Sr.
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Anna Frederick Casavant
Johnny J. Eymard, Sr.
Sarah Cook Hebert
Clarence Jules, Jr.
DeAlva Mason
Perry King McMenanin, Sr.
Audrey T. Hilaire Oubre
Sadie M. Pizzalato
Freddie James Schieffler
Cynthia Marie Snowden
Hazel Marie Trosclair
Bryan Patrick Wilson
Roy Oliver Wilson

## East Jefferson

**Lamana-Panno-Fallo Funeral Home**
Perry King McMenamin, Sr.
**L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home**
Sadie M. Pizzolato
**Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home**
Anna Frederick Casavant

## New Orleans

**Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home**
Sarah Cook Hebert

## River Parishes

**Baloney Funeral Home**
Audrey T. Hilaire Oubre

## St. Tammany

**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home**
Hazel Marie Trosclair

## Westbank

**Davis Mortuary Service**
Helen D. Allen
Clarence Jules, Jr.
**Mothe Funeral Homes**
Jessie J. Armentor
Freddie James Schieffler
Bryan Patrick Wilson
**Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home**
Louis Jason Ancar

## Others

**Falgout Funeral Homes, Inc.**
Johnny J. Eymard, Sr.
**Geisler Funeral Home**
Cynthia Marie Snowden
**Massey-Burge Funeral Home**
DeAlva Mason
**Wolfersberger Funeral Home**
Roy Oliver Wilson

### ALLEN

Helen D. Allen departed this life at West Jefferson Medical Center on Monday, October 10, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Leroy Allen, Sr. Mother of Shirley C. Anderson, Dorothy C. Stokes, Leroy Allen Jr., Tyrone Allen and Carolyn Stringer. Daughter of the late Alona Washington Davis and George Jackson Davis. Sister of Jaunita D. Dyer, Dorothy D. Waits, and the late Nathaniel JAckson. Mother-in-law of Irvin I. Anderson, Quittmon Stokes Sr., and Reginald STringer. Also survied by 13 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.Age 79 years. A Native and a resident of New Orleans, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral service from Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall, 2021 Dryades St., New Orleans, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 11:00a.m. Visitation from 9:00a.m. until service time at the above named church.Interment will be private.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY
MARRERO, LA

### ANCAR

Louis Jason Ancar, Sr., an operator for Phillips-Conoco, died on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. of lung cancer at Riley Hospital. He was 54. He was born in Diamond, LA and resided there until his death. He is the beloved husband of Rose M. Ancar. The father of Louis Jason Jr., Ryan Joseph and Mark James Ancar. The grandfather of Mark James Ancar, Jr. The son of Augustine and the late Gerald Ancar, Sr. The brother of Gerald Jr., Rene, Dwayne, Elmo and the late Adrian Ancar. Also survived by three nieces, four nephews, two daughters-in-law, four sisters-in-law, a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.
A Wake will be held at Rhodes Funeral Home, 1020 Virgil St., Gretna, LA on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. Visitation will be held on Monday. at St. Cletus from 11:00 a.m. until funeral time. Interment Westlawn Cemetery, Gretna, LA.

### ARMENTOR

Jessie J. Armentor, on Friday, October 14, 2005 in New Orleans. A native of Crowley, LA. and a 40 year resident of New Orleans.
A retired Scout for Mobile Oil Company. Loving husband of Mary L. Armentor. Father of Linda Armentor Ely, Tex, Gary and Richard Armentor. Grandfather of Jimmy Bower, Kim Breaux, Duncan and Lindsey Armentor. Great grandfather of Kara and Carley Viberg, Duce, Chloe and Bridget Armentor. Brother of Earl J. and Percy Armentor both of Lake Charles, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral Mass on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero for 11 AM. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park. Visitation will take place on Monday from 6 PM til 10 PM.

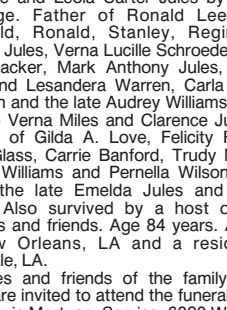
### CASAVANT

Anna Frederick Casavant of Westwego, LA., age 59 years, died on Friday October 14, 2005 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Arrangements pending at Tharp Sontheimer Tharp, 1600 No. Causeway Blvd., Metairie, LA. Information: (504) 835-2341.

### EYMARD

Johnny J. Eymard, Sr., 82, a native of Galliano and a resident of Larose died on October 15, 2005. Visitation from 9:30 A.M. to funeral time on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Larose.
Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 A.M. with burial at the church cemetery.
He is survived by his wife Maude Guidroz Eymard, one son Johnny J. Eymard, Jr. and one daughter Mrs. Walton (Mary) Deerman; two brothers Emila A. Eymard and Irvin A. Eymard; four grandchildren, Mrs. Scott (Kelly) Theriot, Mrs. Chad (Alison) Blanchard, Jennifer Deerman and Jonathan Deerman; three great grandchildren Erin Theriot, Timothy Theriot and Alexis Blanchard.
He was preceded in death by his parents, Emile H. and Luiza Danos Eymard and one brother Royal P. Eymard. He was a World War II veteran and a retiree of Gulf Oil Corporation and Danos and Curole. Donations to Hospice of South Louisiana preferred at 6500 Main St., Houma, La. 70360.

### HEBERT



Sara Cook Hebert on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at Ochsner Clinic Foundation. Wife of the late Joseph Isadore Hebert, Jr.; mother of Annabelle Hebert and Joseph Allen Hebert; mother-in-law of Cynthia Dietz Hebert. Born in Rayville, LA, December 22, 1915 to Myrabelle Henry Cook and Allen Jefferson Cook. A resident of New Orleans for 60 years.
She was a longtime member of the board of the Poydras Home; founded and directed the Coterie Program at Valencia Club; directed the Ice Breakers program; and created Savoir Vivre, an etiquette course she taught for years. Mrs. Hebert was also executive secretary of Le Debut des Jeunes Filles de la Nouvelle Orleans and manager of the Stratford Club.
Donations preferred in memory of Sara Cook Hebert to Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Pulmonary Research Fund, Philanthropy Division BH240, 1514 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70121. (www.ochsner.org/philanthropy).
Funeral services will be held Monday, October 17, 2005, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 631 State St., New Orleans, LA 70118. Visitation from 1-2 pm followed by a Mass at 2 p.m. A private burial will be at a later date. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### JULES

Clarence Jules, Jr. departed ths life at Maison Deville Nursing Home on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 1:30P.M. Husband of Dorothy W. Jules and the late Rosetta Jules by first marriage and Leola Carter Jules by second marriage. Father of Ronald Lee Jules, Reginald, Ronald, Stanley, Regina and Stanley Jules, Verna Lucille Schroeder, Stacy Lynn Packer, Mark Anthony Jules, irell T., Leon and Lesandera Warren, Carla Maxine Jackson and the late Audrey Williams. Son of the late Verna Miles and Clarence Jules, Sr. Brother of Gilda A. Love, Felicity Fowlers, Rose Glass, Carrie Banford, Trudy M. Irvin, Evelyn Williams and Pernella Wilson, Henry Jules, the late Emelda Jules and Marian Royal. Also survived by a host of other relatives and friends. Age 84 years. A native of New Orleans, LA and a resident of Avondale, LA.
Relatives and friends of the family of the family are invited to attend the funeral service from Davis Mortuary Service, 6820 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Visitation from 9:00a.m. until service time at the above named parlor. Interment Johnson Ridge Cemetery, Thibodeaux, LA.
Arrangements by
DAVIS MORTUARY SERVICE
6820 Westbank Expressway
Marrero, LA

### MASON



DeAlva (Witty) 'Mema' Mason, 88, passed away Saturday, October 15, 2005. She was born June 22, 1917 in Star, TX to John C. and Isabell Patterson Witty. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her family and was loved by all who knew her. She was a member of First Christian Church and the Senior Citizens Center in Grand Prairie. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. D. Mason; her brother, Kenneth W. Witty; her sister, Beatrice Witty Clary.
Survivors: Daughter and Son-in-Law: Madie and Paul Vernon of Grand Prairie; Sons and Daughters-in-Law: J. C. and Dorothy Mason of Carrollton; Wayne and Sandy Mason of Kenner, LA.Grandchildren and spouses: Mason Vernon and Agnes, Paula Elliott and Michael, Steve Mason, Jane Wilson and Dan, Joshua Mason, Samantha Mason; 13 great-grandchildren.
Visitation: 6-8 pm, Mon. at funeral home. Funeral Service: 10:00 am, Tues, Oct. 18, 2005 at First Christian Church in Grand Prairie. Graveside Services: 3:30 pm, Hurst Ranch Cemetery, Star, Texas. Memorials may be made to First Christian Church, 202 W. Tarrant Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75050.
Bean - Massey - Burge Funeral Home
733 Dalworth Street
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050
(972) 263 - 7200

### McMENAMIN

Perry ''Big Mac'' King McMenamin, Sr. at East Jefferson General Hospital on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 8:15 AM. Beloved husband of Shirley Seago McMenamin. Father of Jean M. Schega, Perry K McMenamin, Jr., Shirleen M. Buccola and Mary S. McMenamin. Father-in-law of Richard A. Schega, Sr., Sally McMenamin and Michael A. Buccola. Grandfather of Richard A. and Amy Schega, Jr., Travis M. and Maggie Schega, Christopher M. Buccola and Michelle A. Buccola. Great grandfather of Ricky, III, Dexter, Mia, Sophia and Calvin Schega. Son of the late Sadie Foreman McMenamin and Perry G. McMenamin. Brother of the late Andrew J. McMenamin. Brother-in-law of Leo and Peggy Seago, Paul Ferrara and Rose McMenamin. Loved by many nieces, nephews and friends. Age 70 years. A native of New Orleans, LA. and resident of Arabi, LA. for the past 43 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass at the Metairie Chapel of Lamana-Panno-Fallo, 1717 Veterans Memorial Blvd. at the corner of Bonnabel Blvd. on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 10:00 AM followed by interment in St. Vincent de Paul No. 3 Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 from 6 PM until 10:00 PM and on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 from 9:00 AM until funeral time. Sign the on-line Guest Book at www.legacy.com. Funeral information: 831-9901.

### OUBRE

Audrey T. Hilaire Oubre of Edgard, La. on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at East Jefferson Hospital. Beloved wife of Warren A. Oubre, Sr. Daughter of the late Romauld Hilaire and Noelie Hilaire Smith. Cherished mother of Michael, Sr., Stephen Sr., Cassandra Mitchell, Charlene Davis, Cornelius, Marie Narcisse, Anna Isom, Phaedra Champagne and Warren Oubre, Jr. Sister of Grace Cook, Dolores Cox and Bertrand Hilaire, Sr. Also survived by 18 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 4 daughters-in-law, 4 sons-in-law, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A native and resident of Edgard, La. Age 76 years.
Relatives and friends of the family, also Priest and Parishoners of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Ladies Aux. Ct. No. 66; employees of Dow Chemical, Occidental, St. Charles and St. John Parish School Board, Halliburton, NASA, British Petroleum, Entergy, Florida Rock and Tank Line, are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 12:00 Noon, from the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 2361 Hwy 18, Edgard, La. Father Joel Cantones, Celebrant. Recitation of the rosary at 10:45 AM. Visitation at the church after 9:00 AM. Entombment Church Mausoleum.
The Baloney Funeral Home LLC
399 Earl Baloney Dr., Garyville, LA 70051
(985) 535-2540
In charge of arrangements.

### PIZZOLATO

Sadie M. Pizzolato on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Age 88, a native and lifelong resident of Kenner. Beloved wife of the late Carlo R. Pizzolato. Mother of Lena P. Ramil, Joseph C., Mary Rita and Victor C. Pizzolato. Daughter of the late Mary Barreca and Vito Mistretta. Sister of Leona M. Giglio, Nicholas and Anthony Mistretta and the late Josephine M. Amstutz, Virginia, Joseph, Salvador, Frank, Louis and Victor Mistretta. Also survived by 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her 3 sugarbabies; Phylis and Toni Gagliano and Carlo J. Pizzolato.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral. Services from the KENNER FUNERAL HOME OF L. A. MUHLEISEN AND SON, 2607 Williams Blvd. on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 1908 Short St., Kenner. Interment in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday October 18, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Wednesday after 9:00 a.m.

### SCHIEFFLER

Freddie James Schieffler on Friday, October 14, 2005. Beloved husband of Margaret Gambino Schieffler. Father of Craig J. and Fred (Nicky) Schieffler, Constance S. Donahue. Stepfather of Donna Champagne and Lisa Dean. Father-in-law of Rita and Terrisa Schieffler, Bill Donahue. Son of the late John and Victoria Zar Schieffler. Brother of Rita Cardenal and the late Genevieve Tirney, Wilfred, Joseph and R.J. Schieffler. Grandfather of Brittany, Sherra, William, Craig Jr., Nicholas and Meagan. Great grandfather of Rowan. Step-grandfather of Amber, Shea, Britten and Jordan. Step-great grandfather of David, Chase, Addison and Britten, Jr.. Age 76 years. A native of Lafitte, LA and a resident of Ama, LA for the past 20 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the Chapel of Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 LaPalco Blvd., Marrero, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Interment in St. Charles Cemetery, Luling, LA. Parlors will be open on Tuesday from 9:00 AM until funeral time.

### SNOWDEN

Cynthia Marie Snowden, a native of New Orleans and loved by all her family and friends, she passed away August 30, 2005 at her residence in New Orleans as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
She is survived by her daughter with the birth given name of Aline Snowden, Houma, La., parents, Loraine (Bennett) Lange of Albuquerque, NM and Ludie Snowden of Bridge City, La., 3 brothers, Maurice Snowden, Alburquerque, NM., Leslie Snowden, Meridian, MS and Joseph Lange, Flagstaff, AR; 3 sisters, Joy-Ann File, Lancaster, CA; Julia Snowden, Albuquerque, NM and Valarie Lange, Phoenix, AR.
She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Leslie Wilson Bennett and Alta Suarez and her paternal grandparents, John Franklin Snowden and Leonile Rome Snowden.
Visitation will be at Geisler Funeral Home, 300 South Cherry Street in Hammond, Saturday, October 22, 2005 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until the religious service scheduled for 2:00 p.m. with burial in Parklawn Memorial Gardens in Hammond, LA.
Geisler Funeral Home of Hammond is in charge of arrangements.

### TROSCLAIR

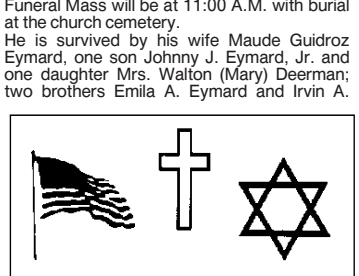
Hazel Marie Trosclair passed away on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Beloved mother of Marilyn D. Lemons, Margo A. Dandry, Elizabeth M. Williams, Cindy T. Mendow, Lex A. LeBlanc and Dina A. LeBlanc. Sister of Hayes Trosclair, Irene Trosclair and the late Marie Alleman, Jacob Trosclair and Loraine Callais. Grandmother of Mindy Lemons Pellegrin, Lanie Lemons, Jacob Mendow, Nicholas Williams, Camille and Claire LeBlanc, Eli and Mignonne McGraw. Great-grandmother of Tate Pellegrin. Age 78 years; a native of LaRose, LA and a resident of Covington, LA for the past 45 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Mass from the Chapel of E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, Inc., 2260 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 11:00 AM. Friends may visit from 9:00 AM until service time. Interment will be in Pinecrest Memorial Gardens at a later date.

### WILSON

Bryan Patrick Wilson, born on March 17, 1924 in Baton Rouge, LA. and passed away on October 12, 2005 in Mesquite, TX after being evacuated for Hurricane Katrina. He was a Deacon of the Ames Boulevard Baptist Church; a member of the Marrero Lodge No. 479 F&AM; a veteran of Foreign Wars and American Legion. He proudly served his country and retired from the U S Army as a Sergeant First Class in 1968. He was a member of the 127th, 32 Division, Red Arrows and served with them in the Pacific During WWII.
He is preceded in death by his former wife of 50 years, Idonia Tisdale Wilson; his parents, Ida Smith Wilson and Bryan Jennings Wilson and his brother, Robert John Wilson. He is survived by his wife, Boncile Fay Wilson; sons, Julius B. Wilson, Gary L. Wilson and Barry Wilson; granddaughter Lacey L. Wilson and his sisters, Ida Mae Wilson and Louis Baker. Age 81 years.
Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the Funeral Services at Ames Boulevard Baptist Church, 3233 Ames Boulevard, Marrero, LA. on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 11:00 AM with Rev. Ed Crowley, officiating. Visitation at the Church on Monday beginning at 8:30 AM until Funeral time. Interment Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Gretna, LA. Mothe Funeral Home, 7040 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA in charge of arrangements. Information: 366-4343.

### WILSON

Mr. Roy Oliver Wilson, age 81, of O'Fallon, Illinois, formerly of New Orleans, Louisiana, passed away Saturday, October 15, 2005. He was born May 26, 1924 in New Orleans to James Norman and Olivia (nee Pohlmann) Wilson. Mr. Wilson served in the US Army Air Corps as a B-26 pilot during WWII. In 1980, he retired from Delta Airlines after 32 years where he held various management and supervisory positions. He was a member of the Ponchartrain Area Marauder Men and the B-26 Maurader Historical Society.
Roy was preceded in death by his brother, James Norman Wilson, Jr.
and his parents. He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Francine (nee Moine) Wilson, of O'Fallon, formerly of New Orleans; two daughters, Diane Kimble of O'Fallon and Karen A. (Timothy E.) Wilson-Cauffman of Bryn Mawr, PA; three grandchildren, Wendy and Heather Kimble, formerly of O'Fallon and Nicholas A. Cauffman of Bryn Mawr, PA.
A Prayer Service will be held at 1:30, Monday, October 17, 2005 in the Day Chapel at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, O'Fallon, with Monsignor William Hitpas presiding.Interment will follow at Mt Calvary Cemetery, Shiloh, IL.Memorial donations may be made to the National Parkinson's Foundation, 1501 NW 9th Ave., Bob Hope Rd., Miami, FL 33136 or to the charity of choice.
www.wfh-ofallon.comArrangements entrusted to Wolfersberger Funeral Home, O'Fallon, Illinois.

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The Times-Picayune

# SPORTS

BASEBALL • C-2
COLLEGE FOOTBALL • C-3
PREP REPORT • C-7

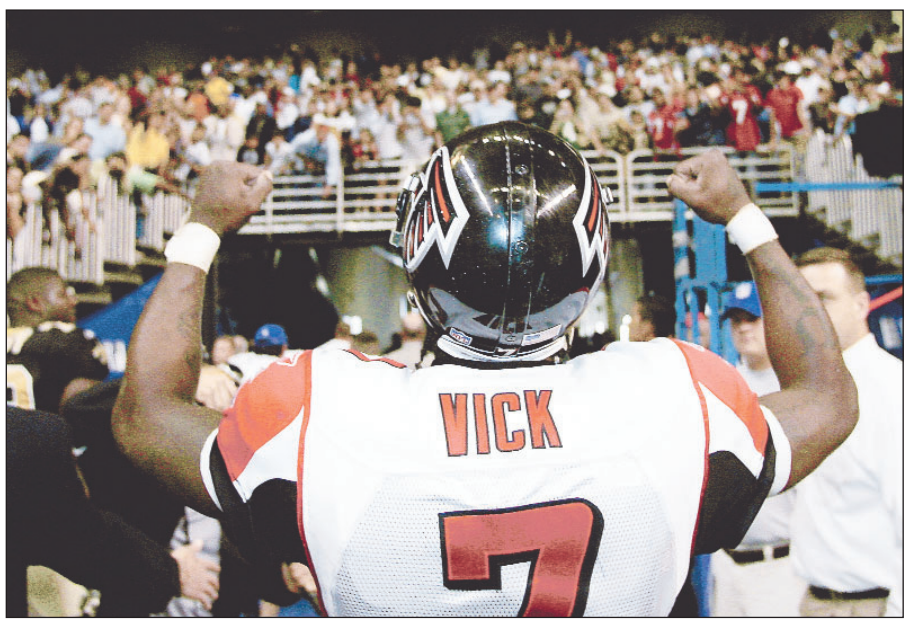
SECTION C
Monday, October 17, 2005

LaDainian Tomlinson's trifecta leads Chargers past Raiders
See C-6



4-2 FALCONS 34 • SAINTS 31 2-4

# FIT TO BE TIED



Quarterback Michael Vick leaves the field after the Falcons, who were outgained by the Saints 456 yards to 266, escaped with a narrow victory.

## Officials' call angers Haslett as Falcons win on last-second FG

*Penalty gives Atlanta second chance at winning kick*

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

SAN ANTONIO — A week ago, the Saints lost by seven touchdowns at Green Bay.

That was nothing.

The emotions inside the postgame locker room Sunday following their last-second, 34-31 loss to the Atlanta Falcons at the Alamodome ranged from seething anger to somber numbness.

But one thing was clear: The Saints badly wanted this game, and it stung when the Falcons got two chances to kick a winning field goal after a controversial holding call against defensive tackle Tony Bryant.

"The play at the end, the call by the officials, is flat-out chicken (. . .)," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "It's a flat-out chicken (. . .) call by the crew, by 95 especially, James whatever his last name is (side judge

See SAINTS, C-4



STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Exasperated Jim Haslett walks back to the sideline after arguing with the officials about a defensive holding penalty that allowed Atlanta a second chance to kick the winning field goal on the final play against the Saints on Sunday at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

## Yellow hanky caper latest folly in zany rivalry

All you have to do is wait and you've seen it all.

That's assuming you've been following the Saints since Day One.



PETER FINNEY

Over the years, our heroes have lost games in all sorts of extraordinary ways, especially to the Atlanta Falcons.

There was Big Ben I.

And there was Big Ben II.

I'm talking about those Hail Mary passes, launched into the end zone, as the game clock ticked down.

Both times it was Touchdown Atlanta.

And then there was Yellow Flag I, a

See FINNEY, C-4



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

LSU coach Les Miles says he will have to coach his players differently, 'Make the same point a different way,' to help them reduce the number of mental mistakes.

ANALYSIS

## LSU's mistakes no laughing matter

*But Tiger defense no longer punch line*

By William Kalec
Staff writer

BATON ROUGE — On a nondescript night between Ohio Turnpike exits long since forgotten, Les Miles confessed to Jack Sito, a high school buddy, that he dreamed of hosting a network late-night talk show, like Johnny Carson.

Well, in honor of that ambitious goal, we're going to let Coach strap on the swami hat and play Carnac the Magnificent. This old shtick is always great. Here it goes:

*Auburn, Alabama, itself . . . What are three remaining roadblocks LSU must maneuver around en route to Atlanta and the SEC championship game?*

(Laughter sign flashes in studio).

Good one. Only to Miles, it sure isn't funny, not in mid-October when unforced penalties and a propensity to put the ball on the ground should be either quelled, or better yet, a non-issue. Yeah, Miles might have a little thespian in him, but trust the tone — an excited/agitated swirl — he used while conducting the postgame news conference in Tiger Stadium was not an act.

That's the inner Bo Schembechler in Miles coming to the surface.

He was steamed but optimistic, determined that the penalties and turnovers, now entering its third week as a popular Tuesday sidebar topic, soon will cease to be newsworthy. Even 24 hours removed from venting to the media, enough time to cool down and re-examine the situation, Miles hardly sounded giddy Sunday, most perturbed that many of the guilty belong to his Unity Council, a player-voted leadership

See LSU, C-3

4-2 FALCONS 34 • SAINTS 31 2-4

# Haslett: 'We played well enough to win'

**SAINTS,** *from C-1*

James Coleman).

"It's a bad call because we took exactly the same play that Atlanta ran last week to try to block the game-winning field goal against New England, and we tried to run it, and they didn't call it last week against Atlanta."

The call came after Falcons kicker Todd Peterson missed a 41-yard field-goal attempt, wide left, with two seconds remaining.

The officials penalized Bryant for what they termed a "pull and shoot" — a technique in which the defensive lineman pulls an offensive player to the side, creating room for another defensive player to run in and try to block the kick.

If anything, the penalty at least seemed unnecessary because Saints cornerback Jason Craft did not get in and block the kick.

But the flag flew anyway, and Peterson made the ensuing 36-yard attempt.

"If they are going to call penalties like they did at the end of this game, what am I going to do?" said Haslett, who explained that Bryant's technique is legal as long as he is moving forward while pulling the offensive player to the side.

Bryant argued that he was trying to shoot the gap, and that the offensive player leaped on top of him, taking both men down.

"If anything, he should've been called for holding me," said a dejected Bryant — in a far different situation than he was in Week 17 last season, after he blocked a field-goal attempt at Carolina on the final play of the game. "I'm just trying to go out there and make a play, man. He jumped on top of me when I was trying to shoot through the hole, and he fell on me, and I just fell down. When I saw the flag, I was like, 'Yeah, they called it.' But it was on me.

"Things like that happen. When you put the game in the hands of the refs, you've got to expect things like that."

Haslett also was critical of two other decisions made by the officials during a back-and-forth game against Atlanta. He said the Falcons should have been penalized for using leverage to block Saints kicker John Carney's 47-yard field-goal attempt just before halftime — which Atlanta linebacker Demorrio Williams returned 59 yards for a game-changing touchdown.

Haslett also felt Saints receiver Az-Zahir Hakim was wrongly penalized for offensive pass interference on an apparent touchdown pass three plays before Carney's kick.

Saints offensive tackle Wayne Gandy said it was tough to dwell on a few isolated plays after such an evenly matched, hard-fought game.

"It was a good game I think, on both sides. They had an untimely turnover, we had one. I think it was a very even-flow game," Gandy said. "I guess if anything, you just hope that the game is never decided for anyone like that.

"We all felt if we just got that ball back, we got into overtime and won that toss, we (would have won) because we had worn them down, and that's a hell of a defense. We stepped up to the plate, and it was actually just a joy to be a part of something like that.

"It was a great football game. We just ended up on the wrong side. . . . You know, it's funny that you can lose 52-3, then you can lose 34-31, and it's the same feeling."

The Saints (2-4) played maybe their best all-around game of the season, except for a handful of bad plays and some spectacularly bad fortune.

They outgained the Falcons 456 yards to 266, and Saints tailbacks Antowain Smith and Aaron Stecker stepped up big in Deuce McAllister's absence, combining for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick, who sat out last Sunday's loss to the New England Patriots with an injured knee, had limited success against the Saints. He completed 11 of 23 passes for 112 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. He had eight carries for 51 yards.

The first disastrous play of the game for the Saints came on a fumble by Smith late in the second quarter, when New Orleans was leading 10-3 and driving into Falcons' territory.

The ball was popped loose by Atlanta linebacker Michael Boley, right into the hands of cornerback DeAngelo Hall, who returned it 66 yards for a tying touchdown.

The Saints marched back down into scoring position on their next drive, but Hakim's touchdown catch was called back, and Carney's field-goal attempt was blocked — by Boley again — and returned for the touchdown.

The Saints rebounded from that disheartening turn of events and came back in the second half to tie the score at 17 in the third quarter, at 24 early in the fourth and at 31 with 46 seconds remaining on a spectacular 15-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Brooks to a sliding Devery Henderson in the back of the end zone.

But in less than a minute, the Falcons drove downfield to set up Peterson's field-goal attempt.

Attempts, that is.

"I thought we did a good job all day," Haslett said before his rant on the officials. "I was proud of the way the team came back from last week, we played well in a lot of areas. When you turn the ball over for a touchdown, and when you have a blocked field goal for a touchdown, then we had an interception that led directly to a score, we have to eliminate mistakes.

"But it's a shame, because I thought we played well enough to win."

Falcons coach Jim Mora, whose team lost a three-point decision to the Patriots last week, admitted that his team had some good fortune. But he said if your team is good enough and continues to fight, you can put yourself in a position to take advantage of those breaks.

"I don't know if they did it. I don't know if they didn't do it," Mora said of the final penalty call. "I don't know if we did it and got away with it. We got fortunate. We got a mulligan. We got lucky. And we'll take it."

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STAFF PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON

Saints place-kicker John Carney's field-goal attempt on the final play of the second quarter is blocked by the Falcons on Sunday at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The ball was returned 59 yards by Demorrio Williams for a touchdown that gave Atlanta a 17-10 halftime lead. Todd Bouman is the holder.



Atlanta running back Warrick Dunn beats the Saints' Dwight Smith (24) and Josh Bullocks to the end zone on a 21-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

## Another wild finish, another sad ending for for the Saints

**FINNEY,** *from C-1*

ticky-tack end zone interference call against the Saints at the end of a game in Atlanta.

And, once more, it was touchdown Falcons.

If you were watching Sunday, and happened to be familiar with Saints-Falcons history, what you saw, let's say, was Double Whammy I.

And one more Atlanta Falcons victory.

This one carved out new ground.

This one saw the Saints victimized by a flag that was not thrown at the end of the half, and a flag that was at the end of the game.

The final score, officially, was Falcons 34, Saints 31.

It was 34-31, and not headed to overtime, only after the Falcons got a second shot at a field goal following a yellow handkerchief tossed at the Saints for allowing what might best be described as illegal infiltration into, let's say, place-kicking territory.

It's one of those calls that officials will make, let's say, one time in 100.

And that's only part of Sunday's story.

The classic irony was, on the final play of the first half, with John Carney prepared to kick the Saints into a 13-10 lead, there came a Falcon, using one of his teammates as a springboard, hurdling into place-kicking territory.

The Falcons should have been flagged.

But no flag.

The kicked was blocked, the ball was picked up, returned 59 yards, and, instead of Saints 13, Falcons 10, it was Falcons 17, Saints 10.

A 10-point turnaround.

It was enough to make a Saints fan look upward, clasp his hands and ask: "After all these years, after the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, are we still living under the curse of Marie Laveau?"

Seldom had an NFL Sunday been more devastating to Jim Haslett, coming a week after his team came apart at the seams in a 52-3 loss at Green Bay.

This time Haslett watched the same team control the line of scrimmage against a highly rated Atlanta defense and dominate a first half with Aaron Brooks throwing strikes, with Antowain Smith and Aaron Stecker more than making up for the loss of Deuce McAllister.

In the first 30 minutes, with the defense minimizing Michael Vick's effectiveness, it was all Saints. Haslett's offense was on the way to expanding a 10-3 lead when Smith, who had scored a touchdown on an up-the-middle run, gave one away when his fumble produced a 66-yard return that tied the score.

Moments later came the blocked field-goal attempt.

Would the Saints fold?

Not on this Sunday.

They pulled even once, they pulled even a second time, and they had it going into sudden death.

Until that yellow handkerchief of death fell on the carpet of the Alamodome.

Falcons win 34-31.

Welcome to Double Whammy I.

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**It was enough to make a Saints fan look upward, clasp his hands and ask: "After all these years, after the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, are we still living under the curse of Marie Laveau?"**

## MEMORABLE FINISHES

The Saints and Falcons have had some wild endings to their games:

**OCT. 16, 2005**
**Result: Falcons, 34, Saints 31**
Atlanta kicker Todd Peterson takes advantage of a second chance, making a 36-yard field goal, after the Saints are called for defensive holding on his missed attempt at the end of the game.

**SEPT. 2, 1979**
**Result: Falcons 40, Saints 34 OT**
Saints lose when punter Russell Erxleben throws an interception that is returned for a touchdown.

**NOV. 24, 1991**
**Result: Falcons 23, Saints 20 OT**
Atlanta wins on a 50-yard field goal 13 minutes into the extra period. Norm Johnson's winning kick was set up by a 57-yard pass from Chris Miller to Michael Haynes from the Falcons' 2-yard line to the Saints' 41. Johnson's field goal came three plays later.

**OCT. 27, 2002**
**Result: Falcons 37, Saints 35**
Jay Feely's 47-yard field goal splits the uprights, ending an exhilarating, last-second Atlanta victory. Feely's kick capped an 11-play, 60-yard drive and completed a frantic final six minutes in which the Falcons and Saints traded four scores.

**NOV. 12, 1978**
**Result: Falcons 20, Saints 17**
With 19 seconds remaining, Atlanta's Alfred Jackson catches a touchdown pass deflected by teammate Wallace Francis.

Source: Saints media guide, Falcons Web site